

The Heretic's

Guide

to

the Bible

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The mind that becomes soiled in youth can never again be washed clean. I know this by my own experience, and to this day I cherish an unappeasable bitterness against the unfaithful guardians of my young life, who not only permitted but compelled me to read an unexpurgated Bible through before I was fifteen years old. None can do that and ever draw a clean, sweet breath again this side of the grave.

—Mark Twain

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WOMEN

Unto the woman he (God) said, "I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee."

—Genesis 3:16

If a woman have conceived seed, and born a man child: then she shall be unclean seven days. . . But if she bear a maid child, then she shall be unclean two weeks. . .

—Leviticus 12:2-8

And every garment, and every skin, whereon is the seed of copulation, shall be washed with water, and be unclean until the even. The woman also with whom man shall lie with seed of copulation, they shall both bathe themselves in water, and be unclean until the even. And if a woman have an issue, and her issue in her flesh be blood, she shall be put apart seven days: and whosoever toucheth her shall be unclean until the even. And every thing that she lieth upon in her separation shall be unclean. And whosoever toucheth her bed shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even. And whosoever toucheth any thing that she sat upon shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even. And if any man lie with her at all, and her flowers be upon him, he shall be unclean seven days; and all the bed whereon he lieth shall be unclean. . . This is the law of him that hath an issue, and of him whose seed goeth from him, and is defiled therewith; and of her that is sick of her flowers, and of him that hath an issue, of the man, and of the woman, and of him that lieth with her that is unclean.

—Leviticus 15:17-33

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.

—Colossians 3:18

Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands. . .

—1 Peter 3:1

Likewise ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel. . .

—1 Peter 3:7

But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man. . .

—1 Corinthians 11:3

Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

—1 Corinthians 11:9

But if thou hast gone aside to another instead of thy husband, and if thou be defiled, and some man have lain with thee beside thine husband: Then the priest shall charge the woman with an oath of cursing and the priest shall say unto the woman, The LORD doth make thy thigh to rot, and thy belly to swell; and this water that causeth the curse shall go into thy bowels, to make thy belly to swell, and thy thigh to rot: and the woman shall say Amen, amen.

—Numbers 5:20-22

But if this thing be true, and the tokens of virginity be not found for the damsel: Then they shall bring out the damsel to the door of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her with stones that she die. . .

—Deuteronomy 22:20-21

Now that she is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth supplications and prayers night and day. But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.

—1 Timothy 5:5-6

Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.

—1 Corinthians 14:34

Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

—1 Timothy 2:11-12

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church. . .

—Ephesians 5:22-23

SEX

It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

—1 Corinthians 7:1

For there are some eunuchs which were so born from their mother's womb; and there are some eunuchs which were made eunuchs of men; and there be eunuchs which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it.

—Matthew 19:12

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.

—1 Peter 2:11

For I would that all men were even as I myself [see Matthew 19:12] . . . I say therefore to the unmarried and widows. It is good for them if they abide even as I. But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.

—1 Corinthians 7:7-9

Whosoever lieth with a beast shall surely be put to death.

—Exodus 22:19

And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

—Leviticus 20:10

If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.

—Leviticus 20:13

And if a man lieth with a beast, he shall surely be put to death: and ye shall slay the beast.

—Leviticus 20:15

If a man be found lying with a woman married to an husband, then they shall both of them die . . .

—Deuteronomy 22:22

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness.

—Galatians 5:19

And whosoever lieth carnally with a woman, that is a bondmaid . . . she shall be scourged . . . And he shall bring his trespass offering unto the Lord . . .

—Leviticus 19:20-21

SLAVERY

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

—Romans 13:1

Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God.

—Colossians 3:22

Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme: or unto governors . . .

—1 Peter 2:18

Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.

—1 Peter 2:18

Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.

—1 Timothy 6:1

Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ.

—Ephesians 6:5

Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; not purloining, but showing good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

—Titus 2:9-10

And if a man smite his servant, or his maid, with a rod, and he die under his hand; he shall be surely punished. Notwithstanding, if he continue a day or two, he shall not be punished: for he is his money.

