

## Religulous - An Atheist movie preaching false ideas about Christianity - Religulous Orthodox Christian perspective

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Most of my colleagues at work know I am Christian and as we have our lunch together almost daily, have a friend talks in our rest time etc. ... it is quite normally we have *talks on topic of philosophy and religion*.

Most of them (like a lot of **IT people** have atheistic views as most people nowadays, *even though I'm sure they believe deep in their hearts in good and wait / search for God's salvation and mercy.*)

In that short talks often, I've been *pranked, questioned and probably even thought crazy for believing in the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Gospel*. That's okay as **this is normal as in almost all ages Christians, were mocked for their faith by skeptics and disbelievers.**

In our talks often, my colleagues try to convince me their believe "There is no God" and they think in a way that religion is only for old fashioned and stupid people, because they **think the modern dilusion that science and religion are controversial.**

Since some time one of my colleague tells me about an atheistic movie of an atheist who made a movie called [Religulous](#). After, I've been told about the movie about 5 times, I decided to spend some and research on it, because I firmly believe it is the next "hollywood" style easily digestable movie made "*the hollywood way*". Below is my rationalization and findings about the movie.

The movie title **Religulous** is selected as a prank from the word "**Ridiculous**". Before you further read I warn you if you're an Orthodox Christian to not watch it for it is not worthy to spend 1:40 minutes of your wife watching such a nonsense.

**Religulous** is American documentary film from 2008, directed by Larry Charles and starring comedian Bill Maher. In the Movie Bill Maher travels to different religion holy places (Jerusalem, Vatican, Salt Lake city) and pranks interviewing believers from variety of religions believes. Uneasy questions *misleading questions are asked to different people and he makes prank of answers*. Of course it is very easy to make someone a fool who doesn't have idea about **basics of world religions** and present your arguments in a convincing way among people who doesn't have deep understanding on Christianity branches and history.

If one takes a quick time to research on **who is Bill Maher**, he finds he is a ardently liberal who has deep disrespect and hate for Christianity based on a personal bitter experience in Catholicism (curiously his mother is Jewish) and one finds *Maher disregards Christianity not based on facts but on personal bitter experiences from Roman Catholicism*.

In *religulous* it is preached, that religion must die to liberate the family from unneeded slavery which is pretty much what the communists in the bolshevik revolution believed - meaning his idea is nothing new but rebranded atheism. Just for information, there were people with such hatred and ideas during the last 2000 years, so somehow this guy, reinvents the steel.

In the movie Maher travels the world with director of [Borat Cultural Learnings of America for Make benefit Glorious notion of Khazakstan](#) - Larry Charles (which is another mockery "comedy" movie). Even by reading IMDB movie description gives you idea the movie is not serious and it is *highly ridiculous to use such non-sense to attack Christianity, along which civilization gravitated and thanks to which we have a well developed modern civilization*. What Maher claims is about **1/3 of population on earth - 2.5 billion are stupid and inferior to atheists**).

Here is IDMB's storyline quote:

*Bill Maher interviews some of religion's oddest adherents. Muslims, Jews and Christians of many kinds pass before his jaundiced eye. Maher goes to a Creationist Museum in Kentucky, which shows that dinosaurs and people lived at the same time 5000 years ago. He talks to truckers at a Truckers' Chapel. (Sign outside: "Jesus love you.") He goes to a theme park called Holy Land in Florida. He speaks to a rabbi in league with Holocaust deniers. He talks to a Muslim musician who preaches hatred of Jews. Maher finds the unlikeliest of believers and, in a certain Vatican priest, he even finds an unlikely skeptic.*

It is obvious from this description that the movie is not to consider serious and what the people on this movie would say is not to be considered authoritative as they're not even theologians, but random people. Also what Maher did in this movie is to select weak and mixed people to mock intentionally Christianity.

Even though in the movie various religions are mocked the accent of his mockery is christianity and this is not a coincidence but because, Christianity has most adherents.

The movie is highly manipulative, just like another openly anti-Christian movie [Zeitgeist](#).

The guy opens the movie with a scene on **Megiddo, Israel** with a false claim that the end of the world is going to happen on this place.

