03 5 “The design argument proves that God exists”

Evaluate this statement.

Many Christians might say that the Design Argument proves that God exists. The world is so complicated and amazing that it has to have a designer, and that designer is God. Other people might disagree that an argument can prove anything about God, and they might contradict the evidence put forward in the argument by Christians.

To support the above statement Christians might refer to William Paley and is watch analogy. The watch is complicated, and it has a designer. He compares the watch the world and the world is even more complex, therefore it also must have a designer, and he said the only person capable of designing the world had to be God, therefore God exists. On the face of it this seems like a logical argument and fairly convincing because there is evidence of design in the world.

Evidence to support the argument are complexities in nature. For example the complicated patterns that occur such as the Fibonacci sequence, DNA, and the fact that our Earth exists in the Goldilocks zone. The chances of this happening are billions to one. All of this complexity points to the fact that the universe didn’t appear by chance but was carefully designed and created by God, supporting the statement that God must exist.

However, the argument does not convince everyone that God exists. Atheists might say that there are flaws in the argument. Just because the world appears designed, doesn’t mean it has a designer. In fact, we now know that all the complexities in the world are the result of evolution, and evidence for this has come from Charles Darwin with his trip to the Galapagos Islands and his evidence of animals and birds for example the finches, adapting to their environments rather than being created and designed as they are now.

Secular people might also point to the fact that the world often appears random and unplanned. There is evidence of moral and natural evil happening for example natural disasters such as tsunamis and good people suffer and die. If God had designed the world, then surely he wouldn’t let this happen. They might therefore conclude that either he is a bad designer, or that he doesn’t exist.

In conclusion it would appear that the Design Argument at first glance is a logical argument because complicated things do require a designer and it does have some good evidence to support it such as the complexities in nature. It is therefore convincing to Christians that God exists. However, I don’t agree that it proves God exists, because much of the evidence put forward such as complex patterns in nature are now known to be the result of billions of years of evolution, something William Paley wouldn’t have known about. This doesn’t mean God doesn’t exist, but it does mean that the argument isn’t strong enough to prove his existence. I would conclude therefore that the argument might strengthen a Christian’s faith, but doesn’t provide proof of God’s existence.

*This is an extremely well-argued response giving reasoned consideration of arguments for and against the statement. It is a very full answer including logical chains of reasoning which draw on knowledge and understanding of evidence and information and lead to judgements. Christian teachings and non-religious beliefs are applied to the arguments which are appropriate for a Theme C answer. The final paragraph provided the justified conclusion.*

*Level 4 – AO2*