

The Harvest is Plentiful – Does God Really Exist? Revelation 1:8-9

Before we start answering these big faith questions in this sermon series, let's start with answering the "Why" question... Why do these Q&A's matter?

Because what our faith is built upon matters... it's not blind... ignorant... wishful thinking... Our faith has substance... it's reasonable... intelligent... it bears fruit!

Each question that we will ask, & answer, in this series represents the most common doubts & objections to Christianity... But every question can be answered with a "Yes & Amen!" Let's practice it together... "Yes & Amen!"

Let's start with the most fundamental faith question of all... "Does God really exist?" What is our answer? "Yes & Amen!" But how can be certain?

There are many approaches to providing evidence for the existence of God... We will look at a few this morning, & we'll look at them like a bag of seeds...

Seeds that all bear fruit... with the hope that when planted, that at least some will take root and grow into a good harvest of faith!

1. The Cosmological Seed — Why is there something rather than nothing?

- Whatever begins to exist must have a cause.
- The universe began to exist.
- Therefore, the universe has a cause that is beyond itself.

So what/who caused the universe to begin? It must be something/someone transcendent... immaterial... timeless... and immensely powerful...

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." — Genesis 1:1

2. The Fine-Tuning Seed — Why does the universe permit life?

- The universe has specific conditions necessary for life to happen.
- Those conditions appear to be within an extraordinarily narrow range.
- Is it out of necessity, chance, or design that life exists?

"And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds...'" — Genesis 1:24 Life exists because God spoke it into existence!

3. The Moral Seed — Why are some things objectively right or wrong?

- Why is it right to care for, protect, advocate for a child born & unborn?
- Why is murdering innocent people objectively wrong?
- Why is courage, justice, and compassion genuinely good?

If objective moral values exist, then there must be a transcendent moral

foundation from which they come... God provides such a foundation.

Romans 2:14–15 speaks of the law of God being written on our hearts!

Without the existence of God how would we know the difference between what is objectively right/wrong, & what we simply just like/dislike?

4. The Seed of Reason — Can we trust human reasoning if our minds are ultimately accidental... and just mere physical matter? Brains Vs. Minds...

We rely on our minds to conclude that certain things are true or false (Theism, atheism, evolution, science, mathematics, etc.), but if our cognitive abilities are ultimately only the product of unguided physical processes aimed primarily at survival, why should we assume that those faculties could produce truth?

Human rationality exists because humans are made in the image of a rational God. *Genesis 1:27 – "So God created man in his own image..."*

Consciousness, self-awareness, thoughts, intentions, emotions, the experience of beauty, the ability to contemplate abstract truths... are all outcomes of being created in the image of a conscious & self-aware God!

5. The Existential Seed — Why do we search for meaning?

We are beings who desire to know "why"... to discover greater meaning & purpose in life. We also want to know what lies beyond the grave... Why???

Ecclesiastes 3:11 – "He has put eternity into man's heart..." We live in time, but we have an awareness & longing for eternity that God has placed within us!

6. The Seed of Scripture – Hasn't God made Himself known thru the Bible?

The Bible is more than just a book of stories... it's God's revelation of Himself and His purposes in this world! No other book can claim that & back it up!

When we say that God exists because the Bible says so, it may seem like circular reasoning... but how does the credibility of any claim get established? Evidence... the Bible has substantiative & generational proof!

7. The Seed of Jesus – Hasn't God most clearly revealed Himself in the Son?

Jesus claimed that *"He and the Father are one!"* Then he provided the evidence necessary to believe that it is true – Miracles... Teaching with authority... Resurrection from the dead... Transforming lives...

7 seeds, that when planted can produce a harvest of faith! We're to go & plant these seeds in the lives of those around us trusting in the God of the harvest!

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