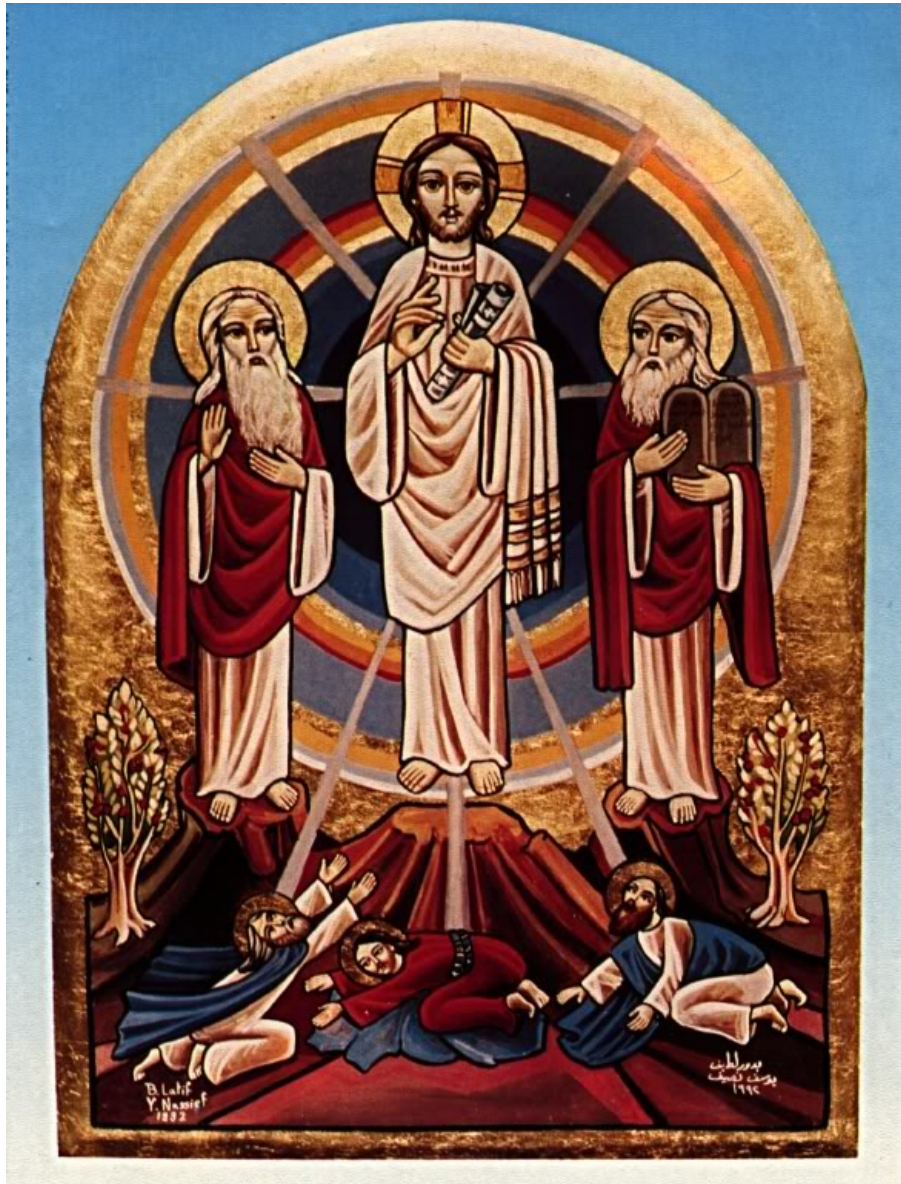


Why Christianity is False



By Pandit Sri Ram

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Why Christianity is False

Romans 5:12 When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. 13 Yes, people sinned even before the law was given. And though there was no law to break, since it had not yet been given, 14 they all died anyway — even though they did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. What a contrast between Adam and Christ, who was yet to come! 15 And what a difference between our sin and God's generous gift of forgiveness. For this one man, Adam, brought death to many through his sin. But this other man, Jesus Christ, brought forgiveness to many through God's bountiful gift. 16 And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but we have the free gift of being accepted by God, even though we are guilty of many sins. 17 The sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over us, but all who receive God's wonderful, gracious gift of righteousness will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ. 18 Yes, Adam's one sin brought condemnation upon everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness makes all people right in God's sight and gives them life. 19 Because one person disobeyed God, many people became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many people will be made right in God's sight. 20 God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful kindness became more abundant. 21 So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful kindness rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The myth of Adam and Eve is the foundational myth of Christianity. Adam sinned, and every single one of his descendants is thus born in sin, contaminated from birth — original sin. The only way to be free from this congenital contagion is through the acceptance of the sacrifice of Jesus. Adam/Jesus are two interdependent polarities, Adam = death, Jesus = life.

If Jesus is historical then Adam also must be historical. So a deconstruction of Christianity must start with this myth. Normally one who not apply rigorous logic to a myth but since Christianity claims to be the Truth and the ONLY Truth we are justified in applying critical reasoning to this fable.

For a moment let's assume that this story is true. Every school child knows the story — Yahweh first creates Adam and then Eve from his rib, leaves them in the garden of Eden with strict instructions not to eat the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The serpent appears and chats to Even convincing her to eat the fruit, Eve does so and then gives some to Adam. Yahweh finds out, is enraged and banishes them from Eden — then you get the whole thing about original sin, etc. etc. etc. culminating in God having to send His own son down to be sacrificed to Him so that he could finally bring Himself to forgive humankind. (Homo sapiens have been on the earth for 200,000 years so we wonder why it took him 198,000 years of indifference to finally do something about it!!)

Let's have a closer look at the story.

Picture in your head Adam and Eve in the garden. You probably have in your head an image of a man and a woman, both fully-grown adults. However, this is misleading — they were not fully grown adults in the sense that we understand the concept. Any adult who has grown up in the world today will have spent many years accumulating experience — firstly spending a few years as a baby/toddler, then as a child, then a teenager and then a young adult. Most civilized countries do not permit their citizens to perform a range of activities such as voting, drinking alcohol, getting married, joining the armed forces etc until they are around 18 years old when it is generally agreed that the person is mature enough to handle these responsibilities and make reasonable and informed decisions. Not only that, but there are usually laws requiring the parents to look after their children and ensure their safety,

wellbeing, education and upbringing — this responsibility normally continues until the child is fully grown up. This is because civilized societies know that without those years of experience, a human being is not fit to make decisions for themselves.

