

# Apologetics 101

## The Case for Theism Week 3

Scott Kramer

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## Class Objectives

After completing this class, you will understand:

- the definition of theism
- natural theology and the doctrine of general revelation
- key points pertaining to logical argumentation
- natural arguments for theism
  - **Kalam Cosmological Argument**
  - **Fine-Tuning Argument**  
(Type of Teleological/Design Argument)  
*telos: an ultimate reason, purpose, object, or aim*
  - **Moral Argument**

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## Definition of Theism

**Theism:** the belief in God as a *personal creator and sustainer of the universe, distinct from his creation*

(note that theism can also be understood broadly, having various types such as monotheism, polytheism, deism, and pantheism. Often times in practice, however, it refers to the definition above)

**Disclaimer:** the arguments covered in this class *set out to demonstrate theism, and not specifically Christianity*. The case for Christianity as the true version of theism is covered in the latter half of this course

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## Natural Theology

**Natural Theology :** the branch of theology that seeks to demonstrate God's existence *based on observable facts in nature, apart from the resources of authoritative divine revelation*<sup>1</sup>

- in other words, it focuses on the natural universe and what it may reveal to us about the existence of a Creator God, rather than the revelation of Scripture
- *not to be confused with 'naturalism'* (the belief that the natural universe - *time, space, matter, and energy* - is all that exists, thus rejecting the supernatural) (*what we covered in week 2*)

1. J.P. Moreland and William Lane Craig, *Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2017), 476.

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## Natural Theology

- Natural Theology can also be understood as *showing that the universe is overwhelmingly filled with clear evidence of 'intelligent design,'* such that an Intelligent Designer is implied and undeniable
- Natural Theology ultimately argues that God is the best explanation for the existence of anything!
- *"There is for me powerful evidence that there is something going on behind it all. . . It seems as though somebody has fine tuned nature's numbers to make the Universe. . . The impression of design is overwhelming."*<sup>1</sup> -Paul Davies
- it is *founded upon the doctrine of "general revelation"*

1. Paul Davies, *The Cosmic Blueprint: New Discoveries in Nature's Creative Ability to Order the Universe* (Simon and Schuster, 1988)

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## Natural Theology

**General Revelation:** *"the knowledge of God's existence, character, and moral law, which comes through creation to all humanity,"*<sup>1</sup>

### Foundational Scriptures:

- <sup>1</sup> *"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. <sup>2</sup> Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. <sup>3</sup> There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. <sup>4</sup> Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."* - **Psa 19:1-4 NIV**
- *"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse."* - **Rom 1:20 NIV**

1. Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994), 122.

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## Natural Theology

### Objection to the Practice of Natural Theology:

- Doesn't Paul teach that *unbelievers really do know the truth*, and that they are just *suppressing the truth because of their sinful will*? (*Presuppositional or Reformed Tradition*)
  - *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them."*
  - **-Rom 1:18-19 ESV**
- In other words, why present evidence for God, if the unbeliever, due to their sinful will, won't even assess the evidence in an open and intellectually honest way? *Isn't their unbelief just a matter of their sinful will, and not a lack of evidence?*

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## Natural Theology

### Response:

- Recall some key points from Week 1 (*see slides 9 and 22-26 from Week 1*)
  - God is ultimately the one who draws, softens the heart, and convinces the unbeliever (Joh 6:44)
  - His Spirit convicts the unbeliever of their sinful condition, His righteousness, and their condemnation before Him (Joh 16:7-8)
  - He has tasked us with participating in His ministry of reconciliation, such that He makes his appeal through us (2 Cor 5:18,20)
  - He has tasked us to always be ready to provide a reasoned defense for our faith (1 Pet 3:15)

*It is our position that the employment of natural theology (or presenting evidence from nature pointing to the existence of God) contributes to the advancement of God's general revelation, is in accord with the points above, and is one of the means the Holy Spirit uses to draw and convince the unbeliever.*

\*\*\* Video - Role of Arguments and Evidence in Evangelism and Apologetics - (3.5 min) \*\*\*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=2694&v=fMn0RvVq4oY&feature=youtu.be>

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## Lightning Lesson in Logic

**What are some key points pertaining to an argument from logic?**

**Argument:** a set of statements or premises that lead to a conclusion.

– arguments can be either *deductive* or *inductive*:

Deductive: if the premises are true, the conclusion *must* be true

**P1:** All men are mortal

**P2:** Socrates is a man

**C:** Therefore, Socrates is mortal

Inductive: if the premises are true, the conclusion is *probably* true

**P1:** Vaccine “x” for virus “y” is 95% effective

**P2:** Gary just received vaccine “x”

**C:** Gary will not get virus “y”

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## Lightning Lesson in Logic

**Why is it important to present our assertions in the form of an argument?**

- The framework of an argument:
  - helps to map and organize our discourse such that we are aware of the individual premises we are trying to demonstrate and can target our speech accordingly
  - holds us accountable to draw valid conclusions based on the truthfulness, or plausibility of our premises
  - helps us identify faults in **others'** reasoning

**\*\*\* VIDEO BREAK: The Kalam Cosmological Argument \*\*\* (4:12)**

<https://subsplash.com/reasonablefaith/media/mi/+6fabd82?autoplay=true>

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# Natural Arguments for Theism

## The Kalam Cosmological Argument

**Cosmology:** *"the science of the origin and development of the universe."* (Oxford Dictionary)

**Kalam:** denotes a school of medieval Islamic philosophical theology that greatly developed the cosmological argument, asserting God as the first mover, or cause of the universe. Craig tagged this version of the argument 'Kalam' in honor of their tradition

### Foundational Scriptures:

- *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."* -**Gen 1:1 NIV**
- *"By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth."* -**Psa 33:6 NIV**
- *"All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."* -**Joh 1:3 ESV**

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# Natural Arguments for Theism

## The Kalam Cosmological Argument<sup>1</sup>

**P1:** Whatever begins to exist has a cause.

**P2:** The universe began to exist.

**C:** Therefore, the universe has a cause.

- In this deductive argument, if premises P1 and P2 can be demonstrated as true, it follows logically that conclusion C must also be true
- Practically speaking, since irrefutable proof is not attainable for P1 and P2, the goal is to demonstrate they are *more plausible* than their negations

*If successful, this argument affirms the biblical doctrine of creation ex nihilo (out of nothing).<sup>2</sup>*

1. William Lane Craig, *On Guard* (Colorado Springs, CO: David C Cook, 2010), 74.

2. Douglas Groothuis, *Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case for Biblical Faith* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, USA, 2011), 214.

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## Natural Arguments for Theism

### The Kalam Cosmological Argument: P1 (whatever begins to exist has a cause)

- Something cannot come from nothing:<sup>1</sup> (refers to what Aristotle called an “efficient cause”, which is the antecedent condition that brings a change about)
  - If ‘*something*’ can come from ‘*nothing*,’ it is inexplicable why ‘*some things*’ are not regularly coming into being from ‘*nothing*.’ (Why don’t we see cars, televisions, or furniture just materializing into being more frequently?)
  - **Objection:** some may say that in physics subatomic particles *can come from nothing*
    - These theories have to do with particles which originate as a fluctuation of the energy contained in a vacuum. In modern physics, *such a vacuum is not truly ‘nothing’*. Rather, it is a “sea of fluctuating energy governed by physical laws and having a physical structure.”<sup>2</sup> *‘Nothing’ does not just mean empty space, it means nothing whatsoever: no matter, no energy, no space, and no time (the 4 components of the ‘natural’ universe)*

*Everyday experience and scientific evidence constantly affirm this premise.*

1. Craig, *On Guard*, 75-78.  
2. Ibid., 76.

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## Natural Arguments for Theism

### The Kalam Cosmological Argument: P2 (the universe began to exist)

#### Philosophical evidence:

- It is impossible to cross an *actual* infinite number of events!<sup>1</sup>
  - If one starts counting 1, 2, 3, . . . he could count on forever and never reach a point where he’d counted every number. The series of numbers would increase forever without a limit, such that no meaningful progress could be made.
  - “If the universe had no beginning, then the number of events crossed to reach the present moment would be actually infinite. It would be like counting to zero from negative infinity. But since one cannot cross an actual infinite . . . , the present moment could never have arrived...”<sup>2</sup> -J.P. Moreland
  - Crossing an infinite past “would be a journey that could never get started.”<sup>3</sup>

1. J.P. Moreland, *Love Your God with All Your Mind: The Role of Reason in the Life of the Soul* (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2012), 162-164.  
2. Ibid., 163.  
3. Ibid., 164.

