

Critique of Christianity

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1 All religions can't be true

The various religions are very diverse. Some such as the Greco-Roman and the Hindu pantheons have dozens or even thousands of deities. Some have spirits, demons and magic powers accessible through sorcery and paranormal phenomenon.

But to more modern thinking, the Universe seems regular with laws governing its activities. Monotheism is the belief that one diety or God is responsible for the origin and sustained operation of the Universe. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam are the major monotheistic religions.

I grew up in my Great Uncle Willy's Baptist home, and was taught that the Bible is the inerrant word of God. But with Wanda Wolfenstein's scams, I began to doubt the Christian tenets.

2 The resurrection

The cornerstone of Christianity is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. But according to science, resurrection of a person whose heart has stopped for more than 30 minutes is impossible because the brain begins to irreversibly degrade.

Of the four Gospels, the earliest versions of Mark do not report the resurrection. Luke was not an eye witness to Jesus, but Matthew and John were Jesus' disciples, and both claim to have seen the risen Christ on several occasions.

2.1 The resurrection according to Matthew

Jesus had predicted, "After three days I shall rise again." (Mt. 27:63) Therefore the Romans placed guards at the tomb so that the disciples could not steal the body.

On the morning of the third day (the sabbath is on Saturday; the first day of the week is Sunday), an angel descended from heaven accompanied by an earthquake, and rolled away the stone covering the tomb. The guards were petrified. The angel told Mary Magdalene and the other Mary that Jesus was gone because he had risen and is going to Galilee.

Jesus then met the women.

The Chief Priests bribed the soldiers to say that the disciples stole the body.

Then Jesus met his eleven disciples on a mountain in Galilee, commissioned them to preach, and promised that he would be with them always.

2.2 The resurrection according to Luke

On the first day of the week women (unidentified) went to the tomb to anoint the body with spices, but found the stone rolled away. Two men in shining clothes [angels] stated that Jesus had risen from the dead, as he had foretold.

The women told the others what had happened. Then Peter ran and saw the empty tomb.

Two disciples were walking on the road to Emmaus when a stranger joined them. The disciples told him about the women's report. The stranger joined them for dinner, where everyone finally recognized him as Jesus. Then he disappeared.

Those two disciples went to Jerusalem and told the eleven disciples what had happened. Then Jesus appeared among them, telling them to preach to all the world.

In the vicinity of Bethany (located less than 2 miles from Jerusalem, not in Galilee), Jesus blessed his disciples and ascended into heaven.

2.3 The resurrection according to John

Mary Magdalene saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb and that Jesus' body was missing. So she told Peter and the other disciples and "the disciple whom Jesus loved" [presumably John].

Peter and the loved disciple saw the burial linen in the empty tomb.

Mary [presumably Magdalene] was crying when she saw two angels in shining garments in the tomb. Then she saw Jesus. Jesus said that he had not yet ascended to his Father, but would. Mary then told the disciples about this.

That evening the disciples were gathered in a locked room. Jesus appeared to them and showed them his nail wounds.

Afterwards, Jesus appeared to his disciples at the Sea of Galilee, where they caught a miraculously large haul of fish. They all had a breakfast of fish and bread. Jesus then reinstated Peter into good standing.

John states that the risen Jesus appeared three times to his disciples.

2.4 Discrepancies between these three gospel accounts

Two or maybe one angel rolled the stone from the tomb.

Mary Magdalene and maybe several other women saw the empty tomb and maybe Jesus.

Maybe Peter and John saw the empty tomb, and maybe Peter saw Jesus there.

Only Luke reports Jesus' appearance to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

Only Luke and John report that Jesus appeared to his disciples in Jerusalem.

Matthew reported that Jesus appeared to his disciples on a mountain in Galilee, but John reported the appearance was by the Sea of Galilee.

Luke stated that Jesus ascended to heaven in the vicinity of Bethany, which is close to Jerusalem. Matthew and John were unclear what happened to Jesus.

The gospels were written at least 20 years after Jesus' time, and in all cases memories fade and get distorted. All three gospels agreed that Jesus rose from the dead, which Christians take as a historical fact.

But an objective historian would like more consistent evidence from objective witnesses, not from the promoters of the religion.

