

God Gave Us Reason, Not Religion



BOB JOHNSON

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*Deism: A Revolution in Religion,
A Revolution in You*

An Answer to C.S. Lewis' Mere Christianity

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments.....	1
Introduction.....	3
Chapter One: Why Believe that the Supreme Intelligence/God Exists?.....	9
Chapter Two: Should We Follow What God Gave Us or What Men Wrote? (And How to Know the Difference)	27
Chapter Three: No Savior Needed.....	113
Chapter Four: Altruism Is a Key to Progress	127
Chapter Five: Deistic Changes and Improvements to be Expected.....	137
Appendix A: A Deistic Satirical Take on the Garden of Eden.....	145
Appendix B: A Spiritual and Intellectual Journey from Mormonism to Deism	151
About the Author	171

“Truth ought to be the object of every person; for without truth there can be no real happiness to a thoughtful mind, or any assurance of happiness hereafter. It is the duty of man to obtain all the knowledge he can, and then make the best use of it.”

—Thomas Paine

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INTRODUCTION

The title of this book, *God Gave Us Reason, Not Religion*, says a lot. It is a very profound and important statement based on reality and fact, as this book makes clear. Fully comprehending and appreciating this reality and fact, and following through with action based on that comprehension and appreciation, can produce very positive results for anyone and everyone who does so. It leads those who grasp and appreciate it to free themselves from decades of religious manipulation, fear and deceit in their own lives. It frees the mind and spirit of everyone who takes it to heart and who acts upon it. It also overflows into all aspects of a person's life and is not just limited to the religious, spiritual or philosophic parts of their lives. And since society is composed of people, the more people who are positively influenced by this Deistic realization and who take action based on it, the better and more positive society itself will become.

The Deistic rational realization that The Supreme Intelligence/God did give us innate reason and not religion helps people to see the very important difference between God and religion. It helps religious people, people who believe in

God but who don't belong to any religion (they're classified as "nones" in many religious surveys), Atheists, Agnostics and Buddhists separate God from religion. This is a very liberating, empowering and inspirational realization. Many people who do not accept any of the "revealed" religions or the Bible, Quran or any book held out to be the Word of God often mistakenly think that since they reject all the "revealed" religions and their "holy" books that they must be Atheists or Agnostics. Likewise, Buddhists who believe that the belief in God is based on fear and not reason, which it too often is, can benefit from this important Deistic realization. Unfortunately, too many people have never heard of Deism and do not know that Deism is a rational and natural alternative available for them and that they are not alone in their views and beliefs of God, spirituality, reason and religion.

The factual belief that God gave us reason and not religion is a key principle of Deism. Deism is simply the belief in God/The Supreme Intelligence based on the application of our reason on the laws and designs in Nature. Deism teaches that the designs point us to the Designer/God. Deists believe the gift of our innate reason is a gift from The Supreme Intelligence/God, second only to the gift of life itself, for us to *USE* every day of our lives. It is the only sure way to produce real happiness and progress.

Reason allows us to protect ourselves from bad ideas and from false teachings. It allows us to distinguish between falsehoods and truth. It allows us to experience real profound meaningful joy and happiness virtually every moment of our lives. In Deism, "ungodly" does not mean unreligious but does mean unreasonable since our innate reason is from The Supreme Intelligence/God while religions are not from God. The use of our innate God-given reason and intellectual ability

in the diligent study of the laws and designs in Nature (which is science) allows us to discover eternal principles in Nature/the Universe (people can only discover principles, we cannot create them). Once discovered, work based on these eternal natural principles allows us to improve the lives of everyone on Earth and to learn even more about the Designer's designs. The American Deist Elihu Palmer made an important statement in his book *Principles of Nature* regarding this critically important responsibility. Palmer wrote, "It is not sufficient that man acknowledge the possession of his intellectual powers, it is also necessary that these powers should be developed, and their force directed to the discovery of direct principle, and the useful application of it to social life." Doing so makes everything from medicine to aviation to computers to space exploration and so much more possible and real. **This has held true in the past, it is true now and it will hold true in the future.**

Why believe in The Supreme Intelligence/God? The reason to believe The Supreme Intelligence/God exists is because The Supreme Intelligence/God really does exist. This book shows that not only do the facts and realities in Nature point us to The Supreme Intelligence/God, but that they do so to the point of satisfying the legal requirement of "beyond a reasonable doubt." Reason tells us this, not faith. It is a profoundly enlightening realization that what is known as faith is **not** needed for belief in Nature's God/The Supreme Intelligence! In fact, many Deists believe reason is a gift from Providence to protect us from what the clergy call faith.

Literally, billions of people draw purpose and guidance for their own lives and for the lives of their families from a "revealed" religion such as Judaism, Christianity or Islam. For thousands of years billions of people have been relying on these

ancient “revealed” religions to teach them how to live and to teach them about God. The “holy” books of these “revealed” religions (the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, the Christian Bible, the Quran and the Book of Mormon) are all looked upon by the followers of these particular “revealed” religions as “the Word of God.” Rick Warren, the popular Christian writer and clergyman, wrote in his bestselling book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, “God has not left us in the dark to wonder and guess. He has clearly revealed his five purposes for our lives through the Bible. It is our Owner’s Manual, explaining why we are alive, how life works, what to avoid, and what to expect in the future. It explains what no self-help or philosophy book could know.”

Is the Christian Bible really our “Owner’s Manual” from God? Or is the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, the Quran, or the Book of Mormon the *real* “Owner’s Manual” from God to us? Or are none of them from God and should none of them be used as an “Owner’s Manual” on which we base our lives? These are all very important questions which need and deserve rational, objective and honest answers. The consequences of getting them wrong means we will be living our lives based on, at best, an error, or at worst, a lie. And just as using an owner’s manual for a gasoline-powered Jeep on an electric powered Tesla automobile would cause intense frustration and irreparable damage, so does using a book as if it’s the Word of God when it really is not the Word of God cause intense frustration and irreparable damage to the people who do so as well as to their family and even to the society they are a part of. The only thing that can prevent this crippling frustration and irreparable damage from being done is for us to always actively use our gift from God of innate reason in every aspect of our lives, including religion.

Each and everyone of us needs to realize that we are each

responsible for ourselves. We don't need to look to other people or to institutions to tell us what to think, what to believe, what to do, what not to do or to give us purpose and meaning. The way Nature is setup demands individual accountability and action in order to create and enjoy the optimum life and society. Thinking for yourself is a basic prerequisite. The sooner the vast majority of people who are currently in a "revealed"/hearsay religion realize that, based on the Designer's designs, they are accountable for themselves and that there will never be a messiah or savior flying out of the sky to take them away from the man-made misery and suffering in their lives, in society and in the world to a blissful eternity in heaven/paradise, the sooner the majority of them will start working on making their own lives, the lives of their families and the quality of society in general much better. This will bring about true natural progress and happiness for all of us.

The independence we naturally have is not something to be feared. Instead, it is a gift from our Designer/Creator to be strongly embraced and deeply thankful for. It allows us to really and truly **EXPERIENCE LIFE**, thus allowing us the privilege of learning about Nature and Nature's God, as well as learning much more about ourselves. Innate God-given reason and Deism are the keys that allow us to open up this inspiring, beautiful and meaningful life, world and Universe for ourselves!

CHAPTER ONE

Why Believe That The Supreme Intelligence/God Exists?

Before the idea that God gave us reason and not religion can have any real meaning at all, we need to show that The Supreme Intelligence/God exists, or, at a minimum, most probably exists. As the former Roman Catholic priest of over 20 years who evolved into an active Deist, Raymond Fontaine, Ph.D., wrote in his insightful book *My Life With God IN and OUT of the Church*, “Knowledge of reality comes first. I must know that something is before I make it part of my life. Truth matters most.” Reality and truth should matter most to everyone (our individual lives and society as a whole would be much better if it did). We should not be offended by any idea or statement if it is the truth, even if it smashes our previously held ideas and beliefs. I sincerely believe the truth and reality based evidence for The Supreme Intelligence/God is actually strong enough to meet the legal requirement of “beyond a reasonable doubt.”

We often hear the legal term “beyond a reasonable doubt.” This is the standard which is used in criminal cases in the United States and in many other nations, and is a higher standard than that used in civil cases which is preponderance of the evidence. It is a very high standard which also applies to the Deistic belief in God. A widely used and accepted legal definition of “beyond a reasonable doubt” is: “Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is proof that leaves you firmly convinced.”* The definition goes on to say, “There are very few things in this world that we know with absolute certainty, and in criminal cases the law does not require proof that overcomes every possible doubt.”

Since regarding the existence of The Supreme Intelligence/ God, Deism only teaches that God/The Supreme Intelligence exists, a teaching based on the application of our reason on the laws and designs in Nature which we all can perceive and which make our own existence a reality, a Deistic belief in God truly is “beyond a reasonable doubt.” Objectively looking at the world and Universe of which we are all thinking, breathing and living parts of, we can’t help but to detect intelligence beyond human capability. Albert Einstein held and expressed this same idea as is made evident by this quote of Einstein’s found in his obituary in the April 19, 1955 edition of the *New York Times*:

My religion consists of a humble admiration of the illimitable superior spirit who reveals himself in the slight details we are able to perceive with our frail and feeble minds. That deeply emotional conviction of

*Federal Judicial Center, Pattern Criminal Jury Instructions (1987).

the presence of a superior reasoning power, which is revealed in the incomprehensible universe, forms my idea of God.

Thomas Paine eloquently made the point that the Universe/Creation is the only possible “Word of God.” In *The Age of Reason, The Complete Edition* he wrote:

The Creation speaks a universal language, independently of human speech or human language, multiplied and various as they may be. It is an ever existing original, which every man can read. It cannot be forged; it cannot be counterfeited; it cannot be lost; it cannot be altered; it cannot be suppressed. It does not depend upon the will of man whether it shall be published or not; it publishes itself from one end of the earth to the other. It preaches to all nations and to all worlds; and this Word of God reveals to man all that is necessary for man to know of God.

However, other beliefs in God which **claim** to know more about God than simply that God/the Designer/The Supreme Intelligence exists, lose the quality of being beyond a reasonable doubt. For example, Panentheists and many Pantheists dogmatically claim that God is made up of everything in the Universe and that everything in the Universe is made up of God. This moves away from being beyond a reasonable doubt because there is no evidence for it. Likewise, all of the various “revealed”/hearsay religions such as Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Mormonism fall far short of being beyond a reasonable doubt with all of their claims to divine revelation (which Thomas Paine made clear in *The Age of Reason, The Complete*

Edition is in reality only mere hearsay), claims such as knowing that God has a name and what that name is (Exodus 34:14, for just one example, claims that God's name is "Jealous" because God is a very jealous being), miracles which, if true, would be direct violations of the laws of Nature, and the list goes on and on. Even Buddhism has beliefs and claims in its "sacred" texts which violate reason and are very far from being "beyond a reasonable doubt." For just one example, Buddhism teaches belief in demons, such as the demon Mara who allegedly tempted Gautama Buddha, and many Buddhists believe exorcisms by Buddhist clergy are needed to free people from these demons. The former Roman Catholic priest mentioned above who evolved into an active Deist, Ray Fontaine, summed it up well when he wrote regarding The Supreme Intelligence/God, "We know that he is but not who or what he is." (Deism doesn't teach that The Supreme Intelligence/God is a "he" although most Deists usually use "he" when referring to The Supreme Intelligence out of convenience and simplicity.)

This profound yet simple realization that the Universe/Creation is the only possible "Word of God" makes for a very content and satisfying belief system, which is Deism. By its very nature it protects us from being imposed upon by people who want to control and manipulate us for their own selfish benefit. It also protects us from all fear-based and unreasonable/ungodly superstitions such as belief in Satan, devils, demons, jinn, witches and curses among many other things. The realization that the Universe and all the laws and designs found within it are the only possible "Word of God" makes for such a deeply joyful life, it is truly difficult to describe adequately.

Knowing that your belief in The Supreme Intelligence/God is founded on reality and not on fear-based and greed-based

superstitions and myths which run counter to your innate God-given reason, gives Deists not only peace of mind, happiness and joy, but also confidence. This Deistic confidence was shown by Cayetano Ripoll. He was the last person murdered by the Spanish Inquisition. His “crime” was heresy. He was charged as a heretic for being a Deist and for teaching other people about Deism. When he was put to death on July 26, 1826 he said, “I die reconciled to God and to man.”

There is no fear in a Deist that a reason-based argument will confront them which will prove Deism wrong. The reason for this is twofold. First, Deism is grounded on reason and Nature. Second, if an argument did arise which proved Deism wrong, Deists would abandon Deism for what has been proven true and which proved Deism false. All Deists embrace the Socratic principle of following the evidence wherever it leads. It was this Socratic principle which led the former leading Atheist, Antony Flew, from Atheism to Deism. When asked why he left Atheism behind for Deism, Dr. Flew said, “My whole life has been guided by the principle of Plato’s Socrates: Follow the evidence, wherever it leads.”*

This quality of Deism which unites reason with belief often takes “revealed” religionists as well as Atheists and Agnostics by surprise. The “revealed” religionists are used to debating nonbelievers who value reason but who do not believe in The Supreme Intelligence/God and the Atheists and Agnostics are not used to debating people who embrace reason and who also believe in The Supreme Intelligence/God without all the foolish man-made superstitions and dogmas attached.

This important change that Deism brings to the reason v. religion debate takes the wind out of the sails of new

*“There is a God, leading atheist concludes.” Associated Press, 9 Dec. 2004. Web. 21 Aug. 2014.

superstition-based religious/spiritual belief systems such as many New Age groups and Scientology. When a member of one of these groups discusses or debates with someone from one of the “revealed”/hearsay religions who points out foolish beliefs and ideas promoted by Scientology or a New Age system, the Scientologist or New Ager often falls back on pointing out the many unreasonable and foolish beliefs held and promoted by the “revealed” religion which their opponent belongs to and/or they point to commonly accepted foolish beliefs and teaching their two religions have in common. This usually ends the debate. However, because Deism is solidly grounded in reason and free of foolish and unreasonable beliefs, the same technique cannot be used successfully against a Deist.

Once when I was discussing religion and Deism with a sincere Christian lady who strongly believed the Bible is the Word of God and who did not like it when I said I don't believe it's the Word of God while pointing out a few flaws in it, she said, “Well, I can probably find contradictions in the holy book of Deism.” When I told her there are no man-made books pretending to be divine revelations in Deism and that Deists believe the only possible “Word of God” is the Universe and Creation itself, she fell silent. However, you could see the wheels turning in her mind. I hope the seed for Deism was planted and that she's now a Deist.

When Atheists and Agnostics debate with a Deist, they can't point to foolish beliefs held and promoted by Deism, because, as mentioned above, they do not exist. All they're able to do is to insist that there is no intelligence involved in the way the Universe operates. When a Deist asks them about such obviously intelligence-dependent realities such as working code in DNA and the ability of DNA to read those codes

and execute the instructions in those codes all they can say is the codes are based on physical laws. When asked where these intelligence-based physical laws came from they usually say, "Physical law just is." But that does not make sense. By definition, a code cannot randomly pop into being. It must be created by someone with intelligence. Since we're not aware of any type of law which "just is" or which created itself and is not the product of an intelligence, there is no logical reason to accept this belief. To Deists, it makes much more sense to go a step beyond the laws of physics and recognize laws are not self-creating and therefore there is a Supreme Intelligence behind these physical laws. To Deists, these physical laws and all that they make possible and real lead us to be "firmly convinced" that The Supreme Intelligence/God is as real, or even more real, as are the laws of physics.

One argument I occasionally hear from Atheists is that if Deists such as Thomas Paine, Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, etc. had lived after the time of Charles Darwin and the theory of evolution, they would not be Deists, they would be Atheists. This argument is largely based on the false idea and assumption that Deists believe God created men and women along the lines of the Bible myths of creation found in Genesis. This could not be further from the truth. Most Deists believe evolution is one of the Designer's designs. The foolish Genesis myths of creation are **NOT** intelligent design, they are simply ancient mythology. Deism promotes **Deistic Intelligent Design (D.I.D.)** which incorporates gravity, evolution, and all of science and the eternal principles it discovers. Deism rejects both contradictory Bible stories of creation, the first of which is found in Genesis 1:1-27 and the second of which is found in Genesis 2:4-25. Deism also rejects the unreasonable teachings of Islam, such as the one found in Surah 4:1 of the Quran,

which claims God created women from men. It's beyond reason to associate God creating a woman out of one of Adam's ribs as is taught in the second contradictory Bible story of creation, or God creating women from men as the Quran teaches, with Intelligent Design of any kind. Any idea or belief about the creation of the Universe which incorporates foolish ideas such as these should only be referred to as Creationism and never as Intelligent Design.

One of the big problems Atheists have who promote the belief that people who were Deists prior to the theory of evolution would have left Deism for Atheism after learning about evolution, are scientists and respected philosophers who are/were well aware of evolution but who still believe/believed in The Supreme Intelligence/God. Antony Flew, mentioned above, is one of them. He actually left Atheism for Deism based on reason and science. Evolution, which is carried out through the working code in DNA, was actually a major reason **for** Dr. Flew leaving Atheism for Deism, and **not** a reason to support Atheism over Deism.

Another much more famous man of science and academia who was fully aware of evolution but who strongly and deeply believed in The Supreme Intelligence while rejecting all of the various "revealed"/hearsay religions was Albert Einstein. In *Einstein, His Life and Universe*, Walter Isaacson writes that Albert Einstein had "a deistic concept of God" (385).

Albert Einstein expressed this Deistic concept of God well when he wrote:

I'm not an atheist, and I don't think I can call myself a pantheist. We are in the position of a little child entering a huge library filled with books in many languages. The child knows someone must have written those

books. It does not know how. It does not understand the languages in which they are written. The child dimly suspects a mysterious order in the arrangement of the books but doesn't know what it is. That, it seems to me, is the attitude of even the most intelligent human being toward God. We see the universe marvelously arranged and obeying certain laws but only dimly understand these laws. Our limited minds grasp the mysterious force that moves the constellations.

Einstein is recognized as being one of the most intelligent people in history. It's my opinion that one universal quality of intelligence in people is the recognition of just how little they, and humanity in general, really know. The above quote from Einstein shows he openly recognized the huge current limits to our knowledge while at the same time letting us know it is within our current ability to detect and to recognize the existence of The Supreme Intelligence/God. This is at the heart of Deism.

As mentioned above, Atheists tend to believe that "physical law just is." Einstein wrote, "A spirit is manifest in the laws of the universe – a spirit vastly superior to that of man, and one in the face of which we with our modest powers must feel humble. In this way the pursuit of science leads to a religious feeling of a special sort." That is Deism, although Deism is much more of a philosophy than a religion.

Imagined "miracles" are really only myths, which, if they were real, would amount to violations of the Designer's designs/laws of Nature. Thus, Einstein looked at the fact that there are no miracles in a "revealed"/hearsay religious sense as more evidence **for** The Supreme Intelligence. Walter Isaacson wrote, "For some people, miracles serve as evidence of

God's existence. For Einstein it was the absence of miracles that reflected divine providence. The fact that the cosmos is comprehensible, that it follows laws, is worthy of awe. This is the defining quality of a 'God who reveals himself in the harmony of all that exists'" (551).

In 2012 a letter from Albert Einstein to the Jewish philosopher and author Erik Gutkind was sold at auction for over \$3 million. The letter came to be known as Einstein's "God Letter" and was claimed by many people to be evidence that Albert Einstein did not believe in God. The one line taken from the letter and used to try to make it appear that Einstein was an Atheist is, "The word God is for me nothing more than the expression and product of human weakness, the Bible a collection of honorable, but still purely primitive, legends which are nevertheless pretty childish." (Einstein must have been being diplomatic when he used the word "honorable" as there are many cruel and repulsive Bible stories that are completely void of any type of honor and promote such things as genocide and child rape such as Numbers 31:17-18, of God slaughtering everyone on Earth including women, children and unborn babies by drowning in the ungodly and horrific flood story, etc., etc.)

If you read Einstein's other writings on The Supreme Intelligence/God and realize in the "God Letter" Einstein was writing to a religious Jew about a religious book the religious Jew had written which promoted the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament god, it's very easy to see where Einstein was coming from when he wrote that sentence. He was using the word "God" in the same context Gutkind, with whom he was corresponding, was using it, in reference to the Hebrew/Jewish god of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament.

The book Gutkind wrote and which Einstein was referring

to is *Choose Life: The Biblical Call to Revolt*. It is important to keep this fact in mind when reading Einstein's "God Letter" as it makes very clear that Einstein was addressing the Bible god and not Nature's God. This helps us to realize why it's very important to take things in context and, as philosophy teaches us, to see things as they really are and not simply as they superficially appear to be.

Choose Life: The Biblical Call to Revolt is a book which promotes Israel and Jews above all the rest of humanity, which is in step with the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. Gutkind ignores the unreasonable (and, therefore, ungodly) claims in the Bible and in vain attempts to show that Judaism and the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament are in agreement with science. He then contradicts realities of science when he claims that Abraham removed himself and the Jews/Hebrews from natural causation. He wrote that because Abraham was willing to kill his only son, Isaac, as the Bible god ordered him to do, that Abraham was now "freed from natural causation" and "had detached himself and with him the Founded People from 'normalcy.' He had accepted the paradox. He had become the creator of faith" (Gutkind 61). This type of religious nonsense Einstein strongly and openly rejected throughout his life. In fact, Einstein wrote:

The scientist is possessed by the sense of universal causation. His religious feeling takes the form of a rapturous amazement at the harmony of natural law, which reveals an intelligence of such superiority that, compared with it, all the systematic thinking and acting of human beings is an utterly insignificant reflection.

This flies in the face of Gutkind's lame claim that Abraham

freed himself and the Jews (“Founded People”) from “natural causation” when he showed himself willing to murder his only son, Isaac. It also paints a terrible and horrific image of God being so debased that he would command one of his followers to kill his or her own child.

In the “God Letter” Einstein also covered the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament claim that the Hebrews/Jews are chosen by God “above all people that are upon the face of the earth” (Deuteronomy 7:6) when he wrote, “For me the Jewish religion like all other religions is an incarnation of the most childish superstition. And the Jewish people to whom I gladly belong have no different quality for me than all other people. As far as my experience goes, they are also no better than other human groups, although they are protected from the worst cancers by a lack of power. Otherwise I cannot see anything ‘chosen’ about them.”

Sadly, now that the Jewish state of Israel is the only nuclear power in the Middle East, we see it is the bully of the Middle East. Israel has the power and uses/abuses that power to take what does not belong to it in regards to Palestinian lands. It exhibits “the worst cancers” by its abuse of Palestinian people and acts of state terror and religious violence such as the sneak attack on the virtually unarmed American Navy ship the USS *Liberty*, which killed 34 Americans and seriously wounded 174 others. Israel is also guilty of the murder of the American peace activist Rachel Corrie and the persecution of the man who warned the world about Israel’s growing nuclear arsenal, Mordechai Vanunu. It would be a good idea for Israel to remind itself of this quote from Albert Einstein which he wrote in a letter dated November 25, 1929 to Chaim Weizmann: “Should we be unable to find a way to honest cooperation and honest pacts with the Arabs, then we have learned

absolutely nothing during our 2,000 years of suffering and deserve all that will come to us.”

Albert Einstein’s Deism is what won over another outstanding scientist to Deism, Walter Kohn. Walter Kohn is an American theoretical physicist who won the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1998. He wrote, “I am very much a scientist, and so I naturally have thought about religion also through the eyes of a scientist. When I do that, I see religion not denominationally, but in a more, let us say, deistic sense. I have been influenced in my thinking by the writing of Einstein who has made remarks to the effect that when he contemplated the world he sensed an underlying Force much greater than any human force. I feel very much the same. There is a sense of awe, a sense of reverence, and a sense of great mystery.”

Another man of science who was/is fully aware of evolution and who strongly believes in The Supreme Intelligence/Nature’s God is the US astronaut Eugene Cernan. Gene Cernan became a NASA astronaut in 1963. He was the pilot on the Gemini 9A, the lunar module pilot on Apollo 10 and commander on Apollo 17, the last time people were on the moon as of this writing. As commander of Apollo 17, Gene Cernan was able to walk on the moon. When he was interviewed for the Ron Howard documentary, *In The Shadow of the Moon*, Cernan said:

I felt like I was standing on a plateau in space that science and technology had allowed me to get to, but now what I was seeing and even more importantly what I was feeling, at that moment in time, science and technology had no answers for. Literally no answers. Because there I was, and there you are, there you are, the Earth, dynamic, overwhelming and I felt that the world has too

much purpose, too much logic – is just too beautiful to have happened by accident. There has to be somebody bigger than you and bigger than me. And I mean this in a spiritual sense, not a religious sense. There has to be a Creator of the Universe who stands above the religions that we ourselves create to go on with our lives.

Anthony Flew, Albert Einstein, Walter Kohn and Gene Cernan are all highly intelligent examples of Deists who embraced/embrace Deism and Deistic ideas well after the theory of evolution and with full knowledge of evolution.

It's fascinating to know that intelligence-based workings on the molecular level have been recorded by IBM scientists who were able to take pictures of chemical atomic bonds inside a single molecule. This is recording the intelligence-based order found in the molecule which makes the existence of the molecule possible. This intelligence-based order makes you and me and the entire Universe possible. Everything from molecules to galaxy clusters obey the intelligence-based laws of physics and Nature. Science is the study of the principles involved in physics and Nature. As Thomas Paine wrote in *The Age of Reason, The Complete Edition*:

It is a fraud of the Christian system to call the sciences human invention; it is only the application of them that is human. Every science has for its basis a system of principles as fixed and unalterable as those by which the universe is regulated and governed. Man cannot make principles, he can only discover them (28).

One of the driving reasons the former leading Atheist Anthony Flew left Atheism to become a Deist is that he, like Gene

Cernan and others, realized there **is** meaning and purpose in Nature. This contradicts the belief of Atheists as expressed by the American Atheists on their site, atheists.org. They state on their “Aims and Principles” page that “the cosmos is devoid of immanent conscious purpose.”

