

Questions for Lesson 7: Anticipating Some Objections

1. Why is the tendency of atheists to object to statements in the Bible an invalid objection to the question of whether God exists?

ANSWER: It is getting the cart ahead of the horse! The first question has to be whether there is a God or not--any God!! If we agree there is a God, a creator, then we can move on to which God we are talking about, why Christianity, why the Bible, and how do we handle difficult passages in the Bible. If there is no God that is all irrelevant.

2. What is "bad science"?

ANSWER. Accepting a speculation as fact. Accepting a theory that cannot be falsified or tested in any way.

3. What is bad theology?

ANSWER. Human interpretation being substituted for biblical statements. Not looking at who said it, who they said it to, why they said it, and how people of the time would have understood it.

4. What are the different kinds of jealousy, and how is God jealous?

ANSWER. There is the "spoiled brat" type of jealousy, where someone whines because they don't have what someone else has. There is also the hurt jealousy where someone betrays you, violates a trust, contaminates a relationship, and/or violates a contract. God's use of the word jealousy is this latter kind of jealousy.

5. Why is the quote of Hitler bad theology?

ANSWER. First of all, Jesus was a Jew. Secondly the readings of Jesus show his problem was with the Pharisees and Scribes--the religious authorities. Jesus treated the Jewish people with love and compassion. Read Mark 6:34.

6. What is meant by "ethnic cleansing"?

ANSWER. Wiping out a population because of their nationality, race or creed.

7. Why is the eradication of the Amalekites in I Samuel 15:1-7 not ethnic cleansing.

ANSWER. This nation practiced everything God had told man not to do--drinking blood, sexual promiscuity including sex with animals, eating unclean meat etc. Disease from these practices was rampant, even in the animals. This was a hygienic issue, not an ethnic issue. The problems with HIV in our time is similar.

8. Why does the size of the cosmos make any probability argument useless.

ANSWER. Understand that the skeptical point is accurate here. If you draw 52 times from a deck of cards you will, on the average, draw the ace of spades once. The question is whether the universe is big enough. Remember we started assuming the big bang, so there is not infinite time. I use an exaggerated number in the presentation (100 billion years) to avoid exaggeration. The point is that the possible number of starts is ten to the 26th power, or something around that. When you do the probability calculations you get one times ten to the 700th power or higher. Any reasonable limit to

probability (the Dirac limit was referred to in the lesson) will say the cosmos is not in the same range as the probabilities. You can't argue that it is infinite, because it isn't.

9. Why are modern proposals like multiple universes and virtual universes not a valid response to probability arguments.

Answer: First of all, they are bad science. There is no way to test these theories or to falsify them so they are wild speculations, not valid scientific theories. Secondly, they don't answer the probability arguments because they do not occur at the same point at the same time. If you have the frying pan in Los Angeles in January and the egg in New York in July you are not going to fry the egg in that pan. They have to be together at the same time in the same place. Having the right galaxy in one place and the right location (Galactic Habitable Zone) in a different galaxy doesn't work for the same reason.

10. Why are discussions of what happens in quantum mechanics not a valid response to invalidate probability arguments?

Answer: Quantum mechanics deals with the super small--things like quarks and neutrinos. A different set of laws and thus a different kind of probability has to be applied in this micro-world. What works for a quark would not apply to a planet. Laws that apply to light don't apply to baseballs. Light has a zero rest mass (when you stop it the particle's mass properties disappear). Baseballs don't do this. Light is two dimensional and thus can be polarized. Baseballs cannot because they are three dimensional.