

Session 3 - Scientific/Comprehensive Case for Theism - 8 Points - Expanded

10/4/18

- This progression is intended to make a case for belief in God, but to make that case entirely from a scientific/logical basis, without using any theological or religious or biblical evidence.
- You'll see that this line of reason(from the Big Bang until now) is actually in chronological order which will help you to remember it. There are 4 categories - each with two items.
- This line of reason requires some explanation, but is very powerful toward atheists and skeptics once you understand it. If you weren't here for the teaching, it won't make a lot of sense, but please call/email Bruce and he'll be glad to walk you through it to equip you.
- These 4 categories may help you remember the progression and the 8 items:

Cosmological

■ **Big Bang** (1st point of 8) (matter, energy, time, space (METS or STEM))

- Scientists say that when the Big Bang happened, all matter, energy, time, and even space came into existence. I'm going to give you an unusual but effective way to remember these 4 items.
- Picture of one of the New York Mets batters hitting a homerun. When he hits that ball, think of that as the big bang. And think of METS as an acronym representing Matter, Energy, Time, and Space. Or, if you're a teacher, student, or parent, the familiar STEM acronym can be used.
- Based on the scientific evidence itself, if something caused the Big Bang and it was *before* matter, energy, time, and space, then it is immaterial, powerful, eternal, spaceless, and outside of nature... or supernatural. We could also say that it was intelligent. These 6 characteristics sound a lot like what we call God. (This is a powerful point to be able to make.)
- In each of these 8 points(including this first one regarding the Big Bang), your concluding point should often be that theism seems to be a better explanation (even from a scientific vantage point) than just chance or naturalism.
- You can point out that this line of reason uses the scientific principles of IBE (Inference to the best explanation), Empiricism, Induction, the principle of Cause and Effect, and Uniform and repeated experience (that info comes from intelligence) all principles that point to some intelligence being involved here. (I.E. ICU)

- If you get a good start on this 1st of 8 items, the others don't require as much explanation.
 - RDOF video segment that covers this topic: <https://tinyurl.com/ychbgehc> (forward to 28:30 in the video)
- **Fine-tuning of the universe** (2nd point of 8) - Well over 100 physical constants and values within science are extremely finely-tuned
- Expansion rate of the universe
 - Initial density of the universe (1 part in 10^{57})
 - Gravity (1 part in 10^{60})
 - The exact properties of supernovas, without which life would be impossible
 - 10+ unique features of our sun including it's distance away, size, makeup,...
 - Earth's very rare atmosphere and ozone layer
 - Dozens of very rare properties that the earth has (molten core, rate of rotation, magnetic field, size, plate tectonics, liquid water content, land/water ratio, rare atmosphere, position in the Milky Way, etc.)
 - The unique parameters of earth's moon
 - Strong nuclear force in the atom (change by 1% → No oxygen)
 - Famous British astrophysicist Paul Davies: "*There is for me powerful evidence that there is something going on behind it all....It seems as though somebody has fine-tuned nature's numbers to make the Universe....The impression of design is overwhelming.*"
 - RDOF video segment that covers this topic: <https://tinyurl.com/ychbgehc> (forward to 33:15 in the video)
 - Based on our 'uniform and repeated experience', The involvement of an intelligent designer is a much more plausible explanation for fine tuning than is blind chance.

Biological

- **Origin of life** (3rd point of 8) (no viable naturalistic explanation, only getting harder for atheists to explain)
 - Non-living matter becoming living matter goes against several scientific principles
 - The 2nd Law of Thermodynamics (entropy)
 - Inference to the best explanation (IBE)
 - The principle of cause being greater than the effect

