

Persuasive Faith Suggested Readings (2020-21)

Content Level: • = Not difficult •• = Takes a little work ••• = Challenging

Title	Author	Content	TBC call #	•••?
General Apologetics				
• <i>Apologetics for a New Generation</i>	Sean McDowell	Answering the questions of the emerging generations.		••
• <i>Beyond Opinion</i>	Ravi Zacharias	Apologetics with Christian character.		••
• <i>Case For Faith, The</i>	Lee Strobel	Evidences for the Christian faith.	239. STR	•
• <i>Contending with Christianity's Critics</i>	William Lane Craig, Paul Copan	Answering the New Atheists.		•••
• <i>Christianity and Liberalism</i>	J. Gresham Machen	Defense of orthodox Christianity against religious liberalism (a classic, over 90 years old)		••
• <i>Everlasting Man, The</i>	G. K. Chesterton	General apologetics, history (a classic).		•
• <i>Five Sacred Crossings</i>	Craig J. Hazen	A short novel. A professor takes his class on a fascinating journey and in the process demonstrates the uniqueness of Christianity.		•
• <i>Five Views On Apologetics</i>	Steven Cowan, Stanley Gundry	Different views on doing apologetics		••
• <i>Fool's Talk</i>	Os Guinness	Recovering the art of Christian persuasion in apologetics.		•
• <i>Francis Schaeffer Trilogy</i>	Francis Schaeffer	Christianity vs. the culture. Includes his three classics: <i>The God Who is There</i> , <i>Escape from Reason</i> , and <i>He is There and He Is Not Silent</i> .		••
• <i>God Conversation, The</i>	Moreland, Muehlhoff	Using stories and illustrations to explain and defend your faith.		•
• <i>God is Great, God is Good</i>	ed. by Craig & Meister	General Apologetics, assorted essays by various authors		•
• <i>Habits of the Mind</i>	James Sire	The Christian's life of the mind.		••
• <i>Love God With All Your Mind</i>	J. P. Moreland	The importance of using our minds both in sharing Christ and spiritual growth.		•
• <i>Mere Christianity</i>	C. S. Lewis	General apologetics (a classic)	230. LEW	•
• <i>Nothing But The Truth</i>	John MacArthur	"How to" apologetics	248.5 MAC	•
• <i>On Guard</i>	William L. Craig	General apologetics		••
• <i>Prophetic Untimeliness</i>	Os Guinness	Christian integrity and relevance		••
• <i>Reason for God, The</i>	Tim Keller	General Apologetics		••
• <i>Reasonable Faith</i>	William L. Craig	Covers a range of apologetic questions. Advanced.		•••

• <i>Reasons We Believe</i>	Nathan Busenitz, John MacArthur	General Apologetics		••
• <i>Tactics: A Game Plan For Discussing Your Christian Convictions</i>	Greg Koukl	How to share your faith with others. Not specifically apologetics, but his method easily leads to apologetic like discussions.		•
• <i>Ten Most Common Objections to Christianity, The</i>	Alex McFarland	General Apologetics		••
• <i>Think</i>	John Piper	The Christian’s life of the mind		••
• <i>To Everyone an Answer</i>	ed. by Beckwith, Craig, Moreland	General apologetics		•
• <i>Truth Matters</i>	Andreas Kostenberger, Darrell Bock	Apologetics for young people		•
• <i>Unshakable Foundations</i>	Geisler, Bocchino	General apologetics	239. GEI	•
• <i>Whatever Happened To Truth?</i>	Adreas Kostenberger	The Christian’s life of the mind		••
• <i>When Skeptics Ask</i>	Geisler, Brooks	General Apologetics	239. GEI	••

