

Introduction: The Nature of Proof

The purpose of this book is not just to be uplifting, but finding truth should always be uplifting. This book is not intended to be exciting, except to the degree that learning a new truth should always be exciting. This book is an effort to reason from facts to a logical conclusion on several subjects necessary to prove Christianity to be true.

I will be using several principles of interpretation. These principles are so fundamental to all the reasoning in this book that I wanted to explain them in detail. If you disagree with any conclusions in this book please help me to know the truth more perfectly by showing me where my use of scripture and/or logic is faulty. But, if the product is true to the purpose, my conclusions will necessarily follow from the scriptures and logic presented.

When approaching the difficult and complex task of establishing and understanding the truth regarding the existence of God, wise people use a paradigm or model to assist in the process. This introduction is my attempt to explain the paradigm or model that I will be using.

Every search for the truth is started with preexisting assumptions. I have two:
1) Truth exists. 2) Truth is attainable.

The first assumption, Truth exists, is accepted for obvious reasons. If anyone denies that truth exists they would not even investigate the contents of this, or any other book. I will therefore discuss the next point.

Truth is attainable only as a result of effort in analyzing the evidence. Well, you might consider an exception to that rule. A person could just guess, without any evidence or proof, and just by accident choose a position that was true. Although this is possible, it is a totally unfulfilling experience, because if it happened, you would never really *know* that the position you held was, in reality, true. You can only *know* it is true if you can see and understand the evidence available that establishes that truth.

What is proof?

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The most fundamental idea in all persuasive communication is *proof*. When we try to establish something as being true we hopefully can offer enough evidence to *prove* our conclusion. But what exactly constitutes “proof”?

Proof is a relative term. Even our legal system recognizes this fact. Sometimes truth is established by “the preponderance of the evidence.” Other times truth must be established “beyond a reasonable doubt.” The point being that the quality and quantity of evidence needed to establish truth varies. Some things require only a little “proof.” Other things require more proof. For instance, if I met you on the street in Beijing and told you that I had just come from the airport where Hu Jintao was just arriving from an official trip abroad. You would probably believe me since you regard me as generally truthful person and his arrival at the airport is a fairly common occurrence. You might accept my statement as true with only my word as evidence. But if I told you in serious manner that I had seen the Chairman Mao at the airport, that would probably take a little more proof before you accepted it a true! The amount of proof needed to establish truth varies considerably.

The common sense likelihood of a statement being true plays a big part in determining how much evidence is needed to actually accept that statement as truth. If I tell you something that is in agreement with common knowledge or is frequently observable in nature, it would probably not require much more proof than my simple assertion. This agreement with common sense is why little more evidence is needed. Some things, by their very nature, simply require more proof than others.

The consequence of a conclusion is another thing that makes the quality and quantity of evidence needed for proof relative. If I told you that it was raining outside, again my word might be enough for you to accept my statement as true and even cause you to put on a raincoat before going outside. But, if I told you that you must leave the country immediately because an assassin had been hired to kill you, you might want a little more evidence before acting on my suggestion. Because the consequences of your decision would have a great effect on your future, more evidence would be required. Generally speaking the greater the personal consequences the more evidence required to *prove* the point.

When we accept some *religious* teaching as true, it should effect our lives in some fashion. Every truth should change our actions *or* *thinking* to some

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degree. In trying to decide how much evidence we need before we accept a *religious idea* as truth, we must establish another axiom, namely:

No proof is absolute.

I mean “absolute” in the strictest and most literal sense. I say this because almost all reasoning is subject to the human senses, and we all know how easy it is to fool our senses or simply make a mistake. This is demonstrated in our courtrooms every day. As an example of the non-absoluteness of any proof consider this idea. It is not possible to prove, absolutely, that the woman you have always respected as your mother, really is. Please don’t misunderstand. I’m sure she really is your mother. I’m just trying to make a point. All the written documentation in the world could be forged. Though it is not likely, it is possible that all the documentation about your mother was forged.

What about DNA? Good question. We sometimes forget that DNA is such strong evidence, not because it is absolute, but because the probability of accuracy is so high. But it is still probability and not absolute proof. It is just that when the probability gets to be so high the courts, *and any reasonable person*, accepts the amount of proof available as **being enough** to establish truth.

But that is exactly the point. The proof you have accepted is enough but not absolute. Every decision we make is based on enough proof, not absolute proof. For instance it is generally accepted by the scientific community that no test is available that can prove with 100% certainty that a man or woman is the biological parent of a given child. There are a little less than 25,000 genes in human DNA. DNA testing can establish paternity within 99.9% certainty (depending on the samples). Normally, when an admissible court test is validated, accuracy of 99% or greater is accepted by the courts, *and most reasonable people*, as enough to “prove” paternity.

Please understand, I am not, ... repeat “**not**”, arguing for a constant state of indecision, doubt or ambiguity. Accepting certain statements as true based on *enough* evidence, given the common sense likelihood and the consequences of the statement being true, and *acting* on those statements we accept as true is the position I am proposing.

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Simply because we have told ourselves that we have enough evidence, doesn't necessarily mean that we really do. The only way to be sure is to love the truth and know that we love it enough to change our beliefs and/or our actions when the evidence warrants.