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## Natural Arguments for Theism

### The Kalam Cosmological Argument: P2 cont'd (the universe began to exist)

#### Scientific evidence:

- Modern cosmology strongly supports that the universe **began** with a “Big Bang”
  - In 1929 Edwin Hubble discovered ‘the red shift,’ which is “a change in the color of the light from . . . distant galaxies that indicates . . . an enormously rapid motion away from the earth.”<sup>1</sup> This means our universe is expanding.
  - In 1965 Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson discovered the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) radiation, or ‘radiation afterglow,’ which is the remnant heat, or ‘smoking gun,’ of the Big Bang

*If the universe was always expanding, just as it is now, it could be traced back to a single point. This notion, taken together with the radiation afterglow (which provides evidence of a big bang of heat and light) strongly points to the beginning of the universe out of nothing! <sup>2</sup>*

1. Robert Jastrow, *God and the Astronomers*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (New York: Norton, 1992), 18-19, quoted in Groothuis, *Christian Apologetics*, 224.

2. Groothuis, *Christian Apologetics*, 224-225.

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## Natural Arguments for Theism

### The Kalam Cosmological Argument: P2 cont'd (the universe began to exist)

#### Scientific evidence:

- “The discovery of the background radiation, together with the observed abundance of helium, was a mortal blow to the theory of a stationary universe; only an initial fireball could have produced it. This meant the universe had an origin.”<sup>1</sup> —Paolo Saraceno
- “The implication is that everything in the universe can be traced to an original “singularity” from which it sprang.”<sup>2</sup> —Douglas Groothuis
- “At this singularity, space and time came into existence; literally nothing existed before the singularity, so, if the Universe originated in such a singularity, we would truly have a creation *ex nihilo*,”<sup>3</sup> —John Barrow and Frank Tipler
- **Ex nihilo:** out of nothing - “By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. -**Heb 11:3 NIV**

1. Paolo Saraceno quoted in J. Warner Wallace, *God’s Crime Scene: A Cold-Case Detective Examines the Evidence for a Divinely Created Universe*

2. Groothuis, *Christian Apologetics*, 225.

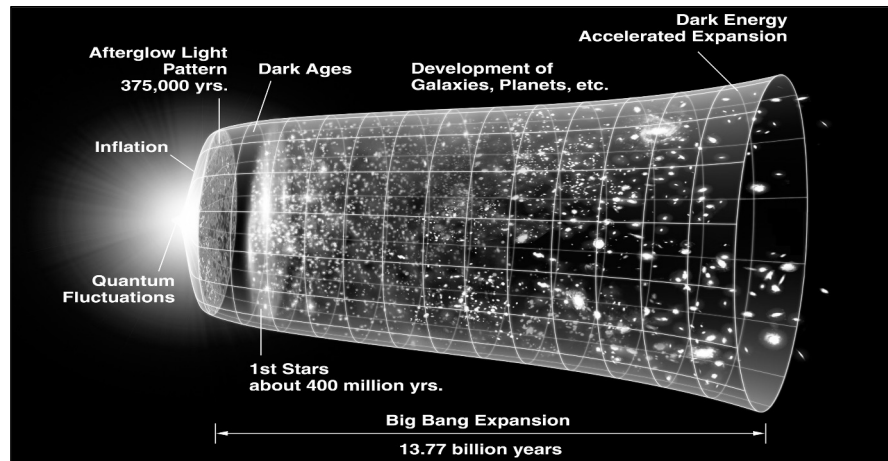
3. John Barrow and Frank Tipler, *The Anthropic Cosmological Principle* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986), 442, quoted in Groothuis, *Christian Apologetics*, 225.

