

\*If truth exists, God is the Creator Who made us for relationship with Him, this true God has revealed Himself & His message miraculously to us, the New Testament is a reliable document, in this NT Jesus claimed and proved Himself to be God, and as God He affirmed that the Bible is the very Word of God to us, then Jesus Christ is worthy of our worship and the rightful owner of our lives.

**If you believe and want a personal relationship with God through Christ, Good News:  
The Provider: God**

\*He is Holy. He cannot “wink” at sin. If He did not judge sin as evil, then He would not be a holy God. Isaiah 5:16

\*He is Love. He loves you & wants the best for you. Ephesians 5:2; John 3:16

\*He is the Creator. God created everything, including you; therefore He knows what is best for you. Colossians 1:16, Psalm 139

**The Problem: Our Sin**

\*We all have sinned. Romans 3:10, 23

\*Sin is thinking and acting as the boss of ourselves, against God. It is missing the mark, like when you shoot an arrow and miss the bullseye. No matter how hard we try, we cannot be perfect and holy as God is. Since Adam we have all sinned just as he did. Romans 5:12, 3:23, Isaiah 53:6

\*Because God is holy, sin separates us from Him. “Death” in the Bible means both physical and spiritual separation from God. We have “earned” death because of our sin and rebellion. Romans 6:23, Isaiah 59:2

\*We cannot make ourselves right with God by doing “good” things. Isaiah 64:6

**The Provision: Jesus’ Death and Resurrection on Our Behalf**

\*Despite your sin, there is hope. As your Creator, God can fix your sin problem. He can give you forgiveness, new life, and hope.. Rom 8:3-4, 1 Pet 1:18-19

\*God has a plan for your life, and will help you discover his purpose for you. Eph 2:10

\*Because God loves you, He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty, dying in your place, for your sin, so you would not have to. But death could not defeat Jesus, and three days later, He arose to live forever. He offers you spiritual and eternal life, as well. Romans 5:8, 6:4

\*If you agree with God (confess) about your sinfulness, and trust His provision through Jesus, He will forgive your sin, restoring your relationship with God. Romans 10:9-10,

\*New Life and a fresh start - Through the Holy Spirit, He gives you His very Life. He will lead you into all truth and give you power over sin. 2 Corinthians 5:17, Gal 5:16

\*Eternal Life - You will live with God forever. John 3:16. He will never leave Heb 13:5.

**The Point of Decision: Your Prayer**

You accept His gift by asking and believing Him by faith. Eph 2:8-9, John 1:12. Pray: *Jesus, I am a sinner and I cannot fix my sin problem. Thank you for coming to earth as God in the flesh and paying the penalty for my sin. I trust You to forgive my sin, live in my life, and give me the sure hope of heaven. Amen.*

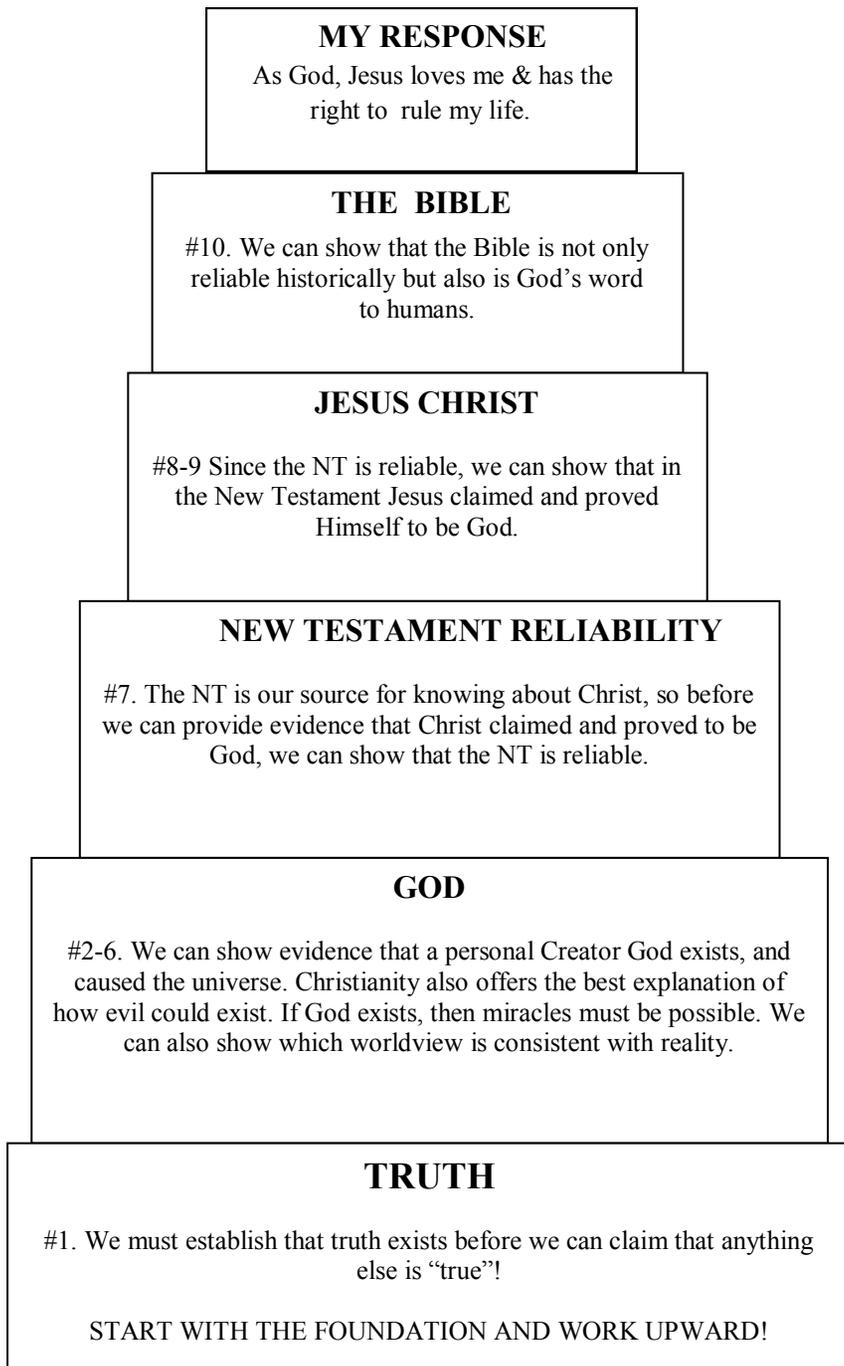
# Christian



*with Good Reason*



*Compiled by Tricia Scribner*



### Are the 66 OT/NT books God's *complete Word*?

Jesus was the full and final revelation of God (Col 2:9). He chose and commissioned 12 apostles, promising the Spirit would guide them into all truth and remind them of all He had done and said (Jn14:26). The early church was built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets (Eph 2:20). They continued following the apostles' teachings (Acts 2:42). These apostles lived and died in the first century (eyewitness era) and were verified by miracles. The only authentic record of their teaching is the NT.

OT/NT believers preserved the books they viewed as God's Word. Moses' books were immediately viewed by Israel as holy (Deut 31:26). Joshua's writings placed w/ Moses' Law (Josh 24:26). Prophet Samuel added to library (1 Sam 10:25). Daniel viewed Jeremiah's writing & the Law as sacred (Dan 9:2, 11, 13). Paul called Luke's writings Scripture (1 Tim 5:18 /Luke 10:7) & Peter called Paul's writing Scripture (2 Pet 3:15-16).

Later, when heresies threatened, the Church formalized the canon at the Council of Carthage (AD 397). The councils did not determine sacred Scripture but discovered and formalized what Jewish believers/early church had already recognized as sacred.

