



Should You NOT Be a Christian? (Part III)

1 Corinthians 3:20-21: (NASB) ²⁰...*The Lord knows the reasonings of the wise, that they are useless.* ²¹*So then let no one boast in men...*



Several weeks ago, we began working on a response to a YouTube video sent to us by a college student entitled, "Why I am no longer a Christian," a 1½ hour step-by-step presentation of how another young man went from devoted Christian to atheist. It was a well-done, non-inflammatory treatise on why the author now believed Christianity to be just a story. Today is Part III of this three-part series and we will primarily focus on the core issues of his reasoning that drove him away from Christianity and into the camp of atheism. How valid are these points? Stay with us and judge for yourself!

Is God's hand really in ALL things?

 **God's hand in everything, *Why I am no Longer a Christian, youtube.com***

- *Since I was young, I had been taught to see God in everything - any miraculous event, any scientific wonder, any mathematical intricacy, and any fortuitous personal interaction. All were assigned ownership to God.*
- *God was the source of all beauty, all power, and all knowledge. Anything I experienced, both good and bad, was because of Him and all things led to His glory. All things worked out for the best through Him, even when they seemed bad. Ultimately, God's hand guided everything, including my life.*

James 1:17: (NASB) *Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.*

What does it mean when we say God's hand is in everything? If there is a mathematical equation, did God create the equation or did He put in place the entire system of mathematics and allow us to develop that equation?

So, if everything is credited to God, then how do we explain this...?

James 1:12-15: (NASB) ¹²*Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.* ¹³*Let no one say when he is tempted, I am being tempted by God; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.* ¹⁴*But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.* ¹⁵*Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.*

Free choice gives us temptation. Not every hard thing comes from God, but God allows those things to occur. The more grandiose and sensational we claim God to be from a child-like perspective, the more we set ourselves up for future failure, *unless* we grow up...it is a little like a child proud of his dad bragging to his little friends, "My dad is so strong he can pick up a car!"

God gives us the freedom of choice and the ability to see, understand, learn, step up and fail. We are allowed to experience sin.

 **Feel Jesus sitting next to me, *Why I am no Longer a Christian, youtube.com***

- *Whenever I could see clearly through a situation in my life, I knew it was of God. I learned to associate any luminous experience with the guidance and*



presence of God. I wanted to associate the insight I received in both prayer and thought with the guidance of God.

- In fact, sometimes this guidance felt so personal that I could literally feel Jesus' presence like he was sitting next to me, or in my heart, just as the Bible said. Jesus had knocked on the door of my heart and asked me to open up and I had done so. Jesus lived in my heart and affected every action I took.*

It sounds like he had so many emotions that it crowded out what Jesus really stood for.

Here is the Scripture he may be referencing, which was a message to the seventh stage of the church in Revelation.

Revelation 3:20: (NASB) *Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with me.*

There is a difference between "feeling" Jesus in your heart and having Jesus in your heart. Last week we discussed that there are a lot of Scriptures about the heart. The heart has more influence but it is much more susceptible. We need the heart to work together with the head. It is possible that because this young man tried to apply the theory/head knowledge he was learning in college to his very emotionally-based Christianity, it just crumbled in his hands.

Ephesians 4:14-15: (NASB) ¹⁴*As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵but speaking the truth in love.*

If you are emotionally based, you can easily be tossed to and fro. Emotions are not stable. The basis or understanding the truth *is* stable.

Having Jesus in your heart includes the mental application of the text above and below.

2 Corinthians 11:14-15: (NASB) ¹⁴*No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.*

Perhaps Satan does not want Christianity to progress and he pushes his agenda of making it purely an emotional experience. We don't "grow up" so we falter and fall. Sounds like a good scheme, doesn't it? Feelings are good when based on understanding - head AND heart.

What kind of inspiration does the Holy Spirit give us?



Inspired like the Bible writers, [Why I am no Longer a Christian, youtube.com](#)

- I was certain that, just as the writers of the Bible had been inspired by God, so was I. These images (of clarity, voice and reason described in another part of his video) were my guide and the things they said had to be discerned with careful thought, prayer and discussion with others. These images were powerful and carried deep meaning and one of the most frequent ways that I felt God communicated with me. It became difficult sometimes to determine whether the images I saw were coming from God or my own imagination. But I always knew which was which because of the feelings associated with them. I came to believe that Holy Spirit images were those which I felt in a church or*



were associated with religious themes, such as God's will or the Bible. These, I knew, were the Holy Spirit. I felt God's tangible presence in church.

