



Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • December 1, 2016 • Bad Theology week 11 • Msg. 16-61

Atheists in the World Today

Atheists in America

Defining Atheism

“Agnostics”

“Religious Atheists”

“Practical Atheists”

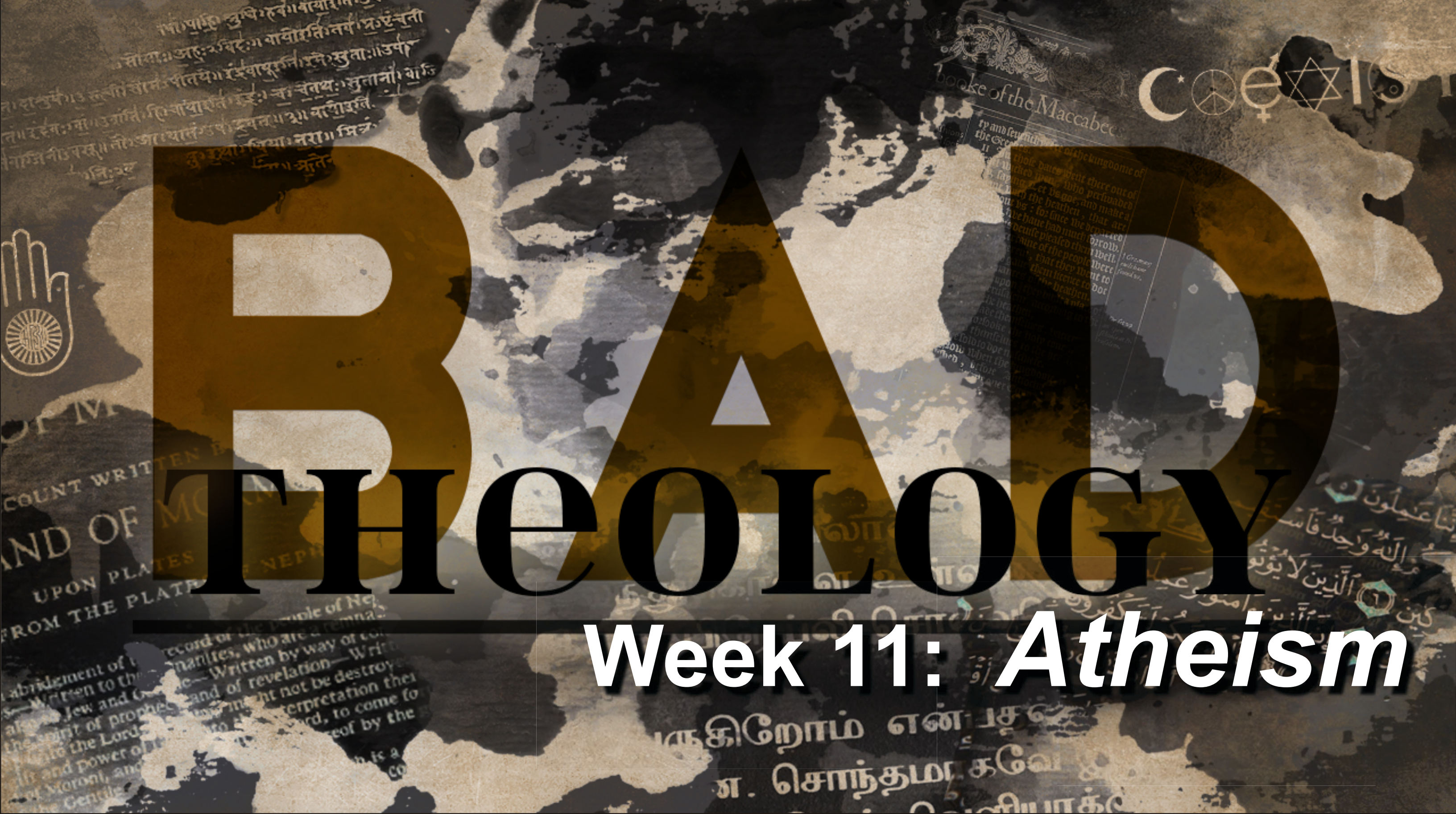
“Nones”

“Anti-Theists”

