

Do All Roads Lead to God?

There is a growing philosophy that whatever God a person worships, in reality they are all the same God manifested in different religious dogma; and that all roads lead to the same place. Though all-inclusive in its approach, it would be wise to take a logical approach toward this subject and avoid an error with eternal consequences.

COUNTING THE ROADS AVAILABLE

There seems to be a myriad of gods floating about these days; not even ancient Greece or Egypt could compete with what is out there. For every god there is also a corresponding religion and human following. So how many gods are there and how do we know if this is indeed the true and living God? There are two approaches to this question; first is the philosophy that all deities worshipped are actually the same God, and when an individual dies, what he sees is his own personal concept of God. If this approach is correct, one would have a difficult time combining Allah of the Hamas that rewards heaven for terrorism and anti-Semitism with Jehovah that rewards heaven to the atoned individual; or the Satan worshippers that murder virgin children with the Christian God that commands forgiveness of enemies.

The second approach is by activating an inherent skepticism toward all presented gods and use critical logic to weed out counterfeits. Our task is not an easy one, for as I have said, there are myriads to examine. Well, that is true, but we can start by separating these gods into two major categories. The first would be the true God and His accompanying requirements; the second being counterfeits designed by man with rules and regulations to accomplish a form of societal engineering.

Any other approach would result in a form of Atheism or Polytheism and it's accompanying theories of evolution (no creator) and New Age doctrine (man is his own god).

MANY BRANCHES, TWO TREES

When all the various branches of the various gods are brought back to their origins, we find there are two major tree trunks on which to examine.

The creator *Brahma* of the Hindu faith, as revealed by the 3,000 year old sacred writings of the Veda; who is accompanied by two other demigods; *Vishnu* the preserver and *Shiva* the destroyer. The second tree being the creator *Jehovah* as presented in the well preserved Pentateuch of the Jews dating back over 4,000 years. Along with the Pentateuch (or "five books") there is the Tanakh, which includes the ancient writings of the prophets and kings of Israel, thus comprising the Torah.

I have left out Buddhism due to it being a branch of Hinduism and does not believe in a supreme being. For now I have also left out Allah of the Islamic faith, for it is a branch from the tree of the God of Abraham.

EXAMINING GOD VS. MEN

At this point it would be very easy to fall into an oubliette of circular thinking, and that is examining a deity based on the actions of terrestrial man. To do so can only cloud the issue of good men vs. bad men and all the grayscale in between. Because the actions of man tend toward selfishness, false motives, good intentions or atonement for guilt via good works, whether good or bad, the actions of man prove nothing about God, only the sincerity of the individual.

Instead, let us approach God as one who transcends the limited knowledge and actions of man. But we must be careful, many ignorant people have tried to sucker God by such challenges as "God, if you are real, do such and such and I will believe." thus reducing the Godhead to the whims of puny demands.

No, if God transcends man in infinite proportions, then the Godhead has already taken the needs of skeptics into consideration. The evidence is there if true desire to know God is present.

PROOF OF GOD VIA GOD

Has God been revealed in such a way as can be examined? There are many gods within the Hindu religion; chief among them being *Shiva*, *Vishnu*, *Rama* and *Krishna* all gathered into one supreme being, *Brahman*. Yet, no evidence from these deities has the power to provide evidence of personal existence. (Remember, we are basing examination on the deity and not on the followers, as dedicated or sincere they may be.)

If one were to examine the text of all the various religions, including those of extinct cultures and recent discovered communities; not one can offer proof of the existence of the Godhead beyond the devotion of the members. By this we must presume all religions are based on the imaginations of man in order to obtain a certain agenda. That agenda being the answer to the complexity of nature around them or control over the morals of a society. Does that mean that all roads lead to nothing? No, I stated there is no *religion* that can provide proof that a personal God exists, since religion is the invention of man.

There is documentation provided by God where a challenge is made to examine and see the proof that is demanded of the skeptic. The text is found within the Torah of the Jewish community; penned by the prophet Isaiah.

