



Weighing the Evidence for Your Faith
 A Seven-week Study in Christian Apologetics
 with Rev. Dr. Randy Rozelle

Week One: “Why Christian Apologetics?”

Key Question: If someone asked you: “Why are _____,” what would you say?

In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense (apologian) to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect. ~1 Peter 3:15

1. an attitude of _____ and eagerness _____
2. to defend _____ [*the what*]
3. without _____ discrimination
4. in order to provide the _____ [*the why*] for your hope
5. in a _____ manner

This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:3-4

Key Presupposition: Is _____ relative or absolute?

The Bible: truth is absolute	Postmodernism: truth is relative
• eternal & _____	• relative to _____ & place
• _____ every person, time, place	• relative to people _____
• _____ has said	• _____ decide/truth is made
• one _____	• all beliefs _____
• authoritative written text	• only _____ interpretation
• _____ moral law	• human subjectivity

Witnessing to a Postmodern World

1. We're in _____.

“The parable is this: The seed is the Word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the Word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.” -Jesus, Luke 8:11-12

2. Put a _____ in their _____ (i.e., show the _____ in their beliefs/belief system). For example:

- *Do you agree with pluralism, that every person's beliefs are correct/equal?*
- *People can believe whatever they want, but does that make them true?*
- *“The truth is: there is no absolute truth.”*
 - *Isn't that an absolute truth statement?*
 - *So you are all-knowing/the-one-in-the-know to be able to assert that?*
- *Beliefs can be useful and false! _____; _____*
- *I believe that people are basically good.*
- *If we descended from animals, and morality is relative, would there be any justification to fight against child abuse, rape, trafficking, murder, or theft?*
- *Can nothing really cause something to exist?*
- *“The universe is too cruel for there to be a good God.” How did you get the idea of just and unjust?*

3. Rather than starting with the Bible, ask the person/s a question/s first. Then illustrate your point with examples. Finally, bring the truth/Scripture into the discussion.

“Your Word is truth.” ~Jesus, John 17:17

“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” ~Jesus, John 14:6

If someone asked you: “Why are _____,” what would you say?

Weighing the Evidence for Your Faith
Week Two: Evidence for God

Key Question: How can we believe in Christianity if we don't even know whether God exists?

The Bible never attempts to prove that God exists, it simply _____ - even _____ it!

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1

"Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, from forever unto forever You are God." -Psalm 90:2

If God exists, then shouldn't we see His divine _____?

1. The Cosmological/Creation – God is _____.

- *Why is there something rather than nothing?*
- *"Almost everyone now believes that the universe, and time itself, had a beginning at the Big Bang."* -Stephen Hawking
- The 2nd Law of Thermodynamics: *The universe is running out of usable energy.*
 - If the universe is slowly running down, is it scientifically impossible for it be eternal?
- *"A sound explanation may exist for the explosive birth of our universe; but if it does, science cannot find out what the explanation is. The scientist's pursuit of the past ends in the moment of creation."* -Robert Jastrow, founding director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies
- Law of Causality: *if everything that exists has a cause, and the universe began to exist, then what caused the universe to begin to exist?*
 - *Can nothing birth something – even everything – by nothing?*
 - *Could a universe that didn't even exist cause itself to suddenly exist/suddenly birth itself into existence?*

"By the Word of the LORD were the heavens made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host.... He spoke, and it came to be, He commanded, and it stood firm." - Psalm 33:6, 9

2. The Teleological/Complex Design – God is extremely _____.

- The more complex the design, the more intelligent _____ .
 - Can the existence and design of my watch be explained by _____ ?
 - Could an F5 tornado rip through a landfill and produce fully functioning _____ ?
- *“Over the past 30 years or so, scientists have discovered that just about everything about the basic structure of the universe is balanced on a razor’s edge for life to exist. The coincidences are far too fantastic to attribute this to mere chance.... The dials are set too precisely to have been a random accident.”* -Dr. Robin Collins, WSU triple major in mathematics, physics, and physiology, Ph.D. in Physiology, Notre Dame.
- *There are 15 to +30 constants – gravitational constant, speed of light, electromagnetic force, cosmological constant, strong nuclear force, mass difference in protons and neutrons, etc. – that are exactly where they need to be for matter to coalesce and for galaxies, stars, planets, and people to exist. If even one of those constants was off even by one part in a million, or in some cases, by one part in a million million, the universe could not have actually come to the point where we see it today.* - Dr. Francis S. Collins, world-renowned geneticist, physician, and Former Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute
- How do we explain such complexity and fine-tuning from an accidental, random explosion of matter/gases that did not always exist?

“When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is man that You are mindful of him?” -Psalm 8:3

3. The Moral Law – God is morally _____ / _____ .

Where did humanity’s innate, moral sense of right and wrong that evokes moral outrage come from, if we’ve randomly evolved from the animal kingdom? Do we try animals for violating the rights of older, younger, and disabled kinds? Why the double standard if we’re all species in a random, meaningless, going-nowhere-specific evolutionary cog?

