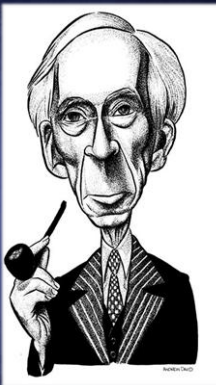





"I may say that when I was a young man and was debating these questions very seriously in my mind, I for a long time accepted the argument of the First Cause, until one day, at the age of eighteen, I read John Stuart Mill's Autobiography, and I there found this sentence: "My father taught me that the question 'Who made me?' cannot be answered, since it immediately suggests the further question 'Who made god?'" That very simple sentence showed me, as I still think, the fallacy in the argument of the First Cause. If everything must have a cause, then God must have a cause."
 -Bertrand Russell
 From *Why I am not a Christian*




A Category Mistake



"What does the color blue taste like?"
 "Where is the bachelor's wife?"

"A category mistake, or category error, is a semantic or ontological error in which "things of one kind are presented as if they belonged to another" or, alternatively, a property is ascribed to a thing that could not possibly have that property."

The Cosmological Argument (Correctly Stated)



- Everything that **BEGINS TO EXIST** must have a cause
- The universe began to exist
- Therefore, the universe must have a cause

God didn't begin to exist, so God doesn't need a cause.
 Don't ask "Who made the unmade?"

“Philosophy and science have not always been friendly toward the idea of God, the reason being that they are dedicated to the task of accounting for things and are impatient with anything that refuses to give an account of itself.”
- A. W. Tozer



GOD'S PURE ACTUALITY (EXISTENCE) AND ASEITY

What is Pure Actuality?

- “Actuality” is that which IS (existence)
- “Pure Actuality” is that which IS with no possibility to not exist
- It has no potential to not exist
- Many things can have existence, but only One thing can “be” existence
- Other things have “being” but God “is” Being



“But why anything at all is, or exists, science knows not, precisely because it cannot even ask the question. To this supreme question, the only conceivable answer is that each and every particular existential energy, each and every particular existing thing, depends for its existence upon a pure Act of existence.”
- Etienne Gilson



Biblical Support for God's Pure Actuality/Existence



Then Moses said to God, "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (Exodus 3:13-14)

The "Tetragrammaton" - YHWH




"I AM WHO I AM"


Literally: "I be that I be" – a statement of self-existence; not dependent upon anything else for His own existence

"Tetragrammaton" – "a word having 4 letters"

"A name that denotes what he is in himself (v. 14): I am that I am. This explains his name Jehovah, and signifies, (1.) That he is self-existent; he has his being of himself, and has no dependence upon any other; the greatest and best man in the world must say, By the grace of God I am what I am; but God says absolutely—and it is more than any creature, man or angel, can say—I am that I am. Being self-existent, he cannot but be self-sufficient, and therefore all-sufficient, and the inexhaustible fountain of being and bliss. (2.) That he is eternal and unchangeable, and always the same, yesterday, today, and for ever; he will be what he will be and what he is; see Rev. 1:8. (3.) That we cannot by searching find him out. This is such a name as checks all bold and curious enquiries concerning God, and in effect says, Ask not after my name, seeing it is secret. Jdg. 13:18; Prov. 30:4. Do we ask what is God? Let it suffice us to know that he is what he is, what he ever was, and ever will be."
 - Matthew Henry




Biblical Support for God's Pure Actuality/Existence



- "In the beginning, God..." (Gen. 1:1)
- "Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God." (Psalm 90:2)
- "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was." (John 17:5)
- "He is before all things..." (Col. 1:17)
- "I am the alpha and omega..." (Rev. 1:17)

God Gave Existence to Everything Else



- "So God created . . . Every living and moving thing" (Gen. 1:21)
- "Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being." (Genesis 2:7)
- "The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life." (Job 33:4)
- "Thus says God the Lord, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it And spirit to those who walk in it" (Isaiah 42:5)
- "Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made" (John 1:3)
- "For by Him all things were created . . . All things were created by Him and for Him" (Col. 1:16)


Jesus Expresses His Pure Existence

"So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am." (John 8:57-58)

"Before Abraham was, I am." That is to say: "Abraham's existence presupposes mine, not I upon him for existence. Abraham came into being at a certain point of time, but I am." Here is simple being without beginning or end."
- The Great Doctrines of the Bible

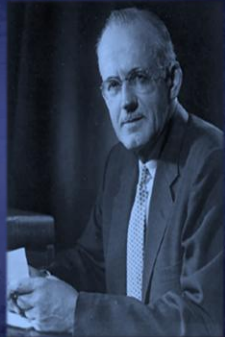
And thou shalt call his name Jesus, Prince of Peace, Mighty God, Wonderful Counsellor, Holy One, Lamb of God, Prince of Life, Lord God Almighty, Lion of the Tribe of Judah, Root of David, Word of Life, Author and Finisher of Our Faith, Advocate, The Way, Dayspring, Lord of All I Am, Son of God, Shepherd and Bishop of Souls, Messiah, The Truth, Saviour, Chief Cornerstone, King of Kings, Righteous Judge, Light of the World, Head of the Church, Morning Star, Sun of Righteousness, Lord Jesus Christ, Chief Shepherd, Resurrection and Life, Horn of Salvation, Governor, The Alpha and Omega.

"A most deeply hidden God, "He who is" is also a most obvious God. By revealing to the metaphysician that they cannot account for their own existence, all things point to the fact that there is such a supreme cause wherein essence and existence coincide."
- Etienne Gilson



What is Wrong with this Statement?

