NCFCA Apologetics Preparation for Monument Members

Season 22 Monument Release #9



Directions: Work through the source material in this download to help you understand this week’s selection of apologetics prompts. This release addresses approximately 5% of the total number of prompts you will need to be prepared for in your next tournament, so keep up the studying from week to week to ensure your knowledge in Apologetics. This week’s prompts are:

APPLICATION QUESTIONS (PART 1 OF 4)

1. Why does the Old Testament God seem different than the New Testament God?

2. How can someone know what God's plan is for their life?\*

3. Respond to the person who says, "The Bible is full of contradictions."

4. Respond to the person who says, "I believe I will go to heaven because I have lived a good life."

5. Respond to the assumption that says, "All religions say pretty much the same thing."\*

\*This question is not answered at this time in the Season 22 release schedule. A worksheet is provided for you to take your own notes for preparation.

For a list of all the prompts for the year and all other downloads for NCFCA apologetics, visit your download page at <https://club.monumentmembers.com/ncfca-apologetics/download-category/ncfca-apologetics>.

Old vs New Testaments *by Katie Duffy*

Why does the Old Testament God seem different than the New Testament God?

Bible Verses

Psalm 102:25-27

Numbers 23:19

Malachi 3:6

Nehemiah 9:17

Psalm 63:3

Isaiah 43:4

Psalm 62:11-12

Matthew 10:28

Revelation 20:1-15

Quotations

“The God of the Old Testament, who repeatedly had mercy on the Israelites and saved them from their own perversions, is the same Lord Jesus who wept over Jerusalem because her people killed the prophets and would not turn to the Lord.” – Paul Little, *Know What You Believe*

“If God is not unchanging, then the whole basis of our faith begins to fall apart, and our understanding of the universe begins to unravel. This is because our faith and hope and knowledge all ultimately depend on a person who is infinitely worthy of trust–because he is absolutely and eternally unchanging in his being, perfections, purposes and promises.” – Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*

“The promise of a Redeemer, the covenant with Israel, and the final giving of eternal life through the cross were all motivated by His love and mercy.” – Paul Little, *Know What You Believe*

“People who do not actually read the Bible confidently assure us that when we move from the Old Testament to the New, the theme of divine judgment fades into the background. But if we examine the New Testament, we find at once that the Old Testament emphasis on God’s action as Judge, far from being reduced, is actually intensified.” – J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*

“In the New Testament there are at least 1,000 references to the Old Testament. Now what does that tell us the New Testament writers believed? That the Old Testament was…what? True, and the Word of God.” – John MacArthur

Recommendations

Paul Little, *Know What You Believe*, chapter 1

<http://www.licc.org.uk/resources/2014/11/24/understanding-the-bible-2-the-unity-and-diversity-of-the-bible/>

Commentary

This question was originally published as an analysis to the following question: “The Old Testament God is a God of hate, while the New Testament God is a God of love”?

This question assumes several very problematic things that it is important to address in your speech. First, it assumes that either the Gods of the Old Testament and New Testament are different, or that God changed significantly from the Old Testament to the New Testament. If you have already completed speeches on the immutability or unchanging nature of God, you will see why this is a major problem to the Christian faith. Second, this question assumes that the testaments of Scripture are not unified, but are rather teaching different things. One must be correct; the other must not. But in order for Scripture to be trustworthy, it must all be true. Third, this quotation denies the many links between the Testaments: prophecies in the Old that are fulfilled in the New, quotations of the Old by Jesus and the New Testament authors, etc. Fourth, this quotation assumes that God’s actions against sin are merely hateful rather than just. And yet we know from Scripture that God’s actions are always upright and completely just.

In approaching this question, it will be helpful to think about the overarching storyline of Scripture. Though God interacts with his people differently in the Old Testament and the New, his purpose throughout the Old and New Testaments remains the same. From the prophecy of the One who would crush the head of the serpent in Genesis 3:15, to the Abrahamic covenant that promised blessing to all nations in Genesis 15, to the promise of the coming Davidic King in 2 Samuel 7, to the prophecy of the suffering Servant in Isaiah 53, the Old Testament points to the story of Jesus that the New Testament tells in full.