- How can a person call a line “crooked” unless he also has some knowledge _____ one?
 - *If bad things simply happen, how do we determine they _____ in the first place?* -Professor Brad Alles

- *If we evolved from lifeless matter and then gained consciousness, how could we explain evil genes since we have no free will to begin with?* -Professor Brad Alles
- Where does our innate sense of moral _____ come from, and how could it have come down by a process of natural selection?
 - *“If God does not exist, everything is permitted.”* -Fyodor Dostoyevsky
 - There is only: “I like this.”
- Conclusion: there must be an objective moral law that _____ natural order, and this requires a moral Lawgiver who is also holy/just.
- *“After 28 years as a believer, the Moral Law still stands out for me as the strongest signpost to God. More than that, it points to a God who cares about human beings, and a God who is infinitely good and holy.”* -Dr. Francis S. Collins

Then God said, “Let Us make man in our image, after our likeness.” -Genesis 1:26

“For when the nations, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they’re a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness....” -Romans 2:14-16

What about the Presence of Suffering and Evil?

If a good and powerful God exists, He would not allow such pointless evil in the world...so how can such a God exist?

- A significant flaw here: *if evil and suffering appear pointless to me, then they must _____.*
- The assumption: *if there were good reasons for suffering and evil, then I would know them/they’d be accessible to our human minds.*
- Just because I can’t see or imagine any good in this, does that mean that God can’t be working through it for good? (Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28-30; cf. Joseph; Job, Israel, Daniel, Paul, Jesus, etc.)

Then *WHY* does a good God still allow so much pain and suffering?

- The answer can’t be that God doesn’t _____ us. (Proverbs 3:11-12; Hebrews 12:5-6)

- The answer can't be that God is detached or indifferent to our _____ (Isaiah 53).
- God's answer to human pain and suffering wasn't a _____ one, but a _____ one.
 - God sent His only Son to defeat evil _____ at the cross (Col 2:14-16; Heb 2:14-15), and He will defeat evil _____ when He returns (Isaiah 65:17-25; Revelation 20:11-22:20).
- Though God doesn't promise us the reason for every loss and hardship, He does promise profound _____ to face them with hope and courage rather than with bitterness and despair (Romans 5:3-5; 8:18; 1 Corinthians 15; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Hebrews 13:5-6; Revelation 21)

“God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.” -C.S. Lewis

Weighing the Evidence for Your Faith

Week Three: Evidence that the Historical Jesus of Nazareth is THE God of the Bible

Key Questions:

- (1) If Jesus of Nazareth – the most discussed figure in world history – was a real, historical person, then shouldn't we find evidence for his life in secular history too (i.e., outside of the Bible)?
- (2) If we can establish that Jesus of Nazareth historically walked this earth for many years, is there also evidence that He is THE God of the Bible?

Early Historical, Non-Christian Sources

- Josephus, AD 90-95: *“At this time there was a wise man called Jesus, and his conduct was good, and he was known to be virtuous. Many people among the Jews and other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. But those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them 3 days after his crucifixion, and that he was alive. Accordingly, he was perhaps the Messiah, concerning whom the prophets have reported wonders.”*
- Thallus, AD 52: Thallus, in the 3rd book of his histories, explains away this darkness [Noon – 3pm] as an eclipse of the sun – unreasonably as it seems to me (unreasonably, of course, because a solar eclipse could not have taken place at the time of the full moon, and it was at the season of the Paschal full moon that Christ died). He sought a natural explanation for the darkness.
- Phlegon, AD 80: *“In the time of Tiberius Caesar, at full moon, there was a full eclipse of the sun from the 6th hour to the 9th – manifestly that one of which we speak.”*
- Tacitus, AD 111: *“Christus, the found of the name [Christians], was put to death by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea in the region of Tiberius: but the pernicious [destructive] superstition, repressed for a time, broke out again, not only through Judea, where the mischief originated, but through the city of Rome also.”*

<u>Source/A.D.</u>	<u>Collective Report about Jesus</u>
Thallus (52)	He existed
Phlegon (80)	He was virtuous
Josephus (90-95)	He was worshiped
Talmud (70-200)	He had disciples
Tacitus (111)	He was a teacher
Pliny (112)	He was crucified
Trajan (112)	He had an empty tomb
Hadrian (117-138)	Disciples' declared resurrection
Suetonius (117-138)	Word of Jesus spread fast

*Adapted from Geisler & Brooks, *When Skeptics Ask*, Baker Books, pg. 109.

