

What If I'm Wrong

The Atheist's Nightmare

Ron Warren

(former Atheist)

What If I'm Wrong

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The purpose of this manual is to educate. The Author and Torahlife Ministries, Inc. shall have no liability or responsibility to any person or entity with respect to loss or damage caused or alleged to be caused by the information contained in this book.

Dedication

This book is dedicated to my loving wife, JoAnn, who stayed with me, even during the time that her faith had to withstand the attacks from her atheist husband. Through all the struggles, she still gave love, forgiveness, and acceptance. She is God's miracle given to me to make my life complete.

It is also dedicated to our two loving sons, Robert and Christopher, who lived through the effects.

Only in Heaven will I love you guys more.

Finally, and most important, it is dedicated to Adonai. As the "God of the Second Chance," He continually applies His grace towards me. This book was written in thanksgiving of that wonderful grace.

Foreword

There are times when I've watched a cooking program on television and wished there was the capability of having a smell option. I want to get the full impact of what I'm being presented. That should be the desire of every reader of this book. Those who know Ron Warren understand exactly what I'm saying! As I was reading his work, I could actually hear the power and enthusiasm of conviction of Ron's voice in every paragraph – and it made me smile!

To say that Ron has a passion for reading and teaching God's Word, is a definite understatement. When asked a one-sentence biblical question, Ron can never give a one-sentence answer. His desire is to always provide complete Scriptural understanding.

This book is a great example of Ron wanting atheists to have a clear and comprehensive understanding of the ramifications based on the decisions they have made. The extensive breath of information he provides does just that - he gives the believer the tools to successfully interact with atheists. This work is also an outstanding resource to strengthen the faith of believers.

As I read this book, Ron masterfully answered many of my long-held who, what, where when and why questions. My personal faith is stronger as a result of facts shared and illustrations given.

So why did Ron choose to write this book? He had to. As a former atheist, Ron knows the personal pain caused by atheism and he doesn't want anyone to experience the nightmare he and his family endured.

While an atheist may never choose to read this book, I encourage every believer to not only read it but to keep it as a reference for that time or times your path will cross with someone with whom you'll be able to share based on the questions you'll know to ask.

Mark J. Goldstein, President,
Central Florida Christian Chamber of Commerce.

Testimonials

“In his book, *‘What if I’m Wrong? The Atheist’s Nightmare,’* Ron Warren recounts his very chilling and very personal journey to discover who God really is. He recounts his journey in very succinct terms as he shares his own battle to overcome Atheism. Ron demonstrates that he is a serious seeker of truth as he peels back layer by layer the illusions of Atheism and one by one deals with every excuse embraced by the Atheist to validate their beliefs.

Ron offers irrefutable documentation that destroys each of the Atheist’s arguments against the creator God, This is accomplished through rational discovery backed by a thorough understanding of how the God of the universe has revealed himself through history and Scripture.

This book is written for anyone who has a serious and honest desire to know if there is a God. Be careful as you read it, it may well change your life!”

Larry R Davis, President of Internet Revenue Specialist,
and fellow searcher to know the one true God.

“A veritable feast of meat and details. It encompasses everything a Believer would need to lovingly and gently reveal the light to anyone lost in the book, *‘What if I’m Wrong? The Atheist’s Nightmare.’* It is a ray of hope that transcends pop-evangelism and pierces through to the heart of the matter in clear and concise concepts with verifiable proofs. A beginner can read through this book and get all they need to support and defend their fledgling faith, and a battle-worn, spiritual warrior can find all the tools and encouragement necessary to press on victoriously – to the truth.”

Steve Buck, The Buck Ranch

“What a marvelous roller coaster this book is. It is not just a book, it is a manual, a guidebook, a playbook, a strategy guide, and most appropriately it is a case file assembled and ready for battle

in court. It was an honor to read and review Ron's book"

"*What if I'm Wrong? The Atheist's Nightmare*' is a book that will arm every believer for trial and battle. With the growing rise of apathy and rejection of God, it is imperative that young believers read this book, absorb its contents, and prepare for battle. As a believer, it also strengthened my own faith to see scientific and historical facts lining up one right after the other, all leading towards the one truth-Yeshua our Messiah. Ron's obedience to the Lord's guidance is a blessing to all who find this book in their hands."

Vanessa Romay,
Admissions Counselor, Worship Leader

"I often like to watch science documentaries; the ones about astronomy and physics are particularly interesting. They often have nice music and eye-catching animations, even though they get the physics wrong. However, I've noticed a pattern in them. The scientist hosts of these shows almost always have to make the following declarations:

- 1) There is no god.
- 2) Those who believe in any god are stupid (or less evolved).
- 3) Belief in any god inhibits the science.

