

Chapter 1 : What is life? (article) | Intro to biology | Khan Academy

In all schools of Hinduism, the meaning of life is tied up in the concepts of karma (causal action), sansara (the cycle of birth and rebirth), and moksha (liberation). Existence is conceived as the progression of the Ātman (similar to the western concept of a soul) across numerous lifetimes, and its ultimate progression towards liberation from karma.

All she had to do was choose something and focus. So one day she sat down in front of a blank canvas and began to paint. Every stroke was more perfect than the next, slowly and gracefully converging to build a flawless masterpiece. And when she eventually finished painting, she stared proudly at her work and smiled. It was obvious to the clouds and the stars, who were always watching over her, that she had a gift. She was an artist. And she knew it too. She felt it in every fiber of her being. But a few moments after she finished painting, she got anxious and quickly stood up. Because she realized that while she had the ability to do anything in the world she wanted to do, she was simply spending her time moving paint around on a piece of canvas. She felt like there was so much more in the world to see and do – so many options. And if she ultimately decided to do something else with her life, then all the time she spent painting would be a waste. So she glanced at her masterpiece one last time, and walked out the door into the moonlight. And as she walked, she thought, and then she walked some more. She had to choose one thing to do out of all the possibilities in the world. Should she practice medicine? She was utterly stumped. Twenty-five years later, the girl began to cry. Life is about making a decision – deciding to do something that moves you. So the girl, who was no longer a girl, purchased some canvas and paint from a local craft store, drove to a nearby park, and began to paint. One stroke gracefully led into the next just as it had so many moons ago. And as she smiled, she continued painting through the day and into the night. Because she had finally made a decision. And there was still some time left to revel in the magic that life is all about.

Chapter 2 : What is Life All About? | Yahoo Answers

"Life has no meaning. Each of us has meaning and we bring it to life. It is a waste to be asking the question when you are the answer." — Joseph Campbell.

What is the meaning of life? How can purpose, fulfillment, and satisfaction in life be found? How can something of lasting significance be achieved? So many people have never stopped to consider these important questions. They look back years later and wonder why their relationships have fallen apart and why they feel so empty, even though they may have achieved what they set out to accomplish. An athlete who had reached the pinnacle of his sport was once asked what he wished someone would have told him when he first started playing his sport. In our humanistic culture, people pursue many things, thinking that in them they will find meaning. Some of these pursuits include business success, wealth, good relationships, sex, entertainment, and doing good to others. People have testified that while they achieved their goals of wealth, relationships, and pleasure, there was still a deep void inside, a feeling of emptiness that nothing seemed to fill. King Solomon, the writer of Ecclesiastes, had wealth beyond measure, wisdom beyond any man of his time or ours, hundreds of women, palaces and gardens that were the envy of kingdoms, the best food and wine, and every form of entertainment available. He said at one point that anything his heart wanted, he pursued. Why is there such a void? Because God created us for something beyond what we can experience in the here-and-now. This means that we are more like God than we are like anything else any other life form. We also find that before mankind fell into sin and the curse of sin came upon the earth, the following things were true: What is the significance of these things? In Revelation, the last book of the Bible, God reveals that He will destroy this present earth and heavens and usher in the eternal state by creating a new heaven and a new earth. At that time, He will restore full fellowship with redeemed mankind, while the unredeemed will have been judged unworthy and cast into the lake of fire Revelation The curse of sin will be done away with; there will be no more sin, sorrow, sickness, death, or pain Revelation God will dwell with them, and they shall be His sons Revelation Thus, we come full circle: God created us to have fellowship with Him, man sinned, breaking that fellowship, God restores that fellowship fully in the eternal state. To go through life achieving everything only to die separated from God for eternity would be worse than futile! But God has made a way to not only make eternal bliss possible Luke Salvation and eternal life are gained when we trust in Jesus Christ as Savior. Once that salvation is received by faith, Christ changes us, making us new creations, and we begin the progressive journey of growing closer to Him and learning to rely on Him. Real meaning in life is not found only in accepting Jesus as Savior, as wonderful as that is. Rather, real meaning in life is when one begins to follow Christ as His disciple, learning of Him, spending time with Him in His Word, communing with Him in prayer, and in walking with Him in obedience to His commands. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. What all of these verses are saying is that we have a choice. We can continue to seek to guide our own lives, which results in emptiness, or we can choose to pursue God and His will for our lives with a whole heart, which will result in living life to the full, having the desires of our hearts met, and finding contentment and satisfaction. This is so because our Creator loves us and desires the best for us not necessarily the easiest life, but the most fulfilling. The Christian life can be compared to the choice of whether to purchase the expensive seats at a sporting event that are close to the action, or pay less and watch the game from a distance. They have paid the price complete surrender to Christ and His will ; they are experiencing life to its fullest; and they can face themselves, their fellow man, and their Maker with no regrets. Have you paid the price? Are you willing to? If so, you will not hunger after meaning or purpose again.

Chapter 3 : What Life Is All About

The question "what is life?" may seem an absurd one, as it is somewhat obvious, given how deep one wishes to go. We might simply respond with "this is life", "this, what you are living" and this answer would be an honest one.

