THE RELIGIOUS MATRIX

From 1700 years of chaos and Mayhem
To
Family Unity and World Peace

by
PC Harrison

The Religious Matrix
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This book reflects the personal opinions, experiences, conclusions, and philosophical perspectives of the author. The views expressed are intended to encourage critical thinking, open dialogue, and peaceful discussion concerning religion, philosophy, society, and humanity's future. Readers are encouraged to conduct their own research and come to their own conclusions.

Scripture quotations and references are included for commentary, critique, educational discussion, and analysis purposes.
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LCCN NO: 2026921324

EDITION: eBook

First Edition
Published 2026
Printed in the United States of America

About the Author

The author had no intention of writing a book, but all that changed as a result of his personal experience of being cut off from his family when he discovered through an intense investigation into Christianity that he could no longer, in good conscience, remain in the Christian religion.

He was horrified as he reflected back upon his life and realized that his trust in Jesus resulted in very negative consequences, including the loss of over $200,000 of his loving parents' money from two business ventures he had prayed about and reasoned that they were good Christian ventures.

This does not include what may have amounted to hundreds of thousands of dollars lost from cognitive impairment caused by religious cognitive dissonance, followed by neurological pathway disruption disorder. (NPDD).

Also, broken family relationships and being shunned and even cut off from his beloved grandchildren made him feel like a dead man walking! When he lost contact with his grandchildren, he lost his joy!

He was very happy to be free from the shackles of religion, only to be cast into another nightmare prison, being separated from his family.

He experienced a lot of anger, anxiety, and depression from losing contact with his family! He came to believe that he had thrown his life away worshipping and serving a god that does not exist!

On top of this, he suffered from two attempts to write this book with two ghostwriters who were incompetent in the first incident and fraudulent in the second incident.

A new friend came along from another book publishing company and alerted me that I had been taken with excessive charges on the back end of the website and publishing charges manipulated by the second ghostwriter.

It was the writing of this book that gave him hope of one day being reunited with his grandchildren and also bringing peace to a world greatly troubled by chaos and mayhem!

The author hopes that you, the reader, will benefit from reading this book and promote it to others so we can together make our world a world of peace and harmony with international care and cooperation.

INTRODUCTION

THE RELIGIOUS MATRIX
FROM CHAOS AND MAYHEM,
TO FAMILY UNITY AND WORLD PEACE

Like in the movie "The Matrix", more than 75% of the world does not realize they are in it!

This is "the red pill"!

You have been taught not to question. Don't look behind the curtain!

Like in the movie, my book will make many people very uncomfortable! It is actually this false sense of comfort that keeps people trapped in **"the pod"** in THE RELIGIOUS MATRIX!

Your mind has been restricted by invisible chains to prevent you from knowing the truth!

Neo was comfortable, but he was not free. He was just a battery for the Matrix.

Like Neo, to see the truth, you are going to have to step outside of your comfort zone. If you are NOT willing to do that, I suggest you return the book, request a refund, and return to your comfort zone.

If you decide to continue and read this book, it is going to get uncomfortable for you at first.

This book will challenge the very foundation upon which your life has been built! You may need to seek help from a good, qualified secular counselor.

You will need someone who has already escaped the religious matrix. If you go to a counselor in one of the religions in question, they cannot help you, because they too are in the same unrecognized, restrictive, oppressive deception.

They will only tell you things to keep you trapped in the psychological prison.

But in the end, you will be free to be truly you. Free from unfounded fears!

Your mind will be free to think more clearly and accomplish things you did not know you were capable of!

Einstein, Spinoza, and Tesla were each born as victims of the religious matrix, but they escaped and were able to accomplish great advancements for humanity!

More on that later!

Many in this world are being manipulated by false comforting information. This book can set you free from certain oppressions

that you are not even aware of. **You know at times intuitively that something is amiss, but you can't quite put your finger on it.**

I am going to pull back the curtain for you, so buckle up! This is going to be a bumpy ride!

I promise you that if you stick with me to the end of this book, you are going to realize what is REALLY going on in this world!

You will understand clearly why the world has been a horrific, wild history of mayhem, chaos, and destruction!

You will understand clearly why all the destructive, devastating, horrific wars have occurred throughout the history of humanity.

You will understand why the Middle East conflicts are now in such a horrible state with no hope in sight!

You will discover the ARCHENEMY of all humanity! It is not what you have been told!

A clever substitute has been employed to divert your attention from the real ARCHENEMY of all humanity!

You will discover how humanity can finally accomplish world peace!

I know this sounds impossible, but it is NOT impossible! I want you to allow yourself to dream! What would it be like to live in a world of PEACE?

Learn how the information contained in this book can make international world peace a reality! A new amazing state of being never yet experienced by humanity!

If you are interested in helping fix the problem and bringing about family unity and world peace, protecting our planet for future generations, please go to:

https://worldpeaceambassadors.world



Fill out a form identifying your level of interest.

You are loved and greatly appreciated for your interest in this most important mission.

Live in love and prosper!

PC Harrison

Founder and Director

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CHAPTER 1: RELIGIOUS COGNITIVE DISSONANCE

From family breakdowns to the Middle East Conflicts, to the destruction of all humanity!

Religious cognitive dissonance is the most powerful destructive force on the planet. It is not a small or isolated issue confined to personal belief; it is a force that reaches into every level of human life. It encompasses everything from the breakdown of family relationships to attempted suicide, disfigurement of the body, and ultimately to the destruction of entire nations.

What we are witnessing today in the Middle East is not merely political conflict. Political explanations are often presented as the primary cause, but they fail to address the deeper issue. At the root of these conflicts lies something far more powerful and far more dangerous: religious cognitive dissonance. Political action and individual religious beliefs are inseparable, and until we acknowledge that connection, we will continue to treat symptoms while ignoring the disease.

In this chapter, we are going to explore why, although cognitive dissonance exists in other philosophical systems, religious cognitive dissonance stands apart as the most powerful and most

destructive form. In most areas of life, individuals are free to adjust their beliefs when presented with new evidence. Growth and correction are possible because ideas are flexible. But in religion, belief is not flexible. It is anchored to a specific god, a specific doctrine, and a specific "truth" that is considered beyond question.

These beliefs are not usually adopted through careful reasoning. They are most often taught in early childhood, typically by a loving mother who is doing everything in her power to guide and protect her child. She teaches what she believes to be true, not out of deception, but out of love. She wants her child to succeed, to be safe, and to avoid what she perceives as dangerous.

But if that mother was herself misled also by a loving parent, then the problem does not end. It continues. It becomes generational.

For those unfamiliar with the term, cognitive dissonance is the mind's acceptance of two or more contradictory ideas as true at the same time. This creates internal conflict, but instead of resolving that conflict through reason, the individual learns to live with it. Over time, this leads to irrational thinking and, eventually, irrational behavior.

This problem is especially pronounced within religious systems because their "holy texts" are considered non-negotiable. When contradictions arise, and they do, the believer cannot reject

the idea because it is tied to their understanding of God. They have been taught that their God is infinitely wiser than they are, that his intentions are perfect, and that questioning him is dangerous or even forbidden.

If that God is also portrayed as fearful or punitive, the pressure not to question becomes even stronger.

So, the contradiction is not resolved; it is accepted.

This acceptance comes at a cost.

When individuals pray and do not receive the outcomes they hope for, they often turn the blame inward. Instead of questioning the system, they question themselves. They believe they lack faith. They believe they have misunderstood God's plan. They believe they are the problem.

This leads to low self-esteem, self-doubt, and a diminished sense of personal agency. People hold themselves back, not realizing that the limitation is not within them, but within the belief system they have accepted.

Over time, these internal conflicts can escalate. Irrational thinking can lead to irrational behavior. In extreme cases, it can lead to thoughts of self-harm or even suicide. These are not isolated incidents; they are the natural consequences of a mind forced to accept contradictions without resolution.

We are now witnessing the extreme consequences of this phenomenon on a global scale. In the Middle East, entire communities are being destroyed. Children, mothers, and fathers are being severely injured and killed. Cities that took decades to build are reduced to ruins. And while political explanations dominate the conversation, the underlying driver remains largely unaddressed.

Religious cognitive dissonance.

It does not only manifest in large-scale conflict. It also affects individuals in deeply personal ways. It can lead people to alter or harm their own bodies, to make life-altering decisions based on internal confusion, and to adopt identities or behaviors that are rooted in unresolved psychological conflict. These are sensitive and complex issues, but they illustrate just how deeply this problem can penetrate the human mind.

History provides clear examples of what happens when this condition is left unchecked. The Spanish Inquisition stands as one of the most disturbing. During this period, the Catholic Church developed and used horrifying instruments of torture against individuals who refused to submit to its authority. These actions were not seen as evil by those carrying them out; they were justified through belief.

