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Subject: Re: Questions I would like to pose to athiests  
Posted by [Spoony](#) on Wed, 09 May 2012 06:54:45 GMT  
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fredcow9 wrote on Tue, 08 May 2012 16:32Quote: previously you called non-belief a "crime" so i suppose i shouldn't be surprised under Gods rules yes, mans no. your god's rules are awful.

Quote:When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods[a] who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."

^let alone when moses just leaves for a little bit, they already start going astray, and you dont think enticing peoples would be a threat to Gods startup plan?

3 So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. 4 He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods,[b] Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

sounds like more than a handful of people to me

quite funny that these people would rather worship a fucking metal cow than yahweh, eh

Quote:Quote:uh no, i was referring to yahweh's deliberate targeting of children.

Iv always assumed a silent death is not a big deal, this is more damaging to the parents than the children themselves. Besides, its pharaoh who is allowing this to continue.

couple of interesting bits in the narrative:

1. before moses makes the final threat, yahweh tells moses that he'll bring one more plague against the egyptians and then the israelites will be let go.
2. who hardened pharaoh's heart, fredcow?

it kinda looks like yahweh was hell-bent on wiping those kids out.

anyway, do you think that if it wasn't for your religion, you'd be justifying the deliberate and systematic genocide against innocent children? when you first became a christian, did you think that this is where it would lead you?

Quote:Why do you always annotate your own arguments specifying yourself as some kind of victor all the time?

Your not even touching my religion yet alone bringing even one serious problem up besides your moral objection to something.

why lie? anyone can see i brought up quite a few major problems with your cartoonish threats, and they can also see you couldn't answer them.

Quote:As I have said before and Ill say it again, if you object to gravity, its still there. When your told not to jump off a cliff or else... then dont do it unless your willing to risk the or else...

that's pretty dense, as analogies go. firstly, gravity is real and demonstrable (pick up a pen and drop it. throw a rock off the cliff and see what happens to it). hell is not real. (unless you wanna answer the challenge i posed to eatcow, which was prove it)

secondly falling off the cliff isn't a punishment for a crime, it's just a consequence of a foolish action according to the nature of physics.

Quote:Quote:  
who? when? what did they say?  
I dont know

Quote:Quote:it's not relevant whether a devout Jewish man who seriously believes in the oncoming messiah is convinced that Jesus is the real deal or not?  
Saul of Tarsus?  
and what do you know about him?

Quote:Quote:so again, decades after jesus is supposed to have died.

yes, is that supposed to be unreasonable by historys standards of proof?  
...if you're trying to prove something extraordinary, then yes, you need a lot better than that.

Quote:Quote:uh no, cos all these "secular writings" basically say is "there's a group of people who believed this guy who lived a few decades ago was their messiah".  
Its an acknowledgement and an important one.  
it's an entirely unimpressive one. it can be made about any number of false messiahs.

Quote:Quote:even if this wasn't in a time and place where there was basically no such thing as education,  
I was led to believe the Romans were some smart people actually. Didnt the whole empire "fall for this ridiculousness"  
no... it took hundreds of years before there was any significant number of Christians in the roman empire (this in a society already rife with credulity and superstition), and even after a few centuries it was only like 10% of the population... it eventually got itself some political power, although it was already schisming the fuck out of itself and its political proponents could barely go a decade without changing their mind on most of it

Quote:Quote:where superstition was rampant and where most people already believed in god(s) anyway, this would still not vindicate the gospels.  
So if they already have a belief system you dont think there has to be some element of apparent truth for them to switch in a time period facing death for switching to that religion?  
Hey convert to Christianity  
Nah dude I could get killed for that  
^Thats how it would go if it were not real and people in the area hadent, seen or at least through another source heard about Jesus or seen some sort of miracle.  
are you under the impression that the average person could not become a christian or he'd be killed?

it's true there was persecution of christians in the roman empire, just like there was persecution of other religions once christianity had the power (and persecution of christians by christians...) but i think you may be overstating the extent of it.