- Dr. Edwin Yamauchi, Professor Emeritus of History at Miami University, summarizes these non-Christian sources: *“Jesus was a teacher from Nazareth and lived a wise and virtuous life. He had enemies who admitted that He did unusual feats they called ‘sorcery.’ He was crucified in Palestine under Pontius Pilate during the reign of Tiberius Caesar at Passover time, being considered the Jewish King. He was believed by His disciples to have been resurrected three days later. He had a small band of disciples that*

multiplied rapidly, spreading as far as Rome. These disciples denied polytheism, lived moral lives, and worshiped Him as God.”

What World Religions Say About Jesus:

Jehovah Witnesses	Not God, but Michael the Archangel. He died on a stake & only rose in spirit.
Mormons	Separate from God the Father. Created as a spirit child by the Father & Mother in heaven.
Christian Scientists	He’s not Christ, but a man who displayed Christ-like ideas. God can’t become man. He didn’t die and rise.
Scientology	Rarely mentioned. Not the Creator nor did He die for sins.
Wicca	He’s either rejected all together or he is considered a spiritual teacher.
New Age	He’s not the one, true God. He’s not a savior, but merely a spiritual model.
Islam	A very respected prophet sent by Allah, but not the Son of God. He wasn’t crucified/only appeared to die (perhaps someone who looked like Jesus or Judas), but was raised bodily into heaven by God.
Judaism	A extremist false Messiah or a good, but martyred Jewish rabbi/teacher.
Hinduism	A teacher or avatar (an incarnation of Vishnu). He’s a son of God as others are too, and He didn’t die on the cross or rise.
Buddhism	In the West He’s considered an enlightened teacher. In the East an avatar or Bodhisattva (but not God).
Christianity	The eternal Son of God (coequal with Father and Holy Spirit) and true man, born of the virgin Mary. Sinless Messiah who died, rose & is coming back.

- Can all of these beliefs about Jesus _____ at the same time?

Jesus and First Testament Prophecies

- Does Jesus of Nazareth “_____ the Messianic _____?”

Prophecy	Fulfillment in Jesus
Seed of Abraham – Gen 18:18	Seed of Abraham - Gal 3:16
Tribe of Judah – Gen 49:10	Tribe of Judah – Mt 1:2-3
Heir to David’s Throne – 2 Sam 7:12-13	Heir to David’s Throne - Lk 1:32
Born in Bethlehem – Micah 5:2	Born in Bethlehem – Mt 2:1
Born of a Virgin – Isa 7:14	Born of a Virgin – Mt 1:18
Flight to Egypt – Hos 11:1	Flight to Egypt – Mt 2:14
Ministry in Galilee – Isa 9:1-2	Ministry in Galilee – Mt 4:12-16
The Prophet to Come – Dt 18:15	The Prophet – Jn 6:14
Rejected by Jews – Isa 53:3	Rejected by His own – Jn 1:11
Triumphal Entry – Zech 9:9	Triumphal Entry – Jn 12:13-14
Betrayed by a Close Friend – Ps 41:9	Betrayed by Judas – Mk 14:10
Sold for 30 Silver Coins – Zech 11:12	Sold for 30 Silver Coins – Mt 26:15
Pierced Hands and Feet – Ps 22:16	Pierced Hands and Feet – Jn 20:27
Soldiers Cast Lots for Clothes – Ps 22:18	Soldiers Cast Lots for Clothes – Jn 19:34
Not a Bone Broken – Ps 34:20	Not a Bone Broken – Jn 19:33
Buried in a Rich Tomb – Isa 53:9	Buried in a Rich Tomb – Mt 27:57-60
His Resurrection – Ps 16:9-10	His Resurrection – Acts 2:29-32
His Ascension – Ps 68:18	His Ascension – Lk 24:50-51

- The probability of even 9 prophecies coming true in one person/Christ is 1:10 to the _____th power. -Marvin Bittinger, Ph.D., Mathematical Sciences
- Many of these prophecies Jesus could not _____ to make it _____ the Messiah.

Did Jesus actually _____ Himself?

Jesus said to the Jews: “Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see My day. He saw it and was glad.” So the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet 50 years old, and have You seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” So they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

Jonn 8:56-59; cf. Leviticus 24:16

Jesus’ Resurrection _____ that He is who _____.

- Sets Him apart from _____ leaders.
- His grave clothes?
- The large stone?

- The Roman guards?
- No one ever _____ when the word spread because they _____!
- The tomb was empty!
- + _____ eyewitnesses on _____ appearances over _____ days.
- The boldness of _____!

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: ‘I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God.’ That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse.”
 -C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Jesus is either
 a _____
 a _____
 the _____

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.
 -John 20:30-31

Weighing the Evidence for Your Faith
 Week Four: Evidence that the Bible is 100% Reliable and Trustworthy

How would you respond?

- The Bible has many great stories and lessons, but you can’t take it literally.

- The Bible contradicts itself and has errors.
- The Bible is unscientific, historically unreliable, and culturally regressive.

