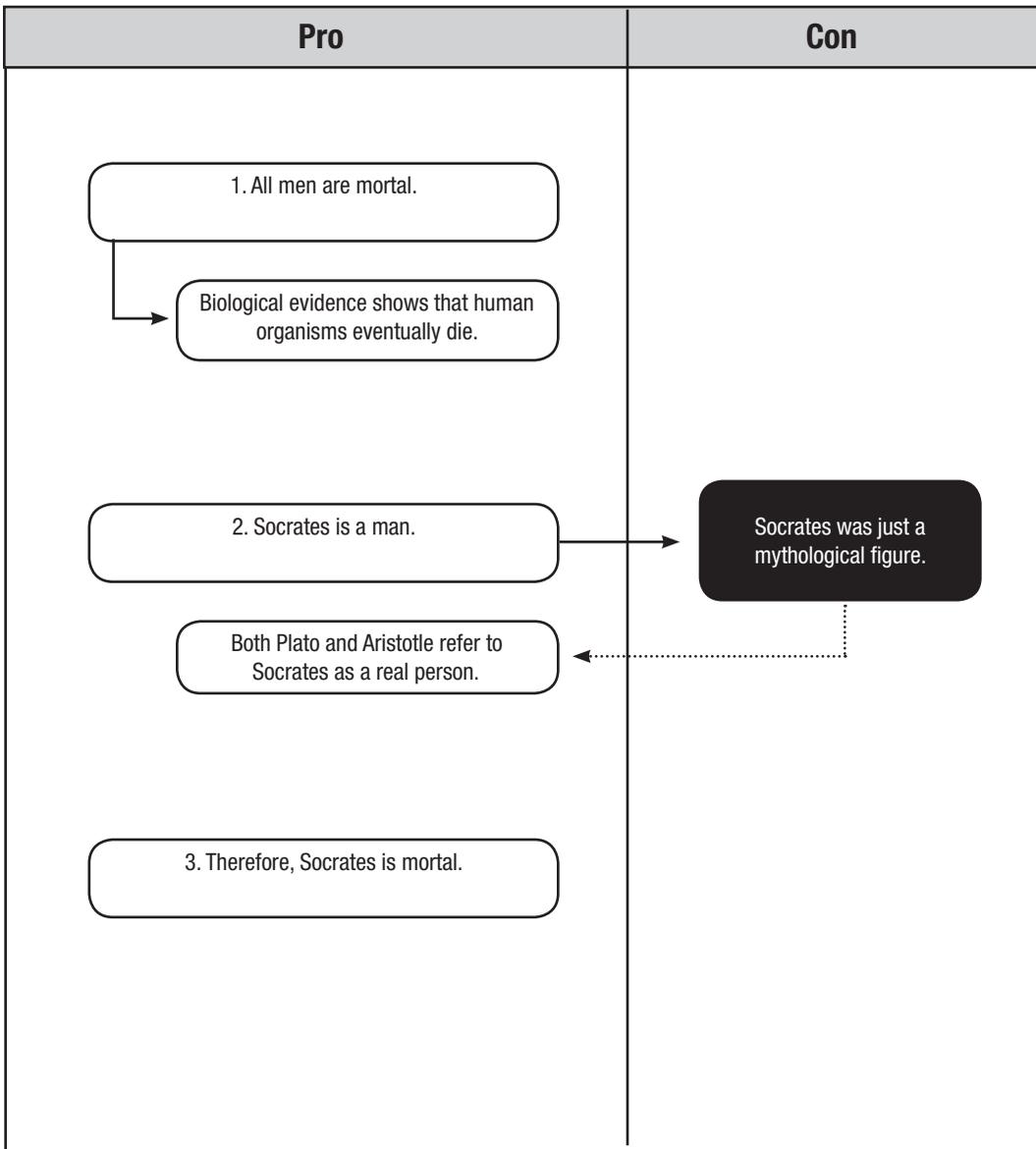




SAMPLE ARGUMENT MAP

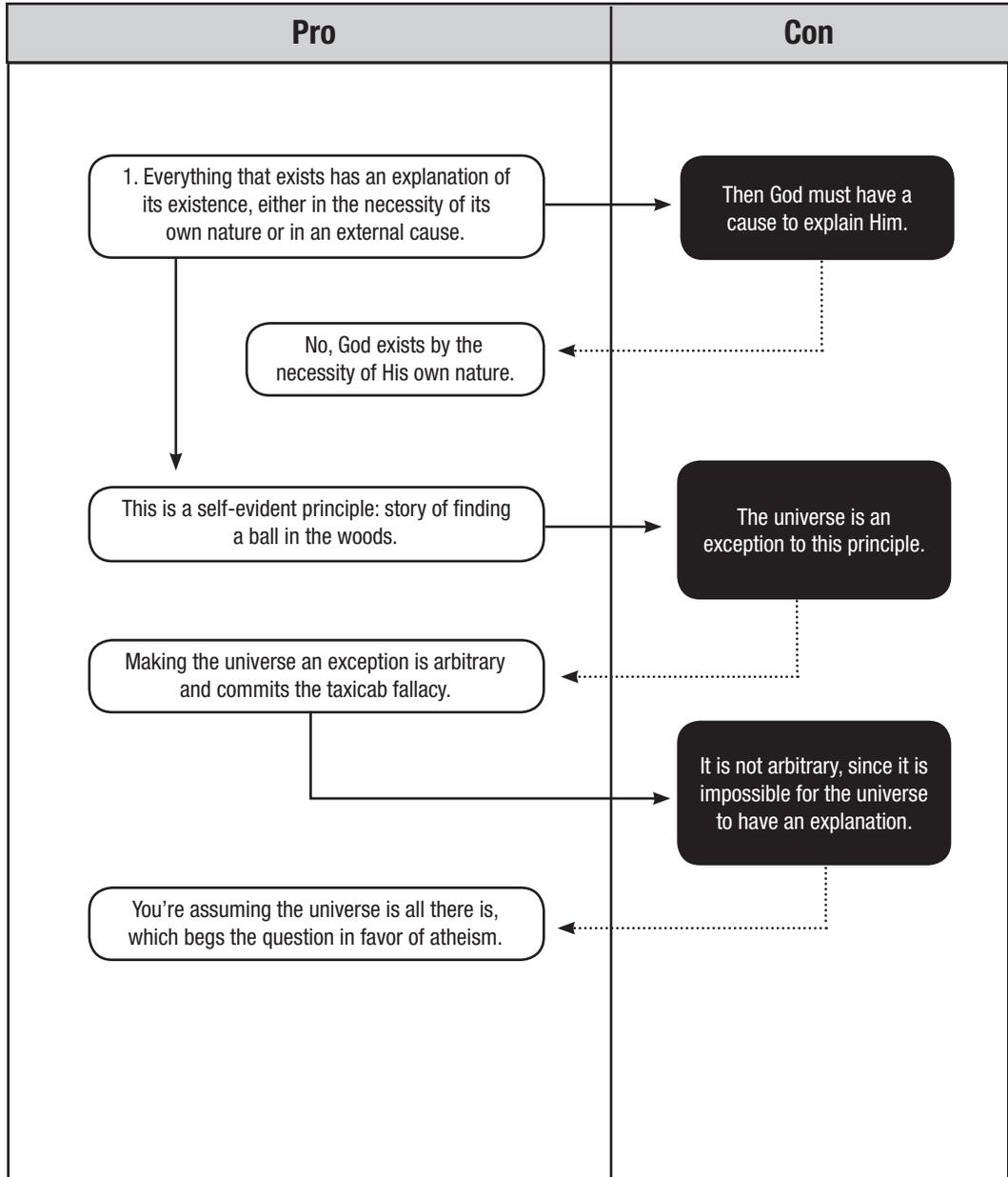




- I. If God does not exist, then all human life as well as every individual life will eventually be destroyed.
- II. If there is no God and no life beyond the grave, then life itself has no objective meaning, value, or purpose.
 - A. Meaning
 - 1. Without immortality your life has no ultimate significance and makes no difference to the world's outcome.
 - 2. Without God there is no broader framework within which man's life can be seen to matter.
 - B. Value
 - 1. Without immortality there is no moral accountability, and your moral choices become inconsequential.
 - 2. Without God moral values are just delusions ingrained into us by evolution and social conditioning.
 - C. Purpose
 - 1. Without immortality your only destination is extinction in death.
 - 2. Without God there is no purpose for which you came into this world.
