



THE TRIBUNAL OF REASON

AN INTELLECTUAL INQUISITION INTO THE CLAIMS OF REVELATION AND THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE.

Based on the forensic writings of Thomas Paine, composed in the shadow of the French Revolution (1794). An examination of evidence, a cross-examination of texts, and a manifesto for the True Theology of Creation.

FORENSIC
ANALYSIS OF
TEXTS

DATE: 1794 / RE-EXAMINATION: 2024

Writing Under the Shadow of the Guillotine

Paris, 1793. The King has been beheaded. The Church is being dismantled. Atheism is rising.

Thomas Paine, imprisoned in the Luxembourg, writes to prevent religion from collapsing into the wreckage of the state.



The Motive:

“The people of France were running headlong into Atheism. I wrote to stop them.”

“I had not finished it more than six hours... before a guard came... with an order for putting me in arrestation.”

The Author's Profession of Faith

The Church



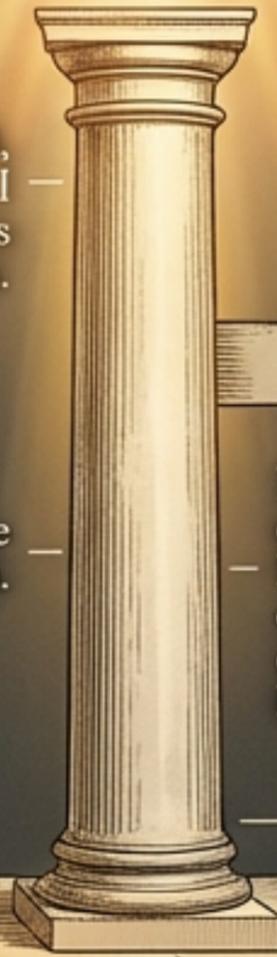
Atheism



I believe in one God,
and no more; and I
hope for happiness
beyond this life.

I believe in the
equality of man.

