Underlings YouTube Channel
Debate Notes (v.4)

This document contains arguments, comments, suggestions and examples that atheists may find useful as a study guide and to reference when debating fundamentalist Christians (and many other theists). It is not a substitute for doing your own research to get a proper basic understanding of science and theology (I’ve provided some useful links to more detailed information, but they should not be considered comprehensive). The Bible is the most effective tool in debating biblical literalists because it is generally the only authoritative work they trust (particularly the King James and New International versions). So study it.

“Properly read, the Bible is the most potent force for atheism ever conceived.” — Isaac Asimov

“A thorough reading and understanding of the Bible is the surest path to atheism.” — Donald Morgan

This document is available as both a web page and a Word document, so you can use whichever version is more convenient. Feel free to use these notes as you see fit; I only ask that you give the Underlings YouTube channel credit when possible. To quickly find a topic, either use the links in the table of contents, or use the search command to find a key word or phrase. The formatting and typography are intentionally simple to facilitate copy-and-pasting into comment fields. If you have any additional topics or other information you would like to see added to this document, please post it as a comment on the video where this is introduced: <https://youtu.be/k1xVDmNhzD0>

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# EVIDENCE THAT THE GOD OF THE BIBLE IS EVIL:

The Problem of Evil: “Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then he is not omnipotent. Is he able, but not willing? Then he is malevolent. Is he both able and willing? Then whence cometh evil? Is he neither able nor willing? Then why call him God?” — Epicurus

“Absolute power corrupts absolutely.” — John Dalberg-Acton

**Isaiah 45:7** I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things.

Note: If you present these arguments to Christians who refuse to answer or become belligerent, remind them of this:

**1 Peter 3:15** Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

## The Ultimate Evil God:

If we were to try to imagine the most evil God possible, we might come up with a psychopathic monster who would predestine his creations to be pointlessly tortured for all eternity. But to be even more cruel, perhaps this evil God would first have most of those creations live a few relatively pleasant decades, just long enough to experience love, happiness, joy, and all the other good things in life...only to then snatch it all away and leave them to be tormented by memories of that life during their eternal suffering. To further accentuate this betrayal, perhaps this evil God would have promised his creations a heavenly afterlife, contingent upon following the right religion...but then remained hidden from his creations so well that thousands of conflicting religions developed, ensuring that the vast majority of his creations would choose the wrong religion and thus inadvertently damn themselves. And what about those few who did manage to choose the right religion? Well, assuming this evil God was a narcissistic megalomaniac, he might allow them to spend eternity worshipping him, stroking his ego. The thing is, this description of the ultimate evil God fits the God of the Bible perfectly.

## Defining Evil:

If an apologist insists on defining evil as whatever God doesn’t like, then point out that morality is about behavior, not celebrity (and basing morality on who you are rather than what you do is the ultimate in moral subjectivity). More importantly, it would force us to come up with another term to use for the abusive behavior that ranges from bullying to committing atrocities, and you would be arguing that instead. So use a definition of evil most people can accept: **behavior that deliberately and unnecessarily causes harm or suffering**.

## List of Evil Behaviors:

Perhaps better than defining evil oneself, ask Christians to list behaviors they THEMSELVES use to identify evil. Chances are they will include such behaviors as murder and genocide, animal and human sacrifice, torture, child and animal abuse, theft, slavery, rape, forced incest, cannibalism, betrayal and lying. Furthermore, characteristics that we define as evil include megalomania, sociopathy and narcissism. But in the Bible it is not Satan who commits or condones all these atrocities or exhibits all these characteristics. It’s God. Here are a few of the many, many examples:

### Murder and Genocide:

* **Genesis 7:18-23** The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth ... and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. ... Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out. [God killed millions, perhaps hundreds of millions.]
* **Exodus 12:29** At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon.
* **Exodus 32:27-29** Then he said to them, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbor.’” The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died.Then Moses said, “You have been set apart to the LORD today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and he has blessed you this day.” [God blessed them for murdering their own friends and families.]
* **Deuteronomy 13:6-15** If your very own brother, or your son or daughter, or the wife you love, or your closest friend secretly entices you, saying, “Let us go and worship other gods” ... do not yield to him or listen to him. Show him no pity. Do not spare him or shield him. You must certainly put him to death. Your hand must be the first in putting him to death, and then the hands of all the people. Stone him to death, because he tried to turn you away from the LORD your God ... If you hear it said about one of the towns the Lord your God is giving you to live in that troublemakers have arisen among you and have led the people of their town astray, saying, “Let us go and worship other gods” ... then you must inquire, probe and investigate it thoroughly. And if it is true and it has been proved that this detestable thing has been done among you, you must certainly put to the sword all who live in that town. You must destroy it completely, both its people and its livestock. [Freedom of religion is a capital offense.]
* **1 Samuel 15:3** Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys. [God orders babies murdered.]
* **Ezekiel 9:5-7** “Then I heard the LORD say to the other men, “Follow him through the city and kill everyone whose forehead is not marked. Show no mercy; have no pity! Kill them all—old and young, girls and women and little children. But do not touch anyone with the mark. Begin right here at the Temple.” So they began by killing the seventy leaders. “Defile the Temple!” the LORD commanded. “Fill its courtyards with corpses! Go!” So they went and began killing throughout the city.” [God orders little children murdered.]
* **Ezekiel 35:7-9** I will make Mount Seir utterly desolate, killing off all who try to escape and any who return. I will fill your mountains with the dead. Your hills, your valleys, and your streams will be filled with people slaughtered by the sword. I will make you desolate forever. Your cities will never be rebuilt. Then you will know that I am the LORD.
* **Isaiah 13:15-18** Anyone who is captured will be run through with a sword. Their little children will be dashed to death right before their eyes. Their homes will be sacked and their wives raped by the attacking hordes. For I will stir up the Medes against Babylon, and no amount of silver or gold will buy them off. The attacking armies will shoot down the young people with arrows. They will have no mercy on helpless babies and will show no compassion for the children. [More of God ordering little children murdered.]
* **Deuteronomy 20:16-17** However, in the cities of the nations the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, do not leave alive anything that breathes. Completely destroy them—the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—as the Lord your God has commanded you.
* **Deuteronomy 7:16** You must destroy all the peoples the Lord your God gives over to you. Do not look on them with pity.
* **Numbers 21:3** The Lord listened to Israel’s plea and gave the Canaanites over to them. They completely destroyed them and their towns.
* **Numbers 31:17** Now therefore kill every male among the little ones.
* **Jeremiah 13:14** I will smash them one against the other, parents and children alike, declares the Lord. I will allow no pity or mercy or compassion to keep me from destroying them.
* **1 Samuel 27:9** Whenever David attacked an area, he did not leave a man or woman alive.
* **Joshua 10:40**So Joshua subdued the whole region, including the hill country, the Negev, the western foothills and the mountain slopes, together with all their kings. He left no survivors. He totally destroyed all who breathed, just as the Lord, the God of Israel, had commanded.

### Animal and Human Sacrifice:

* **Exodus 20:24** Make an altar of earth for me and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle.
* **Hebrews 9:22** In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.
* **Leviticus 1:9** It is a burnt offering, an offering made by fire, an aroma pleasing to the LORD. [God likes the smell of burning flesh?]
* **Judges 11:30-39** And Jephthah made a vow to the LORD: ”If you give the Ammonites into my hands, whatever comes out of the door of my house to meet me when I return in triumph from the Ammonites will be the LORD’s, and I will sacrifice it as a burnt offering.” Then Jephthah went over to fight the Ammonites, and the LORD gave them into his hands. ... When Jephthah returned to his home in Mizpah, who should come out to meet him but his daughter ... and he did to her as he had vowed. [God allowed an innocent girl to be sacrificed to him.]
* **Exodus 13:1-2** The Lord said to Moses, “Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether human or animal.” [Most academic scholars of early Judaism believe that firstborn sons were sacrificed to God: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/atheology/2015/11/the-legacy-of-child-sacrifice-in-early-judaism-and-christianity/>]
* **Exodus 22:29–30** You must give me the firstborn of your sons. Do the same with your cattle and your sheep. Let them stay with their mothers for seven days, but give them to me on the eighth day.
* **Exodus 34:19** The first offspring of every womb belongs to me, including all the firstborn males of your livestock, whether from herd or flock. [Another child sacrifice reference.]
* **Leviticus 27:28-9** But nothing that a person owns and devotes to the LORD—whether a human being or an animal or family land—may be sold or redeemed; everything so devoted is most holy to the LORD. No person devoted to destruction may be ransomed; they are to be put to death.
* **Ezekiel 20:25-26**So I gave them other statutes that were not good and laws through which they could not live; I defiled them through their gifts—the sacrifice of every firstborn—that I might fill them with horror so they would know that I am the Lord.
* **Deuteronomy 13:15-17** You must attack that town and completely destroy all its inhabitants, as well as all the livestock. Then you must pile all the plunder in the middle of the open square and burn it. Burn the entire town as a burnt offering to the Lord your God. ... Then the Lord will turn from his fierce anger and be merciful to you. [God demands human sacrifice.]
* **Genesis 22:2-10** Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.” ... Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. [Abraham wasn’t shocked that God would order a human sacrifice. The angel who stops the sacrifice in Genesis 22:11-15 may be an addition, since Genesis 22:16-17 says “Because you have done this and not withheld your son,” implying Isaac WAS sacrificed, and Genesis 22:19 says “Then Abraham returned to his servants”—no mention of Isaac.]
* **Hebrews 10:10** And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. [God refused to forgive humanity unless his own son was murdered.]
* **John 3:16** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.
* **Ephesians 5:2** Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. [God sacrificed himself to himself in order to save us from himself.]

### Torture:

* **Revelation 9:5-6** They were not given power to kill them, but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes a man. During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.
* **Revelation 21:8** But the cowardly, THE UNBELIEVING, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. [People being sent to hell simply for not believing God exists.]
* **Matthew 13:40-42** As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
* **Luke 12:5** But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into HELL. Yes, I tell you, fear him.
* **Luke 16:22-28** The time came when the beggar [Lazarus] died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’ But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that THOSE WHO WANT TO GO FROM HERE TO YOU CANNOT, NOR CAN ANYONE CROSS OVER FROM THERE TO US.’ He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’ [Suffering in hell with no redemption]
* **Revelation 14:9-11** A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, they, too, will drink the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment will rise FOREVER. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.” [Evidence for an eternal hell.]
* **Revelation 20:10-15** And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night FOR EVER AND EVER. ... The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ... If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. [More evidence for an eternal hell.]
* **Matthew 25:41-46** Then he will say to those on his left, “Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.” They also will answer, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?” He will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.” Then they will go away to ETERNAL PUNISHMENT, but the righteous to eternal life. [Even more evidence for an eternal hell.]
* **Mark 9:43** If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into HELL, WHERE THE FIRE NEVER GOES OUT. [And still more evidence of an eternal hell.] [So if your genitals cause you to stumble…?]

### Child Abuse:

* **Genesis 22:2-10** Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.” ... Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. [Psychological abuse.]
* **Isaiah 13:15-18** Anyone who is captured will be run through with a sword. Their little children will be dashed to death right before their eyes. Their homes will be sacked and their wives raped by the attacking hordes. For I will stir up the Medes against Babylon, and no amount of silver or gold will buy them off. The attacking armies will shoot down the young people with arrows. They will have no mercy on helpless babies and will show no compassion for the children.
* **1 Samuel 15:3** Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.’”
* **2 Samuel 12:13-18** “The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for the Lord, the son born to you will die.” The Lord struck the child that Uriah’s wife had borne to David, and he became ill. David pleaded with God for the child. ... On the seventh day the child died.
* **Ezekiel 9:5-7** “Then I heard the LORD say to the other men, “Follow him through the city and kill everyone whose forehead is not marked. Show no mercy; have no pity! Kill them all—old and young, girls and women and little children. But do not touch anyone with the mark. Begin right here at the Temple.” So they began by killing the seventy leaders. “Defile the Temple!” the LORD commanded. “Fill its courtyards with corpses! Go!” So they went and began killing throughout the city.”
* **2 Kings 2:23-24** And as he was going up by the way, there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head. And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the Lord. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them.
* **Proverbs 23:13-14** Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.
* **Mark 7:9-10** “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.’”
* **Jeremiah 13:14** I will smash them one against the other, parents and children alike, declares the Lord. I will allow no pity or mercy or compassion to keep me from destroying them.
* **Numbers 31:17-18** Now kill all the boys. And kill every woman who has slept with a man, but save for yourselves every girl who has never slept with a man. [Murder and almost certainly rape.]
* **Exodus 21:20-21** If a man beats his male or female slave with a rod and the slave dies as a direct result, he must be punished, but he is not to be punished if the slave gets up after a day or two, since the slave is his property. [Children were taken as slaves, and thus could be brutalized.]

### Animal Abuse:

* **Joshua 11:6** The LORD said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them, because by this time tomorrow I will hand all of them over to Israel, slain. You are to hamstring their horses and burn their chariots.” [A particularly slow, cruel way for horses to die.]
* **2 Peter 2:12** They are like unreasoning animals, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like animals they too will perish. [Animals are only to be caught and destroyed.]
* **1 Samuel 15:3** Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.’”
* **Genesis 7:18-23** The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth. ... Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out. [Drowning is a terrifying way to die.]

### Theft:

* **Deuteronomy 20:10-15** When you march up to attack a city, make its people an offer of peace. If they accept and open their gates, all the people in it shall be subject to forced labor and shall work for you. If they refuse to make peace and they engage you in battle, lay siege to that city. When the Lord your God delivers it into your hand, put to the sword all the men in it. As for the women, the children, the livestock and everything else in the city, you may take these as plunder for yourselves. And you may use the plunder the Lord your God gives you from your enemies. This is how you are to treat all the cities that are at a distance from you and do not belong to the nations nearby.
* **Numbers 31:25-27** The Lord said to Moses, “You and Eleazar the priest and the family heads of the community are to count all the people and animals that were captured. Divide the spoils equally between the soldiers who took part in the battle and the rest of the community.”
* **Joshua 8:27** But Israel did carry off for themselves the livestock and plunder of this city, as the Lord had instructed Joshua.
* **Isaiah 13:18** Their houses will be looted and their wives violated.
* **Luke 19:30-35** “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ... Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” They replied, “The Lord needs it.” They brought it to Jesus. [Jesus steals.]

### Slavery:

* **Leviticus 25:44-46** Your male and female slaves are to come from the nations around you; from them you may buy slaves. You may also buy some of the temporary residents living among you and members of their clans born in your country, and they will become your property. You can will them to your children as inherited property and can make them slaves for life.
* **Deuteronomy 20:10-11** When you march up to attack a city, make its people an offer of peace. If they accept and open their gates, all the people in it shall be subject to forced labor and shall work for you.
* **Exodus 21:20-21** If a man beats his male or female slave with a rod and the slave dies as a direct result, he must be punished, but he is not to be punished if the slave gets up after a day or two, since the slave is his property. [For those who think biblical slavery wasn’t horrific.]
* **Exodus 21:7** If a man sells his daughter as a servant, she is not to go free as menservants do. [It’s okay to sell your daughter into slavery.]
* **Numbers 31:17-18** Now kill all the boys. And kill every woman who has slept with a man, but save for yourselves every girl who has never slept with a man. [Only virginal girls got to live, but they were forced into sexual slavery.]
* **1 Peter 2:18** Slaves, submit yourselves to your masters with all respect, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh.
* **Ephesians 6:5-7** Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord.

### Rape:

* **Numbers 31:17-18** Now kill all the boys. And kill every woman who has slept with a man, but save for yourselves every girl who has never slept with a man. [Only virginal girls got to live, but they were forced into sexual slavery.]
* **Leviticus 19:20** If a man sleeps with a female slave who is promised to another man but who has not been ransomed or given her freedom, there must be due punishment. Yet they are not to be put to death, because she had not been freed. The man, however, must bring a ram to the entrance to the tent of meeting for a guilt offering to the Lord. With the ram of the guilt offering the priest is to make atonement for him before the Lord for the sin he has committed, and his sin will be forgiven. [A raped slave girl has no rights, and the rapist only has to give a priest a ram IF the girl is engaged.]
* **Exodus 21:10-11** If he marries another woman, he must not deprive the first one of her food, clothing and marital rights. If he does not provide her with these three things, she is to go free, without any payment of money. [For those who claim girl slaves were married off, it meant nothing because they could still be used and discarded.]
* **Genesis 19:8** Look, I have two daughters who have never slept with a man. Let me bring them out to you, and you can do what you like with them. [Offer made by Lot, whom God considered “just” and “righteous.”]
* **2 Samuel 12:11** This is what the LORD says: “Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight.” [Raped in public.]
* **Deuteronomy 22:28-29** If a man happens to meet a virgin who is not pledged to be married and rapes her and they are discovered, he shall pay the girl’s father fifty shekels of silver. He must marry the girl, for he has violated her. [A rape victim must marry her rapist.]
* **Isaiah 13:16** Their infants will be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses will be looted and their wives violated.

### Forced Incest:

* **Genesis 19:36** So both of Lot’s daughters became pregnant by their father. [God considered Lot a “just” and “righteous” man.]
* **Genesis 3:20** Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. [God required people to commit incest.]
* **Genesis 9:1** Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.” [Again God required people to commit incest.]

### Cannibalism:

* **Jeremiah 19:9** I will make them eat the flesh of their sons and daughters. [God threatened to force people to eat their own children.]
* **Deuteronomy 28:53** You will eat the fruit of the womb, the flesh of the sons and daughters the LORD your God has given you. [Again God threatened to force people to eat their own children.]
* **Leviticus 26:27-29** But if, despite this, you disobey me, and continue hostile to me, I will continue hostile to you in fury; I in turn will punish you myself sevenfold for your sins. You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters. [And once again.]
* **John 6:53-59** Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” [This is the basis for Catholic transubstantiation. It’s creepy whether meant literally or not.]

### Betrayal:

* **Exodus 10:1** Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his officials so that I may perform these miraculous signs of mine among them.” [So much for the supposed importance of God not violating free will.]
* **Romans 5:13** To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone’s account where there is no law. [Yet God punished Adam and Eve and drowned the world BEFORE there was any law. So much for a just God.]
* **Romans 9:17-18** For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: “I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden. [God created Pharaoh so he could show off.]
* **Romans 11:8** As it is written: “God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that could not see and ears that could not hear, to this very day.” [God prevented people from seeing the truth.]
* **Ezekiel 20:25-26** I also gave them over to statutes that were not good and laws they could not live by; I let them become defiled through their gifts—the sacrifice of every firstborn—that I might fill them with horror so they would know that I am the LORD.
* **Genesis 2:16-17** And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.” [They had no knowledge of good and evil, so could not have known it was evil to disobey God, that the serpent could lie to them, or that dying was not good.]
* **Genesis 3:22** And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil.” [Only AFTER they ate the fruit.]
* **1 Peter 5:8** Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. [God unleashed Satan on humanity to deceive us.]

### Lying:

* **Genesis 2:16-17** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for IN THE DAY THAT THOU EATEST THEREOF thou shalt surely die. [They didn’t die that day, but lived for hundreds of years afterward, and there is no mention of any “spiritual death” or any other apologist argument.]
* **Genesis 22:2** Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.” [God lied about wanting Abraham to sacrifice his son.]
* **Genesis 8:21** Never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. [That is contradicted by the following:]
* **2 Peter 3:10-11** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. ... everything will be destroyed in this way. [God promised to never again destroy the Earth with a flood...so he’ll destroy it with fire instead. That’s called lying by omission.]
* **1 Kings 22:23** So now the LORD has put a lying spirit in the mouths of all these prophets of yours. [God forces people to lie.]
* **2 Thessalonians 2:11** For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie. [Again.]
* **Ezekiel 14:9** And if the prophet be deceived when he hath spoken a thing, I the LORD have deceived that prophet. [And again.]
* **Matthew 7:15** Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. [God causes false prophets to lie, and thus he is the ravening wolf.]
* **Jeremiah 20:7** You deceived me, LORD, and I was deceived; you overpowered me and prevailed. I am ridiculed all day long; everyone mocks me.
* **Jeremiah 8:8** How can you say, “We are wise, for we have the law of the LORD,” when actually the lying pen of the scribes has handled it falsely? [How can you trust the Bible if God permits scribes to lie?]

### Megalomania, Sociopathy and Narcissism:

Why would a good God have any interest in being feared and worshiped? The desire to instill fear and be worshiped is a symptom of megalomania and sociopathic narcissism, personality traits common to the most evil people in history, never with anyone we would call good.

#### Definitions:

* **Megalomania** is the “obsession with the exercise of power, especially in the domination of others.”
* **Sociopathy** is “persistent antisocial behavior, impaired empathy and remorse, and bold, disinhibited, egotistical traits.”
* **Narcissism** is “extreme selfishness, with a grandiose view of one’s own talents and a craving for admiration.”

#### Scripture examples:

* **Romans 9:17** For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: “I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.”
* **Exodus 20:3** You shall have no other gods before Me.
* **Exodus 20:7** You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
* **Exodus 20:5** I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me.
* **Psalm 95:3** For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. [**James 4:16-17** “But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.” Pot. Kettle. Black.]
* **Revelation 4:8-11:** Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.”
* **Revelation 19:4-5** The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried: “Amen, Hallelujah!” Then a voice came from the throne, saying: “Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both great and small!” [Who was on the throne? God. Where did the voice come from? Whoever was on the throne.]
* **Philippians 2:10-11** So that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. [No choice here.]
* **Hebrews 1:2-4** But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. ... So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.
* **Matthew 22:37-40:** Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.”
* **John 11:1** But when Jesus heard this, He said, “This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.”
* **John 13:31-32** When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.”
* **Genesis 6:6-7** The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. So the Lord said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground.”
* **Ezekiel 35:7-9** I will make Mount Seir utterly desolate, killing off all who try to escape and any who return. I will fill your mountains with the dead. Your hills, your valleys, and your streams will be filled with people slaughtered by the sword. I will make you desolate forever. Your cities will never be rebuilt. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

If all these examples of God’s evil behavior fail to convince someone he’s evil, then ask, “What acts would God have to commit in order for you to consider him evil?” If the answer is nothing...then they can’t claim to be a person who makes sound moral judgments, can they?

### Changing the Meaning of the Bible:

If apologists try to add to the Bible or subtract from it in order to resolve any of the above problems, remind them of:

* **Proverbs 30:5-6** Every word of God is flawless. ... Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.
* **Deuteronomy 4:2** DO NOT ADD TO WHAT I COMMAND YOU AND DO NOT SUBTRACT FROM IT, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.

### God admits he commits evil:

Some later translations use equally bad euphemisms for evil, like “calamity” and “disaster”:

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| * **Isaiah 45:7** I make peace, and create EVIL: I the LORD do all these things.
* **2 Samuel 12:11-12** YHWH (Yahweh), ‘Behold, I will raise up EVIL against you.
* **1 Kings 14:10** therefore behold, I will bring EVIL upon the house of Jerobo’am.
* **1 Kings 21:29** In his son’s days I will bring EVIL.
* **2 Kings 21:12** I am bringing upon Jerusalem and Judah such EVIL.
* **2 Chronicles 34:24** Thus says YHWH (Yahweh), Behold, I will bring EVIL.
* **2 Chronicles 34:28** your eyes shall not see all the EVIL which I will bring upon.
* **Job 2:10** Shall we receive good at the hand of God, shall we not receive EVIL?
* **Job 42:11** Comforted him for all the EVIL that Yahweh had brought upon him.
* **Proverbs16:4** YHWH (Yahweh) has made all for His purpose, the day of EVIL.
* **Isaiah 31:2** And He also [is] wise, and bringeth in EVIL.
* **Jeremiah 11:11** Thus says YHWH (Yahweh), Behold, I am bringing EVIL.
* **Jeremiah 14:16** And I have poured out upon them this EVIL.
* **Jeremiah 18:11** Behold, I am shaping EVIL against you.
* **Jeremiah 19:3** I am bringing such EVIL upon this place.
* **Jeremiah 19:15** Thus says YHWH (Yahweh) all the EVIL that I have pronounced.
* **Jeremiah 23:12** For I will bring EVIL upon them in the year of their punishment.
 | * **Jeremiah 26:3** Then I will relent and not bring on them the DISASTER.
* **Jeremiah 26:13** YHWH(Yahweh) will repent of the EVIL.
* **Jeremiah 36:3** Judah will hear all the EVIL which I intend to do to them.
* **Jeremiah 32:42** YHWH (Yahweh): Just as I have brought all this great EVIL.
* **Jeremiah 35:17** YHWH (Yahweh), all the EVIL that I have pronounced.
* **Jeremiah 36:31** All the EVIL that I have pronounced against them.
* **Jeremiah 40:2** YHWH (Yahweh) pronounced this EVIL against this place.
* **Jeremiah 42:10** I repent of the EVIL which I did to you.
* **Jeremiah 42:17** From the EVIL which I will bring upon them.
* **Jeremiah 44:2** You have seen all the EVIL that I brought upon Jerusalem.
* **Jeremiah 45:5** I am bringing EVIL upon all flesh, says YHWH. (Yahweh)
* **Jeremiah 49:37** I will bring EVIL upon them, my fierce anger, says YHWH.
* **Jeremiah 51:64** Babylon shall sink because of the EVIL that I bring upon her.
* **Ezekiel 6:10** YHWH (Yahweh); I have not said in vain that I would do this EVIL.
* **Amos 3:6** Does EVIL befall a city, unless YHWH (Yahweh) has done it?
* **Micah 1:12** Because EVIL has come down from YHWH (Yahweh).
* **Micah 2:3** YHWH (Yahweh): Behold, against this family I am devising EVIL.
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#### Is Jesus Satan?

Another term for Lucifer is “Morning Star,” and Lucifer became Satan:

* **Isaiah 14:12** How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!
* **Revelation 22:16** “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”

## The Most Important Context:

When evaluating God’s actions, the most important context to keep in mind is the claim that he is **all powerful** and **all knowing**:

* **Matthew 19:26** Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.”
* **Job 42:2** I know that YOU CAN DO ALL THINGS; no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
* **Revelation 19:6** For our Lord God ALMIGHTY reigns.
* **Jeremiah 32:27** I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is ANYTHING too hard for me?
* **1 John 3:20** God is greater than our hearts, and HE KNOWS EVERYTHING.
* **Psalm 147:5** Great is our Lord, and of great power: HIS UNDERSTANDING IS INFINITE.
* **Job 37:16** those wonders of him who has PERFECT KNOWLEDGE.

That claim causes all God’s actions to be **optional**, never necessary, because by definition he could arrange events to avoid having to commit atrocities:

### The Critical Consequence (“The Infinite Universes Problem for God”):

If God is all powerful, then by definition he could have created any of an infinite variety of universes. If he is all knowing, then by definition he was aware of everything about all those universes. Some of those universes had to have included all possible variations on this universe, including all those where individuals made different choices from people in this universe (that must be true if it’s possible for people to make choices, regardless of whether free will exists or not). So at least one of those universes had to have been one where Lucifer never rebelled against God, where Adam and Eve never disobeyed God, where mankind never became wicked, and nobody would ever need to be sent to hell. God could have chosen one of those universes to create, but he didn’t. He chose this one, which means he deliberately engineered a universe where he knew everything would go wrong.

On top of that, God designed the rules of the universe so that original sin would be inherited, rather than based on each individual’s behavior, thus insuring that all humanity would be damned by default, with the only escape being to beg God for forgiveness and be born again. That makes God entirely responsible for everything that has happened to humanity. Yet he blames us for his failures and will send billions of people who don’t accept his “gift” to hell. Therefore, by any rational standard, God is evil.

## God’s Betrayal of Humanity:

### Adam and Eve Were Framed:

Apart from the “critical consequence” above, God framed humanity by first making Adam and Eve unaware of good and evil, then putting them in the Garden of Eden with the serpent and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. A&E could not have known it was evil to disobey God or that lying was possible until after they ate the fruit, so they had no way to avoid assuming the serpent was telling the truth (the logical assumption from anyone unfamiliar with lying would be that circumstances had changed, and now it was safe to eat the fruit). Catch-22. Being all knowing, God knew all this would happen. Yet not only did he do nothing to avoid the problem, his reaction was over-the-top vindictive:

* **Genesis 2:16-17** And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”
* **Genesis 3:4** “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”
* **Genesis 3:6** When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.
* **Genesis 3:22** And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.”
* **Genesis 3:16-24** I will make your pains in childbearing very severe ... Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you. ... Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you ... So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden.
* **Romans 5:12** Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people.

