



# Book Reviews Volume IX

By

Mark McGee



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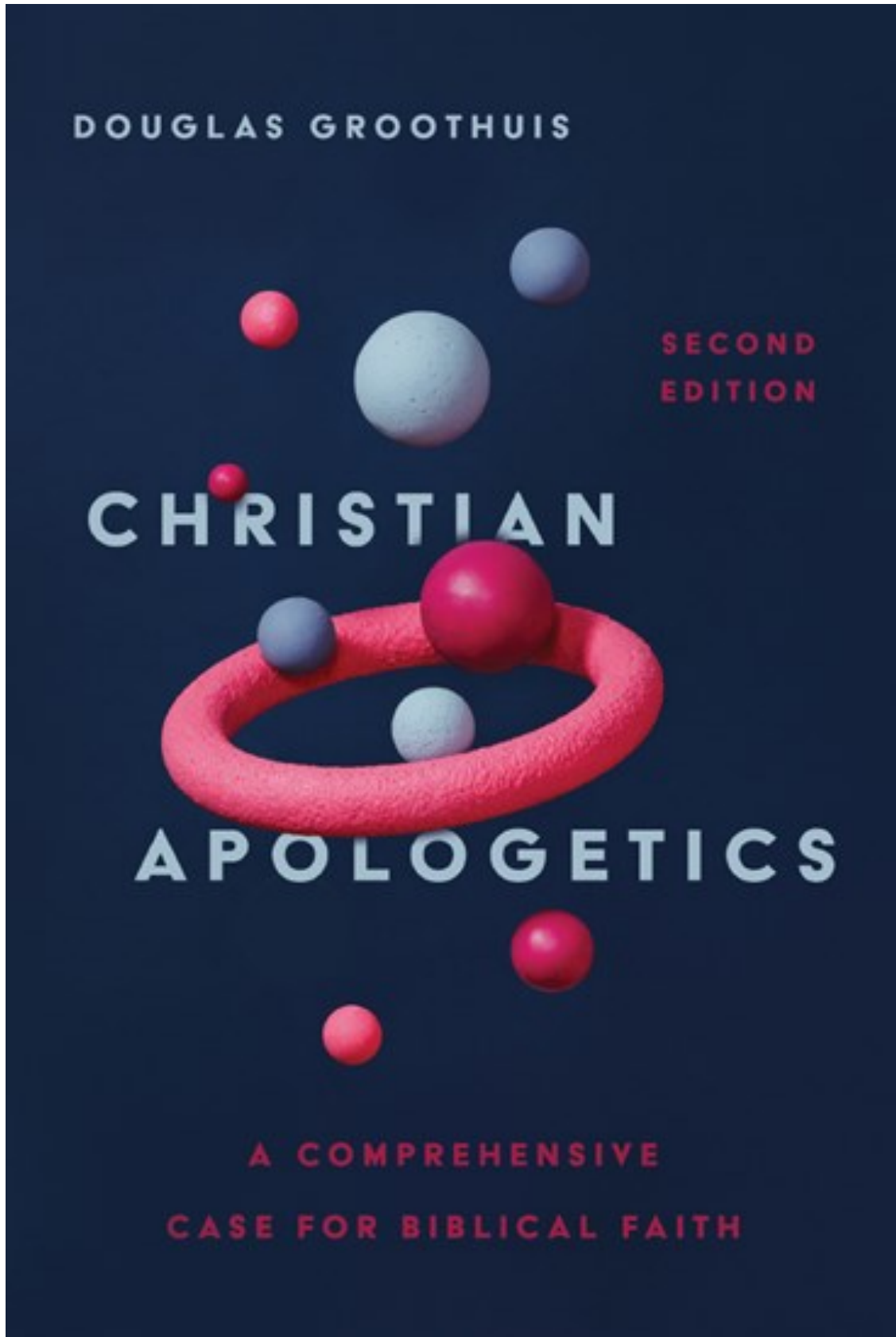
# Introduction

I began recommending Christian books to students decades ago for the purpose of helping them know about some of the better resources available to them. Many of the books were about Bible study, theology, discipleship, Church history and apologetics. The response was almost always positive, so I decided to review books online to help even more students know about books that would both inform and challenge. Most of the books I review are new or of recent origin.

