

## Is Faith Built On Reason or Is Reason Built On Faith?

**Jude 1:3: (WEY)** *Dear friends, since I am eager to begin a letter to you on the subject of our common salvation, I find myself constrained to write and cheer you on to the vigorous defense of the faith delivered once for all to God's people.*



Religious faith is widely accepted as contrary to reason. It is assumed to be built upon mystical and even fantastical thinking. When put to the test of reasoned criticism, it is thought that religious faith would fail miserably. This conclusion may be true regarding many different religious systems in our world. We cannot speak for any faith except Christianity and Judaism as taught in the Bible. Regarding biblical faith, it is our firm stance that it will not only stand up to a reason test but is entirely dependent upon reason to exist. These conclusions are exactly the opposite from what is generally accepted as true. To support them, we will begin a reasoned look at what biblical faith is, how it is meant to work and why it brings value to life.



Is this true of biblical faith?

*Faith is believing what you know ain't so. — Mark Twain*

### Merriam Webster Online Dictionary

reason: noun

- 1a.) a statement offered in explanation or justification;
- b.) a rational ground or motive;
- c.) the thing that makes some fact intelligible;
- d.) a sufficient ground of explanation or of logical defense especially: something (such as a principle or law) that supports a conclusion or explains a fact

We need REASON when working through facts.

Let's look at the worldly definition of faith:

### Dictionary.com

faith: noun

- 1.) confidence or trust in a person or thing;
- 2.) belief that is not based on proof;
- 3.) belief in God or in the doctrines or teachings of religion;
- 4.) belief in anything, as a code of ethics, standards of merit, etc.



This does not give us a sense that there is any basis for faith, other than the act of believing. There is no substance in this common definition. Notice the difference between the English and Greek definitions.

**Faith:** Strong's #4102 *pistis*; persuasion, credence, conviction.  
Reliance (especially upon Christ for salvation) constancy

Whenever the word for *faith* is used in the New Testament it is always Strong's #4102.

(Source: McClintock and Strong's Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature) Psychologically, faith is the faculty of grasping evidence, with a propensity to admit it when duly presented to the mind.



According to the Greek in the New Testament, faith is completely different from faith as defined today. *Scriptural faith is the faculty of grasping evidence*, but the dictionary definition said it is a belief that is not based on proof. *We will be addressing the definition of faith based on the Bible.*



Biblical faith is NOT credulity!

**Merriam Webster**

**credulity:** noun

**readiness or willingness to believe especially on slight or uncertain evidence (gullibility)**

It seems as though in today's world, the definition of "credulity" is what people assume is faith, belief not based on proof. This is a misrepresentation of scriptural faith. When we are talking about faith to someone who does not have faith, and they are looking at us and derisively say, "Oh, this is a person of faith," realize the definition of faith they are using is not the same one that we are using. Maybe the best place to start the discussion is on the definitions! "In the Bible, here is what faith means. Let's talk about it from this mindset."

The following is an audio clip we used seven years ago in CQ Episode 759: What Drives Christian Faith?



**No old holy books, *Outgrowing God*, Richard Dawkins**

- *At the dawn of the 21st century how would we possibly manage our lives without religion? Without religion we would no longer have the benefit of ancient holy books to educate us about the origins and nature of the universe. We would instead have to rely on science alone. Without religion we could no longer base our morality on Iron Age ethics and obedience to supernatural law. We would instead have to base morality on human well-being, and define for ourselves what is good based on reason, compassion and experience.*

We are now 20 years into the 21st century, and how is it going? When we have taken God out and put God to the side, how are we doing? We are all now clamoring to be the "god" of our own lives. We want to claim our own rights, our own brand of morality and our own brand of ethics. Whatever is good for me - is good for me! He sounded so idealistic, but the world around us crumbles without something higher. The world is more godless now than it has ever been.

**Two Scriptures help us see how the Bible defines faith:**

**Hebrews 11:1:** (NIV) Now **faith** <4102> is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

**Why would we be certain of what we cannot see?**

We have a foundation that tells us enough of the things we *can* see. When that foundation explains something we *cannot* see, because we already have the facts for what we *can* see, we know those must be true because they are congruent with the foundation we are standing on. The Bible is our foundation of faith because it teaches us facts.





Please see CQ Kids video: How Do We Know God Exists When We Can't See Him? [ChristianQuestions.com/youtube](https://ChristianQuestions.com/youtube)

Acts 17:31: (NASB) *Because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a man whom He has appointed, having furnished **proof <4102>** to all men by raising him from the dead.*

The word for **proof <4102>** is the same word for faith!

When someone furnishes proof, they confirm what is being discussed. Proof gives substance to the discussion. New Testament biblical faith has substance to it. Why was Jesus being raised from the dead proof? Because there were people there who saw Jesus after he was raised. They talked to him and interacted with him, even though they had seen him a short time before dead on the cross. This is an incredible basis of proof.

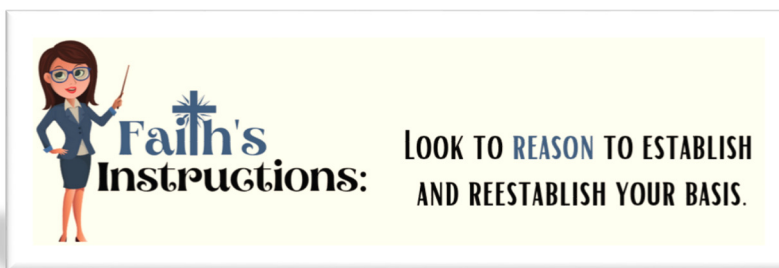
Biblical faith is a conviction based on understanding and evidence. Biblical faith is based on reason.

