



How to Crush Atheism

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How to CRUSH ATHEISM

How-to series
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INTRODUCTION

This Book is another simple attempt to show the absurdity of Atheism. The first sections deal with arguments against atheism and the rest deal with argument for theism and some answers to common objections raised against Christianity. This is an entry level apologetics book. For detailed analysis don't look here. But for beginners and those find apologetics hard it is an invaluable tool, easy to understand presentation to help you crush atheism.

1. Atheism is Absurd

“Atheism is so senseless. When I look at the solar system. I see the earth at the right distance from the sun to receive the proper amounts of heat and light. This did not happen by chance.”

–Sir Isaac Newton

“To be an atheist you must have infinite knowledge in order to know absolutely that there is no God. But to have infinite knowledge, you would have to be God yourself. It’s hard to be God yourself and an atheist at the same time!” –Ron Carlson and Ed Decker, *Fast Facts on False Teachings*, p. 17

Atheism asserts and affirms the absolute absence of an infinite being. This requires infinite knowledge which no human being possesses. Such assertion has no logical basis and is more a faith rather than a fact, as the fact of absence of God cannot be confirmed or proved.

“Science itself is steadily nailing the lid on atheism’s coffin.” –Lee Strobel

Atheism cannot be proved scientifically. Atheism cannot be proved logically. Atheism cannot be proved evidentially. Atheism is an illogical, unscientific position. Atheism is superstitious. No wonder the bible says, ‘The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God”’. Psalm 14:1.

2. Skepticism is self-destructive

Skepticism about skepticism, is very important, and the neglect of it has led to a one sided skepticism of God, religion etc. When a skeptic starts doubting his skepticism, he stops his skepticism of religion and God and drops skepticism about which he was skeptical. So an honest skeptic, should doubt his skepticism and thus stop doubting too. Skepticism self-destructs.

3. Rationalism: Circular reasoning

Rationalism if it uses reasons to justify itself commits the logical fallacy of circular reasoning. You cannot use reason to prove reason. You are assuming rationalism before proving it. What a pity! How then will a rationalist prove his rationalism? Rationalism, therefore cannot be proved and thus is an assumption, worse superstition.

4. Arguments for God's existence

Plato's arguments for God's existence

Plato, the big daddy of western philosophy, gives two arguments for belief in the supernatural. All of western philosophy it is said is just foot note to Plato.

These are his two arguments

1. Argument from the existence of soul
2. Argument from the order of the motion of the stars, and of all things under the dominion of the mind which ordered the universe.

In the Bible, Romans 1:20 reads,

20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Rene Descartes's Two Arguments for God's existence

Rene Descartes the father of rationalism, who said, "I think, therefore I exist", gave an argument for the existence of God from the idea of God.

1. God is an infinitely perfect being
2. We are finite beings
3. All around us, everything is finite
4. Finite minds cannot originate the idea of an infinitely perfect being.
5. Therefore the idea of an infinitely perfect being should have been given to us by that same infinitely perfect being - who is none other than God.

"The argument relies on the Scholastic principle that there must be as much reality in the cause as in the effect. So any ideas of perfection require perfect causes of them. Therefore God, the perfect cause, must exist."

Descartes in his meditations part 1 and 2 started with skepticism and argues his way out of skepticism in meditations 3 through 5 and gives two arguments for God's existence. The second one goes this way.

1. If God is the most perfect being.
2. And the most perfect being lacks nothing (including existence)
3. Then God necessarily exists

“We can no more think of God without existence than we can think of a mountain without a valley,” - Descartes

And you cannot but think about him at least like Descartes starting with doubting his existence. But then you cannot avoid him because by definition he exists.

Argument for God's existence from contingency

The basic form of this argument is simple.

If something exists, there must exist what it takes for that thing to exist.

The universe—the collection of beings in space and time—exists.

Therefore, there must exist what it takes for the universe to exist.

What it takes for the universe to exist cannot exist within the universe or be bounded by space and time.

