

What to say when you hear ... I Don't Believe in God!

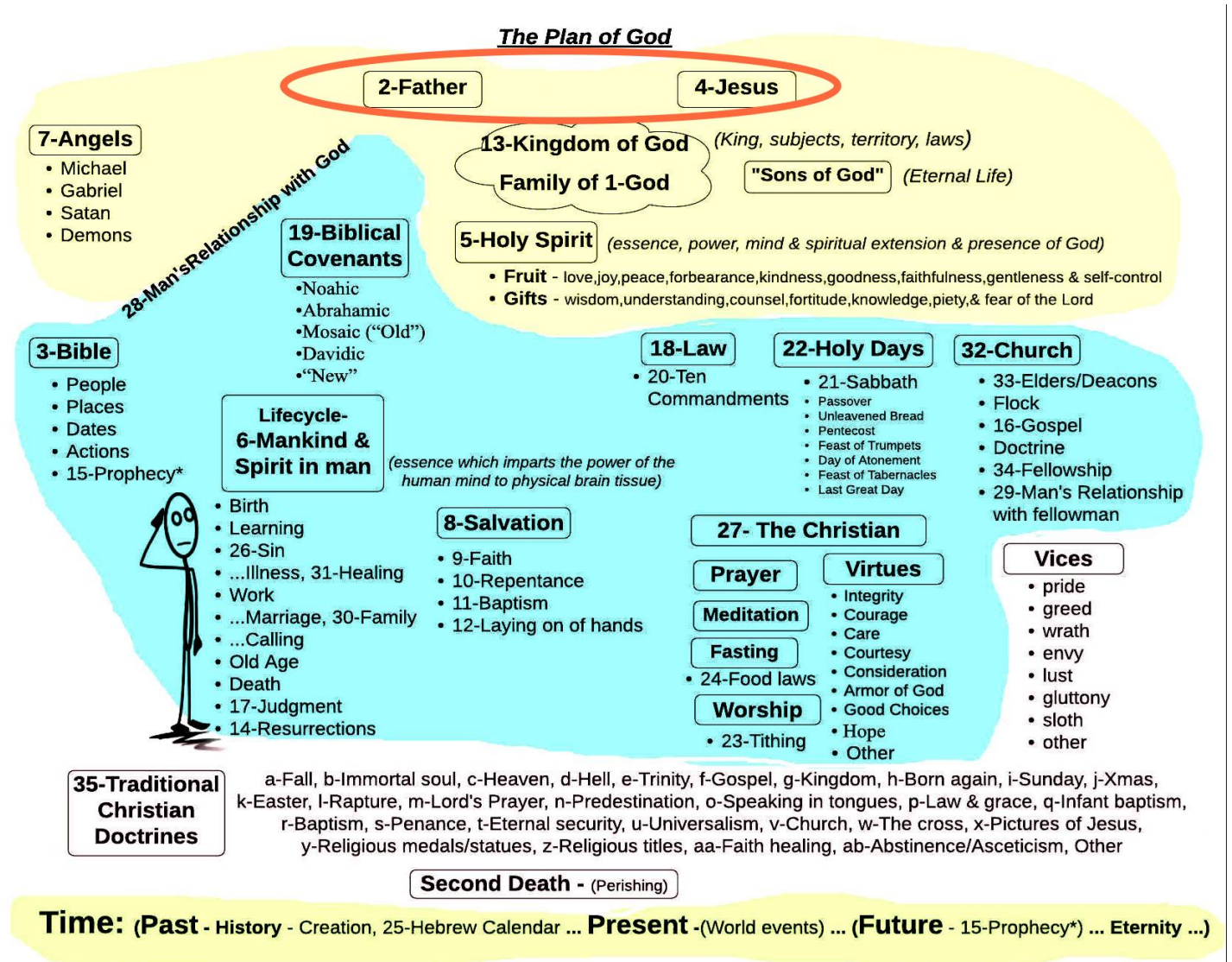
About 16% of the world (1.1 billion) are atheist or “non-religious” people... (Lots more don't believe in the God of the Bible!)

