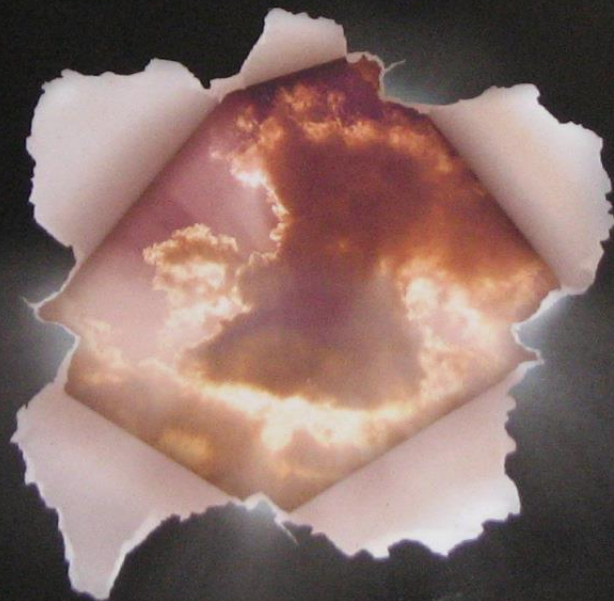


*I Don't Have Enough*  
**FAITH**  
*to Be an*  
**ATHEIST**



**Norman L. Geisler**  
**Frank Turek**



























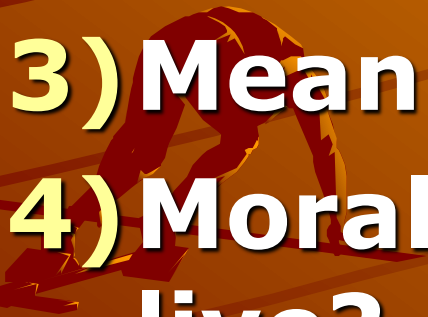








# The Five Most Consequential Questions In Life

- 1) Origin: Where do we come from?**
  - 2) Identity: Who are we?**
  - 3) Meaning: Why are we here?**
  - 4) Morality: How should we live?**
  - 5) Destiny: Where are we going?**
- 



# Religious World Views

- **Atheism**
- **Theism**
- **Polytheism**
- **Deism**
- **Finite Godism**
- **Panentheism**
- **Pantheism**



	<b>THEISM</b>	<b>ATHEISM</b>	<b>DEISM</b>	<b>FINITE GODISM</b>	<b>PANENTHEISM</b>	<b>PANTHEISM</b>	<b>POLYTHEISM</b>
GOD	One, infinite, personal	None	One, infinite, personal	One, finite, personal	One, potentially infinite, actually finite, personal	One, infinite, impersonal	Two or more, finite, personal
WORLD	Created <i>ex nihilo</i> Finite, temporal	Uncreated, Eternal (material)	Created <i>ex nihilo</i> Finite, temporal	Created <i>ex materia</i> , or <i>ex nihilo</i> , eternal	Created <i>ex materia</i> and <i>ex deo</i>	Created <i>ex deo</i> , eternal immaterial	Created <i>ex materia</i> , eternal
GOD/WORLD RELATION	God beyond and in world	World only	God beyond world and not in it miraculously	God beyond and/or in world	God beyond world potentially and in it actually	God is world	God in world
MIRACLES	Possible and actual	Impossible	May be possible but not actual	May be possible but not actual	Impossible	Impossible	Not possible, supernatural events only
MAN'S NATURE	Soul-body, immortal	Body only, mortal	Body mortal, soul immortal	Body mortal, soul immortal	Body mortal, soul immortal (some advocates)	Body mortal, soul immortal	Body mortal, soul immortal
MAN'S DESTINY	Resurrection to reward or punishment	Extinction	Reward or punishment of the soul	Rewards and/or punishment	Live on in God's memory	Reincarnation, merging with God	Divine reward or punishment
ORIGIN OF EVIL	Free choice	Human Ignorance	Free choice (and/or ignorance)	In God's internal struggle	Necessary aspect of God	An illusion	In struggles between gods
END OF EVIL	Will be defeated by God	Can be defeated by man	Can be defeated by man or God	Can be defeated by man or God	Can't be defeated by God or man	Will be reabsorbed by God	Will not be defeated by gods
BASIS OF ETHICS	Grounded in God	Grounded in man	Grounded in nature	Grounded in God or man	Grounded in a changing God	Grounded in lower manifestations of God	Grounded in gods
NATURE OF ETHICS	Absolute	Relative	Absolute	Relative	Relative	Relative	Relative
HISTORY AND GOAL	Linear, purposeful, God appointed end	Linear or cyclical, purposeless, endless	Linear, purposeful, endless	Linear, purposeful, endless	Linear, purposeful, endless	Circular, illusory, endless	Circular, purposeful, endless
REPRESENTATIVE	Judaism, Christianity, Islam	David Hume, Friedrich Nietzsche, Antony Flew	Voltaire, T. Jefferson, Thomas Hobbes,	John Stuart Mill, William James, Peter Bertocci	Alfred North Whitehead, Charles Hartshorne, Schubert M. Ogden	Hinduism, Transcendentalists, Spinoza,	Hinduism, Zen Buddhism, Mormonism