What is the Meaning of Life? And, MOST WONDERFULLY, biology is now able to provide that long dreamed-of, reconciling, redeeming and thus psychologically rehabilitating explanation of our seemingly-highly-imperfect, divisively-behaved human condition, thus allowing us to safely admit that the meaning of life is to behave in an integrative cooperative, selfless and loving way. Wilson has put forward in his theory of Eusociality, but the psychosis-addressing-and-solving, real explanation of it. Over the eons a chaotic universe organised itself into stars, planets and galaxies. Overall, what is happening on Earth is that matter is becoming ordered into larger wholes. So the theme or purpose or meaning of existence is the ordering or integration or complexification of matter, a process that is driven by the physical law of Negative Page 71 of PDF Version Entropy. HOWEVER, the great problem with this truth of the integrative meaning of life is that for a larger whole to form and hold together the parts of that whole must consider the welfare of the whole above their own welfare—put simply, selfishness is divisive or disintegrative while selflessness is integrative. So consider-others-above-yourself, altruistic, unconditional selflessness is the underlying theme of existence. Of these biblical references, Colossians 3: Indeed, we have been so divisive, so ruthlessly competitive, selfish and brutal that human life has become all but unbearable and we have nearly destroyed our own planet! ONLY when we could truthfully explain the good reason WHY we humans have not been ideally behaved, explain our in-humanity—truthfully explain the human condition no less, which fortunately we now can—would it be psychologically safe to confront, admit and accept that the meaning of life is to be integrative, selfless and loving. The more we discover about the universe, the more we find that it is governed by rational laws. If one liked, one could say that this order was the work of God. Of course, as the Nobel Prize-winning physicist Charles H. Indeed, the great hope implicit in the reductionist, mechanistic approach was that by finding understanding of the mechanisms of the workings of our world its practitioners would at least be assembling the means by which the human condition might one day be able to be explained—and that is exactly what they achieved. As will be described shortly, through the gradual accumulation of knowledge about the mechanisms of the workings of our world, scientists found understanding of the difference in the way genes and nerves function, which is the key insight that at last made it possible to explain the human condition. Furthermore, finding understanding of our less-than-ideally-behaved human condition is the crucial insight we needed to psychologically rehabilitate the human race. Again, it has to be stressed that this explanation of our deeply psychologically troubled condition is not the psychosis-avoiding, trivialising, dishonest account of it that E. Wilson put forward in his theory of Eusociality, but the psychosis-addressing-and-solving, truthful, real explanation of it. So, what is the wonderful, dreamed-of, exonerating, psychologically ameliorating, real biological explanation of the human condition that at last makes it safe to admit that the meaning of life is to be integrative, selfless and loving? The main excuse has been that we have savage animal instincts that make Page 73 of PDF Version us fight and compete for food, shelter, territory and a mate. Firstly, it overlooks the fact that our human behaviour involves our unique fully conscious thinking mind. Descriptions like egocentric, arrogant, deluded, artificial, hateful, mean, immoral, alienated, etc, all imply a consciousness-derived, psychological dimension to our behaviour. A brief description of the theories of Social Darwinism, Sociobiology, Evolutionary Psychology, Multilevel Selection and Eusociality that blame our divisive behaviour on savage instincts rather than on a consciousness-derived psychosis is presented in the What is Science? And nor are they derived from warring with other groups of humans as advocates of the theory of Eusociality would have us believe. No, we have an unconditionally selfless, fully altruistic, truly loving, universally-considerate-of-others-not-competitive-with-other-groups, genuinely moral conscience. Our original instinctive state was the opposite of being competitive, selfish and aggressive: How we humans acquired unconditionally selfless moral instincts when it would seem that an unconditionally selfless, fully altruistic trait is going to self-eliminate and thus not ever be able to become