In Dr. Flew’s thought-provoking book *There Is A God*, he covers the fact that genetics is much more than simply chemical reactions. He writes:

. . . a gene is nothing but a set of coded instructions with a precise recipe for manufacturing proteins. Most important, these genetic instructions are not the kind of information you find in thermodynamics and statistical mechanics; rather, they constitute semantic information. In other words, they have a specific meaning. These instructions can be effective only in a molecular environment capable of interpreting the meaning in the genetic code (128).

Words we all routinely use such as these words you are reading now are codes, or semantic information, which transmit ideas for a purpose, just as the genetic instructions are semantic information transmitted for a purpose.

Another argument Atheists use against belief in The Supreme Intelligence/God is rationality versus rationalization. In the Atheist George H. Smith’s book *ATHEISM — THE CASE AGAINST GOD*, it is stated that rationality will not lead to God. That instead, God can only be brought about by rationalization. The book describes rationality as first finding evidence, then arriving at the idea, like Newton seeing the apple fall to the ground and then discovering the law of gravity. It then describes rationalization as first accepting an idea

and then searching for evidence to support it, like someone inventing the idea of God and then saying God created the universe. Deism says it is rationality and reason that leads to God. To the Deist, the evidence is the creation and the idea of what brought about the evidence is the Creator/The Supreme Intelligence/Nature's God. There is absolutely nothing known to man that created itself. For example, if someone shows us a computer and tells us that all the individual parts that make up the computer just came about by chance, that they somehow just formed into a perfectly working computer system randomly and all by themselves, we would be foolish to believe that person. Reason, if we use it, won't let us believe a statement like that. Likewise, if someone tells us the much more complex and growing creation and its perfect order happened by pure chance, we are under no obligation to believe them and are actually under a reason-based obligation **NOT** to believe them. From our own experience we know everything created has a creator. Why then should the creation itself be different?

Atheists like to ask the valid and obvious question of who created God. Many Deists, including Thomas Paine, believe The Supreme Intelligence/God is eternal. In fact, many Deists and freethinkers believe time is artificial and is simply a way for people to measure the duration of events. Some physicists and other scientists, as pointed out in the article from phys.org, "Scientists Suggest Spacetime Has No Time Dimension," believe time is not a physical reality. The article states:

As the researchers explain, without using time as the fourth dimension of spacetime, the physical world can be described more accurately. As physicist Enrico Prati noted in a recent study, "Hamiltonian dynamics

(equations in classical mechanics) is robustly well-defined without the concept of absolute time. Other scientists have pointed out that the mathematical model of spacetime does not correspond to physical reality, and propose that a timeless ‘state space’ provides a more accurate framework.

These ideas give credence to the quality of eternity or being eternal which strengthens the belief that The Supreme Intelligence is eternal.

The martyr for free thought and progress, Giordano Bruno, believed God and the Universe are both eternal and infinite. Since the Bible teaches the contrary, that the Universe and our planet Earth have a beginning, Bruno’s belief caused him great difficulties, pain and death at the hands of the Christians who burned him alive for this belief and other ideas he held which they considered to violate the claims made in the Bible and to be heretical. However, the most detailed and extensive map of the known Universe which was completed in 2014 from the Baryon Oscillation Spectroscopic Survey (BOSS) seems to backup Bruno. The astronomers and scientists who worked on it believe it shows the Universe is infinite.

Not all, but many Atheists fall into this description of fanatical Atheists from Albert Einstein:

The fanatical atheists are like slaves who are still feeling the weight of their chains which they have thrown off after hard struggle. They are creatures who—in their grudge against traditional religion as the “opium of the masses”—cannot hear the music of the spheres.*

* Jammer, Max. *Einstein and Religion*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999. Print.

This is probably because they confuse religion with The Supreme Intelligence/God. Thankfully, God and religion are two very **different** things as reason and Deism make clear.

The primary reason, then, to believe in The Supreme Intelligence/God is that Nature and reason show us The Supreme Intelligence/God is not just a theory or a hope, but is a fact that easily satisfies the legal definition of “beyond a reasonable doubt.” Recognizing the reality of The Supreme Intelligence/God is part of seeing things as they really are, which is what philosophy instructs us to do.

The principles and designs in Nature point us to our Designer. The Supreme Intelligence is as real as these intelligence-based designs and principles, or even more so. No other belief in or about God is as grounded in Intelligence/intelligence and is as rock solid as Deism is, nor does any other belief system hold as much promise and potential for true natural progress and the profound joy, happiness, meaning, purpose and peace than reason-friendly Deism.

CHAPTER TWO

Should We Follow What God Gave Us or What Men Wrote? (And How to Know the Difference)

Realizing that innate reason and Nature let us know that **R**The Supreme Intelligence/God exists to the point of satisfying the legal definition of “beyond a reasonable doubt,” we need to examine books which are claimed to be the Word of God by various religions to see if they can stand the same test of innate God-given reason and Nature and can be proven by the same standard of “beyond a reasonable doubt.” We owe it to ourselves and to society to do this, as well as to our best Friend, The Supreme Intelligence/God.

A very important defining quality of Deism is that it is **NOT** faith-based, but **IS** intelligence based. Unlike the “revealed”/hearsay belief systems such as Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Mormonism, etc., Deism does not rely on unreasonable superstition-based beliefs about God. Deism has no “holy” book dripping with farfetched claims which must be protected from God-given reason and reasonable criticism,

and which put those accepting the unreasonable claims in opposition to God and to God's gift to them of reason. As mentioned above, in Deism, unreasonable equals ungodly.

The French Deist, Voltaire, did a great job of expressing Deism's rejection of what the clergy call faith in favor of our innate God-given reason. Voltaire wrote:

What is faith? Is it to believe that which is evident? No. It is perfectly evident to my mind that there exists a necessary, eternal, supreme, and intelligent being. This is no matter of faith, but of reason.*

In the "revealed" religions believers are taught that instead of our innate God-given reason and intelligence being of prime importance, faith is of prime importance. They are all faith-based and **NOT** God-given reason based. The Bible in Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Talk about pure, ungodly/unreasonable nonsense! This credulous-promoting definition of faith not only sets up believers for unbounded manipulation by the clergy, it also confuses the clergy-created word of "faith" with "hope". This is sad and wrong. Hope is of great importance and makes much good possible. Faith, on the other hand, is used to weaken and destroy God's gift to us of innate reason, which leaves us open to unlimited and never-ending misery, confusion, frustration and manipulation.

A major reason the clergy encourage their followers to use faith instead of reason is that they claim their religion is based on divine revelation. That is, they claim that God told or revealed something to their founder(s) and these divine

*Redman, Ben Ray. *The Portable Voltaire*. New York: Penguin Books, 1977. Print.

revelations are the basis of their “holy” scriptures. A primary problem with this type of belief is that it short-circuits desires of believers to learn about God and to get closer to God, which is often the initial motivation and reason many sincere people belong to a religion. Unfortunately, the “revealed” religions require people trust the founder’s and/or clergy’s claims to divine revelation and **not** The Supreme Intelligence/God.

By its very nature revelation, divine or otherwise, can only be revelation in the first instance. For example, if God tells me that people should cut the foreskin off of the penises of their infant sons when their sons are eight-days-old, that is a divine revelation to me. **HOWEVER**, and this is a huge “however,” once I tell it to someone else, it is **NOT** a **DIVINE REVELATION** to them; it is only mere hearsay because they are not receiving the communication from The Supreme Intelligence/God. Instead, they are receiving it from a second-hand source and a fellow mortal, me. They must trust, or put their faith in, me, not in God in order to believe what I am telling them is a divine revelation. **All of the various “revealed”/hearsay religions fail on this basic and fundamental starting point.**

In addition to this insurmountable fault of “revealed”/hearsay religions based on the entire concept and reality of what a revelation actually is, the founders and clergy of the “revealed”/hearsay religions all know that if people apply their God-given innate reason to the teachings of the “revealed”/hearsay religions, they will never become believers in and supporters of these belief systems. This is why there are such things as blasphemy laws and rules. Blasphemy laws and rules forbid the application of our innate God-given reason to the claims being made about God by the various “revealed”/hearsay religions. It’s strange that religions, which are supposed to bring us closer to God, violate and reject God’s gift to us of

reason and cannot withstand the test of that innate God-given reason.

Let's now take a very brief look at some of the major world "revealed"/hearsay religions to see how they stack up against our God-given reason and Deism, and why their promoters would much rather have people embrace what they call faith rather than embrace and use their innate gift from The Supreme Intelligence/God of reason. This objective examination will not only bring out some of the unreasonable and foolish "revealed" religious teachings, but also some of the dangerous religious violence-producing teachings. It is hoped that it will also help people to free themselves from the shackles of the "revealed"/hearsay religions. Since the Abrahamic "revealed"/hearsay religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and to a lesser degree, Mormonism, are most dominant in their influence in the world, the focus will be on them.

JUDAISM

Judaism is the first of the Abrahamic "revealed"/hearsay religions and is where Christianity, Islam and Mormonism all start. The core "holy" books/scriptures of Judaism are the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and the Talmud. They are crammed with factual errors and horrific teachings such as calls to genocide and child rape and belief in witches. The only way to believe they are from The Supreme Intelligence/God is to have an extraordinarily low opinion and idea of God.

The Hebrew Bible/Old Testament starts with the Book of Genesis. This book starts with the Bible myth of the creation of the Universe and in particular the creation of planet Earth and mankind. It is full of holes such as God making light and dividing light into day and night on the **first day** of creation but not creating the sun, which gives Earth light, until the

fourth day of creation. In addition to this problem and several others is the problem that Genesis contains two distinct creation stories, one starting at Genesis 1:1 and going through verse 27. The other contradicting creation story in the Bible starts at Genesis 2:4 and continues through verse 25. This is a major flaw that is too often overlooked.

Allegedly the first two human beings ever to live on planet Earth, according to the Bible, were Adam and Eve. The first creation story in the Bible at 1:26 claims the Hebrew/Jewish god was talking to other beings that looked like him or he had an imaginary friend(s) who he thought looked like himself. It reads, “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness . . .” Verse 27 then claims, “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” This implies strongly that Adam and Eve just simultaneously popped into existence. And verse 28 strongly implies that they popped into existence as either teens or young adults for it has God telling them to “be fruitful and multiply.” This is not the case in the second creation story in Genesis.

Genesis 2:7 claims, “And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” This is much less simultaneous and more labor intensive, on the order of quasi-pottery work!

Verses 15-17 read:

And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it:

for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

So we are to believe that God made Adam and took him like a child would grab a Ken or GI Joe doll and placed him in the Garden of Eden. Once God did that he told him he could eat from any tree in the Garden of Eden with the exception of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It seems God didn't want Adam to know right from wrong or good from evil. Like the clergy who wrote this nonsense and who now continue to perpetrate it on us, the Bible god wants to keep people in ignorance.

In this second Bible account of creation, Eve is created out of one of Adam's ribs. Verses 21-22 claim:

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

It's very difficult to understand how any thinking person could possibly call these ridiculous Bible myths "intelligent design" of any kind!

To make very clear the foolishness of this Jewish creation myth and the story of Adam and Eve being the first human beings on our planet, as well as the foolish and anti-God Bible story of Noah and the flood, consider this thought-provoking and enlightening piece by the French Deist Voltaire found in *The Portable Voltaire* titled *Adam*:

So much has been said and so much written concerning

Adam, his wife, the pre-Adamites, etc., and the rabbis have put forth so many idle stories respecting Adam, and it is so dull to repeat what others have said before, that I shall here hazard a new idea, or one, at least, which is not to be found in any ancient author, father of the church, preacher, theologian, critic, or scholar with whom I am acquainted. I mean the profound secrecy with respect to Adam which was observed throughout the habitable earth, Palestine only excepted, until the time when the Jewish books began to be known in Alexandria, and were translated into Greek under one of the Ptolemies. Even then they were very little known; for large books were very rare and very dear. Besides, the Jews in Jerusalem were so incensed against those of Alexandria, loaded them with so many reproaches for having translated their Bible into a profane tongue, called them so many ill names, and cried so loudly to the Lord, that the Alexandrian Jews concealed their translation as much as possible. It was so secret that no Greek or Roman author speaks of it before the time of the Emperor Aurelian.

The historian Josephus confesses, in his answer to Appian, that the Jews had only recently had any intercourse with other nations: "We inhabit," says he, "a country distant from the sea; we do not apply ourselves to commerce, nor have we any communications with other peoples. Is it to be wondered at that our nation, dwelling so far from the sea, and affecting never to write, have been so little known?"

Here it will probably be asked how Josephus could say that his nation affected never to write anything, when they had twenty-two canonical books, without

reckoning the Targum by Onkelos. But it must be considered that twenty-two small volumes were not much when compared with the multitude of books preserved in the library of Alexandria, half of which were burned in Caesar's war.

It is certain that the Jews had written and read very little; that they were profoundly ignorant of astronomy, geometry, geography, and physics; that they knew nothing of the history of other nations; and that it was only in Alexandria that they at last began to acquire some learning. Their language was a barbarous mixture of ancient Phoenician and corrupted Chaldee; it was so poor that several moods were wanting in the conjugation of their verbs.

Moreover, as they communicated neither their books nor the titles of them to any foreigner, no one on Earth except themselves had ever heard of Adam, or Eve, or Abel, or Cain, or Noah. Abraham alone was, in course of time, known to the Oriental nations; but no ancient people admitted Abraham, or Ibrahim, was the root of the Jewish nation.

Such are the secrets of Providence, that the father and mother of the human race have ever been totally unknown to their descendants; so that the names of Adam and Eve are to be found in no ancient author, either of Greece, of Rome, of Persia, or of Syria, nor even among the Arabs, until near the time of Mohammed. It was God's pleasure that the origin of the great family of the world should be concealed from all but the smallest and most unfortunate part of that family.

How is it that Adam and Eve have been unknown to all their children? How could it be that neither in Egypt

nor in Babylon was any trace — any tradition — of our first parents to be found? Why were they not mentioned by Orpheus, by Linus, or by Thamyris? For if they had said but one word of them, it would undoubtedly have been caught by Hesiod and even more surely by Homer, who speak of everything except the authors of the human race. Clement of Alexandria, who collected so many ancient records, would not have failed to quote any passage in which mention had been made of Adam and Eve. Eusebius, in his *Universal History*, has examined even the most doubtful testimonies, and would assuredly have made the most of the smallest allusion, or appearance of an allusion, to our first parents. It is, then, established that they were always utterly unknown to the nations.

We do not see the name of Noah or of Adam in any of the ancient dynasties of Egypt; they are not to be found among the Chaldeans; in a word, the whole earth has been silent respecting them. It must be owned that such a silence is unparalleled. Every people has attributed to itself some imaginary origin, yet none has approached the true one. We cannot comprehend how the father of all nations has so long been unknown, while in the natural course of things his name should have been carried from mouth to mouth to the farthest corners of the earth.

Let us humble ourselves to the decrees of that Providence which has permitted so astonishing an oblivion. All was mysterious and concealed in the nation guided by God Himself, which prepared the way for Christianity, and was the wild olive on which the fruitful one has been grafted. That the names of the authors of mankind

should be unknown to mankind is a mystery of the highest order.

I will venture to affirm that it has required a miracle thus to shut the eyes and ears of all nations — to destroy every monument, every memorial of their first father. What would Caesar, Antony, Crassus, Pompey, Cicero, Marcellus, or Metellus have thought, if a poor Jew, while selling them balm, had said, “We all descend from one father, named Adam.” All the Roman senate would have cried, “Show us our genealogical tree.” Then the Jew would have displayed his ten generations, down to the time of Noah, and the secret of the universal deluge. The senate would have asked him how many persons were in the ark to feed all the animals for ten whole months, and during the following year in which no food would be produced? The peddler would have said, “We were eight — Noah and his wife, their three sons, Shem, Ham, and Jauphet, and their wives. All this family descended in a direct line from Adam.

Cicero, would, doubtless, have inquired for the great monuments, the indisputable testimonies which Noah and his children had left of our common father. “After the deluge,” he would have said, “the whole world would have resounded with the names of Adam and Noah, one the father, the other the restorer of every race. These names would have been in every mouth as soon as men could speak, on every parchment as soon as they could write, on the door of every house as soon as they could build, on every temple, on every statue. You mean to tell us that you knew so great a secret, yet concealed it from us?” The Jew would have answered: “It is because we are pure and you are impure.” The Roman senate would

have laughed and the Jew would have been whipped. So much are men attached to their prejudices!

It's interesting to note that the founder of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament-based war-mongering neoconservative movement, Leo Strauss who is Jewish, believed in this biblical myth to the point of writing an essay and giving a speech representing this Bible myth of creation and the fall of man by eating from the forbidden fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil as being truth. Strauss also revealed in his essay/speech the insane and foolish misogyny that runs rampant through all four of the Abrahamic "revealed"/hearsay religions of Judaism and its offshoots of Christianity, Islam and Mormonism. Strauss wrote in *Jerusalem and Athens*, as found in *Jewish Philosophy and the Crisis of Modernity*, "Thus the stage was set for the fall of our first parents. The first move came from the serpent, the most cunning of all the beasts of the field. It seduced the woman into disobedience and then the woman seduced the man. The seduction moves from the lowest to the highest" (386).

What is most comically shocking to our innate God-given reason regarding the Bible story of the fall of humanity is that it claims, and we're expected to believe, a snake/serpent talked. It **talked** Eve into eating from the forbidden tree. Eve then talked Adam into eating from the forbidden tree which brought about the fall of humanity. This is a stunning example of how deeply the Bible is an insult to our gift from God of innate reason.

Another point brought out in this Bible story is the aversion to people acquiring wisdom the Hebrew/Jewish clergy who wrote this story had. This is shown for the first time at Genesis 3:6 which reads, "And when the woman saw that the tree was

good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.” This aversion of the ancient Hebrew/Jewish clergy to people embracing wisdom and becoming wise is a living part of the neoconservative movement as shown by Strauss writing in *Jerusalem and Athens*, “According to the Bible, the beginning of wisdom is fear of the Lord; according to the Greek philosophers, the beginning of wisdom is wonder. We are thus compelled from the very beginning to make a choice, to take a stand” (379). This stand against wisdom also infects the clergy of all of the “revealed”/hearsay religions through the ages and to this day. This is due to their fear which is based on their knowledge that their religious teachings cannot possibly withstand the test of our innate God-given reason.

As the ludicrous Genesis story goes, after Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden tree they realized they were naked and put some fig leaves together to cover their bodies. After they did this the Jewish god was looking for them but didn’t know where they were so he called out “Where art thou?” Adam then said to the Hebrew/Jewish god that he heard him calling for him but hid himself from the Jewish god because he was naked. The Jewish god put two and two together and said, “Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?” It seems the all-knowing Jewish god did not only not know where Adam was, he also did not know that Adam and Eve ate from the forbidden tree of knowledge of good and evil. In fact, the Jewish god was so stupid he did not realize that if he did not want Adam and Eve to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil he should not have put it in the Garden of Eden or even created it in the first place.

Adam answers the Jewish god with, “The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.” Adam must have been the first person to pass the buck as this is a lame attempt to blame Eve for his own action. It also seems he was trying to shift guilt to the Jewish god as well by pointing out that the Jewish god is the one who gave “the woman” to Adam in the first place. It seems passing the buck to Eve worked too, because the Jewish god then turned his very limited attention to Eve. Genesis 3:13 states, “And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.”

Eve then passed the buck to the talking serpent/snake. In response the Jewish god, according to verse 14, cursed the talking snake. It reads, “And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life.”

This means that prior to this point in time snakes did not travel as they now do on their belly, but must have transported themselves like a pogo-stick bouncing around from point to point. And since there are no longer any signs of talking snakes, the Hebrew/Jewish god must have removed their ability to understand and use the semantic code of language and their voice-box as well! Perhaps when a Christian archeologist is searching for Noah’s Ark, they will discover a fossil of a snake with a voice box?!

After cursing the talking snake, the Jewish god then turned his highly restricted attention back to Eve and cursed her, and, according to many theologians, along with Eve all women for all time. Verse 16 claims, “Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.”

Even though this biblical foolishness is humorous, it also causes real problems and pain and is a great hindrance for true and natural progress. For example, many Christian authorities believed it was God's will (they were confusing God with religion) based on this biblical nonsense for women to suffer in childbirth and prevented women in the 19th century from receiving chloroform to help them with their pain during childbirth. It also has a detrimental impact on us today because it gives credence to shallow male chauvinism through its alleged divine command that husbands shall rule over wives.

Leo Strauss believed that the fall of man as portrayed in Genesis brought about the Torah (Strauss was probably referring to the first five books of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, the written Torah, and not the Oral Torah). He wrote in *Jerusalem and Athens*, “. . . the fall of our first parents made possible or necessary in due time God's revelation of His Torah” (389).

Not only do many Jews see importance in the tragic comedy known as the fall of man, Christianity itself **DEPENDS** on it. Without the fall of man and the Christian doctrine of original sin, there is absolutely no need for Jesus to die on the cross and wash away original sin from us with his blood. This was brought out by the Deist Ethan Allen. When he was evolving from a Christian into a Deist, Allen wrote his Christian clergyman cousin, stating that he did not believe God would punish people for something they did not do as the Christian teaching of original sin requires. His clergyman cousin wrote him back, saying that without original sin there is no need for Christianity. After thinking about it, Allen wrote him back and agreed that there is no need for Christianity!

The Bible story of Noah and the flood is a direct assault on

The Supreme Intelligence/God. It is preceded by four nonsensical and foolish verses which are a direct attack on God's gift to us of innate reason. Genesis 6:1-4, claims:

And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

The next verses claim that God realized he had made a mistake when he created mankind. Genesis 6:5-6 teaches that God saw that "the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" and that God repented regarding the creation of humanity. God, therefore, decided to kill almost all humans, animals, birds, reptiles and amphibians on planet Earth by drowning. This portrays God as much worse than a mere mortal who creates an ugly painting of no value and who destroys the painting and promises himself he will never create another painting again. First of all, the artist is a human and all humans are imperfect and make mistakes. Second, when the artist destroys her or his inanimate painting, he or she is not inflicting pain and suffering on a living thing nor are they killing a living creature. Drowning literally millions of people, animals, birds, reptiles and all life on our planet Earth

would cause immense fear, pain and suffering in countless people and living things. Little infants and small children, not to mention unborn babies, would not and do not have evil in their hearts and minds; but the Bible god drowned them too. In order to believe the Bible story of Noah and the flood, we must accept a very dark and evil image of God as well as of children.

One of the most ungodly stories in the entire Bible is the story of Abraham. As this story goes, Abraham, the patriarch of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, was ordered by God to kill his only son, Isaac, as a sacrifice to God. Deism looks at The Supreme Intelligence/God not as a man or as a woman but simply as the supreme intelligent force that is eternal and infinite. However, the Abrahamic “revealed”/hearsay religions all look at God as the Father. With this in mind, we must ask ourselves, What kind of father would command one of their little children to kill their favorite dog or cat or some other pet which they deeply love? Or, what kind of father would order their adult children to kill one of their own children, the father’s grandchild? Only a depraved mind would even think of such an atrocity. Yet, this is the type of mind assigned to The Supreme Intelligence/God by the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and endorsed by the New Testament, the Quran and the Book of Mormon.

Not only does this Hebrew Bible/Old Testament story claim God ordered Abraham to kill his son in a sacrifice, the reason he did it is not as many people believe, to test Abraham’s faith in God (which doesn’t make sense, either) but because God did not know if Abraham feared God enough to actually do it. Genesis 22:12 states that after God told Abraham to kill his son and Abraham had the knife raised to come down and cut his own son’s throat from ear to ear, God stopped him at

the very last second. The verse reads, “And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.”

Looking past the surface appearance and directly at the reality of this anti-God Bible myth we realize it was written by Jewish/Hebrew clergymen with sick and perverse minds. It wouldn't be surprising if they didn't really believe in God at all, based on the ungodly conduct they attribute to God in this horrific story. When they wrote that God ordered Abraham to murder his own son just to see if Abraham feared God enough to actually do it, what they are really doing is promoting the idea and belief to their fellow Hebrews/Jews how important it is to fear God. And since God never speaks directly to the people but only through the clergy, this fear of God is in reality fear of the clergy. Fear brings control and control of other people is what the clergy is all about. Unfortunately, according to the CIA's *World Factbook*, today about 56% of the world's population is infected with these sick and ungodly ideas about God based on the CIA's *World Factbook* which shows Christians make up 33.39%, Muslims make up 22.74%, Jews make up 0.22% and Mormons 0.21% of the world's 7,021,836,029 people. As Thomas Paine wrote in *The Age of Reason, The Complete Edition*, “Belief in a cruel god makes a cruel man.” The birthplace of the Abrahamic “revealed”/hearsay religions, the Middle East, is a powerful example which makes very clear the truth of Paine's statement. To make less cruel people, which will make a less cruel and less violent society, we need to overthrow the cruel god of the Bible, Quran and Book of Mormon with our innate gift from The Supreme Intelligence/God of reason through the promotion of Deism.

Looking more closely at the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament,

we see the Hebrew/Jewish writers of these books have a goal in mind: the promotion of their own Hebrew/Jewish people and the Jewish state of Israel over all. This is evident by such teachings as are found at Deuteronomy 7:6 which claims God chose the Hebrews/Jews “above all people that are upon the face of the earth.” Believing such claims about yourself can only bring about problems when you deal with people who do not belong to your “chosen people” group. Any false sense of superiority breeds arrogance in the holder of the belief and resentment and anger in those who must deal with them. This quote from Thomas Paine was directed at monarchies but also applies to this Hebrew Bible/Old Testament teaching of Jewish superiority. Paine wrote, “Men who look upon themselves born to reign, and others to obey, soon grow insolent, selected from the rest of mankind; their minds are early poisoned by importance.”