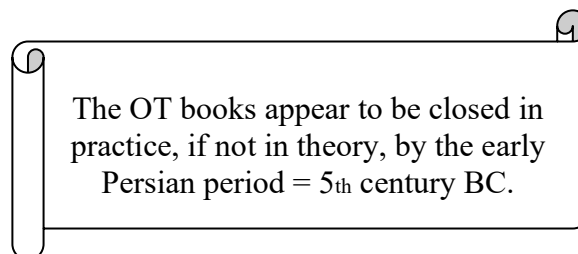
If the Bible is not accurate and reliable, then nothing we Christians believe about ourselves, the world around us, or even God, has any ultimate foundation.

-Chuck Colson

But we don't _____.

The First Testament

- *If you're going to reject the Bible because we don't have the original, inspired copies, then you have to reject all that Homer, Plato, Aristotle and every other writer from antiquity wrote because we don't have their originals either. We have good copies, and that's sufficient! We have many more, earlier, and better copies for the Bible, and that is more than sufficient!* – Norman Geisler

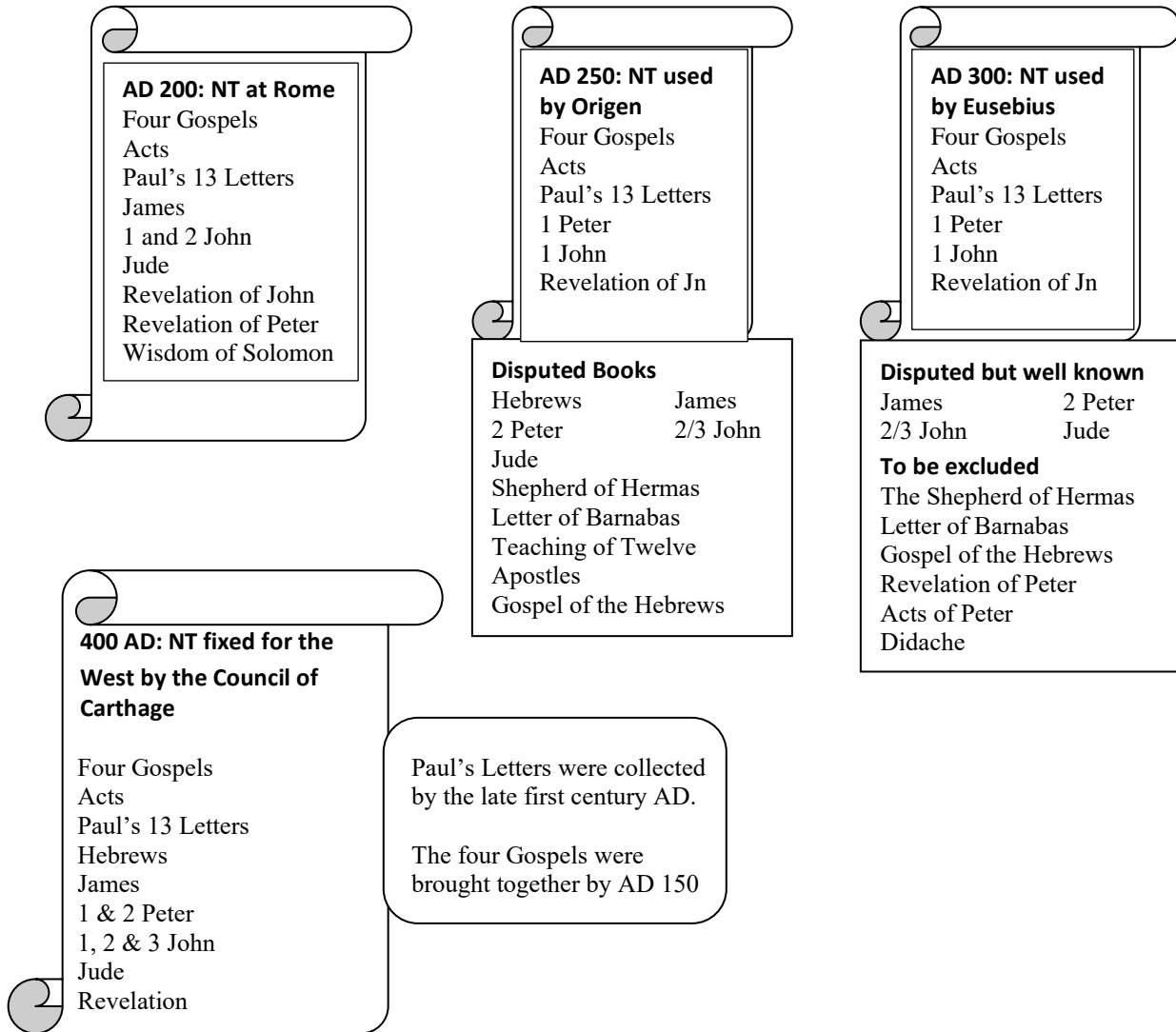


The OT books appear to be closed in practice, if not in theory, by the early Persian period = 5th century BC.

