

THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

Hebrews 11:6: "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

I. CHRISTIANITY'S BASIC POSTULATE IS THE EXISTENCE OF A PERSONAL, ETHICAL GOD.

A. The basic assumption is that the universe rests on the supernatural.

1. A supernatural Power sustains it.
2. A supernatural Will operates it.
3. A supernatural Wisdom appoints its end.
 - (a) A visible order rests on the invisible. (Things that are seen are made by the things not seen.)

B. This God is One:

1. There are only Three monotheistic religions.
 - (a) Judaism.
 - (b) Christianity.
 - (c) Mohammedanism.
 - (1) The latter two are derived from the first.
 - (2)

<u>Atheism admits of only one God, if any exist at all.</u>

C. Four basic answers are given as to the existence of God.

1. Agnostic: "I do not know if there is a God."
2. Skeptic: "I do not know and I cannot know whether there is a God."
3. Atheist: "There is no God."
4. Theist: "There is a personal, ethical, self-revealing God."

I. THERE ARE MANY GOOD REASONS FOR BELIEVING IN THE EXISTENCE OF GOD:

A. In the First Place: Because Atheism, the only alternative, cannot be proved.

1. Where only two alternatives exist, one is established by the default of the other.

- (a) There is not a man in the world who can disprove God. He would have to traverse every foot of the earth, he would have to explore every cubit of water, he would have to leave the earth and explore every part of the atmosphere, he would have to be able to discern a spiritual being with a physical eye. He would have to know all there is to know, otherwise the thing he might not know was that God exists.

B. Secondly, it is more reasonable to believe in eternal mind than eternal matter.

1. Three answers are given to the idea of eternal existence:

- (a) Dualism: That mind and matter are both eternal.
(b) Materialism: That matter is eternal.
(c) Theism: That mind is eternal and that it created matter.

(i) It is more reasonable to believe that the eternal force is mind.

a. Mind is superior to matter.

(1) Mind knows - Matter is the object known.

(2) Mind has spontaneity and force.

C. In the third place: Moral government implies a moral Governor.

1. Go back through the corridors of history - Man has always had sense of right and wrong - even among the most primitive people. (Elaborate)

2. Nations and individuals have a conscience.

- (a) Without a belief in a moral ruler who will rectify wrong and reward the righteous, this concept cannot be explained.

NOTE: Destroy the belief in a moral ruler and you destroy social force.

D. In the fourth place: The universe exhibits marks of intelligent causation.

1. A house demands a builder.
2. An electric system, a maker - brain, spinal cord, nerves.
3. A water system - arteries and veins.
4. Planetary system.

- (a) As David could say in Psalms 8: "O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth, who hast set thy glory above the heavens...When I consider thy heavens, and the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him and the son of man that thou visitest him?"

- (i) Atheism says it is merely a matter of blind chance.

5. If the universe exhibits:

- (a) Design - There must be a designer.
- (b) Thought - There must be a thinker.
- (c) Laws of Nature - There must be a law giver.
- (d) Mathematical Precision - There must be a mathematician.
- (e) Chemical Combination - There must be a chemist.
- (f) Engineering Feats - There must be a great engineer.

- (i) Conclusion: God Exists.

E. Fifthly: The great preponderance of scientific men and philosophers believe in God.

1. Socrates, Plato, Aristotle - Advanced arguments for infinite, immaterial God.

(a) Aristotle advanced three basic arguments for God.

(i) Ontological - Necessary idea of eternal existence (something is-something was).

(ii) Cosmological - Back of harmony must be intelligence.

(iii) Moral Argument - Moral ruler behind the universe.

2. Newton, Joseph Priestley, Faraday, Kelvin, Edison, Einstein believed in God.

F. In the sixth place: Objections to the existence of God lie equally against Atheism.

1. Say that Christian assumes that God is eternal.

(a) Certainly, the Atheist assumes that matter is eternal.

2. Say that we cannot know God perfectly.

(a) The limited suggests unlimited.

(b) The finite suggests the infinite.

G. In the seventh place: Organic evolution is on trial, not the Bible and its God.

1. Here are some things they cannot explain:

(a) Fail to explain how life came to exist from non-life. (Spontaneous generation)

(b) How dis-order has worked out order in the universe.

(c) How matter became intelligent enough to deny intelligence.

(d) How they are able to cross the line of species - from plant to animal, etc.

(e) How dead inorganic matter worked out theism in my brain and Atheism in his.

(f) How our universe is operated with perfect design and harmony.

(i) The fact that design is evident in our solar system.

(1) Distance of earth to sun - not too hot or cold.

(2) Water ratio to land mass - need of night and day.

III. THE CHRISTIAN CANNOT LOSE.

A. In this world.

B. In the world to come. - (Campbell-Owen debate)

OWEN - C O U S - H A V E N O F E A R
C A M P H E L L - T H E A L S O H A V E N O H O P E