Answering Atheists: 100 Questions from Atheists

This is taken from the Atheist Republic web site

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • January 1, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2020

I. "If there is a God, why is there no compelling evidence for his existence?"

A. What would the atheist consider as compelling evidence?

B. Why does the existence of the universe not qualify as that evidence?

C. Why does the existence of Jesus Christy not qualify?

II. "Who is the creator of God?"

A. This is an attempt to use one of our arguments against us.

1. We say: Where did everything come from?
2. We say: Did it create itself?
   a) So they then ask:
   b) Where did God come from?

B. You have to have an Uncaused First Cause.

1. Something that itself was not created, but that created everything else.
2. The question is: What is that Uncaused First Cause?

C. I view it this way:

1. Everything that exists is one of two things or both:
   a) Matter or Mind
   b) Something, such as humans, are both.
2. Therefore, the question becomes:
   a) Did Matter create Mind? or
   b) Did Mind create Matter?
      (1) Which came first: The chicken or the egg?
      (2) Which came first: Mind or Matter?

D. How do we go about answering that question?

1. Does Matter show evidence of design?

2. Does Mind show evidence of having come from Matter?

III. "How did God use to exist without space and time or before the Big Bang event?"

A. What is the assumption or assumptions here?

1. That God exists within the universe only.
2. That God does not exist outside of the universe.
3. That the universe is the only thing that exists.
4. That God came after the universe.

B. In the mind of the atheist, if there is a God, He came from the universe or it created Him.

C. This goes back to which came first, Matter or Mind?

IV. "How did God become full of magic and strength and supremacy without any complex phase of evolution of his own?"

A. What does the atheist assume here?

1. That everything that exists arrived by some form evolution.
2. That even a god or God is subject to natural laws.
   a) However, natural laws did not make God, but
   b) He made the natural laws.
      (1) Natural laws reflect spiritual laws.
      (2) Nature is not above Him, He is above nature.

B. From the atheist perspective there had to be six applications of evolution:

1. Cosmic evolution: the origin of time, space, and matter from nothing in the "big bang"
2. Chemical evolution: all elements "evolved" from hydrogen
3. Stellar evolution: stars and planets formed from gas clouds
4. Organic evolution: life begins from inanimate matter
5. Macro-evolution: animals and plants change from one type into another

6. Micro-evolution: variations form within the "kind"

C. You will also notice a stab at miracles, calling it magic.

1. What is magic?
2. What is a miracle?
3. So what is the difference between the two?
4. Which did God do?

V. "What is the gender of God?"

A. Does God have a gender?

B. If not, why not?

VI. "If God has gender, what gave him gender?"

A. Already answered.

VII. "If God has no gender, what rendered him genderless?"

A. What is the problem with this thinking?

B. The question assumes that God is of the flesh.

1. God is not inherently flesh.
2. Can He take on flesh?

VIII. "If God has no gender, why do his followers address him as a male?"

A. How do you answer this question?

B. That is the way God chose to reveal or to illustrate Himself.

1. Can't He reveal Himself in the way that He desires?
2. Could He have revealed Himself in the feminine gender?
   a) Why did He chose one and not the other?
   b) All of this is a quibble to try to discredit God as God.

IX. "Why is God constantly testing humans if he knows everything already?"

A. Why do teachers perform tests?

1. Is it for the benefit of the teacher?

2. Can teachers generally know how certain students will do?

B. God tests for our benefit.

1. Also, He is a fair God.

2. He will not merely make a declaration about someone without showing how that person is that way.

X. "How do incidents go out of God's control if he is omnipotent and well aware of everything that has happened and will happen?"

A. Have any incidents gone out of His control?

B. It seems this question is designed to show

1. that since things have not gone as God wanted them to,

2. He is not truly omnipotent.

C. How do you answer people's objections that if God knows everything and is all powerful, how could He go ahead with creation, knowing that man would sin?

XI. "Why are there so many flaws in God's creation if he is omnipotent?"

A. Ask them to name flaws.

B. Assuming the flaws, how do we answer this question?

1. Everything was perfect in the beginning.

2. Something happened to ruin creation.

a) What or who ruined creation?

b) If man ruined creation, why didn't God just destroy it all?

XII. "How can God take 6 days to create the whole universe while he is omnipotent?"

A. Did God have to create everything in 6 days?

1. Could He have created everything in 6 seconds?

2. Could He have used evolution to create everything in 6 billion years?

B. We believe that God created everything in 6 days because that is what He said that He did.

C. One answer is that He created a pattern for Israel to follow in the Sabbath.

1. Exodus 20.8–11
2. Since He is God does that mean He has to do everything instantaneously?
3. Does He have a choice on how long He wants to do something?

XIII. "Why does God feel so insecure over what puny humans do if he is omnipotent?"

A. He created us.

B. He created us with a purpose.

1. Do we do better if we fulfill our purpose?
2. Explain the nature of sin.
   a) Sin grows.
   b) Genesis 4.6–7

C. He loves us and wants the best for us.

1. The creation of the Garden of Eden, and
2. the hope of eternal life in heaven shows
   a) that He wants the best for us.
   b) Therefore, what we do does not threaten His omnipotence.