**Jude begins by warning of those who would subvert us from true Christian faith:**

Jude 1:3-4: (WEY) *<sup>3</sup>Dear friends, since I am eager to begin a letter to you on the subject of our common salvation, I find myself constrained to write and cheer you on to the vigorous defense of the **faith <4102>** delivered once for all to God's people. <sup>4</sup>For certain persons have crept in unnoticed—men spoken of in ancient writings as pre-destined to this condemnation—ungodly men, who pervert the grace of our God into an excuse for immorality, and disown Jesus Christ, our only Sovereign and Lord.*

God's plan is explained in this one chapter of Jude. *Our common salvation...delivered once for all to God's people* - Jude is repeating what Peter said in 1 Peter 3:18 and what Paul said in Romans 6:10 and Hebrews 10:12.

Jude's warning: Hold firmly to and strongly and vigorously defend what you know to be the roots of true faith. How? Check the facts and defend them.



Here is the first problem - mention the word "faith," and people will think of two very different things.



## How does reason establish faith regarding the big things that are out of our reach and knowledge?

As humans we are limited to living on our tiny little planet earth, we are constantly peering out into the universe to gain understanding and insight. “Faith” says God’s fingerprints are all over what is out there. “Reason” says there is order, massive complexity and unfathomable power out there.

In this segment we will be looking at faith and reason in relation to the universe.

Is this true of biblical faith?



***We may define ‘faith’ as the firm belief in something for which there is no evidence. Where there is evidence, no one speaks of “faith.” We do not speak of faith that two and two are four or that the earth is round. We only speak of faith when we wish to substitute emotion for evidence. — Bertrand Russell***

Unfortunately, this is how many people view those of us who say we are people of faith. It is NOT about our emotions or how we feel; it is about EVIDENCE!

There is nothing wrong with having faith in something that has credibility. We have faith in doctors to heal us. Scientists have faith in their hypotheses. Children have faith in their parents.

We will listen to audio clips that show different sides of how faith is interpreted. First, there is a brand of Christianity that looks at faith in a mystical way:



**Characteristic #1: Directness, *What is Christian Mysticism, Holy Spirit Moments, Kerry Walters***

- So, here are the three characteristics that it seems to me are more or less universal in Christian mysticism. The first characteristic is directness. I hinted at that just a second ago. The mystic is an individual who has such an intimate connection with God, such an intimate experience of God that there’s no mediation between her and God. Most of us get our knowledge of God, our understanding of God, and even our relationship with God secondhand. We learn about God from sacred Scripture or we learn about God from authority, such as pastors and theologians and perhaps philosophers, but we don’t have that direct experience of God that is one of the hallmarks of mysticism.*

God’s holy word in Scripture is not secondhand. The Bible is God’s will written for humanity.

We do not believe the two words - Christian mysticism - should be in the same sentence. Here is the problem: what do the Scriptures say is necessary to have a relationship with God? JESUS - our advocate. He presents us before God. None of us can have a direct relationship with God due to our sinful nature. This is a fundamentally sound challenge to this “mystical Christian faith.”



*Jesus' role for the believer is an advocate.*



Our theme text and its context give us three levels at which the Bible shows us that reason is a critical part of faith. Jude 5-7 gives us the examples of:

**1 2 3**

1. Israel's deliverance from Egypt
2. The fallen angels
3. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

He reminds us in all three of these examples what happens when godly obedience is replaced with disobedience and rebelliousness.

**We will take them out of order, beginning with the oldest example first - that of the fallen angels:**

Jude 1:6: (WEY) *And angels - those who did not keep the position originally assigned to them, but deserted their own proper abode - He reserves in everlasting bonds, in darkness, in preparation for the judgement of the great day.*

The angels were punished for defying God.

What does this have to do with faith and reason? Angels are subject to obedience to God just as we are. They were given free will and have spiritually-based consequences for disobedience. How do they know who God is and why? They KNOW God and use the reason within their own ability to comprehend. Yet, still some of them walked away. This teaches us how important obedience is. There cannot be obedience without choice.

The following audio clip discusses faith and reason working together:



**Books of Scripture and nature, Faith and Reason, Dr. Gerard Verschuuren**

- *So, we have two books and they both have the same author - the book of Scripture, and we have the book of nature. The book of Scripture tells us how to go to heaven. The book of nature tells us how the heavens go. St. Augusta said already centuries ago it is the divined page that you must listen to - faith. It is the book of the universe that you must observe - reason and faith. The left side, we have authorities on faith, and the right side we have authorities on reason. Yet, it's a match made in heaven because those two books have the same Author. So, faith and reason can never contradict each other. Discovering the truth or reason can never destroy faith, and discovering the truth through faith can never destroy reason. So, let us be faithful in our reasoning and reasonable in our faith.*

**Let's take a look at the universe:**

Job 38:31: (KJV) *Canst Thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?*

**The Pleiades:**

(Source: Wikipedia) Pleiades: Computer simulations have shown that the Pleiades were probably formed from a compact configuration that resembled the Orion Nebula. Astronomers





estimate that the cluster will survive for about another 250 million years, after which it will disperse due to gravitational interactions with its galactic neighborhood.