Deism

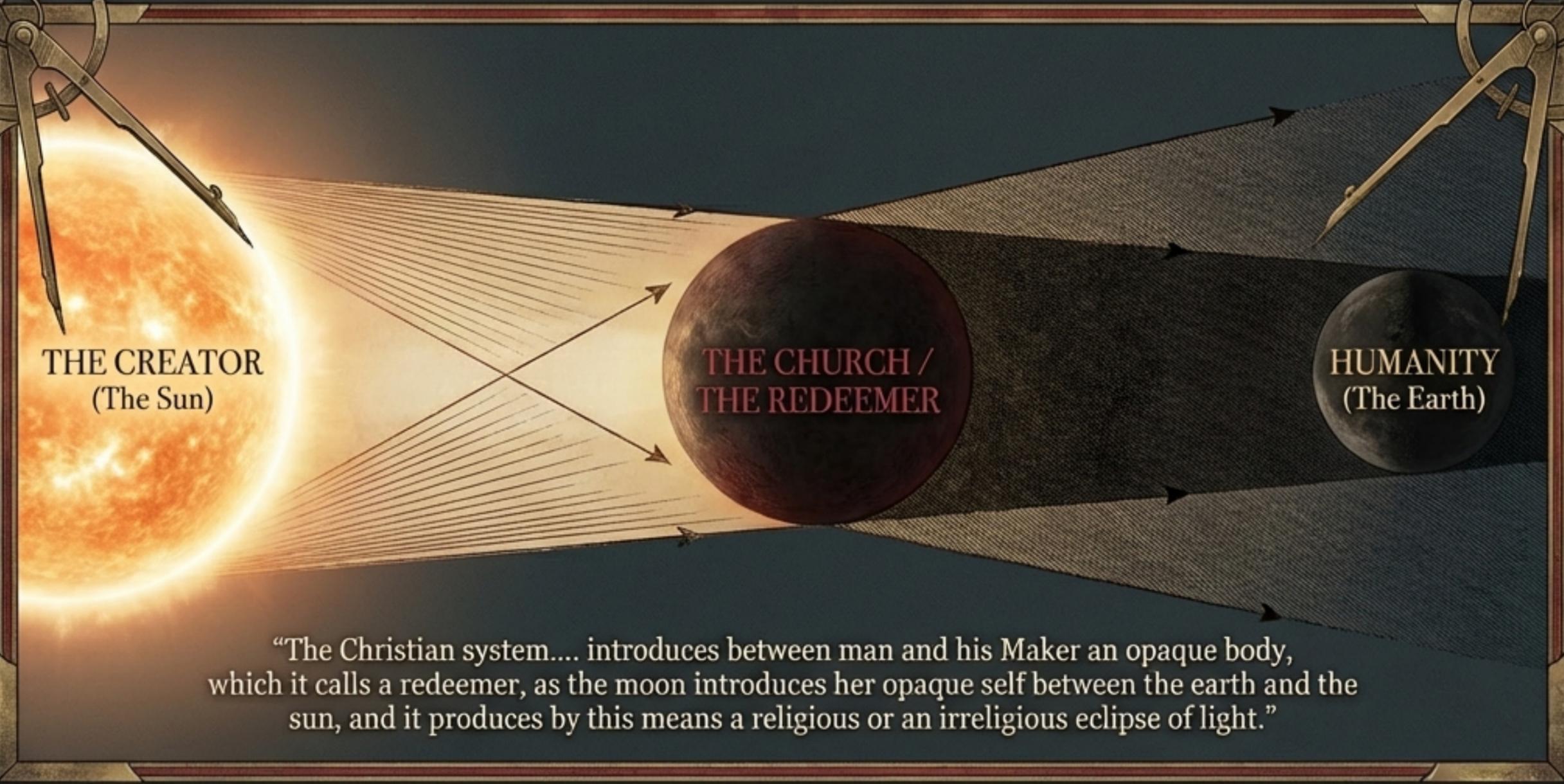


Religious duties
consist in doing justice,
— loving mercy, and
endeavoring to make
our fellow-creatures
happy.

— My own mind is my
own church.

True Deism is the rejection of Creed, but the embrace of the Creator.

The Ecclesiastical Eclipse

A diagram illustrating the concept of an 'ecclesiastical eclipse'. On the left is a large, glowing orange sun labeled 'THE CREATOR (The Sun)'. In the center is a dark, circular sphere labeled 'THE CHURCH / THE REDEEMER'. On the right is a smaller, dark sphere labeled 'HUMANITY (The Earth)'. Lines of light radiate from the sun towards the church, and from the church towards humanity. A dark, shaded region, representing the church's influence, is shown between the church and humanity, partially obscuring the direct path of light from the sun to humanity. The diagram is framed by a decorative border with gears, compasses, and a magnifying glass.

THE CREATOR
(The Sun)

