

Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

# Best of Introductions

## Series 4-8

by Ben Huot

[www.benjamin-newton.com](http://www.benjamin-newton.com)

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Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

First Things.....	4
For More Information.....	5
License .....	6
Real Love .....	7
She is The Only One.....	10
Conversations with God.....	12
Walking with God .....	15
Times of Life.....	20
Psychology of Water .....	22
What are We Waiting For?.....	24
A New Kind of Peace.....	28
God is Not Boring.....	32
Concluding Prayer .....	38
Time for God .....	45

Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

Rhythm in Doubt.....	51
Young Earth.....	57
Disclaimer.....	57
Poem.....	57
Waiting Time .....	65

# First Things

## For More Information

For more books and information, visit me on the web at  
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I even enjoy constructive criticism

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# Real Love

To most people today  
Romantic love is the highest bar  
So do today's prophets  
And artists and singers  
Preach this message  
That sex is love  
But there is so much more to romance  
And a romantic worldview  
Sexual love is seen as the holy grail of faith  
It is today's standard way to find joy in life  
Does it take less faith  
To believe in a loving God  
Than to believe that fate will deliver  
Faith that it will bring true love  
Faith that the love you find in another  
Will make yourself happy  
That the love will be based on honesty  
That the lover will be faithful  
That the love will be enough  
To survive the storms of life  
Can another person make you happy  
Can a person alone satisfy you  
How can someone that doesn't know you completely  
Give you all that you need  
How can a person that does know you perfectly  
Accept you for who you are  
It is truly a greater thing  
To believe in love  
Than to believe in God

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It takes a greater leap of reason  
To finding real peace  
In the arms of another person  
Truly it is great falling in love  
But what is it to those who cannot  
Those who are too old, ugly, or picky  
To those who no one can love  
Because they have so many problems  
To those who never meet the right person  
To those who cannot afford to wait that long  
Romantic love is for the few  
Can you really be true to another forever  
Can they even to the end of this life  
God accepts all and is always faithful  
Not only can God truly love us  
He does so while knowing who we truly are  
He can do this because of who He is  
Both Creator and Savior  
Only He can bring the peace  
That is absent in people  
The joy of knowing the God of the universe  
Cares about even us little peons  
That He became one of us  
And showed us how to truly love one another  
He knew this was necessary  
Before He even created us  
Why He loves us is a mystery  
But it is the most real love we will ever experience  
It is the most genuine acceptance  
Of who we really are  
We associate love with sex today  
But romance is really much more

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Romance is not just sex  
Anymore than God is just human

# She is The Only One

Can a person be too kind?  
Can a person be truly good?  
Dropped straight from Heaven  
Like an angel walking among us  
Wise as a prophet in Scripture  
Sharp in mind and soul as a diamond  
The best human counselor  
The softest heart and strongest mind  
Spontaneous in spirit and subtle in decision-making  
Of the highest order of service and sincerity  
She becomes brighter each day  
And stands out more at night  
Even if she now walks a little slower  
And is a little less steady in stride  
She is more careful with others feelings  
And more gentle in words  
She has fought the good fight with pain and illness  
With honor and distinction  
With each decision her family grows closer  
Her only critic is herself  
Always a Mary at heart  
But a Martha in action  
She has the inner strength  
To make mountains move  
She is faithful and true  
Her candle never grows dim  
Her faith is like a lighthouse  
She is always ready to see the Lord  
She is the subject of the Sermon on the Mount

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Her life is a beatitude

# Conversations with God

I cannot stop talking  
Of what the joy of the Lord brings  
I cannot speak enough  
Of what God has done for me  
Each day I hear His voice  
Each night He hears mine  
I do not stop to pray  
Because I never stop my conversation  
With my Creator and Redeemer  
In each frustration I experience  
He guides me through the thorns  
When I struggle as the sea does against the sand  
He stands watch over me without ever blinking  
There are times when doubt fills my mind and heart  
Sometimes I can barely see as the glory of God blinds me  
I constantly need to stretch my mind to wrap my head  
Around what He reveals to me  
I fight to get the words out before I forget them forever  
For some thoughts of God there are no words  
Language can only take you so far  
The Bible keeps being written a new each reading  
On the hearts of His people  
Who can really understand what God says  
Who can truly master the word of God  
We cannot understand the mind of God  
Anymore than we can be perfect morally  
How difficult it is to conceive of God's point of view  
Even when we praise Him  
We are just saying what is true

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Just as God cannot swear on anything higher than Himself  
So our worship is merely a restatement  
Of what everyone already knows is both truth and fact  
When we turn our face from God  
We act out in sin  
We understand why we need to fear God  
When we ask to be forgiven  
We cannot truly understand why He chooses to do so  
Sin and evil are a mystery to many  
But I think God's mercy is harder to explain  
But God can only be approached with an appropriate attitude  
With honesty and sincerity is where the conversation must start  
Just as God always accepts us unconditionally  
We must never disown Him  
We blame God for evil  
But who are we to criticize God  
He is blameless but we are not  
When we accept we need Him  
But He does not need us  
Our journey of faith has truly started  
Until we die we cannot estimate how strong God is  
And how weak we are  
But faith is not about knowledge  
Faith is about worship and acceptance of our reality  
Faith is about accepting how much we need God  
Faith is about hating evil  
But not evil-doers  
Faith is an expression of loyalty and respect  
But also love and gratitude  
Faith is how we understand God  
As there are no words that can truly bring us close to Him  
As living through a problem too big for us to solve

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To bring us victory over things we know not how to fight  
Just as the laws of physics need to happen for the universe to  
exist