History of Atheism

New Atheism

Christianity Amid New Atheism



RELIGIOUS THEOLOGY

Week 11: *Atheism*

Atheists in the World Today

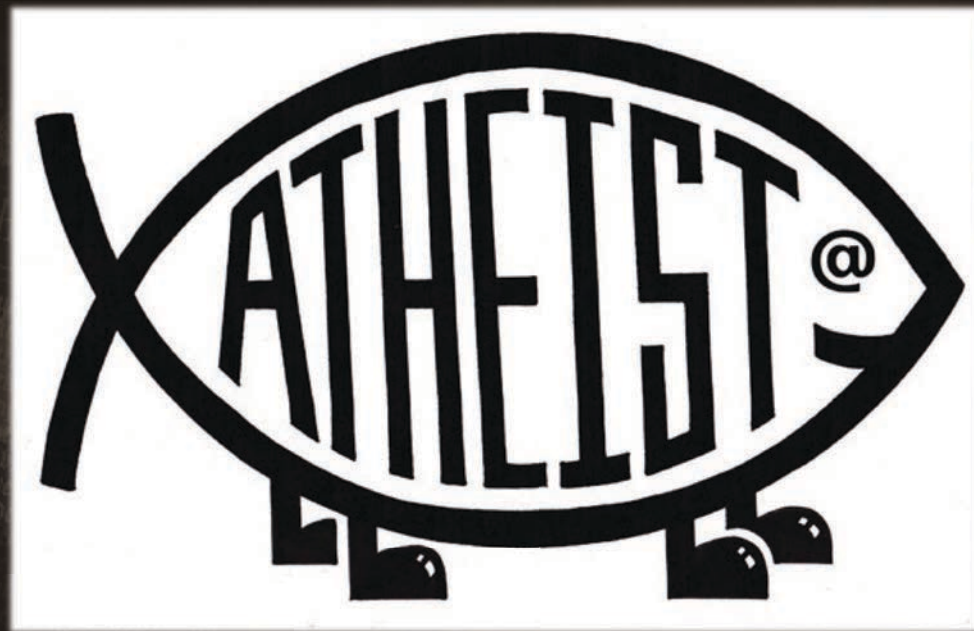
Polls Vary Widely

- Approximately 5%
- Most Atheists:
 - China (47%)
 - Japan (31%)
 - France (29%)



Atheists in America

- 3% (9.8 Million)
- On the Rise as a Self-Identification
- 8% of 'Atheists' Believe in a God / Spirit
- 11% of 'Atheists'/'Agnostics' Pray Weekly or Monthly
- 6% of 'Atheists'/'Agnostics' Pray Daily
- 31% of 'Atheists' Regularly Feel Spiritual Peace
- 35% of 'Atheists' think often about the Meaning of Life
- 54% of 'Atheists' feel a deep sense of 'Wonder' about the Universe



Atheists in America

- 32% of 'Atheists' Look to Science for Morals
- 68% of 'Atheists' are Men
- 78% of 'Atheists' are White
- 69% of 'Atheists' are Democrats
- 92% of 'Atheists' favor Same Sex Marriage
- 87% of 'Atheists' are Pro Abortion



Defining Atheism

- Derived from Greek
- “A” = negation
- “Theism” = God
- Convinced that There is No God or gods
- All Religious Beliefs are False
- No Evidence of Supernatural

IMAGINE
GOD

“Agnostics”

- Derived from Greek
- “A” = negation
- “Gnosis” = Knowledge
- Unconvinced there is a God or gods
- Claims Insufficient Evidence for God
- Disapproves of the Theist & Athetist’s Certainty
- Some Claim Knowledge of God is Impossible
- Some Claim They Need More Evidence
- Agnostics Seek to Remain Neutral



“Religious Atheists”

- Carry a Religious Label but Don't Believe there is a God
- Practice a Religion but Don't Believe there is a God
- Seek Religion as an Ethical Code
- Engage in Religion as a Political or Cultural Identity



“I loved reading about Judaism every night and I loved the chagim (Jewish holidays) most of all. What’s more, unlike many atheists, I never felt forced to choose between my Jewish practice and my lack of faith. When I told my Jewish friends and family that I was an atheist, it spurred some interesting conversations, but no one seemed particularly bothered. Belief in God has never been a litmus test for my involvement in Jewish spaces. Questioning and doubting were encouraged by my Jewish day school. And so I joined a proud tradition of Jewish atheists.”



“Practical Atheists”

- Affirm a Belief in God but Act as Though He Does Not
- Profess to Know God, but by Deeds they Deny Him (Titus 1:6)
- Classic Hypocrisy



“Nones”

- Unreligious
- Avoid Labels
- Unaffiliated with Any Belief System
- Some Claim to be “Spiritual but Not Religious”
- From 8% to 20% in the USA Since 1990
- 33% among ages 18 to 22 (USA)
- Nones = 50% in the UK
- 35% of 1st Generation ‘Nones’ were Catholic



“Nones”

- The Most “Nones” in America

- West Coast (CA, OR, WA) Biggest Concentration

- Vermont (34%)

- New Hampshire (29%)

- Wyoming (28%)

- Alaska (27%)

- Maine (25%)



“Anti-Theists”

- Active Opponents of Theism
- See Religion as Dangerous
- Claim the Belief in the Supernatural Must be Stopped

Science
flies you
to the
moon



religion
into
skyscrapers

History of Atheism

- Old Testament

The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”

(Psalm 14:1)

*In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him;
all his thoughts are, “There is no God.”* (Psalm 10:4)

*They say, “The LORD does not see; the God of Jacob
does not perceive.” Understand, O dullest of the
people! Fools, when will you be wise? He who planted
the ear, does he not hear? He who formed the eye,
does he not see? (Psalm 94:7-9)*

History of Atheism

- New Testament

[they] exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator... since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. (Romans 1:23–25, 28)

History of Atheism

- Ancient Debates were Largely “Who or What is God?”
- Greek Philosophy (4th Century BC)
 - Began to Suspend Judgement on Theology
 - Doubt was the Academic Norm (early “Skepticism”)
- This Faded with the Dominance of Christianity
- 16th Cent = Machiavelli promotes Ruling w/o a View to God
- 17th Cent = Agnosticism’s Comeback
- 18th Cent = D. Hume: ‘Metaphysical Knowledge Impossible’
- 18th Cent = Enlightenment (Kant: “self-imposed immaturity”)
- Post Enlightenment = all sorts of uncertainty re: God

