

DOES GOD EXIST?

Sharing with the non-believer does not always start with sharing from the Bible. Some people claim that they do not even believe that God exists. Chapter 1 of Romans tells us that such denial of God's existence is due to a hardness of heart. Still, one should be prepared to offer some reason to the non-believer for a belief in God.

1. I know that God exists because: I know Him.
2. The world is here and is full of an intentional design; in everything from planets to flowers and atoms. The design is evidence there was a designer and a maker.
3. Evidence from the worldwide flood is indication that God not only exists, but He once judged the world already.
4. God has continued to communicate with mankind, sharing with us details about the future that no mere man could possibly know (prophecy).
5. He has shared science that has been proven accurate, long before that science was "discovered" by man.
6. God was here in human form 2,000 years ago. There are historical records of this fact. His testimony is credible because His death and resurrection were foretold before He was born. He Himself also predicted His resurrection, and there were more than 500 eyewitnesses who saw Jesus during a period of forty days after His resurrection. Jesus even appeared to unbelievers. The resurrection of Jesus is historical fact that has been shown could stand in a court of law. The Bible says Jesus is God
7. There are numerous accounts of people who have been clinically dead who have later revived to give accounts of God, Heaven, and Hell.
8. Great scientific minds of both the past and the present have continually believed in the existence of God.

The following discourse will help you devise your own testimony, and help you be prepared when you find opportunities to share

1. How do I know God exists?

I know that God exist because:
I know Him.

Give an example of an answered prayer or share your own testimony of salvation. Nobody can effectively argue against personal experience.

2. I know that God exist because:

The world is here and is full of an intentional design; in everything from planets to flowers and atoms. The design is evidence there was a designer and a maker.

I am here and you are here. Mankind originated somewhere — there was a beginning. There are two main schools of thought regarding man's origin: Creationism and Evolution. Creation says, "in the beginning, God", while evolution claims that "in the beginning, Matter." Evolutionists teach that single cells eventually evolved into a person. The frog magically turning into a prince is a fairy tale that is not based upon knowable science. There is more than one type of evolution taught. Micro evolution is true, and we can see examples of it. A dog can be bred into other types of dogs, but the resulting kind of animal will always remain; it will always remain within the canine kind, it will never become an elephant! For the dog to become an elephant is "macro evolution", which has NEVER been seen or proven. Believing in macro evolution requires a giant leap of faith with no direct evidence at all.

The second law of thermodynamics tells us that everything is reaching a state of disorder. Things die, rot, and decay. We see evidence of this everywhere; even your house will eventually fall apart without maintenance from an outside source. Evolution teaches the opposite, that things over time can reach a state of order and design. This has NEVER been observed or proven. A tadpole may turn into a frog, but for a frog to turn into a prince is a fairy tale, not science. Even Charles Darwin knew this was absurd.

Darwin said: *"To suppose that the eye, (with so many parts all working together could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd to the highest degree."*

That is Darwin's own opinion of using natural selection to explain the origin of traits that depend on "many parts all working together."

Christians believe that design shows evidence of a maker. If I found a watch, I would probably reach the logical conclusion that somebody made that watch, because it has a design and many intricate working parts. The Bible tells us that both creation and the flood are knowable to mankind.

2 Peter 3:5-6: "For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water." (NAS)

Rom 1:20-22: "20) For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. 21) For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22) Professing to be wise, they became fools." (NAS)

I know that God exist because:

3. Evidence from the worldwide flood is indication that God not only exists, but He once judged the world already.

God judged the world back in the days of Noah with a worldwide flood. The fact that He did this and there is evidence of this flood verifies that God exists. We know there was a worldwide flood, because clams were found on top of Mt. Everest, and fossilized oysters were found high in the Andes Mountain range in Peru. These locations are on different continents high above the ocean. How did the clams and oysters get there? They got there because of a flood produced due to God's judgment on the world.

(Mt Everest: Holt Modern Earth Science, 1983; Giant Oysters: Dailey American Republic, Friday, March 2, 2001) This is just two examples there are many more.

I know that God exist because:

4. God has continued to communicate with mankind, sharing with us details about the future that no mere man could possibly know (prophecy).

Much of this communication between God and man has been recorded in written form. In the past, God shared with people knowledge of future events that nobody could accurately predict. We call these "fulfilled prophecies". The Bible has NEVER been proven wrong. Consider the following quote:

Time Magazine (Dec. 30, 1974): *"After more than two centuries of facing the heaviest scientific guns that could be brought to bear, the bible has survived and perhaps better for the siege even on the critics' own terms. Historical fact, the scriptures seem more acceptable now than they did when the rationalist began the attack"*

Here is one example of Bible prophecy that has been proven true:

Isaiah 44:28-45: "It is I who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd! And he will perform all My desire.' And he declares of Jerusalem, 'She will be built,' and of the temple, 'Your foundation will be laid.' Thus says the LORD to Cyrus His anointed, whom I have taken by the right hand, to subdue nations before him, and to loose the loins of kings; to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut."

Cyrus is mentioned by name, although at this point, he has not yet been born. Another interesting fact about this prophetic message — when Isaiah wrote this, the city was not yet destroyed, and the temple was still standing. Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon, came along and destroyed the city about 100 years later. About 160 years after Isaiah's writing, the temple was completed because a Persian king named Cyrus gave the decree to rebuild the city and the temple.

