

god is not great

god is not great is a provocative phrase that has sparked widespread debate and critical discussion in both religious and secular communities. This article examines the origins, arguments, and cultural impact of the concept, exploring its roots in literature, philosophy, and modern discourse. We will analyze the influential book "God Is Not Great" by Christopher Hitchens, delve into major critiques of organized religion, and review the social and philosophical implications associated with religious skepticism. Readers will gain insight into the arguments presented against theism, the historical context of religious criticism, and the ongoing relevance of these ideas in contemporary society. Whether you are curious about atheism, interested in religious critique, or seeking to understand the nuances behind the phrase, this comprehensive guide offers an authoritative and balanced exploration. Continue reading to discover a structured breakdown of the main topics addressed in this article.

- Understanding the Origins of "God Is Not Great"
- Christopher Hitchens and His Arguments
- Major Critiques of Organized Religion
- Philosophical Perspectives on Religion and Morality
- Social Impact and Contemporary Relevance
- Common Counterarguments and Responses
- Conclusion

Understanding the Origins of "God Is Not Great"

The phrase "god is not great" gained international prominence with the publication of the 2007 book "God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything" by Christopher Hitchens. This bold statement encapsulates a larger movement of secular thought and religious criticism that has developed over centuries. Hitchens, a British-American author and journalist, was already known for his acerbic writing style and outspoken views before the release of this influential work.

The idea that religious belief can be detrimental is not new. Philosophers such as Voltaire, Nietzsche, and Bertrand Russell articulated strong critiques of organized religion long before Hitchens. The phrase itself serves as a direct challenge to the traditional reverence for divinity and questions the moral and intellectual authority of religious institutions. By framing the discussion around this provocative assertion, the conversation is opened to critical analysis and evidence-based debate.

- Historical roots of religious skepticism
- Notable critics of organized religion through history
- The rise of New Atheism in the 21st century

Christopher Hitchens and His Arguments

The Book: "God Is Not Great"

Christopher Hitchens' book "God Is Not Great" serves as a cornerstone of modern atheistic literature. Published in 2007, it presents a comprehensive critique of religious belief and its influence on society. Hitchens argues that religion is not only unnecessary for moral living but also actively harmful to individual freedom, scientific progress, and social cohesion. His writing combines historical analysis, personal anecdotes, and philosophical reasoning to support his claims.

Core Themes and Claims

Hitchens' arguments revolve around several key themes. He asserts that religious faith is based on superstition rather than evidence and that it often leads to violence, oppression, and ignorance. He examines the role of religion in perpetuating conflict, restricting human rights, and resisting scientific advancement. Hitchens also challenges the notion that religion is necessary for ethical behavior, suggesting that morality is independent of divine authority.

1. Religion as a source of conflict and violence
2. Superstition versus rational inquiry
3. The relationship between faith and morality
4. The impact of religion on science and progress

Major Critiques of Organized Religion

Religious Institutions and Power

One of the central critiques presented in "god is not great" is the role of organized religion

in consolidating power and influencing political structures. Throughout history, religious institutions have wielded significant authority over governments, education systems, and cultural norms. Critics argue that this power has often been misused, leading to corruption, censorship, and the suppression of dissenting voices.

Religion and Social Issues

The influence of organized religion on social issues is a major point of contention. Religious doctrines have historically shaped attitudes toward gender equality, sexuality, and human rights. Critics highlight examples where religious teachings have been used to justify discrimination, hinder social progress, and perpetuate patriarchal values. These critiques emphasize the need for secular governance and the protection of individual freedoms.

- Impact on women's rights
- Attitudes toward LGBTQ+ communities
- Role in education and scientific literacy
- Influence on public policy

Philosophical Perspectives on Religion and Morality

Morality Without Religion

A recurring theme in the "god is not great" debate is the question of whether morality is inherently tied to religious belief. Many philosophers and secular ethicists argue that moral principles can be derived from rational thought, empathy, and a shared sense of justice. The concept of secular humanism promotes ethical living based on reason and compassion, independent of supernatural authority.

Arguments from Philosophy

Philosophers such as Immanuel Kant, John Stuart Mill, and Jean-Paul Sartre developed frameworks for understanding morality without reference to religion. These frameworks focus on concepts like duty, utilitarianism, and existential freedom. The argument suggests that ethical values evolve through human experience and collective reasoning, rather than divine command.

- Kantian ethics and autonomy

- Utilitarianism and the greater good
- Existentialism and personal responsibility

Social Impact and Contemporary Relevance

The Rise of Secularism

In recent decades, the movement toward secularism has gained momentum in many societies. The "god is not great" perspective has contributed to wider acceptance of secular values, including the separation of church and state and the promotion of scientific inquiry. Secular organizations advocate for policies that protect individual rights and foster inclusive communities without religious influence.

Debates in Popular Culture

The phrase "god is not great" continues to generate debate in popular culture, media, and academia. Its use in literature, film, and online platforms reflects the broader conversation about faith, skepticism, and society. Public discussions often center around the benefits and drawbacks of religious belief, the importance of critical thinking, and the role of religion in a multicultural world.

