SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

X FACTOR CHURCH

LAST TIME

➢ Natural Theology
➢ Contingency
➢ Leibniz

KALAM COSMOLOGICAL INTRO

➢ Muslim roots based on Christians thought.
➢ Kalam references medieval Islamic theology.
➢ al-Ghazali- 12th century Persia.
➢ *The Incoherence of the Philosophers*

THE INCOHERENCE OF THE PHILOSOPHERS

➢ An Islamic response to Greek philosophers and their influence on Muslim philosophy.
➢ The universe flows necessarily out of the being of God and is eternal and beginning less, it is just as necessary as God.

THE INCOHERENCE OF THE PHILOSOPHERS

➢ Asserts that the beginninglessness of the universe is absurd.

➢ "Every being which begins has a cause for its beginning. Now the world is a being which begins. Therefore, it possesses a cause for its beginning."

AL-GHAZALI'S ARGUMENT

1. Whatever begins to exist has a cause.
2. The universe began to exist.
3. Therefore, the universe has a cause.

PREMISE 1

➢ Whatever begins to exist has a cause.

➢ We have never experienced anything in our lives that contradicts this.

THREE REASONS FOR PREMISE 1

➢ Something cannot come from nothing.

➢ If something can come into being from nothing then it become inexplicable why anything and everything doesn't come into being from nothing.

➢ Common experience and scientific evidence confirm the truth of Premise 1.

PREMISE 1- REASON 1

➢ Something cannot come from nothing.

   ➢ Things do not pop into existence without cause.

   ➢ Argument of physics and vacuum.

   ➢ Be careful with "popular" scientific theories and explanations.

   ➢ Nothing is not just empty space, it is the absence of anything

PREMISE 1- REASON 2

➢ If something can come in being from nothing, then it becomes inexplicable why anything and everything doesn't come into being from nothing.

➢ Why only the universe sprang into existence out of nothing?

PREMISE 1- REASON 2

➢ Atheists argue:
  ➢ Holds true of everything in the universe, but not of the universe.
    ➢ Arbitrary- Taxi Cab Fallacy
➢ What is God's cause then?
  ➢ "Whatever began to exist has a cause."

PREMISE 1- REASON 3

➢ Common experience and scientific evidence confirms the truth of Premise 1.

PREMISE 2

➢ The universe began to exist.

TWO REASONS FOR PREMISE 2

1. The impossibility of the existence of an actually infinite number of things.
2. Impossibility of counting to infinity.

PREMISE 2- ARGUMENT 1

➢ Actually infinite vs potentially infinite.
 ➢ Dividing a number by a half, gives your 1/2, again 1/4, again 1/8… you will never get to an "infinienth."
 ➢ Potential but not actual.

PREMISE 2 - ARGUMENT 1

➢ The number of past events would have to be merely finite and not infinite.
➢ If that is true, then the universe cannot be beginningless.
➢ Therefore, the universe must have begun to exist.

PREMISE 2- ARGUMENT 1

➢ Even though we can talk about theoretical ideas of infinity, that does not make them true or real.

➢ We can read about Sherlock Holmes, know things about him, even discuss his actions, but he is still only theoretical (fictional).

PREMISE 2- ARGUMENT 1

➢ Reductio ad absurdum

➢ David Hilbert, German mathematician

➢ Hilbert's Hotel

HILBERT'S HOTEL

➢ Hotel = finite number of rooms.

  ➢ All full.

  ➢ New guests? No.

➢ Hotel= infinite number of rooms.

  ➢ All full.

  ➢ New guests? Yes!

  ➢ Room 1 to Room 2, Room 2 to Room 3, etc.

Hilbert's Hotel

➢ What about a infinite number of new guests in the infinite number of full rooms?

➢ Yes!

➢ Move each guest into the room that is the double of his, 1-2, 2-4, 3-6, etc.

➢ Since any number doubled is even, all the existing guests will end up in an even numbered room, leaving an infinite number of odd number rooms for the new guests.

HILBERT'S HOTEL

- ➢ Could this actually exist?
- ➢ Of course not!
- ➢ It is absurd.
- ➢ An actually infinite number of things is absurd.

PREMISE 2- ARGUMENT 2

➢ The impossibility of counting to infinity.
➢ No matter the number you count to, you can always add 1 more.
➢ If we cannot count to infinity, then we cannot count down from it either.

PREMISE 2- ARGUMENT 2

➢ You cannot cross infinity.
➢ A finite portion can be crossed but you cannot apply the logic of one to the other.
➢ Fallacy of composition.
➢ You cannot form an infinite collection of things by adding one member at a time.

CONCLUSION

➢ Philosophically, the Kalam stands on very firm ground.
➢ Remember to no over state or understate your claims.

NEXT TIME

➢ Read:
➢ Excursus- Natural Theology- Kalam Cosmological Argument pp. 64-92

QUESTIONS?