

Bridges for honest skeptics

3rd Edition

God sightings?
in prior editions



Rational bases for belief
for truth-seekers struggling
with God's existence,
involvement, and relevance

Joel Lantz

Bridges for honest skeptics

3rd Edition^a

(God sightings? in prior editions)

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^aRevision 3.30. Rewrote most of [Supernatural in extra spacial dimensions?](#). Renamed, revised, and added four accounts to [Help from...?](#) Added to [Can we trust Bart Ehrman?](#). Further refined [God? Then why this mess?!](#) Other more minor edits.

Table of Contents

FIRST THINGS.....14

Forward	14
Why this book?	15
What's in it for me?.....	17
Who am I?.....	17
Bottom line.....	19
Overview	21
3rd-edition changes	27
Navigating this e-book	31
Active links	31
Active link usability	32
Footnotes	33
"Accessed on" comments for URLs	34

EVIDENCE.....35

Introduction	36
These accounts ring true	37
<i>The healing accounts</i>	37
<i>The other accounts</i>	38
Some themes may irk some readers	40
Miracles impossible?	43
Introduction.....	43
<i>What are miracles?</i>	43
<i>How rare are medical miracles?</i>	45
<i>About healings summarized in this book</i>	49

Adult small intestines CAN'T regenerate, but...	55
<i>The first surgery</i>	57
<i>The starving</i>	64
<i>The prayer</i>	64
<i>The regeneration</i>	66
<i>The permanence</i>	68
<i>Comments</i>	68
'Once I was blind, but now I can see...'	69
<i>Legally blind</i>	70
<i>Healed</i>	80
<i>Observational confirmation</i>	83
<i>Medical confirmation</i>	90
<i>Truly a miracle?</i>	95
Chronic pain disappears	98
<i>Back #1</i>	98
<i>Back #2</i>	102
Direct encounter	107
<i>Pre-encounter condition</i>	107
<i>Pre-encounter physician observations</i>	111
<i>The encounter</i>	114
<i>Post-encounter physician observations</i>	115
<i>Remarks</i>	118
'Dead within 24 hours'	119
<i>The account</i>	119
<i>Remarks</i>	120
General comments about miracles	121
Who transformed these lives?	124
Qualifying remarks	125
Jew-hating PLO sniper strives to reconcile Arabs & Jews	128

<i>The transformation of Tass Saada</i>	128
<i>Reviewer: "Tass Is the Real Deal!"</i>	133
Father's hateful killers become son's loving family	134
Slave to wickedness becomes minister of freedom	139
Sets out to make intellectual joke of Christianity, but...	141
White-hating Black Panther to white-majority pastor ...	143
Personal changes prompt personal investigation	151
Christ-follower hater to mission administrator	153
Christ-follower hater to beloved Christ-follower leader .	155
'Mr. Insecticide' risks life for 'insects'	157
Hindu supremacist transformed by supreme love	160
Beater to benefactor	161
Christ-followers show love to their torturers	162
<i>Some of the tortures</i>	162
<i>Some responses</i>	165
<i>Why such responses?</i>	168
Muslims encounter Christ, accept all risks; why?	169
The phenomenon	169
The cost	174
Sample accounts	178
<i>Bibles in the rain</i>	178
<i>Vision → mission</i>	180
<i>Gunpoint rendezvous</i>	181
<i>Angry Muslim cleric wants Bible</i>	182
<i>Beating Jesus?</i>	183
<i>The Muslim in the market</i>	185
<i>From contempt to Christ</i>	186
<i>Life-saving dream</i>	188
<i>Taliban transformation</i>	190

<i>ISIS guy enjoyed killing Christians, but then...</i>	192
Comments	194
Unusual means meet unusual ministry needs?	196
Whose impressions?	196
Whose promptings?	198
Whose words?	200
Whose army?	202
Whose direction?	203
Whose intervention?	205
Help from...?	209
General comments	209
Who pushed the car?	210
Who guided the skier?	210
Who towed the car?	211
Who temporarily flew the plane?	212
Who held the guns?	213
Who rescued the little girl?	214
Discussion	215
Personal experiences	217
A de-perforated bowel?	217
The just-in-time job	218
The rescue	220
Traffic signs?	222
<i>Slippery-road guidance #1?</i>	222
<i>Slippery-road guidance #2?</i>	223

THINKING FURTHER.....224

Introduction	226
Scope	226
Emphasis	226
God?	229
Arguments and evidence	229
<i>No evidence?</i>	229
<i>Big Bang initiator?</i>	243
<i>Directed fine tuning?</i>	260
God is for weak-minded people?	283
<i>Introduction</i>	284
<i>Scientists too smart to believe in God?</i>	285
<i>Historical scientific rejections of belief?</i>	313
God is incompatible with science?	319
<i>The shoddy background of the science-vs.-God war</i>	320
<i>Science is objective?</i>	321
<i>Theistic belief is subjective?</i>	336
Supernatural = superstition?	340
Miracles are illogical and violate nature?	340
<i>Hume's anti-miracle argument: valid?</i>	340
<i>Miracles violate nature?</i>	342
The supernatural is irrational?	346
<i>Big Bang in the Bible?</i>	346
<i>More around than we perceive?</i>	351
<i>Supernatural in extra spacial dimensions?</i>	353
<i>Extra time dimensions and God?</i>	365

