

## Is God Real?

The Bible does not prove that God exists.  
Rather, the Bible assumes that God exists.

“I wonder if there is a God?” vs. “I wonder who God is?”

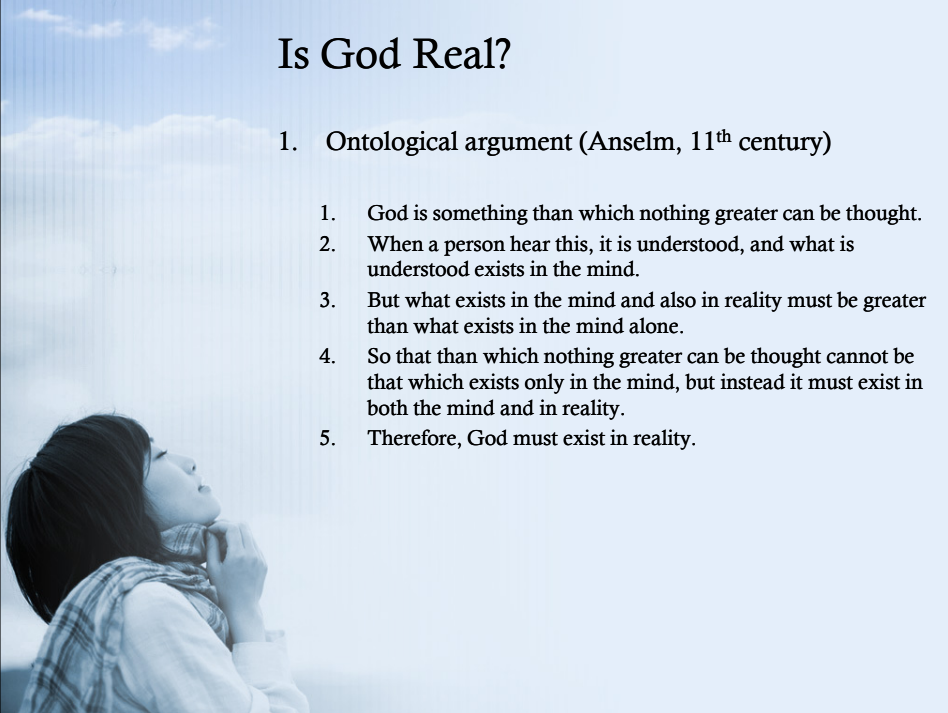
In your life, how have you  
processed these questions?



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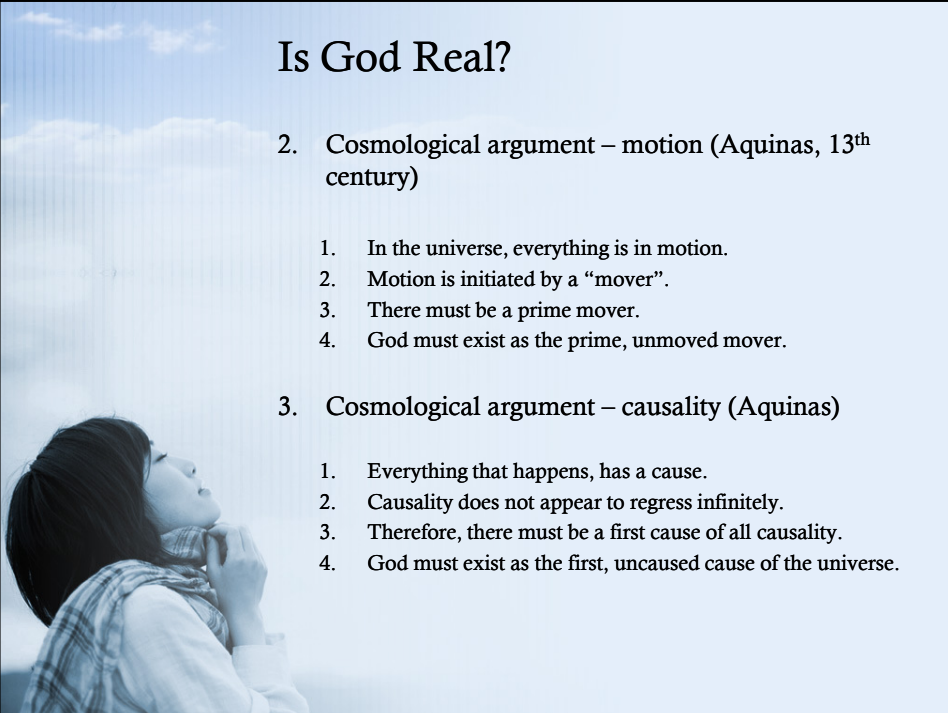
1. We will look at five informational reasons to believe in the existence of God.
2. We will look at three experiential reasons to believe in the existence of God.