- All First Testament manuscripts from Palestine, Syria, and Egypt agree completely on every major doctrine, plus they demonstrate word-for-word agreement in over _____% of the cases!
- All flawed and worn-out copies were ceremoniously _____.
- Old Testament scribes were sticklers with the kind of material used; the number of columns and lines per page; not writing any words from memory; and performing a religious ceremony each time the name of God was written!
- Any copy with _____ was _____.
- The Dead Sea Scrolls:
 - written between 200 B.C. to A.D. 70
 - contain fragments of every OT book except _____
 - predate the oldest previous known Hebrew text by _____ years
 - Isaiah is _____% word-for-word with our text today (5% slips of pen and variations in spelling).

- Jesus' OT quotes and references confirm its _____ and authority too!

The Second Testament



[Introduction to *The History of Christianity*. Fortress Press: Minneapolis, 1995, pp 134-135]

- The NT has _____ manuscripts, plus 19,000 copies of translations into other languages, some within _____ years of the originals!
- Most other books from antiquity have 10-20 manuscripts and typically _____ years from the time of the original.
- The Gospels were based on _____ accounts.
- The Gospels are too indicting and too _____ to be legends.
 - *Why record Jesus asking God to get out of His mission?*

- *Why make women the first resurrection witnesses?*
- *Why depict the apostles/early church leaders as petty, jealous, slow-witted, and cowards?*
- *“the father of Alexander and Rufus” carried Jesus’ cross (Mk 15:21)*
- *The boat was about 200 cubits out in the water (Jn 21:8) & the net was full of large fish, 153 of them (Jn 21:11)*
- *This kind of fictional realism was unknown in the 1st century!*

“It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference.” -Nelson Glueck, renown Jewish archaeologist

*“In real terms, the New Testament is easily the best attested ancient writing in terms of the sheer number of documents, the time span between the events and the documents, and the variety of documents available to sustain or contradict it.”
-Dr. Ravi Zacharias*

Faith in the Bible’s Own _____!

- *The words of the LORD are pure. Psalm 12:6*
- *Every word of God proves true. Proverbs 30:5*
- *The word of the LORD is flawless. 2 Samuel 22:31*
- *The Word of our God stands forever. Isaiah 40:8*
- *“Father, sanctify them in the truth; Your Word is truth.” -Jesus, John 17:17*
- *No prophecy of Scripture came about...in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:20-21*
- *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. 2 Timothy 3:16-17*
- *When you received the Word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God. 1 Thessalonians 2:13*

For Further Thought:

- If the Bible is the Word of God, and God can only speak _____, then there is no way to avoid the conclusion that the Bible contains _____.
- Divine Inspiration _____ biblical inerrancy!

- (1) God can't err; (2) the Bible is the Word of God; (3) therefore, the Bible _____
- To stay away from Christianity because part of the Bible offends you, assumes that if God exists, He shouldn't contradict _____!
- To reject the Bible as regressive assumes that you've arrived at the ultimate historic moment from which you can authoritatively judge it.
- If Jesus is the Son of God, then we have to take _____ seriously. If Jesus is not who He says He is, then why care what the Bible _____.

The Word/Teaching of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces... The sum of Your Word is truth, and every one of Your righteous rules endures forever... I rejoice at Your Word like one who finds great spoil.

-Psalm 119:72, 160, 162

Weighing the Evidence for Your Faith
Week Five: Evidence for the Historicity of Genesis 1-11

Genesis 1-11 are the _____ chapters in the Bible!

Adam and Eve (Gen 1-4): Scripture uniformly presents them as _____ people.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| -their creation (1:27) | -their fall (3:1-19) |
| -their names (3:20) | -their expulsion from Eden (3:22-24) |
| -naming animals (2:18-20) | -birthed real children (4:1-2; 5:3) |
| -their marriage (2:21-24) | |

- Luke begins _____ genealogy of real people with Adam. (3:38)
- Jesus refers to Adam and Eve as the first literal _____. (Mk 10:6-9)
- Paul says _____ death came upon all people because of _____ Adam's sin (Rom 5:12-14)
- Paul names Eve the first _____ who was also tempted by the _____ devil (1 Tim 2:14; 2 Cor 11:3)
- Hebrews includes Cain and Abel in the long list of _____ people (11:4)
- Two of Eden's _____ are still in existence today (Gen 2:14 – Tigris and Euphrates)
- In 1932 near Nineveh, Assyriologist Dr. E. A. Speiser found a small stone cylinder seal with Adam and Eve; he dates the archaeological find to about 3500 B.C. The seal depicts a naked man and a naked woman, walking as if utterly downcast and broken-hearted, followed by a serpent.