So must God be worshipped

# Walking with God

Like the first person  
Taking a step onto a new Earth  
At the other end of the galaxy  
Will it be a giant desert  
Or a water world  
We think we need  
The biggest rush possible  
Or life is not worth living  
I propose a middle road  
Where we live lives of dignity  
A life that we can all live  
A life striving for greater morality  
Not for more money, power, and stimulation  
A relatively quiet life  
In a relatively rural location  
Not very important  
To the outside world  
Is the best we can find here  
The sage is said to know all  
Without every traveling anywhere  
How far did Jesus travel  
What great school did He graduate from  
Was He royalty, military leader, or wealthy merchant  
God who can go anywhere or do anything  
Chose to spend His time  
Talking to ordinary people  
While living as an ordinary person

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He healed His people  
And rescued them from the consequences of their actions

God can count even if we cannot  
Eternity is greater than 75 years  
Why even focus on something so little  
When you have so much more opportunity  
And so much more of your life  
If the greatest experiences of your life  
All happened after you became an adult  
How many greater things await you  
After your death  
We fight incessantly for wealth and power  
But in Heaven the streets and walls  
Are all made of gold and precious stones  
If you can say you are truly happy  
If you can say you experience real peace  
Why does it matter if you own anything  
Many take drugs to be happy  
With the little they have  
Many who are wealthy take drugs  
Because they are still unsatisfied  
If you could get to the perfect balance  
Without chemicals that can be poisonous  
And without putting your life at risk  
Why not try things God's way for once  
We have as a society and as individuals  
Tried finding joy under every rock  
With every human vice or remedy possible  
You cannot control your path to pleasure  
Your drug of choice is then the one in control  
If you cannot have freedom

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To do what you don't really want to do  
Why are you afraid to have the freedom  
To do what you really want to do  
If your Creator diagnoses you as needing a treatment  
Don't you think you should at least try it  
You have tried everything else under the sun  
But you will only find God  
When you search for Him  
With everything you have inside you  
Taking the plunge off the cliff  
Hand in hand with God  
Awakening from your present dream world  
You can follow Him  
Beyond the sorrow of now and here  
You don't have to wait to die  
To experience His joy and peace  
You will have to give up all the things  
You once thought would bring you happiness  
You once thought would bring you meaning  
You once thought would satisfy

What is truly different  
And hasn't ever been tried  
That will save the world from us  
We need to really change our minds  
By changing our allegiance  
Instead of Americans or Earthlings  
We accept the universal Christian label  
As we are accepted into a bigger  
Yet more intimate family of God  
We have proven we all have  
The maturity of young children

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And desperately need better leaders  
If you are looking for an ideology  
More radical than any other  
Try what Christ did as a role model  
But that only starts one you truly commit  
By first renouncing your previous opinion leaders  
The government wants your money  
God wants your heart  
And both want you to follow their laws  
Make peace with both  
Commit to become a better you

Pass through the water and into eternity  
Humble yourself down below your Creator  
He will then raise you back up  
Unto life more abundant  
Sometimes one decision  
Changes your entire life  
The hard part is that this is not  
Just a one time decision  
You need to live your life  
Like you are committed to it  
But God will always give you  
The strength to stay with Him  
You will lose the faith  
From time to time  
Just come back right away  
He will always be there for you  
How always believed in you  
Will you not believe in Him  
If we ask who is more likely to exist  
God or me

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I have so say there is more evidence for God  
We are different people each day  
But God is the same forever  
He now calls us friends  
Because we know His plans  
Join God hand in hand  
And follow His lead into eternity

# Times of Life

I have had times of great fear  
My entire military service and ever since

I have had times of great joy  
In my high school years and my memories of it

I have had times of great depression  
When we realized the world might end soon in 2008

I have had times of deep insight  
Often when I get ideas to write

I have had times of great loneliness  
Many times I talked to my father about

I have had times of great frustration  
When I couldn't get something to work

I have had times of great confidence  
After I have written something

I have had times of great doubt about myself  
When I think of how easy it is to get hurt really bad

I have had times of great anger  
When I watch the news (of evil being done)

I have had times of great insignificance

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When I reflect on who God is

I have had time of great excitement  
When I learn about other times in history

I have had times of great passion  
When I put together ideas

I have had times of great impatience  
When I have to wait for things

I have had times of great peace  
When I pet my stuffed toys

I have had times of great worry  
When I try to explain myself to others

I have had times of great severity  
When discussing computers

I have had times of great hope  
When I look forward to eternal life

I have had times of great weariness  
Ever since my diagnosis of Schizophrenia

# Psychology of Water

Nothing is softer than a drop of water  
Nothing is clearer than the sound of thunder  
Nothing is as unclear as the edges of a cloud  
Nothing is more intense than the reflection of the sun off of water  
Nothing is as cold as a coat soaked in water  
Nothing is as clean as when the soap makes contact with water  
and cloth  
Nothing is more common than water on earth  
But most of it we can never drink  
Our form of life needs water to live  
We fight wars over it and build entire civilizations around it  
The water below is another world like the sky above  
This parallel world is full of life unlike ours

Nothing hurts less to the open wound than pure water  
Nothing cools hot coals faster than water  
We are born again by passing through water  
While many are afraid of drowning in it  
Transforming rocks to sand and metal to rust  
Nothing infiltrates as subtlety as water  
Nothing transforms human creations more than water

The repeating sound of a rainstorm  
Beating the side of the building  
Like a drummer's stick  
The rain hits the window so hard  
It is surprising the glass doesn't break  
Sometimes I feel as cold inside

