

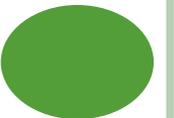
DOES GOD EXIST?

THE COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

Psalm 14:1 The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.”

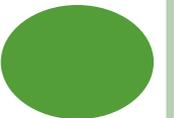
DOES GOD EXIST?

- He either does or He doesn't; there is no in-between.
 - If God does exist, it is reasonable to suggest that He would have left enough evidence for us to make a decision about His existence.
- What would that evidence look like?
 - Not everything can be “proven” in the same scientific way.
 - Experiential evidence – this is very real for the believer, but many people attribute their experiences to things other than God or other than the Christian God. How do we argue against those “experiences”?
 - Presumption of fact – a fact that will stand to be trust based on solid presumption unless the fact can be refuted otherwise



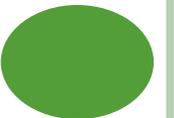
WHY IS THERE SOMETHING RATHER THAN NOTHING?

- There is a universe. What is the presumption of fact for its existence?
- Defined by the laws of causality:
 1. Every material effect must have a cause.
 - There cannot be a cause without an effect. There cannot be an effect without a cause.
 2. The effect must always follow the cause.
 - The cause will never come after the effect.
 3. The effect is always adequate to the cause.



IF THE UNIVERSE IS AN EFFECT, WHAT WAS ITS CAUSE?

- There are only three possible explanations for the cause of the material effect of the universe:
 1. The Universe is eternal, therefore it does not require a cause.
 2. The Universe is not eternal, but it created itself.
 3. The Universe is not eternal, but it did not create itself.



IS THE UNIVERSE ETERNAL?

○ Steady State Theory

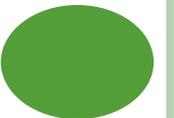
- Put forward in the 1920s to assert the universe is eternal and therefore has no beginning. Without a beginning, it doesn't need a cause. Therefore there is no need for god.
- Disproven by Einstein's Theory of Relativity and Hubble Telescope observations
 - Showed the universe goes back to a singularity event, referred to as the Big Bang Theory
- Disproven by the Laws of Thermodynamics
 - First Law of Thermodynamics: neither matter nor energy is created or destroyed in nature
 - Second Law of Thermodynamics: all things tend toward entropy, unless energy is applied to the system

○ **CONCLUSION:** The Universe is NOT Eternal.



DID THE UNIVERSE CREATE ITSELF?

- The Universe would be both the cause and the effect
 - How can something create itself, if it doesn't exist yet?
 - R.C. Sproul: “For something to bring itself into being it must have the power of being within itself. It must at least have enough causal power to cause its own being. If it derives its being from some other source, then it clearly would not be either self-existence or self-created. It would be, plainly and simply, an effect. Of course the problem is complicated by the other necessity we've labored so painstakingly to establish: It would have to have the causal power of being before it was. It would have to have the power of being before it had any being with which to exercise that power.
 - If something is dependent on something outside of itself to explain its existence, it is contingent and not self-created.
- **CONCLUSION:** The Universe did **NOT** create itself.

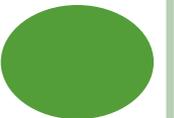


DID SOMETHING ELSE CREATE THE UNIVERSE?

