Reflections on the Emirates’ rapprochement with Israel

It is a just shuffle of the Rubik’s kaaba, but we must not forget the WHOLE (HOLY) solution to true peace, not least Jewish sovereignty of Judea and Samaria

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Introduction

This discursive and multi-faceted essay is an appeal for much-needed holistic thinking to engender a better understanding of antisemitism and anti-Israelism. The thawing of relations between some of the Gulf states and Israel is a good move, but it barely addresses the underlying and deepening global crisis: the resurgence of extremely virulent forms of antisemitism/anti-Israelism that have been consuming the world since the turn of the millennium.

In this piece I argue that the most obvious threat to global peace – the Jihadist Islamism now pervading the Middle East and North Africa and the Islamic world in general – has long been in symbiosis with an insidious threat to true peace: the intellectually-aggressive atheism of the West (particularly Europe) that I will refer to as scientism. The symbiosis between Islamism and Scientism is sometimes unwitting, and sometimes intentional: there are Western scientists whose anti-Israelism causes them to give succour to, and share propaganda with, Jihadist organisations in the Holy Land. I have been intending for some time to write about this symbiosis between the apparently opposing movements of Islamism (ultra-religious) and scientism (ultra-irreligious), and this essay does so in the wake of the recent rapprochement of the UAE with Israel: the “Abraham Accord”: badly-named in my view, but which allows us to rethink things with cautious optimism. The foundation of the ‘West’s’ science, after all, came from the Muslim Arabs. Today, good science – and good philosophy of science – is as important to our prosperity and health as good philosophical theology.

I also remind the reader that underlying of all this is almost two millennia of Christian antisemitism, about which I have written much elsewhere, including a 55,000 word essay largely on the antisemitism/anti-Israelism in my own faith community: the Church of England. British antisemitism, usually disguised in polite society as anti-Israelism, has become increasingly virulent since the turn of the millennium, in the churches and wider society, including the Labour Party, the universities, and NGOs/charities such as Amnesty, Oxfam, Islamic Relief Worldwide, Christian Aid, Quakers in Britain, Red Cross, etc. (search the website of NGO Monitor).2

In France, things are even worse. In early 2019 President Macron acknowledged there is a “resurgence of antisemitism unseen since World War II”. In the past decade, violence and intimidation has resulted in a mass exodus of French Jews on an unprecedented scale. “Death to the Jews” is regularly heard again on the streets of France, as it was just over a century ago when the French Third Republic was convulsed by the Dreyfus Affair. Severe antisemitism has also resurfaced, unsurprisingly, in Germany: Hitler’s valedictory city of Berlin has recently regained the title “antisemitic capital of Europe”, taking it from Malmo in ultra-secularised Sweden, according to various international bodies that monitor the spreading and mutating virus of antisemitism.

Antisemitism/anti-Israelism matters supremely in the resolution of global conflict, and in the understanding of human being, which is why I write so much about it. There is no greater problem to solve than antisemitism, and when mankind does solve it, the world will be at peace...
with itself, and can begin to properly solve our global problems, not least the threat of nuclear war and not least the repairing of the rapidly-deteriorating environment and biodiversity on which we all depend.

Even if your worldview is “pragmatism” that allows you to see only practical solutions – i.e. if you fail to see we have deep problems of the human spirit that need to be solved – you cannot deny the indispensability of Israel today: she leads the world in sustainable ecological management and agriculture, ultra-efficient irrigation, water desalination, eradication of malaria, medicine, cyber security, the sciences, information technology, defence, anti-terrorism intelligence, etc., etc. Nations that boycott Israel find themselves boycotting the possibility of good health and access to vital technology. The Irish/Sinn Fein Government’s recent vote to boycott Israel is a vote to regress to sustenance farming and attempting to grow potatoes in swamps. The Prince of Wales last year on his first official visit to Israel year suggested that “Israeli genius is maintaining the entire structure of the NHS [British national health service]”.

Bangladesh by contrast, which suffers some of the worst endemic malaria in the world, refuses to accept that Israel exists, and will not allow Israeli passport holders into the nation, despite the fact that Israel remains the world leader in sustainable malaria elimination.

Israel is the first and only nation to reverse the contemporary crisis of desertification, and is sharing her know-how globally to make the world greener and healthier and more beautiful. And in our world of degraded environments and increasing uglification, the restoration of beauty and biodiversity is essential to the health of the soul, or as we read in the Wisdom of Solomon: “from the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding perception of their Creator” (Wisdom 13:5).

Antisemitism is not just a form of hatred or scapegoating of others; it has a deep and destructive metaphysical dimension that radically disorientates those it infects, spiritually and intellectually, regardless of whether they are religious or irreligious. The antisemite cannot ever be at peace with himself. And where there is generalised antisemitism in society, there cannot be meaningful peace in that society (even if no Jews are no longer living within it). Severe antisemitism has been deep-rooted in all the Arab lands (from where it spread through all Islamic nations) and the Muslim-majority nations of Asia for over a century. Much of it was exported to Arab colonies by the French Third Republic and then Vichy France and the Nazis, and even, often, by the British. It is not going to disappear overnight from the UAE or Bahrain, just as it never disappeared from Egypt and Jordan following their “normalisation” with Israel. Antisemitism/anti-Israelism is always a ticking time bomb, as I wrote in my piece a few days after the massive explosion in the Port of Beirut a month ago.

Antisemitism invariably brings lethal devastation on the society, institution, nation, or even continent of nations that it deeply infects. This almost seems to be a law of nature or, dare I say it, the Holy Law of which the laws of nature are but products, and to which all things in the universe owe their unity. Intellectual and scientific advancement do not lessen the impact. No nation in the world was more intellectually and scientifically advanced than Germany: the cradle of the Holy Roman Empire, and the Christian Reformation, and the Enlightenment. Similarly, the USSR, the first state to put a man into space, became the epicentre of antisemitism/anti-Zionism after 1948. The extreme and murderous Christian antisemitism of pre-Revolution Czarist Russia was retained and amplified under the Communist doctrine of “Scientific Atheism”.