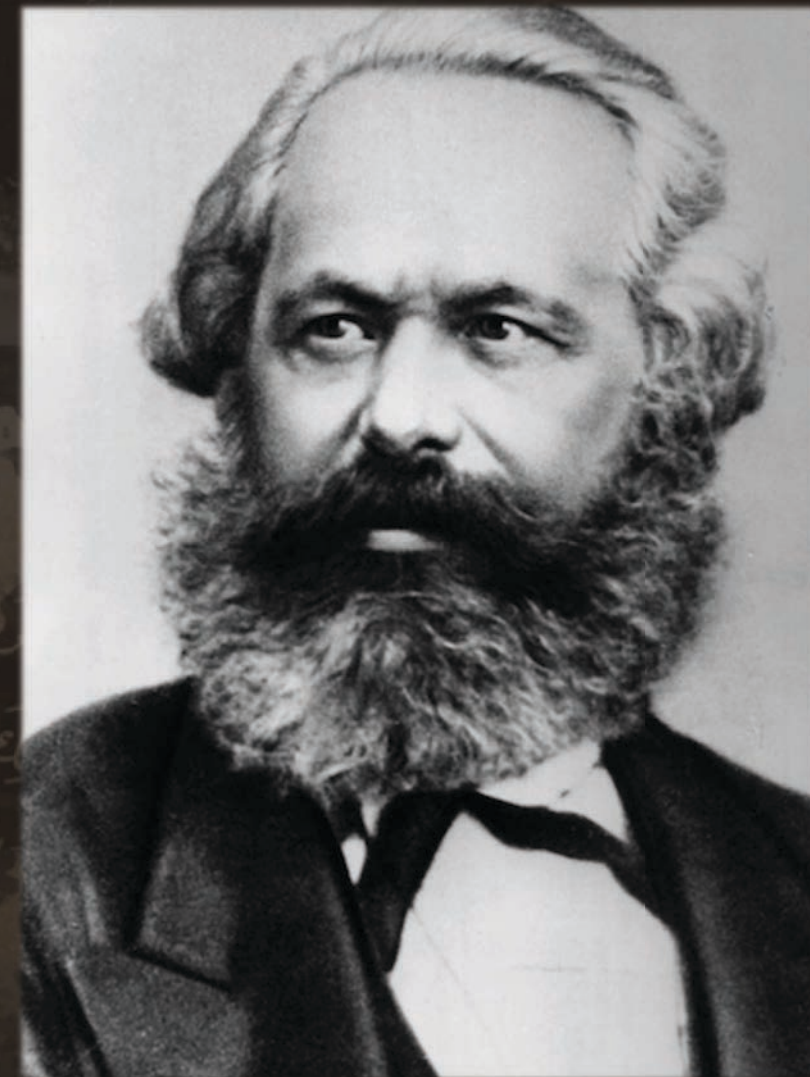
History of Atheism

- Charles Darwin (1809 - 1882)
 - Raised in the Church of England
 - Was to be a Pastor (Cambridge)
 - On the HMS Beagle he Quoted the Bible
 - Lost Confidence in Scripture
 - Daughter Died, Stopped Christian Practice
 - Slow to Give Up Theism
 - Last Season of Life he Claimed Agnosticism
 - Theory Helped Release Society from Theism