Although Genesis doesn't actually say how long Adam and Eve were in the garden of Eden before they ate the forbidden fruit, there is no reason to think that they didn't do this fairly soon after they were created. Think about it — a modern toddler at playgroup probably has



more accumulated life experience than Adam and Eve had! So what does Yahweh do with these innocent beings? Does he protect them from the obvious danger like any decent parent? No — he leaves them alone in a garden with the cunning and devious talking serpent, and a tree with delicious looking fruit which was as lethal to Adam and Eve as a vial of cyanide. Poor old Eve never stood a chance as it was hardly a fair contest of wills – innocent Eve with probably no more than a couple of days life experience against wily old Satan, the prince of darkness himself¹.

Where was Yahweh when this unfair contest was going on? Can you imagine the outcry today if a parent left their 18 month old toddler alone with a devious pervert who

asks the child: "Would you like some sweeties, little girl?" knowing that the child is in mortal danger? If any parent deliberately and knowingly did this they would be convicted of cruelty and willful neglect by just about any court in any country on earth. And what does Yahweh do afterwards? – does he do what any normal parent would do and rescue the child, offering forgiveness and destroying the dangerous prating serpent – no, he blames poor old Adam and Eve and banishes them forever into a cruel world !

The punishment for the "opening of the eyes" and wisdom?

1. Womankind is cursed to suffer labor pains and endure subjugation to men for evermore (3:16). (Women now have the option of caesarians and regional anesthesia, legislation of equality has largely toned down the subjugation to the husband clause of the divine curse!!)
2. Mankind was cursed with hard labor, agrarian vicissitudes (weeds, drought etc.) and earning from the sweat of his brow. (Most people in the west work in cushy conditions which are constantly being improved by legislation!)

¹ Actually nowhere in the story (and even the entire Old Testament as far as I am aware) does it say that the serpent was actually **Satan**. What it actually says in Genesis 3:1 is "*Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made*". Where does it say that the serpent is actually the devil in disguise? Since the fall of Adam & Eve is the entire starting point of Christianity, why would the author leave out such an important point? It would have been so simple to write "Now the Devil, Satan, disguised in the form of a serpent.....". Why didn't the author do this? Simple really, because the serpent simply isn't Satan - merely a crafty talking snake. If the serpent was actually Satan in disguise, why the curse in Genesis 3:14? "*So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life."*" Yahweh is cursing the serpent, not a devil in disguise. Imagine a criminal who robs a bank dressed up as a clown. When he is caught, imagine if the judge's sentence was "all clowns are sentenced to 5 years in prison". This is so obvious but you will never hear anyone in church questioning whether Satan and the serpent are actually one and the same.

3. The chatty snake was cursed to slide on it's belly (apparently it had legs before!) and eat dust (a clause which has apparently never been fulfilled by any type of snake!)

If I were a lawyer I would find Adam and Eve innocent of any crime and find Yahweh guilty of gross indecency and willful neglect of a child.

It is worth noting in this tragic fable that at no point does it say anywhere that this act of "disobedience" by Adam and Even caused the horrible concept known as "original sin" – the reason Adam and Eve were banished from Eden was — "lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever" (Genesis 3:22). Presumably the tree of life and the "Cherubim with the flaming sword" (Genesis 3:24) were removed from the world at some point as they clearly aren't here any more....

There are other problems with the story as well. Adam was specifically told not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil because he would definitely die (Genesis 2:17). Apart from the obvious fact is that knowledge of any sort cannot be obtained from eating a fruit! Why did the omniscient creator not want humans to have moral knowledge? Surely the greatest gift we have is the natural ability to discern right from wrong — a faculty that is found in every species of human being regardless of religion.

After the omnipotent creator has issued his senseless command he then decides to create a helper for Adam — he creates every type of beast and bird and finds them all unsuitable to mate with Adam and so at last the omniscient and omnipotent creator puts him to sleep and takes a rib to make a woman. (All the other beasts were created whole and perfect - but apparently he couldn't create a woman in the same way! — the excuse being that they should always cleave to each other and become one flesh!)

Then one day the nasty deceitful serpent had a chinwag with Eve and said she wouldn't die if she ate the fruit — amazing! The snake spoke the truth and Yahweh lied (Christians will just say the omniscient lord of the universe just changed his mind!!!)



Adam and Even the cloth themselves with fig-leaves and hide from Yahweh who is taking a stroll in the garden in the cool of the evening (3:8). The omniscient Yahweh it seems couldn't find them and called out — "Oy Adam and Eve! Where are you?" They then reveal themselves to god, and he asks them what the fig-leaves are about. They mention their body-issues (low-self esteem) and he figures out that they are now enlightened and flies into a temper tantrum!

After all the rage and indignation and cursing, Yahweh then stitches clothes for them from animal skins (I wonder who killed the animals and tanned the hides?) and then expels them to farm the ground from whence they were taken without passing any course or instruction in husbandry.

They banished couple with no skills of guidance then had two sons: Cain and Abel, Cain kills Abel and then migrates to the land of Nod where he finds a wife and has a son called Enoch. But wait a minute! There were people already living in the land of Nod..... who the hell created them? Were they created by some other god? Were they created before Adam and Eve? Did Yahweh have a number of cloning programs going on at the same time?

Conclusions

Christian claims	Refutation
1. Death entered the world with the sin of Adam.	Death is the natural end of everything that is born, things are born, live and die — there is no mystery or divine curse. Just the way things are. Christians argue that what Paul meant was "spiritual death" but this is not mentioned in the text which says many have already died.
2. Sin entered the world and contaminated all of humankind because of what Adam did (i.e. become enlightened.)	The result of their misdeed in achieving enlightenment is explicitly stated - labor-pains and subjugation for the woman and wearisome toil for the man. Nowhere does Genesis mention any original sin which is to be passed on to all descendants!
3. Jesus died to resolve the issue of original sin.	Seeing that there is no such thing original sin, his death was in vain! When the whole Adam story is full of irregularities and nonsense how can we take the sacrifice of Jesus seriously?
4. The chatty snake was Satan, the fallen angel in disguise.	The story doesn't mention this fact, and the snake is cursed to be the most detested of all livestock and wild animals — a tangible, physical curse which does not apply to a spiritual being like a fallen angel.
5. Adam and Even had free-will and could have refused to become enlightened and could have chosen to remain in blissful ignorance.	If Yahweh is omniscient he would have known that they would eat the fruit. If he already knew, then free-will makes no sense. If I place a sweet and a book in front of a toddler and tell it to make a choice, I know exactly what it will do, so where is there "free-choice." Apart from the fact that science itself now doubts the degree to which we are "free" to make choices. In order to give an ignorant person a choice, one needs to inform the other of all the risks and benefits of both options. God did not do this with the first couple, merely commanded and threatened them!

