

WHERE TO GO FROM HERE

Review (Taken from *Christianity in Crisis* by Hank Hanegraaff with slight modifications.)

The foremost attack on God is through the *theory* of evolution. To combat this theory remember **F-A-C-E**. You've all probably seen the artist's renderings of faces of missing links in science textbooks.

F = Fossils. The fossil record has not supported the theory as Darwin stated it would. The missing link (not to mention the thousands of missing links) has never been found.

A = Ape-men. The many ape-men frauds. Pithecanthropus erectus (Java man) was proven to be a gibbon and 60 years after his having been discredited he still appears in some textbooks. Nebraska man was shown to be a rare pig.

C = Chance. The statistical odds of the universe and man having randomly evolved is off the chart and scientists must throw science out the window to believe in the theory of evolution.

E = Entropy. The second law of thermodynamics (entropy) states that everything goes from complexity to randomness and disorder . the exact opposite of what the theory of evolution states. Again, scientists must throw real science out to believe.

To prove the Bible, simply remember **M-A-P-S** which are in the back of most Bibles.

M = Manuscripts. We have stronger manuscript support than any other work of classical literature, including Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Caesar, and Tacitus. Many of the accounts are eyewitness testimony and were written in their lifetimes. Extra-biblical sources back up the biblical accounts (Josephus, Pliny the Younger, Tertullian, etc.).

A = Archeology. The more we dig in the ground the further the Bible is proven. Archeology has *never* disproven the biblical account, but has, over the years, proven previously disputed passages.

P = Prophecy. The Bible stands apart from all other religious works because of its predictive prophecy. It contains hundreds upon hundreds of already fulfilled prophecies while its next nearest competitor only contains one . that Muhammad would return to Mecca. And I'm going to work in the morning

S = Statistics. It is statistically preposterous that any or all of the Bible's very specific, detailed prophecies could have been fulfilled by chance, good guessing, or deliberate deceit.

Our faith is dead without the **F-E-A-T** of Jesus' resurrection.

F = Fact. The resurrection is an undeniable fact. This is the opinion of Dr. Simon Greenleaf, Royall Professor of Law at Harvard, the greatest authority on legal evidence on the 19th century.

E = Empty Tomb. The Jews at the time could not even deny it. The body was never produced and no alternative theory has ever withstood scrutiny.

A = Appearances. The risen Christ was no hallucination. He was witnessed by many people, including over 500 at one time. He was physically touched and ate in their presence.

T = Transformation. Look at the radical transformation in the lives of the disciples. They willingly died for what they believed. Look at how the church was formed and how it has transformed the history of man.

Pascal's Wager

Pascal, the famous French mathematician whom the computer programming language is named after, came up with an interesting wager. If you bet that the Gospel is false you have nothing to gain and everything to lose. If on the other hand you bet that it is correct, you have everything to gain and nothing to lose. This is highly simplified, but essentially correct. Why are so many people betting on the worst possible hand?

How to use apologetics within the scope of witnessing.

More often than not, it is what you *are* rather than what you *say* that will bring an unbeliever to Christ. This, then, is the ultimate apologetic. For the ultimate apologetic is: your life. William Lane Craig

When rebutting an unbeliever who is involved in a cult or other world religion you may easily find yourself at odds based on the personal experiences you've both had. I know my religion is true because of what happened in my life. At this point agree to disregard personal experiences since you've both had them (Satan can fake a personal experience as an angel of light (2 Cor 11:14)) and this is a logical step in finding the truth. Logically they both cancel each other out. Where does this leave the other person? Usually with nothing. And you've got ten weeks worth of apologetic reasoning (historical, philosophical, scientific, logical, etc.) to get started with.

Apologetics can be used to:

Defend the faith

Strengthen one's faith

Contend for the faith (qualifies one to rebut false theology and worldviews)

Where to go from here (what to read)

Intermediate Apologetics:

Love Your God With All Your Mind . J.P. Moreland (will hurt your head as it expands)

Reasonable Faith . William Lane Craig (historical background on many issues)

Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics . Norman Geisler . THE encyclopedia

Evangelism Explosion . James Kennedy (Excellent tool for practicing apologetics)

Cracking the Bible Codes . Jeffrey Satinover (deep overview of the history and science behind the bible codes)

A Ready Defense . Josh McDowell (the apologetics encyclopedia)

Anything by C.S. Lewis (*Mere Christianity* is the place to start, but *The Screwtape Letters*, *The Problem of Pain*, and *The Pilgrim's Regress* are excellent)

We should know our subject profoundly and share it simply. An unnamed professor.