

# DOES GOD EXIST?

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To those who show the **Does God Exist?** video programs: You may wish to use the following questions and their answers as a follow-up to the programs. If questions arise which you cannot answer, send them to us, and we will provide you with an answer.

You also may wish to remind students and viewers that the above address can be used to secure more material. We have audio CDs, books, correspondence courses, and other materials which can be secured on loan or at cost to enable the students to go into these subjects in greater detail. Let us know if we can be of any further help.

There is one link in Program 28 which directs you to an article on dispensationalism at the end of this booklet. This can be helpful for you reference.

Sincerely,

John N. Clayton

October 2017

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## DISC 1

### Questions for Program 1

#### Introduction

1. Why is quoting the Bible not a valid way to convince an atheist that there is a God?  
**Answer:** If there is no God, then the Bible is just a collection of ancient myths — of no use in proving anything. Passages like Romans 10:17 are not dealing with the existence of God, but with the validity of the gospel — a different topic.
2. Why do people have different belief levels, and why do those levels change?  
**Answer:** How we were raised, the loss of loved ones, hypocrisy in the lives of people who claim to be Christians, peer pressure, the attractiveness of immorality.
3. What is science?  
**Answer:** Factual information as opposed to intuition. Knowledge that can be tested and falsified so an experiment can verify it.
4. What is “bad science.”  
**Answer:** Something which cannot be tested or falsified and yet is presented as truth.
5. Why is it that science and what the Bible says cannot conflict?  
**Answer:** If God created the creation and if God gave us the Bible the two of them have the same author and they cannot conflict. If they conflict we have bad science, bad theology, or both.
6. Why can you not absolutely prove there is a God?  
**Answer:** Absolute proof demands the use of senses that are not available when talking about a spiritual being. The same problem occurs in quantum mechanics or psychology. Faith would not exist if there was absolute proof.
7. Why is there a need to engage in this kind of study?  
**Answer:** The first reason is to counteract the flood of atheistic material circulated around us. The second reason is to be able to give an answer of the hope that is within us (1 Peter 3:15). The third reason is to boost our own faith and give us confidence.
8. What are the different definitions of “nothing” given by atheists and believers.  
**Answer:** Some point out that if you combine matter and antimatter that they destroy each other producing nothing. That is not true because energy is released (which is something). Others equate nothing to a vacuum, but there can be light in a vacuum. The true meaning of nothing would be that there is no time, space, energy of any kind.
9. What destructive view do some preachers and some scientists take concerning the relationship of faith and science?  
**Answer:** That they are opponents or antagonists and that a person has to choose between faith and science.

10. Why is this view destructive?

**Answer:** Because capable people are kept out of science or religion because of it. Also because it breeds an atmosphere of hostility and suspicion.

## Questions for Program 2 The Beginning of the Cosmos

1. What is the starting point for the discussions in this series?

**Answer:** That we are willing to agree that we exist — that there is reality.

2. What do we mean by the word proof?

**Answer:** In these programs, we are defining proof as the weight of the evidence, not absolute proof. Absolute proof would leave no room for faith and, in reality, there is no such thing as absolute proof. Philosophy students will enjoy debating this one.

3. Why do atheists tend to embrace the idea that there was no beginning?

**Answer:** Because it avoids them having to deal with the question of what caused the beginning. It is easier to avoid the subject by just saying that matter/energy is eternal in some way.

4. How do we know from examining galaxies that the creation had a beginning?

**Answer:** The cosmos is expanding from a common point in space which marks a beginning.

5. How do we know that we do not live in an oscillating universe that expands and collapses and then expands again forever?

**Answer:** The cosmos has been proven to be accelerating, not slowing down. That means it cannot collapse. If you press on the accelerator of your car, you do not slow down. This new discovery makes the oscillating universe an impossibility.

6. Why is finding life on Mars not an issue in this discussion?

**Answer:** The Bible does not say this is the only place that God created life. Life on Mars could have come from the earth when massive volcanic eruptions or asteroid strikes hit the earth and blasted surface material into space.

7. Is the big bang more compatible with the Bible or with atheist views?

**Answer:** It is much more consistent with the biblical view. All it is talking about is how space/time changed once it was created. It does not explain the origin of space/time. Atheists hate this theory because it does not tell what banged or who caused the bang.

8. What is the difference between asking where God came from and asking where matter came from?

**Answer:** When we ask about the origin of matter we are talking about a space- and time-dependent quantity that conforms to all physical laws of chemistry and physics. When we talk about God we are talking about a timeless being that is unlimited in space and not subject to the laws of science. God created time, space, and the laws, so obviously he is not controlled by them.

9. What are the three claims made by atheists and addressed in this series of lessons?

**Answer:** (a) The cosmos is eternal, (b) the cosmos is self existing (uncaused), and (c) that the cosmos was not created — in other words not the product of any gods.

10. Some have proposed there are parallel universes with matter/energy oscillating back and forth between those universes. Why is this not a proof that the cosmos has always been?

**Answer:** First of all, this is a theory. It is based on some observations in quantum mechanics which deal with the very small subatomic world and not the cosmos as a whole. There is no evidence that there are parallel universes or that anything is entering our universe from another one. If this is proven to be true, the question will still be the origin of the whole system — us and the parallel universes.

## Questions for Program 3 The Cause of the Beginning

1. How do we know that the creation had a beginning from the fuel that powers it?  
**Answer:** Hydrogen is a non-renewable resource. There is no process in the cosmos that we can observe making hydrogen. Since hydrogen fuels the universe and is constantly being consumed, we would have no hydrogen left if the universe had been here forever. Since there is huge amount of hydrogen in the cosmos, there had to be a beginning
2. How do we know how much hydrogen there is in the sun?  
**Answer:** We can measure the light coming from matter in the sun and tell what elements are giving off that light. This is known as spectrographic analysis and is used in all areas of science. By measuring the amount of light and knowing the mass and volume of the sun we can calculate how much hydrogen is there.
3. How do we know the sun still has over 90% of its original hydrogen?  
**Answer:** We know how much helium is on the sun and we know it takes four hydrogens to make each helium. Take the helium, multiply by four and you know how much hydrogen has been used up.
4. Give an example of an every day use of the second law of thermodynamics.  
**Answer:** (a) We are all getting older, (b) children's rooms get more and more disorganized, (c) gases diffuse, (d) black holes exist, and (e) a physics book will give many others.
5. Why can the second law not be used to disprove evolution?  
**Answer:** The second law only applies to a closed system — one with nothing being added from the outside. Because the earth is not a closed system, the second law should not be applied to it. Energy is being added to the earth by the sun and other sources. You can argue that the second law makes evolution less likely, but it is a poor argument too use on an atheist.
6. In the first program we saw the cosmos had a beginning. Why is it important to know whether it was caused or not?  
**Answer:** If it was caused, one must decide what caused it.
7. What does the Bible claim about the cause?  
**Answer:** That the cause was God, a being outside of space and time who created with intelligence and purpose.
8. If the atheist admits that there was a beginning, how will he or she explain the cause?  
**Answer:** That some process man does not understand produced matter/energy from nothing.
9. Why is this a difficult answer to challenge?  
**Answer:** One would have to know what man does not understand. It has been said that arguing from ignorance is the safest of all positions.
10. What is the logical problem in saying that matter/energy came from nothing?  
**Answer:** All conservation laws of science are violated (mannerly, momentum, charge, etc.).
11. Why does God not need a cause?  
**Answer:** Because he is outside of space and time. Only time-dependent objects like us need a cause. Anything or anyone that exists outside of time does not need a cause. (More on this later.)
12. If we had a beginning, and if that beginning was caused, what would be the next logical question?  
**Answer:** Was the cause a personal God who created with design, order, purpose, intelligence, and reason; or was the cause something nonpersonal demonstrating only chance?

## Questions for Program 4 Design in the Creation (Part 1)

1. What argument for God's existence is made by this program and the Bible?  
**Answer:** Design demands a designer. We can know God is "through the things he has made" (Romans 1:19–23).
2. What mechanisms do living things have available to them to help them navigate their migratory patterns?  
**Answer:** Sight, sound, smell, magnetic fields, and polarized light.
3. What are three explanations which could be used to explain how living things have acquired the ability to make long migrations?  
**Answer:** a. They learn it (from their parents).  
b. Acquired by chance (evolution).  
c. Designed and planned by an intelligence.
4. Identify other living things that migrate great distances and tell what value they serve ecologically.  
**Answer:** Whales, ducks, geese, turtles, eels, monarch butterflies, salmon, etc. All provide food for man and other life. Whales shape the sea floor in some places.
5. Why would God cause animals to migrate if the migration does not improve the probability of their survival?  
**Answer:** The migration benefits other forms of life and provides essentials in the ecosystems involved in the migration.
6. What is the difference between marsupial and placental reproduction?  
**Answer:** A marsupial baby is born five weeks after conception. A placental baby is born nine months or so after conception.
7. What is the advantage of this system to the mother kangaroo?  
**Answer:** She does not have to be encumbered by being large and heavy with child. Birth is also easier, improving the mortality rate.
8. A chicken egg is an example of incredible design. Think of how you know this is true.  
**Answer:** a. Right shape to pass through the hen's reproductive system.  
b. Porous so the embryo can breathe.  
c. Strong (you can stand on a chicken egg, if you do it right).  
d. Able to be gotten out of when chick is ready.  
e. Does not allow loss of fluids dehydrating embryo.
9. When atheists challenge presentations like this, they say "Here is how it can happen by chance." Then they give an explanation which always has one fatal flaw. What is it?  
**Answer:** They make a series of assumptions as to how the matter got to the point where it could reach the desired conclusion. You see large numbers of "if," "could have," "might have," "has been suggested," etc., in the model. A total lack of evidence for these assumptions makes such an explanation unacceptable.
10. There is death, violence, and suffering in nature. Does this not show a lack of design?  
**Answer:** Death is not the ultimate tragedy. There is increasing evidence that much of what we interpret as tragedy in nature is the result of man's interference. Animals do not kill each other except to eat in normal situations. I am sure you have your own view of this and we will explore it more in later programs.

**DISC 2**  
**Question for Program 5**  
**Design in the Creation (Part 2)**

1. Why is it useful to look for the cause of the order we see in nature?  
**Answer:** If we can prove that there is design in the creation, it logically follows that there must be a designer.
2. What biblical comment is given on this point?  
**Answer:** That “we can know there is a God through the things he has made” (Romans 1:19ff; Psalm 19; Isaiah 40; Job 38, etc.).
3. What is polarized light?  
**Answer:** Light has a plane in which the light waves vibrate, it is two dimensional. Reflecting or passing light through crystals with grains that block all but one plane allow the light to be a beam. A 3-D movie has crystals in which one lens is 90 degrees from the other. This allows separate image to be passed into each eye giving an illusion of depth.
4. How do animals use polarized light  
**Answer:** To locate bodies of water or to locate the sun or moon. The turtle locates nearby water, but many birds use the light for migration.
5. Can radio waves be polarized?  
**Answer:** Yes — they are just longer waves than light, but if you rotate your radio it will change the strength of your signal. X-ray, gamma rays, infrared, and ultraviolet can also be polarized.
6. What is a Fibonacci series?  
**Answer:** A number when added to the next number in the series gives the third number — for example  $1+2=3$ ;  $2+3=5$ ;  $3+5=8$ ;  $5+8=13$ ;  $8+13=21$ ;  $13+21=34$ ; etc., so the series would be 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, ... .
7. How does this produce geometric shapes?  
**Answer:** Spirals and rectangles use these numbers and ratios to get their shapes. The equation for Fibonacci spirals is  $x^2 - s = \text{a number}$ . There is a more complete explanation of this and also references in our *Dandy Designs*, volume 1, page 15.
8. Why does this ratio suggest intelligent design?  
**Answer:** It offers no survival value to animals and is not stronger than other shapes. There is no chance explanation that works.
9. So does this mean that we use a god-of-the-gaps argument and say that since we do not know why it works, we invent a god to explain it?  
**Answer:** No. There is the positive argument that this phenomena exists because of the aesthetic beauty that it provides. The idea is that beauty and creativity does not come from chance.
10. List some other areas like this Fibonacci ratio that could have similar arguments made for them being a product of design.  
**Answer:**
  - a. Color in caves and cave creatures.
  - b. Colors in space.
  - c. Texture differences in materials.
  - d. Colors in animals and insects that are color blind.These are all examples of things that do not offer survival value, but provide great beauty for humans to enjoy.

## Questions for Program 6 The Soft Anthropic Principle

1. Irreducible complexity applies to systems where many components have to all work to allow the system as a whole to function. Give an example in every day life of something like that.  
**Answer:** Your car in which all the systems have to work — ignition, fuel, mechanical, etc.; a bike — the gears, wheels spokes, tires, etc., all have to be functional; your body — the heart, lungs, digestive system, electrical system, etc.
2. Nobody would suggest that your car evolved from raw elements by chance. What is the difference between that and biological systems?  
**Answer:** The evolutionist would answer that you see no evidence of intermediate forms that were part car and part something else. Later we will see if the biological arguments for the evolution of life are that well supported. If not, then just like the car, intelligence must have been involved. This is the reason we used the atom in our example. No intermediate can be observed or postulated successfully for an intermediate for an atom, or if you have a quantum mechanics approach, for a quark, a string, or a brane (all theoretical building blocks of charge and matter).
3. What is meant by the “anthropic principle?”  
**Answer:** It says that chance is not a valid mechanism to explain the complexities seen in the cosmos.
4. When we have many variables, all critical to the success of an event, what do we do with the probabilities of each variable to get the actual probability of the event?  
**Answer:** Multiply. For the cards in a playing deck the odds of each variable (drawing an ace of spades) is 1 in 52. To draw it four times in a row (pre-announced) would be  $1/52 \times 1/52 \times 1/52 \times 1/52 = 1/7,311,616$ .
5. Is anything impossible?  
**Answer:** In theoretical terms a person might argue “No.” In practical terms, “Yes.” Any event which has a very low probability like 1 in  $10^{60}$  could be called “impossible.” If “impossible” has any meaning at all, the earth’s creation is it.
6. If there are enough places in space, would life occur no matter what the probabilities are?  
**Answer:** Yes — if the number of places match the probabilities. If you draw from a deck of cards 52 times, you are likely to get the ace. In the example in the program, however, we are far, far beyond the number of possible stars in space. The odds are on the order of  $10^{700}$  and the maximum possible number of baryons (particles of which matter is made) is  $10^{78}$ .
7. If a scientist says that he has created life in a test tube, is this in violation of the message of the program?  
**Answer:** No. First of all, they used materials already created and already in a finished form. The environment is controlled and manipulated in a way not possibly found in nature.
8. Does this program prove that there is no life in outer space?  
**Answer:** NO — but if there is life in outer space, God created it.
9. How does the existence of God answer the anthropic principle?  
**Answer:** If intelligence, order, and planning are admitted to have been a part of the creation process, then chance is not being proposed. God, then, engineered the right values for the physical constants and arranges the right conditions to sustain life. If you admit design, all probabilities cease to be relevant.
10. What argument does this program make for God’s existence? What is the biblical claim on this subject?  
**Answer:** The creation cannot be the product of chance. It must have been designed and planned by an intelligence (Genesis 1:1; Job 38; Psalm 19:1ff; Romans 1:19ff).

