

THE EXISTENCE OF THE GOD OF THE BIBLE

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If we are to discover whether Christianity is true or false we must determine whether the God of the Bible exists.

Even accepting that God cannot be adequately defined, there is no ground for rejecting His existence since many of our basic ideas on a variety of subjects cannot be easily defined. For example, consider our use of such words as space, time, consciousness, freedom, life, understanding, happiness and beauty. There are not easy to define adequately but we do not abandon such words, their meanings and reality because we are unable to explain them fully. By comparison, such words as table, mountain and vehicle present few, if any, problems in definition. So it must be emphasised that the difficulty in defining God does not invalidate or disprove Him, no more that the problems of explaining space, time, consciousness, freedom, life, understanding, happiness and beauty are grounds for denying these concepts either.

It has been said that the Bible has two fundamental purposes. First, it is a record of God's relationship with man and, second, it is a history book.

As to its historical accuracy the Bible is corroborated by many other historians as diverse, for example, as Flavius Josephus and H G Wells, neither of whom were Christians and cannot therefore be said to be biased.

There is, however, one major objection to the Bible's historical accuracy, and that concerns the first eleven chapters of the book of Genesis, the opening book of the Bible, which deals with creation as an act of God, Adam and Eve, sin and what is known as the fall, the flood in which Noah and seven others were saved from universal destruction by being in an ark.

As to God's dealings with men, people find difficulty in believing what God allegedly says, particularly in the Old Testament and what the Jews think about God. It has been also said that God does not speak in audible terms, or ever has, and so how can His words be recorded in a book?

Some object saying that the Bible is almost exclusively Jewish and feel insulted that the Bible elevates the Jews as God's special people. It may explain, to some extent, the appalling attitudes that nations and people have had towards the Jews for many centuries. They are probably still the most persecuted race on earth. Like any other race they are not perfect and nor would they claim to be. People talk about the cruelty of the Jews in Old Testament times and talk of other sordid acts the Jews committed but despicable acts are true of human nature and makes the Bible even more trustworthy.

Another objection is the claim that not only is the God of the Bible the God of the Jews but that He is the One and Only God. It will be said that the world is full of gods and religions and so it is presumptuous to say that the God of the Bible is the only true God.

The Bible does not seek to prove the existence of God but takes it for granted. After all, the Bible is not a scientific book. Opponents of Christianity, being fully aware that it cannot be proved scientifically that God exists, take this as an evidence to support atheism. Yet some atheists and agnostics have nagging doubts and find themselves in a time of crisis praying to God whose existence they either deny or doubt.

If there is no conclusive proof that the God of the Bible exists then it must also follow that there is no proof that He does not exist.

It is claimed that there is no proof of the Genesis account of creation, or proof that God created the universe and created every species separately. It is said that the similarity between the species supports the theory of evolution. Surely it supports the concept of the same Creator just as a learned man could identify the composer or the artist by the similarity in his work. But there is no proof of evolution either, or of the Big Bang or

Steady State theories and yet there is some scientific proof to indicate that these widely held evolution theories are highly improbable and these proofs come from scientists not God believers. And, it has to be repeated that it is scientists who are saying this and scientists who are not Christians are included in such statements, some of which make up an appendix to this essay.

Uncertainty exists in all directions.

Yet throughout the world and in every age and, long before the evolution and Big Bang theories ever surfaced, and since, there has always been gods as objects of worship. Even more curious is the fact that most religions have two things in common namely looking up and bowing down. One indicates the dwelling place of God and the other man's submission to God.

One can therefore say that belief in God is older than both science and its theories, although the argument will be advanced that in the days in which we live there is more enlightenment and knowledge than any of our ancestors possessed, primitive or modern. That point is accepted and yet for all our increased knowledge we cannot prove that the God of the Bible does not exist.

Whatever side you take in this debate, what is clear is that either way you can only go back so far and then reach a dead end. For the evolutionist the dead end is that matter has always existed, and for the Christian, God has always existed. Therefore, both views are matters of faith. Evolution pushes the matter back and back until it reaches the realm of faith where science proves to be inadequate. It is matter of faith. Consequently, evolution is a faith because its first cause is a matter of faith and, for many scientists, it is a Godless faith.

A leading astronomer spoke for the majority of scientists when he said that astronomical evidence shows that space, time and matter came into being in the Big Bang of fifteen thousand million years ago and adds that what happened before that, or what caused the explosion, or who or what put the gases there is meaningless. And so, to that astronomer and other evolutionists, where his scientific realm ends, his realm of faith must take over. And yet in another area (that of belief in God) scientists say that faith is irrational. If scientists could prove their faith in evolution and creation without God and explain all things as to the origin of the universe and its composition, there would be no need of faith at all. Faith is not needed if everything can be understood in the realm of science.

The scientist may say, Where did God come from?

The Christian may say, Where did the gases come from which caused the Big Bang?

To be neutral in this matter, one cancels out the other, but what is clearly proved is that faith is more significant than science.