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1. Ontological argument (Anselm, 11<sup>th</sup> century)
  1. God is something than which nothing greater can be thought.
  2. When a person hear this, it is understood, and what is understood exists in the mind.
  3. But what exists in the mind and also in reality must be greater than what exists in the mind alone.
  4. So that than which nothing greater can be thought cannot be that which exists only in the mind, but instead it must exist in both the mind and in reality.
  5. Therefore, God must exist in reality.



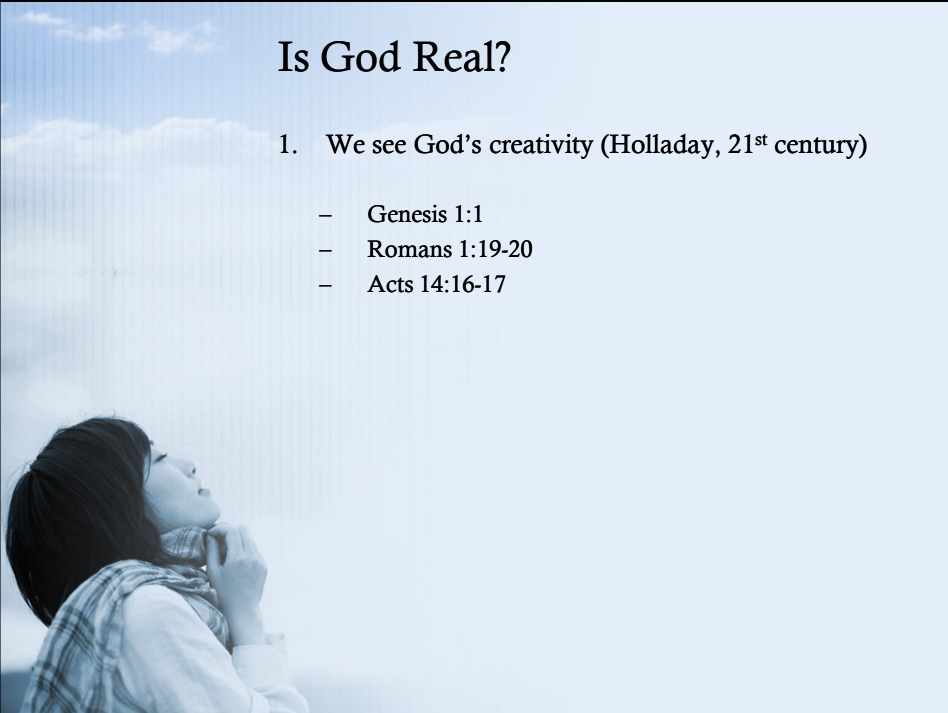
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2. Cosmological argument – motion (Aquinas, 13<sup>th</sup> century)
  1. In the universe, everything is in motion.
  2. Motion is initiated by a “mover”.
  3. There must be a prime mover.
  4. God must exist as the prime, unmoved mover.
3. Cosmological argument – causality (Aquinas)
  1. Everything that happens, has a cause.
  2. Causality does not appear to regress infinitely.
  3. Therefore, there must be a first cause of all causality.
  4. God must exist as the first, uncaused cause of the universe.



