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Six Questions Atheists Can't Answer: Part 1

by Tal Davis

As we have pointed out in previous articles, recent decades has seen a resurgence of Atheism, Skepticism, and Agnosticism in America. A Pew Research Center survey recently indicated that the percentage of Americans identifying themselves as believers in God (by any definition) dropped from 92% in 2007 to 89% in 2014. It also showed that people self-identifying as religiously "unaffiliated" increased from 18.1% in 2007 to 22.8% in 2014. Those may not sound like a big margins. However, they show that belief in God and religiosity is no longer a "taken-for-granted" characteristic of all Americans, and the spiritual landscape is rapidly changing.

Whatever the reasons for the trends, and there are certainly more than just one, the increasing propaganda efforts by committed secularists and Atheists have contributed to them. In recent years several significant best-selling books have taken aim at Theism. Those books include *God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything* and *The Portable Atheist: Essential Readings for the Non-believer* by the late Christopher Hitchens; *The God Delusion* by Richard Dawkins; *The God Virus: How Religion Infects Our Lives and Culture* by Darrel W. Ray; *Why There Is No God: Simple Responses to 20 Common Arguments for the Existence of God* by Armin Navabi; and *Fighting God: An Atheist Manifesto for a Religious World* by David Silverman.

There are even books for teaching children and teens not to believe: *Great Without Religion* by Lance Gregorchuk; *It Is Ok To Be A Godless Me* by Courtney Lynn; and *What If I'm an Atheist?: A*

Teen's Guide to Exploring a Life Without Religion by David Seidma. There is also a website: AtheistParents.org.

All this is to say, most Atheists have their minds made up. In many cases, they simply don't want believe so as not to be ultimately accountable for their behaviors. Other committed Atheists contend that no real evidence for a god exists, and that modern science makes belief in the supernatural obsolete.

The truth is, most Atheists are unwilling to acknowledge publically that there are some important questions of science and philosophy for which they cannot provide adequate answers. In this article and the next, we will look at six questions that Atheists cannot answer, and to which only a theistic (and specifically Christian) worldview can offer reasonable solutions. In this installment we will examine three of them and, in part 2, three more.

We begin with the most basic philosophical questions.

Question 1 - Why does anything exist?

When Atheists look at the world and the universe, all they see is what is observable by either their senses or through scientific instruments. That would include space, time, matter, and energy. But the problem they have no solution for is: Where did it all come from? Why does anything exist at all?

Atheism has no valid answer for that question. Before the latter-half of the 20th Century they would simply say, "It has always been here. There was no beginning. The universe is eternal. It just is!" Of course, that

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is no answer at all, especially in light of the second question below.

The only answer that makes sense is that God is the reason that anything exists. Without Him there is no reason for it (or us) to be. All time, space, matter, and energy must have been the conscious creation of God. As Isaiah says: "For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited), 'I am the LORD, and there is none else.'" (Isaiah 45:18 NASB)

The atheist is helpless to counter that proposition. This leads to a second and related unsolvable riddle for atheism.

Question 2- How did the universe begin?

In previous articles we talked about one of the greatest scientific discoveries of the 20th century. In 1964 astronomers at Bell Laboratories, Robert Wilson and Arno Penzias, explored space with their radio telescope. As they processed their data, they found something quite unexpected. Their radio telescope recorded low levels of microwave radiation noise wherever they pointed it. They actually discovered what is called Cosmic Background Microwave (CBM) radiation. The CBM exists as a remnant echo of the beginning of the universe. Wilson's and Penzias' discovery, and its later confirmation, provides objective scientific evidence that the universe had a beginning point from nothing, and came into existence in an instant. That is, all time, space, matter, and energy came into existence in one instance. Before that there was absolutely nothing. Actually, there was no "before" for anything to exist in. This is what I call "Noth-

ing-nothing." It means that the universe is neither eternal nor infinite.

This fact presents a painful dilemma for Atheists because one of the most fundamental of all philosophical and logical principles is, "Everything that begins to exist has to have a cause." So, if the universe had a chronological beginning point when everything began to exist, then it had to have had a Cause. That Cause would have had to be somehow external (transcendent) to the material universe and enormously powerful (perhaps infinitely so). It would have also required a conscious intentionality to decide to make it.

Again, the Atheist has no answer to this question. If that entity that created the universe is not God, as the Bible describes Him, then what possibly could it be? Such an event as the universe suddenly springing into being out of nothing could not possibly be the product of pure random chance as Atheism requires.

Genesis 1:1 simply and profoundly supplies the only reasonable solution: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth!"

And as Isaiah again asserts: "Woe to the one who quarrels with his Maker – An earthenware vessel among the vessels of earth! Will the clay say to the potter, 'What are you doing?' Or the thing you are making say, 'He has no hands?'" (Isaiah 45:9 NASB)

God is the only explanation for creation. He is the only possible explanation for how and why the universe came into being. The Atheist as has no answer. All she can say is: "I don't know how, but it just happened."

Question 3- Why can the physical world be explained by the laws of nature?

Atheists like to extol the laws of nature as explaining how the universe works.

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They point to the formulas of mathematics and physics to demonstrate that no supernatural events need to or can happen to override those fixed laws. They argue that if all the variables of any phenomenon were known, then formulas and equations could be brought together to explain everything that happens.

That assertion is highly debatable even among secular physicists and scientists. Many acknowledge that it is virtually impossible to know every variable of every phenomenon. In any case, however, Atheists cannot explain why the laws of nature, as far as we understand them, are so fine-tuned they can be codified by mathematics and physics. For example, when we do simple arithmetic such as $5 + 5$, we know the answer is always going to be 10. You could never say $5 + 5 = 9$ or 11 or 99. Why? Because the laws of mathematics requires it to be 10. Now we know that the numbers 5 and 10 are only symbols on paper (or just in our minds) that don't necessarily represent anything tangible in the world. But we also know that if we are talking about, say, oranges, that if you took 5 oranges and added 5 more to them, then you would always have 10 oranges total.

Again, the Atheist cannot explain why those laws are fixed in all places and in all time. Why can't $5 + 5 = 11$? Their answer can only be ... "because that's just the way it is." True, that is the way it is, but that does not answer the question "Why?" To answer "Why?" requires that a super mind had to design and fix the laws of nature. That mind could only be God. By the way, this also explains why miracles can happen. Cannot the God who created the laws of nature, when He sees fit, override those same laws? That's a reasonable assumption.

In the next installment we will look at three more pertinent questions for which Atheism can supply no answer. We will ask: "Why does intelligent life exist on earth?"; "Why do we have consciousness of who we are?"; and "What is the basis for objective moral values?"

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