

Facts & Fancy About the Bible - 1

In the last series we looked at the remarkable complexity in both the physical structures and the chemical processes which are involved in photosynthesis. The parallel occurrence of these components points overwhelmingly at the intervention of a highly intelligent personal designer. Despite the unlikelihood of all this occurring by sheer chance, evolutionists and their fellow believers prefer to do without a personal Creator.

Human nature seems to value liberty above all else - especially being able to act in any desired way without the restraint of a higher authority. In the words of one self-proclaimed atheist, "I had motives for not wanting the world to have meaning...the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation...We objected to the morality because it interfered with our sexual freedom" - A. Huxley, *Confessions of a Professional Atheist*.

The tragedy in such rejection is that it is an entirely irrational reaction by those who are otherwise quite capable of a rational response to life's challenges. Those rules which are designed to govern human morality were first conveyed to the nations at large by Jesus and the apostles, while overseeing the early growth of the Christian church.

The church grew rapidly, but as Jesus and the apostles predicted, it rapidly corrupted until the Roman emperor Constantine replaced Jupiter and Venus with Jesus and Mary in the state religion. From then on the church was in bed with the government and they worked hand in hand, Christians joined the army while the state was the enforcer of the new imperial religion.

And so under that system, being a good Christian was more a matter of compulsion than the assurance of faith. Up into the 17th century the word 'atheist' was heard only as an insult, when nobody wanted to be known as one, although men died for publishing such ideas - Wikipedia.

The Age of Enlightenment was a European intellectual movement of the 17th and 18th centuries in which ideas concerning God, reason, nature, and man were synthesized into an outlook on life that gained wide acceptance. "The intellectual and political edifice of Christianity, seemingly impregnable in the European Middle Ages, fell in turn to the assaults made on it by humanism, the Renaissance, and the Protestant Reformation" Enc.Brit.

The Reformation had challenged the monolithic authority of the Roman Catholic church. The way to truth began to be seen to lay in the application of human reason. The old church authority which began under Constantine was no longer accepted. This method of enforcement in which great numbers died was viewed as incompatible with true civilization. In the time of François-Marie Arouet, whose pen name was Voltaire, France was governed by a combination of aristocrats and priests who controlled most of the national wealth, while the population barely survived in serfdom.

Voltaire, considered "one of the greatest of all French writers," saw a show of virtue and profession of beliefs in the church - and became incensed by a conduct which belied a nonconformance. And so his criticism of the Church was sharp - and he blamed the Bible.

Unfortunately he favoured deism - belief in one God who created but does not intervene in the universe. This made the Scriptures irrelevant, to be viewed as merely a human production. Consequently Voltaire also attacked the Scriptures, questioning its veracity in many ways. We are now experiencing the result of this effort, but it was based on a great deal of ignorance.