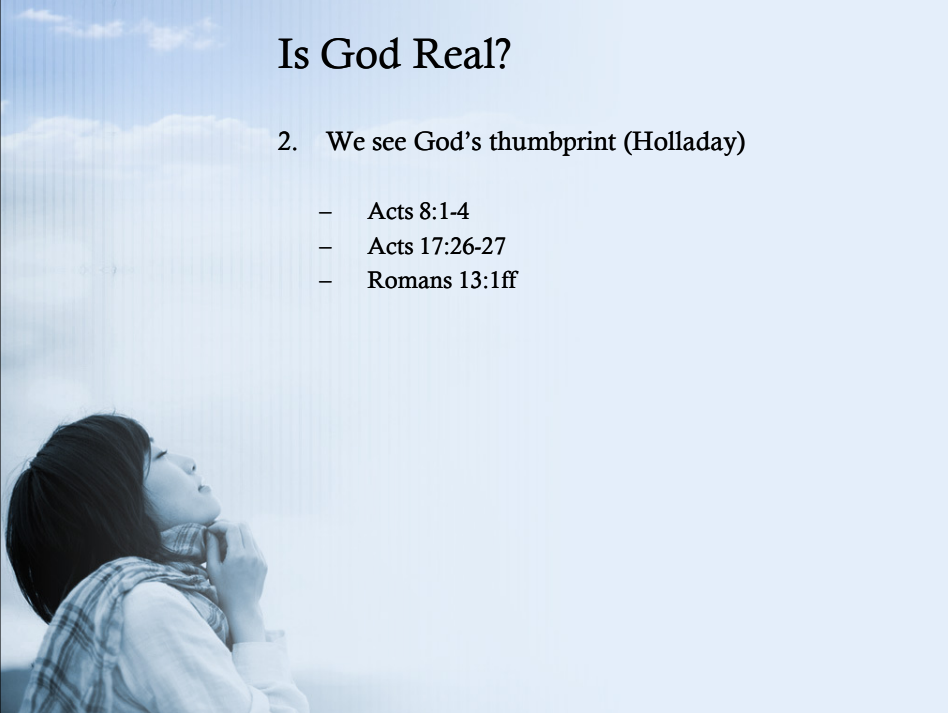
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4. Teleological argument (Aquinas)
  1. There is an observable sense of order and purposefulness in the universe.
  2. The design cannot be accounted for by chance alone.
  3. There must be an intelligence that accounts for the universe's order and purposefulness.
  4. Therefore, God must exist as the designer of the universe.
5. Moral argument (Kant, 18<sup>th</sup> century)
  1. There appears to be a universal human moral conscience.
  2. A moral conscience must be based on moral laws.
  3. Only God could be the creator and enforcer of such laws.
  4. Therefore, God must exist as the source of morality.



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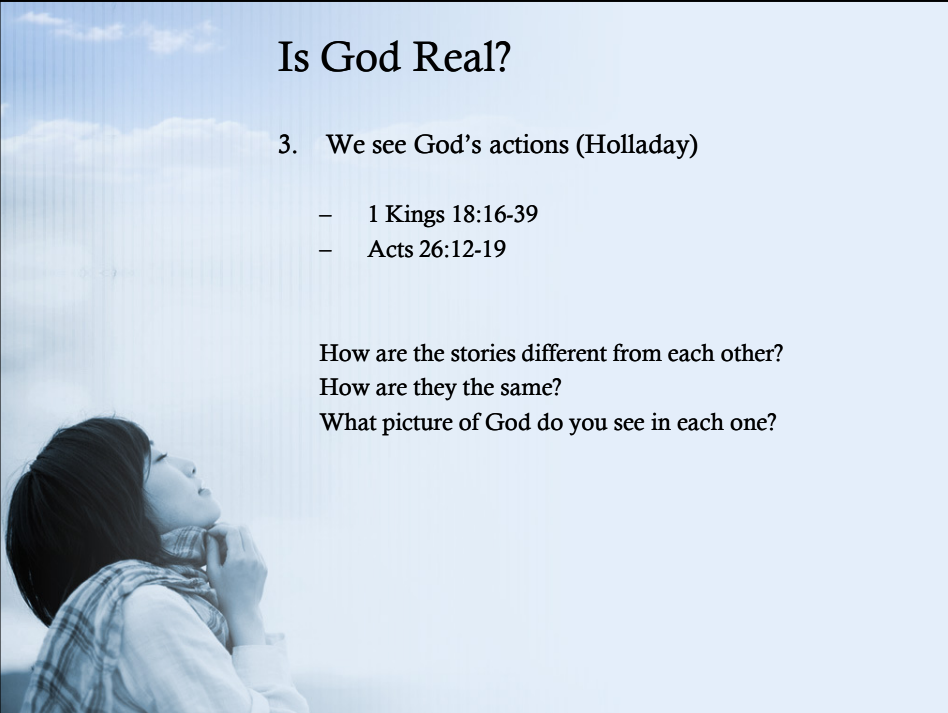
1. We see God's creativity (Holladay, 21<sup>st</sup> century)
  - Genesis 1:1
  - Romans 1:19-20
  - Acts 14:16-17



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2. We see God's thumbprint (Holladay)

- Acts 8:1-4
- Acts 17:26-27
- Romans 13:1ff



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3. We see God's actions (Holladay)

- 1 Kings 18:16-39
- Acts 26:12-19

How are the stories different from each other?  
How are they the same?  
What picture of God do you see in each one?

## DISCUSSION – Which One?

Which reasons for God's existence are the most significant for you?

Which reasons would you find the easiest to talk about with other people?



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Family Verse:

*“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.”*

*Psalm 19:1-2*

Further Resources:

- Books by Ravi Zacharias, Hugh Ross
- Christian Beliefs, by Wayne Grudem
- More than Meets the Eye, by Richard Swenson
- MB Confession of Faith ([www.mbconf.ca](http://www.mbconf.ca))
- [www.bible.org](http://www.bible.org)

