

Discovering God's Fingerprints



Why the Christian Faith
Makes Sense

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Is Religion Wishful Thinking?

Why would Christians invent a God who:

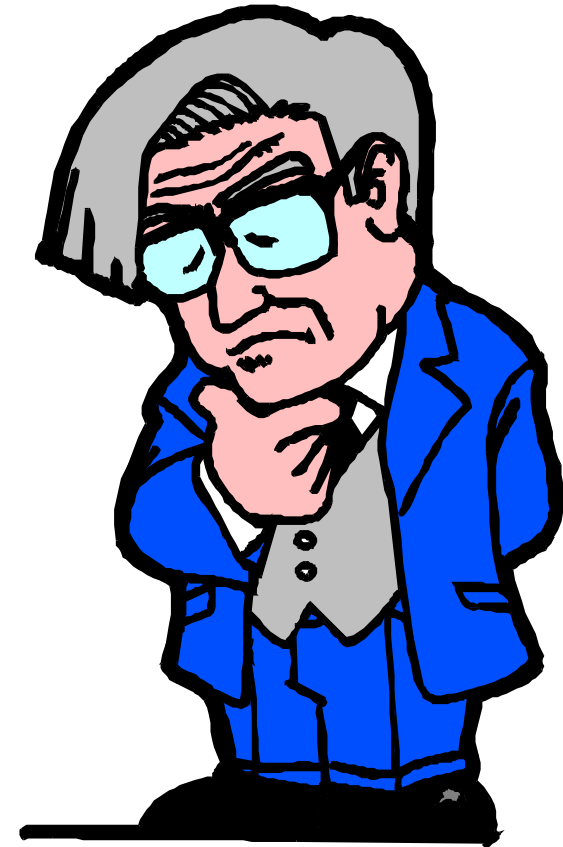
- Needs nothing, so you can't earn his favor?
- Sees the most righteous as deserving punishment?
- Holds those who know him better to a higher standard?
- Will forgive the worst who repent?
- Will condemn the most righteous who depend on themselves?



Atheists Wishful-Thinkers?

Easy to see why they
wouldn't want a God
who:

- Will judge all their actions & thoughts.
- Restricts their behavior.
- Condemns their sins.



Is Religion a Crutch?

- Yes, religion is some sort of crutch!
- Do we need a crutch?
- Do we have the right sort of crutch?
- Better to have a crutch than not be able to walk!



Is Humanity OK?



- Crime?
- Poverty?
- Wars?
- Abortion?
- AIDS?
- And more...

God's Fingerprints

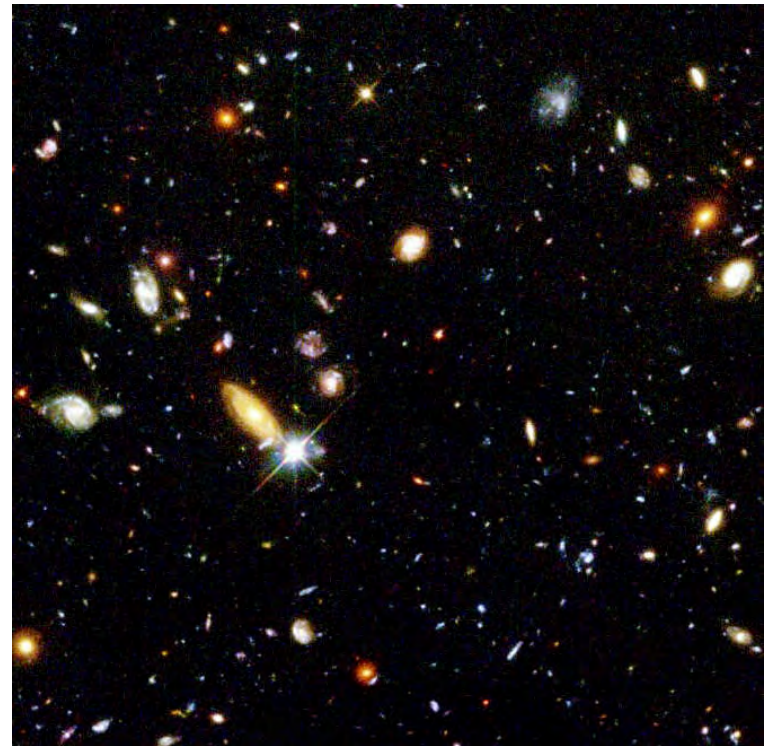


God exists, and He has actually provided quite adequate evidence of His existence for those who really want to know. Consider:

- The nature of the universe
- Problems with atheistic versions of evolution
- Design in inanimate nature
- Fulfilled prophecy in the Bible
- Jesus Christ
- Changed lives and changed societies

Existence of Universe

- Static eternal universe to Dynamic Universe
- Steady-State to Big-Bang
- Oscillating Universe to No-Bounce
- Something from nothing?
- Creator a more adequate explanation.



