

The background of the slide is an abstract composition. It features a dark blue field filled with numerous out-of-focus, glowing circles in shades of red, orange, yellow, and white. These circles are connected by thin, wispy lines of light, creating a sense of depth and movement, reminiscent of fiber optic cables or a cosmic network. A dark, semi-transparent rectangular box is positioned in the lower right quadrant, serving as a backdrop for the text.

God

WAYS OF THINKING ABOUT HIM

Ontological Argument

Reasoning to God from the idea of Him, using logic without many observations.

Some famous people who liked this argument:

Rene Descartes (“I think, therefore I am”), Alexander Campbell (Campbell – Owen Debate)

Thinking about God, He MUST logically exist. He is the necessary Being.

Kurt Gödel's Modal logic proof:

Ax. 1. $\{P(\varphi) \wedge \Box \forall x[\varphi(x) \rightarrow \psi(x)]\} \rightarrow P(\psi)$

Ax. 2. $P(\neg\varphi) \leftrightarrow \neg P(\varphi)$

Th. 1. $P(\varphi) \rightarrow \Diamond \exists x[\varphi(x)]$

Df. 1. $G(x) \iff \forall \varphi[P(\varphi) \rightarrow \varphi(x)]$

Ax. 3. $P(G)$

Th. 2. $\Diamond \exists x G(x)$

Df. 2. $\varphi \text{ ess } x \iff \varphi(x) \wedge \forall \psi \{\psi(x) \rightarrow \Box \forall y[\varphi(y) \rightarrow \psi(y)]\}$

Ax. 4. $P(\varphi) \rightarrow \Box P(\varphi)$

Th. 3. $G(x) \rightarrow G \text{ ess } x$

Df. 3. $E(x) \iff \forall \varphi[\varphi \text{ ess } x \rightarrow \Box \exists y \varphi(y)]$

Ax. 5. $P(E)$

Th. 4. $\Box \exists x G(x)$

Scriptures using this idea of God:
Exodus 9:14; Isaiah 46:5-9

Cosmological Argument

God is the first Cause.

Cause and Effect. Some famous people who thought of God this way: Thomas Aquinas, Aristotle (the Unmoved Mover)

Something now exists.

What exists is matter (material)

This matter either was caused, uncaused, or caused itself.

It could not cause itself since that would make it prior to itself, an absurdity.

To say it is uncaused is to say it is non-contingent, eternal – an infinite regress. However, this could not be since we presently have cause and effect, so matter cannot be denied to have the property of effect.

Therefore this matter was caused by the immaterial.

But the immaterial is Mind, needing no cause because it exists outside of time and contingency.

This mind is called God.

The Cosmological way of thinking
about God in the Bible:

Hebrews 3:4 – For every house is built
by someone, but He who built all
things is God.

Moral Argument

God is the ultimate Good, Love personified.

The set of standards (laws) of what is Good must come from somewhere. Law implies a Lawgiver. God is the Lawgiver.

Many people think of God this way, including Thomas Warren and Chad Ramsey.

The Bible reasons this way in many, many passages (e.g. as John would say “*God is Love*”)

Romans 2:14-16 is an example: For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

¹⁵ Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

¹⁶ In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel

Biblical Argument

God has shown Himself through special Revelation. The Bible is a miracle in existence, that is the Bible is supernatural and must be accounted for. Man can make any book, but not the Bible, therefore there must be a God to GIVE the Bible. If you do not believe this word, then you do not have God in you, Isaiah 8:20

Argument from Design

God is the ultimate Designer. A painting implies a painter. A poem implies a poet. Design implies a Designer. God is defined as the Designer - we observe Design. Therefore, there is a Designer.

Probably the most popular argument for God and for understanding Him of all time. Found all over the Bible, Romans 1:18-20 is the classic argument.

- 1) If the Universe bears the marks of intelligent, purposeful design(order), then it has a designer(orderer).
- 2) The Universe bears the marks of intelligent, purposeful design(order).
- 3) Therefore, the Universe has a designer(orderer).

- 1) If the human body possesses characteristics of design such that these characteristics could only have come about by the purposeful ordering(designing) of God, then God exists.
- 2) The human body possesses characteristics of design such that these characteristics could have only come about by the ordering(designing) of God.
- 3) Therefore, God exists.

***...I will praise thee; for I am fearfully
[and] wonderfully made: marvellous
[are] thy works; and that my soul
knoweth right well.”*** (Psalm 139)