

Can We Know God Exists?

Charles Coats

Charles is a native of Arkansas, having been born there August 22, 1953. He and his wife Leanna have been married since 1975. They are the parents of two grown sons, Brandon (24 and available) and Ben (22 and married). Charles is a 1982 graduate of the Brown Trail School of Preaching. Charles has worked with congregations in Arkansas, Missouri and Michigan. He has been laboring with the church in Webberville since 1991, having help to establish the work there. He has spoken on lectureships and meetings in Oklahoma, Texas, Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, Arkansas and Michigan. Charles directed lectureships in Fouke and Dierks, Arkansas and currently is director and instructor of the South Michigan Teacher Training School which began in February of 2000. Charles also works a full-time secular job with Dunnage Engineering.

The atheist would say, "No!" The agnostic would have us believe there is not enough evidence either way. Therefore, we cannot know for certain that God exists. The Christian would state, "It is certain that God exists." Stephen Hawking, a renowned physicist, had this to say about God:

I think I'm careful in my book. I leave open the question of whether God exists and what His nature would be. One can never prove that God doesn't exist. What I did was show that it was not necessary to appeal to God to decide how the universe began, because that is determined by the laws of science. However, one could say the laws of science were God's choice for how the universe behaves. (Hawking 2C)

Today, our topic is a very serious discussion. When I was growing up in south Arkansas, I did not know anyone who did not believe God exists. We disagreed on many doctrinal points, but not on whether there is a God. God is. End of discussion.

However, now we find many who either deny the existence of God or doubt God's existence. Humanism has planted the seed of doubt, or taken away any belief a person had in God. Humanism makes man the "standard" and removes God from the picture.

The seeds of humanism have been planted by such statements as "Have it your way"; "Do your own thing"; "You are your own boss"; "Don't let others tell you what to do"; "Everyone else is doing it"; or, "If it feels good, do it". Even the statement, "Attend the church of your choice" is grounded in humanism. In humanism, God is not the standard. There is no standard – no absolute right, no absolute wrong. Such is the fruit of humanism.

As our children become more indoctrinated in humanism in our schools, it is an absolute necessity that we ground them in the Truth, especially the existence of God (Deuteronomy 6:4-6; John 17:17; Ephesians 6:4). The basis of their faith starts here.

The Bible begins with a statement that either stands or falls based on whether there is a God (Genesis 1:1). One who denies or doubts God's existence will either deny or doubt the Bible is God's word. If the Devil can get us to turn against God's word, he knows he will win us to his side – a side that leads to destruction (Proverbs 14:12).

Why do people doubt or deny that God exists? In my thinking, there are three possible reasons, which we want to examine at this time. There may be other thoughts on this but these will suffice to help us better understand the thinking of people on the matter of God's existence.

If we accept the fact there is a God, then we must accept our responsibility to God. For this reason, many will deny God's existence. They serve self and do not wish to "have to" follow "strict" rules and regulations. If they have no obligations, they then feel no guilt and believe that one can do what one wants to do. While this is an erroneous line of thinking (Joshua 24:15; Romans 6:16-18; John 12:48), it is a popular view.

Some deny or doubt God's existence because they cannot see, feel, smell, or taste him. These people want a God who is as real physically as we are. Mythology is based on the concept of a material, physical god. It seems that people cannot accept that God is a spirit (John 4:24) and that he does not dwell in temples made with hands (Acts 17:24).

Still others deny or doubt God's existence because it seems irrational to them. Even the evolutionist knows that God is the only alternative to Evolution. Louis More stated it this way: "The only alternative (to the theory of Evolution, C.C.) is the doctrine of special creation which may be true but is irrational" (More 22). Yes, a God who knows all (Mark 4:22), sees all (Psalm 139), and always was, always is, and always will be (Revelation 1:4) is irrational to many. However, many will tell us it is "rational" to accept that some unexplained something blew up for some unexplained reason and deposited nine planets and a Sun in perfect order. On the third planet, some unexplained something decided that it did not want to be a dead, inanimate object and for some unexplained reason decided to take on life. Then, this unexplained something decided for some unexplained reason to become some guessed at-assumed-thing, person, or animal. THEN, these unexplained somethings decided for several unexplained reasons to become what we see on Earth today, including man. THEN-N-N-N, for some unexplained reason, all of these unexplained things with all their unexplained reasons stopped doing what no one can explain and yet is taught as fact – the theory of Evolution. Now, really, which is more rational – God or Evolution?

As one can tell, there is a real need to be able to show that God exists. As time passes by, it will become more critical. In order to help us show that God exists, let us observe some important facts relevant to our study.

Mankind exists. While some may question the value or worth of our existence, we cannot deny that we exist. Upon Earth today, some six billion people exist.

The universe exists. We may not know a lot about our universe, but we can all see the stars, the Sun, the Moon, etc. At times, we just like to sit back and enjoy all the natural beauty that is around us.

