

WHY THE GOD OF THE BIBLE MAKES THE MOST SENSE:

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Step 1:

The Bible, when appropriately interpreted, answers the most important questions of life:

1. Origin: Where did we come from?
2. Identity: Who are we?
3. Meaning: Why are we here?
4. Morality: How should we live?
5. Evil: What has gone wrong with the world?
6. Purpose: What are we made for?
7. Destiny: Where are we going?

These questions reflect the existential struggles of our souls-which resonate in the heart of every person regardless of time, space, gender, or socio-economic status. But the answers to these questions also generate powerful consequences. So, it behooves us to carefully examine whether the answers given by some source or authority are indeed true & trustworthy.

Step 2:

The Bible not only answers all these questions, but they correspond to how things actually are in this world. But the answers not only correspond to how things actually are (e.g., evil is real; I willfully make sinful choices), but they also generate the greatest amount of good if carefully & consistently followed-both personally & socially (e.g., every person is intrinsically valuable). But the answers not only generate the greatest amount of good if carefully & consistently followed, but they are personally satisfying & socially enriching. For example, when I commit myself to loving others, following Christ's example, I am committing my will to the true good of others. This not only benefits the other person, but enhances the welfare my community.

Step 3:

Lastly, I'm able to harmonize the biblical answers to these questions into a coherent, consistent worldview that makes the most sense. But these answers not only corresponds to how things actually are, they compliment faith. Faith is the reliance upon that which you have reason to believe is true and trustworthy. Thus, faith is not willful ignorance or contrary to reason. Rather, faith compliments reason. Not only does the Bible reasonably & sufficiently answer these questions in such a way that is coherent, consistent, corresponding to reality, & factually reasonable, but they eliminate "absurdity" while maintaining mystery. While we are in the dark about certain issues, problems, & historical events (e.g., the mystery of evil), we are not in the dark about the character of God (e.g., being all-good, all-powerful, all-knowing, and absolutely holy) because of the historical reality, life, miracles, & teachings of Jesus Christ. God suffered with us. Because of the person & work of Jesus Christ, I'm able to truly hope (justice will be ultimately restored) This hope is not only reasonable, but practical, especially when I or people I love encounter the worst of pain.

Since we are such fragile, vaporous creatures, here today & gone tomorrow, I invite you, while you have air to breathe, to seriously consider the claims of Scripture & the life, words, & works of Jesus Christ. I believe you will find, as I have, if you are intellectually honest & open, that the answers the God of the Bible provides makes the most sense given the design & order of this world, the inherent desire within for communion with God, the raw, corrupting evil of this world, & the phenomenal consequences Scriptures generate when carefully & consistently followed. ~ 13 May 2010