

THE EVIDENCE FOR GOD'S EXISTENCE

Introduction

Romans 1:20 tells us that, *God's "eternal power" and "divine nature" can be clearly seen from what he has created, so that mankind is "without excuse"* Yet, many who behold this amazing universe in which we live conclude that the universe came into existence on its own.

Before providing evidence for God's existence it is important to point out that the arguments used against the existence of God are based on a faulty scientific method used by the proponents of this view for determining the origin of the universe. There are two types of science for studying the universe - *origin science* and *operation science*. Operation science is an *empirical* science based on principles of *observation* and recurring patterns. With operation science no scientific analysis can be made on the basis of a singular event such as the origin of the universe.

Origin science on the other hand, is a *forensic* science that considers past singularities—the *origin* of the universe and life forms. One normally hears of forensic science in law enforcement, where scientists may attempt to reconstruct what happened to cause an unobserved death, for example. Some elements may be repeatable, but not the essential series of events, since the person at the center of those events is dead. Forensic science has its own rules and principles. Using the evidence that remains (such as weapons, injury patterns, blood splatters, and finger prints), the forensic scientist can make a plausible reconstruction of the original event. In a similar way, the origin scientist attempts to reconstruct the origin of the universe and the origin of life.

The difference between *operational science* and *origin science* can be illustrated in the simple example of a windmill. The laws operating during the *running* of a windmill are not sufficient to *produce* that windmill. A windmill functions by purely natural laws of physics pressure, motion, and inertia. Inertia, however, cannot create the design, weld the metal, assemble the wind-powered generator, or adjust the propeller blades. Someone had to come from outside the windmill system, bringing necessary know-how, plans, and manipulation of materials.

The misuse of operational science for proving the origin of the universe has led many to conclude that the universe is self-existent hence there is no creator, no infinite, intelligent being behind the existence of the universe. Origin science is the appropriate science for studying origins because it studies unique, unrepeatable events, which origins are by definition. The use of origin science—which takes a forensic approach to the origin of the universe produces evidence in favor of God's existence.

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There are three main arguments that demonstrate the existence of God. They are the cosmological argument, the teleological argument, and the moral argument.

The Cosmological Argument

This is an argument from creation to a Creator. The term comes from the Greek word, *cosmos*, meaning “universe.” The argument itself is dependent on the law of causality that says *every finite thing is caused by something other than itself*. The cosmological argument can be summarized as follows:

1. The universe had a beginning. There is a wealth of scientific evidence to support this claim. The second law of thermodynamics states that in a closed, isolated system the amount of usable energy is continually decreasing. Astronomers estimate the age of the Solar System to be 4.5 billion years old. In other words according to science the existence of the universe began 4.5 billion years ago. The important information here is that the universe had a beginning.
2. Anything that had a beginning must have been caused by something else.
3. Therefore the universe was caused by something else (a Creator).

The Moral Argument

The moral argument reasons from a moral law to a Moral Law Giver. The argument can be outlined:

1. Moral laws imply a Moral Law Giver.
2. There is an objective moral law.
3. Therefore there is a Moral Law Giver.

How do we know there is an objective moral law? Terms like “injustice” or “wrong” imply that there is some objective standard of comparison to which the terms refer. Without a moral standard, there would be no moral difference between Adolf Hitler and Mother Theresa. To say Hitler was wrong would merely be an opinion that has no real basis for others to agree with it. If Hitler was wrong by an objective standard, then there must be a standard beyond all of us. If there is such an objective moral law then there must be a Moral Law Giver (God).

Why is it that a child, without being taught, would complain that something wasn't "fair." Fair? Who taught them about fair? Why is it that no one ever has to teach children about fairness, but all parents hear the universal wail of "That's not fair!" The concept of fairness is about an internal awareness that there's a certain way that things ought to be. It's not limited to three-year-olds we see the same thing on "Save the Whales" bumper stickers. Why should we save the whales? Because we ought to take care of the world. Why should we take care of the world? Because we just should, that's why. It's the right thing to do. There's that sense of "ought" again.

Certain values can be found in all human cultures, a belief that we act certain ways because they're the right thing to do. Murdering one's own people is wrong, for example. Lying and cheating is wrong. So is stealing. Where did this universal sense of right and wrong come from? If we just evolved from the apes, and there is nothing except space, time, and matter, then from where did this moral sense of right and wrong arise?