Summary: In discussing the nature of proof we stated two presuppositions: 1) Truth exists and 2) truth is attainable. We call these *presuppositions* because the limited scope of this book will not allow proving them. Even if you deny one or both of these, I request that you continue to read with an open mind. It could still prove advantageous.

The amount of evidence needed to establish truth is variable. The common sense likelihood of a position being true is a very important part of deciding how much evidence is required for proof. The consequences of a position being true is another contributing factor in determining the quality and quantity of evidence required in establishing truth. Our efforts in attaining truth are based on the axiom: Proof is never absolute.

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Many believers today have been led by the scientific community to believe that the existence of God cannot be proven. In order to discuss this subject it is imperative that the reader be acquainted with the material discussed in the Introduction of this book regarding the nature of proof. Understanding the meaning of “proof” is a prerequisite to accepting the conclusion of this chapter that the existence of God has been proven by the evidence presented.

This chapter will present only three arguments to prove that God exists. They are: (I) The Logical Argument, (II) The Moral Argument, (III) The Emotional Argument. Each argument is sufficient in and of itself to prove the existence of God, but taken together they are irrefutable and overwhelming. In Appendix 1a we will discuss the question often asked by the Skeptic or Atheist: “Who created God?” In Appendix 1b we will discuss a question frequently asked by the nonbeliever and even misunderstood by some believers. How can a good and loving God allow the existence of such a terrible place as Hell? This appendix is labeled “Loving God vs. The Horrors of Hell .”

(I) The Logical Argument for the existence of God:

The following diagram is divided into six steps, starting with the simple fact that the universe exists.

Each succeeding step offers a choice of two possibilities. One of these choices *must* be correct and only one *can* be correct. In the context of each step there is no other option. Any person who is interested in being logical and consistent must believe one of the two options offered at each step. Any person interested in following the evidence to the truth will choose the option with the best evidence.

Step 1. THE UNIVERSE EXISTS.

Step 2. *Did the universe have....*

A Beginning OR No Beginning? **1) Law of Heat Transfer**
2) Expanding Universe
3) Fuel for the Stars

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Step 3. Was the beginning:

Caused OR Not caused?

The most basic law of science:
“For every effect there is a cause”

Step 4. Since only a “force” can cause an effect, what kind of force caused the universe? Either:

a Thinking
Force

OR

a Non-Thinking
Force

Some examples of
non-thinking forces are:

- 1) gravity, 2) magnetism,**
- 3) wind, 4) Atomic forces,**
- 5) electricity, tide, flood,**
- 6) etc.....**

Which non-thinking forces created: life, love, initiative, creativity, desire to worship, truth, good, evil, spontaneity, dreams, etc.

All known non-thinking forces only exist IN a universe. They require matter to exist. They cannot exist outside of a universe. Therefore, these forces could not have created the universe.

Step 5. Therefore a thinking force created the universe. I have a name for this force: GOD!

Step 6. God exists. Did he have a beginning or no beginning?

An explanation of the above diagram follows. See also a condensed chart at the end of this book. Please cut out or copy this chart. Memorize it or keep it with you at all times. It is very powerful and effective for proving and confirming your faith in the existence God.

Step 2 of the logical argument for the existence of God. The universe we live in does exist! Did it have (1) a beginning or (2) no beginning. If you choose (2) then you must give your evidence for that position. Since there is no evidence that the universe had “no beginning,” because you can’t prove a negative, a person should at least rethink his position. The following four reasons (identified as A, B, C, D) are given as evidence to support option (1) that the universe had a beginning.

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A) Common sense and all scientific observation tell us that everything has a beginning. All human experience would support this observation.

B) The second reason for believing that the universe had a beginning is The Law of Heat Transfer. The Second Law of Thermodynamics says that heat always flows from hotter to colder regions in an irreversible manner. Every heat source is losing its heat to the colder regions around it. This law of science is easily understood because it is seen every day and is in complete harmony with common sense. We see a fire in a fireplace and feel the heat flowing from the fireplace into the room. The heat that is in the room never flows into the fireplace, unless, of course, the fire goes out and the fireplace becomes colder than the room. This law applies to every heat source.

One practical application of this law is that as all heat sources lose their heat they are tending toward the same temperature as the environment around them. This, of course, includes all the stars of the universe. In his essay "The Little Heat Engine: Heat Transfer in solids, liquids and Gases" Max Planck, who developed quantum theory, says "In the real universe therefore, all of the matter is simultaneously trying to reach *thermal equilibrium*. The 2nd law of thermodynamics is governing this flow of heat." He further says "As for the stars, they become other local heat engines, in a universe constantly striving for *thermal equilibrium*." Thermal equilibrium is reached when all things have the same temperature.

In summary, the 2nd law of thermodynamics says that given enough time all things will be the same temperature. If the universe had no beginning, it has had enough time for all parts of it to be the same temperature! Since all parts of the universe are not the same temperature, it has not existed forever, therefore the universe had a beginning!

C) The third reason for believing that the universe had a beginning is that the universe is expanding. This expansion is isotropic, that is, expanding in every direction. There are many galaxies that are so far from us that we cannot see them with the naked eye. If there is no beginning then the universe has been expanding forever. If it has been expanding forever, all galaxies would be so far away we could not see any of them with the naked eye or even a telescope. Since this is not true, the universe has not been expanding forever; therefore, the universe must have had a beginning.