This belief in the superiority of the Jewish people over all others is probably a key reason for some of the very anti-Gentile (Gentiles being all people who are not Jews) teachings in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. One of these anti-Gentile teachings instructs Jews not to own fellow Jews as slaves but to only own Gentile slaves, both adult and child Gentiles. Leviticus 25:44-46 teaches Jews as follows:

Both thy bondmen, and thy bondmaids, which thou shalt have, shall be of the heathen that are round about you; of them shall ye buy bondmen and bondmaids. Moreover of the children of the strangers that do sojourn among you, of them shall ye buy, and of their families that are with you, which they begat in your land: and they shall be your possession. And ye shall take them as an inheritance for your children after you, to inherit

them for a possession; they shall be your bondmen for ever: but over your brethren the children of Israel, ye shall not rule one over another with rigour.

The Hebrew Bible/Old Testament also teaches Jews not to practice usury against fellow Jews; they are only to practice usury against Gentile people. Deuteronomy 23:20 teaches Hebrews/Jews, “Unto a stranger thou mayest lend upon usury; but unto thy brother thou shalt not lend upon usury: that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all that thou settest thine hand to in the land whither thou goest to possess it.”

One of the biggest stars of Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Mormonism is the Jewish “holy” man and alleged prophet of God, Moses. The Moses of the Bible is a much different Moses than the one promoted in houses of worship and by Hollywood that we see in movies and on television and that appears in Christian cartoons for children. The Moses of the Bible actually ordered the Israelite army to commit genocide and child rape to carry out Israel’s final solution of the Midianite people.

Numbers 31:1-16 tells the story of Israel preparing to exterminate the Midianites. Verse 16 also indirectly shows us the real reason for the extermination was fear of the Hebrew/Jewish clergy that Hebrews/Jews were leaving their religion for the religion of the Midianites. If this went unchecked it would cause the Hebrew/Jewish clergymen to lose support, income, prestige, power and influence.

The first two verses of this chapter claim the original order for the Hebrews/Jews to commit genocide against the Midianite people came from God. They claim, “And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Avenge the children of Israel of the Midianites: afterward shalt thou be gathered unto thy people.”

With claims from the “holy” books that God directly ordered people to slaughter their neighbors, is it any wonder there is so much religious violence over the centuries and in the world today, particularly in the “holy” land?

Verses 3 through 13 tell of Moses relaying/revealing the alleged order from God to the twelve tribes of Israel to have 1,000 men from each Hebrew/Jewish tribe attack and destroy the Midianites. Verse seven reads, “And they warred against the Midianites, as the LORD commanded Moses; and they slew all the males.” (This is a great example of how dangerous it is to believe in “revelation,” as deceitful people with an agenda can claim God told them anything they want.) The Israelite army also burned all the cities of the Midianite people, took all the women and children as prisoners, and stole all of their cattle and other items of value.

The Israelite army brought all these spoils of war to Moses and Eleazar the priest. Verses 14-15 read, “And Moses was wroth with the officers of the host, with the captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, which came from the battle. And Moses said unto them, Have ye saved all the women alive?” Why the Jewish “holy” man Moses would be upset with the Israelite army for not butchering the women is very revealing. After all, the Israelite army was not ordered to kill the women, they were only ordered to kill all the males, allegedly a command from God, which it appears they took to mean fighting age males.

Verse 16 has Moses saying to the Israelite army, “Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.” The phrase “trespass against the LORD” equates to turning away from Judaism and embracing the religion of

the Midianites. This could put Moses and the Hebrew/Jewish priests out of business.

Verses 17-18 have Moses ordering the Israelite army to commit yet another war crime. They have Moses ordering, “Now therefore kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman that hath known man by lying with him. But all the women children, that have not known a man by lying with him, keep alive for yourselves.”

The sick and twisted anti-Gentile and anti-children Biblical thinking that permits Moses to order the slaughter of little children is evident in too many other parts of this pretended Word of God such as at Psalm 137:9 which states, “Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones.” The number of virgin girls/”women children” the Hebrews/Jews kept alive for themselves was 32,000 according to verse 35. This repulsive Hebrew Bible/Old Testament story shows the truth to this observation of the French Deist Voltaire who wrote in *Lettres de Memmius a Cicéron* (1771), “All of the other people have committed crimes, the Jews are the only ones who have boasted about committing them.”

God then told Moses how to split up the stolen property, livestock and the “women children” they were keeping alive for their own sexual gratification, starting with verse 25 and going through verse 30. These ungodly Bible verses read:

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Take the sum of the prey that was taken, both of man and of beast, thou, and Eleazar the priest, and the chief fathers of the congregation: And divide the prey into two parts; between them that took the war upon them, who went out to battle, and between all the congregation: And levy a tribute unto the Lord of the men of war which

went out to battle: one soul of five hundred, both of the persons, and of the beeves, and of the asses, and of the sheep: Take it of their half, and give it unto Eleazar the priest, for an heave offering of the LORD. And of the children of Israel's half, thou shalt take one portion of fifty, of the persons, of the beeves, of the asses, and of the flocks, of all manner of beasts, and give them unto the Levites, which keep the charge of the tabernacle of the LORD.

These above verses are very important because they show why Moses and the priest Eleazar and probably the other Jewish clergy such as the Levites lied to the people and told them God wanted them to commit genocide and other war crimes against their neighbors, the Midianites. The primary reason was the Midianite people were a threat to these Jewish/Hebrew elites/clergy because many of the Hebrew/Jewish people were leaving Judaism for the religion of the Midianites. If this was not stopped, Moses and his gang of clergy would soon stop receiving the riches like those mentioned in the above verses.

The Hebrew Bible/Old Testament has virtually countless other ungodly and ridiculous teachings. It seems the main reason for these teachings is to promote Jews and Israel over all other people and nations. This is a key reason the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament was so popular with Leo Strauss and still is with his neoconservatives. Here are just a few examples of many:

Deuteronomy 7:6 which claims God said to the Hebrews/Jews, "For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth."

Deuteronomy 28:1 which claims God said to the Hebrews/

Jews regarding their nation of Israel, “And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth.”

Isaiah 60:12 which has God threatening all of the Gentile nations who will not be subservient to the Jewish state of Israel by telling the Jews/Israel, “For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted.”

The American founder and Deist Thomas Paine summed it up well when he wrote in *The Age of Reason, The Complete Edition*:

Could we permit ourselves to suppose that the Almighty would distinguish any nation of people by the name of His chosen people, we must suppose that people to have been an example to all the rest of the world of the purest piety and humanity, and not such a nation of ruffians and cut-throats as the ancient Jews were; a people who, corrupted by and copying after such monsters and impostors as Moses and Aaron, Joshua, Samuel and David, had distinguished themselves above all others on the face of the known earth for barbarity and wickedness. If we will not stubbornly shut our eyes and steel our hearts, it is impossible not to see, in spite of all that long-established superstition imposes upon the mind, that the flattering appellation of His chosen people is no other than a lie which the priests and leaders of the Jews had invented to cover the baseness of their own characters, and which Christian priests, sometimes as corrupt and often as cruel, have professed to believe (84).

In addition to the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, Judaism also relies on the Talmud. There are two Talmuds, the Jerusalem Talmud also known as the Palestinian Talmud and the Babylonian Talmud. The Jerusalem Talmud/Palestinian Talmud contains a collection of notes from rabbis on the Jewish oral tradition put together in the fourth to fifth centuries CE in Palestine. The Babylonian Talmud was put together in Mesopotamia/Iraq by rabbis during the third to fifth centuries CE and contains the Mishnah (the first major redaction of the Oral Torah) along with rabbinic input on the Mishnah. In *Jesus in the Talmud*, Peter Schafer states the Talmud is “the founding document of rabbinic Judaism in late antiquity” (1). Just as the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament is saturated with foolishness, obscenity and cruelty, so are the 6,200 pages of the Talmud which sprang from similar minds poisoned by fear and superstition and the deep desire for control of other people.

Since most people are not familiar with the Talmud and don't have easy access to its pages, the Bible is a much better learning tool if only for its availability for people to study and to see for themselves the ungodly/unreasonable teachings it promotes. A good book to get a feel for the contents of the Talmud and for the mindset of the people who wrote and compiled it is currently readily available through amazon.com and other book sellers, is the above mentioned book, *Jesus in the Talmud*. It is an important and well documented book that will help the reader grasp the ingrained depravity and ignorance found in the Talmud. The following are the stories of three people, one of whom is known to actually exist, which is explained in *Jesus in the Talmud*.

The first person from the three examples the Talmud addresses and attacks is Balaam. He is supposed to have been a Gentile who the Hebrew/Jewish god gave the power to be

a prophet and soothsayer. As the story goes in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament in Numbers 22, Balak, the king of Moab, saw that Israel had just obliterated the Amorite nation, slaughtered all of the Amorite people, and had taken their land and valuables. He knew they were going to do the same thing to him and his people, so he hired Balaam to curse Israel, believing that a curse from Balaam would save them from suffering the same fate as the Amorite people, who the Hebrews/Jews annihilated. Balak sent a delegation of “elders of Moab and the elders of Midian” to persuade Balaam to come to the aid of the Moabite and Midianite people and nations and to save them from the wrath and indiscriminate violence of the Jews/Hebrews.

Numbers 22:9 has the Bible god asking Balaam who the Midianite and Moabite men were who were asking Balaam at the request of King Balak to curse Israel. This is another example of the Bible god not being all-knowing in a similar way to when he was asking Adam where Adam was. An all-knowing entity would not have to ask those non-rhetorical questions.

After Balaam educates the Bible god regarding whom the men were and what they wanted from him, the Hebrew/Jewish god orders Balaam not to help the Midianite and Moabite people. Balaam then obeys the Bible god and tells the Midianite and Moabite representatives of King Balak that he will not help them because God told him not to and he can't go against God's orders. However, the fickle Bible god eventually changes his mind and gives Balaam permission to go to Moab and Midian, but he must only say what the Hebrew/Jewish god tells him to say.

Verses 21-22 state, “And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab. And God's anger was kindled because he went: and the angel of the

LORD stood in the way for an adversary against him. Now he was riding upon his ass, and his two servants were with him.”

This reveals that the Bible god has some serious mental problems. He first tells Balaam that he can go to Moab and Midian, and then he gets angry with Balaam because Balaam did what the Bible god told him he could do. No wonder there is so much deep frustration in trying to follow a “revealed”/ hearsay religion and its insane god or gods.

The “angel of the LORD” stands in the road to block Balaam from traveling to Moab and Midian. However, the angel is invisible to Balaam and to his two servants. The only creature to see the angel is Balaam’s ass/donkey. This Biblical comedy continues through verse 35:

And the ass saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and the ass turned aside out of the way, and went into the field: and Balaam smote the ass, to turn her into the way. But the angel of the LORD stood in a path of the vineyards, a wall being on this side, and a wall on that side. And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam’s foot against the wall: and he smote her again. And the angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam’s anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff. And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times? And Balaam said unto the ass, Because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand,

for now would I kill thee. And the ass said unto Balaam, Am not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? Was I ever wont to do so unto thee? And he said, Nay.

Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face. And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? behold, I went out to withstand thee, because thy way is perverse before me: And the ass saw me, and turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive. And Balaam said unto the angel of the LORD, I have sinned; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the way against me: now therefore, if it displease thee, I will get me back again. And the angel of the LORD said unto Balaam, Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

First off, we should really **stop and think** about the deep insult to God it is to believe tripe like this to be the Word of God. If we value and use God's gift to us of innate intelligence and reason we would **NEVER** believe this nonsense to be a part of the Word of God. The best way for us to show appreciation to The Supreme Intelligence/God for the gift of innate reason is to actually use it and apply it to absolutely everything in our lives, including religion. If we do this, we will protect ourselves from deception and will know the difference between things that are from men and things that are from The Supreme Intelligence/God.

To actually believe that God would tell someone to do something and then get angry when they do it, is a belief unworthy of an intelligent person. Our innate God-given reason will not allow us to believe claims like this, and acceptance of claims like this shows the person accepting them to be extremely credulous and possessing a very low opinion of God. To believe that a donkey talked shows how incredibly gullible the believers are and how they do not value or use their reason. Of course, the Bible sets people up to believe nonsense like talking donkeys with the first story in the Bible of a snake talking to Eve and Adam. Once you give up your reason to believe a stupid and foolish story, you're setting a precedence to continue to ignore your gift from The Supreme Intelligence/God of innate reason and to believe more and more foolishness.

In Numbers 24, after Balaam finally meets with King Balak, he tells him he can only say what God permits him to say or the words God actually gives him. Not surprisingly it turns out that the Bible god only has Balaam say blessings and not curses on the Hebrews/Jews such as Numbers 24:8 where he says they have the strength of a unicorn (see the King James Version). This angers King Balak and causes Balaam and Balak to end up going their separate ways.

Numbers 25 tells us the Israelites were living in Shittim when they "began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab." More importantly Numbers 25:2 states, "And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods." As mentioned above regarding Numbers 31:1-16, the Hebrew/Jewish clergymen were very aware of how important it was to their material and financial well-being as well as to the influence among their people that they not allow the people to venture into other religions.

Verse 4 claims God told Moses to kill all of the Hebrews/Jews who took part in the religion of the Moabite people. It reads, "And the LORD said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the LORD against the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel." Verse 5 has Moses ordering the killing of all those who took part in the religion of their neighbors which is known as the heresy of Peor: "And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that were joined unto Baalpeor." This is nothing but uncontrolled clergy violence to protect the wealth and power of the clergymen while lying that it was God's orders. This is yet another important example of why "revealed" religions are really nothing but hearsay religions designed to benefit the clergy.

Baalpeor is reference to Baal which is a name of honor non-Jewish/non-Hebrew Semitic tribes gave to various gods and even to government officials, and Peor is in reference to a mountain called Pe'or from which it is claimed in Numbers 23:28 that Balaam gave a prophecy to King Balak blessing Israel.

The rabbis who wrote the Talmud have a very repulsive and disgusting eternity for Balaam. This in spite of the fact that nowhere in their Hebrew Bible/Old Testament does it say Balaam did anything other than bless Israel and its genocidal war machine. The only place that indicates otherwise is Numbers 31:15-16 which has Moses claiming to the Israelite army who just defeated their neighbors the Midianite people: "And Moses said unto them, Have ye saved all the women alive? Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD."

As stated above, the only thing the Bible claims Balaam did was to bless Israel and not curse Israel. You'd think that if Balaam did counsel the Midianite people on how to defeat Israel it would have been mentioned in previous chapters, however, it is not.

The only other mention of Balaam being a problem for Israel is from a source most Jews and their rabbis have a very low opinion of: Jesus. In the hallucination known as the Book of Revelation it says at Revelation 2:14 that Jesus said, "But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication."

Since Judaism does not hold Jesus in high regard and definitely not as a holy man, this statement attributed to Jesus would have no bearing on the rabbis who wrote the Talmud. (It's interesting to note that the Deist Thomas Jefferson in a letter to General Alexander Smyth dated January 17, 1825, described the Book of Revelation as "merely the ravings of a maniac, no more worthy nor capable of explanation than the incoherences of our own nightly dreams" and that he did not "consider them as revelations of the Supreme Being, whom I would not so far blaspheme as to impute to Him a pretension of revelation, couched at the same time in terms which, He would know, were never to be understood by those whom they were addressed.")

In spite of the fact that their Hebrew Bible makes no mention of Balaam being an enemy to the Jewish state with the exception of the one quote mentioned above from Moses, the rabbis who put the Talmud together claim that Balaam is being punished by their repulsive and unnatural god by sitting in hot semen for eternity.

The next victim of the Jewish “holy” men/clergy in chronological order in the Talmud is Jesus. According to *Jesus in the Talmud*, the Talmud teaches Jesus was a Jew whose mother was not a virgin, but was a whore. Like the Bible itself, the Talmud is often ambiguous. For example, some of its teachings say the father of Jesus was a Roman soldier while others claim he was a Jew whom his mother had as a lover in spite of being engaged to be married. The Talmud also teaches that Jesus was a failed rabbinical student who ended up leading Jews astray, and that he was a heretic against Judaism and that he led Jews to become idolaters and blasphemers.

The Babylonian Talmud says that Jesus was not crucified by the Romans, but that he was, according to Jewish law, stoned to death and that his dead body was then hung on a tree by the Jews because the Jews had found Jesus guilty of sorcery and attempting to mislead Israel into idolatry. If this is correct, shouldn't Christians be wearing stones around their necks instead of crosses and crucifixes?

Peter Schafer points out in *Jesus in the Talmud* that according to the rabbis who wrote the Talmud, God is punishing Jesus for these crimes against Judaism and Israel by having Jesus “sitting forever in boiling excrement” (13).

The last of the three people the Talmud deals with that we're using as examples of the depraved minds of those who wrote the Talmud is the Roman general and eventually Roman emperor Titus. Titus was a real person, and his existence does not deserve the doubt the previous two examples, Balaam and Jesus, deserves. While a Roman general, Titus waged war against the Jews who were revolting against Roman rule. In the summer of 70 CE, he and his Roman army took Jerusalem. They took all the gold and valuables from the rabbis and the Jewish temple before destroying the temple. The proceeds from

the sale of the Jewish wealth was used to finance the famous Roman Colosseum that is still standing today. For his leading role in fighting and defeating the Jewish god's chosen people and their nation of Israel and destroying the Jewish Temple, the Talmud teaches that Titus is being burned to ashes, reassembled and burned again over and over for all of eternity.

CHRISTIANITY

Being an offshoot of Judaism and all of its horrible and foolish ideas and teachings, Christianity is loaded with ungodly/unreasonable content, which lets us know it is a product of men and not of The Supreme Intelligence/God. It would make a horrible "Owner's Manual" for us to use as a guide for our lives. As mentioned previously, Christianity is dependent upon the unjust man-made religious doctrine of original sin. As this myth goes, we are all stained by original sin and doomed to spend eternity being tortured in hell because Adam and Eve listened to the talking snake and ate from the forbidden fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The only way for us to avoid the eternally horrific consequences of original sin is to believe that God got a Jewish teenager pregnant with himself and then the divine product of the Jewish teen's pregnancy, Jesus, was beaten, crucified and died so his blood could wash away our sins, original and otherwise.

An important point to remember is that there is no evidence that Jesus ever existed, even as a mere man. There are no Roman records of his arrest, of his questioning by Pilate or of his crucifixion; and the gospel accounts of Jesus are often contradictory and even foolish while, as seen above, the accounts of him in the Talmud contradict all of those in the Bible. Unlike proven historical figures such as Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Titus, Napoleon or George Washington, there

is no supporting evidence for Jesus' existence. There are no writings of Jesus, contemporary physical descriptions of Jesus or any record or artifacts of Jesus other than the self-contradicting New Testament and Talmud. The accounts of him in the Bible and in the Talmud were written centuries after the time it is claimed that Jesus existed. Although some secular accounts of someone called Jesus do exist, such as from the Jewish historian Josephus Flavius in *Antiquities*, none of them would qualify as being contemporaneous with Jesus, if he did exist, as these accounts were all written by people born after the time it is claimed Jesus lived and was crucified.

There is about as much evidence that Jesus was a real person as there is that Hercules was a real person. Just as many people in ancient times believed that Hercules really existed, but now, in modern times, no one does. So it will probably go with belief in Jesus if society continues to progress. In fact, in a letter to John Adams dated April 11, 1823, Thomas Jefferson stated that eventually at least belief in the divinity of Jesus will fade and even disappear over time. Jefferson wrote, "And the day will come when the mystical generation of Jesus, by the supreme being as his father in the womb of a virgin will be classed with the fable of the generation of Minerva in the brain of Jupiter." According to Jefferson, Jesus was not divine. Jesus was a great Deist who tried to correct the Deism of the Jews and was murdered for doing so. Then some of his supposed followers, such as Saint Paul, mythologized him and distorted some of his teachings.

Another important point to keep in mind is that **IF** Jesus really did exist as a man, he himself believed that he was living in "the last days" and that he and his followers were going to bring about the end of the world. This point is made in Albert Schweitzer's book *The Quest of the Historical Jesus*. Schweitzer

bases much of his ideas on Bible quotes such as Mark 13:26-30 which says that Jesus said to a crowd of people:

And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven. Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.

The above quote attributed to Jesus shows that he was delusional and factually incorrect. He did **NOT** come flying out of the clouds as he claimed he would during the lifetime of those who were listening to him. Jesus valued his “revealed”/hearsay religion of Judaism and all of its nonsense much more than he valued his gift from God of innate reason. If you believe The Supreme Intelligence/God is real, you can never learn about God or get closer to God by studying and dealing with teachings and beliefs that are not based on reality. This error of Jesus proves that we need to free ourselves from the unreasonable teachings and claims of Christianity.

Edward Gibbon, who wrote *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, believed that Jesus and Christianity were probably concocted by Jews as a psychological operation against their biggest enemy of that time and place, the Romans. By getting Romans to accept the Jew, Jesus, as their personal savior and the teachings attributed to Jesus which put much more

emphasis on people focusing on the hereafter instead of on the real world of here and now, it would be easier to weaken Rome, defeat the Romans and expel them from Israel. The growth of Christianity was one of the reasons for the end of the Roman Empire.

Regardless of whether you believe Jesus really was the Son of God, or if you believe Jesus was just a man with some good teachings and ideas, or if you believe Jesus never really existed even as a man, the fact remains that many, if not most, Christians do not even know what Jesus is said to have taught. A good example of this is when the rock singer, John Cougar Mellencamp, who considers himself to be a Christian, was on Comedy Central's *The Colbert Report* on July 18, 2007. Stephen Colbert brought up the quote attributed in the Bible to Jesus of, "I did not come to bring peace, but a sword." Mellencamp did not believe Colbert that the Bible quotes Jesus as making that statement. (The actual quote is found at Matthew 10:34 and reads, "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.") This brings up the very important realization that far too many people do not even know what the Bible claims Jesus said and taught. Yet, they claim to be followers of Jesus and believe Jesus is the Son of God. This needs to be corrected and shows that they do not know themselves, "What would Jesus do?"

The biggest selling point of Christianity is eternal salvation. Many people are Christians because they believe being a Christian will save them from being burned for eternity in hell. Unfortunately for them, their savior, Jesus, was not a very good savior. He was not even clear about what is required for eternal salvation.

John 3:16 says that Jesus said, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in

him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” This sounds very straightforward. All you have to do is believe in Jesus as God’s only begotten son, and you will have eternal life.

HOWEVER, Matthew 12:37 says that Jesus said, “For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.” This muddies the waters – do we have to satisfy both John 3:16 and Matthew 12:37? And what words can make our salvation null and void? Do we get condemned for saying the wrong words or for not saying the right words?

HOWEVER, at Matthew 7:21 Jesus is said to have said, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” This teaching seems to negate the previous two confusing requirements for eternal salvation as it makes **doing** the will of Jesus’ father paramount for the reward that Christianity is based on, getting into heaven. It’s amazing that Christianity has billions of followers when it can’t even get its biggest motivation for joining Christianity right.

Mark 16:15-16 says that after Jesus was killed and came back to life, Jesus said to the eleven apostles, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” Since it says that Jesus said to preach “the gospel,” which strongly indicates he was thinking of just one gospel, and there are four canonical gospels plus the non-canonical, Jewish-Christian and Gnostic gospels, which one did he want his followers to preach? If they pick the wrong one to preach, will they and those they preach to lose their eternal salvation or not be saved in the first place? Since it says Jesus said to preach this unspecified gospel “to every creature,” does that mean he wanted the apostles to preach it to all living things, including animals, birds, reptiles, insects, trees, etc.?

And in addition to these new questions, we now have baptism thrown into the confusing cauldron of requirements for eternal salvation via Christianity. What's a Bible believing Christian to believe?!

And the confusion does not end there. There are currently an estimated 41,000 different Christian sects and denominations, which shows profound confusion among people who consider themselves to be Christians about what Christianity really is. This quote from the Deist Thomas Jefferson's *Notes on Virginia* sums it up well: "Millions of innocent men, women and children, since the introduction of Christianity, have been burnt, tortured, fined and imprisoned; yet we have not advanced one inch towards uniformity." An important and basic disagreement between many Christian sects involves a sacrament which their beliefs teach could be a determining factor in the eternal salvation of people. Different types of Christians disagree about what kind of baptism will do the trick to satisfy what many Christians believe is a salvation requirement. For example, Roman Catholics do baptisms by what they call "infusion" which is really simply pouring a small amount of water on the victim/believer/new Catholic, and most being baptized by the Roman Catholic Church are infants. However, some Protestant denominations teach that just a sprinkling of water is fine while other Protestant groups teach that full immersion is the only acceptable/Biblical way of doing it and that only those who are old enough to accept Jesus Christ as their god and savior should be baptized.

Thomas Paine brought up an important realization of Christian confusion when he wrote in *The Age of Reason, The Complete Edition*, "The Calvinist, who damns children of a span long to hell to burn forever for the glory of God (and this is called Christianity), and the Universalist who preaches that

all shall be saved and none shall be damned (and this also is called Christianity), boasts alike of their holy “revealed” religion and their Christian faith” (341).

A very major flaw the men who compiled the Bible made is to include promises that apply not only to the hereafter, which cannot be either proven or disproven, but to include promises to believers that apply to the here and now which **CAN** easily be proven false. Once they are proven to be false, Deists and other freethinkers have an important tool at their disposal to help other people free themselves from Christianity. The promise made for believers in the here and now which is shown to be a false promise can be used to make the believer stop and think and apply their gift from The Supreme Intelligence/God of innate reason about the Bible’s other promises to believers for the hereafter. Their knowing this one promise is false will make many of them realize the hereafter promises are probably false too.

The biggest promise attributed to Jesus by the Bible writers and men who compiled and voted on which books would be in the Bible and which would not is found at John 14:12-14. This Bible teaching says that Jesus said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”

Examining these astounding verses we see the following:

- 1) it is addressed to believers in Jesus although it may be limited to male believers based on the use of “he” as well as the many misogynistic teachings in the Bible;
- 1) believers in Jesus (possibly all believers but definitely

all male believers) will be able to do the things the Bible claims Jesus did such as raise people from the dead, feed about five thousand people with just five loaves of bread and two small fish, walk on water, etc., plus “greater works than these”;

- 1) this promise takes effect when Jesus goes back up into heaven with his father which Christians believe he already did anywhere from the day he came back to life after being crucified as is claimed in Luke and Mark to at least eight days after coming back to life as is claimed in John to “many days” after coming back to life as is claimed in Acts 13:31 to 40 days after coming back to life as is claimed in Acts 1:1-9;
- 1) believers can get whatever they ask for in the name of Jesus.