XIV. "Why does God become angry and jealous if he is only good?"

A. Is anger or jealousy ever good?

B. Do atheists ever get angry or jealous?

C. Why does God become angry and jealous?

1. He has the right to demand exclusive loyalty from us.
2. The things that we do to make God angry or jealous are things that hurt us.

XV. "If God is everywhere, why cannot his presence be measured?"

A. The answer is in the question.

B. He is everywhere, that is the measurement of His presence.

1. Psalm 139
2. If He is God, how can you measure anything about Him?

XVI. "How can God be everywhere if he is on the throne in the seventh heaven or at somewhere in the heavens?"

A. Good question.

B. We would have to clarify whether there is a "seventh heaven," but

1. we do not want to get distracted on it.
2. Their point is still the same.

C. Is God present everywhere or is everything present before Him?

XVII. "How can God know who is where and doing what if he is not everywhere?"

A. He is everywhere.

B. Therefore, this question makes no sense.

1. The atheist tries to assume our position for a moment,
2. acknowledging there is a God in heaven.
   a) So they argue if that is true,
   b) He limits Himself on what He can know.

XVIII. "Does God stare at the people when they have sex if he is always watching?"

A. He knew what David and Bathsheba did.

B. He knows when other sexual sins happen.

C. He knew about Onan's sin – Gen 38.6–10.

D. Does this mean that God stares at people?

XIX. "How will God exist forever if everything has an end?"

A. Who said everything has an end?

B. Truly, not everything has an end.

C. The things of the spirit last eternally.

XX. "If God has no image, how are we supposed to imagine him?"

A. We think of Him in the ways that He describes for us.

B. He dwells in unapproachable light – 1Ti 6.16.

C. Are there other things that we cannot see, but we know exist and we think of them in a certain way?

1. Can we see wind?

2. Can we see gravity?

D. However, God did the ultimate thing when Jesus came into the world.

1. Who is Jesus?

2. He was deity in the form of a man.

XXI. "How can God be shapeless and in the same time sit on a throne or give reward with his own hands?"

A. Who said He was shapeless?

B. Also, the Bible uses anthropomorphisms,

1. ascribing man's traits to God,

2. that we might understand Him.

XXII. "If God is everywhere or on a throne in heaven, why do we have to worship a black box or a cross?"

A. We do not know about the Muslim's black box, but we do not worship the cross, we worship the One who hung on the cross.

B. We worship Him now that He is in heaven.

XXIII. "Why are most of the God's followers with low IQ level?"

A. Atheists pride themselves on thinking that they are the smart ones.

1. However, this shows their contempt for people who disagree with them.

2. They need to hear the truth of Proverbs 16.18.

B. They use a manmade measurement of intelligence and then judge the people with whom they disagree.

C. Do they speak the truth with this question?

1. Are there people with high IQs who follow God?

2. However, their question is why are most of God's followers of low IQ.
    a) Consider First Corinthians 1.18–31.
    b) Does that affirm that we have low IQ?
3. Truly, is not the wisest thing to accept that a Designer made all the design that we see in the world?

D. What the atheist wants to do is make it sound as though you are stupid.

1. Can think of any brilliant minds that believed in God's existence?
    a) Have you heard of Isaac Newton?
    b) Almost all scientists of the past were believers, and many are today.
2. Initially, I am tempted to show all the scientists and other fields that atheists value and show how many believers there are.
    a) However, what does that establish?
    b) Each side can simply pile up names, but what does that accomplish?

E. Knowledge is great, but love is better.

1. Corinthians 8.1–3

XXIV. "Why does God want to kill the people who question him while he can question everything?"

A. Ask the atheist for examples.

1. Then examine the passages and
2. be sure to find out the context.

B. Does God kill people for questioning Him?

1. The Book of Psalms shows men asking God questions without dying.
2. [Examples]

C. However, are there not different ways of questioning?

1. We can ask for information, or further insight and understanding.
2. Or we can with a bitter attitude because we are challenging someone, in this case, God.

a) Can man give God the third degree?

b) We have to remember

(1) who God is and

(2) who we are.

XXV."Why does God have the similar characteristics like that of a tyrant?"

A. Ask the atheist to provide the proof.

1. Do not assume that you two have the same picture in mind of a tyrant.

2. What is a tyrant?

B. Does God have commands, expectations, judgment, wrath, et al.?

1. Is He also loving, compassion, providing for all of our needs, giving (especially when you consider the gift of His Son and the brutal treatment He received), et al.

2. Is He not the Creator free to do as He pleases?

C. What does the atheist think of natural laws?

1. The laws of nature can be quite severe or

2. they can be wonderful blessings.

a) God created the laws of nature.

(1) The laws of nature are like Him,

(2) expressing His will on how things should function.

(a) Violate those laws of nature and

(b) suffer the consequences.

i) Does that mean nature is a tyrant?

ii) You could answer yes, but you also know of its benefits.

b) God created the laws of the spirit.

(1) Truly, the laws of nature reflect the laws of the spirit.

(2) He created us and He knows how we should function.

(a) Violate those laws and

(b) suffer the consequences.

i) Does that make God a tyrant?

ii) No, because we need laws in which to function.

(1) He reveals how we can work with those laws and

(2) He shows how violating those laws hurt us.

XXVI. "Why do we find, on regular basis, the less necessity of the God-of-the-gaps arguments and more and more necessity of the god-less theories to explain nature?"