1. Growing visibility of atheism and agnosticism
2. Influence on educational curricula
3. Public figures and the discussion of faith

Common Counterarguments and Responses

Defending Religious Belief

Supporters of religious faith often counter the claims made in "god is not great" by highlighting the positive contributions of religion to society. They point to charitable work, community building, and the role of religious teachings in fostering compassion and peace. Many argue that religious belief provides meaning, comfort, and guidance for millions of people around the world.

Skeptical Responses

In response to defenses of religion, critics maintain that positive outcomes are not exclusive to religious communities and can be achieved through secular means. They argue that the harms caused by dogmatic belief and institutional power outweigh the benefits, and emphasize the importance of evidence-based reasoning and ethical pluralism. The dialogue between believers and skeptics continues to shape public understanding of faith and morality.

- Charity and altruism outside religion
- Meaning and purpose from secular sources
- Ethical frameworks independent of faith

Conclusion

The phrase "god is not great" remains a powerful catalyst for debate about religion, morality, and society. Its influence extends beyond the pages of Christopher Hitchens' book, shaping discussions on secularism, philosophy, and social progress. By examining the origins, arguments, and ongoing impact of this idea, readers can better understand the multifaceted nature of religious criticism and its role in shaping modern thought. The conversation continues as societies evolve and grapple with the complex relationship between faith, reason, and ethical living.

Q: What is the main argument in the book "God Is Not Great"?

A: The main argument is that religion is often detrimental to individuals and societies, promoting superstition, conflict, and hindering progress, and that moral and ethical living are possible without religious belief.

Q: Who wrote "God Is Not Great" and when was it published?

A: "God Is Not Great" was written by Christopher Hitchens and published in 2007.

Q: What are some common critiques of organized religion discussed in the article?

A: Common critiques include the misuse of power by religious institutions, influence on social issues such as gender and LGBTQ+ rights, and resistance to scientific advancement.

and critical thinking.

Q: How do secular philosophers argue for morality without religion?

A: Secular philosophers propose that moral principles can be based on reason, empathy, and shared human experience, without reliance on divine authority or religious teachings.

Q: What is meant by secular humanism?

A: Secular humanism is an ethical philosophy that emphasizes reason, compassion, and human rights, advocating for moral living and societal progress without religious influence.

Q: How has "God Is Not Great" influenced contemporary debates on religion?

A: The book has contributed to the rise of secularism, inspired public discussions about faith and skepticism, and encouraged critical examination of religious beliefs and institutions.

Q: What are some positive contributions of religion, according to defenders?

A: Defenders of religion highlight its role in charity, building communities, providing comfort, and fostering compassion among believers.

Q: Can ethical behavior exist without religious belief?

A: Yes, many argue that ethical behavior can be guided by secular frameworks such as empathy, justice, and rational thought, independent of religious teachings.

Q: What is the impact of religious criticism on social issues?

A: Religious criticism has promoted greater acceptance of secular values, influenced policy changes, and contributed to the advancement of human rights and scientific literacy.

Q: Why is the phrase "god is not great" considered controversial?

A: The phrase challenges traditional reverence for divinity and questions the moral and intellectual authority of religion, provoking strong reactions from both religious and secular communities.

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God Is Not Great: Re-examining Faith and Reason

Introduction:

The assertion "God is not great" is a provocative one, sparking heated debate for centuries. This isn't about attacking faith; it's about critically examining the arguments for and against the existence of a benevolent, omnipotent God, especially in the context of suffering and the apparent inconsistencies in religious texts and practices. This post delves into the philosophical and logical challenges posed by the statement, exploring different perspectives and encouraging readers to engage in thoughtful self-reflection. We'll unpack the arguments commonly used to support and refute the existence of God, fostering a nuanced understanding of a complex topic.

H2: The Problem of Evil: A Core Argument Against a Great God

The existence of immense suffering – natural disasters, disease, famine, human cruelty – presents a significant challenge to the concept of a benevolent, omnipotent, and omniscient God. If God is all-powerful, why doesn't he prevent suffering? If he is all-knowing, why doesn't he foresee it? And if he is all-good, why doesn't he intervene to alleviate it? This is the classic "problem of evil," a cornerstone argument for those who question the existence of a "great" God. Theodicies, attempts to reconcile God's existence with evil, often fall short, failing to adequately address the scale and intensity of human and natural suffering.

H3: The Logical Inconsistency of Omnipotence and Free Will

Another significant challenge lies in the apparent contradiction between an omnipotent God and human free will. If God is all-powerful, he could prevent evil. But if humans have free will, they are responsible for their actions, including those that cause suffering. This creates a paradox: can a truly omnipotent God allow free will, which necessarily implies the possibility of evil? Many argue that this inherent tension weakens the argument for a benevolent, all-powerful deity.

H2: Examining Religious Texts: Contradictions and Inconsistencies

Religious texts, often held as sacred and infallible, frequently contain passages that seem morally questionable or logically contradictory. Interpretations vary widely, and some passages justify violence, intolerance, or actions that contradict modern ethical standards. The inconsistencies within and between religious texts raise questions about their divine origin and the moral authority they claim. Critics often point to these inconsistencies as evidence against a consistently "great" God.

