

Worldview James Sire Universe Next Door

James Sire in chapter 2 of The Universe Next Door (1st Edition)

lists the following:

1. God is infinite and personal (Trinity), transcendent and immanent, omniscient, sovereign and good.
2. God created the cosmos ex nihilo to operate with a uniformity of cause and effect in an open system.
3. Man is created in the image of God and thus possesses personality, self-transcendence, intelligence, morality gregariousness, and creativity.
4. God can and does communicate with man.
5. Man was created good, but through the fall the image of God became defaced, though not so ruined as not to be capable of restoration; through the work of Christ God redeemed man and began the process of restoring man to goodness, though any given man may choose to reject that redemption. (GLN I believe all men and every man “does reject” that redemption unless God elects, effectually calls and regenerates. Cf. Romans 8)
6. For man death is either the gate to life with God and his people or the gate to eternal separation from the only thing that will ultimately fulfill man’s aspirations.
7. Ethics is transcendence and is based on the character of God as good (holy and loving). (GLN: as taught in Scripture, observed in natural law and supremely manifested in Jesus Christ.)
8. History is linear, a meaningful sequence of events leading to the fulfillment of God’s purposes for man.

James Sire in chapter 4 enumerates the essential tenets of Naturalism:

1. Matter exists eternally and is all there is. God does not exist.
2. The cosmos exists as a uniformity of cause and effect in a closed system.
3. Man is a complex machine; personality is an interrelation of chemical and physical properties we do not yet fully understand.

4. Death is extinction of personality and individuality.
5. History is a linear stream of events linked by cause and effect but without an overarching purpose.
6. Ethics is related only to man.

James Sire in chapter 9 suggests that all worldviews derive from one of two starting points:

“Either it is the universe which is self-existent and has always existed or it is a transcendent God who is self-existent and has always existed.”

“Either a person can know something about the nature of reality or he cannot.” 207

“Time is either cyclical or linear.” 208

Etc.

Also in chapter 9 he proposes the following:

An acceptable worldview has the follow characteristics:

1. It must “possess inner intellectual coherence.” 209
2. It must “be able to comprehend the data of reality.” 210 If the data are overwhelmingly in favor of a resurrection (of Jesus) then we need to adjust our worldview.
3. “An adequate worldview should explain what it claims to explain.” 210
4. Naturalism’s explanation of “ought” by “is” doesn’t work logically.
5. “A worldview should be subjectively satisfactory... It satisfies by being true.” 211