—Exodus 21:20-21

If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing. If he came in by himself, he shall go out by himself: if he were married, then his wife shall go out with him. If his master have given him a wife, and she have born him sons or daughters; the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself. And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free: Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with a aul; and he shall serve him for ever.

—Exodus 21:2-6

Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's...

—Matthew 22:21

Both thy bondsmen, and thy bondmaids, which thou shalt have, shall be of the heathen that are round about you; of them shall ye buy bondsmen and bondmaids. Moreover of the children of the strangers that do sojourn among you, of them shall ye buy, and of their families that are with you, which they begat in your land: and they shall be your possession. And ye shall take them as an inheritance for your children after you, to inherit them for a possession...

—Leviticus 25:44-45

END OF THE WORLD

But the end of all things is at hand...

—1 Peter 4:7

Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

—1 John 2:18

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven... And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven, and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven... This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

—Matthew 24:29-34

And he (J.C.) said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.

—Mark 9:1

For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. Verily I say unto you, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

—Matthew 16:27-28

... the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light and the stars of heaven shall fall... And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth... Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.

—Mark 14:24-30

But I tell you as a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God.

—Luke 9:27

And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars... Men's hearts failing them for fear... And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud... This generation shall not pass till all be fulfilled.

—Luke 21:25-32

CONTRADICTIONS

Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

—Matthew 10:28

... all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

—Matthew 26:52

For wrath killeth the foolish man...

—Job 5:2

... let not the sun go down on your wrath.

—Ephesians 4:26

And no man hath ascended up to heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

—John 3:13

... and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

—2 Kings 2:11

If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true.

—John 5:31

I am one that bear witness of myself...

—John 8:18

(Jesus was the speaker in both of these quotes.)

A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children...

—Proverbs 13:22

Sell that ye have and give alms...

—Luke 12:33

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord... Wealth and riches shall be in his house...

—Psalms 112:1-3

It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

—Matthew 19:24

I and my father are one.

—John 10:30

... I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

—John 14:28

(Jesus was the speaker in both of these quotes.)

... the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and come forth...

—John 5:28-29

As the cloud is consumed and vaniseth away: so he that goeth down to the grave shall come up no more.

—Job 7:9

... thou shalt give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burning for burning, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

—Exodus 21:23-25

... resist not evil; but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

—Matthew 5:39

Honor thy father and thy mother.

—Exodus 20:12

If any man come to me, and hate not his father and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

—Luke 14:26

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth . . .

—Matthew 6:19

In the house of the righteous is much treasure . . .

—Proverbs 15:6

I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.

—Genesis 32:30

No man hath seen God at any time.

—John 1:18

The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father.

—Ezekiel 18:20

... I the lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.

—Exodus 20:5

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

—Proverbs 3:13

For in much wisdom is much grief; and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.

—Ecclesiastes 1:18

... the earth abideth forever.

—Ecclesiastes 1:4

... the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and works that are therein shall be burned up.

—2 Peter 3:10

... for I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger forever.

—Jeremiah 3:12

Ye have kindled a fire in mine anger, which shall burn forever.

—Jeremiah 17:4

... God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man.

—James 1:13

And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham.

—Genesis 22:1

ATROCITIES AND ABSURDITIES

And when the Lord thy God hath delivered it unto thine hands, thou shalt smite every male thereof with the edge of the sword; but the women, and the little ones, and the cattle, and all that is in the city, even all the spoil thereof, shalt thou take unto thyself; and thou shalt eat the spoil of thine enemies, which the Lord thy God hath given thee.

—Deuteronomy 20:13-14

For my love they are my adversaries. . . . When he shall be judged, let him be condemned. . . . Let his days be few; and let another take his office. Let his children be fatherless, and his wife a widow. Let his children be continually vagabonds, and beg; let them seek their bread also out of their desolate places. Let the extortioner catch all that he hath; and let the strangers spoil his labour. Let there be none to extend mercy unto him: neither let there be any to favour his fatherless children. Let his posterity be cut off; and in the generation following let their name be blotted out.