- III. It is impossible to live consistently and happily with an atheistic worldview.
 - A. If we live happily as atheists, it is only by inconsistently affirming meaning, value, and purpose for our lives, despite the lack of foundation for them.
 - B. If we live consistently as atheists, we shall be profoundly unhappy and even in despair because we know our lives are really meaningless, worthless, and purposeless.
- IV. Biblical Christianity challenges the worldview of modern man.
 - A. According to biblical Christianity God exists and life does not end at the grave.

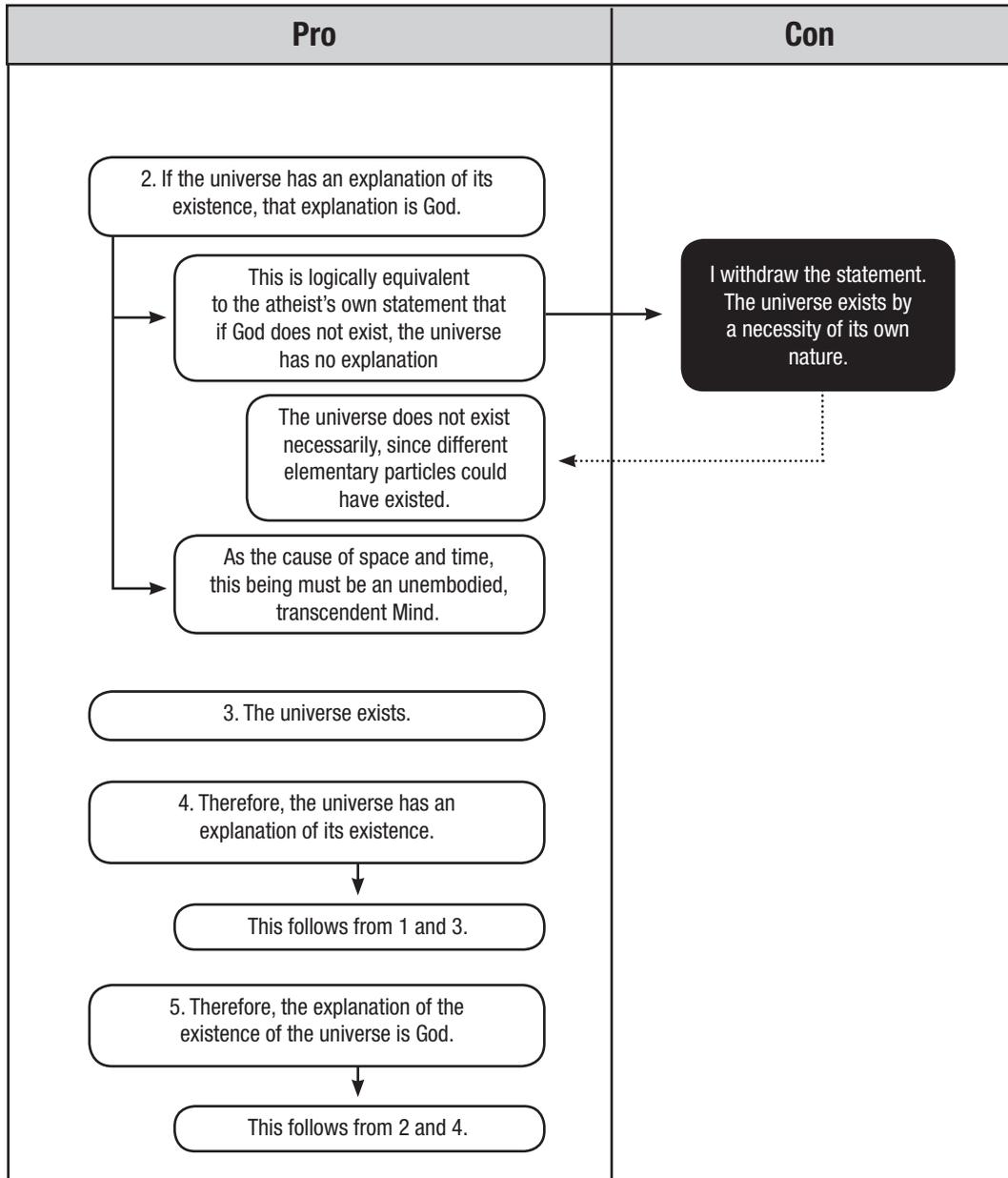
- B. Biblical Christianity thereby affirms the two conditions sufficient for a meaningful, valuable, and purposeful life: God and immortality.
- C. Biblical Christianity therefore supplies a framework within which one can live consistently and happily.
- D. So why not look into the truth of biblical Christianity?