Furthermore, the Bible clearly states that no matter what people plan, it’s God’s plan that always prevails:

* **Proverbs 16:4** THE LORD WORKS OUT EVERYTHING to its proper end—even the wicked for the day of disaster. [He doesn’t just determine SOME things, he determines “EVERYTHING,” including what the wicked do.]
* **Proverbs 16:9** In their hearts humans plan their course, but THE LORD ESTABLISHES THEIR STEPS. [God even determines our very steps!]
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* **Ephesians 1:11** In him we were also chosen, having been PREDESTINED according to the plan of HIM WHO WORKS OUT EVERYTHING in conformity with the purpose of his will.
* **Jeremiah 10:23** LORD, I know that PEOPLE’S LIVES ARE NOT THEIR OWN; IT IS NOT FOR THEM TO DIRECT THEIR STEPS.
* **Jeremiah 13:23** Can an Ethiopian change his skin or a leopard its spots? NEITHER CAN YOU DO GOOD who are accustomed to doing evil.
* **Jeremiah 43:11** He will come and attack Egypt, bringing death to those DESTINED FOR DEATH, captivity to those DESTINED FOR CAPTIVITY, and the sword to those DESTINED FOR THE SWORD.
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* **Psalm 90:9** WE SPEND OUR YEARS AS A TALE THAT IS TOLD.
* **Psalm 139:16** Your eyes saw my unformed body; ALL THE DAYS ORDAINED FOR ME WERE WRITTEN IN YOUR BOOK before one of them came to be.
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* **John 6:37** ALL THOSE THE FATHER GIVES ME WILL COME TO ME, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. [If God decides to save you, you WILL be saved, no choice.]
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* **Romans 9:17** For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: “I RAISED YOU UP FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” [God created Pharaoh to behave in a specific way so he could show off.]
* **Exodus 10:1** Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh, for I HAVE HARDENED HIS HEART AND THE HEARTS OF HIS OFFICIALS so that I may perform these miraculous signs of mine among them.” [God forced them to behave as he wanted so he could show off.]
* **Ezekiel 38:3-4** This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshek and Tubal. I WILL TURN YOU AROUND, PUT HOOKS IN YOUR JAWS AND BRING YOU OUT WITH YOUR WHOLE ARMY.
* **Deuteronomy 2:30** But Sihon king of Heshbon refused to let us pass through. FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD HAD MADE HIS SPIRIT STUBBORN AND HIS HEART OBSTINATE in order to give him into your hands, as he has now done.
* **Joshua 11:20** FOR IT WAS THE LORD HIMSELF WHO HARDENED THEIR HEARTS to wage war against Israel, so that he might destroy them totally.
* **Isaiah 14:27** For THE LORD ALMIGHTY HAS PURPOSED, and who can thwart him?
* **Isaiah 37:26** Have you not heard? LONG AGO I ORDAINED IT. IN DAYS OF OLD I PLANNED IT; now I have brought it to pass.
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* **Amos 3:6** Does disaster come to a city, unless THE LORD HAS DONE IT? [People don’t cause disaster unless God makes them do it.]
* **Job 42:1-2** Then Job answered the LORD and said, “I know that You can do all things, And that NO PURPOSE OF YOURS CAN BE THWARTED.”
* **2 Timothy 1:9** Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, WHICH WAS GIVEN US IN CHRIST JESUS BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN.
* **Acts 4:28** They did what your power and will HAD DECIDED BEFOREHAND should happen.
* **Acts 13:48** and ALL WHO WERE APPOINTED for eternal life believed. [Those who come to believe in God were appointed to do so.]

Since A&E consuming the fruit radically changed their future and the future of all humanity, and “a person’s steps are directed by the Lord” and “no purpose of God’s can be thwarted,” then the only logical conclusion is that God intended A&E to eat the fruit and be kicked out of the garden. Otherwise it would have been impossible for them to completely thwart his plans.

### The Pointless Flood:

God then allowed sin to fill the world and for human populations to multiply into the millions to hundreds of millions. Then he drowned the entire world and started over again with Noah and his family. He could have started creation with Noah and thus avoided genocide:

* **Genesis 7:18-23** The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth ... and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. ... Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out.
* **Genesis 7:1** The LORD then said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation.”
* **Genesis 9:1** Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.”

### Faith is Not a Virtue:

When it comes to religion, faith is belief without evidence, or even despite evidence to the contrary:

* **Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. [In other words, confidence in and assurance of that for which there is no evidence]
* **Hebrews 11:6** 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. [In other words, belief must precede evidence that God exists]
* **James 1:6** But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. [In other words, your confidence and assurance must be without doubt]
* **Romans 1:17** For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.” [In other words, believe with confidence, assurance and no doubt, despite no evidence for God]
* **Matthew 21:21** Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and it will be done.” [Try that and you know you will fail…but still, don’t doubt?]
* **Matthew 4:7** Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” [In other words, do not demand evidence]
* **Luke 4:12** Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” [Again, do not demand evidence]
* **Deuteronomy 6:16** Do not put the LORD your God to the test as you did at Massah. [And one last time]

But faith is not a virtue because it is unreliable and virtually guaranteed to lead to false beliefs. Because God remains so well hidden that there is no credible evidence he exists, thousands of mutually contradictory religions have developed. Within Christianity alone there around 45,000 denominations (and continuing to fragment, with an average of two new denominations appearing every day), many of which contradict one another and teach vastly different lessons (<http://www.internationalbulletin.org/issues/2015-01/2015-01-028-johnson.pdf> and <http://www.philvaz.com/apologetics/a106.htm>). All of them are based on faith. If God revealed himself to every person on Earth directly so there was no confusion, there would only be one religion. Only then would people be able to make an informed decision about whether to follow God. Instead we have billions of people who sincerely want to follow the “true” religion but are statistically almost guaranteed to choose the wrong one, resulting in unjust damnation. This certainly wasn’t how the Bible expected it to turn out:

* **John 17:20-23** “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, THAT ALL OF THEM MAY BE ONE, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, THAT THEY MAY BE ONE AS WE ARE ONE—I in them and you in me—SO THAT THEY MAY BE BROUGHT TO COMPLETE UNITY. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”
* **1 Corinthians 1:10** I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

#### God Provided Evidence in the Past:

Furthermore, there were many cases where God was quite willing to provide evidence for his existence. Jesus turned water into wine, walked on water, healed the sick, raised the dead, showed doubting Thomas his wounds, etc. as evidence of his divinity to his followers. God temporarily gave Moses leprosy and turned his staff into a snake. When Gideon demanded three pieces of evidence, God provided them to him. And to convince a large crowd of prophets from other faiths, he gave them a spectacular display of flame from the sky to immolate a slaughtered bull. So evidently faith isn’t necessary for belief, yet if God exists he refuses to provide the same level of evidence to today’s skeptics that he provided in biblical times. (More: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/godlessindixie/2016/12/11/the-god-who-performs-party-tricks/>)

### Dead Babies Go to Hell:

Each and every day, tens of thousands of children die in agony from disease and starvation (<http://www.globalissues.org/article/715/today-21000-children-died-around-the-world>). Even if every person on Earth immediately did everything he or she could to save those tens of thousands of children who will die tomorrow, it’s too late to save more than a tiny fraction of them because they are simply too far gone or live too far from proper medical help. The only person who could possibly alleviate their suffering and save their lives is God—assuming he exists. And yet he does absolutely nothing to help them. Apologists often claim this is okay because those babies automatically go to heaven. However, the Bible doesn’t support this claim. Instead it says that we are all born sinful:

* **Psalm 51:5** SURELY I WAS SINFUL AT BIRTH, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
* **Romans 3:23** FOR ALL HAVE SINNED and fall short of the glory of God.
* **Romans 3:10-12** As it is written: “THERE IS NO ONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, THEY HAVE TOGETHER BECOME WORTHLESS; THERE IS NO ONE WHO DOES GOOD, NOT EVEN ONE.”
* **Matthew 19:17** “Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “THERE IS ONLY ONE WHO IS GOOD.”
* **Mark 10:18** and **Luke 18:19** “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “NO ONE IS GOOD—except God alone.”
* **Psalm 58:3** EVEN FROM BIRTH THE WICKED GO ASTRAY; from the womb they are wayward, spreading lies.

And it says that the only way to **salvation** is by being born again and BELIEVING IN GOD:

* **John 3:3** Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, NO ONE CAN SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD UNLESS THEY ARE BORN AGAIN.”
* **John 3:18** WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM IS NOT CONDEMNED, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.
* **Romans 10:9** That if you CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH JESUS AS LORD, AND BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, you will be saved.
* **Romans 10:13** “EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.”

Since babies and young children are too young to understand the concept of God, much less believe in him or choose to follow him, if they die they will go to hell to be tortured for all eternity. Of course, this is completely unacceptable to Christians who believe God is good, so some apologists evoke the “**age of accountability**” and insist dead babies get a free pass to heaven. But the age of accountability exists nowhere in the Bible, something Christians themselves concede: <http://www.gotquestions.org/age-of-accountability.html>. Worse, consider the implications of this free pass to heaven. Clearly, the Bible says few adults will be saved:

* **Luke 13:23-24** And someone said to Him, “Lord, are there just a few who are being saved?” And He said to them, “Strive to enter through the narrow door; FOR MANY, I TELL YOU, WILL SEEK TO ENTER AND WILL NOT BE ABLE.”
* **Matthew 7:13-14** “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and THERE ARE FEW WHO FIND IT.”
* **Matthew 22:14** “For many are invited, but FEW ARE CHOSEN.”
* **Romans 9:27** Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: “Though the number of the Israelites be like the sand by the sea, ONLY THE REMNANT WILL BE SAVED.”

So if only a small number of adults will be saved, but 100% of dead babies will be saved, then there is **theological justification** for murdering as many babies as possible. Although there is the commandment not to kill, the Bible also says that God wants every soul to be saved:

* **1 Timothy 2:3-4** God our Savior, WHO DESIRES ALL MEN TO BE SAVED and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
* **2 Peter 3:9** Instead [the Lord] is patient with you, NOT WANTING ANYONE TO PERISH, but everyone to come to repentance.

Thus, murdering babies would help achieve God’s goal of saving as many souls as possible. Even though he might condemn the murders, it wouldn’t matter because all you would have to do is ask for forgiveness and be saved, since the only unforgivable sin is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit:

* **Mark 3:28-29** Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin.
* **Matthew 12:31-32** And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.
* **Luke 12:8-10** And everyone who speaks a word against the son of man will be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

Thus, God has set up a system whereby dead babies go to hell or there is theological justification for murdering as many babies as you can. Either way, God is evil.

### Heaven is not Paradise:

All the redeemed will be sent to live in a 1,500 mile cube made of pure gold on a new Earth with no oceans:

* **Revelation 21:1** I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.
* **Revelation 21:16-18** The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. ... and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

People won’t be able to sin in heaven:

* **Revelation 21:27** Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful.
* **Revelation 22:3** No longer will there be any curse.

Since apologists claim that sin is the necessary consequence of free will, that would mean everyone will lose their free will in heaven. (So what is the point of having ever had free will in the first place, assuming we even do?). Furthermore, their memories of life on this Earth will be erased, which means they won’t even remember their friends and family:

* **Isaiah 65:17** “See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.”

At least one apparently keeps one’s memories in hell:

* **Luke 16:25** “But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.”

What those in heaven will do is worship God for all eternity:

* **Matthew 4:10** Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”
* **Revelation 22:3** The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.

## Free Will and the Problem of Evil:

Christianity needs free will to exist, because if God predetermines everything and people do not have free will, then God is at fault for all evil and humans cannot be held responsible for their actions. Free will is also necessary to explain the problem of evil. So Christians attempt to exonerate God for not stopping evil by claiming our free will cannot be violated. They say he gives us free will so that we can choose to believe in and love him, because he doesn’t want robots. But there are major problems with this claim:

### God Violates Free Will:

* **Acts 4:27-28** Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.
* **Romans 9:18** Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and HE HARDENS WHOM HE WANTS TO HARDEN.
* **Exodus 4:21** But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go.
* **Exodus 10:1** Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the hearts of his officials so that I may perform these miraculous signs of mine among them.” [God deliberately violated someone’s will simply so he could show off.]
* **Joshua 11:20** For it was the LORD himself who hardened their hearts to wage war against Israel, so that he might destroy them totally, exterminating them without mercy, as the LORD had commanded Moses.
* **John 12:39-40** For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere: “HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES AND HARDENED THEIR HEARTS, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn.”
* **Proverbs 21:1** In the Lord’s hand the king’s heart is a stream of water THAT HE CHANNELS TOWARD ALL WHO PLEASE HIM.
* **Psalm 33:10** The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.
* **Psalm 105:24-25** The Lord made his people very fruitful; he made them too numerous for their foes, WHOSE HEARTS HE TURNED TO HATE HIS PEOPLE, to conspire against his servants.
* **Ezekiel 38:3-4** This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshek and Tubal. I WILL TURN YOU AROUND, PUT HOOKS IN YOUR JAWS AND BRING YOU OUT WITH YOUR WHOLE ARMY.
* **Deuteronomy 2:30** But Sihon king of Heshbon refused to let us pass through. FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD HAD MADE HIS SPIRIT STUBBORN AND HIS HEART OBSTINATE in order to give him into your hands, as he has now done.
* **Joshua 11:20** FOR IT WAS THE LORD HIMSELF WHO HARDENED THEIR HEARTS to wage war against Israel, so that he might destroy them totally.

### God Determines Everything, Including Who Will Be Saved:

Christians insist that free will is a fundamental tenet of Christianity, because we must be fully responsible for choosing whether or not to follow God. And God CANNOT be the one responsible for all sin, because otherwise he would not be the ONLY good being:

* **Mark 10:18 and Luke 18:19** “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone.”

However, NOWHERE in the Bible does it say free will exists, or that the choices we think we’re making are our own. It certainly does stress the importance of making the right choices, but being able to make choices doesn’t require free will. In fact, even simple animals that clearly don’t have free will are perfectly capable of making decisions. Computers can even be programmed to make decisions, and clearly they don’t have free will.

What the Bible does indicate is the exact OPPOSITE of free will by clearly stating that God plans EVERYTHING, including our very steps:

* **Proverbs 16:4** THE LORD WORKS OUT EVERYTHING to its proper end—EVEN THE WICKED for the day of disaster. [Note that it doesn’t say he just determines SOME things, he determines “EVERYTHING,” including what the wicked do.]
* **Proverbs 16:9** In their hearts humans plan their course, but THE LORD ESTABLISHES THEIR STEPS. [God even determines our very steps!]
* **Proverbs 16:33** The lot is cast into the lap, but its EVERY DECISION IS FROM THE LORD. [The lot refers to random chance, like rolling dice.]
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* **Psalm 37:23** A MAN’S STEPS ARE ESTABLISHED BY THE LORD, and the LORD delights in his way. [Evidently God delights in establishing a man’s steps to take the wrong path.]
* **Psalm 90:9** WE SPEND OUR YEARS AS A TALE THAT IS TOLD.
* **Psalm 139:16** Your eyes saw my unformed body; ALL THE DAYS ORDAINED FOR ME WERE WRITTEN IN YOUR BOOK before one of them came to be.
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* **John 12:40** “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn—and I would heal them.”
* **Romans 8:7-8** Because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for IT IS NOT EVEN ABLE TO DO SO, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
* **Romans 8:20** For THE CREATURE WAS MADE SUBJECT TO VANITY, NOT WILLINGLY, BUT BY REASON OF HIM WHO HATH SUBJECTED THE SAME IN HOPE. [It’s not our will that subjects us to vanity, but God’s.]
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* **Romans 9:17** For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: “I RAISED YOU UP FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” [God created Pharaoh to behave in a specific way so he could show off.]
* **Romans 11:7-8** What the people of Israel sought so earnestly they did not obtain. The elect among them did, but the others were hardened, as it is written: “God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that could not see and ears that could not hear, to this very day.”
* **Exodus 10:1** Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh, for I HAVE HARDENED HIS HEART AND THE HEARTS OF HIS OFFICIALS so that I may perform these miraculous signs of mine among them.” [God forced them to behave as he wanted so he could show off.]
* **Exodus 12:35-36** The Israelites did as Moses instructed and asked the Egyptians for articles of silver and gold and for clothing. THE LORD HAD MADE THE EGYPTIANS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THE PEOPLE, and they gave them what they asked for; so they plundered the Egyptians.
* **Ezekiel 38:3-4** This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I am against you, Gog, chief prince of Meshek and Tubal. I WILL TURN YOU AROUND, PUT HOOKS IN YOUR JAWS AND BRING YOU OUT WITH YOUR WHOLE ARMY.
* **Deuteronomy 2:30** But Sihon king of Heshbon refused to let us pass through. FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD HAD MADE HIS SPIRIT STUBBORN AND HIS HEART OBSTINATE in order to give him into your hands, as he has now done.
* **Joshua 11:20** FOR IT WAS THE LORD HIMSELF WHO HARDENED THEIR HEARTS to wage war against Israel, so that he might destroy them totally.
* **Isaiah 14:27** For THE LORD ALMIGHTY HAS PURPOSED, and who can thwart him?
* **Isaiah 37:26** Have you not heard? LONG AGO I ORDAINED IT. IN DAYS OF OLD I PLANNED IT; now I have brought it to pass.
* **Isaiah 46:10** I MAKE KNOWN THE END FROM THE BEGINNING, from ancient times, what is still to come.
* **Amos 3:6** Does disaster come to a city, unless THE LORD HAS DONE IT? [People don’t cause disaster unless God makes them do it.]
* **Job 42:1-2** Then Job answered the LORD and said, “I know that You can do all things, And that NO PURPOSE OF YOURS CAN BE THWARTED.”
* **2 Timothy 1:9** Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, WHICH WAS GIVEN US IN CHRIST JESUS BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN.
* **Acts 4:28** They did what your power and will HAD DECIDED BEFOREHAND should happen.
* **Acts 13:48** and ALL WHO WERE APPOINTED for eternal life believed. [Those who come to believe in God were appointed to do so.]

### Other Free Will Problems:

* By not violating the free will of criminals, God allows criminals to violate the free will of their victims. Would a good God side with criminals or their victims?
* God could have created us capable of making choices and experiencing love without having the capacity to commit atrocities (after all, sane, civilized people already couldn’t even imagine raping and murdering their own families, and God could expand that instinct to cover all humanity). Furthermore, Christians claim Jesus was without sin and that he had free will...which means it is possible for God to create sinless, free-willed beings, but simply didn’t.
* Belief is not a choice (try to will yourself to believe in Santa Claus or NOT believe in God). Even the Bible evidently agrees:
**John 6:44** “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them.”
* Love (along with every other emotion) is not a choice (try to will yourself to fall in love with someone you dislike).
* Those who go to **heaven** won’t have the freedom to commit sin, so evidently free will isn’t all that important to God:

**Revelation 21:27** Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful.

**Revelation 22:3** No longer will there be any curse.

* Nowhere in the Bible does it say free will exists. Sure, it mentions many examples of people making choices, but animals and even computer programs can make choices without possessing free will. There are numerous verses that refer to “freewill offerings,” but since “freewill” is never defined and the Bible says God determines everything, “freewill” clearly cannot mean how we define it: “the power to act without the constraint of necessity or fate.” Another definition of “freewill” is “given readily,” which would fit with the concept of “freewill offerings” without requiring someone to possess free will.
* Some Christian denominations (e.g., Calvinists) accept the evidence that only God chooses whom will be saved and who will be damned.
* If God is all-knowing, then he knows exactly what he will ever do, and is powerless to change it…since if he would ever change his mind, he would already know that. That means God can’t have free will. And if God can’t have free will, it’s unlikely we do:
**Psalm 94:9** Does he who fashioned the ear not hear? Does he who formed the eye not see?
* Matter behaves mechanistically, and our brains are matter. Even though quantum mechanics allows for random behavior, it doesn’t imply free will because the randomness is truly random, not subject to our will, and observation has no evident effect on the macro scale.
* fMRI scans can detect decisions up to ten seconds before we think we are making certain free will decisions. Such decisions evidently occur unconsciously, and are only later imposed upon our conscious minds with only the perception that we have made a conscious choice. (More: <http://exploringthemind.com/the-mind/brain-scans-can-reveal-your-decisions-7-seconds-before-you-decide>)
* People convince themselves that they are making correct free will choices even in tests where a free will decision isn’t possible. (More: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/free-will-could-all-be-an-illusion-scientists-suggest-after-study-that-shows-choice-could-just-be-a7008181.html>)
* People who read information challenging the existence of free will prior to taking a test are more likely to cheat on that test. Since morality is necessary for the success of all social species, and humans are among the most social of social species, the perception of free will may have evolved as a mechanism to increase moral behavior. Better to live with the illusion that free will exists if it increases the survival of the species. (More: <https://assets.csom.umn.edu/assets/91974.pdf>)
* More: <http://www.vexen.co.uk/religion/christianity_freewill.html>

### Should criminals be prosecuted?

Even if we are essentially robots, slaves to a complex mix of cause and effect, we still have motivations and we still want to live in safe, friendly societies. Rewarding good behavior and punishing bad behavior contributes to the cause and effect that results in the world we want to live in.

## Counters to Common Christian Claims that God is Good:

#### “God created us.”

Except that in addition to the problem with his generosity as I just mentioned, if God created us in order to torment us as I describe in my video “What the Ultimate Evil God Would be Like,” then creating us wouldn’t be an act of goodness at all, would it?

#### “The Bible says God is good.”

If the Bible is the word of God, and God is evil, would he have any problem lying about being good?

#### “God offers us salvation.”

The very concept of sin comes from God, and he offers to save us from a problem of his own making. It is like someone poisoning you and then offering you the antidote...for a price.

#### “Why would God say he was good if he were evil? It’s not like we could do anything about it.”

Surely an evil God would delight in deceiving people, building up their hopes and dreams...only to crush them. Mental abuse can be even more cruel than physical abuse.

#### “God sacrificed his only son for us.”

A truly evil God would have no problem killing his own son either. And resurrecting a sacrifice negates the entire point of a sacrifice, which is that you give up something. Also, God could have forgiven humanity without requiring Jesus to be murdered:

* **Jeremiah 31:34** “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more”
* **Isaiah 43:25** “I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.”

#### “God keeps his promises.”

There’s no way of knowing if he does until after you die. He could send everyone to hell, for all we know.

#### “God gives us plenty of opportunities to expand our list of good deeds so we can achieve salvation.”

You can just as easily claim God gives us the opportunities to expand our list of evil deeds so we will be damned.

#### “God could have prevented you from being in a car accident today. You don’t know.”

If there’s no way to know, that means there’s no evidence, thus making this an “argument from ignorance” fallacy. Besides, what happens if you do get in a car accident? Wouldn’t that mean God deliberately caused that accident and is thus evil?

#### “I prayed to God and survived an accident/disease that I had almost no chance of surviving.”

“Almost” means some people do survive, and Christians don’t have any better survival rates than people who don’t pray to God.

#### “God doesn’t immediately kill us when we sin.”

One could use the same argument for why God is evil. After all, is it good to let someone freely commit atrocities his entire life, only to have him turn to Christ in the end and be absolved of all his sins? Also, an all-knowing God had to have known humanity would sin, yet he did nothing to prevent it. Instead, he creates us all worthy of nothing but contempt:

* **Isaiah 64:6** “We are all like one who is unclean, all our so-called righteous acts are like a menstrual rag in your sight. We all wither like a leaf; our sins carry us away like the wind.”
* **Mark 10:18** “And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.””

#### “There is beauty in the world.”

There is ugliness in the world too, which would thus be evidence God is evil, right? Would a good God create parasites that require as part of their life cycle to cause harm and suffering to animals and humans? (More: <http://www.christiantoday.com/article/mark.woods.stephen.fry.eye.worms.and.bone.cancer.how.christians.can.still.believe.in.the.goodness.of.god/47259.htm>)

#### “Love exists.”

One could counter that by saying God is evil because hate exists. Besides, wouldn’t a truly evil God delight in maximizing our torment by giving us time to develop loving relationships...and then tearing us from one another and torturing us for all eternity, making our suffering all that much greater knowing our loved ones are suffering as well?

#### “God loves us like a parent loves a child.”

What loving parent would abandon his child to be tortured in hell forever for not worshiping him? Deliberately and pointlessly inflicting ultimate suffering on one’s child isn’t love; it’s pure evil. (More: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/godlessindixie/2017/01/08/a-living-sacrifice-no-more/>)

#### “Goodness exists, and therefore there must be an ultimate standard of goodness, which is God.”

You can just as easily say that because evil exists, there must be an ultimate standard of evil, which is God.

#### “God doesn’t immediately send us all to hell, even though we deserve it.”

Why do we deserve to suffer for the sins of our ancestors? Besides, wouldn’t a truly evil God delight in maximizing our torment by giving us time to develop loving relationships...and then tearing us from one another and torturing us for all eternity, making our suffering all that much greater knowing our loved ones are suffering as well?

#### “Just like darkness is the absence of light and cold is the absence of heat, evil is an absence of good and thus evil is the absence of God.”

Measurable physical properties don’t equate to immeasurable moral philosophy, making it a “false analogy” fallacy. One could just as easily say “good is the absence of evil and thus good is the absence of God.”

#### “God knows more than we do, thus we cannot judge his actions.”

Except that that’s an “appeal to ignorance” fallacy. We can’t judge someone based on what we don’t know, only on what we do know. And we can’t simply ignore apparently evil behavior or we risk enabling or even supporting it.

#### “God defines good, so anything he does is good.”

That can be countered by saying “God defines evil, so anything he does is evil.”

#### “Hundreds of millions of people believe God is good.”

That’s an “argument from popularity” fallacy, since the number of believers has no bearing on truth. Otherwise it would have been true that Christianity was false for the first few hundred years it remained a small, backwater religion. And it would have been true that the world was flat for much of human history, and then eventually turned into a sphere.

#### “I intuitively know God is good.”

Intuition can lead one to the opposite conclusion from the truth, just like it’s “intuitively obvious” that the sun rotates around the Earth. Thus the claim is an “appeal to intuition” fallacy.

#### “I’ve personally experienced God’s love.”

That’s an unfalsifiable claim and thus not evidence. It is far more likely that the person making the claim is delusional, confused or just a liar—conditions which are all too common and don’t require the existence of any supernatural being.

#### “Who would want to live in a universe where God is evil?”

Why would the universe care what we want? Making an argument based on wishful thinking is an “appeal to emotion” fallacy.

#### “Just believe in God or you’ll burn in hell.”

That’s two fallacies: an “appeal to fear” and a “thought-terminating cliché,” since it attempts to end the debate with a threat rather than evidence.

#### “Jesus never committed evil.”

According to the Bible, Jesus ordered his followers to steal a horse and he rebelled against the government, and he even claimed he was not good:

* **Luke 19:30-35** “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here.” … Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?” They replied, “The Lord needs it.” They brought it to Jesus. [Jesus ordered the theft of a colt]
* **Romans 13:2** “Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.” [Jesus said to obey authorities, regardless of how evil they might be]
* **Luke 14:26** If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. [Even if this is hyperbole, hyperbole is used to STRENGTHEN the point, not to weaken it.]
* **Luke 18:19** “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone.” [Jesus himself recognized that he wasn’t good.]