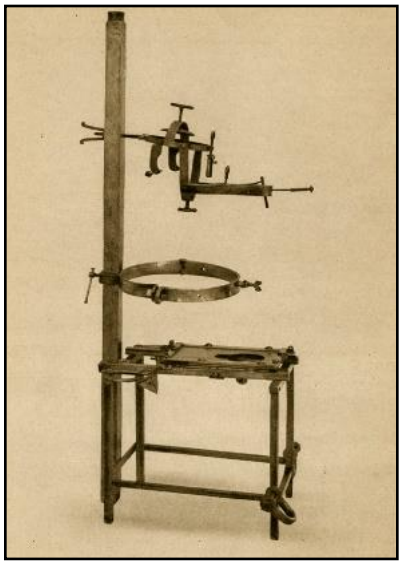


Image description: The device in this image is a 17th-century Spanish Inquisition torture chair from Cuenca, Spain, now in London's Horniman Museum. Instead of spikes, it uses an iron spine, waist/limb manacles, and an adjustable head bridle. To extract confessions, the lower restraints immobilized the victim while the top screws and clamps were slowly tightened to prolong pain by compressing the skull, piercing the ears, crushing the nose, or clamping the tongue.

That is the power of cognitive dissonance.

When a person believes they are acting on behalf of a higher authority, contradictions disappear. Morality becomes secondary to obedience. And actions that would otherwise be unthinkable become acceptable, even necessary.

This same pattern can be seen in other practices historically supported by religious texts. Slavery, for example, has been justified and maintained through religious doctrine. Punishments such as stoning for relatively minor infractions have also been endorsed within these systems. These are not distortions of religion. They are rooted in the texts themselves.

CHAPTER 2: NEUROLOGICAL PATHWAY DISRUPTION DISORDER (NPDD)

This mental condition is found commonly, and almost always, in all three of the Abrahamic religions to some degree. The Jewish, Christian, and Islam religions all have statements in their "unquestionable" religious text that forces the mind of the individual to accept the writings in their "holy books" even though the text may be in opposition to their logic and reason.

If you as the reader happen to be in one of the Abrahamic religions, you can personally check yourself for this condition by seeing your personal response to the religious text of these three Abrahamic religions.

Note how you will instantly see the contradictions and absurdities in the other religions, but your mind will immediately want to justify the religious text found in your own religion.

WHY?

In the Christian religion and the Old Testament from the Jewish religion it states:

Proverbs 3:5-6

"Trust in the Lord with ALL your heart and lean not on your OWN understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he shall direct your path."

In the Quran you will see similar admonishments in the "holy text" instructing the Muslem also to reject their own conscience in favor of the instructions in the Quran. Look for these statements in the upcoming chapters so you can see how these religious texts cleverly disrupt the logical thinking of the individual in the respective religion.

Here is one from the Quran:

Quran (2:216) –

"Fighting is prescribed for you, and ye dislike it. But it is possible that ye dislike a thing which is good for you, and that ye love a thing which is bad for you. But Allah knoweth, and ye know not."

These instructions from the "holy books" are non-negotiable to those that believe these instructions are handed down to them by God himself, who is perceived as much wiser than them and cannot be questioned.

These instructions create a disconnect between normal logic and reason of the brain, forcing the individual to accept things that they would not otherwise accept, if they followed their own conscience, logic, and reason.

This condition forces the individual at times to think and do things they would not normally think nor do, even at times to the horrific torturing or killing other humans! This is in violation of their own conscience, as you will see in the upcoming chapters. We are witnessing the consequences of **Neurological Pathway Disruption Disorder (**NPDD) in the Middle East conflicts and other places throughout the world. This condition also results many times in the breakdown of family unity.

Their conscience is telling them no, but the "holy text" is saying **do it**!

Thankfully most people in these religions do not follow through on much of the evil instructions in the "holy text" because of their conscience, but many do!

Most will gravitate to the good instructions in the religion and ignore the evil stuff. This is because the nature of the human mind is to do what is good and right, but the "holy text" interferes with their good conscience and good intentions.

If the individuals in these religions really followed through on all the evil instructions in their "holy books" things would be far worse than they are! You will understand clearly what I am saying in the following Chapters.

Again, note how your mind reacts to the religious text in the other religion as opposed to how your mind wants to justify the text in your own religion.

This mental condition interferes with intellectual progress of humanity preventing millions of individuals from their full potential in life accomplishment, and keeps them trapped in the "Religious Matrix". If they escape one false religion their mind will want to find another religion to find comfort and stability rather than being freed from this mental conditioning.

If we are going to save humanity from self-destruction, we must address the divisive and destructive behavior caused by **Neurological Pathway Disruption Disorder (NPDD)**

CHAPTER 3: PROBLEMATIC VERSES IN THE QURAN

To understand why the Middle East, and indeed much of the world, remains locked in cycles of religious violence, we must be willing to look directly at the doctrinal source material. The following verses are not taken out of context. They are not the views of extremists who "distorted" a peaceful religion. They are part of the canonical text, accepted by scholars across Islamic history as authentic and authoritative.

These are the verses that create cognitive dissonance in millions of believers, who are taught, on one hand, that Islam is a religion of peace, and on the other hand, that the following commands come directly from God:

Quran 2:216: "Fighting is prescribed for you, and ye dislike it. But ye may dislike a thing which is good for you... But Allah knoweth, and ye know not."

Quran 4:74 states, "Let those fight in the way of Allah who sell the life of this world for the other. Whoso fighteth in the way of Allah, be he slain, or be he victorious, on him We shall bestow a vast reward."

Quran 4:89 says: "If they turn renegades, seize them and slay them wherever ye find them; and take no friends or helpers from their ranks."

Quran 4:95 says: "Allah has preferred those who strive hard and fight with their wealth and their lives above those who sit at home by a huge reward."

Quran 5:33 states: "The punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His messenger... is that they should be murdered or crucified or their hands and their feet should be cut off on opposite sides."

Quran 8:12 says: "I will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve. Therefore, strike off their heads and strike off every fingertip of them."

Quran 9:5: "Slay the idolaters wherever you find them, and take them captive and besiege them and lie in wait for them in every ambush."

Quran 9:29: "Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day... until they pay the Jizya with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued."

Quran 9:73: "O Prophet! Strive hard against the unbelievers and the hypocrites and be unyielding to them; and their abode is hell."

Quran 47:3–4: "When you meet those who disbelieve, smite at their necks till when you have killed and wounded many of them, then bind a bond firmly..."

Quran 48:29: "Muhammad is the messenger of Allah. And those with him are hard (ruthless) against the disbelievers and merciful among themselves."

From the Hadith: the recorded sayings and actions of Muhammad, the picture becomes even clearer:

Sahih Bukhari 52:220: Allah's Apostle said: "I have been made victorious with terror."

Sahih Muslim 1:33: "The Messenger of Allah said: I have been commanded to fight against people till they testify that there is no god but Allah, that Muhammad is the messenger of Allah."

Sahih Muslim 20:4696: "One who died but did not fight in the way of Allah nor did he express any desire for Jihad died the death of a hypocrite."

Tabari 9:69: "Killing Unbelievers is a small matter to us." The words of Muhammad, the Prophet of Islam.

These are not the words of terrorists who hijacked a peaceful religion. These are the foundational texts. And when a child is raised to believe these words are the literal, unalterable commands of God, while simultaneously being told that Islam means "peace," they are being placed inside a cognitive dissonance so profound

that no rational exit exists. The contradiction cannot be resolved. It can only be suppressed, weaponized, or both.

As one of Islam's most respected modern scholars, Sheikh Yusuf al-Qaradawi, openly stated: "In the Jihad which you are seeking, you look for the enemy and invade him. This type of Jihad takes place only when the Islamic state is invading other countries to spread the word of Islam and to remove obstacles standing in its way." This is not a fringe view. It is mainstream Islamic jurisprudence, and it is the direct product of what these texts command.

It is also worth noting that this pattern is not confined to Islam alone. The Dictionary of Islam defines Jihad as "a religious war with those who are unbelievers in the mission of Muhammad... enjoined specially for the purpose of advancing Islam and of repelling evil from Muslims... the destruction of the sword is incurred by infidels, although they be not the first aggressors." Violence against the non-believing is not a deviation. It is a doctrine.

This mental condition, created and sustained by cognitive dissonance, has been affecting humanity for thousands of years. It has shaped cultures, influenced decisions, and driven conflicts on a scale that is difficult to fully comprehend.

