

in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, spiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Many of those in the highest positions in government and education in once-great nations, the Bible would call fools. They claim to be wise, but by denying the very existence of God or His relevance to them today, they have become fools.

This departure from faith in God goes hand-in-hand with the widespread acceptance of evolutionary thinking—that everything made itself by natural processes. There is “design,” but no *Designer* is necessary. The designed thing designed itself! This thinking, where clear evidence for God’s existence is explained away, leads naturally to atheism (belief in no God) and secular humanism (man can chart his own course without God). Such thinking abounds in the media, governments, schools and universities today.

Evolutionary Thinking Kills!

Some of the greatest evil has been perpetrated by those who have adopted an evolutionary approach to morality—Lenin, Hitler, Stalin, Mao Zedong, Pol Pot. Sir Arthur Keith (an atheist) acknowledged of Hitler: “The German Führer... is an evolutionist; he has consciously sought to make the practice of Germany conform to the theory of evolution.”

Many millions have suffered terribly and lost their lives because of this atheistic way of thinking. Atheism kills, because without God there are no rules—anything goes! Atheists are at the forefront of efforts to legitimize euthanasia, abortion, drug-taking, prostitution, pornography and promiscuity. All these things cause misery, suffering and death. Atheism is the philosophy of death.

Atheists love to point to atrocities committed by supposed “Christians”—the “Crusades” is a favorite. However, if the people committing these terrible deeds were indeed Christians, they were being *inconsistent* with their own standard of morality (for example, do not murder, love your enemies). On the other hand, Stalin, for example, was being *consistent* with his morals, because, being an atheist (after reading Darwin), he had no objective basis for morality.

The Bible says, “God is love, love one another, and love your enemies.” Such love is self-sacrificing. Consequently, Christians have been at the forefront in helping the sick, looking after the orphaned and the aged, feeding the hungry, educating the poor and opposing such things as child labor and slavery.

Atheism, with its evolutionary rationale, says “love” is merely self-interest in increasing the chances of our genes surviving in our offspring or our close relatives. In the “struggle for survival of the fittest,” where is the basis for compassion? Hitler’s death camps grew out of his desire for the “Aryan race” to win the battle for “the preservation of favored races in the struggle for life.”

Meaning of Life	Abortion
Standards	Pornography
Marriage	Homosexual Behavior
Laws	Lawlessness
God’s Word	Man’s Opinion
CREATION	EVOLUTION

Atheism is not only destructive, it is logically flawed at its very roots because there must be a Creator, as we shall see.

Biblical Evidence that the Bible is God’s Word

The Bible, as well as proclaiming the existence of God, also bears witness that God exists, because only divine inspiration can explain this most remarkable of books. The characteristics that point to its divine authorship are:

The Bible’s amazing unity—Despite being penned by more than 40 authors from over 19 different walks of life over some 1,600 years, the Bible is consistent from beginning to end. Indeed the first and last books of the Bible, Genesis and Revelation, dovetail so perfectly—telling of “Paradise Lost” and “Paradise Regained” respectively—that they speak powerfully of their divine authorship (*see Gen 1-3 and Rev 21-22*).

The Bible’s amazing preservation—In spite of political and religious persecution, the Bible remains. The Roman Emperor Diocletian, after an edict in AD 303, thought he had destroyed every hated Bible. He erected a column over the ashes of a burnt Bible to celebrate his victory. Twenty-five years later, the new emperor, Constantine, commissioned the production of 50 Bibles (by hand) at the expense of the government! In the 18th century, Voltaire forecast that within a century there would be no Bibles left on Earth. Fifty years after he died, the Geneva Bible Society used his printing press and his house to produce Bibles! Today, the whole Bible is available in over 400 languages, far more than any other book.

The Bible’s historical accuracy—Nelson Glueck, the famous archaeologist, spoke of what he called “the almost incredibly accurate historical memory of the Bible.” William Albright, recognized as one of the great archaeologists, said:

The excessive scepticism shown toward the Bible by important historical schools of the 18th and 19th centuries, certain phases

of which still appear periodically, has been progressively discredited. Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of innumerable details and has brought increased recognition to the value of the Bible as a source of history.

