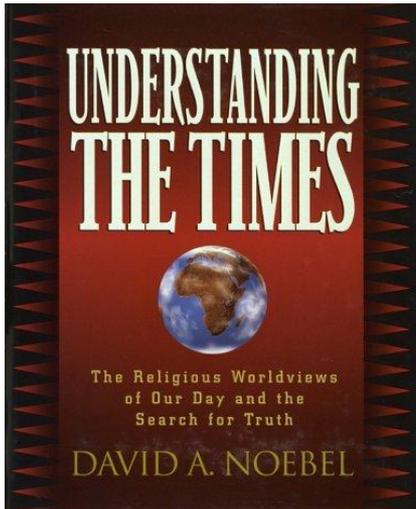


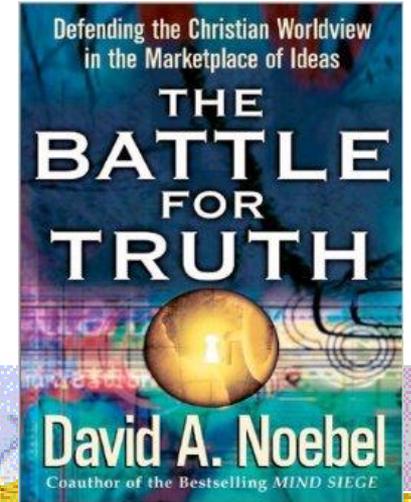
# Biblical Worldview



Dr. Heinz Lycklama

[heinz@osta.com](mailto:heinz@osta.com)

[www.heinzlycklama.com/messages](http://www.heinzlycklama.com/messages)



1 Ch. 12:32, Of Issachar, men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, 200 chiefs, and all their kinsmen under their command.

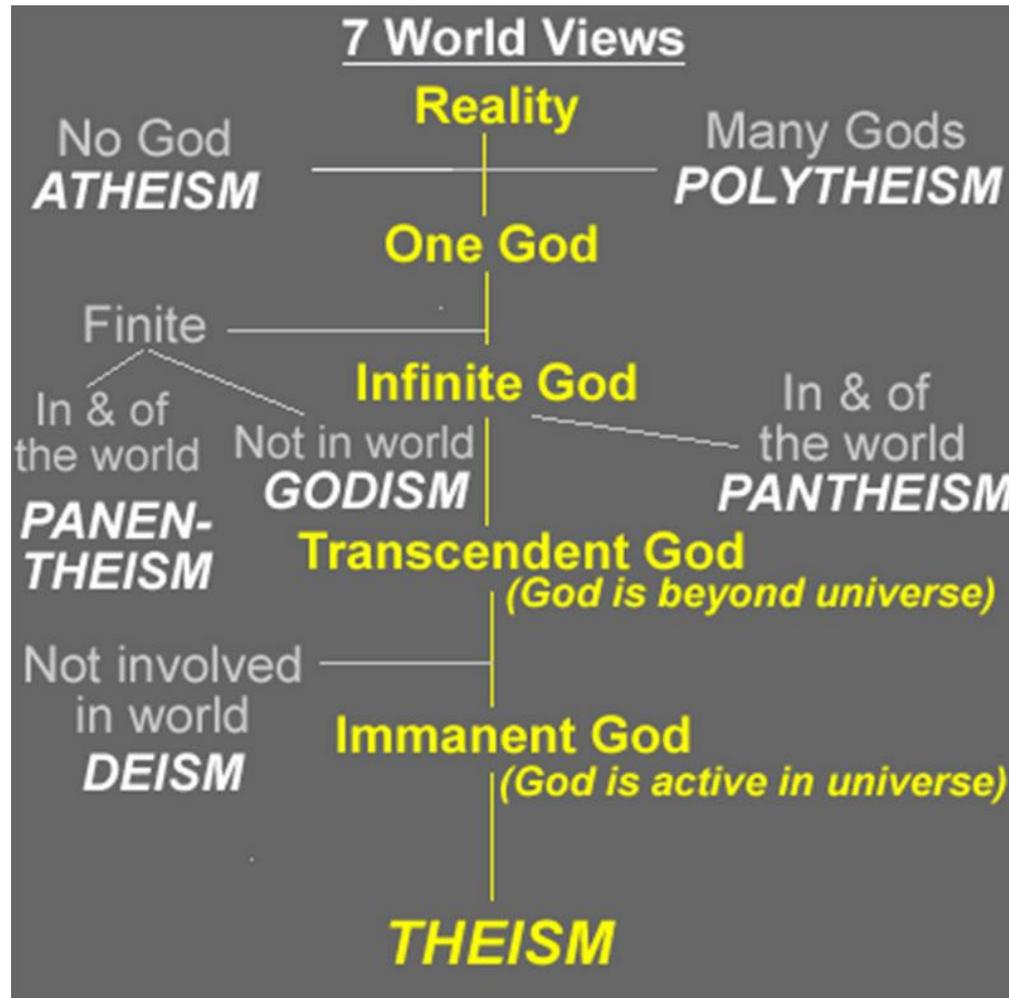
John 14:6, Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.