A. First, the atheist needs to answer his own question.

B. They believe that we believe in the God-of-the-gaps.

1. What they mean by that is that when we cannot explain something,

2. we conclude God did it.

C. Yet, atheists believe that science keeps finding more explanations for those previously known things.

1. Therefore, they conclude there is less and less of a need for God.

2. This is pulling many people away from belief in God.

D. Why is it that they think being able to explain a process excludes God?

1. If I can explain the workings of a car, does that dismiss that it had a maker?

2. No scientific or natural law can explain how all living things began,

a) nor how they formed perfectly integrated systems,

E. God is for both the unexplainable and the explainable.

XXVII. "If evolution theory is wrong, then why did God put the vestiges of evolution in human body and DNA?"

A. Vestigial organs or body parts are things that atheists believe

1. we no longer have a use for them, but

2. we did in our evolutionary past.

B. Some vestigial organs:

1. Appendix
2. Tonsils
3. Wisdom teeth
    a) Yet, we keep discovering that there is a use for these or
    b) that they have a use at certain stages of our lives.

XXVIII. "Why did God put a great many dinosaurs on the planet and yet did not mention them in any of the scriptures?"

A. Who said that He did not mention them in the Bible?

B. And why would He have to?

1. There are many animals that He does not mention, but
2. they are included the groups created that are named in Genesis 1.
    a) Examine behemoth in Job 40.15–24 or
    b) Leviathan in Job 41.

C. The purpose of the Bible is not to list every possible critter on the earth.

1. What is the purpose of the Bible?
2. Its focus is upon man.

XXIX. "Why, in the scriptures, was God obsessed with only the sun and the moon while he created billions and billions of other stars and satellites?"

A. He created a home for man.

B. He had purposes for the sun and moon, and

1. He had a purpose for the stars.
2. See Genesis 1.14–15.

XXX. "Why does God only bother about humans in the earth while there are billions and billions of other planets which might be teeming with lives and other issues?"

A. How do you know what God does with other planets?

B. There is no proof that there are billions and billions of planets.

C. What if those planets do not teem with life and other issues?

1. If He is God, He is handling everything according to His will.

2. He does not reveal everything to us, only enough for our salvation.

D. One of your own has asked, "How come earth got all the good stuff?"

XXXI. "If we are in a test of God and the earth is a test-place, then why is the test-place so disgusting and dangerous, e.g. - it is full of diseases, famine, disasters, wild animals, and germs?"

A. Those are the result of man's sin:

> 12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—
>
> – Romans 5.12

B. We corrupted the earth, but He allows it to continue by His grace and we show by our lives whether we want to live in a place where righteousness dwells exclusively.

XXXII. "Why do we have to survive through killing animals if God loves animals?"

A. The Bible says nothing about God loving animals.

B. We do not have to eat animals, but He does allow it.

C. We could ask the same question about plants?

XXXIII. "How will God punish the other animals who commit crimes like murder, rape, theft etc.?"

A. Notice the subtle insertion of evolution when the writer asked about the, "other animals."

B. The truth is the animals of the earth are not on the same level as humans.

1. Animals do not a conscience as we do.

2. They live by instinct.

XXXIV. "Why did God create animals like pig, dog etc. if he hates them?"

A. The Bible does not say that He hates pigs, dogs, and other animals that the Law of Moses considered unclean.

B. Something that was unclean did not mean that it was in a state of sin.

C. Cleanliness and uncleanliness had to do with whether something was ceremoniously qualified or not.

XXXV. "Why did humans use to act like other animals before civilization if there is a God?"

A. First, notice the subtle allusion to us simply being animals.

1. If we are mere animals,

2. should we not act as animals?

B. What exactly does the atheist mean that humans acted as animals?

C. Are there not "civilized" humans that do not act so civilized but as animals?

XXXVI. "Why did God start the human race out of incest and then make incest illegal?"

A. God started with one man and one woman.

1. That would necessitate their children marrying one another.

2. Why would there be anything wrong with it,

a) other than the fact that now there are reasons for it and

b) so it turns us off, but in the beginning things were different.

B. Why is it now forbidden?

1. There is no need for it.

2. Now there are genetic reasons for it, which did not exist then.

XXXVII. "What will happen to the native Indians who never heard of the 'loving' God?"

A. This is why Jesus gave what we call the Great Commission.

B. What happens to anyone who does not gain knowledge that will help them?

1. For example, what happens to people who live in places where medicine is not available?

2. This is why we do all we can to bless the rest of the world.

XXXVIII. "If the native Indians will go to heaven because they did not hear about God, then will not they just be given a pass without any test on the planet?"

A. While it is true that those who know more,

1. more is expected of them,

2. it is also true that there is only one way to heaven.

a) John 14.6

b) Acts 4.12

B. Therefore, the native Indians just like all people on this planet, must come to a knowledge of the truth.

XXXIX. "Why did God create millions of species who are extinct today in the first place if he wanted to make them extinct?"

A. He did not want to make them extinct.

B. When man sinned, death entered into the world.

1. First, animals died when God provided Adam and Eve with skins to wear.

2. Genesis 3.21

C. Man's sin on the earth has changed the earth more than most people realize.

1. Consider Noah's Flood, and how that would have changed:

a) earth's topography,

b) earth's geology,

c) earth's climate, etc.

