

# Genesis 1-12 and the Biblical Worldview

## What is a worldview?

“People have presuppositions, and they will live more consistently on the basis of these presuppositions than they themselves may realize. By presuppositions we mean the basic way an individual looks at life, his basic world view, the grid through which he sees the world. Presuppositions rest upon that which a person considers to be the truth of what exists. People’s presuppositions lay a grid for all they bring into the external world. Their presuppositions also provide the basis for their values and therefore the basis for their decisions.”

Francis A. Schaeffer, How Should We Then Live?  
The Rise and Decline of Western Thought and Culture, Fleming H. Revell, 1976, page 19

"A world view is a set of presuppositions (or assumptions) which we hold (consciously or subconsciously) about the basic makeup of our world."

James W. Sire, The Universe Next Door  
(Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1988), 17.  
Quoted in World Views by Jerry Solomon  
<http://www.probe.org/docs/w-views.html>

"A worldview is, first of all, an explanation and interpretation of the world and second, an application of this view to life. In simpler terms, our worldview is a view of the world and a view for the world."

W. Gary Phillips and William E. Brown, Making Sense of Your World  
(Chicago: Moody Press, 1991), 29.  
Quoted in World Views by Jerry Solomon  
<http://www.probe.org/docs/w-views.html>

"A world view provides a model of the world which guides its adherents in the world."

Brian J. Walsh and J. Richard Middleton, The Transforming Vision  
(Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 1984), 32.  
Quoted in World Views by Jerry Solomon  
<http://www.probe.org/docs/w-views.html>

“‘[A world view denotes] the widest view which the mind can take of things in the effort to grasp them together as a whole from the standpoint of some particular philosophy or theology.’ A developed world view supplies answers to the questions of origin, purpose, and destiny among other things, or as some put it, the ‘why, whence, and whither’ of things.”

World Views, Part 2 by Rick Wade  
quoting 19<sup>th</sup> century church historian  
James Orr, The Christian View of God and the World  
(Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1948)  
<http://www.probe.org/docs/w-views2.html>

“For our purposes, worldview will be defined as ‘the comprehensive framework of one’s basic beliefs about things.’

First of all, ‘things’ is a deliberately vague term that refers to everything about which it is possible to have a belief. I am taking it in the most general sense imaginable, as encompassing the world, human life in general, the meaning of suffering, the value of education, social morality, and the importance of the family. Even God...

Second, a worldview is a matter of one’s *beliefs*... in the sense of ‘credo,’ a *committed* belief... It has to do with one’s convictions...

Third, it is important to note that worldviews have to do with *basic* beliefs about things... ultimate questions... matters of general principle...

Finally, the basic beliefs one holds about things tend to form a *framework* or *pattern*; they hang together in a certain way. That is why humanists often speak of a ‘system of values...’

...Everyone has a worldview of some kind.

...Our worldview functions as a guide to our life... It is not only our views and arguments that are decisively affected by our worldview, but all of the specific decisions we are called upon to make as well.

Albert M. Wolters, Creation Regained: Biblical Basics for a Reformational Worldview  
(Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1985, reprinted 2000), pages 2-5

“...Our research has discovered that fewer than 10 percent American Christians actually possess a biblical worldview, a perceptual filter through which they see life and its opportunities. Lacking that filter, most Christians make important decisions on the basis of instinct, emotion, assumptions, past experiences, eternal pressure, or chance.”

George Barna, The Second Coming of the Church

### **Immanuel Kant’s four basic questions of life:**

- **What can I know?** (Metaphysics)
- **What should I do?** (Ethics)
- **What may I hope?** (Religion)
- **What is man?** (Anthropology)

Quoted in *Philosophy & The Christian Faith* by Colin Brown  
(Downers Grove, Ill.:InterVarsity Press), 1977, Page 92

## Six World View Questions...

**First, Why is there something rather than nothing?** Some may actually say something came from nothing. Others may state that something is here because of impersonal spirit or energy. And many believe matter is eternal.

**Second, How do you explain human nature?** Frequently people will say we are born as blank slates, neither good nor evil. Another popular response is that we are born good, but society causes us to behave otherwise.

**Third, What happens to a person at death?** Many will say that a person's death is just the disorganization of matter. Increasingly people in our culture are saying that death brings reincarnation or realization of oneness.

**Fourth, How do you determine what is right and wrong?** Often we hear it said that ethics are relative or situational. Others assert that we have no free choice since we are entirely determined. Some simply derive "oughts" from what "is." And of course history has shown us the tragic results of a "might makes right" answer.

**Fifth, How do you know that you know?** Some say that the mind is the center of our source of knowledge. Things are only known deductively. Others claim that knowledge is only found in the senses. We know only what is perceived.

**Sixth, What is the meaning of history?** One answer is that history is determined as part of a mechanistic universe. Another answer is that history is a linear stream of events linked by cause and effect but without purpose. Yet another answer is that history is meaningless because life is absurd.

Arthur F. Holmes, *Contours of a World View*  
(Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983), 5.  
Quoted in *World Views* by Jerry Solomon  
<http://www.probe.org/docs/w-views.html>

## Christianity IS a worldview

“Christianity *does* involve a lot of interconnected beliefs which cannot be picked and chosen in a cafeteria-style fashion. [James Orr] says, ‘He who with his whole heart believes in Jesus as the Son of God is thereby committed to much else besides. He is committed to a view of God, to a view of man, to a view of sin, to a view of Redemption, to a view of the purpose of God in creation and history, to a view of human destiny, found only in Christianity... Christianity, thus, by its nature forms a world view...’

Second, Orr says, since Christianity as a whole is under attack, it must be defended as a whole; not just as individual doctrines but the whole concept of supernatural, revealed religion. ‘The opposition which Christianity has to encounter,’ says Orr, ‘is no longer confined to special doctrines or to points of supposed conflict with the natural sciences--for example, the relations of

Genesis and geology--but extends to the whole manner of conceiving of the world and of man's place in it, the manner of conceiving of the entire system of things, natural and moral, of which we form a part.'

World Views, Part 2 by Rick Wade quoting  
James Orr, *The Christian View of God and the World*  
(Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1948)  
<http://www.probe.org/docs/w-views2.html>

## **Is There Something Out There Besides Us?**

"The cosmos is all that is and ever was or ever will be" -- Carl Sagan

"The God of Israel, the Saviour, is sometimes a God that hides Himself, but never a God that is absent, sometimes in the dark, but never at a distance." -- Matthew Henry

". . . When [people] try to get rid of man-like, or, as they are called, 'anthropomorphic,' images, they merely succeed in substituting images of some other kinds. 'I don't believe in a personal God,' says one, 'but I do believe in a great spiritual force.' What he has not noticed is that the word 'force' has let in all sorts of images about winds and tides and electricity and gravitation. 'I don't believe in a personal God,' says another, 'but I do believe we are all parts of one great Being which moves and works through us all' -not noticing that he has merely exchanged the image of a fatherly and royal-looking man for the image of some widely extended gas or fluid."

"A girl I knew was brought up by 'higher thinking' parents to regard God as perfect 'substance.' In later life she realized that this had actually led her to think of Him as something like a vast tapioca pudding. (To make matters worse, she disliked tapioca.) We may feel ourselves quite safe from this degree of absurdity but we are mistaken. If a man watches his own mind, I believe he will find that what profess to be specially advanced or philosophic conceptions of God, are, in his thinking, always accompanied by vague images which, if inspected, would turn out to be even more absurd than the manlike images aroused by Christian theology. For man, after all, is the highest of the things we meet in sensuous experience."

CS Lewis, *Miracles, A Preliminary Study*,  
quoted in *Time Magazine*, September 8, 1947  
reproduced by permission at  
<http://www.apologetics.org/articles/cslewis.html>

## Views of Origins:

**Atheistic evolution:** Matter was always here; by random chance and a sequence of mutations over millions of years, mankind evolved.

**Theistic evolution:** God guided a process of evolution.

**The Gap Theory:** God created the world (Genesis 1:1), but then Satan brought judgment on the earth. Creation had to be restored (Genesis 1:2 ff). Man was subsequently created.

**Progressive Creation:** The days in Genesis 1 are periods of time and not 24 hour days. God created the lower animals over long eras and some microevolution may have occurred. Adam and Eve were direct creations.

**Six Day Creation:** The days in Genesis 1 were literal 24 hour days. The earth appears older than it really is because the flood (Genesis 6 ff) brought catastrophic results.

## Implications of Secular Naturalism:

There is no Creator;  
Thus, there is not a creation.  
There is no design to life, a way things were meant to be;  
Hence there are no absolutes...  
And life is meaningless.  
You are a cosmic accident with no purpose.

“Darwinism is the universal acid that is corrosive of all meaning and of all of our pretensions and of all of our understandings of human beings as special or sacred.”

“We used to sing a lot when I was a child at school and Sunday school around the campfire at summer camp or gathered around the piano at home. One of my favorite songs, simple but surprisingly beautiful, was, “Tell Me Why”

Tell me why the stars do shine  
Tell me why the ivy twines  
Tell me why the sky's so blue  
Then I will tell you just why I love you  
Because God made the stars to shine  
Because God made the ivy twine  
Because God made the sky so blue  
Because God made you  
That's why I love you

That straightforward sentimental declaration still brings a lump to my throat, so sweet, so innocent, so reassuring its vision of life, but it is a vision most of us have outgrown, however fondly we may recall it. The kindly God who lovingly fashioned every one of us, ‘all creatures great and small,’ and sprinkled the sky with shining stars for our delight, that

God is like Santa Claus, a myth of childhood, not anything a sane, undeluded adult could believe in.”

Daniel Dennett of Tufts University  
Darwin’s Dangerous Idea cited in Journal of the New York Academy of Sciences  
Quoted by Dr. Albert Mohler, President, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary  
1995 Apologetics Conference, Briarwood Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, AL

“Man cannot live consistently and happily as though life were ultimately without meaning, value or purpose. If we try to live consistently within the atheistic world view, we shall find ourselves profoundly unhappy. If instead we manage to live happily, it is only by giving the lie to our world view.”

William Lane Craig, *Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics*  
(Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1994), 71.  
Quoted in *What’s the Meaning of Life?* By Jerry Solomon  
<http://www.probe.org/docs/meaning.html>

“Well, if we follow this world view, if we are consistent, in understanding ‘The cosmos is all that is and ever was or ever will be’ and there is no meaning in the universe, there is no Creator, there is no judge, there is no righteous God, there is no revealed moral order, then we are free to do what we will. The only meaning we are going to find in life is that that we create. In the history of the human race there is evidence to the fact the only moral order human beings will create is one in which we eventually murder each other. If there is no Creation, if there is no purpose, if there is no design, if there is no Creator, then why not abort millions of babies in the womb? ...then why not tamper with the genetic code? Why not try, through eugenics and science, to perfect the race through hastening the evolutionary process? Why not kill the old and infirm and those who as the Germans in World War II described as “life unworthy of life”? Why not have designer children...? Why not do whatever we would wish to do? For there is no one to call us to account. And there is no meaning that will survive us. And we are utterly alone. The world view of naturalism has produced the cultural collapse we see all around us.”

Dr. Albert Mohler, President, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary  
1995 Apologetics Conference, Briarwood Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, AL

### **The real meanings of evolutionary terms:**

(Notice how they use words which communicate purposefulness to describe a process of blind chance; atheistic evolutionists have trouble being true to the implications of their own worldview.)

