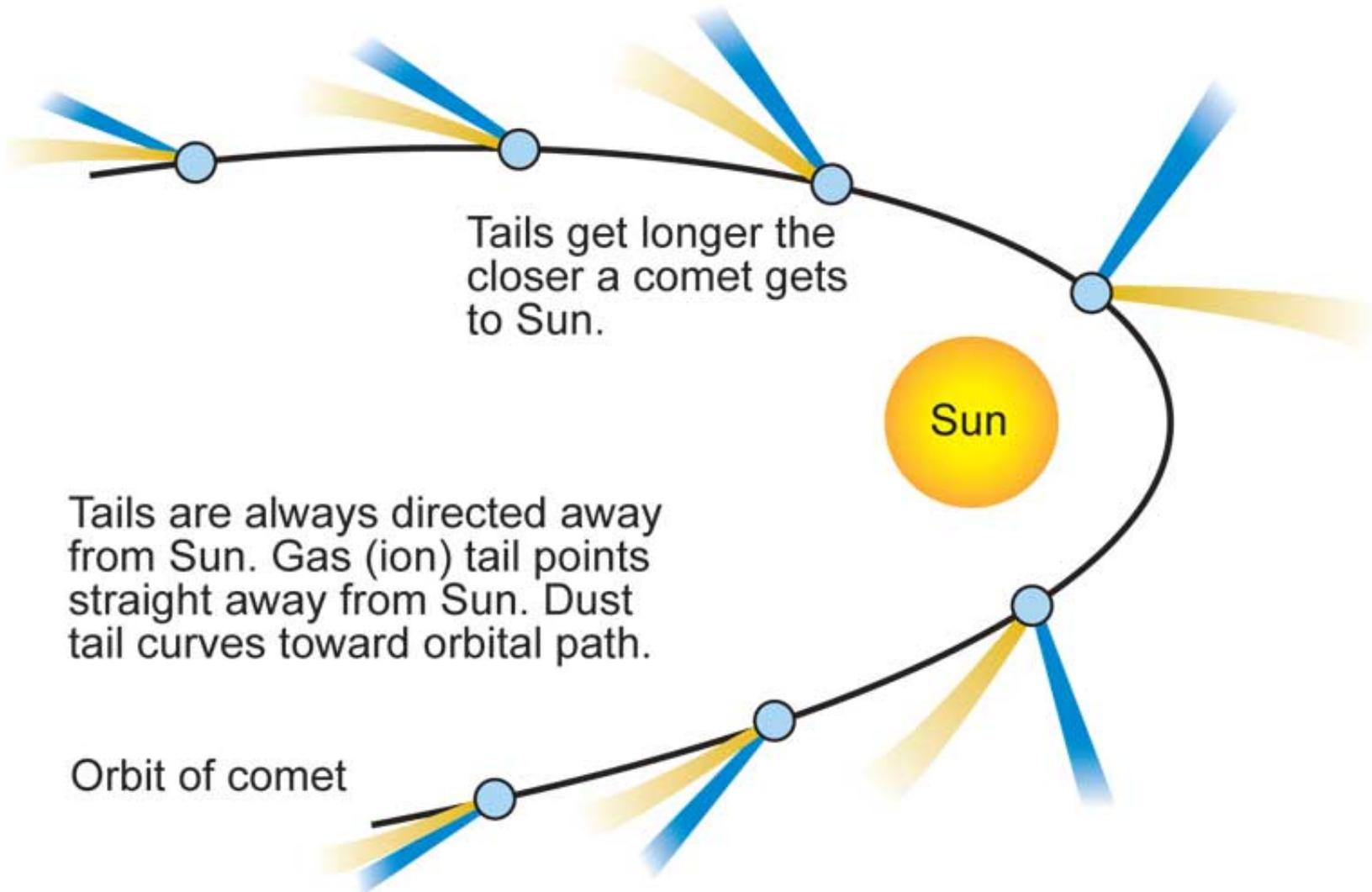


THE ULTIMATE PROOF OF THE BIBLE

- 1) The Nature of Evidence
- 2) The Nature of Knowledge
- 3) Ultimate Standards
- 4) Preconditions of Intelligibility
- 5) The Ultimate Proof of the Bible

By John Williamson

THE NATURE OF EVIDENCE



Worldview: a network of our most basic beliefs about reality in light of which all observations are interpreted.

