

1 Peter Series

Lesson #091

May 18, 2017

Dean Bible Ministries

www.deanbibleministries.org

Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.

GIVING AN ANSWER—PART 9

OLD TESTAMENT:

CONFRONTATION AND REACTION

1 PETER 3:15;

1 KINGS 18:22–19:2

1ST PETER

LIVING IN LIGHT
OF ETERNITY

“It is not our task to preach what people wish to hear, but what one day, in some sad future, they will wish they had heard.”

~Sir Lancelot Andrewes, chief editor and translator of the KJV (Genesis-Samuel; Psalms); Preacher to the Court of St. James



Introduction to Apologetics

- 1. What is *Apologetics*?**
- 2. Why should we learn about apologetics?**
- 3. Why do some people object to apologetics?**
- 4. The Bible doesn't use apologetics, why should we?**
- 5. What is the difference between Apologetics and Christian Evidences?**
- 6. On what basis do we defend, support, argue, that Christianity is the one and only TRUTH?**

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The Basis of Knowledge

	SYSTEM	STARTING POINT	METHOD
Autonomous Systems of Perception	RATIONALISM Classic Apologetics- Logic and reason	Innate ideas Faith in human ability.	Independent use of logic & reason
	EMPIRICISM Evidentialism- Facts, history, science	Sense perceptions External experience; Scientific method; Faith in human ability	Independent use of logic & reason
	MYSTICISM Fideism-just believe, apart from reason or evidence	Inner, private experience; intuition Faith in human ability	Independent, nonlogical, nonrational, nonverifiable
Divine Viewpoint	REVELATION Presuppositionalism- Presupposes the truth of Scripture	Objective revelation of God	Dependent use of logic & reason

Polemics

The act of engaging in a verbal or written refutation of another viewpoint. In theology, *polemics* describes an element in a biblical passage which is designed to show the superiority of biblical theism over other religions and philosophies. Much of the Old Testament is a polemic against the idolatrous pagan religions surrounding Israel.

Lev. 26:18, “And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.

Lev. 26:19, “I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze.

Lev. 26:20, “And your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit.”

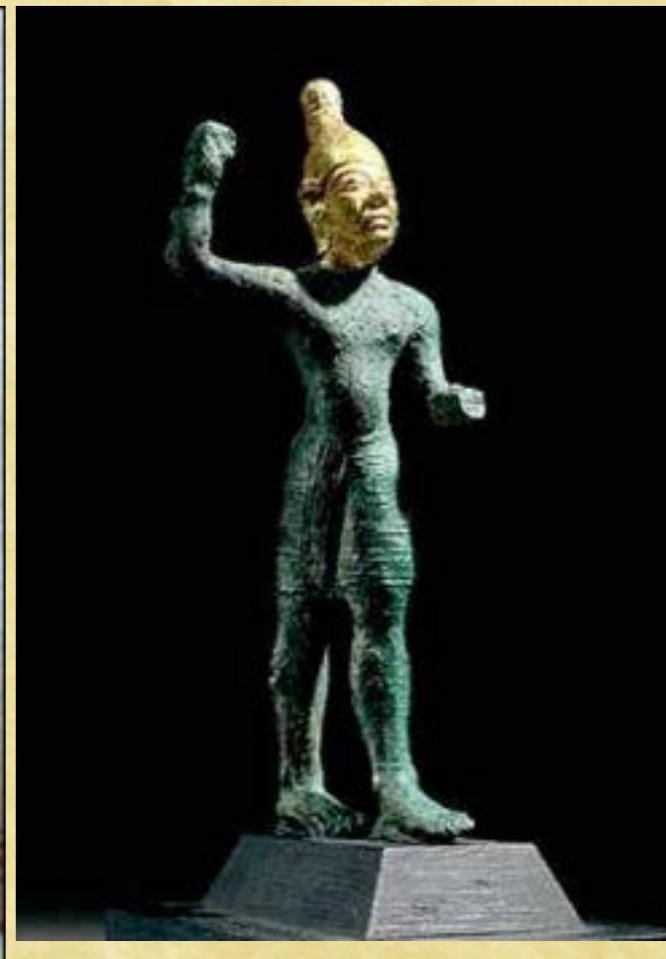
1 Kings 17:1, “And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, ‘As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.’ ”

1 Kings 18:1, “And it came to pass after many days that the word of the LORD came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, ‘Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth.’

1 Kings 18:2, “So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and there was a severe famine in Samaria.”

Ba'al

1. Chief god in the Canaanite pantheon.
2. Storm god responsible for rain, lightning, thunder, productivity.
3. Introduced by Jezebel, wife of Ahab, king of Israel.
4. In the mythology, drought indicates the death of Ba'al.