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# Natural Arguments for Theism

The space-time continuum as illustrated by a cone



NASA/WMAP Science Team - Original version: [NASA](http://map.gsfc.nasa.gov/media/060915/index.html) (<http://map.gsfc.nasa.gov/media/060915/index.html>); modified by [Cherkash](#)

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# Natural Arguments for Theism

## The Kalam Cosmological Argument: P2 cont'd (the universe began to exist)

### Scientific evidence:

- The Second Law of Thermodynamics implies that the universe had a beginning
  - *Put simply, the universe is running out of useful energy. This law "implies that the universe will end in a 'heat death' in which everything is at the same temperature. . . if everything is at the same temperature, no work can be done"*<sup>1</sup>
  - *"the universe's temperature will be at absolute zero . . . There will be no local pockets of heat or light (for example, the sun) and the objects in the universe will be motionless and disintegrated into infinitesimally small, motionless fragments."*<sup>2</sup>

*If the universe has existed eternally and did not have a beginning, it would have reached this state of equilibrium, with all its useful energy burned out, an infinite number of days ago. This clearly has not happened, which implies the universe has a finite past!*

1. "Entropy and the second law," Boston University, December 12, 1999, <http://physics.bu.edu/~duffy/ny105/Secondlaw.html>, quoted in Jim Lucas, "What is the Second Law of Thermodynamics," LiveScience, May 22, 2015, <https://www.livescience.com/50941-second-law-thermodynamics.html>.  
 2. Michael D. Lemonick, "How the Universe Will End," *Time* (June 25, 2001): 48-56, quoted in Moreland, *Love Your God with All Your Mind*, 165-166

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## Natural Arguments for Theism

### The Kalam Cosmological Argument: **C** (the universe has a cause)

- What could be inferred about the characteristics of such a cause?<sup>1</sup>
  - without time, space, matter, and energy in existence, *this cause must have been timeless,, spaceless, immaterial, and presumably enormously powerful* to create all the matter and energy in universe
  - since an actual infinite series of causes, or events, is philosophically impossible, this cause must have been *an Uncaused First Cause*
  - further, “if a cause is sufficient to produce its effect, then if the cause is there, the effect must be there, too.”<sup>2</sup> In other words, if the timeless cause of the universe exists permanently, it follows that the universe would exist permanently as well, with no ‘beginning’
  - Why then would the universe, having a beginning, not have been permanent like its cause? *Such a cause must have been a Personal Creator with a freedom of the will.*

1. Craig, *On Guard*, 99-100.

2. Ibid., 100.

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## Natural Arguments for Theism

### The Kalam Cosmological Argument: **C** (the universe has a cause)

#### Key Takeaway

- with a compelling case made that premises **P1** and **P2** are more plausible than their negations,
  - *We have a successful and powerful natural argument for a Personal Creator of the universe who is uncaused, timeless, spaceless, immaterial, and incredibly powerful! (And as we shall see, incredibly intelligent!)*

*“Astronomy leads us to a unique event, a universe which was created out of nothing, one with the very delicate balance needed to provide exactly the right conditions required to permit life, and one which has an underlying (one might say ‘supernatural’) plan.”*

*-Arno Penzias, Physics Nobel Prize-winner*

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# Natural Arguments for Theism

## The Fine-Tuning Argument (Type of Teleological/Design Argument)

- The findings of modern cosmology show that our *universe is fine-tuned to permit the existence of intelligent life* “with a complexity and delicacy that literally defy human comprehension.”<sup>1</sup>
- **What do we mean by fine-tuned (FT)?**
  - there are certain hard facts, or properties about our universe, in other words, certain fixed values, or **constants**, that have been discovered pertaining to scientific laws of nature, as well as certain **arbitrary quantities** in our universe, that permit life to exist
  - if these values were altered by inconceivably small amounts (if such dials were adjusted by an infinitesimally small fraction of a hair), *no matter, chemistry, planets, or life as we know and define it would exist!*

\*\*\* VIDEO BREAK: The Fine-Tuning of the Universe \* (6:12)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EE76nwimuT0&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EE76nwimuT0&feature=emb_logo)

1. Craig, *On Guard*, 107.

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# Natural Arguments for Theism

## The Fine-Tuning Argument

**What do you mean by such constants and arbitrary quantities?**

- scientific laws of nature are *empirically observed phenomena* that can be expressed by mathematical equations. For example, consider Newton’s Law of Universal Gravitation. Here we have a scientifically established means of calculating the force of gravity between two objects:
- $$F = Gm_1m_2/r^2$$
- F** = force of gravity between the two objects      **G** = **gravitational constant** ( $6.6743 \times 10^{-11} \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}^2/\text{kg}^2$ )  
**m<sub>1</sub>** = mass of object 1    **m<sub>2</sub>** = mass of object 2    **r** = distance between the two objects
- why is the constant **G** (which we’ve come to discover and prove) the value it is? *It just is!*
  - *this constant G is independent of the law of gravity expressed by this equation* (if **G** were for some reason a different value, it would still be true that as the distance **r** increases between the two objects, the gravitational force between them decreases, etc...)