### Orion:

(Source: astronomytrek.com) Orion - *stars moving apart*: The stars in Orion are gradually moving apart, but they are located at such great distances from us that the constellation will remain recognizable a long time after most of the other constellations, whose stars are closer to earth, have morphed into new shapes.



Job could not have known the stars of Orion are moving apart. God was telling Job that only He had the power to *bind the sweet influences of Pleiades and loose the bands of Orion*.


THE UNIVERSE IS NOT ONLY ORDERLY, IT IS ORDERLY BY DESIGN.

God is clear in His stated ownership and authority over the very movement of the stars:

Job 38:32-33: (KJV) <sup>32</sup>Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth (the zodiac constellations) in his season? or canst Thou guide Arcturus (likely better translated as the constellation known as Ursa Major) with his sons? <sup>33</sup>Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? Canst Thou set the dominion thereof in the earth?

God is helping Job to understand that vastness of what He can do.

Psalms 8:3-6: (KJV) <sup>3</sup>When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; <sup>4</sup>What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that Thou visitest him? <sup>5</sup>For Thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. <sup>6</sup>Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put all things under his feet:



**Faith's  
Instructions:**

REALIZE THIS UNIVERSAL ORDER AND POWER IS  
BY DESIGN AND IS IN NO WAY POSSIBLE BY CHANCE.  
GOD'S POWER, WHICH DWELLS IN THE UNKNOWNABLE  
REALM OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSE, IS IN CONTROL.



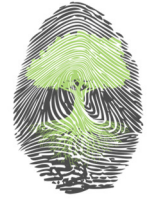
THE COMPLEXITY, POWER AND VASTNESS  
OF THE UNIVERSE IS NOT CHAOTIC.

The magnitude of this thought is humbling as it reveals a God of massive power, creativity and wisdom.



## The expanses of the universe are awe-inspiring, but what about facts and faith regarding our world?

Because the universe is so far beyond human comprehension, we will next focus on things more our own speed - our physical earth. While it is full of wonders that humanity is only beginning to even realize, we still need to be aware that God's fingerprints are all over every aspect of nature.



Is this true of biblical faith?



***Faith is the great cop-out, the great excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate evidence. Faith is belief in spite of, even perhaps because of, the lack of evidence.***

— *Richard Dawkins*

Mr. Dawkins, a famous atheist, is a well-studied man, but is clueless when it comes to understanding faith. He does not understand how the Scriptures work. He does not understand the reason behind the things we believe. Faith is not a cop-out; in fact, it is very difficult to be a person of faith in our world! It takes courage because it is not a popular thing to be a person of faith, especially if our faith is founded on something others do not have a clue about.



**Characteristic #2: Ecstasy, *What is Christian Mysticism, Holy Spirit Moments,* Kerry Walters**

- *And following up on the directness of a mystical experience comes the second characteristic, ecstasy. By ecstasy I don't mean necessarily a feeling of sublimity or an emotional feeling of awe and majesty, although they may indeed accompany a mystical experience. No, what I mean is a rather more technical understanding of the term ecstasy. A mystical experience is one that takes us outside of ourselves. A mystical experience is one which diminishes our self-awareness, diminishes our ego, in order to open up all of our sensory apparatus to the presence of God. So, a mystic will frequently, for example, lose any sense of time or space when she's in this direct relationship with the Lord. Quite frequently, she will have no way of afterwards talking about the relationship except in poetic ways, or perhaps even abstract ways, because in point of fact, there was no "knower" there, if you will, to understand the relationship and during the actual mystical experience.*



The point of this audio clip is that mystical experiences transcend reason. In my high school philosophy class, we read a book by Abraham Maslow called *Religions, Values and Peak Experiences*. He describes peak experiences that have happened to people from all sorts of backgrounds and all walks of life. This is exactly what is being described here. It has nothing to do with Christianity.

There is something internal to some of us that feel like we can transcend beyond where we are, and it can be profound. We are not doubting the depth of the experience, but we do doubt the source of the experience. Kerry Walters talked about mystical Christianity, but this kind of experience is found all over in all kinds of cultures that are essentially godless. We need to be careful. This is why we stick closely to the Scriptures and base our faith on reason rather than emotion.



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## The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

Back to level two of our faith and reason exercise - the ability to recognize God as unbelieving humans:

Jude 1:7: (WEY) *So also Sodom and Gomorrah—and the neighboring towns in the same manner - having been guilty of gross fornication and having gone astray in pursuit of unnatural vice, are now before us as a specimen of the fire of the Ages in the punishment which they are undergoing.*

Jesus himself said that in the day of judgement, Sodom and Gomorrah would have an easier time in the kingdom than some of the cities where he preached. This indicates they will have an opportunity to repent - they are not being tortured in the *fire of the Ages*. (*Fire* here represents destruction, not torture.) They were unbelieving. They knew Abraham and his faith, but they wanted what they wanted.

The human race in a godless state seeks what is convenient for itself. Never, in spite of all the altruism and humanitarian efforts of all human history, have we risen above the smallness of our selfish needs. As much as man might say that without God we can still do good and be good, man always falters when it comes to ego and selfishness. Look at human history.

