

How Do We Know There is a God?

There is a thing called
“The Second Law of Thermodynamics”

The fancy word is
ENTROPY
“N” truh “P”

All things tend toward chaos

Things break by themselves, but they don’t fix by themselves.

There are two ways things get more Order.

1. An “Operative Mechanic” - meaning it’s controlled by rules.
This is like salad dressing separating. Or crystals forming. Or water freezing.
or

2. Intelligent Information by a Power - meaning “someone did it.”
This is like your room getting cleaned. It doesn’t get cleaned by itself.
If you say your room was suddenly clean, you’d know someone did it.

The Universe had more Order a long time ago.
How did it get there?

If it was an “operative mechanic” - then why is the Universe breaking down now?

It makes more sense that “someone did it.”

We call that “someone” God.

What this shows: There is a “someone.”
It doesn’t tell us WHO that “someone” is.

But it’s simple proof that there is “a” God.
And it tells us that God likes Order.

More next time...

How Do We Know Who is God?

Last time we used Entropy (“N”truh”P”) to show it makes more sense if there is a God than if there isn’t a God.

All we knew for sure is that God liked Order.

So How Do We Know WHO is God?

Christians, Jews and Muslims all believe in Genesis.
Together, they are nearly 3.5 Billion People.

About 1.1 Billion People have no Religion.
About .9 billion are Hindus.

So it makes sense to start with those stories.

The No Religion people usually think Big Bang
Bangs don’t make Order, and there was more Order
And if there was a Big Bang, where did all the stuff come from?

Hindus, don’t have just one story
The biggest story has a god sleeping with a giant snake, then he wakes up because he hears a noise, then he meditates and makes another god, and that other god makes everything. But it doesn’t match up with what we already know.
And where did the snake, the god and the sound come from?

Genesis says “God made it” and “Man broke it.”
That matches what really happens.
It was most fixed a long time ago.
It’s breaking now.

So Genesis agrees with what we already know is true.

But if God DID “Create the Heavens and the Earth” like it says in Genesis 1:1, then where did GOD come from?

More next time...

Where did GOD come from?

SOMETHING has to be “In the beginning”

We have already figured out that Genesis agrees with what we already know about Entropy (“N”truh”P”).

But it still leaves us with the question:
Where did God come from?

Einstein came up with this:
 $E=MC^2$

You don’t need to understand it, but Science has tested it a bunch of different ways. So far, it seems True. We’ll use this in just a minute...

**The Bible says that God made the universe out of nothing.
God has enough Power to do Everything.**

That’s the “E” - Energy. God has Infinite Energy.
If Einstein is right, then his math tells us something about God.
If Energy is Infinite, you can start to figure out some more.
We won’t do the math, but this is what we can figure out...

**“To God, All Places are Here.”
“To God, All Times are Now.”**

Think of all Time like a line.

There’s a Beginning, a Middle and an End.
God’s Bigger than that.

Bigger than Time means that God - RIGHT NOW - is at the Beginning, at the End, and in All Time in Between.
AND He’s is **Before** the Beginning AND **After** the End.

He didn’t come from anywhere. HE just “IS.”

Okay, so Math and Science say that God would have to be so big that He’s bigger than Time, but does the Bible say so, too? *Next time...*

Who Does the Bible Say is God?

Review: Entropy

We already learned about Entropy (“N”truh”P”), that things break by themselves, they don’t fix by themselves. Either there is a reason, like salad dressing separating, or someone has to do it.

Review: Creation

9 out of 10 people have 1 of 4 beliefs. In order, it’s 1. Christian, 2. Muslim (both of these use Genesis as their Creation Story, and that’s more than half the world), 3. No Religion (usually a Big Bang), and 4. Hindu (a god, snake, a sound...). Of all the Creation Stories, we learned that the Bible is the one that agrees with Entropy.

Review: God Bigger Than Time

If God really did make everything, math and science tell us that God would have to be really, really powerful. Everyone knows that.

