What is Apologetics? An Outline

by[Ryan Turner](https://carm.org/ryan-turner)

1. What is Christian apologetics?
   1. What Apologetics is Not
      1. The art of getting really good at saying, “I’m sorry!” over and over.
      2. The art of intellectually forcing unbelievers into submission holds MMA style.
      3. Arguing about how many angels can stand on a pin.
      4. Shaving your head and looking cool.
   2. A Definition of Apologetics
      1. “Apologetics is the branch of Christian theology which attempts to give a rational defense of the Christian faith.”
      2. Apologetics is giving a reason for why you believe what you believe.
      3. The English word “apologetics” comes from the Greek word apologia which means “to give a reason or defense” ([1 Pet. 3:15](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/1%20Pet.%203.15)).
      4. Apologetics is also called “pre-evangelism.”
      5. An “apologist” is someone who defends the Christian faith.
2. Why should we do apologetics?
   1. The [Bible](https://carm.org/dictionary-bible) Commands us to
      1. [1 Peter 3:15](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/1%20Pet%203.15), “But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence" (NASB).
         1. The importance of humility:  [1 Cor. 8:1](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/1%20Cor.%208.1), “ . . . Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies.”
         2. The importance of love:  [1 Cor. 13](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/1%20Cor.%2013).
      2. [Jude 3](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Jude%203), “I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.”
         1. [Jude 22](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Jude%2022), “And have mercy on some, who are doubting.”
         2. Apologetics is to be coupled with mercy and love.
   2. Jesus Did Apologetics
      1. [Jesus](https://carm.org/dictionary-jesus) gave evidence for His claims:
         1. His fulfillment of prophecy ([Mk. 14:61-62](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Mark.%2014.61-62); [Lk. 24:44-45](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Luke.%2024.44-45)).
         2. His Miracles
            1. Resurrection: Prediction ([Jn. 2:19-21](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John.%202.19-21); cf. [Mt. 12:39-40](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Matt.%2012.39-40)) and Accomplishment ([1 Cor. 15](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/1%20Cor.%2015); [Lk. 24:26-27](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Luke.%2024.26-27)).
            2. Healings ([Mt. 11:2-5](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Matt.%2011.2-5)).
         3. Corrected false interpretations of Scripture ([Mt. 4:1-11](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Matt.%204.1-11)).
   3. Paul Did Apologetics
      1. Greeks at Mars Hill ([Acts 17:22-34](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Acts%2017.22-34))
         1. Quotes pagan poets Aratus and Epimenides.
      2. Jews in the Synagogues ([Acts 17:1-3](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Acts%2017.1-3))
      3. False teachers within the Church (Galatians, 1 Corinthians, etc.)
      4. Paul’s mission
         1. [Phil. 1:7](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Phil.%201.7)--“the defense and confirmation of the gospel.”
         2. [Phil. 1:16](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Phil.%201.16)--“I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.”
      5. Paul’s criteria for ordaining [elders](https://carm.org/elder)
         1. [Titus 1:9](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Titus%201.9), “Holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict" (cf. [2 Tim. 2:24](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/2%20Tim.%202.24)).
   4. The Church Did Apologetics
      1. The Early Church with the Apostles
         1. The Apostle Paul:  Galatians and 1 Corinthians
         2. The Apostle John:  1, 2, and 3rd John
      2. The Early Church after the Apostles
         1. Apologists:  Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, etc.
         2. Heresies:  Gnosticism, Arianism, etc.
   5. Apologetics Helps Christians
      1. To better know their faith and share it more effectively.
      2. To answer people’s real questions which hinder them from accepting the gospel.
      3. To have influence in the public square (education, media, etc.).
      4. To prevent doctrinal apostasy in the Church.
      5. To answer the false claims of cults and religions . . .
3. What are the different methods of Christian apologetics?
   1. Presuppositional Apologetics
      1. General Characteristics:
         1. Emphasizes the importance of presuppositions or the foundations of one’s thinking.
         2. Assumes the existence of God and the truth of the Bible.
      2. Adherents: John Frame, Greg Bahnsen, Cornelius Van Till, etc.
   2. Classical Apologetics
      1. General Characteristics:
         1. Stresses rational argumentation for the existence of God.
         2. It is necessary to demonstrate the existence of God first in order to argue for the resurrection of Jesus. (God must exist for miracles to occur).