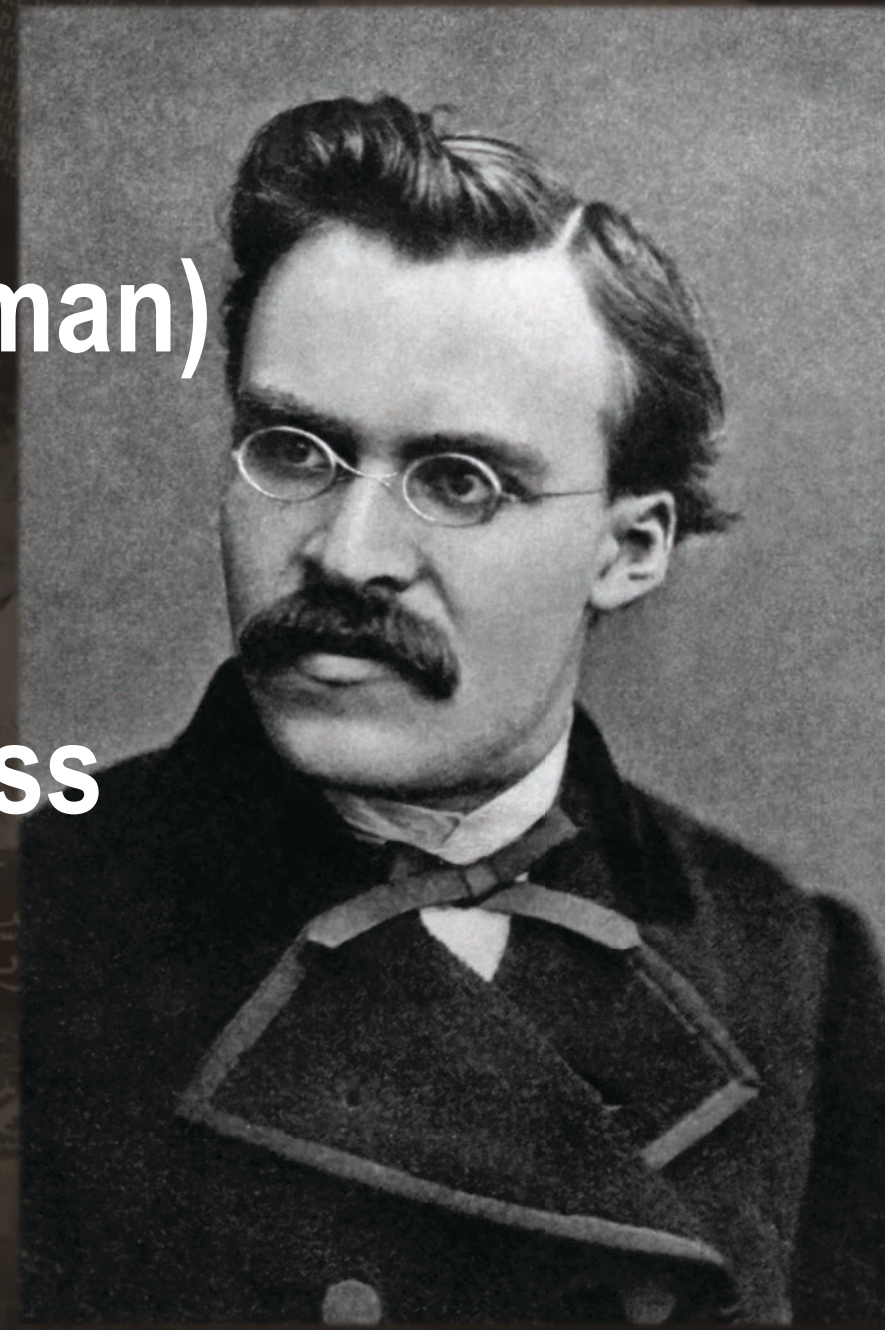
History of Atheism

- Karl Marx (1818 - 1883)
 - Family Converted to Lutheranism at Age 6
 - By College he was a Militant Atheist
 - Religion Debases Humanity
 - Nothing Higher than Man
 - Religion is the Opiate of the Masses
 - Religion is the Sigh of the Oppressed
 - Religion is Illusory Happiness
 - Called People to Give Up Their Illusions



