

101 Christian Defences & Counter Attacks

Consider the possible motives behind the question, and don't judge a book by its cover - apparent motives may mask deeper ones:

- trip up – trying to catch u out, make u look a fool/themselves look cool, have a laugh...
- personal pain – this one needs special care, and safer to assume this is the case
- seriously seeking/curious – people who are thinking about life/truth (with whatever degree of gravity) have every right, as part of 'due diligence', to ask such searching questions of any system under consideration.

Religion is the cause of all wars.

- Alas, we came only a distant second to atheism last century.
Some numbers & names: NI, 2k; Sudan, 2m over 20yrs; vs Stalin, 30-60m; Mao, 100m; Pol Pot, 2m; ww1+2 not religious; last *major* religious war 30yrs war Germany, 1620-1648.
- Alas, evolution has been the direct cause of barbaric racism, eugenics, and a not insignificant prop to slavery.
Aborigine 'missing link' slaughter; chimpanzee=>whites, orang-otang=>chinese, gorilla=>blacks [polythyletic view, Crookshanks 1924]. Social darwinism & theory of 'Aryan' nation. Slavery is logical & racism scientific. Origin of Species subtitle: "the preservation of favoured races in the Struggle for Life"
- So the greed and evil of man had nothing to do with it...? (It was all God's fault?)

How could a loving God invent hell?

Issues: justice, tough/protective love, security, *origin of evil*

- Could a loving government jail people?
- Could a loving God not punish people who escape justice in this life?
- You think there is a loving God? / You believe in hell? ['no' - then why are you asking?]
- It's about justice, not demons poking people.
The devil is at the bottom of the lake, not in control. Isaiah 14
- If hell is not real, is suicide a genuine escape (from justice) for folk like Hitler and Harold Shipman?
Our God doesn't let them get away that easily.

How could a loving God allow so much suffering? (e.g. Haiti, Holocaust)

- CS Lewis: people mostly ignore God till he shouts at them thru pain.
- So much of the suffering is man made.
Cheap buildings in Haiti, poverty that could be set straight if man's heart was set straight - symptomatic of a deeper problem...
- If everyone listened to this loving God, do you think it would reduce suffering in the world?
- If man has blanked him like we so clearly have (read the newspapers), it's amazing that there isn't more suffering.
- We collectively rejected God, and voted satan in - so we got his rule not God's. Yes it's ugly – but let's remember it was us that turned away from God.
- In our daily lives we vote for independence from God, and in our crises we blame him for not being around to stop it?
- A major recession might get voters to change parties, so suffering can get folk to vote for God's rule where they didn't b4...
- What if it happened here, r we ready 2 die and face God with our life?
- Yes, it can be sobering/useful to consider suffering, cos 10 out of 10 people die: it's going to come our way soon enough.
It is better to go to a house of mourning
than to go to a house of feasting,
for death is the destiny of every man;
the living should take this to heart. Ecc 7
- This unloving God chose to become the only 100% innocent sufferer, in order to provide a permanent escape from suffering.
- God got personally and heavily involved in suffering to end all suffering.
- God wants it to end to/wants to take us out of this suffering.
- That's a question a lot of bible characters struggled with too...
Encourage them that b4 our God, far from being a 'naughty' question, it is taken seriously & legitimised by its inclusion in scripture - e.g. Habbakuk, how long o Lord, i wish i was never born, why o why have u forsaken me...

- Anything man receives that is less than eternal suffering in hell, is less than he deserves.

God is a kill joy.

- "The redeemed of the Lord will come home with everlasting ecstasy" - i'm struggling to see the kill joy in that, is it the everlasting bit, or the ecstasy...!?
- Do athletics training 4 the Olympics have to lose out on short term joys?
- "At his right hand are pleasures for ever more." If the path to life is narrow, yet it is short in the light of eternity.
- Not so, he said: "I have come that they might have life to the full."

God says, "Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, b4 the days of trouble come...". I want you to know that now, embed it in your mind. That God tried to get into your life when you were young, but u weren't up for it, thinking him a kill joy - he says days of trouble and pain are ahead w/o him with you, that he came to give abundant life, but men loved darkness rather than light. If u reject him for fleeting pleasures, you will find they come with a heavy, heavy price tag – when u know that, years down the line, remember God didn't want it so and tried to persuade u otherwise.

