

I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist

(Geisler, Turek)

Summary

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I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist

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The less evidence you have to support your position, the more faith you need to believe it. Faith covers a gap in knowledge. The authors of this book claim that atheists have less evidence to support their beliefs than Christians do. That means they require more faith to be an atheist than many people do to be a Christian.

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Introduction

Major Religious World Views

1. Theism = God made all (Judaism, Christianity, Islam)
2. Pantheism = God is all (Buddhism, Hinduism, New Age)
3. Atheism = No God at all (Humanism)

Religion is a combination of fact and faith. We gather enough information to come to a conclusion and let faith fill the gaps in our knowledge.

Jesus told us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and **mind** ([Mat 22:37](#)).

Christians don't get brownie points for being stupid. -Geisler

01-Can We Handle the Truth?

Truth = telling it like it is

- Truth is an absolute, not relative. We cannot make everything true because it seems like the nice thing to do.
- A prevailing view in our culture is that there is no truth. Logically, this statement contradicts itself. If there is no truth, this statement is false.
- We discover truth. We don't invent it. Gravity was true before Newton discovered it.
- Truth does not change; however our beliefs about truth may change as we gain knowledge.
- Religious beliefs cannot all be true because many of them are contradictory.
- We should treat people of different beliefs with respect. That doesn't mean we ought to accept

the impossible notion that our contradictory beliefs are equally true.

- Pluralists say we should not question religious beliefs. That stance is an absolute moral position that they try to impose on others. It contradicts their claim of "tolerance," especially since it violates Christian beliefs
 - ▶ [1John 4:1](#)
 - ▶ [Gal 1:8](#)
 - ▶ [2Cor 11:13](#)
- We should respect the right of others to believe what they want; however, we should love them enough to humbly tell them the truth.

02-Why Should Anyone Believe Anything At All?

Any teaching is worth trusting only if it points to the truth.

Law of Noncontradiction

Road Runner Tactic = turn a statement on itself to expose the self-defeating way it contradicts itself

Examples:

- David Hume states that something can only be meaningful if it's empirically verifiable or true by definition. There is no way to verify that statement empirically and it not true by definition. Hume's statement is self-defeating
- Immanuel Kant claims there is no way to know anything about the real world. He contradicts himself because his statement refers to the real world. How can he know it exists? His statement is self-defeating.

Law of the Excluded Middle

Something either is or is not. God exists or He does not.

Deduction = process of lining up premises in an argument and arriving at a valid conclusion [logic]

Induction = drawing general conclusions from specific observation [scientific method]

Most conclusions based on induction are not absolutely certain, though they can be highly probable if the amount and validity of the observations is high.

We can use induction to investigate God. What observable effects do you see that suggest there must be preexisting supernatural intelligence?

03-In the Beginning There Was a Great SURGE: Cosmological Argument

The Cosmological Argument

1. Everything that had a beginning had a cause.
Law of Causality is the basis of science. Things don't happen without a cause.
2. The universe had a beginning. (based on scientific observation, SURGE)
3. Therefore, the universe had a cause.

SURGE

S = Second Law of Thermodynamics: The universe is running out of energy (entropy). The First Law of Thermodynamics states that the total amount of energy in the universe is constant. That means if the universe is eternal, the energy would have run out by now. It has not; therefore, there must have been a beginning.

U = Universe is Expanding: The universe [space] is expanding from a single point [Hubble observation]. There must have been a beginning.

R = Radiation from the "Big Bang": Penzias and Wilson discovered cosmic background radiation in 1965. It proved that the universe is not in an eternal steady state.

G = Great Galaxy Seeds: In 1992, COBE (Cosmic Background Explorer satellite) discovered ripples in the temperature of the cosmic background radiation. The ripples indicate that matter congregated by gravitational attraction to form galaxies. The infrared pictures from COBE show this matter from the early universe. George Smoot calls it the "seeds" of the galaxies.

E = Einstein's Theory of General Relativity: General Relativity states that time, space, and matter are interdependent. In other words, they came to be at the same time.

God and the Astronomers

"The astronomical evidence leads to a biblical view of the origin of the world" -Robert Jastrow, founder of NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Studies.

The Empire Strikes Out

To counter the Big Bang Theory, some atheists propose flawed theories such as these:

- Cosmic Rebound Theory suggests the universe has been expanding and contracting forever.

There is no evidence for this and it doesn't explain how things started.

