



NEW AGE/SPIRITUALITY VOCABULARY



Cosmological determination

the movement of stars and other heavenly bodies determines cultural and societal—as well as individual—development. We must learn to accept ourselves as people who do not need to believe in anything that lies outside ourselves.

✓ **God is sovereign and omnipotent, and He created the cosmos.**



Self-deification

that we have everything in ourselves necessary to achieve fulfillment. The self is the highest good. We exist to guide ourselves, heal ourselves, and fulfill our own destinies. Usually taught as affirmations. "Affirm that you can achieve it and you will."

✓ **Mankind is in desperate need of a Savior. Mankind cannot save, redeem or heal himself - he needs God.**



Pantheism

the belief that god is in everything... there is a god-aspect within each of us—a tiny sliver of god in every person.

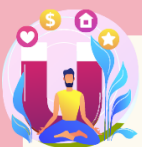
✓ **Man is a created being and when left to his own devices he will destroy himself and his environment. Romans 1**



Monism-All is One

a philosophical worldview in which all of reality can be reduced to one "thing" or "substance."

✓ **God is the ultimate existing One. He is the only being who is independent and self-existent. All other existing things—the universe—derive their existence from God, who created all things ex nihilo (out of nothing).**



Law of Attraction

The law of attraction is a philosophy suggesting that positive thoughts bring positive results into a person's life, while negative thoughts bring negative outcomes. Thinking about being wealthy will attract wealth.

✓ **Our financial success is determined by our decisions, our hard work, and our wise stewardship of what we have. No matter how positive our thoughts and how focused our mind is on wealth, if we have built mountains of debt, the bills will continue to come (Proverbs 22:7).**

Chapter 11: New Spirituality: Just a woke way of saying idolatry - I Don't Need God, I am "God."

A group of progressive people met in a funky-smelling-smoked-filled basement, sitting in the sukhasana⁸⁴ position. All of them chanted "namaste" with the goal of aligning their chakras and achieving **Christ Consciousness**.⁸⁵ I was invited to a **New Age/New Spirituality** meeting for my research. What I witnessed was a throwback to Woodstock and the Beatles revolution. Men wore rose-colored glasses, most sported bell-bottom pants, psychedelic tie-dyed shirts, and carried purses (man-purses). Some danced to The 5th Dimension's Age of Aquarius.⁸⁶

After the "ritual" no one attained Christ Consciousness, but two claimed they got close.

Christ Consciousness (according to the New Age Movement) **is the state of mind when one realizes he is divine and one with deity as Jesus realized He was Christ after He suffered and survived.** Once Jesus realized He was the Christ then he attained Christ Consciousness then could stop Him. According to this foolishness, humans have the same ability - to come in tune with oneself with the aid of astrology, yoga, seances, and tarot cards; the occult, channeling of the dead, and whatever else is needed to help bring the individual to achieve the perfect state of one's own deification. (Arcoleo) (Piippo). One becomes their own god, if not in this life in the one to come through reincarnation.

⁸⁴ also referred to as easy pose, is a yoga asana performed in a seated position. Easy pose aids in opening the hips and aligning the spine, and its simplicity makes it suitable for yogis of all skill levels, including beginners.

⁸⁵ In seeking Christ Consciousness, the idea is to transcend physical existence and experience one's own divinity and God-like nature. It is a path of love, peace, harmony and bliss, which leads to an understanding of the omnipresent higher power that connects all beings in the universe.

⁸⁶ "The lyrics of the song were rooted in astrology. Though astrologers differed on the year this new age would begin, the song proclaimed that a new "Age of Aquarius" was at hand sometime after the 20th century. This age was to be characterized by love, light and humane, kind relationships, unlike the current "Age of Pisces." (<https://bit.ly/30TkWau>)



NEW AGE/SPIRITUALITY VOCABULARY



Visualizations

Visualization is the use of mental concentration and directed imagery in the attempt to secure particular goals, whether physical, psychological, vocational, educational, or spiritual. Visualization attempts to program the mind to discover inner power and guidance. It is often used as a means to, or in conjunction with, altered states of consciousness (e.g., as produced by meditation), and is frequently used to develop psychic abilities or make contact with spirits. There are at least four identifiable types of visualization in our culture: academic, popular, occult, and Christian.



Yoga

The word yoga comes from the Sanskrit word *yogah*, which means "to yoke or to unite." As such, the goal of yoga is to uncouple oneself from the material world and to unite oneself with the God of Hinduism, commonly understood to be Brahman, the impersonal cosmic consciousness of the universe. Put another way, yoga is the means by which the user's mind is merged into the universal mind.



Tarot/Divination

Tarot cards are associated with divination—unlocking the secrets of the future by occult, supernatural means. Divination is strictly prohibited in the Bible. The word divination comes from the Latin *divinare*, meaning "to foresee" or "to be inspired by a god." To practice divination is to uncover hidden knowledge by supernatural means. It is associated with the occult and involves fortune-telling or soothsaying, as it used to be called.



Age of Pisces

The Age of Pisces defines the time where human beings engaged more than ever in the matters of the soul. The ideas of human transcendence, dissolution of the self and connection to a higher ideal consolidated in the collective consciousness and took shape in various forms.



Age of Aquarius

An astrological era believed to bring increased spirituality and harmony on Earth. Many try to connect this myth to Luke 22:10. There are varied views of when this age will begin, although most agree that the transition has begun. Woodstock and the hippie era ushered in the movement.

What is New Age and New Spirituality (NAM)?⁸⁷

The true essence of the "New Age" movement can be summarized quite simply;

EVERYONE CAN CREATE THEIR OWN REALITY,

BECAUSE EVERYONE IS THEIR OWN GOD.

What is NAM? "New Age Spirituality is an umbrella term that describes a contemporary religious movement, not an organized religion. Proponents of the movement encourage striving to reach one's full potential through an eclectic mixture of concepts and practices drawn from Eastern mysticism, Hinduism, Buddhism, metaphysics, naturalism, astrology, occultism, and science fiction. In its various forms, New Age spirituality is both *monistic* (believing that all reality is ultimately one) and *pantheistic* (believing that everything is divine). Unlike organized religions, New Age spirituality has no founding figure, structured leadership, official headquarters, or authoritative writings that are accepted by all proponents. New Age spirituality has held considerable social sway over Western culture over the past three decades. An estimated one in three Americans accepts various elements of New Age ideology." (H Bavinck et al., *Reformed Dogmatics / 2, God and Creation / Herman Bavinck ; John Bolt, General Ed. ; John Vriend, Transl. [from the Dutch].*)

There are many forms and flavors of New Age Spirituality, and its packaging and delivery

⁸⁷ New Age spirituality is an umbrella term that describes a contemporary religious movement, not an organized religion. Proponents of the movement encourage striving to reach one's full potential through an eclectic mixture of concepts and practices drawn from Eastern mysticism, Hinduism, Buddhism, metaphysics, naturalism, astrology, occultism, and science fiction. In its various forms, New Age spirituality is both *monistic* (believing that all reality is ultimately one) and *pantheistic* (believing that everything is divine). Unlike organized religions, New Age spirituality has no founding figure, structured leadership, official headquarters, or authoritative writings that are accepted by all proponents. New Age spirituality has held considerable social sway over Western culture over the past three decades. An estimated one in three Americans accepts various elements of New Age ideology.

depend on the time and prevailing trends. "New Age is a range of spiritual or religious practices and beliefs which rapidly grew in Western society during the early 1970s. Its highly eclectic and unsystematic structure makes a precise definition difficult. Although many scholars consider it a religious movement, its adherents typically see it as spiritual or as unifying Mind-Body-Spirit, and rarely use the term New Age themselves."

Most New Age followers deny Christianity as most people understand Christianity, but are religious in the idolatrous sense. It is their desire to become one with the spirit realm in some fashion - be it the universe, nature, cosmos, etc. In essence, almost every guru from times past to present teach that the ultimate goal is nirvana.

Nirvana has its origin in the 5th century B.C. with wealthy young man named a man named Siddhartha Gautama.

Gautama started to question the spiritual value of his opulent life and made the decision to relinquish all of his belongings and emotional ties, including his wife and young child. He aimed to comprehend the genuine essence of existence and perceived all of his connections as hindrances. Gautama became a vagrant without a home, surviving with only the bare necessities, fasting to the extent of near starvation. Legend has it that after Siddhartha embarked on this path, he attained enlightenment. While meditating under a tree, he witnessed his own past lives as well as those of others. Gradually, he acquired a flawless, all-knowing understanding of this world and the world beyond. In Buddhism, this state, which the Buddha couldn't relate in language, is called **nirvana**. The word is Sanskrit for "to extinguish." In this case, it means to extinguish ignorance, hatred and earthly suffering. The term is most closely associated with Buddhism, though it's applied to a similar concept in Hinduism. (Nhất Hạnh, Thích)

By reaching nirvana, one can break free from **samsara**, the cycle of **reincarnation** present in both Hinduism and Buddhism. Every soul is rewarded or punished in each life based on their past actions or **karma**, accumulated from their current and past lives (including animal lives). It's important to note that **karma** is not a result of divine judgment, but more similar to **Newton's law of motion - every action has an equal and opposite reaction**, occurring automatically. (Ibid)

Achieving **nirvana** means that one stops accumulating bad **karma** as they have transcended it. The rest of their life, and sometimes future lives, are spent "working off" any bad karma already accumulated. (Ibid)

When one has fully escaped the karmic cycle, they attain **parinirvana** - the ultimate state of **nirvana** - in the afterlife. Similar to Hindu **nirvana**, souls that have attained **parinirvana** are liberated from the cycle of **reincarnation**. The Buddha did not provide any details about what **parinirvana** entails. In Buddhist philosophy, it is beyond the scope of ordinary human understanding. (Ibid)

Its Origin

Tracing the exact origin of New Age Religion is difficult. However, **Genesis 3** provides insight from the Bible's perspective.

In Tina Kolniak's story on how she managed to leave the New Age Religion she says, "New Age spirituality feeds your ego by teaching that there is no right, no wrong, no objective truth—just a landscape of experiences that your soul goes through. It gives you false idols to worship, starting with yourself, teaching that you are always perfect where you are. It also teaches you to rely on spiritual experiences rather than rationality." (Kolniak). Satan convinced Eve that by taking matters into her own hands, she could become like God, with god-like knowledge and enlightenment. This is the aim of New Age Spirituality.

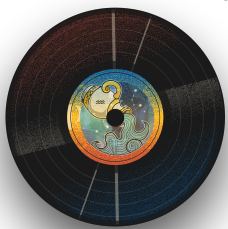
Idolatry is at the heart of New Age Spirituality. In almost every New Age Spiritual practice the occult is used in some way - stones (massage stones for chakras), tea leaves, tarot cards, astrology, yoga, meditation techniques, mediumship, seances, mysticism, Zen meditation, planetary healing, I Ching, alternative medicine, channeling and use of Chrystals, psychic readings, horoscopes, extraterrestrial, channeling the people from the "Ancient city of Atlantis," and science.



All this may sound silly to some people, but this is a multi-billion dollar industry, and it is as attractive as the "apple"⁸⁸ to Eve. (Genesis 3). God offered Mankind paradise, yet that was not enough. Man lusted for something different, not something greater, but something different. Lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and the pride of life drove Man out of Perfect Paradise and continues to drive Man to alternative spiritual paths seeking enlightenment. (Romans 1:18-19, 20-22)



New Age Spirituality is often attributed to Indian and Hindu religions, but this is not entirely accurate. The roots of this movement can be traced back to the story of Adam and Eve and have been present in every generation since. While questioning beliefs is not inherently wrong, progressive thoughts have led many to seek their own spiritual paths separate from God. The 1960s saw a surge in drug-induced enlightenment, thanks to the love and peace generation. Marijuana, LSD, and Acid were often used during so-called head trips, with users justifying the practice as a means of expanding consciousness. Even today, it is common practice in New Age Practice to use some type of chemical, whether legal or illegal to reach a state of mental altered consciousness.



⁸⁸ Eve's "apple" was the desire to be like God, to be her own god. The classic definition of idolatry.

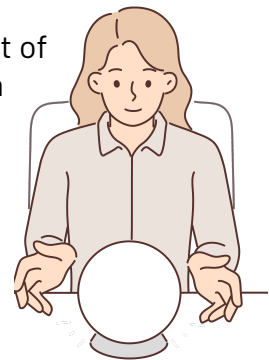
Common Beliefs

- Cosmological determination

Many astrologers believe that the positioning of stars and other celestial bodies significantly impacts the development of society and individuals. The **Age of Pisces**, in which people were focused on discovering their identity and existence, has now passed and we are in the **Age of Aquarius**. A desire for unity and peace characterizes this era. (Zengal). As a result, it is believed cultural changes are taking place and will continue to do so. To fully embrace this new age, we must let go of the beliefs and traditions influenced by the Piscean era. Instead, we should accept ourselves as individuals who do not need to rely on external beliefs. The idea that everything **in us and in the universe** (idolatry) is God is central to this new age, and we should strive to connect with this divine energy. This belief system, known as **pantheism**⁸⁹, acknowledges that the created order is part of God's eternal sovereignty.

- Monistic energy

Some followers of the New Age movement believe in the concept of God and the universe being a single entity. They reject the idea of biblical monotheism and instead believe in **monism**⁹⁰ or **pantheism**. According to these beliefs, every part of the universe contains divine energy, and in order to tap into this energy and regain personal power, one must achieve harmony with all aspects of the universe. The New Age movement presents various methods to achieve this unity, including ancient and modern forms of meditation, seances, divination, numerology, and incantation. Practicing yoga is also believed to aid the pursuit of balance and harmony in the New Age quest. (Ibid)



- Law of Attraction

This is likely the most well-known belief. It suggests that if we maintain a positive mindset and have faith, **God will grant us our every desire.** The Law of Attraction operates on the principle that "like attracts like." Those who teach this law often

advise us to have faith, imagine, or picture what we want from God, and He will make it come true for us.

⁸⁹ the belief that God and the universe are the same thing. The term comes from the Greek words "pan" and "theos", which mean "all" and "God" respectively. Pantheists believe that God is present in everything in the universe and nature. They believe that the universe, earth, and nature are divine and should be treated as sacred. Pantheism does not involve a belief in deities, spirits, or supernatural powers.

⁹⁰ a philosophical worldview that all of reality can be reduced to one thing or substance. It is the idea that all of existence is unified in a type of oneness. In monism, only one supreme being exists, which may be conceived of as a type of God.

The majority of Prosperity Gospel Preachers teach this falsehood (often “acronymned” LOA) - Joel Olsteen, T.D. Jakes, Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland, Oral Roberts, Joel Osteen, Creflo Dollar, Benny Hinn, Paula White, et al. Take a look at the images below from a pastor’s website:


Wilmington For Christ Spirituality Relationships Self-Help Religion Motivational Survival

Advanced Law of Attraction Techniques

Manifestation Magic

By Robert Kennerson on Sat, 12 Aug 2023

It is of great importance to know who is behind this wonderful program of knowledge, his name is Alexander Wilson. He is the author of the Manifestation Magic program. He is a neuroscience researcher who studied anatomy in college. He has studied and understood the functions of the brain together with the human body. At some point in his life time, things fell on the wrong and everything was bad for him but immediately he gathered the knowledge of vibrating at a much higher frequency, his life changed for good. This program has been used to transform the lives of thousands of people across the globe. This manifestation is very trustworthy, it will work for you. This great program consists of knowledge about oneself and ways to go about in to reveal the true person within you to achieve success. This program comes with two bonus programs as well namely; the chakra power system and the manifestation magic 360 days transformation. The manifestation magic program is divided into two modules. Module 1 is a quick-start manifestation guide while module 2 consists of energy orbiting and twilight transformation. This is a push-button manifestation system. You can create anything you desire in life and manifest abundantly by just pushing the play button. You don't need to read any book or study any course or perform exercises before you see results, you just need to listen and learn. [Read more here...](#)



More Information

Manifestation Magic Summary 🛒 👤

Rating: 4.8 stars out of 23 votes
Contents: Audio System
Author: Alexander Wilson
Official Website: manifestationmagic.com
Price: \$97.00

The “Read more here...” icon opens up a YouTube video that shows a blonde with cash raining on her. This is from a Christian pastor promising an “automatic pilot” program to “manifest” and “attract” money and women. Again, this is Eve’s “apple” the devil offered in Genesis 3 - the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. However, Christians must remember that our ultimate reward is in heaven. Our duty is to have faith and love God above everything else, not the things of this world (1 John 2:15).

Is it Possible To Manifest Health and Wealth When The World Feels Like It's falling apart? 100% Yes.

“How To Magically Manifest REAL, SPENDABLE CASH Starting In The Next 24 Hours!”

