

## My Elevator Pitch For God



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**Here is a selection of questions to choose from and adapt as appropriate for your particular Book Group. Some questions are simple and straight forward, while others have “preambles” of different lengths containing ideas that run through many of these essays, designed to bring about a variety of discussion topics.**

- 1) How many people finished reading the selected collection of essays, and what did you think about them in general? (We can talk specifics in a minute).
- 2) Was there a particular essay that you found especially profound or thought provoking and what were your insights from reading that essay?
- 3) What was your biggest “take-away” from reading these essays as a whole?
- 4) Is there a time in your life where you feel you saw or experienced the “Hand of God”?
- 5) Does anyone, after reading these essays, feel more convinced that God exists or feels more compelled to want to learn more?
- 6) Was there an essay that you would go as far to say that it “changed you as a person”?
- 7) Would anyone go so far as to say that reading these essays has taken them from being an atheist (someone who does not believe in God), or an agnostic (someone who is not sure), to a believer?
- 8) What are your thoughts about the concept that runs through different essays within these different collections that says that the world couldn’t have been created on its own?
- 9) Does anyone know of someone who could really benefit from reading these essays?
- 10) What does a person gain by having a strong faith in God?
- 11) Does God exist or not? Is there a more consequential question for our lives, and if so, why?
- 12) Believers are all subject at times to the “dissonance of faith. Can anyone discuss a time when they have, and how you got through it?

- 13) For anyone here who has directly or indirectly experienced the birth of a child, did that move the needle for you, as far as your belief in God?
- 14) Where do you think ideas and creativity come from?
- 15) Does anyone think we are not meant to understand everything? What kind of world would we be living in if everything made perfect sense? Would it be the end of "free-will"? Would we just be robots?
- 16) What is the definition of God?
- 17) Is it easy or difficult to believe in God?
- 18) Why do you think some people believe in God and some people do not?
- 19) What are some of the biggest life changes that a person who accepts God undergoes?
- 20) How would the world look if everyone believed in God versus if no one believed in God? What would it mean if there was no God?
- 21) Would you rather live in a God-believing, God-fearing society or a godless society?
- 22) **Preamble to the question:** People can go to an eye doctor, audiologist, cardiologist, etc. and get some answers to their questions, or even a cure for an ailment, but what do doctors know if you ask them a question that goes just one level deeper?  
**Question:** Has anyone here had that experience? What are your thoughts about the limits to what modern medical science really understands?
- 23) **Preamble to the question:** The sun, for example, is made out of elements that commonly occur in nature. Therefore, when we think about the sun, it's easy to not see God, but to instead just see these commonly occurring elements?  
**Question:** Is it possible that God is right before our eyes, but the world is designed such that we are just not able to see it?
- 24) **Preamble to the question:** Consider that it was godless regimes and ideologies that committed nearly every genocide of the twentieth century. The order of the natural world argues for God's existence, and so does the moral and intellectual disorder of the godless world.  
**Question:** Do you agree with these consequences of atheism?
- 25) **Preamble to the question:** In the time it took to read ones of these essays, the bone marrow in your body produced more than 100,000,000 blood cells. Lying end to end, the pipes inside your body (arteries, veins, capillaries, nerves, etc.) are longer than all the roads, rivers, canals, and subways in the United States.  
**Question:** Where within your body (if anywhere), do you see the most powerful proof of God's existence?