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As winter rain with a leaking jacket  
Sometimes the water just soothes  
It is easier when it burns less inside my heart  
For what is right and for what is not  
Water can make you feel new like nothing else  
It feels as if you no longer carry a burden  
Dreams are like water  
Soft but intense at the same time  
Sometimes I feel like someone dropped  
A bucket of water on me  
Sometimes I feel so little control  
That I might not make it to the bathroom in time

It is in our waking dreams  
That we plan our goals  
And fantasize about possibilities  
To experience better feelings about life  
Is waking not like walking through a waterfall  
With your eyes closed  
Is not the sunrise better than the sunset  
Isn't the sunset the beginning and the sunrise the end  
We spend more time in the dark than the light  
We put more effort into changing  
Things we have no control over  
Surely we can do greater things  
In the heat of the day  
Than in the cool of the night  
Especially when it stops raining

# What are We Waiting For?

I am not patient sometimes  
Other times it is easy  
The scary and the painful  
This is what is hard to deal with  
It is not death but aging  
It is not the end but the journey  
I fear those things I cannot prepare for  
I fear those things which cannot be avoided

I do not fear being old  
Or getting slower and weaker  
I take confidence in protection  
From what God has promised  
But even faithful Christians suffer  
More than we think should happen  
It is unfair to blame God  
For the mistakes we have made  
For things He has never promised

Simply waiting through the boredom  
As a person standing in line  
For a very long time  
Waiting for love or companionship  
Never experiencing adventure or romance  
Never being important or even useful  
These are easier to accept

Being a peon has its advantages

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Being useless is one of the greatest protections  
People now fight for fame  
Until their lives are destroyed  
By jealousy and revenge  
If I had to choose  
Between boredom and suffering  
I would always choose boredom

Many fear plateauing in their faith  
But if it is a high plateau  
Doesn't that mean you have previously  
Ascended a tall mountain  
To be finished with your trials  
Is one of the greatest feelings  
To have finished creating something  
Is a joy in and of itself

It is understandable to fear suffering  
But fearing loneliness and rejection  
That only requires a little waiting  
In light of this being a very short life  
Even ninety years is little in terms of eternity  
Suffering is different in that time is accelerated  
Ninety minutes in waiting is not the same  
As nine minutes of suffering

We only understand the world  
From our point of view  
And whether or not you can explain away  
Someone else's trials  
Does not make them easier  
I would be reasonable to be more afraid

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Of hurting others  
But more honest to be more afraid  
Of our own painful experiences

Pain is more real than boredom  
And suffering outdoes any distraction  
If only I had the strength of mind  
To overcome the fear and the pain  
If only we could make reality change  
To experience only the good or ordinary  
It is selfish to care about yourself  
More than you do others  
But it is also human to be selfish

Sacrifice is not so difficult  
Depending on what you give up  
Some things hurt more than others  
Some things are easier to do without  
Patience is easy  
When you don't add pain or fear  
Which effectively amplifiers the suffering

When we think of the sacrifices of Christ  
And choose not to respond in kind  
To prevent the suffering of others  
This makes us realize how weak and common we are  
When I think of whether I would be a hero  
Or whether I would rather just hide in shame  
It does not hurt as much to be called a coward  
Than it does to have the pain of the victim

We think we are good people

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Until we realize we have sacrificed nothing  
When others were in pain  
How much would we take the punishment of others  
Just because we are kind  
Can we even call ourselves true believers  
If we cannot accept persecution silently  
If we cannot hurt so others do not  
Are we real followers of Christ  
Would we do better to admit that to unbelievers  
So that better Christians could serve better examples

How can we consider ourselves disciples  
And lecture others about morality  
When we are unwilling to confront our own demons  
How can we be fallen and yet lights for others  
If our faith is only lukewarm  
How can we serve as the salt of the earth

Some fear death  
Some fear boredom  
All fear pain  
How do you accept the pain and still act  
This is what heroism is  
That is why Christ is the greatest hero

# A New Kind of Peace

I woke up late today  
My stuffed toys smile at me  
We are all adjusting  
To a slower moving lifestyle  
I am proud to be able to save money  
And not have to work

The Internet is fast here  
And there are no expectations for me  
As long as I don't do anything too stupid  
I think everyone will leave me alone  
I am enjoying the weather  
Even though most prefer the sun

Things are doing better now  
For Global Warming and related pollution  
I still look 20 years younger than I am  
Except for my long curly beard  
I have gotten a lot done  
In terms of writing and design work  
I am learning new techniques  
And I am exploring new ways  
Of getting around and buying things

We certainly have more time  
And the homeless seem to have disappeared  
I found out we don't need toilet paper  
You can use a water can down your back  
My bus system has been more challenging

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But I have had more time with my sister and niece

We seem to get on each other nerves easily  
I read about people living in seclusion  
They get past a certain point and get better  
Maybe I hit that point sooner  
Since I am more sensitive to this  
To be honest  
My limitations are greater

But I just need to embrace the future  
I need to make better use of the Internet  
I just need to make sure  
I don't make it too easy  
For others to rob me blind

I am a very creative person  
And I am sure others will adapt  
And find new ways to move forward  
With what we now refer to as  
Social Distancing  
We need to interact where we are  
At least 6 feet apart

It is a major change  
It is good for some and not for others  
Some things won't exist going forward  
But new thing will be used too  
I did study disaster survival well  
But i did not expect a semi-crisis  
With only limited social breakdown

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I am really surprised  
We entered a sustained crisis  
While still keeping our technology

Maybe we can eradicate communicate diseases  
There seem to be less dog droppings and trash

