**Is Belief In God Reasonable?**

**How Can Scientific People Still Be Unreasonable?**

 Does Science prove the Bible wrong? Have we evolved beyond the fictitious belief in God in light of cold hard fact? Is Nietzsche correct in declaring, “God is dead”? Is Freud right in asserting that “God” is a mere projection of a psyche broken by daddy issues?

Much of the scientific community would tell us yes, that this is precisely the case. However, this by no means represents all of the scientific community. There are many scientists working in their respective fields who see clear evidence for God. These men and women are gifted and they are ardent in showing agreement b/w science & the Bible.

Our recent series of lessons has sought to answer the question: *“Is belief in God reasonable in light of what science has discovered?”* In this concluding sermon, I want to briefly summarize the scientific case for faith available to Christians. Following that, we want to close out this series with a brief examination of why we may still be fighting an uphill battle with “the scientific-minded intelligentsia”, not because of a lack of evidence, but because of sin-laden wills that have become hostile even to the very notion of God.

**I. Summation Of Scientific Evidence (Just What We Have Briefly Covered...)**

 **A. Lesson #1 – “God, Science, And Origins”**

 1. *Field(s) Of Study:* Astronomy, Physics, Epistemology, Cosmology, etc.

 2. *Brief Synopsis:* Francis Bacon, the father of modern science, defined true science as “knowledge by causes”.Cosmologists study the universe in an effort to understand its initial cause. The evidence available to us in this study suggests God is the initial cause.

 3. *Key Passage(s):* Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 11:3

 **B. Lesson #2 – “Introduction To Intelligent Design”**

 1. *Field(s) Of Study:* Engineering, Biology, Astronomy, Mathematics, etc.

 2. *Brief Synopsis:* What we see in our observation of everything around us is the signature of design, irreducible complexity, specified complexity, and fine-tuning. Since intelligence is the only known and continuously observed cause of these things, it is reasonable to conclude that there is a Designer of all things.

 3. *Key Passage(s):* Hebrews 3:4; Psalms 8:1-4; 19:1

 **C. Lesson #3 – “Anthropic Constants”**

 1. *Field(s) Of Study:* Astronomy, Physics, Meteorology, Geology, etc.

 2. *Brief Synopsis:* There are over 120 highly precise and interdependent scientific constants at work in our livable space in the universe that illustrate fine-tuning for human existence. Examples where scientists have observed these include our solar system, planet, & atmosphere.

 3. *Key Passage(s):* Isaiah 45:18-19; Colossians 1:16-17

 **D. Lesson #4 – “The Designed Man”**

 1. *Field(s) Of Study:* Anatomy, Physiology, Biology, Biomechanics, Biophysics, Biochemistry, Neurology, Audiology, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Hematology, Genetics, etc.

 2. *Brief Synopsis:* What scientists have studied in the human body reveals that it is clearly designed. Even when there are issues and aberrations in the system, it is evident there is a Designer.

 3. *Key Passage(s):* Psalms 139:13-16; Proverbs 20:12

 **E. Lesson #5 – “The Age Of The Earth”**

 1. *Field(s) Of Study:* Geology, Geophysics, Physical Science, Chronology, Hebrew Language, Population Genetics, Astrophysics, Astronomy

 2. *Brief Synopsis:* Naturalistic scientists believe the earth is 4.5 billion years old and that the universe is 13-14 billion years old. The Bible suggests the Earth is only around 6,000 years old. When we look at the evidence that science has examined, 6,000 years is very reasonable and the only justification for the extended timeline of the naturalist is to vainly attempt to allow enough time for macroevolution.

 3. *Key Passage(s):* Genesis 1:24-31; Psalms 33:6; 119:99; Proverbs 21:30

 **F. Lesson #6 – “Dinosaurs: Friend Or Foe Of Christians?”**

 1. *Field(s) Of Study:* Paleontology, Archaeology, Art, etc.

 2. *Brief Synopsis:* It is commonly asserted that Christians can’t believe in dinosaurs. This is a lie. It is also commonly asserted that the existence of dinosaurs and humans is separated by 65 million years. This is also a lie. Copious evidence illustrates the coexistence of humans and dinosaurs within the biblical timeline and description of Creation.

 3. Key Passage(s): Genesis 1:20-25; Job 40:15-24; 41

 **G. Lesson #7 – “What The Fossil Record Does NOT Show”**

 1. *Field(s) Of Study:* Paleontology, Archaeology, Philosophy of Science, etc.

 2. *Brief Synopsis:* The information available to us shows no credible support for any version or theory of macroevolution. As Louis Agassiz keenly remarked, the information is not simply a paucity of available fossils, but rather the conspicuous absence of transitional forms. Since macroevolution is the only realistic alternative to creationism, and since it is not supported in the fossil record, creationism is the only remaining reasonable option.

 3. *Key Passage(s):* Proverbs 18:17; Matthew 12:12; Romans 1:25; 3:4; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Colossians 2:4, 8

 **H. Lesson #8 – “What The Fossil Record DOES Show”**

 1. *Field(s) Of Study:* Paleontology, Archaeology, Philosophy of Science, etc.

 2. *Brief Synopsis:* The fossil record not only reveals a total absence of support for macroevolution, it also boasts extensive support for the biblical account of Creation and the Flood of Noah.