Book Review Volume IX is the ninth in a series about books on the primary subject of “Apologetics” on [FaithandSelfDefense.com](http://FaithandSelfDefense.com). Another series you may find helpful is *A Reading Plan For Christian Apologists*, also on [FaithandSelfDefense.com](http://FaithandSelfDefense.com).

Our hope is that you will find books you can add to your Christian library — books that will become your friends and allies as you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.





*Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case For Biblical Faith* by Dr. Douglas Groothius has been one of my favorite go-to apologetics books for many years (2011). Dr. Groothius and **IVP Academic** released a second edition last year (2022) and I highly recommend it to you. Whether you have the first edition or have never read the book, buy it!

*Christian Apologetics, Second Edition* is one of the most comprehensive books on the subject available today. I say comprehensive because it is at 848 pages. The First Edition is also comprehensive at 752 pages. Both books are priced about the same, so the cost of the Second Edition should not be an issue to you.

Even if you own the first edition, I think you'll find the updated and added material worth having the second edition. Here's how the author explained his reasoning:



*I owe the reader an account of why there is a second edition of Christian Apologetics. This already-large book (which I call the “doorstop” or “the brick”) has grown even larger. A necessary condition for a second edition was that the first edition sold so well and has been used in many seminaries and Christian colleges. So the demand was there. For that, I am grateful to God.*

*After teaching my book for several years, I realized that I had omitted significant material, that chapters needed to be updated, and that certain material could be omitted. Some chapters remain nearly the same as the first edition (such as “The Ontological Argument”), but most have been significantly updated and revised.*

*The heft of this already hefty book is due largely to the addition of seven new chapters: “Original Monotheism” challenges the claim that monotheism evolved from primitive animism or polytheism, something taught in many religion classes at universities. “The Argument from Beauty” is an aesthetic-design argument that*

*may touch people that more technical design arguments may not. “Doubt, Skepticism, and the Hiddenness of God” concerns questions of whether there is sufficient evidence for Christianity, given so much unbelief. Perhaps the most important additions are two chapters on the atonement, “The Atonement: Stating It Properly” and “The Atonement: Defending It.”*

I agree that these and other new chapters are great additions to an already great book about Christian Apologetics. I am enjoying the process of going through a second edition of a book I have found very helpful in ministry. I believe you will as well.

## About Douglas Groothuis



Douglas Groothuis (PhD, University of Oregon) is professor of philosophy at Denver Seminary. He is the author of numerous books, including *Philosophy in Seven Sentences*, *Unmasking*

*the New Age, Truth Decay, On Pascal, On Jesus, and Walking Through Twilight: A Wife's Illness—A Philosopher's Lament.* He has written for scholarly journals such as *Religious Studies, Sophia, Research in Philosophy and Technology, Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society,* and *Philosophia Christi,* as well as for numerous popular magazines.

You can also read a special **conversation on Christian apologetics** with Douglas Groothuis.

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## **Publisher's Description**

**People are hungry for hope.** They want to understand our human condition—its origin, nature, purpose, and destiny. The Christian faith offers hope for individuals and the entire universe, grounded in absolute truth. But how can we know that Christianity is true? And how can Christians confidently present their beliefs in the face of doubts and competing views?

In this comprehensive text, Douglas Groothuis makes a clear and rigorous case for Christian theism. Demonstrating how apologetics must be both rational and winsome, he addresses the most common questions and objections people raise regarding Christianity. After laying a foundation with the biblical basis for apologetics, apologetic method, and a defense of objective truth, he presents key arguments for the reality of God, a case for the credibility of Jesus, and evidence for the resurrection. Groothuis also evaluates alternative views and responds to challenges such as religious pluralism and the problem of evil.



The second edition of this landmark work has been updated throughout to address current issues and sources. It includes new chapters on topics such as doubt and the hiddenness of God, the atonement, the church, and lament as a Christian apologetic. To know God in Christ, Groothuis argues, means that we desire to make Christian truth available to others in the most compelling form possible. Students, ordinary Christians, and seasoned philosophers will all find a wise guide for this endeavor in *Christian Apologetics*.

