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### What About The Existence of God?

The best way to find the answer to the question, “What about the existence of God”, is to examine the Bible to see what it has to say, for two simple reasons.

1. God cannot be found out or discovered by man through his mere five senses and intellectual ability.
2. God has revealed everything about Himself we need to know by the revelation of the Scriptures.
  - a. Peter tells us, “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, personal or human origin, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they *were* moved by the Holy Spirit. 2Pet. 1:20-21
  - b. Paul tells Timothy, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, God breathed or ex-pired out from God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2Tim. 3:16-17
  - c. The testimony of Peter and Paul is that the Bible is God’s revelation of Himself to man, guaranteeing that it is Inerrant and Infallible.
  - d. The believer is to contend for the faith that has been delivered, once and for all. Jude 3
  - e. The believer is also to convince the gainsayer by the sound doctrine he or she has been taught, as well as exhort them. Titus 1:9, 11

The purpose of our study is not to establish proof in order to arrive at the conclusion that God exists, but the reverse, beginning with the conclusion that God exists as an inerrant fact, then look the evidence within God’s word, the world around us and history to arrive where we began, God exists, He always has and always will!

We want to answer the question, “What about the existence of God”, by looking at three elements regarding the existence of God.

- I. The existence of God denied.
- II. The existence of God affirmed.
- III. The existence of God preserved.

#### **I. The Existence of God Denied.**

- A. There are those individuals who call themselves atheists, who profess that there is no God or evidence for the existence of God.
  1. The right to believe what a person wants to is their own prerogative, but if they want others to believe it also they should be able to defend and verify what they believe by some form of evidence to validate their belief.
    - \* This can consist in physical, factual, historical evidence or by witnesses.
  2. There has never been in the past or the present one atheist that has or can produce any valid evidence that would be accepted

as proof by any court of law that there is no God.

- a. The word atheist is made up of two words.
  - 1) The word “a”, which means no or none.
  - 2) The word “theos”, which means God.
- b. Literally the word “atheist” means “without God”, Paul uses it in Ephesians regarding the Gentiles, prior to coming to Christ. Eph. 2:12
  - \* “That at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world”.
3. The reality is that when a person says I am an “atheist”, though he or she believes they are saying, there is no God, they really are saying, “I am without God”, which only confirms the word of God about sinful man.
  - \* “Because that when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish hearts were darkened. professing themselves to be wise they became fools.” Rom. 1:21-22

- B. There are those who call themselves agnostics, thinking they are more refined.
  1. This group of individuals owe their roots to Thomas Huxley, who in 1889 at a meeting of Metaphysical Society, invented the term to cover up his negative religious views.
  2. The word comes from the heretical group at the end of the first century and second, the “gnostics”.
    - a. The word means to know, they professed special revelation and intuitive knowledge.
    - b. They denied the deity of Jesus Christ, his humanity, the first epistle of John was written with them in mind, to deal with that heresy.
  3. The placing of the letter “a” in front of the word “Gnostic”, makes it a negative, “no knowledge” or “ignorant of knowledge”, in relation toward God.
  6. And this again confirms what God’s word says about man, that he cannot by his intellect conclude that God exists or know things of God. 1Cor. 1:19-22
    - \* “For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where *is* the wise? Where *is* the scribe? Where *is* the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God,

the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom.”

C. There are those that call themselves evolutionist believing we are the product of billions of years on a long process of transitional forms, going from the simple to the complex.

1. In 1891 a Dutch physician called Dubois discovered a skull cap.
  - a. A year later, 90 feet from the same place he found a femur bone, a thigh bone.
  - b. He put them both together and came up with *Pithecanthropus erectus* “erect ape man”.
2. Then in 1898, a premolar tooth was added and out of these three came Java man, said to be 500,000 years old.
 

\* Before his death, he convinced most it was an ape.
3. Then in 1912, a part of a skull and jaw bone produced Dawn man, supposedly 500,000 years old.
  - a. Then in 1950, it was checked for fluoride content and proved the jaw to be no older than the year it was found and that the skull a few thousand years old— not 500,000 years.

