

# 25-0216a - Detailed Summary

## 25-0216a - 7 Reasons To Believe In God, Part 1, Scott Reynolds

**Bible Readers:** Roger Raines and Kevin Woosley

These Sermon Notes by Scott Reynolds

See the transcript: [Transcript HTML](#) - [Transcript PDF](#)

(Transcription by TurboScribe.ai)

Eric Lyons, M.Min., Kyle Butt, M.A., [Apologetics Press article, October 3, 2014](#)

From Issue: Valor & Virtue – Issue 5, R&R – Issue 34 #10, Valor & Virtue – Issue 1

## 7 Reasons To Believe In God, Part 1

Summary of Transcript (0:04 - 32:30)

### Scripture Readings:

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading (0:04 - 0:34), Roger Raines

**Psalm 33:6-7,**

The transcript begins with two scripture readings from the Book of Psalms. The first reading, from Psalm 33, verses 6 and 7, describes the creation of the heavens and their hosts by the word of the Lord, emphasizing God's power in gathering the waters of the sea and storing the deeps.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading (0:39 - 0:59), Kevin Woosley

**Psalm 148:5-6,**

The second reading, from Psalm 148, verses 5 and 6, calls for praise to the Lord for His act of creation, noting that He commanded the existence of all things and established them eternally through an unchangeable decree. These readings set a theological foundation for the discussion that follows, highlighting themes of divine creation and authority.

## Sermon

**Preacher:** Scott Reynolds

(1:04) = Summary of Transcript Part 1

### (1:04 - 3:05) Introduction to the Article on God's Existence

This section introduces an article by Eric Lyons and Kyle Butt, published by Apologetics Press on October 3, 2014, titled "Seven Reasons to Believe God." The speakers pose the central question of how one can know God exists, given that He cannot be directly perceived through the senses,

measured scientifically, or proven through physical experiments. They acknowledge the challenges posed by atheists, who deny God's existence, and agnostics, who doubt it, but assert that theism—belief in a God—is a rational conclusion. The speakers argue that while direct observation of God is impossible, there exists a substantial body of indirect, credible evidence supporting His existence. This sets the stage for presenting seven specific lines of evidence, with the first being explored in detail in this part of the transcript.

### **(3:06 - 13:42) First Line of Evidence - Matter Demands a Maker**

The bulk of this section is dedicated to the first of the seven reasons to believe in God, focusing on the argument that matter requires a maker. The speakers begin by asserting the undeniable existence of the material universe and pose the question of its origin, invoking the law of cause and effect (causality). This law states that every physical effect must have an adequate cause, either preceding or simultaneous to it. Examples like the American flag on the moon and robotic rovers on Mars are used to illustrate that material effects always have sufficient causes, dismissing absurd notions like spontaneous assembly from random events.

The speakers critique the atheistic explanation of the universe's origin, specifically the Big Bang theory, which posits that all matter and energy were once concentrated in a tiny ball that exploded approximately 14 billion years ago. They argue that even if the Big Bang occurred, it fails to explain the origin of the initial ball of matter, as it too must have an adequate cause. They highlight statements from prominent atheists and agnostics, such as Stephen Hawking and Dan Barker, who suggest that the universe could arise from nothing, but dismiss this as an inadequate and unscientific explanation, citing the first law of thermodynamics, which states that matter and energy are neither created nor destroyed in nature.

Further, the speakers reference the second law of thermodynamics, which indicates that energy becomes less usable over time, suggesting the universe could not be eternal, as it would have run out of usable energy. They quote cosmologist Alex Vilenkin, who argues that the universe must have had a beginning, reinforcing the need for a cause outside the material realm. The section concludes by asserting that the only logical explanation for the universe's existence is a supernatural, eternal power, aligning with Romans 1:20, which states that God's invisible attributes are evident through creation, leaving no excuse for disbelief.

### **(13:43 - 21:22) Second Line of Evidence - Life Demands a Life Giver**

The transcript transitions to the second line of evidence, arguing that life requires a life giver. This section emphasizes the law of biogenesis, a well-established scientific principle stating that life only arises from pre-existing life of its own kind. This emphasizes that operational science indirectly supports the idea of a supernatural creator. Harvard professor George Wald, in his article "The Origin of Life," outlined two options for life's origin: spontaneous generation or a single act of supernatural creation, with no third alternative. They note that despite the scientific rejection of spontaneous generation, many modern biologists resist accepting special creation, preferring a disproven theory over following the evidence to a supernatural creator. The section concludes with a reference to Anthony Flew, a former leading atheist who, after decades of skepticism, concluded that an infinitely intelligent mind is the only satisfactory explanation for the origin of self-replicating life on Earth.

## **(21:23 - 28:58) Third Line of Evidence - Design Demands a Designer**

The speakers introduce the third line of evidence, asserting that complex functional design demands a designer, a principle observable in everyday life (e.g., paintings require painters, architecture requires architects). They extend this to the universe, questioning whether it can be described as designed and what this implies about its origin. The universe's fine-tuning and complexity, such as Earth's orbit, migratory patterns of birds, and the human digestive system, are cited as evidence of design. A specific example involves the precise balance between the mass and charge of electrons and protons, where a deviation of one part in 100 billion would cause catastrophic consequences, suggesting intentional design.

The speakers quote from atheists, such as astrophysicist Paul Davies, who acknowledged the universe's order and fine-tuned properties, and evolutionist Tom Mueller, who praised nature's sophisticated designs in a National Geographic article. They argue that design, by definition, involves purpose, intelligence, and deliberate planning, as supported by dictionary definitions from Merriam-Webster and the American Heritage Dictionary. The section concludes with scriptural references, such as Psalm 19 and Isaiah 40, asserting that the universe's complex functional design logically and observationally points to an intelligent designer, reinforcing the theistic perspective.

## **(28:59 - 32:30) Conclusion and Overview of All Seven Lines of Evidence**

This section serves as a conclusion, summarizing the arguments presented and contrasting theism with atheism. The speakers assert that atheism's claims—such as everything arising from nothing, order from an explosion, precision from random chance, and life from non-life—are irrational and contradict observable evidence. They critique atheism's assertion that a well-designed universe could exist without a designer, likening it to foolishness, while presenting theism as rational and supported by evidence. The three lines of evidence discussed (matter demands a maker, life demands a life giver, and design demands a designer) are reiterated, with a preview of four additional arguments to be explored later: intelligence demands an intelligent creator, morality demands a moral law giver, the Bible's supernatural attributes demand a supernatural author, and the historical, miracle-working, resurrected Jesus demands a supernatural explanation.

The speakers reference Anthony Flew again, quoting his acknowledgment that his journey to belief in a divine, self-existent, immutable, immaterial, omnipotent, and omniscient being was a pilgrimage of reason. They conclude with a confident affirmation that Christians can know God exists, extending an invitation to the audience, presumably for further engagement or reflection, as the transcript ends with a transition to singing. This section encapsulates the overarching argument that theism aligns with reason and evidence, while atheism fails to provide a coherent explanation for the universe and life.