LEIBNIZ'S COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

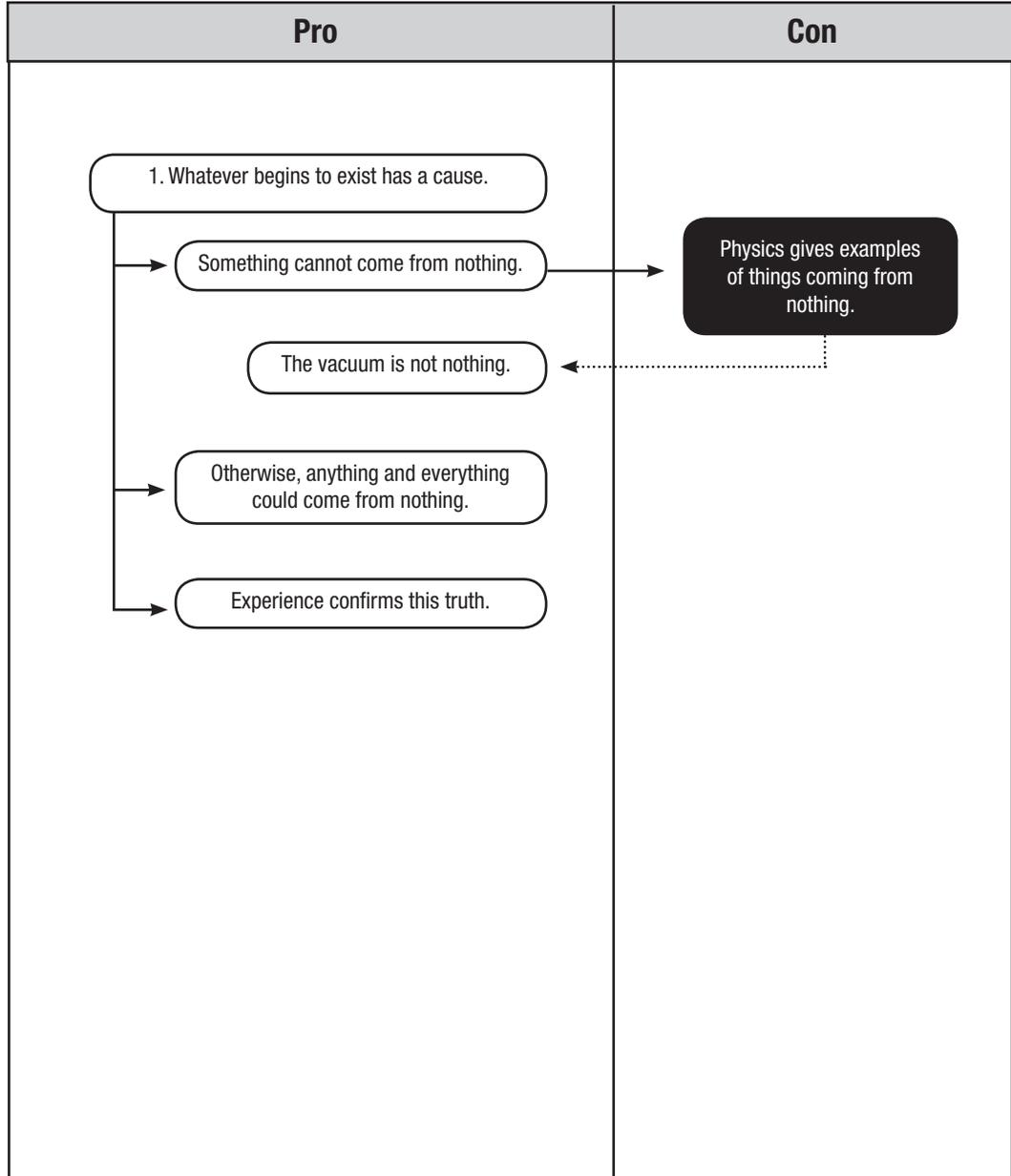




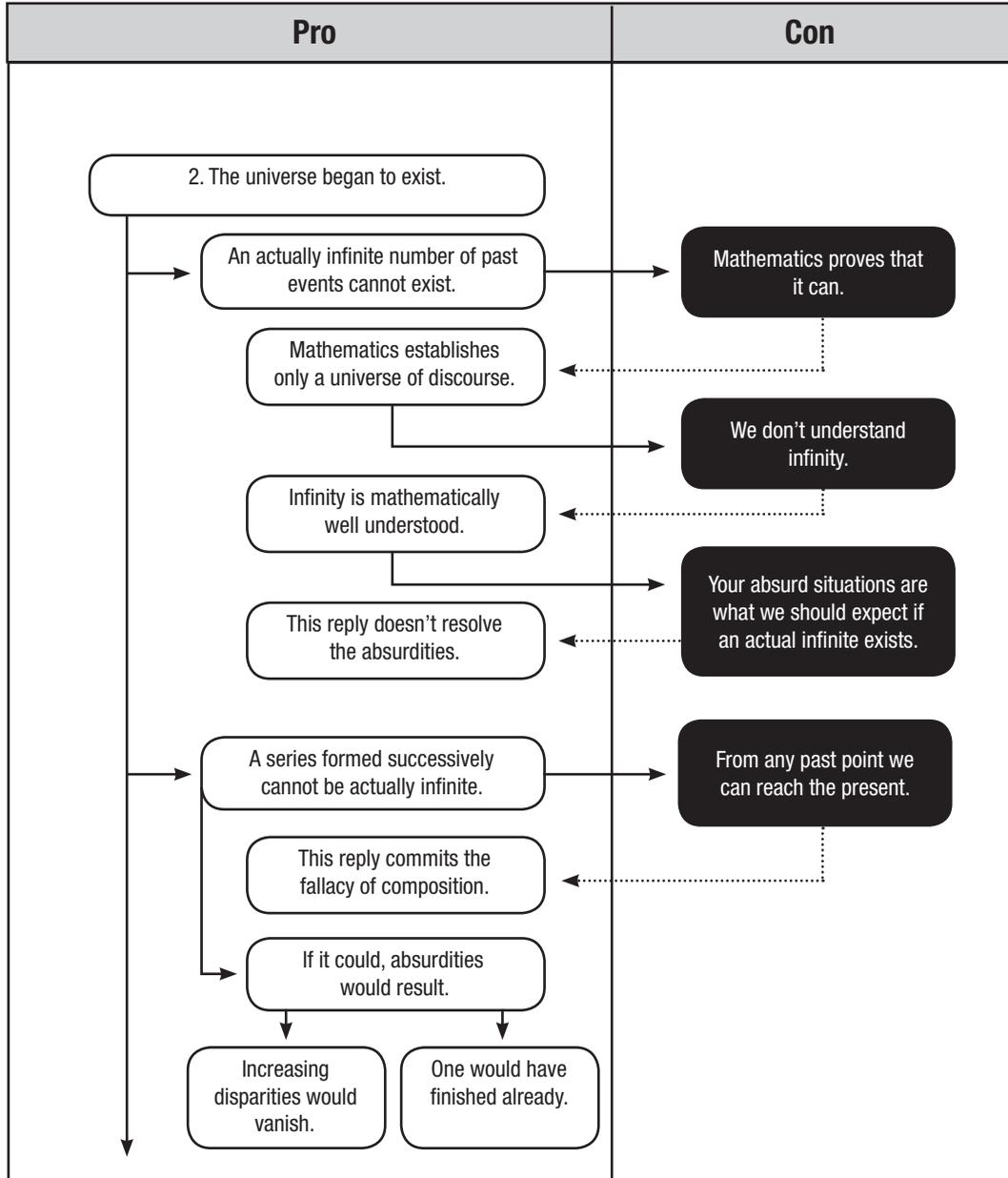
LEIBNIZ'S COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT (cont.)