H3: The Rise of Secular Humanism and Scientific Understanding

The rise of secular humanism and scientific understanding has provided alternative explanations for the world's origins and workings, challenging the necessity of a divine creator. Scientific advancements in fields like cosmology, biology, and geology offer compelling natural explanations for phenomena previously attributed to supernatural intervention. This doesn't necessarily negate the possibility of God, but it weakens the argument for God as the only or best explanation for the universe's existence and complexity.

H2: The Importance of Critical Thinking and Personal Reflection

The statement "God is not great" isn't a definitive conclusion; it's an invitation to critical thinking. It encourages individuals to question their beliefs, examine the evidence available, and engage in a rigorous process of self-reflection. The path to understanding one's beliefs should be a journey of intellectual honesty and rigorous examination, not blind faith or unquestioning acceptance.

H2: Beyond the Debate: Finding Meaning and Purpose

Even if one concludes that the concept of a "great" God is untenable, that doesn't necessarily lead to nihilism or despair. Many find meaning and purpose in life through secular ethics, humanist values, and connections with others. Focusing on compassion, empathy, and contributing to the well-being of others can provide a rich and fulfilling existence without relying on religious belief. The search for meaning is a deeply personal journey, and the absence of a divine being doesn't diminish the importance or possibility of finding it.

Conclusion:

The statement "God is not great" provokes crucial questions about faith, reason, and the nature of suffering. While not a definitive statement of atheism, it prompts a re-evaluation of traditional arguments for the existence of a benevolent, omnipotent God. Ultimately, the question of God's existence remains a personal matter, requiring careful consideration of philosophical arguments, empirical evidence, and personal experience. Engaging in thoughtful reflection and open dialogue is crucial for navigating this complex and enduring debate.

FAQs:

1. Is this post advocating for atheism? No, this post aims to critically examine the arguments surrounding the existence of a "great" God, encouraging thoughtful consideration of various perspectives. It does not explicitly promote or condemn any specific religious belief.
2. Doesn't the existence of morality prove God's existence? The origin of morality is a complex debate. Many argue that morality is a social construct, developed through cultural evolution and human interaction, not necessarily divinely ordained.
3. How does this perspective impact the meaning of life? The absence of a divine being doesn't necessarily diminish the meaning of life. Many find meaning in human relationships, contributing to society, pursuing knowledge, and creating art.

4. What about miracles and answered prayers? Many accounts of miracles and answered prayers can be explained through coincidence, placebo effects, or confirmation bias. While some remain unexplained, this does not constitute definitive proof of divine intervention.

5. Isn't it arrogant to question God's existence? Questioning beliefs, including religious ones, is not inherently arrogant; it's a fundamental aspect of critical thinking and intellectual honesty. It's crucial to approach such discussions with respect and a willingness to listen to different perspectives.

god is not great: God Is Not Great Christopher Hitchens, 2008-11-19 Christopher Hitchens, described in the London Observer as "one of the most prolific, as well as brilliant, journalists of our time" takes on his biggest subject yet—the increasingly dangerous role of religion in the world. In the tradition of Bertrand Russell's *Why I Am Not a Christian* and Sam Harris's recent bestseller, *The End Of Faith*, Christopher Hitchens makes the ultimate case against religion. With a close and erudite reading of the major religious texts, he documents the ways in which religion is a man-made wish, a cause of dangerous sexual repression, and a distortion of our origins in the cosmos. With eloquent clarity, Hitchens frames the argument for a more secular life based on science and reason, in which hell is replaced by the Hubble Telescope's awesome view of the universe, and Moses and the burning bush give way to the beauty and symmetry of the double helix.

god is not great: The Rage Against God Peter Hitchens, 2010 Partly autobiographical, partly historical, *The Rage Against God*, written by the brother of prominent atheist Christopher Hitchens, assails several of the favorite arguments of the anti-God battalions and makes the case against fashionable atheism.

god is not great: Why Orwell Matters Christopher Hitchens, 2008-08-06 Hitchens presents a George Orwell fit for the twenty-first century. --Boston Globe In this widely acclaimed biographical essay, the masterful polemicist Christopher Hitchens assesses the life, the achievements, and the myth of the great political writer and participant George Orwell. True to his contrarian style, Hitchens is both admiring and aggressive, sympathetic yet critical, taking true measure of his subject as hero and problem. Answering both the detractors and the false claimants, Hitchens tears down the façade of sainthood erected by the hagiographers and rebuts the critics point by point. He examines Orwell and his perspectives on fascism, empire, feminism, and Englishness, as well as his outlook on America, a country and culture toward which he exhibited much ambivalence. Whether thinking about empires or dictators, race or class, nationalism or popular culture, Orwell's moral outlook remains indispensable in a world that has undergone vast changes in the seven decades since his death. Combining the best of Hitchens' polemical punch and intellectual elegance in a tightly woven and subtle argument, this book addresses not only why Orwell matters today, but how he will continue to matter in a future, uncertain world.

god is not great: The Digested Read John Crace, 2005-12 Literary ombudsman John Crace never met an important book he didn't like to deconstruct. From Salman Rushdie to John Grisham, Crace retells the big books in just 500 bitingly satirical words, pointing his pen at the clunky plots, stylistic tics and pretensions of Big Ideas, as he turns publishers' golden dream books into dross.