I feel for the people  
Who are essential  
As they tend to make less money  
And they suffer at both ends of the crisis  
Some people may get a check from the government  
For their cooperation and patience  
There is a big election coming up  
And many businesses are donating supplies

More and more countries are noticing problems  
Even in backwaters and frontier zones  
We seem to live in the best place  
Of our entire planet  
For climate and resources  
And our government still fears us  
So far no martial law or military presence

I guess we won't have riots in the future  
And it will be harder to persecute people  
As long as we can leave at peace with ourselves  
Maybe our country will be at peace with us

One thing that still concerns me  
How do you have a church  
While still staying 6 feet apart

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Maybe we need to gather in stadiums or big parks  
Or maybe we could do very small groups  
Meeting in peoples' homes  
Much like the early church  
Or the church in many other countries

This might be the first truly global medical crisis  
That we have a common experience from  
Maybe this can be a way forward internationally  
We can build on this to renegotiate  
Treaties to limit free trade  
And thereby promote our own communities  
Both wealth wise and environment wise

And this means we must get serious about the Internet  
Stop tolerating hacking by anyone for any purpose  
We have to protect the supply lines  
And the exchange markets  
The Internet must now be a place of peace  
It is too important for us all now

# God is Not Boring

Life as a Christian is not boring  
Sometimes I wish it were  
Christianity is always a challenge  
In America today people seem to agree  
That Christians are the problem  
And the mainstream promotes everything  
That is contrary to God

But the real exciting things of God  
Are what He does in our lives  
The spiritual growth and insights  
That help us become better people  
There is nothing more exciting than trying something new  
But to change the direction of your life brings more joy

There is much talk about following rules under Christianity  
But everything has rules  
The rules help define areas of study  
And give structure and meaning to every discipline  
Math and Science and Languages all have extensive rules  
And this is not seen as a deficiency  
At least God is simple, consistent, and logical in His rules

God really only gives us one rule  
The Golden Rule  
Love the Lord your God  
With all your mind and heart and soul  
And love your neighbor as yourself

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This rule is more a philosophy of life  
Than a legal rule to do something  
Even in God's rules He is creative and personal and challenging

God is direct and we should be to when we talk with Him  
God already knows what you think Him  
So it is best to at least be honest with Him  
I think our perception of what is interesting today is warped  
We think that having fun means  
Being out of control and destroying things  
This life choice only leads to addiction and pain

Refraining from these kind of activities  
Does not mean Christians cannot have fun  
In fact one of the major commandments of the Old Testament  
Was to celebrate numerous festivals  
One of the Ten Commandments is literally to rest  
And not work one day of the week  
God introduced the idea of debts  
Being forgiven after a period of 7 years  
And giving the land rest  
Which is good for the soil  
God also created the concept of sex which  
He actually encouraged  
And there is an entire book of the Bible about sex

God knows like many wise people have found through the ages  
That life is about balance  
God also did most miracles in a peaceful and sometimes funny  
way  
Like feeding people and having food drop from the sky  
Or taking over towns by blowing trumpets

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Or using an unusual chain of effects to fulfill a prophecy  
God even spoke up for animal rights  
When He had a donkey talk back to someone hitting it  
And God is sad when cows are not heard mooing

Jesus actually wrestled with the ancestor of the Jews  
And was born in the food bowl of a cow or sheep  
He saved people from being tortured by making lions gentle  
And allowing people to not be hurt after being thrown in a  
furnace  
Christ healed people with mental and physical ailments  
And ultimately saves us from Hell  
The cost to Him is unimaginable suffering  
But for us all we have to do is  
Say a 1 minute prayer

Having fun is good but it does you no good if you end up  
Permanently hurting yourself in the process  
Reckless and fun are different things  
Christian compatible pursuits vary  
Almost as widely as the imagination will allow  
Many famous Christians pursued philosophy, arts, music,  
literature, sports and all other types of games, crafts, hobbies, and  
the like  
All these kind of things are considered Good Christian fun

God actually has us drink wine and play music in worship of  
Him  
Some of the greatest secular singers in the contemporary music  
world  
Started out singing and playing instruments in church services  
Most churches that can afford it have elaborate activities

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Designed for young people to do constructive and interesting things

For free usually and learn to relate with others peacefully and intelligently

Some of the biggest, oldest, and most successful charities and other relief organizations in the world

Are directly connected to churches

Do you know the secret thing that unites

People's common criticisms of God and Christianity

Nothing

Critics just find the most unpopular things

And exaggerate and fixate on these things

One of the really adventurous things

For those who like to take great risks

Is to becoming a missionary to another part of the world

This combines travel with learning about other cultures and languages

And helping poor people conquer injustice and natural disasters

For those more risk adverse

You can spread the Gospel in your communities and online

Certainly Christians can do things

Like skydiving and cave exploration

If they have a burning desire to do so

If there is something you are excited about

And have been for a long time

And the end results are something positive

Chances are this interest is the result of God calling you

To this field as your service to God

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Studying the Bible can be fun too and can take many forms  
Some people study the languages and cultures and traditions  
Of the ancient middle east  
To understand Scripture better  
But this is just the tip of the ice berg  
Christians have different opinions  
On many of the major topics of the Bible  
So being Christian does NOT mean  
You have to choose a certain political party or social group or  
philosophy

God gives you room to express yourself  
And the Christian community supports art, music, theatre, public  
speaking, as well as sports and crafts of all kinds  
The major western philosophers were mostly doctors of divinity  
This means that they were trained to be pastors academically  
Before starting in philosophy

