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Foreword by David Limbaugh

I Don't Have Enough
FAITH
to Be an
ATHEIST



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I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist



FINDING THE BOX TOP TO THE PUZZLE OF LIFE

CAN WE HANDLE THE TRUTH?

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Finding the Box Top to the Puzzle of Life



- The five most consequential questions in life are:
 - Origin – Where did we come from?
 - Identity – Who are we?
 - Meaning – Why are we here?
 - Morality – How should we live?
 - Destiny – Where we going?
- The answers to each depend on the existence of God. Our conclusion about God impacts every area of our lives. It is the key to finding unity in diversity and ultimate meaning in life.

THE SEARCH

- The less evidence you have for your position, the more faith you need to believe it. Faith covers a gap in knowledge.
- Either someone created something out of nothing (the Christian view), or no one created something out of nothing (the atheistic view).
- The term “university” is actually a composite of the words unity and diversity. When one attends a university, he is supposed to be guided in the quest to find unity in diversity – namely, how all the diverse fields of knowledge fit together to provide a unified picture of life.
- We humans have a fatal tendency to try to adjust the truth to fit our desires rather than adjusting our desires to fit the truth.
- Why don't we give our children all the scientific evidence – pro and con – and let them make up their own minds? After all, shouldn't we be teaching them how to think critically on their own?
- Your choices do matter. Your life does have ultimate meaning.



Can We Handle the Truth?



SHOULD ANYONE BELIEVE ANYTHING AT ALL?

- There are no neutral positions when it comes to beliefs.
- Freedom to make choices – even the freedom to reject the truth – is what makes us moral creatures and enables each of us to choose our ultimate destiny.
- “People almost invariably arrive at their beliefs not on the basis of proof but on the basis of what they find attractive.” - Blaise Pascal
- “One who claims to be a skeptic of one set of beliefs is actually a true believer in another set of beliefs.” - Philip E Johnson

THERE ARE NONE WHO ARE AS DEAF AS THOSE WHO DON'T WANT TO HEAR

- “Men stumble over the truth from time to time, but most pick themselves up in a hurry off as if nothing happened.” - Winston Churchill
- “We love the truth when it enlightens us, but we hate it when it convicts us.” - Augustine
- Contrary to what is being taught in public schools, truth is not relative but absolute. If something is true, it's true for all people, at all times, in all places.
- Truth is discovered, not invented. It exists independent of anyone's knowledge of it. (Gravity existed prior to Newton.)
- Truth is not determined by how many people believe it. Truth is discovered by looking at evidence.
- Truth is unchanging even though our beliefs about truth change. (When we begin to believe the earth was round instead of flat, the truth about the earth then it changed, only our belief about the earth changed.)
- Our desire for simplicity can mislead us. Not everything is simple and to try to force it to be is to misrepresent reality.

Can We Handle the Truth?



ATHEISM TAKES A LOT OF FAITH

- Even skeptics have faith. They have faith that there skepticism is true.
- If someone claims that "There's no such thing as truth," is that statement true? The self-defeating statement is one that fails to meet its own standard.
- Agnostics and skeptics make the truth claim that truth claims cannot be made. They say the truth can't be known but then claim that their view is true. You can't have it both ways.
- "You are not to judge" is itself a judgment. The prohibition against judging is false because it fails to meet its own standard.
- Atheists must take extreme measures to deny the obvious. When they dream up hypothetical theories that are not supported by any evidence, they have left the realm of reason and rationality and entered into the realm of blind faith.

RELIGION

- While most religions have some kind of similar moral code because God has implanted right and wrong on our consciousness, they disagree on virtually every major issue including the nature of God, of man, sin, salvation, heaven, hell, and creation.
- While most religions have some beliefs that are true, not all religious beliefs can be true because they are mutually exclusive – they teach opposites.
- Pluralists think all non-pluralists beliefs are wrong. So Pluralists are just as dogmatic and close minded as anyone else making truth claims in the public square. And they want everyone who disagrees with them to see things their way.
- What is unique about Christianity, unlike most other religious worldviews, is that it is built on historical evidence and can therefore be either proven or falsified by historical investigation.

Can We Handle the Truth?



THE UNIQUENESS OF HUMAN NATURE AND THE CONCEPT OF PERSONHOOD:

1. Intellect/conceptual thought
2. Freedom to choose/free will
3. Ethical responsibility (standards)
4. Moral accountability (obligations)
5. Inalienable rights of personhood

If anyone were to disagree with that standard, they would be doing the following:

1. Engaging in conceptual thought
2. Exercising his/her freedom to do so
3. Think that there is an ethical responsibility to teach what is right/true
4. Seek to hold one morally accountable to teaching the truth
5. Believe they have the right to disagree

PHYSICAL PARTICALS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MORALITY

- Intellect, free will, objective morality, and human rights as well as reason, logic, design, and truth can exist only if God exists.
- One cannot be absolutely sure that there are no absolutes. If there really is no absolute truth, then the absolute claim that "there is no absolute truth" can't be true.
- Human thoughts and transcendent moral laws are not material things.
- Sometimes people refuse to accept what they know to be true because of the impact it will have on their personal lives.