1. Islamism and Scientism

Islamism and scientism share nothing in common apart from antisemitism. The antisemitism in Islamism is explicit. Indeed, at the core of the Islamist ideology, according to its very creators – the Muslim Brotherhood – is the extermination of Jews, down to the very last one (this religious obligation was written into the Hamas Charter, Hamas being “the Muslim Brotherhood in Palestine”, according to same charter).

The antisemitism in scientism is usually implicit and is perhaps not usually self-acknowledged and self-diagnosed by its adherents.

In 2012, Rabbi Lord Sacks (then Chief Rabbi) in a televised BBC discussion with Richard Dawkins told Dawkins how much he admired his writings on the natural world, but that his book The God Delusion (2006) is “profoundly antisemitic”. Sacks correctly pointed out to Dawkins that he is not just an atheist, he is a Christian atheist. Dawkins’ scientism employs the antisemitic tropes of his devout Christian upbringing (Dawkins chose to be “confirmed” an Anglican in his youth, the Anglican copy-and-paste equivalent of Jesus’ bar mitzvah), using Christian expressions such as “Old Testament” and, worse, “God of the Old Testament”.

Scientism, like Islamism, and like Christian “replacement theology”, is ideologically believed by its adherents to be the desired goal of history. Its ‘priests’ (we will return the notion of a “scientific priesthood”) all have their reasons for needing to undermine the “God of the Old Testament”, or God of Israel and pointing to alternative ideas of human progress and global goals.

[ There was no notion of “history”, or “progress”, anywhere until its divine revelation to the People Israel less than a mere 4000 years ago, a mere second before midnight if the age of Earth were reduced to a 24-hour clock.

Even for the most advanced peoples, such as the Egyptians, Greeks, Phoenicians and Chinese, and the Confucians, Taoists and the Buddhists, time was wholly cyclic, not linear. There was no progress, just change: good times, bad times, good times, bad times... ad infinitum. Jews also had cyclical periods and liturgy of course (carried over into the Christian liturgical cycle) and accepted the vagaries of things, the good times and bad times: a season for everything under heaven, which led the prophets and the poets and the people to periods of pessimism, but consistently there was faith (trust in God) that behind everything was linear time: history: “progress”: Providence: God’s promise to work with mankind to ‘repair’ things and bring all the diverse nations into Zion-centred harmony. “I have set her [Jerusalem] at the centre of the nations”, says God according to the Prophet Ezekiel (5:5). ]

Of the hundreds of Dawkins’ examples of overt scientism in The God Delusion is this:

“I suspect that alleged miracles provide the strongest reason many believers have for their faith; and miracles, by definition, violate the principles of science”.

Such arguments are tautological of course, and absurd. Science is, by definition, statistical and repeatable evidence concerning the regularities of nature (and always assuming an arrow of time and causality). A miracle, by definition, is a-causal, an anomaly that breaks through the regularities of nature (or “fabric” of nature, to use a scientific metaphor to which we will
return), and cannot be repeated by man's manipulation of nature. A miracle, in any case, is not necessarily a physical event; it can be a revelation put into the mind of man: a theophany.

Anyone can assert that, in the whole cosmos, there is only cause-and-effect, and that there has never, at any time or any place, been a supra-natural or divine interruption in the regularities of nature, but such assertions are not science; they are merely a blind leap of faith into scientism. The belief that only science can reveal truth is blind faith in scientism, or, if you prefer, scientific reductionism.

Where Dawkins writes “principles of science”, read “atheism”. There are, in any case, no universally defined principles of science. There is not even agreement on what science is. Is economics science? Is psychology science? Is political science science? Is anthropology science? Is the philosophy of science science? Is medicine science? All of medicine? (About 80% of the world’s primary healthcare today is traditional medicine, with knowledge of herbs and plants going back thousands of years.) Is Einstein's Mathematical Platonism science, or metaphysics? It depends on whom you ask. “Science” is a vague and fluid modern term for “natural philosophy”. Sir Isaac Newton was a natural philosopher, but he was also a metaphysical philosopher and theologian, to whom we return at the end of this piece.

The militant atheism of Stephen Hawking, later in his life, competed with that of Dawkins. Hawking went a step further by joining the academic boycott of Israel. This is despite the fact that Hawking depended on Israeli science and technology to make his wheelchair talk, and that contemporary Jewish/Israeli scientists have achieved far more in gravitational physics (not least the discovery of gravitational waves) than ever Hawking did.

Today, the West is largely secular. And the intellectual de facto ‘priesthood’ of the West is scientific rather than religious.

The antisemitic Paris-and-Berlin led EU became calculatedly secular (to bring it in line with the desires of France) and multicultural at the Treaty of Lisbon in 2007. Pope John Paul II – whom, I should say, was evidently not antisemitic – lamented that the Lisbon treaty was “the loss of Christian memory” in European institutions.

Whereas the West in recent decades has become ever-increasingly secularised, the Muslim nations have become increasingly Islamist and regressive (seeking what they claim is a kind of 7th century “purity”). Even the Sultan of Brunei, last year, proudly announced that he wants to make his nation more regressively Islamic by introducing death-by-stoning for male homosexuals and adulterers (and 10 years imprisonment of lesbians), and he wants to reintroduce amputation for theft. If you have ever been to nations (as I did in the British Forces, both Merchant Navy and RAF) away from the tourist hotspots, where you commonly see old men with a hand missing, it really is sickening and saddening to see.

There is surely an element of cause-and-effect in all this. The more secularised and godless the West becomes, the more the Islamists (including those residing in the West) become convinced that they must, for God, raise the flag of the one nation of Islam in every land, using either diplomatic/evangelical persuasion (Dār al-Islam) or Jihadi war (Dār al-Ḥarb) or both.