THE CHURCH /
THE REDEEMER

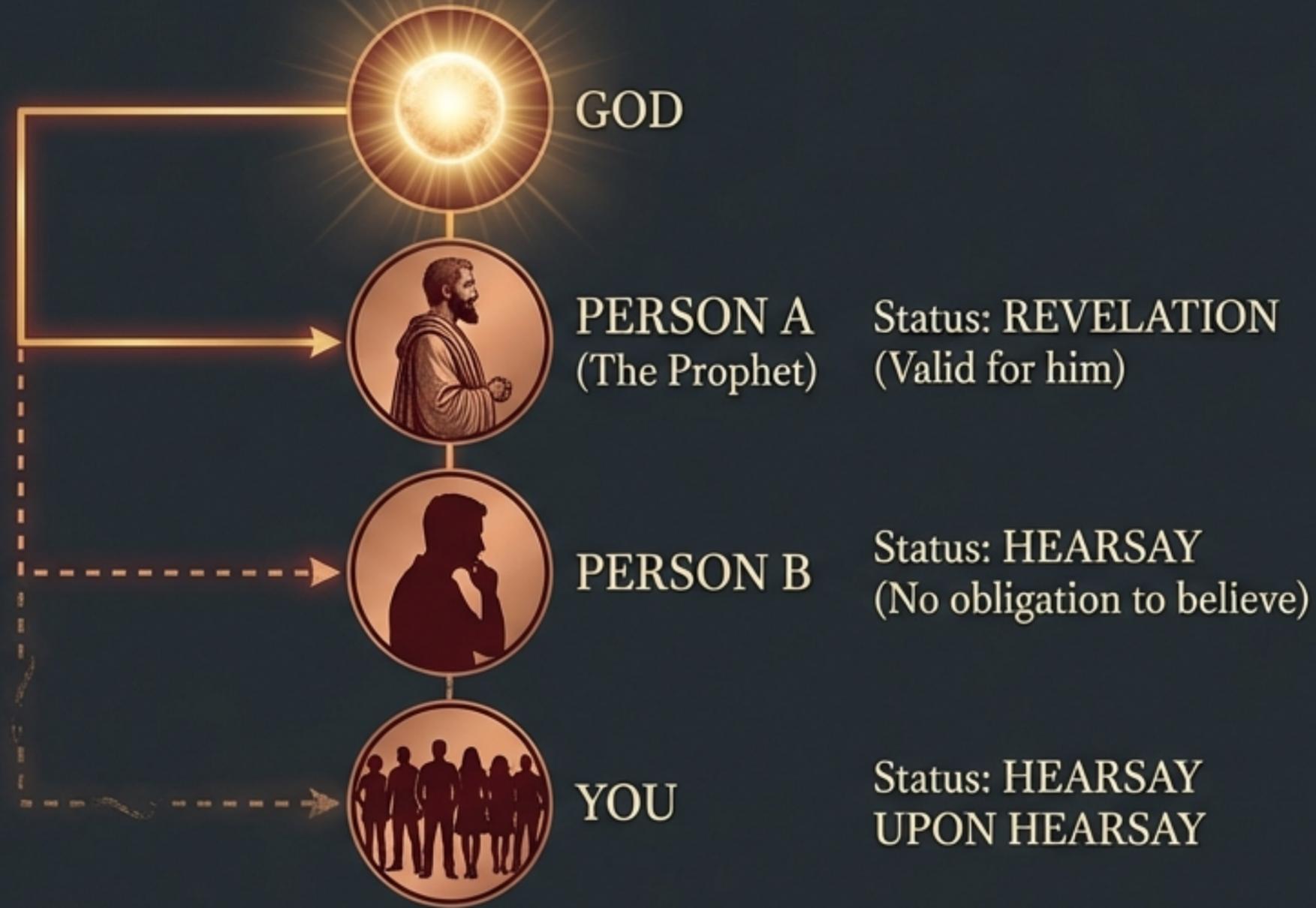
HUMANITY
(The Earth)

“The Christian system... introduces between man and his Maker an opaque body, which it calls a redeemer, as the moon introduces her opaque self between the earth and the sun, and it produces by this means a religious or an irreligious eclipse of light.”

The orbit of reason has been put into the shade.

Enlightenment Forensic

The Logic of Revelation vs. Hearsay



‘It is a contradiction in terms and ideas to call anything a revelation that comes to us at second hand.’

The Genealogy of Christian Mythology

HEATHEN MYTHOLOGY



CHRISTIAN MYTHOLOGY



“The Christian theory is little else than the idolatry of the ancient mythologists, accommodated to the purposes of power and revenue.”

The statue of Mary succeeded the statue of Diana. The deification of heroes changed into the canonization of saints.

The Fabulous Structure

- Narrative Arc

- 1. The Rebellion: Satan defies the Almighty.
- 2. The Victory: Almighty wins but lets Satan loose.
- 3. The Trap: Satan persuades Eve to eat an apple.
- 4. The Defeat: Eating the apple damns all mankind.
- 5. The Solution: The Almighty must kill His own Son to pay a debt to Himself.



“It is impossible to conceive a story more derogatory to the Almighty... The inventors were under the necessity of giving to Satan a power equally as great as the Almighty.”



Exhibit A: The Internal Evidence

The Prosecution rests on the Testimony of the Defendant.

We do not need external history to disprove the Bible. The Bible carries its own refutation within its pages.

Strategy Note:

“I will meet them on their own ground, and oppose them with their own weapon, the Bible.”

The Charge: The books of the Pentateuch are anonymous forgeries written centuries after Moses died.



The Case Against Moses: Style and Voice

*Third Person.
Style of a historian,
not a memoirist.*

*If Moses wrote this,
he was the most
arrogant man on
earth. If he didn't,
the book is
anonymous.*

*A man cannot write
the account of his
own death and
burial.*

"The Lord said unto Moses...
~~which were the Lord~~ on the comnissus,
which were tvutp the Lord and to
eon all the men which were on the
face of the earth." (Numbers xii. 3).

"Now the man Moses was very
meek, above all the men which were
on the face of the earth." (Numbers
xil. 3).

"So Moses the servant of the Lord
died... and he buried him."
(Deuteronomy xxxiv. 6).

