

Christian Sausage

There never was any period of time in all ecclesiastical history in which so many rank heresies were publicly professed, nor in which so many spurious books were forged and published by the Christians, under the names of Christ, and the Apostles, and the Apostolic writers, as in those primitive ages [the first centuries CE]. Several of these forged books are frequently cited and applied to the defense of Christianity, by the most eminent fathers of the same ages, as true and genuine pieces.

-- Dr Conyers Middleton

When the Greeks established themselves as rulers in Alexandria (322-30 BC), they continued to worship Osiris as Sarapis and passed his cult on to the Romans. Through the Greeks the Hellenized version of the Osiris myth endured in Western culture. The rise of science and philosophy in Alexandria paved the way for the rich spiritual legacy of late antiquity. It was in Roman Alexandria (30 BCE-394 CE) that the new Christian religion blossomed, inspired by the writings of the Egyptian, Greek, and Jewish philosophers.

Dr Bojana Mojsov, *Osiris: Death and Afterlife of a God*

The god Seth, called Typhon by the Greek writers, was the Satan of later Egyptian mythology. He was the personification of the

evil in the world, just as Osiris was the personification of the good.

-- Dr Philip Van Ness Myers, *Ancient History*

There are some who without reservation assert that Osiris is the Sun and is called the Dog-star (Sirius) by the Greeks, and there are those who declare that this is none other than the Moon. For this reason it is said that the statues of Isis that bear horns are imitations of the crescent moon, and in her dark garments are shown the concealments and the obscurations in which she in her yearning pursues the Sun.

-- Plutarch, *Isis and Osiris*

The reasons for doubting Moses' existence include (1) the parallels between the Moses stories and older ones like that of Sargon; (2) the absence of any Egyptian account of such a great event as the Pentateuch asserts the Exodus to have been; (3) the attributing to Moses of so many laws that are known to have originated much later; (4) the correlative fact that great codes never suddenly appear full-born but are slowly evolved; (5) the difficulties of fitting the slavery, the Exodus, and the conquest of Canaan into the known chronology of Egypt and Palestine; and (6) the extreme probability that some of the twelve tribes were never in Egypt at all.

-- Charles Francis Potter, *The Great Religious Leaders*

There can be no doubt that the oldest Egyptian writings contain some vestiges of primeval faith. Egyptians in very remote areas believed in the immortality of man, with reward or punishment in the future state. They believed in the existence of good and evil powers in this life, and were

not without a sense of personal responsibility.

-- Rev Dr W H Rule, *The Horus Myth and Its Relation to Christianity*

Now when the ancient Egyptians, awestruck and wondering, turned their eyes to the heavens, they concluded that two gods, the sun and the moon, were primeval and eternal; they called the former Osiris, and the latter Isis.

-- Diodorus Siculus, *The Antiquities of Egypt*

Woman, as sagacious advisor or wise counselor, human interpreter of the divine will of the Goddess, was no longer to be respected, but to be hated, feared or at best doubted or ignored. Women were to be regarded as mindless, carnal creatures, both attitudes justified and proved by the Paradise myth. Statements carefully designed to suppress the earlier social structure continually presented the myth of Adam and Eve as divine proof that man must hold the ultimate authority.

-- Merlin Stone, *When God was a Woman*

Horus is presented in manifold aspects in Egyptian mythology. Mainly as the vindicator of the principle of Good; as the avenger of his father, Osiris, who succumbed temporarily in his struggle against Evil embodied in the god Set, who corresponds to our Satan. Set was represented as a beast with long pointed ears and erect tail, and may perhaps be the origin of the popular representations of Satan, the ears having come to be regarded as horns.

-- Rev Henry Windsor Villiers Stuart, *Egypt After the War*

Those who denied the humanity of Christ were the first class of professing Christians, and not only first in order of time, but in dignity of character, in intelligence, and in moral influence. The deniers of the humanity of Christ, or, in a word, professing Christians, who denied that any such man as Jesus Christ ever existed at all, but who took the name Jesus Christ to signify only an abstraction, or prosopopoeia, the principle of Reason personified; and who understood the whole gospel story to be a sublime allegory -- those were the first, and (it is not dishonour to Christianity to pronounce them) the best and most rational Christians.

