



Everything You Always Wanted to Know about God (But Were Afraid to Ask)

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We all have questions about God. But very few of us get the answers we're looking for—if those answers even exist! Do they? Where (in heaven's name) do you go to find out?

Eric Metaxas understands. That's why he's written this refreshingly down-to-earth take on the big questions everyone asks (but not always out loud).

Finally a book that takes questions about God seriously enough to get silly (where appropriate). Wonderfully conversational and often very funny, this book joins you in wondering:

- How can a good God create a world that has evil and suffering?
- Is God anti-sex?
- Doesn't science make God obsolete?
- What's the real story on miracles?
- If God is everywhere, why go to church?
- Don't we already have God within us?
- Isn't God too busy running the universe to care about the details of my day?
- What does the Bible say about things like UFOs, ESP, and the afterlife—and what about Bigfoot?

These questions (and many more like them) get straight answers that don't hide behind dull and confusing theological language. So get the lowdown on the big questions everyone asks—but please try not to laugh (because it's a very serious topic).

Everything You Always Wanted to Know about God (But Were Afraid to Ask) Details

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From Reader Review Everything You Always Wanted to Know about God (But Were Afraid to Ask) for online ebook

Nathan Albright says

[Note: This book was provided free of charge by Blogging For Books/Multnomah Press. All thoughts and opinions are my own.]

I have to admit that I was surprised by this book, although not surprised in a bad way, I must say. I have some familiarity in reading the author's works [1], and look forward to more familiarity with it in the future. Most of the material I have read by the author has been in his biographical mode, where the author takes on serious subjects--and one can imagine little that is more serious, for example, than his treatment of Bonhoeffer, or his work on William Wilberforce and the end of the slave trade--and this book is not like that at all. I have talked with some people who listen to his show from time to time and have noted that the author is more than a little bit witty and flippant and somewhat expansive in enjoying having a good time talking, and this book is more along that vein. Being a similar sort of person myself, I cannot exactly complain as this book is entertaining, but it is certainly a far less serious treatment of apologetics [2] than I am used to. I should have figured it out from the title, given the obvious Woody Allen joke it makes, but I must admit I was surprised anyway.

In terms of its contents, this slightly longer than 200 books consists mostly of an imaginary dialogue between Metaxas and a stand-in for a somewhat skeptical but open-minded reader who queries him about various aspects of Christianity. Metaxas deserves a lot of credit for not dodging difficult questions as he takes a tour of apologetics from proof of God's existence to such areas as the problem of evil, free will and determinism, the angelic and demonic realm, the paranormal, sex, God's view of gays and women, religion and superstition, comparative religion, the forbidden fruit and the imago dei, heaven and hell, fanaticism, textual criticism, the importance of relationship, prayer, faith and reason, the identity of Jesus Christ, how God reveals himself in general and specific revelation, and the meaning of conversion. Even if I may not find all of the author's conclusions satisfying, something that deserves a longer comment, the book is full of Metaxas at his most witty and sarcastic addressing someone who is ignorant of the Bible and showing a combination of verbal pyrotechnics and gracious humor, along with a love of irony and paradox.

Again, this is an entertaining book and there is a lot to like about this book. The book is fast to read and is the sort of book that gives one a sense that one is reading a conversation that one can visualize and that is interesting. Even so, the one criticism I have of this book is that it demonstrates the perspective of Hellenistic and not biblical Christianity, something that is particularly noticeable when the author discusses heaven, hell, and the immortal soul. In all such cases his argument goes to nonbiblical ideas, and he shows no awareness of the first and second resurrection (see, for example, 1 Corinthians 15, 1 Thessalonians 4, and Revelation 20) that take place after the return of Christ and after the Millennium, respectively, which present a different picture than the author does. This is a problem that comes up a few times in the effort, and detracts some from the enjoyment of the book. Other than that, though, this book is enjoyable to read, and is the sort of book that gives a reader a sense of who Metaxas is. If you like the idea of an intelligent and witty person who does not take himself too seriously writing a book about serious subjects in faith and culture, this is a worthwhile effort.

[1] See, for example:

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.blog/2015...>

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.blog/2015...>

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.blog/2014...>

[2] See, for example:

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.blog/2017...>

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.blog/2016...>

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.blog/2016...>

<https://edgeinducedcohesion.blog/2016...>

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Lisa Russell says

This book is definitely geared toward a non-believer audience with worldly connotations throughout in a conversational question and answer style. Some things I didn't agree with, like the big bang DID cause creation? Well, it could have, but I wouldn't say it did.

Nancy says

Not impressed with this book. The author tries to keep the subject matter light-hearted by interjecting bits of stupidity. He writes a paragraph at the start of a chapter and then goes into a question and answer format, which I find annoying. Who's asking the questions? It's like he's asking and answering his own questions. I don't agree with much of what he says based on my study of the Bible, which is solely my interpretation.

Tiffany M says

This is such an amazing book filled with questions I never thought to ask but always wondered about. This is the perfect book for any young or old adult. Being head of the Worship at my Church I purchased copies for all of our Graduates to take to College with them. I know when I was young and starting life I questioned so much. Had I had this book when I was that age I feel that I would have given my life over to Christ so much sooner. If you have a young one or someone who is questioning their faith I highly recommend this book to them!

