

**James Sire, “The Universe Next Door” - Worldview Comparison Chart.**

| Question                                                                         | Christian Theism                                                                               | Deism                                                                                                                                                                                  | Materialism Naturalism                                                                                                                                                      | Nihilism                                                                                             | Atheistic Existentialism                                                                                                                | Theistic Existentialism                                                                  | Pantheism                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | New Age                                                                                                                                                                                     | Post-modernism                                                                                                                                                                           | Islam                                                                                      |
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| <b>1. What is the prime reality - the really real?</b>                           | God - He exists by himself, His attributes are infinite, He is the source for all real things; | You can say God, who can be a Primary Cause, or a transcendent energy. He created the universe and He left it to work by itself. He is not fully personal, sovereign and providential. | The mater is the eternal existence and everything that exists. There is no God.                                                                                             | God is “dead”. There is no reality. Just the mater exists.                                           | There is no God, just the mater exists. And always existed. Doesn’t matter how everything appeared.                                     | An infinite and personal God, transcendent and immanent, omniscient, sovereign and good. | You can’t really distinguish the supreme reality. “Atman is Brahman – the Unique one.” The soul of each human being is the soul of the Cosmos. Each person is everything. Each person is God. God is the cosmos. God is everything that exists. | The prime reality is the “self”. No personal God. As the human beings become more conscious about that and understand it, the human race is closer to a radical change in human nature.     | You don’t know something for sure. But there is the presumption that there is no God.                                                                                                    | There is a God – Allah – infinite, personal, transcendent , immanent, good. A faraway God. |
| <b>2. What is the nature of the external reality, i.e., the world around us?</b> | The cosmos is ordered but opened - it is not programmed.                                       | God created the cosmos, which is ordered but closed, no miracles are possible. We can know God by knowing the universe. No specific revelation.                                        | The cosmos exists like a uniformity of causes and effects in a closed system. Something happened first (could be a form of big-bang) and the universe suddenly was created. | Everything is arbitrary and simple exists. The cosmos is closed. There is no sense or signification. | The cosmos is closed, based by the cause-effect principle. The reality appears to the people under two forms: subjective and objective. | God created the universe and the people. The cosmos is an opened system.                 | Nothing exists that is no God. The essence of the matter is Atman, but not the matter itself.                                                                                                                                                   | The cosmos manifests in two dimensions: the visible universe – accessible through the common conscience - and the invisible universe – accessible through altered states of the conscience. | There is no objective knowledge, no rationality. There is no absolute truth. And if there is a truth it is hidden. Nothing can be verified. The only thing we can do is to tell stories. | God’s creation, the world is a close system – God declares everything.                     |

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| <p><b>3. What is a human being?</b></p>             | <p>The human beings are created after God's image: they have personality, intelligence, morality, creativity, sociability</p> | <p>They are not created after God's image; they are not free, though they are finites and personal.</p> | <p>A human being is a complex machine. Its personality is a combination of chemical and physical properties which we don't fully understand. But we are still just mater. A special one, from a different category- the higher level of evolution. Darwin has something to say about it. But not all. Much is unknown.</p> | <p>Conscious machines, with no capacity over their destiny or to do something significantly. No human freedom or human dignity.</p> | <p>They have a body – the physical aspect, and a conscience – brain and mind. The existence precedes the essence – what we do determines what we are. We are totally free about nature and destiny. We can create sense and significance. Each of us is the “king” of our own subjective world.</p> | <p>They are created in God's image; they can know God and the universe and can have an impact in it. They are personal and have value.</p> | <p>Human beings are beyond personality. They are impersonal. The purpose is to be unified with the cosmos. To be means to not do something. Inactivity. The meditation is the main way for existence.</p>                                           | <p>The human beings have a body and a “self”. They are impersonal and should be conscious by their own divinity.</p>          | <p>There is no substantial “self”. The human beings become what they are through the languages they create about themselves. The “self” becomes an activity, in a way. The true about ourselves is the way we describe ourselves.</p> | <p>Human beings are the greatest from creation. They are bigger than the angels and responsible before God.</p>                         |
| <p><b>4. What happens to a person at death?</b></p> | <p>It will be transformed, by being with God and His people or without God.</p>                                               | <p>The good people go into Heaven when they die.</p>                                                    | <p>The conscience disappears forever, as well as the individual and personal identity. Nothing remains.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>Disappears.</p>                                                                                                                  | <p>Becomes an object among other objects.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>The death is the gate to a life spent with God and His people or to an eternal life separated from God.</p>                             | <p>The death is the end of an individual incarnation of Atman – the end of a person. But the soul – Atman – is indestructible. When Atman reincarnates he becomes a new person. Death is not a big deal, as nothing valuable dies. The Atman is</p> | <p>The death is not the end of human beings – it is just a reincarnation into other bodies. The fear of death is removed.</p> | <p>You can't know for sure. Whatever a person believes.</p>                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>The souls of people will fall asleep or will go in a kind of purgatory. You can save yourself by making good deeds in this life.</p> |

