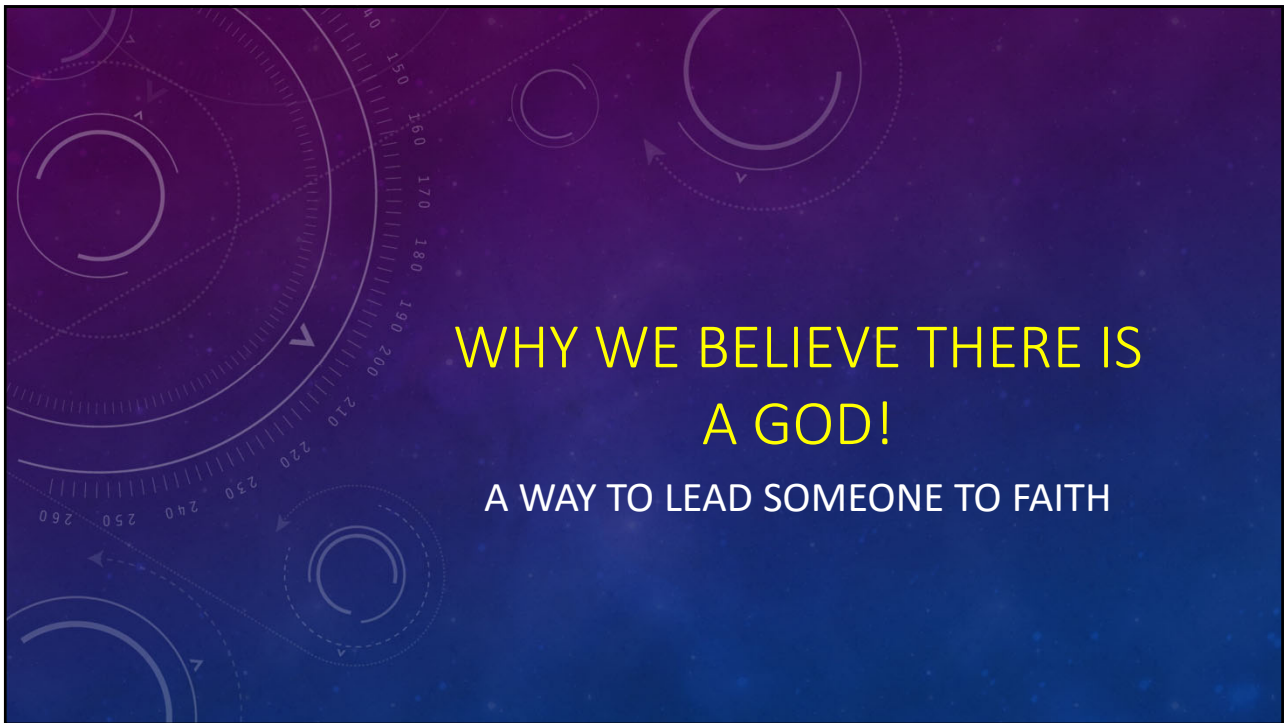




1



2

A BEGINNING POINT

A road to faith must have a point of beginning.
A good beginning point is to ask whether there is a
God.

3

DEFINITION OF GOD

If there is a God, what would that God be like?
A spirit being
Who has always been
All-knowing
All-powerful
Everywhere

4

HOW CAN WE PROVE SUCH A BEING EXISTS?

By observation?

No for, by definition, he is spirit

By reasoning?

Has a bear been here?

Is that driver drunk?

Effect to cause

5

ARE THERE EFFECTS WHICH ONLY GOD COULD CAUSE?

Are there effects for which the most reasonable
cause is God?

Let's start on a point on which all would agree.

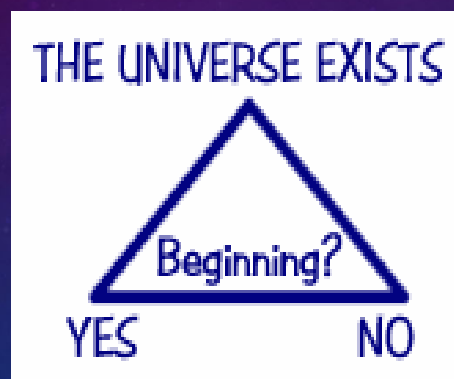
6

THE UNIVERSE EXISTS

By observation, we know the universe exists.
So we begin to answer the question about God by
finding a point of agreement.