established in a species is briefly explained in the above-mentioned What is Science? The answer begins with an analysis of consciousness. Page 74 of PDF Version If you can remember past events, you can compare them with current events and identify regularly occurring experiences. This knowledge of, or insight into, what has commonly occurred in the past enables you to predict what is likely to happen in the future and to adjust your behaviour accordingly. Once insights into the nature of change are put into effect, the self-modified behaviour starts to provide feedback, refining the insights further. Predictions are compared with outcomes and so on. Much developed, and such refinement occurred in the human brain, nerves can sufficiently associate information to reason how experiences are related, learn to understand and become CONSCIOUS of, or aware of, or intelligent about, the relationship between events that occur through time. Thus consciousness means being sufficiently aware of how experiences are related to attempt to manage change from a basis of understanding. Basically, once our self-adjusting intellect emerged it was capable of taking over the management of our lives from the instinctive orientations we had acquired through the natural selection of genetic traits that adapted us to our environment. HOWEVER, it was at this juncture, when our conscious intellect challenged our instincts for control, that a terrible battle broke out between our instincts and intellect, the effect of which was the extremely competitive, selfish and aggressive state that we call the human condition. To elaborate, when our conscious intellect emerged it was neither suitable nor sustainable for it to be orientated by instincts—it had to find understanding to operate effectively and fulfil its great potential to manage life. However, when our intellect began to exert itself and experiment in the management of life from a basis of understanding, in effect challenging the role of the already established instinctual self, a battle unavoidably broke out between the instinctive self and the newer conscious self. To illustrate the situation, imagine what would happen if we put a fully conscious mind on the head of a migrating bird. Obviously, the intellect could not afford to give in to the instincts, and unable to understand and thus explain why its experiments in self-adjustment were necessary, the conscious intellect had no way of refuting the implicit criticism from the instincts even though it knew it was unjust. Until the conscious mind found the redeeming understanding of why it had to defy the instincts namely the scientific understanding of the difference in the way genes and nerves process Page 75 of PDF Version information, that one is an orientating learning system while the other is an insightful learning system, the intellect was left having to endure a psychologically distressed, upset condition, with no choice but to defy that opposition from the instincts. In short—and to return to our human situation because we were the species that acquired the fully conscious mind—the psychologically upset angry, alienated and egocentric human-condition-afflicted state appeared. We became ego-centric, self-centred or selfish, preoccupied with aggressively competing for opportunities to prove we are good and not bad—we unavoidably became selfish, aggressive and competitive. What is so exonerating, rehabilitating and healing about this explanation of the human condition is that we can finally appreciate that there was a very good reason for our angry, alienated and egocentric behaviour—in fact, we can now see why we have not just been ego-centric, but ego-infuriated, even ego-gone-mad-with-murderous-anger for having to live with so much unjust criticism. Finally, God and man, religion and science, our instinct and intellect, the integrative meaning of life and the inconsistency of our behaviour with that meaning, are all reconciled. From being competitive, selfish and aggressive, humans return to being cooperative, selfless and loving. Our round of departure has ended. To quote Professor Harry Prosen, a former president of the Canadian Psychiatric Association, on this dreamed-of, greatest of all breakthroughs in science:

Chapter 4 : What Is Life All About

Written by Australian biologist Jeremy Griffith, There IS an answer to the question of 'what is the meaning of life', BUT until we could explain our seemingly-imperfect, 'good-and-evil'-afflicted HUMAN CONDITION we couldn't afford to acknowledge what that meaning is.

Is life as we know it inherently good? It is an investigation into the inherent nature of life itself. It is a question of essential morality. Is life good or is life evil? Or, is it neither or something in between? Everyone is entitled to their opinion in this matter, and that opinion will, whether it is obvious or not, reveal the subjective attitude of the person whose opinion it is. Still, the question remains as to whether life can be measured objectively as good or bad. The fact is, I believe that life is good. I believe that life is inherently good objectively and inherently, independent of opinion. There is no doubt. I feel strongly and adamantly about this. You can take my word for it, or you can, in an effort to understand more deeply why this is indeed the case, read further. Life is good because it has no choice to be otherwise. Life is good because given the choice between good and feeling bad, it consistently chooses to feel good, and because life must feel its way as it expresses itself in nature, depends on this feeling to know it is doing the right thing. You are visiting the Grand Canyon. You are approaching the edge in an effort to see all that you can and yet you approach it slowly and carefully, determined not to lose your balance as it is your nature to know when it feels out of such balance or rather unsafe. Balance is our way of knowing in our hearts what is going to work and what will not. Life is a Balancing Act As a child, building with blocks, we learn how to balance them, one on another, each level becoming stable before we move on to the next. This balancing act is part of natural law. Each level of life, from the subatomic particle up each kingdom and species, must answer to this need for a stable form of expression before another level of complication takes place. Witness us as human beings with such complicated biological systems allowing human nature to live as an organized expression of life for seventy to eighty years or more. Life expresses the human form as a natural act. It is not our doing. When we lose our balance, we feel it. We feel it in our health. We feel it in our relationships. Life is inherently and otherwise good because this is what life IS. The expression of energy in any balanced form is necessary for life to BE. So, life is good, and goodness is what life requires to keep living and living in a healthy manner. So, how to live? How to know you whether you are in balance?

Chapter 5 : What's life all about anyway? | Life and style | The Guardian

All life has purpose from the tiniest tear of a baby to the mightiest tree in the forest. Yet, that purpose has seemed to elude people throughout the generations. Our world, with all its diversities, has truly only two classes of people - those who believe and know God and those who do not believe and continue the query.