2.5 Alternative explanations for the resurrection

- Jesus miraculously rose from the dead. The discrepancies among the three accounts are insignificant.
 - Someone disguised as Jesus died in his place.
 - Jesus, a strong young man in good health, did not quite die on the cross. No licensed doctor verified his death. Then Jesus revived in the cool tomb, and walked out on the second morning.
 - The resurrection is a myth (lie) made up by the early Christians in order to promote their new religion.
 - Jesus was a very good man who taught many good things about the godly nature of mankind. Even though he might have actually died on the cross, the resurrection is an allegorical (fictional) account of the man-God Jesus Christ who possessed wonderful godlike virtues.

At this time 2000 years later, it is impossible to determine what really happened. But my opinion is that the resurrection was impossible because it violates the laws of science, which are valid everywhere at all times.

3 The Apostles' Creed says

Every Sunday the Apostles' Creed is recited in Catholic and Lutheran churches:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried,
he descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the only Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.

I have problems with the Apostle's Creed:

- Science has no evidence that a being like the Christian God exists.
- I'll explain my disbelief of the Genesis account of creation later.
- Was Jesus divine, or just a man?
- I think that Mary got pregnant in the normal way with 99.9% certainly, but made up a fantastic story to hide her indiscretion.
 - The Bible says nothing about Jesus descending into hell.
 - Resurrection from the dead violates the laws of science.
 - The gospel accounts say with inconsistencies that Jesus went away, maybe to heaven, but say nothing about sitting at the Father's right hand.
 - A resurrection of all the dead violates the laws of science.
 - 2,000 years have passed, but Jesus has not returned. There is no evidence that he will ever return, because I think that he simply died 2,000 years ago.
- When I was a Christian in various churches, I never felt the moving of the Holy Spirit as described in the Acts of the Apostles, and believed by Pentecostals. Why do so many Christians get involved in bad things if the Holy Spirit is working within them to lead them into righteousness?

4 Reports of Jesus' and the Virgin Mary's later appearances

The most notable appearance of Jesus was to Saul, who became St. Paul. This is described in Acts 9 (written by Luke) and by Paul himself in several of his epistles. St. Paul wrote much of the New Testament.

I do not know how to explain Paul's conversion experience. People under great emotional turmoil, such as Jesus and Saul, sometimes experience extreme psychiatric delusions and hallucinations, as do schizophrenics and maniacal bipolars.

The human mind is a noisy, often chaotic place, not to be trusted for truth.

Down through the ages many people have reported seeing Jesus or Mary in visions, but no report attains the level of 21st century scientific veracity. Lots of people have reported seeing UFOs too.

5 The ethics of the Gospel

John 3:16-17 says, “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” NIV

Martin Luther and the Protestant reformers emphasized that, in order to have all your sins instantly forgiven, all you have to do is confess them and believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins.

What a great deal! You get to live eternally in Heaven, and it costs you virtually nothing!

The Roman Catholic Church lists seven sacraments through which we share God’s life:

1. Baptism
2. Confirmation
3. Eucharist (Mass or Holy Communion)
4. Penance and Reconciliation
5. Anointing of the sick
6. Holy Orders
7. Matrimony

To a former Baptist this seemed strange—you get your sins forgiven by getting married!

The first problem is that these are mere promises by Jesus/priests/evangelists/preachers, with no evidence presented that eternal life even exists. I, Sam Seeker, am pretty sure that I will merely die like every other animal.

The second problem is that the believer now must become involved with the Church, getting baptized, receiving Communion/Mass, listening to sermons, worshipping, and being submerged into Christian culture.

Some Christian groups *shun a person* (persistently avoid, ignore or reject someone) if he/she decides to leave that sect.

Thus the Church gains POWER over the convert with an unverified promise of eternal life.

Churches are always asking for contributions to support their organizations, teaching and building programs, and missionaries.

Some churches quote Malachi 3:10-12 to require that their members title, i.e., donate 10% of their income before taxes to their church:

“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.”

There has never been scientific proof that tithing produces prosperity, but it certainly cuts wealth by 10%.

The Roman Catholic Church so instilled the fear of punishment in purgatory that, when the construction of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome required huge sums of money, indulgences were sold so that people's deceased relatives could more quickly get out of purgatory into heaven. Martin Luther protested against this violation of Biblical principles.

The Roman Catholic Church has never presented any scientific or Biblical evidence that purgatory even exists.

Thus I, Sam Seeker, concluded that the Gospel gives churches POWER over gullible people while providing no tangible evidence for everlasting life.