## Questions for Program 7 Anticipating Some Objections

1. Why is the tendency of atheists to object to statements in the Bible as an invalid objection to the question of whether God exists or not?  
**Answer:** It is getting the cart ahead of the horse! The first question has to be whether there is a God or not — any God! If we agree there is a God, a creator, then we can move on to which God we are talking about, why Christianity, why the Bible, and how do we handle difficult passages in the Bible? If there is no God that is all irrelevant.
2. What is “bad science?”  
**Answer:** Accepting a speculation as fact. Accepting a theory that cannot be falsified or tested in any way.
3. What is “bad theology?”  
**Answer:** Human interpretation being substituted for biblical statements. Not looking at who said it, who they said it to, why they said it, and how people of the time would have understood it.
4. What are the different kinds of jealousy, and how is God jealous?  
**Answer:** There is the “spoiled brat” type of jealousy, where someone whines because they do not have what someone else has. There is also the hurt jealousy where someone betrays you, violates a trust, contaminates a relationship, and/or violates a contract. God’s use of the word jealousy is this latter kind of jealousy.
5. Why is the quote of Hitler bad theology?  
**Answer:** First of all, Jesus was a Jew. Secondly, the readings of Jesus show his problem was with the Pharisees and Scribes — the religious authorities. The people were treated with love and compassion. Read Mark 6:34.
6. What is meant by “ethnic cleansing?”  
**Answer:** Wiping out a population because of their nationality, race, or creed.
7. Why is the eradication of the Amalekites in 1 Samuel 15:1–7 not ethnic cleansing.  
**Answer:** This nation practiced everything God had told man not to do — drinking blood, sexual promiscuity including sex with animals, eating unclean meat, etc. Disease from these practices was rampant, even in the animals. This was a hygienic issue, not an ethnic issue. The problems with HIV in our time is similar.
8. Why does the size of the cosmos not make any probability argument useless.  
**Answer:** Understand that the skeptical point is accurate here. If you draw 52 times from a deck of cards you will, on the average, draw the ace of spades once. The question is whether the universe is big enough. Remember we started assuming the big bang, so there is not infinite time. I use an exaggerated number in the presentation (100 billion years) to avoid exaggeration. The point is that the possible number of starts is ten to the 26th power or something around that. When you do the probability calculations you get one times ten to the 700th power on up. Any reasonable limit to probability (the Dirac limit was referred to in the lesson) will say the cosmos is not in the same range as the probabilities. You cannot argue that it is infinite, because it is not.
9. Why are modern proposals like multiple universes and virtual universes not a valid response to probability arguments.  
**Answer:** First of all, they are bad science. There is no way to test these theories or to falsify them so they are wild speculations not valid scientific theories. Secondly, they do not answer the probability arguments because they do not occur at the same point at the same time. If you have the frying pan in Los Angeles in January and the egg in New York in July you are not going to fry the egg in that pan. They have to be together at the same time in the same place. Having the right galaxy in one place and the right location (GHZ) in a different galaxy doesn’t work for the same reason.

10. Why are discussions of what happens in quantum mechanics not a valid response which invalidates probability arguments?  
**Answer:** Quantum mechanics deals with the super small — things like quarks and neutrinos. A different set of laws and thus a different kind of probability has to be applied in this micro world. What works for a quark would not apply to a planet. Laws that apply to light do not apply to baseballs. Light has a zero rest mass (when you stop it the particle's mass properties disappear). Baseballs do not do this. Light is two dimensional and thus can be polarized. Baseballs cannot because they are three dimensional.

## Questions for Program 8 What Is God?

1. What erroneous ideas do people get from believing that God is an old man in the sky?  
**Answer:** That God is dead; that they can hide from God; that God has human weaknesses.
2. What questions do people ask that show they do not understand what God is?  
**Answer:** What sex is God? What skin color is God? How can God hear everybody's prayers at once? How can God create things?
3. Why could the man in Flatland not understand what a sphere is?  
**Answer:** It was not a part of his world, nor was it limited to his dimension. This is why we do not totally comprehend the nature of God.
4. What dimension is God in?  
**Answer:** If we are 3 dimensional (3-D), time is the fourth dimension, and if we are lower than the angels that would make angels 5-D (outside of time and space). That would mean God is at least 6-D. This blows our mind because we live in 3-D Flatland.
5. What is eternity?  
**Answer:** That condition where time does not pass.
6. What is it like to be in eternity?  
**Answer:** No time-dependent problems. No physical pain; no death; no tears; etc. (see Revelation 21:4). In Mark 12:25 we read we will become "as angels."
7. When we read the biblical definitions of God like "God is love, light, a Spirit," what is being described?  
**Answer:** The properties of God. Science does the same thing when it discusses things that cannot be seen or perceived through our senses.
8. Why can we not "look on the face of God and live?"  
**Answer:** Because we would have to leave our physical form to do so. In 1 Corinthians 15 Paul describes how we would have to be changed.
9. Why do people create idols?  
**Answer:** Their concept of God is physical and they want reinforcement of that physical concept.
10. Why do we have religious hypocrites who blatantly and conscientiously defy God and live immoral lives?  
**Answer:** Either they do not believe in God or they do not understand what God is. Like David they feel they can hide their activities from God.

Note: We will do some more work on this concept in program 9.

## DISC 3

### Questions for Program 9: Space, Time, and God

1. What is God?  
**Answer:** A spiritual being that exists in a higher dimension than our own.
2. Why is it erroneous to say God is masculine or feminine?  
**Answer:** God is a spirit and spirits are not sexual. God is referred to in masculine terms when force, power, violence, war, and provision of needs are involved. When the context involves compassion, love, nurturing a feminine reference is given. Remember that there is no neuter in Hebrew.
3. What language does God speak?  
**Answer:** God reads our hearts and minds no matter what our speech expression might be. Hebrew and Greek were the languages of people who accepted God's message and became his people. In today's world how we dress, shape our physical appearance, or organize our worship is not an issue with God. We tend to think that what is done in our culture is what everyone should do, but biblical commands talk about singing, teaching, praying, etc., can be done in an infinite number of ways all of which are acceptable to God.
4. How is it possible for God to hear a person in China and the United States praying when they pray at the same time and are thousands of miles apart?  
**Answer:** If God does not experience time, he can listen to one prayer and then go and listen to the other and no time would have passed for him. Remember that how far you go depends on how long you drive, and for God since time does not pass he is everywhere at once in physical terms.
5. How do we know that particles like quarks exist when we cannot see, hear, touch, smell, or taste them?  
**Answer:** We do experiments that help establish the properties of the particles. In the case of quarks we watch what happens when we destroy a proton or a neutron or an electron. The products of such changes tell us what some of the quark's properties are. By making a list we can determine a dossier of what quarks are and what they can do. The same thing is done when describing God. This is what all of nuclear studies are about and how knowledge is gained.
6. Who created God?  
**Answer:** The question makes an assumption that is invalid — that there was a time when God did not exist. You would have to believe that time and space existed before God did, but God created both of these — a point the evidence for the big bang confirms. From our perspective, God has always been, but that is a very limited perspective. We have a booklet on this if you are interested.
7. If a cube had crossed Flatland instead of a sphere, what would the man in Flatland have seen assuming the cube's base was parallel to Flatland?  
**Answer:** A large square would have appeared out of nothing and stayed until the cube exited Flatland, and then instantly there would have been nothing. If a pyramid crossed what the man in Flatland would see is a square that got smaller until it became a point. If you have trouble explaining this, try having a kid who says he understands it do it. Usually your more artistic kids will see this immediately.
8. What are the four steps or choices that make up an argument for the existence of God?  
**Answer:** (a) Was there a beginning? — the evidence is there was. (b) Was the beginning caused? — to maintain it was uncaused leads us to have to believe that something came from nothing which violates the conservation laws of science. (c) If it was caused, was the cause blind chance or an intelligence? — there is massive evidence that chance does not explain what we see in the creation. (d) What has to be the relationship of the cause to space and time? — it has to be an agent outside of time and space. Only God fits all of these four steps.

## Questions for Program 10 What Is Man?

1. How do we know we are not physically created in God's image?

**Answer:** a. God is a Spirit and not flesh and blood.  
b. We would all be identical twins.

2. What things are characteristics of man that are not seen in animals?

**Answer:** Man worships God; creates art and music; can be taught to think, feel guilt; can be sympathetic; is able to forgive; has altruistic potential; etc.

3. Which of the following words and phrases describe animals?

- |                         |                 |                   |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| a. Able to love.        | c. Loyal.       | e. Able to learn. |
| b. Able to communicate. | d. Intelligent. |                   |

**Answer:** All of them. The kind of things that animals cannot do involves worship, agape kind of love, language (which is different than speech or communication), creative capacities (such as art and music), and ability to be taught to think.

4. How do we know that these things are not a function of our intelligence?

**Answer:** Retarded humans do these things and intelligent animals do not — we may attribute animal responses as human, but they are not. We talked about guilt in the lesson, but joy and sympathy are similar responses.

5. How do we know that these things are not conditioned environmentally?

**Answer:** Experiments done with animals in which they are put into a human environment do not show the abilities listed in question 7. There are numerous cases where chimps and dogs have turned on their owners or others close to them with catastrophic results.

6. What implications are involved in saying that all humans are created spiritually in God's image?

**Answer:** We are all of equal value no matter what our race, sex, economic status, education, or what we have done.

7. If man is said to be totally a product of his genetics and environment, what logical implication about his value follows?

**Answer:** We are not of equal value. Favored genetic makeup or environmental history elevates one person over another.

8. How does one's viewpoint of what man is relate to birth defects, abortion, involuntary euthanasia, and mercy killings?

**Answer:** Our position on these controversial issues will be dependent upon the value we place on humans. Destroying human life is no more a concern than destroying animal life if man is only an animal.

9. What relationships exist between the Godhead and the nature of man?

**Answer:**

Father	— Intellect	— Wisdom, planning, artistic creation
Son	— Personality	— Love, compassion, guilt
Holy Spirit	— Soul	— Action, Romans 8:16

Each of these parts functions in a specific way, and each is interrelated. You cannot separate your personality from your intellect anymore than you can separate the components of the Godhead.

## Questions for Program 11 Pain, Suffering, and God

1. How do trite answers on the problem of human suffering hurt people?  
**Answer:** By giving unsympathetic, quick, inadequate, clichés to people who are sincerely hurting.
2. Atheists criticize God on the basis of the suffering that is in the world. What answer can an atheist give as to why these things occur?  
**Answer:** Dawkins answers by saying the evil does not exist and that suffering is just the nature of our existence. In other words it is a chance response to the nature of the physical world. The bottom line is that an atheist has no positive answer to this question — they just essentially say you have to bear it because that is the way it is.
3. What are some wrong answers to why tragedies happen to Christians?  
**Answer:** God cannot stop it. God does not want to stop it. God caused it — it is God’s will. God is testing you. It is because you are weak. It is due to your sin (which may be true, but not always). More on this in the next program.
4. What causes a vast majority of human suffering?  
**Answer:** Man’s failure to use his intelligence and to follow God’s plan covers a vast percentage. That means that greed, selfishness, and exploitation are major factors.
5. How does our poor use of the environment contribute to this aspect of the problem?  
**Answer:** Pollution and abuse of nature has caused many diseases and disasters.
6. Why does God not prevent us from suffering the consequences of what we do?  
**Answer:** Because that would prevent us from being a free moral agent and from being able to accomplish what we were created to do (see the next program). Love can only be possible because of us having choice. Rape is the classic proof of the fact that only with choice can there be real love. Being human instead of a robot or a puppet requires us to be able to make choices.
7. Give biblical examples of people who suffered because of their mistakes.  
**Answer:** Adam and Eve, Abraham, David, etc.
8. Give examples of people who did not cause their own problems.  
**Answer:** Job, Jesus, the blind man in John 9:1–3.
9. Why is it that suffering has to exist for us to survive?  
**Answer:** Physical pain is a design feature in the world to protect us from what is hot, sharp, etc. Emotional pain and spiritual pain make us able to love, forgive, and function in the ways that bring out the best in us.
10. How does our view of death and pain affect our perception of life?  
**Answer:** If we are an atheist, this life is the best we are ever going to have. If we are a Christian, this life is the worst we are ever going to have to endure. That will have a radical effect on how we live, die, and what we do in life.
11. Give the parity form for each of the following:

ITEM	ANSWER
Left	Right
Plus	Minus
Natural Body	Spiritual Body
Love	Hate
Good	Evil

ITEM	ANSWER
Matter	Antimatter
Id	Ego

12. Where did evil come from?  
**Answer:** Evil is a consequence of God’s existence. If God exists, God is love, and God is good, then there has to be the absence of love and the absence of good. This is called evil.
13. Did God create evil?  
**Answer:** No! Such an idea is alien to the nature of God. God tempts no man. Evil is a consequence of good, not a deliberate creation of God. Passages that speak of God creating evil (such as Isaiah 45:7) are referring to allowing it, in the author’s opinion.
14. Is evil equal to good — is this a dualism?  
**Answer:** No! Good is associated with God, but evil did not have a vehicle through which it could act until Satan and his angels chose to embrace it. There is no dualism. Pornography has no force unless it gets into someone’s hands. If they do not read the porn, it has no effect. Evil is the same way.
15. Why did God not create us and angels so that we could not choose evil — so that sin was impossible?  
**Answer:** Because we would not have the ability to do or be a part of many other things that are important and of tremendous value. Love is the most important of these. The rape example in the program is the best illustration that I know of. An agape type of love, family, patriotism, and a lot of other human attributes depend on this ability.

### Questions for Program 12 Why Am I Here?

1. What is meant by “spiritual terrorism?”  
**Answer:** The open activity of Satan to destroy God’s people and God’s way of living and replace it with Satan’s way. Satan does this through “his angels” referred to frequently in scripture (see 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Matthew 25:41; and much of Revelation).
2. What passages describe this spiritual war?  
**Answer:** Ephesians 3:9–11; Ephesians 6:11; and Job 1 and 2.
3. In the story of Job, what restrictions did Satan have?  
**Answer:** He could not kill Job, and earlier that he could not touch him.
4. What is Job’s incredible reaction to all of this?  
**Answer:** In Job 45:2 Job praises God because he understands the purpose of it, and how he has played a major role in the battle between good and evil.
5. What promise does God give us that is similar to Job’s?  
**Answer:** First Corinthians 10:13 — that we will not be given more than we can handle and that there will be a way of escape provided. Sometimes that way of escape may be to die and be with the Lord.
6. Why did God create man?  
**Answer:** The author’s understanding is that we are free-moral-choice beings created to demonstrate to all beings, mortal and immortal, the superiority of good over evil.
7. Is evil winning the war?  
**Answer:** No! Many of Israel’s finest hours were when they were outnumbered and yet by God’s power eventually won out. In some cases God even reduced their numbers so they would not trust themselves. We will win by God’s power and grace, not by numbers.

