

God: Eight Enduring Questions. By C. Stephen Layman. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 2022. Pp. xiii + 294. \$100; \$35.

As the title suggests, in *God: Eight Enduring Questions*, C. Stephen Layman, professor emeritus of philosophy at Seattle Pacific University, sets out to answer eight enduring questions related to God: whether there are any good reasons to think that God exists, whether the existence of evil serves as evidence against the existence of God, whether there is just as much reason to think that an evil God exists as a benevolent one, whether the existence of reasonable unbelief serves as evidence against the existence of God, how to understand the relationship between God and morality, whether God's knowledge of the future is compatible with human freedom, whether human beings have souls, and whether the doctrines of karma and reincarnation provide a plausible explanation for the existence of evil. The overarching goal of the book is to offer a cumulative case for a theistic worldview, a worldview in which there exists a perfectly good, maximally powerful, necessarily existent God. Layman rightly frames his cumulative case for theism as a sort of inference to the best explanation. It is not a demonstration or proof of the truth of theism but a comparative analysis of the explanatory power of two competing worldviews: theism and naturalism. Over the course of the book, Layman argues that theism is explanatorily superior, and is thus a more plausible worldview, than naturalism due to its ability to better explain various aspects of reality such as the contingency of the world, libertarian free will, the phenomenal aspects of human consciousness, and the objectivity of moral truths. The major virtues of Layman's book are its clarity, its concision, its accessibility, and its scope. While it does not break a whole lot of new ground on any of the topics it covers, *God: Eight Enduring Questions* offers a careful and cogent case for theism. Along the way, it also provides a remarkably clear and accessible overview of some of the most important debates in

contemporary philosophy of religion. I would highly recommend this book to any students or scholars looking for a clear and comprehensive introduction to these topics.

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