But math and science also tell us that if God made everything, God would also have to be Bigger than Time. We talked about that last time. You can figure that out with $E=MC^2$.

So if the Bible is right about Creation, does it say anything about God being Bigger Than Time? **Yes!**

Exodus 3:14. *And God said unto Moses “I AM THAT I AM.”*
That’s a weird statement! God is saying “I just AM.”

Isaiah 44:6. God says “*I am the First, and I am the Last, and beside me there is no God.*” That’s the beginning and the end! He’s the only one.

There is a LOT more. AND there’s tons of prophecies! God knows everything that is going to happen! He already knows the whole future! He knows, because He’s Bigger Than Time. We can learn that from Math and Science when we think about Creation. The Bible says so, too.

Doesn’t it look like the Bible agrees with what we know is True?

So far... you bet

Christians think Jesus is God, too! Is Jesus bigger than Time?

Next time...

Is Jesus Bigger than Time?

We already figured out that God is bigger than time.

But Christians think that Jesus is God, too.

So does the Bible tell us that Jesus is bigger than time?

Genesis 1:1 says *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”*

So we know the Bible says that God was there in the beginning.

Then we have this weird thing in the Bible.

John 1:1a - *“In the beginning was the Word...”*

So “the Word” was there in the beginning? Yes.

Who was the Word? Actually, it was Jesus.

John 1:14a - *“And the Word became flesh...”*

**So Jesus was *already there* when the beginning happened.
That means He was “before the beginning”**

While Jesus was on Earth, He said another strange thing.

John 8:58b - Jesus said *“Before Abraham was, I AM”*

“I AM” (right now) BEFORE Abraham WAS (back then)?

Yes, that’s right. Jesus (now) IS (right now) before (way back then).

**So not only was Jesus there “before the beginning”...
He was “before” RIGHT NOW.**

What?!?!?

If someone is bigger than time, we say “All Times Are Now.”

He IS (right now) before (way back then) AND He is (right now) at the End (way in the future). “All Times are Now.”

**Wait a minute! But none of this said Jesus was the End...
So, of course, the Bible tells us so later on...**

Revelation 22:13 - Jesus said *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”*

So Jesus IS bigger than time. Does the Bible tell us He is God?

next time...

Is Jesus really God?

Last time we learned that the Bible said this:

John 1:1a - *“In the beginning was the Word...”*

and

John 1:14 - *“The Word became flesh.”*

and that “The Word” was Jesus.

So do we know anything else about “The Word”?

Yes, we do.

John 1:1b - *“...and the Word was with God...”*

**Okay, so Jesus was WITH God...
but what about Him BEING God?**

There’s more...

John 1:1c - *“...and the Word was God.”*

Wait a minute!

Does that mean there’s more than just one God?

Nope. There is One God - and only One God.

Isaiah 45:5 - *“I am the Lord, and there is no one else, there is no God beside me.”*

But isn’t Jesus the SON of God?

Yes, He is.

And isn’t Jesus God?

Yes, He is.

But there’s only One God?

Yes, there’s only One God.

Just One God. That’s all.

There’s not two God or three Gods. Just One.

If God is the Father, and Jesus is the Son, and Jesus is God...

How can the Son of God BE God?

Next time...

If there's only One God, How Can Father God be God, AND Jesus be God?