Tell and bring forth your case; yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the Lord? And *there is no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior; there is none besides Me.*

Remember the former things of old, *for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done*, saying, "My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure, calling a bird of prey from the east, the man who executes My counsel, from a far country. *Indeed I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it.*"

Isaiah 45:21 & 46:9-11

Knowing the dilemma of finite man in contacting an infinite being, the God of the Hebrew people chose to reveal personal existence by doing something the myriads of gods of that day could not, and that is to reveal history in advance. By this we would know that Jehovah exists outside of our linear time frame of existence. The Hebrew scripture above is basically saying, "I can prove that I am the one and only living God by telling you what will happen in the future as if it has happened already, for I control it according to my bidding."

Jehovah made this statement to differentiate His existence over the gods the peoples had carved and worshipped. In saying this, the God of the Hebrew people has made a distinction, "Either I am God, or there is none." This rules out the first philosophy mentioned earlier; that all deities worshipped are actually the same God, and when an individual dies, what he sees is his own personal concept of God.

PUTTING GOD'S WORD TO THE TEST

But has history proven Jehovah's foretelling to be true? Was Jehovah specific enough to eliminate the doubt of "fudging" the text? First, one must understand that professional scholars whose very salvation relied on accuracy wrote the Hebrew Scriptures. To tamper with the Word of God within the Tanakh was almost a capitol offense. Besides, each row and column of text had the sum of the number equivalent of each letter noted on the margins, making changes to the script impossible.

All doubt of text alterations was put to rest upon the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. One of the jars of this incredible discovery contained a 2,000-year-old copy of the book of Isaiah. Upon comparison of this scroll with a recent copy, there are virtually no errors, omissions or additions. Since Isaiah wrote the treatise only 680 years before the Dead Sea Scroll copy was penned, even a skeptic can see that the accuracy of the text had been faithfully upheld.

Let us now examine Jehovah's claim by comparing His Word and what is now our history. There are many examples, but I will choose the more detailed prophecies that can be cross-reference in your local library.

THE REGATHERING OF ISRAEL

As a skeptic, it is important to have the ability to cross check the evidence of history (preferably recent history) to prove the validity of a so-called prophecy. A good example of this would be the re-gathering of the nation of Israel back into it's homeland. The skeptic looks at history 100 years ago and can accurately state that no nation, having lost it's country, has ever been reborn. To highlight this point, consider the book *The Coming Prince* written in 1890 by Sir Robert Anderson, a knighted investigator for Scotland Yard. When confronted with prophesies of a reunited Jewish nation, his response was:

...though eighteen centuries have since elapsed, the restoration of the Jews seems still but a chimera of sanguine fanatics.¹

¹ *The Coming Prince* Sir Robert Anderson Chapter 7 paragraph 1

Had Sir Robert Anderson lived but 30 more years after his death in 1918, he would have seen the fulfillment of what he deemed impossible. On May 14th, 1948, Israel had become a nation after it's inhabitants had being scattered throughout the world for 1,878 years. Such an event has never happened before, yet it had been foretold in the Hebrew Scriptures. Here are but a few examples of many such scriptures; compare the text to the historical records:

As I live, says the Lord God, surely with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out, I will rule over you. *I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out.* And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will plead My case with you face to face. Just as I pleaded My case with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will plead My case with you, says the Lord God. I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the country where they sojourn, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord. Ezekiel 20:33-38

It shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time (note: Babylon was the first) to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea. *He will set up a banner for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.* Isaiah 11:11-12

...I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the Lord, says the Lord God, when I am hallowed in you before their eyes. *For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.* Ezekiel 36:23-24

Note that the above three examples would be very difficult to twist into ones own interpretation. It stands on it's own merit as incontrovertible evidence.

THE DYNASTY OF SELUCUS AND PTOLEMY

Within the text of Daniel 11:1-28 can be found precise historical data regarding the rise and reign of the Selucid and Ptolemaic dynasties. Beginning with four kings; Cambyses, Smerdis, Darius and Xerxes, we note the record of Alexander the Great, his succession to four generals including Ptolemy Lagus and Seleucus Nicator. The text continues to chronicle the line from 520 BCE to 170 BCE with Ptolemy VII Physcom and Antiochus IV. The twist to this historic document is that it was written during the first year of the reign of Darius the Mede in 558 BCE, 38 years before the 350-year chronology began! Because of the accuracy of these prophecies, one may assume that it was written after the events occurred. The trouble with this argument is that a copy of Daniel was translated into Greek for the Alexandrian library in 247 BCE.²

A COMING MESSIAH

There is no event more detailed in prophetic text than the coming of the Messiah.³ The trouble with these prophecies is that more than 300 speak of a suffering servant bearing the iniquities of the world⁴, while the other 600 speak of a King coming in glory to rule for ever and ever⁵. How can one person fulfill both roles?

