

World's most prominent atheist takes on the biblical God

By Richard N. Ostling
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Publicists call Britain's Richard Dawkins "the world's most prominent atheist." Superlatives aside, he's certainly the leader among scientists who believe Darwin's evolution theory has exterminated any possibility that God exists.

Dawkins, a take-no-prisoners type, treats faith as a lethal disease and billions of believers as rather stupid.

He thinks it's arguable that sexual molestation is less damaging to children than religious training, yet society accepts "the preposterous idea that it is normal and right to indoctrinate tiny children in the religion of their parents." (He doesn't address atheistic parents' indoctrination.)

Dawkins despises Judaism's biblical God: "a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully."

He's friendlier toward the teachings of Jesus

- "if he existed, or whoever wrote his script if he didn't." However, belief that Jesus died for the sins of the world is a "repellent doctrine," he thinks; Christians forever focus on "sin sin sin sin sin sin."

So Dawkins preaches in "The God Delusion" (Houghton Mifflin), which has its moments but counts as a disappointment. A carefully wrought atheistic manifesto for popular audiences would be worthwhile, but Dawkins' effort is marred by omissions, fluffs, fuzzy generalizations and snarky asides.

Dawkins could have seriously explored the thinking of atheists such as the late J.L. Mackie or William Rowe and of God-defenders including Oxford University colleagues (Robert M. Adams, Richard Swinburne, former atheist Alister McGrath) or the titan of theism, America's Alvin Plantinga.

By coincidence, "Delusion" appears alongside another scientist's popular treatment, "The Language of God" (Free Press) by Francis Collins, director of the international Human Genome Project, who explains his pilgrimage from atheism to evangelicalism.

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November, 2006 Newsletter - Part I
J.M. Little, Teacher

My Dear Friends:

Once again we are glad to greet you in the Name of our crucified, buried and risen Lord. The greatest thing in all this life, in all this world, in all this universe, is just to know Christ as your Lord and your Saviour! I'm not asking you if you joined the church on a profession, saying you are trusting the Lord. I am asking if you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, a Living Reality to your heart. When I joined the Baptist Church at about nine years of age, I told the pastor and the church, "I believe I can trust the Lord 'til I die." Kenneth, I made that profession with all the earnestness and honesty of my tender heart. But my dear cousin, each day of my life I thank the Lord for not letting me die on that profession of "trusting the Lord 'til I die." I assure you, as a Spirit-awakened and justified sinner, if I had died on that profession, I'd be kicking and screaming in hell right now. Do you know that you and I deserve to be in Hell? You've never seen that? Will you let me be true to your soul? Before you come to know Christ as a Living Reality to your heart, the blessed Holy Spirit is going to show you that you deserve nothing but the hottest place in hell. Get this truth, church members: "If you have never seen, under the convicting power and illumination of the Holy Spirit, that you deserve to go to hell, then you are not saved!" Now you can drive a peg down there and hold it. All this fluffy-durly stuff of "making a decision for Jesus", or "accepting Jesus as your Saviour" is not salvation. No sinner has ever been saved, or ever will be saved, by accepting Jesus as Saviour! The Saviourship of Christ is hidden in His Lordship. If you never bow to Christ as Lord, you'll never know Him as your Saviour. If you are sitting under a ministry that will not tell you what I just told you, then you had better find yourself another ministry to sit under. Now, I'm cutting right down the line. It is your soul that is at stake, not mine, cousins.

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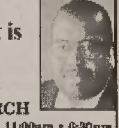
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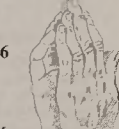
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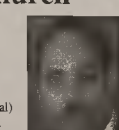
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