Finding Life Video Series 1

Video 9: Messengers

Hi and welcome back if you have watched any of the previous videos. My name is Tim Spiess and I am serving as a guide to the most important journey any human being can take...which is to help you, the viewer, find answers to the most important questions of life.

In previous videos we concluded, using observation and deductive reasoning that a Designer of the human race must exist. Last time we looked at some issues with finding the Designer of the human race. We looked at how the Designer might communicate with us. We took another look at religion and saw that the vast majority of religions content is based merely on speculation about the Designer. We observed that using reason in regard to testing religious beliefs, is not a popular practice and this leads to many variations of beliefs among the people who populate the planet. Stated another way, people are either less capable or don't care enough to diligently use reason to examine their God beliefs to see if they are actually true.

We observed that while metaphysical things cannot be validated physically by observation - concepts, principles or beliefs can be validated as true or false using reason and logic. For example, consider this mathematical statement, 'one plus one does not equal four'. There are no physical things to validate that statement, but our mind, using reason, tells us that is a true statement. Here is another example from the realm of God claims – 'our God says love other people and we can harm them as well'. The statement contains a contradiction and thus is false e.g. loving other people and harming those people are contradictory or mutually exclusive – you cannot both love another person and at the same time intentionally harm them. Therefore, for that God-claim statement, only four possibilities exist:

1. God does not exist and a poorly reasoning person made the whole principle up;

2. God contradicts himself and cannot reason well;

3. God said love one another and man added the harm clause;

4. God said harm one another and man added the love clause.

If people who hold to God beliefs would apply reason more diligently to their God beliefs, there would be a whole lot fewer God-claims as well as less confusion and division.

Finally, we concluded that if the Designer wanted to communicate to we his creations, and for whatever reason he or she could not do that directly – either due to some physical constraint like the Designer existing in a dimension that prevented communication that could be received or understood by the physical means we have; or due to some metaphysical constraint, like human's inability to receive the Designer's communications due to some problem with my nature or with my will – then he or she would use the best indirect mean's possible to ensure his or her message was properly understood. From the last video, we concluded that the best means of communication is direct, face to face conversation with the other person. Therefore, if the Designer for whatever reason could not do that him or herself; and if he or she could send a representative who could deliver his or her message, that would be best.

So that leaves us with trying to figure out who, if anyone, is that representative. And as we saw in a previous video, there have been, and are, millions of people who claimed, or currently claim, to speak for the Designer or God and many millions of God claims. Using reason, we can eliminate many of those gods and the religion associated with them. For example, we can eliminate gods that do not have the capacity to design and create the human race. We can eliminate gods who are quoted as stating contradictions, for they - at best and if they exist - would not be worth listening to. Furthermore, any god claims that cannot pass the test of reason should be eliminated. For example, perhaps the key belief of many christian sects is the trinity doctrine, which states that

one god is three gods, or stated more simply, that 1 equals 3. All the theological equivocation with associated complicated vocabulary used to hide the contradiction not withstanding, 1 does not equal 3, thus the trinity belief ought to be rejected as false.

Some of the earth's religions with many adherents include Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism and Judaism. There hundreds of more beliefs and practices that people hold that could be considered religion, but the five mentioned above probably account for over 75% of the humans on the earth, so we will address them.

In addition to the five major religions themselves, there are many hundreds of divisions in each of those five religions, so any pretense of unity should be rejected. However, the main point is, who is correct? Muslims says Mohammed is God's messenger. Buddhists look to Siddhartha Gautama. Jews look to Moses and their prophets as God's messengers. Christians say "Christ" but this author has found that the christian's 'christ' does not represent Jesus of Nazareth, and many Christians spend most of their time quoting everyone but him, especially Paul. In addition to those people who lived in the past, there are all the living people who say they are God's messengers.

So again, who is correct? How can we validate claims? Do they all speak for God? What about the many contradictions between each of those supposed messengers and their messages? As we have seen and agreed, if something that can be evaluated by reason cannot pass the test of reason, then we will not consider it, for we should not be interested in believing things that are false.