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## Natural Arguments for Theism

### The Fine-Tuning Argument

What do you mean by such constants and arbitrary quantities?

- one example of an **arbitrary quantity** in the universe is the amount of entropy at the beginning of the universe (entropy has to do with the availability of thermal energy to do useful work)
- this arbitrary amount of entropy just showed up at the beginning of the universe as an initial condition and was not determined by laws of nature. It was just built into the big bang
- the laws of nature operated off this amount of entropy to develop the universe

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## Natural Arguments for Theism

### The Fine-Tuning Argument

A point of reference to help us understand large probability figures!!

- The # of seconds in the history of the universe:  $10^{17}$  (100,000,000,000,000,000)
- The # of subatomic particles in the entire universe:  $10^{80}$  (1 followed by 80 zeros)

So what are some examples of this Fine-Tuning? (some seen on video)

**Gravitational Constant (G)** – controls the attractive force of gravity which holds people on planets, and planets, stars, and galaxies together

$$F = G \frac{m_1 \cdot m_2}{r^2}$$

- this constant is *fine-tuned with a precision of 1 part in  $10^{34}$* ! Any other value within the range of force strengths by this infinitesimal amount *would have caused stars to either burn too quickly or be too cold to support life sustaining planets!*<sup>1</sup>

1. Jay W. Richards, "List of Fine-Tuning Parameters," Discovery Institute, last modified January 14, 2015, <https://www.discovery.org/a/fine-tuning-parameters/>.

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# Natural Arguments for Theism

## The Fine-Tuning Argument (Examples of FT)

**Cosmological Constant ( $\Lambda$ )** – controls the expansion rate of the universe

$$-\frac{4\pi G}{3}(\rho+3p) + \frac{\Lambda}{3}$$

- this constant is *fine-tuned with a precision of 1 part in  $10^{120}$ !* Any other value by this infinitesimal amount *would have caused the universe to immediately collapse or fly apart!*<sup>1</sup>
- *"If the rate of expansion one second after the big bang had been smaller by even one part in a hundred thousand million, million, the universe would have recollapsed before it ever reached its present size. On the other hand, if the expansion rate at one second had been larger by the same amount, the universe would have expanded so much that it would be effectively empty now."*<sup>2</sup> –Stephen Hawking

1. Richards, "List of Fine-Tuning Parameters," <https://www.discovery.org/a/fine-tuning-parameters/>.

2. Stephen Hawking, *The Theory of Everything* (Beverly Hills, CA: New Millennium Press, 2002), 104, quoted in Groothuis, *Christian Apologetics*, 250.

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# Natural Arguments for Theism

## The Fine-Tuning Argument (Examples of FT)

**Initial Condition of the Universe:** the low entropy (or highly ordered) state, referring to the distribution of mass and energy at the beginning of the universe

- the odds of these arbitrary initial conditions occurring by chance is *1 part in  $10^{10(123)}$ !* Any change in this initial state would have produced a different universe. *This begs the question, why does such a universe as ours exist?*<sup>1</sup>
- *"How big was the original phase-volume . . . that the Creator had to aim for in order to provide a universe compatible with the second law of thermodynamics and with what we now observe? . . . The Creator's aim must have been [precise] to an accuracy of one part in  $10^{10(123)}$ . . . One could not possibly write the number down . . . even if we were to write a "0" on each separate proton and on each separate neutron in the entire universe . . ."*<sup>2</sup> –Roger Penrose

1. Richards, "List of Fine-Tuning Parameters," <https://www.discovery.org/a/fine-tuning-parameters/>.

2. Roger Penrose, *The Emperor's New Mind* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1989), 344 quoted in Groothuis, *Christian Apologetics*, 250.

