



DID JESUS DIE FOR THEISTS?

1 John 2:2: (NIV) *He (Jesus) is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*



Atheism - for many of us who profess Christianity, even hearing the word conjures up a need to defend oneself and one's faith. Sometimes we envision an atheist as one whose objective in life is to ridicule not only us, but also the mechanism of our faith and not just the mechanism of our faith but also the very object of our faith - God Almighty. So what do we have? We have envisioned atheism as an enemy - as an object of our disdain. But wait a minute! Jesus clearly taught us to love our enemies, so what does that mean? Did Jesus himself love those who profess atheism? Did Jesus die for atheists? If so, then how should we show them the love of Christ?

First of all, what is atheism? This is a much harder question to answer than you might think. Let's start with the basics:

athe·ism: *noun*

- 1 archaic: ungodliness, wickedness
- 2 a: a disbelief in the existence of deity b: the doctrine that there is no deity

The above is oversimplified, as many atheists will tell you.

(Source: Wikipedia) Definitions of atheism also vary in the degree of consideration a person must put to the idea of gods to be considered an atheist. Atheism has sometimes been defined to include the simple absence of belief that any deities exist. This broad definition would include newborns and other people who have not been exposed to theistic ideas. As far back as 1772, Baron d'Holbach said that "All children are born Atheists; they have no idea of God."

This topic can easily degrade into a war of words - for instance, the above statement "all children are born atheist" - wouldn't it be more accurate to say that all children are born with a single need to thrive and cannot know beyond it? Their instincts recognize how to thrive, and they as yet have no belief system whatsoever.

A newborn must learn to even believe in its own mother - therefore they cannot be categorized as believing or not believing in anything.



...Philosophers such as Antony Flew and Michael Martin have contrasted positive (strong/hard) atheism with negative (weak/soft) atheism. Positive atheism is the explicit affirmation that gods do not exist. Negative atheism includes all other forms of non-theism. According to this categorization, anyone who is not a theist is either a negative or a positive atheist.

Weak (negative) atheism is defined as simply the absence of belief in gods or the absence of theism. This is also the broad, general definition of atheism. The definition of weak atheism is used as a contrast to the definition of strong atheism, which is the positive assertion that no gods exist. All atheists are necessarily weak atheists because by definition all atheists do not believe in any gods; only some go on to assert that some or no gods exist.



Strong (positive) atheism is defined either as the general position that denies the existence of any gods or the limited position that denies the existence of some specific god (but not necessarily others). The first definition is the most common and what most people understand as the definition of strong atheism. The second definition is used in specific contexts when trying to explain atheists' varying approaches to the question of the existence of gods.

 **Atheism/skepticism/agnostic, *Different Types of Atheism, MrRepzion, YouTube***

- *An atheist believes that there is no gods or God either in our world or beyond our universe. This is a distinction from a theist who believes God is in and outside our universe. Likewise a pantheist believes that God is the universe. So, this screwdriver right here would be God. Pantheists believe God is in the universe, however atheists claim that nothing exists except our universe and the cosmos. Atheists share a lot in common with skeptics and agnostics and sometimes I think people get skepticism, agnosticism and atheism all mixed up. A skeptic would say this: "I doubt that God exists." An agnostic would declare, "I don't know that God exists or I can't know that God exists." An atheist on the other hand claims to know or at least believe that a god does not exist.*

AGNOSTIC

1: a person who holds the view that any ultimate reality (as God) is unknown and probably unknowable; broadly: one who is not committed to believing in either the existence or the nonexistence of God or a god

2: a person who is unwilling to commit to an opinion about something <political agnostics>



For our purposes, we will describe atheism with the following observations in mind:

- Atheism does not believe in deities of any form - by "deity," we mean a being or object deemed worthy of worship by some for its perceived power beyond that of human form.
- Atheism is not a self-contained philosophy; rather it is a basis from which any number of philosophies may develop.
- Atheism perceives humanity to be at the top of earth's discovered "food chain."
- Therefore, atheism is a clear basis for humanism - humanity can solve its own problems and does not need a deity.

hu·man·ism: *noun*

A system of values and beliefs that is based on the idea that people are basically good and that problems can be solved using reason instead of religion.