In the Beginning There Was a Great Surge



DIVINE DESIGN

- 1) Every design had a designer. 2) The universe has highly complex design. 3) Therefore, the universe had a Designer.
- “This most beautiful system of the sun, planets and comets, could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being.” - Isaac Newton
- Imagine you're walking along in the woods and find a diamond studded Rolex on the ground. What do you conclude is the cause of that watch: the wind and rain? Erosion? Some combination of natural forces? Of course not. There's absolutely no question in your mind that some intelligent being made that watch.
- “Astronomy leads us to a unique event, a universe which was created out of nothing and delicately balanced to provide exactly the conditions required to support life. In the absence of an absurdly improbable accident, the observations of modern science seem to suggest an underlying, one might say, supernatural plan.” - Nobel Laureate Arno Penzias
- The Anthropic Principle lists 122 very narrowly defined constants in the universe that strongly point to an intelligent designer.
- “To look out at this kind of creation and not believe in God is to me impossible.” - John Glenn

NOTHING CAUSED SOMETHING FROM NOTHING?

- “Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind.” - Albert Einstein
- If you can't believe that nothing caused something, then you don't have enough faith to be an atheist.
- “Only a rookie who knows nothing about science would say science takes away from faith. If you really study science, it will bring you closer to God.” James Tour



First Life: Natural or Divine?



NATURE DISORDERS, IT DOESN'T ORGANIZE THINGS

- All attempts to create life from nonlife have been unsuccessful.
- “The belief that life on earth arose spontaneously from nonliving matter, is simply a matter of faith in strict reductionism and is based entirely on ideology.” - Hubert Yockey
- It takes tremendous faith to believe that the first one celled creature came together by natural laws, which is like believing 1,000 encyclopedias resulted from an explosion in a printing shop. Atheists can't even explain the origin of the printing shop, much less the 1,000 encyclopedias.

SCIENCE DOESN'T REALLY SAY ANYTHING - SCIENTISTS DO

- Data is always interpreted by scientists. When those scientists let their personal preferences or unproven philosophical assumptions dictate their interpretation of the evidence, they do exactly what they accuse religious people of doing – they let their ideology dictate their conclusions.
- If materialism is true, then reason itself is impossible. For if mental processes are nothing but chemical reactions in the brain, then there is no reason to believe that anything is true (including the theory of materialism). Chemicals can't evaluate whether or not a theory is true. Chemicals don't reason, they react.
- Life does not consist merely of chemicals. If that were the case, mixing the chemicals of life in a test tube would produce life. Life clearly consist of more than chemicals; it also includes specified complexity which comes only from a mind.
- Spontaneous generation of life, which Darwinism requires, has never been observed. It is believed in by faith.

First Life: Natural or Divine?



THERE ARE ONLY TWO TYPES OF CAUSES: INTELLIGENT AND NON-INTELLIGENT

- “The complexity of the simplest known type of cell is so great that it is impossible to accept that such an object could have been thrown together suddenly by some kind of freakish, vastly improbable event. Such an occurrence would be indistinguishable from a miracle.” - Michael Denton
- Our ability to reason can come from one of only two places: either our ability to reason arose from pre-existing intelligence, or it arose from mindless matter.
- When we see biological systems that even Darwinists recognize “give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose,” maybe we ought to conclude that they really were designed for a purpose.
- The brain is a very big place in a very small space, and it is something immeasurably more sophisticated than anything humans have ever created. 20 million books worth.

NATURAL SELECTION

- Natural selection is a misnomer. Since the process of evolution is, by definition, without intelligence, there is no selection at all going on. It is a blind process.
- Natural selection may be able to explain the survival of the species, but I cannot explain the arrival of a species.
- Even when scientists intelligently manipulate creatures with an end in mind (which is the antithesis of the blind Darwinian process) macroevolution still doesn't work.
- Reason requires that the universe be a reasonable one. That pre-supposes there is order, logic, design, and truth.

First Life: Natural or Divine?