### Why do evangelicals reject the Apocrypha & Gnostic Gospels?

**Apocrypha** (11-12 writings: 7 extra books & 4 extra writings in Esther/Daniel) 1. None claimed to be prophetic. In fact, *I Maccabees* (9:27) claims it is not. 2. Prophets wrote none of them and they contain no prophetic predictions. 3. God confirmed none by supernatural acts as He did for OT prophets. 4. God's Jewish people never accepted or included them in Scripture and to the Jews were committed "the oracles of God" (Rom 3:2). 5. None were accepted by Jesus/apostles or quoted as Scripture, though they knew they existed because they alluded to them (Heb 11:35 may allude to 2 Maccabees 7, 12). In contrast, the NT is quoted OT hundreds of times. 6. None were accepted by the early church. 7. None were accepted by the famous Catholic scholar Jerome. 8. None were written in the time of the prophets of God, which ceased by 4<sup>th</sup> century BC, according to the Jews. 9. They contain heretical teachings such as prayer for the dead and purgatory.

**\*Gnostic Gospels (Nag Hammadi):** Though these writings often bear the names of apostles or eyewitnesses, they appeared a century *after* the NT Gospels. Since they were not written in the eyewitness era, they lack credibility in comparison with the NT Gospels.

\*Resources and References: *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics* by Norman Geisler

## 10. How Do We Know the Bible is God's Word?

The New Testament (NT) has been shown to be historically trustworthy, having far greater evidence for its accuracy/authenticity than any other ancient document. But, on what basis do we claim they comprise *God's written Word to humans*?

Many religions claim their sacred documents are God's Word or comprise the Truth. Hindus have the *Bhagavad Gita*, Muslims the *Qur'an*.. Mormons claim their *Book of Mormon* is "another testament of Jesus Christ," and the Catholic Bible includes the *Apocrypha*, which they believe is inspired.

### How can we recognize which writings are truly God's Word?

1. The Bible itself claims to be God-breathed (inspired).
  - a. OT prophets claimed God spoke through them. E.g., in Deut 18 Moses wrote that God said to him, "I will put my words in his mouth." David said, "The spirit of the LORD spoke through me" (2 Sam 23:2) and were confirmed to be true prophets by miracles.
  - b. NT Peter said the writers were "carried along" by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet 1:20-21),. Paul said Scriptures were breathed out by God (2 Tim 3:16).
2. Since Jesus is God, whatever He said (as God incarnate) is true.
  - \*Jesus confirmed the OT as God's Word:
    - a. In Luke 24:44 Jesus identified as Scripture (God's Word) the 3 sections of the Jewish *TaNaKh* (the exact same OT books in different order): (T=*Torah*), the Prophets (N=*Nevi'im*), & Psalms (main book representing the Writings section called K=*Kethubim*). Luke asserted these books comprised Scripture (Lk 24:45) & quoted Jesus as saying He Himself was the focus of all 3 sections!
    - b. Jesus confirmed the following about these OT Scriptures:
      - 1) Imperishable Jesus said not one jot or tittle would pass from the Law until all was fulfilled (Mt 5:18).
      - 2) Divinely authoritative: Jesus quoted OT truth in response to temptation ((Mt 4:4).
      - 3) Infallible: Jesus said Scripture could not be broken (Jn 10:35).
      - 4) Inerrant: Jesus chided the teachers of the Law for being in error by not knowing the Scripture (which was *not* in error) (Mt 22:29).
      - 5) Historically reliable: He confirmed historical OT assertions such as that Daniel was a prophet (foresaw future), not a historian (who wrote about past events), as liberal scholars suggest.
      - 6) Scientifically accurate: Jesus confirmed Adam & Eve were actual humans (Mt 19); Jonah really in belly of fish (Mt 12:40).

### *Christian Apologetics:*

*The area of study in which Christians learn to rationally and systematically provide good reasons and evidence for believing Christianity is true.*

*1 Peter 3:15*

## *Questions We Can Learn*

### *to Answer:*

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## 1. Does Truth Exist & Can It Be Known?

Christianity claims it is *true* that Jesus Christ is God, died for our sins, and physically rose from the dead. Christians believe truth is *objective*, that is, we believe truth exists out there, not just in our minds. We believe also that truth is *absolute*: if something is true, it is true for all people, all places, and all times. The discipline that studies truth is *philosophy*.

When we claim something is true, we make a claim about *reality*: the real world. Different philosophic views vary in whether they believe objective reality really exists. Some believe reality is only a product of imagination. In order to be able to make a true statement about reality, the real world must exist. Christians believe there is a real world “out there.” The discipline that studies reality is called *metaphysics*.

If reality exists the question still remains as to whether it can be known. Some say we cannot know reality: agnosticism. Others argue it is reasonable to doubt everything: skepticism. Christians believe in realism: we can know real truths about the real world. This does not mean we can know everything or all truth. But we believe that true (or false) statements can be made about reality, which requires that truth is *knowable*. We can know truths with various levels of certainty. Some truths are undeniable, as we will show. Other truths may be known according to levels of probability. The discipline that studies whether we can know and how we know reality is called *epistemology*.

### What is Truth?

In John 18:38, Pilate asked Jesus a rhetorical question, “What is truth?” His question reflects one of man’s most basic quests. Truth may be defined as what matches reality, or, telling things like they really are. So, a true *statement* is one that accurately reflects reality.

Not all statements are truth statements. Truth statements or *propositions* are the kinds of statements that can be assessed as true or false. For example, “I don’t like beets,” expresses an opinion, not a proposition. Though the answer is true or false, we cannot externally assess whether it is true or false. It is a *subjective* statement. “Those are beets,” is a proposition. They are either beets or they are not, and the truth or falsity of the statement may be assessed according to whether the statement accurately corresponds to reality. This is the *correspondence view of truth*.

during the first century when eyewitnesses still lived.

**C. Proclamation:** The disciples proclaimed: 1) *Tomb was permanently vacated*. His enemies never produced a body (Mt 28:11-15). 2) *Christ was seen/heard by > 500 witnesses* (1 Cor 15:7), touched (Jn 20:27-28), ate food (Lk 24:42-43). 3) *Christ appeared in same physical body* (same wounds), in which he was buried (Jn 20-21). The physical body dies, not the soul, so it is the physical body that is raised (1 Cor 15). NT uses the word “flesh” 4 times for Jesus’ resurrection body. Luke notes the disciples’ error in thinking they saw a spirit (Lk 24:37).

**D. Transformation:** a) The disciples were transformed from scared, skeptical disciples to bold witnesses, most of whom died as martyrs, claiming that Jesus indeed arose (Acts 2). b) Many priests converted (Acts 6:7; 15:5). c) Thousands of unbelievers converted (Acts 2:41).

### Are Gospel Accounts of Appearance at Tomb Contradictory?

6 accounts of post-resurrection appearances: Matt 28; Mk 16; Luke 24; John 20-21; Acts 9; 1 Cor 15. They vary in what and how the events are included due to differing purposes.

\*One suggested harmony of the resurrection gospel accounts:

1. Mary Mag. visited tomb early AM (Jn 20:1), maybe w/ others.
2. Seeing stone rolled away, she ran to tell Peter and John (Jn 20:2).
3. Peter and John ran to tomb and saw grave clothes (Jn 20:3-9); returned home.
4. Mary Magdalene followed Peter/John to tomb (her second time) and stayed after they left, and Jesus appeared to her (Mk 16:9).
5. As she left the tomb, other women came (Mk 16:1), seeing the two angels (Lk 24:4; Jn 20:12).
6. Mary Magdalene and the other women left to tell disciples and were met by Jesus (Matt 28:9-10).
7. The women went back to the eleven who were gathered in Galilee in hiding (Jn 20:19). Mary Magdalene gave her account of seeing Jesus, but the disciples did not believe her (Mk 16:11).
8. Based on her story, Peter returned to the tomb and seeing the grave clothes (Lk 24:12), he believed. Only John believed on the first trip to the grave (Jn 20:8).