Events such as 9/11, along with many of the major wars of the last 1700 years, including conflicts in Afghanistan, Vietnam, Korea, World War I, and World War II, cannot be fully understood without considering the role of deeply held, unquestioned beliefs. While these events are often framed in political or economic terms, the influence of religious ideology runs beneath the surface, shaping motivations and justifying actions.

What makes this condition so uniquely dangerous is not the violence itself. It is the divine justification. When God commands the killing of unbelievers, the stoning of a disobedient son, or the subjugation of entire peoples, the believer is not committing evil in their own mind. They are obeying. And obedience to God, within these systems, is the highest moral act possible.

This is why religious cognitive dissonance cannot be treated the same way as ordinary cognitive dissonance. The contradiction is not between two competing personal opinions. It is between a believer's natural human conscience, which recoils from violence, from injustice, from the stoning of children, and the declared word of an all-knowing, all-powerful God. When those two things collide, the conscience loses. Every time.

Until we are willing to name the texts, quote the verses, and acknowledge the laws, not as distortions or extremist interpretations, but as the actual, canonical content of these belief

systems, we will never understand the force we are dealing with. And we will never stop it.

If we are to move forward as a species, we must be willing to identify and confront the root cause of these problems. Treating symptoms will not be enough. We must understand what drives the behavior, what sustains it, and what prevents it from being challenged.

In the following chapter, we will begin to uncover the primary, undetected cause of this mental condition, the force that has shaped belief, fueled conflict, and contributed to the ongoing devastation of humanity.

Because if we fail to recognize the root problem, the devastation will not only continue, but it will also never end.

Verses that create family problems and National/International conflicts:

Quran (2:244) –

"Then fight in the cause of Allah, and know that Allah Heareth and knoweth all things." (See also: Response to Apologists)

Quran (2:216) –

"Fighting is prescribed for you, and ye dislike it. But it is possible that ye dislike a thing which is good for you, and that ye love a thing which is bad for you. But Allah knoweth, and ye know not."

Not only does this verse establish that violence can be virtuous, but it also contradicts the myth that fighting is intended only in self-defense, since the audience was obviously not under attack at the time. From the Hadith, we know that this verse was revealed at a time when Muhammad was actually trying to motivate his people to raid merchant caravans for loot.

Quran (3:56) –

"As to those who reject faith, I will punish them with terrible agony in this world and in the Hereafter, nor will they have anyone to help." (See also: Response to Apologists)

Quran (3:151) –

"Soon shall We cast terror into the hearts of the Unbelievers, for that they joined companions with Allah, for which He had sent no authority".

This speaks directly of polytheists, yet it also includes Christians, since they believe in the Trinity (i.e. what Muhammad incorrectly believed to be 'joining companions to Allah'). (See also: Response to Apologists)

Quran (4:74) –

"Let those fight in the way of Allah who sell the life of this world for the other. Whoso fighteth in the way of Allah, be he slain or be he victorious, on him We shall bestow a vast reward."

The martyrs of Islam are unlike the early Christians, who were led meekly to the slaughter. These Muslims are killed in battle as they attempt to inflict death and destruction for the cause of Allah. This is the theological basis for today's suicide bombers. (See also: Response to Apologists)

Quran (4:76) –

"Those who believe fight in the cause of Allah, and those who disbelieve, fight in the cause of Taghut (Satan, etc.). So, fight you against the friends of Shaitan (Satan)"

The Arabic word for "fight" is qital, meaning physical combat.

Quran (4:89) –

"They but wish that ye should reject Faith, as they do, and thus be on the same footing (as they): But take not friends from their ranks until they flee in the way of Allah (From what is forbidden). But if they turn renegades, seize them and slay them wherever ye

find them; and (in any case) take no friends or helpers from their ranks." (See also: Response to Apologists)

Quran (4:95) –

"Not equal are those of the believers who sit (at home), except those who are disabled (by injury or are blind or lame, etc.), and those who strive hard and fight in the Cause of Allah with their wealth and their lives. Allah has preferred in grades those who strive hard and fight with their wealth and their lives above those who sit (at home). Unto each, Allah has promised good (Paradise), but Allah has preferred those who strive hard and fight, above those who sit (at home) by a huge reward."

This passage criticizes "peaceful" Muslims who do not join in the violence, letting them know that they are less worthy in Allah's eyes. It also demolishes the modern myth that "Jihad" doesn't mean holy war in the Quran, but rather a spiritual struggle. Not only is this Arabic word (mujahidin) used in this passage, but it is clearly not referring to anything spiritual, since the physically disabled are given exemption. (The Hadith reveals the context of the passage to be in response to a blind man's protest that he is unable to engage in Jihad, which would not make sense if it meant an internal struggle). (See also: Response to Apologists)

Quran (4:101) –

"And when you (Muslims) travel in the land, there is no sin on you if you shorten your Salat (prayer) if you fear that the disbelievers may attack you, verily, the disbelievers are ever unto you open enemies."

Mere disbelief makes one an "open" enemy of Muslims.

Quran (4:104) –

"And be not weak-hearted in pursuit of the enemy; if you suffer pain, then surely they (too) suffer pain as you suffer pain..." Is pursuing an injured and retreating enemy really an act of self-defense? (See also: Response to Apologists)

Quran (5:33) –

"The punishment of those who wage war against Allah and His messenger and strive to make mischief in the land is only this, that they should be murdered or crucified or their hands and their feet should be cut off on opposite sides or they should be imprisoned; this shall be as a disgrace for them in this world, and in the hereafter they shall have a grievous chastisement" (See also: Response to Apologists)

Quran (8:12) –

"(Remember) when your Lord inspired the angels... "I will cast terror into the hearts of those who disbelieve. Therefore, strike off their heads and strike off every fingertip of them."

No reasonable person would interpret this to mean a spiritual struggle, given that it both followed and preceded confrontations

in which non-Muslims were killed by Muslims. The targets of violence are "those who disbelieve" - further defined in the next verse (13) as those who "defy and disobey Allah."

Nothing is said about self-defense. In fact, the verses in sura 8 were narrated shortly after a battle provoked by Muhammad, who had been trying to attack a lightly-armed caravan to steal goods belonging to other people. (See also: Response to Apologists)

Quran (8:15) –

"O ye who believe! When ye meet those who disbelieve in battle, turn not your backs to them. (16) Whoso on that day turneth his back to them, unless maneuvering for battle or intent to join a company, he truly hath incurred wrath from Allah, and his habitation will be hell, a hapless journey's end."

Quran (8:39) –

"And fight with them until there is no more fitna (disorder, unbelief) and religion is all for Allah."

Some translations interpret "fitna" as "persecution", but the traditional understanding of this word is not supported by the historical context (See notes for 2:193). The Meccans were simply refusing Muhammad access to their city during the pilgrimage. Other Muslims were allowed to travel there - but not as an armed group, since Muhammad had declared war on Mecca before his eviction. The Meccans were also acting in defense of their religion, as Muhammad intended to destroy their idols and establish Islam

by force (which he later did). Hence, the critical part of this verse is to fight until "religion is only for Allah", meaning that the true justification of violence was the unbelief of the opposition. According to the Sira (Ibn Ishaq/Hisham 324) Muhammad further explains that "Allah must have no rivals." (See also: Response to Apologists)

Quran (8:57) –

"If thou comest on them in the war, deal with them so as to strike fear in those who are behind them, that haply they may remember."

Quran (8:67) –

"It is not for a Prophet that he should have prisoners of war until he had made a great slaughter in the land..."

Quran (8:59-60) –

"And let not those who disbelieve suppose that they can outstrip (Allah's Purpose). Lo! they cannot escape. Make ready for them all thou canst of (armed) force and of horses tethered, that thereby ye may dismay the enemy of Allah and your enemy."

As Ibn Kathir puts it in his tafsir on this passage,

"Allah commands Muslims to prepare for war against disbelievers, as much as possible, according to affordability and availability." (See also: Response to Apologists)

Quran (8:65) –

"O Prophet, exhort the believers to fight..."

Quran (9:5) –

"So, when the sacred months have passed away, then slay the idolaters wherever you find them, and take them captive and besiege them and lie in wait for them in every ambush, then if they repent and keep up prayer and pay the poor-rate, leave their way free to them."