The “multiculturalist” secularised nations of the West are the shell into which the progressive growth of Islamism – the most forceful and evangelical of the cultures – is uninhibited. Multiculturalism is a false paradise in which there is no dialectic: no robust criticism of anything. Ideological relativism is about “inclusion” not criticism. As an ideology of the West’s Christian and post-Christian nations, the only culture that one is allowed to attack intellectually
and politically is the very Christian culture to which Western civilisation is indebted. No other culture – not even the cultures of Islamism, such as Hezbollah (the Party of Allah), Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement) and Palestinian Authority/Fatah – is to be singled out for opprobrium – certainly according to the French and German leaders who have overriding power in the EU.

And I’m afraid to say multiculturalism and terrorism are symbiotic: the instinctive political response to Islamist terror in Europe is to deny its Islamic roots, so as not to encourage hatred of Islam and harm the multicultural program. In Britain, the Islamist organisations that speak on behalf of the genocidally-antisemitic Muslim Brotherhood – such as the Muslim Council of Britain, founded in 1997, and the Muslim Association of Britain, founded in 1997 – are to be accepted as part of multicultural Britain, despite the protests of British Muslims (such as most Sufis for instance) who do not support Islamism, neither political Islam nor Jihad.

Colonel (retired) Richard Kemp, an Englishman, and a Christian – who has chaired various intelligence committees for the British Government – is one of too few non-Jewish British influencers who consistently advocates for Israel and consistently calls out Islamic antisemitism/anti-Israelism for what it is. He tweeted earlier this month, on “9/11” 2020, after pointing out that Al-Qaeda’s declared primary motive for attacking the USA was the USA’s support of Israel:

Richard Kemp V @COLRICHARDKEMP · 7h
Today in 2001, Islamic terrorists murdered 2,977 people in New York, Washington & Pennsylvania. Since then there have been many thousands of Islamic terrorist attacks around the world & the ideology that inspires them continues to grow with estimated 39,000 on UK watchlist alone.

The very recent thawing of relations between some of the Arab states and Israel is welcome; but curb your enthusiasm. In the UK alone there are 39,000 Islamists on the watchlist. The Arab world remains virulently antisemitic, and, since the turn of the millennium, there has been a “near genocide” of Christians and other non-Muslims and, indeed, Muslims (particularly the Sufis) throughout the Middle East and North Africa (and throughout the Muslim-majority nations of Africa in fact). Remember also that since the formation of the State of Israel, the first Muslim nations to normalise relations with Israel were Turkey and Iran, which today are two of the most dangerous Islamist threats to Israel and to the world. Similarly, when Egypt and Jordan normalised relations with Israel, they remained obsessively antisemitic and subsequently became the hotbeds of the Muslim Brotherhood (Jordan still is), which unleashed the misnamed “Arab Spring”.

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The ideology of the Muslim Brotherhood is “Islamism” according to the Brotherhood’s own definition of their version of Islam. And the core ideology of Islamism – which is more or less the Nazification of Islam – is genocidal antisemitism: it is to finish the job of Hitler’s Germany. Today the intellectual head of the Muslim Brotherhood – the de facto ‘pope’ of Sunni Islam – is Sheik Dr Yusuf al-Qaradawi. He has been based in Qatar – since the recent Egyptian crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood – where he is given a weekly perch on Al Jazeera TV. Qaradawi sanctions suicidal human bombs or ‘martyrs’ in the Islamist cause. And yet he was given a royal charter for his Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, which was granted a royal charter in 2012 (and whose patron is His Eminently Dupable The Prince of Wales):

“Throughout history, Allah has imposed upon the Jews people who would punish them for their corruption ... The last punishment was carried out by Hitler. By means of all the things he did to them – even though they exaggerated this issue – he managed to put them in their place. This was divine punishment for them ... Allah Willing, the next time will be at the hand of the believers.”

Sheik Dr Yusuf al-Qaradawi, Al Jazeera TV, 2009 (Translation by MEMRI)

Qaradawi is part of a continuous line of Muslim Brotherhood leaders during and since World War II to fuse Nazi antisemitism and Arab nationalism with the Quran and the Hadith. In 1950, the Muslim Brotherhood’s leader Sayyid Qutb published his own kampf, or Our Struggle Against the Jews, which remains influential and authoritative throughout the Muslim world to this day.

Contemporary Islam has lost its way, largely as a result of its virulent antisemitism, which affects not just the ideological and genocidal Islamists, but, here in the UK, regular Muslim communities. Just last month (August 2020), the entire board of the huge UK-based charity Islamic Relief Worldwide resigned when The Times revealed antisemitic posts on the individuals’ social media, such as describing the Israeli government as “grandchildren of monkeys and pigs”. (The Quran-inspired teaching that all Jews are, uniquely, descended from pigs and apes, is today standard teaching throughout Islam, from its leading scholars.) Even the British Al-Jazeera journalist Medhi Hasan apologetically admits that British Muslims are riddled with antisemitism, writing for the New Statesman in 2013 a disturbing article titled, “The sorry truth is that the virus of anti-Semitism has infected the British Muslim community”:

“There are thousands of Lord Ahmeds [an antisemitic member of the House of Lords] out there: mild-mannered and well-integrated British Muslims who nevertheless harbour deeply anti-Semitic views. It pains me to have to admit this but anti-Semitism isn’t just tolerated in some sections of the British Muslim community; it’s routine and commonplace. Any Muslims reading this article – if they are honest with themselves – will know instantly what I am referring to. It’s our dirty little secret. You could call it the banality of Muslim anti-Semitism.”

Now, “routine” antisemitism, and the “banality of Muslim antisemitism”, are not good for the world. Medhi Hasan admits that the “virus” has infected his British Muslim community. I admit that antisemitic virus has infected my British Christian community, much of which, through the World Council of Churches, supports Palestinian Jihadism in the guise of “Palestinian Liberation Theology”.

The virus has also infected science, often in subtle ways, and with pre-War roots that have never been properly acknowledged. Until the early 1960s leading universities in the USA had a
“Jewish Quota”. Einstein only got into Princeton University in 1933 because he was Einstein (Princeton had a 3% limit of Jews). Richard P. Feynman, who went on to win the Nobel Prize in Physics, was turned down from Colombia University due to its Jewish Quota in the 1930s, causing him to go to MIT. Thankfully the USA did allow in a sufficient number of Jewish physicists, fleeing Germany, into its academies, because otherwise it is inconceivable that the Allies would have beaten the Nazis in the race to the atomic bomb: a weapon that the suicidal Hitler in Berlin would surely have used had he possessed it in 1945.