Philosophical Issues

• <i>Atheism Remix</i>	R. Albert Mohler, Jr.	An analysis of the “new atheism” and a thoughtful response. Clear. Concise.		•
• <i>Body and Soul</i>	J. P. Moreland and Scott Rae	The nature of humanness (de we have souls?) and how we view it influences contemporary ethics.		•••
• <i>Consequence of Ideas, The</i>	R. C. Sproul	History, Philosophy, Worldviews	190. SPR	••
• <i>Contending with Christianity’s Critics</i>	William Lane Craig, Paul Copan	Answering the New Atheists		•••
• <i>Creation out of Nothing</i>	Copan, Craig	Defense of <i>ex nihilo</i> creation biblically, philosophically, scientifically		•••
• <i>Dawkins Delusion?, The</i>	A. & J. McGrath	Answering Dawkins’ <i>God Delusion</i>	211.8 MCG	••
• <i>Existence of God, The</i>	Richard Swinburne	Philosophical arguments for the existence of God		•••
• <i>Francis Schaeffer Trilogy</i>	Francis Schaeffer	Christianity vs. the culture. Includes his three classics: <i>The God Who is There</i> , <i>Escape from Reason</i> , and <i>He is There and He Is Not Silent</i>		••
• <i>Future of Atheism, The</i>	Ed. by Robert Stewart	Atheists and Christians dialog on atheism, its status and its future.		••
• <i>God, Freedom, and Evil</i>	Alvin Plantinga	Problem of Evil, human freedom		•••
• <i>God’s Philosophers</i>	James Hannam	The role of Christian faith during the middle ages in philosophy and science		••
• <i>Gunning for God</i>	John Lennox	Answering the New Atheists		••
• <i>He Is There and He Is Not Silent</i>	Francis Schaeffer	The necessity of God’s being there	201. SCH	••
• <i>I Don’t Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist</i>	Norman Geisler, Frank Turek	Theism vs. Atheism	239. GEI	••
• <i>If God is Good</i>	Randy Alcorn	The problem of evil	231.8 ALC	••

• <i>Mind and Cosmos</i>	Thomas Nagel	Atheist author challenges the neo-Darwinian ability to explain consciousness, cognition, and values	•••
• <i>Philosophers Who Believe</i>	ed. by Kelly Clark	Personal testimonies of leading modern philosophers who believe in God.	•
• <i>Stealing From God</i>	Frank Turek	Analyzing atheist arguments in five areas.	239. TUR •
• <i>There Is A God</i>	Anthony Flew	Renowned philosopher and former leading atheist argues for the existence of God.	••
• <i>Where the Conflict Really Lies</i>	Alvin Plantinga	The mind and reason in theism vs. naturalism.	••

Worldviews

• <i>Atheism Remix</i>	R. Albert Mohler, Jr.	An analysis of the “new atheism” and a thoughtful response. Clear. Concise.	•
• <i>Between Heaven and Hell</i>	Peter Kreeft	A fictional after-death dialogue between John Kennedy, C. S. Lewis, and Aldous Huxley, all of who died on the same day.	•
• <i>Beyond All Earthly Powers</i>	David Wells	American culture and postmodernism.	•••
• <i>Bible and Homosexual Practice: Text and Hermeneutics, The</i>	Robert Gagnon	The Bible and homosexuality (a interpretive study of the relevant biblical texts)	•••
• <i>Consequence of Ideas, The</i>	R. C. Sproul	History of philosophy and worldviews.	190. SPR ••
• <i>Francis Schaeffer Trilogy</i>	Francis Schaeffer	Christianity vs. the culture. Includes his three classics: <i>The God Who is There</i> , <i>Escape from Reason</i> , and <i>He is There and He Is Not Silent</i> .	••
• <i>Future of Atheism, The</i>	Ed. by Robert Stewart	Atheists and Christians dialog on atheism, its status and its future.	••
• <i>Grand Central Question</i>	Abdu Murray	Worldviews	•
• <i>I Don't Have Enough Faith to be and Atheist</i>	Norman Geisler, Frank Turek	Theism vs. Atheism.	239. GEI ••
• <i>Jesus Among Secular Gods</i>	Ravi Zacharias and Vince Vitale	Contrasts the claims of Christ and Christianity against today's alternate worldviews.	•
• <i>Jesus in an Age of Controversy</i>	Douglas Groothuis	Answering New Age views about Jesus.	••
• <i>Lotus and the Cross, The</i>	Ravi Zacharias	Imaginary conversation between Jesus and Buddha exploring the difference of their teachings and their implications.	•
• <i>Making of the New Spirituality, The</i>	James Herrick	New Spirituality, New Age, etc.	••
• <i>Neighboring Faiths, 2nd ed.</i>	Winfried Corduan	A Christian introduction to world religions.	••
• <i>Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus</i>	Nabeel Qureshi	Islam/Christianity.	•
• <i>Universe Next Door, The</i>	James Sire	Worldviews	230. SIR ••
• <i>Unmasking the New Age</i>	Douglas Groothuis	The New Age in American society.	291. GRO •
• <i>What's Your Worldview?</i>	James Anderson	Worldviews, interactive format.	•