Chart is reproduced from Geisler, Norman and William Watkins *Perspectives, Understanding and Evaluating Today's World Views*, Here's Life Publishers, Inc. San Bernardino, California, 1984. ISBN 0-89840-073-2



# The Three Major Religious Worldviews

**THEISM**  
GOD MADE ALL



Judaism  
Christianity  
Islam

**PANTHEISM**  
GOD IS ALL



Zen Buddhism  
Hinduism  
New Age

**ATHEISM**  
NO GOD AT ALL



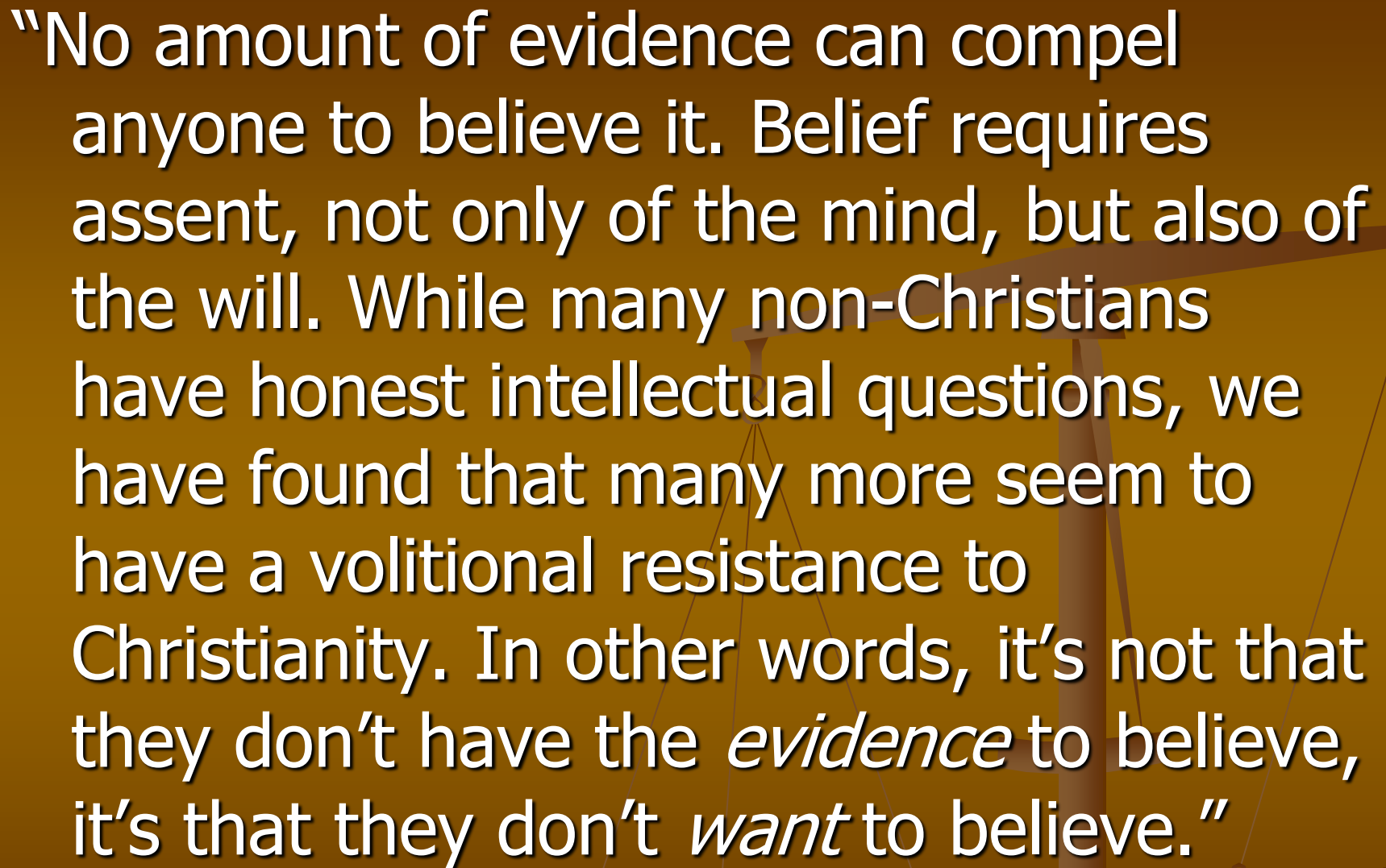
Religious  
Humanism



➤ One who claims to be a skeptic of one set of beliefs is actually a true believer in another set of beliefs.

