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Does God Exist?

Psalms 53:1: (ASV) *The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.*

Special Guest: David Stein

For people like us, there are a myriad of proofs that we can see all around us that unequivocally prove the existence of God. We see the earth, the heavens, humanity, science and engineering and we nod our heads in the satisfaction that God is indeed behind it all. Yet, there is a world full of those who, based upon their intellect, their expertise and their own study who have concluded that God is merely a figment of some men's imaginations and a waste of time. So, what do we do with all of this? Can God's existence be proven? Does God's existence need to be proven? Are we deluding ourselves with wishful thinking? Is it really a form of mental disease to believe in God? Are there good reasons to be a believer? Stay with us as we face these questions head on as we ask that penetrating question: Does God exist?

Questions for consideration:

1. Does God exist?
2. What constitutes evidence of God's existence?
3. Do the heavens declare the glory of God?
4. What is the effect of Atheism on Christianity and the world?
5. Does God have any real interest in us?

1. Does God Exist?

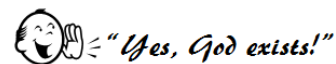
Atheism is growing around the world and predominant in some places. Let's define the three groups who have three different answers to this question:

If you read what many atheists write today about the state of science, you would have the impression that religion is on the way out.

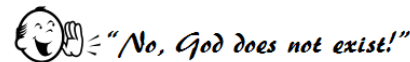
Typical Atheist Contentions:

- Cosmologists can now explain the origin of the universe without God.
- Archeologists have shown that the Bible is fiction.
- Myth experts like Joseph Campbell have shown that the Bible can be lumped together with every other myth that human culture invents.
- The Bible is hopelessly out of step with modern knowledge.
- Science can explain just about everything using natural, scientific law.

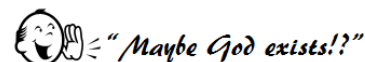
To make matters worse, they assail God and our faith! We don't believe this to be true and our purpose is to show the other side of the story that shows something entirely different.



The BELIEVER



The ATHEIST



THE AGNOSTIC

THE ISSUES:

Political - Liberal philosophy is by and large godless. The media in the country brings this philosophy everyday on newspapers, magazine, television, and movies. Not only that, public schools as well as colleges and universities are bastions of liberal, godless philosophy. Political candidates have a strong media backing and as these take up positions of political power, laws and judicial decision more and more reflect this same agnostic philosophy - secular humanism.

Scientific - Nearly all life-sciences, biology, biochemistry, zoology, etc., embrace the atheistic philosophy of Darwinism. Curiously, physics, astronomy, and cosmology have a growing number of scientists who are believers in God. So we have a growing conflict among scientists in the arena.

Sociological - We have a society today which, at least in behavior, is quite godless. Immoral activities abound from the rejection of the sexual morality in scripture, to a blatant disregard for law and contract, and a hedonistic worship of self and the pursuit of pleasure.

Religious - Even religion itself has undergone change. Many remember the Time magazine cover from several decades back declaring God is Dead. Much of Christianity today preaches a social gospel and has become a feel-good philosophy entirely lacking in the Biblical concepts of sacrifice and suffering.



2 Timothy 3:1-5

Atheists will tell you that those who believe in God do so simply because they have been indoctrinated in that persuasion. But we will note at the outset the indoctrination cuts both ways on this question, as we will illustrate.

2. What constitutes evidence of God's existence?



"See, I told you there was no God; I didn't see him when I was in orbit."
- Russian Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin

Is that now proof of God's non-existence? There is something more to learning about what God is, and perhaps God wants to be found by some and not by others...!

First note about proving things: You cannot prove a negative! ("Prove to me that God doesn't exist," is *not* a valid argument we can make.)

So how would we prove God's existence? Let's first discuss several methods of proof in general:

Scientific Proof: Science only accepts that which is natural, measurable, can be seen, etc., as proof. Therefore, any supernatural causes are automatically ruled out. On principle, "God" cannot be the explanation, because He cannot be measured.