8. Is it fair to put man in a situation he did not ask to be in?  
**Answer:** Does anyone really not want to exist? There are times when we all may feel that way, but the opportunity to live and to have a purpose in being is an ultimate experience.
9. What is the ultimate end of the creation?  
**Answer:** The elements will dissolve in fervent heat (2 Peter 3), and a final barrier will be placed between those who have followed God and those who have followed Satan. It will be timeless, and good and evil will be forever separated. (See the Rich Man and Lazarus — Luke 16:19–31.)
10. Does hell make sense?  
**Answer:** There is a lot we do not know about it, but if God gave us life it is reasonable that we be accountable for what we do with that life. We tend to make bad distinctions between what tradition and books like Dante's *Inferno* teach about hell and what the Bible really says.
11. Can I be really happy in heaven without those things that make me happy on earth?  
**Answer:** While it is true that things like sexual love will not be a part of heaven, the existence and love we will have will be so much greater than anything we have ever experienced. The best of what we have had on earth would be to us when we are fifty years old, like a new toy we had as a child.
12. How does the problem of human suffering relate to the idea that we all must be bearers of fruit if we are Christians?  
**Answer:** The problems that each of us have enable us to reach out to a person or group of people that no one else can relate to. Paul is the classic example of a man who used his experience to reach out to others.
13. Give an example in your life of someone you were able to reach because of an experience that you have had.  
**Answer:** Will vary with classes. In the church, there are many who have built great ministries out of their experiences. We will elaborate on this point in the next lesson.

## DISC 4

### Questions for Program 13

#### What Is the Paranormal?

1. Politics is outside of the normal experience for most of us, and it frequently defies scientific explanation, so it is a paranormal area of study?  
**Answer:** No. To quote Houdini, "Just because something's unexplained doesn't mean it's supernatural" — be it a god or Satan. To be a paranormal area it must not be able to be explained by any normal technique. Politics is easy to explain in terms of greed, selfishness, a desire for power, and other human emotions.
2. What are three reasons why God would tell Christians to avoid the paranormal?  
**Answer:** (a) It puts one's faith in things other than God, and things that do not work. (b) It diverts our energy from serving others to unproductive pursuits. (c) It frequently puts you in the path of dangerous people. Charles Manson, Jim Jones, David Koresh are all modern examples of people who thought some deity was commanding what they did.
3. Why is belief in God not a paranormal belief system?  
**Answer:** There is massive evidence from science and other disciplines that God does exist and that the Bible is factual and does give a productive way to lead one's life. Belief in quarks, the Higgs boson, or Higgs field are very similar in that the five senses cannot be used to perceive them, but there is evidence that they exist.
4. There are four approaches to paranormal phenomena. What are they?  
**Answer:** (a) They were and are real. (b) They were real in the past, but not today. (c) The whole subject is a scam — there is nothing that cannot be explained scientifically. (d) A combination of the above — i.e., they were real in the past but are a scam today. This last choice is the one that fits things like demon possession and miracles in the Bible in general.

5. What is the main biblical objection to the paranormal?  
**Answer:** Belief in most paranormal claims denies that man is a free moral agent — that we are in control and can make choices.
6. What biblical passages have negative implications for Christians as far as the paranormal is concerned?  
**Answer:** Philippians 2:12 says that we can work out our salvation. Paranormal claims such as those on demon possession suggest that we can be taken over by something against our will and caused to be destroyed by forces outside the physical. Hebrew 4:15 says Jesus was tempted in every way as we are, so paranormal takeovers of Christ would have to be believed in. First Corinthians 10:13 says God is in control and will not allow this, and also promises God will provide a way out of any attack on us or temptation. Romans 8:28 claims God can make good come out of any experience, and paranormal experiences do not seem to fit that.
7. First Samuel 28:8–12 tells of a seance with the Witch of Endor. What evidence do we have that this was not like seance claims of today?  
**Answer:** The woman is terrified at what actually happens, suggesting she had a prepared result and that is not what took place.
8. What does the exorcism of Acts 19:13–16 have that is different than such procedures today?  
**Answer:** The exorcists were depending on Paul and his power to do what they do, and the demon responded to them explaining where the power actually came from.
9. What does 1 John 4:1–6 tell Christians to do in all matters related to the paranormal, and how are Christians to tell what is real and what is not.  
**Answer:** Test every spirit. Those that are not in harmony with Christ as the Son of God are to be rejected. That would include most claims of the paranormal today if not all.
10. First Timothy 4:1 makes a prediction about the times in which we live. What is that prediction and how is it played out?  
**Answer:** The passage says that “... some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.” You may want to have some discussion about what kinds of teaching these “deceiving spirits” would teach and what is happening today is certainly a fulfillment of the way mankind will function. It has been said that if you do not believe something, you will believe anything.

### Questions for Program 14 The Paranormal: Scientific Evidences

1. First John 4:1 tells Christians to test every spirit. How does science help us do this?  
**Answer:** Being able to prove fraud or natural explanations can eliminate many claims out of hand.
2. Why is it important to consider such subjects as this one?  
**Answer:** The question of whether we can “work out our own salvation” or not is vital. Knowing we can control our destiny underlies the reason for our being, and our confidence that God is in control needs to be unshakable.
3. What are some of the devious reasons people promote UFO sightings and wild theories about extraterrestrial influences upon man?  
**Answer:**
  - a. As a substitute for religion — a way of obtaining immortality.
  - b. To make money.
  - c. To get attention.
  - d. To justify things they do.
4. What things influence the credibility of a witness in this area of concern?  
**Answer:** What is the reputation, education, medical, and mental history of the witness? Does he or she stand to make money or get attention through the experience? In Von Däniken’s case we have a bartender who has made a business out of making claims of alien visitation to the earth.

5. What biblical relationships do people sometimes cite to support beliefs in ancient astronauts as the origin of man and his culture?  
**Answer:** “Let us create man in our image.” Some like Von Däniken say Jesus was an astronaut (Ezekiel 1). Many quote from Revelation, Sodom and Gomorrah. (You might discuss the basic misunderstanding that causes these claims.)
6. What natural or man-made things can cause a person to sincerely believe they saw a UFO?  
**Answer:** Eye fatigue — especially in colors, meteorites and boloids, searchlights, experimental aircraft, balloons, background problems, clouds, planets, comets, atmospheric changes, kites, etc.
7. Suppose someone claims they had an experience that proves they had contact with an alien. What things could you do to prove to yourself that their claim is valid or invalid as the case might be?  
**Answer:** Investigate their credibility as a witness (see question 3); demand physical evidence; investigate the environment in which the sighting was made for a natural explanation; and consult an expert.
8. Why could God not be an astronaut?  
**Answer:** An astronaut, if he existed, had to be created. This does not answer the question of creation. Only the Creator of all things, including time, can answer the question of the origin of matter. An astronaut would not have perfect wisdom and could not give us the perfection of the Bible.
9. Why do UFO reports continue to fill the pages of the media with no response from scientists?  
**Answer:** Scientists do respond, but the newspapers either do not print the explanations or bury them so few people see them.
10. It is frequently suggested that aliens from other galaxies (millions of light-years away) or from distant stars in our galaxy (thousands of light-years away) are visiting the earth and returning captives, etc., to their worlds. What impossible situation does this pose?  
**Answer:** If they traveled at the speed of light, it would take thousands or millions of years to get here. Even if they did not age everyone on their home planet would. Their planet and everyone on it would be thousands or millions of years older than they would be. There is no point in an E.T. “going home” because no one they knew would be still alive.

### **Questions for Program 15 Paranormal and the *Queen Mary***

1. Why is it important to consider such subjects as this one?  
**Answer:** The question of whether we can “work out our own salvation” or not is vital. Knowing we can control our destiny underlies the reason for our being, and our confidence that God is in control needs to be unshakable.
2. What are some of the devious reasons people promote UFO sightings and wild theories about extraterrestrial influences upon man?  
**Answer:**
  - a. As a substitute for religion — a way of obtaining immortality.
  - b. To make money.
  - c. To get attention.
  - d. To justify things they do.
3. What things on the *Queen Mary* suggest that making money is the primary objective of the claims being made?  
**Answer:** The heavy tourist advertising of ghosts and hauntings is a major one. The fact that the “ghost detection equipment” (the divining rod type of tool) is so tenuous and ambiguous would be another. Scientific investigation of the claims has offered no support, and in some cases like the tanning light story in the DVD expose the fraud nature of what is being claimed.

4. What psychological experiences can explain why some people would see a ghost or have a paranormal experience with a close relative or friend who has died?  
**Answer:** We can be so distraught about the death of a loved one that we will jump at any possible way to reestablish contact with that person. Many ghost experiences have been of this nature. The Betty and Barney Hill abduction story is an example of a woman who has had severe emotional problems in the past that have caused her to be under psychiatric care. Witness credibility is a major issue in incidents of this type. There needs to be multiple witnesses for a story to be worth serious consideration.
5. What does the image reversal demonstration with the red triangle demonstrate to us about people seeing ghosts or UFOs?  
**Answer:** That physical problems with the observer can make visual incidents unreliable in claims made about what someone saw.
6. If you stared at a magenta triangle (blue and red mixed) and then stared at a white wall, what color would the triangle be that you saw?  
**Answer:** Green. You have three color cones — red, blue and green. If you wear out the red and the blue, green is all that is left. The purpose of this question is to make sure the students know what is causing what they saw.
7. In the DVD we saw a picture of a centaur — a horse body with a human torso and head on it. What is the message of that kind of picture.  
**Answer:** It is easy to fake a photograph. What we tried to learn was a first step in how to look at a picture to determine if it is a fake or not. There are technical ways to analyze pictures using a densitometer, etc., but even untrained eyes can be trained to look critically at any picture — especially the ones in the tabloids.
8. What natural phenomena can cause people to see things that they might think are paranormal experiences?  
**Answer:** The northern lights, earthquake lights, bolloids (large meteors from outer space), luminescence or phosphorescence, etc. Many years ago I saw a ghost tree in Canada. Late at night this tree would glow an eerie blue color. It was phosphorus in the tree trunk being activated by north light emissions. They can be very strange looking.
9. What examples do we have of religious paranormal activity that we need to be careful not to support?  
**Answer:** Claim of supernatural revelations is the major one. Catholic icons like the Shroud of Turin, Weeping Mary, Joseph Smith, Mohammed's visions, and any religious figure that teaches anything that denies the person or teaching of Jesus Christ. The Moonies, David Koresh, Jim Jones, etc., are examples. Claims of spiritualism or demon possession, which we will talk about in our next lesson, are also examples.
10. What does UFO stand for, and why is it important to remember this?  
**Answer:** Unidentified Flying Object. It is just that — unidentified. That just means we are too ignorant to understand what we are looking at. What it does not mean is that these are unexplainable and proofs of alien or supernatural visitation.

## Questions for Program 16 Demonology

1. Why is it so important that man's "free moral agency" not be interfered with?  
**Answer:** God's purpose in creating man is destroyed. Man must be free to choose and to bear the consequences of his or her choices. Otherwise we become mechanical puppets with no semblance of being in God's image.
2. Why did God allow demons to exist?  
**Answer:** First of all, to demonstrate Christ's total power over all forces — physical, nonphysical, and metaphysical. Secondly, it was to provide man with a choice so that the miracles of Christ

would not overwhelm the people of that time and destroy their free moral agency. This is why demons are not found in the Old Testament or in today's world.

3. Is it the intent of this program to say that people cannot be controlled by Satan?  
**Answer:** No! Only that turning oneself over to Satan is voluntary, reversible, and not the kind of phenomena that we read about in the biblical cases of demonology and exorcism.
4. What contrasts exist between the method used in exorcisms in the Bible, and those done today.  
**Answer:** a. Time — instantly in Bible — hours to weeks today.  
b. Method — command versus ritual today.  
c. Power — totally upon authority of Christ in the Bible — human credentials emphasized today.
5. What characteristics did demon-possessed people in the Bible have that are seen and understood as natural today?  
**Answer:** a. Convulsions as seen in epilepsy.  
b. Blindness which can be physically or psychologically caused.  
c. Deafness which can be physically or psychologically caused.
6. What similarities are there between demonology and exorcism, and the whole question of miracles?  
**Answer:** Both phenomena were designed to fulfill a purpose no longer valid today.
7. Was Job demon-possessed?  
**Answer:** No! Satan afflicted Job, but Satan was never able to control what Job did. Job could have “cursed God and died” as his wife encouraged him to do.
8. What promises are we given which are incompatible with demon possession?  
**Answer:** a. Resist the devil and he will flee (James 4:7).  
b. God will provide a way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13).  
c. Satan is chained (Revelations 20:1, 2).  
d. Jesus was tempted in every way as are we (Hebrews 4:15).
9. Why do people claim to be demon possessed?  
**Answer:** In some cases, they are sincerely overwhelmed with life and its problems. In some cases, they do not want to be responsible for what they have done. In some cases, they are emotionally stampeded by others into believing that they are in need of special help.
10. Where did demons come from?  
**Answer:** Several possibilities exist. Some claim that they are direct creations of Satan. Some feel that they are the souls of dead nonbelievers who are now agents of Satan. Some feel they are Satan's angels cast from God's throne during Satan's rebellion. Several other proposals can be given. The Bible is not explicit on this one.

## DISC 5 Questions for Program 17 Which God? (Part 1)

1. What have the previous 16 DVDs dealt with?  
**Answer:** Evidence for the existence of some kind of a God, but not necessarily the God of the Bible. This has been deliberate, to diffuse atheist claims that we are using scripture to prove something it cannot prove. Our discussions have centered on the evidence from creation, from design features seen in the creation, from the nature of a creator — being outside of space and time, and from ontological evidence from our own nature as beings created in the image of God. That does not necessarily mean it is the God of the Bible — that is what we are dealing with in this lesson.
2. Why are most people who are part of a church in the United States members of that church?

**Answer:** In many cases it is because they were raised by parents who attended that church. Inherited faith is acceptance, but not real faith that has meaning and motivation.

3. Where did your speaker get his faith that there is no God?

**Answer:** The same as question 2 — he inherited it from his parents.

4. What is meant by “universal inspiration?”

**Answer:** That the author was gifted or talented like Shakespeare, but not directed by God.

5. What is meant by “partial inspiration” and what is wrong with it?

**Answer:** It is the view that the Bible contains the Word of God, but that it also contains some opinions of the human authors that might be in error. The problem is that it makes the reader decide what is from God and what is not which makes the Bible become an unreliable moral choice.

6. What is meant by “plenary inspiration?”

**Answer:** God breathed. The idea is that no mistakes were allowed to get into the writings although the style and background of the writer was allowed to show.

7. What is NOT unique about the Bible?

**Answer:** Its age, what part of the world it came from, the beauty of its writings (all religious books have good things to say and say them well).

8. What is meant by “biblical clarity?”

**Answer:** Easy to understand — like Genesis 1 and the plan of salvation.

9. Does the book of Revelation disprove biblical clarity?

**Answer:** No. If a person looks at who wrote the book, to whom it was written, why, and how people of that time would have understood the message, it is easy to understand. It does, at the same time, challenge the minds of the most brilliant. It is also important to see that it is not essential that we understand the book of Revelation to be saved.

10. What was unique about the way that Jesus taught?

**Answer:** Among other things, he taught with authority, and claimed divinity. C. S. Lewis says Jesus was either a lunatic or God. No middle ground exists.