■ Phillip E. Johnson





“No amount of evidence can compel anyone to believe it. Belief requires assent, not only of the mind, but also of the will. While many non-Christians have honest intellectual questions, we have found that many more seem to have a volitional resistance to Christianity. In other words, it’s not that they don’t have the *evidence* to believe, it’s that they don’t *want* to believe.”

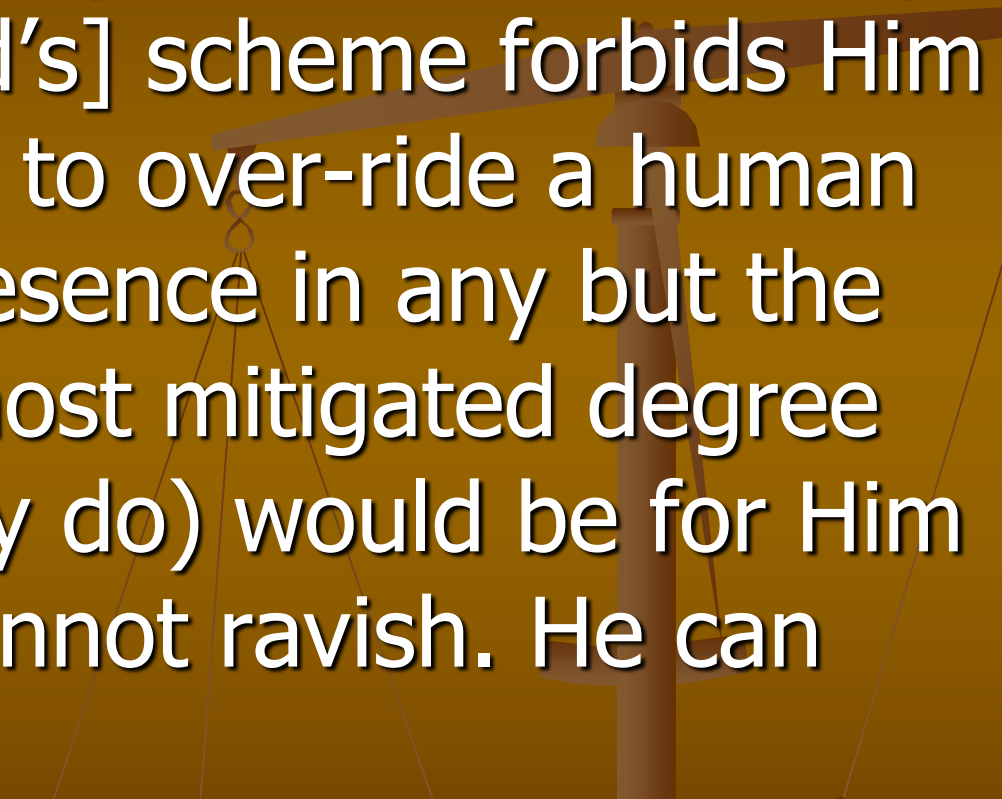
Geisler & Turek, “*I Don’t Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*”



