

Reasons to Believe

Many people feel that faith in the Bible is foolish, and demands blind faith that throws aside reason. This seems reasonable. The Bible is loaded with stories about miracles. Certain passages written in allegorical form could discredit the Bible if they were taken literally. The message of the Bible is overall bizarre in nature. The Bible even calls its message the foolishness of God (1 Corinthians 1:18-25). It is reasonable to assume that biblical faith requires blind faith.

But to many people's surprise, that is far from the case! Christianity is actually a very rational belief system. Many people, including myself, have converted with the help of reason. I want to share with you some rational reasons to believe Christianity to go along with the teachings found on this ministry's website. It begins with an argument for the existence of God, goes on to makes arguments for the existence of a true religion, and concludes with arguments for Christianity. I hope you are blessed by them. These arguments are:

Science proves God exists:

¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For 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." (Romans 1:18-20 NIV)

If we are to look at reasons to believe in Christianity, we can start by looking at the greatest reason to believe in God: science. People outside the scientific community sometimes believe that God was merely what we relied on to explain the mysteries of the universe that would later be explained by science, but that view is less popular among scientists. Science didn't replace God; it showed us how much we need Him. The more science reveals about how amazing this universe really is, the more we need God to make sense of science.

Here are a few simple examples of this. Having done something as simple as taking lab biology and human biology in college, I will say that reasonably the life forms on Earth and cells that make them up are so unimaginably complex, that they could not have come about by accident. The fact that a life-giving planet like Earth exists in our universe is a miracle, because the conditions needed for a planet to sustain life are so demanding, there shouldn't even be one planet with life on it. If one were to place their faith in miracles of probability and say our world is an accident, the laws of physics have something to say. The laws of physics have actually proven that the universe had a starting point. This mean the universe wasn't always here. It was created by something, or someone (God).

What the Bible said about creation proving the existence of God can no longer be dismissed as magical thinking. As much as we know today through science, we need God to answer the great questions of life now more than ever.

The existence of a true religion makes sense:

If there is a God, it would make sense that He would have revealed Himself to us in one of the world's religions. It is reasonable He would want us to know His character, so we could relate to Him in His desired manner. If something happens to us after we die, it is reasonable He would let us know what that is, and give us instructions to prepare for death. In all likelihood, God would let us in on the spiritual mysteries that matter to us, and matter to Him. And given two opposing beliefs can't be true at the same time, it makes sense that there would be one true faith in a world of false religions made by man. It is reasonable to go beyond believing in the existence of God to believing in the existence of a true religion.

If there is life after death, this life is most likely a test:

I hate to call life a test, because the message of this ministry is that salvation is a gift, but it would make sense to call life a "test" if there is life after death. Here is why. Some people say we're living in Hell on Earth, and we will all go to Heaven when we die and find peace. But does that idea make sense? If we're all going to Heaven in the end, why do we start in a world with hate, sickness, war, crime, poverty, and every other form of suffering? If we really are all on our way to Heaven, why not just start there? If God is loving enough to let all of us into His Kingdom in the end, why not just skip this life all together? If there is life after death, it makes sense that we go through this life for some purpose, and that purpose has something to do with what happens after we die.

The Bible has yet to be proven false:

There are holy books that have suspicious origins, or have been flat out proven false by history. The Bible isn't one of those books. History and archaeology have yet to disprove the Bible. In fact, historians and archaeologists keep making discoveries that prove the people, places, and events in the Bible were real. Apart from allegories that were never meant to be taken literally, the Bible is as accurate as can be.

Beyond historical accuracy, another aspect of the Bible that makes it credible is its prophecies. Countless prophecies have been fulfilled, are being fulfilled, or could easily be fulfilled in our modern age. If a person were to place their faith the message of a holy book, the Bible is the book to go with.

It makes sense Jesus actually performed miracles:

“⁴⁸ ‘Unless you people see signs and wonders,’ Jesus told him, ‘you will never believe.’”
(John 4:48 NIV)

This verse is one of the reasons I converted to Christianity. People say the miracles of Jesus are too wild to believe, but why did so many people believe in Him? Jesus is the most revered figure out of all the different world religions. Why is that? He made some pretty over-the-top claims. Yet many accept Him as the Son of God. It makes sense that the miracles He performed in the Bible actually took place, because they were needed to validate His claims.