- b. Noted also was the treating of the bones with iron salts to make them appear older and teeth had been filed.
4. Then 1922 a tooth was found in Nebraska and from it an entire man was created and published in the London Illustrated News.
 

\* In 1927, it was found to be a pig’s tooth
5. Dr. White, a British scientist, in his book A Little On Living Fish, said, “I have often thought how little I should like to prove organic evolution in a court of law.”
  - a. In the early 80’s a professor at Berkely came up with the solution. for transitional forms, he said, “That a snake laid an egg and a bird flew out of it.”
  - b. Robert Jastro, head of Gardner Institute of Naza said, “I am an agnostic but the facts of science have show, “In the beginning God”.
  - c. They can’t accept the miracles of the Bible, but they can believe that, as well as expect everyone else too?
6. Peter identifies these individuals as those who hold the hypothesis of evolutionary uniformitarianism.
 

\* “Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.” For

this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.” 2Peter 3:3-7

- a. They choose to believe we owe our existence to the ape.
- b. Though there has never appeared one transitional fossil, they have falsified many of what they presented as evidence.

### **Illustration**

The sun is so large that, if it were hollow, it could contain more than one million worlds the size of our earth. There are stars in space so large that they could easily hold 500 million suns the size of ours. There are about 100 billion stars in the average galaxy, And there are at least 100 million galaxies in the known universe.

One of the most inspiring and thrilling of recent disclosures of astronomers is that there is a great empty space in the north in the nebula of the constellation of Orion, a heavenly cavern so gigantic that the mind of man cannot comprehend it and so brilliantly beautiful that words cannot adequately describe it.

All astronomers agree there is a huge opening in Orion which is perhaps more than 16,740,000,000,000 miles in diameter. The diameter of earth’s orbit is 186,000,000 miles, which in itself is incomprehensible to man. Yet the opening into this heavenly cavern of Orion is 90,000 times as wide. In other words, there could be 30,000 solar systems like ours with a sun in the middle of each, across the entrance of the opening in the north, and still have room to spare.

***The existence of God is denied by many in different ways!***

## **II. The existence of God affirmed.**

- A. The existence of God is affirmed to be a fact throughout Scripture.
  1. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Gen. 1:1
  2. Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God. Ex. 3:6
  3. In Leviticus, at least 25x’s the phrase “I Am the Lord your God”, is repeated.
  4. God is called the God of the spirits of all flesh. Num. 16:22
  5. Moses wrote, “For what God is there in heaven or in earth, that can do according to Your works and according to Your might? Deut. 3:24c

6. Isaiah is probably the book that reiterates the existence of God as well as His self-existence more than any other prophet.
  - a. “Before me. there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me.” Is. 43:10
  - b. “I am the first and I am the last, and besides me there is no God... I know not any.” Is. 44:6, 8
  - c. “I Am God and there is none else and I Am God and there is none like me declaring the end from the beginning.” Is. 46:9
  - e. God challenges the gods that are no gods to tell of things yet to happen, so that He can acknowledge them as gods. Is. 41:23  
\* “Show the things that are to come hereafter, That we may know that you *are* gods; Yes, do good or do evil, That we may be dismayed and see it together.”

**B.** The existence of God is affirmed by fulfilled prophecy.

1. In the book of Genesis it says that the seed of the woman, referring to the birth of a child without the aid of a man, for a woman only has the egg, not the seed.
  - a. Isaiah, about 700 years before the birth of Christ declared, “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a child and you shall call his name Immanuel. “ Is. 7:14

- b. Mary espoused to Joseph in the one year period before consummating the marriage was found to be with a child, the angel told Joseph it was of the Holy Spirit and name Him Jesus, Matthew quotes Isaiah’s prophecy as the fulfillment, Immanuel, God with us. Matt. 1:18, 23
  - c. John opens his gospel not with the birth of Jesus, but with His eternal existence before time the Incarnation. Jn. 1:1, 14  
\* John calls Jesus the true God. 1Jn. 5:20
2. Isaiah the prophet records that God calls Cyrus by name and describes the place to enter the city of Babylon, for Medo-Persia to overthrow the Babylonians. Is. 45:1  
\* 150 years before his birth and when Medo-Persia was the leading empire.
  3. Zachariah tells us the Christ would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver. Zech. 11:12
    - a. Matthew records the religious rulers counted out 30 pieces of silver to Judas Ischariot for betraying Jesus. Matt. 26:15
  5. Daniel revealed to Nebuchadnezzar the empires of the world to come, till Second Coming of Christ. Dan. 2; 7; 9:24-27
- C.** Creation attests to the existence of God
1. The simple principle of cause and effect, attests to the existence of God, if not who started it?