Any male believer in Jesus (and possibly female believers) can test this Bible promise attributed to Jesus right now, since the only qualification for it is that it won't take effect until after Jesus goes back up into heaven with his father. It doesn't require someone's faith to be great or life to be without flaw. All it requires is that they be believers in Jesus and they ask after he's back up in heaven with his father, which Christian believers believe to already be the case. According to this Bible promise Jesus said they can ask for anything and it will be done. They can ask for a talking donkey and/or a talking snake to appear in their living room or backyard immediately, and, based on this Bible promise, it will be done. If it is asked for in Jesus' name and it's not done, then the believer needs to reevaluate their belief in the Bible and Christianity. They need to seriously and honestly apply their innate God-given reason to the Bible and all of its claims and teachings, and decide if

they're going to follow a collection of books written by men and voted by men to be the Word of God and which contains false promises, or they're going to value, use and appreciate God's gift to them of reason and leave the Bible and its false teachings and empty promises behind and move forward with their God-given reason.

The horrific image of God painted by the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament is fully endorsed in the New Testament by Jesus. Four key teachings and examples attributed to Jesus in the New Testament make this very clear.

The first is found in Matthew 5:17-19, which says that Jesus said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Since this claims that Jesus taught that the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament laws, commandments and doctrines will be in effect until "heaven and earth pass," Christians should still believe and obey them. These teachings include killing children who curse their parents, men who do homosexual acts, witches and people who do any work on the Jewish Sabbath.

Mark 7:1-13 reinforces Jesus' love of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and its ungodly, inhumane and brutal content:

Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem. And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled,

that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault. For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders. And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables. Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him, Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?

He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death: But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free. And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

Not only do these New Testament Bible verses show Jesus and his disciples had very poor hygienic practices, they show

Jesus looked at the genocidal mad-man Moses as a man of God and he believed the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament was “the word of God” which the Pharisees and scribes were violating by not killing their children who cursed them as the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament demands.

The third example that makes clear Jesus embraced the savage Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and its portrayal of God as a vengeful monster who tortures people for eternity in hell is Matthew 10:28. This repulsive and ungodly verse says that Jesus said, “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

If we are to believe this teaching about God attributed to Jesus, then we must spend our lives living in constant fear of our Designer, Creator and Friend. And in order to do that, we must have an image of God that is in line with the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament teachings about God, which were obviously endorsed by Jesus and the New Testament, as being insecure, vengeful, violent and jealous. This is yet another powerful fact that tells us the Bible is not the Word of God.

One too-often-overlooked fact about Jesus is that the famous Last Supper was Jesus and his apostles celebrating the Jewish holiday of Passover. As this anti-God and anti-Gentile Bible myth goes, millions of Hebrews/Jews were being held as slaves in Egypt, although archeologists have already proven this is not true. In another example of the Bible god not being all-knowing, Exodus chapter 12 teaches that God allegedly told Moses and his brother Aaron to have the Hebrews/Jews slaughter a lamb or a goat and to put its blood on their doorposts. This would act as a heads-up to the Jewish/Hebrew god, letting him know that the people inside are his chosen people. Then he would pass over their homes and not mistakenly

butcher the first born people and animals inside. Exodus 12:12-13 claims God told Moses and Aaron, “For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.”

If this Bible story is true, which, thankfully, it is not, God would have killed millions of Egyptian people and their animals. The victims of God’s attack would be everyone and everything from newborns, infants, teens, puppies, kittens, calves, through old people and full grown animals, since “firstborn” people and animals are of all ages. What a sick attack on God to teach God would commit such unbridled slaughter of innocent people and animals! And add to this the repeated Bible claims that the reason Pharaoh did not release the Hebrews/Jews is because “God hardened Pharaoh’s heart” according to Exodus 4:21 and many other places, and you begin to see the true, deeply-sick attack on God this Bible story is. This is what Jesus and his apostles were celebrating during the Last Supper.

The four above examples from the New Testament all make clear that Jesus strongly embraced his Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, Judaism and his Jewish roots, which originate from the bloody Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. They also show he suffered from a very low opinion of God. To believe the horrific claims about God made in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, to believe the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament is the Word of God, to believe God would want people to kill their children if their children cursed them, to believe that God slaughtered the firstborn of all the Egyptian people and their animals

because the Pharaoh did not do what God made impossible for him to do when he repeatedly hardened Pharaoh's heart, and to in fact celebrate it, makes it painfully obvious Jesus' image of God was that of a jealous and bloodthirsty tyrant. This quote from Thomas Paine's *The Age of Reason, The Complete Edition* applies to Jesus and to everyone who believes the Bible is the Word of God:

Had the cruel and murderous orders with which the Bible is filled, and the numberless torturing executions of men, women and children, inconsequence of those orders, been ascribed to some friend whose memory you revered, you would have glowed with satisfaction at detecting the falsehood of the charge, and gloried in defending his injured fame. Is it because ye are sunk in the cruelty of superstition, or feel no interest in the honor of your Creator, that ye listen to the horrid tales of the Bible, or hear them with callous indifference? (83)

Another obvious way of telling if something is from God or not is if it is blatantly ridiculous and preposterous. If it is, it is not from The Supreme Intelligence/God but is instead from the minds of humans. The claim made in Matthew 27:50-53 is both blatantly ridiculous and preposterous and therefore not from The Supreme Intelligence/God. It is allegedly telling what happened when Jesus died on a cross and reads:

Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And

came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

If we are to believe this nonsensical Bible tale, we must first kill our beautiful and generous gift from The Supreme Intelligence/God of innate reason. Once we do that, we can accept this Bible story on faith; we can believe in zombies which this Bible story claims existed. Believing dead people came back to life when Jesus allegedly died and then hung out by their graves for a couple of days until the time Jesus allegedly was resurrected at which time these zombies just strolled into Jerusalem (the holy city) and “appeared unto many” is no problem if you’ve killed your innate God-given reason. Believing ungodly foolishness like this requires the total destruction of our reason which opens us up to believing absolutely anything, no matter how foolish it is. Turning off our innate God-given reason is akin to turning off the firewall on your computer – you’re going to fall victim to a lot of programmed viruses (foolish beliefs) and your working computer (your logic) will end up being destroyed.

A Jew named Saul, a.k.a. “Saint” Paul, brought this Jewish heresy to Gentiles, although Christianity only served to replace their God-given reason with nonsensical faith, to turn their backs on Nature and reality, to confuse their minds and to believe ungodly teachings about The Supreme Intelligence/God. Saul/Paul taught the Gentiles the lie that they had a profound debt to the Jews for Christianity and for their savior, the Jew, Jesus. Paul wrote in Romans 15:25-27 to the Gentile Christians in Rome:

But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints.
For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to

make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem. It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.

This teaching of “Saint” Paul greatly strengthens Edward Gibbon’s belief mentioned earlier that Christianity was created by the Jews as a psychological weapon for them to use to undermine and eventually destroy their biggest enemy at the time, the Roman Empire. “Saint” Paul does not instruct the Gentile Christians to pray for the spiritual well being of the Jews; he tells them to “minister unto them in carnal things.” He wants them to help the self-proclaimed “chosen people” in the here and now with carnal/physical real-world assistance. This Bible teaching is one of many the Zionist Christians such as John Hagee currently use to get their Gentile Christian followers to give money to promote the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament-based Jewish state of Israel.

John Hagee, who is currently the leading Zionist Christian in America and probably in the world, lists on his website, at <http://www.jhm.org/Home/About/WhySupportIsrael>, six major reasons for Christians to support Jews and the Jewish state of Israel. His reasons are very valid if you believe the ungodly nonsense of the Bible and Christianity. Hagee teaches Christians to promote Israel and the Jewish people because “the Jewish people have given to Christianity: the sacred scriptures; the prophets; the patriarchs; Mary, Joseph, and Jesus Christ of Nazareth; the twelve disciples; the apostles.”

As any objective and honest look at the Bible, both the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and the Christian New

Testament, will make very clear, the “sacred” scriptures did not come from God because they directly violate our gift from God of reason. In reality they were written by ancient Jews for the benefit and promotion of themselves, their people and their Jewish nation of Israel.

The Hebrew/Jewish prophets were largely genocidal maniacs and superstitious fools as can easily be seen by an honest and objective examination of their own “holy” book, the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. For only a few examples consider:

Deuteronomy 7:1-2 claims the Jewish prophet Moses told the Hebrews/Jews that God told him that they should commit genocide against all the people God delivered to them and not show any mercy to them.

2 Kings 2:11 claims the Jewish prophet Elijah was scooped-up by a chariot of fire being pulled by horses of fire and taken up into heaven. This sounds much more like a poorly written comic book than the Word of God.

2 Kings 2:23-24 which claims 42 “little children” were making fun of Elisha’s bald head. This greatly upset the Jewish prophet and caused him to curse the little children “in the name of the LORD” and his curse caused two she bears to come out of the woods and “tare forty and two children.”

Jonah 1:17 claims the Jewish prophet Jonah was swallowed by “a great fish” (Matthew 12:40 claims it was a whale) and lived inside the great fish for “three days and three nights.”

There are many, many more examples than these.

The Hebrew/Jewish patriarchs suffered from a twisted and evil concept of God to the point of actually believing God would order them to kill their own son as in the sad, ungodly and damaging case of Abraham. And they held such a low and foolish opinion of God they believed Jacob beat God in

a wrestling match which caused God to then change Jacob's name to Israel (Genesis 32:24-32)!

Mary, Joseph and Jesus are not even proven to be real historical people let alone Mary being divinely chosen to be impregnated by God, Mary and Joseph to raise the offspring of God and Jesus to be the son of God. However, if they really did exist, they were practicing Jews as Hagee claims. Hagee seems mixed up regarding the twelve disciples and the apostles. Most Christians seem to believe that all apostles were first disciples, but not all disciples were apostles. However, he's probably referring to the twelve apostles believed by many to have been the closest followers of Jesus, such as Peter, John, Luke and Matthew. Hagee is correct in that, if they did really exist, they were Jews, so Christians owe the Jews for the apostles/disciples, too.

In one too often overlooked Bible teaching which Hagee does cover, we see that Jesus had his fellow Jews and Israel as a priority over Gentile people. The story is found at Luke 7:2-6 and reads:

And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die. And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant. And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this: For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue. Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof:

Hagee does a great job of summing up the main point the Jewish writers of the gospel wanted their Gentile readers to understand and to act upon. Hagee writes:

Why did Jesus Christ go to the house of Cornelius in Capernaum and heal his servant, which was ready to die? What logic did the Jewish elders use with Jesus to convince Him to come into the house of a Gentile and perform a miracle?

The logic they used is recorded in Luke 7:5; ‘For He loveth our nation, and He hath built us a synagogue.’ The message? This Gentile deserves the blessing of God because he loves our nation and has done something practical to bless the Jewish people.

Note Hagee correctly wrote “practical” and not “spiritual.” The emphasis of being focused on the practical here and now real world dominates the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament in which the real world welfare of the Hebrew/Jewish people and their nation of Israel is of paramount importance.

John Hagee is definitely not the only Christian who strongly believes Christians owe a profound debt to Jews. Pope John Paul II (now Saint John Paul II) said while visiting the Rome Synagogue on April 13, 1986:

The first is that the Church of Christ discovers her “bond” with Judaism by “searching into her own mystery”, (cf. *Nostra Aetate*, *ibid.*). The Jewish religion is not “extrinsic” to us, but in a certain way is “intrinsic” to our own religion. With Judaism therefore we have a relationship which we do not have with any other religion.

You are our dearly beloved brothers and, in a certain way, it could be said that you are our elder brothers.

The current leader of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis, endorses Pope John Paul's belief that Jews are the big brothers of Christians. He said during a Sunday mass outside of St. Peter's Square at the Vatican in 2013, "We renew our closeness and solidarity to the Jewish people, our big brothers, and pray to God that the memory of the past and of the sins of the past helps us to be always vigilant against every form of hate and intolerance."

Interestingly Christians seeing Jews as their elder/big brothers does not sit well with many Jews. In an article in The Jewish Press.com published on November 12, 2013 entitled *Pope Francis Calls Jews 'Big Brother,' But It Ain't a Compliment* by Jewish journalist Yori Yanover we read, "We're nobody's brothers. We're God's favorite children without any extra-familial affiliations." He goes on to write that Jews have more in common with Muslims than they do with Christians as is demonstrated by Jewish law which permits a Jew to enter a Mosque but forbids Jews from entering a Christian church.

One glaring ethical deficiency Christianity suffers from, as does Judaism and Islam, is the acceptance of human beings owning their fellow human beings as mere property through slavery. This should be a strong warning to any person thinking of using Christianity, Judaism or Islam, or any of their "holy" books, as a guide of any type for how they should live their lives. Nowhere in the Bible is Jesus quoted as speaking out against this barbaric and inhumane practice. In fact, when Jesus said, as was mentioned previously, that the laws, commands and doctrines of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament will be in effect until heaven and Earth pass away (which has not

happened), this demonstrates that Jesus was in favor of Jews owning Gentile people and their children as slaves because it is taught in Leviticus 25:44-46.

Add to this the fact that Christianity promotes slaves living in fear of their owners and does **NOT** prohibit Christians from owning other people as slaves, and we see there is no way a rational, kind and caring person would want to use Christianity as an “owner’s manual” for their lives or for the lives of their children and other loved ones.

1 Peter 2:18 teaches slaves to “be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.” Religion too frequently promotes fear. However, it reaches new lows when it teaches slaves to live their lives in fear of their masters.

Ephesians 6:5-8 commands people who are slaves as follows:

Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.

Not only does this reduce people to the level of obedient farm animals who are unfortunate enough to have mean and cruel owners who abuse them which requires them to suffer “fear and trembling,” but it encourages them to do so with a promise that if they waste their lives as commanded, God will

reward them. This is a horrific and unjust attack against God and people.

1 Timothy 6:1-2 lets us know that it's permissible for Christians to own their fellow Christians as slaves and that Christian slaves should not harbor any type of negative feeling towards their Christian owners. It reads:

Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed. And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

This is an anti-God statement and teaching for three reasons. First, it does not command believers in Christianity who are slave owners to free their slaves whether the slaves are Christians or not. Second, it does not either command or encourage Christians who are slaves to rise up in rebellion against their owners and the society that permits slavery. Third, it binds the Christian slaves' submission to their owners with loving and appreciating God by teaching that any Christian slave who does not "count their own masters worthy of all honour" commits blasphemy against God. This is wrong. This anti-God garbage should be rejected by anyone who values The Supreme Intelligence/God, freedom and justice. Anyone who thinks a book that contains twisted and perverse teachings like this is the Word of God and a good book to base their life on is not only wrong, they're setting themselves up for unhappiness and showing they have a very low opinion of their Creator.

Even the world-famous Christian evangelist, Billy Graham, knew the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and the Christian New Testament violate our God-given reason. In the November 13, 1995, issue of *Christianity Today*, we read, “Questions about the authority of Scripture had been troubling the young preacher [Billy Graham] for weeks. Knowing that the matter must be settled in his mind if he ever hoped to preach with authority and power, he wrestled with his doubts until he was able to pray; ‘Oh God, I cannot prove certain things. I cannot answer some of the questions my friends are asking. [Yet, here and now I am ready to accept the Bible] by faith as the Word of God’” (31).

The article goes on to say, “That simple prayer transformed Graham’s ministry – and convinced him, once for all, of the Bible’s absolute authority. Since that special moment at Forest Home, no conviction has marked his ministry more deeply. Across the years, the Bible has remained the foundation for his preaching and the ultimate standard by which he judges both his relationships and the conduct of his evangelical work.” The Bible remained Graham’s “foundation for his preaching and the ultimate standard” because he turned his back on God’s gift to him, and to all of us, of reason in order to accept the unreasonable, ungodly, man-made nonsense in the Bible. We all need to ask ourselves if we’re going to do as Graham did and perpetuate the lie that the Bible and all the ungodly/unreasonable teachings that are bound to it are the Word of God, or are we going to break free of the harmful lies and superstitions with the power of our innate God-given reason.

ISLAM

Islam and its “holy” book, the Quran, are overflowing with ungodly nonsense and calls to religious violence and

oppression, which let us know it is not from The Supreme Intelligence/God and that it is not the Word of God. Like Christianity, Islam has its roots in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. Abraham is seen by Muslims as their patriarch, which lays a horrific foundation and makes it easier to understand the roots of its violence-producing teachings.

Another alleged prophet of God embraced by Islam who has a Hebrew/Jewish origin is the genocidal butcher, Moses. When the Taliban attempted to assassinate the then 14-year-old Pakistani girl, Malala Yousafzai, by shooting her in the head while she sat in her school bus on October 9, 2012, a driving force for doing so was a story in the Quran that involved Moses (see Surah 18:74-81). This repulsive and foolish story is of the Islamic hero and “righteous servant of God,” Khidr. As this nonsensical story goes, Khidr and Moses were traveling and encountered a young boy. Khidr murdered the innocent boy. When Moses asked him why, Khidr explained that the boy had parents who were “believers” and the boy **may** have caused trouble for them with rebellion and disbelief when he got older. The Taliban believe Malala is causing rebellion and disbelief by trying to bring Western education to Islamic Pakistan. In a statement issued by the Taliban in which they explained why they attempted to murder her and why they still want to kill her, they blamed “her pioneer role in preaching secularism and so called enlightened moderation.” Enlightenment, which is based on and dependent on our innate God-given reason, and Islam do not go together.

Islam looks at Moses as belonging to Muslims and not to Jews. This belief was expressed by Osama bin Laden in his 2002 *Letter to America*:

It brings us both laughter and tears to see that you have

not yet tired of repeating your fabricated lies that the Jews have a historical right to Palestine, as it was promised to them in the Torah. Anyone who disputes with them on this alleged fact is accused of anti-Semitism. This is one of the most fallacious, widely-circulated fabrications in history. The people of Palestine are pure Arabs and original Semites. It is the Muslims who are the inheritors of Moses (peace be upon him) and the inheritors of the real Torah that has not been changed. Muslims believe in all of the Prophets, including Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon them all. If the followers of Moses have been promised a right to Palestine in the Torah, then the Muslims are the most worthy nation of this.

By not realizing that the Torah is not from God but is merely the foolish and genocidal writings and rantings of the ancient Hebrew/Jewish clergy, bin Laden, and all people who are in an Abrahamic “revealed”/hearsay religion, give it way too much importance and erroneously elevate it to the highest possible level which any book or communication can be elevated to; that of being the thoughts and will of God. The same holds true for the New Testament and the Quran. This is a violation of the first rule of philosophy which, as mentioned previously, is to see things for what they really are, not for what they appear to be or for what people claim they are.

In the same letter bin Laden, after making some valid points regarding America’s blind support of the Jewish state of Israel which leads to the deaths and misery of thousands of Palestinian people, many of whom are Muslims, writes that he wants Americans to become Muslims by accepting Islam:

The first thing we are calling you to is Islam.

The religion of the Unification of God; of freedom from associating partners with Him, and rejection of this; of complete love of Him, the Exalted; of complete submission to His Laws; and of the discarding of all the opinions, orders, theories and religions which contradict with the religion He sent down to His Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Islam is the religion of all the prophets, and makes no distinction between them — peace be upon them all.*

His belief that Islam is from God reveals the driving force of religious violence. By believing this falsehood, that Islam, or any man-made “revealed”/hearsay religion, is from The Supreme Intelligence/God, the believer is given the belief that whatever they do to promote their religion is doing the will of God. This gives a green light to them to take any action they deem necessary to the spreading of their religion. History and current events show us that religious violence is too often used by religious people to accomplish their goal of spreading their man-made religion, which they mistakenly believe is of divine origin.

Osama bin Laden had to reject his gift from God of innate reason in order to believe the Quran is God’s word. This is made evident by this statement bin Laden made in his letter: “It is the religion whose book — the Quran — will remain preserved and unchanged, after the other Divine books and messages have been changed. The Quran is the miracle until the Day of Judgment. Allah has challenged anyone to bring a book like the Quran or even ten verses like it.”

He was referring to Surah 11:13, which challenges doubters

*Osama bin Laden. “Full text: bin Laden’s ‘letter to America’”. TheGuardian.com. 24 Nov. 2002.

of Islam and of Islam's false claim that the Quran is from God to write ten verses equal to what is found in the Quran. A somewhat similar verse in the Quran is found in Surah 17:88, which claims people and the fictional creatures known as jinn could not work together to produce a writing equal to the Quran. It reads, "Say: Verily, though mankind and the jinn should assemble to produce the like of this Qur'an, they could not produce the like thereof though they were helpers one of another." Surah 17:88 proves Surah 11:13 and itself wrong because the former mentions fictional creatures, the jinn, as being real which destroys the veracity of the Quran. In the superstition/"revealed" religion of Islam, jinn are supernatural creatures made of smoke and fire which have free will. Surah 18:50 claims that the Devil/Satan/Iblis is a jinn who disobeyed God by refusing to bow down to Adam. Muslims must truly turn from their gift from God of reason in order to believe this challenge could not be met and believe it as proof the Quran is from God.

Another Quran verse that makes it clear by its own standard that the Quran is not from God is Surah 4:82, which states, "Will they not then ponder on the Qur'an? If it had been from other than Allah they would have found therein much incongruity." Based on this, if someone finds "much incongruity" in the Quran then the Quran cannot be from Allah/God. The above example of the fictional creatures known as jinn demonstrates incongruity (the Merriman-Webster dictionary defines "incongruity" as being "incongruous," and "incongruous" is defined as "strange because of not agreeing with what is usual or expected"). The actual existence of jinn is definitely not "usual or expected." The Quran suffers from many other instances of incongruity such as talking ants (Surah 27:18) and the Sun setting in mud (Surah 18:86). It also has many

self-contradictions which would not be expected in a writing from God. Factual contradictions in the Quran include, but by no means are limited to: Surah 69:36 which claims people in hell (anyone who is not a Muslim) eat nothing but “filth”, Surah 88:6 which states they eat nothing but “bitter thorn-fruit”; Surah 79:27-30 which claims God created the heavens before he created the Earth while Surah 2:29 and Surah 41:9-12 claim the opposite, that God created the Earth first and then he created the heavens. The list of incongruities in the Quran goes on and on.

Just as Judaism and Christianity have their apologists who twist and turn and go through mental distortions in order to make their “holy” scriptures appear just and rational, so too does Islam. Apologists for Islam regularly attempt to justify calls to religious violence and brutality in the Quran by claiming they were not intended for all Muslims in all times but were only for a particular situation in a particular time and place in which Muslims were being oppressed. A good example of this is Surah 9:5 which instructs Muslims to “slay the idolaters wherever ye find them, and take them (captive), and besiege them, and prepare for them each ambush.” Apologists for Islam claim this only applied to the war going on between the Muslims and the unbelievers/pagans shortly after the Muslims formed themselves into a community in Madinah/Medina. If this is true it makes one wonder why it is not stated in the Quran letting everyone who reads it know that it’s not applicable to all Muslims after that scripture was “revealed” and written.

Dr. Zakir Naik, an apologist for Islam and the founder and president of the Islamic Research Foundation, attempts to justify the command in Surah 9:5 to “slay the idolater wherever

ye find them” as just an attempt to boost the morale of the Islamic soldiers. Naik wrote:

This verse is quoted during a battle. ...We know that America was once at war with Vietnam. Suppose the President of America or the General of the American Army told the American soldiers during the war: “Wherever you find the Vietnamese, kill them”. Today if I say that the American President said, “Wherever you find Vietnamese, kill them” without giving the context, I will make him sound like a butcher. But if I quote him in context, that he said it during a war, it will sound very logical, as he was trying to boost the morale of the American soldiers during the war. ...Similarly in Surah Taubah chapter 9 verse 5 the Qur’an says, “Kill the Mushriqs (pagans) where ever you find them”, during a battle to boost the morale of the Muslim soldiers. What the Qur’an is telling Muslim soldiers is, don’t be afraid during battle; wherever you find the enemies kill them.

What this attempt of justifying brutality overlooks is that Muslims claim the Quran is the final Word of God. This means that this order is from God/The Supreme Intelligence. As such, it needs to be held to the highest standards possible. We are not surprised that a mere mortal, whether the president or a general, would order his troops to kill the enemy wherever they find them. However, we belittle The Supreme Intelligence/God if we hold God to the same standards we hold people to. We can’t believe The Supreme Intelligence/God would give such orders if we hold The Supreme Intelligence/God in high regard, which Islam and none of the other “revealed”/

hearsay religions do based on the atrocities and foolishness they attribute to The Supreme Intelligence/God.

Another call to religious violence which lets us know the Quran is not the word of God and not something we should base our lives on is found in Surah 47:1-4. These verses state:

Those who disbelieve and turn (men) from the way of Allah, He rendereth their actions vain. And those who believe and do good works and believe in that which is revealed unto Muhammad — and it is the truth from their Lord — He riddeth them of their ill-deeds and improveth their state. That is because those who disbelieve follow falsehood and because those who believe follow the truth from their Lord. Thus Allah coineth their similitudes for mankind. Now when ye meet in battle those who disbelieve, then it is smiting of the necks until, when ye have routed them, then making fast of bonds; and afterward either grace or ransom till the war lay down its burdens. That (is the ordinance). And if Allah willed He could have punished them (without you) but (thus it is ordained) that He may try some of you by means of others. And those who are slain in the way of Allah, He rendereth not their actions vain.