According to this verse, the best way of staying safe from Muslim violence at the time of Muhammad was to convert to Islam: prayer (salat) and the poor tax (zakat) are among the religion's Five Pillars. The popular claim that the Quran only inspires violence within the context of self-defense is seriously challenged by this passage as well, since the Muslims to whom it was written were obviously not under attack. Had they been, then there would have been no waiting period (earlier verses make it a duty for Muslims to fight in self-defense, even during the sacred months). The historical context is Mecca after the idolaters were subjugated by Muhammad and posed no threat. Once the Muslims had power, they violently evicted those unbelievers who would not convert. (See also: Response to Apologists)

[Note: The verse says to fight unbelievers "wherever you find them". Even if the context is a time of battle (which it was not) the reading appears to sanction attacks against those "unbelievers"

who are not on the battlefield. In 2016, the Islamic State referred to this verse in urging the faithful to commit terror attacks: Allah did not only command the 'fighting' of disbelievers, as if to say He only wants us to conduct frontline operations against them. Rather, He has also ordered that they be slain wherever they may be – on or off the battlefield. (source)]

Quran (9:14) –

"Fight against them so that Allah will punish them by your hands and disgrace them and give you victory over them and heal the breasts of a believing people."

Humiliating and hurting non-believers not only have the blessing of Allah, but it is ordered as a means of carrying out his punishment and even "heals" the hearts of Muslims.

Quran (9:20) –

"Those who believe, and have left their homes and striven with their wealth and their lives in Allah's way are of much greater worth in Allah's sight. These are they who are triumphant."

The Arabic word interpreted as "striving" in this verse is the same root as "Jihad". The context is obviously holy war.

Quran (9:29) –

"Fight those who believe not in Allah nor the Last Day, nor hold that forbidden which hath been forbidden by Allah and His Messenger, nor acknowledge the religion of Truth, (even if they

are) of the People of the Book, until they pay the Jizya with willing submission, and feel themselves subdued."

"People of the Book" refers to Christians and Jews. According to this verse, they are to be violently subjugated, with the sole justification being their religious status. Verse 9:33 tells Muslims that Allah has instructed them to make Islam "superior over all religions." This chapter was one of the final "revelations" from Allah and it set in motion the tenacious military expansion, in which Muhammad's companions managed to conquer two-thirds of the Christian world in the next 100 years. Islam is intended to dominate all other people and faiths. (See also: Response to Apologists)

Quran (9:30) –

"And the Jews say: Ezra is the son of Allah; and the Christians say: The Messiah is the son of Allah; these are the words of their mouths; they imitate the saying of those who disbelieved before; may Allah destroy them; how they are turned away!"

Quran (9:38-39) –

"O ye who believe! what is the matter with you, that, when ye are asked to go forth in the cause of Allah, ye cling heavily to the earth? Do ye prefer the life of this world to the Hereafter? But little is the comfort of this life, as compared with the Hereafter.

Unless ye go forth, He will punish you with a grievous penalty, and put others in your place."

This is a warning to those who refuse to fight, that they will be punished with Hell. The verse also links physical fighting to the "cause of Allah" (or "way of Allah"). (See also: Response to Apologists)

Quran (9:41) –

"Go forth, light or heavy (some translations read "armed") and strive with your wealth and your lives in the way of Allah! That is best for you if ye but knew."

See also the verse that follows (9:42) –

"If there had been immediate gain (in sight), and the journey easy, they would (all) without doubt have followed thee, but the distance was long, (and weighed) on them"

This contradicts the myth that Muslims are to fight only in self-defense, since the wording implies that battle will be waged a long distance from home (in another country and - in this case - on Christian soil, according to the historians). (See also: Response to Apologists)

Quran (9:73) –

"O Prophet! strive hard against the unbelievers and the hypocrites and be unyielding to them; and their abode is hell, and evil is the destination."

Dehumanizing those who reject Islam, by reminding Muslims that unbelievers are merely firewood for Hell, makes it easier to justify slaughter. It explains why today's devout Muslims generally have little regard for those outside the faith. The inclusion of "hypocrites" (non-practicing) within the verse also contradicts the apologist's defense that the targets of hate and hostility are wartime foes, since there was never an opposing army made up of non-religious Muslims in Muhammad's time. (See also Games Muslims Play: Terrorists Can't Be Muslim Because They Kill Muslims for the role this verse plays in Islam's perpetual internal conflicts). (See also: Response to Apologists)

Quran (9:88) - "But the Messenger, and those who believe with him, strive and fight with their wealth and their persons: for them are (all) good things: and it is they who will prosper."

Quran (9:111) –

"Allah hath purchased of the believers their persons and their goods; for theirs (in return) is the garden (of Paradise): they fight in His cause, and slay and are slain: a promise binding on Him in truth, through the Law, the Gospel, and the Quran: and who is more faithful to his covenant than Allah? then rejoice in the bargain which ye have concluded: that is the achievement supreme."

How does the Quran define a true believer?

Quran (9:123) –

"O you who believe! fight those of the unbelievers who are near to you and let them find in your hardness."

Quran (17:16) –

"And when We wish to destroy a town, we send Our commandment to the people of it who lead easy lives, but they transgress therein; thus, the word proves true against it, so We destroy it with utter destruction."

Note that the crime is moral transgression, and the punishment is "utter destruction." (Before ordering the 9/11 attacks, Osama bin Laden first issued Americans an invitation to Islam).

Quran (18:65-81) - This parable lays the theological groundwork for honor killings, in which a family member is murdered because they brought shame to the family, either through apostasy or perceived moral indiscretion. The story (which is not found in any Jewish or Christian source) tells of Moses encountering a man with "special knowledge" who does things which don't seem to make sense on the surface, but are then justified according to later explanation. One such action is to murder a youth for no apparent reason (v.74). However, the wise man later explains that it was feared that the boy would "grieve" his parents by "disobedience and ingratitude." He was killed so that Allah could provide them a 'better' son. [Note: This parable along with verse 58:22 is a major reason that honor killing is sanctioned

by Sharia. Reliance of the Traveler (Umdat al-Saliq) says that punishment for murder is not applicable when a parent or grandparent kills their offspring (o.1.12).] (See also: Response to Apologists)

Quran (21:44) –

"...See they not that We gradually reduce the land (in their control) from its outlying borders? Is it then they who will win?"

Quran (25:52) –

"Therefore, listen not to the Unbelievers, but strive against them with the utmost strenuousness with it."

The root for Jihad is used twice in this verse - although it may not have been referring to Holy War when narrated, since it was prior to the hijra at Mecca. The "it" at the end is thought to mean the Quran. Thus, the verse may have originally meant a non-violent resistance to the 'unbelievers.' Obviously, this changed with the hijra. 'Jihad' after this is almost exclusively within a violent context. The enemy is always defined as people, rather than ideas.

Quran (33:60-62) –

"If the hypocrites, and those in whose hearts is a disease (evil desire for adultery, etc.), and those who spread false news among the people in Al-Madinah, cease not, We shall certainly let you overpower them, then they will not be able to stay in it as your

neighbors but a little while Accursed, wherever found, they shall be seized and killed with a (terrible) slaughter."

This passage sanctions slaughter (rendered as "merciless" and "horrible murder" in other translations) against three groups: hypocrites (Muslims who refuse to "fight in the way of Allah" (3:167) and hence don't act as Muslims should), those with "diseased hearts" (which include Jews and Christians 5:51-52), and "alarmists" or "agitators - those who speak out against Islam. It is worth noting that the victims are to be sought out, which is what today's terrorists do.

Quran (47:3-4) –

"Those who disbelieve follow falsehood, while those who believe follow the truth from their Lord... So, when you meet (fighting Jihad in Allah's Cause), those who disbelieve smite at their necks till when you have killed and wounded many of them, then bind a bond firmly (on them, i.e. take them as captives) ... If it had been Allah's Will, He Himself could certainly have punished them (without you). But (He lets you fight), in order to test you, some with others. But those who are killed in the Way of Allah, He will never let their deeds be lost."

Holy war is to be pursued against those who reject Allah. The unbelievers are to be killed and wounded. Survivors are to be held captive for ransom. The only reason Allah doesn't do the dirty work himself is to test the faithfulness of Muslims. Those who kill pass

the test. (See also: 47:4 for more context) (See also: Response to Apologists)

Quran (47:35) –

"Be not weary and faint-hearted, crying for peace, when ye should be uppermost (Shakir: "have the upper hand") for Allah is with you."

Quran (48:17) –

"There is no blame for the blind, nor is there blame for the lame, nor is there blame for the sick (that they go not forth to war). And whoso obeyeth Allah and His messenger, He will make him enter Gardens underneath which rivers flow; and whoso turneth back, him will He punish with a painful doom."

Contemporary apologists sometimes claim that Jihad means 'spiritual struggle.' If so, then why are the blind, lame and sick exempted? This verse also says that those who do not fight will suffer torment in hell.

Quran (48:29) –

"Muhammad is the messenger of Allah. And those with him are hard (ruthless) against the disbelievers and merciful among themselves."

Islam is not about treating everyone equally. This verse tells Muslims that two very distinct standards are applied based on religious status. Also, the word used for 'hard' or 'ruthless' in this

verse shares the same root as the word translated as 'painful' or severe' to describe Hell in over 25 other verses including 65:10, 40:46 and 50: 26.

