



VIEW PT 1

Opening - Bill Maher video (1 minute)

So, is Bill right? Are we ignorant? is religion rational? Do smart, thinking people believe this stuff?

Is religion a crutch for weak-minded people?

Is it something that makes us feel good or behave better and eat more vegetables for strong, healthy bones, but doesn't really explain reality?

Most people that grow up in church end up leaving the faith in college. They went to Sunday school, youth group, church on Sundays and yet something either didn't stick OR, maybe the whole thing is wrong? Is the Bible is just a fairy tale? Is it something that just deals with morals & meaning, which, while nice, aren't things that deals with reality. Is it just religion...?

I had an ethics professor who seriously came in and turned off alot of the lights because he thought it was too "bright in here" and he looked like a cross between chevy chase and dracula. He would say outlandish things like personhood doesn't begin until someone is 3-4 years old, get everybody riled up and make us think. Now, I didn't lose my faith over it, but looking back, I really wish I had had the tools to explain the reason for my beliefs to him. But all over the world, people are leaving the faith because they don't know how well the Bible rationally explains reality.

Maybe you're struggling with this. Christianity really seems right, but why do so many smart people not believe it? Is everybody just smoking something that makes them feel good? This whole God, Bible, church thing seems interesting, but is it really true? And if it is true, how can we learn more and "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." I Peter 3:15. Because if it's not true, then this is a big, fat waste of time.

Q - Why Do You Think this is? Why do so many people leave the faith during college?

The Bible says "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" in Psalms 24:1.

There's multiple reasons why people leave faith during college, but one major reason why people leave in the faith in college is because they fail to see that THE BIBLE EXPLAINS REALITY, NOT JUST RELIGION. They fail to see WHY & HOW the Bible stands up against other explanations of reality.

So, is Bill Maher right or is he wrong?

Is he actually missing something?

Is religion actually the better explanation of reality?

*Religion being said as Biblical Christianity.

Everyone and their mother has an explanation of life's biggest questions like:

Where do we come from?

What's the purpose of life? (and are there 40 days of it?)

Do you want fries with that?

Whether or not you've really officially thought through what you believe, you believe something.

How do we know that?

Because we all base our decisions off of something.

Belief determines actions.

Whether it's what we eat, how we treat relationships, whether or not we go to church, our morals & ethics, what kind of music we listen to, what our majors are -

We all believe something, because we base our actions off of those beliefs.

But what if what we believed wasn't true?

Then, would our actions be wrong?

If we believed in something untrue, then would our actions be something they shouldn't be?

Would our actions lead us to a place we shouldn't go?

All around we see examples of this:

Hitler believed in the survival of the fittest, so he tried to create an Arian race of super-people. And he killed thousands and thousands of Jews as a result of what he believed.

Mother Teresa believed in the value of the poor, so she dedicated her life to helping the poor & dying in Calcutta, India.

Osama Bin Laden believed God wants America overthrown/gone, so he promoted terrorism on the U.S. in

the 9/11 attacks .

The Darkness believed in a thing called loooooove...

So, everyone believes something (at least that's what John Mayer says)...

Q - What do you believe?

How do you answer the big questions of life:

Where do we come from?

What's the purpose of life?

So, it's important to know **WHAT** you believe, because it affects your actions, but you also need to know **WHY** you believe what you do - is it really true? Does it have a firm foundation?

Richard Dawkins, who's one of the more prominent atheists today says:

"I am against religion because it teaches us to be satisfied with not understanding the world."

- Richard Dawkins (cited on richarddawkins.net)

Today's society says that religion is fine, believe what you want, but that "religion" is not the **TRUTH** of reality. It relegates **RELIGION** to the non-thinking, **VALUES** side of life. In other words, it says that **RELIGION** is your personal preference, like what tv show you want to watch or whether you get a mac or pc. The problem is that they're saying: Religion is ok, but it only stays over here in the **RELIGIOUS** areas of life. **BUT**, they say: science & facts explain **REALITY**.

The Bible answers these big questions about life - and claims to be reality, not just religion.

"Christ, in whom are hidden ALL the treasures of wisdom and knowledge....(then it goes on to say:) I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments". Colossians 2:2c-4

Q - So, What does the Bible claim are hidden in Christ?

ALL the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

All the treasures of just religious religious wisdom and knowledge?

NO.

All the treasures of morals and healthy living?

NO.

ALL the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Q - What would ALL include?

All.

Wow. Pretty bold claims.

One philosopher named Francis Schaeffer said that Christianity is "Truth with a Capital 'T'", not just a set of religious truths, but the Truth of reality itself, (again, not just religion). It's easy to think too small about Christianity...to think that it's just "religion", and doesn't apply to all of life. It's easy to think that's it's not related to science, history, money, the arts, and other spheres of "regular" life. It's easy to think that it doesn't explain **REALITY**, but only **RELIGION**. It's easy to think you follow the Bible to learn church & "love" stuff, but follow your University or professors to learn reality. But again, this is not what the Bible says.

