

Words Against the Lord

Evil Men have always spoken against the Lord

- Lev.24:10-16

- “The law for the punishment of blasphemy in ver. 16 is perfectly clear; it was from a wrong conception of the fact, not of the law, that the Jews stoned Stephen, and would gladly have stoned our Lord Himself” – Lange

- The Jews answered Him, saying, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God” – Jn.10:33

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- Psalm 2:2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, 3 “Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us.”

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- Isaiah 37:23 “Whom have you reproached and blasphemed? Against whom have you raised your voice, And lifted up your eyes on high? Against the Holy One of Israel.
24 By your servants you have reproached the Lord, And said, ‘By the multitude of my chariots I have come up to the height of the mountains, To the limits of Lebanon; I will cut down its tall cedars And its choice cypress trees; I will enter its farthest height, To its fruitful forest.”

I. Speak Against His Existence

Nu.21:7

- Epicurus (d. 270 BC): If God wants to prevent evil and cannot, He isn't all powerful; if He can but will not, He isn't all good (??).
 - These questions appeal to universal system of justice that evil violates
 - Without a universal standard, charge fails
- Where did this universal standard come from?
- If 'no God,' what is 'evil'??
- “Do not murder” – universal agreement

- It takes hard work to ignore God
 - 2 Pt.3:5...8, willfully forget (deliberately overlook)
 - Ps.19, His revelation reveals Himself
 - Ro.1:19-20, *manifest...*
 - Ro.2:14-15

Wm. Bradford, governor, Plymouth Colony: 'Those who believe in the Holy Scriptures are bound to observe its teachings. Those who do not are to be bound by its consequences.'

God is love (1 Jn.4:8)

God created us with free will

Josh.24¹⁵ And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord

If all actions produce same effect, we cannot learn to choose good over bad

We suffer because of . . .

- Personal wrong choices – Jg.6:1; 1 Pt.4:15
- Others' choices – Lk.13:1-3 (Pilate...)
- Natural law – Lk.13:4-5

I. Speak Against His Existence

II. Speak Against His
Creative Power

Explain world by evolution

- Hb.3:4 – house
 - We were not at Creation
 - Both evolution and creation require **faith**
- Jn.1:1-3; Mk.10:6

Best scientific evidence requires young earth

- Sun shrinks five feet an hour...
- If rate remained constant (uniformitarianism), 100,000 years ago it would be twice its present size (no life)
- 20 million BC: earth would touch sun
- If it began 500-2000 million years ago, earth would be inside the sun

Science is a sacred cow

- Anthony Standen on the missing link: “It is a most misleading phrase, because it suggests that only one link is missing. It would be more accurate to say that the greater part of the entire chain is missing, so much that it is not entirely certain whether there is a chain at all.”

It's one thing to say, "I don't understand why X happens"

- It is another thing to say, "Since I don't understand it, there must not be a God"
- God, by definition, cannot be 'understood'
- Ro.11:33

"God wants us saved, but does not fret over our opinions"??

We will understand better at Judgment
...when it's too late to change minds

I. Speak Against His Existence

II. Speak Against His Creative Power

III. Speak Against God's Son

Acts 4:...26

- “He was a good man, but no more”
 - Ac.26¹¹ And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.
 - 1 Tim.1¹³ blasphemer, persecutor, insolent
 - Jn.5:17-23
- Good men don't lie...

I. Speak Against His Existence

II. Speak Against His Creative Power

III. Speak Against God's Son

IV. Speak Against God's Sincerity

Some make Him the author of every religious doctrine and body

- (Their 'god' calls on one man to affirm what He calls on another to deny)
- Would we believe all that a creed teaches?
- God is not responsible for division in religion
 - Mt.16:18, how many churches?
 - Ep.4:4-6 (1:22-23)

I. Speak Against His Existence

II. Speak Against His Creative Power

III. Speak Against God's Son

IV. Speak Against God's Sincerity

V. Speak Against God's Word

- Jer.36, Jehoiakim...
- Includes those who oppose the teaching of Scripture. 1 T.1²⁰ ...Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme
- ... Tit.2⁵, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed

Mere men

- Ludwig Feuerbach ... influenced Darwin, Karl Marx, Sigmund Freud, Friedrich Engels, Richard Wagner, Frederick Nietzsche, et al.): “God is a figment of man’s imagination.”
- Robert Ingersoll: “An honest God is the noblest work of man.”
- 1960s, Thomas Altizer’s slogan: “God is dead”; Time Magazine.
- Hare Krishna said God is in everything (pantheism).
- Karl Marx wrote off religion: “opium of the people.”

Worst of all...

- When people blaspheme God's name because of hypocritical 'Christians.'
- Ro.2:24 – quotes Is.52:5: their defeat brought shame on God; behavior can be as blasphemous as words
- 2 Sm.12¹⁴ However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die