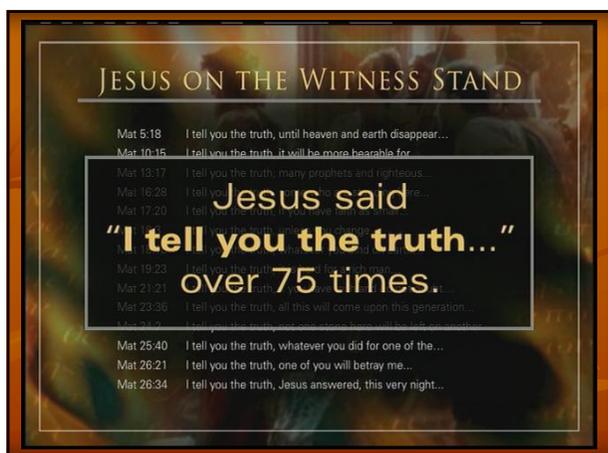
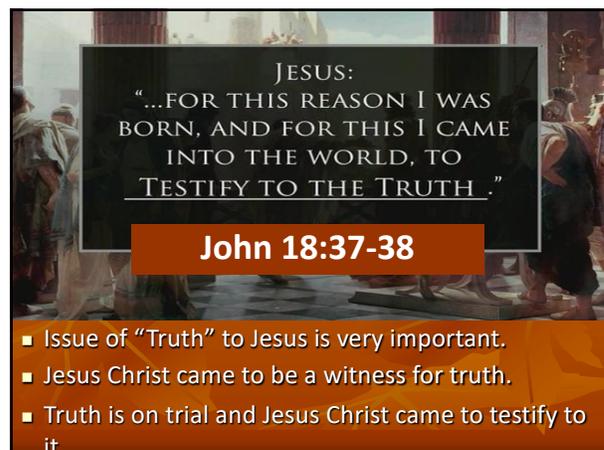


“We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, which has come to you, as *it has* also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as *it is* also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;”
Colossians 1:3-6



“Meanwhile, truth is increasingly regarded as something felt, or relative (44%), rather than something known, or absolute (35%)—a shift reflected in other new religion surveys covered in Barna Trends 2018. For example, many Americans (56%), especially Millennials (64%), don't feel that any one religious text has a monopoly on truth, but that they are all different expressions of the same spiritual message.”

Our Culture's Idea of Truth is Called "Relativism"

- Relativism is the philosophical position that all points of view are equally valid and that all truth is relative to the individual.

In other words, everyone decides for themselves what's right or wrong!

"Let the moral relativist be lied to, be the victim of false advertising, uncover the fact that their spouse has been *relatively faithful* to them, and they instantly become a moral absolutist. A person's reaction to what they consider unfair ethical treatment always betrays their true feelings on the matter of relative vs. objective moral laws."

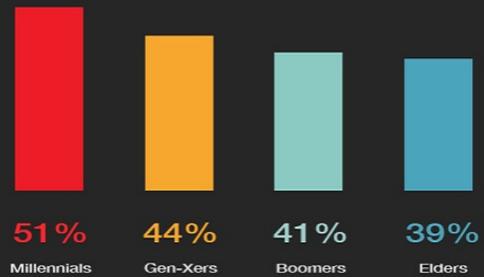
Robin Schumaker



Refuting Relativism

- If all truth is relative, then the statement "*All truth is relative*" would be absolutely true. If it is absolutely true, then not all things are relative and the statement that "All truth is relative" is false.
- If there are no absolute truths, then you cannot believe anything absolutely at all, including that there are no absolute truths. **Therefore, nothing could be really true for you - including relativism.**

Believe moral truth is relative.



Barna

www.barna.org

The Dangers of Relativism

(or everyone deciding for themselves what's right or wrong)



Why We Need Authority

During the trials at Nuremberg, the Nazi defense attorneys argued that Hitler's soldiers who were on trial were only following the orders of their society and should therefore not be held accountable.

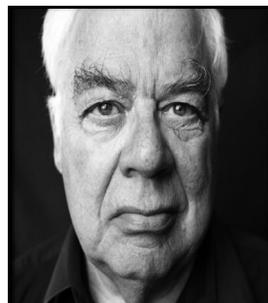
A judge countered that argument with the question, "But sir, is there not a law above our laws?"