Ron's Book. *'What if I'm Wrong? The Atheist's Nightmare,'* destroys these declarations.

As I'm reading Ron's book, my son comes to me to tell me about a game he's playing where you colonize planets. He says to me, "Why are they having you land on Jupiter and Saturn? Don't these game designers know those planets don't have surfaces you can land on?" Then he asks, "Why did God create planets that couldn't be lived on anyway?" My answer: "In God's sovereignty, wisdom and purpose, he created those planets that way. We may not understand His why. He created them for His glory, and it's possible He created them for the express purpose to protect us on the Earth." Go back and read the 1st sentence of this paragraph. Was that a coincidence? There, God glorified in the majestic and the mundane. Ron's book drives that point home."

Robert Hosler, IT Specialist,
Salem Media Group

“... It Speaks! Brilliant! Spectacular! A thunderous, explosive, insightful journey into TRUTH through embedded FAITH. - A marriage between science and scripture, man and God!”

Jose Perezcassar, MD, FAAFP (Retired)

"Ron Warren is a modern-day Paul of Tarsus. Like Paul, Ron used to persecute Christians. Like Paul, Ron had an undeniable encounter with the Risen Christ. And like Paul, Ron now passionately speaks and writes about his Savior and Lord. Fasten your seatbelts, folks. Ron Warren has something to say--and it's worth hearing!"

Dawn Whitestone,
founder, Whitestone Professionals

“Triple Threat Star! He could run, throw and kick at a professional football player’s level. I was awed by these types of individuals during my teen age years in the 50’s.

When I became a Christian in my 30’s, I began to search for an individual who was a teacher at a professional level who knew both the Old and New Testament in depth. But there was one element I overlooked until recently.

How does one effectively carry on a conversation with a die-hard unbeliever whether they are an Atheist or Agnostic while keeping one’s emotions under control? The solution was revealed to me while reading Ron Warren’s new book, *“What if I’m Wrong? The Atheist’s Nightmare”*

This book also revealed my ignorance of the necessity to discuss a person’s need for God at their level. The book also strengthened the need to follow Peter’s injunction: *“but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence”* (1 Peter 3:15).

Ron Warren certainly is the person to present material from the Old Testament, New Testament and Atheism from an expert point of view because of his knowledge and experience as a Christian from his early years when he immersed himself in the scriptures; as a Messianic Minister and formerly an Atheist.

Ron certainly has attained a proficiency to present the reasons for one’s beliefs as a

Christian when discussing the complete Bible as one, what no matter what they believe.

This latest book by Ron Warren is a must for those who want to be ready to defend the faith under any condition.

Greg Martin, Bible and
Goyim Messianic Roots Teacher

“Reading Ron's book ‘*What if I'm Wrong? The Atheist's Nightmare,*’ was eye-opening. Starting with the four killer questions, the book methodically presents the truth through many powerful documented resources. Ron shows and presents GOD'S perfect #7 so intricately woven through humanity and all HIS creation.

Through the modern discovery of DNA, it shows how precise our CREATOR is in HIS creation. As Sargent Friday on Dragnet used to say, "Just show me the facts," Ron has presented the facts of our CREATOR and Jesus being GOD in the flesh on earth. This parallels HIS creating earthly miracles while HE walked the earth.

Ron also supplies the ten top reasons to believe in the CREATOR AS GOD. As you read this book, you will be changed seeing how much work our GOD has put into HIS creation because HE loves us and wants us to get to know HIM better.

Blessings, and enjoy this reading adventure!”

John Grady Jr.

America's Working Class Foundation, Homeless/Prison Ministry

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Preface (My Testimony)

Faith is embedded in trust. Without trust, faith cannot exist. Such is the life of an Atheist. I can divide my testimony into two sections: the Atheist Period and the Messianic Judaism Period.

From age five until I finished eighth grade I had two hours of religious teaching a day, one hour for the Bible and one hour of church history. At five days a week and 42 weeks a year, that's a total of eight years.

By age 11, I had already outlined the entire Bible. This is my background.

In 1967, at the age of 24, I used the G.I. Bill to prepare to study for the ministry. I was going to be a Lutheran Missouri Synod minister.

A major tragedy hit me in 1969. My cousin Pauline and her five-year-old son died in a fire. Their bodies were burned so badly that they were buried together in one coffin.

At the funeral, Pauline's older brother asked me, "Why would God take the life of a five-year-old kid?" I could not answer him. The process of trying to answer that question, created more questions. Faith in God hit a roadblock. This became a turning point in my life and I decided, much to my anger, that the teaching on the resurrection was a lie.

