

Why?



The Human Condition

People just want to have fun. Work hard, play hard, relax and live the good life. Why not? Some of us feel entitled to it. But when tragedy interrupts our daily life and routines, we are forced to stop and look up, and we ask why. Why me? Why now? Why God? Why?



For the most part these questions go unanswered. Although it may be easier and more politically correct to say that no one knows, or “It’s God’s will”, or “you just have to have faith”, these platitudes are useless and annoying when we are in pain and wondering what is going on. There are some answers worth considering, if you are interested.

Before we can ask the “why” question, we have to deal with “what”. Planet Earth: what’s really going on?

The world is full of contrast between beauty and pollution, rich and poor, crime and justice, success and failure. Life is made up of beautiful moments and terrible tragedies, sweet memories and nightmares. It is only natural we should wonder why.

Who does the Zebra complain to when the lioness steals her foal for lunch? Why should we be any different than the Zebra? Why don’t we just call murder an inevitable evolutionary outcome, or praise unethical corporate practices as survival of the fittest?

Humans are reasonable creatures, as unreasonable as we may seem to be. Which raises another question. How can we be so aware of what we aren’t, our shortcomings and mistakes? Where does our sense of “higher values” come from?

Need To Know Basis

We want to know. We need to know. This need is based on more than just intellectual curiosity.

Humans don't have fangs and claws. Our natural defenses are based on our ability to think and reason. Our survival depends on using our heads. We have created machines that can analyze, calculate and evaluate situations at lightning speed - far exceeding any one individual's capacity to think or reason. Scary thought in an unreasonable world where no one feels like thinking...

We live in a society where getting to the bottom of an issue has become more sport than survival. But our instinctual inner need to know is not based on our need to be entertained. Part of the reason the news media is having such a struggle to maintain relevance is because the public is acutely aware that there is not much they can do about most of what they see and hear.

You may not be able to alter world events. But you are responsible to your own conscience for the integrity of your actions and for the direction you take in life. This is real food for thought. But what happens when we don't feel like thinking in a world run by technology and systems?

Losing the sharp edge of our consciousness to television and other forms of entertainment, our tendency is to rely on the familiar networks, programs and procedures we have come to accept. Today, our basic personal safety and defense is trusted to the reliability of a larger system.

But when the systems fail and you aren't getting the information you need, and when you don't believe the popular party line propaganda, it's up to you to do your best to develop a conceptual framework you can use.

ZIGGY



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World View Wanted

We live in a world with limited natural resources and a rapidly growing population. Issues, events and people are converging at unprecedented rates of speed. While there have always been wars, earthquakes, pestilence and disaster, two new factors have emerged. The first is mankind's ability to destroy itself, fully and completely. Our ability to self-destruct is no longer a far off fantasy, but a current reality. The second is high technology and instant worldwide mass communication. Globalization is having a very real impact on human survival. The world has truly become a smaller place to live.

Running out of physical space or elbowroom is placing new demands on our philosophy of government. And this is exemplified in one dominant theme across the globe today - freedom versus security.

Universally accepted codes of conduct are inevitable in an integrated society. But if you have many cultures and only one police force, how many cultures do you really have?

Historically, if people disagreed with the culture and philosophy of one country they could move to another. From the Old World to the New, from puritanical New England to the Wild West, freedom was largely possible because there was enough space for people of different faiths to flourish. Times have changed. You just can't build your own fire in the woods anymore. Literally every square mile of the earth has been mapped.

Today, it's "Believe as you like, but behave as you are told." The courts, cops and corporations all get facts – but all you get is an opinion?

As we face unprecedented bureaucracy and loss of individual freedom for reasons of safety and security, we dare not admit to ourselves that these are indeed the transition times to totalitarianism.

So what's next for planet earth? Freedom versus security, continuance or conclusion, we can't really make any sense of the outcome without trying to understand our origins. Are we just enlarged protein molecules managing meaninglessly to survive? Or is there some kind of divine plan for planet earth?

Road Map Of Reality Required



Life is like a piece of software with millions of lines of code. While many people are perfectly willing to argue over the details of lines 85.6 – 994.9, they are equally ready to throw up their hands and say that lines 1 - 5 are “unknowable”. How much sense does that make?

It’s as though we’re in the middle of a mystery novel, but we skipped the first few chapters. How can we possibly figure out the ending? Simply not knowing is often used as an excuse for not bothering to try.

What you believe is not as important as where you place your bet. Regardless of the fear of uncertainty, the courage of your commitment is what counts. No decision is still a decision. Our personal survival depends on using our best judgement and following our own individual conscience. This is the essence of true religious liberty and freedom. It’s about reality not religion. Your world view and perspective will impact everything you do in life - consciously and subconsciously.

