



Study 1:

GOD

The Answer to the Mysteries
of our Universe, or the Crutch
of the Simple-Minded?

Image Source:

•<http://hubblesite.org>

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Belief in God Common to All Civilizations

- Earliest civilizations had a concept of God
 - Egyptians (3000 BC)
 - Hittites (1200 BC)
- Apparently, man needs/wants to believe in the supernatural
 - Why?

Source:

- <http://ancient-egypt.org>
- [http:// archaeology.about.com](http://archaeology.about.com)

God: More than a hypothetical convenience?

- Has science erased our need for God?
 - No!
 - But neither do yet unanswered questions prove God exists.
- Are there logical or scientific reasons *to* believe God exists?
 - Yes!

God & Logic

- Formal logical arguments help combat doubt and show that belief in God is reasonable.
- These arguments do not, however, specifically define the Christian God.
 - An appeal to logic is therefore only the first of several steps in arguing for the truth of Christianity.
 - Nevertheless, it's an important place to start.

The Ontological (study of existence) Argument

1. God is something than which nothing greater can be imagined.
2. Then is there no such nature, since the fool has said in his heart: “God is not”?
3. But certainly this same fool, when he hears this very thing that I am saying – something than which nothing greater can be imagined – understands what he hears; and what he understands is in his understanding, even if he does not understand that it is.

Source:

•[http:// anselm.edu](http://anselm.edu)

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The Ontological (study of existence) Argument

4. For when a painter imagines beforehand what he is going to make, he has in his understanding what he has not yet made but he does not yet understand that it is. But when he has already painted it, he both has in his understanding what he has already painted and understands that it is.
5. Certainly that than which a greater cannot be imagined cannot be in the understanding alone. For if it is at least in the understanding alone, it can be imagined to be in reality too, which is greater.

Source:

•[http:// anselm.edu](http://anselm.edu)

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The Ontological (study of existence) Argument

6. Therefore if that than which a greater cannot be imagined is in the understanding alone, that very thing than which a greater cannot be imagined is something than which a greater can be imagined. But certainly this cannot be.
7. There exists, therefore, beyond doubt something than which a greater cannot be imagined, both in the understanding and in reality.

Source:

•[http:// anselm.edu](http://anselm.edu)

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The Teleological (study of design) Argument

- Nature and some things in nature appear designed.
- Properties that appear designed are not producible without an active agent.
- Therefore, nature and some things in nature are products of an active agent (designer).

Source:

• <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/teleological-arguments/>

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The Cosmological (study of the universe) Argument

- A contingent being exists
- This contingent being has cause for its existence.
- This cause is something other than the contingent being itself.
- This cause must either be other contingent being(s) or may include a non-contingent being.
- Contingent beings alone cannot cause the existence of a contingent being.
- Therefore, the cause of this contingent being must include a non-contingent being.
- Therefore, a non-contingent being exists.

Source:

• <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ontological-arguments/#4>

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The Moral Argument

- Man has always had some concept of right and wrong, or justice.
- Unlike other natural laws, it can be and often is disobeyed (not a fact).
- But not a mere idea, because it is universal.

Source:

• *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis

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The Moral Argument (cont.)

- Is morality just what serves **us** best?
- Is morality just what serves **society** best?

Source:

• *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis

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Conclusion

- Logical arguments give us reason to believe that some sort of supernatural being exists.
- Only a foundation
 - They do not specifically describe the Christian God.
 - They are not particularly convincing to many non-Christians.
- Logic is but a step toward our goal.