This obsession that we live in days of greater enlightenment and knowledge has lead man into such self-importance as to arrive at the antithesis of faith or, put more simply, seeing is believing. The argument goes, I cannot see God and so I do not believe in Him. If He exists let Him show Himself to me and then I will believe.

This pompous thinking panders to man's pride and his own alleged superior intelligence, and science has been elevated to be man's highest ideal. It is said that many branches of science seek to explain the unknowable in order to quell the frustration of man's limited knowledge and, in so doing, has reduced Divine miraculous acts into human terms, thus disposing of the need of God. Evolution is an obvious case in point. It dispenses with God.

Much of science is of indispensable benefit to mankind but some scientific, political, philosophical and human theories are atheistic.

It is claimed that religion is responsible for 'all the wars throughout history' and as war is immoral so is religion. Yet some discoveries of science are far more lethal and deplorable. Nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction are immoral and can kill millions thus making the threat of science more severe than the militancy of religion. Such weapons are the products of science or the application of scientific discoveries.

So we can say that faith is more important than science and science is far more dangerous than faith, even to the point of being lethal.

It must also be said that many wars were not caused by religion but the greed and power of man. The invasion of Britain by the Romans, and later, the Vikings are two obvious examples. In more recent times the Boer wars were largely due to the desire for gold and the wealth of South Africa.

Sigmund Freud has been called the father of psychoanalysis. He was both a Jew and an atheist. He tried to turn Christianity on its head and said the God had not created man but, rather, that man had created God. Freud went on to explain that God is an invention of man since man desperately needs security in the threatening world in which he lives. Freud asserts that man merely pretends God is in control, being a Divine umpire, always on man's side, and, as death is feared, that there is this lovely place to go to when you die. Yet all these Freudian claims are totally insupportable. Had man invented God then God would have been undemanding and tolerant. He would be a 'soft touch.'

The God of the Bible puts demands on people which impose a very high moral code. Even primitive societies had religions that taught that God would punish disobedience as opposed to tolerating it. And that is certainly said of the God of the Bible. And two other atheists were to join the plans to disgrace God, namely Karl Marx and Friedrich Nietzsche who, with Darwin and Freud, have been likened to the four horsemen of the apocalypse.

It is interesting to note that Freud's atheism was generated by the death of his father and Darwin's atheism was generated by the death of his young daughter. Both of them blamed God for their respective bereavements and, consequently and deliberately set out to discredit and disapprove God and, as recent televised documentaries and biographies have clearly disclosed, with a poisonous hatred.

Therefore evolution is biased and unsound. It was born of atheism and a hatred for God, who does not exist and that, in itself, is an absurd paradox.

The other truth is that man would rather believe that God does not exist for it would make his life easier. Contrary to Freud's view that man has spent hours inventing God, it is that man has spent the time trying to eliminate God by devising philosophies and scientific data such as evolution and the Big Bang theory to deny the existence of God.

It has been said that the atheist denies the existence of God and needs a miracle to explain everything whereas the Christian states that the existence of God is the greatest miracle that Christians believe. Christians and the Bible are up front about this. They call it the great mystery.

Scientists have invented a new language and their usage of words, which they claim explains some of their findings and they further claim that they alone fully understand these concepts. They take a theory, that is to say something that is not proved, and base further theories on it. They claim, for example, that a meteor struck the earth 65 million years ago and eliminated all dinosaurs. Most people tend to believe this and so it is accepted as fact. But it is not a conclusively proven fact since there is absolutely no proof as to the time, the event or the cause. It is a theory. It is speculation.

There may not be any malice on the part of the scientists who say this, but it is given as evidence of man's superior intelligence. Perhaps this gives rise to the expression of being 'blinded by science'.

Karl Marx was, like Freud, a Jew and an atheist. He became the founder of modern international communism and socialism. With Friedrich Engels he expounded theories of sociology on which modern communism and socialism is founded. Marx was the first to put socialism on a rational and scientific basis and he foretold that socialism would inevitably replace capitalism. He proclaimed that each individual's self consciousness was the only deity. Therefore morality was a matter of opinion for each person to determine, and so what is immoral and wrong cannot be defined. It is merely an opinion and cannot be the subject of legislation.

Marx was known as the true founder of socialism and later as the communist rabbi. To Marx, God was a mere projection of man and that religion was a product of man. Marx said that religion was the opium of the people by which he meant that religion diverts from the present world and palms us off with a promise of the hereafter which is drug induced having the effect of a sedative producing illusion. Marx's atheism caused him to assert that "Christianity preaches cowardice, self-contempt, degradation, servility, humility... in a word, all the qualities of a rabble." (Deutsche Brusseles Zeitung, 12 September 1847).

With Friedrich Nietzsche came the rise of nihilism by which the idea of God or the reality of God is dismissed as merely imaginary. Nihilism is the namely commonly given to the earliest form of anarchism which, in itself, in the words of the American anarchist, Joseph Warren, is that "every man should be his own government, his own law and his own church".