Of course, in the 21st century the elite universities in the USA cannot overtly impose a Jewish Quota, but Charles Asher Small (director of the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy, or ISGAP) tells of a de facto quota, which typically begins by campus voting to “boycott Israel”, leading to banning kosher food (on the grounds that its likely source is Israel), which effectively excludes observant Jews from campus, and intimidates the others to deny their Jewishness and any connection with Israel, or to avoid the university in the first place, fearing intimidation and aggression.

There might well be a large element of academic and professional jealousy in all this, of course. Although Jews comprise a mere 0.2% of the world population, they have won over a third of Nobel Prizes in physics and medicine. Leading scholars of medicine are some of the worst and most untruthful Israel bashers of all, notes Professor David Stone, epidemiologist at Glasgow University, who uncovered the deep and pathological antisemitism in the doctors and academics who wrote the notorious open letter to “the people of Gaza” in the British medical journal The Lancet, replete with lies and parroting the antisemitic propaganda of Hamas. Lancet’s Editor-in-Chief, Richard Horton, was later to say he “deeply, deeply regrets” publishing the letter in print and on the Lancet website. Too late: The Lancet transmitted the virus, or the meme, around the planet. The letter opening “We are doctors and scientists who spend our lives developing means to care and protect health and lives…”, is now permanently embedded in silicon and is still quoted on scientific authority by the world’s antisemites and anti-Israelists, and will be until the end of time. Also, Dr Richard Horton turns out to be a snake in the grass, who has long been engaged in a personal “war against Israel” (the words of Gerald Steinberg, head of NGO Monitor).

I think the greatest intellectual battle of our times – the greatest threat to Israel, and therefore to true peace in the world – is scientism, and the scientists who have become the de facto priesthood of the West. We will never arrive at wholeness (Holiness) if our dominant intellectual movement tells us that everything is relative and nothing is Holy, including some high-profile Jews gifted with genius and use that gift to attack its spiritual source: the source that calls the world to unity in Israel and to have no other gods.

2. Scientific Priesthood: The Royal Society of Laputians and Frankensteins

On 20th January 2020, British politicians of the left and right wrote a short letter to The Times titled, “The Time is Right to Recognise Palestine”.

The signees of the letter were Westminster’s usual notorious Israel bashers, topped out by Sir Nicholas Soames (Conservative) and Lord Peter Hain (Labour). I immediately responded with a 1000-word blog piece titled, “There is no two-state solution”. My piece was widely shared, not least by – to my surprise – the eminent British scientist Dr David Deutsch:
I do not know Deustch, but I know of him as a popular academic, science writer, and promoter of philosophical atheism, with a large global following including within the British establishment. His list of achievements in science is remarkable. Unusually, he is an advocate of Israel and of scientism. He is, therefore, at once an intellectual ally and an intellectual enemy.

Deutsch was born in Israel. Despite his scientism, he challenges antisemitism, and challenges academic intuitions that attempt to boycott Israel. Good.

However, I maintain that all arguments for the Holy Land that deny, nay promote, the idea that God of Israel does not exist will, and should, come to nothing. David Deutsch’s advocacy for Israel is undermined by his philosophical materialism, which frequently pays homage to the militant atheists Richard Dawkins and Stephen Hawking aforementioned.

Although I am by profession a scientific technical writer, I don’t have much intellectually in common with Deutsch, who, like his Oxford colleague Richard Dawkins, is a fellow personage of the Royal Society. In fact most of the Royal Society is overtly atheist. We know this, because Dawkins brags about it. In The God Delusion Dawkins tells us that of the fellows of the Royal Society only about 3% would strongly agree with the statement that “God [of Israel] exists”. Dawkins thinks this helps to prove his theory that God does not exist. In fact it simply proves that that the Royal Society is a priesthood of the intellectual paradigm of our times: Scientism.

Scientists who would include the word “God”, or the human soul, or spirit, in big-picture explanations of things are – I imagine – precluded from selection to the club. In fact, this was the founding purpose of the Royal Society, as envisaged by Francis Bacon (d. 1626), who in his utopian novel New Atlantis proposed a Society of scientists, who as enrobed Fellows with a superior kind of knowledge would guide society, with convincing authority, to truth and harmony.

The early Royal Society neither lived up to Bacon’s utopian vision nor committed the fallacies of scientism (they were too good at philosophy for that, and they were not atheists), but the Royal Society today has been taken over by Baconian “scientists”. Perhaps Bacon would have approved, but Sir Isaac Newton (d. 1727), who a century later came to preside over the Royal Society, certainly would not have approved.

Francis Bacon famously coined the motto scientia potestia est, or “knowledge is power”, meaning that scientia, a Latin word for one of the three Latin classifications of knowledge – is superior knowledge. In other words empirical knowledge is superior knowledge, wherever it
is applied. These natural philosophers who completely rejected metaphysical philosophy and sapientia were referred to, derogatorily, as “scientists”, and the word has stuck, and so has the extreme idea that scientists can have superior knowledge, if not unique knowledge, of what it means to be human being. And this certainly means rejection of the old non-scientific concepts of Western civilisation, especially God of Israel, on whom most of the world’s religion is based. The very name “Israel” means, essentially, “God rules”. And so of course many scientists oppose Israel, whose very name is the banner of God, reminding the world that God, not science, has the ultimate rule and measure of all things.

In The God Delusion, Dawkins even proposes his own set of Ten Commandments. He truly is delusional if he thinks he can rewrite the very basis of Western civilisation. There has never anywhere at any time been a successful nation founded on atheism, including “scientific atheism”, and there never will be.

Jonathan Swift, or Dean Swift, (d. 1745), in Gulliver’s Travels, brilliantly satirised the scientists of the Royal Society as “Laputians”, living on the flying island of Laputia. And Mary Shelley (d. 1851) took on misdirected scientific genius in Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus.