There is orderliness to our universe. The Earth rotates, tilts, and revolves around the Sun consistently. These are so orderly they are used to measure such things as our days and years. The tilt of the Earth controls our seasons. Planets in the solar system do not collide with each other. These planets show such order that we can calculate where they will be at a certain time. We see this orderliness every day as we observe what is going on around us.

There is design in our universe. Who among us would have thought to place Earth just the right distance from the Sun, have it tilt at just the right angle, and rotate at just the right speed? The magnificence of the human body is an example of great design. Have you ever considered the tremendous design that went in to getting a cut on our finger followed by a message sent to the brain, and then, having a message sent to the circulatory system to have it send white blood cells to the cut? All of this happens almost instantaneously.

We are finite beings. We have not nor will we always exist. We live. We die. We did not create ourselves. We do not have the power to stop death. These are facts we know.

All that we have said to this point brings us to our question – Can we know God exists? The following should help answer our question.

A creation demands a creator (Hebrews 3:4). Our existence and the existence of the universe beg for an explanation. Man's alternatives to God do not stand up under scrutiny. Man has attempted to explain our existence by saying we are of naturalistic origin. It would therefore follow that we are either eternal or we created ourselves. That we created ourselves demands that we pre-exist ourselves, which is illogical and impossible. Man is not eternal, as we are born and we die. We have a beginning and an end. The Second Law of Thermodynamics shows that our universe is decaying, and therefore, not eternal. The other alternative offered to the existence of God is the theory of Evolution. This theory is based on assumption after assumption, and in all its years of being, has not offered one proof that it happened. Evolution demands that some object decide to come alive, yet we know that non-living things cannot take on life. (Remember that according to the theory of Evolution, there was a time when there was no life on Earth. Supposedly, out of a miry clay pit some object took on life and crawled out to become all we have today.)

Can we know God exists? Absolutely, for God made the heavens, the earth, and all that is in them (Acts 17:24; Exodus 20:11).

Design demands a designer. When one considers the human body and its intricate design, one cannot deny there is a great designer. We did not come about by some chance, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14). A few years ago, I heard an individual explain that he started to believe there was a God after observing the design of his little girl's ear. Consider also the design of our universe. Everything is in the exact place it needs to be for our universe to function. Any closer to the Sun and the Earth would burn up. If the Moon decided to leave us, we would have chaos on the Earth, as our oceans would go out of control. On the Earth, we have the intricate design of our plant life, water cycle, and other systems. Since life cannot exist without all of this being in place, these things could not have come about as an evolutionary process taking place over billions of years. These things show the hand of a great designer. Can we know God exists? We have no doubt, because God was the great designer (Job 38ff).

Order demands an orderer. Does any one really believe that one can randomly throw out several things and that they would fall in the exact order and place to sustain life on Earth? Our planets move in such an order that we can plan on where they will be, even several years from now. Those who have ever shot at a moving target understand about leading a target. That is, you shoot where the target is headed, not where it is now. Imagine, then, trying to shoot a rocket to

the Moon and “lead it” so you will hit it several days later (or trying to hit Mars several years later). If it were not that our universe operated in such perfect order, we could not do such things. In *The New York Public Library Desk Reference 3rd Edition* there is a listing of the total eclipses of the Sun from 1900 – 2010. Over the next nine years, total eclipses of the Sun will occur on December 4, 2002, November 23, 2003, April 8, 2005, March 29, 2006, August 1, 2008, July 22, 2009, and July 11, 2010. The central lines of these eclipses will be Southern Africa, Indian Ocean; Antarctica; South Pacific Ocean, Colombia, Venezuela; Africa, Turkey, Georgia, Russia, Kazakhstan; China, Russia, Kazakhstan; India, China, Pacific Ocean; and, Pacific Ocean, Chile. These predictions are made based on orderliness. Order does not come out of chaos, but from one who has ordered the universe. Can we know God exists? Yes, because he created order to our universe (Genesis 1).

The finite demands an infinite. That we did not create ourselves and that we are not eternal are self-evident. Therefore, we had to have a creator. This creator, though, would have to be infinite, i.e., always existing. While tracing our lineage, we will eventually get to an uncaused cause. Something had to have always been in order to bring about the creation. Can we know God exists? With absolute certainty, we can know. He is the always-existing one (Exodus 3:14; Psalm 90:2; Deuteronomy 33:27) who created us (Genesis 1:26,27; Acts 17:28,29).

We can know God exists. We do not have to back down from anyone who challenges this fact. The world may try to explain away God in order to get away from its responsibility to God, but everything around us reveals to us there is a God. The Bible teaches us about God.

Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shown it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse. (Romans 1:19,20)

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.” (Psalm 19:1)

Works Cited

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More, Louis (nd). *The Dogma of Evolution*

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