



ARGUMENTS AGAINST: THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

Who created God?

There is strong evidence that the universe had a beginning (see next page). Some will admit that the universe had a beginning, however they will point out that if Christians claim God created the universe they need to explain who created God.

Why is there so much pain in the world?

Some argue that If God truly loves us, He would not want us to suffer. If God is all powerful, He is capable of ending pain and suffering at any time. Pain and suffering still exists, therefore an all-powerful and loving God cannot exist.

Response

Who created God?

God exists outside of time and is eternal. He is not a created being therefore the question “who created God” is irrelevant. God has always existed and always will exist.

Why is there so much pain in the world?

Mankind has an awareness of right and wrong. Cold-blooded murder is universally wrong and helping someone in need is universally right or “good”. There cannot be a moral code or absolute morality without a moral law maker (God).



ARGUMENTS FOR: THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

Cosmological Argument

- 1 “Everything that has a **beginning** has a **cause**
- ↓
- 2 The universe had a **beginning**
- ↓
- 3 Therefore, the universe had a **cause**”¹

Teleological Argument

The universe is orderly which means the universe is fine-tuned for its own existence as well as ours. If the universe was chaotic it would imply random chance but because it is orderly it implies intelligent design.

C H O S → **RANDOM CHANCE**

ORDER → **INTELLIGENT DESIGN**

Anthropological Argument

Mankind is not only physical but is also spiritual. Mankind is able to reason, philosophize, experience emotion, respond to their conscience, and have morals. This would not be possible without a Creator.

Moral Argument

“My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line...Of course I could have given up my idea of justice by saying it was nothing but a private idea of my own. But if I did that, then my argument against God collapsed too-for the argument depends on saying that the world was really unjust, not simply that it did not happen to please my fancies. Thus in the very act of trying to prove that God did not exist-in other words, that the whole of reality was senseless-I found I was forced to assume that one part of reality-namely my idea of justice-was full of sense. Consequently atheism turns out to be too simple.”

C.S. Lewis²



THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Communicable Attributes

Incommunicable Attributes

Definition

Communicable attributes are God's attributes that can also be possessed by humans (although only finitely).



Definition

Incommunicable attributes are God's attributes that are only possessed by Him.

Attributes

Goodness
Love
Wrath
Jealousy
Justice
Holiness
Patience
Mercy / Grace
Will
Power
Knowledge
Freedom
Invisibility
Beauty
Glory
Truthfulness
Wisdom
Spirituality



Attributes

Unchangeableness
Unity
Eternity
Independence
Omnipresence
Perfection



THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD



THE COMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD



Goodness

God is the final standard of good and is also the source of all the good in His creation (James 1:17).

Love

God loves unconditionally and eternally. God's love is sacrificial. His love is most exemplified by Jesus' death on the cross (Romans 5:8, 1 John 4:10).

Wrath

"...God's wrath in the Bible is never the capricious, self-indulgent, irritable, morally ignoble thing that human anger so often is. It is, instead, a right and necessary reaction to objective moral evil. God is only angry where anger is called for."
J.I. Packer³

Jealousy

"God's jealousy isn't capricious or petty. God is jealous for our best interests... In fact, we only harm ourselves when we live for ourselves and create our own idolatrous God-substitutes. So for God to block the possibility of our knowing Him would actually be to *deprive us* of the *greatest possible good*."
Paul Copan⁴

Justice

"God's justice means that He administers His law fairly, not showing favoritism or partiality. Only a person's acts, not his or her station in life, are considered in the assignment of consequences or rewards."
Millard J. Erickson⁵

Holiness

"When the Bible calls God holy, it means primarily that God is transcendently separate. He is so far above and beyond us that He seems almost totally foreign to us."
R.C. Sproul⁶

Patience

God is slow to punish those who continue to sin. God is commonly described as slow to anger and patience is listed as one of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22).

Mercy / Grace

"God's mercy means God's goodness toward those in misery and distress. God's grace means God's goodness toward those who deserve only punishment."
Wayne Grudem⁷

Will

God perfectly determines every activity that will hold together Himself and His creation while displaying His own glory.

THE COMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD



Power

God is capable of doing all things that are logically or intrinsically possible. C.S. Lewis writes “You may attribute miracles to Him, but not nonsense.”⁸

Knowledge

“To say that God is omniscient is to say that He possesses perfect knowledge and therefore has no need to learn. But it is more: it is to say that God has never learned and cannot learn.”
A.W. Tozer⁹

Freedom

God can do and does whatever He desires to. Nothing or no one, not even Satan, can thwart God’s plans.