This turned me into an atheist. God did not exist! Though I kept my change secret, I believed I had to convince everyone else—starting with my wife. I tried to use my knowledge of the Bible and history to destroy her faith in God. It was not a frontal attack but guerrilla warfare—subtle questions meant to sow doubt. Eventually she figured me out and stopped discussing her faith with me.

So I went after others. Remember, I knew church history and the start of many major doctrines. When someone wanted to discuss faith, not knowing my atheism, my sneak attack hinged on the answer to one question: "What denomination are you?" Then I would take their Bible, knowing their doctrines and its history, and start interrogating. My purpose was to make them doubt.

Most people can explain what they believe, but very few can explain why they believe it. The "what" covers the knowledge; the "how" covers the process, but the "why" covers their

purpose. My questions would attack the “why” of their faith. I did this from 1969 to Resurrection Sunday morning in 1979. Then God stepped into my life through a radio program.

I had always told my wife that I would take her and our sons to church on Easter and Christmas. “For the rest of the year, do not push me.” I awoke early Easter morning in a foul mood.

We had just moved from Illinois to Florida within a week. We had an apartment, but most of our things were still boxed. I had connected the stereo the night before, but found that the cord that controlled the tuner had broken during the move. I could not change the station.

At 5 a.m., I turned on the radio. It tuned to Orlando’s WAJL (“We Acclaim Jesus Lord”). The man on the radio stated that he was going to prove conclusively that Jesus (Yeshua) rose from the dead. I lost it!

What happened over the next 25 minutes read like the script of a surreal sitcom. I started screaming questions at the radio. The announcer would calmly repeat my question verbatim. He then proceeded to answer, not with scripture or science but with legal arguments, as if in a court of law. This process continued for a full 25 minutes before I realized I was arguing with a radio. At the end of the program, the announcer said something that I never forgot.

“Today the scepter is in your hand. You have the right to choose. What are you going to do with Jesus? Tomorrow that scepter will be in his hands and the question will be asked, ‘What will I do with you?’ Today the choice is yours. God will honor the choice you choose. Tomorrow there will be no choice. You have made it. What do you choose?”

I have just had all my questions answered on the Resurrection. I realized that for ten years I had been wrong. I also realized what I did to the faith of other people, including my wife, during those ten years. I made my choice—I will follow God until the day I die.

True story: I tried to find out who was on that radio program but could not. I was arguing with a tape over three weeks old. The station had aired it to cover that time spot and then destroyed it.

Major problem: my wife did not believe I had changed. She took over a year to accept it. I had to rebuild the trust that I’d destroyed.

When my wife returned from Israel in November 1991, she started doing "Jewish things". Being trained in Lutheran theology, it struck against every fiber of my being. A “holy jihad” hit our house lasting the full year of 1992 into April 1993, and I led the charge.

In April, we met a married couple, members of a Messianic Jewish congregation, in a grocery store. The women connected almost instantly. They invited us to come to their services. My wife accepted, and to keep peace I agreed.

My atheist mindset returned with determination to destroy this "new doctrine". The more I attacked the Rabbi with questions, the more the problems in Scripture disappeared. He was answering them from a Jewish context.

I still could not handle those "Jewish things" and started to make plans to divorce her. The lease was signed on an apartment with a woman for a roommate. I planned to leave her on November 1, 1993.

October's last week was the anniversary of this Messianic synagogue, and celebrated in Daytona Beach. Knowing what would happen on November 1, I went with my wife, our last act together, to this celebration. Again, God moved to stop me, but not in a normal way.

My wife wanted us to go through baptism. On October 31, 1993, to please my wife, I agreed. A major thing happened coming up out of that water. Remember the training I had on the Bible?

I could quote entire chapters and books before this "watershed experience." Now, I could not quote John 3:16, coming up from the water. I thought this would never happen. I still remembered the church history, but my Bible study and knowledge had disappeared - GONE! IT DID NOT MAKE SENSE! I went into a state of panic. I could not explain why it happened; I freaked, and wanted it back.

Question: When you are reading a book where do you start? Answer: At the beginning. I started to re-study the word of God with a passion. I read the first five books in Scripture non-stop two times. I developed an outline, and, for the third time, re-read the first five books, checking the outline. I finished with the rest of the Old Testament (Tanakh).

Again I re-read the entire Old Testament (Tanakh). When finished, I read the New Testament (Brit Hadashah). My mind exploded! Everything made sense from the Jewish context in the Old Testament. I studied the ancient Jewish customs, culture and history. This context showed some differences in some church doctrines.