*"God has provided enough evidence in this life to convince anyone willing to believe, yet He has left some ambiguity so as not to compel the unwilling"*

Geisler & Turek, *"I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist"*

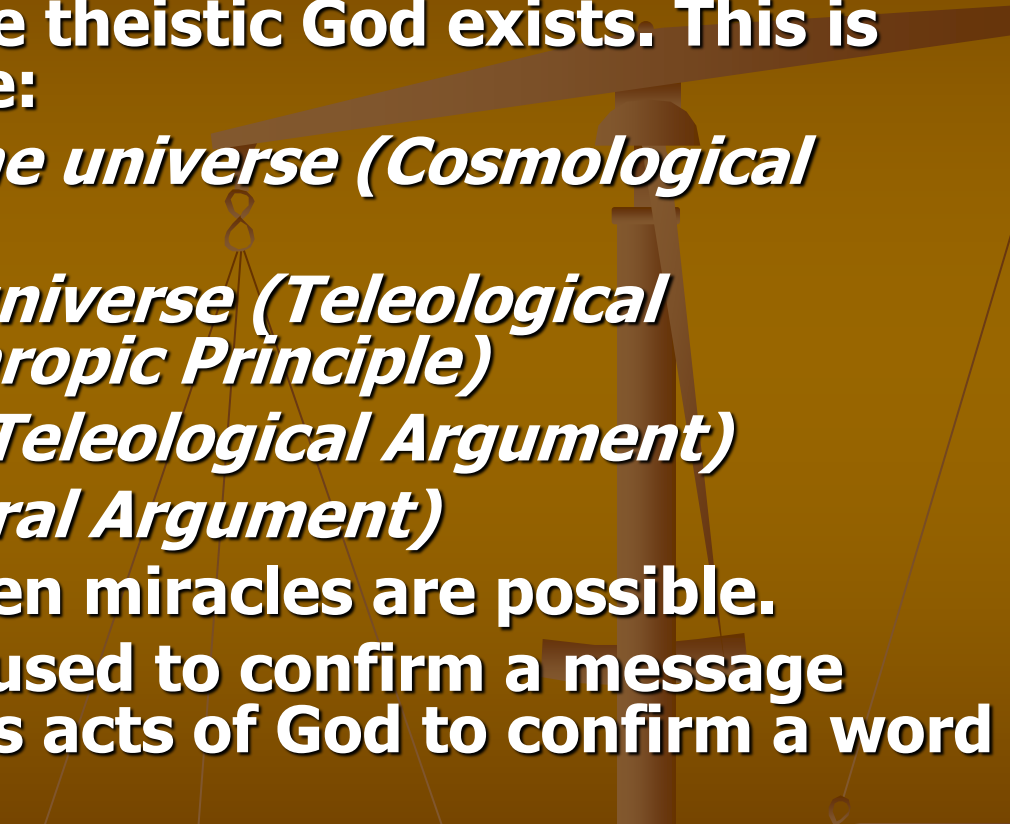




“The Irresistible and the Indisputable are the two weapons which the very nature of [God’s] scheme forbids Him to use. Merely to over-ride a human will (as His presence in any but the faintest and most mitigated degree would certainly do) would be for Him useless. He cannot ravish. He can only woo.”