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A corollary to this argument is: if the universe is expanding outward uniformly, where were all those stars 1000 years ago? They were closer together than they are today. Where were all the stars 5000 years ago? They were even closer together. Somewhere between 12 billion and 22 billion years ago, logic (and science) dictates that all the mass was in the same place. At this point there are only two possibilities: a) All this mass had been in this condition forever or b) This is the point in time when the mass was created and began to expand, as if in an explosion.

If you choose to believe a) above, you are believing something about nature for which there is no scientific evidence. You are also choosing a position about nature that is not accepted by the scientific community. Also, if you choose to believe a) you must then postulate a cause for the *explosion* that started the expansion. This, also, must be done without any evidence from the scientific community.

Both common sense and science support the idea that the universe had a beginning and immediately began to expand as if in an explosion.

D) The fourth reason for believing that the universe had a beginning is the fuel source for the Stars. Every second our sun fuses 661 million tons of Hydrogen, yielding 657 million tons of Helium, plus 4 million tons of matter as energy in the form of electromagnetic radiation, which includes visible light. Each and every star uses up its Hydrogen in this same way. There is no way in nature to replenish this Hydrogen and there is no other energy production of any kind that can fuel stars. If the universe had no beginning then it has been here forever, which is enough time to have used up all the Hydrogen in the universe. Since all the hydrogen in the universe has not been used up by the stars, the universe must have had a beginning.

These are but four reasons used to prove that the universe had a beginning but they are sufficient for any person who respects the laws of science, logic and common sense.

In the summer of 2004 I had occasion to present this evidence to a group of Chinese students attending Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. There were from eight to ten (out of about 25) students who had their Ph.D. degree in various sciences. At that meeting I only had time to present the law of heat transfer to support the beginning of the universe. Not one person questioned the use of this law to prove that the universe had a beginning. This

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is such a basic law in science that no one doubted or questioned the law or how I had used it.

Step 3 of the logical argument for the existence of God. Since the universe had a beginning, was it caused or not caused? If someone says it was not caused, they must give the evidence for that position. Since it is impossible to prove a negative, i.e. that something was not caused, it is reasonable to examine the alternative position. There is much evidence that everything, including the universe and all its parts, was caused. Everything in our experience was caused. Everything we read about or think about was caused. And in addition to that there is a law of science which says "For every effect, there is a cause!" All science is based on this law. To deny it is to deny all of the science which proceeds from it! Since rejecting all science is a totally untenable position I think it is reasonable to conclude that the universe was caused. Therefore, there was a beginning to the universe and it was caused!

In discussing this point with a young Graduate Student in Guangzhou, China, he commented "No cause, no beginning." It cannot be said with more clarity.

Step 4 of the logical argument for the existence of God. Since only a force of some type can cause an effect, was this force that caused the universe a "thinking force" or a "non thinking force?" To help understand this question let's make a list of "non thinking" forces. I suggest gravity and magnetism to start. These are definitely forces and are "non-thinking." We could add to this list of non-thinking forces: wind, tide, atomic strong and weak forces, lightning, electricity, and, in reality, any natural force because all natural forces are non-thinking. As we look at all these non-thinking forces we must ask; which one, or combination of these forces caused the universe?

First, the immediate answer is none of them because the universe itself is a *prerequisite* to the existence of any of these forces. You can't have the weak and strong atomic forces without first having atoms. You can't have electricity without electrons. You can't have gravity without matter, etc. None of the natural forces can exist without the universe, therefore, these non-thinking forces could not have created the universe which they themselves require before they can exist.

Second, if non-thinking forces created the universe they must also be the cause of *all* parts of the universe. What about such things as: life, love, initiative, capacity and desire to worship, and many other characteristics of life? If these

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things are not the product of one, or some combination of the non-thinking forces, then some thinking force outside the universe had to exist to cause them. If non-thinking forces did not "cause" these characteristics then non-thinking forces cannot rationally be considered the cause of the universe.

Which of these non-thinking forces or combination of these forces created or can explain life? If someone thinks that "Yes, some of these forces DID indeed cause life," he should examine carefully the evidence that leads him to this conclusion. If you cannot think of any evidence that causes you to believe that some natural forces "caused" life, you are not alone. No scientist has any evidence of it either. It is just a hope or "faith" of some people that "natural" forces caused life. But there is no evidence to support this conclusion.

On the other hand, all the evidence of science and all of our experiences say that only life can produce life. Life never comes from non-life. Why then would some people want to say that in this one case life came from non-life when there is absolutely NO evidence to support that contention.

A few years ago I was presenting this argument, that life cannot come from non-life, to an atheist Physics professor at a University in Guangzhou, China. I was in his office, at his chalk board, putting the logical argument for the existence of God on the board. When we got to this point he said "Yes, life came from non-life." I bowed politely and handed him the chalk, saying "please present your evidence." I stood there with head bowed and hands extended for him to take the chalk and put his evidence on the board. Silence reigned. We were both motionless. Finally he looked down at the floor and said "No evidence!" To which I politely concurred.

Oh, but maybe in the future science will prove that life came from non-life. Maybe, but we must make our decisions based on what we know, not on what we hope or fear will happen. Otherwise we wouldn't leave the house because it "might" rain, or we might be hit by lightening, or be shot, or...etc. We would not do ANYTHING because of what "might" happen! In every other phase of our life we make decision based on the facts as we know them at the time. I suggest that we use the same procedure in this case. If and when science offers some evidence that life came from non-life, email me and we will talk about it. Until then we must base our beliefs and our actions on what we know!