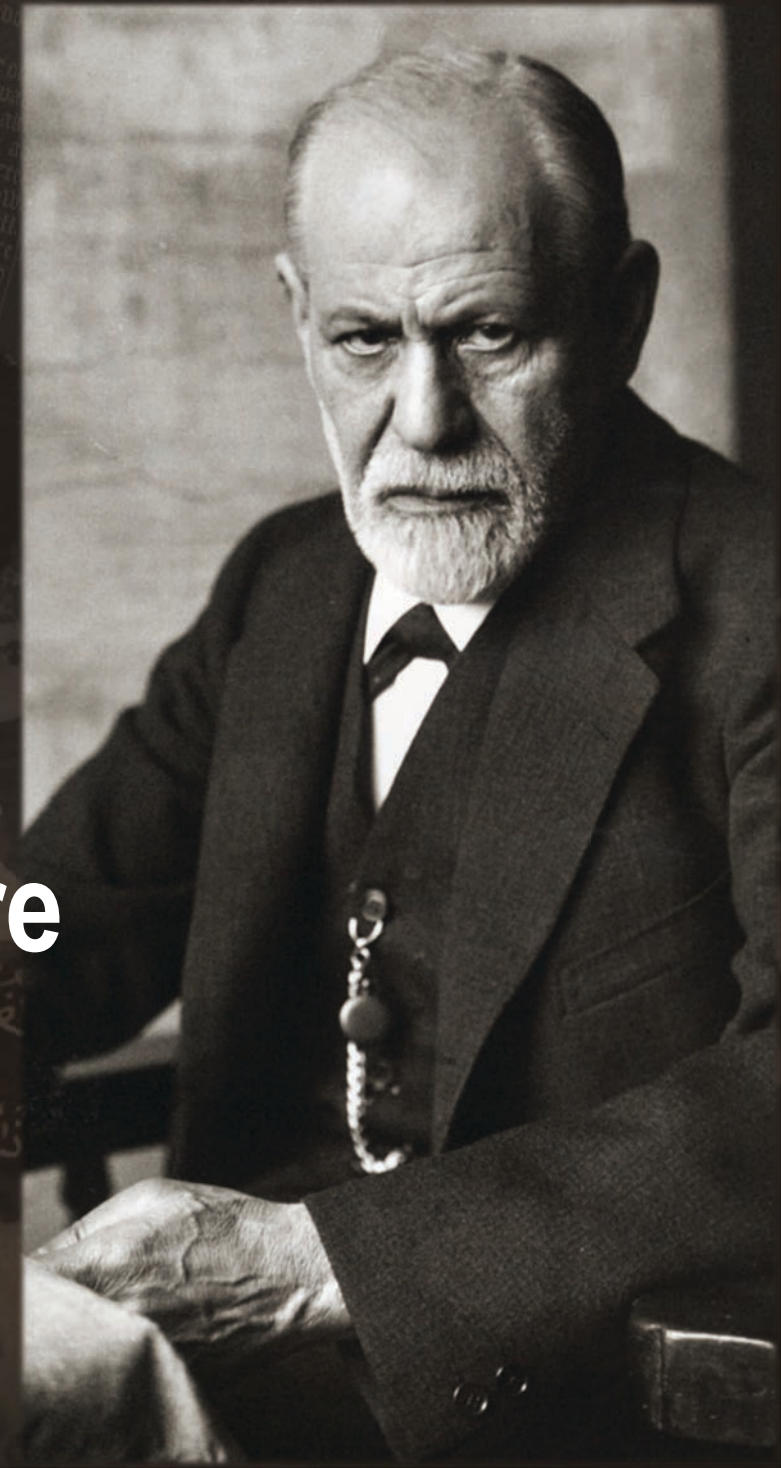
History of Atheism

- Friedrich Nietzsche (1844 – 1900)
 - “God is Dead and We have Killed Him”
 - i.e., Christian God is Untenable
 - Improve your Life: Übermensch (Superman)
 - Christianity is the Impediment
 - Envy is Good (Christianity Calls it Bad)
 - Christianity is Enemy of Societal Progress
 - Had a Terrible Family & Personal Life
 - Went Crazy at age 44



History of Atheism

- Sigmund Freud (1856 – 1939)
 - Theism is an Infantile Illusion
 - Faith is a Neurotic Obsession
 - Christianity will Pass Away
 - God Figure is a Replacement for Father
 - Christianity is a Construct for Consolation
 - Religion is an Antidote to the Fear of Nature
 - Theism Needs to be Replaced by Reason



History of Atheism

- Summary of Societal Phases Among the Elite

- Pre-17th Century

- Difficult to be an Atheist*

- 17th to 20th Century

- Possible to be an Atheist*

- 21st Century

- Difficult to be a Theist*

New Atheism

- The Modern Iteration of Atheism
- More Militant
 - God is Evil
 - Christianity is Immoral
 - Religious Belief is Stupid

**“F [REDACTED] YOU,
JESUS!”**

The Amazing Atheist

Okay . . . He's a douche.

FFRF.ORG

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION



RELIGIOUS



BULL

COEUS

the Maccabees

...of the kingdom of
...there out of
...who persuaded
...and make a
...the heathen, that are
...for once the departed
...have had much for com-
...pleased them with
...of the people were
...that they went to
...the heathen.



COUNT WRITTEN IN
ND OF MORMON
UPON PLATES
FROM THE PLATES OF NEPHI

abridgement of the record of the people of Ne-
...written to the ...—Written by way of con-
...Jew and ...—Written by way of con-
...spirit of prophe- ...and of revelation—Writ-
...the Lord ...might not be destroy-
...and power of ...no ...interpretation thei-
...Mormon, and ...of by the

بِأَعْمَالِهِمْ
إِلَهُ وَاحِدٌ فَاسْتَقِيمُوا
الَّذِينَ لَا يُؤْتُونَ الزَّكَاةَ
الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ
إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ
قُلْ آيَاتِكُمْ لَكُمْ كُفْرًا
أَنذَادَا ذَٰلِكَ رَبُّ إِلَٰهٍ

ச. சொந்தம்

The only church that illuminates



is a burning church

Atheism

The knowledge that -
ghosts dont exist; death is final;
magic is fake; good/evil is relative;
consciousness requires a brain.

**Please don't indoctrinate
me with religion. Teach
me to think for myself.**

Atheists.org & MinnesotaAtheists.org



STERLOFTS.COM

701



Godless?
SO ARE WE!



www.RICoR.org

What does Religion
mean to me?

Never reaching your
full potential as a
human being.

மக்களோம் என் டிசு
ச. சொந்தம் கவே

**IN THE BEGINNING,
MAN CREATED GOD.**

**THERE'S PROBABLY NO GOD.
NOW STOP WORRYING AND ENJOY YOUR LIFE.**

WWW.NO GOD.ORG.NZ
WWW.HUMANIST.ORG.NZ
WWW.NZARH.ORG.NZ

Authorised by the Humanist Society of New Zealand (Inc.) PO Box 3372, Wellington

ROADSIDE (03) 384 8729

"SLAVES, OBEY YOUR MASTERS."

- COLOSSIANS 3:22

This lesson in Bronze Age ethics
brought to you by
THE YEAR OF THE BIBLE
and the House of Representatives.



Paid for by **American**atheists.org • **PAN**onbelievers.org

AR

1717

HAS RELIGION STOPPED MAKING SENSE? YOU ARE NOT ALONE

ASM
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ATHEISTS, HUMANISTS, & AGNOSTICS
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

MEETINGS: THURSDAYS, 7PM
INGRAHAM HALL 224

EMAIL: AHA@AHAUWMADISON.ORG

I'M GETTING A BIT OLD FOR
IMAGINARY FRIENDS.