C. S. Lewis

# I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist

- A. Truth about reality is knowable.**
  - B. The opposite of true is false.**
  - C. It is true that the theistic God exists. This is evidenced by the:**
    - *Beginning of the universe (Cosmological Argument)*
    - *Design of the universe (Teleological Argument/ Anthropic Principle)*
    - *Design of life (Teleological Argument)*
    - *Moral Law (Moral Argument)*
  - D. If God exists, then miracles are possible.**
  - E. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God (i.e., as acts of God to confirm a word from God).**
- 



# I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist

**F. The New Testament is historically reliable. This is evidenced by:**

- *Early testimony*
- *Eyewitness testimony*
- *Uninvented (authentic) testimony*
- *Eyewitnesses who were not deceived*

**G. The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God.**

**H. Jesus' claim to be God was miraculously confirmed by:**

- *His fulfillment of many prophecies about himself;*
- *His sinless life and miraculous deeds;*
- *His prediction and accomplishment of his resurrection.*

**I. Therefore, Jesus is God.**

**J. Whatever Jesus (who is God) teaches is true.**

**K. Jesus taught that the Bible is the Word of God.**

**L. Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God (and anything opposed to it is false).**

# Truths About Truth

- ◆ *Truth is discovered, not invented. It exists independent of anyone's knowledge about it.*
- ◆ *Truth is transcultural. If something is true, it's true for all people, at all times, in all places.*
- ◆ *Truth is unchanging, even though our beliefs about truth change.*
- ◆ *Beliefs cannot change a fact no matter how sincerely they are held.*
- ◆ *Truth is not affected by the attitude of the one professing it.*
- ◆ *All truths are absolute truths. Even truths that appear to be relative are really absolute.*
- ◆ *Contrary beliefs are possible, contrary truths are not possible*



# Why Do People Believe What They Believe?

Sociological Reasons	Psychological Reasons	Religious Reasons	Philosophical Reasons
Parents	Comfort	Scripture	Consistency
Friends	Peace of Mind	Pastor/Priest	Coherence
Society	Meaning	Guru	Completeness (best explanation of all the evidence)
Culture	Purpose	Rabbi	
	Hope	Imam	
	Identity	Church	

Per James Sire

# David Hume's Philosophy

- Hume asserted that propositions can be meaningful only if they meet one of the following two conditions:
  - the truth claim is abstract reasoning such as a mathematical equation or a definition (e.g., " $2+2=4$ " or "all triangles have three sides" );  
or
  - the truth claim can be verified empirically through one or more of the five senses.

