



DEFENDING THE OLD TESTAMENT GOD

THE CHARACTER OF THE LAST DAYS

- Attitudes of madness...working miracles (radically changing human thinking) bringing the world to Armageddon (Rev 16v14)
- Men shall be lovers of their own selves
- Despisers of those that are good
- The days of Noah (desertion from the Truth ,violence, evil imaginations widespread corruption)
- The days of Lot- open immorality –pride, fullness of bread and abundance of idleness
- People ignorant and misinformed about God
- People foolish enough to think they can judge God by their man made values and morals

THE MIND OF THE WICKED

- For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul, and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the LORD.
- In the **pride** of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, "There is no God."
(Psa 10:3 ESV)

SO WE SEE THE ANTI-RELIGION INDUSTRY THRIVING

Leaders of the wicked thinkers

THE FOUR HORSEMEN

Hitchins

Dennett

Dawkins

Harris



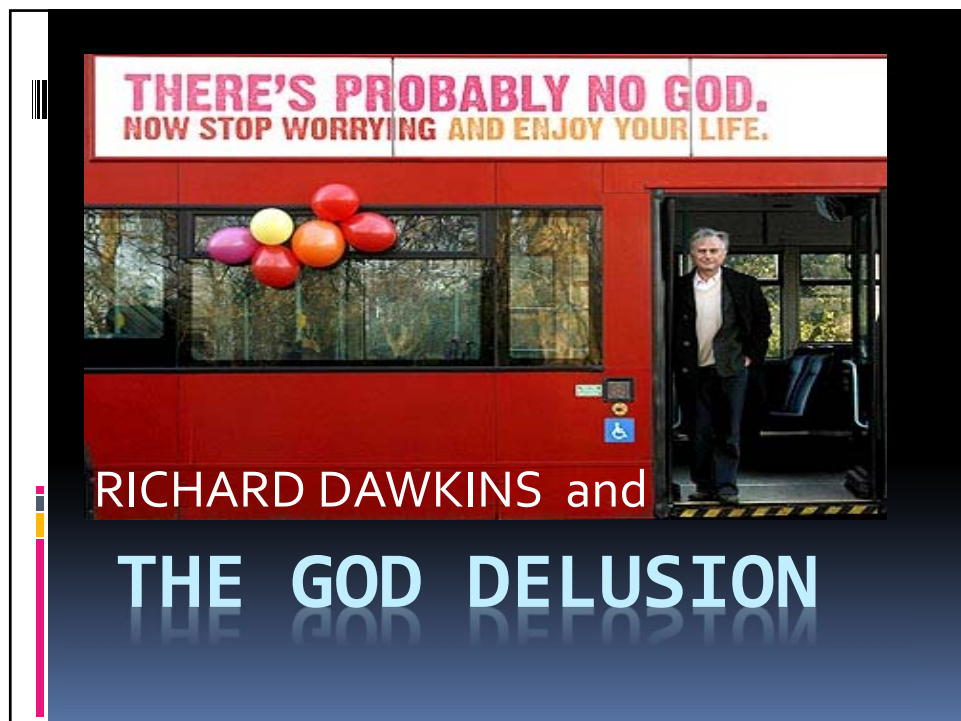
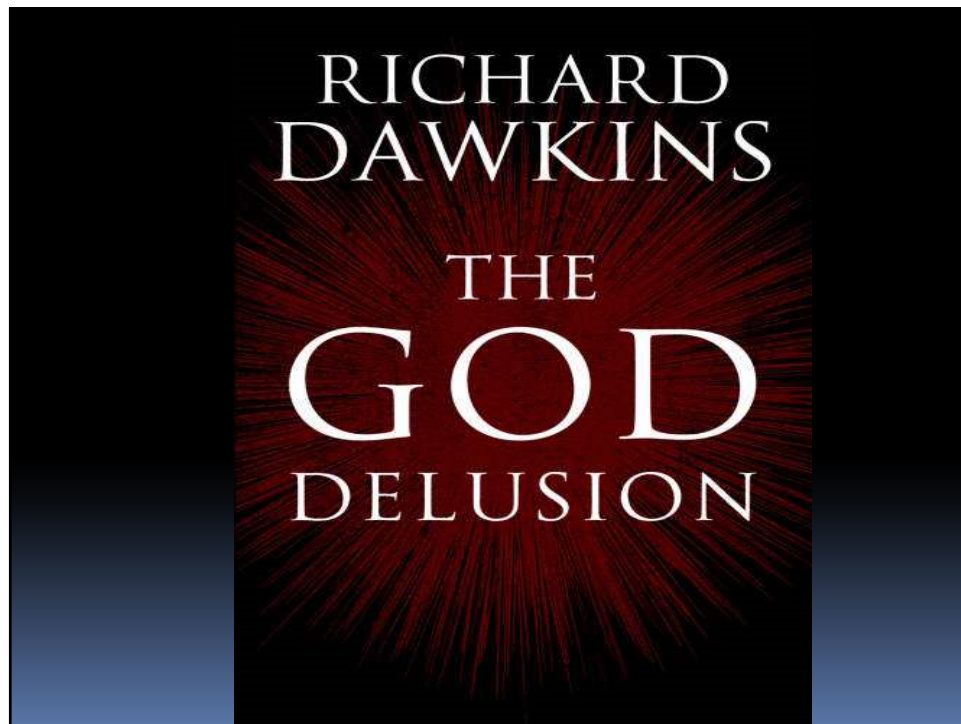