Rev Robert Taylor, *The Diegesis*

Even scholars who believe they really happened admit that there's no proof whatsoever that the Exodus took place. No record of this monumental event appears in Egyptian chronicles of the time, and Israeli archaeologists combing the Sinai during intense searches from 1967 to 1982 -- years when Israel occupied the peninsula -- didn't find a single piece of evidence backing the Israelites' supposed 40-year sojourn in the desert.

The story involves so many miracles -- plagues, the parting of the Red Sea, manna from heaven, the giving of the Ten Commandments -- that some critics feel the whole story has the flavor of pure myth. A massive exodus that led to the drowning of Pharaoh's army, says Father Anthony Axe, Bible lecturer at Jerusalem's Ecole Biblique, would have reverberated politically and economically through the entire region. And considering that artifacts from as far back as the late Stone Age have turned up in the Sinai, it is perplexing that no evidence of the Israelites' passage has been found. William Denver, a University of Arizona archaeologist, flatly calls Moses a mythical

figure. Some scholars even insist the story was a political fabrication, invented to unite the disparate tribes living in Canaan through a falsified heroic past.

-- *Time Magazine*, 12/18/95

Horus was not the only sun-god recognized by the Egyptians. His own father Osiris, the Savior (of whom Horus was a reincarnation), was born -- also at the winter solstice -- of an immaculate virgin, the goddess Neth, who, like Isis, the mother of Horus, was known by the titles of "Mother of God", "Immaculate Virgin", "Queen of Heaven", "Star of the Sea", "The Morning Star", "The Intercessor".

-- William Williamson, *The Great Law: A study of Religious Origins*

The Egyptian goddess who was equally "the Great Virgin" and "Mother of the God" was the object of the very same praise bestowed upon her successor [Mary, Virgin Mother of Jesus].

-- Dr R E Witt, *Isis in the Ancient World*

It would seem that in Egypt we had the first truly Christian people, without record of an initial struggle between heathenry and the Gospel. The blessed Mary had replaced Isis, the little babe Jesus had replaced Horus, the passion of Christ had superseded the suffering and dying of Osiris, the Christian cross had been set up instead of the "Tet" or fourfold cross with flail and crook in right and left.

Rev Dr William Norman Guthrie, *The Gospel of Osiris*

We live today in the astrological no-man's-land at the end of the Age of Pisces, on the threshold of the New Age of Aquarius. Traditionally these times of transition between one age and the next have been regarded as ill-omened.

Graham Hancock, *Fingerprints of the Gods*

The word "Paradise" means "among the stars", and the tale [of Adam and Eve] as taken literally by the devoted biblicist is a demeaning portrayal of God, as it declares that God is vengeful towards his own flawed progeny, the gullible pair whom He had created in His image seemingly for the sole purpose that He might send a serpent of iniquity to tempt the weakness and depravity so inadvertently implanted in their godly-begotten natures. A monstrous doctrine, indeed, that can picture a God so sinister in purpose as to betray the innocence of His own offspring!

-- John Hazelrigg, *The Sun Book*

The Nativity, the Betrayal, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection are but quarterly stages in the mystic journey, expressed as a geometrical ration in natural physics -- ever the same, whether applied to the four quarters of the day, the four lunar phases, the four cardinal points, or seasons in the solar revolution.

-- John Hazelrigg, *The Sun Book*

Organized religion, which likes to fancy itself the mother of compassion, long ago lost its right to that claim by its organized support of organized cruelty.

-- Jules Henry (Anthropologist)

It is of no matter whether or not the individual Jew is decent. He possesses certain characteristics given to him by nature, and he can never rid himself of those characteristics. The Jew is harmful to us. My feeling as a Christian leads me to be a fighter for my Lord and Savior. It leads me to the man who, at one time lonely and with only a few followers, recognized the Jews for what they were, and called on men to fight against them. As a Christian, I owe something to my own people.

-- Hitler

The miraculous birth of Jesus could be viewed as analogous to that of Horus, whom Isis conceived posthumously from Osiris, and Mary was closely connected with Isis by many other shared characteristics.

-- Dr Erik Hornung, *The Secret Lore of Egypt*

Those who worship Serapis there [in Alexandria] are Christians, and those who call themselves bishops of Christ are devotees of Serapis. There is no Jewish archisynagogus [synagogue ruler], no Samaritan, no Christian presbyter, who is not an astrologer, a soothsayer, or a master of wrestlers [quack]. When the Patriarch himself visits Egypt, he is forced by some to worship Serapis, by others to worship Christ. They are a most seditious sort of people, most deceptive, most injurious; their city is wealthy, rich, and [their land] fertile, and no one is idle. Their only god is money, and this the Christians, the Jews, and all people adore.