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## Natural Arguments for Theism

### The Fine-Tuning Argument

Summary of *just a few* examples of FT:

**Gravitational constant:** 1 part in  $10^{34}$

**Cosmological constant:** 1 part in  $10^{120}$

**Initial entropy:** 1 part in  $10^{10(123)}$

**Expansion rate of universe:** 1 part in  $10^{55}$

**Mass density of universe:** 1 part in  $10^{59}$

**Electromagnetic force versus force of gravity:** 1 part in  $10^{37}$

*"Over **thirty** independent, hard facts about the universe have been discovered in the form of basic constants of nature that are, scientifically speaking, brute facts and for which there is no further scientific explanation . . . if any single one of these – much less all thirty! – had been slightly larger or smaller on the order of a billionth of a percentage point, then no life could have appeared in the universe."*<sup>1</sup> -J.P. Moreland

1. Moreland, *Love Your God with All Your Mind*, 181

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## Natural Arguments for Theism

### The Fine-Tuning Argument<sup>1</sup>

**P1:** The fine-tuning (FT) of the universe is due to either physical necessity, chance, or design.

**P2:** It is not due to physical necessity or chance.

**C:** Therefore, it is due to design.

*If successful, this argument affirms the existence of God as the Intelligent Designer behind the universe!*

***P1** should be uncontroversial since it just lists three alternatives which seem to exhaust the options for explaining the FT of the universe. Therefore, we will start with **P2***

1. Craig, *On Guard*, 111.

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## Natural Arguments for Theism

### The Fine-Tuning Argument: P2 (FT is not due to physical necessity or chance)

#### Physical Necessity?

Do such constants and quantities just “appear” to be FT? Is it even possible they could have had different values? In other words, can they be fairly thought of as knobs or dials?

- There is absolutely no evidence these values could not have been different. This would imply that a life-prohibiting universe would not have been possible
- *“but surely it does seem possible. If the primordial matter and anti-matter had been differently proportioned, if the universe had expanded just a little more slowly, if the entropy of the universe were marginally greater, any of these adjustments and more would have prevented a life permitting universe, yet all seem perfectly possible physically. The person who maintains that the universe must be life-permitting is taking a radical line which requires strong proof. But there is none;”<sup>1</sup> -William Lane Craig*

1. William Lane Craig, *Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2008), 308, Scribd.

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## Natural Arguments for Theism

### The Fine-Tuning Argument: P2 (FT is not due to physical necessity or chance)

#### Physical Necessity?

- *“It seems . . . that the physical universe does not have to be the way it is: it could have been otherwise. . . . There is no reason to think that showing every constant and quantity to be physically necessary is anything more than a pipedream.”<sup>1</sup> -Paul Davies*
- The reality of a FT universe finds strong support among scientists, even if they resist the idea that an “Intelligent Designer” is the best explanation for it
  - Cosmologist Luke Barnes provides the following list of just some scientists who have published works defending the reality of FT: (Barrow, Carr, Carter, Davies, Dawkins, Deutsch, Ellis, Greene, Guth, Harrison, Hawking, Linde, Page, Penrose, Polkinghorne, Reed, Sandage, Smolin, Susskind, Tegmark, Tipler, Vilenkin, Weinberg, Wheeler, Wilczek)

1. Paul Davies, *The Mind of God* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1992), 169 quoted in Craig, *Reasonable Faith*, 312, Scribd.

2. William Lane Craig provides this list in his debate with Sean Carroll, “William Lane Craig and Sean Carroll | “God and Cosmology” | 2014 Greer Heard Forum,” March 3, 2014, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X0qKZqPy9T8&t=3407s>, (56:40 mark)

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## Natural Arguments for Theism

### The Fine-Tuning Argument: P2 (FT is not due to physical necessity or chance)

#### Chance?

A brief illustration:<sup>1</sup>

- Imagine a lottery with billions and billions and billions of white ping-pong balls in it and just one black ping-pong ball
- You're told one ball will be selected. If it's white you cease to exist, if it's black, you live (it's not looking too good :O)
- A selection is made at random, and a black ball rolls down the chute!