7

WE WILL ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE
UNIVERSE.



8

BEGINNING?

Only two alternatives—yes or no.

Which is the more likely?

What is the scientific evidence?

Dr. Edwin Hubble—galaxies are moving apart at enormous speeds. So there is a point of beginning from which they began their journeys.

9

BEGINNING?

Dr. Robert Jastrow, NASA, “Now we see how the astronomical evidence leads to a biblical view of the origin of the world. . . . The chain of events leading to man commenced suddenly and sharply at a definite movement in time, in a flash of light and energy.”

10

BEGINNING?

Energy is being transformed from a more useful to a less useful state.

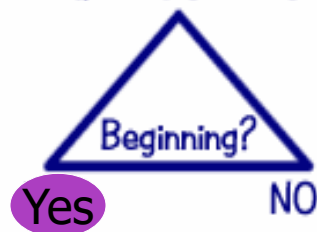
Second law of thermodynamics—unattended systems move toward chaos.

The sun's energy is being used up.

11

BEGINNING?

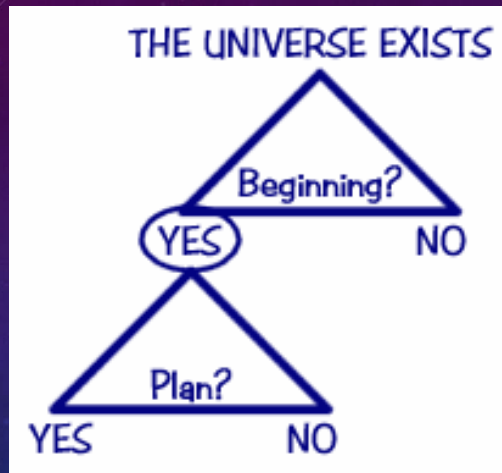
THE UNIVERSE EXISTS



So, which is more likely?
Beginning or no beginning?

12

PLAN?



Which is more likely? Plan/No Plan?

13

PLAN?

Accidental?

Spontaneous?

Chance?

Universe is systematic, orderly, precise. Moving parts.

Universe clearly has design.

14

PLAN?

Earth is exactly the right distance from the sun.
The tilt of the earth give us seasons.
The gravitational pull on earth is just right to hold is here.
Plants and animals balance each other.

15

PLAN?

Dr. Hugh Ross— “Astronomers and physicists widely acknowledge that the only reasonable explanation for the intricately harmonious features of our universe—all ingeniously focused on the requirements for life—is the ongoing involvement of a personal, intelligent Creator.”

16

PLAN?

Ross lists 29 characteristics of the universe and 45 characteristics of the solar system that must be just as they are for life to exist on earth. He calculates the possibility of these happening by chance at “one hundred billion, trillion, trillion, trillion.”

17

PLAN?

What has order, function, and design that came into existence without a plan?

Camera? Car? Computer? TV set?

18

PLAN?

Empire State Building?

Sir Fred Hoyle—Tornado through a junk yard with the parts of a 747 accidentally assembling them into a working plane.

19

PLAN?

How likely that the 200,000 amino acids required for one human cell formed by chance at the same time along with a membrane to contain them?

Each human cell contains more information than 1000 volumes of the Encyclopedia Britannica.

20

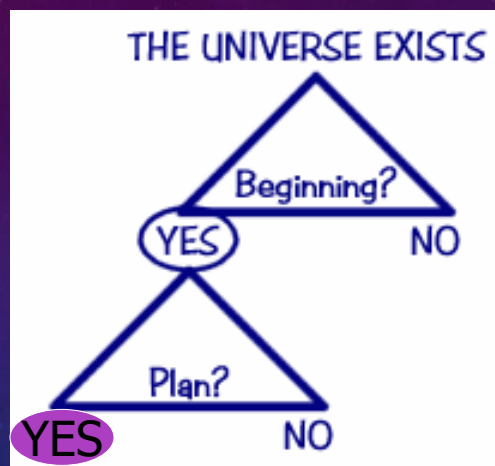
PLAN?

Dr. Antony Flew—world's most renowned atheist
now says there must be intelligent design.

The evidence of a plan was so great that he had to
accept it.