I have heard some protestant Christians took Revelation chapter of Holy Bible and interpret the written there about an End of the World all world armies battle. Actually I'm not aware that this idea is ever preached by any orthodox Christian priest, monk or elder but it is more a "free interpretation" of the holy scriptures by some protestant denomination.

Actually an interesting thing about Megiddo is on [Megiddo is located the earliest Christian Church](#), so I guess it is a not a coincidence movie criticism starts from there. The first half of the film is mostly focused on evangelical Christians, how they believe in things like a 5,000-year-old earth, etc. Maher takes a trip to the **Creation Museum in Hebron**, Kentucky, where he interviews creationism guru *Ken Ham* against the backdrop of animatronic dinosaurs with saddles (for humans to ride on).

And he also interviews **young-earth evangelical Mark Pryor**, a democratic senator from Arkansas who creates some of the funniest moments of the film. To be fair, Maher also interviews **Christian evolutionist Francis Collins**, but he too comes out looking a bit buffoonish.

All along the journey, Maher and *Charles jazz up the images with achingly sardonic voiceovers and music, and some very clever quick-cut editing (inserting 2 seconds of Charlton Heston-as-Moses at opportune moments, for example).*

To show off his openness Maher, **smokes pot on camera** obviously preaching "**freedom**" the **american way** and **live quickly and die rock'n'roll culture message**. The movie is quite aggressive and made in a way to make converts. The movie presents the so called **self-fulfilling prophecies**, believed and preached by people involved into **experimental psychology** (which nowadays uses early *occult* and *shamanistic magical methods* and whose practices are not based on science but on believe).

Of course to make such a movie look authentic, **any connection with real historic facts in the movie are omitted**.

**Maher's thesis that all things evil and destructive are a result of religious delusion simply does not hold water historically!**

There are already **thousands of recent proofs, that lack-of religion is not panacea for all problems**, take for example communism in *Russia* and the disbandlement of the *USSR*, Communistic China and the **countraless atheistic regimes throughout history leading to violence and calamity in the world, totally outside of any religious motivation**.

To make the non-sense movie more fun and convincing, **the psychologic method of mockery is heavily used**, everything in the movie is presented in a comedy form.

**Religulous** a movie meant to make religious people look stupid, to "*prove*" that *religious belief and intelligence are mutually exclusive*.

*Maher* spends the second half of the film undermining religions and cults of every shape and size. He

goes to Utah and skewers Mormonism, interviews Puerto Rican **cult leader Jose Luis De Jesus Miranda** (who claims to be the Antichrist), and even gets high with a leader of a religion based around marijuana. He goes to the **Vatican** and interviews some **crazy Catholic priest**, and **Jerusalem** to **deconstruct Judaism and Islam**. Maher is particularly hard on Islam, offering somewhat surprising pronouncements about the **inherent violence and barbarism of that most touchy of all world religions**. At moments like these, Maher might actually find allies in conservative Christian circles??

In the movie, during a debate with a Christian, Maher **repeats a version of Christ myth theory** derived from **Gerald Massey's 1907 thesis that the myth of the Egyptian deity Horus was the source of the story of Jesus**. He makes ridiculous connection between the **Book of the Dead** and Jesus Christ.

It is pretty interesting that we Christians are often being blamed for evangelism and because of that most of Christians, fear to talk about their faith, just because **true Christian faith and modern society living in confort does not align well together**.

The inner essence of man is very similar in both **atheists, christian, muslims, jewish, buddhists hindu** etc. we are all **looking for a higher meaning in life sooner or later in life**. We all live by certain believes daily (**I know atheists would ignore it but, a lot of the actions even the hardest atheist takes are pushed by certain belief system and faith in something (disbelieve in God is also a faith just like believe in God)**). Actually being an atheist is a tough thing, because **atheists just like us christians spend time to reinforce their disbelieve with, stories, question and answer sessions, scientific facts**.