LIVING THINGS ARE IRREDUCIBLY COMPLEX

- The human body contains trillions of cells and makes millions of new cells every second, each cell is irreducibly complex and contains irreducibly complex subsystems.
- Living systems could not have developed in the gradual Darwinian fashion. As with a car engine, all the right parts must be placed in the right size at the right time for there to be any function at all. You can build an engine part by part (which takes intelligence) but you can't drive to work with only a partial engine under the hood. Nor could you drive to work if one essential part of your engine was modified but others were not. In the same way, living systems quickly would become nonfunctional if they were modified piece by piece.
- “The cell is an irreducibly complex system composed of several well matched, interacting parts that contribute to the basic function, wherein the removal of any one of the parts causes the system to effectively cease functioning.” Michael Behe

IF EVERY LIVING CREATURE WERE DISTINCT BIOCHEMICALLY, A FOOD CHAIN WOULDN'T EXIST

- Perhaps we (humans and all other life) have a common genetic code because a common creator has designed us to live in the same biosphere.
- Does similarity in progression prove that the kettle evolved from the teaspoon? No. Similarity in progression does not automatically imply common ancestry. In this case we know it means there is a common creator or designer. This is the same situation we have for real living things.
- Even though all organisms that share a common genetic code have varying degrees of closeness, that code has ordered the amino acids and proteins in such a way that the basic types are in molecular isolation from one another. There are no Darwinian transitions, only distinct molecular gaps.

First Life: Natural or Divine?



MACRO EVOLUTION

- “In any local area, a species does not arise gradually by the steady formation of its ancestors; it appears all at once and fully formed.” - Stephen J Gould
- Evolution is a fact, but not in the sense that Darwin meant it. If you define evolution as “change,” then certainly living beings have evolved. But this evolution is on the micro, not the macro level. Not only is there a lack of evidence for macro evolution, there's positive evidence that it has not occurred.
- The evidence is completely inconsistent with Darwinism. All animals appeared separately, fully formed, and at the same time in the Cambrian Period (between 600 and 500 million years ago).
- “Why then is not every geological formation full of intermediate links? Geology assuredly does not reveal any such finally graduated organic chain and this is the most obvious and gravest objection which can be urged against my theory.” - Darwin
- There aren't missing links – there is a missing chain!

DARWINISM

- In a world governed by certain physical and chemical laws, perhaps only a certain range of anatomical structures will be conducive to animals designed to walk on two legs. Since we all have to live in the same biosphere, we should expect some creatures to have similar designs.
- In Darwinism, there's no moral accountability. For if there is no God, everything is lawful.
- “In grammar school they taught me that a frog turning into a prince was a fairytale. In the University they taught me that a frog turning into the prince was a fact!” - Ron Carlson
- This isn't a battle of science versus religion: it's a battle of good science versus bad science.

Mother Teresa vs Hitler



- Without an objective source of morality, all so-called moral issues are nothing but personal preference. Hitler like killing people and mother Theresa liked helping them. No one is really right or wrong, it's just one person's opinion against that of another.
- There is an absolute standard of right and wrong that is written on the hearts of every human being. People may deny it, they may suppress it, their actions may contradict it, but their reactions reveal that they know it.
- 1) Every law has a law giver. 2) There is a moral law. 3) Therefore, there is a Moral Law Giver.
- As Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence: “nature's law” is “self evident.” You don't use reason to discover it, you just know it.

JUSTICE

- Without an objective standard of meaning and morality, then life is meaningless and there's nothing absolutely right or wrong. Everything is merely a matter of opinion.
- Everyone knows certain principles. There's no land where murder is a virtue and gratitude a vice.
- Even those who deny all values, nevertheless value their right to make that denial.
- The moral law is not always the standard by which we treat others, but it is nearly always the standard by which we expect others to treat us.
- “We hold these truth to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, and among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.” - The Declaration of Independence
- We can only detect injustice because there's an unchanging standard of justice written on our hearts. You can't know what is evil unless you know what is good.

Reasons We Know the New Testament is True

BEST DOCUMENTED BOOK EVER

- There are nearly 5,800 Greek handwritten manuscripts of the New Testament. In addition there are some 20,000 manuscripts in other languages. The next closest ancient work is the Iliad by Homer with only 1,800 manuscripts.
- There are 10 known non-Christian writers who mention Jesus within 150 years of his life. By contrast over the same 150 years, there are nine non-Christian sources who mention Tiberius Caesar, the Roman emperor at the time of Jesus.
- We base virtually everything that we know about the extraordinary life of Alexander the Great from historians who wrote 300 to 500 years after his death.

HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

- There's no question that real historical events are at the core of the New Testament. The bottom line is that a skeptic has to have a lot of faith to believe that the New Testament is fiction.
- The New Testament writers were meticulously accurate, as evidenced by well over 140 historically confirmed details. They recorded miracles in the same historically confirmed narratives, and did so without apparent involvement or significant theological comment.
- “All I am in private life is a literary critic and historian, that's my job. I'm prepared to say that on that basis, if anyone thinks the Gospels are either legends or novels, then that person is simply showing his incompetence as a literary critic.” - C.S. Lewis
- The New Testament authors site at least 30 real historic figures who have been confirmed by ancient non-Christian writers and various archaeological discoveries.
- The second half of Acts alone sites at least 84 historically confirmed eyewitness details and John includes at least 59 historically confirmed eyewitness details.