\*Resources & References:

*Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics* by Norman Geisler

### Arguments for “Spiritual” Resurrection with Responses:

**a. Called “spiritual body”** (1 Cor 15:44). “Soma” always refers to physical body, immortal not immaterial. Spiritual=spirit controlled.

**b. Christ “appeared.”** (Mk 16:9-14). The same word used of pre-resurrection bodies and he could be seen with the naked eye.

**c. Appearances called “vision.”** Not called a vision in NT (Lk 24:23 refers to angels). “Appeared” is used of Moses with his people—it simply means he made himself visible (1 Cor 15:5).

**d. He walked through closed doors.** This is assumed though not directly stated. However, Jesus could have done this prior to death, as well, just as he walked on water.

**e. Flesh and blood cannot enter the kingdom** (1 Cor 15:50-52). This means corruptible *mortal* body will not enter. We die *corruptible* and are raised *incorruptible*.

**f. We will be like the angels, says Scripture.** This refers to being eternal and not marrying, not in becoming spirits (Mt 22:30).

**g. Christ only appeared to believers.** Not so, for he appeared to Paul, James, and Jude, his brothers, who only believed *because of* the resurrection (Jn 7:1-9, Acts 9, 1 Cor 15).

**h. He arose through undisturbed grave clothes.** He could have, but it is not recorded this way. Head cloth folded and laid to side.

**i. Physical body decays.** Scripture says Christ’s body did not decay (Acts 2:31). However, a change in particles does not mean we are raised into a new and different body. Even during life our bodies constantly experience continuous cell turnover, yet we remain the same persons.

**j. God will destroy the body** (1 Cor 6:13). This refers to the process of death, not the nature of resurrection.

**k. Raised in the Spirit** (1 Pet 3:18). This phrasing is used before death also, so cannot refer to only a spiritual body. A better translation would be “made alive *by* the Spirit.”

**l. Called life-giving Spirit.** This refers to the origin, not the nature, of the resurrection body (1 Cor 15:45).

### Evidence of the Resurrection

**A. Prediction:** Many times Jesus said He would die & rise. (Matt 16:21-28, 17:22-2; Mk 8:31-38, 9:1, 31-32, Lk 9:24-27, 43-45)

**B. Confirmation:** There exists more evidence for Christ’s resurrection than for any other event of the ancient world! Nine authors documented this historic event in 27 books. (1 Jn 1:1)

### The Bible and Truth

The Bible expresses the correspondence view of truth. For example:

1. God killed Ananias and Sapphira for lying to the apostles (Acts 5:1-4). They didn’t tell it like it really was!
2. God said Adam and Eve would die if they disobeyed (Gen. 2:17). Satan said, “You shall not surely die.” (Gen. 3:4). Satan lied. We die.
3. Exodus 20:16 forbids giving false testimony. False testimony states something that does not match reality.

### What about comparisons?

Some people claim that truth is relative: it depends on the person, place, or situation. They might say:

1. “*The Amazon is hot and the North Pole is cold, so truth is relative to place.*” Response: 2 truths are stated or a single statement comparing 2 things. Either way it is an absolute truth (for everyone) that it is hot in the Amazon and cold at the North Pole.
2. “*Mary’s shirt is blue and John’s is red, so truth is relative to person.*” Response: It is absolutely true for all people at all times that for this “Mary” and “John” that her shirt is blue and his is red.

### What Truth is Not

People confuse a definition for truth with a *test* for truth. E.g.

1. *Truth is what works.* Truth is not what works (pragmatic view of truth). If something is true, we can test it and it *will* work (accomplish the appropriate goal), but the fact that something works does not necessarily *make* it true. Its working is the result, not the cause, of its being true.

2. *Something is true if the intentions are good.* Truth is not determined by intentions. If I intended to tell you to turn right—the correct direction to my house—but I told you to turn left, my good intention does not make turning left the correct direction.

3. *Truth is the view that is comprehensive.* Naziism was a comprehensive governmental system, but it was not true. One can have a comprehensive false view or an incomplete view of truth.

4. *What feels good must be true.* Truth is not what feels good. It is possible to get a bad grade and feel bad about it though it accurately

reflects the truth of how you performed on the test.

5. *Certain truths are invented.* The law of gravity existed before it was discovered. Truth does not change; our knowledge does change.

6. *Truth is a matter of personal perspective.* When a person says, "Truth is just one person's perspective," he believes his statement is *absolutely* true, not that it is merely just *his perspective*.

\*Follow the logical reasoning:

a. Relativists believe that truth is relative for *everyone*.

b. But if it's true for *everyone*, then it is an *absolute* truth, not a *relative* one.

c. If *all* truth is relative, then a relative truth can only be *relatively* true for an individual.

d. So, a relativist cannot trust his own truth, since it, too, is relative.

e. Therefore, relativism is self-defeating. A self-defeating statement disproves its own claim in its very statement. WHEW!

Examples of self-defeating statements and responses:

\* "Absolute truth does not exist." Is that statement absolutely true?

\* "We cannot know truth." Can we know *that* statement is true?

\* "We should doubt everything." Should we doubt that statement?

\* "Truth is relative." Is that statement true for everyone or just relative to you? If relative only to you, then it is irrelevant to me.

### Objections to Absolute Truth

1. "Absolute truth is too narrow." Response: ALL truth is narrow and excludes its opposite. If something is black, it cannot also be white at the same time and in the same sense. The statement that  $2+2=4$  is narrow, but true.

Even people who claim all religions are true (pluralists) are making a narrow truth claim that excludes its opposite. If the statement "all religions are true" is true, then Christianity's truth claim, "only Christianity is true" must be false. Thus, Christianity's claim to be true is no more narrow than any other truth claim.

2. "We cannot know anything absolutely or with certainty."

Response: We can know some things absolutely. For example:

\*I exist. (I can't deny I exist, unless I exist.)

\*I cannot exist and not exist at the same time.

\*There are no square circles, a triangle has 3 sides,  $3+2=5$ .

\*We know other things according to various levels of probability.

We assess scientific assertions, for instance, by evaluating the evidence to see what is the best explanation of reality.

pounds of spices, verified death by Pilate and soldiers, death cry (Jn. 19:33). b. Doesn't account for disciples worshipping Him as risen Lord, not as an injured, weak trauma survivor.

2. **Substitution theory.** Judas or someone else died in his place (say Muslims).

a. Does not explain how family/friends/enemies at cross were duped. Imagine Judas saying to forgive the soldiers while hanging on cross.

b. Incongruent with Jesus' and His disciples' moral character to perpetrate a fraud. c. Doesn't account for disciples' willingness to die for the belief that they had seen him alive.

### B. He didn't really rise from the dead.

1. **Disciples stole his body.** a. Incongruent with moral character of disciples. b. Doesn't account for their willingness to die (for a known lie). c. How did they get past the Roman guard detail?

2. **Disciples hallucinated.** a. How did witnesses continue to hallucinate over 40 days in different times and places? b. Hallucination only occurs with people who anticipate seeing something. Disciples disbelieved at first b/c they did not anticipate his resurrection. They were hiding and afraid!

3. **Disciples went to wrong tomb.** a. Why was body never produced by his enemies? b. Can't explain 11 appearances over 40 days.

