



God Is. How Christianity Explains Everything

Douglas Wilson

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The most hard-hitting response to atheist Christopher Hitchens available! Continuing his series of responses to the recent atheists, Doug Wilson reaches a level of wit and insight rarely found among even the best of apologetic literature. Doug easily demonstrates the fallacies, prejudice, and irrationality of perhaps the most talented of the atheistic writers today, and shows how Christianity is the only reasonable, solid, and in fact, necessary, alternative.

God Is. How Christianity Explains Everything Details

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Mark Nenadov says

This is an excellent response to Christopher Hitchens. Wilson is witty and lucid as usual. And he takes Hitchens to task in a serious way.

Since this is a response to another book, I'd obviously recommend that you read "God Is Not Great" by Christopher Hitchens before reading this (if you are able to stomach it). If you haven't read "God is Not Great", you will get some great tidbits, but of course its never very good to read a critique without reading what it is critiquing.

Kudos to Wilson for taking on Hitchens!

Christopher Goins says

A humorous refutation of Christopher Hitchens' "God is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything," written in matchless prose. This is top-tier Christian apologetics: accessible, forceful, creative, graceful and elucidative. Douglas Wilson is a very talented metaphorist.

One of my favorite passages is his announcement of his ability to create metaphors on page two: "I am the Ramada Inn guy, only drop the illusionist aspect now. I write a lot, like Hitchens, and I believe I know how to put a sentence or two together. I believe I also know how to make a metaphor crawl up your back and make an unpleasant smacky noise in your ear. Or, more pleasantly, to get a couple of cute zephyrs to fool around with your hair on a warm spring day. Here, pick a card, any card."

You would have to read the preceding paragraph that I did not quote to get the Ramada Inn guy reference, but that is only page two. So if you see this book on the shelf at your local bookstore, it wouldn't be too hard to read up to that point. Let Douglas Wilson explain to you what happens behind the Christopher Hitchens' atheistic illusionist set. He does just that; and he does it well.

John Barbour says

The first question to ask when someone like Hitchens tells you something like "religion poisons everything" is "so what?" "Why is this wrong?" If we are just highly evolved organisms then who cares? What does it matter? Perhaps some of us got religious genes that make us want to poison everything. Maybe it's our defense mechanism like so many other animals. We are the winners in the great survival of the fittest game. Hooray for us! Tough luck for those who get poisoned.

This is a very good book by Douglas Wilson. It shows that Christopher Hitchens has no grounding for his moral indignation against religion. He has to borrow them from a "religious" worldview that he greatly despises. His gods of reason and science simply fail him. Wilson uses a variety of vivid adjectives that are comparable to Hitchens himself.

Faruk Ahmet says

In the foreword to *God Is.*, **Joel McDurmon** informs us that the CNN news reporter, who with his questions led **Christopher Hitchens** to proclaim his loathing towards the then recently deceased televangelist **Jerry Falwell** by saying "I think it's a pity there isn't a hell for him to go to", is "*reportedly homosexual*". He calls Hitchens "*The Atheist*", barely concealing *his* loathing towards both the man and even the word itself. Furthermore, in a desperate attempt at killing two birds with one stone, he spews out this joke of an intellectual juxtaposition:

«At the base of Islam is the well-known confession, "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet." This defines the fundamentalism of that oppressive and close-minded religion: One authority, and one voice for that authority, anything outside of which is damnable. Atheist's say they abhor this type of dogmatism, preferring "freethinking"—a not unwholesome thing in itself—but many unwittingly fall into a very similar type of self-imposed mental blindness in the name of free-thought. One need only recall the history of Marxist- inspired revolution, and the mass graves of "dialectical materialism" (a fancy phrase for "atheistic struggle," or which could well be put, "atheist jihad").»

Apparently for Mr. McDurmon, one (or no) God constitutes as fundamentalism and oppression while three-in-one, and only that, counts as open-mindedness. Oh, well...