All the things said about life can be applied to any of the nonphysical characteristics mentioned above, i.e. love, initiative, capacity and desire to

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worship, etc. If we want to be consistent with common sense, logic and science we must conclude that the force that caused the universe could not be a non-thinking force. Therefore, we must conclude that only a thinking force could have caused the universe.

Step 5 of the logical argument for the existence of God. I have a name for this thinking force.....GOD!

Some have responded that it is obvious that a thinking force created the universe, but why necessarily call that force “God”? Well, what should we call this thinking force? If another name is thought to be best let us try, say “XYZ.” In the following chapters we will prove that the man Jesus was indeed the Son of God (or XYZ) and as such we must obey him. In chapter three we will prove that the Bible is the word of God (or XYZ), therefore we must obey what it says. The Bible and Jesus both call this force “God.” In addition to that, why make up a new word to represent an idea that the word “God” already represents?

Step 6 of the logical argument for the existence of God. Did God have a beginning or no beginning? How do we decide? We have just proven that God created the universe, therefore he lives outside the universe. I have only two things to say about this question: 1) What kind or type of evidence could be presented that would confirm either possibility? What physical, philosophical scientific or logical evidence could be conceived that would establish either possibility as correct? Since God is infinite and lives outside time and space and we are limited to a finite time-and-space life, it is impossible to offer proof about God’s eternity. 2) What difference does it make? He is the same God whether or not He had a beginning. (Please see appendix 1a at the end of the chapter.)

(II) The Moral Argument for the existence of God.

The only alternative to the belief in the existence of God is atheism. If atheism is true then there is no absolute morality. All morality would then be the arbitrary choice of each person.

If there is no God then ***Might makes right.*** Whoever has the biggest fist or the biggest gun determines what is right. In this case there is no absolute “right” or “wrong.” There is only what is convenient or inconvenient. If *might makes right* then the Nazis were just as “right” to eliminate six million Jews as the

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Red Cross is in feeding the hungry. Yes, it is true that feeding the hungry is much more helpful and much less painful but you can't say it's "right," because you can't even define right without an absolute standard with which to compare it.

Without God, all of our most basic concepts of good, i.e. caring for the elderly, feeding the hungry, protecting children, providing treatment to those who are ill, are just relative ideas that can change with the circumstances and individual choice.

If you reject the idea that *might makes right* as abhorrent, then you must believe in God, because God is the only alternative to a purely relative and ambiguous morality.

Most people haven't stopped to think that only a belief in a supreme being gives justification to all that is good in the world. Without God the whole idea of good and evil are just that, ideas. One idea is just as valid as any other. Without God, order in society is only kept by force and for no good reason except maybe to reduce pain and/or inconvenience for the majority. But if this is a sufficient reason for action then when any disease breaks out the best and "right" solution is just to kill and burn the bodies of everyone who has the disease, or has been exposed to it, in order to reduce further contamination.

There is a sense within man that makes this very logical conclusion abhorrent. Every Atheist, of course, does not have to accept these *actions*, but they are forced to accept the *logic*. They must accept the idea that all morality is relative, there are no absolutes. Under the correct set of circumstances any action, and I repeat *any* action could be acceptable and considered "good."

It is a fact that the concepts of right and wrong are valid concepts that really exist. It is also a fact that at least some of these concepts exist absolutely, i.e. some things are right (or wrong) under *any* circumstances. If you agree with both of these statements then you must believe in God because God is the necessary implication of the existence of any absolute moral standard.

I reject Atheism because it is unproven and *unprovable*. And I reject the logic which necessarily follows from it.

(IV) The Emotional Argument for the existence of God.

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To justify using emotion in determining the existence of God, I must tell you a story that actually happened to me and my wife while teaching in China.

In the basement of the city library, I was presenting the Logical Argument for the Existence of God to a group of young Chinese college students. Peter was one of those students. He made several objections to some of the things I said during the presentation. Although most of the students didn't object, Peter did. After that talk I asked Peter to come to our apartment for further discussions.

After several weeks he came. Because of the time lapse I decided to give the same argument again. He asked several questions, which I answered. This personal presentation took about an hour. I asked if he had any more questions. He said "No." I asked if he understood all that I said. "Yes." This was easy to believe because he had two Master's degrees in scientific fields. Then he said "You know, Mr. Baird. I don't believe in God." Undaunted, I ask him to return next week for more evidence. He was happy to oblige.

The next week I presented The Moral Argument for the Existence of God. Again it took about an hour. Again he understood, had no questions and said "You know, Mr. Baird I don't believe in God." I asked him to return the following week and he did. Five different weeks I presented him with five arguments that prove the existence of God. At the end of each week he said the same thing, that he had no question, that he understood everything but still didn't believe in God. At the end of the five weeks he said he had to go to Beijing to visit his family. As he left he asked "Can I come back to see you when I return from Beijing?" Of course I said "yes." But I wondered "*why?*" He was very well educated and understood all the evidence. He did not dispute any of the evidence. I wondered why he wanted to return. My wife and I talked and prayed a lot during the time he was visiting his family. I told my wife "Since science and logic didn't convince him, when he returns I will be completely emotional."

