

Apologetics Bibliography

The Gospel

The Gospel According to Jesus by John MacArthur, Crossways Books

Hard To Believe by John MacArthur, Thomas Nelson Pub.

Two comprehensive presentations of the Gospel – the first as articulated by Christ from His statements in the Bible, the second an uncompromising look at the singularity of Jesus Christ and what it means to be a true Christian as the Bible clearly outlines, as against what much of the modern “church” and popular culture teach. Both are detailed but not technical. Best to read them in order.

Basic Christianity by John R.W. Stott, Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub.

Defends the fundamental claims of Christianity, and then defines the proper outworking of those basic beliefs in the daily life of the believer. Plain spoken, complete and heartfelt.

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis, Macmillan Pub.

A series of radio talks compiled into a book that beautifully presents a case for Christianity by a gifted writer and thinker. A pleasure to read – like a good conversation with an articulate friend. One of the best, most clear-eyed and thorough presentations of the essential elements of the Gospel.

True Spirituality by Francis Schaeffer, Tyndale House Pub.

What the Christian life, true spirituality, really is, and how it may be lived in a twenty-first century setting. There will be no place to run or hide after you read this life-challenging book.

Evidences

The Testimony of the Evangelists by Simon Greenleaf, Kregel Pub.

The Gospel examined using legal rules of evidence by the man who wrote a definitive 3-volume treatise on laws of evidence foundational to our current system of justice in America (originally copyrighted in 1874). Somewhat technical but readable and very cogent.

The Canon of Scripture by F.F. Bruce, InterVarsity Press

A scholarly overview of how the books of the Bible came to be recognized as Holy Scripture and included in the Canon.

The Jesus Crisis by Robert L. Thomas and F. David Farnell, Kregel Pub.

Counters “Historical Criticism” and its inroads into evangelical Scholarship. Scholarly in form and content but not overly so. This is a straight ahead challenge to the pseudo scholarship of the Jesus Seminar and other popular so-called biblical revisionists.

A Case for Christ by Lee Strobel, Zondervan Pub.

A professional journalist’s personal investigation of the evidences for Jesus, wherein he cross-examines a dozen experts with doctorates from schools like Cambridge, Princeton and Brandeis, who are recognized authorities in their respective fields.

The Creator and the Cosmos by Hugh Ross, Navpress

How the greatest scientific discoveries of the century reveal God. A compelling summary of scientific evidence that points to the necessity of the creator God of the Bible. Relatively easy read, powerfully presenting the case for God in the cosmos.

Philosophical Apologetics

Does God Believe In Atheists by John Blanchard, Evangelical Press

A one volume encyclopedia of information related to what the German philosopher Martin Heidegger said was the most basic question of all: why is there something and not nothing? In more commonplace terms, is there a God? This a comprehensive tome (in the best sense of that word) of philosophy, anthropology, geology and the life sciences compiled in such a clear and lucid way that a person of average intelligence will be able to follow, understand, enjoy and find deeply relevant. Whether you are a Christian or not, John Blanchard clarifies that being a Christian does not involve the sacrifice of the intellect, but rather leads to its truest and best use. This is a comprehensive, singularly great book that will challenge you to think more clearly and thoroughly, regardless of your current perspective on life and faith.

[The Divine Challenge: On Matter, Mind, Math & Meaning](#) by John Byl, *Banner of Truth*

Argues that the Christian worldview provides the only foundation for logic, mathematics, science and morality. Byl shows the failure of today's predominant philosophies to provide a coherent worldview that can yield a plausible account of the various aspects of life as we experience it. Only a Christian worldview, squarely based on the truth of the Bible and the comprehensive sovereignty of God, can give our lives coherence, meaning, purpose and hope.

[The God Who is There](#) by Francis A. Schaeffer, *Crossways Books*

A Christian review of the philosophy and culture underlying modern cultural presuppositions that must be considered to understand clearly and completely the truth of Christianity. (*All of Francis Schaeffer's books and tapes, although somewhat technical and often dated, are still very valuable and a great resource for better understanding what it means to be a Christian in this post-modern world of ours. [True Spirituality](#) listed above is a personal favorite.*)

[The Dust of Death](#) by Os Guinness, *InterVarsity Press*

A wonderful book that looks at the implications of life in the modern world as the "dust of death" settles on our post-Christian, post-humanist, post-modern, deconstructed view of life and how the truths of Christianity can impact the pervasive nihilistic fatalism that colors life today. Although written in 1973, no significant changes have occurred to invalidate his basic message. If anything, it is only further confirmed in its powerful observations and prescriptions. A fascinating read.

[Not a Chance](#) by R.C. Sproul, *Baker Pub.*

Addresses the myth of "chance" in modern science and cosmology. Like all of Sproul's outstanding work, it is formal but very much directed at the layperson. (*I also particularly like his comprehensive set of lecture tapes covering the thought systems of all the important philosophers culminating in an overview of Christianity in light of these alternate worldviews. As a gifted academician he clearly presents even the technically demanding philosophers, such as Hume and Kant, while always keeping the focus of his presentation relevant to the interested inquirer, whether Christian or no.*)

[The Universe Next Store](#) by James Shire, *InterVarsity Press*

A basic worldview catalog that helps you to consider the major worldviews, their relative merit as against Christianity. Formal but readable - intended for the layperson.

[Streams of Confusion](#) by Brad Scot, *Crossways Books*

Thirteen great ideas that have taken on the status of unquestioned assumptions and are contaminating our thought and culture. More focused look at the same kind of issues addressed in [The Dust of Death](#).

[Creation out of Nothing: Its Biblical, Philosophical, and Scientific Exploration](#) by Paul Copan and William Lane Craig, *Baker Academic*

Fully explores the doctrine of *creatio ex nihilo*, focusing on biblical, extrabiblical, theological, philosophical, and scientific support for the doctrine. Comprehensive and technical treatment, demanding but well worth the read.

