

Evolving Towards the Truth

To summarize, the very need for Jesus is strongly predicated upon the veracity of the first four chapters of Genesis. And if one accepts the theory of evolution, one has a very difficult time explaining the need for Jesus.

We've seen serious problems with the last book of the Bible. We've now seen how problems with the first book in the Bible create problems for the entire NT. At which point even our hypothetical LESS skeptical person would have to acknowledge that he probably SHOULD throw the baby out with the theological bathwater. Clinging to the Bible in light of this information wouldn't so much be an effort of "blind faith," but "blind hope." Hoping, despite what the Bible actually says, and despite what science says.

Where is God?

As I continued drifting away from Christianity, I found more and more contradictions, incredulities and absurdities with the whole Bible story. However, I think the greatest absurdity is one associated NOT with the contents of the Bible, but its very premise.

Defenders of the Bible like to claim that it is the inerrant word of God to man, that it's perfect, and that within it, believers will find wisdom and guidance to deal with any and all of life's myriad problems. The Bible, they contend, contains all of the information mankind would ever need regarding how to live. The fact that God hasn't seen the need to add any updates or new chapters for the last 2000 years is apparently not a concern.

To me, the whole premise of the book is rather amazing. If one accepts the tenets of the Bible, that God created the universe, that he is

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omniscient and omnipotent, it would be a pretty straightforward argument to claim that God must be THE most awesome, incredible thing in the universe. Yes, hurricanes, stars and galaxies are pretty awesome, and DNA and the workings of a cell are pretty mind-blowing, but the actual Creator of these awesome things must be, well, even more awesome.

And yet, what I find most amazing is that absolutely nobody alive has ever seen this most awesome being; nor talked to it, heard it, or touched it. The most awesome, incredible “thing” in the universe, and nobody has any actual evidence of its existence.

Consequently, one has to presume that this God doesn’t want to commune with us directly. Not only that, he apparently doesn’t want to give us any direct evidence that He even exists!⁴

It makes me wonder, what’s the big problem? We have radios, televisions, telephones, communication satellites, the Internet and email. What kind of super-intelligent, all loving, all powerful being would choose to allegedly talk only to a very select handful of believers thousands of years ago, before the advent of the printing press, and then completely disappear? What kind of beneficent God would remain entirely absent from his creation, and more importantly, leave the people of this planet to their own devices when it comes to dealing with natural disasters, birth defects, diseases and wars? If such a God actually exists, why doesn’t he just quit hiding, stop all the mystical mysteries, come on down and join us?

⁴ In fact, as Christians see it, this is the big “challenge” one must overcome if they want to earn their way to heaven; believing in something for which there is no direct evidence. Why a Supreme Being would place such a premium on one’s ability to believe the unbelievable is hard to fathom.

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This to me is the most amazing part of the alleged story of the Christian Bible. That this allegedly amazing, awesome Super Being chooses to remain undetectable and invisible to us.

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As I slowly drifted away from Christianity and began to take a more critical look at the Bible, I began to find more and more problems. I also found a substantial body of pre-existing knowledge written by other free-thinkers that had already been down this road and found the Bible wanting. I won't delve into those specific problems here, but the reader will find a short list of books that fall into this category in the bibliography.

As I learned about more of the contradictions and inconsistencies in the Bible, and more importantly, some of the extremely weak arguments that defenders of the Bible would use to attempt to refute them, I came to realize that if a person WANTS to believe the Bible, they'll find ways to negotiate their way around their intellectual untenability. **5** One truly has to have a "child like" faith to accept the Bible as credible and to believe in its audacious claims.

A child-like faith is certainly appropriate for accepting the truth, but it's hardly adequate for those sincerely interested in taking the more adult-like path to learning the Truth.

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5 People often wonder why "smart people" believe in the Bible; people such as doctors and scientists. I contend that it's because the question of belief in the Bible is so fraught with emotional issues, that ultimately it boils down NOT to issues of intellect and logic, but more out of issues related to fear, emotion and superstition. I'll touch on this idea in greater depth later in the book.