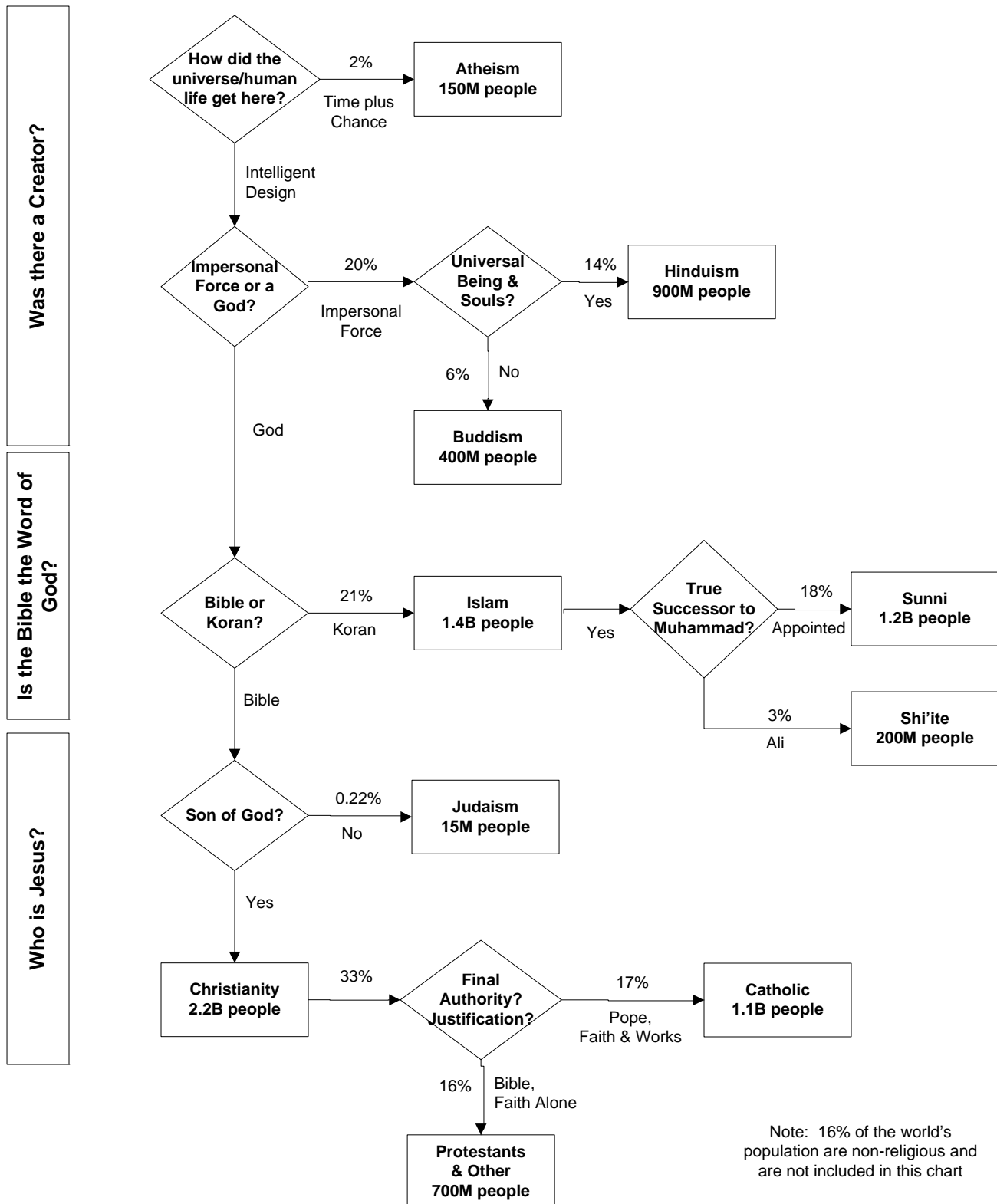


# Deciding Between the Major Religions of the World



# Reasons to Believe

Based on *In Defense of the Faith: Apologetics & Intelligent Design* by Bryan P. Mistele