(WARNING - this page may change life)



Joel Olsteen, one of America's most famous LOA and Prosperity Gospel preachers teaches the following:

- Life and death is in the power of our tongue.
- Thank God in advance for your victory.
- Don't pray away your problems – trust you'll be right where you should be when the winds are done blowing.
- Relinquish control to God. (Stop worrying, stop losing sleep.)
- Let go of what didn't work out.
- God is for you, and wants you to make big bold requests.
- Make room for something big; you haven't seen your best days yet.
- The first place we lose the battle is in our own thinking. Break free in your thinking!
- Dismiss those negative thoughts; release yourself from your limitations.
- Start talking, thinking and acting like your victory is going to happen.
- Speak the seeds of faith into being: "I am blessed, I am healthy, I am strong, I am victorious."
- Take your praise to God, not your problems.
- Call the things that are not as if they already were.

What's wrong with these mantra sayings? Probably nothing, on the surface, and most can find their origin in the Scriptures. However, it's the wrapping that should concern us. The nugget of truth is wrapped with lies. For example, read Joel's explanation on why God made Zechariah mute after he told him his wife would give birth to John the Baptist: "Why did God take away his speech? It's because God knew that Zechariah's negative words would cancel out His plan....See, God knows the power of our words. He knows we prophesy our future. And He knew Zechariah's own negative words would stop His plan." (Olsteen). According to Olsteen, man has the power to change God's divine and eternal plan by just speaking. How arrogant as this places man above God!

- Follow your heart

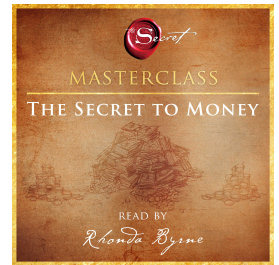
In the self-help section, this has already been discussed. The New Age Movement uses the same deception. What could be wrong with the idea of following your heart? What could go wrong? Well, many tragedies have started with people following their hearts. I'm reminded of a young lady who found out her partner had been unfaithful. Her solution? Her heart told her to get wasted the entire day and see what would unfold. There is no need to go into details how her night ended, one need only to imagine. The Scriptures warn us against following our hearts. Hearts (mind) need to be trained; if not trained properly, it will be like the blind leading the blind. "Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered." (Proverbs 28:26; Jeremiah 17:9).

The risk of following our emotions is that the enemy can manipulate us, leading us away from God's will and towards sinful behavior. The heart is emotional and inconsistent. Acting on an emotions and inconsistency is a recipe for disaster.

- We are little or mini gods Self-deification



Oprah Winfrey popularized a book called "The Secret". In it, the author, Rhonda Byrne, argues that humans can control every aspect of their lives through the Law of Attraction and energy. Byrne claims that individuals can write their own destinies and shape every event in their lives based on their thoughts. Some proponents of this philosophy even suggest that people can "claim" what they want and it will come to them. For instance, if someone desires to be cured from cancer, they simply need to declare it and they will be healed. Similarly, if someone desires to own a Maserati car, they only need to speak it into existence. However, this belief implies that individuals are their own gods.



The idea that sprinkling a little Bible and theology can attract masses and make one wealthy is prevalent in the church. However, this approach often promotes serving oneself and the desire for material wealth and fame. It presents a distorted view that Jesus died so we could have everything we want in this life. Although this may sound appealing, the Bible consistently teaches that God is holy, righteous, omnipresent and omniscient, while man has sinned and only through the death of Christ can one be made blameless before God, not through our own innate divinity.

Jeffery Ressler's Time Magazine piece, "The Secret of Success," exposes the book's purpose. He wrote, "The film's backers say they deliberately aimed to make "wealth enhancement" a major element of the project. "We desired to hit the masses, and money is the number one thing on the masses' minds," says Bob Rainone, a former IBM salesman and telcom exec who now serves as Byrne's U.S. business partner. Wealth enhancement is also part of *The Secret's* business plan." (Ressler)

- All roads lead to heaven

The New Age Movement teaches that no one religion is right and none are wrong, but that all have the answers because truth is subjective. Truth is what you want it to be. (This is why if a person desires to identify as a tiger he can be a tiger, it is his truth.). However, Jesus stated He is the Way, the Life, and the Truth. There is One Way, One Life, and One Truth. We may not like the One Way, One Truth, and One Life, but that does not change it. (John 14:6; Matthew 7:13; 2 Timothy 4:3)



The idea that there are no absolutes is extremely enticing in every generation. Some “cultural experts” call this phenomenon the cultural revolution, but every generation seems to experience this stage at some point - question and rebel against the status quo. “Live your truth?” The idea of creating our own truths can be tempting as it gives us the freedom to justify anything we do. For instance, if you are tired of having only one sexual partner even though you are married, you can justify it by creating your own truth that monogamy means your heart belongs to one person while your body can be open to many others. This way, you can avoid the inner conflict and excuse your actions. However, this may lead to moral and ethical concerns.

There is nothing godly about rejecting absolutes and one truth. “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) Jesus is the Truth, He is the only Way, and He is the Life. There is no option left in His Word for substitutions and personal truths. “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” (Isaiah 5:20) “No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” (Luke 16:13)

These verses teach that there is good and evil. Adam and Eve disobeyed by serving two opposing forces, which destroyed the concept of love and loyalty. There is only one road that leads to enlightenment and His name is Jesus!

Its Appeal and Influence among Christians

Karma! Good and bad **karma**. “**Karma** will get you in the end.” If you have ever heard these words understand they come from the New Age Movement. Unfortunately, many Christians either believe in **karma** or somehow participate in it indirectly. Karma is the relationship between a person's mental or physical action and the consequences following that action. Karma is also known as “bad juju,” “the evil eye,” “jinx,” and “what goes around comes around.” Another common karma-related concept is “no one leaves this world without paying for what they have done.”

Karma is only one area of New Age beliefs that many Christians hold to as a belief system. This does not mean Christians are abandoning their religious beliefs for New Age Spirituality beliefs, but it does mean that many Christians have bought into these ideas and beliefs in addition to Christianity. Many will say, “I’m not superstitious, but...” Or, “I don’t

believe in karma, but..." And, "I think the traffic gods were against me today because..." Whether these things are said flippantly or not, these beliefs are at the heart of the New Age Movement.

Six-in-ten Christians, 'nones' hold at least one New Age belief

	Believe spiritual energy can be located in physical things	Believe in psychics	Believe in reincarnation	Believe in astrology	NET Believe in at least one
All U.S. adults	42%	41%	33%	29%	62%
Christian	37	40	29	26	61
Protestant	32	38	26	24	57
Evangelical	24	33	19	18	47
Mainline	43	44	33	30	67
Historically black	41	43	38	34	72
Catholic	47	46	36	33	70
Unaffiliated	47	40	38	32	62
Atheist	13	10	7	3	22
Agnostic	40	31	28	18	56
Nothing in particular	61	52	51	47	78

Source: Survey conducted Dec. 4-18, 2017, among U.S. adults.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Ouija Boards have been a staple among teens as a fun and "innocent" game. Many people see Ouija boards as harmless entertainment. Others believe Ouija boards are magic tools, portals to other dimensions, or divining oracles that allow spirits of the dead to communicate with the living. They are often considered to be communication gateways to those who have "passed over," and those who sit around a Ouija board are participating in a séance. Of course, this is based on the supposition that spirits, or ghosts, exist in the first place and that they can, or even want to, communicate with the world of the living. The number of young Christians engaging in playing with the Ouija boards has increased tremendously.

Movies:

Disney - It is worth considering how New Age occultism is being marketed to children, particularly in light of **Hitler's quote, "He alone, who owns the youth, gains the future"** (Hitler, 1935). The promotion of occultism to children can be seen in various media, such as movies, TV shows, books and video games. However, the earliest promoter of this theme was

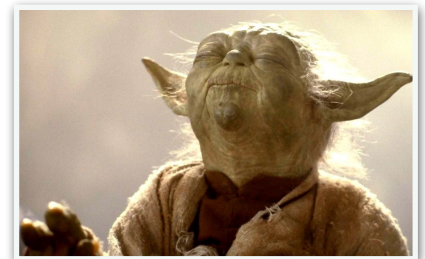


Disney. In the 1937 movie "Snow White," magic was used as a major theme in the storyline, and it has continued to be a recurring theme in many of Disney's cartoons, along with the supernatural portrayal of talking animals. In fact, Disney's tagline is "The Magic Kingdom." It is important to note that the Bible strongly condemns witchcraft in several places. Therefore, even though it may be popular with many Christians, Disney does not promote a Christian worldview and, in fact, promotes a New Age worldview.

How popular is Disney? In addition to the fantasy-based animation, Disney was a groundbreaker in the 1950s by having a theme park as a travel destination for families. This shows that a Disney animation is not just a onetime event to view on a movie screen, but families can embrace the "Magic Kingdom" by spending their family vacations immersing children in the "magic" experience to continue the fantasy. During opening year in 1955, Disney had its one-millionth visitor. By 1965, 50 million have visited. (Parker)

"Disney magic is even more elusive. Some say it is in the attractions, some say it is in the atmosphere, and some credit the can-do attitude of the Cast Members. But nearly everyone who visits the parks agrees: The magic is there; they just can't quite put their finger on where. And like the magician, Disney's magic also lies in the slight of hand, the hidden detail." (Veness)

Star Wars - Howe and Geisler in their book *The Religion of the Force* wrote; "We say that the Force best fits a conceptual model of God that is "mostly **pantheistic**" (in which all that is real is part of God) because many of the truth claims about the Force fit the **pantheistic** model well. One clear example of this can be heard when Obi Wan explained that the Force is, "an energy field created by all living things. It surrounds us, penetrates us. It binds the galaxy together." This fits the pantheistic and panentheistic models of God well. But we also recognize that George Lucas and his saga are highly syncretistic and not every claim about the Force fits one single model. Other religio-philosophical claims about the Force in Star Wars seem to have been influenced by elements from **Zoroastrian dualism, Manichean dualism, Taoism, Qigong, Prana, Zen Buddhism** and **Stoicism**. With some exceptions, many of these elements fit very naturally with **pantheism**." (Geisler & Howe 96)



Mega Churches and their Music:

Megachurches are growing at a rapid pace all over the Western World. Their business model is approaching smaller churches with an aging membership and offering them a dynamic speaker and financial security. Or as one NPR reporter noted, "You need a building, we need a pastor." (Neuman). They keep the older pastor, allow him to serve in a limited capacity until retirement, beam in the sermon

via television screens with a message from the main campus from a hip young pastor, and “rebirth the church” with young people. What’s the attraction? According to the NPR report, it’s the pillar and core beliefs (ibid):

- Grace wins
- **Truth is relative** (Here is the New Age Movement - ETR)⁹¹
- Positive preaching, no negative (Here is the New Age Movement - ETR)
- Church is fun
- The mix includes church barbecues, pizza, and movie nights
- Worship is to be loud and casual - people can wear flip-flops and drink coffee
- Do not compete with the world; put the timeless message of Jesus into new wineskins
- Steer clear of politics

Hillsong church⁹² and **Hillsong United** have made their mark in the world with their magic-like light show and 7-11 songs (7 words repeated 11 times). These groups have influenced millions of young people almost to the cult level - some have even categorized them as a cult. (Frishberg). The media has done the public a favor by being enamored with the Hillsong pastors, celebrities (Justin Bieber, Jay-Z, Kardashians, Selena Gómez, Hailey Baldwin, Nick Jonas, Kevin Durant, Laura Lents, Kyrie Irving, Tyson Chandler, Vanessa Hudgens, Chris Pratt, Bono, Hailee Steinfeld, and Joe Jonas) and reporting extensively on the goings - on to the point where the public know a lot more about the inner workings of the cult than Hillsong would like. For example, here are some of their most blatant New Age Movement/Spirituality teachings:

(Source: Church Watcher)⁹³

- Their Word of Faith heresy is straight from the New Age and metaphysical cult movements Byrne (The Secret : The 10th Anniversary Edition)
- Their secret Prosperity heresy and rites stem not from Christianity but from the New Age movement, witchcraft, and ancient pagan idolatry (around Abraham’s day)
- Their leadership and teaching model reflect gurus from Hindu sects and metaphysical cults (between the 19th and 20th centuries)

⁹¹ The Scriptures warn how people will not want to listen to accept God’s Message as He has delivered it. One way is that in the last day people will not be able to handle the sound (healthy medicine) doctrine and will look for teachers who will tell them what they want to hear. (2 Timothy 4:3-4; Isaiah 30:9-13). Paul warned in Romans 1:19ff that eventually people would want to become their own god’s by professing to know more than God and becoming. The result would be that God would turn us over to our own appetites and allow us to follow our own thoughts.

⁹² Hillsong’s Vision Sunday 2023: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9B6BC1S7A>. - Notice the bottle of Merlot wine on the center table along with the loaf of bread. The entire service is a production show from beginning to end, a pitch for money with the promise of prosperity. It is in line with NAM.

⁹³ Church Watcher. “The World Finally Seeing Hillsong as a New Age Cult.” *Church Watch Central*, 3 Aug. 2015, churchwatchcentral.com/2015/08/03/the-world-finally-seeing-hillsong-as-a-new-age-movement/. Accessed 2 Sept. 2023.

- The god they preach is more related to the Hindu deity who is unlimited and cannot be limited, compared to the Christian God who is limited; (i.e. God cannot lie, God cannot murder, etc).
- Their utopian and totalitarian ideology of church growth and community reflects the philosophies of the Volk and the Führerprinzip before Nazi Germany (visionary leadership)
- Their worship reflects the ideas of ancient Greece and their pagan festivals, believing the experiences they create are glimpses into the divine (a form of pagan mysticism/spiritism/gnosticism which Jesus spoke against)
- Their teaching on the Holy Spirit (the anointing) is more akin to the 'Third Eye' sense of the New Age movement, a teaching that bypasses the mind and calls things that are not physical into being or seeing into the future⁹⁴
- their teaching on purpose and destiny reflects New Age and Buddhist thought on self-actualisation/enlightenment philosophies.
- their general teachings reflecting not Christianity but the world's latest ideas repackaged, twisting the Christian bible to sell the idea where Hillsong needs to go (see their Vision Sunday broadcasts)

These megachurches along with their music have had an influence on many Christians. Their money and influence has been funneled into the movie industry in some form and fashion - either by financing in part or by publicly endorsing and encoring the membership to attend certain movie debuts. For example, the 2017 movie *The Shack* has at least thirteen New Age Movement themes and Joel Houston, Hillsong UNITED worship leader who writes a lot of Hillsong worship songs and is a major influence on many churches with his worship music said in a recorded video:

"... The reason I believe the people need to see this film, why 'The Shack' is perfect for right now, is because people are searching for something real. And something true. And something that is, uh, more substantial, more valuable, um, than all the noise there is, um. There is something beautiful that this film does and it's been a pretty amazing experience, just to be able to participate in it. Just want to encourage you, um, you need to see 'The Shack' and I don't say that lightly.

There's a million films that you can go see. But if there's one film you see this year, it needs to be 'The Shack' because not only is it a beautiful story, I believe that it helps people see why they're here, what they're made for and has the potential to change your life. I believe it will. Get out and see it."

⁹⁴ The third eye, also known as Ajna chakra, is an invisible eye usually located on the forehead. It's power is to boost perception of things that can't be seen by your eyes. This mystical eye is part of what is called "the subtle body," which means that while it can't be seen, it's considered an important force in governing how prana (energy) moves within the body. It is one of the seven chakras in Hindu tradition.

(Source: Joel Houston, Hillsong United on The Shack, YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hG-LgEEYF3Q>, Uploaded by [Atlantic Records](#) 28/02/2017. (Accessed 17/03/2017.))

THIRTEEN HERESIES IN THE SHACK



The image shows a church service in progress. A large screen at the front of the sanctuary displays a winter scene with a small house and a figure, with the text "THE HERESY" below it. The audience is seated in the foreground, facing the stage. Below the screen, a list of 13 heresies is presented in two columns.

1. GOD THE FATHER WAS CRUCIFIED WITH JESUS.
2. GOD IS LIMITED BY HIS LOVE AND THEREFORE CANNOT PRACTICE JUSTICE.
3. GOD FORGAVE ALL OF HUMANITY, WHETHER THEY REPENT OR NOT.
4. ALL HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURES ARE EVIL.
5. GOD WILL NEVER JUDGE PEOPLE FOR THEIR SINS.
6. THE GODHEAD HAS NO HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE, JUST A CIRCLE OF UNITY.
7. GOD SUBMITS TO HUMAN WISHES AND CHOICES.
8. JUSTICE WILL NEVER TAKE PLACE BECAUSE OF LOVE.
9. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS ETERNAL JUDGMENT OR TORMENT IN HELL.
10. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH WAY YOU GET TO GOD, JESUS IS WALKING WITH ALL PEOPLE IN THEIR DIFFERENT JOURNEYS.
11. JESUS IS CONSTANTLY BEING TRANSFORMED ALONG WITH US.
12. EVERYONE WILL MAKE IT TO HEAVEN.
13. THE BIBLE IS NOT TRUE BECAUSE IT REDUCES GOD TO PAPER.