-- Dr Benjamin H Isaac (based on a letter written by the emperor Hadrian to his brother-in-law Servianus around 134 CE, as related by the pagan writer Vopiscus, around 300 CE).

All these names of Jesus, Jeosuah, Josias, Josue derive from two Sanscrit words: Zeus and Jezeus, which signify, one, the Supreme Being, and the other, the Divine Essence. These names, moreover, were common not only amongst the Jews, but throughout the East.

-- Louis Jacolliot, *The Bible in India*

We have repudiated Greek and Roman mythologies with disdain. Why, then, admit with respect the mythology of the Jews? Ought the miracles of Jehovah to impress us more than those of Jupiter? I have much more respect for the Greek Jupiter than for the God of Moses; for if Jupiter gives some examples not of the purest morality, at least he does not flood his altar with streams of human blood.

Louis Jacolliot, *The Bible in India*

If anyone should wish to know the truth with respect to you Christians, he will find your impiety to be made up partly of the Jewish audacity, and partly of the indifference and confusion of the Gentiles, and that you have put together not the best, but the worst characteristics of them both.

-- Julian (Pagan Emperor)

They [the canonical gospels] are not heard of till 150 CE, that is, till Jesus had been dead nearly 120 years. No writer before 150 CE makes the slightest mention of them.

-- Bronson Keeler, *A Short History of the Bible*

The reader would err greatly did he suppose that in these assemblies one or two hundred gentlemen sat down to discuss quietly and dignifiedly the questions which had come before them for settlement. On the contrary, many of the bishops were ignorant ruffians, and were followed by crowds of vicious supporters who stood ready on the slightest excuse to maim and kill their opponents.

-- Bronson Keeler, *A Short History of the Bible*

For many, Yahweh was no more than the Israelite war god, useful in time of battle but a fairly lowly figure when viewed against the full pantheon of the gods. The names given to notable Israelites down the ages shows a strong respect for Baal, and even the most ardent Yahwist would not pretend that the Jews of this period believed in only one god.

-- Christopher Knight and Robert Lomas, *The Hiram Key: Pharaohs, Freemasons and the Discovery of the Secret Scrolls of Jesus*

Carbon-14 dating has demonstrated that the Shroud of Turin is a 14th-century forgery and is one of many such deliberately created relics produced in the same period, all designed to attract pilgrims to specific shrines to enhance and increase the status and financial income of the local church.

-- Gerald Larue

The sun god Re was the father of certain Egyptian pharaohs, whose virgin mothers conceived through contact with the "breath" of heavenly fire. The point would seem to be that, in the context of myth and religion, the term virgin birth is rightly applied to any miraculous conception and birth. That is, whether or not the mother is technically a virgin is of secondary importance to the fact

that she conceives and / or gives birth by some means other than the ordinary. The virgin birth story is ultimately not the story of a physiological quirk; it is the story of divinity entering the human experience by the only doorway available to it.

-- Dr David Adams Leeming

The narrative gospels can no longer be viewed as the trustworthy accounts of unique and stupendous historical events at the foundation of the Christian faith. The gospels must now be seen as the result of early Christian mythmaking.

Burton Mack, *The Lost Gospel of Q: The Book of Christian Origins*

All that we find in Judaism and Christianity - - there is virtually not one concept, belief, or idea expressed in Judaism or Christianity, not one -- that cannot be traced back many, many times to many different religions. It's a very old, ancient story. It's the greatest story ever told.

Jordan Maxwell, *The Naked Truth*

Bishop Colenso's mathematical arguments that an army of 600,000 men could not very well have been mobilized in a single night, that three millions of people with their flocks and herds could not very well have drawn water from a single well, and hundreds of other equally ludicrous inaccuracies of a similar nature, were popular points which even the most unlearned could appreciate, and therefore especially roused the ire of apologists and conservatives.

-- G R S Meade, *Did Jesus Live 100 BC?, The Gospels and the Gospel, Pistis Sophia*

It is axiomatic that one can gain true insight into how prevalent a deviant sexual practice is in a given culture as well as how threatening it is to that culture by the degree of severity of the laws which exist against it. Judging by the fact that the Hebrew law decreed death for zoophilia, forbidden intimacies with animals were commonplace indeed among the Israelites.

