



# Embracing Apologetics

A short tour of the  
Why Behind the What

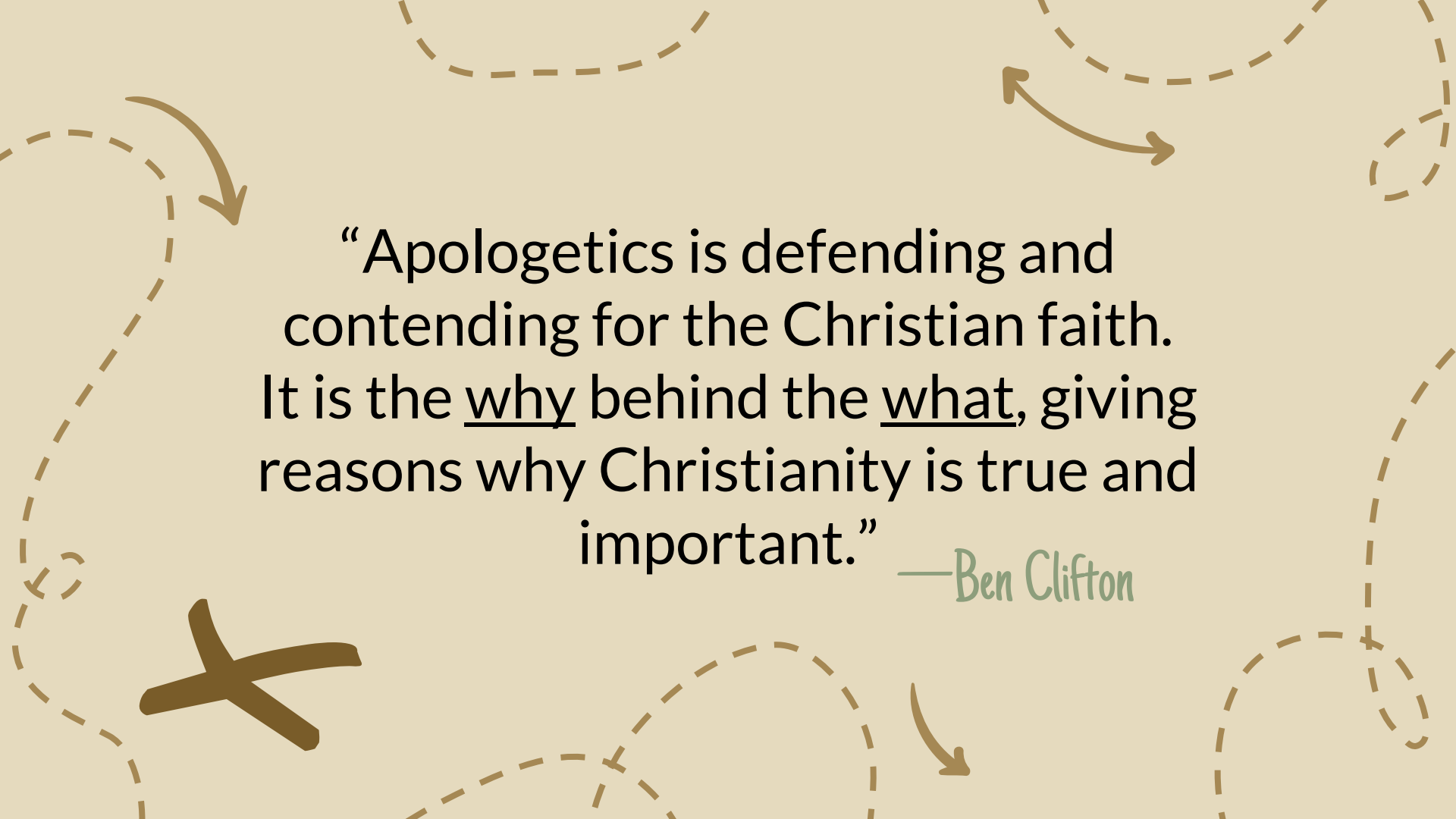
# THE BIG PICTURE OUTLINE

1. What is Apologetics?
2. Why Apologetics is essential
3. Methods of Apologetics
4. Areas of Focus
5. Resources to Grow
6. Opportunities to Share



# WHAT IS APOLOGETICS?



The background is a light beige color with several decorative elements: dashed brown lines forming partial circles and arrows pointing in various directions. A large, thick brown 'X' is drawn in the bottom-left corner.