4. **The resurrection is just a myth.** A. Not enough time elapsed for myth to eradicate history (requires 2 full generations). b Myths have different character. Ancient myths asserted reincarnation (to different body) instead of resurrection (of same body). Philosophers mocked Paul's teaching of a bodily resurrection (Acts 17:19). Different sources of myth and history: Source of myths: Roman and Greek thought; Source of New Testament: Old Testament. c. Incongruent with disciples' moral character to spread lies/myth (2 Pet 1:16). D. Doesn't account for the transformation of the disciples.

### 5. Christ's body was essentially spirit, not flesh (not literal.)

Important b/c if Jesus' dead body did not resurrect as same body:

a. No proof of His claim to be God. b. No difference between reincarnation/ resurrection. c. No verification that Jesus was really human, nor can we hope for resurrection of our bodies!

## 9. Did Jesus Rise from the Dead?

### Important because:

**A. It is the heart of the gospel (1 Cor 15:1-4).** If Christ did not rise, there is no “Good News.”

**B. It is a condition of salvation (Rom 10:9-10).** If you do not believe Christ physically arose, the Bible says you cannot be saved.

**C. It is the reason believers have hope (1 Cor 15:12-19).**

If the resurrection did not occur, then believers have no hope and our belief in a fantasy is pitiable.

**D. It is the guarantee of our own future resurrection (Phil 3:20-21).**

Whatever happened to Christ’s body when He arose, the Bible guaranteed will happen also to the believer’s body.

### False Views of the Resurrection

**A. Orthodox view:** essentially, numerically, continuously same body. The body will be transformed from perishable to imperishable, mortal to immortal, corruptible to incorruptible, natural to supernatural.

**B. Examples of Non-orthodox views:** (Vary from historically orthodox Christian belief)

**1. neo-orthodox:** God transformed the body (evaporated, for example) from material to immaterial, visible to invisible, body to spirit, corporeal to non-corporeal.

**2. liberal:** Christ’s body was removed and the appearances were just hallucination or of psychological origin. e.g. Bultmann

**3. Jehovah’s Witnesses:** Jesus arose spiritually.

**4. Muslim:** It never happened because Jesus was never crucified.

### Arguments Against the Resurrection and Responses

**A. He didn’t really die.**

**1. He just swooned (apparent death).** a. Doesn’t account for the severity of his injuries, including beating, piercing of hands and feet, hanging for hours on cross in process of slow suffocation, piercing of side with spear with blood loss recorded (Jn 19:34, burial in 75

## Laws of Logic

Several of the above statements illustrate basic laws of logic, or “first principles,” by which all humans live. Even persons who deny the existence of such laws still live by them. For example:

1. *The Law of Identity:* A is A. E.g. “A banana is a banana.”

2. *The Law of Excluded Middle:* Either A or not A. E.g. “Either it’s a banana or it is not a banana.” In other words, it can’t be both.

3. *The Law of Non-contradiction:* A is not non-A. “A banana is not NOT a banana.”

Through these foundational laws thought common to God and to us, God communicates with us and we communicate with each other. They are true across time and culture. Some belief systems such as Hinduism claim not to believe in “western” logic. They claim that laws of logic are exclusive and instead, eastern thinking is inclusive, embracing all beliefs as true or as part of one big truth. However, the very statement that they do not believe in western logic contradicts their own claim to embrace all views as true. Further, the very claim that western logic is not true is in itself a logic-based statement!

### Truths About Truth

1. All truth claims are narrow and exclusive. Even pluralists who claim that *all* ways lead to heaven exclude the opposite truth claim of Christianity that only *one* way leads to heaven. So pluralists are actually no more open-minded than Christians.

2. Truth is discovered, not created. Newton discovered the law of gravity; he did not invent it. It pre-existed Newton’s discovery.

3. Truth does not depend on how sincerely beliefs are held. One can sincerely believe the earth is made of candy, but is sincerely wrong.

4. Truth is trans-cultural.  $2 + 2 = 4$  is true in Japan as well as the U.S.

5. Truth does not depend on the attitude of the one who holds it.

Whether a person is nice or obnoxious when asserting  $2 + 2 = 4$  does not affect its truth.

6. The idea of relative truth is unlivable. If a parent’s child died as a result of a faulty car seat, he would not accept a car company’s argument that it was true for *the company* that the car seat was safe. It was either safe or it was not. In court, a person swears to tell the truth, not what is true *for me*.

\*Resources & References: *12 Points that Show Christianity is True* by Norman Geisler & Frank Turek

## 2. Does God Exist?

The world provides many evidences that a theistic God (personal creator) exists. Christians may offer these evidences as lines of argument. When used this way, the word “argument” does not refer to a heated verbal debate. Instead, it simply refers to a line of evidence supporting a truth claim.

A *deductive* argument is identified by the fact that if the premises are true, then the conclusion is automatically true. The following arguments for the existence of God are deductive. So, if both premises of the argument are true, then the conclusion is true. In each of the following arguments for God’s existence we will state the argument and then offer evidence that the premises (#1 & 2 in each argument) are true, showing that therefore the conclusion (#3 in each argument) must be true.

While the basic structure of the reasoning for these evidences are fixed, you may adjust your presentation of the evidence from formal to informal, depending on your setting. Three lines of evidence can be offered:

### “Cause & Effect” (Cosmological Argument)

- 1) Things that have a beginning have a cause.
- 2) The universe had a beginning.
- 3) Therefore, the universe had a cause. We call that cause God.

The first premise says things with beginnings (things not eternal) called “contingent” beings must have a cause. This is called the Law of Causality. A *contingent* being is a being that could possibly *not* exist since it depends on something else to cause it. Everything in the universe (including you and me) is contingent. A *necessary* being is one that must exist (cannot *not* exist) and does not depend on anything else to cause it. God is a necessary being.

Two ways of stating the “Principle of Causality”: “Nothing causes nothing” or “Nothing cannot cause something.” This principle of causality is self-evident. We don’t have to prove it. And this alone is very strong evidence that the universe had a beginning.

Some scientists argue that quantum physics shows that tiny particles can pop into being spontaneously and shows randomness. But, the environment that generates the particles is certainly not a “nothing” environment! Further, scientists bombard these tiny “quantum” particles with a powerful electron microscope and this

the temple in Ezra 1:3). Daniel prophesied 483 years “sixty-two sevens” until Messiah would be cut off. But that only equals 477 years. But we add 6 years to compensate for 5 days in solar year not in lunar year of Israel ( $5 \times 477 = 2835$  days or 6 years we must add on to total.  $477 + 6 = 483$  years= exact time from B.C. 444 to 33 A.D.)

\* Source: *Baker Encyclopedia of Apologetics* by Norman Geisler, p. 612.