The reason all human beings start out with an awareness of right and wrong, the reason we all yearn for justice and fairness is that we are made in the image of God, who is just and right. The reason we feel violated when someone does us wrong is that a moral law has been broken -- and you can't have a moral law without a moral law giver.

The Teleological Argument The term “teleological” comes from the Greek word, *telos*, meaning “purpose.” This argument reasons from design to an intelligent Designer. It can be stated as follows:

William Paley made a compelling argument years ago that the intricacies of a watch are so clearly engineered that it cannot be the product of nature: a watch demands a watchmaker.

Since every watch has a watchmaker, and since the universe is exceedingly more complex in its operation than a watch, it follows that there must be a Maker of the universe. In brief, the teleological argument reasons from design to an intelligent Designer.

1. All designs imply a designer.
2. There is great design in the universe.
3. Therefore, there must be a Great Designer of the universe.

Probably the greatest evidence of design in creation is DNA, the material of which our genes are made, as well as the genetic material for every living thing on the planet. One of the startling discoveries about DNA is that it is a highly complex informational code, so complex that scientists struggle hard to decipher even the tiniest portions of the various genes in every organism.

DNA conveys intelligent information; in fact, molecular biologists use language terms -- code, translation, transcription -- to describe what it does and how it acts. Information scientists tell us that you can't have a code without a code-maker, so it would seem that DNA is probably the strongest indicator in our world that there is an intelligent Designer behind its existence. An intelligent design demands an intelligent designer. The universe is intelligently designed so of necessity there is an intelligent Designer behind it.

The Bible is evidence of God's existence

Every religion has its own holy book, but the Bible is different from all the others. It claims to be the very Word of God, not dropped out of the sky but God-breathed, infused with God's power as He communicated His thoughts and intent through human writers.

The Bible was written over a period of 1500 years, by about forty different writers, on three different continents. They addressed a wide variety of subjects, and yet the individual books of the Bible show a remarkable consistency within themselves. There is a great deal of diversity within the Bible, at the same time displaying an amazing unity. It presents an internally consistent message with one great theme: God's love for man and the great lengths to which He went to demonstrate that love.

A collection of documents that spans so much time and distance could not be marked by this unity unless it was superintended by one Author who was behind it all. The unity of the Bible is evidence of God's existence.

One other aspect of the Bible is probably the greatest evidence that God exists and that He has spoken to us in His holy book: fulfilled prophecy. The Bible contains hundreds of details of history which were written in advance before any of them came to pass. Only a sovereign God, who knows the future and can make it happen, can write prophecy that is accurately and always -- eventually -- fulfilled.

Fulfilled prophecy is just one example of how God shows He is there and He is not silent. How else do we explain the existence of history written in advance?

God exists, and He has spoken.

- He made a "just right" universe that is stamped with clues of its Maker.
- He placed eternity in our hearts, as Ecclesiastes tells us, and all people have a strong moral streak because we are made in the image of a moral God.
- The evidence of design in our bodies, our world and the universe is a signpost pointing to a loving, intelligent Designer behind it all.
- The unity of the Bible and the hundreds of fulfilled prophecies in it show the mind of God behind its creation.

Indeed we can affirm what Romans 1:20 says *God's "eternal power" and "divine nature" can be clearly seen from what he has created, so that mankind is "without excuse"*

The Evidence of God Considering the Awesome Design of the Human Body

I The human body has many interesting features.

- A) DNA**
- B) Synovial Joints**
- C) GTO**
- D) Muscle Synergy**
- E) Nutrition**

II Analyzing the body and spirit connection

- A) Story of 10 year old girl who was murdered**
- B) Is God using this story to build our faith?**
- C) God tell us there is a spirit in man**
- D) Where does the spirit reside?**
- E) Ezek.11:19-21, Prov. 15:13,14; 16:23; 23:7, Ps. 51:10, Matt.12:34**

III Reexamine ourselves

- A) Build the physical and spiritual**
- B) Transforming truths**
 - Phil 4:13;19, 2 Cor. 2:14, Lk. 3:14, I Peter 4:12-13, Prov. 3:5-6, Phil.3:13-14, Gal. 6:7-9, Ps. 107:20, Ps. 103:2-4**

- 1 The Evidence
 - From Science And The Bible
- 2 Evidence of Christ and the Resurrection
- 3 Research I did at the College Library.
 - Spent my time between classes researching various topics.
 - There were differing opinions on different subjects.
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7 Bigfoot (aka Sasquatch, Yeti)
 - Footprints
 - Hair samples
 - Scat
 - Eyewitness and grainy video
 - Does anyone believe it?
- 8 Bear
 - Footprints
 - Hair samples
 - Scat
 - Eyewitness
 - Live and Dead specimens
 - Who believes in bears?
- 9 Evidence for Christ and the resurrection is overwhelming!
- 10 Evidence for the Gospels
 - The Gospels are the most authenticated ancient histories of any in existence.
 - More copies and closer to the source than any other ancient documents.
 - The facts they contain are independently confirmed in other manuscripts.
 - Confirmed by archaeological evidence.
- 11 Evidence of Other Ancient Books
 - Tacitus the Roman historian wrote “Annals of Imperial Rome” in 116 A.D.