21

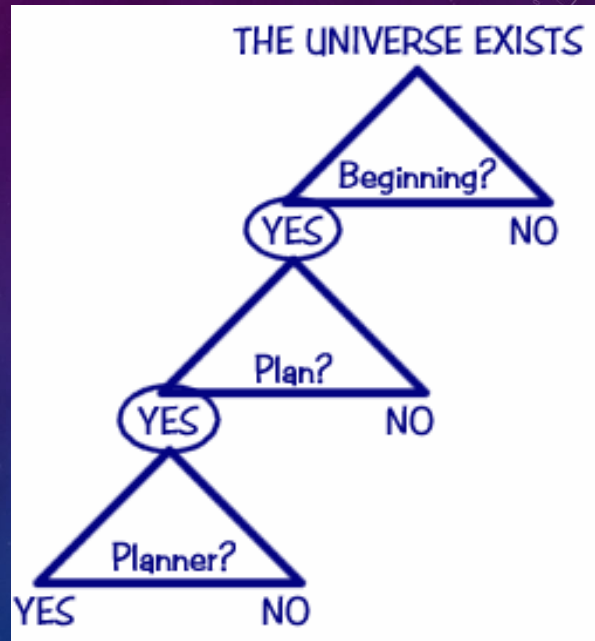
PLAN?



- Overwhelming evidence that the beginning came with a plan!

22

PLANNER?



23

PLANNER?

Which is more likely?

A plan with a planner or a plan without a planner?

Can we name any plan that came without a planner?

Car with no engineer?

Building with no architect?

24

PLANNER?

Nothing in our experience provides a plan without a planner.

So it is more likely that the plan came with a planner than with no planner?

25

WHAT WOULD THE PLANNER BE LIKE?

Non-material

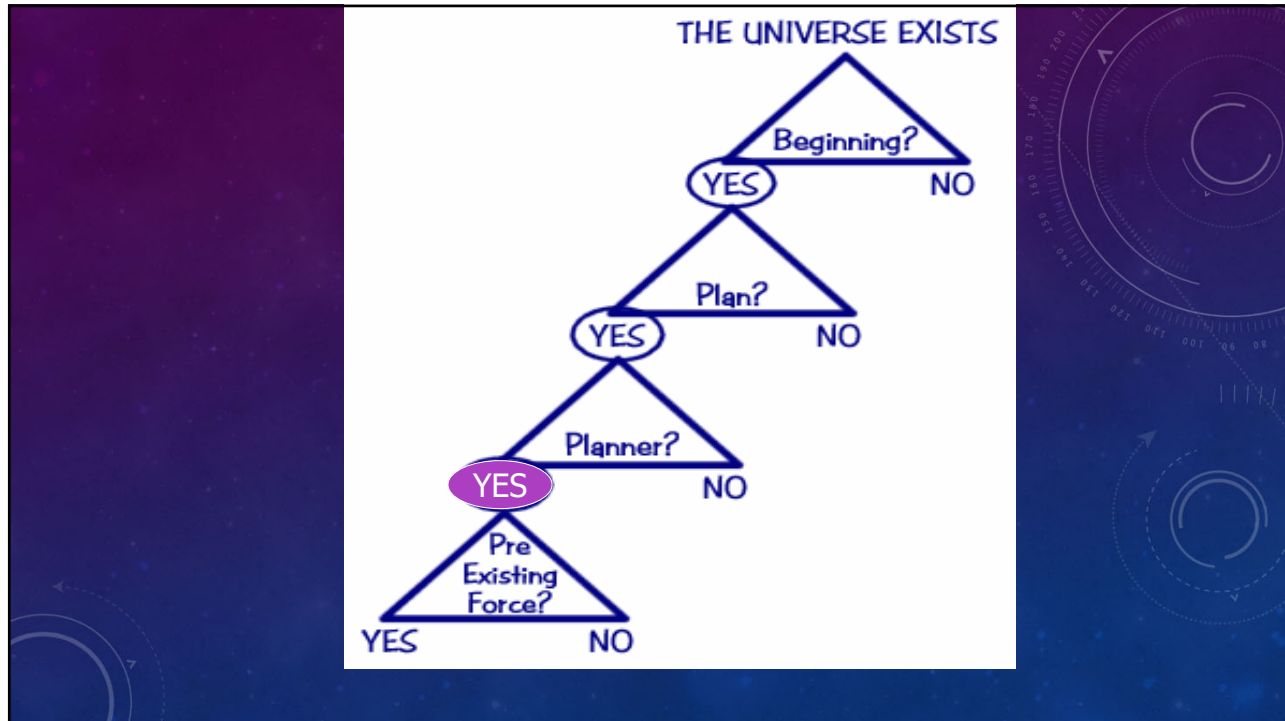
Existed before material things

Great wisdom

Great power

Everywhere

26



27

WHAT SHALL WE CALL THIS PLANNER?