THE NEW WAVE OF ANTI-RELIGION BOOKS



RICHARD
DAWKINS—
THE
LEADING
SKEPTIC





RICHARD DAWKINS ON GOD

- "The God of the Old Testament is arguably the **most unpleasant** character in all fiction : jealous and proud of it: a petty, unjust, unforgiving control freak ; a vindictive , bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser ; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal ,genocidal ,filicidal , pestilential, megalomaniacal , sadomasochistic , capriciously malevolent bully." **The God Delusion p31.**
- "God is a moral monster"

CHRISTOPHER HITCHENS

- "God has all these unalterable laws. The forgotten Canaanites were pitilessly driven out of their homes to make room for the ungrateful and mutinous children of Israel" .
- "Moreover the Old Testament contains a warrant for trafficking in humans, for ethnic cleansing, for slavery , for bride –price, and for indiscriminate massacre , but we are not bound by any of it ,because it was put together by crude, uncultured human animals ."
- **From - God is Not Great - p99-101**

THE ATTACK ON THE O.T. GOD

Sam Harris -Letter to a Christian Nation

“My book is designed to demolish the intellectual and moral pretensions of Christianity in its most committed forms.”

1 of 2

Sam Harris -Letter to a Christian Nation

- “If the Bible is true , then we should be stoning people to death for heresy, adultery , homosexuality, worshipping graven images, and other imaginary crimes. In fact putting people to death and killing idolaters in our midst supposedly reflects God’s timeless wisdom”.
- “Fortunately such barbarisms have fallen out of fashion in our country”

THE NEW ATHEIST'S CHALLENGE

- ❖ They deny the existence of God and they support evolution to explain life
- ❖ They proclaim that religion is the major cause of evil throughout history
- ❖ They insult God as a 'disgraceful, bullying, child abuser' (eg. by requiring Abraham to sacrifice Isaac)

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UNDERSTANDING THE OLD TESTAMENT GOD –the issues

- A jealous God (one who allows no other gods)
- A God who demands constant praise and worship
- Repressive and discriminatory laws about women and approving the sale of daughters as brides
- The merciless genocide of the Canaanites
- Slavery is allowed and condoned
- Racism –as seen in the privileged treatment of Jews
- Harsh punishments for supposedly "minor" crimes
- Death penalty for adultery and homosexuals
- God's morals are completely out of date today

A CHRISTADELPHIAN RESIGNS

- He wrote...*"this week I resigned from the Christadelphian faith after 30 years... 'I resigned because I **no longer believe in God**, I am not even sure there is a God.. Perhaps there is, but He is not who I once thought he was. "*
- Of the Bible he said..*"Yes there was some wisdom there, but the attitudes to women and foreigners it describes, sometimes commands, were not worthy of the God I once believed in."*

THE O.T. GOD IN CONTEXT

- The Law of Moses was written against a background of ancient cultures and moral codes
- Written primarily to regulate a new nation
- Israel was an immature nation of rescued slaves (lacking initiative) - needing strict codes of moral and civil law and definite forms of worship
- God's law was so different to the existing nations (these had things like torture, mutilation, slavery, no rights or respect for women at all)
- We now have the New Testament to enable us to better interpret and appreciate the Old.

