

An Introduction to Christian Apologetics

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WEEK 7

THE EXISTENCE OF GOD, part 2

I. Cosmological Argument

A. Horizontal form

- i. whatever had a beginning had a cause
- ii. the universe had a beginning
- iii. therefore, the universe had a cause
- iv. therefore, the universe is not eternal
- v. therefore, God exists.

1. philosophical evidence: impossibility of actual infinities in real world

- a. If an (actual) infinite number of moments occurred before today, then today would never have come, since it is impossible to traverse an infinite number of moments.
- b. But today has come.
- c. Hence, there was a finite number of moments before today; the universe had a beginning.

2. scientific evidence: (i) expanding universe; (ii) 2nd law of thermodynamics

a. expanding universe

“Everything in the universe is expanding outward. [expanding the same in all directions] The staggering implication of this is that at some point in the past the entire known universe was contracted down to a **single mathematical point**, from which it has been expanding ever since. The further back one goes in the past, the denser the universe becomes, so that one finally reaches a point of **infinite density** called the singularity from which universe began to expand.”

(philosopher William Lane Craig)

b. Second Law of Thermodynamics

“According to the second law of thermodynamics, processes taking place in a closed system always tend toward a state of equilibrium. Now our interest is in what implications this has when the law is applied to the universe as a whole. For the universe is a gigantic closed system, since it is everything there is and no energy is being fed into it from without. The second law seems to imply that, given enough time, the universe will reach a state of thermodynamic equilibrium, known as the "heat death" of the universe. This death may be hot or cold, depending on whether the universe will expand forever or eventually re-contract. . . . **Now the question which needs to be asked is this: if, given sufficient time, the universe will reach heat death, then why is it not now in a state of heat death if it has existed for infinite time? If the universe did not begin to exist, then it should now be in a state of equilibrium.**”
 (William Lane Craig)

“For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; He is about to conquer the highest peak; As he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.”
 (Robert Jastrow, *God and the Astronomers*, 116)

B. Vertical form

- i. Something undeniably exists: I cannot deny my own existence.
- ii. My existence is either impossible, possible (contingent), or necessary.
- iii. Since my existence is contingent, I must be currently caused to exist by another.
- iv. There cannot be an infinite regress of current causes of existence.
- v. There must be an uncaused first Cause of the present existence of contingent beings.
- vi. The uncaused first Cause must be necessary, infinite, eternal, simple, immutable, and one.