This is why immorality today has become a matter of opinion and what is immoral to one is not immoral to another. And this anarchistic thinking is steeped in the sciences of evolution, socialism and atheism. Evolution denies the opening chapters of Genesis which include sin and the need of a remedy for sin which the Bible states is in the shedding of innocent blood which prefigured Christ, the innocent Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world to save those who are willing from the consequences of the punishment of sin and to grant to them forgiveness and eternal life.

Nietzsche's writings are destructive works against morality. He wrote that the end is coming for "virtually every morality that has hitherto been taught, revered and preached." He declared himself as the first immoralist. He said of his own book, *The Anti-Christ*, that this book was "a curse on Christianity" or, rather, that Christianity was "the one great curse, the one great intrinsic depravity." To him Christianity was a nihilistic religion and that Christian morality is "the capital crime against life and God is nothingness defined." His most famous work, *Zarathustra*, was the anti-Bible in which he propounds the evolutionary teaching that only the strongest ought to survive. The Darwin counterpart is that, in the wild, only the strongest survive and so, as men are only animals, the same rules must apply.

Nietzsche wrote, "God is dead. God remains dead. And science and evolution has killed Him. Keeping the law and moral values no longer matter."

There is no doubt that there is a definite and causal link between evolution and atheism. Zarathustra was clearly influenced by Darwin's theories since Nietzsche said that the god of evolution says that there ought not to be a God but rather a Superman and his kingdom which concept inspired Hitler and led to World War Two which caused the death of 55 million people.

Yet there are 'proofs' of the existence of God but people close their minds to these 'proofs' since these 'proofs' are inconvenient and impractical to the life style people want to live. These 'proofs', and note I am putting the word 'proofs' in inverted commas, are deemed unscientific and yet, as I have said, there is an increasing number of scientists who are openly stating that the Big Bang theory and evolution are both unscientific.

In simple terms, it is easier to live your life without rules and morals.

Here are some of the 'proofs'.

1. The Proof of History. Since the dawn of mankind there has been universal intuitive knowledge of God. Even in the earliest religions man has bowed down in submission to God and looked heavenwards to denote His dwelling place but it has to be said that other men have behaved similarly with idols of wood and stone.
2. The Proof of Instinct. Man has a unique perception of what is right and wrong. This cannot be explained scientifically or be reproduced in a laboratory. I suppose if you asked anyone in any civilised country if it were ever right to take a gun and burst into a hospital and shoot and kill every new born baby they would say it was wrong. It would be immoral and criminal.

Yet how do we know it is wrong? Science has no valid answer to that question but what is clear is that the knowledge of right and wrong is within all civilised people without our direct understanding of it. Some may assert that this is merely learned social behaviour, the violation of which is defined by the rigours of the law leading to consequent punishment.

But if the law wants to maintain what is right and wrong, that is to say morality, there must have been original law and therefore there must have been original sin. Sin is what is wrong. If there is the need for law, and there is, there must be an original lawgiver who must be morally good and right. Otherwise there would have to be original law stating that it was right to commit murder and rape, for example. This would produce anarchy and the lawgiver would be an anarchist and be evil. But the evolutionists state that we are animals just like any other animal, and animals do not have a moral conscience and we, as human beings, adopt social consciousness and morality are trying to reverse the established evolutionary dogma.

All babies are born with instincts and so it is not learned social behaviour. There are born with a fear of falling, the desire to suckle and, in the first days of life, when held up, an instinct to walk. Animals have similar instincts but not the knowledge of right and wrong. Men, therefore, have a greater intelligence and instinctive morality. This is why God says that man has dominion over all animals. Man can put a man on the moon... gorillas can't.

Morality is unable to be explained by science and the dogma of the theory of evolution is opposed to morality.

3. The Anthropological Proof. It is the realm of morality that suggests a Supreme Being, God Himself, who is good and who is worshipped since this Being is vastly superior to man. Such a superiority demands that this Being has personality, power and perfection. While man has faculties, conscience, knowledge of some truth and beauty, there is a higher standard that is not human. It should be stressed that personality does not always have a body. Personality can refer to characteristics and attitudes which are invisible. Therefore, the antithesis that God has not been seen is invalidated.

Instinct, intuition and conscience not only give this rock-bottom fundamental awareness and proof of God but the explanation of morals, the discrimination between right and wrong, as well as the conduct and duties of man. In simple terms, the explanation of man's conscience and morals is in that they were given by God which reveals not only His character but also His hand in our creation.

The gases of the Big Bang theory or the theory of evolution cannot account for morals, for law or for what is right or wrong.

4. The Ontological Proof. Following on from this instinctive awareness of God, Anselm (1033-1109) stated that whatever was the best of perfection is God and as God is the very peak of perfection He must exist because no one would create the summit of all virtue as an Imaginary Being. An imaginary God is not perfect because He is simply not there. His existence is vital to His perfection. God is so great that His goodness does not have definable limits. Humanity does. All the sciences do. God is greater than

we can possibly conceive. To put it another way, as God is the perfect Being, a being or ideology or science more perfect is contradictory. As God is real He is actual. Actual is superior to the possible. If God were only possible, there could be no actual. If man had made God, God would be very different. There is a human nature and there is obviously a Divine nature.