I never divorced my wife. I canceled the lease, and took the financial loss. We are still together and love each other very much.

But in our marriage, a question remained. How do I make up for all the times I tried to

destroy my wife's faith? Will I ever be able to reclaim her trust?

From 1979 to 2005 (26 years), I taught and preached in both churches and Messianic synagogues. Between the years of 2002 to 2004 I was the spiritual leader of a Messianic synagogue called B'nai Adonai ("Children of God"). During that entire time, I still had problems accepting what I had done to other people's faith, especially my wife's. My past was always before me.

In early 2005, my wife and I went to a marriage retreat in Tampa. The goal of the retreat was to strengthen and rebuild our marriages. Every time a bell would ring, we were to kiss our spouses. It was great. Then a problem occurred.

At the end of the retreat, the rabbi said that if anyone would want to be remarried, he would do it. I was not going to do it. I could not ask my wife. I was afraid and did not want to hear the rejection. I looked at my wife to tell her we were going to leave when she looked at me, tears in her eyes, and said only one word: "Please!"

With that one word, I experienced love, forgiveness, redemption, and acceptance. We were remarried and my life truly changed. On the way back from Tampa, we buried our past at the first rest stop. From that point, we never mentioned it again in anger. We had a fresh new start.

God is the God of the second chance. No one understands that better than an EX-atheist.

FOUR KILLER QUESTIONS

These four “*Killer Questions*” are for the believer to use as he/she talks to the atheist.

1. What do you mean by that? In other words, define your terms
2. Where do you get your information?
3. How do you know that’s true?
4. What if you’re wrong?

The design of these questions is to make the atheist think critically about his/her beliefs. Remember, one of your challenges will be to use the right question at the right time.

Question #1: What do you mean by that?

Here you want to get the other person to define his terms and explain what he is saying. Otherwise you could end up having a conversation using the same words but meaning very different things.

Get the other person's definition. Suppose your neighbor says, “I don't believe there is a God.” If you respond with “Oh, yes there is,” you could quickly descend into is-not versus is-too. That’s just a quarrel. 2 Timothy 2:24-25 says not to quarrel with anyone.

Instead, just start asking questions. “What do you mean by God? What's your understanding of this God who isn't there?” Let him define that which does not exist!

You may well find out that the god he rejects is a mean, cold, abusive overlord who looks a lot like his father. In that case, you can assure him that you don’t believe in that god either. The true God is different. At this point, do not pursue the existence of God argument, but rather try to understand where he is coming from. Show the compassion and grace of God to someone bearing painful scars on his soul.

If someone says she is for a woman’s right to choose abortion, you can ask, “What do you mean by woman? Only an adult woman? What if the baby is a girl, what about her right to choose? What do you mean by *right*? Where does that right come from?”

Asking “What do you mean by that?” can expose problems in the other person’s perspective.

Question #2: Where do you get your information?

This question is particularly important in today's culture, where we drown in information

from a huge array of sources. Information pumps out at us from TV, radio, music, Websites, email, blogs, billboards, movies, and conversations with people who have no truth filters in place at all. Consider the kind of responses you could get to the question, “Where do you get your information?”

“I heard it somewhere.” Well, how's that for reliable? Follow with another killer question, “How do you know it's true?”

“Everybody says so.” That may be so, but is it true? If you repeat a lie loud enough, often enough, and long enough, people will believe it.

For example, “everybody says” gay people are born that way. Doesn't everybody know that by now? That's what we hear every day, but where is the science to back up that assertion? Nowhere, it turns out. Not a shred of proof for a gay gene.

Someone else may say, “I read it somewhere.” So ask where? Is it a legitimate newspaper or magazine? Or a tabloid? You might have read that Elvis is alive or that you can lose 25 pounds in a week, but there is a word for that kind of writing: fiction.

Did you see it on the Web? That could be an individual blogger posting total fabrication as fact, and great computer graphics can make complete fantasy look real. Or it could be a trustworthy, legitimate Website like Probe.org that makes its sources and mission clear to all.

Did you see it on TV? Who said it, and how trustworthy is the source? Was it fact or opinion? Be aware of the agenda behind the major media outlets. Former CBS reporter Bernard Goldberg exposed the leftist leanings of the media in his book *Bias: A CBS Insider Exposes How the Media Distort the News*. Because of what you see on TV is “flawed” we are to be discerning and skeptical of the values and information it pumps out.

Don't be fooled by people sounding confident and self-assured. They may not have any basis for feeling that way.

Question #3: How do you know that's true?

This is probably the most powerful question of them all. It puts the burden of proof on the other person.