Again, notice the *feelings* associated with his statements.

Let's examine the inspiration of the writers of Scripture:

2 Timothy 3:14-17: (NASB) ¹⁴You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, ¹⁵and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings (Old Testament) which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is **inspired by God** **<2315>** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Interesting that there was not a single word about feelings discussed. This states plainly that all Scripture is "inspired by God." What does that mean? We will look at it more closely momentarily.

 **Strongest proof of God, Why I am no Longer a Christian, youtube.com**

- I felt God's presence personally when I prayed for the Holy Spirit to return to me and cause me to speak in tongues again, which is something I did almost every night for almost a year after becoming baptized. When speaking with atheists and my friends in college, I felt God would lay specific words on my heart to share with them. These words would come in a jolt of inspiration and clarity where I felt God would show me precisely what to say and what words to share. This feeling guided my every word... These perceptions of a personal relationship with God were my strongest evidence that He existed.*

So this young man based his strongest evidence on how he *felt*.

Inspired by God: Strongs #2315 theopneustos theh-op'-nyoo-stos; 1) inspired by God
1a) the contents of the Scriptures



Observation:

The phrase "inspired by God" is actually one word in the Greek, shown above. It is the **ONLY USE** of this word in the entire Bible - what makes anyone think they can be on such footing?

What was inspired? The Scriptures. Every use of the word for "scripture" in the New Testament refers to the Old Testament, so how can we say that the New Testament was inspired in the same way?

Well, look at this one exception:

2 Peter 3:14-17: (NASB) ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you look for *these things*, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, ¹⁶as also in all his letters, *speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.* ¹⁷You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness,

(Some people believe that Peter and Paul disagreed and their teaching diverged. But here we have Peter speaking about Paul, referring to him as *our beloved brother Paul*. Peter clearly had deep respect for Paul.)

The sacred writings of the Apostles were to be considered as Scripture, just like the writings of the Old Testament.

This is not about feelings; this is about knowledge of the word of God. In our previous Part II of this subject, we discussed how the YouTube presenter was “bored” with the Old Testament because of his expectations of what it should contain. He did not see *why* certain things were put there as a pattern of the development of the life of Jesus. That was beyond him with only “heart” and not “head.”

Scriptural inspiration produced prophecy and insight into the plan of God:

Matthew 22:31-32: (NASB) ³¹*But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God: ³²I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.*

Reading the words of Scripture is like seeing God’s perspective toward man. If we are not reading and grasping the words, and are instead just feeling emotions, it will not provide the depth of Scripture that is available.

The following is more in line with what a *true* follower of Jesus is promised:

Luke 12:11-12: (NASB) ¹¹*When they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not worry about how or what you are to speak in your defense, or what you are to say; ¹²for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.*

So at times when those in authority demand an answer from you, do not fear. Unlike what the YouTube presenter presumed, this is *not* the same as having the inspiration of those who wrote the Bible. None of us are promised that kind of inspiration. We are to study the sacred writings and apply them to our lives with our heart and head.

What happens when failure shows up?

Here is how we are taught to view trial and tribulation:

1 Peter 4:12-14: (NASB) ¹²*Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; ¹³but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.*

Unprecedented failure, *Why I am no Longer a Christian, youtube.com*

- *A few months before meeting the professor, I was suddenly experiencing an unprecedented failure in my course work through a statistics class that I was taking. In response to these failures, I had only heightened my devotion to prayer and seeking God’s guidance. I read the Bible diligently, seeking the wisdom of God as shown by Paul in the New Testament. I went to church and tried to see God’s guidance in my fellow Christians. But most of all, I listened for that voice and looked for those images that seemed to have guided me throughout my entire degree up until this point.*
- *But nothing was working. This was the first time this had ever happened in my life. God’s will had seemed so clear when I was younger! But suddenly nothing was working. Certainly God’s will seemed hidden from me. Nothing seemed profound. Nothing seemed important. Nothing seemed like it had the clear marker of God’s will. I felt lost in an ocean of information.*



He was basing his Christianity on just the *feeling* of God in his life.