Jesus was logically the Son of God:

This may sound weird. How does one logically conclude that a carpenter that lived 2,000 years ago was God in human flesh? That seems like something that requires deep faith. While the message of Christianity is received by faith, it makes perfect sense to conclude Jesus was the Son of God. The reason why is He couldn't have been the good man and good teacher people say He was if He wasn't the Son of God. Here is why.

Jesus claimed to be God. That means there are only three things that could be true of Him. He could have been the God, in which place a person could hold to the belief that He was good. He could have lied about being God, and you would be forced to condemn Jesus as an evil liar. Or Jesus could have been an ordinary man who believed He was God, and you would have to condemn Jesus as a crazy person.

We are given three choices about who Jesus is. You either worship Jesus as the Son of God, or you condemn Him as an evil liar or crazy person. There is no room to say He was simply a good person and a good teacher. C.S. Lewis made this argument in his book *Mere Christianity*, and it is the main argument that got me to research the Bible for myself. I can't say that when I heard this argument I was eager to convert right away, but at the same time I thought "I don't want to be a Christian, but I wouldn't dare call Jesus a liar or madman. I'm not at all comfortable with that." Unless a person is willing to deny the good nature, the wisdom, and miracles of Jesus Christ presented in the Bible, we can only conclude Jesus is the Son of God.

The first followers of Jesus suffered for their faith:

"Whatever anyone else dares to boast about—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast about. ²² Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham's descendants? So am I. ²³ Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. ²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, ²⁶ I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. ²⁷ I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. ²⁸ Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches." (2 Corinthians 11:21b-28 NIV)

This passage was written by the person who wrote more books in the New Testament than any other author, and he is regarded as the greatest apostle that ever lived. He became an apostle of Jesus after Jesus appeared to Him on a journey to Damascus to persecute Christians (Acts 9:1-6). A reasonable question to ask is why he would go on to suffer as an apostle of Jesus when he started off persecuting Christians? It only makes sense his encounter with Jesus was genuine, and powerful enough to make him suffer for the sake of the faith.

Suffering wasn't uncommon for the first followers of Jesus. We see other people suffer in the New Testament because of their decision to follow Jesus. The question we can ask for all of

them is why? The reason is obvious. When confronted with the question “Who is Jesus” they all concluded Jesus is the Son of God.

The testimonies of Christians support the validity of Christianity:

God’s story is still being written today in the lives of Christians. One thing the Bible doesn’t teach is that God is distant in our lives. He is very much active in the lives of those who place their faith in Jesus. God’s work in the world around us is cited as one of the reasons people come to believe in Jesus (John 6:44).

Here are some of the testimonies you can hear from the Christians you come across. You can hear how God answered their prayers (1 John 3:19-23). You can hear how God turned suffering for their good (Hebrews 12:7-11). You can hear them say that God works in every detail of their lives to carry out His good plans for them (Romans 8:28-29). If you know someone who believes in Jesus, ask them why.

Once upon a time, I was convinced Christianity was true because of logical arguments found in this article. That isn’t the source of my confidence these days. I’ve seen so much of God’s involvement in my life over the last 18 years that I know the Bible is true without a thoughtful argument. I have seen so much of God’s love in my life, I know faith in Jesus is the real deal. And I believe Jesus when He said God doesn’t offer multiple paths to salvation (John 14:6). The gospel of Christ is the gospel that works.

Conclusion:

Christianity is an incredibly logical faith to put one’s hope in. Having examined the other major world religions in the same manner, the Bible and claims of Jesus have a credibility other religions lack. No one can rely entirely on logic to believe, but if these arguments capture your attention, I encourage you to examine Jesus for yourself. The easiest book in the Bible to do this with is the book of John. It is an up close and personal look at Jesus, and it is the simplest presentation of the gospel in the Bible. It is the fourth book in the New Testament, and it is frequently recommended as the first book in the Bible that a person read.

If you don’t know the gospel, you can learn it from this ministry’s flyer or booklet found on the ministry’s website. If you don’t know the message of Christianity, I encourage you to check out one or both of those resources. God bless you.