Rescuing Device: a conjecture designed to save a person's worldview from apparently contrary evidence.

THE BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

The Bible is the foundation for all knowledge:

- The Triune God created the universe thousands of years ago in six literal days
- World destroyed in Noah's flood
- Languages confused at Babel
- Jesus died on the cross to redeem fallen man
- Jesus will return, in the future, to raise the dead and judge the world

THE EVOLUTIONARY WORLDVIEW

Naturalism – Only natural/material (as opposed to supernatural or immaterial) forces exist in the world.

Rationalism – All knowledge is gained through human reason and deduction.

Empiricism – All knowledge is gained by empirical (sensory) observation.

Relativism – There are no universal absolutes, all truth/knowledge is relative.

THE NATURE OF KNOWLEDGE

Knowledge: 1) Justified
2) True
3) Belief



ULTIMATE STANDARDS

Three ways to justify an ultimate standard

(two bad answers and one good answer):

- 1) Justified by some other standard (Bad)
- 2) Not Justified (Bad)
- 3) Justifies itself (Good, if not arbitrary)

ULTIMATE STANDARDS

Question - How does a worldview justify itself in a non-arbitrary fashion?

Answer – A good, rational worldview must:

- 1) be Logically Consistent
- 2) provide for the preconditions of intelligibility

PRECONDITIONS OF INTELLIGIBILITY

- The General Reliability of our Memory
- The General Reliability of our Senses
- Laws of Logic
- Laws of Morality
- Uniformity of Nature (aka Induction)

THE LAWS OF LOGIC

- Universal – They apply everywhere.
- Abstract – They are laws of thought, and thus are not material (you can't trip over a law of logic).
- Invariant – They do not change over time.

THE LAWS OF LOGIC

Question - How can universal, abstract invariant entities, such as the laws of logic be justified?

Answer – By appealing to a universal (omnipresent), abstract (immaterial), invariant (unchanging) creator God, the God of the Bible.

LAWS OF MORALITY

What *should* or *ought* be?

- Cannot be relative (*murder is wrong for you but right for me*)
- Cannot be conventional (*otherwise the convention of Nazi morality cannot be justifiably condemned*)
- Cannot change with time (*Murder was wrong last week, but is right today*)

LAWS OF MORALITY

Question - How can absolute morality be justified?

Answer – By appealing to an absolute creator God, who defines morality, the God of the Bible.

THE UNIFORMITY OF NATURE

- Also known as Induction, Uniformity is using past experience to predict future results.
- Uniformity is the foundation of all scientific inquiry.
- Uniformity cannot merely be assumed, if it is to be known, and thus must be justified.
- Uniformity has proven difficult to justify, and is used as the example of circular reasoning in logic textbooks.

Begging the Question (*petitio principii*)

Powerful minds sometimes are snared by this fallacy... Logicians have long sought to establish the reliability of inductive procedures by establishing the truth of what is called the “principle of induction” This is the principle that the laws of nature will operate tomorrow as they operate today, that in basic ways nature is essentially uniform, and that therefore we may rely on past experience to guide our conduct in the future. “That the future will be essentially like the past” is the claim at issue, but that claim turns out to be very difficult to prove. Some thinkers have claimed that they could prove it by showing that, when we have in the past relied on the inductive principle, we have always found that this method has helped us to achieve our objectives. They ask, “Why conclude that the future will be like the past?” and answer “Because it has always been like the past.”

But as David Hume pointed out, this common argument is a *petitio* – it begs the question. For the point at issue is whether nature *will continue* to behave regularly; that is *has* done so in the past cannot serve as proof that it *will* do so in the future – unless one assumes the very principle that is here in question: that the future will be like the past.

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THE UNIFORMITY OF NATURE

Question – How can uniformity be justified?

Answer – Appeal to the Bible:

**"As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,
summer and winter, day and night
will never cease."** Genesis 8:22 [*God
speaking to Noah following the flood*]

THE ULTIMATE PROOF

The Bible *must* be true by the impossibility of the contrary.