NOTE to teachers: This short video documentary is an excellent resource that helps understand the origin and direction of NAM.

<http://youtu.be/yyktccr5apU?si=9YYLBvpsoaNCrO2x>

The Dark World of New Age Gurus | Documentary



CHAPTER 11

NAM

NEW AGE SPIRITUALITY



1 YOUR TURN

Have you ever used a Ouija board, tarot cards, numerology, astrology, or had your fortune told? Why do you think these things are so attractive to people, especially to children?

2 SEE IT?

Whatever people may call the New Age Movement, it is everywhere. Where have you seen it? Do you think it is dangerous? Why or why not?

3 OBSERVE

Over the course of the next few days be aware of T.V. commercials, shows, movies and other media. Write down and discuss anything you noticed that promotes NAM.

4 ATTRACTIVE

NAM is very attractive to many people. What parts of New Age seem attractive to you, and why? What parts of NAM sound like biblical truth?

Examples:

Law of Attraction -

- Faith of a mustard seed. If you had enough faith you would get whatever you wanted.
- If you are sick you need to pray with the faith and conviction that God will heal you, but if you pray with doubt don't expect God to hear you.

5 JESUS WRAP

In what ways has Jesus been used as a generic-go-to-one-size-fits-all Christmas wrap to make people soothe their consciences without making a moral change? And, have you done the same thing?

Examples:

All roads lead to heaven-

- There is no way God will send anyone to hell.
- We can't judge anyone, God is the only one who can judge.
- God is love and He understands and accepts my lifestyle.
- God is everywhere and God is everything, therefore no matter where I am He is commune.





CHAPTER 11

NAM

NEW AGE SPIRITUALITY



1 NEW MATH

Why do you think people believe they need to add crystals, tarot cards, seances, etc, to see their spiritual paths more clearly? How would you explain to your teenage child that using anything but the Bible will be disastrous?

Warning: Saying something like, "Don't do it because it's wrong," won't cut it with your teen. Your response has to be LOGICAL and it needs to make sense, a lot more logical than what their peers and the world is offering them.

2 WORDS

Define in your own words: New Age

3 WORDS

Define in your own words: Occult

4 WORDS

Define in your own words: Mysticism

5 WORDS

Define in your own words: Theism





CHAPTER 11

NAM NEW AGE SPIRITUALITY



1 WORDS

Define in your own words: Monism

2 WORDS

Define in your own words: Pantheism

3 WORDS

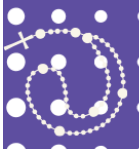
Define in your own words: Christ consciousness

4 WORDS

Define in your own words: Law of Attraction

5 WORDS

Define in your own words: Self-Dedication





CHAPTER 11

NAM

NEW AGE SPIRITUALITY



1 SELF-HELP

There is nothing wrong in "knowing yourself." According to NAM, our challenge is that we don't know ourselves well enough, and our problems can be overcome when we fully understand our true natures and reclaim our identities.

In what ways have you noticed an overemphasis on "knowing yourself" creeping into the church?

Example: Meditating, yoga...[nothing wrong with these things...]

2 WORDS

What is NAM? Explain the acronym and define a few of its influences.

3 POP CULTURE

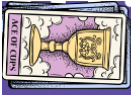
What are some examples of New Age/Ne Spirituality that are present in Pop Culture?

4 CLAIM IT

Popular Pastors teach the "Claim it" philosophy, why is that wrong? Or is it wrong?

5 LISTEN

NAM in the church teaches one needs to empty the mind (meditate) and simply listen to the Holy Spirit, write down what He says, and then "just do it." Is this Biblical? Is this sound advice? Why or why not?





CHAPTER 11

NAM

NEW AGE SPIRITUALITY



1

I'm god

New spirituality teaches that individuals are either an extension of God or gods themselves. What draws people to this idea?

2

DESCRIBE

Pantheism

3

DESCRIBE

Divinity of all mankind

4

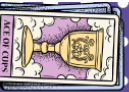
DESCRIBE

Relativism

5

DESCRIBE

Meditation





CHAPTER 11

NAM

NEW AGE SPIRITUALITY



1

Creation

How does creation point us towards God? (Romans 1:19-20)

2

DIFFERENCE?

Is there any difference (if so what is the difference) between "God created," and God is creation?

3

TR/UTH

Is there half truth in pantheism?
What is it?

4

TR/UTH

Is there half truth in divinity of all mankind?
What is it?

Examples:

- 2 Timothy 1:14
- Ephesians 2:22
- Ephesians 3:17
- Colossians 1:27
- Hebrews 3:6
- 1 Corinthians 3:16
- 1 John 4:12

5

TR/UTH

Is there half truth in meditation?
What is it?





CHAPTER 11

NAM

NEW AGE SPIRITUALITY



1

..0000M

2

WARNING

3

CASE STUDY

Transcendental Meditation aims to empty one's mind or turn off lucid thought by focusing on a phrase or word (a mantra) until rational discernment dissolves and the individual becomes a passive receptor for the spiritual realm. How is this different from biblical meditation as described in the following verses

- Psalm 1:1-2

- Psalm 7:7-12

- Philippians 4:8

What warning does the Bible give us about seeking spiritual direction outside the Bible?

See: 2 Corinthians 11:14;
1 Timothy 4:1

Your daughter is a strong Christian. She tells you that after fasting and praying, she asked to hear from the Lord and received answers by engaging in automatic writing (automatic writing is where a person is not writing their own conscious thoughts, but allowing their hand to write supposedly subconscious thoughts or thoughts channeled from the spiritual realm). Your daughter's writing includes all sorts of Bible verses backing up the statements, but also contains several themes that contradict with Scripture in its full context. She is certain that because she asked to hear from the Lord, everything she wrote is from Him. How do you respond? (By the way, this is based on a true story.) (Ferrer, Hillary Morgan. *Mama Bear Apologetics: Empowering Your Kids to Challenge Cultural Lies* (pp. 134-135). Harvest House Publishers.)





CHAPTER 11

NAM

NEW AGE SPIRITUALITY



1 Bible

Explain

2 Timothy 4:3-4—"The time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths."

2 BIBLE

Explain

John 8:23—"He said to them, 'You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.'"

3 BIBLE

Explain

John 8:23—"He said to them, 'You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.'"

4 BIBLE

5 BIBLE



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- All that an individual needs in order to experience Christ Consciousness is the will and capacity to receive it, an open mind and dedication to any spiritual practice.
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"That conversation I have not seen in a published text," Levin said.

Levin plans to have LGBTQ curriculum material for the ninth-grade wellness class this year, and she's working on gathering material for the middle school level.

To add diversity to classroom libraries, the district recently sent a flyer to Easthampton parents with a list of books the district would like to receive as gifts this holiday season. The list includes "Branded by the Pink Triangle," by Ken Setterington, about homosexuals in Nazi Germany, as well as other books by Asian, American Indian and Latino authors..

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teach kids about being transgender, one is an illustrated book on whiteness. A fourth book, which led to the district's review, graphically describes a sex act between two ten-year-old boys. It was found in two elementary school libraries.

"These books should not be removed from the libraries. They should be put back in circulation. Our students deserve these different voices and different perspectives," said one parent who spoke at a Dec. 13 school board meeting..

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as God initiated some processes and accelerated others to bring about His judgment of the world. Creation and the Flood were rejected for philosophical/religious reasons, not because of anything Lyell and Hutton saw in the rocks and fossils. By the 1840s, Lyell's view became the ruling paradigm in geology.

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I have felt the presence of God so strongly in Hindu worship and in Zen meditation that I cannot help but hold pluralistic beliefs. It is so clear to me that Christianity, Buddhism, and Hinduism are all legitimate paths to experience of the ultimate that I naturally want to extend the same respect towards other religions. I have developed a trust that other people's attempts to worship and encounter the divine spring from a source of goodness within themselves. Clearly not all people who feel a longing for the holy are ultimately able to act in moral ways, at least not all the time, but the longing itself remains a seed of goodness within them.

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The Bible has no meaning if we cannot know what it teaches. There would be no reason to study, learn, live, preach and defend the truth. However, the Bible states that it should be studied, learned, lived, preached, and defended (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:7; Phil. 1:27; 2:12-16; Mat. 5:16; Jude 3). To teach otherwise is to teach error. And, it is the teaching of error that makes one a false teacher. .

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Burtwell interviewing Lennox

00;00;04;00 - 00;00;24;23

Burtwell

The late Stephen Hawking once commented, Because there is such a law as gravity, the universe can and will create itself from nothing. And you famously responded in, I hope I quote you right on this job. That nonsense remains nonsense. Even when talked by World famous scientists. Please, could you explain the meaning and context behind this exchange?

00;00;25;07 - 00;00;56;14

Lennox

Well, the context is exactly what you quoted Stephen Hawking statement and sheer nonsense. Because there is a law like gravity, the universe can and will create itself from nothing. Because there is a law, because there is something the universe will create

itself from nothing. That is a flat contradiction. Anybody? Way of thinking. But that's only the start. The universe will create itself.

00;00;56;19 - 00;01;25;14

Lennox

What does that mean? You have how you say that X creates Y. I mean, roughly speaking, that if you've got X, you'll get y. If I say X creates X, well, that simply means that nonsense remains nonsense. Talking about that is utter nonsense. And many people have actually pointed that out, not only Christian thinkers like like myself. It is sheer nonsense.

00;01;25;26 - 00;01;52;00

Speaker 2

And then there's another confusion in there, a third one, because there is a law like gravity. He doesn't say because gravity exists. He may mean that, of course, but I think the hand that their lies another massive confusion of thought that laws are creative, which are not. No. Newton's laws of motion never moved to billiard ball in the history of the universe.

00;01;52;00 - 00;02;20;01

Speaker 2

People were keys to that. The laws describe the motion and that's a problem. And Hawking said that elsewhere that he imagined and Paul DAVIES does the same, that there was a law that created things. But laws are not creative, they're not causes. So here is philosophical idiocy, and that is why I say nonsense remains nonsense. Even a famous scientist talk.

00;02;20;12 - 00;02;28;15

Lennox

Even if it doesn't, it doesn't stop it being nonsense. Yeah. Do you know Stephen.

00;02;28;15 - 00;02;34;26

Speaker 1

Hawking kind of posited where the law of gravity would have existed prior to the creation of spacetime and matter to.

00;02;34;27 - 00;03;10;00

Lennox

You now know that the great problem for many of these physicists is that they are faced with the problem of the existence of a law like universe. Where does that come from? And they never really address that question as far as I can see. I just finished revising my book garden. Stephen Hawking In light of the fact that they died not long ago, and I reflected on that a bit more, but it seems to me that that remains a sticker, a real problem.

00;03;10;00 - 00;03;22;19

Lennox

The origin of the law, like nature of the universe that we can formulate in terms of mathematical equations. And so to me, that's the evidence of mind behind the universe.

Byrne, Rhonda. "Rhonda Byrne - Official Website of Author Rhonda Byrne." *Rhonda Byrne - Official Website of Author Rhonda Byrne*, 2 Sept. 2023, www.rhondabyrne.com. Accessed 2 Sept. 2023.

---. *The Secret : The 10th Anniversary Edition*. Atria Books ; Hillsboro, or, 2016.

C-Span. "Hearing on Impact of Plastic Pollution | C-SPAN.org." *Www.c-span.org*, 15 June 2023, www.c-span.org/video/?528770-1/hearing-impact-plastic-pollution. Accessed 20 June 2023. Senator Mark Mullins and Angelle Bradford student at Tulane University (In my dream world I would like to end all plastics manufacturing. 47:58).

Carey, Greg. "Self-Help and the Gospel." *HuffPost*, 6 Nov. 2013, www.huffpost.com/entry/selfhelp-and-the-gospel_b_4220149. Accessed 2 Jan. 2023.

Carr, Madeleine. "Exploring the Meaning of Worship." *Pepperdine Graphic*, 4 Feb. 2019, pepperdine-graphic.com/exploring-the-meaning-of-worship/#:~:text=Nonreligious%20worship&text=. Accessed 25 June 2023.

Carrier, Richard. *Sense and Goodness without God*. AuthorHouse, 2005. The universe has either always existed or had a purely natural origin, being neither created nor designed.

Either way, naturalists hold nature (rather than, say, God or Tao) to be the ground of all being. The popular Big Bang cosmology was developed within this assumption, proposing that the observable universe had a beginning, unfolding from a process of natural laws. But this does not resolve the question of whether all that exists began to exist at once or whether a being of some sort has always existed. Some naturalists propose a multiverse theory where it is thought that the observable universe is only part of a much larger whole. Citing the first law of thermodynamics, other naturalists propose that matter has always existed; matter, not the universe in its current state, exists eternally.

Carroll, Sean. *The Big Picture*. Penguin Publishing Group, 2016. There is just no such thing as God, or ghosts, or human souls that reside outside of the body. Everything in existence belongs to the natural world and is accessible to science, he argues. In his new book “The Big Picture: On the Origin of Life, Meaning, and the Universe Itself,” out this week from Dutton, Carroll describes a guiding philosophy along these lines that he calls poetic naturalism. It excludes a supernatural or spiritual realm but still allows plenty of room for life to have a purpose.

“I think we can bring ideas like meaning and morality into our discussions of the natural world,” Carroll says. “The ways that we talk about the universe are what make it meaningful.” He eloquently argues that point in his far-ranging book, which takes on the origins of consciousness, the likeliness of God based on a rigorous application of Bayesian probability statistics, and many other “big” questions that scientists are often loath to tackle..

Carter, Charles W., et al. *The Wesleyan Bible Commentary*. Hendrikson, 1986.

Chasmar, Jessica. “Dem Witness Tells House Committee Men Can Get Pregnant, Have Abortions.” *Fox News*, 18 May 2022, www.foxnews.com/politics/house-committee-witness-men-get-pregnant-have-abortions. Accessed 6 June 2023.

Choi, Charles Q., and Scott Duttfield. “7 Theories on the Origin of Life.” *Live Science*, Live Science, 24 Mar. 2016, www.livescience.com/13363-7-theories-origin-life.html.

Church Watcher. “The World Finally Seeing Hillsong as a New Age Cult.” *Church Watch Central*, 3 Aug. 2015, churchwatchcentral.com/2015/08/03/the-world-finally-seeing-hillsong-as-a-new-age-movement/. Accessed 2 Sept. 2023.

Copan, Paul. *True for You, but Not for Me : Deflating the Slogans That Leave Christians Speechless*. Bethany House Publishers, 1998.

Copan, Paul, and William Lane Craig. *Contending with Christianity's Critics : Answering New Atheists & Other Objectors*. B & H Academic, 2009. Dawkins's Delusion, Confronting Naturalism: The Argument from Reason.

Copan, Paul, and William Lane Craig. *Come Let Us Reason*. B&H Publishing Group, 2012.

Coppenger, Mark. *Moral Apologetics for Contemporary Christians*. B & H Publishing Group, 2011. Have Christians grown accustomed to those who defame the Church? Whether it's a best-selling author who claims "religion poisons everything" or an atheist comedian whose punch lines aren't hassled by the burden of proof, foes of the faith continue to declare Christianity morally deficient without much resistance.

The greatest challenge to the life and witness of the church in our age is widespread moral confusion and denial of moral authority. This condition has been greatly influenced by a number of factors, including postmodern denial of objective truth, secularization of common life, pluralization of worldviews, and privatization of religion—all accompanied by growing hostility toward anything....

Cornelius Van Til, and William Edgar. *Christian Apologetics*. P & R Pub, 2003, ref.ly/logosres/cvtapolog?ref=Page.p+80&off=1967&ctx=f+will+may+lead+us.

It is of the greatest import to note that the natural man need not in the least object to the kind of authority that is involved in the idea of irrationalism. And that chiefly for two reasons. In the first place the irrationalism of our day is the direct lineal descendent of the rationalism of previous days. The idea of pure chance has been inherent in every form of non-Christian thought in the past. It is the only logical alternative to the position of Christianity according to which the plan of God is back of all. Both Plato and Aristotle were compelled to make room for it in their maturest thought. The pure "not-being" of the earliest rationalism of Greece was but the suppressed "otherness" of the final philosophy of Plato. .

Cowan, Steven B., and Terry L. Wilder. *In Defense of the Bible*. B & H Publishing Group, 2013.

HC stresses the human rather than the divine authorship of the Bible (though it does not necessarily deny divine inspiration) and seeks to discover the message that the original human author intended to communicate through the text to his original readers. Because of the human element in the origin of the Bible, practitioners of the historical critical method believe that it is appropriate to interpret the Bible like any other ancient

document. The interpreter must seek to understand the language of the text and its historical background in order to discover its original meaning.

