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PURPOSE CHURCH 

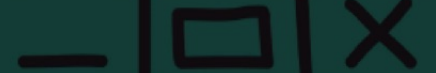
GREAT QUESTION

HOW THE BIBLE ADDRESSES OUR BIGGEST ISSUES WITH GOD | 





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ABOUT GOD, FAITH, AND THE BIBLE**

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DID NOAH'S FLOOD ACTUALLY HAPPEN?



DR. HUGH ROSS
(ASTROPHYSICIST AND FOUNDER
OF REASONS TO BELIEVE)
IS COMING TO PURPOSE ON
APRIL 26





Purpose LIFE GROUPS

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"You never know what **blessings** an unexpected visitor might bring."

- Manswana, Head Teacher
of a school in Simonga, Zambia

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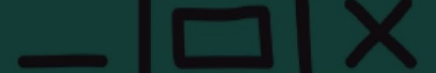
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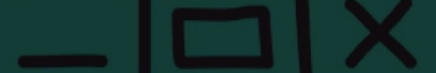
GREAT QUESTION #2:

**HOW CAN YOU BELIEVE THERE'S
ONLY ONE TRUE FAITH?**



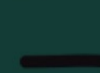


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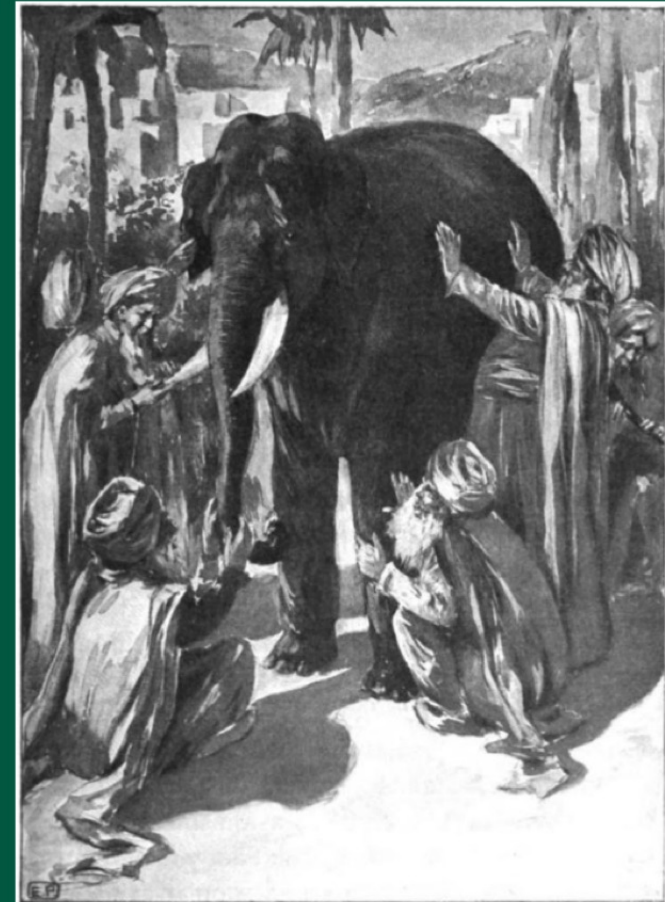
THE PROBLEM WITH THE ELEPHANT ANALOGY





THE ELEPHANT ANALOGY:

Four blind men stumble upon an elephant at the same time. The first blind man touches the **side** of the elephant and thinks it's a **wall**. The second touches the **trunk** and thinks it's a **snake**. The third touches the **leg** and thinks it's a **tree**. And the fourth touches the **tail** and thinks it's a **rope**.





Two Problems with the Elephant Analogy:

1. The analogy demonstrates that each blind man is actually wrong in their understanding of the elephant. **Their conclusions are not equally true**, they are all factually and equally false.
2. The analogy puts the **storyteller** in a **position** of **superiority**. The person telling the story is like the one who can see the whole elephant, while everyone else is "blind." While the analogy sounds humble, it actually says: "All religions are limited and blind, **but not me**, because I can see the full picture."

GOD is too **BIG** to
fit into one religion

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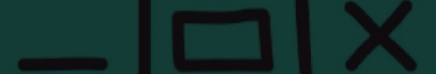
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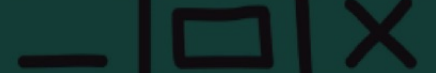
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“Post-truth” was the ***Oxford English Dictionary*** word for 2016 and it's when ***feelings*** and ***personal beliefs*** carry more weight than objective facts.