The Scientific Perspective

Human beings have evolved through various stages covering millions of years.

homo habilis — 2.3.million years ago, were the first to use stone tools.

homo erectus — 1.3 to 1.8 million years ago

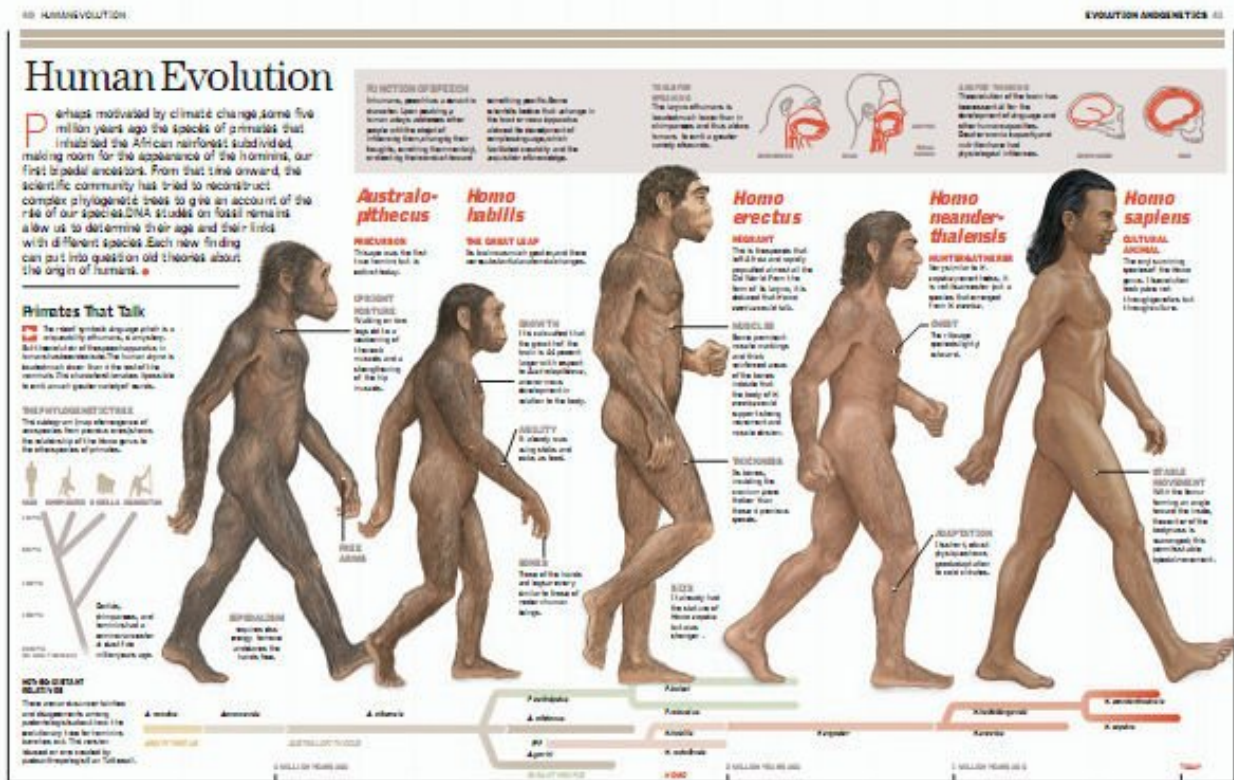
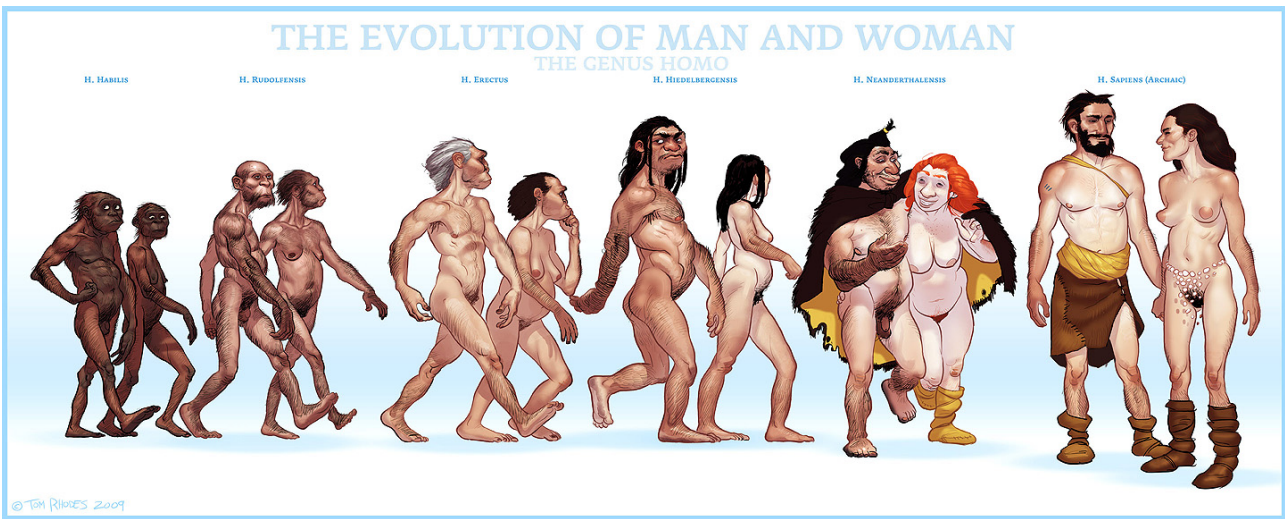
neandertal sub-species of homo-sapiens differing in DNA by only 0.12% 600,000 - 350,000

homo sapiens — 200,000 years ago

Which one of these types can be identified with Adam and Eve? Were they proto-types that God got wrong? At which stage did the "soul" enter into the human evolution chain? What happened spiritually to the previous rejected types? Did Yaweh take care of their spiritual needs without revelation? Were they just discarded or sent to hell?

