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*This is my very brief presentation of reasoning, testimony, and assurance related to what I believe is a more accurate and informed world view than what is common. I hope that it will prompt the reader to further study of these topics.*

## **1. The Creation Points to God**

The complexity, scale, and countless details, laws, and workings of the universe and the living things in it, virtually scream that they were designed and created by an awesome intellect. Such a powerful and intelligent source falls under the definition of God.

Clearly, this God has worked on a huge scale, while also creating great detail and sophistication at a very small scale - at the subatomic level, and in the microscopic and highly complex elements of life, such as DNA. It is all too complex, interdependent, artistic, and amazing to have come about by chance.

It would take limitless faith to believe that the universe and the life forms in it originated by chance. The creation is witness to the incredible intellect and power of God, by way of which God must be recognized as in authority over creation.

## **2. God's Inspired Instruction Book**

If this awesomely intelligent God designed and created human beings for a special positive purpose, as opposed to a whimsical or evil purpose, that God would have caringly provided essential instructions to guide and inform those human beings.

In comparing the scope, content, and origin of the texts of various religions, the Bible stands out as far superior. The God of the Bible provides a Savior for mankind, who will return again and bring peace to the earth. Numerous Bible prophecies have come to pass, while those concerning future events remain to be fulfilled.

Continuity of Bible content spans thousands of years and many writers. In various Bible versions there are a number of serious translation errors, and instances of spuriously added text. And it is surely God who has insured that the nature of these errors is known and available to those seeking accuracy.

## **3. Choice for Angels and Mankind**

If God exists, and the Bible is God's instruction book, Bible content must be given credibility. And so per the Bible, angels also exist, as do those angels who rebelled against God, led by Satan the devil. The Bible is quite clear that God gave choice to angels, and later to mankind, beginning with Adam and Eve. Seeking harmony with God is then ultimately voluntary. The loving and selfless vision of God is to save humanity to be part of a great family and kingdom, while yet granting choice to those invited.

### **3. Choice for Angels and Mankind (continued)**

God is portrayed as a God of love. In turn, the times that God has ended the lives of human beings, such as the Flood, and the later destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, must be viewed as tough love, in order to make salvation possible for those individuals at a later time under better conditions. God's plan provides a resolution to the rebellion and deceptive work of Satan, and the poor choices made by mankind.

### **4. A Future Salvation Period for the Unsaved**

God loves all mankind, and Jesus was crucified to pay the penalty of their sins. This is part of the plan of God by which all can be saved, if they so choose. The purpose for Jesus returning to earth for a 1000 year millennial period and beyond is to complete the work of salvation for those who had insufficient conditions, education, or opportunity to be saved before they died.

The unsaved dead are not yet lost. A loving God will not punish the unsaved with an eternity of torment. Nearly all words translated "hell" in the Bible simply mean "the grave." Jesus has the keys to death and the grave to raise the unsaved dead back to life. The reasonable consensus is that most folks die unsaved. If they were all consigned to everlasting torment, then Satan would be the clear winner of his contest with God.

Everyone who dies will find themselves alive again. God's plan will heal the unsaved dead in mind and body, will grant them a spirit of understanding, and time to live the kind of beneficial life God intended. While anyone can choose to reject God and permanent life, it would seem irrational for anyone to do so, once given understanding. Anyone who would reject salvation will receive permanent death, not torment.

The unsaved dead are not resurrected until the end of the millennial period. Satan, who shares responsibility for the sins of mankind, will be restrained. Folks will be judged by the expression of their hearts during a second physical life. During that time, Jesus and those already saved will provide guidance.

### **5. Communication with God**

An awesome and caring God would provide a means for individuals to communicate with Him, which would fall under the definition of prayer. The Bible reveals God as a spirit being, and teaches that the power and working of spirit is far superior to the physical. Prayer is a spiritual connection with God.

