

Reconciling Science and the Bible

Lesson 6: Proofs of the Existence of God: The Argument from Logic

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Lessons: Reconciling Science and the Bible

1. 7 days of creation
2. In the Beginning (the Big Bang)
3. Did dinosaurs really exist? How old is the Earth?
4. The Existence of God: The Ontological Argument
5. **The Existence of God: The Anthropological Argument**
6. The Existence of God: The Argument from Logic
7. The Existence of God: The Argument from Intelligent Design
8. What is truth? Is the Bible true and can you trust it?
9. Was Jesus a REAL person?
10. Why does God allow evil to exist?
11. Is there life after death?
12. Is God multidimensional?
13. Living an intentional life!



Is it Logical to use Logic to Prove God Exists?

- What is Logic?

- Originally the word meant “The Word” (In Greek, Logos)
- It has come to mean “thought” or “reason”
- The systematic study of the form of valid inference
- A valid inference generally is of the form “this” + “therefore” + “that”

- A Formal System

- An organization of terms used for the analysis of deduction
- All logical systems will have
 - Consistency No theorem in the system can contradict another
 - Validity False inferences do not arise from true premises
 - Completeness If a formulation is true, then it can be proven
 - Soundness Any formulation used in the system is true

Paul Answers

- Paul addressed a group of Agnostics in Rom 1:18-25 who attempted to use logic to advance their belief, but refuse to look at the logic in what the scriptures teach.

¹⁸ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 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.

Paul's Position

- Paul's position is for us to use our ability to “think” and to reason!
- In Acts 17 Paul came to Thessalonica and “reasoned with them in the synagogue.” He would do the same in Athens a few days later.

²⁸ Since we are the offspring of God, we “ought not to think” that the Godhead is like gold, silver, or stone, artfully carved from man's imagination.

- Living human beings do not owe their origin to inert matter.
- Our Christian faith is not a “blind faith.” It is a faith that is rationally defensible. It is logical and self-consistent. It can make sense of what we experience in the world.

Thomas Aquinas' 5 Logical Proofs that God Exists

- Thomas Aquinas (an Italian theologian and philosopher in 1230 AD) provided 5 ways to know God exists.
 - **Motion:** Everyone can see things in the room move. Take furniture, for example. Chairs and tables do not move themselves. They move because a “mover” made them move. God is that “first mover” who put all motion into place in the Beginning.

<https://lifeteen.com/blog/are-you-there-god-5-ways-to-prove-god-exists/>



https://images.homedepot-static.com/productImages/852c35cf-37ee-4b04-8c48-8c7b66860574/svn/beige-cappuccino-coaster-dining-chairs-100773-64_1000.jpg

Thomas Aquinas' 5 Logical Proofs that God Exists

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 - **Cause and Effect:** Every effect has a cause. God is the first ultimate cause.

<https://lifeteen.com/blog/are-you-there-god-5-ways-to-prove-god-exists/>



http://www.giffdiary.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/domino_effect.jpg

Thomas Aquinas' 5 Logical Proofs that God Exists

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 - **Existence:** All physical things in the universe had to be created. Nothing can't become something. Who existed before the universe? God!

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Photo: shutterstock.com
<http://media.beliefnet.com/~media/photos-with-attribution/faiths/laminin/laminin4.jpg?as=1&w=400>

Thomas Aquinas' 5 Logical Proofs that God Exists

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 - **Design:** An oak tree was designed to grow only from an acorn. An arrow is an example. The arrow moves through the air and hits the target only because it is designed, built, and directed by an archer. Before creation, it was part of a tree. Once designed and created but left in the quiver, it would never move. For the universe, God is that archer. He is the designer and creator of everything in the universe.



Thomas Aquinas' 5 Logical Proofs that God Exists

- Thomas Aquinas (an Italian theologian and philosopher in 1230 AD) provided 5 ways to know God exists.
 - **Progression:** There is Good, Better, and Best. But, we can only say this if we know there is something out there that is “the absolute best”. God is that absolute best thing.