Some of the greatest art throughout most cultures and time  
periods  
Was directly inspired by religion and religious ideas  
Christianity is no exception  
A lot of what people see when they visit  
Major art and architecture throughout the world  
Are different peoples' perspective on a Christian idea  
These Christian arts and architecture now serve as the base for  
Most the cultural value of Europe  
Even by secular standards

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# Concluding Prayer

I pray that  
I may know  
What are  
The things that  
I cannot change  
And what are  
Those things  
Which I can

I pray that I may be as water  
And have the strength of mind  
To doubt the reality of pain  
To realize I am but a figment  
Of God's imagination

To not be haunted by suffering  
And to conquer my demons  
By letting God engage the enemy  
And just letting the struggle  
Pass through me  
As if I wasn't even there

I doubt many things  
Let me doubt the reality of pain  
Let me be invincible to desire  
And not be hit by  
The arrows of the evil one  
As if they would just cease to exist

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

Or that I may be removed  
From their path continually

I realize evil has unimaginable power  
I pray that it might not have  
Such power over me  
Please give me strength  
To dodge the arrows  
And protection for any  
That may hit me  
If there be a resolution  
To my struggle  
Let it come rapidly  
And never leave me  
We can be sure of very little  
But I will never stop fighting  
Until my issues are resolved

How does one reject  
Part of society  
And yet still exist  
As a member of it  
How does one keep  
From being of the world  
While dwelling within it  
How do you fight a war  
That has no opponent  
And is not even visible  
How do you conquer  
Your own mind  
How can I both  
Let God fight for me

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

And yet have the strength of will  
To make good decisions

We are saturated in glamorous  
Portrayals of materialism  
Where we find no end  
To our hunger  
I pray that God may  
Give me the water  
That only He provides  
I want to never thirst again  
I pray that the Lord  
Be ever with me  
And get me to stop and listen  
Before I do something  
I might later regret

Some people may think my issues  
To be normal today  
But morality is not based  
On the latest trends  
And what is right and what is wrong  
Will always be the same  
No matter what society thinks  
No matter what it accepts or doesn't

In Buddhism, enlightenment is defined  
As the extinction of desire  
In Chinese Buddhism  
Monks take a vow to not fully ascend  
Before every living thing has done likewise  
Let me not fall into the trap

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

Of helping others  
If it causes problems for me  
That I may have the insight  
To know when to stop  
Let me not stop desiring completely  
As that may drive me  
To be a better person  
Let me instead find God  
To be the one  
Desire of my heart

Some think Christianity can be practiced  
In your spare time  
They believe that you don't need  
To focus on God constantly  
That you can have other important goals in your life  
That family can take the place of faith  
Or that you can live a normal life  
That you can choose your life goals or religion  
The only choice we really have is  
Will you serve God at any cost  
Or will you not serve God at any cost

I need no weapons in this fight  
And all appears normal  
Even in the midst  
As to proving this reality  
I have no desire  
Just to say this  
Faith only works  
When what you believe in is real  
If you believe in a religion

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

That is not real  
There is no point  
In your faith  
There are many things  
That are not visible  
But are still real  
Some things are also real  
In very different ways

Spiritual things are very real  
And our struggles really change things  
I would prefer to live a boring life  
But it seems this fight is unavoidable  
If only I could lay down my pain  
As a burden I no longer need to carry

I know Christ promises this  
I just continually expect the worse  
God does not guarantee  
He will always intervene  
And He is responsible  
For none of our problems  
We cannot expect Him  
To cater to our whims  
But as we are to  
Pray for spiritual things

I pray for healing and liberation  
For both my mind and soul  
I seek to be set free  
From the pains and the desires  
Of my very human situation

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

There are no excuses  
To making poor choices  
To make excuses  
Would downplay its significance  
To not ask for salvation  
Would be to prolong my pain  
Is it right for me to ask  
I know that in a sense  
I cannot do it on my own  
But if I do not make  
The move to overcome  
Who will

Regardless of the possibilities  
I still pray for  
What must require a miracle  
I do not know  
What the one thing  
I am missing that I need  
Is it grace or strength or perseverance  
Or just asking God to just  
Make some things impossible

We all need miracles and I am sure  
God has better things to do  
But He has promised to help  
And has throughout many times in my life  
That is the most rational explanation  
For what happened then  
It is not God's fault or responsibility  
But God please send Your grace

# Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

# Time for God

I can still breathe  
Praise God  
We have had a tough year  
Many have lost  
The breath of life

Many are so consumed  
With anger and bitterness  
They barely take a breath  
Before exhaling hate

We have put the economy  
Through decades worth of changes  
In only one year  
Many lost their homes  
And many struggled to breathe

In my own community  
The skies literally turned  
Red, orange, or yellow in color  
A big nasty insect  
Looms over our near future  
Also orange in color

We seek an anchor  
To hold us  
In this time of great change  
The news becomes a singularity  
A choice which will unfold

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

As a lose-lose situation  
Where have all the real people gone

We will be ok  
Once we again admit  
That we need God  
Without conditions  
With allegiance undivided

What is life  
What is reality  
If we find other people  
On other planets  
What would they think of us

The whole world pulls closer  
As we continue to fight each other  
Nation against nation  
And those who build  
Against those who destroy  
Everyone and everything  
Can disappear without notice

So much anger and revenge  
The poor always get hit the hardest  
Those who sacrifice most  
Are quickly and easily forgotten  
And some may never be known at all  
As might be best for their own safety  
We question more and more  
About things we once were sure of  
But do we have to be so mean

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

And turn on our neighbors

The Internet has finally grown up  
It is now the focus of  
Crime, warfare, money, and hope