2. Romans 8.19–22

3. This is why we must stop sinning, including atheists.

XL. "If evolution theory is wrong, then why has God kept so much evidence for that theory?"

A. What evidence does the atheist see that God has kept?

B. First, most of the evidence to which they point came from the Flood.

1. The Flood did not preserve evolution, but

2. the worldwide evidence of a flood
    a) confirms the truth of the Bible,
    b) that there was a massive, global flood.

C. The reason atheists say evolution happened,
1. is that they look at the geologic column, the sedimentary layers, and
2. see creatures at different levels.
    a) This scenario is the basis for what they believe.
    b) However, understanding how creatures would flee from a flood explains what you see in the layers.

XLI. "Why do God's scriptures have serious scientific and logical fallacies?"

A. First thing to do is ask the atheist for an example.

B. Be sure to consider the context of whatever they show you.

XLII. "Why do God's scriptures need human explanation while he said that the scriptures are precise and easily understandable?"

A. Where did God make sure claims?

B. Yet, we do know that we all need teachers to explain things to us,
1. not only in the Scriptures, but
2. in all things in life.
    a) Why do we need instruction in even in the simplest things in life?

XLIII. "Why did none of the God's scriptures clearly say that the earth moves around the sun when it tried to explain the basic astronomy in detail?"

A. The Scriptures were not written to satisfy anyone's curiosity, including the modern atheist.

B. Why did God have to do it as this atheist requests?

C. Also, for the most part the Scriptures speak from man's frame of reference,
1. which is the earth,
2. although it seeks to get us to see things from God's perspective.

XLIV. "Why does God, in the scriptures, sound like nothing but a self-centered narcissist?"

A. Again, ask for examples.

B. Be prepared for what the atheist will present, try to anticipate what he might bring up.

1. They will probably bring up an Old Testament passage, because

2. that is where the atheist finds most of his objections.

a) However, consider a passage you know well,

b) that if you think about it,

(1) you can see how an atheist might abuse this passage, and

(2) so it goes with their handling of Old Testament passages.

3. Study John 4.23:

> 23 "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him."
>
> – John 4.23

a) The atheist would say that this shows a "self-centered narcissist."

b) What do you think?

(1) What if Jesus had said that the Father was looking for people to love Him?

(2) Is it self-centered and narcissist for a God to have worshipers?

XLV. "Why did God keep his message written on the papers some of which are lost or eaten by goats while he could easily send the messages in a PDF format through a pen drive?"

A. How do we know that some of God's messages written on paper have been lost?

1. Would not the atheist have awareness of the so-called lost documents?

2. Do they have a copy of it?

a) If so, it is not lost!

b) Do the references to other documents in the Bible mean that they were God's messages and He unfortunately lost them?

(1) Numbers 21.14

(2) First Kings 14.19

(3) First Corinthians 5.9

B. Would God have done better to send messages in PDF on flash drives?

1. That would require that everyone in every generation have a computer.

2. Can we always count on digital files?

a) No, because the formats change.

b) Eventually digital formats decay.

XLVI. "If everything in the universe must need a prime mover and God is a part of the universe, then what does move him?"

A. Where is it written that God is a part of the universe?

B. He exists outside of the universe because He was before the universe.

1. Ultimately we have to have an unmoved or uncaused First Cause.

2. He is that First Cause.

XLVII. "If God created everything, why do we see virtual particles popping in and out without any creator?"

A. Just because man cannot see things does not mean they are not there.

B. Microscopes of various kinds have shown us a world that we did not know existed before, and there is no doubt that we shall continue to discover things that we could not see before, but an invention will help us to see that it existed all along.

XLVIII. "If everything needs a reason to exist, what is God's reason to exist?"

A. God exists because He has always been.

B. He exists for His own glory.

1. Isaiah 43.25

2. Isaiah 48.9–11

XLIX. "If that some people talk to God is an evidence of his existence, then is some schizophrenic person talks to his pet dragon an evidence that the pet dragon exists?"

A. I have never seen this used as a proof or evidence of God's existence.

B. No, someone talking to God does not mean that He exists.

L. "If we need God to be good, whom does God need to be good?"

A. The atheist equates the Creator with the creature.

B. God is goodness.

1. Our goodness emanates from Him because of who He is.

2. Goodness is inherent with Him.

LI. "Why do almost all of the scientists doubt the existence of God if science proves the existence of God?"

A. Many scientists affirm the existence of God,

1. especially brilliant scientists of the past.

B. Scientists are like anyone else,

1. they have prejudices and biases, and

2. they are subject to pride just as anyone else.

C. The laws of nature are objective, but

1. that does not automatically make scientists objective.

2. Some or even many of them have agendas just like the rest of the population.

LII. "If good cannot exist without bad, then how can God be only good?"

A. Where is it written that good cannot exist without bad?

B. Rather we argue that the existence of bad suggests that there is a good.

1. Otherwise, why does something seem bad to us?

2. Acknowledging that bad exists implies that good against which to judge it as bad exists!

LIII. "Why does God intervene in the daily affairs of humans if he has given them the free will to test them?"

A. How else can they react to a test?

B. If God tests them, then they have to do something, right?

LIV. "Why did God forbid Adam to eat the Apple while he had already known that Adam would have eaten?"

A. God is fair.

B. He does not condemn when an offense has not happened.

LV. "Why didn't God stop the serpent or devil instead of forbidding Adam to eat the Fruit of Knowledge?"

A. The serpent, the devil has free will also.

B. We want free will, but our free will often affects others, whether for good or bad.

LVI. "Will humans be able to live in the heaven peacefully forever with God, or something will become messy again like the Adam and Eve and serpent story?"