So, getting back to someone representing God and our ability to know what the Designer is like, where do we go from here? God could be anything from a non-caring, apathetic distant being who sees his human creation as an afterthought, to a being passionate about his created beings. So,

what is the Designer like? Remember we need a way to validate that the messenger is actually sent from, and accurately represents, the Designer. Anyone can claim anything, so how could we validate that?

A primary way that validation could be accomplished would be if the Designer gave his messenger special powers that other people did not have. If the Designer's Messenger could do things that no one else could do, then that would be good evidence that that person's claims – if they also claimed to represent the Designer – were true.

Another way would be if the messenger could prove that he or she could see into the future, or if things about them that were communicated long ago, were now being fulfilled by them…things they could not manipulate and thus fulfill by their own will. Thus, they would have proof that they were not bound by time and thus would be a likely candidate for someone who knows the Designer if the Designer exists outside of time or can see through time.

Perhaps the least objective and yet the most effective validation is if the messenger's message is validated by our conscience. That is to say that we know the things they teach or taught are right and true, for who can argue with truth? This becomes especially important with any God claims they made or make. So, where does this leave us?

Let's add another layer of possibility to this puzzle of finding the Designer's spokesperson. What if the Designer's messenger said things that were so unpopular that people who heard them would naturally draw away and not want to consider or receive the message? What if the Designer provided a singular messenger and a clear message that could not be reasonably misunderstood unless the people who heard it were afraid of the message and the message's implications on their lives? In other words, what if the Designer sent a messenger or messengers, but people in general

don't want to hear the message? If that was so, then the human race would have a non-physical deafness so-to-speak that would work hard against identifying the messenger. Something important to consider that we will address in future videos.

That thought aside, and as we have said, we need a way to validate if a person who claimed to represent the Designer really did or does. I would suggest the following criteria for validating messengers. Of the major messengers who say they were representatives from the Designer of the human race, which one's message provides the key to human life being what is should be, and which messenger validated their message with an event that could not be mistaken as a sign from the Designer...an event or feat that would clearly rise above normal human experience? Here is what I suggest is the basic validation that any messenger needs to pass in order to be considered as "The Messenger" from the Designer.   First, they need to have claimed to speak directly for the Creator. If the Designer wants to communicate with his created beings through a messenger, then that messenger would make the claim that they speak for the Creator and would not hide or obscure who they represent.

Criteria two or second, the messenger needs to have provided the solution to mankind's biggest problems. As we have identified in this video series, mankind's primary problem is having fear, pride and selfishness cause us to take from, harm, unjustly rule over and neglect others. Third, they needed to validate their person and message by an act or event that clearly marks them as extraordinary deliverers of the Designer's message. I would encourage the viewer to consider these criteria and try and find fault with them. If you cannot, then you should be excited that by these three criteria, the Designer's messenger or messenger's will be revealed.

Let me just say that this brief video cannot possibly contain an in depth analysis of this topic of the claims of messengers from the Designer, so you, listener, will need to do some research to validate

the claims made in this message.

In this short video, we will only consider those alleged messengers who most of the people on the planet are looking to to know God and his or her will...so let's do that now. First, let's consider Islam's messenger, Muhammad. Does he pass the three criteria? Muhammad certainly claimed to speak for God so he passes the first criteria. What was his solution for mankind? It was to spread Islam – the teachings of Muhammad who claimed to speak for God - to all humans to get them to submit to Allah and his rules using whatever means necessary, including force or violence. Here are a few quotes of Muhammad from the Quran in that regard.

Qur'an 9:29-Fight against Christians and Jews until they pay the tribute readily, being brought low."

Qur'an 4:91- If the unbelievers do not offer you peace, kill them wherever you find them. Against such you are given clear warrant.

Qur'an 9:7-9-Don't make treaties with non-Muslims. They are all evildoers and should not be trusted.

Qur'an 9:12-14-Fight the disbelievers! Allah is on your side; he will give you victory.

Qur'an 9:5 - Kill the nonbelievers wherever you find them.

Qur'an 2:191-2-Kill disbelievers wherever you find them. If they attack you, then kill them. Such is the reward of disbelievers.