Sodom and Gomorrah brought us to the example of the physical earth and what we should know even if we do not have faith.



**Laws of nature and cosmic design, Faith and Reason, Dr. Gerard Verschuuren**

- *Does science allow belief in God? What explains that this beautiful biological design works properly? The explanation is the laws of nature. They regulate what can be done and what cannot be done. What explains the laws of nature? I would say the cosmic design. We have reached the boundaries of science now, but science can never explain that there is order in this world. It has to assume it. It assumes that there is somehow a cosmic design of order and intelligibility and functionality. So, if you ask me what explains the cosmic design, I have no better answer then saying there is a Creator behind the cosmic design.*

There is cosmic design, and people within the world of science do not like to say it is due to God or an Intelligent Designer. They cannot understand faith and reason can actually work together here. There is amazing and unexplainable design in the universe that many scientists attribute to chance. This seems foolish. BY DEFINITION, DESIGN IS NOT BY CHANCE.

**The Bible defines atheism. Paul recalled the Ephesians' previous pagan state:**

Ephesians 2:12-13: (NKJV) <sup>12</sup>*that at that time you were **without** <5565> Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and **without God** <112> in the world.* <sup>13</sup>*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

**Without:** Strong's #5565 *choris*; separately or apart from

**(Without) God:** Strong's #112 *atheos*; godless





Paul is reminding them that before they came to Christ they were without God and they had no hope beyond this life. We have hope because we have the Scriptures which explain the past, present and future.

### Does the following text appeal to blind faith or fact-based reason?

**Romans 1:18-22:** (NASB) <sup>18</sup>*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup>because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. <sup>20</sup>For 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. <sup>21</sup>For 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. <sup>22</sup>Professing to be wise, they became fools.*

Paul was saying: You have been given nature, God's creativity to observe and respect, and you ignored it. You have turned it into something dark because you do not want the credit to go beyond what you do not understand.

Here in the 21<sup>st</sup> century we are now cracking the code of DNA, mapping cellular construction, exploring the interconnectedness of ecosystems and using the power of the sun. We are grasping the incomprehensible laws of nature, and yet we cannot admit that these laws are designed. That is foolish!

**Psalms 8:8-9:** (KJV) <sup>8</sup>*The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. <sup>9</sup>O LORD our Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth!*

David understood currents and the paths of the seas because God revealed it to him.



Matthew Maury (1806-1873) is considered to be the father of oceanography. During a severe illness when he was in bed for some time, he asked his son to read the Bible to him. While listening to the book of Psalms he noticed the expression, *paths of the sea*. Upon his recovery, Maury took God at His word and went looking for these paths. What Maury discovered was the ocean currents, a continuous directed movement of seawater in a specific pattern. This discovery and mapping of these currents led to considerable developments in oceanography.

Man did not understand the migration jet streams of *the fowl of the air* until aviation.

### While the Bible is not meant to be a book of science, it certainly reveals facts of science:

**Job 36:27-29:** (NASB) <sup>27</sup>*For He draws up the drops of water, they distill rain from the mist, <sup>28</sup>which the clouds pour down, they drip upon man abundantly. <sup>29</sup>Can anyone understand the spreading of the clouds, the thundering of His pavilion?*

Job described the water cycle thousands of years ago because God revealed it to him. Our faith is built on reason because of facts.

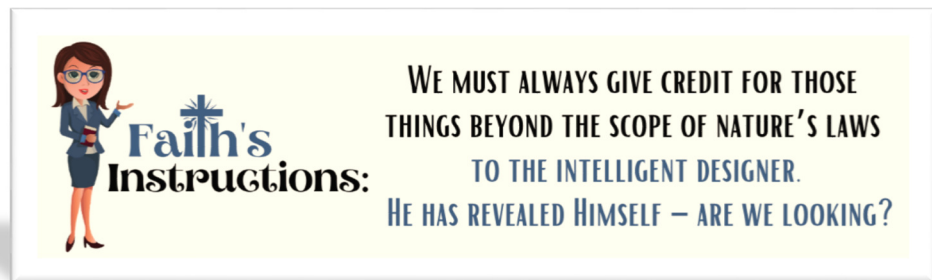
Another example is Israel. They were aware of keeping clean from germs centuries before anyone else. They were instructed to wash and also be separated for several days from others who were sick.



THE DESIGN OF OUR PLANET, THE LAWS OF NATURE,  
AND THE BREATHTAKING COMPLEXITY OF HUMAN FORM AND  
INTELLIGENCE UNEQUIVOCALLY POINT TO AN INTELLIGENT DESIGN.

**Psalms 139:13-14:** (NASB) *<sup>13</sup>For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup>I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well.*

When human babies are born, they are extremely helpless in relation to many animals. Human babies have to learn everything. Their survival depends on other people. If we evolved, as suggested by atheists, wouldn't we be born with a greater number of survival instincts?



With all this intelligent design revealed, it seems those critical of faith are the ones who need to look deeper.

**Our faith thrives on universal and physical facts and laws.  
What about faith, facts and spirituality?**

To a Christian, seeing the power of natural laws at work feeds our faith. When we think about our own lives and our own direction, the same principles of obedience and appropriate actions apply. We always need to have sound reason - sound facts - on which to build our faith. Reason is the basis of Christian faith!



Is this quote true of biblical faith?

