Does God exist necessarily?

Suppose that God actually exists. Does he/she exist **necessarily** or only contingently? If he/she exists contingently then, presumably, there are some possible worlds (ways things could be) in which he/she does not exist. On the other hand, if he/she exists necessarily then there are no such worlds. God exists in every possible world.

It seems to me that there are no end of possible worlds that are (or would be) just plain boring – for instance, a world that consists of infinite space containing just three indestructible particles in orbit around each other forever. Why should God exist in such a world? What’s the point?

Then too, there are possible worlds that are Hellish. It could be the case that at any given time most of the people in one such world, good people, bad people, and people somewhere in between, are in agony. (Most of the people not in agony are busy tormenting the others.) (If God exists in this world he/she is just a spectator.)

Perhaps we should say that God simply **does not exist** in boring or hellish worlds like these. What would be the price, if any? Well, it would follow that if God exists at all his/her existence is contingent, and hence that there must be something wrong with any argument supposedly proving that God necessarily exists, i.e. that he/she exists in every possible world.

What about the empty world? Surely it is possible that there not be anything? [I take it that 2 + 2 equals 4 even in the empty world.] But if God does not exist in such a world then it is possible that God not exist. He/she does not exist necessarily.

On the other hand, maybe it isn’t possible that there be nothing – there is no such possible world as ‘the empty world’.

‘We have an argument proving that God necessarily exists’ is a bit ambiguous. It might just mean that we have **proof** that God exists (at least in the actual world), or, on the other hand, it might mean that we have proof that God **necessarily** exists (i.e. he/she exists not just in the actual world but in every possible world. This little note has been about the second option.