

## Always Be Ready to Give a Defence (8)

### Background

In previous weeks, we've considered four reasons, apart from the Scriptures, to believe in God and one reason why it matters.

### Questions

This week we're going to consider the reasons someone might give for *not* believing in God.

- What reasons does the Bible give for someone not believing in God (or for not believing the Word of God)? Consider Romans 1v18-32, 2 Cor 4v1-6 and John 3v19-21.
- What reasons have you heard people give for not believing in God?

As you might expect, there aren't many arguments against God's existence.

Someone might argue that they have no need for God. This isn't an argument against the existence of God. However, it is something that you may need to address before you can move onto the question of existence. Put simply, without God there is no ultimate meaning or hope.

Someone might argue that there is no evidence for God. If so, you can give at least four reasons to believe in God, apart the Scriptures. The testimonies of the Jesus, the prophets and the apostles, as recorded in Scriptures, provide further evidence.

Someone might argue that the existence of an all-powerful, all-loving God is incompatible with the existence of suffering.

- How do the Scriptures answer this objection? Consider Genesis 1-3; Romans 5v12-21; 8v18-39; Revelation 21-22.

The answer to the problem of suffering is not to turn away from God; it is to turn to God through Jesus Christ.

## Four Reasons to Believe in God

### The existence of the universe

Everything that exists has an explanation of its existence. The universe exists. So the universe must have an explanation of its existence. The only possible explanation for the existence of the universe is God.

### The beginning of the universe

Whatever began to exist has a cause. The universe began to exist. So the universe has a cause. This cause is God.

### The fine tuning of the universe

The universe is fine-tuned for life. For example, according to Stephen Hawking, if the electric charge of the electron had been only slightly different, stars either would have been unable to burn hydrogen and helium (and so there would be no light), or else they would not have exploded (and so there would be no heavier chemical elements). This fine-tuning of the universe is not due to physical necessity or chance. So it must be due to design.

### Moral values and duties

Objective moral values and duties exist. For example, rape, torture, and child abuse are wrong no matter what people might say about them. But if God did not exist, there would be no objective moral values and duties. We could only say whether something was socially or biologically beneficial. So God must exist.

This is not to imply that *belief in God* is necessary for someone to do good. It is to say that *the existence of God* is necessary for something to be more than just socially beneficial.