

Discipleship:  
An  
Introduction to  
Systematic Theology and  
Apologetics

The Doctrines of Creation:

The Heights Church April 3, 2016

# The rational origin of the universe

**There are three classic arguments for the existence of God.**

- 1. The Ontological Argument: God has the power of being.**
- 2. The Cosmological Argument proceeds via Cause and Effect from the existence of the universe to conclude an eternal being created the universe out of nothing.**
- 3. The Teleological Argument: The universe was created by an intelligent being because of the order of the universe (Romans 1:19-20)**

# The Ontological Argument

- Originally developed by Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109)
- God is that being than which no greater can be conceived, and such a being must exist in reality as well as in the mind.
- Refined by Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) to say God is that being that cannot not be.

# The Cosmological Argument

**Aquinas (1225-1274) developed five different arguments to prove the existence of God based generally upon the Law of Cause and Effect. i.e. Every effect has a preceding cause and every cause produces an effect. His 5<sup>th</sup> argument based upon design is as follows:**

- We see that natural bodies work toward some goal, and do not do so by chance.**
- Most natural things lack knowledge.**
- But as an arrow reaches its target because it is directed by an archer, what lacks intelligence achieves goals by being directed by something intelligent.**
- Therefore some intelligent being exists by whom all natural things are directed to their end; and this being we call God.**

# The Cosmological Argument

**In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1**

- **Genesis 1:1 is the most outrageous claim in the Bible. If it is true any other claim is mere child's play compared to *Ex nihilo creation*.**

# The Cosmological Argument

**In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1**  
**For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. Romans 1:19-20**

**Can we rationally establish that Genesis 1:1 is true?**

- **There is an eternal God.**
- **There is a universe.**
- **The universe is not eternal.**
- **The universe did not “just happen.” It had a cause.**
- **The universe was created by God.**

# The Cosmological Argument

**Only four possibilities for the origin of the universe have ever been proposed.**

- 1. The universe is an illusion. It does not exist.**
- 2. The universe has the power of being and is therefore eternal.**
- 3. The universe “popped into existence without a cause. It simply happened. Essentially it created itself in a chicken and egg scenario.**
- 4. The universe was created by an eternal being (God).**

# The Cosmological Argument

## Is the universe is an illusion?

- Rene Descartes, “I think, therefore I am.
- Descartes sought to see if there was anything that was absolutely certain?
- He started by doubting everything he considered.
- Finally we realized there was one thing he could not doubt, namely that he was doubting.
- So in order to doubt he must exist because if he didn't exist he couldn't doubt his existence.
- The same would be true for every person. So if people exist then something exists and the universe cannot be an illusion.

# The Cosmological Argument

## Is the universe eternal?

- An eternal universe is not logically irrational.
- Until the scientific revolution of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, unbelief grounded itself in an eternal universe.
- The Enlightenment saw scientific discovery as providing a rational explanation for why things happened and hence the God hypothesis was no longer needed.
- With the invention of the steam engine came the discovery of the second law of thermodynamics and entropy. Everything is wearing out or running down. You cannot have a perpetual motion machine. There is always some loss of usable energy.
- Therefore the universe must be wearing out as well.

# The Cosmological Argument

## Is the universe eternal?

- In the early 1930's Edwin Hubble discovered the “red shift” meaning that the universe was expanding and not in a steady or unchangeable state (a property of eternality).
- Even Einstein held out for a steady state eternal universe meeting with Hubble in California in November 1931. Historians are divided over the effect of this meeting.
- In 1998 it was discovered that the rate of expansion at the supposed outer boundary of the universe was accelerating.
- Therefore, the empirical scientific evidence will not allow for an eternal, steady state universe.

# The Cosmological Argument

## Is the universe eternal?

- God is eternal and unchanging but the universe is not just as the psalmist proclaimed about 3000 years ago.

**Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end. Psalm 102:25-27**

# The Cosmological Argument

**Did the universe somehow by itself (self creation) “pop” into existence?**

- **Since even science speaks of a moment of beginning of the universe called sometimes “creation” science must answer how out of nothing, nothing can come?**
- **Self creation is irrational because to self create the universe must be and not be at the same time and in the same relationship. This violates the Law of Non-contradiction that something cannot be “A” and not “A” at the same time and in the same relationship.**
- **There is no cause proposed for the explosion called the big bang recently established as 13.77 billion years ago.**

# The Cosmological Argument

## Did the universe somehow by itself (self creation) “pop” into existence?

- When hard pressed for an answer, science has resorted to one of two possibilities.
  1. The oscillating universe: The universe is going through an infinite number of expansion and contraction cycles and is currently expanding. There are two problems with this view.
    - Where did the material originally come from? Entropy means the universe is not eternal and will eventually wear down.
    - An accelerating expansion eliminates the possibility of a succession of gravitational expansions and contractions which might be a cause for “big bang” explosions.

# The Cosmological Argument

**Did the universe somehow by itself (self creation) “pop” into existence?**

- **When hard pressed for an answer, science has resorted to one of two possibilities.**

**2. Time and Chance: Given a very long time even a very improbable event might happen. There are three problems:**

**A. Time does not exist until something physical exists**

**B. Chance is not a causal force. It is a mathematical concept to:**

- **Evaluate likelihood when we are not sure what will happen.**

- **To judge if something is happening randomly or has a cause.**

**C. Intelligent, purposeful effort is always required to produce anything. How many times must you throw a blob of molten silver into the air to produce a U.S. silver dollar?**