2. Sinless and miraculous life;
  - a. Jesus claimed to be sinless—He never asked forgiveness Jn. 8:46
  - b. His enemies charged him with no sin
  - c. His disciples recognized Him to be sinless  
\*Peter: 1 Pet. 2:21-22; Paul 2 Cor. 5:21; Hebrews writer: 4:15
  - d. The Gospels record at least 35 miracles Jesus performed.
    - 1) He demonstrated power over nature. Mark 4:41
    - 2) He demonstrated power over sickness. John 9:25
    - 3) He demonstrated power over death. John 11:38-44

3. His resurrection: Christ predicted five times he would die.

\*He really died:

- a. His side was pierced and “blood and water” came out. Jn 19:34  
Indicates an eyewitness account that describes the result of a punctured or ruptured heart.
- b. Roman soldiers did not break his legs because they knew he was already dead. Jn. 19:33

\*He really rose (see more on next page):

- a. Empty tomb: enemies never produced his body. Mt 28:11-15
- b. Twelve different physical appearances over 40 days:  
\*He was touched Jn 20:27-28; ate food Lk 24:42-43; seen by over 500 eyewitnesses Paul records. 1 Cor. 15
- c. People were transformed:
  - 1) Fearful disciples became bold yet peaceful witnesses even unto death. 11 of 12 died as martyrs for what they believed was true, never recanting.
  - 2) Many priests were converted. Acts 6:7; Acts 15:5
  - 3) Thousands of unbelievers were converted. Acts 2:41

\*Resources & References: *12 Points that Shows Christianity is True* DVD: Norman Geisler & Frank Turek

## 8. Is Jesus God?

### The New Testament says that Jesus claimed to be God by claiming to be:

1. "I Am"—Yahweh—of the OT: Ex. 3:14; John 8:58-59
  2. able to forgive sins as God does: Mark 2:5-7
  3. one *in nature* with the Father: John 10:30-33
  4. Messiah-God prophesied in the OT: Is. 9:6; John 4:25
  5. worthy of worship: Jn. 20:28; Mt. 28:9; Mt. 20:20
  6. gives eternal life at his will/authority to judge: Jn 5:21
- \*Why did Jesus say "The Father is greater than I"?

In His human nature and function, the Father is greater. Jn 14:28  
 In His divine nature and deity, He/Father are equal. Jn 10:30

\*Why wasn't Jesus more overt in His claim to be God?

1. To accomplish His mission in God's, not man's, timing. Jn 7:1-8
2. To allow people to draw their own conclusions (note His same approach in using parables).

### Jesus' claim to be God was miraculously confirmed.

1. Fulfillment of 60 major prophecies, including:
  - a. ethnic group of Jews/Abraham=Gen 12:3
  - b. tribe of Judah=Gen. 49:10
  - c. line of David=2 Sam. 7:12
  - d. born of a virgin=Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23
  - e. location of birthplace Bethlehem=Mic. 5:2; Matt. 2:1-2
  - \*f. year Messiah would be cut-off/die=33A.D. Dan 9:24-27
  - g. pierced hands and feet: Ps. 22:16, Zech 12:10; Luke 23:33, John 20:25
  - h. garments parted and lots cast: Psalm 22:18; John 19:23, 24
  - i. side pierced: Zech. 12:10; John 19:34
  - j. nature of suffering in death Isaiah 53:2-12 ; Matt. 26-27;  
 Mk 15-16; Jn 18-19; Luke 22-23

\*Re: Daniel's prophecy in Daniel 9:24-26:

"Daniel was speaking of both the exile of Israel and the atonement for sin when he recorded a prayer of confession for the sins of his people" in 9:4-19. A vision from the angel Gabriel occurred in response 9:24-26.

Artaxerxes ordered Nehemiah "to restore and rebuild *Jerusalem*" in 445/444 B.C. (Earlier Cyrus had approved the rebuilding only of

alone may change them and account for the seeming randomness of quantum (very, very tiny) particles.

The second premise asserts that the universe had a beginning. This is important because if the universe is eternal, there is no need for God as its cause. While some scientists once argued the universe is eternal, scientific evidence disproves this assertion.

**Scientific evidences** show that the universe had a beginning.

1. *The Second Law of Thermodynamics*: This is a scientific principle that says in a closed isolated system such as the universe, the amount of *usable* energy is running out (like a flashlight's batteries die out).

2. *Radiation Echo*: Scientists Penzias and Wilson heard the exact pattern of wavelengths expected for the light and heat produced in the initial explosion of the universe into existence. They received a Nobel Prize for this discovery.

3. *Expanding Universe*: Scientists know the universe is expanding and that planets are moving away from each other at a rapid speed. Since this is true, the universe must have had a beginning. Imagine rewinding a movie back to the beginning. When you completely rewind, you get to nothing.

\*Finally, some argue *natural law* caused the universe. But natural law did not exist until space, time, and matter came into being.

**Philosophical evidence** shows the universe had a beginning:

\**The end of actual infinite time is impossible*: Though theoretically (abstractly) there can be an infinite number, such as in math, an actual infinite number is impossible. Though someone could imagine an infinite number exists, no one could reach an actual infinite number. A person could not, for example, put an infinite number of books in a bookcase of any size (because one more could be added).

Further, if there were an infinite number of moments before this one, we would have never reached *this* moment. But we are at the end of all previous moments. So, time and the universe cannot be infinite.

Atheists argue that theists are foolish to say someone created something out of nothing. We respond that it's crazier to believe *nothing created something* out of nothing! (Frank Turek)

### “Order & Design” (The Teleological Argument)

- 1) Every design has a designer.
- 2) The universe shows evidence of complex design.
- 3) Therefore, the universe has a designer.

Scientific principles point to an “intelligent” design of the universe:

- a. *The Principle of Uniformity*: Causes in the present are like causes in the past. If an intelligent cause is needed to explain design of statues, computers, and other complex things, then how do we explain the much more complex design of the universe?
- b. *Specified Complexity*-All things specific and complex, such as language etc., require an intelligent cause. If you spill a box of alphabet cereal, you don’t expect a complex sentence to be formed with the words unless someone organized the letters!
- c. *Irreducible Complexity*: Darwin’s evolutionary theory requires that tiny, gradual changes add DNA & produce new life forms. But remember, at each step, the change must help the organism survive to reproduce. But this is not what we see in nature. For most organisms and body systems, numerous parts must be present simultaneously for the system to work at all. Darwin was troubled by this when he considered the complexity of the human eye.
- d. *The Anthropic Principle*: The universe shows evidence of being finely tuned to support life. The earth’s atmosphere is 21% oxygen. 25% would cause spontaneous fires and at 15% we would suffocate. In fact, everything “out there” must exist exactly as it does for life to exist “down here.” Numerous scientific facts such as this warrant an intelligent cause.

### “Right & Wrong” (Moral Argument)

- 1) If there is an absolute (universally present) moral law, there must be a Moral Lawgiver.
- 2) There is an absolute universal moral law.
- 3) Therefore, there must be an Absolute Moral Lawgiver.

The great theologian C.S. Lewis became a Christian because of this law. As an atheist he did not believe in God because he couldn’t understand how a good, all-powerful God existed & allowed evil. Then he realized that for evil even to exist, good must first exist since evil is not a thing, but a *lack* of good.

3. He performed miracles.
  4. He had a brother named James.
  5. People believed Him to be the Messiah..
  6. He was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
  7. An eclipse & earthquake occurred when He died.
  8. He was crucified on the eve of the Passover.
  9. His disciples believed He rose from the dead.
  10. Jesus’ disciples were willing to die for their belief He had risen.. *\*All apostles but John died martyrs’ deaths according to history.*
  11. Christianity spread rapidly all the way to Rome.
  12. Christ’s disciples denied the Roman gods and worshiped Jesus as God.
- \*Notice that Christians worshiped Jesus as God immediately following His resurrection. This was known even to non-believers, contrary to what liberal scholars and popular novelist Dan Brown suggests in The DaVinci Code when he says that this did not happen until much later at the time of Constantine.*
- \*These historical writings corroborate the facts asserted in the NT.*

### 4. Archaeology confirms what the NT says. Examples:

- a. Pontius Pilate Prefect of Judea- A.D. 26-37-discovered 1961.
- b. Crucifixion victim-from 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D.-in Jerusalem-found 1968.
- c. Caiaphas’ bones found in a labeled ossuary -A.D.18-36-discovered 1990
- d. Ancient town of Nazareth discovered in 1955
- e. Other NT sites discovered include the Pool of Bethesda, Jacob’s well, the Pool of Siloam, ancient cities of Bethlehem, Cana, Capernaum, Chorazin. Pilate’s Jerusalem residence
- f. Archaeologists also confirm the accuracy of the numerous facts recorded by the author Luke (see previous notes)

