

# Light Brings Salt

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## Iron Range Bible Church

*Dedicated to the Systematic Exposition of the Word of God*



### Why Are Atheist Books Best Sellers? By Dennis Prager

In the following article Dennis Prager exhibits a better handle on what's going on in the culture than most so called Christians.

In just the last few months, three books attacking belief in God and making a case for atheism have been national best sellers: "The God Delusion" by Richard Dawkins; "God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything" by Christopher Hitchens; and "Letter to a Christian Nation" by Sam Harris. A fourth book, "Breaking the Spell: Religion as a Natural Phenomenon" by Daniel C. Dennett also sold very well.

In my opinion -- and I dialogued with three of the four authors on my radio show (Dawkins has refused to come on) -- the arguments put forth are far more emotional than intellectual, and even secular liberal journals have written devastating reviews of the Hitchens and Dawkins books.

It is not due to their eloquence, originality or persuasiveness that these books have become best sellers. I believe other factors are at work. And they are:

First and most significant is the amount of evil coming from within Islam. Whether Islamists (or jihadists, Islamo-Fascists or whatever else Muslims who slaughter innocents in the name of Islam are called) represent a small sliver of Muslims or considerably more than that, they have brought religious faith into terrible disrepute.

How could they not? The one recognized genocide in the world today is being carried out by religious Muslims in Sudan; liberty is exceedingly rare in any of the dozens of nations with Muslim majorities; treatment of women is frequently awful; and tolerance of people with different

religious beliefs is largely nonexistent when Muslims dominate a society.

If the same were true of vegetarians -- if mass murder and violent intolerance were carried out by vegetarians -- there would be a backlash against vegetarianism even among people who previously had no strong feelings about the doctrine.

Religion's reputation is made all the worse by the lack of any significant outcry in the Muslim world against the atrocities committed in the name of their religion. The negative impact of this Muslim silence, especially given the amount of Muslim rioting that occurs when Muslims are disturbed by something, can hardly be overstated.

If Muslims around the world -- especially in free countries -- demonstrated against Muslim terror with anything like the fervor that Muslims demonstrate against perceived offenses against their honor, Islam -- and by extension religion generally -- would have elicited immense respect, despite all the evil being committed in the name of Islam.

There are other, long-term, factors involved in the popularity of books against religion.

The secular indoctrination of a generation that has grown into adulthood is bearing fruit. Unless one receives a strong religious grounding in a religious school and/or religious home, the average young person in the Western world is immersed in a secular cocoon. From elementary school through graduate school, only one way of looking at the world -- the secular -- is presented. The typical individual in the Western world receives as secular an indoctrination as the typical European received a religious one in the middle ages. I have taught college students and have found that their ignorance not only of the Bible but of the most elementary religious arguments

and concepts -- such as the truism that if there is no God, morality is subjective -- is total.

So the generation that has been secularly brainwashed is now buying books that reconfirm that brainwash -- especially now, given the evil coming from religious people.

At the same time, religion in the Western world has, with some notable exceptions, provided few responses to the secular challenges. In Western Europe and among the best educated in America, religion is regarded as nonsense at best and toxic at worst. And the liberal wings of Christianity and Judaism offer few or no arguments against the dominant secularism. Indeed it is virtually impossible to distinguish between a liberal Christian or Jew and a liberal secularist. Neither holds any text to be divine, both get their values from their hearts and minds, and they come to identical conclusions about virtually all moral issues. The liberal Christian, the liberal Jew and the liberal secularist all regard the human fetus as morally worthless; regard the man-woman definition of marriage as a form of bigotry; and come close to holding pacifist beliefs, to cite but a few examples.

Finally, many of the traditionally religious have gravitated away from rational beliefs into irrational, mystical and emotional religiosity. And on those occasions when they speak to the irreligious, they often talk to them just as they would to fellow religionists. I have been on national television talk shows with some of these religious spokesmen, good people all, but I cringed at their unsophisticated responses to the questions put to them. They would simply affirm their beliefs -- which undoubtedly sounded wonderful to their congregants, but did not sway a single secular viewer.

The problem is far more than merely an intellectual one. Only strong moral religion can defeat strong immoral religion. To his credit, when I challenged the aforementioned Sam Harris by noting that religious Jews and Christians are far more likely to confront Islamists than secularists are, he agreed that this is indeed the case. But with Islamic religious violence increasing, Western secularism increasing, and liberal religion merely echoing secular values and its non-confrontationalism, there will be fewer and fewer people capable of confronting religious evil. And with the

ascendance of religious evil, the case for atheism will seem even more compelling.

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## **IF YOU ARE 35 AND UNDER, YOU MAY BE SPIRITUALLY SICK!**

Note: These are all currently being practiced in many churches today in the name of worship. Demonstrates the extent of the demise of true Biblical Christianity.