Quote:No, but it would prove some weight behind the illiad and its writers testimony. If he wrote specifically about certain descriptions and more of those descriptions are coming up true than

false, its likely you can to at least some extent his story.

it's completely inadequate if you are trying to prove the extraordinary parts of the story; i.e. the stuff about gods and whatnot.

Quote:This especially applies to the bible as the field of archaeology has only worked for it and not against it.

...you can't be serious?

israeli archaeologists have tried their utmost to vindicate the exodus story (david ben-gurion tasked them with it to add legitimacy to the state of israel), and they eventually had to admit they got nothing. that's an admirable admission, by the way.

Quote:Quote:same for the gospels.

Its why theres way more than 1 or 2 bits that are accurate as shown by secular history.

the closest you can seriously claim to establish with the 'secular history' is "there was a guy called Jesus who some people followed", and even that's a bit of a stretch (note the disconnect between 'Jesus' and 'Christ'...)

Quote:Quote:Yes they are in a time when most couldnt read or write which is why its amazing the gospels are not lying when matched with secular writings dont you think?

This is still a valid point.

no it's not. you still haven't vindicated the gospels.

Quote:Quote:- the fact loads of people there already believed in god(s), specifically judaism and the prospect of an imminent messiah

So as a Jew one would examine, did this Christ fulfill his obligations? was he really the one? The fact these people converted so massively would only be expected if the gospels are telling the truth.

"so massively"? again, you may be gravely overstating the situation. a few churches cropped up, but they were partly political organisations, and they couldn't agree on very much.

Quote:Quote:- the fact there was basically no such thing as education

trying to undermine someones choice to a reality based on if they have their masters degree is not really a valid argument at all. If thats the case I could just say poor people are heathens because they dont know any better and are stupid. see how ignorant that really sounds?

there's no need for populism, nobody else is reading your posts anyway.

Quote:Quote:- the coercive nature of the religion itself, i.e. follow me or you will be tortured

Thats not really the point. Its follow me because you love me, not because your scared of torture. anyone following Jesus because they are scared of torture are really falsely being led.

say it's not the point if it makes you feel better, doesn't change the fact the threat is made.

Quote:Besides, I thought your reasoning for why people are Christian is because they are brought up that way. which is it?

i think you'll notice i said there are several reasons for christianity's success, none of them praiseworthy

Quote:Quote:

yes, there were obviously people who refused to deny their religion when threatened with death, and the point i was making is there are far more people who won't join this religion when threatened with even worse.

Who is being threatened with death for not believing? Where did the apostles go and do that? come on, fredcow. don't be a fucking retard. you were talking about hell in this very post.

Quote:Quote:nice question dodge. please answer it next time.  
eh?

Im too lazy to look it up lol, but you did dodge it.[/quote]  
no need to lie.

Quote:Quote:how do you know that?  
history...look it up lol  
the internal motives of the jewish religious leaders are not "history". guess all you like.

Quote:Quote:So far I have proved the gospels can be trusted  
again, this is a laughable overstatement

care to finally dispute this at all?[/quote]  
sure, i can just point out that not a single one of the many supernatural claims has been vindicated yet.

Quote:Quote:not the point i was making. everybody dies. being put to death in horrible ways for non-crimes was not uncommon at all at that time and place. i've consistently been opposed to blasphemy/heresy trials, and unelected religious bullies having power over the rest of us; i don't need to make a special point of each victim.

Didnt seem like "died" "woop de doo" made the same statement. At least be consistent.  
"woop de doo" = "that's not an impressive claim"

Quote:Quote:i think i heard that "virgin" was a mistranslation of "young woman" or something like that?

nah its pretty clear it means virgin  
it really isn't clear.

