

Apologetics

1st Peter 3:15 But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

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Does knowledge and logic lead to salvation?

NO

Even the demons have knowledge they are lost forever....

For us salvation is by grace through faith.

False knowledge can be used to lead people away from God

My own case- saved by the Holy Spirit not by the overwhelming logic of theology and science.

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So, if it is by grace through faith that we are saved, why learn apologetics...

Commanded to

to counter the lies of the evil one. John 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Discipleship.

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How good of a job are we doing? Not very.

- 70-75% of Christian youth leave the church after high school (see survey data at Barna and USA Today).
- Christian youth in America are not being taught to cross examine the skeptical and atheistic views they encounter when they leave home.
- More than half of all college professors view evangelical Christian students unfavorably (see article at Free Republic).

- College professors are five times more likely to identify themselves as atheists than the general public.
- Christian students are not equipped to resist rabidly anti-Christian college professors who are intent on converting their students to atheism.
- The “new atheists” — Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, Christopher Hitchens — are writing books and are growing in popularity.

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The first truth taught in the Bible is God is the creator and has left evidence of His power in his creation. That should be obvious to anyone who looks and is the beginning of wisdom. Man has a built in need to seek meaning in life, and to seek the creator- this is unique to man among all life. Looking at creation is the first step to finding God.

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Romans 1:18 ¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools.

Christians claim that God is the creator and has left evidence of His power in his creation. Atheists believe there is no evidence of a god, all creation is from natural processes. So who is right, does human scientific knowledge support God or the atheists? Is our faith rational, that is backed up by evidence of the creator as Romans 1:18, or is the evidence pointing another direction? Who

has the most likely explanation for where the world comes from faith of science?

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But... before we do go into the evidence there is an important difference between believers and atheists. Atheists cannot believe in miracles and believe there is not purpose to the universe, while believers believe God created the universe and people by a miracle and with a purpose. An atheist that sees a miracle must confront God, thus this the beginning of wisdom. A true atheist will resist seeing a miracle with every fiber of their being.

1 Corinthians 2:14

The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

Solomon realized that it is impossible to learn and know everything, as true wisdom only comes from God. The climatic statement in Ecclesiastes is

Ecclesiastes 11:5 As you do not know the path of the wind,
or how the body is formed^[a] in a mother's womb,
so you cannot understand the work of God,
the Maker of all things.

At some point there is a limit to understanding. Our wisdom is puny compared to the creator. So what is the purpose of our wisdom? The fear of the Lord brings true wisdom and wisdom comes from God through his word and through his creation so that you may believe in him. The purpose of God's wisdom is to bring faith. The mechanics of how God accomplishes His work are beyond our understanding, and by faith we can accept that we will not obtain all knowledge. Since the overwhelming evidence is that God can operate outside of natural laws it is logical to assume God can perform miracles.

Man's wisdom cannot explain everything by design, Gods spirit is powerful and more than sufficient to stand on it's own in the face of any arguments against it. One who seeks cannot find answers in knowledge but only

much higher probability to pick a single randomly marked grain of sand from somewhere on the earth on the first try. Scientifically the earth's place in the universe is not random. Even scientists are beginning to agree that because of probability, the earth is likely an artificial environment (like a fish tank to the fish), but they do not say who created it.

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How about life coming from non-life by chemical means? Early in the 19th century it was a popular belief until DNA was discovered which led to a scientific understanding of the complexity of life. Life is incredibly complex, the simplest life (a bacteria 1 micron long) is more complex than an F-15 fighter. Believing that simple life came from chemical and physical process is equivalent to believing a fighter jet jumped out of rocks containing raw materials while running. There are many scientists that believe this, but none that can show how it happened. The most popular theories now involve aliens bringing life here in the ancient past. Intelligent design explains it all but once again requires God.

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What about evolution? The bible correctly and accurately describes evolution in Gen 1. All of creation was made according to its kind, ie a genome. No creature was not according to its "kind". This is saying that variations within a genome (microevolution) will occur (example dog breeding) but the creation of a new kind (macroevolution) will not occur (example dog becoming a cat). Indeed science cannot provide any examples of new genetic material being added as a result of evolution, only a rearrangement of existing characteristics. Why? Gradual macroevolution does not work because of irreducible complexity, and there is no evidence of transitions between kinds in the fossil record. Macroevolution does not work nor does it make sense because new DNA is like computer code, very complex computer code. Macroevolution (example an eye) would be the equivalent of random letters accidentally writing Moby Dick word for word! The latest theories favor big jumps, such as a pair of cats giving birth to a dog in one big evolutionary leap. I suppose you would need two dogs at the same time to make that work! This theory does not pass the giggle test. Do I believe in evolution- yes, I believe in microevolution, you can breed a teacup terrier from a Doberman, but I don't believe you can get a dog from a cat.