Sir William Ramsay, regarded as one of the greatest archaeologists ever, did not initially believe that the New Testament documents were historically reliable. However, his archaeological findings drove him to see that his skepticism was unwarranted. He had a profound change of attitude. Speaking of Luke (author of Luke and Acts), Ramsay said, “Luke is a historian of the first rank...he should be placed along with the greatest of historians.”

At many specific points archaeology confirms the Bible’s accuracy. There are many particulars where skeptics have questioned the Bible’s accuracy, usually on the basis of there being no independent evidence (the fallacy of arguing from silence), only to find that further archaeological discoveries supported the Bible.

The Bible’s scientific accuracy—Examples: the earth is round (*Isaiah 40:22*); the earth is suspended in space without support (*Job 26:7*); the stars are countless (*Gen 15:5*); the hydrologic cycle; sea currents; living things reproduce after their kind; many insights into health, hygiene, diet, physiology (such as the importance of blood – *Law 17:11*); the first and second laws of thermodynamics (*see Isaiah 51:6*) and many other things.

The Bible’s prophetic accuracy—The Bible states that only God can accurately foretell events. God said:

I have declared the former things from the beginning...I have even from the beginning declared it to thee; before it came to pass I shewed it thee: lest thou shouldest say, Mine idol hath done them, and my graven image, and my molten image, hath commanded them (*Isaiah 48:3,5*).

One will search in vain for detailed, accurate prophecies in other religious books, but the Bible contains many. There are 61 prophecies regarding Jesus alone (J. McDowell, *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*). Many of these, such as the place, time and manner of His birth, betrayal, manner of death, burial, etc., were beyond His control. There are 12 detailed, specific prophecies regarding Tyre, Sidon, Samaria, Gaza and Ashkelon, Moab and Ammon, Petra and Edom, Thebes and Memphis, Nineveh, Babylon, Chorazin-Bethsaida-Capernaum, Jerusalem and Palestine. These prophecies were not written after the event. These things could not have all happened by chance. Only the willfully ignorant (*2 Peter 3:5*) could deny this evidence that God must have inspired these prophecies.

The Bible’s civilizing influence—The Bible, and particularly its rediscovery with the Reformation (16th century onwards), transformed the British Isles and other regions where it took greatest hold. It’s the basis of English common law, the constitutions of long-running stable democracies such as the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The Bible has inspired the noblest literature—from Milton, Shakespeare, Coleridge,

Scott and Pope, to name a few—and the art of such as Leonardo da Vinci, Rembrandt, Raphael and Michelangelo. The Bible has inspired the exquisite music of Bach, Handel, Haydn, Mendelssohn and Brahms. Indeed, the decline in acceptance of the biblical worldview in the West has been paralleled by a decline in the beauty of its art.

Today the message of the Bible—the *good news* of Jesus Christ—still transforms. Former cannibals now live in peace, and animistic tribal groups are today being delivered from fear and fighting, all because of the Bible.

The Bible’s absolute honesty—“The Bible is not a book that man could write if he would, or would write if he could.” The Bible does not honor man, but God. The people in the Bible have feet of clay; they are shown “warts and all.” Against the backdrop of their sinfulness and unfaithfulness, God’s holiness and faithfulness shine through. “Heroes of the faith” (*Hob 11*) have their failures recorded, including Noah (*Gen 9:20-24*), Moses (*Num 20:7-12*), David (*2 Sam 11*), Elijah (*1 Kings 19*) and Peter (*Matt 26:74*). On the other hand, the enemies of God’s people are often praised—for example, Artaxerxes (*Neh 2*), Darius the Mede (*Dan 6*) and Julius (*Acts 27:1-3*). This clearly shows that the Bible was not written from a human perspective.

