

“The material, physical cosmos is the sole reality.”

“There are no spiritual realities such as gods, angels, or immaterial human souls. And no supernatural realm such as heaven exists”

“After death a person will never think again, never love again. Only oblivion awaits and nothing more.”

Such persons are termed naturalists, atheists, or agnostics. Many are highly intelligent, holding advanced degrees, but many others are simply influenced by them.

Consider the predicament such persons face.

“I will die.
I will die soon.
I will die alone.
I will remain dead forever.”

“It’s not a matter of if – only when.”

“Human beings are the only animals who know that they must die, and thus the only animals who try to hide from themselves the fact that they must die.”

“Death separates us from our loved ones.
Death puts an end to our hopes and aims.
Death ends in oblivion.

“The individual dies
Humanity goes extinct.
All life on earth goes extinct.
Earth, its solar system and the Milky Way which
contains it come apart”

Why does any of that matter?
Why should anyone in anyway try to delay and of
those events?

Have you ever thought about why we form attachments to others if we are mere accidents of material recombination?

Some would say that it promotes reproduction success. But that could be more easily justified by rape and pillage – “survival of the fittest.”

Why would an atheist mourn the loss of anyone except self?

Is there any reason for hope in all this rationality?

There appears to be none!

We live, we have pain, we die and no one remembers.

How is it that we care for others?

A complete atheist on the internet was pining for his Mary who died of breast cancer 12 years ago.

Why? What did she matter?

He and she had no fear of God. They worshiped the world and the material possessions they gained.

She treasured the world and railed against pollution and greed. He rails against Trump. But she is still dead and all her activity did not prolong her days by moments.

What difference does it make if we are here only as a singular convenient accident of the movement of the Universe?

But there is a fly in the ointment. He hopes that there is time for another meeting and she now hopes there won't be – just as the rich man wanted to warn his brothers.

Does this sound like the cry of despair given by Solomon as he considered life without God?

Ecc 2:16-17 For there is no lasting remembrance of the wise man as with the fool, inasmuch as in the coming days all will be forgotten. And how the wise man and the fool alike die! (17) So I hated life, for the work which had been done under the sun was grievous to me; because everything is futility and striving after wind.

for all is vanity and vexation of spirit (KJV)

Ecc 11:8 NIV However many years anyone may live, let them enjoy them all. But let them remember the days of darkness, for there will be many. Everything to come is meaningless. (9) You who are young, be happy while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment. (10) So then, banish anxiety from your heart and cast off the troubles of your body, for youth and vigor are meaningless.

But most of the great scholars of the world are well aware of the alternative theory – there is a God who loves and cares for His creation.

So much so that He allowed His one and only Son to be crucified by sinful man that He might redeem man from his sin and bring about the reconciliation of man with God, to live eternally.

Their great question is, “What is the evidence?”

The “Ancient Words” give us the answer.

The tomb was empty!

Two members of the Sanhedrin are named as witnesses.

Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Sanhedrin, seeks the body and buries it in his tomb. Lk 23.50-51 Along with another member of the Sanhedrin, Nicodemus Jn 3.1; 7.50 Jn 19.39 who brought the spices, myrrh and aloe

Act 13:27 ESV For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him. (28) And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed. (29) And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. (30) But God raised him from the dead, (31) and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people.

The very first fiction was that His disciples came and stole the body Mt 28.13

Why didn't they produce the body?

Both Jewish and Roman authorities could have done so.

Dogs (the Jesus Seminar theory of Dominic Crossan) could not have gotten in nor have drug the body out.



Jesus made 12 appearances following his resurrection:

Mary Magdalene Jn 20.10-18

Mary and the other women Mt 28.1-10

Peter Lk 24.33-34 1Co 15.4-5

2 disciples on the road to Emmaus Lk 24.13-35

10 apostles Lk 24.36-49

11 apostles Jn 20.24-31

7 apostles Jn 21

11 apostles Mt 28.16-20

500 disciples 1Co 15.6

James 1Co 15.7

11 apostles Acts 1-4-8

Paul Acts 9.1-9 1Cor 15.8

His resurrected body bore the marks of His crucifixion:

His nailed hands and feet and pierced side Jn 20.19-20

His body was seen, touched and handled Mt 28.9

His body was flesh and bone and was touched by others Lk 24.37-40 Jn 20.20, 27

Jesus even ate and drank with his disciples Lk 24.41-43 Acts 10.41

Joh 20:24 ESV Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. (25) So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.” (26) Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” (27) Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” 28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

John knew the power of Thomas' testimony.

Joh 20:30-31 ESV Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; (31) but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

The transformation of Peter and his cursing denial
was published for all the world.

Luk 22:59-62 ESV And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean." (60) But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. (61) And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." (62) And he went out and wept bitterly.

James was the family skeptic along with Jesus' other brothers .

Joh 7:3-5 ESV So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. (4) For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world." (5) For not even his brothers believed in him.

Josephus' Antiquities of the Jews, (xx.9) "the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James" met his death after the death of the procurator Porcius Festus but before Lucceius Albinus had assumed office (Antiquities 20,9) – which has been dated to 62.

“The emergence of the Christian church needs an adequate explanation. According to the New Testament, the apostles turned the world upside down with the truth of the resurrection.” — K.R.Samples

The change to Sunday as a day of worship – Acts
20.7 1Cor 11.20 1Cor 16.2

The Lord's day Rev 1.10.

“Apart from the resurrection, no reason existed for early Christians (as a sect of Judaism) to view Sunday (the first day of the week) as having any enduring theological or ceremonial significance. The resurrection of Jesus therefore set historic Christianity apart from the Judaism of its day.”

We come together on the 1st day of the week,
*1Co 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and
drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until
he comes.*

*Rev 1:10 ESV I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day,
and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet*
Virtually all would agree that this reference is to
Sunday as it is the day “belonging to the Lord,” the
day of His resurrection.

Ecc 12:13-14 NIV Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. (14) For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Act 8:36-38 NASB As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" (37) [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."] (38) And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.

If you now believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, you may as Philip said, be baptized.