

# The rise of the godless.

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Danielle Teutsch p49 and 52-53.

In his bestseller *The God Delusion*, Richard Dawkins launched a blistering, take no prisoners attack on religion, and all those who insist that God created the universe.

The new high priests of atheism like Dawkins don't just challenge religion, they attack it from all sides.

In many new books, God is reduced to a scientific hypothesis that science can find no evidence for. The afterlife is nothing but false comfort, while faith is just indoctrination.

Why have all these books arisen now? One reason is that there is a deeper scientific understanding about the origins of the universe, which has given atheists serious ammunition against many established religious beliefs.

Advances in evolutionary biology and physics have dealt a serious blow to the image of God as the creator, allowing critics to pull apart intelligent design with glee.

Philosophy lecturer Dr Tamas Pataki says "The intelligent design controversy encapsulates a lot of the issues at stake. This worries intellectuals more than the violence of wounded, triumphalist religious groups because it strikes at the heart of reason which, in the end, is the only salvation we have.

Mark Denford sleeps peacefully at night as a confirmed non-believer. "I've done the things I've done and achieved the things I've achieved without religion. I'm happy to stand up and say I'm a good person," he says. "This idea of someone that's going to judge me at the end of my life? It's rubbish."