



ISAIAH
THE STORY BENEATH THE STORY

So help me God



James K.A. Smith

Faith is fraught, confession is haunted by an inescapable sense of contestability. We don't believe instead of doubting; we believe while doubting. We're all Thomas now.



C.S. Lewis

The ancient man approached God (or even the gods) as the accused person approaches his judge. For the modern man the roles are reversed. He is the judge: God is in the dock. He is quite a kindly judge: if God should have a reasonable defense for being the god who permits war, poverty, and disease, he is ready to listen to it...



C.S. Lewis

The trial may even end in God's acquittal. But the important thing is that man is on the bench and God in the dock.

"God in the Dock"



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Bring out the people who are blind, yet have
eyes,
who are deaf, yet have ears!

v. 8

All the nations gather together,
and the peoples assemble.
Who among them can declare this,
and show us the former things?
Let them bring their witnesses to prove
them right,
and let them hear and say, It is true.

v. 9

*I, I am the LORD,
and besides me there is no savior.*

v. 11

*Before me no god was formed,
nor shall there be any after me.*

v. 10

*I declared and saved and proclaimed,
when there was no strange god among
you;*

v. 12

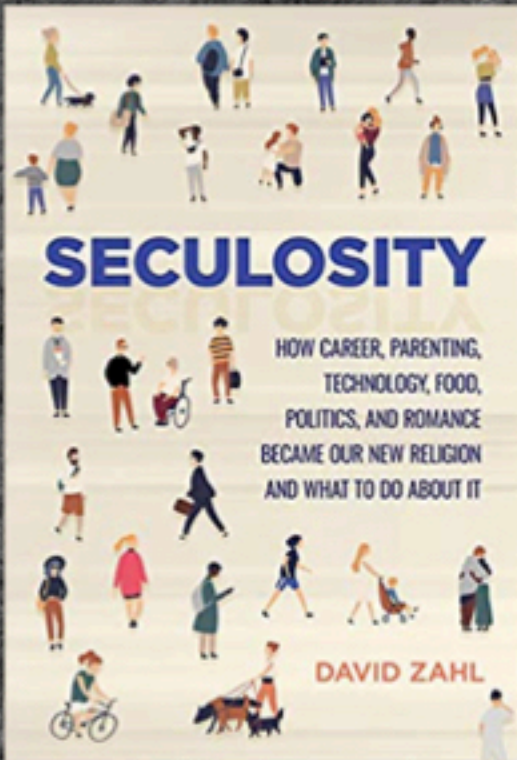
...there is none who can deliver from my
hand;

I work, and who can turn it back?"

v. 13

*You are my witnesses," declares the LORD,
"and my servant whom I have chosen,
that you may know and believe me
and understand that I am he.*

v. 10



SECULOSITY

HOW CAREER, PARENTING,
TECHNOLOGY, FOOD,
POLITICS, AND ROMANCE
BECAME OUR NEW RELIGION
AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

DAVID ZAHL

Thus says the LORD,
your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:
"For your sake I send to Babylon
and bring them all down as fugitives,
even the Chaldeans, in the ships in
which they rejoice.
I am the LORD, your Holy One,
the Creator of Israel, your King."

vv. 14-15

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. . .

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:5-11



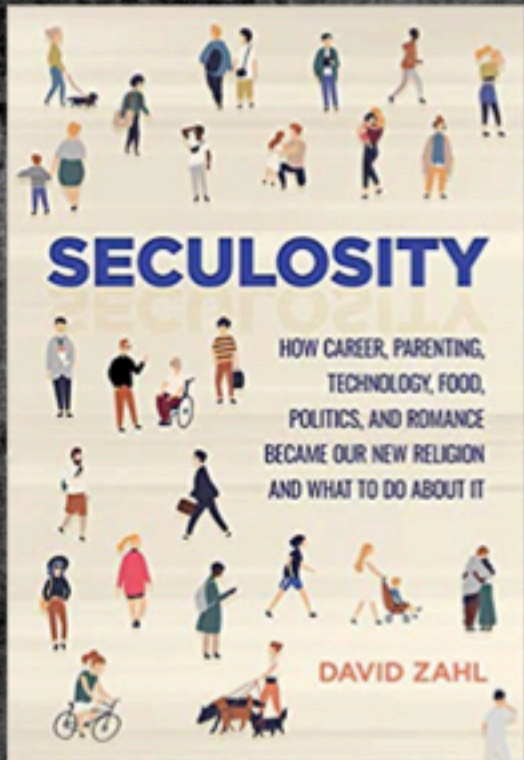
Batya Ungar-Sargon

In Judaism, we don't have the concept of grace. We aren't born steeped in sin, but in a neutral state. You're worthy of God's love as long as you follow his commandments, and when you fail and sin, you can earn back his love with *t'shuva*, repentance. . . .



Batya Ungar-Sargon

Was there a form of repentance that could restore us, and make us worthy of love, worthy of pride as a nation? Or was the sin of our history too grave? Would only grace do? And if so, who could grant it?



... people only truly change when
they no longer feel like they have
to in order to be loved.



C.S. Lewis

If you are a Christian you do not have to believe that all the other religions are simply wrong all through. If you are an atheist you do have to believe that the main point in all the religions of the whole world is simply one huge mistake. If you are a Christian, you are free to think that all these religions . . . contain at least some hint of the truth. . .



C.S. Lewis

of course, being a Christian does mean thinking that where Christianity differs from other religions, Christianity is right and they are wrong. As in arithmetic—there is only one right answer to a sum, and all other answers are wrong: but some of the wrong answers are much nearer being right than others.