

# APOLOGETICS



Keep The Faith

## Episode 7 – Introduction

Hi guys and welcome back to the companion for the reprisal of our exciting apologetics series for this podcast!

We had a few weeks off to give you guys a break from the high pace of learning apologetics, but now we're back to looking at how we can defend the faith, as we are called to do in 1 Peter 3:15 – *“in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect”*.

As you recall, in this passage, we see the Greek word *‘apologia’* being used, which means to defend. Apologetics as a discipline has sprung from that, in that a solid knowledge of apologetics allows us to defend the faith.

Now, as you will recall we have covered off the Kalam Cosmological argument, in which we discussed how the origin of the universe gives massive credibility to the idea that God exists. If you missed this, I would *strongly* suggest you go back and listen to those first 6 episodes of this series, which shouldn't take you more than 2 hours to get through, because it sets up a lot of things that are pertinent here.

This episode, we moved onto a new argument! Sticking with the theme of space and science, we're looking at something called the Teleological, or Fine-Tuning, argument! It's very cool, so get excited.

What if I told you that the universe we observe didn't have to be this way?

What if I told you that the fact it *is* this way shows design and purpose?

And what if I told you that this design and purpose leads us to the likelihood of God's existence?

You'd probably say “but Ed, that's mental – if that were the case, then every astronomer and astro-physicist would be a Christian!”

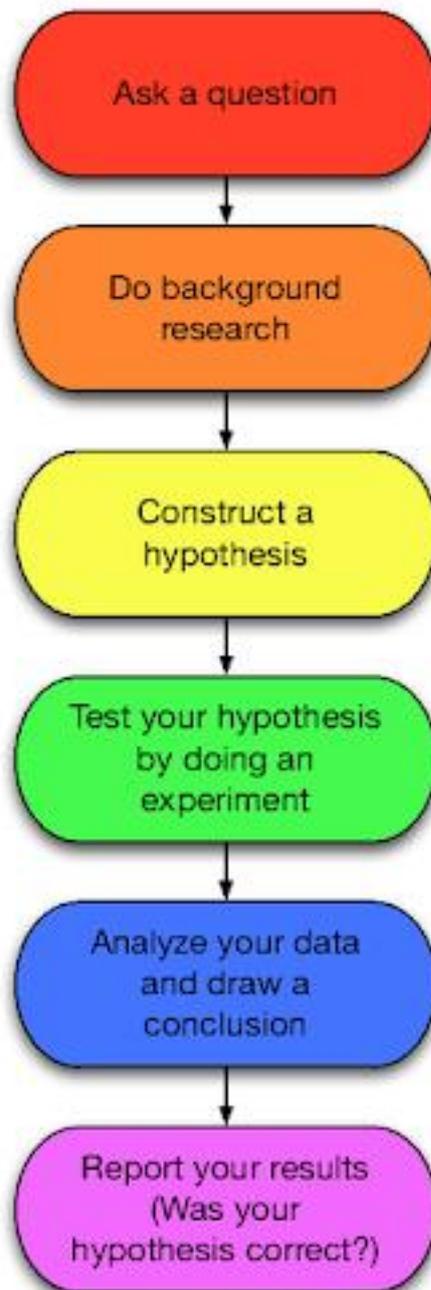
Well, first off, don't be so quick to discount the intellectual mountains people will move to not have to accept something they don't want to. Science is, by-and-large, dominated by or

at least primarily appealing to, atheists.

Let me explain why.

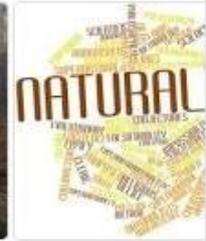
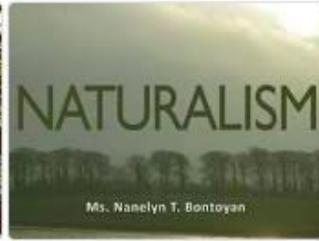
Science is the pursuit of knowledge of the natural realm, everything that is physical. That means, anything outside of the measurable parameters of science, is not accounted for in the scientific method.