# Biblical Worldview

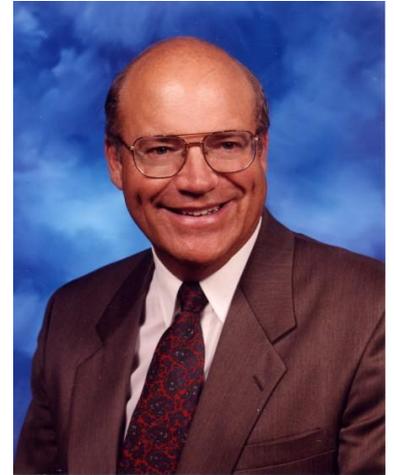
1. Introduction to Worldviews
2. Worldview Disciplines
3. Competing Worldviews
  - Biblical Worldview
  - Other Worldviews
4. Roadblocks to Faith
5. Importance of Your Worldview
6. More on Worldview Disciplines
7. In Conclusion: Worldview Criteria

# Categories of Worldviews



# Definition of a Worldview

A worldview is a philosophy, ideology or religion that provides an overarching approach to understanding God, the world, and man's relationship to both. A complete worldview contains a perspective regarding each of the ten disciplines: theology, philosophy, ethics, biology, psychology, sociology, law, politics, economics, and interpretation of history.



Summit Ministries

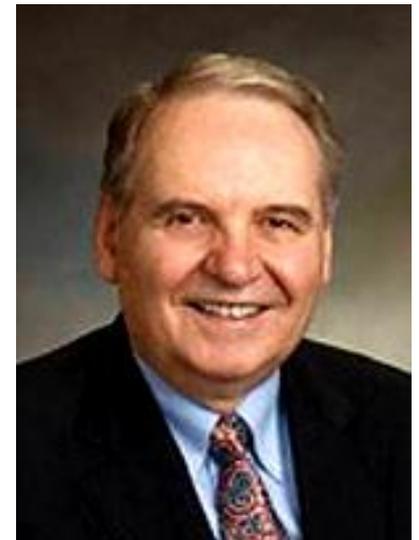
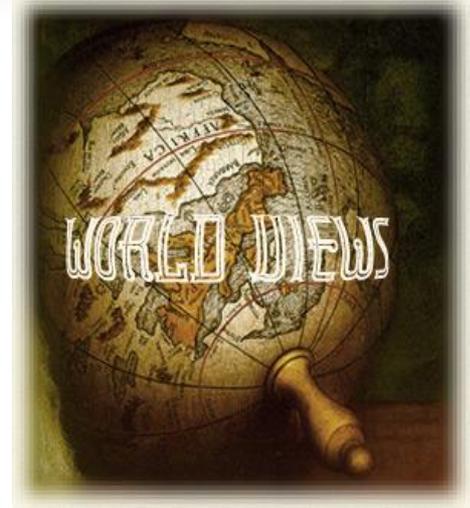


# Another Definition

A world view is a way one views the whole world. And since people have vastly different views of the world, depending on the perspective from which they view the world, it is clear that one's world view makes a world of difference.

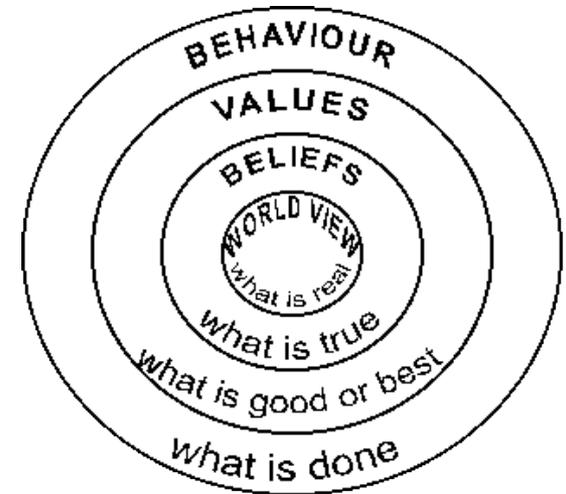
A world view is a way of viewing or interpreting all of reality. It is an interpretive framework through which or by which one makes sense out of the data of life and the world.

Norman Geisler



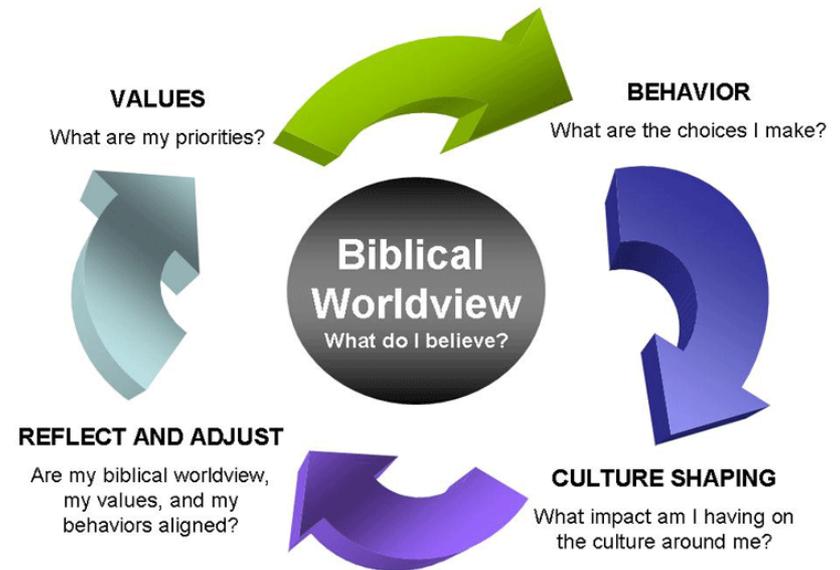
# Foundations of a Biblical Worldview

- The authority and sufficiency of Scripture
- Cultivating a biblical mindset
- Understanding Creation
- Coming to grips with sin
- Viewing the nations from God's perspective