11. Why is it important for every person to ask the question, “which God?”

**Answer:** Because we need to know why we believe what we believe. Otherwise our faith is really just acceptance and will not be an active living faith. Our world today pushes pluralism — the idea that all religious viewpoints are equally valid. That is socially acceptable, but many Christians and Muslims would not accept it as valid.

12. What is the greatest evidence to Christians and possibly to the world that the Bible is inspired, and that Jesus Christ is the answer and is the Son of God?

**Answer:** In the lives of Christians and the fruits of their works. When people can see changes in other people’s lives and can see Christ living in us they have the greatest evidence that Jesus is what he said he was and that the Bible is God breathed.

## **Questions for Program 18 Which God? (Part 2)**

1. What is the claim made in John 14:6?

**Answer:** “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no one comes to the Father except through me.” Jesus says Christianity is the only way to come to God. In our day of religious pluralism that is not socially acceptable, but no religion would claim its practice is invalid. Muslims make the same statement about Mohammed so we need to see the evidence and make the comparisons.

2. Is this lesson intolerant?  
**Answer:** No! To be tolerant means you will allow a different view to be held and not try to force it out of existence. Matthew 5–7 is the greatest demonstration of true tolerance in existence — turning the other cheek, going the second mile, not returning evil for evil. Making a case for your belief is not being intolerant, Jihad is.
3. Give some examples of “biblical brevity.”  
**Answer:** The creation account being covered in 31 verses. No description of the physical features of Jesus. Only 34 days of Jesus’ life of 12,000 days covered.
4. How does the sordid story of David and Bathsheba show that the Bible did not come from the mind of man?  
**Answer:** Men would have clipped that story out because humans do not expose their heroes. The version of the Koran being distributed by Muslims in the U.S. has been whitewashed, with commands considered to be offensive to Westerners removed. The two versions of the Koran shown in the presentation are available on line from Amazon.
5. What was unique about the way that Jesus taught?  
**Answer:** Among other things, he taught with authority, and claimed divinity. C. S. Lewis says Jesus was either a lunatic or God. No middle ground exists.
6. What is meant by the term “organized religion?”  
**Answer:** Man-made denominations or sects that teach a viewpoint of man or of a single scholar. In the U.S. mainline denominations have a creed that is followed that may be biblically based, but still imposes the teachings of a individual or group which everyone follows. This is what has caused the Crusades, Mormon and Jehovah Witness teachings that contradict the Bible, and disasters like the Jim Jones massacre, the inquisition, and the Ku Klux Klan.
7. How has organized religion contributed to the rejection of the Bible by many people?  
**Answer:** By taking positions on scientific issues and crediting them to the Bible when they were in error on both their science and what the Bible teaches. The earth being flat, the age of the earth being 6,000 years, the idea that God causes tragedy in human lives, the sanctioning of believing women being inferior to men are just a few examples. The next two lessons will explore some of these issues.
8. Why is it important for every person to ask the question, “Which God?”  
**Answer:** Because we need to know why we believe what we believe. Otherwise our faith is really just acceptance and will not be an active living faith.
9. What is the greatest evidence to Christians and possibly to the world that the Bible is inspired, and that Jesus Christ is the answer and is the Son of God?  
**Answer:** In the lives of Christians and the fruits of their works. When people can see changes in other people’s lives and can see Christ living in them they have the greatest evidence that Jesus is what he said he was and that the Bible is God breathed.

### Questions for Program 19 System Design

1. What is meant by “biblical checkability?”  
**Answer:** The Bible contains statements that can be checked in our time to see if they are true or not.
2. What are some explanations for the scientific accuracy of the biblical record?  
**Answer:**
  - a. Knowledge of the writers. (Unlikely since their nation was not scientifically advanced.)
  - b. Observing of their surroundings. (Why did not others observe it?)
  - c. GOD INSPIRED IT.

3. Was it the purpose of the authors of biblical writings to reveal scientific facts?  
**Answer:** No! But if the Bible is inspired, it will not contain error. Most cases we find the subject is not science, but a scientific fact is involved.
4. How can the miracles in the Bible be scientifically accurate?  
**Answer:** They are not, because they are miracles. If God says it is a miracle he is saying it will not have a scientific explanation. It is the non-miraculous statements that both atheists and believers have to look at. You accept or reject miracles on faith, but they are not in the discussion of the accuracy of the Bible. There are not a lot of miracles in the Bible.
5. Does biblical checkability change?  
**Answer:** Yes! As man understands more about the creation and as he studies the Bible more deeply he is going to come to better understandings. “The more we know of the creation, the closer we get to the Creator.”
6. Why do people seem to find so many things in the Bible that they believe are untrue?  
**Answer:** a. They assume science and religion are enemies.  
b. They confuse human tradition and its teachings with biblical truth.  
c. They are ignorant of the Bible and/or science.  
d. They let other people tell them what to believe.
7. What is meant by “system design?”  
**Answer:** The Bible shows a workable system that can be seen to be wise and to be beyond the capacity of man to invent. Things like man’s relationship to God, to nature, to woman, etc., are examples of this design.
8. What do we mean by pantheistic religion and what has been the result of following it?  
**Answer:** Religions that equate God to nature—not a personal God. Examples: Hinduism, Buddhism. The result has been starvation and poverty.
9. What has been the result of following the Bible in the standard of living in the world?  
**Answer:** Abundance of food; high standard of living in general. Women’s rights have been almost totally the result of the teachings of Jesus. You might want to get a copy of *Under the Influence* by Alvin Schmidt (Zondervan Publishing, ©2001) for an excellent detailed discussion of this.
10. The Bible is unique in teaching monogamy (one man/one wife for life) as the ideal. What would be the logical consequences of polygamy (polygyny — one man having multiple wives or polyandry — one woman having multiple husbands).  
**Answer:** Jealousy, competition, loneliness, sexual frustration, lack of identify, child/father or mother isolation, too many children, STDs, etc.
11. What are the major problems in other religious systems?  
**Answer:** Hinduism produces a caste system with untouchables being at the bottom of the system. Islam teaches polygamy and Jihad. Mormonism has taught polygamy and maintains God is a human that learned to be God. On our [doesgodexist.org](http://doesgodexist.org) website under Charts we have two appendices (Appendix A and Appendix B) you can print out that make some of these comparisons.
12. Is this an intolerant lesson?  
**Answer:** Pointing out weaknesses, raising preferences, and promoting a better way are not acts of intolerance. Christianity teaches you to love your enemy, turn the other cheek as much as it depends on you — to live at peace with all men. This is a religion of tolerance.

## Questions for Program 20 God's Finest Design – The Church

1. What is the church?  
**Answer:** The people — not the building. This is a unique and beautiful concept. Matthew 16:17 and 1 Corinthians 3:16ff show a concept not generally recognized by the world.
2. Why do people reject the church?  
**Answer:** They have seen the inconsistencies of organized religion and the bickering and fighting among people who claim to be Christians. By “the church” we mean what the Bible presents, not what organized religion presents as the church.
3. What is unique about the biblical concept of the relationship between God and man?  
**Answer:** The burden of accomplishment is placed upon God — not man. We do not have to achieve to be accepted by God. God reaches out to man asking only obedience by man — not a level of knowledge or accomplishment. Religions that teach reincarnation put the burden on man to reach Nirvana or whatever the goal is, and to be recycled until one does it on their own.
4. What is the purpose of prayer?  
**Answer:** To benefit man (not God). To allow man to communicate with a reliable, loving being higher than himself.
5. What is meant by the statement “Worship is not a spectator sport”?  
**Answer:** We do not worship to be entertained. We are to involve ourselves and participate in all activities of worship.
6. To what extent do members of the church want entertainment in and by their preachers?  
**Answer:** To a very great extent. Preachers are frequently hired or fired upon their ability to tell funny or emotional stories, rather than their ability to reach the lost.
7. How can we avoid the problem brought up in the previous question?  
**Answer:** Follow the lesson by taking notes, outlining the discussion, reading each passage in our own Bible, changing the format to classroom-type teaching, etc. Worship needs to be planned around participation by all, not with the primary emphasis being to entertain.
8. Why do we give to the church and why is this important?  
**Answer:** God does not need our money. The giving is part of our growth as a Christian. You cannot be a success and a stable person in life if you do not learn to find joy in giving.
9. Why is going to hear a sermon or to be part of a Bible class important to us as individuals.  
**Answer:** We need to grow and to be encouraged — to have our battery recharged. None of us has “arrived.” We all have room to grow and be strengthened and motivated to be what God calls us to be. The hymn “Tell Me the Old, Old Story” might be worth reading.
10. How can we improve the fellowship and love we have in the church?  
**Answer:** By making a conscious effort to spend more and more time with our brothers and sisters in Christ. This needs to be done both individually and collectively. Spending one or two hours a week with brothers and sisters in Christ is not a way to get to really know them.
11. Indicated below are several acts which God expects in obedience to his commands. Explain why each makes sense.  
**Answer:**

Hear	If you do not know what to do, you cannot do it.
Believe:	If you do not believe, you will not make any significant investment of time, energy, or money.

Repent:	No change — no gain spiritually. We must desire to be a new creature and begin a new life.
Confess:	Anonymity will not win others.
Baptism:	Beautifully symbolic of dying to sin and being raised a new creature, a total involvement, and a public emptying of oneself.
Life:	If your life does not reflect change, the world will be unaffected. Obviously a variety of other comments could be made on each one.

## DISC 6

### Questions for Program 21 Morality's Proof of God (Part 1)

1. Is there any logical reason for an atheist to be moral?  
**Answer:** No. There is no reason. That does not mean that atheists will not be moral, but they really have no reason to be. Modern atheists like Richard Dawkins deny that such things as good and evil exist. "In a universe of blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, and other people are going to get lucky, and you won't find any rhyme or reason in it, nor any justice. The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference. ... DNA neither knows nor cares. DNA just is. And we dance to its music" (Richard Dawkins, *River Out of Eden: A Darwinian View of Life*, [New York: Basic Books, 1995], 133). If this life is all there is, why not do anything we want that will give us pleasure? As long as we do not get caught, we will reach all that has meaning.
2. How will atheists answer the challenge in question 1?  
**Answer:** They will say that atheists are as moral as religionists. They will also maintain that the survival of society benefits the atheists and so he or she will be moral. It should be pointed out that inconsistencies in the lives of Christians reinforce this argument. Data from Russia and other studies would challenge the claim, but it is their argument. Survival of society is of no real consequence of the atheist since they will not be around to enjoy it.
3. Does science cause moral decisions to be bad or good?  
**Answer:** No. Science cannot determine the use to which its discoveries will be put. The moral values of those using the science determine how it is to be used. Nuclear energy can be made to provide energy for scores of people or to destroy whole cities as Hiroshima and Nagasaki demonstrated.
4. To what extent are we all affected by the values of the majority of the people around us?  
**Answer:** To a huge extent. It is hard to go the speed limit when people are passing you at a high rate. Our peers affect our view of how we dress, sex, use of recreational drugs, etc. The fact is that many times those influences are bad ones. Our belief system controls what we as individuals do. Jesus calls us to be examples and leaders, not blind followers of the people around us. Read and discuss Matthew 5:13–16.
5. Give some examples of things which demonstrate the foolishness of using results as a means of making moral decisions.  
**Answer:** Any car accident, any drowning, any alcohol related accident, etc.

6. How do we know that times are the same today as they were in Jesus' time?  
**Answer:** Historical and archaeological records show what conditions were in ancient times. Looking around today we see the same things going on. We cannot excuse our moral behavior by saying that times have changed.
7. How does technology and science influence man's moral decisions?  
**Answer:** It changes the forms of moral corruption and increases the ways of becoming involved in damaging moral decisions. It does not change man's nature.
8. How does a child's education influence moral choices and morality as a whole?  
**Answer:** Classes on sex education as an example can tell a child how to participate in moral corruption without giving ways of evaluating moral consequences. In sex education classes the emphasis is generally on avoiding an STD and avoiding a pregnancy. Sex involves a lot more than babies and STDs, and no one can ever predict all of the results of a deep personal involvement with someone else. The same thing is true of classes of value clarification, alcohol use, or any other area that gets into moral decisions.
9. What is the basic difference between the Christian and the non-Christian in making moral decisions?  
**Answer:** The Christian has an absolute standard (the Bible) on which he or she can make moral decisions. The non-Christian can only base decisions on what the current beliefs are about moral conduct.
10. Give some examples of moral decisions that have been made by public people in recent months that have obviously been made on the world's standards instead of God's Word.  
**Answer:** You can use virtually any criminal case as well as decisions of government people. You can also use a popular movie or TV show for this.
11. What approach does the Bible take that makes it able to be used in making moral decisions, even when those decisions involve things that were not in existence in Jesus' time? (Like, marijuana, wearing clothes of a certain type, etc.)  
**Answer:** The Bible teaches principles instead of thou shalt nots. Passages like 1 Corinthians 8 and 10 (see 10:31) lay down principles that can be used. This is a beautiful way of meeting the needs of people in all ages.
12. Does God create diseases like STDs, AIDS, etc., to punish the evil doer?  
**Answer:** No! There are, however, scientific, logical consequences of certain acts. The diseases in question are good examples of this. The next lesson goes into other aspects of this issue.

## Questions for Program 22 Morality's Proof of God (Part 2)

1. Repeat Question. Is there any logical reason for an atheist to be moral?  
**Answer:** No. There is no reason. That does not mean that atheists will not be moral, but they really have no reason to be. Modern atheists like Richard Dawkins deny that such things as good and evil exist. "In a universe of blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, and other people are going to get lucky, and you won't find any rhyme or reason in it, nor any justice. The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference. ... DNA neither knows nor cares. DNA just is. And we dance to its music" (Richard Dawkins, *River Out of Eden: A Darwinian View of Life*, [New York: Basic Books, 1995], 133). If this life is all there is, why not do anything we want that will give us pleasure? As long as we do not get caught, we will reach all that has meaning.
2. Why is the idea "everything in moderation" a bad philosophy for a Christian to follow?  
**Answer:** (a) You never know where the involvement may take you. No drug addict or alcoholic ever got started planning on having addiction take over their life. (b) Some acts only require one experience to produce a catastrophic result. The idea that you cannot get pregnant the first time

you have sex is simply not true. An STD is usually contracted in a single sexual act. (c) Many acts leave permanent scars. The first time you have sex with someone you are not married to, you have destroyed something special as the presentation points out. (d) The reputation and influence of a Christian is at best damaged and at worst destroyed by a single failure. We cannot be the influence God wants if we have let the world influence us.

3. What controls conscience?

**Answer:** Experience. Those of us who have served in the military can tell you that being in combat changes you. Your conscience is never the same. First Timothy 4:2 would be good to read. You can be hardened by experience. Prostitutes will talk about how long it took to be able to do anything sexually and not have it bother them.

4. If our conscience is already “seared” how do we reform it?

**Answer:** This is what becoming a new creature at baptism is all about. Our spiritual make up can help us gradually change our conscience, but it takes time, prayer, and God’s help. When we are baptized and die to sin we can rebuild a life with a different conscience. Read Romans 6 – it talks about this in great detail. The word “conversion” means what it says.