6 Judgment Day

Jesus described Judgment Day, Heaven and Hell, in his Parable of the sheep and the goats (Matt. 25:31-46 NIV):

"When the Son of Man [Jesus Christ] comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

“He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Jesus certainly believed in a two-tiered universe: God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ in Heaven, angels, and the Devil in Hell.

For this Jesus presents no scientific or objective evidence whatsoever; we have to take Jesus’ word for this *by faith alone*.

Jesus believed in a Judgment Day when He will sit on his glorious throne with His angels, and all the resurrected dead will be gathered before Him.

There is no scientific evidence that Judgment Day will ever happen. Science predicts that the Universe will continue according to the known laws. Homo sapiens will perhaps evolve into other species or become extinct. The Sun will gradually become hotter as it burns its hydrogen, and in about a billion years will become a red giant, which will incinerate all life on Earth.

Scientific theories diametrically contradict Jesus’ concept of the future.

The above-quoted passage from Matthew seems somewhat contradictory to the Gospel in John, where salvation is by faith alone because the sheep (the righteous) EARNED their righteousness by acts of kindness to Jesus and other suffering Christian believers (not humanity in general), and thus are welcomed into Heaven.

The goats (evildoers) never helped suffering Christians, and thus will be cast into the fires of Hell, to be punished forever with the Devil.

There is no middle group. There is no purgatory where somewhat-bad people can receive some punishment before going to Heaven.

Now I, Sam Seeker, have thought a great deal about right and wrong throughout my life. Sure, as you have read in this book, I did some dumb things, even some criminal things, but I have paid the price for all of my mistakes. I am a medium-good person, with a couple of felony and some misdemeanor offences. I have apologized to people whom I have offended.

But none of my crimes, mistakes, and foolish lapses—sins—deserve death and eternal damnation.

God is immoral to divide mankind into just two groups: the saved and the damned.

Then there's the problem of people who have never heard the Gospel, such as everyone everywhere before Jesus. What happens to them?

Most people live in cultures in which Christianity is frowned upon: Islamic countries, India, Israel, all Communist countries etc. Even in America, churches are losing influence and attendance is declining, as people more and more seek secular activities.

According to the Bible, most everyone is going to Hell!
I could no longer believe in such primitive ideas.

7 Creationism

Genesis chapter 1 states that God created the Universe in 6 days, then rested on the seventh or sabbath. Presumably these were literal 24 hour days.

Bishop James Ussher (Church of Ireland; 1581-1656) added up the ages of the patriarchs in Genesis and other Biblical events to place the creation at: ¹

6PM on October 22, 4004 BC

This contradicts the scientific age of the Earth—about 4.5 billion years—based upon radioactive dating methods, by a factor of a million!

The writers of Genesis guessed wrong!

So why don't Christians simply admit that Genesis had a mistake, and accept the scientific age for the Earth?

Well, fundamentalist, evangelical Christians have always believed that the whole Bible is inspired by God and thus inerrant.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” (2 Tim. 3:16, KJV)

If Genesis has a mistake; therefore the Bible can't be entirely inspired by God!

The history of the Universe is long and tortuous. The six days of creation described in Genesis 1 are much too simplistic.

8 Evolution

Darwin's Theory of Evolution states: ² ³

¹James Ussher, Wikipedia

²Charles Darwin, On the origin of species

³Evolution, Wikipedia

1. More offspring are produced than can possibly survive.
2. Traits vary among individuals according to their morphology, physiology, and behavior.
3. Different traits confer different rates of survival and reproduction (differential fitness).
4. Traits can be passed from generation to generation (heritability of fitness).

In successive generations, members of a population are more likely to be replaced by offspring of parents with favorable characteristics for that particular environment.

Evolution implies that each species was not created by some deity, but rather the first single-celled organism(s) gradually evolved into various more advanced creatures.

Species were not created separately by God—they evolved from earlier species.

A very primitive single-celled organism came first. This evolved into more advanced single-celled organisms, then into multi-celled organisms, then into plants, simple animals, fish, land reptiles, dinosaurs, mammals, primates, the great apes, early hominids, early Homo species, and finally, about 70,000 years ago, into Homo sapiens.

Evolution is continuing today, and is easily observable among humans and every other species. We saw COVID-19 evolve before our eyes! Global warming and climate change are stressing the whole Earth!

Genesis is all wrong. Adam and Eve never existed. We evolved from Homo sapiens living in Africa.