- Point 1: Shift in Narrative Voice. The text uses the third person, typical of historical accounts, not a personal memoir.
- Point 2: The Anonymity Paradox. The description of Moses' meekness contradicts his supposed authorship, implying an anonymous writer.
- Point 3: Posthumous Account. The detailing of Moses' death and burial by the author is a clear contradiction for a first-person narrative.

The Anachronism of Dan



Death of
Moses



Town of Laish
renamed "DAN"
(Judges xviii. 29)

And Abraham pursued them unto DAN.
(Genesis xiv. 14)

The writer of Genesis mentions the town of "Dan."
But the town was called "Laish" until 331 years after
Moses died. Therefore, Moses could not be the
author. The text is a later fabrication.

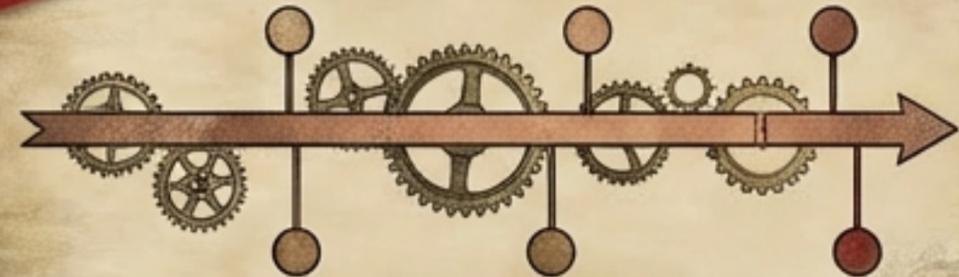


The Anachronism of Kings

Genesis xxxvi. 31

“And these are the kings that reigned in Edom, BEFORE THERE REIGNED ANY KING OVER THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL.”

Timeline of Kings



The Logic of the Forgery

“You cannot write ‘before the war’ unless the war has started. You cannot write ‘before there was a King in Israel’ unless you are living under a King in Israel.”

Fact: Saul, the first King of Israel, reigned centuries after Moses.

Verdict: Genesis was written after the establishment of the Monarchy, not by Moses.



The Iron Bedstead of Og

Deuteronomy iii. 11



“For only Og king of Bashan remained... behold, his bedstead... is it not in Rabbath?”

Argument: The writer refers to the bed as an ancient museum relic located in Rabbath. But Rabbath was not captured by the Israelites until the time of David (400 years after Moses).



Verdict: This passage was written by someone looking back at a curio in a captured city, centuries after Moses' death.



Character Evidence: The Mass Murderer

Numbers xxxi.

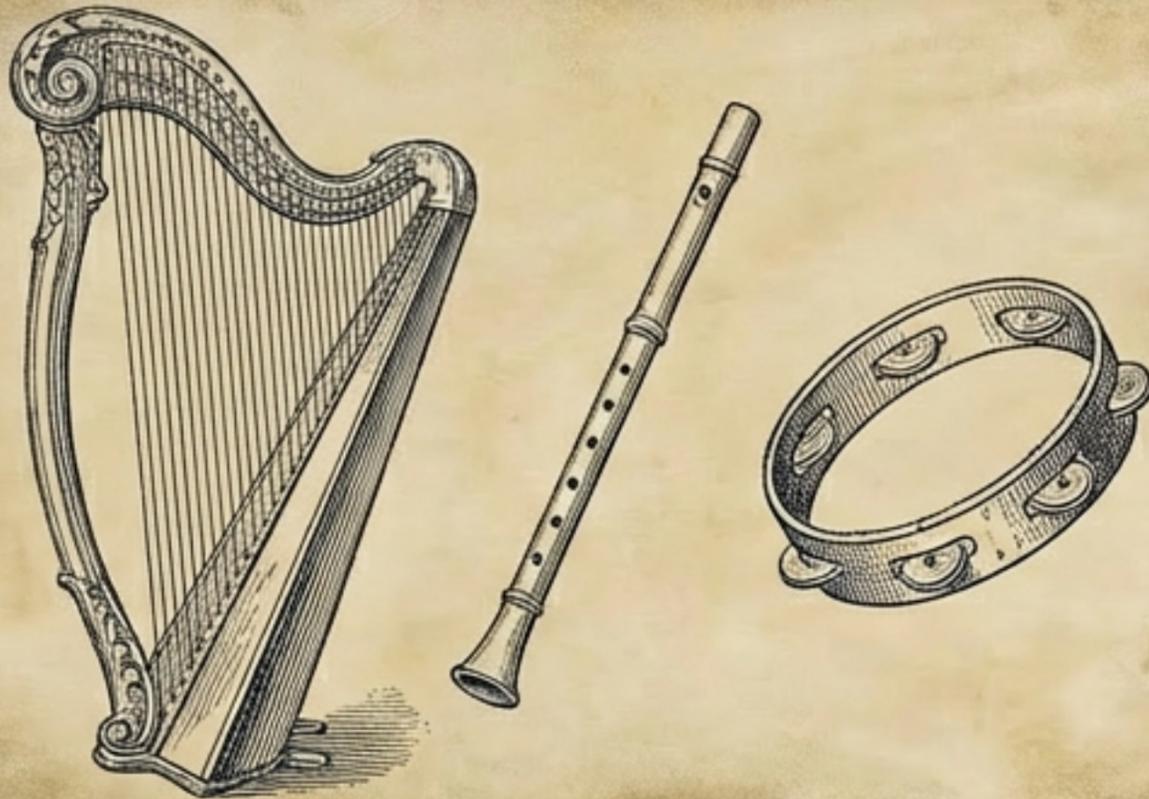
Moses is wroth because the army spared the women and children.