You may have the disease called The Postmodern Syndrome. Here are some of the symptoms:

1. You go to church to get emotionally charged up with rock music, yelling and screaming, dancing around the isle with hands in the air.
2. You are not interested in the deep teachings of God's Word. You prefer "feel-good" emotional "how-to" messages.
3. You want short devotionals at church. Nothing boring like Bible teaching verse-by-verse from the pulpit!
4. You probably have some doubts about certain Bible doctrines—inspiration of Scripture, the return of Christ, etc. Especially prophecy—can't listen to anything that might be divisive! And after all we really can't be dogmatic about the return of Christ!
5. You are more interested in personality issues rather than the strong authority and standard doctrines of the Bible.
6. You want to be "authenticated," whatever that means! (Secular psychology)
7. You do not like Bible teachers who say, "This is what the Bible says!" That is too dogmatic and "pushy."
8. You say you are not into church growth but ironically, you are into the church growth movement!
9. At church you want food courts, tennis courts, workout rooms, etc.
10. When you take your kids to church you want to know if they are "safe." You don't ask about what they will be getting spiritually from the Word of God.

11. As a yuppie parent you know more about green fungus on the walls, unsafe spinach, and asthma than what the Bible teaches. Again, the key idea here: “Is my kid safe?”
12. You take your kids to the doctor three times each month. You give them prescription drugs for stopped up noses instead of using the old nose drops like my generation did. (I don’t know how we survived!)
13. At worship service, as some churches are doing, you express yourself by painting watercolor images or producing a video message DVD! Self expression supposedly helps you learn about God! This helps you engage in “honest conversation” and ultimately will aid you to search and find the truth! (This is actually happening at some postmodern assemblies!)
14. You say you are a Christian but you practice humming and staring at your navel while sitting in the lotus position at the Friday morning workout in the church gym.
15. You use play dough to mold an image of yourself which shows how God has you in His hands. If the play dough droops a bit, that illustrates how God is an ever-changing deity. (This really happens in some churches)
16. You are into a “hyper-individualistic pursuit of faith” rather than into searching the Scriptures to understand objective and unmovable doctrine.
17. You are trying to establish your faith with an inward journey, trying to have your “felt-needs” met.
18. You believe secular psychology is helpful in bringing enlightenment to the Bible.
19. You believe “Commitment and Sacrifice” is some kind of new online game.
20. Because you are so into Christian rock music with all the hot instruments, you think an “organ” is some kind of body part.
21. To show congregational unity the folks in the church pass a beach ball around the auditorium. (This actually happens)

News Note:

Such a wonderful, peaceful and real religion is Islam—not. Anywhere in the world where there is trouble, you can get three to one odds that Islam is involved in some way shape or form. And rarely, if ever, is there an outcry by this unseen majority of Muslims who the media and the President keep saying are the “vast majority of peace loving Muslims.” We just don’t see them or hear much from them. The excuse is that they are afraid to speak out due to possible reprisals against them. So once again, this peaceful religion demonstrates that it does not value religious freedom or free speech—a very foundational cornerstone of the American form of government.

But just another reminder in case you forget—Islam is also a counterfeit religion. Islam claims its roots in Abraham through his son Ishmael. In fact, the Koran, Islam’s bible, tries to tell the story that Abraham was to sacrifice Ishmael and God stopped him. But the Bible clearly documents that God told Abraham to sacrifice his true son Isaac. God saw that Abraham was obedient to Him and, instead, provided a ram in the thicket for the sacrifice--A type and shadow of Christ. And Ishmael, the son of the hand maiden, according to the Bible, was disinherited in Genesis 21:12, “for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.”

Islam is a counterfeit also in that it lays claim to all the Jewish holy sites, such as the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, the alleged site where Abraham sacrificed the ram instead of Isaac, or Ishmael, if you are Muslim. To Muslims, the Temple Mount is the most holy site, except, of course, it is not as holy as Mecca. And it is not as holy as Medina. So, the Temple Mount is the third most holy site for Muslims. And they control it in Jerusalem, which is also where the Jewish Temple was built until the Romans destroyed it and the Muslims took over. Now the Muslims are excavating a trench around the site, ostensibly to improve their mosque’s foundation.

In the process, the Muslims are destroying thousands of Jewish and Christian artifacts by crushing them with heavy equipment and dumping the fragments in heavily protected Palestinian trash dumps. Here, Islam is destroying any amount of history that would document that Islam is a false religion that really has no claim to the Temple Mount or anything else in the Jewish holy land. God, indeed, promised that from Ishmael there would be a great nation, but the angel of the Lord told Ishmael’s mother Hagar in Genesis 16:12, “And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man’s hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.” And so it is even to this day.