There are MANY Church of God booklets & articles & programs dealing with the subject **“Proofs that God Exists!”**

... Another way to explore The GREAT GOD ... is to see **ALL of the Names & Titles** that are used in Scripture to identify & describe God

Today ... I hope to equip you & explore more about the **God of Creation** by looking at our world & looking at **MANY of the reasons** why your friends or family or acquaintances might sincerely say that they **don't believe in God!**

... As a Christian ... how can we understand *where these people are coming from?* to be able to reach out to them with facts (information) & reasoning - to help **to begin** to open their minds



Reasons people say ... I Don't Believe in God!

1. I can't see God -- If He is real ... Why does he Hide himself? Show me & I'll believe.

Truly, you are a God who hides himself' (Isa. 45:15)

We cannot continue to ignore God and expect Him to communicate with us. In fact, we are warned that if we continue living contrary to God's law, we simply cannot have access to God.

“Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; & your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear” (Isaiah 59:1-2).

Therefore, if we expect God to not remain hidden from us, we must seek to find Him & live by His revealed Word.

& the disciples came and said to Him, ‘Why do You speak to them in parables?’ He answered & said to them, ‘Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given’ (Matt 13:10-11)

Jer 29:13 & you will seek Me & find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

In the future...

“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them & be their God” (Revelation 21:1-3).

2. Too many Religions

The existence of so many religions with conflicting claims leads people to doubt ANY one God or religion

Clearly, having “fakes” is no proof that there is no God -- It is evidence that there is a great deceiver “out there”.



The scriptural guide ...

1Th 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. (There are no shortcuts)

3. Scientific Understanding

Modern science offers natural explanations for many phenomena historically attributed to God, such as the origin of the universe (e.g., Big Bang) and evolution. There is “no need” to invoke a deity to explain the workings of the universe.

Actually, there are many scientists who see the creation -- the design, the complexity, the order ... & conclude that the creation did NOT come about via “unaided natural causes”

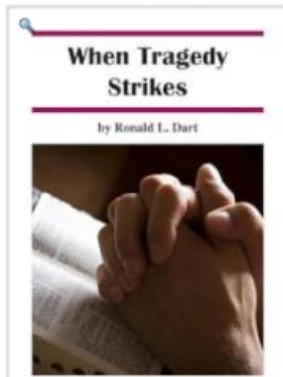
Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power & Godhead, so that they are without excuse



4. Problem of Evil

If God is omnipotent, omniscient, and benevolent, **why does evil & suffering exist?**

In CoG tradition ... DEAR GOD - Why did you let Tommy die? Garner Ted Armstrong. 1971



- Clearly, some people are not interested in God's reasons ... They have already made up their minds

Rom 9:20 NLT - Who are you to talk back to God? A pot being made from clay does not talk to the man making it and say, 'Why did you make me like this?'

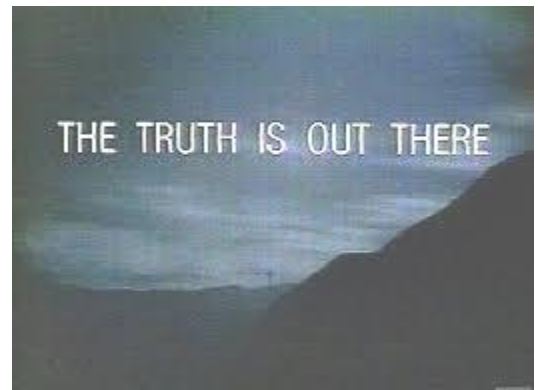
- Whole books are written on this topic "Theodicy" to explain the purpose in God's plan for pain & suffering (now) ... with the understanding that in the Kingdom of God ...

