

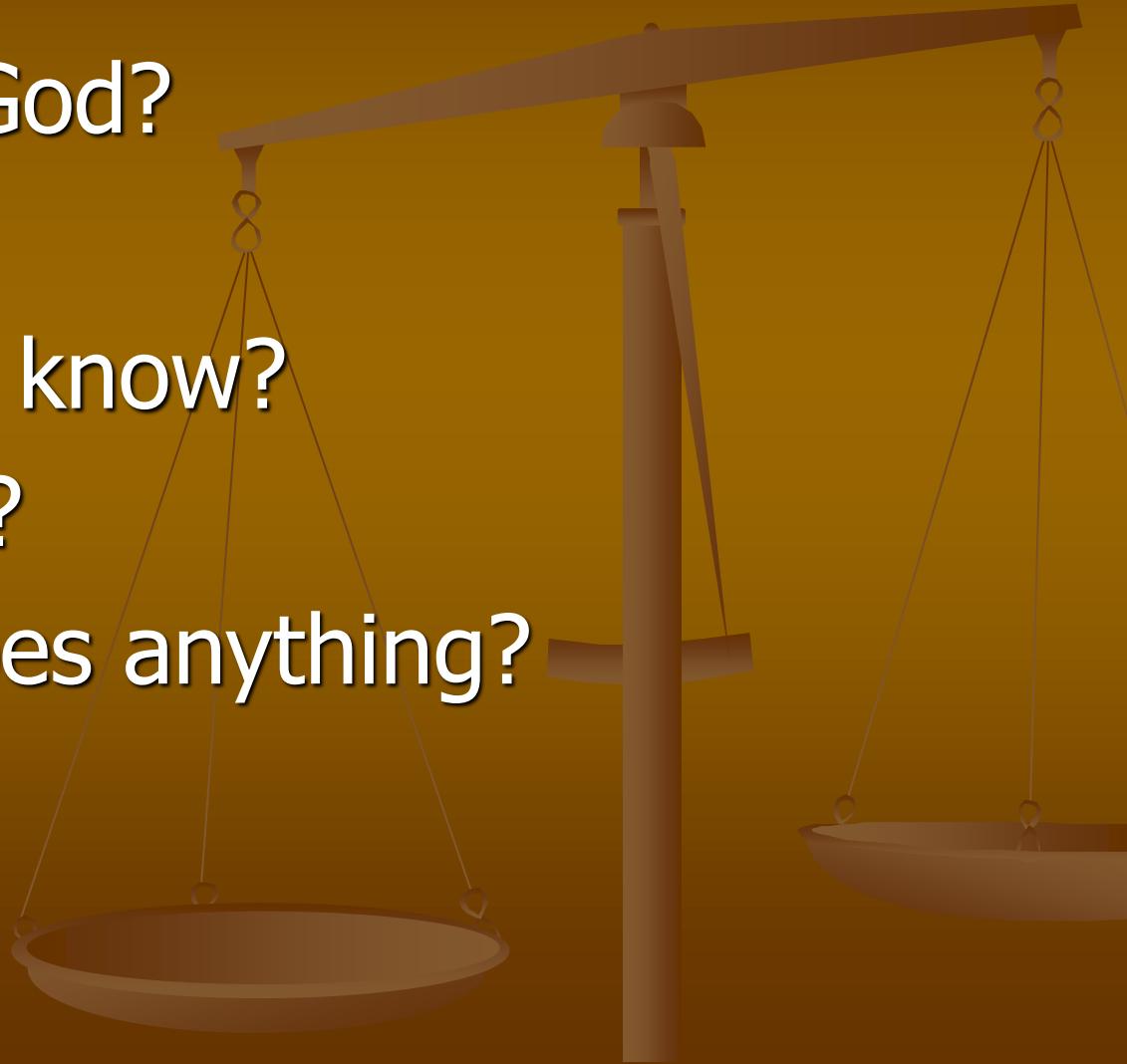
Christian Apologetics

The Existence of God, Part 1

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The Foundational Question: Is there a God?

- What sort of God?
- Which God?
- A God we can know?
- Only one God?
- A God who does anything?