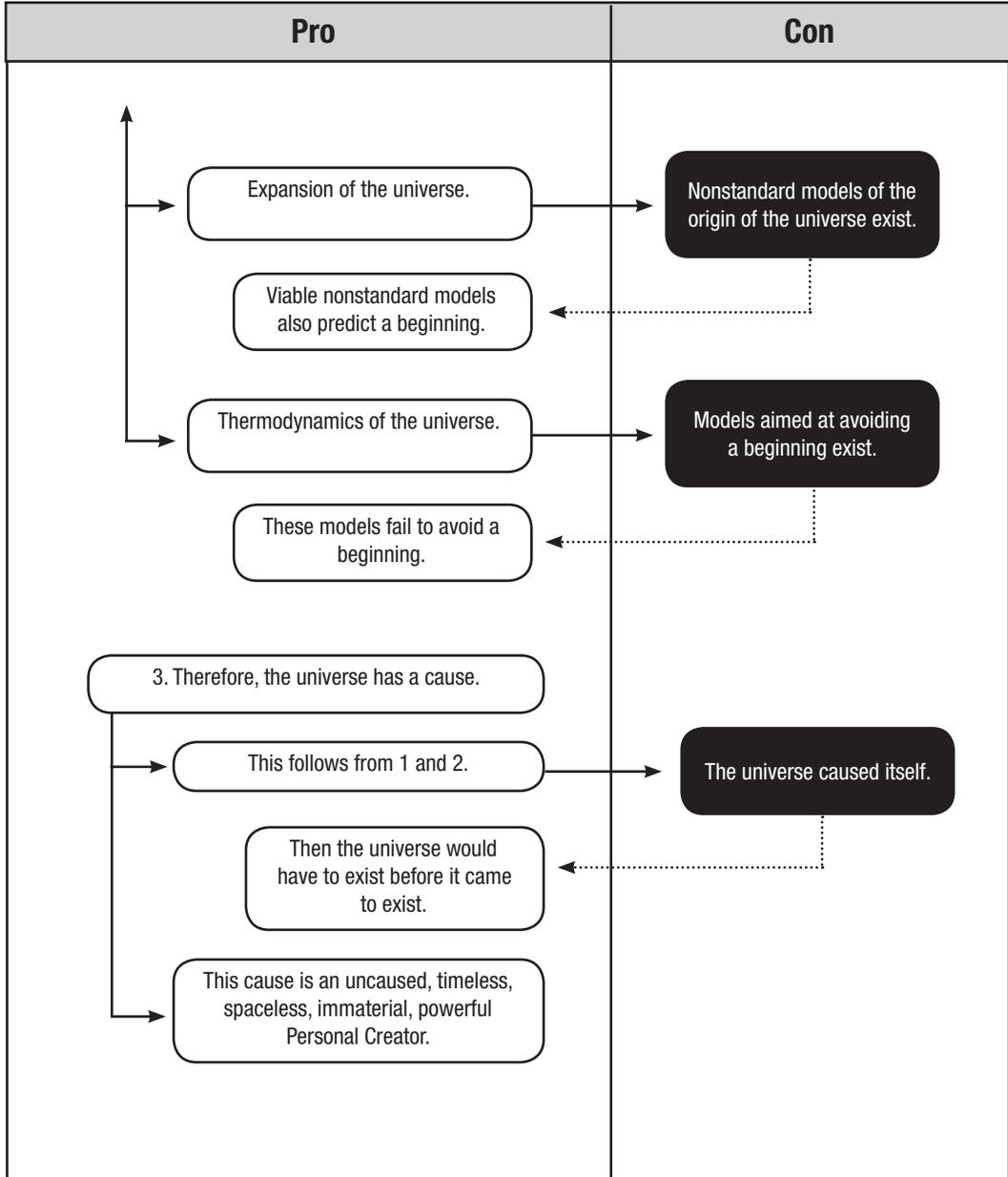
THE *KALAM* COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT



THE KALAM COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT (cont.)

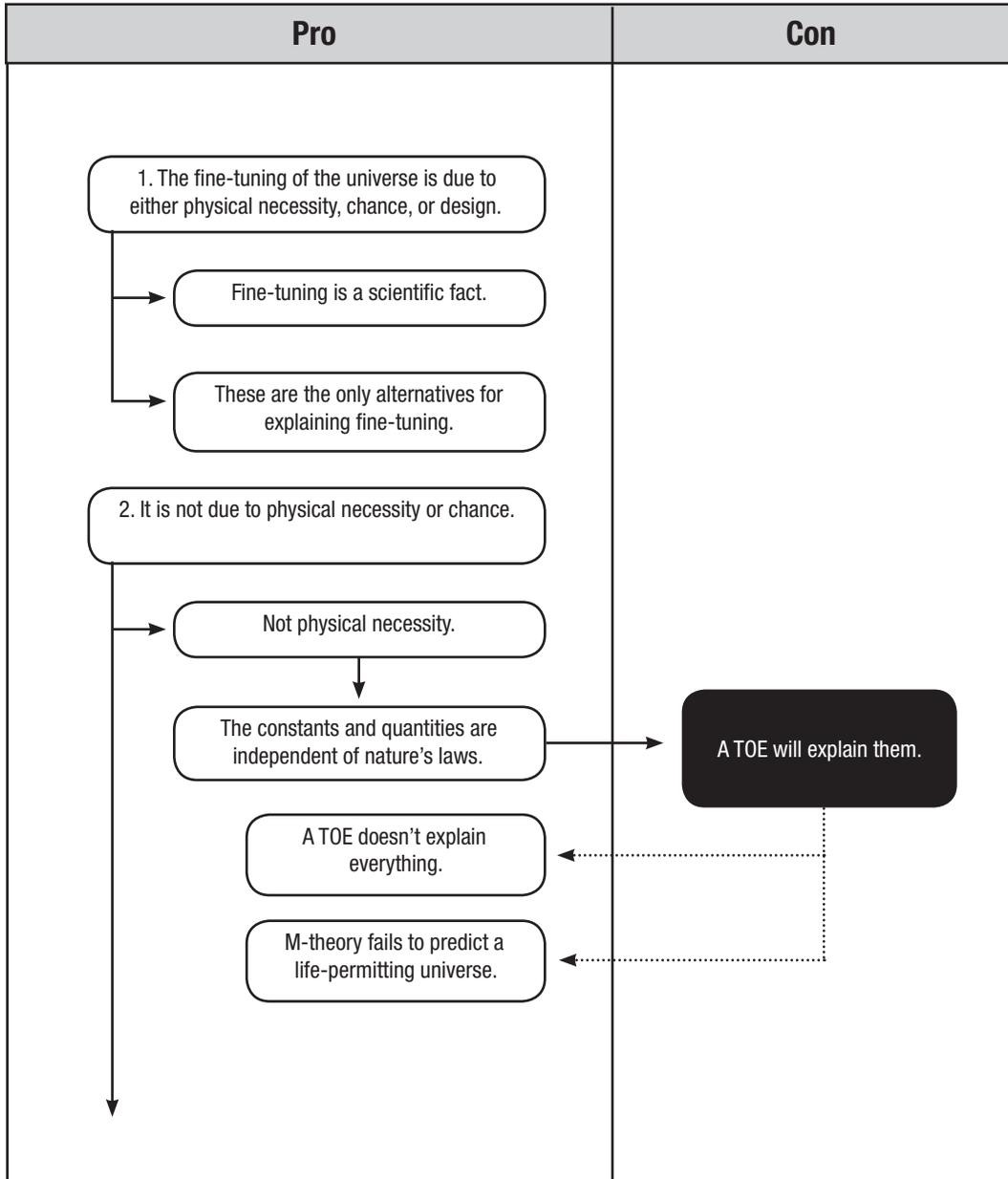


THE *KALAM* COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT (cont.)