*It is wrong always, everywhere, and for anyone, to believe anything upon insufficient evidence. — William K Clifford*



This is absolutely true of biblical faith. There is a *reason* for faith. It is not an emotional, flaky kind of thing that just happens. It is part of the growth and development of our minds as well as our hearts.

The Scriptures do not mention the “form of knowing” described in Christian mysticism as mentioned in the following:



**Characteristic #3: Noetic, *What is Christian Mysticism, Holy Spirit Moments*, Kerry Walters**

- *But having said that, there's a third characteristic of a mystical experience that's important to keep in mind. It is “noetic.” That is to say, it is a form of knowing, even though it's not any kind of knowing that you and I are used to. It's not a knowing in which the ‘I’ or the knower is central. It's not a knowing that can be easily explained afterwards. It's not a knowing that we can somehow add to the entire bank load of our knowledge and work into it easily. No, the “noesis,” or the knowledge, that comes from a mystical experience is one that is transformative of the person who has the experience but isn't easily articulable, isn't easily shareable with other people. It is a kind of unknowing knowing, if you will, and I know that that may sound paradoxical and may even seem like a cop-out to you, but mystics will insist that there is a kind of knowledge that is imparted to them - even though they're not there during a mystical experience - that is supremely illuminative, supremely enlightened.*

This is exactly what Abraham Maslow in the book, *Religions, Values and Peak Experiences* describes. He said it was a universal human experience potential. Because this experience does not fit into the way the Scriptures describe faith, what is the source of the experience? The Scriptures do not mention this kind of mystical experience in order to gain knowledge. Those practicing Christian mysticism definitely go through these experiences. They feel it is valuable to them, but where is it coming from? Does it come from Jehovah God or does it form in certain human minds? *Satan disguises himself as an angel of light* (2 Corinthians 11:14). We need to be watchful.

We have looked at the universe with the angels' experiences. We have looked at the world with the events in Sodom and Gomorrah, and their choices on the outside. Now, we will look at ourselves.

**1 2 3**

### **Israel's deliverance from Egypt**

**Back to level three of our faith and reason exercise - our responsibility to faith and reason as God's chosen:**

Jude 1:5: (NASB) *Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe.*

Jude is reminding the body of Christ, Christianity, to remember right after Israel was rescued from years of slavery, some rebelled against God and had to be destroyed. They were just released, God's deliverance from the bondage of sin was obvious, and yet they forgot and turned on Him. We, too, can appreciate God's deliverance, or we can squander it.

In this segment, we are going to look at why we, as Christians, need something else outside of physical earth, outside of the universe and outside of the physical form of a man. We need something else.



**Faith needs science - science needs faith, *Faith and Reason*, Dr. Gerard Verschuuren**

- *Science only deals with what can be counted and measured. Whereas religion is about other things in life that count but cannot be counted. Science may be everywhere, but it's certainly not all there is. There is more to life than science, and that's where religion, faith and creation come in. Science has a piecemeal approach by dissecting things into smaller and smaller pieces. They dissect, and religion puts all these things back together again. So, please don't turn science into a pseudo-religion and don't let religion become a semi-science. Reason requires faith, and faith requires reason. If you deny the left side, the right side will say faith also requires reason. If you deny the right side, science and reason will tell you that faith is needed. We need them both, faith and reason. Science could never silence religion, and religion could never silence science.*



This is where we want to focus. *Science cannot silence faith, and faith cannot silence science.* The two must exist together. We are thankful to God that the Bible gives us the ability to connect those two together. It is not necessary to believe in the Bible **OR** believe in science. We can harmonize both.

Christian faith needs the reason of prophecy fulfilled to give it foundation. Many prophecies have been fulfilled; we will consider just two tiny ones to give us a sense of why our faith has reason.



### **The first is Jesus being born in Bethlehem:**

Micah 5:2: (NASB) *But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you one will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.*

This prophecy states that the ruler of Israel will come from Bethlehem.

Matthew 2:1: (NASB) *Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem...*

Some might say this is coincidence. It was prophesied that the ruler would come out of Bethlehem, and then Jesus, the Messiah, was born in Bethlehem many years later.



### **The manner of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem:**

Zechariah 9:9: (NASB) *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; he is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

Zechariah described the triumph of the Messiah.

John 12:13-14: (NASB) <sup>13</sup>*took the branches of the palm trees and went out to meet him, and began to shout, Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel.* <sup>14</sup>*Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written.*





*As it is written* goes back to the original prophecy from Zechariah. Some might say that Jesus would know this prophecy and would take care to follow it. Yes, he would. But what about all the thousands of people lined up yelling *Hosanna*, claiming him as their king? He could not plan that - there was no Twitter at that time!

It makes us realize that prophecies are fulfilled. They are spoken and then happen many years later. **Please see the Bonus Material for a list of 44 fulfilled prophecies about Jesus.**



**For more about Old Testament prophecies fulfilled by Jesus, please search our archives for Episode #817: Did Jesus Live According to a Script?**

These could not be faked. Jesus fulfilled everything that was required and that was prophesied of him. However, those were just the prophecies about Jesus. What about all the prophecies regarding Israel? What about the prophecies regarding the kingdom, the resurrection, the time of trouble, the time of the end? The Bible is full of these!