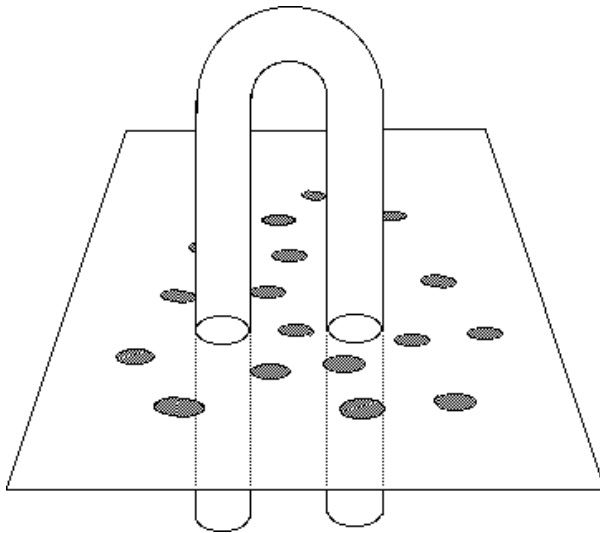
First, we already know there is only One God.

Isaiah 45:5 - *"I am the Lord, and there is no one else, there is no God beside me."*

**Jesus never said that He was "a god" - but God Himself -
but He is NOT the Father God - but He and the Father are One.**

John 11:30 - *"I and My Father are One."*

What???



It's not actually all that hard. Just think of a foam noodle and a white board.

If you make a stamp of the noodle, it makes a circle. If you bend it and make a stamp with the other end, it makes a *different* circle.

How many noodles do you have? **One.**
How many different circles? **Two.**
Which circle is "more noodle"? **Neither.**
They are BOTH equally "noodle stamps"

One Noodle. Two Different Circles.

Imagine being the Noodle - and you're making stamps on a white board - and you're trying to explain to the other circles (that are just circles - not noodle stamps) that you aren't really a circle - but you are a noodle stamp.

They don't know this word "noodle." They don't know what it means to "stamp."

So you try to explain it to the other circles: "There's only One Noodle."
"We get 'one'" the circles say. They understand that "noodle" is more than them.

Then you say "Okay, you see me here - I look like a circle - but I'm more than that. I'm the noodle. You see that circle over there? That's the noodle, too!"

"Wait a minute!" the circles shout. "There's TWO of you? I thought you said there was ONE?" Now they are confused - because THEY don't have words you can use to explain it to them very well. That's okay. They don't need to know it all.

Circle One and Circle Two are both still the Noodle. They are just different circles. The Son and The Father are both still God, they just look different to us.

more next time...

Is Jesus Really the Only Way?

John 16:6 - *"I am the way, the truth and the life:
no man comes to the Father but by Me."*

"No man" - which includes women and children -
"comes to The Father" (we already know that Jesus the Son
and Father God in Heaven are One) - "but by Me."

Jesus said He is the Only Way.

Back to the Noodle

(You remember the noodle and circle stamps, right?)

One Circle Stamp is telling all the Circles,

"There's no way to the Noodle but by Me"

or

"You can't get straight to the Father Circle Stamp.

You have to come to the Son Circle Stamp."

Why? Is it fair to make Jesus the Only Way? Yes!
Because Jesus was born a Man so that He could do this job.
His job was to come here and pay for our sins.

He became a human being to pay for the sins of human beings.
Because He is God, He can pay for ALL the sins people had done before
He was born a Man - AND He can pay for all the sins that had not
happened yet (good thing, too, since that includes US!).

He can do that because Jesus is Bigger Than Time.

Entropy helped show us that there IS a God.

$E=MC^2$ and the Bible show us God is bigger than Time.

The Bible shows us that Jesus is God and is Bigger than Time.

The Bible says there's One God, and we see how that works.

Now ALL that helps us see How Jesus is the Only Way.

It all make sense!

Do I Need to be a Christian?

That Depends.

The Only Way into Heaven is Jesus.

Not everyone knows that, but it's true.
We learned that last time.

**So if you want to get into Heaven,
then you need to be a Christian.**

Can we get into Heaven by being Good?

No, not Good. To get in by ourselves, we'd have to be perfect.

Think: Have you EVER done something YOU KNEW was wrong?

**Have you ever done something you thought was wrong
*when someone else did it?***

Then you can't get in by yourself.

The Bible tells us "For all have sinned" -

which just says "No one is perfect."