Issues from Science

• <i>40 Questions About Creation and Evolution</i>	Keathley, Rooker	A balanced assessment of the scientific and biblical issues related to the questions of science and creation.		••
• <i>Case For A Creator, The</i>	Lee Strobel	Evolution, creation	213. STR	•
• <i>Creation out of Nothing</i>	Copan, Craig	Defense of <i>ex nihilo</i> creation biblically, philosophically, scientifically		•••
• <i>Darwin Devolves</i>	Michael Behe	Demonstrates that Darwinism only works through devolution, not evolution.		••
• <i>Darwin's Conservatives</i>	John West	Examines leading conservatives who are strong proponents of Darwinism, and the fundamental flaws in their arguments.		•
• <i>Darwin's Doubt</i>	Stephen Meyer	Science, the Cambrian Explosion, evolution, intelligent design		••
• <i>Darwin's House of Cards</i>	Tom Bethel	History of the evolution debate reveals fundamental flaws in Darwinian evolution.		•
• <i>Dawkins Delusion?, The</i>	A. & J. McGrath	Answering Dawkins' <i>God Delusion</i>	211.8 MCG	••
• <i>Design of Life, The</i>	Dembski, Wells	Beautifully done and illustrated argument for intelligent design in living things.		••
• <i>Design Revolution, The</i>	William Dembski	Science, Intelligent Design (ID)	213. DEM	•••
• <i>Devil's Delusion, The</i>	David Berlinski	Answering evolution and Naturalism	211. BER	••
• <i>God and Stephen Hawking</i>	John Lennox	Answering Stephen Hawking on science and belief in God		•
• <i>God's Philosophers</i>	James Hannam	The role of Christian faith during the middle ages in philosophy and science		••
• <i>God's Undertaker</i>	John Lennox	Has science buried God?		••
• <i>Heretic</i>	Leisola & Witt	One scientist's journey from Darwin to design.		••
• <i>Icons of Evolution</i>	Jonathan Wells	Reveals that many textbook examples that supposedly prove Darwinian evolution simply don't.		••
• <i>Improbable Planet</i>	Hugh Ross	Explores the improbable process by which earth became life sustaining. (Old earth creationist view.)		••
• <i>Mind and Cosmos</i>	Thomas Nagel	Atheist author challenges the neo-Darwinian ability to explain consciousness, cognition, and values		•••
• <i>Miracles</i>	Eric Metaxas	What miracles are. Why they happen. Numerous contemporary examples.		•
• <i>Miracles (2 vol.)</i>	Craig Keener	Definitive scholarly study of miracles. Answers David Hume's anti-supernaturalism. Hundreds of examples.		••
• <i>Mystery of Life's Origin</i>	Thaxton, et. al.	Recently updated and expanded version of a classic work on life's origins and the ongoing controversies.		•••
• <i>Privileged Planet, The</i>	Gonzalez & Richards	Is the earth a meaningless speck in the vast cosmos, or is it an astonishingly unique planet designed for life and discovery?		••
• <i>Reasonable Faith</i>	William L. Craig	General apologetics		•••

