

## HE EXISTS

### THREE REASONS TO BELIEVE THAT GOD IS REAL

*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek Him.<sup>1</sup>*

Let me start out by stating the obvious, it takes faith to believe in God. It's interesting if you think about it though, it requires faith to believe that God does not exist, I say even *more* so. God has provided so much for us so that we can know Him. The issue that each person must settle is do you *want* to know Him. Ask yourself, do you spend more time trying to find reasons not to have faith than you do exercising it? What if you decided to allow God to speak for Himself rather than deciding that there is nothing to be said? Believing in God requires faith; faith that He is talking, faith that He has spoken, faith that He establishes, faith that He established, faith that He is past, present, and forever. Do you know that the Bible says that if we put faith in God that He will strengthen it? Not according to our ability to believe "better" or "more" but according to His work. If you will begin to believe He will strengthen your faith. Consider the meaning of this verse:

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.<sup>2</sup>*

Could it be that faith itself is a gift? Have you been given a gift with the option to do what you want with it? I have three boys, when I give one of them a gift I have a hope for how he will use it but I realize that he ultimately is the one who decides what he will do with it. Concerning the gift of faith, we are no different.

Understand, God is always more concerned about encouraging your faith than *proving* He is real. Who benefits more by acknowledging God's existence, Him or the one who believes? For God, His existence is nothing new<sup>3</sup> and nothing changes for Him when someone believes but for the one who believes... EVERYTHING changes!

Would you be offended if I said you were foolish to not believe in the one, true, living God? If so, don't be upset with me, the Bible tells us that is God's opinion:

*The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."<sup>4</sup>*

I want to encourage you to examine some of the many provisions God has made that speak of His existence and ask yourself how you have used faith. Have you foolishly invested your faith in not believing? If so, seize the opportunity for your faith to be strengthened. God in fact does exist and He wants you to know Him.

## MORALITY

Good and evil exist and we recognize the difference. Let me get this out of the way: Right and wrong is not relative. If you say that truth is not absolute and I proceed to take your wallet you will more than likely believe that I should not steal from you even though I may think it is ok. You may even try to stop me. The dilemma becomes glaringly obvious, truth cannot be what you or I *want* to believe.

There are clearly things that are right and wrong and you and I are aware of them because of our conscience and a moral law that the Bible says is written upon our hearts.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Hebrews 11:6

<sup>2</sup> Ephesians 2:8-9

<sup>3</sup> Revelations 22:13

<sup>4</sup> Psalm 14:1

<sup>5</sup> Romans 2:14-15

Morals are not independent of God but rely on God because they originate in God. Everything good comes from God.<sup>6</sup> Concerning this issue C. S. Lewis wrote:

*My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how bad I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?*<sup>7</sup>

Humans do not acquire or create right and wrong we simply choose which we will do. We may do something unique but it is only a form of the deeper moral truth that exists. We know it is wrong to cheat, steal, lie, kill, etc. We know it is right to share, help, provide, care, honor, etc. We did not establish these truths but we do understand them. ***Do you believe that moral law originated in you or another human or are we all bound to this law with the ability to keep or break it?*** The world we live in likes to state “truth” rather than stand upon that which already is. This is nothing new though:

*See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.*<sup>8</sup>

This verse was written over 2,000 years ago<sup>9</sup> to people living in a town called Colosse. The same battle existed then that does now.

There is a separation between *eternal truths* that have been established and the *daily details* of life. Moral law is concrete. It does not change. We must use the eternal truths to make sense of everyday life. Without doing so, what are you building upon? A sturdy house cannot be built without a foundation. When we understand that God has established ***What Is*** (moral law) we then can begin to build our life according to ***What Should*** be done (behavior & motives). Human opinion is easily swayed and can change. We may believe something is right today and not the next. Do you see the problem? Truth because of its very nature is exclusive and cannot change. *Es lo que es* (It is what it is). If human interpretation of truth can change then it is not absolute. When we understand this we can be led to God’s Word which has established absolutes and is the final say.

God has given us eternal truths so that we might approach life with understanding. Does it make sense to use our limited human perspective to attempt to determine universal truth? When human thinking becomes the authority on morality is when ignorant people start organizations like the KKK or justify having sex with a girl caught in human trafficking. Now, you can say that you would never take things to that extreme and you probably wouldn’t but it’s not because you are a good person. There is a moral law that we are aware of and abide by that was created outside of our existence by God. You and I are not capable of determining what is right and wrong outside of this law.

## THE HEAVENS & THE EARTH

The Bible states that God created the universe:

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*<sup>10</sup>

The Bible also states the humans would deny Him even though all that we see speaks of His existence:

*...since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.*

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<sup>6</sup> James 1:17

<sup>7</sup> Mere Christianity, C. S. Lewis

<sup>8</sup> Colossians 2:8

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/2007/05/30/how-old-is-earth>, Bodie Hodge, May 30, 2007

<sup>10</sup> Genesis 1:1

*For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.*

*Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. **They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.**<sup>11</sup>*

Remember how I encouraged you to allow the provisions that God has made to strengthen your faith that He exists? Ask yourself, “Do I resist seeing God in all that is around me?”

Our world is evil. There are many evil things that take place. Evil does not eliminate God’s existence or His concern for the world but rather it highlights our resistance of Him. More about God’s character will be discussed in later chapters.