**‘Kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman...
but all the women-children... keep alive for yourselves.’**

Is it consistent with the Divine nature to command the butchery of boys and the massacre of mothers? Or is this the order of a brutal human despot?

Verdict: To believe the Bible is true, we must
unbelieve the moral justice of God.

The Prophet as Poet

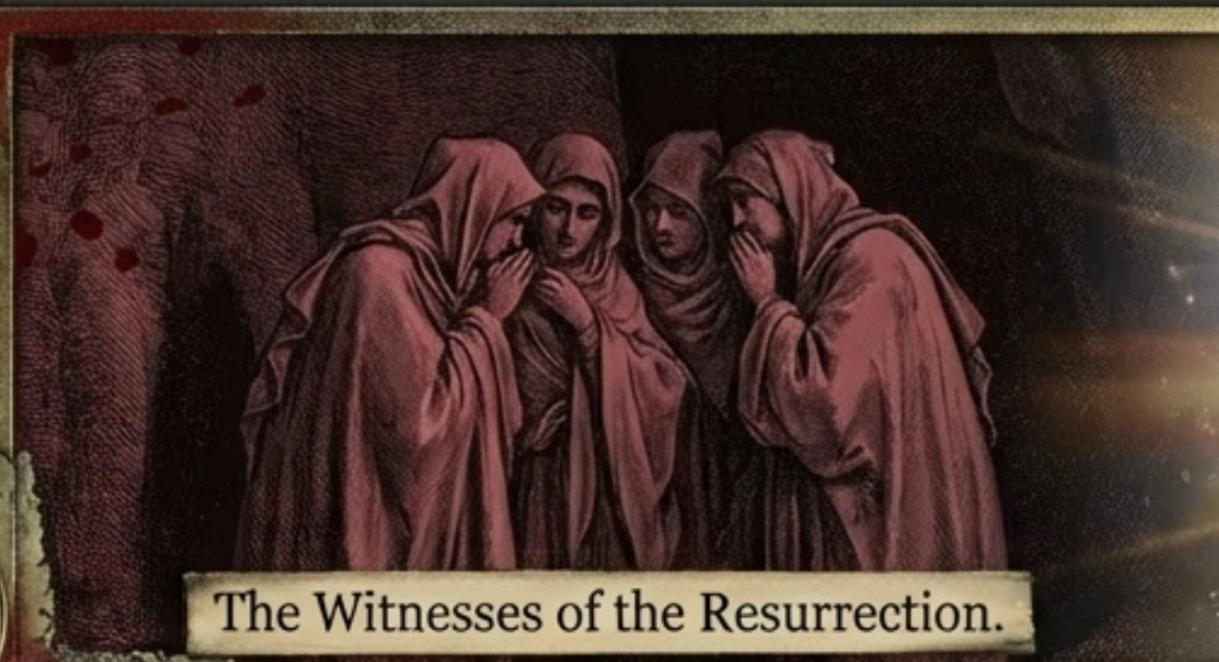


In the Bible, 'Prophecy' originally meant the art of making poetry or playing music.

Evidence: 1 Samuel x. 5 - A company of prophets coming down with a psalter, a tabret, a pipe, and a harp.

