

1 Peter Series

Lesson #090

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Dean Bible Ministries

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GIVING AN ANSWER – PART 8

OLD TESTAMENT:

ELIJAH CONFRONTS PAGANISM

1 PETER 3:15; 1 KINGS 19



1ST PETER

**LIVING IN LIGHT
OF ETERNITY**

Introduction to Apologetics

1. **What is *Apologetics*?**
2. **Why should we learn about apologetics?**
3. **Why do some people object to apologetics?**
4. **The Bible doesn't use apologetics, why should we?**
5. **What is the difference between Apologetics and Christian Evidences?**
6. **On what basis do we defend, support, argue, that Christianity is the one and only TRUTH?**

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The Basis of Knowledge

	SYSTEM	STARTING POINT	METHOD
Autonomous Systems of Perception	RATIONALISM Classic Apologetics- Logic and reason	Innate ideas Faith in human ability.	Independent use of logic & reason
	EMPIRICISM Evidentialism- Facts, history, science	Sense perceptions External experience; Scientific method; Faith in human ability	Independent use of logic & reason
	MYSTICISM Fideism-just believe, apart from reason or evidence	Inner, private experience; intuition Faith in human ability	Independent, nonlogical, nonrational, nonverifiable
Divine Viewpoint	REVELATION Presuppositionalism- Presupposes the truth of Scripture	Objective revelation of God	Dependent use of logic & reason

Examples:

Gen. 1:1–2:4 The Creation account directly challenges all human viewpoint (HVP) ideas of origins.

Examples:

Gen. 3:8–19 with Rom. 1:18–23

- **People already knew they are sinners (Gen. 3:8)**
- **People are not morally or spiritually neutral (reject God, negative volition, futile thoughts, darkened hearts—Rom. 1:21)**
- **God/Jesus often uses rhetorical questions to expose human flaws (Job 38–44; John 3:1–16)**
- **God uses general revelation, historic facts, various evidences, to expose mankind's sin, rebellion, and responsibility (Rom. 1:18–23)**

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Introduction to Apologetics

5. What is the difference between Apologetics and Christian Evidences?

Christian Evidences: miracles, origin and transmission of Scripture, resurrection, virgin birth, the facts and history of biblical events, people, episodes

Christian evidences are our weapons.

Introduction to Apologetics

5. What is the difference between Apologetics and Christian Evidences?

Apologetics: The strategy and tactics for deploying our weapons.

Even trained fighters only hit their targets in a combat situation about 30% of the time.

Polemics

The act of engaging in a verbal or written refutation of another viewpoint. In theology, *polemics* describes an element in a biblical passage which is designed to show the superiority of Christian theism over other religions and philosophies. Much of the OT is a polemic against the idolatrous pagan religions surrounding Israel.

Lev. 26:18, “And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.

Lev. 26:19, “I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze.

Lev. 26:20, “And your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit.”

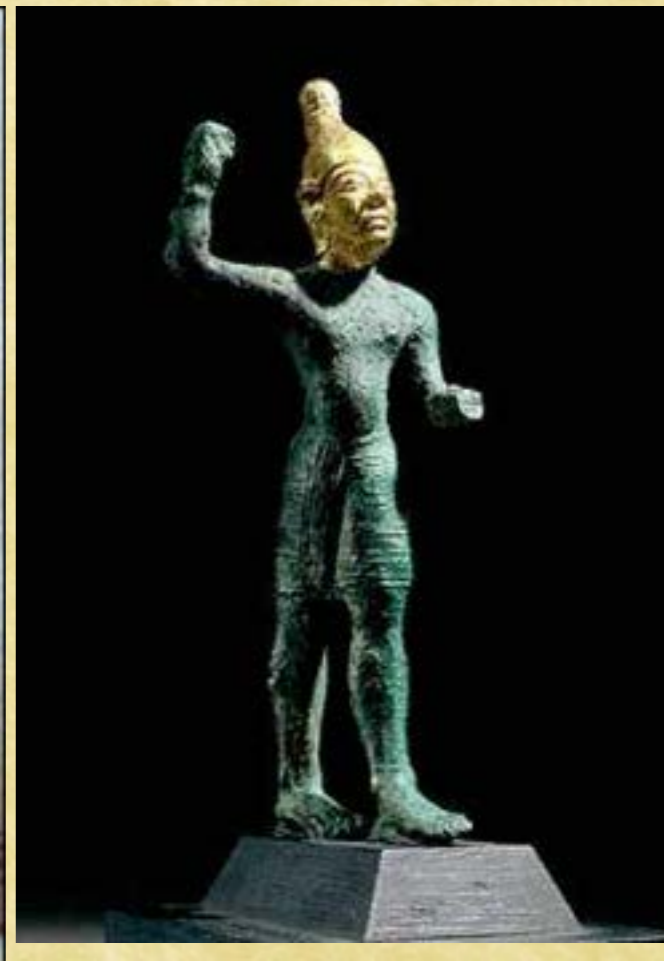
1 Kings 17:1, “And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, ‘As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.’ ”