      2. Adherents:  Norman Geisler, William Lane Craig, R.C. Sproul, etc.
   3. Evidential Apologetics
      1. General Characteristics:
         1. They emphasize giving evidence for the Christian faith whether historical, logical, etc.
         2. They think miracles do not presuppose God’s existence but can serve as evidence for His existence.
            1. Resurrection example
      2. Adherents:  B.B. Warfield, John Warwick Montgomery, Gary Habermas, etc.
   4. Which View is Correct?
      1. All of the views have practical advantages and are useful in certain circumstances.
         1. Presuppositional ([2 Pet. 3:5](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/2%20Pet.%203.5))
         2. Classical ([Rom. 1:20](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Rom.%201.20))
         3. Evidential ([1 Cor. 15:3-7](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/1%20Cor.%2015.3-7))
      2. It seems that Scripture makes use of all of them in a very generic sense.
      3. Make up your own mind.
4. What are the various areas of Christian apologetics?
   1. 6 Areas of Apologetics
      1. Philosophical Apologetics
      2. Theological Apologetics
      3. Biblical Apologetics
      4. Scientific Apologetics
      5. Religion and Cult Apologetics
      6. Other Areas (History, Sociology, Business, etc.)
5. Conclusion
   1. Since Christianity is a worldview, apologetics in some sense affects every aspect of life.
   2. The Bible commands it, Jesus did it, Paul did it, the early Church did it, and the world needs it.
   3. What are you going to do about it?
6. Bibliography
   1. CARM.org Website.
   2. Cowan, Steven B. *5 Views on Apologetics.*
   3. Geisler, Norman L.  *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics.*

How to do Apologetics, an Outline

by [Ryan Turner](https://carm.org/ryan-turner)  
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The following is an outline of a presentation that I delivered at a conference entitled "How To Be An Effective Apologist Right Where You Are" or "How to Integrate [Apologetics](https://carm.org/dictionary-apologetics) into Your Personal Ministry."

1. The Foundations and Tools for Effective Apologetics
   1. Salvation and Spiritual Maturity
      1. [Salvation](https://carm.org/dictionary-salvation)
         1. [1 Corinthians 15:3-4](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/1%20Cor%2015.3-4); [Ephesians 2:8-9](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Eph%202.8-9)
      2. Spiritual Maturity
         1. Spiritual disciplines: studying the Word ([2 Tim. 2:15](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/2%20Tim.%202.15)), worship, prayer, etc.
            1. Memorize Scripture!
         2. Fruit of the Spirit: love, patience, and gentleness ([Gal. 5:22-23](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Gal.%205.22-23)).
      3. Recommended Resources
         1. The [Bible](https://carm.org/dictionary-bible)
   2. Critical Thinking
      1. The Foundational Tool ([Mt. 22:37](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Matt.%2022.37))
         1. How you think will effect how you do theology, evangelize, do apologetics, etc.
            1. Philosophy: the great synthesizer of all major disciplines.
            2. Philosophy: the handmaiden of theology.
         2. Understand Christianity as a worldview.
         3. Formal debates exhibit the importance of critical thinking.
      2. Advice
         1. Learn the basic logical fallacies.
         2. Take a class on logic.
         3. Buy a good logic and/or critical thinking book.
      3. Resources
         1. *Come Let us Reason* by Norman Geisler, et. al.
         2. *Introduction to Philosophy* by Geisler and Feinburg.
         3. CARM Critical Thinking School and Manual.
         4. CARM.org website.
   3. Sound [Theology](https://carm.org/dictionary-theology)
      1. The Importance of Theology
         1. You need to know what faith you are defending before you start defending the faith.
      2. The foundational doctrines:
         1. Bibliology - Is the Bible authoritative and inspired?
         2. Theology - Who is God?
         3. Christology - Who is Jesus?
         4. Anthropology - What is the nature of man?
         5. Soteriology - How is man saved?
      3. Advice
         1. Study the Bible seriously: write in your Bible, write your own Bible commentary, write your own systematic theology, write your own questions journal, etc.