—Psalm 109:4-13

Then said Jesus unto his disciples. If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

—Matthew 16:24

And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: for it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: where the worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

—Mark 9:43-44

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft. . . .

—1 Samuel 15:23

(Moses to his soldiers): Now therefore kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman that hath known man by lying with him. But all the women children, that have not know a man by lying with him, keep alive for yourselves.

—Numbers 31:17-18

... I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

—Job 42:6

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

—Mark 16:17-18

For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews: Who both killed the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men.

—1 Thessalonians 2:14-15

But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.

—Luke 19:27

Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross...

—Mark 9:34

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe: In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.

—Mark 19:16-18

And I (God) will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts; but my face shall not be seen.

—Exodus 33:23

Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together and burned them... So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

—Acts 19:19-20

... if through my falsehood God's truthfulness abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

—Romans 3:7-8

For everyone that curseth his father or his mother shall be surely put to death.

—Leviticus 20:9

And he that blasphemeth the name of the LORD, he shall be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him.

—Leviticus 24:16

Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.

—Exodus 22:18

Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces.

—Malachi 2:3

And thou shalt eat it as barley cakes, and thou shalt bake it with dung that cometh out of man...

—Ezekiel 4:12

Lo, I have given thee cow's dung for man's dung and thou shalt prepare thy bread therewith.

—Ezekiel 4:15

... Hath he not sent me to the men that sit upon the wall, that they may eat their own dung, and drink their own piss with you?

—Isaiah 36:12

Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones.

—Psalms 137:9

Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

—Matthew 18:8-9

Jesus on the Bible

Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill... Till heaven and earth shall pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law...

—Matthew 5:17-18

Wiser Men on the Bible

One had better put on gloves before reading the New Testament. The presence of so much filth makes it very advisable.

—Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Anti-Christ*

If you take the cruel passages, the verses that inculcate eternal hatred, verses that writhe and hiss like serpents, you can make a creed that would shock the heart of a hyena.

It may be that no book contains better passages than the New Testament, but certainly no book contains worse.

Below the blossom of love you find the thorn of hatred; on the lips that kiss, you find the poison of the cobra.

The Bible is not a moral guide.

—Robert Ingersoll, *What Would You Substitute for the Bible as a Moral Guide?*

As a literary monument the Bible is of much later origin than the Vedas; as a work of literary value it is surpassed by everything written in the last two thousand years by authors even of the second rank, and to compare it seriously with the productions of Homer, Sophocles, Dante, Shakespeare or Goethe would require a fanatized mind that had entirely lost its power of judgment. Its conception of the universe is childish, and its morality revolting, as revealed in the malicious vengeance attributed to God in the Old Testament and in the New, the parable of the laborers of the eleventh hour and the episodes of Mary Magdalen and the woman taken in adultery.

Historical investigations have revealed to us the origin and growth of the Bible. We know that by this name we designate a collection of writings as radically unlike in origin, character and contents, as if the Nibelungen Lied, Mirabeau's speeches, Heine's love poems and a manual of zoology had been printed and mixed up promiscuously, and then bound into one volume.

We find collected in this book the superstitious beliefs of the ancient inhabitants of Palestine, with indistinct echoes of Indian and Persian fables, mistaken imitations of Egyptian theories, and customs, historical chronicles as dry as they are unreliable, and miscellaneous poems, amatory, human and Jewish-national, which are rarely distinguished by beauties of the highest order, but frequently by superfluity of expression, coarseness, bad taste, and genuine Oriental sensuality.

—Max Nordau, *Conventional Lies of Our Civilization*

A Bible-Thumpin' Fool on the Bible

Bible, Babel, bubble!

—Thomas Muntzer (16th-century Protestant mystic)

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...you say...the bible is still the greatest book in the world. It is good and it is true.

Well, I say, "Like hell it is." It is poor literature, poor history, poor ethics. It exalts cruelty, sadism, insanity, irrationality, slavery, sexism, war and death. All in all, it has *nothing* to recommend it.

...The bible is offal...it is intellectual garbage.

—Madalyn Murray-O'Hair