NothingtoParadise

WELCOME

from

Nothing to Paradise

in 4 Easy Steps

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There is a God

(vs. Atheism -> no God)

Where did our Earth and Universe come from? A supernatural God?

- Science has discovered that our Earth and Universe had a beginning.
- Where did Matter and Energy come from?
- Where did Plant, Animal, and Human Life come from?
- Plants and animals have a positive complementary existence.
- The earth has been beautifully engineered and built to support life.

Atheism? We assume Matter and Energy always existed?

- But, this assumption violates the Law of Entropy, a well-established scientific law.
- And, if Atheism would be true, then all we have, and all we are, is Chemistry?
- Everything we think, say, or do is determined by the Laws of Chemistry, i.e., we are “pre-programmed”!
- Men and women are only walking/talking collections of molecules with no free will or minds of their own?

- Is there no love, justice, or heroes?
- Is there no good or evil?
- ***Is this who we really are? Just chemistry?***

Stephen Hawking (1942-2018)

- Chairman of the Physics Department at Cambridge University.
- Considered the greatest physicist of our day, and was a prominent Atheist.
- In his "Final Theory" he wrote that Gravity created the Universe! But, he doesn't say where Gravity, or Matter, came from?
- *This theory is not widely accepted by his peers.*

Affirming a negative?

- Logically speaking, one cannot prove a negative (e.g., "there is no God", because one can't look everywhere!).
- Let's, for a moment, assume there is a God.

Where can we learn about God?



The Bible is True

(Bible references given)

The Bible is the oldest and most cherished Book ever written, and it tells us about a supernatural God!

- It has been translated into 450 languages and the New Testament section has been translated into 1600 languages (Institute for Religious Research).
- It is cohesive, even though it was written by 40 different authors (in 66 individual "books") over a 1500 year period of time.
- Literally, billions of people over the years have found the Bible to be truthful and beneficial to their lives.
- Many people have died to save and preserve it.

Moses has been credited with writing Genesis, the first book of the Bible, and the book which introduces God and creation:

- Moses was the leader of the Israelites around 1500 BC. Moses led them out of Egyptian slavery.
- According to recorded Biblical genealogy, there are only 5 people generations between Adam (creation) and Moses!
- Therefore, creation facts could have easily been communicated to Moses.
- Would you forget the story of creation if you knew it?

Facts in the Bible have been proven to be correct by archeology many, many times:

- A Google search reveals many examples.
- The Museum of the Bible in DC has many physical examples.
- "Patterns of Evidence" by Tim P Mahoney reveals physical evidence of the Israeli Exodus from Egypt in 1500 BC.
- Dead Sea Scrolls, dated 100-300 BC, contain a copy of the complete book of Isaiah. The book of Isaiah was actually written about 700 BC.
- No significant Bible facts have ever been disproven.

Many biblical prophecies have come true; 2 major, indisputable ones are:

- Jeremiah 25:11,12 – predicted 70 years of captivity for Israel in Babylon. Israel was freed unexpectedly by the Medes and Persians when they conquered Babylon 70 years later.
- Micah 5:2 – predicted that Jesus the Messiah (Savior) would be born in Bethlehem, an inconsequential little village in southern Israel. Jesus was born there 700 years later!
- Google can find a lot more.

Christianity is the belief that the Bible is true



Christianity Is Real

(Bible references given)

Jesus Christ, the founder of Christianity, was such a singularly significant person that his life inspired a *new* Calendar. The world transitioned to a new historical age because of the life of Jesus Christ! There became a BC (Before Christ) and an AD (Anno Domini – Year of our Lord).

There are more than 100X the number of ancient manuscripts about the life and death of Jesus Christ than there are about the lives of Plato or Socrates (Google Gemini).

After Jesus left this world, at least 10 of his 12 disciples were martyred. Why would they do this if they did not believe in the authenticity of Jesus and his resurrection? The Bible reports that over 500 people saw Jesus alive after the crucifixion (1 Cor 15:6-8).