## The Scientific Method



If your life revolves around this scientific method, and you believe, as many scientists do, that this is the path to truth, then you might well identify as a 'naturalist'.

A naturalist believes that all there is to reality is what is physically here – what we can touch, taste, hear, see, etc.



In philosophy, **naturalism** is the idea or belief that only natural (as opposed to supernatural or spiritual) laws and forces operate in the universe.

[en.wikipedia.org › wiki › Naturalism\\_\(philosophy\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naturalism_(philosophy))

[Naturalism \(philosophy\) - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naturalism_(philosophy))

Anything outside of this natural realm will be discounted by the naturalist and, unfortunately, that includes miracles, God's existence, the supernatural realm, and so on. If your ideology and your view of truth revolve around this idea of naturalism, then you will want to safeguard your belief by rejecting that which is contrary to it.

Click the picture above to read more.

This leads most naturalists to completely reject the idea of a God, because that would destroy their worldview.

In the episode, I put it this way – imagine your entire life revolved around the belief that cheese did not exist. You thought cheeseburgers were simply the delusions of people who wished it were a thing, that wheels of cheese are simply something mad people read in a book that's thousands of years old, that melting cheese is like melting a unicorn (nonsense because it doesn't exist). Imagine you were then confronted with proof that cheese exists. You'd probably have to either completely re-think your entire belief system or, probably more simply, just reject it out of hand despite the evidence. That would be a real shame, because a life with cheese burgers in it is amazing.

I have personally seen and even been involved in conversations where, after laying out the evidence and following the logic to the point where 'God exists' is the inevitable conclusion, people will still refuse to accept it and will even admit it's not because they think there's anything wrong with the argument or logic presented, but they just don't want to admit God might exist! Again, similarly to a life without cheese, this is a shame, because a life with God in it is amazing.

Secondly, we are actually seeing something of a renaissance in science, particularly astronomy, of either scientists coming to faith or faithful people going into science! So, in contradiction to my previous point, weirdly, science is not entirely dominated by atheist naturalists.

Here's some more info, and it's a quote from [this article](#) by a Christian scientist in the field of astronomy, Dr. David Bradstreet, who wrote the book 'Star Struck'. He writes:

*"Decades later, I can tell you that the "war" that some people try to create between religion and science is a thing of the past.*

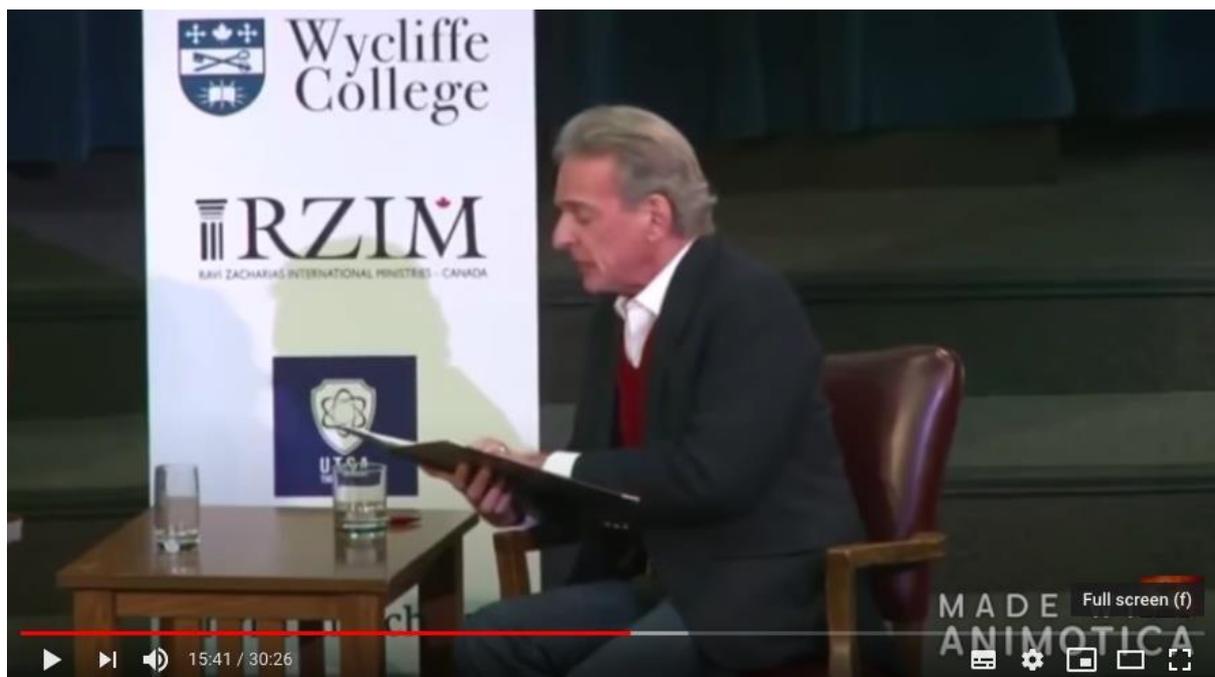
*I'm not alone. Right now, hundreds of committed Christian astronomers are busy studying the Creator's handiwork. We work on top government projects, teach at esteemed*

