

Who Created God?

Respond using the Kalam Cosmological Argument.

Although we are can conceive of, and even perform mathematical calculations on, 'potential' infinite sets; the existence of an 'actual' infinite set would "spawn all sorts of absurdities," as William Lane Craig said regarding the Kalam Cosmological Argument (KCA) in *Christian Apologetics* (chapter 8, page 82). Craig mentioned several examples of such absurdities using the Hilbert Hotel illustration of mathematician David Hilbert.

Therefore, although it's probably philosophically possible someone created the one we call God (if by God we mean 'merely' a powerful being ruling over our universe rather than one who is eternal, timeless, changeless, etc.), it's not philosophically possible there was an infinite regress of gods creating gods, or we would never have arrived at the God we have now. In order to arrive at the present, there would have had to be a point in the past where an unchanging being started creating gods, or more directly, created the universe.

Here are some scenarios that are logically possible, in accordance with the KCA, since they don't require an infinite regress of events.

- A changeless, personal God created the universe.
- A changeless, personal god created our god, or started a series of gods, one of which created the universe.
- A plurality of timeless personal gods always existed, and one or more of them, created the universe. (Although since each would have had to unchangingly, eternally and always willed and thought all that came to be, a plurality or such gods could potentially present many difficulties for each other.)
- The universe always existed in an unchanging state, along with one or more timeless gods, who at some point, put the universe into motion.
- God created aliens, and aliens created the universe.

Here are some scenarios that are impossible because they would require an infinite regress of past events, which would violate the KCA, because we could never have reached today.

- The changing universe always existed. (Impossible because of an infinite sequence of past events.)
- A changing God created our god who created our universe.
- The impersonal universe always existed, first in an unchanging state from eternity past, and then at some point began changing on its own. (Impossible because without a will, or external influence, there would be no cause for the change.)
- The Jolly Green Giant or aliens always existed, and at some point, created the universe. (Impossible because the Jolly Green Giant and aliens are not changeless and would thus themselves require

an infinite series of events in their pasts. If the Jolly Green Giant or aliens are changeless, immaterial, powerful, timeless, etc., then they are God, or gods, with a different name.)

In addition to the philosophical implications of the KCA, science also seems to indicate the universe had a beginning, and thus was caused by something other than itself. The apparently expanding universe seems to show the universe had to have a beginning, either sometime like 6000 years ago, or at a point like 14 billion years ago, where all galaxies would converge into one point if projected backwards. Also, the running down of usable energy, and transition from order to disorder in the closed system of the (all-inclusive) universe, also indicates the universe had a beginning, or it would already be in a state of entropy.

When all that is considered, along with the supernatural revelation from the Bible, which begins "in the beginning God created the universe [the heaven and the earth]" Gen. 1:1; it seems most likely no one created God, but that he is the first and only unchanging, immaterial, timeless, all-powerful, personal God, who created the universe.

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All kinds of explanations for the creation of the universe can satisfy the KCA, but none that have an infinite regress of past events, which is what demonstrates the universe needed a beginning. The ultimate creator would have to be different from the universe in that he doesn't change, or he would have a history of an infinite series of events, and would never have reached the time to create the universe or its creator(s).

That said, I'm not sure I accept the concept of an unchanging God that has always, at all times, thought all the thoughts he ever has or will think, and that there is no 'event' that affects his history such as before or after he decided to create the universe, created the universe, became flesh, and comes down to dwell with man, "I John saw the ... new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, ... and I heard a great voice ... saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them," Rev. 22:2-3. So, I'm still searching on this one, even though I've heard many explanations of how God is outside of time.

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Hi Wayne. I'm not sure KALAM supports infinity + infinity + infinity, as in infinite, eternal gods.

Response. As long as all the Gods are changeless, and theoretically reach into time outside themselves to cause a universe, I don't see them violating the part of the KCA that says an infinite series of past events are impossible. What other philosophical parts of the KCA are there, except that anything that had a beginning was caused? But a "changeless God" sounds too theoretical to me. God said, "I am," which implies he dwells in the eternal present, but God knowing all he will ever know, thinking all he will ever think, deciding all he will ever decided, and doing all he will ever do, all at the same time forever (outside of time)? I don't know where that is in the Bible, and it sounds a bit boring except for the immense extent of it.

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Wayne, I don't see apart from using the Bible as doctrine, how this conclusion is drawn through the options showed. To someone struggling with this question that is not a Christian, I'm curious how you would explain God as the last conclusion based off the KCA?

Response. I don't think the premises of the KCA necessitate the conclusion that 'God' created the universe, but only that a changeless, powerful, personal Cause or Causes created the universe. Also, I don't think we can convince any unbelievers to believe through logical arguments, though I think we can use them to remove genuine obstacles for someone who wants to believe because of the Word.

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In our finite, human minds it seems natural to think that for every effect, there is a cause behind it. However, when it comes to God, the principle no longer applies. How can the one who created the laws of logic be bound to them?

Response. Even God cannot both be and not be at the same time in the same way etc., or do anything that can't logically be done. "God that cannot lie." God can't make something right just by doing it. For example, he can't forgive our sin without Jesus's death or he himself would be unrighteous. "To declare his righteousness for the remission of sins ... To declare, I say, at this time his [own] righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."

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A hotel with infinite rooms whether you add or subtract guests the rooms are always full. Infinity does not work in real life. It would

seem it is not possible for our universe to be infinite. To create a universe inside a space time boundary with a beginning and end, this would of necessity require God to be outside, not a part of, the universe. God would be infinite.

Response. A God who is supposedly infinite, with no beginning and end, would have the same problem an eternal universe would; the impossibility of an infinite sequence of past events. On the other hand, a 'changeless' God who is infinite would not have such an impossibility, and I realize you're implying that by having God outside a universe that includes space and time. Also, whether you add or subtract guests to Hilbert's Hotel, the rooms are not necessarily always full. You could put an infinity of guests in every billionth room, and still have a very high vacancy rate, and then fill up all the rooms in one shot with an additional infinity of guests, for example.

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Yes, God is outside the space-time boundary; therefore I'm not certain how the concept of sequence and time plays out, except maybe in short intervals of some sort.

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Response. Since it's impossible for the universe to have had an actual infinite sequence of events in its past - or we could have never reached today; then I don't see how an infinite God could have any sequence of events in his past, or they would also be an impossible infinite sequence of events, even if in short intervals, and he could never have reached the time when he created the universe. Apparently, it's logical for an eternal God to have events, just not a sequence of events, but rather all happening simultaneously in some timeless now, or something; though this doesn't seem entirely satisfying when considering the way the Bible portrays God's relationships with men, despite the ideas of anthropomorphism and analogy. I guess if God was changeless for the infinite past end of the past, and then became sequentially active at some point, he could be active from then on and have an infinite sequence of events going into the future, since I don't believe a future infinite (or potential infinite) series of events is impossible. Maybe that's what you were trying to do with the short intervals, limit the past portion of the series to a finite number.