

RUSSIA SEMINAR TALKS, SEEKERS TRACK
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LECTURE 2: WHAT KIND OF GOD EXISTS?

INTRODUCTION

We have suggested in the last lecture that there is excellent evidence for the existence of God. We gave some of that evidence then, and hope to give more of it in this and some of the following lectures.

But if God exists, what kind of God is he? (1) Among ancient Western religions, the idea of finite, personal gods is most common, e.g., Zeus, Venus, Thor. (2) Among the traditional Eastern religions (Hinduism, Buddhism), the idea of an infinite, impersonal god is dominant. (3) Christianity and other religions influenced by the Bible are characterized by belief in an infinite, personal God.

Is God a personal or impersonal being? Is he finite or infinite? There is good evidence from nature that we live in a universe created by an infinite, personal God. Let us see.

INFORMATION & INTELLIGENCE:

Most people tend to think of science as dealing only with impersonal, natural forces. Yet scientists in archaeology and astrophysics have tests which look for the presence and quantity of information in an object to recognize signs of intelligent design in that object.

An archaeologist, looking at a chipped stone, will try to decide whether the chips were made randomly (the stone having fallen from a cliff or having been broken by frost and heat) or by design (an arrowhead maker), noting the number and positioning of the chips. The positioning of less than 100 chips is sufficient to be sure the object was designed rather than random.

A number of scientists have worked to design simple messages to send out from earth in case other civilizations are out there listening. To test for messages coming to us, an astrophysicist, will look at the record of signals received by his radiotelescope and decide whether the signals are just "noise" from some natural phenomenon or a message from some distant civilization. It would only take a few hundred signal elements to recognize a message, even if it could not be decoded. A decodable message would be even stronger, indeed conclusive evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence.

But living things contain very similar evidence that they