

## Atheism, The Atheist and the Bible

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### Introduction

The bumper sticker in the back window read, *"Nology."* It took a second, and then I said, *"That is really good."* What a succinct declaration from an atheist. The driver was a young fellow - hot rodding around in his beat up truck. I looked up and said, *"Lord, deliver him from that."* I then realized ... this is one sin from which each adherent will be delivered. Of course, the inevitable deliverance does not automatically equate into a salvation deliverance. But, before addressing this last statement, let's discuss atheism.

### Practical Atheism Versus Philosophical Atheism

*"The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God'"* (Ps 53:1). Many Bible teachers believe the atheism professed by the ancients was a practical atheism. They were not claiming God did *not* exist ... but, that He was not active, or concerned about, the affairs of man. Therefore, you could live as though there was no God ... thus, a *practical* atheism. These verses may indeed validate this understanding.

*"The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek Him. All his thoughts are, 'There is no God ... God has forgotten; He has hidden His face; He will never see it'"* (Ps 10:4,11).

*"The Lord does not see, nor does the God of Jacob pay heed"* (Ps 94:7).

*"How does God know? Is there knowledge with the Most High?"* (Ps 73:11).

*"What does God know? Can He judge through the thick darkness?"* (Job 22:13).

*"The Lord does not see us. The Lord has forsaken the land"* (Ezek 8:12).

In response to the practical atheist, God replies: *"Woe to those who deeply hide their plans from the Lord, whose deeds are done in a dark place and say, 'Who sees us?' or 'Who knows us?' You turn things around! Shall the potter be considered as equal with the clay, that what is made should say to its maker, 'He did not make me!' or what is formed say to him who formed it, 'He has no understanding.'"* (Isa 29:15,16). *"He who planted the ear, does He not hear? He who formed the eye, does He not see?"* (Ps 94:9).

If this understanding of *"the fool"* in Psalm 53:1 is correct, then the Bible's practical atheist is basically a Deist. *"God made this, put it in motion and then walked away. He is not concerned about things here and probably can't keep up with it anyway – or maybe both."* This mindset permeates our world even now ... and always will. I was of that camp. I wish I could interview myself in my early twenties. I would not have said, *"God does not exist,"* but I think I would have said, *"I doubt if He is too involved with us down here."* But regardless, I do know that *"God"* was totally irrelevant to any of my activities and choices. Even brushes with death I credited to *"my lucky star"* - whatever that meant. *"Insanity is in their hearts throughout their lives. Afterwards, they go to the dead"* (Eccl 9:3). I was living as a practical atheist. I was a practical atheist. Praise God for His mercy.

## Philosophical Atheism

What this means ... is that philosophical atheism (the claim that God does not even exist) is a recent development in man. But, regardless of the time of inception, it reached its pinnacle with Darwin's, "*Origin of the Species*." He proposed a scientific theory for existence that was rooted in philosophical atheism. This theory has been proposed for both organic and inorganic science. While this particular scientific theory has grown in popularity and societal permeation, as a theory of science, it has been a sinking ship from the start, taking on water, through myriads of holes. Historically speaking, atheistic evolution may prove to be one of the shortest lived scientific theories ever proposed. [Flat earthers](#) may end up with a longer day in the sun. Concerning this new theory, even now, more and more scientists are moving from evolution to an "*Intelligent Design*" position. They have concluded that chance, and the activity of random forces, could not have developed the reality they study. Some may still be trying to hold to some kind of limited evolution progression in their field of study, but they have become convinced that something, or someone (or someones ... i.e., advanced aliens) of intelligence lies behind their particular field of science. "*Intelligent Design*," by its very name, insinuates there is "*an intelligent designer*." I suspect that statistical probability studies, enhanced by calculations computers now provide, are panicking even the most philosophically committed scientific atheists – at least the honest ones. And it doesn't help matters any ... when fellow atheists discover [soft tissue in dinosaurs](#).

Actually, I am certain there are many Intelligent Design scientists currently "*in the closet*." Fear of ridicule, loss of grants - or job - presently restrains them. Most employers of these scientists are not scientists themselves, but adamant adherents to a philosophical atheism – genuine science be damned. They have, and use, varied tools to ensure philosophical compliance. But, such victories have a limited lifespan. Living dishonestly, with facts, is very uncomfortable. For some ... unbearable. One's conscience can be a real source of harassment. Many of these scientists will "*come out*" once retirement has come and loss of wages, pensions, health insurance, etc. are no longer a threat.

By the way, if "*the fool*" of Psalm 53:1 did indeed believe God existed – but just not a God involved in our affairs – what label might that One place upon the individual who says ... He does not exist at all? Ultimately, the answer to that is not worth much contemplation because ....

