

HIGH SCHOOL

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Does it Make Sense to Believe in a Creator?

Ever try to explain to a skeptical friend, classmate, or teacher why you believe the world was formed by a Creator—why you think life and the universe are more than a pointless mess of proteins, protons, and quarks? If so, you may have found it rough going.

There is no way to “prove” Creation or a Creator by logic alone, even if you’re the captain of a debate team. That’s because some people demand a Creator who can be touched, smelled, tasted, heard, and seen. When God did appear physically in the person of Jesus Christ, many people still refused to believe. Maybe that’s one reason why God didn’t bother to



include a handy three-step proof of His existence in His Word—He knew it would be futile.

So where does that leave you? What can you do if someone tries to make you feel like a fool because you believe in a Creator?

First, keep in mind that you can't argue anyone—not even yourself—into real faith. You can always find a logical loophole if you don't want to believe. God is interested in more than arguments anyway. He's a real Being, not an idea, and He wants to form relationships with people—winning their hearts and not just their minds.

Having realized that, take a look at the following 12-point line of reasoning. It doesn't prove the existence of a Creator, but it's one way to show, through logical statements, why it's reasonable to believe. You may find it helpful in case somebody claims your belief in a Creator is nothing more than a superstition.

1. • Life and the universe exist.

Practically everybody agrees on this one.

2. • Life and the universe did not always exist.

Physicists tell us the universe is expanding, which indicates to many that it originated in a huge explosion. Geologists point out that the radioactivity of rocks is still decaying, which means those rocks haven't always been around. There's no such thing as perpetual motion, so it's pretty unlikely that the universe has been moving forever.

3. • Therefore, at some moment things began to exist.

No matter how long it may have taken for the whole universe to be formed, there had to be a moment when *nothing* became *something*.

4. • We cannot observe what happened at that moment.

No telescope, microscope, space probe, or camera can show us what happened in the beginning. You'd need a time machine to be at the first moment of creation, and even then you might not be able to understand what was going on.

5. • Therefore, we can hold only beliefs about how life and the universe came to exist.

To scientifically prove a statement about how the universe came to be, you'd have to observe that event and duplicate it through experimentation. Since no human being can do either of those, any descriptions of that event are statements of belief. People who don't like the word "belief" can say "hypothesis" or "theory" or even "just a wild guess" if they are more comfortable with those words.

6. • We can choose to believe that a Creator did not bring things into existence.

Many have made this choice.

7. • However, there is no physical evidence that proves the nonexistence of a Creator.

Let's say that a team of Nobel Prize winners examines every inch

Does it Make Sense?

Reflections

of

God



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Read through Genesis 1 as if you didn't know anything about God except what this Scripture tells you. On the chart, list all His characteristics that you can know for certain or that are implied in these verses.

For example, for Genesis 1:1, you could write the fact that God is the Creator.

You might also put on your list that He is eternal because this is implied. You can assume that if God was present in the beginning, He Himself had no beginning. Now you try it.

Read Romans 1:19-20. On the chart below, make a list of things in nature that display the characteristics of God that you found in Genesis 1. For instance, mountain ranges display God's creative power, and sunsets show His love for beauty.

<i>Characteristic of God</i>	<i>As It's Seen in Nature</i>
------------------------------	-------------------------------

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |
| 6. | 6. |
| 7. | 7. |

Lesson Scripture

Romans 1:19-20

¹⁹What may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Look at Hebrews 11:3. According to this verse, how did God create? What materials did He use? How are we to respond to something like this, something that cannot be proven by the technical tools available to us?

of the known universe, right down to the smallest atomic particle. They don't find a Creator—not even His signature on a molecule saying, "God was here." Does that show that a Creator didn't bring things into being?

No. Those researchers could never be sure they had seen everything. There could be smaller particles, unknown galaxies, other dimensions. More importantly, they couldn't be sure they'd built a reliable Creator Detector in the first place. Perhaps the Creator is made up of something that cannot be detected by our most sophisticated equipment. That doesn't mean God doesn't exist.

8. Therefore, denying the existence of a Creator requires a faith that has no scientific basis.

Many skeptics would prefer not to call it faith. But that's what it is.

9. We can choose to believe that a Creator did bring things into existence.

Not a bad choice, considering there's no hard evidence to the contrary.