- The bars of the mouse's cage can be viewed negatively, until one sees the cat.
Satan is like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour, so "The boundaries have fallen to me in pleasant places."
- It's a dangerous world out there. What you don't know can kill you. So God can make people wary of exciting (but dangerous) paths, & keen for older (but safer) paths.

My people perish for lack of knowledge. Hos 4:6

From folk discussing this verse => Literally: people have died of "diarrhea" because they didn't know how to properly resupply their bodies with fluids and electrolytes. Water, a spoon of sugar and a dash of salt have saved many lives.

Figuratively: You may live a hellish life for not having the mental tools (knowledge) to advance in a career, or relationship. Lack of knowledge can make you miss obvious opportunities.

- Isn't satan the kill joy, cos if everyone followed my man's guidance there'd be a heap more joy!
- And satan is for joy, exhilaration and freedom? Like the ice cream man giving out free sweets to kids if they'll come for a ride? Yeah, right...
- In the game of Chess, what distinguishes an adults game from a childs is that they think strategically & several moves ahead. The better they are the more moves ahead & possible outcomes they have considered. Chess is only a game, but requires careful study & forethought to get a result. God just advises us as we mature to think a few years ahead to get the best result from our 'moves' in life. Which seems fair enough to me?

U live such a boring life / can't do anything fun.

It's unique to the situation of childhood/early youth where sometimes the pain of the horrible consequences of what is called 'exciting' and 'fun' by the world/devil have not yet hit home. How do we warn of the future w/o sounding miserable/gloom mongers...?!

- What do you find fun?

This is a very good q if u don't know what they are referring to in specific, you then may glean a list/better understanding of your friend that you can fruitfully address at a later stage.

- Well, I try 2 learn from other people's mistakes - it'll save me a heap of pain - and there is little where Solomon hasn't already been there/done that. Yet he found it all ultimately empty w/o God. So I'm a little wary leaving my miserably boring life for stuff that still can't satisfy, and will take me away from the One that he said can!
- Give me statistics, convince me that I'm missing out on real lasting pleasure!
- Eat, drink and be merry, sounds like a good idea, but the other part of that verse is tomorrow we die... and come b4 God.
- If we're talking about doing things that are pleasurable, why don't u do crack, there is no doubt it is an outstanding pleasure?

Allow them to introduce ideas of slavery, addiction, diminishing returns, then u can say OK, might any of this apply to some of the things u say are fun?

- B4 u take a fence down, give some thought to why it was put up. [GKChesterton, long term thinking]
Solomon, when he's advising his son, is forever pointing out the long term... why? Cos he loves him and he wants the best for him long term; satan routinely & freely uses short term pleasure as bait in order to destroy your future.
- Isn't there a phrase, 'give someone enough rope to hang themselves', 2 much freedom could be negative?
- Ah, my friend, what can i say, i trust my man, he's been right on X & Y for me (or my kith and kin) and many of the things painted as fun he warns are very painful and dangerous
- The most engaging person i've ever met has told me that it ain't quite like that.
- I believe there are walking dead, eternity is real, that my creator died for me, so he could live within me and be here now, and that one day i'll fly up to meet him in the sky... it might be insane or crazy, but it's hardly boring?

Here you could just choose any of your favourite wildest truths...

- [story] A Christian in jail was visited by a friend, who said: "Recant, life is sweet and death is bitter." He replied, "There is a life more sweet, and a death more bitter." Eternity is a long time.
- I'm friends with the guy that made this planet.

God is sexist...

A certain amount of truth just deals with this one...