Elijah and the Priests of Ba'al

Confronting
Paganism
1 Kings
18:20–40



1 Kings 18:21, “And Elijah came to all the people, and said, ‘*How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.*’ But the people answered him not a word.”

Elements of a Religion, Philosophy, Worldview, or Approach to Life

- 1. Everyone has a philosophy of life: some are conscious, rational, and internally consistent, most are not.**
- 2. Every worldview/religion contains universals, indicated by “should,” “ought,” “right,” and “wrong.”**
- 3. Entry point then to a worldview is often through values or ethics.**
- 4. Ethical principles are based on prior assumptions about the nature of truth or knowledge and the ultimate nature of the universe.**

Application

Political/National or Individual Decisions

This is where we talk and argue.

Ethics: What is right? What is wrong? What is good or bad?

Epistemology: How do we know truth? Right from wrong? Just or unjust?

Metaphysics: Ultimate reality, i.e., God, matter, energy, nothing

Foundation of *all* thought

Logical Sequence

These are the real issues, usually ignored.

Elements of a Religion, Philosophy, Worldview, or Approach to Life

God [ultimate reality (metaphysics)]

Knowledge, truth [how we know (epistemology)]

Ethics, values, right and wrong

Beauty, order, **aesthetics**, or “critical reflection on art, culture, music, literature, and nature.”
God speaks to every aspect of His creation!!



Elements of a Religion, Philosophy, Worldview, or Approach to Life

God [ultimate reality (metaphysics)]

Knowledge, truth

Ethics, values, right and
wrong, law, politics,
government

**Arbitrary,
Priest based,
power based.
Violent, destructive,
de-humanizing
human sacrifice,
temple prostitution**

**DVP: Absolute;
Essence/God;
revealed**

**Beauty,
order,
aesthetics, or
“critical
reflection on
art, culture,
and nature.”**

Elements of a Religion, Philosophy, Worldview, or Approach to Life

God

Knowledge,
truth

HVP

Purely inductive

relative

**differs only in
degree, not kind
all “truth” is valid**

**DVP: Revelatory, absolute,
derivative**

**Ethics, values,
right and
wrong, law,
politics,
government**

**Beauty,
order,
aesthetics,
or “critical
reflection
on art,
culture, and
nature.”**

Elements of a Religion, Philosophy, Worldview, or Approach to Life

God

YHWH vs. Ba'al

**Knowledge,
truth**

**CREATOR
or
part of
creation**

**Ethics, values,
right and
wrong, law,
politics,
government**

**Beauty,
order,
aesthetics,
or “critical
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on art,
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nature.”**

1 Kings 18:22, “Then Elijah said to the people, ‘I alone am left a prophet of the LORD; but Baal’s prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

1 Kings 18:23, “ ‘Therefore let them give us two bulls; and let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other bull, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire under it.’ ”





Elijah confronts the human viewpoint (HVP) assumptions of the people

1 Kings 18:24, “ ‘Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God.’ So all the people answered and said, ‘It is well spoken.’ ”

1 Kings 18:36, “And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, ‘LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word.’ ”

**1 Kings 18:37, “Hear me, O LORD, hear me,
that this people may know that You are the
LORD God, and that You have turned their
hearts back to You again.”**



1 Kings 18:38,
“Then the fire
of the LORD
fell and
consumed the
burnt
sacrifice, and
the wood and
the stones
and the dust,
and it licked
up the water
that was in
the trench.”



Elements of a Religion, Philosophy, Worldview, or Approach to Life

God

YHWH vs. Ba'al

**CREATOR
vs.
part of
creation**

One way produces life, happiness and prosperity, the other is self-destructive

Elijah sets up a scenario where people must confront their beliefs and live consistently with them.

“with humility and fear,” 1 Pet. 3:15

- 1. The people have a religious system demonstrating the truth of Rom. 1:18–23, but they are truth suppressors.**
- 2. They are not spiritually neutral.**
- 3. The purpose of the confrontation is to change their mind about God.**
- 4. Elijah asks a question to expose their unbelief and to challenge them to obey.**
- 5. They were able to evaluate the evidence despite a prior commitment to suppress truth.**
- 6. The evidence was not treated as neutral.**
- 7. God used historic facts and evidence to expose their sin and rebellion.**
- 8. The reaction may be quite hostile.**

1 Kings 19:1, “And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword.

1 Kings 19:2, “Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, ‘So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.’ ”