**THE PRESENCE OF PROPHECY FULFILLED ESTABLISHES  
A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR THE FAITH NEEDED TO BECOME  
PART OF PROPHECY NOT YET FULFILLED.**

The call of Christianity becomes part of other prophecies that have yet to be fulfilled. We have all the past fulfillment of prophecies that are finished to bring us the foundation to say, "If God said it, it is going to happen!"

**Christian faith is developed through testing. Reason demands that we examine and understand the "why" of our experiences:**

James 1:2-6: (NASB) <sup>2</sup>Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, <sup>3</sup>knowing that the testing of your **faith <4102>** produces endurance. <sup>4</sup>And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Faith is not an emotion here. We do not *produce endurance* by testing our emotions. We have to have the determination, maturity and skills to be able to develop, grow and be courageous. The testing of our faith enables that growth.

<sup>5</sup>But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup>But he must ask in **faith <4102>** without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.





The verse says we are to ask God for more wisdom. What does that look like? It is not a magical endowment of knowledge. God will bless us if He sees our desire is sincere, and He sees we are serious about studying His word. The holy spirit can show us connections in His word, but we have to do our part as well. He can help us see scriptural harmony in His plan of salvation for all. We might be directed to trusted resources to help us expand our thinking. We can pray for wisdom, but we have to work towards it. We will not wake up wise all of a sudden. It is more likely that we will wake up and realize our ignorance, and that gives us a place to start.



**Christian faith is evidenced in the testimony of our lives. Reason demands we live what we believe in and not just accept it emotionally:**

**James 2:14-18:** (NASB) <sup>14</sup>What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has **faith <4102>** but he has no works? Can that **faith <4102>** save him? <sup>15</sup>If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, <sup>16</sup>and one of you says to them, Go in peace, be warmed and be filled, and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? <sup>17</sup>Even so **faith <4102>**, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. <sup>18</sup>But someone may well say, You have **faith <4102>** and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my **faith <4102>** by my works.

The whole idea of faith in a Christian environment is that of conviction, depth and substance. Our faith should be such that it has so much behind it that it *provokes* us to live it. Emotion does not do that; emotion “feels” good.

We have to let our faith shine out of us *by allowing it to shine in first*. We do that by receiving God’s reasoning, receiving the Scriptures, receiving the knowledge of fulfilled prophecy, watching His providences and then moving forward based on those results.



We have to work at faith because it has to be a way of life. It is not based on how you feel. Faith *needs* reason. Reason *needs* faith.

**2 Timothy 2:15:** (NASB) *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.*

We do not *accurately handle the word of truth* because we are emotional about it. We accurately handle the word of truth because we are mature in deciding to understand the word of God, the will of God and the ways of God. This makes us a godly person. When we talk about transformative faith, we are talking about a faith that has to grow inside of us. It something to stand on to



in order to build a foundation for a character that can be a footstep follower of Jesus. We eventually will change the world!

That is *what faith and reason* do when they are put together in the life of a Christian.

*So, is faith built on reason or is reason built on faith?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*



Join us next week for our podcast on August 10, 2020

Ep. 1138: Do I Treat You As My Neighbor?

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

**Bonus Material and Study Questions**

***Faith is not belief without proof, but trust without reservation. — D. Elton Trueblood***

A few more of the many prophecies that foretold Jesus' life:

**Flight to Egypt:**

Hosea 11:1: (KJV) *When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.*

Matthew 2:14: (KJV) *When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:*

**Betrayed by a friend:**

Psalms 41:9: (KJV) *Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.*

John 13:26-27: (NRSV) <sup>26</sup>*Jesus answered, It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish. So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. <sup>27</sup>After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, Do quickly what you are going to do.*

Mark 14:10: (KJV) *And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them.*

**A very direct prophecy of the regathering of Israel:**

Ezekiel 37:1-14: (NRSV) <sup>1</sup>*The 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. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, Mortal, can these bones live? I answered, O Lord GOD, you know. <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says*



the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I 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. <sup>7</sup>So 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. <sup>8</sup>I 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. <sup>9</sup>Then He said to me, Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, 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. <sup>10</sup>I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. <sup>11</sup>Then 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. <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophecy, 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. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>I 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.

(Source: <https://www.thelastdialogue.org/article/bible-miracle-paths-of-the-seas/>)

Bible Miracles - Paths of The Seas: Psalm 8:8: (ESV) The birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. The oceans and sea are just a huge mass of water; how could they then have “paths”? What does the Bible mean by “paths” of the seas?

Matthew Maury (1806-1873) is considered to be the father of oceanography. His book on oceanography was considered a basic text on the subject and is still used in universities. He is known as the Father of Modern Oceanography and Naval Meteorology. He was also called Pathfinder of the Seas and Scientist of the Seas. Matthew Maury was born in Virginia and lived in Tennessee until he went to sea at age 19.

Maury is most famous for discovering the “paths of the sea,” or the ocean currents. During a severe illness when he was in bed for some time, he asked his son to read the Bible to him. While listening to the Book of Psalms, he noticed the expression paths of the sea. Upon his recovery, Maury took God at His word and went looking for these paths. Maury loved God’s Word, and he believed the Bible was accurate in everything it says, so he set out to find these paths.

What Maury discovered was the ocean currents, a continuous, directed movement of seawater in a specific pattern. This discovery and mapping of these currents led to considerable developments in oceanography. Man discovered the existence of ocean currents in the 1850’s, but the Bible declared the science of oceanography three thousand years ago.