- He made man: male & female in the image of God
- He portrayed Wisdom/the co-creator/Christ as a woman in Proverbs
- He described female/motherly emotions over Jerusalem (the mother hen chick gathering passage), and frequently in the OT - as a mother who gave birth cannot abandon her child... etc
- The majority of mothers in work would like to be at home mothering. God would like to let them do that. Society says it's bad, and they must work like men. Tell me who is sexist.
- Women are sexist, they refuse to apply for being bricklayers... they think it's beneath them. I want a 50/50 divide. Jokes...
(with a serious point that should be rigorously pursued if door opens: namely we are different by *design* and suitable for different tasks, in this instance men have 100% more muscle per kg; women's hearing is designed for a baby's cry)
- The way God treats women in OT [3 daughters get special inheritance rights] and NT [consistently breaking trend] shows a lack of sexism. Further, they r portrayed as much more faithful to the Christ than the men who all bar one leave him in the lurch in his hour of greatest need, while they remain with him, and are last to leave his tomb on the Friday, and first to arrive at it on the Sunday.

What about homosexuality?

Here you are often dealing with people who have friends or are homosexual themselves.

- Not the biggest sin... - so don't get it twisted just cos some 'christians' do, like God has got u in his sights! What God really loathes is *pride* and judgementalism.
1 Corinthians is great on this: pride BIG (ch 2-4ish, and later use of gifts) - causes division amongst humans God called to live in unity; homosexuality gets referenced (ch6), but plenty of other people get torn down in the church long b4 he touches on those in the church still involved in that issue. Heterosexual promiscuity is normally a bigger problem, and gets correspondingly more time (ch6 also).
- Not born gay - twin study. God didn't *make* them gay. It is generally a lifestyle choice.
- People can get too hung up on it, it is covered very little in the bible, and there are probably more important things.

Why do Christians hate sex?

- Would you put a gun in a playground? Why not?
What if it only had one plastic bullet in it? Sex is not a toy. It can create life. It must be used by a responsible adult and with great caution and forethought, as a gun can take life, so sex can create it. Condoms, abortions make it safe?? => led to rise in promiscuity, rise in teenage pregnancy since 1968 not diminished it. False safety. 90k teenage pregnancies last year. 80k are single parents, whose children are 10 times more likely to be abused, 20 times more likely to end up in jail (make up 70% prison pop US from just 9% of families).
THIS IS NOT TO JUDGE single parents, they can do a great job, and the magnitude of the challenge they face is awesome. Respect, love and care ought to be our dominating attitudes. IT IS TO JUDGE a system that says it doesn't really matter, it's not that important. They ought to be jailed for criminal neglect in analysing reality.
- Your marriage will affect u more than ur education, ur job, the house u choose (and u won't pay the mortgage for 20 years, but it's still more important than that). Sex b4 marriage means that this HUGE thing is 60% more likely to fail. Yet the system we live in consistently acts like it's an unimportant decision, and just do it if u feel like it. You're being lied to - on a heavyweight matter. God hates *that*, and the damage to you.
- Funny, I was thinking most people hate sex, cos 70% have sex b4 they're 18, so their marriages are 60% more likely to fail. Which is bad news for their long term chances of sex...
- Have you read the bible? Sex and related ideas like oneness play a heavy part...
When Mankind comes on the scene male&female gender/sex thing, two becoming one and loving it is first up... and the end idea is that we get married to God... it explains why we are so interested in sex, cos it says its fundamental to who we were made to be, far from being afraid of sex it engages it full on.
- 'May you rejoice in the wife of your youth... may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.'
- They treasure it, and so they protect it...
The average married couple have sex more times in 1st year of marriage, than an unmarried person will in his life [stat from One Flesh by Matthias Media].
- Can you think of any benefits to society/humans to only having sex within marriage to one person?
Effect on: STDs; abuse (90% from step-parents); fatherlessness => drugs & crime (70% US jail pop from single parent homes), poverty, pain; divorce costs UK taxpayers £15bn p/a (2000). Of 60k children in care, 98% due to family breakdown. For more: <http://www.christian.org.uk/resources/theology/apologetics/marriage-and-family/divorce/>
- Marriage & the family is so important to the stability of society as a whole, that **anything and everything** that can be done to protect it, should be done. It affects everything in society in time: drugs, crime, poverty, child misery, abuse, etc etc. To have a cavalier attitude to sex can only come about through ignorance of its impact (which unfortunately our gov't seem to deliberately sustain).