- First six books exist in only one manuscript that was copied around 850 A.D.
- Books eleven through sixteen are preserved in one document in the eleventh century
- Considered a reliable history

12 Evidence of Other Ancient Books

- Josephus book “The Jewish War” exists in nine copies from the tenth through twelfth century.
- 650 copies of Homer’s “Illiad”. Very fragmentary from the second and third centuries.
- “Illiad” was written around 800 B.C.
- It has the second most copies of any book.
- The number one is...

13 The New Testament

- Earliest papyrus fragments from new Testament can be dated to 100 A.D. (40 to 60 years after the originals)
- 5664 Greek Manuscripts dating from at least the third century.
- 10,000 Latin Vulgate manuscripts
- 8000 manuscripts in other languages.
- 24,000 ancient manuscripts total.

14 The New Testament

- Even with copy error that were introduced the New Testament is 99.5 pure confirmed by the research of New Testament scholars.
- None of the differences in any of the manuscripts change any doctrine.

15 The 4 Gospels

- Some critics may point out contradictions in the gospels
- 4 independent witnesses of Christ and the Resurrection
- All apparent contradictions can be resolved.
- Example : Mark and Luke say Jesus sent the demons into the swine at Gerasa, Matthew says it was in Gadara.
- Solution: One was a town, the other a province – the same place.

16 The 4 Gospels

- The genealogies differing in Matthew and Luke are viewed by skeptics as being in tremendous conflict.
- Matthew traces Joseph’s lineage.
- Luke traces Mary’s.
- The fact that the Gospels are not exact replicas validates their historical objectivity.
- If four witnesses gave testimony word for word in a courtroom it would be suspicious.

17 The 4 Gospels

- Some skeptics say that Jesus was a great teacher and that stories of miracles and His resurrection developed over time and are the creation of legend.
- Other ancient sources disagree with this assessment.

18 Corroborating Evidence

19 I Corinthians 15:3–7

- For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

20 I Corinthians 15:3–7

- Represent a creed that was memorized by the early Church.
- Evidence of the belief of the early church that Christ was God and He was crucified and resurrected.
- Evidence that there were 500 witnesses of the resurrected Christ.
- Most were still alive at this time and could be verified by people in the first century and the lack of dispute with this creed.

21 Josephus

- In the book “The Antiquities” there are two references to Christ.
- “He convened a meeting of the Sanhedrin and brought before them a man named James, the brother of Jesus, who was called the Christ, and certain others. He accused them of having transgressed the law and delivered them to be stoned.”

22 Josephus

- “About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was wrought surprising feats and was a teacher of such people that accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Christ. When Pilate, upon hearing him accused by men of the highest standing among us, had condemned us to be crucified, those who had in the first place come to love him. On the third day he appeared to them restored to life, for the prophets of God had prophesied these and countless other marvelous things about him. And the tribe of Christians, so called after him, has still to day not disappeared.”

23 Tacitus

- Most important Roman historian of the first century.

- “Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations , called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had it’s origin suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most michievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judea, the first sorce of the evil, but even in Rome...”

24 Pliny the Younger

- References to Christians in correspondence to Emperor Trajan around 111 A.D.
- “I have asked them if they are Christians, and if they admit it, I repeat the question a second and third, with a warning of the punishment awaiting them, If they persist, I order them to be led away for execution...”

25 Corroborating Evidence

- Over thirty ancient sources are known to corroborate the historical, real Jesus.
- Contain over 100 facts about his life.
- This is very substantial and much more than other accepted ancient history.

26 Corroborating Evidence

- In comparison:
- Zoroastrian scripture not written until 1300 years after they were given.
- Buddha scriptures written over 600 years after he lived. His biography written over 700 years
- Biography of Muhammad written over a hundred years later.
- Biographies of Christ within 30 years or less when eyewitness were still alive.
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27 Luke 1:1–4

- “Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word; It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.”
- His intent was to preserve the true facts.
- The writers had Christian character and would not dare misrepresent the facts.
-

28 Scientific Evidence

29 Scientific Evidence

- No discovery has ever disproved a biblical reference.