Evolutionary Alternative

- What about evolution?
- Doesn't that remove the need for God?
- Didn't Darwin show there is no need for a Creator?
- No.
- Consider:



Problems with Atheistic Evolution

- Origin of Life
- Mutation & Natural Selection as source of order
- Lack of transitions in fossil record
- Creator a more natural explanation.
- More clearly seen in evidence of design in non-animate part of nature.



Design in Inanimate Nature



- Chemistry looks designed.
- Environment looks designed.
- Basic forces look designed.

Design in Chemistry

- Carbon – unique in length of chains formed; in nearly equal-energy bonds.
- Water – unique in high heat capacity, universal solvent, expansion on freezing.
- Phosphorus – unique in ability to transfer energy.



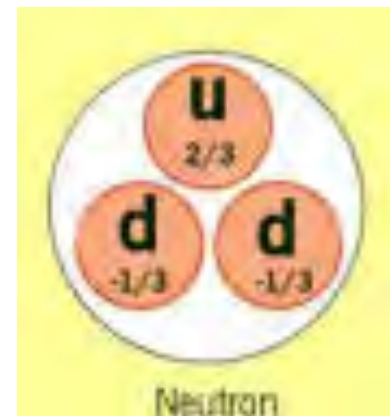
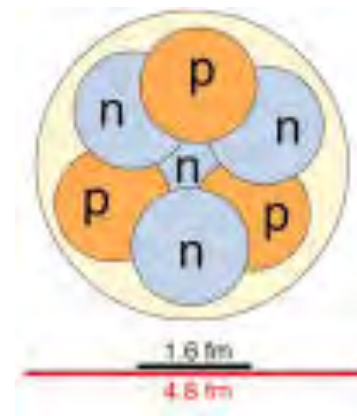
Designed Earth

- Temperature, water
- Oxygen, gravity
- Location in solar system
- Location in galaxy
- Type of sun
- Type of moon
- Over 60 other items



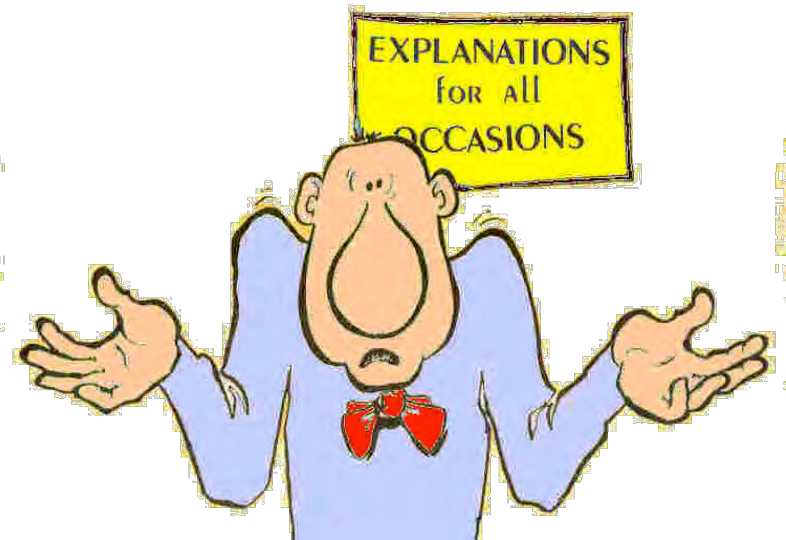
Fine-Tuned Basic Forces

- Strong force and diversity of elements
- Weak force and availability of elements
- Electromagnetism and molecules
- Gravity and long-lived stars
- Balance of plus & minus charges
- Balance of cosmic expansion & gravity



Alternative Explanations

- A mere accident of observation – to have observers, have to have a universe that looks designed.
- So there must be lots of universes!
- Creator a more plausible explanation.