In all honesty, I don't have that much quarrel with what **Douglas Wilson** has got to say about Christopher Hitchens's oratorical protestations against religion; he does a fine enough job at dismantling them, but oratorical it may be, Hitchens's discourse is so intellectually pathetic that, rising up to the challenge is not that hard of a job to begin with. Granted, Wilson does not come off as the homophobic and shallow buffoon McDurmon makes us fear he would be, but he is not the great rhetorician McDurmon would have us believe he is either. I am very well aware of the limitations a book this thin brings at addressing a complicated point delicately, but even though he is basing his main argument on a very familiar ground, which is that, as **Dostoevsky** puts it in his magnum opus *The Brothers Karamazov*, "If there is no God, then everything is permitted", that when you take God out of the equation, you're left with no absolute frame of reference whatsoever to base your morality on, he fails to present it in a convincing and engaging manner. To make things worse, when it comes to Islam, he *does* come off as the shallow buffoon McDurmon makes us fear he would be. He falls into the exact same pits of ignorance and vicious misinterpretation of religious philosophy and history he accuses Hitchens of falling into when it comes to Christianity ("*intellectual dishonesty*", late Edward W. Said would say, shaking his head). Consider this horrendously illiterate caricature of Islamic creed he portrays, which is somewhat laughable in its misguided audacity:

«Yeah, right. This, written about a religion which allows each Muslim male to have up to four wives, and as many slave girls as he wants. This, written about a religion that awards faithful men at least three score and ten virgins in the paradise hereafter. Islam is all screwed up when it comes to sex, but the problem is not that the men are prohibited from it. Hardly. The problem is that their worship of raw power has turned their conception of anything sexual into some form of rape.»

Lackluster, to say the least. For a more credible, engaging, informed and much more eloquent treatise on the new-atheism debate you should turn either to **Terry Eagleton's** *Reason, Faith, and Revolution: Reflections on the God Debate* or to **David Bentley Hart's** *Atheist Delusions: The Christian Revolution and Its Fashionable Enemies*.

Jeremy says

Wilson is such a great writer: satirical, incisive, brilliant. Here he counters Christopher Hitchens's *God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything*.

Probably some similarity to *Why Ministers Must Be Men* (p. 46): "Now what does this mean for the materialist atheist . . . ? . . . These are people who believe that ultimate reality is infinitely malleable. The materialist believes that matter is eternal and that, given enough time, anything can turn into anything else. In the beginning was an enormous amount of hydrogen, with *lots* of potential. This is what evolution is all about. Anything can morph into anything else." The connection to this book on ministers has to do with the belief that there are no essential differences between men and women, because there is no essential difference between anything.

Mark A Powell says

This book was written by Wilson as a response to avowed atheist Christopher Hitchens' *God is Not Good: How Religion Poisons Everything*. Though it alludes to the source material often Wilson is clear enough to follow without the original. Using trademark logical acumen, Wilson interjects his wit (equally trademarked) to underscore and diffuse the rational inconsistencies inherent in Hitchens' claims. Wilson is no stranger to structuring arguments, and he does so here (while dismantling Hitchens') effectively.

Matthew Huff says

Absolutely staggering. Wilson's adroit rebuttal of Hitchens' militant anti-theism is reminiscent of the big kid in class walking onto the court, palming two dodgeballs and grinning through his 5 o'clock shadow. He is a master logician, a master apologist, and a master stylist. But, more than this, he is a dutiful servant of Christ, loving the Lord with all his mind. This book is one of the clearest and most helpful defenses of Christianity against secularist charges that I've encountered. Highest recommendations!

Nathan says

'God Is: How Christianity Explains Everything' is Doug Wilson's reply to atheist Christopher Hitchens' book 'God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything.'

Wilson explains how atheists have no basis for morality. In a nutshell, Wilson says "In order to bring a charge, you must have a standard."

Wilson gives Hitchens credit when he's right, and at the same time Wilson exposes the foolishness of Hitchens' hypocrisy.