Interestingly, when pressed to show proof of the majesty of Jesus, Peter does refer to a voice:

2 Peter 1:16-21: *¹⁶For, skillfully devised fables not having followed out, we did make known to you the power and presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, but eyewitnesses having become of his majesty ¹⁷for having received from God the Father honor and glory, such a voice being borne to him by the excellent glory: This is My Son—the beloved, in whom I was well pleased; ¹⁸and this voice we - we did hear, out of heaven borne, being with him in the holy mount.*

There literally was a voice from heaven, but that is not how we will hear God.

Instead of listening for a voice that comes out from you, FIND the voice of the old, old story:

¹⁷And we have more firm the prophetic word, to which we do well giving heed, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, till day may dawn, and a morning star may arise—in your hearts; ²⁰this first knowing, that no prophecy of the Writing doth come of private exposition, ²¹for not by will of man did ever prophecy come, but by the Holy Spirit borne on holy men of God spake.

Even more firm than Peter’s only personal experience is the prophetic word of God. Peter explained what the most important thing is. Our core values and strength is from the Word. When we misplace our priorities to find our core strength from *within* ourselves rather than finding it from its true source, we are destined for discouragement.

 **Feelings gone, tongues hollow, [Why I am no Longer a Christian, youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)**

- ...I was worried about no longer feeling that I could clearly discern God’s will. I was worried about the fact that I no longer seemed to feel anything when I went to church, and that I no longer felt the Holy Spirit pushing me to speak in tongues. I was worried by the fact that when I did speak in tongues, it no longer seemed to feel special, but rather for some reason, it suddenly felt hollow and rehearsed.*

How many times did he say “feeling” and “feel” in those few seconds? If that is where your Christianity finds its base, you are in trouble.

What was the sole purpose of speaking in tongues? It was to communicate the Gospel to those of another language by speaking in their native language! It was not, according to Scripture, to build you up. It was not an emotional thing.

1 Corinthians 14:6-9: (NASB) *⁶But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what will I profit you unless I speak to you either by way of revelation or of knowledge or of prophecy or of teaching? ⁷Yet even lifeless things, either flute or harp, in producing a sound, if they do not produce a distinction in the tones, how will it be known what is played on the flute or on the harp? ⁸For if the bugle produces an indistinct sound, who will prepare himself for battle? ⁹So also you, unless you utter by the tongue speech that is clear, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air.*

If you do not understand the tune, the instrument should not be making blaring sounds. It is disruptive, uncomfortable and serves no purpose. The ability of tongues, or speaking other languages, was to proclaim the Gospel of Christ. It was a miracle given to spread the Gospel into other languages.

So, this young man was building his Christian life upon a foundation of how HE felt, the inspiration HE was sure HE had, the inner voice HE heard, the tongues HE spoke and the successes HE experienced. All of those things are not foundation stones of Christianity. He built his Christianity on the results and not the foundation. Next we will look at the reasoning HE applied to become an atheist.

What is "simulacrum" and what does it prove?

Simulacrum God just a concept, *Why I am no Longer a Christian, youtube.com*

- *The concept of God is intricate and profound. If it were real, it would have drastic implications for the world we live in. But in all of academia, through all disciplines, we have found no reason to believe that it is anything more than a concept.*
- *Given what we know, God is just a concept.*
- *The professor's words echoed the sentiments of philosopher Jean Baudrillard, whose work I briefly encountered a few months before: Simulacrum = something that is only an image of something either real or imagined, but that is interacted with as if it really is what it represents. This interaction can be referred to as a simulation of what a real interaction with the real thing would be like.*

Video games are a good example. Games where you virtually play tennis or baseball, or games that you shoot, stab and mutilate - all give you opportunity to interact with an image as though it were real.

Here is the big question: If all academia proclaims God as just a concept, **WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE TO BELIEF IN GOD?**

Could the world be without God, *Why I am no Longer a Christian, youtube.com*

- *(My professor asked me) Chris, do you see how it is possible that all of this - the entire history of religion, the entire history of the world, the entire history of the universe, and your entire religious life could have happened without God actually existing?*
- *As I read this question, my mind walked through all the arguments I had made for God throughout my life. I always assumed the reason my intercessory prayers were not answered with supernatural frequency was because intercessory prayers contradicted with God's omissions. I assumed that an omniscient God already knew what was best for me, and that it was me who needed to listen to Him and not the other way around. However, I could see how it was possible that my intercessory prayers were not answered because there was simply no God there to answer them.*

Is there **design** in the creation of universe
or is it just a result of random occurrences?



