

Night of Apologetics

There is no real discipline that looks at all of the best explanations from all fields and considers them empirically and philosophically.

Atheists are some of the most brilliant minds on our planet. Never ever get caught saying they are dumb. They look at similar data sets and arrive at different conclusions. That's reasonable.

Where did the rules for truth come from?

What unspoken rules about the world do we follow void of reason?

"It is wrong, the nineteenth-century British mathematician W. K. Clifford affirmed, "always, everywhere, and for anyone, to believe anything upon insufficient evidence."

But...

I am guessing that Clifford believed what he wrote, but what evidence he had for his belief, he did not say.

Sam Harris- "to believe that God exists is to believe that I stand in some relation to his existence *such that his existence is itself the reason for my belief*"

But...

That's like saying to believe that a subatomic particle has mass, I need to be able to measure it. I don't. I know that a subatomic particle has mass because I CAN do 300 other tests to show that a SAP is matter and the principles of matter infer the weight of the SAP. So to say God is only real if he proves himself to me is a complete exaggeration of the burden of proof that we don't force on anything else.

The Church Murdered Galileo for his heliocentric views? The church hates science.

But...

No, he died under house arrest in a palace while continuing his research in 1642. He was a friend of the church for most of his life.

Haeckel's Diagrams show an obvious common ancestry

Diagrams were proven false decades ago, but they are still used in textbooks to promote evolution... why? According to one publisher, because they are cheap copyright-wise to reproduce. That's what it takes to make a textbook that teaches the masses about evolution and origins of species?

10 Questions, and Answers, about Evolution, NEW YORK TIMES, August 23, 2008

We need to doubt the things that we take for certain as Christians and non-Christians alike and do our due diligence to pursue truth.

1. On April 8, 1966 Time magazine carried a cover reading is God dead, a few years after this it had a new cover reading is God coming back to life. During the 1970s interesting philosophy of religion continue to grow in 1980 Time magazine read another story called modernizing the case for God and would you describe the movement among contemporary philosophers to bring back the argument of God's existence Time magazine wrote: in a quiet revolution in thought an argument that hardly anyone could've foreseen only two decades ago, God is making a comeback. Most intriguing Lee this is not happening among theologians ordinary believers but in the crisp intellectual circles of academic philosophers were the consensus had long banish the Almighty some fruit for discourse.

Newbigin postulated that as science continued to develop it would do away with religion, but that is not the case.

According to a American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) survey through Rice University 73% approx 3/4 scientists believe in a higher power, and 63% in the Judeo Christian God of the Bible. And scientists as opposed to their non scientific Christian counterparts are 12% more likely to take their faith seriously, practice regular worship etc.

A new genetic study shows that 90 percent of animals appeared on the Earth simultaneously and at the same time as humans. The study, published in the journal Human Evolution, examined the “DNA barcodes” from 100,000 animal species and showed that “nine out of 10 species on Earth today, including humans, came into being 100,000 to 200,000 years ago,” according to Phys.org.

The study’s conclusion goes against evolutionary theory.

“This conclusion is very surprising, and I fought against it as hard as I could,” researcher David Thaler of the University of Basel in Switzerland told AFP.

As Phys.org reported, the findings are “sure to jostle, if not overturn, more than one settled idea about how evolution unfolds.”

The research raised the possibility that a catastrophic event wiped out most of the life on Earth 100,000 to 200,000 years ago.

Nathaniel Jeanson, who hold a Ph.D. from Harvard and is a research biologist, added that “there’s a great danger to the evolutionary model in this study in ways they don’t quite realize yet.”

“The study suggests many, many species formed contemporaneously with modern human origins,” Jeanson said. “We know from mitochondrial DNA clocks that modern humans formed within the last 6,000 years. Therefore, this study implies that many, many species formed within the last 6,000 years.”

How we ought to approach a topic that delves into numerous fields of thought.

We begin from a position of methodological naturalism

- We need to satisfy the explanatory scope of the evidence
- Science does very little to satisfy this

Apologetics at its core, should not be complicated. We make it complicated.

Theoretical Apologetics vs. Practical apologetics

Why do we do apologetics?

1. Cultural Petri Dish for Evangelism
2. The Gospel is never heard in isolation
3. Strengthen the faith of believers
4. Pre-evangelism for the non believer
5. Ultimately, it makes the student of apologetics a deeper, well rounded, more interesting and provocative person.

What do we have to satisfy in a worldview?

1. Explanatory scope of
 - a. Design
 - b. Morality
 - i. “You might have noticed I didn’t use the problem of evil in my arguments here at all. That’s because contemporary Christian philosophers of religion, to their great credit, have largely dismantled the problem of evil. (Kevin Scharp – Dr. of Philosophy at Ohio State University)”
 - c. Cosmology
 - i. Scientific response – Penzias, BVG, Red light shift, etc.

- ii. Philosophical response – Impossible for infinite Past time
 - iii. If it is infinitely old, then an infinite amount of time would have to have elapsed before (say) today. And so an infinite number of days must have been completed—one day succeeding another, one bit of time being added to what went before—in order for the present day to arrive. But this exactly parallels the problem of an infinite task. If the present day has been reached, then the actually infinite sequence of history has reached this present point: in fact, has been completed up to this point—for at any present point the whole past must already have happened. But an infinite sequence of steps could never have reached this present point—or any point before it.
 - iv. So, either the present day has not been reached, or the process of reaching it was not infinite. But obviously the present day has been reached. So the process of reaching it was not infinite. In other words, the universe began to exist. Therefore, the universe has a cause for its coming into being, a Creator.
 - v.
 - 1. Uniformitarian thinking
 - a. The cosmic expansion, salt content, stars, usable energies, etc. Would all be impossible if it were infinite.
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- d. Existence
 - e. Mathematics
 - f. Experience
 - g. Bible