“Apologetics is defending and  
contending for the Christian faith.  
It is the why behind the what, giving  
reasons why Christianity is true and  
important.”

—Ben Clifton

# APOLOGETICS? WHAT'S THAT?

**IS NOT**

Saying you're sorry for  
believing in Christianity

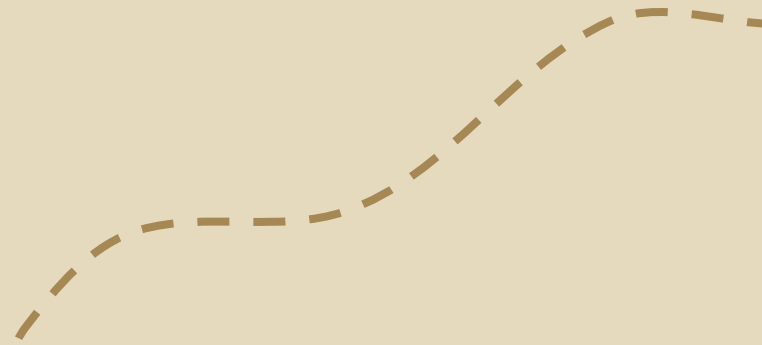
**IS**

Providing a defense  
("apologia") of Christianity

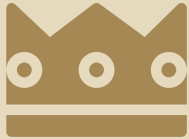


# BEN'S STORY

From High Tech Innovator to  
Eternal Impact Mission 2017



# WHY IS APOLOGETICS ESSENTIAL?



WE'RE COMMANDED

1 PETER 3:15

JUDE 3-4



WE GROW

ROMANS 12:2



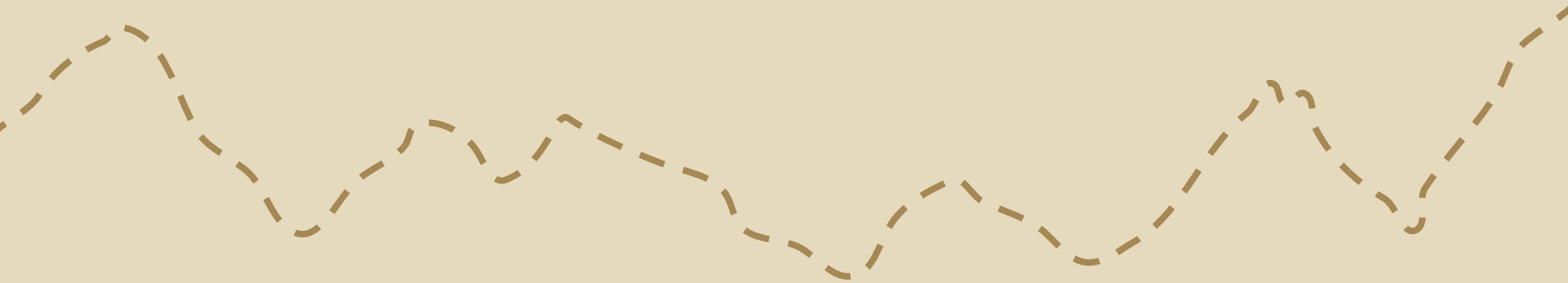
OTHERS GROW

MARK 9:24





# WHY IS APOLOGETICS ESSENTIAL?

1. STRENGTHEN BELIEVERS
  2. PERSUADE UNBELIEVERS
  3. SHAPE CULTURE
- 
- A decorative dashed line in a light brown color runs horizontally across the bottom of the page, featuring a wavy, undulating pattern.