Let the crutch go, don't let the system limit u!

- I need a crutch. I am pretty weak, and I don't like the person I become on my own—cos, trust me, all too

frequently I do leave the Christ...

- Imagine saying to Iron Man, 'Let the suit go man, you don't need it - it's limiting you!'
- ..or to the water skier following the speedboat, 'Let go of the rope man, you can do just fine on your own...', there's plenty of times where u can do much more with than w/o assistance, I mean why do people drive cars?
- What do you lean on in desperate times? Does it help?

Reject religion: it's out to control, rob & dope u... [opiate of the masses]

- He's made me his co-heir, I will inherit all things, become partaker of the divine nature, and you think I'm being robbed?
- He heavily encourages thinking and resistance to being doped, even to the point of saying we're saved by the renewing of our minds (as opposed to the abandoning).
I don't think i've ever been more reasonable in my life than now I follow Christ. When the rubber hits the road, trust me you'll be glad u spent time working out if it's true or not, and shoring up your faith.
- I hear you, enough boys have used religion as a means 4 control and wealth gaining. It's talked about much in the bible. That kind of religion God would say you are right to reject, and he himself devastates it routinely in the OT and NT alike (e.g. Ezk 34, John 10).
- [if they drop the brainwash word!!!] Ah, who can wash the brain? When was the last time you managed clean thoughts for a day? That's partly why i read this book, cos i need my brain washing!
- Conspiracy facts on Marx and his particular opiate associations in world communism
- You're telling me this world with all its advertising and stuff isn't out to control and dope me? And that Eastenders, iPods and stuff ain't the new bread and circuses?
- Would you like a society without any controls? Are you for a lawless society? Remove the police?
- Children should reject parents, as when they are young they try to control their environment and limit them, which must be bad...

So, u think all other religions are wrong?

- Do u think they are all true?
Mutual exclusivity issue. They might acknowledge this, and say, but all are basically the same, love God & neighbour, 'Yes, but...' => Mountain illustration or Unique Sacrificial Death of God for Man
- Islam says Christ didn't die on the cross, Christianity says he did, so Bhuddism must be wrong cos it says they're both right.
- I think Christianity has some very unusual pointers that indicate divine origin.
Bible revealed/tested over such a long period, historical/miraculous, unlikely human origin of many doctrines, advancement w/o wealth/power/influence (vs Bhuddism)
- It is supremely unlikely that a man would come up with a religion where God comes down to be spat upon, and die that he might set those same people free, to pay in his own blood the punishment for their/our wrong doing.
Right/wrong aside, in my mind it just stands head and shoulders above all other religions - this idea so dominates man's mind, our films, all our galantry awards recognise as the highest act of bravery the giving of ones life for others.
- Other religions talk about a God who cares and is merciful. NONE show a God whose actions followed thru on his words in such an extreme manner. To literally go thru hell and back for us. It's heavy stuff my friend. Show me it in another system, and then u'll know in part why I stick with my Man, I know he is capable of watching my back 110%.
- Mountain illustration -> explain 'you can do nothing'.
Mountain: all paths lead up, generally the method is obeying the precepts of religion, at the top is paradise/nirvana/enlightenment/gaia etc. Assumption is that man can move up. Christianity is unique among all these. It says man is dead in his sins. Cannot climb, or even look up. It took God to come down the mountain exchange his life for our death, and lift us up the mountain in his strength. So it stands alone in comparison.
- I find it really helpful to look at the personality and lifestyles of the founders/leaders of these religions – how much do you know about Mohammed, Joseph Smith?
This quickly and simply invalidates many religious systems. Bhudda stands up the best to such comparative scrutiny having little obvious to fault, except for his abandonment of wife (permanent) and child (for 7 years), but as a pattern i would not say this is too helpful. Family ties are very important. Christ rises above them all in this respect, to his dying day taking care of his family, while avoiding marriage & progeny.
- If you were satan, and you had us trapped in a maze, and God came in to lead us out, what would you do?
Or 'if God had managed to get in and embed a firm trail in the ground to show the way out for generations to come, and satan could not remove this. What would you do in his shoes?' Basically, get them to see that if God is real, if satan is real, it is inevitable there will be many false religions, only one of which may be the true trail out...