“(for not the hearers of the law *are* just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;

for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their thoughts accusing or else excusing them*)”

Romans 2:13-15



Richard Rorty
Renown Atheist
Philosopher

October 4, 1931 – June 8,
2007

In her book, *Finding Truth*, Nancy Pearcey states: “In a striking passage, Rorty admits that the very concept of objective truth is grounded in the Christian conviction that the universe was ‘created by a person.’ The idea of a truth beyond human subjectivity, he writes, ‘is a remnant of the idea

Where can Ultimate Authority, Truth, and a Standard Come From?



- From Each Individual – no, because different individuals can disagree; no way to solve disputes
- From Culture – no, because different cultures can disagree ; no way to solve disputes
- From a Combined set of Cultures – possible, although this has never happened in human history, plus they would be made by fallable humans so no confidence they are ultimately correct.
- From the Material Universe – no, because impersonal matter cannot impose obligation
- From an Immutable, Sovereign Creator – yes, because He created, understands, and sustains all things, and will never change

The Question is:

“Is the God of the Bible, that Supreme Being?”

To be Continued...

- If the Bible is True, there must be a God because it testifies of God!
- It follows then, that God existed before the Bible so let’s examine evidence for the existence of God outside the Bible.
- As we examine evidence for God’s existence, we will discover some of the attributes of God this evidence reveals.



Does God Exist?



“Even though belief in God’s existence does not require arguments or proofs, it would be wrong to assume that good arguments cannot be found or that they are useless.”

Ronald H. Nash, *Life’s Ultimate Questions: An Introduction to Philosophy*,

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

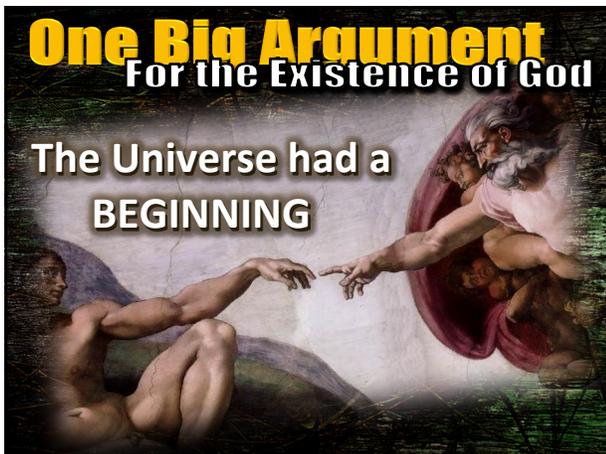
Romans 1:18-21.

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Romans 1:18-21.

One Big Argument For the Existence of God

The Universe had a
BEGINNING



This Argument States:

- Everything that begins to exist must have a cause
- The universe began to exist
- Therefore, the universe had a cause

SCIENTISTS STATE-
there was a beginning

"Almost everyone now believes that the universe, and time itself, had a beginning at the Big Bang."



Stephen Hawking



Alexander Vilenkin

"With the proof now in place, cosmologists can no longer hide behind the possibility of a past-eternal universe. There is now no escape, they have to face the problem of a cosmic beginning."

"At first the scientific community was very reluctant to accept the idea of a birth of the universe. Not only did the Big Bang model seem to give in to the Judeo-Christian idea of a beginning of the world, but it also seemed to have to call for an act of supernatural creation. . . .It took time, observational evidence, and careful verification of predictions made by the Big Bang model to convince the scientific community to accept the idea of a cosmic genesis. . . . The Big Bang is a very successful model . . . that imposed itself on a reluctant scientific community."

J. M. Wersinger

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE LEADS
to the Biblical account of creation



Robert Jastrow
 Founder of NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Studies

"...astronomical evidence leads to a biblical view of the origin of the world.... the essential element in the astronomical and biblical accounts of Genesis is the same."

(Jastrow, God and the Astronomers, 14.)

"Astronomers now find they have painted themselves into a corner because they have proven, by their own methods, that the world began abruptly in an act of creation to which you can trace the seeds of every star, every planet, every living thing in this cosmos and on the earth. And they have found that all this happened as a product of forces they cannot hope to discover. . .

That there are what I or anyone would call supernatural forces at work is now, I think, a scientifically proven fact."

(Agnostic Astronomer Robert Jastrow.)

The Bible says that Time had a Beginning:

"We speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began."
I Corinthians 2:7

"This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time" - II Timothy 1:9

"The hope of eternal life, which God... promised before the beginning of time."
Titus 1:2

"To the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen." - Jude 1:25

"Many people do not like the idea that time has a beginning, probably because it smacks of divine intervention."