5. The Cosmological Proof. This proof argues from the viewpoint of cause and effect. We know that the universe exists. But it does not exist because man created it or can sustain it. We depend on the sun and the rain and benefit from its effects. Such essential effects are the product of an agent or cause. That cause is greater than man since man did not create the sun or the rain and this proves that the laws of the universe are not casual, accidental or mere chance. Evolution preaches chance. We complain about the weather and the cold in particular, but we must remember that vapour condenses by the cold and falls as essential rain. As there is a definite effect there must be a definite cause. The fact that the sun and the rain benefit all mankind indicates fairness and justice. What is clear is that the universe is dependent upon a Source and that that Source is independent. It is not governed by man or science. It is not subject to the control of man but is self-supporting which proves not only the reality of an Absolute Deity but the reality of monotheism.
6. The Teleological Proof. This indicates that there is an ordered design in the universe and in our world: that they were the work of a Designer and Creator and not the product of chance and therefore not of the Big Bang or evolution. Design has a designer. God, the Supreme Being, is creation's amazing architect.

We have seen that creation is of benefit to man, proving that the Creator is good and benevolent. This must also mean that God is intelligent beyond all telling. He is the First Cause. He is therefore, as the Bible states, before all things. He is absolute and supreme. No one or nothing is greater than He

The debate of creation versus evolution will, no doubt, continue. As evolution can only go back so far before it enters the realm of faith, it is a religion but a religion without God. Some scientists have openly expressed that evolution has done great evil because it has lulled people into an easy acceptance that there is no God and therefore no life after death and no accountability. And so we can eat, drink and be merry and not concern ourselves with right or wrong but just accept that if we are caught for any alleged wrong we may have to pay a price in this life.

Some other scientists had said that evolution is like putting all the constituent parts of a wind-up wrist watch into a bag and if it is shaken for long enough, even millions of years, you will eventually have a perfect working timepiece. But who made the pieces?

The ant has a brain, a nervous system and antennae that can analyse the chemicals in the air. Is that just chance or the handiwork of God?

Men has spent years trying to understand the brain and how it works. So intricate is the brain that one can hardly accept it as a matter of chance and the process of evolution.

Marine scientists have been staggered to find a living organism at the bottom of the ocean. It withstands thousands of tons of pressure per square inch and lives in a temperature of 350 degrees centigrade. If evolution is to be believed this creature fell into the sea, or into deeper sea one day and said to itself, "I suppose I had better adapt to these impossible conditions!" Previously, scientists had said that no living organism could possibly survive in these conditions. With such evidence, and there is plenty more, it is difficult to believe that intelligent people could believe such theories unless it is because they do not want to believe to believe the alternative, the existence of God. And, of course, man is proud wanting to discover and explain things for himself and take the credit. Man wants to be superior and the Supreme Being concept stands in his way.

7. The Proof of Moral Purpose. We have all heard it said that there must be more to life than our allotted

life span. Many believe that it is unthinkable that there is only one purpose in life and that that is this earthly life since there must be something after death. This is an instinct but where does it come from? From science or evolution? This, in itself, demands a Supreme Being interested in man's pursuit of this moral purpose.

8. **The Proof of Personal Experience.** This proof is the one which most angers some people the most. But it is true that the lives of thousands throughout the centuries has been transformed when they have found a personal faith in the God of the Bible and in Jesus Christ. Many of these converts to Christianity (and some so-called Christianity is not true) had previous lives of ill-repute and immorality. While it is also true that people can change to be dedicated champions of many good causes, such causes do not normally bring about moral reform or bring the assurance that one is saved from the consequences of sin and have the certainty of eternal life. The conversion to Christ, if it is true, brings an unassailable personal evidence of the existence of the God of the Bible and of the Eternal Word of God who became a person, albeit remaining Divine, a man who willingly died on the Cross to save all those who exercise faith in Him and become a devoted disciple.

This evidence can only be attested by those who have experienced it.

But there are scientists who are sceptical and aggressive because they cannot prove it. But there are other scientists who knew these things to be true can because they have had the personal experience of faith in Christ.

9. **The Christological Proof.** Jesus Christ stands at the centre of history. He actually lived, and that can be proved from secular literature. It is stated that He was a great teacher and a moralist and that He endorsed the ten commandments. He was crucified under Pontius Pilate. That is fact recorded in many secular as well as religious histories. That Christ performed miracles is not only recorded in the Gospels of the New Testament but, for example, in the writings of Flavius Josephus who was not a Christian, although those who want to debunk Christianity state that Christians tampered with Josephus's account.

Many scientists believing in the theory of evolution reject the first eleven chapters of Genesis claiming that these are myths, but the rejection is really because it upsets their hypothesis. The difficulty is that because it is generally thought that scientists are the most intelligent people in the world they are more likely to be believed than any other group of people.

The objections to Christ is disapproval and doubt namely that He is the Son of God, that He rose from the dead and that He taught morality which clashes with the life style of the majority of people. If His high-principled morality were obeyed and followed it would prevent people from doing their own thing and taking account of the commandments.