Peter called and came over. After a few minutes of small talk he said "You know, Mr. Baird. I don't believe in God." I looked him straight in the eye and said soberly "I hope you are right!.... Because if you are wrong you will spend eternity in Hell. But, if there is no God, when a Christian dies he won't even know that he was wrong, because if there is no God, there is no afterlife."

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We opened our Bibles (I had given him one earlier) to Luke 16:19 and read about the rich man and Lazarus. 19 ¶ *"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. 20 At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores 21 and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. 24 So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' 25 "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' 27 "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, 28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' 29 "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' 30 "'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' 31 "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"*

I pointed out to him that Hell was a place of torment and agony and that it would last forever! I talked about what it was like to simply burn a finger and compared it to being burned over the whole body. I read Rev. 20:10, 15 where those in the "lake of fire" would be tormented day and night for ever and for ever. And that his companions would be the most vile people who ever lived. And worst of all, I think, was that he would be able to see across the great divide and see and realize what he had missed (Luke 16:23), forever and forever and

I told him as a Christian I live a good life, I have happiness, have good people as friends, have purpose in my life, am confident and full of hope, anxiously awaiting the after life of comfort and blessings. I read Rev. 21:4. God, himself, will wipe away every tear from my eyes, there will be no more pain, crying, mourning or death. A state of bliss for ever and forever. But if I am wrong and there is no God, I will not even know it, because in the after life there is nothing. But if he was wrong he would suffer for all eternity.

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Peter became uncomfortable and changed the subject. So we talked about other things for a while. Then he said out of the blue “You know, Mr. Baird. I don’t believe in God.” I looked at him solemnly and said “I hope you are right.” And repeated all that I had said before about heaven and hell. I used every graphic example I could think of for both hell and heaven.

Again he changed the subject, and I let him. We again talked of other things. For the third time that night he said “You know, Mr. Baird. I don’t believe in God.” And for the third time I repeated all the details I could think of about the after life. This time when I finished, he had to leave. But at the door he said an amazing thing “I’m going to Beijing again, can I come back to see you when I return.” Of course I said “Yes.” But I certainly wondered why he wanted to come again.

I found out later that he had returned to our city several weeks before he called me. When he called we talked about his trip for a minute or two then he said “Mr. Baird.....” “Yes Peter what is it?” “Mr. Baird, I think I think ... I must give up my struggle against God!” A few days later we immersed him in water for the remission of his sins in compliance with instructions in Acts 2:38, Romans 6:3-4 and Mark 16:15-16.

Yes, God knows it is preferable to be motivated by love and to use evidence and logic to reach your conclusions, and use these conclusions to serve God. But He also knows that some of us need to see the details of hell in order to make that momentous life change to serve Him.

Summary:

If all this evidence is not enough to cause you to believe in God, how much is required? For instance, how much evidence do you have to have to accept the only other alternative; atheism?

As a corollary to the emotional argument I offer this: Why live your whole life based on a position that has not been proven, and is *not provable*? Why hold a position that you know is not proved and is not provable? Whether you accept this axiom or not it is still true: It is impossible to prove a negative! Especially this one. Unless you know *Everything* you cannot know there is no God, because the one thing you don’t know might be that there is a God. Unless you can be everywhere at the same time you cannot know that there is no God,

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because the one place where you are not might be the place where God is. You would have to become God in order to know that there is no God.

Every aspect of our life is, or should be, influenced by this one belief: God exists. Oh yes, I know, there are many people whose lives are inconsistent, they say they believe in God, but live their lives as if there is no God. There are others who say they do not believe in God but live their lives as good, honest, kind and sincere people, acting like believers should act. Although their actions are good, they cannot have the greatest benefits of a Christian life such as spiritual hope and confidence. But if your life is consistency with your beliefs, the belief in God or disbelief in God, will influence every aspect of your life.

All this evidence just proves what Paul said in Romans 1:20 *“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 men are without excuse.*

God offers you hope, confidence, purpose in your life, peace of mind, and freedom from guilt. He offers all these things in this life and heaven in the next. You now have the evidence, what will you do with it?

Appendix 1a - “Who created God?”

Usually, *but not always*, the question “Who created God?” is not asked with a serious desire to know the answer. It is often asked only to try to stop a discussion based on evidence. It is usually asked to try to divert the discussion to something that is not at all practical. You can usually disarm the person with one or more of the following suggested answers.

1) Nobody created God.. God has always been. Say it casually and then just wait for the next question. Sometimes the next question is: “If you believe God has always been, why can't I believe the universe has always been?” No one can believe that the universe has always existed and accept science at the same time because all the scientific evidence forces us to believe the universe had a beginning. There is no corresponding evidence to prove that God had a beginning.

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2) Since it is impossible to prove a negative, i.e. that God *did not* have a cause or beginning, give me your evidence that God had a beginning or was created and we will discuss it.

3) If you think God was created then I ask “Who created the being who created God?” If you can't believe in God unless you know who created him, then I don't believe in the existence of the being who you say created God unless you can tell me who that is and also who created the force that created God.

4) If I could give absolute proof of who created God, would you then follow him? If no, then why discuss it? If yes, why not follow him anyway? He is the same God, whether or not He was created or had a beginning.

