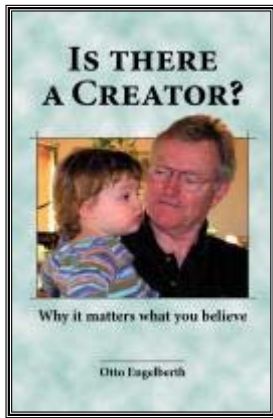


IS THERE A CREATOR?



Why it matters what you believe

Otto Engelberth



Have you ever wondered how you could have a life of joy, peace, and contentment? A life where the real you would be eternally significant? This book explains how the Creator of the Universe living in you makes that possible. This could be the most significant book you will ever read because it will change your understanding of how your mind works and how you influence your thoughts, and engage your mind in achieving your goals.

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Dedication

Initially, when sitting at the keyboard writing this book, I visualized my audience to be my grandchildren and great grandchildren. As time went on, my vision expanded to include all of you who were looking over my shoulder as I typed. I envisioned the questions that were on your mind - questions that drove the subject matter of this book. It is to you that I dedicate this book.

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Forward

One day I was thinking about my future grandchildren and great grand children who probably would be living around the year 2050, contemplating what kind of world they would be living in. What would I want them to know? As I thought about it, I decided the one issue that is timeless is a discussion about the existence of a creator, and the creator's relevance to how we live our lives.

Having just turned 71, I've done and seen a few things. After spending my younger years on my family's Indiana farm and attending school in a rural environment, similar to that depicted in the movie "The Hoosiers," I left home and eventually earned a degree in Civil Engineering at Purdue University.

Following a few years working in applied research, and highway and building design and construction, I took the plunge into building a construction business of my own from scratch. Over the next 30 plus years, the construction company grew to an annual sales volume of more than 100 million dollars, and a payroll of more than 250 people.

Along the way, I was involved in the development and operation of office buildings, a hotel and conference center, a restaurant, and a residential facility for the elderly. I've been active in the public policy areas of healthcare reform, public education and workforce training. Twice, I've tested the political waters by making unsuccessful runs for the Vermont State Senate.

As is usually the case, some of these ventures were successful and some were not, but all of them were learning experiences. I learned the necessity of doing my homework. I also learned that a key aspect of business success is creating an emotionally compelling vision, testing that vision against the

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marketplace; and painting a picture of that vision so that others can see themselves in it, can believe in it, and want to be a part of bringing that vision to reality.

I've also come to appreciate the power of belief, not only for the creator of the vision, but also for those who buy into that vision.

I've come to realize we all have multiple visions for our future, our families, our careers, our vacations, and our retirement. These visions are spawned by the beliefs that rule us. They are at the core of why we do what we do.

With that in mind, let's begin a journey that will show us how belief in a creator can change our perception of the purpose of our existence.

INTRODUCTION: There is a war going on.

There is a war going on. This war has been in progress for thousands of years. In this war, millions have been imprisoned, tortured, and killed. In some cases this war is fought with guns and bombs, in others it is fought with laws and education.

In today's world this war is being fought on several fronts. Among those are the shooting war with Muslim terrorists, the partial ban on religion in most Muslim countries, and the United States court system's ban on acknowledging a creator in our public school system.

The driving force behind this war is humanity's inability to agree on whether or not there is a creator. And the inability - of those who believe there is a creator - to agree on what the creator is like and what the creator's expectations are.

This inability to agree on the existence and other aspects of a creator has resulted in the variations in value systems that are the fuel that keeps this war going.

Given all this, most people would agree, at least on a societal level, it really does matter what you believe, as well as what the society you live in believes.

But does it really matter what we believe on a personal level - that level located between our ears where each of us lives? I believe it does matter and you deserve to know why.

That's the reason for this book.

- Otto Engelberth

PART I:

Our Mind's Logic Points Us to a Creator

Paradigm; everybody has one.

Before beginning the discussion of our personal beliefs you need to be aware of the fact that each one of us has a set of assumptions, concepts, values, and practices that constitute our way of viewing reality. This is sometimes referred to as “our paradigm.”

Our paradigms are the “box” where we think and live. It is the filter through which we screen, categorize, or reject information we receive, and it forms the basis for our actions. It simplifies our lives by creating short cuts in our thinking process.

What you may not have thought about is that many of our beliefs are based on incomplete assumptions about the real world. Some of those incomplete assumptions are because we lack knowledge. It may be that we have not assimilated the known knowledge, or possibly the knowledge we lack is not yet known. Today, knowledge is a fast changing commodity; it is estimated that the world's accumulated knowledge doubles every 24 months.

Also, some of our incomplete assumptions are the result of the fact that the real world is usually different from the way that we perceive things. This happens because our mind is selective in how it records the information it receives through our five senses. I experience this every time I look at the picture on my driver's license. I can't believe it is the same person that I see in the mirror every morning.

