

GOD 1. There is a God. There is no God. True. And also true.

But here is my personal favourite - there are four kinds of God.

The first is straightforward. It was there before there was anything else. It created the world - but not more than the big bang. This God is simply a physical law - at most it also provides us with some concept of universal consciousness. I like that idea.

Then there is the second God - which is the God of religions.

I can't follow a religion; religious beliefs are too improbable and manipulative and - once they become the devil's domain - evil; it is this religious God in whose name atrocities are perpetrated.

So in this respect I am an atheist. Yet, the third and fourth types of God I can believe in - where God is the seat in us of goodness and integrity; and where our belief in God can comfort us.

As regards religion, there is also its cultural aspect with wonderful architecture, art and supportive communities; I like all of that.

God (non-religious, scientific)

1. *the energy or physical law that underlies the universe*

God (religious)

2. *the kind - external - being, believed in monotheistic religions to be our all-powerful, all-knowing creator*

God (civic, social and communal)

3. *the concept humans develop to provide moral laws as well as religion-based altruism for their communities*

God (spiritual)

4. *the device used by believers to find comfort and peace within - with prayer, contemplation and meditation*

dev·il

1. *the being believed to be the enemy of God, who rules hell and as Satan personifies evil, sin and depravity*

2. *the concept that epitomizes irrationality and delusion, where the fundamentalist mind does evil in God's name*

3. *the device used by humans to externalise evil, in order to avoid having to take responsibility for their actions*

re·li·gion

people's devotional beliefs about the existence of God and His divine involvement in creation and human life

a·the·ists - don't believe in the almighty God of religions

ag·nos·tics - believe it will never be known if God exists

All religions and concepts of God are mind-constructs. When mind is at its best they are benevolent, where they provide us with worthy, ethical ideals (... all of which, incidentally, are also available outside of religions.)

*But when mind is at its worst, religions are a cesspool of ignorance and God turns into the devil. The results are fanaticism and war (... which, when perpetrated by atheists like Hitler, stem from religion-like fervour too.)**

*Is it possible, then, to prove or disprove the existence of God? For the believer this is a rhetorical question - and seeing they derive so much comfort from their belief, clearly some sort of inner, personal God indeed is real.***

But there is no evidence that an outer God - one who is on hand to have prayers heard and acted upon - exists. On the contrary, ample evidence of the non-existence of God is the daily killings of innocents in war zones.

Every time a believer's plea for help goes un-answered, the existence of a caring God is in doubt. The most shocking examples are the people who seek refuge in a 'house of God' from militias, only to still get massacred.

Furthermore, I suspect that if an outer God existed, we would live in a radically different world. Why would such a God give no evidence of his existence? To me non-existing evidence of God proves his non-existence.

**One favourite slogan of the Nazis was, 'Gott ist mit uns.' (God is with us). Probably most wars are excused that way.*

*** The ontological proof: If we can conceive of God, then God exists; I think this proof is valid as regards our inner God.*

When asked, 'do you believe in God?' the only reasonable reply is another question, 'what do you mean by God?'

Once we have established that God has different meaning for everyone, we are on the way to a good answer.

see also: KINGDOM