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## The Battle of Armageddon: A Self-Fulfilling Prophecy

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What if there were no spirits, no non-material beings? If so, since Christians believe that "God is a spirit" (KJV, John 4:24), God could not exist. Because we live in a material world & the laws of physics can only apply to & must be complied with by material, a spiritual God could have no potency in our material world, even if it did, somehow, exist. Yet the belief in the spiritual God of Christianity & its related religions of Judaism & Islam has an enormous effect in our material world. Thus that belief is worthy of examination.

Undoubtedly many volumes have been written in efforts to justify belief in the Christian God based on the miraculous events described in the Bible. Surely many volumes have been written criticizing belief in the Christian God based on the impossibility of the "miracles" described in the Bible. How can anyone trying to be impartial & honest in the manner decide with certainty the accuracy of events recorded by others more than (in some cases) 2,000 years ago? Not only can't we cross-examine the witnesses, but those witnesses clearly had a motive for... exaggerating.

Historical miracles aside, and, for now, the validity of contemporary "miracles" also left alone, Christians cite another core basis for their belief in their Bible: the fulfillment of Biblical prophecies.

I've known Christians of many sects (i.e. Non-Denominational, United Pentacostal, and Jehovah's Witnesses) who claim, for example, that the prophet Daniel predicted not only the appearance of Alexander the Great, but the subsequent splintering of his empire under the rule of his four predecessors. (See Daniel 11:3-4), amongst other international events, supposedly hundreds of years before some of those events took place. As with the Biblical miracles, given that both the prophecies and the prophesized events — except for one — have both happened long ago, we can't say with certainty that those events were predicted versus prodicted, that is, we can't say whether prophets predicted the events or historians recorded them, albeit with poetic imagery. Moreover, many of the Biblical prophecies, such as the forenoted one in Daniel, are phrased in such ambiguous terms that we can't say with certainty what they are referring to, which comes in handy for proponents of their religion.

The one mega prophecy that is yet to be fulfilled is the Battle of Armageddon, a war against God's Kingdom by all the kingdoms of the Earth. (Revelation 19:19-21; 20:7-10). It sounds fairly specific and difficult to ignore. We are — if most modern preachers are correct — in a

great moment of time to witness the build up towards that war if not the war itself.

There is a polarization of forces. Scientists continue to discover more about the nature of our world, rendering more and more implausible the Biblical explanation for creation. There's constantly a scandal in the news involving once-popular televangelists or priests molesting or swindling some innocents, always some Jerry Falwell-type blaming horrific disasters on people's sins, always some politician proclaiming their faith, or always some other absurd example of ignorance and counterproductivity that monotheistic/spiritual religions condone or promote, which turn the wise against spiritual religions. Whereas criticism of Christianity in the name of humanity (e.g. the entire Dark Ages!) seems to only strengthen Christians' faith, being taken by them as evidence that there is a Devil out to turn them away from their God, thus proving their God's existence.

If lemmings were wise, wouldn't they see the idiocy of following their fellows in a suicidal dash from a cliff? Who knows, maybe lemmings who run to their deaths en masse are doing so as part of a religion?

People, however, are far more potent than lemmings. What one person does — for example, a lone terrorist, a military commander, or a president — can impact a lot of people, start a world war, even destroy the world. If we are wise, we will see this. And if we see this & realize the harms caused by not just Christianity but all spiritual religions, we will realize that spiritual religions need to be pushed from a cliff so that we aren't dashed to pieces by them. When humanity comes to this realization, the battle of Armageddon will soon follow; although it will not literally take place in the Israeli valley bearing that name and may not literally involve bloodshed. The battlefield may be in our minds.

If the Biblical prophets & apostles were as intelligent as I suspect they were, they realized that their ideology would result in an ultimate showdown. Thus, when the Battle of Armageddon occurs, it should not be taken to be evidence that the writers of that specific prophecy were divinely inspired — they were just very perceptive.

P.S. My latest intellectual sparring partner, Brendan Jay #454244, same address as me (he okays my identification of him) is a Ph.D. candidate, three cells from me. Mr. Jay is writing a tome to be titled The Heretical Six: Arguments for Non-Belief and a Critique of Faith which he says has a whole section on how monotheism is dragging humanity towards Armageddon. From the excerpts he's read to me, it will be very enlightening. Look Jay up on Facebook, if you wish. For now you can make due with Breaking the Spell by Daniel C. Dennet