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And finally, our beliefs are heavily influenced by the assumptions of the social groups that we are affiliated with. This happens because we tend to assimilate the beliefs of those we know and trust without examining the assumptions underlying those beliefs.

One assumption central to our paradigm is our concept of a creator. With that in mind, let's examine why the concept of a creator is so widely held.

Why most people believe there is a Creator.

So why would 90% of Americans as well as the vast majority of humanity, even the most remote peoples on earth, regardless of time in history, believe there is a creator? A major reason for man's belief in a creator is because his mind is pre-wired for logical thinking.

So what are logical arguments that support this almost universal belief in a creator?

The human dimension of time.

Albert Einstein, the great physicist, developed the theory of relativity. A key part of this theory is the concept that the fourth dimension is time. Like length, width, and height, time is a dimension that is an important part of our everyday lives.

We human beings think in the dimension of time. We are all familiar with the concept that events happen in a time sequence. We naturally think that every sequence of events has a beginning and an ending. So we naturally are inclined to think in terms of the universe having a beginning.

The law of “cause and effect” begs for an answer.

The law of cause and effect says that everything that exists is the result of some cause. For instance, parents cause a child’s existence, the sun’s heat warms the earth, gravity holds the planets in place, etc. So, it is natural for us to think that everything in the universe was caused by something.

However, if we follow that line of reasoning, something had to be the original cause of everything. We call the original cause the creator because the original effect had no normal cause.

Our human curiosity asks what drives the order and complexity of the universe.

We humans, by nature, are curious. This curiosity is on display from early childhood on. It drives us to explore and ask why things are the way they are. Over time, this curiosity has driven us to develop a vast storehouse of knowledge about everything that we are aware of.

As we learn more we are struck by the complexity and order of things, the vastness of the universe, the laws of physics, and the complexities of biology. Our logical response is that there is a grand design and that design originated with the creator.

Our human need to have a context for our existence.

We now know that our blueprint is contained in our DNA that comes into existence at our conception. Just as DNA contains the blueprint for our physical bodies, it also has the

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design for our mind and its core thinking processes. And it is in the make-up of these thinking processes that the framework for our concept of the creator being a spirit that relates to us exists.

Our concept of a spirit is derived from our concept of self. Our concept of self resides in our mind and we have a perception of its existence being separate from our bodies. This sense of self is prewired to believe that it has an eternal existence.

Our thinking processes are divided into two primary categories: our conscious mind and our subconscious mind. Our conscious mind does only a small part of our thinking because its function is to primarily be a real-time intermediary between our subconscious mind and the outside world.

On the other hand, our subconscious mind is the real workhorse. It regulates most of the functions of our bodies, stores all of our accumulated knowledge and all of our history. In addition, it operates all of our emotions and our senses. And finally, it is the place where almost all of our quality problem solving occurs.

Another key aspect of the subconscious mind is that it is prewired with a sense of right and wrong. This sense of right and wrong is what we refer to as our conscience. In most of us, this conscience considers wrong to be unfinished business (guilt) that needs to be dealt with.

Our minds perceive wrong to be a hindrance to our relationship with others, so it naturally assumes that wrong hinders our relationship with the creator.

Unanswered questions.

At this point we cannot prove the existence of a creator by the scientific method because it is only useful when dealing

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with measurable, material things. So we are left with trying to explain our universe in the absence of a creator.

Questions like:

- How did it all begin?
- How do we explain how the order and design of the universe came about?
- How did life come about?
- Why does the human mind's logic support the argument that there is a creator?

These are questions that challenge most thinking people.

Why? Because how we answer these questions has far reaching implications for us. Our thoughts, actions, how we live our lives and how we spend eternity could be impacted by our answer.

If you assume creation happened by chance, you have to ask, what are the odds against that happening?

Related Information

Most of us were taught that Darwin's theory of evolution is proven science. It turns out that this is just not so. There is no scientifically credible fossil evidence that supports his theory. And further, given what we now know about biology - more specifically cell structure and DNA - it is impossible for new species to evolve as Darwin envisioned.

If you want to examine this subject further, I suggest that you read Grant R. Jeffrey's book titled "CREATION: Remarkable Evidence of God's Design."

If our answer is that there is no creator, then it follows that we humans are the supreme beings on the earth and possibly the universe. We are in control. We make the rules. We are alone! Our existence begins at conception and ends at death.

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However, if we believe that there is a creator and that we are a part of its creation, we are inclined to want to know what implications that has for us.

PART II

The Bible's Description of the Creator

What do we know about the Creator?

That depends on who you ask. Throughout recorded history people have been speculating about the existence of a creator, and if there is a creator, what the creator is like and what the creator's expectations are.

