

**A worldview  
is like the set of glasses  
through which we see  
and understand the world.**

**It's based on four big questions:**

1. Where everything comes from? (Origin)
2. What gives life meaning? (Meaning)
3. How do we decide what's right or wrong? (Morality)
4. What happens to us in the end? (Destiny)

**To check if our worldview makes sense, we use three tests:**

1. Does it follow good reasoning?
2. Does it match with what we see and experience?
3. Does it stay consistent with itself?

Looking at the story of Christ—his foretold birth, his pure life, and the promised forgiveness through his death—helps us see how these ideas play out.

I believe that the God described in the Bible exists beyond the confines of time, space, and matter. Even without relying on the Bible, there is widespread acknowledgment, including among atheists, that the universe had a beginning. The crucial question is what caused this beginning. If space, time, and matter had a start, then the cause must be something outside of these elements. It has to be **spaceless, timeless, immaterial, powerful, and personal**, implying intelligence.

This leads many to conclude that God, as an intelligent and powerful force, is responsible for creating the universe. I find comfort in worshiping a God who transcends human understanding and is not limited by the constraints of the world we know.

- **Omnipotence (All-Powerful)**
- **Omniscience (All-Knowing)**
- **Eternal (Without beginning or end)**

Here is a list of scriptures from various parts of the Bible that emphasize God's sovereignty over humanity:

1. **\*\*Proverbs 16:9:\*\* "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps."**

**2. \*\*Jeremiah 29:11:\*\* "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."**

3. **\*\*Psalm 33:10-11:\*\*** "The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations."
4. **\*\*Isaiah 46:9-10:\*\*** "I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.'"
5. **\*\*Romans 9:21-23:\*\*** "Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory."
6. **\*\*Ephesians 1:11:\*\*** "In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will."
7. **\*\*Daniel 4:35:\*\*** "All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, 'What have you done?'"
8. **\*\*Proverbs 21:1:\*\*** "The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will."
9. **\*\*Job 42:2:\*\*** "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted."

These verses collectively emphasize the idea that God is in control, directing the course of events according to His divine will and purpose. They highlight His authority over human plans, the affairs of nations, and the ultimate fulfillment of His purposes.

**\*\*Jeremiah 29:11 is a well-known verse in the Bible that provides a message of hope and assurance. To understand its context, it's essential to consider the broader passage of Jeremiah 29:1-14 and the historical background of the Israelites at that time.**

In this section, the prophet Jeremiah is writing a letter to the Israelites who were taken into captivity and exiled to Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar. The exile was a result of the disobedience and idolatry of the Israelites. The exiles were living in a foreign land, far from their homeland and the promised land of Israel.

In Jeremiah 29:4-7, the Lord instructs the exiles through Jeremiah to build houses, plant gardens, and seek the welfare of the city where they were in exile. The message is that they should settle down, make the best of their situation, and contribute positively to the community in which they find themselves.

Jeremiah 29:10-14 provides the specific verse in question:

"For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile."

The context of Jeremiah 29:11, therefore, is a message of encouragement to a people in exile. It reassures them that, despite their current circumstances and the discipline they are facing, God has plans for their future well-being and restoration. The seventy years mentioned in verse 10 signifies the duration of their exile, after which God promises to bring them back to their land. This verse emphasizes God's faithfulness, mercy, and ultimate purpose for His people, even in the midst of challenging times.

According to various scriptures in the Bible, the description of humanity without God often emphasizes the fallen nature of human beings, their separation from God due to sin, and the need for redemption. Here are some key points from the scriptures:

1. **\*\*Sinful Nature:\*\*** Without God, the Bible describes humanity as inherently sinful. In Romans 3:23, it states, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." This suggests that human nature tends towards disobedience and separation from God.
2. **\*\*Spiritual Deadness:\*\*** Ephesians 2:1 highlights the spiritual condition of those without God, saying, "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins." This emphasizes the idea that without God, there is a spiritual separation and a lack of life in connection with Him.
3. **\*\*Consequences of Sin:\*\*** Romans 6:23 states, "For the wages of sin is death." This implies that the natural outcome of a life without God is spiritual death and separation from the source of life.
4. **\*\*Darkened Understanding:\*\*** Ephesians 4:17-18 describes the mindset of those without God, saying, "They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart." Without God, there is a lack of spiritual understanding and a tendency toward ignorance.
5. **\*\*Enemy of God:\*\*** James 4:4 warns against friendship with the world, stating, "You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?" This suggests that without God, humans can become adversaries to God's ways and purposes.

It's important to note that while these scriptures highlight the negative aspects of humanity without God, the overall message of the Bible is one of redemption and reconciliation. Through faith in Jesus Christ, believers can experience forgiveness, renewal, and a restored relationship with God. The descriptions of humanity without God serve to underscore the need for salvation and the transformative power of God's grace.

**Mark 10:18** is part of a conversation between Jesus and a rich young ruler. Let's look at the context, beginning with Mark 10:17:

**\*\*Mark 10:17-18 (ESV):\*\***

"And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' And Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.'"

**\*\*Context:\*\***

In this passage, a wealthy young man approaches Jesus with a question about eternal life. The man addresses Jesus as "Good Teacher" and seeks guidance on how to inherit eternal life. Jesus responds with a question that challenges the man's understanding of goodness.

**\*\*Key Points:\*\***

1. **\*\*Addressing the Title "Good Teacher":\*\*** Jesus questions the use of the term "good" in addressing Him. His response implies a deeper theological point – that true goodness belongs to God alone.
2. **\*\*Claiming the Goodness of God:\*\*** By saying, "No one is good except God alone," Jesus is highlighting His divinity and the inherent goodness of God. He is redirecting the young man's focus from moral excellence in a human teacher to recognizing the ultimate goodness found in God.
3. **\*\*Implicit Claim to Divinity:\*\*** In questioning the man's use of "Good Teacher," Jesus is subtly prompting him to consider the source of true goodness. The implication is that if Jesus is genuinely good, then He is more than a mere human teacher – He is God.
4. **\*\*Challenging the Heart:\*\*** This encounter serves as an opportunity for Jesus to challenge the rich young ruler to examine not only his actions but the condition of his heart. Jesus later instructs him to sell his possessions and give to the poor, which reveals the ruler's struggle with prioritizing wealth over following Jesus (Mark 10:19-22).

In summary, the context of Mark 10:18 involves Jesus engaging with a man who seeks guidance on eternal life, and Jesus uses the opportunity to direct attention to the inherent goodness of God and to challenge the understanding of goodness and divinity.