

Christian Apologetics (Youth)

Week 2: Existence of God

God as All-Powerful, Transcendent Creator
(mainstreamapologetics.org)

How do I know God exists? What do the Bible and Science say about creation?

Kamal Cosmological Argument

The **Kamal Cosmological Argument** serves as the **central argument** for the existence of a **creator-God** among apologetics for some 900 years. We demonstrate the existence of God using the **creation narrative**. It is comprised of three premises and a conclusion (Leg 2: Rational Thought).

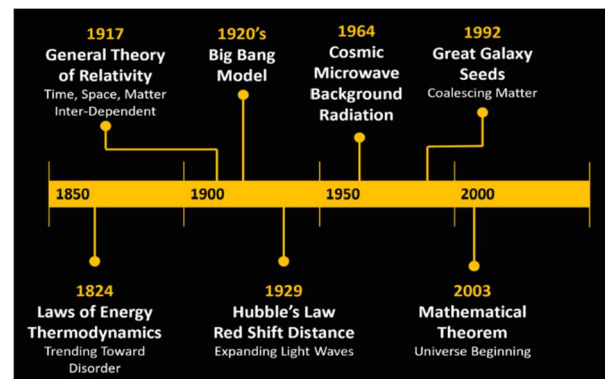
- **Premise 1:** Universe had a **beginning**.
- **Premise 2:** **Something** that begins to exist has a **cause**.
- **Premise 3:** **Something** cannot come from **nothing**.
- **Conclusion:** Universe was created by a **Transcendent, All-Powerful, First-Cause**.

The conclusion is consistent with Genesis 1:1: *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”*

Kamal Premise 1: Universe had a Beginning

The Apostle Paul in Romans 1:19-20 (NLT) appeals to **our senses** and **our minds** to observe God’s **invisible qualities** in creation (Leg 1: Empirical Observation)

- He argues that the truth about God as creator and his **transcendent power** are **self-evident** in creation.
- We find that **scientific evidence** over the past 200 years speaks **loudly** of God’s **transcendent power**, defending Paul’s claim.
- Collectively, these discoveries prove the universe had a **“singularity beginning”** where in the beginning, **time**, **space** and **matter** all emanated from a **single point of origin**.



Singularity Beginning

Genesis 1:1: “In the beginning (**TIME**), God created the heavens (**SPACE**) and the earth (**MATTER**).”

- The Bible describes the creation of the universe as a **singular event** where **time**, **space**, and **matter** were created **simultaneously** in the brevity of one verse, Genesis 1:1.

This biblical claim is confirmed by **Einstein’s General Theory of Relativity** of 1917 which speaks about the universe’s beginning, commonly referred to as the cosmic “Big Bang”.

- Einstein's theory demonstrated that **time**, **space**, and **matter** came into existence **simultaneously**, and are **relative** or **interdependent**, where one cannot exist without the other two.

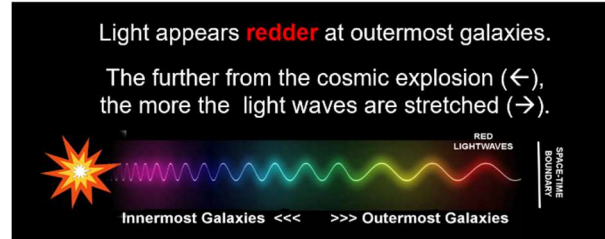
Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation

In 1964, Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson of Bell Labs discovered what is referred to as **Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation**.

- The **afterglow** observed by Penzias and Wilson was **light** and **heat** leftover from the Big Bang.
- This discovery is regarded as the **most important cosmological discovery** of the 20th century.

Expanding Universe

- **Hubble's Law** aka **Red Shift Distance** of 1929 speaks about the universe's **expansion** from a singularity beginning.
- Edwin Hubble discovered that the light from **distant galaxies** appeared to be **redder** than expected.
- He concluded that this "**red shift**" was due to the **stretching** of the light waves at the outermost galaxies.
- The Bible speaks **prolifically** (10 passages) and **explicitly** about the expansion of the universe ...



Psalm 104:2: "You stretch out the **starry curtain** of the heavens",
Job 26:7: "God stretches the northern sky **over empty space**" (Also Jeremiah 10:12, Isaiah 51:13).