Appendix 1bA Loving God vs. The Horrors of Hell

How can a God who has infinite love for us allow such a place as Hell to exist? This is one of the most common questions asked by those who want to denigrate or marginalize God. Even some who are Christians can't seem to harmonize these two ideas.

In God's dealings with man He will always follow certain principles of fairness, requiring individuals to be responsible for their actions and imposing punishment with relative severity.

Being treated fairly and accepting the responsibility for our own actions are ideas common to all mankind. Another prevalent idea among all societies is that the severity of the punishment should be proportional to the severity of the societal violation.

Everyone wants to be treated fairly, meaning that we all want the rules applied to everyone with the same degree scrutiny and severity. This is a human trait found in every society, in every place and in every time period. Since this trait is common in all men, it is concluded that this trait comes from God, which implies God also has this trait and will implement this policy in all His actions. The most important support for this idea comes from the Bible.

The concept that each person should accept the responsibility for his or her actions is as widespread as the desire to be treated fairly. Since this idea is universal it too can be thought of as being from God, implying that all His actions will be in harmony with this principle. The Bible teaches this concept

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throughout its pages. God will see to it that each individual accepts the responsibility and the consequences for his actions.

The need and actual implementation of variable punishment is also seen in all societies. No society punishes every violation by putting to death the violator. Everyone will recognize that cutting off both hands for any and every crime is not reasonable. In every civilization there are different punishments for different violations of the rules. The Bible teaches this principle in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. God will respect this principle in all His dealings with mankind. He demonstrates this when He disciplines us, Hebrews 12:5-11, especially verse 11.

In our effort to understand how God, who loves us, can also prescribe the punishment of Hell, we must consider several facts that prove God has done everything He possibly could to *help* us stay out of Hell. If we can prove this beyond a reasonable doubt then we can confidently affirm the concepts of fairness, accepting responsibility for our actions and the idea of relative punishment not only justify the existence of Hell, they demand it.

First, God also prescribed the blessings of Heaven if we follow His will. Then He set up the laws of nature and human nature so all of us have the opportunity to spend eternity in Heaven. God wants everyone to be saved, John 3:16, Acts 17:30, 1 Timothy 2:4. He makes the realities of Hell so extremely horrendous and the realities of Heaven so awesomely wondrous and both so perfectly clear in order to motivate us to obey him. God does all these things to underscore the importance of the consequences of following or rejecting His laws.

Second, He used His prophets during the entire time of human existence to tell the people how to live to be happy in this life and have Heaven in the next life by obeying Him. The same prophets warned of disaster for disobedience. God gave us examples to help us understand the severity of the punishment, i.e. Jeremiah chapter 22, the flood in Noah's time (Genesis 6-9), Sodom and Gomorrah in Abraham's time (Genesis 18-19) and Hebrews chapter 12. These Old Testament examples are referred to several times in the New Testament. I give only three verses for your consideration:

2 Peter 2:5 if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; 6 if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;

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Jude 1:7 In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

The severity of these examples are a warning from God to us. God has always blessed His followers and punished His enemies. This consistency on His part should teach us a retribution will always follow disobedience.

Third, knowing we were a forgetful people, He wrote it all down for us to ponder and apply to our lives. He even inspired the writings so The Book would be perfect in every word in the original manuscripts. He even protected the manuscripts so there would be plenty of evidence to convince every open-minded person that the writings were in fact from God. He saw to it that this book was complete and would give us all the information we needed for every good work, 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Any question about God, living in this life, or preparation for the next life was given in such a manner that we could understand it, 2 Corinthians 1:13. This Book plainly tells us the details about Hell.

Fourth, He put His Spirit in us to help us understand, 1 Corinthians 2:12-14. His indwelling Spirit helps us as we strive to serve Him (Romans 8). This assistance from the Spirit is just another way God helps us to have a joyous life here and instills in us the hope of Heaven. This indwelling Spirit is a guarantee of what is to come, encouraging us to obey God to guarantee our position in Heaven and the avoidance of Hell.

2 Corinthians 1:22 set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

2 Corinthians 5:5 Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Ephesians 1:13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession— to the praise of his glory.

Fifth, Prayer. We can talk to God anytime for as long as we want. He is always there for us. Not only will He listen, He will answer. This idea is so important we must read, believe and meditate on the following scriptures.

John 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

John 14:14 If ye shall ask anything in my name, that will I do.

John 15:16 Ye did not choose me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that ye should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should abide: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

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John 16:23 And in that day ye shall ask me no question. Verily, verily, I say unto you, if ye shall ask anything of the Father, he will give it you in my name.

John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be made full.

John 16:26 In that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for You;

These are just the verses from John. There are many others telling us God will answer our prayers. Think about how important this one attribute of God is for our peace of mind, confidence, hope, encouragement, and guidance on our way to Heaven.

He promises to give us wisdom if we ask in prayer and faith, James 1:5-8. This wisdom will assist us in understanding His word and help us as we decide how to live our lives and serve him, constantly looking forward to our home in Heaven and the avoidance of Hell.

When God decides to answer “yes” to a prayer request, *at least one* of the following things must happen:

1) Something happens (rain, good health, etc.) that would not have happened without the prayer,

2) Something does not happen (drought, sickness, death, etc.), that would have happened without the prayer,

3) Someone does, thinks, or says something that the person would not have done, thought or said without the prayer,

or

4) Someone does not do, think, or say something that the person would have done, thought or said without the prayer.