▪ Bees and flowers - Flowers evolved to be just exactly what bees needed and bees evolved exactly to be what flowers needed at exactly the same time without design?



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.

Romans 1:18-20: (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.

Meteorology: Water is recycled in the earth's water cycle. (How did Job know?)

Job 36:27-29: (NRSV) ²⁷For he draws up the drops of water; he distills his mist in rain, ²⁸which the skies pour down and drop upon mortals abundantly. ²⁹Can anyone understand the spreading of the clouds, the thunderings of his pavilion?

Oceanography: The ocean has currents. (How did King David know about ocean currents and how birds fly on air currents?)

Psalms 8:8: (NRSV) *the birds of the air and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.*

What about Documentary Hypothesis?



According to Wikipedia, the Documentary Hypothesis, (DH) (sometimes called the Wellhausen hypothesis), proposes that the Torah was derived from originally independent, parallel and complete narratives, which were subsequently combined into the current form by a series of redactors (editors). The number of these is usually set at four, but this is not an essential part of the hypothesis.



Academia and the Documentary Hypothesis, *Why I am no Longer a Christian*, youtube.com

- *I had always assumed that the Bible's origins were unknown to academia and that we had no reason to doubt that it had been inspired by God. However, through the Documentary Hypothesis, the professor had shown me that academia had made a well-documented and thorough study into the origins of the Bible and had come to a consensus about precisely how much of it was put together using human reasoning. Among the evidence they found was a set of clear political goals that served very human purposes.*
- *So I could see how it was possible that there really was no God inspiring them, but rather the Bible was just the result of their own human reasoning. I could see how it was possible that they only felt God was inspiring them.*

Yes! Clear political goals! Does academia have the slightest clue as to where these goals lead?

Genesis 12:1-3: (NASB) ¹Now the LORD said to Abram, Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you; ²And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; ³And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.

The "political agenda" was to bless the entire world.

Archeology proves the Bible: (1917) American Archeologist William F. Albright was completing his indoctrination into the Documentary Hypothesis which taught that most of the Old Testament's history before the Israelite kings was a myth. In 1918 he wrote an article about the "mythical" elements of Abraham's military campaigns.

In 1929, William F. Albright discovered and excavated a line of Bronze Age cities, exactly describing the route for Abraham's military campaign described in Genesis 14. Albright later wrote, "There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of Old Testament tradition."

God's clear agenda is to develop a people through whom the world will be blessed:

2 Corinthians 6:17-18: (NASB) ¹⁷Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate, says the Lord. And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you. ¹⁸And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me, Says the Lord Almighty.

"The atheist can't find God for the same reason that a thief can't find a policeman."
- Author unknown



Do you know how a woodpecker can so violently pound its beak against a tree and *not* suffer brain damage? It all has to do with its tongue, which wraps around the back of its brain and stabilizes it against the shock of the pounding. How did THAT develop by random chance? It had to be designed.

God as a Grand Designer created, set things in motion and let them go...

Astronomy: The sun moves around in an orbit.

Psalms 19:4-6: (NRSV) ⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. **In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,** ⁵which comes out like a

bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. ⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

How did the Psalmist know how the sun moved? This was not known for centuries later.

The Earth is round and it is surrounded by the atmosphere:

Isaiah 40:22: (NRSV) *It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in;*

Heavens = atmosphere. Remember the Genesis account only focused on the creation of the earth, not the universe. These Scriptures (among many others) demonstrate an ancient knowledge.

What is Occam's razor and what does it shave?