David Deutsch FRS often blogs about “God”, such as this (part of his two-sentence blog on May 10, 2008):

“I guess it’s easy to believe God-based explanations if you don’t think about where God came from”.

Like Dawkins, Deutsch commits all the philosophical fallacies in the book. We will return to his “where God came from” statement. It needs deconstructing. Oxford University seems to have become the world’s epicentre for contemporary Frankensteinism, or, the scholars now call it, “Transhumanism”. Its leader, Professor Nick Bostrom, founder of the “Future of Humanity Institute” at Oxford University, teaches that Earth will reach a kind of a priori “technological maturity”, able to create an Artificial Intelligence that is so intelligent it will create a “superintelligence” (a kind of god in other words) that is capable of simulating and running a whole world into which human beings will be able to upload themselves. Through a kind of 3D-printing of the brain (according to this wholly materialist philosophy of the human mind), humans can have eternal life within the superintelligence. This begs the question, are we already living in a superintelligence created by our ancestors (or what Bostrom calls “ancestor simulation”)? Richard Dawkins, who a few years ago debunked this idea, now seems to have warmed to it, tweeting in August 2019:
Bostrom is effectively saying, we can “be as god”, or that we can create a god in the image of man to run an eternal paradise. Bostrom, and at least two of his colleagues at Oxford, have even signed up and paid up to chemically mummified \(^{19}\) in cryogenic pyramids, just in case they die before we reach the eschatological “technological maturity”. If you don’t believe me, look it up. “Google” it. You’ll find it, because the Frankensteinian misdirected Jewish geniuses who founded Google are also Transhumanists who think they can “solve death”.

Theologians have often argued that God would not create a place called “Hell”. He doesn’t need to: the Scientists promising eternal life will create it for you. Follow them, if you think that the beginning of wisdom is to trust ‘science’.

Nothing surprises God Almighty. Man did not create electronics in silicon, he simply inevitably discovered it at our point in the evolution of knowledge on Earth. In fact man cannot create anything: that’s a law of physics, just as the Hebrew “create” (אָרֵב ) the second word of the Bible, is only ever applied to God, never to man.

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As I see it, the primary task in the advocacy of Israel in the West is to tackle the intellectual/scientific consensus in the West that God of Israel does not exist. Isaac Newton, arguably the most famous English “Zionist” of all time – who predicted that the Jews would return to restore the Holy Land as Israel in the 20th century – would agree. As I have written elsewhere\(^{20}\), when Newton’s fellow scientists began claiming that Newton’s proof of universal gravitation was proof that the universe functions without its Creator God (the theory known as “Deism”), Newton added a General Scholium to his Principia Mathematica to make sure his readers knew that universal gravitation is the very breath of God: God of Israel, in whom and through whom the universe is sustained.

The primary intellectual task of our times is to debunk those influencers who actively debunk God. Necessary to the task is an understanding of how and why we got here, which would take a whole book (on its way, from yours truly) to do properly. However, we can begin with a brief recap of the history of science, to counter the prejudiced narrative proposed by Dawkins in The God Delusion. In the following sections I am going to use the word “paradigm”, my definition of which is as follows:

[ What I mean by Paradigm:]

By “paradigm” I mean the progress of knowledge in leaps, or “shifts”, as suggested by the philosopher of science Thomas Kuhn (d. 1996). In the West, every age has had its overarching intellectual paradigm, by which I mean: everything is questioned and advanced within the paradigm, but the paradigm itself is never questioned by its educators or students. The educators who do question the paradigm are, and must be, dismissed as “mad” or “eccentric”. But in extremely rare cases the madman or eccentric breaks the ancien régime and founds a new paradigm, with a new centre.

Of course, almost everyone who does challenge the paradigm of his times is mad, and his challenge, rightly, fizzles out into nothing (the sooner the better).

We are presently living within the Einsteinian paradigm, in which Time is relative, and therefore so is everything else: everything from Picasso to multiculturalism is a product of
the Einsteinian paradigm. (In fact, for a time, Einstein and Picasso shared the same mentor: the French polymath Henri Poincaré.)

Our relativist (and time-fractured or “Cubist”) paradigm has – I think – been inevitable and perhaps necessary. Apart from the huge technological progress due to Einstein’s revelations (not least this word processor into which I am now typing), widespread atheism, or at least scepticism, has been necessary, and perhaps good for the ultimate Good: all part of the dialectical progress to the wholeness of Knowledge (of God).

I see much value in the “negative theology” or “apophatic” theology of Thomas Aquinas, in which the great task is not to prove what God is, but what God is not (“Neti Neti”, or “not this not that”, in Hindu philosophy). I think that Einstein, and Dawkins and Deutsch and others have helped to prove what God is not.

I don’t doubt that one reason I think this is because I was a determined and deep-thinking atheist myself between the ages of 10 and 31. (Unlike Dawkins, I refused to be confirmed into the Church of England when asked to do so.) I thank God that He pushed me away, as difficult as things became in my late 20s/early 30s, to return with a better understanding.

Just before the Covid-19 lockdown in the UK, I was at a Roman Catholic infant baptism with Italian friends in Liverpool. In the social gathering afterwards I had a long chat with the priest, a fascinating, erudite and well-travelled chap who suggested that I might be interested in the work of the Czech priest and philosopher Tomáš Halík. Apparently, Halík believes that theists and atheists are, or have been, providentially in “partnership”. (I have not yet managed to find the time to read Halík’s work, and so cannot yet comment, but I would like to find the time to read at least one of his books.)

I intend to break the Einsteinian paradigm, and soon too, as I explained in a blog in December 2019. This means that I will be dismissed as mad, or that I will succeed; and I’m not mad! And my work is certainly not as eccentric as that of Dawkins and Deutsch, who are drawn to “many worlds” or “multiverse” theories, as was Stephen Hawking. As Dawkins writes in the *The God Delusion*:

> Quantum theory is so queer that physicists resort to one or another paradoxical ‘interpretations’ of it... **David Deutsch** in *The Fabric of Reality*, embraces the ‘many worlds’ interpretation of quantum theory... In some of these universes I am already dead. In a small minority, you [sic] have a green moustache. And so on.