Jeremy Bentham The origins of utilitarianism can be traced back as far as Epicurus , but, as a school of thought, it is credited to Jeremy Bentham , [67] who found that "nature has placed mankind under the governance of two sovereign masters, pain and pleasure", then, from that moral insight, deriving the Rule of Utility: He defined the meaning of life as the " greatest happiness principle ". Friedrich Nietzsche characterized nihilism as emptying the world, and especially human existence, of meaning, purpose, comprehensible truth, and essential value; succinctly, nihilism is the process of "the devaluing of the highest values". To Martin Heidegger , nihilism is the movement whereby " being " is forgotten, and is transformed into value, in other words, the reduction of being to exchange value. If God, as the supra-sensory ground and goal, of all reality, is dead; if the supra-sensory world of the Ideas has suffered the loss of its obligatory, and above it, its vitalizing and up-building power, then nothing more remains to which Man can cling, and by which he can orient himself. The knowledge disclosed by modern science has effectively rewritten the relationship of humankind to the natural world. Advances in medicine and technology have freed humans from significant limitations and ailments of previous eras; [74] and philosophyâ€™”particularly following the linguistic turn â€™”has altered how the relationships people have with themselves and each other are conceived. Questions about the meaning of life have also seen radical changes, from attempts to reevaluate human existence in biological and scientific terms as in pragmatism and logical positivism to efforts to meta-theorize about meaning-making as a personal, individual-driven activity existentialism , secular humanism. Pragmatism Pragmatism originated in the late 19th-century US, concerning itself mostly with truth , and positing that "only in struggling with the environment" do data, and derived theories, have meaning, and that consequences, like utility and practicality, are also components of truth. Moreover, pragmatism posits that anything useful and practical is not always true, arguing that what most contributes to the most human good in the long course is true. In practice, theoretical claims must be practically verifiable, i. Pragmatic philosophers suggest that the practical, useful understanding of life is more important than searching for an impractical abstract truth about life. William James argued that truth could be made, but not sought. Philosophical theism Theists believe God created the universe and that God had a purpose in doing so. Theists further hold that if there were no God to give life ultimate meaning, value and purpose, then life would be absurd. According to existentialism, each man and each woman creates the essence meaning of their life; life is not determined by a supernatural god or an earthly authority, one is free. One can live meaningfully free of despair and anxiety in an unconditional commitment to something finite, and devotes that meaningful life to the commitment, despite the vulnerability inherent to doing so. Salvation, deliverance, and escape from suffering are in aesthetic contemplation, sympathy for others, and asceticism. Accordingly, he saw nihilism "all that happens is meaningless" as without goals. For to hope in the possibility of help, not to speak of help by virtue of the absurd, that for God all things are possibleâ€™”no, that he will not do. And as for seeking help from any otherâ€™”no, that he will not do for all the world; rather than seek help he would prefer to be himselfâ€™”with all the tortures of hell, if so it must be. As beings looking for meaning in a meaningless world, humans have three ways of resolving the dilemma. Suicide or, "escaping existence": Both Kierkegaard and Camus dismiss the viability of this option. Religious belief in a transcendent realm or being: Kierkegaard stated that a belief in anything beyond the Absurd requires a non-rational but perhaps necessary religious acceptance in such an intangible and empirically unprovable thing now commonly referred to as a " leap of faith ". However, Camus regarded this solution as "philosophical suicide". Acceptance of the Absurd: Camus endorsed this solution notably in his allegorical novel The Plague or La Peste , while Kierkegaard regarded this solution as "demonic madness": Per secular humanism , the human species came to be by reproducing successive generations in a progression of unguided evolution as an integral expression of nature , which is self-existing.

Humanism seeks to develop and fulfill: It is based on the premises that the happiness of the individual person is inextricably linked to the well-being of all humanity, in part because humans are social animals who find meaning in personal relations and because cultural progress benefits everybody living in the culture. In this light, every living creature has the right to determine its personal and social "meaning of life". There are many therapeutic responses to this question. For example, Viktor Frankl argues for "Dereflection", which translates largely as: On the whole, the therapeutic response is that the question itself—"what is the meaning of life? The question then morphs into more specific worries such as "What delusions am I under? The things people, events in the life of a person can have meaning importance as parts of a whole, but a discrete meaning of the life, itself, aside from those things, cannot be discerned. Bertrand Russell wrote that although he found that his distaste for torture was not like his distaste for broccoli, he found no satisfactory, empirical method of proving this: Neither he nor his opponents could advance any argument. In a scientific question, evidence can be adduced on both sides, and, in the end, one side is seen to have the better case—or, if this does not happen, the question is left undecided. But in a question, as to whether this, or that, is the ultimate Good, there is no evidence, either way; each disputant can only appeal to his own emotions, and employ such rhetorical devices as shall rouse similar emotions in others Questions as to "values"—that is to say, as to what is good or bad on its own account, independently of its effects—lie outside the domain of science, as the defenders of religion emphatically assert. I think that, in this, they are right, but, I draw the further conclusion, which they do not draw, that questions as to "values" lie wholly outside the domain of knowledge. That is to say, when we assert that this, or that, has "value", we are giving expression to our own emotions, not to a fact, which would still be true if our personal feelings were different. Postmodernism Postmodernist thought—"broadly speaking"—sees human nature as constructed by language, or by structures and institutions of human society. Unlike other forms of philosophy, postmodernism rarely seeks out a priori or innate meanings in human existence, but instead focuses on analyzing or critiquing given meanings in order to rationalize or reconstruct them. Anything resembling a "meaning of life", in postmodernist terms, can only be understood within a social and linguistic framework, and must be pursued as an escape from the power structures that are already embedded in all forms of speech and interaction. As a rule, postmodernists see awareness of the constraints of language as necessary to escaping those constraints, but different theorists take different views on the nature of this process: Naturalistic pantheism According to naturalistic pantheism , the meaning of life is to care for and look after nature and the environment. Embodied cognition Embodied cognition uses the neurological basis of emotion, speech, and cognition to understand the nature of thought. Cognitive neuropsychology has identified brain areas necessary for these abilities, and genetic studies show that the gene FOXP2 affects neuroplasticity which underlies language fluency. George Lakoff , a professor of cognitive linguistics and philosophy, advances the view that metaphors are the usual basis of meaning, not the logic of verbal symbol manipulation. Computers use logic programming to effectively query databases but humans rely on a trained biological neural network.