One of the ways that we see God’s hand in the universe is the fact that there is order. Is it really just by chance that out of all of the planets earth is the only one that can sustain human life? Why does the law of gravity work, every time? How does the seed of an apple possess the ability to grow into a tree and produce thousands of more apples? Can the birth of a baby be described as anything less than miraculous? Whether its gravity, life, or even fruit, each testify of order not chaos. Let me give you an example:

If you came across this strand of letters (putting aside that the letters exist in the first place) could you gather any true meaning from it:

OSEYOVGUDOL

It would not be until someone’s intelligence gave order to their existence that you could understand:

GOD LOVES YOU

Order is evidence of outside involvement. But where does it begin and end? If the seed produced the tree what produced the seed? And on and on and on. Everything in this world first had a cause. The order that we live within requires one who is capable of existing both *outside of* and *without dependence upon* what we know as the universe.

*...something that does not need to be given existence must exist to give everything else existence.*

*Now, apply this example to everything in the universe. Does any of it exist on its own? No. So, not only did the universe have to have a first cause to get started; it needs something to give it existence right now. The only thing that would not have to be given existence is a thing that exists as its very nature. It is existence. This something would always exist, have no cause, have no beginning, have no limit, be outside of time, and be infinite. That something is God!<sup>12</sup>*

Are you aware that the Bible describes God as being the sustainer of all that exists:

*The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.<sup>13</sup>*

The book of John reaffirms the very first verse of the Bible:

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the*

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<sup>11</sup> Romans 1:19-25

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.gotquestions.org/cosmological-argument.html#ixzz2sew8Qi4d>, S. Michael Houdmann

<sup>13</sup> Colossians 1:15-17

*beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*<sup>14</sup>

These passages, among others<sup>15</sup> detail the necessary attributes of one who could create order outside of, yet through their own existence.

The heavens and the earth speak of the qualities, powers, and nature of a Creator leaving you and I without excuse concerning belief that He exists. When you couple that with the testimony of Scripture concerning our existence you find God; who is present, aware, and intentional.

## **SCRIPTURE**

The Bible is a tremendous collection of numerous letters and writings, written over a number of years, comprised into one consistent book. The word Bible comes from the Greek word biblos<sup>16</sup> which literally means books

The Bible was originally written in Hebrew and Aramaic (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament). It has now been translated in many different languages, one of them being English.

The Bible is unlike any other book or writing for reasons such as: the manner in which it was composed, its unified message, accurate prophecy, and the quality of the manuscript that have been recovered.

### **The Authority of Scripture**

Scripture proclaims that it is the very Word of God:

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...*<sup>17</sup>

God breathed His Word into existence through the hands of many men who lived in different periods of time and in different places.

### **The Unity of Scripture**

One of the reasons to believe that the Old and New Testament is God's message is the unity throughout each book concerning its message and purpose. The tapestry of God's heart is woven throughout each and every page of the Bible even though it was recorded by various writers over a vast span of time.

*The Bible is one book, but it is also written by at least forty different authors, over a period of not less than fifteen hundred years, many of whom never saw each other. Yet its unity and continuity are so apparent, it is easy to think of it having just one author—and that none other than God Himself.*<sup>18</sup>

The consistency contained within Scripture is strong evidence for a divine Author.

### **The Prophecies of Scripture**

The Bible is also full of prophetic messages. Biblical prophecy is God announcing events before they occur both to a current generation and even to those still to come. Here are just a few of the many, many prophecies concerning Jesus that were completely fulfilled in His life, death, and resurrection:

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<sup>14</sup> John 1:1-5

<sup>15</sup> Revelation 1:8, Jeremiah 32:17, Psalm 90:2,

<sup>16</sup> [http://www.blbclassic.org/faq/don\\_stewart/stewart.cfm?id=267](http://www.blbclassic.org/faq/don_stewart/stewart.cfm?id=267), Don Stewart

<sup>17</sup> 2 Timothy 3:16

<sup>18</sup> Foundations of Pentacostal Theology, Duffield & Van Cleave

- \*He would be born in Bethlehem – Micah 5:2
- \*He would heal – Isaiah 35:5-6
- \*He would ride a donkey to Jerusalem – Zechariah 9:9
- \*He would be betrayed for money – Psalm 41:9
- \*He would rise from the dead – Psalm 16:10

Whether you believe in Jesus or not ask yourself, “How could men who never even knew Jesus proclaim with such accuracy events that would occur within and through His life? The Bible clears up this mystery through passages such as this one:

*Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.<sup>19</sup>*

God has not hidden Himself from mankind but has revealed Himself to us in many ways, one way being the pinpoint accuracy of prophecy within Scripture.

### **The Quality of Scripture**

Even beyond the Books claim of it being creatively produced by God, the unbroken thread of unity throughout its pages, and the fulfillment of numerous prophecies it is worth noting the number of early manuscripts that have been recovered and the close proximity to when they were recorded. Consider the amount of biblical writings that have been found compared to other historical manuscripts and the time span between when they were found to when they were written:

#### **ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS & THEIR EARLIEST COPIES<sup>20</sup>**

##### **Aristotle**

Earliest Copy: 1400 yrs. old.  
Number of Copies Recovered: 49

##### **Julius Caesar’s Gallic Wars**

Earliest Copy: 1000 yrs. old  
Number of Copies Recovered: 10

##### **Pliny’s History**

Earliest Copy: 750 yrs. old  
Number of Copies Recovered: 7

##### **Homer’s Iliad**

Earliest Copy: 500 yrs. old  
Number of Copies Recovered: 643

##### **New Testament**

Earliest Copy: 25 yrs. old  
Number of Copies Recovered: 24,000+

The number of copies of Biblical text that have been found and the proximity to when the copies were written further support the accuracy and authenticity of the words contained within the pages of the Bible.

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<sup>19</sup> 2 Peter 1:20-21

<sup>20</sup> Evidence That Demands A Verdict, McDowell

It is hard to ignore the simple facts about Scripture, the details mentioned above point to a divine Author. The Bible is yet one more way that God has provided for you and me to know that He exists.

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