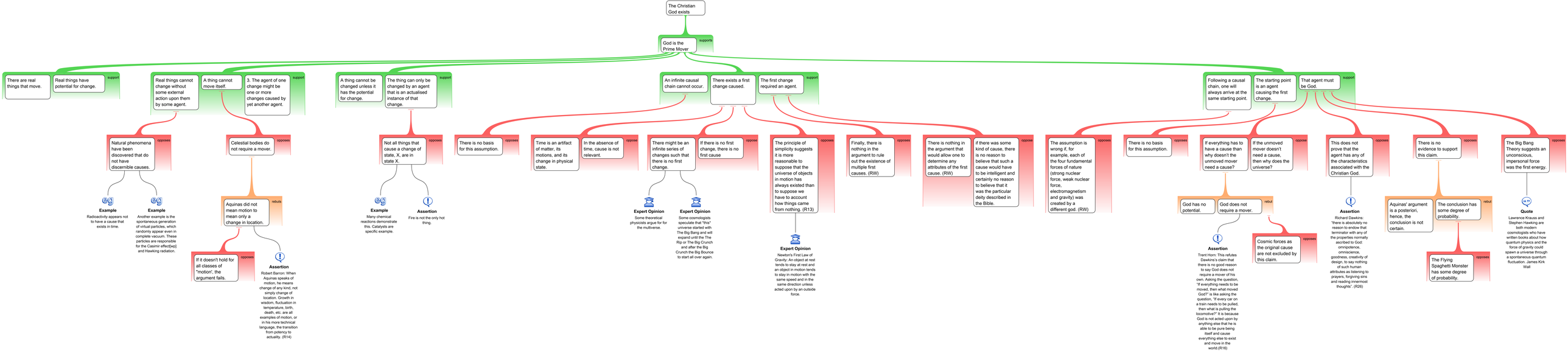
The Christian God exists
God is the Prime Mover
supports
There are real things that move.
Real things have potential for change.
support
Real things cannot change without some external action upon them by some agent.
A thing cannot move itself.
3. The agent of one change might be one or more changes caused by yet another agent.
support
Natural phenomena have been discovered that do not have discernible causes.
oppose
Example
Radioactivity appears not to have a cause that exists in time.
Example
Another example is the spontaneous generation of virtual particles, which randomly appear even in complete vacuum. These particles are responsible for the Casimir effect[wp] and Hawking radiation.
Celestial bodies do not require a mover.
oppose
Aquinas did not mean motion to mean only a change in location.
rebuts
If it doesn't hold for all classes of "motion", the argument fails.
oppose
Assertion
Robert Barron: When Aquinas speaks of motion, he means change of any kind, not simply change of location. Growth in wisdom, fluctuation in temperature, birth, death, etc. are all examples of motion, or in his more technical language, the transition from potency to actuality. (R14)
A thing cannot be changed unless it has the potential for change.
The thing can only be changed by an agent that is an actualised instance of that change.
support
Not all things that cause a change of state, X, are in state X.
oppose
Example
Many chemical reactions demonstrate this. Catalysts are specific example.
Assertion
Fire is not the only hot thing.
An infinite causal chain cannot occur.
There exists a first change caused.
The first change required an agent.
support
There is no basis for this assumption.
oppose
Time is an artifact of matter, its motions, and its change in physical state.
In the absence of time, cause is not relevant.
oppose
There might be an infinite series of changes such that there is no first change.
If there is no first change, there is no first cause
oppose
Expert Opinion
Some theoretical physicists argue for for the multiverse.
Expert Opinion
Some cosmologists speculate that "this" universe started with The Big Bang and will expand until the The Rip or The Big Crunch and after the Big Crunch the Big Bounce to start all over again.
The principle of simplicity suggests it is more reasonable to suppose that the universe of objects in motion has always existed than to suppose we have to account how things came from nothing. (R13)
opposes
Expert Opinion
Newton's First Law of Gravity: An object at rest tends to stay at rest and an object in motion tends to stay in motion with the same speed and in the same direction unless acted upon by an outside force.
Finally, there is nothing in the argument to rule out the existence of multiple first causes. (RW)
opposes
There is nothing in the argument that would allow one to determine any attributes of the first cause. (RW)
opposes
If there was some kind of cause, there is no reason to believe that such a cause would have to be intelligent and certainly no reason to believe that it was the particular deity described in the Bible.
opposes
Following a causal chain, one will always arrive at the same starting point.
The starting point is an agent causing the first change.
That agent must be God.
support
The assumption is wrong if, for example, each of the four fundamental forces of nature (strong nuclear force, weak nuclear force, electromagnetism and gravity) was created by a different god. (RW)
opposes
There is no basis for this assumption.
opposes
If everything has to have a cause than why doesn't the unmoved mover need a cause?
If the unmoved mover doesn't need a cause, then why does the universe?
oppose
God has no potential.
God does not require a mover.
rebut
Assertion
Trent Horn: This refutes Dawkins's claim that there is no good reason to say God does not require a mover of his own. Asking the question, "If everything needs to be moved, then what moved God?" is like asking the question, "If every car on a train needs to be pulled, then what is pulling the locomotive?" It is because God is not acted upon by anything else that he is able to be pure being itself and cause everything else to exist and move in the world.(R16)
Cosmic forces as the original cause are not excluded by this claim.
opposes
This does not prove that the agent has any of the characteristics associated with the Christian God.
opposes
Assertion
Richard Dawkins: "there is absolutely no reason to endow that terminator with any of the properties normally ascribed to God: omnipotence, omniscience, goodness, creativity of design, to say nothing of such human attributes as listening to prayers, forgiving sins and reading innermost thoughts". (R26)
There is no evidence to support this claim.
opposes
Aquinas' argument is a posteriori, hence, the conclusion is not certain.
The conclusion has some degree of probability.
rebut
The Flying Spaghetti Monster has some degree of probability.
opposes
The Big Bang Theory suggests an unconscious, impersonal force was the first energy.
opposes
Quote
Lawrence Krauss and Stephen Hawking are both modern cosmologists who have written books about how quantum physics and the force of gravity could spawn a universe through a spontaneous quantum fluctuation. James Kirk Wall