## Editorial Reviews

Douglas Groothuis is a master of Christian apologetics. In this comprehensive guide, he positions apologetics within a Christian worldview, answering the thorny questions that thoughtful people are actually raising about the credibility of the faith. These are not simply academic questions but the questions to which people need answers if they are to stand firm against the assaults of skepticism and agnosticism. We can do better than simply hope that Christianity is true. As Groothuis demonstrates, solid evidence and sound philosophy make a convincing case that Christianity is indeed true. This book draws on many years of teaching and writing about apologetics by the author, distilling the most effective arguments in defense of the Christian faith. — William A. Dembski, author of *The Design Inference*

The first edition of Groothuis's massive work, *Christian Apologetics*, rose quickly to the top of the pack. But this revised second edition is over the top. Encyclopedic in its range, careful and precise in its argumentation, and readily accessible to a wide audience, this is the go-to book in Christian apologetics. Since it is thoroughly updated and expanded with important new topics, if you have the first edition, you really need to get this one. Thanks go to Groothuis for exerting such a Herculean effort to bring us up to date and serve God's people. — J. P. Moreland, distinguished professor of philosophy at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University, and author of *A Simple Guide to Experience Miracles*

Douglas Groothuis's *Christian Apologetics* is a substantive and immensely valuable resource. It not only sets forth an impressive, comprehensive case for the Christian faith, but interwoven throughout are important personal, cultural, and existential considerations and applications embedded in a context of robust engagement with Scripture and

theology. The result is a wonderfully multifaceted and holistic treatment of apologetics. A pleasure to recommend! — Paul Copan, Pledger Family Chair of Philosophy and Ethics, Palm Beach Atlantic University, and coauthor of *The Gospel in the Marketplace of Ideas*

*Christian Apologetics* has become my go-to resource for people who want an introductory book on defending the faith. It is understandable and interesting for students, but it also has depth for those already trained in apologetics. I have used it as a text for advanced high school students as well as grad students. I have been recommending it for years, and this update is even better. — Sean McDowell, associate professor of Christian Apologetics at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University, and coauthor of *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*

The work of Douglas Groothuis has been invaluable to me as a Christian believer and ‘case maker.’ I immediately purchased the first edition of this award-winning book and readily consumed it, page by page, as a concise, accessible, and thorough defense of truth and Christianity. Over the next several years, I tracked along with Douglas’s personal journey and turned to his writing repeatedly to understand the relationship between hope and truth. The second edition of *Christian Apologetics* is a must-read for every Christian, especially in turbulent times when hope seems elusive. Read this book, grow in your Christian confidence, and allow the truth of Christianity to fill you with hope and optimism. — J. Warner Wallace, Dateline-featured cold-case detective and senior fellow at the Colson Center for Christian Worldview

*Christian Apologetics: A Comprehensive Case For Biblical Faith, Second Edition*, Douglas Groothuis, IVP Academic, 2022, 848 pages



# Counterfeit Kingdom



*The Dangers of  
New Revelation,  
New Prophets,  
and New Age Practices  
in the Church*

HOLLY PIVEC *and* R. DOUGLAS GEIVETT

*Counterfeit Kingdom – The Dangers of New Revelation, New Prophets, and New Age Practices in the Church* (B&H Publishing, 2022) by Holly Pivec and R. Douglas Geivett is important for all Christians to read. It's an excellent update to their earlier books on similar topics:

*A New Apostolic Reformation?: A Biblical Response to a Worldwide Movement* (Weaver Book Co., 2014)

*God's Super-Apostles: Encountering the Worldwide Prophets and Apostles Movement* (Lexham Press, 2018)

I had been researching, teaching, and writing about the New Apostolic Movement for many years, so it was good to see other writers approach the subject. I met one of the **primary founders of the NAR** in the late 1970s and had followed his work since that time.



## Why Another Book on the NAR?

Some people may wonder why Pivec and Geivett wrote another book about *The New Apostolic Reformation* (NAR). Weren't two previous books enough? I could ask myself the same question. I've written **seven eBooks** about the NAR and plan to write several more. Why? My reason is simply because Christians and church leaders still aren't seeing the danger from the NAR. They are allowing the NAR to infect multiple areas of their church ministry including worship, music, theology, teaching and preaching, children's ministry, youth ministry, and the family. I've seen some of the damage done to churches and Christians with my own eyes and it's not pretty.