2. “The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament show his handiwork. Day unto day they utter their speech, and night unto night shows knowledge.--There is no speech nor language, where they are not heard.” Ps. 19:1-3
3. For there to be design, there must be a designer.
4. Design gives evidence of intelligence.
5. Design also declares purpose in mind.
6. Just as a watch, car, or an expensive piano have been made by someone for a purpose, so as we see all of God’s creation.
  - \* Have you noticed that the balance of nature is only upset as man intervenes, not when he is absent from it?

**D.** The existence of God is affirmed by man’s conscience of good and evil.

1. Man’s conscience is always trying to accuse others or excuse his conduct, to eliviate his guilt. Rom. 2:14-15
2. Who put this conscience in man?
  - a. Remember the first time you stole anything?
  - b. How your heart beat out of your chest.
  - c. How you looked all around.
  - d. How you ran, looking back.

**E.** The existence of God is affirmed by history.

- \* The history of the nation of Israel should be sufficient to convince any person.

1. From the call of Abraham to the defeat of Egypt.
2. The defeat of all the nations at God’s hand as He gave them the land.
4. The rise of David and the kingdom.
5. Their captivity foretold by the prophets for 70 years. Jer. 25:11
6. There return foretold by Jeremiah through the hand of Cyrus. 2Chron. 36:21-23
7. There is no historical evidence of a nation, people or culture maintaining their identity for more than three generation before being absorbed into another nation or culture or totally disappearing.
  - \* Israel did it for nearly 2,000 years without a homeland by God’s doing, in 1948!

**Illustration**

Thomas Paine, an immigrant to American in 1787, had leaped from obscurity to fame after writing some brilliant pamphlets on freedom. But then he made a fatal mistake. He began to write his “masterpiece” called “The Age of Reason” which scoffed at Christianity. “This will destroy the Bible,” he predicted. “Within 100 years, Bibles will be found only in museums or in musty corners of second-hand bookstores.” His book was published in London in 1794. But it brought him so much misery and loneliness that he once said: “I would give worlds, if I had them, had “The Age of Reason” never been written.”

Paine became a bedridden invalid until his death, friendless and alone in 1809. The Bible remained a best-seller.

*The existence of God is affirmed by many undeniable proofs!*

### III. The existence of God preserved.

#### A. By the transmission of the Bible.

\* Writing is known to have existed as early as 4000-5000 B.C. in Egypt.

##### 1. The Materials used.

a. Stones- Deut. 27:2-3

b. Clay-Ezekiel may refer to it. Ezk. 4:1

\* Huge libraries have been discovered of such writing, King of Assyria 650 B.C.

c. Wood - Greece used wood for centuries.

\* Habakkuk could refer to wood. Hab. 2:2

d. Leather - Is well known to be used for thousands of years on animal skins.

\* The Jews used them for their Scriptures as well as others.

f. Papyrus - Was used as a universal writing material, going back as far as 3500 B.C.

g. Vellum or Parchment - The first refers to skins of calves and the second to skins of sheep and goats used from the 4th Century through the Middle Ages, even for God's word.

#### 2. The meticulous care of the Scriptures.

\* I will only mention a few!

a. Counted the words and letters of each book.

b. Calculated the Middle verse, word and letter of a book.

c. Middle verse of Pentateuch is Lev. 8:7.

d. Middle verse of Bible. Jer. 6:7 (Hebrew).

e. Marked verses with all the letters of alphabet.

f. Synagogue roll had to be written on skins of clean animals.

g. Each skin had to contain certain number of columns, equal throughout.

h. The length could not extend less than 48 or more than 60 lines each column.

i. The breadth had to consist of 30 letters.

j. The entire copy had to first be lined.

k. If three words were written without line, it would be worthless.

l. The ink was to be black not red, green or any other color and according to recipe.

m. The authentic copy was exemplar.

n. Not a letter or yod, or tittle was to be from memory.

o. Eyes were never to leave scroll regardless of who entered.