-- Ben Akerley, *The X-Rated Bible*

The Sun's daily movement through the sky was viewed as a journey from birth to death, and his rebirth at dawn was made possible through Osiris, the force of new life. In the middle of the night the Sun merged with Osiris's body; through this union, the Sun received the power of new life while Osiris was reborn in the Sun.

-- Dr James P Allen, *The Ancient Egyptian Pyramid Texts*

For what is now called the Christian religion existed of old and was never absent from the beginning of the human race until Christ came in the flesh. Then true religion which already existed began to be called Christian.

-- Saint Augustine, *Retractio*nes

Deprived of all scriptures between the Testaments, the common reader is left with the impression that somehow Christianity sprang self-generated like a divine entity, with no past, into its historical setting. Yet a reading of the texts between the Testaments shows how major eschatological themes of the New Testament -- the appearance of the Son of Man, the imminence of the End, the apocalyptic vision in the Book of Revelation, the notion of salvation through the messiah

-- are all preoccupation of intertestamental literature.

Willis Barnstone, editor of *The Other Bible*

Luther speaks of a fish-pond at Rome, situated near a convent of nuns, which, having been cleared out by order of Pope Gregory, disclosed, at the bottom, over six thousand infant skulls; and of a nunnery at Neinburg, in Austria, whose foundations, when searched, disclosed the same relics of celibacy and chastity!

-- Helena Blavatsky, *Isis Unveiled*, and *The Secret Doctrine*

Believe not because some old manuscripts are produced, believe not because it is your national belief, believe not because you have been made to believe from your childhood, but reason truth out, and after you have analyzed it, then if you find it will do good to one and all, believe it, live up to it and help others live up to it.

-- Buddha

Enterprising spirits responded to this natural craving by pretended gospels full of romantic fables, and fantastic and striking details; their fabrications were eagerly read and accepted as true by common folk who were devoid of any critical faculty and who were predisposed to believe what so luxuriously fed their pious curiosity. Both Catholics and Gnostics were concerned in writing these fictions. The former had no motive other than that of a pious fraud.

-- Catholic Encyclopedia

Modern scholars have routinely reinvented Jesus or have routinely rediscovered in

Jesus that which they want to find, be it rationalist, liberal Christianity of the 19th-century, be it apocalyptic miracle workers in the 20th, be it revolutionaries, or whatever it is that they're looking for, scholars have been able to find in Jesus almost anything that they want to find. Even in our own age scholars are still doing this. People are still trying to figure out the authentic sayings of Jesus. All our middle class liberal Protestant scholars will take a vote and decide what Jesus should have said, or might have said. And no doubt their votes reflect their own deep-seated, very sincere, very authentic Christian values. But their product is, of course, bedeviled by the problem that we are unable to have any secure criteria by which to distinguish the real from the mythic or what we want to be so from what actually was so.

Shaye Cohen (Evemerist scholar, professor of Judaic and Religion Studies at Brown University)

The Christian religion, it might be proposed, owes as much to the Nile as it does to the Jordan, and for the Church, Alexandria should be at least as important as Jerusalem (whereas Rome absorbed influences from both cities). In both Western and Eastern iconography the attributes of Isis survived. Coptic stelai show the Mother and Child, identified as Christian by the Greek crosses on either side of the head, but the basic iconography of the image is that of Isis and Horus, translated into Mary and Jesus.

-- Dr James S Curl, *The Egyptian Revival*

Besides forging, lying, and deceiving for the cause of Christ, the Christian Fathers destroyed all evidence against themselves and their religion, which they came across.

Christian divines seem to have always been afraid of too much light.

-- T W Doane, *Bible Myths and Their Parallels in Other Religions*

Evemerism is nowadays discredited except in the case of Jesus. No scholar believes that Osiris or Jupiter or Dionysus was an historical person promoted to the rank of a god, but exception is made only in favour of Jesus. It is impossible to rest the colossal work of Christianity on Jesus, if he was a man.

-- Edouard Dujardin, *Ancient History of the God Jesus*

The Pauline literature does not refer to Pilate, or the Romans, or Caiaphas, or the Sanhedrin, or Herod, or Judas, or the holy women, or any person in the gospel account of the Passion, and it also never makes any allusion to them; it mentions absolutely none of the events of the Passion, either directly or by way of allusion.

