



ATHEISM
A WORLD
WITHOUT
GOD

Featuring Buddhism

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Introduction

Atheism is the belief that there is no God. Atheists consider God as non-existent, unnecessary, unwanted, and offensive. Unbelief in God blinds their minds from "seeing" that God is their loving Creator Father, the Source of every blessing in their lives. With a mind-set that the world came into existence without a supernatural Creator God, atheists have created philosophies and theories, such as:

- Evolution - life started without God
- Reincarnation - life returns without God
- Humanism - humans are gods
- Naturalism - nothing is supernatural
- Pantheism - everything is god
- Idolatry - worshiping things as god

This booklet features the atheistic religious philosophy of Buddhism versus the Creator God.

NOTE

The information on Buddhism can be verified in Buddhist teachings found in literature, websites, and churches.

The information on God is found in the Holy Bible. Scriptures are quoted from the following versions for easier understanding: New King James Version, New International Version, The Living Bible, New Living Translation

Buddha's Ultimate Reality

Before he became known as BUDDHA, Siddhartha Gautama was a Hindu prince in India. He was a strong atheist who rejected the gods and rituals of his Hindu culture; and he closed his mind to the existence of a supernatural Creator God.

In search of answers to life, he studied under gurus and subjected himself to extreme fasts and meditations. Finally his mind "awakened" to the "**Ultimate Reality** of how life really is". He saw everything in a state of *impermanence* and constant change. Nothing was permanent except the "void of the universe." Thereafter, he became known as "Shakyamuni BUDDHA, the Enlightened One".

The Reality of GOD

The reality of God's eternal power and existence is made obvious to every human on earth through his miraculous creation. In his book, the Bible, God introduces himself and reveals the truth about what life is all about.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. From the time the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky and all that God made. They can clearly see his invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse whatsoever for not knowing God.

Genesis 1:1; Romans 1:20

No Creator God

As all other atheistic philosophies, Buddhism is based on the philosophy that there is no supernatural Creator God.

Buddha taught that *nothing* was created, and *nothing* caused the world to come into being. He said that everything always existed from the "beginningless past", endlessly revolving in reincarnations.

Buddhists enjoy and appreciate the amazing living wonders of nature, but they do not relate nature or life to God the Creator.

God the Creator Speaks to You

You can "*hear God's silent voice*" speak to you through creation, through the instinctive knowledge of himself that he put into your heart, and through your conscience. In the Bible, he introduces himself as the eternally-alive Almighty God, Creator of everything.

The heavens tell of the glory of God. The skies display his marvelous craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. The truth about God is known to them instinctively. God has put this knowledge in their hearts.

Psalm 19:1, 2; Romans 1:19

"I am the Alpha and the Omega--the beginning and the end," says the Lord God. "I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come, the Almighty One."

Revelation 1:8

No Eternal Soul

The SOUL is the invisible part of humans that gives them their individual identity. The soul consists of the *mind*, *will*, and *emotions*. Each soul has a free will and is accountable for its own choices in life.

In Ultimate Reality, Buddha saw humans as karmic particles in the ever-changing organism of the universe. Each person was like a drop of water in a stream, with no separate identity of its own, with no individual "self", and with no "eternal soul". In Ultimate Reality, "self" and "soul" are merely *illusions* of the mind.

God is the Father of Your Soul

God created humans as spirit beings like himself, so that we could be children in his spiritual family, and he could be our Father. You are an eternal invisible spirit with a soul, living in a visible body. Your life and breath come from God who loves you.

God created people in his own image; God patterned them after himself. Genesis 1:27a

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. Psalm 139:13

The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. Genesis 2:7

No Plan, No Purpose

In Ultimate Reality, self does not exist; and there is no inherent purpose or plan for human lives. Humans live in an *impermanent body* and exist in *interdependence and in oneness* with everything else revolving in the universe.

The self-centered nature of humans causes the *illusion* of "individual self", which grasps for self-importance, purpose and control. This delusion causes *suffering*. But through self-reflection and accepting the truth about self, Buddhists hope to become "awakened" to the liberating reality that "self" does not exist.

God has a Plan for Your Life

God created you as an individual. He gave you unique creative gifts and abilities. He loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. You can discover *his* plan and purpose for your life by developing a personal relationship with him--and by becoming *God-centered*, instead of being *self-centered*.

Long ago, even before he made the world, God chose us to be his very own, through what Christ would do for us; he decided then to make us holy in his eyes, without a single fault--we who stand before him covered with his love. Ephesians 1:4

For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

No Divine Presence

Buddhists must live and die *all alone*. Buddha never claimed that he was divine, nor that he would be *with* his followers after he died. The teachings of Buddha are basically descriptions of how his "awakened mind" thought life really is. Buddhists are taught to accept the impermanence of their life for what it is and accept death as a natural part of their life.

God Wants to Be with You

From the beginning, God desired to have a close relationship with humans as their Father. When humans cut off their relationship with him through sin, God sent his only Son Jesus to die for our sins.

Jesus "knocks" on our heart's door, offering forgiveness for sins and restored relationship with Father God. When we open our heart to him, God's Holy Spirit comes to live *in us* and stays *with us*--through life, death, and forever.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father, except through me. John 14:6

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me. Revelation 3:20

Even when I walk through the dark valley of death, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me.

Psalm 23:4a

No Love

In Buddhism, humans are karmic beings that create action merits called "karma". Buddha's "Four Noble Truths" state that all desires and attachments to anything *good or evil* create negative "karma" which binds humans to more suffering and reincarnations.

