

WHY DO YOU BELIEVE?

Notes

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Message Points:

1. Afraid God will get mad and punish us for all our mistakes.
2. He is watching and waiting for us to mess up.
3. When we aren't good enough we cannot pray because God is mad at us.
4. We say we believe in Jesus so that we can hopefully avoid hell.

Genesis 1:1-2 NLT: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

Genesis 1:3 NLT: Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Genesis 1:6 NLT: Then God said, "Let there be a space between the waters, to separate the waters of the heavens from the waters of the earth."

Genesis 1:9 NLT: Then God said, "Let the waters beneath the sky flow together into one place, so dry ground may appear."

Genesis 1:11 NLT: Then God said, "Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came."

Genesis 1:14 NLT: Then God said, “Let lights appear in the sky to separate the day from the night...

Genesis 1:16 NLT: God made two great lights—the larger one to govern the day, and the smaller one to govern the night. He also made the stars.

Genesis 1:20 NLT: Then God said, “Let the waters swarm with fish and other life. Let the skies be filled with birds of every kind.”

Genesis 1:24 NLT: Then God said, “Let the earth produce every sort of animal, each producing offspring of the same kind—livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and wild animals.”

Genesis 1:26-31 NLT: 26Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.” 27So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground.” 31Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!

Message Point

You can believe one of the following:

1. You are created. You were designed. Your life has a purpose. You are not the result of chaos and chance. You are a miracle created by a loving creator who took time to make you unique, and who wrote your story.

Or:

2. You are a mistake. You are the result of random, uncontrolled chemical processes that somehow lined up to create an accidental existence. Your consciousness, emotions, desire to be loved by a creator, and thoughts are just neurons firing in a random way that somehow work.

Micah 5:2 NLT But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf.

Matthew 2:1 NLT Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod.

Isaiah 35:5-6 NLT And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf. 6The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy!

Luke 5:24-26 NLT. So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!" 25And immediately, as everyone watched, the man jumped up, picked up his mat, and went home praising God. 26Everyone was gripped with great wonder and awe, and they praised God, exclaiming, "We have seen amazing things today!"

Isaiah 53:2-12 NLT My servant grew up in the Lord's presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him. 3He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. 4Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! 5But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. 6All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all. 7He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. 8Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream. But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people. 9He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave. 10But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the Lord's good plan will prosper in his hands. 11When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins. 12 I will give him the honors of a victorious soldier, because he exposed himself to death. He was counted among the rebels. He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels.

John 19:1-3 NLT: Then Pilate had Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip. 2The soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they put a purple robe on him. 3“Hail! King of the Jews!” they mocked, as they slapped him across the face.

John 19:18 NLT: There they nailed him to the cross.

John 19:23-24 NLT: When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they divided his clothes among the four of them. They also took his robe, but it was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. ²⁴So they said, "Rather than tearing it apart, let's throw dice for it." This fulfilled the Scripture that says, "They divided my garments among themselves and threw dice for my clothing."

Matthew 12:39-40 NLT: He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 NLT: I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. ⁴He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. ⁵He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. ⁶After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time."