The quest to find God has filled millions of volumes throughout history. This quest for God translates into our search for meaning. Why do we need to know who is God? Because, once we can find out who God is, we might understand the meaning of our life. Is there life beyond this life? What is our purpose? If we can find God, these questions are answered. The question is can we find God?

Logically, we can prove the greater probability of God’s existence. By reason and logic, we know the universe is finite. We also know it was “Caused” in the past. The depletion of energy (2nd law of Thermodynamics), the Radiation Echo, Law of Relativity and universe expansion all point to a finite universe. In addition, we can see the complexity of life pointing to God’s existence. The complexity and infrastructure of the cell, DNA and cellular communications defy all laws of probability logically showing the need an intelligent designer. Evolution, the alternative to design rules out based on lack of evidence and method (gene transmutation). Logically we can conclude the probability of God; (The First Cause) outweighs his non-existence.

Is it logical to think man can find out who is God?

We may be able to see evidence of God’s existence and some of his attributes by using reason, but unless God chooses to reveal Himself, we will always be limited to our senses. If God created the Heavens with an expanse measured as more then 15 billion light years\(^1\), and the smallest living thing, a cell, still beyond our understanding it is only logical to assume our knowledge of God is limited to the extent of His Revelation. If He made the eyes to see and the ears to hear, unless he choose us to know Him we could not.

Has God revealed Himself?

If God revealed Himself, can we use logic find Him? Truth is that which corresponds with reality. Again, it would be logical to think the facts of reality correspond to God’s existence. Our understanding of God’s identity is dependent on God’s revelation of Himself. If we examine the faiths of the world, can we use reason and logic to discover the truth? On the other hand, is faith separate from reason?

Is faith separate from reason and logic?

To understand the connection between faith and reason we need to define the terms, faith and reason. Faith means to trust in that which is unseen. Reason translated in the Greek, as “Logos”, means plan or word. Reason is the systematic assembling of facts, plan, to arrive at a conclusion. Hebrews defines faith as, things unseen and not yet seen.

\(^1\)Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

\(1\) The speed of light is 186,282 miles per second. A light year is \(365.26\times24\text{ (hours)}\times60\text{ (minutes)}\times60\text{ (seconds)}\times186,282= 1\text{ light year. The distance light travels in one year.} \)
For many the term faith is strictly a religious term while science is associated with reason and logic. However, someone does not need to be religious to operate on faith. Faith is real for any living rational being. Without faith, even the most ardent atheist could do no more than stand in a corner and wait for reality. Let us look at some examples of how faith operates.

**Flying in an airplane**

If Joe Atheist wanted to leave Cleveland and go to Hawaii, Joe would more than likely choose to go via an airline. Faith is means to put trust in the unseen. Joe will use reason to understand that airplanes fly. Joe will probably connect several points of reason.

- He has seen planes fly.
- He has read about how planes fly.
- He has friends who fly.
- He has experienced flight.

Using this collection of facts Joe, believes that if he enters an airplane in Cleveland he will be able to fly and land in Hawaii. Joe has faith he will be able to fly to Hawaii, faith is confirmed when it becomes reality. Joe does not know as fact he will make it to Hawaii, he has faith. The airplane could crash, Hawaii might not have room for the plane, and Joe could die on the plan before he gets to Hawaii. Joe is operating on probability, obtained from reasoning with the facts. The high probability gives credence to his faith. This probability with reason is the basis of his faith in his plan to fly to Hawaii.

**Belief in Santa**

The child who believes in Santa Claus as the source of gifts on Christmas is based on the credibility of the child’s parents. The child reasons thus:

- My parents tell me what is right and wrong
- My parents words have become reality in the past
- My parents tell me Santa is real and is going to bring me presents.
- I have presents therefore Santa must be real.

The child has faith that Santa exists and is real. This faith is from the parent’s credibility, and the experience of receiving presents. The child has faith that is reasoned and logical. However, if the child could examine the facts, (correspondence with reality) the child would see his parents as the source of presents.

If we observe the different religions of the world, many claiming to revelations from God, (First Cause) is there a logical way to determine which is true. Not all religions can be true since they contradict each other (Law of Non-contradiction). Truth is the correspondence to facts. Since, truth corresponds to fact, logically if God would reveal Himself, his revelation would also correspond to fact. This is in contrast to the idea of blind-faith.