Atheism generally brings us to humanism - a philosophy with an atheistic foundation. Our philosophy of Christianity comes from a belief in God Almighty. We can make comparisons between the two philosophies - Christianity and humanism.



What is the Bible's explanation of the human condition?

Bible and science, Neil DeGrasse Tyson, An Undeniable Prognosis, YouTube

- *If you knew nothing about science and you read, say, the Bible, the Old Testament, which in Genesis is an account of nature. That is what that is. And I said to you, "Give me your description of the natural world based only on this." You would say the world was created in six days and that stars are just little points of light much lesser than the sun and in fact that they can fall out of the sky, right, because that's what happens during the Revelation. One of the signs of the second coming is the stars will fall out of the sky and land on earth. So, to even write that means you don't know what those things are. Everybody who tried to make proclamations about the physical universe based on Bible passages got the wrong answer. So, what happened was when science discovers things and you want to stay religious, or you want to continue to believe the Bible is unerring, what you would do is, you would say "let me go back to the Bible and reinterpret it," and then say things like, "oh, they didn't really mean that literally. They meant that figuratively."*

Funny how we can look at the great works of literature and grasp the literal vs. the figurative. How we can ourselves speak in symbols and nuances and know what we mean, yet we cannot allow the most unique book ever written thousands of years ago to do the same?

With each program segment, we are going to provide one scriptural tidbit that gives the right scientific answer that could not have been known at the time it was written.

(Source: www.godsplan.org) *What Holds the Earth Up?* Three thousand years ago the Hindu scriptures recorded the earth was resting on the backs of several huge elephants. The elephants were resting on the back of a very large turtle that was swimming in a sea. Greek mythology claims that the god Atlas was holding the earth on his shoulders. But our Bible says in Job 26:7 "[God] hangeth the earth on nothing." What a remarkable statement of fact. The earth is suspended in space. Nothing is holding it up. Job wrote about the same time the Hindu scripture was written. How did Job know this scientific fact? Only God could have revealed this to Job.

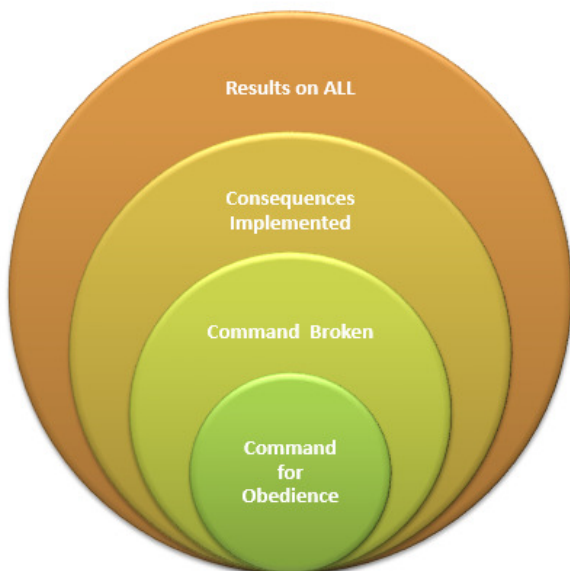


God let us know how He saw the condition of our world...

Adam's choice led to a life of sin and an end of death - not only him but for his posterity as well:

Genesis 3:17-19: (NASB) *¹⁷Then to Adam He said, Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, You shall not eat from it; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. ¹⁸Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; ¹⁹By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

The dying process included a life now to be built within the confines of imperfection, which meant toil and failure on a regular basis. This fulfilled God's word - any lesser consequence would make God unreliable.





Is this fair? After all, I wasn't the one who sinned. Why must I suffer for what Adam did? Sin is not fair, but we can all learn from the experience.

So, where was God going with this consequence of sin and death?

A portion of the curse on Satan:

Genesis 3:15: (NASB) *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.*

Essentially this would be a battle to the death. Satan as the serpent would be bruised on the head - that is the way to kill a snake. This was a veiled promise - life is on the line - something would happen through the posterity of Adam and Eve that would curtail sin. This gives us a hint of how God is going to solve the problem.

A portion of the curse on Adam:

Genesis 3:19-22: (NASB) *By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

Death is the certain penalty for sin. The Garden of Eden had been planted with the ability to perpetuate life. Once outside of the Garden, life would be very difficult. That was the process of dying through sin.

