

What If There Is No God?

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Friends, from the Christian standpoint, we live every facet of our lives in light of the fact that God does exist (Psalms 90:2), and He created all that there is (Isaiah 45:12) with a specific purpose (Isaiah 45:18). The creation stands as a witness (Acts 14:17), that all men might know that there is a creator (Romans 1:19-20).

Man is unique among all other of God's creation, inasmuch as God made man in His own image (Genesis 1:26-27). What does that mean? Simply this, every person is given a soul at the conception of life (Jeremiah 1:5; Zechariah 12:1), and one day those souls will return unto God who gave them (Ecclesiastes 12:7).

Moreover, we recognize the reality and the consequences of sin (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2; Ephesians 2:1). But God (because of who He is) has never found pleasure, not even in the death of the wicked (Ezekiel 33:11). Therefore, He sent His Son into the world that through him (and Him alone) we could be reconciled unto God (Ephesians 2:12-16; 2 Corinthians 5:20-21).

Now having said that, this lesson is designed to address the alternative. Namely, what if there is no God and all that exists is not by design or purpose, but by circumstance and chance. Beloved, I trust just on the surface alone every thinking person recognizes that circumstance does not produce order, nor does design exist without a designer (Hebrews 3:4).

Yet, for this lesson we are going to pursue the idea that somehow circumstance and chance brought about the creation of all things. In order to bring out the thoughts that I have in mind, the following will serve as an outline for this study.

- I. ODDS THAT DEFY LOGIC**
- II. FREAK ACCIDENTS**
- III. MAN IS PURELY PHYSICAL**
- IV. WHO CAN BELIEVE**

I. ODDS THAT DEFY LOGIC

1. Non-life produced life. One of the most serious questions facing humanity is, "Where did life come_from?" In response we often hear "Oh, that's the old chicken and the egg question". One can laugh off the questions, but if there is no God (allow me to use their analogy) what did come first, the chicken or the egg? If you say a chicken, then you have chicken that never hatched from an egg. If you say an egg, you have an egg never laid by a chicken.

Friends, if we have evolved, we have evolved far enough to know this: $Zero + Zero = Zero$ regardless of how long the column. Yet, if there is no God, one is forced to conclude that from nothing came something. In an effort to explain the unexplainable, many have adopted the theory of spontaneous generation. What is spontaneous generation? *Grolier 1997 Multimedia encyclopedia version 9.0* offers the following part:

..Although it is now known that all present life on earth is the result of the reproduction of preexisting life, many scientists accept a modified theory of spontaneous generation to explain the origin of life itself. The theory holds that billions of years ago life originated in the oceans as the result of spontaneous aggregations of dissolved organic molecules, which in turn arose from inorganic chemical reactions energized by ultraviolet light, electrical discharges, and heat.

Of course, how could I have missed something so obvious????? What proof do they offer? None! Never happened before! Has not happened since! This was a one-time event! Beloved, the theory is based upon a bias; namely, we do not believe in God, and since we do not believe in God this must be true. Hear it please, spontaneous generation defies logic!

2. Energy and matter are eternal. Atheists do all but laugh out loud when believers maintain that God is eternal. Somehow the idea of an eternal God without beginning and without end is irrational to them. Is that irrational? Let's see.

Ask an atheist where does energy and matter come from? Answer, "Energy and matter have always been". Are we to assume that Psalms 90:2 should read, "From everlasting to everlasting, thou art energy and matter"? That energy and matter have no date or origin, they are eternal. Is that rational? To suggest otherwise implies that from nothing came energy and matter. Did energy and matter create themselves? Beloved, energy and matter are the gods of the atheist.

II. FREAK ACCIDENTS

1. The luck of the draw that we are who we are:

- A. Humans give birth instead of laying eggs. Could have been a peacock (Job 39:13-17).
 - B. Humans are more intelligent than other animals, could have the brain of a fly, instead of having dominion over all other living things (Genesis 1:28).
 - C. Those humans that need glasses are fortunate that the eyes are in front with a nose between them.
 - D. That the ice age brought about the loss of a tail (is Mighty Joe Young really our relative?). Perhaps we could touch roots with our ancestors by going to Ape School. One of the stars of the new movie "Planet of the Apes" said, (after attending Ape school) "There are lots of things in finding your inner ape that can be quite useful to one's real life". Try as I might, I cannot find a single useful thing in finding my "inner ape"? O' well, maybe I came from the Chimpanzee side!
 - E. Humans are the only beings that educate, imagine, hope, dream and refine with the idea of advancing an entire race. Just a freak accident I guess?
2. The universe is in perfect order.
- A. The sun is at the precise location, so that we neither freeze nor fry (Genesis 1:16).
 - B. The earth rotates to give us a day to work night to sleep (Luke 17:34-6).
 - C. No planet has veered off course and collided with another (Psalms 148:1-6).
 - D. The stars can be used for navigation (Job 38:31-33).
 - E. The seasons remain constant (Genesis 8:22).