Blind faith is faith without evidence, which would be superstition. The Bible does not call us to blind faith. The Bible calls us to faith in evidence. Various truth claims, including Christianity, should be evaluated on the evidence.

**Types of Evidence**

Encyclopedia Britannica defines evidence as,
Evidence in law, any of the material items or assertions of fact that may be submitted to a competent tribunal as a means of ascertaining the truth of any alleged matter of fact under investigation before it.²

The Depart of Justice defines evidence as,

Information presented in testimony or in documents that is used to persuade the fact finder (judge or jury) to decide the case for one side or the other.³

In addition, The American Heritage Dictionary of the English language defines evidence as

The data on which a judgment or conclusion may be based, or by which proof or probability may be established.⁴

Evidence comes from the word “Evident” which means easily recognizable or perceived. Evidence is the data used to prove a case; the evidence should correspond with reality (Truth). We could classify evidence for the existence of God into four main classifications with several subcategories.

- **Objective Evidence:** is concerned with material evidence as opposed to a mental concept idea or belief. This type of evidence can be categorized into several categories
  1. **Historical:** Evidence, which is a part of history and verified through actual locations, events, tombs, documents and witnesses.
     Example; The Roman empire’s conquest of Jerusalem is documented Roman history, verified in the Arch of Titus in Rome.
  2. **Archeology:** is systematic recovery by scientific methods of material evidence remaining from man’s life and culture.
     Example: The discovery of the Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser, which shows Jehu, King of Israel bowing and paying tribute to the Assyrian King Shalmaneser.
  3. **Documentary:** is anything serving as evidence or proof, as a material substance bearing a revealing symbol or mark.
     Example: The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls verified the textual integrity of the oldest existing Hebrew manuscripts.
  4. **Scientific:** is the observation, identification, description, experimental investigation, and theoretical explanation of natural phenomena.
     Example: The radiation echo demonstrates the universe is finite and therefore has a cause.

- **Eyewitness Accounts**
  Testimonies: this is often part of a documentary evidence since many times eyewitness accounts become part of the written record.
  Example: Jesus appeared to the 11 disciples after his resurrection, their testimonies of this are recorded in the scripture.

- **Subjective Evidence:** Is concerned with emotions and environment and takes place within a person’s mind. For example to have a vision about is personal and subject to the individual. Subjective evidence is not objectively verified.
  1. Emotions: Evidence based on a feelings and emotions.
     Example: When I read the Bible, my spirit is calm.
  2. Experience: Evidence based on personal experience.
     Example: I prayed that God would heal me of cancer, and my last doctor’s visit showed the cancer was completely gone.

- **Super-natural Objective Evidence:** Pertaining to evidence, which is outside the natural world; and especially not attributable to natural forces.

² Encyclopedia Britannica 2004, “Evidence”
³ http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/eousa/kidspage/glossary.html
Prophecy: The foretelling of events before their occurrence demonstrates super-natural knowledge about future events. Example: The destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple was foretold in the book of Daniel (Daniel 9:27) over 600 years before the event.

Verified Miracles: are events occurring outside the natural order of things, such as raising somebody from the death. Naturally, people once they die do not come back to life. Example: The Resurrection of Jesus after He was crucified.

Basic information on various religions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Date Founded</th>
<th>Sacred Texts</th>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>% of World</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christianity</td>
<td>30 CE</td>
<td>The Bible</td>
<td>2,015 million</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>622 CE</td>
<td>Qur’an &amp; Hadith</td>
<td>1,215 million</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No religion</td>
<td>No date</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>925 million</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinduism</td>
<td>1,500 BCE</td>
<td>The Veda</td>
<td>786 million</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddhism</td>
<td>523 BCE</td>
<td>The Tripitaka</td>
<td>362 million</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atheists</td>
<td>No date</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>211 million</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese folk rel.</td>
<td>270 BCE</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>188 million</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Asian rel.</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>106 million</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribal Religions,</td>
<td>Prehistory</td>
<td>Oral tradition</td>
<td>91 million</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>19 million</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judaism</td>
<td>No consensus</td>
<td>Torah, Talmud</td>
<td>18 million</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sikhism</td>
<td>1500 CE</td>
<td>Guru Granth Sahib</td>
<td>16 million</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shamanists</td>
<td>Prehistory</td>
<td>Oral Tradition</td>
<td>12 million</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7 million</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confucianism</td>
<td>520 BCE</td>
<td>Lun Yu</td>
<td>5 million</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baha’i Faith</td>
<td>1863 CE</td>
<td>Most Holy Book</td>
<td>4 million</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jainism</td>
<td>570 BCE</td>
<td>Siddhanta,</td>
<td>3 million</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 http://www.religioustolerance.org/worldrel.htm
6 * Persons with no religion, agnostics, freethinkers, humanists, secularists, etc.
What Tests could we apply to discover the Truth?