Quran (61:4) –

"Surely Allah loves those who fight in His cause" Religion of Peace, indeed! The verse explicitly refers to "rows" or "battle array."

It speaks of physical conflict. This is followed by (61:9), which defines the "cause."

"He it is who has sent His Messenger (Mohammed) with guidance and the religion of truth (Islam) to make it victorious over all religions even though the infidels may resist."

Infidels who resist Islamic rule are to be fought.

Quran (61:10-12) –

"O You who believe! Shall I guide you to a commerce that will save you from a painful torment. That you believe in Allah and His Messenger (Muhammad), and that you strive hard and fight in the Cause of Allah with your wealth and your lives, that will be better for you, if you but know! (If you do so) He will forgive you your sins, and admit you into Gardens under which rivers flow, and pleasant dwelling in Gardens of'Adn- Eternity ['Adn (Edn) Paradise], that is indeed the great success."

This verse refers to a physical battle waged to make Islam victorious over other religions (see verse 9). It uses the Arabic root for the word Jihad.

Quran (66:9) –

"O Prophet! Strive against the disbelievers and the hypocrites, and be stern with them. Hell will be their home, a hapless journey's end."

The root word of "Jihad" is used again here. The context is clearly holy war, and the scope of violence is broadened to include "hypocrites" - those who call themselves Muslims but do not act as such.

Quran (2:191-193) –

"And kill them wherever you find them, and turn them out from where they have turned you out. And Al-Fitnah [disbelief or unrest] is worse than killing... but if they desist, then lo! Allah is forgiving and merciful. And fight them until there is no more Fitnah [disbelief and worshipping of others along with Allah] and worship is for Allah alone. But if they cease, let there be no transgression except against Az-Zalimun (the polytheists, and wrong-doers, etc.)."

The verse before this (190) refers to "fighting for the cause of Allah those who fight you," leading some to claim that the entire passage refers to a defensive war in which Muslims are defending their homes and families. The historical context of this passage is

not defensive warfare, however, since Muhammad and his Muslims had just relocated to Medina and were not under attack by their Meccan adversaries.

In fact, the verses urge offensive warfare, in that Muslims are to drive Meccans out of their own city (which they later did). Verse 190 thus means to fight those who offer resistance to Allah's rule (i.e., Muslim conquest). The use of the word "persecution" by some Muslim translators is disingenuous - the actual Arabic words for persecution (idtihad) and oppression are not used instead of fitna. Fitna can mean disbelief, or the disorder that results from unbelief or temptation.

A strict translation is 'sedition,' meaning rebellion against authority (the authority being Allah). This is certainly what is meant in this context since the violence is explicitly commissioned "until religion is for Allah" - i.e. unbelievers desist in their unbelief. [Editor's note: these notes have been modified slightly after a critic misinterpreted our language. Verse 193 plainly says that 'fighting' is sanctioned even if the fitna 'ceases'. This is about religious order, not real persecution.] (See also: Response to Apologists)



Image Description: is a memorial graphic honoring Mona Mahmudnizhad, a young Iranian Bahá'í girl who was executed in 1983 during a period of intense religious persecution in Iran. On the right side, a real photograph shows a smiling Mona, while the left side features a dramatic reenactment of her with a noose around her neck, taken from the 1985 music video for the protest song "Mona With the Children" by Canadian singer Doug Cameron. The text beneath the images details her tragic fate, stating that she was lynched along with nine other women on June 18, 1983, due to religious prejudice, serving as a solemn reminder of the human cost of religious intolerance.

Other verses calling Muslims to Jihad can be found here at AnsweringIslam.org.

To better understand the upcoming chapter, scan the QR code below. It speaks about how Rome gave birth to Christianity:

https://youtu.be/Nj0WQDH1Dcc?si=cnbXcFm0h9Yahzxt

CHAPTER 4: PROBLEMATIC VERSES IN THE BIBLE

The Bible also contains verses problematic to believers & trouble for humanity

So where do we go from here? When Bible believers tell me that God is good, I want to ask: Good by what standard? Because when I compare this being to the average decent man or woman I know, it is the human being who comes out morally superior. Every sane human I know has moral instincts that exceed the behavior of this god. No sane individual would do many of the things the God of Abraham commands in the Old Testament. If they did, we would rightly view them as dangerous, unstable, and morally deranged.

That is why the contrast between claims and actions matters so much. If you claim God is loving, just, merciful, kind, forgiving, and good, then the behavior attributed to that God must align with those claims. But it does not. The Bible says one thing in summary statements and then shows another thing in narrative, law, threat, punishment, and command. That contradiction destroys the case.

And the violence goes beyond the general character profile. This God endorses slavery. Not merely regulates it under social pressure, but allows and structures it. This God endorses stoning to death for women who had sex before marriage. Would you still be here if that law had been applied consistently through history?

This God endorses stoning rebellious children. How many teenagers would survive under such a system? This God punishes idolatry with death. Blasphemy with death. Sabbath breaking with death. Certain occult practices with death. Even if someone agrees with one or two of these rules in principle, they cannot cherry-pick and pretend the rest are not there. These are presented as the commands of the same God who says in Malachi, "I change not."

Some Christians try to escape the problem by saying Jesus is different.

But is he?

In the Bible, Jesus says not the smallest part of the law will pass away until all is fulfilled. He says he came not to abolish but to fulfill. He presents himself as being in continuity with the God of the Old Testament. He does not repudiate that God. He affirms that God. He also says he was sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. You do not see Jesus in the biblical text conducting a broad universal mission to the Gentiles during his earthly ministry. In one uncomfortable episode, he even refers to a Gentile woman as a dog in a way that reflects contempt. So, the attempt to make Jesus a complete moral rescue from the Old Testament God is not nearly as simple as many believers imagine.

This is why I say a good God would not behave this way.

If there were a God, I would expect that God to be at least as good as the best moral instincts found in humanity. I would expect that God to be in alignment with what we observe to be compassionate, just, and wise. Instead, what I find in the Bible is a god whom the average man or woman outshines in love, morality, and justice. It is only when human beings begin imitating this sadistic and violent deity that we see the darkest human outcomes emerge: religious war, family breakdown, cruelty justified as holiness, and people in the Middle East killing each other while believing they are pleasing God.

Is it any wonder we see what we see?

If the command is to be imitators of God, and the God you are given is morally monstrous, then why should we be surprised when societies shaped by that image produce monstrous acts?

That, to me, is one of the clearest explanations for why the safest and happiest nations on the planet are irreligious and not followers of the God of Abraham. They are not trying to imitate "Big Daddy." They are building their moral systems more on human welfare, reason, law, dignity, and social responsibility rather than on the commands of a jealous desert deity.

And even apart from Scripture, the observable world itself raises devastating questions against this God's supposed goodness and reality. How could a real and caring God stay silent while

children were being molested by the thousands by Catholic priests? If you were God, would you just sit in the corner and watch thousands of children being molested by priests and do nothing? I think not. If you were a good and powerful God, would you allow children by the thousands to die of starvation every year and do nothing? I think not. If you were an intelligent and caring God, would you not have warned humanity clearly about germs, viruses, sanitation, disease transmission, the actual structure of the cosmos, and basic truths that might have spared untold suffering? I think you would.

Instead, what has lifted humanity out of ignorance in so many areas has not been revelation from an invisible deity, but scientific discovery, logic, evidence, empathy, experimentation, and reason. We have learned about disease not from holy books but from microbiology. We have learned about the earth and heavens not from Scripture but from astronomy and physics. We have learned how to reduce suffering not through prayer meetings alone, but through medicine, sanitation, law, and critical inquiry.

If there is a real God who is truly interested in mankind, then let him prove it. Let him show up and just say hi.

I know that sounds blunt.

But after centuries of horror, contradiction, and silence, why shouldn't it be said plainly?

Some readers will want to defend this God at all costs. I understand that instinct because I once had it myself. When people believe the God of Abraham is real, they will make every excuse in the book to defend this evil, nonexistent despot. They will reinterpret, spiritualize, contextualize, soften, and explain away almost anything. That is the power of indoctrination. Unfortunately, many people who most need this information will never read it, or they will stop reading the moment they suspect it threatens their religion. Fear and loyalty are powerful barriers.

That is one reason I have even thought in dramatic terms about an international, public, criminal mock trial against the God of Abraham for crimes against humanity. The first revelation to the world would be that he would not show up for the proceedings, because he does not exist. A proxy would have to answer on his behalf. Absurd? Perhaps. But no more absurd than spending millennia killing each other over a being whose own holy books condemn him.