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|                                                       |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                     | eternal and he does not die.                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                          |
| <b>5. Why is it possible to know anything at all?</b> | Because of the conscience and the revelation we received from God.                                                     | By studying the universe. The universe can teach us also about God.                                                                | The science is the way of knowledge. The facts, the reliable results of scientific investigation.                                                                                         | You have no source of knowledge; you can't know something for sure. You can ask, you can observe, but nothing has sense.                         | Through a process of analyzing, recording, issuing assumptions, and demonstrating the assumptions. | God can communicate with us and He does this! The knowledge is subjective; the entire truth is often paradoxically. | The human beings are beyond knowledge. The language can't give the truth about the reality. The essence is the technique not the knowledge.                                                     | You need to become one with the cosmos through a personal experience of meditation.                                                                            | You can't ever know something objective. There is no real truth, but there are stories, and when someone believes these stories receive power from them and has power.                                          | God spoke through Muhammad and He continues to speak through His prophets and the Koran. |
| <b>6. How do we know what is right and wrong?</b>     | God himself is the standard for morality. He says what is right or wrong. Jesus is the supreme image of what is right. | The ethic is limited at general revelation; the universe reveals what is right. "Everything that exists is good." (Alexander Pope) | The ethic is related to human beings. They create the values. Jesus had high ethic values as other people can have. The values change from a culture to another, neither one is absolute. | There is no source of morality. Each people can decide what is right or wrong. There is no other standard than what each person thinks and says. | The people decide the ethic.                                                                       | By learning about Gods character. He gives the ethic.                                                               | The cosmos is perfect in each moment. To get unified with the cosmos means to get beyond right and wrong. The people deny the morality yet they do good things for a better existence in Karma. | You don't know for sure; each person has its own reality – which can be created by each self, or can be made known by different spirits that you connect with. | The ethic is a linguistic construct. The social right is anything right that the society considers. There is no absolute truth, but each story can create a kind of truth. The truth is what we decide that is. | The base for right and wrong is the teaching of Koran.                                   |

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| <p><b>7. What is the meaning of human history?</b></p>                               | <p>The history is linear; each event leads to God's purpose for humanity.</p>                                                                                                               | <p>The history is linear but its events are not important. The direction of the cosmos was established at creation. The purpose of life is to be happy and to feel good with you.</p>                                                                                                         | <p>The history is a linear sequence of events, which has a cause but no special purpose.</p>     | <p>Linear but with no meaning</p>                                                                                               | <p>A linear string of events, linked through causality, but with no meaning.</p>                                                                                                       | <p>The history as a record of the events is uncertain and unimportant, but the history as a pattern, which needs to be refreshed and lived, has a supreme importance.</p> | <p>The history is cyclical. The time is unreal. To get unified with the "Unique one" means to get beyond the time. The history has not a meaning about the reality. We need to get beyond the history.</p>                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>Through evolution it is expected that people will become very superior and will soon live in a special New Era.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>Nobody knows. The history itself becomes a reflection at the histories of reflection.</p> | <p>Demonstrate s God's sovereignty and the people's submission.</p>                                                      |
| <p><b>8. What personal, core commitments are consistent with this worldview?</b></p> | <p>God is more than personal – he has personality characteristics and communicates. His creation has fallen through Adam but was restored through Jesus. Bible has the absolute truths.</p> | <p>God is not interested in man and woman at an individual level. The human beings are "what they are". They have a kind of nature very alike the other material from the universe. God wants for the people to be good, kind, and honest as Bible or other religions of the world teach.</p> | <p>The rationality – the sole criterion for determining the truth. God is just an invention.</p> | <p>The thinking is substance. Life has no purpose. People should be responsible for themselves, after their own principles.</p> | <p>The responsibility for themselves. Each person is the author of her own experience. The only certain thing is death which will bring to the end any seed of a possible purpose.</p> | <p>Even seems much a like the theist view, here are no wonders and the Bible is not worthy of credence from a history point of view.</p>                                  | <p>Some things are more "The One" than other things. Some people are closer of unity than the others. Many roads and even all the roads can lead to the "Unique one". The purpose is not to be together on the same road, but to have a good direction. The technique is important. The history is not significant. The facts of yesterday have no impact for me today.</p> | <p>The "self" – the center of human being conscience - is the center of the universe. The universe exists not to be manipulated by a transcendent God, but to be manipulated from the inside by the "self". The imagination coincides with the reality. "Anything and everything someone could imagine, exists." Our goal should be to realize our unity with the cosmos.</p> | <p>The postmodernism is in flux, in a constant state..</p>                                   | <p>You need to serve Allah and respect his commandments in every area of your life. Everything God commands is good.</p> |