- Archeology establishes that Luke was careful historian in his reporting of places and events.
- Gives credibility to the entire Gospels.

30 Scientific Evidence

- Skeptics have asserted that Nazareth did not exist at the time of Christ.
- Archaeologists have found a first century lists of priests that were relocated when Jerusalem fell and one of them was relocated to Nazareth.
- Excavation of tombs in the vicinity of Nazareth show people living there in the time of Christ.
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31 Scientific Evidence

- In comparison:
- Joseph Smith claimed that his “Book of Mormon” was “the most correct of any book upon the earth.”
- Archeology cannot substantiate any of his claims about events that occurred anciently in the Americas.
- There is not one event, name, or place that can be supported in his book.

32 Scientific Evidence

- The Bible has been proven by Archeology to be the most accurate historical source book.
- Strengthens the fact that the Resurrection truly happened and was accurately recorded.

33 Prophetical Evidence

- Over four dozen major prophecies of the Messiah.
- “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.” Isaiah 53:3–7
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34 Prophetical Evidence

- Isaiah – virgin birth
- Micah– born in bethlehem
- Genesis/Jeremiah – his ancestry
- Psalms – betrayal, accusation of false witnesses, manner of death, and resurrection

35 Prophetical Evidence

- Skeptics say it is mere coincidence.
- Chance of 8 prophecies fulfilled by one person are one in one hundred million billion.
- Chance of 48 prophecies fulfilled are one in a trillion, trillion.

36 Greatest Evidence

- All the people who gave their lives to proclaim the gospel.
- All the changed lives.
- God’s Spirit in us is evidence.

37 Greatest Evidence

▪But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. I Corinthians 15:13-20

38

39 How we live should be Evidence!

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Evidence of the Holy Spirit

Is this evidence?

Praise the Lord, pass the serpents in Georgia

Reuters/September 11, 2001

By Paul Simao

Kingston, Ga. -- The congregation was on its feet singing the old Gospel favorite "I Saw The Light" when Rev. Carl Porter put aside his Bible and reached behind the pulpit for the wooden snake box.

The 56-year-old Georgia preacher slipped his weathered hands inside and, moments later, lifted a 4-foot (1.3 metre) timber rattlesnake into the light. Stroking his deadly cargo, Porter began to hop and strut across the altar.

"Save me, Jesus," shouted a worshiper, his face streaked with tears. Several others, sensing the presence of the Holy Spirit, uttered strings of indecipherable sounds, a practice known as speaking in tongues.

Porter, too, was shouting praises and singing, even as the rattler slithered in between his hands, darting its head back and forth in menacing fashion. Several minutes passed before another worshiper stepped forward to receive the snake.

Returning to the pulpit, the preacher wiped his forehead with a handkerchief and grabbed a mason jar full of strychnine-laced water. He swallowed a mouthful of the clear liquid and smiled.

"I felt the Spirit move on me," Porter explained hours later as he stood in an empty pew in the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ in Kingston, Ga., one of about 40 churches in the southeastern United States that actively practice snake handling.

Is this evidence?

Is this evidence?

They say:

- Mark 16:17 "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover."

They believe

- They believe in the literal interpretation of the scriptures.
- They believe that only those who have been "baptized with the Holy Spirit can do these things."
- Doing these things is EVIDENCE that you have the Holy Spirit.

Are they right?

The Truth about Speaking in Tongues

- Tongues is a gift – 1 Corin 12:10
 - The difference is in the application
 - Tongues is translated languages.
 - Also requires an interpreter.
- An example is the Day of Pentecost
 - Acts 2:4-11
- 1 Corinthians 14: 2-4
 - What is the purpose of using unknown tongues?

The Truth about Snake Handling and Drinking Poison

- Mark 16:18
- Acts 28:1-6

The Truth about Hysterical Laughter

- Based on poor interpretation of the scripture.
- Acts 2:1-13

So what is the Evidence of God's Holy Spirit?

Let's do the research

Group A: 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Group B: 1 Corinthians 2:9-16

Group C: Romans 12:6-13

Group D: 1 Timothy 1:7

Group E: Galatians 5:22-26

Group F: Acts 5:30-32

1 Corinthians 12: 7-13

- The diversity of gifts is evidence of God's Holy Spirit.
- A functioning church is evidence of God's Holy Spirit.
- The diversity of gifts supports a church.