Most of atheists fall in the **trap of disbelieve** either because they're **dishonest in their research on is there God?** or because **events in their life turned in a way they didn't wanted too (because of lack of what saints call humility) or because they want to justify their bad deeds**. Anyways for good or bad most of people who define themselves as atheists and follow the "*spiritual wind of the times*" are nowadays living in the well developed high economies world and it is interesting that in this parts of the world, **people have as heritage to live with general Christian mentality and Christian mindset**. Christian understanding of life in most countries full of atheists is so strongly rooted in society and culture, so even the biggest anti-christ or atheist has a tendency to do goo. That a lot of those **atheists who disbelieve God actually do Christiain deeds** not realizing a lot of their deeds paradoxally are deeds of people who actually believe there is God.

I've noticed **there are at least 3 types of atheists**:

- Passive
- Indifferent
- Militant (Active)

My personal observations on Atheism (as an ex-atheist), is that atheists have minimal or wrong understanding on different religions and know nothing about *Orthodox Christianity* and most even didn't hear about its existence, from the movie I got the impression Maher also doesn't have

I think *it is not righteous to criticize Christianity without even taking full time to study it*. As *Orthodox Christianity is hard to grasp* and unpopular faith, often the **image of modern Christian is made up by protestant Church denominations** and even in best cases by **Roman Catholic church**, so **most people**

**in even officially christian protestant / catholic countries does not have the opportunity to see true Christian ascetic faith** which is still present in the **Orthodox Church**.

The most common attack of an atheist against Christianity is using arguments about the **Roman Catholic's Crusades** and **Inquisition**, which were conducted by the *Roman Catholic Church*. Most **Atheists however does not know that in Orthodox Church**, there was no inquisition and no Crusades. Even worse **Roman Catholic crusaders** came and invaded and **killed orthodox christians in the same way they killed anyone who rejected to accept their faith**, this act never happened in Orthodox Church.

Passive and indifferent atheists often, keep calm and either haven't thought whether there is God or don't take position when one talks about faith.

Often passive and indifferent atheists are amazed to learn things pointing them that there is God and that the holy writtings are true.

The **Militant (active) atheist** is a rare thing to see nowadays as people are taught to be tolerant and respectful to others, however if you start talking on topic that has to deal with faith, somehow **a lot of atheists start being aggressive and blame you and your faith for responsible for all the evils that happened in the world**.

Often active atheists are such because of some personal problem or disappointed connected to Christianity just like Maher.

Maher and other atheists like him *start developing blaming attitude to the Lord and the Church*. The fact that Christianity doesn't fit someone's desires doesn't mean it is true.

In the movie one sees quite of crazy people and religious leaders, which are either uninformed about their faith or suffer from some mental problems, as with most movies to discredit Christianity, Orthodox Christianity stand point on faith is not shown. Maher suggests, as a alternative method to faith, the method of doubt actually by creating such a movie with the aim to discredit religion, he demonstrates totally the opposite, as all his findings are based on his personal faith that "There is no God" and Christianity is based on fairy-tales.

Faith has difficulties, there are a lot of sick people in the Church, things are not ideal in christian-dome, and we have to be careful not to believe or follow blindly everything we hear, but I think Maher's attitude is seriously disrespectful to things and people's believe.

In the movie, a lot of the people to be interviewed were radical and the movie makes an image of Christianity as very radical, but Maher and his movie is just like as radical as them. It is fact that there is radical things in many of protestant christian denominations and many start-up (newly believed) Christians, have the tendency to be radical, however to make his point solid I think, Maher should have interviewed stable and educated theologian and not look for the weirdest individuals and places in the world.

And often try to look for arguments to approve their disbelieve (finding such arguments is a tough think and this is why a lot of people who try to look for arguments *against Christ and Christianity* - like me some 10 years ago often end up Christian). There is not one or two movies made on topic of "**Scientific**

**Atheism**" in same spirit as *Religulous*, if one research on the facts presented in this movie he quickly understands a lot of the presented movie facts are either untrue or are true but have nothing to do with authentic Christianity which one can find in the most ancient of Churches *Eastern* and *Oriental Orthodox Churches* (like for example *Syriac Orthodox* and *Copts*).

Religulous and atheistic movies from its genre are not based on true facts either historical or scientific and even often doesn't follow strong rationalism but more or less on particular person believe. They're looking to disprove God looking from answers in a very biased way.

I would close the post with a quote from the **Holy Bible Psalms chapter, clearly addressing atheist people like Maher**.

**The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God.**

*Psalms 14:1*