KIDSWITHOUTGOD.COM

AMERICAN
HUMANIST
ASSOCIATION
GOOD WITHOUT A GOD



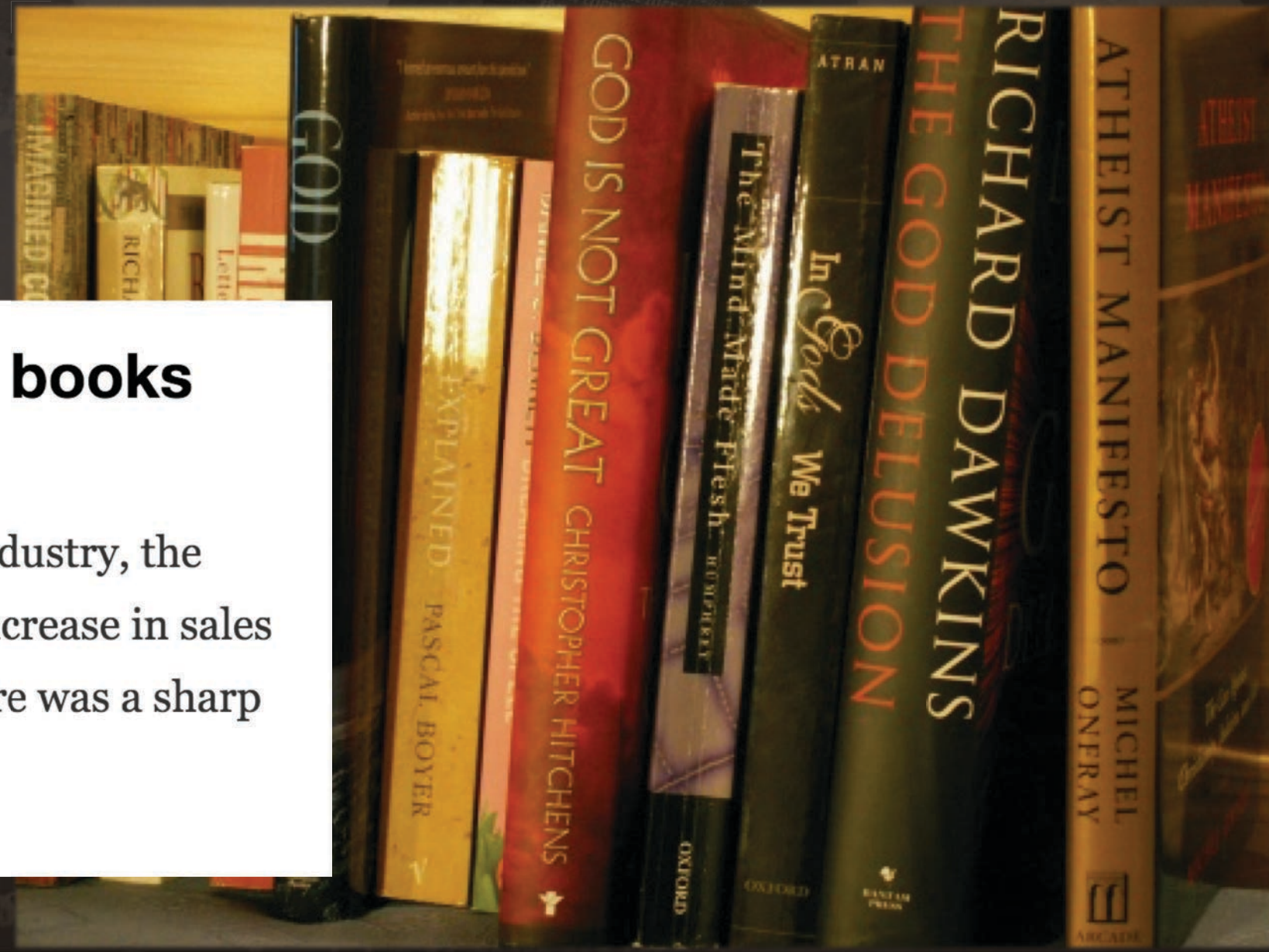
New Atheism

- More Popular
- Books Sales Up

◆ Atheist book sales overtake Christian books

Posted on [June 9, 2007](#) | [12 Comments](#)

The national trade association of the U.S. book publishing industry, the Association of American Publishers (AAP), reports a rapid increase in sales of atheist books over recent months. Over the same time there was a sharp drop of religious book sales (by 10.2% in 2006).





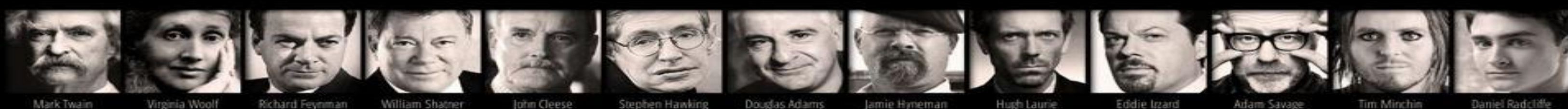
F E A R N O T H E L L



F O R I F I T E X I S T S



Y O U S H A L L F I N D Y O U R S E L F



I N G O O D C O M P A N Y



New Atheism

- Less Tolerant
 - More Attacks on Jesus
 - Less Accommodation to Liberal Forms of Religion
 - All Religion Dismissed as Evil
 - Raising Children in Religion Being Questioned

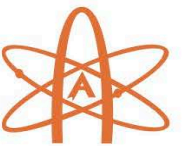


Keep the MERRY!



Dump the MYTH!

a
m
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c
a
n



a
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h
e
i
s
t

They're Right.

You're Wrong.



