



Who is William Lane Craig?

Chris Knight

William Lane Craig

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Introduction

William Lane Craig is Research Professor of Philosophy at Talbot School of Theology in La Mirada, California and is arguably the foremost Christian apologist in the world today. As well as being author or editor of over thirty books, and author of nearly 200 peer-reviewed academic articles in professional journals of theology and philosophy, he is well known for his many public debates with atheists, agnostics and sceptics.

Two of Craig's key books on apologetics are *Reasonable Faith* (More Information; Read reviews; Read extracts; Buy from Amazon.co.uk), now in its third edition, and *On Guard: Defending Your Faith with Reason and Precision* (More information and read the first chapter; Buy from Amazon.co.uk). He explains and defends his own approach to apologetics, in a friendly discussion with other apologists, in *Five Views on Apologetics* (Buy from Amazon.co.uk).

Craig's areas of speciality are the philosophy of religion and natural theology. He has made significant contributions to the Kalam cosmological argument and his work embraces the philosophical and theological implications of modern physics, especially the Big Bang,

quantum physics and the philosophy of time. The Kalam cosmological argument argues from the reality of the Big Bang to the need for an intelligent Creator.

Craig has previously debated two of the so-called 'Four Horsemen' of New Atheism (Sam Harris and Christopher Hitchens) and engaged with a third (Daniel Dennett) in a one to one exchange. Sam Harris, neuroscientist, philosopher, and bestselling author, is the most recent of the New Atheist 'horsemen' to have debated with Dr Craig, on 7th April 2011, and in his opening address Harris stated that Craig was "*the one Christian apologist who seems to have put the fear of God into many of my fellow atheists*". After that debate, atheist John Loftus blogged: "*Bill (Craig) has once again showed himself as the best debater of this generation.*" In 2009, Craig debated with Christopher Hitchens on the subject 'Does God Exist?'. In the same year, Craig had a one to one exchange, although not formally a debate, with Daniel Dennett on the validity of theistic arguments. See below for details of how to access Craig's debates with Sam Harris and Christopher Hitchens and his exchange with Daniel Dennett.

In contrast to his fellow atheists' willingness to put their beliefs to the test, and engage with the arguments put forward by Craig, Professor Richard Dawkins has repeatedly and publicly declined to debate with Craig. In addition, he has recently declined a number of further invitations to a debate in the Autumn when Craig returns to the UK for a week's tour. These invitations came from the British Humanist Association, the Cambridge (Debating) Union, Premier Radio and the Oxford Christian Union. The Telegraph has recently reported on this in its article Richard Dawkins accused of cowardice for refusing to debate existence of God.

Dawkins' reasons for declining look decidedly weak in the light of his own commandment "*Never cut yourself off from dissent.*" Perhaps a more obvious reason is the extensive critique levelled against Dawkins' book *The God Delusion*, even from fellow atheists, to which it would seem Dawkins has no adequate response to proffer.

If Richard Dawkins is prepared to defend his arguments contained in *The God Delusion*, he

has the perfect opportunity to do so by accepting a high profile debate with Craig on the arguments for God's existence at Oxford's Sheldonian Theatre on Tuesday 26th October.

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Brief Biography

William Lane Craig is Research Professor of Philosophy at Talbot School of Theology in La Mirada, California. He came to faith in Christ aged sixteen. On his 2007 Reasonable Faith tour to the UK, he gave the testimony of his journey to faith.

Dr. Craig pursued his undergraduate (BA) and graduate (MA) studies in the US, before taking two doctorates in England (Ph.D. 1977), and then Germany (D.Theol. 1984). In 1980, he moved back to the US to teach the Philosophy of Religion, moving to Brussels in 1987 for further research and then moving to his current post at Talbot in 1994.

[Read Bill Craig's full CV.](#)

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Bill Craig's Debates

Listed below is a selection of Dr Craig's many debates, with brief comments and appropriate links to the debate itself (where available) or comments upon it. We have also put together a selection of YouTube video clips.

Debates with The New Atheists

Sam Harris

Is the Foundation of Morality Natural or Supernatural? or Does Good Come from God?

7th April 2011

Sam Harris is a neuroscientist, philosopher, bestselling author and one of the so-called Four Horsemen of New Atheism.

[Audio](#)

[Video](#) (then scroll down for summary and comments)

[Assessment of the debate](#)

Christopher Hitchens

Does God Exist?

4 April 2009

This celebrated encounter was moderated by radio personality Hugh Hewitt. Nearly 10,000 people attended this debate in person, while countless other watched it online. One atheist blogger's summary of the debate: *"Frankly, Craig spanked Hitchens like a foolish child."*

[Video extract](#)

[Video extract](#)

[Video extract](#)

[Order Online](#)

[Craig challenges Hitchens with 10 key arguments prior to their 4th April debate.](#)

[YouTube](#)

Daniel Dennett

"In Defence of Theistic Arguments"

July 2009

At a philosophical conference, Dennett gives a 15 minute response to Bill Craig's paper titled "In Defence of Theistic Arguments".

[Audio](#)

Richard Dawkins

Does the Universe have a purpose?

November 2010

In a surprise meeting, Craig and Dawkins met in Mexico when Dawkins stepped in as a replacement speaker at the last minute. In this three on three exchange, set in a boxing ring, there was little opportunity for direct engagement between Dawkins and Craig. Indeed, Dawkins said to Craig beforehand that he did not consider this to be a debate between them.

[Video](#) (introductions are in Spanish)

Debates with scientists

Lawrence Krauss

Is there Evidence for God?