*\*Conclusion: The NT is historically reliable. This means: We can be confident that what the NT claims Jesus said, He actually said and what He did , He actually did.*

*\*References and Resources:*

*\* 12 Points that Show Christianity is True, Norman Geisler & Frank Turek; Impactapologetics.com; Baker’s Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics by Norman Geisler; The Book of Acts in the Setting of Hellenistic History by C. Hemer*

**2. Written by EYEWITNESSES** or those who knew them personally:

*Principle: If the NT was written by eyewitnesses & their contemporaries, then the reliability of the documents is more certain.*

a. NT authors claim to be or to personally know the eyewitnesses of the events surrounding the life of Christ: Luke 1:1-4; 1 Jn 1:1-4.

b. Paul claimed 500 eyewitnesses saw the risen Christ, most who were still alive 1 Cor 15:5-6.

c. The writers included hundreds of details that only eyewitnesses could know. In Acts, for example, Luke recorded details about 32 countries, 54 cities, 9 islands, and hundreds of details without a single error!

Many of Luke's descriptions have been verified by historical researchers, including specific details such as the depth of water off the coast and a sailors' landmark called Samotrace (Acts 16:11).

d. Eyewitness authors of NT demonstrated INTEGRITY in writings.

1) They recorded different details about the same events (1 angel at tomb in Matthew, 2 in John).

2) They left in difficult sayings and moral demands of Jesus.

“Love your enemies...” Matt 5:44 NASB.

3) They recorded personal embarrassing mistakes. Mark 9:33-34

4) NT authors did not deny their belief despite persecution and threats of death. Acts 14:19-22

**3. Ancient NON-CHRISTIAN WRITERS confirm NT facts**

*Principle: Ancient writers' with no vested interest in the truth of the NT verified many of its assertions, increasing the reliability of the NT documents.*

When facts from the writings of 17 ancient non-Christian sources such as Josephus, Tacitus, Pliny the Younger, Emperor Trajan, the Jewish Talmud, Phlegon, Thallus, and Greek writer Lucian are compiled, we learn the following about Jesus of Nazareth:

1. Jesus lived during time of Tiberius Caesar.
2. He lived a virtuous life.

Numerous evidences a universal moral law exists within humans:

1) Humans universally have an inner sense of fairness and unfairness. If someone grabbed your sandwich, you would object that it was wrong or unfair. If there is no absolute universal moral law, then you have no reason claim unfairness or injustice.

2) If we had no sense of “right,” how would we even recognize “wrong”? We couldn't say, “Murder is wrong,” unless we viewed respect for life as right.

3) People who claim morality is relative believe this is true for *everybody*. Thus, their belief is actually an absolute (universal) moral assertion.

4) People wouldn't make excuses for doing what they believe is wrong if there were no universal moral law within.

5) Even those who claim to believe morality is relative (depends on the situation) don't live that way. No one whose child is murdered would accept that it is not wrong, just a matter of moral personal preference. They plead for justice based on the fact of universal awareness that murder is wrong.

6) While we seem to be aware universally that there is right & wrong, we also know we fail to consistently do right.. We know there is a moral law best by our reaction, rather than by our actions. While we fail to perfectly keep the law, most humans are repulsed by some actions, such as beating of a baby.

Some people say that what appears to be a universal moral law is merely socially learned behavior or herd instinct—following the crowd. But:

1) Even isolated people groups have a moral code. All people don't agree on exactly *what* behaviors are wrong, but all agree *that* certain behaviors are wrong. Just because a moral code can be taught does not mean it is merely learned any more than learning  $2 + 2 = 4$  means the equation is merely a learned social construct.

2) The moral law cannot merely be herd instinct. As theologian C.S. Lewis noted, the internal moral law may provoke someone to act against his own best interest, such as attempting to risk one's life to save a drowning person rather than staying safely away. Since the moral law arbitrates between the 2 instincts, it cannot itself be one.

\*Reference and Resources:

*Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis; *12 Points that Show Christianity is True* by Norman Geisler/Frank Turek

### 3. How Could a Good, All-Powerful God Exist and Not Stop Evil?

The existence of evil in the world causes many people to doubt God could exist. Either He is all-powerful but won't stop evil and is thus, evil Himself., or He is all-good but can't stop evil and thus, is not all-powerful.

What is evil? Evil is real, but is not a “thing,” like a green glob floating in the universe. Evil is simply a *lack* of good: a rebellious response to good.

When God created the universe, He created it all good, including the gift of free will for humans. He endowed humans with the ability to say “no,” even to His love. Humans chose to do something wrong with the gift of free will.

#### Why Doesn't God Stop Evil?

God can & will stop evil. He permits evil for a time for His own purposes. Consider the following:

1. If God were to stop evil before His plan is fulfilled, He would have to remove free will, since humans freely choose to do evil. Humans would become robots, forced to love automatically. Genuine love comes only from free choice.
2. If God were to completely remove evil, He would have to annihilate humans, since they do evil. When someone argues God should stop evil, ask: “Should he start with you?”
3. God is able to bring about His ultimate purposes *through* the existence of evil. The Bible says He even uses evil kings to accomplish His purposes.
4. In Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection, evil was forever conquered. Satan was put in His place and His destruction *officially* secured. As scripture promises, He will one day *actually* stop evil.
5. To demand God stop evil *now* ignores that God simply has not stopped evil *yet*. This does not mean He will never stop evil. The history of man is a mere blip on the screen of eternity and humans' demanding the eternal God stop evil immediately is like a grain of sand demanding the ocean flow a different direction on its command.
6. Though evil is not good, the way that God has permitted and used evil *is* good. That is how powerful God is.

trusted, then no *other ancient documents can be trusted!* How can we know what originals said? By comparing!

\*You #ave won a #illion bucks!

\*#ou have #on a million #ucks! (Would you pick up your money?)

Ancient NT copies have far fewer errors than these examples!

Don't be fooled by “thousands of errors” accusations! Critics count one error repeated in 2,000 copies as 2,000 errors!

#### 4. ABUNDANTLY SUPPORTED copies:

*Principle: Handwritten copies of the documents verify accuracy and timing of the writings copied.*

If all copies of Bible were burned, we could reconstruct the entire NT except 11 verses from the 36,000 quotes of 2<sup>nd</sup>-4th century Church writers!

#### B. How do we know the ORIGINAL NT is fact not fiction?

##### 1. EARLY originals:

*Principle: If the original documents were written “early” during the lifetimes of the eyewitnesses who personally knew Jesus, then they cannot be filled with myth conjured up by later church leaders—they are historical accounts as claimed to be. Dating of the Gospels is critical. The question is whether Gospel writers recorded events they or contemporaries witnessed (if they wrote before end of first century) or created fictitious writings based on mythology (if they wrote after the first century once eyewitnesses had died.)*

The NT was written during time of eyewitnesses within 25-50 years of the actual events. Evidence that the NT was written early:

- a. First-century commentaries exist, so the originals had to have been written prior to their writing.
- b. Other secular writings mention the NT documents.
- c. Liberal scholars agree 1 Corinthians was written 55-56 A.D.
- d. Luke's writings provide strongest internal evidence:
  - 1) Acts written by 62 A.D. because:
    - \*No mention of fall of Jerusalem A.D. 70
    - \*No mention of Paul's death A.D. 62-68
    - \*No mention of death of James, Jesus' brother in A.D. 62 as recorded by ancient Jewish historian Josephus.
  - 2) Luke written *before* Acts, probably A.D. 60

## 7. Are the New Testament Books Reliable Historical Writings?

It is important to show that the NT writings are accurate and genuine since they are the major source of information on Jesus Christ's mission and miracles. We are not yet attempting to show the NT is God's inspired Word. That comes later.

