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Why I Believe God Is - Part 2

Introduction

Man is a worshipper and when he began to be such, the answer to the question “Why I Believe God Is?” depends on whether one accepts the theory of evolution or the truth of the scriptures. The non-Biblical origin of worship is said to be found in Botswana in the Tsodila Hills. The non-Biblical sources are dependent on ancient paintings, carvings and burial sites such as the Coo Moong Cave in Vietnam. The earliest Biblical record is that of Cain and Abel (Gen. 4:3-4). One thing is certain, man is a worshipper of a supreme being.

- a) Accepting the Biblical record, the original awareness of God was by self revelation and instruction by the parents, namely Adam and Eve. However, the process by which we are made God conscious is both universal and individual.
 - i) Man is inherently aware of a Supreme Being. It is irrelevant if an individual goes to the most remote tribes in the Amazon or the Sahara, there is a God consciousness and man worships. It is not always the true God that is worshipped, but there is the awareness of something or someone greater than man himself. Universally humanity prays to their god, brings gifts, and ever seeks to appease him or her. Many have never heard of the true God and yet they, like the Athenians of old, worship the “unknown god” (Acts 17:23).
 - ii) The normal way by which one comes to know about God is by instruction, rational consideration and spiritual relationship.
 - iii) As individuals we may have been instructed by our parents in the home or by being brought to church where we listened to a preacher or priest speak about God. Like all children, we readily accepted that which the adults and more learned people taught us. Then very possibly as we grew mentally and considered the magnitude of the universe and its order, the wonder of the microscopic world and the perfection and precision of timing, we began to understand this could not come by accident. There had to be a power, an intelligence behind it all.
 - iv) When an individual accepts the Lord as Saviour, the Holy Spirit of God enters into them, and the Spirit of God bears witness to the spirit of the individual that he or she are “the children of God” (Rom. 8:16).
 - v) The question is, “Why do I believe God is?”

I believe God is because there are false gods. and where did they come from?

The counterfeiting of God:

- a) One stark reality is clear, it is only because of the one true God that there are counterfeit gods. It is readily acknowledged that it is impossible to create a counterfeit if there is no true article. It is only because there is a genuine Rolex, or Louis Vuitton handbag that there are counterfeits. The same goes for the existence of God. If there was no true God then there would be no counterfeit gods.
- b) How and why did man reject the genuine for a counterfeit? In the beginning man knew God as the moral governor of the Universe, the Absolute standard by which all else was judged. He was and is the God of one hundred percent perfection, allowing not a single deviation from His perfection in all that man was and did. This God was not to man’s liking, and rather than retraining the reality of God in his heart, man made a god of his own.
 - i) The sort of god he made was that in which he was in awe of, or that which he considered in his mind to be the ideal. The ancient philosopher Paul wrote that man suppressed the truth of God in that they “hold the truth in unrighteousness” (Rom. 1:18). In other words, they sought to extinguish every true likeness of God from their minds and lives. Furthermore, to believe the reality of God means that humanity is completely dependent on God, and humanity did not want to be (in his thinking) curtailed by God (Psa. 2:3). He wanted to be God and act independently according to his own thoughts. Thus, seeking to be “free” from God, man thought and still thinks he can nullify any consequences of disobedience to the laws of God. Man thinks he can exert his own independence, not glorifying God by giving Him thanks (Rom. 1:21) and imagining God can be ignored.

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- ii) In man's devaluing of God but aware of a higher being, man constructed a god of their own imaginations. This is why a country such as India has 33 categories of gods, and when anyone travels the world, then it is evident that almost every culture has its own "god". The totem poles of Canada are related to the gods. But this is not a new thing. The ancient peoples of the middle East had their gods, Rome had its gods, Egypt and Babylon were the same. Man had rejected the God of glory and made counterfeit gods suitable to their lifestyle or things they could not understand.
- iii) Paul wrote, having ignored the majestic glory of God, and the knowledge of God, man makes gods to be like men, birds, animals and creeping things (Rom. 1:23). God honors man's desire to be free from Him, and since man does not wish to restrain God in his mind, God, as it were, steps back. The result is God lets humanity continue in their denial and at the same time ever debasing and gross immorality. How frightening are the words of the Holy Apostle, "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful" (Rom. 1:28-31). The reason for the multitude of counterfeit gods is because man has rejected the true God .

I believe God is because of the universal inherent moral consciousness of man

If God does not exist then there is no moral Absolute. We live in a world of absolutes. Man may say there is no such a thing as an absolute. Failing to see the foolishness of this statement by saying such, he is making a statement purporting to be an absolute. Gravity is an absolute so that if one jumps off a building they will fall. That is an absolute. Why is it if someone robs me of my possessions I expect a penalty? It is because stealing is wrong. If there is no moral standard then who is to say stealing, rape, murder, is wrong? Obviously there has to be a standard by which it can be determined if behaviour is right or wrong. It does not depend on culture or present acceptability of governmental decision making. We live life excusing certain people for doing nothing and judging others for doing the same. Morality is no illusionary thing.

- a) To have a moral law there is a three fold criteria:
 - i) an absolute unfluctuating perfection
 - ii) a standard given by which also is, by its own character, unfluctuating and unchangeable
 - iii) and again by this whatever's character, an absolute unfluctuating and unchangeable truth.
- b) Since honest persons, be they christian, atheistic, agnostic or evolutionist, have to admit that if there is no God then there cannot be moral absolutes. If one admits a universal inherent good irregardless of state or time, then there is evil. To admit there is such a thing as good and evil there has to be an absolute moral law, and consequently a law giver. If there is no moral law then there is no such a criteria as good or evil.

Where does this universal understanding of moral right and wrong come from – an understanding that transcends human opinion? Why does a small child immediately know when they've been treated unfairly or know that it is wrong to have something stolen from them? They know because there is a universal moral law that has been intrinsically woven into them by their Creator.

The choices then are:

- a) Did morality come from the perfection of dead matter?
- b) Was dead matter or culture ever so perfect that it could give a universal standard being absolute truth?
- c) Is there a God who is perfection in Himself, given a universal standard based on unchanging truth?

The answer becomes very clear with the decision of the question: "Does morality owe its origin to that which is amoral dead matter or the God who is moral?"

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Taking the words of another at the time of the coronavirus, "Globally we are witnessing amazing acts of sacrifice, kindness, compassion and caring for those who are suffering in this terrible Corona pandemic. The evolutionary worldview does not promote, require or necessitate any compassion for others. It believes in the "Survival of the Fittest." If anyone believes it seriously and acts accordingly, the result will be disastrous. Evolution/ Atheism has no basic premise or foundation to explain humanity's sense of goodness and morality. They can't logically explain it. They may come up with reasons such as do good for the species, this is our social instinct, co-operation with others as useful to our own ends etc. Ridiculous! The whole idea of rights, worth, dignity, goodness and compassion is meaningless in this purely material Darwinian universe. We are simply another species of animal!! Concepts of rights, worth and dignity emerge from a Biblical worldview of "Imago Dei" - humankind is made in the image of God. Without this theological foundation there is only the "survival of the fittest." In the Darwinian world there is only competition and fight to survive . . . yes, natural selection. Compassion, caring and sacrifice have no logical basis in their worldview.

I am very thankful that I have the God who is not sovereign some times or most of the time, but is always sovereign. He is the cause, and the effect is He loves and cares for me.

. . . .To be continued

. . . Rowan Jennings