- 26) **Preamble to the question:** It is important to emphasize that believers do not reject science. A believer sees science as the study of God's handiwork; a means through which one can deepen their faith. A believer sees science as only being problematic when one studies it as an alternative to faith.  
**Question:** In your opinion, can science and faith co-exist? Can science reinforce rather than repel one's faith?
- 27) **Preamble to the question:** Faith is not the product of the advanced study of theology, divinity, or astronomy. To arrive at faith, one does not need to understand string theory, black holes, or what happened a trillionth of a millisecond after the Big Bang. Without any advanced degrees or being a philosopher schooled in the arguments of the ancients, one can come to the conclusion that God exists.  
**Question:** Do you agree that basically anyone, with any set of life's experience or any level of education, can look around and find proof of God's existence?
- 28) **Preamble to the question:** Science will never be able to explain how something came of nothing. The Big Bang theory might explain how big (the universe) expanded from small (subatomic particles), but it cannot explain how small came from nothing. Similarly, evolution can explain how complex (humans) evolved from simple (one-celled units), but it cannot explain how a living cell capable of evolving came from nothing.  
**Question:** Does anyone have any thoughts on what there could have been before the Big Bang, or how the first cell could have developed from nothing? Can you think of anything that creates itself?
- 29) **Preamble to the question:** The beauty of the natural world is stunning in its vastness, from the oceans, mountains, and canyons on earth to the stars in the sky. Stunning in its strength, from the rushing waters of massive waterfalls to the destructive force of fires and storms. Stunning in its delight in the smallest and most fragile insect, animal, and plant. Nature conjures a sense of something beyond our reach, beyond our understanding, and beyond our world; a sense of the Divine.  
**Question:** Can you relate an experience where something you saw in nature made you contemplate God or feel closer to God?
- 30) **Preamble to the question:** Faithless science can never tell the full story as is portrayed in the following classic tale - "The Elders of a city sent a delegation of wise men and women to the recently constructed train station to determine "how trains move." They studied the train from every angle beginning with the final 10th car. After days of analysis, they determined that the final car was connected to the 9th car and when the ninth car moved, it pulled the 10th car with it. They later discovered that the ninth car moved because it was connected to the 8th car and when that car moved, it pulled the ninth car with it. And so on until they got to the first car, where they were completely mystified. After weeks of study, they returned to the Elders and announced, "we discovered 90% of how trains move."  
**Question:** Science without faith invariably encounters a "*first-car-problem*." The scope of science does not extend to the "first car" to explain the what, how, or why? Can you think of areas of science that ignore the "first car"?

- 31) **Preamble to the question:** National Radio Show Host and Syndicated Columnist, Dennis Ptager wrote within his essay: "There is no proof that God exists. But this means nothing. None of the most important things in life can be proven to exist. We cannot prove that good, evil, beauty, love, the conscience, or even the mind exists. Why? Because only the existence of the physical can be proven. Therefore, the existence of God, who by definition is not physical, cannot be proven. What we have is overwhelming evidence that God exists, just as we have overwhelming evidence that love, good, evil, beauty, and thought exist. How do we know that love exists? We know by the way it is manifested. When we see a parent love a child, we know love exists. And when we read about the torture of innocent people, we know that evil exists. So, too, we know that an intelligible world means an Intelligence exists."
- Question:** Do you agree or disagree with his premise that the fact that we cannot conclusively prove God's existence means nothing?
- 32) **Preamble to the question:** George Noory, National "Coast To Coast Am" Radio Host, tells of a strange story that happened to him as a child. He said: *My grandparents built a multi-level apartment complex on top of the furniture store that they owned in the Fitchburg area, west of Boston, and lived there with about ten other families. Late one night, when my family was visiting one summer, a fire broke out in the store. While we were sleeping, opaque black smoke quickly engulfed the building, seeping into the upstairs apartments. All of my family would have died had it not been for a fireman, in full-body protective clothing and gear, who woke me out of a sound sleep. I frantically got everyone else up and we sprinted down the stairs and out the front doors to safety. We even made the front page of the Fitchburg Sentinel newspaper, with a picture showing us fleeing a building engulfed in flames. While standing outside the smoldering building that night, my parents walked up to the fire chief to thank him for his team member who had bravely woken me. The chief stopped them mid-sentence, "I don't know what you're talking about. We never entered the complex. Your family came running out before we had a chance to enter!" To this day, we have no idea who or what woke me up. I believe God, or one of God's angels, saved our lives that night.*
- Question:** How does one reconcile paranormal occurrences like this in our minds?
- 33) **Preamble to the question:** Near-Death Experience expert, Nomi Freeman, relates a story within her essay: Rachel Noam, a young engineering student, was walking past a construction site when an eighteen-foot steel beam fell from the fifth floor onto her head. Rachel was astonished to find herself floating fifteen feet above her body. She could not understand how she could see and hear everything when her eyes and ears were in her body that lay on the sidewalk beneath her. The events on the street began to fade into darkness. Then she perceived a glimmer of light. As the radiance came closer, it grew in intensity... In Rachel's words: "The magnificent stream of light was accompanied by a flow of sublime love, the kind of love I had never before experienced... This was a Higher Power, a Being of infinite might... Many people who have experienced NDEs recall with startling accuracy details of events and conversations that occurred when brain activity was nil or negligible... Near-death experiences often begin with floating sensations, moving through a tunnel toward an alluring light. Then experiences diversify. Some reunite with loved ones, some encounter beings of light, and many undergo a "life review."
- Question:** Has anyone here had a Near Death Experience or personally know of someone who has?