 **Occam's razor, *Why I am no Longer a Christian*, youtube.com**

- *What the professor was engaging in my mind was the concept of Occam's razor. Occam's razor states that when faced with two opposing explanations with the same set of evidence, our minds will naturally prefer the explanation that makes the fewest assumptions. So if an event or process can be explained without an extra superficial element, our minds will naturally shave that element away using Occam's razor.*
- *For example, if I heard a loud bump in my closet, I may initially think there is some kind of animal in there moving around. However, if upon opening the closet I discover that I've left a box preciously close to the edge of the shelf and that the box is now on the floor, I probably wouldn't think there was an animal anymore.*

So if there are two opposing explanations, our minds will disregard the one that makes the least amount of sense.

Interestingly, the Scriptures tell us to do that:

1 Thessalonians 5:21: (NASB) *But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good;*

 **Occam's razor cuts both ways, *Why I am no Longer a Christian*, youtube.com**

- *Further, if I looked around carefully in the closet with a flashlight and didn't find an animal or any evidence of an animal such as hair or claw marks, or any evidence that an animal had escaped the closet such as a hole in the wall, I probably wouldn't think there is an animal there.*
- *In my mind I have two opposing explanations: One is that an animal knocked the box off the shelf causing the noise I heard. The other is that the box just fell off the shelf because of natural processes like the lack of friction and gravity, or the fact that the shelf was tilted. If I wanted to go on believing that an animal had caused the noise, I would have to make assumptions that I have no evidence for.*

In his example, the animal represents the existence of God. The box fell off the shelf and he wants to believe that an animal caused that to happen. But there is no evidence for it - only natural circumstances. To go on believing

that the animal (God) made the sound is a reasonable explanation would be foolish.

Here is the problem...Occam's razor cannot shave the FACT that this young man began the chain of events himself by placing the box on the shelf. Therefore, the “natural processes” that caused it to fall were directly precipitated by his conscious action - he created the scenario! He caused the box to fall over. It was not a random, natural occurrence, but rather as a result of a created effort. His razor should have said that the box randomly appeared on the shelf. There was an intelligent action behind the scenario.

Just one more quick amazing fact the Bible stated thousands of years before scientists understood...

Job 38:31: (NKJV) *Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, or loose the belt of Orion?*

The Pleiades are a cluster of seven stars that always travel together. The three stars comprising the Belt of Orion are separating, something that scientists just recently discovered. How could Job have possibly known this information?

 **Renowned atheist believes Intelligent Design, Antony Flew (world-renowned former atheist)**

- *(Narrator) ...from the fossil records showing the sudden appearance of fully developed life to the emergence of visual consciousness across the animal kingdom, to the basic need for reproduction, but it is the manifestation of life written in DNA and the transcription of DNA into RNA and RNA into protein and the subsequent process of protein folding that makes the best case for Flew:*
- *(Antony Flew) One thing that DNA has done is show almost unbelievable complexity of the arrangement needed to produce this being that intelligence must have been involved in getting these extraordinarily diverse elements to work together.*

Man has found that the smaller we go, the more complex systems are. So, would Occam's razor cut intelligence or chance out of that process?

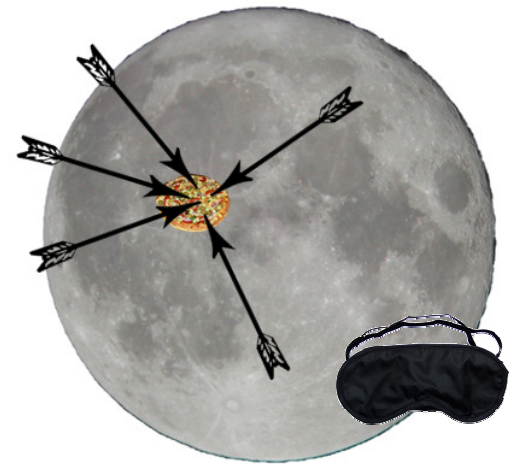
Psalms 139:14: (NASB) *I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well.*

Another scenario and test for Mr. Occam and his razor:

Speed of light = 186,282 miles per second -> One day 16,094,764,800 miles -> one year = 5,874,589,152,000

Closest star to earth = over 4 light years away

Your task is to shoot an arrow from the closest star and hit a target the size of a large pizza on Earth’s moon. Possible? Impossible? Now, you have to hit the target with five consecutive shots! Possible? Impossible? Oh, by the way, you are blindfolded...



Which process would Occam’s razor remove from your possibilities for this to happen?

1. It could happen by pure random chance, or
2. It could only happen if there was a guidance system in place for the arrows.

