

Sunday 27, 2023

Back to the basics

Basic Questions:

1. Is God real?
2. Is Jesus Christ really the son of God?
3. Is heaven a real place?
4. Is hell real?

**1st MAJOR PREMISE:** We can know the answers to these four basic questions, but the question is, "**How?**"

There are 3 basic ways of perception for mankind:

1. Empiricism - The knowledge acquired by observation from our 5 senses. (See, Hear, Touch, Smell and Taste)
2. Rationalism - Knowledge acquired from our ability to reason or speculate. A belief or theory that opinions and actions should be based on reason and knowledge rather than on religious belief or emotional response. (Reality is what you think).
3. Faith - Determines reality through confidence in the authority or veracity of someone.

To determine if God is real, we must look at the evidence around us that we can rationalize.

**Heb 13:8 - "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." He is God, He is perfect, and He needs no updating.**

**God has revealed Himself to us in 3 ways**

His Creation, His inspired word and through the life of the God/man Jesus Christ.

**1<sup>st</sup> let's start with Creation.**

**Gen. 1:1**- In the beginning **God created the heavens and the earth**. This was not an explosion of nothing into new life without a creator. The big bang theory would say that from nothing came order and detail of life that is reproductive and repeatable.

Let's explore this. Look around. You see plants, trees, land, water, space, stars, planets, animals and people.

Now let's think about the DNA of all these things. It is reproductive, male and female. It is a continuance of life, in other words, it is not a one-time creation that is done after one cycle of life. Humans and animals can communicate with one another. Animals and humans have brains. Not goo, but an intelligent brain, able to communicate with understood intellect.



The DNA is very detailed. The brain and reproductive systems are very detailed. If it was not, every person would be able to diagnose or fix problems in the DNA, the brain and the reproductive systems. We are talking about Genetics, brain surgeons and fertility specialists. This is just a basic look because we have not mentioned astrology, physics, scientists or any other field of specialty. This is all complex stuff! Now, do you really believe these things exploded into order? No!

I have never seen anything explode into order, matter of fact, its results were chaos and destruction. So, your rational mind tells you

there must be an intelligent creator. Not one of average mind, but a genius that understands all the above fields. The bible in Genesis describes the process of creation along with the timeline of creating. This is rational.

Gen 1:15-16 - and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. 16) God made the two great lights, the greater light (sun) to govern the day, and the lesser light (moon) to govern the night; He made the stars also.

Gen 1:26-30 - Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27) God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

28) God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply (reproduction), and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." 29) Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed (new life) that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree

which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; 30) and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to everything that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food"; and it was so.

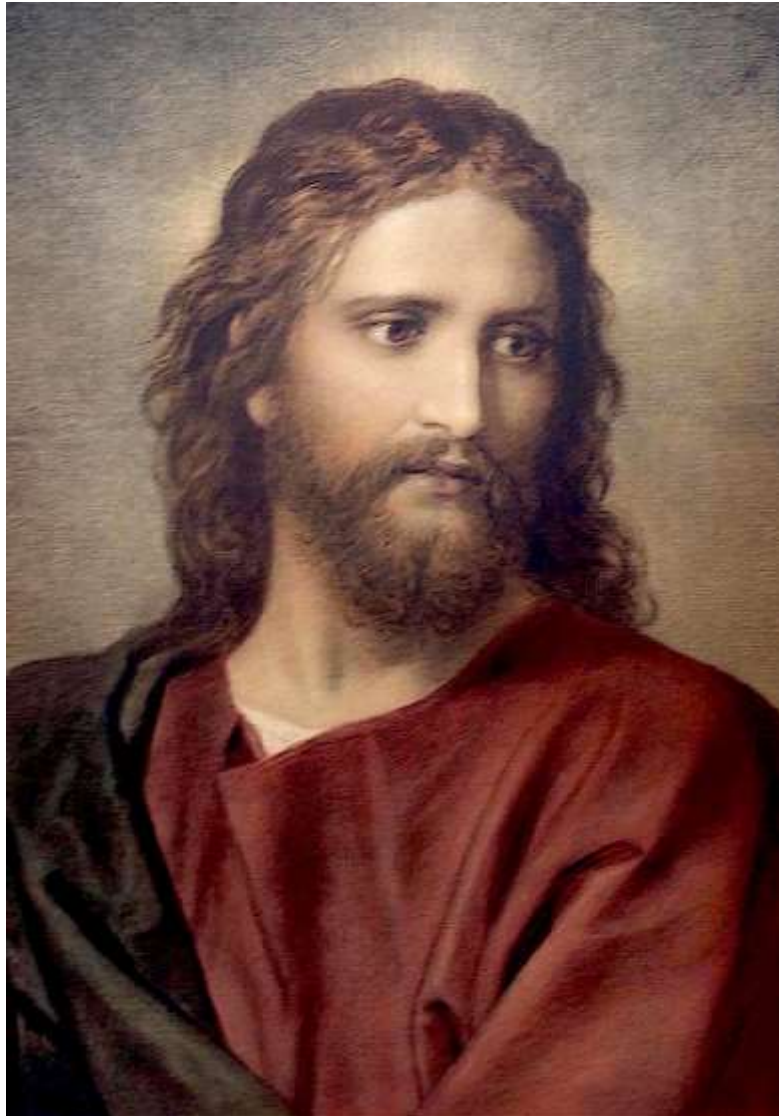
## 2<sup>nd</sup> - The Inspired Word of God