*universities, conduct cutting-edge research, travel to space, and praise God for giving us the awesome privilege of understanding previously undisclosed mysteries of the cosmos. I believe God is calling young men and women today to serve Him as scientists, but I wonder how many young people fail to hear this calling because Christian adults and teachers tell them that all scientists are “godless scientists.”*

*The fact is, godly scientists are everywhere, as a recent survey by the American Association for the Advancement of Science shows. AAAS found that more than a third of scientists have no doubts about God’s existence, 18 percent of scientists attended weekly religious services (compared with 20 percent of the rest of us), and 15 percent of scientists consider themselves very religious (compared with 19 percent of the general population).”*

We’ve got Godly Christians, highly intelligent and educated, fighting to give Christianity a place at the table of science. If this is going to work, however, we need to couple that foot forward in science with a foot forward in philosophy.

Scientists have, historically, made notoriously poor philosophers. There have been numerous good examples of this, someone who is an excellent scientist, but doesn’t apply these ideas in a sophisticated philosophical way, which is why people like William Lane Craig have their way with their ideas – they aren’t refined enough.



As luck would have it, we’re also seeing a renaissance of Christian thought in the realm of philosophy! Honestly, it couldn’t be a better time to be a thinking, engaged and thoughtful Christian.

So, as we go through these sessions week by week, we are going to address the science behind each point, just like we did with the Kalam. We are also going to address the philosophical way in which this science is applied. That’s where the rubber meets the road, folks!

So, let’s finish this session off.

Let’s look at the argument we’re going to be reviewing in the coming weeks!

As I say, this is a formulation of the old teleological argument which we now call the fine-tuning argument. Let's look at it:

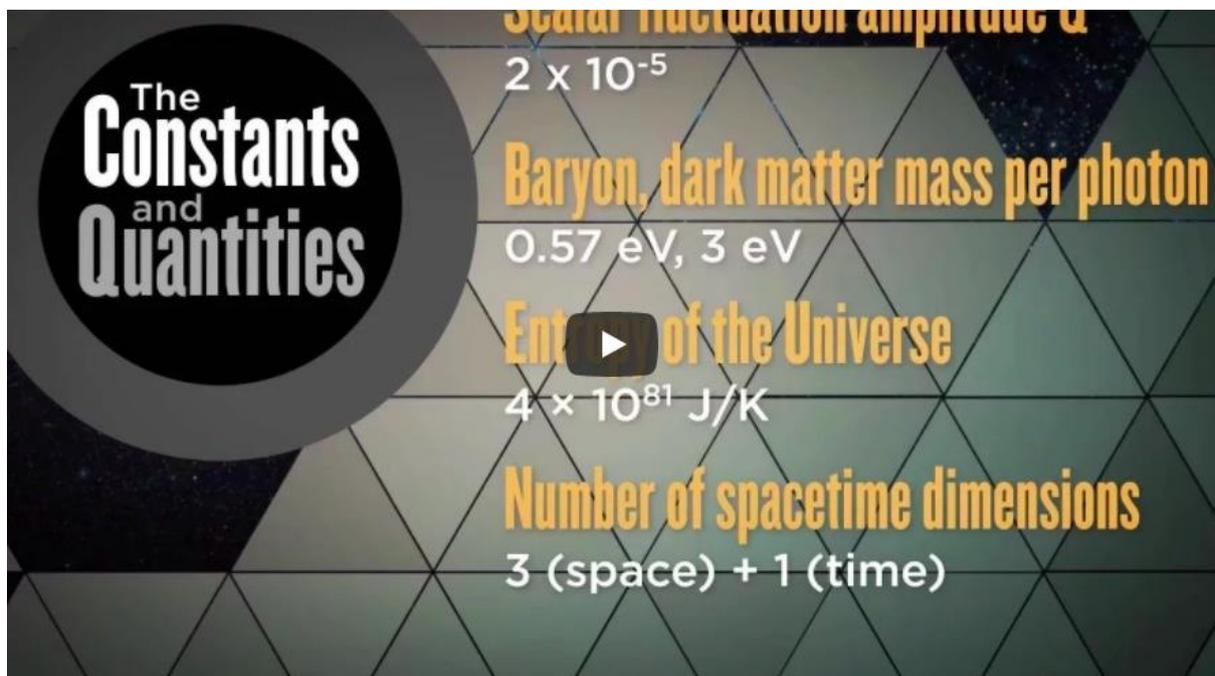
- P1. The universe is fine-tuned for life
- P2. Fine-tuning can potentially be explained by chance, necessity or design
- P3. It is not due to chance or necessity
- C. Therefore, the fine-tuning of the universe is the result of design

As you'll know from our previous argument, this is an example of a deductive argument. So, you know we need to make sure that those premises are more plausibly true than not, and we can then safely assume the conclusion is true.

Hopefully this sounds exciting to you, because they are absolutely amazing when you dig into them and we're hopefully going to have some fun going through them.

For those of you who are super excited about this, which should be all of you but I appreciate it may well not be, here are some extras you might want to look into!

Here's a video explaining the argument from fine-tuning:



And [here is an interesting article](#) on the fine-tuning argument from author Heather Zeiger.

Let's get to our scripture of the week!

Psalm 19:1-6 says:

*"The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. 2 Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. 3 There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; 4 yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, 5 which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. 6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat."*

Why is this the scripture of the week?

Because this reveals something amazing about our God!

There are two different types of revelation from God – general and special. This is an example of God’s general revelation, He is revealing Himself and His grandeur so we *all* may have a knowledge of Him, through His creation.

When people ask “well, why hasn’t God revealed Himself?” then this becomes super relevant. We won’t discuss the most obvious stuff like Jesus, miracles, continued effect on people’s lives, etc., but there is a huge amount of *general* revelation that people can view and be made aware of God’s presence and existence.

As we continue to go through this argument, we will look at a lot of God’s general revelation! The Heavens declare the glory of God! So, let’s review the heavens...

[Here is a really interesting article on this](#), about how revering the heavens has caused science and religion to intersect.

Our question for this week’s debate club is a simple one – do you believe that God created the universe with design? If so or if not, why?

That’s all for this week, guys!

As always, don’t be afraid to get into the youth whatsapp chat and let us know how you are, what you’re up to and what you’re thinking. Get your prayer requests ready for Thursday and get involved in our Bible study! And you can grab us on Instagram @chawnyouth.

Speak to you next week!