# Biblical Worldview Issues

- Theism (Trinitarian)
- A Scriptural View of Science
- A Biblical View of Church and State
- A Biblical Approach to Economics
- Law According to the Bible



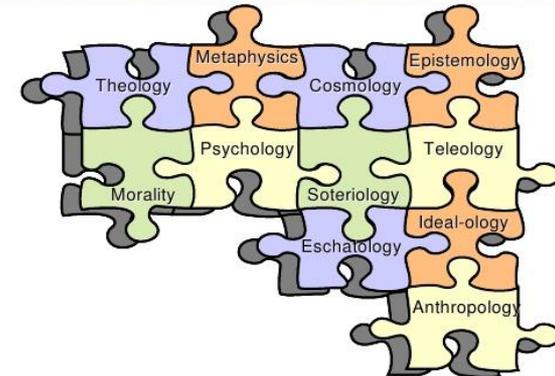
# Biblical Worldview Disciplines

1. Theology – the existence of a personal, ethical, self-revealing God
2. Philosophy – supernaturalism, as opposed to naturalism and materialism in philosophy
3. Ethics – the ethical absolutes understood from the Bible (not situational ethics)
4. Biology – special creation of life and all its supports
5. Psychology – dualism (body and mind) psychology

## Discipline Building blocks of a worldview



- The **study** of worldviews (thinking deeply about and going beyond superficial descriptions of things) finds its “roots” in many disciplines
- Each discipline **raises its own unique set of questions** (and also may have its own vocabulary with which we might struggle)



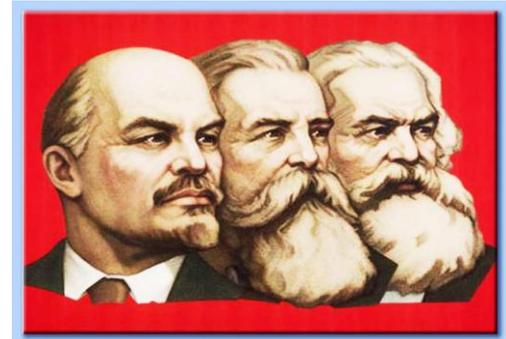
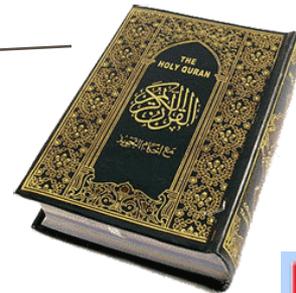
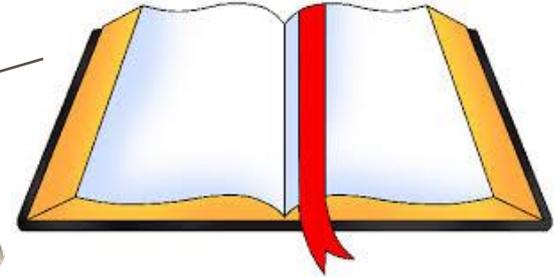


# Biblical Worldview Disciplines

6. Sociology – priorities organized as home, church, state in sociology
7. Law – laws based on biblical and natural law
8. Politics – politics based on justice, freedom, and order
9. Economics – economics as stewardship of God's gifts and property
10. History – history is God-directed and includes resurrection, judgment and the dividing of the righteous and wicked to their respective eternal existences with God or separated from Him

# Competing Worldviews

- Biblical – based on Bible
- Islam – Koran, Hadith, Sunnah
- Secular Humanism – Humanist Manifesto
- Marxism-Leninism – Marx, Engels, Lenin, Mao
- Cosmic Humanism – MacLaine, Chopra
- Postmodernism – Nietzsche, Rorty



# Comparing Worldviews

## Comparing Worldviews

	Creation-Christianity	Evolution - Naturalism
<b>God</b>	There is a God who is personal, eternal, exists outside of time	There is no God (nature is all there is)
<b>The Universe</b>	Created by God	Appeared from nothing through a “quantum fluctuation”
<b>People</b>	Created in the image of God	A cosmic accident – the result of evolution
<b>Spiritual world</b>	Is real, Satan is the leader of the fallen angels	Religion is a myth made up by man
<b>Who is in control?</b>	God	Man
<b>Moral laws</b>	Ten Commandments – absolute, unchanging	Determined by man, can be changed by man
<b>Your future</b>	Heaven or Hell	No life after death

