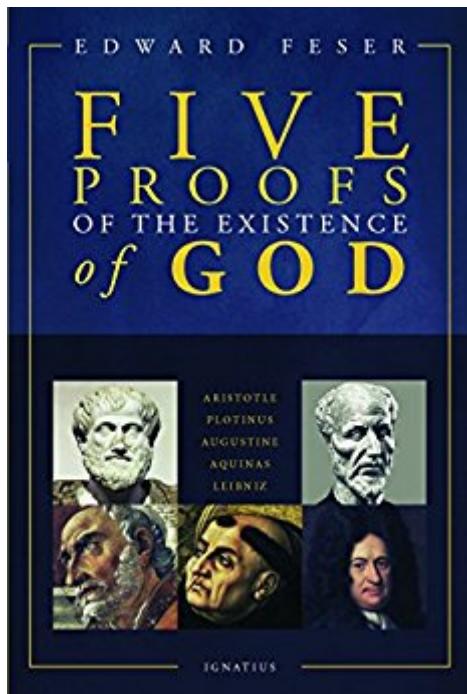


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Five Proofs Of The Existence Of God



Synopsis

This book provides a detailed, updated exposition and defense of five of the historically most important (but in recent years largely neglected) philosophical proofs of God's existence: the Aristotelian, the Neo-Platonic, the Augustinian, the Thomistic, and the Rationalist. It also offers a thorough treatment of each of the key divine attributes—unity, simplicity, eternity, omnipotence, omniscience, perfect goodness, and so forth—showing that they must be possessed by the God whose existence is demonstrated by the proofs. Finally, it answers at length all of the objections that have been leveled against these proofs. This work provides as ambitious and complete a defense of traditional natural theology as is currently in print. Its aim is to vindicate the view of the greatest philosophers of the past—thinkers like Aristotle, Plotinus, Augustine, Aquinas, Leibniz, and many others—that the existence of God can be established with certainty by way of purely rational arguments. It thereby serves as a refutation both of atheism and of the fideism that gives aid and comfort to atheism.

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Customer Reviews

Edward Feser's Five Proofs of the Existence of God takes five arguments and demonstrates that they prove with certainty that God exists, assuming that the premises are true. He shows that the premises are reasonable and does indeed present cogent arguments for believing that God exists. What is nice about this book is that his arguments demonstrate that God has many of the traits commonly associated with the Christian God, such as being all-good, all-powerful, one, and omniscient. This is an outstanding book and deserves a wide readership. Note that the Five Proofs are not the same as Thomas Aquinas' Five Proofs, though one of them is. The proofs were chosen for being powerful arguments. This book gives an argument for God's existence based on the fact that abstract ideas exist, and since they can only exist ultimately in the mind of God, then God must exist. Very few books present that argument, which adds greatly to Five Proofs. The problem of universals is covered clearly, with Realism shown to be the correct understanding, and Nominalism and Conceptualism being false. It is rare to find the problem of universals presented so clearly, and the resolution of the problem so convincingly demonstrated. Another of the five arguments is the argument from the Principle of Sufficient Reason, which is also not often cited among arguments for God's existence. Basically, the Principle of Sufficient Reason states that there is a good explanation for everything that happens in the universe, whether we can discover that reason or not. The argument is that everything needs a good reason for its existence, and the universe needs a good reason for its existence, and God is the only reasonable explanation for the universe and its many aspects. For example, a rational God explains why the laws of physics are rational and why humans have reason. The Principle of Proportionate Causality is also explained, which states that a cause cannot give what it doesn't have. Mindless matter doesn't have the ability to think, so a merely material universe cannot be the cause of rational minds in humans, but a rational God can give rationality to humans. Edward Feser also includes a good argument refuting David Hume's supposed claim that miracles are violations of the laws of nature. His metaphor that miracles are like God playing a score (i.e. keeping nature going) then suddenly improving (i.e. performing miracles) is striking and poetic. Feser also relates how the precepts of natural theology can help us decide which religions are not true. Since natural theology demonstrates that God is rational, one, good, a person, and all-powerful, any religion that posits pantheism, or doesn't have a God cannot be true. The last chapter refutes several of the arguments given by the New Atheists and shows that they are wrong. The author also includes a section refuting the "divine hiddenness" argument.

argument and does a good job. He probably should have stressed more that, if God truly revealed himself, many people would be intimidated into worshipping God; after all, one doesn't rob a bank when there are 20 police cars outside it, and should God reveal himself unambiguously in all his power and omniscience, it would coerce many into worshipping God. Perhaps God doesn't reveal himself more clearly because he wants those who follow him to love him rather than fear him. If wisdom is more precious than rubies, then this book is worth at least seven rubies. Anyone who loves wisdom, God and the truth should buy and read this book.

Once again, I am astonished by Dr. Feser's intellect. The arguments are so well presented and with such clarity of style that I would be at a loss to conceive that any reasoning person would not find them conclusive.

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