The population of the Earth is now well over 6 Billion people. There are over 20 major religions and hundreds of subsets, is there any way to use reason, logic and evidence to find the truth? Based on Logic, we come to several conclusions;

- We know we exit.
- We are aware of our existence
- We can logically deduce there is cause for the universe.
- We can logically deduce there is intelligent design.
- We can logically deduce that unless the First Cause and Intelligent Designer wanted us to know about Him, we could not.

Therefore, we can deduce knowledge about the First Cause, God, is revealed in the world. To assume we cannot know God would mean we know something about God.

Can we use Logic, reason and evidence to discover who God is?

Characteristics define who we are. Birds are identified by feathers and beaks, fish by scales, fins and water, and man by intelligence, communication and domination. We can logically deduce characteristics of God from logic, Super-intelligent, Very powerful, and outside of the natural order. If God were to reveal of Himself, it would be logical to assume it would be outside of nature, in other words Super-natural.

Logically speaking we should be able to compare the truth claims of “Revealed works” to corresponding reality.

The Test of A Prophet
A prophet is someone who claims to speak for the “First Cause”, God. Is there a logical test for such a claim? The Bible has a test, of “Revealed” words that would not only apply to the Bible but to any book, claiming “Super-natural” inspiration.

17-18 And the LORD said to me: ‘What they have spoken is good. I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him. But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’ And if you say in your heart, ‘How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?’— 19 when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him. Deuteronomy 18:17-22

The logic is simple, if God is the source of the revelation and God is beyond nature then God does not make errors. Since God is inerrant, his revealed words could also be expected to be without error. If someone claims to speak for God, but his claimed revelation is not fulfilled, then speaker is lying. The “prophets” words do not correspond with reality.
The future foretold in the past

It's easier to claim to know the future than to prove the claim. If someone told you the lottery number 3 days in advance and gave the right number most people would acknowledge three options are available,
1. You guessed the right number
2. You conspired with lottery
3. You have super-natural information

If the feat is repeated a 2nd and 3rd time without deception, then it would be logical to accept a super-natural cause to the information.

The Bible claims super-natural evidence of inspiration, separating it from any other book. The ability to proclaim the future in the past.

If the Bible is a revelation from God, then it should have characteristics that can only be attributed to God. The ability to proclaim details of future events is outside of nature. Its super-natural, to proclaim what the future will be, the ability is outside of nature.

6"Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. 7And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them. 8Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.” Isaiah 44:7-8

9"Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,’ Isaiah 46:9-10

3"I have declared the former things from the beginning; They went forth from My mouth, and I caused them to hear it. Suddenly I did them, and they came to pass. 'Because I knew that you were obstinate, And your neck was an iron sinew, And your brow bronze, 5Even from the beginning I have declared it to you; Before it came to pass I proclaimed it to you. Lest you should say, ‘My idol has done them, And my carved image and my molded image Have commanded them.’ Isaiah 48:3-5

If the Bible is God's revealed word then we can look for characteristics fitting only with God's nature.
- Revealed words come to past (Super-natural objective evidence)
- The ability to proclaim the future in the past (Super-nature objective evidence)
- Correspondence with reality (Truth)

Does the Bible past the Test?

The Bible is a book revolving around facts. We can compare what the Bible says to what the corresponding reality is. Was there a King Cyrus of Persia? Can we verify this fact outside of the Bible? Yes, we can actually go and visit the tomb of Cyrus of Persia, who is spoken about in 2

http://www.truthnet.org/Christianity/Apologetics/Whoisgod5
Chronicles, Isaiah, Daniel and Ezra as an historical figure. This fact is confirmed to correspond with the Bible. Cyrus’ Tomb can be classified, as “Objective Archeological” evidence the Bible is true.