Mythical foundations?	373
Introduction.....	373
<i>A few remarks about general reliability</i>	374
<i>General approaches to the Bible</i>	376
<i>Examples of eisegesis</i>	377
Bible full of contradictions?.....	382
<i>Unwarranted biases</i>	383
<i>Unwarranted expectations</i>	384
New Testament mostly myth?.....	393
<i>Motivations for affirming myth?</i>	394
<i>Does scientific sophistication affirm myth?</i>	395
<i>Ancient pagan parallels: biblical miracles = myth?</i>	397
<i>Modern parallels: biblical miracles = real?</i>	401
<i>OLD-Testament myths?</i>	402
New Testament is fundamentally unreliable?.....	404
<i>New Testament written long after Christ's death?..</i>	404
<i>Other ancient docs valid? New Testament not?</i>	406
<i>Authors fabricated stories about beloved leader?...</i>	411
<i>New Testament is unhistorical?.....</i>	414
<i>Dan Brown corrects history?.....</i>	427
<i>Can we trust Bart Ehrman?.....</i>	433
God? Then why this mess?!	443
Introduction.....	444
<i>Some 'what if' thinking fodder</i>	445
<i>Chapter focus</i>	447
Thoughts on the foundations of evil.....	449
<i>The likely CONTRIBUTION of entropy</i>	449
<i>The NECESSITY for entropy</i>	451
<i>The GOODNESS of God</i>	451

Foundations of goodness	453
The only bad thing.....	455
Humans liked the bad thing	455
A mixed bag	457
Turn back the clock?	458
The clock keeps running	460
What about justice?	460
<i>We like justice</i>	461
<i>What's good for the goose is good for the gander..</i>	462
<i>The dilemma</i>	463
<i>The solution</i>	465
<i>Acceptable terms?</i>	468
<i>Effects</i>	469
Christ? Why?	472
Introduction.....	473
Can ANY belief system be true or most true?.....	473
<i>Objective truth doesn't exist?</i>	475
<i>Equalizing truth claims avoids conflict?</i>	477
<i>All belief systems are fundamentally the same?</i>	479
<i>Contradictory belief systems are equally true?.....</i>	489
<i>Bottom line</i>	492
If a belief system can be true, why biblical Christianity?	493
<i>A transcendent, personal, active God exists</i>	495
<i>A one-WHAT/three-WHOs God seems reasonable..</i>	497
<i>Christ as one of the WHOs seems reasonable</i>	498
<i>Christ's offer of grace makes sense</i>	504
<i>Acceptance of that grace makes sense</i>	509
But what about all the 'Christian' denominations?	511

Talking to the wind?	512
What is prayer?	512
Is all prayer equivalent?	512
The rationality of biblical prayer	513
<i>Biblical prayer is irrational?</i>	514
<i>Biblical faith is irrational?</i>	515
Evidence for effectual prayer?	518
<i>Some accounts in EVIDENCE</i>	518
<i>Double-blind studies of intercessory prayer</i>	519
<i>Prayer for Rome</i>	520
<i>Prayer for Istanbul</i>	523
Questions about prayer?	525
<i>Questions about Prayer for Istanbul</i>	526
<i>Other potential questions about prayer</i>	535
Closing thoughts	550

CONCERNING US.....551

Just animals?	552
Three viewpoints	553
Sudden appearance of behaviorally modern humans....	561
<i>The anthropological & linguistic evidence</i>	561
<i>Interpreting anthropological & linguistic evidence</i> ..	565
The cognitive uniqueness of human free will	571
<i>Claims of determinism self-refute</i>	572
<i>Materialism, determinism, and reality</i>	573
Evidence of transcendent directive influence today	586
Uniquely human behaviors	586
<i>Nonessential behaviors</i>	587
<i>Nonessential capabilities</i>	587

<i>Sense of justice</i>	588
<i>PROXIMATE meaning</i>	590
<i>ULTIMATE meaning</i>	593
<i>Unselfish, even sacrificial, love for strangers</i>	594

Just stuff? 599

Introduction.....	599
Standing in the shadow of dualism?	600
Brain's wiring makes us who we are?.....	601
God ↔ mind interface: how?	604
Other remote, non-sensory, extra-neural inputs?	606
Life beyond the brain?.....	607
<i>Physical?</i>	608
<i>More than physical?</i>	609
<i>A couple of at-death experiences</i>	610
<i>Bottom line</i>	611

