

A suspension bridge with a green safety net and metal railings stretches across a dense, lush green forest. The bridge's cables are visible, and the path leads towards the center of the frame. In the center, there is a large, light-colored circular graphic with a dashed border and a black location pin icon at the top. The text "Worldviews Matter" is written in a black, handwritten-style font within the circle.

Worldviews Matter

**Apologetics starts
with worldviews**

THE BIG PICTURE OUTLINE



1. What is a “Worldview”?
2. Exploring Worldviews
 - a) Biblical Worldview
 - b) Naturalistic Worldview
 - c) Post-Modern Worldview
 - d) Islamic Worldview
 - e) African Traditional Worldview
 - f) Syncretism, Cults, Prosperity Gospel
3. Building our Worldview

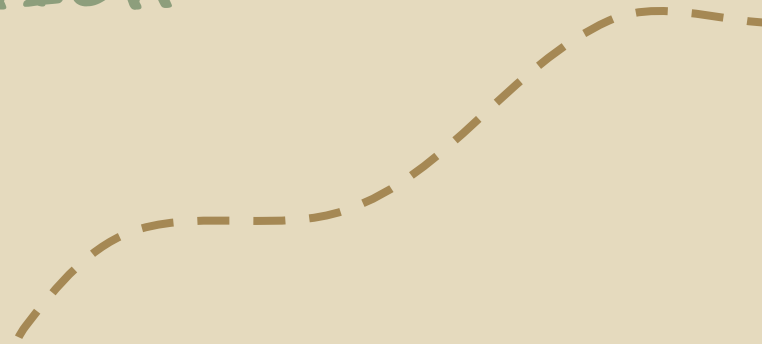


WHAT IS A WORLDVIEW?



APOLOGETICS AND WORLDVIEW

HOW WE SEE 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

PURPOSE

Why are we here?

04

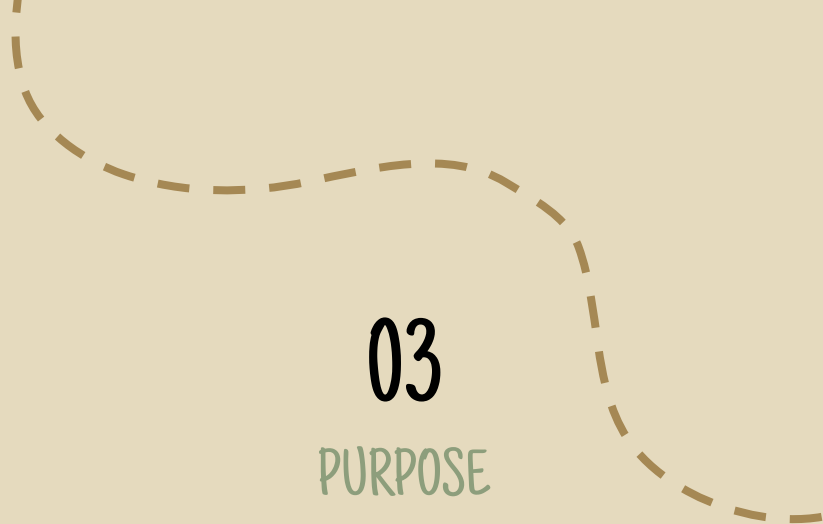
MORALITY

What is right and wrong,
good and evil?

05

DESTINY

Where are we going?



WHAT SHAPES OUR WORLDVIEW?



