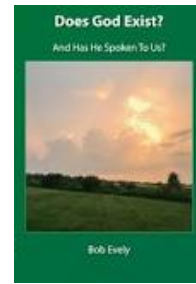


Excerpt from  
**Does God Exist, And Has He Spoken to Us?**

*Bob Evely (2021)*



One hundred years ago a preacher could hold his Bible up and proclaim, “This is the word of the Lord.” And those hearing this proclamation believed it to be so without question. But skepticism has grown. Men and women have become less concerned with the spiritual things of God, and more concerned with living life in the material world. The Bible no longer commands the respect it once did. It is no longer deemed to be an authority or a guide to life.

At the beginning of Chapter 1 of his excellent book, “God’s Eonian Purpose” (1929), Adlai Loudy states the importance of considering this matter as follows:

*“Are the Scriptures of God or man? is a question uppermost in many honest hearts today. In other words, Did God write them, or are they simply a collection of the writings of men? If they are simply a collection of man’s writings, without divine guidance, then they are no more reliable than fallible man. But if God wrote them, they must be true and we can depend on their admonitions and teachings, prophecies, and promises.”*

There are still many believers in God, and in Christ, and in the Bible; but they are not equipped to explain to others why THEY should believe. The argument is, at times, “because the Bible says it is so.” But why should those throughout the world believe the Bible is legitimate? Today’s believer is not equipped to answer this question. And that is the reason I am writing this book.

Many today talk about the immortality of mankind, and they espouse their beliefs about what happens once this life has ended. But what makes us think we are immortal? Do we base this on wishful thinking, human reasoning, or perhaps the philosophers of old?

Death is inescapable. We will all face death at some point. The question is – on what will we depend regarding that which will happen *after* death?

I contend that when this life is over there will be *nothing* we can depend upon other than God. He created all things including life itself, and it is *He* Who decides what will happen next. And since I believe the Bible is God’s revealed word to us (as I will substantiate in the remainder of this work), I contend that God will raise us from the dead and *make* us immortal at the time of His choosing; and not before. I contend that while the resurrection of Jesus was a supernatural, historic event – it is in fact much more than that! It was a demonstration of God’s plan for all of us. But we can depend only upon Him to make this happen.

But this is certainly far better than relying upon human reasoning, or wishful thinking, or the speculations of a philosopher. God created! And He will carry out His plans in full for His creation!

I believe the Bible is God’s revealed word to mankind; and my purpose in writing here is to explain WHY I believe this to be so.

This is not intended to be a scholarly thesis. I want to present the evidence at a high level in such a way to get my reader’s attention, causing them to contemplate the basic thoughts

I will share, and to dig deeper with further reading if they wish to learn more. (And I sincerely hope this does happen!)

While some of the thoughts I will share are original, much has been culled from a variety of sources. The book I started with and from which many of my points were derived is “The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict” by Josh McDowell. I will not for the most part quote specific references from this book, nor the sources quoted by McDowell in producing his book. I will simply say to you – if you want to dig deeper into any of the points I make, start with McDowell’s excellent book. It is an encyclopedia of evidence supporting the conclusion that God is the Creator of this world and universe, and that the Bible is His revelation to mankind.

Upon revisiting McDowell’s book many years after my initial reading, I supplemented by digging through other books on my shelves. I provide references to these sources along the way so you can examine them for yourself. One in particular that I highly recommend is “Who Moved the Stone?” by Frank Morison. The author was a journalist who set out to disprove the resurrection accounts found in the Bible but found that upon closer scrutiny these accounts rang true as accurate historical accounts. This book is very engaging and is most worthy of the reader’s time.

My objective, then, is to stay high level in this overview, simply pointing you to the many pieces of evidence that I have considered and that have shaped my understanding of God, His creation, and how He has chosen to communicate with mankind.

Some will have objections before we begin an objective view of things. Why? Because they will not want to even consider there MIGHT be *objective, absolute truth* that would impose moral values or condemn certain behaviors in any way. They will not want to believe there is a God, and that He has certain absolutes built into His created order or into any written revelations that originated with Him. They might go so far as to say that all truth is relative, and what is true for one may not be true for another.

But when it comes to historical truth, things either happened or they did not. Jesus either existed, or he did not. He was either resurrected from the dead, or He was not. The Bible has been passed down through the ages in reliable form, or it was not. God has either used men and women to preserve His revelation and pass it down to us, or He has not. We can only seek to discover that which is, in fact, the truth.

And if there is a Creator, and if He created the universe, and if He made certain revelations to mankind that He would like for us to know, and if He has a purpose in His creation, and if there is a blueprint that will guide us along life’s path – then we can either objectively examine the evidence available to us to reach our conclusions about these things, or we can turn away.

Hopefully with issues of this magnitude and that possibly have such great bearing upon our lives, we will choose the former.

And as for critics of God and anything spiritual, as Gilbert West says in “A Defense of the Christian Revelation,” – *Whoever has either neglected or refused to make this examination can have no right to pass his judgment upon Christianity.*