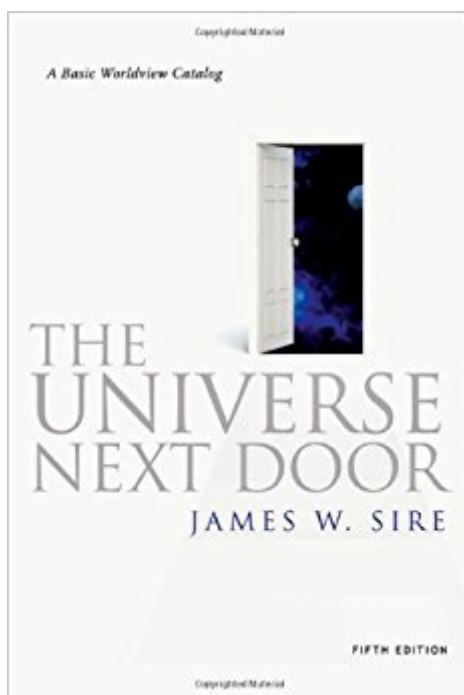


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# The Universe Next Door: A Basic Worldview Catalog, 5th Edition



## Synopsis

Voted one of Christianity Today's 1998 Books of the Year! For more than thirty years, *The Universe Next Door* has set the standard for a clear, readable introduction to worldviews. In this new fifth edition James Sire offers additional student-friendly features to his concise, easily understood introductions to theism, deism, naturalism, Marxism, nihilism, existentialism, Eastern monism, New Age philosophy and postmodernism. Included in this expanded format are a new chapter on Islam and informative sidebars throughout. The book continues to build on Sire's refined definition of worldviews from the fourth edition and includes other updates as well, keeping this standard text fresh and useful. In a world of ever-increasing diversity, *The Universe Next Door* offers a unique resource for understanding the variety of worldviews that compete with Christianity for the allegiance of minds and hearts. *The Universe Next Door* has been translated into over a dozen languages and has been used as a text at over one hundred colleges and universities in courses ranging from apologetics and world religions to history and English literature. Sire's *Naming the Elephant: Worldview as a Concept* provides a useful companion volume for those desiring a more in-depth discussion of the nature of a worldview.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Read as a whole it traces a convincing history of the evolution of worldviews (particularly in the West), as well as providing a robust defence of the enduring validity of the Christian faith . . . an excellent introduction." (Dr. Alan Kerry, Faith & Thought, October 2010)"For more than thirty years, *The Universe Next Door* has set the standard for a clear, readable introduction to worldviews. Sire

offers additional student-friendly features to his concise, easily understood introductions to theism, deism, naturalism, Marxism, nihilism, existentialism, Eastern monism, New Age philosophy and postmodernism." (Rev. Paul J. Cain, Liturgy, Hymnody, and Pulpit Quarterly Book Review, August 2010)"For anyone concerned to understand the culture in which we are called to work and witness, which ought to be all of us, this is still an indispensable resource." (David McKay, The Covenanter Witness, June 2010)"Revised and updated to include a new chapter on Islam by a contributing author, and incorporates developments about the worldview notion from Sire's Naming the Elephant." (Reference & Research Book News, February 2010)"The most readable presentation of alternative systems that I have ever seen." (Russ Bush)"To think intelligently today is to think worldviewishly, to come to terms with the mosaic of meaning systems which make up modern thinking. This book is a clear introduction and invaluable guide." (Os Guinness)"If you are looking for an introductory exposition of prominent worldviews, I know of no better book." (Nicholas Wolterstorff)PRAISE FOR THE FIRST EDITION: "A most magnificently useful book." (E. M. Blaiklock)

James W. Sire (PhD, University of Missouri), formerly a senior editor at InterVarsity Press, is an active speaker and writer. He has taught English, philosophy, theology, and short courses at many universities and seminaries. He continues to be a frequent guest lecturer in the United States and Europe. His InterVarsity Press books and Bible studies include *The Universe Next Door* (a worldviews textbook), *Scripture Twisting*, *Discipleship of the Mind*, *Chris Chrisman Goes to College*, *Why Should Anyone Believe Anything at All?*, *Habits of the Mind*, *Naming the Elephant*, *Learning to Pray Through the Psalms*, *Why Good Arguments Often Fail* and *A Little Primer on Humble Apologetics*.

Overall, I perceive the value of the content in this text as 4.5 out of 5.0. This book provokes a lot of deep thinking, so please do not expect this to be a fast or easy read. I was recommended to review this text by my pastor and I found this book quite insightful. It can serve as an initial guide for areas of additional research. In addition, at least I now feel that I have a general, elementary, understanding of the significant worldviews and how they relate or contrast with each other from the perspective of Christianity as perceived by the author.

This book is a great read on the many different world views that's cultures carry throughout the world. The book is designed to help you understand the differences of views throughout the world

views easily. It discusses what human beings are, what happens at death, how do we know anything at all, etc. Great easy read that's keeping me ahead in ethics!

Item was received as promised!

Required high school read.

I had given away my copy of this earlier edition, so when I saw it was available, I snapped it up. This is an eye-opening book about not only every worldview from Christianity through Eastern monism and all the way to atheism. A great feature is that it helps the reader see the inevitable practical result of each worldview in terms of a continuum from optimism to despair.

This is a challenging read for anyone who is willing to investigate how he or she truly sees human existence and the universe as a whole. Whether you are examining life on a philosophical level, or searching for truth, this book is worth the read.

Good introductory synthesis to different world-views. Some strong points and some weak points, i.e. Trying to put both theistic and atheistic existentialism in the same chapter while not regarding Thomistic transcendentalism. Overall, good book and conversation starter.

As a beginning text for worldview, is excellent. Gives overview on the major world views in concise manner. Presents fairly, still affirms Christian Theism. The chapter on Islam could use some works, makes some statements that are misleading and incorrect.

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