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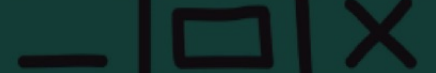
⁹If you declare with your mouth, "**Jesus is Lord**," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹³for, "**Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**"

Romans 10:9, 13





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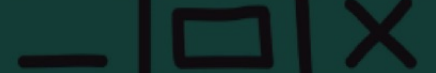


¹²**Salvation is found in no one else**, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4:12



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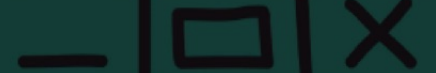
*⁹I am the gate; **whoever enters through me will be saved.**
They will come in and go out, and find pasture.*

John 10:9





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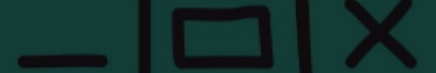


*⁶Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.*

John 14:6



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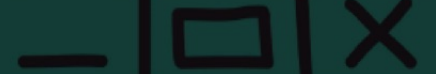


“If there is one key to my home, a place where I am cared for and loved by my family, it isn’t intolerant for me to say there is only one key. There are not many different keys—there is just the one. God made Jesus to be the one key we need to know him, and that has been his consistent position for thousands of years. That’s not being intolerant. It is simply letting the world know that if they want to come into God’s home, they will need to have the right key—Jesus.”

- Dan Kimball



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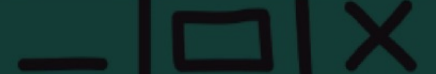


DO ALL PATHS LEAD TO GOD?





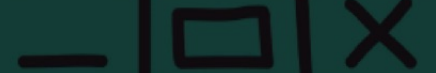
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The philosophical "**principle of non-contradiction**" states that contradictory propositions **cannot both be true simultaneously...**



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4 Beliefs Religions Differ On:

Who is God?

Who is Jesus?

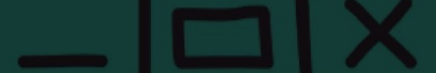
What happens when you die?

How does God relate to suffering?





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Who is God?

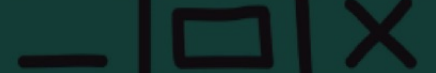
Hinduism teaches there are thousands of gods, though there is a background force in the universe known as "Brahman" in addition to these gods.

Islam teaches there is one God, Allah, but he is distinctly different from the God described by the Hebrew Bible and New Testament.

Christianity teaches that there is one God who is triune in nature, but One (Father, Son, Holy Spirit).



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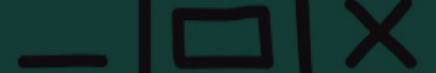
Who is Jesus?

Hinduism teaches that Jesus was a wise teacher, and he could be one of many gods, but he certainly is not the only way to God.

Islam teaches that Jesus was a prophet—but not the son of God or divine in any sense.

Christianity teaches that Jesus is the Son of God, and the way to salvation is through what He accomplished on the cross and because of His resurrection from the dead.





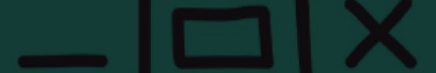
What happens when you die?

Hinduism teaches that when a person dies, they are reincarnated to pay off their karmic debt.

Islam teaches there is a paradise and a place of punishment because salvation is based on weighing the good and bad you have done in this life.

Christianity teaches that getting to Heaven or Hell is not based on anything we do, but on whether we have placed our faith in Jesus Christ.





How does God relate to suffering?

Deism describes God as aloof and distant when it comes to our suffering.

Hinduism and Buddhism reject evil and suffering as an illusion.

Ancient Greek thought says the divine substance is incapable of suffering.

Christianity says evil and suffering are real, God experiences suffering, and Jesus will one day end suffering.



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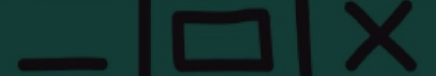
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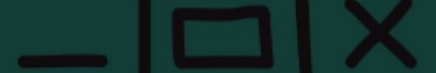


CHALLENGING ATHEISM





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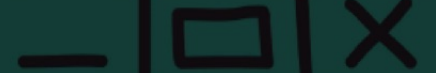
"In 2014, a historian called Yuval Noah Harari published a best selling book called *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*. In it, he says that the idea that **human beings** are **equally morally valuable** and that there are such things as '**human rights**'—basic protections that every human being is entitled to—is just a **fiction made up by Christianity**. Speaking as someone who doesn't believe in God, **Harari says human beings have 'no natural rights, just as spiders, hyenas, and chimpanzees have no natural rights.'**"

- Rebecca McLaughlin



In the Greco-Roman secular culture Jesus was born into, these ancient practices were completely acceptable:

- Gladiator amphitheater games where many **died for sport**.
- Pederasty - older Roman men molesting younger boys as a **perverted mentorship practice**.
- Greek mythology and religion taught **women** were **Zeus' evil creation**.
- Romans practiced **exposing** which meant if they had a child they didn't want, usually a girl or a child with a disability, they would abandon that child outside so they would die.

