

GOD DOES EXIST!

Here's the Proof!

Skeptics frequently argue that Christianity is (1) largely a hodge-podge of myths drawn from the futile religions of antiquity, (2) is at odds with science, and, like other religions, (3) fails to explain why God hides Himself. Admittedly, these are strong arguments. But are they good reasons for rejecting the God of the Bible?

ORGANIZED RELIGION HAS A PROBLEM. And it's a big problem. For hundreds of years, religious leaders haven't taken the time to effectively answer the objections that atheists and agnostics have to the claim that God exists. Religionists have relied too much on things such as feelings and anecdotes to feebly claim that they can actually prove God exists. They talk about how they know God exists because "I can feel it in my heart." Or they come up with stories about how God has revealed Himself to various individuals in dreams or while under anesthesia while on an operating room table.

Another ineffective method is to claim that the Bible proves God exists through fulfilled Bible prophecy, when they would probably do better to first prove the existence of God and then follow that with a discussion of whether or not the Bible is truly inspired of that very God in question. But I suppose all of this can be done in reverse order if it is felt that fulfilled prophecy proves both the validity of Scripture and the existence of God.

The bottom line is that atheists and agnostics make some excellent points in their case against the existence of God. And discussing their points is probably a good place to start. So, let's examine what the atheists and agnostics say in their attempt to disprove the existence of God.

And let's concede an important point: The burden of proof is actually on those who are proponents of the teaching that God is real. In other words, it is up to us Christians to PROVE God's existence. It is *not* up to atheists and agnostics to

DISPROVE God's existence.

Nevertheless, let's still look at their arguments against the existence of God.

Argument Against God: History Shows the Futility of Deity Worship

Atheists and agnostics like to talk about the religious failures in man's thousands of years of history. They point out the futility of civilizations such as the Egyptians, Romans, and Aztecs in their wasting of precious lives and treasure to build expensive creations like the pyramids, idols, and pagan temples. And when a Christian attempts to point out that these are pagan historical practices and that Christianity is different than the religions of mythology, the skeptics retort by mentioning that the Christian churches of today are replete with pagan symbolism that is carried over from these old religions. They point out that Egyptian sun disks became halos of Catholic saints and how Christianity is just a recycling of practices such as Sunday worship, Christmas trees, and Easter bunnies.

And guess what? The skeptics are correct! Much of Christianity today is a continuation of the old, false religions of Egypt and the Middle East. The pagan religion of Babylon first spread to Egypt. From Egypt, it spread to Greece. From Greece, it spread to Rome, which then dominated most of Western civilization. These ancient empires all had the same gods and goddesses. They just gave them different names. And then they recycled them into Christianity.

The truth is this: The God that is spoken of in the Bible actually condemns the mixing of paganism with His religion. Score one for the atheists and agnostics.

Argument Against God: Christianity Has a History of Being Anti-Science

Atheists and agnostics like to point out that religionists have a history of being anti-science. They point out that many churches today teach things that are clearly disproven by scientific evidence. The skeptics say that many fundamentalist churches preach the earth is only 6,000 years old when everything in archeology, geology, anthropology, and paleontology shows the earth is billions of years old. The skeptics laugh at modern Christians believing that dinosaurs are still alive and that Jesus probably rode into Jerusalem on one. The skeptics tell us that the church was way off base in its persecution of Galileo and in its insistence to Christopher Columbus that the earth was flat.

And guess what? The skeptics are correct that many in religion are deliberately and willfully ignorant in matters of science because they believe that science is a conspiracy against the Bible. Christians somehow think that the scientific evidence that the earth is much older than 6,000 years is somehow an attempt to undermine the Bible account of Creation. And they are wrong.

The truth is this: Science and the Bible are not at odds with each other. If we remove all the preconceived notions about what we have been taught about the Bible, we can clearly see that the Scriptures are in harmony with science. Score one more for the atheists and agnostics.

Argument Against God: Why Would a God Want to Hide Himself?

Atheists and agnostics like to point out that religionists for thousands of years have been asking the following questions to no avail: "Why does God hide Himself?" "Why doesn't He talk to us?" "Why doesn't He just come out and tell us what do to?" They point out that unanswered prayer is very, very common in Christianity and that many Christians are frustrated at this lack of answer to their prayers. The skeptics say that prayer is just a ruse, a way for the ecclesiastical leaders to get their followers to

release their frustration to a non-existent God—a sort of ecclesiastical venting to an imaginary deity. They say that the bottom line is this: Polls show that answered prayer happens to such a low degree that it borders on being a statistical myth.

And guess what? The skeptics are correct in stating that any God who hides Himself from His worshipers should be abandoned by those worshipers. Too many Christians are not being spoken to by their God. Something is totally amiss in this thing called prayer.

The truth is this: God has not rejected man. Rather, man has rejected God. It started in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve refused to obey Him. Man's rejection of God continued on after the Flood with the rebellion at the Tower of Babel and the subsequent setting up of the Babylonian Mystery Religion that still exists today. Man refuses to obey God. He always has. We see that in today's world where people reject some or all of the Ten Commandments and, instead, embrace religious practices that are completely contrary to the Bible. So, in a sense, we've got to score another one for the atheists and the agnostics, because God clearly is not answering the prayers of so many. The point of contention centers on the "Why?" The skeptics say it's because He doesn't exist, when it is really because man refuses to follow the instructions that are in God's written Word. God is not hiding from us. He speaks to us very clearly in Scripture. His life-giving principals are clearly stated. They are in writing for all to see. The problem is that people refuse to obey His commands. Because of all the religious confusion out there, the vast majority of mankind doesn't understand what's really in Scripture.