Many personal experiences confirm that God hears and answers sincere prayers. Likewise, God sometimes initiates communication. The Bible documents God speaking audibly to human beings, or in visions, dreams, and through angelic messengers.

Most typically, God communicates thoughts and understandings to Christians through His Holy Spirit. Of course there are skeptics without the experience of prayer, who are not inclined to test whether it is possible to have a candid and immensely valuable personal relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ.

## **6. In the Image of God**

Human beings clearly possess an intellect far beyond other living creatures. Capabilities of human beings have been provided as part of God creating mankind in His image. Individual talents and gifts reflect degrees of God's qualities on a smaller scale. Human attributes provided by God include the ability to create, desire to explore, desire for relationships, sense of humor, search for meaning, and ability to love.

Clearly, God selflessly desires to share His nature and existence with human beings, and live in a family relationship with them. This is why all who have died unsaved, including those whose first lives God ended out of "tough love," are not forgotten by God.

The Bible plainly states that God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked, and desires that all repent and choose eternal life. In turn, they will be given full opportunity to become the eternal children of God.

## **7. Permanent Life or Permanent Death**

Human beings are a creation in progress, destined to one day become immortal spirit beings. For a human being's essence to survive the death of the body, it must be in a non-physical form, which falls under the definition of spirit.

We are truly spirits in physical bodies, yet without innate immortality. Our bodies can be replaced with far more capable and eternal spiritual bodies if we enthusiastically pursue harmony with God. While "every knee will bow and every tongue will confess," it is only fair that anyone who didn't choose to be born, and who rejects God's vision, can elect permanent death.

No loving God would torment such individuals, let alone forever, as most of prevailing Christianity teaches. A god who would torment folks forever would have to be considered the most sadistic and cruel being in the universe.

## **8. God Will Gracefully Reach Every Person**

A truly loving God would reach every one of His human children - healing them, teaching them, and loving them - providing full opportunity for salvation, no stone left unturned.

A truly awesome God surely could not create a more noble, principled, caring, loving, and gracious being than Himself. In turn, if any human being can imagine a plan by which the unsaved dead could be resurrected, healed in their hearts and minds, helped to learn about God, and given time to apply and decide about what they have learned, then of course God has already planned to do so. And of course this plan will also provide for babies and children who died before maturity to grow up and understand.

And in fact, this full chance plan is clearly described in the Bible. It is a plan of the greatest love and grace that, most ironically, is ignored by prevailing Christianity. One may have more enthusiasm for the true God, who is more loving, kind, and graceful than the common conception.

## **9. Eternity Features Great Relationships**

The experience of permanent life in the family of a wonderful God is about great relationships. Eternity provides endless time for relationships to develop and grow. In turn, one can have many great friends forever.

Anything worthwhile that is lost in this life can be found or recreated. Friends and family will be reunited and reconciled. There will be plenty of time to learn new things, pursue creative efforts, and work with others on any number of different projects and activities.

Life can be lived as it should be lived on a far superior level. The Bible explains that evil, death, pain, and crying will no longer exist. God knows that sharing His existence will be more than worth it to His children. It would be irrational for anyone to reject such an incredible permanent life, though of course the choice is in their hands.

## **10. God is in Your Future and Can Also Be in Your Present**

God exists, you are His creation, and His Bible invites us to communicate with Him. So in turn, such communication is possible, and a very good idea.

Also, if God exists, and life after death is part of God's plan, then one's future is unavoidably entwined in that plan of God. In turn, what happens after death should be a topic of intense inquiry. Ironically, many individuals make little or no effort to inquire or learn about what may happen with them after their death.

Everyone who dies will live again. In turn, it would seem to be a great idea to be seeking harmony with God now. God seeks not simply willing, but rather enthusiastically willing children who share His vision.

One can support God's vision now by helping folks in physical and/or spiritual need, and pointing them toward an incredible eternal life. While service is its own reward, and one of the blessings one may have now, there are far greater and limitless blessings for those who become part of an everlasting family in the Kingdom of God.

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