Meet Bob.

"Bob" was born on the island of Mumbato...he's never been off the island of Mumbato, never watched TV, never known much about the rest of the world. Well, "Bob" won a trip to the United States of America. He was transported to Evansville, IN and got to stay with some students at USI to get a taste of the local culture. Well, after trying out the Fall Festival, "Bob" and his new buddies go to play football. Well, "Bob" had never played American football. As everyone got out on the field, Bob lined up with everyone else and when the ball was snapped, he got creamed. Then, he got creamed again. Finally, he just started running to avoid being hit. But, as excited as he was about playing american football, and as afraid as he was for his life, he could not figure out at all what the point of the game was. All he saw was alot of people running into each other for no apparant reason.

What if...one of his USI buddies sat down and explained the rules of football to him? What if he understood that there is a purpose to the game and that there are rules to the game.

That, in a nutshell is what the Bible gives...an explanation of reality, not just religion.

The idea that life has both a purpose and rules to help you live it correctly. That life, like football, was created by a Creator outside the game who designed it with meaning and form. And that He gave us a rulebook to explain why we're here, how to live, and more.

Now, if there's a God, He's revealed Himself through the Bible, and the Bible is true: then the Bible is our guide to looking at all of life. It's not only our guide to living morally, loving people and going to church ("religion") - it's our guide and the "rulebook" for reality. It's our guide & explanation for work, fun, relationships, money, sex, science, learning, sports & food - EVERYTHING.



Q - If the Bible is the Truth of ALL life, then what kinds of questions would it try to explain?

Here's a few:

Where did we come from?

What is our purpose?

What's wrong with the world?

What can fix it?

Questions & Verses:

Here are some quick answers & verses about how the Bible answers questions of REALITY...you can delve into these, but we'll just hit them quick today.

The Bible explains reality, because in the very first sentence it says:

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." - Genesis 1:1

That's the first question the Bible answers - Where do we come from?

So, we know the beginning, and this is also the beginning to understanding life from God's perspective.

The Bible explains reality, because it answers the questions:

"What is our purpose?" - Our purpose is to worship & love God.

24"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. 25And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. 26From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. 27God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. 28'For in him we live and move and have our being.' - Acts 17:24-28a

So, what's our purpose? It's all by & in God. To love & worship Him.

"What's wrong with the world?" - The Fall: Sin. We as humans, rejected God's good order, and that ushered in the Fall - sin. It separated us from God. (Romans 3:23-24)

23for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

So, what's wrong with the world? We are (The Fall/Sin) - We've all sinned, breaking the connection with God.

"What can fix it? What can redeem the world?" - Jesus Christ. Jesus, being fully God and fully man, came to pay the price for our sin, by dying on the Cross & rising again after 3 days. That conquered sin & death and gave us the opportunity to re-connect us to God. (Romans 3:24) (John 3:16)

going back to the same verse 23for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

What can fix what's wrong? Jesus.

So, these are some quick answers & verses about the Bible's answers questions of REALITY, questions of a WORLDVIEW.

Here's something not surprising:

While the Bible explains REALITY, and not just religion, there are a lot of other explanations of reality as well. We'll call them "isms": atheism, naturalism, post-modernism, humanism, narcissism, and jedi-ism (seriously, check out templeofthejediorder.com).

If the Bible explains reality, then it will stand up against other explanations of reality. If it's true, then it will be the BETTER explanation of reality.

You see examples of explanations/worldviews in everything - the Arts in particular express an Artist's worldview.

So, here's a contest - Find something in pop culture that explains another explanation of reality

Here's a few examples of what we're talking about:

Tom Cruise. His scientology stuff.

Oprah. Her "secret" & church of Oprah stuff.

Jason Mraz: He says "I won't worry my life away...cause it all amounts to nothing in the end".

Jason Mraz is a really good musician, vocalist & songwriter, yet this song is expressing a worldview of no life after death.

These are all other explanations of reality.

It's fascinating to see people's worldviews come out in all areas of life. And hopefully, we can learn to use discernment in the things we see, hear, watch and say. Hopefully we can learn to notice them and see if they measure up to the Bible or not.



We want our lives to count for something, we want to have lives full of meaning & purpose - but that can't be if we're not building it on a foundation of truth - because beliefs affects action.

Just like **Mother Teresa's beliefs helped change the world, so can yours**, if they're built on the truth.

If the Bible explains reality, then it will stand up against other explanations of reality.

Because, the Bible explains reality, not just religion.



