

SATAN'S BOOKSHELF

The Take-Away Points

Basis Thesis:

- The fallacies in all of these books stem from one central problem: a misunderstanding of the nature and character of God. By extension, most of these books share an erroneous view of human nature.

1. Machiavelli, “The Prince”

- This world is a competitive jungle.
- Given the realities of human nature, Biblical morality is hopelessly naive and unrealistic.
- Self-interest and pragmatism – not moral principles – should guide our thoughts, words and actions.

2. Thomas Hobbes, “Leviathan”

- Human beings are innately egoistic, predatory animals.
- Therefore, authoritarian government is necessary to control human behavior.

3. David Hume, “A Treatise of Human Nature”

- Rational philosophy (and by extension, biblical theology) cannot defend its central doctrines.
- Why believe anything that cannot be defended philosophically?

4. Immanuel Kant, “Critique of Pure Reason”

- Reason has its limitations.
- We have no basis for assuming that our perceptions of reality correspond to reality itself.

5. Jean-Jacques Rousseau, “Discourse on the Origins of Inequality”

- Mankind is innately good and reasonable, but society corrupts.
- The solution is a society that operates according to Reason and the “social contract.”

6. Joseph Smith, “The Book of Mormon”

- A new revelation of God.
- The LDS Church is “the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth.”

7. Ludwig von Feuerbach, “The Essence of Christianity.”

- God is an illusion – a “dream of the human soul.”

8. Ernest Renan, “Origins of the History of Christianity” and “The Life of Jesus”

- The “Jesus of history” bears little resemblance to the “Christ of myth.”

9. Julius Wellhausen, “Prologue to the History of Israel”

- The Pentateuch was not written by Moses, but was the product of a literary synthesis produced centuries later.