We simply want to provide the evidence that when compared with other ancient/historical documents the NT has far more evidence to support its authenticity and accuracy than any other ancient document.

We want to show that the manuscripts and fragments in existence are accurate copies of the originals (called "autographs") and therefore we can confidently restore the original text from them, and that the biblical writers were historical people who recorded real people and events, were people of integrity, and really believed what they wrote.

### A. Are the COPIES of the original NT accurate?

#### 1. EARLY (older) copies:

*Principle: Generally, the older the copy, the closer to the original composition and the fewer errors in copying.*

John Ryland's fragment of John 18:31-33, 37-38 dates from about 117 A.D., only 20-30 years after John wrote the Gospel. Other manuscripts exist from 25-150 years after the original eyewitnesses lived and wrote. The nearest time gap separating earliest copies from originals of other ancient writings: 500 years (Homer).

#### 2. MANY copies:

*Principle: The more manuscript copies, the easier it is to verify original text.*

5700 handwritten ancient Greek NT fragments and whole copies from 2<sup>nd</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century have been found and more are being translated every day. The highest number of copies of any other ancient writings is Homer's *Iliad*: 643 copies. Most others: 10-20 copies.

#### 3. ACCURATE copies:

*Principle: Accuracy and thus, the original reading can be determined by comparing multiple copies.*

Ancient NT copies have >99% accuracy. Therefore, if NT not

## Why Do We Suffer?

We may suffer for three different reasons. First, we may suffer innocently just because we live in a fallen world. Bad things happen, such as death, sickness, and tragedy. Little children are born with defects and natural disasters take the lives of thousands. Since man first sinned the whole earth groans under the plague of sin, awaiting the deliverance that will come at Christ's return. Rom 8:19-22

Second, we suffer the consequences of our own sin. We've all experienced the consequences of sinful choices. Let's say I speak hateful words to my spouse. I cannot take them back, and their impact may be painful for a long time, possibly even disrupting our relationship. Rom 1 and 2

Third, we may suffer for living righteously for Christ. 1 Peter 3 says if we are going to suffer, it is better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. Unjust suffering tests & can strengthen our ability to respond righteously when we are wronged.

How can we allow suffering to accomplish God's purposes for us?

1. We can understand that there is purpose to suffering. God has guaranteed that no matter what pain we suffer, He can use it to strengthen godliness within us if we respond humbly and righteously. The first question we ask when we suffer is why? When the biblical Job asked God why, God answered him with Who (Job 38). Knowing Who allowed the suffering and His purposes provided genuine hope. For the One who permits our suffering brings His purposes to it, purposes we may not fully see at the time.

2. God Himself has suffered in the Person of Christ, who suffered horrible & unjust verbal and physical assault, and took on God's wrath directed at him, the sacrifice for our sins. He responded by committing Himself to His Father, as can we. Those who pay the ultimate price, who willingly die for their belief in Christ, are promised great reward when this brief life ends. The joy of that reward will overshadow all temporary suffering experienced here.

3. When evil in the world leads to innocent suffering, we can receive comfort in remembering that the God Who opens the gates of suffering is Himself the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53.

\*References and Resources: *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis; *12 Points that Show Christianity is True* by Norman Geisler, Jason Reed class notes

## 4. What is the Scientific Evidence on Evolution?

It's an important topic in the debate over God's existence, since by definition, evolutionary changes occur randomly, by chance, not by design of an intelligent Being.

### What is Meant by "Evolution"?

In general, "evolution" simply means change over time. But in its common usage, it refers to a generation-to-generation increase in the complexity of DNA of organisms, producing new life forms.

### Two Types of "Evolution"

**A. Chemical Evolution:** Tries to explain how life *began*. Says non-life (chemicals) produced life (biological). Darwin did not really deal much with this aspect of evolution.

Evolutionists often point to the 1933 Miller-Urey Experiment as evidence that biological life could emerge from non-biological chemical sources in the early earth's atmosphere. They produced some amino acids (a long way from proteins). Responses: They failed to account for likely presence of oxygen, which would've destroyed organic molecules, & failed to maintain exposure of organic molecules to an atmosphere that would've destroyed them.

**B. Biological Evolution:** Tries to explain how *new life forms* developed. It is the view that all types of living things evolved from one primitive ancestor.

Darwin's theory (i.e. *macro*-evolution-change from organisms with less complexity to more complexity-new kinds) asserts:

1. Common ancestry: all living things descended from a single ancestor. 2. Simple to complex changes added up, producing *new*, more complex kinds of animals. 3. The means by which new kinds of animals arose includes: a. gradualism: change little by little over extremely long periods of time b. natural selection: survival of the fittest organisms, acting on: c. random mutations: nature "picks" beneficial mutations in genetic code that enhance survival of the organism and passes them on.

### Do all Scientists Believe in Evolution?

No! Scientist Jonathan Wells, in his book *Icons of Evolution*, discusses main evidences evolutionists often use to support evolution and responds. Read below evolutionists arguments and our responses to them::

Also, how can scientists hold to the first time occurrence of life "by chance" if one-time events cannot occur?

4. Empirical/operational science does not rule out the possibility of a rare occurrence of an event such as a miracle. It only observes that regular events have causes. But origin/forensic science looks for causes of unrepeatable (rare, one-time) events that appear not to be associated with natural law but rather with "intelligent" causes, similar to how a forensic scientist looks for the cause of a person's death by studying the evidence left behind.

5. Some claim that scientifically miracles cannot occur. But that statement itself is not a *scientific* statement. It is a *philosophical* statement.

6. So, even to do science at all, scientists must hold to certain non-scientific beliefs, such as the belief that causes in the present are like cause in the past. These beliefs upon which science is founded are philosophical beliefs about reality, not scientific statements at all. Therefore, science is not the only source of knowledge and cannot rule out the possibility of miracles.

How do we know which religion is true? If God exists and can suspend natural law to reveal Himself (and if He is God, He can) through supernatural acts, then the religion that shows evidence of God's confirmation of His message and His messengers is the true religion. No religion in the world can substantiate miracles such as those performed by Jesus Christ, the Old Testament prophets, and the New Testament apostles.

Christianity stands alone among the world's religions in its claim and historical evidence of the greatest miracle since time began. Christianity is not a belief system but a relationship founded upon the claim that the central figure of our Faith is God in the flesh, performed many miracles, including accomplishing His own physical resurrection, which has been confirmed by numerous historical eyewitnesses.

\*Resources & References:

*Living Loud* by Norman Geisler & Joseph Holden

*12 Points that Show Christianity is True* by Norman Geisler & Frank Turek

## 6. Are Miracles Possible?

A miracle is a supernatural act of God in the natural world. God designed the natural order of the universe and may choose to intervene in the world and suspend natural law in order to reveal Himself to mankind. In fact, it makes perfect sense that God would do just this to reveal Himself to humans.

Miracles are not magic. Miracles bear certain identifying marks. Most importantly, they always glorify God and confirm God's message and His messenger(s).

The possibility of miracles is important to the truth claims of Christianity because our Faith is founded upon the claim that Jesus Christ miraculously arose from the dead. Before we can give evidence that the miracles of the Bible such as the resurrection are historically *true*, we must first show that miracles are *possible*.

