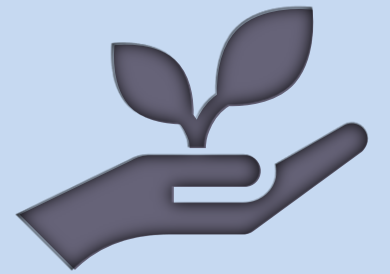
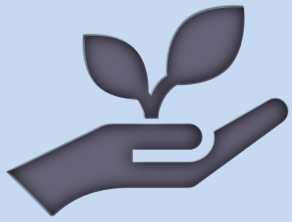


# The Existence of God

Session 4





“If God doesn’t exist, so much of life—so much of what we already assume in the way we function—becomes more mysterious and inexplicable.”

—Gavin Ortlund

# The Cosmological Argument



The cosmological argument is an argument from **causality**.

# First Premise

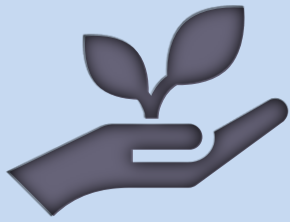


WHATEVER BEGINS TO EXIST HAS A CAUSE.

When discussing the cause of anything, you begin with only two choices: something or nothing.

If something was nonexistent, and at some point in time came into existence, it must have a **cause** for its existence **outside** of itself.

# Second Premise

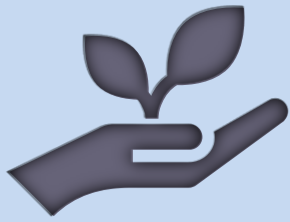


## THE UNIVERSE BEGAN TO EXIST.

Modern science has provided much evidence that the universe has not always existed.

- The Second Law of Thermodynamics
  - This law indicates that the universe is running out of usable **energy**.
  - If the universe has always existed, it would have run out of energy by now.

# Second Premise

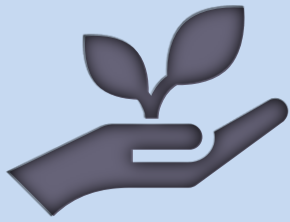


## THE UNIVERSE BEGAN TO EXIST.

Modern science has provided much evidence that the universe has not always existed.

- The Expansion of the Universe
  - Hubble discovered that galaxies display “redshift,” indicating that the universe is expanding.
  - If we “**rewind**” that expansion, we could trace the beginning of the universe to a point in a finite past.

# Conclusion

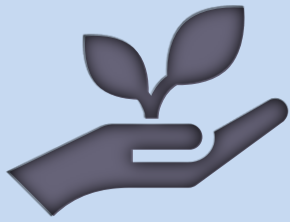


**THEREFORE, THE UNIVERSE HAS A CAUSE.**

Through deductive reasoning, this conclusion follows with logical necessity.

Furthermore, reason would dictate that the cause must be **adequate**, meaning it must be:

- spaceless, timeless, and immaterial
- unimaginably powerful
- personal



*“Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these?*

*He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name.*

*Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.”*

**Isaiah 40:26**

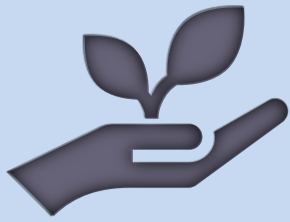


# The Teleological Argument



The teleological argument is an argument from **complexity**.

# The Teleologica Argument



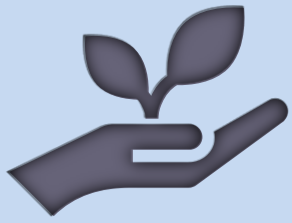
## COMPLEXITY ENTAILS A DESIGNER.

The complexity of an object or system suggests a **purpose** for that object or system.

The purpose an object or system has is fulfilled by way of **design**.

The design of an object or system happens when an external, intentional **designer** acts upon it.

# First Premise



COMPLEXITY ENTAILS A DESIGNER.

Complexity → Purpose → Design → Designer

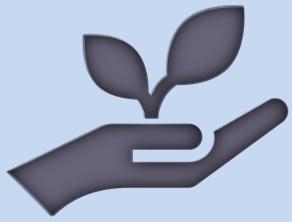
## Second Premise



**THE UNIVERSE IS IMMENSELY COMPLEX.**

Modern science has provided much evidence, demonstrating the complexity of the universe.

# Second Premise



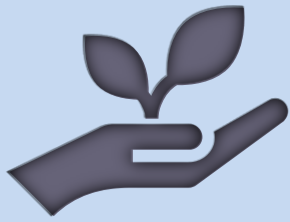
## IRREDUCIBLE COMPLEXITY

Microbiology has identified **systems** that are fundamental to life and depend upon multiple simultaneously functional parts.

- bacterial flagellum
- genetic proteins

The likelihood of any of these systems coming into existence by **chance** is practically impossible.