- A Spirit-being
- Eternal
- All-knowing
- All-powerful
- Present everywhere

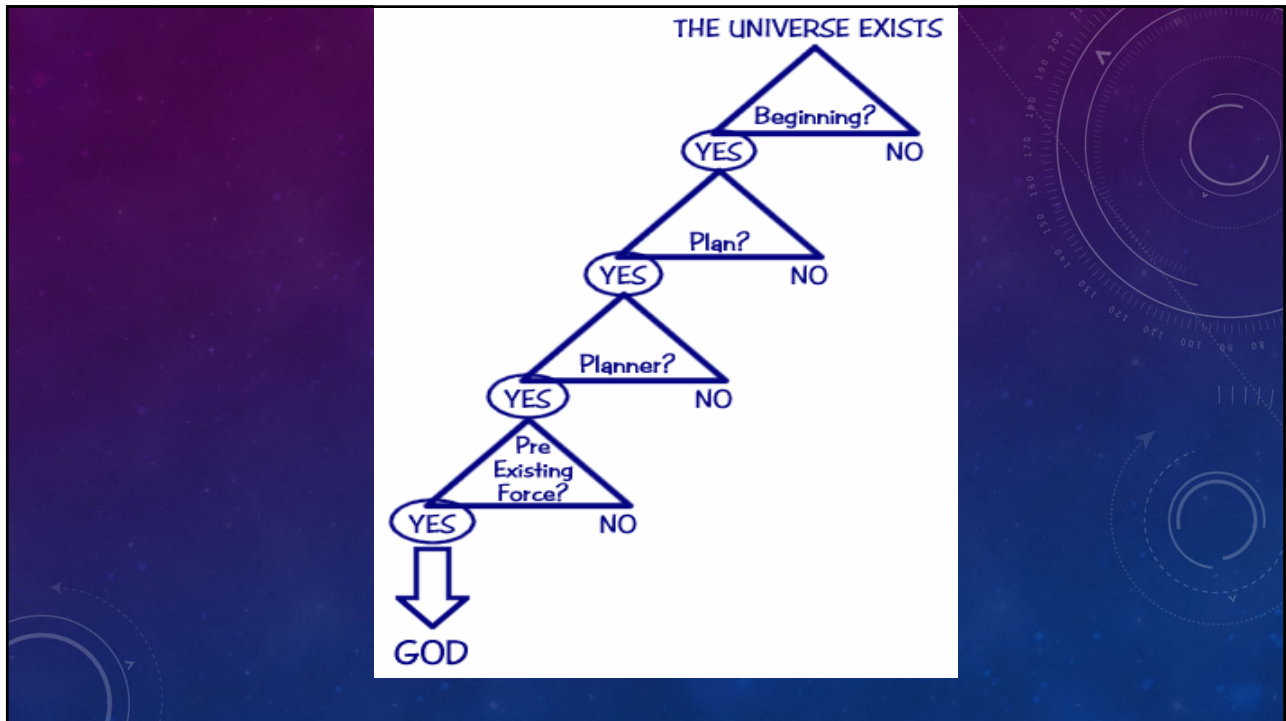
28

THIS DESCRIPTION FITS--

OUR ORIGINAL DEFINITION FOR

GOD

29



30

GOD IS BY FAR THE MOST LIKELY ALTERNATIVE.

The cosmological argument for God.

The Bible tells us to use this very process to study the question of God.

Romans 1:19-20—look at the universe around and draw a conclusion.

They are without excuse.

31

OTHER REASONS TO BELIEVE IN GOD:

Human level of thought

Human sense of purpose

Human conscience

All civilizations have believed in a god of some kind.

32

NOW WHAT?

Having reasoned to the conclusion, we then are ready for the next step:

FAITH

33

FAITH

One could agree the universe had a beginning with a plan and an amazing planner, but have no personal relationship with him.

Faith is the conviction an unseen being is real, and a desire to connect with that unseen being.

34

FAITH

Having reasoned to the conclusion there is a God, we must then believe and act on that belief.

Faith makes God real to us and that faith gives us a personal relationship with Him.

This faith leads to obedience.