SCRIPTURE



INSTITUTIONS



EXPERIENCES

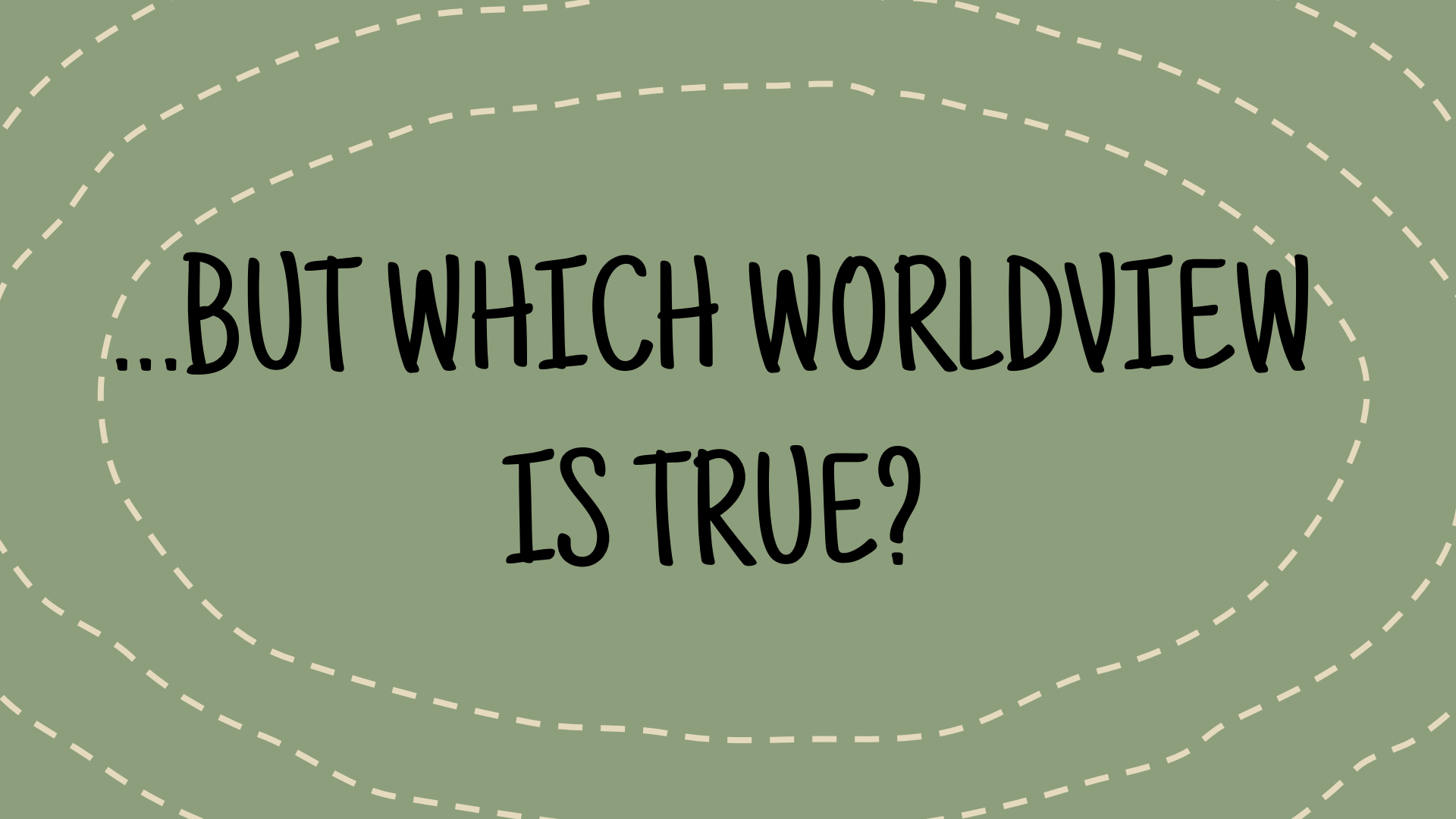


CULTURE





EVERYONE HAS A
WORLDVIEW...



...BUT WHICH WORLDVIEW
IS TRUE?

TESTING WORLDVIEWS

- ❖ FREE FROM CONTRADICTIONS
- ❖ DEEP POWER TO EXPLAIN REALITY
- ❖ WIDE POWER TO EXPLAIN REALITY
- ❖ STABLE POWER TO EXPLAIN REALITY
- ❖ FITS WITH REALITY
- ❖ TESTABLE WITH REALITY
- ❖ LIVABLE IN REALITY
- ❖ SUPERIOR TO ALL OTHER WORLDVIEWS

1 THESSALONIANS 5:21
"Test everything, hold on to the
good"





EXPLORING WORLDVIEWS

SIMPLE HISTORY OF WORLDVIEWS



PAGANISM



JUDEO/CHRISTIAN



DEISM



NATURALISM



POSTMODERNISM

CULTS

NEW AGE

ISLAM

HINDUISM

BUDDHISM

TRADITIONAL RELIGIONS

BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

ORIGINS

- Eternal, immaterial, personal, triune God
- God created everything that has been created

IDENTITY

- Made in the image of God
- Inheritors of God's kingdom
- Humans are fallen in need of salvation

PURPOSE

- To glorify God
- To obey God
- To enjoy Him forever

MORALITY

- God reveals His will in Scripture and in conscience

DESTINY

- Eternal life in the New Creation for Christians
- Eternal death for non-Christians

NATURALISM

ORIGINS

- No God or supernatural reality
- Unsure about ultimate origin of the universe, but most likely eternal

IDENTITY

- Accidental result of natural forces
- Purely physical beings
- Humans are neither good nor evil

PURPOSE

- None
- We are free to create our own purpose

MORALITY

- None
- We are free to create our own morality

DESTINY

- None
- We die and cease to exist
- The universe will also die

POST MODERNISM

ORIGINS

- Can't know
- No supernatural reality
- Even physical reality is unknowable

IDENTITY

- Humans decide who we are
- Language defines who we are
- Language is meaningless

PURPOSE

- Whatever you decide
- No truth

MORALITY

- Culture decides what is right or wrong
- We decide what is right or wrong
- No true morality

DESTINY

- No defined direction
- We are heading for extinction

PRE-TO-POST MODERNISM

Judeo-Christian



PRE-MODERN

Foundations of
worldview found in
God through
revelation

Naturalism



MODERN

Foundations of
worldview found in
man through reason
and science

Secularism



POST-MODERN

Foundations of
worldview do not
exist—there is no
single truth

ISLAM

ORIGINS

- Allah created everything
- Creation is completely separate from Allah
- To associate anything created with Allah is shirk

