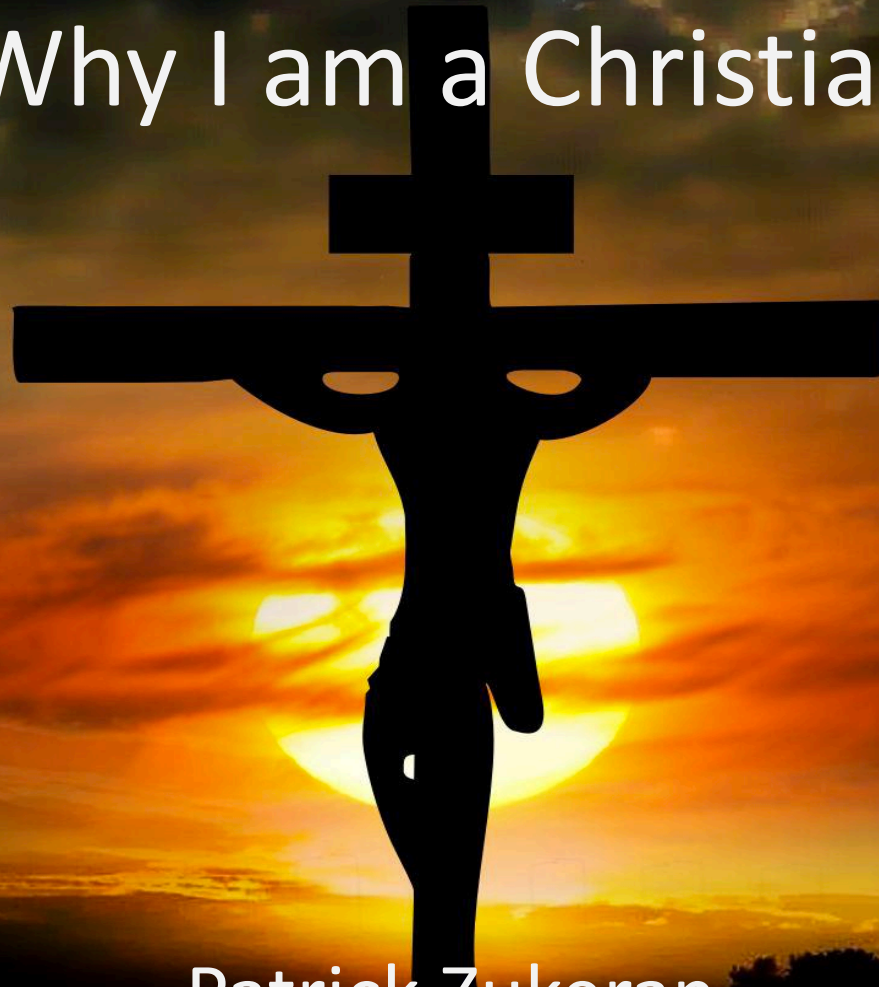


Why I am a Christian



Patrick Zukeran

Evidence and Answers

Evidence and Answers Radio

evidenceandanswers.org

KGU 99.5 FM (Mon.-Fri. 6 PM)

KLHT 1040 AM (Sat. 12:30 PM)

DZAS 740 AM Manila (Sat 7 PM & Sun 8 PM)



Why I am a Christian

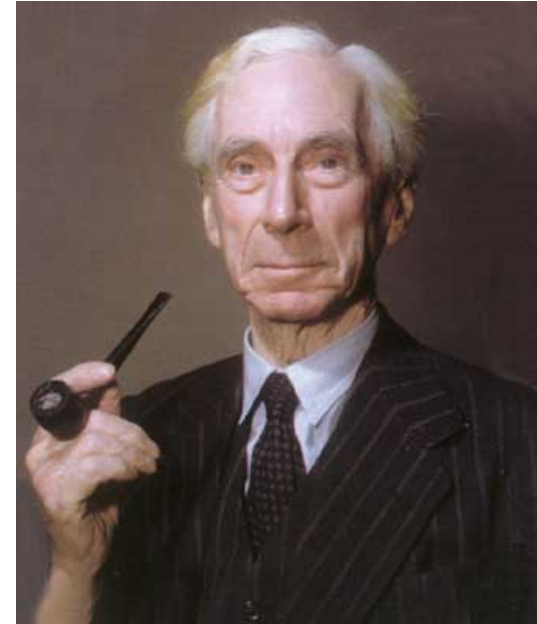


Patrick Zukeran

Evidence and Answers

Atheist Philosopher Speaks

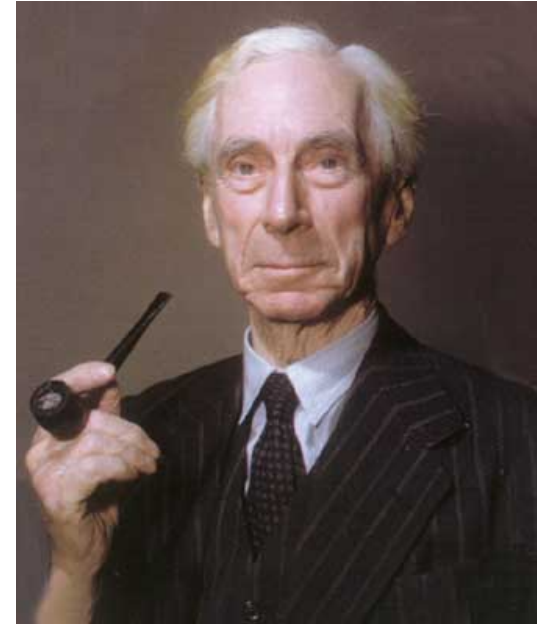
?... *man is the product of causes which had no prevision of the end they were achieving; that his origin, his growth, his hopes and fears, his loves and his beliefs, are but the outcome of accidental collocations of atoms; that no fire, no heroism, no intensity of thought and feeling, can preserve an individual life beyond the grave;*



Absurdity of Life Without God

☐ that all the labors of the ages, all the devotion, all the inspiration, all the noonday brightness of human genius, are destined to extinction in the vast death of the solar system, and that the whole temple of man's achievement must inevitably be buried beneath the debris of a universe in ruins ...

☐ Bertrand Russell



Dr. William Provine



- “Let me summarize my views on what modern evolutionary biology tells us loud and clear ... There are no gods, no purposes, no goal-directed forces of any kind. There is no life after death. When I die, I am absolutely certain that I am going to be dead. That’s the end for me. There is no ultimate foundation for ethics, no ultimate meaning to life, and no free will for humans, either”

– Provine, W. 1994. *Origins Research*. p. 9.