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Third truth God created man in his image. What about people? Did we evolve from Apes? Again science will point to genetics. Around 98% of the DNA in our bodies is common with an ape. 40% is common to a banana. I must be 40% bananas. This is really not relevant unless you can explain where the 2% difference came from. Science cannot explain or justify macroevolution, so this not hold water. Interestingly recently the existence of the negative blood type was discussed in the news. Scientists cannot explain how negative blood types can exist without destroying the human race. The most popular explanation- you guessed it- aliens.

Conclusion- Science supports the existence of a creator of the universe and intelligent design as the source of life as the most plausible explanations. Though the evidence points away from random chance, most scientists are not ready to invoke God as the driving force, but are convinced that science will eventually eliminate the need for God.

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The God of the Bible is the God of the universe and Jesus Christ is the Messiah. vs aliens, how can I be sure this "alien" is the God of the Bible?

We all have built into us a desire to know the creator. The God of the Bible has responded to this desire by providing a way to him that has been consistent from the beginning, is supported by history, and results in our salvation. No other religious system is supported by fulfilled prophesy or history to the extent that the Bible is.

Point 1- The history of the bible has been proven by archeological discoveries to the point that few would dispute it's accuracy. Major digs in the holy land, time after time found the Bible to be completely accurate. In addition, the New Testament is backed by non biblical historical accounts. Contrast this for example to the book of Mormon, where there is very little evidence to support it, and it is full of contradictions. (Iron sword before the Columbian exchange for example). The history of the bible, and it's authenticity have been tested by scholars and contradictions of history have not been found.

Point 2- supported by prophesy- the Bible makes hundreds of predictions of future events- all have come to pass exactly as predicted. There is not a single example of unfulfilled prophesy in the Bible.

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Prophecies about the messiah are astonishing in their accuracy.

Mathematically speaking, the odds of anyone fulfilling this amount of prophecy by chance are astonishingly small. Mathematicians put it this way:

1 person fulfilling 8 prophecies: 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000
1 person fulfilling 48 prophecies: 1 chance in 10 to the 157th power
1 person fulfilling 300+ prophecies: Only Jesus!

It is the magnificent detail of these prophecies that mark the Bible as the inspired Word of God. Only God could foreknow and accomplish all that was written about the Christ. This historical accuracy and reliability sets the Bible apart from any other book or record.

Most astonishing- the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Did Jesus rise from the dead and ascend the heaven to be at the right hand of the Father as described in the gospels? Paul himself stated how our own eternal life rests on the resurrection.

1 Cor 15-17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.¹⁹If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

There is no doubt that the resurrected Christ appeared to hundreds of people according to 1 Cor 15 3-8

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance^[a]: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried,that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas,^[b] and then to the Twelve. ⁶After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

The actions of his disciples prove that they believed that Christ had risen from the dead. Why else would they go from returning to their past lives to bold witnesses of the gospel? No one would die to a dead Messiah, only one that was resurrected.

What if he was just wounded on the Cross, not killed. A popular theory, not supported by evidence. No one has ever survived a Roman crucifixion, the Romans were skilled at execution. The wounds described in the gospel accounts are fatal by all medical evaluation.

On top of all this are the miracles recorded in the gospels, none more impressive than his very fulfillment of prophecies written hundreds of years earlier.

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Bottom line- Science has been used successfully by atheists to lead people away from God. This should not be. Science, history and logic are in the world to lead to God's wisdom. God's wisdom, well supported by the world is that God is creator, The God of the Bible is God and Jesus Christ is the Messiah. The evidence is overwhelming, question is what are you going to do about it? If you are wise like Solomon, then this knowledge will lead to God's wisdom and then eventually to God. 1 Corinthians 2:14

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As the word says Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. Let's arm ourselves with the truth and not be silent when confronted with the lies of experts.

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