Here's how the authors explained their reason for writing the book:

*In this book we share memories of our personal past experiences. We have retold events to the best of our memories and after carefully reviewing our own recorded observations. We also share stories of individuals who have been damaged by the New Apostolic Reformation movement, as those stories have been shared with us. Where possible, we obtained permission to share those stories; otherwise, we removed personally identifying details to protect individual privacy. We also changed the names of some individuals. There were other stories we very much wished to include but did not because the parents who shared them with us were nervous about possible repercussions if their adult children—who have become followers of the “apostles” and “prophets” and have broken off communication with them—were to learn that they spoke with us. These parents feared that their already fractured relationships would be broken beyond repair. Their fear sends a strong signal*

*about the destructive effect of the movement we write about.*

*This book focuses especially on the practices of the New Apostolic Reformation movement—the concrete ways it is showing up in churches, ministries, and music.*

*We also wish to note that when we refer to teachings of NAR leaders in this book, we do not mean to imply that every apostle, prophet, or teacher in this movement holds to all of the same beliefs or agrees on every point of theology and practice. But the practices and teachings we highlight here are those promoted by influential leaders in this movement and, for that reason, have gained entrance into a growing number of churches. We've welcomed every opportunity for direct dialogue with leaders of the movement. Counterfeit Kingdom, p xi*

I highly recommend this book to every Christian who cares about following the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ. I say “pure” because the NAR, and many other groups, have brought impurities into the gospel. Many of these impurities have come into churches disguised as worship music:

*Young adults are especially drawn to NAR music ... NAR music may seem harmless. But there are some real dangers. Danger No. 1: Their Music Smuggles in NAR Theology .. Their Music Draws People to NAR .. Their Music Divorces the Heart from the Head Counterfeit Kingdom, Toxic Worship Music, pp 139-157*

My appeal to you is the same as the Apostle Paul’s appeal to Christians in Rome almost two-thousand years ago:

*Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive*

*the hearts of the simple. For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen. Romans 16:17-20*

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## Publisher's Notes

*Is there a new reformation happening in the church? It depends on who you ask.*

*The New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) is a popular and fast-growing new movement of Christians who emphasize signs and wonders, and teach that God is giving new revelation through new apostles and prophets. But is this biblical Christianity?*

*In Counterfeit Kingdom, apologists and NAR experts Holly Pivec and Douglas Geivett show how the NAR's key tenets distort the gospel, twist the Scriptures, are influenced by New Age practices, and lead faithful Christians to shipwreck their faith. They also offer practical suggestions for readers who are already influenced by the NAR, curious about it, or concerned about loved ones who have been swept up in the movement.*

*What used to be on the fringes of the church is now mainstream, and many are being influenced by it unaware. This book is a wake-up call.*



## About the Authors

**Holly Pivec** is a blogger, author, and speaker, as well as a pastor's wife and homeschooling mom. She has a master's degree in apologetics from Biola University, where she also served as university editor for nearly a decade. She has co-authored two books about the New Apostolic Reformation: *A New Apostolic Reformation?* and *God's Super-Apostles*. She operates a popular blog, which has followers from around the world, and she has spoken and written for several audiences and outlets.

**Doug Geivett** is a husband, father to two grown children, professor, author, and speaker. He has a Ph.D. in philosophy from USC and teaches at Biola University and Talbot School of Theology. Doug has written or edited several books and spoken on issues related to the New Apostolic Reformation, Christian apologetics, and the Christian life to audiences all over the world.

## Recommendations and Reviews

*Many churches are unaware of the questionable theology of the cult-like movement that inspires much of the worship music they sing every Sunday. I have personally witnessed the destructive impact of the teachings and practices of the NAR and have long hoped that a book would be written to inform the church of its pervasive influence. Counterfeit Kingdom is the book I've been waiting for. Holly Pivec and R. Douglas Geivett have combined careful scholarship, a deeply theological gospel-focus, and a charitable tone to give the church a resource that is not only thorough but easy to understand. My honest prayer is that every Pastor in America will read this book. It's the warning the church desperately needs."*