Therefore, what it takes for the universe to exist must transcend both space and time. This transcendent being is God.

Argument for God's existence from time and contingency

There is something

This something comes into existence and goes out of existence

There was a time when there was nothing.

There was a time something started to exist.

From nothing, nothing comes

The something (the universe) was brought into being by something else.

That something else should transcend the universe and should be outside the universe (outside matter, space and time), otherwise it would need another being which is absolutely independent or necessary as opposed to contingent or

dependent.

This absolutely independent (necessary) being [which brought into existence something when there was nothing] is God.

Moral Argument

Premise 1: If God does not exist, then objective moral values do not exist.

Premise 2: Objective moral values exist.

Conclusion: God exists.

Even if one objective moral value exists, then it follows that God exists. Since there are lots of objective moral values, then it firmly establishes the fact of the existence of a moral law giver, who is God.

Another way of stating it is

1. Right and wrong exists.
2. Some rights and wrongs are objective.
3. Rights and wrongs are objectively differentiated by using the moral law.
4. Objective absolute moral law implies a moral law giver.
5. That moral law giver is God.
6. Therefore God exists.

Ontological Argument for God's existence

Defining God as the greatest possible being

Greatest possible being is the being which has good characters to the greatest possible extent. Greatest possible being is loving, merciful, truthful, compassionate, omnipresent, omnipotent and among other characters, necessary in it's being and existence. The greatest possible being is God.

God as a necessary being

Greatest possible being by definition should be a necessary being. By necessary being we mean a being who is not dependent. A being who is free and not contingent on others. So by definition, the greatest possible being must be a necessary being.

If someone is not a necessary being ,then he cannot be the greatest possible being , because it would be dependent or contingent on something/someone and that something/someone would be the greater than the being claiming to be the

greatest possible being.

A necessary being/entity exists in all possible worlds. Examples include numbers, shape definitions and absolute truth.

A necessary entity cannot be false or fail to exist all possible worlds.

The concept of possible worlds in modal logic.

Possible worlds: Any hypothetical situation is called a possible world.

Construction of the ontological argument for God's existence

1. It is possible that a maximally great being/greatest possible being exists (God).
2. If he exists, then it's true that he exists in some possible world.
3. As a necessary being, if God exists in some possible world, then he exists in all possible worlds, because by definition a necessary being exists in all possible world as he is omnipresent.
4. If he exists in all possible world, he exists in the actual world.
5. Therefore God exists.

In short,

1. It is possible that a maximally perfect being (God) exists.
2. Therefore God exists.

This only applies to maximally possible being, and it cannot be applied to anything lesser (like unicorns).

This is Anselm's ontological argument.

Teleological Argument for God's existence

Also known as "Argument to/from design".

According to this argument, the universe is created with a "telos" i.e. end or purpose and that is why it exhibits designs and patterns and processes which bring about a purposeful product or end.

This design implies an intelligence who is not part of nature, but who is outside of nature and who precedes the universe and brought it into existence for his own purposes. This intelligence is called God.

This is the simplest version of the argument. But it is very powerful argument and appeals to the intuition of the people at large because of it's appeal to common sense.

Latest scientific research has shown that the universe is fine tuned to a degree which is beyond comprehension and this is one of the proofs for the teleological argument

The argument for God from fine-tuning of the universe

1. It is an undeniable scientific fact that the universe is fine tuned.
2. This fine tuning may be because of physical necessity, chance or a designer (God)
3. The fine tuning is not due to physical necessity or chance.
(There is no evidence that life permitting universe is physically necessary. The chance alternative is so remote and improbable)
4. Therefore it is due to a designer (God)

Kalam cosmological Argument

Everything that begins to exist has a cause.

The universe began to exist.

Therefore it has a cause outside of itself which brought it into existence. That transcendent first cause is God.

Simple yet profound arguments, give definite undeniable proof for God's existence.

