

Introduction**What is a worldview?**

A worldview is a commitment, a fundamental orientation of the heart, that can be expressed as a story or in a set of assumptions which may be true, partially true or entirely false that we hold consciously or subconsciously, consistently, or inconsistently about the basic makeup of reality, and provides the foundation on which we live and move and have our being" - James Shire

Our view of politics, culture, the economy, capitalism or socialism, war and peace etc. are part of our overall view of the world but worldview in this context is more foundational.

"A worldview is forged out of beliefs that have the most consequence for a comprehensive vision of reality." -Douglas Groothuis, Christian Apologetics, InterVarsity Press.

A person's worldview in this context must answer the following questions:

1. What is the prime or first reality?
2. What is the nature of the world around us?
3. What is a human being?
4. What happens to a person when they die?
5. How is it we can be certain of or know anything at all?
6. How do we know right from wrong? Can we even know right from wrong?
7. What is the meaning of history?
8. Who or what or is there an ultimate authority about these things?

How we consciously or subconsciously answer these questions greatly impacts what we believe about all other issues in our worldview and the decisions we will make in life. It will also impact our ability to live reasonably happy! To not live within the realm of reality is both dangerous and depressing. One must make truth claims to answer the questions. Someone may answer by saying, "there is not objective truth." However, we must note that this statement is in fact a truth claim.

A worldview is only viable if it is

1. Consistent within itself.
2. Consistent with human experience and the measurable facts of history, nature, and the universe.
3. Is practical, subjectively satisfactory and livable.

This study is titled "A Biblical Worldview" and so our focus will be on how the Bible answers these questions. So we are immediately faced with question 8. "Who or what or is there even an ultimate authority? One who claims to hold to a Biblical Worldview believes that the Bible has the authority to answer these questions. It doesn't mean all Christians will agree about all things, but they will answer these questions (and many others) similarly.

The Bible makes truth claims about itself and they are linked to the creator God himself. 2 Tim. 3:14-17; 2 Pet. 2:1-20,21; Ps.19:7-8.

Introduction

Let us begin with the statement that "...all scripture is god-breathed". This is relevant to the first chapter in Genesis. The Bible states of itself that it has been spoken by God and the world was created by the spoken word of God.

Genesis 1:1-3 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

The Bible starts with the most fundamental of questions. And answers them. There is a beginning to the created world. And before that beginning of the created world, God (HEBREW. Elohim) was there. The word "God" appears 3991 times in the Bible (Hebrew and Greek). 81 times in the first 9 chapters of Genesis alone. This book is about HIM.

In the context of the entire Bible the Creator God is set in contrast with all the other "god's" people worship. This is the true God, the one who does have authority in every way over the creation- and will be the God, who is the primary focus throughout the Bible and all history. Why? Because He created it!

What is the Prime Reality? What is the first reality for the one who has a biblical worldview? **The primary or first reality of all things is GOD.** This is where all things begin and end. **Rev. 22:13** He has authority over the universe because he created it- in the beginning, which means there is a story that accompanies his creation it is HIS-STORY.

Created: Bara': Can refer to creating from nothing as well as reforming existing materials. God is the only one who created from nothing. Humans create by reforming materials already in existence. This separates people from God.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

The creation then, because it could not exist without God's action and providential care, is therefore accountable to God. He (and his word) is the ultimate authority. God is one with HIS Word. It is important to note, that it was by HIS word, that the heavens and earth were created.

Genesis 1:3 And God said, "Let there be..."

The ultimate question for humanity is: Who is in authority? It was the heart of the first temptation of Adam and Eve from Satan. Genesis 3:1-5 Satan questioned God's authority leading Adam and Eve to question it- and all humankind fell for the deception that they could live autonomously from the one who wonderfully created them. -Multitudes are falling for it today.

The Word authority appears 81 times in the NT- and nearly every time it is speaking of the authority of Jesus. Under what authority are you living your life? Ultimately, all will come under the authority of Jesus the Christ. Phil 2:10-11; Rom. 10:9-11