New Atheism

- Richard Dawkins (b. 1941)
 - “Selfish Gene” (1976) “God Delusion” (2006)
 - Evolution Decimates Religion
 - Calls himself “Devil’s Chaplain”
 - Religion / Faith is a “Virus”
 - Coined the word “Meme”
(mental gene) replicates thoughts
 - Parents need to stop passing on
Religious Memes to their Kids



New Atheism

- Sam Harris (b. 1967)
 - “The End of Faith” (2004)
 - Raised Jewish, Dabbled Eastern Rel.
 - Religion is rife with bad ideas
 - Religion is Inherently Evil
 - Religion is a Public Danger
 - Christianity is Leading Us into Ruin
 - Embarrassed by America
 - Christians are Idiots
 - Wants a “Conversational Intolerance”



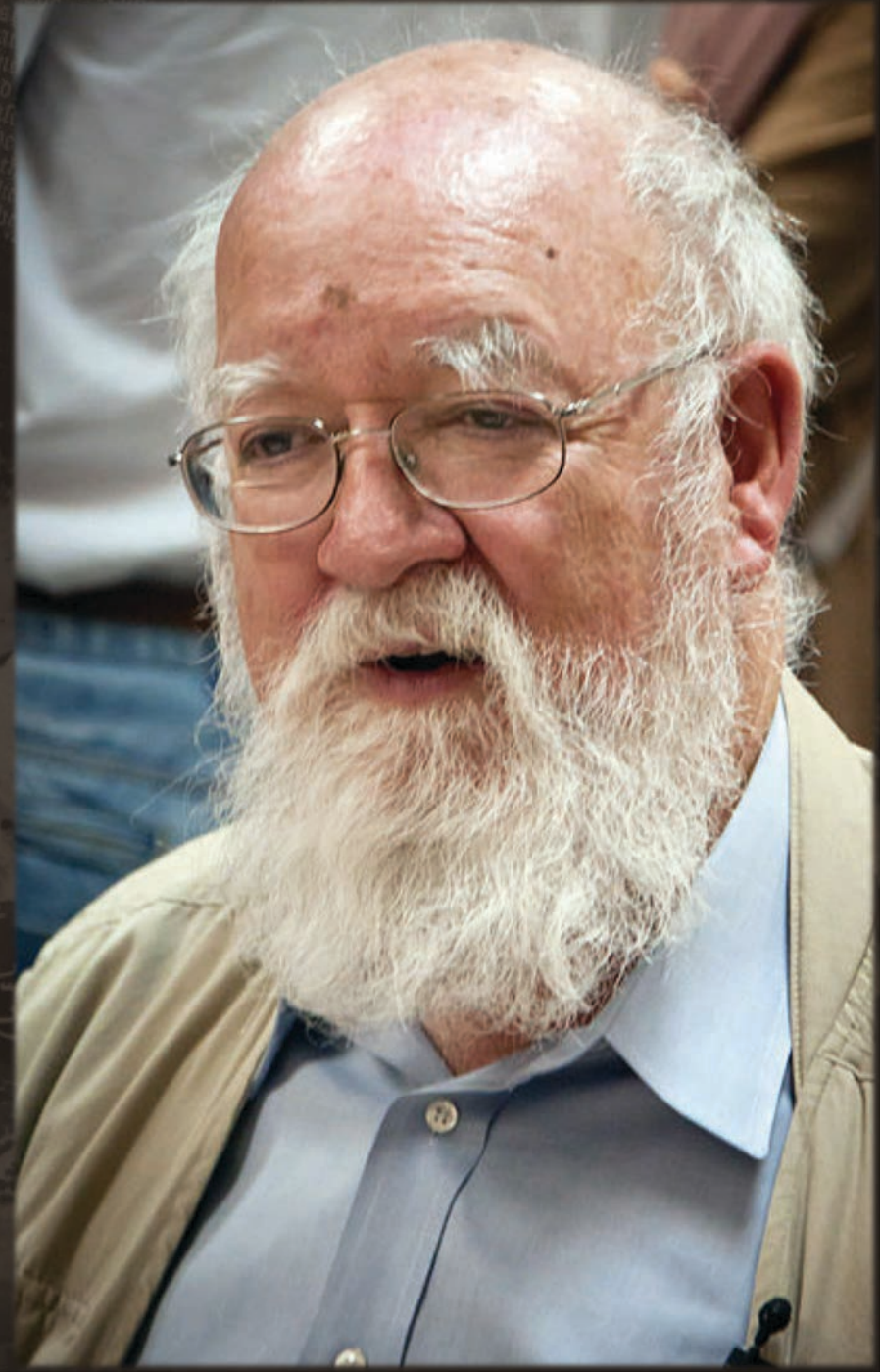
New Atheism

- Christopher Hitchens (1949 – 2011)
 - “God is Not Great” (2007)
 - Raised in the Church of England
 - Later: Religion Poisons Everything
 - Religion is a Fundamental Threat to Civilization
 - Christianity is a Cause of Sexual Repression
 - Believers are Weak-Minded



New Atheism

- Daniel Dennett (b. 1942)
 - “Darwin’s Dangerous Idea” (1996)
 - “Breaking the Spell” (2006)
 - Tries to Explain Human Consciousness in Naturalistic Terms
 - Darwinism Trumps All Other Fields of Learning
 - Religion played a Role in Evolution but now is Unneeded & is to be Discarded