We have delayed many decisions  
Over and over again  
But it won't belong until  
We are forced to choose  
Many see the future  
To be the outcome of our election  
But many see us as mere pawns

We are becoming a civilization  
That might leave literally nothing behind  
Other than our trash  
Will language and writing  
Survive the information revolution  
People are now bored  
With any form of learning  
They want to be entertained  
And they want huge benefits  
Even though they put out little effort

The big down to the little  
Are all corrupt  
From the individual to giant corporations  
All focused on short terms things  
Like reputation or stock portfolios  
Does anyone care about anything lasting  
Does tomorrow matter anymore

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

When we think of the state of people  
And the state of our planet  
The one thing all our problems  
Have in common is us  
We Need God  
Now more than ever

Let us use this time we are voting  
To stop and think and listen  
Stop to take a breath  
And pause to reflect  
The world wants us to think  
We are in control of our future  
But all of us are peons  
In comparison to our Creator  
And we only breathe because of Him

Let us spend more time with God  
And less time debating each other  
Let us learn from our past mistakes  
But more importantly  
Learn we all need God to simply live  
We appreciate our country  
At least with words and pictures  
But how do we show we appreciate  
The Creator of us and everything else

With so much destruction in our wake  
We must accept our own personal responsibility  
For how things have gotten out of control  
We have had many problems

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

Going back at least thousands of years  
But never have we had such  
Disrespect and contempt for God

We need to dial back the criticism  
When it comes to God  
And have a little humility  
Considering He is watching us  
Can you not believe in what you cannot prove  
Can we have science leave religion alone  
And have religion leave science alone

We have too much respect  
For many things we don't understand  
Why is it harder to believe in a God  
Who you cannot fully understand  
We have a lot less control over our lives  
Than we want to admit  
Maybe this non-pandemic can help us  
See how much we need God

As we take a moment to breathe  
And listen to God's voice  
Maybe we need to take a break  
From assuming we know everything  
Allow some doubt in what we believe in

Not in God but those other things  
That we give our allegiance to  
That compete with God for our attention  
This other things we think we cannot live without  
Loyalties to other people, causes, and organizations

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

That are not focused on glorifying God

Why do we need to compromise our morality  
Moral responses to problems are never easy  
But religion was not meant to be easy  
Because life itself is not easy  
Do you think being God is so easy

The most natural thing is human nature  
But that is just how we see it now  
Why do we need to accept this premise  
When we think of law and order  
Let us think of God and His will  
Not that of our chosen leaders

God has already chosen us  
To be representatives of Him  
In our lives and our communities  
God honors us be welcoming us  
Into His family  
It is time we honor Him  
With our time

# Rhythm in Doubt

What is freedom  
What are its limits  
What is its cost  
When do we get past this

When do we accept who we are  
How do we know  
What to choose and when  
Are we really free  
Freedom makes little sense

Are we free  
To make just one choice  
The choice to fight for control  
Or give up and follow God

How do you win  
If you just give up  
How do you gain eternal life  
With just one prayer

Is it a life of struggle  
That cements our inner faith  
Or is it a feeling  
That hits us in the middle of the night

Did we just destroy ourselves  
Or did I just blink  
How do you make sure

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

You are not left behind

How do you control your will  
If you are not in control  
Does that mean God is  
We struggle for God  
But isn't it He  
That does all the work  
The faith beyond reason  
The logic of the spirit

How do we think like God  
If we can't read His thoughts  
One you start the journey  
How do you know when to stop  
When you follow your conscience  
Is there ever a wider road

If I die tonight  
What is my life worth  
If I live forever  
Does this life even matter

Why does religion make more sense  
To the foolish than the wise  
Why does God forgive  
The truly depraved

How do we know  
How to please God  
When we can barely  
Make it through the day

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

Is religion an art  
That we master with practice  
Or a secret formula  
That we are given silently

How is the Bible so simple  
Yet we fail to comprehend  
Is it that religion is  
Hard to do right  
Or do we just not care enough

Why would someone  
Not believe in God  
Why am I mentally ill

In seeking wisdom  
Why do we need a time of testing  
If we fail so often  
Why does God give us free choice

How do you accept pain in life  
And never question God  
If you care for the lost  
How do you accept some  
Are already found

When the road is most difficult  
Why is it hard to see God  
When pain overwhelms  
Why does God not intervene

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

People talk of the problem of suffering  
They talk about it as if  
It is God's problem  
Did God create evil  
Then we did achieve something  
All on our own

If the goal is not to be good  
What is the point of wisdom  
If we are saved regardless  
Why do we still pray  
If life is so short  
Why is it such a struggle

In each day we begin anew  
But our sins still affect us  
If it is wrong to worry  
Why is it so hard to relax  
God intervenes so much  
So why doesn't He show us

In each phase of life  
Some have different problems  
While some fight  
The same enemy  
All the days of their life

If we cannot get past sin  
How do we live with ourselves  
If we do not experience joy  
How do we know what heaven is

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

If we cannot accept our limitations  
Why do we have such ambitions  
If someone has little to give  
Why do they try so hard  
If you cannot see God  
Why does He always stay close

When your time runs out  
Why do you fear the inevitable  
How can you just accept  
That people will suffer  
And not try to stop it  
How can you accept Christianity  
And ever give up the fight

If you truly do not believe in God  
Why are you so angry with Him  
We think we are so logical  
But most of our lives are emotional  
What makes us different from animals  
Is our subjectivity not our souls

Why would God create something good  
He would later throw away  
If He wants to save us  
Surely He has a plan for animals

When we see how evil the world is  
How can we accept our contributions  
When we see others suffer unnecessarily  
Why don't we try something different