1 Corinthians 2: 9-16

- The mind of Christ is evidence of the Holy Spirit.
- This is why we are able to understand about the Sabbath and Holy Days and the rest of the world doesn't.

Romans 12: 6-13

- The spiritual gifts are evidence of God's Holy Spirit.
- The purpose of spiritual gifts is the edification of other.
- We should be thankful for the gifts and know that they are not for competition.
- No gift is better than another.

Acts 5:32

- Obeying God is evidence of God's Holy Spirit.
- This would include following the doctrines, laws, and expectations God has laid out throughout ALL of His scripture.

Galatians 5: 22-26

- The Fruit of the Spirit is evidence of God's Holy Spirit.
- Charitable deeds and an overarching understanding of love.

1 Timothy 1:7

- A sound mind is evidence of God's Holy Spirit.
- A sound mind searches evidence from within the scriptures.
- A sound mind gives us direction and gives us a sense of right and wrong that equals proper conduct.

Why should we know this?

- There is a lot of bad information about what the Holy Spirit is.
- Self doubt due to expectations not being met.
- Being persuaded to believe untrue doctrine.
- Not realizing your full potential as a child of God.

The Evidence of Archaeology

New Testament Examples

- 1) Luke 2:1-3---Critics used to argue that there was no census, that Quirinius was not the governor of Syria at the time, and that everyone did not have to return to his ancestral home.

Archaeology has discovered the Romans held censuses every 14 years. An inscription from around 7 B.C. mentions Quirinius as governor. An Egyptian papyrus proves that they had to return to their ancestral homes.

- 2) Acts 14:1-6---Luke implies that Lystra and Derbe are in Lycaonia and Iconium is not. Critics thought Luke was wrong because Cicero indicated Iconium was in Lycaonia.

In 1910 a monument was found showing that Iconium was a Phrygian city.

- 3) Romans 16:23---Erastus is mentioned. During the excavations of Corinth in 1929 pavement was found inscribed to Erastus.
- 4) Acts 21:28---Riot breaks out because Paul took a Gentile into the temple. Inscriptions have been found stating: "No foreigner may enter within the barrier which surrounds the temple and enclosure. Anyone caught doing so will be personally responsible for his ensuing death."
- 5) Acts 17:6---Use of the term politarch for the civil authorities in Thessalonica. Word was not found in the classical literature, but later found on 19 inscriptions from that period of time.
- 6) Matthew 28:11-15---A slab of stone was found in Nazareth in 1878, inscribed with a decree from Emperor Claudius (A.D. 41-54) that no graves should be disturbed or bodies extracted or moved. The punishment was death. This was a common decree, but the punishment was not. Could it have been an attempt to quash Christian stories of the resurrection?

Old Testament Examples

- 1) Sodom and Gomorrah---Evidence of cities in the area where Sodom and Gomorrah would have been.
- 2) David---An inscription from the 9th century B.C. refers to both the House of David and the King of Israel. This is the first time any inscription outside the Bible mentions David King of Israel.
- 3) Flood Story---Stories of a flood come from all parts of the world. People as diverse as the Greeks, the Hindus, the Chinese, the Mexicans, the Algonquins, and the Hawaiians have a flood story. One list of Sumerian kings treats the flood story as a historical reference point.
- 4) The Tower of Babel---Archaeology has revealed that Ur-Nammu, king of Ur from about 2044-2007 B.C. supposedly received orders to build a great tower as an act of worship to the moon god. Genesis 11:1 says there was one language on the earth. Philologist Alfredo Trombetti and Max Mueller believe all the languages of the world originated from one language.
- 5) Joseph---In the book, *Ancient Orient and Old Testament* we learn that Genesis 37:28 gives the correct price for a slave at that time in history. Earlier than this time slaves were cheaper.
- 6) The Assyrians---The discovery of ancient Assyrian tablets confirm every reference in the Old Testament to an Assyrian king. A wall painting from Sargon's palace attests to the battle mentioned in Isaiah 20.
- 7) The Babylonians---Babylonian records indicate that Jehoiachin and his five sons were given a monthly ration and a place to live (II Kings 25:27-30).
- 8) Lachish Letters---Letters found written on pieces of pottery attest to the fact that Lachish and Azekah were the last holdout cities against the Babylonian onslaught (Jeremiah 34:6-7).

SOURCE: The New Evidence That Demands A Verdict by Josh McDowell. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1999.