The Scientific Method:

1. Make observations;
2. A hypothesis or conclusion is drawn based on the observations;
3. Test the hypothesis to see if correct or not.

Problem with evolution: It is hard to make observations over that many years. Darwin said that if his theory was right, we should be able to see a continuous column of fossils of one species evolving into other species. That has never been found. In fact, for decades, evolutionists have ignored the fact that the fossil record does not provide for such a "missing link." The fact that the prediction was untrue was ignored. (A new explanation called "Punctuated Equilibrium" tries to explain why the fossil records have such gaps.)

Judicial Proof: A decision is made based on the evidence, including reasonable doubt. This makes a conclusion based on the preponderance of evidence.

What part does faith play? Does faith need proof? Our faith is based upon judicial evidence. Scriptural faith is always based upon promises. There is an analytical way of looking at the Scriptures and comparing it with history and reason.

But remember that Biblical evidence does not hold much weight to unbelievers who do not use the Bible as an authority. However, it can be used to strengthen the faith and conviction of believers, especially as we see harmony between the Bible and science and history.

3. Do the heavens declare the glory of God?

Why We Exist, Richard Dawson, For Good Reason

- *Supernaturalism is a betrayal of science.* (This is in agreement with the scientific method.)
- *What a waste of a life to exist without knowing where you came from and why you exist!* (We couldn't agree more, but we feel the answers are found in the Bible!)

Psalms 19:1: However, the Scriptures say that the natural proves the supernatural.

Let's look at a number of facts, which fall clearly on the side of a Creator God.

1. Conditions necessary for life

The carbon atom: Everything we know requires carbon for life. The qualities of the carbon atom are so unique and improbable as to make the idea that it was designed the simplest explanation. Astrophysicist Sir Fred Hoyle (atheist) predicted the resonance level of carbon based solely on life's need for it. When Hoyle then calculated the chances that such resonances should exist by chance, his atheism was greatly shaken. He later wrote in the November 1981 issue of *Engineering and Science*:

"A common sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a super-intellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as with chemistry and nature. The numbers one calculates from the facts seem to me so overwhelming as to put this conclusion almost beyond question."



The ratio of Proton to Electron Mass: The proton is 1,836 times heavier than the electron. Why? There is no natural reason for it. However, if it were much different, the required molecules for life would not form. The well-known theoretical physicist, Stephen Hawking, said about this ratio:

"The laws of science, as we know them at present, contain many fundamental numbers, like the size of the electric charge of the electron and the ratio of the masses of the proton and the electron...The remarkable fact is that the values of these numbers seem to have been very finely adjusted to make possible the development of life."

The Earth: The size of the earth is perfect for life - its gravity holding a 50-mile layer of mostly nitrogen and oxygen. If it were smaller, the atmosphere would dissipate away into space. If it were larger, it would contain more free hydrogen that would be too energetic for life. It has just the right mixture of gases for life.

The earth is located just the right distance from the sun. Further away, everything would freeze. Closer, and everything would burn up. The single large moon creates important tides and sea movement so that we do have huge stagnant oceans.

Water: It is absolutely necessary for life. Our bodies are 2/3 water! It has an unusually high boiling point. Its high capacity to absorb heat helps keep our bodies a steady 98.6 degrees. Water is a universal solvent permitting the hundreds of thousands of chemical reactions necessary for life to take place. Yet water is chemically neutral. It can transport the tens of thousands of different substances not only throughout our bodies, but throughout the external world! It has a high surface tension which is necessary for the transport of life sustaining nutrients in high places like trees and in tiny places like cells. Water expands when it freezes so ice floats. Imagine a world where ice sank! The oceans would fill up with ice that would not melt for eons! Water provides the weather that nourishes the planet with pure water in a wonderful recycling process.

One of the chief challenges to God's existence is the philosophy of Darwinian evolution: All of life on this planet has descended from when life first began and was changed and evolved by natural selection and random mutation.