god is not great: God: The Failed Hypothesis Victor J. Stenger, 2010-08-05 Throughout history, arguments for and against the existence of God have been largely confined to philosophy and theology, while science has sat on the sidelines. Despite the fact that science has revolutionized every aspect of human life and greatly clarified our understanding of the world, somehow the notion has arisen that it has nothing to say about the possibility of a supreme being, which much of humanity worships as the source of all reality. This book contends that, if God exists, some evidence for this existence should be detectable by scientific means, especially considering the central role that God is alleged to play in the operation of the universe and the lives of humans. Treating the traditional God concept, as conventionally presented in the Judeo-Christian and Islamic traditions,

like any other scientific hypothesis, physicist Stenger examines all of the claims made for God's existence. He considers the latest Intelligent Design arguments as evidence of God's influence in biology. He looks at human behavior for evidence of immaterial souls and the possible effects of prayer. He discusses the findings of physics and astronomy in weighing the suggestions that the universe is the work of a creator and that humans are God's special creation. After evaluating all the scientific evidence, Stenger concludes that beyond a reasonable doubt the universe and life appear exactly as we might expect if there were no God. This paperback edition of the New York Times bestselling hardcover edition contains a new foreword by Christopher Hitchens and a postscript by the author in which he responds to reviewers' criticisms of the original edition.

god is not great: *Theists and Atheists* Thomas Steven Molnar, 1980 Since its founding by Jacques Waardenburg in 1971, *Religion and Reason* has been a leading forum for contributions on theories, theoretical issues and agendas related to the phenomenon and the study of religion. Topics include (among others) category formation, comparison, ethnophilosophy, hermeneutics, methodology, myth, phenomenology, philosophy of science, scientific atheism, structuralism, and theories of religion. From time to time the series publishes volumes that map the state of the art and the history of the discipline.

god is not great: *Letters to a Young Contrarian* Christopher Hitchens, 2009-04-28 From bestselling author and provocateur Christopher Hitchens, the classic guide to the art of principled dissent and disagreement In *Letters to a Young Contrarian*, bestselling author and world-class provocateur Christopher Hitchens inspires the radicals, gadflies, mavericks, rebels, and angry young (wo)men of tomorrow. Exploring the entire range of contrary positions—from noble dissident to gratuitous nag—Hitchens introduces the next generation to the minds and the misfits who influenced him, invoking such mentors as Emile Zola, Rosa Parks, and George Orwell. As is his trademark, Hitchens pointedly pitches himself in contrast to stagnant attitudes across the ideological spectrum. No other writer has matched Hitchens's understanding of the importance of disagreement—to personal integrity, to informed discussion, to true progress, to democracy itself.

god is not great: *God Is Not One* Stephen Prothero, 2010-04-20 In *God Is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run the World*, New York Times bestselling author of *Religious Literacy* and religion scholar Stephen Prothero argues that persistent attempts to portray all religions as different paths to the same God overlook the distinct problem that each tradition seeks to solve. Delving into the different problems and solutions that Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, Confucianism, Yoruba Religion, Daoism and Atheism strive to combat, *God Is Not One* is an indispensable guide to the questions human beings have asked for millennia—and to the disparate paths we are taking to answer them today. Readers of Huston Smith and Karen Armstrong will find much to ponder in *God Is Not One*.

god is not great: *Atheism Explained* David Ramsay Steele, 2008-02-01 *Atheism Explained* explores the claims made both for and against the existence of God. On the pro side: that the wonders of the world can only be explained by an intelligent creator; that the universe had to start somewhere; telepathy, out-of-body experiences, and other paranormal phenomena demonstrate the existence of a spirit world; and that those who experience God directly provide evidence as real as any physical finding. After disputing these arguments through calm, careful criticism, author David Ramsay Steele presents the reasons why God cannot exist: monstrous, appalling evils; the impossibility of omniscience; and the senseless concept that God is a thinking mind without a brain. He also explores controversial topics such as Intelligent Design, the power of prayer, religion without God, and whether a belief in God makes people happier and healthier. Steele's rational, easy-to-understand prose helps readers form their own conclusions about this eternally thorny topic.

god is not great: *God Is Not a Christian* Desmond Tutu, 2011-05-03 [Archbishop Desmond Tutu's] unofficial legacy will be his life and the story of how this tiny pastor with a huge laugh from South Africa became our global guardian. —Time magazine Biographer John Allen collects the Archbishop Desmond Tutu's most profound, controversial, and historic words in this inspiring anthology of speeches, interviews, and sermons that have rocked the world. An unforgettable look at

the South African pastor's deeply rooted empathy and penetrating wisdom, *God Is Not a Christian* is perfect for anyone moved by Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech or Nelson Mandela's stirring autobiography *Conversations with Myself*, brilliantly connecting readers with the courageous and much-needed moral vision that continues to change countless lives around the globe.

