

special mention, ##19 and 20, below.

19. The True Intellectual System of the Universe by Ralph Cudworth (1678).

This work, by a leader of the Cambridge Platonists, is an argument against atheism. Cudworth attempts to integrate the physical world into a more universal system in which the moral and spiritual worlds are included. His favorite proof for the existence of God is the ontological argument. He also argues from less perfect things to a perfect Being, who is God. Only one book of the projected three was ever completed.

20. The Reasonableness of Christianity by John Locke (1695).

This famous philosopher does not attempt to show that the claims of Xy are evident to reason, but that there is nothing incredible or improbable in them, and that they can be supported by good arguments. Although theological systems are often unreasonable, there is nothing unreasonable in Xy as taught in Scripture. Locke argues that, according to Scripture, Adam's sin deprived all men of eternal life, but this was restored to all men through Christ; and that through the covenant of grace, God has offered to forgive any man's sins on condition that he believe in Christ. Locke contends that the universal failure of mankind to profit from natural reason and natural religion in matters of correct belief and conduct, and the comparative improvement which Xy brings in this respect, suggest that Xy is indeed a divine revelation.

21. The Analogy of Religion by Joseph Butler (1736)

Joseph Butler (1692-1752), of Presbyterian parents, early entered the Church of England, eventually becoming bishop of Bristol in 1738 and bishop of Durham in 1750.

His major work, famous in its day, has the full title, The Analogy of Religion, Natural and Revealed, to the Course and Constitution of Nature. This work of immense labor and care was an attempt to stem the tide of deism and skepticism. Its arguments exerted considerable influence upon orthodox Xns.

The Analogy is divided into two parts. The first deals with natural religion, the second with revealed religion. The teachings of religion may be observed to correspond to the known course of nature, so that objections to the former amount to an attack on the latter, which is known to be true. The argument, Butler admits, yields only a probability for the truth of Xy, yet "probability is the very guide of life."

In addition to the argument from analogy, positive evidence is presented for Xy, namely miracles and fulfilled prophecy.

Butler concludes by stating that even if complete satisfaction as to the truth of Xy cannot be provided, still the skeptic