

Extraordinary ad – ordinary response

Thankfully, the Atheists are at it again. Discussions about philosophy and religion seem to mysteriously disappear until the Atheists take out a bus ad.¹ Maybe the rest of us are still stuck in a bygone era when it was considered rude to talk about religion and politics so we limit ourselves to celebrity gossip and municipal snow plowing controversies. Until conversations about important stuff become the norm we extend our gratitude to the Atheists for keeping the conversation alive.

The claim is made that “extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence.” Is it safe to assume that claims that are not particularly extraordinary still require some kind of evidence? No evidence is provided to support this particular claim. Maybe they will share it on the next bus ad. In the mean time, let’s consider their short list of examples.



If the dictionary is to be trusted, then the word “extraordinary” means, “beyond what is ... ordinary.”² Different people have different perceptions of what is “ordinary.” For those who regularly consult psychics, or believe they have benefited from homeopathy, those realities are part of their life and are therefore quite ordinary, as are computers and fast food restaurants.

In this sense of the word “ordinary” most religious claims are also quite ordinary. Throughout the world today, and throughout history, an acknowledgement of a realm of reality beyond our five senses (whether it involves one God, several gods or various spirits) is the norm for humans. The Atheist belief system is a small minority – perhaps 1 in 10 globally³ – and it is highly convergent from ordinary human beliefs. While substantial Theological differences exist between the various world religions, a wholesale denial of all supernatural worldviews is surely more extraordinary than the affirmations of any individual religion.

Yet Atheism is absent from their list. Not even Agnosticism makes the cut.

Some of the claims listed in the ad are extraordinary, regardless of one’s perspective. Religious traditions typically involve claims of the miraculous, and miracles are out of the ordinary for everybody. Where miraculous claims are made, it certainly is reasonable to ask some of the tougher questions, and investigate a little more thoroughly. As Christians we speak only to the claims of Christ, and we enthusiastically welcome an examination of the evidence, some of which is on the next page.

From our experience Atheists also tend to be quite excited at the opportunity to explain the reasons they have for their extraordinary beliefs. Considering their typical enthusiasm, and considering they paid for the ads, it is curious that they would not mention their Faith anywhere. Instead, they list numerous other beliefs that they do not adhere to and seem to suggest we investigate those claims instead.

Well, we strongly agree with them that our claims should be thoroughly investigated. Consider them carefully, just as you should carefully consider the claims of any worldview, including Atheism. The next page offers some starting points for your research. If you are reading a print version of this document, a two-page digital version, with hyperlinks to online resources, is available at our website – www.WhyJesus.ca.

¹ For more information on the latest bus ad see <http://www.cficanada.ca/> and <http://extraordinary-claims.com/>

² <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/extraordinary> and <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/ordinary>

³ http://www.adherents.com/Religions_By_Adherents.html and <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atheism>

The evidence for Christ – some starting points

God exists

[Evil as evidence for God](#) Greg Koukl (article)

[Could the Universe have simply popped into being?](#) William Lane Craig (video)

Find more at <http://apologetics315.blogspot.com/search/label/existence%20of%20God>

The possibility of miracles

[Science and Miracles](#) John Lennox (video)

[Miracles](#) Mark Pickering and Peter Saunders (article)

Find more at

<http://apologetics315.blogspot.com/search/label/Miracles>

The Bible is trustworthy

[Why the Bible](#) Ravi Zacharias (video)

[Zeitgeist: Time to discard the Christian Story?](#) Chris Forbes (video)

[Rediscovering the Historical Jesus: The Evidence for Jesus](#) William Lane Craig (article)

Find more at <http://apologetics315.blogspot.com/search/label/Bible>

The opinions expressed at these websites are those of the authors/presenters, and do not necessarily reflect the views of all NCAC members.

Please contact us if you would like to further investigate the evidence for Jesus.

www.WhyJesus.ca

Jesus rose from the dead

[The Truth – and the comfort – of the Resurrection](#) Gary Habermas (article)

[The Resurrection of Jesus](#) William Lane Craig (article)

[Did people really witness the resurrected Jesus?](#) Michael Licona (video)

Find more at <http://apologetics315.blogspot.com/search/label/resurrection>

The Divinity of Jesus

[Jesus – Son of God?](#) Michael Licona (article)

[Did Jesus think he was God?](#) Keith Small (audio)

[The Evidences for Jesus Deity: Did He claim He was God?](#) Lee Strobel (video)

Book resources	Online Resources
<i>The Case for Christ</i> - Lee Strobel	Lee Strobel
<i>The Reason for God</i> - Timothy Keller	John Lennox
<i>Mere Christianity</i> - C. S. Lewis	Ravi Zacharias
<i>Is Christianity True</i> - Hugo Meynell	William Lane Craig
<i>Reasonable Faith</i> - William Lane Craig	Greg Koukl

For many other resources visit [Apologetics 315](http://Apologetics315) website. As you scroll down the right side of the site you will find some excellent lists, "Our Top 15 Apologetics Books" and "Apologetics Websites." Also consider [this blog entry](#) cataloguing numerous responses to many of today's most vocal opponents of Christianity (and religion in general).

The above information explains why we should trust Jesus. For more information about Jesus, refer to the New Testament in the Bible (particularly the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). www.biblegateway.com.