Origin issues

Issues of the origin and nature of life are a critical component in a comprehensive defense of the Christian faith, since the almost universally accepted Darwinian model of general or 'macro' evolution, i.e. "all life evolves by the differential survival of replicating entities," facilitated by random mutations shaped by natural selection, is in direct opposition to the Bible's assertion of creation by divine fiat of a sovereign, personal God. Most of what is popularly believed and disseminated on this subject is shameless in its arrogance, shocking in its ignorance and grotesque in its falsehoods and misrepresentations. Consider the following as over-the-counter antidotes. [Be forewarned](#), most of these authors are not young-earth creationists or even evangelical Christians.

[Science and Christianity: Conflict or Coherence](#) by Henry F. Schaefer, *The Apollos Trust*

Professor Henry F. (Fritz) Schaefer is one of the most distinguished physical scientists in the world. This book is expanded from a series of university lectures. Personable but with great breadth and depth, making a powerful case that not only is there no conflict between Christianity and science, but instead there were strong ties right from the beginning up to the present, with many of the brightest luminaries in the sciences also being committed Christians. He also makes a strong case that modern science makes an increasingly compelling case for the God of the Bible and that good theology and good science are indeed coherent.

Evolution, Theory in Crisis by Michael Denton, Adler & Adler

Developments in science that challenge orthodox Darwinism. The first major secular book published in 1989 challenging the macro-evolutionary model across the board. Written by a medical doctor and molecular biologist who is also an agnostic. This was the pioneering work that first made the case from within the scientific community that the macro evolution “emperor has no clothes.” His compelling challenge is still largely unmet and now accompanied by a wide range of equally challenging works. Nature's Destiny: How the Laws of Biology Reveal Purpose in the Universe is his excellent follow-up book.

Darwin on Trial by Philip Johnson, InterVarsity Press

First book to make a definitive case that the theory of macro-evolution is based not on fact but on faith – faith in philosophical naturalism. Macro- or general evolution is simply not supported by sufficient empirical data. This is a quick read making a powerful argument against dubious use of evidence and the lack of the same for evolution’s case written by a UC Berkeley law professor, who all but pioneered the modern ‘logical’ assault on naturalism.

Darwin’s Black Box by Michael J. Behe, Free Press

The biochemical challenge to macro-evolution. Superbly written case against Darwinian evolution and for the necessity of intelligent design. Technical in nature but understandable to the committed student who wants to go deep into the biochemistry of life and why, for many scientists, its new discoveries increasingly precludes the real as opposed to the mere theoretical possibility of macro-evolution.

Mere Creation ed. By William A. Dembski, InterVarsity Press

An anthology compiled from papers presented at the first national research conference on intelligent design held in Los Angeles in 1996 covering mathematics, mechanical engineering, philosophy, physical anthropology, physics, astrophysics, biology, ecology and evolutionary biology. An academic challenge to the reigning ideology of materialistic naturalism by internationally recognized authorities in their respective fields.

Darwin's God: Evolution and the Problem of Evil. Darwin's Proof: The Triumph of Religion over Science By Cornelius G. Hunter, Brazos Press

These two books clearly and powerfully demonstrate the “theology” underlying most so-called scientific writing on evolution and the tremendous weaknesses in macro-evolution’s scientific ‘proofs’, with a sharp focus on its philosophical contradiction that religion plays no role in their theory, when in fact they rely on assumptions of God’s character in order to argue that he could not have made this world. Best to read them in order.

Evolution: Possible or Impossible: Genes, Proteins and the Laws of Chance

By James Copperedge, *Probability Research in Molecular Biology*, Zondervan

Overview of molecular biology, probability (the laws of chance) and their impact on evolution in largely non-technical language. Not an easy read but worth it. Available online at http://creationsafaris.com/epoi_toc.htm.

Faith, Form and Time by Kurt P. Wise, Broadman, Holman Pub.

Claims to provide “solid biblical and scientific evidence that the universe was created by God in six twenty-four hour days less than ten thousand years ago.” Whether you hold to a young earth creation, as the author does, or not, he lays out the first truly comprehensive challenge I have read on “what the bible teaches and science confirms about creation and the age of the universe.” Author has a Ph.D. in geology from Harvard, where Stephen Jay Gould was his advisor.

Web Sites of Interest

- www.aomin.org – Alpha and Omega Ministries established by James White, pastor and Christian apologist
- www.apologetics.com – Challenging believers to think and thinkers to believe
- www.arn.org – Access Research Network – website of Phillip E. Johnson, author of Darwin on Trial
- www.carm.org – Christian and Apologetics Ministries
- www.equip.org – Christian Research Institute established by bible scholar and apologist Walter Martin
- www.existence-of-god.com – Asks the question, “Can Philosophy Prove the Existence of God?”
- www.forananswer.org – Dedicated to defending the Historic Christian Faith – established by local boy Robert Hommel
- www.leaderu.com – Telling the truth at the speed of life. *Check out William Lane Craig's work as philosopher and theologian at his virtual office at <http://www.leaderu.com/offices/billcraig/index.html>*
- www.origins.org – Intelligent design and philosophical theism website with Behe, Dembski, Denton, etc.
- www.str.org – Stands to Reason website of apologist Gregory Koukl
- http://www.tms.edu/link_theology.asp – Master’s Seminary website links to other theology research websites

...and many, many more. If you were to check out these sites and their links in any depth, you wouldn’t have time to do your job or even have a life. But don’t let that stop you.

PS - “Stephen's Guide to the Logical Fallacies” is a useful site for help with clear thinking and applied logic, both of which are in short supply – <http://www.datanation.com/fallacies/index.html>