U can't tell me **** cos u do X, Y & Z. (A load of hypocrites)

- I'm ashamed of what I do, much of it is wrong; but Christ came to make forgiveness possible.
- Yes, I fail to keep the standards I aim for. But this *is different* to a hypocrite who is like me, **except** he 'acts' like he manages it.
- I know I do X Y & Z, it's not good, and that's me. But Christ said he came for the mash up, not for the together.

- It's because I do bad things that I seek rescue. If I was perfect would I need help?
- Yes I do that, but because I'm a tramp, does that mean I shouldn't tell another tramp if I've found a source of bread/sustenance??

They're so judgemental and harsh man... so i don't want to hear them.

This particular attitude is horrid. Pride causes it, and it really puts people off. Christ was never ever proud or harsh in dealing with people, except where they'd been like malice aforethought cold blooded murdering anti-God people. So you have to make sure to do a good job of correcting this should it come up.

- Blessed are the humble, those who mourn, who hunger and thirst after righteousness... If they're coming across like that, it seems like they don't match Jesus' description of the blessed.
- No problem, ur onside with Jesus there, they sound more like the Pharisees (a name that's passed into English dictionaries) who were his number one enemies in the NT.
- Don't expect 2 much! Remember Christians are mash up people too. I'm proud and can be judgemental, and forget the many logs in my eyes, but it doesn't necessarily mean the I follow is like that, just that I'm a bad disciple... cos he clearly tell us not to be harsh, unkind, judgemental...

Discerning fruit from a tree re:Pharisees/false teachers is in same passage Matt 6/7, and is different! U have to test the spirits, but not to be personally harsh, 'look down upon' - Jesus models this well, he clearly exposed people where necessary, but wept over Jerusalem, and loved the rich young ruler as he walked away.

So heavenly minded, but of no earthly use

- Ah, that one! Can you think of any practical stuff Christ's followers have done?

Socialism/trade unions are Christian in origin. Wilberforce = end to slavery. Shaftesbury end to child labour. Prison reform Elizabeth Fry and Howard. Yale, Harvard, Princeton - all originally Christian educational foundations. Check the London hospitals: St Thomas', St George's etc - religious/monastic in origin.

- When Jesus left carpentry to preach, not enter politics. Did he make any practical positive impact on earth as a result?

Emperor Julian's reflections to his Arsacius the high priest over 300 years later: "Why then do we think that this is sufficient and do not observe how the kindness of Christians to strangers, their care for the burial of their dead, and the sobriety of their lifestyle has done the most to advance their cause? ...Each of these things, I think, ought really to be practiced by us. ...For it is disgraceful when no Jew is a beggar and the impious Galileans [i.e. Christians] support our poor in addition to their own; everyone is able to see that our coreligionists are in want of aid from us."

- You are right to question the fruit of a belief system as a way of checking the nature of the tree. Do you mind if we look at the fruit of evolution? [go to evo querying]
- The Christians I know tend to vote at every chance, write letters to gov't, give to and set up charities for international aid etc, campaign against child slavery etc etc.

U seem like a cult member, no disrespect intended...

- If I was a soldier would you see it like that? I reckon you'd understand, and say, "OK". That's how it is with me and mi God. It's a serious thing.
- Everyone is in a personality cult, u only have to check atheist states 4 the most extreme examples. People r designed to follow/emulate great men. I believe i've found the greatest.

Statues of (and books by) Stalin, Mao, Kim Il Sung dominate relevant states. Napoleon expressed these thoughts while he was exiled on the rock of St. Helena. There, the conqueror of civilized Europe had time to reflect on the measure of his accomplishments. He called Count Montholon to his side and asked him, "Can you tell me who Jesus Christ was?" The count declined to respond. Napoleon countered:

'Well then, I will tell you. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and I myself have founded great empires; but upon what did these creations of our genius depend? Upon force. Jesus alone founded His empire upon love, and to this very day millions will die for Him. . . . I think I understand something of human nature; and I tell you, all these were men, and I am a man; none else is like Him: Jesus Christ was more than a man. . . . I have inspired multitudes with such an enthusiastic devotion that they would have died for me . . . but to do this it was necessary that I should be visibly present with the electric influence of my looks, my words, of my voice. When I saw men and spoke to them, I lightened up the flame of self-devotion in their hearts. . . . Christ alone has succeeded in so raising the mind of man toward the unseen, that it becomes insensible to the barriers of time and space. Across a chasm of eighteen hundred years, Jesus Christ makes a demand which is beyond all others difficult to satisfy; He asks for that which a philosopher may often seek in vain at the hands of his friends, or a father of his children, or a bride of her spouse, or a man of his brother. He asks for the human heart; He will have it entirely to Himself. He demands it unconditionally; and forthwith His demand is granted. Wonderful! In defiance of time and space, the soul of man, with all its powers and faculties, becomes an annexation to the empire of Christ. All who sincerely believe in Him, experience that remarkable, supernatural love toward Him. This phenomenon is unaccountable; it is altogether beyond the scope of man's creative powers. Time, the great destroyer, is powerless to extinguish this sacred flame; time can neither exhaust its strength nor put a limit to its range. This is it, which strikes me most; I have often thought of it. This it is which proves to me quite convincingly the Divinity of Jesus Christ.'

Times have changed since the bible was written.

Classic relative truth arg. Think of old things that are still good! " 'All truth is relative' is an absolute statement, so there must be *some* absolute truth."

- Times have changed, gravity hasn't. Nor have people.
- Yes, but wot makes u think people have? Have they stopped being greedy, lustful, love-seeking or warlike?
- Tell me - do people now think murder, adultery, greed and lying are OK?

- But most courts still require an oath to avoid lying, and lady justice is an almost universal picture of a woman with scales in her hand, what does that say about this question?
- Times have changed since the wheel was invented. Is that invention still relevant?
- Since the sun 1st shone things have changed, but the world still depends on its power!
- Pythagoras' theorem is a little dated, but still quite handy!
- Isn't the importance of 'love' and relationships still a universal given? So some things don't?
- Humans still like to be loved/need love.
- Yet the worldwide appeal of Christ continues to grow.

China, India if not Britain!

Your faith is improbable/ridiculous

- Well, atheism as an alternative is highly improbable. It's like going into a factory in full flow and saying, "Yeah, this just came together by chance given sufficient time..."

This is called a teleological argument, the argument from design - Rom 1 - God has made his nature self-evident in creation: you are meant to look at it, and let your jaw drop with awe, and say 'WOW! Whoever made this is worthy of maximum respect!' The aim is not to say it's atheism or Christianity, but in terms of atheism vs theism (of whatever sort), theism wins hands down on a logic basis. You can bring in entropy if you wish (everything in a closed system tends to disorder).

- And a very large explosion produced order? Your faith is quite remarkable...

My Northern Irish friend did a great one on this: "Thomas, I've seen a lot of big bangs in my day, but they rarely produce order."

- Hold on a tick, you believe your grandad was an ape?
- I suppose historical and reasonable faith doesn't quite fit in with modern thinking!
- If you think it's ridiculous why do so many films all borrow its ideas, and reject those of atheism/evolution.
- But you love it, and your films love it and not the story of evolution [death of weaker at hands of stronger, The Weakest Link, Lord of the Flies], but of the strong dying for the weak, and that's right at the heart of our story...

in the Christ, the strongest man dying for the weak, so he could say come in, you are the weakest link. And if you think you're the strongest then goodbye... You don't really think its ridiculous or laughable, you delight in it!

U freeeek, the world is 6000 years old?!?

Perhaps u could move this to the dinosaurs question below...

- A large number of scientists also think so.
- Why do you think the earth is older.

'Because I've been told so.' But why do they think the earth is older? This to highlight the fact that most people have just blindly believed this view, without understanding the reasoning.

What about the dinosaurs?

- You interested in dinosaurs and geology or this just another supposed problem with the bible u've bought into?!?

This is not to insult them, just to show them that they are buying into a well known line of attacks that you are not ignorant of.