The Late Stephen Hawking, renowned scientist and atheist



“There are only two possibilities as to how life arose; one is spontaneous generation arising to evolution, the other is a supernatural creative act of God, there is no third possibility. Spontaneous generation that life arose from non-living matter was scientifically disproved 120 years ago by Louis Pasteur and others. That leaves us with only one possible conclusion, that life arose as a creative act of God. I will not accept that philosophically because I do not want to believe in God, therefore I choose to believe in that which I know is scientifically impossible”

Dr. George Wald
 Professor Emeritus of Biology, Harvard
 Nobel Prize winner in Biology

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“The great atheist Friedrich Nietzsche exemplified this type of person. He wrote, *‘If one were to prove this God of the Christians to us, we should be even less able to believe in him’* and *‘It is our preference that decides against Christianity, not arguments.’*”

Regarding The Existence of God;

The evidence leaves us with the following two options:

1. *No One Created Something Out Of Nothing*
 (a **EITHER**)
- OR
2. *Someone Created Something Out Of Nothing*
 (theistic view)

Which view is more reasonable ?

SCIENTISTS STATE:
 the beginning is Biblical

Arno Penzias – “The best data we have (concerning the Big Bang) are exactly what I would have predicted had I had nothing to go on but the five books of Moses, the Psalms and the Bible as a whole.”

Robert Wilson – “Certainly there was something that set it all off... I can't think of a better theory of the origin of the universe to match Genesis.”

George Smoot – “There is no doubt that a parallel exists between the big bang as an event and the Christian notion of creation from nothing.”



The bottom line from **Dr. Robert Jastrow**, agnostic astronomer and founder of Goddard Institute for Space Studies:

“For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; He is about to conquer the highest peak; As he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.” - (Jastrow, God and the Astronomers, 116)

Do these conclusions tell us anything about God?

God may exist, but what **kind** of God are we dealing with?

- He must be **supernatural** in nature.
- He must be **powerful** (incredibly).
- He must be **eternal**
- He must be **present everywhere** (He created space and is not limited by it).
- He must be **timeless** and **changeless** (He created time).
- He must be **immaterial** because He created material.
- He must be **personal** (impersonal can't create personality).
- He must be **infinitely perfect** and **singular (only One)** as you cannot have two infinities

What worldviews/faiths are affected by these conclusions?

- Agnosticism
- Atheism
- Pantheism (God is All; Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, New Age, etc.)
- Pluralism (All religions accepted as valid)
- Polytheism (Many gods)
- Theism (the belief in one God as the Creator and Ruler of the universe)

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This leaves Christianity, Judaism, and Islam

Islam and the Quran/Koran cannot be True:

"If the Quran is true, then Islam is false. Why? Because the Quran says to trust the Gospels and the four Gospels contradict the Quran. This means the Quran can't be true if it says the gospel message is also true."

Matt Slick, Christian Apologist

"Islam combines elements of the Old Testament, Christianity, and the native Arabian religion. Mohammed, writing in the Koran, refers to the Old and New Testaments as the truth, but his doctrines often contradict their teachings."

Kenneth Boa, *Cults, World Religions, and the Occult*, 73.

Summary

- The Universe had a Beginning
- There must have been a Cause for this Beginning.
- This Cause must have been:
 - Supernatural
 - Extremely Powerful
 - Timeless
 - Eternal
 - Infinitely Perfect
 - Highly Intelligent
 - Personal and...
 - Present Everywhere...and much more!

This Describes the God of the Bible!

What does the Bible Say?

- God is supernatural - **Genesis 1:1**
- Powerful – **Jeremiah 32:17**
- Eternal - **Psalm 90:2**
- Omnipresent - **Psalm 139:7**
- Timeless/changeless - **Malachi 3:6**
- Immaterial - **John 5:24**
- Personal - **Genesis 3:9**
- Necessary - **Colossians 1:17**
- Infinite/singular - **Jeremiah 23:24, Deut. 6:4**
- Diverse yet with unity - **Matthew 28:19**
- Intelligent - **Psalm 147:4-5**
- Purposeful - **Jeremiah 29:11**
- Moral - **Daniel 9:14**

So far we've attempted to show:

- **Truth Exists.** That there is a Universal body of Truth that applies to all people at all times and in all places. It is the "law written in our hearts" and conscience.
- **God Exists.** That the most reasonable explanation for the Universe having a beginning is a Supreme Being – God.
- That the God creation reveals to us only corresponds to the God of the Bible.

So, if it can be shown that the New Testament is True, then Christianity supersedes Judaism!

...to be continued!