Quote:Quote:but suppose it really is "virgin". how do you know mary was a virgin?  
Jesus came from mary, we are told she was a virgin, Jesus performed all these miracles so one can trust hes probably someone special. The prophecy stated he was of virgin birth, mary didnt dispute this. Thats how I know.  
that's a pretty odd use of the word "know".

Quote:Quote:  
what's special about this?  
The lineage tracings being accurate even when predicted many moons ago.  
predicted? it predicts nothing about jesus.

Quote:Quote:joseph counts as jesus' father, does he? interesting

I suppose earthly wise yes, he raised him from birth.

Quote:jesus had a throne?

In love a throne will be established from the house of David, Jesus is of Davids lineage came preaching Love and claimed to be the king of Love essentially. I dont see the confusion. again, the prediction says nothing about jesus or a messiah. you could say that for any king or whatever.

Quote:Quote:

sorry, i'm not following this one.

Just more evidencing that Jesus is from the clan of Judah. Specifically Bethlehem it's much too vague to be worth anything.

Quote:Quote:that's not really a prediction, is it? rachel was waaaaay before herod. what's the connection?

Just supporting this weeping for children in Bethlehem.

Rachel was buried there according to Gen 35:19

19 And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath--the same is Beth-lehem. like i said, it's not a prediction and it's nothing to do with a messiah

Quote:Quote:Quote:Hosea 11:1 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

Quote:Matthew 2:14-15 [14] So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, [15] where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

again, this isn't really a prediction.

It is, Jesus is supposed to be Gods son, its written about in the OT and fulfilled by how it played out when the time came.

you're very easily impressed.

it's not a prediction.

Quote:Quote:barely a prediction. how do you know jesus cured anybody?

The testimonials.

have to do a bit better than that tbh. btw, curing someone is not all that unusual.

Quote:Quote:stop me if i'm wrong, but it's David who says this? what does it have to do with Jesus?

Yes, it parallels the same as Jesus, He had an extreme amount of enemies and he still does to this day.

it's not a prediction - again - and it's nothing to do with the messiah - again. but omg, "he had lots of enemies", plenty of people have had lots of enemies.

Quote:Quote:John 7:48-49 "Has any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him? [49] No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law--there is a curse on them."

and

showing the rules at the time these as you claim "devout" Jews.

Quote:Quote:John 15:24-25 [24] If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and

my Father. [25] But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: `They hated me without reason.'  
notice the vagueness?  
notice that they are being ignorant of their own law?  
The similar theme of hating for no reason is still applied throughout all of those. That's the whole point.[/quote]  
there isn't a point here ^^

Quote:Quote:again, it's hard to see in what sense this is a prediction?  
Prediction: Rejected stone will become capstone  
Fulfill: Jesus has become the capstone  
that's not a prediction either, it's just a recurring metaphor, and not a particularly good one.

Quote:Quote:again, not a prediction.  
Right just so happens hundreds of years before his existence that it was known he would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver. come on bro  
Zechariah 11:12 I told them, "If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver.  
not a prediction. nothing about betrayal. nothing about messiahs.

Quote:Quote:says david. nothing to do with jesus as far as i can tell. and again, not a prediction.  
for example, three or four verses previously - the same speech - he says he's beset by "bulls of Bashan". if this is a prophecy, jesus failed to fulfill it.

Dont recall davids hand or feet being pierced ever...  
and i don't recall jesus being attacked by "bulls of Bashan", but whatever. not a prediction.

Quote:Quote:the first one is in the very same speech as the bulls of bashan, which isn't a prophecy and has nothing to do with jesus.  
he protects all his bones  
plenty of people go through life without breaking a bone.

not a prediction. nothing to do with jesus.

Quote:Quote:and you should be glad of that, because if you want to claim it's a prophecy, you can only conclude that jesus failed to fulfill it.

The scriptures have timeless relevance. David doesn't even know it to be honest.  
you're dangerously close to a good point there; david is, indeed, talking bollocks.