#### “God is just.”

God inflicts eternal punishment for finite “crimes” and he punishes people for simply not believing he exists. He decrees death for all manner of victimless and minor “crimes,” yet if someone accepts his forgiveness he forgives even the most heinous atrocities:

* **Romans 10:9-13** That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for “Whoever will call on the name of the lord will be saved.”
* **Matthew 12:31** And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.
* **Leviticus 20:13** If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.
* **Leviticus 20:27** A man or woman who is a medium or spiritist among you must be put to death. You are to stone them; their blood will be on their own heads.
* **Leviticus 20:9** Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.
* **Leviticus 20:10** If a man commits adultery with another man’s wife—with the wife of his neighbor—both the adulterer and the adulteress are to be put to death.
* **Leviticus 21:9** If a priest’s daughter defiles herself by becoming a prostitute, she disgraces her father; she must be burned in the fire.
* **Leviticus 24:16** Moreover, the one who blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall certainly stone him. The alien as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.
* **Exodus 21:15** Anyone who attacks their father or mother is to be put to death.
* **Exodus 22:18** You should not let a sorceress live.
* **Exodus 22:20** Whoever sacrifices to any god other than the LORD must be destroyed.
* **Exodus 31:14** Therefore you are to observe the sabbath, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people.
* **2 Chronicles 15:12-13** Whoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, man or woman.
* **Zechariah 13:3** And if anyone still prophesies, their father and mother, to whom they were born, will say to them, ‘You must die, because you have told lies in the LORD’s name.’ Then their own parents will stab the one who prophesies.
* **Deuteronomy 13:1-10** If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes true, concerning which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods (whom you have not known) and let us serve them,’ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams; for the LORD your God is testing you to find out if you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall follow the LORD your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him. But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has counseled rebellion against the LORD your God who brought you from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to seduce you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from among you. If your brother, your mother’s son, or your son or daughter, or the wife you cherish, or your friend who is as your own soul, entice you secretly, saying, ‘Let us go and serve other gods’ (whom neither you nor your fathers have known, of the gods of the peoples who are around you, near you or far from you, from one end of the earth to the other end), you shall not yield to him or listen to him; and your eye shall not pity him, nor shall you spare or conceal him. But you shall surely kill him; your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people. So you shall stone him to death because he has sought to seduce you from the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.
* **Deuteronomy 13:13-16** Some worthless men have gone out from among you and have seduced the inhabitants of their city, saying, ‘Let us go and serve other gods’ (whom you have not known), then you shall investigate and search out and inquire thoroughly. If it is true and the matter established that this abomination has been done among you, you shall surely strike the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying it and all that is in it and its cattle with the edge of the sword. Then you shall gather all its booty into the middle of its open square and burn the city and all its booty with fire as a whole burnt offering to the LORD your God; and it shall be a ruin forever. It shall never be rebuilt.
* **Deuteronomy 17:2-5** If there is found in your midst, in any of your towns, which the LORD your God is giving you, a man or a woman who does what is evil in the sight of the LORD your God, by transgressing His covenant, 3and has gone and served other gods and worshiped them, or the sun or the moon or any of the heavenly host, which I have not commanded, 4and if it is told you and you have heard of it, then you shall inquire thoroughly. Behold, if it is true and the thing certain that this detestable thing has been done in Israel, 5then you shall bring out that man or that woman who has done this evil deed to your gates, that is, the man or the woman, and you shall stone them to death.
* **Deuteronomy 17:12** Anyone who shows contempt for the judge or for the priest who stands ministering there to the LORD your God is to be put to death. You must purge the evil from Israel.
* **Deuteronomy 18:20** But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.
* **Deuteronomy 22:20-24** But if this charge is true, that the girl was not found a virgin, then they shall bring out the girl to the doorway of her father’s house, and the men of her city shall stone her to death because she has committed an act of folly in Israel by playing the harlot in her father’s house; thus you shall purge the evil from among you. If a man is found lying with a married woman, then both of them shall die, the man who lay with the woman, and the woman; thus you shall purge the evil from Israel. If there is a girl who is a virgin engaged to a man, and another man finds her in the city and lies with her, then you shall bring them both out to the gate of that city and you shall stone them to death; the girl, because she did not cry out in the city, and the man, because he has violated his neighbor’s wife. Thus you shall purge the evil from among you.
* **Numbers 1:51** So when the tabernacle is to set out, the Levites shall take it down; and when the tabernacle encamps, the Levites shall set it up. But the layman who comes near shall be put to death.

# ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS WITH CHRISTIANITY:

## Why the Bible cannot be Trusted:

According to the Bible, God wants EVERYONE to be saved:

* **1 Timothy 2:3-4** This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants ALL PEOPLE to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.
* **2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, NOT WANTING ANYONE TO PERISH, but everyone to come to repentance.

This makes **salvation** arguably the most important goal for humanity. Now if the Bible is God’s **instruction manual for salvation**, does it make any sense at all that scripture would contain any ambiguity about anything? Would it make sense for the core tenets of this all-knowing being’s Holy Bible to be vague or capable of being misunderstood? Or that God would allow the original copies of the Bible to be lost to history, with only imperfect copies of imperfect translations remaining? Or that God would fill the Bible with hundreds of prophecies that are supposed to be proof that the Bible is true, yet not include even one prophecy that fulfills all ten requirements needed to distinguish divine prophecy from mundane claims? Or that the Bible would claim that God plans absolutely everything, when free will is critical to the whole concept of freely choosing salvation? Or for God’s ten universal commandments of behavior to be so different in different parts of the Bible (Exodus 20:2-17 vs. Exodus 34:12-27)? Or that God would fill the Bible with hundreds of apparent contradictions (<https://infidels.org/library/modern/donald_morgan/contradictions.html>)?

Apologists of course claim that all the contradictions, vagueness and confusion disappear if one carefully studies the Bible. But once you start claiming that the Bible requires special study to understand—declaring which parts should be read literally and which parts should be considered only metaphor, and insisting that one apparently clear passage actually means the complete opposite of what it literally says because it must be paired with another passage in a completely different book—then the Bible becomes a complex puzzle that is certain to confuse even an earnest student of scripture. It’s guaranteed to result in false interpretation.

That, along with making belief through faith a virtue instead of belief through evidence, is why thousands of different religions have developed. It’s also why Christianity has fractured into tens of thousands of different denominations, often emphasizing very different parts of the Bible and teaching vastly different lessons. For example, **Protestants** believe that salvation comes from faith alone:

* **Ephesians 2:8-10** 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.
* **Acts 4:12** Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.
* **Romans 3:20** Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.
* **Romans 3: 28** For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.
* **Romans 5:1** Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
* **Romans 10:9-13** That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for “Whoever will call on the name of the lord will be saved.”

Whereas **Catholics** say salvation requires both faith and works:

* **James 2:24** You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.
* **James 2:18-19** But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.
* **1 Corinthians 13:2** If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.
* **Luke 10:25-28** On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” He answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”
* **Revelation 20:12** The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.
* **Matthew 25:41-46** Then He will also say to those on His left, “Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.” Then they themselves also will answer, “Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?” Then He will answer them, “Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.” These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

And that you can lose your salvation:

* **1 Corinthians 9: 27** But I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.
* **2 Corinthians 13:5** Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?
* **John 15:5-6** I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.

And even within such major divisions there are further subdivisions, such as **Lutherans** teaching that anyone can choose to accept salvation, while **Calvinists** teach that only God chooses whom to save. The scholars of all those Christian sects study the Bible in depth, yet arrive at drastically different conclusions. And it’s all due to differences in interpretation.

**Conclusion:** Does it make sense that a God who wants everyone to be saved would allow the Bible to be so confusingly written that it leads to major doctrinal differences even within Christianity itself? Or would it make more sense for him to produce a Bible that is perfectly clear to everyone who reads it, regardless of language or culture—something an all-powerful being could easily do by definition? You know who definitely would produce such a poorly written, confusing manual for salvation? Primitive tribesmen inventing stories and repeating hearsay.

#### Christian Circular Reasoning:

“The Bible is the word of God.” But how can you be sure it’s the word of God? “Because the Bible tells us so.” But why believe the Bible? “The Bible is infallible.” But how do you know it’s infallible? “The Bible is the word of God.” (Rinse, repeat...)

## Jesus May Have Never Existed:

Despite most Christian scholars believing that Jesus existed (which they are naturally invested in believing), there is evidence he didn’t exist (at least not in any divine sense):

### Comparing the Evidence for Jesus’ Resurrection with that for Julius Caesar Crossing the Rubicon:

Apologists claim that the historical evidence for Jesus’ resurrection is as good as that for Julius Caesar crossing the Rubicon. However:

* Jesus wrote nothing about himself, whereas both Caesar and his enemies wrote about Caesar’s march and crossing of the Rubicon.
* The Gospels describing the resurrection were written many decades after the event by anonymous sources with a clear bias for Christianity, and only “Luke” claimed his account was even a historical record. Caesar’s march was reported by numerous reliable contemporary historians using a wide variety of source material and physical evidence.
* There is no physical evidence for the resurrection at all, whereas there are many contemporary inscriptions, coins, battle references, judgments and conscriptions detailing nearly the entire chain of events for Caesar’s march.
* An actual resurrection (as opposed to simple belief in one) isn’t necessary to explain subsequent history after the event. The Roman civil war, however, would not have occurred if Caesar had not actually crossed the Rubicon and captured Rome.

### Comparing the Evidence for Jesus with that for Santa Claus:

For a humorous comparison, the evidence for Jesus is a better fit with a fictional character like Santa Claus than it is for Julius Caesar:

* Millions of Christians around the world believe in Jesus. Millions of children around the world believe in Santa Claus.
* Jesus may be based on an actual historical figure. Santa Claus is based on an actual historical figure.
* Christians perform rituals for Jesus, like prayer, baptism, and communion. Children perform rituals for Santa, like writing him letters, hanging stockings, and setting out milk and cookies.
* Christians claim Jesus answers their prayers by helping them find lost items and giving them guidance. Children claim Santa answers their letters by giving them toys every Christmas morning.
* Christians believe Jesus used to perform miracles, like healing the sick, turning water into wine, and resurrecting after his death. Children believe Santa also performs miracles, like being all-knowing whether children are good or bad, visiting the homes of all the children on Earth in a single night, and fitting through even the smallest of chimneys.
* Jesus walked on water. Santa can fly through the air.
* Christians learn about Jesus through books (e.g., the Bible), poems (e.g., A Christmas Carol), songs (e.g., Jesus Loves Me), movies (e.g., The Passion of the Christ), TV shows (e.g., Davey and Goliath), and word-of-mouth (e.g., parents). Children also learn about Santa through books (e.g., The Santa Claus Book), poems (e.g., The Night Before Christmas), songs (e.g., Santa Claus is Coming to Town), movies (e.g., The Santa Claus), TV shows (e.g., Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer), and word-of-mouth (e.g., parents).
* Jesus offers eternal salvation to people who worship him, and eternal damnation for those who don’t. Santa offers presents for children who are good, and coal for those who are bad.
* Christians sometimes see Jesus in grilled cheese sandwiches and…other things (<http://theworldsbestever.s3.amazonaws.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/jesus-on-a-dogs-butt.jpg>). Children see Santa at malls and on street corners.
* Many Christians are sincere in their belief that Jesus exists. Many children are no less sincere in their belief that Santa exists.
* Millions of atheists are former Christians. Millions of adults are former children.

### The Lack of Independent Evidence that Jesus Existed:

* The only accounts of Jesus’ life are the Gospels and Pauline Epistles, written by anonymous authors many decades after the events supposedly took place. Scholars dispute the authenticity of many of the books and passages within the books, which have clear indications of forgery. And there is clear evidence that Matthew and Luke plagiarized Mark, and that Luke also copied (inaccurately) from Josephus’ work (likely to lend authenticity to his story).
* The best independent evidence for the existence of Jesus is a couple of brief, disputed passages from Flavius Josephus...who was born decades after Jesus lived. In the year 93 or 94 he mentioned Jesus in two brief passages, one a clear forgery and the other perhaps referring to a different Jesus. Regardless, all he had was old, secondhand information.
* Luke 2:1-3 claims Jesus was born in the year of a universal tax census under Augustus Caesar while Quirinius was governor of Syria, which started in 6 CE. But Matthew claims Jesus was born during the reign of Herod the Great, which ended in 4 BCE. Since Quirinius’ reign started ten years after Herod’s death, Jesus could not have been born both during Herod’s reign and during Quirinius’ reign. Also, Roman records show the first universal census didn’t occur until the reign of the emperor Vespasian in 74 CE, decades after Quirinius’ reign.
* Matthew 2:16 claims that Herod had every infant boy in the area put to death, but not a single historian of that period even mentioned such an outrageous mass murder. And this includes Flavius Josephus, who hated Herod and made a point of recording all of Herod’s misdeeds.
* Matthew 4:24 says Jesus gave numerous sermons to many thousands of people throughout the area, astounding everyone with his teachings and amazing miracles of healing and raising the dead. His fame spread far and wide (Matthew 9:18-26). He even performed miracles for various important leaders in the area. Yet there is no record of any of this until the Gospels were written many decades later.
* Jesus supposedly rode into Jerusalem, greeted with a parade and citywide celebration for the miracle-working King of the Jews. After his arrest, his trial was a media circus involving important leaders and celebrities, including the Jewish high priest, Pontius Pilate and King Herod. Jesus even had thousands of supporters, including such high-ranking leaders as a royal official, a centurion, a temple leader and members of the Jewish ruling council. Yet nobody recorded any of this.
* According to Mark, Matthew and Luke, Jesus died at 3 p.m. on the afternoon of Passover. But John said three times that Jesus died on the Preparation Day of the Passover, which is the day before Passover.
* Jesus’ birth and death were supposedly accompanied by great supernatural events, including the appearance of the Star of Bethlehem, a three-hour darkness that covered the land, massive earthquakes, and many dead Jewish saints resurrecting and wandering around Jerusalem (Matthew 27:45-53, see also <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/godlessindixie/2019/12/03/episode-21-the-greatest-story-never-told/>). Also, many people supposedly witnessed Jesus’ resurrection and ascension into Heaven. Yet there are no records of any of this ever happening.
* Judea was a highly important, strategic province to Rome, and the region during Jesus’ time was one of the most well documented in ancient history. Many contemporary writers recorded great volumes of information about the area. They even described several failed Jewish messiahs. Yet despite Jesus supposedly performing so many dramatic events, sermons and miracles that were witnessed by thousands of people and that garnered the attention of numerous high-ranking officials...there is no record of anyone during that time writing anything about Jesus.

### Christianity Didn’t Begin with Jesus and His Apostles:

* Acts portrays the early Christian church as a happy group of believers centered around Jesus’ family and disciples in Jerusalem. However, Christian communities in cities as far away as Damascus, Antioch and Rome already existed for many years before Jesus was even nailed to the cross and before Paul was converted (even though tradition still maintains that Paul—not even Jesus—founded them). Romans 1:13,15; 15:20-23 clearly reveal that the church had already existed in Rome for many years and that Paul had never been there.
* Paul himself complains about the diversity among believers, who quarrel among one another over whom to worship (1 Corinthians 1:10-13). Many first-century exorcists cast out demons in the name of Christ...but not the Christ of Jesus’ followers (Mark 9:38, Matthew 7:21-23, Luke 9:49). Paul constantly rails against his many rival apostles, claiming they are evil deceivers, with false Christs and false gospels so different from his own that he even accuses them of being agents of Satan.
* Even before Paul, some Christian groups did not believe in the resurrection claim (according to the Gospel of Thomas community, Christ was never crucified at all). There were other major disagreements even about the very basics of Jesus, and there is no evidence that anyone knew of any disciples or the family of Jesus.
* There is evidence that the Apostles may have never existed at all. Excavations beneath the Vatican revealed a mosaic depiction of Christ as the sun god Helios, and the twelve disciples may have been symbolic placeholders for the twelve houses of the zodiac.
* The Pre-Pauline Kenosis Hymn, one of the earliest Christian texts, indicates that the Savior did not receive the name “Jesus” until after his death.

### Christianity Wasn’t an Overnight Success that Changed the World:

* Christianity didn’t conquer the known world like an unstoppable supernatural shockwave radiating out from the crucifixion, but slowly and piecemeal, like weeds taking over a neglected front yard. Even by their own account, Christians languished as a fringe cult for centuries, a loose scattering of tiny bickering groups rejected or opposed by society.
* Even by the most optimistic estimates, first-century Christians had penetrated fewer than 70 towns or cities across the whole Roman Empire, totaling about 7,000 people out of a population of 2.5 million.
* Rome’s destruction was Christianity’s salvation. Christianity teaching disdain for worldly learning and culture, condemnation of wealth and materialism, and a focus away from this earthly life of suffering were unappealing to the Roman elite, but highly appealing to the poor and disenfranchised (a target demographic that was growing every day). Christianity could flourish during Rome’s collapse because it was a well-organized, empire-wide social service independent of the system crashing all around it. Ultimately, Christianity succeeded in seizing the Roman Empire, and thus the western world, not because of the beauty of its teachings or any spiritual truths it fostered, but thanks to the most worldly of motives: power and money.

More: <http://www.nazarethmyth.info/Fitzgerald2010HM.pdf>, <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/godlessindixie/2016/11/06/paul-the-true-founder-of-christianity/>

and <http://jesusneverexisted.com/>

### Jesus is a Pagan Hero Stereotype:

The Jesus story follows almost all the hero-myth pattern found in pagan belief (from <http://department.monm.edu/classics/courses/clas230/mythdocuments/heropattern/>):

Incidents which occur with regularity in hero-myths of all cultures:

1. Hero’s mother is a royal virgin;

2. His father is a king, and

3. Often a near relative of his mother, but

4. The circumstances of his conception are unusual, and

5. He is also reputed to be the son of a god.

6. At birth an attempt is made, usually by his father or his maternal grandfather to kill him, but

7. he is spirited away, and

8. Reared by foster parents in a far country.

9. We are told nothing of his childhood, but

10. On reaching manhood he returns or goes to his future Kingdom.

11. After a victory over the king and/or a giant, dragon, or wild beast,

12. He marries a princess, often the daughter of his predecessor and

13. And becomes king.

14. For a time he reigns uneventfully and

15. Prescribes laws, but

16. Later he loses favor with the gods and/or his subjects, and

17. Is driven from the throne and city, after which

18. He meets with a mysterious death,

19. Often at the top of a hill,

20. His children, if any do not succeed him.

21. His body is not buried, but nevertheless

22. He has one or more holy sepulchers.

Individuals below are listed in the order in which they fit the pattern. Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of pattern points which apply:

Mithradates VI of Pontus (22) / Krishna (21) / Moses (20) / Romulus (19) / King Arthur (19) / Perseus (18) / **Jesus** (18) / Watu Gunung of Java (18) / Heracles (17) Mohammad (17) / Beowulf (15) / Buddha (15) / Czar Nicholas II (14) / Zeus (14) / Nyikang, a cult-hero of the Shiluk tribe of the Upper Nile (14) / Samson (13) / Sunjata, the Lion-King of Ancient Mali (11) / Achilles (10) / Odysseus (8) / Harry Potter (8)

Many early followers of Jesus’ Christianity—including Church Fathers—were disturbed by how similar the Jesus story is to older pagan mythologies.

## The Failure of Biblical Prophecies:

Despite claims of THOUSANDS of prophecies in the Bible, not even ONE of them fulfills all **ten requirements** that must be true in order to distinguish a divine prophecy from a prophecy humans could come up with on their own:

1. It must have been understood to be a prophecy when first stated, not claimed to be so after the fact. (Otherwise any coincidentally accurate but mundane statement made in the past could be claimed as prophecy.)
2. It must actually have been prophesied BEFORE the event occurred, not simply claimed AFTER the fact to have been prophesied. (This should be obvious, since anyone can make accurate statements about an event that has already happened and then SAY they made the prophecy BEFORE the event.)
3. It must be specific enough so that it could describe only one possible event, which was clearly understood before the event occurred. (A generic event—like “a mighty army will be destroyed if it is not vigilant”—is something anyone could successfully predict. And a God with perfect knowledge would not need to make prophecies with conditional statements to cover multiple outcomes.)
4. It must be fulfilled within a narrow time frame or by a specific deadline. (Preferably an EXACT date, since a God with perfect knowledge would know the exact moment, whereas a human would have to leave it open-ended to avoid the prophecy being exposed as fraud.)
5. It must be a highly improbable event, not some common occurrence. (Again, a generic event—such as predicting the death of a great leader—is something that occurs all the time and is thus easy to predict.)
6. It must be something humans cannot deliberately manipulate into happening. (After all, if the prophecy states something will occur that people could actually make happen on their own, then believers can work toward MAKING that event occur.)
7. It must be fulfilled in a literal way, not in some “spiritual” or “metaphorical” way that cannot be demonstrated. (This should be obvious. If the effect of the prophecy can’t be detected in any measurable way, then there is no way to demonstrate that it was fulfilled.)
8. Its fulfillment must be well documented, ideally with observable evidence. (You can’t simply claim a prophecy was fulfilled without there being clear evidence that it was indeed fulfilled.)
9. It must not be edited after it was prophesied. (Clearly, if the original prophecy turned out to be wrong and then someone later edited the prophecy to fit what actually happened, that doesn’t demonstrate any divine knowledge.)
10. It should not be a part of other prophecies with a questionable success record. ALL of them should be fulfilled. (After all, why would a God with perfect knowledge make failed prophecies? And if there are only a few fulfilled prophecies among many, then the few that are fulfilled could simply be lucky guesses by human writers.)

### Examples of Failed Prophecies:

#### Mundane or vague prophecies, without specific dates, thus allowing them to be shoehorned into a variety of historical events:

* **Daniel 2:40-43** Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces. In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. As the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.
* **John 13:35-36** “By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, where are You going?” Jesus answered, “Where I go, you cannot follow Me now; but you will follow later.”

#### Prophecies never claimed to be prophecies in the first place, or only seem prophetic when improperly translated or taken out of context of their surrounding text:

* **Isaiah 7:14** The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. [Claimed to be about Mary, the Greek version mistranslated the Hebrew “young woman” to “virgin.”]
* **Psalms 22:16** Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet. [Claimed to be about crucifixion. More accurate translations are “like a lion they bite/maul/dig/disfigure/are at my hands and feet,” which do not suggest crucifixion.]
* **Zechariah 13:6** If someone asks, “What are these wounds on your body?” they will answer, “The wounds I was given at the house of my friends.” [This is not about Jesus, but instead a description of the fate of false teachers who deceived people into believing in false gods.]

#### Prophecies only fulfilled by their own believers striving to fulfill those prophecies:

* **Isaiah 11:12** He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth. [Claimed to refer to Israel, which millions of Christians worked for centuries to achieve.]
* **Isaiah 66:8** Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment? [Ditto.]
* **Ezekiel 37:21** This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. [Ditto.]
* **Zechariah 8:7-8** Thus says the LORD of hosts, “Behold, I am going to save My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west; and I will bring them back and they will live in the midst of Jerusalem.” [Ditto.]
* **Zechariah 9:9** See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. [Jesus had to have known the prophecy and could simply have enacted it.]

#### Prophecies written only after the events occurred:

* **Daniel 11** Now then, I tell you the truth: Three more kings will arise in Persia, and then a fourth, who will be far richer than all the others. When he has gained power by his wealth, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece. Then a mighty king will arise, who will rule with great power and do as he pleases. After he has arisen, his empire will be broken up and parceled out toward the four winds of heaven....
* **Isaiah 45:13** I will raise up Cyrus in my righteousness: I will make all his ways straight. He will rebuild my city and set my exiles free, but not for a price or reward, says the LORD Almighty.

#### Prophecies claimed to be fulfilled despite no evidence any prophecy was actually ever made:

* **Luke 24:46** He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day.” [It wasn’t written.]
* **1 Corinthians 15:3-4** For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. [The prophecy isn’t in the scriptures.]
* **Matthew 2:23** and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene. [There’s no evidence the prophets ever said that.]
* **Matthew 27:9-10** Then that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one whose price had been set by the sons of israel; and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the lord directed me.” [Again, no evidence.]

#### Clearly failed prophecies, requiring apologists to water down their meaning and creatively reinterpret them to fit the facts:

* **Ezekiel 26:7-14** For thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I will bring upon Tyre from the north Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, king of kings, with horses, chariots, cavalry and a great army. ... I will make you a bare rock; you will be a place for the spreading of nets. You will be built no more, for I the LORD have spoken,” declares the Lord GOD. [Nebuchadnezzar failed to destroy Tyre. Alexander the Great later destroyed it, but it was quickly rebuilt. Today it is the fourth largest city in Lebanon.]
* **Ezekiel 29:8-12** Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I will bring upon you a sword and I will cut off from you man and beast. The land of Egypt will become a desolation and waste. ... and I will make the land of Egypt an utter waste and desolation ... A man’s foot will not pass through it, and the foot of a beast will not pass through it, and it will not be inhabited for forty years. So I will make the land of Egypt a desolation in the midst of desolated lands. And her cities, in the midst of cities that are laid waste, will be desolate forty years; and I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations and disperse them among the lands.” [This never happened.]
* **Ezekiel 29:20** I have given [Nebuchadnezzar] Egypt as a reward for his efforts because he and his army did it for me, declares the Sovereign LORD. [Nebuchadnezzar never conquered Egypt.]
* **Jeremiah 34:4-5** Yet hear the Lord’s promise to you, Zedekiah king of Judah. This is what the Lord says concerning you: You will not die by the sword; you will die peacefully. [In **Jeremiah 52:10-11**, Zedekiah did not die peacefully: “he slew also all the princes of Judah in Riblah. Then he put out the eyes of Zedekiah; and the king of Babylon bound him in chains, and carried him to Babylon, and put him in prison till the day of his death.]
* **2 Kings 22: 20** Therefore, behold, I will gather you [Josiah] to your fathers, and you will be gathered to your grave in peace. [In **2 Chronicles 35:23-24**, he did not die peacefully: “The archers shot King Josiah, and the king said to his servants, ‘Take me away, for I am badly wounded.’ So his servants took him out of the chariot and carried him in the second chariot which he had, and brought him to Jerusalem where he died and was buried in the tombs of his fathers.”]
* **Genesis 35:10** God said to him, “Your name is Jacob, but you will no longer be called Jacob; your name will be Israel.” So he named him Israel. [Later in **Genesis 46:2** God called him Jacob: “And God spake unto Israel in the visions of the night, and said, Jacob, Jacob. And he said, Here am I.”]
* **Isaiah 52:1** Put on your garments of splendor, Jerusalem, the holy city. The uncircumcised and defiled will not enter you again. [Uncircumcised people live in Jerusalem even today.]
* **Matthew 21:22** If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer. [Try praying for an amputee’s limbs to grow back. Good luck.]
* **John 14:13-14** Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. [Ditto]
* **Matthew 16:28** “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.” [Either there were immortals in the group, or Jesus was wrong that some people there would still be alive when he returned.]
* **Mark 13:29-30** Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door. Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. [Ditto.]
* **Luke 21:31-32** So you also, when you see these things happening, recognize that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all things take place. [Ditto.]
* **1 Corinthians 7:29** What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not. [Indicating that they were in the last days, when clearly they were not.]
* **Hebrews 1:1-2** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. [Ditto.]
* **1 Peter 4:7** The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. [Ditto.]
* **James 5:8-9** You too be patient; strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. [Ditto.]

### The Uselessness of Messianic Prophecies:

Allan Glenn (WinAce) did a great example of how biblical prophecy can be used to make almost ANYONE seem like the messiah: [https://web.archive.org/web/20090326085342/https://fstdt.com/winace/napoleon\_messiah.htm](https://web.archive.org/web/20090326085342/https%3A//fstdt.com/winace/napoleon_messiah.htm)

## Failure of Prayer and Faith Healing:

A foundation of Christian belief is that God answers prayers. They cite such scripture as:

* **John 14:13-14** Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.
* **Mark 11:22-24** “Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”
* **Matthew 7:7-8** Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.
* **Matthew 17:20** “Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”
* **Matthew 18:19** Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.
* **Matthew 21:22** If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.
* **1 John 3:21-22** If our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him.
* **1 John 5:14-16** This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.
* **2 Chronicles 7:14** if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.
* **James 5:16** The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.
* **Philippians 4:6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
* **Jeremiah 33:3** Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.
* **Ephesians 6:18** And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.
* **Psalm 17:6** I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.
* **Psalm 37:4** Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

The problem is that the only prayers that ever come true are the ones that could have come true even **without prayer** (like finding lost keys). Often Christians will say that they prayed for a loved one with only a 1% chance of surviving some disease, and he survived...therefore prayer works! The problem is that 1% of survival means that 1 in 100 people survive that disease without prayer anyway. So how much greater is the survival rate of those who are prayed for? None, actually. In fact, **prayer may actually make survival worse**: [http://www.nbcnews.com/id/12082681/ns/health-heart\_health/t/power-prayer-flunks-unusual-test/#.WB\_L4i0rL-g](http://www.nbcnews.com/id/12082681/ns/health-heart_health/t/power-prayer-flunks-unusual-test/%23.WB_L4i0rL-g).