Christians usually respond by denying the science of evolution. OK, let's accept that homo sapiens did not evolve but was created perfect on one day. Evidence proves that this happened 200,000 years ago - so why did Yahweh wait so long to "save" humankind? What happened to those billions of homo sapiens that lived before the advent of Jesus?

We have the indisputable evidence of homo erectus, neandertals etc. that were the closest to us in form and behaviour — even if we accept that were different humanoid species the question remains — did they have souls? Were they also born in sin? Did they get spiritual guidance from God? Did they require salvation? Will they be resurrected on Judgement Day?



Testimony about the Resurrection

Why do you only ever hear **one** resurrection story in church? How many Bible studies have you been to that study all the gospels side-by-side? Take a look at how the story gets more and more fantastic when you put the gospels into date order.

The gospel of Mark is reckoned to be the earliest gospel, written around 70CE. This is around 37 years after the actual events apparently occurred - up until this time they had been circulating via word-of-mouth (the most unreliable form of communication in existence), and possibly recorded on a lost set of sayings that scholars call "Q". Try to imagine if you can, you have just heard a word-of-mouth account of some event that occurred in 1971 (time of writing is 2008) and that there is no television, no newspapers, and an ignorant, superstitious and generally illiterate population.

Gospel of Mark 16:1-7:

And when the Sabbath was past, **Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome**, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulcher at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulcher? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulcher, they saw a **young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment**; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you. And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulcher; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid. Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

Notice how it was only the **women** who went to the tomb, and they saw a **young man in white**. No angels, no disciples, no Jesus (until after the women had fled the tomb).

Matthew and Luke were both written around 10-15 years after Mark, between 80-90 CE. Let's look at Luke's version first:

Gospel of Luke 24:1-12:

Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulcher, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, **two men stood by them in shining garments**: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words, And returned from the sepulcher, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest. It was **Mary Magdalene and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James**, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles. And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not. Then arose **Peter**, and ran unto the sepulcher; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.

Notice how there are now *two* men, not merely dressed in white now, but in *shining garments*? Also, Peter is present which Mark somehow forgot to mention - *St Peter* - one of the

most important apostles, and Mark failed to record him being present at the scene? Also note how Jesus is not mentioned as being present at the tomb - he appears later on at Emmaus.

Gospel of Matthew 28:1-10:

In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came **Mary Magdalene and the other Mary** to see the sepulcher. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the **angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.** His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the sepulcher with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word. **And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.**



Matthew makes the story even more exciting - there is now a great earthquake and the men have become angels, and Jesus now meets them and Matthew records his sayings!

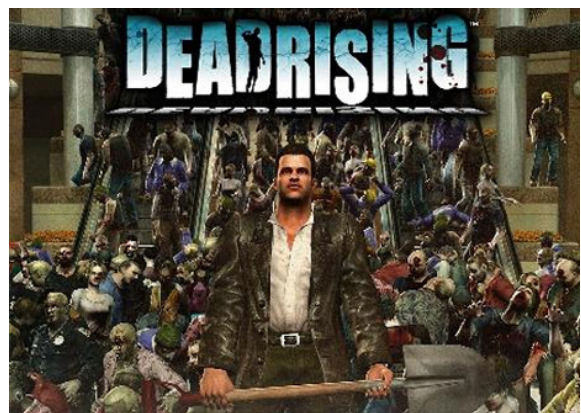
Matthew seems particularly prone to exaggerating stories. Let's rewind a little bit, to his account of the crucifixion:

Matthew 27:51-53:

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.

None of the other gospels mention these things. Surely if hordes of zombies came out of the ground and swarmed into Jerusalem, at least one of the Jewish or Roman historians would have recorded this?

Imagine you are Matthew, writing about this incredible scene. Surely you would list some of the names of these "saints", and the names of some of the witnesses they appeared to?



Instead, Matthew must simply have been thinking about how to make the story more impressive and added it as a mere afterthought, carelessly exposing himself as somebody with a vivid imagination.

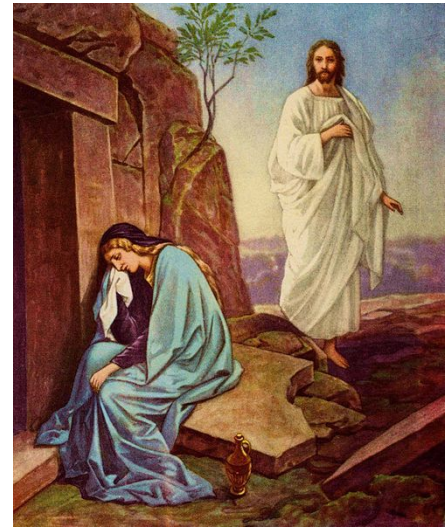
Read it again carefully. Notice how the saints arose from the dead at the crucifixion, but only

actually came out of the graves "after his resurrection" - *where were they in the three days between these two events?* Waiting patiently sitting on their tombs for Jesus to rise first?

The gospel of John is the last gospel and has been dated to around 90-100CE:

Gospel of John 20:1-16:

The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulcher, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulcher. Then she runneth, and cometh to **Simon Peter, and to the other disciple,** whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the LORD out of the sepulcher, and we know not where they have laid him. Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulcher. So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulcher. And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulcher, and seeth the linen clothes lie, And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.



Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulcher, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again unto their own home. But Mary stood without at the sepulcher weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulcher, And seeth **two angels in white** sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my LORD, and I know not where they have laid him. And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, **and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.** Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

John adds an extra angel, an extra disciple, and even makes Jesus himself appear at the tomb!

The story just gets more and more fabulous with each version, but you will never hear this preached at church, because the preacher will only ever concentrate on one of the gospels at a time. Only when you analyze them carefully according to the dates they were written can you see how each writer added made-up details to make the story more and more fantastic.

Archaeology disproves the Bible

Sometimes you will hear Christians tell you that archaeological evidence proves the Bible is true. Think about this though — archaeology cannot prove that a particular story in the Bible is true: suppose that archaeological evidence was found that a particular battle occurred, e.g. the remains of a city are discovered exactly where the Bible says the battle took place. This only proves that a battle took place, it does NOT prove that Yahweh smote the unbelieving heathens from heaven.

However, if you turn it around, it is possible for archaeological evidence to prove that the Bible is untrue. For example, if the Bible says that a battle took place at a particular time and place, and archaeological evidence shows that this cannot have happened, it proves that the

Bible is in error.

