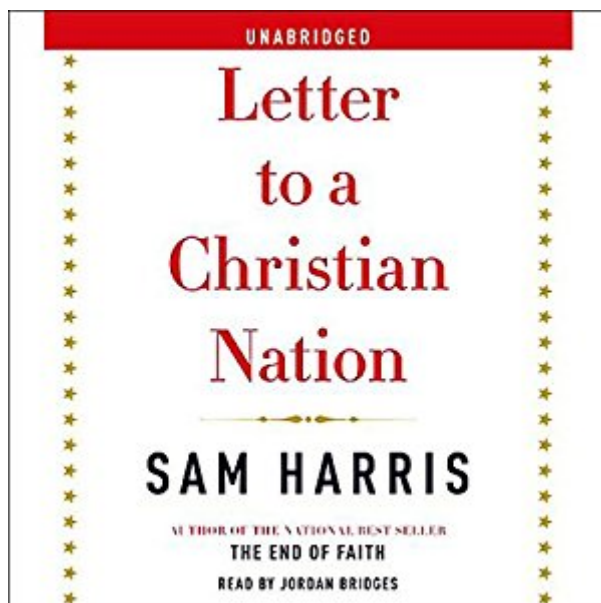


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# Letter To A Christian Nation



## Synopsis

From the new afterword by the author: Humanity has had a long fascination with blood sacrifice. In fact, it has been by no means uncommon for a child to be born into this world only to be patiently and lovingly reared by religious maniacs, who believe that the best way to keep the sun on its course or to ensure a rich harvest is to lead him by tender hand into a field or to a mountaintop and bury, butcher, or burn him alive as offering to an invisible God. The notion that Jesus Christ died for our sins and that his death constitutes a successful propitiation of a loving God is a direct and undisguised inheritance of the superstitious bloodletting that has plagued bewildered people throughout history. . . --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

sam harris opened my mind in ways that i never thought possible. as a recovering christian, i needed this book. i needed it to reinforce what i already feared: religion is man-made, it's brainwashing, it's nonsense. and unfortunately, it's everywhere. harris says a line in this book that i love to quote in conversations "53% of americans think the world is 6000 years old". 53% of americans!!! the people who elect those in office. this is a national emergency. i'm afraid that the public education joke-of-a-system [(deliberate dumbing down of america" (charlotte iserbyt)] and the religious beliefs are making of this -once prosperous nation- a place that makes you wanna hide your passport when you're abroad. letter to a christian nation says everything a rational common-sense human being would like to say to this nonsense, provided by an always-well

articulate harris.

Provides lots of excellent talking points. Good as a starter for discussion in a philosophy class, events. In a sense it is a summary of some of the other books come out on this topic in recent years. It hits the high points very nicely.

Great little starter book for anyone looking to atheism/agnosticism as an option. Very quick read. Brilliantly written.

Sam Harris' Letter to a Christian Nation is an articulate, no apologies challenge to adherents of religion. Prior to reading this, I read Harris' "The End of Faith". While "End of Faith" makes similar points, it rambles considerably and dwells too long on consciousness and meditation. Skip directly to "Letter" and you get the essence of Harris' viewpoint. Harris throws down the gauntlet; religious fanaticism stands in the way of scientific advancements and poses a very real threat to our survival. Furthermore, tolerance of religious diversity is often, by nature, false and dangerous. He makes the point that while liberal Christians feign tolerance of other religions, in truth they believe that their own brand of religion is the only path to God and heaven. This hypocrisy is a flimsy veneer over what is really intolerance of other's religious views. So, while they may outwardly purport to support divergent views, when push comes to shove they really believe that those with different religious views will go to hell (or at least not be afforded the same benefits of an everlasting life in paradise). And, while liberal Christians preach tolerance, he suggests that other more strident religions such as Muslims gain strength under the shelter of such tolerance. Harris makes the point that any good derived from organized religion could stem as well from agnostic altruism. That we are at a balance point in our societal development where we must find ways to support spirituality and benevolence without the need for religious dogma. I found it an easy and interesting read, and Harris makes blunt, rational and thought-provoking points. I am curious to read some of the numerous rebuttals to Harris' work.

This is one of my favorites! Sam Harris makes so many wonderful points in this book. He invites the reader to consider new perspectives, educates them with alternative points of view, and does so without being condescending or dismissive. This is why he is one of my favorite authors, and why this is one of my favorite books.

Sam Harris writes a Letter to a Christian Nation, asking all the reasonable questions that others were afraid to ask. Armed with a high degree in education and a talent to write, Mr. Harris will open your eyes with inspiring insight into the many flaws of the Christian faith. This book will make you think for yourself and guide you away from the stereotype of mainstream religion. I highly recommend this book for all ages and faiths.

This work may for some folks, myself included, be a case of 'preaching to the choir' but I still found it to be impressive in its scope, deep foundation in scholarship and a lifetime of relevant experience on the part of the author. I would be most interested to know the reaction to the work by an individual who may be agnostic or for that matter comfortably committed to organized religion. While it may not serve to 'comfort the afflicted', it can certainly 'afflict the comfortable' or at the very least raise relevant questions that deserve serious answers.

I went to a family wedding in Texas and it rained heavy before the event. It stopped for the outdoor ceremony and the clouds broke to allow sunshine on the couples kiss. I just wanted to throw up every time I heard some one comment how wonderful it was that God had blessed them all, with his controlling the weather for the event. I just bit my tongue but couldn't help but think it would have been nicer if God blessed some of the starving children in Africa instead. Theists are just so wrong believing that their God blesses them while ignoring so much misery elsewhere. Tsunami kills 180,000 people and God gets no blame. A baby loses entire family and survives! God made a miracle. What kind of sicko logic is that? It boggles the mind.

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