

**Other Arguments Against the Existence of God.**

**Faith.**

We have looked at the Cosmological (first cause), the Teleological (design) arguments for the existence of God as well as the argument from miracles. For some believers these arguments alone do not convince them that God exists, but they strengthen the faith believers already have in God. Believers only need faith that God exists, they do not need proof.

**Science and Religion.**

Some atheists use developments in scientific knowledge to dispute the existence of God. Creation stories in the Bible were written long before the formulation of scientific theories such as the Big Bang and evolution. As our understanding of the universe changed, scientific theories began to challenge religious beliefs.

Floods and earthquakes were thought to be punishments from God for wrongdoing, now we know differently, people no longer look to God for answers to such disasters.

Many religious people do not see a conflict between religion and science. If the Bible’s creation stories are not taken literally, Christians could accept the Big Bang theory, by suggesting God started the process. They could also accept the theory of evolution as God could have created creatures with the ability to evolve.



Suffering and Evil.

We live in a world of suffering and evil. Atheists point to the evil acts people commit and the suffering it causes as evidence that God does not exist. If God is as Christians suggest – omnipotent; omniscient and omnibenevolent, He knows, about suffering, he has the power to stop it and should love us enough to prevent it.

Christians believe God did not create robots to do exactly as He said, rather He gave humans free will – the ability to make our own choices, good and bad.

Key Terms

**Omnipotent** – all powerful

**Omniscient** – all knowing

**Omnibenevolent** – all loving

**Proof** – evidence that supports the truth of something.

**Faith** – a commitment to something that goes beyond the need for proof and knowledge.

**Evil** – the opposite of good, a force or personification (devil) of a negative power.

**Suffering** – having to face and live with unpleasant events or conditions.



Complete the following …

* The difference between knowledge and faith is…
* Atheists say science proves God does not exist because… (*explain* two reasons).
* Theists would say science does not disprove God’s existence because… (*explain* two reasons).
* Atheists say evil proves God does not exist because… (*explain* two reasons).
* Theists would say evil does not disprove God’s existence because… (*explain* two reasons).

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