Rev 21:4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

5. Cultural & Societal Influences

Exposure to secular or atheist environments promote skepticism or non-belief . Religion is viewed as outdated & unnecessary. During elections in Canada ... religious politicians are attacked as "spooky" for believing in God or the Bible. Peer pressure to conform & "fit in".

Other groups (ie churches) ... sometimes scorned as "the counterculture" ... teach the truth about God & scripture if you have an open mind & give them a chance. No one wants to be deceived!?! (So much error "out there")



6. Religious Disillusionment

Negative experiences with organized religion, such as hypocrisy, corruption, or **scandals**, can lead to a rejection of God. (ie Someone who was abused by a priest!?!). Also, discrepancies between religious teachings and personal values (e.g., on issues like LGBTQ+ rights or gender equality) may alienate some.

Mat 19:25-26 ...When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

7. Moral Autonomy

Some people don't want God telling them "what to do" or how to live their life. They feel that religious morality is restrictive & outdated.

Psa 119:97-98 Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they are ever with me.

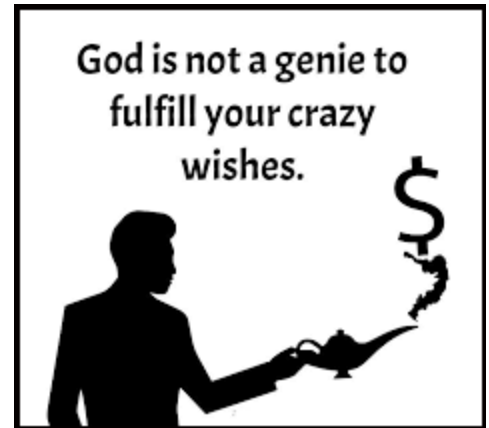
God's law is a law of love - to teach us the right way to live - Our greatest chance for happiness
Man did not invent this wisdom - It was revealed to man by God. Put God's Law to the test!

8. Personal Trauma or Loss

Negative life experiences, such as the loss of a loved one, lead to many rejecting belief in a loving God.

Martha & I attended church all our lives ... but when God allowed her to die (at age 97) I knew God wasn't real ...

I put ALL my life's savings into that Stock - & I prayed for God to bless me. When the market crashed & I was broke ... I knew there was no God...



Psalm 23:4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Isaiah 41:13 For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand & says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.



9. Historical Criticism of Religion

Awareness of how religion has been used to justify wars, colonization, and oppression will lead some to reject belief in God -- Historical events like the Crusades, Inquisition, or religious persecution ... They reason ... If God were real, He wouldn't allow THIS!

Psa 37:1-4 Do not fret because of those who are evil or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away. Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the

land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

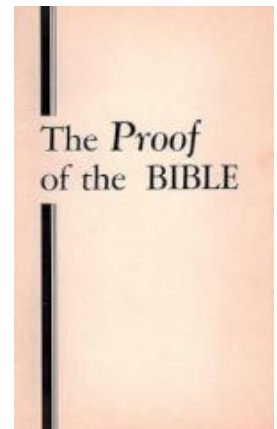
2Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

God's Holy Days reveal His Plan for mankind & helps explain His action or apparent inaction

10. Distrust in Sacred Texts

Inconsistencies, apparent contradictions, or morally questionable passages in the Bible can lead people to doubt their divine origin... They claim sacred texts are **human**-made rather than “divinely inspired”.

- Bible has been shown to correctly preserve history (new discoveries)
- Fulfilled prophecy - a proof of God & His word
- Accurate preservation of text - more than any other historical doc??
- Timeless source of wisdom - standing the test of thousands of years!
- Honest representations in the Bible - showing weaknesses of heroes



11. Rejection of Supernatural Claims

Belief in God often involves accepting supernatural events (e.g., miracles) Many non-believers adhere to naturalism, which holds that everything can be explained through natural laws & processes. Has anyone here SEEN a miracle?

Isaiah 46:9-10 Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.'

The “Creation miracles” are proof of God & His wisdom & power -- Mankind still cannot create life from lifeless materials, etc

And the Job miracles ...