Wilson challenges Hitchens to believe in Christ, and be made free from sin and reconciled to God.

John says

Per usual Wilson was definitely entertaining. His witticisms and nuances are ever a pleasure. Even so, he really didn't have many points worth noting. The primary one—which he comes back to again and again, admitting his belabored and recurring "equine abuse"—is that of presuppositions. How is it that Christopher can be morally outraged about anything if we're all just molecules in motion? It is certainly a fair and understandable question. The issue with it, though, is that it is a form of philosophy's radical skepticism—something children subscribe to by default with the incessant "Why? Why? But why?" approach to everything—that is only held up as a tool contra opposing views. The same method is not applied to Wilson's own framework. This *may* not even be a problem in itself, but given that the title of the short book gives us an overarching claim (God Is) before proceeding to having us believe the book will actually explain "how" everything is explained by Doug's worldview, it is a glaring one.

Wilson has one or two more "gotcha!"s in the book aside from the above. The rest is either the recurring presupposition argument or allowing his snark to have too much leash. Even so, there are a few moments when you see his love and devotion come through in full force. Preacher gets to preachin', one might say. These serve as the highlights of the book. Once more, not a problem in itself save for the expectations given to readers by the title and subtitle.

Overall: typical fun Wilson with the attending need for chilling out with the caustic remarks at some points amidst a few, but not entirely noteworthy, counterpoints to Hitchens' original work.

Lucas Bradburn says

Definitely one of the finest responses to the New Atheists, in general, and Christopher Hitchens, in particular, that I have read.

Mike says

Great book. I'm thinking about requiring it for my counseling classes because Wilson thinks about things differently than most. He sees inconsistency in thought that others miss entirely. In God Is, Wilson pokes holes in Christopher Hitchens' philosophy of life at every turn and in every chapter. The major point is that unless you have some authority in your life, unless God is, you can't say anything of a moral or ethical nature about anything at all. And ultimately, unless God exists, you can't have any assurance of anything you think or say. If evolution is true, then there can be no certainty in the universe. Great stuff.

Moses Operandi says

Decent apologetics, but the Foreword was rather inflammatory, and I doubt that this slim burnt-orange book can really be the "How" in "How Christianity explains everything."

Regarding the Foreword, whoever wrote it should be disabused of the notion that Christopher Hitchens is a "radical leftist," he is a professional contrarian. No doubt he is extremely liberal in many areas, but he is rather more neo-conservative on foreign policy issues than anyone who could be called part of the Radical

Left.

Jimmy says

Great book, this is the third book that Doug Wilson wrote in addressing the New Atheists. This time, Wilson responds to Christopher Hitchen's work, "God is not Good: How religion poison everything". In Wilson's response, he is witty and insightful. In apologetics, attention to detail is important and Wilson has the compacity of analyzing Hitchens. You will be reading this and be laughing. "God is" is a a good source of illustrations for dialogues in apologetics, and a great example of Presuppositional Apologetics applied. Though Wilson is writing this from the perspective of the Van Tillian's camp, Wilson writes this book without resorting to the typical VanTillian lingo, a breath of fresh air for some and less intimidating for those who might not be as familiar with Van Til's framework. In comparison with the first book Wilson wrote on atheism, "Letter from a Christian Citizen", in which Wilson responds to the Atheist Sam Harris, I thought this particular work was not just the repetition of a previous book applied to another atheist. Rather, Wilson seem to have taken his literary gift and sore to new heights and original illustrations.

Rachel says

"'You can't leave Kansas without leaving Wichita too.' The atheists can't leave God behind without leaving all that necessarily goes with Him, including morality and moral indignation" -DW

This was a superbly argued presuppositional answer to atheism. I always enjoy Wilson's wit and humor, but I have to admit that his sarcasm grates on me as it did in this book. However, it still was a great answer to some of the best arguments leveled at God and shows that in the end, their god of reason let them down.

G.M. Burrow says

Once Wilson steps into the ring, Hitchens won't hear the ref count ten.