*You should probably suspect the lottery was rigged to let you live!*

1. Craig, *On Guard*, 114-116.

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## Natural Arguments for Theism

### The Fine-Tuning Argument: C (FT is due to design)

#### Key Takeaway

*"The remarkable fact is that the values of these numbers [the constants of physics] seem to have been very finely adjusted to make possible the development of life."<sup>1</sup> –Stephen Hawking*

Even though Hawking resists a theistic explanation for it, he recognizes the FT of the universe!

***Through this natural argument, we have a powerful case that the finely-tuned properties of our universe are best explained by an Intelligent Creator!***

1. Stephen Hawking, *A Brief History of Time*, 125, quoted in Richards, "List of Fine-Tuning Parameters," <https://www.discovery.org/a/fine-tuning-parameters/>.

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## Natural Arguments for Theism

### The Moral Argument<sup>1</sup> *(note, we explored this topic a bit last week)*

**P1:** If God does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not exist.

**P2:** Objective moral values and duties do exist.

**C:** Therefore, God exists.

*If successful, this argument affirms the existence of God as the source of objective, or absolute moral values and duties!*

**Objective:** something is absolutely true and binding regardless of peoples' opinions

**Value:** speaks to something's worth, or whether it is "good" or "bad"

**Duty:** speaks to something being obligatory, or whether it is "right" or "wrong"

\*\*\* VIDEO BREAK: The Moral Argument \*\*\* (5:01) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxiAikEk2vU>

1. Craig, *On Guard*, 129-130.

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## Natural Arguments for Theism

### The Moral Argument: P1 (If God does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not)

#### The Issue of human value and morality without God (recall from week 2)

- Upon naturalism, *humans are just the result of purposeless, unintended, and unguided evolution*. They are mere matter, the accidental collection of atoms (*Bertrand Russell*), and of *no objective value*. They are no different than any other matter, or species, in this way. To assume so would be **speciesism**, or an "*unjustified bias towards one's own species*."<sup>1</sup>
  - Is it objectively, morally wrong for a lion to attack, kill and eat a hyena? Is that murder?
  - Is it objectively, morally wrong when a non-human creature forcibly copulates with another non-human creature? Is that not rape?
  - What about when a female bee kills its mate?
  - If our species is just more evolved, what makes it wrong for us?<sup>2</sup>

1. Craig, *On Guard*, 132-133.

2. Ibid.

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## Natural Arguments for Theism

**The Moral Argument: P1** (If God does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not)

**The Issue of human value and morality without God** (recall from week 2)

- if the universe is just unintended matter in motion, *there is really no such thing as right or wrong, and all activity is just morally neutral activity*
- if there is no God, there is no ultimate, objective standard transcending the physical universe that dictates how humans 'ought' to live, or that they are worthy of respect
- In other words, *"If there is no moral law giver, then there is no objective moral law that we must obey."*<sup>1</sup>

*It is evident that if God does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not exist. This, however, is not existentially viable! In other words, no one would want to live as if this were true!*

1. Craig, *On Guard*, 133.

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## Natural Arguments for Theism

**The Moral Argument: P2** (objective moral values and duties do exist)

**The undeniable inner voice of moral experience**

- If you offer people some difficult examples, *they will have a hard time not condemning certain atrocities as objectively wrong:*
  - What about Female Genital Mutilation in order to preserve premarital chastity in certain African countries? What about the Holocaust? etc...

**The objectivity of tolerance**

- Also consider the following assertion:
  - "It is wrong to impose your moral values on someone else!"
    - ***This is self-defeating! Is that absolutely true and binding? That would imply objectivity!***
  - To condemn 'moral value imposition' is a moral value itself!!

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## Natural Arguments for Theism

### The Moral Argument: C (God exists)

#### Key Takeaways

- *To live as if God does not exist is not tenable when it comes to the issue of value and morality. One cannot truly live as if certain things are not absolutely wrong*
- *Even if one postulates that evolution has provided our sense of right and wrong because it aided in our survival, they would only be answering *how we might have come to know morality, and not whether it is ultimately objective* (epistemology vs. ontology) Why is it good for humans to flourish and survive anyway? *That can't be the purpose of life in a purposeless universe.**

***It is existentially undeniable that there are objective moral values and duties, and it is untenable to live as if this were not so. It follows that there must be a God who is the source of these!***

*"For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness," -Rom 2:14-15 ESV*

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**Thanks for Coming!!!  
See You Next Week!!!**

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