

**Our Relationship with God
in 2018:
Estranged or Intimate?**

Chiastic Structure (X)

Deuteronomy

5:6-10 God alone is worthy of worship and service

5:11 Accuracy in language about God

5:12-15 Management of labor and property

5:16 Society depends upon functional marriage & family

5:17 Life is to be respected & preserved

5:18 Marriage is to be protected

5:19 Property is to be protected

5:20 Accuracy in language of judicial proceedings

5:21 Self is not worthy of worship and service

God's Design of Society

| LIFE (<i>protected</i>) | LIFE (<i>jeopardized</i>) |
|--|--|
| MARRIAGE & FAMILY (strong & functioning) | MARRIAGE & FAMILY (weak & dysfunctional) |
| LABOR & PROPERTY (respected & productive) | LABOR & PROPERTY (demeaned & wasted) |
| INTEGRITY of COMMUNICATION (consistently states truth) | INTEGRITY of COMMUNICATION (deceitfully professes truth for agendas) |
| HEART ALLEGIANCE (to God) | HEART ALLEGIANCE (to self) |

Shall I Bow to My Creator?

- **YES!**

- ancient monotheism
- ancient Israel
- Bible
- fundamentalism

- **CREATOR/creature**

- God || man | nature
- everlasting distinctions

- **PERSONAL SOVEREIGN**

- ultimate responsibility

- **NO!**

- ancient myths
- eastern religions
- western philosophy
- modern theology

- **Continuity of Being**

- nature > gods > man
- transmutation / evolution

- **IMPERSONAL FATE & CHANCE**

- ultimate victimization

General Structure of a “Lament Psalm”

Preliminary Address (Ps 59:1-2) – Focused beginning

The Lament (Ps 59:3-7) – Analytical Description of Situation

Confidence Breakthrough (Ps 59:8-10) – Assurance that God will answer

Detailed Petition (Ps 59:11-15) – Specific requests for verification that God has answered

Praise Vow (Ps 59:16-17) – Linkage with God’s glory

Our Deepest Heart-Mind

“He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end” (Ecc 3:11)

“what can be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them, for since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse” (Rom 1:19–20)

Our “Avoidance” Urge

“And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.” (Gen 3:8)

“There is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” (Heb 4:13)

Our “Fig Leaf” Ploy

“The eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves covering.” (Gen 3:7)

Our “Malware #1”

“Has God indeed said?” (Gen 3:1)

~~Special / Verbal Revelation~~

Deist Skeptic 18th Century



Thomas Paine
1737–1809

“As to the expressions so often used in the Bible, that the word of the Lord came to such an one . . . it was the fashion of speaking in those times . . . But if we admit the supposition that God would condescend to reveal himself in words, we ought not to believe it would be in such idle and profligate stories as are in the bible . . . Deists deny that the book called the bible is the word of God, or that it is revealed religion.”

~Thomas Paine, *The Theological Works of Thomas Paine* (London: R. Carlile, 1824), 175

Christian Opponent 18th Century



Elias Boudinot
1740–1821

“I was much mortified to find the whole force of this vain man’s genius . . . pointed at the youth of America. . . . This [thought] created some alarm in my mind lest . . . you, my beloved child, might take up this . . . infidelity; and for want of an answer at hand to his subtle insinuations might even suffer . . . a doubt of the truth, as it is in Jesus, to penetrate your mind. . . . I therefore determined . . . to put my thoughts on the subject . . . on paper for your edification and information, when I shall be no more.”

~Elias Boudinot, *The Age of Revelation* (1801)

Modern Skeptic 20th Century



Paul Tillich
1886–1965

“There are no revealed doctrines, but there are revelatory events and situations that can be described in doctrinal terms. . . . The ‘Word of God’ contains neither revealed commandments nor revealed doctrines.”

~Paul Tillich, *Systematic Theology*, I (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1951) 125

Our “Malware #2”

“You won’t surely die for God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened [enlightenment] and you will be like God knowing good and evil” (Gen 3:4b–5)

~~Dominion under God~~

Modern Skeptic 20th Century



**Stephen
Gould
1941–2002**

“We are here . . . because a small and tenuous species, arising in Africa, a quarter of a million years ago, has managed so far to survive by hook and by crook. We may yearn for a higher answer—but none exists. . . . We cannot read the meaning of life passively in the facts of nature. We must construct these answers ourselves—from our own wisdom and ethical sense. There is no other way.”

Quote in *The Meaning of Life* (*Life* magazine, 1991) 33

Our Imitation “Dominion”

“At [Babel] they said to one another . . . ‘Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens, let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.’ ”

(Gen 11:4)

1563 Painting of the Tower of Babel (by Peter Broughel)



1999 EU Parliament (Louise Weiss) Building