AFTERWORD.....612

APPENDICES.....615

Appendix A: Greg Spencer evidence analysis 616

Did Greg truly have irreversible vision loss?	617
<i>Dr. Weleber's evaluations and diagnosis</i>	618
<i>Dr. Boyer letter</i>	658
Was Greg truly healed of his blindness?	659
<i>Could Greg's GOOD vision be ambiguous or faked?</i>	659
<i>Did Greg's eyes change physically?</i>	662
Encore performance of youthful sight regeneration?	663
<i>Analysis</i>	663
<i>Bottom line</i>	667

Conclusions	667
Appendix B: No singularity, no initiator?	669
Philosophical presuppositions	672
<i>'Grand DESIGN' but no designer?</i>	672
<i>Philosophy is dead?</i>	674
Basics	676
<i>The Planck-size universe</i>	676
<i>The expansion</i>	679
Issues.....	682
<i>From where did Planck-size universe come? When?</i>	682
<i>"...who created God?"</i>	684
<i>God plays dice?</i>	686
<i>Imaginary time is real?</i>	690
Conjecture in physics resolves issues in METAphysics? .	695
Bottom line.....	697
Appendix C: UNSpecial universe, one of zillions?	702
OUR physics spawned DIVERSE physics?	704
If so, OUR universe must be exceedingly special	707
Appendix D: Some entropic perspectives on evil	711
What is evil?	714
<i>What's the reference point for 'should be'?</i>	714
<i>How much of 'should be' is expectation?</i>	716
<i>Moral evil</i>	716
<i>Natural evil</i>	717
<i>Which is worse: moral or natural evil?</i>	721
The influence of entropy	722
<i>What is entropy?</i>	722
<i>The impetus of entropy toward natural good</i>	723

<i>The impetus of entropy toward moral good</i>	725
<i>The impetus of entropy toward moral evil</i>	726
<i>The impetus of entropy toward natural evil</i>	733
Is moral evil inevitable?	738
Forever?	740

**DEFINITIONS, COMMENTARY,
AND CITATIONS.....741**

Glossary	742
Endnotes	793

FIRST THINGS

Forward

"...He so regulates the knowledge of Himself that He has given signs of Himself, visible to those who seek Him, and not to those who seek Him not. There is enough light for those who only desire to see, and enough obscurity for those who have a contrary disposition."

--- Blaise Pascal¹

"God has given us evidence sufficiently clear to convince those with an open heart and mind, yet evidence sufficiently vague so as not to compel those whose hearts and minds are closed."

--- Popularly attributed to Blaise Pascal²

Why this book?

The combined title and subtitle of this book succinctly define its purpose (though *by no means is this book only for skeptics^a*). However, amplification is in order, both here and in the forthcoming [Overview](#).

Why this book?

Why have I written and given away this book? As a former agnostic/quasi-agnostic — a former honest skeptic³ — I now see the need to counter a) compartmentalized (vs. unified) notions of truth and b) popular misunderstandings, misperceptions, and myths about the **supernatural**, God generally, and the **biblical Christ** specifically. In agreement with the above Pascal quotes, I hope evidence and arguments in this book will be “sufficiently clear” to help *honest* skeptics, who:

- Believe truth exists.
- Seek truth.
- Are willing (or at least willing to be willing) to embrace truth when they find it.

^aThough presented foremost as thinking fodder for honest skeptics, I hope that this material also strengthens the confidence of readers well along the path of belief and helps *them* to help *others*.

Why this book?

I hope to build some bridges, however small, over intellectual — and, perhaps on occasion, emotional — obstacles to rational belief and to help honest skeptics gain confidence that God is real and involved.

Such confidence is an *extension* of, not a substitute for, other avenues of reason and evidence — an extension that accepts **transcendence** we can't perceive based on evidence and reason that we can. This book attempts to contribute to the latter.

Again, this book is written for *honest* skeptics. I take pains herein to analytically present evidence and arguments for the existence and involvement of a transcendent God. However, abundant mystery will remain. Refusal to accept mystery looms as a huge roadblock to acceptance of a **transcendent** God. If a **transcendent** God indeed exists — again, as evidenced and argued in this book — then mystery **MUST** exist, and forever-humanly-inaccessible knowledge, perspective, and understanding **MUST** exist, per the definition of **transcendence**. Therein lies the boundary between evidence and faith. Accordingly, refusal to exercise *appropriate* faith — arguably despite subconsciously exercising faith in much of

What's in it for me?

everyday life — falsely elevates human reason to pinnacle status, with attendant logical consequences. If you are rigidly unwilling to accept the possible existence and involvement of a **transcendent** God without absolute certainty, despite accepting life's myriad other uncertainties, then this book is not for you.

What's in it for me?

Absolutely nothing, except for the satisfaction that I'm helping at least some of my readers. Writing this book has been a difficult but hopefully fruitful labor of love.

Contrary to the anti-supernaturalist assertions that I argue against in this book — that we're purely the product of undirected, materialistic, mechanistic, purposeless processes — I submit that each of us has ultimate meaning and purpose. Helping others via this book comprises part of *my* purpose.

Who am I?

I'm a retired physical-chemistry PhD with multi-disciplinary experience. My analytical personality has probably caused more struggles with doubt than

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