THE LAW WAS GIVEN TO REGULATE AN UNSPIRITUAL NATION

- Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully ; understanding this, that the law **is not laid down for the just** but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers , the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine . (1Tim 1:8-10 ESV)

THE POSITIVE BENEFITS

- And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, **for our good always**, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day.
- And it shall be our righteousness, if we observe to do all these commandments before the LORD our God, as he hath commanded us. (Deut 6:24-25)

THE POSITIVE BENEFITS

- No law of God had a negative outcome
- God incorporated into the rituals things we now know are beneficial to health
- Food restrictions were not to deny Jewish preferences ,but had a protective purpose
- Isolation of disease, frequent washing of body and clothing, avoidance of allergenic and dangerous foods, proper sanitation...etc
- *God said keep my laws and .."I will bring none of the diseases of Egypt on you" (Exod 15v26)*

THE POSITIVE BENEFITS

- Modern science and medicine has shown that all of God's laws were beneficial.
- This in itself is a great proof of the inspiration of the scriptures by a wise Creator
- When you think how often man's ignorance has made huge mistakes (bleeding the sick, puncturing skulls to let out demons, no hygiene in hospitals etc) – it shows how much wiser God's Law was 3500 years ago.

AN EXAMPLE OF POSITIVE LAWS

- God forbade the destruction of fruit bearing trees during a siege (Deut 20v19-20)
- In AD70 the Romans cut down EVERY tree within a 14 mile radius of Jerusalem for siege purposes.
- God always gave laws to benefit mankind

WAS GOD A RACIST?

- Yes-God **did** choose Israel above all nations
- He did this to show His power and glory – and to keep his promises to Abraham (Deut 7v6-9)
- God wanted Israel to be His witness to the world (Deut 4v6-8, Isa 43v1-10)
- God will finally bless all nations- but for now God has chosen Israel (Rom 11v1-2)
- In the Kingdom Israel will be the head of the nations and be highly respected (Zech 8v23)

GOD TOOK ISRAEL FOR HIS OWN

- And ye shall not walk in the manners of the nation, which I cast out before you: for they committed all these things, and therefore I abhorred them.
- But I have said unto you, Ye shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto you to possess it, a land that floweth with milk and honey: I am the LORD your God, which have separated you from other people.
- And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine. LEV 20v23-26

THE ANNIHILATION OF THE CANAANITES

- God had decreed that when the iniquity of the Amorites came to the full they would be displaced (Gen 15v16)
- God gave them 400 years to repent.
- Finally the Canaanite religion was so depraved , so immoral -that even the children were corrupted (Deut 20v16-18)
- God loved Israel and the only way to save them from the Canaanite religion was to totally exterminate it and all the people .

WHY GOD COMMANDED GENOCIDE

Not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations the LORD your God is driving them out from before you, and that he may confirm the word that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

"Know, therefore, that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stubborn people. (Deut 9:5-6)

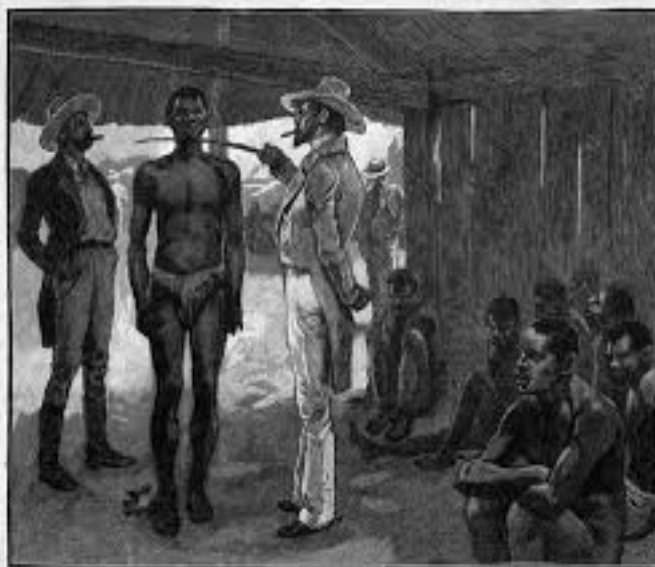
GOD AND WAR

- God did require absolute extermination of the Canaanites and their vile religion (Deut 7v2, 20v16-17)- no exceptions allowed –as most children were corrupted at a very young age .
- Where other nations further away from Israel were prepared to submit to Israel , they could live in peace (Deut 20v10-15)
- God never required nor supported Israel to invade other nations for the purpose of territorial gain or for spoil.

SO DOES GOD APPROVE GENOCIDE?

- Yes – for the Canaanites and the Amalekites – see 1 Sam 15v3- “utterly destroy them ”
- These nations were both a moral and physical threat to God’s nation of Israel.
- God did not require Israel to destroy any other nations around them .
- God will swiftly eliminate all the wicked off the earth in His kingdom (Psa 37v9-10, 58v10-11 Prov 2v22)

DOES GOD APPROVE OF SLAVERY?



THE IMMORAL USA SLAVE TRADE



THE DISGRACEFUL SLAVE TRADE IN AMERICA



Incredibly this was justified by Christians in America and England, using passages from the Bible

DID GOD ALLOW SLAVERY?