Is life about making money and raising a family? Is it about "making a difference" or "following your heart"? Is there a reason we are all here?

Are you sure you want to delete this answer? Yes Sorry, something has gone wrong. What is the purpose of life? All life has purpose from the tiniest tear of a baby to the mightiest tree in the forest. Yet, that purpose has seemed to elude people throughout the generations. Our world, with all its diversities, has truly only two classes of people - those who believe and know God and those who do not believe and continue the query. Pete Seeger wrote a song in called Turn, Turn, Turn. A time to be born, and a time to die" The verses continue with all the reasons for everything and in time, those purposes are fulfilled. God shows us part of the answer to "What is the purpose of life" in Ecclesiastes. However, the question is still asked by the group who does not believe in God. Believers know that God has a plan and a purpose for all people. He provides cycles of life with a design for each person - the first purpose being to personally know and have a relationship with Him. Those who are in the class of unbelievers are often lacking any lasting joy or hope in their lives. It cannot be found in money, position and fame, or temporary pleasures. Without joy and hope people are in danger of doubt, feeling lack of worth and despair. Eventually societies see a declined value for life which leads to abortions, euthanasia, and suicide, or genocide. But God, through his grace, shows His intent: In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence" Ephesians 3: In exercising faith in God, we will know His love, and be filled with His fullness. He is "able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us Ephesians 3: The Meaning of Life: An Ageless Search What is the meaning of life? This is one of the most frequently asked questions by all of humanity since the beginning of time. It is a question naturally asked by people because they have the ability to make choices about life. The question would appear to be difficult to answer and different for every individual depending on their circumstances. It is the ultimate search for truth and purpose in life; the reason we were born, wake up everyday and exist. The Truth Although people have struggled for the purpose of their existence throughout history, the answer for the meaning of life is relatively simple and the same for everyone; it is to love God by choosing to have a relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus Christ. This is the simple and accurate truth about the meaning of life. There are many other ideas, definitions, theories and religions about the meaning of life that differ; however, if they do not include the above definition as the core truth, then they will ultimately be proven inaccurate and disappointing to anyone who accepts them. Skeptics that are apart from God throughout history have failed with their falsehoods of the meaning of life. However, knowing the truth is a very clear and easy answer. But, accepting and adopting the truth into your life is the ultimate life defining challenge that God wants to help you fulfill. The guide to helping you understand how to do this is the Holy Bible. God made you for a purpose. However, before you can fulfill that purpose, you need to establish a relationship with God. The start of a meaningful relationship with God is achieved by taking several steps, in faith, that are described in the Bible. First, in prayer to God, admit to Him that you have been living apart from Him and invite God back into your life as the leader. Next, ask for forgiveness from God and accept Jesus Christ, His Son, into your life as the leader and personal Savior. God loves you like everyone else He created very much and it is the choice of everyone to accept or reject that love. If you just prayed the above prayer, then you are in harmony with God and the start of your adventure for the meaning of your life has begun. How to fulfill your Mission The challenge to the meaning of life is being faithful to the calling of God and being dedicated to fulfilling the purpose that He created you for by accomplishing your life mission. The Holy Bible addresses these issues clearly to give people answers about how to lead their life in every circumstance, from poor to rich, from health to illness, from strong to weak, and from spiritual to sinful. Everybody has limiting circumstances, but God gives people this ultimate life instruction book called the Bible to help them understand how to make the right choices throughout their changing life. Also, it is important to fellowship with other Christians that have accepted Jesus for encouragement and support. The meaning of your life will ultimately be judged by God when you die. God will ask what you did with your

