

# **“Holy” Books Attack Rational Belief in an Afterlife**



**Defending God From the “Holy” Books**

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# Introducing “Defending God From The “Holy” Books” Series!

Knowledge is vitally important. People cannot make good decisions without it. That is the purpose of our series Defending God From the “Holy” Books brought to you by the World Union of Deists. We want to empower people with knowledge and facts which are currently not common knowledge.

Knowledge truly is power. In my case, I was trapped in Christianity without even knowing it. Thankfully, I was empowered to wake-up and realize what I was allowing to happen to myself. Thomas Paine and his powerful and inspiring words in [\*The Age of Reason\*](#) profoundly changed my life for the better.

Paine taught me that God and religion are two very different things. He also taught me that you cannot truly love The Supreme Intelligence/God while still embracing the evil and foolish stories about God which are found in all of the “holy” books. His stirring words of, “It is incumbent on every man who reverences the character of the Creator, and who wishes to lessen the catalogue of artificial miseries, and remove the cause that has sown persecutions thick among mankind, to expel all ideas of revealed religion, as a dangerous heresy and an impious fraud” brought to life in me an undying desire to educate the world about Deism and to give people the opportunity to free themselves from the mind-numbing shackles of all of the various “revealed”/hearsay religions.

As the Founder and Director of the World Union of Deists I often hear from people who are extremely thankful to learn that they really do have a true alternative to the various “revealed” religions, and an alternative to Atheism and Agnosticism in Deism. Most have never even heard of Deism before finding our site, [www.deism.com](http://www.deism.com), or reading our literature. We hope to continue this success in liberating the minds and lives of people through Deism with this new series of eBooklets, Defending God From the “Holy” Books. We will publish a new Defending God From the “Holy” Books eBooklet every month. To subscribe to this series please click [here](#).

Thomas Paine once wrote, “We have it in our power to begin the world over again.” I believe these words fit us today as much as in Paine’s day.

Progress! Bob Johnson  
[www.deism.com](http://www.deism.com)

# “Holy” Books Attack Rational Belief in an Afterlife

One of the great qualities of Deism is its lack of man-made dogma and doctrine falsely claimed to be of divine origin. Since Deism is free of such harmful and deceptive man-made dogma, Deists are free to make up their own minds on everything, including the question of an afterlife. Some Deist do not believe there is any continuation of consciousness of existence once our body dies, some Deists believe there is a continuation in an afterlife and some Deists are not sure if they believe in a continuation in an afterlife or not.

The “revealed”/hearsay religions of Christianity and Islam teach that there is an afterlife. The Christians teach that if you’re not a Christian (as to what a Christian is, they have been killing each other since the creation of Christianity 2,000 years ago as to what a Christian is) God will torture you in Hell for eternity. The Muslims teach that if you’re not a Muslim (and like the Christians, Muslims have been killing each other since shortly after the time of the [pedophile Mohammed](#)) God will torture you in Hell for eternity.

The original bad idea/Abrahamic “revealed”/hearsay religion of Judaism doesn’t put much emphasis on Hell or an afterlife and is instead focused on the Earthly advancement of the Jewish people and the Jewish state of Israel. The idea of an afterlife didn’t have much of an influence on Judaism until about 1,700 years after the birth of Judaism, around 100 BCE when the Pharisees started to promote it. Here are three references regarding an afterlife in Judaism: [Judaism 101](#); [Reform Judaism](#); [Chabad](#). It is interesting to note that in the Talmud it is claimed that the Roman General Titus, who led the Roman Army in the Jewish/Roman Wars which saw the destruction of the Second Temple, is in the underworld being continually burned to ashes and then reassembled only to be burned again for eternity (this may be where the Muslims got their belief that God burns the skin off of people in Hell and then gives them fresh skin so they can continue to be tortured and burned for eternity as stated in the Quran at [Surah 4:56](#)). The Talmud teaches that Jesus, the savior of the Christians, is boiling forever in excrement (*Jesus in the Talmud*, Peter Schafer, 2007, Princeton University Press, page 13). The Abrahamic “revealed”/hearsay religions are ungodly and repulsive!

The reason the clergy have for spreading belief in Hell and rewards in Heaven is obvious. The primary purpose of the clergy is to control their fellow human beings for their own selfish profit. The threat of eternal punishment for not doing the will of the clergy, and the promise of eternal rewards and bliss for doing the will of the clergy, are very powerful tools for manipulation of people.