If Adam and Eve never existed, then Jesus never descended from Adam through Noah through Abraham through David through Jesus' supposed father Joseph, as described in Matt. 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38.

The Bible has mistakes! It is not inerrant!

9 Noah's Flood

Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence...So God said to Noah, 'I am going to put an end to all people...so make yourself an ark...' Genesis 6:11-22

The first problem with this is that every single person had NOT committed crimes deserving death. We reserve the death penalty for only a few serious crimes such as first degree murder. Many people are stupid

and do dumb things. Many have committed misdemeanors and some have committed felonies, but these normally receive only fines or jail time, not death.

According to our modern laws and ethics, God was immoral to destroy everybody, including babies and young children, and all the animals too!

I therefore, after careful thought, concluded that the concept of a vindictive God murdering everyone indiscriminately in a Great Flood was concocted by demented, myth-making Jewish theologians!

The Flood itself: There is not enough water on Earth to cover the mountains and to drown everyone at higher altitudes.

Some argue that the Grand Canyon was produced by the Flood cutting through a mile of soft sediments. In fact, the Grand Canyon was formed over some 7 million years by the Colorado River carving its way through many layers of hard sedimentary rock.

There is no geological evidence for a universal flood. Humans have lived uninterrupted in Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Americas for tens of thousands of years.

Then there is the problem of genetic diversity. A breeding pair of each species saved in the Ark has almost no genetic variability, but most species today, including *Homo sapiens*, have much genetic variability and could not possibly have originated from just one set of parents.

There was no Flood. The writers of Genesis guessed wrong.

10 Who wrote Genesis?

Genesis starts with Adam and Eve, progresses through 10 generations to Noah, then more generations to Abraham, then more generations to Moses, who has traditionally been ascribed as the author of the first five books of the Bible.

But apparently none of these people, except Moses, knew how to write. Even if they did, papyrus or even clay tablets would have been destroyed in the Flood or lost during the travels of the peoples.

Did the above generations pass down the information by *oral tradition*, that is, story telling? I always doubted this, because I only know the Seeker family history to my great grandfather, although if I searched I could find written records farther back.

But the writers of the Bible had no written records! Therefore I concluded that Genesis is based upon MYTHS—stories made up about what far-later writers guessed had happened. Then the Jewish priests and the

Church stated that these myths are historical facts, which millions must believe.

This is not evidence or history—it is mythology!

11 The problem of suffering

According to the laws of science and the Theory of Evolution, living organisms struggle to eat and reproduce, and the most successful have the most offspring. Herbivores eat plants, and carnivores eat herbivores. Disease organisms spread wherever possible, sickening or even exterminating entire species of micro-organisms, plants or animals. Organisms usually thrive, but, during catastrophes such as storms, droughts, volcanoes, earthquakes etc., millions of creatures can be exterminated.

There have been six great mass extinctions, including the present caused by Homo sapiens: the antropocene.

There is no “problem of suffering”—that’s just the way the Universe works. We all suffer in various ways, and we all will die.

But when I, Sam Seeker, was a Christian, I always had a problem: I believed that God is omniscient (all-knowing), omnipresent (present everywhere), and omnipotent (all-powerful), although where it teaches that in the Bible I never knew. Certainly if God created the whole vast Universe, He must be awfully powerful!

So why, if God can do anything, do humans suffer so?

I had often prayed, usually for selfish or trivial things such as “God, help my women’s basketball team to win,” but usually for important things such as “God, I need your help desperately to get the construction of the Grand Pacific Sunset Condominiums back on schedule,” or “Please save Patty Proxy’s mother from colon cancer.”

None of my prayers had ever been answered. Patty had explained her mother’s death by saying, “Now Mom is very happy in Heaven with Jesus.”

The Problem of Suffering is discussed in the Biblical book of Job. Job is a very righteous and prosperous man.

The Devil wagers God (how the author knows this is not disclosed) that if Job’s prosperity is eliminated, then Job will lose faith and curse God. God for unknown reasons accepts this stupid wager.

The Devil destroys Job’s wealth and kills his children. Still Job does not curse God.

Then the Devil inflicts Job with an excruciatingly painful skin disease. Still Job does not curse God, and the Devil loses the wager.

At the end God reveals Himself to Job, but only answers the question “why” with a series of other questions. Then God gives Job twice what he had before.

Why didn’t God refuse the Devil’s wicked wager so that Job would never suffer?