*The God Delusion*, Richard Dawkins

And so, you see, even Dawkins FRS and Deutsch FRS propose eternal life, as “transhumans” or as infinite lost souls with a green moustache: distorted and disjointed beings as in a Picasso portrait, in an infinite possibility of godless universes, which would therefore surely include near-infinite possibilities of suffering, or ‘Hell’.

I will endeavour to keep my eternal soul attached to its eternal Creator: God of Israel. The beginning of Wisdom (*sapientia*), is the fear God, and true *scientia* is knowledge of the Holy (*Proverbs 9:10*). Yes, as Einstein came to realise, time is relative to a human observer doing thought experiments and virtual space travel, but God is not a human observer.

Time is Absolute. **Keep it Holy.**
3. A very brief history of Science

Muslim Arabs, as guardians of the Silk Road, were responsible for some of the greatest ever achievements of assimilation and abstraction of the world’s knowledge and wisdom. Where would we be, for instance, without “zero” (or sıfr in the Arabic): the ancient Hindu-Arabic imaginary number introduced to Europe by Fibonacci of Pisa in the 13th century CE? Modern science and engineering cannot be done with Roman numerals (and without zero). Arabic was the language of science, some of which (words generally beginning with “al”) we have inherited in English – the language of science today – such as alkali, alcohol, algorithm, alchemy, algebra, almanac, etc.

For a time in the Middle Ages, the Muslim Arab world and Christendom (and the Jews) were, arguably, all working within the same intellectual paradigm, that we might call Aristotelian.

Aristotle (d. 322 BC) had been largely forgotten and ignored in the Latin half of Christian Europe, which was deeply attached to Platonic and Neo-Platonic philosophies. The Arabs introduced their Aristotelian-based natural philosophy (or science) and metaphysical philosophy to Europe, no better summated than by Rabbi Moses Maimonides (d. 1204) and later by Saint Thomas Aquinas (d. 1274), whose great Summa Theologica was a compendium and synthesis of the work of Christian thinkers, Arab thinkers, and Maimonides, in the light of his discovery of Aristotle. This resulted in a new and all-dominating paradigm for Western Christianity that came to be called Scholasticism. Of course, Muslim, Jewish and Christian thinkers each primarily saw justification for their own faith in the Pagan genius of Aristotle.

This neo-Aristotelian paradigm, and method of doing natural philosophy (or what we now call “science”) endured until the 17th century, and Galileo, who famously came into conflict with the Church.

In order to understand the conflict between Galileo and the Church, we need to remember that Aristotelian philosophy dominated the Christian theory of knowledge. This theory of knowledge regarded evidence-based knowledge of Nature through experimentation and evidence of the human senses as important but inferior to the purer knowledge that comes through pure – “a priori” – human reasoning, because the cosmos itself, including human being, came from this very same divine Intellect. Aristotle’s theory of gravity, for instance, was based on what today we would call “thought experiments”, which worked, and made sense for almost two millennia. Galileo was not just challenging the central status of Earth (which the Church had been coming to terms with since Copernicus, over 70 years earlier), he was challenging the paradigm of High Scholasticism that had sustained Christian learning and civilisation since Saint Thomas Aquinas, the Doctor whose own a priori reasoning included “proofs of the existence of God”. As it is, this learning was already under threat by the Biblical fundamentalism of the Protestants, who had ditched philosophy altogether.

Today, we know that modern science, and the modern world, are overwhelmingly indebted to the empirical or scientific method. And there have been huge paradigmatic shifts since Galileo, notably Newtonian, Darwinian, and Einsteinian.

Einstein’s work coincided with an explosion of man’s knowledge of everything, not least that we are not just a planet in a universe of stars and planets. In the 1920s we came to know that we exist in a vast group of billions of stars we now call a “galaxy”, and that our native “Milky Way” is not the only galaxy. Latest estimates suggest 170 billion galaxies, each with perhaps
billions of stars! That’s an incomprehensible number: so incomprehensible that cosmologists, in order to help us appreciate this incomprehensibility, ask us to consider that there could be as many stars in the universe as there are grains of sand in the Sahara Desert.

These facts caused Stephen Hawking to derive that: “the human race is just a chemical scum on a moderate-sized planet, orbiting around a very average star in the outer suburb of one among a hundred billion galaxies”. David Deutsch often echoes this famous “chemical scum” quotation, and then tries to derive something optimistic about the fact that we are self-conscious chemical scum. We are not “chemical scum”; we are “image of God”.

4. “Big Bang” is the beginning of our revelation of God

In one of my blog pieces in December 2019, titled “1919 Vision: Albert Einstein’s Gravitational Lens”22, I wrote

“Whereas the Chosen People were chosen to reveal to the world that Time, Earth, Man and Israel are sanctified in God, Einsteinian physics demonstrates that Time is relative to one’s position and speed in the cosmos, or heavens. This would bother me theologically if we all lived in different parts of the heavens, but we don’t; we all live on Earth with a geography that is not relative; it is centred on Zion.”

Ironically, modern cosmology has accepted that it has seen as much as it is going to see, and has now returned to a priori reasoning, looking for “elegant” mathematical models as the best explanation of the origin of the cosmos. This branch of mathematics is even called, in our times, “Mathematical Platonism”. In this sense we have come full circle: in cosmology the senses have once again become inferior to pure reason, or Logos. But there is a difference between the a priori thinkers of the Church’s Scholastic renaissance and the a priori thinking of today’s scientists. The churchmen were good philosophers, whereas our scientists are not.

David Deutsch, a leader in the field in the philosophy of science today, tells us:

“I guess it’s easy to believe God-based explanations if you don’t think about where God came from”.

The very word “from” implies some kind of space and time, whereas in my theology all space and time comes from God Almighty, whom we know on earth as God of Israel: call it “Big Bang”.

