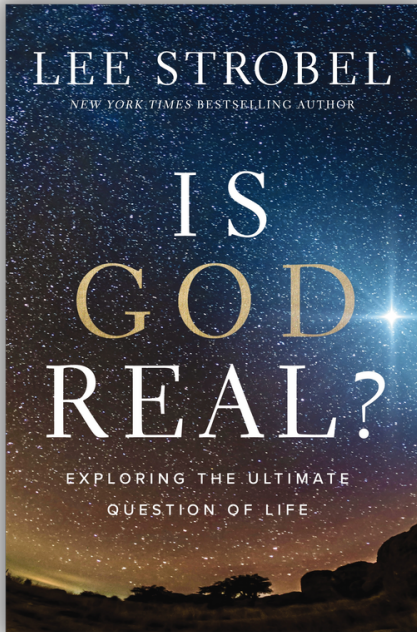


IS GOD REAL?

New York Times Bestselling Author Lee Strobel Names Top Two Objections to Belief in God, Asks Experts to Make a Case for Belief
Coming October 31, 2023 – *Is God Real? Exploring the Ultimate Question of Life*



Grand Rapids, Michigan (July 17, 2023) – More than 200 times a second, around the clock, someone is asking an online search engine about God -- often with the simple inquiry, “Is God real?” Google answers that query with 3.7 billion results in two-thirds of a second. New York Times bestselling author Lee Strobel offers a more digestible and authoritative reply to this divine question in *Is God Real? Exploring the Ultimate Question of Life* (Zondervan, October 31, 2023). Strobel’s new book takes readers on a quest to determine whether humanity can know if God is real.

“Let me take you on a stimulating journey of discovery,” writes Strobel in the book’s introduction. “You’ll meet some of the scholars I have interviewed about whether God is real. We’ll look at science, philosophy, history, morality, and human nature – and we’ll examine two of the biggest obstacles to belief in God. Let these experts make their best case, then you decide, is God real?”

Investigative journalist and former atheist Lee Strobel has crafted *Is God Real?* for skeptics and believers alike. Covering a range of questions and featuring a broad scope of scholars and experts, Strobel offers a rational exploration of proof for God’s existence. This new book tackles questions such as: If God is real, why is there so much suffering? If God is real, why does he seem so hidden? Do scientific findings support the claim that God is real? How can we know which God is real? If God is real, what difference does it make?

Lee Strobel’s landmark book, *The Case for Christ*, is one of the most respected defenses of Christianity of all time, selling more than five million copies. Now, in *Is God Real?*, Strobel weaves together the latest evidence from brilliant scientific and philosophical minds alongside material from his previous books to present an authoritative and thorough response to humanity’s most basic spiritual question. Chapters include:

- ▶ If God is Real, Why Is There Suffering? - *Interview with Dr. Peter Kreeft*
- ▶ If God is Real, Why is He So Hidden? - *Interview with Kenneth Samples*
- ▶ The Cosmos Requires a Creator - *Interview with Dr. William Lane Craig*
- ▶ The Universe Reflects a Fine-Tuner - *Interview with Dr. Michael Strauss*
- ▶ Our DNA Demands a Designer - *Interview with Dr. Stephen Meyer*
- ▶ Easter Shows Jesus is God - *Interview with Dr. Michael Licona*
- ▶ Experiencing God - *Interview with Dr. Douglas Groothuis*
- ▶ Which God is Real? - *Interview with Dr. Chad Meister*

**Let these experts
make their best case,
then you decide, is
God real?**

Press Release

“*Is God Real?* may be Lee Strobel’s best book yet,” writes J.P. Moreland, distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Talbot School of Theology (Biola University). “It focuses on the most fundamental topics a human being can ask, including *Is there a God and a purpose to life?* I urge atheists, Christians, and members of other religions to read this book.”

Zondervan’s expansive marketing plan for the launch of *Is God Real?* includes digital advertising, retail partnerships, social media promotions, and a national publicity campaign. Lee Strobel is available for interview and will be speaking at churches and conferences across the U.S. this fall.

