


REASONS TO BELIEVE

Lesson 4 – Objections to God



INTRODUCTION

Proverbs 18:2,13, James 1:19

How might we not listen to our opponents fairly?

What arguments might we hear against God? How should we respond?





LACK OF VERIFICATION OR PROOF



Definition

We need more knowledge, information, or proof than exists in order to believe in God.

Example 1

“I’ll believe in God when I see / hear / feel him.”

Response to 1

This argument is too restrictive and self-refuting



LACK OF VERIFICATION OR PROOF



Definition

We need more knowledge, information, or proof than exists in order to believe in God.

Example 2

“Prove God exists using scientific data alone.”

Response to 2

God isn't material. Also, this argument is self-refuting.



EXISTENCE OF EVIL



Philosophical Argument

If God exists there would be no evil in the world.

There is evil in the world.

Therefore, God doesn't exist.

Another Version

An all-powerful God could prevent evil.

An all-good God would prevent evil.

*Since evil exists, God is neither all-powerful nor all-good
– and therefore doesn't exist.*



EXISTENCE OF EVIL



Responses

God created people as free moral agents. He cannot force someone to be good or prevent someone from being evil without contradicting himself.

We're not in a position to judge whether or not God has justifiable reasons for allowing evil to exist.

How do you define "evil" without a moral standard from a source outside ourselves?



EXISTENCE OF EVIL



Emotional Argument

Why does God allow so much evil in the world today?

Example 1

“Why does God allow me (or someone I love) to suffer?”

Response to 1

Compassion, support, listening, service (Job 6:2-3, 14)

In Jesus, God suffers with us (Hebrews 2:10, 14)



EXISTENCE OF EVIL



Emotional Argument

Why does God allow so much evil in the world today?

Example 2

“Religion is responsible for many cruelties and injustices.”

Response to 2

We don't condone these either!
People using God to justify evil doesn't mean God justifies evil.



EXISTENCE OF EVIL

C.S. Lewis

My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of ‘just’ and ‘unjust’? ... What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust? ... Of course, I could have given up on my idea of justice by saying it was nothing but a private idea of my own. But if I did that, then my argument against God collapsed too—for the argument depended on saying that the world was *really* unjust, not simply that it did not happen to please my private fancies ... Consequently atheism turns out to be too simple.

Mere Christianity



SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS



Definition

The God of the Old Testament is vindictive and unjust. How can a good God condone and command the killing of innocent people?

Understand their Worldview

Bible assumes existence of sin, justice, life after death.
Atheist, as a naturalist, doesn't share this worldview.



SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS



Response 1

Take the whole Bible's view of God into account –

The author of life (Ps. 100:3)

Perfectly merciful and just (Ex. 34:6-7, Gen. 18:25)

Holy (Is. 6:3)

Omniscient (Is. 40:28)

How does this change the way we view this issue?



SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS



Response 2

Canaanite society and religion was extremely immoral –
human trafficking, incest, child sacrifice (Lev. 18)

But what about the women and children?
Wouldn't life after death be better than life in that society?

By what standards do we judge these actions to be unjust or evil
without an objective standard?



CONCLUSION

Many arguments against God –

If God exists, he should meet my expectations.
God doesn't meet my expectations.
Therefore, God doesn't exist.

Acts 17:29, Isaiah 40:18, 25