         2. Talk with Christians who are more knowledgeable than you.
         3. Purchase a really good systematic theology book.
         4. Talk with cultists.
         5. Talk with unbelievers.
      4. Resources
      5. Theology
         1. Bible
         2. Paltalk.com
         3. Norman Geisler’s  *Systematic Theology* (4 Volumes)
         4. Wayne Grudem’s  *Systematic Theology* (1 Volume)
         5. CARM Theology School
         6. CARM.org Website, Discussion Forums, and Chat Rooms
      6. Bible Survey
         1. *A Popular Survey of the Old Testament* by Norman Geisler
         2. *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction* by Gleason Archer (more advanced)
         3. *An Introduction to the New Testament* by D.A. Carson, et. al.
         4. *New Testament Introduction* by Donald Guthrie (more advanced but worth it!)
   4. Apologetics
      1. Apologist  (Salvation + Critical Thinking + Theology = Apologetics)
      2. Resources
         1. *Reasonable Faith* by William Lane Craig
         2. *Christian Apologetics* by Norman Geisler
         3. *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics* by Norman Geisler
         4. CARM Apologetics School
         5. CARM.org
2. How and Where You Can Use Apologetics
   1. Your Family
      1. The Importance of the Family
      2. The Parent’s Role in the Family
         1. Lead devotions.
         2. Talk with your kids about God.
         3. Make sure your children receive an excellent education.
         4. Public vs. private vs. homeschooling.
   2. Your [Church](https://carm.org/dictionary-church)
      1. The Importance of the Church
      2. The Pastors
         1. Reinforce the role of the family.
         2. Teach and preach apologetical sermons.
         3. Systematic theology and current issues.
         4. Have a resource list for further study.
         5. Have well-equipped leaders: (elders, small group leaders, ministry team leaders, etc.).
         6. Have conferences.
         7. See that your congregation gets discipled.
      3. The Lay People
         1. Encourage the leadership of the Church.
         2. Teach Sunday school classes or Bible studies.
            1. Go through Lee Strobel’s books (*The Case for Christ*, *The Case for Faith*, *The Case for a Creator*, etc.).
         3. Go through CARM’s Theology School.
         4. Disciple and equip others (especially the youth) and get discipled and equipped yourself.
   3. Your School and University
      1. The Importance of Education
         1. Elementary, Middle, and High Schools.
         2. Colleges and Universities.
      2. Suggestions
         1. Become a professor or teacher.
         2. Get involved with student ministries: speakers, Bible studies, evangelism, etc.
   4. Your Job
      1. The Importance of the Workplace.
      2. Suggestions
         1. Have a Bible study.
         2. Have a Spiritual discussion group.
         3. Have a book study group.

Related Articles

* [An Introduction to Apologetics](https://carm.org/introduction-apologetics)
* [What is Apologetics? An Outline](https://carm.org/apologetics-outline)
* [An illustration of what apologetics really is](https://carm.org/illustration-of-apologetics)
* [Are you an apologist?](https://carm.org/are-you-apologist)
* [Apologetics and the Family](https://carm.org/apologetics-and-the-family)
* [Logical fallacies or fallacies in argumentation](https://carm.org/logical-fallacies-or-fallacies-argumentation)
* [What is Hate Speech?](https://carm.org/hate-speech)
* [Evidential Apologetics](https://carm.org/evidential-apologetics)
* An illustration of what apologetics really is
* [by Matt Slick](https://carm.org/matt-slick)  
  6/8/2007
* [Apologetics](https://carm.org/dictionary-apologetics) is somewhat of a lonely endeavor. It is possible for a person to give a great deal of effort to apologetic work, to defending God’s word, to answering questions, to reasoning with people and have it all seem as though it was worthless. Discouragement is a reality to the apologist. There are certainly victories, by God’s grace; but there are many encounters that could simply be classified as "unprofitable."
* To help you keep your eyes on the real issue of apologetics, I offer the following illustration. The idea is to get you to understand what your job is as an apologist--as someone who answers questions and objections and points people to [Jesus](https://carm.org/dictionary-jesus). I believe that if you understand where you are and what your ‘job’ is, then you won’t be as overcome with discouragement as you might otherwise be.
* Apologetics is like . . .
* Apologetics is like a field. In the center of the field is a garden. This garden has one door, and that door is Jesus. There is one path that leads to that door. Inside the garden is [eternal life](https://carm.org/dictionary-eternal-life) in the presence of God. Outside the field, however, are rocks, boulders, thorns, thistles, valleys, hills, and many false paths that lead nowhere.
