

God IS ...

Introduction:

1. Excerpt from *The Lion King*:

Puumba: I wonder what all those sparkling dots are up there.

Timon: They are fireflies – stuck on that big bluish-black thing.

Puumba: I always thought they were balls of gas burning billions of miles away.

Simba: Someone told me they were the great kings of the past watching over us.

2. *The Lion King* was a mildly framed message of idolatry: we get guidance and inspiration from the stars (kings, gods, the zodiac, etc.). But the film unwittingly acknowledges the inherent tendency of all mankind to recognize a power higher than himself.
3. In one way or another, sooner or later – whether male or female, communist or free, CEO or street-sweeper – all are going to be confronted with the question of whether man is merely a random product of an impersonal environment or whether Someone brought him into existence.

1. God Is ... the Creator

A. The Bible begins its grand story with a simple assertion: “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth ...*” (Gen 1:1). This assertion continues throughout the Scriptures in passages such as Ac 17:23-26 (see also Neh 9:6; Job 38:4-7; Ps 33:6-9; Is 45:7, 12, 18; Ac 4:24; etc.).

B. But the naturalistic bent of scientists can be intimidating. They speak confidently and factually of their theories and dismiss the “superstition” of a Creator. Don’t be fooled by such arrogance.

1. When man first witnessed an “earthrise” from the far side of the moon, Frank Borman was moved to read Gen 1:1.
2. Consider the following admissions from astronomers when the Hubble telescope first went into space:

“Cosmologists are scrambling to patch up their theories. To save the idea of the Big Bang, the postulated explosive event that created the universe, they are even talking of reviving the idea of the cosmological constant – a sort of universal antigravity force that Einstein proposed and then discarded as inelegant ... This is a giant leap backward in our understanding of quasars ... More than a score of astronomers ... have taken the sharpest pictures ever of some of the

most distant known galaxies ... and shaken up the conventional wisdom on galactic evolution ... ‘The day that result came out,’ says Thompson, ‘one of my colleagues had to quickly rewrite a lecture he was giving later that afternoon.’ Indeed, before the Hubble is finished, all sorts of lectures, textbooks and astronomical theories will have to be rewritten.” (*Time*, 11/20/95).

3. If all theories from Galileo and the first telescope through satellite exploration of our solar system were thrown into chaos by *one telescope*, should scientists not be humbled by their lack of knowledge?

C. Belief in supernatural creation → Faith based on evidence. What is the best explanation of the evidence?

1. Natural generation: All matter was originally compressed to the size of a pin-head. This matter exploded and created all we see, know. Supernatural generation: A higher power created all things with purpose and design.
2. Neither of these explanations can be **proven**. Either must be accepted on the basis of faith. Which is more *reasonable*?!
3. God **expects** man to see His power and existence in creation – Rom 1:18-20.

2. God Is ... A Benevolent Creator

A. The benevolence of the earth vs. hostility of nature – Ac 14:17.

1. Astronomers desperately search the solar system/galaxy for signs of habitable planets. **Ex:** the lost Martian probes to the tune of \$350 million.
2. God created a planet which blesses man physically, esthetically and spiritually.
3. Objection: the earth isn't *always* benevolent toward man. What about hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, etc. **Illus:** the 1998 tornado in Alabama. Three things were repeatedly observed by those who went through the devastation: 1) the awesome power of God that was displayed, 2) the goodness of God in leaving blessings behind, and 3) the need for God to help rebuild lives, homes.

B. The benevolence of man – Since man is in God's image, he should bear the benevolent traits of his Creator.

1. The sense of “moral ought” suggests the uniqueness of man. *The Lion King* portrayed animals with this sense, but in nature it is absent. Animals do not deliberate over the moral appropriateness of killing each other. Humans reason that a lion “ought not” to kill his own cubs, he does it anyway. It is “natural.”

2. As with the earth, man does not *always* operate on the basis of moral “ought.” But its existence is evidence of a higher standard which all recognize.

C. The benevolence of God’s Son – Ac 10:38. The road to belief in God will eventually lead through Jesus Christ, for the Bible claims that “*in Him dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily*” (Col 2:9).

3. God Is ... A Rewarder of Those Who Seek Him – Heb 11:6

A. Believing in God is not merely an intellectual exercise. God has revealed Himself in such a way that He may be found only by *diligent* search. Reasons some disbelieve in God:

1. Some misfortune has befallen them.
2. His existence cannot be reconciled with the existence of evil.
3. He cannot be seen.
4. They cannot conceive of a Being of such advanced superiority.

B. But history has shown repeatedly that God can be rejected by the will of man even when He has graphically and powerfully manifested Himself (cf. Korah’s rebellion in Num 16). The problem is not lack of evidence but lack of interest.

C. God will be believed in when the heart of man – his motives, intentions and spiritual awareness – is in alignment with His nature. *Diligent* search (Heb 11:6, NKJ) is implied in the Gk. *ekzeteo*. **Illus:** A child loses his parents in a store. He *must* find them! And *they, too*, are looking for him! God *can* be found, and He remains in hope “*that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us*” (Ac 17:27).

Conclusion: God’s existence is discounted by *choice*; men do not want to believe in Him because of the moral and spiritual obligation that such belief brings (cf. Rom 1:21-32). What choice have you made?