The ancient Egyptians had their sun gods. The Greeks had a variety of gods that served various purposes. At other times people would set up man-made idols as sort of "rabbit's foot" type gods. And the Romans even declared that their leader, the Caesar, was their god.

Of course, just because they called them god didn't mean that they were the creator of all that is in the universe. It would be a stretch to believe that a person or an image made of wood, metal or stone would be capable of doing that.

The words god and creator are not interchangeable. They don't necessarily mean the same thing. God is a title a person uses to describe an entity or object that they choose to worship or deify or idolize, while the word creator refers to the entity doing the creating.

For example, in the Christian Bible the Creator's name is Yahweh or Jehovah. The Creator is also called God because it is a title that reflects their view of the creator.

It turns out that one of the most detailed descriptions of the Creator is found in the Christian Bible. The Bible's authors wrote what they claimed the Creator told them to write. Over time, its validity has been confirmed by archeology, historical validation, prophecy's of future events that came to pass, and

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the fact that people's lives are changed by accepting and acting on the truths contained in it.

The Creator, from the Bible's perspective.

The Bible was written over a period of more than two thousand years.

It is made up of two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. (Note that the meaning of the word "testament" is similar to words "covenant" and "agreement").

The "Old Testament" is primarily a history of the nation of Israel and its covenant relationship with the Creator. It covers the time from the creation until approximately the year 400 BC. It was written by more than 30 different authors over a period of 1,500 years. Its authors include a shepherd, the nation's leaders, its historians, and its prophets.

The "New Testament" describes the new covenant between the Creator and man that was made possible by the Creator becoming a man in the person of Jesus Christ. It tells about Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection, and explains what it all means for us individually.

All of its eight authors were contemporaries of Jesus. Of these, three - Matthew, a tax collector; and John and Peter, fishermen - were Jesus' disciples who spent three years of their adult lives with Him and personally saw most of the events that they wrote about. Luke was a Greek gentile convert and a trained physician. Two others, James and Jude were Jesus' younger half brothers. And Mark had traveled extensively with Peter and Paul. And finally, one of the more prolific New Testament writers, Paul, was one of the rising stars of the Jewish religious group called the Pharisees before his dramatic conversion to believing in Jesus as the promised messiah. Many speculate that he was in line to become the next great Jewish

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theologian because he trained under Gamaliel, who had been trained by Hillel, who is well known and respected even today.

All of these eight authors were committed to the truth of their message to the point where they were willing to suffer great persecution and even death because of it.

The two testaments are together because the New Testament is a fulfillment of over 200 prophecies in the Old Testament. The central theme of the Bible is about the Creator and His relationship with mankind.

Characteristics of the Creator.

The Bible describes the Creator as being a spirit who existed before anything else existed and who always will exist. The Creator is all-powerful, knows everything - past, present, and future - but has the capacity of viewing events in real time.

The Creator is holy. This means that the Creator is not a part of his creation but is set apart from it. Therefore, worshiping creation is not worshiping the Creator.

The Creator knows who He is. It's His creation; therefore, he demands our respect. And since the Creator's character is unchanging, ultimately, He will not allow His creation to continue forever in violation of His character. With that being said, we can take comfort in the knowledge that the Creator is just in all of His decisions.

The Creator has a different perspective than all of His created beings. The Bible states that the Creator's thoughts are not like our thoughts.

The Creator is involved and has a dynamic, real time relationship with all of His creation. That being said, He has already "seen the movie" of the past, present, and future, so He

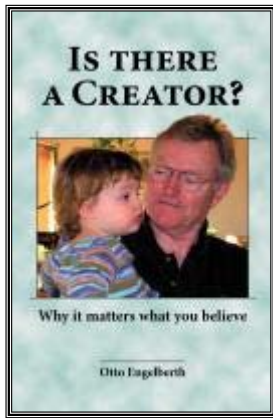
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knows how it all turns out. It follows that the Creator knew you and me before creation.

The Creator is love in His being and actions. And because He is love, He did not create in order to control but for the purpose of having a relationship and to fulfill His purpose on earth. The Creator gives His created beings a free will, meaning that they have the right to choose whether or not to have a relationship with Him within the framework of His character.

The Bible says the Creator is also a multifaceted spirit. One aspect of His spirit that operates throughout His creation is referred to as the Holy Spirit. Another aspect of the Creator's spirit became a man, Jesus, His only Son.

No one (with the exception of Jesus) has seen the Creator because He is a spirit. He is located in a place that is called Heaven.



Have you ever wondered how you could have a life of joy, peace, and contentment? A life where the real you would be eternally significant? This book explains how the Creator of the Universe living in you makes that possible. This could be the most significant book you will ever read because it will change your understanding of how your mind works and how you influence your thoughts, and engage your mind in achieving your goals.

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