• <i>Return of the God Hypothesis</i>	Stephen Meyer	Increasing scientific evidence for the existence of God. (coming in April 2020)	••
• <i>Science and Human Origins</i>	Gauger, Axe, & Luskin	Examines scientific evidence regarding the unique origin of human beings.	•••
• <i>Signature in the Cell</i>	Stephen Meyer	DNA and the evidence for intelligent design.	••
• <i>Theistic Evolution</i>	Ed. by Moreland, Meyer, Shaw, Gauger, Grudem	A thorough scientific, philosophical, and theological critique of theistic evolution.	•••
• <i>There Is A God</i>	Anthony Flew	Renowned philosopher and former leading atheist argues for the existence of God.	••
• <i>Unbelievable</i>	Michael Keyes	Examines myths about the history and future of science and religion.	•
• <i>Undeniable</i>	Douglas Axe	How biology confirms our intuition that life is designed.	••
• <i>Zombie Science</i>	Jonathan Wells	Sequel to his <i>Icons of Evolution</i> . Discusses Darwinism's bogus icons cited as evidence of evolution.	••

The Bible

• <i>Bible Among the Myths, The</i>	John Oswalt	How the bible differs from pagan mythology	••
• <i>Biblical Archaeology</i>	David E. Graves	An introduction to biblical archaeology with recent discoveries.	••
• <i>Cold Case Christianity</i>	J. Warner Wallace	Credibility of the New Testament	• 239. WAL
• <i>Creation out of Nothing</i>	Copan, Craig	Defense of <i>ex nihilo</i> creation biblically, philosophically, scientifically	•••
• <i>Did God Really Command Genocide?</i>	Paul Copan & Matthew Flannagan	Examining difficult Old Testament texts commanding killings	••
• <i>Heresy of Orthodoxy, The</i>	Köstenberger, Kruger	The beliefs of the earliest Christians. Orthodox beliefs vs. heresy.	••
• <i>In Defense of the Bible</i>	ed. by. Cowan and Wilder	A collection of essays by various scholars on 17 different questions about the trustworthiness of the Bible.	••
• <i>Jesus and the Eyewitnesses</i>	Richard Baukham	Evidence that the Gospels contain eyewitness testimony.	••
• <i>Miracles (2 vol.)</i>	Craig Keener	Definitive scholarly study of miracles. Answers David Hume's anti-supernaturalism. Hundreds of examples.	••
• <i>New Testament Documents, Are They Reliable</i>	F. F. Bruce	Can we trust the New Testament documents? A classic.	•
• <i>On the Reliability of the Old Testament</i>	K. A. Ktichen	Exhaustive academic study of the historical evidences supporting the O. T. from before Methuselah to the Post-exilic period.	•••
• <i>Popular Handbook of Archaeology, The</i>	Holden, Geisler	Archaeological finds that confirm the reliability of the bible.	

Historical Issues

• <i>Atheist Delusions</i>	David Hart	Answering misrepresentations of Christian influence through history	••
• <i>Bible Among the Myths, The</i>	John Oswalt	How the bible differs from pagan mythology	••

• <i>Defending Constantine</i>	Peter Leithart	The conversion, policies, and influence of first Christian emperor. Correcting misrepresentations	••
• <i>Destroyer of the gods</i>	Larry W. Hurtado	How early Christian distinctives contrasted with paganism and eventually overcame it.	•
• <i>Did God Really Command Genocide?</i>	Paul Copan & Matthew Flannagan	Examining difficult Old Testament texts commanding killings	••
• <i>Everlasting Man, The</i>	G. K. Chesterton	General apologetics, history (a classic)	•
• <i>God's Battalions</i>	Rodney Stark	The Crusades, getting the story straight	••
• <i>God's Philosophers</i>	James Hannam	The role of Christian faith during the middle ages in philosophy and science	••
• <i>Heresy of Orthodoxy, The</i>	Köstenberger, Kruger	The beliefs of the earliest Christians. Orthodox beliefs vs. heresy.	••
• <i>How The West Won</i>	Rodney Stark	Christian influence on Western civilization, correcting errors	••
• <i>In the Beginning God</i>	Winfried Corduan	Compelling evidence that monotheism preceded other, so-called primitive belief systems	••
• <i>Is God a Moral Monster: Making Sense of the Old Testament God</i>	Paul Copan	Misunderstandings about the God of the Old Testament	••
• <i>Triumph of Christianity, The</i>	Rodney Stark	How a small Jewish sect became the largest religion in the world. The trajectory of Christian history.	••
• <i>Unbelievable</i>	Michael Keyes	Examines myths about the history and future of science and religion.	•

