

Group #1 (Summa, Natural Theology, Philosophical Theology), What is the Teleological Argument?

According to Aquinas, one way we know God is through his effects. What is “the fifth way” to prove God’s existence? What is Paley’s argument for the existence of God? Finally, what does the effect of Darwin do to teleological arguments, and how does Tennant respond to this objection?

Group #2 (Swinburne), What is Swinburne’s Version of the Teleological Argument?

Swinburne argues that there are two types of teleological argument. The first argues as follows:

TELEOLOGICAL ARGUMENT FROM SPATIAL CO-PRESENCE

1. There are regularities of co-presence in the world.
2. Best explanation is God.
3. Therefore, God exists.

The other argues as follows:

TELEOLOGICAL ARGUMENT FROM TEMPORAL SUCCESSION

1. There are regularities of succession in the world.
2. Best explanation is God.
3. Therefore, God exists.

First, distinguish between a regularity of co-presence and a regularity of succession. Second, explain the teleological argument from spatial co-presence (see pp.134-135). What is the objection to this argument (see p.135)? Third, explain Swinburne’s teleological argument from temporal succession.

Group #3 (Flew), What are some objections to the Teleological Argument?

Review any or all of the above formulations of the teleological argument and come up with an objection to either version. Write your argument on the board with a diagram that illustrates this objection. Be sure to state which premise you are attacking and why you are arguing against it. Also, be sure to make sure you understand the details of the argument (you don’t want your objection to be built upon a fault understanding of the argument). You can use Flew’s argument to help you formulate an objection.