IDENTITY

- Humans are the highest creation
- Humans are not fallen and must earn their salvation

PURPOSE

- To follow the example of Muhammad in the five pillars of Islam*

MORALITY

- Precepts of the Quran
- The example of Muhammad, Allah's prophet, in the Hadith, interpreted by shariah

DESTINY

- Eternal worldly paradise for those who earn it by submission to Allah
- Eternal hell for those who fall short

*Five Pillars
Faith
Prayer
Alms
Fasting
Hajj
(Jihad)

ISLAM compared to CHRISTIANITY

ISSUE	ISLAM	CHRISTIANITY
GOD	Allah, monotheistic unitarian	YHWH, monotheistic trinitarian
JESUS	Virgin born prophet	Incarnate God, second person of trinity
TRINITY	Ultimate blasphemy	One God in Father, Son, Holy Spirit
MAN	Born without sin, duty to not sin	Born into sin, needing a savior
SIN	Disobedience to law of Allah	Rebellion against faith in triune God
SALVATION	Reward for good deeds	Gift of God by grace received by faith
BIBLE	Corrupted where it contradicts Quran	God-breathed revelation
QURAN	Eternal revelation of Allah	False, violates Deut 4:2, Rev 22:18-19
MUHAMMAD	Final prophet of Allah	False prophet
CRUCIFIXION	Jesus did not suffer the cross	Ultimate display of justice and mercy
RESURRECTION	Ultimate deception	Proof of Christianity (1 Cor 15)
LAST DAYS	Bodily resurrection to final judgement	Bodily resurrection to final judgement
ETERNITY	Worldly reward for the righteous	New Creation with redeemed saints

AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGION

ORIGINS

- Many different lesser deities
- Many different origin myths
- Influence by ancestor spirits

IDENTITY

- Humans are at the bottom of a hierarchy of greater deities, spirits, and ancestors

PURPOSE

- Survive through spiritual warfare
- Identify and cure curses through witchdoctors
- Divination to seek purpose

MORALITY

- Follow traditional ceremonies to influence the spirits
- Practice rituals, sacrifices to the various deities

DESTINY

- Escape from generational curses
- Join the host of spiritual ancestors

SYNCRETISM

MIXING CHRISTIANITY WITH ATR:

- ❖ Israel with the Moabites
- ❖ Saul with the witch of Endor
- ❖ Solomon with his foreign wives
- ❖ Seek Christ on Sunday, the witchdoctor on Monday
- ❖ You can't follow Jesus and the witchdoctor



CULTS OF CHRISTIANITY

- ❖ Cults ADD to Scripture
- ❖ Cults SUBTRACT from Jesus
- ❖ Cults MULTIPLY works
- ❖ Cults DIVIDE followers

Active Cults:

- Mormons
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- Historic SDA
- Prosperity Gospel



PROSPERITY GOSPEL

- ❖ Unbiblical “gospel” that God guarantees worldly blessings in response to strong faith, expressed through the man of God
- ❖ Unbiblical idea that if you don’t have material wealth and health it is because your faith is weak
- ❖ Unbiblical idea that “giving money to God” demonstrates your strong faith and guarantees worldly blessings
- ❖ True blessings from God are things that grow our faith

TESTING BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY




TEST	COMMENT	RESULTS
CONTRADICTIONS	No unresolved contradictions in the Bible	PASS
DEPTH	Explains reality in detail: origins, identity, purpose, morality, destiny. Framed in Creation/Fall/Redemption/Glorification	PASS
BREADTH	Covers the cosmos, human nature, history, evil, every aspect of experience	PASS
STABILITY	Multiple support for truth of the Bible: prophecy, science, history, archaeology, human experience, morality, beauty	PASS
FIT	The Bible describes reality accurately as we experience it in every aspect it teaches on	PASS
TESTABILITY	The resurrection is the test of Christianity. 1 Cor 15	PASS
LIVABILITY	We can live by the grace of God, through faith in Jesus, nothing in His will is impossible for us	PASS
COMPARISON	No other worldview passes all the tests	PASS

BUILDING A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

- ❖ Memorize the five parts of a worldview
- ❖ Discover what the Bible teaches on each part
- ❖ Use what the Bible teaches to form your "lenses"
- ❖ Learn how other worldviews answer the key questions
- ❖ Test other worldviews and learn how they fail
- ❖ Discuss worldview questions with others



Developing a Biblical Worldview



Q & A

A vintage-style map of Antarctica is the background. It features a compass, a brass lid, a black passport cover with a white airplane, and a white train. The map has German labels like 'SÜD-POL', 'ANTARCTISCHER OZEAN', and 'SÜD-LÄNDER'. A dashed line is in the top left.

JOIN THE ADVENTURE!

Do you have any questions?

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