*—Alisa Childers, author of Another Gospel?: A Lifelong Christian Seeks Truth in Response to Progressive Christianity*

*Just as sound doctrine transforms, unsound teaching deforms. Written with victims in mind, this book is a powerful and compassionate antidote. I am grateful to the authors for enlightening me about this dangerous movement. Careful in argument, backed up by documented cases, Counterfeit Kingdom is a wake-up call to discernment.*

*—Michael Horton, Professor of Theology, Westminster Seminary California*

*Counterfeit Kingdom is an incredibly clear and practical guide to not only understanding the errant theology behind the NAR movement, but also the specific manifestations of it that you may unknowingly encounter. No doubt, there's a good chance that its influence has in some way reached YOUR church. I pray this book will open the eyes of many.*

*—Natasha Crain, speaker, host of The Natasha Crain Podcast, and author of four books*

*The influence of the New Apostolic Reformation is impossible to ignore today. Douglas Geivett and Holly Pivec offer believers a valuable service in this clear, accessible, and persuasive critique. I especially encourage pastors and song leaders to consider the authors' insightful analysis of the lyrics of music associated with this movement. May this book help you to walk in discernment and to reaffirm the truth and beauty of biblical Christianity.*

*—Matt Merker, Hymn Writer; Director of Resources and Training, Getty Music; Director of Congregational Singing, Edgefield Church, Nashville, TN*

*The Bible warns that wherever the truth advances, error will soon follow; it warns that where there are teachers committed to the historic Christian faith there will be teachers committed to new and novel nonsense. Those who love the Lord and are committed to his cause are right to be concerned by the rise of the New Apostolic Reformation. In Counterfeit Kingdom Doug Geivett and Holly Pivec*

*helpfully expose its theological errors, spiritual abuses, toxic worship, and failed predictions. They expose it for what it is and call Christians to a faith that is far better, far purer, far more fulfilling, and far more consistent with God's Word.*