The American Peoples Encyclopedia Vol. 11, pg. 395 dates the time of Isaiah's death at about 668 BC. The same volume on pg. 611 states that Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city and the temple in 586 BC. In Volume 6 pg. 688-689 of The American Peoples Encyclopedia, we find that Cyrus liberated the Jews and allowed them to return to rebuild Jerusalem and even restored sacred vessels taken from the temple. This took place around 539 BC; the new temple was completed in 515 BC (Vol. 11, page .611).

Fulfilled prophecies are evidence of the existence of God because we have recorded communication from Him in the Bible.

I know that God exist because:

5. God has shared scientific facts that have been proven accurate, long before that fact was "discovered" by man.

I would like to mention one area where science and the Bible do meet.

Job 26:7: "He stretches out the north over empty space and hangs the earth on nothing."

Keep in mind that Job lived almost 2,000 years before Christ. That the earth was suspended on nothing was not even considered by scientists for thousands of years after Job. Now, with our satellites and trips into space, we know this to be true — but such was not known in Job's Day. The Egyptians declared that the earth rested on pillars. The Greeks said that it was carried on the back of Atlas. People believed many things, but they did not come close to what we know to be true today, and what Job declared a few thousand years ago.

I know that God exist because:

6. God was here in human form 2,000 years ago. There are historical records of this fact. His testimony is credible because His death and resurrection were foretold before He was born. He Himself also predicted His resurrection, and there were more than 500 eyewitnesses who saw Jesus during a period of forty days after His resurrection. Jesus even appeared to unbelievers. The resurrection of Jesus is historical fact that many legal minds have been unable to refute. Some have even become Christians in the process of trying to do so. The Bible says Jesus is God.

I know God exists because God was here in the form of man (Philippians 2:5-11).

I know God exists because God was here in the form of man. Jesus claimed to be God in John 10:30-33; even His enemies understood His claim when he stated, "I and the Father are one." Furthermore, He acknowledged He was God to Thomas (John 20:28-29). Jesus claimed to be from heaven (John 6:38). The Bible also tells us that Jesus is the creator (Colossians 1:15-16).

Jesus claimed to be God — but did He leave us any evidence of this fact? Yes, He did! With the Dead Sea Scrolls we can verify that all the prophecies concerning Jesus were written before Jesus was born through Mary. There are numerous prophecies concerning the Messiah that Jesus fulfilled, including His death and resurrection. Without even using the Bible we can show reasonable evidence that Jesus rose from the dead.

I know that God exist because:

7. There are numerous accounts of people who have been clinically dead who have later revived to give accounts of God, Heaven, and Hell.

Many people have had “after-death” experiences; having been declared clinically dead, people have later revived and have relayed information to us concerning heaven and hell. The Lazarus Phenomenon DVD gives an account of an African Pastor named Daniel Ekechukwu who died in a car accident in Nigeria. He later returned to talk about his experience. Secondly, Ian McCormack, a young surfer from New Zealand, died and returned after being stung by the box jellyfish

“The Search for Heaven” is a documentary DVD which examines the scientific studies, personal testimonies, and experiences of those who have had near-death experiences. Some of these personal testimonies are more evidence that God exists.

I know that God exist because:

8. Great scientific minds of both the past and the present have continually believed in the existence of God.

Well-known scientists from the past who believed in God include Leonardo da Vinci — although more famous for his paintings, da Vinci was also a scientist who believed in God.

Isaac Newton, famous for discovering gravity, was a Christian who spent much time studying Biblical prophecies. Concerning the prophecies in Daniel, Newton once said, "to reject Daniel is to reject the Christian religion".

Dr A. E. Wilder-Smith (1915-1995) was once an atheist only to become one of our leading creationists

Now let's discuss arguments against the existence of God. How can anyone prove that something does not exist? To know that something does not exist anywhere, you would have to obtain all knowledge of every place, at all times.

Don't forget that we can offer sound evidence as to the existence of God. In a court of law we can rely on "circumstantial" evidence. In a murder trial, we might have a gun and the ballistic report saying that the offending bullet came from that gun; the fingerprints of the defendant are also on the weapon. Worse yet for our defendants, we can establish motive and opportunity. Faced with all this circumstantial evidence, a jury might well convict the defendant of murder even without eyewitness.

I have offered circumstantial evidence in points 1-8 for you to consider, showing that God does, in fact, exist!

Many people say that the apparent evil in the world is an effective argument against God's existence. I would argue that what someone thinks God should — or shouldn't — do about evil does not prove or disprove God's existence. If a police officer allows a car to run a red light without ticketing the driver — the police officer is no less real. What the officer or what God chooses to do in any given situation is a matter of character, not a proof of nonexistence.

The character of God is a very important discussion to have — but it is its own decision and does not belong in a debate concerning His very existence. To totally wipe out sin and the effects of sin by mankind, this world as we know it would have to be destroyed — and it will be in God's time.

When you find yourself in a debate regarding the existence of God, pay close attention to how your opponent is defining key points and ideas. People in debates are often trapped by agreeing to false terms and false definitions.