It was not a mystery to the early Hebrew people. The Midrash (commentaries on the Hebrew scriptures that date back to 100 CE) gives a prophetic interpretation to the book of Ruth as follows:

"...at mealtime Boaz said to her, 'Come this way, eat from the bread and dip your morsel in the sour wine.'"

"Come this way,' *refers to King Messiah, 'eat from the bread,' means the bread of royalty, and 'dip your morsel in the sour wine,' refers to the sufferings of the Messiah, as it is written, 'But he was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities'*" (Isaiah 53:5)

"*she sat beside the reapers' means that for a short while the kingship will be snatched away from the Messiah, as it is written, 'for I will gather all nations to Jerusalem to wage war' (Zechariah 14:2), while the passage, 'and he served her roasted grain,' means that the kingship will be restored to him, as it is written, 'He shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth' (Isaiah 11:4)*

Note: Commentary in italics⁶

This commentary shows awareness within Hebrew scholarship that there is to be two major chapters of the Messiah; the first would be the suffering king whose kingship will be taken away; the second being the restored king who will rule over the earth.

² For detailed historic documentation, refer to the study *Literal Prophetic Fulfillment*.

³ Refer to my study *In the Volume of the Book* for a limited list of these prophecies

⁴ Ref. Isaiah 42:1-7; 49:1-6; 50:4-9; Isaiah 52:13-53:12 and Psalm 22

⁵ Ref. Zechariah 9:9-10; Micah 4:1-8; 2 Samuel 7:12-16; and Isaiah 24:23

⁶ Midrash Ruth Rabbah 100 CE - 200 CE

IDENTIFYING THE MESSIAH

Christians and Messianic Jews have studied the 300 prophecies and are convinced of the legitimate claim of Yeshua of Nazareth as being the prophesied Messiah. Even the secular Jewish historian Josephus bears witness to this conclusion.

"Now, there was about this time, Yeshua, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of wonderful works - a teacher of such men as received the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. *He was Christ*; and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principle men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day." ⁷

Though the early rabbinical sources recognized that the Messiah would initially come as a suffering servant, Jewish leaders rejected the man Yeshua of Nazareth due to the fact that He claimed to be God in the flesh.⁸ If this is a false claim, then Yeshua is a liar or lunatic. If Yeshua *is* God in the flesh, then we must apply the same skeptical scrutiny to him as we did with the identity of the living God.⁹

Earlier in this study I noted a scripture from Isaiah that basically said, "I can prove that I am the one and only living God by telling you what will happen in the future as if it has happened already." and by saying this He made the distinction, "Either I am God, or there is none." Yeshua made the same claim by saying,

...I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6

So let us apply the same criteria to the sages, prophets and messiahs to choose from. Buddha of the Hindu religion, Mohammed of Islam and hundreds of others have no way of proving their word is the way to God. Again, these are just forms of religion that again, seek to mold society. No, it is only Yeshua that has proven his claim via prophecy.

⁷ Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews* Chapter III paragraph 3

⁸ Ref. John 8:56-59 and John 10:22-33

⁹ For more detailed historic documentation of this event, refer to my study *The Seventieth Week of Daniel*.

THE FATE OF THE TEMPLE

Of the many prophecies that Yeshua of Nazareth spoke, none can be proven so dramatically as that of the fate of Herod's temple. As Yeshua and his disciples walked into the temple, the disciples began to look in awe at the magnitude and beauty of the structure. But Yeshua revealed to them its destiny.

"Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down."
Matthew 24:2¹⁰

History and visual witness can confirm this unusual prophecy, for against the orders of Titus the Roman army set fire to Herod's temple 40 years later.¹¹ Yet Yeshua said that not one stone will be left upon another; surely fire could not move those huge square stones? It turned out that the fire melted the gold of the temple in-between the stone joints, so in order to harvest and plunder the gold the Romans commanders ordered each stone to be removed and scraped clean of the precious metal. The gleaned stones were then tossed over the side toward the valley of Hinnom. To this day you can walk upon the temple mount in Jerusalem, observe the stones thrown into the valley and say without question that not one stone was left upon another that was not cast down, just as Yeshua had prophesied.

