

THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

(EKB Revised April 2007)

1. **The existence of physical matter** requires a Creator, or a “first cause”. Atheistic, materialistic evolution says, “everything came from nothing, by chance,” and gradually evolved by chance. It has no “first cause.” Christianity says God made all that there is, by His spoken word. See *Heb 11:3, Gen 1:3*.

Law of cause and effect requires a “first cause” because nothing can only produce “nothing”. You can’t get something out of nothing. Therefore it is more rational to believe in a Creator God, as the First Cause.

“In the beginning was the Word..... and the Word was God”. *Jn 1:1*.

2. **The geological rock record** - the fossil record in the rocks - strongly supports creation by God. When a new group of animals and plants first “appear” as fossils in a certain layer of rocks, e.g. the molluscs, the bony fish, etc, they appear:
 - a. suddenly, with **no intermediates** linking them to previous forms
 - b. in **profusion of numbers**, in great numbers suddenly,
 - c. in **great variety of form** and structure, all at onceThis is strong evidence for creation, special creation by God, and some evolutionists have admitted this.

3. In 1981 Dr Fred Hoyle, and another world leading mathematician, (Dr Chandra Wickramasinghe - Cardiff University, Professor of Applied Maths and Astronomy), calculated the probability of a protein molecule being formed, (that could or would exhibit the characteristics of life) from random jostling of atoms and simple molecules, and their calculations agreed at 1 in $10^{40,000}$ (this is 1 with 40,000 noughts after it). Fred Hoyle, world leading astronomer and physicist, gave up his atheism and declared that there had to be a God of some kind. The chance of life appearing by chance collisions of atoms is so remote that Dr Fred Hoyle no longer considers it a rational choice. (see “Evolution from Space” - published by Dent)

Professor Hoyle has been quoted as saying that, “there is as much chance for life to spontaneously appear on the earth from random movement of atoms, as there is for a Boeing 747 to be formed by a tornado in a junk yard”.

Dr Fred Hoyle is the originator of the “Big Bang Theory” for the origin of the Universe.

4. Order, design, purpose **in creation show us that there is a rational, intelligent mind and person behind it all.**

Creation shows an infinite display of design, order and purpose. Kepler, the great astronomer who discovered the laws governing the solar system and all its planets said, “Lord, I am thinking Your thoughts after You”. The shape, polarity, hydrogen bonding of the water molecule gives it unique, amazing properties, without which life on this planet would not be possible. Water has amazing heat capacity and acts as the “thermostat” for the world, preventing extremes of temperature. It reaches maximum density at 4°C, not 0°C, so that when water freezes at 0°C it floats to the top. If water reached maximum density at 0°C, ponds and lakes etc would freeze from the bottom up, and stay solid. Water is an amazing solvent capable of holding in solution many dissolved substances at once, as in our blood system.

The elements of chemistry, Hydrogen No 1, to Uranium No 92, are organised in a beautifully ordered pattern called the Periodic Table. A slice of road metal, thin enough to transmit light, shows magnificent crystal patterns of molecular order, when viewed under a “polaroid” light microscope. Take a little, usually ignored, road-side flower, and examine it under a hand lens. (Even King Solomon was not as glorious as this).

That is without effort does your bedroom tend to tidiness and order, or chaos and disorder! Also the Second Law of Thermodynamics says, that in any closed system such as the universe, disorder or randomness tends to increase, steadily. Order, design, purpose, is strong evidence of a rational, intelligent, Creator.

5. **To give purpose to existence.**

Unless there is God, my existence has no meaning. I appear, live, and disappear, and it all has no meaning. My existence is one sad, tragic, cosmic accident. But “God so loved Bill/Jane, that He gave His only Begotten Son, that Bill/Jane who believe in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” *Jn 3:16*.

God created us with purpose, and to have eternal life. “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord”. *Rom 6:23*

6. To explain those times of **sudden awareness in our mind**, of the presence of God.

Alone at night, under the brilliant stars, on the foredeck of a small sailing ship, in the middle of the Tasman, Max..... suddenly became aware of the reality and presence of God. It may be through a sunset, the cry of a child, or the rustling of wind in the leaves of a tree that the awe of God is felt.