god is not great: *The Faith of Christopher Hitchens* Larry Alex Taunton, 2016-04-12 2016 Winner of the Gospel Coalition Book Awards At the time of his death, Christopher Hitchens was the most notorious atheist in the world. And yet, all was not as it seemed. "Nobody is not a divided self, of course," he once told an interviewer, "but I think it's rather strong in my case." Hitchens was a man of many contradictions: a Marxist in youth who longed for acceptance among the social elites; a peacenik who revered the military; a champion of the Left who was nonetheless pro-life, pro-war-on-terror, and after 9/11 something of a neocon; and while he railed against God on stage, he maintained meaningful—though largely hidden from public view—friendships with evangelical Christians like Francis Collins, Douglas Wilson, and the author Larry Alex Taunton. In *The Faith of Christopher Hitchens*, Taunton offers a very personal perspective of one of our most interesting and most misunderstood public figures. Writing with genuine compassion and without compromise, Taunton traces Hitchens's spiritual and intellectual development from his decision as a teenager to reject belief in God to his rise to prominence as one of the so-called "Four Horsemen" of the New Atheism. While Hitchens was, in the minds of many Christians, Public Enemy Number One, away from the lights and the cameras a warm friendship flourished between Hitchens and the author; a friendship that culminated in not one, but two lengthy road trips where, after Hitchens's diagnosis of esophageal cancer, they studied the Bible together. *The Faith of Christopher Hitchens* gives us a candid glimpse into the inner life of this intriguing, sometimes maddening, and unexpectedly vulnerable man. "If everyone in the United States had the same qualities of loyalty and care and concern for others that Larry Taunton had, we'd be living in a much better society than we do." ~ Christopher Hitchens

god is not great: *Why Religion is Immoral* Christopher Hitchens, 2016-06 This title brings together Hitchens' most vigorous and memorable interventions in the debate that followed publication of 'God is Not Great', including 'Why Religion Poisons Everything', 'Is Islam a Religion of Peace?' and 'The Tyranny of Censorship'. It also includes celebrations of the pleasures of drinking, and of the writers whose lives and work most influenced his own. No matter the subject, all of Hitchens' arguments ultimately point to the same end: freedom from tyranny in any and all forms.

god is not great: *A History of God* Karen Armstrong, 2011-08-10 Why does God exist? How have the three dominant monotheistic religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—shaped and altered the conception of God? How have these religions influenced each other? In this stunningly intelligent book, Karen Armstrong, one of Britain's foremost commentators on religious affairs, traces the history of how men and women have perceived and experienced God, from the time of Abraham to the present. The epic story begins with the Jews' gradual transformation of pagan idol worship in Babylon into true monotheism—a concept previously unknown in the world. Christianity and Islam both rose on the foundation of this revolutionary idea, but these religions refashioned 'the One God' to suit the social and political needs of their followers. From classical philosophy and medieval mysticism to the Reformation, Karen Armstrong performs the near miracle of distilling the intellectual history of monotheism into one superbly readable volume, destined to take its place as a classic. Praise for *History of God* "An admirable and impressive work of synthesis that will give insight and satisfaction to thousands of lay readers."—The Washington Post Book World "A brilliantly lucid, splendidly readable book. [Karen] Armstrong has a dazzling ability: she can take a long and complex subject and reduce it to the fundamentals, without oversimplifying."—The Sunday Times (London) "Absorbing . . . A lode of learning."—Time "The most fascinating and learned study of the biggest wild goose chase in history—the quest for God. Karen Armstrong is a genius."—A.N. Wilson, author of *Jesus: A Life*

god is not great: *God Is Great: Bible Rebuttal to Christopher Hitchens* Peter James, 2021-02 This book is for the millions of people who bought or listened online to Christopher

Hitchens' book *God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything* and hundreds of millions of people worldwide who've witnessed a multitude of world-renowned intellectuals and religious leaders fail to combat the late and great Christopher Hitchens with any scriptural evidence. With Bible citations provided to support each assertion, author Peter James utilizes his 4-decade long study of biblical scripture and presents a genuinely authentic why not let the Bible speak for itself approach to answering the questions and accusations brought up by Christopher Hitchens in his book and debates. This book will evoke feelings that are not for the faint of heart and easily offended. Starting from the introduction, the author challenges his readers to open their bibles regardless of faith or lack thereof, to take on Christopher Hitchens with scriptural evidence rather than man-made interpretation and opinion. With the absence of a religious agenda, doctrine, and personal bias, *God Is Great: Bible Rebuttal to Christopher Hitchens* will leave you questioning everything you've ever known about religion, the bible, and god.

god is not great: The Good Book A. C. Grayling, 2011-04-05 Few, if any, thinkers and writers today would have the imagination, the breadth of knowledge, the literary skill, and yes-the audacity to conceive of a powerful, secular alternative to the Bible. But that is exactly what A.C. Grayling has done by creating a non-religious Bible, drawn from the wealth of secular literature and philosophy in both Western and Eastern traditions, using the same techniques of editing, redaction, and adaptation that produced the holy books of the Judaeo-Christian and Islamic religions. The Good Book consciously takes its design and presentation from the Bible, in its beauty of language and arrangement into short chapters and verses for ease of reading and quotability, offering to the non-religious seeker all the wisdom, insight, solace, inspiration, and perspective of secular humanist traditions that are older, far richer and more various than Christianity. Organized in 12 main sections---Genesis, Histories, Wisdom, The Sages, Parables, Consolations, Lamentations, Proverbs, Songs, Epistles, Acts, and the Good---The Good Book opens with meditations on the origin and progress of the world and human life in it, then devotes attention to the question of how life should be lived, how we relate to one another, and how vicissitudes are to be faced and joys appreciated. Incorporating the writing of Herodotus and Lucretius, Confucius and Mencius, Seneca and Cicero, Montaigne, Bacon, and so many others, The Good Book will fulfill its audacious purpose in every way.