* The apologist resides in the field and points people to the true path, so they can find the Garden. The apologist seeks to remove the intellectual thorns and emotional rocks that prevent people from finding the true path to God. Also, there are many people who are walking false paths (cults, philosophies, etc.,) who will never reach that Garden. The apologist gently guides the person, removes the obstacles, and points in the direction of the Garden. When people arrive there, it is between them and God as to whether or not they enter.
* Picture yourself as a laborer in the field. It isn’t your job to save anyone. It is your job to point the way. You aren’t the only one in the field. Getting them to the Garden is not your job. They get there. You simply help them.
* **Why do we need to look outside the Bible?**
* Answering questions about creation and evolution is vital for strengthening faith
* **Published: 5 December 2009 (GMT+10)**

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| day 1 |
| day 2 |
| day 3 |
| day 4 |
| day 5 |
| day 6 |

* James C wonders why we need to look outside the Bible for answers. Why not just accept what the Bible says? His letter is first printed in its entirety, and [then below](https://creation.com/why-apologetics-is-important#response), CMI’s Dr [Tas Walker](https://creation.com/article/3988) responds point-by-point, showing why a solid response to questions about science and faith are so important.
* Hi folks,
* I have been reading the article and I wonder why we need to look for additional answers or understanding outside of the Bible at all. We can all read the account of creation in Genesis exactly the same. Everyone’s Bible states that it took six days to make heaven and earth. There is another scripture in Peter’s epistle that says “a day with the Lord is as a thousand years” so it is entirely possible in the light of this verse that creation took 6000 years (6 days x 1000 years) instead of just 6 days.
* Now whether that’s the case only God knows but I’m not going to loose any sleep over it because it won’t affect my salvation one little bit. Will it affect someone else’s? That’s between them and God but may I say that if people get thrown off track so easily by these sorts of issues then it’s doubtful if they have ever known the Creator personally at all.
* Sorry I’m not much of a scholar so I can’t throw around any credentials but then the saving grace of God is not dependant on such things. To my knowledge, and I could be wrong, Jesus never tried to “save” or have a relationship with his “creation’ by lecturing them about what happened in Genesis chapters 1–2. He was actually more concerned with what happened in chapter 3 and so should we. It is still the cause of many missing the mark and being “thrown out” of the presence of God. What is it? Simply listening too long to another opinion or “reasoned intellectual argument” that undermined the word of the Creator God. Who was this first “intellectual giant” who stole the show away from the creator and his creation through his cleverly thought out lecture? Yep, that old snake in the grass—Lucifer. Now God forbid that we should do the same but we must treat the word of God with the utmost reverence and respect and not start to say “hath God said?”
* If we all as Bible believers agree that all the scriptures were inspired by God then what he wrote is good enough for me. In the end all our theories will vanish away but the “word of God will never pass away”. Here’s one last thought about trying to interpret the Bible. If we truly believe that the Holy Spirit wrote these words then he knows what it means and therefore he’s the one we all need to ask. If there’s going to be no extension to the complete canon of scripture then we’re stuck with what we’ve already been given and in the end that’s all we really need to know—just what the Bible says. Remember that the Lord God knows exactly how long he took to create everything and then he said through the prophet Isaiah “as high as the heavens are above the earth so high are my ways from being found out”. Ok then—six days will be fine by me.
* James C
* Dear James,
* I have been reading the article and I wonder why we need to look for additional answers or understanding outside of the Bible at all.
* We need the sorts of answers provided on this website because we live in the world and we need to apply the teaching of the Bible to our real-life situation.
* We can all read the account of creation in Genesis exactly the same. Everyone’s Bible states that it took six days to make heaven and earth.
* Yes. In other words anyone who accepts that the Bible is the Word of God, accurate and without error, would have no problem accepting that God created this world in six literal days about 6,000 years ago. That’s what the Bible plainly says and God has the power to do it.
* But what are we to do with the challenges from scientists that we read in the newspaper, see on television and find in school text books? They tell us that the world is millions of years old. And how are we to answer those who ask about the conflict, such as our children, our work colleagues and our neighbours? If we just tell them that the scientists are wrong they are not likely to believe us. We need to give them a satisfactory explanation that answers their questions. That is why the information posted on this [creation.com](https://creation.com/) website is so important.
* There is another scripture in Peter’s epistle that says “a day with the Lord is as a thousand years” so it is entirely possible in the light of this verse that creation took 6000 years (6 days x 1000 years) instead of just 6 days.
