

Theology for Beginners – Is there a God?

Overview

We begin our series on Theology with a very basic premise – is there a God?



Is there really a God? – CCC #1701-1715

Before we can begin to understand theology, we must first establish an answer to this critical question. If there is no belief in a God – then all theology is nothing more than rhetoric. While entire volumes have been written on these subjects, we can establish many proofs of an existence in God as follows:

1. **God's presence in our hearts:** We may not understand it but all of mankind seems to have an inherent desire to find God – as we are made in His image. Every culture and generation has shown this desire and we often see a common thread as the cultures look to the heavens for this God. In a special way, God has impressed knowledge of Him in our hearts and we long to find Him. **CCC # 1-3** tells that we are intended to know and love God. The art that is shown above comes from the Sistine Chapel and depicts God creating and reaching out for man.
2. **God's evidence in creation:** The psalmist declares that the heavens declare the presence of God. What the psalmist means is that the very existence of the material or corporal world is visual proof of a God. We will cover this more in detail in a section, which follows.

3. **Scriptures tells us so:** God has revealed Himself through the prophets and in the inspired written word of the Bible – both the Old and New Testaments.
4. **The Incarnation reveals God:** God revealed Himself in the Incarnation of His Son. Jesus was not just an extraordinary man – but also fully Divine. We will cover this point in more detail in another session.
5. **Historical facts:** It is important that we also establish that Jesus and His followers were real people. While the New Testament provides written proof of the existence of Jesus and what happened to Him, there is considerable information written by philosophers, historians and Romans and other people of the time that discusses Jesus in great detail.
6. **Miracles:** What is a miracle? A miracle is an event which occurs which cannot be explained away by natural laws. Even before Jesus came upon the earth, we read in Scriptures about God's miracles. Genesis contains the many miracles by which Moses finally led the Jews out of Egypt – parting the waters of the Reed Sea. The New Testament also contains many miracles of Jesus and His Apostles. Miracles have continued after the last Apostle died right up to modern days. A verifiable miracle is a requirement for the canonization of all Saints – and we have seen how often our Pope has declared a new Saint! I like to think that God uses miracles to open the eyes of the non-believers and to strengthen those who do believe.

Note: **CCC#** refers to the Catholic Catechism paragraphs for further information and study