talents. He will want to know if you chose to help others or were selfish. He will inquire if you accepted His Son Jesus and if you followed Him. Now that you know the meaning of life, choose to accept and apply this truth to your God-given abilities and circumstances. Learn about what God wants for you and submit to His plan for a life of fulfilling significance. Simple Truth Christianity rises to the top when you earnestly investigate the other theories, philosophies, movements and religions of the world. Yes, as hard as it is to hear in our pluralistic world community, Christianity is different than all the others. That may sound terribly dogmatic and narrow-minded, but the simple truth is that Christianity is the only true religion. The difference with Jesus is that His life completely backed those claims. A primary focus for your study is that Jesus fulfilled over messianic prophecies written in the Old Testament scriptures. They were truly fulfilled by the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Messianic prophecy is the collection of over predictions a conservative estimate in the Old Testament about the future Messiah of the Jewish people. These predictions were written by multiple authors, in numerous books, over approximately 1,000 years. Although many Jews did not accept Jesus as their Messiah, many did, and they became the Jewish sect later known as the Christians. Christianity, based in dramatic part on the fulfillment of historical prophecy, spread rapidly throughout the Roman Empire of the 1st Century. Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms. Check them all out for yourself! Born of a virgin Isaiah 7: Messianic Prophecy is so powerful because of the statistical odds that one man would fulfill every single one of them. If we just analyze seven of the more specific prophecies in the Old Testament, that were later fulfilled in the Person of Jesus Christ, we are stunned by the statistical impossibility of such an historical reality. As an illustration, we have inserted some conservative "odds" alongside seven established prophecies. Please feel free to propose your own prophecies and your own odds - the dramatic point will still be made! The probability that one man would fulfill only seven of the prophecies in 10 to the 38 power one in billion billion billion. To see this for yourself, go to [AllAboutTruth](#). Messianic Prophecy - The Challenge Messianic prophecy is phenomenal evidence that sets the Bible apart from the other "holy books. Better yet, get a Jewish Tanakh the Hebrew scripture read in the Jewish synagogues and read the Messianic prophecies from there. It is dramatic, eye-opening and potentially life-changing! Another focus for your study is to understand what Jesus said and did as a historical figure. No legitimate scholars today will deny that Jesus lived about 2,000 years ago, was a great teacher and doer of good works, and that he was crucified on a Roman cross for the crime of blasphemy among the Jews. The only dispute is whether Jesus rose from the dead three days after his crucifixion and that He was, in fact, God incarnate. This is where everyone must test the evidence for the resurrection, examine their hearts, and make a decision about who Jesus really was. Jesus said that He alone was the way to the Father John 14:6 Christians do not go around saying Christianity is the only way because they are arrogant, stupid or judgmental. They do so because, based on the evidence, they believe what Jesus said. Christians believe in Jesus, who claimed to be God John 8:18 Jesus said that He was the only way. He was either telling the truth, He was crazy, or He was a liar. He must have been telling the truth. He is the only way. It is trusting in Jesus and what He did on the cross for you 1 Corinthians 2:2 Christianity is not about ornate buildings, flamboyant preachers, or traditional rituals. Christianity is about truly accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Become a Christian Today! How do I become a Christian? Once you have asked all your questions, weighed all the evidence, and tested all the arguments, you will ultimately be confronted with the basic question Jesus asked his own disciples in Matthew 22:37 If you have come to the same conclusion as Simon Peter, you are a few steps away from having a personal relationship with our loving God. It is our sincere hope and prayer that each of you reach this conclusion, for we know that true happiness, joy and peace only come when we recognize our purpose for existing and yield our wills to our Creator. Step through the Gospel First, you can be sure that God loves you unconditionally and desires to have a personal relationship with you. Second, you need to admit your sinful nature to God, because this is what separates all of us from Him. When many of us consider "What is sin? Even then, we tend to think of murder and adultery as "major" sins compared with lying, cursing, or idolatry. The truth is that sin, as defined in the original translations of the Bible, means "to miss the mark. Viewed in that light, it is clear that we are all sinners. The Apostle Paul says in Romans 3:

Chapter 7 : Is Life Good. Is life as we know it inherently good? How to know.

Peace is the beauty of life. It is sunshine. It is the smile of a child, the love of a mother, the joy of a father, the togetherness of a family.

Life has properties that clearly distinguish it from everything else. First, every living thing is cellular. In other words, it is either a single-celled creature or a creature composed of many cells. Every cell is bounded by its own outer membrane and contains a full set of instructions necessary for its operation and reproduction. Furthermore, every cell uses the same operating system: There are hundreds of billions of different proteins used by living things³, but all of them are made from the same twenty amino acids, the "building blocks of life. Either individually or in sexual pairs, they have both the encoded instructions and the machinery necessary for self-reproduction. Some creatures cannot reproduce, but every creature comes from reproduction. Periodic crystals like sodium chloride table salt also undergo a kind of self-reproduction. In crystals however, the "instructions" are much simpler, they are not encoded, and they are not different from the "machinery. Metabolism creates waste products. When metabolism ceases with no prospect of starting again, we call it death. Machines also convert materials and energy for their needs, create waste, and could be said to die. Notably, simpler forms are succeeded by forms with greater organization. Cars evolve also, in their way. And computers even contain their own encoded instruction sets. It is tempting to say that motor vehicle traffic is simply the things that move along the streets and highways – cars and trucks. Of course buses and motorcycles should be included, although they are absent or prohibited on some streets. But what about wheelchairs, bicycles and skateboards – sometimes these are motorized. What about a trailer that is merely towed behind a tractor? What about a tire that happens to come off and roll a tenth of a mile? What about rocks that fall out of a dump truck and bounce and skid along the highway? As it turns out, motor vehicle traffic is quite difficult to define. But naturally it would be hard to draw a line between cars and trucks, and the bouncing and skidding rocks from which they must have evolved. These latter properties of life are sometimes used to make the point that life is hard to define. Another kind of life, entirely different from ours, is conceivable, yes. But the only kind we have ever seen is the one we are part of here on Earth. As biologist and philosopher Harold J. Morowitz says, "The only life we know for certain is cellular. Viruses and prions are not alive; they lie on the fringe of life. Viruses certainly and prions probably can evolve. But neither can reproduce itself; each needs the machinery of a living cell to carry out its reproduction. Without a cell, viruses and prions are merely inert, complicated particles which do nothing. Do they make it hard to define life? We know what motor vehicle traffic is. And we know what life is. Computers have coded instructions inside them called programs. The programs in computers are analogous to the genetic programming in the DNA within cells. DNA is subdivided into functional units called genes; these would correspond to files in the computer. A computer even has a metabolism: The programs in cells and those in computers can both be 1 copied and 2 executed. A cell can make a complete copy of itself; it contains the complete instructions programs and the cellular machinery hardware necessary to reproduce itself. A computer cannot make a copy of itself. It lacks the necessary machinery but it may be able to reproduce its instruction set by "automatic full backup". A computer that could reproduce itself would be more properly described as a self-reproducing robot. Such a thing is conceivable, but none exists on Earth today. A multicelled creature is like a network of computers. It requires parallel computer architecture on a huge scale to operate multicelled creatures such as mammals with millions of millions of cells, all working in harmony, each doing its task. The nervous system and the hormonal system are two important networking systems used by mammals. Changing the way a computer works requires new programs. Sometimes one can simply insert a disc into a slot: Other times, reprogramming a computer is more trouble. The new software may have "bugs"; it may not be compatible with the existing software; additional software patches may be needed; it may introduce a computer virus; or it may cause everything to crash without explanation. Biological evolution happens when cells are reprogrammed. Somehow, new genetic programs are installed and activated. How does new genetic software get installed and activated? And where does it come from? These are some of the questions that Cosmic Ancestry attempts to