Love creates negative "karma", because it makes people become attached to and desire impermanent things and people they love.

God Loves You Personally

God loves you personally and passionately. Father God demonstrated his love for you by sacrificing his only Son Jesus to save you. Jesus loved you so much that he died on a cross to pay for your sins with his blood. The greatest fulfillment of human life comes from loving God and loving people.

How precious it is, Lord, to realize that you are thinking about me constantly! I can't even count how many times a day your thoughts turn toward me. And when I waken in the morning, you are still thinking of me!

Psalm 139:17, 18

Live a life filled with love for others, following the example of Christ, who loved you and gave himself as a sacrifice to take away your sins.

Ephesians 5:2a

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

Matthew 22:37

No Miracles

Atheists pride themselves on being much too intellectual and too scientific to believe in miracles or in a supernatural God. Buddha believed in a natural world, ruled by the natural Law of Karma (the law of cause and effect). He said that those who believe in miracles *cannot* be his followers.

God's Ultimate Miracle for You

Miracles are supernatural acts of God, *impossible* for human minds to understand. The ultimate miracle you can receive from God is the miracle of being "born again". You can receive this miracle when you choose to believe *by faith* that Jesus died for your sins, and accept him as your Savior. Instantly, God's Holy Spirit comes to live in your heart, and you are spiritually born into the Kingdom of God. Miraculously, you become aware that God is your Father, and you can talk with him heart to heart through the miracle of prayer.

Unless you are born again, you can never see the Kingdom of God. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives new life from heaven.

John 3:3b, 6

To all who believed Jesus and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn! This rebirth comes from God. John.1:12, 13a,c

Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible. Matthew 19:26b

No Savior

Buddha told his monks to *save themselves* by following his teachings by *self-effort* alone.

However, 1,600 years after Buddha died, a monk named Shinran Shonin decided it was impossible for humans to save themselves by self-effort. Thus he founded the Pure Land sect of Buddhism requiring no self-effort, but *only faith* in "*Amida Buddha*," a *Symbolic Form that represents Buddha's teachings and compassion*. Pure Land Buddhists believe in Amida's Vow that after they die, he will birth them into "Amida's Pure Land" where they will become a Buddha. Becoming a "Buddha" *means becoming enlightened*. Pure Land is not a place, but *a term representing Amida's Vow*.

God's Son Came to Save You

Human nature is selfish and sinful; and it is impossible for even nice people to earn Heaven. But based on Jesus' death that paid for mankind's sins, *God promised* to forgive and cleanse all sins from every person who accepts Jesus as their Savior and asks forgiveness for their sins. God also *promised* them the *free gift* of eternal life in Heaven

All have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard. The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 3:23 and 6:23

No Final Judgment

Buddhism is an impersonal religion. Buddhists are not judged by Buddha, but are ruled by the impersonal Law of Karma. After a person dies, the Law of Karma automatically moves their mind into their next body, where they will incur the effects caused by their past karmic actions. A person may live and die thousands of times, before their karma is cleared for their release from reincarnation.

God is the Final Judge

Each person will die once, be judged, and then sent to either Heaven or Hell forever. God prepared Heaven for his born-again children who love him and desire to be with him.

Hell was prepared for the devil and his demons who hate God. Sadly, many humans disregard God and see no need to trust in his Son who died for their sins to save them from Hell. God will not force anyone who doesn't want him, to spend eternity with him. Hell is a human choice to live in a world without God.

Each person dies only once and after that comes judgment.

Hebrews 9:27b

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it. There is no judgment awaiting those who trust him. But those who do not trust him have already been judged for not believing in the only Son of God.

I John 3:17, 18

No Home, No Family, No Body

Buddhism's ultimate goal is to attain *Nirvana--the End of reincarnation, desires, suffering, and attachments to family, friends and life itself*. Nirvana is attained when a person's karma is cleared. They are released from reincarnation and extinguished into the void of the universe. Their body becomes as ashes, and the person ceases to exist.

Home with God and Family

Heaven is God's home where he has prepared a place for his spiritually born-again children. After death, God's angels will escort their soul to Heaven. They will live in Heaven in their new eternal body, recognizable by friends and family who are also there. Together they will enjoy a glorious life in Heaven forever.

Father God longs to have every person choose to spend eternal life with him in Heaven.

Now CHOOSE LIFE, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy 30:20a

For God so love the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.

I Corinthians 2:9b

Writings by Patsy Oda

Heart's Desire *autobiography*

also in e-Book

Christianity Pure and Simple

Atheism: A World without God

God's Eternal Family Reunion

Out of the Darkness, Into the Light

Differences Between Buddhism & Christianity

Life and Death -- According to Buddha and Jesus

What Time is It?

Heaven is Free

With or Without GOD

Coming to God

Miracles for You

Flying with God

Growing Through Prayer

What Did God Say?

Resting in God

Simply Enjoy God

About the Author

Patsy Oda invited Jesus Christ into her heart as Savior when she was eight years old. Miraculously, she became aware of God as her Heavenly Father and heaven as her eternal home.

But the religion of her Japanese ancestry, culture and family was Buddhism, which does not believe in God or in Heaven. Her family could not understand the invisible reality in her heart. But she could not deny the God who had become so real and precious to her.

Opposition to her faith challenged her to examine both Buddhism and Christianity for over 50 years. Part of God's plan and purpose for her life was to write what she learned about the eternal differences between Buddhism and Christianity. Her autobiography *Heart's Desire* tells about her life with God.