This kind of evidence would be even more compelling if it were discovered by a *christian*. Well, this actually happened - take a look at Joshua 8:26-28:

For Joshua drew not his hand back, wherewith he stretched out the spear, until he had **utterly destroyed all the inhabitants of Ai**. Only the cattle and the spoil of that city Israel took for a prey unto themselves, according unto the word of the LORD which he commanded Joshua. And Joshua **burnt Ai, and made it an heap for ever, even a desolation unto this day**.

Joseph Callaway, professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, excavated the ruins of Ai between 1964 and 1976 and afterwards reported that what he found there contradicted the Bible version completely:

The evidence from Ai was mainly negative. There was a great walled city there beginning about 3000 B. C., more than 1,800 years before Israel's emergence in Canaan. But this city was destroyed about 2400 B.C., after which the site was abandoned. Despite extensive excavation, no evidence of a Late Bronze Age (1500-1200 B. C.) Canaanite city was found. In short, there was no Canaanite city here for Joshua to conquer (Biblical Archaeology Review, "Joseph A. Callaway: 1920-1988," November/December 1988, p. 24, emphasis mine).

There is also no archaeological evidence that the Exodus from Egypt ever happened. Numbers chapter 1 gives an idea of the huge number of Israelites that apparently wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. However, the Israeli archaeologist Eliezer Oren spent 10 years excavating the site, and *"failed to provide a single shred of evidence that the Biblical account of the Exodus from Egypt ever happened"* (Barry Brown, "Israeli Archaeologist Reports No Evidence to Back Exodus Story," News Toronto Bureau, Feb. 27, 1988).

Millions of people camped in the desert for decades would have left a huge footprint, but not a single piece of evidence has been found.

You can't choose your beliefs

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." — Mark 16:16

If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." — Romans 10:9

This is the main criteria for salvation according to the Bible – you must believe that Jesus rose physically from the dead. If you disbelieve this, you will go to hell. Many of us have heard this over and over again but haven't really given it much thought. Consider this however — do you actually have any conscious control over your beliefs, or is this actually an illusion? Philosophers have debated for ages whether we have free will or not, but I would argue that we certainly cannot choose what we believe. You might think you do, but think about this clearly and you will see that you cannot consciously choose whether or not to believe something.

If you are not convinced, try the following exercises:—

- ❖ Try to believe that Santa Claus exists and delivers presents from a sleigh pulled by flying reindeer
- ❖ Try to believe that you are the reincarnation of Julius Caesar
- ❖ Try really, really hard to believe that Elvis didn't die but was taken by aliens to the Andromeda Galaxy

Disbelief works in the same way:

- ❖ Try to disbelieve that Bill Gates founded Microsoft
- ❖ Try to disbelieve that there are other planets in the solar system
- ❖ Try to disbelieve that the Roman Empire existed

Therefore, it logically follows that if you believe Jesus rose from the dead or not, this isn't actually a conscious decision you have made and therefore cannot be held responsible for it.

What's that? You don't believe me?

Fair enough, now try to change that. See what I mean ;-)

Fierce creatures in the Bible

The Bible contains creatures as bizarre as the Chronicles of Narnia. Everyone knows about the talking snake (Genesis 3:1) and the talking donkey (Numbers 22:28-30), but lets take a look at some of the other weird and wonderful creatures in the Bible. Note that I have used the King James version (which many Christians believe is the most authentic version), more modern translations may have "corrected" these rather embarrassing verses.

Unicorns

Deuteronomy 33:17 *His glory is like the firstling of his bullock, and his horns are like the horns of unicorns...*

Job 39:9-10 *Will the unicorn be willing to serve thee, or abide by thy crib? Canst thou bind the unicorn with his band in the furrow?*

Psalms 29:6 *He maketh them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn.*

Psalms 22:21 *Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.*



Psalms 92:10 *But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of a unicorn: I shall be anointed with fresh oil.*

Numbers 23:22 *God brought them out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn.*

Isaiah 34:7 *And the unicorns shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls...*

Sea monsters and dragons

Isaiah 51:9 *Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon?*

Isaiah 27:1 *In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea.*

Deuteronomy 32:33 *Their wine is the poison of dragons.*



Satyrs and Dragons

Isaiah 13:21-22 *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 days shall not be prolonged.*

Isaiah 34:13-14 *And thorns shall come up in her palaces, nettles and brambles in the fortresses thereof: and it shall be an habitation of **dragons**, and a court for owls. The wild beasts of the desert shall also meet with the wild beasts of the island, and the **satyr** shall cry to his fellow; the screech owl also shall rest there, and find for herself a place of rest.*



Cockatrices, and a "fiery flying serpent"

(a cockatrice is a mythological creature that is the offspring of a cock and a snake, and can apparently turn people to stone)

Isaiah 11:8 *And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the **cockatrice**' den.*

Isaiah 14:29 *Rejoice not thou, whole Palestina, because the rod of him that smote thee is broken: for out of the serpent's root shall come forth a **cockatrice**, and his fruit shall be **a fiery flying serpent**(!).*

Isaiah 59:5 *They hatch **cockatrice**' eggs, and weave the spider's web: he that eateth of their eggs dieth, and that which is crushed breaketh out into a viper.*

Jeremiah 8:17 *For, behold, I will send serpents, **cockatrices**, among you, which will not be charmed, and they shall bite you, saith the LORD.*



Flying creeping things with four feet

Leviticus 11:23 *But all other flying creeping things, which have four feet, shall be an abomination unto you.*

Anyone know what these are supposed to be? Birds have two legs, insects have six. WTF?

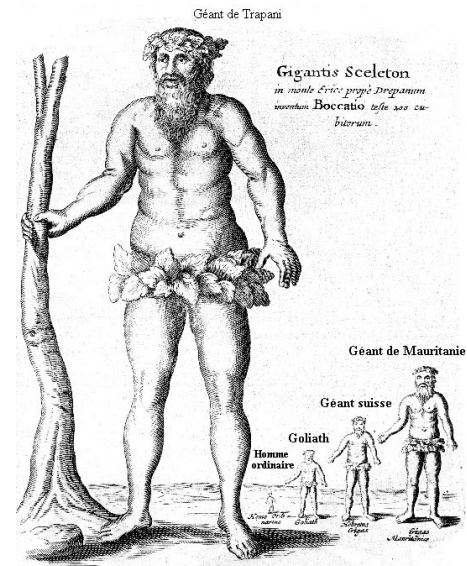


Giants and "sons of God"

Genesis 6:4 *"There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown."*

FEE FI FO FUM! This story also appears in the apocryphal "Book Of Enoch" (<http://www.sacred-texts.com/bib/boe/boe009.htm>) where the writer describes how a race of 450 foot high giants was created when fallen angels came down from heaven and had sex with human females. Farrell Till has an [excellent article](#) on this ridiculous myth.

