

## THE CHALLENGE OF ATHEISM

**Romans 1:20** *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.*

A good study will always set the stage by defining the subject. *The Encyclopedia Britannica* has the following entry about atheism:

Atheism, in general, is the critique and denial of metaphysical beliefs in God or spiritual beings. As such, it is usually distinguished from theism, which affirms the reality of the divine and often seeks to demonstrate its existence. Atheism is also distinguished from agnosticism, which leaves open the question whether there is a god or not, professing to find the questions unanswered or unanswerable.<sup>1</sup>

In other words, atheism is also a belief: one which professes with certainty that God does not exist. This is precisely where the problem of atheism lies – it is a belief with no evidence to support its claims. In other words, atheism is guilty of the same charge it levels against belief in God; it is also sustained by faith. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Roman church and felt the need to address atheism. In brief, his counterargument is that the evidence for the Godhead and God's power are evident "by the things that are made". God carefully made the world in six days and rested on the seventh. The greatest witness of God's existence (Godhead) and power is his creation of the visible world. Therefore, the first chapters of the Bible pay great attention to this masterpiece that was created for us. Creation was intended, not only to sustain humans, but as a vaccine against atheism. In fact, according to David, the creation speaks every language in the world.; and the language of nature is understood by every nation and tongue.

**Psalms 19:1** *[[To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.]] The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*

**Psalms 19:2** *Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.*

**Psalms 19:3** *There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.*

**Psalms 19:4** *Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun.*

Do you know why God never sent out a preacher to convince the world of his existence? The answer is because no one can do a better job than God's own creation. This preacher, creation, is everywhere, speaks all languages, is not moody like Jonah, does not

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/topic/atheism>

discriminate against gentiles as Peter did, preaches 24/7 and never backslides! Hallelujah! The problem of humanity has not been belief in the existence of God, but it appears they were so awed by God's creation that they believed one God cannot be behind all this splendor, but many gods. For this reason God declared through Isaiah, "Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself". No one would look at paintings by Da Vinci or Rembrandt and praise evolution or some random natural event and yet atheists are happy to admire nature but give the credit to non-intelligent forces. Herein lies the hypocrisy and untenableness of atheism. It is a stubborn belief that despises God so much that is willing to commit intellectual and moral suicide. So far, we have considered the truth that God's creation is a testament to his Godhead and power. Next, let us consider corroding effects of atheism on our sense of justice and compassion for fellow humans.

**Luke 18:2** *Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:*

**Luke 18:3** *And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.*

**Luke 18:4** *And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man;*

**Luke 18:5** *Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.*

The power to judge correctly is dependent on whether we first can acknowledge the existence and hence power of God. But here was a judge whom the Lord Jesus declared to be an atheist (feared not God). It follows that a judge who does not believe in the first commandment, cannot uphold the second.

**Mark 12:29** *And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord.*

**Mark 12:31** *And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.*

Abraham called God the "Judge of all the earth". "That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25). Justice, compassion, fairness, compassion and all virtues have their origin in the fact that God exists and he is good. "But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD" (Jeremiah 9:24). Failure to acknowledge the

existence of God leads to a distortion of these virtues. What happens when someone no longer believes that humans are made in the image of God? Obviously, they no longer are constrained by a fear of God's judgment – it is left to every individual's varying and often contradictory sense of mercy, judgment, and compassion, among others, to decide. We cannot rule out the fact that some of the world's dictators who massacred the highest numbers of humans were motivated by their atheism. In fact, contrary to what atheists often allege, a study entitled *God and War: An Audit & and Exploration* (2003) by the University of Bradford<sup>2</sup> found that more people have been killed by atheist regimes than religious ones.

Atheistic totalitarian states (Stalin's Russia and Mao's China) have perpetrated more mass murder than any state dominated by a religious faith. Hitler's Germany, nominally a predominantly Christian state, but a totalitarian one, was responsible for the single most devastating genocide in history of a group identified by their religion: six million Jewish people (p.17).

Atheist governments in the USSR, China and Russia were in fact the biggest perpetrators of mass violence that the world has ever seen, with both governments individually responsible for many more deaths than the Nazi regime of Adolf Hitler (p. 35).

Atheists like Pol Pot, Stalin and Mao were like the judge in the Lord's story: they neither feared God nor regarded man, and the consequences were deadly. Keep in mind that the unjust judge finally granted justice to the widow, not out of compassion, but for his own peace of mind – she was badgering him incessantly. God is the exact opposite of this judge. "And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts" (Malachi 3:5). Belief in the existence in God is a remedy against relativism – the belief that standards of right and wrong are not absolute but vary depending on the conventions of a society and individuals. Relativism basically says that there is no one way of right and wrong; my standards and beliefs are just as good as yours. "In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes" (Judges 17:6).

Furthermore, the rejection of God also leads to relativism's sister, nihilism – the belief that life is meaningless. The German philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900), realized

---

<sup>2</sup> [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/world/04/war\\_audit\\_pdf/pdf/war\\_audit.pdf](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/world/04/war_audit_pdf/pdf/war_audit.pdf)

that the rationalism of the Enlightenment destroyed religion and faith in God. So in his book, *The Gay Science* (1882) portrayed a madman who ran around in the market place shouting “I seek God”. Finally, in desperation the man states:

God is dead. God remains dead. And we have killed him. How shall we comfort ourselves, the murderers of all murderers? What was holiest and mightiest of all that the world has yet owned has bled to death under our knives: who will wipe this blood off us? What water is there for us to clean ourselves? What festivals of atonement, what sacred games shall we have to invent? Is not the greatness of this deed too great for us? Must we ourselves not become gods simply to appear worthy of it?

Nietzsche himself went mad in 1889. He wrote letters and signed them “Dionysus” (Greek god of wine) and “the crucified one” believing himself to be Jesus. What Nietzsche understood was that Europe had forsaken Christianity and must now replace with something else. We who live in Europe a hundred years after the death of Nietzsche see the effects of this atheism or nihilism everywhere. Europe has not been able to find a new religion or philosophy that satisfies its soul and gives meaning and direction to its efforts. No, Europe must return to the founder of Christianity, the Lord Jesus Christ. Atheism has proven bankrupt and consumerism will only further exacerbate the emptiness of the soul of Europe.

***Jeremiah 6:16*** *Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.*

***Hosea 6:1*** *Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.*

***Hosea 6:2*** *After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.*

Finally, atheism is a very grave sin in the sight of God because an individual is given only one life on this earth to please God. Surely, the greatest ever waste of opportunity is a life spent denying the existence of God. No wonder King David declared, “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good” (Psalm 14:1). King David repeats this once again in Psalm 53:1. An atheist receives life from God, breathes God’s air, is sustained by God’s earth and all the while denies the existence of God. It is essential to quickly acknowledge the existence of God and prepare for a lifetime of serving and pleasing him because the rewards of eternity are determined by our faith and actions in this life. “But without faith it is impossible to please

him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

Saints of the living God, Jesus Christ! I am aware you believe in his existence and do your best to please him. However, most of us in western Europe are surrounded by a sea of secularism and atheism, as Nietzsche observed but was unable to provide a solution. Our news media and the conversations of our colleagues at work and elsewhere is a constant reminder of the ever-present danger of atheism. Our youth and children are being seduced with the lie of atheism. “O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called” (I Timothy 6:20). Let us pray hard and do our utmost to fight atheism. Let us pray for Europe to turn to the God of Europeans such as Timothy and Titus. The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ will prevail just as it did in the beginning in Europe, despite murderous opposition because Jesus alone is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6).

***2Corinthians 13:8*** *For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.*