D Douglas Hillyer, et al. *The Illustrated Bible Dictionary*. Interscience Press, 1998.

Delaney, Matt. "Activists Chant 'Coming for Your Children' during Drag Queen March in New York." *The Washington Times*, 25 June 2023, www.washingtontimes.com/news/2023/jun/25/activists-chant-coming-your-children-during-drag-q/. Accessed 1 July 2023.

Dill, K. A., and L. Agozzino. "Driving Forces in the Origins of Life." *Open Biology*, vol. 11, no. 2, Feb. 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsob.200324>. Abiogenesis by way of hydrothermal vents continues to be investigated as a plausible cause of life on Earth. In 2019, scientists at University College London (opens in new tab), successfully created protocells (non-living structures that help scientists understand the origins of life) under similar hot, alkaline environmental conditions to hydrothermal vents.

Dmitri Antonovich Volkogonov. *Stalin : Triumph and Tragedy*. Phoenix, 2003.

Dotson, Quinnie. *Appalachian Truths*. Interview by Ed Rangel, 2001. The truth will stand when the world is on fire.

Driscoll, Mark. *New Days, Old Demons: Ancient Paganism Masquerading as Progressive Christianity*. Real Faith , 2023.

Dunn, Lily. "What Is the New Age Movement?" *Explore God*, 2023, www.exploregod.com/articles/what-is-the-new-age-movement.

Dunphy, John J. "A Religion for a New Age." *Medium*, 17 Oct. 2020, johnjdunphy.medium.com/a-religion-for-a-new-age-f812839c4cb8. I am convinced that the battle for humankind's future must be waged and won in the public school classroom by teachers who correctly perceive their role as the proselytizers of a new faith: a religion of humanity that recognizes and respects the spark of what theologians call divinity in every human being. These teachers must embody the same selfless dedication as the most rabid fundamentalist preachers, for they will be ministers of another sort, utilizing a classroom instead of a pulpit to convey humanists values in whatever subject they teach, regardless of the educational level — preschool day care or large state university. The classroom must and will become an arena of conflict between the old and the new — the rotting corpse of Christianity, together with all its adjacent evils and misery, and the new faith of humanism, resplendent in its promise of a world in which the never-realized Christian ideal of "love thy neighbor" will finally be achieved..

Durant, Will. *The Complete Story of Civilization : Our Oriental Heritage, Life of Greece, Caesar and Christ, Age of Faith, Renaissance, Age of Reason Begins, Age of Louis XIV, Age of Voltaire, Rousseau and Revolution, Age of Napoleon, Reformation*. Simon & Schuster, 2014. How do we arrive at objective truth, particularly when it comes to moral issues? The historians Will and Ariel Durant wrote the award-winning *The History of Civilization* (1976), from which they concluded in another book, *The Lessons of History* (p. 50-51), “There is no significant example in history, before our time, of a society successfully maintaining moral life without the aid of religion.” The essence of this religious contribution to formulating an objective moral code is found in The Decalogue (The 10 Commandments), which includes prohibitions against murder, adultery, bearing false testimony, and stealing, for example. .

Ecker, Emma. “Breaking down Global Estimates of Human Trafficking: Human Trafficking Awareness Month 2022 | Human Trafficking Institute.” *Human Trafficking Institute*, 12 Jan. 2022, traffickinginstitute.org/breaking-down-global-estimates-of-human-trafficking-human-trafficking-awareness-month-2022/. 24.9 million victims of human trafficking
The ILO estimates there were 24.9 million victims of human trafficking around the world. The report uses the term “forced labour” to describe the forms of exploitation commonly referred to as human trafficking in the United States and other nations. The 24.9 million figure includes both sex trafficking, or commercial sexual exploitation, and forced labor exploitation, both in the private sector and state-imposed. .

Editors - Pride Month. “Pride Month.” *Wikipedia*, 19 June 2023, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pride_Month#:~:text=LGBT%20Pride%20Month%20is%20a. Accessed 20 June 2023. n June 1999, U.S. President Bill Clinton declared “the anniversary of [the] Stonewall [riots] every June in America as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month”.^[10] In 2011, President Barack Obama expanded the officially recognized Pride Month to include the whole of the LGBT community.^{[10][11]} In 2017, however, Donald Trump declined to continue the federal recognition of Pride Month in the United States,^[12] though he later recognized it in 2019 in a Tweet later used as a Presidential Proclamation.^[13] After taking office in 2021, Joe Biden recognized Pride Month and vowed to push for LGBT rights in the United States, ^[14] despite previously voting against same-sex marriage and school education of LGBT topics in the Senate.^[15]

In addition, Pride Month is often observed in several LGBT-affirming religious congregations..

Edwards, David. "Restrooms and Facilities." *Gender Inclusive Schools*, 20 June 2023, www.genderinclusiveschools.org/restrooms-transgender-student-policy. Accessed 20 June 2023.

Ellis, George, and Joe Silk. "Scientific Method: Defend the Integrity of Physics." *Nature News*, vol. 516, no. 7531, Dec. 2014, p. 321, <https://doi.org/10.1038/516321a>. The multiverse is motivated by a puzzle: why fundamental constants of nature, such as the fine-structure constant that characterizes the strength of electromagnetic interactions between particles and the cosmological constant associated with the acceleration of the expansion of the Universe, have values that lie in the small range that allows life to exist. Multiverse theory claims that there are billions of unobservable sister universes out there in which all possible values of these constants can occur. So somewhere there will be a bio-friendly universe like ours, however improbable that is.

Evans, Jeremy A., and Daniel Heimbach. *Taking Christian Moral Thought Seriously*. B&H Publishing Group, 2011.

Ferrer, Hillary Morgan. *Mama Bear Apologetics : [Empowering Your Kids to Challenge Cultural Lies]*. Harvest House Publishers, 2019.

FOCLOnline. "What Problems Does Naturalism Have in Explaining Life?" *Www.youtube.com*, FOCLOnline, 28 Aug. 2014, www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgzoN5WyPOc. Accessed 17 Apr. 2023. Greg Koukl, Founder and President of Stand to Reason, answers questions related to his evening plenary address, "Naturalism: Bumping into Reality," from the 2014 European Leadership Forum.

Complete Interview Transcript as delivered:

"I think Christian theists have a tremendous advantage over naturalists because theism has explanatory power. That is, when you look at the particular details of the Christian worldview, you can see how they fit the way the world actually is. There's an explanation there. This, by the way, this this fit between a point of view and the way the world is, is the classical definition of truth. When your claim fits the world, that's a true claim.

All right. So I'm just I'm talking here about now the truth of Christianity. There's a fit there. It has explanatory power in a way that naturalism does not have. All right. So

when you think about naturalist bumping into reality, what are some of those bumps?

What are those Some of those things that they can't explain that we can explain? What about stuff? Stuff. The world is filled with stuff. There's all kinds of stuff in the world. Where did everything come from? What a lot of stuff come from?

Well, what caused the beginning of the universe? Now, when we can, nobody seems to believe. And I think this is pretty sound now in terms of physics, that the universe was eternal. Everybody is pretty convinced, skeptics alike, that the universe came into existence at some point in time, is called the Big Bang. Here's my question. What or who bang the big bang? Big Bang needs a big bangger.

Right. That's the cosmological argument in a nutshell. So did the Big bang bang itself? Well, that doesn't seem to make any sense. You know, things just don't come into existence out of nothing. That's not our experience. If my wife came home and saw a Mercedes Benz SL in the garage and asked me where it came from, it wouldn't probably be very persuasive if I said. Just popped into existence Sunny with the keys in the ignition and my name on the license plate. I don't know where it came from. Those things happen, you know. Of course. No, those things don't happen. It doesn't make any sense. In answering the question what caused the universe it incidentally, you have one of two choices. Something or nothing. That's it. Something or nothing? It doesn't make any sense to say nothing because things don't just pop into the universe like that caused out of nothing.

This is it. Even if one were to argue, Well, it's possible on a quantum level or something like that. Look at what's the odds on favorite. The odds on favorite is the Mercedes Benz didn't just this was not a quantum event. You know it was the odds on favorite is something or someone is responsible for that and the same answer applies to the cosmos. Something or someone, at least in principle. But it's got to be a what caused that is adequate to the effect.

And when you look at what would be adequate to the effect, the beginning of the universe, it's going to be something powerful, something really smart, something who is

an agent. So there's a person, not a thing. And the reasons for these things, but certainly not nothing now. So for the bump up stuff, how do you explain stuff the the naturalist can't explain? It has no resources to explain it. The only thing you can say is everything came from nothing, which is patently ridiculous. It's worse than magic and magic. You have a you have a magician pulling a rabbit out of the hat, and in this case, there's no hat and there's no magician, just a rabbit coming out. So this is this is not. But the theist can offer a rational explanation.

What about what about the problem of evil? Naturalists can't raise the problem of evil because they have no way of making sense of good and evil. They do raise it all the time, but it doesn't fit their worldview or evolution. Is it going to be able to account for for real evil in the world? Because all evolution can do, if I can do anything, is give us relativistic evil, what people think are evil because their genes have evolved this way to trick them so that they survive better. But evolution can never make an action like rape evil in itself. But that is the objection, isn't it? How could God allow evil out there? Things that are evil in themselves that requires objective evil? Naturalism can't provide objective evil. We can show on the big issues. Where did everything come from or why is there a problem of evil? We have the resources to make sense of those questions and to answer those questions. Naturalists can't even get off the ground."

Forbes Breaking News. "Do You Believe That Men Can Become Pregnant?": Dan Bishop Questions Pro-Choice House Witnesses." *YouTube*, 20 May 2022, www.youtube.com/watch?v=LudP6s_Is0k. Accessed 24 Oct. 2022.

Frederick Fyvie Bruce. *The New Testament Documents : Are They Reliable?* Eerdmans ; Downers Grove, Ill, 2003.

Friedrich Schleiermacher. *On Religion*. Franklin Classics, 2018.

Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche. *Anti-Christ*. Cosimo Classics, 2019.

Frishberg, Hannah. "'It's a Cult': Ex-Hillsong Members Claim Church Demanded 'Slave Labor.'" *New York Post*, 23 Dec. 2020, nypost.com/2020/12/23/ex-hillsong-members-claim-church-is-cult-with-slave-labor/.

Garland, David E., et al. *Acts*. Baker Books, 2017.

Gecewicz, Claire. "New Age Beliefs Common among Both Religious and Nonreligious Americans." *Pew Research Center*, 1 Oct. 2018, www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/

2018/10/01/new-age-beliefs-common-among-both-religious-and-nonreligious-americans/.

Geisler, Norman. "The Apologetics of Jesus: Survey and Significance." *Journal of the International Society of Christian Apologetics*, vol. 11, The Theological Studies, 2018.

Geisler, Norman L. *I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*. Crossway Books, 2021. 84 specific details documented by classical scholar and historian Colin Hemer. And these occur just in the last 16 chapters of the Book of Acts. They include the names of people, places, and other details that have been confirmed by history and archeology.

Likewise, the Gospel of John contains 59 confirmed details. None of them are the kind of detail someone would fabricate. And there is no other set of ancient manuscripts that contain this level of historically verifiable authenticity.

Gilliland, Douglas. *The Naturalist Philosophy of Stephen W. Hawking*. douglasgilliland.com/faith/seminary/GodTalkHawking.PDF. Accessed 23 Jan. 2023.

Glanzberg, Michael. "Truth." *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, edited by Edward N. Zalta, June 2006, plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2021/entries/truth/. Metaphysics Research Lab, Stanford University. Accessed 17 Dec. 2022. Truth is one of the central subjects in philosophy. It is also one of the largest. Truth has been a topic of discussion in its own right for thousands of years. Moreover, a huge variety of issues in philosophy relate to truth, either by relying on theses about truth, or implying theses about truth. It would be impossible to survey all there is to say about truth in any coherent way.

Gotquestions Editors. "How Many Prophecies Did Jesus Fulfill?" *GotQuestions.org*, 24 Jan. 2022, www.gotquestions.org/prophecies-of-Jesus.html. See list at source.

Gowan, Donald E. *When Man Becomes God*. Wipf and Stock Publishers, 1975.

Grasso, Christopher. "Skepticism and American Faith: Infidels, Converts, and Religious Doubt in the Early Nineteenth Century." *Journal of the Early Republic*, vol. 22, no. 3, 2002, p. 465, <https://doi.org/10.2307/3124812>. Accessed 9 Dec. 2019.

Gray, Freddy. "Why Progressives Can't Tolerate Christians." *The Spectator*, 10 May 2022, www.spectator.co.uk/article/the-progressive-war-on-christianity/. Accessed 24 June 2023.

Groothuis, Douglas R. *Truth Decay : Defending Christianity against the Challenges of Postmodernism*. IVP Books, an Imprint of InterVarsity Press, 2000.

H Bavinck, et al. *Reformed Dogmatics / 1, Prolegomena / Herman Bavinck ; John Bolt, General Ed. ; John Vriend, Transl. [from the Dutch]*. Baker Academic, Cop, 2003.

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H. Wayne House, and Dennis W. Jowers. *Reasons for Our Hope*. B&H Publishing Group, 2011.

Another factor must be considered. Western culture is rapidly becoming biblically illiterate, so that quoting a text of Scripture is not immediately believed or even recognized. As Craig Hazen says:

In years past it was not unusual that a believer could quote the Bible or “preach the Word” and have a good chance of engendering respect and perhaps deep reflection on the part of the unbeliever. This was possible because the Bible still carried significant cultural authority. An unbeliever would be likely to consider its words because there was a widespread recognition that the Bible was at the foundation of western civilization and brought wise counsel on many issues—even if the whole text was not considered true or without error by the skeptical recipient. Those days, however, are gone. There is a better than ever chance today that a person will actually consider you immoral for quoting the Bible because the Bible is often viewed, inappropriately of course, as misogynist, racist, violent, religiously exclusive and the basis for much of the conflict in our world.⁶²

When Jesus spoke to a crowd of Jewish people, they shared belief in the Old Testament. When Peter spoke to the Jews on the Day of Pentecost, it was the same. When Paul spoke in the synagogues of the Jews, there was no debate on authority. However, when Paul came before pagans who had no knowledge of Scripture, he used another approach. He started from where they were and moved to the gospel..

Harris, Tom. “How Nirvana Works.” *HowStuffWorks*, 9 July 2002, science.howstuffworks.com/science-vs-myth/extrasensory-perceptions/nirvana3.htm. Accessed 29 Aug. 2023.

Hawking, Stephen. *Black Holes and Baby Universes*. Bantam, 2011.

Hawking, Stephen, and Leonard Mlodinow. *The Grand Design*. Random House Publishing Group, 2010. “Because there is a law such as gravity, the Universe can and will create itself from nothing. Spontaneous creation is the reason there is something rather than nothing, why the Universe exists, why we exist. It is not necessary to invoke God to ... set the Universe going.” .

- Hawley, J. "New Age." *Apologetics*, 30 Mar. 2016, www.namb.net/apologetics/resource/new-age/.
- Hemer, Colin J. *Book of Acts in the Setting of Hellenistic History*. Eisenbrauns, 2016.
- Heritage, Stuart. "Of Trigger Warnings, Safe Spaces and Snowflakes." *Men's Health*, 25 Oct. 2021, www.menshealth.com/uk/mental-strength/a38051454/do-you-speak-woke-a-glossary-of-the-terms-you-need-to-know/. Accessed 14 June 2023.
- Hick, John, and Paul F. Knitter. *The Myth of Christian Uniqueness : Toward a Pluralistic Theology of Religions*. Wipf & Stock, 2005.
- Howe, Richard, and Norman Geisler. *The Religion of the Force*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016.
- Ignace Demaerel. *95 Theses on Humanism*. Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2018.
- Impact Apologetics. "Why We Know the New Testament Writers Told the Truth (DVD)." *Impact Apologetics*, 2011, impactapologetics.com/why-we-know-the-new-testament-writers-told-the-truth-dvd/. Accessed 18 May 2023.
- Imre Lakatos, et al. *For and against Method : Including Lakatos's Lectures on Scientific Method and the Lakatos-Feyerabend Correspondence*. University of Chicago Press, 2008.
- Radical/Hyper Skepticism.
- Institute, Christian Research. "#Witchtok-Sorcery at Your Fingertips." *Christian Research Institute*, 17 June 2023, www.equip.org/articles/witchtok-sorcery-at-your-fingertips/. Accessed 24 Aug. 2023.
- McGrath, A., & McGrath, J. C. (2007). *The Dawkins Delusion?: Atheist Fundamentalism and the Denial of the Divine*. SPCK.
- Needham, J. P. (1985). An Overview Sound the Alarm—Threats of Humanism. In M. D. Curry (Ed.), *Humanism: Devotion to Man*. Florida College Bookstore. Humanism is defined as, "A philosophy that rejects supernaturalism (belief in God, JPN), regards man as a natural object, and asserts the essential dignity and worth of man and his capacity to achieve self-realization through the use of reason and scientific method—called also naturalistic humanism, scientific humanism. A religion subscribing to these beliefs; religious humanism."
- New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*. (1995). The Lockman Foundation.
- Petty, D. W., ed. (2008). *Challenges of Our Times: Some Answers for Young Christians*. Florida College Bookstore.

