Chapter 1, Lesson 1 - Knowing God through Creation

**Goal:** Explain how we can know that God exists through reason alone

How do we know that God exists?

Miracle

No creature could create everything

Someone must have created souls

Goodness, beauty, purpose
St. Thomas Aquinas’ “Five Ways” to know there is a God.

1) **Prime Mover**
   - 1st “Mover”
   - God causes change

   - Potential
   - Actual
   - “Big Bang”
   - Discovered by a Catholic priest-scientist: Fr. Georges Lemaître

2) **Uncaused Cause**
   - Why? Because.
   - 1st cause → God → Steps

3) **Contingency: The Necessary Being**
   - We depend on other things for existence but there must be a necessary being who always existed.
   - Contingent beings

4) **Gradation: Perfection of Being**
   - God
   - Being itself

5) **The Teleological Argument:** Design or Goal
   - In creation we recognize:
     - Purpose
     - Complexity
     - Order
     - Creator
     - "designer"

   - Jesus = Logos (Word, Reason)

WB pg 1, 1-4

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=14&v=6CuBuMCLy90
Psalm 14:1: The fool says in his heart "There is no God"

What about Evolution?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFCXHr8aKDk

Dr. Laura Keynes
Darwin's great-great-great granddaughter is a faithful Catholic.
Read Blue Q's, pgs. 16-17
Pop Quiz Lesson 1

Lesson 2
Read pgs 13-14 Learning about Ourselves Through Reason

Review: In what ways are we created in the image and likeness of God?
"...maker of Heaven and Earth of all that is seen and unseen."

Physical and Spiritual

Physical (Seen)
- Humans (Highest of the visible)
- Animals
- Plants (organic)
- Inanimate objects (rocks, water, etc.)

Spiritual (Unseen)
- God
  - Father
  - Son
  - Holy Spirit
- Angels
  - Seraphim
  - Cherubim
  - etc.
- Humans (Lowest of the spiritual)
  - Intellect
  - Free-will
  - Equal dignity
  - Dominion

Body

Soul