

INTRO TO ACTS

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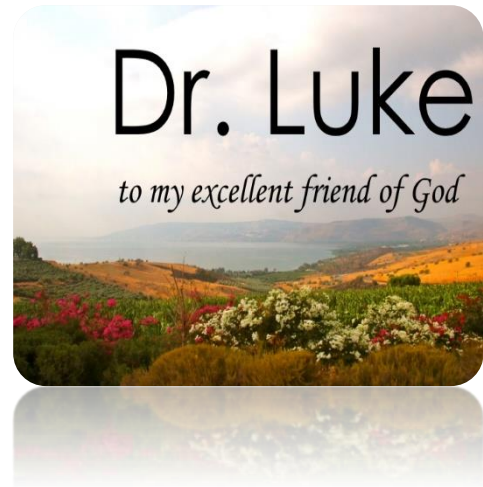
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¹ **The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus** / in Greek: Theo = God + philus = friend,

of all that Jesus began both to do and teach.

In looking up this Greek name: we also see from this opening verse written by Luke, the evidence of **Theism** = God in the risen Christ Jesus, actively working in the world.

In his book, *Knowing Christ Today* © 2009 Harper One. Dr. Dallas Willard, who many years ago... was our philosophy professor at USC, quotes Paul who asks, *why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead?* Acts 26:8. The following is prompted by Dr. Willard's thoughts on deism vs theism.



Paul says, there is a non-physical Being underlying who is able to penetrate the physical universe. This is a knowable fact, though many people, either through personal neglect or resolve do not know it. C.S. Lewis said, what is behind the physical universe is more like a Mind... than it is like anything else we know.

Deism is a system of thought that denies the interference of the Creator with the laws of nature. The term for this belief is derived from the latin word for God: **deism** and **deist**... roman ideas which emerged in the European philosophic debate of the 17th century and are linked with liberal Christianity... which seems to know a lot about God and what He doesn't do; but its source of objective truth is difficult to locate.

This system of thought continues today as deists read their speeches in halls of government, even in the United Nations and similar institutions -- rarely speaking what comes from the heart. Deist influence is steadily taking over public educational systems; and all sorts of public positions of federal, state and local governance. Deists are definitely roman. Intellectually, they part company with advocates of mere Christianity who assert God actively works in human affairs through events outside of nature. Deists reject this notion; but again, where is their objective source of truth to learn more?

Theism and **theist**... derive from the Greek term for God, found in the bible of the earliest church.

Although deists and theists both believe in God; **theists** believe in a living, active God such... as we find in the familiar biblical stories; deists do not. Regarding the intervention and presence of God in human life... Dr. Willard says modern deists believe much as atheists do... though the earliest deists did hold the belief that God had a moral claim on their lives; and in the end, they would stand before His moral judgment.

In practical terms modern day deists are indistinguishable from atheists.

Since **theists** claim God is active in daily lives, it makes sense that theists would observe deists as ones actively or unknowingly in conflict with theists who assert God's special authority among human beings.

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In the roman world, the earliest opponents of mere Christianity included: Celsus, 2nd century philosopher; Porphyry, 3rd century, and Julian, 4th century emperor who opposed anyone who claimed special actions by God. In our days, this roman view makes perfect sense, as deist objections seem curiously contemporary.

Deists assert they are right; and that theists are wrong; and the converse is also asserted.

2,500 years ago, Daniel in ancient Babylon / modern day Iraq... said the final government during the time of the Gentiles will be the 4th government; history tells us it is roman. It is modern roman deists who seek to discredit Daniel. John in the Revelation sees a faithless Mother of whores... who has many aspirants impressed with her faithlessness. It is roman deists who discredit the revelation of John. **Theists, do you see a pattern?** John also tells us the final government during the time of the Gentiles will have global ambitions... but will not be able to work its agenda without a prophet; well, John said, a false prophet.

When John sees this faithless woman, she reminds him of Babylon, yet greater; allied with 10 world governments... *they have the same mind; and shall give their power and strength and resources...* so the final political leaders on the world stage... are working with her; in agreement to her... for a while.

Daniel sees an 11th powerful figure at the very end of the time of the Gentiles... Daniel writes: *a little horn*, from heaven's perspective, a puny pimple of a concern; probably from earth's perspective... very powerful, maybe the most powerful politician... in allegiance with someone who swears she is married, but not to Christ. His Bride is in the next chapter. **Do theists see** a very powerful leader of a country doing the same?

So theists, pay attention: If public policy replaces theists... with deists and atheists in seats of authority who might not be as altruistic as they claim. Don't expect public education to be neutral as they eliminate biblical norms replacing them with things like gender identity; and, of course, free condoms at health centers on high school campuses. Don't expect political parties... left or right or centrist to be what they claim; as they eliminate **In God we trust** from the military... and from other places, too. Expect it! I bet God will test them on that point! Just don't major on the minors and worry about silly things like Christmas -- some stupid, stale roman leftover rooted in Babylon. Anyway, Christ was probably born in September!

Deists in power... have for centuries called their leaders: fathers... yet their religious system forbids them to marry; so, expect more and more gender identity issues to arise; and expect more world governments to increasingly look like the wannabe roman crusaders.

If theists are right, then we should see several world governments, even ours... smashing... hard as iron until the whole world is broken... something that has nothing to do with those who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ. So, where is the surprise?

If more deist driven doctors are really not interested in finding cures for diseases... well, except they be sexually transmitted diseases...

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if more deist educated teachers really aren't into seeking truth, and can't seem to figure out what if anything is evil...

if more Wall Street brokers really aren't into building up a vibrant economy; but are greedily grabbing what they can while tearing down a once alive nation;

if deists occupy more and more pulpits, even in protestant congregations... which increasingly resemble Ephesus, *who lost their first love*; or like Laodicea, who thought they needed nothing, *but who really were poor and naked and blind*...

with Christ, the Messiah left standing outside their door,

with church musicians singing all about themselves... and no longer about the Lord who saved our sorry asses... then expect more loveless, lifeless, uninspiring deists in the pulpit.

If Jesus sounded like most preachers now days, then what He started to do and teach on the road to Bethany, and on the road to Damascus, on the road to Ethiopia and to all the Greek churches; what Jesus started would have fizzled out and died in the first century.

But **if theists** around the world see evidence of deist inspired proponents piously spreading a global agenda... a system of political agencies in charge of governance, a system in charge of monetary markets, a system in charge of entertainment events, a system in charge of sports events, a system in charge of TV and internet media events; and of course, in charge of security and safety events... oh! corrupt political agencies of governance; corrupt monetary markets, corrupt entertainment events, corrupt sports events, corrupt TV and media events; and alleged security events... all done with the intention to control the people.

My bible says: Expect it! It also says: **theists** look up! Our redemption is near.

Listen to one of many lectures by Dr. James Tour, a synthetic, organic chemist; one of the 50 leading scientists in the world today; currently a professor of chemistry, professor of computer science, and professor of material science and nanoengineering at [Rice University](http://www.rice.edu), Houston Texas, as he speaks on: [The Resurrection of Jesus Christ](#). Or; [Jesus Christ and Nanotechnology](#)

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[This is My Father's World](#) | [You Can Depend On Jesus](#)