## Deliverance for Atheists of Every Stripe is on the Way

As stated earlier, this is one sin from which each adherent will be delivered – practical or philosophical atheist, it matters not. "*I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that to Me every knee will bow and every tongue will confess*" (Isa 45: 23. The bolded part of that passage is repeated in Romans 14:11). But, God reveals more about this coming moment. "*All those who go down to the dust will bow before Him, even he who cannot - did not - keep his soul alive*" (Ps 22:29). Jesus stated, "*For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, in order that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father ... and He gave Him authority to execute judgment*" (Jn 5:22, 23 and 27. Read the whole confrontation in that chapter). It is impossible that any person will be able to maintain his/her atheistic position. But, here is the problem. Timing, for the one delivered, ... is everything. If abandoned too late, the deliverance will not deliver benefit.

## For the Record ...

Concerning the extent of His involvement in the affairs of this man, the Author of the Bible declares Himself as our Creator God, and He has a book on each person that catalogues every deed,

every word, every thought and even every secret of the heart (Rev 20:12, Col 2:14, Mt 12:36, Ro 2:16). “*All things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do*” (He 4:13). He says, “*I know every bird on the mountains*” (Ps 50:11) and He “*feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?*” (Mt 6:26). This was a rhetorical question by Jesus that had the answer built into the question. In Koine Greek, “*ou*” (“*not*”) is a negative with a “*yes*” response built into it (That, at first glance, seems like an oxymoron, but it is actually one of Koine Greek's tremendous nuances).

Here is the truth of the matter. Since God is not a braggart, I will say this. He knows the location, disposition and activity of every subatomic particle in the Universe ... and the “*void*” between them and of what that is comprised. Speaking of “*the void*” of space, does it contain the physical laws that govern matter and energy ... or are these laws innate to matter and energy and thus they govern themselves in a true void of space? This confuses the atheist, because if the void contains the physical laws governing the Universe ... is it void? The other choice is to assert that all the Universe's physical laws resided in that pre Big Bang eternal blot of matter - innate - until it exploded. But, if the atheist arbitrarily settles there, and thus the void was/is truly void, then how can that person at the same time assert ... that it *surrounded* that infamous original blot of eternal matter containing all the laws of gravity, light speed, thermodynamics, etc., etc., etc.? How can *nothing* surround something? Nothing is nothing and it cannot surround something - as that automatically endows properties to it. On the other hand, if the atheist chooses to believe the surrounding void did/does contain our governing physical laws, then the void has been eternally packed from the start. A packed void.

This is just for starters. Quite honestly, it is much easier to believe this Bible declaration - “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth*” (Gen 1:1) - than to try and concoct some illogical theory that professes logic as its foundation. In the past, I have tried to credit the evolutionary atheist with a great faith - greater than mine - to believe his/her assertions. But, I am rethinking that credit. It is actually a shutdown in thought followed by an adherence to insanity. Bottom line: God knows everything about all the ages, and orders – physical and metaphysical – past, present and future. He knows ... everything, because He makes ... everything (Isa 45:12).

The only hope for the atheist is that the Bible is mythology. The practical atheist hopes “*God*” is not able, or concerned. The philosophical atheist hopes death is followed ... by nothing. What lousy hopes. No justice, no life, no point. The only course left in such a worldview is a pursuit “*to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin*” (Heb 11:25). But even here, discretion is required as some sin pursuits possess “*pleasures*” with an exceedingly short shelf-life. In my pre-Christian experience, I chose the latter and was what I have referred to elsewhere as a “*stupid sinner*” (page 36 of that document).

## Conclusion

I suppose it is possible this young man's “*Nology*” bumper sticker was a statement rejecting all the varied theologies in preference for a general Deist position (just God – no religion or definitions about Him or His activities and will – thus, “*Nology*”). But, I suspect this bumper sticker is the fruit of an atheistic philosophy which has bombarded my culture though our public “*education*” system. The pseudo-science of this atheistic construct, evolution, permeates that system by monopoly. This is the only way the theory can gain ground in society. It must exclude true, objective science. Ignorance of factual science is its best friend. <http://www.icr.org/>. Check these scientists out.

As I pulled up next to this young man, I thought I might reach over, roll down my window, and tell him I liked his sticker. I was then going to tell him I knew he was smarter than that – just by the fact he had thought that far – and I was sure God would soon deliver him. But as I pulled up, the stop was just for a second and he looked at me and we both gave a short wave simultaneously. He then

goosed his truck and happily sped down the road, music blaring. We soon turned different directions and I do not know if we will ever cross paths again. So, I simply said, “*Lord, I ask you to deliver him while He is on this side in such a way that the deliverance ends with a successful turn to You.*” If you are so inclined, I ask you would offer your agreement to this request. I expect to see him in glory ... safe.

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In 1977, Robin Calamaio became a Christian. BA, Bus Admin (Milligan College '90) and Master of Divinity (Emmanuel School of Religion '92).