

GOD, Part 1 - His Existence

General revelation (God revealed in His creation)

Genesis 1:1
Psalm 8:3

Psalm 19:1
Romans 1:20

Colossians 1:16
Hebrews 1:10

Special revelation (God revealed in His Son and in the Word)

Jesus:

Isaiah 7:14
Isaiah 9:6-7
John 1:1-3, 14-16, 18
John 8:58

John 10:30
John 12:44-45
John 14:9
John 17:5, 21

Colossians 1:15-17, 19
Colossians 2:9
Hebrews 1:3
2 Corinthians 4:4

The Word:

Psalm 119:105
Psalm 147:19
John 17:17

John 20:31
Romans 15:4
1 Thessalonians 2:13

2 Timothy 3:16-17
Hebrews 4:12
2 Peter 1:21

More on God's general revelation of Himself

Teleological (Design of the Universe) - This is basically a study of the evidence for design, order and purpose. It is an explanation of natural phenomenon. Design implies intelligence behind and beyond the design. The lack of design is chaos. The idea of order and design instead of chaos is supported by the second law of thermodynamics. Without an "input of energy", things become random and chaotic.

Cosmological (Cause of the Universe) - The universe has a cause! ("nothing comes from nothing"). This is supported by evidence for the "big bang." The universe appears to be expanding from one point and speeding up with worlds and galaxies moving farther and farther from one another. This was first discovered in the 1920s by Edwin Hubble. God is the logical answer to the existence of the universe. What or Who else caused it?

Anthropological (Uniqueness of human beings) - The existence of human beings as amazing, complex biological organisms with the ability to reason, have self-awareness, awareness of our "wretchedness" AND greatness (Blaise Pascal); sense of our finitude (we are going to die); questions of origin, morality, purpose and destiny; Frances Schaeffer argued that a universe that includes personal beings must be a result of a Personal Cause, for a non-personal universe cannot produce personal beings.

Ontological (The Universe exists) - This is the understanding or study of existence. This argument for God relies on reasoning and not observation such as the teleological and cosmological arguments. Men of all times, cultures and places have held the notion of something or someone greater than themselves / ourselves. This has led to worship of all sorts of things. For the humanist or atheist, it may be simply ourselves, or mankind. The whole concept of objective truth or laws imply a Truth or Law Giver! This leads to concepts of objective morality and goodness.

Questions to consider:

- 1) For those who are followers of Jesus Christ, what were the clues (to you) that God exists and perhaps was even calling you before you ever gave your life to Jesus?
- 2) How has God revealed Himself ("spoken to you") in a very personal way through His Word?
- 3) Do you feel that if you were the only person on earth, Jesus would give His life for you alone? Why or why not?
- 4) What are the indications even now that Jesus is revealing Himself and drawing you even closer to Himself, and for what purpose?