- B4 we start this one, do you realise that if any man has ever seen a living dinosaur the *whole* world's dating/rock age system collapse?

As between Rock Layer K and *homo sapiens* there is a 65 million year gap posited by the old planet geologists.

- I have dinosaurs in my bible - believe it or not that makes your faith look ridiculous!
- Read Job 40 & 41 and get back to me...

And that's just the start. In my mind there is more than enough in secular archaeology/history and world mythology to *cane* this one (see Carlisle cathedral brontosaurus, Marco Polo, dragons & China etc). Important to milk this for maximum effect though, cos it *destroys* long age theories, to win the dinosaurs debate and not let them see the consequential victories would be a sad loss. Much stuff doc'd here: http://www.earthage.org/are_dinosaurs_millions_of_years_old.htm
<http://www.thefirstsixdays.com/NileMosaicofPalestrina.htm>

So you believe in Noah's ark?

- You interested in history and geology then?

If they ain't it's pointless having a discussion, so why did they raise it?

- Well, the marks of flood are world wide, so why wouldn't I?
- Sedimentary rock on the top of Mt Everest? Uniformity of rock layers worldwide? Fossil record itself? Where do you want me to start?!
- Well, with 500+ flood legends in mythology worldwide it would seem likely that *something* happened!

Funk and Wagnall's 1950 Dictionary of Folklore, Mythology and Legend stated under the heading 'Deluge or Flood': 'A world cataclysm during which the earth was inundated or submerged by water: a concept found in almost every mythology in the world.'

- What happens to a fish when it dies?

Let them work this out. 'Floats to top, or sinks to bottom, gets eaten either way.' So how come there are millions of fish and jelly fish (most tender of all undersea beasties), found fossilised in perfect condition worldwide??? 'Catastrophe and sudden burial no other explanation, my friend.'

It would be nice if it were true / I'd like to have your faith.

- Sometimes I think it would be nice/convenient if atheism were true – at least there would be no judgement to fear.

Dealing with their thing that man makes religion for his own peace of mind, show that man also gets rid of religion for his own peace of mind.

- You can have my faith, in fact, it's been well documented 4 exactly that purpose!

Say John 20:31 - 'these things are written that u might believe'. Or Luke 1:3-4 - 'Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.'

God doesn't exist...

- Satan doesn't either then? / so the occult is a joke as well then? Nothing real in that either?

Do u know anyone who's p...layed with a ouija board?" sort of an approach, u know like the man who was in Rwanda during the Hutu/Tutsie massacres and says: "I know God exists cos I've shaken hands with the devil."

What's with all the massacres of women & children in the bible?

Bit difficult this one - the children flow into an arg that benefits from separate treatment: 'Do babies go to hell cos they haven't trusted Christ?'

- There is essentially only one - the Canaanites - and God gave about 400 years advance warning. He is slow to anger, but when he comes it affects everyone involved.

The Canaanites were to be annihilated. Genesis 15:13 & 15:16 for 400 years & iniquity not yet reached full measure. Did they have a warning? Well what was Sodom and Gomorrah and all the surrounding towns being destroyed if not a *massive* advance warning of the type of judgment they could expect. It's also important to notice that all such massacres were only at the express verbal command of God whilst under his theocracy, and were unmistakable, these were times when he popped down and shook mountains and split seas and made himself supernaturally clear. U don't get such commands post Joshua, though the commands to deal with the Canaanites remain.

What is truth? / Cool if u want to believe that, but don't try & convert me.

- Would it be cool 4 me to believe there was a cliff in front of a blind person, and *not* convert the blind person to my belief?
- If a muslim says I'm going to hell, and doesn't try and convert me, I'll think he's insincere in his belief, or in his love. Fair?
- Relative truth args - see "Times have changed..."
- What if I had inside info that...
our school/town was going to be nuked; all people with your colour hair and eyes were going to be rounded up and killed...
- What if I knew a brilliant and cheap car mechanic, and you had a bust car?
- What if I knew about a great party coming up?
- What if I knew a guy who dished out £100k to anyone who asked?
- I can't convert u anyway! It can only be the free and informed choice of an individual to give their own soul...