Miracles: Signs of God or Gullibility?



- Miracles are not only possible, miracles are actual, because the greatest miracle of all (the creation of the universe out of nothing) has already occurred.
- All miraculous events are simple tasks for an infinitely powerful Being who created the universe in the first place.
- Natural laws don't really cause anything, they only describe regularly happens in nature. When you introduce intelligent beings into the picture, natural forces can be over powered.
- The reason miracles get our attention is because we know that such an event could not be produced by natural laws.
- Creation demonstrates that natural laws are not immutable. Something doesn't naturally come from nothing. But here we are.
- If we can't believe in a rare events then we can't believe anything from history, because history is comprised of succeeding rare, unrepeatable events.

IF THERE IS A GOD WHO CAN ACT, THERE CAN BE ACTS OF GOD (MIRACLES)

- God alone has infinite power (power beyond that of the natural world), supreme design and purpose, and complete moral purity.
- The sheer number of Jesus' miracles cited by independent sources is too great to be explained away as a great deception.
- No other world religion has verified miracles like those in the New Testament. Miracles confirming the old testament of Judaism also confirm Christianity. All alleged miracles of Muhammad came long after his death and were not based on eyewitness testimony.
- Atheists who demand repeatability for biblical miracles are inconsistent because they do not demand repeatability for the historical miracles in which they believe; the big bang, spontaneous generation of first life, and the macro evolution of subsequent lifeforms.

Who is Jesus: God or a Great Moral Teacher?

- Since Jesus clearly claimed to be God, he couldn't be just a great moral teacher. Great moral teachers don't deceive people by falsely claiming to be God.
- Since Jesus claimed to be God, one of only three possibilities could be true: he was either a liar, a lunatic, or the Lord.
- It's not just that we lack the natural exclamation for the empty tomb. It's that we have positive eyewitnesses and corroborating circumstantial evidence for the resurrection miracle which was specifically predicted.
- If the apostles had made up the resurrection story, they certainly would have said so when they were about to be crucified, stoned, or beheaded. But no one recanted. 11 out of 12 were martyred for their faith, the only survivor John was exiled. Why would they die for a known lie?
- Bible scholars have identified 71 old testament messianic prophecies fulfilled by Christ, some of which are illuminated by the light of Christ's life.
- Jesus' conduct gives us a perfect example of humility and servitude, and how we are to glorify the Father rather than ourselves.

THE TRINITY

- Incarnation was not the subtraction of deity; it was the addition of humanity. When Jesus was conceived, he did not cease being God. He simply added a human nature.
- Jesus is equal to the father: in his divine nature, divine essence, divine attributes, and divine character. Jesus is subordinate to the father and his human nature, human function, human office, human position.
- God is love. To have love, there must be a lover (the father), a loved one (the Son), and a spirit of love (the Holy Spirit). Because of his nature, God has existed eternally in perfect fellowship of love. He is the perfect being who lacks nothing, not even love.
- Every human being can accept his free gift of eternal salvation. It takes no effort at all. Does it take some faith? Yes, but every choice – even the choice to reject Christ – requires faith.



COMMON QUESTIONS

Everyone has doubts and questions. And why shouldn't we? As finite creatures, we shouldn't expect to understand everything about an infinite God and how he does things.

- "If there really is a God, then why does he allow evil?" How do you know what evil is unless you know what good is? And how do you know what good is unless there is an objective standard of good beyond yourself?
- "Why doesn't God stop evil?" The source of evil is our free choice. If God were to do away with evil, then he would have to do away with the free choice. We would no longer have the ability to love or do good. This would no longer be a moral world.
- If God prevented pain every time we got into trouble, then we would become more reckless and self-centered never learning from suffering.
- You can't develop courage unless there is danger. You can't develop perseverance unless you have obstacles in your way. You won't learn how to be a servant unless there's someone to serve. You can't learn compassion if there is never anyone in pain or need.
- "Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?" There are no good people. Some people are better than others, but no one is really good. The question is "why do good things happen to bad people?"
- We learn from our own sufferings to comfort others who suffer, and realize that our sufferings enhance our capacity to enjoy eternity.
- Sometimes God saves us from evil, but sometimes he comforts us through evil.
- "Why would God create people knowing that they would choose hell?" Because love takes risk. We are willing to take the risk of loss in order to experience the joy of love. Without a hell, injustices in this world would never be righted, the free choices of people would not be respected, and the greater good of the redemption could never be accomplished.