THE ORIGINAL QUESTION

We return now to our original question, "Do all roads lead to God?" Now that the Bible has proven itself to be the Word of God via prophecy, let us see how *it* answers the question.

"Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn by Myself; the word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that to Me *every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath*. He shall say, 'Surely in the Lord I have righteousness and strength. *To Him men shall come, and all shall be ashamed who are incensed against Him*. In the Lord all the descendants of Israel shall be justified, and shall glory.' "
Isaiah 45:22-25

Again, through Isaiah, God has answered the question as, "yes", all roads will eventually lead to Him for *every knee will bow*.

¹⁰ See also Mark 13:2 and Luke 21:6

¹¹ Josephus, *Wars of the Jews* Chapter IV paragraphs 5-7

There is one important caveat, and that is *how* you will be received. For the scripture above presents two camps of individuals; those that are "inside Him" and those that are outside of Him or "incensed against Him". The prophet Daniel confirms this,

And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, *some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt*. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.
Daniel 12:2-3

And again by Isaiah,

"For I know their works and their thoughts. It shall be that *I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and see My glory*. I will set a sign among them; and those among them who escape I will send to the nations... to the coastlands afar off who have not heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles. Then they shall bring all your brethren for an offering to the Lord out of all nations... to My holy mountain Jerusalem," says the Lord, "as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the Lord. And I will also take some of them for priests and Levites," says the Lord. For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me," says the Lord, "So shall your descendants and your name remain.

"And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, *all flesh shall come to worship before Me*," says the Lord.

"And they shall go forth and look upon the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, and their fire is not quenched. they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh." Isaiah 66:18-24

So, by the word given to the prophet Isaiah, all roads will lead to the God of Israel. But those found outside of His protection will be condemned to an eternal consumption.¹² The real concern is not which road gets you to God, but rather which destination you will spend eternity.

¹² For more detail on this consumption, refer to my study *The Veil*.

POLITICALLY INCORRECT

These days, it is fashionable to compromise truth for the sake of peace and "getting along". I shudder to think what might have happened if the allies against Nazi Germany would have thought the same way. Unfortunately, much to their condemnation, the Vatican of Rome sided with the Nazis to preserve their seats of power and closed their eyes and hearts to the slaughter of millions of innocent Jews. Those minority Christians, that did not compromise the truth, desperately tried to save the Jews, and most were condemned to similar fates.¹³

Today, it is politically incorrect to believe in an extricating God or eternal hell, despite what the Hebrew Scriptures teach or what Messiah Yeshua had confirmed. Yet not one of these priests, philosophers, teachers or rabbis could give you any clue as to what will happen in the future with 100% accuracy and confidence. So theirs is a self-manufactured religion with a political and self-gratifying agenda; whether it be Islamic, Hindu, Judaic or even the many sects of Christianity. God is real and has revealed Himself through His Word, the Bible; hell is a real eternal destination for all those who reject the free gift of salvation through the Messiah.¹⁴

FREE WILL

It was once asked of me, "...if Christianity is the way to God, then why are there so many churches at odds with each other?"

"Churches are not the way to God, neither is Christianity," I replied, "The way to God is through the atoning death of Yeshua; it is a personal decision and walk between you and the living God.

As for the many churches, this is a natural occurrence as each of us strives to be good people. Some churches use their doctrine to allow the layman to work their way to heaven, which is a lot like trying to build a tram to the moon; it just wouldn't work. We will not stand before God as a church; we will stand before God individually; accountable for what we knew and how we respond.

This study has added to your knowledge of God; His Messiah and His Word; it is now your choice of whether to act upon this knowledge, or reject the facts presented. The free will choice is yours and will not be foisted upon.

Sing to the Lord, bless His name;
Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.
Declare His glory among the nations,
His wonders among all peoples.
For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised;
He is to be feared above all gods.
*For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
But the Lord made the heavens.*
Psalm 96:2-5

¹³ Refer to *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom and records of the *Avenue of the Righteous* -Yad Vashem, Israel

¹⁴ Refer again to John 14:6 and John 3:16