

Why I Still Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist **Does God Exist? In the Beginning, Answer Key**

1. Describe briefly what these religious worldviews believe and which major religions are represented by these views:

- **THEISM**

- GOD MADE ALL
- Judaism, Christianity, Islam

- **PANTHEISM**

- GOD IS ALL
- Zen Buddhism, Hinduism, New Age

- **ATHEISM**

- NO GOD AT ALL
- Religious, Humanism

2. In logical form, state the Cosmological Argument.

- Everything that had a beginning had a cause.
- The universe had a beginning.
- Therefore, the universe had a cause.

3. The five lines of scientific evidence that the universe had a beginning are represented by the acronym SURGE. What does SURGE stand for?

- **S**- Second Law of Thermodynamics
- **U**-Universe is Expanding
- **R**-Radiation Afterglow (the remnant heat from the Big Bang explosion)
- **G**-Great Galaxy Seeds (very precise temperature variations in the Radiation Afterglow that allowed the galaxies to form in the early universe)
- **E**-insein's Theory of General Relativity

4. How does the Second Law of Thermodynamics prove the universe had a beginning?

- The Second Law of Thermodynamics states that the universe is running out of usable energy. Just like a flashlight had to be turned on a finite time ago for it to still have energy, the universe had to have a beginning a finite time ago for it to still have energy.

5. The Second Law is also known as:

- The Law of Entropy (disorder)

6. How does the increasing disorder of the entire universe show that the universe had a beginning?

- Since we still have some order left – just like we still have some usable energy left- the universe cannot be eternal, because if it were, we would have reached complete disorder.

7. How does the expanding universe imply that the universe had a beginning?

- General Relativity predicted an expanding universe. That fact was confirmed by astronomer Edwin Hubble in 1929. Hubble observed that all the galaxies are moving away from us, and he correctly deduced that if the galaxies are moving away now, they were closer together before.

8. Some atheists claim:

- The ripples show that the explosion and expansion of the universe was precisely tweaked to cause just enough matter to congregate to allow galaxy formation, but not enough to cause the universe to collapse back on itself. The pictures from COBE point to the existence of matter from the very early universe that ultimately form the galaxies and clusters of galaxies.

9. If space, time (really spacetime) and matter had a beginning, why must the cause be supernatural rather than natural?

- Since all of nature was created, the cause must be beyond nature, or supernatural.

10. Where in the Bible is ex nihilo creation taught or implied?

- Genesis 1:1-2
 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
- Psalms 33:6
 - By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth.

11. In your own words, explain why this argument shows that there must be a beginning to time.

- There must be a creator who brought everything, the universe into beginning. Since nothing begins to exist without a cause.

12. Find a New Testament verse that states that time had a beginning?

- ... We speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. (1 Corinthians 2:7)
- This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time (2 Timothy 1:9)
- The hope of eternal life, which God...promised before the beginning of time (Titus 1:2)

13. If you ask an atheist, "If there is no God, why is there something rather than nothing at all?" (Or "If there is no God, why does anything exist?"), and the atheist responds, "The universe is eternal" What would you say?

- The evidence (SURGE and Kalam) shows that the universe is NOT eternal.

14. The following are among the attributes we can discover about the First Cause from the evidence presented in this lesson. How do we know that the First Cause is:

- Spaceless?
 - Since space was created, the cause must be spaceless.
- Timeless?
 - Since time was created, the cause must be timeless.
- Immaterial?
 - Since material (matter) was created, the cause must be immaterial.
- Powerful?
 - Since the entire universe was created out of nothing, the cause must be extremely powerful.
- Intelligent?
 - Since the creation event was extremely fine-tuned (and remains so to this day). The Designer must be extremely intelligent.

15. Read Psalms 104, 8, 19, 33, 65:5-8 and 145. What characteristics mentioned above are in these verses?

- The majesty of God as creator, creative power of God.
- 145-Love that extends to all creation, powerful, king, majestic greatness.

16. If an atheist says: “Who made God?” How would you answer him?

- The law of Causality does not say that everything needs a cause. It says that everything that **comes to be** needs a cause.
- The universe, however, did have a beginning and thus needs a cause.

17. What are some assumptions made in dating the age of the universe?

- You have to assume that the speed of light hasn't changed. That may be a good assumption, but it is an assumption, nonetheless.
- Salt in the ocean assumes the deposition rate is unchanged and that there was a zero amount of salt in the beginning.
- Uranium dating assumes the decay rate is unchanged and the beginning amount of lead was zero.
- In 2023, new research put the age of the universe at 26.7 billion years it was 13.7 in 2021.

18. Identify the two types of God's revelation and what they have to do with the Age of the Universe question.

- General revelation (creation, morality, the laws of logic, etc.) and special revelation (the Bible). Both are critical to most theological questions.

19. Why do you think the age of the Universe is so controversial for some Christians?

- Because they think you're giving up the Bible if you don't come to a young universe conclusion. But that is begging the question by assuming the Bible necessarily says that the universe is young.