

Name _____

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Presented by D. Prentice, M.Ed., M.A.S.T.

WHY BELIEVE IN GOD?

1. Every one of us is some day going to die. If we want to know what happens afterward, we need **GOD** to tell us.
2. There are four potentially valid ways we commonly say we know things.
 - (a) Through our **SENSES** .
 - (b) By **AUTHORITY** .
 - (c) By **LOGIC** .
 - (d) By **INTUITION** .
3. There are also two invalid ways people try to persuade themselves or others that they know something:
 - (e) **WISHFUL** thinking
 - (f) **BLUFFING** .
4. Even nature itself shows that there has to be a God (Rom. 1:18 - 23). Those who reject Him are without **EXCUSE** .
5. Atheists object to God because He would have to possess the following characteristics:
 - (a) **INVISIBLE**
 - (b) **SUPERNATURAL**
 - (c) **ETERNAL**
 - (d) **OMNIPRESENT**
 - (e) **OMNIPOTENT**
 - (f) **SELF-EXISTENT**
6. If there is no God, then the universe would have to be the result of an impersonal series of forces, processes, and events operating with no particular purpose over billions of years. We could use many names for this series such as Evolution, Accident, or **RANDOM** **CHANCE** .
7. If there is no God, then Random Chance would have to possess the following characteristics:
 - (a) **INVISIBLE**
 - (b) **SUPERNATURAL**
 - (c) **ETERNAL**
 - (d) **OMNIPRESENT**
 - (e) **OMNIPOTENT**
 - (f) **SELF-EXISTENT**
8. Atheists ridicule those who believe in God because they say we believe in an “invisible man in the sky.” Let’s take it a step further. We believe that before Jesus became a man, He was always an Intelligence. Therefore, we believe in an invisible **INTELLIGENCE** that is so powerful that He is responsible for all the complexity and organization of the universe, from the smallest sub-atomic level to the largest cosmological scale.
9. Atheists believe in an invisible **NON** **INTELLIGENCE** that is so powerful that it is responsible for all the complexity and organization of the universe, from the smallest sub-

atomic level to the largest cosmological scale.

10. If you make a step of faith to **believe** in God and you are wrong, will you know it at the end of your life? NO
11. If you make a step of faith to **reject** God and you are wrong, will you know it at the end of your life? YES, because those who come to God must believe that He exists (Heb. 11:6). Those who reject Him will end up in HELL.

RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE.

1. Out of all the religions in the world, how many books in the world specifically claim to be a revelation from God? THREE
2. One of the ways to see if any of the “holy books” is beyond human ability it to see if it accurately predicts the FUTURE.
3. How many supposed predictive prophecies are in the Book of Mormon? ONE Is it correct? NO
4. The Qur’an describes events at a future day of judgment. Can these be tested? NO
5. How many prophecies are there in the Qur’an that can be tested to see if they came to pass? TWO. One had to do with an ongoing WAR between Greeks and Persians. The other had to do with Muhammad being allowed to return to the city of MECCA in peace.
6. The Bible contains HUNDREDS of prophecies that actually came to pass.
7. The probability of any one person fulfilling just eight of the prophecies about the Messiah is similar to the probability of covering the state of TEXAS a foot and a half deep in silver dollars, putting an “X” on one of them, turning a blindfolded person loose with the instructions to reach down and pick up one at random, and expecting that one coin to be the one with the X on it.

BIBLE PRESERVATION.

1. The New Testament was written in Koine GREEK, the common business language of the day.
2. When a new book arrived at a local church, it was READ aloud, copied, and distributed.
3. The original manuscripts of New Testament books were written on extremely durable materials such as papyri, skins, and scrolls. These could last for CENTURIES.
4. Beginning around 300 AD, the parts of the New Testament began to be combined into bound _____ called codices.

5. By the time of the first codices, there had probably been only two or three generations of ___ **COPIES** _____ since the original documents.
6. There are certain tests that are used to determine how reliable an ancient document is. For instance, there are often a few ___ **DOZEN** ___ copies of the writings of ancient historians still in existence.
7. The second best preserved ancient book is the *Iliad* by Homer, for which about ___ **643** _____ copies are known to exist.
8. The oldest partial copy of the *Iliad* dates about ___ **500** ___ years after the original. There is about a 5% uncertainty in the text.
9. The oldest complete copy of the New Testament dates about _____ **200** _____ years after the original manuscripts were written.
10. Over 5,000 New Testament fragments in the ___ **GREEK** _____ language are known to exist, as well as 10,000 in Latin and 9300 in other languages.
11. There is less than 1/2 of ___ **1%** _____ uncertainty between New Testament manuscripts considered the best and those considered the worst.
12. First and second century Christian leaders quoted the New Testament manuscripts over a ___ **MILLION** _____ times. We could reconstruct almost the entire New Testament from their quotes.

VARIANT READINGS.

1. Since many of the early Christians were illiterate, New Testament letters to the churches were meant to be read ___ **ALOUD** _____ (Col. 4:16, 1 Thess. 5:27).
2. Those who could write transcribed the letters. However, since ___ **SPELLING** _____ was not standardized, two copyists might spell the words differently. They sounded exactly the same, though.
3. Later churches used skilled copyists to copy the earlier manuscripts, but depending on which manuscript they were copying, there could be spelling errors. The ___ **WORDS** _____ still sounded the same.
4. Since the New Testament was originally written longhand in all capital letters (uncials), One possible source of variant readings was poor ___ **PENMANSHIP** _____.
5. If a single word is spelled differently in one manuscript family containing 2,000 manuscripts compared to a different family of 2,000 other manuscripts, critic report it as 4,000 variants when there is actually only ___ **ONE** _____ difference.
6. Most New Testament manuscript variations consist of differences in ___ **WORD** _____ order or

duplicated phrases. In almost every case, the duplicate is found elsewhere in the chapter anyway.

7. When we take these types of variants into account, less than 1/2 of 1% of the New Testament is uncertain.
8. The three main variant readings in the New Testament are:
 - a. Mk. 16:9-20. The only doctrine unique to this passage has to do with drinking POISON.
 - b. A few manuscripts leave out Jn. 7:53-8:11, the woman caught in the act of adultery. However, the doctrines of FORGIVENESS and repentance are found throughout the New Testament.
 - c. Some manuscripts omit 1 Jn. 5:7, which mentions the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit. However, these names are found elsewhere throughout the New Testament.
9. Since translators are going from Greek to English, they may approach the translation in one of three ways:
 - a. A LITERAL word for word translation.
 - b. Translations that try to convey the sense of the Greek IDIOMS.
 - c. PARAPHRASES where the author tries to convey his own ideas of what the text means while only loosely following the Greek text.
10. There are three main manuscript families dating from ancient times:
 - a. Textus Receptus, the basis of the KING JAMES and many other versions. It was originally based on the manuscripts available to the monk Erasmus in 1516.
 - b. The Majority Text (abbreviated M) is based on the majority of Greek manuscripts discovered to date. There are about 2,000 variants from the TR of 1516, but the differences are trivial.
 - c. The Critical Text (abbreviated NU for Nestle/United Bible Society) is the basis of most recent translations. It is updated when significant new manuscripts are compared to previous material.
11. Textual Criticism does not indicate a NEGATIVE attitude toward the Scriptures. It is a scholarly approach to determining which manuscripts seem closest to the originals.
12. Except for Bible versions put out by cults, the differences in Bible translations do not depend on malicious attempts to omit passages, but on the manuscript FAMILY used for the translation.
13. We are not saved according to our preferred Bible version, but by faith in Jesus Christ. The best version of the Bible to read is the one you will actually READ.