



## Ready Defense #2: The Kalam Cosmological Argument for God July 23, 2017 | Will Galkin | Gospel Grace Church

### Intro:

While there are a number of arguments for the existence of God, we are going to look at the **Kalam Cosmological Argument for God**. Do not be put off by the name. In fact, you probably don't even want to use that name when talking to other people. The foundation of this argument comes at us on the commonsense level. "It is based on an instinct of mind that we all share: the instinct that says everything needs an explanation. Nothing just is without a reason why it is. Everything that is has some adequate or sufficient reason why it is." So what is the Kalam Cosmological Argument?

**The Kalam Cosmological Argument** has two premises and a conclusion.

**Premise 1:** Everything that comes into existence has a cause.

**Premise 2:** The universe came into existence.

**Conclusion:** Therefore, the universe has a cause.

**Premise 1: Everything that comes into existence has a cause.**

- **This premise has been consistently verified and never falsified.**
  - Principle of Sufficient Reason
  - **Application:** New building, plate of brownies, contents of a book or computer
- **If something could come from "nothing" anything and everything could come from nothing.**
  - What is nothing? There are no properties to "nothingness."
  - **Application:** So why can the universe come from nothing if nothing around us comes from nothing? For example, why don't we see actual items appear? The burden of proof must rest on the one that says that something can come from nothing.

## Premise 2: The universe came into existence.

There are **two philosophical** and **two scientific** supporting arguments for this premise.

- **Philosophical Support**

- **There is no such thing as actual infinities, so the universe could not have existed into eternity past.**
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- **If the universe had an infinite past – the universe would never have arrived to today.**
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- **Scientific Support**

- **2nd law of Thermodynamics:** Processes in a closed system tend toward a state of equilibrium.
  - **Illustration:** Suppose this building as a closed system is 85 degrees F. and we placed a large heated piece of metal in the room. What would happen to the temperature of the room and the rod?
  - **Application:**
  - **Quote:** "...all that will be left in the cosmos will be black holes, burnt-out cinders of stars and the dead husks of planets. The universe will be cold and black." Michael Lemonick
  - **Quote:** "...the theory that the universe has existed forever is in serious difficulty with the Second Law of Thermodynamics." Stephen Hawking in "The Beginning of Time."
- **The Universe is Expanding.**
  - In 1920, Scientists George Lemaitre and Alexander Friedmann predicted that the universe is expanding.
  - In 1929, Edwin Hubble was able to verify that the universe was expanding and that it sprang into being somewhere in the finite past.
  - **Quote:** "With the proof now in place, cosmologists can no longer hide behind the possibility of a past- eternal universe. There is no escape: they have to face the problem of cosmic beginning." Alexander Vilenkin in *Many Worlds in One*.

**The Kalam Cosmological Argument** has two premises and a conclusion.

**Premise 1:** Everything that comes into existence has a cause.

**Premise 2:** The universe came into existence.

**Conclusion:** Therefore, the universe has a cause.

**Can we know anything about the cause? By implication, Yes!**

- **External to the Universe**  
“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1
- **Immaterial**  
“God is spirit...” John 4:24
- **Non-Spatial**  
“...Do I not fill heaven and earth?’ declares the Lord” Jeremiah 21:24
- **Timeless**  
“To the only God, our savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority *before all time* and now and forever.” Jude 25
- **Undetermined and Personal**  
“Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.” Psalm 115:3
- **Incredibly Intelligent and Powerful**
- “Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.”  
Psalm 147:5

**Objections to the Kalam Cosmological Argument:**

- **Who made God? If the universe has a cause, why doesn't God have a cause? Or if there can be no infinities and God is eternal how could God have arrived at today?**
  - These are category mistakes. God by definition is not in the category of the things that can come into existence.

**Limitations of the Kalam Cosmological Argument:**

The Kalam Cosmological Argument does not say anything about Scripture, the deity and incarnation of Christ or the means of salvation. This is just an argument to show that there is a God.

## Resources and Tools:

### Acts 17:11

*Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:21** *But test everything; hold fast what is good.*

**1 John 4:1** *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

### Websites about the Kalam Cosmological Argument:

Article by William Lane Craig

<http://www.reasonablefaith.org/popular-articles-the-kalam-cosmological-argument>

Video on the Kalam Cosmological Argument for God

<http://www.reasonablefaith.org/kalam>

Article by Peter Kreeft

[https://www.calvin.edu/academic/philosophy/virtual\\_library/articles/kreeft\\_peter/the\\_first\\_cause\\_argument.pdf](https://www.calvin.edu/academic/philosophy/virtual_library/articles/kreeft_peter/the_first_cause_argument.pdf)

Video about Answering Objections to the Kalam:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3rX9yTwgHvQ>

### Apologetic Help in Engaging Others

Craig, William Lane, and Lee Strobel. *On Guard: Defending Your Faith with Reason and Precision.*

Colorado Springs: David C Cook, 2010.

### **Short Videos on Infinity – Non-Christian**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=faQBrAQ87I4>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uj3\\_KqkI9Zo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uj3_KqkI9Zo)