1 Kings 18:1, “And it came to pass after many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, ‘Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth.’

1 Kings 18:2, “So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and there was a severe famine in Samaria.”

Ba'al

1. Chief god in the Canaanite pantheon.
2. Storm god responsible for rain, lightning, thunder, productivity.
3. Introduced by Jezebel, wife of Ahab, king of Israel.
4. In the mythology, drought indicates the death of Ba'al.



Elijah and the Priests of Ba'al

Confronting
Paganism
1 Kings
18:20–40







1 Kings 18:21, “And Elijah came to all the people, and said, ‘*How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.*’ But the people answered him not a word.”

1 Kings 18:17, “Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, ‘Is that you, O troubler of Israel?’ ”

1 Kings 18:18, “And he answered, ‘I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father’s house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the LORD and have followed the Baals.’ ”

1 Kings 18:19, “Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.”

1 Kings 18:20, “So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel.”

1 Kings 18:21, “And Elijah came to all the people, and said, ‘How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.’ But the people answered him not a word.”

Elements of a Religion, Philosophy, Worldview, or Approach to Life

- 1. Everyone has a philosophy of life: some are conscious, rational, and internally consistent; most are not.**
- 2. Every worldview/religion contains universals, indicated by “should,” “ought,” “right,” and “wrong.”**
- 3. Entry point then to a worldview is often through values or ethics.**
- 4. Ethical principles are based on prior assumptions about the nature of truth or knowledge and the ultimate nature of the universe.**

Elements of a Religion, Philosophy, Worldview, or Approach to Life

God [ultimate reality (metaphysics)]

Knowledge, truth [how we know (epistemology)]

Ethics, values, right and wrong

Beauty, order, aesthetics, or “critical reflection on art, culture, and nature”



Elements of a Religion, Philosophy, Worldview, or Approach to Life

God [ultimate reality (metaphysics)]

Absolute; Ess/
God; revealed

Knowledge, truth

Ethics, values, right and wrong,
law, politics, government

Arbitrary,
priest based, power
based.
Violent, destructive,
de-humanizing

Beauty, order,
aesthetics, or
“critical
reflection on
art, culture,
and nature”

Elements of a Religion, Philosophy, Worldview, or Approach to Life

God

Knowledge,
truth

Revelatory, absolute, derivative

Human
viewpoint

Ethics, values,
right and wrong,
law, politics,
government

Beauty,
order,
aesthetics, or
“critical
reflection on
art, culture,
and nature”

Purely inductive

relative

differs only in
degree, not kind
all “truth” is valid

Elements of a Religion, Philosophy, Worldview, or Approach to Life

God YHWH vs. Ba'al

Knowledge,
truth

CREATOR
or
part of
creation

Ethics, values,
right and wrong,
law, politics,
government

Beauty,
order,
aesthetics, or
“critical
reflection on
art, culture,
and nature”

Elements of a Religion, Philosophy, Worldview, or Approach to Life

God

Knowledge,
truth

Ethics, values,
right and wrong,
law, politics,
government

Human viewpoint:
Nature is worshipped
as god,
Art and beauty are
destroyed

Divine viewpoint:
Creation is for the
creature

Man is the
imago dei

Beauty,
order,
aesthetics, or
“critical
reflection on
art, culture,
and nature”