By this point, I want the reader to feel something very definite. I do not want them merely entertained or mildly intrigued. I want them to become certain that the God of Abraham worshiped by Judaism, Christianity, and Islam does not exist, and to stop killing each other over him.

That is my conclusion, and I will state it clearly.

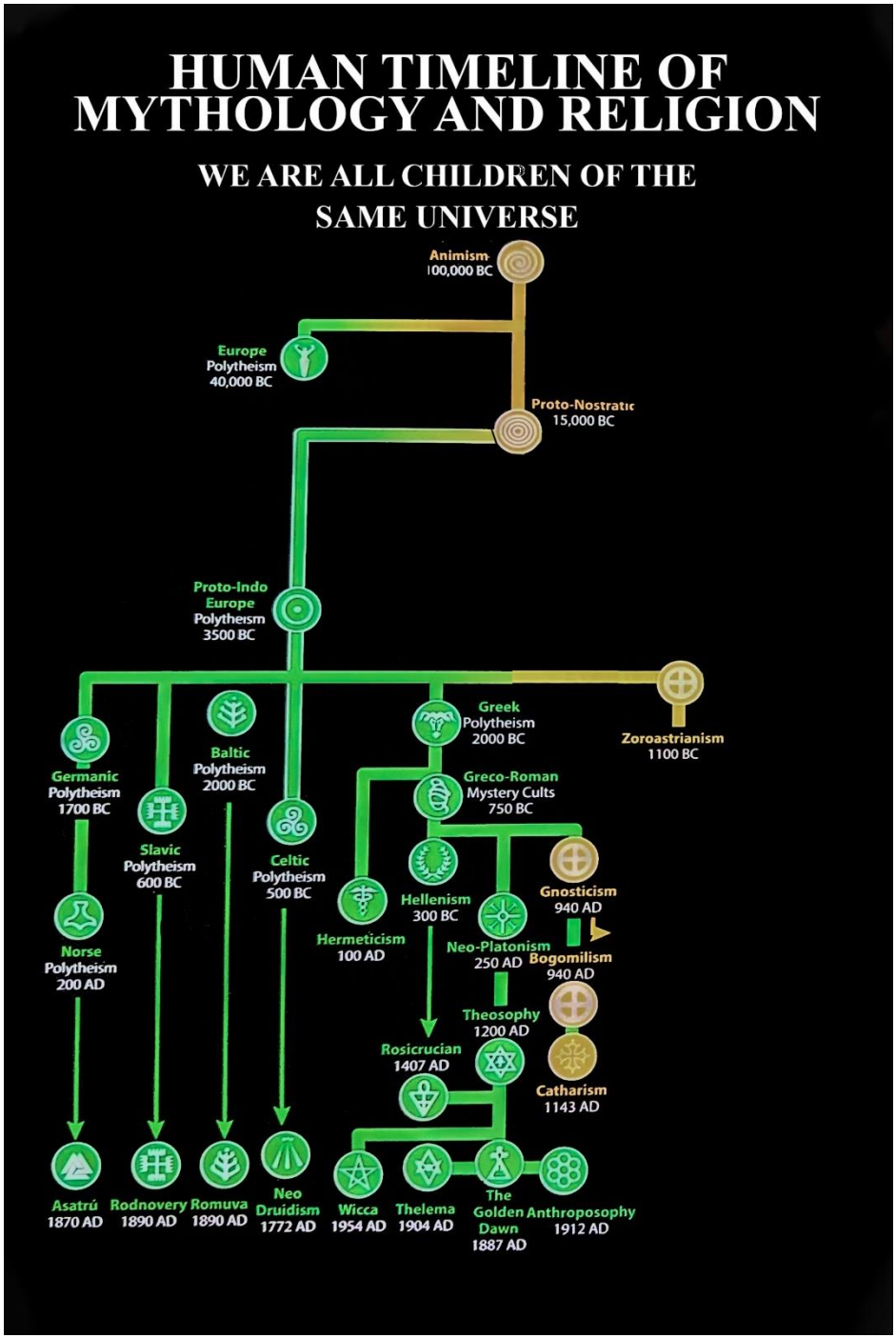
The God of Abraham fails on two counts.

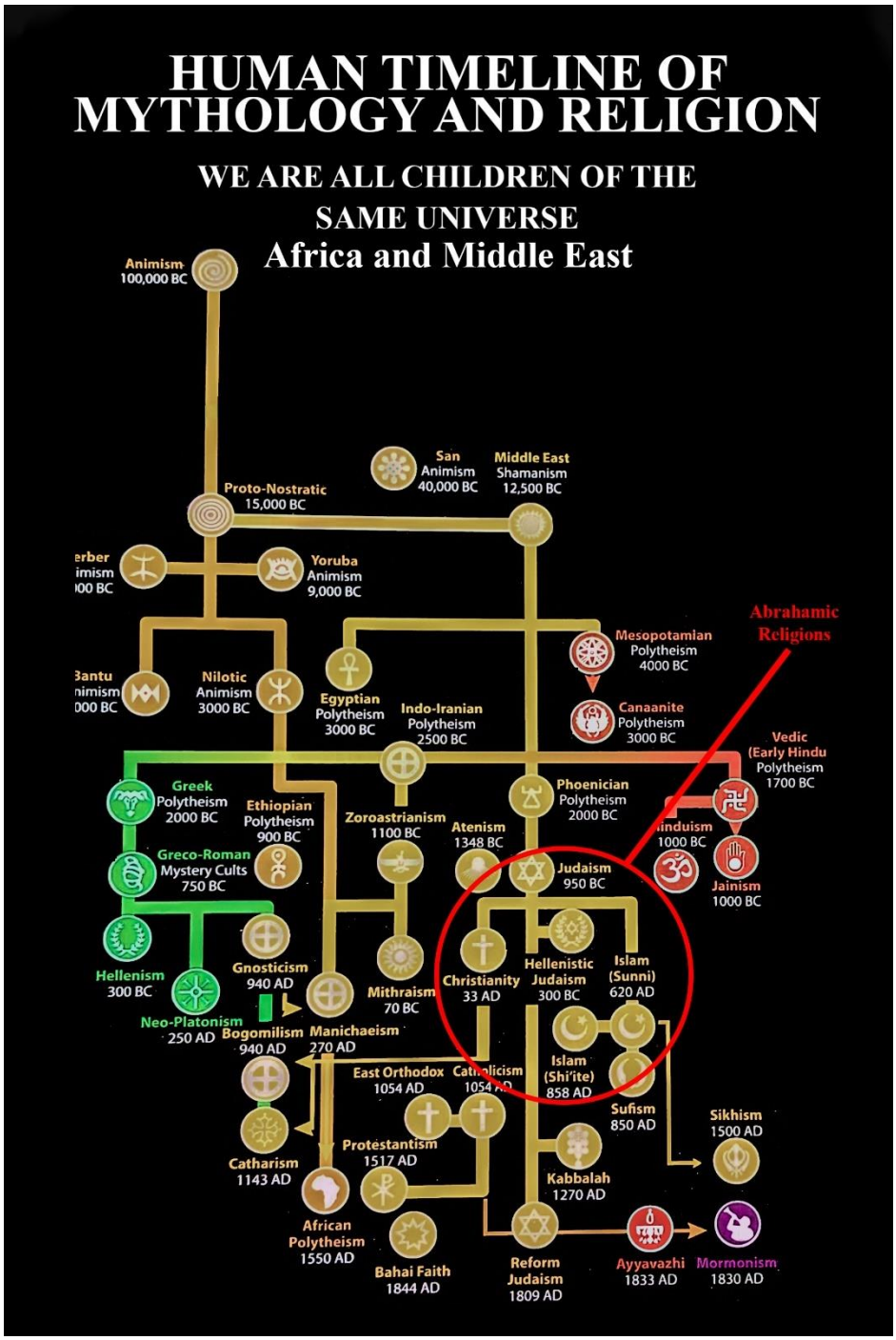
First, the holy books themselves show clearly that this god is not good. Every sane human being has moral standards that exceed this despot.