Analysis: The 'Greater' and 'Lesser' Prophets were originally distinctions of literary merit, not divine foresight. Later clergy twisted 'poetry' into 'prediction' to create a system of superstitious authority.

The Resurrection: A Private Event



The Witnesses of the Resurrection.



Universal Proof.

1. The Resurrection is the cornerstone of Christianity.

2. It requires universal belief.

3. Therefore, the evidence should be universal (visible to all, like the sun).

4. The Reality: It is told by a tiny handful of anonymous proxies.

“Thomas would not believe without having ocular demonstration himself. So neither will I; and the reason is equally as good for me as for Thomas.”

The Quibble of Redemption

Pecuniary Debt



Moral Crime



Pecuniary Justice: If I owe money, you can pay my debt. The debt is discharged.

Moral Justice: If I commit a crime, you cannot suffer my punishment. That is not justice; it is indiscriminate revenge.

“The doctrine of Redemption is built on a confusion between debt and crime. It destroys the principle of personal moral responsibility.”

The True Word of God

- Paper books can be forged.
- Paper books can be lost.
- Paper books depend on language and translation.
- The CREATION is an ever-existing original that no man can forge or counterfeit.

“THE WORD OF GOD IS THE
CREATION WE BEHOLD.”

Science: The Study of the Divine

The Triangle Argument:

- Man does not invent the property of a triangle. He discovers it.
- These principles are eternal and immutable.
- To study Science is to study the thoughts of the Creator.

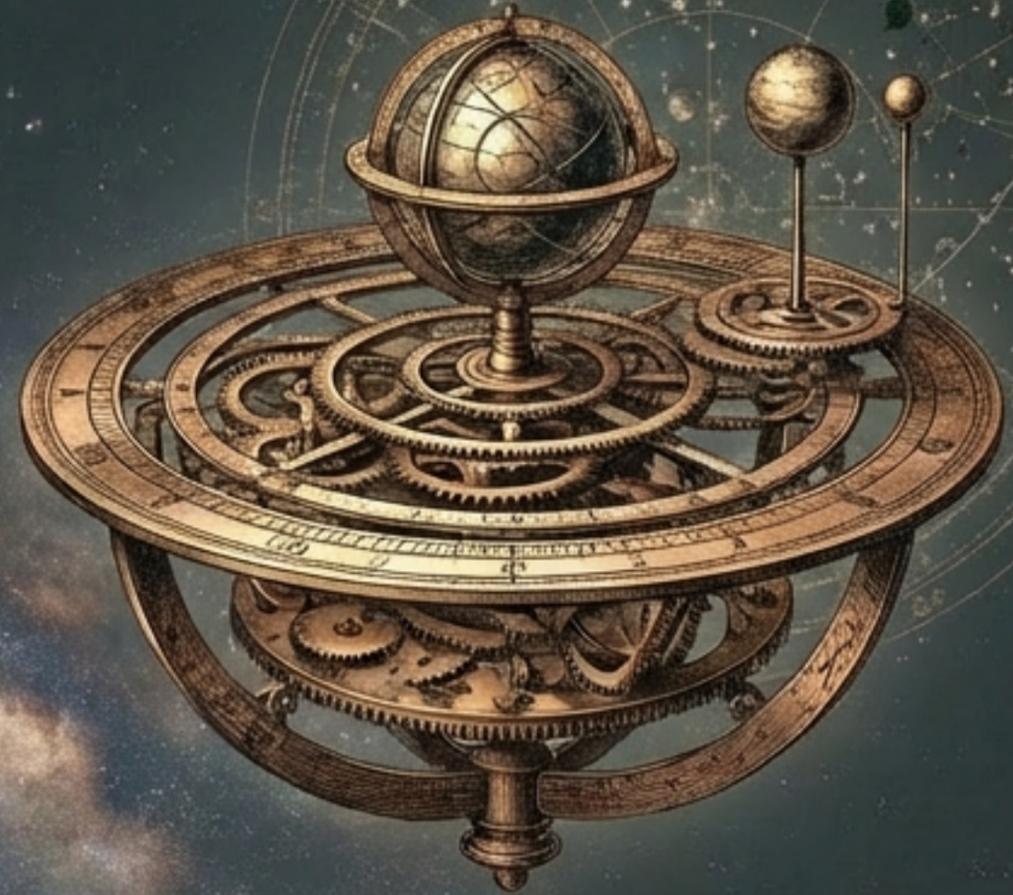
“That which is now called natural philosophy...
is the true theology.”