A. Shall we be able to sin in heaven?

1. Satan did.

2. Does that mean that we will have that capability?

B. We go through this life that we might show God that we do not want to sin.

LVII. "Why did God need a rib to create Eve?"

A. God did not need a rib.

B. He chose to make the female from the male and then have the male come from the female that they might see their need for one another, and the fact that they both came from God shows how much they need Him.

C. First Corinthians 11.8–12

D. N. B. Hardeman:

> "When the Spirit of God brooded over the garden of Eden, it was observed that the fowls of the air and the beasts of the field had each its respective mate, but that man for whom all else was created was left alone. Thus as a hermit he sighed until woman smiled upon him.

"Out of the dust of the earth man was created. He was akin to the hard rocks and the strong fibers of the trees, able to suffer and endure. When it was no longer good that he should be alone, woman, the sweetest, dearest, and best of all creation was wrought into existence. She was not made from man's head, to be his ruler, nor from his heel, to be trampled under his foot, but from his side, that she might be loved and protected by him. She was then as pure as the lily unkissed by the morning sun, as beautiful as the full-blown rose, as modest as the daisy of the field or the drooping violet, as sweet as the pink, all covered with dew, as graceful as the fern, and as trusting as the clinging vine."

LVIII. "Didn't God know that the creation of Adam would make a lot and lot of people to suffer?"

A. This is an attempt to call God's wisdom into question.

B. God knows everything.

1. However, people suffer through their own choices.

2. Sometimes we suffer because of the choices of others.

C. Do humans manufacture anything that they know could make many people suffer?

1. How about the manufacture of automobiles?

2. What about knives?

D. Should something not be made because someone might suffer?

LIX. "If God tests humans by giving them free will, why doesn't he do the same with the angels?"

A. He does with angels.

B. Satan is the best example.

1. He rejected God, choosing pride (1Ti 3.6).

2. Other angels can and have sinned – See Second Peter 2.4.

LX. "Why did God choose particular people as his chosen people and did not test them?"

A. He did test them.

B. Abraham – Genesis 22

C. Israel – Deuteronomy 8.2–3

D. Christians – First Corinthians 3.11–16; First Thessalonians 2.4

LXI. "Why did not God make me his chosen one?"

A. I would need clarification on this.

1. Does he mean chosen instead of Jesus Christ?

2. Or does he mean simply being a Christian?

B. If he means the former, he is only a creation and not the Creator.

C. If he means the latter, that is a choice the atheist has made.

LXII. "Why will God's chosen people be rewarded because only he chose them and not because they earned the position?"

A. There is much confusion on this issue.

B. It is true that some people teach that we have no choice in the matter, but that is false.

C. Yes, we are saved by grace, but we are also saved by faith (Eph 2.8–10).

LXIII. "Why does not prayer to God work at all?"

A. Why would the atheist make this assumption?

1. They hear people pray in regard to school shootings, but school shootings still happen.

2. There would be other examples of such.

B. The atheist needs instruction in prayer.

1. Christians need instruction in prayer.

2. The atheist thinks that if we pray for something, it should happen automatically.

C. What does the atheist need to know about prayer?

1. He needs to know that prayer is speaking to God.

2. Prayer is not an avenue for us to order God around.

3. He is running the universe, but He listens to what we have to say.
4. Parents run the household, yet they will listen to their children.
   a) Does that mean that everything the children ask for they get?
   b) If not, why not?

LXIV. "Why do the people of the 21st century lead a much more healthy and happy life than people before the 21st century if God cares for all the humans of all the ages?"

A. Do not assume that people in ages past did not live healthy lives.

B. How did people live the long ages in the Bible?

1. For how long did they live long ages before declining to our present limit?
2. Have people elsewhere lived long?

C. Everything needed for healthy living God put in the earth, but we have to learn how to use it.

1. God will not do everything for us.
2. He provided what we need, then we have to figure it out.

LXV. "Why does God give some people more time than the others in his test, for example- someone dies at the age of 30 and another one dies at the age of 90?"

A. This goes back to the kind of world that we live in.

B. It is a sin-cursed world where God allows us to exercise free choice.

1. Therefore, we are subject to the harsh realities of nature.
2. Since we have free choice, God does not constantly intervene.

LXVI. "Why is God jealous and angry over the other 'gods' if they do not exist?"

A. It is not that He is jealous and angry other the gods, but

B. He is jealous in regard to His people.

1. He is loyal to them.
2. They should be loyal to Him.

LXVII. "Why does God test humans by afflicting them through diseases and disasters while this is already a test of whether we praise him or Satan even though he is not visible?"

A. There seems to be more than one question here.

B. How can you tell whether faith is genuine if it is not tested?

LXVIII. "How does God blame humans for their actions while he predestined everything for them?"

A. God did not predestine everything for humans.

B. Denominational error hurts the cause of Christ.

LXIX. "How would God respond to the fact that many people commit crime because of their psychological and environmental predispositions and not according to their own will?"

