

"Moral Darwinism: How We Became Hedonists." Review.

Post by "Daniel" of April 3, 2019 at 9:51 AM

CHRISTIANITY VERSUS EPICUREANISM (III)

"To begin at the beginning...we can see that the Christian God is a creator God. He is not, like the god of Epicurus, a part of nature, nor is nature coeternal with him. He exists as an independent immaterial being. Furthermore, the Christian doctrine of creation ex nihilo (creation out of nothing) strikes directly against Epicurus's doctrine that the universe, atoms and the void are all eternal..."

"...His omnipotence extends from before time to all of time. Therefore, unlike the [Epicurean gods](#), the Christian God is not only a creator but a miracle worker, and examples of miracles abound throughout the Old and New Testament..."

"...Creation is from the top down, so to speak, whereas in Epicurus, it was from the bottom up. That is, God is portrayed in Genesis as an intelligent designer, creating, according to the plan of his intellect and will...For Epicurus and Lucretius, by contrast, the visible form a thing takes is caused by the accidental relations of matter..."

"...In regard to humanity, according to Genesis 1-2 human beings are distinct from other animals. They are the pinnacle of earthly creation, somehow made in God's image, not, as with Lucretius, a happy accident of chance, ultimately no different from other animals. Following upon this, it is clear from reading the entire Bible that human beings have an immortal, immaterial soul; that death, rather than being the natural dissipation of atoms, is an unnatural punishment; and finally, that the immaterial soul lives on after the death of the body..."