

# N.T. Christianity - 1



## The Uniqueness Of The Bible

# The Bible



A distinct and reasonable answer for

# The Origin of Life

# The Question of Man's Origin




- A continual concern, seeing it affects our approach to the meaning and purpose of life.
- A common answer of human wisdom—evolution—claims...
  - Man is a material being, the product of “blind chance”
  - All life and matter are the result of eternal matter or nothing becoming something.
  - Produces a “eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die” approach to life!

# The Bible: The All-Powerful God



- God's power seen in that He spoke the universe into existence – Gen. 1:1, 6-7
- Secularist belittle this, but only offer mindless matter/nothingness!
- The politically correct argue the Bible's account is not unique from other "creation myths."
- Similarities to Hinduism are cited in the Rig Veda, the oldest of Hindu sacred writings.

# Rig Veda and Creation



“In the beginning there was neither existence nor non-existence; there was no atmosphere, no sky, and no realm beyond the sky. What power was there? Where was that power? Who was that power? Was it finite or infinite? There was neither death nor immortality. There was nothing to distinguish night from day. There was no wind or breath. God alone breathed by his own energy. Other than God there was nothing. In the beginning darkness was swathed in darkness. All was liquid and formless. God was clothed in emptiness. Then fire arose within God; and in the fire arose love. This was the seed of the soul.”

# Rig Veda and Creation



“Sages have found this seed within their hearts; they have discovered that it is the bond between existence and non-existence. Who really knows what happened? Who can describe it? How were things produced? Where was creation born? When the universe was created, the one became many. *Who knows how this occurred? Did creation happen at God’s command, or did it happen without his command? He looks down upon creation from the highest heaven. Only he knows the answer—or perhaps he does not know.*”

# Hinduism and Creation

- A “cosmic egg”
- The dismemberment of the “cosmic man,” cut up by the gods and spread across the universe to produce all creation.
- A dream of Brahma, the creator god
- The tears of Prajapati, a group of deities
- The Puranas attribute creation to many gods, including Shiva, Vishnu, and the Goddess
- The Upanishads says the source of creation is unknowable.

# Inspiration



The Bible and World Religions

# The Bible Claims Inspiration



- The Scriptures claim inspiration from God – 2 Tim. 3:16-17
- Scripture is “God breathed” and not the product of man, but of God’s Spirit.
- This is not to say that other religions do not claim inspiration; but that the Bible’s approach is far superior!

# Buddhism and Inspiration



- Goal: “The goal is termed **enlightenment**... It’s **a connection with universal truth of life** which encompasses all aspects of life, death, time, space, self and others and leads people to embrace the vow of the Buddha.”  
([www.nichirenbuddhist.org/LearnBuddhism/IntroBook/ch2](http://www.nichirenbuddhist.org/LearnBuddhism/IntroBook/ch2))

# Buddhism and Inspiration



- Inspiration: “Shakyamuni, the originator of Buddhism, was “born in India almost 3000 years ago...searched for an end to human suffering...by attaining enlightenment for himself, he proved that **human life contains the power to become enlightened** and that enlightenment (Buddhahood) provides an end to all suffering.”
- “For centuries Buddhists have been **creating, testing and implementing practices and philosophies** that lead to the happiness and personal development of human beings.”

# Buddhism and Inspiration

- Inspiration: “Shakyamuni, the originator of Buddhism, was “born with a purpose; he did not search for an end to his existence; he found it for himself.” He had the power to liberate mankind from suffering (Buddha).”

# Hinduism and Inspiration



“...for Hinduism there is also evidence. I have written previously about how Hindu-like revelations spring up in spiritual people from other traditions...How Julian of Nowrich had revelations that God was everything, and there is no such thing as evil. How the Cathars came to believe...that everyone would be redeemed...and to believe in reincarnation...These examples, together with the ongoing teachings of many enlightened gurus within Hinduism show that for those who purify their mind and are receptive the revelations of Hinduism are still available” ([www.western-hindu.org/2008/05/28/hinduism-is-the-eternal-way-and-the-true-religion](http://www.western-hindu.org/2008/05/28/hinduism-is-the-eternal-way-and-the-true-religion))


# Hinduism and Inspiration



- In his book “How I became a Hindu”, David Frawley writes: “Though the New Age Movement has much fantasy, if not self-indulgence within it, as it matures it will probably come to resemble Hinduism...”

Contrast:

# The Bible's View of Inspiration

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- Man cannot determine his own way – Jer. 10:23
  - Truth is not found within man – 2 Pet. 1:20-21
  - Determining something to be true because others agree with it is not wise – 2 Cor. 10:12; Matt. 7:13
  - This contrast doesn't make the Bible true, but **the Bible puts inspiration on a different plane!**

# The Bible



Inspiration is  
Proven by Prophecy

## The Bible And Inspiration: Proof In Prophecy


- Other religions claim prophecy, but not as the foundation of their truthfulness.
- God rested His proof that He is Jehovah on prophecy and its fulfillment – Isa. 46:9-10
- God challenged idolatry to prove its truthfulness by prophecy/fulfillment – Isa. 41:21-24
- The same standard was applied to those who claimed to speak for God – Deut. 18:21-22

# The Downfall of Babylon


- Isaiah and Jeremiah prophesied of this fall long before it occurred – Isa. 13:17-22; Jer. 50-51
  - Overthrown by Medes – Isa. 13:17-19
  - Become desolate, never to be inhabited as a nation or city – Isa. 13:20-22; Jer. 51:26
  - Arabs would not pitch their tents there – Isa. 13:20
  - Shepherds would not make their flocks lie down there, while wild beasts would lie there – Isa. 13:20-22

Downfall of Babylon:

# Fulfilled

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- In 539 B.C. Cyrus the Mede captured Babylon without a fight
  - In 331 B.C. Alexander the great came to Babylon with the intention of rebuilding it, but died suddenly in 323 B.C.
  - After this the city became a quarry for other people's brick and stone.
  - Saddam Hussein intended to rebuild it, but was overthrown and executed.

# Sceptics' Response

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- Iraq is in the area occupied by Babylon, so the prophecy isn't true. This ignores...
    - The amazement of the prophecy, being made 150+ years before the Medes gained power, many years before Babylon came to power, and while the Assyrian Empire ruled the day.
    - That Iraq is not the city of Babylon, which was destroyed and has lay desolate for 2000...with the area of the city still basically uninhabited.
  - There are many other prophecies of this type.