Job 38:34 "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, That an abundance of water may cover you?"

Some miracles described in Scripture are backed by eyewitnesses (eg Jesus' resurrection) Scripture predicts future miracles which may confirm belief in God ... and also lying wonders that will come to deceive.

12. Never taught about God

People growing up with parents teaching them about God have an easier time accepting He is real ... including more opportunity for “personal proofs” in answered prayer



Pro 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, & when he is old he will not depart from it.

And God can help our belief!

Mar 9:23-24 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

Mankind is “programmed” to seek God ...

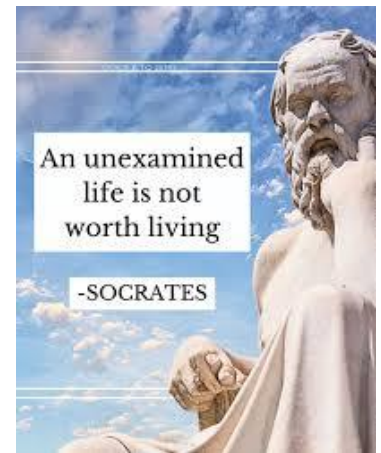
Ecc_3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

13. Disinterest or Apathy

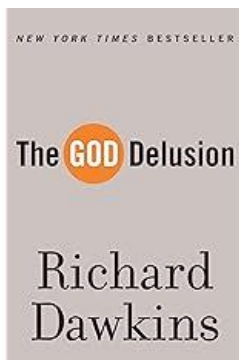
Some people simply feel indifferent to questions about God's existence & don't see the issue as relevant to their lives.

Pro 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

Mic 6:8 He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?



14. Influence of Prominent Thinkers



Writings by atheists or agnostics like Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, Bertrand Russell, and Christopher Hitchens can persuade individuals to question belief in God - and reject God!

1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Col 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy & empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, & not according to Christ.

15. Fear of Religious Conflict

Converting from Islam to Christianity is punishable by death. (... and not likely a gentle needle where you peacefully go to sleep!) Christian missionaries going into various parts of the world are killed for their beliefs & teachings. Many people will not risk learning about God.

Act 19:26-27 Moreover you see & hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded & turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised & her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia & the world worship."

Act 5:28-29 ... "Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? & look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, & intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" But Peter & the other apostles answered & said: "We ought to obey God rather than men

16. Postmodern Relativism (a "worldview" very different than a "Biblical worldview")

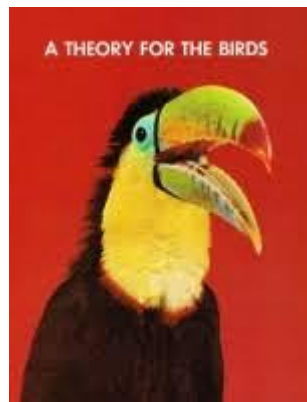
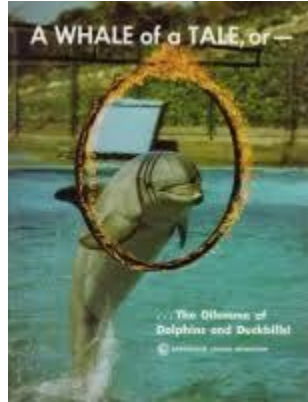
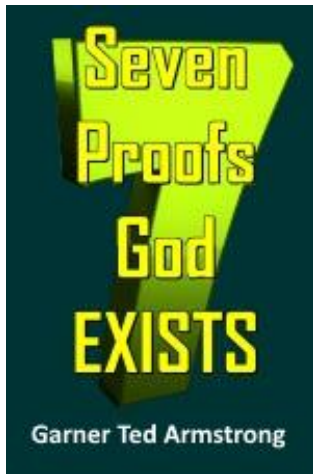
Postmodern philosophies **reject absolute truths**, including the existence of a singular, objective God - Belief in God may be viewed as "one perspective" among many.

Scripture disagrees ...