Additionally, it will be important to emphasize that the love and justice of God are clearly seen in both the Old and New Testaments. God clearly demonstrates a patient love with his people Israel in the Old Testament, while still holding them and their enemies accountable for their sin. And in Christ the greatest testimony to God’s love and justice are seen as God pours out His justice on His innocent Son on the cross that He might demonstrate mercy to undeserving sinners. But if Christ is rejected, then no other sacrifice for sins remains, and it is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God apart from Jesus Christ (Hebrews 10:26-31).

God’s Plan for You

How can someone know what God's plan is for their life?

This question is not answered at this time in the Season 22 release schedule. This worksheet is provided for you to take your own notes for preparation.

Bible Verses

Quotations

Recommendations

Commentary

Biblical Contradictions *by Joshua Johnson*

Respond to the person who says, "The Bible is full of contradictions."

Bible Verses

[Psalm 12:6; 33:4; 119:160](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+12%3A6%3B+33%3A4%3B+119%3A160&version=NIV)

[Proverbs 30:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+30%3A5&version=NIV)

[2 Samuel 22:31](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Samuel+22%3A31&version=NIV)

[John 14:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14%3A6&version=NIV)

[Romans 3:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+3%3A4&version=NIV)

[2 Timothy 3:16-17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+3%3A16-17&version=NIV)

Quotations

“[D]uring the last twenty years [I have] examined dozens of these ‘problem texts’ that have been brought to [my] attention in the context of the inerrancy debate. In every one of those cases, upon close inspection of the text a plausible solution has become evident.” - Wayne Grudem[[1]](#footnote-1)

“As I have dealt with one apparent discrepancy after another and have studied the alleged contradictions between the biblical record and the evidence of linguistics, archaeology, or science, my confidence in the trustworthiness of Scripture has been repeatedly verified and strengthened by the discovery that almost every problem in Scripture that has ever been discovered by man, from ancient times until now, has been dealt with in a completely satisfactory manner by the biblical text itself – or else by objective archeological information.” - Gleason Archer[[2]](#footnote-2)

“Supposed Bible errors are well known to Bible scholars and have all been addressed and found not to be errors after all. In every case, there is a logical explanation for the supposed error.” –Paul S. Taylor

“A *contradiction,* according to the Random House Webster’s College Dictionary, is ‘a statement or proposition that denies another statement or itself is and is logically incongruous’; a *contrariety*, however, holds two aspects of an issue in balance and in tension without violating the logical congruency of either. In the contrarieties within Jesus, we see how he represents the answer for all the tensions we feel within ourselves.” –Ravi Zacharias

“The internal and historical characteristics of the Bible are unique in its unity and internal consistency despite production over a 1500-year period by 40-plus authors in three languages on three continents discussing scores of controversial subjects yet having agreement on all issues.” –John Ankerberg

“Extrabiblical sources and archaeology tell us that the Bible is historically accurate and worth reading; Jesus tells us it is spiritually accurate and worth heeding.” –Mark Mittelberg

Recommendations

*The Questions Christians Hope No One Will Ask*, Chapter 3

*The Bravehearted Gospel* by Eric Ludy

*The Truth Project* by Del Tackett

*The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict* by Josh McDowell

*Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties* by Gleason L. Archer

*Alleged Discrepancies of the Bible* by John Haley

<https://answersingenesis.org/answers/books/demolishing-supposed-bible-contradictions-1/introduction/>

<http://startingpoint.com/member/what-about-the-contradictions-in-the-bible/>

<http://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-errors.html>

Commentary

The Bible is the most consistent and internally accurate book of all time. The Bible is trustworthy in every way and can most definitely be trusted, more so than any other book. However, there are some difficult passages that require research and study. But every alleged contradiction or difficulty has a solution. Every single one. So an effective response to the question would involve researching alleged Bible contradictions. The *Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties* by Gleason L. Archer and the *Alleged Discrepancies of the Bible* by John Haley are fantastic resources that I highly recommend. Think about researching and speaking about several of the more common alleged contradictions and then explain their solutions.