- Imaginary Time is something Stephen Hawking proposed to explain how the universe might not have a beginning. This has no supporting evidence and is purely conjecture based on wishful thinking.
- Uncertainty Theory tries to cast doubt on the Law of Causality by citing Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle. This is poor logic. Heisenberg's Principle describes our inability to **predict** the location and speed of electrons at any given time. It does **not** suggest the movement of electrons is **uncaused**.

Conclusion

The Cosmological Argument is true. The universe had a beginning; it must have a Beginner.

Who Made God?

The Law of Causality does NOT say everything needs a cause, only those things that came to be need a cause. God did NOT come to be. He has no beginning.

First Cause

From the evidence, what caused the universe must be:

- self-existent, timeless, non-spatial, immaterial
- unimaginably powerful
- supremely intelligent [precision of design]

If there is no God, why is there something rather than nothing? Geisler

04-Divine Design: Teleological Argument

The Teleological Argument

1. Every design has a designer.
2. The universe has a highly complex design.
3. Therefore, the universe had a Designer.

Anthropic Principle = the universe is extremely fine-tuned to support human life

Astrophysicist, Hugh Ross, calculated the probability of 122 critical constants occurring in any planet in the universe to support human life (things such as oxygen levels, transparency of the atmosphere, the moon-earth gravitational interaction, carbon dioxide levels, gravity). He says it is one in 10^{138} . Scientists think there are about 10^{22} planets in the universe. The chances of the earth occurring in its current state are, in effect, zero.

"A common sense interpretation of the facts suggests that a super intellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature." Fred Hoyle (astronomer, atheist)

God? Look to the Heavens

The Bible tells us to look to the heavens to get an idea of what God is like.

- The heavens declare the glory of God [**Psa 19**].
- Lift your eyes to the heavens [**Isa 40:25-26**].
- Looking at the heavens can give us a sense of God's majesty and infinity [**Psa 103:11**].

Christians have good reasons (based on observation) for believing what they do.

05-The First Life: Natural Law or Divine Awe?

The supreme problem for Darwinists is explaining the origin of the first life. Naturalistic macroevolution claims that first life generated spontaneously from nonliving chemicals. The problem is that the DNA of a one-celled amoeba has as much ordered information as there is in 1,000 complete sets of the Encyclopedia Britannica. How likely is this to happen spontaneously?

We can't directly observe the origin of the first life. We can use forensic principles to discover the likely cause. The central principle in forensics is the Principle of Uniformity = causes in the past were like causes we observe today. Today, when we see the equivalent of 1,000 encyclopedias of ordered information, we don't assume it happened spontaneously. There is always an intelligent cause for complex design.

Many scientists have attempted to combine chemicals to get a DNA molecule with no success. Darwinists insist there is no intelligent design, that it only "appears" that way.

Another issue is that DNA relies on proteins for its production and proteins rely on DNA for their production. Neither could be first.

Good Science vs. Bad Science

The creation-evolution debate is not about Bible vs. science, it is about good science vs. bad science. Bad science only considers

*"The belief that life on earth arose spontaneously from nonliving matter is simply a matter of faith in strict reductionism and is based entirely on ideology."
Hubert Yockey (physicist, information scientist)*

one option and rules out others before looking at the evidence. This is what Darwinists do. They allow their ideology to overrule observation and reason. That's bad science.

Time Won't Help

Darwinists say if we give natural forces billions of years, they would create life. This is faulty reasoning. Nature brings things to disorder as time passes (Second Law of Thermodynamics).

Not a Chance

Chance is not a cause. Flip a coin. The chance it will come up heads is 50%, but what 'caused' it to come up heads. The primary cause was an intelligent being who decided to flip a coin. Chance is not science.

Materialism Can't Explain Reason

Our ability to reason came from one of two places.

1. preexisting intelligence
2. mindless matter

Scientific observation demonstrates that an effect cannot be greater than its cause. You can't give what you don't have. Chemicals can't explain all of human thought.

Conclusion

Concluding that life is the product of an intelligent Designer makes sense because it is based on multiple pieces of evidence and reason.

06-New Life Forms: From the Goo to You via the Zoo?