Big Bang is now scientific orthodoxy. The theory came from the mind of the Belgian Roman Catholic priest Georges Lemaître. But arguably the first theory of Big Bang came from Augustine of Hippo (d. AD 430), my emphasis:

“There was no time, therefore, when thou hadst not made anything, because thou hadst made time itself. And there are no times that are coeternal with thee, because thou dost abide forever; but if times should abide, they would not be times...

“What, then, is time? If no one asks me, I know what it is. If I wish to explain it to him who asks me, I do not know. Yet I say with confidence that I know that if nothing passed away, there would be no past time; and if nothing were still coming, there would be no future time; and if there were nothing at all, there would be no present time.”

Augustine, Confessions Book 11, Chapter XIV, 17
In fact Monsignor Lemaître himself did not coin the expression “Big Bang”; the British astronomer Sir Fred Hoyle coined it, the reason being that Hoyle hated the theory. Hoyle was a key proponent of the “Steady State” theory, i.e. that the universe has no beginning.

“Big Bang” was Hoyle’s derogatory rejection of the theory which came about, he said, because its proponents had been “overshadowed” by the “first page of Genesis”, with its singular source of Creation and its “beginning”: which is of course the very first word of the Bible: Beresh’t.

Big Bang – or Beginning – comes from God. We must reject David Deutsch’s suggestion that we monotheists need to “think about where God came from”. God does not “come from” anywhere or anything.

As I have written elsewhere (in a book with the working title Gravity is the Word):

“When I am asked if I believe that God exists, I find that I need to be very careful with my answer. I answer that, yes, God exists, but in the sense of the Hebrew word “to exist”, which is closer to the English “to be” (but has no satisfactory English-language equivalent).

In Latin/Greek/French/English... languages “exist” – if you look at the etymology – applies to things that “appear” or “stand out” as objectively real, whereas in the Holy Language, exist means essentially the opposite: that God is incorporeal – no thing – from whom all things and phenomena stand out, or exist”.

Gravity is the Word, Mark Pickles, 2021

Dawkins’ argument that the best-scientists-are-the-best-minds is philosophically absurd of course. But for Dawkins and his followers, philosophical ignorance is bliss.

In his book the River out of Eden, Dawkins writes:

“The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference”

In which case, Dawkins and I do not observe the same universe. Dawkins tries the impossible: to be as god and observe the universe from the outside.

I observe the universe from the inside, knowing that I am but the dust (or energy/matter) of it, in awe of the Observer who has imbued me with a mind and soul to allow me to observe with Him (or “walk” with Him, in the garden), perhaps, who knows, eternally. I hope so, not least because only in the context of eternity can one make sense of God’s allowing good and evil to unfold under His Providence (apart from the obvious fact that knowledge of phenomena is not possible without knowledge of their binary opposite, just as we would not know happiness without sadness, and vice versa).
The human being, if he truly comes awake, is different from all other creatures on earth in that he is **conscious that he is conscious** of the universe, no better allegorised than in *Genesis*, as Adam and Eve become conscious of their nakedness: their conscious separation from Nature. As I have written elsewhere:

“A blackbird always sings like a blackbird. A lion always growls like a lion. It is impossible for a blackbird or a lion to be evil because they have no knowledge of evil. A human being, on the other hand, chooses to growl or sing, take or give, oppress or serve, forgive or seek revenge, be compassionate or cruel in response to the suffering of others (including other creatures), become wise or remain foolish, to love or hate…”

The universe I observe is exactly the opposite of Dawkin’s universe, because the universe I observe **has precisely the properties I would expect if there is, at bottom, design, purpose, and good and evil.** And planet Earth has direction and goal: its Holy City.

One of Dawkins’ frequent objections is that if God is omnipotent and worthy of worship, why has He not stopped this or that evil? I have even heard many ‘liberal’ clergy in the Church of England, such as the popular BBC media figure Rev Dr Giles Fraser, raise such objections to explain why they have dropped their *Credo in unum Deum, Patrem omnipotentem.*

But such arguments are non sequiturs because we have no way of knowing the evils that God has stopped. God has given us fully-conscious, god-like consciousness, and free will. If we were not free to choose evil, then we would not have free will. “You are gods [all sons of the Most High]”, protested Jesus to the people, quoting the Psalms (Ps 82:6).

I think that a good analogy of man’s relationship to God is the relationship between our personal computer and the One Internet, especially when you consider that the lunatic Jews in Silicon Valley, such as Larry Page, Sergey Brin and Mark Zuckerberg, and the lunatic scientists at Oxford University (and “Deep Mind” in Cambridge), are Transhumanists (as noted in section 2) who believe that their creations out of silicon will "solve death" (the words of Larry Page, head of Google). Does it never occur to these people, who are trying to create “super-intelligence” and supra-intelligence (or a ‘god’ in other words) out of matter of the Earth that Earth itself – including its innate power to compute – came out of the Mind of God?

Any idiot can create a computer from matter, but no-one, apart from God, can create matter.

I do not doubt that there comes a point at which God does stop evil, otherwise evil would have won the battle by now. Good always wins in the end. Love always defeats hate in the end. Deep down we know this, which is why, from the Jewish prophets to popular culture and 21st-century film industry, good always overcomes evil (according to the “monomyth” template of all popular narratives). Love always overcomes hate. James Bond always overcomes overwhelming odds to keep the British end up.

Only God knows what is for the ultimate Good, and the reasons for allowing this human evil and not that human evil, under His Providence. There are even rare passages in the Bible in which God is said to pour out evil on man, or harden the heart of man, for a purpose. What often seems to us like a good situation for the world, or a good course for the world, inevitably needs to be broken because we do not have the whole picture, and become satisfied with too little, especially those of us lucky enough to be born into the “First World”. Why care that 95% of infant girls in Somalia are subjected to the often-lethal torture of female genital mutilation (followed by an education centred on antisemitic brainwashing according to revelations of the remarkable Somali-born scholar and politician Ayann Hirsi Ali23) if you can drive your Italian
sports car in Cheshire, thinking that mankind has “arrived”? We learn from the prophets – including Jesus – that God has other ideas for mankind’s arrival (parousia).