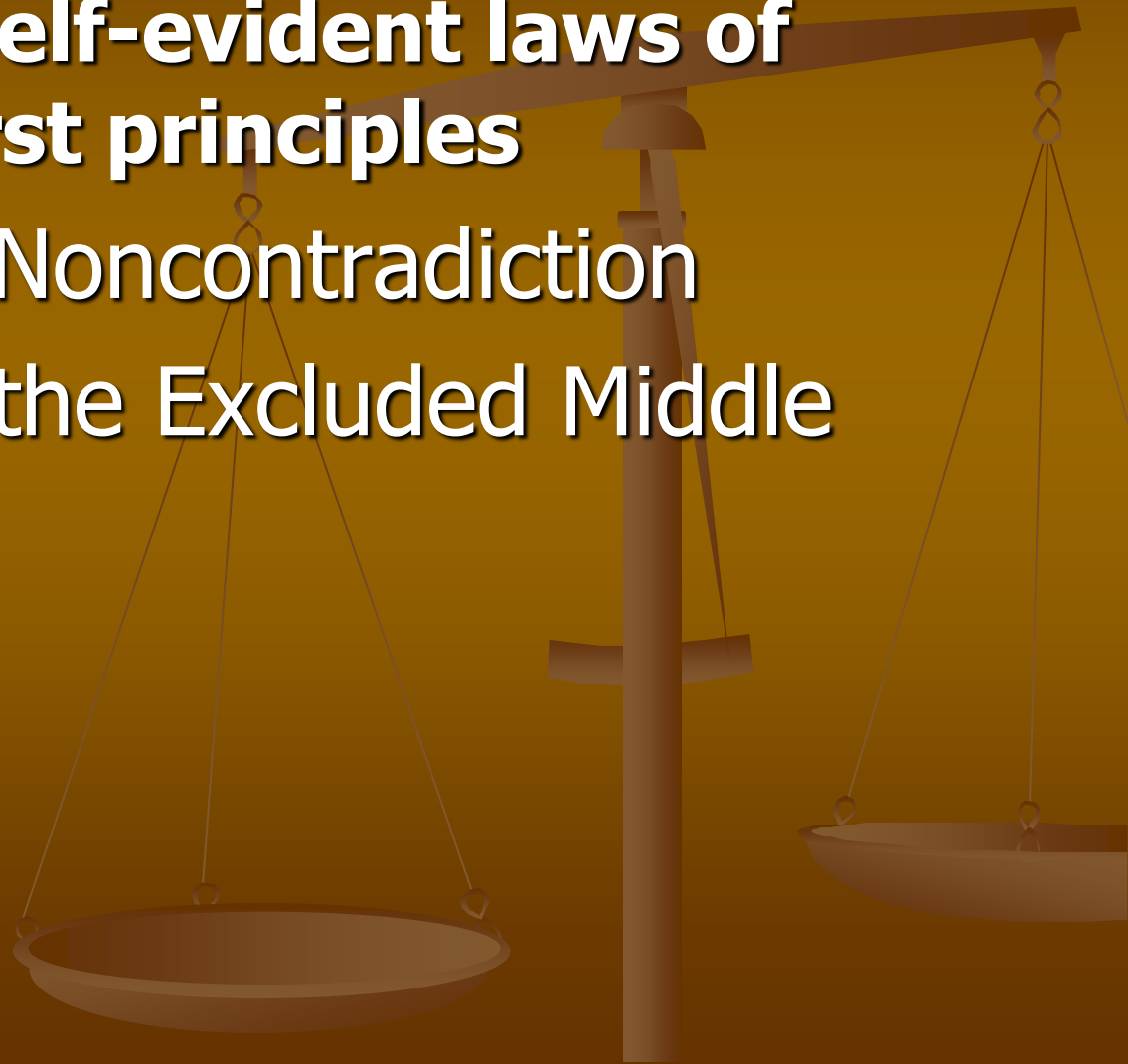


# Immanuel Kant's Philosophy

- According to Kant the structure of your senses and your mind forms all sense data, so you never really know the thing in itself. You only know the thing to you after your mind and senses form it.