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

If we believe in God  
Why does politics matter so much  
If we believe God is real  
Why are we so afraid of the devil

If we do not fear ourselves  
Can we say we have read the Bible  
If we never struggled  
How could we understand how bad we are

If we never find a resolution  
Can we ever get past our failures  
If there is no point in life  
What is the point in saying that  
What is the point of saying God is dead  
Does that mean we don't exist

If science has the last word  
What happens when they change their minds  
If morality varies by age and time  
What is the point of being good  
If we cannot experience heaven on earth  
How can we make it until we get there

There is a gut response to things  
And there is a more educated guess  
Should they be different or the same  
We have emotional questions  
Why do we expect logical answers to them

# Young Earth

## Disclaimer

The following poem is a fantasy story illustrating many ideas in philosophy from Taoism, Existentialism, and ideas about having Schizophrenia and ideas from Tolkien and the music of Max Richter.

This is not meant to be about religion nor is it any account of actual history.

I did try to make it so it was not directly contrary to the Bible, but it is not meant to be Biblical in any way.

It was written in a stream of consciousness while I was very much awake.

Some of the events may not even be logical and have holes in reasoning as is in many stories and even many people's theories of things.

## Poem

A sound in the early morning  
Like a single ray of light  
Bursting in like a robber  
From out of nowhere  
Growing slowly  
Like a child in the womb  
To a young adult

Then a break in the noise  
And the fall of soft rain  
Another melody starts  
Like a single note  
From a single instrument

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

In the audience of a symphony

An invisible hand  
Orchestrates the start of morning  
The sun races across the sky  
And the day is like night  
Slowly fading into yellow

Did I miss the day  
Lost in a dream

Sleep is a strange thing  
Spontaneous and subtle in nature  
Exporting us to another reality  
The other side of our mind  
That takes backstage  
During our waking hours

When we are not asleep  
We fixate on little things  
Like the tapping of the rain  
Upon the window  
And the footsteps pacing above

But although we think our minds empty  
When we dream  
It is in these silent times  
That our minds race  
Creating thoughts and reconciling events

Emotions are more vivid  
As our logical side diminishes

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

We experience dreams as impulses  
As an older time in our history  
Before the modern world  
Before even farms and cities

When the land was at rest  
And it was we who were hunted  
That early development in our minds  
That predates our understanding of history

A reality like that of a foreign world  
Where we responded to action  
Without excessive thought  
We need to be people who fought  
Not in a metaphorical sense  
But ones that struggled just to live

Where we experienced freedom  
In its rawest form  
Where fear was ever present  
And sights and sounds were heightened  
And our daily experiences  
Were surreal and eventful

A day did not go by  
That we did not struggle for our lives  
Our minds were clear as the outdoor air  
Unclouded by the factories and megacities  
Our minds were so clear  
That we could see even in the dark  
Our thoughts took flight and emitted light

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

We were not separate from nature  
And every experience was spiritual  
We did not need to find enlightenment  
As wisdom was not challenged by technology

The first tool was fire  
Like a double edged sword  
It cut both ways  
And enemy and a friend  
Much as other people, animals, and our entire world

With each step forward  
Everything was new  
There was always plenty of wood  
And the rivers were full of fish

We did not sit down in school  
We were always running  
As soon as we learned to crawl  
There was no need for speech  
For ages sound was a luxury

We treated each other as rivals  
We respected each other  
But were able to respond to violence  
In less than a moment's notice

What we knew at the time  
Was not like what we now write down  
Even then we had no words  
For most of what we felt and believed

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

God was very real to us  
Much as He is in your time as well  
We respected God  
And He did not anger us

With each passing day  
We looked to the stars  
And just accepted His role  
We knew that He was our Creator  
And we were His children

We lived in a vast garden  
Tended to by Him  
As we grew older  
We began to walk with Him  
In the cool of the day

We never thought of technology  
Like you do today  
And our knowledge of fear  
Was of merely a warning  
And pain was similar

We did not fear death  
As we did not die yet  
What you think of now as violence  
Started out just as a game  
To test our skills and strength of mind

We used to leave our homes  
With no locks or guards  
There was no reason for walls

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

As no one was trying to steal  
As we had no possessions

We had heard of a great city  
A city of light on a hill  
It was thought of as an idea  
But some believed it real

The way to it was like a gate  
The gate was overgrown with vegetation  
And there were no people around it  
It stood in the center of the garden

We knew to not go near it  
Because it was our one rule  
We called it the golden rule  
Because from the gate it glowed  
Like the golden fish in our rivers

This color was unlike any other  
It was not just a color  
But a mist and a living and moving thing  
We approached it with reverence

From the water surrounding it  
We drank for strength and vitality  
Only one at a time  
In each family

We had one person  
Be drawn into the light  
And pass on to the other side

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

We never heard of them again

Soon we saw a great warrior  
Stand before us with a great blade  
And he was surrounded with fire  
With each swing of his sword

The vegetation caught fire  
And we were soon left  
With a patch of dirt and ash  
Much like that of a volcano

We then scattered across  
The entire planet  
People feared death then  
So many died soon after

It was hard to grow things  
And we starved for many years  
Without the light from the portal  
The nights were even darker  
And sleep was less satisfying

Even in our darkest moments  
We held out hope of our Creator  
To provide us a way forward  
From the consequences of our sin

We heard a prophecy about a book  
That would be written  
That told our story  
And that God Himself

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

Would enter our world  
And defeat the evil within us

Many people wanted to join together  
And build great stone monuments  
And live under the rule of other people  
In exchange they were protected and fed well