²⁰Now the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living. ²¹The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

So, there had to be an animal sacrifice made to cover the nakedness of sinful man. Blood was shed, perhaps as a symbol to show that sin brings shame which leads to death; all need covering with a sacrificed life.

²²Then the LORD God said, Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever.

We assume the tree of life had the capability of sustaining human life indefinitely.

Finally, we see there was a banishing from eternal earthly life - this is a major part of what was lost. The whole of the human race would now be brought forth outside of the original state of perfection. In giving the consequence - like any good father - God gave hope for the future. Do atheists have a role in that hope?

Does God just leave the world in this sorry and hopeless condition?



(Source: www.godsplan.org) *Flat Versus Round Earth* For thousands of years people believed the earth was flat. If one went too far, he would fall over the edge. This was taught in both Hindu and Buddhist scripture. In the 1500s, the first ship sailed around the world. This provided empirical proof for many that the world was round. But the round earth was recorded in the Judeo-Christian Bible long before.

The prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 40:22 spoke of the "circle of the earth." Solomon wrote, "He [God] set a compass [circle] upon the face of the deep," Proverbs 8:27. In our century, Arabs spoke of infidels being pushed over the edge into space. About 3,000 years ago, our Bible said the earth was round.



Best atheist arguments, George Carlin, An Undeniable Prognosis, YouTube

- *Religion has actually convinced people that there's an invisible man living in the sky who watches everything you do every minute of every day. And the invisible man has a special list of ten things he does not want you to do, and if you do any of these ten things he has a special place full of fire and smoke and burning and torture and anguish, where he will send you to live and suffer and burn and choke and scream and cry forever and ever until the end of time...but he loves you.*

We truly believe that the Bible does NOT teach eternal torment. That being the case, what then does happen to unbelievers?

This next set of Scriptures provides a remarkable reasoning of the plan of God through Jesus.

The following text is a really good place to begin to define the destiny of all humanity:

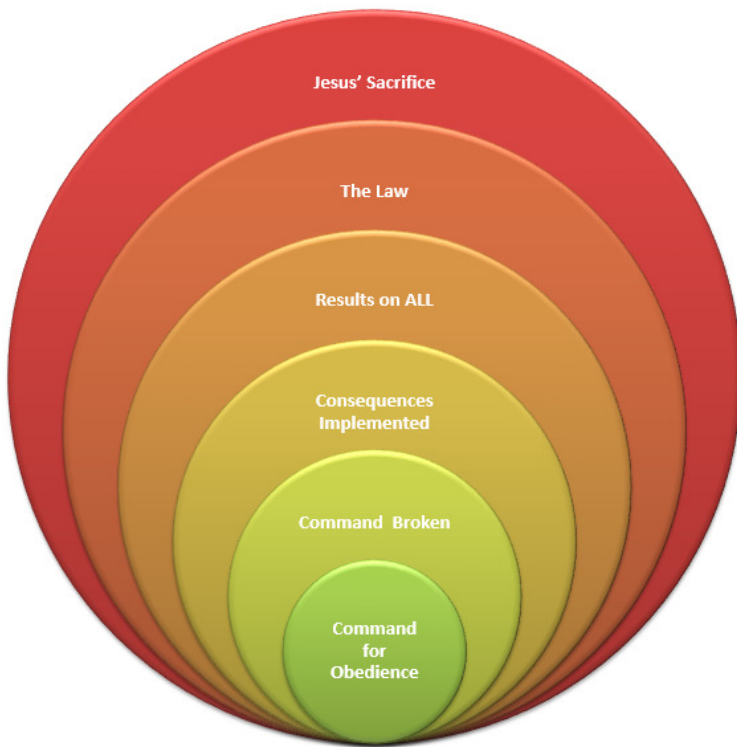
Romans 5:12-14: (NASB) ¹²Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned. ¹³for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of him who was to come.

Adam was entirely responsible for inherited human sin. Death reigned even before the Law was given - therefore the penalty was clearly upon all humanity.

Romans 5:15-21: (NASB) ¹⁵But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, (the "many" MUST mean all humanity according to the above context) much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. (This MUST mean the same "many") ¹⁶The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the

one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification. ¹⁷For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, (again, whom did death reign over? Everyone!) Much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. (Aha! There IS a qualifier here applying to the called out ones! This shows a reign - an authority - for them that they are given.) ¹⁸So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. (Okay - no qualifier - all humanity MUST be included) ¹⁹For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one the many will be made righteous. (Again - this is about ALL humanity) ²⁰The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Grace replaces sin on a wholesale scale!