5. How does God help us overcome a life of immorality?

**Answer:** Acts 2:38 is heavily quoted to show the importance of baptism, but the last part of this verse talks about “the gift of the Holy Ghost.” We are told in verse 39 that this is a promise given to us (afar off) and is special help God offers to us if we will turn it over to him. The Spirit does not make us robots, but it provides God’s help when we have done all we can do.

6. How does being a Christian help me with morality?

**Answer:** In addition to the help the Spirit gives us, everything we as Christians are called to do strengthens us and gives us the tools to live morally as God wants us to. Meeting together, singing together, communion, giving to meet needs, prayer, being taught, serving others, confessing our sins and struggles to brothers and sisters are all things that strengthen, help, and encourage us.

7. What happens when I mess up?

**Answer:** We are called to be faithful. We are not called to be perfect. I can be faithful to my wife, but I cannot be perfect to my wife. We will never be perfect in our lives, but we can be faithful to God. The Bible promises us that if we strive to be as God calls us to be, that God will continue to help us and that there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1). We are also told that the blood of Christ continually cleanses us (I John 1:7–10). This is a growth process, but God helps and directs it.

8. Why is this lesson called “Morality’s Proof of God”?

**Answer:** The alternatives given in the presentation are all atheist challenges. “Everyone’s doing it”, results, “It’s my life”, frequency, “times are changing”, conscience are all alternatives to God’s command. In every case, even with our limited human minds, we can see the superiority of God’s teachings. Scholars have tried for over 2,000 years to find an alternative to what Jesus taught, but all attempts have ended with disastrous results. God’s way works, and in the words of Jesus “By their fruits you will know them” applies. You cannot look at the wisdom and functionality of the teachings of Jesus and attribute it to a great man or a wise teacher. It is God’s plan for man and it works because God created us and knows our needs and what works for us.

## Questions for Program 23 The Wisdom of Creation

1. What is apologetics?

**Answer:** Webster says it is to make a defense.

2. Why is apologetics needed? Why is this series relevant? Is it biblical?

**Answer:** We live in an age of doubt and skepticism. Challenges to belief in God and to the Bible as his word are growing, are open, and having increasing results. In Europe people are be-

ing told that they live in the “post Christian era.” “I don’t need God to be good” is being highly advertised in the United States. First Peter 3:15 tells us to “be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” Romans 1:20; Psalm 19:1; Isaiah 45:18; and other passages talk about God having given us evidence which we can all see and act on.

3. What is “Intelligent Design”?

**Answer:** It is a movement to say that what we see in nature is too complex to be able to have been formed by chance alone. In recent years statistics has been used to bolster that claim. Program 6 in this series presented an example of that technique. It is an apologetic, not a method of doing science. There have been philosophical discussions about this issue, but from a science and evidence perspective it is not science but is of great use in asking for evidence of God’s creative wisdom.

4. What does it mean to ask if God is a magician?

**Answer:** It asks if God did everything he did by miraculous techniques that man can never understand and which cannot be approached by science in any way.

5. What does it mean to ask if God is an engineer?

**Answer:** It is the opposite of the magician concept. It suggests that God used intelligence and natural processes that can be understood for much of what he did in the creation process. It is our position that most of what God did was understandable and thus the work of a master engineer. Evidence can only be discussed if that is true.

6. What would not be a product of the “engineer God”?

**Answer:** The creation of time, of space, of matter/energy from nothing, of the human soul.

7. If God created time, what happened before there was time?

**Answer:** We live in a time dependent world. God’s activity in a time independent existence is described in Ephesians 1:4; John 17:24; I Timothy 1:9; and Titus 1:2 and all of those things are beyond our grasp scientifically.

8. Is there biblical support for this concept?

**Answer:** First of all, the Hebrew words used in Genesis 1 and throughout the Bible recognize this concept. *Bara* in Hebrew is used to describe acts that only God can do. This includes space, time, matter/energy and man’s soul in Genesis 1. *Asah* is used to describe things that God does that man can do. It is used extensively in Genesis 1 and throughout the Old Testament in reference to man. There is a discussion of this on our [doesgodexist.org](http://doesgodexist.org) web site in the booklet *God’s Revelation in His Rocks and His Word*. At the end of the creation account of Genesis 1 the writer says “These are the things that the Lord God created and made (*bara* and *asah*)” (Genesis 2:3).

9. Proverbs 8 is used in the presentation. How does it support this concept.

**Answer:** Wisdom is talking in this Proverb and pointing out its role in all that God did. Wisdom is the product of intelligence and not to a magician’s process. In Proverbs 8 there is a sequence and the role of wisdom is given in each step. Verse 23 talks about the preparation of those things needed for matter to exist. Quantum mechanics, the Higgs boson, and all of modern understandings of the origin of matter is involved. Verse 24 talks about oceans and water sources. Verse 25 deals with mountains, hills, rocks etc. Verses 26–28 explains the wisdom of dust, clouds, and the atmosphere. Verse 29 explains oceans as a product of wisdom. Verses 30–31 explain it all as the work of a craftsman.

10. Are there other biblical references to God as an engineer?

**Answer:** The word *natah* meaning to stretch out is used to describe the condition of things in the heaven and in passages like Isaiah 40:22 the expanding and accelerating universe are implied in the description. In Genesis 2:7 man’s body is formed (Hebrew *yatshir* is used in reference to what a potter would do). In Genesis 2:8 a garden is planted — not zapped into existence. These are all acts of an engineering God, and science simply helps us understand what God has done.

11. Can this understanding be expanded to the plan of salvation?

**Answer:** The plan of salvation makes sense and is not just a capricious set of rules. Belief is necessary at the start of any response to God. Repentance and the act of dying to sin and a life of destructive behavior is vital. Identifying the source of our new life in confession is important in our day of religious pluralism. The beauty of baptism is hard for people raised in the church to comprehend, but those of us that have come out of a hard life in sin know the beauty of burying the old man of sin and coming out of the waters a new creature. It is beautiful and makes wonderful sense. Living a new life is vital for our Christianity to have meaning (Ephesians 5–6). I think God’s wisdom shines beautifully in the plan of salvation.

## **Questions for Program 24 The New Atheism, The New Science, and God**

1. What are some of the twenty-first century ads you have seen produced by atheists?

**Answer:** Obviously class members will have different ones they have seen. Groups making these ads are The American Humanist Association, The Freedom From Religion Foundation, American Atheist Association, The Skeptical Society, Prometheus Books, The Rational Response Squad, and any number of local associations. If you go on the web and word search under atheist you will see there are literally hundreds of groups that promote atheism and attack religion.

2. Why do atheists care? Why do they put out these ads.

**Answer:** Religion has caused wars and violence throughout history, and the recent terrorist activity motivates people to believe that getting rid of religion would stop the violence. On a selfish level, atheists feel put upon by religious people in everything from moral principles to being tax exempt.

3. What is the difference between the new atheism and the old atheism?

**Answer:** The new atheism is more aggressive and militant than the old atheism. It is challenging people directly such as in the blasphemy challenge and portrays religion as a destructive negative influence on humanity.

4. What do media publications mean when they say “Science has invalidated belief in God” or “Science has made belief in God obsolete?”

**Answer:** The assumption is that belief in God has only come out of ignorance — that God was invented to explain things man did not understand, and that as man gains understanding of those things God is no longer needed. Unfortunately for some people such a description is correct, but we have tried to show it is not correct in this series.

5. Was Hitler a Christian or an atheist?

**Answer:** It is popular to try to identify a villain as being on the other side, and both atheists and Christians have done that. Historically Hitler and other demagogues have tried to use religion to promote their ideals. There is no indication historically that Hitler was a Christian, and certainly he violated everything Christ taught. The philosophies of Nietzsche certainly were opposed to Christianity and atheistic in nature, and dominated much of Hitler’s beliefs and actions.

6. How do each of the following areas of the “new science” impact apologetics?

**Answer:** Quantum mechanics — gives results that seem to conflict with known laws of Newtonian mechanics. Cloning — raises questions of what should be done, and whether a soul is present in people conceived by modern human technologies. The human genome — gives knowledge of the biological future of a person which may impact moral decisions. Cosmology — proposes possible cosmologies which allow chance to explain the creation of the cosmos in which we live.

7. Why is the inability to falsify a proposal invalidate it as science?

**Answer:** If it cannot be experimentally tested in any way, then it is a conjecture that will always remain a figment of someone’s imagination. To be scientifically valid there has to be some way to test the idea.

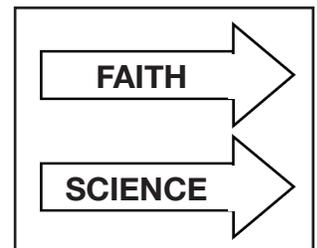
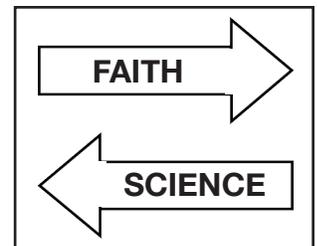
8. Give three examples of bad science.  
**Answer:** (a) Proposals that involve many spacial dimensions such as brane theory and string theory. There is no way to experiment in these areas. (b) Religious theories which incorporate the supernatural into their proposal. There is no way to control the variables in such proposals, much less do experiments. (c) Theories that assume things from the past that cannot be proven and are scientific in nature — miracles for example, or alien intervention in historical events. In modern times showing the effect of prayer on healing without looking at the control group and whether prayers were said in those groups.
9. Give three examples of bad theology.  
**Answer:** (a) Limiting the way God can do things — assuming he can only function by miracles or without miracles for example. (b) Restricting the time frame in which God does things — prayer may be answered in a different time frame than we expect. (c) Not taking the Bible literally (see next question).
10. What does it mean to “take the Bible literally?”  
**Answer:** It means to look at who wrote it, to whom it was written, why it was written, and how the people of the day would have understood what was written.

## DISC 7

### Questions for Program 25

### Evolution and God

1. We have repeatedly shown the drawing that looks like this on this series. What is the point that is being made in this drawing?  
**Answer:** That science and faith are not enemies, they are friends. If science is the facts that are properties of God’s creation of the cosmos, and if the Bible is given by the same God who tells us what he has done, they cannot possibly conflict. If they do conflict, we either have bad science, or bad theology, or both. It is the contention of this series that we have had a lot of both.
2. What do we mean when we say the “evolution assumes creation”?  
**Answer:** Evolution assumes that all the things that are needed to produce the ingredients of life have been produced. This includes the creation of time, space, the Higgs boson, the Higgs field (or whatever we find in the future that causes matter to exist and have mass), etc. All evolution tries to do is explain how changes in matter already created and functional with a fleet of physical properties that would allow evolution to occur and thus might have produced what we see in living things today.
3. What is the difference between “naturalism” and “evolution”?  
**Answer:** Naturalism is the claim that everything that has ever happened, does happen, or will happen in the universe can be explained by science. Evolution is simply “unfolding change” but does not tell us what unfolded the change or what may have designed the change. Most atheists believe in naturalism as well as evolution, but many scientists who are evolutionists are firm believers in God.
4. What is the difference between the fact of evolution and the theory of evolution?  
**Answer:** The “fact” refers to changes that can be observed and do, in fact, occur. These are changes within a species and can be manipulated. The “theory” of evolution is the hypothesis that evolution has taken place in the past in such a way that all living things are the product of chance and are all from a common ancestor. This cannot be observed or duplicated experimentally. Note: We do not use the terms micro and macro in this series, because where micro ends and macro begins is sometimes a matter of controversy. Most claims of macro evolution are from a theory of evolution and are not observed or duplicable.



5. The Miller/Urey experiment in which ammonia, methane, water, and hydrogen were catalyzed with an electrical spark to produce amino acids, is sometimes used to try to prove that life could have come into existence by chance on the primitive earth. What is the major problem with this proposal?  
**Answer:** There are many problems, but the most severe is the assumption that the test tube environment of the experiment duplicates the primitive earth. Miller chose these chemicals because of their chemical activity, but we know that is not what the early earth looked like. Three of these gases have such a low mass that the earth's gravity cannot keep them from escaping. There is much evidence that oxygen was present in the ancient earth — carbonates and oxides in the rocks being one of the main ones. Other problems involve the fact that the electrical discharge destroys amino acids much faster than it forms them, and there are many agents in the primitive earth that would also destroy organic molecules as quickly as they formed. Add this to the probability arguments presented in program 6 and you have a very poor hypothesis.
6. Give some examples of factual evolutionary change from the Bible.  
**Answer:** The fact that all people on the earth came from Adam and Eve and yet we are all different racially and otherwise. The serpent lost his legs and that loss was genetic in nature. Jacob's manipulation of Laban's livestock.
7. What does the word "kind" mean in the Bible?  
**Answer:** It is from the Hebrew word *min* and is a broad word referring to groups of animals. See 1 Corinthians 15:39 for an example of how this idea is used. Fowl is used — not blackbird, crow, eagle, hawk, etc. Species and kind are not the same.
8. What is a fossil?  
**Answer:** Any evidence of life that has existed in the past, including bones, skin, tracks, waste products, etc.
9. Why does the proof or disproof of evolution depend ultimately upon the fossil record?  
**Answer:** The fossils show what actually happened historically. The biological evidence gives ideas of what might have happened, but no proof that it actually did.
10. Why is it that the fact that all animals have lungs, stomachs, eyes, thyroid glands, pancreases, etc., is not a proof that we all evolved from an amoeba?  
**Answer:** We are created by the same engineer who used the best physical plan for all of us. Also, we could not eat or use medicine from animals if this were not true.
11. Why are vestigial organs not a proof we all came from an amoeba?  
**Answer:** Because God did not equip us just to live wherever you live. What is useful in one place is not necessarily useful somewhere else on this earth. Also, the number of truly vestigial organs keeps dropping in number as we learn more about our bodies.
12. Does not the fact that we have a 99.5 percent similarity to some apes prove that we and the apes have a common origin?  
**Answer:** Yes, but the question is what is the origin — God or chance? Converging evolution predicts that we will have similar characteristics because we live in similar ways. Both apes and humans have stereoscopic vision to reach out and grab things, both have an opposable thumb, both have their nose above their mouth to give flavor, both have tooth structure which allows them to be omnivores — to eat anything. The genetic makeup to allow these similarities has to be the same, but that is no proof of a common ancestor. A porpoise and a shark have some sections of their DNA that are the same and are made for swimming in the ocean, but it is not a proof of common ancestry. The shark is a primitive fish and the porpoise is an advanced mammal. What is amazing is how different humans and chimps are considering that we are so close genetically. Researchers are amazed that the genetics do not have stronger influences.