**Adapted:** A lucky random mutation.

**Natural Selection:** Extinction of less efficient species -- not, “You may already be a winner”

**Survival of the fittest:** Death of the weakest.

## **Guidelines from Genesis for understanding origins:**

### **1. Death entered the world after sin – not before**

"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" Genesis 2:16-17

### **2. Animals and plants reproduce "after their kind"**

"Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind'; and it was so.' 2:24

### **3. There was a literal Adam and Eve**

"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned" Romans 5:12

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive." 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:22

"And so it is written, 'The first man Adam became a living being.' The last Adam became a life-giving spirit." 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:45

"The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven"

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:47

"And He answered and said to them, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,'" Matthew 19:4

God is asserted, affirmed and, described, but Scripture does not bother to "prove" His existence.

## **God is creator of the creation -- as distinct from being part of the creation**

1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

"The pantheist believes that all is one and therefore all is god. God is impersonal rather than personal and god's intelligence permeates all of nature. Therefore the universe is intelligent and purposeful. Consequently a reverence for nature develops instead of reverence for God. In the lunch room scene Malcolm says, "The lack of humility before nature being displayed here, staggers me." Malcolm speaks of Nature with a capital 'N.'"

The World View of Jurassic Park by Dr. Ray Bohlin

<http://www.probe.org/docs/jurassic.html>

## **God is a personal being (as distinct from an impersonal force)**

### **He experiences personal emotions.**

6:6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart

### **He communes with man in fellowship**

5:24 And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

3:8-9 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

### **He speaks to and reasons with man**

4:6-7 "So the LORD said to Cain, 'Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.'"

**God is Triune: One God expressing Himself in three persons (as opposed to absolute monotheism or polytheism)** Perhaps the trinity is not proven in these passages, but looking back through the lens of the New Testament it is now easily seen, and is the most natural understanding of the passages.

1:26 "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...'"

3:22 "Then the LORD God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever'"

### **Why then is God so hard to find? Because man is fallen.**

**Man is full of shame and is afraid of God; so he hides from God. God is not the one hiding in the garden. People don't want to find God.**

3:8-10 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

Romans 1:18-20 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse

"I had motives for not wanting the world to have meaning; consequently assumed that it had not; and was able without any difficulty to find satisfying reasons for this assumption. The philosopher who finds no meaning for this world is not concerned exclusively with the problem of pure metaphysics; he is also concerned to prove that there is not valid reason why he personally should not do as he want to... For myself... the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation, sexual and political."

Aldous Huxley, Ends and Means  
(New York: Garland Publishers, 1938) pages 270, 273  
quoted in James Montgomery Boice, Genesis, Volume I  
Zondervan, 1982, page 236

**Man has been driven from the garden; he is no longer in a perfect environment; thus man is confused (by his fallen environment) as to the goodness of God**

3:22-24 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" — therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

## The Creation is Good

“And God saw that it was good” 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31 (vs 31 “very good”)

### Thus:

1. There is not a distinction between secular and religious, between sacred and profane
2. Jesus is Lord of all: God created every aspect of life
3. The Bible does not teach that the physical, material world is bad and the spiritual world is good
4. Christians are not to come out of the world or to practice asceticism

“The practical implications of that intention are legion. Marriage should not be avoided by Christians, but sanctified. Emotions should not be repressed, but purified. Sexuality should not be shunned, but redeemed. Politics should not be declared off limits, but reformed. Art ought not be pronounced worldly, but claimed for Christ. Business ought not be relegated to the secular world, but must be made to conform again to God-honoring standards. Every sector of human life yields such examples.”

Albert M. Wolters, Creation Regained: Biblical Basics for a Reformational Worldview  
(Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1985, reprinted 2000), page 58

1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,

3 forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;

5 for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

## Man - Are Humans Special?

“Curse ruthless time! Curse our mortality! How cruelly short is the allotted span for all we must cram into it! We are all worms. But I do believe that I am a glow worm.”

