

Does God Exist? What is Ethics?

Year 9

Term 1



(1) Keywords

Text

Dilemma

A difficult choice where both options have negative consequences

(2) Perspectives on God's Existence

There are three main perspectives on the existence of God(s)

(3) Design and Cause

William Paley - Design Argument

- x If you saw a watch for the very first time, you would assume it had a designer as it is so complex
- x The universe is more complex (gravity, oxygen, etc) than a watch
- x The universe must have a designer
- x That designer could only be God.

St Thomas Aquinas - First Cause Argument

- x Everything has a cause (nothing in our world can appear by itself)
- x The universe itself must have a cause
- x That cause must be the only thing which is not created or caused
- x That cause is God because he is eternal.

Religious experiences involve miracles (being healed at Lourdes where the Virgin Mary appeared), having mystical experiences (such as the Toronto Airport Blessing) where people were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues, having prayers answered and visions (seeing Jesus or a saint).

Maurice Wiles argues that miracles would prove that God isn't omnibenevolent (helping everyone) - miracles are experienced by few.

David Hume argues that only uneducated people have religious experiences and so they cannot be taken as proof of God.

Charles Darwin proposed Evolution which showed animals adapting to their environment (niches). Some say this disproves God's Design.

In nite Regress: if everything needs a cause



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