Micro vs. Macro

Microevolution has been observed but it is not evidence for **macro**evolution which has never been observed. The reasons include:

1. Genetic Limits: We have observed no incidents of changes that cross species.
2. Cyclical Change: Changes within types appear to shift back and forth within a limited range but never goes outside species. Natural selection may explain the **survival** of a species, but **never** the **arrival** of a species.
3. Irreducible Complexity: In 1859, Darwin did not have the technology available to see that irreducible complexity is present in cells and living things. He stated that his theory would break down if that was true. Living things cannot survive slow trial-and-error changes to their organs because in transitional states, the organs would not perform their necessary functions.
4. Non-viability of Transitional Forms: Changes between species that Darwinists suggest, would put creatures in a form that would impair their survivability (scales to feather, etc).
5. Molecular Isolation: Darwinists think the similarity of DNA in all living creatures implies a common ancestry but could as easily imply a common Designer. At the molecular level, the basic types of animals are in molecular isolation from one another. There are no Darwinian transitions, only distinct molecular gaps.

Fossil Records

Darwin hoped that, over time, geologists would discover intermediate links between species. Instead, paleontologist Stephen Jay Gould (evolutionist) says the history of most fossil species reveals:

1. Stasis: Most species exhibit no directional change, only limited and directionless change.
2. Sudden Appearance: In any local area, species appear all at once and fully formed (no steady transformation).

Fossil evidence is open to many interpretations and cannot establish ancestor-descendant relationships. This is why the claimed "missing links" are being exposed as mistakes or frauds.

Motivation

Scientists on both sides may have a difficult time being neutral. They may have to work hard to be objective in looking at the evidence.

Why Try to Shut Out God?

Why would anyone want to eliminate God as a possibility in creation? Here are some reasons:

1. Fear that admitting God's role will diminish their authority as a scientist.
2. Fear of loss of control.
3. Fear of losing financial security and recognition.
4. Fear of acknowledging that God defines right and wrong. Fear of moral constraints.

07-Mother Teresa vs. Hitler: Moral Law

Most humans have a sense that they ought to do good and shun evil. It's like a Moral Law.

Moral Law Argument

1. Every law has a law giver.
2. There is a Moral Law.
3. Therefore, there is a Moral Law Giver.

How Do We Know a Moral Law Exists?

- Moral laws are practically undeniable. Even those who deny there are values still value their right to deny it.
- We know by our reactions there is a Moral Law. Relativists claim there is no absolute moral standard for what is fair, right, and just; however, if you treat them unfairly, they will object.
- The Declaration of Independence refers to 'unalienable Rights' and that these rights are 'self-evident' truths.
- How do we know there is evil in the world? We can only detect it because there is a standard for comparison. Otherwise, there is no difference between Hitler and Mother Teresa.
- If you claim something is wrong, then by definition, you have an idea of what is right, a Moral Law.
- In a world without a Moral Law, there are no rights. Since we inherently know that issues of life and liberty are more than mere preference, there must be a Moral Law.
- If there were no Moral Law, we would not make excuses for doing wrong. When someone insists we should be 'tolerant,' it implies that those we are to tolerate must be doing something wrong; otherwise, their behavior would not bother us.

Confusing Absolute and Relative

- Changing Behavior: What people do is subject to change, but what they ought to do is not.
- Changing Perceptions of the Facts: We can recognize the same Moral Law and react differently based on the facts we think we know. Hindus and Christians know murder is wrong.

Hindus refuse to eat cows because they think human souls may live in them and to do so is murder. Christians do not think human souls live in cows and have no moral issues eating cows.

- Relative Culture and Relative Means: Cultures differ in how they implement moral laws. Sometimes people agree on a value, but disagree on the best way to attain it. For instance, most agree it is good to assist the poor; however, how best to do that is hotly debated.
- Moral Disagreements: Sometimes a circumstance involves more than one moral law and people stress over which one should take precedence.

Darwinist Dilemma

Darwinists see the Moral Law in action, though they fight the idea of a Moral Law giver. Instead they claim that morality evolved. Logically, this is a problem since morality is not material. It also can't be simply instinct since we have competing instincts. Our instinct for survival is stronger than the one to help. Why do people sometimes run toward a dangerous situation to help another person? Why do we have an urge to protect the weaker? From a material point of view, the powerful could survive longer by always taking advantage of the weaker.

Ideas have consequences. If there is no Moral Law, then 'inferior races' have no right to exist and there is nothing wrong with murder. What the Darwinists assert is not something they back up with evidence. Atheists cannot justify why anything is morally right or wrong. To be an atheist means having the faith to believe that there is no moral difference between a murderer or a missionary, a teacher or a terrorist, Mother Teresa or Hitler. The only other option is to claim morality sprung into existence out of nothing or admit there is a Moral Law Giver.