The ten commandments are relevant. If someone murdered the person who adored and loved the most you would admit it was wrong. If your most valued possession was stolen you would admit that this was wrong. If your partner who had promised their fidelity to you and you had reciprocated the same is found to have committed adultery you would be hurt and say that this was wrong. In your own personal experience you would accept that these things are wrong and that therefore the law of God, which he gave to Moses, and which was endorsed by Christ, is both right and moral.

And you would want justice. God's morality demands it.

As to the historical evidence of Christ and of His resurrection these are matters for later consideration.

I admit that these proofs are not altogether satisfactory and they were not intended to be.

Faith is the evidence of things not seen and not understood by science just as evolution is a faith.

The Biblical principle of faith infuriates modern man because it reminds them that they do not have all the answers. It prompts some to the palatable explanation that not knowing the answers is not due to their inadequacy. I have heard scientists say that the people who are inadequate are those 'miserable Christians who cannot prove anything'.

But none of the scientific proofs are adequate either. A large and increasing number of scientists, who do not profess to be Christians, have said that there is more evidence in the fact of God, Divine creation and of Christ than in the theory of evolution.

It may be wise at this point to define theory. It is a supposition which comes from the verb to suppose which means to assume which, in itself means to simulate, to pretend to be, to imitate, to counterfeit. The expression 'I suppose so' means a hesitant agreement. A theory is a system of ideas and an idea is a plan formed by mental effort, an impression or concept, an intention or purpose or a vague belief or fancy. Theory is speculation. It is an idea. It is conjecture and that means the formation of an opinion or incomplete information rather than a fact. In short, it is guessing, it is to estimate without proof.

The Biblical support for the proofs for the existence of God is substantial and the proofs hitherto presented are confirmed by the Bible.

1. Scientists agree that the order of creation in the Bible agrees with science. For example, vegetation came before cattle.
2. There must have been a first man a first woman
3. Scientists state that the constituent parts of what makes up the human body can all be found in the soil. The Bible agrees. It says that God made man from the earth and the name Adam means red earth.
4. There must have been a first human mother and she must be the mother of all other mothers. That is what the name Eve means.
5. There must have been a first murderer and a first victim.
6. Throughout the whole history of mankind, man has had the instinct to worship God. One of Adam's sons, Seth, was the first evangelist for we read that his example caused men to call upon the name of the Lord. There must have been a first evangelist preaching the God of the Bible and the worship of God. History is full of altars for worship. Abraham built at least four altars throughout his life. His grandson, Jacob, built at least two. Moses built two as did his successor Joshua. There an altar in the tabernacle in the wilderness. In the period of the judges Gideon built an altar as did the first two kings of Israel, Saul and David. An altar was in the first temple built by Solomon. And these altars were for the worship of the God of the Bible. Some of them have been excavated thus proving the point made here.

The apostle Paul, writing to the first century Christians in Rome, states that there is no excuse for not believing in God since, from the dawn of mankind, God has been revealed. As Graham Scroggie put it "God is revealed in creation and in conscience". Scroggie continues that "because man is a rational being and a moral being he has both responsibility and the ability to respond to the manifestation of God in creation and the voice of God in his own conscience". This is fundamentally true of all men whether they have heard the Christian gospel or not.

In simple terms, instinct tells us that there is a benevolent Creator and that morality must originate in God who must be moral and good.

7. Noah built an altar unto the Lord after his deliverance from the flood. The flood is universally accepted as an actual fact although there are various versions of it.

8. The fact that there is good and evil in the world cannot be denied yet some scientists and anarchists deny it stating that we are animals like the beasts of the field and they are not subject to laws and morals. There must be an originator of what is good and, losing a letter o, we call this being God. And if we put a letter d before evil we have the devil, the originator of all that is wrong. This must mean that there is a conflict between good and evil between God and the Devil.

Evolutionists state that as the animals of the wild, and even domesticated animals, have no conscience and, as we are merely animals as well, we have, or should have, no conscience either. How close this is to the anarchist's doctrine, "We have no government but our own. We are our own church.

This anarchy was expressed by the pop group, the Beatles, when they said, "We want no law because that would prevent us doing what we want to do, and we do not want God as He would object to our morals".

It must follow that anarchy is a form of atheism.