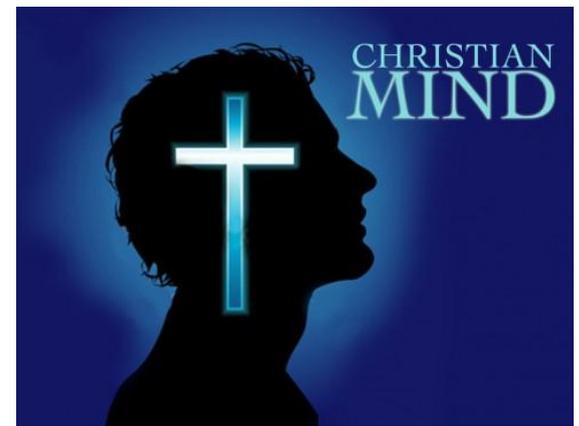
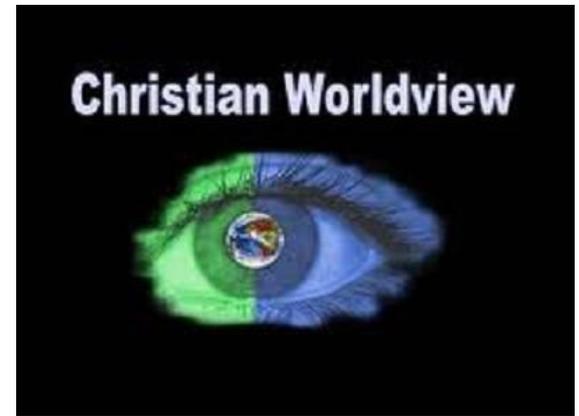
Browning - 2008

NJBibleScience.org

15

# Biblical (Christian) Worldview (WV)

Defines each of the ten disciplines by investigating what the Bible has to say about them. A biblical worldview contains the perspectives previously defined. The Christian Worldview is unlike any other in that we have God's Word in the Holy Bible upon which to base our beliefs. God's Word is truth; He does not lie. We have voluminous evidence of the reliability of the scriptures. Therefore, we have a secure source of accurate information from which to build our worldview. The foundation of all worldviews is the answers to life's big questions: Where do we come from? What is the meaning of life? What are good and evil? Where do we go when we die? A 'true worldview' reflects the world as it truly is.



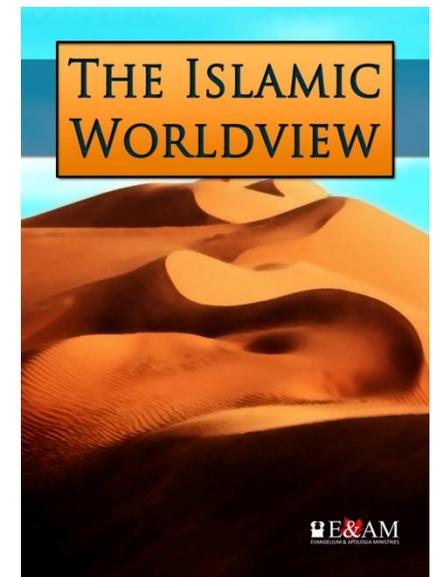
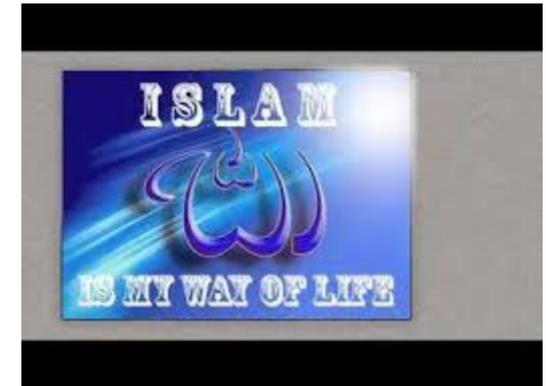


# Biblical WV – Key Verses

- **Prov. 3:5-6**, Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
- **Rom. 12:2**, Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
- **2 Cor. 10:4-5**, ... We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.
- **Col. 1:16-17**, ... all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