Invisibility

“God’s spirituality and invisibility describe His perfect lack of material in the divine essence, so that His essence cannot be perceived by the physical senses.”
John MacArthur¹⁰

Beauty

God has every desirable attribute.

Glory

“God’s glory is the beauty of His manifold perfections. It can refer to the bright and awesome radiance that breaks forth in visible manifestations. Or it can refer to the infinite moral excellence of His character. In either case it signifies a reality of infinite greatness and worth.”
John Piper¹¹

Truthfulness

“God’s truthfulness means that He is the true God, and that all His knowledge and words are both true and the final standard of truth.”
Wayne Grudem¹²

Wisdom

“God not only chooses the right ends but also for the right reasons, the good of His creatures and thus His glory.”
Walter A. Elwell¹³

Spirituality

“God’s spirituality and invisibility describe His perfect lack of material in the divine essence, so that His essence cannot be perceived by the physical senses.”
John MacArthur¹⁰



THE INCOMMUNICABLE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Unchangeableness

God does not change. “For a moral being to change it would be necessary that the change be in one of three directions. He must go from better to worse or from worse to better; or, ... He must change within Himself... It should be clear that God can move in none of these directions”
A.W. Tozer¹⁴

Unity

“Two thoughts are expressed in the unity of God. First, it emphasizes that God is one numerically... Second, the unity of God stresses that God is not a composite and cannot be divided into parts.”
Paul Enns¹⁵

Eternity

God has no beginning or end. He transcends time.

Independence

God does not need anyone for anything. We were created for God’s joy and as a way for Him to display His glory. This is also called God’s self-sufficiency.

Omnipresence

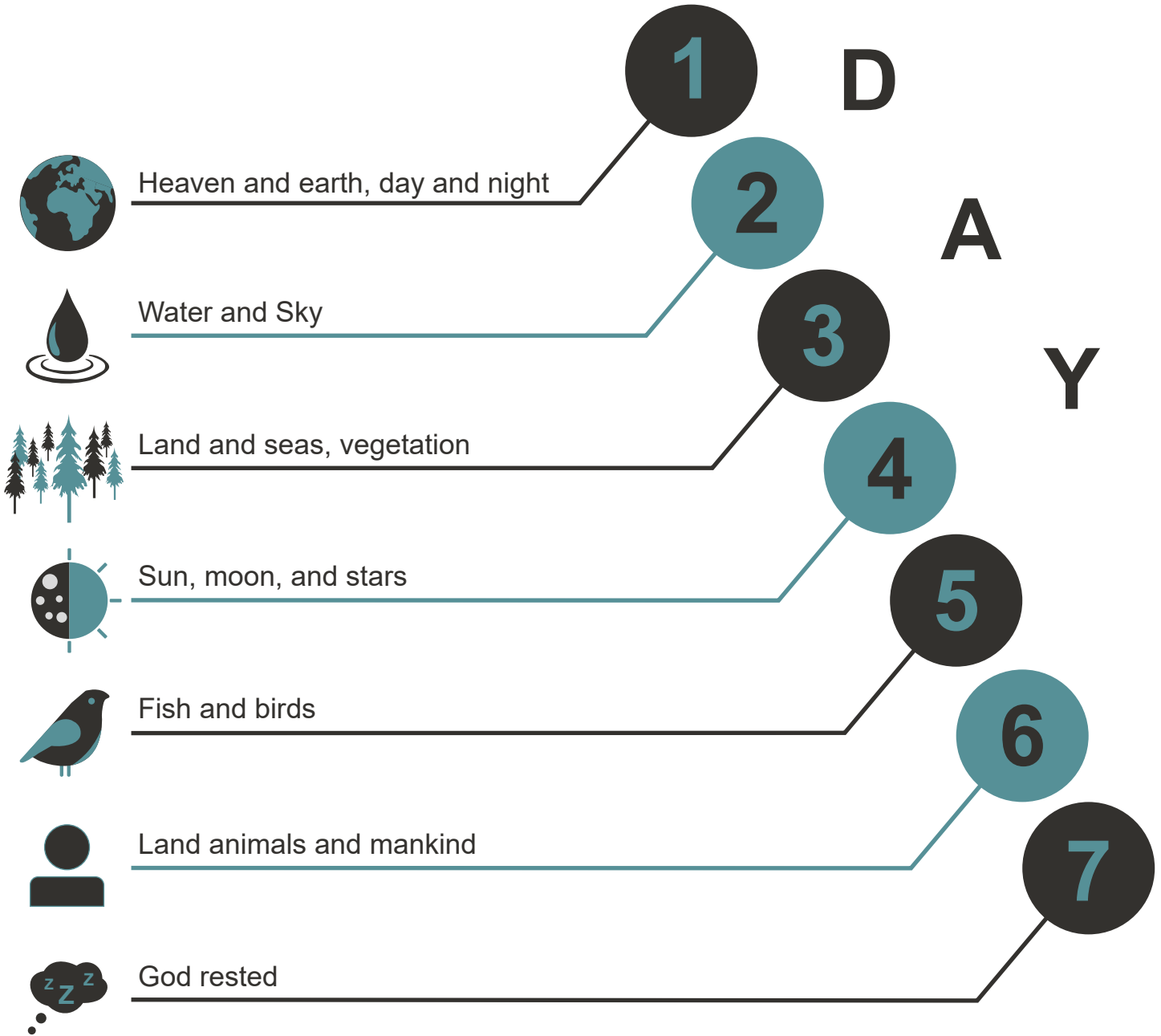
God is everywhere. There is nowhere we can go to escape God’s presence.