A. Everyone is accountable for their actions.

B. How does the atheist respond to crime?

1. Would he call the police?

2. Would he hold the people accountable?

C. God judges in righteousness with mercy.

LXX. "Why does the first person in the planet have to wait for millions of years and the last person have to wait for only a few minutes for the judgment day of God?"

A. First, we question the length of time assumption of the atheist.

B. However, once a person dies, they enter into eternity.

1. Thus, the concept of time has vanished.

2. This sentence then makes no sense.

a) There are advantages and disadvantages of everything in life.

LXXI. "How are humans filled with flaws if they are the best creatures of God?"

A. Adam and Eve sinned, bringing sin and death into the world.

B. Unfortunately we often use our free choice for sinning.

LXXII. "If Satan is bad and God is his creator, doesn't it make him a bad creator or the creator of evil?"

A. Satan was not originally evil.

B. Satan sinned as we do, because he wanted to sin.

C. First Timothy 3.6 shows that Satan fell because of pride.

LXXIII. "Why did not God destroy Satan and save humans from committing sin?"

A. I do not know whether we can know why God did not destroy Satan, but

1. we do know that God will send Satan to hell some time in the future.

2. The question assumes that Satan makes us sin.

a) We are responsible for our own sin.

b) While Satan is known as the tempter,

(1) ultimately we still have final control over ourselves.

(2) James 1.13–15 shows that it is our desires that draw us away.

(a) Therefore, we cannot blame everything on Satan.

(b) We sin because we want to sin.

B. Atheists will assume our arguments and then

1. seek to discredit God and

2. blame Him, just like Adam did, for what has gone wrong in the world.

C. I posed the question to some preachers:

1. Randal Matheny: "Because by doing so God would have not respected man's free will."

2. Bill Turner: "Hi Don, thanks for asking, this is a great question with a great answer. Free will is what God gave us when He created us "in His image" (genesis 1:26). However freewill allows the choice not only of good but also of evil (genesis 3). So why did God give humanity and spiritual beings like angels freewill knowing it would also cause harm? Because love requires freewill choice. Without freewill there is no love, because love requires a choice. The sad part is that freewill allows the choice for love and the choice to refuse love. But without a choice there is no love only compulsion. God wanted creatures who can share loving re-

lationships with Him and each other, and therefore the choice of good and evil was necessary."

3. Dale Manor: "While the atheist would not like the answer nor would he agree, loyalty and love must be options--hence a choice. Without that option, we would simply be beings programmed sort of like robots."

4. Ron Thomas: "Thank you for adding me to your list of men you would like to hear a thought ot two from. Why did not God destroy Satan and save humans from committing sin? Or, another way to ask this, "Why did not God create man with free-will and at the same time not capable of sinning?" The origin of Satan is its own discussion, but if "he" was a created being with free-will, then "his" free-will acted and it is now used by the Lord for His purposes. Is this morally wrong? Ask the atheist if it is. If he says yes, ask, what transcendent moral code that is greater than man would he use to so judge. To answer your question. James 1:12-18. Simplistic? Perhaps, but I can offer no better answer than this. God created man with free will; with that free will, he has to be allowed to choose for or against the standard of God (good). An outside source enticed him. Why this outside source exists in the first place is beyond my knowledge level, so I theorize. Forgive me if this answer fails to assist you as you work through this. I am interested in what kind of replies you get from other brothers."

5. Steve Lloyd: "I guess I would ask for clarification on what he meant by ""destroy" because Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil, and did so on the cross. Perhaps his ultimate demise will be in the end, and he has saved people from committing sin when they repent and walk in the light. On another slant, If God had made us in a way that we could not sin, there would have been no freedom, or love. It requires freedom, the kind we are talking about, to genuinely love God by choice. The cross is where much of what this question centers, because it was there that most of the work to both parts of the question took place. No doubt, there would probably a follow up question or more to address, but I think this is where I would begin."

6. Jim Lloyd: "Wow, interesting question! If the atheist was a jerk I might respond by asking "What God?" Since his question presumes the existence of God. However, I find that to be a fair question from a serious Bible student. I'm sure there are smart people responding to your email so my thoughts may be rather elementary by comparison. Seems to me that God prefers to be in the business of creating and not destroying (using the word to mean annihilation). God certainly could have exterminated the Devil, but instead He sent Jesus to "destroy the works of the Devil." All who fol-

low in the Devil's way, choosing to live contrary to God's way, will find themselves with the same outcome/consequence - eternal separation from God's benevolent presence. God's decision to NOT destroy Satan is not explicitly revealed in Scripture so I guess I have to say "I don't know," but His decision to allow him to exist is in no way a contradiction or inconsistency with God's goodness.....as you know. Seems to me the most popular argument these days from atheists relates to the existence of evil."

7. Dan Jocoy: "To give atheists & all people free-choice to love & serve God or serve & love themselves."

8. Don Patton: "God did not intend to make puppets. Beings that submit and praise when their strings are pulled are very different from "real live boys." Removing opportunity to sin necessarily removes opportunity for praiseworthy virtue. Puppets are cute. Faithful Abraham, ready to sacrifice his son, because he honestly believes in his creator, is quite different."

LXXIV. "What is the fault of humans if they always commit evil things because Satan magically makes them to do so?"

A. This is already answered in the previous question.

LXXV. "If God is good and Satan is bad, then why do people kill in the name of God but not in the name of Satan?"

A. This is an attempt to call God's goodness into question, but

1. it truly calls into question the ones doing the killing.