* Except that the Bible very [clearly says](https://creation.com/the-bibles-days-are-numbered) that the world was created in six literal days. Why try to stretch the time? Perhaps you are trying to fit the idea of long periods of time to appease the scientists. But even 12,000 years (6,000 + 6,000) is nowhere enough to match the alleged billion-year age of the earth.
* There are some practical problems with the idea that one day is a thousand years. If God made the plants during the third one-thousand-year period, then they had to wait 1000 thousand years for the sun to be created. And the plants would have had to wait 1000 years more before the birds and flying animals arrived on the scene, which means they would have had trouble being pollinated. And what does it mean to have an evening and a morning of a one-thousand-year period?
* We need to give them a satisfactory explanation that answers their questions.
* In any case, that is a [wrong application](https://creation.com/2-peter-38-one-day-is-like-a-thousand-years) of [2 Peter 3:8](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Pet%203.8). First, it is very selective to just quote the first part of the verse, “one day with the Lord is as a thousand years” when the rest of the sentence says, “and a thousand years are as one day.” The two cancel out. You see, [2 Peter 3:8](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Pet%203.8) is not talking about how to interpret the days in [Genesis 1](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gen%201) but telling us that God is eternal. God lives outside of time. A long time for us does not seem long to Him. A short time for us does not mean He has to rush. He is not constrained by time as we are.
* Second, if we were going to be consistent in the way we apply [2 Peter 3:8](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Pet%203.8) we should apply it all through the Old Testament. That means we would have Jonah inside the belly of the fish, not for 3 days, but for 3,000 years. And we would understand Joshua walking around the walls of Jericho, not for 7 days, but for 7,000 years. We would also have to claim that a watch in the night was really a thousand years long, given that Peter was quoting [Psalm 90:4](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Ps%2090.4)
* And finally, when we read the Bible we need to understand what is actually written. The word day in Hebrew can have a variety of meanings, as the word day can have in English. For example, when I say, “In my father’s day” the word “day” does not mean a literal 24-hour period but a long, indefinite period of time. When I say, “I went out in the boat for the day” it means I went out for the daylight part of the day. And if I say that I stayed in Sydney for ten days it would mean I was there for ten literal 24-hour days. The number before the word “day” indicates it is the literal thing.
* In Genesis chapters 1 & 2 the Hebrew word “day” is used with all three meanings. For example, when [Genesis 1:16](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gen%201.16) says, “the greater light to govern the day” it means the daylight part of the day. In [Genesis 2:4](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gen%202.4) we read, “in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens”, and the word “day” here means the six-day period of time during which the Lord created everything. Notice that the word day does not have a number with it. But when we read in [Genesis 1:5](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gen%201.5), “And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day,” it is clear that the Bible means one 24-hour day. In fact, this verse defines the word day. And the extra description of “evening” and “morning” provides extra emphasis that this is one literal, ordinary day. The same construction is used in verses 8, 13, 19, 23 and 31.
* In other parts of the Old Testament when a similar construction is used with the word day, such as with a number, or with evening, or with morning, it always refers to an ordinary day (see for example [Exodus 12](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Exod%2012): 3, 6 or [Deuteronomy 1:2](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Deut%201.2)). So when God uses, for each of the creation days, all three—the number, the word evening, *and* the word morning, He is emphasizing in the strongest possible terms that these are earth-rotation days with an evening and a morning.
* Now whether that’s the case only God knows but I’m not going to loose any sleep over it because it won’t affect my salvation one little bit.
* As we have shown, God has made it plain that creation took six literal days. And, no, it won’t affect your salvation because, when we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our hearts that God has raised him from the dead, we shall be saved ([Romans 10:9](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%2010.9)). But an incorrect understanding of Genesis affects our understanding of the Gospel and our ability to communicate it to others.
* Will it affect someone else’s? That’s between them and God …
* It will affect them if they can’t understand the Gospel. And that is likely if they do not understand God’s righteousness, their sin and its consequences because they have been told God created using evolution over millions of years.
* … but may I say that if people get thrown off track so easily by these sorts of issues then it’s doubtful if they have ever known the Creator personally at all. Sorry I’m not much of a scholar so I can’t throw around any credentials but then the saving grace of God is not dependant on such things.
