



RELIGIOUS WARS

Religion is not the only cause or justification of wars. But “holy scriptures” often glorify war, call for violence, and trivialize killing and death. Here are just a few examples from well-known religious texts:

“And the LORD said to me, ‘Do not fear him, for I have delivered him and all his people and his land into your hand; ... and we attacked him until he had no survivors remaining. And we took all his cities at that time; there was not a city which we did not take from them: sixty cities, all the region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan. ... we utterly destroyed them, as we did to Sihon king of Heshbon, utterly destroying the men, women, and children of every city. But all the livestock and the spoil of the cities we took as booty for ourselves. [Deuteronomy 3:2-7 excerpt]

“And it came to pass when Israel had made an end of slaying all the inhabitants of Ai in the field, in the wilderness where they pursued them, and when they all had fallen by the edge of the sword until they were consumed, that all the Israelites returned to Ai and struck it with the edge of the sword. So it was that all who fell that day, both men and women, were twelve thousand—all the people of Ai. ... Only the livestock and the spoil of that city Israel took as booty for themselves, according to the word of the LORD which He had commanded Joshua. And the king of Ai he hanged on a tree until evening.” [Joshua 8:1-29 excerpt]

“Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.” [Joshua 6:20-21]

“‘And this is the thing that you shall do: You shall utterly destroy every male, and every woman who has known a man intimately.’ [Judges 21:11]

“Happy the one who takes and dashes Your little ones against the rock!” [Psalms 137:9]

“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.” [Matthew 10:34]

“For I say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. But bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me.” [Luke 19:25-27]

“If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.” [John 15:6]

“Fighting is prescribed for you, and ye dislike it. But it is possible that ye dislike a thing which is good for you and that ye love a thing which is bad for you. ... graver is it in the sight of God to prevent access to the path of God, to deny Him, ... Tumult and oppression are worse than slaughter.” [Koran, Sura 2:216-217 excerpt]

“It is not fitting for a Prophet that he should have prisoners of war until he has made a great slaughter in the land.” [Koran, Sura 8:67]

“Slay the idolators [non-Muslims] wherever ye find them, and take them captive, and besiege them, and prepare for them each ambush.” [Koran, Sura 9:5]

“They perish. Let them perish, Prince! and fight! He who shall say, ‘Lo! I have slain a man!’ He who shall think, ‘Lo! I am slain!’ those both Know naught! Life cannot slay. Life is not slain! Never the spirit was born; the spirit shall cease to be never; Never was time it was not; End and Beginning are dreams! Birthless and deathless and changeless remaineth the spirit for ever; Death hath not touched it at all, dead though the house of it seems! ... Nay, but as when one layeth His worn-out robes away, And, taking new ones, sayeth, ‘These will I wear to-day!’ So putteth by the spirit Lightly its garb of flesh, And passeth to inherit A residence afresh. I say to thee weapons reach not the Life.” [The God Krishna exhorting a reluctant soldier in The Bhagavad-Gita, Chapter II]



The Faithless Companions

will be performing at the new,
2nd location of the
Blue Armadillo Winery
in Princeton, TX

(322 Main Street in Princeton 75407)

on March 16th beginning about 7 pm.

Princeton is located about 30 miles NE of Dallas
between McKinney and Greenville on US Hwy 380

“Religious wars are not caused by the fact that there is more than one religion, but by the spirit of intolerance... the spread of which can only be regarded as the total eclipse of human reason.” - Charles De Secondat

“We all remember how many religious wars were fought for a religion of love and gentleness; how many bodies were burned alive with the genuinely kind intention of saving souls from the eternal fire of hell.” - Karl Popper

“There is a religious war going on in our country for the soul of America.” – Patrick Buchanan

“The moral certitude of the state in wartime is a kind of fundamentalism. And this dangerous messianic brand of religion, one where self-doubt is minimal, has come increasingly to color the modern world of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.” - Chris Hedges

“The Reformation ... resulted in nearly a century of continuous warfare in Europe, in which parts of Germany lost over 60 percent of their population, and the Continent saw barbarities committed against civilians of a kind that had not been seen in centuries, even during the Middle Ages. So in wishing a Reformation on Islam ... might we also be inflicting on that faith the same kind of interne-cine warfare that Christianity suffered?”

- Christopher Catherwood

**YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS
TO THE NTCOF ARE NEEDED,
APPRECIATED,
AND TAX-DEDUCTIBLE!!**

COMING NEXT MONTH:

“APRIL FOOLS DAY”

>>> April 1st, 2012 <<<

**SHERATON GRAND DFW AIRPORT
SE CORNER OF 114 AND ESTERS**

All NTCOF events can be found through our website calendar (yes, website has now been updated thanks to Sarah and Rusty Nejd!) , or through our meetup page, from which you can RSVP, at:
- www.meetup.com/church-of-freethought -
JOIN THE NTCOF MEETUP GROUP !!!

Social Luncheon: Today, immediately after our Service, join us for lunch and discussion at the Golden Corral Buffet and Grill in Grapevine, located just across from the Grapevine Mills Mall, at 2605 E. Grapevine Mills Circle, phone (972) 874-7900. To reach Golden Corral from the Sheraton, cross over the freeway and make a left onto John W. Carpenter Freeway (114) going west. Then take the first exit RIGHT onto International Parkway (121), then Grapevine Mills Parkway exit. Turn LEFT on Stars and Stripes Way, continuing on to E. Grapevine Mills Circle.

Freethought Salon: Get together to discuss today’s service topic or other conundrums of interest to Freethinkers. Most Sundays, over breakfast, at the Hilton Vineyard in Grapevine; see the meetup site!

Game Night: The regular game night crew meets nearly every Friday night at the IHOP on 2310 Stemmons Trail (I-35), near Northwest Highway (Loop 12). Plan to arrive at about 7:30 PM, and stay late playing Risk, Rummikub, and other fun games!

Secular Singles: Freethinkers have met their life-partners with whom they have begun families through the Secular Singles group. Check the meetup site for the next date, time and location!

“Madness is something rare in individuals - but in groups, parties, peoples, ages it is the rule.”
– Friedrich Nietzsche



DFWCOR

Dallas-Fort Worth Coalition of Reason

The North Texas Church of Freethought
The Fellowship of Unbelievers

TODAY’S MUSIC by Faithless Companions
(Ed McGuire, Jay Purrington, Kevin and Cathy Smith,
and Scott Williams of faithlesscompanions.com)

Web Redesigners Rusty and Sarah Nejd

Welcome Coordinator Mark Barnick

Videographer: John Gauthier

Presenters: David Burgess and Dr. Tim Gorski

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