Those who resisted this change  
Would have to fight wars  
To stand their ground  
And worship God instead of technology

We would not bow down to the leaders  
So the cities rejected us  
And we began a great migration  
To the other side of the world

Some thought the world was ending  
But this was just the beginning  
Our descendants did not survive long  
But our story did

# Waiting Time

Standing in line

To enter the gas chamber

Standing in line

To throw a live grenade

Waiting to ship off

For basic training

Waiting for my enlistment to end

Waiting for the fear to lessen

Waiting to get my disability recognized

Waiting for the fatigue to pass

Waiting for a better medicine

Waiting for terrorism to end

Waiting for us to stop torturing

Waiting for the government

To stop stalking us

Waiting for the government

To get something done

Waiting for the news

To stop making people afraid

Waiting for the politicians

To stop screaming for once

Waiting for the riots to end

Waiting for the tear gas to dissipate

Waiting to be evacuated

Waiting for the fires to end

Waiting for businesses to reopen

Waiting for the governor's latest notions

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

Waiting for a new president  
Waiting for this era to end

Waiting for people to accept  
The modern world is failing  
Waiting for people to accept  
It is all our own fault  
Waiting for God to return  
Waiting to see Heaven

Is it just a different  
Way of thinking  
Or only a technology  
Or does it go deeper  
We have long forgotten  
The difference between  
Hunter-gather and farming societies  
It is one of those things  
We just assume that it is better  
We just assume it is a better way  
We just assume it is the only way  
We think about machines  
The same way today  
Their existence is just assumed  
To make life better  
Along the way  
The goal posts are moved  
And the basis for comparison is lost  
Our world moves faster and faster  
It used to be timeless  
Now we are using everything up  
We are going through centuries

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

Of social revolution in mere decades  
We are again running out of energy  
And running out of raw materials  
Like before the Spanish and Portuguese  
Started their colonies  
And first challenged the Ottomans  
But we have nowhere to go now  
And no one to conquer  
There is no way for us to start over  
Individually or collectively  
We cannot even go out for an evening  
Into the woods and hear ourselves think  
Or go anywhere far from people  
The wild animals are finding few places  
To stay away from people  
We cannot really sleep well  
As our screens are always on  
Even when the lights are out

Popular computer use in general started  
As an escape from the modern world  
Many people thought meaningful change  
Would have happened by now  
Many put great hope in the Internet  
It was my generation's frontier  
And people had the ability  
To work together and improve our world  
Like all utopias the scammers came in  
And so many found such easy money  
It really is a deep element  
In the soul of our nation  
Not thinking of consequences

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

Not thinking deeply enough  
We swindled the Native Americans  
And got their rightful inheritance  
We fooled ourselves  
Thinking China would sleep forever  
And that the Russians  
Would not copy our strategies  
That we would keep our greatest secrets  
No matter how sloppy we became  
From those we thought were irrelevant  
And the poorest and weakest  
Have now climbed our backs  
And have turned the tables on us  
They are working harder than ever  
And we are working as little as possible  
It is said that during the medieval period  
Peasants ascended to royalty  
And royalty descended into peasants  
This would take a total of 6 generations  
For the complete cycle  
What we consider living like a monk today  
Would be considered hedonistic  
In most eras of history  
And even most regions of the world today

Why do we find it so hard  
To think outside the box  
That we have created  
To make the modern world  
Why do we seem to run into problems  
Wherever we look  
We seek big and flashy solutions

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

Like great dams or great submarines  
At the same time  
We look to solve our problems  
With as little effort as possible  
Spending money is of often easier  
For us than devoting time  
To many this world  
Would seem like a utopia  
And yet many people today are unhappy  
And the suffering in the world  
Is greater than ever before  
Is this technology's fault  
Or is it that we substituted science for God

We are now ruled by the machines  
And those who understand them  
Because we are treating them as magic  
They hold power in our lives  
Because we value them greatly  
But we will never become better people  
And so with such amazing power  
We abuse it like with every other addiction  
We want the power it gives us  
But we do not want to do the hard work  
To understand and use it responsibly  
Computers were supposed to make life easier  
But they have really made life more complicated  
Part of the problem is computers were never designed  
For the uses we use them for now  
In terms of reliability, security, and compatibility  
Computers almost never happened  
And most of the history of the last 500 years

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

Needed to happen as it did  
For us to even have computers  
As we now know them  
And we wanted more and more features  
Which made things more and more complex  
And then we ran into the problem  
Of people using computers  
Without ever learning how  
They really work underneath  
Then we drag in our fights in politics and religion  
Into every aspect of the Internet  
We basically magnify and recycle  
The same ideas until they become dangerous

Security has gotten really bad  
As the professional criminals  
Just started a few years ago  
To use the Internet  
As the main venue for crimes  
We are becoming a society  
Where it is impossible to enforce laws  
Because anyone can fake anything now  
Including our identities  
Which will make law enforcement irrelevant  
And the police are actively and deliberately  
Making the problem much worse  
For themselves and us

How do we as mere peons  
Affect any change in this world  
Spiritually, of course!  
We first must accept that

## Best of Introductions Series 4-8 by Ben Huot

We cannot change others  
We have to look in the mirror  
And change that person  
We can always make things better or worse  
No matter who or where we are  
We can choose our attitude  
If we can choose nothing else  
It is hard to wait on the world to change  
But maybe we can change  
Our individual lives  
And find peace and joy spiritually  
We can make everything  
We do have control over  
The best we can make it  
And we just need to make sure  
The machines don't control our souls  
They need to serve us  
Not the other way around  
Just as we need to serve God