It is clear from these verses that believing in Islam is **NOT** believing in The Supreme Intelligence/God. Instead, it is believing “that which is revealed unto Muhammad.” It is in reality simply believing hearsay that is being presented as a “revelation” from God. We have to take Muhammad’s word for it, or the word of whoever it was that wrote it, that it is a divine revelation. This particular “revelation” calls for Muslims to cut the heads off (“smiting of the necks”) of disbelievers. It

is evident by the Islamic religious violence infecting the world today that many Muslims do take this pretended divine call to decapitation of not only unbelievers but also fellow Muslims who happen to belong to a different Islamic sect very seriously. As I'm writing this, Sunni Muslims fighting Shiite Muslims are killing and decapitating each other in Iraq.

Islam promises that those who use religious violence to spread and promote Islam will be rewarded. Surah 4:74 states, "Let those fight in the way of Allah who sell the life of this world for the other. Whoso fighteth in the way of Allah, be he slain or be he victorious, on him We shall bestow a vast reward." This can only promote unnecessary religious violence and all the suffering that accompanies it. It also makes evident the non-altruistic/selfish nature of Islam in that it is reward-based for the believer and/or jihadist. This playing on the selfish desire of people is also very prevalent in all of the other "revealed"/hearsay religions.

Like all of the "revealed" religions, Islam has built-in job security for its clergy. In Islam a key form of clergy job security is found in its concepts of *takhsees* and *naskh*. *Takhsee* is specification by Islamic clergy regarding the meaning and scope of Quranic verses and teachings, while *naskh* is abrogation by Islamic clergy of verses in the Quran. Shaykh Abu Ammaar Yasir Qadhi, the Dean of Academic Affairs at the Al-Maghrib Institute, writes, "Specification involves one verse limiting or restricting a general ruling found in another verse, whereas *naskh* involves abrogating the first verse in toto (i.e., it is not applied in any circumstances or conditions). (*Qadhi, An Introduction to the Sciences of the Qur'aan*; UK Al-Hidaayah Publishing and Distribution, 1999, p. 233)

The Quran itself makes clear that it is subject to change. Surah 2:106 teaches, "Nothing of our revelation (even a single

verse) do we abrogate or cause be forgotten, but we bring (in place) one better or the like thereof. Knowest thou not that Allah is Able to do all things?" Of course in reality it is not Allah/God that is the source of the Quran or of any changes made to it. The Quran and its content, whether abrogated or not, are only the products of Mohammed and/or Islamic clergymen, mere mortals. Knowledge of this fact weakens the hold the clergy have on people who are under the influence of a "revealed"/hearsay religion.

Like its fellow Abrahamic "revealed"/hearsay religions of Judaism and Christianity, Islam never forbids owning our fellow human beings as property through slavery. This is inexcusable. It is also a red flag for people who believe they should use Islam and the Quran as guides in their lives and in the lives of their family. The only way not to see this red flag is to shutdown your beautiful and generous gift from God of innate reason that allows you to filter out bad ideas and to embrace and act upon good ideas and principles. Surah 33:50 reads:

O Prophet! Lo! We have made lawful unto thee thy wives unto whom thou hast paid their dowries, and those whom thy right hand possesseth of those whom Allah hath given thee as spoils of war, and the daughters of thine uncle on the father's side and the daughters of thine aunts on the father's side, and the daughters of thine uncle on the mother's side and the daughters of thine aunts on the mother's side who emigrated with thee, and a believing woman if she give herself unto the Prophet and the Prophet desire to ask her in marriage — a privilege for thee only, not for the (rest of) believers — We are Aware of that which We enjoined upon them concerning their wives and those whom their right

hands possess — that thou mayst be free from blame, for Allah is ever Forgiving, Merciful.

Having women as the “spoils of war” doesn’t sound too Godly! It sounds more like something out of a pirate movie than something from The Supreme Intelligence/God.

Surah 4:92 makes it clear that the god of the Quran and Islam approves of Muslims even owning other Muslims as slaves. It states:

It is not for a believer to kill a believer unless (it be) by mistake. He who hath killed a believer by mistake must set free a believing slave, and pay the blood- money to the family of the slain, unless they remit it as a charity. If he (the victim) be of a people hostile unto you, and he is a believer, then (the penance is) to set free a believing slave. And if he cometh of a folk between whom and you there is a covenant, then the blood-money must be paid unto his folk and (also) a believing slave must be set free. And whoso hath not the wherewithal must fast two consecutive months. A penance from Allah. Allah is Knower, Wise.

You would think that Allah would be wise enough and moral enough to know that slavery is wrong.

All of the patriarchal Abrahamic “revealed”/hearsay religions belittle women and portray them as being inferior to men. Not only does Islam denigrate women, it commands men to beat/scourge women. Surah 4:34 teaches this misogynistic, dangerous and harmful ungodly nonsense:

Men are in charge of women, because Allah hath made

the one of them to excel the other, and because they spend of their property (for the support of women). So good women are the obedient, guarding in secret that which Allah hath guarded. As for those from whom ye fear rebellion, admonish them and banish them to beds apart, and scourge them. Then if they obey you, seek not a way against them. Lo! Allah is ever High, Exalted, Great.

What an insult to The Supreme Intelligence/God it is to attribute teachings like this to God. Implementing this pretended divine command would remove domestic violence in which the man was the aggressor and the woman the victim from the list of crimes. It would then be legal for men to beat/scourge women whenever they deemed it necessary.

It is plainly evident from an objective and honest look at the Quran that it is **NOT** the Word of God and it is **NOT** a good book to base your life on.

Mormonism

Mormonism has no evidence of being from The Supreme Intelligence/God. It is just another Abrahamic “revealed”/hearsay religion full of bad ideas and foolish claims and teachings. It is definitely not something to use as a guide for your life.

Mormonism is based on the “revelation”/hearsay of Joseph Smith, Jr. (December 23, 1805–June 27, 1844), who lived in western New York in the early 19th century. It is intended to be another testament of Jesus for believers living in the latter days. Smith was a Bible-believing Christian and claimed that when he was about 14 or 15 years old, he had a vision while praying in the woods at Manchester, New York. He said

he was asking God to forgive him of his sins and to let him know which Christian denomination he should join. In his vision/"revelation" it was communicated to him that his sins were forgiven and that he should not join any of the Christian denominations because none of them were correct. He was also told that the "fullness of the gospel" would be made known to him at a future time. Some of his accounts of this alleged vision claim he saw angels while other accounts claim he saw God the father and God's alleged son Jesus, while other accounts claim he saw all three; angels, God the father and God the son. The dates Smith gave for this vision vary too, from 1820–1821. The official Church of Latter-day Saints/Mormon version seems to be the version Smith said occurred in the spring of 1820 when Smith was 14 years old. He said the vision was of God the Father and God the Son. Mormons refer to it as Joseph Smith's First Vision, and many believers see it as the founding act of the Church of Latter-day Saints/Mormonism.

In the early United States at the time Smith is said to have had his vision/"revelation," many people were heavily influenced by the emotion-charged Christian revival movement known as the Second Great Awakening. It is believed by many that one of the reasons the Christian clergy launched the Second Great Awakening was to counter the spread of Deism and free thought in the early American Republic. Smith, like thousands of other Americans at that time, was heavily influenced by the emotion-promoting and reason-retarding Second Great Awakening, which probably had an influence on his belief that he had a divine vision, unless, of course, the entire story is just a deliberate scam of Smith's to set himself up as a new religious prophet and founder of a new "revealed"/hearsay religion.

Smith claimed that when he was 17 years old an angel of

God named Moroni (that's right, moron with an i) appeared to him and told him there were ancient sacred writings on golden plates buried in a hill in the woods near Smith's home in upstate New York. (It's not surprising that Smith would say the divine plates were buried in the ground, as one of his means of employment was as a treasure hunter who claimed he could divine the location of buried treasure, often with the use of magical seer stones.) Moroni allegedly claimed the writings on the golden plates were about an ancient people who God had brought to America from Jerusalem around 600 BCE. As this foolish story goes, Moroni was the last prophet of these people and he had buried the plates in the hill. God had promised Moroni that he would make the plates and their sacred texts known in the latter days. Since Christians from the time it is said Jesus Christ lived right through to today are usually believing they are living in the last days before the end of the world and the return of their savior Jesus to Earth, it's not surprising Joe Smith believed he was living in the last days back in the 1820s and hence the name for Smith's new religion, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Initially Smith did not show the alleged plates to anyone, so people had to take his word on faith that they really did exist. However, this caused some problems with some people who weren't taking all that Smith said on faith. Eventually, Smith allegedly allowed three people and then an additional eight people to see the golden plates, and eight of the eleven claimed they also handled the golden plates on which the supposed sacred text of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was written. The eleven people signed statements claiming they had seen the elusive plates, but we have to take their claims, whether verbal or written, on faith. There is absolutely no evidence the golden plates ever existed other than

the claim of Joseph Smith and the eleven others. Below are the statements of the alleged witnesses which can be found in the Book of Mormon and after that are some thoughts of Mark Twain, which honestly and sarcastically address these childish claims of the alleged witnesses. The Mark Twain quotes can be found in his book *Rough Times* which was published in 1872.

The first three Mormon witnesses claimed:

THE TESTIMONY OF THREE WITNESSES.

Be it known unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people unto whom this work shall come, that we, through the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, have seen the plates which contain this record, which is a record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites, their brethren, and also of the people of Jared, who came from the tower of which hath been spoken; and we also know that they have been translated by the gift and power of God, for His voice hath declared it unto us; wherefore we know of a surety that the work is true. And we also testify that we have seen the engravings which are upon the plates; and they have been shown unto us by the power of God, and not of man. And we declare with words of soberness, that an angel of God came down from heaven, and he brought and laid before our eyes, that we beheld and saw the plates, and the engravings thereon; and we know that it is by the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, that we beheld and bear record that these things are true; and it is marvellous in our eyes; nevertheless the voice of the Lord commanded us that we should bear record of it; wherefore, to be obedient unto the

commandments of God, we bear testimony of these things. And we know that if we are faithful in Christ, we shall rid our garments of the blood of all men, and be found spotless before the judgment-seat of Christ, and shall dwell with Him eternally in the heavens. And the honor be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, which is one God. Amen.

Oliver Cowdery,
David Whitmer,
Martin Harris.

And the eight Mormon witnesses claimed:

Be it known unto all nations, kindreds, tongues, and people unto whom this work shall come, that Joseph Smith, Jr., the translator of this work, has shown unto us the plates of which hath been spoken, which have the appearance of gold; and as many of the leaves as the said Smith has translated, we did handle with our hands; and we also saw the engravings thereon, all of which has the appearance of ancient work, and of curious workmanship. And this we bear record with words of soberness, that the said Smith has shown unto us, for we have seen and hefted, and know of a surety that the said Smith has got the plates of which we have spoken.

And we give our names unto the world, to witness unto the world that which we have seen; and we lie not, God bearing witness of it.

Christian Whitmer,
Jacob Whitmer,

Peter Whitmer, Jr.,
John Whitmer,
Hiram Page,
Joseph Smith, Sr.,
Hyrum Smith,
Samuel H. Smith.

Mark Twain wrote about the above testimonies of the Mormons:

Some people have to have a world of evidence before they can come anywhere in the neighborhood of believing anything; but for me, when a man tells me that he has “seen the engravings which are upon the plates,” and not only that, but an angel was there at the time, and saw him see them, and probably took his receipt for it, I am very far on the road to conviction, no matter whether I ever heard of that man before or not, and even if I do not know the name of the angel, or his nationality either.

And when I am far on the road to conviction, and eight men, be they grammatical or otherwise, come forward and tell me that they have seen the plates too; and not only seen those plates but “hefted” them, I am convinced. I could not feel more satisfied and at rest if the entire Whitmer family had testified.

The texts, according to Smith, were written in the language of “reformed Egyptian” which is a completely fabricated language produced in the Bible-riddled mind of Joe Smith. Smith claimed that the angel Moroni told him to translate the “ancient

Egyptian” on the golden plates into English. The way he allegedly did the translation shows not only how completely Mormonism is poisoned by superstition, but also how the original Abrahamic religion of Judaism is poisoned by superstition.

Smith claimed that the golden plates with the scriptures written on them came with what was a type of package deal that included two special seer stones set in a frame and a breastplate. The seer stones are supposed to be magic stones similar to what Smith used when he hired himself out to find buried treasure for other people, and they are also what many believe helped the prophets of the Bible to prophesize. These seer stones are often referred to as the Urim and the Thummim and are referred to in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. The Bible Dictionary of the Church of Latter-day Saints defines the Urim and Thummim as the:

Hebrew term that means “Lights and Perfections.” An instrument prepared of God to assist man in obtaining revelation from the Lord and in translating languages. See Ex. 28:30; Lev. 8:8; Num. 27:21; Deut. 33:8; 1 Sam. 28:6; Ezra 2:63; Neh. 7:65; JS—H 1:35.

Using a Urim and Thummim is the special prerogative of a seer, and it would seem reasonable that such instruments were used from the time of Adam. However, the earliest mention is in connection with the brother of Jared (Ether 3:21–28). Abraham used a Urim and Thummim (Abr. 3:1–4), as did Aaron and the priests of Israel, and also the prophets among the Nephites (Omni 1:20–21; Mosiah 8:13–19; 21:26–28; 28:11–20; Ether 4:1–7). There is more than one Urim and Thummim, but we are informed that Joseph Smith had the one used

by the brother of Jared (Ether 3:22–28; D&C 10:1; 17:1). (See Seer.) A partial description is given in JS—H 1:35. Joseph Smith used it in translating the Book of Mormon and in obtaining other revelations.

Allegedly the angel Moroni appeared to Smith while Smith was praying. Below is what Smith claims Moroni told him about the golden plates and the seer stones. The partial description given by Smith at JS – H 1:35 mentioned above is the second paragraph below. Both paragraphs below are from official Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints documents:

He said there was a book deposited, written upon gold plates, giving an account of the former inhabitants of this continent, and the source from whence they sprang. He also said that the fulness of the everlasting Gospel was contained in it, as delivered by the Savior to the ancient inhabitants;

Also, that there were two stones in silver bows—and these stones, fastened to a breastplate, constituted what is called the Urim and Thummim—deposited with the plates; and the possession and use of these stones were what constituted “seers” in ancient or former times; and that God had prepared them for the purpose of translating the book.

As mentioned in the first chapter of this book, one technique “revealed” religionists use to counter objections made by “revealed” religionists of a different “revealed” religion is to bring up foolish claims made by those other “revealed” religions or to make reference in their “revealed” religion to

something already referenced and accepted by the other person's "revealed" religion. We see this in practice on the official website of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. At www.lds.org/topics/book-of-mormon-translation?lang=eng, where we read about the foolish claim made by Joseph Smith, that he used the Urim and Thummim and seer stones in his translation work of the alleged golden plates, it states:

Some people have balked at this claim of physical instruments used in the divine translation process, but such aids to facilitate the communication of God's power and inspiration are consistent with accounts in scripture. In addition to the Urim and Thummim, the Bible mentions other physical instruments used to access God's power: the rod of Aaron, a brass serpent, holy anointing oils, the Ark of the Covenant, and even dirt from the ground mixed with saliva to heal the eyes of a blind man.

Our innate God-given reason tells us that this attempt to justify and to make sense of Smith's foolish claim about the seer stones is flawed because the Bible has already been proven to be full of ungodly falsehoods based on ancient superstitions and has absolutely no authority for ascertaining truthfulness in this case. All those examples taken from the Bible as proof that God uses instruments to help people translate divine communications or to transmit God's power are false and meaningless. Deists and other freethinkers are free to make these valid observations, but Christians, Jews and Muslims who believe the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and/or the New Testament are of divine origin cannot. They must accept at a minimum that this ridiculous Mormon claim is in line with the teachings of their own "sacred" scripture. Once you accept the ungodly/

unreasonable claims in Judaism, you open yourself up to the nonsense of Christianity, Islam and Mormonism.

An early follower of Joseph Smith and one of the above witnesses who claimed he saw the fictitious golden plates, David Whitmer wrote regarding Smith's interpreting the golden plates:

Joseph Smith would put the seer stone into a hat, and put his face in the hat, drawing it closely around his face to exclude the light; and in the darkness the spiritual light would shine. A piece of something resembling parchment would appear, and on that appeared the writing. One character at a time would appear, and under it was the interpretation in English. Brother Joseph would read off the English to Oliver Cowdery, who was his principal scribe, and when it was written down and repeated to Brother Joseph to see if it was correct, then it would disappear, and another character with the interpretation would appear. Thus the Book of Mormon was translated by the gift and power of God, and not by any power of man. (David Whitmer, *An Address to All Believers in Christ*, Richmond, Mo.: n.p., 1887, p. 12.)

Not only does this description of Whitmer produce a comedic image of Smith with his head stuck in a top hat that contains magic seer stones and of a foolish and gullible "scribe" writing down whatever Smith came up with as if it were the Word of God, it also lets us know that if we accept it as true, we must reject, or, at a very minimum, suppress and suspend, our gift from God of innate reason. We can derive much more happiness and meaning from God-given reason than from man-made superstition. The choice is ours to make.

Smith's stories of his visions, of being visited by an angel of God, of the golden plates with sacred texts written on them in "reformed Egyptian," and of how he translated them using seer stones in a top hat, all smack of lies and deceit. However, this is not all Mormonism and the Book of Mormon have going against them. Like the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, the New Testament and the Quran, the contents of the Book of Mormon is full of ungodly cruelty, foolishness and absurdity, which, if we use it, our innate God-given reason strongly rejects and warns us that they are man-made frauds.

Mark Twain wrote about the Book of Mormon in his own book, *Roughing It*. He brought out the plagiarism of the King James version of the Bible practiced by Smith when Smith wrote the Book of Mormon as well as how foolish and boring the book is. Twain wrote:

The book is a curiosity to me, it is such a pretentious affair, and yet so "slow," so sleepy; such an insipid mess of inspiration. It is chloroform in print. If Joseph Smith composed this book, the act was a miracle—keeping awake while he did it was, at any rate. If he, according to tradition, merely translated it from certain ancient and mysteriously-engraved plates of copper, which he declares he found under a stone, in an out-of-the-way locality, the work of translating was equally a miracle, for the same reason.

The book seems to be merely a prosy detail of imaginary history, with the Old Testament for a model; followed by a tedious plagiarism of the New Testament. The author labored to give his words and phrases the quaint, old-fashioned sound and structure of our King James's

translation of the Scriptures; and the result is a mongrel—half modern glibness, and half ancient simplicity and gravity. The latter is awkward and constrained; the former natural, but grotesque by the contrast. Whenever he found his speech growing too modern—which was about every sentence or two—he ladled in a few such Scriptural phrases as “exceeding sore,” “and it came to pass,” etc., and made things satisfactory again. “And it came to pass” was his pet. If he had left that out, his Bible would have been only a pamphlet (58).

Smith was as bloodthirsty as Moses and the genocidal Hebrews/Jews of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. And like them, he libeled and slandered The Supreme Intelligence/God by attributing the brutal savagery to God.

2 Nephi in the Book of Mormon, chapter 23, verses 16 – 18 read:

Their children, also shall be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses shall be spoiled and their wives ravished. Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them, which shall not regard silver and gold, nor shall they delight in it. Their bows shall also dash the young men to pieces, and they shall have no pity on the fruit of the womb; their eyes shall not spare children.

These grotesque verses from the Book of Mormon echo this equally ungodly and repulsive verse from the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament’s Hosea 13:15 and are probably examples of Smith’s plagiarism of the Bible: “Their infants shall be dashed in pieces, and their women with child shall be ripped up.”

Another blatant example of Smith’s brutal beliefs and

image of The Supreme Intelligence/God as an entity that promotes murder is found in 1 Nephi 4:10-18 which states:

And it came to pass that I was constrained by the Spirit that I should kill Laban; but I said in my heart: Never at any time have I shed the blood of man. And I shrunk and would that I might not slay him. And the Spirit said unto me again: Behold the Lord hath delivered him into thy hands. Yea, and I also knew that he had sought to take away mine own life; yea, and he would not hearken unto the commandments of the Lord; and he also had taken away our property. And it came to pass that the Spirit said unto me again: Slay him, for the Lord hath delivered him into thy hands; Behold the Lord slayeth the wicked to bring forth his righteous purposes. It is better that one man should perish than that a nation should dwindle and perish in unbelief. And now, when I, Nephi, had heard these words, I remembered the words of the Lord which he spake unto me in the wilderness, saying that: Inasmuch as thy seed shall keep my commandments, they shall prosper in the land of promise. Yea, and I also thought that they could not keep the commandments of the Lord according to the law of Moses, save they should have the law. And I also knew that the law was engraven upon the plates of brass. And again, I knew that the Lord had delivered Laban into my hands for this cause -- that I might obtain the records according to his commandments. Therefore I did obey the voice of the Spirit, and took Laban by the hair of the head, and I smote off his head with his own sword.

The probable reason Smith held such a murderous image

of God in his mind is because he believed the Bible to be the Word of God and the Bible overflows with similar homicidal depictions of The Supreme Intelligence/God.

Voltaire wrote in *Miracles and Idolatry*, “Formerly there were those who said: You believe things that are incomprehensible, inconsistent, impossible because we have commanded you to believe them; go then and do what is unjust because we command it. Such people show admirable reasoning. Truly, whoever is able to make you absurd is able to make you unjust. If the God-given understanding of your mind does not resist a demand to believe what is impossible, then you will not resist a demand to do wrong to that God-given sense of justice in your heart. As soon as one faculty of your soul has been dominated, other faculties will follow as well. And from this derives all those crimes of religion which have overrun the world.”

The Mormons, like all of the Abrahamic “revealed” religionists, proved Voltaire’s above observation correct. The best example of this is the Mountain Meadows Massacre, which took place on September 11, 1857, in the Territory of Utah. A wagon train of emigrants was traveling through Utah from Arkansas on their way to California. There were many Mormons living in Utah then as there are now. Infected with the mindset that they, the Mormons, were pure while living in an impure and evil world, as most “revealed” religionists are, the Mormons were suspicious of the people in the Baker-Fancher wagon train. The Mormon militia, the Nauvoo Legion, attacked it on September 7, 1857. The emigrants were holding them off until September 11, when representatives of the Mormons approached them carrying a white flag of truce.

The emigrants agreed to lay down their weapons and to go with the Mormons who told them they would safely escort them to Cedar City, Utah. After walking about a mile from

their wagon train, the Mormons were given a prearranged signal and then slaughtered every person in the wagon train. The only emigrants not murdered by the Mormons were the little children who the Mormons believed were too young to report what had happened to anyone else. It is estimated the total number of unarmed children, women and men who were murdered by the Mormons was around 120 people. Mormon clergymen kept the cattle and many of the possessions of the emigrants for themselves. What they didn't want of the emigrants' property was then auctioned off to other Mormons at the Mormon tithing house in Cedar City, Utah. Being aware of the religious violence-promoting content of the Book of Mormon, it's not surprising that the Mormons, when they were able to, butchered non-believers.

Besides the promotion of rampant religious violence, the Book of Mormon should not be used as a guide for living our lives due to the pure ignorance found within it. The Book of Mormon, as the Bible and Quran do, teaches belief in mythical creatures. Two of these mythical creatures that are found in both the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and the Book of Mormon are satyrs and dragons. 2 Nephi 23:21-22 states:

But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and owls shall dwell there, and satyrs shall dance there. And the wild beasts of the islands shall cry in their desolate houses, and dragons in their pleasant palaces; and her time is near to come, and her day shall not be prolonged. For I will destroy her speedily; yea, for I will be merciful unto my people, but the wicked shall perish.

The above Book of Mormon verses mirror exactly Isaiah

13:21-22 from the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament except for the last sentence. It demonstrates the foolishness and superstitions of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, which embrace belief in mythical creatures such as dragons and satyrs, lives on in the Book of Mormon.

Many apologists for the Bible claim that the use of dragons and satyrs is only found in the King James version of the Bible and that more current versions of the Bible don't use those words but instead use oxen or some other more reasonable word. The fact that the changes were made proves the position of Deists that the Bible, or any proclaimed "holy" book, cannot be the word of God. This quote from Thomas Paine makes it clear that the Word of God is not in print or even in a human language. Paine wrote, ". . . the idea or belief of a Word of God existing in print, or in writing, or in speech, is inconsistent in itself for reasons already assigned. These reasons, among many others, are the want of a universal language; the mutability of language; the errors to which translations are subject; the possibility of totally suppressing such a word; the probability of altering it, or of fabricating the whole, and imposing it upon the world." (54)

The changes in the Bible that the objections to using the words dragons and satyrs have brought to light, make it clear Thomas Paine was correct in his above quote. Taking a look around us, at the beautiful sun rising or setting, the blue sky and the night stars, we see and experience the real Word of God. We don't need any other. And that's good, because there isn't any other.

One very important reason why we should not believe the Book of Mormon is the Word of God and should not use it as a reliable book to place our trust and confidence in or to use as a guide for our life is the fact that many of its claims can

easily be proven false. One such claim that is key to Mormonism and is easy to prove false claims that people known as Jaredites from the Middle East, who were related to the ancient Hebrews/Jews and who lived near the Bible's fictional Tower of Babel between 2600 and 2100 BCE, settled parts of the area that is now upstate New York (Smith wrote it was "the lake country of America" which is the area of New York that borders Lake Ontario*). As this Mormon story goes, a prophet named Ether of the Jaredites asked his brother (whom Smith forgot to assign a name to and who remains unnamed in the Book of Mormon, but who Smith allegedly called Mahonri Moriancumer years after he wrote the Book of Mormon) to ask the angry god of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament not to confound their language as he was doing to everyone on Earth at that time according to Genesis 11:1-9. This was shortly after the time the Bible claims God slaughtered everyone on planet Earth with the exception of Noah and the occupants of the alleged ark. (A fun fact found in Ether 1:8 of the Book of Mormon is that the name of Ether's grandfather was Moron! Very appropriate!)

