

God's Apology

Genesis 1:1-5

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Have you ever noticed how God chose to offer an apology (*a reasoned response in defense of a proposed truth*) for His existence? The biblical approach is fascinating for a number of reasons, perhaps the most interesting being the place given the Bible itself. God's apology for His existence is primarily a matter of Scripture.

Without Apology

- Genesis chapter one introduces God without apology.
- This is quite characteristic of the Bible's general assumption that God's existence is self-evident (Gen. 1:1-5).
- As some need no introduction, God needs no apology.

The Design of Things

- First off, "things" exist. Their existence points to a Creator as the only viable option.
 - A beginning from absolutely nothing.
 - Matter is eternal.
 - A beginning transcendent to and predating matter.
- However, the design of things is a striking confirmation of God's existence (Ps. 19:1; Rom. 1:18-20).

Prophecy

- Only God has the demonstrated ability to predict the future (cf. Isa. 41:21-24).
 - Daniel 2:31-44.
 - Daniel 7:1-28.
- Caution, however, must be exercised; every passage cited as a prophetic proof text is not intended to be "straight line" prophecy (cf. Matt. 15, 17-18, 23).

The Quality of His Word

- When God's word is followed as intended, it speaks for itself (cf. Deut. 4:5-8).
- Light convicts (cf. Matt. 5:14-16).
- When men react apart from prejudice to God's word in action, they readily see its virtue (Acts 2:47).

Mystery

- With all man's knowledge and ability, there is always more not understood than understood (cf. Job 38-41).
- The sheer complexity of creation speaks to an incredible mind existing above it all.

The Absence of Embarrassment in a Prescientific Writing

- Egyptian medical texts from the time of Moses contain beliefs that could only be called ridiculous.
- When fairness is applied to biblical interpretation, however, no such embarrassing statements are found.
- A word of caution. Some of the prescientific "proofs" cited are subject to alternative explanations.
 - Not all Creationists believe there are dinosaurs referenced in the book of Job.
 - Leviathan, for instance, is elsewhere used to reference a pagan creation myth monster and poetically show such mythical creatures were no threat to God (cf. Ps. 74:14; Isa. 27:1).
 - Behemoth was considered by early writers to be the mate of Leviathan in myth.
 - Poetic language prevents a "too" literal interpretation.
 - Both the earth "hung on nothing," and the north "stretched over an empty place" (Job. 26:7) have been abandoned by Apologetics Press as prescientific proofs.
 - The idea may be dealing poetically with the pagan notion of their gods residing in the north.
 - God would be showing that pagan notions are empty and void.

Jesus—"Come and See"

- The most compelling apology for the God of the Bible is Jesus (cf. Jn. 1:1, 14, 18; 14:8-9).
- An increasingly recommended strategy among those who write in the evangelistic field is to begin a study by going through one of the Gospels.
- The best that can be said for a *Jesus-first-approach* is found in John 16:13-14.
 - The primary ministry of the Holy Spirit, the revelation of the New Testament, is to glorify Jesus.
 - The words of Philip are as pertinent today as when first spoken. With reference to Jesus, the best way to dispel doubt is to "come and see."

God has well supplied us with many convicting *apologies* for being the designer of Creation and revealer of truth. Perhaps the most compelling point in all He has provided is the complete self-evident nature of God! We are truly without excuse if we choose unbelief.