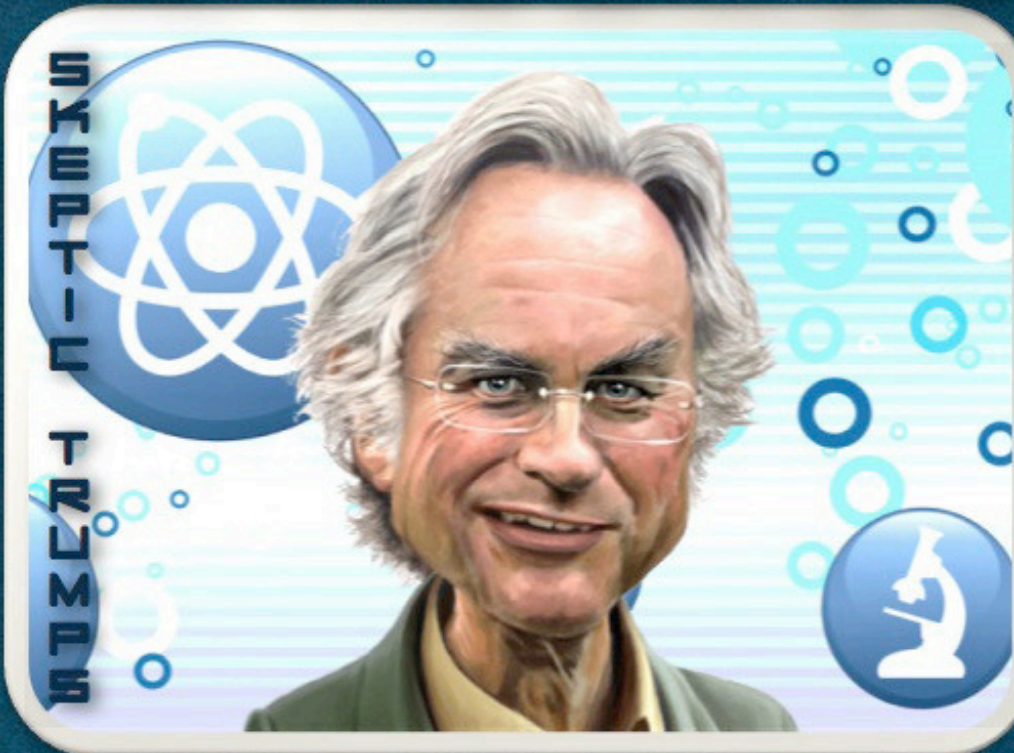




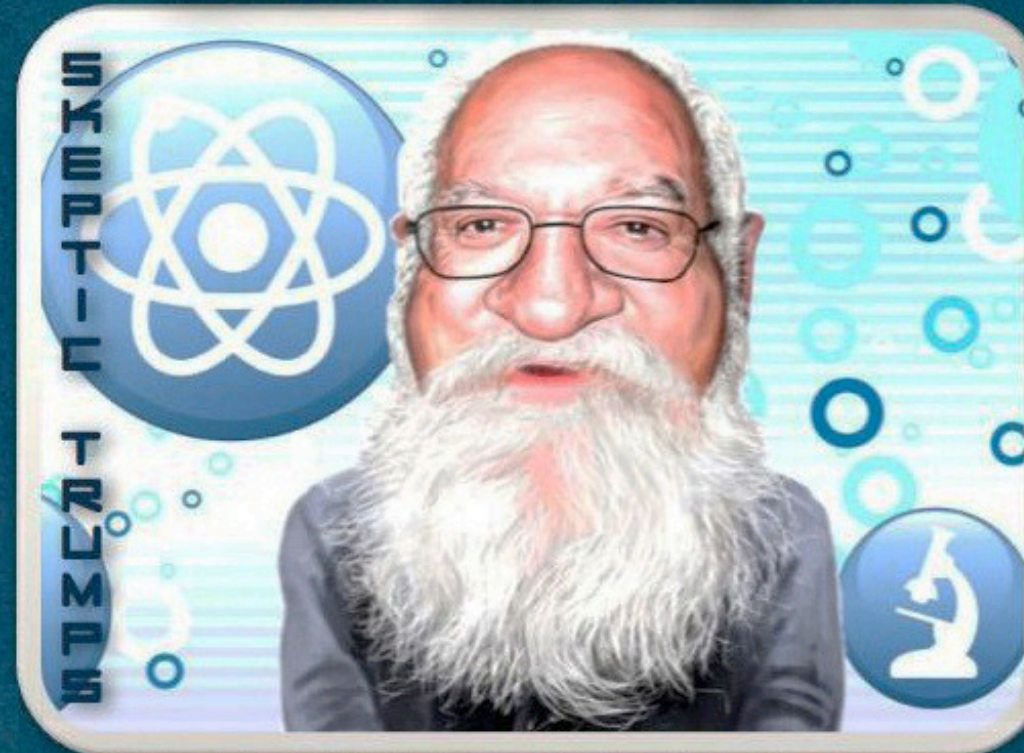
THE FOUR HORSEMEN



RICHARD DAWKINS



DAN DENNETT



SAM HARRIS



THE HITCH



THE HORSEMEN



Christianity Amid the New Atheism

- Need a Robust & Thoughtful Theology
- We Must Understand “Our Brand” of Supernaturalism
- We Must Strengthen Our Understanding of Revelation
- We Must Remember God is not the “God of the Gaps”
- We Must Never Forget the Moral Element of Unbelief





BRAND

THEOLOGY