

# God Doesn't Believe in Atheists, Part 1

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**Psalm 14:1 (NKJV) “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good.”**

This psalm addresses *atheism*: the fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” The word “atheism” is a combination of “a” (without) and “theos” (God), that together means, “without (belief in) God”. Those who hold to atheism are called “atheists”. An “atheist” is a person who does not hold to a belief in the existence of a deity, a higher power, a spiritual force, or any god.

An “atheist” is not to be confused with an *agnostic*. The word “agnostic” is a combination of “a” (without) and “gnostic” (knowledge), that together means “without knowledge (of God)”. An agnostic is unconvinced about the existence of God. The agnostic usually believes that if God exists, there is no way to know for sure.

While most atheists quietly live their lives without a belief in the existence of God, radical atheists actively seek to disprove the existence of God and to remove any mention or memorial of God from society. They have, in effect, declared war on God and on those who believe in Him.

Since atheists believe that God does not exist, a question might also be raised, “Does God believe in atheists?” The answer to that question is an emphatic “no!” God absolutely affirms that He made His existence clear to all men: “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,”<sup>1</sup> Former atheist, C. S. Lewis, acknowledged this when he said, “I believe in God as I believe that the Sun has risen, not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.” Vision testifies to the existence of light. Thus, an atheist refuses to see the light of God’s evidence. They close their eyes and say “I see nothing.”

Not even the devil or his demons are atheists: “You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!”<sup>2</sup> Charles H. Spurgeon once said: “Atheism is a strange thing; even the devil never fell into that vice.”

Atheists have an inflated view of their own intellect and reasoning. Imagine the foolish attempt of a mortal human being to contend with an eternal, sovereign, intelligent, all-knowing, and all-powerful Divine Being who made them. Job declared, “If one wished to contend with Him, He could not answer Him one time out of a thousand.”<sup>4</sup> God is wise in heart and mighty in strength. Who has hardened himself against Him and prospered?<sup>3</sup>

Atheists trust in their reasoning, but can human reasoning be trusted at all if there is no God? Regarding this, C. S. Lewis made an important observation saying: “Supposing there was no intelligence behind the universe, no creative mind. In that case, nobody designed my brain for the purpose of thinking. It is merely that when the atoms inside my skull happen, for physical or chemical reasons, to arrange themselves in a certain way, this gives me, as a by-product, the sensation I call thought. But, if so, how can I trust my own thinking to be true? It’s like upsetting a milk jug and hoping that the way it splashes itself will give you a map of London. But if I can’t trust my own thinking, of course I can’t trust the arguments leading to Atheism, and therefore have no reason to be an Atheist, or anything else. Unless I believe in God, I cannot believe in thought: so I can never use thought to disbelieve in God.”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Romans 1:20 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> James 2:19 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> Job 9:3–4 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> C.S. Lewis as quoted by Lee Strobel in his book, *The Case for Christianity*, p. 32

Atheists insist that there is no evidence of the existence of God. Is it possible that atheists could possess such absolute knowledge of all things? For anyone to prove absolutely that there is no God, they must possess infinite and absolute knowledge of everything in the seen and unseen realm. For example, imagine asserting absolutely that there is no such thing as a green rock with purple stripes anywhere in the universe. The only way to affirm this assertion is to possess infinite and absolute knowledge of the entire universe. To affirm that there is no God is an absolute negative. Such a statement is self-defeating because it says, "I have infinite knowledge that there is no Being (i.e. God) that exists with infinite knowledge!"

The truth is that radical atheists are obsessed with God. Heywood Broun, a late American journalist, said, "Nobody talks so constantly about God as those who insist that there is no God." Former atheist, C. S. Lewis, said, "Atheists express their rage against God although in their view He does not exist."

Amazingly, some atheists have come to faith in God in their effort to disprove His existence. These include C. S. Lewis who wrote many books including "Mere Christianity"; Josh McDowell who wrote "Evidence that Demands a Verdict"; Peter Hitchens, the brother of noted atheist writer Christopher Hitchens; British author and journalist A. N. Wilson; Anthony Flew, one of the most significant atheist thinkers; Alister McGrath who wrote "The Dawkins Delusion"; and Lee Strobel, former legal affairs editor for the Chicago Tribune, who wrote "The Case for Christ", "The Case for Faith", and "The Case for the Creator", and "The Case for the REAL Jesus".

So, if God doesn't believe in atheists, why are there professed atheists? The Bible tells us the answer: it is a *heart* issue: "*The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'*"<sup>5</sup> Atheism demands "proof" that God exists. Atheism demands the existence of God be proved through science and reasoning. Yet, no one can "prove" or "disprove" the existence of God through science or intellectual reasoning. If God is Creator, then He exists outside of what He created. He is higher and greater than what He has created. If God is Spirit, as Scripture asserts, then His existence cannot be proven in a test tube or under a microscope.

If the existence of God cannot be "proven" through science, are we therefore doomed to the conclusion of agnosticism that says, "If there is a God, then there is not enough evidence to know for sure"? No. The Bible teaches God has left us sufficient *evidence* (not "proof") of His existence through all that He has made. Example: The sculptor exists outside of his sculpture. The artist exists outside of his painting. In their absence, their work is sufficient evidence of their existence and nature. Creation is God's masterpiece that testifies of His existence and nature. Atheism demands proof while refusing evidence.

God does not give us *proof*, but He does provide sufficient *evidence* through His creation that demands a verdict of faith. Court verdicts regarding past events are reached based upon *evidence* rather than upon *proof* since past events can only be *proven* by going back in time to the event itself. Thus, evidence is presented, and a verdict is rendered that is consistent with the evidence.

The evidence for the existence of God far outweighs the evidence against the existence of God. In their book, *I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist*, Norman Geisler and Frank Turek said, "Atheism is founded on so many unproven assumptions. It takes more faith to be an atheist than it does to be a Christian. I just don't have enough faith to be an atheist."

This article is Part 1 of a two-part series.

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<sup>5</sup> Psalm 14:1 (NKJV)