Life and Death of Jesus

• <i>Atonement and the Death of Christ</i>	William Lane Craig	Addresses contemporary challenges to the historic Christian view of the substitutionary death of Jesus.	•••
• <i>Bible Among the Myths, The</i>	John Oswalt	How the bible differs from pagan mythology	••
• <i>Case for Christ, The</i>	Lee Strobel	Historical evidences for Jesus	232.9. STR •
• <i>Case for the Real Jesus, The</i>	Lee Strobel	Answering false ideas about the Jesus of history.	•
• <i>Cold Case Christianity</i>	J. Warner Wallace	Credibility of the New Testament	239. WAL •
• <i>Crucifixion</i>	Martin Hengel	Crucifixion in history. The “scandal of the cross.”	•
• <i>Fabricating Jesus</i>	Craig A. Evans	How modern scholars distort the Gospels and the record of Jesus.	••
• <i>Heresy of Orthodoxy, The</i>	Köstenberger, Kruger	The beliefs of the earliest Christians. Orthodox beliefs vs. heresy.	••
• <i>Historical Reliability of John's Gospel</i>	Craig Blomberg	A thoroughgoing, almost verse by verse, defense of the historical reliability of John's gospel, a reliability that has often been dismissed by scholars.	•••
• <i>Jesus and the Eyewitnesses</i>	Richard Baukham	Evidence that the Gospels contain eyewitness testimony. Some controversial positions.	••
• <i>Jesus in an Age of Controversy</i>	Douglas Groothuis	Answering New Age views about Jesus	••
• <i>Lotus and the Cross, The</i>	Ravi Zacharias	Imaginary conversation between Jesus and Buddha	•

• <i>New Testament Documents, Are They Reliable</i>	F. F. Bruce	Can we trust the New Testament documents? A classic.	•
• <i>Was Jesus God?</i>	Richard Swinburne	Arguments and evidence for the deity of Jesus.	••

Resurrection

• <i>Case for Easter, The</i>	Lee Strobel	A journalist investigates the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus	
• <i>Cold Case Christianity</i>	J. Warner Wallace	Credibility of the New Testament	239. WAL •
• <i>Jesus and the Eyewitnesses</i>	Richard Baukham	Evidence that the Gospels contain eyewitness testimony. Some controversial positions.	••
• <i>New Testament Documents, Are They Reliable</i>	F. F. Bruce	Can we trust the New Testament documents? A classic.	•
• <i>Resurrection of Jesus, The</i>	Michael Licona	Definitive historiographical examination of the resurrection. (A “minimal facts” defense.)	•••
• <i>Resurrection of the Son of God, The</i>	N. T. Wright	Definitive work on the historicity of the resurrection of Jesus. Beliefs about resurrection in ancient world.	•••
• <i>Who Moved the Stone?</i>	Frank Morrison	A skeptic set out to disprove the resurrection of Jesus, and gets surprised	•

Apologetics Reference Tools

Title	Author	Description
• <i>Apologetics Study Bible</i>	Holman Bible Staff	Full text of the HCS Bible with many articles and notes related to apologetics by leading apologists.
• <i>Baker Encyclopedia of Apologetics</i>	Norman Geisler	Comprehensive reference volume on all aspects of apologetics.
• <i>Blackwell Companion To Natural Theology</i>	ed. by J. P. Moreland & William Lane Craig	A collection of essays by leading minds on issues related to natural theology. Answers arguments from the “New Atheists.” (very advanced material).
• <i>Handbook of Christian Apologetics</i>	Peter Kreeft, Ronald Tacelli	Concise handbook covering a range of apologetic issues.
• <i>In Defense of the Bible</i>	ed. by Cowan and Wilder	A collection of essays by various scholars on 17 different questions about the trustworthiness of the Bible.
• <i>Neighboring Faiths</i>	Winfried Corduan	A Christian introduction to world religions. Expansive. Encyclopedic.
• <i>New Evidence that Demands a Verdict, The</i>	Josh McDowell	Updated version of McDowell’s classic encyclopedia-like work on apologetics.
• <i>Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview (2nd edition)</i>	J. P. Moreland, William Lane Craig	Collegiate level Christian textbook on introductory philosophy.