Quote:Quote:the second one contains an interesting turn of phrase. a variation of it crops up quite a lot: "and this happened so that it would be fulfilled that which was spoken by the prophets". very interesting turn of phrase. sounds like "we did it because the scriptures said it would happen", and there's nothing supernatural about that, is there?  
I don't think the roman government gives a rat's ass about fulfilling scripture.  
the people who wrote the gospels obviously did. how easy it would've been to throw in the odd detail to make it sound like old messiah prophecies were fulfilled.

Quote:Quote:but once again, the bit in psalms seems to have nothing to do with a messiah.

Its David writings in psalms about this man who is coming that are relevant. That is all. that is, indeed, all.

Quote:[Quote:quote title=Quote:]Psalm 22:18 They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

Quote:Matthew 27:35 When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots still in the bulls of bashan speech

Who divided KING davids garments and cast his lots for clothing?[/quote]

how do you know such a thing happened in jesus' case?

Quote:Quote:

again, notice the vagueness?

I have serious doubts your even reading each one at least once let alone analyzing it for more than 30 seconds.

i seem to be paying more attention than you are, cos i'm noting that most of these are not predictions and the ones that MAYBE are (if you stretch a bit) haven't been fulfilled.

Quote:Quote:got any better ones than these? cos these are not impressive.

These are sufficient imo.

only if you're really, really easily impressed. what about those of us with a slightly higher bar?

Quote:Quote:

certainly not that you could prove it.

you can do otherwise? the testimony have not been denied yet...

this quote ^ was referring to the claim that jesus rose from the dead.

like i said, prove it.

Quote:Quote:okay, let's say the stuff in deuteronomy and leviticus etc is only talking to the people of the time, and not instructions for you. scratch those. we've still got hell, haven't we? (which is worse than the instructions in deuteronomy)

sure, and when you provide me some logic for punishment to not exist Ill be welcome to entertain it.

punishment for not being the right religion? that shouldn't be a crime in the first place, and i still hold out hope that there's some tiny little part of you that thinks so too.

Quote:Quote:and if he claimed to be god, then that's much worse than when your local priest makes the same threats.

No priest has any authority to threaten anyone with anything. Only educate someone on what Gods plan is and details about it. threaten.

"be this religion or you will be tortured."

threat ^^

Quote:Quote:interesting. so you think people can be horribly tortured for not being the right religion by God, but you think it's "not right" and "fucked up" when the same thing (or rather, a much more lenient thing) is inflicted by humans?

Yes, Humans are not an ultimate judge, and as much as humans would like to think they are all knowing and supreme they aren't. So they have no authority to commit such acts. so might makes right? you can torture people for not being the right religion just so long as you're all-powerful?

Quote:Quote:Should a person be tortured as a punishment for not being the right religion?  
no  
whoops

are you in any confusion about this?

Quote:Quote:i say: no. you say: yes, but only when it's my religion and when my dictator is doing the torturing.

My God sending someone to a torturous place they already know about is not my fault, or his. It's an established way that life goes. You either accept it exists and then decide fuck it, i don't care if I wind up there, decide I don't want to go there, so I'll give God pitty worship to get by, or some crazy thought, hell becomes an irrelevant factor in your life decisions and your worship God out of pure willingness! Impossible sounding I know!

firstly, i suppose i need to repeat myself: prove hell exists

secondly, maybe belief is a choice for some people, for a lot of people it is not

Quote:Quote:what do you mean by "believe"?

acknowledgement to the extent in full. Same as knowing a bullet to the chest will kill you. you're not making sense (again)

Quote:Quote:i've definitely said that it would take more than evidence of god and jesus to make me a christian, because there is more than one objection for me. it's not just the fact that i don't think it's true, there's also the fact that i morally object to a lot of it. finding out that the god of the bible really was real would be very bad news as far as i'm concerned. it's a great relief to think there's no hell. finding out that it was true would mean a few friends and family members are being horribly tortured right now. good people, just not the right religion. i don't think it's possible for me to grasp what a crushing blow this would be.