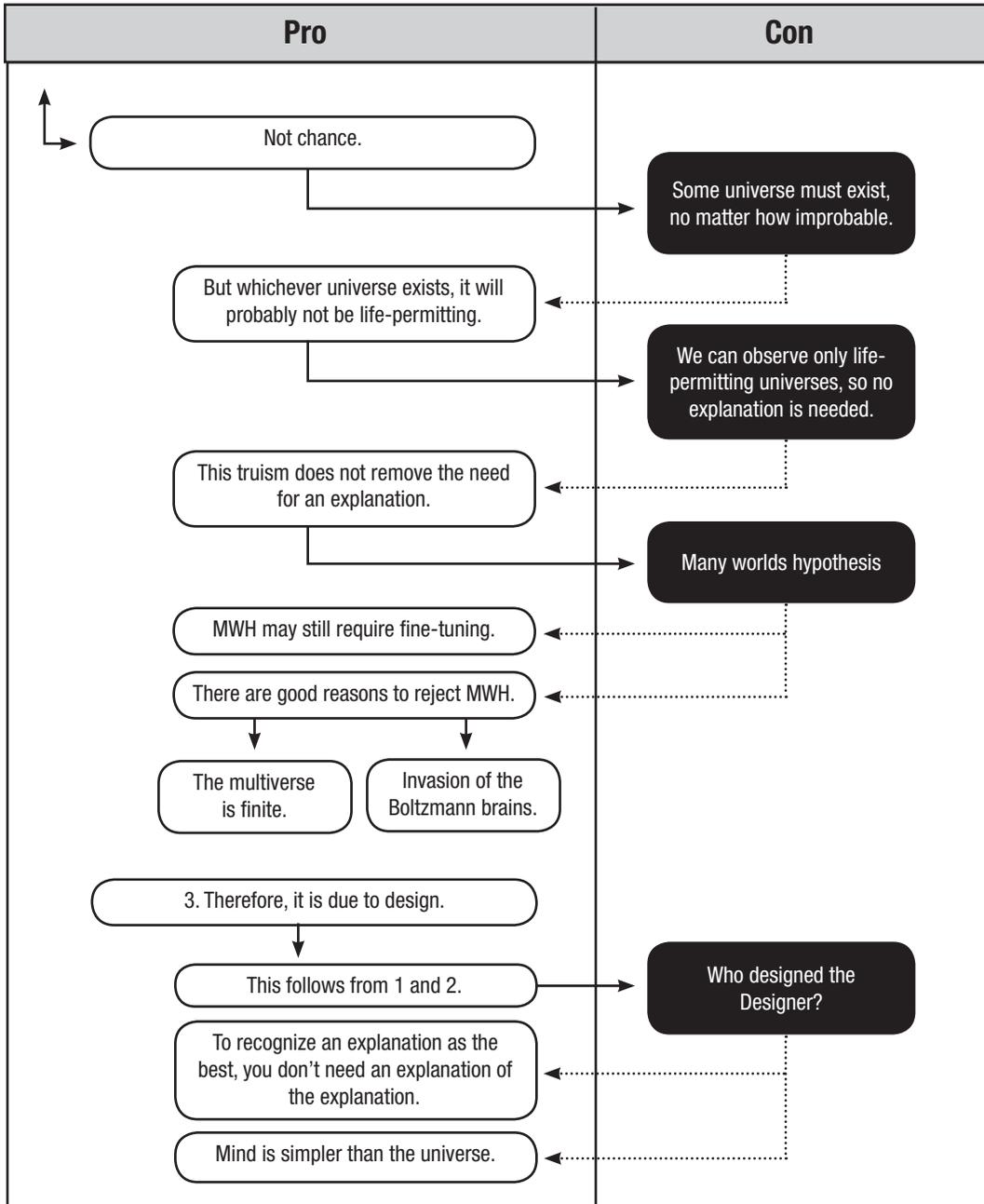




THE DESIGN ARGUMENT

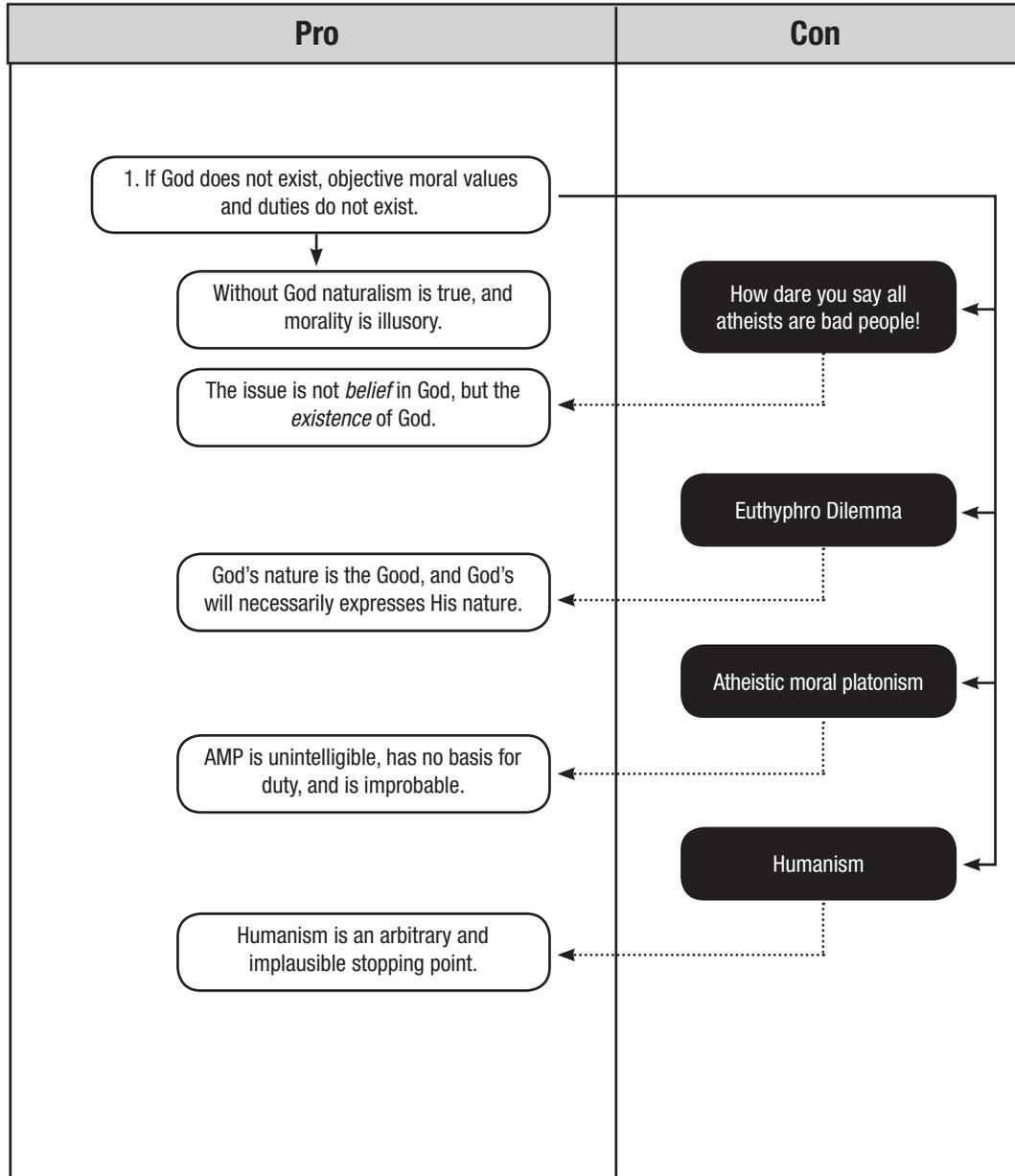


THE DESIGN ARGUMENT (cont.)