Perfection

God does not lack anything that is desirable whether it is moral or any other conceivable perfection.



GOD'S CREATION



Christian Theories on the Age of the Earth

	Age of the Earth	Days of Creation	Gap Theory	Theistic Evolution
Young Earth	The Earth is roughly 8000 years old	God created all things in 7 literal 24 hour days.	X There is no gap between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2	X Less likely to accept any form of evolution.
Earth was created with age	The Earth was created about 8000 years ago, but appears to be billions of years old.	God created all things in 7 literal 24 hour days.	✓ There could be a gap between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2	✓ Usually willing to accept microevolution of animals but not humans.
Old Earth	The Earth is billions of years old, but God still created all things.	The days in Genesis 1 are not 24 hour days but rather 7 periods of time that could have lasted millions of years	✓ There could be a gap between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2	✓ Usually willing to accept microevolution of animals but not humans.



THE PERSONS OF GOD (TRINITY)

3 Beliefs about the Trinity

- 1 God is three persons
- 2 Each person is fully God
- 3 There is one God

1 *God is three persons*

God is three persons, and each person is distinct from one another.
The Father is not the Son (1 John 2:1)
The Son is not the Spirit (1 Peter 1:2)
The Father is not the Spirit (John 14:26)

2 *Each person is fully God*

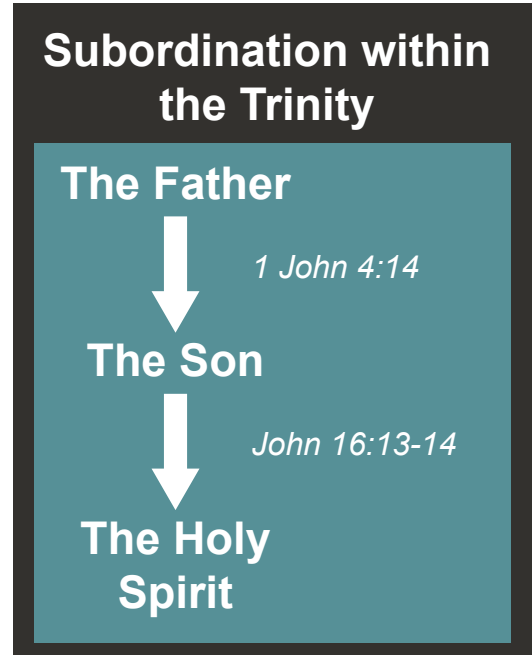
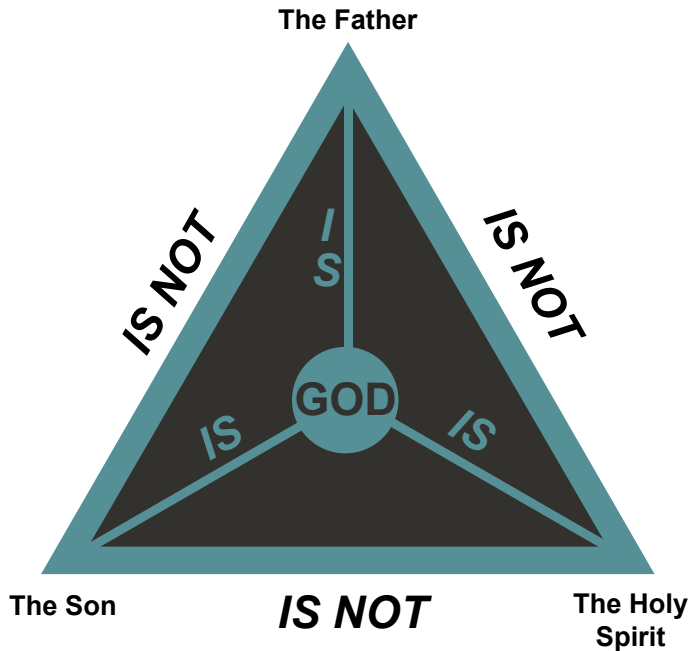
The Father is fully God (John 6:27)
The Son is fully God (1 Timothy 2:5)
The Spirit is fully God (Acts 5:3-4)