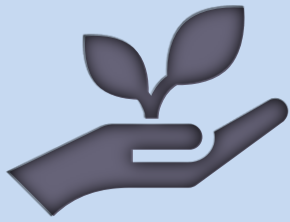
# Second Premise



## THE ANTHROPIC PRINCIPLE

Astrophysics has observed that the universe seems to be “**finely tuned**” to contain life, being governed by a set of physical constants that if altered by the smallest degree would render life impossible.

# Second Premise

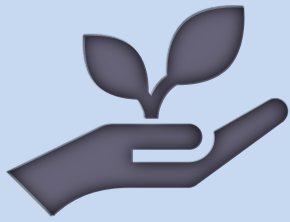


## THE ANTHROPIC PRINCIPLE

In his book, *Just Six Numbers*, Martin Rees discusses the Cosmological Constant, which is the measurement of energy density in the vacuum of space (“what holds gravity back”).

This number cannot change by more than one part in  $10^{53}$ ; if it does the universe would either collapse or expand too rapidly.

# Conclusion

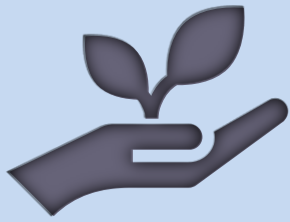


**THEREFORE, THE UNIVERSE HAS A DESIGNER.**

Through inductive reasoning, this conclusion follows with extremely high **probability**.

Furthermore, the argument implies that the more complex something is, the more impressive its designer must be.





*“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.”*

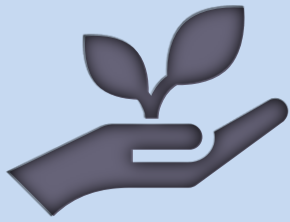
**Psalm 19:1**

# The Transcendental Argument



The transcendental argument is a family of arguments from **objectivity**.

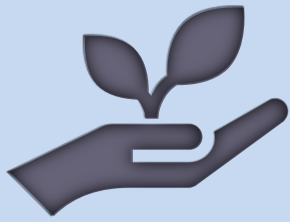
# The Transcendental Argument



The main idea is that we all share certain experiences that seem to be grounded in something beyond our subjective opinions.

But when we consider what is required for us to have such experiences, we conclude that there must be a transcendent being responsible for them.

# The Argument from Reason



Premise 1: We all assume objective laws of **logic** that do not depend on our observation of them.

Premise 2: These laws of logic demand a transcendent **standard**, a thinking being in which logic is grounded.

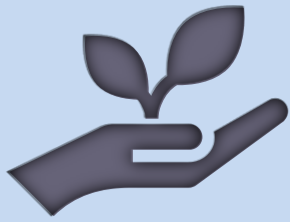
Conclusion: The laws of logic are **grounded** in God.

“Supposing there was no intelligence behind the universe, no creative mind.

In that case, nobody designed my brain for the purpose of thinking....

But, if so, how can I trust my own thinking to be true?....

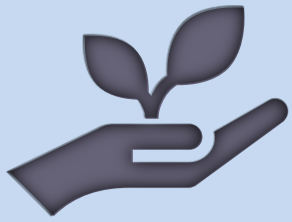
But if I can't trust my own thinking, of course I can't trust the arguments leading to Atheism, and therefore have no reason to be an Atheist, or anything else.”





**“Unless I believe in God, I cannot believe in thought:  
so I can never use thought to disbelieve in God.”**

# The Argument from Morality

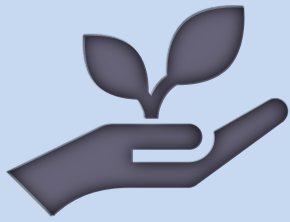


Premise 1: We all assume objective moral **norms** that do not depend on our observation of them.

Premise 2: These norms of morality demand a transcendent standard, a moral being in which morality is grounded.

Conclusion: The norms of morality are grounded in God.

“My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust? ...Of course I could have given up my idea of justice by saying it was nothing but a private idea of my own.”



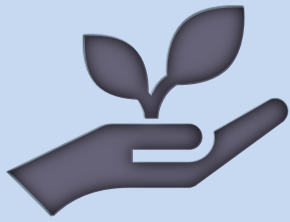




“But if I did that, then my argument against God collapsed too—for the argument depended on saying that the world was really unjust, not simply that it did not happen to please my fancies.

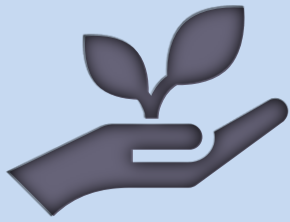
...

Consequently atheism turns out to be too simple.”



“[I]f there were no light in the universe  
and therefore no creatures with eyes,  
we should never know it was dark.  
Dark would be a word without meaning.”

# Conclusion



TRANSCENDENTALS REQUIRE THE TRANSCENDENT.

Simply put, if logic and morality exist, then God exists.  
Logic and morality exist. Therefore, God exists.

Through abductive reasoning, this conclusion follows as inference to the best **explanation**.

Next Week:

# The Reliability of the Bible