answer. The Two Kinds of Cells There are two kinds of cells. You might guess the two are plant and animal cells. This distinction, however, is even more profound. The two kinds are prokaryotes and eukaryotes. All plant and animal cells are eukaryotic. Prokaryotes are smaller and simpler than eukaryotic cells. They have no cell nucleus. They can multiply faster than eukaryotic cells, mainly for two reasons: Prokaryotes are also called bacteria. They come in a wide variety of types; their diversity is much greater than that of eukaryotes. Prokaryotes were here first, appearing very soon after Earth had cooled enough for life to survive. The oldest rocks that could contain recognizable fossils contain evidence of dome-like structures left by colonies of cyanobacteria and other bacteria. Even older rocks contain chemical evidence that bacterial metabolism was under way.

5. Prokaryotes are divided into two major subkingdoms: Eubacteria, or "true bacteria", are more familiar and ubiquitous, thriving in soil, water, our own mouths, etc. Archaeobacteria differ from eubacteria in some basic ways. For example, their ribosomes nanoscale protein factories have a different shape. In fact, archaeobacteria are in some ways more similar to eukaryotes than to eubacteria. Biologists now think, based on the reconstruction of genetic "trees," that archaeobacteria are the oldest kind of cell. Today some biologists maintain that archaeobacteria constitute a third domain of life which could be called simply archaea.

There are four types of archaea. Two are known for their ability to inhabit extremely hostile environments such as very salty brines, and boiling springs or ocean thermal vents. The third group can metabolize some very unappetizing chemicals to make methane. A fourth type, the sulfate-reducers, were recently distinguished from the others.

9. The eukaryotic cell has a differentiated nucleus enclosed in a nuclear membrane. It usually has two whole copies of the genome, so in computer terms the eukaryotic cell has a backup copy of its programs. Outside of its nucleus, the eukaryotic cell has an array of complex subunits that are essential to it. Two of the subunits, mitochondria and chloroplasts, have their own DNA. These two subunits enable eukaryotic cells that contain them to conduct respiration and photosynthesis, respectively. And a eukaryotic cell has an internal "cytoskeleton" that supports, transports and rearranges its structure and elements. With these features, eukaryotic cells are able to constitute multicelled animals and plants. Thus, eukaryotes are able to acquire much more complex organs and systems than prokaryotes. If life has existed on Earth for almost four billion years, the consensus is that eukaryotes first appeared just after the halfway point, maybe 1. Returning to the computer analogy, the relationship between prokaryotes and eukaryotes is like the relationship between handheld calculators and desktop personal computers. Both kinds of cells come in a broad range of sizes, but prokaryotes are, on average, about an order of magnitude smaller, like handheld calculators. And they come in a wide variety, each with a narrow special purpose. Consider scientific calculators, inventory scanners, GPS units, cellphones, cordless phones, pagers, beepers, walkie-talkies, PDAs, TV remote controllers, keyless entry buttons, Gameboys, Walkmans, iPods, guitar tuners, electronic or medical diagnostic kits, digital cameras, smoke detectors, portable radios, digital thermometers and cordless shavers. Like eukaryotes, personal computers have greater memory capacity, have more complicated structure, and can be networked.

eukaryotes form multicelled creatures. The simplest prokaryotic cell would correspond to a handheld calculator with about kilobytes of stored programs; the E. Among eukaryotic cells, counting the backup copy of the genome and the "silent" DNA, a yeast cell would correspond to a personal computer with 12 megabytes of program storage capacity; a human cell corresponds to a personal computer with 1.

Chapter 8 : What is Life - purpose meaning how happiness matters, to be, live.