- 34) **Preamble to the question:** Moses spent his entire life in a “postage stamp” sized area of the earth. What personal knowledge do you think Moses had over 3,300 years ago, of the many millions of different species of animals inhabiting the world’s seven continents and five oceans? You would think he was an extensively educated zoologist that had crisscrossed the globe the way he made such bold and specific statements about the laws regarding the Kosher animals Jews could eat?

Moses listed ten Kosher animals that must have both of these two specific characteristics: They must have completely split hooves and chew their cud (and the Bible lists the 10)... Moses went on - but don’t be confused by these three non-Kosher animals (**that you can’t eat**) that chew their cud but don’t have split hooves cud (and the Bible lists the 3). And likewise, watch out for this one non-Kosher animal (**that you likewise can’t eat**) that has split hooves but does not chew its cud (and the Bible lists the 1 – the pig). How could Moses, or any human, know how many animals there were with just one of the two required characteristics? But there’s more. Kosher fish have to have fins and scales. Moses somehow knew... that all fish that have scales necessarily have fins, but not all fish that have fins have scales. How could Moses, or any human, know that?” What are the chances that Moses traveled to Madagascar, because there are approximately 175,000 species that only exist there. Do you think Moses even knew what a penguin or a kangaroo was?

What would you say if I told you that more than 3,300 years later; there are still no more than those same ten animals that have both of those two characteristics, there are no more than those same three animals that have just that one characteristic, and there is still just that same one animal that has just that one other of the two characteristics.

**Question:** How could Moses, who lived in the late Bronze age, make these statistically impossible qualifications and always guess right?” Can anyone here offer a plausible explanation for these very exacting statements made in 1313 BCE, codified in the Bible?

- 35) **Preamble to the question:** Man-made technologies don’t spontaneously emerge fully-formed. Technological progress is instead the product of experimentation and iteration. Take aviation. Super-sonic jets didn’t emerge overnight. There was a continual evolution from the Wright brothers’ primitive flying craft to modern-day airliners. High-speed micro-processing computer chips did not emerge overnight. There was a 75+-year progression in the component world that made computing possible – from vacuum tubes, to transistors, to integrated circuits, to today’s most advanced chips, the size of a small fingernail, containing over seven billion transistors that utilize 7-nanometre process technology. Looking back on the development of all this technology, one can easily trace the numerous iterations as they progressed from point A to point B.

**How can we explain the existence of advanced knowledge and technology that appeared spontaneously, without any record of more primitive earlier steps? Here are three examples:**

- 1) *Arguably the most consequential technology of history is alphabetic writing. Before the first alphabet, writing consisted of pictograms on cave walls, cuneiform tablets, and Egypt’s hieroglyphics. The earliest alphabet, Proto-Sinaitic script, discovered*

*near Mount Sinai (in 1904-1905 by Sir William Flinders Petrie), dates to the time of the Sinai Revelation. One would expect the earliest writings in alphabetic language to be quite primitive. But the earliest books of the Bible are anything but primitive and seem to violate the "rules" of incremental progress. How is it that we leaped from engraving letters into turquoise stones to the Five Books of Moses, written with more nuance and complexity than any writing known on Earth? The early books of the Bible comprise an exhaustively comprehensive system of philosophy, law, and ethics, and appear precisely when this form of writing emerged."*

**Question:** Where are the transitional writings? Where is the transitional "See Spot Run" book'?

- 2) *A second example that defies the "rules": We know from nautical engineering studies conducted in the 1990's that to design a boat for maximum buoyancy, the width should be 1/6th its length, and the height, 1/10th its length. Is it a coincidence that in Genesis, the first book of the Bible, Noah was told to make an Ark 300 cubits long by 50 cubits wide by 30 cubits tall? Noah's Ark, constructed 700-800 years before Greek physics, around when Homer wrote "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey," had the precise dimensions necessary for maximum buoyancy."*

**Question:** How did Noah, a farmer, know this secret? Were there any seafaring nations that passed their collected, iterative knowledge on to him? Where is the record of tinkering with the dimensions of a ship until someone discovered this precise formulation?

- 3) A third example: Calculating the exact length of a lunar month requires a colossal amount of specialized astronomic knowledge and tools. The second book of the Bible, Exodus, relates the command to the enslaved Jews in Egypt to maintain an accurate lunar calendar. In the Talmudic corpus canonized millennia ago, Jewish tradition records the precise length of a lunar month, down to 1/10th of a second. All other ancient calendars were notoriously haphazard and imprecise, but against the most advanced astronomical tools at our disposal today, this ancient calendar calculation holds true.

**Question:** How did the Jews of antiquity figure this out? Can anyone here offer any plausible explanation for the spontaneous emergence of this fully-formed technology, other than it being revealed by God?