When Christianity is considered in a very broad way, it helps, and explains, the human existence better than any other belief system. The emergence of Western Civilization is a good evidence of this:

- A large number of people were given access to the Bible beginning in the 1400 to 1500s with the invention of the Gutenberg Press.
- Martin Luther, William Tyndall, Casiodora de Reina, and Pierre Olivetan led the way to translate the Bible into the "commoner" languages of German, English, Spanish, and French, respectively.
- Isaac Newton, a Christian, discovered the Laws of Motion and many other important physical laws in the 1600s. He credited the Bible with inspiring and helping him in his work. The Laws of Motion were foundational and motivational to the Industrial Revolution.
- Other scientists also discovered important laws during this time period and scientific knowledge rapidly advanced.
- The Industrial Revolution began in the 1700s, and it has given more blessings to human beings than any other cultural change in history.

The USA, probably the most Christian country that ever existed, has given more freedom, comfort, and security to its citizens, and also, to much of the rest of the world, than any other country in history:

- Millions and millions of people, from all over the world, especially the USA, have publicly testified to the enormous benefits of being a Christian.
- Christianity treats women (vs. men) with respect and dignity, recognizing their complementary biological equality and spiritual equality.
- Christianity has a savior, Jesus Christ, and can satisfy a man's and woman's desire to live forever (Rev 22:5).
- Christianity offers forgiveness and eternal life – a very loving and generous conclusion to everyone's life here on earth (1 Thes 4:13-17).

All belief systems (religions, etc.) have unanswered questions. Many times, Christianity is challenged, but other belief systems are not:

- Hinduism – Teaches that a person should not try to improve himself or herself.
- Buddhism – Teaches that a person should eliminate all desires.
- Islam – Treats women very differently than they treat men.
- Atheism – Where did the Matter and Energy in the Universe come from?

How can I *become* a Christian and *know* that I am a Christian, and that I will *go* to God's Paradise when I die?



Paradise

(Bible references given)

The all powerful and loving God of the Bible wanted to have a relationship with living beings

who had similar qualities as he did, such as, a free will, creativity, and self-awareness. So he created a man and a woman in his own image. They were perfect, and he told them they should have children and populate the earth. He also created a beautiful place on the earth for them to live. This beautiful place he called the Garden of Eden. The Garden of Eden had everything they needed to live and be happy (Gen 1-2).

God also planted a tree in this garden to give the man and woman an opportunity to prove their gratefulness and faithfulness to him, their Creator. God told them they could eat anything in the garden they desired except the fruit from this one tree. If they did eat from this tree, they would severely damage their relationship with him (Gen 2:16-17). The man and woman wanted to be faithful to God, but, Satan, an evil spirit and God's enemy, tricked the man and woman, and they ate fruit from the forbidden tree (Gen 3:1-7). This disobedience was systemic and insidious, and their punishment for this disobedience would be eternal death for the man and woman, and all who would be born to them, all of humanity.

God knew from the beginning that the man and woman would not be able to resist the temptations that Satan presented to them, so God created a secret plan (see below) to save the man and the woman. A loving God would not have created the man and women if he didn't have a plan to save them. This plan would heal their damaged relationship with him. God would then be willing and able to provide help for them to live on this earth until they died. Also, and infinitely more important, this plan included an opportunity for them to live with God forever (after they died on this earth). And, God would build them an even better place to live called heaven (Rev 21:1-5).

Heaven would be a perfect place to live forever, a place with no evil or evil spirits, a **Paradise!**

God's secret plan to forgive and save humanity was to provide a substitute for them that would take the punishment for their disobedience (Isaiah 53:4-12). God's requirement was that the substitute had to be human and had to be perfect. With a virgin woman, God created a son, a God-man. He was God because God was his father, and man because a woman was his mother (Luke 1:31,35, 1 John 4:9)! This God-man was both God and man. He was perfect and his name was Jesus.

Jesus grew up and lived a loving and perfect life as described in the Bible. He used his Godly power to help and cure many people from many different illnesses. But, he was rejected by his own people and, as part of God's secret plan, was *horribly* crucified on a Roman cross as a sacrifice and punishment for everyone's disobedience. Jesus, even knowing the *horrible* death he would die, wanted to be obedient to his Father and willingly sacrificed his own life (Luke 22:42). Just as God loved people, so Jesus did also (John 15:9). Because Jesus was innocent, God used his life-giving power and brought Jesus back to life (Eph 1:20, 1 Cor 15:4, Matt 28, and many others). He is alive today and is preparing a **Paradise** for people to live in after they die (Rev 21:1-5).

