

Why do people believe in God?

Philip Bitar

Version 2014-02-22

Why do people believe in God? Here are some basic ideas relevant to answering the question. Note that I'm not addressing the question as to whether or not God exists, nor am I considering the fact that people may be imbued with belief in God through their culture.

The primary reason that people believe in God is that such belief, for most theists, carries religious ramifications that establish a purpose in human existence. Such belief, in turn, is complemented by belief in afterlife. This is the primary reason, I believe, for belief in God. The religious ramifications are given by western religions: Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Here's a meetup page on western religion:

Why is western religion a version of Zoroastrianism?

<http://www.meetup.com/Why-human-life-makes-sense/events/167715222>

Christianity adds the distinctive feature of characterizing God in personal terms through which a believer obtains a sense of personal intimacy with God and a complementary psychological security.

A secondary reason for belief in God is for social stability, since western religions teach that human life would be chaotic and decadent were it not for ethical values that God has communicated to humans through religion.

Aside from the foregoing considerations, I will propose a simpler, more abstract explanation based on my theories of knowledge and cognition.