Purdy, R. A. (1998). Carl F. H. Henry. In W. A. Elwell (Ed.), *Handbook of Evangelical Theologians* (electronic ed., pp. 260–275). Baker Book House. The task of apologetics, therefore, is twofold: (1) to investigate and expose inconsistency in contrary positions, and (2) to demonstrate the consistency of the axioms of Christian revelation.

“Religion.” Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/religion>. Accessed 23 Jan. 2023.

Religious skepticism. (2023, March 15). In *Wikipedia*. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_skepticism)

Religious_skepticism Religious skepticism is a type of skepticism relating to religion. Religious skeptics question religious authority and are not necessarily anti-religious but skeptical of specific or all religious beliefs and/or practices. Socrates was one of the most prominent and first religious skeptics of whom there are records; he questioned the legitimacy of the beliefs of his time in the existence of the Greek gods. Religious skepticism is not the same as atheism or agnosticism, and some religious skeptics are deists (or theists who reject the prevailing organized religion they encounter, or even all organized religion). The word skeptic (sometimes sceptic) is derived from the middle French *sceptique* or the Latin *scepticus*, literally "sect of the sceptics". Its origin is in the Greek word *skeptikos*, meaning inquiring, which was used to refer to members of the Hellenistic philosophical school of Pyrrhonism, which doubted the possibility of knowledge.[1] As such, religious skepticism generally refers to doubting or questioning something about religion. Although, as noted by Schellenberg the term is sometimes more generally applied to anyone that has a negative view of religion.[2] The majority of skeptics are agnostics and atheists, but there are also a number of religious people that are skeptical of religion.[3] The religious are generally skeptical about claims of other religions, at least when the two denominations conflict concerning some stated belief. Some philosophers put forth the sheer diversity of religion as a justification for skepticism by theists and non-theists alike.[4] Theists are also generally skeptical of the claims put forth by atheists.[5]

Rogers, Kara. "meme". Encyclopedia Britannica, 12 May. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/meme>. Accessed 22 May 2023.

Sproul, R. C. (2009). *Can I Trust the Bible?* (Vol. 2). Reformation Trust Publishing. 1. God, who is Himself truth and speaks truth only, has inspired Holy Scripture in order thereby to reveal Himself to lost mankind through Jesus Christ as Creator and Lord, Redeemer and Judge. Holy Scripture is God's witness to Himself. 2. Holy Scripture, being God's

own Word, written by men prepared and superintended by His Spirit, is of infallible divine authority in all matters upon which it touches: it is to be believed, as God's instruction, in all that it affirms; obeyed, as God's command, in all that it requires; embraced, as God's pledge, in all that it promises. 3. The Holy Spirit, Scripture's divine author, both authenticates it to us by His inward witness and opens our minds to understand its meaning. 4. Being wholly and verbally God-given, Scripture is without error or fault in all its teaching, no less in what it states about God's acts in creation, about the events of world history, and about its own literary origins under God, than in its witness to God's saving grace in individual lives. 5. The authority of Scripture is inescapably impaired if this total divine inerrancy is in any way limited or disregarded, or made relative to a view of truth contrary to the Bible's own; and such lapses bring serious loss to both the individual and the church.

Stephen Parrish. *God and Necessity A Defense of Classical Theism* (Lanham, Maryland: University Press of America, 1997). 321 pp. Cloth. *Reviewed by Gary R. Habermas, Distinguished Professor of Apologetics and Philosophy, Liberty University.*

Strobel, L., & Mittelberg, M. (2018). *The case for christ daily moment of truth*. Zondervan.

Swain, Frank (2017). *The Universe Next Door: A Journey Through 55 Alternative Realities, Parallel Worlds and Possible Futures*. London: New Scientist. p. 12. The multiverse is a hypothetical group of multiple universes.[a] Together, these universes are presumed to comprise everything that exists: the entirety of space, time, matter, energy, information, and the physical laws and constants that describe them. The different universes within the multiverse are called "parallel universes", "other universes", "alternate universes", or "many worlds". One common assumption is that the multiverse is a "patchwork quilt of separate universes all bound by the same laws of physics."

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Velleius Paterculus." Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/biography/Velleius-Paterculus.

---. "Millennials Turning to Astrology, and Q&A." *Christian Research Institute*, 26 Oct. 2018, www.equip.org/broadcasts/millennials-turning-to-astrology-and-qa/. Accessed 24 Aug. 2023.

---. "What Is Wrong with Astrology?" *Christian Research Institute*, 30 Jan. 2023, www.equip.org/video/what-is-wrong-with-astrology-2/. Accessed 24 Aug. 2023.

---. "What Is Y-O-G-A?" *Christian Research Institute*, 2 July 2023, www.equip.org/bible_answers/what-is-y-o-g-a/. Accessed 24 Aug. 2023.

International Labour Organization. “50 Million People Worldwide in Modern Slavery.”

Wwww.ilo.org, 12 Sept. 2022, www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_855019/lang--en/index.htm. Fifty million people were living in modern slavery in 2021, according to the latest Global Estimates of Modern Slavery . Of these people, 28 million were in forced labour and 22 million were trapped in forced marriage.

The number of people in modern slavery has risen significantly in the last five years. 10 million more people were in modern slavery in 2021 compared to 2016 global estimates. Women and children remain disproportionately vulnerable.

Modern slavery occurs in almost every country in the world, and cuts across ethnic, cultural and religious lines. More than half (52 per cent) of all forced labour and a quarter of all forced marriages can be found in upper-middle income or high-income countries.

J. Warner Wallace. *God's Crime Scene*. David C Cook, 2015. The origin of life requires the emergence of pre-biotic molecules (amino acids and nucleotide bases). Where could this have happened? Could life have originated from “inside the room” of the natural universe? If so, where, and is there a better explanation for the origin of life “outside the room” of the universe? .

James Porter Moreland. *The Recalcitrant Imago Dei : Human Persons and the Failure of Naturalism*. Scm Press, 2009.

Jessop, Thomas Edmund, and Mariano David Cranston. “David Hume.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 9 May 2023, www.britannica.com/biography/David-Hume. Accessed 9 May 2023. On Skepticism: Hume tried to describe how the mind works in acquiring what is called knowledge. He concluded that no theory of reality is possible; there can be no knowledge of anything beyond experience.

Johnson, Dru, et al. *The Universal Story : Genesis 1-11*. Lexham Press, 2018. In the book *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be*, Cornelius Plantinga describes the creation account as a picture of peace. Peace goes by the word shalom in the Bible, which he roughly translates “the way it's supposed to be.” After humanity's failure in Eden and Israel's repeated failures in history, the prophets looked forward to an age to come—an age not decimated by what Plantinga calls the “vandalism of shalom.” Human trafficking, addictions, government corruption, cycles of poverty, parental craving for successful children, and all the unsightly features of humanity trade in the vandalism of shalom.

How did we get to this shattered earth mired by broken humans? The calamity in Eden tells the disastrous nature of subverting creation that contorts our bodies, our relationships, and the earth against us (Gen 3:16–19). When Israel’s prophets dream of a “new age,” they envisage an age to come ringing with the voice and timbre of old Eden—the way things are supposed to be. Indeed, all of history in the Bible recalls and retells the story of Eden. Deuteronomy portrays Israel’s entrance into the Promised Land as Edenic fruitfulness (Deut 28:1–14). And the final age, which the apostle John is shown in visions, is described as a renewed Eden and Jerusalem combined (Rev 21:9–22:5). Is it possible that Eden, or something akin to it, is our destination in the age to come? If so, then we ought to understand the basics of what went wrong in the first Eden. .

Johnson, Philip E. “Evolution as Dogma: The Establishment of Naturalism | Phillip E. Johnson.” *First Things*, Oct. 1990, www.firstthings.com/article/1990/10/evolution-as-dogma-the-establishment-of-naturalism. Accessed 17 Apr. 2023. The theory in question is a theory of naturalistic evolution, which means that it absolutely rules out any miraculous or supernatural intervention at any point. Everything is conclusively presumed to have happened through purely material mechanisms that are in principle accessible to scientific investigation, whether they have yet been discovered or not.

Occasionally, a scientist discouraged by the consistent failure of theories purporting to explain some problem like the first appearance of life will suggest that perhaps supernatural creation is a tenable hypothesis in this one instance. Sophisticated naturalists instantly recoil with horror, because they know that there is no way to tell God when he has to stop. If God created the first organism, then how do we know he didn’t do the same thing to produce all those animal groups that appear so suddenly in the Cambrian rocks? Given the existence of a designer ready and willing to do the work, why should we suppose that random mutations and natural selection are responsible for such marvels of engineering as the eye and the wing?

Jones, Stanton L., and Mark A. Yarhouse. *Homosexuality*. InterVarsity Press, 2009.

Justice, Tristan. “Planned Parenthood Teaches Public School Sex Ed in 16 States.” *The Federalist*, 7 Oct. 2022, thefederalist.com/2022/10/07/trans-hormone-profitier-planned-parenthood-teaches-public-school-sex-ed-in-16-states-including-red-idaho/. Accessed 5 June 2023. While the curriculum is designed for high school students, the state reported to the federal Department of Health and Human Services that kids as young as 12 are

being presented with the material.

All seven of Idaho's health districts have either recommended or implemented the controversial curriculum in local schools, according to the Idaho Freedom Foundation. Districts have also begun to promote links to additional resources including Power to Decide, where kids can find where to get an abortion. Other resources include links to where students learn to hide their browsing history from parents and explore polyamory.

Kelly, Stewart E. *Truth Considered and Applied*. B&H Publishing Group, 2011. Truth itself is seen (by many postmoderns) as a fundamentally exclusive notion in that the truthfulness of X seems to entail the falsity of $\neg X$. As a result, so the argument goes, all those who affirm $\neg X$ (the $\sim X$ ers, so to speak) are marginalized, excluded from the discussion, and viewed as epistemically (and perhaps morally) deficient. Beard was correct when he wrote, "Each historian who writes history is the product of his age."³⁴² History in particular and the pursuit of truth in general are seen as "a form of legislation: it [philosophy] does not say how reality is, but seeks to control it by interpreting it."³⁴³ Not only truth, but tradition and authority are also called into question.³⁴⁴ In theology those who aim toward religious unity "need to minimize the elements that set Christianity apart, especially those which claim a unique status—much of traditional Christology, for instance, disappears."³⁴⁵ J. Hick, for example, makes clear that claims surrounding the divinity of Jesus must be jettisoned in favor of the tolerance and the pluralism we find in the world today..

---. *Understanding Postmodernism : A Christian Perspective*. Intervarsity Press, 2017.

Kenyon, Frederic G. *Our Bible and the Ancient Manuscripts*. Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2011.

Kercheville, Brent. *Christian Fellowship - Romans 14:1-12*. westpalmbeachchurchofchrist.com/new-testament/romans/romans_14_1-12.html. Accessed 13 June 2023.

King, Rebekka. *The New Heretics*. NYU Press, 2023.

Kitchen, K. A. *On the Reliability of the Old Testament*. William B. Eerdmans, 2006.

Kolniak, Tina. "New Age Thinking Lured Me into Danger. Jesus Brought Relief."

ChristianityToday.com, 19 Apr. 2023, www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2023/mayjune/tina-kolniak-new-age-spiritual-danger-jesus.html. New Age spirituality feeds your ego by teaching that there is no right, no wrong, no objective truth—just a landscape of experiences that your soul goes through. It gives you false idols to worship, starting with yourself, teaching that you are always perfect where you are. It also teaches you to rely

on spiritual experiences rather than rationality.

Since coming to Jesus, I have shared the gospel despite ridicule or dismissal by self-professed “free thinkers” and educated intellectuals who believe they are beyond faith. I was once there, and my empathy runs deep for those who are lost in the same worldly delusions. My prayer is that the Holy Spirit would help them realize that New Age spirituality, with its egoistic focus and false promises of peace, is a dangerous replacement for our true savior, Jesus Christ..

Köstenberger, Andreas J., et al. *Truth Matters : Confident Faith in a Confusing World*. B & H Publishing Group, 2014.

Kosuth, Joseph. *One and Three Chairs*. Installation, 1965, www.moma.org/collection/works/81435. Museum of Modern Art, New York. Accessed 29 May 2023.

Kowalski, Dean A. *Classic Questions and Contemporary Film : An Introduction to Philosophy*. Wiley/ Blackwell, 2016. On Freewill: he doctrine of determinism flows logically and rationally from materialistic naturalism. Determinism is the view that every event that happens, including human choices, is caused to happen. Additionally, it means that what happens in the future could not have been different, given what has happened in the past.

CONCLUSION: If naturalism is incapable of accounting for 1) the creation of the universe and 2) our existence as free agents, then it is insufficient as a comprehensive worldview to explain the whole of reality.

Kragh, Helge. “Contemporary History of Cosmology and the Controversy over the Multiverse.” *Annals of Science*, vol. 66, no. 4, Oct. 2009, pp. 529–51, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00033790903047725>. Some physicists say the multiverse is not a legitimate topic of scientific inquiry. During the last decade, ideas of multiple universes (the “multiverse”) based on anthropic reasoning have become very popular among cosmologists and theoretical physicists. This had led to a major debate within the scientific community of the epistemic standards of modern cosmology. Is the multiverse a scientific hypothesis, or is it rather a philosophical speculation disguised as science? .

Kuehl, Nancy L. *A Book of Evidence*. Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2013.

LA Times Editor. “Letters to the Editor: Is Holocaust Amnesia behind Americans’ Declining Support for Israel?” *Los Angeles Times*, 28 May 2021, www.latimes.com/opinion/story/

2021-05-28/holocaust-survey-americans-israel. Accessed 31 May 2023. In contrast, a recent survey of 11,000 American adults under the age of 40 found that more than half thought the death toll of the Holocaust was under 2 million, nearly half could not name a single concentration camp, and 10% were unsure the Holocaust even happened or denied that it did.

Lakewood Church. "Lakewood Church." *Www.lakewoodchurch.com*, 2023, www.lakewoodchurch.com.

Leadership Ministries Worldwide. *Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible-KJV-John*. Leadership Ministries, 2017.

Lefford, Arthur. "The Influence of Emotional Subject Matter on Logical Reasoning." *The Journal of General Psychology*, vol. 34, no. 2, Apr. 1946, pp. 127–51, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00221309.1946.10544530>. "We are persuaded by reason, but we are moved by emotion."

Ninety percent of human decisions are made based on emotions. Humans use logic to justify their actions to themselves and others.

According to Arthur Lefford, author of "The Influence of Emotional Subject Matter on Logical Reading," people generally think their decisions are made based on facts. The study found that when "people agree with a particular message, they tend to perceive it as being more logical or rational. On the other hand, when people disagree with the message, they perceive it as an emotional plea."

Ninety-five percent of purchase decisions are subconscious, according to Gerald Zaltman, a Harvard Business School professor.

The most common emotional decision is reactive (subconscious) decision-making. It is typically very fast, as it takes at least 0.1 seconds for the rational cortex to start responding.

"Common emotional decisions may use some logic, but the main driving force is emotion, which either overrides logic or uses a pseudo-logic to support emotional choices (this is extremely common).

Another common use of emotion in the decision is to start with logic and then use emotion in the final choice."

According to the neuroscientist Antonio Damasio's study conducted on people with brain injuries that damaged the part of their brains where emotions are generated, these injuries affected not only their ability to feel but also their ability to make decisions, which

was seriously impaired. They were able to logically-describe what they should do, but with no rational way to decide, they were unable to make the decision..

Legrain, Leon. "THE GOLDEN BOATS of MARDUK and NABU in BABYLON." *The Museum Journal*, vol. XIV, no. IV, Dec. 1923, www.penn.museum/sites/journal/1116/. Accessed 1 July 2023.

Levy, M. "Prebiotic Synthesis of Adenine and Amino Acids under Europa-like Conditions." *Icarus*, vol. 145, no. 2, June 2000, pp. 609–13, <https://doi.org/10.1006/icar.2000.6365>.

Lewis, James R., and J. Gordon Melton. *Perspectives on the New Age*. State University of New York Press, 1992, pp. 28–51.

Lightfoot, Neil R. *How We Got the Bible*. Bakerbooks ; Oxford, 2010.

Ligonier Editorial. "What Is New Age Spirituality?" *Ligonier Ministries*, 3 July 2023, www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/field-guide-on-false-teaching-new-age-spirituality.