9. There can be no denying the proof of instinct that man basically knows what is right and wrong although one sees that society is expanding its borders. We know that it is wrong to murder, for example. The ten commandments are God's moral code for all mankind and if they were kept willingly by everybody the world would be a better place although some will object and call it a sort of police state. The ten commandments as in Exodus 20, and Deuteronomy 5 are summarised and upheld by Christ in Matthew 22, Mark 12 and Luke 10. They are not redundant. It is said that these laws only apply to the Jews but honesty and integrity, morality and conscience applies to us all. Every decent human being can read the ten commandments and agree that they are right.
10. The anthropological proof of God, the Supreme Being worthy of worship is attested in the Bible and throughout history. He is holy, perfect and omnipotent. As with the ontological evidence, the Bible states that God alone is God. He is immutable, eternal and His ways are perfect.
11. Cosmologically, the Bible declares God to be the Creator and Sustainer both of life and the universe and that the earth is for the benefit of man, His special creation. Teleological proof is shown in the Bible by many declarations that God is the Creator of life and concerned with man. In fact, God is the subject of the whole Bible. Hebrews 11. 6 simply states, "God is. He exists." He is personal in that He speaks, although not in ways that are obvious to most men, He hears, He decides, He acts, He knows, and, most of all, He loves. He is infinite. He is unlimited. Matter is not eternal. God is. However hard it is to accept let alone understand, God has always existed and always will. The very definition of God is the Perfect Being. In creation and in our own existence we realise that we benefit from the goodness of God, the First Cause, the Absolute Deity, the Perfect Moralist upon whom the world depends. It must follow that God is infinite and eternal. Contrary to the opinions of some, very few Christians claim that creation took place in 4004 BC as stated by Bishop Ussher (1581-1656) who became the Bishop of Armagh in 1626. That calculation is as speculative as Pears Cyclopaedia stating that the universe is 4.6 billion years old. However old the world is, it does not invalidate the Eternal God who is transcendent, that is to say supreme in intelligence, surpassing all and beyond human reasoning and scientific dogma. Therefore as He is self-existent He is detached from what He has created, detached in that He is external from the world.
12. The Bible upholds the proof of morality as we have seen. But God's high-principled morality is not popular. The argument is that God is unfair in expecting people to keep His laws and, therefore, many reject God. But nothing is of any worth unless it costs something. The dividends in attempting to keep God's laws is vastly superior to rejecting them.
13. The proof of personal experience is another proof in the Gospels. John 3.16 states that, "God so love the world that he gave His only Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have

everlasting life”. That is personal. It includes you and me. It is also of the goodness of God which goodness we call grace. This is one of many verses in the Bible that teaches that salvation is possible to all men as is eternal life to all who come to Christ in repentance and faith. The Christian is not a better person. Far from it. Far, far, far from it. The Christian is a more obedient person living their life in accordance with the Bible and God’s moral code. Just as there are rogues in science and every other walk of life, so there is are rogues among those who say that they are Christians.

It is extraordinary that people believe eye witness accounts of events older than the time of Christ but refuse to accept His miraculous life, death and resurrection. I am not aware of any eye witness accounts of any event of evolution

There have been many unscrupulous attempts to advance the missing link to prove the theory of evolution and deny creation and the God of the Bible.

In 1894, a scientist, Du Bois, discovered in volcanic deposits in Java a small incomplete skull, two molar teeth and a femur. This was hailed as the missing link. Years later it was proved to be the remains of a gibbon.

At Piltdown in Sussex in 1911 there was found four fragments of a skull, the right side of a lower jaw and a tooth. From this it was said by scientists that these were the remains of a man who lived 100,000 years ago. Professor Schwalke, the great German anatomist, declared it to be a good sized homo sapiens, the true man of the day. It was accepted by science as the missing link between anthropoid apes and man. For forty years science rejoiced at this proof of evolution and ridiculed the Bible and creation. God did not exist. Science had proved it.

But Dr J S Weiner of the Smithsonian Institute of Washington found the Piltdown man to be a forgery. The lower jaw and canine tooth had been filed down so as to resemble fossil specimens; the jaw and teeth had been stained with a mahogany colour with iron salt and bichromate. It was fake and a deliberate attempt by scientists to prove evolution and debunk Genesis.

T H Huxley said that evolution makes it impossible to believe the Bible.

In 1937, the third lower molar tooth of a fossil ape was discovered in a cave near Krugerdorp in South Africa.

It was triumphantly hailed by scientists all over the world as irrefutable evidence of man’s direct descent from the ape. Years later it was proved to be another fake and a fake perpetrated by evolutionists. Afterwards, Professor H F Osborn, the great authority on fossil vertebrates, said that the idea of man’s ape ancestry is a “myth and a bogey”.

14. The proof of Jesus Christ as a real person who existed is set forth in the essay The Historical Jesus and the evidence is overwhelming. The proof of the resurrection will be dealt with elsewhere.

The existence of God is fundamental to rational thinking. It is something that, if abandoned, would lead us to give up reasoning, remove moral restraint and turn our backs on our inbred instinct and conscience.

We also talk of the immanence of God which refers to his abiding and pervasion of His Creation. He has not created us to abandon us. His nearness is shown by His continual benevolence. These two thoughts are stated by the apostle Paul in his address on Mars Hill in Acts 27. “ God, who has made the world, is Lord of heaven and earth. He is not worshipped with men’s hands, He is not far from any one of us since it is in Him that we live and move and have our being.”

One of the difficulty concepts of God is His personality which lead some misguided Christians to call God

the Father a person. A person is a human being, someone with flesh and blood. The Eternal Word of God became flesh, became a man. He became a person since He had flesh and blood. God the Father is a Spirit (John 4.24) and the Holy Spirit is a spirit. Nonetheless God the Father and God the Holy Spirit are eternal and divine. They speak, act, make decisions, have feelings and purpose. God has personality but that does not make Him a person. He is still a spirit, eternal and Divine. God has revealed Himself in creation, the Bible and in Jesus Christ. The psalmist is very blunt, "The fool has said in his heart that there is no God." (Psalm 14.1).