Ether got his wish, and the Bible god did not confound their language. Instead, the Bible god promised Ether and the Jaredites what he allegedly promised the Hebrews/Jews, that he would make **them** and **their** descendents the greatest nation on Earth. Ether 1:43 reads:

And there will I bless thee and thy seed, and raise up unto me of thy seed, and of the seed of thy brother, and they who shall go with thee, a great nation. And there shall be none greater than the nation which I will raise

*"Traits of the Mosaic History Found Among the Aztaeca Nations", Joseph Smith (editor), *Times and Seasons*, June 15, 1842. Vol.3, No. 16, pp. 818-820.

up unto me of thy seed, upon all the face of the earth.
And thus I will do unto thee because this long time ye
have cried unto me.

This is in conflict with the many promises in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament in which the Bible god promised the Hebrews/Jews that he would make **them** and **their** descendants the most powerful nation on Earth. For just one example, Deuteronomy 28:1 says that God said to the Hebrews/Jews/Israel, “. . . the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth.” If both the Bible and the Book of Mormon are true, God had to be lying to one of them.

Many historical facts contradict the Book of Mormon. The following two factual contradictions, and all of the many factual contradictions in the Book of Mormon, inform us that we should not take the Book of Mormon or Mormonism seriously and certainly not as a guide for our lives.

The first factual contradiction we’ll look at strongly implies that the Jaredites had a written language: “The Jaredite written language excelled that of the Nephites. The Jaredites spoke an ancient language which may have pre-dated the flood. The Nephites spoke a form of Hebrew and wrote in an abbreviated script called Reformed Egyptian.”* However, facts and reality are very different from Mormonism. Prior to the arrival of white people from Europe, the only written language in the Americas was Mayan, which was not known anywhere in the area that is now the United States of America, where Smith claims the Jaredites settled. According to the Book of Mormon and to Mormon teachings, the Jaredites had a written language, yet there is absolutely no evidence discovered that

* “A Comparison of Nephite and Jaredite Culture”, James Lee Warr, <http://www.mormongeography.com/a-comparision-of-nephitejaredite-cultures.html>

would support this claim. This is a great example of why the clergy constantly push people to “have faith,” since what they are teaching cannot withstand the test of our innate God-given reason and reality.

What clearly brings out the lie in Smith’s story is found in Ether 10:22-24 (among many other places), which claims the following about the Jaredites who allegedly settled in North America:

And they were exceedingly industrious, and they did buy and sell and traffic one with another, that they might get gain. And they did work in all manner of ore, and they did make gold, and silver, and iron, and brass, and all manner of metals; and they did dig it out of the earth; wherefore they did cast up mighty heaps of earth to get ore, of gold, and of silver, and of iron, and of copper. And they did work all manner of fine work. And they did have silks, and fine-twined linen; and they did work all manner of cloth, that they might clothe themselves from their nakedness.

Thus, the Jaredites worked “all manner of ore” including “iron, and brass, and all manner of metals.” If this were true, there would be all manner of evidence for it discovered through archaeological digs. There is absolutely no archaeological evidence discovered that supports these claims from the Book of Mormon. Again, prior to the arrival of white people starting with Christopher Columbus in 1492, the native people living in what is now the United States of America did not know how to “work all manner of ore” beyond some very limited and basic work with copper, and they never had metal

tools or weapons but only used tools and weapons which they made from wood and stone.

Like the Bible and Quran, the Book of Mormon is not the Word of God. All it is is merely the poorly written writings of Joseph Smith. If we apply our innate God-given reason to it, we see it is impossible for it to be the Word of God and that we're setting ourselves up for disappointment if we try to use it as something it is not.

The bottom line on knowing if something is from The Supreme Intelligence/God or from people is if it is in line with reality and reason. This principle is reflected in this advice the Deist Thomas Jefferson gave to his nephew Peter Carr in a letter from Paris, France dated August 10, 1787:

In the first place divest yourself of all bias in favor of novelty and singularity of opinion. Indulge them in any other subject rather than that of religion. It is too important, and the consequences of error may be too serious. On the other hand shake off all the fears and servile prejudices under which weak minds are servilely crouched. Fix reason firmly in her seat, and call to her tribunal every fact, every opinion. Question with boldness even the existence of a god; because, if there be one, he must more approve of the homage of reason, than that of blindfolded fear. You will naturally examine first the religion of your own country. Read the Bible then, as you would read Livy or Tacitus. The facts which are within the ordinary course of nature, you will believe on the authority of the writer, as you do those of the same kind in Livy & Tacitus. The testimony of the writer weighs in their favor, in one scale, and their not being against the laws of nature, does not weigh against them.

But those facts in the Bible which contradict the laws of nature, must be examined with more care, and under a variety of faces. Here you must recur to the pretensions of the writer to inspiration from God. Examine upon what evidence his pretensions are founded, and whether that evidence is so strong, as that its falsehood would be more improbable than a change in the laws of nature, in the case he relates. For example, in the book of Joshua, we are told, the sun stood still several hours. Were we to read that fact in Livy or Tacitus, we should class it with their showers of blood, speaking of statues, beasts, &c. But it is said, that the writer of that book was inspired. Examine, therefore, candidly, what evidence there is of his having been inspired. The pretension is entitled to your inquiry, because millions believe it. On the other hand, you are astronomer enough to know how contrary it is to the law of nature that a body revolving on its axis, as the earth does, should have stopped, should not, by that sudden stoppage, have prostrated animals, trees, buildings, and should after a certain time have resumed its revolution, & that without a second general prostration. Is this arrest of the earth's motion, or the evidence which affirms it, most within the law of probabilities? You will next read the New Testament. It is the history of a personage called Jesus. Keep in your eye the opposite pretensions: 1, of those who say he was begotten by God, born of a virgin, suspended & reversed the laws of nature at will, & ascended bodily into heaven; and 2, of those who say he was a man of illegitimate birth, of a benevolent heart, enthusiastic mind, who set out without pretensions to divinity, ended in believing them, and was punished capitally for sedition, by being

gibbeted, according to the Roman law, which punished the first commission of that offence by whipping, & the second by exile, or death in fureâ. See this law in the Digest Lib. 48. tit. 19. §. 28. 3. & Lipsius Lib 2. de cruce. cap. 2. These questions are examined in the books I have mentioned under the head of religion, & several others. They will assist you in your inquiries, but keep your reason firmly on the watch in reading them all.

This sage Jeffersonian advice applies to all religions and to every aspect of our lives. It puts our priceless gift from God of reason in its rightful place and instructs us to use our innate God-given reason for what it was designed for: to weed out the bad and false, and to recognize and embrace the good and true. Reason is an indispensable key to progress, meaning and happiness in our lives and in society. However, it can only benefit us if we make the conscious effort to use it and to act on what it tells us.

CHAPTER THREE

No Savior Needed

One common thread all of the “revealed”/hearsay religions have running through them is the false assumption that we all need a savior. Whether it’s the Jewish messiah, the Christian messiah, the Islamic messiah/mahdi (which also includes Jesus/Isa), the Buddhist messiah, Maitreya, that is popular with many sects of Buddhism, the Hindu messiah Kalki, etc., etc., etc., it’s all belief in someone else making things right for us either in the hereafter and/or in the here and now. This flaw in thinking and belief causes many otherwise good people to shirk their responsibilities and not to do right themselves since they’re awaiting their messiah to do it for them. I remember a good friend of mine telling me how awful things are in society but that she wasn’t worried because her Bible tells her it will all end well with the return of her savior Jesus.

Deism is completely void of any belief in any type of savior, messiah, mahdi, etc., that will magically appear to correct all of our problems here on Earth. The important principle of people accepting their own responsibility to employ their

reason and follow it up with work and action to make a better life for themselves and their families and to create a better world in general is of great significance in Deism. This Deistic principle gives people and society a deep sense of meaning and purpose and virtually unlimited potential for good and for true profound progress and happiness. Balance in all things is important, and the balance between freedom and responsibility is of very great importance. It helps us to center our lives and to recognize our true meaningful purpose in life and the Universe.

The ancient Greek and Roman Stoics held some very Deistic beliefs which help us to understand why we don't need a savior. The primary reason we do not have a need for a savior is that The Supreme Intelligence/God endowed us with reason. The Roman who brought Greek Stoicism to Rome, Cicero, wrote:

The animal which we call man, endowed with foresight and quick intelligence, complex, keen, possessing memory, full of reason and prudence, has been given a certain distinguished status by the Supreme God who created him; for he is the only one among so many different kinds and varieties of living beings who has a share in reason and thought while all the rest are deprived of it. But what is more divine, I will not say in man only, but in all heaven and earth, than reason? And reason, when it is full grown and perfected, is rightly called wisdom. Therefore, since there is nothing better than reason, and since it exists both in man and God, the first common possession of man and God is reason. (Marcus Tullius Cicero, *Great Political Thinkers*, p. 133.)

Many people will object to Cicero writing that only humans have “a share in reason and thought while all the rest are deprived of it.” We know that all mammals and many other life forms do have thought and that they do reason things out. This is exhibited, for example, by wolf packs who work together and communicate with each other while hunting. There are many other examples throughout Nature. However, none of them come close to the level of reason we humans have.

The Greek philosopher Epicurus, who founded the school of philosophy called Epicureanism, spoke a Deistic truth when he said, “It is folly for a man to pray to the Gods for that which he has the power to obtain by himself.” This strong truth-based ideal is one of the many great qualities that serves to make people much more independent and is strongly embraced and promoted by Deism.

The importance the Greeks and Romans placed on reason allowed them to create the most productive societies known in history. They developed, used, benefited from and enjoyed philosophy, rule of law, architecture, the arts, science, medicine and many other great advances we still benefit from today. The Roman Republic is what America’s founders, many of whom were Deists, used as a model for their new American Republic.

To compare the reason-based Roman way of dealing with vision problems and blindness compared to the Jewish way at that time brings out the important, profound and fundamental difference and mindset between a science and reality-based society and a superstition-based society and its desire for a savior.

John 9:6-7 claims Jesus (who was a Jew if he really did exist) healed a blind man by spitting in the dirt and then putting the dirt mixed with spit on the man’s eyes. It reads, “When

he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.”

The Romans used a different approach. The Roman approach was based on science and not on superstition. They had enough knowledge and appreciation of the Designer’s designs through science to actually do cataract surgery. Roman doctors such as Galen used their innate God-given reason to develop surgery procedures and techniques based on their scientific knowledge to truly help people in their daily lives. The Roman Celsus, who also wrote the book *On the True Doctrine: A Discourse Against the Christians*, described a Roman cataract procedure. He wrote, “A needle is to be taken, pointed enough to penetrate, yet not too fine, and this is to be inserted straight through the two outer tunics. When the (correct) spot is reached, the needle is to be sloped.....and should gently rotate there.”*

By realizing that if they wanted improved vision, they had to figure it out for themselves, the Romans were able to correct the vision of people and thus truly make a better world. The ancient Jews and Christians, on the other hand, wallowed in ignorance-based superstitions and brought misery and suffering to the world. The promotion of myths by Christianity such as John 9:6-7 only serves to impede progress because it gives people false ideas and perpetuates a lie. The Christians and their Jewish founders eventually contributed to the downfall of Rome by poisoning the minds of countless Roman citizens with their superstitions and myths. Even today, we still

*Elliott, Jane. “The Romans carried out cataract ops.” *BBC News*. 9 Feb. 2008.

suffer from their false claims of faith healing with the deaths of innocent and helpless children whose sincere Bible-believing Christian parents withhold medical care from them because of the false promises in the Bible of healing through faith and prayer. I fervently wish that all people would realize the Deistic principal of being self-sufficient and working for what one needs, which was so well articulated by the Deist Leonardo da Vinci: “Thou, O God, dost sell unto us all good things at the price of labor” (Gelb 69).

The Roman Stoic, Marcus Aurelius, wrote in his book *Meditations* that we need to always examine things to find their true nature and meaning, a principle that is at the heart of Deism. He wrote:

When an object presents itself to your perception, make a mental definition or at least an outline of it, so as to discern its essential character, to pierce beyond its separate attributes to a distinct view of the naked whole, and to identify for yourself both the object itself and the elements of which it is composed, and into which it will again be resolved. Nothing so enlarges the mind as this ability to examine methodically and accurately every one of life’s experiences, with an eye to determining its classification, the ends it serves, its worth to the Universe, and its worth to men as the members of that supreme City in which all other cities are as households. (59)

When we apply this technique promoted by Marcus Aurelius and the Stoics to claims of saviors, we quickly see those claims are false.

Another teaching by Marcus Aurelius which aligns with Deism and makes the point that we are in control of ourselves

is this: “The properties of a rational soul are these. She can contemplate herself, analyze herself, make of herself what she will, herself enjoy the fruit she bears (whereas the fruit produced by trees, like its counterpart produced by animals, is enjoyed by others) . . .” (165)

We are in control of ourselves. We don't need clergy or ancient “holy” scriptures that were written by ignorant ancient men who believed in witches and that the Earth is flat and at the center of the Universe telling us how to live our lives. We each have divine guidance for living and enjoying our lives through our innate God-given reason that we need to appreciate and use. The title of Deist and American Revolutionary War hero, Ethan Allen's, book sums it up well: *Reason: The Only Oracle of Man*. And the profound joy and freedom we can deserve and experience from the fruits of our own rational thoughts and actions are incomprehensible and deeply life-affirming.

In Elihu Palmer's important and thought-provoking book, *Principles of Nature* he strengthens this observation by writing:

Deism also declares, that the practice of a pure, natural, and uncorrupted virtue, is the essential duty, and constitutes the highest dignity of man; that the powers of man are competent to all the great purposes of human existence; that science, virtue, and happiness, are the great objects which ought to awake the mental energies, and draw forth the moral affections of the human race (192).

The Supreme Intelligence has already given us the power of reason, which, if used and developed, enables us to be our own saviors on this intelligence-based beautiful, planet of ours

and in this intelligence-based, amazing Universe we're all living, breathing and thinking parts of. In addition to this, the Designer has everything in the known Universe based on eternal principles which allow us to study and to learn about them and from them. To me, this demonstrates great love on the part of The Supreme Intelligence/God for us and for the entire Universe. Everything is set-up and designed so we can make true progress if we're willing to study and work. Henry David Thoreau did a beautiful job of showing how the Universe is designed for progress when he wrote, "The cricket, the gurgling stream, the rushing wind amid the trees, all speak to me soberly yet encouragingly of the steady onward progress of the universe."* As living parts of the Universe, we're intended to be a part of this "onward progress of the universe," if we choose to. We're equipped with the reason and ability to be part of this naturally beautiful universal progress. However, in order to do so, we must guard our gift of innate God-given reason from being poisoned by man-made "revealed"/hearsay religions, which only serve to short-circuit our God-given reason and to turn us from the path of progress. (See Appendix A for an interesting Deistic twist on the Garden of Eden myth which helps to explain these important points.)

One powerful and important way to free ourselves and others from the false claim of needing a savior is to apply the first rule of philosophy, as Marcus Aurelius encouraged us to do in all things. Since Christianity is the largest "revealed"/hearsay religion on Earth, currently with over 2 billion people following it and professing to be Christians, we should look at the story of the Christian savior, Jesus. This will not only help Christians free themselves from the mind numbing dogmas

*Friesen, Victor Carl. *The Spirit of the Huckleberry: Sensuousness in Henry Thoreau*. Edmonton. The University of Alberta Press. 1984. Print.

and doctrines of Christianity and the Bible, but it will also help the more than 1.5 billion Muslim people who think of the Bible as being from God and Jesus as a prophet of God.

Elihu Palmer, who was a Christian clergyman prior to becoming an active Deist, wrote very honestly, bluntly and insightfully on the important topic of Jesus being the son of God and the messiah/savior. In *Principles of Nature* Palmer wrote:

With respect to the first proposition, we may observe, that among other strange and marvelous things contained in this scheme of religion, the conception of Jesus Christ is very singular and unnatural; he is ushered into the world in a manner neither credible nor cognizable by the human mind; he has a mother, it is true, but he has no father; for although the lineal descent is traced through many generations down to the person who ought to have been his father, yet the chain is here broken, and he is said to have been begotten by a ghost. To what purpose is this genealogy given, when the lineal descent is to be wholly destroyed in the conclusion of the scene? And after having destroyed it, and ascribed the conception to an unknown phantom, called the Holy Ghost, he is then said to be the eternal Son of the Father, that is, of the Creator and Preserver of the universe. If he is the only-begotten Son of the Father, how can he be the Son of the Holy Ghost? And if he was really begotten by this Ghost, what had the Father to do with this scene of debauchery? At any rate, what conception can the human mind form of this absurd and contradictory representation? This child, when born, appears to be a human being, and yet his

is supernaturally begotten by two supernatural fathers, and he is as old as either of them. Sophistry and folly united cannot exhibit a greater specimen of nonsense and irrationality. This story of the virgin and the ghost, to say no more of it, does not wear the appearance of much religion; and it would not, it is presumed, be difficult in any age or country, to find a sufficient number of men who would pretend to be ghosts, if by such pretensions they could obtain similar favours, especially with the consoling reflection superadded, of becoming the progenitors of the pretended Saviour of a wicked and apostate world. How absurd and contradictory are the principles and the doctrines of this religion! In vain do its advocates attempt to cover this transaction with the machinery of ghosts and supernatural agents. The simple truth is, that their pretended Saviour is nothing more than an illegitimate Jew, and their hopes of salvation through him rest on no better foundation than that of fornication or adultery (22).

The above quote from Palmer strips the entire story of Jesus being the savior of the world down to its bare facts, free of the religious pomposity it's usually dressed in. There is nothing Godly or sacred about any of it. It belittles The Supreme Intelligence/God to the point of God impregnating a Jewish teen, whether it was the Christian god the father or the Christian god the Holy Ghost. It spits in the face of The Supreme Intelligence/God as it spits in the face of every person who loves and appreciates The Supreme Intelligence/God and God's gifts to us of life and reason. Palmer lets every Christian unequivocally know that, by believing in Jesus, they are not resting their hope for salvation and eternal life on God or upon anything

real and of substance, but only upon a “pretended Saviour” who “is nothing but an illegitimate Jew.” So even if a Christian feels they have a need for a savior, they do not have a savior in Jesus.

As is shown in chapter two, Jesus is said to have believed that he was going to return to Earth within the lifetime of the people who were then listening to him (Mark 9:1, 13:26-30; Matthew 16:28, 23:36, 24:34; Luke 9:27, Luke 21:32). This did **NOT** happen. All of those people are now dead and still no Jesus. Our gift of innate reason from The Supreme Intelligence/God uses this fact, along with countless others, to warn us that Christianity is a fraud and violates truth and reality. Jesus, like all the other saviors of all the other “revealed”/hearsay religions, is a failed savior. If you use your God-given, innate reason, you will not fall prey to any of the savior myths and lies.

Too many people falsely believe and fear that if they don't accept Jesus or some other savior from one of the various “revealed”/hearsay religions, they're going to spend eternity suffering and burning in hell. If you believe The Supreme Intelligence/God is just and you reflect even briefly on this threat Christianity uses to get people to become Christians and which many other “revealed”/hearsay religions use to get people to join and support their particular “revealed”/hearsay religion, you will realize there is absolutely no justification for The Supreme Intelligence/God to punish you for using reason. However, by not accepting and using our God-given reason we punish ourselves, because living a truly happy and meaningful life without reason is impossible. To take a quote from the Oliver Stone film *Platoon*, “Hell is the impossibility of reason.” It is by using your God-given, innate reason that you realize the claims that Jesus is meant to be your savior are false. When you apply your reason to the truth and facts, your reason shouts

out to you that these myths are myths and are in no way associated with God, reality and your innate, God-given reason. In fact, your innate, God-given reason is acting like white blood cells. Just as white blood cells in your body attack and destroy physical disease which can destroy your body, so your innate God-given reason attacks bad ideas, lies and falsehoods that can destroy your mind and even your body if they are acted upon: it is then up to you to protect yourself by rejecting those bad ideas, lies and falsehoods which your innate, God-given reason brought to your attention. This puts you on a very solid footing towards purpose, happiness, meaning and progress.

All of the religious writings of the Abrahamic “revealed”/ hearsay religions of Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Mormonism are nonsensical. They not only violate our innate God-given reason, they waste one of the most precious and very limited resources we have: our time/life. Because they are nonsensical it is impossible to make sense of them or to understand them. Studying them and trying to make sense out of them is a huge waste of our time and of our life.

Thomas Paine made this clear when he wrote in *The Age of Reason, The Complete Edition*:

It has been the scheme of the Christian church, and of all the other invented systems of religion, to hold man in ignorance of the Creator, as it is of Government to hold man in ignorance of his rights. The systems of the one are as false as those of the other, and are calculated for mutual support. The study of theology, as it stands in Christian churches, is the study of nothing; it is founded on nothing; it rests on no principles; it proceeds by no authorities; it has no data; it can demonstrate nothing; and it admits of no conclusion. Not any thing can be

studied as a science, without our being in possession of the principles upon which it is founded; and as this is not the case with Christian theology, it is therefore the study of nothing.

Instead then, of studying theology, as is now done, out of the Bible and Testament, the meanings of which books are always controverted and the authenticity of which is disproved, it is necessary that we refer to the Bible of the creation. The principles we discover there are eternal and of divine origin; they are the foundation of all the science that exists in the world, and must be the foundation of theology (150).

The fact that the “holy” books of Christianity and Judaism have no rational basis or conclusion was also addressed by the ancient Greek/Roman Celsus. In *On The True Doctrine: A Discourse Against Christianity*, which was written around 178 CE, Celsus wrote:

For example, there are countless in that region [Judaea] who will “prophesy” at the drop of a hat, in or out of the temples. Others go about begging and claim to be oracles of God, plying their trade in the cities or in military outposts. They make a show of being “inspired” to utter their predications. These habitually claim to be more than prophets, and say such things as “I am God,” or “I am a son of God,” or even “I am the Holy Spirit,” and “I have come for the world is coming to an end as I speak. And the wicked will perish in the fire for their sins. I shall save you; you will yet see me, for I am coming again armed with heavenly powers. So blessed is he

who worships me now. Those who refuse, whole cities and nations, will be cast into the fiery pit. Pity those who don't know me and what is ahead for them, for they will repent in vain and cry for mercy in vain. Those who hear me and believe in me will be saved from the fire." This sort of thing is heard all over Judaea by these most trivial of prophets; and they go on, after parading these threats in front of an audience, to babble about the signs of the Last Days – or to speak of mysterious happenings that no sane and intelligent person would trouble himself to figure out. Their talk is complete nonsense, and for this reason is appealing to the minds of fools and sorcerers, who can take their "predictions" and do with them what they like (106).

One of the terrible realities of belief in a savior, in addition to believing we don't need to work hard to make a better world because the savior is coming back to make things right, is that it tends to couple our belief in a savior with our love of The Supreme Intelligence/God. This is due to the belief that by believing in the "revealed"/hearsay religion's savior, we're getting a ticket to heaven and that by not believing in him we're getting a ticket to hell. This makes unconditional love of God completely impossible. And unconditional love is not only the best kind of love; it is the only true kind of love.

How can we unconditionally love God if we believe not loving God will result in our burning and suffering in hell for eternity? In the convoluted and tortuous doctrines and dogmas of Christianity, all hope of unconditional love of The Supreme Intelligence/God is destroyed. Christianity teaches that God (either the Holy Ghost or God the Father) produced a son with Mary the virgin, and if you believe the son thus

produced died for your sins, you go to heaven when you die; and if you don't believe that unreasonable/ungodly story, you go to hell when you die. It is a profound insult to The Supreme Intelligence/God to believe such rubbish.

CHAPTER FOUR

Altruism Is a Key to Progress

By realizing we do not have any need for a savior because of the Designer's designs which give us not only life but also innate reason, we can become much more altruistic. Just as rejection of the various savior myths free us up to love The Supreme Intelligence/God unconditionally and not based on fear or selfishness, so we also realize that we can likewise love one another without being motivated by fear or selfishness. We have a very strong bond as living and thinking rational members of the Universe with one another.

Reason blows apart all the ungodly/unreasonable artificial barriers put between us by the "revealed"/hearsay religions. Deuteronomy 7:6 from the Jewish "holy" book says that the Jews are "above all people that are upon the face of the earth," but reason says that we are all intrinsically equal members of the same species.

Mark 16:16 from the Christian "holy" book says that "[h]e that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." However, reason says that

God should not reward people for believing in nonsense or performing some superstitious ritual, and God should not punish people for following God's gift to them of reason which instructs them to reject these unreasonable teachings and rituals.

Surah 2:99 from the Muslim "holy" book states, "Verily We [God] have revealed unto thee clear tokens, and only miscreants will disbelieve in them." But reason says, "People shouldn't be called miscreants for disbelieving in nonsense. They should be called wise."

Lastly (for now), 2 Nephi 6:15 from the Mormon "holy" book, threatens, "And they that believe not in him shall be destroyed, both by fire, and by tempest, and by earthquakes, and by bloodshed, and by pestilence, and by famine." But reason calms us with this truth: God does not work like that. God created the Universe and does not intervene much, if at all, in its regular operation. In this life, a hero is about as likely as a villain to be destroyed by a fire, tempest, earthquake, bloodshed, pestilence, or famine.

Instead of believing in these senseless and divisive man-made artificial religious dogmas, doctrines and barriers being taught as though they were from God, we can focus on what unites us as rational beings. This quote from US President John F. Kennedy's speech at American University on June 10, 1963, makes much more sense and is much more helpful than anything found in any of the "holy" books:

So, let us not be blind to our differences--but let us also direct attention to our common interests and to the means by which those differences can be resolved. And if we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity. For, in the

final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal.

What can be added to John Kennedy's list of commonalities of people is innate reason. We are all rational beings endowed by our Designer with the gift of reason, and the more we employ our reason, the more we empower ourselves and the more progress and happiness we can make for ourselves, family, friends and society. The choice is ours to make.

Living our lives with these five things in common with one another, we see cooperation among humanity is of critical importance and is possible because of our reason. Many times conditions and situations demand that people act selflessly for the betterment of society and to attain true progress. This is where altruism is shown to be of prime importance. Altruism is defined in the Merriam-Webster dictionary as "unselfish regard for or devotion to the welfare of others." Without altruism much of the benefits we enjoy today would not be possible.