The Plurality of Worlds

Our world is a speck in the ocean of space.
Space is filled with systems of worlds.
Why would God create a billion worlds
and only put life on one?

“Are we to suppose that every
world in the boundless creation
had an Eve, an apple, a serpent,
and a redeemer?”

The Christian system is too small
for the Universe we observe.



The Two Religions

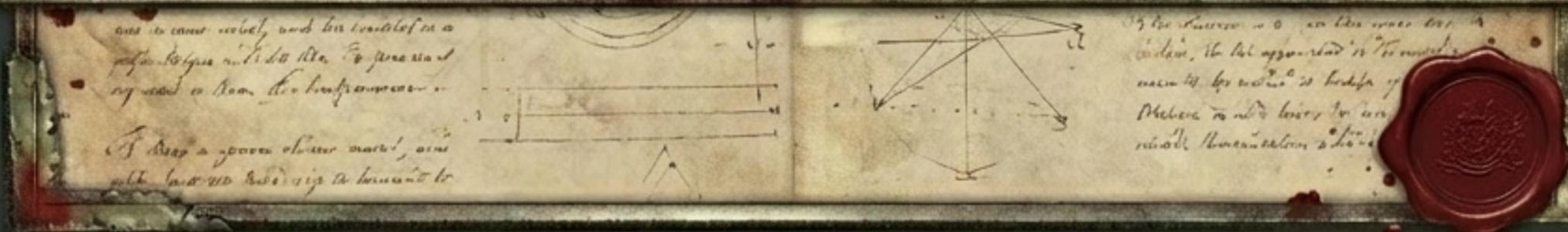
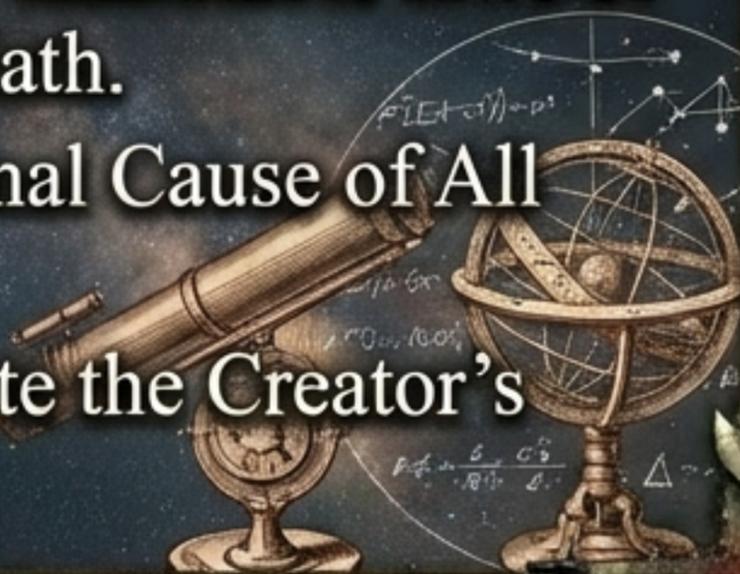
The Religion of Mystery

- **Source:** A Book of Paper.
- **Evidence:** Miracle and Prophecy (Guesswork).
- **God:** A partial, local, revengeful Man-God.
- **Duty:** Belief in things impossible.



The Religion of Science (Deism)

- **Source:** The Book of Creation.
- **Evidence:** The immutable laws of Physics and Math.
- **God:** The Eternal Cause of All Things.
- **Duty:** To imitate the Creator's beneficence.



The Three Means of Deception



MYSTERY

A fog of human invention
to obscure truth.



MIRACLE

Degrading the Almighty
into a show-man.



