Is It Reasonable To Believe In GOD? - EVIDENCE OF GOD IN THE UNIVERSE and In Man
(Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:18-22)

Introduction:

A. Either God EXISTS or God is Non-Existent?  That the concept of God is all a matter of how man thru religion controls and manipulates men and women is often the argument for the lack of faith in God.

1. Faith is the great cop-out, the great excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate evidence. Faith is belief in spite of, even perhaps because of, the lack of evidence. ---- Richard Dawkins

   a. In His work - I Don’t Have Enough Faith To Be An Atheist - Norman Geisler states these observations:

      (1) Faith is not some mystical, unexplainable conviction arrived at without evidence. (Isaiah 1:18)

          (a) Isaiah 1:18 (NKJV) - 18 “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

      (2) Faith is a conviction arrived at by examining the evidence and accepting the most reasonable conclusion. (Heb 11:1; Rom 1:20; 10:17)

          (a) Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV) - 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

          (b) Romans 1:20 (NKJV) - 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

          (c) Romans 10:17 (NKJV) - 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

2. In the age of Science and modern knowledge - what is the most reasonable explanation for life and all the complexities we see. I am persuaded that without the actions of an Intelligent designer {God} there is no rational explanation for the universe. - Romans 1:19-20 (NKJV) - 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

3. Evolution is an impossible explanation for the universe and yet men like Richard Dawkins write: “Today the theory of evolution is about as much open to doubt as the theory that the earth goes round the sun.” - The God Delusion by Richard Dawkins

   a. In His work the “Blind Watchmaker - Richard Dawkins” writes - “Natural selection, the blind, unconscious, automatic process which Darwin discovered, and which we now know is the explanation for the existence and apparently purposeful form of all life, has no purpose in mind. . . . It has no mind . . . . It does not plan for the future . . . it is the blind watchmaker.’’

4. Do These Scriptures agree with this thinking?

   a. Genesis 1:20-31 (NKJV) ---- 20 Then God said, “Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.” 21 So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 22 And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” 23 So the evening and the morning were the fifth day. 24 Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind”; and it was so. 25 And God made the beast of the earth according to
its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” 29 And God said, “See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. 30 Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food”; and it was so. 31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

b. **Psalm 139:13-16** (NKJV) - 13 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

B. There are Three major positions on the Existence of God today and the Cause of all life and its complexities:

1. **ATHEISM:** The DENIAL that God exists-"I know that God does not exist." This proposition cannot be proved.
2. **AGNOSTICISM:** The DOUBT that God exists-- "I do not know and cannot know that God exists." This proposition ignores all evidence.
3. **THEISM:** The BELIEF that God exists and is the Creator of all the universe and all life. This is the proposition that will be studied and proved in this study today.
   a. The text book for this BELIEF is the WORD of God – the BIBLE.
   b. Accepted as the Inspired Word of God!

C. The Atheist ‘CLAIM’ that science has ‘proven’ their position
   1. Yet the question of HOW and WHEN the Universe began CANNOT be scientifically PROVEN -
   2. An adequate explanation for the obvious design in our world CANNOT be answered by science -
   3. The origin of life and its complexities CANNOT be scientifically explained!

II. **EVIDENCE IN THE EXISTENCE OF THE UNIVERSE:**

A. The EXISTENCE of the universe needs no proof. BUT - From where did it come from?
   1. The proof of anything must have a POINT OF BEGINNING. God or some other point?
      a. Axioms - Truism. statements of truth universally accepted and need no proof; a statement the truth of which is obvious and well known. In logic and mathematics, a statement that needs no proof because its truth is obvious; that which is self-evident.
   2. Some well known axioms:
      a. "A straight line is the shortest distance between two points."
      b. "The whole is equal to the sum of its parts."
      c. "Something cannot come from nothing."
   3. LOGICAL DEDUCTION with regards to what is seen and known: The universe began from a self-evident power.
      a. "Something IS" — the universe.
      b. "Something cannot come from nothing" — universally accepted axiom.
B. The principle of CAUSE and EFFECT in emplaning the existence of the universe: For every effect there is a cause. The universe is here. ---- Just like the watch - “Intelligent design or Random chance?”

1. WHAT or WHO caused the universe to exist? Some explanations:
   a. MATTER the primal cause effected the universe by spontaneous generation and evolution. "It just happened by chance."
   b. NATURAL LAW- power and motion-operated upon MATTER. Thus the question - Who gave the "natural law"?
   c. Superior Personal Intelligence CREATED the universe. This is the Primal Cause which created the universe in six solar days as is explained in the Scriptures - (Gen. 1,2,3).
   d. Robert Jastrow, evolutionary astronomer and founder and former director of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies at NASA: understood this dilemma he states:
      (1) “At present, science has no satisfactory answer to the question of the origin of life on the earth. Perhaps the appearance of life on the earth is a miracle. . .” (1977, pp. 62-63, emp. added).
      (2) “Scientists are reluctant to accept that view, but their choices are limited; either life was created on the earth by the will of a being outside the grasp of scientific understanding, or it evolved on our planet spontaneously, through chemical reactions occurring in nonliving matter lying on the surface of the planet. . .” (1977, pp. 62-63, emp. added).
      (3) “The first theory places the question of the origin of life beyond the reach of scientific inquiry. It is a statement of faith in the power of a Supreme Being not subject to the laws of science. The second theory is also an act of faith. The act of faith consists in assuming that the scientific view of the origin of life is correct, without having concrete evidence to support that belief”(1977, pp. 62-63, emp. added).