# How Is Truth Known?

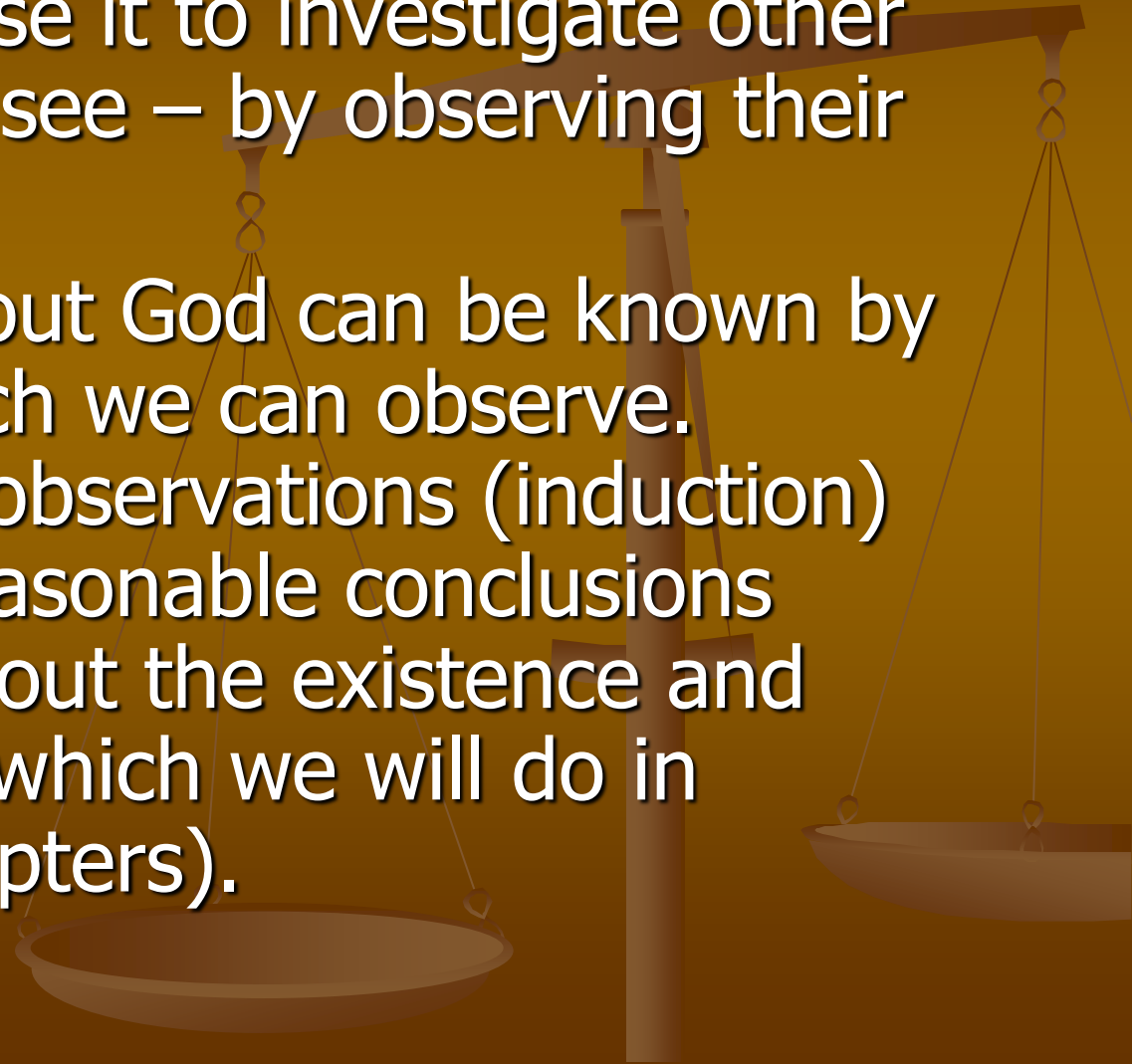
- **Through the self-evident laws of logic called first principles**
  - The Law of Noncontradiction
  - The Law of the Excluded Middle
- Deduction
- Induction





# How Is Truth About God Known?

- We use induction to investigate God the same way we use it to investigate other things we can't see – by observing their effects.
- Many truths about God can be known by his effects, which we can observe. Through many observations (induction) we can draw reasonable conclusions (deductions) about the existence and nature of God (which we will do in subsequent chapters).



It is true that the theistic God exists. This is evidenced by the:

A. Beginning of the universe  
(Cosmological Argument)

1. Everything that had a beginning had a cause.
2. The universe had a beginning.
3. Therefore the universe had a cause.



It is true that the theistic God exists. This is evidenced by the:

B. Design of the universe (Teleological Argument/ Anthropic Principle)

1. Every design had a designer.
2. The universe has highly complex design.
3. Therefore, the universe had a Designer.

It is true that the theistic God exists. This is evidenced by the:

### C. Design of life (Teleological Argument)

- Every design had a designer.
- All life forms have highly complex design.
- Therefore, life had a Designer.



# To be a Darwinist you have to believe that, without intelligent intervention:

1. Something arose from nothing (the origin of the universe).
2. Order arose from chaos (the design of the universe).
3. Life arose from non-life (which means that intelligence arose from non-intelligence, and personality arose from non-personality).
4. New life forms arose from existing life forms despite evidence to the contrary such as:
  - a) Genetic limits
  - b) Cyclical change
  - c) Irreducible complexity
  - d) Molecular isolation
  - e) Non-viability of transitional forms, and
  - f) The fossil record

It is true that the theistic God exists. This is evidenced by the:

## D. Moral Law (Moral Argument)

a) Every law has a law giver.

b) There is a Moral Law.

c) Therefore, there is a Moral Law Giver.



