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**The Biblical Basis**

- There is a Spiritual War that is Taking Place
- There are Reasons for our Faith/We have a Reasonable Faith
- There are Clear Commands in the Bible Telling us to Defend our Faith

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**The Biblical Basis: OT**

- The Creation Account in Genesis 1
  - "In The beginning, God created the heavens and the earth..."
  - *Bara*: to make something that has not been in existence before.

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### The Biblical Basis: OT

#### ● Mesopotamian Creation Account(s)

- Divine spirit and cosmic matter are coexistent and coeternal.
- Creation began as a cosmic struggle between order and chaos.

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### The Biblical Basis: OT

#### ● Egyptian Creation Account(s)

- Life originated from preexistent primordial waters (Nun).
- Hills appeared in these waters and upon one of them the creator-god Re (or Ra) came into being through an act of self-generation.

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### The Biblical Basis: OT

- Re brought order out of chaos by taking control of the eight preexistent gods.
- Re created the other gods by naming parts of his body or by spitting or sneezing them out.

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### The Biblical Basis: OT

"Genesis 1 sits in stark contrast to that dark mythological polytheism. The Biblical account has as its chief purpose to glorify the one Creator God who is the sole God of all reality."

-John D. Currid, *Against the Gods*, 46

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### The Biblical Basis: OT

- The Conflict with Pharaoh in Exodus 5-14

- The Use of Rods (7:8-13)

-The staff of Pharaoh in ancient Egypt was emblematic of royalty, power and authority.

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### The Biblical Basis

-Egyptians also believed that magicians' rods were charged with superhuman strength.

-The snake was also a symbol that represented Pharaoh's sovereignty and was affixed to the front of his hat.

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### The Biblical Basis: OT

"What the rod confrontation portrays is a heavenly combat—a war between the God of Hebrews and the deities of Egypt. For the biblical writer, the whole episode of Israel in Egypt was a matter of theology. It was a question of who was the one true God, who was sovereign over the operation of the universe and whose will was to come to pass in heaven and upon earth."

-John D Currid, Against the Gods, 118

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### The Biblical Basis: OT

- Elijah confronts Ahab on Mt. Carmel 1 Kings 18
- Three years earlier in 1 Kings 17:1Elijah predicted a drought.
- Mt. Carmel means the garden or orchard of God.

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### The Biblical Basis: OT

- Baal was the head god in the Canaanite pantheon and was known primarily as the storm god.
- Asherah was a fertility goddess and consort of Baal.
- Jezebel means chaste.

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### The Biblical Basis: OT

1 Kings 18:38-39

"Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "*The LORD, he is God; The LORD, he is God.*"

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### The Biblical Basis: OT

-Elijah means the LORD is God.  
-1 Kings 18:41 Elijah predicts it is going to rain again.

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### The Biblical Basis: OT

- o Tests for False/True Prophets Deuteronomy 13:1-5 & 18:20
- o God as the Only Source of Salvation Isaiah 1:18
- o Supremacy of God and the Futility of Idols Isaiah 40—45 and Jeremiah 10:1-16

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### The Biblical Basis: NT

- 26 out of the 27 books of the NT speak about apologetics (defending the faith, using discernment, warnings concerning false teachers, etc.)

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### The Biblical Basis: NT

Matthew 22:29  
"But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God."

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### The Biblical Basis: NT

1 Peter 3:15  
"But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect."

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### The Biblical Basis: NT

Jude 3

"Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for al delivered to the saints."

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### The Biblical Basis: NT

2 Corinthians 10:5

"We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God and take every thought captive to obey Christ"

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### The Biblical Basis: NT

● Paul in Athens Acts 17:16-34

-He is Proclaiming the Gospel.

-With the Jews and the Devout he used the Bible (17:2, 10-11, & 17).

-With the Philosophers he used Creation and Culture (17:16, 22ff, & 28).

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### The Biblical Basis: NT

-He clearly condemns their false religions and beliefs.

~Vs. 22 "Very Religious" or "Very Superstitious"

~Vs. 23 & 30 they are Ignorant

~Vs. 27 "Feel their way" implies spiritual blindness and inability

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### The Biblical Basis: NT

-He Gives a Firm Gospel Presentation (17:30-34).

~Vs. 30-31 They will be Judged

~Vs. 30 He Calls them to Repent

~Vs. 18 & 31-32 He focuses on the Resurrection

-Some Believed (17:34).

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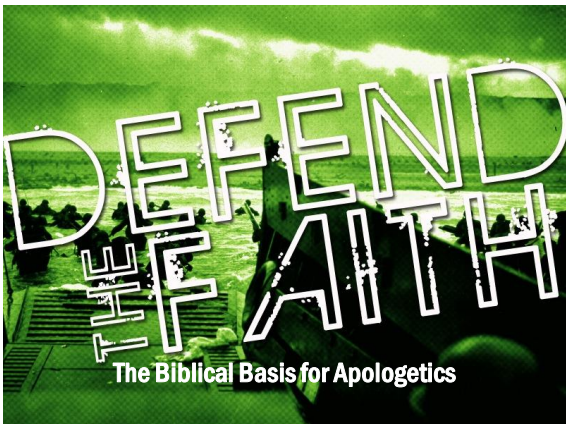
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