

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY



LAST TIME

- Natural Theology
- Contingency
- Leibniz

LEIBNIZ' CONTINGENCY ARGUMENT

1. Every existing thing has an explanation of its existence.
 2. If the universe has an explanation of its existence, that explanation is God.
 3. The universe is an existing thing.
- Therefore, the explanation of the existence of the universe is God.

OBJECTION: UNIVERSE IS EXEMPT

- Premise 1- The Universe is exempt
- This is an arbitrary exemption, everything has an explanation except the universe?

PRIOR STATE OF AFFAIRS

- They reason that an explanation of the universe would have to be a prior start of affairs in which nothing exists. Or nothingness.
- Nothingness cannot explain anything.
- Circular reasoning

PRIOR STATE OF AFFAIRS

- Leibniz would agree.
- God and His will existed prior to the Universe.

PREMISE 2

- The universe is all matter and energy.
- It must follow that if the universe had a cause, that cause must be a non-physical, immaterial being beyond space and time.
- Only 2 things- Abstract objects & unembodied mind.

NECESSARILY EXISTING OBJECTS

- Abstract Objects- Numbers, etc.
- Transcendent, unembodied mind

Can numbers create anything? Do they have any power or will?

LEIBNIZ'S ARGUMENT PROVES

- A necessary, uncaused, timeless, spaceless, immaterial, personal creator of the universe.

Both Premise 1 and 2 are plausibly true.

Premise 3 is obviously true.

But what if they argue that the universe is necessary?

OBJECTION: UNIVERSE EXIST NECESSARILY

- Many atheists are reluctant to make this argument.
- Nothing that we see in the universe seems to exist necessarily.
- Everything could fail to exist.

ARGUMENTS

- Maybe matter exists necessarily.
- Cannot say some matter does and some does not.
- Is the universe an object or something made up of objects?

MORE EVIDENCE AGAINST

- We know the universe does not exist necessarily because of astrophysical evidence.
- Anything that comes into being at a certain time doesn't exist necessarily because it could fail to exist.

BIG BANG

- Represents the origin of all matter and energy, even physical space and time itself, out of nothing.

ALEX VILENKIN

“It is said that an argument is what convinces reasonable men, and a proof is what it takes to convince even and unreasonable man. With the proof now in place, cosmologist can no longer hide behind the possibility of a past-eternal universe. There is no space, they have to face the problem of a cosmic beginning.”

OBJECTION: U IS CONTINGENT...

- ...But it is necessary that something exist.
- Agree that the existence of nothing is impossible.
- Any argument that has an implausible consequence is probably implausible.

OBJECTION: U IS CONTINGENT...

- Why would there be contingent beings in every possible universe?
- If there is no necessary being, there would be nothing to cause contingent beings in every possible universe.

CONCLUSION

- God is the explanation of the existence of the universe.
- Simply using natural theology.
- This argument gets us to this conclusion:
“God is an uncaused, unembodied, mind who transcends the physical universe and even space and time themselves and who exists necessarily.”

NEXT TIME

- Read:
 - Excursus- Natural Theology- Kalam Cosmological Argument pp. 42-63

QUESTIONS?