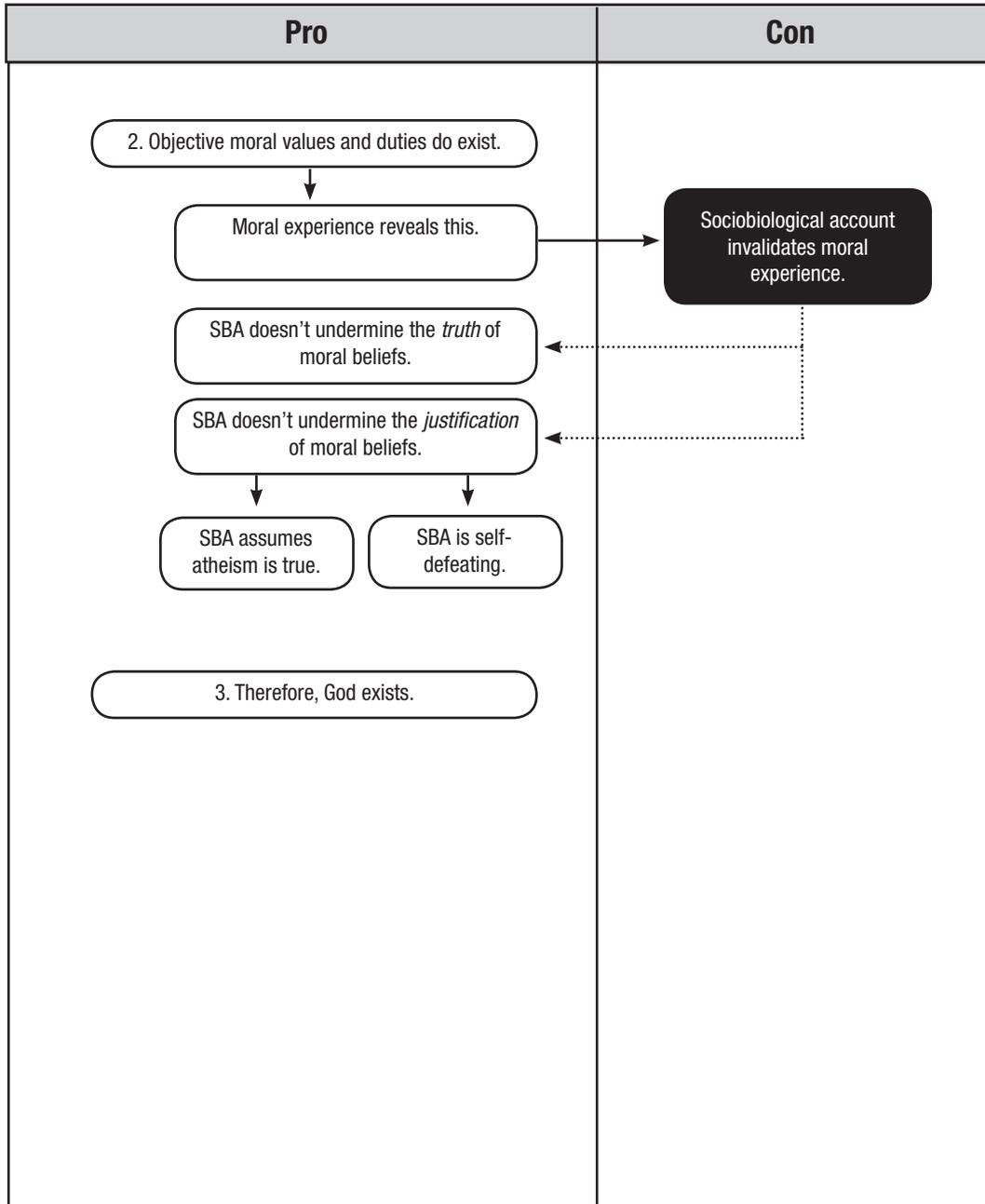




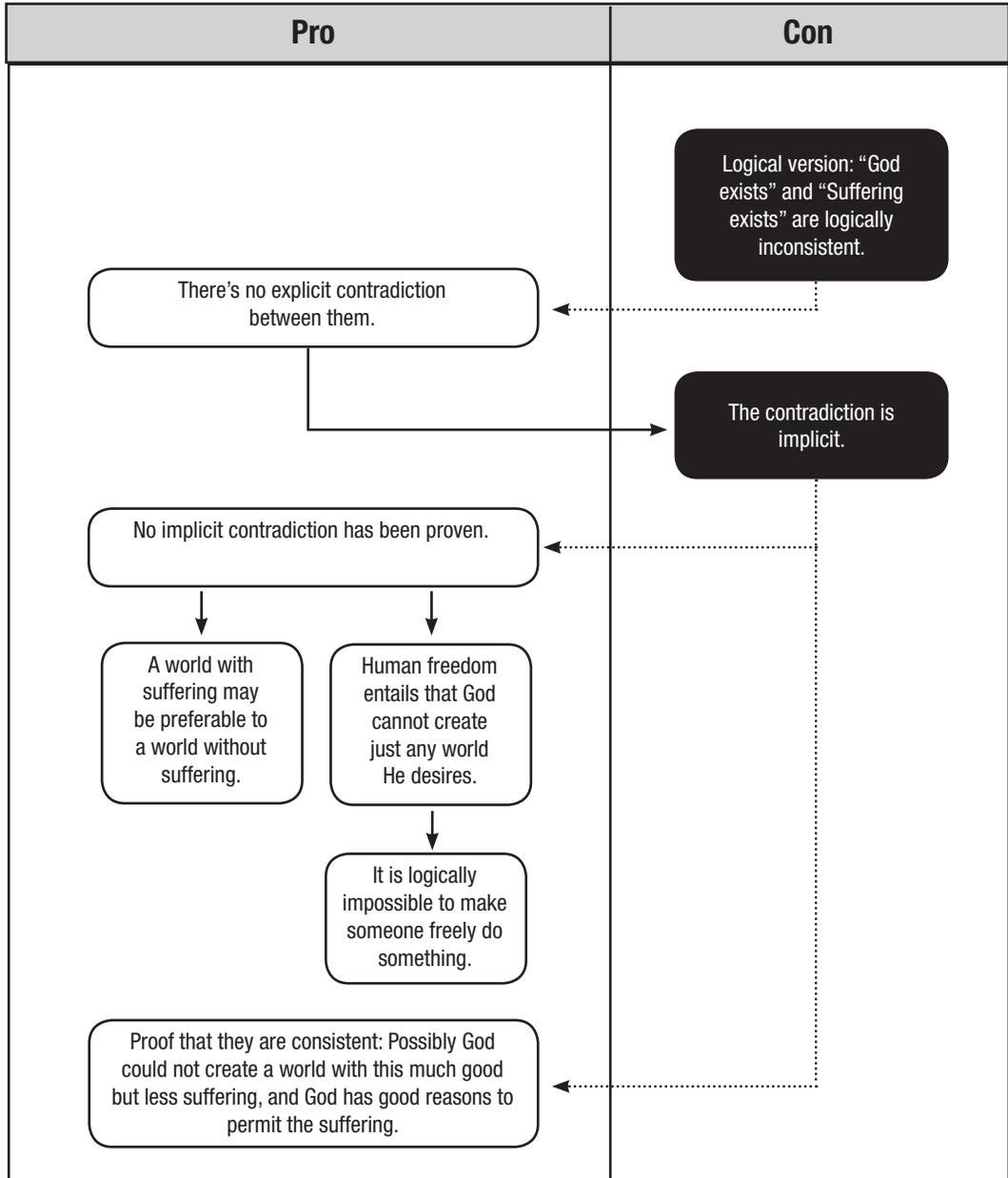
THE MORAL ARGUMENT



THE MORAL ARGUMENT (cont.)

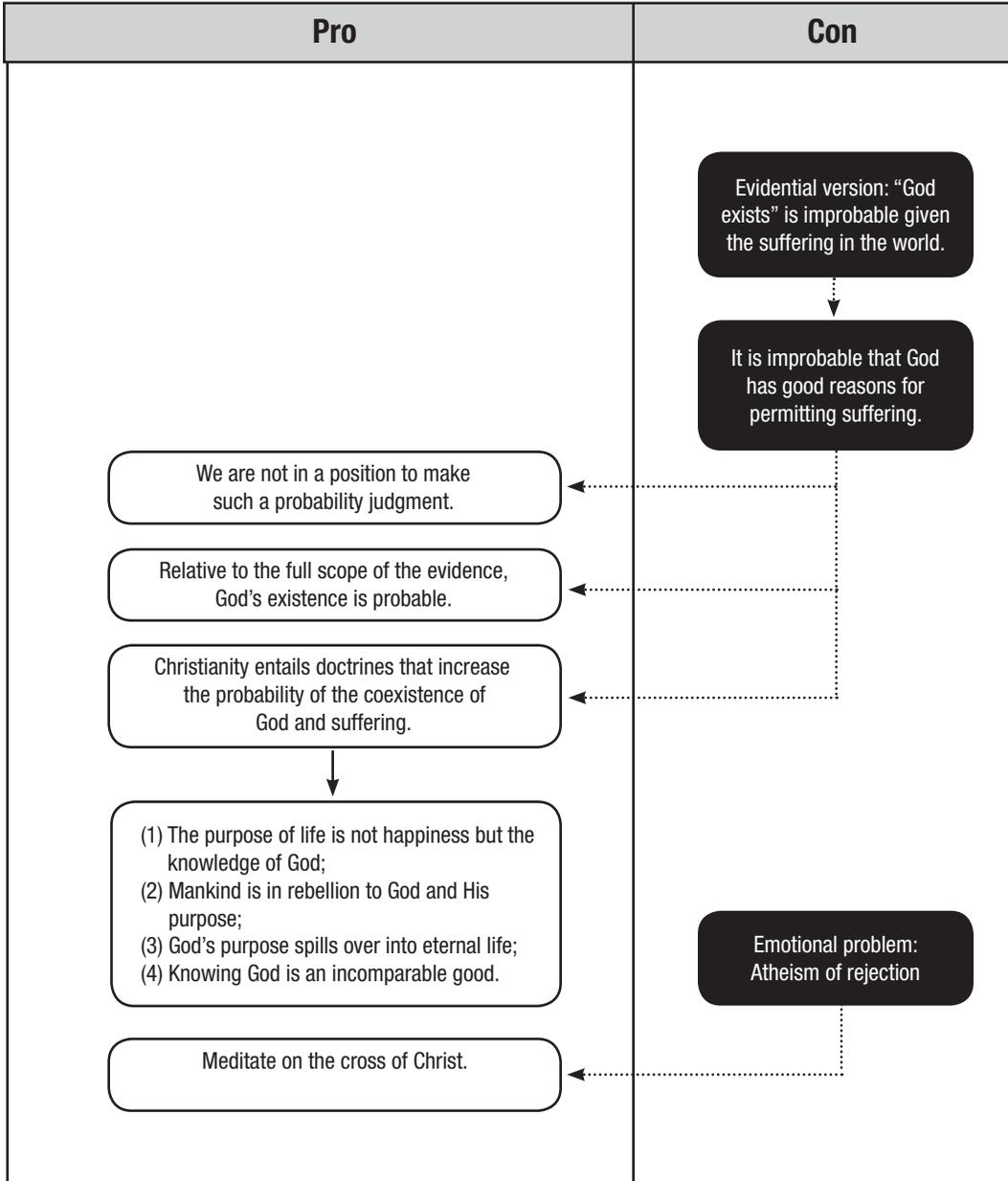


THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING





THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING (cont.)





I. Jesus had a divine-human self-understanding.

A. The worship of Jesus by monotheistic Jews as God incarnate within twenty years of His death requires an adequate cause to be found in Jesus' own claims.

B. Explicit claims

1. Messiah

- a. The belief in the early church that Jesus was the Messiah requires an adequate cause.
- b. Peter's confession (Mark 8:27–30)
- c. Jesus' answer to John the Baptist (Matt. 11:2–6; Luke 7:19–23)
- d. Jesus' triumphal entry (Mark 11:1–11; John 12:12–19)
- e. Jesus' action in the temple (Mark 11:15–17)
- f. Jesus' condemnation by the Sanhedrin (Mark 14:61–65)
- g. Jesus' crucifixion as "King of the Jews" (Mark 15:26)

2. The Son of God

- a. Parable of the vineyard (Mark 12:1–9)
- b. "No one knows the Father but the Son" (Matthew 11:27)
- c. "No one knows ... not even the Son" (Mark 13:32)
- d. Jesus' trial confession (Mark 14:60–64)

3. The Son of Man

- a. Jesus' favorite title
- b. Reference to the divine-human figure of Daniel 7 (Dan. 7:13–14)
- c. Jesus' trial confession (Mark 14:60–64)

C. Implicit claims

1. Jesus' preaching of the kingdom of God (Matt. 19:28)

2. Jesus' authority

- a. The content and style of Jesus' teaching (Matt. 5:31–32)
- b. "Truly, I say to you" (Mark 8:12; 9:1; etc.)