The idea that the gods came down and fathered offspring with human females is found in many cultures, e.g. Hercules was the son of Zeus and Alcmena; Bacchus was the son of Jupiter and Semele. Does anyone actually believe these things really happened?



Goblinology

It has also been said that you cannot criticise Christianity without having undertaken an in-depth study of theology. Ok, so imagine the following: there are large numbers of people who believe in goblins. Even though nobody has ever seen a goblin, you can take degree and even doctorate courses in goblinology, the study of goblins. Goblinologists throughout the centuries have written detailed dissertations on the nature of goblins, and spend many hours discussing how humans should relate to the goblins. In Britain, a really senior member of the Goblican Church can gain a place in the second chamber of Government, and direct British Government policy and how it should interpret the will of the goblins. Schoolchildren are required by law to sing praises to the goblin king every morning.

Different schools of thought exist about the relationships between the different kinds of goblins, for example, doctrinal interpretations about the difference between the goblin and the *hobgoblin* (described as an "ineffable mystery") have caused schisms in the world of goblinology, with different Goblinologists accusing each other of heresy. Hundreds of books

have been written about how to contact goblins and even reach the world of the goblins, even though nobody has ever seen this place. Some Goblinogians even say that humans who deny the existence of goblins will be eventually thrown into the fires of Mount Doom (the abode of Sauron), although some Goblinogians disagree with this, and in any case, nobody has ever seen such a place.

Ok, so are you really suggesting that I cannot criticise Goblinology and Goblinogians without first having spent years poring over The Lord of the Rings (not the paperback version, it has to be the original version as penned by Tolkien)?

The Missing Commandment

Leviticus 20:28: *"Thou shalt not lie with a man or a woman against their will; this is an abomination"*

Don't bother looking up that verse, Leviticus 20:28 doesn't actually exist, I made it up. Given that Yahweh carefully laid out a detailed set of laws governing sexual morality, isn't it a bit strange that he forgot to include the most basic of human rights, the right not to be forced into sexual activity against your will? This is a fundamental right recognised by all civilised human beings, and yet somehow Yahweh forgot to include it, yet managed to include a commandment not to sleep with your uncle's wife!

Let's have a look at Yahweh's laws on sex:

Leviticus 20:10 *If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall be put to death.*

Leviticus 20:11 *The man who lies with his father's wife has uncovered his father's nakedness; both of them shall be put to death; their blood is upon them.*

Leviticus 20:12 *If a man lies with his daughter-in-law, both of them shall be put to death; they have committed perversion, their blood is upon them.*

Leviticus 20:13 *If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall be put to death; their blood is upon them.*

Leviticus 20:14 *If a man takes a wife and her mother also, it is depravity; they shall be burned to death, both he and they, that there may be no depravity among you.*

Leviticus 20:15 *If a man has sexual relations with an animal, he shall be put to death; and you shall kill the animal.*

Leviticus 20:16 *If a woman approaches any animal and has sexual relations with it, you shall kill the woman and the animal; they shall be put to death, their blood is upon them.*

Leviticus 20:17 *If a man takes his sister, a daughter of his father or a daughter of his mother, and sees her nakedness, and she sees his nakedness, it is a disgrace, and they shall be cut off in the sight of their people; he has uncovered his sister's nakedness, he shall be subject to punishment.*

Leviticus 20:18 *If a man lies with a woman having her sickness and uncovers her nakedness, he has laid bare her flow and she has laid bare her flow of blood; both of them shall be cut off from their people.*

Leviticus 20:19 *You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister or of your father's sister, for that is to lay bare one's own flesh; they shall be subject to punishment.*

Leviticus 20:20 *If a man lies with his uncle's wife, he has uncovered his uncle's nakedness; they shall be subject to punishment; they shall die childless.*

Leviticus 20:21 *If a man takes his brother's wife, it is impurity; he has uncovered his brother's nakedness; they shall be childless.*

How many people actually need to be commanded not to sleep with an animal, or their Aunt? Yet Yahweh doesn't seem to forbid the atrocious crime of rape when spelling out his detailed laws on sex. If there was ever any more obvious proof that the Bible is not the word of an infinitely wise and moral creator, this is surely it.

Actually, Yahweh even says that if a woman is raped in a city, she should be stoned to death because she didn't cry out. Only women raped in the country are spared from being stoned:

Deuteronomy 22:23-25 *If a damsel that is a virgin be betrothed unto an husband, and a man find her in the city, and lie with her, then ye shall bring them both out unto the gate of that city, and ye shall stone them with stones that they die; the damsel, because she cried not, being in the city; and the man, because he hath humbled his neighbour's wife: so thou shalt put away evil from among you. But if a man find a betrothed damsel in the field, and the man force her, and lie with her: then the man only that lay with her shall die.*

The Word of God?

If you were brought up in a Christian family, you have probably been told from the earliest age that the Bible is "God's Word" — it is a book written (or dictated) by God himself, and you may even have been taught this verse from 2 Timothy 3:14-17:

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

However, have you ever stopped to think how the Bible was actually compiled? Was it faxed down from heaven? Did it suddenly appear in a flash of light in front of thousands of devotees? Did angels personally hand a leather-bound copy to St. Peter? Actually no, the answer is far more mundane. I will specifically focus on the New Testament. Firstly though you need to understand a bit about what was happening in Rome in around 300AD.

The Roman Emperor Constantine was irritated as there were many different cults all competing for attention throughout the ancient world. Each cult had its own claims, its own prophets and its own scriptures. Constantine found this alarming and wanted an official state religion. The Romans considered making Mithraism the official religion of the Roman Empire, and if this had happened you would probably have huge churches and evangelists today devoted to the worship of Mithra instead of Jesus. Anyway, Constantine approached the leaders of one particular cult, Christianity, and offered to make their cult the official religion of Rome if only they could settle all their doctrinal differences. You see, despite what you are taught in Church, there never was a single version of Christianity handed down since the apostles — there were many different versions with widely differing beliefs — for example some believed in reincarnation, others didn't actually believe in a literal Jesus or resurrection. There were numerous "gospels" floating around, some of which actually survived and can be read today (search the internet for "Gnostic Gospels").