10. There is physical evidence that can be interpreted to indicate the existence of a Creator.

Just look around. From the colorful patterns on a butterfly to a baby's ability to learn language, things seem designed—not randomly tossed

together. That tends to indicate a designer.

This physical evidence does not prove to everyone that a Creator brought things into being. But a reasonable person can conclude that this evidence shows a Creator exists. In other words, we can conclude that physical evidence points to the existence, not nonexistence, of a Creator.

11. Therefore, believing in a Creator is based both on faith and on reason.

Faith picks up where the physical evidence leaves off. Faith and reason don't conflict: they support each other. That's more than can be said for the "no Creator" argument, which relies on faith alone.

12. Therefore, it is reasonable to believe in a Creator—more reasonable than to state that He doesn't exist!

So believing in our Creator does make sense.

It might even make sense to your friends and teachers.

If they choose not to see, ask God to improve their vision. As the apostle Paul wrote, "What may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse" (Romans 1:19-20).

Does it Make Sense?

Did you know that 57 years before the debut of Charles Darwin's publication *The Origin of Species*, a very different proposition existed? A man named William Paley in 1802 explained Creation in this way: "If we find a pocket watch in a field, we immediately infer that it was produced not by natural processes acting blindly but by a designing human intellect." Likewise, Paley reasoned, the natural world contains abundant evidence of a supernatural creator. Until Darwin appeared on the scene this "Watchmaker Analogy" (as it was called) was uncontested. Darwin compiled a "theory" that often is taught as fact; this theory is evolution and it's just that, a theory! Some might argue that it is "science" or that it explains what simply believing in a Creator, can't. Don't be fooled. The Bible isn't theory, God Himself says He created the earth—it doesn't get much clearer than that. (Read through Psalm 104 in its entirety to get a clear understanding of Who is behind the universe.)

Another thing that doesn't make front-page news is that Charles Darwin himself believed in a Creator. What? How can that be? Darwin never claimed to be a Christian, (he was an agnostic) but he also never claimed to be an atheist. In the last entry of his own diary in awe of the forests of Brazil he wrote, "[for they] are temples filled with the varied productions of the God of Nature. No one can stand unmoved in these solitudes, without feeling that there is more in man than that mere breath of his body."

Oh, one more thing. In Darwin's original writing of *The Origin of Species* there were seven unapologetic and positive references to the "Creator." (Darwin 1859: 186. 188. 189. 413 twice. 435. 488). Interestingly enough these

A Reflection on Creation

"He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved. You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. But at your rebuke the waters fled, at the sound of your thunder they took to flight; they flowed over the mountains, they went down into the valleys, to the place you assigned for them. You set a boundary they cannot cross; never again will they cover the earth."
(Ps. 104:5-9)

"How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures."
(Ps. 104:24)

"The moon marks off the seasons, and the sun knows when to go down."
(Ps. 104:19)



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references are not what you see on the bumpers of cars.

Seek out the truth for yourself. The Bible is chock-full of answers. Nature tells of God as well. It's food for thought for believers and unbelievers. Approach this subject in love, state the facts of the Bible, and don't be too surprised to find you have a listening ear.

THE
HEAVENS
DECLARE
THE GLORY
of God;
THE SKIES
PROCLAIM
THE WORK
of his
HANDS.

Psalm 19:1



Monday With the most powerful telescope, we can now look 16 million light-years into space. But there is still no end to it. Praise God for the infinite aspect of His divine nature.

Tuesday One astronomer said that if you counted the stars in our galaxy, the Milky Way, counting one per second, it would take you 2,500 years. Think about how these stars demonstrate the power of God.

Wednesday If the earth were any closer to the sun, we'd all fry. If the earth were any farther away, we'd freeze. Verses 5 and 6 of Psalm 19 picture God in control of the heat of the sun. Thank Him for that perfect control.

Thursday Creation is one way God tells us about Himself. Those who choose to ignore God or doubt His existence have to climb over a universe full of evidence. Thank God for the way He reveals Himself in nature.

Friday The heavens silently tell us that an almighty God must have created them. Look into the sky tonight and consider the majesty of God.

Saturday There's plenty of evidence in outer space to show us God exists. He can speak to us, however, in our inner space as well. Are you tuned in to that frequency? Pray for the sensitivity to hear what the Spirit is saying to you through His Word.

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