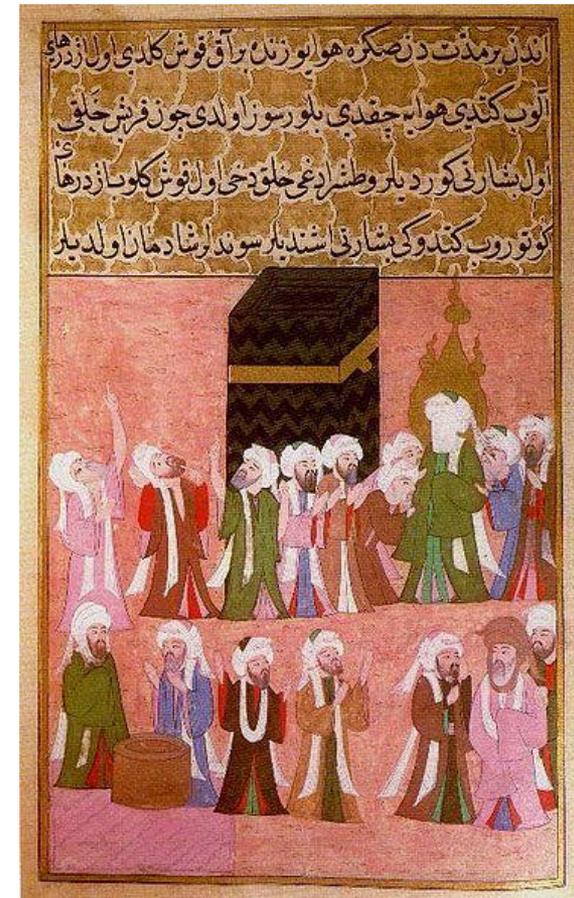
# Islamic Worldview

The Islamic worldview is grounded in Allah (God), Mohammad (the ultimate and final prophet of Allah), and the Qur'an (the Word of Allah delivered through Mohammad beginning in about 610 AD). Islam means submission to Allah and a Muslim is one submitted to Allah. About 1/5th of the world's population is Muslim, about three-quarters of which are non-Arabs. The Islamic Worldview is more than a religion. Islam covers all aspects of life for its followers.



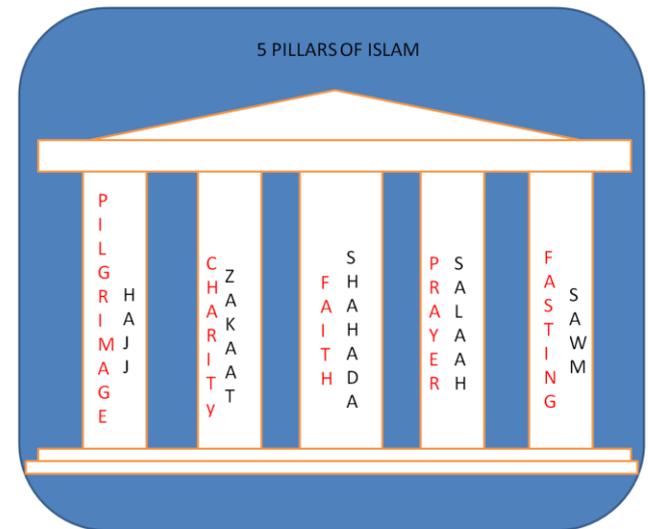
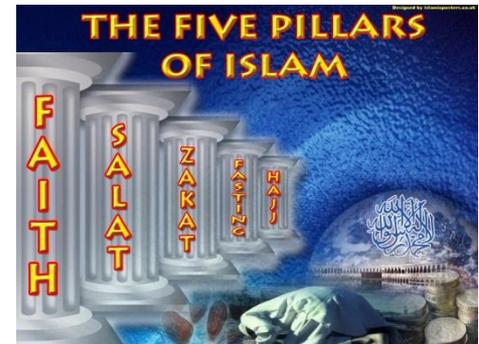
# Early History of Islam

- 570 AD: Mohammad is born
- 610 AD: Mohammad receives his first visions
- 622 AD: Mohammad flees to Medina, this event initiates the Muslim calendar
- 630 AD: Muslims take Mecca
- 632 AD: Mohammad dies
- 636–640 AD: The early conquests of Damascus, Jerusalem, Egypt and Persia
- 650 AD: The canon of the Qur'an established



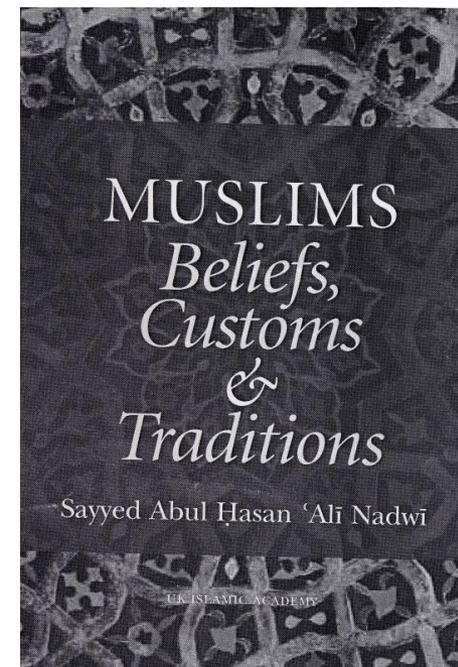
# Islam's 5 "Pillars" of Faith

- The confession of faith "There is no God but Allah, and Mohammad is his prophet"
- Prayers five times a day, facing Mecca
- Almsgiving about 1/40<sup>th</sup> of income and holdings, primarily for the poor
- Fasting during the month of Ramadan
- Pilgrimage to Mecca



# Muslim Beliefs

- Muslims reject the Trinity
- Muslims deny the deity and sonship of Jesus Christ
- Muslims deny that Jesus died upon the cross, thus denying his resurrection
- Muslims assert that the Bible is untrustworthy, though the Qur'an is flawless
- Muslims face a day of judgment based on good and bad works