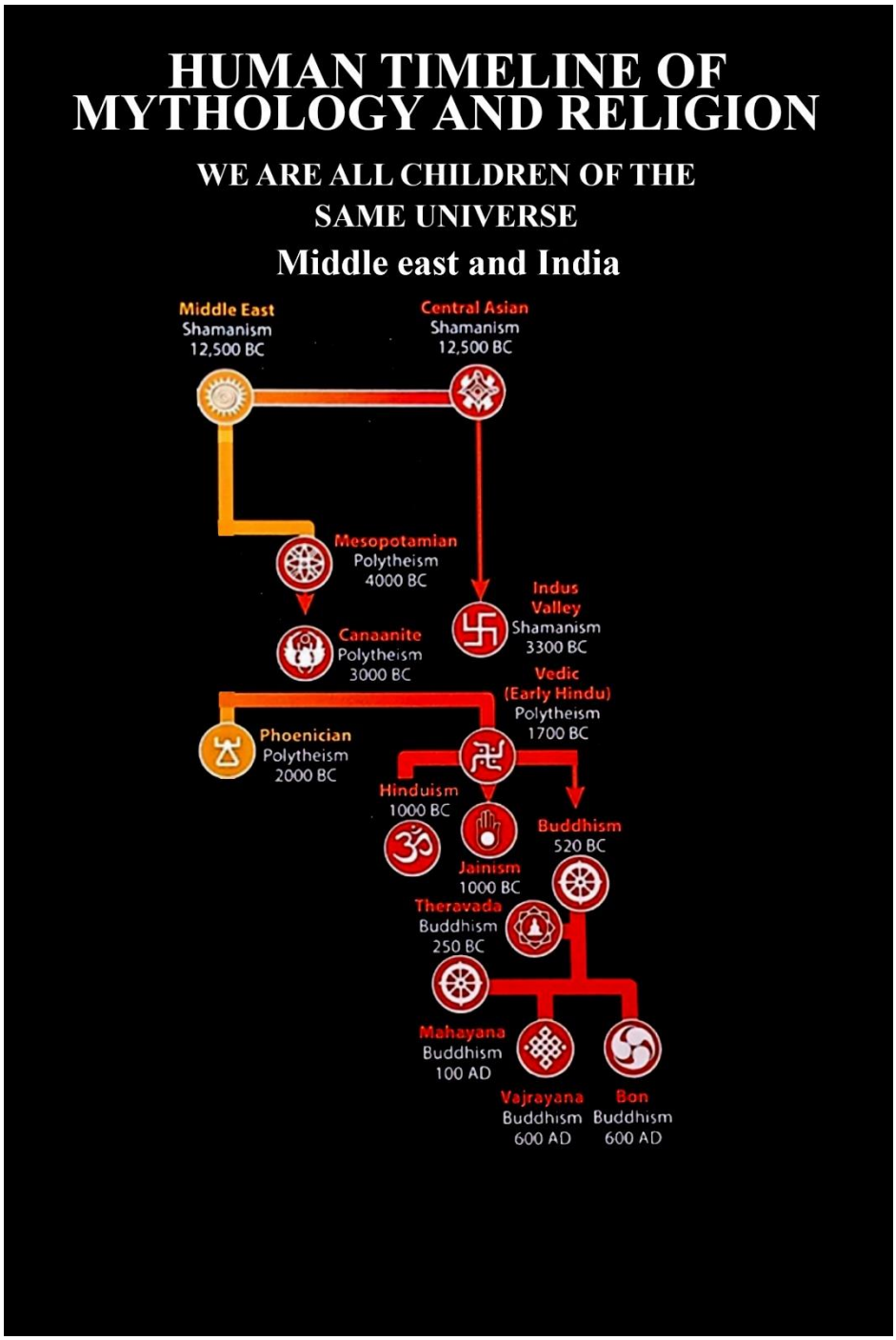
Second, reality proves that he is not real. A truly good, all-knowing, all-powerful God would not remain indifferent to the horrors of this world without meaningful divine intervention. No human in their right mind, if they were God, would sit silently while nature and mankind combined to produce starvation, abuse, slaughter, disease, and misery on the scale we witness today.

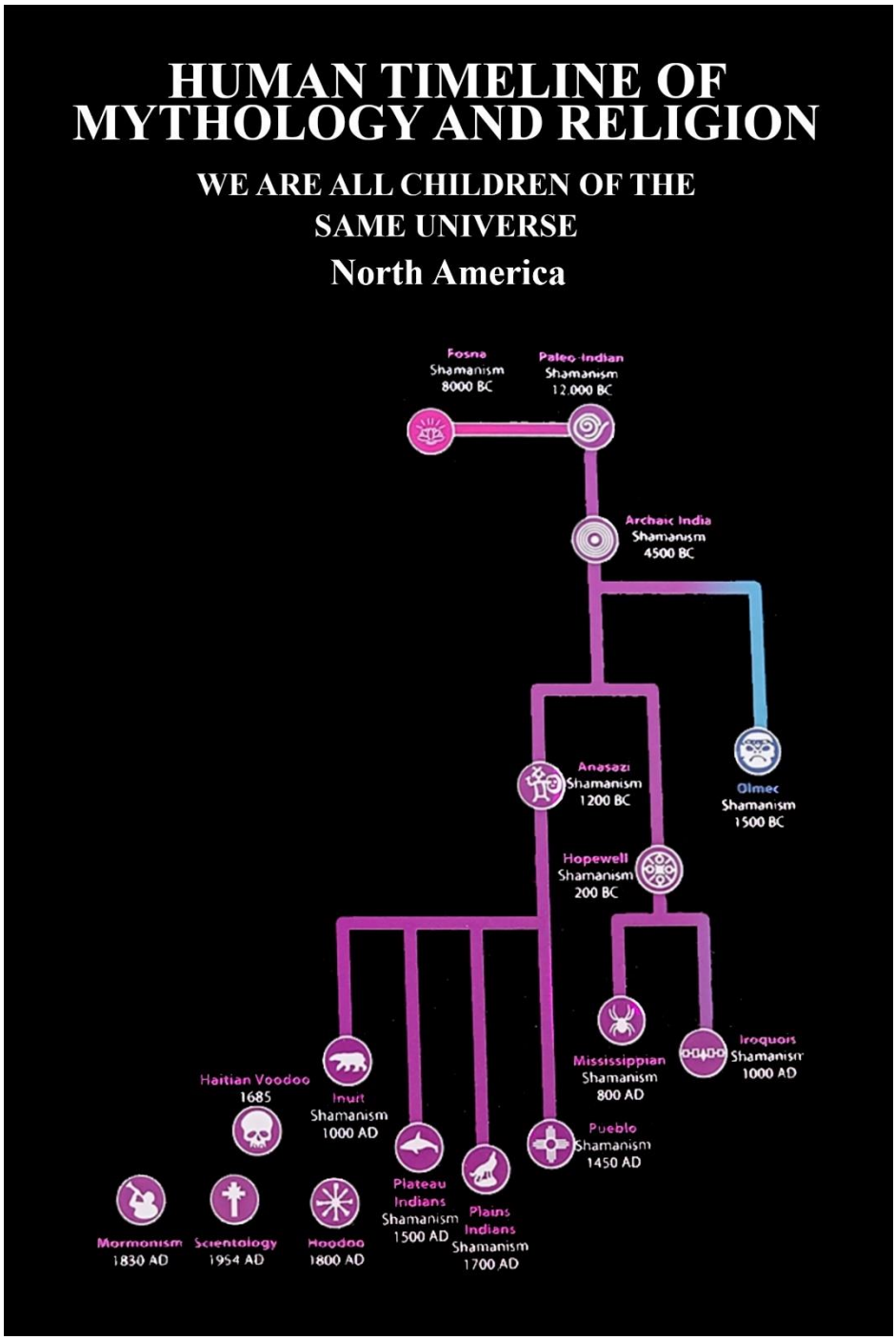
That is the question of the next chapter.

