



A World of Difference

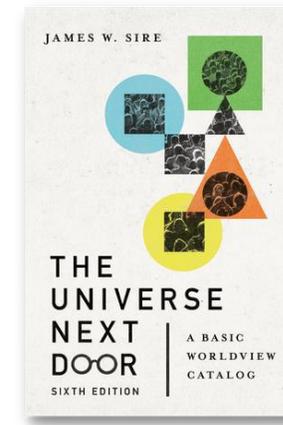


Foundational
Questions
About Life

Part 1

By Eric Urabe

6 Week Schedule & Class Topics



WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	WEEK 6
Chapters 1-2	Chapters 4-6	Chapters 7-8	Chapters 9	Chapters 10	Chapters 11-12
7 Questions	Deism	Pantheism	Modernism	ESJ	Reconstruct Worldview
Theism	Naturalism	Buddhism	Post- Modernism	Critical Theory	Neighbors
4 Life Factors	Existentialism	New Age	Post-Truth	Cultural Marxism	Q & A

HOW DID WE GET HERE AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?



Christian Theism

Deism

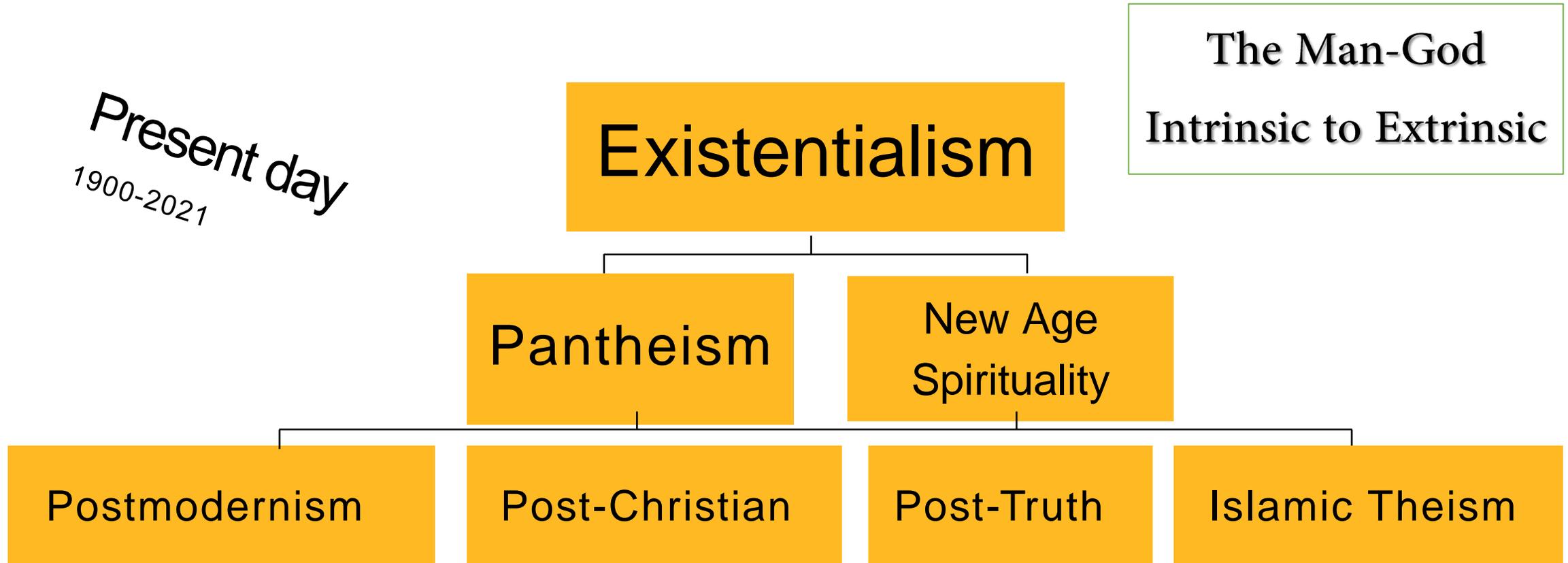
Naturalism

Nihilism

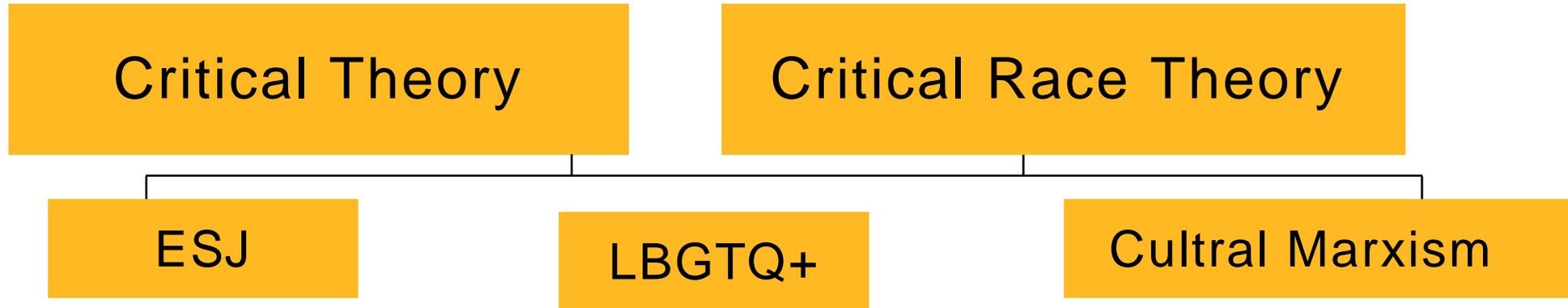
**Removal of
God**

Historical Flow
1600-1900

HOW DID WE GET HERE AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?



HOW DID WE GET HERE AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?



The Removal of
the Man-God
The Person

Tomorrow
2021-FUTURE?

There are
so many
religions.

How can
Christianity
be true?



Has anyone ever examined
every religion in the world?

No one lives on 100%
certainty.

Probability vs Possibilities



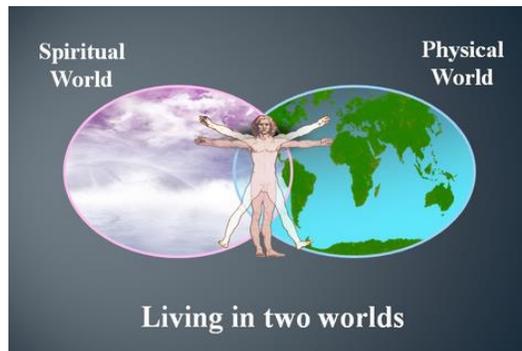
**All
Worldviews
and religions
fall into three
major
Categories**



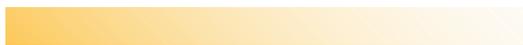
The Physical Universe



The Spiritual Realm



The Spiritual Realm & the
Physical Universe

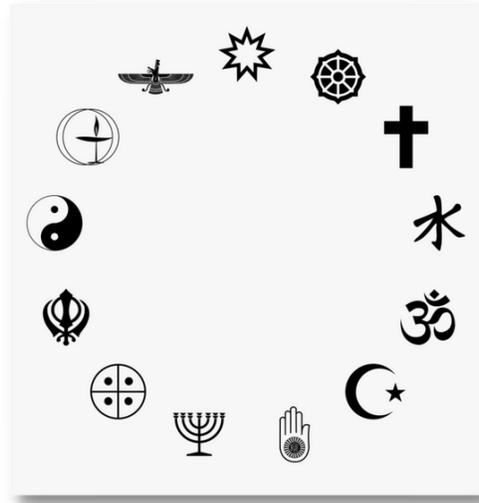




Within each person's worldview is often their religious beliefs, which help form their worldview.

A Worldview is how we see the world and how we make sense of it all. This is made up of what we think is true or real, our values, beliefs and opinions.

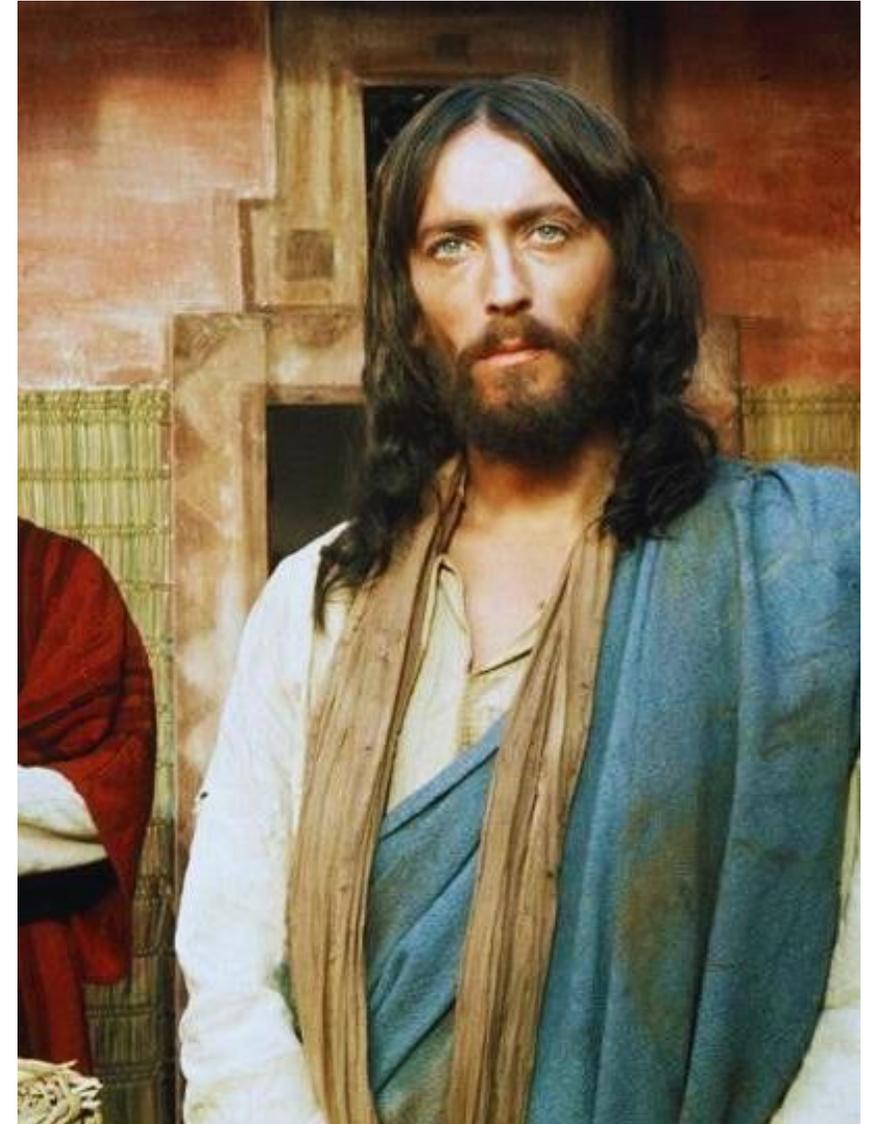
➤ What is a religion?



A religion is a belief in the supernatural.

Each religion has its own unique rituals and religious ceremonies. They have their own form of worship and doctrines of faith.

One of the doctrines of the Christian religion is that God became man. His name is Jesus. He was born of a virgin named Mary. He is 100% human and 100% God. Hypostatic Union





What are the foundational worldviews?

All worldviews fall into these three major categories. From these three categories, we get the major religions of the world.

NATURALISM:

Disbelief or lack of belief in the existence of God or gods.

THEISM:

Belief in the existence of a god or gods, creator of the universe.

PANTHEISM:

The Universe is spiritual and spiritual is the Universe. One and the same. A force/energy/God.

Most religions fall into 3 major Categories



1 Polytheism:

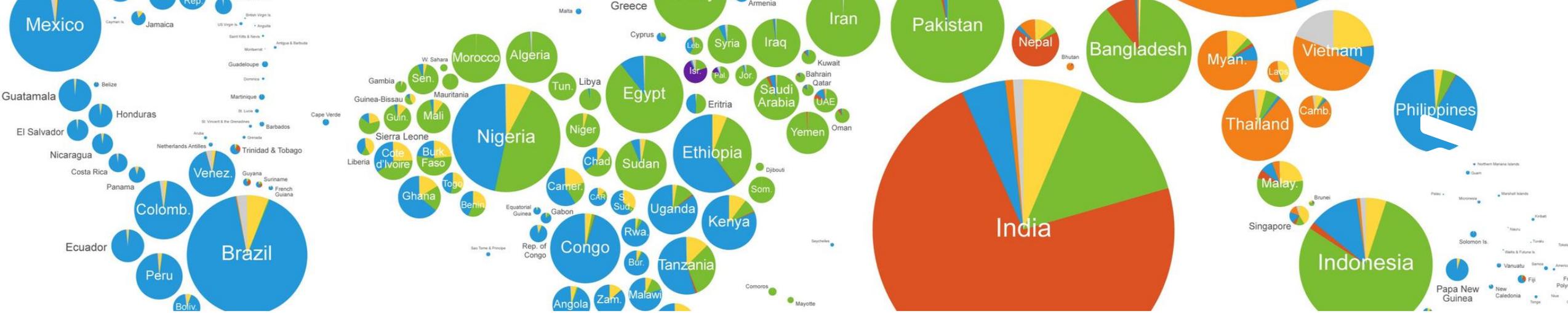
There are multiple gods or goddesses.

2 Monotheism

There is a physical world and a spiritual world but only one God.

3 Pantheism

The Universe is spiritual and spiritual is the Universe. One and the same. It can identify the Universe with a God or a Force.



Major Religions of the World

■ Polytheism

Ancient Greek/Roman Gods, Wicca, Hinduism, Shintoism, (Mormonism)

■ Pantheism:

Hinduism, Confucianism, Jainism, Buddhism, Baha'i Faith, Taoism, Christian Science

■ Monotheism:

Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Jehovah's Witnesses, 7th Day Adventist



All religions are based on a works/reward system. You do good works/deeds in this life, and you will be rewarded not only in this life but in the afterlife.

THE ONE EXCEPTION IS CHRISTIANITY.
Christianity is the only religion where you get all the rewards first, then you work.



How do we Identify a religion to be Valid?

There are Four Life Guiding Factors that can expose any religion to be valid and sound or contradictory and false.

Four Life Guiding Factors



Correspondence:

Does a person's religion correspond to reality? Is the religion empirically adequate?
Just because I believe it to be true, doesn't make it true.
A belief that corresponds with reality is true while a belief which does not correspond with reality is false

Consistency:

Is the religion reliable, accurate, and Consistent?
If false, it will be identified by the contradictions it raises.
Is it applicable to me, to others, to everyone?

Coherence:

A religion must be logical, rational and true.
When you look at all the various parts of a belief system, it should be cohesive.
Does it always make sense?

Experience:

Do the principles of religion do what it says it will do for your life?
Followers of a religion should be experiencing what the religion says one should be experiencing.

Correspondence



Thomas Aquinas wrote, in his *Summa Theologiae*, that “A judgment is said to be true when it conforms to the external reality.” Truth is that which corresponds to reality. To put it in more contemporary and applicable terms, and how theologian and apologist Norman Geisler phrases it, telling the truth is “telling it how it is.”

“Without correspondence, the notions of truth and falsity would be utterly meaningless. The way we understand the truth in our experience is by recognizing the correlation between reality and statements about reality. Likewise, the way we recognize falsehood is by discerning the difference between reality and statements about reality.” -

Christopher Butler

Correspondence: example

If I believe there are other people in this room today besides me.

I am not the only person in this room today, then my belief is true because it correctly corresponded to reality.

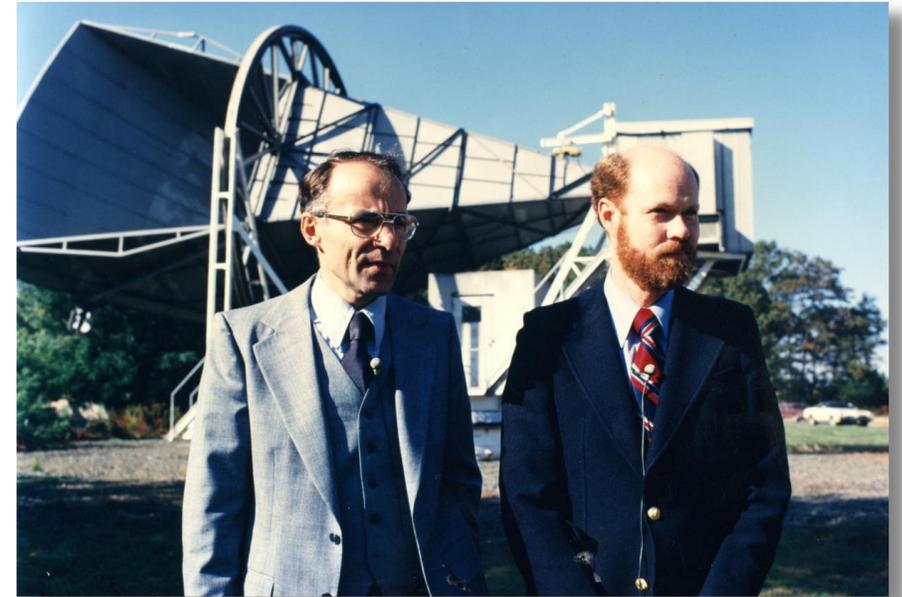


The apple is sitting on the table can only be true if the apple is in fact sitting on the table.

My belief's correspond to reality/the real world

Correspondence: religious example

In LDS Mormon theology reject ex nihilo, they believe that God arranged pre-existing matter in creation. That matter always existed; creation was an act of organizing this existing matter.



But in 1964, one of the most revolutionary scientific discoveries of the 20th century occurred when two astronomers at Bell Laboratories, Robert Wilson and Arno Penzias, point their instruments to the heavens and recorded an extremely low level of microwave radiation noise. They postulated, if ex nihilo did happen, there would exist as a remnant echo of a “Big Bang”, the beginning of the universe.” They called it Cosmic Background Microwave radiation.

Consistency



A set of statements is logically consistent if they can all be true at the same time. A set of statements is logically inconsistent if they cannot all be true at the same time.

It may also be helpful to think of logical consistency as a set of beliefs that do not contradict each other (regardless of whether they are true).

This helps evaluate the consistency of sets of beliefs/opinions.

Self-refuting statements are inconsistent.

We say that a statement or set of statements is logically consistent when it involves no logical contradiction.

Logically inconsistent

All humans are mortal.

Some humans are not mortal.

Logically consistent

All humans are mortal.

Steve is immortal.

Inconsistent:

1. All humans are mortal

2. John is immortal

3. John is human

Therefore, John is not human.

simply deduction

Logically consistent

It is raining and it is not raining.

This sentence is false.

Logically consistent

I am a man. I have brown hair.

You have blonde hair.

Inconsistent:

I know I promised to show up today,

but I don't see why I should come

if I don't feel like it.



Consistency: religious example

In Islam there are several inconsistency within their own scriptures.

You are permitted to lie in three areas:

- In battle.
- Bringing reconciliation amongst persons.
- When reconciling with your spouse.



“O you who believe! Have fear of God, and be among the truthful.”
(Quran, Surah 9:119)

ABROGATE

Consistency: religious example

Evil and Good: Where does it come from?

".... If some good befalls them, they say
"This is from Allah". ... "All things are from
Allah....." (Quran 4:78)

"Whatever good, (O man!) happens to them, is from Allah. But whatever evil
happens to them, is from thyself" (Quran 4:79)

ABROGATE



Consistency: religious example

The end goal of Buddhism is to rid oneself of all desires. Yet, one must have the desire to rid oneself of all desires.



This is logically inconsistent with its principles of getting rid of all desires.



Coherence

A proposition is true if it fits in with our overall set of beliefs. That is, we can know that an idea is “true” when it fits logically into a larger, more complex system of beliefs without contradicting anything.

Looked at together, all the various parts of the belief system cohere, or unite, and this provides the basis for truth, at least within that set of beliefs.

A religion makes truth claims about life, the universe, metaphysic, death, reality, morality, but does it all cohere in a cohesive package or are there contradictions within those beliefs. A true religion should be perfectly coherent.

Coherence: religious example

Paul taught that there are “gods many, and lords many,” but “to us there is but one God, the Father” and “one Lord Jesus Christ.”

Lesson 38:1 Corinthians 1–11
(churchofjesuschrist.org)

Mormons also believe that humans can become gods through good works here on earth.

(Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 345–354).



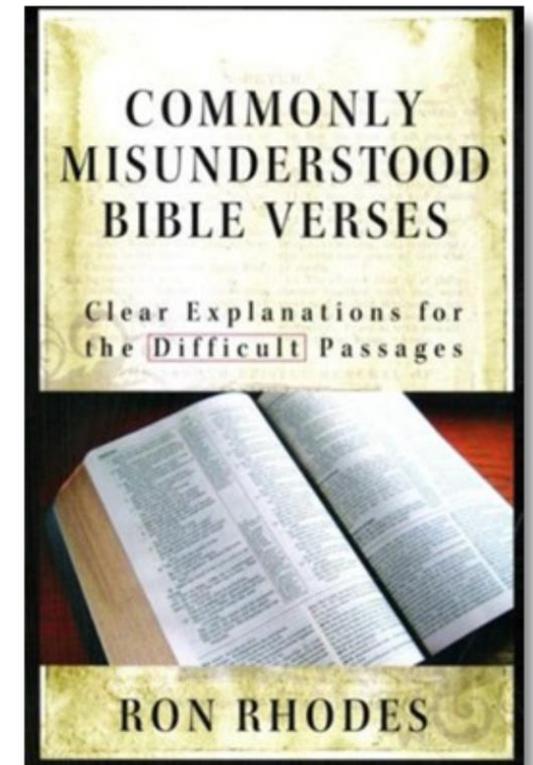
Coherence: religious rxample

Our modern Bible has 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. These 66 books were written by more than 40 different authors from all walks of life - shepherds, farmers, tentmakers, physicians, fishermen, priests, prophets and kings. Over a period of more than 1,500 years.

The Bible was also written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

Despite all these obstacles - different spoken language vs different written language, the degree of continuity and coherence found in the Bible is remarkable.

“Scripture cannot be broken” - Jesus (John 10:35).



Expeirence



Do the principles of a religion or a worldview do what it says it will do for your life?

Followers of a religion should be experiencing what the religion says you should be experiencing.

When a person lives out their worldview do they experience what that worldview promises?

Example Happiness

Experience: religious example

Is morality absolute, or relative, or irrelevant?

The Bible states that moral values are derived

from God. That every person is born with God's moral law written on their heart. As a result, they intuitively know right from wrong. When a person lives a moral life, they will experience the benefits of such a life, it will also benefit everyone around them including society.

Pew Research Group* and Harvard Research* conclude that ethical people are physically and mentally healthier and happier, and experience more peace, safety, and joy.



Four Life Guiding Factors



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7 Questions That All Worldviews Try to Answer



- What is prime reality?
- What is this world around us?
- What does it mean to be human?
- What happens to a person at death?
- What is truth?
- How do we know what is right and wrong?
- How does the past tell us about our future?



Orthodox Christianity:

Roman Catholics - Greek Orthodox - Protestants

These branches of Christianity are considered Orthodox Christianity.

Two great splits happened in Church history.



GREEK ORTHODOX

- The Great Schism of 1054 marked the first major split in the history of Christianity, separating the Orthodox Church in the East from the Roman Catholic Church in the West.

Catholic (Roman) Church



PROTESTANT

- The Second Schism whereby Protestants chose to split from the Roman Catholic Church and resulted in the Council of Trent (1545–1563). October 31 isn't just Halloween, Martin Luther nailing his 95 Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Castle church in Germany in 1517.



1. What Is Reality?



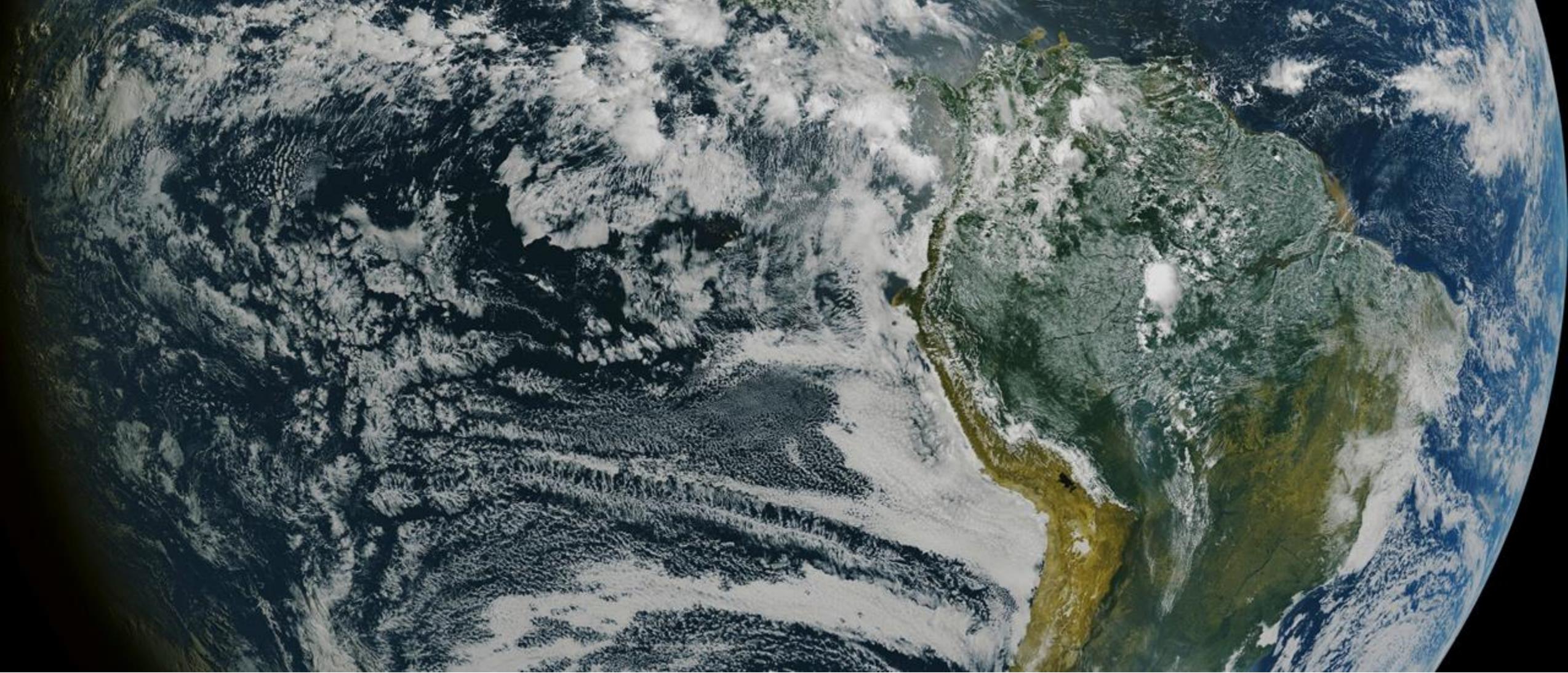
What Is Prime Reality?

Protestant – Christian Perspective (CP)

Reality is the infinite, personal God revealed in the Holy Scriptures. This God is triune, transcendent, and immanent. Omniscience, omnipresent, and omnipotent, sovereign, and good. Holy and righteous. Creator and sustainer of the universe and all of life.

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

COL. 1:16-17NIV



2. What is this world around us?



What is this world around us?

Buddhism: The beginning of this world and of life is inconceivable since they have neither beginning nor end. Buddhism never claimed that the world, sun, moon, stars, wind, water, days, and nights were created by a powerful god or by a Buddha. Buddhists believe that the world was not created once upon a time, but that the world has been created millions of times every second and will continue to do so by itself and will break away by itself. According to Buddhism, world systems always appear and disappear in the universe.*

What Buddhists Believe
Venerable K. Sri Dhammananda Maha Thera



What Is this world around us?

The entire universe was created by God out of nothing (ex nihilo) to operate with uniformity of cause and effects in a system of natural laws.

God created two human beings to inhabit the earth, whom He named Adam and Eve. From Adam and Eve, we get every human being that has ever lived on this planet.

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

HEBREWS 11:3ESV



3. What does it mean to be human?



What does it mean to be human?

Islam: Teaches that God created humans from clay and breathed the spirit of life into them. He separated them from the rest of creation by giving them three divine gifts: intelligence, will, and speech.

Because of these gifts, people are the noblest of God's creatures, superior to the rest of nature. However, people are not perfect. Although not sinful by nature, humans are vulnerable to temptation. Because they are rebellious and proud, they often forget that they are dependent on God.

<https://www.whyislam.org/faqs/what-is-islam>

➤ What does it mean to be human?

Christianity - Human beings are created in the image of God, and thus possess intrinsic value (versus extrinsic) and personality, free will, intelligence, morality, and creativity.

After Adam and Eve, human beings are born physically alive but spiritually dead, having no personal relationship with God, and by nature are a sinner, incompatible with God and are lost in need of a savior to be reconcile back to God. If a person places their faith in the savior, Jesus Christ, they can get back into the right relationship with God for all eternity.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..."

So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:26-27 (NASB)

Whoever sheds human blood, by humans shall their blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made mankind.

Genesis 9:6 (NSAB)



4. What happens to a person at death?



What happens to a person at death?

Mormons: Death is the portal to the remainder of eternity, At death, the spirit leaves the body and goes to a place called “the Spirit World,” where he or she awaits resurrection and judgment... In the Spirit World they are presented the gospel of Christ based on that decision determines which Heaven they will inherit. Mormons believe in three basic levels of Heaven, called the Celestial, Terrestrial, and Telestial.

The spirits of the wicked (the unjust) go to prison, a state of darkness and misery, called Outer Darkness only reserved for those very, few, who have had a sure knowledge of Jesus through the Holy Spirit, and then chose to deny and reject Christ. – Ids.org



What happens to a person at death?

Jehovah Witnesses: People who die pass out of existence. They do not suffer in a fiery hell of torment. God will bring billions back from death by means of a resurrection. However, those who refuse to learn God's ways after being raised to life will be destroyed forever with no hope of a resurrection.

- jw.org



What happens to a person at death?

Islam: Life after death, Allah decides when a person dies, and they will stay in their graves until the Day of Judgement. On that day, they will be raised from their grave and brought before Allah and judged on how they lived their earthly lives. This belief is known as the resurrection of the body.

Those who have performed more good deeds than bad will enter Jannah, or Paradise. Jannah is a physical place described as a 'garden of everlasting bliss' and a 'home of peace'. In Jannah there will be no sickness, pain or sadness. In Jannah, every Muslim would maintain the height similar to Adam, which was 90 feet tall. The age of the youth would be 30 to 33 years. They will have beauty no marks or scars.

Those who have performed more bad deeds than good will enter 7 gates of Hell. This is a place of physical and spiritual suffering.

<https://www.whyislam.org/faqs/what-is-islam>

➤ What happens to a person at death?

Christianity: When the human body dies, it goes back to the dust of the earth. Where it remains until the Day of Resurrection. At that point, it will be raised in a new immortal body. At death, the souls of Christian believers immediately enter the presence of the Lord in Heaven and is thus forever with the Lord. The unrighteous unbeliever goes to Hell and awaits their final judgment, on that day they will be judged and sent to the lake of fire for all eternity. The lake of fire is a place outside the presence of God.

So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:6–8 ESV



5. What is truth?



What is Truth?

Hinduism: 2 categories of truth.

Valid Truth/Knowledge (pramā) and
Invalid Truth/Knowledge (apramā).

The difference is in its usefulness. A true observation that can be applied is “valid truth” and one that may be objectively true but cannot be applied is “invalid truth”. No doctrine can be true, more important is its usefulness. If a lie is more useful then that is more truthful. There are no true statement's just categories of usefulness.

➤ What is Truth?

Christianity: All Truth belongs to God.
God is truth, God's word is truth.

Truth is absolute and objective, a reality that is universally true and binding for all people, at all times and in all places, independent of their beliefs or feelings. Truth is that which corresponds to or agrees with factual reality, the way things really are.

“Every word of God
proves true...”

Proverbs 30:5 (ESV)

“Jesus answered, I am
the way and the truth and
the life. No one comes to
the Father except
through me.”

John 14:6 (NIV)

Sanctify them in the truth;
your word is truth.

John 17:17 (ESV)



6. How do we know what is right and wrong?



How do we know what is right and wrong?

Islam: Right and Wrong are based on what Allah wills. How to know Allah's will for right and wrong is based on the teachings in the Qur'an, as amplified by the Hadith and interpreted by the schools of law, the Sharia (Sharia Law)

There is no challenging or speculating what's Allah's will for ethics but to simply surrender and obey the commandments.



How do we know what is right and wrong?

Hinduism: Cannot justify any claims that certain actions are inherently right and others are inherently wrong. The five ancient Hindu ethics: (1) non-violence (2) truth, no falsehood, (3) non-stealing, (4) celibacy if unmarried and non-cheating on one's partner if married, and (5) no possessiveness.

Hindu ethics are directly related to karma.



7. How does the past tell us about our future?
HISTORY



How does the past tell us about our future?

In Christianity...

History is linear, a meaningful sequence of events leading to fulfillment of God's purpose for humanity. In other words, History has a beginning, a middle, and an end. History is not reversible, not repeatable, not cyclical, nor meaningless. History is teleological, God is sovereign, and He controls history, He has a plan and purpose toward an end.



How does the past tell us about our future?

A God who is truly Sovereign controls history – past, present and future. One of many evidences for the God of the bible is Biblical prophecy. About 28% of the Bible is prophetic in nature, God is declaring what will take place in the future. Of that 28% of Bible prophecy 90% has already come true. Over 300 prophecies alone have been fulfilled on the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

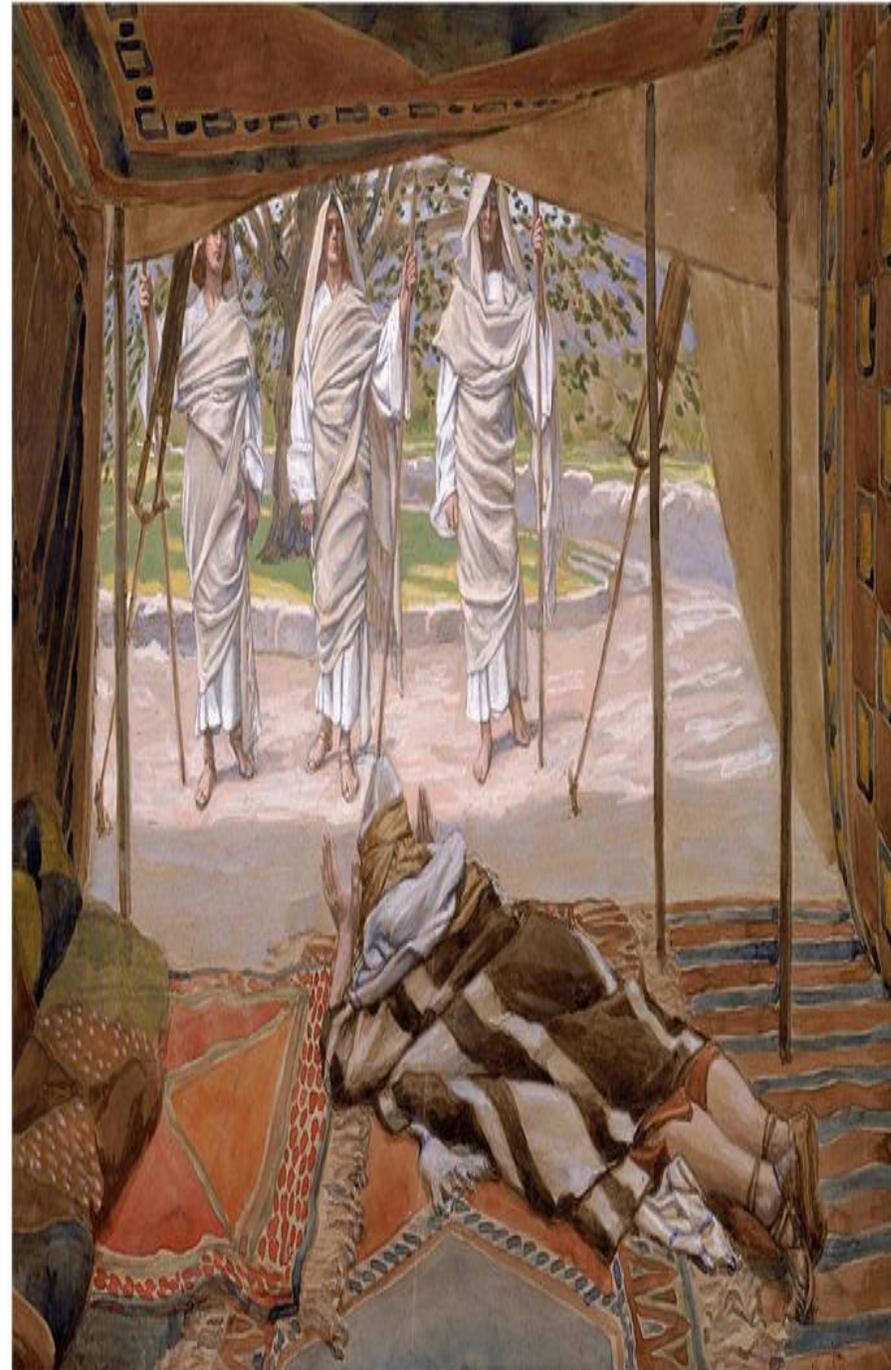
How does the past tell us about our future?

Example of God's sovereignty and bible prophecy.

The birth of the nation of Israel.

This was a prophecy given to Abraham, over 400 years before it happen.

On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates" - Genesis 15:18





How does the past tell us about our future?

The Nation of Israel:

God's chosen people. The Jewish people.

This nation chosen by God over 4000 yrs.

ago, are still the same people, same race, same nation, same religion, same language, worshipping the same God, using the same ancient text, (O.T. Bible).

The Jewish population comprises less than 0.2% of the world's population. Since its inception as a nation, the Jews have been on the verge of genocide, yet they are still here today, stronger than ever.

How does the past tell us about our future?

A few prophecies concerning Jewish people.

Moses prophesied that because of their disobedience they would be scattered to the very ends of the earth.

Deuteronomy 28:64 (1406 B.C.E.)

- Fulfilled in 70 C.E.

Moses prophesied that the Jews would be hated and find no rest while among the nations

- Deuteronomy 28:65-66 (1406 B.C.E.)

- Fulfilled from 70 C.E. - 1948 C.E.

Moses prophesied that the scattered nation would be gathered again into the very same land.

- Deuteronomy 30:1-5 (1406 B.C.E.)

- Fulfilled 1948 C.E. to the present day.



How does the
past tell us
about our
future?



A God who is truly
Sovereign should be able
to control the past, present
and future.

A God who is that powerful,
is the God I will serve as
the one, true and only God.

– Eric Urabe

WRAP-IT-UP...

The Four Life Guiding Factors



Correspondence, Consistency, Coherence, Experience



The 7 questions that all religions must answer



What is reality? What is this world around us? What does it mean to be human? What happens to a person at death? What is truth? How do we know what is right and wrong? How does the past tell us about our future?



The One and True Religion is Christianity

TILL NEXT TIME...

Thank You