

# RUMINATIONS OF A FORMER HEATHEN

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DOUBTS

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The answer to the question: So, you never have doubts about God? is: what kind of doubts are we talking about? There are different kinds of doubts. Is God the absentee landlord, the one who set the toy to spin and forgot about it? He set things in motion but now it's up to us? Are we alone in the world? Is there a response from him when we call? Can we count on his help? There can be doubts about God's existence, there can be doubts about what religion is the right one, or where God can be accessed. There can be doubts that the God of the Bible, as recorded for us by Moses, is God, THE GOD, the only one that exists, or, there can be doubts that (if the God of the Bible exists) he will keep his promises.

Of all those kinds of doubts, the only doubt that can be considered is whether or not the God of the Bible exists. All the other doubts can be wiped off the table. What we need to do is ascertain, make sure, find out, investigate, seek after, look at this with a microscope and with a telescope. Is there a being far superior to us, eternal, unimaginable, creator? And is he the God of the Bible? His existence is the only doubt that can be considered. Because if he exists, there is *no* doubt that he will respond when we call, there is *no* doubt that he will keep his promises. And one of those promises is to save out of the fire all those who claim the blood of Christ as the total payment for their sins, past, present and future.

But why should the God of the Bible be the true God and not another? When you see the lack of fairness in the world it makes you ask who is this God that would permit such inequality. From the point of view of a heathen, reincarnation makes a lot more sense and, to some extent, explains the suffering in the world. Everyone is caught in the Samsara, the Wheel of Life, and everyone has to experience the same things. Life after life, poor, rich, refining, purifying. Onwards and upwards, heading for nirvana, toward the giant pile of light where nothing hurts and it's sort of peaceful. Well, why not? But you would have to take a chance and bet that there will be another life. What we know for sure is that we are subject to death, and beyond that, we know nothing.

What we have to deal with is our own existence. We are here now, the physical world is here now. The existence of the world is a real problem for those who deny the existence of a creator. How is it that this world is here? How did it get here? The idea that all this is an illusion is interesting. We are butterflies dreaming we are people and all that. But I can tell you that none of those people who advocate the idea that physical reality is an illusion goes out to play on the

freeway. There are some big trucks out there moving pretty fast and you best not stand in front of them. That takes care of the idea of all this being an illusion. This is no illusion. There is an immutable reality all around us, a reality that does not depend on individual belief.

The universe exists. We have no idea of how it is that the universe exists, or how big it is, or why does it exist at all. The Big Bang? Sure, why not? The only problem is information. When you see a building under construction, information is being passed along. From a client to an architect to an engineer to the guys who work the re-bar and pour the concrete, every action is preceded by information, and at every step there is a source for that information. And it better be so, because the First Law of Thermodynamics totally denies the possibility that information can come out of nothing. There is no way that information can produce itself. What was the origin of the information that caused the Big Bang? Where did the information come from for the first form of life? Maybe the Laws of Thermodynamics didn't exist before they existed. How is that for a rational explanation? Theories abound, that life was formed by many inorganic elements, and the perfect conditions made those inorganic elements become organic, live. From inorganic to organic in a jump. With the right conditions, life was spontaneously created through the confluence of the right elements, a fortuitous chance. Life may have formed in very simple forms in the depths of the seas. Extreme pressure, extreme heat, made possible the appearance of live organisms. Organisms, what is an organism? Well, obviously something that is organized. Here we run again into the problem of information. Information is the stumbling block at every step. There needs to be information to organize everything, and there has to be a source for that information.

Is the God of the Bible really God? Is he the one who created everything, visible and invisible? Is he the one? It is a question worth answering. If he exists, we can have a peace that has no equal, the peace of knowing that we will absolutely not go to hell after we die. The death of Christ, the blood of Christ, is the total payment for our sins. All the sins contained in our entire lifetime, conscious and unconscious, and into the future, are paid for. How is that for a desirable reality?

How can we know that all this is true, that we are safe? Well, it's in the Law. Leviticus 17:11 says, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your soul; for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul." What a Law, designed just for me! He says, "I have given it to you," given is the word that I see in front of me. Given, to accomplish the atonement for my soul, he said.

The payment for our sins is the very beginning of the riches of God, it puts us inside the threshold of his kingdom.