

Atheism: No Evidence for God's Existence — Cheat-Sheet

CORE CRITIC CLAIM

There is no empirical evidence for God's existence. Religious belief is irrational faith without evidence.

KEY DEFENSIVE POINTS

- **"No evidence" conflates "no scientific evidence" with "no evidence."** Logical arguments, moral intuitions, consciousness, testimony, and personal experience are all valid forms of evidence. Scientism (only scientific evidence counts) is self-refuting — the claim itself is not scientifically verifiable.
- **The cosmological argument:** Everything that begins to exist has a cause; the universe began to exist (Big Bang, Borde-Guth-Vilenkin theorem); therefore the universe has a cause that is immaterial, timeless, and enormously powerful.
- **Fine-tuning:** Physical constants are fine-tuned to extraordinary precision (cosmological constant: 1 part in 10^{120}). Chance, necessity, and design are the options — design is rational.
- **The moral argument:** Objective moral values exist (torturing children is objectively wrong). Naturalism cannot ground objective morality. A transcendent moral lawgiver is required.
- **Consciousness:** The "hard problem" (Chalmers) — why subjective experience exists at all — is unexplained by materialism. Mind-first ontology (theism) is more explanatory.
- **The logical problem of evil is widely considered solved** (Plantinga's Free Will Defense). The evidential version requires proving God has no morally sufficient reason for suffering — a difficult claim to establish.
- **LDS theology adds unique resources:** premortal existence, growth through opposition (2 Nephi 2:11), experiential epistemology (Alma 32), Light of Christ given to all (D&C 93:2).

KEY SCRIPTURES

Scripture	Point
Romans 1:19-20	Creation reveals God's "eternal power and Godhead" — evidence is available
Psalms 19:1-4	"The heavens declare the glory of God"
Alma 30:44	"All things denote there is a God"
Alma 32:26-43	Experiential epistemology: plant the seed, observe the results
2 Nephi 2:11	"Opposition in all things" — explains why suffering exists
Abraham 3:24-26	Premortal choice to experience mortality
D&C 93:2	"The true light that lighteth every man"
Moroni 7:16	Spirit of Christ given to every person
Acts 17:22-28	Paul engages Greek philosophers at Athens
Hebrews 11:1	"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen"
D&C 88:47	Earth, sun, and planets bear record of God
Moses 6:63	"All things are created and made to bear record of me"

ONE-LINE OBJECTION RESPONSES

Objection	Response
"There's no empirical evidence for God."	Demanding empirical evidence of an immaterial being is a category error; the cosmological, teleological, and moral arguments constitute rational evidence.
"The problem of evil disproves God."	The logical problem of evil is widely considered solved (Plantinga); LDS theology adds premortal existence and eternal perspective.
"Science explains everything without God."	Science explains <i>how</i> , not <i>why</i> — it cannot explain why anything exists, why laws are fine-tuned, or why consciousness exists.
"Religion is just cultural conditioning."	Genetic fallacy — math beliefs also correlate with education, but no one argues calculus is false because it is taught.
"Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence."	The claim that everything arose from nothing by nothing is also extraordinary; theism offers cosmological, moral, and experiential evidence.
"Faith is belief without evidence."	Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as evidence; Alma 32 describes experimentation; Aquinas, Leibniz, and Plantinga have offered rigorous arguments.
"If God existed, His existence would be obvious."	God's purposes may include moral and spiritual growth requiring agency, not compelled certainty (Alma 32:17-21; 2 Nephi 2:11).
"The burden of proof is on the theist."	"God does not exist" is also a positive claim requiring justification; both positions bear explanatory burdens.
"Which God? There are thousands."	The cosmological and moral arguments point to a necessary, personal, moral being — further specified by historical evidence (Resurrection).
"God is just a gap-filler."	These arguments reason from what we know (causation, fine-tuning, morality), not from ignorance.

THE MAJOR PHILOSOPHICAL ARGUMENTS (QUICK REFERENCE)

Argument	Core Logic
Cosmological (Kalam)	Universe began to exist → requires a transcendent cause
Fine-Tuning	Physical constants are extraordinarily precise → chance is implausible → design is rational
Moral	Objective moral values exist → require a transcendent ground → God
Consciousness	Subjective experience is unexplained by materialism → Mind-first ontology (theism) is more explanatory
Contingency (Leibniz)	Contingent universe requires a necessary being as its ground
Evolutionary Argument Against Naturalism (Plantinga)	If naturalism + evolution are true, no reason to trust cognition → naturalism is self-defeating

LDS-SPECIFIC ADVANTAGES OVER CLASSICAL THEISM

Issue	Classical Theism Problem	LDS Resolution
Problem of evil	Timeless, impassible God seems indifferent	Embodied, temporal God who genuinely suffers with us; premortal choice
Divine hiddenness	Omnipotent God should make Himself obvious	Agency requires genuine choice; faith precedes knowledge (Alma 32)
Consciousness	Emergent from matter (unexplained)	Intelligence is co-eternal with God (D&C 93:29)
Free will	Difficult under absolute omniscience	God's knowledge does not determine choices; agency is fundamental (2 Nephi 2:14-16)

ESSENTIAL LINKS

- [FairLatterdaySaints: Existence of God](#)
- [God — ChurchofJesusChrist.org](#)