I got COVID-19 twice during the recent pandemic, despite being fully vaccinated. Patty Proxy and I fervently prayed. The first time I lay in bed at home for three weeks, but recovered.

The second time I was hospitalized on a respirator. The hospital priest came by four times a day, and, since I was still a registered Catholic, gave me Viaticum—Last Rites—a special Eucharistic service with a mass near the time of death. I was so sick that Aaron Abraham and Sally Suds came to the hospital to update my will in case I died!

In America, 1,123,836 have died of COVID. In the world at least 6,800,000 have died. Where was the loving, omnipotent God helping these dying people?

I, Sam Seeker, concluded that:

- God is not omnipotent, or
- God does not really love everyone, or
- Suffering and death are part of God’s design of the Universe, or
- The Christian God does not exist.

12 The origin of Israel and Zionism

Moses is traditionally attributed as the author of Genesis and the next four books of the Bible, although some theologians think that those books were written much later.

According to Exodus 6:14-25: Abraham begat Isaac begat Jacob (Israel) begat Levi begat Gershon begat Kobath begat Amram begat Moses. Thus, if the average time of a generation is 25 years, there were $7*25 = 175$ years between Abraham and Moses. If these people could not write and thus passed down their history by *oral tradition*, then all kinds of errors and myths could have developed.

I, Sam Seeker, know who my great great grandfather was, and that he came from Ireland to America during the potato famine in 1845-1852, but I know virtually nothing about him and my other ancestors. I could look up written historical records, but I never cared.

So—how did Moses know minute details about Abraham?

Genesis 17:1-17, NIV:

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan [Palestine], where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God..."

God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her [Isaac]. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?"

13 God reaffirms his promise to Isaac

Genesis 26:2-5: The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land [Palestine] where I tell you to live. Stay in this land for awhile, and I will be with you and bless you. For to you and your descendants I will give all these lands and will confirm the oath I swore to your father Abraham. I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees, and my instructions."

14 The Exodus, the Ten Plagues, and Passover

Exodus 6:1-8:

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country."

God also said to Moses, "I am the LORD. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them. I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan [Palastine], where they lived as aliens. Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant.

"Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the LORD.'"

Then God sent ten plagues to convince Pharoah, the dictator of Egypt, to let the Israelite slaves go:

The plague of blood: The Nile and other waters turned to blood. The water was undrinkable and all fish died. This punished ordinary people for Pharoah's crime.

The plague of frogs: Frogs came out of the Nile, overwhelming everyone, for Pharoah's crime.

The plague of gnats: The dust of the earth turned to gnats, which attacked people and animals everywhere, for Pharoah's crime.

The plague of flies: Swarms of flies descended only on all the Egyptians, not the Isrealites, for Pharoah's crime.

The plague on livestock: All Egyptian horses, donkeys, camels, cattle, sheep and goats died, but none belonging to the Israelites, all to punish one dictator.

The plague of hail: Hail destroyed all Egyptian crops, but no Israelite crops, all to punish only Pharoah.

The plague of locusts: Locusts devoured Egypt's crops to punish Pharoah.

The plague of darkness: Total darkness covered Egypt for three days. No one could see to move. But the Israelites had light in their territory. All to punish an unrelenting dictator.

The plague of the firstborn: Here we get into really serious stuff. *God Himself* killed the firstborn son in every family and of all cattle. The Israelites could save their sons only by smearing lamb's blood over their door frames so that God would PASS OVER that house.

After Pharoah's and all the other Egyptian's firstborn sons and cattle

had been murdered by God Himself, the Israelites fled, crossed the Red Sea, and escaped slavery. God drowned Pharoah and his army in the sea.

The moral dilemma here is that Pharoah was a dictator, like all too many leaders today. The sons had no responsibility whatsoever for Pharoah's decisions, so why did God murder those innocent children, and the cattle too?

There are two possibilities:

1. Events occurred exactly as described. Then God is immoral.
2. The Exodus account was made up years or centuries later from myths.

Then the writers of the Old Testament are immoral.

Jews celebrate Passover as a major religious holiday—certainly a corrupt religion!

15 God Commands Joshua to Conquer Canaan

Joshua 1-24, Good News Translation:

After the death of the Lord's servant Moses, the Lord spoke to Moses' helper, Joshua son of Nun. He said, "My servant Moses is dead...As I told Moses, I have given you and all my people the entire land [Palestine] that you will be marching over. Your borders will reach from the desert in the south to the Lebanon Mountains in the north; from the great Euphrates River in the east, through the Hittite country, to the Mediterranean Sea in the west [This is larger than present Israel]. Joshua, no one will be able to defeat you..."