In the Bible the word fool is a strong word unlike its common usage. A fool is one who abuses his ability to reason and rejects faith in God having rejected truth. Psalm 2 states that the fool is one who wants to believe that there is no God. A fool is also one who makes a substitute for God. Perhaps it is an idol which the fool worships and says, "This is my god that made me!" What utter nonsense.

But, equally nonsensical is to make science a substitute for God or any other ideology such as anarchy, political dogma, nihilism and atheism. The substitute could also be wealth or possessions, position or the excessive adoration of someone

The very character of God reveals that he is not a 'thing' or 'an it' or 'an influence'. He is not inanimate like a chair which has no life or will. We may marvel at the power of Niagara Falls but it is a secondary power since it would not exist if there were no creation. It is an effect that is preceded by a cause. The suggestion that God is only an influence or power suggests no authority or control which would make the universe mere chance not only in its origin but also in its continuance. Inherent in God's personality is His freedom in that He, and He alone, is Sovereign over the universe and life and that he has sustained life over thousands of years shows His immutability. The Bible ratifies all these concepts without one contradiction.

Man needs God. This is shown in countless pleas by troubled and dying people throughout the centuries although often expressed with doubt in such sayings as, "If you are there, God, help me. Save me."

Death bed statements can be very chilling. Voltaire said, "I wish I had never been born". H G Wells said of death, "There is no way out or around or through. It is the end". Robert Ingersoll said, "Life is a narrow veil between the cold and the barren peaks of two eternities. We cry aloud and the only answer is the echo of our wailing cry". Mark Twain wrote, "A myriad of men are born. They labour, sweat and struggle for bread. They squabble and fight. They scabble for little mean advantages. Age creeps up upon them. Infirmities follow. Shame and humiliation bring down their pride. Those they have are taken from them and the joy of life is turned into aching grief. The burden of care, pain and misery grows heavier year by year with a longing for relief which comes at last. Death is the only unpoisoned gift earth ever had. And we vanish from a world where we had no consequence, where we achieved nothing, where we have been a mistake, a foolishness where we can leave no sign that we ever existed. A world which laments us for a day and the forgets us for ever. Then another myriad takes their place and goes alone to the same profitless road and vanishes the same way to be followed by another myriad..."

Yet many Christians have faced death with courage because of their belief in Christ and in eternal life. Some have died in barbaric ways and still retained their faith.

I have seen evidence of this. One such case was of a dying man who was a firm believer in Christ. Although now physically very weak, the hospital staff all commented on the fact that he was still rational in all things. He had laid prostrate in bed for weeks. He could speak and talk and always sensibly. Just before he died he sat up in bed, held out his arms and said, "Lord Jesus, I see you and I am coming." He sank back on to this pillow dead but radiantly happy.

There are many recorded cases of such events. The scientists dismiss it as nonsense.

Men, and women, need God.

I want to repeat here some of the anti-God ideology. As it has been said, Freud, the father of psychoanalysis, stated that man created God because man desperately needs security since he lives in a threatening world. Man fears the unknown because it is unpredictable and he fears the impersonal nature of the world which is always taken over by acts of nature, floods and other disasters. Man fears his fellow man and if he has a raw deal, he invents a Divine umpire which he claims is on his side. Man fears death and so he has invented this lovely place called Heaven. Pie in the sky when you die as someone has said. This cynicism is insupportable and totally wrong. The truth is that men would rather believe that God does not exist for it would make their life easier and all people could do what they like. Man has not spent hours inventing God but has spent centuries trying to eliminate Him by devising philosophies and sciences to say that He does not exist. As God is the God of morality then the evil in the world is not of His doing.

And yet when something goes wrong, or there is a disaster or tragedy, God is blamed or if He is not directly blamed He is accused. If there were a God he would not have allowed this is the usual complaint and often from people who do not believe in Him anyway.

It is the devil who is the source of all wrong from Adam and Eve onwards. Because of sin, that is to say disobeying God, Adam and Eve wanted nothing more to do with God and they actually hid from Him.

The principle is the same today.

The existence of the God of the Bible is the greatest miracle that Christians believe. The atheist denies that God exists and needs a miracle to explain everything else. It takes faith to be an atheist.

But it is a faith that is worthless.

APPENDIX

I have heard it said that no scientist worth his salt would jettison evolution or believe in Creation or God.

Here are a few selected statements from scientists or those connected with scientific work

1. Dr Boris Dotsenko received his first academic degree in physics and mathematics at the University of Lvov in 1949. He was awarded a M.Sc. at the University of Leningrad and obtained his doctorate at Moscow State University in 1954 for his research into physical and mathematical sciences. After working for three years at the Academy of Sciences of the USSR on intercontinental and space rocket research he moved to the Institute of Physics in Kiev eventually becoming head of the Nuclear Laboratory.