2. The problems of Evolution with CAUSE and EFFECT. Evolution assumes that MATTER was the first cause from which came the effect: the universe. It is impossible for evolution to:
   a. Establish a beginning point. (The Big Bang does not establish this point - and thus it is seen to be very flexible and has moved throughout time).
   b. Explain the consistency of matter.
   c. Explain the relationship of time, force, action, space, and matter {5 knowable’s of all science}. (Gen. 1:1; 2:1) (NKJV) - 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 2:1 (NKJV) - 1 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.
   d. Bridge the gap between matter and plant life.
   e. Bridge the gap between plant life and animal life.
   f. Bridge the gap between different species of life.
   g. Bridge the gap between animal life and human life. - {to call them the missing link in the chain is an injustice - since the chain is missing not just a single link}
   h. Explain the origin of spirit, intellect, conscience, morals.
   i. Account for the continuity and balance of all physical laws that keep the universe in tact.

3. Conclusion: Until all the above are proved by the same kind of evidence that proves GOD IS, evolution cannot account for any part of the existence of the universe.
   a. However - what we are told and taught openly in schools is: “Time + CHANCE = LIFE” (1) “Four and a half billion years ago the young planet Earth... was almost completely engulfed by the shallow primordial seas. Powerful winds gathered random molecules from the atmosphere. Some were deposited in the seas. Tides and currents swept the
molecules together. And somewhere in this ancient ocean the miracle of life began...” -  
(from the Emmy award winning PBS NOVA film The Miracle of Life; quoted in 

2. “The first organized form of primitive life was a tiny protozoan [a one-celled animal]. 
Millions of protozoa populated the ancient seas. These early organisms were completely 
self-sufficient in their sea-water world. They moved about their aquatic environment 
feeding on bacteria and other organisms... From these one-celled organisms evolved all 
life on earth.”

3. Given enough time, (2 Billion years), the impossible becomes possible, the possible 
becomes probable, the probable becomes certain! Time performs the miracle!

4. “the oldest evidence of life on Earth, about 3.9 billion years ago. But that’s as far as 
evolution can take us. The Earth has been around for 4.5 billion years, and those early 
years were completely hostile to life. The early atmosphere was toxic, and a constant 
asteroid bombardment churned the landscape into a worldwide ocean of molten rock.” -  
http://www.universetoday.com/104336/how-did-life-begin/#ixzz2i6HaBCSF

5. “. . . As soon as the environment settled down to be relatively habitable, life appeared. 
Just half a billion years beyond the formation of the Earth.” -  
http://www.universetoday.com/104336/how-did-life-begin/#ixzz2i6HaBCSF

b. In 1953 at the University of Chicago - Stanley Miller and Harold Urey performed an 
experiment many believe is evidence that life could be the result of natural processes.

1. The experiment The chemicals were all sealed inside two glass flasks, connected in a 
loop, with one flask half-full of liquid water and another flask containing a pair of 
electrodes.

2. After a day of continuous operation, Miller and Urey found a thin layer of hydrocarbons 
on the surface of the water.

3. After about a week of operation, a dark brown scum had collected in the lower flask and 
was found to contain several types of amino acids, including glycine and alanine, 
together with sugars, tars, and various other unidentified organic chemicals.

c. Paul Davies (in Life Force - New Scientist 163 (2204) pg. 28 1999 - writes: “Making the 
building blocks of life is easy--amino acids have been found in meteorites and even in outer 
space. But just as bricks alone don’t make a house, so it takes more than a random collection 
of amino acids to make life.

1. Like house bricks, the building blocks of life have to be assembled in a very specific and 
exceedingly elaborate way before they have the desired function.”

2. The complexity of human life in the DNA is an insurmountable obstacle to the natural 
evolutionist even in modern science:

(a) DNA) is a nucleic acid —usually in the form of a double helix— that contains the 
 genetic instructions specifying the biological development of all cellular forms of 
 life, and many viruses.

(b) Your DNA has over 3 billion base pairs of 4 separate chemicals.

   i) Can you imagine what odds must be involved in sequencing them into perfect 
   order through chance and adaptation alone!

