

c. Analysis of the Cosmological Argument

The argument may be analyzed into two steps:

Step 1:

Premise: The world has come into being.

Premise: Everything that has come into being must have come into being by a cause prior to it and sufficient to account for it.

Conclusion: The world must have come into being by a cause prior to it and sufficient to account for it.

Step 2:

Premise: The world must have come into being by a cause prior to it and sufficient to account for it.

Premise: The only cause prior to the world and sufficient to account for it is the creative power of God.

Conclusion: The world must have coming into being by the creative power of God.

d. Criticisms of the Cosmological Argument

(1) Statement of the Argument

No statement of the cosmological argument has ever been entirely satisfactory or beyond criticism.

(2) Infinite Series

There appears to be no logical reason why an infinite series of finite members is impossible. Such series, in fact, are commonly used in calculus. If this is so, then it is not logically impossible that the world could have existed forever, as an infinite series of finite causes and effects. This would then contradict the first premise of step 1.

(3) Cause and Effect

Why must the cause always be greater than the effect? Why cannot the cause be equal to the effect? Or could not the effect be greater than the cause?

(4) Finite God

If the cause of the world must merely be greater than the world itself, no more than a finite god is needed, given that the world (universe) itself is finite.