Perfect order and design without a creator? How freaky would that be?

III. MAN IS PURELY PHYSICAL.

If man is purely physical, without a soul, nothing more than an animal, then that would raise some very serious questions!

1. Why are humans religious? A spiritual side of those void of any kind of spirit seems a bit incredible. I have never seen an animal pray, worship, or live in hope of heaven! Perhaps one might argue *that the Bible makes people religious*. While I heartily agree that the Bible has transformed the lives of countless people, let's be candid. The argument that the Bible is the reason behind religion might carry more weight if it were not for the fact that where the Bible is conspicuously absent, people still worship something (sun, moon, stars, animals et.al.)

Beloved, contrary to popular opinion, the Bible does not exist to make people religious. As already noted, people can and are religious without the Bible. What the word of God does offer is the truth, so spiritually-minded people can be

religiously right, well... if there is a spiritual side of a person that does not have a spirit.

2. Does compassion from an animal make sense? The weak and the helpless ought to be prey to those who are nothing more than flesh and blood! That people would be caring and compassionate makes perfect sense *if God exists*, for those are a part of His divine attributes (Luke 6:31-36; II Corinthians 1:3; Jonah 4:1-2; Matthew 9:36-38).

However, if there is no God and man is purely physical, one would be hard pressed to explain why complete strangers are willing to share their time, ability and finances to aid the sick, the helpless and the destitute.

Animals do not shed tears over the less fortunate.

3. How could purely physical beings possess a moral conscience of right and wrong?

A man walks into the police station and confesses to a crime he has committed, saying, "I cannot live with the guilt anymore". Friends, if there is no God and humans are not made unique, why do we have a conscience within us that says "that's wrong?" And when we violate that conscience, we suffer both physically and emotionally.

Further, in our court system today, if the guilty person does not display genuine remorse for the hammer done to others, their punishment is more severe. Why??? Guilt and remorse are not twin actions of purely physical beings. And what's more, we know it!

4. Why do creatures, void of a soul, preach and practice forgiveness? "Forgive me" are two words that have united homes, mended friendships, healed broken marriages. Somehow we have (from a God that does not exist?) gotten the idea the asking and giving forgiveness is important (Luke 17:3-4; Matthew 6:14-15). But when it comes right down to it, if we are mere fleshly beings, what does it matter if we are committed to a marriage, loving toward our family, loyal to our friends? If we are animals, why not act like it, and who cares what another animal thinks! Do you want to know why? We know we are more than just an animal, and many of us refuse to act like one!!

IV. WHO CAN BELIEVE

I have, in a brief and limited fashion, examined a few of the things that must naturally follow if there is no God. Believing that honest minds would conclude that God does exist, and because He exists, even our most complex questions can be answered.

1. Where did we come from? God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils (God did put the nose between the eyes) the breath of

life (Genesis 2:7). Even the questions, “What came first, the woman or the baby” offers no dilemma. God knew that it was not good for man to be alone, and when no suitable help meet was found, God created one more time. *“And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto man.”* (Genesis 2:21-22). God created woman for man (1 Corinthians 11:9).

2. How do you know the sun will rise and set today? Because God upholds it with the power of His might (Psalms 33:6-9; 148:5-6). The universe will remain in perfect order until God says “enough”, time will be no more (2 Peter 3:7-13).
3. Humans are inclined toward religion because there is a spirit (soul) within us that loves (Matthew 22:37), thinks (Proverbs 23:7), reasons (Mark 2:8), believes (Romans 10:10) and desires to worship the God who made us (Matthew 4:10).
4. Can a person become so hardened that their conscience is past feeling? Certainly (1 Timothy 4:1-2). Just as there are others who violate their conscience and are filled with such deep regret that they sadly take their own lives (Matthew 27:3-5). Still others who live in good conscience (Acts 23:1). But surely none would argue that a moral conscience does not exist, for most certainly it does.

If there is no God, then we are nothing more than a flesh and blood animal and I for one will never accept that as being true!