*—Tim Challies, author*

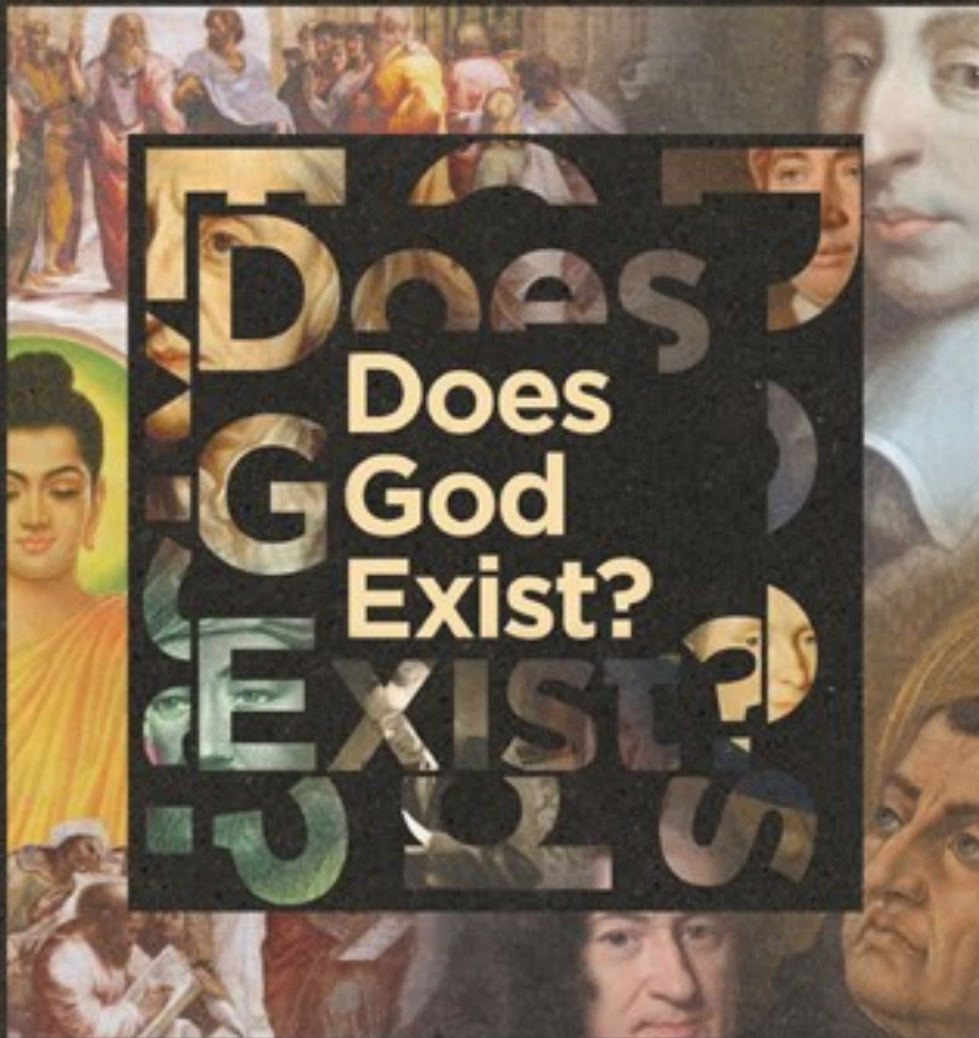
# **Video Interview with the Authors**

**The Warning Christians Critically Need: Bethel, New Age, and the New Apostolic Reformation.**

*Counterfeit Kingdom – The Dangers of New Revelation, New Prophets, and New Age Practices in the Church* (B&H Publishing, 2022) by Holly Pivec and R. Douglas Geivett



W. DAVID BECK



A History of Answers to the Question



**Does God Exist? A History of Answers to the Question** by W. David Beck (IVP Academic, 2021) is an intriguing read.

## **An Intriguing Read**

I say “intriguing” for a couple of reasons. First, the author taught at the same institution where one of my primary mentors taught for many years. That mentor answered my questions as an atheist about whether God exists and helped lead me to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, Lord, and Savior. Second, they both presented their arguments for the existence of God in basically the same order. It is a logical and reasonable way of answering serious questions about God’s existence.

*It seems that human beings have been thinking about God from the very beginning. The first chapters of the Bible certainly have it so. Chapter 1, p 1*

David Beck looks deep into history to see how humans have attempted to answer the question of God's existence. Those histories include Jewish, Greek, Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, and Islamic, including secular sources.

While Beck presents many "arguments" for the existence of God, he does not attempt to provide "proof."

*The word I will avoid, except where it appears in quotations, is the word proof. This is actually the traditional word. In more recent years, however, proof has come to be used for the kind of reasoning unique to mathematics. This is a sort of purely logical relationship that exists quite apart from any real or actual world considerations, and derives entirely from the particular rules of a given mathematical system.*

*Using the word argument is also meant to avoid the idea that any one of these stands by itself as a once-and-for-all clinching proof for a fully defined God. What we will see is that each argument has a very narrow focus, in terms of both the evidence used in the*

*premises and the scope and the strength or probability of the conclusion. And so each of these arguments, along with others I will only mention in passing, functions best as part of a cumulative case. Chapter 1, pp 3-4*

After studying apologetic arguments for the existence of God, I find myself in agreement with Beck's statement. The cumulative case does seem strongest in answering the question – "Does God Exist?"

If you love God and apologetics, I highly recommend this book for your library.

## **Publisher's Note**

Throughout the history of philosophical and theological reflection, this fundamental question has prompted a range of responses.

In one incisive volume, philosopher W. David Beck offers a narrative of pre-Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Christian, and Islamic arguments for God's existence. Here, readers will encounter both classical and contemporary arguments, including cosmological, teleological, moral, and ontological arguments along with commentary from the author.

Explore the history of answers to an essential question and add your own reflections to this ongoing conversation.

# Contents

Preface

Acknowledgments

1. The Beginnings of the Arguments

2. Cosmological Arguments

3. Teleological Arguments

4. Moral Arguments

5. Ontological Arguments

6. The End of the Story—For Now

## About The Author

W. David Beck (PhD, Boston University) is emeritus professor of philosophy at Liberty University. He is the coeditor of *Raised on the Third Day: Defending the Historicity of the Resurrection of Jesus*, and his written work has appeared in publications including *Philosophia Christi*, *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*, and *Christianity Today*.

