

How can anyone possibly believe in God? Letter to the editor by Crispin Sartwell

“Back when the Aztecs were immolating virgins atop pyramids so that God would bless the people, there was a little guy sitting at the bottom shaking his head and remarking to himself that folks will believe anything.

As Homer sang of Zeus becoming a swan and mating with Leda, there was a dude in the back of the audience with a cocked eyebrow.

When, on the Indian subcontinent, the elephant God of eight arms was being adored, there was a woman with her head in her hands wondering what they'd think of next.

When the followers of Jesus reported that after his death he hung out for a meal or two, there was a sad, faithless cynic listening and going: Say what?

And when Mohammed said that God was giving him dictation again and it turned out that he, Mohammed, was supposed to be in charge, there was a Bedouin who retreated to his yurt before he started snickering.

We won't hear about these blasphemers because it's the believers who ended up writing the histories.

And actually, if you mumbled your skepticism a bit too loudly, those same believers would make sure your voice was lost to history by silencing you eternally.

Even today in a relatively secular society like ours, it's rare to hear someone point out in the clearest way that systems of religious belief are more or less baldly arbitrary and obviously ridiculous.”

Quite the contrary. I don't know of anyone who doesn't think that the Aztecs or Homer are "obviously ridiculous" when the Aztecs burned virgins on their pyramids, or as Homer talks about Zeus becoming a swan.

In this country, over 99% of the people think an "elephant God of eight arms" is "obviously ridiculous." And not only that, they will say so clearly. Nearly anywhere!

# Why?

Because we can test the writings and find that they are not true in the light of modern science!

They know that you can offer all the virgins you can find on an altar and it won't cause you to be impervious to bullets, knives or bombs.

It won't bring the rain or good crops. All it will do is frighten a backward, superstitious people.

Where the light of reason shines on the writings of the Aztecs, Homer, the Vedas or Mohammed, it shows that they indeed are ridiculous.

To illustrate concerning Islam.

In 2002 in the Washington Post a Professor of Engineering lamented the fact that science in Islam had stopped at the 12th century because Islam required that science be fitted to the Quran. In his own department of a leading Pakistani University, the previous chairman had proposed that they undertake a project to harness the energy of genies, since the Quran said they were made from fire, to supply an inexhaustible source of energy for the world.

The only conclusion you can draw is that this Moslem professor felt that the writings of the Quran were sometimes ridiculous. This professor pleaded for a return to rationalism. If he were truly rational, he would reject Islam!

Turning to the Bible, it's simple enough for anyone to see that the Bible differs from the Aztecs. It makes sense!



Does the Bible teach that you ought to offer a human sacrifice to bring rain or good crops?

Matt 5:45 in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Does it make any sense that an 8 armed elephant god has power or worship to such a god offer any advantage.

John 4:24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

The Hindu religion remains steeped in idolatry and superstition, teaching that there are differences in men making them "untouchable." The Bible teaches otherwise, as in line with modern science.

Acts 17:29 "Being then the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man.

The God of heaven teaches that "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; 25 neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things; 26 and He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation, (Acts 17:24-26)

The Bible has its detractors because of the lack of an understanding of God's word.

In the dark ages, the Catholic Church condemned Galileo for saying the earth revolved around the sun and was not the center of the Universe. There's nothing in the Bible that says the earth stands still.

God gave dietary laws that lessened  
the impact disease on His people  
and blessed them with large  
numbers of children.

Let's look at just a few of the things  
men did not know at the time but  
are revealed in God's word.

For a number of years, the Bible was held up for ridicule because men could not believe that matter was created. Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now science has shown that there was a beginning. Scientists call it the “Big Bang.”

It's noteworthy that molecular biology shows that there is a “mitochondrial eve.” Every human's genetic code can be traced back to one common ancestor – as the Bible says. Gen 3:20 Now the man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living.

The modern politically correct woman may feel that she has no reason to stay with one man but she can do the same thing many men do, having many women not recognizing the Biblical truth

Gen 3:16 To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, in pain you shall bring forth children; yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

- yet your desire shall be for your husband Recently a report showed that in each act of sexual relations, a woman's body releases oxytocin. It's the same hormone that is released at birth and it causes bonding between the woman and her child or the woman and the man with whom she has sex.

Science continues to prove the Bible is true while all other religions are held up to ridicule. When the religions of man are examined, they do indeed appear to be “more or less baldly arbitrary and obviously ridiculous.”



In every field, the Bible is shown to be true.

Physics	The beginning of the Universe Gen 1.1
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Medicine	Dietary laws/cleanliness Lev 11.7 don't eat pigs
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Archaeology	David the King/Biblical geography Tell Dan Stele 2015 House of David
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Microbiology	Dead Bodies spread disease Lev 5.2 don't touch dead
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In every field, the Bible is shown to be true.

Microbiology      Quarantine to prevent disease

Lev 13.3 leprosy

Chemistry      The desire of a woman

Gen 3.16

Civil Engineering      Latrines      Deu 23.13

Oceanography      Currents in the Sea Ps 8.8

Astronomy      Stars as the sands of the sea

Gen 23.12; 28.13

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Interestingly enough, the Bible does have an account of such a faithless cynic.

John 20:25 The other disciples therefore were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I shall see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." 26 And after eight days again His disciples were inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst, and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand, and put it into My side; and be not unbelieving, but believing." 28 Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

What about your faith?

Are you a cynic or will you examine the evidence?

Act 22:16 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'