

## ***Contours of Faith: Believing in God: Are you There?***

Sermon Notes

David A. Renwick, May 15, 2022

National Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC

### **Follow Up Reading /Websites**

1. The Reason for God, Timothy Keller, 2008.
2. Why There Almost Certainly is a God: Doubting Dawkins, Keith Ward, 2008 (The book is detailed philosophy; the video is easier: see <http://vimeo.com/10259981#>)
3. Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis, 1952
5. The Language of God, Francis Collins, 2006
6. [www.biologos.org](http://www.biologos.org)

### **Doubters – Two “Barts”**

- Bart Ehrmann, (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pxz4eyR9U5w>)
- Bart Campolo ([www.nytimes.com/2016/12/29/.../the-evangelical-scion-who-stopped-believing.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/29/.../the-evangelical-scion-who-stopped-believing.html)) by Mark Oppenheimer.

### **My Two Main Reasons to Believe**

- Math: the language (especially “1s” and “0s”) filling the universe
- The universal desire for love as the primary source of meaning for all human beings in a universe that without God is completely “cold” and impersonal.

### **But Which God?** – (see Psalm 8, 19, 23, etc. and the Creed)

1. God is Great: “Almighty, Maker” -- Above all.
2. God is Personal: “Father” -- Accommodating to our humanity

### **Problems**

– The Problem of Evil . . . ***BUT also*** the other side of the coin . . .

-- The Problem of the Existence of Love, Goodness and Beauty!

If God is powerful and loving – and also just,  
then justice will ultimately prevail and evil will come to an end.

– The Problem of Creation since Darwin – Genesis 1 (*Why? Not How?*)

*Genesis is Hebrew poetry with “parallelism” replacing “rhyming”*

DAY 1 “Let there be light”; and there was light.

& DAY 4 “Let there be lights in the sky to separate the day from the night;

DAY 2 “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.”

& DAY 5 “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures,  
and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.”

DAY 3 Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit” . . .

& DAY 6 Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind. See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.