#### 3. The manuscript evidence.

##### a. The Bible

1) Has more manuscript evidence than any 10 pieces of classical literature.

- 2) A.T. Robertson a New Testament Greek Scholar declared that we have:
  - 3) 8,000 Manuscripts of Latin Vulgate.
  - 4) 1,000 earlier versions.
  - 5) 4,000 Greek manuscripts.
  - 6) 13,000 portions.
  - 7) Most, if not all of the New Testament can be reproduced from early church writers.
  - 8) Warfield & Philip Scholl, both declare that the word has been transmitted to us with no, or next to no variations.
    - \* Each misspelled word is counted in every manuscript, so if there were 3,000 mss. that would account for 3,000 variations, while in reality be one misspelling.
- b. Compared to other authors of the past.
  - 1) Bible was written in latter part of First Century.
  - 2) The 7 plays of Sophocles are accounted as authentic text, yet the manuscripts are 1400 years after his death.
  - 3) History of Thucydides (460-400 B.C.) known to us by 8 manuscripts, the earliest 900 A.D.
  - 4) History of Herodotus (488-428 B.C.) no one doubts them, yet the earliest manuscripts we have are 1300 years later.

- 5) Most Mistakes or variations are in spelling or style (98.33% is pure).
- B. By the uniqueness of the Bible.**
1. Unity and harmony.
    - a. Contains 66 books, 39 in Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.
    - b. Written over a 1600 year span.
    - c. Written by 40 authors.
    - d. There is a “Red thread” running from Genesis to Revelation is Christ, Gen. 3:15; Is. 53; Jn. 1:29
    - e. From kings to fishermen, statesmen, tax collectors, herdsmen, military generals, doctors and Rabbis (Paul).
    - f. Written from diverse places
      - 1) Moses in wilderness.
      - 2) Jeremiah from dungeon.
      - 3) Ezekiel from Babylon in captivity.
      - 4) Daniel from Shushan the Palace.
      - 5) David in Jerusalem.
      - 6) Paul from prison and Mission field.
      - 7) Luke, interviews and travel.
      - 8) Written in times of war, peace, prosperity and poverty.
      - 9) In joyous times, others in despair and sorrow.
      - 10) Written from three continents, Asia, Africa and Europe.
      - 11) Written in three languages, Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

- g.** Contains eye-witness accounts in the Old Testament and New Testament gospels.
  - h.** Contains law, history poetry and prophecy in the Old Testament.
  - i.** The New Testament also has history, prophecy in Acts and Revelation.
  - j.** Deals with law, civil, criminal, ethical, ritual, moral and sanitary, in Pentateuch Old Testament, Epistles New Testament.
  - k.** Gives to us accounts of wars, treaties, biographies and records of kings.
  - l.** Kings are in chronological order with reference to kings of the same country and other countries are accurate.
- 2.** Persecution and indestructibility.
- a.** 303 A.D. Diocletian gave a command to destroy Christians and Bibles.
  - b.** He made a medal thinking he had succeeded, "The Christian religion is destroyed the worship of the gods restored."
  - c.** Constantine 25 years later had Eusebius prepare 50 copies of the Scriptures at the government's expense.
  - d.** Tyndale was strangled and burned to ashes at the stake, with his last breath he prayed, "Lord, open the king of England's eyes".
  - e.** Inquisition, took the Bible from the people.

- f.** Survived the critics, emperors, popes, kings, etc.
- g.** Many said the Pentateuch had to have been written after Moses because there was no known writing until they found the detailed law of Hammurabi, pre-dating Moses and Abraham.
- h.** So called higher critics said there was no Hittites,, yet archaeology discovered a 1200 year span of Hittite civilization.
- i.** Daniel was disputed until the Elephantine papyrus were discovered.
- j.** The Bible was the first book taken to outer space on microfilm.
- k.** The longest telegram was the N.T. from New York to Chicago.
- l.** It is one of the most expensive books.
- m.** Russians sold the Codex Sinaticus to England for \$510,000.
- n.** The late F.F. Bruce said, "There is no body of ancient literature in the world which enjoys such a wealth of good textual attestation as the N.T."
- o.** It was written much closer to its origin than any other writings.
- p.** The combined quotes of 7 church fathers of the New Testament.
  - 1)** 19,368, The Gospel.
  - 2)** 1,352, Acts.
  - 3)** 14,035, Paul's epistles.
  - 4)** 870, General epistles.