Psalms 8:4: (NASB) *What is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him?*

James 3:17-18: (NASB) ¹⁷*But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.* ¹⁸*And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

If you believe in God above, you believe in design and something bigger than us. God has a plan for all of mankind. Follow reason and not random chance and you can find answers and peace.

So should you NOT be a Christian...?
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!



We did not even have time to approach prophecy!

Here is JUST ONE prophecy that has unfolded and continues to unfold before our eyes - the re-gathering of Israel in their own land:

Ezekiel 37:1-6: (NASB) ¹*The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones.* ²*He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, they were very dry.* ³*He said to me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, You know.* ⁴*Again He said to me, Prophecy over these bones and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.* ⁵*Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones, Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life.* ⁶*I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin and put breath in you that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the LORD.*

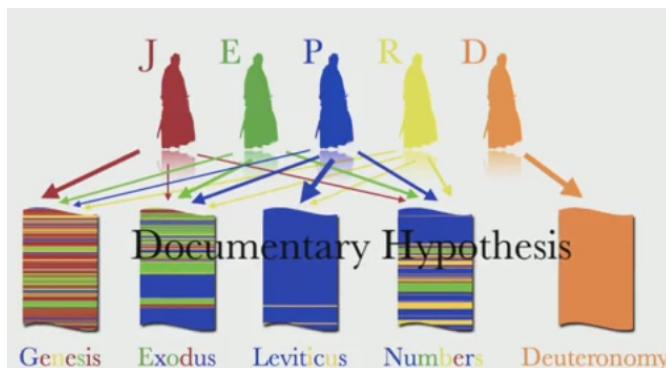
Ezekiel 37:11-14: (NASB) ¹¹Then He said to me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel; behold, they say, Our bones are dried up and our hope has perished. We are completely cut off. ¹²Therefore prophesy and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people. ¹⁴I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken and done it," declares the LORD.

Next, the Scriptures are plain that God does have a plan, and a timeframe for that plan, and we can only know parts of it!

Acts 1:6-8: (NASB) ⁶So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel? ⁷He said to them, It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; ⁸but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

1 Corinthians 13:12-13: (NASB) ¹²For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. ¹³But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

A closer look at: *The Documentary Hypothesis* (source: Wikipedia)



The documentary hypothesis, (DH) (sometimes called the Wellhausen hypothesis), proposes that the Torah was derived from originally independent, parallel and complete narratives, which were subsequently combined into the current form by a series of redactors (editors). The number of these is usually set at four,

but this is not an essential part of the hypothesis.

The hypothesis was developed in the 18th and 19th centuries from the attempt to reconcile inconsistencies in the biblical text. Biblical scholars, using source criticism, eventually arrived at the theory that the Torah was composed of selections woven together from separate, at times inconsistent, sources, each originally a complete and independent document. By the end of the 19th century it was generally agreed that there were four main sources, combined into their final form by a series of redactors, R. These four sources came to be known as the Yahwist, or Jahwist, J (J being the German equivalent of the English letter Y); the Elohist, E; the Deuteronomist, D, (the name comes from the Book of Deuteronomy, D's contribution to the Torah); and the Priestly Writer, P.

Julius Wellhausen's contribution was to order these sources chronologically as JEDP, giving them a coherent setting in the evolving religious history of Israel, which he saw as one of ever-increasing priestly power. Wellhausen's formulation was:

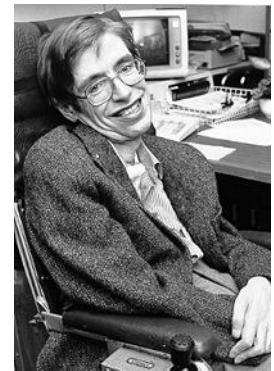


- the Yahwist source (J): written c. 950 BC in the southern Kingdom of Judah.
- the Elohist source (E): written c. 850 BC in the northern Kingdom of Israel.
- the Deuteronomist (D): written c. 600 BC in Jerusalem during a period of religious reform.
- the Priestly source (P): written c. 500 BC by Kohanim (Jewish priests) in exile in Babylon.

While the hypothesis has been increasingly challenged by other models in the last part of the 20th century, its terminology and insights continue to provide the framework for modern theories on the origins of the Torah.