-- Edouard Dujardin, *Ancient History of the God Jesus*

Almost every one of the Apostles had a Gospel fathered upon him by one early sect or another.

-- *Encyclopedia Biblica* (Protestant)

With respect to the canonical Pauline epistles, there are none of them by Paul; neither fourteen, nor thirteen, nor nine or eight, nor yet even the four so long "universally" regarded as unassailable.

They are all, without distinction, pseudographia (false-writings, forgeries).

-- *Encyclopedia Biblica* (Protestant)

In the late 240s, Origen [an early Christian theologian and apologist] insisted with rare candour that "few" Christians had died for the faith. They were "easily numbered", he said.

Robin Lane Fox, *Pagans and Christians*

In the 240s, Origen, the Christian intellectual, did admit that Christians were only a tiny fraction of the world's inhabitants. If Christians were really so numerous, we could also expect some evidence of meeting places which could hold so many worshippers. At this date, there were no church buildings on public ground.

Robin Lane Fox, *Pagans and Christians*

The ritual of the nativity, as it appears to have been celebrated in Syria and Egypt, was remarkable. The celebrants retired into certain inner shrines, from which at midnight they issued a loud cry, "The Virgin has brought forth! The light is waxing!" The Egyptians even represented the new-born sun by the image of an infant which on his birthday, the winter solstice, they brought forth and exhibited to his worshippers.

Sir James Frazer, *The Golden Bough*

There were at least 26 "authentic" burial shrouds scattered through the abbeys of Europe, of which the Shroud of Turin is just one. The Shroud of Turin is one of the many relics manufactured for profit during the Middle Ages. Shortly after the shroud emerged it was declared a fake by the

bishop who discovered the artist. This is verified by recent scientific investigation.

-- Freethought Datasheet #5: Atheists United

The pyramid was essentially this mound of creation, a cocoon in which the king underwent the transformation or recreation into an eternal transfigured spirit called an akh. Journeying to the sky, he was united with the gods and resurrected each morning.

-- Vivian Davies and Renee Friedman, *Egypt Uncovered*

The principles and precepts of the Osiran theology of Egypt are virtually identical in content and application to the principles and precepts of Christianity as they present themselves in the Jesus saga.

Dr Richard A Gabriel, *Jesus the Egyptian*

Creationism is almost exclusively the Protestant American fundamentalist movement that seeks to impose on the general public, by political means, a religion that revolves around the creation stories in the Bible. These fundamental creationists are divided into two bitterly opposed camps -- the Young-Earthers and the Old-Earthers.

The most important thing to bear in mind about creationism -- both Young- and Old-Earth -- is that it is not really about science -- it is about religion and politics. Creationists deliberately obscure this point for tactical and legal reasons.

A familiar example of creationist research is the annual and lucrative search for Noah's Ark. This is the specialty of John Morris, the son of the founder of the Institute for Creation Research. You probably know the

plot. Every summer, an expedition is sent to a dusty Turkish town in the vicinity of Mt Ararat. Turkish red tape keeps the expedition away from the mountain until the summer is almost over. Then the expedition hires a light plane or helicopter. They fly over Mt Ararat, and there's the Ark! Finally obtaining official permission, they struggle up the mountain on foot and see the ice-sheathed Ark in the distance -- just as the first winter storm closes in and drives them back. Then it's time to raise funds for next year's expedition.

-- Lawrence S Lerner, PhD, professor of physics, author.

Truth does not demand belief. Scientists do not join hands every Sunday, singing, "yes, gravity is real! I will have faith! I will be strong! I believe in my heart that what goes up, up, up must come down, down, down. Amen!" If they did, we would think they were pretty insecure about it.

-- Dan Barker, ex preacher

Which is more dangerous: fanaticism or atheism? Fanaticism is certainly a thousand times more deadly; for atheism inspires no bloody passion whereas fanaticism does; atheism is opposed to crime, and fanaticism causes crimes to be committed.

-- Voltaire

Just think of the tragedy of teaching children not to doubt.

-- Clarence Darrow

The idea that God is an oversized white male with a flowing beard who sits in the sky and tallies the fall of every sparrow is

ludicrous. But if by "God" one means the set of physical laws that govern the universe, then clearly there is such a God. This God is emotionally unsatisfying. It does not make much sense to pray to the law of gravity.