god is not great: God Is Just Not Fair Jennifer Rothschild, 2014-03-25 This is a book I'll be recommending for years to come. -- Lysa TerKeurst, New York Times bestselling author Do you believe God is just not fair? If you're like Jennifer Rothschild, you wrestle with questions when you experience painful circumstances. Does God care? Does he hear my prayers? Is he even there? Blinded as a teenager, Jennifer overcame daunting obstacles, found strength in God, and launched a successful speaking and writing ministry. Then in her 40s, everything changed. Jennifer hit a wall of depression and discontent that shook her to her core, undermining many of her past assumptions about her faith. She wondered who God was and why he continued to allow her to struggle and doubt. Where, she pleaded, is his hand of healing and hope in my life now? This is a book about finding more than just answers. It's for anyone who needs hope when life doesn't make sense--for all who reach for a God who feels distant. As Jennifer tackles the six big questions of faith, she will help you: Trust God more than your feelings. Strengthen your faith when you feel beat up by life. Embrace your obstacles and start experiencing their purpose. Face your disappointment and grow stronger from your loss.

god is not great: Hitch-22 Christopher Hitchens, 2011-06-01 The acid, hilarious, confessional and provocative memoirs of the bestselling author of *God is Not Great* - a story of a life lived large.

god is not great: Is Christianity Good for the World? Christopher Hitchens, Douglas Wilson, 2008 This debate appeared originally in *Christianity today*, and is re-printed in this format with permission--T.p. verso.

god is not great: If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk John Pavlovitz, 2021-09-28 Thou Shalt Not Be Horrible. Imagine for a moment what the world might look like if we as people of faith, morality, and conscience actually aspired to this mantra. What if we were fully burdened to create a world

that was more loving and equitable than when we arrived? What if we invited one another to share in wide-open, fearless, spiritual communities truly marked by compassion and interdependence? What if we daily challenged ourselves to live a faith that simply made us better humans? John Pavlovitz explores how we can embody this kinder kind of spirituality where we humbly examine our belief system to understand how it might compel us to act in less-than-loving ways toward others. This simple phrase, *Thou Shalt Not Be Horrible*, could help us practice what we preach by creating a world where: spiritual community provides a sense of belonging where all people are received as we are; the most important question we ask of a religious belief is not *Is it true?* but rather, *is it helpful?* it is morally impossible to pledge complete allegiance to both Jesus and America simultaneously; the way we treat others is the most tangible and meaningful expression of our belief system. In *If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk*, John Pavlovitz examines the bedrock ideas of our religion: the existence of hell, the utility of prayer, the way we treat LGBTQ people, the value of anger, and other doctrines to help all of us take a good, honest look at how the beliefs we hold can shape our relationships with God and our fellow humans—and to make sure that love has the last, loudest word.

god is not great: *God Is Great, God Is Good* Sanna Anderson Baker, The Estate of Sanna Anderson Baker, 2020-02-11 A timeless story inspired by the Book of Job and illustrated by the legendary Tomie dePaola—now reissued as a board book Originally published in 1987 and now available as a board book for the first time, *God Is Great, God Is Good* showcases Tomie dePaola's unmistakable illustration style against this poetic text based on passages from the Bible's Book of Job.

god is not great: *Vishnu's Crowded Temple* Maria Misra, 2008-01-01 As it enters its sixtieth year of independence, India stands on the threshold of superpower status. Yet India is strikingly different from all other global colossi. While it is the world's most populous democracy and enjoys the benefits of its internationally competitive high-tech and software industries, India also contends with extremes of poverty, inequality, and political and religious violence. This accessible and vividly written book presents a new interpretation of India's history, focusing particular attention on the impact of British imperialism on Independent India. Maria Misra begins with the rebellion against the British in 1857 and tracks the country's advance to the present day. India's extremes persist, the author argues, because its politics rest upon a peculiar foundation in which traditional ideas of hierarchy, difference, and privilege coexist to a remarkable degree with modern notions of equality and democracy. The challenge of India's leaders today, as in the last sixty years, is to weave together the disparate threads of the nation's ancient culture, colonial legacy, and modern experience.

god is not great: Reasonable Faith William Lane Craig, 2008 This updated edition by one of the world's leading apologists presents a systematic, positive case for Christianity that reflects the latest work in the contemporary hard sciences and humanities. Brilliant and accessible.

god is not great: For God's Sake Antony Loewenstein, Jane Caro, Rachel Woodlock, Simon Smart, 2013-07-01 Four Australian thinkers come together to ask and answer the big questions, such as: What is the nature of the universe? Doesn't religion cause most of the conflict in the world? and Where do we find hope? We are introduced to the detail of different belief systems - Judaism, Christianity, Islam - and to the argument that atheism, like organised religion, has its own compelling logic. And we gain insight into the life events that led each author to their current position. Jane Caro flirted briefly with spiritual belief, inspired by 19th century literary heroines such as Elizabeth Gaskell and the Brontë sisters. Antony Lowenstein is proudly culturally, yet unconventionally, Jewish. Simon Smart is firmly and resolutely a Christian, but one who has had some of his most profound spiritual moments while surfing. Rachel Woodlock grew up in the alternative embrace of Baha'i belief but became entranced by its older parent religion, Islam. Provocative, informative and passionately argued, *For God's Sake* encourages us to accept religious differences but to also challenge more vigorously the beliefs that create discord.