# Reviews

*“There are lots of books available on the existence of God, but few, if any, that do a good job of presenting all the key arguments in a historical and contemporary way. Professor Beck’s book *Does God Exist?* is a rare exception. It is important to realize that, setting aside a disdain for old books, a careful study of an argument as it develops in the history of philosophy is more than a mere expression of intellectual curiosity. Much can be learned from the past that is of immense contemporary importance. Beck is a well-respected philosopher and brings decades of teaching and research to this book. I highly recommend it.”*

*J. P. Moreland, distinguished professor of philosophy at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University, and author of *Scientism and Secularism**

*“Finally! A single volume that contains as a historical narrative a compendium of arguments pertaining to God’s existence—pro, con, and from most religious perspectives—all under one cover. Fantastic! Highly recommended!”*

*Gary R. Habermas, distinguished research professor of apologetics and philosophy at Liberty University*

*“In this herculean effort, David Beck has written a superb guide and rich resource on the major arguments for God’s existence. Not only does he astutely summarize the breadth of positions articulated by particular thinkers on the respective arguments—pro and con—but he includes much material from primary sources, which significantly enhances the value of this volume. A fine achievement!”*

*Paul Copan, Pledger Family Chair of Philosophy and Ethics at Palm Beach Atlantic University, coauthor of The Gospel in the Marketplace of Ideas*



Does God Exist? A History of Answers to the Question by W.  
David Beck (IVP Academic, 2021)





*Creating the Canon: Composition, Controversy, and the Authority of the New Testament* by Benjamin P. Laird (IVP Academic, 2023) is a challenging read, in all the right ways.

A *Canon* is – “an authoritative list of books accepted as Holy Scripture” ([Merriam-Webster](#)). Christians would know it as the “Bible.” The Canon of Christian Scripture includes Hebrew and Aramaic writings (Old Testament), and Greek writings (New Testament). Question is – how did we get them and how can we be sure what we have is true and complete.

That’s what Dr. Benjamin Laird (Ph.D) addresses in his new book. He stated one challenge facing anyone who wants answers to the questions raised above:

*The study of ancient book culture and literary conventions are heavily specialized academic fields that are largely unfamiliar to contemporary readers of the Bible. Other than a small handful of postgraduate students and academics who have the patience and inclination to study technical works that address obscure literary practices from antiquity, few*

*contemporary readers are familiar with the basic process by which ancient works were commonly composed, assembled, and distributed. Chapter One, p. 12*

How did the Old Testament prophets and New Testament apostles write what we know as the Bible? And, how do we know that some ancient writings weren't left out of what we consider the Biblical Canon today? Is the Canon of Scripture simply a work of individuals, or did God direct the process?

Professor Laird does the heavy lifting for you. He explains in great detail how ancient people communicated through writing. That's good to know because real, flesh-and-blood people wrote what is now known as the Bible, the Word of God. Can we trust what they wrote?

Dr. Laird believes we can and lays out the case for a God-inspired Canon very well. He is honest about the ancient processes, the many challenges there have been (and continue to be) to the Canon of Scripture, and how Christians can trust the translations of ancient writings to be what they claim to be – the Word of God.

I especially appreciated the time Professor Laird spent on how the “apostolic” and “early” Church Fathers viewed the Gospels, Acts, and apostolic writings. They were not tricked into believing the many false gospels and heretical writings of the 2nd and 3rd centuries. Some of them knew the apostles personally; others knew the disciples of the apostles. What they wrote about the authenticity of the writings we look to as Scripture is most helpful in both a practical and apologetic sense.

*Our investigation will begin with an exploration of various subjects that relate to the composition of the writings and will then transition to an assessment of the likely process that led to the creation of discrete canonical collections, a process that eventually led to the establishment and recognition of a single collection known today as the New Testament. Introduction, p. 5*

I appreciate that Dr. Laird viewed his process through the lens of an “investigation.” I used the same lens as an atheist more than 50 years ago when I asked the same questions about the ‘Canon’ of Scripture. What I discovered helped me to believe in the existence of God, the credibility of Scripture, and the reality of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

I believe you will find *Creating the Canon* to be stimulating, insightful, and helpful. Whether you have your own concerns about the authority of Scripture or you are helping others with their doubts and concerns, Professor Laird’s book will be a great resource for you.