>70% ARE LEAVING

People walk away from the WHAT  
because they don't know the WHY

# PATHS AWAY FROM THE TRUTH

## ATHEISM

THERE IS NO GOD, DO  
WHAT YOU WANT

## "CHRISTIAN" CULTS

TWISTING OF  
CHRISTIAN TRUTH



## SECULARISM

WE DON'T NEED GOD, DO  
WHAT THE CULTURE  
WANTS

## FALSE RELIGIONS

CREATING RELIGIONS OF  
MAN AND SATAN

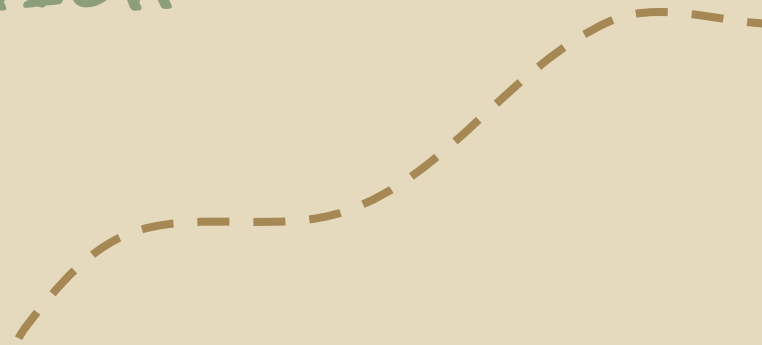


ENCOURAGEMENT  
TO PASTORS



# APOLOGETICS AND WORLDVIEW

ANSWERING THE BIG  
QUESTIONS OF LIFE



# BIG QUESTIONS OF LIFE:

01

ORIGINS

Where did we come from?

02

IDENTITY

What does it mean to be human?

03

MEANING & PURPOSE

Why are we here?

03

GOOD & EVIL

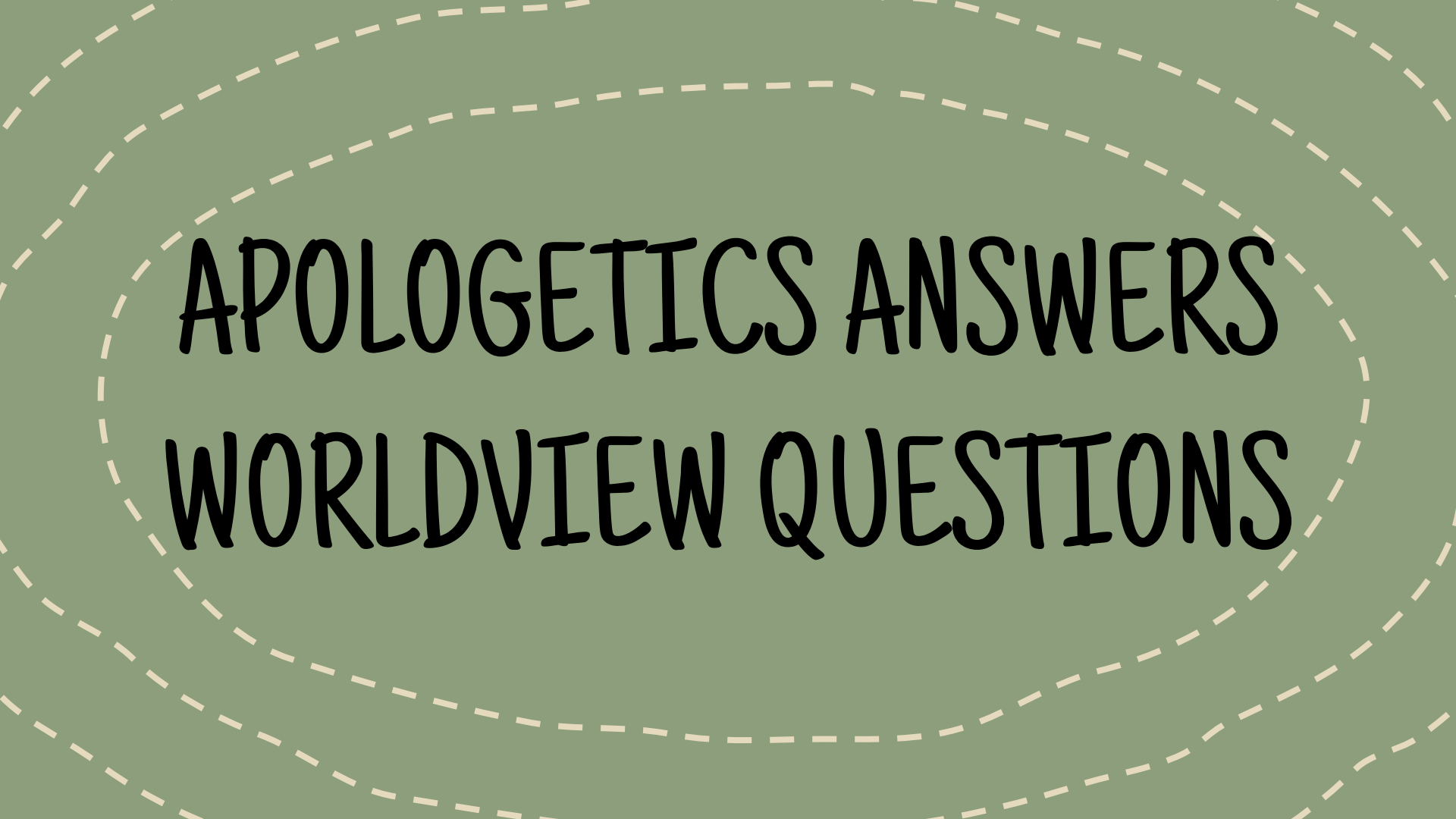
How should we live?