god is not great: Disappointment with God Philip Yancey, 1988 Is God listening? Can he be trusted? In this book, Yancey tackles the questions caused by a God who doesn't always do what we think he's supposed to do.

god is not great: God Is Not Nice Ulrich L. Lehner, 2017-10-20 Ulrich L. Lehner reintroduces Christians to the true God—not the polite, easygoing, divine therapist who doesn't ask much of us, but the Almighty God who is unpredictable, awe-inspiring, and demands our entire lives. Stripping away the niceties with a sling blade, Lehner shows that God is more strange and beautiful than we imagine, and wants to know and transform us in the most intimate way. With his iconoclastic new book *God Is Not Nice*, Lehner, one of the most promising young Catholic theologians in America, challenges the God of popular culture and many of our churches and reintroduces the God of the Bible and traditional Christianity. As Lehner writes in the book's introduction, We all need the vaccine of the true transforming and mysterious character of God: The God who shows up in burning bushes, speaks through donkeys, drives demons into pigs, throws Saul from his horse, and appears to St. Francis. It's only this God who has the power to challenge us, change us, and make our lives dangerous. He sweeps us into a great adventure that will make us into different people. This book is not safe. It may startle and annoy many people—including those who purport to teach and preach the Gospel, but are missing it, according to Lehner. *God Is Not Nice* intends to overthrow all of our popular misconceptions about God, inviting us to ask deeper questions about the nature of our lives and our relationship with him. When you're finished with *God Is Not Nice*, you may find the idols you constructed in God's name smashed, replaced with a God who will ask you to live an entirely different life full of hope and transformation. *God Is Not Nice* has been translated into several foreign languages.

god is not great: *Revelation* , 1999-01-01 The final book of the Bible, *Revelation* prophesies the ultimate judgement of mankind in a series of allegorical visions, grisly images and numerological predictions. According to these, empires will fall, the Beast will be destroyed and Christ will rule a new Jerusalem. With an introduction by Will Self.

god is not great: *Holy Bible (NIV)* Various Authors,, 2008-09-02 The NIV is the world's best-selling modern translation, with over 150 million copies in print since its first full publication in 1978. This highly accurate and smooth-reading version of the Bible in modern English has the largest library of printed and electronic support material of any modern translation.

god is not great: *The God is Not Willing* Steven Erikson, 2021-07-01 'Awe-inspiring. Prepare to fall in love with epic fantasy all over again.' ANNA SMITH SPARK, author of *The Court of Broken Knives* The thrilling opening chapter in an epic new fantasy from the author of *The Malazan Book of the Fallen*... Many years have passed since three Teblor warriors brought carnage and chaos to Silver Lake. Now the tribes of the north no longer venture into the southlands. The town has recovered and yet the legacy remains. Indeed, one of the three, Karsa Orlong, is now revered as a god, albeit an indifferent one. In truth, many new religions have emerged and been embraced across the Malazan world. There are those who worship Coltaine, the Black-Winged Lord, and the cult of Iskar Jarak, Guardian of the Dead, is popular among the Empire's soldiery. Responding to reports of a growing unease among the tribes beyond the border, a legion of Malazan marines marches towards Silver Lake. They aren't quite sure what they're going to be facing, but, while the Malazan military has evolved and these are not the marines of old, one thing hasn't changed: they'll handle whatever comes at them. Or die trying. And in those high mountains, a new warleader has risen amongst the Teblor. Scarred by the deeds of Karsa Orlong, he intends to confront his god even if he has to cut a bloody swathe through the Malazan Empire to do so. But further north, a new threat has emerged and now it seems it is the Teblor who are running out of time. Another long-feared migration is about to begin and this time it won't just be three warriors. No, this time tens of thousands are poised to pour into the lands to the south. And in their way, a single company of Malazan marines . . . It seems the past is about to revisit Silver Lake, and that is never a good thing .

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god is not great: *Critiques of God* Peter Adam Angeles, 1997 Essays on atheism by Kurt Baier, John Dewey, Paul Edwards, Antony Flew, Sigmund Freud, Erich Fromm, Sidney Hook, Walter Kaufmann, Corliss Lamont, Wallace I. Matson, H.J. McCloskey, Ernest Nagel, Kai Nielsen, Richard Robinson, Bertrand Russell, and Michael Scriven.

god is not great: Nietzsche's Philosophy of Religion Julian Young, 2006-04-06 In his first book, *The Birth of Tragedy*, Nietzsche observes that Greek tragedy gathered people together as a community in the sight of their gods, and argues that modernity can be rescued from 'nihilism' only through the revival of such a festival. This is commonly thought to be a view which did not survive the termination of Nietzsche's early Wagnerianism, but Julian Young argues, on the basis of an examination of all of Nietzsche's published works, that his religious communitarianism in fact persists through all his writings. What follows, it is argued, is that the mature Nietzsche is neither an 'atheist', an 'individualist', nor an 'immoralist': he is a German philosopher belonging to a German tradition of conservative communitarianism - though to claim him as a proto-Nazi is radically mistaken. This important reassessment will be of interest to all Nietzsche scholars and to a wide range of readers in German philosophy.