Not only is the belief that God will punish nonbelievers a completely unproven and irrational claim, it harms our idea of The Supreme Intelligence/God. As Thomas Paine wrote in [\*The Age of Reason, The Complete Edition\*](#), “Belief in a cruel god makes a cruel man.”

The savior of the Christians, Jesus, is said to have said (**IF** Jesus really did exist, he never wrote anything himself so all we have to go on is the mere hearsay found in the Gospels which were written after the time it is claimed Jesus lived by authors we do not know) at [Luke 12:4-5](#):

And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

How disgusting for someone to teach people to fear The Supreme Intelligence/God! By teaching people to fear The Supreme Intelligence/God, Jesus, or whoever wrote this ungodly garbage, is making it impossible for believers to truly love The Supreme Intelligence/God unconditionally. It's impossible to mix love with fear. The Bible even contradicts this ungodly and harmful teaching attributed to Jesus at [1 John 4:18](#) which states:

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

This obvious biblical contradiction proves the point Thomas Paine made when he [wrote](#) to a friend regarding his outstanding book [\*The Age of Reason\*](#):

In your letter of the twentieth of March, you give me several quotations from the Bible, which you call the Word of God, to show me that my opinions on religion are wrong, and I could give you as many, from the same book to show that yours are not right; consequently, then, the Bible decides nothing, because it decides any way, and every way, one chooses to make it.

Recently the President of the Philippines, Rodrigo Duterte, [said](#) that he believes it would show God as being “stupid” for The Supreme Intelligence/God to burn people in Hell, since God is the power that caused the people Christianity and Islam claim God is burning in Hell to exist. Duterte's belief seems to be based on the idea that The Supreme Intelligence/God would have more self-respect and love of His/Her/Its creatures to burn and torture them in Hell for eternity. Many people dislike Duterte, yet his ideas on this question shows his thinking is light-years above that of the “revealed”/hearsay religions.

The [Deist Albert Einstein](#) rejected the religious belief that The Supreme Intelligence/God punishes and rewards people for their thoughts and actions during their lives. Einstein wrote:

I cannot imagine a God who rewards and punishes the objects of his creation, whose purposes are modeled after our own - a God, in short, who is but a reflection of human frailty. It is enough for me to contemplate the mystery of conscious life perpetuating

itself through all eternity, to reflect upon the marvelous structure of the universe which we can dimly perceive and to try humbly to comprehend even an infinitesimal part of the intelligence manifested in Nature.

This liberating and uplifting quote from Albert Einstein seems to indicate that the religious claim that God will punish and reward people for their beliefs and actions is in reality nothing more than the invention of the clergy to support and further their own purposes.

Regarding Einstein's belief in an afterlife, he stated that he does not believe in the immortality of the individual. However, regarding the death of a friend he wrote:

He has departed from this strange world a little ahead of me. That means nothing. For us believing physicists, the distinction between past, present and future is only a stubborn illusion. (Isaacson, Walter. *Einstein: His Life and Universe* (p. 540). Simon & Schuster. Kindle Edition.)

Benjamin Franklin was a Deist who believed there is a continuation of the individual after our body dies. Franklin wrote, "Take courage mortal, death cannot banish you from the Universe!"

The Deist Thomas Paine was a Deist who was not sure if there is an afterlife or not. In *The Age of Reason* Paine wrote, "I believe in one God and no more; and I hope for a happiness beyond this life."

Paine also wrote in *The Age of Reason*:

But all other arguments apart, the consciousness of existence is the only conceivable idea we can have of another life, and the continuance of that consciousness is immortality. The consciousness of existence, or the knowing that we exist, is not necessarily confined to the same form, nor to the same matter, even in this life.

Regarding the teaching on an afterlife attributed to Saul/Paul regarding our bodies being brought back to life, Paine destroyed with his innate God-given reason by writing in *The Age of Reason*:

The doctrine he sets out to prove by argument is the resurrection of the same body, and he advances this as an evidence of immortality. But so much will men differ in their manner of thinking, and in the conclusions they draw from the same premises, that this doctrine of the resurrection of the same body, so far from being an evidence of immortality, appears to me to furnish an evidence against it; for if I have already died in this body, and am raised again in the same body in which I have lived, it is a presumptive evidence that I shall die again. That resurrection no more secures me against the repetition of dying, than an ague-fit, when passed, secures me against another. To believe, therefore, in immortality, I must have a more elevated idea than is contained in the gloomy doctrine of the resurrection.