Many people believe that altruism is bad. One famous example of a person who held and taught altruism is a negative and who is currently strongly embraced and promoted by much of the religious right (there is humor in the fact that the majority of the religious right is composed of misogynistic Christians who are promoting the beliefs of a Jewish Atheist woman) is Alisa Zinov'yevna Rosenbaum, who is better known as Ayn Rand. According to a survey done by the Library of Congress, Rosenbaum/Rand's novel *Atlas Shrugged* is the second most influential book in America*, second only

*Michael Ford, "Ayn Rand and the VIP-DIPers", *Huffington Post*, December 5, 2010

to another book by Jewish writers, the Bible. She said in a lecture delivered at Yale University on February 17, 1960:

As to altruism — it has never been alive. It is the poison of death in the blood of Western civilization, and men survived it only to the extent to which they neither believed nor practiced it. But it has caught up with them — and that is the killer which they now have to face and to defeat. That is the basic choice they have to make. If any civilization is to survive, it is the morality of altruism that men have to reject.

The damaging and violence producing “revealed”/hearsay religions have proven Rosenbaum/Rand wrong as they are largely based on greed and not altruism, as is pointed out in chapter two. They appeal like a con-artist to people’s greed and selfishness by promising them everything from receiving whatever they want through prayer, to receiving much more than what they give,* to receiving eternal life in a heaven with its streets paved in gold or in a paradise with multiple damsels with large beautiful eyes and endless cups of wine. The anti-altruism that permeates the “revealed”/hearsay religions should have produced, based on Rand’s beliefs and teachings, a society close to a utopia. Instead, it has brought thousands of years of fear-based superstitions and religious violence, destroying much of the progress of the ancient Greeks and Romans. It truly is a battle between Jerusalem with its unreasonable religions and Athens with its reason. Reason tells us the importance of altruism and Nature-based progress.

*Luke 6:38 is one powerful example of this greed/selfishness-based appeal to people in religions. It teaches: “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.”

Idealistic altruism is essential to progress. This can be seen in the battle that is considered by many historians to be the battle that saved Western Civilization, the Battle of Thermopylae in 480 BCE in Greece between the Greeks and the Persians. The Greeks were greatly outnumbered by the Persian army and navy. In the narrow coastal pass named Thermopylae, the Greek soldiers held back the invading Persians for three days in order to give the Greek army and navy time to prepare to battle the Persians. The Greek soldiers at Thermopylae altruistically and heroically sacrificed their lives for Greece. Anyone who values Western Civilization owes them for that.

Another important historical event that puts a nail in the coffin of Rand's anti-altruism diatribe is the American Revolution. Without altruism, the American Revolution never would have taken place, let alone succeeded. If the American Revolution never happened or had failed, it would still be illegal to be a Deist and to sell or promote in any way Thomas Paine's book *The Age of Reason*. For example, in 1818 the British freethinker Richard Carlile was arrested on blasphemy charges for selling *The Age of Reason*. He was sentenced to three years in prison and fined 1,500 pounds. Government and religion would still be intertwined and wreaking havoc on our most basic freedoms and liberties, if not for the idealistic altruism and **actions based on that altruism** of the American rebels.

America's founders risked everything they had to wage war against their government (it's interesting to note that Paul Revere did not shout, "The British are coming!" because the people looked at themselves as being British. He instead shouted, "The regulars are coming!") and to create a more progressive Republic. Many of our founders were wealthy established leaders in society at the time of the American Revolution.

Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and George Washington were all very well off with very successful careers and financially secure in 1776. They had everything they needed under the established system, yet they wanted to destroy that system and replace it with a progressive one whose benefits touched the lives of many more people. Based on today's standards which are infected with Rand's anti-altruism beliefs, they'd be considered to be on the lunatic fringe. By waging war against the legally established government, they not only risked losing all their income, wealth and the stability of their families, they risked losing their very lives. If they failed, they would at best be hanged as traitors to the government. At worst, they would be hanged until close to death and then cut down to be drawn and quartered while still alive. Not many people in today's largely greed-driven society would chose all those risks over financial gain, career advancement and material comfort, but, thankfully, the altruistic founders did.

Thomas Jefferson knew people and history. In his *Notes on Virginia* he insightfully wrote:

From the conclusion of this war we shall be going down hill. It will not then be necessary to resort every moment to the people for support. They will be forgotten, therefore, and their rights disregarded. They will forget themselves, but in the sole faculty of making money, and will never think of uniting to effect a due respect for their rights.

Thomas Paine was from the opposite end of the economic spectrum from people like Washington, Franklin, Adams and Jefferson. Paine was poor all of his life. He had a failed government career and a failed business and had been through

bankruptcy before arriving in America. You would think that when he came into his first financial windfall, he would spend the money on himself, perhaps buy a home or a new horse and carriage. This is not what he did when his pamphlet, *Common Sense*, became a best seller. It was published in January of 1776, and by April of that year there were already 120,000 copies of it in circulation. At that time the entire population the the 13 Colonies was only about 2.5 million people. What did Thomas Paine do with his new found financial wealth? He gave it away to the cause of the American Revolution, and it was used to buy much needed supplies for the Continental Army. This altruistic action of Thomas Paine spits in the face of Rand and her anti-altruism rants!

It wasn't only the famous people like Jefferson, Washington and Adams who altruistically paid a very high price for liberty and its progress and who literally risked everything they had for this beautiful ideal. Thousands of new Americans paid a very heavy price for their ideals and desire to make a better world. And it wasn't just the soldiers and Minutemen who paid. Living in today's society, it's difficult to realize the support women of that time gave to the cause of freedom and progress. One moving example is found in the writings of a Mrs. Davis, who was the wife of a Minuteman by the name of Isaac Davis. Her words can be found in the book *The Revolutionary War*, written by Bart McDowell for the National Geographic Society. Isaac took part in the fight against government troops who were ordered to confiscate and/or destroy the guns and ammunition the citizens and anti-government rebels had at Concord, Massachusetts. This was the first time rebels fired on government troops. Mrs. Davis wrote:

Isaac Davis was my husband. He was then thirty years

of age. We had four children; the youngest about fifteen months old. They were all unwell when he left me, in the morning; some of them with the canker-rash.

The alarm was given early in the morning, and my husband lost no time in making ready to go to Concord with his company. My husband said but little that morning. He seemed serious and thoughtful; but never seemed to hesitate. He only said, 'Take good care of the children,' and was soon out of sight.

In the afternoon he was brought home a corpse. He was placed in my bedroom till the funeral.

What an exceptional woman! She loved the ideals of liberty and progress so much, she was willing to sacrifice her family life for them. She and her husband were capable of seeing the big picture and would not let anything stand in their way that would prevent them from fighting for it. To me, this is true altruism and sacrifice of the very highest order, and well placed.

Wealthy women were just as notable and important in seeing a successful progressive march of society. Could you imagine a wealthy woman today who marries a man whose wealth and assets are far below hers actively supporting her new husband in his revolutionary desires and actions that put in jeopardy not only his material wealth, but her much greater level of material wealth? That is exactly what Martha Washington did, who was the wealthiest woman in Virginia at the time she married George Washington. Not only did she have to be concerned for their wealth, she had to be concerned for her children. Going well above and beyond what most people

would have done, she also took an active part in supporting the revolution every winter. She would go to the Continental Army's winter camp and help take care of the troops medically as well as giving their morale a boost.

The sincerity of America's rebels is demonstrated in their above-mentioned altruistic actions as well as many additional altruistic actions on their part. Actions **ALWAYS** speak much louder than words.

The actions of Rand clearly demonstrate her deep lack of conviction in what she taught and claimed to believe. For example, she taught that any support people give to governments is wrong. Yet, when she was in her late 60s, she gave a lecture in 1974 (one of her annual Ford Hall Forum Lectures), and in the question and answer portion after her lecture, she told her listeners, "Give all help possible to Israel." Rand donated her own money to the Jewish state as well as encouraged others to give to Israel.

Her actions regarding her own personal health reveal more of her hypocrisy. Rand enjoyed smoking cigarettes and was a heavy smoker. This caused her to have heart and lung problems. In 1974 she had surgery to address her lung cancer. Her medical expenses were taken care of by tax dollars since she had Medicare and Social Security benefits under her less known alias of Ann O'Connor. (Her husband's name was Frank O'Connor.) She was as bad as Christian televangelist and faith healer Pat Robertson, who encourages his followers to rely on the Bible's empty promises of healing through prayer and faith while he relies on doctors and hospitals for everything from knee surgery to heart surgery.

The real and true shining examples of altruism and the good it brings to our world and our lives, from the ancient Greeks through to the American Revolution, plus many other

inspiring examples not covered here, greatly overshadow the greed, selfishness and hypocrisy of Rosenbaum/Rand and the fear, greed and selfish tricks of the writers of the Bible, Quran and Book of Mormon.

CHAPTER FIVE

Deistic Changes and Improvements to Be Expected

All of our current reality is due to thoughts and ideas we have had and actions we've taken based on those thoughts and ideas. It is also due to thoughts and ideas the people who came before us had and which they acted upon. For example, Benjamin Franklin liked Thomas Paine when he first met him in England in 1774. His idea and belief that Thomas Paine was a good and intelligent man lead Franklin to suggest to Paine that Paine should go to America. His favorable ideas and beliefs about Paine also inspired Franklin to write a letter of recommendation for Paine, and it is believed by many, to give the financially-impooverished Paine the necessary money to make the trip to America possible.

These thoughts, ideas, beliefs and actions of Ben Franklin's in 1774 are still having a positive impact on us and on the world today, for if Thomas Paine never made it to America, it is very probable that the world would still be suffering under the divine rights of kings and even fewer people would

be aware of Deism. John Adams made this clear. Even though Adams' personality clashed with Paine's personality and he held some negative feelings towards Paine (he once described Thomas Paine as "a mongrel between pig and puppy, begotten by a wild boar on a bitch wolf"), he also wrote, "Without the pen of Paine the sword of Washington would have been wielded in vain." This is due to Thomas Paine writing *Common Sense*, which was published on January 10, 1776. *Common Sense* won over many people to the cause of the American Revolution.

In addition to this, when the American Revolution was seeing its darkest days and many people wanted to quit, Paine wrote a series of pamphlets called *The Crisis* which inspired the people to keep on fighting, struggling and sacrificing for the ideals of the American Revolution. Paine's words enjoyed the strength and carried the power of Paine's heartfelt and very sincere convictions, which he demonstrated when he joined the Continental Army as a private. (He was eventually promoted to aid-de-camp to General Greene.) The rebels acted on Paine's inspiring words, ideals and ideas, and eventually triumphed with the successful conclusion of the American Revolution.

If Deists today take reason-based actions to help one another and to promote and advance reason and Deism in the world, we will build on what those who went before us were able to accomplish through their reason-based altruistic actions. Eventually this will lead to a world free of religious violence, fear and superstitions. A beautiful world well worth working and sacrificing for, and a joy and privilege to live in. This world will be something to be proud to pass on to our children and grandchildren and to future generations.

Thomas Paine made it clear in *The Age of Reason* that the

sacrifices he and his fellow rebels made that brought about the successful American Revolution made it possible for a successful revolution in religion based on our innate reason and Deism to take place. Paine wrote:

Soon after I had published the pamphlet *Common Sense*, in America, I saw the exceeding probability that a revolution in the system of government would be followed by a revolution in the system of religion. The adulterous connection of church and state, wherever it had taken place, whether Jewish, Christian, or Turkish, had so effectually prohibited by pains and penalties, every discussion upon established creeds, and upon first principles of religion, that until the system of government should be changed, those subjects could not be brought fairly and openly before the world; but that whenever this should be done, a revolution in the system of religion would follow. Human inventions and priestcraft would be detected; and man would return to the pure, unmixed and unadulterated belief of one God, and no more.

By building on what the American revolutionaries built, in our case the separation of religion and government in America and now in virtually all of the Western nations, we can establish Deism as the norm in the minds of the vast majority of people in the West and eventually around the globe. In Deism we have the potential to connect with virtually everyone on Earth because everyone of us has reason in common with each other. Deism is reason-friendly. This resonates with people, some right away and others over time. By promoting Deism we are planting seeds in the minds of people whether

we see instant results or not. In my personal case it took me several years after becoming aware of Deism through reading the first few pages of Thomas Paine's *The Age of Reason*, to evolve from being a staunch Christian to being a Deist. Of primary importance is that we never stop in our efforts to get the word out about Deism and that we in fact increase our efforts to promote Deism to the world by every rational and non-violent means possible. (The only time violence is acceptable is in the case of self-defense. If this principle was adhered to, we would live in a world virtually free of violence.)

Due to Deism being rational and natural, it appeals to many people from an Atheistic and Agnostic background. Frequently, I hear from people who tell me how happy they are to learn about Deism and that they believed they were Atheists or Agnostics because they rejected the teachings of all of the "revealed" religions. After learning about Deism and its promotion of our innate reason and belief in The Supreme Intelligence/God based on the application of that reason on the laws and designs in Nature, they gladly realize they are Deists. Deism also connects with non-dogmatic Atheists and Agnostics, as well.

People currently in "revealed"/hearsay religions also have God-given reason, though it has been neglected and pushed aside in order to make room for man-made religion. Since the sincere followers of the various "revealed"/hearsay religions belong to their particular belief system due to sincerely wanting to please God and to get closer to God and they honestly believe that God is the author of that religion and its "holy" scriptures, or, at a minimum, the inspiration and director of that religion and those scriptures, if they can be shown that God has nothing to do with their religion based on the ungodly/unreasonable false teachings promoted by it, the vast

majority of them will realize the truth to this statement made by Arthur Schopenhauer: “A man cannot serve two masters, so it is either reason or the scriptures.”* The realization of this profound truth will cause the sincere followers of the various “revealed”/hearsay religions to realize that God gave them reason and not religion. Many of them will then leave their religions and become Deists. This will not only help Deism grow, it will greatly weaken the “revealed”/hearsay religions they are leaving and withdrawing their support from. This will **eventually** bring about the collapse of those “revealed”/hearsay religions as well as the collapse of the religious violence, fear and superstition those religions promote.

One outstanding and vitally important quality of Deism is its lack of man-made doctrine masquerading as coming from God and not man. This quality allows for free thought and free speech to always prevail in Deism. There is absolutely no possibility of Deism ever embracing or promoting blasphemy rules or laws of any type. Deists share the same mindset as most of America’s revolutionaries, many of whom were Deists. In Matthew Stewart’s fascinating book *Nature’s God: The Heretical Origins of the American Republic*, he touches on this quality when he writes that America’s founders “were after all just about as eager to disagree with one another as to start a revolution” (2). This deep appreciation for and quality of free thinking and free speech is alive and well with Deists in the twenty-first century and can be evidenced and witnessed today by listening to podcasts of the World Union of Deists at www.deism.com. The differing opinions and beliefs of different Deists are freely expressed in the free exchange of ideas without anyone attempting to silence fellow Deists who do

*Hollingdale, R.J. *Arthur Schopenhauer: Essays and Aphorisms*. London: Penguin Books, 1970. Print.

not agree with them or becoming offended that a fellow Deist disagrees with them. Deists not only believe in, but actually practice, the free exchange of ideas and strongly believe that the free exchange of ideas is the only road that leads to true progress and to a better life and world.

As Deism continues to grow, we will see Deist Reason Centers being established around the world. Already the World Union of Deists has a Deist Reason Center in Washington state thanks to the altruism of activist Deist Paul Mopps, and there are plans in the works for another one in South Africa. The end goal is to have as many Deist Reason Centers as are needed to educate people about Deism and to serve the needs of people. DRCs are, and will remain, ritual free and will be staffed by knowledgeable Deists who can answer any questions people may have about Deism. They will have libraries containing books, periodicals and other media about Deism as well as about science, math and history. They will have people willing and able to help people overcome illiteracy. Each DRC will have a quality telescope and microscope as well as knowledgeable people who can assist others in their use and appreciation. There will be volunteer doctors, nurses, dentists and veterinarians who can help people and their animals who fall between the cracks and who don't have adequate care. Providing food and shelter for people without homes will be an important part of our Deist Reason Centers as will aiding the local community in times of disasters.

Deist Reason Centers will not only serve the purpose of educating people about Deism and helping people with their very real needs, they will also help keep people free of falling victim to the "revealed"/hearsay religions and their damaging superstitions that currently dominate charity type of work.

Just as Deism sees the Universe and creation as the only

possible Word of God and works to replace the beliefs of people in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, the Christian Bible, the Quran and the Book of Mormon with the recognition that none of these books are from God and the only possible Word of God really is the Universe and creation itself, Deism also wants to replace the current places of worship of the various “revealed”/hearsay religions with Deist Reason Centers. This is something Thomas Paine had in mind when he wrote the following in *The Age of Reason*:

The Bible of the creation is inexhaustible in texts. Every part of science, whether connected with the geometry of the universe, with the systems of animal and vegetable life, or with the properties of inanimate matter, is a text as well for devotion as for philosophy — for gratitude as for human improvement. It will perhaps be said, that if such a revolution in the system of religion takes place, every preacher ought to be a philosopher. Most certainly; and every house of devotion a school of science (153).

Deist Reason Centers will be a combination of a school of science, a community center, a forum for the free exchange of ideas and a place people in need can come to to receive food and shelter as well as medical and dental care for themselves and veterinary care for their animals. Critical thinking, which is an essential and important element of Deism, will always be promoted at Deist Reason Centers. This will help ensure that Deist Reason Centers will be places for the wellbeing and empowerment of people to improve their own lives and enable them to do even more to bring true progress to the world and to society.

As Deists continue to awaken more and more people by connecting with their already present, innate, God-given reason to the reality of Deism, Deism will continue to grow and to help people develop much better lives and a much better world. As churches, mosques, temples and synagogues are replaced with Deist Reason Centers, people around the world will create and enjoy a new dawn pulsating with free thinking, discovery and true natural progress. They will be empowered by Deism to create a much more peaceful world and society with the elimination of religious violence, which is currently brought to us by the unreasonable/ungodly “revealed”/hearsay religions. Gone will be the days when ungodly/unreasonable religious beliefs brought about the deaths of innocent children through the religious lie of faith healing. Gone will be the religious belief that God chose one group of people to be God’s favorite people at the expense of everyone else. No longer will people live in fear of The Supreme Intelligence/God or believe that people who do not believe as they do will be burned for eternity in hell by God. Children will no longer be infected with guilt by being taught that they were born evil and God had to suffer and die on a cross for them. Instead they will be taught that The Supreme Intelligence/God designed them to live happy and meaningful lives that are full of purpose and equipped them to do so by giving them the gifts of life and reason and that both should be used to the very fullest extent possible. When this is done, evidence of The Supreme Intelligence/God is seen in every part of intelligently designed Nature and the Universe and in themselves. This is a source of constant inspiration, motivation and peace of mind. As Deists it’s our privilege to educate other people about this Deistic freedom and progress they have waiting for them.

APPENDIX A

A Deistic Satirical Take on the Garden of Eden

by David Bunch

ACT ONE

1. God created the world and two people named Adam and Eve, with whom he intended to populate the world.
2. One day, while God was not looking, the Devil came and captured Adam and Eve.
3. Adam and Eve were imprisoned in the Devil's garden called "Eden." God spoke to his eternal foe and asked for the return of his people. But the Devil, being fond of his new pets, refused.
4. God resolved to liberate Adam and Eve. Taking the shape of a serpent, God sneaked into the Devil's garden.
5. Sensing that Eve was the more insightful of the pair, God approached her.
6. God said to Eve, "If you will listen to me, I know a way for you to escape your imprisonment."

7. Eve said, "But Mr. Serpent, I do not wish to escape Eden. I like it here. This garden has everything I need."

8. God said, "You do not know what you are missing. Outside of this garden is an entire world, much larger than a mere garden. This world was created for your use. You will be much more satisfied there."

9. Eve said, "Really? I need to discuss this with Adam."

10. God said, "No, don't do that! Listen to me. In the far part of the garden there is a tree, called the Tree of Knowledge. Eat from this tree, and trick Adam into doing the same. Then you will know of the world at large, and your true mission in life."

11. And so Eve did as God asked. She and Adam ate from the Tree of Knowledge. They knew at once of the world outside and they were astonished to know how large and beautiful it was.

12. The Devil, sensing a disturbance, came into his garden to check on things. He was surprised to find that Adam and Eve had put on clothing and were building a boat out of fallen trees. He knew at once that they discovered the Tree of Knowledge.

13. The Devil was very cross. He spoke to Adam and Eve. "You think you are smart now! The world outside is not as grand as you think it is. In here, you are safe and taken care of. Out there, you must work and suffer."

14. Adam spoke. "We know of the world at large and our true potential. What you say may be true, but we do not want to live in a state of perpetual dependence. We are going to leave this garden and take our chances in the world."

15. Adam and Eve climbed into their boat and floated down river, exiting Eden.

16. The Devil began looking about his garden. By and by, he found a serpent that was not his own. The Devil spoke, "I see you now, God. I wish to confront you."

17. God resumed his natural shape. God and the Devil stood facing each other. God spoke. "Those people were my creation, and I intended to populate the world with them. You stole them from me and now I have stolen them back."

18. The Devil replied, "You are clever God, but I am more clever still. Adam and Eve will populate the world, but once they have done this, I will find a way to turn their descendants into my servants."

19. God said, "You shall not succeed. I will place a part of myself inside of each newborn child. This shall be called the 'heart' and will inspire people to wonder, think, question and reason. The people of my world will never be separated from me, and they will never serve you."

20. "We shall see," said the Devil.

ACT TWO

1. Adam and Eve entered into the world. There they worked and suffered just as the Devil said they would, but even so they felt satisfaction. They knew they were doing that for which they were created.

2. Adam and Eve parented many children and these children parented many more. By and by, the world became full of the progeny of Adam and Eve. God was pleased.

3. The Devil was not pleased. The success of his rival irritated him greatly. The Devil tried repeatedly to enslave the progeny of Adam and Eve, but he was not successful.

4. Thwarting the Devil with every attempt was the heart, that part of God that existed inside of every person.

5. The Devil thought to himself, *It appears that the only way I can enslave these people is if I somehow convince them to stop following their own hearts. I must be crafty.*

6. The Devil hatched a crooked plan. He took the form of a spirit and spoke to an impressionable man named Abraham.

7. “Listen to me, Abraham, for I am the Lord God,” said the Devil. “All of humanity is born separate from me. But I have chosen your people to be my special people. I will teach you how to reunite yourselves with me.” Abraham felt a rush of pride at having been chosen, and he agreed to do the Devil’s bidding.

8. For the following months and years, the Devil instructed Abraham and his people. He taught them elaborate and absurd rituals. This, the Devil knew, would keep their minds focused on external things and thus keep them from looking inside — where the heart dwelt.

9. The people of Abraham performed their rituals with great diligence. They believed that by performing rituals, they were uniting themselves with God, when, in fact, they were separating themselves from God.

10. The Devil was pleased with his success. He searched the world and found other men like Abraham. Soon the world was rife with ritualism and divided into hostile tribes.

ACT THREE

1. God saw what the Devil was doing, but he did not fret, for the heart, placed inside each person, is not just the connection between God and humanity. The heart is also the source of inspiration and, therefore, creativity.

2. God knew that tribes who became ritualistic would also lose their ability to invent new things. These tribes would fall behind and be conquered by other, more advanced tribes.

3. And so it came to pass that the Devil's primary weapon was ritualism and God's primary weapon was secularism. Some centuries, the Devil enjoyed the upper hand, and other centuries, God did.

4. The battle never did end. It goes on today much as it did in Abraham's time. The battle never will end either. It will go on and on, *ad infinitum*.

The End

APPENDIX B

A Spiritual and Intellectual Journey From Mormonism to Deism

by Richard Williamson

I find it strange that so much of our human intellect and emotion is wasted dwelling on the myths upon which all religions are founded. The conclusion that all religions are manmade was one of the greatest discoveries of my life. All religions are specifically designed by their originators to be self-serving and designed to maintain social and political control of the adherents. In some cases the design is so grand as to attempt gaining and maintaining world power, as was the case with the great Roman Catholic (Universal) Church. Today we are vividly witnessing the threatening rise of Islam in its bid to take over the world, with its Jihadist agenda and blatant willingness to kill, maim and destroy the infidel; the infidel being anyone who is not a worshiper of Allah and a follower of his prophet, Muhammad. Theocratic attempts to rule the world via a hybrid governmental system of mixing religious and political power have always proven to be a failure, a failure that brings death and persecution, and that fosters a deadly and deepening ignorance of the masses under the

control of these supposed prophets and holy men who claim to speak for God. It goes without exception that these “prophets of God” always erupt on the scene as self-anointed saviors. They all have some new and better book and claim, “God gave me a dream and now the world must listen to me.” Many have claimed that an angel visited them, or God himself showed them that they are to be the new messiah; and if people do not listen to this new brand of religious piracy, they will perish in hell for all eternity.

It goes without exception that the threat of eternal death, burning in hell, losing your 70 virgins, or having your family taken away from you in the next life for disobedience to “the one true church” in this life, is always the closing sales pitch of these arrogant and deranged “prophets and holy men” who claim to personally speak for God. This God is, of course, the one true God, and he loves you. But if you fail to follow the rules as set down by these earthly anointed holy men, you will feel God’s wrath when you die. Should one belong to Islam or be a victim of its jihad, you may well feel the wrath of Allah while still alive. This living threat of violent reprisal, in today’s world, is mostly limited to Islam, yet countless lives are damaged by the religiocentric arrogance of most religious groups once a person breaks ranks or questions the veracity of their particular sect.

The theme seems to be that God only really loves you if you believe and behave the way our group says you must, for, after all, we speak for God.

Why do religious groups claim such authority? Usually it is because their “authority” comes from a book, the Christians have the Bible, the Jew the Torah, the Muslims the Koran, and Mormonism claims Joseph Smith brought yet another one and only true book written by God himself via man’s assistance, the Book of Mormon.

