

## I BELIEVE IN GOD

Hebrews 11:6

September 23, 2007 Sunday p.m.

### INTRODUCTION

- A. ***God is not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything*** (published in the United Kingdom as ***God is Not Great: The Case Against Religion, 2007***) is a [non-fiction](#) book by author and journalist [Christopher Hitchens](#).

In the book, Hitchens contends that religion is "violent, irrational, intolerant, allied to racism, tribalism, and bigotry, invested in ignorance and hostile to free inquiry, contemptuous of women and coercive toward children." Hitchens' main arguments for his points include a combination of personal stories, such as the incident of [Salman Rushdie](#)'s death threats from Islamic extremists, documented historical anecdotes, and critical analysis of religious texts. His commentary focuses mainly on the [Abrahamic religions](#), although he discusses other religions (such as [Hinduism](#) and [Buddhism](#)) as well.

- B. The Bible declares God's existence-Genesis 1:1.

1. It doesn't attempt to prove it, though.

A few years ago, popular black preacher E.V. Hill preached at a Promise Keepers Men's Conference. For 40 minutes he preached on just two words, "God is". He said it over and over. He shouted it. He whispered it. This is what the Bible does too.

2. Either you believe God is or you don't.

**Nebraska State Senator Sues God-Story appeared Sept.18, 2007.**

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The defendant in a state senator's lawsuit is accused of causing untold death and horror and threatening to cause more still. He can be sued in Douglas County, the legislator claims, because He's everywhere.

State Sen. Ernie Chambers sued God last week. Angered by another lawsuit he considers frivolous, Chambers says he's trying to make the point that anybody can file a lawsuit against anybody.

Chambers says in his lawsuit that God has made terroristic threats against the senator and his constituents, inspired fear and caused "widespread death, destruction and terrorization of millions upon millions of the Earth's inhabitants."

The Omaha senator, who skips morning prayers during the legislative session and often criticizes Christians, also says God has caused "fearsome floods ... horrendous hurricanes, terrifying tornadoes."

He's seeking a permanent injunction against the Almighty.

3. He is in the minority, though, because a Fox News Poll shows that 92% of Americans believe in God.
4. Why the need for a sermon like this then? Because that's the way the Apostle's Creed begins.

- C. Let's remember this about the creed.

1. It's the oldest-120-150 A.D.
2. It was not written by the Apostles.
3. It is Trinitarian.
4. Its not our ultimate authority because the Bible is.
5. It is, however, a helpful summary of what we believe.
6. It begins with the phrase "I believe in God the Father Almighty....."

### I. FIRST, THE CREED DECLARES OUR BELIEF IN GOD.

- A. How do we know there is a God?

1. Classical Arguments for God's existence.
  - a. Ontological-I can conceive of God, therefore he must exist (Anselm-1033-1109 & Descartes-1596-1650).
  - b. Cosmological-the universe is in motion, therefore there must be a first mover (Plato & Aquinas-1225-1274).

- c. Teleological-the universe follows wonderful design, therefore there must be a designer (Newton).
- d. Moral-the concept of right and wrong exists, therefore they must have come from God (Kant-1724-1804 & C.S. Lewis).
- 2. General Revelation that everyone can see-Psalm 19:1 and Romans 1:19-20.
- 3. Special Revelation that God reveals himself.
  - a. Through others-Hebrews 1:1.
  - b. Through Jesus-Hebrews 1:2-3.

## **II. SECOND, THE CREED DECLARES WHAT KIND OF GOD HE IS.**

- A. He is our Father (Immanence).
  - 1. Jesus used the term “Abba” meaning “daddy”.
  - 2. Scripture Mark 14:36; Matt.6:9-10; Gal 4:6
- B. He is Almighty (Transcendence)—John 1:3.
  - 1. Classical argument. “Can God make a rock that is too big and too heavy for him to pick up?”
  - 2. Another objection based on the existence of suffering: “Either God is not all powerful or he is not all loving.” The creed says he is both!

**CONCLUSION—“I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY”—DO YOU?**