30 March 2011

Lawrence Krauss is a theoretical physicist, holding the post of Foundation Professor in the School of Earth and Space Exploration and Physics Department, and Inaugural Director of the Origins Project at Arizona State University. His research includes the interface between particle physics and cosmology.

[Audio](#)

Video or Video (plus further information and written comments from both sides after the event)

Peter Atkins

What is the Evidence for / against the Existence of God?

1998

Download Audio

Audio

Video

Lewis Wolpert

Is God a Delusion?

Reasonable Faith Tour 2007

Professor Craig debated Professor Wolpert at Central Hall, Westminster, with John Humphrys in the chair. Professor Wolpert is Professor of Biology as Applied to Medicine at University College, London and is well known for his atheistic beliefs.

YouTube

Victor Stenger

Does God Exist?

2003

Victor Stenger is a physicist and author of *God: the failed hypothesis*.

Download Audio

Audio

Debates with philosophers

A.C. Grayling

Belief in God Makes Sense in the Light of Tsunamis

28 April 2005

Order CD

Held at the Oxford Union, the most prestigious debating society in the world, Craig debated the distinguished philosopher A.C. Grayling, noted for his vociferous secularism, on whether belief in God can be rationally maintained in the face of terrible suffering.

Antony Flew

Does God Exist?

1998

Download Audio

YouTube

For a book on the debate, see *Does God Exist?: The Craig-Flew Debate* by Stan W. Wallace (Buy from Amazon)

Walter Sinnott Armstrong

Does Evil and Suffering Disprove God?

1999

Audio

For a book on the debate, see *God?: A Debate Between a Christian and an Atheist* by William Lane Craig and Walter Sinnott-Armstrong (Buy from Amazon)

Paul Kurtz

Goodness Without God is Good Enough?

2001

Audio

Video

Debates on the Resurrection of Jesus

Gerd Ludemann

Jesus' Resurrection: Fact or Figment?

2002

Download Audio (scroll down)

Video

For a book on the debate, see *Jesus' Resurrection: Fact or Figment? – A Debate Between William Lane Craig and Gerd Ludemann* by Paul Copan and Ronald Tacelli (Buy from Amazon)

John Shelby Spong

Did Jesus Rise From The Dead? or The Great Resurrection Debate

2005

Download Audio (scroll down)

Audio

Video

Bart Ehrman

Is There Historical Evidence For The Resurrection Of Jesus?

2006

Transcript

Download Audio (scroll down)

Video

James Crossley

Was Jesus Bodily Raised From The Dead?

Reasonable Faith Tour 2007

Download Audio (scroll down)

Audio

Video

View a comprehensive list of Dr Craig's debates, arranged by theme.

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Books

William Lane Craig is the sole author of the following books, unless noted otherwise.

'Popular' apologetics

On Guard: Defending Your Faith with Reason and Precision

"In these pages, you'll learn the most compelling arguments in favor of Christianity. Not only that, but you'll also find out how to respond to the most popular objections to those arguments. You'll discover that On Guard is solidly factual, winsomely personal, consistently practical, and ultimately convincing in its presentation of the case for Christianity." Lee Strobel

You'll discover that On Guard is solidly factual, winsomely personal, consistently practical, and ultimately convincing in its presentation of the case for Christianity." Lee Strobel

Reasonable Faith

This is Dr Craig's 'signature' book, from which his own website takes its name. Now in its third edition, the book does exactly what its title suggests – it shows that Christian Faith is reasonable and certainly not blind, requiring no irrational leap in the dark.

Hard Questions, Real Answers

No Easy Answers

Is God Real? (RZIM Critical Questions Discussion Guides)

William Lane Craig, Charles C. Taliaferro and Ravi Zacharias

God Are You There

An excellent booklet giving a brief summary of Craig's key arguments for the existence of God. Keep a few spare copies for following up on conversations.

The Truth of the Resurrection

Knowing the Truth About the Resurrection: Our Response to the Empty Tomb

The Son Rises: The Historical Evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus

To Everyone an Answer: A Case for the Christian

Worldview

Francis J. Beckwith, William Lane Craig and J. P. Moreland

Five Views on Apologetics

William Lane Craig, Gary R. Habermas, Paul D. Feinberg, John M. Frame and Kelly James Clark

Science and the Cosmological Argument

The Kalam Cosmological Argument

Cosmological Argument from Plato to Leibniz

Creation Out of Nothing: A Biblical, Philosophical, and Scientific Exploration

Paul Copan and William Lane Craig

Theism, Atheism, and Big Bang Cosmology

William Lane Craig and Quentin Smith

Time and the Metaphysics of Relativity

Academic works

Philosophy of Religion: A Reader and Guide

Naturalism: A Critical Analysis

William Lane Craig and J.P. Moreland

The Blackwell Companion to Natural Theology

William Lane Craig and J. P. Moreland

The Two Tasks of the Christian Scholar: Redeeming the Soul, Redeeming the Mind

William Lane Craig and Habib C. Malik

Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview

J.P. Moreland and William Lane Craig

For further details of publishers, dates, some sample chapters and a more extensive list, go to Amazon.co.uk's selection of William Lane Craig books.

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Articles

Dr Craig has published nearly 200 articles in professional journals of philosophy and theology, including *The Journal of Philosophy*, *New*

Testament Studies, Journal for the Study of the New Testament, American Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Studies, Philosophy, and British Journal for Philosophy of Science.

Read Bill Craig's full list of publications.

More Information on Bill Craig

To keep up to date on Bill Craig's latest writings, talks and debates, go to his Reasonable Faith website and sign up to receive his newsletter.

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Book tickets for the Reasonable Faith Tour 2011
Go to the Reasonable Faith Tour 2011 home page.

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