It seems how if even God himself came down and sat next to you, you wouldn't believe lol. You seem more concerned with the moral objections (your own view of morality), than actual proof or tangible facts here.

spin it how you like, if you don't mind looking dishonest. i'm just glad you're finally noticing that there are several major objections to your ridiculous threats. it's a shame i had to repeat them several times.

Quote:Quote:the war in heaven stuff is only in Revelation, which - let's face it - is so ridiculous it probably shouldn't even be in the bible. even christians can't agree on what the fuck it's talking about.

Some of it's clear, some of it's not. I don't see how something one doesn't understand should just be written off as it seems you'd rather have information censored.

no, i'm just pointing out that Revelation is batshit crazy even by the standards of the rest of the bible.

Quote:Quote:no, the villain of the book is very obviously Yahweh. That evil God telling man to live properly. How fucked up a world his commandments of thou shalt not kill and love thy enemy as thyself. fucked up man then there's the enormous death toll, killing people including innocents and including children, often in horribly extravagantly ways... and sending them to hell.

yes, that is fucked up, but thankfully it's not true.

Quote:Quote:what mischief does satan do? he kills a few people in Job, certainly an awful thing to do, albeit a thing done with Yahweh's permission. compare that to the enormous death toll Yahweh racks up in the bible, either by wiping people out himself or ordering people to do it (arguably worse) and the whole hell business. Satan tries to falsify things, give false information, get people to worship other things besides God. so?

Quote:Quote:christians - or perhaps not christians in your view - never tire of telling us so. Of course not, because why would one not want to discuss what's true and what's not? don't ask me, ask the majority of christians who - like i just said - never tire of telling us that it's about faith, not evidence.

Quote:[Quote:quote title=Quote:]"the fool hath said in his heart, there is no God" this bit of demagoguery is completely discredited by the following verses, where it says that these non-believers are all horribly wicked and none of them have ever done any good thing. that is so obviously untrue that i wonder why christians ever want to draw attention anywhere near it. It just points out the ridiculousness of not even believing in a God's existence at all.[/quote] it doesn't succeed.

Quote:Its comparable to one actually thinking the monkey at the zoo is actually genetically related to you somehow. ah, evolution.

i read your post in the other thread. darwin's black box? i'm sorry to hear you were exposed to such a dishonest, incompetent book at such a young age. the scientific community laughed at it from the beginning, and even Behe himself has had to abandon the bullshit he tried to pass off in that book. eventually, of course... i think it was the dover court case that did it, where he lied under oath that his research was peer reviewed, then had to admit it wasn't.

btw, if you still admire behe, ask him what he did when his son wanted to become an atheist.

Quote:Quote:Quote:and of course children are the target demographic, because it doesn't work on intelligent adults.

are you saying I can't come up with a list of intelligent people through history that were christian?

Quote:moving the goalposts a bit there.

actually no, you explicitly stated: "it doesn't work on intelligent adults"

"are you saying I can't come up with a list of intelligent people through history that were christian"

one reading the first quote would reasonably assume the second quote response would be in order.

it's still moving the goalposts. christian evangelism doesn't work on intelligent adults now. the fact you have to go back in time - to when churches had more power, education was poorer etc - just proves my point

Quote:Quote:question is why were they christians? could it be because they were brought up christians, i.e. indoctrinated as kids, because education was fucking awful at the time, lol hold on, do you think christianity only exists through lineage? is that your position. "only"? come on, i know you're a habitual liar, but why make such a feeble as that? i give 4 or 5 reasons, and you jump on the first one and say "only"?

Quote:Quote:because christianity had all kinds of political power, Thats why it was illegal to be christian at its begging right? welcome to what happens when a religion has power... sometimes that religion isn't yours.

Quote:Quote:because of hell threats, because of how dangerous it was to admit you weren't a christian?