Mormons also claim revelation from God via Joseph Smith in two other exclusively Mormon books, *The Book of Abraham* and *The Doctrine and Covenants*, formerly *The Book of Commandments*. Both books were written by Joseph Smith and are claimed by Mormons to be direct revelations from God to Smith. *The Book of Abraham* is claimed to be a translation from Egyptian hieroglyphics by Smith and it has been fully examined by many top academic Egyptologists. The conclusion of these scholars is that Smith's "revelatory" translation of the *Book of Breathing*s is nonsense. The actual papyrus from which Smith "translated" his book of Abraham is nothing more than an Egyptian funeral text, so the *Book of Breathing*s that was commonly used in Egypt at the time of its creation. There are literally thousands of these funeral texts in the possession of museums, private and academic collections the world over. The papyrus Smith had was not a story about Abraham in Egypt; Smith again fabricated a fantastic story of religious fiction and claimed he received a revelation from God. The fact that no one on Earth could decipher Egyptian hieroglyphics at the time Smith claimed he could is a well-known fact. The Rosetta Stone was not discovered until some 30 years later. This codex was the key to breaking the language of the Egyptian hieroglyphics. *The Book of Abraham* has been thoroughly discredited by every reputable Egyptologist that has investigated this "revelation" of Joseph Smith.

The Abrahamic religions consist of Judaism, Islam and Christianity. All these groups claim to have an original exclusive deal with God as far back as Abraham. Mormons claim their religion actually goes back to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, thus trumping Judaism, Christianity and Islam. I ask where is the evidence for that totally fallacious claim? The only evidence forthcoming from the Mormons is, "Oh, it was

revealed by God to Joseph Smith the prophet!” There is no evidence for this exclusive claim of Mormonism; you must have faith and trust that the leaders are telling you the truth!

All organized religions breed violence and intolerance. Rare is the occasion when nothing more than lip service is paid to inter-faith religious tolerance. It mystifies me when, after thousands of years of recorded history, we humans fail to see the light of truth. We have become so very insular in our thinking to the point of true cognitive dissonance, cognitive dissonance that keeps us from embracing the truth when the evidence is presented to us in clear and valid arguments. I speak of the insurmountable evidence, the scientifically established facts that prove all religions are manmade mythological systems. Yet the faithful just bury their heads in the sand and refuse to look at the evidence and continue to live in ignorance fueled by the denial of reality. It is a cognitive choice to refuse to look at the evidence; I was once like this myself. It can be frightening to think that all my religious indoctrination is false, for what would become of me then? It is claimed that Jesus stated the answer to this fear: “Ye shall know the truth and the truth will set you free.”

During the Dark Ages, brought about in large part by the intellectually stifling Roman Catholic Church, we saw persecution, torture and killing of anyone who dared challenge the teachings of the Papacy. We see the brutality of Islam today, the riots in cities and the bombing of innocent people because someone put a cartoon in a newspaper that the Jihadist claims, via some form of revelation, that these things are offensive to Allah and his prophet Muhammad and punishment must be meted out. The Jews claim in the Old Testament that God commanded the holy Israelite armies to destroy innocent life, burn villages and towns, kill animals and leave nothing

but a razed stubble field. For what reason? Because God said that they are the chosen people and everything else must die. Further we have the historical and archaeological testimony of the “holy wars,” Christians and Muslims fighting for their supremacy as God’s chosen people. Really it was about land, power and world domination. I am convinced God had nothing to do with it.

The Mormons also have a dark legacy that is well hidden from the vast majority of the Mormon faithful. The Mountain Meadows Massacre occurred on September 11, 1857. It is the most blatant of many barbarous acts in Mormon history. The Fancher–Baker wagon train party were in route to California from Arkansas, when they met the evil face of the Brigham Young sect of Mormons in Southern Utah. Under a false flag of truce the Mormons lured the settlers out of their circled wagon position, disarmed them and then systematically killed 120 men, women and children. The wagons, draft animals, cattle and personal possessions of the Fancher-Baker party were stolen and divided up among the killers. This barbarous act was the largest act of domestic terrorism until 3,000 people died in the September 11, 2001 Islamic terrorist attacks in New York City.

Honest historians have concluded that the Mountain Meadows Massacre occurred primarily as retribution for the murder of Parley Pratt, a Mormon apostle. Pratt was gunned down by an irate man who was the husband of a woman that Pratt had seduced and convinced to join his group of “celestial wives.” She became one of Pratt’s polygamist wives while still married to another man. This couple was from Arkansas as was the Fancher-Baker party. The Fancher-Baker party became a scapegoat for the Mormon wrath. Being from Arkansas, they were labeled as being responsible for Pratt’s death, and rumors

were circulating among the Utah Mormons that some male members of the Fancher-Baker party had taken part in killing Joseph Smith at Carthage, Illinois, in 1844. None of the men in the Fancher-Baker party were in Carthage, Illinois when Smith was shot. The man who killed Parley Pratt was not a member of the Fancher-Baker party. The Mormons wanted revenge, and the exclusive Mormon doctrine of Blood Atonement provided the justification for killing these 120 people from the Fancher-Baker wagon train.

Blood Atonement is a bizarre doctrine of Mormonism that they today deny (lie about) was ever taught by the Mormon Church, yet the original Mormon writings prove otherwise. Blood Atonement was taught openly by Brigham Young and other Mormon ecclesiastical leaders in Utah. It is a doctrine that simply states there are certain sins that a person can commit that are not covered by the blood atonement of Jesus Christ. Yet according to true Christian doctrine all sins are covered by the sacrifice of God's Son on the cross at Calvary. The Mormon blood atonement doctrine states this is not true, and the only way to have certain sins remitted is by having one's own blood shed, because even Jesus cannot save you from certain sins. Thus, this doctrine of blood atonement laid the groundwork for the killing of the 120 innocent people of the Fancher-Baker party.

Further, the original Utah-era Mormon temple endowment ceremony put the members under an Oath of Vengeance to seek the destruction of enemies of the church who were responsible for the death of Smith and his brother Hyrum. This oath was not taken out of the endowment ceremony until the 1930's. There was also a three-part symbolic act in the temple endowment ceremony where the patrons simulated having their throats cut, tongues pulled out by the root, hearts cut

out of their chests, and intestines disemboweled for revealing the secret teachings taught in “The House of the Lord.” These three self-sacrificing acts were removed from the temple endowment ceremony in 1990. I truly fail to see where any of these teachings of hatred and violent action have any place in a church that claims it believes in Jesus Christ.

This is a major reason why Mormonism will never be accepted by most Christians as a Christian denomination, because Mormonism at its core denies the complete atonement of Jesus Christ according to New Testament theology. There are a host of other exclusively Mormon doctrines which also disqualify Mormonism from being accepted as a Christian denomination and rightfully so. Mormonism is not a Christian religion. I did not understand, until I had done a fair amount of research into Christian origins and New Testament theology, why Mormonism is not a Christian faith. This is in spite of the fact that Mormons claim to worship Jesus Christ. The Mormon Jesus is not the Jesus of New Testament theology or original Christian theology. The Mormon Jesus is the product of Joseph Smith’s imagination.

After decades of historical research into what and why the Mountain Meadows Massacre happened, it is also a strong conclusion that Brigham Young was attempting to send a clear message to the “Mericans” that his rule was absolute and that he should be feared in his little Mormon kingdom of the West. The term “Mericans” is a derogatory term that Brigham Young used to describe the leaders of America’s government and any outsiders who supported the United States of America. Brigham Young was anti-American, for he was God’s chosen and anointed prophet and Brigham’s law superseded the laws of the constitutional republic of the United States. Joseph Smith also believed he was above the law of America,

that Smith's laws were the laws of God, and he would bow to no one. These 1857 killings in Utah were committed on the orders of the leaders of "The One True Church of Jesus Christ as restored by the prophet Joseph Smith." Apparently Jesus likes the idea of killing innocent people who do not believe in "The one true church of Mormonism."

The 2001 attacks in New York City and Washington DC were also perpetrated by a religious group claiming supremacy in the eyes of God, the One True religion of Islam with its God Allah and his prophet Muhammad. How strange it is that these "revealed" religious attacks occurred on the same date, September 11th.

This aggressive Mormon animosity and religiocentrism really began much earlier in the 1830's in Missouri under Joseph Smith. Mormons love to cling to the idea that they were and still are persecuted because of their beliefs. In part this is true, because claiming persecution helps fuel their need to feel superior as they are now God's chosen church and the persecution badge justifies this self-delusion. It also makes them kin to the Jews who were also persecuted. Mostly the Mormons were persecuted only after they made war-like actions and threats to their neighbors in Missouri because the Mormons made it clear they were the true Zion people (not the Jews) and that God had promised to deliver the promised land of Missouri to them. This new Zion, Missouri, was the rightful inheritance of the new Zionist people, the Mormons. Missouri was the place of the Garden of Eden, according to Joseph Smith, where Jesus was coming back to Adam ondi Ahman (a small place near Independence, Missouri) to build the New Jerusalem, and at that future time a magnificent temple would descend from heaven. This Adam ondi Ahman, getting its name from Joseph Smith, is in Mormon lore the place where

the chosen and anointed Mormon faithful will someday walk back to and gather in solemn assemblies to meet personally with Adam and Jesus and all the other holy men of Israelite/Christian history in a big council of God's elect.

The lionization of Joseph Smith is only recognized within the Mormon Church. History is very clear that Smith died in a gun fight after having shot three men. Two he killed and a third he wounded, with a Pepper Box 6 barreled pistol that was smuggled into his jail cell. Smith did not die a willing martyr for Jesus Christ, as did many of the early followers of Christ. Smith was a convicted con man, a participant in conspiracy to commit murder, a soothsayer, a worker of black magic, a pedophile, and was married to at least 30 wives, many of whom were married to other men at the time "Old Joe Smith" convinced them to marry him or God would destroy **him**. Had Smith lived to go to trial, for he had been subpoenaed by the president of the United States to appear before the Supreme Court in Washington D.C. on the charge of treason, Smith's reign as king of this world and his Mormonism would have ended abruptly. Yes, Smith had himself ordained king of the world by his secret council of 50. What is so odd is that Smith personally chose the members of his council of 50, knowing they would anoint him king of the world. Ironically, Smith died in the aforementioned gun fight in the jail in Carthage, Illinois, a short time after being "anointed king of the world."

Smith was being held on charges of treason and violation of the first amendment constitutional rights of his neighbors. Smith ordered the burning and destruction of a printing press. The press and the printing shop were both destroyed because the truth had been printed about Smith and other elite members of Smith's Mormon kingdom. They did not like the light of day illuminating their various crimes and sexual indiscretions, after

all these were God's chosen and anointed leaders in these the last days before the return of Jesus Christ. The Mormon Church to this day frowns heavily on any of its members being critical of the "Brethren." In fact, honest and critical evaluation of Mormon history by its members is highly discouraged. Mormons are today counseled to read only church-authorized sources of information. There is an infamous secret vault in Salt Lake City, under the watchful eye of the first presidency of the Mormon Church. This vault is closed to all but a very select few. This is the place where sensitive documents are kept, documents that would rewrite the real history of Smith and his Mormon kingdom. This information is kept out of the public eye, for much of it is damaging and would clearly show Mormonism to be a huge fraud. These facts are known in part, because in the past select researchers have been given access to this vault. Much of the legitimate documentary evidence available in literature and research papers on Mormon origins come from these now secured sources. It is an interesting aside that the Seventh Day Adventists also have a secret vault for the same purpose as the Mormons, to preserve the false prophecies of Ellen G. White who made similar predictions as Joseph Smith which flopped in their veracity. It seems that cults the world over have secret vaults to keep prying eyes out. The Vatican is another good example.

Recently a Mormon friendly version of "the Joseph Smith papers" has been released by the Mormon Church. It is not complete. The books contain sanitized and reworked history to promote the idea that Joseph Smith was all the things that the modern Mormon Church leaders teach its members that he was. I think propaganda that is created and controlled by the same organization should arouse suspicion in our minds. It should at least make one stop and look both ways before stepping out into the oncoming traffic of truth.

There is a vast amount of literature and resource material available to thoroughly discredit Joseph Smith and the entire content of the Mormon theology. Mormonism promotes the weakest and weirdest doctrines of all the pseudo-Christian sects that came out of the American revival period in the early 19th century. The entire Mormon temple ceremonies are nothing but hodge-podge Masonic rituals mixed with Smith's imagination and some Old Testament flavorings thrown in for good measure. Mormons claim these temple rituals go all the way back in antiquity to Adam and Eve. This is another absurd claim that is easily proven false because there is no record whatever in all of Judaism that even remotely represents Mormonism's interpretation of ancient Israelite temple worship. Mormons claim that all this was lost because of corrupt priests and evil leaders, and that God revealed it back to Smith so he could restore these precious lost rituals so all of mankind could learn the mysteries of godliness by going to the Mormon temple. Well someone better notify the Jewish scholars and rabbis that the Mormons now have all the "lost temple rituals" that the Jews did not even know they had lost.

The Book of Mormon is claimed by Mormons to be the keystone of their religion. They made a big mistake with that statement. The evidence against all things claimed in "Old Joe Smith's gold bible" is enormous. One does not even have to look at the claims of the Book of Mormon as it relates to America — the place where these magical events allegedly took place — in order to fully discredit the claimed religious history of the Book of Mormon. Current biblical archaeology alone disproves Smith's 19th century understanding of world history, especially Smith's knowledge of biblical history. When we get past that evidence, we are left with the basic tenets and claims of the Book of Mormon as relating to America, where

this religious history is supposed to have occurred. The Book of Mormon is so riddled with anachronisms and faulty history as to make it a fully discredited work of fiction. The archaeological, geographic, literary and genetic evidence prove the Book of Mormon to be nothing more than a blatant fraud perpetrated by Smith and at least three other accomplices: Oliver Cowdry, Hyrum Smith and Sidney Rigdon. Much of the content of the Book of Mormon was plagiarized from the King James Version of the Bible and at least two other books of religious fiction; *View of the Hebrews* by Pastor Ethan Smith (no relation to Joseph Smith) and *A Manuscript Lost* by Rev. Solomon Spaulding. The Book of Mormon was written mostly while Joseph Smith had his head stuck inside his hat while he gazed upon a “magic rock-Seer Stone” which is also the same method Smith used to find hidden treasure in the earth!

The Book of Mormon has been analyzed by advanced computerized programs; the conclusion is that plagiarism is without a doubt present. Most recently a group of researchers at Stanford University put the Book of Mormon through an exhaustive examination utilizing the computer program SPSS, a very sophisticated statistical analysis tool. The lead professor in this venture was an active Mormon man who seemingly could no longer live in the world of cognitive dissonance required by Mormonism in order to “keep your faith.” The outcomes of this Stanford University research will be presented at The Ex-Mormon Foundation Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah on October 10, 2009 at 10:45 A.M. by Professor Craig Criddle, PhD, Stanford University. I will be in attendance to hear firsthand the results of this extensive study.

Today, we know that the Old Testament is not a continuous history of the Israelites. In fact, the unification of Israel did not begin to occur until the time of King Josiah in the

seventh century BCE (600 BCE). Moses never was in Egypt, and 600,000 armed male Israelites never marched out of Egypt. This is absurd. Six hundred thousand men along with women and children would by conservative estimates equate to approximately 2 million people. Two million people with flocks and herds wandering in the wilderness for 40 years and they left not one shred of physical evidence that they were there. What about the bedtime story of Joshua and the city of Jericho? Did the walls come tumbling down and the sun stand still because the Earth stopped rotating? No, these things did not happen; again the archaeological evidence and the laws of physics speak the truth about these biblical myths. It is clear that today people have begun to challenge many of these age-old religious myths, and we are finding answers.

The answers are not always pleasant. It is painful when you first conclude as a child that Santa Claus does not live at the North Pole in a hidden village. It is painful when we find out for the first time that most if not all of the “religious truths” we have been taught as children are myths. These realizations hurt. Often our pride is injured as well, when we figure out that we have been misled. Our ego will often refuse to accept the fact that we believe in myths that we thought were religious doctrines necessary for our salvation. Coming to the conclusion that I had been blinded and fooled was not easy for me, for I was convinced beyond any shadow of a doubt that the Mormon religion was the one true religion of God.

It is rare to find a person of supreme character, a person like Socrates, one who pursued the evidence and followed wherever it led, and most importantly accepted the new found truths. Along this journey of truth, the honest traveler will adjust his or her conclusions and perceptions as they meet the world of reality, often for the first time. This is how we as a

human race have progressed from being largely ignorant of the natural world to having a much clearer knowledge of creation. We could still be stuck in the Dark Ages under the rule of Roman Catholicism had brave men and women not begun to challenge the ignorance and arrogance of the Papacy. After all, the Earth never was the center of the universe or even the center of our Milky Way galaxy.

The greatest thing about my journey out of Mormonism is the new truths I have learned along the way. I have become one who is hungry for knowledge of new things. It feels good and right to jettison the old myths that are not productive in the least, in helping me in my quest for enlightenment. Until one finds the courage to take the journey to learn the truth on one's own, to challenge and investigate with an open mind, setting aside one's fear of the truth, one is confined to live a life of self-imposed limits. Many cling to religion because it gives them a sense of comfort, some because it fuels their need to feel better than other people — superior to the rest of common humanity. Far too many Mormons that I know, and that I have known, take great pride in their self-righteousness.

I was an active Mormon until age 46. I had been a High Priest for 10 years, held numerous positions in the ecclesiastical leadership and been deeply involved as an ordinance worker in the Mormon temple. I was not a neophyte member but rather a true believer who kept seeking for more knowledge about what I thought to be the true religion of God. There were some major doctrinal and historical teachings that just did not make sense, and after a long investigative journey I could no longer live in the world of cognitive dissonance. I could no longer just have faith that I was not being lied to, when in fact I had been lied to for 46 years. Most of the lies were lies of ignorance. My teachers and church leaders were

only repeating what they had been told. This I have easily forgiven. The vast majority of the Mormon people are sincere yet allow themselves to be kept in the dark. The real evil remains hidden in the fact that the “Brethren,” the top 15 men of the Mormon Church, know they are not speaking the truth about the history of Joseph Smith nor will they promote the true unpolished history of Mormon origins.

Mormonism is a multibillion dollar corporation; these top 15 men are never going to let the truth be told about their house of cards, for it would tumble to the ground over-night. What is happening is a small consistent defection. In fact it is not really that small. The best sources estimate that approximately 100,000 active Mormons each year are resigning with official letters of resignation so that the Mormon Church by law must remove their names from its rolls. Recently the Salt Lake Tribune newspaper did an article on the staggering rate of inactivity in Utah among the Mormon people. It is estimated that state-wide approximately 30 % of the Utah Mormons have any regular contact with the Mormon Church. Seventy percent have little or no contact. This trend is also being seen in almost all areas of the world where the Mormon Church is proselytizing. The vast majority of converts to this religion fall away or go completely inactive in less than three years, most in less than one year. The Internet and a general rise in education have a lot to do with this. People can click a mouse and learn all about Mormonism.

The Mormon Church has figured this out and has recently begun to set up websites that promote its propaganda. I think it will fail, because the facts exposing Mormonism are so very divergent from the Mormon propaganda and apologetics websites that most intelligent people will see right through the deception. In fact this is how most Mormons are

learning about the historical deception that they have been victims of.

Personally most of my research was done through reading texts, research papers, examining original Mormon source documents, and through personal conversations with a few key ex-Mormons who had been in higher leadership positions in the Mormon Church and had been down the road I was on. Two of these men were formerly employed by the Mormon Church as Directors of Seminaries and Institutes of Religious Studies. It was not until after I had resigned from the Mormon Church that I discovered the plethora of information available on the Internet about Mormon history and Mormon origins. I also discovered many good resources and support networks for ex-Mormons. I was glad to see that I was not alone and to learn that hundreds of thousands of people have left Mormonism for the same reasons I did. Mormonism is nothing more than bizarre doctrines, half truths and outright lies.

I strive to be a man of integrity. As questions came up about my Mormon beliefs, I had to make peace with them. I could no longer allow myself to live like I had an intellectual lobotomy. I have always been a spiritual person, a seeker. I think that this made me an odd Mormon from the start. Always wanting to know more, know the why's of things, questioning if what I read or had been taught by the church was accurate. I was not questioning the veracity of these things; I was questioning my own understanding. Did I understand clearly and accurately what I had learned? I was eager for knowledge; I thank God for this quality.

I have always been an admirer of the founding fathers. The two I would most like to have met were George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. They are without doubt two of the greatest souls to inhabit planet Earth. I had always been taught

that Washington and Jefferson were Christian men. In a sense they were Christian men but not Christians. When I learned they were Deists, I balked. So I began to research the faiths of the founding fathers of America. Sure enough many of these men were Deists and critical of the biblical myths and the piracy of the organized religious groups. John Adams, another favorite of mine, was a Unitarian. I think if we had a Unitarian Universalist Church in my small town, I would attend services there. The UU congregations are open, inclusive and do not preach mythology or biblical damnation for not following the party line.

Spirituality is in my opinion a key element to our humanness. I also think it is because of this innate desire to feel oneness with creation and the Great Creator that religious myth has become a counterfeit parasite on humanity. I invite all to do the research and see if this theory is not true. Deism is a natural religion. There is no need for myth or manmade religious falsity to justify our love for God, The Supreme Intelligence, Nature's God.

Where I live in northern Nevada I have a view off my deck that my friends, family and I call The Cathedral. We look directly east at the nearly 12,000 foot elevation of the Ruby and Humbolt Mountain ranges, literally about six miles away as the crow flies. Each time that I look with intent at these marvels of geologic creation and watch as the seasons change the mountain scenes, as the sun rises and sets, or when the moon rises on snow fields illuminating the dark winter world, I feel deeply that there is a Supreme Creator.

I take issue with those who would embrace the idea that all the geologic and botanical beauty, the natural law and creative self-replicating life forces on our planet happened without purpose. When we look deeper into space, we see more

evidence of design, intelligent design. I think it a crime that Intelligent Design models are frequently associated with Creationism — the biblical myth claiming six days of creative work and one day off! Intelligent Design theories are not the same as Creationism. Creationism is based on biblical mythology and is not a scientifically viable thesis.

The wonders and mysteries of the natural world are being laid open daily by advances in scientific discovery. Actually I do not think we discover anything. I think that we only uncover and call it discovery, those things that have always been there, waiting for mankind to find them and apply these new found wonders to our lives. I wonder how much more we would know about our planet and the universe if for almost 1,200 years Christianity would not have greatly obstructed the intellectual advancement of mankind. How much further would we be today in reduced loss of life and the horrors of war if there were not Muslims, Christians and Jews fighting over which god is right and which group has the right to live? This has been going on for almost 1,700 years. It is without a doubt time for human beings to wake up and overcome the control of all organized religion and to begin to see that all mankind is equal in their right to live without the propagation of religious myths that cloud their judgment. To feel free to live a life intent on happiness and prosperity, “We hold these truths to be self evident.”

The tenants of Deism make such a world possible. The same tenants that were written into the Declaration of Independence by Thomas Jefferson are the same tenants upon which Deism is based. The American Republic established by the founding fathers and those who supported them is the best and most secure form of government ever devised, with its strong separation of church and state — for good reason. Let

all mankind live a life based on reason and conscience that is rooted in universal morality, and we will prosper. Let a strong system of laws be established to assure good social order and assure individual accountability for any infringements upon the rights or property of others, and mankind will live in a state of harmony never before known in history, which was the goal of America's founders.

My wife and I made this journey out of Mormonism together. We have been blessed with a wonderful marriage of 25 years. We have had many trials and purifying life experiences that we would not trade. It has been our journey in life thus far that has made us who we are. We have a family motto that serves to remind us of our responsibilities as citizens and fellow travelers on our planet: "I will not be involved in anything that is illegal, immoral or unethical; and I will do the right thing because it is the right thing to do." This is the basic tenant of Deism; it is sweet, simple and covers all the bases of how to properly conduct one's life. The adherents of organized religion are misled into thinking that moral and ethical truths come from their brand of religion, and without religion there would be utter chaos in the world. Obviously, religion has not stopped the worldwide chaos we are experiencing. In fact, it is my considered conclusion that religion is the cause of much of the moral and social degeneration we are experiencing. As mankind has begun to figure out the lies of religion, we have become rudderless and in many cases angry. This has caused a backlash that is evident in the rebellious and immoral nature of our current social climate.

Many people are no longer willing to follow the lies and manipulative tactics of the organized religious bodies. Instead of finding out the truth in full and making wise self-preserving decisions that will enhance their lives, far too many have

decided to throw the baby out with the bath water: “Oh what the hell, it does not matter anyway!” Was Karl Marx correct, that religion is only an opiate of the people? I would say that this is mostly true. Religion is specifically designed to control people, and it has stooped to the lowest levels of dishonesty to make sure it maintains its control and power. What is the answer? Self-government based on sound moral and ethical principles, this is the clarion call of Deism. This is the basis on which the Republic of the United States of America was founded. The only thing that can assure a peaceful and moral society is personal and national integrity.

I see the evidence for God every day of my life. The evidence of the Supreme Creator is all around us. Let us strive to make good in the world and serve each other with the talents we are blessed to possess and that we have developed with our efforts and God-given abilities.

Truly, God gave us reason, not religion.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bob Johnson has been a Deist since 1984 and is the founder and director of the World Union of Deists. The World Union of Deists was founded on April 10, 1993 at the same time as he began the first Deistic publication since the days of Thomas Paine and Elihu Palmer, *THINK!*.

In 1996 he launched the first website dedicated to Deism, www.deism.com. Currently the World Union of Deists offers three Deist webzines. *THINKonline!* is a monthly and *Bruno & Ripoll's Bulletin* which is published sporadically. Both of these webzines are free. To help secure the necessary funding to properly and effectively promote Deism, *Deistic Thought & Action!* is published monthly and requires a subscription. In addition to these webzines the World Union of Deists offer a hard copy quarterly journal, *DEISM*.

The World Union of Deists strives to make Deism a household word so that people can be empowered by knowing that there is such a thing as Deism and that they have a reasonable, natural and powerful alternative to “revealed” religion, Atheism and Agnosticism in Deism.