Thomas Aquinas' 5 Logical Proofs that God Exists

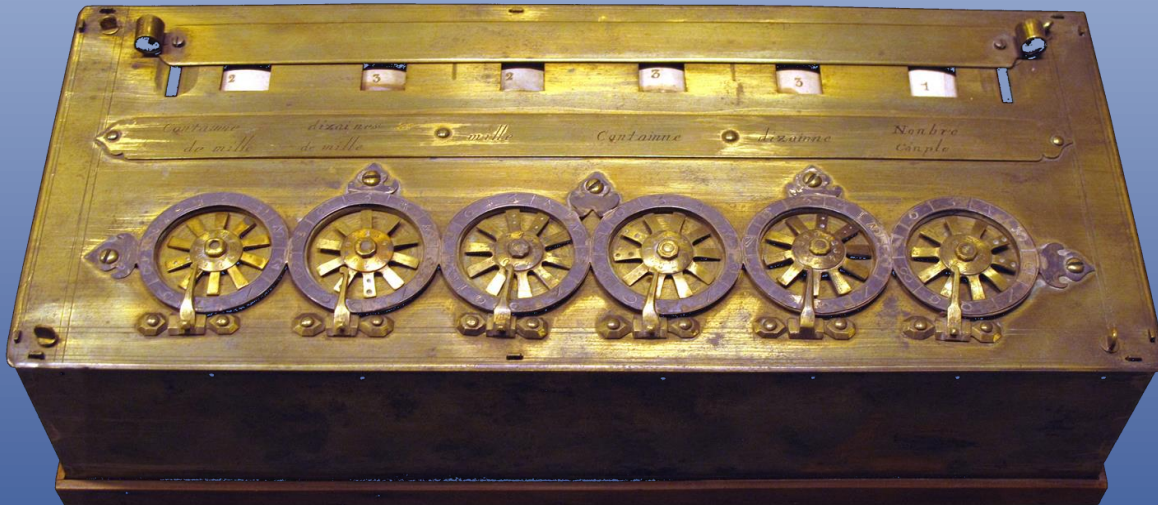
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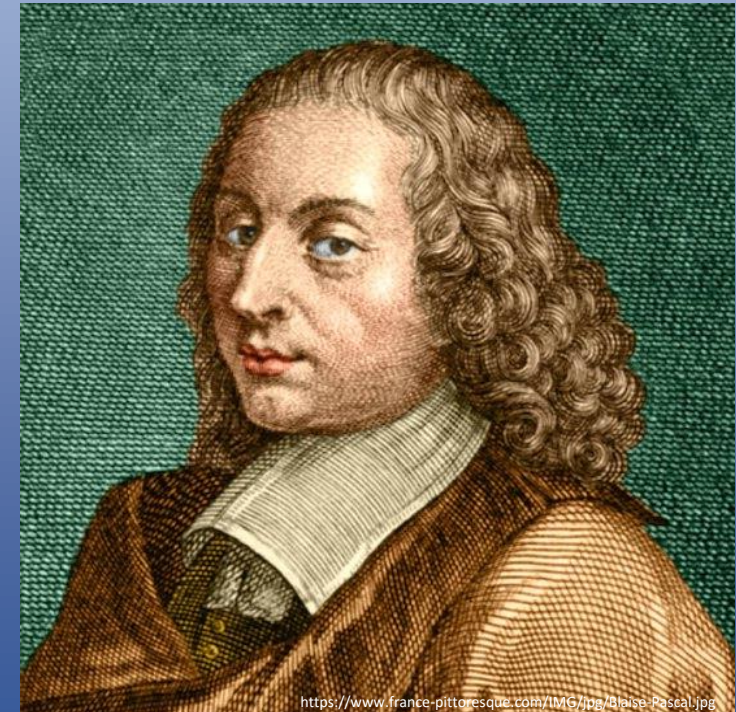


Blaise Pascal

- Pascal (1623-1662) was a French theologian, statistician, and physicist. He also was an inventor who at the age of 16 created and marketed one of the first mechanical counting (adding) machines.