* This issue has derailed the faith of many people, such as one-time evangelist Charles Templeton, David Williamson and Dan Brown. Templeton told in his last book of the troublesome questions he had about science and Genesis—questions that were not answered and which led him to say [“Farewell to God”](https://creation.com/the-slippery-slide-to-unbelief-a-famous-evangelist-goes-from-hope-to-hopelessness).
* Renowned playwright Williamson said:
* “‘I don’t pray to anything. I went to church in suburban Melbourne and had an intensely religious phase until I was 12, but then I heard the theory of evolution and it cured me of any idea we were God’s children. We’re just a life form that’s evolved reasonably successfully. There’s no grand plan for the universe or our lives … ”1
* A light went off, and I said, ‘The Bible doesn’t make sense. Science makes much more sense to me.’ And I just gravitated away from religion.—Dan Brown, Author, The Da Vinci Code
* How sad. And Dan Brown, author of the best selling *Da Vinci Code* novel said:
* “I was raised Episcopalian, and I was very religious as a kid. Then, in eighth or ninth grade, I studied astronomy, cosmology, and the origins of the universe. I remember saying to a minister, ‘I don’t get it. I read a book that said there was an explosion known as the Big Bang, but here it says God created heaven and earth in seven days. Which is right?’ Unfortunately, the response I got was, ‘Nice boys don’t ask that question.’ A light went off, and I said, ‘The Bible doesn’t make sense. Science makes much more sense to me.’ And I just gravitated away from religion.”2
* If only these folk had found the sorts of reliable, simple answers that are available on [creation.com](http://www.creation.com/) to their troublesome questions about science and faith.
* To my knowledge, and I could be wrong, Jesus never tried to “save” or have a relationship with his “creation” by lecturing them about what happened in Genesis chapters 1–2. He was actually more concerned with what happened in chapter 3 and so should we.
* It is very clear that Jesus believed Genesis because He often referred to Moses’ writings and took them as historical and authoritative (e.g. [Matthew 5:17](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%205.17); [24:37–39](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matthew%2024.37%E2%80%9339); [Luke 16:29](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%2016.29)). He also began with Moses to explain His mission as Saviour of the world ([Luke 24:27](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%2024.27)). And the Jews that were Jesus’ main audience would have taken for granted all of that important background history—our descent from a real man and woman, the man’s Fall into sin, the subsequent Curse on creation bringing about death and suffering, and so on. That Genesis history explains how sin and death entered the world, and it is sin and death that are the reasons Christ came to die. Today, when we talk about the Gospel without that vital background which Jesus’ hearers all knew and understood, it is like a sower throwing seed upon hard ground—the Gospel makes no real sense without it.
* It is still the cause of many missing the mark and being “thrown out” of the presence of God. What is it? Simply listening too long to another opinion or “reasoned intellectual argument” that undermined the word of the Creator God.
* Agreed. And often these arguments can be subtle and clever, which is why so many young people fall away from the faith when they encounter them in their high school and college courses. And that is why these arguments need to be exposed and answered with reliable information.
* Who was this first “intellectual giant” who stole the show away from the Creator and His creation through his cleverly thought out lecture? Yep, that old snake in the grass—Lucifer.
* Absolutely.
* Now God forbid that we should do the same but we must treat the word of God with the utmost reverence and respect and not start to say “hath God said?” If we all as Bible believers agree that all the scriptures were inspired by God then what He wrote is good enough for me. In the end all our theories will vanish away but the “word of God will never pass away”.
* Yes. And it is natural for folk to ask questions. In fact, the Scriptures encourage us to test everything ([1 Thessalonians 5:21](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Thess%205.21)).
* Here’s one last thought about trying to interpret the Bible. If we truly believe that the Holy Spirit wrote these words then he knows what it means and therefore He’s the one we all need to ask. If there’s going to be no extension to the complete canon of scripture then we’re stuck with what we’ve already been given and in the end that’s all we really need to know—just what the Bible says.
* Yes. And it is important that we are open and teachable ([Proverbs 2:1–5](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Prov%202.1%E2%80%935)).
* Remember that the Lord God knows exactly how long he took to create everything and then he said through the prophet Isaiah “as high as the heavens are above the earth so high are my ways from being found out”. Ok then—six days will be fine by me.
* He knows. He has told us. And His Word makes sense of the world around us.
* Tas Walker