## Questions for Program 26 Fossil Evidence

1. What is a fossil?  
**Answer:** Any evidence of life that has existed in the past, including bones, skin, tracks, waste products, etc.
2. Why does the proof or disproof of evolution depend ultimately upon the fossil record?  
**Answer:** The fossils show what actually happened historically. The biological evidence gives ideas of what might have happened, but no historical documentation that it actually did happen that way.
3. Do fossils show that factual evolution has taken place?  
**Answer:** Yes! Factual evolution is the concept that things can change. Fossils show horses have changed. They are all still the same kind, but change has taken place. This is not to be confused with theories proposing massive changes in living things such as porpoises evolving from sharks.
4. Did dinosaurs really live in the past, and did humans see them and live around them?  
**Answer:** There is massive evidence the dinosaurs lived including mummified specimens, eggs with babies inside them, and scat (coprolites — dinosaur dung) which tells us a great deal about them and how they lived. There is no credible evidence that humans and dinosaurs lived together or that early man ever saw a dinosaur. The condition of the earth at the time of the dinosaurs would have been quite hostile to humans living on it — way too hot, high oxygen content etc.
5. What good were dinosaurs? Why did they ever exist?  
**Answer:** They have been called “the gardeners of the Jurassic” — the age at which they existed. They pruned the rapidly growing plants. They broke down plant material into anaerobic (without oxygen) mats that would eventually produce the coal and other resources man would need. Oil is not “smushed dinosaurs” as some have proposed. They were part of the earth’s ecosystem that would produce the resources man would need.
6. Do fossils show that all life evolved from a single-celled organism?  
**Answer:** No! This is actually unprovable because every step would have to be documented for literally billions of changes. The lack of truly transitional fossils further erodes confidence in this theory.
7. What basic assumption about the history of the earth is evolution based on?  
**Answer:** Uniformitarianism — the belief that the processes currently operational upon the earth are the only ones that have ever operated. That no events like the Flood have ever taken place. Be careful not to accept disasters as being a violation of this. Volcanic eruptions, glaciers, etc., have always been functional on this planet. Things like the Flood of Noah, asteroid collisions, nuclear explosions have not shaped the earth significantly in the past.
8. Give some examples of things that are believed to have happened on the earth that do not conform to uniformitarianism.  
**Answer:** The Flood of Noah, rapid freezing of woolly mammoths, asteroid collision with the earth which may have wiped out the dinosaurs, and magnetic reversals. Note: Volcanoes and glaciers are not answers because they occur today.
9. Why is uniformitarianism critical to evolution?  
**Answer:** Infinite periods of gradual change cannot occur if catastrophes like those in question 8 have been a regular part of the earth’s history. A global flood, for example, would stop all evolutionary processes and it would have to start all over again.
10. What is the biblical position on uniformitarianism?  
**Answer:** The Bible teaches that every so often the earth’s history has been interrupted by a catastrophic event — the Flood, the plagues in Egypt, the crucifixion of Jesus — when major changes occurred in the earth.

## Questions for Program 27 The Flood of Noah: Fact and Myth

1. What are some of the mechanisms that could have produced a flood of the kind described in the Bible?  
**Answer:** God's miraculous intervention, magnetic reversals allowing the Van Allen belts to collapse, an asteroid hitting the earth, the Straits of Gibraltar opening up and letting the Atlantic in, underground springs opening up, glaciers melting, or a combination of any or all of these.
2. There are a number of evidences that the Flood did occur. List as many as you can.  
**Answer:** Given in the Bible; recorded in all cultural records such as the Mayan, Eskimo, and Polynesian; salinity changes in the Gulf of Mexico indicating massive additions of fresh water; known mechanisms do exist. I would not use sediment layers, since erosion and identification problems influence these. I also would not say the Ark has been found, because it has not.
3. What are the two main kinds of sedimentary rocks?  
**Answer:** (a) Clastic rocks produced by running water including shale (mud turned into rock), sandstone (sand turned into rock), conglomerate (gravel turned into rock) etc. (b) Chemical precipitates such as limestone, gypsum, halite, dolomite, etc. produced by crystallization in quiet bodies of water over a long period of time.
4. Why can the Flood not be used to explain the formation of the Grand Canyon and the Niagara dolomite?  
**Answer:** (a) The kind of rocks found in the Canyon are never produced by a flood. Chemical precipitates dominate the canyon rocks and these are never produced by a flood (people are not chiseling limestone off the piano when their homes are flooded). (b) Fossils are sorted with one kind of animal being in one layer and another kind of the same, size, density, and shape being in a different layer. A flood would make sausage out of the whole thing.
5. Why does the existence of huge canyons on Mount St. Helens since 1980 not prove that the Grand Canyon could have been produced in a short time?  
**Answer:** The rocks on Mount St. Helens are volcanic rocks — soft, light weight, and easily eroded. The Grand Canyon is made up of sedimentary rocks — dense, hard, and very difficult to erode. It is like comparing warm butter and steel.
6. What is the “canopy theory”?  
**Answer:** The theory that before the Flood, there was a cloud of material that made the earth a paradise, and that the collapse of this canopy produced the Flood. There is no evidence to support his idea, and it would not produce the paradise attributed to it, if it were true.
7. Where did Noah's Ark end up?  
**Answer:** According to the Bible, in the Ararats (not on Mount Ararat). Attempts to find the Ark on present-day Mount Ararat are probably misguided.
8. How big would the Ark of Noah have been if it held two of each “kind”?  
**Answer:** Not very big. Read 1 Corinthians 15:39 and notice that “kind” in the Hebrew (from the Hebrew word *min*) is not the same as species. If he had two cow-like animals, they could have produced all kinds of cattle and even buffalo, moose, elk, deer, and the like. “Kind” is a broad term. There are some 26 million species of living things on earth, so clearly that is not what the Bible is saying.
9. Was the flood a local flood or did it cover the whole Earth?  
**Answer:** This is a controversial area. Sometimes global language is used for something that most of us feel was probably local. Colossians 1:23 would be the classic example, and Luke 2:1 would be another one. It does not seem to this writer that arguing whether or not a isolated land mass where no humans existed was flooded is worth the time. Generally when this question is raised it is because people have trouble believing the implications. How could water cover Mt. Everest and where did the water go? The water may not have been level, and Mt. Everest may not have been as high. The evidence in Gibraltar supports this point. How do you get isolated animal populations in places like Australia that are found no where else. The remains of kan-

garoo skeletons have been found in South America, so land bridges may have existed. I try to avoid arguing this point, because what is beyond discussion is the purpose of the Flood. See the next question.

10. What is the message of the Flood account?

**Answer:** Man disobeyed God resulting in a catastrophe that affected all men. Only those obedient to God survived. There will be a similar destruction in the future, but not by water.

11. What is the danger of telling kids things like “the Grand Canyon was produced by the Flood of Noah”?

**Answer:** Junior high level students can understand the evidence that shows this is not true. If the quote “preacher” is not right on this subject, how do they know he is right on any subject? If the student is convinced that the Bible does say that the flood produced the Grand Canyon, then he or she is likely to discard the whole Bible on the same basis.

## Questions for Program 28 The Age of Things

1. What assumptions are all scientific dating methods based upon?

**Answer:** Uniformitarianism — the idea that the present is the key to the past (see program 27).

2. Is the assumption of uniformitarianism a good one?

**Answer:** No! Many things are known to have happened in the past that are not going on today which was in the last lesson, and many more are possible.

3. Is the age of the earth important to the message of the Bible?

**Answer:** No. The plan of salvation is not related to this.

4. Why have religious people wanted to suggest that the age of the earth is relatively young?

**Answer:** The major reason has been that modern leaders of the creationist movement in the United States have been from dispensationalism denominations. Their theology says that the history of the earth is made up of roughly 1,000-year periods ending with the Rapture, Armageddon, etc. (For more on this, see *The Creationists: From Scientific Creationism to Intelligent Design, Expanded Edition* by Ronald L. Numbers, Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA, © 2006). There is also an article on dispensationalism on page 45 of this guide. Some have felt that the earth being more than 6,000 years old supported the theory of evolution in some way, but this is not the case. No amount of time helps the major challenges that naturalism faces.

5. Is the age of the earth important to the theory of evolution?

**Answer:** No! Undirected, chance, opportunistic evolution could not occur in 100 billion years as we saw in the anthropic principle in program 5.

6. What assumptions have to be made to determine the age of the earth biblically?

**Answer:**

- That there are no undated verses in the Bible.
- That there are no missing people in the genealogies.
- That no historical period is missing from the Bible.
- That genealogies are always given in the right order.
- That the purpose of the genealogies was a chronological purpose.

7. Are there any undated verses in the Bible?

**Answer:** Yes! The most important of these is Genesis 1:1, which is undated and untimed. To assume it is part of the creation week, you have to assume it is a summary of the chapter. It is not written as a summary, but as a series of historical events. Another undated event is the length of time that Adam and Eve were in the Garden.

8. Are genealogies always complete in the Bible?

**Answer:** No! Even when numbers are used, there are inconsistencies. Compare Matthew 1:1–17 with Luke 3:23–38. Compare Ezra 7 with 1 Chronicles 6. These are not errors. The purpose of the passages is not to reveal chronology. It is only to show ancestry/lineage.

9. Why is Matthew's genealogy from Abraham to Christ different than Luke's?  
**Answer:** Because Matthew is a Jew writing for a Jewish audience and using Jewish symbols (14 is twice 7 for example meaning double completeness). Matthew 1:1 uses a typical description of Jewish ancestry. Luke is a Greek writing for a Greek culture, so he would not use Jewish symbols.
10. Did Adam have a belly button?  
**Answer:** The point of this question is if God could have created the cosmos full grown, just as Adam may have appeared to be 30 years old when he was one second after his creation. Certainly God could do the creation any way He wants. The question is more one of his nature. Can God lie, mislead, send man evidence that will mislead him? In 1987 we saw a star explode (Supernova 1987A). We watched the explosion, saw the materials move out from the explosion which we can still see going on, and saw the remnant nucleus with its neon makeup pulsate as our models suggested it should. That star is 160,000 light years away, which means if God created the cosmos 6,000 years ago he had to send a video taped image to us from 6,000 light year out in space so we would think that explosion took place 160,000 years ago. That seems to this author to be deceptive. Go back to program 23 for the discussion of whether God is a magician or an engineer for more on this., I would say that Adam did not have a belly button. That would indicate he had an umbilical cord which does not seem to be true.
11. What are the basic sources of conflict between science and religion?  
**Answer:** a) Bad science.  
 b) Bad theology.  
 c) Both of the above — which is what the history of this question has been.

## DISC 8

### Questions for Program 29

#### Genesis Creation: Verse by Verse

1. What is the purpose of the Genesis record?  
**Answer:** To tell us God created all things, and that we are specially created in God's image. (Not to give us specific details.)
2. What are some common errors made in comparing the biblical record with the scientific evidence?  
**Answer:** a) That the Bible is a clock. (See program 18.)  
 b) That the Bible is written scientifically.  
 c) That the Bible is a complete detailed technical report.  
 d) That evolution is a "dirty word."  
 e) That true science poses a threat to the Bible.
3. What does "taking the Bible literally" really mean?  
**Answer:** That you look at who wrote it, who they wrote it to, why they wrote it, and how the people it was written to would have understood the words. Many creationists use their denomination's creed as the basis of understanding passages, and that leads to conflict which is not necessary. The Spanish example "juan tiene frio" in the DVD is a good example to repeat.
4. What is the difference between creating something and making something?  
**Answer:** Creating is miraculous and is from nothing. The Jews understood that *bara* was only used in reference to something God could do, never in reference to what man could do. Making is natural and is not miraculous. God has used both according to Genesis 2:3.
5. How are the words *bara* and *asah* used in reference to man?  
**Answer:** *Bara* is used in reference to man's soul in Genesis 1:27. In Genesis 2:7 the word *yatshir* is used in reference to man's body being formed of the dust of the earth. That word is not a miraculous creation but something a potter would do. The soul is miraculously created. The body is formed from the earth — material that already exists.

6. What do each of the words in Genesis 1:1 mean in Hebrew:  
**Answer:** *Reshith*: beginning, space, time and matter/energy had a beginning  
*Elohim*: The God of the Bible, a God of power, wisdom and design was the cause  
*Bara*: An act of God which man cannot do was used to affect the cause  
*Shamayim*: the heaven, the cosmos  
*Erets*: the earth.  
 Each of these statements is testable.
7. In which verses in the Bible do we see the sun and the moon created?  
**Answer:** Verse 1. The word *bara* is used only in verse 1. In verses 14–19, the word *asah* is used, indicating to form or to shape, but not to create. The sun is created in verse 1 and its light reaches the earth by verse 3. You could not see the sun to establish “signs, seasons, days, and years” until verses 14–19. This is taking the Bible super-literally, but the evidence supports this. We would suggest that cloud cover in the recently formed earth may have been the cause because the earth was too hot for rain to fall (See Genesis 2:5) and all the water was in the atmosphere.
8. How long did it take to create the heaven and the earth.  
**Answer:** The Bible does not say. Verse 1 could be in an instant or billions of years.
9. What are some of the human guesses that have been proposed to explain problems people have seen in the biblical record and the fossil record?  
**Answer:** a) The idea that the days are God-days — not man-days and represent long periods of time.  
 b) The idea that there is a gap between verses 1 and 2 in Genesis 1.  
 c) The idea that God created the whole cosmos full-grown with the appearance of age.  
 d) The idea that Genesis describes just the fertile crescent and that much was going on elsewhere in the world.  
 e) The idea that verses 1 and 2 in Genesis 1 cover the prehistory of the earth and that the creation week covers man and those things he was familiar with.  
 There are others, but (e) works very well with the evidence.
10. If we believe the Bible to be God’s Word, there cannot be a contradiction between the Bible and the proper understanding of the fossil record. Why not?  
**Answer:** Because the same God who did the creating told us about it in the Bible.
11. What are the sources of conflict between science and religion?  
**Answer:** a) Bad science.  
 b) Bad theology.

### Questions for Program 30 The Fossil Sequence and the Biblical Record

1. What is the purpose of the Genesis record?  
**Answer:** To tell us God created all things, and that we are specially created in God’s image. (Not to give us specific details.)
2. What was the first living thing on the earth according to the Bible?  
**Answer:** A plant — verse 11.
3. There is an order to the living things — a sequence. What is the first sequence?  
**Answer:** (a) *Deshe*: tender grass, referring to moss, lichen (easily broken); (b) *Eseb*: naked seed, referring to spore-bearing plants; and (c) *Peri*: seed within a case, trees, fruit bearers — in that order.
4. What is meant by succession?  
**Answer:** That plant life begins and develops in a logical order where earlier plants provide for later ones. The same order that the Bible gives is seen by scientists. This happens when an area

is scorched by a fire. God has established an order which he used during the creation week and which is still taking place today. This is a modern discovery of man, but it is clearly stated in the Genesis account. Please emphasize that sequence is the key word.

