

539 Is There a God?

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God's Answers to Life's Questions

The idea of God is a question to many people. No one alive has ever seen God face to face. No one has ever been to heaven and returned to tell about it. No voice from heaven has spoken to anyone today. So the skeptic and the critic make fun of the idea of God. Children from the time they start school begin to hear about evolution and are taught that humans are the descendants of animals. Life is here by accident. The separation of church and state means that people can no longer talk about God in public. No wonder we question whether God exists!

The Bible everywhere assumes that God exists. The Bible itself claims to come from God. The opening line of the Bible says, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). If you have ever watched the sun come up or go down, if you have ever watched a bird fly or a flower grow, if you have ever watched a bird build a nest, you know the heavens and the earth are marvelous things. David said, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." (Psalm 19:1). This world didn't happen by chance.

Hebrews 3:4 says, "For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God." It is an undeniable truth that everything came from something. There had to be a source of what is. The only real answer is God. Only God could have the wisdom and power to have created the heavens and the earth. Paul said in Romans 1:18-20, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse." God has not left Himself without a witness in this world. The universe clearly shows God's eternal power and Divine nature. Who could have made a world so splendidly? Who could keep it in motion all these years? Colossians 1:17 reminds us that "in Him all things hold together."

In Genesis 8:22, the Lord told Noah, "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, And cold and heat, And summer and winter, And day and night shall not cease." Thousands of years have passed, and God's word holds true—only because He is able to make it hold true. Each year the earth goes around the sun, and each month the moon goes around the earth. Because of the precision of it all, we know every morning when the sun will rise and each evening when it will set. We can send a man to the moon because we know that God keeps the universe in harmony and precision.

Can anybody really sustain the notion that all the precision we see in our universe is there by accident or chance? The universe shows design by its finely tuned balance of gravity and speed and precision. It was contrived not an accident! Even Anthony Flew, the most vocal atheist philosopher recently had to admit there must be a Divine power, a God, who made this world. He is now a theist, a believer in God. Why? Because he became honest with himself and recognized the great power and wisdom of God. I hope you see that wisdom and power. I hope you realize that there is a God in heaven.

If the universe is too big and too grand for you to grasp its design, then, my friend, think about your own body. David said in Psalm 139:14, "I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well." The human body is truly a marvel. Your body has 100 trillion cells; 3 billion cells die and are replaced each minute. Your brain continuously receives and sends signals far more sophisticated

than the best of computers. The human brain is the most complex and complicated creation in the universe. It thinks, feels, and remembers.

The brain receives nerve impulses that allow you to see, to hear, to smell, to touch, and to taste. You have ten billion nerve cells. In your body there are 4 million nerve receptors for pain; 30,000 receptors for heat; and 250,000 receptors for cold. There are 3,000 receptors in your mouth that allow you to taste food. In your eyes are 130,000 receptors that help you see light. Your ears have 100,000 receptors that can help you distinguish between 2,500 different tones. Unlike any other creature, the human can speak and understand 3,000 languages and millions of words.

The human eye is the most perfect camera ever known to man automatically adjusts to light and distance, and focuses instantly. Two eyes on a horizontal plane are able to measure distance can distinguish between one million colors, can increase its ability to see 100,000 times. The eyes have brows, lashes, tears and a nose for protection. Your heart beats an average of 72 times per minute. Each year it pumps five quarts of blood through 60,000 miles of veins and arteries (total 600,000 gallons). If you cut yourself, your blot has a clotting system

You have a well-engineered skeletal system of 206 bones. You have a marvelous muscular-connective tissue system. You have a rugged yet sophisticated digestive system. You have a sensitive, analytical, taste-smell system. You have a programmed glandular-hormone system. Your lungs filter and warm the oxygen it places in the blood and take away the carbon dioxide. You have a system to take oxygen and nutrition to every cell. You have skin that both insulates and ventilates. You have a sophisticated waste disposal system. You are marvelous indeed.