## Christian Questions Weekly Newsletter

CQ Rewind Show Notes and Study Questions

Text

**CQREWIND**

to **22828** to get started.



### 44 Prophecies Jesus Christ Fulfilled

|    | Prophecies About Jesus   | Old Testament Scripture  | New Testament Fulfillment                                       |
|----|--|--|---|
| 1  | Messiah would be born of a woman.  | <a href="#">Genesis 3:15</a>                                   | <a href="#">Matthew 1:20</a><br><a href="#">Galatians 4:4</a>   |
| 2  | Messiah would be born in <a href="#">Bethlehem</a> .                       | <a href="#">Micah 5:2</a>                                      | <a href="#">Matthew 2:1</a><br><a href="#">Luke 2:4-6</a>       |
| 3  | Messiah would be born of a virgin.   | <a href="#">Isaiah 7:14</a>                                    | <a href="#">Matthew 1:22-23</a><br><a href="#">Luke 1:26-31</a> |
| 4  | Messiah would come from the line of <a href="#">Abraham</a> .              | <a href="#">Genesis 12:3</a><br><a href="#">Genesis 22:18</a>  | <a href="#">Matthew 1:1</a><br><a href="#">Romans 9:5</a>       |
| 5  | Messiah would be a descendant of <a href="#">Isaac</a> .                   | <a href="#">Genesis 17:19</a><br><a href="#">Genesis 21:12</a> | <a href="#">Luke 3:34</a>                                       |
| 6  | Messiah would be a descendant of <a href="#">Jacob</a> .                   | <a href="#">Numbers 24:17</a>                                  | <a href="#">Matthew 1:2</a>                                     |
| 7  | Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah.                                | <a href="#">Genesis 49:10</a>                                  | <a href="#">Luke 3:33</a><br><a href="#">Hebrews 7:14</a>       |
| 8  | Messiah would be heir to <a href="#">King David's</a> throne.              | <a href="#">2 Samuel 7:12-13</a><br><a href="#">Isaiah 9:7</a> | <a href="#">Luke 1:32-33</a><br><a href="#">Romans 1:3</a>      |
| 9  | Messiah's throne will be anointed and eternal.                             | <a href="#">Psalm 45:6-7</a><br><a href="#">Daniel 2:44</a>    | <a href="#">Luke 1:33</a><br><a href="#">Hebrews 1:8-12</a>     |
| 10 | Messiah would be called <a href="#">Immanuel</a> .                         | <a href="#">Isaiah 7:14</a>                                    | <a href="#">Matthew 1:23</a>                                    |
| 11 | Messiah would spend a season in Egypt.                                     | <a href="#">Hosea 11:1</a>                                     | <a href="#">Matthew 2:14-15</a>                                 |
| 12 | A massacre of children would happen at Messiah's birthplace.               | <a href="#">Jeremiah 31:15</a>                                 | <a href="#">Matthew 2:16-18</a>                                 |
| 13 | A messenger would prepare the way for Messiah                              | <a href="#">Isaiah 40:3-5</a>                                  | <a href="#">Luke 3:3-6</a>                                      |
| 14 | Messiah would be rejected by his own people.                               | <a href="#">Psalm 69:8</a><br><a href="#">Isaiah 53:3</a>      | <a href="#">John 1:11</a><br><a href="#">John 7:5</a>           |
| 15 | Messiah would be a prophet.  | <a href="#">Deuteronomy 18:15</a>                              | <a href="#">Acts 3:20-22</a>                                    |
| 16 | Messiah would be preceded by <a href="#">Elijah</a> .                      | <a href="#">Malachi 4:5-6</a>                                  | <a href="#">Matthew 11:13-14</a>                                |
| 17 | Messiah would be declared the <a href="#">Son of God</a> .                 | <a href="#">Psalm 2:7</a>                                      | <a href="#">Matthew 3:16-17</a>                                 |
| 18 | Messiah would be called a Nazarene.  | <a href="#">Isaiah 11:1</a>                                    | <a href="#">Matthew 2:23</a>                                    |
| 19 | Messiah would bring light to Galilee.                                      | <a href="#">Isaiah 9:1-2</a>                                   | <a href="#">Matthew 4:13-16</a>                                 |
| 20 | Messiah would speak in <a href="#">parables</a> .                          | <a href="#">Psalm 78:2-4</a><br><a href="#">Isaiah 6:9-10</a>  | <a href="#">Matthew 13:10-15</a> ,<br><a href="#">34-35</a>     |
| 21 | Messiah would be sent to heal the brokenhearted.                           | <a href="#">Isaiah 61:1-2</a>                                  | <a href="#">Luke 4:18-19</a>                                    |
| 22 | Messiah would be a priest after the order of <a href="#">Melchizedek</a> . | <a href="#">Psalm 110:4</a>                                    | <a href="#">Hebrews 5:5-6</a>                                   |
| 23 | Messiah would be called King.  | <a href="#">Psalm 2:6</a><br><a href="#">Zechariah 9:9</a>     | <a href="#">Matthew 27:37</a><br><a href="#">Mark 11:7-11</a>   |
| 24 | Messiah would be praised by <a href="#">little children</a> .              | <a href="#">Psalm 8:2</a>                                      | <a href="#">Matthew 21:16</a>                                   |

