

Is God Real?

Open-Book Review

Use this week's ThinkCube to answer the following questions. The purpose isn't to test your memory, but to help you review and reinforce the key evidence and arguments for an eternal, intelligent Creator.

PREMISE 1

Creation Reveals an Eternally Powerful God

Open-Book Review

1. What does the Law of Causation say about things that begin to exist?

- A. They must have a cause of their beginning
- B. They can create themselves
- C. They must have existed forever
- D. They need no explanation

2. What three-step argument does the ThinkCube use concerning the universe?

- A. Whatever begins to exist has a cause; the universe began to exist; therefore the universe has a cause
- B. Matter is eternal; the universe is eternal; therefore no cause is needed
- C. Everything is random; the universe is random; therefore nothing can be known
- D. The universe exists; therefore it created itself

3. Why does the ThinkCube argue that matter cannot be its own ultimate cause?

- A. Self-creation would require matter to exist before it existed
- B. Matter has no measurable properties
- C. Scientists cannot observe matter
- D. Matter exists only in living things

4. What does cosmic expansion contribute to the argument?

- A. Rewinding the expansion points toward a beginning rather than an eternal past
- B. It proves the universe has always remained unchanged
- C. It shows galaxies are moving toward one another
- D. It eliminates the need for a first cause

Be Prepared to Share

1. Someone says, "Maybe the universe simply caused itself." What could you ask about whether something can cause itself before it exists?
2. Put it in your own words: Why does a universe with a beginning require a cause beyond the universe itself?

PREMISE 2

Matter Cannot Be Eternal

Open-Book Review

1. How does the Second Law of Thermodynamics support the argument that the universe is not eternal?

- A. Usable energy is running down over time
- B. Energy becomes more useful forever
- C. Matter continually creates new energy
- D. Entropy decreases without limit

2. If the universe had existed for an infinite amount of time in the past, what problem does the ThinkCube raise?

- A. Its usable energy should already have been exhausted
- B. Stars would never have formed
- C. Gravity would no longer exist
- D. Space could not expand

3. What two possibilities does the ThinkCube reject as explanations for the original matter and energy?

- A. That they created themselves or existed eternally
- B. That they can change form or move through space
- C. That they can be scientifically measured
- D. That they are governed by physical laws

4. What conclusion follows if matter cannot create itself and cannot be eternal?

- A. The universe requires a cause beyond matter, space, and time
- B. Matter must be an illusion
- C. The universe requires no explanation
- D. Physical laws caused themselves

Be Prepared to Share

1. Someone says, "Maybe matter and energy have just always existed." What could you ask about a universe whose usable energy is continually running down?

2. Put it in your own words: Why does the universe's finite usable energy support the conclusion that it had a beginning?

PREMISE 3

God Is the Best Explanation for the First Cause

Open-Book Review

1. According to the ThinkCube, what characteristics would a cause of the universe need to possess?

- A. Eternal, immaterial, powerful, and intelligent
- B. Material, temporary, weak, and accidental
- C. Physical, finite, and dependent on the universe
- D. Biological, changing, and created

2. Why must the cause of the universe be outside the universe?

- A. Space, time, and matter themselves began with the universe
- B. Nothing can exist outside Earth
- C. Every cause must be made of matter
- D. The universe existed before its cause

3. What does Genesis 1:1 claim about the origin of the universe?

- A. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"
- B. Matter created itself from nothing
- C. The universe has no beginning
- D. Natural laws existed before God

4. What philosophical approach does the ThinkCube recommend when evaluating competing explanations of origins?

- A. Inference to the best explanation
- B. Accepting the most popular explanation
- C. Rejecting all historical evidence
- D. Assuming only directly repeatable events are real

Be Prepared to Share

1. Someone asks, "Then who created God?" What distinction could you make between things that begin to exist and an eternal, uncaused being?

2. Put it in your own words: Why does an eternal, immaterial cause fit what would be required to bring space, time, and matter into existence?

PREMISE 4

Creation Reveals an Infinitely Intelligent God

Open-Book Review

1. What does Psalm 19 say the heavens reveal?

- A. The glory and craftsmanship of God
- B. That nature has no meaning
- C. That physical laws are temporary
- D. That creation hides its origin

2. What feature of DNA does the ThinkCube emphasize?

- A. It contains complex, functional, encoded information
- B. It contains no instructions
- C. It is identical in every species
- D. It functions without chemical sequences

3. What analogy is used to explain the significance of information in DNA?

- A. Meaningful information such as a book or computer code points to an intelligent source
- B. Information is like random static
- C. DNA is comparable only to rocks
- D. Written language normally forms without a writer

4. What two characteristics are presented as hallmarks of intentional design in biological information?

- A. Complexity and functionality
- B. Size and weight
- C. Age and temperature
- D. Motion and color

Be Prepared to Share

1. Someone says, "DNA information could have arisen without intelligence." What familiar examples of meaningful information could you use to ask where coded instructions normally come from?
2. Put it in your own words: Why does functionally specific information in DNA point to an intelligent source?

PREMISE 5

The Laws and Order of Nature Point to Mind

Open-Book Review

1. How does the ThinkCube describe the laws governing the universe?

- A. Universal, abstract, unchanging, and knowable
- B. Random, local, unknowable, and constantly changing
- C. Biological rather than mathematical
- D. Created independently by each galaxy

2. Why is the mathematical order of nature significant in the argument for God?

- A. A rational, consistent Creator provides an explanation for a rational, orderly universe
- B. Mathematics proves the universe is chaotic
- C. Physical laws explain why they themselves exist
- D. Order eliminates the need for explanation

3. What additional feature of life is presented as needing explanation?

- A. The origin of functional biological information and coordinated living systems
- B. The existence of rocks
- C. The color of the sky
- D. The number of planets

4. What overall conclusion does the ThinkCube draw from causation, cosmic beginnings, physical law, and biological information?

- A. God provides the most coherent explanation for the origin and order of the universe and life
- B. No worldview can be compared with another
- C. Naturalism explains why anything exists at all
- D. Evidence about origins has no philosophical implications

Be Prepared to Share

1. Someone says, "Science explains the universe, so God is unnecessary." What could you ask about whether science explains why there are orderly, mathematical laws in the first place?

2. Put it in your own words: How do causation, order, and information work together as a cumulative case for an intelligent Creator?