- Slavery of the cruel hopeless kind the USA had was totally banned in God's Law (the death penalty applied to both the buyer and seller of slaves)
- "WHOEVER STEALS A MAN AND SELLS HIM, AND ANYONE FOUND IN POSSESSION OF HIM, SHALL BE PUT TO DEATH".
- (Exod 21v16, see also Deut 24v7)

2 TYPES OF SERVITUDE

- Hebrew brethren who got into debt or had to pay off a fine
- Foreigners who were captured in war, could be spared death if willing to be a servant, or exiles ,who being unable to own Jewish land, chose to work for their keep

DID GOD ALLOW SLAVERY FOR HEBREWS ?

- Servitude in Israel normally happened because a man got into debt or incurred a fine by crime and had to work the debt off
- The debtor was freed of the debt at the year of release . (Exod 21v2) He could then return and resume his inheritance
- Servants had to be treated well , or they were to be released and the debt was cancelled
- (Exod 21v26-27)

SERVITUDE BUT NOT SLAVERY

- And if thy brother that dwelleth by thee be waxen poor, and be sold unto thee; thou shalt not compel him to serve as a bondservant:
- But as an hired servant, and as a sojourner, he shall be with thee, and shall serve thee unto the year of jubilee:
- And then shall he depart from thee, both he and his children with him, and shall return unto his own family, and unto the possession of his fathers shall he return.
- For they are my servants, which I brought forth out of the land of Egypt: they shall not be sold as bondmen.
- Thou shalt not rule over him with rigour; but shalt fear thy God. (Lev 25:39-43)

UNIQUE LAWS FOR SERVANTS

- Had to be well treated-not oppressed (Deut 23v16)
- Could not be beaten or harmed (Exod 21v26-27)
- Maximum term was six years (Deut 15v12)
- Debts were cancelled in seventh (Deut 15v1-2)
- Were sent away with lots of goodies (15v13-15)
- In the year of Jubilee – all mortgaged inheritances were restored fully back to their original owners (Lev 25v10-12)

SLAVERY OR SERVITUDE

God's laws were totally different to slavery

- Servants were included in the family worship- (Deut 16v11-12)
- Servants always had the sabbath day off (Deut 5v15)
- Servants could marry others in the masters household
- Servants could elect to stay with their master at the end of their term (Exod 21v1-6 ,Deut 15v16-17)
- That this actually happened -shows that good and loving relationships with masters had developed ("I love my master"..)

MINE EAR HAS THOU DIGGED – a voluntary commitment to stay



GOD'S CARE FOR MAIDSERVANTS

- Maidservants are uniquely prescribed for by God
- Could not be mistreated (Exod 21v26-27)
- Her work was limited v7 (no dangerous work)
- Men were not to lust after maidservants (Exod 20v17. Deut 5v21)
- Were specifically included in all feasts and family worship (Deut 12v12, 18, 16v11, 14)
- Were required to keep the sabbath (Exod 20v10, Deut 5v14)
- The laws of release included women (Deut 15v12)

SELLING DAUGHTERS ? Exod 21v7-11

- In cases of economic desperation a father could place his daughter into service with a view of marriage (to give her what he could not provide)
- The father's debt would be paid off
- Quite often it was an arranged marriage to the employer or his son.v8-9 . (arranged marriages were the custom of those times)
- If the master or his son changed their mind about marrying the girl and married someone else - she still had to be provided food, clothing and shelter
- Otherwise she was free to leave without cost or repayment of the debt
- Sexual exploitation was totally forbidden (Lev19v29)

EXODUS 21v10-“Duty of marriage”

She did not just become a second wife

- The Hebrew word here is 'ONAH " –this is the only occurrence of this word in the OT
- The Hebrew word means “oil” or “ointments”
- The root word indicates “dwelling” or “shelter”
- So the girl must be provided food , clothing and shelter , or let go totally free (and of the debt)
- She could not be sold as a slave to Gentiles
- This was a law designed to prevent abuse of someone left in a vulnerable position.

WHAT ABOUT FOREIGN SLAVES?

- In cruel times- most captives in war were killed
- Becoming bondservants was a much better fate than death or starvation .
- Israel had to exterminate all Canaanites.
- If distant nations surrendered they could become servants to Israel (as the Gibeonites did -by trickery)
- They still had to be well treated (Lev 19v33-34)
- They could convert to Judaism, and then partake of the feasts and worship.