5. What is the sequence of creation of life as indicated in the Bible?  
**Answer:** Plants (verses 10–11); water creatures (verses 20–21); fowl (verse 21); beasts (mammals) (verse 24); man (verses 28–31). Notice that many forms of life are not included in these verses including bacteria, worms, insects, reptiles, bats, platypuses, amphibians, ostrich, penguins, etc.
6. What is the sequence of the creation of life as seen in the fossil record?  
**Answer:** Same as question 5, but many other forms are mentioned that the Bible does not discuss. Look at question 1 again.
7. The word *remes* is translated as “creeping thing” in the King James Version of the Bible. Why is it not likely that this refers to reptiles, dinosaurs, or “creepy things” (see Genesis 9:1–3)?  
**Answer:** The Jews were told to eat *remes* in Genesis 9: 1–3 and they could not eat reptiles and most insects. The word refers to sheep, goats, etc. — things they could eat.
8. What vital hermeneutic are we using in this discussion?  
**Answer:** That words in the original language always mean the same thing until the author clearly tells us there is an unusual meaning. This is vital or we could never understand anything in the Bible or any other writing.
9. So where are the dinosaurs in the Genesis account?  
**Answer:** They are not. No Hebrew word in Genesis could legitimately be translated dinosaur. They were either before the week preparing the earth for man, during the week and somewhere else, or after the week. No Hebrew word in the Bible can legitimately be translated dinosaur.
10. How about leviathan and behemoth in Job?  
**Answer:** Behemoth refers to an ungulate everywhere else that it is used in the Bible. An ungulate is an animal you can milk; I would love to see someone milk a *T. rex*. Leviathan refers to a creature of the deep ocean in Psalm 104 and other Jewish literature. These are not dinosaurs. There are animals that could fit the descriptions.
11. What animals ARE discussed in the biblical account?  
**Answer:** The animals Moses knew about — his domesticated animals. It is not the purpose of the Bible to give the prehistory of the earth — how God got the earth ready for man.
12. What is the tree of evolution?  
**Answer:** The guess that everything evolved by natural processes from a single cell to man. This model has major problems. Complex animals existed in the earliest (Cambrian) rocks and some very simple animals are in modern rocks. The massive number of links predicted are not present.
13. What is the forest of evolution?  
**Answer:** Recent scientific suggestions that life started in many different places and that various groupings have developed autonomously solving some of the issues mentioned in the previous question. The Bible agrees. See 1 Corinthians 15:39; Genesis 1:20–31; and Genesis 6:19–21; 7:1–24.
14. Why is this lesson titled “The Fossil Sequence and the Biblical Record”?  
**Answer:** Because there is no way that someone living at the time of Moses or even 500 years ago could have written an account that is so perfectly in agreement with the modern scientific evidence. There are things not given to us that we might like to know, but in every checkable detail, the Bible checks. There are denominational traditions that conflict with what the Bible says; but if you just look at it literally, it is 100 percent correct. John Clayton was trying to write a book as an atheist titled *All the Stupidity of the Bible* to show the Bible to be in error. He started with the Hebrew of Genesis 1–3 and never got out of it because he could find no factual errors. This

ultimately led to him becoming a Christian. This cannot be a work of man; it has to have come from the God who did the creating and making.

### Questions for Program 31 Why I Left Atheism (Part 1)

1. Give some examples of things we accept but do not really have faith in (in general).  
**Answer:** Matter of dress; social customs; things like procedures in government; etc. Answers can also include things like church buildings and some things done in church.
2. To what extent do your friends accept their religion rather than have faith in it?  
**Answer:** Answers will vary.
3. Identify some misconceptions many people have about the church.  
**Answer:** Answers will vary — a building, an institution.
4. What are some common misconceptions about God?  
**Answer:** He is a man or woman. He has human weaknesses. See program 7.
5. Why is it important to develop one's own faith — not just to have the faith of our parents?  
**Answer:** If we do not have our own faith we will be apathetic, probably lukewarm, and stagnant. We also will be hard put to answer the challenges of those outside of Christ.
6. What do you see about Ray Muncy's handling of the situation that was wise.  
**Answer:** He did not state his beliefs or rely on traditional explanation, but let me read and interpret the Bible for myself — giving me guidance, but letting me make my own decisions about what the Bible meant.
7. Why is this approach hard to do and perhaps dangerous?  
**Answer:** It is dangerous because people can have wacky ideas (and I did). It is hard to do because you really have to know the Word to do it. Ray Muncy knew the Bible and God intimately, and he was able to ask questions that led me to see the whole picture when I tended to isolate scriptures.
8. Why would most denominations and a lot of preachers have trouble with this approach?  
**Answer:** If you have a creed or if you have been told, "Here is every question you will ever have to answer and here is the answer to every question you will ever have to answer," then someone pushing you outside of what you know, are comfortable with, or anything not covered in your creed is going to be a problem.
9. What is hypocrisy and why is it an issue with atheists?  
**Answer:** It is when someone does not practice what they preach (in simple terms). It is a problem because it suggests that the biblical system does not work.
10. What is the proper understanding about hypocrisy?  
**Answer:** We are all guilty of it — no matter what our beliefs. Humans are free thinking moral agents with emotions, and that combination is going to cause you to make mistakes. Christians are never portrayed in the Bible as perfect, only that they strive to be perfect and have the power to be better than they could ever be without that power.

### Questions for Program 32 Why I Left Atheism (Part 2)

1. What is the difference between happiness and pleasure?  
**Answer:** Pleasure is physical gratification, and many things in life can provide it — both wholesome and sinful. An atheist can find pleasure. Happiness has to do with peace, satisfaction, a feeling of well-being, and only comes from things that are associated with God — giving, sharing, caring, loving, tenderness, patience, etc. My experience as an atheist was that I never found these things, but they are constant and always available as a Christian.

2. How does the promise that “there will be an escape” (from temptation) get played out in the life of a Christian?  
**Answer:** Having diversions that are wholesome, being with people who encourage you and keep you from the wrong things, God providing alternatives, being focused on God’s will for your life and ministry.
3. What things did the geology professor believe about the Bible in Clayton’s story?  
**Answer:** (a) That the Bible gave the age of the earth, (b) that the word species and kind were one in the same, and (c) that the ark held every species that ever lived on the earth
4. How many times do people like the professor also totally misunderstand what the Christian system is all about?  
**Answer:** Constantly – because all they know about is what organized religion has done and taught.
5. What advantages does a person like Clayton have over someone “raised in the church?”  
**Answer:** Appreciates what Christianity is all about. Can understand sin a little differently. Baptism to me was a complete burying of the old John Clayton and the raising out of the water of a totally new person. That was incredible. Someone raised in the church and not saturated with sin might have a difficult time understanding that feeling. Will not be apathetic as easily.
6. What advantages does someone “raised in the church” have over someone like Clayton?  
**Answer:** Has not risked hell. Does not have the scars and knowledge of harm done to others. Has a better basic knowledge of the Bible. (I still cannot rattle off the names of the books of the Bible in order.)
7. We still need to restore New Testament Christianity. Why is this statement true?  
**Answer:** Because division, envy, lack of love, and a variety of other problems exist, indicating that the spirit of Christianity is missing.
8. How do we go about building our own faith?  
**Answer:** Study material like these programs. (You might mention the correspondence courses, book, audio CD/tapes, etc., that may be borrowed from us and used free of charge.) Get involved in evangelism.
9. What did Jesus mean in Matthew 12:30 and Luke 11:23 by “He that is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters”?  
**Answer:** I believe he was dealing with commitment. Whatever we can do he expects us to do it.
10. Why is there so much apathy about religion in the United States today?  
**Answer:** Lack of understanding of what Christianity can do for people. Squabbles within the church. Emphasis on personal gratification instead of service. There are many, many factors, and most leading atheists are former preachers and leaders of fundamentalist churches. Oakes, John, *Is There a God?* Great Commission Illustrated, Long Beach, CA, ©1999.

## DISC 9

### Questions For Program 33

### The Rational God (Part 1)

1. What does believing that “God is a magician” mean?  
**Answer:** It means that whenever the Bible tells of God doing something, he brings it into existence so it just appears. No process is involved and no evidence is left behind to suggest how what he did came into existence.
2. Why is viewing God as a magician appealing to many people?  
**Answer:** It avoids having to deal with science or having to answer any questions about how the creation was accomplished. It is accepted on blind faith and that simplifies explaining things.

3. Why are people in the twenty-first century suspicious of explanations that do not have some way of scientifically validating the explanations?  
**Answer:** There are so many scams out there, both secularly but also religiously, that people have a resistance to accepting something that they cannot validate, especially if it is going to make some demands on them.
4. What does “believing God is an engineer” mean?  
**Answer:** That God has used natural processes that can be understood by man in much of what he has created.
5. Does believing that “God is an engineer” deny the existence of miracles?  
**Answer:** Not at all. There are many aspects of creation that are far beyond the capabilities of any human engineer and are also recognized as beyond the reach of science by most scientists. Examples would be the creation of space itself, the creation of time, of matter/energy including those dimensional particles that may be discovered in the future — the “God particle” being an example. Viewing God as an engineer simply means recognizing that miracles are an exception, not God’s normal mode of creating. Also, when the Bible clearly states that something is a miracle, it would be an error to try to explain it naturally. As we point out in the lesson, however, miracles are rare.
6. Why are miracles not useful in convicting skeptics about the existence of God?  
**Answer:** Miracles in the Bible are accepted on faith. Claims of miracles today usually are questionable. Even the skeptics of Jesus’ day when they saw a miracle found ways to explain the miracle away. If you do not believe in God, then you view the Bible as a collection of ancient silly stories, and you will not be convinced by any biblical statement or claim. As an atheist it was the teachings of Christ that convinced me about the Bible, not the miracles.
7. Do passages like Psalm 19:1–2; Isaiah 45:18; Romans 1:19–22 imply magical mystic acts of God, or the engineering and planning work of God?  
**Answer:** If you suggest they are a “zapping” that cannot be understood, then the message of these passages is voided.
8. What do these passages suggest about the creation? Proverbs 8:22–23; John 17:24; Ephesians 1:4; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 1:2; 1 Peter 1:20.  
**Answer:** They all suggest that wisdom, planning, and purpose were in place before time began.
9. Two different Hebrew words are used in describing the creation of man. One is “*bara*” used in Genesis 1:27 and “*yatshir*” used in Genesis 2:7. Why are two different words used in reference to the same thing?  
**Answer:** The first refers to man’s creation in the image of God — his spiritual nature, his soul. The other refers to man’s physical human body made of the elements of earth. We can duplicate much of the physical makeup of humans, but not the spiritual part. All attempts to explain man’s spiritual makeup in terms of his brain have failed (see program 10 in this series).
10. Why does viewing the creation as a miraculous magic act of God make it impossible to refute naturalistic claims about the creation.  
**Answer:** It reduces whatever a person believes about how the creation came into being as a faith issue. You either believe God “zapped” it into existence or you do not. Naturalists can point to their evidence of geologic and biological change and make a compelling case that it happened slowly by natural process. The naturalist approach also provides a way of locating natural resources and controlling them. If God “zapped” it into existence you have no way of knowing where to look for resources, and you have no explanation of why the earth looks the way it does, with layers of rock of different kinds, and fossils embedded in many of the layers.

## Questions For Program 34 The Rational God (Part 2)

1. Why would we question whether God should have created man or not?  
**Answer:** Atheists would say that if God created the physical world, he would have known the pain and anguish that would be caused, and for that reason he should not have done it.
2. So why DID God create man?  
**Answer:** In program 12 (Why Am I Here?) we discussed the war between good and evil, and the fact that we have the honor to serve in that great war. Job in Job 42:5 comes to understand that and verbalizes a great response to it. You may want to review program 12.
3. How is God rational in dealing with man's sin?  
**Answer:** He allows man to have free moral choice, and provides a way for man to be relieved of the ETERNAL consequences of sin while still allowing man and angels to see the physical temporary consequences (see Ephesians 3:10–14 and 6:12).
4. How is the “plan of salvation” rational?  
**Answer:** It enables man to make a choice, and provides a simple solution that anyone can do no matter what their age, race, or station in life. It also offers help through the Holy Spirit with what we cannot handle ourselves — even assisting us in our prayer life.
5. How does the church make any sense?  
**Answer:** We are talking about the biblical concept of the church, not the man made social and physical structures. In its biblical form, the church is people, not brick and mortar. There is no huge financial cost, no political connection, and no power structure that causes power struggles. Constant support and sharing, a simple worship that can be conducted anywhere and involves participation — not a spectator sport. Program 20 (God's Finest Design — The Church) goes into this concept in depth.
6. How can we say that miracles are rational?  
**Answer:** The purpose of miracles was to establish who spoke for God and who did not. Con artists and scams were everywhere, and miracles identified who was speaking for God and who was not. Every miracle when studied had a specific purpose. The best example is the Gadarenes (KJV) lunatic in Luke 8:26–40, but every miracle had a purpose and reached a unique individual or group. Even with our limited human wisdom we can see a purpose to each miracle.
7. Does the plan of salvation make sense?  
**Answer:** Again, there is an overlap with the content of program 20. It is important to understand that this is not a work. You do not earn salvation and what is done is done to you not by you. Conversion is turning away from being controlled by sin and being controlled by God's Spirit. Romans 6 is a good chapter to discuss in connection with this concept.
8. Does the Christian life and the teachings by Jesus about how to live make sense? “Turning the other cheek” will just get you beat up.  
**Answer:** It is important to use the whole Bible when you look at issues like these. Romans 12:18 tells us that as “far as is it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” The idea is that we live in peace. Romans 14:19; 1 Corinthians 7:15; 2 Corinthians 13:11; 1 Timothy 2:2 repeat this, and the beatitudes in Matthew 5:9 call peacemakers “children of God.” Going the second mile had to do with the law at that time, that when a Roman soldier told a Jew to carry his load, they had to go a “mile.” Jesus calls his followers to go two to build peace and good relationships even with the enemy of the Jews. All of these commands would lead to positive things.

9. Does it make sense that anyone could do anything that would justify them being tortured for eternity in hell?  
**Answer:** There is a difference between “eternal punishment” and “eternal punishing.” Tradition has taught that the soul cannot die. The Bible does not support that tradition. In Matthew 10:28 Jesus talks about not being afraid of those who can kill the body, but cannot kill the soul. In John 8:51 Jesus does not seem to be talking about physical death. Edward Fudge (*The Consuming Fire*) and F. LaGard Smith (*After Life*) have written scholarly discussions about this if you are interested. If you are going to hell, it will be eternal punishment. If your soul dies it is not a torture chamber, but a complete and permanent separation from God and all that is good. I do not have all the answers to the question of the soul’s death, but I would defer to those who are better informed about the language of the Bible on this subject.
10. Is there not a danger of relying on human speculation in areas like this?  
**Answer:** Yes. On the other hand, the atheist/skeptic view of God being evil, malicious, irrational, weak, and endowed with the worst of human attributes is a challenge that needs to be answered, realizing our own weakness and the fact that better answers may come in the future by better informed followers of Jesus Christ.

### Questions For Program 35 Did Jesus Exist?

1. There are three possible positions a person can take concerning Jesus no matter whether you are an atheist or a believer. What are they?  
**Answer:** (1) Jesus never existed. The whole story of Jesus is a myth. (2) Jesus was a human who was charismatic and attracted many followers. (3) Jesus was the Son of God who became human as John 1:14 claims.
2. What is a secular writer in a Christian sense?  
**Answer:** A writer who is not a part of the authorship of the Bible, but recorded events in the day in which he or she lived.
3. How do we know secular writers did not have their material altered by Christians perhaps even years after it was written.  
**Answer:** In some cases, it has. Some writings of Josephus, for example, have style and approach that appear to be from a Christian copyist. There are over 1,000 secular manuscripts however, and evidence of external modification of the writings of most of them do not exist.
4. Why are Roman sources good references for the validity of the biblical account?  
**Answer:** Any bias written by Roman historians would be negative as far as Christ is concerned.
5. What is “gnosticism” and why is it important in dealing with the validity of the claims about Jesus Christ?  
**Answer:** From Wikipedia — “Gnosticism (from Ancient Greek: γνωστικός — gnostikos, ‘having knowledge,’ from γνῶσις — gnōsis, knowledge) is a modern name for a variety of ancient religious ideas and systems, originating in Jewish milieus in the first and second century AD. Based on their readings of the Torah and other Biblical writings, these systems induced that the material world is created by an emanation of the highest God, trapping the Divine spark within the human body. This Divine spark could be liberated by gnosis of this Divine spark. The Gnostic ideas and systems flourished in the Mediterranean world in the second century AD.”  
 Many Gnostic writers wrote about Jesus, and approached Christ as a human with a wife. *National Geographic* and many modern magazines have popularized Gnostic claims about Christ.
6. What do we mean when we say the Bible is scientifically accurate?  
**Answer:** The Bible contains factual statements that were not known in the time that the authors lived. There is also no case where a statement is made that is scientifically wrong.

