

God Is

by Hendrik Joubert

I grew up believing it is a sin to question the existence of God. Since it is a matter of faith, one simply has to accept the fact that God is – asking questions was a sure sign of unbelief. Those who guided me spiritually in my young life were not capable of answering the question I faced as a young man at my place of work: “Prove to us that there is a God and we will obey Him.” This challenge came from two young men I was working with. I do not believe they were sincere, a conclusion I reached after I learned how to *prove* the existence of God and tried to get them to consider it. It seemed that the moral, or should one say immoral freedom they enjoyed as a result of their conclusion was not something they wanted to give up.

I was also exposed, as I still am, to many who claim to believe in God when their actions demonstrate that they believe *in case* God. Their faith is *practical* as they try to have the better of two worlds. They are *Christians* who live in the *real* world where one has to lie, cheat and steal when *necessary*. They do not want to loose out on the fun, while still having the hope of heaven. This hope is expressed in a wait-and-see sense, and not as a conviction. Expressing it in this way indicates *modesty* and *humility* as the *grace* and *love* of God is emphasized over *counting the cost* and *total* submission.

An old friend pointed out the most likely cause of sin, a lack of faith. Either there is little faith in the existence of God, or one does not believe that He will punish. How does one then prove the existence of God in order to encourage obedience rather than negotiation, or even patronization?

First of all there is the physical evidence of self, and everything that is around us. God declares that He created everything, and that His creation serves as proof of His existence. (**Romans 1:18-23**) Scientists are still searching for the *secret burial grounds of the cave men*. Evolution produced only a few of them – as it did of every other stage between ape and man – and must have decided to just skip this stage.

Notice that those who do not want to accept a *miraculous* creation by an All Powerful God grant a single cell this power as it is able to develop over time into the complex life we now observe. Time removes the miraculous? Think about the concept *natural selection* – the inherent power to make improvements. Do you believe that we effectively created ourselves in this way?

Then we may start by considering today’s date – what does the year 2007 AD, or 200 BC for that matter refer to? There was a man Jesus Christ whose life impacted our world to the extent that we measure time by Him. Concerning Him John testifies: ***Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name. (John 20:30-31)*** Paul, once a violent enemy writes: ***...who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,... (Romans 1:4)***

More than 300 prophecies made over many centuries are fulfilled in this one Man, and the climax of it all was the empty tomb. Many fanciful theories are offered but realize this; if the Jews of that time were able to produce the body they would have done so with pleasure to make a public display of this imposter. They had the tomb sealed in an effort to keep Him in that tomb. The first excuse seems so ridiculous that some see it as a fabrication of believers, how could the guards testify to what happened while they were asleep. Before you disregard

this first explanation too quickly, keep in mind that it was the *first* produced under pressure. Now think of all the excuses you have heard people come up when they had to answer in a moment...

What happened to the body of the man who performed miracles in front of witnesses he carefully selected to testify to His resurrection? (**Acts 1:16-23**) They could not be mistaken as to His identity; they were eyewitnesses who were willing to put their lives on the line. Consider the evidence produced by those who believe we evolved from a cell which appeared after a major explosion, and then consider the evidence presented by the God of the Bible – what is your verdict?