

Twelve Atheists Speak Out About God

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Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. – John 14:6

These are my comments to the article titled: “12 Atheists Explain Why They Don’t Believe In God.”

Found in:

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/opinion/12-atheists-explain-why-they-don-t-believe-in-god/ss-AA1hKZXC?ocid=msedgntp&cvid=7b626bc470764e0d97fcc17daf488b48&ei=9#image=1>

Each of twelve atheists provided a short summary on why they don’t believe in God. I will (for all but one) paraphrase or just summarize their positions and then reply to them from my Christian viewpoint.

1. The Unanswered Prayers of Lucas Peng

His faith eroded after decades of unanswered prayer for God to manifest Himself to him.

Answer: I bear Lucas witness that he has (or had) a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

(Paul made a similar observation about certain Jews of his day (not all of them, of course). See Romans 10:2.) I had a similar experience with God and gave up on Him for a while. Then, I learned that the fault was in myself. I had approached God wrong. The New Testament tells us how to come to God correctly. Read it and do it.

There is no hiddenness of God to those who approach Him the right way. Jesus said:

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

-- John 14:12

2. The Logical Dilemmas of Fredrik

His argument is that a perfect and benevolent God could not allow for imperfection and evil in this world.

Answer: In the beginning God made the universe in perfection and He called it all good. But man had free will, and he used that free will to disobey God. From that came the curses upon mankind through our flesh nature and through the curses God placed on the physical earth itself. Man would no longer live in Paradise.

Evil exists on the earth as both a punishment and as a test of our characters.

It will get even darker before dawn, but Jesus said:

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

– John 16:33

But in the regeneration of the earth, there will be no more death and no more sorrow.

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: – Revelation 22:1-3

3. Barry's Analysis: Religion Through Time

Historically, religion served the purpose of explaining the unknown. Today, science does it better. Science fits better with observable realities.

So, when Carly Simon claims that "Nobody does it better," I have to reply, "Sorry, Carly. Science does it better!"

(From the theme song to *The Spy Who Loved Me*.)

Answer: There's one Big question in life, divided into three divisions: What is the meaning of life? The divisions, in order of increasing importance are:

1. Where did the universe come from?
2. Where did morality come from?
3. What's my purpose in this life?

Science can't answer all of those questions, but the God of the Bible can – at least sufficiently for our use.

In the modern Western world, there are basically two views by which to answer these questions: Naturalism and Theism, of which I will answer from the viewpoint of a Christian. Naturalism attempts to answer point 1, but it has little to say about points 2 and 3. People who have from the start little interest in 'spiritual' questions tend to navigate towards Naturalism for answers to the remaining questions, such as they can formulate.

God has not set up the world to prove His existence. If He were to force us to believe in Him by Him providing overwhelming evidence of Himself, that would effectively violate our free will. It would force us to believe in Him for the wrong reason! Therefore, God so constructed the world to have evidence of Himself and His manifestation throughout history, but He also set up the world with just enough secular appearance that the Naturalist can reject God as an explanation. But for we who have eyes to see, we believers can honestly proclaim that God has not left us without witness of Himself.

Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

-- Acts 14:17

I feel sorry for the apologist out there who gets frustrated that the secularists and atheists have evidence for a natural universe, as opposed to a supernatural one. Both sides have to live with this duality. Both sides are forced to make their choice by faith. The physical evidence goes both ways. (That in itself is very odd.) Thus, both the just and the unjust must live their lives by faith.

But those who will worship God in spirit and in truth will experience the manifestations of God in their lives, which is as God wants it to be.

4. Vince: Morality Beyond Divinity

Vince believes that people should be moral out of some innate moral feelings, not because of religion.

Answer: Where did this innate sense of right and wrong come from?

Vince, I do not serve God merely to avoid punishment and to gain a heavenly reward. I serve Jesus because without Jesus there's no logical explanation for the existence of morality. And if I have no explanation for morality, why should I even bother to live at all? Without morality, everything that is good and evil have become meaningless.

5. Greta's Quest for Concrete Evidence

Greta wants more than the standard apologist argument for God.

Answer: The number of things in this world that we take for granted is the measure to which we ignore the provisions of God in our lives. It doesn't matter if we humans invent nice things through clever

manipulation of raw material, we'd still have little without the raw materials God provided for us to build with.