- c. Jesus' role as an exorcist (Luke 11:20)
 - d. Jesus' claim to forgive sins (Mark 2:1–12)
3. Jesus' miracles (Matt. 11:4–5)
 4. Jesus' role as Judge (Luke 12:8–9)

A CASE FOR THE
HISTORICITY OF JESUS' RESURRECTION



I. Determining the evidence to be explained

A. Jesus' tomb was found empty by a group of His women followers on the first day of the week following His crucifixion.

1. The historical reliability of the story of Jesus' burial supports the empty tomb.
2. The story of Jesus' empty tomb is independently reported in very early sources.
3. Mark's story is simple and lacks legendary development.
4. The tomb was discovered empty by women.
5. The earliest Jewish response to the disciples presupposes the empty tomb.

B. Various individuals and groups on different occasions and under varying circumstances experienced appearances of Jesus alive.

1. Paul's list of eyewitnesses to Jesus' resurrection appearances guarantees that such appearances occurred.
2. The gospel accounts provide multiple, independent reports of postmortem appearances of Jesus.
3. The resurrection appearances were physical, bodily appearances.

C. The first disciples came sincerely to believe in Jesus' resurrection despite every predisposition to the contrary.

1. Jews had no expectation of a Messiah who instead of triumphing over Israel's enemies would be shamefully executed by them as a criminal.
2. Jewish beliefs about the afterlife preclude anyone's rising from the dead to glory and immortality before the resurrection at the end of the world.

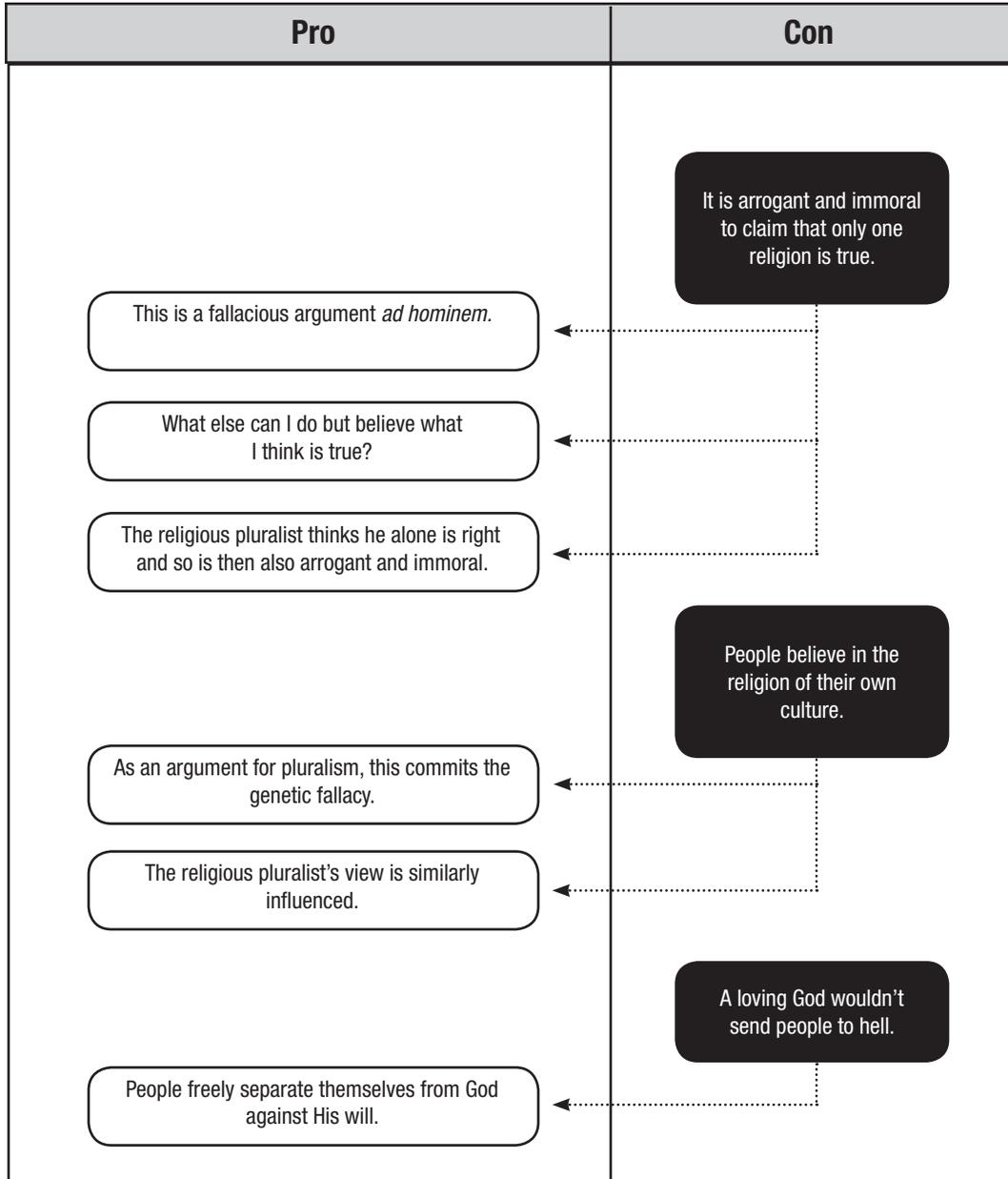
II. Explaining the evidence

A. Rival explanations do not fare well when assessed by the standard criteria for the best explanation, such as explanatory scope,

explanatory power, plausibility, being contrived, disconfirmation by accepted beliefs, and outstripping its rivals in meeting these criteria.

1. Conspiracy theory
 2. Apparent death theory
 3. Displaced body theory
 4. Hallucination theory
- B. The resurrection theory when judged by these same criteria emerges as the best explanation.

RELIGIOUS PLURALISM OBJECTION





RELIGIOUS PLURALISM OBJECTION (cont.)

Pro	Con
<p>If sinning goes on forever, the punishment must go on forever.</p> <p>To reject God is a sin of infinite gravity and proportion.</p> <p>Such persons are judged on the basis of their response to general revelation, so that salvation on the basis of Christ's death is universally accessible.</p>	<p>A just God wouldn't punish people forever.</p> <p>Persons who are uninformed or misinformed about Christ cannot be condemned for their failure to believe in Christ.</p>

RELIGIOUS PLURALISM OBJECTION (cont.)