But GOD is Perfect. Heaven is HIS HOME.

We can't be in His Home unless we're Perfect, too.

But if No One but Jesus Perfect,

Does that Mean NO ONE but Jesus can get into Heaven?

That's the GREAT thing about God.

He MADE a way.

God made Christianity.

SOMEONE had to pay for sins.

God said "I'll do it."

If we have Faith, if we TRUST that Jesus paid the price for us, and we ASK God to Forgive US because JESUS paid, then we are Christians.

Next Time - Becoming a Christian

How Do We Become Christians?

We already know that Jesus is God AND Jesus is a Man.
We also know that Jesus is the Only Way.

So how do you become a Christian?

The difference between a Christian and a nonChristian is Jesus.

Jesus Christ lived a Perfect, Sinless Life.
He gave Himself, and His Father God in Heaven gave Him
to Die on a Cross where the Sin of the Whole World for All Time
could be put on Him.

We did the wrong things, but Jesus paid the price.
He did that because...

*“God so loved the World that He gave His Only Begotten Son
that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but will have
Eternal Life.” - John 3:16.*

There is no required formula to accept Jesus Christ as Savior.
An affirming prayer we use at Agathos is:

"God Almighty, I believe in You, even though I may not fully
understand everything about You. I accept the sacrifice of Jesus
Christ as payment for my sins, trusting in You and not in myself
or my own goodness for Salvation. Thank you for giving me
Salvation by grace through the faith which You also give me.
Amen."

If you can pray that prayer and mean it, then you are a Christian.
If you want to mean, but you aren't sure if you really do mean it, that's
okay. Wanting to mean it is good enough, but you can pray the prayer
again and again until you feel like you really do mean it.

Next... If I'm a Christian... What Now?

What Do I Do if I'm a Christian?

There is a strange thing in Christianity...
You don't actually HAVE TO do anything to stay a Christian.

You SHOULD,
but you don't HAVE TO.

God doesn't kick you out of Christianity because you broke a rule.

If we DO break a rule, what we need to do is "confess"
- admit that we did something wrong and ask God to Forgive us.

The Bible says that God will ALWAYS forgive us if we confess
and ask for forgiveness.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness - 1 John 1:9

But there ARE some things we SHOULD do.
These things will help us understand Christianity better:

We should talk to Him.
That's Prayer.

We should find out what He says.
That's reading the Bible.

We should spend time with other Christians.
That's called Fellowship - like Going to Church.

We should also do our very best to Be Good.
We won't EVER be Perfect,
but when we mess up, we do Confess and Ask for Forgiveness,
and God will ALWAYS forgive us. Always.

Next... What Else Should Christians Do?

What ELSE Should Christians Do?

We already know that to BE a Christian means you
Trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior.

We already know that we won't EVER be Perfect,
but if we confess and ask for forgiveness,
God will ALWAYS forgive us.

We already know that All Christians should
Pray, Read the Bible, and Spend Time with Other Christians.

We also know that we should do our very best to Be Good.
But what does THAT mean?

The Most Basic “Be Good” Rule is called The Golden Rule

**The Golden Rule says
“Do Unto Other as You Would Have Others Do Unto You.”**

It's based on Matthew 7:12
“Therefore, however you want people to treat you, so treat them.”

**Another basic rule of being good is
“Love your neighbor as yourself.”**

That one is found ALL OVER the Bible!
It's in Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 5:43; Matthew 19:19; Matthew 22:39; Mark 12:31;
Romans 13:9; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8; and Luke 10:27).

**Principles are “Big Rules” that help you figure out smaller rules.
The Golden Rule and Love Your Neighbor Rule
are Big Rules.**

**Using those two rules,
you can usually figure out
how you should be treating people.**

**There is a saying “You might be the only Gospel someone else reads.”
This means that if they know you're a Christian, they might watch you for a
while to see how a Christian behaves. So we should Be Good.**