DISCOVERING HOPE SERIES

BOOKLET 1

DOES GOD REALLY EXIST?

EVIDENCE FOR GOD FROM CREATION, DESIGN, CONSCIENCE, AND SCRIPTURE.

THE EVIDENCE IS CLEAR.
THE DECISION IS YOURS.

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WELCOME TO THE
DISCOVERING HOPE SERIES

Real Questions. Biblical Answers. Lasting Hope.

Life raises questions that are not always easy to answer.

Why am I here?, Does God really exist? , Can I trust the Bible?, Why does God allow suffering?, Can my life really change? Is there hope when I feel trapped, broken, or uncertain about the future?

The **Discovering Hope Series** was created to help people explore questions like these through the truth of God's Word.

You need not be a Bible scholar or have all the answers.

And you do not need to have everything in your life figured out before you begin.

Each booklet focuses on a different question, struggle, or biblical truth and is designed to help you discover what the Bible actually says.

As you read, take your time.

Consider the Scriptures for yourself.

Ask questions, Pray.

And most importantly, allow God to speak to your heart through His Word.

The Bible is more than a book of religious teachings. It reveals a God who loves us, seeks us, and desires to transform our lives.

Whatever brought you to this booklet, we hope it becomes one more step in your journey toward discovering the hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ.

There is hope. There are answers.

And God may be closer than you think.

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DOES GOD REALLY EXIST?

Introduction

Few questions are more important than this one:
Does God really exist?
For thousands of years people have wrestled with this question.
Some conclude there is no God.
Others believe because they were taught to believe.
But is there evidence?
Can we honestly examine the facts and arrive at a reasonable conclusion?
The Bible encourages us to consider the evidence.
God has not hidden Himself completely.
He has left witnesses everywhere.

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1. THE EVIDENCE OF CREATION

When we see a building, we assume there was a builder.
When we see a painting, we assume there was a painter.
When we see a watch, we assume there was a watchmaker.
Why?
Because design points to a designer.
The universe is vastly more complex than any building, painting, or watch.
The earth is perfectly suited for life.
The laws of nature operate with incredible precision.
The Bible says:

Psalm 19:1

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."
Creation itself points toward a Creator.

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2. THE EVIDENCE OF DESIGN

Scientists continue to discover incredible complexity in nature.
Consider DNA.
Inside nearly every cell of your body is a code containing information that directs life itself.
Information normally comes from intelligence.
Books come from authors.
Computer programs come from programmers.
Instructions come from minds.
The more we learn about life, the more evidence we see of remarkable design.

Romans 1:20

"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen..."

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3. THE EVIDENCE OF THE HUMAN CONSCIENCE

Why do people instinctively know some things are right and others are wrong?
Why do cultures around the world condemn:

- Murder
- Theft
- Dishonesty

Even people who reject God often appeal to concepts such as:

- Justice
- Fairness
- Human rights

But where do those ideas come from?
If humanity is merely an accident of nature, why should objective morality exist at all?
The existence of a moral law suggests a Moral Lawgiver.
Romans 2:15

"Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts..."

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4. THE EVIDENCE OF HUMAN LONGING
People desire more than food, shelter, and survival.
We long for:

- Meaning
- Purpose
- Love
- Eternity

Why?
Ecclesiastes 3:11

"He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart..."
God has placed eternity in the human heart.
The hunger for God is one of the strongest evi-

dences of our spiritual nature.

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5. THE EVIDENCE OF PROPHECY

The Bible is unlike any other book.
It contains prophecies written hundreds of years before the events occurred.
Many of those prophecies were fulfilled in the life of Jesus Christ.
For example:

Micah 5:2

Predicted the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.
More than 700 years later:

Matthew 2:1

Jesus was born in Bethlehem exactly as foretold.
But Bethlehem was only one prophecy among many.
The Old Testament foretold:

- His birth in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
- His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14)
- His ministry in Galilee (Isaiah 9:1-2)
- His entry into Jerusalem on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9)
- His betrayal for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12-13)
- His crucifixion (Psalm 22; Isaiah 53)
- That none of His bones would be broken (Psalm 34:20)

- His burial in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9)
- His resurrection (Psalm 16:10)

These prophecies were written centuries before Jesus was born.

Could This Have Happened By Chance?

The mathematician and professor **Peter Stoner** attempted to calculate the probability of one person accidentally fulfilling only **eight** specific Messianic prophecies.

His conclusion was astonishing:

The odds were approximately **1 in 10^{17}**.

That is:

1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000

To illustrate, Stoner suggested covering the entire state of Texas two feet deep with silver dollars. Mark one coin and mix it thoroughly among all the others. Then blindfold a person and allow them one opportunity to pick a coin.

The chance of selecting the marked coin on the first attempt would be comparable to one person accidentally fulfilling only eight Messianic prophecies.

Yet Jesus fulfilled far more than eight.

Many scholars identify **more than 300 Old Testament prophecies** relating to the Messiah.

A God Who Knows the Future

Human beings cannot predict the future with certainty.

God can.

The fulfillment of Biblical prophecy demonstrates that the Bible was written under divine inspiration.

Isaiah 46:9-10

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done..."

The fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus provide powerful evidence that God exists, that the Bible is His Word, and that Jesus is the promised Messiah.

Prophecy is one of God's fingerprints upon Scripture.

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6. THE EVIDENCE OF JESUS CHRIST

Jesus is the central figure of human history.

His teachings transformed nations.

His followers willingly suffered persecution and death rather than deny what they had witnessed.

The greatest evidence is His resurrection.

1 Corinthians 15:14

"And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain."

Christianity stands upon a historical claim:

Jesus died.

Jesus was buried.

Jesus rose again.

7. THE EVIDENCE OF CHANGED LIVES
Millions testify that God transformed their lives.

- Addictions broken
- Marriages restored
- Hopeless people finding hope
- Guilty people finding forgiveness

One changed life may be dismissed.
Millions cannot be ignored.
2 Corinthians 5:17
"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature..."

DOES GOD FORCE US TO BELIEVE?
No.
God gives evidence, but He does not force belief.
Faith involves a choice.
A person can ignore the evidence.
A person can examine the evidence.
The decision remains theirs.

Conclusion
God has provided many witnesses:

- Creation
- Design
- Conscience

- Human longing
- Prophecy
- Jesus Christ
- Changed lives

None of these stand alone.
Together they form a powerful testimony.
The evidence does not point to a meaningless universe.
The evidence points to a Creator.

Hebrews 11:6

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is..."