08-Miracles: Signs of God or Gullibility?

Special revelation: the revelation of Scripture

General revelation: that which we can clearly see independent of any type of scripture

Through good reason, science, and philosophy, we discover that there is a God who is:

- Infinite, self-existent, timeless, non-spatial, and immaterial.
- Unimaginably powerful.
- Purposeful.
- Absolutely morally pure.

This means the Theistic worldview is the only valid worldview. That narrows the field of possible true religions to Judaism, Christianity, or Islam. Because they contradict one another, only one can be true.

How can we know which is true? How will God let us know? Because His felt presence would overrule human will, He will not use it to communicate to us. He will not ravish. He will only woo (**Isa 45:15**). By written language, He can communicate with us without forcing Himself on us. To authenticate His message, He uses miracles as a form of authenticating seal.

Miracle = a special act of God that interrupts the normal course of events

Objections to Miracles

1. Natural laws are immutable. (Benedict Spinoza, Jewish pantheist, 1670s) The problem is, if God exists, miracles are possible because God created the universe out of nothing.
2. Miracles are not credible. (David Hume, atheist, 1700s) He reasons that we should only believe those things which occur regularly, not those

things that occur rarely. This is poor logic. If true, it would mean we should not believe the universe exists since it was a rare, one-time occurrence. We also should not believe Hume exists since his birth was a rare, one time occurrence.

Criteria for a True Miracle

- Instantaneous beginning of a powerful act (Cosmological Argument), something for which there is no natural explanation.
- Intelligent design and purpose (Teleological Argument), to confirm or bring glory to God.
- Promotion of good or right (Moral Law), not connected to error or immorality.

Anomaly: freaks of nature, not connected with a truth claim

Magic: sleight of hand, illusion, misleading the mind

Psychosomatic: psychological

Satanic Sign: associated with occult, false prophecies, glorifies creature

Providence: events that God causes indirectly using natural laws; answered prayer, unlikely events

Timing of Miracles

Miracles occur when God is confirming new truth (revelation) and confirming a new messenger of that truth (Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Jesus, apostles). Because the Bible is complete, God is not confirming a new revelation today. He is not likely to perform miracles now. Certainly, He can whenever He likes; however, He performs them for a purpose and has already achieved His main purpose for miracles.

	<i>Anomaly</i>	<i>Magic</i>	<i>Psychosomatic</i>	<i>Satanic</i>	<i>Providence</i>	<i>Miracle</i>
<i>Power</i>	physical	human	mental	psychic	Divine	Supernatural
<i>Trait</i>	natural	man-controlled	depends on belief	occult, falsehood	natural with spiritual context	never fails, glory to God, immediate
<i>Example</i>	bumblebee	rabbit in hat	psychosomatic cure	demonic influence	fog at Normandy	Raising the dead

09-Do We Have Early Testimony about Jesus?

Non-Christian Sources Affirm the New Testament

The New Testament documents have more manuscripts, earlier manuscripts, and more supported documents than the best ten pieces of classical literature combined. From those sources, we can see:

1. Jesus lived during the time of Tiberius Caesar.
2. He lived a virtuous life.
3. He was a wonder worker.
4. He had a brother named James.
5. Many people of the time claimed he was the Messiah.
6. He was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
7. He was crucified on the eve of the Jewish Passover.
8. Darkness and an earthquake occurred when he died.
9. His disciples believed he rose from the dead.
10. His disciples were willing to die for their belief.
11. Christianity spread rapidly as far as Rome.
12. His disciples denied the Roman gods and worshipped Jesus as God.

Common Objections

- History cannot be known: If that is true we can't depend on anything we have heard from history.
- Converted people are not objective. It's true they are not neutral, but that doesn't mean they can't be objective.

Are the NT Documents Early?

- 25 of the NT books were quoted by Clement, Ignatius, and Polycarp (95-110AD).
- Most of the 25 books quoted were written before 70AD, otherwise they would have mentioned the destruction of the Temple in 70AD or the loss of their country.
- Many NT books were composed before 62AD. Acts ends with Paul under arrest. Clement and others record Paul's execution during the reign of Nero which ended in 68AD. Paul quoted **Luke 10:7** sometime between 62-65AD (**1Tim 5:18**).
- Scholars agree that Paul wrote **1Corinthians** between 55-56AD. **1Corinthians 15:3-8** contains the earliest most authenticated testimony of the Resurrection.