Anyway, Christianity as we understand it today was defined in 325AD by the Council of Nicea. This council basically had to consider all the various texts and gospels and decide which ones were the "Word of God" by means of a vote.

If that seems shocking to you, let me say it again: *The books comprising "God's Word" were*

decided by a vote! If you didn't realise this, this really should be your wake-up call.

Just picture the scene:

"I say that 2 Timothy is God's Word!" "I agree!" "I second that!"

"Nonsense!" "What about the gospel of Philip? I want that in the Bible instead!"

"Heresy!" "That's the work of the devil!"

"Stop this everyone! Right, let's have a show of hands. Hand's up everyone who thinks 2 Timothy is the Word of God."

"Ok, the "Yes's" win that one - 2 Timothy is now officially God's Word"

"Next, the gospel of Philip"

"Fiction!" "Total lies!"

"God's Word!" "Right, the "No's" win that one - all copies of Philip's gospel are hereby ordered to be burnt". "NEXT!"

Ok, that that's just my take on the council of Nicea and it didn't happen quite like that, but I hope you get my point.

Excluded books

Just for interest, I have listed below a list of gospels and early writings that were excluded from the Bible. Many Christians have probably never heard of these. You can find most of them on the web and some of them make for interesting reading.

Apocryphon of James (also called the "Secret Book of James")

Authoritative Teaching

Book of Thomas the Contender

Dialogue of the Saviour

Eugnostos the Blessed

Gnostic Apocalypse of Peter

Gospel of Appelles

Gospel of Bardesanes

Gospel of Bartholomew

Gospel of Basilides

Gospel of Cerinthus

Gospel of Mani

Gospel of Marcion

Gospel of Mary (also called the "Gospel of Mary Magdalene")

Gospel of Nicodemus (also called the "Acts of Pilate")

Gospel of Peter

Gospel of Philip

Gospel of the Ebionites

Gospel of the Hebrews

Gospel of the Nazarenes

Gospel of Philip

Gospel of Thomas

Gospel of Truth

Gospel of the Egyptians

Greek Gospel of the Egyptians (distinct from the Coptic Gospel of the Egyptians)

Melchizedek

On the Origin of the World

Questions of Bartholomew
Resurrection of Jesus Christ
The Acts of Peter and the Twelve Apostles
The Apocalypse of Adam
The Apocalypse of Paul
The Apocryphon of James (also known as the Secret Book of James)
The Apocryphon of John
The Book of Thomas the Contender
The Concept of Our Great Power
The Dialogue of the Saviour
The Exegesis on the Soul
The First Apocalypse of James
The Hypostasis of the Archons
The Letter of Peter to Philip
The Paraphrase of Shem
The Prayer of the Apostle Paul
The Second Apocalypse of James
The Second Treatise of the Great Seth
The Sophia of Jesus Christ
The Teachings of Silvanus
The Testimony of truth
The Thought of Norea
The Three Steles of Seth
The Thunder, Perfect Mind
The Treatise on the Resurrection
The Tripartite Tractate
Zostrianos
1 Maccabees
2 Maccabees

The Bible as a Moral Guide.

by Robert G. Ingersoll

Many people regard the Bible as the only moral guide and believe that in that book only can be found the true and perfect standard of morality.

There are many good precepts, many wise sayings and many good regulations and laws in the Bible, and these are mingled with bad precepts, with foolish sayings, with absurd rules and cruel laws.

But we must remember that the Bible is a collection of many books written centuries apart, and that it in part represents the growth and tells in part the history of a people. We must also remember that the writers treat of many subjects. Many of these writers have nothing to say about right or wrong, about vice or virtue.

The book of Genesis has nothing about morality. There is not a line in it calculated to shed light on the path of conduct. No one can call that book a moral guide. It is made up of myth and miracle, of tradition and legend.

In Exodus we have an account of the manner in which Jehovah delivered the Jews from Egyptian bondage.

We now know that the Jews were never enslaved by the Egyptians; that the entire story is a fiction. We know this, because there is not found in Hebrew a word of Egyptian origin, and there is not found in the language of the Egyptians a word of Hebrew origin. This being so, we know that the Hebrews and Egyptians could not have lived together for hundreds of years.

Certainly Exodus was not written to teach morality. In that book you cannot find one word against human slavery. As a matter of fact, Jehovah was a believer in that institution.

The killing of cattle with disease and hail, the murder of the first-born, so that in every house was death, because the king refused to let the Hebrews go, certainly was not moral; it was fiendish. The writer of that book regarded all the people of Egypt, their children, their flocks and herds, as the property of Pharaoh, and these people and these cattle were killed, not because they had done anything wrong, but simply for the purpose of punishing the king. Is it possible to get any morality out of this history?

All the laws found in Exodus, including the Ten Commandments, so far as they are really good and sensible, were at that time in force among all the peoples of the world.

Murder is, and always was, a crime, and always will be, as long as a majority of people object to being murdered.

Industry always has been and always will be the enemy of larceny.

The nature of man is such that he admires the teller of truth and despises the liar. Among all tribes, among all people, truth-telling has been considered a virtue and false swearing or false speaking a vice.

The love of parents for children is natural, and this love is found among all the animals that live. So the love of children for parents is natural, and was not and cannot be created by law. Love does not spring from a sense of duty, nor does it bow in obedience to commands.

So men and women are not virtuous because of anything in books or creeds.

All the Ten Commandments that are good were old, were the result of experience. The commandments that were original with Jehovah were foolish.

The worship of "any other God" could not have been worse than the worship of Jehovah, and nothing could have been more absurd than the sacredness of the Sabbath.

If commandments had been given against slavery and polygamy, against wars of invasion and extermination, against religious persecution in all its forms, so that the world could be free, so that the brain might be developed and the heart civilized, then we might, with propriety, call such commandments a moral guide.

Before we can truthfully say that the Ten Commandments constitute a moral guide, we must add and subtract. We must throw away some, and write others in their places.

The commandments that have a known application here, in this world, and treat of human obligations are good, the others have no basis in fact, or experience.

Many of the regulations found in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, are good. Many are absurd and cruel.

The entire ceremonial of worship is insane.

Most of the punishment for violations of laws are unphilosophic and brutal. . . . The fact is that the Pentateuch upholds nearly all crimes, and to call it a moral guide is as absurd as to say that it is merciful or true.