If none of these four things happened, then how could God have had a part in the outcome? If He had no part in the outcome, how can we say He answered our prayer. This is another way in which God helps us to remain faithful in this life and stay out of Hell in the next life.

Sixth, God’s promises. He tells us not to worry about material things, He will take care of us.

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Matthew 6:31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

You simply must meditate on this passage to realize its importance. If we but put Him first He will take care of our physical needs. Taking care of our physical needs in this life is but one more way God is assuring us He keeps His promises and will also take care of us in the afterlife.

Another great promise is God's forgiveness. No matter how bad we have been, if we repent and obey Him, He will forgive us! Afterwards He holds no grudges, takes no revenge, "will remember our sins no more" (Hebrews 8:12,10:17), and gives great rewards... all of these things in this life and Heaven in the next!!

Another great promise is God will protect us from the evil one. We don't need to fear that the devil will "get us" and force us to do wrong. Paul says God will protect us: "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Another great promise is that his commands are not burdensome. Yes, we must obey His commands, but, all his commands are designed for our good.

1 John 5:3 "This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome."

This doesn't mean all His commands are easy to obey. This verse teaches that each and every command is designed for our benefit. Our obedience to each one contributes to the hope, purpose, confidence and comfort in our lives so we can have the joyous life He desires for us on earth. This same obedience will be rewarded with Heaven in the afterlife and assure our absence from Hell.

Seventh, both Jesus and the Holy Spirit intercede to God on our behalf.

Romans 8:26 ¶ And in like manner the Spirit also helpeth our infirmity: for we know not how to pray as we ought; but the Spirit himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered; ... 34 who is he that condemneth? It is Christ Jesus that died, yea rather, that was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

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Both Christ and the Holy Spirit are our advocates, pleading our case before the Father, asking for God's blessing to help us in this life, and correcting the imperfections in our prayers. All of this makes up the difference between what we should be and what we are and to assist us to attain the afterlife of Heaven.

Eighth, the church. God created us. God knew and knows what we need. We need a group support system. The church is it. The church is our new family in Christ. Each of us is a member of it like each part of our physical body is a part of our one body. The many members of the church are like the many parts of our physical body, together they form one spiritual body as Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 12:11-31. In this passage Paul points out how we all belong to the one body of Christ. This fits naturally into the psychological need of everyone. We need to belong to some group whose purpose is bigger and greater than ourselves. Each member of the group can offer support and encouragement in times of need. Without the church we would be alone and we simply couldn't make it in this world of "sin, sickness and sorrow" without the guidance, companionship, and kindness of our brothers and sisters. All of this is yet another demonstration of God's love, helping to guide us in this life and reward us in the next. Just another effort to keep us out of Hell.

Ninth, God shows His love for us even in how He created the universe. He created it as a sign, a flag, a demonstration of His intelligence so that even an uneducated person could know His divine qualities by just looking at the world around him. No reasonable person can observe the universe and conclude that it all happened by chance. Paul puts it this way in the first chapter of Romans: *"18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men 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 men are without excuse."*

Tenth, The greatest proof of all that God has done everything possible to help us attain Heaven and avoid Hell in the afterlife: -- Jesus, His only son!!! Probably the best known and most loved scripture in all the Bible is: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).*

The very reason He gave His son was so that "whoever" (anybody at all) may not perish! Think of that. God did this for us!!! For the very purpose of keeping us out of Hell. Just think of all Jesus did for us. Think of all the ways Jesus helped, and is helping, us. Consider these points:

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1) He gave up his equality with God. In Philippians chapter 2, Paul says: “5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!”

This sacrifice was not just for the 33 years that Jesus spent on earth, but was forever: 1 Corinthians 15:27 “For he “has put everything under his feet”. Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. 28 When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.

We cannot even imagine what a great sacrifice this was. To be equal to God the father and to give up some part of that equality just for *me* is almost beyond human ability to comprehend. Colloquially we might say “It blows my mind!” And Jesus did this just so that *I* can have the hope of Heaven and avoid Hell. (To emphasize this thought, reread this paragraph replacing the pronouns *me* and *I* with your name.)

A story is told of a father and his young son taking a walk through the woods on a beautiful fall day. As they were enjoying the beauty of nature, they accidentally stepped on an ant hill. The young boy noticed all the ants scurrying around, some injured, some dead. The boy said “Dad, let’s help them ...I want to help them!”

“But son, we can’t.”

“Why dad, why can’t we help them? Let’s help them!”

“I know son, but we can’t help .. because, ...well ... We are just too big. To help them now with their injuries, we would have to become small, like they are.”

This story illustrates a point. God decided the best way to help us was to become like us, physically so we could see and believe. Since even this did not convince everybody, can you imagine what it would have been like if Jesus had not come to earth?

What should be the punishment for those who ignore or reject such a gift?

2) He paid the price as if He were guilty of our sins. He suffered the agony of

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the cross, the grief of being separated from God and the humility of rejection by the very ones He loved and for whom He was dying.

God, being just, required death as payment for sin, Romans 1:32. "Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things [the sins listed in the previous verses - cb] deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them."