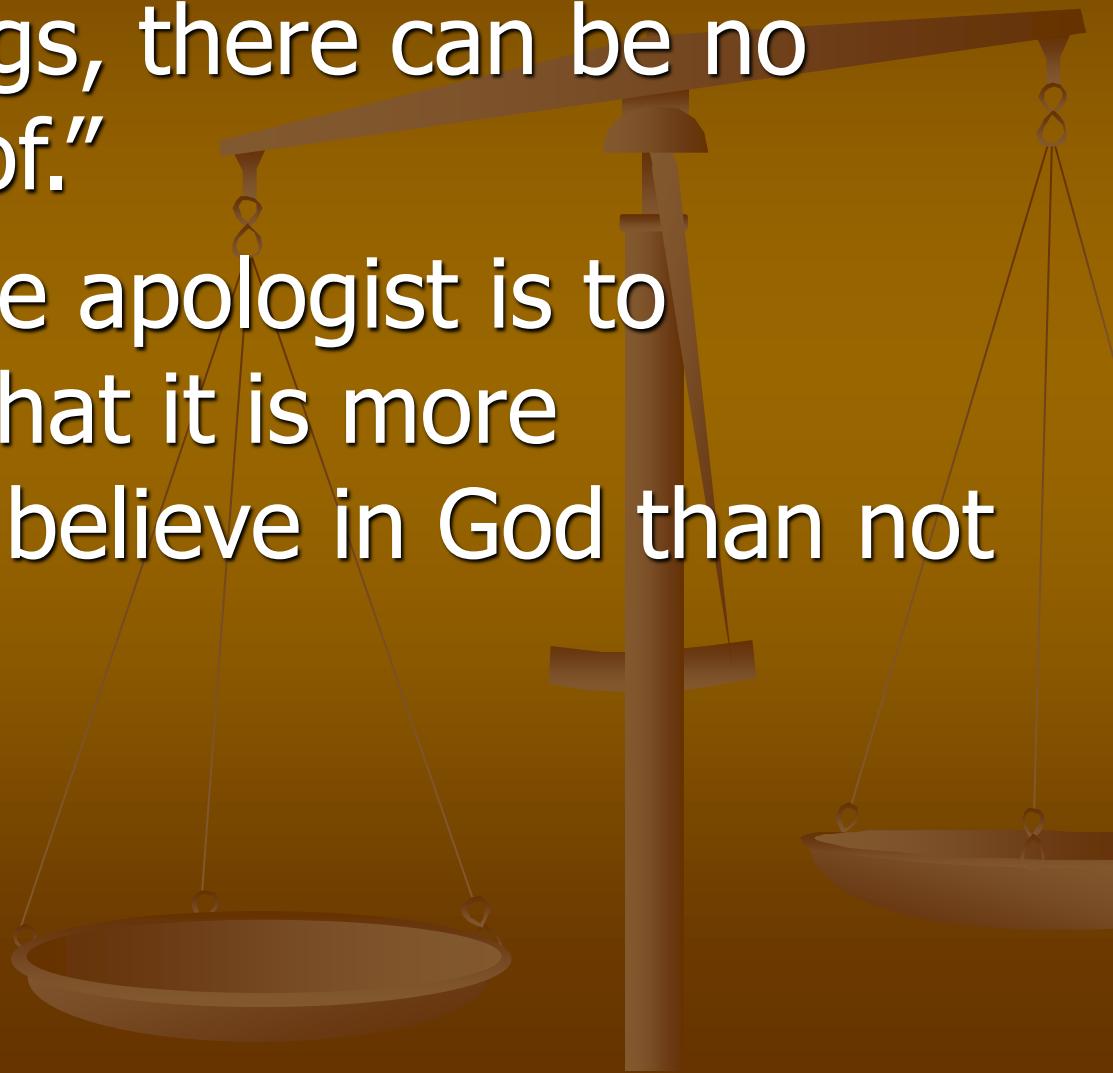


Proving the Existence of God

- The Bible does not attempt to prove the existence of God- it assumes the existence of God.
- “In the beginning, God....”- Genesis 1:1
- When witnessing to people who believe the Bible, we can assume the existence of God. For others, proof may be needed.

What Constitutes Proof?

- For some things, there can be no absolute “proof.”
- The goal of the apologist is to demonstrate that it is more reasonable to believe in God than not to believe.



Four Arguments for God's Existence

- The Cosmological Argument
- The Teleological Argument
- The Moral Argument
- The Ontological Argument



The Cosmological Argument

- This argument for God's existence deals with the created order- the universe.
- The "cosmos" is the entire whole of creation.
- Psalm 19:1- "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. "

The Argument in a Nutshell

- There is stuff
- Stuff can't just create itself
- Stuff can't have been here forever
- Therefore, someone must have made it all
- That someone is God

The Scientific Principles: Thermodynamics

- *Law of Conservation of Matter:*
During an ordinary chemical change, there is no detectable increase or decrease in the quantity of matter.
- This means that matter (stuff) cannot be created or destroyed. It can only change form.

The Scientific Principles: Thermodynamics

- Newton's 2nd Law of Thermodynamics
- *The Law of Conservation of Energy states that energy cannot be created or destroyed, but can change its form.*

The Scientific Principles: Thermodynamics

- The Second Law of Thermodynamics:
- *The entropy of an isolated system not at equilibrium will tend to increase over time, approaching a maximum value.*
- This means that if left alone, the universe will “wind down”- it will decay and lose energy until heat death occurs.

Summary of Scientific Principles

- In a closed system, matter and energy cannot be created or destroyed, but will tend toward entropy (heat death).
- Matter and energy cannot have created themselves.
- Matter and energy cannot have existed for eternity, or heat death would have been reached by now.

What is the Answer?

- The universe must not be a closed system!
- If the universe is not a closed system, it must be acted on from the outside.
- If something is acting on the universe from the outside, who could this be but God?

“For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the last peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.”

Robert Jastrow, *God and the Astronomers*