- 5) 664, Rev.
- 6) 36,289, in total.
- q. Dead Sea Scrolls.
  - 1) Found March 1947 in Qumran cave.
  - 2) 8 miles south of Jericho.
  - 3) Dating back to 125 B.C. giving us a 1,000 years older Manuscript than the One we possessed.
  - 4) Others dated to 200 B.C.
  - 5) When compared to the Massoretic text (Hebrew) were the same (500-1,000 A.D. meaning tradition, inserting vowel points)
  - 6) Made up of some 40,000 inscribed fragments, from these 500 books have been reconstructed.
  - 7) One scroll had Isaiah 53, only 17 letters were In question.
  - 8) Ten of these were spelling, not affecting the sense.
  - 9) Four more regard style, such as conjunctions.
  - 10) Last three comprise the word light, added in vs. 11 and does not affect the meaning.
- 3. Archaeologist Nelson Glueck - said there is no archaeological discovery that has ever controverted a biblical reference.
  - a. Not to mention that all the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation are in

- harmony and unity to one God who is revealing Himself to redeem mankind.
- b. It is the most read book.
- c. Published in more languages than any others, in portions or entire copies.
- d. About 40-50 years ago the British Foreign Bible Society to meet their demands had to publish: 1985
  - 1) 1 every 3 seconds day and night.
  - 2) 22 copies every minute day and night.
  - 3) 1369 copies every hour day and night.
  - 4) 32,876 copies every day in the year.
- C. By the purpose of the Bible.
  - 1. The Bible was not written to be a science book.
    - a. The Bible does not attempt to describe the things of creation in a technical way but that God created. Gen. 1:1
    - b. The Bible does not bother to explain the details of the flood but just simply records the fact that the entire world died in the flood.
    - c. The Bible does not bother to declare who Cain married, of course it was his sister, it just records the fact rather than explaining it.
  - 2. The Bible was not written to appeal to the intellect of man primarily, for it rejects the things of God. 1Cor. 2:14

- a. God is transcendent, beyond the ability of man to understand the things of God.
  - b. God will use man's intellect but He does not depend on it.
  - c. God is the only One who can shed light on the intellect of man regarding the things of God.
3. The Bible was written to reveal man's need of God and to bring Him to repentance before God.
- a. Because He loves man. Jn. 3:16
  - b. Because His Son died for man. Rom. 5:6
  - c. Because He is coming back to judge the world. 2Thess. 1:7-8
  - d. Because He is not willing that any should perish, but that all come to repentance. 2Pet. 3:9
- \* The purpose of the Bible is to save man from his sin!

### **Illustration**

Voltaire, the noted 18th century French philosopher, said that it took centuries to build up Christianity, but "I'll show how just one Frenchman can destroy it within 50 years" Taking his pen, he dipped it into the ink of unbelief and wrote against God.

Twenty years after his death, the Geneva Bible Society purchased his house for printing the Bible, And it later became the Paris headquarters for the British and Foreign Bible Society. The Bible is still a

best-seller, an entire 6-volume set of voltaire's works was once sold for 90 cents.

Just before his death, the noted atheist swore. "I wish I had never been BORN!"

\* Professor M. Montiero Williams said, "Pile them, if you will, on the left of your study; but place your own Holy Bible on the right side all by itself, all alone - and with a wide gap between them. For. . . there is a gulf between it and the so-called books of the East which severs the one from the other utterly, hopelessly and forever. . ."

***The existence of God is preserved in spite of man's attempts to destroy the Bible and ignore the evidence!***

### **Conclusion**

We have answered the question, "What about the existence of God", by looking at three elements regarding the existence of God.

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- II.** The existence of God affirmed!
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