

Date : 26 May 2024
Theme : Evidence of faith
Topic : God exists - Is this true? How do we know?
Key Verse : *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because although they knew God, they did not glorify God, nor were thankful but became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Romans 1:20, 21 nkjv*

Introduction

The Pharisees (religious teachers who taught about the Messiah in their synagogues), could not recognise the real Messiah when He came among them. Even when they had specifically questioned Him ...*Are you the Son of God?*... and He had replied... *Yes*... and He had challenged them to examine His works that testified to His identity.

The Problem

Surveys conducted and anecdotal evidence point to the fact that:-

- a) Most 'Christians' lack the tools for critical thinking for them to be effective in questioning answers given by atheists; as well as the skill of articulating well-reasoned conclusions for their beliefs.
- b) The easy access through the internet and the availability of powerful search engines enable one to get quick answers. However, these answers are designed to attract more 'hits' and 'likes'. So, without the habit of questioning these answers, it is not likely for the truth to be discerned.

1) On the Origin of life (when atheists say there is no God)

Youths and collegiates are bombarded with values and information designed to undermine the truth of the bible message. At the same time, since Christian youths have not developed the habit of reading the word of God, two problems arise, as a result:

- i) They doubt that the bible is absolutely reliable.
 - ii) Confused and unable to discern whether God exists? Who He really is? Or How the origin of life started Or that natural selection does not address the origin of life and that Richard Dawkins' book *The Selfish Gene* (1976) is an alternative way of looking at a straightforward factual process: natural selection. Christians should not fall into the hands of evolutionary propagandists who used Dawkin's book to claim that the origin of all living creatures is itself unplanned and undersigned.
- a) Atheists often come up with their own theories for the origin of life, examples, Richard Dawkins' (1976) *The Selfish Gene*, Lawrence Krauss' (2012) *A Universe from Nothing*.
- A fellow scientist, Physicist George Ellis, also an atheist, was asked whether Krauss' book answered the question posed by its title *Why there is something rather than nothing. A Universe from Nothing*.
 - Ellis' answer: Certainly not. He is presenting untested speculative theories of how things came into existence out of a pre-existing complex of entities. And he gives no experimental process whereby we could test these vivid speculations.

Question: How, indeed, would you test what existed before the universe existed?

Answer: You cannot. Thus, what he is presenting is not tested science.

(Ellis co-authored with Stephen Hawking *The Large Scale structure of Space-Time* 1973).

- b) Another science writer, John Horgan, wrote to Krauss' regarding his claim that everything came from nothing ...*What's ironic is that, although you don't have any more evidence for these speculations, your marketing of them has become more aggressive...* (Online, a discussion between science writer John Horgan and Lawrence Krauss 3.Jhorgan 10:43am 04/12/2012)
These remarks prompted a back-walk from Krauss ...*First, I didn't make any definitive claims... and I get offended when people claimed I make such...* (6. lawkrauss 11:09am 04/23/2012).
Horgan's pressing remarks...*Larry, so you are saying that you're not claiming to have answered the question posed by your book title? You're just tossing some ideas around, and you don't expect anyone to take them too seriously? OK, that's a useful clarification...*
(At which point, Krauss did not respond).

2) Design in the world posits a Designer

The late Sir Fred Hoyle, who coined the term big bang (in ridicule), concluded that the origin of life by chance was an absurd idea. In an address at Cal Tech, Hoyle said that no amount of time now being considered by evolutionists, is even remotely adequate to accomplish the formation of a higher living organism by chance. Such an event, he said, would be comparable to the chance that 'a tornado sweeping through a junk-yard might assemble a Boeing 747 from materials therein.'

What constitutes Design? or Intelligent Design.

a) Function and purpose

Everything we see in the world has a specific purpose; example, every plant or vegetation either functions as herb for healing or food for eating.

b) Beauty – A work of art is attractive to the eye, artists know about ratios and shapes being pleasing to the eye, like Fibonacci ratio seen in the shape of seashells and galaxies.

c) Systems designs

Every system is correctly designed for us to identify the thinking and wisdom behind it. We see this in the human body – like the blood delivery system for blood circulation. All good liquid delivery system needs the following components: an efficient pump, conducting tubes, filtration, oxygen transfer, interface with air supply. All these components have to be correctly sized so they are correctly matched for the pressure required, pumping rate, waste disposal, renewal of fresh materials, extraction of nutrients. In addition, the system must be supplied with "soldiers" that protect the blood from bacteria and viruses.

Such complex systems exist in our eco-systems, food chains, water supply etc.

3) On Fine Tuning

We see fine tuning in everything that moves.

Everything in our world has to be accurately tuned, controlled, and calibrated for speed and direction and coordinated with other components. Take planet earth. It has to be fine tuned in the following areas:-

- i) Rotation – every rotation takes 24 hours, with no variation for the last 6000 years.
- ii) Revolution – the globe must make the 470 million km journey in exactly 365.25 days and stay within the orbital path.
- iii) Tilt fixed at $23\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ angle continually and at a fixed speed. This enables the seasons to be on time, year after year.
- iv) Stay within the band width called the Goldilock's zone to avoid getting burnt or frozen.
- v) Synchronise with the moon whereby the earth's tides will be kept within limits and to ensure the sea will not cover land. The fine tuning of the moon takes place in the form of speed – exactly $29\frac{1}{2}$ days. It is controlled in such a way that one side always faces earth.

vi) As part of our solar system, to stay in balance with the other planets, moving together along its path set within the galaxy called the Milky Way. It is positioned exactly so that the total eclipse of the sun can take place.

(Such an eclipse took place at 3pm on the day of our Lord's crucifixion).

- The moon's cycle is timed to affect the tide every 25 hours.
- The distance of the moon from earth is controlled at a fixed distance from earth to ensure that the tide level will not flood the land nor cause the sea to ebb too far offshore.

(Purpose for tides – to aerate the shoreline creatures and to disinfect bacteria growth)

4) On Evolutionists' claims of age of Earth 14.5 billion years, Life 3.5 billion years.

Earth's beginning and Life beginning. Why is this not True?

a) Earth's magnetic field decay

1970, Professor Thomas Barnes noted that measurements taken since 1835 showed that the magnetic field is decaying at 5% per century. This means it is half what it was 1400 years ago. Calculating the magnetic strength in reverse, its value reached an intensity beyond which life is not a possibility in 10,000 years, not 3.5 billion years.

b) The tendency for circular reasoning and self-defeating statements. Many books and claims have been written and claimed to have been proven beyond doubt that life began spontaneously without the need of a Creator (God). But the truth is that all of them have never given any evidence for their claims. They rely mainly on circular reasoning. Darwin's ... *The Origin of the Species* has nothing on origins. Revised 6 times, he kept changing his ideas. (A recent book ... *A Universe from Nothing*, but there is nothing in it that explains its title).

c) The circular arguments in the dating of fossils in another attempt to prove evolution.

The age of the fossils depends on which rock layer it was found. These rock layers were earlier determined by the age of similar fossils found earlier. So, each period has high sounding names assigned in terms of millions or billions of years.

(Yet, when all kinds of species were found together before the beginning of living creatures in what is called the pre-Cambrian explosion, such evidences were ignored).

Application

- Within the next week, engage someone in a conversation whether God exists.