There are two types of "bridges" or ways mentioned:

1. "All," who eventually get justification by the grace of God (The bridge for the "everyone else" is a broad bridge to a Day of Judgment, which is a day of accountability. Those will have work to do to put them in line with the will of God); and
2. "The few," who reign in Jesus. (The bridge for the called out ones is a narrow way, a difficult way, a way of sacrifice. It is a bridge over death to heaven.)



 **Faith is openness, *Different Kinds of Atheism*, FatherCatfish.com**

- *What would Jesus do? And that is what I find interesting. Especially when I ask ourselves the question: what does it mean to have faith? Is faith belief in God or is faith openness to allow our God to work in our lives? In which case, maybe an atheist can have God work in their lives if they're good people. Perhaps an atheist can have faith, even if they don't want to call it faith in what we call God. Maybe faith is just having an open mind - open enough for God to work His way in and do His thing.*

What do you do with the many "good people" in this world who do not believe in God or Jesus? We believe the plan of God has a tremendous answer! Many atheists are wonderful people too!



A caller from the Philippines suggested [Acts 15:14](#) and [John 12:47-48](#).

1 Timothy 2:5-6: (NASB) ⁵For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.

A mediator stands between two parties who are at odds. We will come back to that thought momentarily.

**What is the humanistic take on the world's condition?
What have been the results?**

Atheists are humanists - they believe humanity can solve its own problems. We have a track record of humanistic behavior over many years. Instead of arguing with an atheist whether God exists or not, let's talk about the philosophies. How has Christianity worked or not worked - and many interpretations of Christianity have not worked, as they have been corrupted - but how has humanism worked?

We see often the atheists that get press are the ones complaining about Christianity (and religion) for the world's ills.



(Source: Deaths in Wars and Conflicts in the 20th Century) Milton Leitenberg, CORNELL UNIVERSITY PEACE STUDIES PROGRAM, OCCASIONAL PAPER #29 3rd ed. ©August 2003, 2005, 2006 "A Beastly Century:" It was a phrase used by Margaret Drabble, a British novelist, in an address to the Royal Society of Literature in London, on December 14, 2000. But of course it was no more than a human century. In 1994, the historian Eric Hobsbawm wrote that 187 million people were "killed or allowed to die by human decision" in what he called the "short century" - a period of about 75 years from 1914 to 1991. The period chosen by Hobsbawm spanned the beginning of World War I to the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the end of the Soviet occupation of its Eastern European "allies." Given that Hobsbawm is a Marxist historian, his choice of the category "by human decision" was particularly significant. However, the sum that he provided was low by just about 44 million people for the full twentieth century, during which approximately 231 million people died in wars and conflict and, in very large numbers, "by human decision." ...

This is a humanist perspective and does not include death from so-called "holy wars" over religion. By human decision in the 20th century, 231 million people were eradicated. What is the track record of humanism? Not so good...it has brought us down a very dark path.

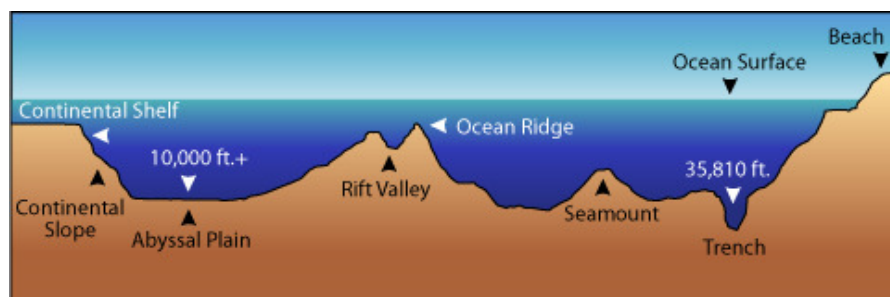
 **Faith and reason, Neil DeGrasse Tyson, An Undeniable Prognosis, YouTube**

- (Interviewer) Do you give them an "A" at least for trying to reconcile faith and reason?
- (DeGrasse Tyson) I don't think they're reconcilable.
- (Interviewer) What do you mean?
- (DeGrasse Tyson) Let me say that differently. All efforts that have been invested by brilliant people of the past have failed at that exercise. They just fail. The track record is so poor that going forward I have essentially zero confidence - near zero confidence - that there will be fruitful things to emerge from the effort to reconcile them.