6. Evolution and Habib

Habib prefers the explanations of science and evolution to those of religion.

Answer: This I know: Whatsoever Science says, it says to those events under the rule of Science.

The truth is that everyone of us is subject to both natural and supernatural influences. Some of these supernatural influences we can bring upon ourselves willfully, others are forced upon us, for reasons both good and ill.

All those who choose other than God to explain the world will go down a rabbit hole of God's making:

I also will choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not. – Isaiah 66:4

7. Luke's Call for Genuine Engagement

Quit trying to convert atheists!!

Answer: Okay, Luke, consider yourself off my list.

8. Steve and Reality's Mirror

Religion offers comfortable myths; science offers reality.

Answer: My religion – Christianity – offers few comforting verses. Most of them are threats. The real comfort is that, in the end, I will inhabit a world free of pain, sorrow, death, and cruelty, where everyone is kind to everyone else and where nobody ever lies to anyone else. That's comforting, anyway.

9. Matthew and the Image of God

How can an all-loving God be punitive to people?

Answer: Love is an intrinsic quality of God, but it is not the only quality He has. He is also a God of justice. All the qualities of God have to work together in concinnity. God's love does not negate His justice. Besides, I don't even know how to appraise this notion of an 'all-loving God' as judged by the Bible. What is it even supposed to mean, exactly?

10. James' Philosophical Standpoint

James's view is similar to Matthew's view above.

Answer: I will talk briefly about God as All-powerful. You have to interpret the Bible by the Bible. You have to consistisize its verses. God has bragged about being able to do anything (at least by implication). Yet, we are told that God has some constraints: He cannot deny Himself (2 Timothy 2:13) and He cannot lie (Titus 1:2).

But can God hold back the Red Sea to allow the Children of Israel to walk across it on dry ground? No problem (Exodus 14:15-16). Can He uphold the world from exploding by the Word of His power? Piece of cake (Hebrews 1:3). Is He able to raise the dead? Of course (John 5:21).

Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?
– Acts 26:8

11. Jarred: Freedom Beyond Religious Bounds

"Jarred views atheism as a path to true freedom." And that religion just gets in the way of freedom. He distrusts old (antiquated) wisdom.

Answer: The people who come to God (Jesus) do so because they seek the values of Jesus and the salvation of Jesus. They aren't seeking freedom per se, except freedom from the bondages of sin (addictions). So, it's really not surprising that Jarred has no interest in Jesus.

As for that notion of antiquated wisdom, that's just illogical nonsense. Wisdom doesn't come with a built-in expiration date affixed to it. The Pythagorean Theorem is still alive and well and it's older than the New Testament.

Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.
-- Romans 6:18

12. Critical Evaluation with Jarred

“The God of the Bible (the Koran, the Book of Mormon, etc.) already has much going against him. If he were truly the author of the Bible, it would probably be way less filled with atrocities, contradictions, plagiarisms, and absurdities. Considering that our only real knowledge on the subject comes from unverifiable personal experiences or ancient books of mythology, which can be proven to be nonsense, we can safely assume that the God they describe is fictional.”

Answer: If you are going to find God, He is waiting for you, Jarred, but you’re going to have to hear Him through all the screaming naysayers all around you. Are you brave enough to try? Are you determined enough to succeed?

When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. – Matthew 16: 13-14

The people were willing to credit Jesus to be anything at all (even a devil) except the very thing that He really was: The only begotten Son of God, the Messiah, the savior of the world.

I don’t understand Jarred’s use of the word ‘probably’. It either is or it isn’t. There is no ‘probably’. (Haven’t you ever watched Star Wars?) As for atrocities: If God covered up what He did to destroy evil in those millennia gone by, He’d be faulted. When He has His own prophets write about them, being open about it, He’s criticized as brutal.

Tell me this, Jarred: Out of what authoritative sources do we know about Socrates or Augustus?

As for my own personal experiences of Jesus, they’re not unverified to me. In fact, they are verified every morning I wake up and don’t feel that lust for sex and/or pornography. All that died in me years ago (2008), when I became a true follower of Jesus.

So, this is the sum of it all, folks: If you really want to find Jesus, you will find Him, but you must press hard through all the lies and obstacles that will be thrown into your way. The real question is, How much do you want to find Jesus? Jesus said:

Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. – Luke 13:24