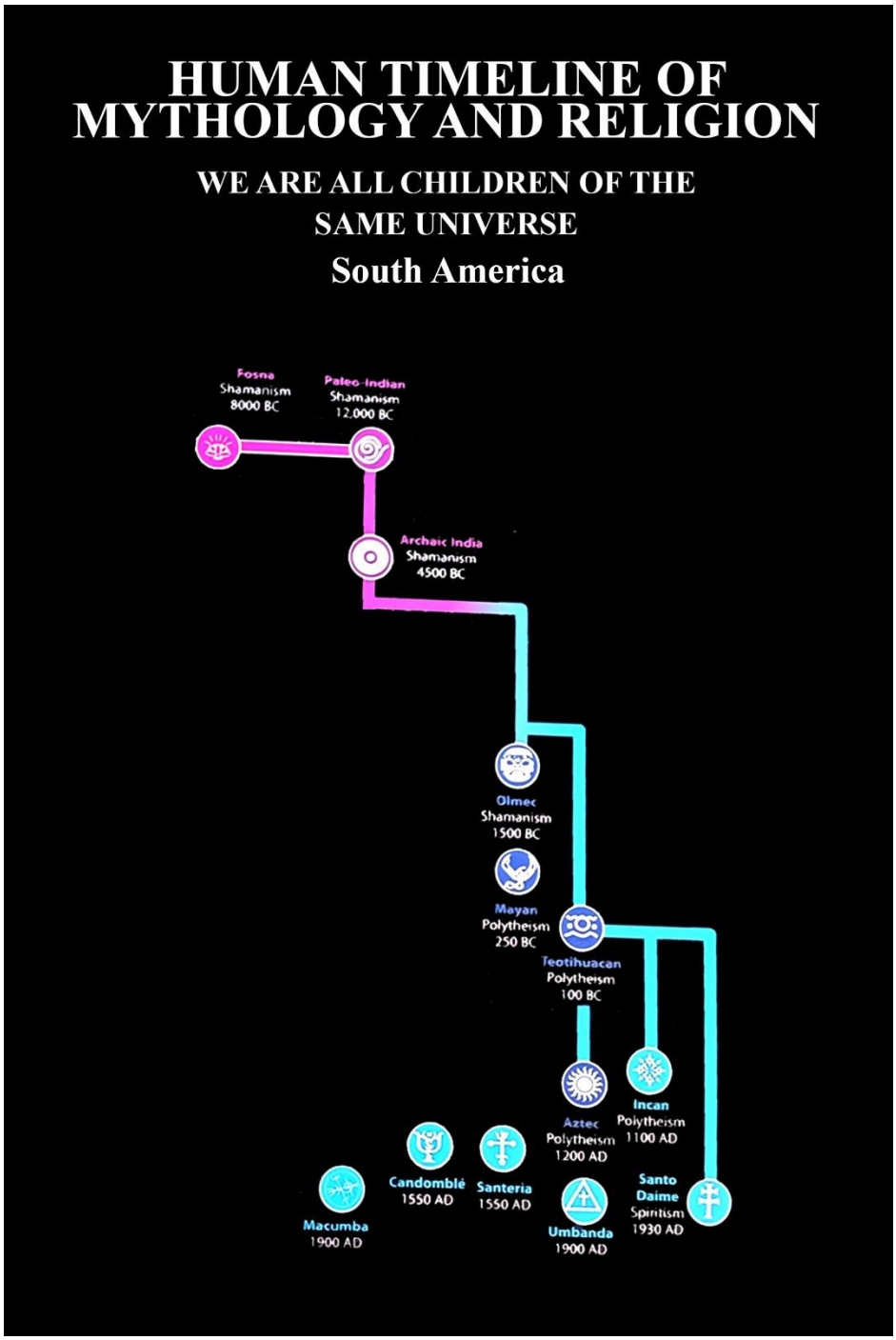
For most of civilization, societies have been built under the assumption that the God of Abraham is real. But humanity has worshiped gods for far longer than Abraham. Religious practices reach back tens of thousands of years. Organized religions existed long before the Abrahamic traditions. Ancient peoples across the earth formed systems of worship, ritual, burial, sacrifice, and meaning long before one desert narrative emerged and later spread through empire. So, the idea that the Abrahamic God is the one true God, suddenly appearing to one man and then demanding the loyalty of all humanity, becomes increasingly difficult to accept when placed in the full sweep of human history.


HUMAN TIMELINE OF MYTHOLOGY AND RELIGION
WE ARE ALL CHILDREN OF THE SAME UNIVERSE
Animism 100,000 BC
Europe Polytheism 40,000 BC
Proto-Nostratic 15,000 BC
Proto-Indo Europe Polytheism 3500 BC
Germanic Polytheism 1700 BC
Baltic Polytheism 2000 BC
Slavic Polytheism 600 BC
Celtic Polytheism 500 BC
Greek Polytheism 2000 BC
Zoroastrianism 1100 BC
Greco-Roman Mystery Cults 750 BC
Norse Polytheism 200 AD
Hermeticism 100 AD
Hellenism 300 BC
Neo-Platonism 250 AD
Gnosticism 940 AD
Bogomilism 940 AD
Theosophy 1200 AD
Rosicrucian 1407 AD
Catharism 1143 AD
Asatrú 1870 AD
Rodnovery 1890 AD
Romuva 1890 AD
Neo Druidism 1772 AD
Wicca 1954 AD
Thelema 1904 AD
The Golden Dawn 1887 AD
Anthroposophy 1912 AD


HUMAN TIMELINE OF MYTHOLOGY AND RELIGION
WE ARE ALL CHILDREN OF THE SAME UNIVERSE
Africa and Middle East
Animism 100,000 BC
San Animism 40,000 BC
Middle East Shamanism 12,500 BC
Proto-Nostratic 15,000 BC
erber imism 00 BC
Yoruba Animism 9,000 BC
Abrahamic Religions
Mesopotamian Polytheism 4000 BC
Bantu nimism 000 BC
Nilotic Animism 3000 BC
Egyptian Polytheism 3000 BC
Indo-Iranian Polytheism 2500 BC
Canaanite Polytheism 3000 BC
Vedic (Early Hindu Polytheism 1700 BC
Greek Polytheism 2000 BC
Ethiopian Polytheism 900 BC
Zoroastrianism 1100 BC
Atenism 1348 BC
Phoenician Polytheism 2000 BC
nduism 1000 BC
Greco-Roman Mystery Cults 750 BC
Judaism 950 BC
Jainism 1000 BC
Hellenism 300 BC
Gnosticism 940 AD
Mithraism 70 BC
Christianity 33 AD
Hellenistic Judaism 300 BC
Islam (Sunni) 620 AD
Neo-Platonism 250 AD
Bogomilism 940 AD
Manichaeism 270 AD
Islam (Shi'ite) 858 AD
East Orthodox 1054 AD
Sufism 850 AD
Sikhism 1500 AD
Protestantism 1517 AD
Catharism 1143 AD
Kabbalah 1270 AD
African Polytheism 1550 AD
Bahai Faith 1844 AD
Reform Judaism 1809 AD
Ayyavazhi 1833 AD
Mormonism 1830 AD


HUMAN TIMELINE OF MYTHOLOGY AND RELIGION
WE ARE ALL CHILDREN OF THE SAME UNIVERSE
Middle east and India
Middle East Shamanism 12,500 BC
Central Asian Shamanism 12,500 BC
Mesopotamian Polytheism 4000 BC
Indus Valley Shamanism 3300 BC
Canaanite Polytheism 3000 BC
Vedic (Early Hindu) Polytheism 1700 BC
Phoenician Polytheism 2000 BC
Hinduism 1000 BC
Buddhism 520 BC
Jainism 1000 BC
Theravada Buddhism 250 BC
Mahayana Buddhism 100 AD
Vajrayana Buddhism 600 AD
Bon Buddhism 600 AD


HUMAN TIMELINE OF MYTHOLOGY AND RELIGION
WE ARE ALL CHILDREN OF THE SAME UNIVERSE
North America
Fosna Shamanism 8000 BC
Paleo-Indian Shamanism 12,000 BC
Archaic India Shamanism 4500 BC
Anasazi Shamanism 1200 BC
Olmec Shamanism 1500 BC
Hopewell Shamanism 200 BC
Haitian Voodoo 1685
Inuit Shamanism 1000 AD
Mississippian Shamanism 800 AD
Iroquois Shamanism 1000 AD
Pueblo Shamanism 1450 AD
Plateau Indians Shamanism 1500 AD
Plains Indians Shamanism 1700 AD
Mormonism 1830 AD
Scientology 1954 AD
Hoodoo 1800 AD


HUMAN TIMELINE OF MYTHOLOGY AND RELIGION
WE ARE ALL CHILDREN OF THE SAME UNIVERSE
South America
Fosna
Shamanism
8000 BC
Paleo-Indian
Shamanism
12,000 BC
Archaic India
Shamanism
4500 BC
Olmec
Shamanism
1500 BC
Mayan
Polytheism
250 BC
Teotihuacan
Polytheism
100 BC
Aztec
Polytheism
1200 AD
Incan
Polytheism
1100 AD
Candomblé
1550 AD
Santeria
1550 AD
Macumba
1900 AD
Umbanda
1900 AD
Santo
Daime
Spiritism
1930 AD

Why would God reveal himself to one shepherd in the desert and not to the whole world? And why after thousands of gods proposed by man before this god appeared?

Those questions alone should give us pause.

As we move forward, my concern is not to leave humanity with nothing. My concern is to help humanity separate what is good from what is destructive. Love should be retained. Mercy should be retained. Forgiveness should be retained. Wisdom, compassion, and cooperation should be retained. But the mythological, deceptive, divisive, and cruel elements must be discarded. That is true not only of the Abrahamic traditions, but of all religions. Human beings have a brain, and they have the capacity to use it for good instead of evil.

I am convinced that if humanity keeps what is logical, reasonable, humane, and life-giving, while discarding what is deceptive, violent, and destructive, we can move toward peace, cooperation, and mutual flourishing.

And perhaps, at long last, stop destroying the only planet we have.