-- Carl Sagan

The "wall of separation between church and state" is a metaphor based on bad history, a metaphor which has proved useless as a guide to judging. It should be frankly and explicitly abandoned.

-- Chief Justice William Rehnquist

The House Chaplain gets a salary of -- and this is not a typo -- \$115,300. Not to be outdone, the Senate Chaplain spends much more per member-soul on his small body of 100 legislators. He receives about the same salary as his House colleague, but he has an overall budget of \$300,000, including pay for secretaries and office space to help him shepherd his sometimes wayward flock. If it worked, it might be worth the price. But thus far there are no signs of divine intervention in the chambers of the US Congress.

-- Martin L Gross, *The Government Racket: Washington Waste from A to Z*

For present day Jews, circumcision is both a covenant rite and a naming ceremony. Orthodox Jews follow ancient practices. On the eighth day, the infant son is taken to the Mohel (circumciser) for a rite performed according to a primitive ritual. The blood flow is stopped by wine, held in the Mohel's mouth -- a custom which some Jews find revolting. These believers are fulfilling Torah requirements. Non-orthodox Jews may have their sons "done" in a hospital setting. Even Jews who have moved away from Judaism

toward a secular or humanistic way of life continue to have their sons circumcised.

Christians, too, have their male offspring circumcised in some cases because Jesus was circumcised, but far more often in an unthinking, uncritical way as something that is done to newborn males. As better information regarding circumcision is circulated, outmoded beliefs concerning medical or health benefits will be discarded. Only ancient beliefs will remain as a stimulus for the continuation of this barbaric custom.

-- Dr Gerald Larue, professor emeritus of biblical history and archeology at the University of Southern California, and chairman of the Committee for the Scientific Examination of Religion.

Religion and its practices have consistently been one of women's fiercest enemies. The fact that many women do not realize this shows how thorough the brainwashing and intimidation have been.

-- Arnold Toynbee, historian

Instead of weeding out the offenders, the Catholic Church's policy has been "geographic cure" -- or moving offenders out of the area. Very few times has the Church lived up to its responsibility . . .

-- Jason Berry

All women have been sexually abused by the Bible teachings, and institutions set on its fundamentalist interpretations. There would be no need for the women's movement if the church and Bible hadn't abused them.

Father Leo Booth

The bible and the church have been the greatest stumbling blocks in the way of women's emancipation.

-- Elizabeth Cady Stanton

The clergy never discovered any injustice to woman; and only one in a thousand could see it when it was pointed out.

-- Joseph McCabe, *The Religion of Woman*

I was born a heretic. I always distrust people who know so much about what God wants them to do to their fellows.

-- Susan B Anthony

At first, Christianity did not hold to the Trinity doctrine. That doctrine developed slowly and did not become officially a creedal fact until 325 CE.

-- Adrian C Swindler, *The Trinity: An Absurdity Borrowed From Paganism*

God found out about the Trinity in 325 CE.

-- Dr Rocco A Errico

Christians believe in guilty babies; Catholics believe in guilty embryos. (Psalms 51:5)

-- William B Lindley

The Doctrine of Original Sin declares that man ate the fruit of the tree of knowledge -- he acquired a mind and became a rational being. It was the knowledge of good and evil -- he became a moral being. He was sentenced to earn his bread by his labor -- he became a productive being. He was

sentenced to experience desire -- he acquired the capacity of sexual enjoyment. The evils for which the preachers damn him are reason, morality, creativeness, joy -- all the cardinal values of his existence.

-- Ayn Rand

There was a time when religion ruled the world. It is known as The Dark Ages.

-- Ruth Hurmence Green, *The Born Again Skeptic's Guide to the Bible*

It was Pope Urban II who inaugurated the crusades at the Council of Clermont in 1095, and by this act formally instituted wars organized and administered by religion.

Almost all Europe, for many centuries, was inundated with blood, which was shed at the direct instigation or with the full approval of the ecclesiastical authorities.

-- W E H Lecky, *History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe*

During the fourth century, along with the lowering of character in the Roman Church there was a singular transformation of its originally simple offices. The Pagans were accustomed to highly-colored and picturesque ceremonies, and the new Church indulgently met their wishes. Hymns, altars, and statues; incense, holy water, and burning candles; silk vestments and bits of ritual -- these things were borrowed freely from the suppressed temples.