# More on Islamic Worldview

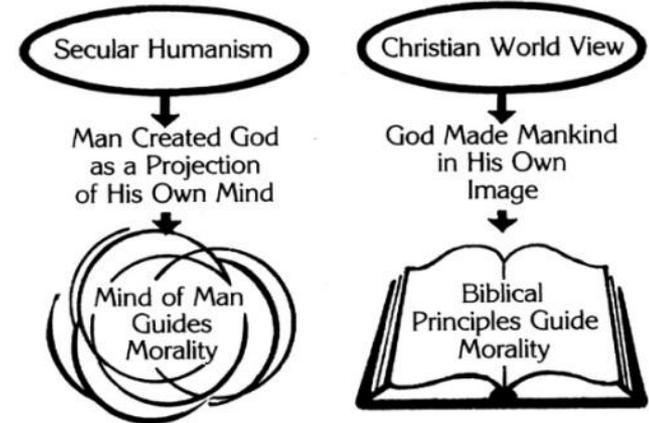
- Islam claims its origins on September 24, 622 A.D by the prophet Mohammad
- Their cry is "There is no God but Allah and Mohammad is his prophet"
- Islam is an all-embracing social, political and legal system
- Five articles of faith: 1) God Allah, 2) Prophet Mohammad, 3) God created angels, good and bad, 4) Koran is God's final revelation, 5) final day of judgment - heaven or hell
- Five pillars of practice: 1) Repeat cry to become Muslim, 2) pray salat 5 times/day, fast during Ramadan, 4) 1/40<sup>th</sup> of income to needy, 5) pilgrimage to Mecca
- History of violence and war against infidels

# Secular Humanism Worldview

Man is the ultimate measure by which truth and values are to be determined. According to Secular Humanism, all reality and life center upon human beings. In fact, we act as God. The Secular Worldview is a comprehensive view of the world from a materialistic, naturalistic standpoint. Therefore, the Secular Humanist sees no place for the supernatural or immaterial. There is no place in the Humanist worldview for either immortality or God in the valid meanings of those terms.

**BEWARE  
OF THE  
DOGMA OF  
SECULAR  
HUMANISTS**

## ACADEMIC FREEDOM CONFLICT



# Secular Humanism (cont'd)

Humanism contends that instead of the gods creating the cosmos, the cosmos, in the individualized form of human beings giving rein to their imagination, created the gods. There is no God; science and the scientific process have made God obsolete. Humanists believe that only matter – things we can touch, feel, prove, or study – exists and has always existed. Man is only matter (no soul or spirit). No supernatural explanation is needed for the existence of this matter.

Humanism rejects religion. It attributes nothing to the so called "supernatural." In this there is an awakened liberty that releases us from the shackles and servitude mentality of old superstitions so that we may realize our full potential.



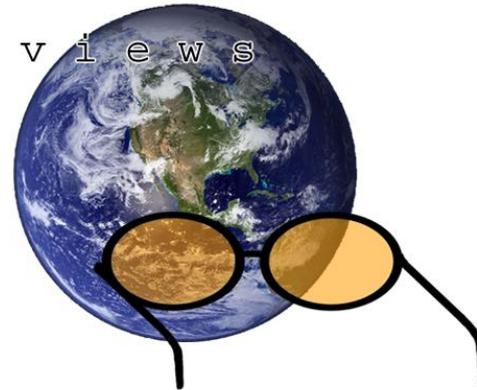


# More on Secular Humanism

- Vies for total control of education
- Also making inroads in many Christian colleges
- Jonathan Edwards ( 1750, Christian influence)
- Horace Mann (1842, Unitarian influence)
- John Dewey (1933, Humanist influence)
- Humanist Manifesto (1933, 1973, 2000)
- Turner, Sagan, Dewey, Maslow, etc. –  
Humanist of the Year

# The Other Big 3 Worldviews

W o r l d v i e w s



## The Other Big Three

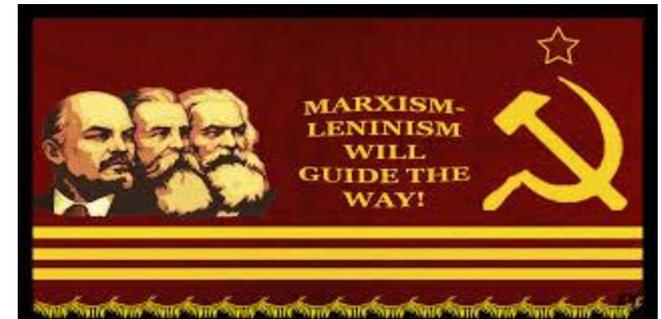
**Marxist-Leninism**

Cosmic Humanism

**Postmodernism**

# Marxism-Leninism Worldview

Comes from Karl Marx and *The Communist Manifesto*, *Das Kapital*, and *On Religion* (with Friedrich Engels). The Marxist worldview is a comprehensive ideology from the philosophical lineage of Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, and Vladimir Lenin. Religion was regarded as a drug and was to be fought against. Materialism is another word for naturalism. Whatever advances the working class and the cause of communism is morally good.





# More on Marxist Worldview

- Well-developed atheistic worldview
- One of Christianity's most vocal detractors and persecutors
- “Christian Left” supports Marxist position
- Dominant view in some African and South American countries under the guise of Liberation Theology
- Thousands of Marxist professors on America's campuses
- Fully developed Marxism (a branch of Secular Humanism)
- Manifested in Atheism, Materialism, Evolutionism

# Cosmic Humanism (New Age)

Most New Agers reject any notion of doctrine, creed, or organization. The New Age movement is an extremely large, loosely structured network of organizations and individuals bound together by common values (based in mysticism and monism—the world view that 'all is one') and a common vision (a coming 'new age' of peace and mass enlightenment, the 'Age of Aquarius').

