

## The proof of the Existence of God

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Background of the study

### **Abstract**

The problem statement of the paper was the proof the existence of God. The research design used to write this paper was explanatory research design, the research strategy used was cross sectional survey and the research approach used was qualitative research approach. The objectives of the study was achieved through research. The introduction of the paper was brief introduction about the existence of God. The source of the data was primarily source and the method of data collection was consultation of research papers by academic journals and papers published at various websites. The study discovered where God dwelled, argument for and against the existence of God, traditional African religion belief in God, who created God; nature of God. The study recommended that servants of God should preach and teach at radio and television stations to educate the public that God exist. Servants of God and educated Christians ought to write books to

help people to know that God existed and made signboard in their various communities to draw people attention to understand that God existed.

### **Introduction**

The existence of God is a controversial debate in the philosophy of religion and popular culture. The argument for and against the existence of God are grouped as metaphysical, logical, empirical and scientific. According to the study of philosophy the existence of God comprises of the study of epistemology, ontology and the theory of value. The Western tradition of philosophy proves that the existence of God started with Plato and Aristotle. Plato and Aristotle argued about the existence of God and their argument was termed as cosmological argument. St. Anselm came out with argument concerning the existence of God which was known as ontological argument. Later Ibn Rush and Thomas Aquinas introduced their own concept of the existence of God called cosmological argument.

### ***Objectives of the study***

To find out the nature of God

To find out traditional African Religion belief in God

To find out argument for and against the existence of God.

To find out where God lives and who created God

### **The nature of God**

#### **The Biblical proof**

#### ***God is Spirit***

According to Jesus God is Spirit and those who worship God must worship in Spirit and in truth (John 4:24). He is not a man because He has no flesh and blood. He did not allow the Israelites to make image to represent Him (Exodus 20:4-6).

#### ***God is Light***

This implies the glory and the image of God (1Timothy 6:15-16).

#### ***God is love***

Love goes with the other nature of God such as grace, kindness and mercy (1John 4:16).

#### ***God is a consuming fire***

This metaphorically means the holiness and the righteousness of God. The word "fire"

symbolically represent God's judgement against sin.

#### ***God is Jehovah***

This implies God does not depend on anybody and He is perfect in nature, actions, works and utterances (Exodus 3:13-15).

#### ***God is Jehovah-M'Kaddesh***

That is, "God who sanctifies". He is holy and expect His followers to abstain from sin (Leviticus 20:7-8).

#### ***God is infinite***

God is not limited and no one has the power to restrict His movement (Romans 11:33).

#### ***God is good***

He is full of grace and does what is good (Psalms 119:65-72).

#### ***God is Jireh***

This means "the God who provides". He does not lack and able to supply our needs (Genesis 22:9-14).

#### ***God is Jehovah-Shalom***

That is, "the God of peace". The fullness of God is perfect peace, His peace is above understanding and sustains us in times of trouble (Judges 6:16-24).

#### ***God is transcendent***

That is, He is superior to the universe (Psalms 113:4-5).

### ***God is Jehovah-Rophe***

That means, "the God who heals". Through Jesus Christ, He has solution for man's problems (Exodus 15:22-26).

### ***God is sovereign***

This means, He controls every event either small or great. Through power and knowledge, He controls all creation (1Chronicles 29:11-13).

### ***God is Jehovah-Nissi***

This implies "God is our banner". Through Jesus Christ, He is the brain behind our success in life (1Corinthians 15:57).

### ***Traditional African Religion***

Traditional African Religion believe in the existence of the Supreme God. Through writing, African scholars confessed that African believe in the existence of God as the creator of the universe for the past three decades (Idowu, 1962, Mbiti, 1975). The Yorubas believe in the Monotheistic religion. As time goes on the worship of many deities overshadowed the Monotheistic religion. The Monotheistic religion and the worship of many deities spread to the rest of African continent. In other part of African the name of God is mentioned during prayer, songs

and religious ceremonies. They believe that God is superior to the lesser gods and the rank of beings. They believe that God does not involve in the activities of man in the world. His name is mentioned during occasion.

***Thesis statement:***The study investigated into the proof of the existence of God, who God is, where God lives, argument for and against the existence of God, traditional African religion beliefs in God and who created God.

### ***The evidence of the existence of God***

#### ***Empirical evidence***

##### ***The universe***

The structure and design of the universe give us picture that it might be created by a Supreme being. It is not true the universe came into existence by chance. Looking at how the universe is no man could create it and the Supreme being who created it was wonderful and powerful.

##### **Nature**

The things of nature are well organized and none contradict itself. This means there is a Supreme being behind all these organizations. The nature of man and culture show the existence of God.

### ***Institution***

When a man is born, there is a strong feelings in every man that God exist. Every man possess this strong feelings within in him.

