

Questions for Lesson 19: System Design

1. What is meant by “biblical checkability”?

Answer: The Bible contains statements that can be checked in our time to see if they are true or not.

2. What are some explanations for the scientific accuracy of the biblical record?

- Answer:**
- a) Knowledge of the writers. (Unlikely since their nation was not scientifically advanced.)
 - b) Observing of their surroundings. (Why did not others observe it?)
 - c) GOD INSPIRED IT.

3. Was it the purpose of the authors of biblical writings to reveal scientific facts?

Answer: No! But if the Bible is inspired, it will not contain error. In most cases we find the subject is not science, but a scientific fact is involved.

4. How can the miracles in the Bible be scientifically explained?

Answer: They are not, because they are miracles. If God says it is a miracle He is saying it will not have a scientific explanation. It is the non-miraculous statements that both atheists and believers have to look at. You accept or reject miracles on faith, but they are not in the discussion of the accuracy of the Bible. There are not a lot of miracles in the Bible.

5. Does biblical checkability change?

Answer: Yes! As man understands more about the creation and as he studies the Bible more deeply he is going to come to better understandings. “The more we know of the creation, the closer we get to the Creator.”

6. Why do people seem to find so many things in the Bible that they believe are untrue?

- Answer:**
- a) They assume science and religion are enemies.
 - b) They confuse human tradition and its teachings with biblical truth.
 - c) They are ignorant of the Bible and/or science.
 - d) They let other people tell them what to believe.

7. What is meant by “system design”?

Answer: The Bible shows a workable system that can be seen to be wise and to be beyond the capacity of man to invent. Things like man's relationship to God, to nature, to the opposite sex, etc., are examples of this design.

8. What do we mean by pantheistic religion and what has been the result of following it?

Answer: Religions that equate God to nature--not a personal God. Examples: Hinduism, Buddhism. The result has been starvation and poverty.

9. In the countries where the biblical guidelines have been followed, what has been the effect on the standard of living?

Answer: An abundance of food and a high standard of living in general. Women's rights have been almost totally the result of the teachings of Jesus. You might want to get a copy of "Under the Influence" by Alvin Schmidt (Zondervan Publishing) for an excellent, detailed discussion of this.

10. The Bible is unique in teaching monogamy (one man/one woman for life) as the ideal. What would be the logical consequences of polygamy (one man having multiple wives) or polyandry (one woman having multiple husbands).

Answer: Jealousy, competition, loneliness, sexual frustration, lack of identity, child/father or mother isolation, too many children, STDs, etc.

11. What are the major problems in other religious systems?

Answer: Hinduism produces a caste system with untouchables being at the bottom of the system. Islam teaches polygamy and Jihad. Mormonism has taught polygamy and maintains God is a human who learned to be God. In the correspondence course offered on our doesgodexist.org website we have some booklets that make some of these comparisons.

12. Is this an intolerant lesson?

Answer: Pointing out weaknesses, raising preferences, and promoting a better way are not acts of intolerance. Christianity teaches you to love your enemy, turn the other cheek, and as much as it depends on you, to live at peace with all men. This is a religion of tolerance.