When you understand what the Bible is, how it reads and what it contains, it is easy for us to reconcile faith and reason. True faith is built on top of reason.

(Source: www.godsplan.org) *The Bottom of the Ocean* Until modern times people thought the ocean floor was sandy like the desert and saucer shaped - deepest in the middle. This was even true of the pre-1900 geologists. But in the 1900s oceanographers found the sea had many deep valleys or canyons. The deepest canyons were called trenches. The Marianas Trench in the Pacific is so deep that if Mt. Everest (29,000 feet high) were dropped into it, the peak would still be a mile below the water's surface. There are also underwater mountains. The Atlantic Ocean contains an undersea range of mountains 10,000 miles long.

In addition, 3,000 years ago the Judeo-Christian Bible spoke of the valleys and mountains of the sea. In Psalm 18:15 (NIV) David wrote of God being the creator of "the valleys of the sea." God asked Job (38:16 NIV): "Have you walked in the recesses [valleys] of the sea?" The prophet Jonah was thrown off a ship and spoke of falling to the bottom of the mountains in the sea (Jonah 2:6). The... Bible spoke of the valleys and mountains of the sea thousands of years before scientists discovered them.





Science has finally caught up to what the Bible revealed thousands of years ago! Our faith is built upon reason in Scripture.

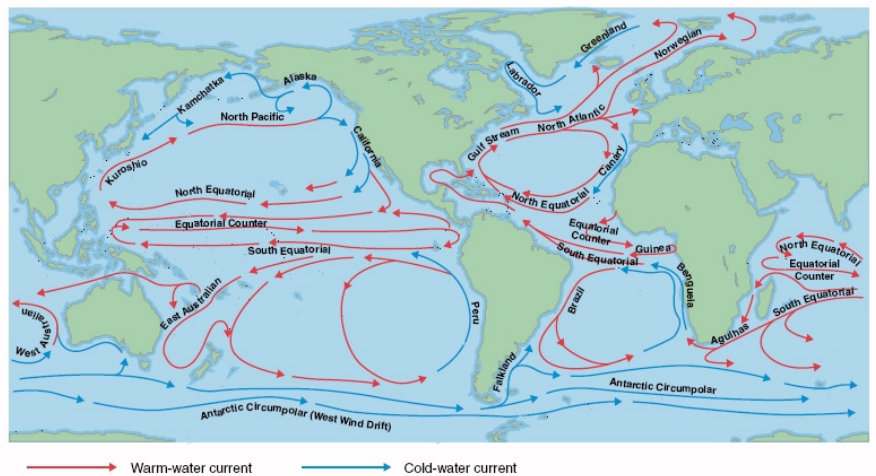
As we see evidence of higher knowledge and a plan, we also see God's anger at sin:

Romans 1:18-22: (NASB) ¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. ²¹For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing to be wise, they became fools...

Contrary to the "FatherCatFish.com" quote we heard earlier, God is angry at those who denied and rejected Him, so we cannot put them in the category of "faith." They do not want to be in that category, nor does God recognize them as such. But does this mean they are outside the salvation of God's plan?

So, where exactly do atheists fit into God's Plan? Are they lost?

(Source: www.godsplan.org)
The Paths of the Sea in the 1800s, Matthew Maury, an officer in the United States Navy believed his Bible. One day Maury was reading Psalm 8. He was amazed that verse 8 spoke of the fish and all creatures that swim in the "paths of the sea." "Paths of the sea" - how could this be? He never knew there was such a thing. He was determined to find them. Maury discovered that the oceans have many paths or currents, which were like rivers flowing through the sea. Maury wrote the first book on oceanography and became known as "the pathfinder of the seas" and "The father of modern navigation."



Maury received his idea about ocean currents from reading Psalm 8:8 which was written about 3,000 years ago by King David. David wrote as he was moved by the Spirit of God and probably never actually saw an ocean. Incidentally, Psalm 8:8 also spoke of fish in the "paths of the seas." All fishing boats make a good catch in the currents or paths of the sea. They have learned this is where the fish swim.