Most people aren't aware of what they merely assume to be true; they simply have no other way to see the world. They often believe what they believe without asking why. If you respectfully ask, “How do you know that's true?” folks can start to realize that what they believe is by faith. But where do they place their faith?

Sometimes, the kindest thing you can do for people is gently shake up their presuppositions and invite them to think.

Many scientists believe in other dimensions or universes even though they cannot be observed or measured; but the reigning philosophy for many today is materialism, the insistence that the physical universe is all that exists. Something is only real if you can measure and quantify it.

We need to ask, “How do you know there is nothing outside the matter-space-time-energy continuum? How do you know that the instruments of physical measurement are the only ones that matter? How do you know there isn’t something you can’t measure with physical measuring tools? If all you have is a ruler, could you deny that weight exists?”

At the heart of the debate over stem cell research is the question of the personhood of a human embryo. If you hear someone insist that it’s not life until implantation, then ask, “How do you know it’s not a person? Isn’t it genetically identical to the embryo ten minutes before implantation?”

Postmodern thought says that no one can know truth. This philosophy has permeated just about every college campus. To the professor who asserts, “No one can know truth,” a student should ask, “How do you know that’s true?” If that sounds slightly crazy to you, good! The professor does not know it’s true, he or she only believes it to be true!

I often get hostile emails calling me stupid and biased for believing the Bible. I shouldn’t put my faith, they say, in a book written by men and then mistranslated and changed over the centuries. Then I ask, “How do you know this is true?” I don’t get answers back.

Shifting the burden of proof is quite legitimate. People are often just repeating what they have heard from others. But the other person can easily turn this weapon on you. We have to be ready to offer a defense for what we believe as well.

When you point to the Bible as your source of information, prepare to answer the killer question, “How do you know that’s true?” You can, for example, point to fulfilled prophecy as evidence for the Bible’s supernatural origin. Go to the “Reasons to Believe” section of Probe.org for a number of articles on why we can trust that the Bible is really God’s word unchanged from the original manuscripts.

Many mistaken or deceived people believe in reincarnation and insist they remember their past lives. Shirley MacLaine claims to have been a Japanese geisha, a resident in Atlantis who

commits suicide, an orphan raised by elephants, and the seducer of Charlemagne. Here's where this killer question comes in. "How do you know those are real memories and not just weird dreams? Did you remember them when you were a baby?"

So many people have embraced the pragmatic, expedient standard of, "Hey, it works for me."

- "It works for me to cheat on my taxes, as long as I don't get caught."
- "It works for me to spend hours on porn sites late at night since my wife doesn't know how to check the computer's history."
- "It works for me to keep God in his corner of the universe while I do my own thing; I'll get religious later in life."

To statements like this you should ask, "How do you know it works?" You haven't seen the whole, big picture. You can't know the consequences of today's choices.

Let me add a caveat here. Nobody likes to have his beliefs challenged. People may respond to "How do you know that's true?" in any variety of ways, but the implied counter-question is really, "Why should I believe you?" Be sure to ask with a friendly face and without an edge of superiority, sarcasm, or contempt.

Question #4: What if you're wrong?

One benefit of this question is that it keeps us focused on important stuff. On many issues, being wrong just doesn't matter a whole lot. If you're agonizing over a restaurant menu, trying to figure out the best entree, what if you're wrong? It doesn't matter. You can probably come back another time. But if you can't, will it wreck your life? Absolutely not.

Many of our youth (and adults as well) believe that having sex is just part of being social. For them, sex qualifies as recreation, much like an amusement park. Challenge this view: "What if you're wrong?" Aside from the high probability of sexually transmitted diseases, "casual" sex isn't, because of its lasting impact on the heart.

The ultimate question where this matters is, "What do you believe about God?" What do you do with Jesus' statement, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except by Me"?

Suppose you believe there is no God, or that you can live however you want and God will let you into heaven because you're not a mass murderer. What if you're wrong? You will be separated from God forever!

It's only fair for us as followers of the Messiah to ask that of ourselves. What if we're wrong? What if we're actually living an illusion that there is a God and a purpose to life? I would say, "You know what? I still lived a great life, full of peace and purpose and fulfillment. Ultimately, if there were no God, it wouldn't matter—nothing would matter at all!—but I still loved my life. Either way, I win."

These four killer questions are powerful to spark meaningful conversation and encourage you and others to think critically. Use them wisely, be prepared for some interesting conversations . . . and have fun!

With the use of these four questions and the Bible as our spiritual arrows, we are now prepared to enter the five battlegrounds of the atheist. The next chapter lays down the challenges you will encounter.