 3. *Key Passage(s):* Genesis 1:11-12, 21, 24-25; 7:11; Psalms 104:5-9; Jeremiah 2:26-28; Acts 17:24-31; 2 Peter 3:3-7

**II. Why A “Scientific Mind” May Still Resist This Evidence**

 A. This information constitutes a powerful argument for God. And this is only a fraction of the evidence available. Exploring these avenues of thought is very faith building and faith affirming, isn’t it? Who would deny that belief in God is reasonable in light of this evidence?

 B. Well, sadly, you could make a perfectly sound and logical argument and there would still be plenty of critics who remain unconvinced.

C. So, why does this happen? In a word, sin. But let’s explore several specific issues that contribute to this:

 1. Intellectual Issues (confusion, deception, ego, etc.) (1Cor. 8:1-3)

 a. Scientists *“will go to extraordinary lengths...to defend a theory just as long as it holds scientific intrinsic appeal.”* (Michael Denton)

b. *“Evolution is a theory universally accepted, not because it can be proved true, but because the only alternative, Special Creation, is clearly impossible.”* (Dr. M.S. Watson, the late zoologist of London University)

 2. Emotional Issues (shame, fear, etc.) (1Jn. 4:18)

 a. *“Of course there are many who accept evolution simply because they do not know any better. It is shoved down their throats in school, and to oppose it can become quite uncomfortable. They will be ridiculed and told that only the ignorant or deluded do not accept evolution, and who wants to appear stupid or crazy!”* (Dr. Bo Kirkwood, *Creation Versus Evolution,* 71-72)

 b. *“It’s not a battle between religion and science; it’s a battle over authority. These individuals are trying to explain the world without God so they don’t have to be morally accountable to Him.”* (Terry Mortenson, PhD History of Geology, *NAD1*)

 c. *“My reservations concern not so much this book but the whole subject of paleoanthropology. But introductory books – or book reviews – are hardly the place to argue that perhaps generations of students of human evolution, including myself, have been flailing about in the dark: that our data base is too sparse, too slippery, for it to be able to mold our theories. Rather the theories are more statements about us and ideology than about the past. Paleoanthropology reveals more about how humans view themselves than it does about how humans came about. But that is heresy.”* (Pilbeam’s review of Leaky’s *Origins* in American Scientific, May-June, 1978.)

 3. Will Issues (pride, stubbornness, idolatry, etc.) (Ps. 46:10)

 a. *“,,,most will not accept creation simply because they just can’t! They hold a naturalistic viewpoint and cannot entertain the supernatural, no matter what evidence they are shown. Since they cannot accept creation, they are therefore blinded by evolution...But when one accepts the possibility of creation, the evidence for it is overwhelming.”* (Dr. Bo Kirkwood, *Creation Versus Evolution*, 70)

 b. *“It necessarily follows that chance alone is at the source of every innovation, and of all creation in the biosphere. Pure chance, absolutely free but blind, at the very root of the stupendous edifice of evolution: this central concept of modern biology is no longer one among many other possible or even conceivable hypotheses. It is today the sole conceivable hypothesis, the only one that squares with observed and tested fact. And nothing warrants the supposition - or the hope - that on this score our position is ever likely to be revised.”* (Monod, J. 1971. *Chance And Necessity*, pp. 112-113)

 c. *“We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of the constructs. In spite of its failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism. It is not that the methods and intuitions of science somehow compel us to accept a natural explanation of the phenomenal world, but on the contrary, we are forced by our prior adherence to natural causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.”* (Richard Lewontin, Harvard Geneticist in 1997 *New York Review Of Books*)

 d. *“If [God] does exist, I personally want nothing to do with him.”* (physicist Victor Stenger in *God: The Failed Hypothesis*). Philosopher Thomas Nagel admitted the same: *“I want atheism to be true...It isn’t just that I don’t believe in God...I don’t want there to be a God. I don’t want the universe to be like that.”*

*e. “The reason we accepted Darwinism even w/o proof, is b/c we didn’t want God to interfere with our sexual mores.”* (Julian Huxley)

**III. So How Should We Respond? (1Cor. 15:58; 1Pet. 3:15; Acts 17; Ezek. 3:4-9)**

 A, If people won’t listen, why even try? While frustrations abound, there are some who nevertheless are convinced by the evidence. There are those whose faith was sinking but examination of the evidence bolstered them. It works! It may not work as often as we’d like, but it works! It may also be to harden further!

 B. Benefits for us! (individual, family, fellow Christians)

 1. We are constantly bombarded with the notion that we have to adjust our views to catch up with the fact. This is a deception. What we see in God’s world agrees with what we see in God’s Word.

 2. Analysis of evidence will increase our faith and make us sharper implements for the hand of God. This growth is a command of God.

 3. The pursuit of science is a unique expression of being made in God’s image. It is important for Christians to pursue science. *“Science is a means of better understanding God’s creation so that we can serve Him by meeting the needs of that creation.”* (Kurt Wise, PhD, paleontologist)

While it can be intimidating to learn enough of this sort of information to provide an informed response to a critic of the Bible, it is important that we do so. Countless souls have been deluded, deceived, and misled and have Hell as a reward. Many of those are our loved ones. Perhaps there are some here today that have been fooled. I hope that you will heed the information available in God’s natural revelation AND in His special revelation.

I hope that these lessons have been helpful for you. I have thoroughly enjoyed affirming my faith and hopefully affirming your faith through these nine lessons. Perhaps this series has put you in a more intimate space with God. I would be grateful for that. God is indeed real. Heaven and Hell are real. Sin and salvation are real. We hope that conviction of your spirit will lead you to respond as you know you should as we sing.