Questions For the Skeptic

Now that we have acknowledged that the atheists and agnostics bring up some really valid arguments, let's see if we can use some logic to further our discussion, because logic is the only thing that we can use when dealing with someone who doesn't believe in God or in the Bible. Again, if we try to talk to the skeptic about fulfilled prophecy in the Bible, we're probably not going to get anywhere with him.

So let's ask a question.

Right now, I am typing these words on my laptop PC. This machine is an incredible device that was created in an amazing factory. This machine is composed of complicated components such as a power supply, a motherboard, a hard disk drive, a monitor, a mouse, and a keyboard. And this doesn't even include all the incredible software it has.

Do you really think it is even remotely possible that somehow, somewhere in time, a machine like this could ever come into existence all by itself with no outside force creating it? Could something like this randomly get created by itself?

Of course not. If you answer this question to any degree in the affirmative, I doubt you are being honest. No rational person could ever believe that something like a laptop PC could come into existence by itself. Yet you believe the universe came into existence by itself! Yes, you do. That is, if you believe there is no God who created this universe.

The amazing part of this discussion is that the universe is infinitely more complicated than my laptop. The universe is far more complicated than any PC built in some manufacturing plant. In the universe, there are laws of motion, laws of physics, laws of science, etc. Can you honestly say that these laws came into being without someone creating them? In other words, can laws exist without a Lawgiver? I'm sorry to tell you, but this can't happen.

Can a creation such as a laptop PC come into being without a Creator? No. And neither can the greatest creation of all (the universe) come into existence without a Creator. It just can't happen. Something or someone had to create it.

If you deny these two principals about the neces-

sity of the universe needing a Lawgiver and a Creator, either you are not being honest or your logic is deficient.

Finally, while we are in agreement with you that most of religion today is flawed, we urge you to examine the true religion of the Bible. It's probably not at all what you think. You have probably been told so many things about the Bible that simply aren't true.

The Bible does not promote a European, Western religion of Catholicism or Protestantism. No. The Bible is an Eastern book. It is primarily Asiatic. When we look at the Bible from the proper Eastern/Asiatic perspective, we see it is a book that promotes truths that are considerably alien to the Western/European churches that you no doubt have been exposed to.

At the Church of God International, we teach things that are radically different than what you hear in a typical Catholic or Protestant church. Why don't you check into our website and see what we teach? We believe that our message is unique because it is Bible-based. (Yes, most religions say that.) But we believe you will find our teachings are unlike anything you find in traditional Christianity. And that's why we agreed with so many parts of the skeptics' three objections to the existence of God.

You THINK you are rejecting the God promoted in the Bible when you reject today's churches. The problem with your reasoning is that so much of what these churches teach is NOT in the Bible.

We challenge you to study these things. Check out our website. Read your Bible. Ask questions. We'll be glad to help you find the true God of the Bible. He's there. And He's waiting for you.

You might also be interested in our booklet,
Evidence For the Life of Jesus Christ

Write, call, or e-mail us for your FREE copy:

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Be sure to visit our website and avail yourself of the FREE resources you'll find there:

www.cgi.org

The Necessity of a First Cause

Planet Earth is rotating on its axis. How many complete rotations have there been in the planet's history? The planet is revolving around the sun. How many times has it made a complete revolution? There are billions of stars out there. How many stars have formed in the history of the universe? How many have burned out and disappeared?

We may not be able to answer these questions with a definite number, but there surely *must be* a definite number for each.

Everything we see going on in this universe is the result of a previous cause, and every previous cause is the result of a still previous cause. In other words, the universe—and every part of it—is *a continuing process of cause and effect*. And if every link of that cause-and-effect chain could be identified and recorded, then eventually the chain would lead us to a *First Cause*.

Let's suppose that the "Big Bang" really did occur. The question is this: What was the universe before the material composing it became compressed and exploded? Some say there had been a previous universe, and that it had collapsed and then exploded to form our universe. So this oscillating universe—or unceasing process of expansion and collapse—may have occurred many times. But, again, the question must be asked, *How many times?* There had to have been a *first time*—and if there was a first time, there had to have

been a *First Cause!*

The First Cause must, of necessity, exist *outside* the material realm—*outside* the space-time continuum with its unceasing process of cause and effect. When physicists speak of "God," they are not necessarily offering a profession of faith or confessing a particular faith. Rather, they are speaking of that First Cause, which is not the subject of science, since science pertains to the material universe and not its uncreated Cause.

Science can point us to God, but once we find Him—once we logically conclude that there must be a First Cause—our journey of faith begins. We realize, at this point, that human beings are not the products of blind chance, but were put here for a purpose.

We would do well to consider the words of the apostle Paul as they appear in Romans 1:18-20:

"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For 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 men are without excuse" (New International Version).

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