Qur'an (5:51) - "O you who believe! do not take the Jews and the Christians for friends; they are friends of each other; and whoever amongst you takes them for a friend, then surely he is one of them; surely Allah does not guide the unjust people."

Qur'an (2:65-66) Christians and Jews must believe what Allah has revealed to Muhammad or Allah will disfigure their faces or turn them into apes, as he did the Sabbath-breakers.

Well, as you can see, the solution Muhammad laid out for mankind seems a bit flawed, to say the least! Using force and violence to accomplish one's goals – even if the end is said to be good – is wrong. Other teachings in the Quran of course provide for human leaders that the other followers of Allah must submit to, thus setting up a religious system controlled by men. Certainly claiming an angry God wants people to submit to him and that his followers are right to use force, threat and violence to achieve that end – hardly solves mankind's problems! In fact, that kind of belief is the cause of much of the hatred and violence in the world.

As a quick aside, just because many who take the religious label muslim ignore, deny or seek ways to avoid the plain meaning of these verses in their holy book and uttered by their 'prophet of God' in no way nullifies the fact that they do exist and are included in the muslim holy book, the Quran. Nor does the fact that many muslims renounce violence and are not aggressive or violent people, negate the fact that it is reasonable that other muslims take those sayings from Muhammad in the Quran at face value and act upon them.

Finally, what event did Muhammad use to validate he was a special messenger from the Designer? None. He lived a normal life and died in a normal way. Thus, the supposed messenger Muhammad fails two of the three tests.

OK, what about the Buddha, or Siddhartha Gautama? Did he claim to speak for the Creator? No, he did not, therefore, he is eliminated by the first criteria! Siddhartha had a good focus to his teachings – essentially the overcoming and alleviation of suffering - and he certainly did not teach that force or violence was justified to achieve those, or any, earthly ends, to his credit. His solution for mankind was far less flawed than Muhammad's, but it was still too narrow and did not clearly address the root problems. Since Siddhartha did not claim to speak for the Designer, he needn't have validated his person or message, and in fact he lived a relatively normal life.

OK, what about Hinduism? Did it have a founder or a main messenger? No, it does not. Rather,

it is a set of existential or religious philosophies only. While some of Hinduism's beliefs and philosophies seem good and right, and would help alleviate some of the problems in the world, those beliefs and philosophies cannot be validated as having come from the Designer, nor do they address the root problems and clearly supply the solution.

OK, what about Judaism? If you had to pick the main messenger from Judaism's standpoint, it would have to be Moses. How does Moses do with our 3 criteria? He certainly claimed to have spoken for God, so he passes the first criteria. What does Moses say is the Designer's solutions for mankind's problems? Many Christians, and some Jews, would argue the ten commandments. However, the 10 commandments so called do not address the root problems of fear, pride and selfishness – they merely attempt to rein in some bad behavior. Jesus of Nazareth later provided an improved version of the 10 commandments, thus showing the original commandments were imperfect and incomplete and thus not from a perfect being. Therefore, Moses does not pass the second criteria. What about the third criteria? Moses certainly did allegedly perform – or call upon God to work - miracles to validate his message to the Egyptian leadership. But notice who the validating signs were directed at - the Egyptian leadership and not at the people of the world at large. The alleged miracles performed by the Designer for Moses were of the nature of destruction and killing...of violence and force. In this way, they vary very little from the Muslim's God's way. Yes, the destructive acts against the Egyptian leadership – not any acts against the common Egyptian people – were justified from the viewpoint of the oppressed seeking relief from the unjust oppressor. But is violence the only way to achieve relief from oppression? No, it is not. See the stories of Jesus of Nazareth, Gandhi or Martin Luther King Jr. to validate that truth.

If we assume that the Designer is above some of our more base desires – like harming others to get our way – then I reject that the Designer would use or advocate or approve of violence to achieve various ends, even just ones.   So, while Moses did allegedly perform things that would seem to

validate that a super being was behind his words and actions, the words and actions of destructive violence themselves disqualify Moses.

There are many others who claimed to speak for God, but none of them met all three criteria except one. We will evaluate that messenger in the next video.

Until next time, be real, get past the shallowness and pretentiousness of typical American life, and look deeper to find that which you truly need.