-- Winston Churchill

### **Man is here by direct creation; he is not a cosmic accident**

2:7-8 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.

### **God gives human life; human life is sacred**

9:6 “Whoever sheds man’s blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.” (Compare 2:7 above)

## **Man is created in the image of God; he is not another animal**

1:26 "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'"

5:1 "This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God."

See Animal Liberation: Do the Beasts Really Benefit? By Richard Milne  
<http://www.probe.org/docs/anim-rts.html>

"When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet" -- Psalm 8:3-6

## **What does it mean to say that man is created in the image of God?**

The image of God is what people have in common with God that the animals do not.

God and people have emotions, but so do animals

God and people have the ability to communicate, but (to a lesser extent) so do animals.

God and people have a will to choose, but house pets can be housebroken and can choose to wait.

Those who worship God must do so "in spirit" – and animals do not have that capacity.

### **1. That man has an administrative capacity over the earth and its lesser beings.**

1:26 "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'"

1:28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it

### **2. That man has a relational capacity – and is able to fellowship in a meaningful way with others and with God.**

### **3. Man has a moral capacity**

### **4. Man has a spiritual capacity**

### **Man is created male and female; Gender distinctions are more than physical**

1:27 "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

5:2 "He created them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created."

Marriage between one man and one woman for life 3:24

See Human Nature by Don Closson

<http://www.probe.org/docs/humnat.html>

## **The Purpose of Our Existence – Why are we here?**

"If you don't know where you're going, you will wind up somewhere else." -- Yogi Berra

"I think most of us are looking for a calling, not a job. Most of us, like the assembly line worker, have jobs that are too small for our spirit. Jobs are not big enough for people."

-- Studs Terkel, Marriage Partnership, Vol. 11, no. 2.

### **Man: Having families and living before God**

1:28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth...'

### **Man as God's steward of the garden**

2:15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

### **Man involved with God in making a new people**

12:1-3 Now the LORD had said to Abram: 'Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

## **The Problem of Evil and Suffering**

"God had one Son on earth without sin, but never one without suffering." – Augustine

"God judged it better to bring good out of evil than to suffer no evil to exist." – Augustine

Why me and not that bum down the block who beats his wife and terrifies his kids? Why me, and not that power-drunk vice president who heads my department? Why me, just on the edge of achievement, rather than the crazed old woman who fishes about in garbage cans along the alley for the discards of our meals? Why me, and not the really evil people in the world?

Jory Graham, "Anger as Freedom," To Provide Safe Freedom,  
ed. David and Pualine Rabin

(New York: Philosophical Library, 1985, pages 14-15.

Quoted in When Heaven is Silent by Ronald Dunn, Thomas Nelson, 1994

### **Man suffers because man is fallen**

How sin entered the world Chapter 3

How sin effects us personally Chapter 4

How sin effects human relationships Chapter 4

How sin effects us collectively Chapter 6

How sin effects relations between people groups Chapter 11

### **Man suffers because the creation is fallen 3:17-18**

3:17-19 ... 'Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.'

Romans 8:19-22 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

## **How Do We Know?**

How do we know what we know? How do we know that we know?

Because God tells us

1:28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them...

1:29 And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.

2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

6:13 And God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

## **Axioms of the Christian Worldview**

### **The Axiom of Deity**

There is one true God, infinite in His perfections: holy, righteous, and redemptive.

### **The Axiom of Authority**

God's revelation in Scripture, which is the Word of God, truthfully revealing to us knowledge about God, the world, and ourselves.

### **The Axiom of Cosmology**

The universe was created by God as a theater for His own glory.

### **The Axiom of Anthropology**

Humans, male and female, were created in the image of God, but are sinners in rebellion against God.

### **The Axiom of Redemption**

Salvation is by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ whose substitutionary atonement accomplished the redemption of sinners.