Prayers only ever appear to work with **mundane events** where there is at least some chance of occurring naturally (and at the same rate as not praying!). But prayer for non-mundane events with no chance of occurring naturally—such as for an amputee’s limbs to grow back, or for the tens of thousands of children who die each and every day from disease and starvation to survive—fails every time.

Texas governor **Rick Perry** called on millions of Christians to pray for rain to end the drought in April 2011. The drought only grew worse over the next four months.

But likely the most failed prayer in Christianity is when Jesus prayed for all believers:

* **John 17:20-23** “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, THAT ALL OF THEM MAY BE ONE, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, THAT THEY MAY BE ONE AS WE ARE ONE—I in them and you in me—SO THAT THEY MAY BE BROUGHT TO COMPLETE UNITY. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”
* **1 Corinthians 1:10** I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ALL OF YOU AGREE WITH ONE ANOTHER in what you say and that THERE BE NO DIVISIONS AMONG YOU, BUT THAT YOU BE PERFECTLY UNITED IN MIND AND THOUGHT.

Jesus prayed for Christians to be unified in order to show the world that Christianity is true. Tens of thousands of often mutually contradictory denominations later, it’s safe to say this prayer failed spectacularly. (More: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/godlessindixie/2016/01/10/the-most-fantastically-failed-prayer-in-history/>)

Apologists often point to faith healing as proof of the power of God. But here Derren Brown shows how even an atheist with no supernatural powers can use nothing but psychology and biology to achieve even better results than Christian faith healers: <https://youtu.be/wQI6fJmwTNU?t=36m32s> (view until 1:03:44).

More: <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/rolltodisbelieve/2013/06/02/the-power-of-prayer-part-two/>

## Consequences to Belief in the Bible:

### Why Christians Should Still Follow the Old Testament Laws:

* **Matthew 5:17-19** Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.
* **Mark 7:9-10** And he continued, “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death.’
* **Psalms 119:151-152** Yet you are near, O LORD, and all your commands are true. Long ago I learned from your statutes that you established them to last forever.
* **Luke 16:17** It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the least stroke of a pen to drop out of the Law.
* **Deuteronomy 4:2** Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.
* **Consequence:** Christians should not be allowed to eat bacon, shrimp or shellfish; play football (pigskin); allow witches to live; wear mixed fabrics; work on the Sabbath; etc.

### Why Christians Should Give Away Their Wealth:

* **Mark 10:21-25** “GO, SELL EVERYTHING YOU HAVE AND GIVE TO THE POOR, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “HOW HARD IT IS FOR THE RICH TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD! ... IT IS EASIER FOR A CAMEL TO GO THROUGH THE EYE OF A NEEDLE THAN FOR A RICH MAN TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD.”
* **Luke 6:29-30** If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. GIVE TO EVERYONE WHO ASKS YOU, AND IF ANYONE TAKES WHAT BELONGS TO YOU, DO NOT DEMAND IT BACK.
* **Luke 12:33** “SELL YOUR POSSESSIONS, AND GIVE TO THE POOR.”
* **Luke 14:33** “ANY OF YOU WHO DOES NOT GIVE UP EVERYTHING HE HAS CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE.”
* **Matthew 25:41-46** Then He will also say to those on His left, “Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; FOR I WAS HUNGRY, AND YOU GAVE ME NOTHING TO EAT; I WAS THIRSTY, AND YOU GAVE ME NOTHING TO DRINK; I WAS A STRANGER, AND YOU DID NOT INVITE ME IN; NAKED, AND YOU DID NOT CLOTHE ME; SICK, AND IN PRISON, AND YOU DID NOT VISIT ME.” Then they themselves also will answer, “Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?” Then He will answer them, “TRULY I SAY TO YOU, TO THE EXTENT THAT YOU DID NOT DO IT TO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE, YOU DID NOT DO IT TO ME.” These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

### Why Christians Should Hate Their Families:

* **Luke 14:26** If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. [Even if this is hyperbole, hyperbole is used to STRENGTHEN the point, not to weaken it.]
* **Matthew 10:34-37** Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn ‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’ Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. [In other words, love your family less than God. Insecure much?]

### Why Christians Should Obey the Government:

* **Romans 13: 1-7** Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.
* **Titus 3:1 1** Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient.
* **1 Peter 2:13-14** Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, or to governors as sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and the praise of those who do right.

### Why Christians Should Welcome Foreigners:

* **Exodus 23:9** Do not oppress a foreigner; you yourselves know how it feels to be foreigners, because you were foreigners in Egypt.
* **Deuteronomy 10:18-19** He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.
* **Leviticus 19:33-34** When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt.
* **Leviticus 19:9-10** When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner.
* **1 Kings 8:41-44** As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your name— for they will hear of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm—when they come and pray toward this temple, then hear from heaven, your dwelling place. Do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your own people Israel, and may know that this house I have built bears your Name.
* **Galatians 5:14** For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

### Why Public Prayer is Anti-Christian:

* **Matthew 6:5-8** And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

### Why Tattoos are Anti-Christian:

* **Leviticus 19:28** Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves. I am the LORD.

### Why Wearing Blended Fabrics and Planting Multiple Crops is Anti-Christian:

* **Leviticus 19:28** Keep my decrees. Do not mate different kinds of animals. Do not plant your field with two kinds of seed. Do not wear clothing woven of two kinds of material.

### Why Many Foods are Anti-Christian:

* **Leviticus 11:6-12** The rabbit, though it chews the cud, does not have a divided hoof; it is unclean for you. And the pig, though it has a divided hoof, does not chew the cud; it is unclean for you. You must not eat their meat or touch their carcasses; they are unclean for you. Of all the creatures living in the water of the seas and the streams you may eat any that have fins and scales. But all creatures in the seas or streams that do not have fins and scales—whether among all the swarming things or among all the other living creatures in the water—you are to regard as unclean. And since you are to regard them as unclean, you must not eat their meat; you must regard their carcasses as unclean. Anything living in the water that does not have fins and scales is to be regarded as unclean by you.
* **Leviticus 3:17** It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations, in all your dwelling places, that you eat neither fat nor blood.”

### Why Christmas Trees are Anti-Christian:

* **Jeremiah 10:2-4** This is what the Lord says: “Do not learn the ways of the nations or be terrified by signs in the heavens, though the nations are terrified by them. For the practices of the peoples are worthless; they cut a tree out of the forest, and a craftsman shapes it with his chisel. They adorn it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so it will not totter.”

### Why Christians Should Not Act Holier Than Thou:

* **Matthew 23:13-28** Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to. Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are. ... You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

### Why It is Wrong to Claim That Belief in God Leads to Moral Behavior:

There are countless examples throughout history: the Crusades, the Inquisition, witch trials, Divine Right of kings, demonization of other religions, persecution of heretics, censorship, missionary destruction of native religions, Ku Klux Klan, etc. But here are some **modern-day examples**:

* 1960s Father Lawrence Murphy molested 200 deaf boys, often claiming God had him do so as a form of confession.
* 1981 and onward, Army of God, Christian Identity, Lambs of Christ and other Christian Patriot movements committed a number of terrorist attacks, including attacking abortion clinics and doctors across the United States.
* 1985 Debra Lynn Gindorf killed her two-year-old daughter and three-month-old son, believing she and her babies would be reunited in heaven, where they would be safe and happy together for eternity.
* 1993 Michael F. Griffin shot and killed abortion provider Dr. David Gunn based on his Christian views.
* 1994 Reverend Paul Hill murdered an abortion doctor and expected to be rewarded for it in heaven.
* 1996 Eric Robert Rudolph carried out the Centennial Olympic Park bombing as well as attacks on an abortion clinic and a lesbian nightclub.
* 1998 Khoua Her strangled her six children, believing she would be reunited with them in the afterlife.
* 1998 Christopher Turgeon murdered a man, as ordered by God.
* 1999 Marilyn Lemak murdered her three children, perceiving herself as a loving mother tenderly taking her children to a happier existence.
* 2001 Andrea Yates believed her children to have “unrighteous standing before God,” and she killed them so they would not grow up and become sinners.
* 2002 Sherry Marie Delker murdered her daughter by running her down with her car outside a church. Her intent was to send her daughter to a “better place.”
* 2002 Brian Mitchell, who believed he was God’s servant, abducted 14-year-old Elizabeth Smart and used his religious belief to justify showing her pornography and giving her drugs and alcohol.
* 2004 Dena Schlosser killed her 10-month-old baby by slicing off her arms as an offering to God.
* 2005 Magdalena Lopez beat her two sons to death because she thought they’d be better off in heaven.
* 2009 Scott Roeder shot Dr. George Tiller in the head as he was in church.
* 2010 Ugandan Rev. Martin Ssempa, supported by American evangelical Christians, supported a bill to have homosexuals hanged.
* 2010 Nine “Hutaree” (Christian warriors) militia members were arrested for plotting to kill various police officers, whom they believe will support the Antichrist.
* 2015, Robert Doggart planned to attack a Muslim enclave with guns, Molotov cocktails and a machete.
* 2015 Evangelist Robert Lewis Dear shot 12 people, killing three of them, in front of an abortion clinic. He believed he was doing God’s work.
* 2015 Ivory Coast man chopped off the heads of at least 20 children because God told him to do it.

And don’t forget the many murders inflicted by the Ku Klux Klan, which are Protestant Christians. The Anti-balaka groups of the Central African Republic, among other Christian terror groups in Africa, have committed several massacres against Muslims in recent years. The Indian Naga nationalist militant group, one among several Christian terrorist organizations in India, uses various terrorist tactics, including assassination, in their efforts to establish a sovereign Christian state.

More: <http://myth-one.com/memorial.htm>, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_terrorism>

## Bible Contradictions:

Here are just a few examples. See more at: <https://thesuperstitiousnakedape.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/bible-contradictions.png>, <http://www.answering-christianity.com/101_bible_contradictions.htm>, <http://infidels.org/library/modern/donald_morgan/contradictions.html>, <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/crossexamined/2018/10/top-20-most-damning-bible-contradictions/> (actually 24) and <https://onlysky.media/bseidensticker/top-20-most-damning-bible-contradictions-2/>

https://onlysky.media/bseidensticker/damning-bible-contradictions-faith-and-works-the-end-and-more/

<https://www.lhup.edu/~dsimanek/febible.htm>

### Is God All Powerful?

* **Matthew 19:26** Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”
* **Job 42:2** I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
* **Revelation 19:6** For our Lord God Almighty reigns.
* **Luke 1:37** “For with God nothing shall be impossible.”
* **Jeremiah 32:27** I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?
* **Contradiction: Judges 1:19** The LORD was with the men of Judah. They took possession of the hill country, but they were unable to drive the people from the plains, because they had chariots fitted with iron.
* **Contradiction: Genesis 32:24-30** So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob’s hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ... Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.” ... So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.”

### Is God Good and Merciful to All?

* **Psalms 145:9** The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.
* **Contradiction: Revelation 20:10** They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

### Has Anyone Seen God?

* **John 1:18** No one has ever seen God.
* **Exodus 33:20** “But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.”
* **1 Timothy 6:15-16** God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see.
* **Contradiction: Genesis 18:1** The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day.
* **Contradiction: Genesis 32:30** So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.”
* **Contradiction: Exodus 6:2-3** God also said to Moses, “I am the LORD. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty.”
* **Contradiction: Exodus 24:9-11** Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of sapphire, clear as the sky itself. But God did not raise his hand against these leaders of the Israelites; they saw God, and they ate and drank.
* **Contradiction: Exodus 33:11** The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend.
* **Contradiction: Numbers 12:6-8** he said, “Listen to my words: “When there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams. But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD.

### Are Christians Saved by Faith and Works, or by Faith Alone?

* **Ephesians 2:8** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.
* **Acts 4:12** Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.
* **Romans 3:20** Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.
* **Romans 3: 28** For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.
* **Romans 5:1** Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
* **Romans 10:9-13** That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes in him will not be disappointed.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for “Whoever will call on the name of the lord will be saved.”
* **Contradiction: James 2:20-24** You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend. You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone.
* **Contradiction: 1 Corinthians 13:2** If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.
* **Contradiction: Matthew 25:41-46** Then He will also say to those on His left, “Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.” Then they themselves also will answer, “Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?” Then He will answer them, “Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.” These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

### Do Christians Sin?

* **1 John 5:18** We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.
* **1 John 3:9** No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.
* **1 John 3:6** No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him.
* **Contradiction: Ecclesiastes 7:20** Indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right and never sins.
* **Contradiction: Isaiah 64:6** All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags.
* **Contradiction: Luke 18:19** “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone.”
* **Contradiction: Romans 3:23** For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
* **Contradiction: Romans 3:10-12** As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”

### Does Salvation Require Being Born Again?

* **John 3:3-18** Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.” ... Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.
* **Contradiction: Romans 5:19** For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. [We ALL inherited Adam’s sin automatically, so do we ALL inherit Jesus’ salvation automatically?]

### Did Jesus Abolish the Old Covenant?

* **Hebrews 8:6-13** But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises. For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. But God found fault with the people and said “The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant … By calling this covenant “new,” he has made the first one obsolete.”
* **Contradiction: Matthew 5:17-19** “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven.”

### Did the Women Spread the Word About the Empty Tomb?

* **Matthew 28:8** So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.
* **Luke 24:9** When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others.
* **Contradiction: Mark 16:8** Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

### What are the Ten Commandments?

Apologists typically claim the list given in **Exodus 20:2-17** as the being the official Ten Commandments. However, the only list that the Bible specifically calls the “Ten Commandments” that God gave to Moses to inscribe on stone tablets is from **Exodus 34:14-28**:

**Exodus 20:2-17**

* You shall have no other gods before me.
* You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them.
* You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
* Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work.
* Honor your father and your mother.
* You shall not murder.
* You shall not commit adultery.
* You shall not steal.
* You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
* You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

**Contradiction:**

**Exodus 34:14-28**

* You shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.
* You shall make for yourself no molten gods.
* You shall observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
* The first offspring from every womb belongs to God, and all your male livestock.
* You shall work six days, but on the seventh day you shall rest.
* Celebrate the Festival of Weeks with the firstfruits of the wheat harvest, and the Festival of Ingathering at the turn of the year.
* Three times a year all your males are to appear before the Lord GOD, the God of Israel.
* You shall not offer the blood of God’s sacrifice with leavened bread.
* You shall bring the very first of the first fruits of your soil into the house of the LORD your God.
* You shall not boil a young goat in its mother’s milk. [WTF?!]

### How Did Judas Die?

* **Matthew 27:3-7** Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? See to that yourself!” And he threw the pieces of silver into the temple sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself. The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, “It is not lawful to put them into the temple treasury, since it is the price of blood.” And they conferred together and with the money bought the Potter’s Field as a burial place for strangers.
* **Contradiction: Acts 1:18** Now this man [Judas] acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out.

### Did God Really Want the World to Forget Amalek?

* **Exodus 17:14** Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven.” [God ordered something to be remembered so that he could make it forgotten?]

### Does the Sun Rotate Around the Earth?

* **Ecclesiastes 1:5** The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises
* **1 Chronicles 16:30** The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved.
* **Psalm 93:1** The world is established, firm and secure.
* **Psalm 96:10** The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved.
* **Psalm 104:5** He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved.
* **Contradiction:** Science has demonstrated that the Earth rotates at about 1,000 miles per hour at the equator, it revolves around the sun at 67,000 miles per hour, it travels with our solar system around the center of our galaxy at about 490,000 miles per hour, and our entire galaxy is moving at a speed of nearly 2.24 million miles per hour. <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-fast-is-the-earth-mov/>

### Is the Earth Flat with a Dome Marked with Lights?

* **Genesis 1:7** So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. [A vault/firmament is an arched roof.]
* **Job 37:18** Can you join him in spreading out the skies, hard as a mirror of cast bronze?
* **Isaiah 40:22** He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.
* **Job 22:14** He is way up there, walking on the vault of heaven.
* **Daniel 4:10-11** I was looking, and behold, there was a tree in the midst of the earth and its height was great. The tree grew large and became strong and its height reached to the sky, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth.
* **Matthew 4:8** Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.
* **Psalm 19:4** Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their utterances to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber; it rejoices as a strong man to run his course. Its rising is from one end of the heavens, and its circuit to the other end of them; and there is nothing hidden from its heat.
* **Isaiah 14:13-14** I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.
* **Revelation 6:13-14** And the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up.
* **Revelation 7:1** After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree.
* **Contradiction:** Science has proven that the Earth is a sphere, that there is no vault covering the Earth, and that stars are massively larger than the Earth and much farther away than any “vault” could be.

### Will Stars Fall from the Sky?

* **Mark 13:25** The stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.
* **Revelation 6:13** And the stars in the sky fell to earth, as figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind.
* **Revelation 8:10** The third angel sounded his trumpet, and a great star, blazing like a torch, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.
* **Revelation 9:1** The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth.
* **Revelation 12:4** Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth.
* **Contradiction:** Stars are thousands to trillions of times larger than the Earth. If even one star “fell” to the Earth, our planet would be instantly destroyed. Apologists are forced to claim the stars are metaphorical or they refer to meteors, neither of which would have been understood to be that when the Bible was written.

### Does God Cause Confusion?

* **1 Corinthians 14:33** For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.
* **Contradiction:** The Bible is so confusing that almost no two people who read it have the same interpretation. That’s why there are tens of thousands of distinct Christian denominations instead of just one. So either God is indeed the author of confusion, or the Bible is not the word of God.

### Will God Save You from All Disease?

* **Psalm 91:3** Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. (Good News translation: He will keep you safe from all hidden dangers and from all deadly diseases.)
* **Contradiction:** Christians get sick just as often as non-Christians.

## Problems with the Kalam Cosmological Argument:

### The KCA as proposed by William Lane Craig:

1. Everything that begins to exist has a cause of its existence (this is based on causality, because “something cannot come from nothing”).
2. The universe began to exist (based on the observed evidence for the Big Bang).
3. Therefore, the universe has a cause for its existence.
4. Since no scientific explanation can account for the cause of the universe, it must be due to a personal agent (known as “God”) that chose to create the universe. Furthermore, this agent must be immaterial, timeless, spaceless, changeless, uncaused, beginningless, eternal, enormously intelligent and enormously powerful (since matter and spacetime began with the Big Bang, and creating such a big and complex universe would require great intelligence and power).
5. Therefore, God exists.

### Refutations of the KCA:

1. This premise is claimed to be “intuitively obvious” but it’s only an assertion. Because intuition is often wrong (like the sun circling an unmoving Earth, or heavier objects falling faster than lighter objects) premise 1 is an appeal to intuition fallacy. Time is also intuitively obvious, but if it started with our universe, so too may have causality. Also, radioactive decay and particle appearance and disappearance have no evident causes. Finally, since everything in our universe is a rearrangement of existing matter and energy, the only things that truly “begin” to exist are the matter and energy at the beginning of our universe (and elementary particles). Since that started with the Big Bang (when time itself may have started), and we don’t know how the Big Bang started, we cannot claim that everything that begins to exist has a cause of its existence.
2. Our local universe did evidently begin to exist 13.8 billion years ago, but that doesn’t mean there isn’t a global universe that created our universe. There are several theories in physics (quantum mechanics, string theory) that predict the existence of multiple universes. So there could exist a natural global universe that is something like an eternal fluctuating quantum void capable of constantly generating local universes, in which case that global universe wouldn’t necessarily have a cause for its existence.
3. Thus, we cannot claim that the universe (at least not any global one) has a cause for its existence.
4. A global universe would be far more parsimonious than the God hypothesis, raising far fewer questions than postulating an “enormously” intelligent and powerful mind capable of existing outside of the context of material spacetime (or indeed anything at all) for no reason at all. Also, for all we know our experience of living in this universe is being created by computer simulation, developed by someone who is no more intelligent or powerful than a typical computer game programmer. And his “real” universe could function nothing like ours, nor be the result of forces we can even imagine (as is often the case for the computer worlds we create).
5. Therefore, the KCA fails.

### The Counter-KCA:

(This is to show how arguments are not evidence)

1. Everything that begins to exist has a cause of its existence (same as the KCA premise 1).
2. Every thought or action requires a change in matter over time and space before it can begin to exist (based on the observed evidence of every thought and action ever).
3. Therefore, the cause of every thought or action must be material, temporal, spacial, changeable, caused, originated and non-eternal
4. Since the God of the Kalam Cosmological Argument is defined as immaterial, timeless, spaceless, changeless, uncaused, beginningless and eternal, he must be incapable of thought or action, which by definition means he must be mindless and impotent.
5. Therefore, God could not have created the universe.

### The Godless Cosmological Argument:

(This is to show the problem with using an observation within our universe to explain something “outside” of our universe)**:**

1. Complexity always originates from a simpler earlier state (I call this “complexification” the “Law of Complex Origins.” As with the causality claim of the KCA premise 1, there are no known exceptions to this law).
2. An intelligent mind is a complex system (arguably the most complex system known to science).
3. God has an intelligent, possibly even omniscient mind (this is a basic premise of virtually all theologies, especially those that use cosmological arguments to prove the existence of God).
4. Therefore, God must have developed from a simpler earlier state (although many theists claim that God is constructed from a single, simple substance, an intelligent mind is enormously more complex than no mind at all, and an omniscient mind would arguably be the most complex system possible).
5. Since God existed in a simpler earlier state, he cannot be changeless, eternal and timeless by definition. Furthermore, it means that he couldn’t have existed before time came into existence, which means he had to have a beginning, and thus he cannot be the First Cause. And if time began with the formation of our universe, then God could not have created our universe.

### The Natural Cosmological Argument:

(by AXEMAN 890, modified)

1. Every natural thing that begins to exist has a natural cause for its existence (e.g., earthquakes, planetary formation, supernovae, plant growth, reproduction, etc.)
2. The universe began to exist.
3. The universe and everything observable in it is natural.
4. Therefore, the universe has a natural cause for its existence.
5. Since God, by definition, is supernatural, he couldn’t have created the universe because every natural thing that begins to exist has a natural cause for its existence.
6. Therefore, God did not create the universe.

### Conclusion:

Since all these cosmological arguments for the origin of our universe (INCLUDING the KCA) are based on observations (causality and complexification) that only make sense WITHIN the confines of the material spacetime of our universe, NONE of these arguments is valid.

# SOCIAL ISSUES:

## False Christian Perceptions About Atheists:

### Atheists are Immoral:

The nations with greater happiness, better health, better life expectancy, better education, better incomes, lower crime rates, lower abortion rates, lower teen pregnancy rates, lower STD rates and lower infant mortality than the United States (which is one of the most religious nations in the developed world) are also among the most ATHEISTIC nations of the world: Finland, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Japan, France, South Korea, Germany, Netherlands, Austria, Iceland, Australia, Ireland, Denmark, the Czech Republic, Israel, Canada, the UK, etc. In contrast, the poorest, least healthy, least happy and most violent countries are also among the MOST religious nations, including South Sudan, Nigeria, Uganda, the Philippines, Afghanistan, Tanzania, Pakistan, Morocco, Egypt, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, Yemen, El Salvador, Colombia, Senegal, Malawi, Indonesia, Brazil, Peru, Syria, Jordan, Algeria, Haiti, Botswana, Ghana, Venezuela, Mexico, Sierra Leone, etc. (More: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-secular-life/201410/secular-societies-fare-better-religious-societies>, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_irreligion>, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Happiness_Report>, <http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/healthiest-countries/>)

And although correlation does not necessarily mean causation, atheism is correlated with higher intelligence, better education, better economic status, and lower incarceration rates. Atheists represent just 0.1% of the total US federal prison population, which is 31 times lower than the 3.1%+ of the general population who are atheists. Christians, OTOH, represent 70% of the total US federal prison population, which is nearly the same as the 75% of the general population who are Christians (<http://thehumanist.com/commentary/nonbelievers-behind-bars-does-the-us-prison-system-privilege-religious-inmates>, <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/are-prisoners-less-likely-to-be-atheists/> and <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity_in_the_United_States>).

### Atheists Hate God:

Atheists cannot actually hate God because we don’t believe he even exists. We hate God the same way Christians hate Loki, Kali or Darth Vader. However, many atheists do hate Christianity for its persecution of atheists throughout history, as well as Christian attempts to subvert science and force society to follow their dogma.

### It Takes Faith to be an Atheist:

This is usually accompanied by the claim that atheists believe that “something came from nothing.” However, atheism means “without belief in gods.” That’s it. It does not mean a belief in anything else. Thus, atheism is not any form of faith claim. (Also, there’s no evidence that there ever was “nothing.” An eternal fluctuating quantum void that creates universes is an example of something that wouldn’t be “nothing.”)

The second mistake apologists usually make is to think atheists declare that “there is no God,” and they incorrectly believe that **agnosticism** is a position that lies between theism and atheism. However, an agnostic is someone who does not claim to know for certain whether gods exist, while a gnostic is someone who does claim to know whether gods exist. Thus, a **gnostic theist** believes in gods and claims they exist, an **agnostic theist** believes in gods but doesn’t claim to know they exist, a **gnostic atheist** doesn’t believe in gods and claims to know they don’t exist, and an **agnostic atheist** doesn’t believe in gods but doesn’t claim to know they don’t exist. Gnostic atheism is a faith-based position, whereas the far more common agnostic atheism is not.

### No One is Truly an Atheist:

The claim is that we are really just lying to ourselves because we want to live in sin. However, hundreds of millions of people belong to widely differing religions, many of them believing in numerous gods, gods that don’t resemble the Judeo-Christian God at all, and non-god supernatural entities. For the claim that God has shown himself to everyone to be true, that would necessitate believers of every other religion to be lying as well. But the religions people end up following have far more to do with the location where those people happen to be born than with any other factor...which is exactly what we would expect to see if God doesn’t exist, but wouldn’t make sense if there is a God who wants everyone to be a Christian. Ironically, many theists experience moments of doubt that their God exists, whereas few atheists have moments of doubt that God doesn’t exist. Also, no child who grows up without religious indoctrination claims to know God exists. And millions of atheists live lives that are more moral than most Christians (the nations with the lowest crime rates are also the most atheistic), so the whole premise of disbelief so that one can sin doesn’t even make sense. Finally, most atheists have no problem blaspheming the Holy Spirit (**Matthew 12:31** And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven), which wouldn’t make sense if they really believed in God.

### Atheism Cannot Account for Morality:

If atheism cannot account for morality, then why do the hundreds of millions of atheists around the world behave so well? Why aren’t we running through the streets stealing, murdering and raping? Why aren’t our prisons disproportionately filled with atheists instead of mostly Christians, Muslims and other theists? Why are the countries with the lowest crime rates and best care for their people mostly atheistic nations? And why are the countries with the highest crime rates and worst care for their people largely religious nations?

One reason is because religious people typically base their morality on ancient scriptures that support murder, genocide, slavery, rape, theft, torture, etc., whereas we atheists tend to base our morality on treating others the way we ourselves would prefer to be treated. We don’t have to tap dance around topics like slavery that the Bible clearly endorses—we know it’s wrong and can condemn it without equivocating.

Also, to someone who believes in an eternal afterlife, this life is nothing more than a waiting room before passing though the door to eternity. But to an atheist, this is the only life we have, so we’d better make the best of it. I want to live in a world where people treat each other well, not one rife with violence, abuse and destruction...so I work toward making the kind of society I want to live in. You don’t need religion in order to understand that. All you need is compassion.

It’s important to keep in mind is that we’re genetically predisposed to care about others. Many species—even primitive ones—have genes that encourage them to be protective of their offspring because it increases their chances of survival. And as we often see in nature, it doesn’t take much to extend that protective instinct beyond the family unit.