10-Do We Have Eyewitness Testimony about Jesus?

Classical scholar and historian, Colin Hemer, identified 84 facts in **Acts 13-28** that have confirmation from the fields of history, archaeology, geology, and sociology. The book of **Luke** also records 35 miracles.

Craig Bloomberg confirms 59 details in the book of **John** through history, archaeology, and non-Christian writings.

The New Testament is a collection of writings from independent eyewitnesses. Each major author includes early and unique material. Their accounts describe the same events with a divergence of details as naturally happens with independent eyewitness accounts. There are at least six independent sources for the Resurrection.

11-Top Ten Reasons We Know the NT Writers Told the Truth

1. The NT writers included embarrassing details about themselves such as times when they were slow to understand Jesus, afraid, doubtful, and uncaring.
2. The NT writers included embarrassing details about Jesus such as His family thinking He was crazy, people deserting Him, people calling Him demon-possessed, and Him being crucified.
3. The NT writers included difficult sayings from Jesus such as the Beatitudes.
4. The NT writers carefully distinguished their words from Jesus' words.
5. The Resurrection details were not ideal for credibility. Women were the first witnesses. In that culture, women were not considered good witnesses.
6. The NT writers included more than 30 historically confirmed people in their writings.
7. The NT writers included divergent details which complemented one another.
8. The NT writers challenged people to look at the facts.
9. The NT writers described miracles in a succinct, unembellished way [John 20:31].
10. The NT writers abandoned their long-held practices such as animal sacrifice, circumcision, and the Sabbath.

12-Did Jesus Really Rise from the Dead?

Beyond a reasonable doubt, the New Testament writers recorded what they saw. The minimal consensus of scholars is that the disciples believed that Jesus rose from the dead. Skeptics claim they were deceived. Here are some of their theories and why the theories are flawed.

- Hallucination: It is beyond reason that 500 people would see the same hallucination over a 40-day period. How can a physical touch be hallucination? Also, the Roman authorities would have displayed the dead body to stop the claims of sightings. They couldn't, because the tomb was empty.
- Witnesses went to the wrong tomb: Many people knew the location of the tomb. They would have checked to point out the mistake. Also this does not explain the sightings.
- Swoon, apparent death: The professional Roman executioners knew Jesus was dead. Also, Pilate double-checked Jesus' death before he released the body to Joseph of Arimathea. If Jesus was not dead when they put the body in the tomb, He would have bled to death quickly.
- Disciples stole the body: They would have had a difficult time getting past the guards. Also it wouldn't explain the sightings.

...Interpretations based on the assumption that Jesus did not die on the cross appear to be at odds with modern medical knowledge. Journal of the American Medical Association, March 21, 1986

- A substitute took Jesus' place on the cross. Muslims claim that Jesus only appeared to be on the cross; someone took his place (Qur'an, Sura 4.157-158). There is no evidence for this claim. How would John, Jesus' closest friend, and Jesus' mother not recognize Jesus? Also this would not explain the empty tomb or sightings.
- The disciples' faith led to them believing in the Resurrection: The sequence was opposite. Many did not believe in the Resurrection until after it happened.
- The NT writers copy pagan resurrection myths: These myths are about reincarnation into different bodies, not about resurrection. The NT writing are full of facts and eyewitnesses. The style is not mythological with fictional characters. Instead, there are real people supported by historical fact.

The issue atheists appear to have is philosophical, not factual. Christians don't have enough faith to believe that all the NT writers were deceived since evidence contradicts such a belief.

13-Who Is Jesus: God or Just a Great Moral Teacher?

Who in all the history of the world meets these criteria?

1. Is from the seed of a woman (**Gen 3:15**)
2. Is from the seed of Abraham (**Gen 12:3-7**)
3. Is from the tribe of Judah (**Gen 49:10**)
4. Is from the line of David (**Jer 23:5-6**)
5. Was both God and man (**Isa 9:6**)
6. Was born in Bethlehem (**Mic 5:2**)
7. Was preceded by a messenger, visited the Jerusalem Temple before it was destroyed in 70AD (**Mal 3:1**)
8. Died in 33AD (**Dan 9:24-26**)
9. Rose from the dead (**Isa 53:11, Zech 12:10**)

There are none who are as deaf as those who do not want to hear. -Barry Leventhal