About Lee Strobel



Lee Strobel, former award-winning legal editor of the *Chicago Tribune*, is a *New York Times* bestselling author whose books have sold millions of copies worldwide. Lee earned a journalism degree at the University of Missouri and was awarded a Ford Foundation fellowship to study at Yale Law School, where he received a Master of Studies in Law degree. He was a journalist for fourteen years at the *Chicago Tribune* and other newspapers, winning Illinois’ top honors for investigative reporting (which he shared with a team he led) and public service journalism from United Press International. Lee also taught First Amendment Law at Roosevelt University. A former atheist, he served as a teaching pastor at three of America’s largest churches. Today he’s founding director of the Lee Strobel Center for Evangelism and Applied Apologetics at Colorado Christian University. Lee and his wife, Leslie, have been married for more than fifty years and live in Texas. Their daughter, Alison, and son, Kyle, are also authors. www.LeeStrobel.com



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Is God Real? Exploring the Ultimate Question of Life

By Lee Strobel

Available from October 31, 2023, from Zondervan

ISBN-13: 978-0310367871 • Hardcover • Price: US \$28.99 • 256 pages • www.isgodrealbook.com

Review copies and interviews are available: 615-294-5073, pamela@mmpublicrelations.com

Suggested Interview Questions

“Is God Real? Join me on a journey of discovery to meet scholars who help us look at science, philosophy, history, morality, and human nature. We’ll even examine two of the biggest obstacles to belief in God. Consider the evidence. Then you decide.”

- Lee Strobel

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- ▶ Lee, I understand your new book, *Is God Real?*, came about differently than your previous books. How so?
 - ▶ Fewer Americans believe in God today than ever before. According to Gallup, belief in God is now down to 81 percent, compared to 98 percent in 1967. Why do you think belief has declined?
 - ▶ Some people believe that science contradicts Christianity, but your book describes scientific discoveries over the past half century that point in the direction of a Creator. What are those discoveries? How persuasive are they?
 - ▶ If you had to summarize the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus in 60 seconds, what would you say?
 - ▶ Your new book dedicates a full chapter to the profound experiences with God that have led some people to faith. Can you describe one of those to us now?
 - ▶ The number one objection to God is *if he is real, why is there suffering in the world?* How do you respond to that question?
 - ▶ Some people object to belief in God because they believe God is too hidden. If God were real, they posit, then God would make his existence more obvious to people. How do you respond to that?
 - ▶ Your book includes what’s called the Apologetics Pyramid. What is it, and how does it point toward Christianity being true?
 - ▶ You’ve written a number of books on the evidence for Christianity. Do you ever wrestle with doubts yourself?
 - ▶ Tell us about the Lee Strobel Center for Evangelism and Applied Apologetics at Colorado Christian University. What are you trying to accomplish there?
 - ▶ Christmas will be here before long. Is this new book, *Is God Real?*, appropriate for gifting to a spiritually curious friend or relative?

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“I can live without being omniscient. I don’t need to know everything. But I can’t live without knowing whether God is real. If God is not real, then ultimately *nothing* matters. If God is real, then *everything* matters. Every thought. Every word. Every action. Like a world-class defense attorney, Lee Strobel makes another solid case not only for the reality of God but also for how to become his friend. Don’t miss these precise, succinct, and powerful proofs that demonstrate God is real!”

- **Kirk Cameron**, Actor and filmmaker, founder of American Campfire Revival

“*Is God Real?* is vintage Lee Strobel. His books are always clear, interesting, and chock-full of ideas, and they do not dodge the tough questions for which people need answers. *Is God Real?* may be his best book yet. It focuses on the most fundamental topics a human being can ask: Is there a God and a purpose to life? If so, what is God like? How do we really know that our answers to these questions are true and reasonable? Moreover, Strobel’s selection of expert interviewees could not be improved on. I urge atheists, Christians, and members of other religions to read this book. It is so good that intellectual honesty requires it.”

- **J.P. Moreland**, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, Talbot School of Theology, Biola University

“Lee Strobel has encouraged and challenged skeptic and believer alike for years now through his intriguing and insightful books. In *Is God Real?* he’s done it again. Believers will be encouraged in their faith, while skeptics will be invited into faith.”

- **Dr. Derwin L. Gray**, Co-founder and Lead Pastor of Transformation Church (South Carolina)

“*Is God Real?* is profoundly edifying and encouraging! Lee Strobel’s signature journalistic style shines as he interviews several experts in fields ranging from science to history to biblical scholarship. He covers some of the most difficult questions surrounding the existence of God and the truthfulness of Christianity with exceptional ease and accessibility. For a culture of doubt and deconstruction, this book is a breath of fresh air.”