Lopez, Bernice. *Postmodernism in Europe*. Interview by Ed Rangel, 2021.

Lounsbury, Eric. *J. J. Blunt's Undesigned Scriptural Coincidences*. Xulon Press, 2005.

Mackey, John, and Raj Sisodia. *Conscious Capitalism : Liberating the Heroic Spirit of Business*. Harvard Business Review Press, 2014.

ManSoft Technology. "Websters Dictionary 1828 - Webster's Dictionary 1828 - Love." *Websters Dictionary 1828*, 2022, webstersdictionary1828.com/Dictionary/Love.

Martin, William, et al. "Hydrothermal Vents and the Origin of Life." *Nature Reviews Microbiology*, vol. 6, no. 11, Sept. 2008, pp. 805–14, <https://doi.org/10.1038/nrmicro1991>.

Hydrothermal vents can be found in the darkest depths of the ocean floors, typically on diverging continental plates, according to the Natural History Museum (opens in new tab). These vents erupt fluid which is superheated by the Earth's core as it passes up through the crust, before being ejected at the vents. During its journey through the crust it collects dissolved gases and minerals, such as carbon and hydrogen.

Mcdowell, Josh. *God Breathed : The Undeniable Power and Reliability of Scripture*. Shiloh Run Press, 2015.

McFarland, Alex, and Elmer L. Towns. *10 Questions Every Christian Must Answer*. B&H Publishing Group, 2011. Would a loving God really send people to hell? Can we really trust what the Bible says? Is Jesus really the only way to heaven?

Becoming a Christian does not mean that all of the questions about faith are instantly answered. In fact, more questions are likely to follow. However, not having knowledge

about certain issues can dampen your faith and rob you of the joy that comes from confidently sharing it with others.

McGrew, Lydia. *Hidden in Plain View : Undesigned Coincidence in the Gospels and Acts*. Deward Publishing, 2017.

McKinley, Jesse. "The Wisdom of the Ages, for Now Anyway." *The New York Times*, 23 Mar. 2008, www.nytimes.com/2008/03/23/fashion/23tolle.html?smid=pl-share. Accessed 1 Sept. 2023.

McShane, Julianne. "Whoopi Goldberg Faces Backlash after Repeating False Holocaust Comments." *NBC News*, 27 Dec. 2022, www.nbcnews.com/pop-culture/celebrity/whoopi-goldberg-faces-backlash-repeating-false-holocaust-comments-rcna63321. Whoopi Goldberg faces a fresh round of backlash after her latest historically inaccurate statement about the Holocaust, which she claimed "wasn't originally" about race in an interview with the U.K. newspaper *The Sunday Times*.

The controversy marks the second time this year that Goldberg, 67, has come under fire for what Jewish leaders and Holocaust experts say are inaccurate and offensive comments about the Nazi-sponsored mass murder of 6 million European Jews from 1933 to 1945.

Goldberg made the latest remarks in an interview published Saturday after the reporter said, "Nazis saw Jews as a race," referring to Goldberg's comments in January, when she claimed the Holocaust was "not about race."

"Yes, but that's the killer, isn't it?" Goldberg told *The Sunday Times* reporter. "The oppressor is telling you what you are. Why are you believing them? They're Nazis. Why believe what they're saying?"

"It wasn't originally" about race, Goldberg continued. "Remember who they were killing first. They were not killing racial; they were killing physical. They were killing people they considered to be mentally defective. And then they made this decision."

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webster.com/words-at-play/words-originating-from-fiction-novels. Accessed 16 Dec. 2022.

Merrill, Eugene H. *Kingdom of Priests*. Baker Books, 2008.

Michael Genhart, and Ken Min. *Love Is Love*. Little Pickle Press, an Imprint of Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, 2018. Review

“Simple and beautiful... Definitely a picture book I wish had been read to me when I was a little kid!” — I’m here. I’m queer. What the hell do I read?

"Love Is Love is a gentle yet straightforward story that shows that love is what makes a family. A great resource to discuss discrimination! " — Colours of Us

“Love Is Love makes plain the truth of its title for all kids and parents. Children and young adults still face harassment because they have LGBTQ parents. In accessible and gentle language, Love Is Love tells the simple story of these families...spoiler alert...they are just like every other kind of family. The point is no child should ever feel stigmatized for having LGBTQ parents and by embracing all families, we are elevating our own and proving that love is love.” — Kate Kendell, Esq., Executive Director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights

“Love is Love graciously calls into focus the fact that LGBTQ families are full of the same main ingredient as their peers’ families: love. In a day and age when we tend to focus on our differences, Love is Love is here to remind us that the love of family is a shared value across cultures and family structures, and it gives our children the language they need explain that.” — Amanda Hopping-Winn, Chief Program Officer, Family Equality Council

“A heartfelt affirmation of queer love... A strong message.” — Kirkus Reviews

About the Author

Dr. Michael Genhart has been a clinical psychologist in private practice in San Francisco and Marin for 25 years. He has experience working with children, adolescents, adults, couples and families, dealing with various facets of mental health and illness: anxiety, depression, relationship conflict, trauma, abuse, sexuality, work stress, bereavement and chronic health conditions. During this time, he has specialized in working with children

who have gay or lesbian parents, gay teens and coming out issues, same-sex relationships, and LGBTQ parenting matters. Additionally, he has supervised advanced psychology student interns through local doctoral training programs and been a consultant to colleagues particularly with regard to working with the LGBTQ population. He has also spent the last fifteen years visiting and speaking at local elementary, middle and high schools to engage students in conversations about LGBTQ issues. He is a consulting psychologist to The Campaign to Change Direction which aims to change the story about mental health, mental illness, and wellness in this country, and he is coauthoring a children's picture book on the topic.

Ken Min will tell you he was born on an ice floe and raised by a clan of penguins who read to him every night from the works of Margret & H.A. Rey, William Joyce, and DC Comics. He'll also say that he learned to paint by throwing his food at the walls. In reality he was born in Los Angeles and studied illustration at Art Center, College of Design. He has storyboarded for various commercials and animated TV shows such as *The PJs* and *Futurama*. His illustration work has been recognized numerous times by the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators (SCBWI). In 2012, the first picture book he illustrated, *Hot, Hot Roti For Dada-Ji*, received the Picture Book Honor Award for Literature from the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association (APALA). These days, you will find Ken illustrating, storyboarding, writing, and dreaming up stories for children. Ken lives in Los Angeles..

Miller, Andrew. "Immigrant Store Owner Begs San Francisco for Help after Losing \$100K to Burglars: 'Worse than Afghanistan.'" *Fox News*, 1 June 2023, www.foxnews.com/politics/immigrant-store-owner-begs-san-francisco-for-help-after-losing-100k-to-burglars-worse-than-afghanistan. Accessed 5 June 2023. "At least in Afghanistan the Taliban will cut your hand off and people are afraid to commit such a crime," Zaid said, adding that he sees people stealing from nearby stores every day. .

Mineo, Liz. "Pondering Putting an End to Columbus Day, and a Look at What Could Follow." *Harvard Gazette*, 8 Oct. 2020, news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2020/10/pondering-putting-an-end-to-columbus-day-and-a-look-at-what-could-follow/. Recent responses to police shootings and killings of unarmed Black people in the U.S. have forced a national

reckoning over America's monstrous racial legacy. One consequence has been a radical rethinking of who we choose to publicly commemorate through statues, monuments, and celebrations. In this light, public observance of Columbus Day must end. For this nation's over 5 million American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian citizens, Columbus' voyages to the so-called New World inaugurated a long history of exploitation, enslavement, eradication, and erasure (and he himself initiated and sanctioned such actions).

Mohler, Albert. "One Word of Truth Will Outweigh the Whole World' —the Death of Alexander Solzhenitsyn - AlbertMohler.com." *Albertmohler.com*, 4 Aug. 2008, albertmohler.com/2008/08/04/one-word-of-truth-will-outweigh-the-whole-world-the-death-of-alexander-solzhenitsyn. Accessed 31 May 2023. "One word of truth shall outweigh the whole world." Alexander Solzhenitsyn cited that Russian proverb in his 1970 acceptance speech as he was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature. He did not deliver that speech in person, for he knew that if he left the Soviet Union he would never be allowed to return. Even after he was expelled from the Soviet Union in 1974, his great wish and absolute determination was to die in Russia, the land and people of his birth..

Mortenson, Dr. Terry. "The Religion of Naturalism." *Answers in Genesis*, 5 May 2017, answersingenesis.org/world-religions/religion-of-naturalism/. Naturalism, or philosophical naturalism, is one of the most popular religions in the world today, although most people don't recognize it as such because it has no obvious worship centers, clergy, liturgy, or holy book. Naturalism is known by other names: atheism, scientific materialism, and secular humanism. Atheists, secular humanists, and other advocates of naturalism will protest that their view is a religion, but would say it is the opposite of religion. So we need to begin by defining "religion." According to the 11th edition of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, one definition of religion is "the service and worship of God or the supernatural." That obviously doesn't apply to atheism. But another given by that dictionary certainly does apply: "a cause, principle, or system of beliefs held to with ardor and faith." Many people who hold to naturalism are just as passionate about their belief as the most convinced Christians, Muslims, Hindus, or adherents of any other religion... So what are the beliefs of naturalism? The most fundamental belief from which all others flow is that nature or matter is all that exists. It has always existed or it came into existence from nothing. There is nothing outside or before nature, i.e., the material universe that is studied by modern science. There is no God and no supernatural.

Although nature has not always existed in its present form, what we see today is the result of time and chance and the laws of nature working on matter. Miracles are not possible, because they would be a violation of the laws of nature. Non-material things such as hopes, plans, behaviors, languages, logical inferences, etc., exist, but they are the result of and determined by material causes..

Moyer, Doy. *Mind Your Faith, 2nd Ed.* Moyer Press, 2017.

Mykytiuk, Lawrence. "30 People in the New Testament Confirmed." *Biblical Archaeology Society*, 17 Feb. 2022, www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/people-cultures-in-the-bible/people-in-the-bible/new-testament-political-figures-the-evidence/.

Mykytiuk, Lawrence. "Did Jesus Exist? Searching for Evidence beyond the Bible." *The BAS Library*, 31 Aug. 2015, www.baslibrary.org/biblical-archaeology-review/41/1/8. Accessed 23 May 2023.

---. "New Testament Religious Figures Confirmed." *The BAS Library*, 27 Apr. 2021, www.baslibrary.org/biblical-archaeology-review/47/2/2. Accessed 23 May 2023.

Naturalism.org. "Frequently Asked Questions | Naturalism.org." *Www.naturalism.org*, 1988, www.naturalism.org/worldview-naturalism/faq. FREE WILL: What this must mean, from a naturalistic perspective, is that we could not have free will. We do not have the ability to think, act, and reason freely. As The Center for Naturalism states, if naturalism is true, then "We are not 'causally privileged' over the rest of nature, that is, we don't get to cause without being fully caused ourselves. To think that would be to hold a supernatural view of ourselves, the opposite of naturalism."

And by the way, even if not having free will did cause problems, that wouldn't change the fact that we don't have free will. In other words, just because you may not like the consequences of something doesn't mean it isn't true. According to naturalism, truth is independent of our desires. Fortunately, however, not having free will doesn't have any bad consequences, in fact it has some rather good consequences and implications, as we'll see below..

Nature.com Editors. "US Proposal for Defining Gender Has No Basis in Science." *Nature*, vol. 563, no. 7729, Oct. 2018, pp. 5–0, <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-018-07238-8>. Accessed 29 Oct. 2019.

NavPress - The Message, editor. *Holy Bible: The Message (the Bible in Contemporary Language)*. NavPress, 2005.

Neuman, Scott. "Megachurches Are Getting Even Bigger as Churches Close across the Country." *NPR*, 14 July 2023, www.npr.org/2023/07/14/1187460517/megachurches-growing-liquid-church.

Nhất Hạnh, Thích. *The Heart of the Buddha's Teaching : Transforming Suffering into Peace, Joy & Liberation : The Four Noble Truths, the Noble Eightfold Path, and Other Basic Buddhist Teachings*. Harmony Books, 2015.

Norton, Michael Barnes. "Pluralism, Religious I Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy." *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2022, iep.utm.edu/rel-plur/.

Novello, Joseph R. *Bringing up Kids American Style*. A & W Publishers, 1981. Novello states, "If American adults seem to have lost their way, it is no wonder that our children are often bewildered, tense, and anxiously unsure of themselves" (26, p. 42). Further, says Novello, "For permissive, uncertain parents, everything is negotiable: There are no resolute values; kids are left to rediscover the wheel—if they don't get run over by it first" (26, p. 8)..

Olsteen, Joel. "Discover the Champion in You." *Trinity Broadcasting Network | TBN.org*, 3 May 2003, www.tbn.org/. Accessed 30 Aug. 2023.

Orwell, George. *1984 : A Novel ; Revised and Updated Bibliography*. New York, Ny New American Library [Ca, 2002. "The term newspeak was coined by George Orwell in his 1949 anti-utopian novel 1984. In Orwell's fictional totalitarian state, Newspeak was a language favored by the minions of Big Brother and, in Orwell's words, 'designed to diminish the range of thought.' Newspeak was characterized by the elimination or alteration of certain words, the substitution of one word for another, the interchangeability of parts of speech, and the creation of words for political purposes. The word has caught on in general use to refer to confusing or deceptive bureaucratic jargon."

: propagandistic language marked by euphemism, circumlocution, and the inversion of customary meanings

Newspeak, a language "designed to diminish the range of thought," in the novel 1984 (1949) by George Orwell

.

- Osteen, Joel. *Your Best Life Now*. FaithWords, 2007. “If you don’t think you can have something good, then you never will. The barrier is in your mind. . . . Your own wrong thinking can keep you from God’s best. . . . To experience [God’s] immeasurable favor, you must rid yourself of that small-minded thinking and start expecting God’s blessings, start anticipating promotion and supernatural increase. You must conceive it in your heart before you can receive it. In other words, you must make increase in your own thinking, then God will bring those things to pass” (from *Your Best Life Now*, chapter 1).
- Pallardy, Richard. “12 Greek Gods and Goddesses.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2019, www.britannica.com/list/12-greek-gods-and-goddesses. Accessed 23 June 2023.
- Parker, Mark G. “Investor Relations - Stock Information, Events, Reports, Financial Information, Shareholder Information.” *The Walt Disney Company*, 31 Aug. 2023, thewaltdisneycompany.com/investor-relations/#reports.
- Patheos. “New Age Origins, New Age History, New Age Beliefs.” *Patheos.com*, 2019, www.patheos.com/library/new-age. Accessed 24 Aug. 2023.
- Pearce, Ben K. D., et al. “Origin of the RNA World: The Fate of Nucleobases in Warm Little Ponds.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, vol. 114, no. 43, Oct. 2017, pp. 11327–32, <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1710339114>. Instead of developing from complex molecules such as RNA, life might have begun with smaller molecules interacting with each other in cycles of reactions. These might have been contained in simple capsules akin to cell membranes, and over time more complex molecules that performed these reactions better than the smaller ones could have evolved, scenarios dubbed “metabolism-first” models, as opposed to the “gene-first” model of the “RNA world” hypothesis..
- Pecorino, Dr. Phillip. “Introduction to Philosophy Online Text Textbook.” *Www.qcc.cuny.edu*, Queensborough Community College, CUNY, 2001, www.qcc.cuny.edu/socialsciences/ppecorino/intro_text/default.htm. Accessed 9 May 2023. Skepticism is the belief that some or all human knowledge is impossible. Since even our best methods for learning about the world sometimes fall short of perfect certainty, skeptics argue, it is better to suspend belief than to rely on the dubitable products of reason. Classical skeptics include Pyrrho and Sextus Empiricus. In the modern era, Montaigne, Bayle, and Hume all advocated some form of skeptical philosophy. Fallibilism is a more moderate response to the lack of certainty.

Perry, Bob. "12 Reasons to Trust the New Testament." *Cross Examined*, 16 Sept. 2019, crossexamined.org/12-reasons-to-trust-the-new-testament/.

Piippo, John. *Deconstructing Progressive Christianity*. Independently Published, 2021. This is classic Piippo. Generally friendly and irenic, the author nevertheless takes a metaphorical sledgehammer to the faulty logic of "progressive Christianity." If you don't know John Piippo, he is a passionate follower of Jesus, a seasoned pastor, and a professor who just happens to hold a PhD in Philosophy. Drawing on his years of experience in philosophy, theology, and ministry, Piippo approaches his critical task of deconstructing trendy progressive Christianity with systemic logic, biblically-founded and historically-affirmed theology, illustrating it with personal anecdotes drawn from a lifetime of faithful service to Christ and his church. This is a timely and urgent apologetic for today that would be helpful for both Christians and skeptics.