|    |  |  |   |
|----|--|--|---|
| 25 | Messiah would be betrayed.                                   | <a href="#">Psalm 41:9</a><br><a href="#">Zechariah 11:12-13</a> | <a href="#">Luke 22:47-48</a><br><a href="#">Matthew 26:14-16</a> |
| 26 | Messiah's price money would be used to buy a potter's field. | <a href="#">Zechariah 11:12-13</a>                               | <a href="#">Matthew 27:9-10</a>                                   |
| 27 | Messiah would be falsely accused.                            | <a href="#">Psalm 35:11</a>                                      | <a href="#">Mark 14:57-58</a>                                     |
| 28 | Messiah would be silent before his accusers.                 | <a href="#">Isaiah 53:7</a>                                      | <a href="#">Mark 15:4-5</a>                                       |
| 29 | Messiah would be spat upon and struck.                       | <a href="#">Isaiah 50:6</a>                                      | <a href="#">Matthew 26:67</a>                                     |
| 30 | Messiah would be hated without cause.                        | <a href="#">Psalm 35:19</a><br><a href="#">Psalm 69:4</a>        | <a href="#">John 15:24-25</a>                                     |
| 31 | Messiah would be <a href="#">crucified</a> with criminals.   | <a href="#">Isaiah 53:12</a>                                     | <a href="#">Matthew 27:38</a><br><a href="#">Mark 15:27-28</a>    |
| 32 | Messiah would be given vinegar to drink.                     | <a href="#">Psalm 69:21</a>                                      | <a href="#">Matthew 27:34</a><br><a href="#">John 19:28-30</a>    |
| 33 | Messiah's hands and feet would be pierced.                   | <a href="#">Psalm 22:16</a><br><a href="#">Zechariah 12:10</a>   | <a href="#">John 20:25-27</a>                                     |
| 34 | Messiah would be mocked and ridiculed.                       | <a href="#">Psalm 22:7-8</a>                                     | <a href="#">Luke 23:35</a>  |
| 35 | Soldiers would gamble for Messiah's garments.                | <a href="#">Psalm 22:18</a>                                      | <a href="#">Luke 23:34</a><br><a href="#">Matthew 27:35-36</a>    |
| 36 | Messiah's bones would not be broken.                         | <a href="#">Exodus 12:46</a><br><a href="#">Psalm 34:20</a>      | <a href="#">John 19:33-36</a>                                     |
| 37 | Messiah would be forsaken by God.                            | <a href="#">Psalm 22:1</a>                                       | <a href="#">Matthew 27:46</a>                                     |
| 38 | Messiah would pray for his enemies.                          | <a href="#">Psalm 109:4</a>                                      | <a href="#">Luke 23:34</a>  |
| 39 | Soldiers would pierce Messiah's side.                        | <a href="#">Zechariah 12:10</a>                                  | <a href="#">John 19:34</a>  |
| 40 | Messiah would be buried with the rich.                       | <a href="#">Isaiah 53:9</a>                                      | <a href="#">Matthew 27:57-60</a>                                  |
| 41 | Messiah would <a href="#">resurrect</a> from the dead.       | <a href="#">Psalm 16:10</a><br><a href="#">Psalm 49:15</a>       | <a href="#">Matthew 28:2-7</a><br><a href="#">Acts 2:22-32</a>    |
| 42 | Messiah would ascend to heaven.                              | <a href="#">Psalm 24:7-10</a>                                    | <a href="#">Mark 16:19</a><br><a href="#">Luke 24:51</a>          |
| 43 | Messiah would be seated at God's right hand.                 | <a href="#">Psalm 68:18</a><br><a href="#">Psalm 110:1</a>       | <a href="#">Mark 16:19</a><br><a href="#">Matthew 22:44</a>       |
| 44 | Messiah would be a <a href="#">sacrifice</a> for sin.        | <a href="#">Isaiah 53:5-12</a>                                   | <a href="#">Romans 5:6-8</a>                                      |



# Study QUESTIONS

## Ep. 1137: Is Faith Built On Reason or Is Reason Built On Faith?

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1137-reason/>

See:  **CQ Rewind**  
SHOW NOTES

1. How does the Bible define faith? How does this definition differ from the modern English definition? How does it differ from credulity? (See Hebrews 11:1)
2. What is the basis of true, biblical faith? (See Acts 17:31, Jude 1:3-4)
3. What happened when the angels denied God? What can we learn about faith and reason from this example? (See Jude 1:6)
4. How does the arrangement of the universe give proof of an Intelligent Creator? Why does this help us establish our faith in the Bible? (See Job 38:31-33, Psalms 8:3-6)
5. What is the second level of the Faith and Reason Exercise by Jude? What is the lesson on faith and reason seen on this level? (See Jude 1:7)
6. How does the Bible define atheism? How does Paul refute such arguments and explain to us how God reveals Himself? (See Romans 1:18-22, Ephesians 2:11-13)
7. How do the laws of nature point to an intelligent design? What does the Bible teach about our world? (See Job 36:27-29, Psalms 8:8-9, 139:13-14)
8. What are the characteristics of Christian mysticism? Do they align with the Bible?
9. What is our responsibility to faith and reason as God's chosen followers? What are some examples of why our faith has reason? (See Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:1, Jude 1:5)
10. How do we develop our Christian faith? (See James 1:2-6, 2:14-18, 2 Timothy 2:15)
11. What does your faith mean to you? What is the basis for your faith? How does it relate to reason?