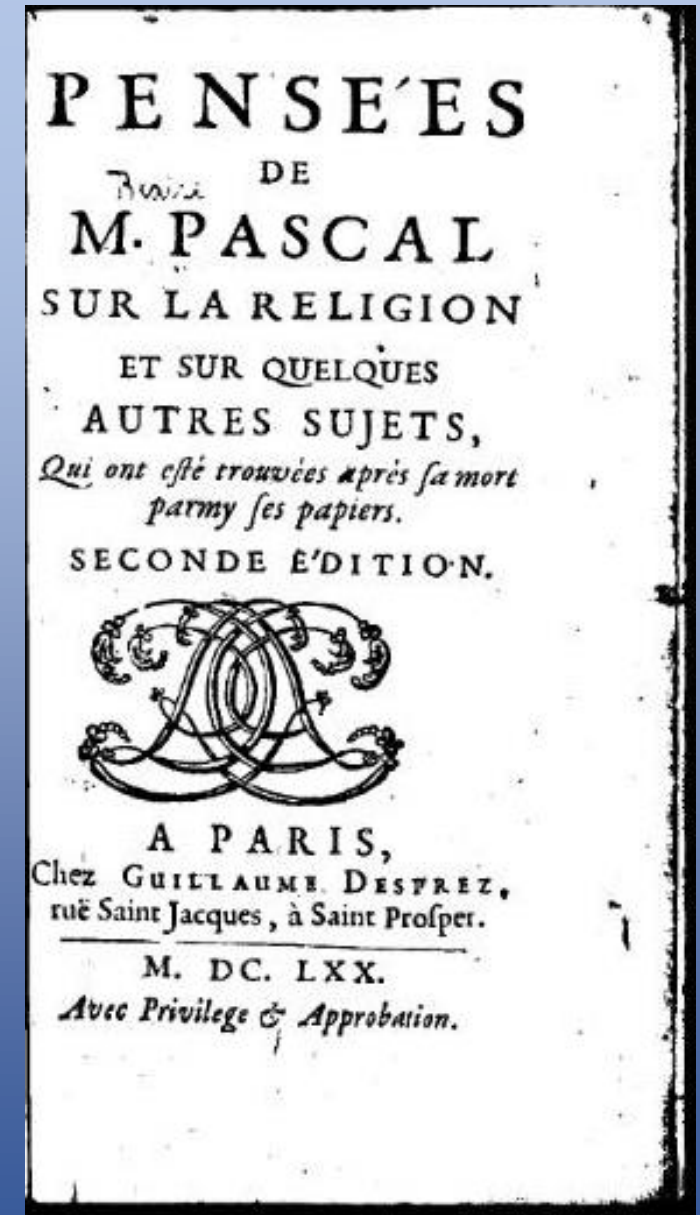
By Rama, CC BY-SA 3.0 fr, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=53246694>



<https://www.france-pittoresque.com/IMG/jpg/Blaise-Pascal.jpg>

Pascal's Wager

- In his *Pensées* (which means “Thoughts”), he explained his idea and wrote: “This is conclusive, and if men are capable of any truth, this is it.”
- It was Pascal's attempt to prove the implication of existence of God
- It uses logic to say that God's existence seems not to be absolutely proven because many reject the proof. But, what is better: To accept the possibility of His existence or deny it outright?



Blaise Pascal

An Anthropological Argument



What else does this craving and this helplessness proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself.

Blaise Pascal, Pensées VII, 1669, p. 425

What if?



http://assets.survivalinternational.org/pictures/10572/guarani-attack_screen.jpg

- You are visiting friends in a nearby farm close to your home
- You notice a fire that looks like it could be in your neighborhood
- In fact, it looks like it could be your house or your neighbor's
- What would you do?

What Would you Do?



- A) Ignore it and check on it later
- B) Leave immediately and rush home to save whatever you could

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- You notice a fire that looks like it could be in your neighborhood
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- What would you do?

What Would you Do?



- Your wife lies in bed with a terrible disease for which there is no cure
- A pharmaceutical company offers an opportunity for her to try a new drug
- But, the drug only has a 50/50 chance of working
- What if you discover the drug costs a tremendous sum to try because it is not yet on the market?
- Is it worth your life-savings to try it?
- Would it be reasonable to try?

What If...



- A) Sell everything and buy the drug
- B) Wait to see if she gets better

- Your wife lies in bed with a terrible disease for which there is no cure
- A pharmaceutical company offers an opportunity for her to try a new drug
- But, the drug only has a 50/50 chance of working
- What if you discover the drug costs a tremendous sum to try because it is not yet on the market?
- Is it worth your life-savings to try it?
- Would it be reasonable to try?

What If...



- A) Take the drug for free
- B) Wait to see if she gets better

- What if the drug company then offers the medicine to her for free?
- Would it then be unreasonable **not** to try it?

Suppose You're Asked to Play a Coin Flip Game

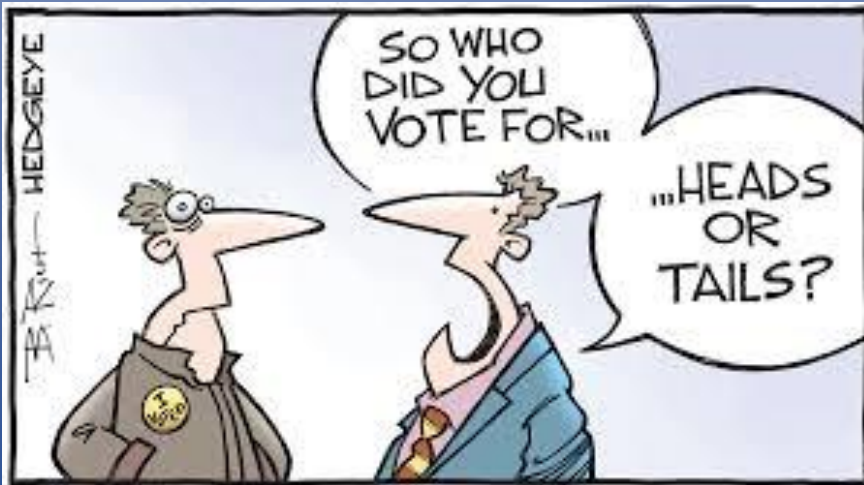
Rules

- Flipping a coin Heads/Tails
- To play costs \$1.00 per flip
- There is a 50/50 chance to win
- If you win, the payout is \$3.00
- If you lose, the payout is \$1.00