B. If this question is meant to challenge God's authorization of killing,

1. whether by the death penalty or

2. when He sends one nation into another,

a) then we have to consider why He would do such.

b) If people, such as the Canaanites, are doing vile things,

(1) then a good God at some point

(2) has to remove the evil.

(a) If He allows evil to go on unchecked,

(b) then we have to call into question His goodness.

C. He gives people time to repent, to reform themselves, but

1. if they refuse and
2. once they go beyond the point of no return,
    a) then He has to wipe them off the face of the earth.

D. People generally do not kill in the name of Satan, because
1. Satan would not authorize the removal of evil by means of death or by any means.
2. He wants evil to continue.
    a) Satan would not cast out Satan,
    b) as Jesus taught in response to criticism in He cast out demons.
    c) See Matthew 12.22–26.

LXXVI. "What if God is actually Satan in disguise?"

A. God fights Satan.
1. Why would Satan show the world him fighting himself?

B. God condemns Satan.
1. Would Satan condemn Satan?

C. Remember what Jesus said when His enemies accused Him of casting demons out of people by the power of Satan.
1. See Matthew 12.25–30.

LXXVII. "What does God do when children die of starvation?"

A. It grieves Him that man has corrupted His perfect world.

B. It grieves Him that others do not help.

C. Therefore, it grieves Him when anyone starves to death.

D. He also receives them graciously into heaven forever where no more suffering exists.

LXXVIII. "How can God watch a person gets raped or murdered and not do anything?"

A. How could God watch man crucify His Son?

B. Why doesn't man listen to God's laws which would prevent rape and murder?

C. Why doesn't man keep the laws that punish evil doers?

LXXIX. "Why does God call humans his slave and make slavery sounds natural?"

A. I do not know that God called anyone His slave, but

1. His followers call themselves slaves for Christ.

2. When you think of slavery do not merely picture the abuses, such as in America, but

a) think of someone who belongs to another.

b) Servanthood can be voluntary.

(1) It can also be a form of punishment,

(2) such as when the Lord sent foreign powers to oppress His sinning people.

B. There are some forms of slavery that God teaches to avoid:

7 The rich rules over the poor,
And the borrower is servant to the lender.

– Proverbs 22.7

23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.

– 1 Corinthians 7.23

LXXX. "Why did God think slavery is permissible?"

A. There is a time and a place for everything.

B. Is slavery always evil?

C. Is slavery ever good?

LXXXI. "Why were humans able to abolish slavery while God could not?"

A. Who were the humans that abolished slavery in the places where it has been abolished?

B. They were people who followed the Scriptures.

1. God could force His way into our lives, but
2. He has given us the tools to remove evil.
    a) It is up to us to use those tools.
    b) We cannot blame Him for the existence of any evil.

LXXXII. "Why does God love revenge and hatred more than mercy and love?"

A. What makes the atheist come to this conclusion?

B. The Scriptures show that He loves mercy and love more than wrath.

1. Isaiah 27.2–5
2. What is the death of Jesus all about?

LXXXIII. "Why does God think that destroying an entire nation is a solution while he could just stop humans from committing any sort of wrongdoing in the first place?"

A. Does the atheist want God stop him from committing any short of wrongdoing?

B. This reminds us of Adam blaming God.

C. Why does God destroy nations or cities, et al.?

1. It is because that nation, city, or whatever has given itself over completely to sin.
2. Genesis 15.16

LXXXIV. "How did God feel like when he destroyed every single life on the earth by drowning?"

A. God gave man the opportunity to repent.

1. Genesis 6.3
2. Noah was a preacher – 2 Peter 2.5

B. However, Genesis 6.5–6 shows

1. that evil filled humanity, and
2. that God was sorry for having made man, because
    a) man had become exceedingly evil,

b) whereas, God wanted man to be holy.

3. Genesis 6.6 also shows that this whole situation grieved the heart of God.

C. How does the atheist feel when humans kill babies in the womb?

LXXXV. "Why will God burn humans forever while he could burn them finitely?"

A. He is God and He could do whatever He desires.

B. Who are humans to question what their Maker has done?

1. Romans 9.20–21

2. Exodus 5

C. No doubt He wanted to motivate man with fear if that is what it takes.

LXXXVI. "If humans think torturing others is bad no matter what, how does God, being an omniscient and benevolent, think it is right?"

A. Do humans think torturing is bad no matter what?

B. What is torture?

C. What is punishment?

D. What is the difference between the two?

LXXXVII. "Why does God take human life by killing them horribly? For example-through crushing under a vehicle?"

A. Does God necessarily take human life in horrible killings?

B. Why do we die?

1. Romans 5.12

2. Sin, our sin, not a problem of God, brought death into the world.

C. Why do some people suffer horrible deaths?

1. You violate a law of nature and you suffer the consequences.

2. We want to drive vehicles, but sometimes we crash and suffer the consequences.

D. Why does the atheist assume that we should be able to live whatever kinds of life we desire, but that God should spare us painful deaths?