 No hereafter, *Sam Harris, An Undeniable Prognosis, YouTube*

- Many people claim and find it impossible to believe or to imagine that they won't exist after death. Just try it for a second. Imagine that everyone in Paris right now is getting along fine without all of us. None of us are in Paris. We're really, really, materially absent from whatever is going on in every other city on this planet right now. You are absent for all of human history before your birth. The idea that you simply can't imagine not existing after death is really kind of for lack of trying, I think.



The idea that we believe there is something more is because we believe it as a basis from what was written in Scripture.

1 Timothy 4:10: (KJV) *For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe.*

Two different pathways are shown here. Jesus is the Savior of *all men*, but especially those who believe - those called out ones. Two classes of people, both who receive positive effects from the ransom price Jesus paid for the sin of Adam.



A caller from Connecticut asks about how her atheistic and agnostic friends who believe in reincarnation fit with having a religious belief. How could they believe in an afterlife?

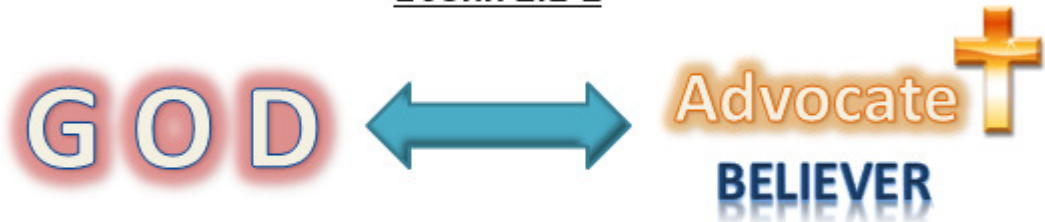
We are not sure. The theory of reincarnation gives a sense that humanity has a longing and desire for there to be something else, especially justice. We do not see how atheism and reincarnation fit together. Humanity longs for something more than this life! Fortunately we have a scriptural perspective that gives us clues as to what it might look like. God has a plan!

Jesus' role for the believer is as an advocate, on the side of the believer:

1 John 2:1-2: (NASB) *¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an **Advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.*

Jesus' role for the BELIEVER is as an ADVOCATE

1 John 2:1-2



An **ADVOCATE** is someone who sits with you on your side, one who pleads another's cause before a judge.

This *advocate* relationship is describing those for whom Jesus stands or (the believers) vs. those for whom he mediates.



Jesus' role for the non-believer is as a mediator, intervening between the two sides of God and mankind:

1 Timothy 2:5-6: (NASB) ⁵For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.

Jesus' role for the Non-BELIEVER is as a MEDIATOR

1 Timothy 2:5-6



A MEDIATOR is a translator, someone who intervenes between two sides at odds to bring them together.

There are two different classes of people with positive effects from the ransom of Jesus. This also answers the question about how faith really works!



A caller from Connecticut suggests 1 Peter 2:3-4: *...God our Savior who desires everyone to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.* Christians must never forget that our faith is a gift. Our parents raised us in it and God in His mercy sustains us in it. Romans 11:32: *For God delivered all to disobedience that He might have mercy upon all.* A lady once said the earth rests on a turtle's back. When asked what the turtle stands on, she replied, "Well, it's turtles all the way down." One must believe in something, but we Christians are fortunate in our truth in God. Our attitude towards atheists must be of prayerful welcoming. Leviticus 19:34: *You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the native born among you. Have the same love for him as for yourself, for you, too, were once aliens in the land of Egypt.*

The plan of God is comprehensive including humanists, atheists and those who believe in reincarnation. Jesus' ransom includes all because it canceled out Adam's sin. A perfect man for a perfect man.

1 Peter 2:7-10: (NASB) ⁷...but for those who disbelieve... ⁸A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed. (So, unbelievers are here separated out as "disobedient" and in a prophesied position.) ⁹But you are a chosen race, A royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

On the contrary, the chosen are elevated to several titles - what do those titles mean? With each title comes responsibility.



One more title that helps to answer this question:

Hebrews 12:23: (KJV) *To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,*

When we think of the *firstborn*, what do we think of?

