

The Case for a Creator

The universe and everything in it seems to point to a creator, doesn't it? How could the wonders of our world like gravity, DNA, and the trillions and trillions of stars be created by chance? Surely it is easier to believe in a God that created the universe than a universe that created itself out of nothing. Renowned Oxford University mathematical physicist Roger Penrose calculated that the chance of the universe as we know it being created, which is finally tuned to allow our existence, was a $1/10^{10^{123}}$. As Penrose puts it: "That is a number which would be impossible to write out in the usual decimal way, because even if you were able to put a zero on every particle in the universe, there would not even be enough particles to do the job."

So, I have been asked to speak about the "Case for a Creator", what better to do than make a case of this. In your typical court case you have the judge, who acts as a referee, making sure correct procedure is taken, the jury, who decide the outcome of the case based on evidence released only in the trial, you have the two sides who are against each other, one defending the perpetrator, the other prosecuting them. Lastly, you have the perpetrator. In terms of the Case for a Creator, the jury is a group of people who are unsure about the creation of the universe, the defendants are those who believe in a higher power creating the universe, the prosecutors are those who believe the universe created itself, and the perpetrator is God, although, He hasn't done anything wrong. We, well I, am putting God on trial, not to a test because that as we know is wrong.

You may be thinking, why is God on trial, He hasn't done anything wrong? In Genesis 1-2, God claims that He created the universe and everything in it. Well, actually, it is believed that Moses claims that God created it all. Since we are putting God on trial, it's a bit like Jesus when he was put on trial for claiming to be the King of the Jews and the Son of God. God claims to have created everything and those who believe that the universe created itself want this theory put to death.

Now, I am not really sure what happens in court between the defendants and the prosecutors but I imagine it would go something like this...

“Opening statements,” the judge might say. “Science makes God unnecessary. The laws of physics can explain the universe without the need for a creator. One can’t prove that there is no God, only that God is not necessary. To quote the great Stephen Hawking, “Because there is a law such as gravity, the universe can and will create itself from nothing. Spontaneous creation is the reason there is something rather than nothing, why the universe exists, why we exist,” the prosecutor confidently said.

The defendant responds with, “Firstly, we’ll take a look at the first verse in Genesis and its link to a famous scientist. Herbert Spencer, a well known scientist who lived during the nineteenth century, become known for one great discovery. He discovered that all that exists in the universe can fit into five categories: time, force, action, space and matter. He even listed them in that order. That is a logical sequence. And then with that in your mind, listen to Genesis 1:1. “In the beginning [that's time], God [that's force] created [that's action] the heavens [that's space] and the earth [that's matter].” In the first verse of the Bible God said plainly what man didn't catalogue until the nineteenth century. Everything that could be said about everything that exists is said in that first verse.”

“Blah, blah, blah, that is just a book, it is not reliable,” the prosecutor would reply, but maybe a bit more formally. The defendant would respond, “But it is reliable you see and it is 66 books, thank you very much.” “ORDER... ORDER” the judge would shout.

OK, let’s move away from the court case for a little bit because it seems to be getting a little messy.

In the first chapter of Genesis, God creates the universe in all its array and perfection. He created land animals like the cheetah, which has a top speed of 120km/h, which allows it to catch prey, birds like the kagu, which have small structures over their nasal openings known as “nasal corns” which prevents dust and other particles entering the nose since they spend so much time rooting around in the dirt searching for prey, sea creatures like the frogfish which has the ability to blend with its surroundings to hide from prey. What is so amazing about the creatures of the earth that God made is that it is believed that over 80% of the earth’s creatures have not yet been discovered. This is not hard to believe when you realise that just 5% of the ocean has been mapped and only 1% of the ocean floor. The earth we live on and universe we live in is truly magnificent.

The Anthropic Principle states that the universe contains the constraints necessary to allow human life. If any of these constraints, or factors, were slightly different the earth would be unable to sustain life as we know it. Scientists have identified more than 2000 of these factors. For instance, change the tilt of the earth's axis slightly in one direction and we would freeze. Change it the other way and we'd burn up. Another example is the air we breathe. 21% of the air we inhale is oxygen. If this percentage was any different then Earth would be inhospitable to human life.

It is fair to say that the universe and the earth is filled with evidence that points toward a creator. You may remember my mum, Karene, a few weeks ago spoke of the fault line that runs through the Mount of Olives and the prophecy in Zechariah 14:4 which says, "The Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south." We see a lot of evidence for God within the human body as well. The human body is composed of one hundred trillion microscopic cells. If you were to crack open any of these cells, you'd find a long, threading like material coiled up inside that stretches to six feet long. DNA is a molecule that contains the genetic instructions used in growth, development, functioning, and reproduction of all known organisms and many viruses. Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft, described it as a software program but far more complex than any software program that has ever been created. I could go on and on about the truly incredible evidence that points toward a creator, with some of it being shown in the video we are going to watch after this.

Before I conclude, I want to tell you the true story of Viggo Olsen and his wife's search to disprove God. They began by attempting to list all the scientific errors in the Bible. To their surprise they could not find these mistakes. When they checked out each supposed 'error', they found that it was not a mistake after all. They then looked at each area of science and failed over and over again to disprove God. Instead, the science pointed towards God. They found that because of the great power within the universe in the form of heat and energy, for instance, that it must have been created by a mighty force. They looked at the order in the universe and the human body and decided that this creator must be intelligent. Lastly, they looked at the ability of people to love and to have compassion and decided that we must have been created by someone with the same qualities. Their conclusion was that there is a God who is very powerful, very intelligent and very caring. After investigating history they were led to

believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son. Since then they have spent 33 years in Bangladesh working among the poor.

Okay, back to the court case. I'm not on the jury so it's not my decisions who wins, that is whether God created the universe or if it somehow created itself. For those of you who already believe that God created the universe I hope this has strengthened your faith and that you will be bold and share this message as well as the truth of Jesus Christ with those non-Christians in your lives. Christians are called by Jesus to love all. Matthew 22:39 says, "Love your neighbour as yourself," and if we truly love all then we will spread the good news because we want everyone to be saved. For those of you on the jury who were not sure about the creation of the universe at the beginning of this talk, it is now up to you to decide what you think about God, and whether science points in his direction or not? The evidence for God doesn't stop with facts about our universe, because it is our relationship with Him, which he longs for, where our belief in Him is strengthened. God isn't just some heavenly force out there who created the universe and then left us to fend for ourselves. He lives with us in our daily lives, but only if we choose to. Lee Strobel says, in the Case for a Creator for Kids, "Faith begins where facts leave off."

Although I hope I have offered reasons as to who created the universe, I have not answered why. I believe God wanted to share himself with us in this universe. God wants us to experience his love and himself, and he gave us this world in which we could do that. It is our creation as physical beings that lets us make our own decisions to move towards God.