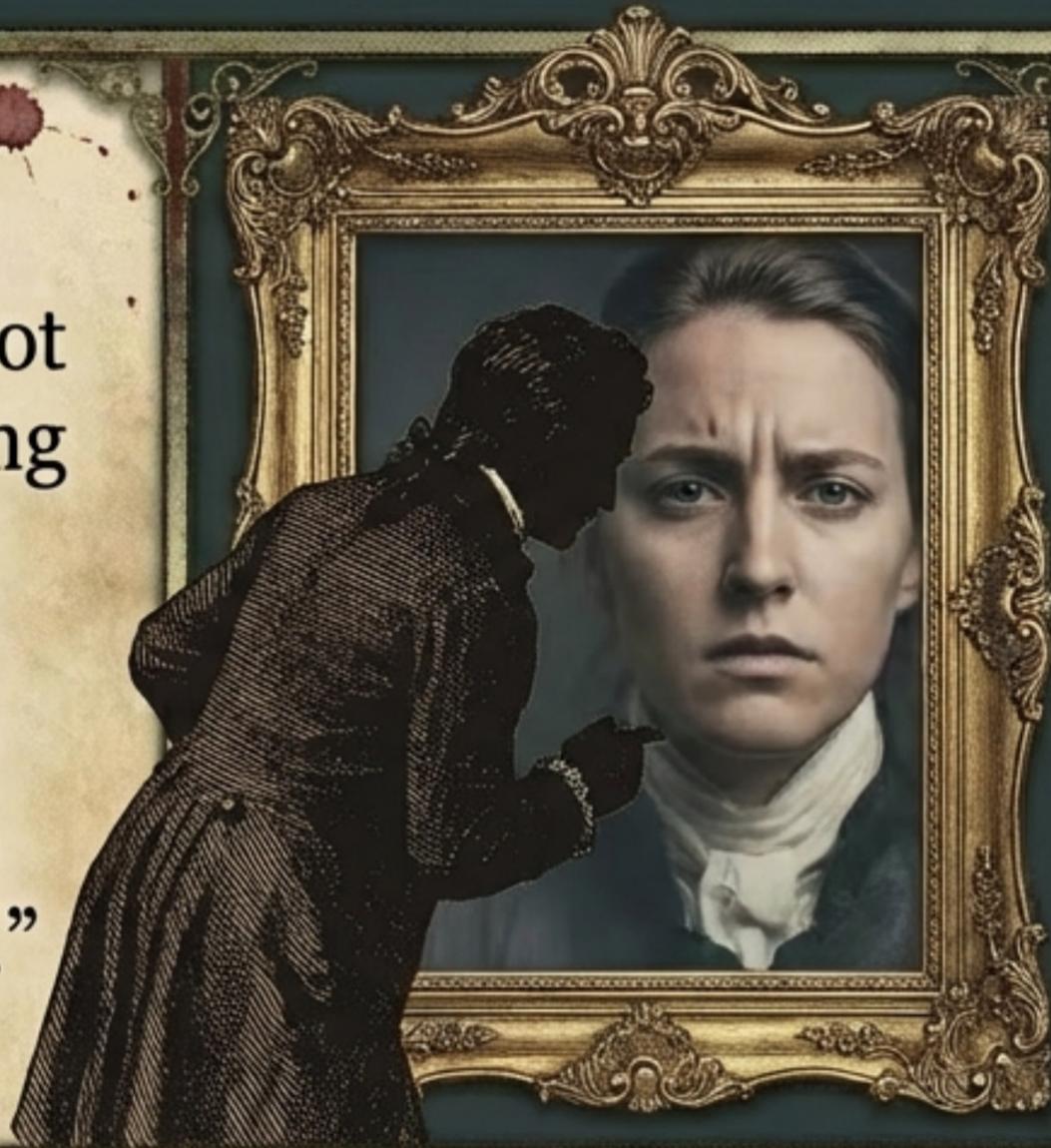
PROPHECY

The “long bow” of a
thousand years. Guesswork
fitted to accidents.

The Sin of Mental Lying

DEFINITION:

“Infidelity does not consist in believing or disbelieving. It consists in professing to believe what he does not believe.”



THE DAMAGE:

“When a man prostitutes the chastity of his mind to subscribe to a creed he doubts, he prepares himself for the commission of every other crime.”

CALL TO ACTION: Be mentally faithful to yourself. 🔍

The Verdict of Reason

- The Bible acts as an opaque body eclipsing God.
- Revelation is hearsay and not binding.
- The Books of Moses are anonymous forgeries (Dan, Edom, Og).
- The moral character of the text is unworthy of a benevolent Creator.
- The Creation is the only unforgeable Word of God.
- Science is the true worship.

The Universal Religion

“I believe that religious duties consist in doing justice, loving mercy, and endeavoring to make our fellow-creatures happy.”



“THE WORLD IS MY COUNTRY,
TO DO GOOD IS MY RELIGION.”