Pizer, Ann. "Where Is Your Third Eye Located on the Body?" *Verywell Fit*, 1 Oct. 2021, www.verywellfit.com/what-is-the-third-eye-3566789. Accessed 2 Sept. 2023.

Plutarch. *Moralia, Vol. 2*. Harvard University Press, 1962. "No, but with full knowledge and understanding they themselves offered up their own children, and those who had no children would buy little ones from poor people and cut their throats as if they were so many lambs or young birds; meanwhile the mother stood by without a tear or moan; but should she utter a single moan or let fall a single tear, she had to forfeit the money, and her child was sacrificed nevertheless; and the whole area before the statue was filled with a loud noise of flutes and drums [so that] the cries of wailing should not reach the ears of the people" .

Raab, Dr. Diana. "How to Know Your Emotional Truth | Psychology Today." *Www.psychologytoday.com*, 27 Apr. 2019, www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-empowerment-diary/201904/how-know-your-emotional-truth#:~:text=Your%20emotional%20truth%20is%20what. Accessed 19 June 2023.

Ranji, Usha, et al. "Key Facts on Abortion in the United States." *Kaiser Health News*, 12 July 2022, www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/report/key-facts-on-abortion-in-the-united-states/. In their most recent national data, Guttmacher Institute reported 930,160 abortions in 2020 and a rate of 14.4 per 1,000 women. CDC reported 615,991 abortions in 2020 and a rate of 11.2 abortions per 1,000 women (excludes CA, DC, MD, NH).

Guttmacher's study showed an upward trend in abortion from 2017 to 2020 whereas CDC's report showed an increase in abortions from 2017 to 2019 followed by a slight decrease from 2019 to 2020.

Reader's Digest. "15 Common Words That Used to Mean Completely Different Things."

Reader's Digest, Reader's Digest, 7 Nov. 2022, www.rd.com/list/words-changed-meaning/. Accessed 14 Dec. 2022. From the book *The Bathroom Reader's Institute*.

Reilly, Patrick, and The New York Post. "Drag Marchers Spark Outrage with Chant at NYC Pride Event: 'We're Here, We're Queer and We're Coming for Your Children.'" *New York Post*, 25 June 2023, nypost.com/2023/06/24/drag-marchers-spark-outrage-with-chant-at-nyc-pride-event-were-here-were-queer-and-were-coming-for-your-children/. Accessed 1 July 2023.

René Pache. *The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture*. Sheffield Pub. Co, 1992.

Rensberger, Boyce. "Ebla Ruins Shed Light on Early Urban Man." *The New York Times*, 16 Jan. 1979, www.nytimes.com/1979/01/16/archives/ebla-ruins-shed-light-on-early-urban-man-resemblance-to-cities-of.html. Accessed 28 Apr. 2023.

Ressner, Jeffery. "The Secret of Success." *Time Magazine*, 2006, content.time.com/time/arts/article/0,8599,1573136,00.html. Accessed 31 Aug. 2023. "It's become the biggest selling item in the 30-year history of our store," says Harmony Rose Allor, a buyer at West Hollywood's popular metaphysical bookshop The Bodhi Tree. While DVDs do well to sell a few hundred copies there during the busy holiday season, *The Secret* has been selling in the thousands. All this for a low-budget documentary revolving around a centuries-old concept commonly known as The Law of Attraction"

Some call *The Secret* a 'transformative' message movie. Mixing the ancient conspiracy hoodoo of *The Da Vinci Code* with the psychic science of 2004's cult hit *What the Bleep Do We Know!?*, it interweaves computer graphics, historical recreations and interviews with 'experts' into a study of 'intention-manifestation' — the philosophy that contends our emotions and thoughts can actually influence real-world events. In other words: if you really, truly believe you can beat the lottery and visualize scratching off a winning ticket, you can do exactly that.

The secret to *The Secret*'s success is the effective way Byrne edits her interviews with 24 so-called 'teachers' — prosperity preachers, chiropractic healers, relationship gurus,

life coaches, motivational speakers and other empowerment hustlers — into one clear, cohesive voice. The teachers, many of whom have large audiences of their own, were also instrumental in promoting the DVD, touting it in e-mails to millions of their followers. 'The film delivers a timely message in a way that's accessible, whether or not you've ever explored this direction before,' says Hale Dwoskin, one of the two dozen featured teachers. Dwoskin, author of the personal growth guide *The Sedona Method*, believes 'the world is hurting and in turmoil. The distance between that trouble and our everyday lives has dissipated due to the widespread availability of cable news and the Internet. People are ready to find a way out beyond the normal paradigms we all live in.'

Critics of *The Secret*, and even some fans, are bothered by its obsession with using ancient wisdom to acquire material goods. In one segment, a kid who wants a red BMX bicycle cuts out a picture in a catalog, concentrates real hard, and is rewarded with the spiffy two-wheeler. *The Secret* "is like having the universe as your catalog," says Joe Vitale, who is called a "metaphysician" in the film but whose website bills him as "Mr. Fire" — a marketing consultant with the power to sway consumers with a "hypno-buying trance." "The get-rich-quick parts really bothered me," says Bodhi Tree buyer Harmony Allor. "It's my hope that people won't use creative visualization to obtain wealth for themselves, but in more positive, altruistic ways."

The film's backers say they deliberately aimed to make "wealth enhancement" a major element of the project. "We desired to hit the masses, and money is the number one thing on the masses' minds," says Bob Rainone, a former IBM salesman and telcom exec who now serves as Byrne's U.S. business partner. Wealth enhancement is also part of the *The Secret*'s business plan. Among the spinoff books expected in 2007 are *The Secret Workbook* and a collection of *The Secret Success Stories*. Byrne will also begin filming a sequel to *The Secret* in January, for an August release; Rainone says it will explore "the next step, the next level" in the process of achieving one's life goals. Meanwhile, the original DVD is about to be distributed in Europe and Asia; German, Spanish and Portuguese translations are nearly completed, with French, Japanese and Chinese to follow..

Rettner, Rachael. "More Americans Seek Alternative Medicine Therapies." *Livescience.com*, 30 May 2013, www.livescience.com/35431-alternative-medicine-treatments-popular-in-america-110201.html. Accessed 24 Aug. 2023.

Ritenbaugh, John W. "What the Bible Says about Skepticism." *Www.bibletools.org*, 1992, www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/topical.show/RTD/cgg/ID/6116/Skepticism.htm. Accessed 9 May 2023. By making the challenge the way Satan did, he first made them mildly skeptical about God's love, asking them, Does God really love you?

Second, he made it seem as though obedience to God was, in reality, servility. He made them begin to feel as though God's way was restrictive; that He was holding back good things from them. This thought naturally led them to think much more could be obtained from life if they just followed their body's and mind's natural inclinations.

Third, he played his trump card: Not only would they not die, but they would be in control, free to determine right and wrong. In short, they would be equal to God! Satan successfully brought them into a spirit of competition against God, resulting in the enmity described in Romans 8:7.

He indirectly lied about God Himself, and he directly lied about the penalty, giving them misinformation about the reward.

He did tell them the truth, that their eyes would be opened and that they would not immediately die. Their eyes were opened, and they now looked at things through the twisted perspective, seeing evil in everything. From innocence, they became ashamed of their nakedness. The effect began immediately.

Satan's lies, his counterfeits, and his devices are usually so subtle that only a trained mind can discern them. God teaches us to be able to see. He trains us to be able to spot the ploys, contrivances, and stratagems of our enemy so that we can overcome and

defeat him.

Rizzo, Vincent. "Really, the Bible Is a Reliable Source?" *The Life*, 2023, thelife.com/series/really-the-bible-is-a-reliable-source. Accessed 28 Apr. 2023.

Roberts, Mark D. *Can We Trust the Gospels?* Crossway, 2007.

Ross, Hugh. "Fine-Tuning for Life in the Universe." *Why the Universe Is the Way It Is, Reasons to Believe*, 2008, d4bge0zxcg5qba.cloudfront.net/files/compendium/compendium_part1.pdf. Accessed 20 Jan. 2023.

Sahakian, William S., and Mabel Lewis Sahakian. *Ideas of the Great Philosophers*. Barnes & Noble, 2005. The idea that something like morals, facts, or values could be true for you but not for me, is known as relativism. It is not a new idea.

PROTAGORAS: Truth is relative, it is only a matter of opinion.

SOCRATES: You mean that truth is mere subjective opinion?

PROTAGORAS: Exactly. What is true for you is true for you, and what is true for me, is true for me. Truth is subjective.

SOCRATES: Do you really mean that? That my opinion is true by virtue of it being my opinion?

PROTAGORAS: Indeed I do.

SOCRATES: My opinion is: Truth is absolute, not opinion, and that you, Mr Protagoras, are absolutely in error. Since this is my opinion, then you must grant that it is true according to your philosophy.

PROTAGORAS: You are quite correct, Socrates.

Santos, Jefferson Roberto Batista dos. "Construindo a Imagem Do Cristo: Uma Análise Das Cartas de Paulo Aos Coríntios, Aos Filipenses E Aos Romanos." *Licenciatura Em História*, vol. 2, no. 2, Aug. 2022, <https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.18789.68324>.

Schaeffer, Francis A. *Pollution and the Death of Man*. Crossway, 2022.

Schmidt, Meagan. "8 Richest Pastors in America." *Www.beliefnet.com*, www.beliefnet.com/faiths/christianity/8-richest-pastors-in-america.aspx. Accessed 2 Jan. 2023.

Scott, Douglas. *IS JESUS of NAZARETH the PREDICTED MESSIAH? A HISTORICAL-EVIDENTIAL APPROACH to SPECIFIC OLD TESTAMENT MESSIANIC PROPHECIES and THEIR NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENTS*. 2017, digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2521&context=doctoral. Accessed 3 May 2022.

Searle, John R. *Mind*. Oxford University Press, 2004. FREEWILL: Consider the analogy of pool balls on a pool table. Once the cue ball is struck, this will determine all of the events that will occur on the table. Each ball's final resting place is determined by the laws of physics acting upon the particles of matter. Philosopher John Seale notes that in the same way "once the existence and trajectories of all the microparticles in the universe are set, then the entire physical history of the universe is determined by the behavior of the microparticles."

Segran, Elizabeth. "Did a Slave Make Your Sneakers? The Answer Is: Probably." *Fast Company*, Fast Company, 14 Dec. 2018, www.fastcompany.com/90279693/did-a-slave-make-your-sneakers-the-answer-is-probably.

Seiglie, Mario. "DNA: The Tiny Code That's Toppling Evolution." *United Church of God*, 21 May 2005, www.ucg.org/the-good-news/dna-the-tiny-code-thats-toppling-evolution. It is good to remember that, in spite of all the efforts of all the scientific laboratories around the world working over many decades, they have not been able to produce so much as a single human hair. How much more difficult is it to produce an entire body consisting of some 100 trillion cells!

Up to now, Darwinian evolutionists could try to counter their detractors with some possible explanations for the complexity of life. But now they have to face the information dilemma: How can meaningful, precise information be created by accident—by mutation and natural selection? None of these contain the mechanism of intelligence, a requirement for creating complex information such as that found in the genetic code.

SFGMC TV. "'A Message from the Gay Community' Performed by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus." *YouTube*, 1 July 2021, www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArOQF4kadHA. Accessed 2 Dec. 2021.

Shannon, Alfred. "Truth Does Not Fear Investigation." *Biblical Proof*, 13 July 2017, biblicalproof.wordpress.com/2017/07/13/truth-does-not-fear-investigation/. Accessed 10 Dec. 2022.

Sigman, Michael, and Contributor/Writer/editor/music publisher. "When Everyone Gets a Trophy, No One Wins." *HuffPost*, 18 Apr. 2012, www.huffpost.com/entry/when-everyone-gets-a-trop_b_1431319. <https://bit.ly/3YHEWB4>.

Sire, James W. *The Universe next Door : A Basic Worldview Catalog*. Intervarsity Press, 2009.

Skilton, Andrew. *Concise History of Buddhism*. Windhorse Publications, 2013.

Smith, Henry, and Director Of Development. *Canaanite Child Sacrifice, Abortion, and the Bible*. biblearchaeology.org/images/Child-Sacrifice-and-Abortion/4---Canaanite-Child-Sacrifice---Smith-90-125.pdf. The Aztecs and Mayans sacrificed both children and adults to their gods. Exposing an unwanted child to the elements or wild animals was a common practice throughout the Greco-Roman world. The Carthaginians of North Africa sacrificed their infants and children to pagan gods over a period of several centuries. Old Testament passages referring to child sacrifice are both numerous and dreadful. The Israelites, delivered from the bondage of Egypt by the mighty hand of Yahweh, the Lord of heaven and earth, did not simply engage in idolatry. They were guilty of adopting the ghastly Canaanite practice of child sacrifice. In some cases, they attempted to attach this practice to worship of the Lord (Ezek 23:39). In others, they rejected Yahweh worship altogether and fully turned themselves over to the idols of Canaan (2 Kgs 17:14-17). Kings Ahaz and Manasseh, the “shepherds of Israel,” even burned their own sons in the fires of sacrifice (2 Chr 28:2-3; 33:6). Certain Israelites stood by and did nothing (Lev 20:4-5). Despite manifold warnings and admonitions from the Lord (Deut 12:29-31; 18:10), the Israelites persisted. As a result, God brought dreadful judgment upon their entire nation (Jer 19:3b-6)..

Sosa, Ernest. *Epistemology*. 2nd ed., Wiley-Blackwell, 2018.

Stanford CIO Council, and People of Color in Technology. *Elimination of Harmful Language Initiative*. 2022, [s.wsj.net/public/resources/documents/stanfordlanguage.pdf](https://www.wsj.net/public/resources/documents/stanfordlanguage.pdf). Accessed 21 Dec. 2022.

Steinbrenner, Ethan. “Question: What Is the Difference between ‘Faith’ and ‘Blind Faith’?” *Bethany Lutheran*, 20 Sept. 2017, bethanylutheranfort.org/q-a/2017/9/20/question-what-is-the-difference-between-faith-and-blind-faith. It means to trust that something good will happen or that all will be well, even though there’s not a bit of evidence to back up that hope.

Stevenson, James. *A New Eusebius: Documents Illustrating the History of the Church to AD 337*. SPCK, 1987.

Strauss, Valerie. “Hiding in Plain Sight: The Adult Literacy Crisis.” *The Washington Post*, 1 Nov. 2016, www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2016/11/01/hiding-in-plain-sight-the-adult-literacy-crisis/.

Sutcliffe, Steven J., and Ingvild Saelid Gilhus. *New Age Spirituality*. Routledge, 2014.

Tagari Writer, Bobby. "The History of Self-Help Books – Tagari.com." *Www.tagari.com*, 9 Feb. 2022, www.tagari.com/how-many-self-help-books-have-been-published/. Accessed 21 Dec. 2022. * The self-help genre continues to grow in popularity, with an estimated 15,000 self-help books published in the United States each year.

*NPD Group reports that the self-help industry has grown rapidly in recent years: from 2013 to 2019, self-help book sales in the United States increased by 11 percent, reaching 18.6 million volumes.

*Book suggestions for self-help give readers a new perspective on habit building, emotional growth, or gaining a better understanding of the world.

*According to Bowker, self-help books are currently worth \$9.5 billion, with unit sales increasing at a compound annual growth rate of 11 percent since 2013. In 2019, self-help books sales surpassed 18 million, according to global information company The NPD Group.

Taylor, Dr. Martin. "The Historical Accuracy of Homer's Tales." *Mmtaylor.net*, 2000, mmtaylor.net/Holiday2000/Legends/Homer.html. Where do we get our information about what actually happened in past times? If somebody wrote an eyewitness report in a language we can understand, we can expect that there is some relation between what was written and what actually happened, even though most reports of significant events are strongly biased by the leanings of the teller, whether victor or vanquished. If several people wrote about it from different viewpoints, and the accounts more or less agree, then we can be reasonably sure that things happened the way the writings say at the points of agreement. But when there is no written record, we have to use forensic methods, like a detective investigating a murder.

The written record

The archaeological record

In the absence of textual records, the archeological record tells much, but not all.

Dr. Taylor's cv: <https://mmtaylor.net/prof.vita.html>

Dr. Taylor's publication list: <https://mmtaylor.net/publist.html>.

The Christian Chronicle. "Is Progressive Christianity Dangerous?" *The Christian Chronicle*, 1 Oct. 2018, christianchronicle.org/is-progressive-christianity-dangerous/. Take hell for example. When progressives define love to mean mere acceptance or even indulgence, they leave themselves unable to accept the many things Jesus says about hell. By doing this, they have misunderstood the true nature of Christian love and undermined the justice of God.

