

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Is belief in God a “crutch”?

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Is it true men have created “God” as an illusionary abstract to help them cope with the harshness of life? Sigmon Freud looked at “religious beliefs” as “illusions, fulfillments of the oldest, strongest, and most urgent wishes of mankind.” Man just “wished” God into existence as a coping mechanism? According to Freud, men wished God into existence because they were looking for an “idyllic father figure that eclipses either a non-existent or imperfect real father.”

Modern atheists, grouping individual believers in God together, characterize them as delusionary and weak. Richard Dawkins in his 2006 Book, *The God Delusion*, quoted the American author and philosopher Robert Pirsig as saying, “When one person suffers from a delusion, it’s called insanity. When many people suffer from a delusion, it’s called religion.” Jesse Ventura, the former governor of Minnesota and retired wrestler said, “Organized religion is a sham and a crutch for weak-minded people who need strength in numbers.”

In the Humanist Manifesto – 1973 we read, “Too often traditional faiths encourage dependence rather than independence,

obedience rather than affirmation, fear rather than courage. ...But we can discover no divine purpose or providence for the human species. While there is much that we do not know, humans are responsible for what we are or will become. No deity will save us; we must save ourselves.”

While claiming there is much that atheists do not know, they apparently know for sure there is no God. Therefore, there is no “divine purpose.” Man must courageously stand on his own, because “no deity” will save us.

If it is true we invented God to cope with life’s harshness, how come the God we are told we invented is “severe?” (*Romans 11:22-23*). Paul, revealing the mind of God in *Romans 11*, speaks of God who saves us in Christ, while at the same time does not take away personal responsibility to believe in order to be saved. God’s word, which produces our faith, creates in our heart the hope of “Heaven,” but also warns us of the reality of eternal destruction in “Hell” (*cf. Colossians 1:4-5, Matthew 10:28, 2 Thessalonians 1:9*). Why would we create more “harshness” in life to invent a God who promises us that we

will “suffer persecution” if we live godly (*2 Timothy 3:12*)?

Do atheists project their own “wishes” upon their disbelief in the God of the Bible? Honesty says so. Thomas Nagel, a philosopher, and professor writes, “I speak from experience, being strongly subject to this fear myself: I want atheism to be true and am made uneasy by the fact that some of the most intelligent and well-informed people I know are religious believers. It isn’t just that I don’t believe in God and, naturally, hope that I’m right in my belief. It’s that I hope there is no God! I don’t want there to be a God” (*The Last Word; pp. 13-131*).

Over the centuries, a “go-to-crutch” for disbelievers has been “mockery” Peter warns us that “*in the last days mockers shall come with their mockery, walking after their own lusts, as saying, ‘Where is the promise of his coming?’ (2 Peter 3:3-4)*. They do not come with proof that the Lord will never return, but with mockery, and faulty reasoning. Man is still without excuse who reject God, our Creator (*Romans 1:20*).

C.S. Lewis wrote, “We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade, the presence of God. The world is crowded with Him.”