5. Is Christianity Rational?

Does Christianity claim itself to be a rational? Many atheists think that proofs and evidences have nothing to do with Christianity and also think ,“If you have reason and evidence , why do you need faith?” meaning “You need faith Mr. Christian because what you believe is neither rational nor has anything to do with reality”.

But the bible clearly teaches that God has created humans as rational creatures and that God is also rational and reasoning.

“Come now, let us reason together,” says the LORD. Isaiah 1:18

25 “I am not insane, most excellent Festus,” Paul replied. “What I am saying is true and reasonable.” Acts 26

Here Paul declares that the Gospel he is preaching and defending is true and reasonable.

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us.” 1 John 1: 1-3

Here the apostle John claims that what he is saying about Jesus is not some second hand knowledge, but something, or rather someone whom he has seen, heard and touched.

The Bible never asks anyone to believe anything without evidence, facts or reason. These are important aspects of truth and since Christianity claims to be true it contains evidences, reasons and facts which can be verified before making a decision to follow it's teacher and his teachings.

We have already seen the many arguments for God, many proofs philosophical and scientific provided by many Christians which also show the rational nature of Christianity.

Faith according to the bible is never a blind leap or blind faith. Faith is always trusting something which is true, rational and has evidence.

Jesus performed his miracles so that those who witness it may believe on the proof of the miracles, that he is the promised savior of the world.

38 But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.” John 10

“Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders,” Jesus told him, “You will never believe. “John 4:48

Christianity is rational and it presupposes a creator who is rational and who made the world rationally comprehensible.

Since atheist and rationalist cannot prove there is no God, their faith in the absence of God is not rationally founded.

To be Christian means being rational but not being a rationalist. To be a rationalist (trusting only in reason as supreme authority) is irrational and absurd.

6. Is Religion Evil?

Religion has led to many wars, abuses, hurts, bombings and many more moral evils in the history of the world. The world is filled with religious hatred. Hindus hate Muslims and Christians. Muslims hate Hindus, Jews and Christians. Christians fight with each other in Europe and America.

Many of these fights are a result of wrong religion. Wrong religion is evil and works havoc on the lives of the people and societies. Hinduism and Islam have proved to be destructive forces not just because people use them to justify violence but because actually do promote violence in the name of God.

Hinduism, with its caste system and the story of its violent gods and goddesses leaves no space for peace. People who seek to serve them do use violence as and when necessary. There is nothing there to stop violence. Islam with its history of conquest and violence is of course a good example of how religion can cause evil. Whenever Hindus or Muslims used violence, they were entirely consistent with their religious teachings.

Whereas Christians whenever they went to war or used violence were in direct opposition to their religious teachings. Christ's call was to serve and share God's love with the other person. His philosophy was one of love for the enemy. Such a religion which teaches love and care and brotherhood, cannot do any evil to any neighbors, if the Christians follow the teachings of the Lord.

Now some wrong expressions of Christianity with political power at their helm have wreaked havoc in the lives of many. But they are wrong expressions of the Christian faith, which does not allow for any form of violence. These happened when political power was handed to the Roman Catholic Church and the church attracted power mongers who wanted the political power. In the course of time it lost its spiritual edge because of such principles and persons who occupied its seat of power and the reformation gave a fresh start and set the church in the right direction. The reformers split from the church. The Catholic Church also experienced Counter Reformation and purification. But still the Pope is still a seat of political power with political domain and not a seat of service and simplicity. They have hoarded wealth, when Christ has called them to give it away. They have retained power and pomp, when Christ calls them carry the cross. So in many ways the Catholic Church still remains untruthful to the calling of Jesus, though some elements in them do remain faithful. Example: Mother Teresa and the likes.

It has happened with the Protestant church also in England and other European countries where the vested interests invaded the church to use it for their political ends. The Catholic -Protestant persecutions and interdenominational intolerance

do not show forth the life and testimony which Christ requires.

