



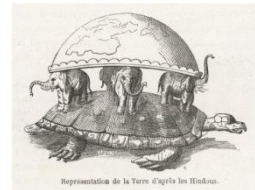
But houses do not build themselves, nor do cakes mix and bake themselves. Our universe did not create itself. In Psalm 100:3, we read, 'Know that the LORD, He is God. It is He who made us, and not we ourselves'.

### Who Made God, then? (the atheist asks)

There are only three possible answers to the question of where everything came from:

1. An Eternal Universe – with no beginning. However, only unchanging things are eternal – otherwise they decay and die. If our universe were infinitely old, it would long ago have suffered energy death, like a bonfire burning up its fuel. All life would long ago have died. No, our universe is neither unchanging nor eternal.

2. An Infinite Regression of Causes. A woman once interrupted Bertrand



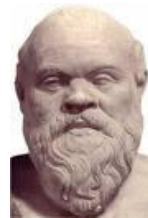
Russell, arguing that the earth is a flat plate that rests on the back of an elephant which is standing on a giant tortoise. Russell asked, 'And what is the giant tortoise standing on?' The woman replied, 'It is tortoises all the way down'. If an infinitely long chain of explanations for what caused the universe is illogical and our universe is not eternal, there is only one alternative ...

3. There must be a First Cause – itself uncaused, and uncreated: a self-existent Creator. Because God is, by definition, the eternal Creator, people asking the question, 'Who made God?' are asking a logically contradictory question, like 'Who is the bachelor married to?'

The first verse of the Bible tells us where everything came from: 'In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth' (Genesis 1:1).

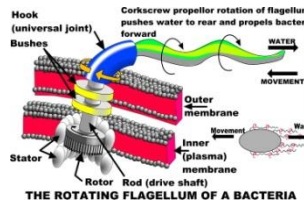


### 2. Because the World Is Designed



The Greek philosopher Socrates argued that we are designed because of 'the position of our eyes and nose directly above our mouth to prevent that which is unacceptable for consumption'.

Did you know that our bodies have baroreceptors (tiny barometers) that react to the outside air pressure and adjust the fluid levels in our joints so that our joints operate efficiently? Or that bacteria move by means of tiny outboard motors, complete with forward and reverse gears, a clutch and a propeller. Most cars 'redline' at about 7,000rpm, but these rotary motors operate at speeds of up to 100,000rpm. Similarly, when scientists look out into space, everything seems 'just right' for life.



They call this the 'Goldilocks Effect': the earth is at just the right distance from the sun (not too hot or cold) and has a near-circular orbit, has abundant liquid water essential for life, and an atmosphere shielding us from deadly rays. Sir Fred Hoyle was so amazed at how precisely some of the physical constants are set that he said that 'a super-intelligence has monkeyed with physics, as well as chemistry and biology'.



### Why are there so many problems, then?



If there is evidence of design and order in creation, there is also evidence of disorder and disease. Another ancient philosopher, Lucretius, said: 'Had God designed the world, it would not be a world so frail and faulty, as we see'. Why so many problems? In the Louvre in Paris there is a statue called the Venus de Milo. For all its beauty, its arms have been broken off. Do we conclude from this defect that the statue was not designed? No, we conclude that something has damaged the original design.

A Christian on board a ship went to see the Captain. The Captain said: 'I don't believe in God. If my ship were in as much of a mess as the world is, I would lose my job'. The Christian replied: 'The reason the world is in such a mess is that there has been a mutiny'. When man first rebelled against God, suffering, hardship, disease, disasters and death entered our world.

### 3. Because of Morality

Why does God allow evil and suffering? Actually, if there is no God, and everything is simply physics and chemistry, then where do we get the ideas of 'good' and 'evil' from? There are no particles of hate or molecules of love; there are no forgiving acids, compassionate vultures or vengeful hurricanes. If all life is the result of Darwinian struggle and everything we see arose because it was found useful for survival, then rape and murder are no different to the giraffe's neck or the leopard's spots. If there is no God, morality is an illusion: 'The universe ... has no design, no purpose, *no good or evil*, nothing but blind pitiless indifference' (Richard Dawkins). No wonder the worst mass-murderers in history have been atheists like Stalin (who compared murdering 35 million people to 'mowing the grass').



The problem is that morality is real. We are deeply troubled by injustice, evil and suffering: we loathe cheats, liars, thieves, double-crossers, rapists and murderers. If we are just animals, chemicals, 'slime on a planet', why should evil, injustice and suffering trouble us? The fact that we all (atheists included) have a sense of morality means we are more than matter. We have a spirit and a moral compass from God, the conscience. These point to the fact that there is a spiritual world beyond the material – to God.



### 4. Because of Jesus Christ

When Yuri Gargarin, the first man in space, said that he hadn't seen God, C. S. Lewis responded by saying that this was like Hamlet going up into the attic of his castle and reporting that he could not find Shakespeare. God is the author of the human story, not a character in the play. However, the most amazing evidence for God is not found in some clues that God has placed in the universe. The ultimate evidence for God is Jesus Christ: God 'wrote *himself* into the play as the main character in history, when Jesus was born in a manger and rose from the dead' (Timothy Keller). Has God has 'left the receiver off the hook' (Koestler)? No, 'God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life' (John 3:16). God offers eternal life to those who repent of their sin and believe in His Son Jesus.



If you would like a free copy of Timothy Keller's book, *The Reason for God*, send the reply slip to the address below.

<p>Your Name: _____ Address: _____ _____ Yes, please send me a free copy of Timothy Keller's book, <i>The Reason for God</i></p>
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# Four Good Reasons to Believe in God

### 1. Because of the Origin of Life

Have you heard the joke about the Big Bang? First there was nothing, then it exploded! No, that doesn't quite make sense, does it. An atheist is someone who believes that nothing made everything.