Sang-Woo says

I really liked it. Open-minded, humorous, straight forward approach. I am not afraid to ask anymore!

Mary says

Written entirely as a dialogue between “Q” and “A,” this book is quick and witty, while filled with much for your consideration. Metaxas covers all the bases and then some. His humor is quirky, fresh and fun, even as he dives into most important things.

Richard says

I think Eric Metataxas is a great writer and speaker.

The book is a dialogue style question and answer about "life, God and other small topics". The answers given are not too pat and I could see it opening the dialogue when done with actually a real person.

Zach says

This is an easy-to-read conversation about the basic tenets of Christianity and the most common hang-ups for those who are searching for God. Believers and non-believers will benefit from these discussion starters, which also make for great launchpads for further study and prayer.

I highly recommend this book for anyone, no matter where they are on their walk.

[A complementary copy of the book was provided to me as part of a re-release program by the publisher.]

J.N. says

I bought this book a while back and just got around to reading it. I really just couldn't get into it. At first I thought the Q&A writing style was cool, then as the book went on, I began to dislike it. As for the content, I

liked some of the author's points, but some of the other points didn't really agree with me.

I like that he tried to find real world examples to compare some of his points with, but some of the information didn't seem right (I couldn't find any evidence of some of the claims online). I was relieved that the author didn't bash science or parts of evolution, but other things bothered me and ended up sounding a bit pretentious. I also felt that most of the comparisons were just silly and irrelevant. Like comparing a person wanting to have sex with a kid wanting to eat cotton candy every day. Yeah . . .

Anyway, this book just wasn't for me. However, my relationship with God has been very challenging for a while due to many events and many people (the Christians who make everyone look bad), and this book has somewhat inspired me to become a little more serious about mending my relationship with God so I'll give it more than one star for that reason alone.

As I understood it, this book was supposed to have a humorous edge, but I rarely found any parts I thought were that funny. I did like this line, however: When Jesus said, "I am the door," he didn't mean to imply that he was made of wood or that he swung on hinges." Overall, I didn't much care for it and will be giving my copy away to someone who will hopefully enjoy it better.

Nick Miller-Katenkamp says

Silly and interesting this book was a quick read and occasionally made some points i had never heard before. The quick nature and Q&A form made it a fun read that doesn't take itself too seriously or feel exceedingly preachy. I will say some of the metaphors and similes were not very effective but the point could be understood every time. Would recommend!

Jennie Nichols says

Eric Metaxas brilliantly answers some of our deepest questions about God in an easy to understand way throughout this whole book. This is a must read for those who have grown up in the church as well as those who are just beginning to discover who God is. With humor, clear explanations and scientific facts, Eric introduces his readers to our Creator and helps put to rest some of the most common questions about the mysteries of a God we cannot see.

Mark says

With a couple of small exceptions, I found this to be a very readable & helpful book on basic Christian apologetics – in other words, a book that answers questions about what Christians believe & why. The author, Eric Metaxas, uses a dialogue format that is shot through with humorous asides & cultural references both new & old (he manages to quote Pink Floyd, reference Aretha Franklin, and even bag on Barney... and then quote major chunks of William Blake, the English poet.) An example:

Q: What happens when you die?

A: Well, it depends, but typically the lawn goes unmowed for a while, and the newspapers really pile up.

This is not your typical apologetics book... which is a good thing.

I esp. like how he dealt with the questions about the difference between religion & Christianity. As well, I like that he doesn't claim to have perfect answers for difficult questions like "Why does God allow suffering?" or "How does prayer work?" Instead of trying to cobble together something pithy & quotable that panders to the churchified crowd, he honestly presents ways those questions have been answered, admitting that the answers may not be satisfying to some.

I did mention at the beginning that I found a place or two where I didn't agree with his arguments. I think his facts about the number of deaths from the Inquisition & Crusades are wrong – but he hasn't sourced them where I can check them out. Still, I don't think an error of 10x magnitude here undermines his basic argument, so it's not that big a deal.

This book is not going to convince a militant nonbeliever that they're wrong – actually, I don't think any book can do that by itself. But I do think it could be very helpful for folks who are asking questions about faith... and for those who believe who've never worked through these kinds of issues.

Richie Valdes says

After receiving this book as part of the re-launch team from the publisher, I was anxiously eager to dive in to it. I love Metaxas as a biographer and was interested to see where he landed in the theological realm. I was a little hesitant after reading his last book, *If You Can Keep It*, because I differed in opinion on some of his conclusions from that book. But this book was actually pretty solid. His theological worldview is squarely Protestant evangelical in the way he explains the Christian faith. There are some doctrinal differences that I easily recognized between us right away but nothing that puts the Christian message at risk. As for the structure and apologetic of the book go, Metaxas chose a unique Q&A format that worked pretty well. His winsomeness and wit came through that anyone that has heard him speak would be expecting. Overall this is a pretty solid book to answer some basic questions of the Christian faith. There are some deeper and stronger works out there that would be more appropriate for hardcore cynics but this would be a good resource for someone with questions that had a genuine desire to start somewhere to seek truth and needed something easily accessible to read. Overall I'd go 4/5 stars and will keep this in my library.

Caroline says

This question and answer format book all about God is great for readers in all walks of spiritual life, and may give insight to those that aren't.

Sheila says

Learned a few things about
god that I did not know. Interesting book.