Even as some became corrupt, some were regenerated and they carried on the mission of the Lord Jesus Christ. Even to this day, many missionaries cross national, cultural and racial boundaries to take the love of Christ to a hurting world. Many a faithful follower has stood for justice and served humanity greatly.

1. William Wilberforce and the clapham sect of Christians dedicated their lives for the abolishment of slavery.
2. William Carey worked with Rajaram Mohan Roy for the abolishing of Sati, an evil social practice in India.
3. The Red Cross was started by a devout Christian in response to what he witnessed during a war.
4. World vision international is a Christian organization working for a better society
5. Education till recently remained the monopoly of the Christians. Many Schools and colleges were started worldwide to educate the people so that they can gain knowledge and also come to know Christ.
6. Hospitals and health care were started by Christians all over the world to serve the sick in the name of Christ. Many other religions started copying the work of Christians and stated their own missions to serve the people.

The contribution of Christians, who in their response to the call of Christ, served the world in numerous ways. Nothing in secularism or any other religion can compare with the contribution the true followers of Christ have made to the human race.

Many religions have been sources of much evil. But true Christians have singly or in groups, in response to the call of Christ upon their lives served humanity and have brought comfort, healing and prosperity to millions. The work is still going on and is increasing every day as many new missionaries join the service of mankind heeding the call of Christ.

7. The Moral Relativity delusion

Can atheist even make moral judgments? 'The Morality delusion' of Skeptics is an often neglected phenomenon.

Since atheists don't believe in an absolute or objective moral values, it is big fun to see them make moral judgments on everybody religious calling them evil, immoral etc.

If the atheist is making his moral judgments based on relative societal moral values of the present time, then he cannot impose his morality on others in a different age and epoch of history, complaining that they or their God is evil.

If the atheist is making his moral judgments not based on absolute moral values then his judgment and the subsequent pronouncements are just relative and do not have any moral weightage. In a Godless universe like theirs any moral value or no moral value would be of no value.

Atheist's feeling or expressing moral indignation at religion or God is nothing except them being just subjective feelings and nothing more. Their morality is just a bad feelings. Their morality is not grounded and thus cannot be used as a standard to judge others. Their morality therefore is no morality at all and their moral indignation is a delusion.

If atheists think religious people have a 'God delusion', then they who do not have God have a 'morality delusion' and thus should refrain from making moral judgments on God, religion and religious people.

As Fyodor Dostoevsky said, "If there is no God, everything is permissible". If there is no moral law giver, there is no moral law and thus no absolute or objective right or wrong. Thus since there is no absolute right or wrong, everything is permissible in the atheistic worldview. Since everything is permissible in the atheistic worldview, they cannot make moral judgments on God, religion or other people. Their ungrounded morality is just a delusion, a fragment of their own imagination and is not binding on others.

8. Response to the Problem of Evil

The problem with argument against God from evil

The most common objection to the God, according to atheists is the presence of evil in this world.

The argument goes like this

1. Evil and suffering are present in this world, both moral (what people do to each other) and natural (what nature does to people e.g. handicaps, tsunamis etc.)
2. If God is loving, he would not allow us to suffer
3. If God is omniscient, he would not have created this world
4. If God is omnipotent, he would prevent it and there would be no evil.
5. Therefore a Christian God who is depicted as loving, omniscient and omnipotent does not exist.

The problem with this is that it defines love of God and omnipotence of God in a way which is not biblical. In the light of this wrong definition of God, this argument turns out to be a “straw man argument”, a false caricature of the God of the bible is made (Straw man) and then knocked down conveniently.

God’s love for his creation, especially humans is very great. He has demonstrated his love for us humans, in and through Christ. “This is how God demonstrated his love for us: while we were still sinners Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth on him shall not perish but have eternal life” - John 3:16

God’s love is a self-giving, sacrificial love. God’s love has been demonstrated on the cross, when Christ died as a substitute for all the sinners of this world.

God’s love is “Holy Love”. His love cannot compromise with sin because God is a “God of Justice/righteousness”. The cross depicts the place where the love of God

and the justice/righteousness of God meet.