(c) In contemporary organisms, DNA, RNA, and proteins are mutually interdependent.

   i) DNA stores the genetic information and copies it to RNA. RNA directs the 
   synthesis of proteins.

   ii) Proteins carry out the work essential to cell existence and reproduction

(d) “The information in DNA is sufficient for directing and controlling all the processes 
which transpire within a cell including diagnosing, repairing, and replicating the cell. 
Think of an architectural blueprint having the capacity of actually building the
structure depicted on the blueprint, of maintaining that structure in good repair, and even replicating it" - (Darrel Kautz, (1988), The Origin of Living Things p. 44, Milwaukee, WI: Privately published by the author).

d. Sir Francis Crick 1916-2004 {He discovered the DNA Moncule} - “If a particular amino acid sequence was selected by chance, how rare an event would this be?... The great majority of sequences can never have been synthesized at all, at any time.” - (Francis Crick, Life Itself: Its Origin and Nature, 1981, pp. 51-52. (New York: Simon and Schuster).

(1) On page 88 he writes: “... An honest man, armed with all the knowledge available to us now, could only state that in some sense, the origin of life appears at the moment to be almost a miracle, so many are the conditions which would have had to have been satisfied to get it going...”

e. With this sentiment Sir Fred Hoyle - 1915-2001 A British Astronomer agrees: "The likelihood of the spontaneous formation of life from inanimate matter is one to a number with 40,000 naughts after it.... It is big enough to bury Darwin and the whole theory of evolution.” - Hoyle, Sir Fred, and Chandra Wickramasinghe, Evolution from Space, 1984, p. 148

(1) “The theory that life was assembled by an intelligence has, we believe, a probability vastly higher than that. Indeed such a theory is so obvious one wonders why it is not widely accepted as being self evident.”


(a) The simplest of life forms are highly sophisticated pieces of biological machinery - Billions of non-living parts - Over 5 million non-flying parts in Boeing 747

i) A human body is composed of over 250 different kinds of cells (red blood cells, white blood cells, muscle cells, fat cells, nerve cells, etc.—Baldi, 2001, p. 147),

a) Mitochondrion – (the power plant)

b) Lysosome - garbage dump (contains enzymes which rip apart degraded molecules for future use)

c) Endoplasmic reticulum’s - (rough & smooth) Rough membrane system where the proteins are synthesized - the rough appearance is due to the ribosome's attached to it. (a ribosome synthesizes proteins)

d) Golgi complex - proteins are sent here after synthesis for modification.

(3) “Life cannot have had a random beginning – Troops of monkeys thundering away on random typewriters could not produce the works of Shakespeare, for the practical reason that the whole universe is not large enough to contain the necessary hordes of monkeys, or the necessary typewriters and certainly not the wastepaper baskets required for the depositions of the wrong attempts. The same is true for living materials.”

C. MIND and MATTER must be the Eternal and Superior Primal Cause.

1. MIND (Intelligence) can form, change, control, design, use, and appreciate MATTER at the will of MIND. MIND can change, develop, and increase itself. MIND can create!

2. MATTER (that without life) cannot create, design, form, use, control, and appreciate MIND. MATTER is created (Gen. 1:1; Jn. 1:1-3) and will end (2 Pet. 3:10).

a. Genesis 1:1 (NKJV) - 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

b. John 1:1-3 (NKJV) - 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
c. 2 Peter 3:10 (NKJV) - 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

III. In Conclusion:
A. “...It is possible that life emerged by an almost infinitely improbable sequence of difficult chemical reactions. If life is the result of an infinitely improbable succession of chemical steps, then any scientific attempt to understand life’s origin is doomed to failure; such a succession could not be duplicated in a program of lab experiments...” - Robert Hazen - Harvard Grad, Research scientist at the Carnegie Institution of Washington’s Geophysical Laboratory, and a professor of Earth Science at George Mason University
1. “...If the origin of life was an infinitely improbable accident, then there’s absolutely nothing you or I or anyone else could do to figure out how it happened. I must tell you, that’s a depressing thought to someone like me who has devoted a decade to understanding the origin of life” (2005, emp. added).

B. Richard Lewontin, evolutionary geneticist of Harvard University (1997, p. 31) - “Our willingness to accept scientific claims against common sense is the key to an understanding of the real struggle between science and the supernatural. We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs..., in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to naturalism. . .”
1. “It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. . .”
2. “...Moreover, that materialism is absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door”
   a. It is not a lack of evidence - it is a lack of honesty!

C. It is not for lack of evidence but the refusal to accept what Romans 1:18-22 and Genesis 1:1 says - God IS!
1. Romans 1:18-22 (NKJV) - 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,
2. John 1:1-5 (NKJV) - 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
3. 1 John 5:11-13 (NKJV) - 11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.
4. Acts 17:30-31 (NKJV) - 30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the...
world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

D. Not Only Is It Reasonable To Believe In God - It Is Unreasonable NOT TO!

Basic Ideas and format of Lesson from H.E. Phillips - God Is Study {Modified and Adapted with more research for this lesson - John Cripps 2018}

\footnote{The New King James Version. 1982. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.}