

- Much of the world acts like God doesn't exist
 - Atheism
 - Active belief that God doesn't exist
 - Psalm 14:1
 - The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good.
 - Apatheism
 - Apathetic towards the idea of God
 - Can claim any belief, even Christianity
 - Zephaniah 1:12
 - "And it shall come to pass at that time that I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and punish the men who are settled in complacency, who say in their heart, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will He do evil.'"
- What would the world look like if they were right?

A World Without God

A World Without God

I. No Rules

I. No Rules

- Every source of authority issues commands
 - Parents have rules for their children
 - Governments have rules for their citizens
 - God has rules for His people
- People don't want an absolute moral standard
 - Moral relativism and situation ethics
 - Judges 17:6 – repeated in 18:1, 19:1, 21:25
 - In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.
 - This is what the world wants – to do what they want

I. No Rules

- We're terrible at being our own authority
 - Kids don't understand long-term health risks
 - Drivers don't think about overall safety
 - People only think about physical things
- God gives us His law to help us
 - Many passages talk about our inability to govern ourselves
 - Proverbs 14:12, 16:25
 - There is a way that seems right to a man,
But its end is the way of death.
 - Romans 6:20-21
 - ²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.

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 - God's instructions and teachings are for our benefit
 - Isaiah 55:8-9
 - ⁸ "For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.
 - ⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts."

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 - Isaiah 55:8-9
 - Leviticus 18:5
 - "You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the LORD."
 - James 1:25
 - But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

A World Without God

I. No Rules

II. No Judgment

II. No Judgment

- The world finds this appealing
 - No judgment means no risk of punishment
 - God is clear that there *will* be a judgment
 - Acts 17:30-31
 - ³⁰ “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹ because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”
 - Matthew 12:36
 - “But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.”
- People want to do what they want without consequence

II. No Judgment

- No judgment means no justice either
 - No concept of 'just' with no moral standards
 - *We want* wrongs to be righted
 - Passages calling for justice
 - Habakkuk 1:2-4
 - ² O Lord, how long shall I cry, and You will not hear? Even cry out to You, "Violence!" and You will not save.
 - ³ Why do You show me iniquity, and cause me to see trouble? For plundering and violence are before me; there is strife, and contention arises.
 - ⁴ Therefore the law is powerless, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; therefore perverse judgment proceeds.

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- No judgment means no justice either
 - No concept of 'just' with no moral standards
 - *We want* wrongs to be righted
 - Passages calling for justice
 - Habakkuk 1:2-4
 - Psalm 69:26-28
 - ²⁶ For they persecute the ones You have struck,
And talk of the grief of those You have wounded.
 - ²⁷ Add iniquity to their iniquity,
And let them not come into Your righteousness.
 - ²⁸ Let them be blotted out of the book of the living,
And not be written with the righteous.
- Without God, there is neither judgment nor justice

A World Without God

- I. No Rules
- II. No Judgment
- III. No Hope**

III. No Hope

- Without God, what we see is what we get
 - All that remains is the physical world
 - Ecclesiastes 4:1-3
 - ¹ Then I returned and considered all the oppression that is done under the sun: and look! The tears of the oppressed, but they have no comforter—on the side of their oppressors there is power, but they have no comforter. ² Therefore I praised the dead who were already dead, more than the living who are still alive. ³ Yet, better than both is he who has never existed, who has not seen the evil work that is done under the sun.

III. No Hope

- Without God, what we see is what we get
 - All that remains is the physical world
 - Ecclesiastes 4:1-3
 - Ecclesiastes 5:15-17
 - ¹⁵ As he came from his mother's womb, naked shall he return, to go as he came; and he shall take nothing from his labor which he may carry away in his hand.
 - ¹⁶ And this also is a severe evil—just exactly as he came, so shall he go. And what profit has he who has labored for the wind? ¹⁷ All his days he also eats in darkness, and he has much sorrow and sickness and anger.
 - If there is nothing but what is “under the sun”, what's the point?

III. No Hope

- Without God, what we see is what we get
 - All that remains is the physical world
 - Renders our faith “pitiable”
 - 1 Corinthians 15:16-19, 31-32
 - ¹⁶ For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. ¹⁷ And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! ¹⁸ Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. . . .
 - ³¹ I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. ³² If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!”
 - Paul recognizes the futility of what he’s doing...*if* Christ wasn’t raised from the dead

III. No Hope

- Thankfully not reality
 - God *does* exist
 - Psalm 19:1
 - The heavens declare the glory of God;
And the firmament shows His handiwork.
 - Romans 1:20
 - For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse

III. No Hope

- Thankfully not reality

- God *does* exist

- We *do* have hope

- 1 Peter 1:3-5

- ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

III. No Hope

- Hope only for those in Christ
 - Ephesians 2:11-13
 - ¹¹ Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— ¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

III. No Hope

- Hope only for those in Christ
 - Ephesians 2:11-13
 - Living without Christ is worse than there not being a God
 - All of the negatives, none of the positives
 - Still must face the Judgment to come
 - No help and guidance by living according to God's rules
 - Paul offers a simple solution: put on Christ!
 - Galatians 3:26-27
 - ²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
 - ²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.