Furthermore, there is an evolutionary basis for morality. Social species can cooperate and specialize, which gives them an advantage over solitary species. However, to be social requires codes of conduct to interact safely and effectively (which is why even piranha know not to attack one another). Thus, genes for behaviors that improve social cohesion and cooperation become selected for in nature. Since human beings are among the most social of social species, we have evolved a capacity for complex moral behavior...although how that manifests itself can vary substantially among different societies. The point is, atheists do indeed have a basis for morality, and it doesn’t require any lawgiver or any one set of absolute rules, just normal evolutionary forces that occur in nature every day.

Apologists often claim that without a code of conduct provided by divine decree, morality is purely subjective. Well, nobody enjoys being made to suffer, so it makes perfect sense to avoid inflicting misery on others if you don’t want others to inflict it upon you. So is treating others the way you want to be treated objective or subjective? Who cares? Because either way it works. That’s why it’s a key component of many philosophies and religions. Ironically, those who believe that God determines right and wrong are the ones who believe in moral subjectivity. After all, morality based on God’s whim is morality based on whom you are, rather than what you do...which is the very definition of subjective.

Rather tellingly, fundies often ask why anyone would behave if there are no divine consequences. If they only do what’s right because of fear of eternal punishment, then they have no moral compass, and we can be thankful that they have religion to restrain their sociopathic tendencies.

The universal Golden Rule: <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Rule>

### Hitler was an Atheist:

Hitler identified as a Catholic and he was never excommunicated from the Catholic Church. Some quotes:

“I am now as before a Catholic and will always remain so.” — Adolf Hitler, to Gen. Gerhard Engel, 1941

“I believe today that my conduct is in accordance with the will of the Almighty Creator.” — Adolf Hitler, Mein Kampf, p. 46

“I am convinced that I am acting as the agent of our Almighty Creator. By fighting the Jews, I am doing the Lord’s work.” — Adolf Hitler, Mein Kampf, p. 65

“We tolerate no one in our ranks who attacks the ideas of Christianity...in fact our movement is Christian.” — Adolf Hitler, speech in Passau, 1928

“My feelings as a Christian points me to my Lord and Savior as a fighter. It points me to the man who once in loneliness, surrounded by a few followers, recognized these Jews for what they were and summoned men to fight against them and who, God’s truth! was greatest not as a sufferer but as a fighter. In boundless love as a Christian and as a man I read through the passage which tells us how the Lord at last rose in His might and seized the scourge to drive out of the Temple the brood of vipers and adders. How terrific was his fight against the Jewish poison. Today, after two thousand years, with deepest emotion I recognize more profoundly than ever before the fact that it was for this that He had to shed his blood upon the Cross. As a Christian I have no duty to allow myself to be cheated, but I have the duty to be a fighter for truth and justice… And if there is anything which could demonstrate that we are acting rightly, it is the distress that daily grows. For as a Christian I have also a duty to my own people. And when I look on my people I see them work and work and toil and labor, and at the end of the week they have only for their wages wretchedness and misery. When I go out in the morning and see these men standing in their queues and look into their pinched faces, then I believe I would be no Christian, but a very devil, if I felt no pity for them, if I did not, as did our Lord two thousand years ago, turn against those by whom today this poor people are plundered and exposed.” — Adolf Hitler, speech in Munich on April 12, 1922

Hitler also evidently didn’t accept evolution, either:

“Where do we acquire the right to believe that man has not always been what he is now? The study of nature teaches us that, in the animal kingdom just as much as in the vegetable kingdom, variations have occurred. They’ve occurred within the species, but none of these variations has an importance comparable with that which separates man from the monkey—assuming that this transformation really took place.” — Adolph Hitler, Hitler’s Table Talk, p. 248

“Nothing indicates that development within a species has occurred of a considerable leap of the sort that man would have to have made to transform him from an apelike condition to his present state.” — Adolph Hitler, Was Hitler a Darwinian? By Robert Richards

### Atheist Dictators Killed Millions of People:

While it’s true that mass-murdering dictators like Stalin and Mao were atheists, it’s not their atheism that led to them committing atrocities. The most important characteristic all authoritarian rulers have in common is that they must be the highest authority in their land. They are the ones their subjects must worship. Since religions have gods that are the highest authorities, totalitarian rulers need to either abolish religions (by embracing atheism) or control them (by either speaking for the gods or controlling the priests who speak for the gods). Thus, atheism and religion are just tools dictators use to maintain power. The problem isn’t atheism, but the demand for worship. Furthermore, people often commit atrocities in the name of their religion, using their scriptures to justify those atrocities. But nobody commits atrocities in the name of atheism, because atheism has no dogma, no rules, no requirements...except a lack of belief in gods.

Furthermore, it’s actually the Bible that justifies evil authoritarian rulers like Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, Mao, etc.:

* **Romans 13 1:5** Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for THERE IS NO AUTHORITY EXCEPT THAT WHICH GOD HAS ESTABLISHED. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

### Atheism Cannot Account for the Laws of Logic:

Because the laws of logic are immaterial, abstract and universal, they could only come from an immaterial being. But such an argument is a straw man, since atheism doesn’t require belief in only the materialistic world. Logic, like mathematics, is not materialistic, yet there is no reason to believe both are not part of a purely naturalistic universe, or even part of an eternal metaverse that spawned our universe. Also, many Christian philosophers believe that God is omnipotent only as far as what is logically possible (he couldn’t create an object so heavy he couldn’t lift it, for example), which would mean logic must exist apart from and above God, and thus God is not necessary to explain logic. The Bible itself indicates God cannot do absolutely anything (**Hebrews 6:18** It is impossible for God to lie, **Titus 1:2** God, that cannot lie), which supports the claim that God is limited by abstract laws.

### The Universe is Too Finely Tuned not to have been Created by God:

This is just an argument from ignorance fallacy. We don’t know if it’s even possible for the universal constants to turn out any differently. And for all we know is could be an **oscillating universe** or part of a **multiverse** of an infinite number of universes, each with different physics, potentially making this particular universe inevitable. According to the **anthropic principle**, only in a universe capable of supporting life will one find beings capable of contemplating fine tuning. Also, changes to multiple universal constants could result in the same universe. But 99.99999+% of the universe is lethal to life as we know it, making our universe not only NOT fine tuned for life, but hostile to it. More amusingly, this argument can be countered by using the “proof” for the existence of the **Flying Spaghetti Monster**: <http://www.debate.org/opinions/does-the-flying-spaghetti-monster-exist>

### It’s Better to Believe in God Just in Case he Exists:

A.k.a. “**Pascal’s Wager**.” Apart from the fact that belief isn’t something that you can just choose to do (just try to force yourself to believe in the Tooth Fairy), and apart from the fact that if God exists he would surely know that you’re just pretending in order to hedge your bets, the thousands of religions in the world show just how small your odds of choosing the “right” religion actually are. And what if the “real” God values critical thinking and thus only saves those who don’t believe he exists? So is it worth wasting time, money and opportunities on the tiny chance you’ll guess correctly? Finally, if God loves us and forgives us, would he forgive someone for not believing he exists without being asked? If he would, then there is no need to believe in or worship him. If not, then he doesn’t love us or forgive us.

## Is the US a Christian Nation?

Christians often claim that the US is a Christian nation based on Christian principles. Clearly most Americans are Christian, but this nation was founded on the principle of freedom of and from religion. Several of the most important and influential Founding Fathers were evidently deists and Unitarians, not Christians, and this is reflected in many of the founding documents, letters, treaties and other documents they wrote. Jesus and Christianity appear exactly zero times in the Constitution, and the deistic term “Nature’s God” appears in the Declaration of Independence. Separation of church and state was an important founding principle because it protects all religious positions.

### The Positions of the Founding Fathers:

* “The government of the United States of America is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian Religion.” — Treaty of Tripoli, unanimously approved by the US Senate and signed by President John Adams
* “The divinity of Jesus is made a convenient cover for absurdity. Nowhere in the Gospels do we find a precept for Creeds, Confessions, Oaths, Doctrines, and whole carloads of other foolish trumpery that we find in Christianity.” — John Adams
* “As I understand the Christian Religion, it was and is a Revelation. But how has it happened that Millions of Fables, Tales Legends have been blended with both Jewish and Christian Revelations that have made them the most bloody Religions that ever existed?” — John Adams
* “Examine Mahometanism, trace Christianity from its first promulgation; knowledge has been almost exclusively confined to the clergy. And, even since the Reformation, when or where has existed a Protestant or dissenting sect who would tolerate a free inquiry? The blackest billingsgate, the most ungentlemanly insolence, the most yahooish brutality is patiently endured, countenanced, propagated, and applauded. But touch a solemn truth in collision with a dogma of a sect, though capable of the clearest proof, and you will soon find you have disturbed a nest, and the hornets will swarm about your legs and hands, and fly into your face and eyes.” — John Adams
* “The United States of America have exhibited, perhaps, the first example of governments erected on the simple principles of nature; and if men are now sufficiently enlightened to disabuse themselves of artifice, imposture, hypocrisy, and superstition, they will consider this event as an era in their history. Although the detail of the formation of the American governments is at present little known or regarded either in Europe or in America, it may hereafter become an object of curiosity. It will never be pretended that any persons employed in that service had interviews with the gods, or were in any degree under the influence of Heaven, more than those at work upon ships or houses, or laboring in merchandise or agriculture; it will forever be acknowledged that these governments were contrived merely by the use of reason and the senses.” — John Adams
* “Question with boldness even the existence of a god; because, if there be one, he must more approve the homage of reason, than that of blindfolded fear.” — Thomas Jefferson
* “The legitimate powers of government extend to such acts only as are injurious to others. But it does me no injury for my neighbor to say there are twenty gods, or no god. It neither picks my pocket nor breaks my leg.” — Thomas Jefferson
* “I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should ‘make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,’ thus building a wall of separation between Church & State.” — Thomas Jefferson
* “Be it enacted by the General Assembly, that no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place, or ministry whatsoever, nor shall be enforced, restrained, molested, or burthened in his body or goods, nor shall otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinions or belief.” — Thomas Jefferson
* “Millions of innocent men, women and children, since the introduction of Christianity, have been burnt, tortured, fined, imprisoned; yet we have not advanced an inch towards uniformity. What has been the effect of coercion? To make one half the world fools, and the other half hypocrites. To support roguery and error all over the earth.” — Thomas Jefferson
* “Christianity neither is, nor ever was, a part of the Common Law.” — Thomas Jefferson
* “Where the preamble declares that coercion is a departure from the plan of the holy author of our religion, an amendment was proposed, by inserting the word ‘Jesus Christ,’ so that it should read, ‘a departure from the plan of Jesus Christ, the holy author of our religion’ the insertion was rejected by a great majority, in proof that they meant to comprehend, within the mantle of its protection, the Jew and the Gentile, the Christian and Mahometan, the Hindoo, and infidel of every denomination.” — Thomas Jefferson
* “And the day will come when the mystical generation of Jesus, by the supreme being as his father in the womb of a virgin will be classed with the fable of the generation of Minerva in the brain of Jupiter. But we may hope that the dawn of reason and freedom of thought in these United States will do away with all this artificial scaffolding, and restore to us the primitive and genuine doctrines of this the most venerated reformer of human errors.” — Thomas Jefferson
* “History, I believe, furnishes no example of a priest-ridden people maintaining a free civil government. This marks the lowest grade of ignorance of which their civil as well as religious leaders will always avail themselves for their own purposes.” — Thomas Jefferson
* “Man once surrendering his reason, has no remaining guard against absurdities the most monstrous, and like a ship without rudder, is the sport of every wind. With such persons, gullibility, which they call faith, takes the helm from the hand of reason, and the mind becomes a wreck.” — Thomas Jefferson
* “Each of those churches shows certain books, which they call revelation, or the Word of God. The Jews say that their Word of God was given by God to Moses face to face; the Christians say, that their Word of God came by divine inspiration; and the Turks say, that their Word of God (the Koran) was brought by an angel from heaven. Each of those churches accuses the other of unbelief; and, for my own part, I disbelieve them all.” ― Thomas Paine
* “That many good men have believed this strange fable [Christianity], and lived very good lives under that belief (for credulity is not a crime) is what I have no doubt of. In the first place, they were educated to believe it, and they would have believed anything else in the same manner. There are also many who have been so enthusiastically enraptured by what they conceived to be the infinite love of God to man, in making a sacrifice of himself, that the vehemence of the idea has forbidden and deterred them from examining into the absurdity and profaneness of the story.” ― Thomas Paine
* “Is it more probable that nature should go out of her course or that a man should tell a lie? We have never seen, in our time, nature go out of her course. But we have good reason to believe that millions of lies have been told in the same time. It is therefore at least millions to one that the reporter of a miracle tells a lie.” ― Thomas Paine
* “It is a contradiction in terms and ideas, to call anything a revelation that comes to us at second-hand, either verbally or in writing. Revelation is necessarily limited to the first communication; after this, it is only an account of something which that person says was a revelation made to him; and though he may find himself obliged to believe it, it cannot be incumbent on me to believe it in the same manner; for it was not a revelation made to me, and I have only his word for it that it was made to him.” ― Thomas Paine
* “The study of theology, as it stands in Christian churches, is the study of nothing; it is founded on nothing; it rests on no principles; it proceeds by no authorities; it has no data; it can demonstrate nothing; and it admits of no conclusion. Not anything can be studied as a science, without our being in possession of the principles upon which it is founded; and as this is the case with Christian theology, it is therefore the study of nothing.” ― Thomas Paine
* “Science is the true theology.” — Thomas Paine
* “That God cannot lie, is no advantage to your argument, because it is no proof that priests can not, or that the Bible does not.” — Thomas Paine
* “As to the ancient historians, from Herodotus to Tacitus, we credit them as far as they relate things probable and credible, and no further: for if we do, we must believe the two miracles which Tacitus relates were performed by Vespasian, that of curing a lame man, and a blind man, in just the same manner as the same things are told of Jesus Christ by his historians. We must also believe the miracles cited by Josephus, that of the sea of Pamphilia opening to let Alexander and his army pass, as is related of the Red Sea in Exodus. These miracles are quite as well authenticated as the Bible miracles, and yet we do not believe them; consequently the degree of evidence necessary to establish our belief of things naturally incredible, whether in the Bible or elsewhere, is far greater than that which obtains our belief to natural and probable things.” ― Thomas Paine
* “Take away from Genesis the belief that Moses was the author, on which only the strange believe that it is the word of God has stood, and there remains nothing of Genesis but an anonymous book of stories, fables, and traditionary or invented absurdities, or of downright lies.” — Thomas Paine
* “It is from the Bible that man has learned cruelty, rapine, and murder; for the belief of a cruel God makes a cruel man.” ― Thomas Paine
* “The declaration which says that God visits the sins of the fathers upon the children is contrary to every principle of moral justice.” — Thomas Paine
* “Whenever we read the obscene stories, the voluptuous debaucheries, the cruel and torturous executions, the unrelenting vindictiveness with which more than half the Bible is filled, it would be more consistent that we call it the word of a demon than the word of God. It is a history of wickedness that has served to corrupt and brutalize mankind; and, for my part, I sincerely detest it, as I detest everything that is cruel.” — Thomas Paine
* “There are matters in the Bible, said to be done by the express commandment of God, that are shocking to humanity and to every idea we have of moral justice.” — Thomas Paine
* All national institutions of churches, whether Jewish, Christian, or Turkish, appear to me no other than human inventions set up to terrify and enslave mankind, and monopolize power and profit.” ― Thomas Paine
* “Persecution is not an original feature in any religion; but it is always the strongly marked feature of all religions established by law.” ― Thomas Paine
* “Thomas did not believe the resurrection [John 20:25], and, as they say, would not believe without having ocular and manual demonstration himself. So neither will I, and the reason is equally as good for me, and for every other person, as for Thomas. — Thomas Paine
* “What is it the Bible teaches us?—raping, cruelty, and murder. What is it the New Testament teaches us?—to believe that the Almighty committed debauchery with a woman engaged to be married, and the belief of this debauchery is called faith.” — Thomas Paine
* “As to the book called the Bible, it is blasphemy to call it the Word of God. It is a book of lies and contradictions, and a history of bad times and bad men. There are but a few good characters in the whole book.” — Thomas Paine
* “Revelation when applied to religion, means something communicated immediately from God to man. It is revelation to the first person only, and hearsay to every other, and, consequently, they are not obliged to believe it. It is a contradiction in terms and ideas to call anything a revelation that comes to us at second hand, either verbally or in writing. Revelation is necessarily limited to the first communication.” — Thomas Paine
* “Among the detestable villains that in any period of the world have disgraced the name of man, it is impossible to find a greater than Moses, if this account be true. Here is an order to butcher the boys, to massacre the mothers, and debauch the daughters.” — Thomas Paine
* “It is far better that we admitted a thousand devils to roam at large than that we permitted one such impostor and monster as Moses, Joshua, Samuel, and the Bible prophets, to come with the pretended word of God and have credit among us.” — Thomas Paine
* “The Christian religion is a parody on the worship of the Sun, in which they put a man whom they call Christ, in the place of the Sun, and pay him the same adoration which was originally paid to the Sun.” — Thomas Paine
* “Of all the tyrannies that affect mankind, tyranny in religion is the worst.” — Thomas Paine
* “For happily the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection, should demean themselves as good citizens.” — George Washington
* “In this enlightened Age and in this Land of equal liberty it is our boast, that a man’s religious tenets will not forfeit the protection of the Laws, nor deprive him of the right of attaining and holding the highest Offices that are known in the United States.” — George Washington
* “Of all the animosities which have existed among mankind, those which are caused by a difference of sentiments in religion appear to be the most inveterate and distressing, and ought to be deprecated. I was in hopes that the enlightened and liberal policy, which has marked the present age, would at least have reconciled Christians of every denomination so far that we should never again see the religious disputes carried to such a pitch as to endanger the peace of society.” — George Washington
* “We have abundant reason to rejoice that in this Land the light of truth and reason has triumphed over the power of bigotry and superstition.” — George Washington
* “If I could now conceive that the general Government might ever be so administered as to render the liberty of conscience insecure, I beg you will be persuaded that no one would be more zealous than myself to establish effectual barriers against the horrors of spiritual tyranny, and every species of religious persecution.” — George Washington
* “The purpose of separation of church and state is to keep forever from these shores the ceaseless strife that has soaked the soil of Europe in blood for centuries.” — James Madison
* “The civil government functions with complete success by the total separation of the Church from the State.” — James Madison
* “And I have no doubt that every new example will succeed, as every past one has done, in shewing that religion & Govt will both exist in greater purity, the less they are mixed together.” — James Madison
* “Every new and successful example of a perfect separation between ecclesiastical and civil matters is of importance.” — James Madison
* “In regard to religion, mutual toleration in the different professions thereof is what all good and candid minds in all ages have ever practiced, and both by precept and example inculcated on mankind.” — Samuel Adams
* “Lighthouses are more helpful than churches.” — Benjamin Franklin
* “I have, with most of the present Dissenters in England, some Doubts as to [Jesus’] Divinity; tho’ it is a question I do not dogmatize upon, having never studied it, and think it needless to busy myself with it now.” — Benjamin Franklin
* “The way to see by faith is to shut the eye of reason.” — Benjamin Franklin
* “I have generally been denominated a Deist, the reality of which I never disputed, being conscious I am no Christian, except mere infant baptism makes me one; and as to being a Deist, I know not strictly speaking, whether I am one or not.” — Ethan Allen
* “No religious doctrine shall be established by law.” — Elbridge Gerry
* “Every interference of the civil power in regulating opinion, is an impious attempt to take the business of the Deity out of his own hands; and every preference given to any religious denomination, is so far slavery and bigotry.” — Noah Webster
* “Some very worthy persons, who have not had great advantages for information, have objected against that clause in the constitution which provides, that no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States. They have been afraid that this clause is unfavorable to religion. But my countrymen, the sole purpose and effect of it is to exclude persecution, and to secure to you the important right of religious liberty.” — Oliver Ellsworth
* “It is contrary to the principles of reason and justice that any should be compelled to contribute to the maintenance of a church with which their consciences will not permit them to join, and from which they can derive no benefit; for remedy whereof, and that equal liberty as well religious as civil, may be universally extended to all the good people of this commonwealth.” — George Mason
* “Congress has no power to make any religious establishments.” — Roger Sherman
* “The legislature of the United States shall pass no law on the subject of religion. — Charles Pinckney

More: <http://addictinginfo.com/2018/07/30/35-founding-father-quotes-conservative-christians-will-hate/>, <https://bigthink.com/culture-religion/why-americas-christian-foundation-is-a-myth>,

<https://www.thoughtco.com/top-founding-fathers-104878>

### Our Legal System and the Ten Commandments:

Apologists often claim that our legal system is based on the Ten Commandments listed in **Exodus 20:2-17**. Here is the evidence that not only are our laws not based on the Ten Commandments, but what the consequences would be if we did:

#### 1. You shall have no other gods before me:

Our First Amendment right to freedom of religion means it is unconstitutional and illegal to make any laws forbidding people from worshiping any gods they want, or none at all.

**If it were made law:** Everyone would be required to be Christian (although perhaps there would be an exception for Jews and maybe even Muslims). 30% of the US population would be breaking the law.

#### 2. You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them or serve them:

Our First Amendment right to freedom of religion means it is unconstitutional and illegal to make any laws forbidding people from creating and worshiping idols if they so choose.

**If it were made law:** Drawing pictures (except for the most abstract art), photography, sculpture, X-ray machines, MRIs, perhaps even telescopes and microscopes would be illegal. Although some Christian sects prohibit all representative art, most Christians believe this only applies to idols for worship, that would still cause a problem for Christians who worship images of Jesus and Mary. Even empty crosses are unacceptable to some Christian sects.

#### 3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain:

Most theologians believe this refers only to breaking oaths sworn in the name of God, but most Christians believe it applies to using God’s name as profanity. Either way, our First Amendment rights protecting both freedom of speech and freedom of religion mean it is both unconstitutional and illegal to make laws preventing the use of God’s name as profanity.

**If it were made law:** If referring only to breaking oaths sworn in the name of God, this would have little effect. If referring to using God’s name as profanity, then hundreds of millions of Americans would be subject to legal action.

#### 4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work:

While there is some dispute over whether the Sabbath falls on Saturday or Sunday, there are no laws preventing people from working any day they wish. In fact, millions of businesses around the country are open on Saturday or Sunday, and almost everyone at least occasionally spends the weekend catching up on work.

**If it were made law:** Since the Roman Emperor Constantine changed the original Sabbath to Sunday, Saturday would likely be made the “day of rest.” The remaining six days one would have to work. The Sabbath was intended as a day of worship of God for the entire day, so nobody would be allowed to have any fun or even catch up on chores. There would also be no utilities, emergency services, medical care, police protection or military action allowed. There goes the weekend....

#### 5. Honor your father and your mother:

No laws exist that require children to honor their parents. If anything, if parents are abusive, children are encouraged to not honor them, and instead report them to the police.

**If it were made law:** This commandment is unconditional, meaning children would be required to honor and obey even a parent who raped, tortured, enslaved or otherwise abused them. They would not be able to report their abusive parent to the police. Millions of children could be physically, mentally and emotionally damaged for life as a consequence.

#### 6. You shall not murder:

No society can exist without laws that prevent its citizens from slaughtering one another whenever they feel like it. Thus, prohibitions against murder have always existed in human civilizations, including all non-Christian societies. The **Code of Hammurabi**, for example, contains laws against killing, and it was created hundreds of years before Moses supposedly received the Ten Commandments.

**If it were made law:** Originally “thou shalt not kill,” which would clearly be impossible to follow (since something must die in order for us to eat), so most Christians consider “kill” to be a mistranslation of “murder.” But murder means “the unlawful premeditated killing of one human being by another,” which means the commandment would be a law that prohibits a killing that is against the law...which is redundant. Still, laws based on this commandment would likely change little (since murder laws have always existed in all human societies), although such an important commandment is woefully undefined and one could justify a law that forbids killing of any kind, including self-defense.

#### 7. You shall not commit adultery:

Adultery is a factor in divorce settlements, but there are no enforceable laws that prosecute adulterers. As long as all partners are in agreement, a married couple can have sex with others and the law won’t get involved at all.

**If it were made law:** Ancient Hebrews considered women to be property, and adultery was considered sex with a woman already married to someone else. Laws based on this commandment would make it illegal for married women to have sex with other men, but not for men (married or not) to have sex with unmarried women.

#### 8. You shall not steal:

As with murder, no society can exist without laws that prevent its citizens from taking whatever they want from someone without permission. Thus, prohibitions against theft have always existed in human civilizations, including all non-Christian societies. It too is found in the **Code of Hammurabi**.

**If it were made law:** The Talmudic interpretation of this commandment as “you shall not kidnap” has led some theologians to believe this commandment was only meant to apply to unjustly abducting people—which was considered as serious an offense as murder and adultery, while regular theft was not. But either way, making laws based on this commandment would likely have little impact on our society because such laws already exist in every society.

#### 9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor:

Also found in the **Code of Hammurabi**, this commandment originally applied only in court, although most Christians today believe it applies to lying of all types. However, although there are certain exceptions (such as in court and in legal contracts), our laws protect the right to express your opinion, even if it is a lie, because of the First Amendment right to free speech.

**If it were made law:** Since bearing false witness appears to have originally referred to lying in a court of law, not against lying in general, and all societies already have laws against this, that much of the commandment wouldn’t have much of an impact on us. However, what is the “neighbor” referred to in the commandment? Someone who lives nearby? Or does it apply to everyone? If everyone, what is the point in adding “against thy neighbor” to the commandment? If not everyone, then it must be okay to lie about non-neighbors.

#### 10. You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor:

The American economy is based on the concept of coveting your neighbor’s possessions. It’s called “keeping up with the Joneses” and it goes back at least as far as the right to the pursuit of happiness. There’s certainly no law against desiring what someone else has.

**If it were made law:** Does “covet” mean any form of desire or just excessive desire? If the latter, how do you measure “excessive”? And what kind of laws could enforce not coveting your neighbor’s possessions? Arrest anyone who expresses a desire for something a neighbor owns? Force people to sign statements expressing only mild interest in items they wish to buy? And does the use of the word “neighbor” mean it’s okay to covet the possessions of non-neighbors? Also problematic is that some translations of the commandment use the term “slaves” instead of “male servant” and “female servant,” so laws based on this commandment could justify legalizing slavery.

#### Summary of unfortunate potential laws based on the Ten Commandments:

* Required worship of the Christian God only
* No representative art of any kind
* Legal action against anyone using God’s name in profanity
* Six-day work weeks
* No work or play of any kind on the Sabbath, only worship
* No resisting or reporting an abusive parent
* No killing in self-defense
* No sex with another’s wife, although sex between a married man and an unmarried woman is fine
* No lying in a court of law except against non-neighbors
* No buying anything you really want

More: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AKsDrJxWKi8>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WnEcQ_OVsVk>, <http://atheism.about.com/od/tencommandments/a/analysis.htm>

### Is Abortion Anti-Christian?

Even though abortions have existed since at least as far back as the ancient Greeks, the Bible says NOTHING against abortion (which is very strange, considering how big of an issue this is for many Christians). However, apologists will often claim that certain passages imply abortion is wrong:

* **Exodus 21:22-25** If men struggle with each other and strike a woman with child so that she gives birth prematurely, yet there is no injury, he shall surely be fined as the woman’s husband may demand of him, and he shall pay as the judges decide. But if there is any further injury, then you shall appoint as a penalty life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.

This implies that the passage refers to the woman’s injury, not the fetus’s, since fetuses lack teeth and it would be virtually impossible to burn a fetus without killing the mother.

* **Psalm 51:5** Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

This implies that the mother sinned, not David. But either way, there is no indication that this is God’s belief, rather than just David’s belief.