There must have been a remarkable resemblance between the services in the suppressed temple of Mithra on the Vatican Hill and the services in the new temple

dedicated to St Peter on, or near, the same spot. Other religions contributed their share. The Pagans had been accustomed to variety, and so the worship of the saints and the Virgin Mother, which was unknown in the Church for three centuries, was encouraged.

Then relics had to be invented for the saints, just as saints were sometimes invented for relics. We hear every few years of bishops being directed "in a vision" to discover the body of some martyr or saint. Palestine also began to do a magnificent trade in relics with Italy; beginning with the "discovery of the true cross", at which no historian even glances today.

-- Joseph McCabe, *Popes and Their Church*

I hope I live to see the day when, as in the early days of our country, we won't have public schools. The churches will have taken them over again and Christians will be running them. What a happy day that will be!

-- Rev Jerry Falwell, 1979

I want to be invisible. I do guerilla warfare. I paint my face and travel at night. You don't know it's over until you're in a body bag. You don't know until election night.

-- Ralph Reed, Christian Coalition, 1991

During almost fifteen centuries has the legal establishment of Christianity been on trial. What have been its fruits? More or less, in all places, pride and indolence in the clergy; ignorance and servility in the laity; in both, superstition, bigotry, and persecution.

-- James Madison

They [Christian missionaries] came with a Bible and their religion -- stole our land, crushed our spirit . . . and now tell us we should be thankful to the "Lord" for being saved.

-- Chief Pontiac

Missionaries are perfect nuisances and leave every place worse than they found it.

-- Charles Dickens

The fish in Christian symbolism represents Jesus Christ, and in the old Roman catacombs, the fish symbol appears frequently. The Greek word for fish is "ichthus" and the early Christians saw in the letters of this word a monogram summarizing their faith: "Iesous CHristos, THeou Uios Soter" (Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior).

But the Christian fish-sign was the same as that of the Goddess' "yoni" or Pearly Gate: two crescent moons forming a "vesica piscis". Sometimes the Christ child was portrayed inside the vesica, which was superimposed on Mary's belly and obviously represented her womb, just as in the ancient symbolism of the Goddess.

A medieval hymn called Jesus "the Little Fish which the Virgin caught in the Fountain". Mary was equated with the virgin Aphrodite-Mari, Marina, who brought forth all the fish in the sea . . .

-- Mythology Dictionary

Perhaps the saddest part of the story is that, according to our demographic research, all of the television evangelists are vying for a limited donor pool of approximately five million people. The great majority of these people are women, age 49 and older, many

of whom are widows living on their husbands' pensions.

These evangelists are not fishers of men, but are in truth keepers of a very small aquarium filled with dying fish.

-- Ole Anthony, of the Trinity Foundation, testifying before a 1987 Congressional subcommittee, as quoted in *The Wichita Eagle*, January 4, 1992.

True faith, whether one is Christian, Muslim, or Jewish, is religion. Zionism, whether one is Christian, Muslim, or Jewish, is politics. And it is politics because it deals with land, not spiritual values.

Christian Zionists believe that God has ordained that the Jews control the land of Palestine, and that they control Jerusalem, and build a temple, and that they reinstate animal sacrifice.

Although our aid to Israel is more than we give to many countries, including all of India, Africa, and South America, Christian Zionists will support these billions of your taxpayer dollars going to Israel, because of their interpretation that God wants that land as the landing base for the Second Coming of Christ. It is the land for which they care. They want it there, in place, so that the rest of their scenario, including their Rapture, can come to pass.

-- Grace Halsell, journalist

In the early centuries, the Christians had a word for greeting and departing; it was the word "maranatha", which means "The Lord is coming soon".

-- Hal Lindsey

Nature against God. God against nature. Nature against man. Man against nature. Man against God. God against man. Very funny religion.

-- Daisetz Suzuki, 91-year-old Japanese, Zen philosopher; as quoted in *The Hero's Journey*, Joseph Campbell

Those of us who refuse to read material that we think we might not agree with are no better off than those who can't read at all.

--T K Kennett

The Bible must be seen in a cultural context. It didn't just happen. These stories are retreads from stories before. But, tell a Christian that -- No, No! What makes it doubly sad is that they hardly know the book, much less its origins.

-- Isaac Asimov

Mythology is what grown-ups believe, folklore is what they tell their children, and religion is both.