Exodus 12:13: (NASB) *The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.*

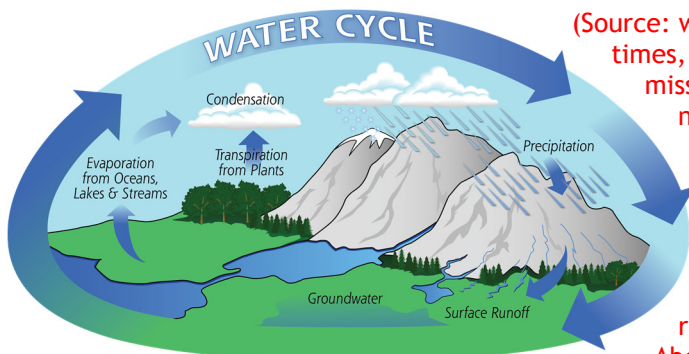
The passing over of the firstborn in Egypt was a picture of the role Christianity plays right now. The firstborn is a representation of the true followers of Christ. Through the firstborn, everybody else is saved.

1 Corinthians 5:7: (NASB) *Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.*

What do we have? Sacrifice + blood = Deliverance! Who for? The firstborn first, but then the whole nation afterwards! Jesus died for the atheists, too. The end result is nothing but good.

The path is different, but both paths lead to freedom!

What do atheists and Christians have in common?



(Source: www.godsplan.org) *Lightning, Thunder and Rain* In ancient times, most religious scripture taught that lightning bolts were missiles thrown in anger by their gods. Since rain is so necessary to life, ancient people pondered what caused it. Some tried to stab holes in the clouds with spears. The Vedas (Hindu scripture) advised to tie a frog with its mouth open to the right tree and say the right words and rain would fall.

Job stated (28:26): "God made decrees [rules] for the rain. And He set a way for the lightning of the thunder." About 300 years ago, Galileo discovered the "rules for the

rain" or water cycle that Job talked about. The sun evaporates water from the ocean. That water vapor rises and becomes clouds. This water in the clouds falls back to earth as rain, collects in streams and rivers and makes its way back to the ocean. That process repeats itself again and again.

But amazingly the Scriptures described this cycle centuries before. The prophet Amos (9:6) wrote that God "calls for the water of the sea. He pours them out on the land." Amos wrote as he was moved by the Spirit of God.

The Bible described this thousands of years before anyone had a clue!

God is worth worshipping because He has integrity:

Isaiah 55:8-11: (NRSV) ⁸*For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall My word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*



Just as the cycles of nature are regular and predictable, so is His word. They have a purpose He will accomplish.

The resounding theme of the Bible is that God is in control, there is a plan for all of mankind and Jesus is the center on which all of this balances. We see justice fulfilled and love, wisdom and mercy shown in this plan.

Atheists often poke fun at God. "Could God make a rock so big that He could not pick it up?" (Is God for your entertainment or is this the Creator of the Universe?)

The Bible tells us there are things that God cannot do:

Hebrews 6:16-19: (ASV) ¹⁶For men swear by the greater: and in every dispute of theirs the oath is final for confirmation. ¹⁷Wherein God, being minded to show more abundantly unto the heirs of the promise the immutability of His counsel, interposed with an oath; ¹⁸that by two immutable things, in which **it is impossible for God to lie**, we may have a strong encouragement, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us: ¹⁹which we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and entering into that which is within the veil...

God cannot lie! *Two immutable things*: The Word of God and the Oath of God.

Here is another thing God cannot do - and it is so important for faith:

2 Timothy 2:11-13: (NRSV) ¹¹The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; ¹²if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; ¹³if we are faithless, he remains faithful for he cannot deny himself.

God cannot deny Himself and cannot lie. If you believe these two things to be true, we have a God who can be trusted for what He has said. We cannot just drop into Scripture and say, "God ordered the destruction of nations in the Old Testament," or "In Revelation, God talks about destruction by fire and brimstone." Yes, but we have to understand how these Scriptures fit and that takes a lifetime of study. You can't just drop into this holy book with prophecies from thousands of years ago that have come true precisely and exactly and that revealed science thousands of years ago that mankind could not have known, without being willing to see the whole picture. Commit yourself to understanding the big picture.