“For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness (justice), because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness (justice) at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.” Romans 3

First mistake of the skeptic is to leave out one important Character of God which allows for God punishing people for their wrongs, in hell if necessary. But since he also loves them, he has made a way out for them through the work of Christ on the cross. Since he loves them, he is patient with them as he does not wish anyone to perish.

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9

Second reason God allows suffering for believers is to discipline them. Hebrews 12: 5,6 ‘And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, talks about God disciplining those whom he loves because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.”’. Everyone who has accepted Christ and comes into a relationship with God experiences certain disciplines from God which involves suffering.

Job 5:17 “Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.”

11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Hebrews 12

Biblically speaking, God himself out of love inflicts painful things to correct and discipline a man so that he can share in the holiness of God and produce a harvest of righteousness and peace.

So this passage of the bible depicts God who is loving and so uses painful

methods to discipline and train his children for a short time so that they can have righteousness and peace for a long time.

Third reason God allows suffering is to test people. Under difficult circumstances, people come out with their original motives and intentions.

Job's wife given the difficulties of his husband, cries out,

9 His wife said to him, "Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!"

10 He (Job) replied, "You are talking like a foolish[b] woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"

In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

Job also in the face of intense loss says thus

"Naked I came from my mother's womb,
and naked I will depart.[c]

The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away;
may the name of the Lord be praised."

22 In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing."

In this test of suffering, Job's wife failed miserably whereas Job's character and commitment shines forth.

Fourth reason God allows suffering and evil is so that people will turn to him freely. Many a man has come to faith and commitment in God because of seasons of suffering in and through which they were able to experience God for themselves in a very tangible way. Suffering and evil, breaks our ego and opens us up to receive the help which is offering.

Many people came to Christ during his earthly ministry because of the suffering they were undergoing and it is no different today. There is a "peace which passes all understanding" which only God can give and evil and suffering, constrain people to consider God who can give them peace and deliverance.

Finally God in his love, omniscience and omnipotence has created heaven, which is the ideal world which the skeptic expected God to create. But the skeptic does not want to believe it and complains God has not warded off evil. This world of suffering and evil is temporary. For all those who choose to follow Christ, heaven

is the permanent home where there will no more suffering or tears. But this follows death. So God has created a universe where there is a place called heaven where evil will be absent and suffering will not be found. But now is the time to know who would like to be there. But this is the time where the humble can be differentiated from the proud and arrogant.

Skeptics have not understood the character of the God revealed in the Bible. They have created a “straw man argument” by depicting the God of the bible incompletely.

Ravi Zacharias brings out the problem the skeptics have in raising the problem of evil. Even in the very act of framing the question, the skeptic makes certain assumptions which are inconsistent with atheism. This is how the argument goes

Atheist: If there is a loving God, why is there evil and suffering?

Answer: If you assume such a thing as evil, you also assume such a thing as good.

If you assume good and evil, then it means you assume a moral law based on which you differentiate between good and evil

If you assume a moral law, then you also assume a moral law giver

It is the moral law giver, you are trying to disprove when you asked the question

Your question proves there is a God and self-destructs

So the presence of moral evil, far from disproving God proves his presence and reality.

Norman Geisler in his book, “Why Evil?” talks about the free will argument. The free will argument goes this way, God created Satan with a perfect free will.

The perfect freewill allowed Satan to choose the opposite of the good, God has commanded. When Satan used his freewill to choose the opposite of what God has commanded, evil was the result. Evil originated when freewill was misused. Man did the same thing. God created man with a perfect free-will. Man used it to choose the opposite of what God commanded and evil was the result. The reason for evil is the abuse of free will.

St. Augustine was the first to deal with the problem of evil and said that evil has it's origin in the perversion of the good. It is good which came first. God created everything and said it is 'good'. When we free-willed creatures did the opposite of

good, evil resulted. So evil is the privation or perversion of the good.

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