In every one of the trillions of cells of your body is a DNA molecule, which distinguishes and identifies you as unique among all the 6.5 billion people in this world. DNA passes genetic information through time to our bodies. Each cell contains enough information to fill many encyclopedias. If you unraveled all your chromosomes from all of your cells and laid out the DNA end to end, the strands would stretch from the Earth to the Moon about 6,000 times. When Charles Darwin talked about the Origin of Species, he did not know about DNA. He did not know how complicated humans really are.

The change from one genus of animal to another actually required many, many things. To say that man came from apes requires far more changes than anyone in Darwin's day imagined. No one has ever proved that one genus of animal can become another. God's word about creation has actually proved true. Genesis 1:21 says, "So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, *according to their kinds*, and every winged bird *according to its kind*. And God saw that it was good." Kinds don't change.

Man is certainly different than all the other creatures. God said in Genesis 1:26, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." Man is made in God's image with an eternal spirit, with memory, with choice, and with a conscience, and with morals. We can know right from wrong. Our personalities are inexplicable unless they have come from a person. It would take a Divine Person to make us a person.

Morality consists of a set of commands; it does not describe the way that the world is, but rather prescribes the way that the world ought to be; it tells us what to do. Morality is prescriptive. Prescriptions cannot exist without a “prescriber.” If one has a set of commands, then there must be some commander that issued them. Since this sense of morality is in all people, it must have come from a higher source, and ultimate source—God. My friend, the reason we know right from wrong is because God put a conscience within us to regulate us morally. Morals cannot come from rocks or animals.

Now at this point, you can almost hear someone asking, “If everything has a beginning, then where did God come from?” Since things exist, there has to be a first beginning. You can’t just keep going back, saying this caused that, which was caused by this, which was caused by this, which was caused by that. To keep going back never answers the question how anything got here. There must be a first cause, a first mover. That cause must be wise enough and powerful enough to have started all of it. Only God could have been created the world. Anything less could not explain our amazing world.

Sometimes people ask, “Can God make a mountain so big that He can’t move it?” This is actually a meaningless question, since it involves a logical impossibility. It is like asking, “Can God make a square circle?” or “What is the smell of blue?” Well, circles aren’t square and colors can’t smell. God can do all things that are logically possible, but God is not in the business of doing silly, illogical things. Some people think that God is merely a psychological crutch, a wish, or a projection of what we hope is true. But that means God is merely a figment of our imagination.

But we must ask how they account for the world, the universe, the complexity of man, or the moral conscience within us? How could man imagine such a thing as God, unless there were not so many things that point to Him?

All of these things point to the necessity of God. Paul said in Acts 17:27, “‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “‘For we are indeed his offspring.’” Here Paul quotes Epiminides, the ancient poet of Crete. We do live and move and have our being because of God. We cannot live or move or breathe without Him.

God is the source of our physical life and our spiritual life. Where would we be without God? We would not know where we came from, why we are here, or where we shall go after this life is over, if indeed God had not told us in His word, the Bible. We would not know that there will be life beyond this world. If there were no God, where is hope? God gives us the privilege of prayer, the opportunity to be forgiven and start over, His comfort in times of pain, and a dwelling place for all eternity with Him. He gives us this marvelous Bible to teach and guide us.

I don’t know where you are in your life, but I know this: you need a relationship with the One who created you, the God of the Bible. You need His love, His grace, His peace, and His blessing. You can only get that through Christ and His blood. Jesus died for you to save you from sin and to demonstrate His great love. If you love and trust Him, turn away from sin and be baptized that your sins may be washed away and that you may live with Him forever. Won’t you do that?

Yes, there is a God. And since there is a God who created you, you are subject to Him. One day He will judge you and me according to our behavior. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 5:10, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.” This is why we must take our lives, sin, and our souls seriously. Sin is transgression of God’s law, the Creator’s law, the law by which we will all one day be judged. We cannot ignore the fact that one day we will all stand before Him.

Rene Pascal, the French philosopher, many years ago offered a wager to people who do not believe in God. He argued that if there is no God, then whether we believe in Him and whether we live according to His will won’t really matter as to our future home beyond this life. But if there is a God, then whether we believe in Him and serve Him becomes a matter that should demand our attention. If there is a God (and there is), then one can do himself great harm by denying that God and turning away from Him to live a life of selfish pleasure and disobedience. If God exists, we must take Him to heart.

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