04

DESTINY

Where are we going?





APOLOGETICS ANSWERS  
WORLDVIEW QUESTIONS



# METHODS OF APOLOGETICS



# DIFFERENT METHODS



## PRESUPPOSITIONAL

We presume Christian theism when we make sense of the world



## EVIDENTIAL

Evidence in creation and Scripture shows Christianity to be true



## EXPERIENTIAL

Our personal experience confirms that Jesus is real and the Truth



## CULTURAL

Connecting our culture to Christian truth





# FOCUS OF APOLOGETICS

DIFFERENT AREAS OF STUDY THAT PROVIDE WHY  
ANSWERS TO WHAT QUESTIONS

# DIFFERENT FOCUS



## EXISTENCE OF GOD

How do we know God exists?



## RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

Establishing that Christianity is the only true religion



## RELIABILITY OF SCRIPTURE

How do we know the Bible is reliable and true?



## COUNTER-CULTS/FALSE RELIGIONS

Why cults and other religions are false



## SCIENCE AND THE BIBLE

How do science and Scripture relate?



## THE PROBLEM OF EVIL AND SUFFERING

How can a good God allow evil and suffering?



## MEANING, PURPOSE, AND CULTURE

How Christianity provides true meaning, purpose and direction in life in our culture



## PROPHECY AND ESCHATOLOGY

How Biblical prophecy and study of last days affirms Christianity



# EXPLORING APOLOGETICS

Let's look at examples of how  
apologetics works





# EXISTENCE OF GOD

How do we know God exists?

- There is “existence”: Why is there something rather than nothing?
- The universe had a beginning: What “began” it?
- The universe seems designed for life: Who designed it?
- Moral laws are real: Where do these come from?
- We reason: Where does reasoning come from?
- The Bible requires a supernatural author: Who wrote it?
- Christ rose from the dead: Who raised him?

GOD IS THE BEST ANSWER -> HE EXISTS



# RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

Establishing that Christianity is the only true religion

- The ONE question that establishes Christianity
  - “Minimal Facts” Defense of the Resurrection:
    - Establish historical facts surrounding Jesus’ death and reappearance
    - Use only those facts agreed upon by majority of scholars (minimal facts)
    - Show that the only explanation of all these minimal facts is that God rose Jesus from the dead
1. Jesus died on a Roman cross and placed in a tomb
  2. Multiple, independent eyewitnesses saw Jesus alive after his death
  3. Those who saw Jesus alive were radically transformed, leading to the spread of Christianity

GOD RAISED JESUS IS THE ONLY ANSWER TO THESE FACTS



## RELIABILITY OF SCRIPTURE

How do we know the Bible is reliable and true?

- Scripture claims itself to be the word of God
- Multiple authors over several thousand years tells a complete, consistent story
- The Biblical story corresponds to reality as we discover it in all its forms
- The Bible uniquely provides the best answers to all worldview questions
- Prophetic nature of Scripture requires supernatural guidance in its creation
- Science affirms Scripture
- History affirms Scripture
- Archaeology affirms Scripture
- Abundant ancient manuscript evidence assures reliable transmission of Scripture

WE CAN TRUST ALL THAT THE BIBLE TEACHES





## COUNTER-CULTS/FALSE RELIGIONS

Why cults and other religions are false

- Answers the question: “Why should we believe Christianity and not other religions?”
- Show why Christianity is true (apologetics!)
- Establish essential Christian doctrine
- Show how cults and false religions contradict essential Christian doctrine and thus are not true.
- “Arithmetic Method”:
  - Add to Scripture
  - Subtract from Scripture
  - Multiply requirements of Scripture’s commands
  - Divide people from truth

APOLOGETICS CONTENDS FOR TRUTH AND DEFENDS AGAINST LIES



## SCIENCE AND THE BIBLE

How do science and Scripture relate?

