

2. The Old Atheists

There is no God.

But lots of people believe in God. Why?

Because they want consolation so they project or objectify their longings and call this God. So this non-existent God is simply the projection of human longings.
Ludwig Feuerbach 1831

“Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, just as it is the spirit of a spiritless situation. It is the opium of the people. The abolition of religion as the illusory happiness of the people is required for their real happiness.”

Karl Marx, Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right, 1843

“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?”

Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche, book 'The Gay Science' 1882

"Religion is an attempt to get control over the sensory world, in which we are placed, by means of the wish-world, which we have developed inside us as a result of biological and psychological necessities.." –

Sigmund Freud, Moses and Monotheism, 1939

3. The Biblical critique on other religions

1400 BC, Moses critiqued the Egyptian deities and the Canaanite deities

“You shall have no other gods before me.....

If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces “Let us follow other gods” (gods you have not known) “and let us worship them,” you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The LORD your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul. It is the LORD your God you must follow, and him you must revere.”

1000 BC, King David

The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, and their ways are vile; there is no one who does good.

² God looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

³ Everyone has turned away, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.

700 BC, the Prophet Isaiah critiqued the religion of his day

“All who make idols are nothing, and the things they treasure are worthless. Those who would speak up for them are blind; they are ignorant, to their own shame. Who shapes a god and casts an idol, which can profit him nothing?”

50 AD, Apostle Paul

“They exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles... They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator”
Romans 1

150 AD, Justin Martyr (post New Testament)

Hence, are we (Christians) called atheists. And we confess that we are atheists, so far as gods of this sort are concerned, but not with respect to the most true God, the Father of righteousness and temperance and the other virtues, who is free from impurity.”

4. Is Jesus a figment of human imagination?

We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

¹⁹ And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. ²¹ For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 peter 1 The Apostle Peter 64AD

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:30-31

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. **1 John 1:1-2**

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. Therefore, since I have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. **Luke 1:1-4**

"It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed... Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Peter, Acts 4

A Reader:

Aren't Religions the figment of human imagination?

1. The New atheists

"God is a delusion – a 'psychotic delinquent' invented by mad deluded people"
Richard Dawkins

"Every atom in your body came from a star that exploded. And, the atoms in your left hand probably came from a different star than your right hand. It really is the most poetic thing I know about physics: You are all stardust. You couldn't be here if stars hadn't exploded, because the elements– the carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, iron, all the things that matter for evolution and for life– weren't created at the beginning of time. They were created in the nuclear furnaces of stars, and the only way for them to get into your body is if those stars were kind enough to explode. So forget Jesus; the stars died so that you could live." **Lawrance Krauss**

"There have been 10,000 gods through history, You reject 9,999 of them. I just go one god further!" **Peter Fitzsimmons to Christian author Simon Smart**

"In fact, "atheism" is a term that should not even exist. No one ever needs to identify himself as a "non-astrologer" or a "non-alchemist." We do not have words for people who doubt that Elvis is still alive or that aliens have traversed the galaxy only to molest ranchers and their cattle. Atheism is nothing more than the noises reasonable people make in the presence of unjustified religious beliefs." — **Sam Harris, *Letter to a Christian Nation***

The kindly God who lovingly fashioned each and every one of us and sprinkled the sky with shining stars for our delight -- that God is, like Santa Claus, a myth of childhood, not anything a sane, undeluded adult could literally believe in. That God must either be turned into a symbol for something less concrete or abandoned altogether - [**Daniel Dennett, *Darwin's Dangerous Idea*, p. 18**]