True horror, Sam Harris, An Undeniable Prognosis, YouTube

- *Just think about the Muslims at this moment who are blowing themselves up, convinced that they are agents of God's will. There is absolutely nothing that Dr. Craig can say against their behavior in moral terms apart from his own faith-based claim that they're praying to the wrong god. If they had the right God what they were doing would be good on divine command theory. Now I'm obviously not saying that Dr. Craig or all religious people are psychopaths and psychotics but this to me is the true horror of religion. It allows perfectly decent and sane people to believe by the billions what only lunatics could believe on their own.*

We remind you of the statistics from the 20th century of the number of people who have been killed with humanism as the guide - human beings destroying other human beings by the hundreds of millions.



What do we all really want for humanity? Peace - harmony - good will. It is coming!

Micah 4:1-5: (KJV) *¹But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. ²And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in His paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. (It is here that all nations recognize the power and majesty of God!) ³And He shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁴But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it. ⁵For all people will walk every one in the name of his God, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever.*

The deepest, most significant desire of mankind is for peace on earth and goodwill to men. The good news is that humanism is not going to accomplish this. Why is that good news? Because God Almighty, Creator of the universe, the Being behind the Holy Bible told us unequivocally this is going to happen. He sent His son Jesus Christ as a ransom for sin, so all man can have an opportunity for life, peace and harmony.

**So, did Jesus die for atheists? (Yes! And everybody else!)
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!**

**And now even more to think about...
only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind!**



Evidence of God: PROPHECY!

A very direct prophecy:

Ezekiel 37:1-14: (NRSV) *¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and He brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, Mortal, can these bones live? I answered, O Lord GOD, you know. ⁴Then He said to me, Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD. ⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹Then He said to me, Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely. ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.*



More evidence of God:

Job 38:31-33: (KJV) ³¹Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion? ³²Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth (constellations) in his season? Or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons? ³³Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? Canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth?

The following comments reflect a glaring “impossibility”- How could Job have known these amazing astronomical facts in ancient times?

(Source: www.godsplan.org)

Orion "Canst thou...loose the bands of Orion?" Garrett P. Serviss, the noted astronomer, wrote about the bands of Orion in his book *Curiosities of the Sky*. At the present time this band consists of an almost perfect straight line. In the course of time, however, the two right-hand stars, Mintaka and Alnilam, will approach each other and form a naked-eye double; but the third, Alnitak, will drift away eastward so that the band will no longer exist.

The Pleiades "Canst thou bind the sweet influence of the Pleiades...?" Notice the amazing astronomical contrast with the Pleiades. The seven stars of the Pleiades are in reality a grouping of 250 suns. Photographs now reveal that 250 blazing suns in this group are all traveling together in one common direction.

From Lick Observatory came this statement of Dr. Robert J. Trumpler: "The Pleiades stars may thus be compared to a swarm of birds, flying together to a distant goal. This leaves no doubt that the Pleiades are not a temporary or accidental agglomeration of stars, but a system in which the stars are bound together by a close kinship."

Arcturus "Canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?" Garrett P. Serviss wrote: "Arcturus, one of the greatest suns in the universe, is a runaway whose speed of flight is 257 miles per second. Arcturus, we have every reason to believe, possesses thousands of times the mass of our sun. Think of it! Our sun is traveling only 12-1/2 miles a second, but Arcturus is traveling 257 miles a second. Think then of the prodigious momentum this motion implies.

"It could only be stopped by collision head on with a body of enormous mass. Barring such accidents, it must, as far as we can see, keep on until it has traversed our stellar system, whence it may escape and pass out into space beyond to join perhaps one of those other island universes..."

The wonders of God's universe never cease to amaze us. Arcturus and his sons are individual runaway suns that seem to be out of orbit in our galaxy. Traveling at such incredible speeds, why don't they crash with other suns or planets? Where are they headed? Only God knows. Indeed they are not runaways. They will not crash. Why? God is guiding them.

When Mr. Burckhalter of Chabot Observatory had his attention called to this text in the book of Job, he studied it in the light of modern discovery and made a statement that has attracted worldwide attention: "The study of the Book of Job and its comparison with the latest scientific discoveries has brought me to the matured conviction that the Bible is an inspired book and was written by the One who made the stars."

There is order in the universe - God directs it and has revealed some of it to us in a most striking fashion - through the Bible. What other ancient books can make such claims?