- **Complex, specified information spontaneously appearing without an identifiable cause**
- **RDOF video segment that covers this topic: <https://tinyurl.com/ychbgehcn> (forward to 42:20 in the video)**
- **Many often confuse:**
 - **'origin(or historical) science' (that would apply when trying to explain how life got started or the universe began).**
 - **with 'operational(or experimental) science' that applies after the big bang or after life got started and applies to 95+% of science, but not all(not astronomy, forensics, paleontology, cosmology, etc.).**
- **Based on the scientific principle of 'inference to the best explanation', The involvement of an intelligent designer is a much more plausible explanation than is blind chance**
- **Design within biology(4th point of 8) -Whenever we see design, there's a designer.**
 - **Charles Darwin thought cells were very simple, but scientists now agree that the cell is an incomprehensibly complex interdependent combination of complex systems.**
 - **The entire cell including the brilliant and efficient DNA structure are, at their core, specific and structured and require a huge amount of information.**
 - **Our 'uniform and repeated experience' is that specified information such as this always comes from an intelligence.**
 - **The more scientists learn about the complexity and interdependency of the cell and larger systems of cells within all forms of life, the clearer it becomes that an intelligent being the cause is a much better explanation than random chance that is virtually, mathematically impossible even if the universe was 10 times as old as it is.**
 - **Based on our 'uniform and repeated experience', The involvement of an intelligent designer is a much more plausible explanation than is blind chance.**

- **Emergence of consciousness**(5th point of 8) - from unconscious matter
 - In general, an effect(consciousness) cannot be greater than its cause (unconscious matter). Also, we observe in science and in the natural world that things go from greater order to lesser order, they don't increase in complexity without outside guidance. Unconscious matter becoming conscious is a huge increase in complexity/capability that demands explanation.
 - Reductionist scientists would assert that consciousness is just an illusion.
 - Based on our 'uniform and repeated experience', The involvement of an intelligent designer is a much more plausible explanation than is blind chance.

- **Freewill?**(6th point of 8) - or slaves to biology/chemistry/physics
 - Determinism(atheistic) - says that we have no free choice
 - Reductionism(atheistic) - says we're just a product of biology which is dictated by chemistry which is dictated by physics.
 - Court cases (even Supreme Court 1978) have been fought on this principle that criminals aren't really even responsible for their actions, but we know intuitively that we do have free choice. The Supreme Court agreed with our clear intuition that we are responsible for free choices.

Moral

- **Objective morality, outside ourselves**(7th point of 8) - Torturing for fun is always wrong.
 - Some moral principles transcend any culture
 - We have to have a basis for moral standards beyond shifting opinions
 - Ironically, to say that objective moral values do not exist is self defeating. It is making an objective moral value statement (about objective morality not existing).
 - If we have objective moral law, we have to have an objective moral law giver. Science can't begin to explain this, but it makes perfect sense if a God created us and instructed us how to live.

- **Good/Evil, emotions, conscience, obligations, purpose, human dignity, desires, Right/Wrong (GEE COPDD RW) (8th point of 8)** - We can't even define these in a purely materialistic world.

- A good way to remember this is to think of Good, then evil, and when you think of evil, think of the medical condition COPD. The COPD can be a good memory anchor for **Conscience, Obligations, Purpose, and (human) Dignity.**
- Concepts like Justice, Forgiveness, Evil, Love, and Loyalty (JFELL - think of Jesus FELL to remember these four characteristics) make no sense in an atheistic/naturalistic/anti-supernatural worldview. But Justice, Forgiveness, Evil, Love, and Loyalty not only make total sense in a world created by God, Christians would claim that those exact four characteristics came together at the climax in all of history in the death and resurrection of Jesus for our sins.
- **Atheism/naturalism says:**
 - Individuals are just a product of biology
 - Biology is just dictated by chemistry
 - Chemistry is just dictated by physics
 - Physics is just dictated by laws
 - So in the end we're not responsible for our behaviors, we're just a product of our genetics. In an atheistic/naturalistic perspective good and evil can't even be committed by people.
 - Free will can't be defined or even acknowledged by the naturalistic/atheistic view, but it does line up perfectly with a theistic view of a God that would have created us to be free to choose.
 - Each one of these 8 points shows, from a scientific/rational perspective why we should strongly consider God's existence.
- We can visualize the 8 points in our minds (2 points in each of the 4 categories) in a time sequence and commit that to memory.
 - The cosmological comes first with the big bang,
 - The biological comes second (only after the big bang cools)
 - After we have biology, only then can we have the mental category
 - The last category is moral.
- ...(we'll continue to add to this reference document. Please let us know if you have any questions/suggestions/comments)