One of the most fundamental laws of nature that interested him was the Law of Entrophy which, put simply, state that, left to itself, any physical system will decay with time as matter tends to become increasingly disorganised. For example, a drop of ink in a glass of water disperses and that dispersed ink is highly disorganised and that dispersed ink never spontaneously gathers itself together back into that single drop.

One of the implications of this law is that the whole material world should have turned into chaotic dust a long, long time ago. Therefore Dotsenko concluded that there must be a very powerful organising force counteracting the disorganised tendency within nature which kept the universe controlled and in order. And this force must be non-material otherwise, it would become disorganised just like the dispersed ink. Dotsenko therefore concluded that this power must be both omnipotent and omniscient and that there must be a God, one God, controlling everything. He added that even the most brilliant scientists are still incapable of copying even the simplest living cell and therefore this is further evidence that God must be the Creator of life on earth.

2. Paul Adams-Jutzkiewicz graduated with an Honours degree in Psychology from the University of

Newcastle upon Tyne in 1962. He is a teacher of science at a secondary school. He writes, "Science is governed by well-defined so-called rules. One is the premise that the basic principles we discover will always be true. We greatly depend on the repeatability of experiments. We make predictions and then say that we discover the laws of science. Science is based on cause and effect. In physics every student knows Newton's first law of motion that an object will stay in a state of rest until it is acted upon by some force. If you do not push your shopping trolley it won't move!. It is the same in chemistry, A precipitate will not form in a silver nitrate solution without the presence of a causal agent.

Scientific experiments display such orderliness that our very livelihoods depend on it.

But where did this intelligent orderliness originate?

Then I remembered a basic rule of science, "If you haven't tested something, then you can't knock it.!"

Similarly, if you have not the experience of faith in Christ and the evidence of the truth of Christian belief then you cannot say it is untrue or does not exist.

3. Dr Robert Selvendran obtained a B.Sc. in chemistry and later received a Ph D. He has become a leading international authority on plant biochemistry. He became a Christian in 1958 and contends that true science is essentially a religious activity which plays its own special role in unfolding the nature and purpose of God.
4. My friend, Talib Barwani, is a native of Zanzibar, who has always been fascinated by science. He was trained in the British Royal Air Force in ground telecommunications and subsequently in the fault-finding laboratory of Marconi, the international electronics company. He was born into a Muslim home and, in common with many other people, made the mistake of thinking that Jesus Christ was only for people who were born in countries where a majority of the people were Christian.
5. Anne Sweeney read mathematics and science at the University of Aberdeen. She admits to having a questioning mind and has learned many times that just because she cannot prove a mathematical theorem to her satisfaction it does not mean that it is false. She tried to prove the existence of God like a mathematical theorem but concluded that God is more like an axiom, a self-evident truth that needs no proof!

In her testimony she writes, "I used to blame God for all the suffering in the world. Now I realise that it is those of us who live for ourselves that cause the suffering, not God".

6. Colonel James B Irwin walked on the moon in 1971. He writes, "As we were fulfilling our scientific mission I felt the closeness of God in everything".
7. Jack Lousma has received numerous awards and honours in recognition of his services as a jet pilot and a NASA astronaut. He writes," I think it is impossible to work in the field of space technology and exploration, to be acquainted with the magnitude and precision of space, and to be exposed to the principles of the universe without being sure that it could not have happened by mere chance. It had to be designed and engineered by a Master Planner. But He is more than that. On the other hand, we marvel at the immense size of the universe. On the other hand, God has made some things so sub-microscopic that we cannot even see them!".
8. Dr Robert C Newman has degrees in physics, astrophysics and theology. He speaks about scientists selecting passages of the Bible solely for the purpose of ridiculing them in the light of modern day science. Newman writes, " Current evidence points strongly to the conclusion that the universe had a definite beginning contrary to the Steady State theory that postulates that the universe has existed for ever. I'm convinced that the Bible is entirely trustworthy."

9. David Fisher has become the director of the Radio Academy of Science. He takes up the atheistic stance of scientists. He writes, “Science spends most of its time trying to prove that God does not exist and when science makes any assumption it then asks for one proof of that assumption. It has never found any such proof.”
10. Dr Frederick A Tatford was always interested in anthropology. He was a director of the UK Atomic Energy Authority. He wrote, “ I cannot believe in the Big Bang or Steady State theories. Nor can I believe in evolution and all this is because I am a scientist.”
11. Professor Fleischmann, modern zoologist at Erlangen writes, “Darwin’s theory of descent has not one single fact to confirm it in the realm of nature. It is not the result of scientific research but purely the product of imagination”.
12. Dr Robert A Millikan, famous physicist and Nobel prize winner said, “The pathetic thing is that we have scientists who are trying to prove evolution which no scientist can ever prove”.
13. Sir William Dawson wrote, “If man is merely an accidentally improved descendant of apes, his intuition and decisions on things unseen must be valueless and unfounded. Hence it is a lamentable fact that men of science who are evolutionists openly disregard all religious belief. Evolution is one of the strangest phenomena of humanity; it is utterly destitute of proof”.

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