“The heavens **declare** the glory of God and the firmament shows His handiwork.”
Ps 19:1, Rom 1:19,20.

7. To explain **the inbuilt voice of conscience** in all men, and the fact that the **basic moral codes of all men**, of all ages, have been amazingly similar. Similarities have been far greater than differences. Read C.S.Lewis’ book, “Mere Christianity” chapters 1-4.

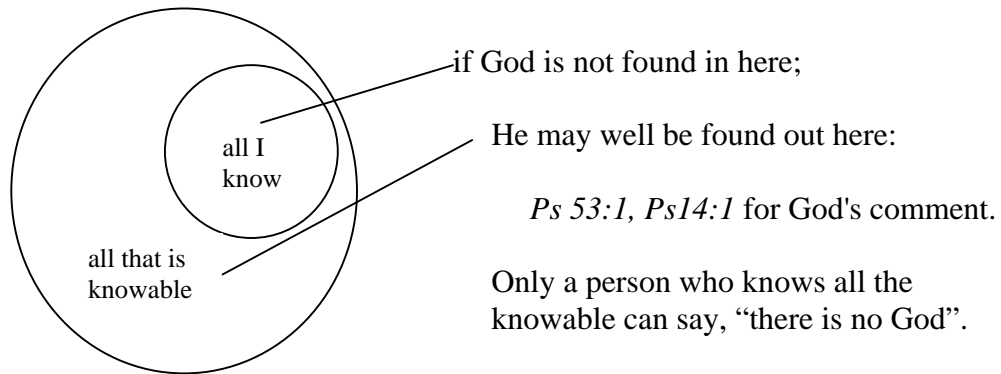
Read *Rom 2:14-16*. God has put conscience, the voice of right and wrong, in the hearts of all men. God’s Word also says that by deliberate sin, and turning away from God, men can deaden this voice within them. Read *1Tim 4:1,2*.

8. The **clear,observable presence of God in the lives of men and women** today. Where Jesus Christ is believed and trusted a profound change takes place in the individual, the family, and ultimately in the community.

Read “The Cross and the Switchblade” by D.Wilkerson, and *Ac 9*.

9. Latest, up to date archeology and anthropology have shown that **ancient civilisations**, and “primitive” cultures were **monotheistic**, and believed in one, true, good God. Polytheism, or the belief in many gods, was not the starting point for man. Polytheism is a later development. Read “Eternity in their Hearts” by Don Richardson(Regal Books)1981.

10. Any one man only knows a fraction of all that is knowable. Therefore no man has any ground for saying that God does not exist. He cannot say that God does not exist, in the realms of knowledge he does not know. For all he knows God may well exist in the regions of knowledge outside of his grasp. Only arrogant blindness says, “God does not exist.” Atheism is non rational.



Neither is it rational for a person to say, "I do not know if God exists, and further more you can't know."

A person may rightly say, "I do not know if God exists." They should then be directed to "Evidence Demands a Verdict" by Josh McDowell. (Campus Crusade for Christ)

"Know Why You Believe" by Paul E. Little. (Scripture Union, London, and ANZEA Pub. Australia)

"Who Moved the Stone" by Frank Morison (Faber).

11. More important than any other evidence for the existence of God is **the Person of Jesus Christ and His Resurrection from the dead**. The existence, life, influence and death of Jesus Christ has been recorded by three antichristian Roman historians about the year 100A.D.
- Suetonius in "Claudius" A.D.120
 - Tacitus in "Roman Annals" A.D.115
 - Pliny in Letters to Trajan-Emperor A.D.112
- (See "New Testament History" F.F.Bruce[Nelson] 1969 p.156)

Also an antichristian Jewish writer, Josephus, A.D.93, in his "Antiquities of the Jews"

But the main lines of truth and evidence about Christ are recorded by the Old and New Testament writers of the Bible. Over 300 Old Testament prophecies about Jesus were fulfilled in His coming, and in His life. The Old Testament was written by many writers from 1500B.C. to 500B.C. Men who knew God, and wrote down the word He gave them.