Facts exist regardless of human interpretation or understanding. The point is whether we marshal those facts with honesty, integrity and common sense. Having said that, the most important fact on the real bottom line is this: “Does God exist or not?”

Either there is a God or there isn’t. Your opinion won’t change the facts. But does the existence of God bring meaning or only further questions?

Love & Freedom of Choice“



*Love does not insist on its own way”
1 Corinthians 13*

Is God some form of universal energy force or an intelligent Creator? One way to help determine that is to consider the following:

Our own search for meaning is evidence that intelligence and reason exists in our universe, at least on our planet. Is it logical to assume that everything that happens beyond our grasp or reach is essentially devoid of intelligence, resulting from some kind of cosmic force without life or personality?

A non-descript energy force with no personality is not the same as a Supreme Being who actively loves and cares for His creation. Intelligence implies personality. But if there is a loving, personal Creator who designed us, then why is there so much pain and suffering? Many reject the idea that God represents anything more than some kind of mysterious force because they can't understand the reason for evil. They refuse to believe that a real personal Supreme Being who cares for us would allow the world to get into such confusion.

According to the Scriptures, God is Love and “Love does not insist on its own way.” If there is a God of Love then He has not forced His will on us. Why did He allow all this? So we could learn the difference between right and wrong. God has given us the right to be wrong - a right we rarely give to each other. He gave us freedom of choice. We have made a mess of things and want to blame it on Him. Even so, has God done the right thing? If God is Love, why isn't the world a safer place to live? And if God is Almighty and All-knowing, how long will He let the pain and suffering continue?

Is It Worth It?

In our modern world values like love and freedom have been subjugated to the need for public security in the name of the common good. But if God had valued security more than freedom, He never would have allowed the world to get into its present situation. Some people say this is reason enough not to believe in God. Others want to use their concepts of God to establish better governments and world peace.

Why should the God of Heaven be interested in endorsing some form of high security pseudo-peace establishment in His name? It is neither realistic nor desirable considering the alternative; which would be to move quickly toward the Judgment Day and eliminate all evil permanently, having clearly demonstrated its consequences; and then plant the honest loving souls on a brand new world.

That's final executive justice.

There is a huge difference between a New Earth and a patched-up old one. The End of the World is most often viewed as nothing more than apocalyptic paranoia of the religiously imbalanced. But it is probably the cleanest, easiest and most positive solution to what ails us. Where we stand personally on that Day, and whether we can trust God with our lives is something each of us must decide for ourselves.

God On Trial

In our quiet moments we have all asked these kinds of questions. In one way or another, consciously or sub-consciously we have all put God On Trial. How the jury has decided in your mind will determine your feelings about who you are, where you came from, and where you may be going to.

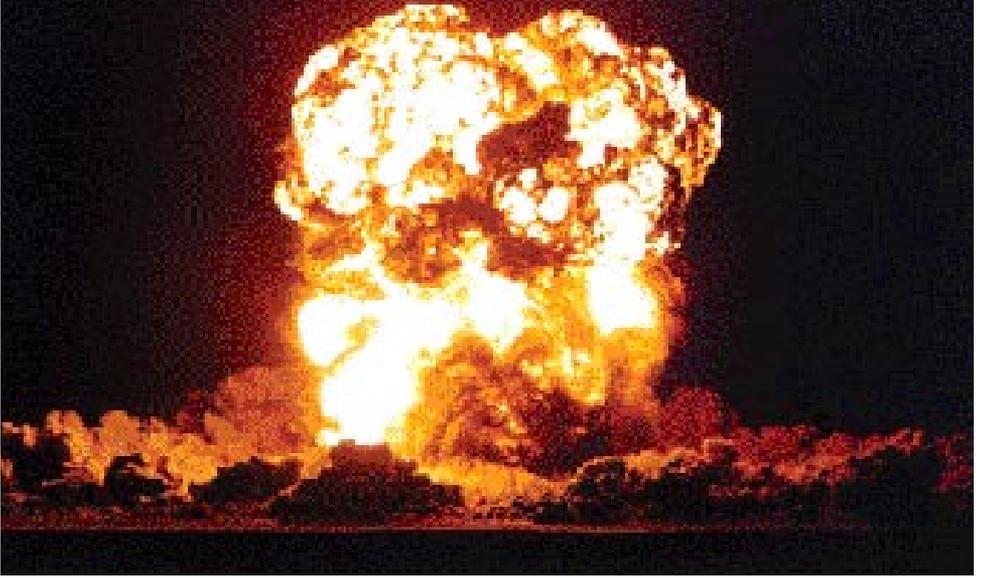
Our behavior, attitudes, personal relationships, goals and direction in life are all directly affected by what we believe deep inside, and how we have answered (or left unanswered) these and similar basic life questions.



“And I saw a New Heaven and a New Earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away..”
Revelation 21:1



GOD ON TRIAL



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