

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY





# LAST TIME

➤ Kalam Cosmological Argument



# NATURAL THEOLOGY

- The evidence of God through observable, natural processes and understanding.



# TELEOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

- *Telos*- Purpose, end, or goal.
- One of the oldest arguments for God.
- Both Plato and Aristotle used it.



# ARISTOTLE - ON PHILOSOPHY

- Imagine a race of men who lived underground all their lives in a cave and suddenly they came to see the outside world.



# ARISTOTLE - ON PHILOSOPHY

When thus they would suddenly gain sight of the earth, seas, and the sky; when they should come to know the grandeur of the clouds and the might of the winds; when they should behold the sun and should learn its grandeur and beauty as well as its power to cause the day by shedding light over the sky; and again, when the night had darkened the lands and they should behold the whole of the sky spangled and adorned with stars; and when they should see the changing lights of the moon as it waxes and wanes, and the risings and settings of all these celestial bodies, their courses fixed and changeless throughout all eternity – when they should behold all these things, most certainly they would have judged both that there exist gods and that all these marvelous works are the handiwork of the gods.



# ARISTOTLE - THE METAPHYSICS

- Argues...
- “a living, intelligent, immaterial, eternal and most good being” who is the source of order in the cosmos.



# PAUL - ROMANS 1:20

“ever since the creation of the world, God’s invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made.”



# FINE-TUNING OF THE UNIVERSE

- Astronomers have discovered that the initial conditions of the universe in the Big Bang had to be finely tuned to a precision that defies human comprehension.
- Watchmaker argument



# TWO KINDS OF FINE TUNING

- Constants of Nature
- Arbitrary Quantities



# CONSTANTS OF NATURE

- Gravitational constant
- Electromagnetic force
- Subatomic weak force

Not determined by laws of nature, laws of nature simply interact with them based on their value.



# ARBITRARY QUANTITIES

- The quantity of things that were there when the beginning happened.
- Example: The amount of entropy at the Big Bang
- These things matter because it requires very narrow window to support life.



# MAKE SURE TO ARGUE THE POINT

- Fine tuning does not equal design.
- Fine tuning is a natural term.
- Design is one of the explanations of fine tuning.







# EXAMPLES

- [illegible]



# EXAMPLE

- [illegible]



# EXAMPLE

- Initial entropy condition- tune to 1 part out of  $10^{10(123)}$



# IMPROBABLE = IMPOSSIBLE?

➤ 1 out of  $10^{150}$



# FLY ON A WALL

- Random shot fired at a wall and it happens to hit the single fly on the wall.
- People would argue that the shot was aimed and targeted, not random.
- The change of it not hitting the fly is significantly greater than hitting it, randomly.



# BASIC ARGUMENT

1. The fine tuning of the universe is due to either physical necessity, chance, or design.
2. It is not due to physical necessity or chance.
3. Therefore, it is due to design.



# CHOICES

- Physical Necessity
- Chance
- Design



# PHYSICAL NECESSITY

- Does the universe have to exist in the fine tuned way necessarily?
- Meaning that a life-prohibiting universe would be physically impossible.
- No- things could have easily existed in a different way.



# CHANCE

- Simply an accident and we lucked out.
- The odds are astronomical.
- Think of 100 trained marksman all ready to execute you and they all miss? They have to have missed on purpose



# MANY WORLDS THEORY

- Baseless theories that show how far people will go to try to avoid the design.
- No basis



# WHO DESIGNED THE DESIGNER?

- Richard Dawkins- Arguments and a completely false conclusion that God does not exist.
- Simply goes to show what lengths people will go to to avoid admitting the existence of God.



# NEXT TIME

- Read:
  - Excursus- Natural Theology- Moral Arguments  
pp. 134-165



QUESTIONS?