"Aside from God, nothing is self-caused"
-A. W. Tozer
Knowledge of the Holy, Pg. 25



What is Aseity?

- From Latin "aseite", literally "of oneself"
- It denotes that God exists in and of Himself, independent of anything else
- He has no need of anything
- God is an uncaused being, which is different than "self-caused"
- A being cannot be ontologically prior to itself; self-causation is impossible



God's Aseity



"All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life" (John 1:3-4)

"The Father has life in Himself" – John 5:26

"He is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything, because He Himself gives all men life and breath and everything else" (Acts 17:25)

"Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again?" (Romans 11:35)



What is Necessity?

- A necessary Being is one whose nonexistence is impossible.
- A necessary Being is a Being whose:
 - Nonexistence is not possible
 - Existence is essential
 - Essence is to exist
 - Essence and existence are identical



Everything else is a 'Contingent' being

- A contingent being is a being whose:
 - Nonexistence is possible
 - Existence is not essential
 - Essence is not to exist
 - Essence and existence are not identical



God's Necessity



"If He should determine to do so, If He should gather to Himself His spirit and His breath, All flesh would perish together, And man would return to dust." (Job 34:14-15)

"He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together" (Col. 1:17)

God's Necessity – The Vertical Cosmological Argument



- Everything in the universe is dependent (contingent)
- If every part of the universe is dependent, then so is the whole
- Therefore, the universe is dependent right now on some independent / Necessary Being for its present existence

"And He ... upholds all things by the word of His power..."
Hebrews 1:2-3



GOD'S ETERNITY

What is Eternality?

- God has no past, no present, and no future like we do
- God is transcendent over time
- Eternal does not mean endless time, but beyond time
- Eternality means being non-temporal or timelessness



Biblical Support for God's Eternality



- "In the beginning, God..." (Gen. 1:1)
- "Even from eternity I am He, And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?" (Isaiah 43:13)
- "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity." (Micah 5:2)

Biblical Support for God's Eternality



"Abraham planted a tamarisk tree at Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the Lord, the Everlasting God."
(Genesis 21:33)

"Everlasting God" = el 'ôlām "the God of eternity/God, the Eternal One"

Biblical Support for God's Eternality



- "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse." (Romans 1:20)
- "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen." (1 Timothy 1:17)
- "how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Hebrews 9:14)







Fact: You Must Go Back to A Self-Existent, Eternal Something



- If you deny a self-existent, necessary, and eternal Creator, you must automatically embrace a self-existent, necessary, and eternal universe (or a combination of the two, which is pantheism)
- Every drop of scientific data we have points to the conclusion that the universe had a beginning and is not eternal
- Why is an eternal Creator preposterous and an eternal universe not? Because an eternal universe is an amoral entity who doesn't hold anyone accountable.

Application #1: Don't be a Rebel



- Because we are born rebels against God, we are unaware we are one
- We try to assert our own self-hood and think we're in total control
- You are never more like the devil than when you rebel against God
- The attributes of God covered in this presentation are a reminder to us that He is the ultimate and we are not

"The natural man is a sinner because and only because he challenges God's selfhood in relation to his own. In all else he may willingly accept the sovereignty of God; in his own life he rejects it. For him, God's dominion ends where his begins. For him, self becomes Self, and in this he unconsciously imitates Lucifer, that fallen son of the morning who said in his heart, "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God. . . . I will be like the Most High."
- A. W. Tozer



Application #2: Stay Humble



- "Can a vigorous man be of use to God" (Job 22:2)
- "They all wait for You To give them their food in due season. You give to them, they gather it up; You open Your hand, they are satisfied with good. You hide Your face, they are dismayed; You take away their spirit, they expire And return to their dust. You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the ground." (Psalm 104:27-30)
- "What do you have that you did not receive?" (1 Corinthians 4:7)

"Sin has many manifestations but its essence is one. A moral being, created to worship before the throne of God, sits on the throne of his own selfhood and from that elevated position declares, 'I AM'. That is sin in its concentrated essence; yet because it is natural it appears to be good."
- A. W. Tozer

Application #3: Rely on and Trust God

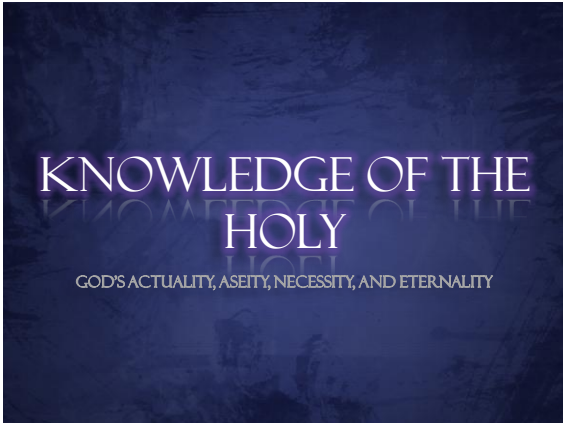


- "Who among all these does not know That the hand of the Lord has done this. In whose hand is the life of every living thing, And the breath of all mankind?" (Job 12:9-10)
- "Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy." (1 Timothy 6:17)
- "I will put My trust in Him." (Hebrews 2:13)

Application #4: We will Experience the Eternal State



- "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:14-16)
- "When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed." (Acts 13:48)



KNOWLEDGE OF THE
HOLY

GOD'S ACTUALITY, ASECITY, NECESSITY, AND ETERNALITY