- **Alisa Childers**, podcast host, author of *Another Gospel* and *Live Your Truth and Other Lies*

“Lee Strobel has done it again. Through asking insightful questions and telling captivating stories, he takes readers through a step-by-step process of examining the evidence for Christianity. *Is God Real?* is perfect for both seekers willing to explore the big questions of life and believers wanting to understand the reasonable foundations of faith. Wherever you are in your faith journey, you won’t want to put this book down.”

- **Sean McDowell**, PhD, professor of apologetics, Biola University, author of *Evidence for Jesus*

“As new technologies add to the general confusion over what’s real and what’s not, popular author Lee Strobel brings his journalistic expertise to eight of the most significant interviews of his life to date. From each distinguished scholar, Strobel draws a robust case for the reality of God and skillfully ensures that readers will be able to grasp the potency of the evidence presented. I highly recommend *Is God Real?* to all who wrestle with doubt—or who desire to be of help to those who do.”

- **Hugh Ross**, PhD, astrophysicist

“*Is God Real?* will help you, as a believer, to doubt your doubts and believe your beliefs. And if you are not a believer yet, it will help you find the answers you are searching for. I highly recommend it!”

- **Greg Laurie**, Senior pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship

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by Lee Strobel

Adapted selection from book introduction

Reprint permission required – Contact: Pamela@mmpublicrelations.com

The question of whether God is real resonates deeply inside all of us. Who doesn't want to know where we come from and where we're going after we die? Staring into the darkness in the middle of the night, we tend to wonder about the purpose of life.

Are we accidents of nature, destined to flourish for a brief moment and then wither and decay forever? Or are we the creation of a beneficent God who loves us and imbues meaning into our existence? Is there really hope after the grave, or is that merely wishful thinking from the only species that is able to recognize the horror of its inevitable demise?

Perhaps our longing for the transcendent is a clue that it actually does exist. And yet there could there be another explanation -- maybe our imagination conjures up the idea of God because we desperately want to be rescued from our fear of death. Could it be that we are so frightened by our own mortality that we subconsciously manufacture false ideas about a loving deity and eternity in Heaven in order to ease our death anxiety?

One way or the other, our beliefs have very real consequences. How we live our life and what we value the most inevitably flow from our convictions. The paramount question becomes whether our beliefs are based on fact or fantasy.

Are you open to the idea of evaluating the evidence and coming to an informed conclusion about whether God is real? Imagine yourself as an umpire behind home plate in a baseball game, calling strikes and balls as you see them, without fear or favor. In other words, set aside bias and prejudice as best you can.

Will you find an ironclad case? Few things in life can be established without any doubt whatsoever -- for instance, we can say with absolute certainty that $2 + 2 = 4$. Mostly, though, we make important decisions in our life based on the preponderance of evidence. Where do the facts point most convincingly? What's consistent with the evidence? What's more likely than not to be true? Does this case make sense?

Look at it this way. Right now, I'm typing on a computer in my home office outside of Houston, Texas. Occasionally, I pause to sip from a bottle of water. But how do I know for sure that the water hasn't been poisoned?

Well, the water comes from a reputable supplier. The bottle was sealed when I got it. The water looks clear. There's no discoloration. It doesn't have an unusual odor. I haven't heard of anyone else getting sick from drinking water recently. My wife gave me the bottle, and she has no reason to hurt me.

And yet it could be poisoned. I don't have absolute proof that it's safe. But I do have sufficient evidence to warrant taking a step of faith by tasting it and finding that it's truly good.

Belief in God is similar. We evaluate the evidence and arguments, we test them with objections, we seek clarity, we pursue further answers. And if we end up with sufficient confidence, we take the advice of Psalm 34:8 -- "Taste and see that the LORD is good."

In fact, Jesus claimed to offer what he called "living water," saying: "Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

So let me take you on a stimulating journey of discovery. Come with me as we travel around America -- from Boston to Seattle, from Denver to Los Angeles, from Texas to Indiana -- to meet some of the scholars I have interviewed about whether God is real. We'll look at science, philosophy, history, morality, and human nature.

And since 52 percent of Americans say they have experienced religious doubt in the past few years, we'll examine two of the biggest obstacles to belief in God: if he's real, why does he allow suffering in the world? And if he's real, why does he seem so hidden from us?

Remember, much hangs in the balance. Beliefs have real-world consequences. Let these experts make their best case. Evaluate their insights and consider whether there's sufficient evidence to drink deeply from the living water that Jesus offers.

Then you decide: is God real?