The Flood (Gen 6-10)

- Jesus emphasizes the historicity of the Flood when He likens it to the suddenness of _____. Is Jesus _____?

“Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man. They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.” -Jesus, Luke 17:26-27

- There are more than _____ Flood accounts today on major world continents, told by Greeks, Hindus, Chinese, Mexicans, Algonquins, and Hawaiians. The similarities strongly suggest a _____.

- One list of Sumerian kings treats the Flood as a real event.

- Would legend/myth include such pinpoint _____?

“This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits.... In the 600th year of Noah’s life, in the 2nd month on the 17th day of the month, on that day all the foundations of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. And rain fell upon the earth 40 days and 40 night. On the very same day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and Noah’s wife and the three wives of his sons with them entered the ark, they and every beast, according to its kind.... In the 601st year, in the 2nd month, on the 27th day of the month, the earth had dried out.” – Genesis 6:15; 7:11-14; 8:13-14

- Legends and myths would have embellished Noah and spoke of him being granted immortality and receiving divine exaltation.

“Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard. He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent.” -Genesis 9:20-21

Wouldn’t a Global Flood have left permanent marks/scars on our planet?

- 1) Fossil _____.

- High above sea level on every continent, including Everest.
- Diverse/mixed creatures
- Sudden death
- Fossilized before scavengers, micro-decaying organisms & erosion

- 2) Rock Layers

- Smooth bends vs. several major cracks & breaks
- No erosion between layers

- 3) Sediment Layers

- Sometimes miles deep & spread across vast areas, even continents
- Laid down in a matter of hours/days

The Tower of Babel (Gen 11)

- Considerable evidence shows that the world had a _____ at one time.
- Ur Nammu, King of Ur (2044-2007 B.C.) supposedly received orders to build a great ziggurat (temple tower) as an act of worship to the moon god Nannat. One monument about 5’W and 10’H shows Nammu’s various

activities. One panel on the monument depicts him sitting with a mortar basket to build a great tower. An unearthed clay tablet states the large tower offended the gods so the gods threw down the tower man had built, scattered them abroad, and made their speech strange.” -Geisler, 197

“For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, so that all of them may call upon the name of the LORD and serve Him with one shoulder/accord.” -Zeph 3:9

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished...Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians – we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God. -Acts 2:5-11

For Further Thought:

1. The NT affirms persons and events from every chapter of Genesis 1-11.
2. The NT _____ cites from Genesis 1-11 & 12-50 as historical.

Creation of the Universe	Mk 13:19; Jn 1:3; Col 1:16
Creation of Adam and Eve	Mk 10:6; 1 Tim 2:13; 1 Cor 11:8-9
God resting on the Sabbath	Heb 4:3-4
Marriage of Adam and Eve	Mt 19:4-6; Mk 10:7-8; Eph 5:31
Temptation of Eve	1 Tim 2:14; 1 Cor 11:3
Disobedience of Adam	Rom 5:12-19
Sacrifices of Cain and Abel	Heb 11:4
Murder of Abel by Cain	Mt 23:55; 1 Jn 3:12; Jude 11
Birth of Seth	Lk 3:38
Marriage before the Flood	Lk 17:27
The Flood and Destruction of Mankind	Mt 24:39
The preservation of Noah and his Family	1 Pt 3:20; 2 Pt 2:5
Noah’s son Shem and his Descendants	Lk 3:35-36
Birth of Abram	Lk 3:34

3. Genesis 12 begins *“and the LORD said”* – a continuation NOT _____.

4. It's "Bible-Bobbing" to read Abraham, Isaac & Jacob as literal, historical figures, but not Adam; Eve; Cain; Abel; Seth; Adam's entire genealogy (Genesis 5); Noah; Shem; Ham; Japheth; Noah's/Shem's genealogies (Genesis 10-11), etc.

To deny Genesis' historicity is to deny:

- 1) the _____ both testaments
- 2) Jesus' _____, He affirms their historicity Himself
- 3) crucial doctrines drawn from them

Weighing the Evidence for Your Faith
 Week Six: Evidence for Creation over Evolution

Every person's worldview begins with an _____!

Postmodernism:

1. Science proves that only _____ causes exist; there cannot be supernatural causes behind natural phenomenon or events.
2. Science – especially evolutionary science – has made belief in God unnecessary and _____.

Big Question: Are these statements _____ or _____?

We do not have to choose between _____ & _____!