Since the preconditions of intelligibility are *only* justifiable in the Biblical Worldview, to deny the truth of the Bible is to deny that anything is knowable.

THE ULTIMATE PROOF

If the Bible were not true, it would be impossible for us to know anything.

We do know things.

Therefore, the Bible *must* be true.

THE ULTIMATE PROOF

“...*resulting* in a true knowledge of God’s mystery, *that is*, **Christ Himself**, in whom are hidden **all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**”

Colossians 2:2-3

THE ULTIMATE PROOF

“The fear of the LORD is the **beginning of knowledge**; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Proverbs 1:7

“The fear of the LORD is the **beginning of wisdom**, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” Proverbs 9:10

THE ULTIMATE PROOF – EXAMPLES - 1

G. of Edmunston, NB, Canada, writes:

Your denial of basic science will in the long run discredit you and your cause. The empirical evidence is available for all to consider. Your message is akin to asking us to believe the world is flat or that the sun revolves about the earth despite overwhelming empirical evidence to the contrary.

THE ULTIMATE PROOF – EXAMPLES - 2

R. from San Francisco, California, writes:

How can you honestly deny science and be so ignorant to the obvious truth about our beginnings? I pray that you'll have an epiphany and stop misleading people to believe in nonsense and lies. You're ultimately going to turn people off to God. If anyone has half a brain they're going to look to science for truth, not 4,000-year-old stories written by goat herders.

THE ULTIMATE PROOF – EXAMPLES - 3

B. from Buffalo, New York, writes:

Get over your childish, self-pacifying beliefs and deal with the fact that the world is senseless. If perchance there is a god and a reason behind this madness, they certainly will not be found in a book as flawed and disgusting as the bible (unless you promote slavery, misogyny, and the condemnation of billions of people to eternal torment). The claim that T. rex was a vegetarian prior to the fall is so absurd that it scarcely deserves commentary.

THE ULTIMATE PROOF – EXAMPLES - 4

S. from Rome, Italy, writes:

This has to stop, the bible is just a rework of other stories and religions around at the time in question. It is insane to keep saying it is the word of god. Jesus was no more a god than Krishna was or Horus. It is not good for humanity to continue being so superstitious [sic] and ignorant of fact. You have no proof that the bible is divine just like there is no proof that Sai Baba is divine yet he has followers in the millions. The bible is a forgery [sic] just like the Talmud is a forgery.

THE ULTIMATE PROOF – EXAMPLES - 5

D. of South Dakota, writes:

After all the atrocities [sic] god has committed [sic], why should he expect his “creation” to be any different! Do you really expect rational beings to accept the word of bronze age mythologies over modern scientific evidence? I’m sorry, but I need proof or a reasonable explanation [sic] that can be substantiated [sic] before I believe anything. If you provide me with any proof or reasonable explanation for anything in your fable, I will recant every statement I ever made about the god myth!

Why do atheists [sic] statistically lead just as or more moral lives than theists? Morality is common sense! I know that it’s wrong to kill because I wouldn’t want to be killed. The same could be said for all your so called commandments! Sorry if I’ve been a little harsh, but the stupidity/gullibility [sic] of mankind is a little troubling to me. I think that anyone can believe what they want. But don’t force feed theistic superstitions on me, innocent kids or anyone else. That’s my main problem with religion!

THE ULTIMATE PROOF – EXAMPLE - ISLAM

“And they (the unbelievers) planned to deceive, and Allah planned to deceive (the unbelievers), and Allah is the best of deceivers.” Sura 3:54

“Those before them did (also) devise plots [deception]; but in all things the master-planning [deception] is Allah’s He knoweth the doings of every soul: and soon will the Unbelievers know who gets home in the end.” Sura 3:54

THE ULTIMATE PROOF – EXAMPLES - ISLAM

“When Allah showed them to you in your dream as few; and if He had shown them to you as many you would certainly have become weak-hearted and you would have disputed about the matter, but Allah saved (you); surely He is the Knower of what is in the breasts. And when He showed them to you, when you met, as few in your eyes and He made you to appear little in their eyes, in order that Allah might bring about a matter which was to be done, and to Allah are all affairs returned.”

S. 8:43-44 Shakir