...Then Joshua said to the people, "...[God] will surely drive out the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites [all the previous residents]..."

While Joshua was near Jericho, he suddenly saw a man standing in front of him, holding a sword. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you one of our soldiers, or an enemy?"

"Neither," the man answered. "I am here as the commander of the Lord's army."

Joshua threw himself on the ground in worship and said, "I am your servant, sir. What do you want me to do?" ...

[Then came the account of the marching around Jericho while the priests blew trumpets, and the walls came tumbling down.]

...Joshua ordered..."The city and everything in it must be totally destroyed as an offering to the Lord...But you are not to take anything that is to be destroyed; if you do, you will bring trouble and destruction on the

Israelite camp. Everything made of silver, gold, bronze, or iron is set apart for the Lord. It is to be put in the Lord's treasury."

...With their swords they killed everyone in the city, men and women, young and old. They also killed the cattle, sheep, and donkeys.

I, Sam Seeker, recognized Israel's conquest of Canaan as GENOCIDE. Even the noncombatants, the women, the children, and the animals were massacred, and the whole city burned.

God ordered Genocide! The Jewish and Christian God is immoral according to the Geneva Conventions which outline protections for noncombatants! ⁴

God is no better than Mao Tse Tung, who said, "Political power flows from the barrel of a gun."

Yes, one might argue that because God owns the Universe, He can do with it as he pleases.

But God also gave me, Sam Seeker, an intellect and a conscience. I believe that genocide is wrong, even though the Cananites might have been sinful.

With modern Israel, the same problem exists: Zionist Jews today believe that God gave Palestine to the Jews forever, even though Israel had not existed as a self-governing nation for over 2,000 years. Islamic Palestinians have occupied the region for centuries until the United Nations gave part of Palestine to Israel in 1947. The Palestinians, who were not consulted, immediately fought the Jews. But the Jews had bigger guns!

Is Mao correct that all power flows from the barrel of a gun?

Are humans and religions any better than ants fighting one another?

16 God commands the genocide of the Amalekites

1 Samuel 15:1-23

Samuel [a prophet] said to Saul, "I am the one the LORD sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the LORD. This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.'"

So Saul summoned the men and mustered them at Telaim—two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men from Judah. Saul went to the

⁴Wikipedia, Geneva Conventions

city of Amalek and set an ambush in the ravine...Then Saul attacked the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to Shur, to the east of Egypt. He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword. But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs—everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.

Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel: "I am grieved that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions."...

Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul...Saul said, "The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD's instructions."

But Samuel said, "What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?"

Saul answered, "The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but we totally destroyed the rest."

"Stop!" Samuel said to Saul. "Let me tell you what the LORD said to me last night." "Tell me," Saul replied.

Samuel said, "Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel. And he sent you on a mission, saying, 'Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; make war on them until you have wiped them out.' Why did you not obey the LORD? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the LORD?"

"But I did obey the LORD," Saul said. "I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal."

But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king."

I, Sam Seeker, have serious ethical problems with God's prophetic command to Samuel. First, several generations had passed since the exodus, so these Amalekites were maybe the grandchildren of the Amalekites who had harrassed the Israelites.

Second, God Himself commanded the slaughter of the women, children, infants, and animals. This violates the Geneva Conventions for treatment of noncombatants!

The God of the Old Testament is a vengeful, blood thirsty invention of Israeli prophets trying to justify their nation's genocide!

God is acting in hate just like Anakin Skywalker did in Star Wars when the Sand People killed his mother:

I killed them.
I killed them all.
They're dead.
Every single one of them.
Not just the men, but the women, and the children too.
They're like animals, and I slaughtered them like animals.
I hate them.

Anakin Skywalker in hate turned to the dark side and became the archvillain Darth Vader.

So is God a loving Savior, or an archvillain full of hate?

17 Prophets?

The human brain and nervous system is an intricate and powerful computer. Certainly each person's brain and personality are largely determined genetically, but the newborn knows little about the Universe.

The sciences of neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, neurology, psychology, and psychiatry have proven that the human brain can only get information about the Universe through the senses. A person acquires information through traditionally the five senses—sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste. The skin has sensors for touch, vibration, hot, cold, and pain. Our nose can distinguish many smells, and our tongue many tastes.

