

2 Timothy 3:16 - IS THE BIBLE GOD'S WORD?

2011 infamous atheist Richard Dawkins and his friends advertised London sides of buses: There's probably no God, so stop worrying and enjoy your life. **SENTIMENT**

More popularly sung John Lennon's IMAGINE rated one of top rock songs of all time
Imagine there's no heaven It's easy if you try
No hell below us Above us, only sky
Imagine all the people Livin' for today
Imagine there's no countries It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for And no religion, too
Imagine all the people Livin' life in peace
You – as if natural selection/phil mater peace – calamities of the 20th

- **Contrast interesting habit every time we gather with this book**

Atheist: Backwards to believe in the Bible

Agnostic: probably a metaphysical realm – who could say God's only spoken 1 J/C faith

Larger Group: Believe in God – the book is special but not sure what that means

WHAT WE MEAN WHEN WE SAY GOD'S WORD

Inspired – God Breathed – **Direct Revelation from God to and through people**

2 Tim 3:16-17 “**All Scripture** is given by **inspiration of God**, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” **Scripture = God's Word**

YHWH by His Spirit spoke to and through chosen individuals over the course of history in various political, geographical and cultural contexts as instruments through which He revealed Himself and His purposes to humanity.

- Canon (collection) of Scripture: not a compilation different books – but a single highly integrated book w/chapters – **telling us God's grand narrative/story**
 - o **CULMINATING PERSON JESUS**

That's all good and well if you believe God exists

DOES GOD EXIST – YES THE SHORT VERSION

CREATION: live w/evidence His existence every day – **creation – Product of his word**

NT WRIGHT WHISPERS OF GOD – sunset – new born – majestic mountains – frag rose

REALTION - LOVE indescribability, limitless, feeling, sacrifice **sacred relati.. – surv fit**

REVELATION: Jesus – Personal Experience (Subjective but true)

I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else. C.S. LEWIS

REASON: Prime mover - The fine-tuning theory – materialism doesn't account precision

HOW DO WE KNOW THE BIBLE IS GOD'S BOOK?

Why not Gita, Vedas, Koran, Tao Te Jing, Sutras – or NOTHING AT ALL why bother?

Back Dawkins: There's probably no God. So stop worrying and enjoy your life.

God does exist and has spoken. So relax, you're loved, start seeking Him through Bible

S.T.A.M.P. – 5 FACTS SEPARATE THE BIBLE FROM... – make u want to seek God

Scripture: The Bible asserts (unlike any other rel book) that it alone is God's Word

2 Pet 1:21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Tim 3:16-17 **All Scripture** is given by **inspiration of God**.

JESUS BELIEVED IT: Jesus quoted or referenced the OT 78 times - Rebuked the devil and the Pharisees using the Scripture - Declared Scriptures Supreme over Tradition - He Said Scriptures Indestructible and unbreakable - Verified most disputed stories (**Jonah, Genesis (Adam/Eve), Noah**) Story of the girl salvation army challenged: you don't believe Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Yes I do bible says it and I believe it. No one believes that. When I get to heaven I'll ask Jonah if he had an experience. What if he's not in heaven – he's in hell. **YOU ASK – SOUGHT TO FULFILL SCRIPTURE**

Luke 24:44 These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things **must be fulfilled** which were **written** in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me. And beginning at Moses and the prophets he expounded to them in all the **Scriptures** the things concerning Himself. **ALL OF THE OLD TESTAMENT**

Transformation: The Bible uniquely has the power to transform people's lives One of the greatest verifications of the Bible's divine inspiration is God's power transforming your life. **YOU ARE EXHIBIT A**

A number of years ago a great evangelist by the name of H.A. Ironside was preaching on the streets when a well known professor who was a very vocal and active atheist began to heckle him. Ironside kept trying to preach but this bitter professor kept yelling — "There is no God, Jesus is a myth!" Ironside kept preaching ... the antagonistic professor became more belligerent and began to taunt Ironside by shouting — "I challenge you to a debate! Are you afraid to debate me?" Ironside knew that a debate wouldn't prove much but he needed to respond to the attacks so he said — "Sir I accept your challenge ... but on one condition! When you come to the debate, I ask that you bring with you ten men and women whose lives have been changed for the better by the message of atheism! Bring some alcoholics and drug addicts who have been set free by atheism's power ... bring former prostitutes, criminals and outcasts let them tell us how atheism has lifted them out of the pit!" "And sir," Ironside said — "if you can find ten such men and women, I will be happy to debate you. And when I come, I will gladly bring with me two hundred men and women from this very city whose lives have been transformed in just those ways by the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ!"

- **POWER IN HIS WORD FOR YOUR LIFE TODAY**

Born into relationship with God 1 Peter 1:22-23 – Distinguish good from evil – Hebrews 5:11-14 - Path Answered Prayer John 15:7– Transforms Your life John 17:17 – Reveals your Heart Hebrews 4:11-13 – Grows You Spiritually 1 Peter 2:2-3 – Cleanses Your Life John 15:3 – Prevents Sin Psalm 119:11 – Empowers you for purpose 2 Timothy 3:16 – Guides you Psalm 119:24 – Gives comfort/hope romans 15:4

Archaeology: It happened – all of it – birth – life – crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus **Manuscript Evidence:** Science bible trans # surviving doc confidence hold today SAME existing surviving Manuscripts 5800 Greek - 10,000 Latin - 9000 others (24,000 copies or part) - Apostolic Fathers quoted copiously from the gospels/epistles

- **PICTURES OF STACKS OF BIBLE VS GREEK MANUSCRIPTS – ENGLISH TRANS.**

Prophecy: The Bible alone details future events with absolute perfection

- 2000 of 2500 Bible Prophecies have been fulfilled without error

THANK GOD FOR MYSTERIES

IF GOD WERE LOVING THERE WOULD BE MORE THAN ONE WAY

Because God is loving there is only one way.

- We have to start with God not ourselves.

To know yourself you, you must first begin to know God. **WE HAV THAT BACKWARDS**

Products of enlightenment start with basic goodness of humanity. **DESERVE**

Sweeps sin under the rug. Ignores its catastrophic consequences. denies the greatest characteristic of God (HIS LOVE). the lengths He went to RESCUE US bring Heaven to us.

- In other words the beauty of God is lost, the grand narrative is lost, your value is lost and we are left with nothing more than empty hedonism of material world.

John Paul Sartre life is an empty bubble floating on a sea of nothingness.

JESUS IS THE KEY

RESCUE AND RESTORATION – the bible tells the story of God’s creation – his image bearers – their fall from grace the marring creation – his redemptive work throughout the ages - culminating in the coming of His redeemer who brought heaven to earth to those who believe in Him and His WORD

- Your Kingdom come your will be done – fundamentally fulfilled in Him
 - o Why we choose to live our lives by this BOOK

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.