Summary		
1.	<b>Proof by Comparison</b>  Introduction, Chapter 9, 10, 22, Conclusion	<b>Of all the major religions, Christianity is the most consistent with the preponderance of the evidence.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A personal God is the best explanation for how the universe and human life got here.</li><li>• The Bible is the most accurate and reliable text in all of ancient history; prophecy confirms its divine inspiration.</li><li>• The most likely explanation from the historical evidence is that Jesus was indeed the son of God.</li></ul> <i>Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have – 1 Peter 3:15</i>
Reasons to Believe in a Creator		
2.	<b>Proof from Creation</b>  Chapter 1	<b>A beginning (the Big Bang) implies a beginner.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Whatever begins to exist has a cause.</li><li>• The universe began to exist; therefore the universe had a cause.</li></ul> <i>In the beginning [time] God created [energy] the heavens [space] and the earth [matter]. – Genesis 1:1</i> <i>For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. – Colossians 1:16-17</i>
3.	<b>Proof from Design</b>  Chapters 2 & 3	<b>Design (a Universe and an Earth “just right” for life) implies a designer.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The parameters of the universe are exquisitely fine-tuned to produce and sustain life, but randomness does not produce fine-tuning.</li><li>• A planet that can sustain life in our universe is very, very rare (no more than one in 10 billion).</li></ul> <i>The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. – Psalm 19:1</i> <i>For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. – Romans 1:20</i>
4.	<b>Proof from Life</b>  Chapters 4 & 5	<b>Evolution (time plus chance) can't explain the creation of life.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Life never spontaneously arises from non-life. Life always comes from life.</li><li>• There has never been an observed case of macroevolution. Never.</li><li>• Beneficial mutations don't occur; and mutations never form new species.</li><li>• Survival of the fittest (natural selection) can't explain the arrival of the fittest.</li><li>• The fossil record does not support macroevolution - there are no transitional life forms. Evolution predicts millions upon millions of transitional life forms.</li></ul> <i>The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. – Genesis 2:2</i>

5.	Proof from Information	DNA is information, and information is always the product of intelligence.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Numerous examples of “irreducible complexity” disprove Darwinism.</li> <li>Cells are horrendously complicated – more complex than any computer we’ve ever created; and many biological machines could not have evolved.</li> <li>Random chance never produces information, and DNA contains more than 3 billion “lines of code” (equal to 4,000 books or 60X that of Windows Vista).</li> </ul> <p><i>For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth. – Psalm 139:13-15</i></p>
Chapter 6		
<b>Reasons to Believe in the Bible</b>		
6.	Proof from Historical Records	The Bible is the most accurate and reliable text in all of ancient history.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Dead Sea scrolls confirmed the accuracy of the text passed down to us.</li> <li>More original copies, documentary evidence and third-party collaboration exists for the Bible than any other book in history.</li> <li>6 of the New Testament’s 8 authors were all eyewitnesses of Jesus Christ; all 8 were verified by at least two of the others from the group of 8.</li> </ul> <p><i>I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. – Matthew 5:18</i></p>
Chapters 11-12		
7.	Proof from Prophecy	Prophecy confirms the divine inspiration of scripture.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bible contains more than 1,000 prophecies – more than half have already been fulfilled with 100% accuracy.</li> <li>Many prophecies predict specific events to the exact day, even though they were given hundreds or thousands of years before their fulfillments.</li> <li>The accuracy of prophecy is the test by which to measure all other religions.</li> </ul> <p><i>Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. – 2 Peter 1:20-21</i></p>
Chapter 13		
<b>Reasons to Believe in Jesus Christ</b>		
8.	Proof from History	The most likely explanation from history is that Jesus Christ is God.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The other alternatives for Christ’s identity (legend, good teacher, lunatic, liar) are not credible given the historical, archeological &amp; corroborating evidence.</li> <li>The other alternatives for Christ’s resurrection (Christ didn’t die, wrong tomb, stolen body, hallucinations) are not credible given the historical evidence.</li> <li>The inescapable conclusion of the resurrection is that Christ was divine.</li> </ul> <p><i>For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4</i></p>
Chapters 14-17		