# Who Was Jesus: Legend, Liar, Lunatic, or Lord?

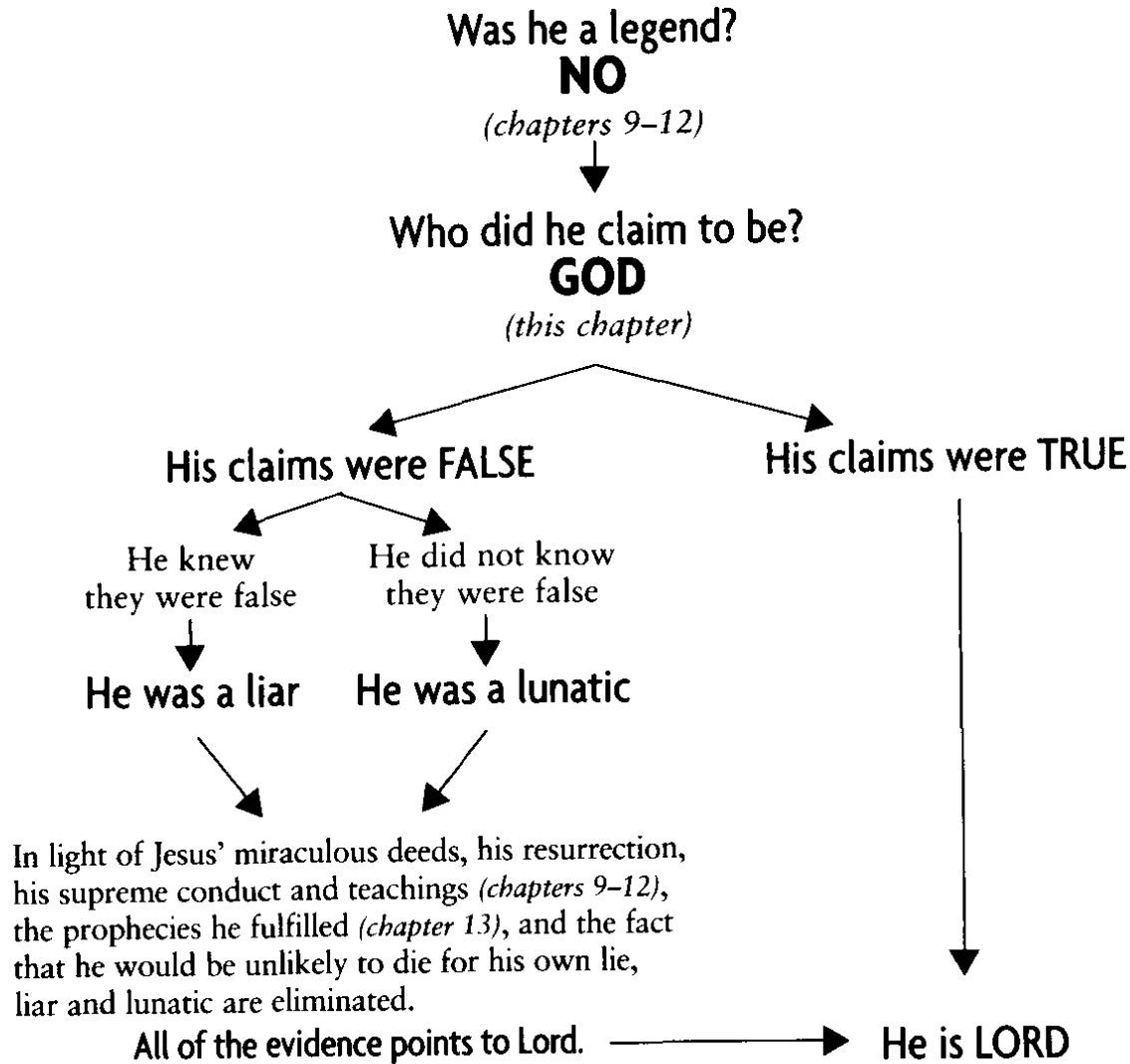


Fig. 13.2