We also have internal sensors. The vestibular system in the inner ear detects angular and linear accelerations in 3 dimensions. Our muscles, tendons, and joints detect our movements. Our gastrointestinal tract tells us when to defecate and fart; we feel gassy, nauseous and irritable bowel syndrome. Internal organs have pain receptors.

We often feel physical or psychological pain. I, Sam, suffer from occasional migraines, nightmares, and insomnia.

Much of what the brain learns is taught or indoctrinated by the culture. This whole book, *Alternative Facts*, shows that what a person is taught—true or false—affects all aspects of his thought processes.

Although the human brain is capable of the highest logical processes and *free will*, few people do so—they are stupid.

Now about prediction the future: according to Quantum Mechanics, the future is uncertain. We can predict tomorrow's sunrise very precisely, but the decay of uranium atoms is completely random.

Prophets supposedly receive information directly from God Himself, either when God appears to them, or God's spirit inspires their thoughts.

We have already discussed how God spoke to Abraham, Isaac, Moses, Joshua, and Samuel.

All such prophecies about the future violate the known laws of science, and are impossible.

There are three possibilities:

1. The Bible is correct, and God spoke to the prophets.
2. The prophets were lying, or basing their writings upon unsubstantiated myths.
3. The prophets were mentally ill, e.g. manic or schizophrenic (hallucinating, seeing things or hearing voices).

I, Sam Seeker, decided upon #2 and #3.

18 God killed 70,000 Israelites because King David took a census

The American Constitution requires a census every ten years. I never could figure out why it was a sin when King David ordered a census.

2 Samuel 24 NIV (similar account in 1 Chronicles 21):

Again the anger of the Lord burned against Israel, and he incited David against them, saying, "Go and take a census of Israel and Judah."

So the king said to Joab and the army commanders with him, "Go throughout the tribes of Israel from Dan to Beersheba and enroll the fighting men, so that I may know how many there are."

But Joab replied to the king, "May the Lord your God multiply the troops a hundred times over, and may the eyes of my lord the king see it. But why does my lord the king want to do such a thing?"

The king's word, however, overruled Joab and the army commanders; so they left the presence of the king to enroll the fighting men of Israel...

Joab reported the number of the fighting men to the king: In Israel there were eight hundred thousand able-bodied men who could handle a sword, and in Judah five hundred thousand.

David was conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men, and he said to the Lord, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, Lord, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing."

Before David got up the next morning, the word of the Lord had come to Gad the prophet, David's seer: "Go and tell David, 'This is what the Lord says: I am giving you three options. Choose one of them for me to carry out against you.'"

So Gad went to David and said to him, "Shall there come on you three years of famine in your land? Or three months of fleeing from your enemies while they pursue you? Or three days of plague in your land? Now then, think it over and decide how I should answer the one who sent me."

David said to Gad, "I am in deep distress. Let us fall into the hands of the Lord, for his mercy is great; but do not let me fall into human hands."

So the Lord sent a plague on Israel from that morning until the end of the time designated, and seventy thousand of the people from Dan to Beersheba died. When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the Lord relented concerning the disaster and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, "Enough! Withdraw your hand." The angel of the Lord was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.

When David saw the angel who was striking down the people, he said to the Lord, "I have sinned; I, the shepherd, have done wrong. These are but sheep. What have they done? Let your hand fall on me and my family."

This passage has major ethical concerns: How had Israel sinned so that 70,000 of them deserved to die? Were women and children killed too by the plague? Why did God (or the Devil) put the sinful thought into David's mind?

This description violates the known laws of science:

Plagues are caused by germs (the germ theory of disease), not by God's angels.

Famine (drought) is caused by weather patterns which obey the laws of physics, not God; the drought would have come no matter what David decided.

Invading armies are commanded by military leaders, and the outcome of battles depends on military science, not upon God.

19 Jesus' miracles

I believe that the laws of science apply everywhere in the Universe at all times. Therefore miracles are impossible.

"Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence."

Carl Sagan

The problem with Jesus' miracles is that most of them could be done by any skilled magician.

For instance, Jesus' first miracle, turning water into wine (only told in John 2:1-11), could be done by switching bottles of water with bottles of wine, perhaps after bribing the kitchen staff.

Walking on water could today be done with the help of a surfboard! More likely, it is a mythical story.