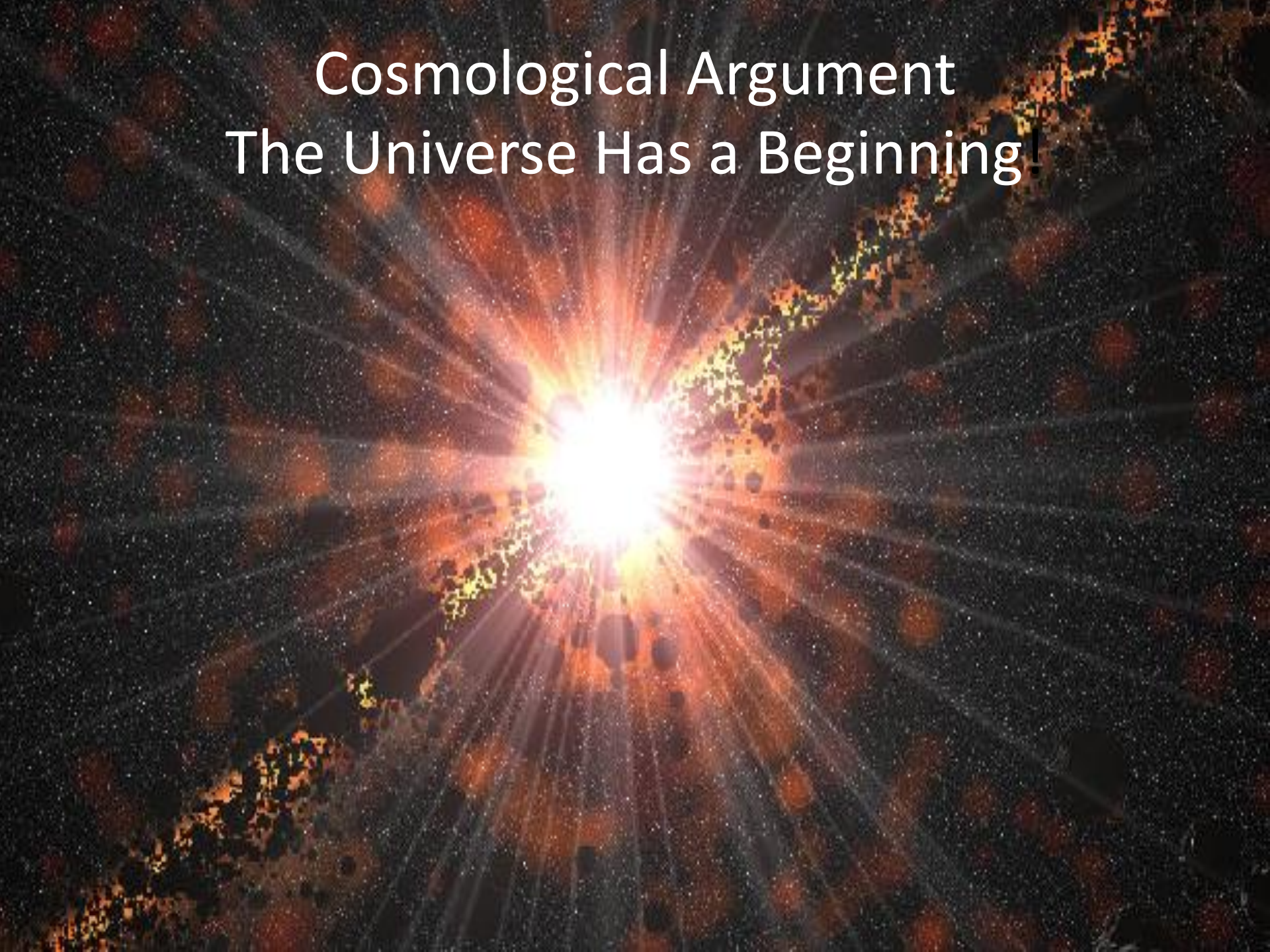
Dr. Richard Dawkins

- “The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, **no purpose**, no evil and no good, **nothing but blind, pitiless indifference.**”
 - Richard Dawkins, “God’s Utility Function,” *Scientific American*, 273[5]:85, November, 1995.



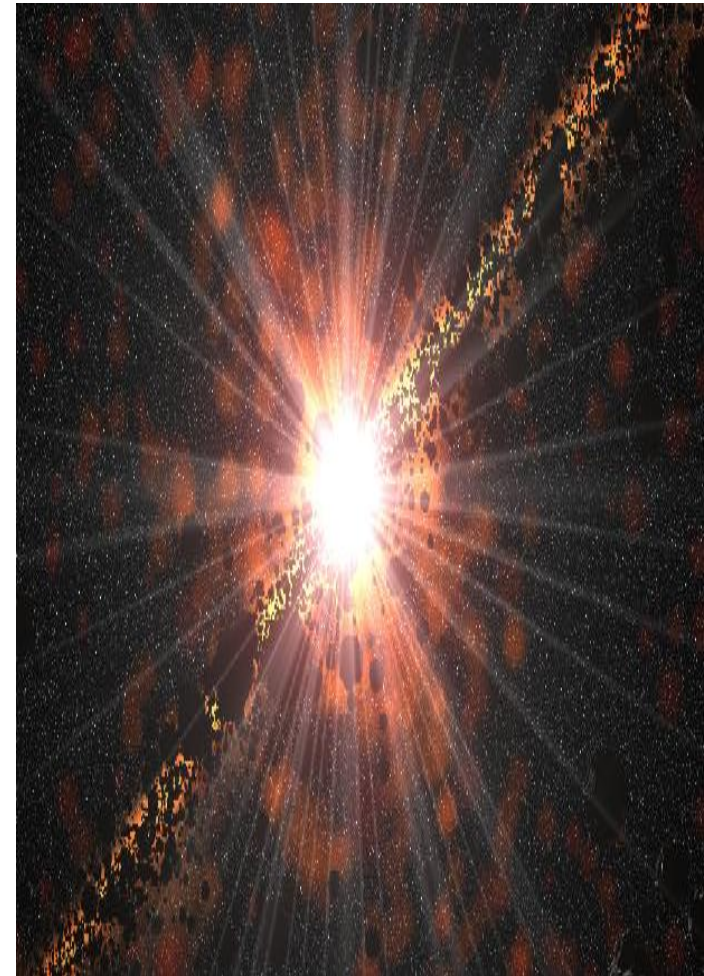
Cosmological Argument

The Universe Has a Beginning!



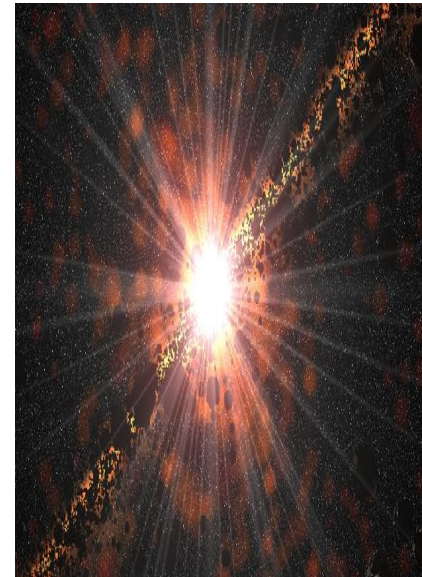
The argument from First Cause

- Whatever has a beginning has a cause
- The universe has a beginning
- Therefore, the universe has a cause.



The argument from First Cause

- The Universe has a beginning!
- Big Bang!
 - Relativity: Einstein's Theory of Relativity
 - Radiation Afterglow
 - Red Shift
 - Running down of the Universe (2nd Law of Thermodynamics)



Stephen Hawking



- *“Almost everyone now believes that the universe, and time itself, had a beginning at the Big Bang.”*
 - Stephen Hawking and Roger Penrose, *The Nature of Space and Time*, p. 20

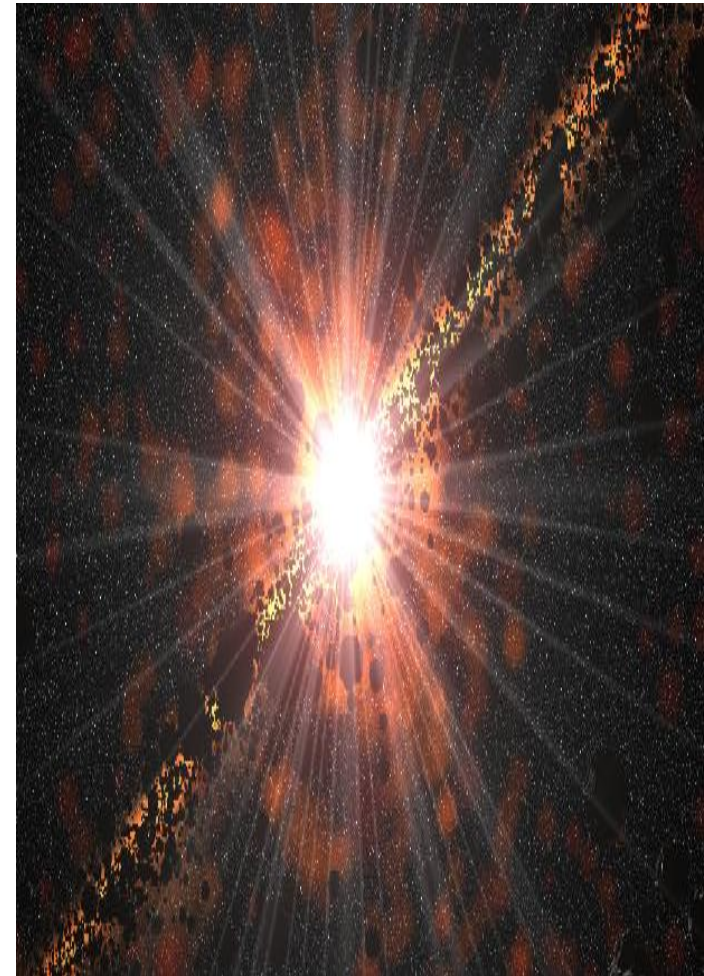
Stephen Weinberg: Nobel Prize Winning Physicist



- “In the beginning there was an explosion. Not an explosion like those familiar on Earth,... but an explosion which occurred simultaneously everywhere filling all space from the beginning with every particle of matter rushing apart from every other particle.”
 - Stephen Weinberg, *The First Three Minutes*, p. 5.

The argument from First Cause

- ◆ Whatever has a beginning has a cause
- ◆ The universe has a beginning
- ◆ Therefore, the universe has a cause.
- ◆ God is the most reasonable conclusion



In the beginning,
God created the
heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1



The Design Argument

The Universe Displays Complexity and Design



The argument from design

- ◆ Every design has a designer
- ◆ The universe has highly complex design
- ◆ Therefore, the universe has a designer
- ◆ Romans 1:18-22



What Would You Conclude?



What would you conclude if you found this?



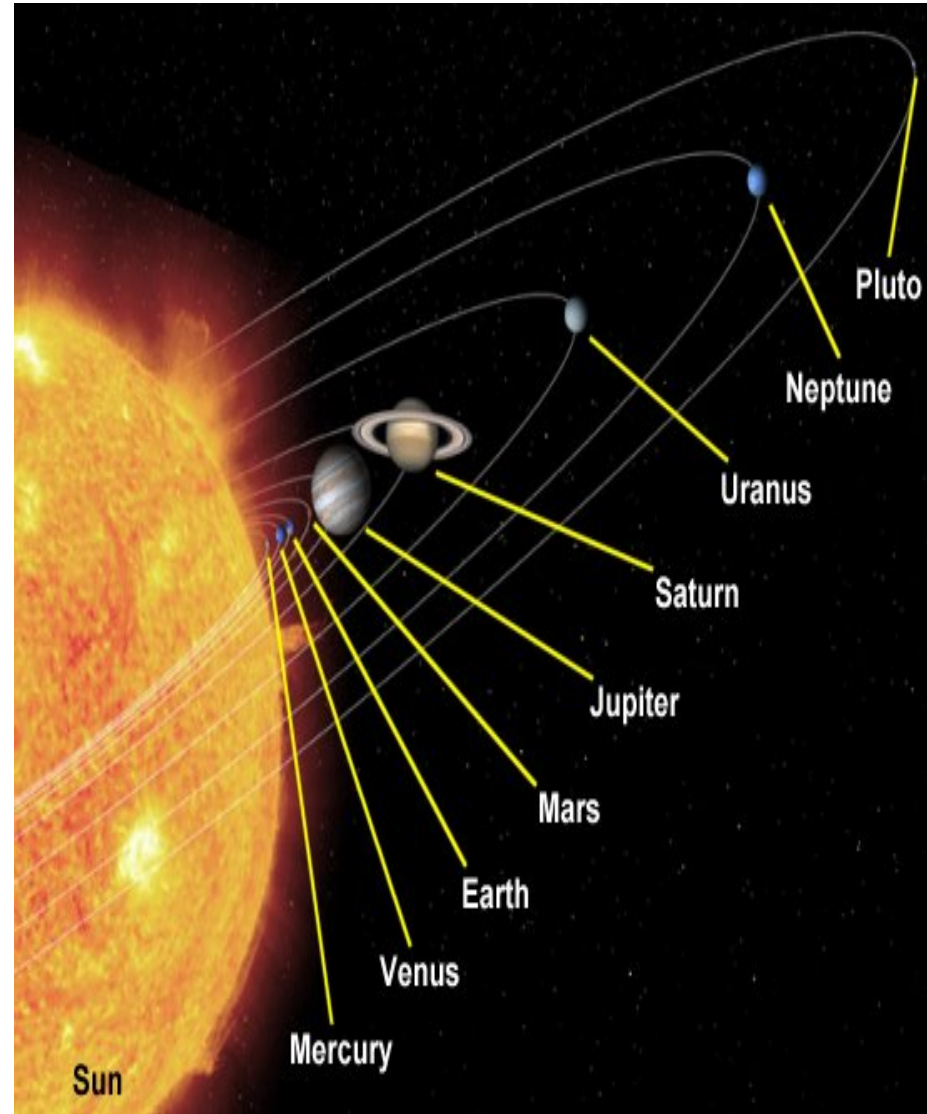
The Expansion of the Universe

- The universe expands at just the right rate.
- “This expansion rate cannot differ by more than $1/10^{55}$ from the actual rate.”



Our Solar System

Astronomers cite 51
Fine-tuned
Parameters to our
Galaxy, Solar
System, and Planet

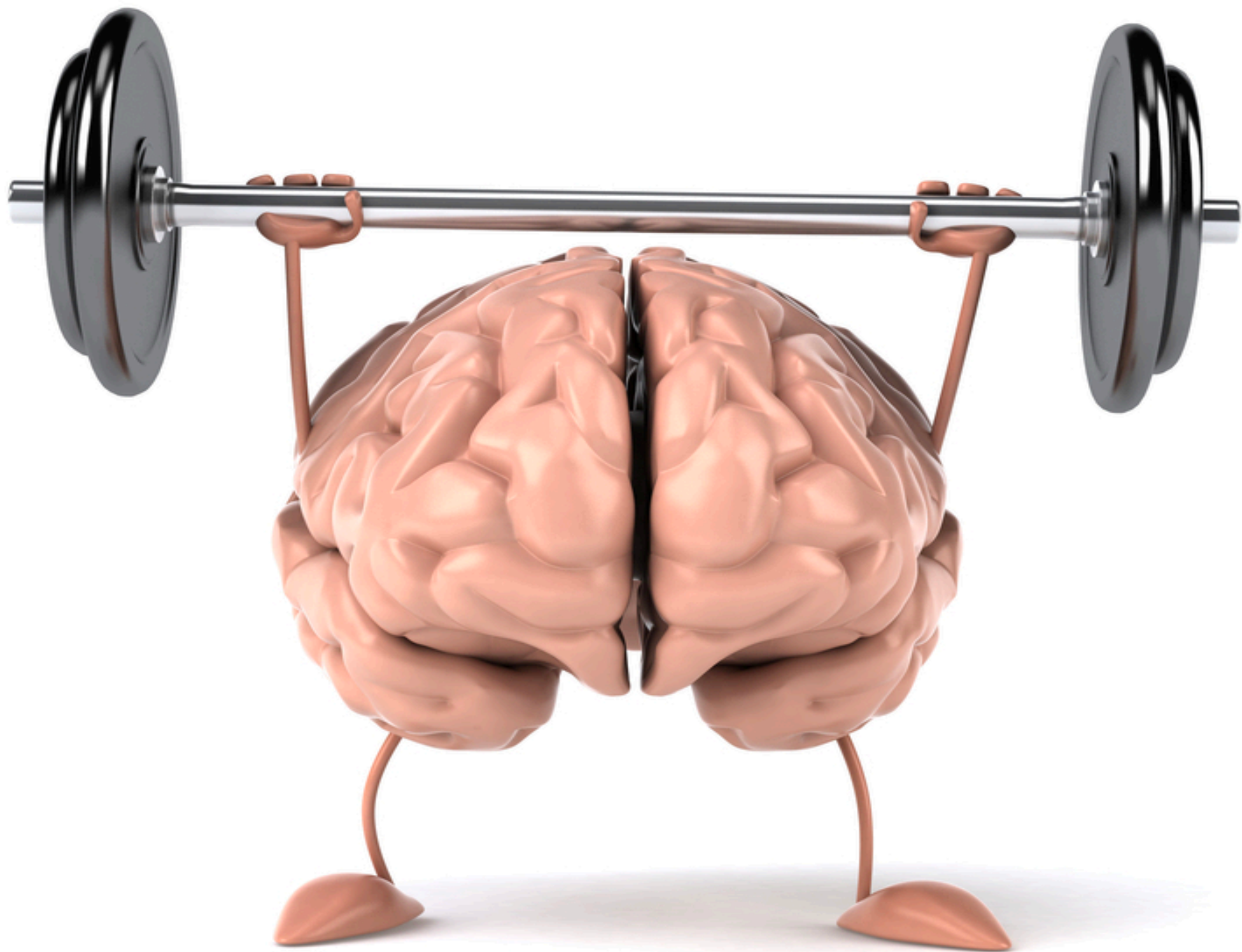


What Would You Conclude?



What would you conclude if you found this?





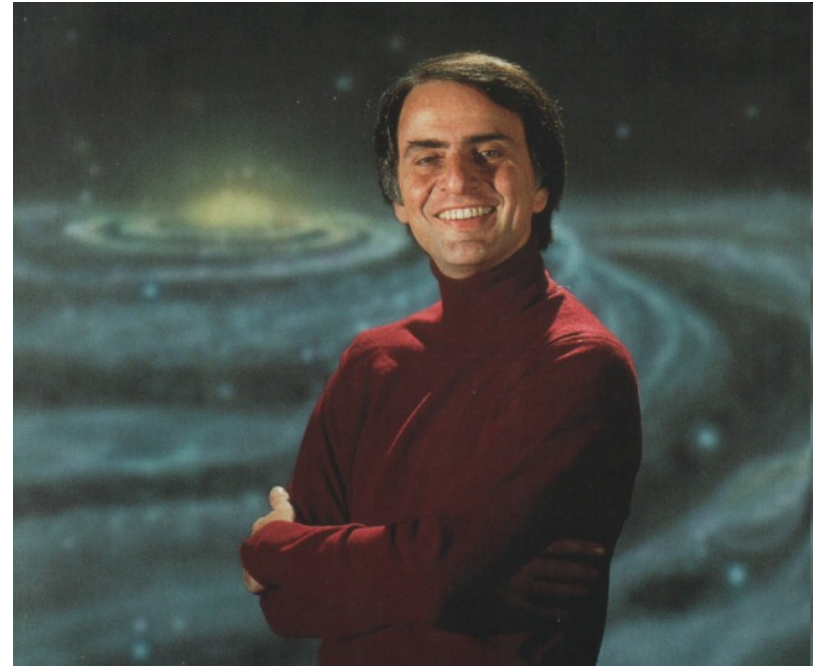
The Human Brain

Carl Sagan noted that the genetic information in the brain expressed in bits is probably comparable to the total number of connections among neurons - about 100 trillion, 10 to the 14th power bits. If written out in English that information would fill some 20 million volumes,...

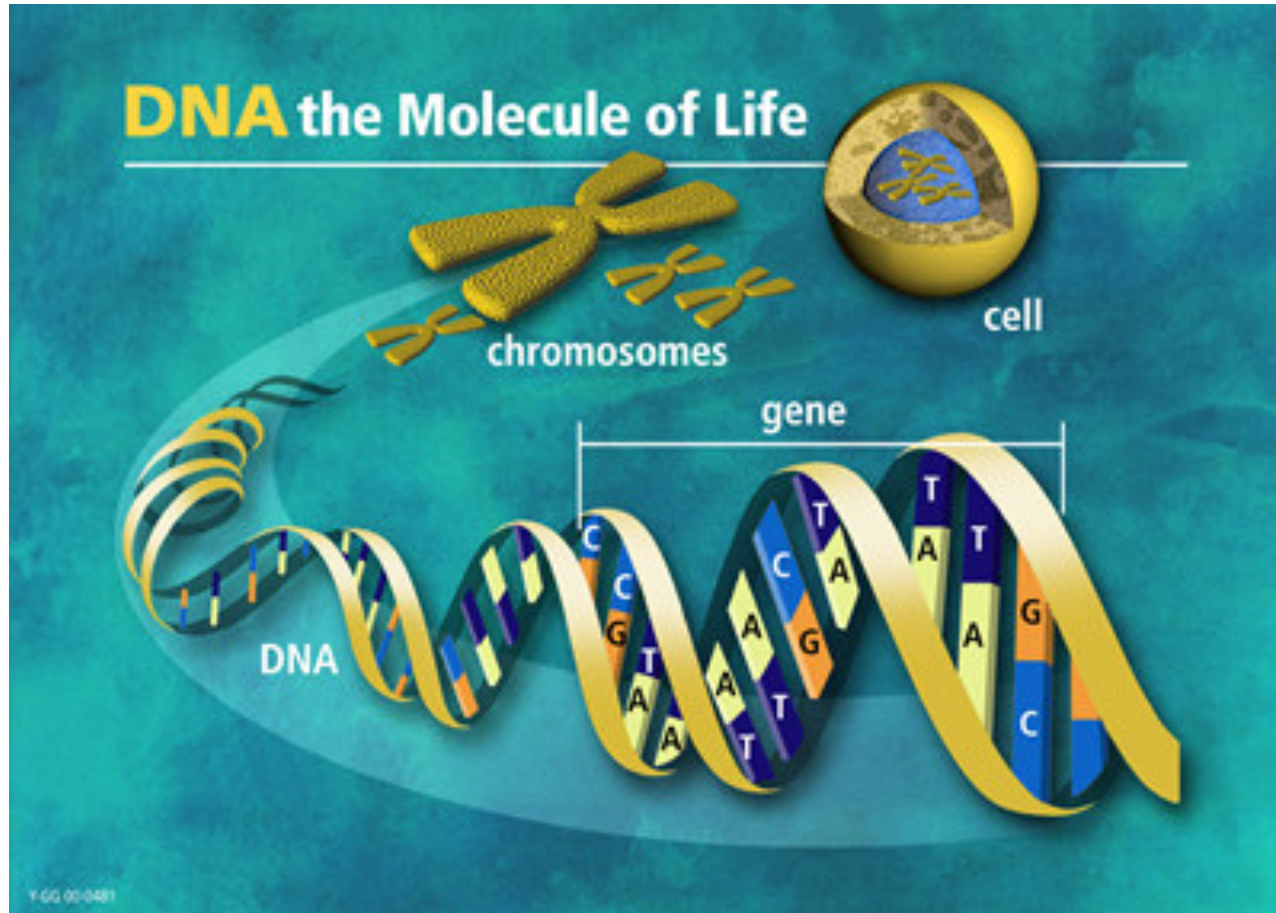
The Human Brain

“The brain is a very big place in a very small space. ... the neurochemistry of the brain is astonishingly busy, the circuitry of a machine more wonderful than any devised by humans.”

Carl Sagan



DNA Information



Atheist Richard Dawkins on DNA Code

“The machine code of the genes is uncannily computer-like... [T]he pages of a molecular biology journal might be interchanged with those of a computer engineering journal.”

Richard Dawkins (Oxford Zoologist), *River Out of Eden* (1995), p. 11



Computer Genius

- “DNA is far, far more complex than any software ever created.”
 - Bill Gates, quoted in Lee Strobel, *Case for a Creator*, 225.



Award Winning Scientist Speaks

“If we need an atheist to debate, I go to the philosophy department. The physics department isn’t much use.”

Dr. Robert Griffiths (Heinamen Award in Mathematical Sciences)



Award Winning NASA Scientist

“For the scientist who has lived by faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.”

Dr. Robert Jastrow



THERE IS A UNIVERSAL MORAL LAW



The Moral Argument

- Every Law has a lawgiver
- There is an absolute law
- Therefore, there is an absolute moral lawgiver
- Romans 2:14-15



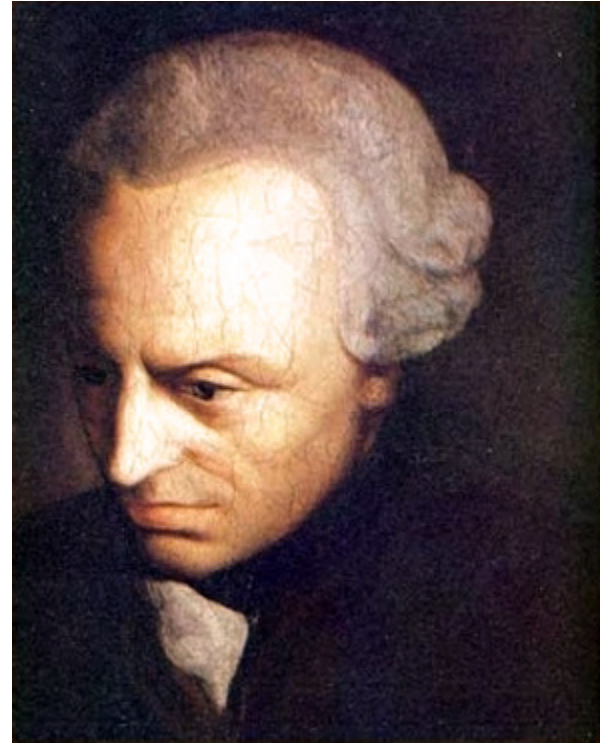


“As an atheist my argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe to when I called it unjust?”
C.S. Lewis

Immanuel Kant

Philosophy “Giant”

- “Two things fill the mind with ever new and increasing admiration and awe, the oftener and more steadily we reflect on them: the starry heavens above me and the moral law within me.”
 - Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason*





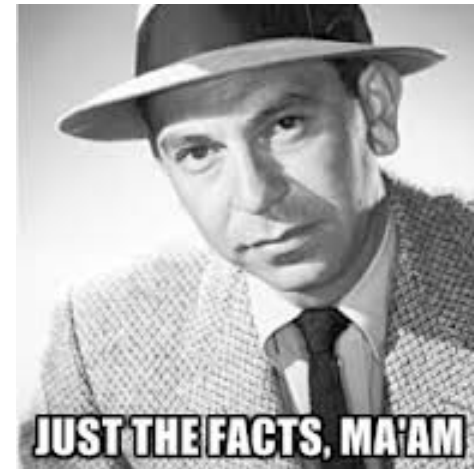
JESUS THE SON OF GOD

JUST THE FACTS



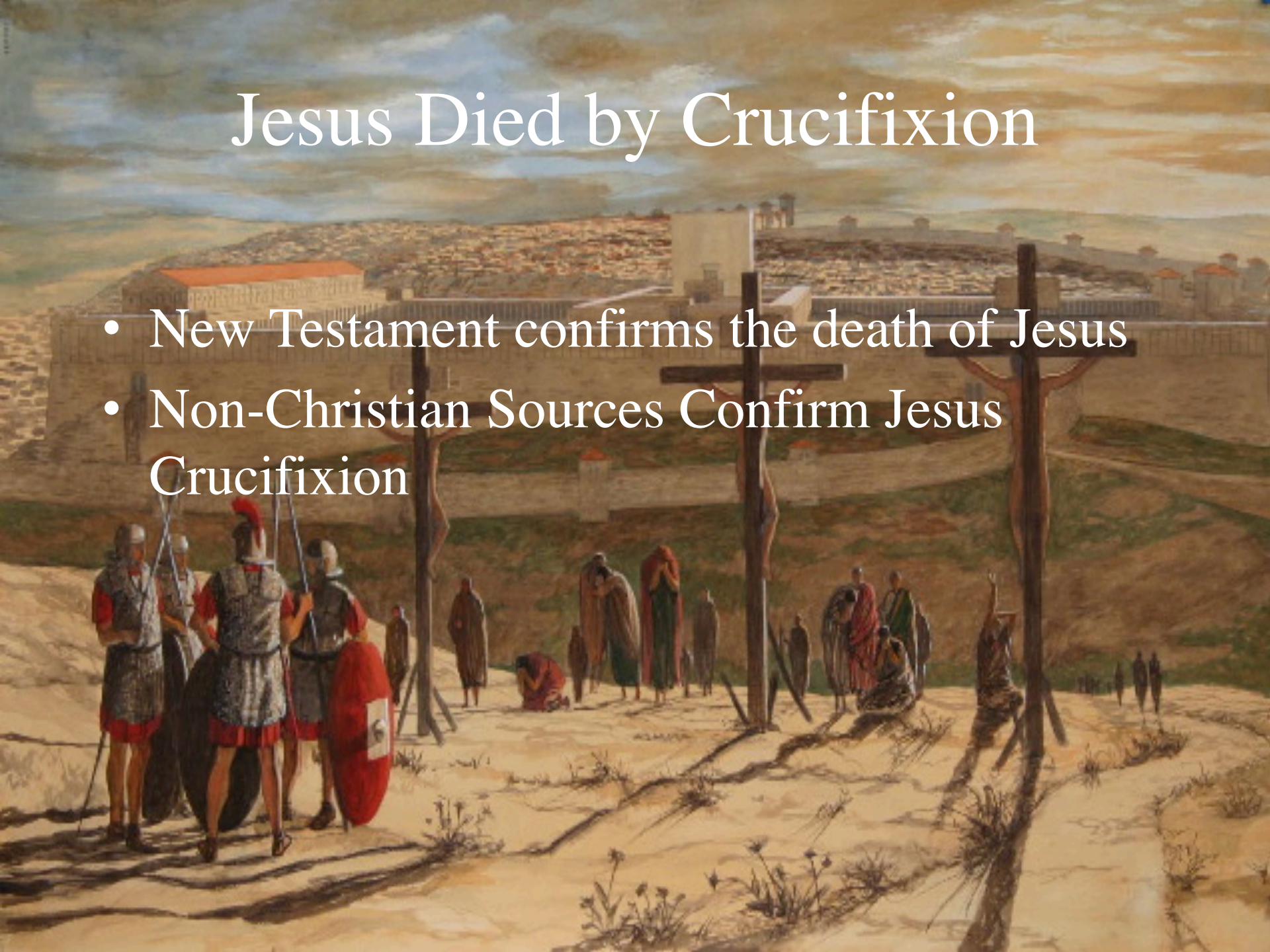
Just the Facts

- Jesus died by means of crucifixion
- The Tomb site was known and found empty
- Many Resurrection Appearances
- Transformed Lives of the Disciples
- Preaching Begins in Jerusalem
- Preaching or Resurrection begins very early
- Testimony of James and Paul



Jesus Died by Crucifixion

- New Testament confirms the death of Jesus
- Non-Christian Sources Confirm Jesus Crucifixion



Non-Christian Sources

- Roman
 - Thallus (52 A.D.)
 - Tacitus (115 A.D.)
 - Pliny (61-113 A.D.)
 - Celsus (177 A.D.)
- Jewish
 - Josephus (37-100 A.D.)
 - Talmud (300 A.D.)



Tacitus: 115 AD

- Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judea, . . . but even in Rome.
 - Tacitus, Annals, 15.44



Josephus Antiquities (AD 37-100)



- At this time there was a wise man who was called Jesus. His conduct was good and he was known to be virtuous. And many people from among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. But those who became his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion, and there he was alive; accordingly he was perhaps the Messiah, concerning whom the prophets have recounted wonders.

Nazareth Decree

Emperor Claudius (41-54 AD)



- It is my decision [concerning] graves and tombs whoever has made them for the religious observances of parents, or children, or household members --that these remain undisturbed forever.... You are absolutely not to allow anyone to move [those who have been entombed]. But if [someone does], I wish that [violator] to suffer capital punishment under the title of tomb-breaker.

Liberal Scholars

- “That he was crucified is as sure as anything historical can ever be.”
– John Dominic Crossan
- “One of the most certain facts of history is that Jesus was crucified on orders of the Roman prefect of Judea, Pontius Pilate.”
– Bart Ehrman



Just the Facts

- Jesus died by means of crucifixion
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The Reason for the empty tomb

- The disciples stole the body??
- Legend Theory
- The women went to the wrong tomb??
- The Swoon theory??
- The disciples hallucinated the resurrection??
- Dogs ate the body of Jesus??
- Substitution Theory (Islam)
- Jesus was raised from the dead??



Jesus is Risen!

*He is not here He has risen just as He
said!*

Mt. 28:6

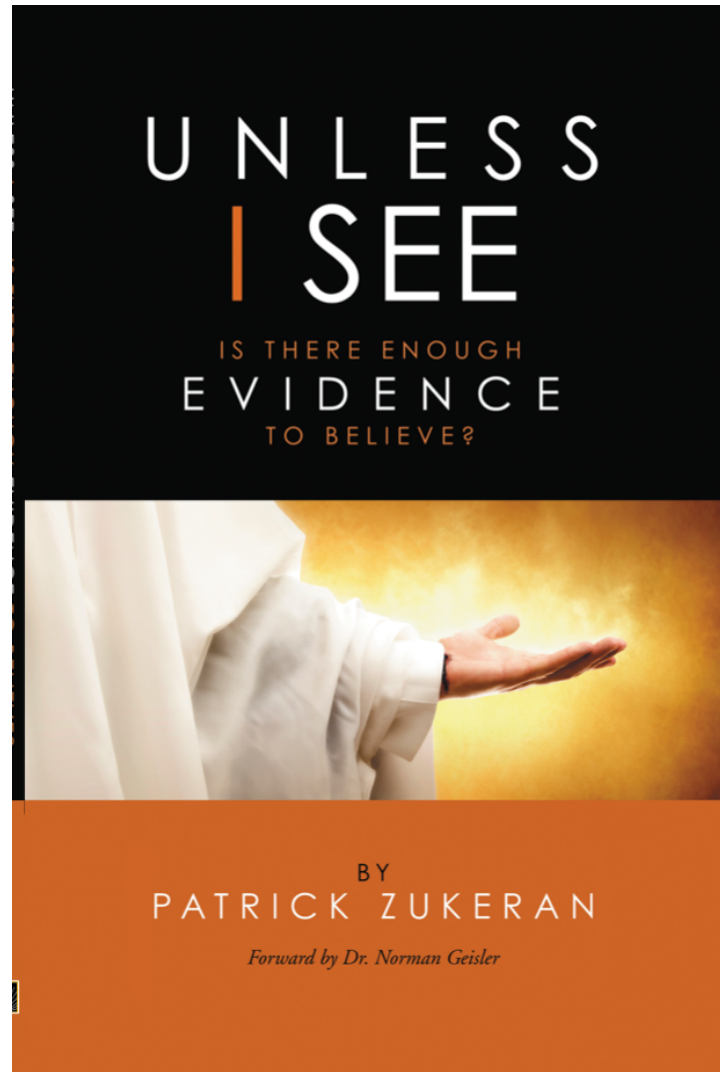
Implications

- God exists and designed this universe and each person for a purpose.
- The meaning of our lives is rooted in a relationship with God made possible through His son Jesus Christ. God created us to discover and fulfill a mission for which we were created.

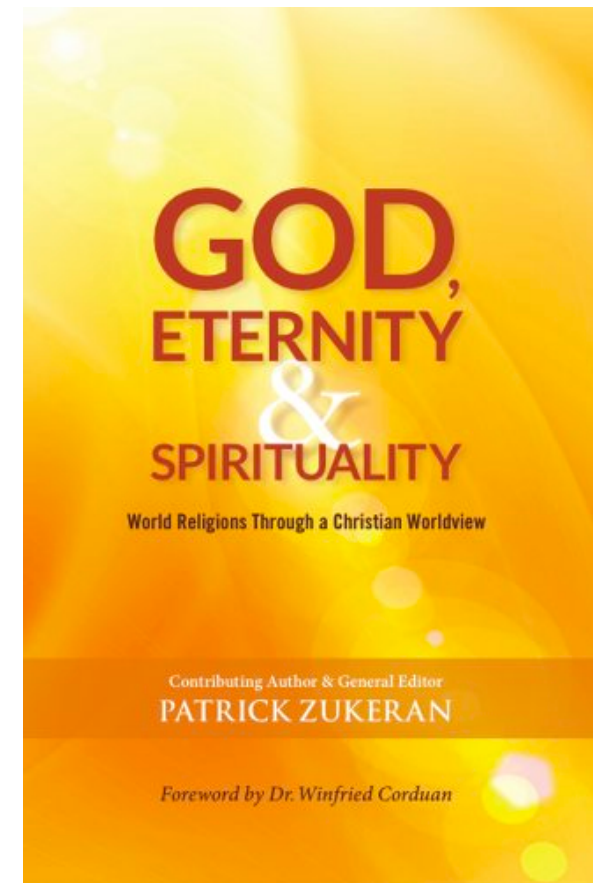
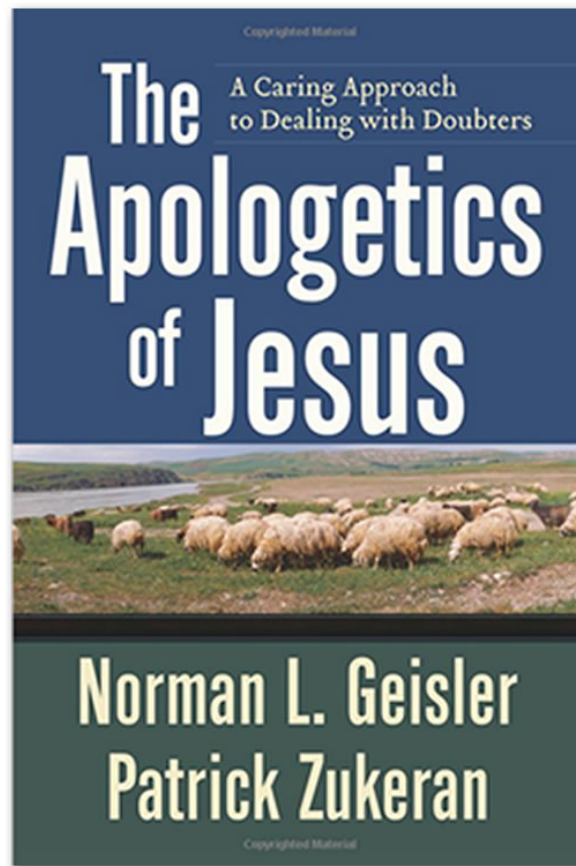
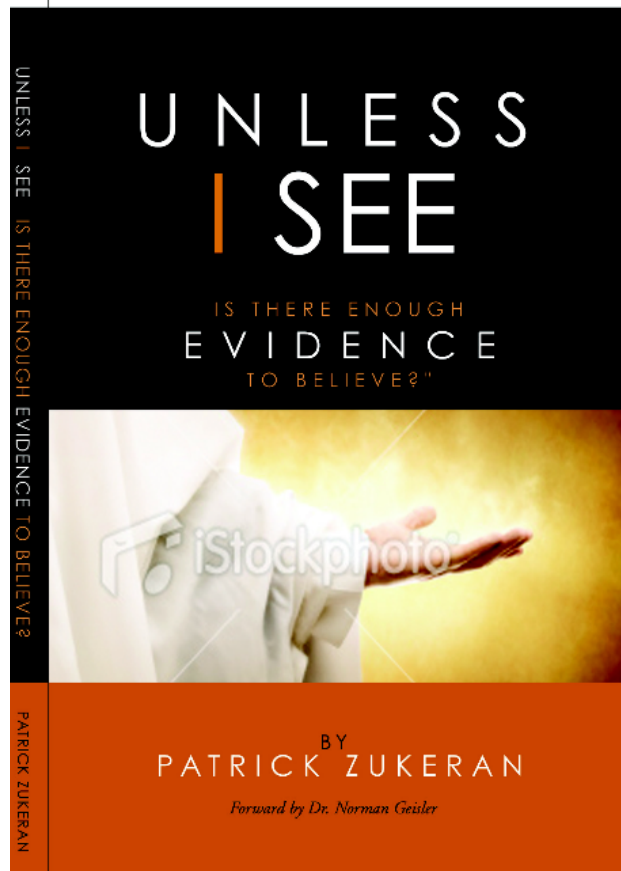
Implications

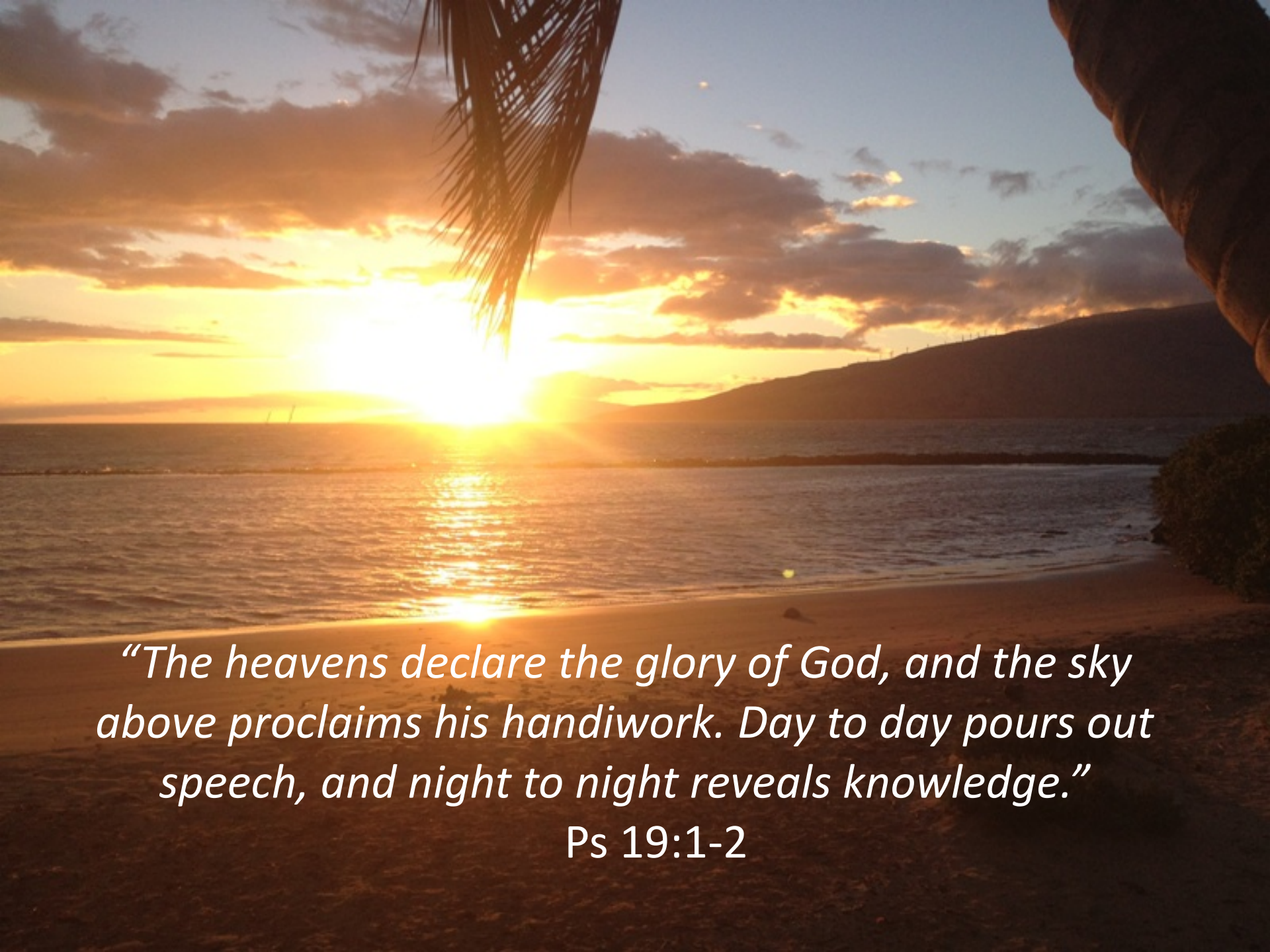
- Since Jesus is God the Son, all that Jesus taught is true and any teaching contrary to Christ's teachings would be false.
- Death is not the end, the grave has been conquered and the hope of eternal life is now found in Jesus Christ.
- Eternal life comes through Christ alone.

For Further Study



Great Resources



A tropical sunset over the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. Palm fronds are visible in the foreground, framing the scene. The sky is filled with soft, golden clouds. The water is calm, and the overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.”

Ps 19:1-2