

THE WHY SERIES

A BIBLICAL RESPONSE TO THE GREAT QUESTIONS OF LIFE

1 PETER 3:15 & ISAIAH 1:18

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“Why Oh Why”

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Apologetics, Faith, Reason, Debate, Answer, Life

1 Peter 3:15 nkjv

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

Isaiah 1:18 niv

“Come now, and let us reason together,”

I am well aware that you may be someone here tonight that either (a) doesn't believe in God or (b) the Bible or even (c) that life has meaning, reason and purpose.

And yet, I ‘m going to argue from the position of reason and logic and yes – and what the Bible has to say – knowing that you will automatically protest the fact that I’m even going to use the Bible as a foundation for my position.

(pastor, you can't use the Bible to defend the Bible or any other life stuff issues because...)

But here is my challenge to you.

If the Bible is or is not relevant to man – then let it stand or fall based on its own performance or lack thereof.

The Bible and the Grand Presupposition
(never does the Bible argue the existence of God)

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Why Oh Why

1.) The argument for human reason

I am not sure if you know this or not but each and every one of us here tonight are products of **The Age of Reason** or what is known as **The Enlightenment**

- - from around the mid 1,600's to the end of the 1,700's

Science or God ?

The word “Enlightenment” means the “Illumination”. A time of unparalleled thought and of the puritan awakening. A great amount of the key players during this era were believers in the existence of God and many argued that, from science, God’s creation could be better understood and appreciated.

Isaac Newton was Perhaps the Most Vocal

<https://images-na.ssl-images-amazon.com/images/I/51xglTnpd%2BL.jpg>

“He who thinks half-heartedly will not believe in God;
but he who really thinks has to believe in God.”
Sir Isaac Newton

Why Oh Why

The Argument For Human Reason

1a.) It’s human of us to ask the question

the question of our origin has only intensified with time.
>>> the quest for answers <<<

“(1) why are we here? (2) What is the meaning to life?
(3) Is there a greater purpose for life?”

Psalm 8:3-4

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained, **4 What is man** that You are mindful of him,

Job 13:3

But I (says Job) would **speak** to the Almighty, and I **desire to reason with God**.

Job 14:14

If a man dies, shall he live again?

Human Nature is to Ask the Greatest (most meaningful) Questions
First of all, what do we mean when asking; **what is human reason?**

**Foundationally we need to ask –
what is a human? and what is reason?**

what is a human?

we are human. Homo sapiens, (Latin: “**wise man**”) the species to which all modern human beings belong. Homo sapiens is one of several species grouped into the genus Homo, but it is the only one that is not extinct. See also human evolution.

Genesis 1:27-28

So God created man (humankind or mankind) in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **28** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply;

what is reason?

rational thought. educated discovery and analysis.

Is there agreement in these 2 ?

The Bible encourages human reason?

The Bible discourages aberrant human reason?

Is there agreement in these 2 ?

Does our human society encourage human reason?

Does our human society discourage aberrant human reason?

“Evangelicalism teaches that the Bible is the final authority on all matters of faith and practice. The Scripture, not human reason, is the ultimate source on every issue in which it speaks.”

Regarding human reason, the Bible assumes a presupposition.

Genesis 2:7

And the Lord God (1) formed man **out of the dust of the ground**, and (2) breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man (3) became a living (soul) being.

The Drive to Ask Question is Telling...

The fact that we as human’s need to be educated and taught is proof - that our human reason is limited, and our capacities are in question.

“What we know is a drop, what we don't know is an ocean.”

- Isaac Newton

1 Corinthians 13:11-12

When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. **12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly**, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

Romans 11:33-34

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! 34 "For who has known the mind of the Lord? or who has become His counselor?"

But does this mean there is no place for reason?

are we not supposed to think, or use our minds? or are we just supposed to believe and have faith and that is all?

Job 11:7-9 nlt

"Can you **solve** the mysteries of God? Can you **discover** everything about the Almighty? 8 Such **knowledge** is higher than the heavens - and who are you? It is deeper than the underworld - what do you know? 9 It is broader than the earth and wider than the sea.

Here's a Question for You to Ponder; Are there any untruths in the world around us?

Here's a Question for You to Ponder; Are there any untruths in the bible?

Why Oh Why

The Argument For Human Reason

1b.) It's human of us to promote thought

A Great Example of This is Paul in Athens

Acts 17:2-3

Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths **reasoned** with them from the Scriptures, 3 **explaining** and **demonstrating** that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ."

Notice there is "the source for sound reasoning"

It is rooted to an external source = (the scriptures)

Acts 18:4

And he **reasoned** in the synagogue every Sabbath, and **persuaded** both Jews and Greeks.

Acts 24:25

Now as he **reasoned** about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."

Disclaimer:

I agree with you that; Man made Religions and their Dogmas have been a poor example of what the God of the Bible has revealed.

Why Oh Why

The Argument For Human Reason

1c.) It's human of us to think critically

there are 5 prevailing enemies of faith

which are (1) unbelief, (2) worry, (3) doubt, (4) fear and (5) human reasoning.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

Is "reason" anti God?

ABSOLUTLEY NOT.

Remember now – reason is not part of our spiritual complexion **ALONE.**

Reason is part of our total make up as humans.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole **spirit, soul,** and **body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Soul, Minds is Were Reason Lives. It is our Psychology.

Because It's our Psychology, reason can only take us so far.

Acts 17:11

These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

**The Bible Calls Upon All Humans To Exercise Reason But Not to Stop There – The Very Existence of "Reason" presupposes the factor of Faith.
Why is there Reason and Why does Reason Exist?**

Psalm 19:1

The heavens **declare** the glory of God; and the firmament **shows** His handiwork. (design and design attributes)

Energy + Matter + Time + Space and Who = Meaning?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/22/science/beyond-energy-matter-time-and-space.html>

"Gravity explains the motions of the planets,
but it cannot explain Who sets the planets in motion."

— Isaac Newton

Again – For us Evangelicals, the Bible, and only

the Bible, is our final guide-word for all matters of faith and practice and I would add science. The Scriptures encourage humanity to use reason. The Bible encourages people to think; to weigh and evaluate the truth and to discern what is right and wrong.

What the Bible is against is unaided human reason

that attempts to judge Scripture. None of us are in a position to judge Scripture; it is to judge us! Therefore, reason must always submit itself to the truth of God's Word. This is the way that God intended it to be.

1 Timothy 6:20

O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge **21** by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith.

Luke 24:13-27

Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. **14** And they talked together of all these things which had happened. **15** So it was, while they **conversed and reasoned**, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. **16** But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. **17** And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?" **18** Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?" **19** And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, **20** and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. **21** But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. **22** Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. **23** When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. **24** And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see." **25** Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! **26** Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" **27** And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

If God is the God He says He is – Then That Changes Everything !

"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,

The Principia: Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy

End of Study

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