The Bible gives us knowledge concerning:

1. Genealogy of different peoples and nations from the beginning of time as we know it.
2. Purpose for mankind and his relationship with God.
3. Prophecies from antiquity that are fulfilled as we look back in time that are 100% accurate down to the minor details.
4. Major events in history that we can verify with Historical accuracy.
5. Future prophecies that are becoming fulfilled.
6. Eschatology of the World.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> - The God/man Jesus Christ -



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

**Is Jesus Christ real? Yes! Jesus Christ is real.**

Jesus had No servants, yet they called Him **Master**.

No degree, yet they called Him **Teacher**.

No medicines, yet they called Him **Healer**.

No army, yet kings **feared Him**.

No military victories, yet **He conquered the world**.

No crime committed, yet **they crucified Him**.

Buried in a tomb, yet **He lives today**.

**He is my Lord, my Master, my King, my Savior, my God, my all in all.**

Jesus Christ is 100% man and 100% God.

He came to earth to pay the penalty for Adam's original sin and the sins of every human being from the beginning of time until the end of time.

One of the first things we learn about the Son of God is that He is **absolutely perfect** in every way.

Existing forever from eternity past, Jesus Christ is the coequal, coeternal, Second person of the Trinity - God the Son.

He is the creator through whom everything came into being, and He is the Logos (The Word), the revelation of God to man.

In the ages between creation and the incarnation, God the Son provided direct revelation, protection, and judgement to man,

appearing in various preincarnate forms (Ex. 3:2; 13:21-22; 14:24 Judges 6:12-22).

**Ex. 3:2** The angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush.

**Ex 13:21-22** - The LORD was going before them in a pillar of cloud by day to lead them on the way, and in a pillar of fire by night to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.

He founded and ruled the people and nation called Israel, who anticipated Him coming in the flesh.

**Ex 14:24** - the LORD looked down on the army of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud and brought the army of the Egyptians into confusion.

**Judges 6:12-22** - When Gideon saw that he was the angel of the LORD, he said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For now, I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face."

A system of animal sacrifices prescribed for Israel pointed to Jesus Christ as the prophesied Messiah and sacrificial Lamb of God.

During the Incarnation, starting with the virgin birth and culminating with His death, resurrection and ascension, the God/man Jesus Christ fulfilled the law and provided the work of salvation. The unique Person of the universe, true humanity and undiminished



deity, dwelt among us as the teacher of truth, worker of miracles and the spotless Lamb who paid man's penalty for sin.

(John 1:14; Gal 4:4-5; 1 Peter 1:18-21) then was resurrected and taken up in glory (1 Tim 3:16).

Upon His arrival in heaven, Christ was seated at the right hand of the Father (Acts 3:15; 5:31; 1 Pet 3:22). From this seat of highest honor, He is today the head of the Church and continues His ministry as Intercessor, High Priest, and Advocate.

A future age will see Him return to earth, this time as Deliverer, Conqueror and Ruler who removes Satan and all of Israel's enemies and establishes the kingdom promised to His people. Jesus Christ will rule the earthly nations for 1000 years. At the end of human history, He will preside as almighty Judge over all of those who rejected the offer of salvation (Rev 20:11-15). Then a new Heaven and a new Earth will be created with Christ for His people to dwell for eternity (Rev 21:1-3; 6; 22:13).

(Taken from Thieme's Bible Doctrine Dictionary)

### **Proposition 1: God exists**

If you say God does not exist, you are being arbitrary and foolish.

A logical statement might be, "On the basis of Rationalism or Empiricism, God does not exist." But if you dogmatically say, "I do not believe God exists," you demonstrate inconsistent thinking.