god is not great: No One Left to Lie to Christopher Hitchens, 2000 Suggests that President Clinton's largest legacy may be the weakening of the presidency and of the Democratic Party.

god is not great: Why I Am an Atheist Who Believes in God Frank Schaeffer, 2014-09-01 Caught between the beauty of his grandchildren and grief over a friend's death, Frank Schaeffer finds himself simultaneously believing and not believing in God--an atheist who prays. Schaeffer wrestles with faith and disbelief, sharing his innermost thoughts. He writes as an imperfect son, husband and grandfather whose love for his family, art and life trumps the ugly theologies of an angry God and the atheist vision of a cold, meaningless universe.

god is not great: *God is Not Great* Christopher Hitchens, 2007 Hitchens takes on his biggest subject yet--the increasingly dangerous role of religion in the world. With insight and wit, he describes the ways in which religion is man-made, immoral, and repressive and argues for a new enlightenment through science and reason. (World Religions)

god is not great: The First Book of Moses, Called Genesis , 1999 Hailed as the most radical repackaging of the Bible since Gutenberg, these Pocket Canons give an up-close look at each book of the Bible.

god is not great: *How to Win a Cosmic War* Reza Aslan, 2011-03-01 *Why do they hate us? An entire cottage industry has arisen to answer this question. But what no one has really figured out is, who exactly are they? Is it al-Qaeda? Islamic nationalists? The whole Muslim world? *HOW TO WIN A COSMIC WAR lays out, for the first time, a comprehensive definition of the movement behind and surrounding al-Qaeda and the like, a global ideology properly termed Jihadism. *Contrasting twenty-first-century religious extremism across Christianity, Judaism and Islam with its historical antecedents, Aslan demonstrates that while modern Jihadis may have legitimate social grievances - the suffering of the Palestinians, American support for Arab dictators, the presence of foreign troops in Muslim lands, to name a few - they have no real goals or actual agenda. *So, what do the Jihadists want? Aslan's answer is: Nothing. The Jihadists have no earthly agenda; they are fighting a metaphysical conflict, a theological war. And ever since 9/11, we have unfortunately been fighting the same cosmic war, the war they want: the so-called 'War on Terror'. *How do we win a Cosmic War? By refusing to fight in one. And in this stunning new work, Aslan reveals surprising conclusions about how we can deal with this predicament.

god is not great: *Mortality* Christopher Hitchens, 2012-08-25 The world's greatest contrarian confronts his own death in this brave and unforgettable book. During the American book tour for his memoir, *Hitch-22*, Christopher Hitchens collapsed in his hotel room with excruciating pain in his chest. As he would later write in the first of a series of deeply moving *Vanity Fair* pieces, he was being deported 'from the country of the well across the stark frontier that marks off the land of malady.' Over the next year he experienced the full force of modern cancer treatment. *Mortality* is at once an unsparingly honest account of the ravages of his disease, an examination of cancer etiquette, and the coda to a lifetime of fierce debate and peerless prose. In this moving personal account of illness, Hitchens confronts his own death - and he is combative and dignified, eloquent and witty to the very last.

god is not great: *Evidence Unseen* James Rochford, 2013-05-20 *Evidence Unseen* is the most

accessible and careful though through response to most current attacks against the Christian worldview.

god is not great: Privilege Ross Gregory Douthat, 2005-03-02 Part memoir, part social critique, *Privilege* is an absorbing assessment of one of the world's most celebrated universities: Harvard. In this sharp, insightful account, Douthat evaluates his social and academic education.

god is not great: An American Atheist Mike Martinelli, 2010-12-05 Atheism. A term that conjures up negativity and even fear. Allow me to offer a unique prospective while respecting your own beliefs. I am an American who loves this country and will stand up and defend Christianity and your values right along with the principles this land was founded upon. Step inside and let me share my rational views of our country: The United States of America--Page 2 of cover.

god is not great: *Next Year in Jerusalem* John Kolchak, 2016-04-01 A brutal re-imagining of the Gospel story, *Next Year in Jerusalem* follows the footsteps of Yeshua Bar-Yosif--an illiterate, epileptic, bastard son of a Roman soldier on his ill-fated life journey through a land racked by terror. As first century Judea bleeds from the oppression of Roman rule and the violent uprisings against it, Yeshua, tormented by familial guilt for abandoning his mother, eventually forms his own family of travelers who preach for peace and compassion in the face of internecine savagery. Their wanderings lead to encounters with false prophets, assassins, and a rapidly growing movement of extremist rebels whose leader Bar-Abbas' mission is to expel the Romans and establish an ethnocentric theocracy. Chance sends both Yeshua and Bar-Abbas to the court of Pontius Pilate--the dipsomaniac Governor obsessed with leaving a name for himself in the scrolls of history--and the outcome of that meeting seals the fate of the world for the next two millennia. With urgent parallels to contemporary issues of religious war, this book is both a lament and a warning. It is also a story about the passage of time, the nature of memory, and of mankind's inherent yearning for life everlasting.

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