

WHICH GOD?

DECIDING CRITERIA



SUMMARY: To be qualified to be considered as “God”, there are inherent qualities for consideration and there are things which are simply not factors.

Presume you walk along a road and see a piece of paper on the ground with writing which says “I am George, the God that created the universe. If you will say that you believe in me, I will reward you with eternal paradise when you die.” You cannot prove that the statement is untrue without actually finding the person who wrote the note. You can collect substantial evidence which would lead you to believe that it is not true, but you cannot disprove it.

This study will have some of that type problem associated with it. We will collect evidence for or against various proposals for “God”, but ultimately you must conclude what you believe to be “God”, and give Him his due.

The term “primary religion” is used to indicate that the being who created the heavens and the earth along with the associated communications. If a qualified “primary religion” can be identified, secondary religions which came from it can be investigated also.

INHERENT TRUTHS

1. The prior IF GOD? (Impossible for Evolution) section identified that the fact that matter exists is a supernatural starting event and the complexity of life around us indicates ongoing intelligent design. For this reason, the deity of the religion must have created the universe.
2. The deity of the religion must be supernatural for the deity to have created the universe.
3. The deity cannot be a perfected human being, as it is inherent that the deity must have created the human race.

NON-FACTORS:

1. Whether or not people later claiming to be adherents did evil things. It is well documented that people will use religion to suit personal purposes.
2. Whether or not it is the dominant religion of the world, or in fact a very small religion. However, as we would assume that if an actual god has had the religion for some period of time, we would not expect for it to have only 20 adherents.
3. Whether or not all parts fit human logic regarding love, kindness, etc. We are attempting to understand and appreciate a higher intellect, which by definition cannot be fully understood by our intellect. The created cannot fully understand the creator.
4. A true god could be identified by different names in different cultures, but each culture would need to provide logic or proofs that they are proposing a real god rather than someone’s good intentions.
5. Whether or not your parents, other role models, or your society believe in a particular “god”.

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Given these restrictions, we have suggested questions in the next article titled ARRAY OF GODS QUESTIONNAIRE to attempt to objectively determine who is “God”.

If you have others or comments on this lesson, let us know at any time at info@occginstitute.org.