Important to Distinguish:

Operation Science	Origin Science
Present/Regular	Previous
Repeated	Singularities
Observable/Testable	Primary Causes
How Things Work	How Things Began

Natural Causes	Intelligent Causes
Waterfall	Hydroelectric Plant
The Black Hills	Mt. Rushmore
Diamonds	
Grasses	
Forest	

3 Main Areas of Origin Science

1. The Origin of the Universe

- The Principle of Causality:
 - Everything that begins to exist has a cause/a thing cannot arise without a cause.
 - The universe had a beginning; it began to exist.
 - Therefore, the existence of the universe has a _____.
 - SO...what caused the universe to begin to exist/arise? Only two possibilities:
 - a _____ cause
 - an _____ cause.
 - Can _____ produce something?
- The Anthropic Principle: from its very onset the universe is fine-tuned or precisely calibrated for human life.
 - The 21% of oxygen in air
 - The distance from the sun
 - The distance/axis of the moon
 - The tilt/orbit of the earth
 - The thickness of the earth's crust
 - The gravitational force
 - The strong nuclear force that holds atoms together
 - The position of Jupiter relative to earth
 - The expansion rate of the universe
 - The speed of light
 - Accidental natural cause or a super intelligent, very powerful designer/supernatural cause?

2. The Origin of First Life

- Spontaneous Generation (no intelligent design or intervention)
 - How do you get life from _____?
 - There is ZERO geological evidence for a primordial soup (complex life incubator).
- Special Creation: first life had to come from an intelligent cause
 - Irreducible Complexity: every piece/part of living cells is needed for life/for it to work.

- Darwinism cannot explain how the cilium, human eye, blood clotting, DNA, or any complex biochemical process could have developed via numerous, successive, slight modifications. They are irreducibly complex.

“How could inanimate matter think and develop a moral code of right and wrong?” -Brad Alles

What about the possibility of chance?

“Chance doesn’t _____ anything – only forces do; and there are only two kinds of forces: (1) natural; and (2) intelligent.” -Norman Geisler, 236

3. The Origin of Human Life/New Life Forms

- Natural selection does not produce more _____ organisms
 - Survival vs. Arrival
 - Goo to you via the zoo?
- The lack of _____ fossils and beings today!!!
 - Sudden appearance of mature, fully functional creatures, not _____.
 - Fossils reveal changes within (microevolution), not changes between (macroevolution) species.

“Why then is not every geological formation and every stratum full of such intermediate links? Geology does not reveal any such finely graduated organic chain, and this, perhaps, is the most obvious and gravest objection which can be urged against my theory.” -Charles Darwin

Three Ginormous Holes in Evolution

1. The belief that nothing produced something. Really? All matter in the universe came from _____ and by _____?
2. The belief that _____ produced life. Non-life has no life to give; you cannot give what you do not have!
3. The belief that non-intelligent life gave rise to very intelligent life. Even if we even skip how the universe began to exist, how can soup/goop that does not plan or think generate complex agents who think and act?

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. -Genesis 1:1

Job 38:1-40:2 God's speaks to Job about His work of creation.

For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. -Isaiah 65:17

For by Him [Christ] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through Him and for Him. -Colossians 1:16

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the Word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible. -Hebrews 11:3

Weighing the Evidence for Your Faith
Week Seven: Evidence for the Afterlife

“There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, ‘Thy will be done,’ and those to whom God says, in the end, ‘Thy will be done.’ All that are in Hell, chose it.” - C.S. Lewis

- God will not force Himself upon people for _____ who don’t _____ now.

2 Pivotal Questions for Every Worldview:

- (1) Is there _____ after _____?
- (2) If so, in _____?

Main Afterlife Worldviews

- Reincarnation: moral progress plan based upon one’s own karma
 - Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism, Buddhism, Rastafarianism
 - How did the first life _____? If the suffering in life depends on the former, where did one’s karmic debt/suffering come from?
- Annihilationism: “The End”
 - Jehovah Witnesses: at death one ceases to exist/no consciousness, but God can remember people and eventually resurrect them: the little flock (144,000) in Heaven; the great crowd will live in Paradise earth and serve the 144K
- Performance-based Pleasure or Pain:
 - Islam: eternal life in paradise or eternal life in hell, depending on one’s service (The 5 Pillars) to Allah.
 - Mormonism: men dwell with their wives forever, and if good enough, rule another planet.
- Soul-Flight: one’s soul/spirit goes somewhere else
 - Native Americans: the spirit goes to another world to be with family/friends
- Eternal Consciousness: uncertain of what exactly but guessing
- Eternal Resurrection Life in Body & Soul in the New Heavens/Earth or in the Lake of Fire depending on one’s faith in or rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus of Nazareth is not legend, He really lived. He is either (1) the LORD, as He claimed and His works reveal; (2) a liar for claiming that He could give people eternal life; or (3) a lunatic for thinking He was God and the only way to heaven.