# Contents

Abbreviations

Introduction

## **Part One: Questions Relating to the Composition of the New Testament Writings**

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## **Part Two: Questions Relating to the Formation of the New Testament Canon**

4. Theological Controversies and the Formation of the New Testament Canon
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7. Apostolicity and the Formation of the New Testament Canon



8. Apostolic Authorship and the Authority of the New  
Testament Canon

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[From IVP Academic Website]

## **Publisher Notes**

Despite the profound influence of the New Testament, a variety of questions related to its background and history remain common. Contemporary readers often find the subject of the canon's origin and formation to be complicated and confusing, while scholars continue to struggle to find agreement about basic elements of the canon's development. In this engaging study, Benjamin P. Laird explores several misunderstood, disputed, and overlooked topics in order to provide fresh insight and clarity about the canon's creation and modern relevance. The volume addresses questions such as:

- Was there a single “original autograph” of each New Testament writing?
- Who exactly were the “original readers” of the New Testament writings?
- Did theological controversies play a decisive role in prompting the canon's formation?

- How did such a diverse body of writings come together to form a single canonical collection?
- Is there a basis for the canon's ongoing authority?

Wide-ranging yet accessible, *Creating the Canon* offers an illuminating treatment of the composition, formation, and authority of the New Testament and serves as a valuable guide to those with limited prior study.

[From IVP Academic Website]

# Reviews

“Benjamin Laird has written an insightful and helpful introduction to how we got the New Testament. Laird explains everything from ancient writing practices to book production and publication to letter writing in antiquity, as well as the origins and reception of Christian texts, and the importance of apostolic authority. A helpful read for anyone interested in the what and the how of the Bible.”

Michael F. Bird is academic dean and lecturer in New Testament at Ridley College in Melbourne, Australia

“*Creating the Canon* is a dependable guide for the early formation of the New Testament. It not only introduces the major scholarly voices in the debate, it also is structured to answer several common questions regarding the composition, formation, and the authority of the New Testament. Though the questions are common, Laird does not merely offer

simple answers; rather, his work engages insights from textual criticism and canon research to address the origin, extent, and authority of the canon. Accessible to the student, yet filled with insights for teachers and scholars, Laird's volume will be a helpful reference tool for many and provide a gateway into deeper canon studies for others—highly recommended!”

Darian R. Lockett, professor of New Testament at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University

“For those who wrestle with the nature and significance of the scriptural canon in modern Christianity and wonder about its ancient origins, Benjamin Laird's book cuts a lucid and engaging path through many aspects of the canon's composition, formation, and authority. Laird writes both as a historian and as a Christian, combining critical attention to sources and hermeneutics with a personal sense of the importance of these questions today.”

Jane Heath, Durham University

“As one treks into the rugged terrain of New Testament canon studies, a daunting range of issues looms on the horizon. Benjamin Laird maps out the general contours of current scholarship and then proposes his own path forward. His study provides a panoramic view of canon-related considerations but also raises significant questions concerning the relationship between apostolicity and the ecclesial recognition of divinely inspired texts.”

Paul A. Hartog, professor of theology at Faith Baptist Seminary

“The wonderful thing about studying the origins of the New Testament canon is that there’s always more to discover. It seems like a well without a bottom. This new volume by Benjamin Laird exemplifies this reality. In this wide-ranging study, Laird not only revisits older questions but also explores newer ones, creating a

fresh and helpful addition to the growing body of work on the origins of the canon.”

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Craig A. Evans, John Bisagno Distinguished Professor  
of Christian Origins at Houston Christian University  
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## About the Author

Benjamin P. Laird (PhD, University of Aberdeen) is associate professor of biblical studies at the John W. Rawlings School of Divinity at Liberty University. His recent publications include *The Pauline Corpus in Early Christianity*, *40 Questions about the Apostle Paul*, *Five Views on the New Testament Canon*, and the forthcoming *The New Testament Canon in Contemporary Research*. He lives in Lynchburg, Virginia, with his wife and five children.

[From IVP Academic Website]

## Read an excerpt of this book

*Creating the Canon: Composition, Controversy, and the Authority of the New Testament* by Benjamin P. Laird (IVP Academic, 2023, 272 pages)

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