### **The Axiom of the Family**

The family is God's loving creation for our protection and pleasure. The nuclear family is a man and a woman united in holy matrimony, in that covenant for life, reserving for each other their love -- and the children, given to them by the Lord. Not to discriminate against those who do not achieve that norm; the answer is not to give up on the norm of the Christian family.

### **The Axiom of Ecclesiology**

The church is the fellowship of the redeemed, bearing witness to the Gospel and worshiping the one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The church is also a Divine institution.

### **The Axiom of Society**

Human society, government, and nations were created by God for our good, though all societies are marred by sin and limited in authority.

### **The Axiom of Eschatology**

God will accomplish the fulfillment of all of His purposes according to the dictates of His own will and to His own glory. Just God is the creator in the beginning, and the sustainer in the present, He is the judge. Time is not a constant, it is created by God and He will bring it to consummation in the end.

Dr. Albert Mohler, President, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary  
1995 Apologetics Conference, Briarwood Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, AL

Scripture references taken from the New King James Version, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

**Online Resources for the 2002 Winter Bible Study**

**Index on the Baptist Start Page:**

<http://www.baptiststart.com/wbs2002.htm>

	<b>Christian Theism</b>	<b>Naturalism/Post Modernism</b>	<b>Existentialism</b>	<b>New Age Pantheism</b>
<b>Is there something out there besides us?</b>	Genesis 1:1; 3:8-9; 4:6-7 5:24; 6:6 There is an infinite-personal God.	The cosmos is all that there is; there is nothing outside the material universe	God was dead, in the halls of philosophy & in the city streets, -- man is left on his own	All is one. There are no ultimate distinctions between humans, animals, or the rest of creation: since all is one, all is god.
<b>Why is there something rather than nothing?</b>	Genesis 1-2 God has created the universe out of nothing.	The whole universe is the product of blind chance – you are an accident	We don't know why we exist	
<b>How do you explain human nature?</b>	Genesis 3 Man was originally created good in God's image, but chose to sin and thus infected all of humanity with what is called a "sin nature." So man has great value, but is fallen.	Man is another step in the evolutionary process. He is autonomous, self-centered, and must save society himself	We aren't told where we come from or given the value of anything.	Since all is one, all is god; all of life has a spark of divinity
<b>What is man's purpose?</b>	Genesis 2, 12 Man was placed in the world as the steward of God's garden, to live life before God, in dependence upon God, and for God's glory	Man has to create his own purpose. So live for the maximum of pleasure and the minimum discomfort while you can.	It is all up to us--to me--to decide.	Humans must discover their own divinity by experiencing a change in consciousness
<b>What happens to a person at death?</b>	Death is either the gate to life with God or to eternal separation from Him. The destination is dependent upon the response we give to God's provision for our sin.	That's all – "Those who have preceded us in death will live on in our memories" – until those who remember them die	We don't know what our destiny is	Humans travel through indefinite cycles of birth, death, and reincarnation in order to work off what is called "bad karma."
<b>How do you determine what is right and wrong?</b>	The guidelines for conduct are supernaturally revealed by God in the Bible.	Education is the guide to life; science is the ultimate provider both for knowledge and morals	We, individually, are the final authorities for value in our own lives, in our emphasis on experience over reason, in our live-for-the moment attitude.	Think in terms of gray, not black and white. Thus they believe that two conflicting statements can both be true
<b>How do you know that you know?</b>	Reason and experience can be legitimate teachers, but a transcendent source is necessary. We know some things only because we are told by God through the Bible.	Truth, in any real sense, doesn't exist.	We aren't told where we come from or given the value of anything.	Think in terms of gray, not black and white. Thus they believe that two conflicting statements can both be true
<b>What is the meaning of history?</b>	History is a linear and meaningful sequence of events leading to the fulfillment of God's purposes for man.	Life & history is "a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."	We aren't told where we come from or given the value of anything. We don't know what our destiny is	Humans travel through indefinite cycles of birth, death, and reincarnation in order to work off "bad karma."