* **Luke 1:44** As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

Ancient Hebrews had no separate word for “fetus,” so they used the term for “baby.” Also, God once used the term “nations” to refer to fetuses that clearly hadn’t become nations yet, indicating he uses terms prematurely:

* **Genesis 25:21 22** But the children struggled together within her; and she said, “If it is so, why then am I this way?” So she went to inquire of the LORD. The LORD said to her, “Two nations are in your womb; and two peoples will be separated from your body; and one people shall be stronger than the other; and the older shall serve the younger.”

Furthermore, according to the **Babylonian Talmud** of Judaism, the embryo is considered to be “mere fluid” until the fortieth day of pregnancy, and a fetus is considered only subhuman or pre-human until it has emerged halfway from its mother. Abortions are acceptable if the mother’s life is in danger:

* **Ohalot 7:6** If a woman was in hard travail, the child must be cut up while it is in the womb and brought out member by member, since the life of the mother has priority over the life of the child; but if the greater part of it was already born, it may not be touched, since the claim of one life cannot override the claim of another life.

Also, Adam wasn’t considered a “living soul” until God put the breath of life into him, implying that a person isn’t fully human until taking his first breath:

* **Genesis 2:7** Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

And when a widowed woman was discovered to be three months pregnant, she was accused of being a prostitute and ordered burned to death without waiting for the baby to be born:

* **Genesis 38:24** About three months later Judah was told, “Your daughter-in-law Tamar is guilty of prostitution, and as a result she is now pregnant.” Judah said, “Bring her out and have her burned to death!”

God even TEACHES priests to use abortion as a form of punishment for infidelity:

* **Numbers 5:24-27** He shall make the woman drink the bitter water that brings a curse, and this water that brings a curse and causes bitter suffering will enter her ... he is to have the woman drink the water. If she has made herself impure and been unfaithful to her husband, this will be the result: When she is made to drink the water that brings a curse and causes bitter suffering, it will enter her, her abdomen will swell and her womb will miscarry, and she will become a curse.

Evidently, it’s not only fetuses that God doesn’t treat as human lives in the Bible, but babies and young children less than one month old aren’t either:

* **Leviticus 27:2-7 “**If anyone makes a special vow to dedicate a person to the Lord by giving the equivalent value, set the value of a male between the ages of twenty and sixty at fifty shekels of silver, according to the sanctuary shekel; for a female, set her value at thirty shekels; for a person between the ages of five and twenty, set the value of a male at twenty shekels and of a female at ten shekels; for a person between one month and five years, set the value of a male at five shekels of silver and that of a female at three shekels of silver; for a person sixty years old or more, set the value of a male at fifteen shekels and of a female at ten shekels.”
* **Numbers 3:15** “Number the sons of Levi by their fathers’ households, by their families; every male from a month old and upward you shall number.” So Moses numbered them according to the word of the LORD, just as he had been commanded.

More: <http://www.religioustolerance.org/abo_biblh.htm>

When **Roe v. Wade** was passed in 1973, many Christian denominations supported abortion rights until Republicans made it a political issue (<http://billmoyers.com/2014/07/17/when-southern-baptists-were-pro-choice/>), and most people (including hundreds of millions of Christians) are pro-choice (<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/06/27/5-facts-about-abortion/>). In fact, Christians obtain 70% of abortions (<http://www.christianpost.com/news/70-of-women-who-get-abortions-identify-as-christians-survey-finds-150937/>). Unfortunately, most Christian conservatives are not really “pro-life” but pro-birth, since they generally do not support liberal programs to make birth control easily available, reduce child poverty, provide child care, and eliminate the death penalty (that would be pro-life). Instead they support “abstinence only” education, which has proven to be a failure.

Also, nobody considers **gametes (sperm and ova)** to be human life, even though they are clearly alive (otherwise Christians would be calling wet dreams and menstruation murder). Claiming that as soon as gametes come together they are suddenly human makes little sense (do we consider someone who eats a fried egg to be eating a fried chicken?), especially since they remain a single cell (zygote) with only slightly more potential to become human life than the individual gametes.

Half of all fertilized eggs do not implant anyway, often due to controllable factors such as a woman being underweight. Should women be forced to maintain ideal implantation weight? Or take drugs to ensure implantation? Some popular forms of birth control also prevent conception from even occurring, which results in fewer failed implantations of fertilized eggs than using no birth control. Then there’s the fact that a fetus is unlikely to have the capacity to experience pain until the third trimester.

As for those who only support abortion in the case of rape or incest, if discarding an embryo that is the result of rape isn’t murder, then doing the same thing for an embryo that is the result of a consensual relationship isn’t murder either. Similarly, few people have problems with discarding embryos that were fertilized in-vitro, and if that isn’t murder then discarding embryos that were fertilized through sex isn’t murder either. In all these cases, there are no differences between the embryos.

Also, by eliminating a woman’s right to choose whether or not she wishes to bring a baby to term, she is reduced to an obligated baby-making machine. Christians would object to forcing a woman to put her own life at risk by donating a kidney to a dying child, right? So what is the justification for forcing a woman to risk her life carrying a fetus to term?

Related to that is that even most people who believe life begins at conception would object to forcing a person to give blood against his or her will, even if it would mean saving someone else’s life. In fact we have legal “bodily integrity” protections preventing forced blood donation—it’s even illegal to use the organs of dead people to save lives unless they are registered organ donors. So what is the justification for forcing a woman to essentially give blood to a fetus against her will?

Clearly human life is a gradual process, with gametes on one end and a born baby on the other, and the actual point of becoming human life lies somewhere in between. Because of this ambiguity, it is unreasonable to impose one’s own beliefs on when human life begins. That decision should be left up to the individual parents...which is the pro-choice position.

### Are Christian Conservatives on the Right Side of the “Social War”?

Note that in struggles between conservatives and liberals on social issues, the conservatives are usually the most resistant, angry and mobilized...initially. But then the liberal idea spreads and eventually wins over the majority of the population. Thus, the conservatives win most of the battles...and then lose the war. This is at least partly due to conservative Christians using the Bible to justify immoral and anti-American behavior. Examples include:

#### Freedom of religion and speech:

Conservative Christians once used the Bible to fight against these rights:

* **Exodus 20:3** Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
* **Exodus 20:3** Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.

#### Slavery:

Conservative Christians used biblical scripture to support slavery:

* **Leviticus 25:44-46** Your male and female slaves are to come from the nations around you; from them you may buy slaves. You may also buy some of the temporary residents living among you and members of their clans born in your country, and they will become your property. You can will them to your children as inherited property and can make them slaves for life.
* **Exodus 21:7** If a man sells his daughter as a servant, she is not to go free as menservants do.

#### Women’s rights:

Conservative Christians used biblical scripture to resist equal rights for women:

* **1 Corinthians 11:3** But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.
* **1 Corinthians 14:34-36** The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says. If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church.
* **Ephesians 5:22-24** Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.
* **Colossians 3:18** Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
* **1 Timothy 2:11-15** A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness. But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve. And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. But women will be preserved through the bearing of children.
* **Titus 2:4-5** Encourage the young women ... to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.
* **1 Peter 3:1** Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands.

#### Gay marriage:

Gay marriage has only recently come to mainstream acceptance, as most people have realized it is immoral to marginalize people simply because they’re attracted to people of the same sex. Christian conservatives, however, point to the Bible to justify prejudice:

* **Leviticus 18:22** Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable.
* **Leviticus 20:13** If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

On the other hand, sometimes conservative Christians ignore what the Bible says, and it STILL puts them on the wrong side of history:

#### Government:

Conservative Christians generally support smaller government and lower taxes, decrying what they believe is excessive government overreach and excessive spending on social programs. They also (unjustly) like to blame atheism for the evil authoritarian governments of Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, Mao, etc. But they conveniently ignore what the Bible says about this:

* **Romans 13 1:7** Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for THERE IS NO AUTHORITY EXCEPT THAT WHICH GOD HAS ESTABLISHED. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: IF YOU OWE TAXES, PAY TAXES; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

#### Poverty and immigration:

Most conservative Christians vote for cutting social programs that help the poor (including universal healthcare) and kicking undocumented immigrants out of the country (and even curtailing legal immigration), even though Jesus repeatedly taught his followers to take care of the poor and welcome the stranger:

* **Leviticus 19:9-10** “When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God.”
* **Deuteronomy 15:7** If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward them.
* **Proverbs 31:8-9** “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”
* **Luke 12:33-34** “Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
* **1 Timothy 6:18** “Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.”
* **Matthew 25:35** For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.
* **Hebrews 13:2** Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.
* **Leviticus 19:33-34** When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.
* **Matthew 25:41-43** Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

#### Gun rights:

Conservative Christians are among the most likely to support gun rights and buy guns for self-defense purposes, even though the Bible teaches to not resist attacks by one’s enemies:

* **Matthew 5:38-40** “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well.
* **Luke 6:27-31** But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.
* **Matthew 5:43-44** You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Furthermore, these same conservative Christians are typically anti-abortion rights and anti-LGBTQ rights, even though Jesus never said anything against them.

So isn’t it fair to say most conservative Christians are hypocrites?

### Are Christians Persecuted Like Jesus Was?

Christians are often very quick to use the “persecution” claim even when it makes no sense. Overseas, Muslims are more persecuted than Christians. And in the US Christians are NOT persecuted, at least not like Jesus—they’re never arrested, tortured and murdered for their beliefs (although they often mistake privilege for rights, which means they feel persecuted when they’re required to be treated the same as everyone else). They also often defend fellow Christians who are accused of misconduct (Donald Trump, Roy Moore, etc.), claiming Christian persecution even though an accusation of misconduct doesn’t fall into the category of “righteous” persecution:

* **Matthew 5:10** Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Christians also tend to resent and attack those whom they believe are persecuting them, which is not how the Bible expects them to behave:

* **Romans 12: 14** Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

# EVOLUTION vs. CREATIONISM:

Creationists often claim that **evolutionary theory** isn’t a science and that **creationism (a.k.a. intelligent design)** is scientific. I rarely give comprehensive defenses of evolution anymore because almost no creationists are even equipped to understand the evidence. However, short and simple examples for why evolutionary theory is vastly superior to creationism can be effective.

A comprehensive source of **refutations of creationist claims**: <http://www.talkorigins.org/indexcc/list.html>

A list of common misperceptions about evolution: <http://evolution.berkeley.edu/evolibrary/misconceptions_faq.php>

## Understanding Science:

The undeniable effectiveness of science can be demonstrated by the sheer quantity of technology surrounding us that makes the modern world even possible. And it’s the scientific method that forms the basis of scientific advancement.

### Fact, Hypothesis, Theory and Law:

Creationists commonly demonstrate their lack of scientific understanding by claiming evolution is “only a theory” that hasn’t become a “fact” or a law. Their mistake is to equate the scientific term “theory” with the common meaning of “conjecture” or “guesswork.”

But in science a **THEORY** is “a well-substantiated explanation of some aspect of the natural world, based on a body of facts that have been repeatedly confirmed through observation and experiment. Such fact-supported **theories** are not ‘guesses’ but reliable accounts of the real world” (<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/theory>). Thus, a theory in science is equivalent to what people commonly refer to as a “fact.”

A **HYPOTHESIS** is “a tentative explanation for an observation, phenomenon, or scientific problem that can be tested by further investigation” (<https://ahdictionary.com/word/search.html?q=hypothesis>), which is the closest scientific term to what people commonly mean when they use the term theory.

A **FACT** is “an observation that has been confirmed repeatedly and is accepted as true (although its truth is never final)” (such as undisturbed fossils being ordered by lineage, all species being based on DNA, etc.) (<https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/scientific%20fact>).

And a **LAW** is “a statement, based on repeated experiments or observations, that *describe or predict* a range of natural phenomena.” … “Laws are narrower in scope than scientific theories, which may entail one or several laws.” ([https://www.definitions.net/definition/scientific+law](https://www.definitions.net/definition/scientific%2Blaw)), and thus is not an *explanation* for a phenomenon.

So a hypothesis is a tentative explanation for a phenomenon, typically based on observed facts and laws, and a theory is a hypothesis (or hypotheses) that has undergone extensive testing and has a wide body of supportive evidence. A theory is the highest level of explanatory certainty in science.

**For a theory to be scientific**, it must make **testable predictions** that could prove the claim false, and the claim must be **reproducible** so others can verify the results. Every genuine test of a theory is an attempt to prove it false, and the more falsifiable predictions a theory makes, the better. Since a theory is always subject to further discoveries of evidence, which could potentially prove the theory false, a theory is always considered provisional. That means evidence can never prove a theory true, only false. However, the more evidence that supports a theory, the more confidence we have that the theory is an accurate explanation for the phenomenon. Any theory that cannot be refuted by some conceivable evidence is not scientific, and irrefutability is not a virtue for a scientific theory.

One way to test whether a claim is scientific is to ask the following question: If this claim is true, what testable predictions can we make to prove the claim false, and what evidence should we expect to find?

So what does evolutionary theory predict? Here are the major predictions:

1. If all species evolved from a common ancestor over time, transitional species MUST exist in the fossil record (even though none had been discovered before they were predicted).
2. If all species descend from an ancestral species, NO species can appear earlier in the fossil record than a species from which it descended (no vertebrates in the Cambrian, for example).
3. If all species evolved from a common ancestor, ALL species MUST be constructed using the same basic pattern that can be modified in some way.
4. If all species descended from an earlier ancestor, there MUST be some mechanism that introduces change to that basic pattern, upon which natural selection can act.
5. The process of evolution is extremely slow, so the Earth MUST be billions of years old.

So what does the evidence show?

1. The first transitional fossil was found two years after Darwin’s prediction that they had to exist. Since then we have discovered HUNDREDS or more transitional species in the fossil record. We’ve even managed to predict the physical characteristics a specific transitional species would have and where it would be found in the fossil record…and then gone out and FOUND it.
2. In undisturbed geological strata, we have NEVER even once found a descendant species appear in the fossil record BEFORE its ancestral species appeared (no human fossils have EVER been found in the Jurassic, for example).
3. A century after Darwin’s time we discovered that ALL species use the exact same architecture for inheritance: DNA (or the simpler RNA for the simplest life forms).
4. DNA is constantly modified by mutations. And transposons and polyploidy are two examples of how new information can be added to a genome.
5. Numerous dating techniques discovered over the past century have revealed the Earth to be 4.543 billion years old with 99% accuracy.

How science works: <https://scitechdaily.com/how-science-works-uncertainty-spurs-scientific-progress/>

### Is Creationism/Intelligent Design Scientific?

Creationists often claim that creationism/intelligent design is scientific, at least as much as if not more so than evolution. However, any form of creationism that cannot be tested to potentially prove it false is not scientific by definition. (More: <http://undsci.berkeley.edu/article/id_checklist>)

**Young-Earth Creationism (YEC)** does make some claims that can be tested; however, the tests cannot prove the nonexistence of a god or gods (it’s impossible to disprove such a universal negative), although they can prove that the Bible contains false information.

**YEC’s Claim:** All living species were created by the biblical God over the course of a week 6,000 years ago (4004 BCE), and a global flood occurred 4,370 years ago (2348 BCE).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Creationism’s Predictions:** | **The Evidence:** |
| Since the world was created 6,000 years ago, dating techniques should confirm that age. | There are some three dozen different dating techniques that all indicate a much older Earth than 6,000 years. The most accurate method for dating the Earth—radiometric dating—indicates the Earth is 4.54 billion years old.  |
| Since Adam and Eve were created 6,000 years ago, genetic evidence should indicate that the people whose genes we all inherited lived 6,000 years ago. | Mitochondrial/chromosomal evidence reveals the most recent woman from whom all current women descended in an unbroken line lived about 99,000-148,000 years ago, and the man from whom all current men descended in an unbroken line lived about 120,000-200,000 years ago. They were from different populations when they lived and it is highly unlikely they ever met.  (More: <https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg22429904-500-found-closest-link-to-eve-our-universal-ancestor/> and <http://haplogroup-a.com/Ancient-Root-AJHG2013.pdf> and <http://www.livescience.com/38613-genetic-adam-and-eve-uncovered.html>) |
| Since there was a worldwide flood 4,370 years ago, there should be physical evidence of that flood. | Geological evidence reveals a variety of deserts, mountains, forests, etc. that were never interrupted by a global flood. The ice caps on the poles and Greenland show up to 800,000 years of ice layers with no evidence of disruption by flooding, and the ice caps couldn’t have formed in contemporary climes at all. Wyoming’s Green River formation has layers (varves) representing millions of years of gentle (not violent) sedimentation. (More: <http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/faq-noahs-ark.html>) |
| There should also be historical evidence of a global flood 4,370 years ago (2348 BCE). | The city of Ur of the Chaldees in ancient Sumer (where Abraham was supposedly born) was a prominent city from about 2400 BCE until about 2285 BCE. Its historical record is not interrupted by any massive flooding.Babylon rose to power about 2400 BCE with no break in their history due to a flood.The well-documented 5th and 6th Egyptian dynasties ruled from about 2465 BCE until 2000 BCE, with no interruption to their historical record, nor any mention of any global flood. The Harappan civilization existed in India from 2300 BCE until 1900 BCE, with no record of a global flood. Ironically, their civilization appears to have ended because of a long-term drought.Chinese history begins around 3000 BCE. Their historical record shows that Emperor Yao ruled from 2356 BCE until 2255 BCE, with no interruption by any flood. Also, if their civilization had been completely wiped out and replaced by Noah’s descendants, how would they know about the old Chinese calendar and why would they use it?The oldest calendar is from the Yazidis religion in northern Iraq, and it is over 6,700 years old (it began in 4750 BCE). They lived right through when the flood supposedly occurred…and in fact lived almost 750 years BEFORE God supposedly created the universe (4004 BCE). |
| All living humans descended from just eight survivors of the flood, so subsequent population growth must fit realistic population growth dynamics. | Less than 150 years after the flood, there were enough people to build Stonehenge and the pyramids. There were also enough people to populate numerous cities mentioned in the Bible, as well as all of Egypt, Mesopotamia, the Indus Valley, China, the Americas, and more. That’s a population of eight stone-age people growing to a population of tens of millions of people and spreading all around the world and accomplishing massive tasks all within 150 years (just 7.5 generations). Such rapid growth in human population alone FAR exceeds what is biologically possible, and doesn’t even take into account deaths from disease, war and natural disaster. All those civilizations also originally had their own fully-developed cultures that would have been completely wiped out by a global flood. Noah’s descendants would have had to completely reconstitute all the languages, writing, religions, professions, technologies and other unique societal developments of those civilizations within 150 years, and accomplish this so flawlessly that their historical records show no interruption (nor any of them mention any global flood). (More: <https://thewordofme.wordpress.com/2008/07/12/more-evidence-against-noahs-flood/>) |
| Burial by the flood caused the fossil record, thus all fossil species must be sorted by flood dynamics.  | Except for small local flood examples that have occurred throughout history, the fossil record is sorted by lineage, not by flood dynamics. That would be impossible if creationism is true. (More: <http://www.noanswersingenesis.org.au/worldwideflood.htm>) |
| All living animals descended from just two to seven survivors of each species 4,370 years ago, so subsequent population growth must fit realistic population growth dynamics.  | Many slow-traveling species like ants, snails, sloths, koalas, tortoises, flightless birds, etc. would have been incapable of traveling many thousands of miles both by land and by sea to their current natural habitats on the other side of the world. They would also have had to find sufficient food for their specific diets and reproduce while being preyed upon by species dependent on them. Most plants and their seeds could not have survived immersion in water for a year, and most fish could not have survived in silt-laden fresh water caused by the flood. (More: <http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/faq-noahs-ark.html>) |
| **Additional Testable Claims:** |  |
| Since the Bible says millions of Israelites wandered the Egyptian desert for 40 years, it should be logistically possible and there should be ample archaeological evidence that this happened. | A few million Israelites and their herd animals on the march would have stretched out hundreds of miles, though the widest point on the Sinai Peninsula is only 120 miles. They would have needed a minimum of tens of thousands of tons of food, water and fuel per day to survive. They would have excreted thousands of tons of human and animal waste per day (and those in back couldn’t have avoided constantly walking through it). There would have been many hundreds of human and animal births and deaths per day, and there were just three priests to officiate all the ceremonies and sacrifices!). There is no evidence of any massive campsites, nor even evidence of any Israelite campsites at all, anywhere in Egypt. Nor is there any Egyptian historical record of anything in Exodus. (More: <http://apastasea.blogspot.com/2014/12/complaining-about-exodus-movie.html>)  |

There are many, many other problems with the Noah’s flood claim, detailed here: <http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/faq-noahs-ark.html>

#### Can creationists be trusted?

The leading creationist organizations require their scientists to IGNORE any evidence that contradicts their religious beliefs:

From the **Creation Ministries International** Doctrines and Beliefs: “No interpretation of facts in any field, including history and chronology, can be valid if it contradicts the scriptural record” (<https://creation.com/what-we-believe>).

From the **Answers in Genesis** Statement of Faith: “By definition, no apparent, perceived or claimed evidence in any field, including history and chronology, can be valid if it contradicts the scriptural record” (<https://answersingenesis.org/about/faith/>).

From the **Creation Research Society** Statement of Belief: “The Bible is the written Word of God, and because it is inspired throughout, all its assertions are historically and scientifically true in the original autographs” (<https://creationresearch.org/statement-of-belief/>).

From the **Institute for Creation Research** tenets: “The Bible … is the divinely-inspired revelation of the Creator to man. Its unique, plenary, verbal inspiration guarantees that these writings, as originally and miraculously given, are infallible and completely authoritative on all matters with which they deal, free from error of any sort, scientific and historical as well as moral and theological” (<https://www.icr.org/tenets>).

What this means is that the members of these creationist organizations automatically make their claims in exclusion of any evidence that proves their claims wrong, thus eliminating any scientific credibility from their work. NOTHING is more unscientific than ignoring evidence, yet that is exactly what they do.

Lists of creation scientist:

Creation Ministries International: <https://creation.com/creation-scientists>

Answers in Genesis: <https://answersingenesis.org/creation-scientists/modern/>

Institute for Creation Research: <http://www.ideacenter.org/contentmgr/showdetails.php/id/1207>

Discovery Institute: <https://www.discovery.org/m/2019/10/Scientific-Dissent-from-Darwinism-List-09302019.pdf>

<https://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Lists_of_creationist_scientists>

<https://rationalwiki.org/wiki/A_Scientific_Dissent_From_Darwinism>

Scientists who accept evolution:

<http://www.talkorigins.org/indexcc/CA/CA111.html>

<https://www.sciencemeetsreligion.org/evolution/scientists-evolution.php>

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/02/11/darwin-day/>

<https://www.pewresearch.org/science/2015/07/01/chapter-4-evolution-and-perceptions-of-scientific-consensus/>

Project Steve:

<https://ncse.ngo/list-steves>

https://ncse.ngo/project-steve-frequently-asked-questions

Statements of faith:

Answers in Genesis: <https://answersingenesis.org/about/faith/>

Creation Ministries International: <https://creation.com/what-we-believe>

Creation Research Society: <https://creationresearch.org/statement-of-belief/>

Institute for Creation Research: <https://www.icr.org/tenets>

Example of a creation scientist’s disregard for evidence: <https://youtu.be/TjxZ6MrBl9E?t=102>

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/lovejoyfeminism/2020/09/the-anatomy-of-a-conspiracy-theory.html>

(More creationist deception: <https://friendlyatheist.patheos.com/2019/09/27/christians-hid-a-dinosaur-fossil-170-years-ago-because-it-contradicted-the-bible/>)

YECs believe in “intelligent design” and often refer to arguments made by lead advocate for ID, Michael Behe. He claims that some biological features are “irreducibly complex” and could not have evolved naturally (although he has failed to provide any credible evidence for this claim). However, he also accepts the evidence for an ancient Earth, common descent, macroevolution, etc. He believes in “theistic evolution,” the claim that God directed natural evolutionary forces to create humankind. YECs accept his claim for irreducible complexity while ignoring all his other conclusions, indicating a lack of interest in the evidence. Furthermore, intelligent design failed when tested for scientific legitimacy during the Kitzmiller v. Dover trial (detailed elsewhere in this document).

### Is Evolutionary Theory Scientific?

**Evolutionary Theory’s Claim:** All living species evolved slowly from a single common ancestor that existed billions of years ago. From the beginning, evolutionary theory made several critical testable predictions that would disprove it if they turned out to be false. Examples:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Evolutionary Theory’s Predictions:** | **The Evidence:** | **Comparison to YEC:** |
| Since all species evolved from a common ancestor over time, transitional species must exist in the fossil record (even though none had been discovered before they were predicted). | Two years after Darwin published his theory, the first transitional fossil (Archaeopteryx) was discovered. Since then we have discovered hundreds, perhaps thousands of transitional fossils (More: <http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/faq-transitional.html>) | Since all species were individually created by God, there should be no transitional species in the fossil record. |
| Since all species descend from an ancestral species, no species can appear earlier in the fossil record than a species from which it descended.  | Of the untold millions of dated fossils discovered over the more than 150 years since Darwin’s theory was published, not a single confirmed fossil has been found in older geological strata than its ancestral species. (More: <http://palaeobabbler.blogspot.com/2012/01/how-to-falsify-evolution-using-fossil.html>) | If fossils were all caused in one catastrophic flood, the fossil record should be sorted only by flood dynamics.  |
| Since all species evolved from a common ancestor, all species must be constructed using the same basic pattern that can be modified in some way. | The eventual discovery of DNA proved that all species are constructed using the same modifiable pattern. (More: <http://eveloce.scienceblog.com/16/dna-proves-evoution/>) | Since all species were individually created by God, there is no reason why all species would have to be based on the same modifiable pattern. |
| Since all species descended from an earlier ancestor, there must be some mechanism that introduces change to that basic pattern, upon which natural selection can act. | That proof was the later discovery of mutations in all species (each human has about 60 mutations that differ from his/her parents’ genomes). (More: <http://www.livescience.com/33347-mutants-average-human-60-genetic-mutations.html>) | If God’s creation was perfect, there is no reason why species must be subject to mutation.  |
| Since the process of evolution is extremely slow, the Earth must be at least many millions of years old.  | In the 1900s, the discovery of multiple radiometric dating techniques allowed us to date the Earth to 4.54 billion years old (with 99% accuracy). (More: <http://scienceline.ucsb.edu/getkey.php?key=2901>) | Radiometric dating should show that the Earth was formed only about 6,000 years ago. |

Since evolutionary theory makes numerous testable claims that could prove the theory false, it is scientific. And more than 150 years of accumulated evidence have only strengthened the theory. This is why 98.5% of all life and earth scientists accept evolution and reject creationism. (More: <http://www.talkorigins.org/indexcc/CA/CA111.html>)

## Evidence Supporting Evolutionary Theory:

### Examples of Evidence for Evolution:

#### Fossil record:

Despite the difficulty and rarity of fossilization, the fossil record is full of species that can be seen to change incrementally over time through the geological layers, and all fossils are sorted by lineage in undisturbed strata. Radiometric and other dating techniques can accurately determine the age of the fossils, and they reveal the slow process of speciation in line with evolutionary theory. (More: <https://www.agiweb.org/news/evolution/examplesofevolution.html>)

#### Transitional species:

Transitional fossils must have existed in order for evolutionary theory to be true. The first transitional fossil (Archaeopteryx, possessing the toothed jaws, bony tail and clawed fingers characteristic of theropod dinosaurs, as well as the wings, flight feathers and wishbone characteristic of birds) was discovered two years after On the Origin of Species was published. Since then, hundreds if not thousands have been found.

One of the more recent discoveries is Tiktaalik roseae. Based on the discoveries of 385-million-year-old lobe-finned fish fossils (like Eusthenopteron) and the 365-million-year-old tetrapods (four-legged amphibian ancestors, like Acanthostega), paleontologists predicted that there had to have existed a transitional species somewhere between 365 million years ago and 385 million years ago. They knew that the species would possess features possessed by lobe-finned fish (such as scales, fins, gills, etc.), as well as features possessed by tetrapods (such as a mobile neck, wrist joints, weight-supporting ribs, eyes on the top of the head, etc.). And based on the locations of the lobe-finned fish and tetrapod fossils, the researchers knew this transitional species would have lived in an area that is now part of northern Canada.