Raising Lazarus from the dead (told only in John 11:1-44) could have been done by Lazarus feigning death, then hiding in the tomb for three days.

Yes, by *faith*, Christians believe all these things to have been historical events, but they are impossible to verify today. Historians reference multiple independent witnesses and artifacts, but the miracles were reported some 20 years later in only one or two gospels.

I decided instead to believe in the universality of scientific laws.

20 Old Testament miracles:

The creation of the Universe and of each species from nothing (Latin: *ex nihilo*).

Noah's Flood.

God's appearances to Abraham, Isaac, Moses, Joshua, and all the prophets.

As mentioned, Moses' Ten Plagues, culminating with the Death of the Firstborn Sons (the Passover).

The Exodus and the Parting of the Red Sea.

The giving of The Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai.

The stoppage of the Jordan River, and the walls of Jericho falling down.

Elijah was one of the major prophets. He prophesied a multiyear drought (1 Kings 17:1ff). God miraculously fed him by ravens. A widow at Zarephath miraculously fed Elijah from a little bread and oil, which did not run out. Then Elijah healed the widow's dead son.

In 1 Kings 18:18-40 Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal by cutting up a bull for a sacrifice on an altar on Mount Carmel. He covered the bull with

water so that it would not burn. Elijah gave his challenge to the prophets of Baal: “The god who answers by fire is the real God.” The prophets of Baal could not bring fire from heaven, but Elijah did, and the sacrifice was consumed in flaming glory.

Orthodox Jews consider these historic miracles as proof of God.

21 Modern day miracles

A miracle by definition is a favorable event which violates the laws of science.

All of Wanda Wolfenstein’s “miracles” were scams done with actors. Magicians do many amazing tricks, such as levitating a woman, cutting a woman in half, and surviving being submerged in water.

Other modern “miracle workers” could use the power of suggestion, or the *placebo effect*. In a church full of enthusiastic believers, the miracle worker asserts that the Bible says that God will perform great miracles. The sick person believes it. The miracle worker prays. The sick person at that moment FEELS much better: his chest pains disappear, he gathers renewed strength to walk, or he imagines his cancer gone. Everyone cheers! But the next day his illness is back, while the miracle worker has skipped town after pocketing the offerings.

Many “prophets” and “faith healers” have arisen in recent centuries. Many have reported seeing visions of Jesus.

The Roman Catholic Church has a list of several thousand saints in whose names “completely researched” miracles occurred to people praying to that saint. The Virgin Mary has purported to have appeared to various people.

Joseph Smith, the founder of The Church of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons) is purported to have received revelations, visitations by angels, the divine ability to translate the Book of Mormon, and the ability to heal dozens.

Prophets and miracles are more common than UFO sightings!

22 The Book of Revelations

The last book added to the Bible was Revelations, ascribed to John, one of Jesus’ disciples. The Revelations were given by an angel sent to John about what soon must take place.

How soon is “soon” has always been debated, because 2,000 years have passed. The exact dating of events is not given.

The basic framework of Revelations, as of the whole New Testament, is that mankind is divided into two groups: The small number of saints who believe in God and Jesus Christ, and the rest, who are destined for Hell.

I am only going to comment about what Revelations reveals about John's concepts of God's ethical principles:

God the Father, His Son Jesus Christ, and other heavenly beings exist above in heaven and hell—which is vividly described in Rev. 4.

The worthiness of Jesus Christ, the slain Lamb, to open the scroll and the seven seals is emphasized in Rev. 5-6. For instance, when the Lamb opened the fourth seal, "a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was followed close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth."

It gets worse: the wrath of the Lamb caused a great earthquake, and even the stars fell to earth!

This is not the kind and loving Jesus whom I learned about in Sunday School!

Rev. 7 describes the many Christians before the Lamb's throne in heaven.

Rev. 8-9 describes God's angels, yes, God's own seven angels with seven trumpets, hurling destruction upon the earth: Hail, fire, blood burning up a third of the earth. A mountain burning with fire was hurled into the sea, destroying a third of the fish and ships. A third of the sun, the moon and the stars were struck. Locusts like scorpions—described in hideous detail—tortured the unsaved. Then four angels and 2*10,000*10,000 troops killed a third of mankind, with plagues of fire, smoke and sulfur.

After 2,000 years, none of these events have ever happened.

I CONCLUDED THAT JOHN WAS SERIOUSLY MENTALLY DERANGED, AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN PLACED INTO A MENTAL ASYLUM.