For example, consider the genealogies of Jesus mentioned in Matthew 1 and Luke 3. Matthew 1:16 recounts the genealogy of Jesus as follows: “… and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.” Luke 3:23 says that Jesus was “the son of Joseph, the son of Heli.” See the alleged problem? Was Joseph’s father Jacob or Heli? Well, when we examine the two passages in the historical context, we understand that Matthew’s account records *Joseph’s* heritage while Luke’s account records *Mary’s* heritage. Mary’s father was Heli, and when she married Joseph, Heli became Joseph’s father-in-law. In early Jewish culture, people would have just referred to Heli as Joseph’s father because the phrase “father-in-law” did not arise until approximately the mid-1300s. Therefore, these two passages–when examined in biblical and historical context–do not contradict one another; rather, they complement one another.

In conclusion, be careful about how you use Scripture. The Bible states that Scripture is inerrant but a skeptic will assume the opposite. So if you say that there are no contradictions in Scripture simply because the Bible states it is inerrant, a skeptic may consider this to be circular reasoning. So consider demonstrating first that alleged contradictions are not actually contradictions. Address several of the difficult passages first and show how they are consistent. Thereafter, you can cite verses like Proverbs 30:5 revealing Scripture’s inerrancy.

Pretty Good Life *by Chris Jeub*

Respond to the person who says, "I believe I will go to heaven because I have lived a good life."

## Bible Verses

John 14 and Jesus’ parables

## Quotations

“We don’t drift in good directions. We discipline and prioritize ourselves there.” –Andy Stanley

“If you do good, you must not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, you must be quite unconscious of it. Otherwise you are simply displaying your own virtue, and not that which has its source in Jesus Christ.” –Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“If we muster all the human heroism and try to become a ‘good person,’ we only have a self-made, faltering form of goodness that can never stand against the stunning righteousness of Jesus Christ.” –Leslie Ludy

“Part of me would like to believe that going to church on Sunday and reading my Bible every once in a while is enough to dupe Jesus into mumbling those words[“well done, my good and faithful servant”] in my general direction when I enter heaven.” –Mike Yankoski

“Christianity recognizes no innocence or goodness of heart, but in the remission of sin, and in the effects of the operations of divine grace.” –William Wilberforce

“The worst thing we can teach people is that they’re good without Jesus.” –Randy Alcorn

## Commentary

There’s an amusing story within C.S. Lewis’ book The Magician’s Nephew about someone who thought he’d lived a good life. When caught in the darkness of an empty world, the cabbie says to the others, “There’s nothing to be afraid of if you’ve lived a decent life.” After this point, there is a great revealing of beauty as the world is created. The Cabbie then says, “I’d have been a better man all my life if I’d known there wer things like this.”

The message here is that if we could truly grasp the holiness of God, we wouldn’t ever say that we’ve “lived a pretty good life,” because merely “pretty good” is quite a terrible life compared to righteousness. When comparing this to the belief of heaven, there’s the note to be made that living a life that is less than righteous but merely “pretty good” will not gain a seat in the house of God.

See, God despises mediocrity and lukewarmness, and the people who want to go on with their regular lives with some good deeds mixed on are not truly dedicated to their faith. Following Christ means not just being hypothetically willing to live a “pretty good” life for Christ, but surrendering all personal life ambitions for the sake of what He commands.

All Religions the Same

Respond to the assumption that says, "All religions say pretty much the same thing."

This question is not answered at this time in the Season 22 release schedule. This worksheet is provided for you to take your own notes for preparation.

Bible Verses

Quotations

Recommendations

Commentary

1. Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, page 99, footnote 10. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Gleason Archer, Encyclopedia of Bible Difficulties, page 12. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)