3 *There is one God*

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.”
Deuteronomy 6:4



THE PERSONS OF GOD (TRINITY)



This is not to say that any person in the godhead is not fully God, just that they have different roles and authority among each other.

Role of God the Father

The Father's role consists primarily of the planning and commanding within the Trinity. His role in salvation is to draw us to Himself (John 6:44).

Role of God the Son

The Son carries out much of what the Father plans. For example, Jesus created all things (Colossians 1:16) and He also died on the cross in our place (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

Role of God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit's work is more mysterious however He was at work in creation (Genesis 1:2) and His role in salvation is to equip us for service (Romans 15:13, Acts 1:8) and to convict us of sin (John 16:8).

“ Unlike a human being, which has only one person, God has three persons. He is one being, Yahweh, in three persons: Father, Son, and Spirit. He's more than able to exist like that because He is God. If we say God must have only one person, like humans, then we are making God in our image. Who are we to limit God? It is up to God to tell us who He is. ”

Nabeel Qureshi ¹⁷



THE NAMES OF GOD

Elohim

God: Mighty Creator

Genesis 1:1

El Shadday

God Almighty

Genesis 49:24

Yahweh

Lord

Deuteronomy 6:4

Esh Oklah

Consuming Fire

Deuteronomy 4:24

El Kanna

Jealous God

Deuteronomy 4:24

Yahweh Shalom

The Lord is Peace

Judges 6:24

Roi

My Shepherd

Psalms 23:1

Tsuri

My Rock

Psalms 144:1

El Chay

Living God

Joshua 3:10

Sopht

Judge

Psalms 94:15

El Elyon

God Most High

Psalms 57:2

Melek

King

Psalms 72:1

Adonay

Master

2 Samuel 7:18

Abba

Father

Mark 14:36

Emmanouel

Immanuel

Matthew 1:23

Artos Zoes

The Bread of Life

John 6:48

Ego Eimi

I AM

John 8:58, Exodus 3:14

Iatros

Physician / Doctor

Luke 4:23

Arnion

Lamb

John 1:29

Philos

Friend

John 15:13

Logos

Word

John 1:1

Sar Shalom

Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9:6

Christos

Christ

1 Peter 4:13

Ish Makoboth

Man of Sorrows

Isaiah 53:3

Ga-al

Redeemer

Job 19:25

Nymphios

Bridegroom

Matthew 9:15

Alpha kai Omega

Alpha and Omega

Revelation 22:13

Miqweh Yisrael

Hope of Israel

Jeremiah 17:8

Yahweh Shammah

The Lord is There

Ezekiel 48:35

El Olam

Everlasting God

Psalms 100:5

Yahweh Yireh

The Lord will Provide

Genesis 22:13-14

Adonay

Master

Psalms 16:2

Yahweh Tsebaoth

Lord of Hosts

1 Samuel 17:45-46

Machseh

Refuge

Psalms 91:2

Metsuda

Fortress

2 Samuel 22:2

To Phos tou Kosmou

Light of the World

John 8:12

Akrogoniaios Lithos

Cornerstone

Luke 20:17

Huios tou Anthropou

Son of Man

Matthew 12:40

Didaskalos

Teacher

John 13:13