Any men killing you because you are not a christian are about as christian as the men who crucified Jesus.

like i said, the "no true Christian" objection is extremely common.

Quote:Quote:no, it's an observation on the abject failure of my debate opponents to prove anything important, or answer any of my moral objections.

Have you ever objectively analyzed yourself of some kind of failure to adhere to points? do you want to have another crack at that sentence?

Quote:Quote:died on a cross wouldn't be unusual. rising from the dead would be (though it wouldn't vindicate his moral teachings, or even prove that he himself had the supernatural power), so what a shame we've had no evidence of that.

So you can at LEAST agree, a man named Jesus of a specific lineage lived in Israel under Roman occupation, died and crucified at the hands of pontais pilot (sorry the spelling), gained many followers in a short period of time and was extensively written about by his closets followers and historians?

even that is too generous.

"specific lineage" - no

"extensively" - no

"closest followers" - no

"named Jesus" - even that's a stretch

Quote:Quote:we can skip over the numerous times when the speeches of jesus don't agree with each other, because that's exactly what you would expect from reports written decades after a person died. who was Joseph's father?

sure whatever you wanna skip.

Matthew 1:16

And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.  
why does one of the other gospels say Heli?

Quote:Quote:i don't know. to pacify rebellious minorities, perhaps?  
Or maybe, just maybe there was apparent truth.  
it's by far the less likely of the two.

Quote:Quote:"the Christians"?  
yes  
your question was pointless. have another go if you like.

Quote:Quote:and indeed, why would i?  
It would take away from the uniqueness and probability of this one religion actually being the one  
thats correct.  
let's not start from the premise that one religion is correct and we need to find out which one.

Quote:Quote:to say your religion can claim something other religions can't is hardly impressive.  
If its claims are true? I dont see how you dont get that relevance.  
when are its claims - the important ones, that is, i.e. the supernatural stuff - going to be proven?  
i'm still waiting

Quote:Quote:so, like i said, you haven't proven that jesus said any such thing. the gospels say he  
said it, so what? prove he said it, please... and then your real work will be still ahead of you: prove  
he was right.

The gospels are a reliable source on what Jesus said.  
how do you know? and how do you account for the discrepancies in his speeches between them?

Quote:Quote:what is hell? a place of torture made by jesus's dad (apparently). obey me or that's  
where you will go as a punishment. this is an awful way to behave. jesus was not a good person if  
he said what the gospels say he said.  
Well Jesus is part of gods plan, and the world killed Gods son so the world will pay for what it had  
done unless it reconciles itself. Same for every person.  
what's it like having a brain that works this way?

i.e. a fucking retarded one that talks complete bollocks?

Quote:your disagreement doesnt seem to extend more beyond "I just dont want to live that way"  
or "be accountable" for anything  
i don't think it's true  
i think it would be horrible if it was true

these ^ are serious, honest and sensible objections and you haven't been able to answer them.  
it's dishonest of you to paint these straw men, but dishonesty is what i expect from you.

Quote:Quote:see above re: jewish men obviously not thinking jesus was the messiah, christians  
being referred to derisively, nothing supernatural being vindicated  
Establishing these facts about Jesus are important, these sources back up the gospels. They dont

have the luxury of just dusting Jesus under the rug because he was just around not even a generation ago in this time. So they simply just deny his claims lol. I mean you even have people that legitimately dont think Jesus existed at all these days. Thats not even an argument and these sources show this.

when is anything supernatural going to be proven?

Quote:Quote:who said they were? i'm more inclined to think they ("they" is such a vague word, we really should specify who are we talking about) were just plain wrong  
ok, so when they wrote the gospels they WERE indeed writing what was what they saw and experienced.

that's more than you can know.

Quote:Quote:you're ok with people being horribly tortured for not being the right religion.  
choosing to not worship God.

i'll repeat my earlier question...

when you first became a Christian, did you think this is the kind of opinion you'd end up with as a result?

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