Nothing of a moral nature can be found in Joshua or Judges. These books are filled with crimes, with massacres and murders. They are about the same as the real history of the Apache Indians.

The story of Ruth is not particularly moral.

In first and second Samuel there is not one word calculated to develop the brain or conscience.

Jehovah murdered seventy thousand Jews because David took a census of the people. David, according to the account, was the guilty one, but only the innocent were killed.

In first and second Kings can be found nothing of ethical value. All the kings who refused to obey the priests were denounced, and all the crowned wretches who assisted the priests, were declared to be the favorites of Jehovah. In these books there cannot be found one word in favor of liberty.

There are some good Psalms, and there are some that are infamous. Most of these Psalms are selfish. Many of them are passionate appeals for revenge.

The story of Job shocks the heart of every good man. In this book there is some poetry, some pathos, and some philosophy, but the story of this drama called Job, is heart-less to the last degree. The children of Job are murdered to settle a little wager between God and the Devil. Afterward, Job having remained firm, other children are given in the place of the murdered ones. Nothing, however, is done for the children who were murdered.

The book of Esther is utterly absurd, and the only redeeming feature in the book is that the name of Jehovah is not mentioned.

I like the Song of Solomon because it tells of human love, and that is something I can understand. That book in my judgment is worth all the ones that go before it, and is a far better moral guide.

There are some wise and merciful Proverbs. Some are selfish and some are flat and commonplace.

I like the book of Ecclesiastes because there you find some sense, some poetry, and some philosophy. Take away the interpolations and it is a good book.

Of course there is nothing in Nehemiah or Ezra to make men better, nothing in Jeremiah or Lamentations calculated to lessen vice, and only a few passages in Isaiah that can be used in a good cause.

In Ezekiel and Daniel we find only ravings of the insane.

In some of the minor prophets there is now and then a good verse, now and then an elevated thought.

You can, by selecting passages from different books, make a very good creed, and by selecting passages from different books, you can make a very bad creed.

The trouble is that the spirit of the Old Testament, its disposition, its temperament, is bad, selfish and cruel. The most fiendish things are commanded, commended and applauded.

The stories that are told of Joseph, of Elisha, of Daniel and Gideon, and of many others, are hideous; hellish.

On the whole, the Old Testament cannot be considered a moral guide.

Jehovah was not a moral God. He had all the vices, and he lacked all the virtues. He generally carried out his threats, but he never faithfully kept a promise.

At the same time, we must remember that the Old Testament is a natural production, that it was written by savages who were slowly crawling toward the light. We must give them credit for the noble things they said, and we must be charitable enough to excuse their faults and even their crimes.

I know that many Christians regard the Old Testament as the foundation and the New as the superstructure, and while many admit that there are faults and mistakes in the Old Testament, they insist that the New is the flower and perfect fruit.

I admit that there are many good things in the New Testament, and if we take from that book the dogmas, of eternal pain, of infinite revenge, of the atonement, of human sacrifice, of the necessity of shedding blood; if we throw away the doctrine of non-resistance, of loving enemies, the idea that prosperity is the result of wickedness, that Poverty is a preparation for Paradise, if we throw all these away and take the good, sensible passages, applicable to conduct, then we can make a fairly good moral guide, -- narrow, but moral.

Of course, many important things would be left out. You would have nothing about human rights, nothing in favor of the family, nothing for education, nothing for investigation, for thought and reason, but still you would have a fairly good moral guide.

On the other hand, if you would take the foolish passages, the extreme ones, you could make a creed that would satisfy an insane asylum.

If you take the cruel passages, the verses that inculcate eternal hatred, verses that writhe and hiss like serpents, you can make a creed that would shock the heart of a hyena.

It may be that no book contains better passages than the New Testament, but certainly no book contains worse.

Below the blossom of love you find the thorn of hatred; on the lips that kiss, you find the poison of the cobra.

The Bible is not a moral guide.

Any man who follows faithfully all its teachings is an enemy of society and will probably end his days in a prison or an asylum.

What is morality?

In this world we need certain things. We have many wants. We are exposed to many dangers. We need food, fuel, raiment and shelter, and besides these wants, there is, what may be called, the hunger of the mind.

We are conditioned beings, and our happiness depends upon conditions. There are certain things that diminish, certain things that increase, well-being. There are certain things that destroy and there are others that preserve.

Happiness, including its highest forms, is after all the only good, and everything, the result of which is to produce or secure happiness, is good, that is to say, moral. Everything that destroys or diminishes well-being is bad, that is to say, immoral. In other words, all that is good is moral, and all that is bad is immoral.

What then is, or can be called, a moral guide? The shortest possible answer is one word: Intelligence.

We want the experience of mankind, the true history of the race. We want the history of intellectual development, of the growth of the ethical, of the idea of justice, of conscience, of charity, of self-denial. We want to know the paths and roads that have been traveled by the human mind.

These facts in general, these histories in outline, the results reached, the conclusions formed, the principles evolved, taken together, would form the best conceivable moral guide.

We cannot depend on what are called "inspired books," or the religions of the world. These religions are based on the supernatural, and according to them we are under obligation to worship and obey some supernatural being, or beings. All these religions are inconsistent with intellectual liberty. They are the enemies of thought, of investigation, of mental honesty. They destroy the manliness of man. They promise eternal rewards for belief, for credulity, for what they call faith.

These religions teach the slave virtues. They make inanimate things holy, and falsehoods sacred. They create artificial crimes. To eat meat on Friday, to enjoy yourself on Sunday, to eat on fast-days, to be happy in Lent, to dispute a priest, to ask for evidence, to deny a creed, to express your sincere thought, all these acts are sins, crimes against some god, To give your honest opinion about Jehovah, Mohammed or Christ, is far worse than to maliciously slander your neighbor. To question or doubt miracles. is far worse than to deny known facts. Only the obedient, the credulous, the cringers, the kneelers, the meek, the unquestioning, the true believers, are regarded as moral, as virtuous. It is not enough to be honest, generous and useful; not enough to be governed by evidence, by facts. In addition to this, you must believe. These things are the foes of morality. They subvert all natural conceptions of virtue.

All "inspired books," teaching that what the supernatural commands is right, and right because commanded, and that what the supernatural prohibits is wrong, and wrong because prohibited, are absurdly unphilosophic.

And all "inspired books," teaching that only those who obey the commands of the supernatural are, or can be, truly virtuous, and that unquestioning faith will be rewarded with eternal joy, are grossly immoral.

Again I say: Intelligence is the only moral guide.