FOREIGN SLAVES

- Jews could have gentile servants , who became the property of the person. (Lev 25v44-46)
- Runaway slaves (of the gentiles) had to be protected , cared for and **not sent back** to their masters (Deut 23v15)- cp bounty hunters in the USA
- Mistreated servants could go free
- So it was wise to treat your servants well
- Always the principle about caring for servants was- "Remember ye were slaves in Egypt"

SLAVERY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- Jesus was concerned to provide **individual salvation**-not to change or regulate the ungodly nations
- His goal was not the immediate transformation of the present evils of society, but the personal transformation of believers
- Slavery was a sad reality of life in the first century Roman world-and it had to be worked around
- Converts had to live the Truth as best they could , either as slaves or masters (1 Cor 7v21-22)
- Slave owners(like Philemon) would no doubt treat their slaves well , or even free them.
- A truly spiritual person would release converted slaves

THE NEW ATHEIST'S CHALLENGE

- ❖ They claim God is an angry, jealous God, demanding praise and sole worship
- ❖ The Bible is 'weird' –odd laws like Kosher foods , laws about birds eggs (etc)

DOES GOD DEMAND SOLE WORSHIP?

Yes -He does.

- *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.*
- *You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.*
- *And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. "* (Deut 6:4-6)
- (1Sam 7v3 ,Luke 4v8)..*"him only shalt thou serve "*

IS GOD JEALOUS AND DEMANDING?

Yes – He is !

- *For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God: (Exod 34:14)*
- *For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God. (Deut 4:24)*
- *Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God (Exod 20:5)*

YAHWEH IS STILL A JEALOUS GOD

- You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.
- Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?
- (1Cor 10:21-22)

THE BIG ISSUE- HOW DID LIFE COME ?

- Science suggests life spontaneously generated in some mineral soup, and evolved upward from a single cell to complex life
- The universe exists and has order and laws
- The earth sustains an amazing array of intelligent and incredible life
- Humans have highly developed minds and moral capacity
- Evolution cannot explain DNA and its incredibly complex coding.

DAWKINS ON DNA- THE SELFISH GENE

- Dawkins promoted the idea of “junk DNA” that is vestigial and **has no purpose we can see** .
- Science took up this claim to support evolution
- An argument from **ignorance** is always a dangerous position to adopt .
- **The ENCODE Project** (2003-2012) has now discovered many **unforeseen** uses and qualities for most of the supposed “junk DNA ”
- It is now agreed that 80-90% of DNA has an identified use – and the rest probably does
- Mankind is foolish and arrogant to think God makes mistakes

DNA destroys Dawkins

- “The logical , coded machinery of DNA and the information system it carries shout design to an unprejudiced mind. **Dawkins’s defence is based not on scientific facts , but on ideology** . Evolutionary thinking is teetering as a way of looking at the evidence , not because of some isolated problems here and there , but because the whole structure is scientifically wrong.”

Prof Andy McIntosh University of Leeds (2005)

DAWKINS HAS TO CONCEDE

- **Richard Dawkins**-has had to admit that DNA could not just happen by chance
- When pushed to explain in a BBC debate with John Lennox , he said..... '**perhaps some space travellers planted the seeds of life and DNA on earth**'
- If you can believe in spacemen , why not angels ?

YOUR CHOICE-UNCERTAINTY OR BELIEF

- **Dawkins says...**
- "We **don't know** how DNA came to be – perhaps it was brought here by spacemen"
- "**We don't understand** how the cosmos came into being in the first place –**we just don't know** how it all began.."
- **The Bible says –**
- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth- *Gen 1v1*

THE MIND OF THE WICKED

- For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul, and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the LORD.
- In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, "There is no God." (Psa 10:3 ESV)
- The fool hath said in his heart..there is no God (Psa 14v1)

THE GREATEST REASON TO BELIEVE

The Bible itself !...

- Consistent, offers hope and reason for our existence
- Prophetic fulfilment –a witness to a divine mind that knows and shapes the future
- Numerical brilliance and amazing patterns
- Offers moral values , way ahead of their time
- Gives meaning and guidance for our life
- Historically accurate –proven and tested



Why men choose not to believe

- God cannot be **absolutely** proven scientifically, even though all the circumstantial evidence indicates He exists.
- If one admits to the existence of a Creator, then there is probably a reason for His creation
- The Bible states that the reason for the creation is that men should seek to find and to obey God – (Acts 14v15-17 , 17v24-28)
- Most men do not want to be restrained by God and His laws.

The Challenge

Where did God come from ?

- We cant say – we are told He has always been and that we should not try to explain that
- But the evolutionist equally has to be asked ..where did the first matter come from (for the Big Bang) and how did life suddenly appear on earth ?

He that cometh to God must believe he is ..Heb 11v6