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.**”



Stephen Hawking

Let's take a detour to 1917 and look at some practical applications by some great minds of our time:

Albert Einstein's General Theory of Relativity included a cosmic constant to conform to the belief then that the universe was infinite in age.

American Archeologist William F. Albright was completing his indoctrination into the Documentary Hypothesis which taught that most of the Old Testament's history before the Israelite kings was a myth. In 1918 he wrote an article about the "mythical" elements of Abraham's military campaigns.

C.S. Lewis was an army lieutenant fighting in WWI which hardened his simple atheism into a view that religious faith was only for uneducated and unthinking people.

During the 1920s, all three men had their minds changed by their own discoveries.



Einstein's equations demanded a universe with a beginning. And anything with a beginning requires a first cause. By 1927, Edwin Hubble discovered the expanding universe and thus laid the foundation for the Big Bang theory.

In 1929, William F. Albright discovered and excavated a line of Bronze Age cities, exactly describing the route for Abraham's military campaign described in Genesis 14. Albright later wrote, "There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial history of Old Testament tradition."

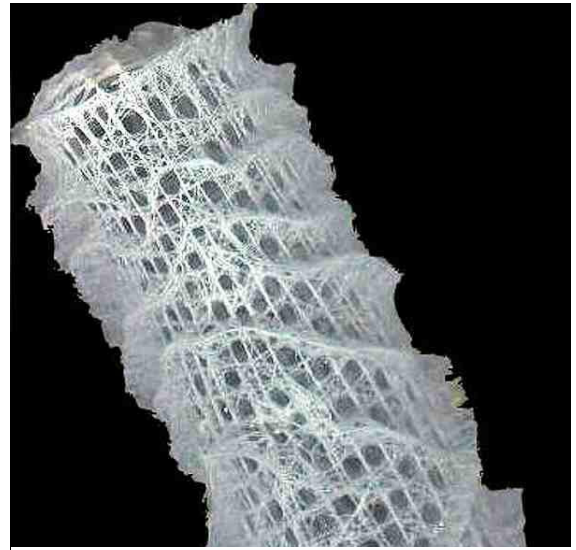
Also in 1929, C.S. Lewis had his atheism shaken by learning about the evidence that the Gospel accounts really did happen. He applied his knowledge of languages and literature to a study of the Bible and became a believer. He wrote, "I have been reading poems, romances, vision-literature, legends and myths all my life. I know what they are like. I know that not one of them is like this."

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.

(Source: Science News, March 25, 2006, page 184-5.)

A Glass Sponge! Product of Evolution?

Material science is an area that has aroused a great deal of interest in recent years, because there is such a need to develop materials that can withstand the demands of modern life and yet are available at low cost in the natural environment. Recently material scientists have discovered a sponge made out of glass that has amazing properties. The sponge named *Euplectella aspergillum* lives in deep water in the western Pacific Ocean. It is made up of silica (or glass) and has cells that make up a skeleton about 8" long and about 1" in diameter. It is pure glass but is incredibly strong. You can jump on it and you will not break the structure.



<http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk>

The normal brittleness of glass is avoided by having several levels of design according to researchers. The first is vertical and horizontal beams that form a grid making up the walls. Every second square of that grid sticks out of the grid's plane. This three-dimensional structure prevents crushing of the structure. As an example, if a pop can had ridges along its sides, it would be much stronger than it is.

Each beam consists of thinner cylinders cemented together with more glass, and these parallel cylinders support one another because if one cylinder fails



its neighbors take up the slack. In addition, each cylinder consists of concentric rings like the rings of a tree, and these rings are cemented together. The rings are thicker toward the center of the cylinder by a factor of seven. Scientists have found that this sponge’s structure is “almost unbreakable.” There is a final design feature and that is that the sponge is wired to the floor of the ocean by glass wires which give flexibility, so the sponge can swing freely with whatever force it encounters.

Joanna Aizenberg of Bell Laboratories says the sponge is the strongest glass structure one can imagine. “It was clearly, incredibly beautiful design-wise. In a way, it’s a glass house at which you can throw stones.” God has brought incredible wisdom into every area of life, and the more we study that design, the more *“we can know there is a God through the things he has made.”*

Romans 1:20