So the researchers travelled to Canada’s Ellesmere Island and searched the geological strata dated within that 365 mya to 385 mya range. There they found the remains of the 375-million-year-old Tiktaalik roseae. As predicted, Tiktaalik possessed scales, fins and gills of fish, the mobile neck, wrist joints, weight-supporting ribs, and eyes on the top of the head of tetrapods. It also possessed the limb bones, joints and ear regions that were somewhere between fish and tetrapod.

The discovery of tracks providing evidence that a tetrapod existed almost 400 million years ago means Tiktaalik likely wasn’t the first transitional vertebrate species between fish and tetrapods (although it may be the one that led to our own lineage). This is to be expected, since there are often multiple speciation events associated with new environments and newly evolved features, and many such branches end up going extinct.

(More: <https://evolution.berkeley.edu/evolibrary/news/060501_tiktaalik>, <http://tiktaalik.uchicago.edu/searching4Tik.html>, <http://evolution.berkeley.edu/evolibrary/article/lines_03>, <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/02/210204144032.htm>, <https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn18346-oldest-footprints-of-a-four-legged-vertebrate-discovered/>)

#### Universal genetic code:

The cells from any species can read the DNA of any other species (which is why interspecies genetic engineering is possible). This supports the notion that all species are genetically related through a common ancestor. To creationists who may respond by saying, “same design, same designer,” note that human, insect, flatworm and snail eyes are all radically different. So does that mean “different design, different designer” (i.e., multiple gods)? (More: <http://www.encyclopedia.com/science-and-technology/biology-and-genetics/genetics-and-genetic-engineering/genetic-code>)

#### Comparative DNA:

Humans share at least 99.5% of genes with other humans, approximately 98% of genes with chimpanzees, 93% with monkeys, 92% with mice, 90% with cats, 84% with dogs, 80% with cows, 60% with chickens, 44% with fruit flies, 26% with yeast, 18% with plants, 7% with bacteria. This strongly indicates shared ancestry, and the lower the percentage, the farther back in time our ancestries diverged. (More: <https://blog.23andme.com/23andme-and-you/genetics-101/genetic-similarities-of-mice-and-men/>)

#### Chromosomes:

Despite humans having nearly identical DNA to chimpanzees, humans have 46 chromosomes to chimpanzees’ 48 chromosomes. If we share a relatively recent common ancestor, why the difference? Each chromosome has a centromere in the middle and a telomere capping each end. However, human chromosome 2 has two centromeres and two telomeres in the middle of the chromosome, which is evidence of two chromosomes fusing together at the ends. Furthermore, the extra centromere and telomeres line up with the extra chromosome found in chimpanzees. (More: <http://www.reasons.org/articles/chromosome-2-the-best-evidence-for-evolution>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dK3O6KYPmEw>)

#### ERVs:

When a retrovirus infects a host, a part of the retrovirus’ genome can become permanently inserted into the cell’s DNA in a random location. This is called an endogenous retroviral insertion (ERV). If a sex cell acquires an ERV and reproduces, all descendants of that individual will also possess that ERV in the exact same location in their DNA. Thus, when we find a species that has that same ERV in the exact same location of its genome, we can be certain the two species shared a common ancestor. With approximately 1% of human DNA consisting of ERVs, we can trace our ancestry to multiple other species. The farther away the ancestry, the fewer ERVs we have in common, and we don’t share any ERVs with a more distant ancestor that we don’t also share with more recent ancestors (e.g., any ERVs we have in common with cats are also found in chimpanzees). (More: <http://www.skepticink.com/tippling/2013/02/15/endogenous-retroviruses-as-evidence-for-evolution/>)

#### Embryology:

The embryos of all land vertebrates develop gill slits, tails and other characteristics inherited from our fish ancestors. In human embryos, the gill slits eventually develop into ear and jaw bones, and the tail disappears. (More: <http://evolution.berkeley.edu/evolibrary/article/evodevo_02>)

#### Atavisms:

Many species still possess the suppressed genes of their ancestral lines, which can be re-expressed through a fault in the genetic control suppressing the gene. Thus, birds can be born with clawed wings and teeth from their dinosaur ancestors, whales and snakes can be born with legs, and humans can be born with tails, large canine teeth and extra nipples. (More: <http://www.darwinwasright.org/atavism.html>)

#### Vestigial structures:

Physiological structures that species no longer have a use for are usually selected against because they take energy to maintain and increase risk for disease. However, they can persist if the structures are non-harmful or if the species adapts the structure for other purposes. Whales and snakes no longer need hips, but they still possess vestigial pelvic bones. Flightless birds still possess wings. Many cave fish and insects have nonfunctional eyes. Human vestigial structures include the appendix, goose bumps as a response to cold or fear, and male nipples. Vestigial structures would have no reason to exist under special creation, but are an expected consequence of evolution. (More: <https://www.boundless.com/biology/textbooks/boundless-biology-textbook/evolution-and-the-origin-of-species-18/evidence-of-evolution-129/vestigial-structures-524-13102/>)

#### Bacterial evolution:

Bacteria develop resistance to antibiotics because they acquire that resistance through random mutations, which is then selected for by the antibiotics wiping out all the nonresistant bacteria. Also, some species of bacteria have evolved to eat nylon and other plastics exclusively. These food sources didn’t exist before 80 years ago, requiring the bacteria to evolve new mechanisms to digest the materials. And bacteria grown in a nutrient solution with different oxygen levels can speciate multiple times in just ten days. (More: <http://gizmodo.com/scientists-have-discovered-a-bacteria-thats-evolved-to-1764242517>)

#### Artificial selection:

Fruit flies fed exclusively starch or malt were bred for 52 generations, resulting in two new species that were no longer fruit flies, but starch flies and malt flies. Fruit flies placed in a lower temperature climate for 260 generations (5 years) resulted in a 3% genetic difference between the new and old species (the difference in the same genes between humans and chimpanzees is less than 1%). Using artificial selection techniques, researchers created Triticosecale, a whole new genus of plant. (More: <http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/faq-speciation.html>)

#### Phylogenetic Tree:

Carl Linnaeus (a creationist, incidentally) created the “nested hierarchy” of species, organizing groups within groups in a tree structure based on physiology. Some simplified examples:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Domain** | Eukaryotes: Multicellular organisms with cells containing a nucleus  | Eukaryotes: Multicellular organisms with cells containing a nucleus | Eukaryotes: Multicellular organisms with cells containing a nucleus |
| **Kingdom** | Animals: Eukaryotes that consume other organisms and have a digestive tract | Animals: Eukaryotes that consume other organisms and have a digestive tract  | Plants: Non-mobile, photosynthetic organisms |
| **Phylum** | Chordates: Animals with a backbone | Chordates: Animals with a backbone | Anthophyta: Plants with flowers  |
| **Class** | Mammals: Chordates with fur/hair and milk glands | Mammals: Chordates with fur/hair and milk glands | Eudiotyledones: Anthophytes with seeds possessing two embryonic leaves |
| **Order** | Primates: Mammals with collar bones and grasping fingers | Carnivorans: Mammals with meat-sheering teeth and four+ toes | Fabales: Eudiotyledones food plants  |
| **Family** | Hominids: Primates with flat faces and binocular vision | Canids: Carnivorans with long muzzles, upright ears, bushy tails | Fabaceaes: Fabales that are legumes |
| **Genus** | Homo: Hominids with upright postures and large brains | Canis: Canids with enlarged sinuses and jaw muscle attachments | Pisum: Fabaceaes with edible seeds/fruits encased in pods |
| **Species** | Homo sapiens (human): From the Homo genus with a high forehead and thin skull bones | Canis lupus (gray wolf): From the Canis genus with muscular neck, broad snout, short ears, long tail | Pisum sativum (garden pea): From the Pisum genus with elongated green pods |

Every species can be fitted to this nesting hierarchy, and each species belongs to only a single branch in the tree structure. So although a whale might resemble a fish, it would not be grouped with fish based on the characteristics that define fish. Common ancestry is what explains this hierarchy, as species inherit the traits from the ancestor that first evolved the trait. All mammals produce milk because they inherited milk production from a common ancestor, and no other lineage possesses that capability. And when we create completely independent hierarchical life trees based on morphology, genetics, embryology, biochemistry and geological chronology, they all show the same tree structure...something that must happen if evolution is true but has no reason to exist if special creation is true. The odds of the morphological trees randomly matching the biochemical trees is 1 in 1038. Creationism has no explanation for this, nor any comparable prediction. (More: <http://evolution.berkeley.edu/evolibrary/article/evo_08>)

#### Abiogenesis:

Abiogenesis is the process of life arising from non-life. Although abiogenesis isn’t technically necessary for evolution to be true, it would be how life occurred through completely natural processes. While abiogenesis was likely a one-time event that would leave no direct evidence (other than life itself), its viability can be tested. Experiments using prebiotic molecules and conditions that would have existed on an early Earth readily result in the spontaneous generation of key building blocks of life: amino acids (which form proteins), lipids (which form cell membranes), and nucleotides (the building blocks of DNA and RNA). (More: <http://scitechdaily.com/new-evidence-on-the-origins-of-life-on-earth/>, <http://study.com/academy/lesson/abiogenesis-definition-theory-evidence.html>, <https://scitechdaily.com/chemists-find-potential-missing-link-in-origins-of-life-on-earth/>, <http://bigthink.com/philip-perry/our-memory-comes-from-an-ancient-virus-neuroscientists-say>)

### Examples of Evidence for an Ancient Earth/Universe:

***Ancient Calendar:***

Although most of recorded human history has occurred within the last 6,000 years, the Yazidi people who live primarily in northern Iraq have the oldest known calendar, which began in 4750 BCE—that’s almost 750 years BEFORE God supposedly created the universe. (More: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yazidis>, <http://www.yeziditruth.org/>)

***Linguistics:***

It’s possible to trace the archeological, anthropological and linguistic evidence of languages to determine when they originated. Linguistic experts have estimated the ancestral Afroasiatic language that evolved into Egyptian, Phoenician, Hebrew, Arabic and over 370 other languages must be at least 11,000 years old.

It’s also worth mentioning that the Tower of Babel was supposed to have been built in 2242 BCE. This is the event that the Bible claims is the FIRST TIME multiple languages appeared (Genesis 11:1-9). And yet we have many ancient texts that are around a thousand years OLDER than that, including Sumerian writings from 3200 BCE and ancient Egyptian writings from 3500 BCE. (More: <http://www.ancientegypt.co.uk/time/explore/main-wri.html>, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Afroasiatic_Urheimat>, <https://www.archaeology.org/issues/213-1605/features/4326-cuneiform-the-world-s-oldest-writing>, [https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+11%3A1-9 HYPERLINK “https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+11%3A1-9&version=NIV”& HYPERLINK “https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+11%3A1-9&version=NIV”version=NIV](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+11%3A1-9&version=NIV))

***Dendrochronology:***

Tree rings are caused by changes in a tree’s growth rate over the course of a year. By counting the rings, it’s possible to determine the age of a tree to an exact year. One of the oldest individual trees found is a bristlecone pine in Nevada with a confirmed minimum age of 4,862 years old. Now that’s not older than the creationist universe, although it is 492 years older than when Noah’s Flood supposedly occurred, an event that would have destroyed the tree. There are, however, DEAD trees that are much older. We can compare the rings of living trees to the rings of older but intact dead trees by overlapping the matching patterns caused by yearly changes in temperature and precipitation. This overlapping of ring patterns allows us to date trees as far back as 13,900 years. (More: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AlMfqzihNTE>, <https://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Geochronology/Dendrochronology>)

***Clonal Trees:***

Some trees reproduce by cloning, and they can have root systems that are far older than their currently living trees. These include a 9,550-year-old Norway spruce in Sweden, an 11,700-year-old creosote bush ring in California, and a 13,000-year-old Palmer’s oak also in California. But far older than all of them is a clonal colony of quaking aspen found in Utah that shares a root system that is over 80,000 years old. (More: <http://www.oldest.org/nature/trees/>, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_Clone>, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pando\_(tree)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pando_%28tree%29))

***Mitochondrial Eve:***

Mitochondrial DNA passes from mother to offspring without recombination from the father, and it mutates at a regular rate. Using the mutation rate and tracking the mitochondrial DNA in different ethnicities back in time to a common ancestor, the most recent woman from whom all current women descended in an unbroken line lived about 100,000 to 200,000 years ago. Note that this only represents the single surviving female lineage, not the first female human who ever lived. The woman was part of an already existing population. (More: <https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg22429904-500-found-closest-link-to-eve-our-universal-ancestor/>)

***Limestone Stalactites:***

Calcium carbonate dripping from the ceilings of limestone caves forms into stalactites at an average rate of just 10 cm per thousand years. We’ve discovered stalactites that are at least 20 meters in length, which likely required at least 200,000 years to grow. Additionally, the limestone caves in which these stalactites formed first required tens of millions of years themselves to form. (More: <http://www.talkorigins.org/indexcc/CD/CD250.html>, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stalactite#Limestone\_stalactites](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stalactite))

***Y-Chromosomal Adam:***

Using the steady mutation rate of Y chromosome DNA, we can trace back to the oldest common ancestor from whom all current men descended in an unbroken line. This leads to a man who lived between 237,000 and 581,000 years ago. Note that this only represents the single surviving male lineage, not the first male human who ever lived. As with “Mitochondrial Eve,” the man was part of an already existing population. (More: <http://haplogroup-a.com/Ancient-Root-AJHG2013.pdf>, <http://www.livescience.com/38613-genetic-adam-and-eve-uncovered.html>)

***Coral Growth Rate:***

Coral reefs use dissolved calcium carbonate in seawater to grow at a rate of about 5mm per year—a rate that is strictly limited by the laws of physics and chemistry. This means that Grand Bahama Reef is at least 790,000 years old—although evidence of multiple interruptions in the reef’s formation means it is likely much older than that. (More: <https://www.asa3.org/ASA/education/origins/coralreefs.htm>)

***Ice Cores:***

Distinct annual layers of ice formation can be found in various locations around the world where temperatures remain below freezing year round. These layers can be counted in much the same way as tree rings. Various methods can be used to verify the accuracy of this technique, such as comparing layers containing volcanic ash deposits with known volcanic eruptions throughout history. The most recent Antarctic cores reveal up to 800,000 years of layers. (More: <http://cdiac.ornl.gov/trends/co2/ice_core_co2.html>, <http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/icecores.html>)

***Gypsum Megacrystals:***

Gypsum crystals can grow to truly massive sizes. A trove of these “megacrystals” discovered in a mine in Mexico has specimens that are over 11 meters long and one meter wide. Based on the slow formation of such crystals, and the fact that their composition indicates they grew in extremely stable conditions, their age is estimated at over 1 million years. (More: <https://www.the-scientist.com/the-nutshell/half-life-of-dna-revealed-40361>)

***Relativistic Jets:***

Plasma ejected from the centers of galaxies and quasars by intense magnetic fields is naturally limited to the speed of light. We have discovered some relativistic jets that exceed one million light years long, which means it would have taken over a million years to reach that distance. Furthermore, most relativistic jets are billions of light years away, which means they were over a million years old billions of years ago. (More: <https://www.cfa.harvard.edu/hea/ea/blazars.html>)

***Manganese Nodule Growth:***

Dissolved metal compounds can precipitate around small objects lying on the seafloor in areas with the right combination of constant current, low sedimentation and high oxygen. The growth rate of these nodules is between 10 and 100 millimeters per million years. The largest nodules are more than 20 cm in diameter, which means they have existed for 2 million to 20 million years. (More: <https://worldoceanreview.com/en/wor-3/mineral-resources/manganese-nodules/>)

***Erosion:***

Erosion caused by wind, glacial ice, rivers and other forces has revealed evidence of extreme age all over the world. While it can be difficult to determine precise ages, Nambia’s Fish River needed millions of years to erode the hard gneiss bedrock that forms the Fish River Canyon. And the Colorado River system took a minimum of 4.4 million years to carve out the Grand Canyon, although it could have taken as long as 70 million years. (More: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/erosion/>, <https://www.livescience.com/3089-grand-canyon.html>)

***Lake Varves:***

Varves are seasonal deposits of river sediments into lakes. They consist of a light-colored band of coarse sandy debris deposited during spring and summer runoff, topped by a darker layer of fine clay deposited only after the lake has frozen over in winter when the water moves slowly enough for the clay to gradually settle out. By counting the pairs of banded layers, one can determine the age of the lake. Numerous locations around the world show lake varves representing hundreds of thousands of years of sedimentation, but Wyoming’s Green River Formation varves reveal a minimum of six million years of sedimentation. For that many varves to have occurred since Noah’s flood 4,400 years ago, there would have to be 3.7 varves deposited each DAY…even though each layer of fine silt needs at least SEVERAL DAYS to settle out of water. (More: <https://morton-yec-archive.blogspot.com/2016/04/creationist-misuse-of-green-river.html>, <https://sites.google.com/site/respondingtocreationism/home/documents/green-river-formation>, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_River_Formation>)

***Decaying DNA:***

When an organism dies, its DNA begins to decay. The rate of this decay can vary depending on the environment, but under ideal conditions DNA can take as long as 6.8 million years to completely disappear. Dinosaurs that died even under *less* than ideal conditions for DNA preservation would still have detectible DNA if they had died within the last 6,000 years. But no dinosaur DNA has ever been found. (More: <https://www.the-scientist.com/the-nutshell/half-life-of-dna-revealed-40361>, <https://newatlas.com/dinosaur-dna-ostrich/49875/>)

***Cosmogenic Nuclides:***

Cosmic rays constantly bombard the surface of the Earth, causing an extremely slow but steady buildup of rare materials called “cosmogenic nuclides” on exposed surfaces. Analysis of stable, exposed rocks in Antarctica reveal up to 10 million years of nuclide buildup. (More: [http://www.antarcticglaciers.org/glacia HYPERLINK “http://www.antarcticglaciers.org/glacial-geology/dating-glacial-sediments-2/cosmogenic\_nuclide\_datin/”l HYPERLINK “http://www.antarcticglaciers.org/glacial-geology/dating-glacial-sediments-2/cosmogenic\_nuclide\_datin/”-geology/dating-glacial-sediments-2/cosmogenic\_nuclide\_datin/](http://www.antarcticglaciers.org/glacial-geology/dating-glacial-sediments-2/cosmogenic_nuclide_datin/))

***Impact Craters:***

Numerous craters discovered around the world are a testament to the damage caused by large asteroid impacts throughout Earth’s history. If the asteroid that caused the extinction of the dinosaurs had occurred within the last 6,000 years, the Earth would still be reeling from destroyed ecosystems, a poisoned atmosphere, and the extinction of all large animals. If all 70 of the known impact craters over 6 km in diameter had occurred within the last 6,000 years, the Earth would be an utterly devastated, unrecognizable nightmare with virtually all life having gone extinct. While it’s unknown precisely how long ecosystems need to recover between the worst asteroid impacts, the *minimum* time would be in the millions of years at least. (More: [https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2015/06/earths-colossal- HYPERLINK “https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2015/06/earths-colossal-crater-count-complete”crater-count-complete](https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2015/06/earths-colossal-crater-count-complete), <https://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/13/130214-biggest-asteroid-impacts-meteorites-space-2012da14/>, <https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/asteroids/overview/fastfacts.html>, <https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/news/815/nasas-moon-data-sheds-light-on-earths-asteroid-impact-history/>, <https://www.space.com/40690-dino-killing-asteroid-impact-warmed-earth.html>)

***Asteroid Orbits:***

The remains of asteroids that were shattered by impacts with other asteroids often continue to travel together in a cluster. It’s possible to trace the orbital trajectories of these asteroid clusters back to when the impact occurred. Using this technique, astronomers calculate that the impact of the Baptistina asteroid cluster occurred 80 million years ago. (More: <https://thenaturalhistorian.com/2014/05/14/rewinding-the-clock-an-asteroid-family-history-age-solar-system/>)

***Geomagnetic Reversals:***

Lava emerging from mid-ocean trenches during seafloor spreading contains iron particles, which then orient with the Earth’s magnetic field before the lava cools. This allows us to observe that every 50,000 to 800,000 years (as measured by continental drift) the Earth’s magnetic poles switch, a process that can take several thousand years to complete. The last reversal occurred 780,000 years ago. The spreading seafloor is constantly being reabsorbed into the Earth’s mantle at subduction zones, but we still have a record of at least 150 million years of geomagnetic reversals. (More: <https://www.britannica.com/science/ocean-basin/Evolution-of-the-ocean-basins-through-plate-movements>)

***Continental Drift:***

The continents surrounding the Atlantic Ocean can be fitted together like puzzle pieces, indicating they were once assembled into a single land mass known as “Pangea.” The seafloor spreads at a rate of just 2-5 cm per year along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Tracing that seafloor spreading back in time to when the continents were last in contact results in 200 million years.

As further confirmation, fossils found along those continent edges and independently dated to 200 million years ago can be matched to fossils found on the opposite continents. Fossils from the same regions that are *younger* than 200 million years old diverge into different species. This indicates that the continents were no longer in contact after that time, which permanently separated the various species and resulted in them evolving into separate lineages.

Additionally, the Earth’s magnetic poles wander around on a several-thousand-year cycle. Magnetic particles in lava from volcanoes orient to the magnetic poles, allowing us to trace the movement of the continents over the course of millions of years. North America’s Appalachian Mountains are part of a chain that has the same composition as mountain ranges in Greenland and northern Europe. And coal deposits in North America have the same composition as coal deposits in Europe, indicating they were once connected.

If the continents had moved to their current positions during Noah’s flood, as many creationists claim, the energy released would have boiled the oceans, poisoned the atmosphere through massive volcanic eruptions, and destroyed virtually all life on Earth. (More: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/seafloor-spreading/>, <http://www.livescience.com/38218-facts-about-pangaea.html>, <http://www.geo.hunter.cuny.edu/tbw/Iceland.Field.Trip/Lectures/2.plate.tectonics/plate_tectonics.htm>, <https://ncse.com/cej/4/1/impossible-voyage-noahs-ark>, <https://ncse.ngo/voyage-noahs-ark-epilogue>, <https://www.letu.edu/academics/arts-and-sciences/files/plate-tectonics.pdf>, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/258815795\_Energy\_of\_plate\_tectonics\_calculation\_and\_projection/fulltext/54378e6f0cf2027cbb201d73/Energy-of-plate-tectonics-calculation-and-projection.pdf?origin=publication\_detail)

***Coral Growth Rings:***

Tidal friction slows the Earth’s rotation at a rate of two seconds every 100,000 years. Projecting this rate backward in time 370 million years results in days that were 22 hours long with 400 days in the year. Corals produce both daily and annual growth rings, and in fossil corals these rings can be counted to determine how many days there were in a year when the corals were alive. Fossil corals that have been determined through other means to be 370 million years old have 400 daily growth rings per year. This indicates that a year was 400 days long when they were alive, which matches the Earth’s predicted rotation for 370 million years ago. (More: [https://www.jstor.org/stable/24931079?seq=1#page\_scan\_tab\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/24931079?seq=1))

***Ocean Acidification:***

A mathematical model of the ocean’s response to increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide indicates that once a certain tipping point is reached, a cascade of positive feedbacks leads to severe ocean acidification, which dissolves the calcium carbonate used in shells grown by marine organisms. The effects last for tens of thousands of years before returning to normal. The geological records indicate that this phenomenon has occurred dozens of times over the last 540 million years, coinciding most dramatically with four of the five great mass extinctions. (More: <https://scitechdaily.com/new-study-shows-breaching-carbon-threshold-could-lead-to-mass-extinction/>)

***Biostratigraphy:***

Some geological layers cannot be dated using radiometric dating techniques. However, if one already knows through other dating methods the age of any fossils contained in such a layer, one can conclude that the layer is the same age as the fossils. Fossils species most suitable for this dating method are those that are easily preserved, easily identified, geographically widespread, and that appear in the fossil record for only a relatively short period of time. Common examples include brachiopods, trilobites, ammonites and a variety of microfossils, which are especially useful for determining the ages of Cambrian samples out to 540 million years ago. Biostratigraphy using stromatolites has also proved useful for determining the ages of geological layers a billion years old, and may even be useful for dating samples more than 2.5 billion years old. (More: <https://www.ga.gov.au/scientific-topics/disciplines/biostratigraphy>, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biostratigraphy>, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/0012825266900407>)

***Fission Tracks:***

As uranium within a crystal structure decays, the atomic fragments cause thin streaks—or tracks—to appear in the crystal. These tracks can be counted to determine the age of the crystal, ranging from 30 years to over a billion years. The tracks disappear if exposed to high enough temperatures, which means fission tracks establish the *minimum* age of crystals. This method is useful for confirming the accuracy of other dating techniques. (More: <http://apps.usd.edu/esci/creation/age/content/current_scientific_clocks/fission_track_dating.html>, <https://www.usu.edu/geo/luminlab/FT.pdf>)

***Moon Recession:***

The Moon currently orbits the Earth at a distance of 384,400 km. However, preserved ancient tidal sediments show that the Moon used to orbit 25% closer—that’s 96,100 km closer—than it does today. The Moon is gradually receding from the Earth at a rate of 3.82 cm per year, and at that rate it would have taken the Moon 2.5 billion years to travel those 96,100 km. However, those tidal sediments also indicate that the rate of recession back then was much SLOWER than it is now—on average just 1.27 cm per year. That complicates the calculation, but it’s clear that the Moon took far longer than 2.5 billion years to reach its current position. Alternate dating methods show those tidal deposits to be 3.2 billion years old.

If the Earth were only 6,000 years old, as creationists claim, the Moon wouldn’t be receding at a rate of 3.82 cm per year, but an average of 16 KILOMETERS per year. (More: <http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/moonrec.html>, <https://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Recession_of_the_Moon>, <https://all-geo.org/highlyallochthonous/2007/07/where-the-moon-was-at-3-2-billion-years-ago/>)

***Gyrochronology:***

By knowing a star’s mass and the rate at which it spins, it’s possible to calculate its age. Calibrated using our Sun, the process has been used to determine the ages of stars up to 4.5 billion years old, with up to a 90% accuracy rate. (More: <https://www.science20.com/news_articles/gyrochronology_how_to_accurately_determine_the_age_of_a_star-151973>, <https://www.thoughtco.com/how-old-is-a-star-3073652>, <https://www.cfa.harvard.edu/news/2011-15>)

***Radiometric Decay:***

Radioactive “parent” isotopes decay at a predictable rate into more stable “daughter” elements. By measuring the ratio of the parent to daughter elements in suitable samples—ideally volcanic rock or carbon—one can determine the age of the samples. There are over 40 different isotopes used in radiometric dating, which allows researchers to date a wide variety of materials and cross-check the accuracy of the results. Five different radiometric techniques have revealed the age of the Earth to be 4.543 billion years old with 99% accuracy. (More: <https://ncse.com/library-resource/radiometric-dating-does-work>, <http://www.sciencemeetsreligion.org/evolution/reliability.php>, <http://www.indiana.edu/~ensiweb/evid.anc.earth.pdf>, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radiometric_dating>)

***Lifespan of Stars:***

The lifespan of a star can be calculated almost entirely by its mass. Even the largest, hottest and thus shortest-lived stars live millions of years at a *minimum*, but most stars have life spans measured in billions of years. The existence of many observed ancient dead and dying stars indicates the universe must be well over several billion years old. (More: <https://www.space.com/24054-how-old-is-the-universe.html>, <https://www.astronomynotes.com/evolutn/s2.htm>,)

***Globular Clusters:***

Globular clusters are dense groups of stars of a similar age. If a cluster contains a mixture of small and large stars, the cluster must still be relatively young, because large stars burn out much more quickly than small stars. A cluster with only small stars remaining is thus relatively old. Additionally, the first stars that formed in the early universe had to consist almost entirely of hydrogen and helium, since those two light elements were the first to form. This means that the smallest, metal-poor stars in globular clusters are the oldest observed stars, and have been calculated to be between 11 and 14 billion years old. (More: <https://www.e-education.psu.edu/astro801/content/l7_p6.html>, <http://www.oldest.org/nature/stars/>, <https://www.cfa.harvard.edu/news/2011-15>, <https://biologos.org/articles/multiple-lines-of-evidence-for-an-old-universe>)

***Distance of Stars:***

Since a light year is the distance light travels in one year, and the most distant observed object is a galaxy 13.39 billion light years away, that means the light from that galaxy traveled for 13.39 billion years before reaching us. (More: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/most-distant-object-in-the-universe-spotted-by-hubble-space-telescope-shattering-record-for-the-a6911096.html>, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_the_most_distant_astronomical_objects>,)

***Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation:***

The universe has been cooling ever since its intensely hot, dense beginning. By measuring the current background radiation temperature, it’s possible to determine the density, composition and rate of expansion of the universe. This has narrowed the age of the universe to between 13.772 billion and 13.82 billion years old. (More: <https://www.space.com/24054-how-old-is-the-universe.html>, <http://map.gsfc.nasa.gov/universe/bb_tests_cmb.html>)

Many more examples are available at <http://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Evidence_against_a_recent_creation> and <http://biologos.org/blogs/deborah-haarsma-the-presidents-notebook/multiple-lines-of-evidence-for-an-old-universe>

Creationist Response: Creationists will often claim that God created the universe with the appearance of age. But if so, he’s also given the universe the appearance of history, which would be as deceptive as creating an adult human with an old knife scar from a fight that never happened. Some creationists claim that Satan planted the evidence to trick humanity, but that could only happen if God allowed it, and we can only work with the evidence we have, not with the evidence we don’t have.