1. Who do they think God is?
2. Such thinking is unfair to God.

LXXXVIII. "How will God be burning trillions of humans in hell forever?"

A. He made hell for the devil and his angels, and for anyone who follows the devil.

1. Matthew 25.41
2. Does anyone need to go to hell?
   a) No, God has done great things that no one might go there.
   b) Second Peter 3.9

B. The best thing to do here is simply to follow Jesus Christ and you will not have to worry about hell.

LXXXIX. "How can a pedophilic, sexist, and perverted warmonger be God's most favorite person and friend?"

A. I suspect that this former Muslim, now atheist, speaks of Muhammed.

B. Has God in the Bible used less than perfect humans?

1. Yes, for that is what we all are.
2. God is quick to show their deficiencies.

C. However, what about Jesus of Nazareth?

1. Was He a pedophile?
2. Was He sexist?
3. Was He a perverted warmonger?

XC. "How can a loving God create humans as a fuel of hellfire?"

A. First, He created hellfire for the devil and his angels.

B. Humans who go there, go there by choice.

C. How can a loving God not carry out justice?

1. See Hebrews 10.29–31
2. Also, Romans 1.18–23

XCI. "Why did God make humans fallible even though he knew that their fallibility would lead them astray?"

A. It gave Him the opportunity to show His grace.

B. Our ability to fall comes from our ability to choose.

1. Does the atheist want God to take away the ability to choose?

2. How many times does God forgive us?

XCII. "Why do animals suffer in the nature if suffering is only to test humans' faith in God?"

A. Romans 5.12 teaches that when sin entered the world death came long.

B. It was not just that death came to man, but it came into the world.

1. Therefore, the world suffers for our sin.

2. Consider how the earth suffered for man's sin before the Flood.

C. However, Romans 8.18–22 shows that creation groans because of us and it looks forward to the time when it is released from the bondage to which it has been subjected.

XCIII. "Why do most of the people of God lead an unhappy and unhealthy life?"

A. Do *some* of the people of God lead unhappy and unhealthy lives?

1. Yes.

2. However, do the few represent the whole?

a) Are there unhappy and unhealthy atheists?

b) Yes, but that does not mean that they all are.

B. The vast majority of Christians that I know are happy and healthy people.

C. However, we need to be mindful of how what others see in us.

1. Matthew 5.13–16

2. Romans 2.17–24

XCIV. "Why does God not talk to women?"

A. This might be a criticism of Islam.

B. However, what do we find in the Bible? Has God spoken to women?

1. He spoke to Eve.
2. He spoke to Hagar.
3. He spoke with Mary.

C. It is true that for the most part God spoke to men.

1. Why is that?
2. If He is God, He can do as He pleases.

XCV. "Why does God not make women as his chosen one?"

A. If God had made His Chosen One, the Christ, a woman, I have no doubt that man, such as atheists, would question why He did that.

B. He can do as He pleases.

XCVI. "Why did God make women the victim of men's lust?"

A. God made men and women with the ability to choose.

B. What does the ability to choose mean?

1. Sometimes people will make bad or even evil choices.
2. Sometimes those decisions hurt other people.

C. Do women lust for men?

XCVII. "Why do women have to endure unbearable pain while giving birth when God could just make the process of giving birth painless?"

A. Apparently, He did make birth painless initially, as I believe the curse put upon Eve and women, implies.

B. The atheist wants a world where he or she can do anything that he wants, and then expects God to spare him of any suffering.

C. Genesis 3.16 shows why God made childbirth painful.

XCVIII. "How can a 'loving' God lead humans astray or blind them by sealing their mind?"

A. The atheist needs to present examples from Scripture.

B. Man chooses to go astray and God will let them go astray, even help them along, that they might see the evil of their ways.

C. Second Thessalonians 2.8–12

D. Isaiah 66.3–4

XCIX. "Why did God promise to destroy the planet but did not promise to save the planet?"

A. He did promise to save the planet after He destroyed its surface with a flood, at least until He destroys it by fire.

B. Genesis 8.22

C. He has planned a new heavens and a new earth.

1. Isaiah 65.17

2. Isaiah 66.22

3. Second Peter 3.13

a) What will be different about the new heavens and new earth?

b) Righteousness will dwell, that is exclusively.

4. Revelation 20.11; 21.1

C. "The big one: We are on this planet for at least 200,000 years and we are suffering and suffering only with a little bit of momentary happiness. Why does not the dear God just say -- 'that's it! There are now trillions of people who would live in my hell according to my rules. I have had enough of it. I will not let any of my other creatures to get inside of the hell or to suffer. I will reveal myself and destroy Satan for good to save my loving creatures from sufferings and doubts'?"

A. That is going to happen.

B. He will end everything.

C. Second Peter 3

1. Verse 9 reveals why He is waiting.

2. What then will the atheist do?

<u>Exhortation</u>:

I. With these questions and your answers,

A. I have shown you something of which you have been unaware.

B. Here it is:

1. You know more than you realize.
2. You are more capable than you realize.

II. However, keep in mind that when speaking with an atheist,

A. do not get frustrated and

B. do not ridicule them.

1. They need to see that you care for them genuinely.
2. They need to see you live out your faith even when under fire from someone like the atheist.

a) How you handle yourself will make an impression on them.

b) You may not see that initially, but

(1) they will think on it, and

(2) they may speak to others of how you handled yourself.

(a) You are planting a seed.

(b) Give it time to grow.

i) This does not mean that you will persuade every atheist.

ii) It does mean that you might turn some.