“Those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” -Daniel 12:2

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.” -Jesus, John 3:16-18

“When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His might, when He comes on that day to be glorified in His saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.” -2 Thessalonians 1:7b-10

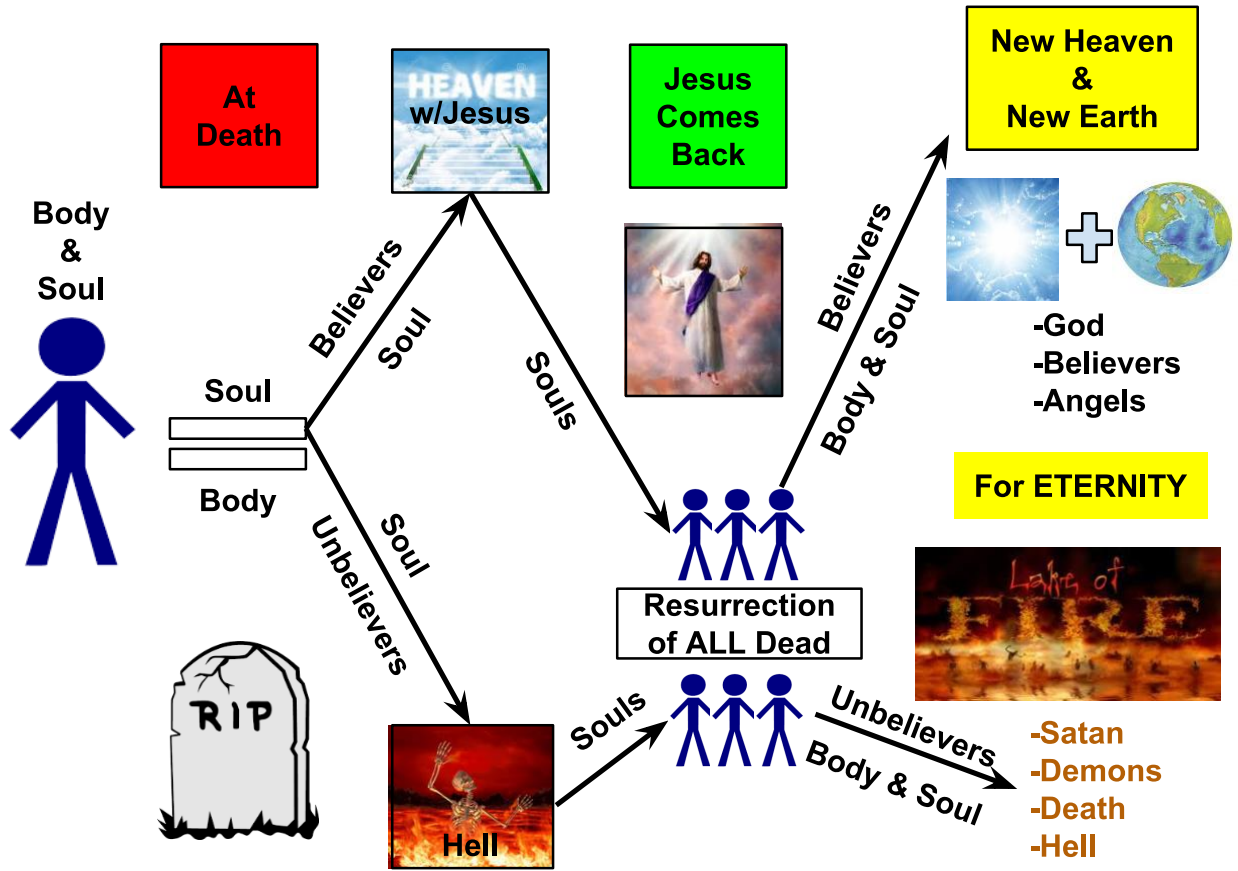
How could a loving God allow hell?

- Are God’s unfailing love and perfect justice _____?
- If someone was about to hurt little children, should we respond with absolute _____?
- Why don’t we open every door in every _____ around the world? Can it really be loving to separate and confine?
- If God exists, He should never _____ thinking?
- If a boat with enough life preservers for every person was sinking, but some refused and went down with the ship, whose _____ it?
 - What would the most _____ for the other passengers?
- So who’s to blame for God’s perfect justness: _____?
- Everyone in hell deserves it. No one in heaven deserves it: _____.

Regarding the Afterlife:

Given the vast evidence for Jesus, the reliability of Scripture, and Jesus’ promises for this life and the next, who are you willing to trust with _____?

What the Bible Teaches about Life, Death, and the Afterlife



Bibliography

Alles, Brad. *Life's Big Questions God's Big Answers*. CPH: St. Louis, 2010.
 Alles, Brad. *Starting at the End: Worldview, God's Word & Your Future*. CPH: St. Louis, 2013.
 Geisler, Norman L. *Christian Apologetics*. 2nd Edition. Baker Academic: Grand Rapids, 2013.
 Geisler, Norman L., and Ronald M. Brooks. *When Skeptics Ask: A Handbook on Christian Evidences*. Revised and Updated. Baker Books: Grand Rapids, 2013.
 Keller, Timothy. *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*. Riverhead Books: NY, 2008.