WHAT IS LIFE ALL ABOUT? Coming to the Correct Understanding of God and His Purpose for life by Alan P. Gill. There are six key understandings that every person should have.

What will you do with the next 20 years of your life? The story Jesus tells in our text this morning sets forth essentials for answering those kinds of questions. I know of no better summary of what life is all about than the one Jesus gives us here in Matthew. The story is about a man who goes on a long journey. Before he leaves he entrusts his property to his servants. When the master returns he requires each servant to give account of what he has done with the property entrusted to him. The two faithful servants are rewarded. The unfaithful servant is cast out. Our Master has entrusted to each one of us certain resources and opportunities. When we hear the word talent we do not think of the same thing as the disciples did when Jesus was telling this story. For us a talent has come to mean ability or natural gifting. But in this story a talent is about a pounds of metal, probably gold or silver[2]. And the point we must see here is that God has entrusted every person in this room with something very valuable. Even the one talent man was given a lot of money to handle. What do the talents represent in your life? They represent everything God has given you—“which is everything you are and everything you have[4]. What do you have that you did not receive from God? Paul asked that question to the Christians in Corinth. What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as though you did not? Every ability I have, every dollar I have, every opportunity that comes my way, the very air I breathe come to me from God. I am not my own. I am bought with a price, the precious blood of Jesus. Everything really belongs to God. He has simply entrusted me with it during this brief event we call life. The moment I think that the money I have belongs to me to do with as I please is the moment I am already thinking wrong about life. The moment I think I have success because of my capability or my efforts is the moment I am already thinking wrong. Do you have good health? Do you have a good job? Do you have money? It is all on lend to you for a brief season. Because we forget where it all came from. A subtle misunderstanding comes in and it gets us off track. There are serious dangers in that kind of thinking. We will not just give account for the ten percent. You and I will give account for every penny of it. Some are granted more prophetic insight than others. Some are given faith. Some are given words of wisdom. God grants to some people more leadership abilities than others. Paul talks about that but then he reminds them of a very important principle. Did God give one person more ability than others just so that person could use it to his own selfish ends?

Chapter 9 : What is life all about? | Yahoo Answers

Does your life have meaning? To find out, rate the items below on a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), then add up your score.

What Is Life All About? Reading these quotes will open your eye to understand the meaning of life in a better way. Living is solving problems. Author Unknown A life without cause is a life without effect. Jack Handey To live is so startling it leaves little time for anything else. Life is a whim of several billion cells to be you for a while. Life is a great big canvas, and you should throw all the paint on it you can Life is like a coin. You can spend it any way you wish, but you only spend it once. Then things get worse. In the end, you are left with nothing but broken bits filled with hardened jelly and teeth-shattering nuts, which, if you are desperate enough to eat, leaves nothing but an empty box of useless brown paper. I get up in the morning and I go to bed at night. In between, I occupy myself as best I can. I hate a fellow whom pride or cowardice or laziness drive into a corner, and who does nothing when he is there but sit and growl. Let him come out as I do, and bark. It is about the gift not the package it comes in. The world owes you nothing. It was here first. You will never live if you are looking for the meaning of life. These I shall have. Jerome The price of anything is the amount of life you exchange for it. Whoever lets them break without having enjoyed them is a complete fool. Eliot, The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock Life was a damned muddle â€” a football game with everyone offside and the referee gotten rid of â€” everyone claiming the referee would have been on his side. Merwin Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. You can use any wind to go in any direction. Somerset Maugham In life we all have an unspeakable secret, an irreversible regret, an unreachable dream and an unforgettable love. One must never, for whatever reason, turn his back on life. Or even worse, it may have a meaning of which I disapprove. To succeed in life, you need three things: Merwin Fortunately analysis is not the only way to resolve inner conflicts. Life itself remains a very effective therapist. It is inherently messy. Idel Dreimer, Life is a long process of getting tired. That is not the choice. You must take it. The only question is how. Most of us have gears we never use. Perhaps that is all we ought to expect. Blood The miracle is not to fly in the air, or to walk on the water, but to walk on the earth. But I think the real miracle is not to walk either on water or in thin air, but to walk on earth. All is a miracle. At any rate, you live. We only see flat surfaces. One is always living a little more or dying a little bit. Business requires earnestness and method; life must have a freed handling. It is a little star dust caught, a segment of the rainbow which I have clutched. Life is the wind and the rain and the thunder in the sky. Life is matter and is earth, what is and what is not, and what beyond is in Eternity. Merwin If A equals success, then the formula is: Now that I have organized it allâ€¦ It is just about over. Most of them acquire it fragment by fragment, on a small scale, by successive developments, cellularly, like a laborious mosaic. Tomorrow is another one. Seuss Mayhap the best thing I ever done in my life was only doing what was easiest for myself. It also holds pitfalls. Resistance makes it ugly. You gots to wind it up! Merwin Few of us write great novels; all of us live them. Hill, Sometimes questions are more important than answers. Moorhead [A]s if life were a thunder-storm wherein you can see by a flash the horizon, and then cannot see your handâ€¦. People who are not rich, dreams to get rich, indeed they did not know what the real Rich means. Here are some motivational lines about what is life all about.