Psa_119:160 The entirety of Your word is truth (also *John 17:17*)

Joh_20:27-28 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, & look at My hands; & reach your hand here, & put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." & Thomas answered & said to Him, "My Lord & my God!"

WCG (PCG)



CGI

GOD DOES EXIST!
Here's the Proof!

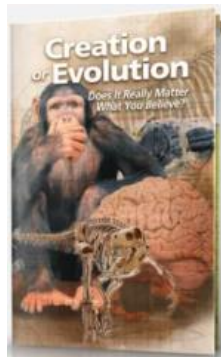
Objective, impartially argued, that Christianity is (1) largely a judgment of reality drawn from the facts of intelligent design, (2) in of itself, with evidence, and (3) the only religious faith to explain why God does exist? Absolutely, there are strong arguments that can give good reasons for rejecting the God of the Bible?

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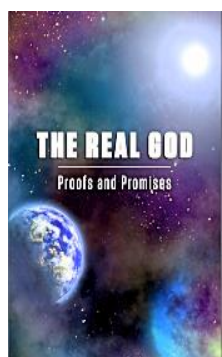
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- **Armor of God Video (YouTube) – MJ – Does God Exist?**
- **Armor of God Audio – Armor-0531-VS-DoesGodExist.mp3**
- **Video Sermon (YouTube) – VS- God Exists!**
- **Armor of God Video (YouTube) – BW – Making God Real**
- **Audio Sermon – CGI-2003-29-VS-DoesGodExist.mp3**
- **Audio Sermon – CGI-2007-66-RE-EvidenceOfGod.mp3**
- **Audio Sermon – CGI-2011-79-HS-WhenGodMakesSenseToUs&NotWorld.mp3**
- **Audio Sermon – Cgi2016-MikeJames-ProofsofGod.mp3**
- **CgiUk-2020-GeorgeRamocan-DoesGodExist.mp3**

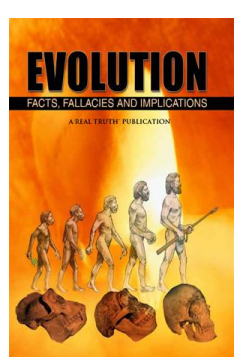
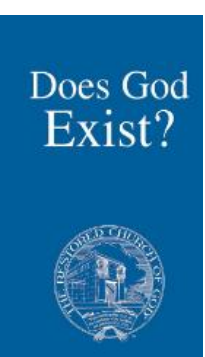
UCG



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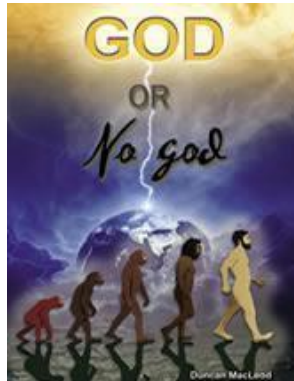
RCG



CogWA



CBCog



Proofs That God Exists

	WCG-01	WCG-02	CGI-01	UCG-01	UCG-02	UCG-03	LCG-01	RCG-01	RCG-02	CogWA1	CogWA2	CBCog-1
1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2	Y	Y					Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3	Y							Y				
4	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5		Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
6		Y										
7		Y	Y	Y			Y		Y			
8		Y					Y					
9			Y								Y	
10			Y	Y	Y			Y		Y		Y
11			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
12						Y						
13							Y					
	4	7	3	6	4	3	7	7	5	6	6	6

**To be an atheist,
I would have to believe...**



- ... nothing produced everything,
- ... non-life produced life,
- ... randomness produced precision,
- ... chaos produced order.

**I simply do not have
that much faith.**

I CAN'T PROVE TO YOU
THAT GOD
EXISTS
BUT THE PROOF OF GOD IS
EVERYWHERE



Trying to
PROVE GOD
is like trying to
DEFEND A
LION. He
doesn't need
your help,
just **UNLOCK**
THE CAGE.

-Jason Petty