Paine went on to write that he does not believe The Supreme Intelligence/God is under any obligation to continue a person's existence in an afterlife. He believed that probably some very good people will meet with some type of reward, some very bad people will meet with some type of punishment and that indifferent people will probably cease to exist.

Contrary to Jesus teaching people that we should fear The Supreme Intelligence/God, as a Deist Thomas Paine wrote that he looked at God as his Creator and Friend and that God would dispose of him after this life as God wanted. This realization that regardless of various religious teachings about an afterlife, the bottom line is death is an unavoidable part of the Designer's design and we should trust The Supreme Intelligence/God enough not to worry about it.

In *The Age of Reason, The Complete Edition* Thomas Paine showed his appreciation for the ancient philosophers and their ideas regarding an afterlife. He wrote:

The idea of a future state was an universal idea to all nations except the Jews. At the time, and long before, Jesus Christ and the men called his disciples were born, it had been sublimely treated of by Cicero (in his book on Old Age), by Plato, Socrates, Xenophon, and other of the ancient theologians, whom the abusive Christian Church calls heathen. Xenophon represents the elder Cyrus speaking after this manner:

“Think not, my dearest children, that when I depart from you, I shall be no more: but remember that my soul, even while I lived among you, was invisible to you; yet by my actions you were sensible it existed in this body. Believe it therefore existing still, though it be still unseen. How quickly would the honors of illustrious men perish after death, if their souls performed nothing to preserve their fame?

“For my own part, I could never think that the soul while in a mortal body lives, but when departed from it dies; or that its consciousness is lost when it is discharged out of an unconscious habitation. But when it is freed from all corporeal alliance, it is then that it truly exists.”

Since then the idea of a future existence was universal, it may be asked, what new doctrine does the New Testament contain? I answer, that of corrupting the theory of the ancient theologians, by annexing to it the heavy and gloomy doctrine of the resurrection of the body.

As to the resurrection of the body, whether the same body or another, it is a miserable conceit, fit only to be preached to man as an animal. It is not worthy to be called doctrine. Such an idea never entered the brain of any visionary but those of the Christian Church; yet it is in this that the novelty of the New Testament consists! All the other matters serve but as props to this, and those props are most wretchedly put together.

The key American [founders](#) who were Deists greatly admired the ancient philosophers of Greece and Rome. The American Republic they created is modeled after the Roman Republic. One of George Washington's greatest heroes and role models was the Roman statesman and general [Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus](#) (519 - 430 BCE). Cincinnatus was famous and admired by his fellow Romans, and by many freedom loving people throughout the ages such as George Washington, for leaving his farm when duty called to lead the Roman legions in war. While leading the Roman legions he was given dictatorial powers. Upon the successful completion of the war, Cincinnatus gave up his power and returned to his farm. George Washington followed his example by leading the American Revolutionary army and then giving up his command at the successful completion of the revolutionary war. Likewise, after serving two terms as President of the United States, Washington gave up his office and saw the peaceful transfer of political power.

The Roman Stoic and Emperor Marcus Aurelius was a very insightful and good man. He wrote down his thoughts on God, life, death and what it means and what is required to be a good person. These writings of his were compiled into the volume *Meditations*.

One of Marcus Aurelius' statements about death shows his trust of The Supreme Intelligence/God regarding both death and the possibility of an afterlife. He wrote:

Either the world is a mere hotch-potch of random cohesions and dispersions, or else it is a unity of order and providence. If the former, why wish to survive in such a purposeless and chaotic confusion; why care about anything, save the manner of the ultimate return to dust; why trouble my head at all; since, do what I will, dispersion must overtake me sooner or later? But if the contrary be true, then I do reverence, I stand firmly, and I put my trust in the directing Power.

These ideas and beliefs about death and an afterlife given to us by the Deists and philosophers are all based on our innate God-given reason. They give us an exalted idea of The Supreme Intelligence/God as opposed to the idea of The Supreme Intelligence/God that is given to us by the "revealed"/hearsay religions which teach us that we need to fear our Creator/Friend because God is cruel and will burn and torture us in an afterlife for all of eternity.

Deists need to act on this advice from Thomas Paine's *The Age of Reason*:

It is a duty incumbent on every true Deist, that he vindicate the moral justice of God against the calumnies of the Bible.

It is incumbent on every man who reverences the character of the Creator, and who wishes to lessen the catalogue of artificial miseries, and remove the cause that has sown persecutions thick among mankind, to expel all ideas of revealed religion, as a dangerous heresy and an impious fraud.

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