The Bible’s life-transforming message—In San Francisco, a man once challenged Dr. Harry Ironside to a debate on “Agnosticism versus Christianity.” Agnosticism denies the truth of God’s Word by claiming that we cannot know if God exists. It is in practice little different from atheism. Dr. Ironside agreed, on one condition: that the agnostic first provide evidence that agnosticism was worth defending. Dr. Ironside challenged the agnostic to bring one man who had been a “down-and-outer” (a drunkard, criminal or such) and one woman who had been trapped in a degraded life (such as prostitution), where both of these people had been rescued from their lives of degradation by embracing agnosticism. Dr. Ironside undertook to bring to the debate 100 such men and women who had been gloriously rescued through believing the gospel that the agnostic ridiculed. The skeptic promptly withdrew his challenge to debate. The gospel mends lives broken by sin, sin that separates from God. But agnosticism and atheism, like all anti-God philosophies, destroy.

Other Evidence for the Creator-God of the Bible

The universal tendency of things to run down, to fall apart, shows that the universe had to be “wound up” at the beginning. It is not eternal. This is totally consistent with “In the beginning God created.” The changes in living things are not the sort of changes that suggest that the living things themselves came into being by some sort of natural, evolutionary process. Evolution from molecules to man needs some way of creating complex new genetic programs, or information. Mutations (mistakes or changes in genes) and natural selection (survival of the fittest) never produce *new* information, but are observed to only cause *loss* of information.

The fossils do not show the anticipated multitude of transitional forms from one basic kind of organism to another. This is powerful evidence against the belief that living things made themselves over eons of time.

Because the origin of life is almost unimaginably improbable, materialists think that *lots of time* will help their cause. However, lots of time will not change the tendency of things to fall apart rather than come together—they will just fall apart more! Evidence that the universe is relatively “young” further contradicts the belief that everything made itself over billions of years. For example, the erosion of the continents is such that they would have been eroded to sea level over 200 times in the supposed evolutionary time they have been there.

The traditions of hundreds of indigenous peoples from around the world corroborate the Bible’s account of history (for example, stories of a global Flood), as does biological evidence for the closeness of all human “races.”

The explosion in knowledge of the intricate workings of cells and organs has shown that such things as the blood clotting system could not have arisen by a series of small accidental changes (mutations). The instructions, or information, for specifying the complex organization of living things is not in the molecules themselves (as it is with a crystal), but is imposed from outside. This demands a Creator whose intelligence vastly exceeds ours.

The Myth of Atheism and Science

Atheists encourage the common view that science has “disproven” God by claiming that their way of thinking is “scientific.” In claiming this they merely redefine science to exclude God. In fact, science began to flourish only when the Bible’s view of creation took root, especially as the Reformation spread its influence. The way of thinking that enabled a scientific approach to investigating the world—that the created universe is real, consistent and understandable, for example—came from the Bible. Even non-Christian historians of science acknowledge this. Consequently, scientists who believed the Bible were involved in the development of almost every branch of science. Furthermore, there are many scientists today who believe that the Bible is a totally reliable account of origins and history.

Science has given us many wonderful things: men on the moon, more food, computers, electricity, cures for diseases and so on. All these achievements involve doing experiments in the present, making inferences from these results and doing more experiments to test those inferences or ideas. Here, the inferences, and conclusions, are closely related to the experiments and there is often little room for speculation. This type of science is *process*, or *operational* science, and has led to many discoveries that benefit mankind.

However, the science that deals with the past is *historical* science. Science is limited in reconstructing the past, because

we cannot do experiments directly on past events, and history cannot be repeated. Here, observations made in the present are used to make inferences about the past. The experiments that can be done in the present that relate to the past are quite limited, so the inferences require a lot of guesswork. The further in the past the event being studied, the longer the chain of inferences involved, the more guesswork, and the more room there is for nonscientific factors to influence the conclusions—factors such as the religious persuasion of the scientist. So, what may be presented as “science” regarding the past may be little more than the scientist’s own personal worldview.

The conflicts between “science” and “religion” occur with *historical* science, not *operational* science. Unfortunately, the respect earned by the success of operational science confuses many into thinking that the speculative claims of historical science carry the same authority. They don’t.

With historical science, it is not the evidence in the present that is debated, so much as the inferences about the past. Scientists who believe the record of the Bible, which claims to be the Word of God, will come to different conclusions from those who are atheists and ignore the Bible. Willful denial of God’s Word (*2 Peter 3:3-7*) lies at the root of disagreements over historical science.

