

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

### **LET'S REVIEW WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW:**

1. Does Truth Exist? Yes, it is self-defeating to deny it.
2. Does God Exist? So, far we have seen evidence that he does from:
  - a. The beginning of the universe (Cosmological Argument)

### **The Cosmological Argument is structured like this:**

1. Everything that had a beginning had a cause.
2. The universe had a beginning.
3. Therefore, the universe had a cause.

### **1. 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**-Einstein's Theory of General Relativity

### **The Kalam Cosmological Argument is structured like this:**

1. An infinite number of days has no end.
2. Today is the end day of history (history being a collection of all days).
3. Therefore, there were not an infinite number of days before today (i.e., time had a beginning).

### **2. State the Teleological Argument in logical form:**

- Every design has a designer.
- The universe has a highly complex design.
- Therefore, the universe has a Designer.

### **3. Psalm 19:1- "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. "How does this verse support the Teleological Argument?**

- The heavens provide evidence of design.
- They are the designed effects of the Designer (God).

**4. How would you describe the Anthropic Principle to someone who is not a scientist?**

- The Anthropic Principle is a scientific observation that the universe is precisely fine-tuned for life here on earth. Any small variation in any one of a number of factors about our universe could cause the end of life on the earth. It's as if there is a control room of the universe somewhere with over one hundred dials, all set to exactly the right level for there to be a universe and life here on earth. And many of these factors are interdependent- in other words if one constant about the universe or the solar system were different, either the universe would not exist, or life would not exist.

**5. What did atheist Stephen Hawking say about the precision of the expansion rate of the universe?**

- He said that if the expansion rate of the universe were different by one part in a thousand million million, the universe would have collapsed back on itself or never developed galaxies.

**6. Describe a couple of the problems with the "Multiple Universe Theory" put forth by atheists.**

- There is no evidence for this theory. It is pure speculation designed to avoid God. Evidence shows that all of finite reality came into existence with the Big Bang. If other finite realities exist, they are beyond our ability to detect. No one has ever observed any evidence any evidence that such universes may exist.
- There cannot be an unlimited number of limited universes. Or put another way, there cannot be an infinite number of finite things.
- Even if multiple universes could exist, all it would prove is that they too would need a creator. According to cosmologists Borde, Guth and Vilenkin, even if a multiverse exists it needs an absolute beginning. So, multiple universes don't negate the need for a beginner. The theory actually multiplies a need for a Creator!

**7. What can a building tell you about the architect? What can a book tell you about the author?**

- A building might tell you about the likes, dislikes, and style of the architect. A book could tell you more if the author decided to reveal himself in his writings. So, we can learn something about God from his natural creation, but more from the writings He inspired.

**8. If there is a designer of the universe, how would knowing the designer impact you?**

- Answers will vary from person to person.

**9. In light of these facts, why does God-according to the prophet Isaiah-say this, “To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One. “Lift your eyes and look to the heavens.” (see Isaiah 40:25-26)?**

- The comparison of God to the heavens is to show us that God has no limits, and from our perspective, neither do the heavens. This a statement of the “limitlessness” of God. He is the self-existing, infinite Being who created everything out of nothing.

**10. Read Psalms 103:11-13. How much does God love those that fear Him? How does that make you feel, and how should it affect the way you live?**

- New International Version (NIV)
- 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
- 13 As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;
- Answers will vary from person to person.

**11. Keeping in mind Psalm 103 and the number of stars in the universe, how high are the heavens above the earth?**

- From our perspective, nearly infinite!

**12. In light of this natural revelation, is there any rational adult who does not know that God exists? Explain your answer.**

- Everyone knows God exists from Natural revelation: Creation, Design, and Conscience.

**13. How has the scientific evidence we’ve seen so far persuaded you that things aren’t so ordinary-that there is a Divine Designer behind the universe?**

- Answers will vary from person to person.

**14. What can you do for a person who will not accept the evidence?**

- Ask them, “If Christianity were true, would you become a Christian?”
- Pray for them and love them. If you do this, they may call you when they are ready.

**15. Some atheists express the same unwillingness to accept the most reasonable conclusion regarding the grounding for the laws of logic and our ability to reason itself. Read and watch the transcendental argument for God here: <http://carm.org/transcendental-argument>. Why does theism explain immaterial and absolute laws, such as the laws of logic and laws of mathematics, better than atheism?**

- Atheistic materialism says that everything matter. Well, the laws of logic aren't matter. And if all of our thoughts are merely the products of matter reacting in our brains, then why should we believe anything, including atheism?

**16. Watch this fascinating debate between atheist Richard Dawkins and Christian John Lennox at <http://www.crossexamined.org/blog/?p=262>. What did you think of Lennox's argument that the rational intelligibility of the universe and our ability to reason is better explained by theism than atheism?**

- Answers will vary from person to person.