Whenever you hear people playing interpretive games with Scripture, arguing about "trajectories" and the like, you can be pretty sure that someone is trying to make the Christian faith align with their self-inspired sentimentalism..

The Editorial Board. "Opinion | the Stanford Guide to Acceptable Words." *Wall Street Journal*, 19 Dec. 2022, www.wsj.com/articles/the-stanford-guide-to-acceptable-words-elimination-of-harmful-language-initiative-11671489552. Accessed 21 Dec. 2022.

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"The Famous People: Naturalist." *Www.thefamouspeople.com*, www.thefamouspeople.com/naturalists.php. Accessed 23 Jan. 2023.

The National Center for Education Statistics . "National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL)." *Nces.ed.gov*, 2003, nces.ed.gov/naal/kf_demographics.asp#3.

The Veritas Forum. "Dawkins and Hawking | John Lennox." *Www.youtube.com*, Aug. 2021, www.youtube.com/watch?v=fECDvQP03w0. Accessed 6 Apr. 2023. Dawkins and Hawking | John Lennox

Speaker 1

Statements by scientists are not necessarily statements of science. When Carl Sagan began his famous television series with a statement like this, the cosmos is all there is to us that never shall be. That's a statement by a scientist. It's not a statement of science. It's a statement of his philosophical belief. But the trouble is that scientists in our contemporary world, they have such a priority that any scientist who makes a statement, people tend to think it's got the authority of science behind it.

00;00;40;14 - 00;01;04;18

Speaker 1

And we need to learn to distinguish. And Richard Feynman, who won the Nobel Prize for physics, made a marvelous statement that we need to listen to. I believe that the scientist looking at problems out of the field is just as dumb as the next guy. Now, that applies to me because, you see, I am not talking about pure mathematics.

00;01;04;18 - 00;01;33;27

Speaker 1

I hope you have realized that already. And in that sense, in order to have a dialog in public, we've got to go outside our fields. But there are certain things we've got to do if we do that, everybody has to do that. Otherwise, life would be very boring. But we've got to check. If I move outside my field and make a statement, then I've got to check that it's got some sort of authority.

00;01;33;27 - 00;01;57;29

Speaker 1

And I want to illustrate this by the title Richard Dawkins The God Delusion, which is a bestseller. The word delusion is a psychiatric term. Now, when I first read the book and I read it, many times in several languages in order to debate Richard, I, I noticed the word delusion is a psychiatric term. And Richard is not a psychiatrist.

00;01;59;21 - 00;02;26;15

Speaker 1

And that's very important to realize that he's making a statement that God is a delusion. And I'm not a psychiatrist either. So what do I do? I decide to read what psychiatrists say about this. And I discovered when I read the president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists at the time, Andrew Simms, that he doesn't regard God as a delusion at all.

00;02;27;07 - 00;02;56;05

Speaker 1

And Dawkins is ignoring the actual scientific, psychological, epidemiological studies of the connection, the correlation between belief in God and human well-being. Now, that's

very interesting because Dawkins is claiming to be a scientist when he says these things. And many people were quite angry, actually, in their writings when they discovered that his work on this is not scientific at all.

00;02;56;05 - 00;03;21;29

Speaker 1

It falls apart. Similarly, Stephen Hawking, the statement by a brilliant scientist, he was just ahead of me at Cambridge all those years ago. I remember him and he's light years ahead of me in his mathematical ability. But he said religion is a fairy story for those afraid of the dark. That's a statement by an astrophysicist, but it's not a statement of science.

00;03;21;29 - 00;03;47;06

Speaker 1

And I was asked to comment on it by one of the newspapers. I think, in which it was published in one of our daily newspapers in the UK. So I asked them, did they want a one liner? And they said, We'd love a one liner. I said, okay, atheism is a fairy story for those afraid of the light.

00;03;48;02 - 00;04;00;19

Speaker 1

Now you say you're clapping and you shouldn't really. You know why? Because the point I've been making is that these are statements by scientists, but they're not statements of science.

The White House - Joseph Biden Speech. "Remarks by President Biden and First Lady Jill Biden at Pride Celebration." *The White House*, 10 June 2023, www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2023/06/10/remarks-by-president-biden-and-first-lady-jill-biden-at-pride-celebration/. Accessed 20 June 2023.

Trend, Transgender. "Identity Politics and Sex Education in Schools." *Transgender Trend*, 21 Mar. 2023, www.transgendertrend.com/identity-politics-sex-education-schools/. Accessed 5 June 2023. The infiltration of gender identity politics into schools has snowballed over the last five years, under the guise of "trans rights" and promoted by

LGBT groups backed up by so-called Third Wave feminism.

LGBT and Third Wave feminism are part of a broader identity politics movement which also encompasses groups such as Black Lives Matter. Critical race theory, gender identity theory and Queer Theory are packaged together as one social justice movement that promotes a victim hierarchy based on degrees of oppression and degrees of privilege..

University of California Berkeley. "How Did Life Originate? - Understanding Evolution."

Understanding Evolution, UC Museum of Paleontology, 11 Oct. 2021, evolution.berkeley.edu/from-soup-to-cells-the-origin-of-life/how-did-life-originate/. Living things (even ancient organisms like bacteria) are enormously complex. However, all this complexity did not leap fully-formed from the primordial soup. Instead life almost certainly originated in a series of small steps, each building upon the complexity that evolved previously...

Vallerand, Robert J. *The Psychology of Passion : A Dualistic Model*. Oxford University Press, 2015.

Veness, Susan. *The Hidden Magic of Walt Disney World : Over 600 Secrets of the Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Disney's Hollywood Studios, and Animal Kingdom*. Adams Media, 2015.

Wadler, Matthew. "The Politically Correct Military: Stress Cards and the Correlation to Safe Spaces." *OpsLens.com*, 10 Nov. 2016, www.foxnews.com/us/the-politically-correct-military-stress-cards-and-the-correlation-to-safe-spaces. Accessed 1 June 2023. He finally bursts from the barracks shouting into the air how he couldn't handle the stress and he was done with camp and its stupid rules. Interwoven into this was the standard myriad of expletives that one would expect from such an outburst. As a former noncommissioned officer watching this all occur, there was no doubt that this young man would be sent home immediately. How could he lead soldiers; he couldn't even handle the stress from not having a towel? To my great distress, he was back in training within hours. He had been issued, by our cadre, a half sheet of paper which stated that if he felt too anxious he could walk away and have a "safe place" to reframe his thoughts and collect himself. At the end of the month he graduated from the course with the rest of us. Worse than that however, was when I saw him several years later as a military intelligence officer while at the National Training Center in California, he had been

promoted to captain and had troops under his direction.

Walker, W. L. *Christian Theism and a Spiritual Monism, Second Edition*. Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2021.

Wallace, J. Warner. *Cold-Case Christianity : A Homicide Detective Investigates the Claims of the Gospels*. David C Cook, 2013. I researched the writings of the generations of Christian students who followed the original New Testament authors. These Early Church Fathers sat at the feet of the apostles and learned from the apostolic eyewitness accounts. These secondary leaders then wrote letters and documents of their own, repeating the claims of their teachers. I focused on the work of Ignatius, Polycarp and Clement and isolated the content of their non-canonical writings to the early Church. What did they say about Jesus? Did they ever reference the writings of the New Testament? It turns out that the Early Church Fathers did, in fact, quote the scripture as it was handed down to them. But even if we can't reconstruct the entire New Testament (save 11 verses) as Dalrymple is often quoted to have said, the Early Church Fathers did confirm enough of the New Testament claims to validate and authenticate the writings of the apostles. From the non-canonical works of Ignatius and Polycarp (students of John) and the non-canonical work of Clement (a student of Paul) we can determine the following:

Jesus was Predicted by the Old Testament as Described in the New Testament

Jesus is Divine as Described in the New Testament

Jesus Taught His Disciples as Described in the New Testament

Jesus Worked Miracles as Described in the New Testament

Jesus was Born of a Virgin as Described in the New Testament

Jesus Lived, Ministered, Was Crucified and Died as Described in the New Testament.

Walsh, Matt. "A Trans EMT Challenges Matt Walsh to a Debate on Biology." *Www.youtube.com*, 5 Apr. 2023, youtu.be/VvQiMC0mvGg. Accessed 18 June 2023.

Warfield, B. B. (1892). *The Canon of the New Testament: How and When Formed*. American Sunday-School Union.

Warren, Roland C. "Why Pilate's 'What Is Truth?' Question to Jesus Is so Relevant Today."

Www.care-Net.org, 1 Aug. 2017, www.care-net.org/abundant-life-blog/why-pilates-what-is-truth-question-to-jesus-is-so-relevant-today. Accessed 9 May 2023.

Warwick, John. *History and Christianity*. Bethany House, 1986.

Weeks, Stuart. *Ecclesiastes and Scepticism*. T & T Clark International, 2012.

Weldon, John, and John Ankerberg. *VISUALIZATION: God-given Power or New Age Danger?*

(Part One) 1. www.equip.org/PDF/DN388-1.pdf. Accessed 24 Aug. 2023. Visualization is the use of mental concentration and directed imagery in the attempt to secure particular goals, whether physical, psychological, vocational, educational, or spiritual. Visualization attempts to program the mind to discover inner power and guidance. It is often used as a means to, or in conjunction with, altered states of consciousness (e.g., as produced by meditation), and is frequently used to develop psychic abilities or make contact with spirits. There are at least four identifiable types of visualization in our culture: academic, popular, occult, and Christian. Although there are boundaries separating these types, they are usually fairly fluid, and there is much potential for interrelationships between them. The practice of visualization, a directed form of mental imagery and concentration, is having broad and substantial impact in our culture.

---. *VISUALIZATION: God-given Power or New Age Danger? (Part Two)*. www.equip.org/PDF/DN388-2.pdf. Accessed 24 Aug. 2023. Although visualization can be adapted to almost any philosophy, in its popular usage it is loosely tied to a monistic or pantheistic world view that sees humans as divine and creators of their own reality. The practice itself enhances and perhaps even sets up the development of the monistic ("all is one") states of consciousness foundational to the New Age movement. Visualization is commonly used in occult practice, from casting spells to contacting "inner advisors" or spirit guides. As such, Scripture prohibits New Age visualization. Yet even alleged Christian forms of visualization are insufficiently critiqued, of dubious value, and subject to abuse..

Wells, David F. *Above All Earthly Pow'rs : Christ in a Postmodern World*. William B. Eerdmans Pub. Co, 2006. It is quite apparent that the new spirituality is practicing what has become one of the norms of the postmodern world—that is, the belief that each person must be allowed one's own private space within which one has the freedom to define reality for oneself and set one's own rules. Violating this private space is, socially

speaking, intolerable. This habit, of course, is an expression of how our postmodern relativism is working itself out in this highly individualistic culture. But it is also speaking to the matter of truth. Truth in this postmodern and individualistic context becomes entirely private. What is true for one, therefore, may not be true for another; what is preference for one will not be preference for another, and the spirituality that works for this person may not work for that. And while this state of affairs bears all the marks of postmodern behaving and believing, it also makes a connection with the paganism of an earlier time when it was also thought that human nature yielded up intimations of “truth” about the supernatural world. And this habit was confronted by the biblical prophets who, in effect, declared that truth was to be thought of as having been revealed in the public domain rather than emerging from within.

Truth, as I have suggested, is what corresponds to reality. .

Wiersbe, Warren W. *The Wiersbe Bible Commentary*. David C Cook, 2007.

Wikipedia Contributors. “New Age.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 6 July 2019, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Age.

Wikipedia contributors. “Multiverse.” *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 5 Apr. 2023, en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Special:CiteThisPage&page=Multiverse&id=1148339102&wpFormIdentifier=titleform. Accessed 6 Apr. 2023. Multiple universes have been hypothesized in cosmology, physics, astronomy, religion, philosophy, transpersonal psychology, music, and all kinds of literature, particularly in science fiction, comic books and fantasy. In these contexts, parallel universes are also called “alternate universes”, “quantum universes”, “interpenetrating dimensions”, “parallel universes”, “parallel dimensions”, “parallel worlds”, “parallel realities”, “quantum realities”, “alternate realities”, “alternate timelines”, “alternate dimensions” and “dimensional planes”.

William Lane Craig. *A Reasonable Response : Answers to Tough Questions on God, Christianity, and the Bible*. Moody Publishers, 2013.

William Lane Craig, and J. P. Moreland. *The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology*. Wiley-Blackwell, 2012. Dr. William Lane Craig, a leading Christian philosopher, concludes that the cause of the universe would have to match the following profile: personal (that is, able to choose to create), uncaused, beginningless, changeless, immaterial, timeless, spaceless, and enormously powerful.

Wilson, D. (2001). *Bound Only Once: The Failure of Open Theism*. Canon Press. Liberals in Drag

Wingfield, Mark. "John MacArthur Rallies Pastors to Preach against Government Bans on Conversion Therapy Jan. 16." *Baptist News Global*, 29 Dec. 2021, baptistnews.com/article/john-macarthur-rallies-pastors-to-preach-against-government-bans-on-conversion-therapy-jan-16/. Accessed 24 June 2023.

WKBW. "Understanding Pronouns: A Pride Guide to Using Inclusive Language." *WKBW 7 News Buffalo*, 4 June 2021, www.wkbw.com/news/local-news/buffalo-strong/understanding-pronouns-a-pride-guide-to-using-inclusive-language. Accessed 20 June 2023.

Wolfhart Pannenberg. *Anthropology in Theological Perspective*. T & T Clark, 2004. The result was that the idea of the social contract became fundamental for the political theory of the modern age. It provided a means of passing from the natural law conception of an original "state of nature" in which there was universal freedom and equality, to the present reality which is one of social inequality and dependence. The idea thus fulfilled a function similar to that of the doctrine of the fall in Christian natural law, since in the latter the fall marked the dividing line between the absolute natural law of the original state and the relative natural law of fallen humanity..

Word of Faith Channel. "You, Not God, Decide When to Die!" *Wwww.youtube.com*, 2009, www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKmxWfRhORI. Accessed 2 Jan. 2023. I'm going to say something that's going to know your lights off. God has the power to take life, but He can't. He's got the power to do it, but He won't. He's bound; He can't! He says, "Death and life is in the power of whose tongue?" Yours... You choose when you live, you choose when you die. Death and life is in he power of your tongue, not God's.."

Wright, Christopher J. H. *"Here Are Your Gods" : Faithful Discipleship in Idolatrous Times*. IVP Academic, an Imprint of InterVarsity Press, 2020. When the Israelites exclaimed, "Here are your gods!" at the sight of the golden calf, they were attempting to hold on to the God of their history while fashioning idols for their own purposes. In today's Western world, plenty of shiny false gods still hold power—idols of prosperity, nationalism, and self-interest. Christians desperately need to name and expose these idols. We must retrieve the biblical emphasis on idolatry and apply it anew in our journey of following Jesus..

Yahoo Finance. "US Televangelist Appeals for Donations for \$54 Million Private Jet." *Finance.yahoo.com*, 30 May 2018, finance.yahoo.com/news/us-televangelist-appeals-donations-54-million-private-jet-161536591.html. Accessed 2 Jan. 2023. "Now some

people believe that preachers shouldn't have jets," he said in the video. "I really believe that preachers oughta have and go on every available voice, every available outlet to get this gospel preached to the world."

Duplantis said he needs the jet "so we can go anywhere in the world one stop" and he recounted a conversation he said he had with God about needing the plane.

"He said, 'Jesse, you wanna come up where I'm at?'" Duplantis said. "And I said, 'What do you mean?'"

"He said, 'I want you to believe in me for a Falcon 7X,'" Duplantis said.

"I can't live long enough to travel by car, or by ship, or by train, but I can do it by an airplane," he said.

"I really believe that if Jesus was physically on the Earth today he wouldn't be riding a donkey," he said. "He'd be in an airplane preaching the gospel all over the world."

Young, Scott, and Crissy Cochran. "the Influencers Podcast: Linguistic Theft: How Redefining Words Is Creating a Culture of Confusion (96) on Apple Podcasts." *Apple Podcasts*, 8 Aug. 2022, podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/linguistic-theft-how-redefining-words-is-creating-a/id1494592518?i=1000575489272. Accessed 16 Dec. 2022. Should the meaning of words we've understood for centuries change? New definitions for words such as truth, recession, gender, assault, woman, and freedom are being assigned in an increasingly divided, "cancel culture." Co-host Scott Young along with guest co-host Crissy Cochran discuss the issue of linguistic theft, the purposeful hijacking of words, changing definitions, and the use of those words as a tool of propaganda. If you've ever had your words used against you, struggle to find the right words to use in today's "woke" culture, or want to know how to help your kids identify buzz words, join the discussion to learn how to navigate today's cultural landscape with wisdom..

Zengal, Fred. *Aquarius Rising: Predawn of the New Age Book III: The Harmonic Convergence*. BookSurge Publishing, 2005.