The Bible records about the Assyrian invasion of Jerusalem, (Isaiah 36-37, 2 Chronicles 32, 2 Kings 18-19) can this fact be substantiated outside of the Bible? Yes, we have Assyrian document known as the Sennacherib Prism that records details of the invasion from the Assyrian viewpoint in 701 BC when Hezekiah was King of Judah. This evidence would be an “Objective Document” affirming “Objective Historical” evidence about Assyrian interaction with nation of Judah.

These are just a few instances which can be multiplied many hundreds of times confirming the correspondence of historical and archeological facts contained within the bible.

The facts of the matter are that the Bible is absolutely the most reliable book of antiquity. And archaeological discoveries, which have really come into prominence only in the last 25-40 years, have persistently and consistently supported historical declarations of the Scriptures. Nelson Gluk, a renowned Jewish archaeologist, has made this statement: “No archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference.” It’s just like scientific fact! No scientific fact has ever controverted biblical reference. Theories have, but not facts! A famous scholar at Yale University has made this observation: “Archaeological work has unquestionably strengthened confidence in the reliability of the Scriptural record. On the whole, such evidence archaeology has afforded thus far, especially by providing additional and older manuscripts of the books of the Bible, strengthens our confidence in the accuracy with which the text has been transmitted through the centuries.”

However, if the Bible were just a history book this would be stupendous, but hardly proof of inspiration, this is what is expected of what is true. The Bible in fact goes beyond the claim of just being truthful on historical information. The Bible makes the claim of “Super-natural” objective evidence.

The creation of the state of Israel, involved the gathering after almost 2000 of the Jewish people from all over the world. This is foretold many times in the scriptures as a future part of Israel’s destiny, along with the promise that Israel would be scattered first then gathered.

**Promise of Scattering and Gathering of Descendents of Jacob 1400 BC.**

64-Then the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods, which neither you nor your fathers have known—wood and stone. 65-And among those nations you shall find no rest, nor shall the sole of your foot have a resting place; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing eyes, and anguish of soul. 66-Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life. 67-In the morning you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were evening!’ And at evening you shall say, ‘Oh, that it were morning!’ because of the fear which terrifies your heart, and because of the sight which your eyes see. Deuteronmy 28:64-67

3-That the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you. 4-If any of you are driven out to the farthest parts under heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you, 5-Then the LORD your God will bring you to the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers. Deuteronmy 30:3-5

http://www.truthnet.org/Christianity/Apologetics/Whoisgod5
Ezekiel writes the Israel will be gathered from many nations after a long period of time. 590 BC.

After many days you will be visited. In the latter years you will come into the land of those brought back from the sword and gathered from many people on the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate; they were brought out of the nations, and now all of them dwell safely. Ezekiel 38:

The assembling of Israel from the nations after many years was a super-natural revelation that was fulfilled 2500 to 3400 years after Ezekiel and Deuteronomy. There were only two times in Israel’s history they were gathered after they were scattered. The first time followed the Babylonian captivity in 537 BC, and the second occurred in the 20th century involving the founding of the State of Israel.

This is just one of many prophecies we could classify as “Super-natural objective” evidence the Bible is revealed from God, the First Cause. One of the more detailed prophecies, the Seventy weeks of Daniel give us the exact day which The Messiah would be rejected by Israel, and later be killed. Following His death, the city of Jerusalem and the Temple would be destroyed this occurred in 70 AD.

When we examine the accuracy of the super-natural objective evidence along with the historical, archeological and document evidence, we are forced to the conclusion that the Bible is a revelation from God.

In the example of the airplane, you can know the airplane flies, you can study how the airplane flies, you can talk to people how have flown in airplanes but still need faith to believe the airplane will take you to the desired location.

This holds true for the Bible and our trusting its words. You can study the Bible, visit the locations the Bible talks about, read the Bible in the original languages but you still need to make a choice if you will put your eternal destiny in the Revealed word of God.

Web sites of interest

http://www.gospelcom.net/faithfacts/quest_blind_faith.html
http://www.christiananswers.net/archaeology/home.html
http://www.biblelight.org/arch1.htm
http://www.bib-arch.org/
http://www.israelmybeloved.com/history_prophecy/intro/index.htm
http://contenderministries.org/prophecy/endtimes.php