Who could pay the price for our sins? After all they are *our* sins and therefore we should have to pay for them. Thankfully, God loved us enough to have the price for our sins paid by another. But who would be able to do such a thing? No human could do it because we deserve to die for our own sins. It had to be a sinless person. It had to be a *perfect* person to die for the sins of others. It also had to be a great person, a person equal to the task. A person whose importance matched the magnitude of all the sins of all those who have ever lived or will live. It had to be God incarnate. Jesus was willing! Paul said "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us," Romans 5:8.

What should be a just punishment for one who ignores or rejects such a gift?

- 3) He demonstrated *and* taught us, with a great supernatural wisdom never before seen on earth, how to live a life of joy, peace, confidence and hope. If we lead this lifestyle, it will produce an afterlife of ecstasy in Heaven, thereby avoiding Hell. He not only talked the talk, He walked the walk, consistently demonstrating His great love for us by His life and His death. Thereby offering the hope of Heaven and the avoidance of Hell.

What should be the punishment for one who ignores or rejects such a gift?

- 4) He performed miracles to prove He was the son of God and therefore, had the power to keep His promises of an awesome reward in Heaven or an agonizing punishment in Hell.
- 5) God watched as Jesus suffered. We never focus much on what God was doing as Christ was on the cross. He watched. Imagine what it must have been like. To watch your only beloved son suffering, knowing you could stop it with just a thought. Knowing He was suffering for those who did not even know Him, some who did not believe in Him, and yes, even for those who were causing the suffering. Why did God just watch (and maybe cry) as Jesus agonized on the cross? The same reason Jesus voluntarily died, simply

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because They loved us. Their love for us is proof Their promises are true and the promised afterlife as recorded in the Bible is a certainty.

What should be the punishment for one who ignores or rejects such a gift?

All of these facts are just God's way of doing His best to inform us, encourage us, guide us, command us, plea with us, promise us, forgive us, and show us the way to Heaven and the way to avoid Hell.

Every single characteristic of God or Jesus mentioned above, every single promise listed, every single action described in this section demonstrates the effort of God to *help* us achieve a joyous life while on earth, and ecstasy in Heaven, not the terror of Hell, when we leave here.

No claim is made that the above material is in any way exhaustive. It should, however, give us enough evidence to prove God has done everything possible to prevent our imprisonment in Hell.

What more could He have done? How much more help could He have given us? How many more incentives could He offer? How much greater the reward or severe the punishment, in order to get us to live righteously? How much more love could He have shown us? How many more sins could He have forgiven to prove His love? How much longer should He wait for our repentance? How could He have made our choices more clear? How much more evidence could be offered to prove the finality and fairness of the afterlife?

There is only one other thing He could have done!

He could have eliminated free will! He could have made us robots!

Is that what He should have done?? Do you really think being a robot would be better than the current life, the way God planned it? Surely not! Surely not even the most arrogant among us, not even the most prideful of mankind could ever think he, a mere man, could improve on how God created him. At least, I hope not.

Sin is a violation of God's law. All sin deserves death (Romans 1:32). Yet we keep on sinning, every hour, every day and sometimes more often. We all know the "big" sins like drunkenness, adultery, lying, stealing, and murder, but what about all the other sins? Carefully consider the following list of sins:

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Ephesians 5:3 ¶ But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. 4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. 5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person— such a man is an idolater— has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no-one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

2 Corinthians 7:1 Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable— if anything is excellent or praiseworthy— think about such things.

James 4:17 Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

Matthew 5:27 You have heard that it was said by them of old time, You shall not commit adultery: 28 But I say to you, That whoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Matthew 12:36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.

These are but a few examples that could be multiplied to show we sin continually. Note two things about this short list of sins: 1) We violate these instructions all the time, thereby, sinning and 2) We are not forced to do these things. Our free will allows us to decide not to sin, but we fail. Often.

Do not despair, the story is not over. These scriptures show, illustrate and demonstrate how much God loves us. He loves us enough to forgive us of each and every sin!! Think about how often we sin as you read the next scripture. John's message here is beyond awesome!

1 John 1:5-7 *This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleans us from all sin. 8 ¶ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

What would be a just punishment for one who ignores or rejects God and all He has done for us?

With all the above evidence we have proved beyond a reasonable doubt that God has done everything possible to assist us in our efforts to stay out of Hell. Importantly, these efforts *are* enough. We know this is so because many will,

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indeed, be in Heaven. Because God loves us we know we all *can* be there, if we but follow His instructions.

Therefore, we can confidently affirm the concepts of fairness, accepting responsibility for our actions and the idea of relative punishment not only justify the existence of Hell, but demand it.

If the evidence presented is not enough to substantiate this conclusion, how much more is needed? How much evidence would be required to prove any alternative position? Is that much evidence available now? When enough evidence to prove any other alternative position is available, please share it. Until then this position must stand. Any alternative position must harmonize with:

Hebrews 6:4 It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, 6 if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

Hebrews 10:26 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, 27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. 28 Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." 31 It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Hebrews 12:25 See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? 26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." 27 The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken— that is, created things— so that what cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, 29 for our "God is a consuming fire."

For further reading:

The Case for Faith by Lee Strobel

Why I am a Christian by Norman Geisler and Paul Hoffman

The Existence of God

The Source, by John Clayton

Not by Chance, by Dr. Lee Spetner

Is there a God?, by Richard Swinburne

“Probability and Life” (chapter 3) and “Probability and Certainty”

(pp. 124-126) by Dr. Emile Borel