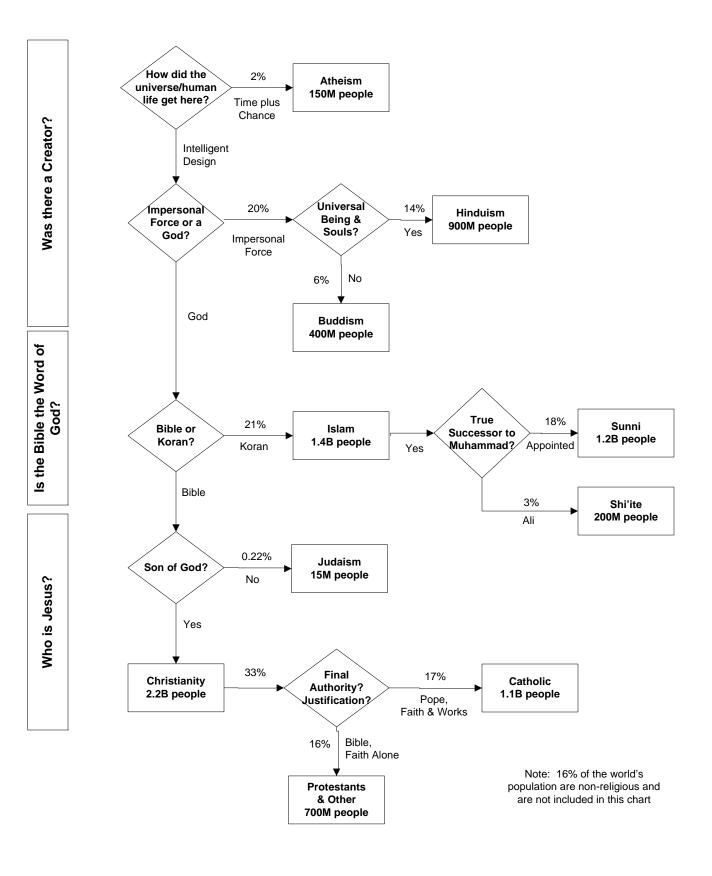
Deciding Between the Major Religions of the World



Reasons to Believe

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

	Summary				
1.	Proof by Comparison	Of all the major religions, Christianity is the most consistent with the preponderance of the evidence.			
	Introduction, Chapter 9,	 A personal God is the best explanation for how the universe and human life got here. The Bible is the most accurate and reliable text in all of ancient history; prophecy confirms its divine inspiration. The most likely explanation from the historical evidence is that Jesus was indeed the son of God. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the 			
	10, 22, Conclusion	reason for the hope that you have – 1 Peter 3:15			
•	B ((0)	Reasons to Believe in a Creator			
2.	Proof from Creation	 A beginning (the Big Bang) implies a beginner. Whatever begins to exist has a cause. The universe began to exist; therefore the universe had a cause. In the beginning [time] God created [energy] the heavens [space] and the earth [matter]. – Genesis 1:1 			
	Chapter 1	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			
3.	Proof from Design	Design (a Universe and an Earth "just right" for life) implies a designer.			
		 The parameters of the universe are exquisitely fine-tuned to produce and sustain life, but randomness does not produce fine-tuning. A planet that can sustain life in our universe is very, very rare (no more than one in 10 billion). The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his 			
		hands. – Psalm 19:1 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power			
	Chapters 2 & 3	and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. – Romans 1:20			
4.	Proof from Life	Evolution (time plus chance) can't explain the creation of life.			
		 Life never spontaneously arises from non-life. Life always comes from life. There has never been an observed case of macroevolution. Never. Beneficial mutations don't occur; and mutations never form new species. Survival of the fittest (natural selection) can't explain the arrival of the fittest. The fossil record does not support macroevolution - there are no transitional life forms. Evolution predicts millions upon millions of transitional life forms. 			
	Chapters 4 & 5	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			

5.	Proof from Information	DNA is information, and information is always the product of intelligence.
		 Numerous examples of "irreducible complexity" disprove Darwinism. Cells are horrendously complicated – more complex than any computer we've ever created; and many biological machines could not have evolved. 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).
	Chapter 6	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
		Reasons to Believe in the Bible
6.	Proof from Historical	The Bible is the most accurate and reliable text in all of ancient history.
	Records	 The Dead Sea scrolls confirmed the accuracy of the text passed down to us. More original copies, documentary evidence and third-party collaboration exists for the Bible than any other book in history. 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.
	Chapters 11-12	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
7.	Proof from Prophecy	Prophecy confirms the divine inspiration of scripture.
		 The Bible contains more than 1,000 prophecies – more than half have already been fulfilled with 100% accuracy. Many prophecies predict specific events to the exact day, even though they were given hundreds or thousands of years before their fulfillments. The accuracy of prophecy is the test by which to measure all other religions.
	Chapter 13	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
		Reasons to Believe in Jesus Christ
8.	Proof from History	The most likely explanation from history is that Jesus Christ is God.
		 The other alternatives for Christ's identity (legend, good teacher, lunatic, liar) are not credible given the historical, archeological & corroborating evidence. The other alternatives for Christ's resurrection (Christ didn't die, wrong tomb, stolen body, hallucinations) are not credible given the historical evidence. The inescapable conclusion of the resurrection is that Christ was divine.
	Chapters 14-17	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

9.	Proof from Prophecy	Prophecy confirms Christ was the only person who could be the Messiah.
		 The prophet Ezekiel predicted the <i>exact day</i> the Messiah would come more than 500 years ahead of time. Christ fulfilled this prophecy on Palm Sunday. More than 60 very specific prophecies in the Old Testament of the Messiah were fulfilled in every detail by Jesus Christ. No one else (both mathematically and historically) could be the Messiah.
	Chapter 18	For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace, there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness form that time on and forever. — Isaiah 9:6-7
10.	Proof from Miracles	Christ's miracles confirm his claim of divinity.
		 There were more than 515 eyewitnesses to Christ's resurrection. The historical evidence and eyewitness accounts validate Christ's miracles. Only God could have performed the miracles Christ did (healings, exorcisms, controlling nature, resurrections, supernatural knowledge).
	Chapter 19	Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him and yourselves know. – Acts 2:22
11.	Proof from His Followers	The life of Christ's followers and Christianity's impact on history testify to the Gospel message.
		 All of Christ's disciples (save one), died for their belief in Christ's resurrection. People do not die for what they know is a lie. The conversion of skeptics (Paul, James, Jews in general) and Christianity's impact on Rome & England is compelling evidence of the resurrection. The way Christians live and die for their faith demonstrates the power of Christian faith.
	Chapter 20-21	That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. — 1 John 1:1-3

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