

Contents

Acknowledgments	xiii
Introduction	1
I. The Contemporary Theistic Scene	3
II. Why Are These Proofs New? A Brief History of the Five Approaches	4
III. The Rest of the Book	10
 PART ONE	
Indications of Creation and Supernatural Design in Contemporary Big Bang Cosmology	13
Introduction to Part One	13
Chapter One: Indications of Creation in Big Bang Cosmology	14
Introduction	14
I. The Big Bang Theory	14
II. Can Science Indicate Creation?	22
III. Arguments for a Beginning of the Universe in Big Bang Cosmology	24
III. A. The Second Law of Thermodynamics	24
III. B. Why a Bouncing Universe Cannot Have Been Bouncing Forever	27

III. C. Space-Time Geometry Arguments for a Beginning of Time	30
III. D. Quantum Cosmology	32
III. E. The Borde-Vilenkin-Guth Theorem's Boundary to Past Time	33
IV. Conclusion	43
V. Metaphysical Implications	44
Chapter Two: Indications of Supernatural Design in Contemporary Big Bang Cosmology	47
Introduction	47
I. Universal Constants	52
I.A. Constants of Space and Time	53
I.B. Energy Constants	55
I.C. Individuating Constants	55
I.D. Large-Scale and Fine-Structure Constants	56
II. The Extreme Improbability of Our Anthropic Universe	57
III. Many Universes or Supernatural Design?	67
Conclusion to Part One	73
Postscript to Part One: Inflationary Cosmology and the String Multiverse, by Bruce L. Gordon, Ph.D.	75
Introduction	75
I. <i>All</i> Inflationary Cosmologies Must Have a Beginning and a Transcendent Cause	75
I.A. String Cosmologies Entail a Beginning and a Transcendent Cause	77
I.A.1. A Primer on String Theory	77
I.A.2. Steinhardt-Turok Cyclic Ekpyrotic Universes Require a Beginning and a Transcendent Cause	80
I.A.3. Gasperini-Veneziano Pre-Big-Bang Scenarios Require a Beginning and a Transcendent Cause	81
I.B. Deflationary Intermezzo for Strings	83
II. A Preliminary Assessment of Inflationary Cosmology	84

III. All Inflationary and Non-Inflationary Cosmologies Appear to Require a Beginning and Transcendent Cause	86
IV. Inflation and Cosmological Fine-Tuning	87
V. Fine-Tuning and String Cosmology	90
VI. Conclusion	102
 PART TWO	
Three Philosophical Proofs for the Existence of God	105
Introduction to Part Two: Methodological Presuppositions of Philosophical Proof: Reasonable and Responsible Belief	105
Chapter Three: A Metaphysical Argument for God's Existence	110
Introduction	110
I. Step One: Proof of the Existence of at Least One Unconditioned Reality	111
I.A. Complete Disjunction Elucidating the Whole Range of Possibilities for All Reality	111
I.A.1. Definitions	111
I.A.2. Consequences of the Complete Disjunction	112
I.B. Proof That "Hypothesis F" Must Be False for Any Conditioned Reality	114
I.C. Proof That "Hypothesis ~F" Must Be False for Any Conditioned Reality	116
I.D. Proof That a Circular Set of Conditions Is False for Any Conditioned Reality	117
I.E. Conclusion: There Must Exist at Least One Unconditioned Reality in All Reality	119
I.F. Another Refutation of Hypothesis ~UR	120
II. Step Two: Proof That Unconditioned Reality Itself Is the Simplest Possible Reality	121
II.A. The Principle of Simplicity	122
II.B. Unconditioned Reality Itself Must Be the Simplest Possible Reality	128

III. Step Three: Proof of the Absolute Uniqueness of Unconditioned Reality Itself	132
IV. Step Four: Proof That Unconditioned Reality Itself Is Unrestricted	135
V. Step Five: Proof That the One Unconditioned Reality Is the Continuous Creator of All Else That Is	140
V.A. The Unique, Absolutely Simple, Unrestricted, Unconditioned Reality Itself Is the Creator of All Else That Is	140
V.B. The Creator Must Continuously Create All Else That Is Real	142
Conclusion	143
Chapter Four: A Lonerganian Proof for God's Existence	144
Introduction	144
I. Definitions of "Understanding" and "Intelligibility"	146
II. Proof of the Existence of God	153
II.A. There Must Be at Least One Unconditioned Reality	154
II.B. An Unconditioned Reality Must Be Unrestricted Intelligibility	156
II.C. Unrestricted Intelligibility Must Be Unique — One and Only One	163
II.D. Unique, Unrestricted Intelligibility Must Be an Unrestricted Act of Understanding — Understanding Itself	168
II.E. All Other Intelligibility Besides the One Unrestricted Act of Understanding Must Be Restricted and Be a Thought Content of the One Unrestricted Act of Understanding	172
II.F. Conclusion to the Proof	174
III. The Mystery of Human Understanding: The Notion of Being	174
Chapter Five: Proof of a Creator of Past Time	177
Introduction	177
I. An Analytical Contradiction	180

II. An Ontological Explanation of Real Time	183
II.A. Description, Scientific Explanation, and Ontological Explanation	185
II.B. An Ontological Explanation of Space	186
II.C. Real Time	187
II.C.1. Existential Non-Coincidence	187
II.C.2. Real Time as a Non-Contemporaneous Distensive Manifold	188
II.C.3. Time as the Limiting Condition of Existence	189
II.C.4. The Succession of Time and the Asymmetry of Events	191
II.C.5. Manifestations of Real Time	193
III. Hilbert's Prohibition of Actual Infinities	197
III.A. Three Kinds of Infinity	197
III.B. The Mathematical Prohibition of C-Infinities	201
IV. A Formal Argument Against the Infinity of Past Time in Any Changeable Universe	204
V. Proof of a Creator of Past Time Which Is Not Itself Conditioned by Time	210
Conclusion	215
Chapter Six: Methodological Considerations and the Impossibility of Disproving God	216
Introduction	216
I. Common Methodological Elements	216
I.A. Complete Disjunction Within Metaphysical Assertions	217
I.B. The Notion of "Infinity"	219
I.C. Causality	220
II. Three Approaches to the Notion of "God"	225
III. The Impossibility of Disproving the Existence of God	229
IV. The Tenuous Rationality of Atheism	232

Contents

PART THREE

The Transcendentals: The Divine and Human Mysteries 239

Introduction to Part Three 239

Chapter Seven: The Divine Mystery: Five Transcendentals 242

Introduction 242

I. The Interrelationship Among Absolute Simplicity, Perfect Unity, and Unrestricted Understanding 242

II. The Ontological Status of Love, the Good, and the Beautiful 245

II.A. The Ontological Status of Love 246

II.B. The Ontological Status of the Good 248

II.C. The Ontological Status of the Beautiful 253

Conclusion 257

Chapter Eight: The Human Mystery: Five Yearnings for the Ultimate 259

Introduction 259

I. The Desire for Perfect Truth 259

II. The Desire for Perfect Love 266

III. The Desire for Perfect Justice/Goodness 268

IV. The Desire for Perfect Beauty 277

V. The Desire for Perfect Home 281

Conclusion to Part Three: The Divine and Human Mysteries 285

CONCLUSION

Five Questions Toward the Unconditional Love of God 287

References 292

Index 308