-- Cedric Whitman (in a letter to Edward Tripp, 1969)

The Christian religion is a parody on the worship of the Sun, in which they put a man whom they call Christ, in the place of the Sun, and pay him the same adoration which was originally paid to the Sun.

-- Thomas Paine

Of all the tyrannies that affect mankind, tyranny in religion is the worst; every other species of tyranny is limited to the world we

live in; but this attempts to stride beyond the grave, and seeks to pursue us into eternity.

All national institutions of churches -- whether Jewish, Christian, or Turkish -- appear to me no other than human inventions, set up to terrify and enslave mankind, and monopolize power and profit.

It is curious to observe how the theory of what is called the Christian Church sprung out of the tail of the heathen mythology.

-- Thomas Paine

Hands that help are better far than lips that pray.

-- Robert Green Ingersoll

I cannot imagine a God who rewards and punishes the objects of his creation, whose purposes are modeled after our own -- a God, in short, who is but a reflection of human frailty. Neither can I believe that the individual survives the death of his body, although feeble souls harbor such thoughts through fear or ridiculous egotism.

-- Einstein

It may be that our role on this planet is not to worship God, but to create him.

-- Arthur C Clarke

There are many gods which Christians reject. I just believe in one less god than they do. The reasons that you might give for your atheism toward the Roman gods are likely the same reasons I would give for not believing in Jesus.

-- Dan Barker

The Bible teaches that woman brought sin and death into the world. She was to play the role of a dependent on man's bounty for all her material wants, and for all the information she might desire. Here is the Bible position of woman briefly summed up.

-- Elizabeth Cady Stanton

The rivers of America will run with blood before they take our holy, god-inspired Bible from our schools.

-- Billy Sunday

The most ancient histories are those of gods who became incarnate in order to govern mankind. All those fables are the same in spirit, and sprung up everywhere from confused ideas, which have universally prevailed among mankind, that Gods formerly descended upon earth.

-- a French philosopher

Ethnically speaking, Jesus was a Shemite (in English the letter "h" is dropped and it is spelled and pronounced as "Semite"). The term "Shemite" is derived from one of the sons of Noah whose name was Shem. (Genesis 5:32) The expression "Shemite" applies to many Semitic dialects. It also refers to all the descendants of Shem, such as the Akkadians, Arameans, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Hebrews, and Arabs.

-- Dr Rocco A Errico

The name of Christ has caused more persecutions, wars, and miseries than any other name has caused. The darkest wrongs are still inspired by it.

-- John E Remsburg

The first Christmas manger scene was assembled 767 years ago -- using live animals and people. Exchanging gifts was once a pagan practice associated with New Year, and the earliest carols were not sung -- they were danced!

St Francis of Assisi is credited with creating the first Nativity scene. In the year 1223, the revered saint, then known as Brother Francis, was teaching the villages of Greccio in central Italy the true meaning of Christmas. To illustrate the story of the birth of Christ, he brought together the local people and their livestock, and created a living manger scene. The idea caught on, and soon manger scenes using carved figures became popular throughout Italy at Christmas time.

Originally, giving gifts had nothing to do with Christmas. Ancient Romans used to exchange presents on the first day of the new year. Early Christian Church leaders frowned upon the pagan custom, but ordinary people refused to give it up. As time passed, the church linked the exchange of gifts with the story of the Three Kings bringing presents to the Christ Child. And for 700 years, we've been giving each other Christmas presents.

-- Larry Haley

Virgin Birth: "Holy Virgin" was the title of harlot-priestesses of Ishtar, Asherah, or Aphrodite. The title didn't mean physical virginity; it simply meant "unmarried". The function of such "holy virgins" was to dispense the Mother's grace through sexual worship; to heal; to prophesy; to perform sacred dances, to sail for the dead; and to become Brides of God.

-- *Women's Dictionary of Myth*

A stauros was a mere stake, and horrible to contemplate. It was used in the cruelest fashion to execute criminals and other persons. It was sometimes pointed and thrust through the victim's body to pin him to earth; or he was placed on top of the stake with its point upwards so that it gradually pierced his body; or he was tied upon it and left exposed till death intervened; and there were other methods too. There is not a scrap of evidence that a stauros was ever in the form of a cross or even of a T shape.

-- Herbert Cutner, *Jesus: God, Man, or Myth*