*The New Age Movement:  
The Cult of Man*



# More on Cosmic Humanism

New Agers believe that 'all is one'— everything that exists consists of one and the same essence or reality. A second assumption is that this Ultimate Reality is neither dead matter nor unconscious energy. It is Being, Awareness, and Bliss (which is to say, a Hindu conception of God as an impersonal, infinite consciousness and force). The first two assumptions imply two more: all that is, is God (which is pantheism); and man, a part of 'all that is,' is likewise divine.

Ultimate Reality  
As  
Universal Mind



# More on New Age Worldview

- Cosmic Humanism is also known as the New Age movement
- Truth resides within each individual (no one has a corner on truth)
- Whatever you decide is right for you is what's right, as long as you don't get narrow-minded and exclusive about it
- Manifested in Atheism, Materialism, Evolutionism
- Spiritualized Secular Humanism

# Postmodernism Worldview

Postmodern theory is a broad and somewhat ambiguous belief system tied to the philosophical and cultural reaction to the convictions of Modernism (sometimes equated with Humanism). Postmodernism is the philosophical proposal that reality is ultimately inaccessible by human investigation, that knowledge is a social construction, that truth-claims are political power plays, and that the meaning of words is to be determined by readers not authors. Postmodern theory sees reality as what individuals or social groups make it to be. There is no such thing as absolute truth. Belief in objective reality is rejected.

PREMODERNISM	MODERNISM	POSTMODERNISM
Objective Ultimate Truth	Objective Ultimate Truth	Objective Ultimate Truth is Unknowable
Supernatural	Anti-Supernatural	Mystical
Authority from God (or gods)	Authority from Science & Human Reason	No Ultimate Authority



# More on Postmodernism Worldview

1. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes,  
**Judges 21:25**
2. Unifying values: 1) relativism, 2) against rationalism, 3) culturally created realities
3. No belief system for which one would be willing to die
4. Results in death of God, truth, and reason
5. All truth is socially constructed by local communities



# More on Postmodernism Worldview

6. Some truths are more useful than others in specific circumstances
7. There is no such thing as absolute truth
8. Often expressed as “that may be true for you but it’s not true for me.”

How do we see this belief system manifested today? How can/should we address this issue?



# Roadblocks to Faith

- Lack of intellectual knowledge of God
- Other Christians – their perceived hypocrisy
- Sin – accepting Christ would require turning away from sin
- If God is all-loving and all-powerful, why is there so much pain, suffering, and evil?
- Perceived conflict between Science and the Bible, e.g. Creation v. Evolution
- No answers from the church to the hard questions



# Biblical Worldview Questions

1. Do absolute moral truths exist?
2. Is absolute truth defined by the Bible?
3. Did Jesus Christ live a sinless life?
4. Is God the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe, and does He still rule it today?
5. Is salvation a gift from God that cannot be earned?
6. Is Satan real?
7. Does a Christian have a responsibility to share his or her faith in Christ with other people?
8. Is the Bible accurate in all of its teachings?



# Barna Research Surveys

- 4 % of American adults have a biblical worldview
- 9 % of “born-again” Christians have a biblical worldview
- 5 % of married people v. 2 % of single people have a biblical worldview
- 10 % of Republicans and 1 % of Democrats have a biblical worldview
- 51 % of Protestant pastors have a biblical worldview.



# Those Without a Biblical Worldview Are More Likely to ...

- Endorse abortion (46 % v. < 1 %)
- Say that exposure to pornography is morally acceptable (39 % v. < 1/2 %)
- Say that living together before marriage is morally acceptable (62 % v. 2 %)
- Believe that homosexual lifestyle is acceptable (31 % v. 2 %)
- Endorse drunkenness (36 % v. 2 %)
- Accept profanity (37 % v. 3 %)
- Say adultery is OK (44 % v. 4 %)
- Gamble by purchasing lottery tickets (8 times more likely).



# Elements of Biblical Worldview

- Belief in absolute moral truth as defined in Scripture
- Acceptance of the accuracy of biblical teaching
- Acceptance of the sinless nature of Jesus Christ
- Acceptance of the literal existence of Satan
- Acceptance of the omnipotence and omniscience of God (and ruling today)
- Acceptance of salvation by grace alone
- Acceptance of the personal responsibility to evangelize.



# God's Created Order: Disciplines

1. **Gen. 1:1**, theology, philosophy (In the beginning ...)
2. **Gen. 2:9**, ethics (knowledge of good and evil – God establishes what is right)
3. **Gen. 1:21**, biology (according to its kind)
4. **Gen. 2:7**, psychology (a living thing)
5. **Gen. 1:28**, sociology (be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth)
6. **Gen. 3:11**, law, ethics (I commanded you)



# God's Created Order: Disciplines

7. **Gen. 9:6**, law, politics (whoever sheds man's blood)
8. **Gen. 1:29**, economics (it shall be for food)
9. **Gen. 3:1**, history (enmity between you and the woman)
10. **Ps. 24:1; 50:10-12**, economics
11. **Tit. 2:13**, theology, philosophy (supernaturalism)
12. **Luke 1:46-47**, psychology, theology
13. **Rom. 13:1-10**, politics, law, sociology.



