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### Take the Dawkins Challenge (self,DebateAnAtheist)

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[–] **bkrusch** [S] 0 points 4 days ago

How can you say "God is magic" and likewise maintain "God is not provable" while then specifying an actual proof that would convince you!?! These statements are mutually incoherent! If you maintain that "God is not provable", you must simultaneously maintain that the statement that "God is magic" is unprovable. Then, you're going to have to argue why the proof that you supplied does not contradict your statement about "improveability".

Good luck.

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[–] **moderate\_acceptance** 1 point 4 days ago

Like I said, god is not a well defined concept. I'm using multiple definitions of god. My starting 2 paragraphs talks about the different interpretations that god can have. I thought I made it clear that my test only applied specifically to the Christian god and not a more generic god concept. I can easily prove "god" by defining god as the sum of matter and physics, or the start of the universe. But I can't prove the more common definition of god as a supernatural intelligent entity that does not want to reveal itself. There is no test because it does not interact with the world in a meaningful way or will always ensure it can't be tested.

So instead I went for a specific god, which I stated could be disproven. I came up with a specific property that he communicates through the bible and protects his message. Then I came up with a test for that hypothesis. I ran an experiment and failed to get the result that would indicate that specific god exists. However I still can't prove that no gods exist. I have simply failed to prove that the Christian god exists. Either a god doesn't exist or that is not a property of a god that exists. Like I said, maybe he doesn't care if I'm an atheist, or me being an atheist is part of his plan. Or maybe the bible is not a correct interpretation of god.

Even if my test passed, it's possible that god still does not exist. Maybe there are

this post was submitted on 19 Jan 2015

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Post your debate challenge and see if any atheists take you up on it.

Rules:

This will conclude the listing of the rules.  
NOTE: If you want more rules, I suggest [r/DebateReligion](#).

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advanced aliens protecting the bible as a way to mess with me. In that case the aliens would be "god" because my test only tests for a powerful entity that protects the bible from harm. I would have to start considering it, but it still doesn't prove the bible is actually true.

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[–] [bkrusch](#) [S] 1 point 3 days ago

I'm not talking about the Bible. Show me where that word appears in the video or PDF.

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[–] [moderate\\_acceptance](#) 1 point 3 days ago

If you're not talking about the Christian god then I have no idea what concept of god you are talking about. The only property we have defined so far is that god is the origin of life, at which point god is indistinguishable from abiogenesis. All you have done is defined god as a scientific concept. You also seem to think abiogenesis is somehow conscious, which makes about as much sense as gravity being conscious. We'll have to learn more about how abiogenesis actually works before we can draw that conclusion, but so far there doesn't seem to be any evidence to indicate it is conscious. The complexity we see in life can be explained through evolution.

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[–] [bkrusch](#) [S] 1 point 3 days ago

"All you have done is defined god as a scientific concept. You also seem to think abiogenesis is somehow conscious, which makes about as much sense as gravity being conscious. We'll have to learn more about how abiogenesis actually works before we can draw that conclusion, but so far there doesn't seem to be any evidence to indicate it is conscious. The complexity we see in life can be explained through evolution."

Well done! I think we are getting closer here. Once you realize the complexity we see in life cannot be explained by evolution, you may have to revisit your conclusions regarding the previous sentences. I'm not saying you are right, I am saying the evidence says you are getting warmer.

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[–] [moderate\\_acceptance](#) 1 point 3 days ago

Let's be clear here. Evolution is an extremely robust and well supported theory. It is most certainly true. All evidence points to it, and it perfectly explains the complexity of life without a



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designer. Abiogenesis is a less certain science. We've got some good theories and some initial evidence, but there are still some missing pieces. However there is no evidence that it was somehow intentionally designed. That doesn't even make sense because evolution has completely rewritten the initial design. None of this has anything to do with any organized religion. Defining god as the stuff we don't know yet is profoundly useless and just makes god and increasingly shrinking concept. There is no reason to call it god when we can just call it the unknown. So lets not play word games. Tell me exactly what you mean by god.

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[–] [bkrusch](#) [S] 1 point 2 days ago

Evolution is an extremely robust and well supported theory. It is most certainly true. Please define this term.

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[–] [moderate\\_acceptance](#) 1 point 2 days ago

Evolution is the combination of random mutation and natural selection that adds complexity to life over time. See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evolution> or a standard highschool biology textbook for more information. Now can you define god for me?

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[–] [autowikibot](#) 1 point 2 days ago

### Evolution:

**Evolution**, also known as **descent with modification**, is the change in [heritable phenotype traits](#) of [biological populations](#) over successive [generations](#). Evolutionary processes give rise to diversity at every level of [biological organisation](#), including the level of [species](#), individual [organisms](#), and at the level of [molecular evolution](#).

All [life](#) on [Earth](#) originated through [common descent](#) from a [last universal ancestor](#) that lived approximately 3.5–3.8 billion years ago. Repeated formation of new species ([speciation](#)), change within species ([anagenesis](#)), and loss of species ([extinction](#)) throughout the [evolutionary history of life](#) on Earth can be [inferred](#) from shared sets of [morphological](#) and [biochemical](#) traits, including shared [DNA sequences](#). These [shared](#) traits are more similar among species that share a more [recent common ancestor](#), and can be used to reconstruct a biological "[tree of life](#)" based on evolutionary relationships ([phylogenetics](#)), using both existing species and the [fossil record](#). Existing patterns of [biodiversity](#) have been shaped both by speciation and by extinction. Although more than 99 percent of all species that ever lived on the planet are estimated to be extinct, there are currently 10–14 million species of life on Earth.

In the mid 19th century, [Charles Darwin](#) was the first to formulate an argument for the [scientific theory](#) of evolution by means of [natural selection](#), published in his book *On the Origin of Species*

(1859). Evolution by natural selection is a process inferred from three [facts](#) about populations: 1) more offspring are produced than can possibly survive, 2) traits vary among individuals, leading to different rates of survival and reproduction, and 3) trait differences are [heritable](#). Thus, when members of a population die they are replaced by the [progeny](#) of parents better [adapted](#) to survive and reproduce in the [biophysical environment](#) in which natural selection takes place. This [teleonomy](#) is the quality whereby the process of natural selection creates and preserves traits that are seemingly fitted for the [functional](#) roles they perform. Natural selection is the only known cause of adaptation, but not the only known cause of evolution. Other, nonadaptive causes of [microevolution](#) include [mutation](#) and [genetic drift](#).

In the early 20th century the [modern evolutionary synthesis](#) integrated [classical genetics](#) with Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection through the discipline of [population genetics](#). The importance of natural selection as a cause of evolution was accepted into other branches of [biology](#). Moreover, previously held notions about evolution, such as [orthogenesis](#), [evolutionism](#), and other beliefs about innate "progress" within the [largest-scale trends in evolution](#), became [obsolete scientific theories](#). Scientists continue to study various aspects of [evolutionary biology](#) by forming and testing hypotheses, constructing [mathematical models of theoretical biology](#) and biological theories, using [observational data](#), and performing [experiments](#) in both the [field](#) and the laboratory. There is [scientific consensus](#) among biologists that descent with modification is one of the most reliably established of all the [facts and theories](#) in [science](#). Discoveries in evolutionary biology have made a significant impact not just within the traditional branches of biology, but also in other academic disciplines (e.g., [biological anthropology](#) and [evolutionary psychology](#)) and on society at large.

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**Image** <sup>1</sup>

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