- Science interprets God's revelation in creation like theology interprets God's revelation in Scripture
- Cosmology shows that the universe began to exist
- Physics show that the universe is in "bondage to decay"
- Astronomy shows that the universe was designed to support life
- Biology shows that life was designed
- Medical science reveals what humans are
- Archaeology provides evidence for the historical reliability of the Bible

SCIENCE REVEALS THE EXISTENCE OF A CREATOR & DESIGNER



# THE PROBLEM OF EVIL AND SUFFERING

How can a good God allow evil and suffering?

- The most-often raised objection to God's existence
- Christianity provides the best answer:
  - The basis for what is "good" and "evil"
  - Affirmation of the reality of good and evil
  - Explanation for the origin of evil
  - Purpose behind evil and why God would allow it
  - The solution to evil and suffering
  - Promise of eternity free from evil and suffering
- The problem of evil and suffering is not a problem just for Christianity
- No other worldview or religion provides answers to the problem of evil and suffering

CHRISTIANITY ALONE CONFRONTS EVIL AND PROVIDES THE ANSWERS



## MEANING, PURPOSE, AND CULTURE

How Christianity provides true meaning, purpose, and direction in life in our culture

- Why are we here, and what is the meaning in life?
- Christianity provides complete meaning and purpose in life
  - To glorify God and enjoy Him forever
  - We glorify God by loving and obeying Him
  - We are created for good works that God has prepared in advance for us to do
  - In loving God, we inherit His eternal kingdom as His adopted children
- Without God, life is meaningless and purposeless
- Scripture gives us direction in how to live and how NOT to live

CHRISTIANITY ALONE PROVIDES MEANING, PURPOSE, AND DIRECTION



# PROPHECY AND ESCHATOLOGY

How Biblical prophecy affirms  
Christianity

- Foretelling future events is a supernatural act
- Scripture is full of fulfilled prophecy, most apparent in Christ
  - Prophecy of his life, death, and resurrection
  - Prophecy of the manner of his rejection and death
  - Prophecy of the manner of his birth
  - Prophecy of his human lineage
- Scripture speaks of prophecy yet to be fulfilled, which we can study in light of history and current events

FORETOLD HISTORICAL EVENTS AFFIRM SUPERNATURAL AUTHORSHIP

APOLOGETICS IS AN  
EXCITING PART OF  
GROWING AS A CHRISTIAN

# RESOURCES TO GROW

## Essential Books

- *On Guard* by William Lane Craig
- *Creator and the Cosmos* by Hugh Ross
- *Kingdom of the Cults* by Walter Martin
- *Scripture Alone, The Forgotten Trinity, The King James Only Controversy, What Every Christian Needs to Know About Islam,* by James R. White
- *Christian Apologetics Through African Eyes*, by Reuben Kigame
- *The Return of the God Hypothesis*, Stephen Meyer
- *The Story of Christianity*, by Justo Gonzalez
- *Biblical Archaeology*, by David Graves
- *Hard Sayings of the Bible*, by Walter Kaiser, et.al.
- *Apologetics for the Next Generation*, by Sean McDowell





# RESOURCES TO GROW

## Essential Ministries

- CASR APOLOGETICS!
- Reasonable Faith
- Stand To Reason
- Reasons To Believe
- African Center For Apologetics Research
- Unbelievable
- Alpha and Omega Ministries
- Apologetics Kenya
- Ratio Christi
- Apologetics315



# SHARING IN APOLOGETICS


Opportunities to share  
what you've learned



# SHARING IN APOLOGETICS

## OPPORTUNITIES

- CONNECT WITH CASR APOLOGETICS MINISTRY!
- Study and discuss an apologetics book together
- Watch and discuss YouTube apologetics videos together
  - Reasonable Faith videos
  - Debates on a variety of apologetics subjects
  - ACFAR and Apologetics Kenya videos
- Take “certificate” courses in apologetics
- Attend apologetics conferences in-person or online
- Network with leaders for opportunities
- Aspire to teach an introductory class on apologetics
- Contact Ben with questions: [ben@adventurousapologetics.org](mailto:ben@adventurousapologetics.org)



Q & A

A vintage map of Antarctica is the background. It features a compass with a brass lid and a white toy train on a black box. The map has various geographical labels in German, including 'SÜD-POL', 'ANTARCTISCHER OZEAN', 'SÜD-LÄNDER', and 'SÜDPOLARLÄNDER'. A dashed line is visible in the top left corner.

# JOIN THE ADVENTURE!

Do you have any questions?

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[www.adventurousapologetics.org](http://www.adventurousapologetics.org)