## Significance of Each Discipline Seen as God Manifests Himself in the Form of Christ

1. In theology, Christ is the “fullness of the Godhead”, **Col. 2:9**
2. In philosophy, Christ is the Logos of God, **John 1:1**
3. In ethics, Christ is the “true light”, **John 1:9; 3:19-20**
4. In biology, Christ is “the life”, **John 1:4, 14; 11:25; Col. 1:16**
5. In psychology, Christ is “Savior”, **Luke 1:46-47; Tit. 2:13**

**2 Cor. 10:5**, “Take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ.”



## Significance of Each Discipline Seen as God Manifests Himself in the Form of Christ

6. In sociology, Christ is “Son”, **Luke 1:30-31; Is. 9:6**
7. In law, Christ is lawgiver, **Gen. 49:10; Is. 9:7**
8. In politics, Christ is “King of kings and Lord of lords”, **Rev. 19:16; 1 Tim. 6:15; Is. 9:6; Luke 1:33**
9. In economics, Christ is Owner of all things, **Ps. 24:1; 50:10-12; 1 Cor. 10:26**
10. In history, Christ is the Alpha and Omega, **Rev. 1:8**

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer** “There are not two realities, but only one reality, and that is the reality of God, which has become manifest in Christ in the reality of the world.”

# In Conclusion: Worldview Criteria

1. If it is not true?
  - Determine the Truth!
2. If we cannot defend it?
  - Know the Truth!
3. If we are not living it?
  - Show and share the Truth!

HOW DO YOU  
DETERMINE  
**TRUTH?**

*Truth* IS  
NOT  
DETERMINED BY  
WHAT PEOPLE  
THINK OF IT.

www.gottmitchellthinking.blogspot.com



# Criteria for Determining Truth

1. **Inner intellectual coherence**, e.g. assume we can know something. Laws of thought (identity, non-contradiction, excluded middle) and reasoning are valid.
2. **Ability to comprehend the data of reality**, e.g. all types of data gained through our daily life experience through critical analysis and scientific investigation.
3. **Explanation of what it claims to explain**, e.g. morality, humans can think, love, hate, create, destroy, want, desire, etc.
4. **Subjectively satisfactory**, e.g. meets our sense of personal need, satisfies by being true; only truth will satisfy ultimately.



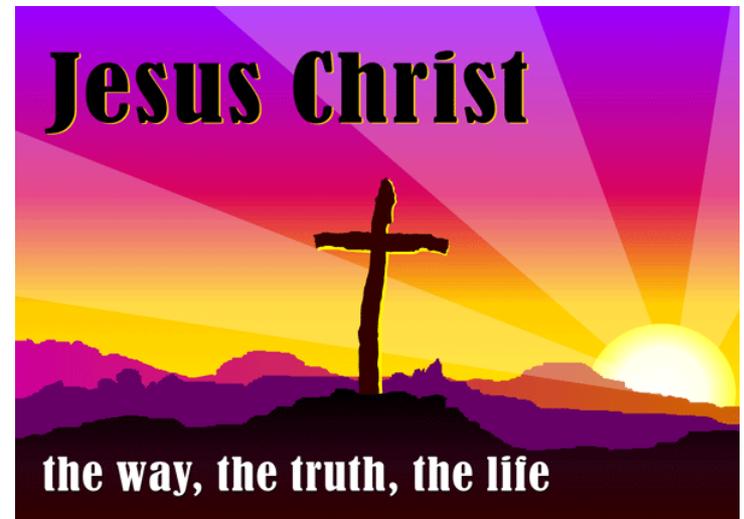
# Flaws in False Worldviews

- **Islam** – false prophecies, conquer by the sword, false god, theocracy.
- **Secular Humanism** – man at the center, no absolute truth, denies design & supernatural.
- **Marxism-Leninism** – predicted man would improve over time, worldly utopia not realized, only mass slaughter perpetrated.
- **Cosmic Humanism** – man is central, man is divine, universal tolerance, moral relativism.
- **Postmodernism** – no absolute truth, no coherence, irrational, reality is illusory.

# Christianity Satisfies the Criteria

## ■ Christianity

- Coherent
- Rational
- Matches reality
- Explains the real world



“It provides the frame of reference in which we can find meaning and significance. It stands the fourfold test for an adequate worldview.”

**Dr. James Sire**



**Thank you  
for your  
attention!**

**Dr. Heinz Lycklama**

**heinz@osta.com**

**www.heinzlycklama.com**

**www.heinzlycklama.com/messages**

# References

- Understanding The Times, David Noebel
- The Universe Next Door, James Sire
- Total Truth, Nancy Pearcey
- Making Sense of Your World, Phillips & Brown
- Worlds Apart: A Handbook on Worldviews, Norman Geisler and William Watkins
- Summit Ministries, [www.summit.org](http://www.summit.org)
- Summit Ministries Worldview Fact Sheets, <http://www.summit.org/resources/fact-sheets>
- Institute of Creation Research (ICR), [www.icr.org](http://www.icr.org)
- Answers In Genesis (AIG), [www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org)
- Creation Ministries International (CMI), [www.creation.com](http://www.creation.com)