Fine Tuning of Universe

God's Word makes it clear that the universe is governed by **physical laws** (Jeremiah 33:25, Job 26:7, 38:33).

- According to **Hugh Ross**, from **Reasons to Believe**, there are approximately **322 physical laws** and **properties** that are necessary to sustain life on planet Earth.
- He determined that the **probability** of these **laws** and **properties** coming about by **random chance** without the **guidance** of a Creator God is **1 in 10²⁸²** (1 with 282 zeros).

Implausibility of an Infinity Past

This premise speaks to the objection that the universe is **self-existent**, i.e., the universe always existed.

This notion of **infinity past** opens up a number of possibilities for **secular scientists** to **discredit the biblical account of creation**. They argue,

"If time past is infinite, then our universe didn't have a beginning, it always existed."

William Lane Craig, in his book *Reasonable Faith*, argues

*"A **potential** infinity past can exist, but an **actual** infinity past cannot exist.
For if an actual infinity past could exist, this would spawn all sorts of **absurdities**."*

The absurdity is that we would be **lost in time** between an infinity past and an infinity future.

A classic example is the **Hilbert's Hotel paradox** (David Hilbert, mathematician).

- With both an **infinite past** and an **infinite future**, there is **no reference point for time**, no start or end.
- Imagine a hotel that is **infinitely full** and **infinitely empty** at the same time. Both are senseless!
- The hotel marquee would have to read "**NO VACANCIES, GUESTS WELCOME**". Absurd!

Kamal Premise 2: Something that Begins to Exist has a Cause

Law of Causality

This premise speaks to the objection that the universe is **self-caused**, i.e., the creation of the universe didn't require a first-cause.

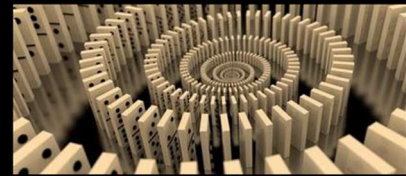
At the heart of this premise is the **Law of Causality** which states that **every effect** has a **cause** (determinism).

- As with dominos, the **effect** is inextricably **linked** to the **cause**.
- There is no material evidence to support an **uncaused** or **self-caused** effect in the physical world.

Applying the Law of Causality to origin of the universe, we argue that the

- The Big Bang must have had a **precipitating cause**, a **first-cause**.
- This precipitating cause must have **pre-existed** creation and **come from outside** creation.

Unbroken Chain Reaction from Origin



Kamal Premise 3: Something Cannot Come from Nothing

Law of Non-Contradiction

This premise speaks to the objection that the universe is **self-created**, i.e., the universe created itself from nothing.

At the heart of this premise is the **Law of Non-Contradiction** which states that an object cannot be in **two contradictory** or **opposing states** at the **same time** within the **same context**.

- There is no material evidence for any exceptions of the **Law of Non-Contradiction** in the physical world.

*For the universe to **come from nothing**, the universe would have to **exist before it existed** in order to **create itself**.*

- Essentially, the universe cannot “**not exist**” and “**exist**” at the very moment of creation.
- **Nothing** cannot transition into **something** because **nothing** is **non-existent** and is therefore **devoid of any formative power** to create itself.

Universe was Created by a Transcendent, All-Powerful, First-Cause

God’s Word reveals that **God** created the universe **from nothing**.

Hebrews 11:3: *By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at **God’s command**, that **what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen**.*

Romans 4:17: *Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates **new things out of nothing**.*

These verses speak about God’s **supernatural, formative power** in creation.

God’s power **supersedes** the laws of nature because He is **transcendent** and **not bound** by physical laws.

Plausibility of the Supernatural

Materialists deny the **supernatural** because it requires us to believe there are things that cannot be observed with our five senses, and ...

- that it violates the **first principles** of **logic**, specifically the Laws of Causality and Non-Contradiction.
- Ultimately, materialism denies **any power above** or **outside of nature**, and more specifically, the **transcendent power** of a **Creator-God**.

The **Christian response** to materialism is straight forward.

- We argue that because this universe was not created by **natural means**, the Creator was acting **supernaturally**.
- Therefore, belief in the **supernatural power of God** is not only **plausible**, but **rational**.
- Therefore, **MIRACLES ARE POSSIBLE!**