If a theistic God (a personal, creator God) exists, then miracles must be possible. Why? Because He has already performed the greatest miracle of all: creation of the world from nothing! God loves humans and demonstrates to them through miracles His power over life and death, nature, and sin so that we will trust Him.

Skeptic philosopher David Hume said that a wise person would not believe in the possibility of miracles because a miracle was a rare type of occurrence and evidence for regular occurrences is always greater. Scientists often argue that natural law prohibits the possibility of miracles. How do we respond?

1. Evidence for rare events is sometimes greater than for regular events. If the eyewitnesses are trustworthy and give an account of a rare event, then even the courts accept their testimony.

2. Natural law does not prescribe what must happen; it only describes what usually does happen. So, natural law cannot prohibit miracles. In fact, we believe in natural law. For if natural law did not exist, we could not even recognize an exception to the usual occurrence that constitutes a miracle.

3. If scientists rule out the possibility of rare, one-time events not explainable by natural law, then many long-held "scientific" theories must also be discarded. For example, many scientists assert the Big Bang beginning of the universe—clearly a rare, one-time event.

**A. Embryological Similarities:** "Similarities among vertebrates noted by scientist Haeckel proves they all came from a common ancestor." *Response:* Haeckel fudged the drawings to enhance similarities. Also, embryos show greater differences at *earlier* stages. If they all came from the same ancestor, we would expect greater similarity at earlier stages.

**B. Galapagos Island Finches:** Darwin noted during drought new generations of finches adapted to the environment by developing longer beaks. He believed accumulated changes over generations would produce new types of animals: macro-evolution. *Response:* No one disagrees with adaptation to the environment among animals. These adaptations *within* animal types are called micro-evolution and are observable & not debated. But different species of birds are still birds! These changes are cyclical and when droughts end, beaks return to normal size, showing a cycle, and cannot account for the occurrence of entirely new phyla/species.

**C. Four-winged Fruit Flies:** "Laboratory scientists have bred a four-winged fruit fly, asserting that given enough time, new animal types would emerge by natural selection acting on similar mutations." *Response:* This fly is a poor example of macro-evolution since according to evolutionists, nature "selects" only characteristics to pass on that enhance the survival of the organism, and: a) the fly cannot reproduce; no normal fly will mate with it, b) the extra wings are non-functional, and thus are like extra baggage: a detriment to its survival, c) the fly is an evolutionary dead end!

**D. Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria:** "When an antibiotic was introduced, only bacteria with a mutation causing antibiotic-resistance survived, demonstrating that through natural selection acting on mutations, new animal types can be produced." *Response:* Mutant bacteria only survive in the lab & die when they are reintroduced to parent bacteria and the antibiotic is removed.

**E. Homological Similarities in Vertebrates:** "Similar body structures (homology) among vertebrates demonstrate a common ancestor." *Response:* a) We would also expect vertebrates from a common ancestor to develop similarly *embryologically*, but they do not, b) They are also very different *genetically*, which debunks the common ancestor hypothesis.

**F. Fossils:** "Fossils confirm macro-evolution, development from simple to more complex life forms, gradually over millions of years." *Response:* a) Transitional forms are absent, b) Fossils show phyla (large categories of animals) appeared suddenly during the Cambrian geological period, not gradually across geological eras.

**Scientists who reject the evidence are committed to naturalism as a worldview.** This is the real issue. A person committed to naturalism and scientism (believing science provides the only source of truth, even though that is illogical), believes the world is all there is and any evidence to the contrary is ruled impossible at the outset.

Conversely, the Bible says God created humans uniquely in His image (Genesis 1:26-30), as loved beings (John 3:16), with ability to reflect upon self, with language, and moral conscience (Genesis 1-3; Romans 2:14-15), with dominion over the rest of living and non-living things (Genesis 1-3), and eternal existence from the moment of creation, which is the view that best explains reality. Genesis 1 gives a chronological account with Genesis 2 giving a topical account with emphasis on creation of humans.

\*References and Resources: \*Web sites: [truthinscience.org](http://truthinscience.org); [answersingenesis.org](http://answersingenesis.org); [allaboutgod.com](http://allaboutgod.com). \*DVDs/Videos: *Icons of Evolutio*, *Unlocking the Mystery of Life* \*Books: *Icons of Evolution* by Jonathan Wells, *Darwin's Black Box* by Michael Behe, *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis* by Michael Denton, *Darwin on Trial* by Phillip Johnson, *Of Pandas and People* by Kenyon & Davis

## 5. Which Worldview is True?

A worldview is like a pair of eyeglasses through which a person views the world and life. Looking through a pair of good eyeglasses shows the world as it really is. Bad eyeglasses distort how everything looks. Every person has a worldview. The question is whether one is just as good as the other. Do all worldviews show the world as it really is? Or, can all worldviews be true?

Identify your worldview by how you answer several life questions:

- \*Is there a God? If so, what is this Being like?
- \*How did the universe get here or is it eternal?
- \*How did humans get here?
- \*What purpose do humans have for existing, if any?
- \*What happens to humans after death?
- \*What is the purpose/direction of all human history?
- \*Is there right and wrong and on what do you base this belief?
- \*How do we know what is real?

A worldview is more general than a religion, and religions reflect certain worldviews or combinations. The 3 major worldviews are theism, atheism, and pantheism. Other important worldviews that are varieties of these three include deism, polytheism, agnosticism, & skepticism.

**Theism:** Belief in a personal, Creator God Who is beyond the universe (transcendent) and active in the universe (immanent). Christianity is a theistic religion, as are Judaism and Islam.

**Deism:** Similar to theism in the belief in a personal, Creator God beyond the universe. But deism believes God takes no action in the world; instead He wound it up like a clock and let it run by natural laws. Deists do not believe in the possibility of miracles.

Problems: 1. If God did the big miracle of creation from nothing, then smaller miracles such as the resurrection are reasonable. 2. Ignores the evidence of biblical eyewitness accounts of miracles. 3. If God created the world for good of His creatures, then it's reasonable to think he would intervene miraculously for his creatures. e.g. *Some* of America's founding fathers were deists.

**Atheism:** The belief that no God exists or lack of belief in God.

Problems: 1. No evidence for the universe being eternal, so what caused it? 2. Natural forces cannot explain the existence of universe. 3. No moral standard exists because there exists no ultimate, perfectly moral Being from Whose nature right flows. Humans must develop social contracts that simply help them get along with others. e.g.: Secular humanism, evolutionists, "free thinkers" \*Variations: Agnostics believe we either cannot or do not know if God or truth exists. Skeptics say it's reasonable to doubt everything.

**Pantheism:** Belief everything is God. We are to God as drops of water are to the ocean. Humans possess godness within but have forgotten and need enlightenment as to their true nature. Problems: 1. If we are God, how do we "forget"? 2. If we can change, we cannot be God since God as the ultimate Being cannot change. 3. Pantheism is not livable. For instance, is sawing down a tree destroying God? 4. Pantheists believe a person must ignore logic in order to gain enlightenment. But to ignore logic is to acknowledge logic exists. 5. A non-personal force cannot cause characteristics of personhood: self-awareness, awareness of right/wrong, & reasoning intellect. Examples: Hinduism, some forms of Buddhism, New Age

**Polytheism:** Belief in many finite (limited) gods. Many believe the universe has always existed and that gods are caused by Nature itself. Problems: 1. If nature birthed the gods, why not worship nature? 2. Human minds invented the gods of polytheism. 3. An eternal world is contrary to scientific evidence.

e.g. Mormonism, animistic religions-African traditional religions

Could all worldviews be true? No; they hold contradictory beliefs.

\*Resources & References: *Living Loud* by Norman Geisler & Joseph Holden