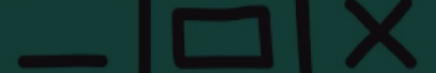


Jesus' Message Was Counter Culture:

- **Every person** matters to Jesus (Matthew 11:28)
- The **unborn** and **children** matter to Jesus (Luke 1:41-44, Matthew 19:13-15)
- The **sick** and **outcast** matter to Jesus (Matthew 8:1-4)
- **Women** matter to Jesus (Luke 10:38-42)
- The **poor** matter to Jesus (Luke 14:12-14)
- People of different **ethnicities** and **cultures** matter to Jesus (John 4:1-7)



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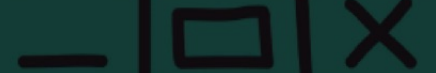


“The 20th century gave rise to one of the greatest and most distressing paradoxes of human history: ***that the greatest intolerance and violence of that century were practiced by those who believed that religions caused intolerance and violence.***”

- Alister McGrath, *The Twilight of Atheism*



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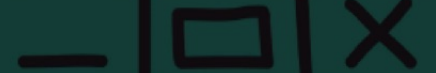


“Christianity answers the question of **origins** in a comprehensive and holistic way, for instance, while Buddhism and atheism do not do as well. When it comes to **morality**, again, the Judeo-Christian explanation that God gave us a moral law because we are made in His image makes logical sense of our reason and desire, more so than the evolutionary story that we come to moral conclusions that are only **helpful** in a given moment for survival and reproduction but are not necessarily true.”

- Mark Clark, *The Problem of God*



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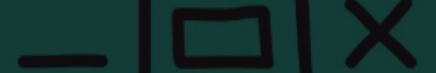


**CHRISTIANS MUST DIALOGUE
WITH OTHER BELIEFS BIBLICALLY**





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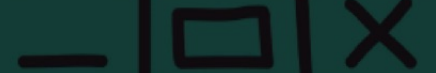


“We [liberals] champion tolerance, except for conservatives and evangelical Christians. ***We want to be inclusive of people who don't look like us—so long as they think like us.***”

- Nicholas Kristof,
Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist,
New York Times op-ed, “The Dangers of Echo Chambers on Campus”



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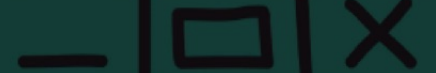


Christians are commanded to
know their biblical convictions,
share them respectfully,
and **serve** everyone!





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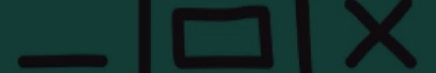


KNOW AND SHARE

¹⁵ *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always **be prepared to give an answer** to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with **gentleness** and **respect**,*
1 Peter 3:15



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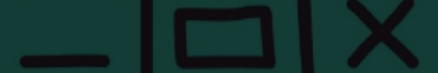


"When questions of truth carry life-and-death consequences,
we see ***persuasion as an act of love.***"

- Rebecca McLaughlin, *Confronting Christianity*



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SERVE

¹⁴“**You are the light of the world.** A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, **let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.**”

Matthew 5:14-16



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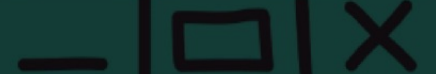


DISCUSS WITH YOUR LIFE GROUP:

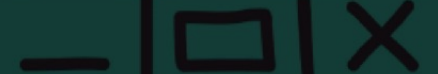
What is holding you back from believing and living like Jesus and Christianity is not just **one way**, but **the way**?



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THE ANSWER ONLY CHRISTIANITY OFFERS



In **Islam**, paradise comes through obeying the Five Pillars and your good deeds.

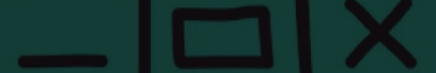
In **Hinduism**, liberation comes through Karma (good works), Bhakti (devotion), Jnana (knowledge).

In **Buddhism**, enlightenment comes through following the Eightfold Path (right living, thinking, discipline).

In **Atheism**, truth is subjective and leads to selfishness with no justifiable consequences.

But in **Christianity**, salvation comes not from doing but from receiving what Jesus has done for you.





¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

John 1:14, 18

⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

Ephesians 2:8

HOW CAN I BEGIN FOLLOWING JESUS?

Jesus, I **CONFESS** that my sin is a problem I can't fix.

I **BELIEVE** that you died on the cross to forgive me.

I **TRUST** that you rose from the dead proving you are God.

I **RECEIVE** you as my Lord and Savior.

Today and every day, I **CHOOSE** to follow you!

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YOUR NEXT FIVE STEPS

1. LET US KNOW.
2. READ YOUR BIBLE.
3. PRAY DAILY.
4. JOIN A LIFE GROUP.
5. SHARE JESUS WITH SOMEONE.



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DID NOAH'S FLOOD ACTUALLY HAPPEN?

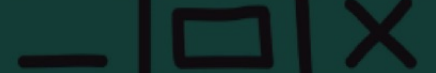


DR. HUGH ROSS
(ASTROPHYSICIST AND FOUNDER
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SPIRITUAL PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK:

This week, engage in a conversation with someone who believes differently than you do. Ask them to share with you about your faith and what they believe. Ask God to help you serve them, love them, and share with them what you believe as a follower of Jesus!

For more life group, reflection, and discussion content, and to join or start a group, visit: purposechurch.com/groups