At least express the concept of being a logical thinker, through the systems of Perception (Rationalism, Empiricism and Faith).

Throughout life you will rely on these 3 systems to help you grasp reality. Now when I say, "I believe God exists," I mean I believe by Faith that He has always existed and is not just a figment of my imagination.

These questions can be answered because God has revealed Himself to us.

### **Proposition 2 - God reveals Himself**

If God exists, all powerful and sovereign, then it follows that God has something to do with us being here. If God created man, logically He should reveal Himself to mankind. If this is true that He created us and will reveal Himself to us, He must do so in a way mankind can understand Him.

### **Proposition 3- God makes sense**

God reveals Himself in a way that makes sense. God makes organized sense because God is totally organized. We know this because He presents a plan we can understand.

### **Proposition 4- God has a plan**

God not only has a plan, but His plan is perfect and includes you!

### **Proposition 5- you are the object of God's plan**

Here is the point: If there is a God, and if He has revealed Himself to mankind, it makes sense, and His plan includes you, then don't you owe God a hearing to see how you are involved?

### **Proposition 6- you owe God's a hearing**

Nothing is involved from you but listening to the plan with an open mind. God has revealed Himself through the Bible. Just listen to what He has said in His word. It's your choice if you accept it or not. This may be quite different from what you have heard if you were exposed to religion. Religion is man's attempt to gain a relationship with God or the approbation of God by man's own works. Religion obscures the plan of God and deceives the human race. Religion was designed by Satan to make you antagonistic toward the biblical plan of God. Notice, I said "religion" not Christianity! Biblical Christianity asserts that only the work of God through Jesus Christ provides the means of salvation and an eternal relationship with God. As the light of the world, Jesus Christ illuminates the plan of

God (John 8:12). Christianity proclaims God's way of salvation for the human race.

If you accept these propositions to be true, then you recognize God has a plan for you. But remember, God's perfect plan must contend with your human nature, your flaws and imperfections.

No matter how good you think you are, your human nature cannot meet God's perfect standard of righteousness. Your human nature creates a separation from God. You can have no relationship with Him in your totally depraved condition. God provided a way for you so you could approach Him.

### **Phase one of God's plan**

Under God's plan, God provides everything in Grace for man from salvation to eternity. There is nothing mankind can do to earn His Grace. This Grace is what He has done for you. When Jesus Christ went to the cross, He was judged for every sin in the human race - past, present and future. He became the substitute for our guilt.

Any member of the human race can be saved and have an eternal relationship with God simply by believing in Jesus Christ as savior.

**Acts 16:31b - Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved.**

Acts 4:12 - "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

So, Is heaven a real place? **Yes!**

John 14:2-6 - "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. 3) "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. 4) "And you know the way where I am going." 5) Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" 6) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

Jesus has prepared a place called Heaven for all who would believe in Him.

John 3:11-13 - Jesus says "Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony. 12) "If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly

**things? 13) "No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man.**

**Is hell real? Yes, Hell is the separation from God!**

God sends no-one to Hell for their sins. The sins have been paid for at the cross. An unbeliever chooses to accept the free gift of salvation from Jesus Christ or chooses to reject it. God will not force you to be in His Presence against your will. That separation is Hell.

**Matt. 25:41 - "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;**

Jesus said that hell was "prepared" for Satan and the demons (**Matthew 25:41 above**). It is a just punishment for the wicked one. Hell, or the lake of fire, will also be the destination for those who reject Christ (**2 Peter 2:4-6 below**). The good news is that **people can avoid hell**. God, in His infinite mercy and love, has made a way of salvation for everyone who trusts in God's Son, Jesus Christ.

**2 Pet 2:4-6 - For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; 5) and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;**

6) and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter;

Matt. 5:29-30 - "If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. 30) "If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.

All one must do to have everlasting life is **to believe in Jesus Christ**. Romans 4:3-5 - For what does the Scripture say?

"ABRAHAM **BELIEVED GOD**, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS." 4) Now to the one who works, his wage is NOT credited as a favor, but as what is due. 5) But to the one who does NOT work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, **his faith is credited as righteousness**,

Eph. 2:8-9 - For by grace **you have been saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9) not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him** shall not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:18 - "**He who believes in Him** is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

So now you have a decision to make. The truth is there for you.

Will you **believe in Jesus Christ** and the work He did on the cross to take care of your sin problem or will you **reject Him** and the free gift of salvation that He has provided for you?

Here is some biblical discoveries that have been made.



Red Sea crossing - Chariot wheels / Noah's ark discovery