Programs 17 (Which God Should We Serve? (Part 1), 18 (Which God Should We Serve? (Part 1), and 30 (The Fossil Sequence and the Biblical Record) contain numerous examples of this.

7. Why are modern miracles not a proof of the validity of the biblical account?  
**Answer:** Miracles do not leave physical evidence that can be falsified or tested. You either accept or reject a miracle on faith. Witnesses who are believers can be accused of bias. An atheist does not believe the Bible is anything more than ancient myths and folk tales, and miracles are said to be examples of those myths and stories.
8. Do miracles not conflict with claims that the Bible is scientifically accurate?  
**Answer:** If the Bible says “this is a miracle” (or infers it) then it is not a scientific statement. The very fact that it is a miracle indicates scientific knowledge. There are relatively few miracles in the Bible even though a lot of publicity is given to those that are there, but you either accept or reject a miracle on faith. You cannot test a scientific statement unless it is in fact a statement of science.
9. What is unique about the “Sermon on the Mount” in Matthew 5–7.  
**Answer:** First of all, the sermon is completely out of step with the culture and the time in which it is written. Second, the sermon deals with attitudes and not just overt actions. Third, the sermon contains promises that can be checked out to see if they materialize. Fourth, the sermon gives a way of life and conduct that has been proven to work over and over for the past 2,000 years. Christ still changes lives today.
10. What weaknesses exist in each of the following religious books that are not seen in the Bible?  
**Answer:** Disc 5 of this series (programs 17–20) goes into this in considerable depth. Here are a few quick responses:
  - The Koran — Polygamy, sanctioning of violence
  - Vedas — Difficulty in understanding, polytheistic
  - Buddha — Philosophy, no personal God involved
  - Book of Mormon — Polygamy, physical concept of God
  - Bahá'u'lláh — Universalism provides no fixed personal God concept
11. How does archaeology validate or support faith in Jesus Christ?  
**Answer:** The biblical account has been verified in many cases by archaeological finds, especially biblical prophecies of the fate of certain cities. Archaeology also supports the view that not following God’s commands has produced negative results for people in the past.
12. How do we respond to claims that archaeology invalidates the claims about Christ, or disproves a biblical statement?  
**Answer:** Is the claim given by a biblical minimalist like the Jesus Seminar who took the position that if it was hard to believe it was false? Has the claim been verified by other archaeologists? Will later finds disprove the claim? In the past opponents of Christianity have failed when these questions were asked.

### **Questions For Program 36 What Kind Of Faith Do You Have?**

1. What are the three sources of faith mentioned in the lesson?  
**Answer:** (1) Inherited faith, where the person becomes a Christian because parents or wife or husband or kids, etc., are members of the church. (2) Emotional faith, where a person “is baptized” because they were put on a guilt trip or because everyone at camp was baptized, or they have a desperate personal problem and are told being baptized will solve it. (3) Evidential faith, where a person looks at the evidence and responds to where the evidence leads them.

2. Are there others sources of faith? If so, what are they?  
**Answer:** Philosophical faith, miraculous faith given by God, experience driven faith (near death experience, etc.), and intuitive faith are all things I have been given as other ways of getting faith. I would argue that these still fall into the three categories we have listed, but not everyone would agree.
3. Why are many young people baptized at camp or during youth rallies.  
**Answer:** These are frequently emotional responses and sometimes do not give any evidence of being life changing. See the next question.
4. Why do some evangelists “seed” responders in their invitations.  
**Answer:** This is when someone is planted in the audience to come forward when the invitation is extended to “break the ice.” The same thing happens at camp when a friend comes forward. This can be argued, but the problems with emotionally driven responses is there no matter what their merit. The brain needs to be engaged in the response so that the message of Romans 6 gets across.
5. What was the source of Timothy’s faith in 2 Timothy 1:5?  
**Answer:** Paul talks about Timothy’s faith which “first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.” These were Jewish women, so what had been done in Timothy’s life. Acts 16:1 tells us his father was a Greek, so Timothy’s faith in God was built into him by these two Jewish women, and his mother had come to believe in Jesus. What went into Timothy’s faith is not spelled out, but I would argue evidence was a major part of it.
6. What was the main method Jesus used to reach people in his day?  
**Answer:** It was evidence. Parables were practical applications of things people knew about. A miracle was something they could see and test. There were no magic tricks or emotional manipulations involved in the ministry of Jesus Christ.
7. Why did many people find it possible, even when shown a miracle, to reject Christ?  
**Answer:** There was always the naysayer provided by Satan who gave some kind of response to minimize the miracle. The Pharisees were a major source of this denial. For some, the cost of becoming a follower of Jesus overpowered the effect of the miracle. The rich young ruler of Luke 18:18–25 is an example.
8. Romans 10:17 says “faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.” Why does that not mean that belief in God will come if we just read scripture?  
**Answer:** Read verses 13–15. It is not belief in God or even in the reality of Jesus Christ that these verses are dealing with, but rather faith in the “gospel of peace.” An atheist who rejects the existence of God will not consider the Bible as a source of belief since he believes the Bible was just an ancient book written by humans.
9. When Paul dealt with skeptics in Acts 17:16–31, what was his approach?  
**Answer:** It was not to initially quote scripture. It is not until verse 30 that any scriptural response is made. He starts with things they knew, including their own local celebrities.
10. Why should convicted Christians still study evidence for God’s existence.  
**Answer:** First of all, to strengthen and build their own personal faith. Second, because we are told to do so in passages like 1 Peter 3:15. We have to meet the needs of the people of our day just as Paul did. Romans 1:18–25 is a valid description of our world, and we have to meet the needs of the people of today, especially of our own young people.

# DESTRUCTIVE DISPENSATIONALISM

We make a conscious effort in this journal to try to confine our content to matters related to apologetics — to questions that have to do with how we know there is a God, which God it is that we should believe in, and how science and faith are compatible. Necessarily we sometimes have to get into areas that involve science and apologetics in indirect ways, and thus we have explored UFOs, ancient astronaut theories, the occult, pseudoscience, and cults. These areas of study overlap science and faith in many ways, and the misuse of science and the Bible in these areas has always been a major focus of the material we have printed.

There is probably no religious belief that has caused more problems in modern times than dispensationalism. Ronald L. Numbers in his book *The Creationists* has shown that a vast percentage of fundamental creationists have based their beliefs on dispensationalism. Christian Zionism, in which churches are actively involved in promoting the Nation of Israel, is rooted in this belief system. Over half of Protestant denominations hold to dispensationalism in one form or another, and virtually all “televangelists” promote it including John Hagee, Jerry Falwell, Jim Bakker, Paul Crouch, Pat Robertson, Jimmy Swaggart, and Billy Graham. Other well known dispensationalists include Tim LaHaye, Hal Lindsey, Charles Ryrie, John Walvoord, and Eric Sauer. Several well-known Christian organizations also promote it including Moody Bible Institute and Dallas Theological Seminary.

John Nelson Darby, Cyrus Scofield, and D. L. Moody were the architects of dispensationalism early in the twentieth century. The basic claim was that in 2 Timothy 2:15 when Paul told Timothy to “rightly divide the word of truth” that he was to divide it into seven discrete dispensations. Various dispensationalists had different views of how the seven dispensations were to be identified, including Scofield’s version which is built into the famous Scofield Study Bible. While different early dispensational preachers had different understandings and views, their basic belief system was constant. They all viewed the seven dispensations to be leading to the reestablishment of Israel as a world power with Jerusalem as the capital of the world and Jesus the supreme King of the world.

Most dispensational systems broke their seven dispensations into something like this:

Innocence	Genesis 1:3–3:6
Conscience	Genesis 3:7–8:14
Civil Government	Genesis 8:15–11:9
Patriarchal Rule	Genesis 11:10–Exodus 18:27
Mosaic Law	Exodus 19:1–John 14:30
Grace	Acts 1:1–Revelation 19:21
Millennium	Revelation 20:1–15

In dispensational tradition there is a permanent distinction made between Israel, the Gentiles, and the Church. Lewis Chafer, the founder of Dallas Theological Seminary, put it this way: “The dispensationalist believes that throughout the ages God is pursuing two distinct purposes: one related to the earth with earthly people and earthly objectives involved which is Judaism; while the other is related to heavenly people and heavenly objectives involved, which is Christianity. Israel is an eternal nation, heir to an eternal land, and with an eternal kingdom, on which David rules from an eternal throne.” Dispensationalists go on to say that the promises made to Abraham and through him to the Jews are eternal, unconditional, and await future realization so that the land promised to Abraham and his descendants from the Nile to the Euphrates will be literally instituted and that Jesus Christ will return to a Jewish kingdom centered on a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem.

Many dispensationalists believe that when the Jewish nation was reestablished in Palestine in 1948 that it was an indication that this was the generation when all of this was to take place. Very shortly then, in this belief, there will be a rapture in which Christ appears in the heavens and resurrects all dead Christians and together with all living believers takes them into heaven for seven years. During this seven years God is said to anoint 144,000 Jews to be missionaries for Christ. The Roman empire is revived as the European Common Market. The “Antichrist” solves the world’s problems and becomes the world dictator in Rome. A second “Antichrist” arises to govern Israel in collaboration with the Roman ruler. Israel rebuilds the temple and reestablishes Jewish worship including animal sacrifices. Arab countries, Russia, and Red China get involved and Christ returns with resurrected

Christians to end the war and rules on David's throne for 1,000 years. Later there is a final judgment for all of the wicked of all ages.

There are many variations of this scenario, and there are many detailed studies of the claims which show biblically why it is an incorrect theological view. If you cannot find studies in your local bookstore or church library, contact us and we will be glad to give you some addresses for materials to examine this in depth. That is not our purpose here. What we want to do here is to point out some major misunderstandings that impact people's belief in the Bible as the Word of God, and major consequences that come from this belief system.

### **DISPENSATIONALISTS DO NOT TAKE THE BIBLE LITERALLY.**

Scofield maintained that dispensationalists are the only ones who take the Bible literally. One of his statements is "Not one instance exists of a 'spiritual' or figurative fulfillment of prophecy ... Jerusalem is always Jerusalem, Israel is always Israel, Zion is always Zion ... Prophecies may never be spiritualized, but are always literal." We have stated over and over in this journal that to take the Bible literally means to look at who wrote it, who they wrote it to, and why they wrote it. If you do not do that, you end up with multiple contradictions and massive incompleteness in understanding scripture—Matthew's genealogy from Abraham to Jesus (42 generations in Matthew 1) versus Luke's 57 generations in Luke 3 being just one simple example.

It is interesting that the literalness that dispensationalists claim is never applied to statements that contradict their view. God's promises are always conditional, and in passages like Deuteronomy 8:19–20; 30:15–20; and Joshua 23:15–16 the Jews were told that if they did not obey what God had given them, they would not inherit the promised land. In fact, in Joshua 23:14 as Joshua gets ready to leave the Israelites he tells them that all of the promises that God had made to Abraham had been fulfilled.

### **DISPENSATIONALISTS HAVE A RACIAL, ETHNIC COMPREHENSION OF GOD AND THE CHURCH.**

It does not matter which proponent of dispensationalism you read, they all have a common theme that political physical Israel is favored by God above all other people on earth. The founder of dispensationalism, John Nelson Darby, stated "The Jewish nation is never to enter the Church." This notion of special earthly significance to one group of people flies in the face of all Jesus and the Apostles taught. In Acts 10 when Peter is given a special revelation about Cornelius, he summarizes his new revelation by saying "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right" (verses 34–36).

Ephesians 2:11–22 Paul gives a beautiful picture of the fact that God has broken down all barriers, all walls, and made one body out of all of the division (verse 14). He tells the Ephesians there are no longer any foreigners, no aliens, but that we are all fellow citizens (verse 19). Galatians 3:26–29 beautifully shows that there are no special ethnic or racial groups in God's sight. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." In Acts 15 the first century Christians dealt with attempts to promote Jewish tradition in the Church and rejected it. Jesus had a hard time getting His followers to understand that His "kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36), and that same concept is misunderstood by many people today.

### **DISPENSATIONALIST IDEAS SPILL OVER INTO POLITICAL AND SCIENTIFIC AREAS CREAT- ING NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS.**

In 1980 a foundation called "The International Christian Embassy, Jerusalem" was set up to aid Israel—with a staff of 50 workers in 80 countries and an identity with the Likud party in Israel. Raising money for Israel and giving major support to Israel in its conflicts with its neighbors also takes place in some denominations in the United States, and there is a great deal of work done in lobbying and pressing political figures in our government to aid Israel. We have had several presidents in recent times who have been proponents of dispensationalism. Jesus was very clear that we are to "render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and unto God what is God's" (Matthew 22:21). Religious pressure for Israel based on dispensational beliefs is misguided and misapplied.

As we mentioned earlier, most fundamental creationists are dispensationalists. If you take the view that the first dispensation was one of innocence, and that nothing ever happened to man or beast that was anything other than innocent, then man was essentially in heaven when he started. Noth-

ing died, nothing bad ever happened, no pain existed, and nature was always pleasant, positive, and ideal. Not only is this view unrealistic, it violates the description given in Genesis. In Genesis 2:15 we are told that man was put “in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” Man was not a spirit creature already in heaven, he had to work — weeding, pruning, caring for the garden. When man ate something, it died. You cannot eat a banana without murdering massive numbers of seeds. When the curse was given to Eve she was told her pain would increase (Genesis 3:16), indicating she had been in pain before.

Another complication in dispensational teaching is that it puts time constraints on everything. Many dispensationalists take the reference to 1000 in passages like Revelation 20:2–3 to mean that the dispensations were all roughly that long. That makes the earth about 6,000 years old, and puts certain events in man’s history in the very recent past. Even such cities as Beijing, China, with city records going back far longer than 6,000 years have to be changed to fit this theology. Evidence continues to pile up from all areas of man’s studies in geology, astronomy, archeology, history, and genetics that this simply is not the case.

Dispensationalism is a man-made theology that is in conflict with the evidence, the Bible, and common sense. We must not borrow from its teachings in science, history, or politics because when we do we not only are misled ourselves, but we make God’s Word look foolish.

Quotations are from “Orchestrating the End” by Stephen Sizer, *SCP Journal*, Volume 31:4 & 32:1, 2008, page 52.

—John N. Clayton  
*Does God Exist?* bulletin  
November/December 2008  
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