Buy In	State	Prob.	Payout	Win/Loss
-\$1.00	Heads	0.5	\$3.00	\$2.00
	Tails	0.5	\$1.00	\$0.00
Expected Value per Flip:				\$2.00

Should you Play?

- Yes, the odds are in your favor!
- No, the odds are against you
- No, gambling is sinning!



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Should you Play?

- **Yes, the odds are in your favor!**
- No, the odds are against you

Suppose You're Asked to Play a Coin Flip Game

Rule Change

- Flipping a coin Heads/Tails
- To play costs \$1.00 per flip
- There is a 50/50 chance to win
- If you win, the payout is only \$2.00
- If you lose, the payout is \$1.00

Buy In	State	Prob.	Payout	Win/Loss
-\$1.00	Heads	0.5	\$2.00	\$1.00
	Tails	0.5	\$1.00	\$0.00
Expected Value per Flip:				\$1.00

Should you Play?

- Yes, the odds are in your favor!
- No, the odds are against you

Suppose You're Asked to Play a Coin Flip Game

Rules

- Flipping a coin Heads/Tails
- To play costs \$1.00 per flip
- There is a 50/50 chance to win
- **If you win, the payout is \$2.00**
- If you lose, the payout is \$1.00

Buy In	State	Prob.	Payout	Win/Loss
-\$1.00	Heads	0.5	\$2.00	\$1.00
	Tails	0.5	\$1.00	\$0.00
Expected Value per Flip:				\$1.00

Should you Play?

- **Yes, the odds are in your favor!**
- No, the best to hope for is break-even

Remember Willy Wonka?

- Charlie bought a Wonka Bar with money his poor grandfather gave him
- His hopes were dashed when he opened it... no golden ticket!
- Later, in a very sad state, he walks down the street while mournful music plays in the background
- Then, he spies a quarter in a storm gutter
- He thinks of other more important things he *should* do with the money...
- But, he runs to a store to buy another bar
- Of course, the bar has the golden ticket!



Remember Willy Wonka?

- Why would Charlie risk his hard-earned (well, new-found) money?
- We are told there are only two bars somewhere that haven't been sold, and one has the golden ticket! Charlie does not know that.
- Charlie buys one bar for himself as he is about to leave the store, turns and buys a second bar to take home to his Grandfather.
- He didn't know he was buying the last two candy bars, one being the guaranteed winning candy bar!
- Would it have made a difference if he had known it was the last one and the guaranteed winner?



Pascal's Wager

- Should you believe in God?
- What is the Expected Payout?

	God Does Exist	God Does Not Exist
I Believe God Exists	A 1	B 0
I Do Not Believe God Exists	C -1	D 0

Pascal's Wager

A If you believe God exists and live a life according to that principle and He actually does exist, you're golden, gaining everything!

B If you believe God exists and live a life according to that principle and He actually does not exist, you've not lost anything!

C If you do not believe God exists and live a life according to that principle and He actually does exist, you've lost everything!

D If you do not believe God exists and live a life according to that principle, and He does not exist, you've not lost anything

	God Does Exist	God Does Not Exist
I Believe God Exists	A 1	B 0
I Do Not Believe God Exists	C -1	D 0

Is It Possible to Prove God Exists by Logic

- It is a reasonable assumption when you think about...
 - A “God shaped” hole in man’s heart that only He can fill
- It is a reasonable assumption that if He were to exist, it is logical to assume He would expect you to behave accordingly
 - What is the cost of assuming He does not exist if He actually does?
 - What is the cost of assuming He does exist, but not acting like it?
 - What would you lose if you said you don’t know, but acted as if he did?
 - What would you gain if he does exist and you acted accordingly?

In Pascal's Own Words...

You have two things to lose: the true and the good; and two things to stake: your reason and your will, your knowledge and your happiness; and your nature has two things to avoid: error and wretchedness.

Since you must necessarily choose your reason is no more affronted by choosing one rather than the other. That is one point cleared up.

But your happiness? Let us weigh up the gain and the loss involved in calling heads that God exists.

Let us assess the two cases:

if you win, you win everything

if you lose, you lose nothing

Do not hesitate then: wager that he does exist.