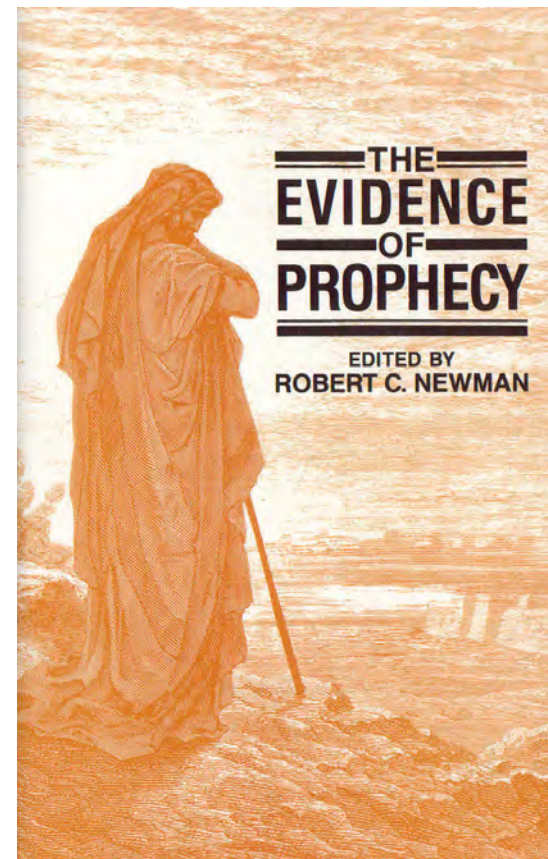
So, Theism?



- OK, so there is a god or gods.
- Why should we think it is the God of the Bible?
- After all, there are hundreds of religions in our world.

Fulfilled Bible Prophecy

- Tyre (Ezekiel 26) – rock scraped, dust thrown into sea
- Babylon (Isaiah 13, Jeremiah 51) – no Arabs, no shepherds, stones not reused, parched desert
- Israel (Hosea 3) – w/o king or prince, sacrifice or pillar, ephod or idol, for "many days"



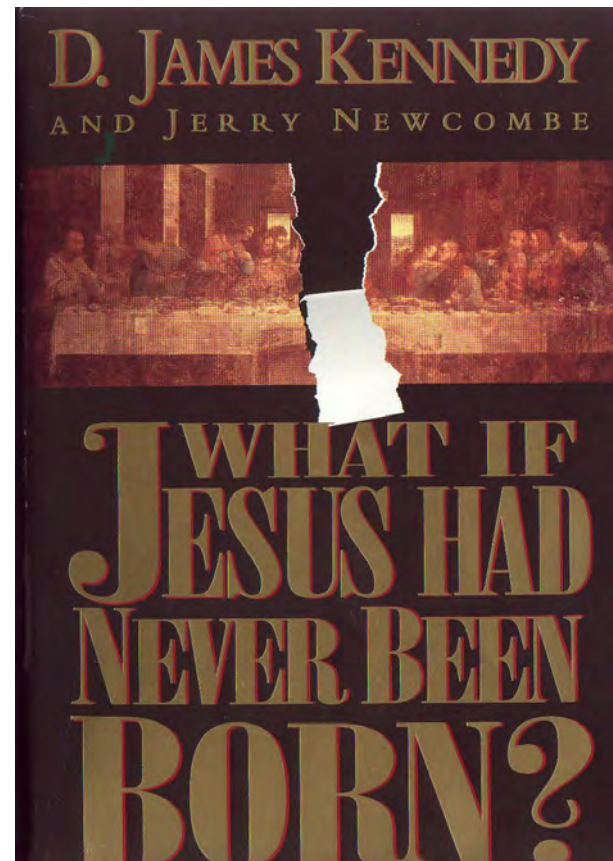
Jesus Christ



- Light to Gentiles (Isaiah 42 & 49) – only Jew claiming to be Messiah who has founded world religion
- Messiah cut off at specified date (Daniel 9) – works out to AD 28-35
- Historical reliability of Gospel accounts – if miracle not ruled out in advance, look very good

Changed Lives & Societies

- What makes the first world different?
- Science/technology – Christian roots
- Personal freedom – Christian roots
- See the books *What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?* and *Under the Influence*.





Conclusions

- There is a God, and he is the One revealed in the Bible.
- Human history does have significance.
- So do our individual lives.
- What we do with God will make all the difference between our lives being a disaster or a joy beyond our imagining.

The Place of Jesus?

- The one being in the universe who is both created & uncreated.
- He alone chose to become created, so his obedience to God was not owed.
- If we trust Jesus, his obedience counts as ours.
- If we trust him, his punishment counts as ours.
- You, too, can trust him!



Not the End but the Beginning ...



... if you trust in Jesus!