"ID"ers are deniers, For Good Reason

- *Believers in Intelligent Design are likened to Holocaust Deniers, both fly in the face of massive quantities of evidence.*

Professor Michael Behe accepted the Darwinian explanation until he read, *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*, by Michael Denton. So strong was the scientific dogma, Professor Behe had no idea there were challenges.

But the challenges keep coming. They are simply ignored by most evolutionists and anyone who dares to question is scientifically excommunicated.

"ID"ers are deniers, For Good Reason

- *Both IDers and Holocaust deniers deny history.*

How Probable is Evolution?

In 1967 a group of biologists and mathematicians at MIT were discussing evolution by natural selection. The mathematicians were stunned by the optimism of the evolutionists about what could be achieved by chance! So wide was the rift that they organized a conference called "Mathematical Challenges to the Neo-Darwinian Theory of Evolution."

The conference opened with a paper by Murray Eden, Professor of Electrical Engineering at MIT, entitled, *The Inadequacy of Neo-Darwinian Evolution as a Scientific Theory*. He proceeded to show that if it required a mere six mutations to bring about an adaptive change, this would occur by chance only once in a billion years - **while if two dozen genes were involved, it would require 10 billion years - much longer than the accepted age of the earth.** Mathematically speaking, evolution can't work.

4. What is the effect of Atheism on Christianity and the world?

Atheism kills faith and loosens people from the restraints of God's moral laws. It focuses on self.

Of course, many would like to be freed from these moral restraints

Atheism Ever After, Paula Zahn with Richard Dawkins February 2007

- *An Atheist believes this is their only life and therefore precious and beautiful.*
- *Life to be lived to the FULL to the end of our days.*



- *But if you are religious, there is another life. Therefore, you don't live this life to the full!*
- *Belief in another life coming creates an awfully negative way to look at life.*
- *Being an Atheist frees you up to live this life properly, happily and fully.*

This thinking assumes that everyone is living a "proper, happy and full life." What about the people suffering in Haiti right now? Or the children starving around the world? For many, life is a daily struggle for survival. Saying, "Well, that's all you've got! Enjoy it!" is ridiculous.

Dawkins speaks of a "release" and "freedom," but a release from what? The natural tendency of atheism is self-centeredness. If there is no obligation to a Creator, then one's own life generally takes on primary importance. This may be moderated by a love and commitment to family, but this in itself can be self-interest.

What about when the Israelites came into Canaan and were told to destroy the Canaanites? First we need to understand the historical situation of the Canaanites. They were apparently a people rife with disease, had sexual rites, sacrificed their children, etc. For the Israelites' own benefit, they were told to rid the land of these people. If we ignore what God has in mind for everybody, this sounds terrible! But for each one of those people destroyed for valid historical reasons at the time, they will enter into a world (when they awake in the resurrection) where they can begin to grow into what God intended for human beings. The more deeply we look into these things, we see that we have a God that has good intentions for everyone. There is a reason - sometimes a reason beyond the moment - because it is a big, eternal Plan.

5. Does God have any real interest in us?

1. Why Does God permit suffering?
 - To train mankind in the results of disobedience through his collective experience.
2. Why doesn't God answer prayers?
 - He does answer prayers! Sometimes the answer is "no." Sometimes the answer is "not yet." Sometimes the prayers aren't sincere. Sometimes we are answered but don't see the answer because it is different than we expect.
3. Why did God destroy people in the past? (Flood, Canaanites, etc.)
 - God is a God of justice and judgment. The laws and restraints for men do not apply to him because he has a much higher and eternal perspective that we do not possess. It is important to remember that any destroyed by God in the past for whatever reason will be raised from the dead in the kingdom.
4. Is God responsible for what people do?
 - No, that is part of the lesson. What people do, whether in the name of God or not, is their choice and responsibility. The behavior of false Christians cannot be laid at God's feet. They will all get their judgment in due time.

Isaiah 55:8,9: (BBE-Bible in Basic English) *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, or your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

Whenever we reduce an explanation of God down to a human level, we are missing out. God does exist; it is provable when you open your mind to see the evidence around you.

So does God exist?

*For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*