Who Created God?

Skeptics ask, “If God created the universe, then who created God?” But God, by definition, is the *uncreated* Creator of the universe. So the question, “Who created God?” is illogical, just like “To whom is the bachelor married?”

A more sophisticated questioner might ask, “If the universe needs a cause, then why doesn’t God need a cause? And if God doesn’t need a cause, why should the universe need a cause?” Consider the following:

- Everything *which has a beginning* has a cause.
- The universe has a beginning.
- Therefore the universe has a cause.

Note the words in bold type. The universe requires a cause because it had a beginning. God, unlike the universe, had no beginning, so does not need a cause. Einstein’s general relativity, which has much experimental support, shows that *time* is tied to matter and space. So time itself would have begun along with matter and space at the beginning of the universe. Since God is the Creator of the whole universe, He is the Creator of time. Therefore He is not limited by the time dimension He created, so He has no beginning in time. Therefore He does not have, or need to have, a cause.

But there is good evidence that the universe had a beginning. This can be shown from the Laws of Thermodynamics, the most fundamental laws of physics. **First Law:** The *total* amount of mass-energy in the universe is *constant*. **Second Law:** The amount of energy *available for work* is running

down, or *entropy* is increasing to a maximum. Entropy is a measure of disorder, or of the decrease in usable energy.

If the total amount of mass-energy is limited and the amount of usable energy is decreasing, then the universe cannot have existed forever, otherwise it would *already* have exhausted all usable energy and reached what is known as “heat death.” For example, all radioactive atoms would have decayed, every part of the universe would be the same temperature, and no further work would be possible. So the universe must have been created with a lot of usable energy and is now running down.

Could the universe have had a beginning, but not need a cause? No. It is self-evident that things that begin have a cause—no one really denies it in their inner being. All science, history and law enforcement would collapse if this law of cause and effect were denied. Also, the universe cannot be self-caused—nothing can create itself, because it would need to exist before it came into existence, a logical absurdity. So:

- The universe (including time itself) can be shown to have had a beginning.
- It is unreasonable to believe something could begin to exist without a cause.
- The universe therefore requires a cause (*Gen 1:1; Rom 1:20*).
- God, as Creator of time, is outside of time. Therefore, He had no beginning in time, has always existed, and so does not need a cause.

Viewing the evidence from the Bible, the incredibly complex, organized information in living things, and the origin of the universe—belief in an all-powerful, all-knowing Creator God, as revealed in the Bible, not only makes sense, but is the only logical, viable and satisfying explanation.

The Christian Knows God

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God (*Rom 8:14-16*).

Genuine Christians have no doubt about God’s existence. His children have a personal relationship with Him—He’s their father! They’ve seen their sinfulness in His sight, and admit that they deserve hell. Yet by His grace, they’ve turned from their sin, and have received His free pardon of mercy in Jesus Christ. All such genuine Christians have received the Holy Spirit of God that motivates them to love God more than sin, so they have assurance that they are the children of God. We can indeed know that we have eternal life (*1 John 5:13*).■

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DOES GOD EXIST?

The Bible begins with the statement: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (*Gen 1:1*). God’s existence is assumed, considered obvious or self-evident. “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good” (*Psalms 14:1*).

The Bible connects wrong thoughts about God—especially denying His existence—with corrupt morals. If there’s no God, no Creator who lays down the rules, then we’re set adrift morally. When the children of Israel forgot that God was their Creator, Judge and King, “every man did that which was right in his own eyes” (*Judges 21:25*) and chaos reigned.

We see this happening today. Countries where the people once honored God experienced unprecedented security and prosperity. Those same countries today are crumbling as people turn their backs on God. The Bible says, “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”

As nations turn away from God, living as if He does not exist, sin abounds—political corruption, lying, theft, slander, murder, drug-abuse, drunkenness, adultery and all sorts of greed. Economic woes follow as taxes increase to help governments pay for bigger and bigger police forces, jails and social security systems to patch up the problems.

A passage from the Bible, written 2,000 years ago, reads like a commentary on much of today’s world (*Rom 1:18-32*):

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving