



**The
Destruction
of
Faith**

Kenneth Morvant

The Destruction of Faith

**A revealing look at the obstacles that prevent us
from having a deeper faith in God.**

Kenneth Morvant

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Cover Design and layout: Betty (J.C.) Choate

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P.O. Box 72

Winona, MS 38967

Phone: 662-283-1192

E-Mail: choate@WorldEvangelism.org

WorldEvangelism.org

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Publisher's Statement

We live in a time of increasing materialism, skepticism, and ultimate atheism. Evolution is taught in our schools as “scientific fact”, and no opportunity is missed to promote it in explanatory statements in our National Parks, in books, magazines, and every avenue for dissemination of information. The secular world would have us believe that the case is proved beyond further question or doubt, and that God has been relegated to the shadowy realm of “myth”.

But an honest analysis, with an open mind, convinces the truth-seeker that the Creator doesn't go away just because some of the “intellectual elite” of this world have dismissed Him. In **The Destruction of Faith**, Kenneth Morvant begins with an analysis of the world situation — and particularly, the American culture and attitudes — going on to discuss the erroneous beliefs in science and religion that have brought us to this point in our society. The chapters dealing with the pattern of corruption in empires of the past, compared with our own degradation, show striking parallels. Brother Morvant follows with a review of God's dealings with sin throughout history, and the choice before us today: we may heed the lessons of the past and turn things around, or we may ignore them to our own destruction as a nation and a people. The closing chapters of the book lay out God's desires for us to walk in the light He has given through His word, and the victory He promises to those who obey Him.

The Destruction of Faith is an excellent book for personal study. There are questions following each chapter, making it ideal for classes, as well. We pray that it will help to make each reader more aware of our personal responsibility to live a life of faith and to be a voice for God in a dark world.

Betty (J.C.) Choate

January 1, 2011

Preface

I would like to recognize the various sources that influenced the creation of this book. After 30 years in the Kingdom of Christ, I recognize all those I have known in the Kingdom. Their faith and belief taught and challenged me to learn and study the Word of God. It is an integral part of who we are as Christians and cannot be ignored as a source for this book.

I also want to acknowledge those who taught at White's Ferry Road School of Biblical Studies and the churches that supported me, Riverside Church of Christ in Lafayette, LA and Homer Church of Christ in Homer, LA.

In addition, I acknowledge the members of the Climax Church of Christ in Climax (Princeton), TX for their support.

Finally, I acknowledge my wife Sharon, and my children, Britney and Trevor. They taught me what God's love means and how important it is to share the message of the Gospel with the lost of the world. I especially thank Sharon, whose support and encouragement I could not do without as I serve the Kingdom.

Introduction

Why should you read this book? It is a valid question. We have busy lives and limited time. We must use our time wisely, but there will come a time when time will end. We either believe we will spend eternity in the grave or eternity in Heaven or Hell. If you do not believe in an afterlife then you believe you will go out of existence. If you believe in God, you owe it to yourself to make sure that you are living life with a strong faith in Him. This book will challenge you to escape the shackles of modern society and live a life of unwavering faith. Your faith will be strengthened by removing the doubts that hinder your growth.

You might feel there is nothing wrong with the world's condition, so why worry about it. If this is your view, this book will be a revelation. We live in a society that teaches sex to its prepubescent children and encourage teens to explore their sexuality. We celebrate the liberation of ourselves from religion while ignoring the horrendous condition society is in today. Evil permeates us at every level and we do not recognize it.

There are several reasons why we are in this condition. Selfishness is at the heart of every problem in this world. This will be the subject of the first two chapters of this book, **“The World’s Condition”** and **“Why We Love It”**. These chapters discuss various problems that exist today and why we do not desire to improve society because of selfishness. We choose to put up with sin rather than return to God. If we support a return to God, it may mean we have to give up our own vices.

The next four chapters delve deeper into the reasons why we moved from faith in God to faith in ourselves. Starting with **“Popular Psychology Movement”**, we learn how it encourages our selfish desires. We put ourselves ahead of God and our fellow man. Because of this philosophy, we let our children down by diminishing the benefits of rules and responsibility in their development. In addition, the psychology movement fuels the neurosis of the masses. **“Evolution And Its Errors”** looks at how the theory of evolution has evolved over time, what evidence is available, and why evolu-

tion is actually a religion. The lack of evidence for the theory of evolution is amazing.

“Science and Its Inaccuracies” looks at how we trust science to solve all our problems. Science has given us great advancements, but it also relies upon current thinking which can change when new information becomes available. Scientists will fervently hold to their beliefs as absolute truth, just as God-believing Christians hold to their faith. Scientific truths are determined to be erroneous when new discoveries or theories become available. Science, like evolution, is full of fraud, deceit, and errors, but you will not hear this from the scientists. There is a **“Special Study”** which examines the claim that science has found our soul. They do not realize it was never lost.

The next chapter in the series, **“Religion and Its Failures”** examines modern religion, how it has changed since the Kingdom was established, and how it fails to inspire people to a greater faith. In contrast, it teaches us to satisfy our own selfish desires. Instead of leading people to God, many churches are leading people to places where all their social needs are met.

“Atheism and Its Distortions” examines the religion of anti-religion. Atheism uses distortion in an attempt to destroy faith in God. However, it seems that they are trying to destroy their own lingering belief that God exists, so their conscience does not bother them.

The next three chapters deal with the beginning of the end. First, there is a review of how God dealt with those who rejected Him and did not follow His ways in **“The Beginning of the End: How God Has Dealt with Iniquity”**. The Bible lists the failures of man and amplifies the fact that we are powerless without God. Man cannot save himself without God. The next chapter, **“The Beginning of the End: Demise of Empires in the Common Era”**, looks at how other kingdoms and empires have declined proportionally with their lack of faith. The Greeks, Romans and other nations followed the pattern of God’s people in the Old Testament and paid the price for their iniquity. The last chapter in this series, **“The Beginning of the End: Signs of Our Demise”**, examines the signs of our decline which parallel the examples of the past. There are many similari-

ties between modern nations and the empires that once ruled vast kingdoms.

“Walking into the Light” examines how God wants us to worship Him. God’s Word, as given to His prophets, Jesus, and the Apostles is the only authority we should have in our lives. We should return to it as our source for life. Well, that is what the Bible says, anyway.

The last chapter, titled **“Faith Is Our Victory that Overcomes the World”**, tells the story of those who once promoted the stumbling blocks of faith and how they came to a belief in God. Their testimony should help us to have no doubts that we can take hold of victory through our faith and live a happy, fulfilled life in Him.

Chapter One

The World's Condition

Today, the condition of the world has deteriorated and faith in God is waning. You could say there were other times in the past when the world was in bad shape, and you would be correct. Merciless conquerors, barbarians, pandemic diseases and a host of other problems have ravaged the world. The difference today is there seems to be no turnaround, restoration or revival in site. The paradox of our situation is that sin and evil are increasing, in spite of the fact that many people profess a belief in God. There seems to be a profound weakness in their faith. You could say, “Oh, things are not that bad“, but the evidence is there for us to see and hear. Murder, rape, pornography, infidelity, drug and alcohol abuse, broken homes, selfishness and other excesses are rampant in our society. While they may fluctuate over time, they are increasing over the levels we experienced decades ago. It seems that most people do not care about morals, ethics, or decency in our society.

Two of the most popular books published recently are **The God Delusion** by Richard Dawkins and **God Is Not Great** by Christopher Hitchens. Both of these books are the recycling of old atheistic arguments, yet they have achieved high sales rankings. Hitchens’ book was number two on Amazon and number one on New York Times while Dawkins’ ranked as high as number two on Amazon and number four on New York Times. People would rather read the rehashed lies and vitriol espoused by these men than improve their lives through faith in Jesus Christ.

Sex is another form of casual recreation without age or fidelity restrictions. Our children engage in it at school while the teacher is in the room! In some cases children, as young as elementary school age, are engaging in sexual activities. In today’s culture, performing certain sexual acts earns the participant badges just as we might recognize and reward someone for accomplishing something in life, such as a Boy Scout badge for learning to start a fire with sticks.

Teachers in increasing frequency are charged with having sex with their students. In an unusual twist, a greater number of female teachers than male are having affairs with their students.

There is tremendous growth in the number of sexual addicts and sexual predators who cannot satisfy their lusts with willing partners. They take perverse pleasures in forcing sex upon the unwilling; children, animals and even the dead. People are searching for new methods of sexual arousal because they tire of engaging in sex the same way they did in the past. We are deluged with pornographic images and speech on radio and television, dulling our sensibilities to the point where we do not even notice the affect it has on us. You could say, “What are you talking about? I don’t see it!” Well, you have just proved my point. Commercials are some of the worst offenders and they air at all hours of the day. Images of provocative models in compromising situations sell every product on the planet — and even give much of the news and weather reports.

There is an increase in the number of female sexual predators. What did we expect? Sex among children of younger and younger ages is a growing problem. Why would we think their behavior would be any different when they are adults? One teacher in Clinton, South Carolina was charged with having sex with five students. This did not take place in a large city high school. It took place in a small city middle school.¹ Stories of female teachers charged with having sex with under-age male students are reported several times a year.² We are appalled by these events now, but how many years will pass before we do not even take notice of the latest report?

We have read reports of male teachers and other adults having sex with under-age children, and these incidents are growing in number. Minors are no longer safe in the arms of our school systems. Predators choose occupations that put them in close contact with our children so they can satisfy their perverse desires.

1 Hanity and Colmes (2007). Teacher Charged: Sex with 5 Students. Retrieved January 2, 2009, from Fox News. Website: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,256070,00.html>.

2 Donaldson-Evans, Catherine (2005). When Ms. Teacher Goes after Male Pupil. Retrieved January 2, 2009, from Fox News, Website: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,147179,00.html>

Anonymous sexual activity on the Internet is rising at an alarming rate across the world. ³ Sexual addiction is no different from drug or alcohol addiction. Drug addicts seek greater highs by trying harder drugs to achieve the same high as in the past. The sex addict looks to different ways, partners, and other enhancements such as violent sex or toys to enhance the pleasure. Over time, these new ways and methods lose their appeal and then predators look for something else that will produce the extreme feelings they desire.

Girls, who in the past were less likely than boys to fight and drive recklessly, are becoming just as violent and reckless according to recent news reports and insurance company statistics. There is less distinction between the behavior of males and females in society today. Girls can be the sexual aggressor with the same frequency as their male counterparts. Is this a “Brave New World” or “Depraved New World”?

Morals have gone out the window. Parents allow their children to read and watch pornography in the home, or they do not care enough to monitor their children’s activities. They are too busy with their own selfish wants, or they have a desire to be a friend to their children instead of a parent.

“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.” — Franklin D. Roosevelt

Parents are even allowing their children to have sex in the home so they know where and with whom the promiscuous acts are being done. In one case, a mother and father allowed their nine-year-old girl to watch them having sex so she would learn how it is done.⁴ A SMU student who posed for Playboy magazine said when she told her father she was chosen, his only words were, “Don’t wear too much makeup.” Is this shocking to you? Do you think it is just an aberration? Our senses are dulled to what was once considered shocking behavior, and it becomes tolerated and accepted as the norm in our present society.

3 Unknown. (2000). Net Sex Addiction on the Rise. Retrieved January 2, 2009, from BBC. Website: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/738699.stm>

4 Associated Press. (2007). Couple Charged with Having Intercourse in Front of 9-Year-Old Daughter to Teach Her About Sex. Retrieved January 2, 2009, from Fox News Website: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,251296,00.html>

Where do our children learn this behavior? They learn it in our homes, through the media, in our schools, and in our institutions of higher learning. The “wise” of the world teach our children about sex and aberrant behavior and then we wonder why they live this way. On the William and Mary Campus, a “Christian” founded university, the administration took down the cross in the chapel and then promoted an event on campus that featured strippers and other sexual professionals. For the sake of diversity and a desire not to offend other faiths, they took down the symbol of their founders, and then without thinking about their affront to those of religious faith they promoted filth on campus. What possible lesson could anyone learn from this wicked trade?⁵ William and Mary’s denial of its foundational Christian principles are repeated on many college campuses where, in the name of diversity or separation of church and state, they have banned anything having to do with God and Christianity. In one case, the Indian River Community College in Florida banned a Christian Group from airing *The Passion of the Christ*,⁶ yet this same college allowed a play about a woman who was “having sex for Jesus” to take place on campus.⁷ This is only a sampling of how religion is both ridiculed and banned in our institutions of higher learning, while they celebrate pornography and other filth.

We are teaching our children to be low class citizens. On a recent broadcast of the John Gibson show on Fox News, he asked the parent of a small child if there was something wrong with letting her little girl dress in “Lil Pimp” labeled clothes. She saw no problem with this, despite the reputation pimps have in society. At the Oscars, a song lamenting how hard it is to be a pimp won top honors. Any movie celebrating anti-religious themes is an immediate hit for the cesspool of Hollywood. Oh, I’m sorry, I forgot! They call it “art”!

5 Unknown. (2007). Cross-snatching College Holds Porn Show. Retrieved January 2, 2009, from WorldNet Daily Website: http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=54289

6 Various. (2005). Indian River Community College: Ban on ‘The Passion of the Christ’ and Repression of Free Speech. Retrieved January 2, 2009, from Fire Website: <http://thefire.org/index.php/case/661.html>

7 Unknown. (2004). Script of “F**king for Jesus” -- by Anne Meacham. Retrieved from Fire Website: <http://thefire.org/index.php/article/5119.html?PHPSESSID= eb-58cfd0623186e7422cb317f43e4ef1>

Then, there is *The Vagina Monologues*. You might not know that in this so-called art, the reader recounts the conquest of a 13 year-old girl by an older lesbian. In recent editions, they have changed the age of the girl to 16 years. My guess is, because of the increase in sexual predators of both male and female genders, they decided to make the girl older. The Sundance Film Festival celebrated a film with a sympathetic view of bestiality, while another one titled *Trans-america* celebrated the transsexual lifestyle. The Oscars honored similar films like “Broke Back Mountain” where two men cheated on their spouses with each other.

Murder, while fluctuating in number, is at unprecedented levels. What is even more alarming is the rise in murders committed by people who were good citizens, with no criminal record. Some, who are normally law-abiding, commit “road rage”. There are those who would hold the door for you at the department store and then cut you off in traffic and shout obscenities at you. This is an excellent example of what a lack of faith and spirituality cause in our society. Joy and hope are replaced with raw nerves of anguish and doubt, leading to violent behavior. Crimes of other natures are also rampant. Criminals find more and more creative ways to steal from their fellowmen, often without a single regret for their evil behavior. This is the result of teaching our children that we evolved from the primordial soup billions of years ago, and that we are not the creation of God.

Another alarming trend is the increase in spousal and offspring murder. Husbands and wives plot to kill their spouses for insurance, hatred, or a sick desire to have them completely out of the picture. Children are murdered so women can find a partner, without the burden of being a mother with small children. Who trusts you more than your spouse or your children? Some people become so evil they have no problem killing those they should love and protect.

There are studies concluding the crime rate is down when compared to the seventies and eighties, but the reports do not paint an accurate picture based on statistical data for the last century. The murder rate in 1900 was 1.2 in 100,000 persons. In 1999, the rate was still 5.8 per 100,000 persons. Rates spiked in the Thirties and

then again, in the Seventies and Eighties, but overall, they are over 4 times the rate they were in 1900.⁸ This is how we fool ourselves. We refuse to see the depth of society's depravity.

It is proven that crime is not caused by poverty but by poor moral choices.

"In the 1950s a psychologist, Stanton Samenow, and a psychiatrist, Samuel Yochelson, sharing the conventional wisdom that crime is caused by environment, set out to prove their point. They began a 17-year study involving thousands of hours of clinical testing of 250 inmates here in the District of Columbia. To their astonishment, they discovered that the cause of crime could not be traced to environment, poverty, or oppression. Instead, crime is the result of individuals making, as they put it, wrong moral choices. In their 1977 work, The Criminal Personality, they concluded that the answer to crime is a "conversion of the wrong-doer to a more responsible lifestyle." In 1987, Harvard professors, James Q. Wilson and Richard J. Herrnstein, came to similar conclusions in their book, Crime and Human Nature. They determined that the cause of crime is a lack of proper moral training among young people during the morally formative years, particularly ages one to six."⁹

We let our children down by refusing to teach them proper morals. Our entertainment choices allow these influences to poison us.

"Television may be responsible for doubling our crime rate in the United States," suggests Brandon Centerwall, psychiatrist at the University of Washington, in a recent study reported in the June 1992 Journal of the American Medical Association. Centerwall analyzed crime statistics both before and after TV was introduced in several communities. Those comparisons cause him to conclude that prolonged exposure to violence on TV has increased the number of murders in the U.S. by 10,000 each year. He sees TV as a "causal factor" in about 70,000 rapes and 700,000 injurious assaults annually."¹⁰

8 Adams, Cecil. (2002). Is the world more dangerous now than when we were kids? Retrieved January 2, 2009, from The Straight Dope Website: <http://www.straight-dope.com/columns/020712.html>

9 Christianity Today, August 16, 1993, p. 30.

10 Hollywood vs. America by Michael Medved (Harper Collins/Zondervan, 1992), quoted in Leadership, Summer 1993, p. 76.

Popular music floods the senses with immoral images, offensive lyrics and degrading references to women. The worst language imaginable is in most of the top selling rap music today. The same words that got Imus dismissed from his radio show are spewed out by rap stars into the minds of children.

Business is not immune to society's corrupting influence. I saw a sign in an office that said, "It's only unethical if you get caught." This is the thinking of society today. There are consequences only if you are caught. Some do not feel there is someone up above watching their every move, who will call them into account for their misdeeds. In the Eighties, the "wise" determined that ethics could be taught without a belief in a Supreme Being. The recent business scandals are proof this is not working. The children raised without a reverence for God and morals now run the businesses of the world.

"After drafting a will for an elderly client, the lawyer announced a fee of \$100. The client gave the lawyer a \$100 bill. After the client left, the lawyer saw that the client had in fact paid \$200, as two of the client's \$100 bills had stuck together. Looking at the \$100 overpayment, an ethical question arose in the lawyer's mind: "Do I tell my partner?"

It should not be a surprise that there are corporate scandals where executives at the highest level commit fraud for a buck. They have become commonplace.

When someone does not have a strong belief in a Superior Being, there is no reason to live with the belief there will be a reward or punishment at the end of life. Faith becomes absent from their life. They rely on science, medicine, and savings to comfort them. However, these can fail us anytime. With no reliance on God to sustain us, we live life in fear. What other reason would cause someone without a criminal record to snap and harm someone else? Why do we fight for a spot in line or traffic and get into physical altercations over the insignificant? Instead of "In God We Trust", we say "No one will take care of you, so you'd better take all you can when you can."

Many think that if we remove the religious restrictions from society, we will be healthier and happier. However, the opposite is

true. More people are suffering from depression today.¹¹ Societies, such as the Amish have lower rates of unipolar disorder (depression), but the rate of bipolar disorder is the same. Bipolar disorder is a biological problem affecting the brain. The Amish have a strong belief in God. They feel God will oversee their lives and they worry less than secular society. A survey done in the Eighties concluded:

“When it [*sic*] comes to belief in God, Canada’s young people are a lot like their elders, but they view religion as relatively unimportant, according to a federally sponsored study conducted by two experienced observers of Canadian social trends. Entitled Canada’s Youth: Ready for Today, the study was authored by Alberta sociologist, Reginald Bibby, and Ontario youth consultant, Donald Posterski. The finding showed that 84 percent of the young people surveyed believe in God and 81 percent in the divinity of Jesus. Those figures are almost identical to previous Canadian statistics relating to the overall population. Over 80 percent of those surveyed said they would want a religious funeral or wedding; about 75 percent would involve a minister, priest, or rabbi in a birth-related rite. Only one in ten, however, indicated that God has “a great deal” of influence on how they live. Further, only one in 200 said they look to a religious leader for counsel or assistance.”¹²

The number of magazines devoted to following the lives of celebrities shows that many are not happy with their own lives and they desire to live vicariously through the rich and famous. The only problem is, many of the rich and famous are not happy. Freddie Prince Sr. committed suicide at the height of his popularity. Kurt Cobain of the group, “Nirvana”, and the lead singer of the group, “Boston”, also committed suicide. Tragic stories of the rich and famous abound. Many realize they have all life has to offer and that riches alone did not bring happiness. They were miserable and living in the fog of drugs and alcohol. They ended their lives by overdose or intent. Without faith, we never find true happiness and joy in our lives.

11 Seligman, M. E. P. In J. Buie (1988) *‘Me’ decades generate depression: individualism erodes commitment to others*. APA Monitor, 19, 18. “People born after 1945 were ten times more likely to suffer from depression than people born 50 years earlier.”

12 Christianity Today, February 3, 1989, p. 52-3.

Do you think society will get better or worse over time? If you think it will improve, what is your reason for your supposition? What is happening now or later to reverse the decline in our society?

“A law is something which must have a moral basis, so that there is an inner compelling force for every citizen to obey.” — Chaim Weizmann

Have you thought of what could turn society around, or are you too busy enjoying life to be bothered? If we do not confront these issues, they will not go away. On the contrary, they will only get worse.

What will society look like in the future? Do you worry about the future?

“If you were to destroy in mankind the belief in immortality, not only love but every living force maintaining the life of the world would at once be dried up. Moreover, nothing then would be immoral, everything would be permissible, even cannibalism.” — Brothers Karamazov

We face many challenges today. We see society decline because of the acceptance of evolution and science as absolute truth. These concepts do not promote a healthy society.

Will society be shocked at this behavior in the future? Not if the progression of promiscuity and lax morals continues. In the future, many will consider this normal behavior. People will laugh at those who promote Christian values, just as they laugh at those in the past who prohibited the use of the word pregnant on television.

“Few men are willing to brave the disapproval of their fellows, the censure of their colleagues, the wrath of their society. Moral courage is a rarer commodity than bravery in battle or great intelligence. Yet it is the one essential, vital quality for those who seek to change a world which yields most painfully to change.” — Robert F. Kennedy

Six teens in Tennessee used an empty classroom to make a porn film.¹³ Maybe they were preparing for their career. I would not be surprised, considering the state of society today. Acceptance of the adult

13 Bonisteel, Sara. (2007). Tennessee High School Students Make Porn Film Between Classes. Retrieved March 1, 2007 from Fox News Website: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,255746,00.html>

film industry and pornographic images in mainstream films dulls our senses and we cannot discern between good and evil. Years of lax morals and a lack of supervision has led to a generation of youth with no morals or shame. It is only a matter of time before these incidents occur daily and they will not be considered newsworthy.

Spring Break reveals the depravity of young adults today. Binge drinking, drug abuse, sexual abuse, flashing breasts and every kind of sin imaginable is committed. The infamous *Girls Gone Wild* videos provide proof of their depravity. Young girls expose themselves and engage in sexual behavior with each other in these videos that are sold on late night television. How would you feel if you were watching TV one evening and saw your son or daughter engaging in these activities? Would you be proud?

Even those who profess to be champions of traditional values are not immune to the influence of society. Bill O'Reilly, the self-proclaimed "culture warrior", devoted multiple nights to "spring break" on his television show *The Factor*. He chose to air video repeatedly from the events. He blurred the nudity of the participants, but it was still provocative images. Is he looking out for traditional values, or for his ratings? The only reason for airing video of the events, rather than telling the story, is the ratings value of the provocative images. He says he is reporting the news, but if he cared about society's cultural decline, he would have chosen to make his report less provocative.

A radio show host critical of his coverage, Laura Ingraham, openly hoped the marketing people for a television show, *Aqua Teen Hunger Force*, would go to jail and be sexually assaulted. The marketing firm accidentally started a bomb scare in Boston when they placed electronic signs advertising the show around the city. She and the staff of her program openly laughed about the idea on her show. Yet she promotes the value of religion on her show, but this is not a Christian attitude. Additionally, she regularly promotes one of the most vulgar movies ever made titled, *Team America: World Police*. It features marionettes who use profanity and engage in sex throughout the film. She, along with a vast majority of people, have

had their consciences seared by the lax moral standards of today.

We see the rise of a culture of death in our society through the acceptance of abortion, euthanasia, and physician-assisted suicide. It is becoming acceptable to get rid of a child, a person in a coma, or elderly persons when they become a burden to us. We say, “A child would not choose to be born into a home where it was not wanted.” We decide that a person in a coma would prefer not to live in that condition. Society is beginning to decide for those who cannot speak for themselves. We say that they would choose death rather than to live that way. In reality, heartless people want freedom from the burden of caring for others. What if you wanted to live, but someone else decided you should die?

Society is rapidly losing its conscience. Without a moral compass, we are lost on a sea of turmoil.

“Conscience tells us that we ought to do right, but it does not tell us what right is, that we are taught by God’s word.” — H.C. Trumbull

When you do not believe in God, then you have to find peace with death. Death becomes something good. Atheists believe that when we die, we cease to exist. Death eliminates all the physical and mental pain and suffering for the deceased. This makes death the nonbeliever’s religion and proves everyone will worship something or someone. It is in our nature. God created us with a longing to seek Him. Some choose to know Him while others see death as the ultimate power.

A lack of faith leads to a lack of conscience. Many have done evil throughout history, but they would admit their behavior was wrong. They chose to engage in a sinful activity despite knowing it was evil. Today, many do not have a conscience and they no longer feel guilty about their behavior. This is the real danger for our society.

Questions, Chapter One:

The World's Condition

1. Name two popular authors who are prominent atheists.
2. What has resulted in a doubling of the crime rate, according to one study?
3. In Canada, youth seek out spiritual leaders for advice at what rate?
4. The “culture of death” is a result of what?
5. Discuss the changes in society that have occurred over your lifetime and note which ones you noticed when they occurred and those you are just now noticing.
6. A lack of faith leads to a lack of _____.
7. Many are obsessed with following the lives of _____.
8. Discuss whether it is possible for society to improve or continue to decline.
9. Society is obsessed with what activity?
10. We have seen a rise in the _____ sexual predator.

Chapter Two

Why We Love It

Society is not appalled with its moral decline, and the status quo will not improve our situation. Why are we oblivious to our decline? The answer is selfishness. Selfishness was at the root of man's first sin. The desire to know what God knew tempted Eve, who then led Adam to disobey. Their lack of faith in God allowed their selfish impulses to be enticed by the serpent's words. Our wish to fulfill every desire drives society from Main Street to Wall Street and they tell us *we deserve* these things. "No one should stop you from doing what you like as long as it does not hurt someone else." This is the dogma of modern society. In contrast, faith tells us God is in control and will meet our needs. Trust Him and not the world.

Many have the opportunity to acquire great wealth. They have a long list of material possessions, but they do not have internal possessions. Kurt Cobain, Freddie Prince Sr., and many others sought after material possessions and fame. When they gained it, they still felt empty inside. With no place to go, they took their own lives. Consider this written about Boris Becker:

"Tennis star, Boris Becker, was at the very top of the tennis world — yet he was on the brink of suicide. He said, "I had won Wimbledon twice before, once as the youngest player. I was rich. I had all the material possessions I needed ... It's the old song of movie stars and pop stars who commit suicide. They have everything, and yet they are so unhappy. I had no inner peace. I was a puppet on a string."

Becker is not the only one to feel that sense of emptiness. The echoes of a hollow life pervade our culture. One does not have to read many contemporary biographies to find the same frustration and disappointment. Jack Higgins, author of such successful novels as The Eagle Has Landed, was asked what he would like to have known as a boy. His answer: "That when you get to the top, there's nothing there."¹⁴

14 Our Daily Bread, July 9, 1994

We know of the emptiness of pursuing hedonistic pursuits, but many still seek after them.

How did we get so selfish, in the first place? You might think the self-indulgent Sixties is the starting point for the “Me Generation”. Remember how the WWII veterans acted when they returned home. They had an expectation that society owed them for their service. I am not saying we did not owe them for their sacrifices. We probably owed them more than we could ever pay. I am talking about the expectations they had. They had *a reason* for those expectations. However, their children have the same expectations. We expect jobs, pensions, housing, and other luxuries even when the economy cannot support it. We do not want to work for it. We demand it.

Greed drives the world today. It fuels frivolous lawsuits, lotteries, gambling, fraud, and other activities that offer easy money. It drives some to neglect their families in favor of their job.

“Greed is the logical result of the belief that there is no life after death. We grab what we can, while we can, however we can, and then hold on to it hard.”¹⁵

We choose worldly gain because we do not believe and trust the promise of riches in Heaven. “Enjoy it while you can, because tomorrow you die.” A lack of faith causes us to trust in ourselves rather than God. We want the material possessions of the world to comfort us, but only a deep faith in God will give us real comfort. The latest generation, called “Gen Y” is the most selfish of all.

“The Y Generation is regarded as being materialistic, selfish, and disrespectful — but also very aware of the world and very technologically literate. They are trying to grow-up too quickly, and have no good role models to look towards.”¹⁶

How do we expect the world to improve if we do not instill in our children faith and trust in God?

We do not want to give up our guilty pleasures so we try not to impinge on anyone else’s vices. There is a law requiring cities to set

15 Catherwood, Sir Fred. *Evangelicals Now*, September 1994.

16 Unknown. (2007). *Guide to Recent U.S. ‘Generations*. Retrieved January 2, 2009, from University of Tampere. Website: <http://www.uta.fi/FAST/US7/REF/genguide.html>

up sex districts where adult-oriented businesses can operate without a special permit. The city of Richardson, Texas is making plans for such a district, to avoid legal complications.¹⁷ The city says they have no choice, as it is the law of the land. The businesses contributing to the moral decay of society have the same protection as the churches that build up society with good values and respect for God. We may not like their sin, but in order to return to a moral society, we would have to cease engaging in our sins.

Many try to erode the protections enjoyed by churches, but they advocate for the rights of the sin merchants. I remember a line from the movie “The Planet of the Apes”, where Charlton Heston is hosed down by one of the apes in a world where man is the animal and apes are the intelligent ones. He cries out “It’s a madhouse!” We could say the same about society’s direction.

The people of Israel engaged in many sins. The prophets warned them numerous times to repent. However, they continued in their idolatry and iniquity. Their faith was weak or nonexistent. The condition of the world is not a recent occurrence, but we face a new problem: the watering down and elimination of religion from all corners of the world. Without a belief in God, people think they do not have to answer to anyone. Without the God-brake, nothing stands in the way to stop the downward slide of society.

Like Sodom and Gomorrah, anything goes and we feel there should be no restrictions on behavior. We do not want to curtail our pleasures. Many of our excesses are the same as those infamous cities. We feed our addictions with more and different experiences to keep the level of enjoyment at its peak.

“While a man and his wife were shopping at a mall kiosk, a shapely young woman in a short, form-fitting dress strolled by. The man’s eyes followed her.

Without looking up from the item she was examining, his wife asked, “Was it worth the trouble you’re in?”¹⁸

17 Civale, Craig. (2007). Sex District Planned for Richardson. Retrieved January 2, 2009 from WFAA Website: http://www.wfaa.com/sharedcontent/dws/wfaa/latest-news/stories/wfaa070224_lj_civale.b30f411.html

18 Drew Anderson (Tucson, AZ), Reader’s Digest.

Like Sodom and Gomorrah, we do not know how much trouble we are in today.

Pornography is a part of mainstream culture and is regarded as only another form of harmless entertainment. It no longer exists in the shadows of society. Neil Cavuto of Fox News frequently interviews the CEO's of pornography enterprises, just as one would interview the leaders of companies producing regular products. We have lost our shame and guilt, and those critical of the porn industry have trouble deciding how to define it even though they feel it is detrimental to our society.

We are slaves to sin and though we know it is bad for us, we cannot stop. Paul Harvey told the story of how Eskimos kill a wolf. It illustrates the destructive nature of sin.

“First, the Eskimo coats his knife blade with animal blood and allows it to freeze. Then he adds another layer of blood, and another, until the blade is completely concealed by frozen blood. Next, the hunter fixes his knife in the ground with the blade up. When a wolf follows his sensitive nose to the source of the scent and discovers the bait, he licks it, tasting the fresh frozen blood. He begins to lick faster, more and more vigorously, lapping the blade until the keen edge is bare. Feverishly now, harder and harder the wolf licks the blade in the arctic night.

So great becomes his craving for blood that the wolf does not notice the razor-sharp sting of the naked blade on his own tongue, nor does he recognize the instant at which his insatiable thirst is being satisfied by his OWN warm blood. His carnivorous appetite just craves more and more until by morning the Eskimo finds him dead in the snow.”

We introduce children to sex at a younger age as schools attempt to circumvent parental authority to avoid criticism.¹⁹ Incidents where students are caught having sex in the classroom²⁰ are covered

19 Mosher, Valerie. (2007). School Tells Kids to Hide Pro-‘Gay’ Propaganda From Parents. Retrieved January 2, 2009, from Concerned Women of America, Website: <http://www.cwfa.org/articles/12546/MEDIA/family/index.htm>

20 Chapman, Sandra. (2007). School district: Sixth graders had sex in class, Retrieve January 2, 2009, from NBC 13 Indianapolis, Website: <http://www.wthr.com/Global/story.asp?S=6180780&nav=9Tai>

up by school authorities who insist they should control what children are taught about sex. Students are making pornographic films between classes in Tennessee!²¹ Children engage in sexual behavior before they reach puberty. Frequent sexual activity causes them to tire of the common methods. They seek new ways to engage in sexual behavior like a drug addict who seeks harder drugs to achieve satisfaction. They seek ways to enjoy sex with the same intensity of their first experience.

Why should society desire to introduce our children to sex at younger ages? Is it because parents wish they could have engaged in sex at a younger age and they want to live vicariously through their children? What other reason could it be? Or is it because the Humanist element in our society wishes to destroy our heritage of Christian values and morals, so that they won't feel judged and condemned?

What happens to children exposed to sex at such an early age? What happens to children exposed to smoking at an early age? They are more likely to smoke for life and smoke more cigarettes than those who start at a later age. We are creating sex addicts. When they become jaded and tired of the same old sexual activities they turn to other and dangerous forms of sex.

We see a rise in promiscuity because we encourage children to engage in sexual behavior. You could say, "We are not encouraging them to have sex! We just want them to know about it." If you teach them about adult behavior, they will want to participate in it. It makes them feel like adults and we strive for that when we are young. Smoking and drinking are associated with adult behavior, and children desiring to attain adulthood will engage in any activity that makes them look and feel like adults.

We have changed the definition of deviate behavior and moral standards over the years.

"U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan recently published a disturbing essay entitled 'Defining Deviancy Down'. In the Nov 22 issue of *The New Republic*, commentator Charles Krauthammer writes, 'Moynihan's powerful point is that with the moral deregula-

21 Bonisteel, Sara. (2007) Tennessee High School Students Make Porn Film Between Classes. Retrieved January 2, 2009 from Fox News, Website: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,255746,00.html>

tion of the 1960s, we have had an explosion of deviancy in family life, criminal behavior, and public displays of psychosis. And we have dealt with it in the only way possible: by redefining deviancy down so as to explain away and make ‘normal’ what a more civilized, ordered, and healthy society long ago would have labeled — and long ago *did* label — deviant.”²²

By redefining what bad behavior is, we soothe our consciences. This is easier than following God’s advice.

Why do we love our present condition? What lies ahead for us as a society? Our selfish desires are why we allow morals to get worse. We know that returning to God and following His ways would involve giving up our guilty pleasures. In order to stem the tide of crime we have to get rid of our sources of sex, drugs, and other vices. Unless you are ready to give up your sins, you have to live with the sinful behavior of others. You may object to what they are doing, but putting a stop to their behavior would require putting a stop to your behavior as well.

Despite knowing this, we would rather live in the sewer of life to get what we want than to live in the sunshine of a life with God. Each year, the world gets worse and we notice the increase, but we say nothing because it might jeopardize our freedom to do what we enjoy in our own lives.

Nonbelievers feel that a life without God is a life without guilt, remorse, and obligation to Him. Hmm. I wonder why they need all those pills?

Faith will be the victory for the Christian. Knowledge of God and the universe He created increases faith. Unfortunately, there are many stumbling blocks or obstacles preventing some from experiencing faith. It is easier to believe if we examine the questions raised by modern society and reveal their fallacies.

22 Christian Research Institute letter, December 6, 1993.

Questions, Chapter Two:

Why We Love It

1. What is at the root of our acceptance of the declining morals and condition in the world today?
2. When did selfishness grow at its fastest rate?
3. What activity, once shunned and practiced in privacy, is now acceptable to mainstream society?
4. How has society's openness about sexuality affected our children?
5. Why are many willing to allow the moral decline to continue unchallenged?
6. Like Solomon, many have discovered that wealth and fame do not bring _____.
7. Today's youth are more _____ than in the past.
8. Non-believers feel that a life without God is a life without _____.
9. When we expose children to sex at a young age, what do we create?
10. Society has redefined deviant behavior as _____.

Chapter Three

How We Got Here

Popular Psychology Movement

“I used to think that the brain was the most wonderful organ in my body. Then I realized who was telling me this.”

— Emo Phillips

I was waiting for a flight and I wandered into a bookstore to kill time. Sitting side-by-side on a rack were two books on business management. I do not remember the exact titles, but one promoted positive reinforcement skills and the other advanced unyielding micromangement skills. They illustrated the confused state we live in today. For any subject, there are several book titles offering help for the reader. They each have diametrically opposed viewpoints, but they all claim to be the reigning authority on the subject. Which is right? Which is wrong?

All the how-to manuals for life have one thing in common. What did we do before they were written? We got along for thousands of years without these pearls of wisdom and we were getting along better *before* some of these books were written. Not every book is worthless of course, but we must view advice with a critical mind in order to separate the good from the bad. The worst offenders are the child-rearing manuals started by Dr. Benjamin Spock. Some today question his advice²³ and it is no coincidence that his book was first published in 1946, the very time in which we began to see an increase in rebellion.

The key word here is *increase*. There were concerns about growing juvenile delinquency from the beginning of the last century. Darwin's theories of the previous century were already casting doubt in the minds of people, causing them to question religion. This led to alternatives to the scripturally-based traditional discipline that advocated punishment. Whether you believe in corporal punishment or not, scripture does advocate punitive action for misbehavior. When

23 Unknown. (1998) Did Dr. Spock Get It Wrong? Retrieved January 2, 2009, from BBC News, Website: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/talking_point/66349.stm

we break the law, government punishes us for our transgressions. That may take the form of a fine, incarceration, community service, supervision, or a combination of methods. Offenders lose time, money, or freedom. The pain of punishment attempts to modify our future behavior. Freud and many other therapists believed that “talking it out” and non-punitive methods would stem the rise in discipline problems. This thinking is similar to the reformatory movement. It sought to reduce crime through rehabilitation rather than incarceration. We can see the results of that experiment by the growth in crime and prisons.

Recent empirical studies show that permissive, non-punishment methods have not resulted in a decrease of discipline problems. They cause a steep increase in their frequency. The conclusion of one study presented to The American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences National Convention summarized the methods.

“This presentation reviewed empirical research on punishment to see if the claims that parental punishment causes juvenile delinquency and aggression made by punishment free parenting systems (PET, STEP, and Freudian parenting) are correct. We believe our review identified the following points:

1. Punishment free parenting theories of Freud, Adler, and Rogers claimed punishment produces delinquency and aggression in children.

2. Three prominent research investigations (Glueck & Glueck, 1950; Sears, Maccoby, and Levin, 1957; Bandura & Walters, 1959) published in the 1950s claimed their data supported the punishment free parenting systems contention that parental use of punishment is a major cause of juvenile delinquency and aggression.

3. Later re-evaluations (e.g. Yarrow, Campbell, & Burton, 1968; Schuck, 1974) of the data in those three studies indicate parental laxness and permissiveness rather than parental oversupervision and use of punishment were responsible for delinquency and aggression.

4. McCord & McCords’ (1959) field experiment showed Freud and Roger’s punishment free counseling approaches

were not effective in reducing juvenile delinquency and parental permissiveness rather than parental punishment increased juvenile delinquency and aggression in youth.

5. Thirty-one field experiments carried out from 1945 to 1967 that were designed to use punishment free approaches to reduce juvenile delinquency failed to produce the expected reductions.

6. Empirical research studies (Spock, 1959; Rinn & Markle, 1977; Dembo, Sweitzer, & Lauritzen, 1985) fail to show any of the punishment-free parenting systems effective in producing positive behavior changes in children.

7. Empirical research studies (e.g. Weber, Crawford, Roff, & Robinson, 1983) college learning textbooks show reinforcement and punishment have substantial empirical research findings showing them to be effective behavior change procedures, but fail to show punishment free parenting behavior change procedures as being effective.

8. Numerous empirical studies (e.g. Ayllon & Michael, 1959; Williams, 1959; Bernal, Duryee, Pruett, & Burns, 1968; Boardman, 1962; Hawkins, Peterson, Schweid, & Bijou, 1966; Alexander & Parsons, 1973) show reinforcement and punishment effective in reducing delinquent and aggressive behavior.

9. Corporal punishment research (e.g. Simons, Johnson, & Conger, 1994; Lefkowitz, Walder, & Eron, 1977; Gunnoe & Mariner, 1997) shows corporal punishment does not increase physical aggression in children.

10. Punishment research reviews (e.g. Azrin and Holz, 1966; Walters & Grusec, 1977; Axelrod & Apsche, 1983) indicate punishment is an effective behavior change procedure. Anthony Biglan (1998) claimed scientifically unsupported parenting systems are being advocated by mental health professionals and accepted by society over scientifically supported parenting procedures. Our review of the research suggests Biglan is correct. We suggest more in depth public comparisons and discussions of punishment free and punishment included parenting research findings is warranted."²⁴

24 Hwang, Hanson, Lafond, and Robinson. (n.d.) Are Juvenile Delinquency and Aggression Produced by Permissive or Punitive Parenting: Re-evaluating 50 Years of

No evidence exists proving that permissive, no punishment methods resulted in better children, but you probably know that from your own experience.

We let our children down in other ways. Look at your television any night and you will see advertisements for pills that make us feel better, sleep better, and others that help us cope with the stresses of life. If we improved society by ridding ourselves of God, why are we unable to enjoy our life and sleep better than prior generations? Something is wrong when society unburdens itself from primitive religious thinking and we need more aids to help us cope. I am not saying there are no conditions where these medications are helpful and necessary for someone's wellbeing, but there are so many seeking medical help to cope with our liberated society. The rate of depression has increased ten fold over the last two decades.²⁵

This information comes from those who treat depression and not religious spokespersons. Psychologists have determined our problems stem from four historical sources.

“We live for the first time in an age of personal control, or, as Ronald Reagan dubbed it, ‘The Age of the Individual’. At least four historical forces have converged to make this happen. The first two — the rise of ‘personalized’ mass production, and general prosperity — have exalted the self; the other two — the assassinations of public leaders and the loss of faith in God and the family — have weakened our commitment to larger social institutions. And one untoward consequence of this convergence has been a huge increase in depression.”²⁶

Research. Retrieved January 2, 2009, from American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences, Website: <http://aabss.org/journal2002/Hwang.htm>

- 25 Levine, Bruce. (n.d.) Surviving America's Depression Epidemic. Retrieved January 2, 2009 from Amazon, Website: <http://www.amazon.com/Surviving-Americas-Depression-Epidemic-Community/dp/B00104AJXS>
- 26 Koenig, Harold G. MD; Cohen, Harvey Jay (2006). Spirituality Across the Lifespan. Retrieved January 2, 2009, from Southern Medical Journal, Website: <http://www.smajournalonline.com/pt/re/smj/abstract.00007611-200610000-00040.htm;jsessionid=JpLHhVQGJjyfyhpQTLXqFmcL6J2L8ltz6pd4Jxzn1dvm3fTjn98!1329102805!181195628!8091!-1>

It does not stop with our children. We are addicted to pop psychology, self-help books, seminars and therapy. Some need help, but do so many of us have problems we cannot solve on our own?

“Psychiatrist after evaluating a new patient: ‘We can’t find anything wrong with you, so we’re going to treat you for Symptom Deficit Disorder’”

We live in a selfish society. Everything revolves around **ME**. I want more. I want people to listen to me. I want to feel good about my future. I do not want to worry.

“When the new patient was settled comfortably on the couch, the psychiatrist began his therapy session, ‘I’m not aware of your problem,’ the doctor said, ‘so perhaps you should start at the very beginning.’

“‘Of course.’ replied the patient. ‘In the beginning, I created the Heavens and the Earth.’”

Many believe the universe revolves around them. When we focus on ourselves, we become our own god. When we gain great possessions, we discover we are still missing something in our lives. Could it be that God is calling? Popular psychology is not the answer. Unfortunately, religion is following in the footsteps of popular psychology. I will save that for another chapter.

Relativism, the belief there are no absolute truths, has contributed to the problems of society. Relativism has been around for a long time. The religion of Jainism, started hundreds of years before Christ, is one example, and many versions of such relativism have existed over time. However, relativism is gaining in popularity, because a conscience devoid of belief in absolute truths thinks itself free of the judgments of right and wrong.

“Once you depart from the Ten Commandments, you have relativism, humanism, the abandonment of absolutes. You have anything. How long before child pornography is mainstream?” — Randall Terry

When no boundaries exist, nothing is wrong and everything is permissible. Society says it is wrong to hurt or kill someone, but the relativist says it makes him/her feel better. In our selfish society, that is what matters.

“Having a clear faith, based on the creed of the church, is often labeled today as fundamentalism. Whereas relativism, which is letting oneself be tossed and swept along by every wind of teaching, looks like the only attitude acceptable to today’s standards.” — Joseph Ratzinger

We do not use absolute terms like evil in describing the heinous acts of others. They are labeled tragedies and not mass murders.

God uses absolute terms when addressing us. One of those absolutes is faith. If faith in God is our victory, then it must be strong and unwavering. Faith cannot be found in the self-help section of any bookstore.

“We are moving toward a dictatorship of relativism which does not recognize anything as for certain and which has as its highest goal one’s own ego and one’s own desires.” — Joseph Ratzinger

Questions, Chapter Three:

***How We Got Here –
The Popular Psychology Movement***

1. Who was one of the first authors of this movement?
2. What did his book advocate?
3. Before his death, what did Dr. Spock say about his methods?
4. Freud believed in _____ rather than punitive methods of reform.
5. Non-punitive methods of discipline have not resulted in a _____ in discipline problems.
6. Does God punish sin and disobedience?
7. The rise in mood medication has increased with a rise in a disbelief in _____.
8. What is following in the footsteps of the popular psychology movement?
9. Relativism's rise in popularity has _____ the line between right and wrong.
10. Relativism looks for reasons behind _____ actions rather than _____ the action.

Chapter Four

Evolution and Its Errors

Have you ever thought evolution is a religion? Many think evolution destroys religious beliefs. If you realize how much faith it takes to believe in evolution you would see it is a religious belief, not as science.

“One day the zoo-keeper noticed that the orangutan was reading two books — the Bible and Darwin’s *The Origin of Species*. In surprise, he asked the ape, ‘Why are you reading both those books?’ ‘Well,’ said the orangutan, ‘I just wanted to know if I was my brother’s keeper or my keeper’s brother.’”

Let me say this before we delve into the subject matter. If the missing link fell out of a tree and slapped me square across the face, I would still believe in the Creation Story. You could say, “How can you still believe, in the face of overwhelming evidence?” My reply would be one word, FAITH! There are a few verses in the Bible I want you to keep in mind as we go through the “How We Got Here” chapters.

AV 1611 2 Thessalonians 2:10: “And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

11 “And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:”

I like the King James Version’s translation of the word “delusion” used in this verse. All the geological and fossil records could be there for those who refuse to believe in God. Here is another verse of significance.

AV 1611 1 Corinthians 3:19: “For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.”

God also tests our faith in order to make us stronger. Consider this verse:

AV 1611 1 Peter 1:7: “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it

be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:"

When Charles Darwin first developed his theory, many pieces of the puzzle were missing. Many of the theories are still theories. Yet, if you hear an evolutionist speak, they want you to believe they have irrefutable proof of their assertions. Here are some of the problems plaguing evolutionary theories.

It might surprise you that the process of extinction is still a mystery. For every species existing today, approximately 99 have become extinct.²⁷ This has led to the concept of circular reasoning. You survive because you are fit and you are fit because you survive. The opposite statement, you die because you are unfit and you are unfit because you die, can also be postulated. This logic does not explain why animals become extinct.²⁸

There is no explanation for extinction. Suppose an animal has existed for thousands of years and all of a sudden, one of its offspring mutates and becomes a new creature. If the mutation is beneficial, the evolutionist says this animal will eventually replace the current version of the animal. The problem is the old version of the animal was thriving in the environment and the old and new versions would survive side-by-side. If the mutation could not thrive, it would just die out. An example of this is albino animals. They usually cannot survive in the wild. What causes species to become extinct? The evolutionist has no definitive answer. We can say this about our supposed ancestors. If Neanderthals survived for thousands of years and some speculate they lived side-by-side with Homo Sapiens, where are they today? If the primates still survive, why did the primitive versions of humans die out?

Many animals, such as elephants, defy evolutionary theory. They are not much different from the mammoths. Alternatively, what about whales, they are as bulky as the dinosaurs.²⁹ The same limitations some say ended many species still exist in other animal spe-

27 De Beer, Sir Gavin R., 1966, *In the Genes*, New Your Review of Books 6: 14 April, page 27; 1970.

28 Macbeth, Norman, 1971, *Darwin Retried*, Gambit Incorporated, Boston, page 118.

29 Simpson, George Gaylord, 1949, *The Meaning of Evolution*, Yale University Press, rev. ed. 1967, page 202.

cies. Consider the animal species called “living fossils” because they have not changed (according to evolutionists) for millions of years — The platypus, brachiopod *lingula*, the oyster, the opossum, Australian lungfish and others defy the theories advanced by evolutionists.³⁰

Many have seen the evolutionary tree where man is at the top of the chart. You probably have not seen it in recent history because evolutionists do not like to use it. In evolutionary theory, species become more specialized as they evolve. However, man’s anatomy is more primitive. The hand is a general-purpose part of our anatomy. The Bat, Sea Lion, and Antelope have specialized appendages for flying, swimming and running respectively and these have “evolved” from general-purpose appendages to specialized ones.³¹

These persistent mysteries haunt evolutionists. Yet, believers in the theory speak of evolution as if it was fact. I guess they do have faith, after all.³²

Evolution, as Darwin conceived it, is not modern evolutionary thought. Recent books on evolution stress mathematics and genetics as mechanisms of change. They marginalize survival of the fittest and natural selection because of contradictory evidence.

Most organisms do not display what might be judged as the best genetic development. The oak drops its seed close to the tree in the form of an acorn. There are many “advanced” ways for plants, such as the dandelion or the trumpet vine, to disperse their seeds in the environment. They produce a light seed with the form of a wing. When the wind is blowing, it spirals down some distance from the parent plant. There are many methods of seed distribution that range from the “inefficient” to the “highly mobile”. The oak tree, despite its “handicap”, survives. This is true of many organisms. Fruit flies, having a generational time scale of about two weeks, show no evolutionary changes even though they lack an efficient way of getting at their food source. Why haven’t they made better progress in this prospective? Other insects and vertebrates have beaks and boring mouthparts to deal with food sources that have tough exteriors.

30 Macbeth, Norman, 1971, *Darwin Retried*, Gambit Incorporated, Boston, page 121.

31 Ardrey, Robert, 1961, *African Genesis*, Dell, pp 252-253.

32 Macbeth, Norman, 1971, *Darwin Retried*, Gambit Incorporated, Boston, page 2.

Concepts such as Biogenetics, which was part of the evidence considered in *Roe v Wade*, is no longer considered a valid theory. Biogenetics taught that embryos go through evolutionary stages as they develop. Evolutionists replace the concepts put forth by Darwin with modified ideas as they learn that the old concepts are problematic and unsupportable. How long will it be before they replace current theories with new ones? Evolution relies on hypotheses and not solid, observable theory. This is the dirty little secret of evolution.

Natural selection and survival of the fittest seem to be intelligent forces. Evolutionists deny they are intelligent, but I cannot help but think they are when evolutionists explain how natural selection works. If natural selection is an unintelligent force as Darwin said, then no species could ever develop very far without a death gene causing the species to die out. For natural selection to advance species or create new species from the old requires intelligence. If natural selection is unthinking, where are the devolving species? The primitive versions of animals survived for a time and there is no reason they could not survive again. The evolutionist says they died because they could not adapt. It is true that conditions in the past made it difficult for some species to survive, but when conditions favored it, the survivors should have reverted to their former state. The evolutionist says the giraffe developed its long neck to reach vegetation in the upper parts of the trees. Why did they develop longer necks when other animals on the African savanna survived with shorter necks? Did they develop this because vegetation became scarce? If so, their necks should have gotten shorter when the vegetation was plentiful and, in turn, some of the other species should have longer necks in that part of the world.

Evolution, despite what some believe, is only a hypothesis. That means it is a tentative explanation for a phenomenon, used as a basis for further investigation, or a statement that is assumed true for the sake of argument. The only thing anyone has observed is adaptation, which is far different from macroevolution.

“The problem for evolution is we never see the shifting between shapes in the fossil record. All fossils are of

complete animals and plants, not works in progress ‘under construction’. This is why we can give each distinct plant or animal a name. If evolution’s continuous morphing were really going on, every fossil would show change underway throughout the creature, with parts in various stages of completion. For every successful change, there should be many which led to nothing. The whole process is random trial and error, without direction. So every plant and animal, living or fossil, should be covered inside and out with useless growths and parts under construction. It is a grotesque image, and just what the theory of evolution really predicts.”³³

Evolution, like belief in God, requires faith. The fossil record shows that species appeared immediately and there are no transitional fossil specimens. Complete animals appeared from nowhere, as is portrayed in the creation account of the Bible.

Evolution violates the law of thermodynamics. We observe the deterioration of things over time. Our new car is not new anymore. Our house needs a new coat of paint. This is the second law of thermodynamics. Everything breaks down. Evolution tells us that non-living material decided to live and to develop, rather than break down. What are the odds that a tornado can pass through a junk yard and assemble a car or truck? A watch needs a watchmaker, and a human needs a maker. The evolutionist refutes this by saying living organisms are open systems and the material world is a closed system. We eat food, get energy and evolve, according to the evolutionist. The material world cannot. However, they cannot explain why living organisms are able to violate the laws of nature.

Evolution is a belief system and, therefore, a religion. The evolutionists grasp at anything that seems to advance their belief system. They believe in their unobservable theories and that is the definition of faith, the belief in things not seen. A faithful person sees God in everything. The evolutionist cannot see past nature.

Some of their discoveries are hoaxes. Piltdown man is a famous example. It took over 40 years for it to be declared a hoax. For

33 Fischer, John Michael. (2006). Debunking Evolution. Retrieved January, 2, 2009, from New Geology, Website: <http://www.newgeology.us/presentation32.html>

years, they believed in a few pieces of upper skull from a human and a portion of a lower jaw and teeth that were ape-like. For the evolutionist, this represented the Holy Grail. If real, it would represent a transitional stage of man. Only after years of overwhelming critical scrutiny did science finally declare it a fraud.³⁴

Consider the Archaeopteryx. This fossil was heralded as the transitional stage of dinosaur to bird. The fossil showed a small dinosaur with feathers, and for over 100 years, this fossil promoted the belief in evolution. Careful examination in the mid-eighties proved it was a fraud. Again, the evolutionist's transitional evidence transitioned from fact to fiction.³⁵

I did not write a complete analysis of all evolutionary theory. That would require a whole book on this subject alone. There are many books and websites critical of evolution. I have endeavored to present the reader with enough information to illustrate the changing theories of evolution. You could say evolutionary theory is evolving. That might be the only thing that evolves over time.

34 Kohn, Alexander, *False Prophets: Fraud and Error in Science and Medicine*, 1988, Barnes and Noble Books, New York. Pp 132-141.

35 Kohn, Alexander, *False Prophets: Fraud and Error in Science and Medicine*, 1988, Barnes and Noble Books, New York. Pp 141-143.

Questions, Chapter Four:

***How We Got Here –
Evolution and Its Errors***

1. Extinction is still a _____.
2. Have all animals evolved over time?
3. What is biogenetics?
4. Fossils _____ show up in the layers of the earth.
5. _____ fossils cannot be found.
6. Can one observe evolution?
7. What could have caused the different layers in the earth?
8. God shall send them strong _____ that they may believe a _____.
9. Evolution says that as species develop they become more specialized. However, man displays _____ _____ qualities.
10. Survival of the fittest says that the best genetic developments supersede inferior development. Which plants and animals defy this belief?
11. What creature with a short evolutionary scale shows no development or change?
12. Evolution is full of lies and hoaxes. _____ _____ is one well known hoax.

Chapter Five

Science and Its Inaccuracies

“One day a group of scientists got together and decided that man had come a long way and no longer needed God. So they picked one scientist to go and tell Him that they were done with Him. The scientist walked up to God and said, ‘God, we’ve decided that we no longer need you. We’re to the point that we can clone people and do many miraculous things, so why don’t you just go on and get lost?’ God listened very patiently and kindly to the man and after the scientist was done talking, God said, ‘Very well, how about this, let’s say we have a man-making contest.’ To which the scientist replied, ‘OK, great!’ But God added, ‘Now, we’re going to do this just like I did back in the old days with Adam.’ The scientist said, ‘Sure, no problem,’ and bent down and grabbed himself a handful of dirt. God just looked at him and said, ‘No, no, no, you go get your own dirt!’”

At any point in time, science thinks it is 100% accurate and possesses absolute truth. If you look at the history of scientific thought, you can see it changes when new discoveries are made. DNA coding is one example. While it has given us great insight into the human body, scientists are now discovering there is something beyond DNA that divides it into smaller parts. Scientists have concluded the atom contains smaller particles than previously believed. We observe that scientific thought changes over time. Margarine, created to reduce our intake of butter, was considered a healthy alternative. Margarine is considered less beneficial now and butter is in fashion again. This occurs with many things and illustrates the problem with science. Science always believes its current thinking is infallible. Eventually, new information or discoveries challenge the “facts”, they are found erroneous, and the absolute, infallible, unchanging truth changes. Then, the process begins again.

Science is not immune to fraud and self-deception.

“Apart from the ‘experimenter effect’, any scientist will almost inevitably make an error at some point in his or her investigations because of the vagaries of scientific thought,

and may draw the wrong conclusions from the results of an experiment.”³⁶

Kohn states that further experimentation by others can repeat the same errors and confirm non-existent phenomena.³⁷ They perpetuate error throughout scientific research.

When science says there is no God, who can say they are 100% correct? Science and its stable-mate, evolution, provide no definitive proof God does not exist.

“God is dead.” — Nietzsche

“Nietzsche is dead.” — God

Many believe science is open to all hypotheses and uses scientific methods of inquiry to prove or disprove theories without bias. If something can neither be proved nor disproved, then science should be open to all areas of inquiry. Scientific inquiry is summed up this way.

“Scientific researchers propose specific hypotheses as explanations of natural phenomena, and design experimental studies that test these predictions for accuracy. These steps are repeated in order to make increasingly dependable predictions of future results. Theories that encompass wider domains of inquiry serve to bind more specific hypotheses together in a coherent structure. This in turn aids in the formation of new hypotheses, as well as in placing groups of specific hypotheses into a broader context of understanding.

“Among other facets shared by the various fields of inquiry is the conviction that the process must be objective to reduce a biased interpretation of the results. Another basic expectation is to document, archive and share all data and methodology so it is available for careful scrutiny by other scientists, thereby allowing other researchers the opportunity to verify results by attempting to reproduce them. This also allows statistical measures of the reliability of these data to be established.”³⁸

36 Kohn, Alexander, False Prophets: Fraud and Error in Science and Medicine, 1988, Barnes and Noble Books, New York. Page 18.

37 Ibid.

38 Unknown. (n.d.) Scientific Method. Retrieved January 2, 2009 from Wikipedia, Website: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Scientific_method

The scientist is supposed to be unbiased and to welcome all criticism of their hypotheses, theories, observations and experiments. However, when it comes to any unobservable phenomena, they are unwilling to consider any hypothesis or theory involving intelligent creation.

This is what the scientific community thinks about those who believe in an intelligent creator.

“Scientists are always objective when they do their research and publicly express their belief in evolution. To the contrary, scientists are people, and people are not often objective and neutral.

“Scientists, of course, work harder at being objective because of the limits and goals of the scientific disciplines, but this doesn’t mean personal preferences or ideologies never get in the way of their research. Unfortunately, the scientific community has its share of ambition, suppression of truth, prejudice, plagiarism, manipulation of data, etc. This is illustrated by Tel Aviv Medical School’s Professor of Urology Alexander Kohn in his *False Prophets: Fraud and Error in Science and Medicine* (1986), by Broad and Wade’s *Betrayers of the Truth: Fraud and Deceit in the Halls of Science* (1982), and other books and articles.”³⁹

Science puts on a unified face and hides its ugly side from the public. The scientific community has its share of frauds and biased researchers. Consider these examples of how academia treats creationists.

“One creationist had a Ph.D. in biology from Harvard University. He had actively been seeking a teaching position for 12 years. One employer told him: ‘Frankly, I don’t like holy people, fundamentalists, especially Baptists, Church of Christ types, Pentecostals or other seventeenth century retrogressives. If we find out we hired one, especially if they start talking to the other research scientists about their beliefs, I terminate them within the month. Usually they leave without much of a protest. And I’ve never had one bring suit even though firing on religious grounds is illegal, and I know that it is.”⁴⁰

There are hundreds of examples of people denied their degrees,

39 Ankerberg, Dr. John and Weldon, Dr. John. (n.d.). False Assumptions about Evolution. Retrieved January 2, 2009, from Ankerberg, Website: http://www.ankerberg.com/Articles/_PDFArchives/science/SC2W1299.pdf

40 Jerry Bergman, *The Criterion*, Richfield, MN, Onesimus Publishers, 1984, page 54.

having their degrees rescinded, and teaching positions being denied for straight “A” students. Teachers and professors are denied tenure because they believe in intelligent design. A professor was denied his tenure in 2007 at ISU for that reason.⁴¹ It is evident that the scientific community is not open-minded and is biased against creationist. If you rely upon scientists to give you unbiased truth, you will be disappointed.

It might surprise you who said this:

“My religion consists of a humble admiration of the illimitable superior Spirit who reveals himself in the slight details we are able to perceive with our frail and feeble minds. The deeply emotional conviction of the presence of a superior reasoning Power, which is revealed in the incomprehensible universe, forms my idea of God.” Einstein

Albert Einstein said that and more about his belief that there is a great scientist in the form of a Creator. He was not willing to say who the Creator is, but he recognized the hand of the Master. He sought to know the creator in the mathematical precision of the universe and died while he was still writing equations to decipher it. Belief in God is just as reasonable as belief in the hypotheses and theories of science.

Consider what scientists believe about the “Big Bang Theory”, that all the matter in the universe was compressed in a space smaller than an atom before it exploded and became the universe we see today. They have trouble with the exact size because the laws of physics do not answer that question.

“Even before the Big Bang occurred, the scientists cannot deny the existence of darkness, though they claim that first explosion, so-called Big Bang, occurred from a zero size and within 10 seconds of its explosion, the mean temperature/radiation of the Universe was 10^{30} K. Why it was so, they have probably no explanation according to laws of physics?”⁴²

Before there was something (universe), there was nothing (dark-

41 Dillon, William. (2007) Proponent of Intelligent Design Denied Tenure by ISU. Retrieved January 2, 2009 from The Tribune, Website: http://www.midiowanews.com/site/tab1.cfm?newsid=18333457&BRD=2700&PAG=461&dept_id=554432&rft=6

42 Unknown. (n.d.). Big Bang Did Not Create Space. Retrieved January 2, 2009, from

ness). The important point is, the universe came from nothing. There are other theories such as String Theory and unseen universes existing in other dimensions that gave birth to our universe, but these are hotly debated at this time.

Scientists advance and debate different theories because science has a problem explaining how we got here.

“Numerous explanations have been proposed to support equally numerous, explanations, ‘beliefs’ and ‘misconceptions’ about the nature of life.”⁴³

A scientist, not a creationist, wrote that. He also said this regarding the origin of the universe:

“Where did the original ‘matter’ for the ‘Big Bang’ come from, or exactly of what it consisted has still not been determined. Besides which, we do not know if this is really what happened. It is a theory that is worked out backwards.”⁴⁴

But most scientists will not make such an admission. According to them, it is settled science.

Another example of how scientists exercise a form of faith is the news that there is a huge hole in the universe about one billion light years across and it is only 6 to 10 billion light years away from us. The interesting part of this report is it states scientists did not expect it to be there because their computer models and experience did not indicate this was possible.⁴⁵ This is clear evidence they do not rely upon absolute truth, but on theory and speculation they promote as truth.

The other theory about the universe is that it is eternal. However, if the universe existed for an infinite number of years there would be an infinite number of events preventing us from being here

Science and Technology News, Website: <http://www.internationalreporter.com/news/read.php?id=287>

43 Krebs, Robert E. *Scientific Development and Misconceptions Through the Ages: A Reference Guide*, Greenwood Press, page 67.

44 *Ibid*, page 15.

45 Silverman, Jacob. (2007). *Is There a Hole in the Universe?* Retrieved January 2, 2009 from How Stuff Works, Website: <http://science.howstuffworks.com/hole-in-universe.htm>

today.⁴⁶ For example, if we could live for a thousand years, what are the odds we would live that long without being a victim of a fatal accident or other life-ending event?

There is a lot written about the errors of science and this is a sample of what is available. I wanted to present the most relevant evidence. I urge you to seek out this information.

The Bible tells us God created everything from nothing. Even scientists have to admit the universe started as nothing and began with an enormous amount of energy that still can be heard as background noise. Yet most scientists will not even consider the possibility that the universe had an intelligent creator. Scientists do not know the real origin of the universe.

The Flood is one of the Biblical events the scientific community likes to attack. They say there is not enough water to flood the earth. The amount of water vapor in the air, capable of causing the Flood, would have created atmospheric pressures that would have crushed every living thing and there is not enough water underground to accomplish it either. Once again, science relied on what it believed was fact at the time. Recent findings reveal there are vast underground lakes in the earth's mantle. The first such body of water to be located is called the "Beijing Anomaly". It contains a water volume equivalent to the Arctic Ocean.⁴⁷ Scientists will not say they do not have a way of knowing if there *are* lakes of water underground. They said there are *no* lakes underground. I guess not seeing is believing to them.

Have you ever wondered how the little river down at the bottom of the Grand Canyon could have carved out that humongous canyon? Geologists cannot find the river delta that carved out the branches of the canyon, nor can they find where the 800 cubic miles of dirt went.⁴⁸ Many questions have no answers, but they believe God does not exist.

46 Davies, Paul. *God and the New Physics*, Simon and Schuster, New York, 1983, page 10.

47 Unknown. (2007). Huge Underground 'Ocean' Found Beneath Asia. Retrieved January 2, 2009, from Underwater Times, Website: http://www.underwatertimes.com/news.php?article_id=61034081952

48 Brown, Walt. (2008). *In the Beginning: Compelling Evidence for Creation and the Flood*. Retrieved January 2, 2009 from Center for Scientific Creation, Website: <http://www.creationscience.com/onlinebook/HydroplateOverview.html>

The method used to date our world, Carbon-14, cannot accurately date objects beyond a few thousand years. Prominent scientists note this.

“Perhaps the best description of the problem in attempting to use the Carbon-14 dating method is to be found in the words of Dr. Robert Lee. In 1981, he wrote an article for the Anthropological Journal of Canada, which stated:

“The troubles of the radiocarbon dating method are undeniably deep and serious. Despite 35 years of technological refinement and better understanding, the underlying assumptions have been strongly challenged, and warnings are out that radiocarbon may soon find itself in a crisis situation. Continuing use of the method depends on a fix-it-as-we-go approach, allowing for contamination here, fractionation there, and calibration whenever possible. It should be no surprise, then, that fully half of the dates are rejected. The wonder is, surely, that the remaining half has come to be accepted.... No matter how useful it is, though, the radiocarbon method is still not capable of yielding accurate and reliable results. There are gross discrepancies, the chronology is uneven and relative, and the accepted dates are actually the selected dates.”⁴⁹

When scientists say something is millions of years old, their results can be tainted by varying rates of Carbon-14 decay and the possibility that carbon can be introduced into the object, giving false reports on its real age. More egregious is that scientists tell the laboratory what they believe to be the age of the object when it is submitted for testing. The lab deletes the results that do not agree with the estimate, thus slanting the answer to the bias of the scientist.

Another problem with these methods of dating objects is that they rely upon the belief that materials decay at constant rates over time. No methods exist to determine if decay is consistent. The tests do not account for minerals and elements leaching in and out of objects. The rocks formed by the explosion of Mount Saint Helens attest to this fact. Those rocks, formed in 1986, were dated from

49 Unknown. (n.d.). The Problems with Carbon-14 Dating. Retrieved January 2, 2009 from Contender Ministries, Website: <http://contenderministries.org/evolution/carbon14.php>

350,000 to 500,000 million years old by the Potassium-Argon method.⁵⁰ The problem is, the reactions within the molten rock captured the excess argon in the upper layers before solidifying. The excess argon also indicates a young earth.⁵¹

Another method used to date the earth is the sedimentary layers. Cliff sides display a layered look to the edge. Different colored or textured layers are observable, like the layers of a cake. Scientists state the layers were laid one on the other over time. However, tests and studies have shown you can get the same layering from one event, such as the Flood. All matter has a specific density and differing buoyancy. The heavier material will settle to the bottom and lighter layers will be above the heavier layers. So one event in time can account for several layers, but scientists assume they were all separate events taking place over thousands and millions of years.⁵²

A flood or similar catastrophic event could deposit many layers because of the specific gravity of different materials. Geologists have found fossilized trees that run perpendicular to several layers of the strata. If the layering took place over millions of years then the top of the tree would have rotted before the layers built up, but these trees are completely petrified through many horizontal layers. A seven-foot ichthyosaur fossilized giving birth, and another ancient fish specimen was eating lunch.⁵³ They obviously died very quickly from some catastrophic event.

The irony is NASA accepts the theory that catastrophic floods formed the canyons on Mars, even though there is little water there now.⁵⁴ Yet they denounce the idea the world could have been covered with water from a deluge.

50 Austin, S. A., Excess Argon within Mineral Concentrations from the New Dacite Lava Dome at Mount St. Helens Volcano, CEN Technical Journal, 10(3), pages 334-343, 1986.

51 Snelling, A. A., The Cause of Anomalous Potassium-Argon "ages" for Recent Andesite Flows at Mt. Ngauruhoe, New Zealand and the Implications for Potassium-Argon "Dating" Proceedings of the Forth International Conference on Creationism, Creation Science Fellowship, Pittsburgh, ed E. Walsh, 1998, pages 503-525.

52 Batton, Don, Sandy Stripes: Do Many Layers Mean Many Years?, Creation 19(1) 39-40. December 1996 – February 1997.

53 Wieland, Carl, Stones and Bones, Master Books, Green Forest, AR.

54 Kerr, R. A., Pathfinder Tells A Geologic Tale with One Startling Role, Science 279(5348), 175, January 8, 1998.

There is evidence the earth is young. Many think the moon is in a steady orbit around the earth, but they are wrong. The moon moves away from the earth by about one and a half-inches each year, or four centimeters. If the rate remained constant over time, it would have taken 1.37 billion years to reach its current orbital distance. However, the rate would have been much faster in the beginning. This is longer than the 6,000 to 10,000 years normally accepted as the age of the earth, using scripture, but it is far short of the age calculated by radiometric dating methods.⁵⁵ We cannot trust the current techniques used by science for dating the world. However, science believes in their methods with the same conviction we have for belief in God.

Salt is pouring into the oceans much faster than it is leaving. Yet, the oceans are not salty enough for this to have been taking place over billions of years. By that measure, the earth cannot be older than 62 million years. Science claims it is over four billion years old. A much better indicator of age is the magnetic field that surrounds the earth. It is decaying so fast that it could not be any older than about 10,000 years.⁵⁶ Helium is pouring into the atmosphere from radioactive decay, but not much of it is escaping earth's grip. Yet it is approximately 1/2000th of what it should be if the earth were billions of years old.⁵⁷

You cannot take science and evolution as gospel. They are prone to speculation, bias, fraud and error. They are against God and they will believe a lie if it denies the existence of God. They will proselytize others with their supposed truth. Too many have lost faith because evolutionists speak as if their beliefs are proven truths and without challenge. Nothing could be farther from the truth. You are not stupid or ignorant to believe in the Bible's account of creation. You are not superstitious or narrow minded for believing the Bible.

55 DeYoung, D. The Earth Moon System, Proceedings of the Second International Conference on Creationism, vol. 2, ed. R. E. Walsh and C. L. Brooks, 1990, pages 79-84.

56 Sarfati, J. D. , The Earth's Magnetic Field: Evidence That the Earth Is Young, Creation 20(2), pages 15-19, March-May 1998.

57 Sarfati, J. D., Blowing Old-Earth Belief Away; Helium Gives Evidence That The Earth Is Young, Creation, 20(3): pages 19-21, June-August 1998.

You do not have to be ashamed or embarrassed to profess your faith and belief. They, however, should be ashamed and embarrassed to advance such flimsy evidence and arguments as unquestionable scientific truth.

Questions, Chapter Five:

How We Got Here – Science and Its Inaccuracies

1. Is science biased?
2. Are creationist ostracized by the scientific community?
3. Do scientists consider creationism as a legitimate theory?
4. What do scientists estimate the size of the universe was before the big bang?
5. The “Big Bang Theory” is similar to _____.
6. Do scientists exercise a form of faith?
7. Do some scientists alter evidence and lie if it disagrees with their theories?
8. When determining the age of an object, a laboratory rejects what readings?
9. What element indicates a young earth?
10. What mineral indicates a young earth?
11. The rate that the moon’s orbit increases each year points to a _____.
12. Science is not immune to _____.

Chapter Six

Special Study: "I Found Your Soul!"

Science, in its endless quest to discredit religion, thinks it has put another nail in the coffin of faith. They believe they have a working knowledge of the soul. You might find this alarming or you might reject it outright by faith, but even if it does not affect your faith, it might affect someone else's and their acceptance of Christ. You owe it to yourself and to those you may meet to understand their assertion.

Could they really know what the soul is and could it really be our minds? If we study what the soul means and separate it from our spirit, we find that we can agree with some of their assertions. This is not surrender to their position, but an acknowledgement of what the scripture tells us about the soul.

I often wondered about our future immortal state. What will we remember about our former life? Will we be a blank slate? What part of me recognizes myself in the mirror? This part of us is what amnesia victims in television shows and movies usually have left. They know they had a previous life, but they cannot remember it. They still have what psychologists call general knowledge and they can still function as an adult. I used to think the soul was that part of us that remembered our self or what is referred to as the diachronic identity or diachronic personal identity. However, there are conditions in which amnesia affects the portions of the brain that recognizes our image in the mirror as ourselves. Some people forget who they are and take up a different identity. With this new identity, they live oblivious of their past life. Then something will cause them to remember their past. Schizophrenic and multiple personality sufferers have different "persons" within the same mind.

One of the first cases ever studied is the story of Phineas Gage, a railroad foreman who, while tamping a charge to clear rock from the railroad right of way was pierced through the bottom of his chin

by the steel tamping rod that exited through the top of his skull. After surviving what most thought was a fatal wound, he went from being a very responsible person to being a bad mannered liar a few months after the accident. In effect, he became a different person.⁵⁸ The mind is an essential part of our personality.

However, we must keep in mind that we are body, soul and spirit. God created us that way. Our mind has the ability to forget certain events from our past without losing our sense of “self”. All the bad experiences and all the sins we committed can easily be erased so there is truly “no tears up there”!

Some believe self-identity or diachronic identity is part of our consciousness. This is not to be confused with our conscience, as in John 8:9ff, or knowing right from wrong. This is the quality of awareness not attributed to animals. An animal can be self-aware. I have witnessed dogs who get alarmed at seeing themselves in the mirror. However, after a while they begin to understand they are not looking at another dog. You cannot determine if the animal knows it is seeing itself, but they no longer see the image as a threat and they approach it with curiosity. We know continuity is broken with certain diseases such as Alzheimer’s and other brain disorders. It appears that who we are as a person is sometimes referred to as the soul in scripture and is dependent on our mind to some degree. The spirit is the attribute that is not in our physiology. Sometimes the Bible uses the word “soul” to refer to our living essence or breath of life; sometimes “spirit” is used in the same way. “Soul” and “spirit”, though having reference to two elements of the immortality of humans, are so closely intertwined that the words are sometimes used interchangeably in Scripture. This is why there can be confusion as to what the soul and spirit represent in a person, and why one must look at the context of the passage to determine what the writer means. For example:

“ASV 1 Peter 1:22: “Seeing ye have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth unto unfeigned love of the brethren, love one another from the heart fervently.”

58 Unknown. (n.d.) The Amazing Case of Phineas Gage. Retrieved January 2, 2009, from Brain and Mind, Website: <http://www.cerebromente.org.br/n02/historia/phineas.htm>

This Greek word refers to the breath, mind, inner mind and not the spirit. The soul is not exclusively spiritual, and spirit does not always refer to a disembodied, supernatural entity. You can find the soul, at least the part to which scripture refers, in the inner mind.

Francis Crick, Nobel Laureate and co-discoverer of the molecular structure of DNA declared in his book, *The Astonishing Hypothesis*, that the soul is really the brain and not some supernatural entity created by God. He should have studied the scriptures. He could have saved himself some effort. Many think the soul refers to the supernatural part of our being, but they would be only partially right. The soul represents many aspects of man as illustrated in scripture. Consider this definition from Smith's Bible Dictionary.

“Soul

1. **n'deevah** (Job 30:15), elevated and happy state.
2. **nefesh**, more than 500 times (Genesis 2:7; 12:5,13). The meanings are:
 - a. breath (Job 41:13)
 - b. vital spirit, soul (Genesis 35:18)
 - c. life (Exodus 4:19)
 - d. ghost (Job 11:20)
 - e. pleasure (Psalm 105:22)
3. **n'shama**, breath; also blast (2 Samuel 2:16; Job 4:9); ‘spirit’, ‘inspiration’.
4. Greek: **psyche** (Matthew 10:28), the vital breath, life; properly, the soul.

“The ancients supposed the soul, or rather the animating principle of life, to reside in the breath. Hence, the Hebrew and Greek words where they refer to man are translated ‘soul’ and rendered ‘life’ or ‘breath’ (Genesis 2:7). The immortality of the soul is a fundamental doctrine of revealed religion. The ancient patriarchs lived and died persuaded of this truth, and it was in the hope of another life that they received the promises (Genesis 50:33; Numbers 23:10). To save the souls of men, Christ gave himself freely to death.”⁵⁹

59 Smith's Bible Dictionary, Electronic Version, Subject: Soul.

Scripture defines the soul as the mind and other aspects of a person. Our soul was never “lost”. Science was looking in the wrong places. Many believe the “soul” and “spirit” means the same thing, but they are different, as represented in scripture.

AV 1611 1 Thessalonians 5:23: “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

AV 1611 Hebrews 4:12: “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

From the examples, one can see the soul and the spirit of humans are different. However, discerning this can be difficult. For example, spirits can mean other supernatural manifestations, beings, an attitude or frame of mind. We know scripture says the spirit goes back to God.

NIV Ecclesiastes 12:7: “... and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.”

It is evident the soul can in some Scriptures refer to many physical aspects of man such as breath, body, mind, etc. The term “spirit” describes the intangible qualities of humankind, in most cases. Our spirit — the intangible, immortal part of our being — goes back to God, but our soul is restored when we receive our glorified bodies.

NIV Philippians 3:21: “... who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”

We may not be able to understand what scripture is telling us about our body, soul, and spirit, but we can see that the soul refers to our minds in some scriptural references. Science finds what was never lost. The inspired writers of scripture wrote this many years before man accepted the brain as the seat of our knowledge, thoughts and personality.

“AV 1611 Revelation 14:9: And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast

and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,”

The symbolism in the scripture suggests that the worshiper’s mind and thoughts are represented by the sign on the forehead and their actions represented by the sign in their hand.

Dr. Crick does admit there are many questions unanswered in his book and he wrote this book to inspire inquiry.⁶⁰ His “*Astonishing Hypothesis*” leads to the astonishing conclusion that science does not have the answer to everything.

Our spirits go back to God and He recreates us in our glorified state for eternity. We are meant to be body, soul and spirit, and that is our future, eternal state in Christ. Scripture shows the intertwining of the three. Physiology and environment affect who we are and how we act. Science understands how that works to some degree. It gives us continuity or a history of ourselves. That part is separate from the self. The self comes from our spirit. Science cannot explain it. This is not the same as self-awareness, which only means that we recognize ourselves in the mirror. Some animals achieve that to some degree. We are confused because without the functional parts of our mind, we cannot express the self verbally or inwardly.

Part of how we act relies on our physical mind, a part of our body, but the other part involved in our actions is our spirit. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. Our physical mind wants to sin, but our spiritual mind desires to obey God. Body, soul and spirit make us complete.

This helps us to understand our future state in Heaven. The good and bad things we experience in life affect us in many ways. This causes us to act and react to life differently from someone else. Life’s experiences can be a hindrance or a help to us. Some live life crippled by the past and prisoners of their fears. Others, because of good circumstances, excel in life. That is why God is the ultimate judge. Only He can know us completely. God erases the pain of the past (physical mind) without erasing our identity (spiritual mind). Our past will not handicap us in Heaven.

60 Crick, Francis, *The Astonishing Hypothesis: The Scientific Search For The Soul*, Touchstone, New York, 1994, page 257.

Special Study:

“I Found Your Soul!”

1. Has your understanding of body, soul, and spirit changed after this study?
2. Can one experience difficulties in serving God because of an illness or injury affecting the brain, but still desire to obey Him?
3. Can science find our soul?
4. What is attributed to man that is not attributed to animals?

Chapter Seven

Religion and Its Failures

On a talk show, someone referred to some churches as “big box” churches. I guess they are right in their assessment. We view churches the same way we view shopping establishments. We go to the store where we can buy what we want, when we want, and for a price we can afford. Just like retailers, churches are responding by giving people what they want. One has to wonder, who is the creator?

“Idolatry is worshiping anything that ought to be used, or using anything that ought to be worshiped.” — Augustine

I do not know if it is all the evolution and science shoved down our throats for many years or that we do not have time for God in our lives, but there seems to be a trend towards a self-centered religious experience.

“And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country.”

— John F. Kennedy

For many, this quote has morphed into “Don’t ask me for anything! What are you going to do for me?” That thinking has permeated churches and in an effort to grow, many pulpits are dispensing only what pleases the crowd.

2 Timothy 4:3: “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.”

This is what is happening in many churches today. What are we learning in our churches? Is it what God wants us to know?

Some are under the spell of the twin demons, pragmatism — the meaning of an idea is in its observable practical results — and utilitarianism, — the belief that the value of something is determined by its use or utility. These two work hand-in-hand with the faith crush-

ing concepts advanced by some. We no longer believe, or we have doubts whether God is real, and churches become social gathering places where we are entertained and enlightened on the best ways to lead a modern life, advancing in position and finances, relating to spouses, children, co-workers, bosses, friends and enemies. The Bible's only value is what it can do for us immediately, and it is just another philosophical treatise. It has to satisfy our selfish needs or we do not bother with it.

“Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman told of a distinguished minister, Dr. Howard from Australia, who preached very strongly on the subject of sin. After the service, one of the church officers came to counsel with him in the study. ‘Dr. Howard,’ he said, ‘we don’t want you to talk as openly as you do about man’s guilt and corruption, because if our boys and girls hear you discussing that subject they will more easily become sinners. Call it a mistake if you will, but do not speak so plainly about sin.’

“The minister took down a small bottle and showing it to the visitor said, ‘You see that label? It says strychnine—and underneath in bold, red letters the word “Poison!” Do you know, man, what you are asking me to do? You are suggesting that I change the label. Suppose I do, and paste over it the words, “Essence of Peppermint”; don’t you see what might happen? Someone would use it; not knowing the danger involved, and would certainly die. So it is, too, with the matter of sin. The milder you make your label, the more dangerous you make your poison!”

— Source unknown

When was the last time you heard a preacher speak on the subject of Hell and the dangers of sin? Jesus spoke many times on the wages of sin and of the place of punishment.

We live in a selfish society that influences everyone, whether we realize it or not. When we catch ourselves acting in a selfish manner, it surprises us. It is not how we want to act, but we are surrounded by worldly influences. They affect our lives at some point. It should not surprise us that people will seek out pragmatic messages from the churches they attend.

So what is a *pragmatist* anyway?

“Most of the thinkers who describe themselves as pragmatists consider practical consequences or real effects to be vital components of both meaning and truth.”⁶¹

Those who subscribe to this form of philosophy value religion only in its application to daily life. They do not consider eternity because they cannot fully believe or they have to see the value of the passage. Their belief is not faith in God, but faith in the value of the philosophical statements in the Word of God. This produces people who do not adhere to the word of God but to abstract concepts attributed to scripture that can aid or enhance their earthly lives. This explanation is an over simplification of the concept. The belief is that with any philosophical pursuit, there are literally hundreds of truths within one category.

“Both Dewey and James have investigated the role that religion can still play in contemporary society, the former in *A Common Faith* and the latter in *The Varieties of Religious Experience*.

“It should be noted, from a general point of view, that for William James, something is true only insofar as it works. Thus, the statement, for example, that prayer is heard may work on a psychological level but (a) will not actually help to bring about the things you pray for (b) may be better explained by referring to its soothing effect than by claiming prayers are actually heard. As such, pragmatism isn’t anti-theological to religion but it isn’t an apologetic for faith either.

Joseph Margolis, in *Historied Thought, Constructed World* (California, 1995), made the pragmatically clarifying distinction between ‘existence’ and ‘reality’. He suggests using the term ‘exists’ only for those things which adequately exhibit Pierce’s Secondness. That is, things which offer brute physical resistance to our movements. In this way, such things which affect us, like numbers, may be said to be ‘real’, though they do not ‘exist’. God, in such an accepted linguistic usage, might very well be ‘real’, causing believers to act in such and such a way, but might not ‘exist’. The

61 Unknown. (n.d.). Pragmatism. Retrieved January 2, 2009 from Wikipedia, Website: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pragmatism>

recommended adjustment would surely help clarify what believers mean when speaking of religious experience, and has certain affinities with what James says above.”⁶²

A pragmatist believes that prayer and faith can have a placebo effect, but there is no proof of God so there is no supernatural effect to prayer and faith.

This is how many view religion. It might have an immediate practical purpose, but nothing more. They are agnostics who practice religion out of tradition and as a social outlet.

Utilitarianism is a form of pragmatism practiced by many religions today. It expands upon the pragmatic view that religion has some benefit and creates its own brand of edification for those who fill the pews.

“Like Americans, people outside America want fun, want an emotional compensation for the utilitarianism and calculation that mark the rest of their lives.” — Todd Gitlin

Utilitarianism believes scripture contains answers to our problems and not just the salvation of our souls. It is true that there are many lessons we can learn from scripture that can help us in our secular lives. However, the Bible’s theme is the salvation of humankind, how to acquire it and how to maintain it.

Mistakenly, utilitarianism would place a greater emphasis on the use of the Bible as a guide in this world than as a spiritual guide to prepare us for the world to come.⁶³ God’s Word does guide my life, and it brings me joy while preparing me for eternity. However, the attitude of many is not to worship and serve God, but to *use* God.

The utilitarian Christian asks what the church can do for them. The only value of the church is entertainment, guidance in life, social standing and status. John Stuart Mill is one of the founders of the philosophy.

“Utilitarianism began with the philosophies of Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832) and John Stuart Mill (1806-1873).

62 Unknown. (n.d.). Pragmatism. Retrieved January 2, 2009 from Wikipedia, Website:http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pragmatism#Philosophy_of_religion

63 Unknown. (n.d.). Utilitarianism Religion. Retrieved January 2, 2008 from University of Texas at Austin, Website <http://www.la.utexas.edu/research/poltheory/mill/three/utilrelig.html>

Utilitarianism gets its name from Bentham's test question, 'What is the use of it?' He conceived of the idea when he ran across the words '... the greatest happiness of the greatest number' in Joseph Priestly's *Treatise of Government*.⁶⁴

The worship of God, obeying His Will, encouraging the weak, helping those in need, sharing the gospel and studying to show ourselves approved are ancillary activities of the experience.

"Surely this is a proof that the idea is not really or naturally terrible; that not philosophers only, but the common order of mankind, can easily reconcile themselves to it, and even consider it as a good; and that it is no unnatural part of the idea of a happy life, that life itself be laid down, after the best that it can give has been fully enjoyed through a long lapse of time; when all its pleasures, even those of benevolence, are familiar, and nothing untasted and unknown is left to stimulate curiosity and keep up the desire of prolonged existence. It seems to me not only possible but probable, that in a higher, and, above all, a happier condition of human life, not annihilation but immortality may be the burdensome idea; and that human nature, though pleased with the present, and by no means impatient to quit it, would find comfort and not sadness in the thought that it is not chained through eternity to a conscious existence which it cannot be assured that it will always wish to preserve."⁶⁵

This philosophy has created hedonistic churches. The only value to them is how religion can benefit me and bring happiness. Selfish motives rule the day.

The Bible speaks of having joy and hope in our lives, and that we are to be pleasing to God. However, if we consider what the scriptures tell us, in context, we have joy and hope in spite of the trials and temptations we experience. We have heard the expression, "the tail wagging the dog" that inquires, "Who is in control?" Some are telling God how they will worship Him.

64 Anderson, Kerby. (2004) Utilitarianism: The Greatest Good for the Greatest Number. Retrieved January 2, 2009 from Probe Ministries, Website:<http://www.probe.org/content/view/921/77/>

65 Unknown. (n.d.). Utilitarianism Religion. Retrieved January 2, 2008 from University of Texas at Austin, Website <http://www.la.utexas.edu/research/poltheory/mill/three/utilrelig.html>

One popular hedonistic movement is the Prosperity Gospel. They believe that following God leads to a life of wealth and good times. If this is the proper view of the gospel then the apostles missed the good life. They died poor and most were martyrs for their beliefs.

Other groups combine science with their own belief system to create a science fiction-based religion. While they question the validity of the Bible, they have no problem believing the teachings of New Age prophets.

“As a result, many disillusioned believers have turned to ‘fringe’ religions that seem more in tune with the era of Star Wars and microchips. The huge rise in popularity of cults associated with UFOs, ESP, spirit contacts, scientology, transcendental meditation and other technology-based beliefs testifies to the continued persuasiveness of faith and dogma in a superficially rational and scientific society. For although these eccentric ideas have a scientific veneer, they are unashamedly irrational”⁶⁶

Science affects every aspect of our lives. Now we have instant answers for everyone’s problems, available at the Church of the Microwave Mentality.

66 Davies, Paul, God and the New Physics, Simon and Schuster, New York, 1983, page 2.

Questions, Chapter Seven:

**How We Got Here –
Religion and Its Failures**

1. Does the size of a church indicate God's blessing on what goes on there?
 2. Define pragmatism.
 3. How often do you hear sermons about heaven and hell or the wages of sin?
 4. Do we help anyone by avoiding sermons on the punishment that awaits the sinful?
 5. Should religion and the church cater to the desires and whims of modern society?
 6. Are there any scriptures that show that God is tolerant of disobedience for more than a short time?
 7. Considering prosperity, does God promise worldly prosperity in this life or spiritual prosperity?
 8. Define utilitarianism.
 9. What is relativism?
 10. Are the scriptures of the New Testament just as relevant to us as they were 2000 years ago?
- .

Chapter Eight

Atheism and Its Distortions

Atheists do not believe there is a God. However, have you ever seen a group of people who spent so much time on nothing? It is interesting to see how zealous they are in their efforts. I wish some Christians were as fervent as this group. Something is not right in the way they attack Christianity.

“I always admired atheists. I think it takes a lot of faith.”

**— Diane Frolov and Andrew Schneider,
Northern Exposure, Seoul Mates, 1991**

They have a problem with their belief system. They try so hard to proselytize others because of their own doubts about the existence of God. Just as some Christians lack faith because they have doubts about the existence of God, the atheist has doubts about the non-existence of God. That statement alone sends them into a frenzy. I have discussed this with a number of atheists and their reaction is always the same. If I do not believe in Bigfoot or the Loch Ness Monster, then I will not waste much time and energy trying to convince you they may not exist. I would discuss it if the topic came up, but I really do not care.

“Nobody talks so constantly about God as those who insist that there is no God.” — Heywood Broun

Why are they consumed with the destruction of religious beliefs? They say religion is nothing more than superstition and fairytales. Why do they bother with it at all?

“The opposite of the religious fanatic is not the fanatical atheist but the gentle cynic who cares not whether there is a god or not.” — Eric Hoffer

Still, they have their arguments that can diminish faith or destroy it. They have several points. Atheists contend that God was born out of ignorance to explain events we could not understand because of man’s limited knowledge at the time. The statement is contradictory. First, if man is ignorant, how could he conceive of

something he had never seen? The atheist says that instead of thinking of a natural reason for events, early man thought of something he had never seen or experienced. If the earth shakes, the earth shakes. The important point is they surmise man created God out of ignorance. Who put the desire in man to seek a creator? Maybe it was Evolution.

Atheists also argue that man created God because the God we envision has human physical characteristics. This argument is flawed. Anyone who has taken a few English classes knows about anthropomorphism. It is the attribution of a human form, characteristics, or behavior on nonhuman objects such as deities in mythology and animals in children's stories. This is God's way of relating to us in a way we can understand. The Bible tells us we cannot fully understand God's nature. Anthropomorphism allows us to visualize and understand God's nature, to the degree that it is possible for finite humans to do.

God is referred to in the masculine in some verses and feminine in other verses.

NASB Isaiah 66:13: "As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; And you will be comforted in Jerusalem."

NASB Isaiah 66:12: "For thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I extend peace to her like a river, And the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; And you will be nursed, you will be carried on the hip and fondled on the knees.'"

The atheist fails to see that God relates to us in words and concepts we can understand. They believe man created God. Therefore, man created a man-like God. God defies description and scripture proves it.

The atheist accuses God of hatred but they fail to recognize the use of hyperbole to make a point.

"Sometimes, however, the word 'hate' is used hyperbolically in a relative sense to express only the strong preference of one to another. God loved Jacob, but hated Esau (Mal 1:3; Rom 9:13); father and mother are to be hated in comparison with Christ (Lk 14:26; compare Mt 10:37)."⁶⁷

This is similar to when Jesus told people to pluck out their eye or to cut off their hand if it kept them from entering the kingdom of Heaven.

67 International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Electronic Version, Hate.

NASB Matthew 18:8,9: “If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire. If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be cast into the fiery hell.”

Jesus was illustrating the importance of obeying God’s commands. I think we can find a way to keep ourselves on the right path rather than mutilate ourselves. Either atheists do not understand the use of the English language or they do not want to understand because it negates their argument.

This illustrates the first point. Man could not have created the God of the Bible. Consider the gods of the Egyptians, Grecians, Romans and other cultures. They all exhibited the evil traits of man in their dealings with humankind. The Bible tells the story of our failures and how God overcame them by sacrificing His Son to redeem the faithful.

Another point atheists like to make is that similar stories can be found in other cultures, such as the creation story, the flood and the expectation of a Savior/King. They do not understand that from Adam until Moses the history of events was passed down by oral traditions and scattered writings. Moses, who lived approximately 1500 years before Christ, was the first to write down the history of humankind as God inspired him. There would have been many distortions in the historical record preserved by man over time. That is the nature of storytelling. Just because there is a flood story in another culture does not mean Moses copied it from them, but it does add solid weight to the fact that there must have been a universal flood, as is described in Genesis.

The atheist also believes that if God created the Bible through inspiration of men, then we would all have the same understanding of it. This would violate the principle of free will. We have the choice to believe or not believe the Bible as written. God did not create robots. We will never believe exactly the same way. Some will accept the Word and obey. Others will see it another way. Some conclude that when Jesus said no one comes to the Father but through Him, he did not mean

there were no other paths to God. They can read what Jesus said, but because it does not fit what they want to believe, they understand it their way. Reading out of context or with a pretext is not the real text. Be honest with the scripture and you will be honest with yourself.

Atheists present the account in Joshua where the sun stands still as proof God does not exist. They say the god that man created did not know the earth revolved around the sun. Here are the verses:

NASB Joshua 10:12: “Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel,

“O sun, stand still at Gibeon, And O moon in the valley of Aijalon.’ So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, Until the nation avenged themselves of their enemies. Is it not written in the book of Jashar? And the sun stopped in the middle of the sky and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day.”

Joshua asks God to intervene in this manner. God is not saying He halted the movement of the sun and moon. It was Joshua, the mortal man, who made the request. He had no astronomical knowledge. We still say “the sun comes up” or “The sun goes down.” From our perspective, it appears to go up and down. We use these terms even though we know how the solar system works.

The atheist argues that there are contradictions in the scripture. They point to Genesis 2:16,17 where God says if Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit they would die. Then they point to Genesis 5:5 that says Adam lived for 930 years. Then what did he do? He died as God said he would. God did not say *when* he would die, but that he would die. The real death Adam and Eve experienced immediately was the death of their special relationship with God. This is one of many lame attempts to discredit the Bible by the atheists.

In Genesis 3:22,23 the atheist points to a supposed contradiction where there seems to be another tree from which man could not eat, but the Bible said there was one tree in Genesis 2:16,17. This is another misunderstanding of Scripture. When man and woman ate from the Tree of Knowledge, God prevented them from eating

from the Tree of Life by banishing them from the Garden. Before the transgression took place, there was only one tree forbidden, but after they sinned, they were cut off from the Tree of Life.

Atheists content God appears to be speaking to other gods in this verse.

NASB Genesis 3:22: “Then the LORD God said, ‘Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever.’”

Have you heard of the Son of God — Jesus — and the Holy Spirit? The atheist attempts to distort the Scriptures in his ploy to discredit the Bible.

In Exodus 33:11, 20 the atheist charges that there is another contradiction. In verse 11, it states God spoke face-to-face with Moses and then in verse 20 God said no man could see his face and live. This is another anthropomorphic illustration of the relationship between Moses and God. This is not an actual physical act. Moses wanted to see the glory of God. This is what man could not withstand in his mortal form. God showed Moses his backside (lesser self) which indicated Moses did not see the full glory, but only a measure of it.

Atheists point out the sex, depravity and violent acts in the Bible. God’s word tells us of both the good and bad actions of people. Civilizations in those centuries were primitive by today’s standards that have been heavily influenced by Christian principles. It was not long ago that people were hanged for stealing chickens and for other minor offenses. In God’s redemptive plan to save man, it was necessary for Him to tolerate some of man’s actions, including divorce and multiple wives, until a better law could be brought into being through the sacrifice of Christ.

NASB Mark 10:5: “But Jesus said to them, ‘Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, God MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE. FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH; so they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.’”

Whether it is general history or the Bible, it is never good to read into the text our own values, prejudices and understanding.

The atheists say that God killed, and allowed to be killed, the children of other kingdoms living around the Israelites. God uses nations to punish other nations. The Israelites were only carrying out punishment on those who rejected God and reveled in wickedness. God created and He has the right to destroy. The children killed are better off than the ones who would reach adulthood and take part in the iniquity of their culture. The atheist should note that God punished Israel by having nations attack them during the time of Judges. Then later they were conquered and enslaved because they engaged in idolatry. God could have wiped us off the earth after the fall, but He did not. He loves us and spared us from destruction. Why should He preserve those who disobey, hate and reject Him? They made the choice to leave the relationship.

Christopher Hitchens, one of the most prominent atheists today wrote a commentary that is pure hatred.

“The discovery of the carcass of Jerry Falwell on the floor of an obscure office in Virginia has almost zero significance, except perhaps for two categories of the species labeled ‘credulous idiot’.”⁶⁸

He speaks about the supposed hatred of God, and then he writes his own hatred of someone who only cared for his soul’s condition.

At the same time, atheists complain and post on their websites the hatred directed towards them. Richard Dawkins, author of *The God Delusion* posts all the criticism he can find about himself including this statement by Ann Coulter in her book, *Godless*. She wrote:

“I defy any of my coreligionists to tell me they do not laugh at the idea of Dawkins burning in hell.”

This is why talk show hosts and other political pundits should stay out of religious discussions. Her obvious hatred of atheists violates the command to forgive others and shows a lack of love for the condition of unbelievers. Do not get drawn into this hatred. She is wildly popular in conservative circles with which many Christians

68 Hitchens, Christopher. (2007). Faith-Based Fraud. Retrieved January 2, 2009 from Probe, Website: <http://www.slate.com/id/2166337/fr/flyout>

identify, politically. Atheists are just as offended about attacks on their beliefs, even though they attack ours with great zeal.

Two popular atheists are Christopher Hitchens and Richard Dawkins. Their books rank very high on bestseller lists, though their arguments do not differ from atheists who preceded them. Their rarer wit and skillful debating styles are their popular attributes. Many of their arguments are aimed at the Catholic Church and other religious organizations with great power, who used that power to oppress the masses in times past. Some of the greatest atrocities committed against humankind can be attributed to atheistic movements such as the Marxist revolution in Russia, followed by Stalin's Iron Fisted rule.

There is one thing Hitchens says that I agree is true. He challenges Christians to admit we have only faith to rely on and not facts.⁶⁹ This is true. We have nothing but a faith in God and a host of arguments to support it. They have nothing but a faith that God does not exist and a their own arguments to support it. There is nothing more I can say about books that say nothing new.

Dawkins focuses on Darwinian hypotheses and actually elevates natural selection to deity status. His claim is that we are good because natural selection selected (note the intelligent action) those genes that promoted empathy.⁷⁰ We know who his god is, and that is the irony of his argument. He refutes the concept of a supreme creator by advancing his own creator, natural selection.

The atheist does not understand, or does not want to understand, that God is pure, just and true. After the fall in the Garden, man and woman became impure, unjust and untrue. God does not exist with such defects. This is why God withdrew His fellowship with man and this is why bad things happen to good people. Jesus made a relationship with God possible, but we live with those who reject Him, so the relationship is not like the one in the Garden. When we enter the Kingdom of Heaven, eternally, we will have that relationship with God again.

69 Hitchens, Christopher, *God Is Not Great*, Twelve Books, Paris, 2007, page 122.

70 Dawkins, Richard, *The God Delusion*, Bantam Books ,Canada, 2006 , pages 155 to 160.

The atheist says God is evil because He deals with His children in ways we would not deal with our children. Have you seen some of our children? Allowing children to do as they please without discipline is not the answer, and permissiveness is a form of child abuse. We tolerate what children do because of our own flaws. There are no recorded instances where the stoning to death of a son as punishment for rebellion, as written in Deuteronomy 21:18ff, was ever carried out. This means the fear of punishment was enough to keep children from disobeying their parents. We cannot look at history through our sensibilities and modern thinking. Those earlier cultures were primitive in many ways. God had to deal with them on that basis. Since Jesus walked the earth, His teachings have made man more enlightened, but still many will not comply with His new covenant laws, such as the command that a man cannot divorce his wife for just any reason, as recorded in Matthew 19:7-10.

“An atheist said, ‘If there is a God, may he prove himself by striking me dead right now.’ Nothing happened. ‘You see, there is no God.’ Another responded, ‘You’ve only proved that He is a gracious God.’” — Unknown

God is perfect and He will save anyone who comes to Him for salvation. What is evil about that?

The atheist says that Christianity’s declaration of being the one true religion is the same claim that many religions make but, actually, Judaism, Islam and Christianity are the only three that make such a statement. Other religions teach there are many paths to God or enlightenment. One must examine the harmony of the Bible with the 40- plus writers of the 66 books. That, and the growth of Christianity despite severe persecution, are among the many evidences that let me know it is the true path to God.

“A Muslim in an African country became a Christian and some of his friends asked him why.

“He answered: ‘Well, it is like this: suppose you were going down a road and suddenly the road forked in two directions. And you didn’t know which way to go. If you met two men at the fork — one dead and one alive — which one would you ask to show you the way?’” — Unknown

Atheists do not want to believe and their arguments are their way to rationalize their disbelief. Why do they need these arguments to feel confident in their beliefs? Why do they strive to destroy faith? Do they have a conscience that bothers them and an innate tug causing them to seek out a Creator? After all, He seeks a relationship with all of His creation.

Questions, Chapter Eight:

**How We Got Here –
Atheism and Its Distortions**

1. How does God differ from man-made gods, such as the Greek and Roman gods?
2. Atheists claim that the Bible contains _____ inaccuracies.
3. Who is the atheist trying to convince that there is no God?
4. Anthropomorphism helps us to visualize and understand _____.
5. Are there are similar stories in other cultures about the flood?
6. Before Moses wrote down Genesis, history was _____ through _____.
7. Story telling is prone to _____ and _____.
8. To whom is God speaking in Genesis 3:22?
9. The Bible tells us about both the _____ and _____ actions of people.
10. Christians believe by _____ and not by _____.
11. Bad things happen to good people because of our _____ from God because of _____.
12. God is perfect and cannot co-exist with imperfection. Imperfection began with man's _____ or _____.

Chapter Nine

Beginning of the End: How God Dealt with Iniquity

Why it is important to follow God? He is the creator of all we see. God created us out of love, for love. If we reject Him, what should He do with us? We need to remind ourselves how God has dealt with those who did not obey Him.

The disobedience of Adam and Eve in the Garden put a gulf or expanse between man and God. God is pure, just and holy. Man was pure, just and holy before he took the same path as Satan. This was the first of many times humankind said, “I know what God said, but I think I will do it my way.” We were banned from the idyllic paradise God made for us. The first punishment recorded is also the final punishment for those who reject His Love and disobey His commandments. That punishment is separation from Him.

We learned about Noah and Lot in Sunday school as children. They illustrate God’s displeasure with man’s wickedness and rejection of Him. In the Flood account, God destroyed all of humankind except eight faithful souls who obeyed and believed Him. He instructed Noah to preach for 125 years, but no one listened. They laughed at him and thought nothing would happen. They did not believe in God and therefore, they would not be punished. They lived for many years without anything happening. After the Flood, God determined He would not punish man with a flood again. He changed the punishment to local and regional actions against humankind’s wickedness and rejection, and finally to eternal punishment in hell for the disobedient.

We have read of the great battles between God’s chosen people and the heathen nations surrounding them, as recorded in the book of Judges. People and places such as Deborah, Gideon, Jericho and others regale us with the power of God to deliver His people from the hands of the enemy. Do we know the circumstances that

caused them to be attacked in the first place? Each time the Israelites strayed from God, they were attacked by surrounding kingdoms. Sometimes, the other kingdom took them captive. When they repented, God raised a Judge who delivered them from their punishment. It was punishment from God through other nations. This scenario played out many times until the people cried out for a king to rule them instead of God. God allowed them to have a king for a ruler, but their problems continued.

Here is the chronology of the period of the Judges:

Oppression of Cushan-Rishathaim, king of Mesopotamia (3:8) — 8

Deliverance by Othniel, and rest (3:11) — 40

Oppression of Eglon, king of Moab (3:14) — 18

Deliverance by Ehud, and rest (3:30) — 80

Oppression of Jabin, king of Canaan (4:3) — 20

Deliverance by Barak, and rest (5:31) — 40

Oppression of Midian (6:1) — 7

Deliverance by Gideon, and rest (8:28) — 40

Rule of Abimelech (9:22) — 3

Judgeship of Tola (10:2) — 23

Judgeship of Jair (10:3) — 22

Oppression of the Philistine and Ammonites (10:8) — 18

Deliverance by Jephthah, and his judgeship (12:7) — 6

Judgeship of Ibzan (12:9) — 7

Judgeship of Elon (12:11) — 10

Judgeship of Abdon (12:14) — 8

Oppression of the Philistines (13:1) — 40

Judgeship of Samson (15:20; 16:31) — 20⁷¹

Things did not improve when they had kings. The Bible is a history of man's failures and of God's love for us.

During the times of the kings, the divided kingdoms of the Israelites were conquered and taken into captivity. The Assyrians in 721 BCE subjugated the Northern Kingdom and the Babylonians in

71 International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Electronic Version, Judges, Book of.

586 BCE conquered the Southern Kingdom. The Northern Kingdom never returned to their land. They were scattered throughout the nations of the world. When the tribes of the Southern Kingdom repented from their sins, they were allowed to return to their land. They did not win their freedom by the sword. The kingdom that ruled over them granted them freedom and allowed them to return. The Bible tells of prophets who warned of the impending captivity, but the people did not listen to them. During captivity, the prophets called for the people to repent. After a time they did repent and God made their freedom possible. They never won a battle or conquered the Promised Land with superior numbers. Only with God on their side were they able to triumph.

Before Jesus' time, and up until 70 AD, Rome ruled the land of Israel as a quasi-independent province. The Roman General, Titus, in 70 AD quelled a rebellion by the Jews, and the Jewish Historian Josephus recorded the horrors that took place. After these events, we have no inspired account from God regarding the disposition of any nation that has declined or disappeared from the earth.

If God has a history of punishing humanity when needed, why would He not continue that practice? Without direct revelation, it is impossible to say with 100% certainty that war, famine and other catastrophes are punishments from God. Tsunamis, hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, ethnic cleansing, famine and diseases — the laws of nature which were broken because of the curse of sin — are also the result of man's iniquity, in the beginning. The idyllic scene of the Garden where God walked with man changed to the "sweat of the brow" world in which we exist today.

Remember the sacrificed Galileans and the victims of the collapse of the tower of Siloam in Luke 13:1-4. What did Jesus say about them? They were no worse than anyone else was, but misfortune caused their death. Jesus used these incidents to warn people. The incidents were not punishment, but because bad things happen to the best of us, we must be ready at all times. Disasters could be punishment, chastisement, or simply circumstance. Bad times should cause us to reflect upon our condition and change if necessary.

If we are a Bible believing person, then this should cause us to sit up and pay attention. Repeatedly, God has punished the human race and His chosen people by raising nations to correct them. He has used famine, pestilence and other catastrophes as agents of punishment in the past. We should not think God no longer uses this method to correct humankind.

Questions, Chapter Nine:

**Beginning of the End —
How God Dealt with Iniquity**

1. Name several characters from the Bible that God punished for disobedience.
2. Moses was punished because he did not _____ God's instructions.
3. Does this indicate that God is pleased when we deviate from His commands?
4. God has not punished us yet. Does that indicate that He is indifferent, does not care, or approves of what is happening in society?
5. God endured man's sin for _____ years during Noah's preaching.
6. The people did not believe in God and did not believe any one would _____ them.
7. Do people today have the same disbelief as those who lived during Noah's time?
8. Even though Lot was a good man, how did the wicked society in which he lived influence his behavior?
9. We are _____ by what we see and hear.
10. What did the Israelites want to have rather than be ruled by God?
11. What has God used in the past to punish man?

Chapter Ten

Demise of Empires in the Common Era

“In South Africa, naturist club owner Beau Brummell was irked by accusations from morals watchdogs that a shriveling Transvaal drought was brought on by the ‘sin’ of nude togetherness at his 1000-acre farm. So he asked his 370 visitors to get dressed. And, for the first time in two months, it poured rain. ‘It’s enough to make me become a monk!’ Brummell said.” — Ingrid Norton

Before the Common Era, the empire of Greece reigned supreme. As with most empires, arrogance grew and proved to be fatal to the kingdom. Once a nation forgets that God allows them to enjoy prominence in their part of the world, they start to decline. You could say they worshipped every other god but the true God, and you would be correct. God uses nations, even pagan ones to do His will, but when they credit their own abilities for their success, they begin to decline. Where there is belief in a higher power, there is a chance they might come to know the one true God. When God decides their purpose in the world is finished, He no longer keeps them strong. This is why empires declined, despite being the greatest kingdom on the earth in their time.

“We believe that Heaven, and we know that men, by a natural law, always rule where they are stronger. We did not make that law nor were we the first to act on it; we found it existing, and it will exist forever, after we are gone; and we know that you and anyone else as strong as we are would do as we do.” — Thucydides

This is not a statement of faith in any deity. It illustrates the fact that they relied only on themselves, and that the ends justified the means in their eyes. Perhaps the most revealing quote concerning the characteristics of the Greeks is in this statement.

“Perhaps the most famous quote is ‘Know thyself’, from Socrates, as ‘the unexamined life is not worth living’, and attempted to subject everything to logical scrutiny, with universal standards that governed behaviour, rebelling against the mysticism of religion. The roots of skepticism can be found there, a constructive form which encouraged independent thought.”⁷²

I am not trying to denigrate independent thought, but the important point here is the rejection of religion in general. Every nation or empire without a religious belief system has declined over time.

“New thinkers in the society argued for ‘fundamental change’ and called for giving the youth a ‘voice in society’. Without traditional guidelines, the young men grew wild and undisciplined, destroying the old order. Slowly Greece devolved into a disreputable and lawless nation. The Romans conquered Greece in 146 B.C. By placing everything under military authority, they were able to restore order and bring back the rule of law.”⁷³

This sounds like our youth today.

The most prominent book written that records the demise of an empire is Gibbon’s *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. Before the rise of alternative lifestyles, socialism, vast entertainment industries, and the decay of religion, Gibbon attributed Rome’s decline to the diminishing role of religion in the citizens’ lives.

He chronicled the role religion plays in the life of a person, even a religion we do not believe in personally. When there is a belief in a god, there is a chance the hearts may be open to hearing about the true God. Consider what Paul said in Acts 17:23 when he addressed the Athenians, referencing the statue dedicated to the Unknown God. While their beliefs were quite different when compared with today’s religious beliefs, the fact they had a belief system opened their minds to hearing about God.

Gibbon surmised that the pursuit of pleasure in the form of sports that progressively became more violent was a contributing factor.

72 Unknown. (2004) The Legacy of Greece. Retrieved January 2, 2009, from Thinkquest, Website: <http://library.thinkquest.org/04apr/00281/greeks/06.html>

73 Anderson, Kerby (2002) When Nations Die. Retrieved January 2, 2009 from Probe Ministries, Website: <http://www.leaderu.com/common/nationsdie.html>

Look at the rise of violent spectator sports and movies people crave today. Every imaginable form of media entertains us and we are upset if we do not receive constant, and often violent, stimulation from these sources.

The government imposed higher and higher taxes and distributed “aid” to the masses in the form of free bread and circus entertainment. The State created a society that was dependent on the government as the source of wealth distribution and entertainment. Once the reliance shifted from religious beliefs to belief in the system, religion started to play a lesser role in the lives of the citizens of Rome. There was an increase in divorce and decline of the family unit. The family, created by God for the good of humanity, declined as an essential institution in the empire. The rise of decadence also contributed to the fall of Rome.

Teacher: How was the Roman Empire cut in half?

Pupil: With a pair of Caesars!

To the student of history and religion this information is not new, but many have never read Gibbon’s book. Others wrote about the Roman Empire.

Niccolo Machiavelli commented on the value of religion in his work, *The Discourses*. He concluded that a society was better with a religious belief at its core.

“...for where religion exists it is easy to introduce armies and discipline, but where there are armies and no religion it is difficult to introduce the latter.”⁷⁴

Many recognize that the populace responds positively to a deity. Karl Marx commented that religion is the opium of the masses, even though he was an atheist. It is natural for man to seek out a higher power and to trust in a deity. When man controls religion, corruption creeps in and society declines.

“And certainly, if the Christian religion had from the beginning been maintained according to the principles of its founder, the Christian states and republics would have been much more united and happy than what they are.”⁷⁵

74 Machiavelli, Niccolo, *The Discourses*, Random House, New York, 1950, Page 147.

75 Ibid, Page 151.

We are created with the desire to bond to our parents and we were created to seek out our Heavenly Father and to trust Him for all our needs.

Many nations have risen to prominence and, without explanation, they began to decline from the pinnacle of power.

“So it is also with nations. Napoleon’s cynical answer to someone who asked him whether God was on the side of France was: ‘God is on the side of the heaviest artillery.’ Then came the battle of Waterloo, the loss of his empire, and, finally, exile to St. Helena. There, chastened and humbled, he said, ‘Man proposes; God disposes.’ What Franklin saw so clearly and Napoleon learned so painfully is that nations, like individuals, can lose their right to exist. ‘The powers that be are ordained of God,’ (KJV) writes Paul in Romans 13:1, and J.B. Phillips translates 1 Corinthians 2:6 as referring to ‘the powers-that-be, who soon will be only the powers-that-have-been.’”⁷⁶

Napoleon realized who is in ultimate control of the universe.

In recent times, we have seen the rise and fall of the Soviet Union. The USSR, founded on the total rejection of religion, did not last as long as the empires it followed. Religion, once forced underground, now flourishes in Russia. Historians, Will and Ariel Durant, observed in their summary volume, *The Lessons of History*, there has never been a significant example of morality apart from belief in God.

76 Stedman, Ray. (1995). How God Uses Governments. Retrieved January 2, 2009 from Dolphin’s Library, Website: <http://www.ldolphin.org/govern.html>

Questions, Chapter Ten:

Demise of Empires in the Common Era

1. What proved fatal to past empires?
2. A belief in a supreme being opens the door to what?
3. Every empire or nation without religion _____
_____.
4. What controversial historic figure said that religion was beneficial? Niccolo Machiavelli
5. What historical figure lost his empire after putting his trust in artillery rather than God?
6. When man controls _____, corruption creeps in.
7. Adhering to the principles of its _____, Christian states and republics would have been much more united and happy than what they are.
8. Discuss how scripture, like a measurement ruler should be the guide for unity and adherence among believers.

Chapter Eleven

Signs of Our Demise

“It is clear that when we think of the word ‘wrath’ as applicable to God, it must be divested of everything that is like human passion, and especially the passion of revenge. It is one of the most obvious rules of interpretation that we are not to apply to God the passions and feelings which, among us, have their origin in evil. [God’s wrath] is the opposition of the divine character against sin; and the determination of the divine mind to express that opposition in a proper way, by excluding the offender from the favors which He bestows on the righteous. We admire the character of a father who is opposed to disorder, vice, and disobedience in his family, and who expresses his opposition in a proper way. We admire the character of a ruler who is opposed to all crime in the community, and who expresses those feelings in the law. Why shall we not be equally pleased with God, who is opposed to all crime in all parts of the universe, and who determines to express His opposition in the proper way for the sake of preserving order and promoting peace?”

— Albert Barnes

We might be experiencing our own decline in America today. Compare the similarities between the empires of the past and our nation. The first and main attribute in a declining society is the rejection of religion. We do not listen to the council of God, but seek to mold God into a palatable image we can tolerate. Adam and Eve disobeyed, and God punished them. Noah’s contemporaries no longer believed and they paid the ultimate price for their iniquity. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed because of their sins. Like the Israelites who suffered for their iniquity, we may face a time when we will suffer for straying away from God. And sadly, even the faithful in Christ will suffer, just as the faithful in Israel suffered for the sins of the unfaithful.

The same conditions attributed to the decline of the Roman Empire are found in America and other nations. The entertainment industry consumes our time and money. We are thrilled when our

team scores, but we have no enthusiasm for the forgiveness of our sins. When we tire of the same old sports, new sports and other games are invented.

We are addicted to being entertained. Like drug addiction, we require more over time. We crave sports with more intensity and violence, to get the same thrill we used to experience. Violent sports are gaining in popularity throughout the world. Movies with greater violence are created, exploring the depravity of man, and moviegoers are thrilled by the spectacle. How long before gladiator-type sports are again allowed and glorified somewhere in the world? Extreme sports have risen in popularity as the newest fix for the adrenaline junkie. Nothing else can satisfy their desire to be stimulated.

Like Rome, divorce and the breakup of the traditional family unit have left us with children whom we describe as “damaged goods”. The news of today chronicles the activities of our undisciplined youths who have no morals and no conscience. With less parental supervision and absent parents, children can do anything they want before someone returns home to supervise them. There is little guidance to help lead them on the right path. The family unit is important to the survival of society and perpetuating religious beliefs.

“Many men can make a fortune but very few can build a family.” — J. S. Bryan

Rome produced generation after generation of undisciplined individuals, and Rome’s prominence in the world diminished.

“The negative effects that we associate with divorce are actually evident in teens at least one year before the marriage has ended.”⁷⁷

The same problems outlined in the first two chapters are the problems that caused the decline of past nations and empires. We face many enemies who want to destroy us and they do not hide their intentions. Many of us do not see the dangers. Maybe, this is God’s way of setting the stage for our demise.

77 Grabmeier, Jeff. (n.d.). Damage of Divorce on Teens Evident before Break-Up Is Final. Retrieved January 2, 2009, from Ohio State Research, Website: <http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/divchild.htm>

“History does not repeat itself, but it does rhyme.”

— Mark Twain

France’s pride and arrogance, as articulated by Napoleon, led to their eventual downfall. When you think your success comes by your own hand, you are worshipping the wrong god. The leaders of the revolution in Russia saw religion as useless and unnecessary. The godless masses labored for equality. They were equal in poverty and without hope. The communist nation floundered and died after about 70 years. They thought religion brought a nation down and hindered its rise, but it is religion that lifts a nation with hope and confidence.

Will we learn from the past and change our ways, or will we follow the others into oblivion?

“Ancient Rome declined because it had a Senate; now what’s going to happen to us with both a Senate and a House?” — Will Rogers

Let us pray it is not too late to wake up.

Questions, Chapter Eleven:

Signs Of Our Demise

1. Are we following the same paths as the empires that faded into history?
2. Name some of the paths.
3. Where there is no belief in God, there is no _____ that society can return to God.
4. We are thrilled when our favorite sports team scores, but have no excitement for the _____ of our _____.
5. The _____ suffer along with the _____.
6. Violent _____ is increasing.
7. Entertainment can be as addicting as what?
8. Children have long periods of _____ time.
9. From your own observation, discuss signs of demise you see around you every day.

Chapter Twelve

Walking into the Light

“Man is the only animal that laughs and weeps, for he is the only animal that is struck with the difference between what things are and what they ought to be.” — William Hazlitt

There is a word-play in the account of the fall of man and woman.

“Genesis 3:1 is connected with 2:25 by a Hebrew word-play: Adam and Eve were ‘naked’ and the serpent was more crafty than all. Their nakedness represented the fact that they were oblivious to evil, not knowing where the traps lay, whereas Satan did and would use his craftiness to take advantage of their integrity.”

We use this scripture to illustrate sin’s introduction into the world, but there is more to learn. Genesis 3:15 introduces us to a Savior who will destroy Satan. We cannot avoid the fact that we are powerless against sin and temptation. This passage illustrates we have no weapons or special knowledge (we are naked) to defend against evil. We cannot make it without God. In order to live forever and be in the presence of God we must submit to His will and obey His commandments. Yet, many want to be in charge of their lives and decide what they will think concerning God.

We go about our business thinking we are in complete control of our lives, but we only fool ourselves. Natural catastrophes can occur anytime and destroy all we hold dear. Assets can be obliterated without notice, taking away the security we thought we had. Our health can change overnight, leaving us in fear of the future.

Some say “Why can’t I worship God the way I want to?” That is a valid question, and we can go to the scriptures to see what God said about it. The first response to the question comes from NASB Matthew 10:35:

“For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law...”

Literally, the Greek word used here means to cause a separation between people. Choosing Christ often has that effect. Matthew 10:35. (Cf. Fischer, *De vitiis lexamples etc.*, p. 334f.).⁷⁸

Jesus wants us to take His commands seriously. He tells us that not everyone will agree with Him. If we want to follow Jesus, it is important to listen to His council and instructions, even if it separates us from friends and family members.

If you learned you would have to perform some activity to save your life, would you pay attention and learn how to do it right? Of course you would. If your life depends upon knowing something, you will do everything in your power to learn and practice the activity. Saving your soul is no different.

In a previous chapter, I wrote about the time of Judges and how God punished the Israelites through neighboring evil nations. Here, in the words of the Scripture, is why they were punished.

NASB Judges 2:1-4: “Now the angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, ‘I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land which I have sworn to your fathers; and I said, “I will never break My covenant with you, and as for you, you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.” But you have not obeyed Me; what is this you have done? Therefore I also said, “I will not drive them out before you; but they will become as thorns in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you.””

“When the angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the sons of Israel, the people lifted up their voices and wept.”

The key phrase is “have not obeyed Me” and it is critical that we understand what that means. Many people say God will not punish us. People who espouse this do so with no scriptural authority to back up their statements. If God said He will punish those who do not obey Him, and He has done so throughout Biblical history, why would we think He would not do it again?

Another lesson from the book of Judges is what the Israelites did not do that displeased God. They failed to conquer completely the land given to them. Subsequently, the sinful activities of their

78 Thayers, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Electronic Version*, 1369.

neighbors slowly crept into their culture, and they were punished. If we do not rid our lives of evil influences we will be influenced by them and fail God. From our study of Adam and Eve's vulnerability (naked), we are able to understand the effects of constant bombardment of sinful images, words and music.

If we are not willing to rid our lives of these influences, then we love them too much. If we love them too much, then we have to ask if it is not already too late to repent? God would forgive us, but do we love sin too much to repent? This is a scary thought, but one we must consider if there is any hope that we will accept or return to God.

If you still do not think God wants us to obey his commandments, then consider these verses.

NASB Exodus 23:21: "Be on your guard before him and obey his voice; do not be rebellious toward him, for he will not pardon your transgression, since My name is in him."

NASB Exodus 23:22: "But if you truly obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries."

NASB Leviticus 26:18: "If also after these things you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins."

NASB Leviticus 26:21: "If then, you act with hostility against Me and are unwilling to obey Me, I will increase the plague on you seven times according to your sins."

NASB Leviticus 26:27: "Yet if in spite of this you do not obey Me, but act with hostility against Me ..."

NASB Deuteronomy 27:10: "You shall therefore obey the LORD your God, and do His commandments and His statutes which I command you today."

NASB Deuteronomy 30:2: "... and you return to the LORD your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons..."

NASB Deuteronomy 30:8: "And you shall again obey the LORD, and observe all His commandments which I command you today."

NASB Deuteronomy 30:10: "... if you obey the LORD your God to keep His commandments and His statutes which are

written in this book of the law, if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and soul.”

NASB John 3:36: “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

NASB 2 Thessalonians 1:8: “... dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.”

NASB Hebrews 5:9: “And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation ...”

NASB 1 Peter 4:17: “For *it is* time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what *will be* the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?”

NASB 2 Corinthians 10:6: “... and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.”

That was a sampling of a search on the words **obey** and **obedience**. Do you still think God is okay with us doing anything we want and worshipping Him any way we please?

Let me illustrate it another way. Here is a possible conversation between God and Abraham, if Abraham lived today and thought like some.

God: “Abraham, I want to make a covenant with you.”

Abraham: “Great, God! I like that!”

God: “You must first circumcise yourself.

Abraham: “Okay, I’ll do it. Uh, by the way, what’s circumcision?”

God explains and Abraham listens.

Abraham: “Uh huh, yes, hmm, WHAT! Uh, God, are you sure there is not another way we can do this?”

Many rationalize that some of the requirements in the Bible are archaic and not necessary as long as you accept God and obey the rules man deems relevant for modern society. Consider this conversation if Moses lived today.

God: “... and the pig, though its hoof is split, does not

chew the cud, so it is unclean and you can't eat it."

Moses: "God, do you think we could choose another animal? Pork is tasty and I would really hate to give it up. Maybe we could trade you two other animals for the pig."

We do not think of the patriarchs that way. What the Bible says about these great people of faith is that they obeyed God's commandments without questioning Him.

God requires us to live our lives and worship Him the way He instructs us, and that we seek knowledge from His Word.

KJV 1611 2 Timothy 2:15: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

I like the King James Version because it uses the word "study". It clearly says we must learn in order to have God's approval. How can we know if we do not read?

How much of myself does God want from me?

NASB Deuteronomy 6:5: "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

NASB Mark 12:30, 31: "... AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH. The second is this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Do you love God? Maybe you are stunned because you never really considered the cost of following Him. On the other hand, are you saying, "That is too much!"

Truly, serving God is costly. It is everything. You can achieve a level of love for God in your life that is so great that giving all seems like not enough. God did not hold back. His love for us perseveres despite our failures. His love had no limits. Jesus did not hold back. He gave all for us so we would have a chance to escape punishment. Consider Philippians, chapter two, where Jesus relinquished his place in Heaven and submitted to death for our sake. As God's Son, He deserved His place in Heaven. As God, Himself,

death cannot touch Him. He owed us nothing. He had no obligation to sustain or save us, but He did. I cannot love Him too much and I cannot give too much. You or I cannot give anything that begins to pay for our transgressions. We are not worthy because we cannot be pure. We are not pure so we cannot come into the presence of purity, which is God.

We are nothing, yet He made us something. However, some disagree.

You could say we are not that bad, but we do neglect God and give in to temptation and sin. He created us out of love for love and, sometimes, we do not love Him back. One of the best illustrations for our relationship is in Hosea. This little-read prophet was commanded to take a prostitute as a wife. Her name was Gomer. He preached to the Israelites of their infidelity to God and he rescued Gomer from her infidelity to him. We are the bride of Christ. Do we have a spousal-like relationship with Christ? Do we return the love He has for us?

If doubt is your problem then you must work on the reasons why you doubt. I wrote about only a limited selection of the information available that refutes false science, evolution and atheism. There are vast amounts of information contradicting what our enemies tell us. It is far more reasonable to believe in God than it is to believe in evolution. They cannot produce irrefutable proof any more than we can produce God for them to examine. God calls people to believe by faith and we will live by faith. This book has shown the fraud and deceit that take place in the name of science. If scientists had irrefutable evidence they would not need the hoaxes, frauds, lies and unfounded assumptions that often characterize the conclusions used to advance their beliefs. Believe in the Truth, not the deception.

Do you have doubts because you are not quite sure the Bible and Jesus represent God? Atheists say the historical Jesus never existed, but there is secular evidence proving He lived. No serious scholar today doubts that. They may not believe He is the Son of God and the Savior of the world, but they know He lived.

Consider what Josephus wrote.

“... so he [Ananus, son of Ananus the high priest] assembled the Sanhedrin of judges, and brought before him the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James, and some others (or some of his companions) and when he had formed an accusation against them, he delivered them to be stoned.”⁷⁹

Josephus was not a Christian. He was a Jewish historian, yet he freely acknowledged the existence of Jesus. Consider the Talmud. The writers of this document did not deny Christ existed. They did not deny that He performed miracles. Their excuse for not following Him was that they said that His powers came from evil and not from God. ⁸⁰

“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.”⁸¹

This quote is from Cornelius Tacitus who was a Roman historian. Thallus, another historian, tried to explain the earthquake and sun darkening at the time of Jesus’ death as just a coincidence.⁸² There are other accounts of the historical Jesus, but these represent the best examples.

Archeology has confirmed that the Bible is accurate. Some archeologists doubted that some of the events, people or places described in the Bible occurred, but recent diggings reveal that they did happen.

“It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever contradicted a biblical reference.”⁸³

There is no evidence that any person or groups critical of Christianity can produce that casts sustained doubt on God and His Word.

If Jesus had not been resurrected, do you think Christianity would have survived the persecution of its early years? Consider

79 Josephus, Flavius The Antiquities of the Jews 20.9.1.

80 Talmud P. Ta’an. 65b, and the Sanhedrin 3a

81 Cornelius Tacitus Annals 15.44

82 Unknown. (n.d.) Extra biblical Witnesses to Jesus before 200 CE . Retrieved January 2, 2009 from Christian Think-tank, Website: <http://www.christian-thinktank.com/jrthal.html>

83 Shelly, Rubel. 1990. Prepare To Answer. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, p 103.

this chilling account from Pliny the Younger, Governor of Pontus Bithynia from 111 to 113 CE. Pliny reported to Emperor Trajan:

“They asserted, however, that the sum and substance of their fault or error had been that they were accustomed to meet on a fixed day before dawn and sing responsively a hymn to Christ as to a god.... Accordingly, I judged it all the more necessary to find out what the truth was by torturing two female slaves who were called deaconesses. But I discovered nothing else but depraved, excessive superstition.... Meanwhile, in the case of those who were denounced to me as Christians, I have observed the following procedure: I interrogated these as to whether they were Christians; those who confessed I interrogated a second and a third time, threatening them with punishment; those who persisted I ordered executed. For I had no doubt that, whatever the nature of their creed, stubbornness and inflexible obstinacy surely deserve to be punished.”⁸⁴

This is typical of what early Christians went through for their beliefs. Do you think the Apostles and the witnesses to the miracles would have died for a lie?

84 Unknown. (n.d.). Pliny and Trajan on the Christians: Pliny, Letters 10.96-97, Retrieved January 2, 2009 from Teaching with Technology, Website: <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/jod/texts/pliny.html>

Questions, Chapter Twelve:

Walking into the Light

1. Scholars say that Adam and Eve's nakedness is symbolic of what?
2. Would we fair any better if we were the first created?
3. What must we do to be pleasing to God?
4. How do we obey Him?
5. Did others mention Jesus during that time period?
6. Do the scriptures tell us how to become a Christian or can you accept Jesus any way you desire?
7. Matthew 10:35 says that Jesus would cause _____ between people.
8. Why would there be separation because of Jesus?
9. The Israelites failing to drive out the idol worshiping people who inhabited the land God gave to them is like you and me _____.
10. Judges 2:2 states that God punished the Israelites because they _____.

Chapter Thirteen

Faith Is Our Victory that Overcomes the World

Some people enjoy telling you what is wrong with the world, but offer no answers. I do not want to take you halfway by telling you what is wrong and not provide any assistance to strengthen your faith.

“One balmy day in the South Pacific, a navy ship espied smoke coming from one of three huts on an uncharted island. Upon arriving at the shore, they were met by a shipwreck survivor. He said, ‘I’m so glad you’re here! I’ve been alone on this island for more than five years!’

“The captain replied, ‘If you’re all alone on the island, why do I see THREE huts.’ The survivor said, ‘Oh. Well, I live in one, and go to church in another.’ ‘What about the third hut?’ asked the captain. ‘That’s where I used to go to church.’” — Unknown

Many are searching for something in their lives and they are not finding it. In a dangerous world, offering little security, we have little comfort. If you advise someone, “You should not tell God how big the storms are in their life, but tell the storms how big God is”, it will not build their faith. This is like telling a person suffering from depression to cheer up. It does not get to the heart of their problem. Just as depression has some root causes that need to be resolved, weak faith has root causes that are attributable to the obstacles discussed in this book. Just as depression robs people of the life they could have, weak faith robs us of the joy we should have in knowing God is in control. We can enjoy our relationship with Him because of Jesus. Despite our situation in life, we have joy and contentment in Him. Some of the happiest people I know have meager means and live from paycheck to paycheck. The difference is they appreciate what they have and have confidence God will provide what they need in life. Then at the end of life, He will welcome them into Heaven.

No one can prove or disprove the existence of God. The chapters on evolution, science and atheism should help convince you

their assertions are suspect, despite their claim to be absolute truth. Remember, it is a “truth” subject to change when the scholars discover and observe new data. Believing in God is as reasonable as believing in their theories. However, faith will always be the belief in what cannot be seen. Nonbelievers and those with little faith will always feel that giving in any sense to a church is not as good as giving to a secular charity. They feel that spending a lot of time in prayer and study is not as profitable as worrying about your problems.

Do you wish you could have a stronger faith that relies on God? If you have read this far you are seeking after the real joy that faith brings to someone’s life. You probably do not realize that the denouncers of God and lovers of sin have a profound influence on your life. They are causing you to stumble. Get rid of the influences that hold you back. You can overcome. The acceptance of them as truth causes many to wonder if faith is worthwhile and they do not like to study the scriptures and pray often and earnestly. They do not desire to fellowship with other believers, singing and hearing God’s Word.

Well, take heart. There are a number of atheists, scientists and evolutionists who have found faith despite their long-held beliefs. If they could find faith in Him, then we can have a greater faith.

C.S. Lewis, well-known author and apologist for Christianity, was an atheist before becoming a believer in Christ. Despite coming from a church going family in Ireland, he became an atheist at 15. He said [Lucretius](#) had a great influence on him at that time. Later, at 31, he converted back to Christianity. He said of his decision:

“You must picture me alone in that room in Magdalen, night after night, feeling, whenever my mind lifted even for a second from my work, the steady, unrelenting approach of Him whom I so earnestly desired not to meet. That which I greatly feared had at last come upon me. In the Trinity Term of 1929 I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England.”⁸⁵

He did not give in to belief easily. Once he made the decision,

85 Lewis, C.S, *Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Early Life*, 1966, Harvest Books, London pp 22-29.

he wrote many books answering the questions that fueled doubt in the minds of many people. **Mere Christianity, Miracles, The Problem of Pain** and other works argued for the validity of God and Jesus. He had been on both sides of the argument and his decision was reflected in his faith and writings. He realized the atheist did not have a valid argument for the nonexistence of God. If he came to that conclusion after believing atheism for so long, then we can believe there is no atheistic argument that does not have an equally compelling argument for the existence of God.

Lewis, a philosophical atheist, is not alone. Consider Professor Antony Flew, 81 years old, a legendary British philosopher and atheist. He was an icon and champion for unbelievers. His change of mind is significant news, not only for himself, but also concerning the persuasive power of the arguments modern theists have been using to challenge atheistic naturalism.⁸⁶ While not a convert to Christianity, Flew believes a Creator made this world and the universe. He is not impressed with any of Lewis' arguments, but points to DNA and the fingerprint of a Designer and points out that Richard Dawkins does not discuss Darwin's conclusion that evolution must start with a reproductive creature. Dawkins does not answer this problem with evolutionary theory.⁸⁷ Flew has written a book titled, **There Is a God: How the World's Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind**, in which he makes his case for belief in a Creator. What both of these philosophers realized is their atheistic arguments had flaws they could not resolve. They were honest when the truth confronted them and they were not afraid to accept that truth.

Some atheists change their beliefs because of their scientific studies. Professor Flew was also an evolutionist and he concluded that there had to be a Creator of this world. Professor Tyndale John Rendle-Short went from being a theistic evolutionist to pure creationist. Charles Leibert used to mock Billy Graham and laugh about being a sinner, and he went from atheism and evolution to belief and creationism. Dr. A.J. (Monty) White is the head of "An-

86 Hazen, Craig. (2004). Flew Interview. Retrieved January 2, 2009 from Biola University, Website: <http://www.biola.edu/antonyflew/flew-interview.pdf>

87 Ibid.

swers in Genesis”, a UK based group that promotes creationism. He was an atheist until 1969 and he has written numerous books on the validity of creationism.⁸⁸ Dr. Gary Parker, a biologist and evolutionist, concluded that God existed and created everything we see. Francis Collins, noted biologist, said on the Steven Colbert show in December 2006 that “Evolution is God’s way of giving upgrades.” While he rejects God, he does believe the universe had to have a Creator. [Dr. D. Russell Humphreys](#) (Physicist), [Dr. Alan Galbraith](#) (Watershed Science), [Dr. Donald Batten](#) (Agriculturist), [Dr. David Catchpole](#) (Plant Physiologist), [Dr. A.E. Wilder-Smith](#) (3 Doctorates and a NATO 3-star General), and Dr. Robert V. Gentry (Physicist) all believed in atheism and evolutionary theory, but they all concluded there is a God and that He created the earth and universe.⁸⁹ They also believe the earth is not billions of years old. They have the credentials to weigh these matters scientifically and they all decided the Scriptures are right. If they were honest with the facts and found faith, then we should be confident in our belief and let our doubts go so we can experience faith that transcends joy.

John N. Clayton, noted creationist who was a member of the church of Christ, said of his conversion from atheism.

“I said to this learned professor, ‘Sir, you have not really shown me any contradiction between what we have studied in this course and in what the Bible has to teach.’ He jerked my paper away from me and said, ‘Well, I guess if you really study it, there is no contradiction.’ I was shocked! I was appalled! Here was a man who had a Ph.D. and was a leading atheist, yet he could not answer the silly questions from an ignorant college junior who was on his side.”⁹⁰

When we consider all the evidence honestly and openly, the only conclusion we can reach is that the universe came from nothing and

88 Unknown. (2000). Former atheist to head AiG in Great Britain. Retrieved January 2, 2009 from Answers in Genesis, Website: <http://www.answersingenesis.org/docs2/4333news6-22-2000.asp>

89 Unknown. (n.d.). Former Evolutionists Who Became Creation Scientists. Retrieved January 2, 2009, from Creationists, Website: <http://www.creationists.org/switch.html>, accessed March 30, 2008.

90 Clayton, John. (n.d.) Why I Left Atheism. Retrieved January 2, 2009, from Does God Exist, Website: <http://www.doesgodexist.org/AboutClayton/PastLife.html>

God created it.

There is no tangible evidence God exists and there is no evidence to change faith to fact. God calls people of faith, but Satan calls people of doubt. He started with Adam and Eve and he has not stopped yet.

Was Jesus a real person who lived in the first century? Secular sources agree with scripture. What evidence is there for His resurrection? The Gospel record attests that Christ was resurrected, but is there any other evidence? From the historical records, we have the Roman historian Cornelius Tacitus who wrote of Nero's burning of Rome and blaming the Christians, calling them by the name of Christ. The Roman governor of the north part of Turkey wrote to the Emperor Trajan about the Christians in his area:

"I was never present at any trial of Christians; therefore I do not know what are the customary penalties or investigations, and what limits are observed ... whether those who recant should be pardoned ... whether the name itself, even if innocent of crime, should be punished, or only the crimes attaching to that name. Meanwhile, this is the course that I have adopted in the case of those brought before me as Christians. I ask them if they are Christians. If they admit it I repeat the question a second and a third time, threatening capital punishment; if they persist I sentence them to death. For I do not doubt that, whatever kind of crime it may be to which they have confessed, their pertinacity and inflexible obstinacy should certainly be punished...."

"The very fact of my dealing with the question led to a wider spread of the charge, and a great variety of cases were brought before me. An anonymous pamphlet was issued, containing many names. All who denied that they were or had been Christians I considered should be discharged, because they called upon the gods at my dictation and did reverence ... and especially because they cursed Christ, a thing which it is said, genuine Christians cannot be induced to do."⁹¹

The Christians of Jesus' generation would have been the ones most likely not to believe. If Jesus had not resurrected, they would

91 Bettenson, Henry, Documents of the Christian Church, Oxford Press, London, 1943, page 3.

have known it. If the grave still held Jesus' body, they would have known. They died, confident of their belief in Jesus as the resurrected Christ.

Josephus, the Jewish historian attached to General Titus, recorded that Herod killed John the Baptist and that James, the brother of Jesus, was stoned to death.⁹² Josephus was a contemporary to Jesus and reported these events within 40 years of His death, Christianity and Christ were so well known and that Josephus did not have to provide any background or explanation about Christ and His followers.

If the resurrection had not taken place, the attempted deception would certainly have been exploited by the Jewish theocracy and the Romans, to crush the fledgling movement. They knew of the claims of Jesus and they would have used His corpse as proof He did not resurrect as He promised.

Cornelius Tacitus recorded the spread of Christianity and the burning of those who did not denounce Christ. Gaius Suetonius Tranquillus, who was the chief secretary of Emperor Hadrian, also recorded the martyrdom of the early Christians.

“Julius Africanus, writing around 221 AD, found a reference in the writings of Thallus, who wrote a history of the Eastern Mediterranean around 52 AD. It dealt with the darkness that covered the land during Jesus’ crucifixion: ‘Thallus, in the third book of his histories, explains away the darkness as an eclipse of the sun--unreasonably, as it seems to me.’ [A solar eclipse could not take place during a full moon, as was the case during Passover season.]”⁹³

Even the Jewish Talmud records that Jesus was crucified on Passover Eve. Jesus was a real person. Nothing ever recorded proves He was not what He said He was and no physical proof has ever been produced to quell the proponents. Given the problems the

92 Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, Book XVIII, ch. V, p. 20; Book XX, ch. IX, p. 140.

93 Unknown. (n.d.). *Extra-Biblical Historical Evidence for the Life, Death, And Resurrection Of Jesus*

Retrieved January 2, 2009 from Westark Church of Christ, Website: <http://www.westark-churchofchrist.org/library/extrabiblical.htm>, accessed on March 31, 2008.

rulers had with the Christians, the authorities would have produced Jesus' body to silence them for all time, if they could have done that.

You can believe in Jesus! His claims are real and He came to save us from sin. There is no credible evidence to prove God does not exist. Doubt should not be the reason for rejecting Christ. He created us out of love and He saved us because of love. I do not know about you, but I want to know someone who cares for me that much.

Questions, Chapter Thirteen:

**Faith Is Our Victory
That Overcomes the World**

1. Who wrote about Jesus and the destruction of Jerusalem?
2. What Roman historian wrote of Jesus' crucifixion at the hands of Pilate?
3. What Roman historian tried to explain the earthquake and sun darkening at the time of Jesus' death?
4. Do any credible scholars believe that Jesus was a fictional character?
5. C.S Lewis is a well known _____ who became a believer in God and Christ.
6. What Jewish writing records Jesus' crucifixion?
7. There is more written about Jesus than about _____.
8. Can you prove or disprove God exists?
9. The righteous shall believe by _____.
10. Paul said that those who have not seen, yet believe are what?
11. There is no _____ that disproves God or Jesus.
12. Faith is just as _____ as not believing.

Conclusion

Do you think this book sounds alarmist? Do you find the evidence erroneous and the claims unfounded, or do they ring as accurate, timely and true? It is difficult to ignore what is happening around us every day, but it seems many people are doing that.

Before you draw your own conclusion, consider that most of the sources I used in this book are from secular, anti-God, and neutral positions. While they were critical of their professional colleagues, they were not friends and advocates of religion. Consider what Norman MacBeth wrote on the jacket of **Darwin Retried**:

“How convincing is Darwinian theory today? Is it a science? Does it explain? Or have we merely substituted the jungle ethics of survival for the fairy-tale philosophy of the creation, and does a mystery still remain for a new generation of scientists to solve?” — Norman MacBeth

MacBeth believes religion is just a story with no authority over us and no proof for its claims.

But even the unbelievers have to admit they do not know why we are here. They speculate, propose, theorize and yet they have no proof that God did not create us.

More insidious than the attacks on religion is what has happened to the way many worship God today. They have left the gospel of salvation from our sins to embrace the gospel of social utilitarianism. We worship God as we desire and only when we can fit Him into our busy lives.

Because of a lack of spiritual and moral grounding, many run wild, doing whatever they want without a conscience to govern them or to call them back to God. They are so inebriated with their freedom from religion they will look at you and say, “Oh, we’re not so bad.” Like the drowning man who takes his first breath of seawater and sees the light above fade to darkness, there is no escape. Sin and Satan have another captive.

If you say, “I trust God and place my faith in Him,” then this book is an encouragement for you. If you find that some of the statements written in this book offend you, I have said only what Scripture says and I have kept the statements in context. My illustrations do not change the meaning of the passages. If you have a problem, then your complaint is with God.

Like you, I am just a sinner and cannot save myself from my own sins. That is why I turned to God through Christ so I could have forgiveness for my sins and have a relationship with Him. I cherish my relationship and I am thankful every day that I repented and was baptized into the body of Christ, the church. See Mark 16:16; Acts 2; Colossians 1:18; Romans 16:16. My desire is to share the love He has for me with others.

NASB Matthew 7:13,14: “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

The word “wide” used here means to be led away or astray and took away. Do not be led astray. Study the Word so you will know the way.

The Destruction of Faith

end of chapter question answers

Chapter One – The World’s Condition

1. Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens
2. Television
3. 1 out of 200
4. Those without faith have to come to peace with the end of life and their belief that there is nothing after death and they need to believe in the benefits that death brings.
5. Discussion
6. conscience
7. celebrities
8. Discussion
9. sex
10. Female

Chapter Two – Why We Love It

1. selfish desires
2. Post WWII and especially after the Fifties.
3. pornography and the sex trade.
4. They are engaging in sexual acts at younger ages than ever before.
5. Many enjoy their own favorite sin and if sin was discouraged then they would have to give up their own vice.
6. happiness
7. materialistic
8. guilt
9. sexual addicts
10. normal

Chapter Three – How We Got Here – The Popular Psychology Movement

1. Dr. Spock
2. non-punitive parenting
3. He said that he was wrong about his child rearing advise.
4. talking it out

5. decrease
6. Yes
7. God.
8. religion
9. blurred
10. evil, condemn

Chapter Four - How We Got Here – Evolution and its Errors

1. mystery
2. No, consider the platypus, oyster, opossum, lungfish and others.
3. A popular belief, now abandoned that as an embryo developed it went through the stages of evolution before becoming a human and was the basis for the Roe v. Wade landmark ruling on abortion.
4. spontaneously
5. transitional
6. No
7. Materials of different weights settling as layers from a flood.
8. delusion, lie
9. general purpose
10. oak tree, fruit flies
11. Fruit flies. They have inferior food acquiring mouth parts, yet there have never been any change in them even though their lifespan is only a few days.
12. Piltdown man

Chapter Five – How We Got Here – Science And Its Inaccuracies

1. Yes
2. Yes
3. No
4. infinitely small.
5. God speaking the universe into existence. That is why Einstein rejected the theory.
6. Yes, they believe in unproven theories.
7. Yes, many hoaxes and lies have been exposed.
8. Any readings that conflict with the submitting party's estimate of the age of the object.

9. Helium. If the earth was as old as science claims then there should be less helium remaining as it escapes the atmosphere.
10. Salt. It pours into the seas at a rate that if the earth was as old as science claims the salinity of the seas would be much higher
11. young earth
12. self-deception

Chapter Six - Special Study – “I Found Your Soul!”

1. Discussion
2. Yes.
3. No.
4. Consciousness

Chapter Seven – How We Got Here – Religion And Its Failures

1. No
2. The belief that religion is only valuable if it fulfills some practical purpose for one’s life.
3. Discussioni
4. No.
5. No
6. No.
7. Spiritual prosperity.
8. Similar to pragmatism, but alters religious practices so that they conform to their perceived benefits and goals.
9. The belief that there are no absolute truths. The truth differs depending on a person’s perceptions and beliefs.
10. Yes.

Chapter Eight - How We Got Here – Atheism And Its Distortions

1. God does not exhibit any of the evil traits that are attributed to the false gods.
2. scientific
3. themselves.
4. God’s nature
5. handed down, story telling

6. inaccuracies, distortion
7. Jesus and the Holy Spirit
8. good, bad
9. faith, facts
10. separation, sin
11. disobedience, sin

Chapter Nine – Beginning Of The End – How God Dealt With Iniquity

1. Adam, Eve, Moses and others
2. Follow
3. No
4. No, God is long suffering and allows us plenty of time to repent, but He will not wait forever.
5. 125
6. punish
7. Yes
8. He offered his daughters to the crowd.
9. influenced
10. a king
11. other nations, famine, pestilence, natural catastrophes

Chapter Ten – Demise of Empires in the Common Era

1. Arrogance
2. Opportunity to believe in the true God.
3. declined over time.
4. Niccolo Machiavelli
5. Napoleon.
6. Religion.
7. Founder (Christ)
8. Discussion

Chapter Eleven – Beginning of the End – Signs of Our Demise

1. Yes
2. Entertainment, sports, lack of discipline, breakdown of the family unit, pleasure seeking, pride, arrogance.
3. hope
4. forgiveness, sins
5. faithful, wicked
6. entertainment

7. drugs, sex
8. unsupervised
9. Discussion

Chapter Twelve – Walking Into The Light

1. Man's inability to protect or resist sin.
2. No
3. Obey His will for our lives
4. Know and understand His word.
5. Yes
6. Scripture is specific about how we accept Jesus' gift of forgiveness.
7. separation
8. Most of mankind would either reject Jesus or desire to follow Him, but only under their own rules.
9. Not ridding sin from our minds, surroundings and associations.
10. did not obey Him

Chapter Thirteen – Faith Is Our Victory that Overcomes the World

1. Josephus
2. Cornelius Tacitus
3. Thallus
4. No
5. Athiest
6. Talmud
7. Julius Caesar
8. No
9. faith
10. blessed
11. evidence
12. reasonable

The Destruction of Faith

About the Book:

Revealing and provocative, this book explores the decline in faith that has taken place over the last century. Many reasons exist for this decline and they are explored from the perspective of their effect on everyone's life. The goal of this book is to have the readers access the effect of these outside influences on their faith and its strength. Once readers realize that all these factors have a detrimental effect, they can begin to use the evidences presented to build and strengthen their relationship with God.

About the Author:

Kenneth Morvant has been a minister of the church of Christ for over 20 years. He holds an Associates in Sacred Literature from White's Ferry Road School of Biblical Studies and a Bachelors in Bible from American Christian School of Religion. Additionally, he holds an MBA and a Bachelors in Industrial Technology. His sermons can be heard at <http://kmorvant.podomatic.com>.

