

Why is there something instead of *nothing*?

There are a few possible answers: (1) It (something) *always was*. This means there was no beginning of life, matter, space, time, etc. (2) Nothing caused something. (3) Someone *caused* it.

Depending on how you answer these questions, you might be lost in meaninglessness. The premise is: if you know where you come from, you will know what the meaning of life is. If you don't you'll be very busy living life, but will never know what life is all about. And if you don't know who you are, you will accept the world's definition of who you are.

We know that the universe as we know it wasn't always here because it is still experiencing an increase in overall entropy. A universe that has experienced an infinite amount of time will have reached a state of maximum entropy at which there is no thermodynamic free energy to sustain motion or life.

We know that it is impossible for nothing to cause something. And, since impersonal forces don't create beings with personality, *someone* must have caused this universe.

The first verse of the Bible explains this: "In the beginning (time) God (force) created (action) the heavens and the earth (matter)."

Where is God?

We need to get away from thinking spatially. God transcends space – it is his creation. So the answer to the question "is God here?" is yes. He is everywhere.

Is the soul the identity of the individual? If there is ... if we can't see touch or taste soul, how can we know it exists?

A good analogy for the human body and human soul is that of computer hardware and software. The hardware is all that physically constitutes a computer, but the software exists as more of a concept. Both are necessarily intertwined and are absolutely necessary in order for a computer to operate. The same idea can be used to understand man.

Where in the Bible does it teach that the soul will incorporate a new body?

1 Corinthians 15:40-49 "there is one glory of the sun... so also is the resurrection of the dead, it is sewn..." Notice the imagery of farming that Paul uses to describe what our resurrection body will be like. It is the imagery of an acorn transforming into an oak tree. Our resurrection bodies won't be more ethereal – they will be more substantial!

If God is good, why do events like Haiti happen?

Only Christians and believers can ask these types of questions. Atheists cannot ask these questions because they aren't allowed to have moral perplexities. What makes them think the things at Haiti are horrible? By what standard are they distinguishing good from evil? Haven't they read Darwin? The perceived "evil" is just the way things are.

The existential philosophers don't ask questions like this because they're too sophisticated. But we know we *have* to ask these questions because things like death *are* abnormal.

The answer to why events like Haiti happen despite the fact that God, a perfectly good and infinitely powerful being, exists is his patience and longsuffering. He can stop it all today, but he would have to wipe us all out too. Death and disease point to the fact that we're under judgment. By allowing it temporarily, God is giving all of us opportunity to turn to Him.

We must not avoid the problem of evil. We must find out why we don't like it.

If the Bible was written by men, why would you believe it?

It is not solely written by men. The foundational question isn't concerning how we can believe that the Bible is written by God, it is "how do we believe God" because if we believe God, it isn't difficult to believe that the Bible can be written to be believed.

Are men fallible? Yes, but is God fallible? No. Can God cause people to write it perfectly? Yes. 2 Peter 1:20 says, "But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God." Men wrote it, but God caused it.

You might say "Isn't that a circular argument?" But, all final authorities are circular. A final authority - by definition - cannot derive its credibility from another *more* final source.

We can also take a look at what the Bible is and is *not*. It is *not* a single book – it is a volume of books. Forty different authors wrote over a period of over 1600 years, in three different languages. Contrast that to the Koran which was given to one man at one time and wasn't even written by him (Mohammed) but his oral dictation. The God of the Bible makes a point here - He is the God of history.

Consider the detailed prophecies of the Messiah from the Old Testament: He would have to:

1. be a descendant of Abraham
2. be from the tribe of Judah
3. be from David's family
4. be born in David's hometown: Bethlehem

5. come in the fullness of times
6. be born of a virgin
7. have a forerunner (John the Baptist)

All these things are prophesied in the Old Testament. And then Jesus comes. He didn't just say "here I am."

Why should we find out whether something is true and what does Christianity claim about its relation to truth?

Whenever someone makes bold statement like "God made the universe" we have to ask this question: is it true? We need to ask this question because we can't bank on any personal authority or intellectual authority.

Christianity is a faith based on evidence and reasoning - not faith based on faith. It is also a faith based on truth. Jesus says in John 18:37: "For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." No other philosopher or religious leader has made claims like this. The implication of what Jesus said is that if you don't desire truth, you can't even be a Christian.

There are many claims of truth, especially in our universities. We have to be able to discern what is true. Jesus is the embodiment of truth.

There are many religions, so who is to say which one is true?

There are four important areas of questions that people have that any religion or philosophy must answer if they are to be worth your time:

1. Origin: Where did everything come from?
2. Purpose: What is the meaning and purpose of life?
3. Morality: Why should I do good rather than anything I want? How should I live?
4. Destiny: After all this is over, what happens?

If the religion does not answer these questions, they're not worth your time. The only religions that really address and place heavy emphases on these are: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Unsurprisingly, all three religions are religions of the book. They all view the Bible as revelation from God. Judaism believes that Messiah is coming. Christianity believes that Messiah has already come.

Islam believes the Bible is corrupt and that the Koran is the final revelation of God. The problem is that in 1850, in America, a guy named Josphe Smith came by and he said that everybody else corrupt and God gave me a new religion and a new revelation: it's called the book of Mormon. Then, in the 1960s a guy named Moon song Myun claimed to be the second Jesus because the first failed. See, the problem is that anyone can come afterwards .

Remember that if such comprehensive sets of claims are true, there will be evidence. We must think and look at the evidence. God made everything and He gave us plenty of evidence.

Did the Bible change overtime?

No, people and culture changed overtime. English, for example, changed over the last 1000 years. Late West Saxon Old English is unreadable today. Hebrew, on the other hand, is a religious language and did not change.

Why is the Bible so relevant and contemporary and fresh?

Human nature does not change. We still have moral dilemmas and we still make value claims.