- The Universe is finite (has a beginning), and it could not create itself.
 - Considering the laws of causality, whatever created the universe:
 1. Must have existed *before* the universe.
 - The cause must come before the effect.
 2. Must be *superior* to the universe.
 - The creation cannot be greater than the creator.
 3. Must have a *different* nature than the universe.
 - Everything here is finite and contingent. Nothing we observe is capable of creating the universe.
 - The universe consists of time, energy, space, and matter. Therefore, whatever created us must be outside of our time, energy, space, and matter.
 - **CONCLUSION:** Something outside this universe is responsible for creating this universe.
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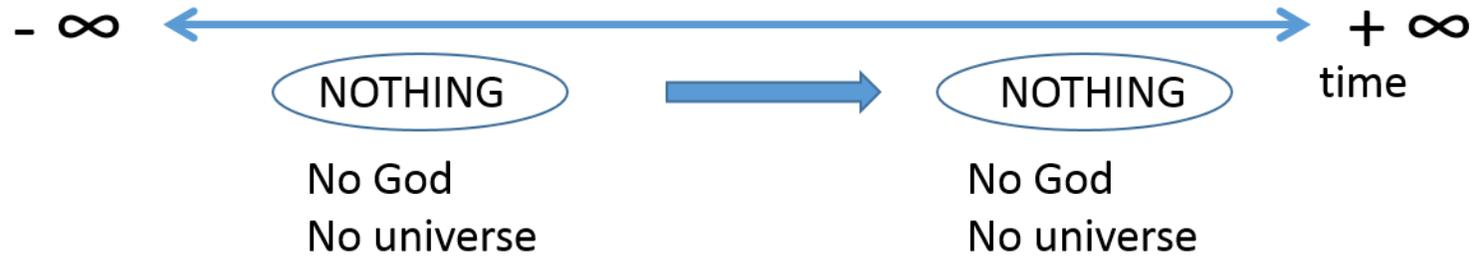
WHO MADE GOD?

- If some kind of god made the universe, then who made god?
 - Only things that have a beginning require a cause.
 - Because God is eternal, He has no beginning and therefore does not require a cause.
- Are we dodging the question by asserting God is eternal?
 - Because we exist now, *something* had to have existed forever.

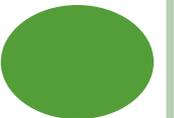
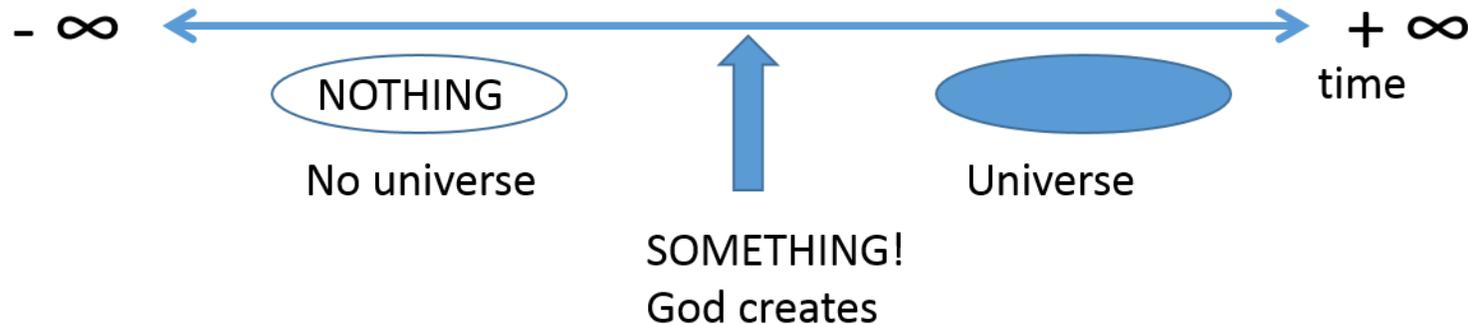


GOD IS ETERNAL

If there was a time with no universe and no God, then we would still have no universe today



Because we know there is something today, then something **MUST** be self-existent, or nothing would or could ever exist.



GOD CREATED

- As the creation, all our characteristics are attributed to the creator.
 - The creation cannot have something that the creator could not give to it.
 - The cause cannot give to the effect what it does not have.
 - Our minds, intelligence, morality, information, and emotion all must come from a source that has those same attributes.
 - Biblically it is because we are “made in the image of God.”
- To believe that intelligent and complex life was formed out of nothing breaks with any scientific and logical belief.
 - The atheistic “cause” is not adequate to produce the effect of this universe.
- **CONCLUSION:** The cause of this effect of the universe must be a living, intelligent Creator who is loving and moral.