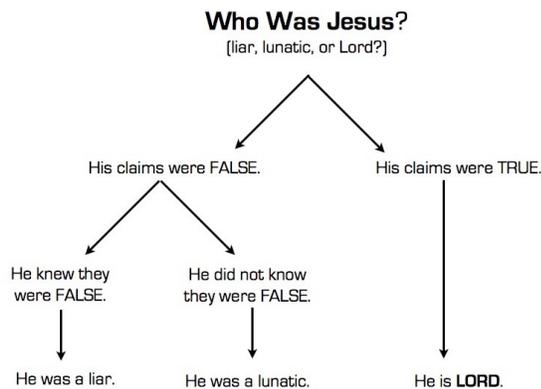
Jesus claimed to be God (**Mark 14:61-64**).

(also John 8:56-59, John 5:21, John 17:5, John 14:6).

Jesus affirmed His deity by His actions (**Mark 2:5-11**). [also Mat 28:17-19, Mat 14:33, John 20:28-29, Mat 16:17].

There are erroneous claims that Jesus denied His deity such as:

- When a rich, young ruler called Jesus good, Jesus said that no one is good but God (**Mat 19:17**). Jesus was making a point that by calling Him good, the man was calling Him God (**Mat 19:28**).
- When Jesus subordinated Himself to the Father in some cases (**John 14:28**). The confusion lies with our limited ability to understand the Trinity. God is three persons in one divine essence. When Jesus took on human form, it was an addition to (not subtraction from) the Trinity.



<i>Jesus is Equal to the Father in:</i>	<i>Jesus is Subordinate to the Father in:</i>
His divine nature	His human nature
His divine essence	His human function
His divine attributes	His human office
His divine character	His human position

14-What Did Jesus Teach about the Bible?

Jesus said the Bible:

1. Is divinely authoritative: On 92 occasions, Jesus and His apostles supported their positions by quoting the Old Testament.
2. Is imperishable: **Mat 5:17**
3. Is infallible: The Scripture cannot be broken (**John 10:35**).
4. Is inerrant: Errors come from not knowing the Scriptures (**John 17:17**).
5. Is historically reliable: **Mat 12:40**
6. Is scientifically accurate: **John 3:12**

7. Has ultimate supremacy: **John 5:39-40**

Could Jesus have been wrong? No. He taught what the Father told Him to teach (**John 8:28**).

Regarding the New Testament, Jesus said the Holy Spirit would remind us what He said (**John 14:25-26**). [also John 16:12-13, Eph 2:20, 1Cor 14:37, Gal 1:11-12, 1The 2:13, Luke 4:14-30, Isa 61:1-2]

15-Conclusion

Here are the conclusions the authors unfolded in the book:

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. The opposite of true is false.
3. It is true that the theistic God exists. This is evidenced by:
 - 3.1.Beginning of the universe
 - 3.2.Design of the universe
 - 3.3.Design of life
 - 3.4.Moral Law
4. If God exists, then miracles are possible.
5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God.
6. The New Testament is historically reliable. This is evidenced by:
 - 6.1.Early testimony
 - 6.2.Eyewitness testimony
 - 6.3.Authentic testimony
 - 6.4.Eyewitnesses who were not deceived
7. The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God.
8. Jesus' claim to be God was miraculously confirmed by:
 - 8.1.His fulfillment of many prophecies about Himself
 - 8.2.His sinless life and miraculous deeds
 - 8.3.His prediction and accomplishments of His resurrection
9. Therefore Jesus is God.
10. Whatever Jesus (who is God) teaches is true.
11. Jesus taught that the Bible is the Word of God.
12. Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God (and anything opposed to it is false).

Bible is the Box Top to Life's Puzzle

If life is a puzzle, the Bible is the box top that shows how the picture fits together.

- Where did we come from? We are created beings made in the image of God (**Gen 1:27**). also Psa 139:14
- Who are we? We are creatures of supreme worth who God endowed with rights and responsibilities (**John 3:16-18**). also John 1:12, Gal 4:5
- Why are we here? This temporal life is the choosing ground for the eternal one (**John 15:8**). also Isa 43:7
- How should we live? We should love God and others (**Rom 5:8**). also 1John 4:19-21, Mat 28:19
- Where are we going? God wants everyone to be saved from the eternal punishment we all deserve (**1Tim 2:4** and **2Pet 3:9**); however, He cannot force us to love Him. We must choose for ourselves who we serve and what is our ultimate destiny (**Josh 24:15** and **John 3:18**).