e.g. Jesus would be born of a virgin	<i>Is 7:14, Lk 1:34</i>
Jesus would be called Emmanuel - God with us	<i>Is 7:14, Mat 1:23</i>
He would be born at Bethlehem	<i>Mic5:2, Mat 2:6</i>
He would go into Egypt	<i>Hos 11:1, Mat 2:15</i>
He would be sold for 30 pieces of silver	<i>Zech 11:12, Mat 26:15</i>
the money would be cast down in the temple	<i>Zech 11:13, Mat 27:5</i>
the money would buy the potter's field	<i>Zech 11:13, Mat 27:7</i>
He would be smitten and all His followers flee	<i>Zech 13:7, Mat 26:31</i>
those who crucified Him would gamble for His clothes	<i>Ps 22:18, Mat 27:35</i>
He would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey	<i>Zech 9:9, Mt 21:5</i>

and many, many more.

Until 1947 the oldest existing manuscript of the Hebrew Old Testament was approximately 1100AD. (This was because, when a copy was made they destroyed the old one.) Critics of the Bible said that the Old Testament was a recent writing.

But in 1947 a shepherd boy, found the Dead Sea Scrolls in some caves, by the Dead Sea. They were sealed in earthen jars.

These Dead Sea Scrolls covered almost all the Old Testament and were written about 200BC. So in 1947 the oldest existing manuscript of the Old Testament suddenly went back more than 1000 years.

A long time before Jesus was born, God had planned to validate His Word, 2000years later in 1947AD.

The chances of all these prophecies **just happening** to come to pass in the life of one man is beyond the realm of possibility. His life was planned and directed by God Himself.

Probability of n prophecies being fulfilled for one individual, is one chance in (1/probability factor)ⁿ. [Suppose the probability factor was 0.5,(actually would be far smaller) then work out the above value for 10 prophecies, 20, 100, 300 prophecies]

Jesus, spoke of Himself, over and over again, as being eternal, uncreated God, come down among men, to provide a way of eternal life and salvation for all who believe in Him.

Jn 5:16-26,8:24,28,58, Jn 10:30-33, 14:9-10.

Jn 8:58 When Jesus said, “before Abraham was, I am,” He was saying He was and is the Jehovah God of Israel. See *Ex 3:14*

To the Jews this was blasphemy, and so they sought to kill Him.

Eventually the unbelieving Jews engineered Jesus’ death through the Roman Governor, Pilate, *Jn 19:7*, because, they claimed, He blasphemed God’s name, by saying He was God. *Lev 24:16, Jn 19:7.*

But at the Cross, God the Father took all our sins and wickednesses, and laid them on His Son, as a sacrifice and payment for our sins. *Is 53:6, 1Cor 15:3, 2Cor 5:21*

He arose the third day from the dead and was seen of many witnesses for forty days before He was seen to ascend into heaven. *1Cor 15:3-7, Ac 1:9-11.*

His death and resurrection **was foretold** in the Old Testament *Ps 16:10, Hos 6:1-3*, and by Jesus Himself. *Mt 16:21,17:9,17:23, Mt 20:18,19,26:32*, and repeated by the Jews that killed Him. *Mt 27:63.*

Six independent witnesses describe His resurrection, three of them “eye witnesses”- Peter, John, Matthew. Fifteen post -resurrection appearances are recorded.

Read *Matthew 28:1-20, John 20:1-31.*

The resurrection of Christ **transformed His disciples** from a band of defeated, *Mt 26:56*, cowering followers, into an unconquerable, undeterred force of men and women, preaching everywhere that the Jesus who was crucified on the Cross, has been raised up by God as Lord and Christ, and that in Him God has provided salvation for all who believe.

Ac 2:22-24,30-33,36,38, Ac 3:6,13-16,19~21,26, Ac 4:2,8-13,24,29,33, Ac 5:29-32.

The **empty tomb** stood as silent, unremovable witness to the resurrection, acknowledged by Jews *Mat 28:13*, and Christians *Mat 28:6, Jn 20:8*. Preaching His resurrection the **Church of Jesus Christ** spread rapidly throughout the whole known world. *Ac 13:30*. The Christians “holy day” became “**the Lord’s Day**”, His day of resurrection. *Rev 1:10, 1Cor 16:2, Ac 20:7*