### Examples of Evidence Against Intelligent Design:

#### Recurrent laryngeal nerve:

The recurrent laryngeal nerve (RLN) connects the larynx to the brain. In fish (from which all necked vertebrates evolved), the RLN has a short, direct path from the brain and loops under the aorta. As our ancestors evolved the neck and larynx, and the heart moved down into the chest, the RLN had no option but to maintain its loop around the aorta and grow longer and longer. All necked vertebrates have thus inherited this inefficient structure, causing what should be a nerve length of just a few inches to be many times longer. In humans, the RLN is over a foot longer than it would otherwise be. In giraffes, it is 15' longer. And in the extinct Supersaurus, it would have been 100' longer! An intelligent designer would never create this inefficient structure, but evolution had no choice but to work with what was available. (More: <https://whyevolutionistrue.wordpress.com/2011/05/28/the-longest-cell-in-the-history-of-life/>)

#### Eye blind spot:

The human eye has far less acuity, night vision, and spectrum detection than many other animals, which would seem an odd choice for an intelligent designer who created the universe for us. But stranger still is the inefficiency of the vertebrate eye, which has its photoreceptors facing backward (requiring light to pass through tissue and blood vessels before reaching the photoreceptors) and its optic nerve in the back of the eye (causing a blind spot), unlike the much more efficiently designed cephalopod eye. Evolution has to work with what it has, whereas an intelligent designer would have no reason to create such an inefficient eye. (More: <https://thehumanevolutionblog.com/2015/01/12/the-poor-design-of-the-human-eye/>)

#### Urethra routed through prostate:

The urethra in men passes through the prostate gland, which swells with age and restricts the flow of urine. Evolution has to work with what is available, but no intelligent designer would rout the urethra through the prostate. (More: <http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/jury-rigged.html>)

#### The Kitzmiller v. Dover trial:

“Intelligent design” (ID) is the attempt by creationists to give scientific legitimacy to creationism so that it can be taught in science classes. The idea is that some biological features are “irreducibly complex,” meaning they had to have been created fully functional and could not have evolved to their completed state. The problem is that this is an argument from ignorance fallacy, since it’s basically stating that not knowing how something may have evolved is evidence for a creator. Thus, ID isn’t scientific. This is what happened:

In 1999, after many years of failed attempts to have intelligent design accepted as a credible scientific theory, the Discovery Institute (the leading intelligent design organization) produced its “Wedge Document” describing their plan to see ID accepted as a valid alternative to evolutionary theory. In 2005, the Kitzmiller v. Dover trial tested whether teaching ID in schools is constitutional. The ID proponents failed to make their case because they were unable to provide any credible scientific evidence to support their claim. Additionally, the lead ID proponent Michael Behe admitted that ID proponents have never conducted even a single experiment that refutes evolution:

**Eric J. Rothschild** (lawyer for the plaintiffs): “Now you have never argued for intelligent design in a peer reviewed scientific journal, correct?”

**Behe:** “No, I argued for it in my book.”

**Rothschild:** “Not in a peer reviewed scientific journal?”

**Behe:** “That’s correct.”

**Rothschild:** “And, in fact, there are no peer reviewed articles by anyone advocating for intelligent design supported by pertinent experiments or calculations which provide detailed rigorous accounts of how intelligent design of any biological system occurred, is that correct?”

**Behe:** “That is correct, yes.”

**Rothschild:** “And it is, in fact, the case that in Darwin’s Black Box, you didn’t report any new data or original research?”

**Behe:** “I did not do so.”

(From: <http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/dover/day12am.html>)

Behe even admitted that he redefined the word “theory” so that he could claim ID is a scientific theory, and that ID is no more valid than astrology:

**Rothschild:** “Now, you claim that intelligent design is a scientific theory.”

**Behe:** “Yes.”

**Rothschild:** “But when you call it a scientific theory, you’re not defining that term the same way that the National Academy of Sciences does.”

**Behe:** “Yes, that’s correct.”

**Rothschild:** “You don’t always see eye to eye with the National Academy?”

**Behe:** “Sometimes not.”

**Rothschild:** “And the definition by the National Academy, as I think you testified, is a well-substantiated explanation of some aspect of the natural world that can incorporate facts, laws, inferences and tested hypotheses, correct?”

**Behe:** “Yes.”

**Rothschild:** “Using that definition, you agree intelligent design is not a scientific theory, correct?”

**Behe:** “Well, as I think I made clear in my deposition, I’m a little bit of two minds of that. I, in fact, do think that intelligent design is well substantiated for some of the reasons that I made clear during my testimony. But again, when you say well substantiated, sometimes a person would think that there must be a large number of people then who would agree with that. And so, frankly, I, like I said, I am of two minds of that.”

**Rothschild:** “And actually you said at your deposition, ‘I don’t think intelligent design falls under this definition.’ Correct?”

**Behe:** “Yeah...”

...

**Rothschild:** “But you are clear, under your definition—the definition that sweeps in intelligent design—astrology is also a scientific theory, correct?”

**Behe:** “Yes, that’s correct.”

(From: <http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/dover/day11pm.html>)

At several points during the trial, all the witnesses for the defense admitted that there are mountains of scientific support for evolution, and that there is no objective, independent evidence against evolution. Judge John E. Jones III (a conservative, Christian Republican appointed by G.W. Bush, BTW) declared that “The overwhelming evidence at trial established that ID is a religious view, a mere re-labeling of creationism, and not a scientific theory … ID is not supported by any peer-reviewed research, data, or publications” (More: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2224205/>). Here is the link to the ACLU of Pennsylvania’s site for the transcripts of the entire trial: <https://ncse.com/creationism/legal/kitzmiller-trial-transcripts>

The Discovery Institute’s Wedge Document had claimed that “Without solid scholarship, research and argument, the project would be just another attempt to indoctrinate instead of persuade.” By their own standard, their ID project was a failure and “just another attempt to indoctrinate instead of persuade.” After the Kitzmiller v. Dover trial, the Discovery Institute lost almost all relevance. (More: <https://friendlyatheist.patheos.com/2019/02/05/20-years-ago-the-intelligent-design-movements-wedge-document-was-exposed/>)

#### “Specified complexity”:

Intelligent design proponent William Dembski claimed he could mathematically demonstrate that one can reasonably infer something was designed by an intelligence rather than occurred naturally. There are several problems with his claim:

1. His formula contains two errors, one of which renders the formula useless for his intent (<http://www.riverrock.org/~howard/Dembski.pdf>).
2. He misuses terms and uses calculations that ignore the mechanisms natural selection uses to increase information (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Specified_complexity#Criticisms>).
3. Extremely long odds become highly probable given enough time and trials (which is exactly what evolution has had).
4. We can demonstrate how the basic building blocks of life can develop and become increasingly complex completely naturally (<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2015/03/researchers-may-have-solved-origin-life-conundrum>), as well as how life can become increasingly complex on its own, both in nature and in artificial life simulations (through mutation, chromosome doubling, etc.).

#### Peer-reviewed scientific articles:

Despite many decades of work and a great amount of funding, the peer-reviewed scientific output from intelligent design proponents is almost nonexistent. There are more peer-reviewed papers on evolutionary biology published every WEEK than in the ENTIRE history of ID peer-reviewed scientific articles. And only ONE article shows any original research. (More: <http://www.talkorigins.org/indexcc/CI/CI001_4.html>)

#### “Of Pandas and People”:

Intelligent design proponents often claim ID has nothing to do with creationism. However, the primary textbook for ID—“Of Pandas and People”—was discovered to have originally been a creationism textbook. The ID version simply had all references to creationism replaced with intelligent design. There’s even a famous typo in the ID version where the word “creationists” was replaced by “cdesign proponentsists,” ironically providing an analogy for how evolution works: <https://ncse.com/creationism/legal/cdesign-proponentsists>

# Great Quotes:

“Religion is like a penis. It’s fine to have one. It’s even fine to be proud of it. But it’s not OK to whip it out in public and shove it down other people's throats.” — Anonymous

“Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities.” — Voltaire

“Wherever morality is based on theology, wherever the right is made dependent on divine authority, the most immoral, unjust, infamous things can be justified and established.” — Ludwig Feuerbach

“Properly read, the Bible is the most potent force for atheism ever conceived.” — Isaac Asimov

“A thorough reading and understanding of the Bible is the surest path to atheism.” — Donald Morgan

“The best cure for Christianity is reading the Bible.” — Mark Twain

“Progress in science comes when experiments contradict theory.” — Richard P. Feynman

“We are trying to prove ourselves wrong as quickly as possible, because only in that way can we find progress.” — Richard P. Feynman

“The argument for intelligent design basically depends on saying, ‘You haven't answered every question with evolution,’... Well, guess what? Science can’t answer every question.” — Kenneth R. Miller

“Science has questions that can be answered, religion has answers that can't be questioned.” — Unknown

“Science doesn’t know everything. Religion doesn’t know anything” — Aron Ra

“If you are not a scientist, and you disagree with scientists about science, it's actually not a disagreement. You're just wrong. Science is not truth. Science is finding the truth. When science changes its opinion, it didn't lie to you. It learned more.” — Unknown

“The fundamentalists, by ‘knowing’ the answers before they start, and then forcing nature into the straitjacket of their discredited preconceptions, lie outside the domain of science—or any honest intellectual inquiry.” — Stephen Jay Gould

“I contend we are both atheists, I just believe in one fewer god than you do. When you understand why you dismiss all the other possible gods, you will understand why I dismiss yours.” — Stephen F. Roberts

“Religion is an insult to human dignity. With or without it you would have good people doing good things and evil people doing evil things. But for good people to do evil things, that takes religion.” — Steven Weinberg

“Never trust a person who can clear their conscience of any immoral act by asking forgiveness from their imaginary friend.” — Unknown

“There is nothing we can do to stop the spread of atheism but pray that they treat us better than we have treated them.” — Christian youth pastor

“I have three things I’d like to say today. First, while you were sleeping last night, 30,000 kids died of starvation or diseases related to malnutrition. Second, most of you don’t give a shit. What’s worse is that you’re more upset with the fact that I said shit than the fact that 30,000 kids died last night.” — Pastor Tony Campolo

“If you are depressed after being exposed to the cosmic perspective, you started your day with an unjustifiably large ego.” — Neil DeGrasse Tyson

“I find it incredible that you ask me to believe that the earth was created in six literal days; women come from a man’s rib; a snake, a donkey, and a burning bush spoke human language; the entire world was flooded, covering the mountains to drown evil; all animal species, millions of them, rode on one boat; language variations stem from the tower of Babel; Moses had a magic wand; the Nile turned to blood; a stick turned into a snake; witches, wizards, and sorcerers really exist; food rained from the sky for 40 years; people were cured by the sight of a brass serpent; the sun stood still to help Joshua win a battle, and it went backward for King Hezekiah; men survived unaided in a fiery furnace; a detached hand floated in the air and wrote on a wall; men followed a star which directed them to a particular house; Jesus walked on water unaided; fish and bread magically multiplied to feed the hungry; water instantly turned into wine; mental illness is caused by demons; a “devil” with wings exists who causes evil; people were healed by stepping into a pool agitated by angels; disembodied voiced spoke from the sky; Jesus vanished and later materialized from thin air; people were healed by Peter’s shadow; angels broke people out of jail; a fiery lake of eternal torment awaits unbelievers under the earth ... while there is life-after-death in a city which is 1,500 miles cubed, with mansions and food, for Christians only.” — Dan Barker, former evangelical preacher, and Co-President of Freedom From Religion Foundation

“You believe in a book that has talking animals, wizards, witches, demons, sticks turning into snakes, food falling from the sky, people walking on water, and all sorts of magical, absurd and primitive stories, and you say that we are the ones that need help?” — Dan Barker

“Asking, "If there is no God, what is the purpose of life?" is like asking, "If there is no master, whose slave will I be?" If your purpose of life is to submit as a slave, then your meaning comes from flattering the ego of a person whom who should detest.” — Dan Barker

“When one person suffers from a delusion, it is called insanity. When many people suffer from a delusion it is called religion.” — Robert Pirsig

“Give a man a fish, and you’ll feed him for a day; give him a religion, and he’ll starve to death while praying for a fish.” — Unknown

“You are a ghost driving a meat covered skeleton made from stardust riding a rock floating through space. Fear nothing.” — Unknown

“Do not believe in anything simply because you have heard it. Do not believe in anything simply because it is spoken and rumoured by many. Do not believe in anything because it is found written in your religious books. Do not believe in anything merely on the authority of your teachers and elders. Do not believe in traditions because they have been handed down for many generations. But after observation and analysis, when you find anything that agrees with reason and is conductive to the good and benefit of one and all, then accept it and live up to it.” — Siddhartha Gautama (The Buddha)

“Christianity: The belief that some invisible cosmic Jewish Zombie who was his own father can make you live forever if you symbolically eat his flesh and telepathically tell him that you accept him as your master, so he can remove an evil force from your soul that is present in humanity because a rib-woman was convinced by a talking snake to eat from a magical tree. Yeah. Makes perfect sense.” — Anonymous

“That no testimony is sufficient to establish a miracle unless the testimony be of such a kind that its falsehood would be more miraculous than the fact which it endeavours to establish.” — David Hume

“Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence.” — Carl Sagan

“You can’t convince a believer of anything; for their belief is not based on evidence, it’s based on a deep seated need to believe.” — Carl Sagan

“We can’t observe quarks or black holes, but we should see their effects. We do. We can’t observe the Christian God, but we should see his effects. We don’t.” — Victor Stenger

“Science flies us to the moon, religion flies us into buildings.” — Victor Stenger

“Science has proof without any certainty. Creationists have certainty without any proof.” — Ashley Montagu

“Science has never killed or persecuted a single person for doubting or denying its teachings, and most of these teachings have been true; but religion has murdered millions for doubting or denying her dogmas, and most of these dogmas have been false.” — George P. Spencer

“It is better to debate a question without settling it, than to settle a question without debating it.” — Joseph Joubert

“Let us praise God. Oh Lord, oooh you are so big. So absolutely huge. Gosh, we’re all really impressed down here I can tell you. Forgive us, O Lord, for this dreadful toadying and barefaced flattery. But you are so strong and, well, just so super. Fantastic. Amen.” — Michael Palin (as the chaplain in The Meaning of Life)

“Religion has actually convinced people that there’s an invisible man—living in the sky—who watches everything you do, every minute of every day. And the invisible man has a special list of ten things he does not want you to do. And if you do any of these ten things, he has a special place, full of fire and smoke and burning and torture and anguish, where he will send you to live and suffer and burn and choke and scream and cry forever and ever ‘til the end of time! But He loves you.” — George Carlin

“Religion is like a pair of shoes...find one that fits for you, but don’t make me wear your shoes.” — George Carlin

“The only position that leaves me with no cognitive dissonance is atheism. It is not a creed. Death is certain, replacing both the siren-song of Paradise and the dread of Hell. Life on this earth, with all its mystery and beauty and pain, is then to be lived far more intensely: we stumble and get up, we are sad, confident, insecure, feel loneliness and joy and love. There is nothing more; but I want nothing more.” — Christopher Hitchens

“We are going to die, and that makes us the lucky ones. Most people are never going to die because they are never going to be born. The potential people who could have been here in my place but who will in fact never see the light of day outnumber the sand grains of Arabia. Certainly those unborn ghosts include greater poets than Keats, scientists greater than Newton. We know this because the set of possible people allowed by our DNA so massively exceeds the set of actual people. In the teeth of these stupefying odds it is you and I, in our ordinariness, that are here.” — Richard Dawkins

“The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully.” — Richard Dawkins

“I’d say [to God], bone cancer in children? What’s that about? How dare you? How dare you create a world to which there is such misery that is not our fault. It’s not right, it’s utterly, utterly evil. Why should I respect a capricious, mean-minded, stupid God who creates a world that is so full of injustice and pain. That’s what I would say.” — Stephen Fry

“Theology is never any help; it is searching in a dark cellar at midnight for a black cat that isn’t there. Theologians can persuade themselves of anything.” — Robert A. Heinlein

“Why should I allow that same God to tell me how to raise my kids, who had to drown his own?” — Robert G. Ingersoll

“Abortion: the issue that gets followers of Christ to vote against everything Christ talked about, by talking about something Christ never talked about.” — John Fugelsang

“Science adjusts its views based on what’s observed. Faith is the denial of observation so that belief can be preserved.” — Tim Minchin

“Science has never killed or persecuted a single person for doubting or denying its teachings, and most of these teachings have been true; but religion has murdered millions for doubting or denying her dogmas, and most of these dogmas have been false.” — George P. Spencer

“Faith is the surrender of the mind; it’s the surrender of reason, it’s the surrender of the only thing that makes us different from other mammals. It’s our need to believe, and to surrender our skepticism and our reason, our yearning to discard that and put all our trust or faith in someone or something, that is the sinister thing to me. Of all the supposed virtues, faith must be the most overrated.” — Christopher Hitchens

“Morality is doing what is right, regardless of what you are told. Religion is doing what you are told, regardless of what is right.” — Unknown

“Monotheism explains order, but is mystified by evil. Dualism explains evil, but is puzzled by order. There is one logical way of solving the riddle: To argue that there is a single omnipotent God who created the entire universe—and He’s evil. But nobody in history has had the stomach for such a belief.” — Yuval Noah Harari

“Faith is believing what you know ain’t so.” — Mark Twain

“Strange … a God who could make good children as easily as bad, yet preferred to make bad ones; who could have made every one of them happy, yet never made a single happy one; who made them prize their bitter life, yet stingily cut it short; who gave his angels eternal happiness unearned, yet required his other children to earn it; who gave is angels painless lives, yet cursed his other children with biting miseries and maladies of mind and body; who mouths justice, and invented hell—mouths mercy, and invented hell—mouths Golden Rules and forgiveness multiplied by seventy times seven, and invented hell; who mouths morals to other people, and has none himself; who frowns upon crimes, yet commits them all; who created man without invitation, then tries to shuffle the responsibility for man’s acts upon man, instead of honorably placing it where it belongs, upon himself; and finally, with altogether divine obtuseness, invites his poor abused slave to worship him!” — Mark Twain

“If you close your eyes, shriek like a little girl, and slap it away anytime it comes near, the Truth will never get close enough to set you free.” — Rock Cowles

“Why is it easier for some people to believe their ancestors were a clump of mud and a cannibalized body part, than apes?” — Rock Cowles

“We cease to exist every time we go to sleep. That break in awareness includes self-awareness. If you aren’t there, you won’t know what you are missing. Death is just the extended version.” — Rock Cowles

“Sometimes standing against evil is more important than defeating it. The greatest heroes stand because it is right to do so, not because they believe they will walk away with their lives. Such selfless courage is a victory in itself.” — N.D. Wilson, Dandelion Fire

“As soon as fear, hatred, jealousy and power worship are involved, the sense of reality becomes unhinged. And … the sense of right and wrong becomes unhinged also. There is no crime, absolutely none, that cannot be condoned when “our” side commits it.” — George Orwell

“When fascism comes to America, it will be wrapped in the flag and carrying the cross.” — Sinclair Lewis

“I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.” — Mahatma Gandhi

“A religion, even if it calls itself a religion of love, must be hard and unloving to those who do not belong to it.” ― Sigmund Freud

“True morality is doing what is right without the threat of divine retribution nor the possibility of divine reward.” — Arthur Paliden

“Religion. It’s given people hope in a world torn apart by religion.” — Jon Stewart

“God sent himself to sacrifice himself to himself to save us from himself.” — Unknown

“Rational arguments don't usually work on religious people. Otherwise there would be no religious people.” — Dr. Gregory House

“Study one religion, and you’ll be hooked for life. Study two religions, and you’re done in an hour.” — Anonymous

“Omnipotence and omniscience are the end of power and knowledge.” — Dejan Stojanovic

“When you’re accustomed to privilege, equality feels like oppression.” — Unknown

 “If all the Christians who have called other Christians ‘not really a Christian’ were to vanish, there’d be no Christians left.” — Anonymous

“There are two ways to be fooled. One is to believe what isn't true; the other is to refuse to believe what is true.” ― Soren Kierkegaard

“The word God is for me nothing more than the expression and product of human weaknesses, the Bible a collection of honorable, but still primitive legends which are nevertheless pretty childish. No interpretation no matter how subtle can (for me) change this. These subtilised interpretations are highly manifold according to their nature and have almost nothing to do with the original text.” – Albert Einstein

“I cannot conceive of a God who rewards and punishes his creatures, or has a will of the type of which we are conscious in ourselves. An individual who should survive his physical death is also beyond my comprehension, nor do I wish it otherwise; such notions are for the fears or absurd egoism of feeble souls. Enough for me the mystery of the eternity of life, and the inkling of the marvelous structure of reality, together with the single-hearted endeavor to comprehend a portion, be it ever so tiny, of the reason that manifests itself in nature.” — Albert Einstein

“It seems to me that the idea of a personal God is an anthropological concept which I cannot take seriously.” — Albert Einstein

“The idea of a personal God is quite alien to me and seems even naïve.” — Albert Einstein

“It was, of course, a lie what you read about my religious convictions, a lie which is being systematically repeated. I do not believe in a personal God and I have never denied this but have expressed it clearly. If something is in me which can be called religious then it is the unbounded admiration for the structure of the world so far as our science can reveal it.” — Albert Einstein

“If nothing in reality would change your beliefs, then your beliefs are not based on reality.” — Unknown

“If what you believe in leaves no verifiable evidence in reality, then there is no reason to conclude that what you believe in has any basis in reality.” — Underlings

1. God exists

2. God is good

3. God is all powerful

4. Evil exists

You can pick only three. — Underlings

The Jew says, “Christians and Muslims are wrong.”

The Christian says, “Jews and Muslims are wrong.”

The Muslim says, “Jews and Christians are wrong.”

The atheist says, “You’re all correct.” — Unknown

“Christianity is nothing more than a solution to a problem made up by Christians.” — Unknown

“[Christianity] tastes wonderful going down. But once it gets inside of you, it produces death, not the life that it promised. This message is fundamentally rooted in the notion that you’re so bad the way you are that God had to kill someone just to get over it.” — Neil Carter

“In [the evangelical] world, doubts are seen as challenges to overcome rather than clues to be followed wherever they lead.” — Neil Carter

“Apologetics isn’t for the lost, it’s for the saved. It exists to convince believers they are not being foolish for believing what they do.” — Neil Carter

“It would disturb me if there was a wedding between the religious fundamentalists and the political right. The hard right has no interest in religion except to manipulate it.” — Billy Graham to Jerry Falwell in 1981

“Mark my word, if and when these preachers get control of the [Republican] party, and they’re sure trying to do so, it’s going to be a terrible damn problem. Frankly, these people frighten me. Politics and governing demand compromise. But these Christians believe they are acting in the name of God, so they can’t and won’t compromise. I know, I’ve tried to deal with them.” ― Barry Goldwater

“Every word of the bible is true! But when the words join together to form sentences, that’s when the crap begins.” — Margaret Barrett

“I'll tell you what you did with Atheists for about 1500 years. You outlawed them from the universities or any teaching careers, besmirched their reputations, banned or burned their books or their writings of any kind, drove them into exile, humiliated them, seized their properties, arrested them for blasphemy. You dehumanised them with beatings and exquisite torture, gouged out their eyes, slit their tongues, stretched, crushed, or broke their limbs, tore off their breasts if they were women, crushed their scrotums if they were men, imprisoned them, stabbed them, disemboweled them, hanged them, burnt them alive. And you have nerve enough to complain to me that I laugh at you.” ― Dr Madalyn Murray O'Hair

“If you were convinced that elves make it rain, every time it rained you’d see evidence of the existence of elves.” — Unknown

“God will not provide indisputable evidence of existence, except that He will, and when He does, He will make it look like it’s not actually indisputable evidence, unless you already believe He exists, in which case it will look like indisputable evidence.” — Barry Goldberg

“I’m continually amused that so many people have stepped forward to explain what God meant, because that clearly tells us how sincerely they understand that the all-knowing, all-wise one wasn’t up to the task himself.” —Richard S. Russell

“Life in Lubbock, Texas, taught me two things: One is that God loves you and you’re going to burn in Hell. The other is that sex is the most awful, filthy thing on Earth and you should save it for someone you love.” ― Butch Hancock

“To pray to God is to flatter oneself that with words one can alter nature.” — Voltaire

“Two hands working can do more than a thousand clasped in prayer.” — Madalyn Murray O’Hair

“Purpose of prayer:

1. To convince God your plan is better than his.

2. To educate and inform an omniscient god.

3. To let the source of morals know that something is wrong and should stop.

Have I missed anything?” — Rosa Rubicondior

**Psalm 14:1** The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”

Response #1: ...while the intelligent man says it out loud.

Response #2: **Jeremiah 8:8** How can you say, “We are wise, for we have the law of the LORD,” when actually the lying pen of the scribes has handled it falsely? [This shows you can’t trust the psalm as being true.]

Proof Your God Doesn’t Exist:

1. Think of a god you DON’T believe exists.

2. Determine which standards of proof this god does not meet.

3. Apply those standards of proof to your own god.

4. Wonder why you didn’t see it sooner.

*There is this old tale where the rabbi—sometimes attributed to be rabbi Hillel (110 BCE to 10 BCE)—was asked by one of his students, “Why did God create atheists?”*

*After a long pause, the rabbi finally responded with a soft but sincere voice. “God created atheists” he said, “to teach us the most important lesson of them all—the lesson of true compassion. You see, when an atheist performs an act of charity, visits someone who is sick, helps someone in need, and cares for the world, he is not doing so because of some religious teaching. He does not believe that God commanded him to perform this act. In fact, he does not believe in God at all, so his actions are based on his sense of morality. Look at the kindness he bestows on others simply because he feels it to be right. When someone reaches out to you for help. You should never say ‘I’ll pray that God will help you.’ Instead, for that moment, you should become an atheist—imagine there is no God who could help, and say ‘I will help you’.”*

*Another version of the story goes like this:*

*“Do you believe,” the disciple asked the rabbi, “that God created everything for a purpose?”*

*“I do,” replied the rabbi.*

*“Well,” asked the disciple, “why did God create atheists?”*

*“Sometimes we who believe, believe too much. We see the cruelty, the suffering, the injustice in the world and we say: ‘This is the will of God.’ We accept what we should not accept. That is when God sends us atheists to remind us that what passes for religion is not always religion. Sometimes what we accept in the name of God is what we should be fighting against in the name of God.”*

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“Children; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise. They no longer rise when elders enter the room, they contradict their parents and tyrannise their teachers. Children are now tyrants.” — Attributed to Socrates (469-399 BCE) by Plato

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