### **Revelation**

The Bible gives detail information about the existence of God. Through Bible teachings , we develop faith in God.

### ***Moral knowledge***

In human institution it is accepted every child who is well trained might have come from a religious home. To exudes good nature requires sound religious teachings. The religious teachings we receive from our infancy helps us to know that God exist.

### **Ignorance**

There are things which are impossible to explain. These things were created by God.

### ***Religious experience***

During church service, we may observe the supernatural powers of God which helps us to believe that God exist. As individuals, He might reveal Himself to us in a miraculous manner.

### ***Literature review***

In spite of what other writers had written concerning the nature of God, the study investigated into the evidence of the existence of God. The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica wrote an article titled "Existence of God". The article stated that in religion the existence of God was accepted and He was the creator of the universe, all the things in it and He created man. In religion He was regarded as perfect, most powerful and knew all things. The existence of God was experienced through reasoning, religious experience and faith. The issue of the existence of God were grouped as a prior or posterior. It said that whatever existed on the earth did come by itself but confirmed to the principle of sufficient reason. It talked about Thomas Aquinas' argument of the existence of God which was called cosmological argument. In his argument he stated that there might be a Supreme God whom all the living things and the non livings derived their strength from. With respect to what the writer had said the study found out the proof of the existence of God, who created God, traditional African Religion beliefs in God, argument for and against the existence of God and the nature of God and where God lives.

### ***Where does God live?***

It is true that the Spirit dwells in the heart of the children of God. Because the bodies of the children of God are the temples of God. God has a specific place where He dwells and His throne is found in such a place. The place where God resides is Heaven. Heaven is a city built by God Himself. According to king Solomon He lives in Heaven (1kings 8:43). When Jesus Christ resurrected, He ascended into Heaven where His Father (God) resided (Hebrews 9:24). Through Jesus Christ, His disciples understood that God stayed at Heaven (Matthew 6:9).

### ***Argument against the existence of God***

#### ***Empirical evidence***

#### ***Revelation***

Among the various religions in the world their revelations and concepts about God are not consistent and are contradictory.

#### ***Evil***

Evil has taken control over the world and human beings are suffering. If God exist, He will not allow evil to exist where He hate evil.

#### ***Poor***

Life forms are badly created and has negatively affected the lifestyle of man.

#### ***Belief***

God who is Omnipotent should have drawn believers to Himself and not seeking people to believe in Him.

#### ***Parsimony***

Natural theories explain how religion began and the belief in gods.

#### ***The analogy of Russel teapot***

The poof of the existence of God is the work of the theist and not atheist.

#### ***The grand design***

The book entitled "The grand design" written by Stephen Hawking and Leonard Miodinow says it is logic to ask who created the world. If the answer is God, then the next question is who created God. The authors believe that it is simple to answer these questions through scientific knowledge without giving credit to God.

#### ***Who created God?***

The scriptures says God is eternal but in Greek language the word "eternal" means "age long" or "forever". There is no proof that somebody created God. He existed before the world came into being (Romans 16:26; Genesis 1:1). The first Greek alphabet is "alpha" and the last Greek Alphabet is "

Omega" . Therefore the Lord God was before everything and He is after everything.

### ***Methodology***

#### ***Introduction***

This chapter deals with the research design, research approach, research strategy and the source and acquisition of data. The research design used to write this paper was explanatory research design because it was the best method of giving reasons for collecting data. The research approach used was qualitative research approach. The study was interested in the proof of the existence God, the research strategy adopted for the study was cross sectional survey where a number of authors were chosen as a case study.

#### ***Sampling design***

The study investigated into articles published by journals and articles published at the various websites

#### ***Population***

The population of the study was 10 authors.

#### ***Method of data collection***

The source of the data for the study was primary source and the method used to collect data to write this paper was research into papers published by academic journals

and the papers published at the various websites.

### ***Summary of findings, Recommendation and Conclusion***

#### ***Summary of findings***

The study discovered the nature of God, where He dwells, argument for and against the existence of God and traditional African religion belief in God.

#### ***Conclusion***

The study found out the nature of God, where He dwells, traditional African religion beliefs in God, He was eternal, argument for and against the existence of God. Base on the above mentioned points the study generalized that God existed.

#### ***Recommendations***

##### ***Radio and Television programs***

Servants of God should preach and teach on radio and television to educate to understand that God exist.

##### ***Christian literature***

Servants of God and educated christians must write books to teach the public about the existence of God.

### **Signboard**

Christian churches ought to make signboard in their various community to draw people attention to know that God is exist.

### **Acknowledgement**

I sincerely give thanks to the Almighty God for giving me wisdom to write this paper. Glory be to His name. I thank the authors of the various papers that I consulted and those who encouraged me to write this paper. To you all, I say God bless you in all your undertakings.



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