Jesus's sacrifice was sufficient punishment for all of humanity. He said "It is finished" as he died on the Roman cross (John 19:30). Jesus asks only one thing from each person, that they ***sincerely*** **believe** in his sacrifice for their disobedience (John 1:12). Since human beings were designed to have a relationship with God, God wants us to really and truly believe in Jesus's sacrifice, and, in

this way, heal our damaged relationship with him (John 3:16-18, Rom 10:9-10). He will help us do it, if we prayerfully ask him to help us (James 4:8).

Some people *casually* say they believe in Jesus' sacrifice without sincerely meaning it. This is offensive to God because his son Jesus did *actually* and *horribly* sacrifice his life for us. The Bible says God does not accept a *casual* belief, and Jesus' sacrifice is then not a valid payment for their disobedience (Rev 3:15,16). We ourselves would be offended if someone *casually* thanked us for a big sacrifice that we made for them. We would probably say that they were *not sincerely* grateful for our sacrifice.

What does it really mean to *sincerely* believe? Well, gravity is a good example of something we sincerely believe in! We always behave like gravity is real and we are careful not to fall down and get hurt. We also sincerely believe that the sun will come up in the morning. We sincerely believe our cars will take us where we want to go. Etc.

How would you expect a person would want to live if they really did *sincerely* believe that Jesus' sacrifice was the punishment for their own disobedience, and that this meant they could have help in this life, and live forever in a Paradise? You would probably expect the person to:

- be very grateful (Heb 12:28),
- regret their past disobedience and ask God to help change their behavior (2 Peter 3:9, Acts 3:19),
- want to read the Bible and learn more about God (2 Tim 2:15),
- desire to live a loving, helpful life as Jesus did (1 Thes 5:14, Titus 3:14),
- want to be friends with other Christians (Heb 10:24, 25),

- want to tell others about Jesus' sacrifice for them (Matt 28:19, 20),
- look forward to Paradise, knowing that someday they will die and go there (Heb 11:10, Rev 21:1-5).

God draws people to himself who want to have a relationship with him (James 4:8, John 15:16). He wants to help them ***sincerely*** **believe** that Jesus provided the sacrifice needed to pay for their disobedience. A person can become a *sincere* believer by prayerfully asking God to help him or her, and remembering John 3:16 which says: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." When a person is ready to heal his relationship with God, and become a sincere believer and Christian, he or she can say a simple prayer like this one: **Dear Jesus, I know that I have been disobedient and broken your laws as revealed in the Bible. Please forgive me. I want to stop my disobedience and I ask you to come into my heart and life. I believe you died to take the punishment for my disobedience, and then demonstrated your power over death by returning to life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Savior. Amen.** Also, if a person is not sure he or she is a sincere Christian, this prayer can be used to confirm their belief in Jesus.

If you are in doubt about Christianity, please consider 3 additional thoughts:

Pascals Wager – a famous historical argument, states that a person bets his or her life on heaven or hell! This means, logically speaking, if there is *any possibility* that there is an *eternal* heaven and an *eternal* hell, then a person should do *everything*

he can in this *temporary* life to *increase* his chances of going to an *eternal* heaven, and to *reduce* his chances of going to an *eternal* hell!

Scientific Method – has proven to be a very good, if not the best, known method to discover truth. The actual Scientific Method has several steps, but in this document we have already done the earlier steps in the preceding pages, and now we would only need to do the experimental step, which is to **TRY IT!**

If you would like some help to *sincerely* believe in Jesus' sacrifice for your life, please attend a Bible-teaching church where there are some men and women who can consult with you and help you. If a Bible-teaching church is not available to you, then begin reading the Bible yourself. God will honor you, and help you understand and sincerely believe it. You may want to start reading the Bible in Genesis or Luke.



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