At best, we only see one side of the Rubik’s cube, and cannot see enough to know what is truly complete. Worse, men who have rejected faith in God’s eternal justice invariably want to see justice in our time, which is impossible.

One of God’s promises is to not allow earth to become totally destroyed. To me, it literally is a miracle that we have not destroyed ourselves with nuclear weapons, especially because in the 1980s I was an electronics engineer in the RAF on a nuclear bomber squadron (IX Squadron).

Roman Catholic theologians have suggested that conscience is man’s most intimate relation with God. Conscience can make cowards of us all, but it can also make heroes of us all. Consider Commander Vasili Arkhipov (1926-1998) for instance, the second in command of a Soviet submarine. In the crisis of 1962, as the Soviet submarine fleet was approaching Cuba, it lost radio contact with Moscow at the same time that the USA had decided to drop depth charges as warnings across the bow, causing the fleet commander to believe that war had broken out. Arkhipov, who had doubts, essentially refused an order to launch a nuclear missile that would have almost certainly led to all-out nuclear war. If one person reacts to God (even if he does not believe in God), and a million do not, the action that one man or woman takes will define the outcome, because God is all-knowing.

Similarly, the Holocaust survivor scientist and writer Primo Levi uses the analogy in his book The Periodic Table of “small differences” that “can lead to radically different consequences, like a railroad’s switch points…” I like this analogy, but I take it further than Levi (who was a proud atheist, now admired by Richard Dawkins because Levi’s avowed atheism never wavered through the terrible suffering): the railway points of history are controlled by an invisible hand, leading the world to its destiny in God. God only needs to effect “small differences” to achieve the end He determines. God’s will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Mankind, human being, will arrive back to the four-headed allegorical river. Indeed, just as the very last words of the last book of the Jewish Bible (2 Chronicles) are about going up to Jerusalem, the very last chapter – often titled “Eden Restored” – of the very last book of the Christian Bible, speaks of the leaves of the tree of life, by the river of life, in Jerusalem, for the healing of all nations. The world becomes centred on the One True God, and nothing less.

I’m not a Biblical fundamentalist. I’m a scientist. “Up” and “down” are metaphorical. There is no up and down in the universe. The Biblical “prelapsarian” Garden of Eden is for me as metaphorical (allegorical) as the future Biblical Restoration of Eden, but nevertheless these things are divinely revealed truths: theophanies. Things can be divinely revealed. If we are to believe the great Russian scientist and Christian Dmitri Mendeleev, the Periodic Table was revealed to him in a dream. Perhaps that too was a theophany, as were Einstein’s thoughts.

The divine revelation of knowledge of Creation to Moses could hardly have been revealed in the languages of astrophysics, biochemistry or biophysics. What use would the Periodic Table have been to shepherds such as Moses, and carpenters/builders such as Joseph and Jesus? Much of the Bible is metaphor, but divinely revealed metaphor, sacred metaphor, nonetheless.

In any case, we still use metaphor in our scientific understanding of things. In my main field, electronics engineering, we use plumbing metaphors all the time. Electricity doesn’t actually “flow” like water down a pipe, or as a “current”, and we cannot “resist” its “direction”
(electricity doesn’t move)… but these working metaphors enable us to do remarkable things with the natural phenomenon we call the "electromagnetic wave".

Some well-established metaphors (which are actually quite poor) were introduced by Dawkins’ hero Charles Darwin. “Natural selection” is metaphor. Richard Dawkins’ “selfish gene” is metaphor based on Dawkins’ anthropomorphism of deoxyribonucleic acid.

Darwin was a pigeon fancier, and therefore he selected the best of his pigeons to breed in his loft at his home in Kent, England. And this is where he found the “selection” metaphor. Just as Darwin selected his best pigeons to breed, surely, he thought, this is what Nature is doing (if you see Nature as an omniscient person):

“In the literal sense of the word, no doubt, natural selection is a false term; but who ever objected to chemists speaking of the effective affinities of the various elements? – and yet an acid cannot strictly be said to elect the base with which it in preference combines. It has been said that I speak of natural selection as an active power or Deity; but who objects to the author speaking of the attraction of gravity as ruling the movements of the planets? Everyone knows what is meant and is implied by such metaphorical expressions […] With a little familiarity such superficial objections will be forgotten […]

“It may metaphorically be said that natural selection is the daily and hourly scrutinising, throughout the world, the slightest variations, rejecting those that are bad, preserving and adding up all that are good […]”

Charles Darwin, *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life* (1859)

5. The “Fabric” Metaphor, and Yom Kippur

“my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain:”

(Psalms 104)

As noted in section 2, in theological speak, we humans don’t have the power to “create” (אַיָּרֶם), just as man can neither create nor destroy the material world according to the laws of physics.

What we say we create is actually a re-fabrication of the “fabric” of Creation.

Now, “fabric” was as fundamental for the understanding of the visible cosmos in the received wisdom of Biblical Israel as it is in 21st century cosmology. You can scarcely read a page of contemporary cosmology without coming across the word “fabric”, such as “the fabric of space-time”, “ripples in the fabric of space-time”, or “the fabric of reality”. Indeed, the Israeli-born atheist and quantum physicist David Deutsch has even written a book (that I haven’t read) titled *The Fabric of Reality* (which, as we have seen Richard Dawkins references in *The God Delusion*).

The Fabric, in the days of the Jerusalem Temple, was the Temple Veil to the Holy of Holies. The High Priest stepped behind the heavy four-coloured Curtain (Fabric) of Matter and Time, to renew the vows and God’s covenant with the Creation, for Israel, and for the whole world. In Christian scripture, this heavy Veil was “rent in two” at the instant of Jesus’ death, opening the Name to the world.
The four colours of the Temple fabric corresponded to what the ancients believed were the four fundamental interactions of the material world: the forces of *levitas* (air and fire) and the forces of *gravitas*, (earth and water). In the 20th century, we came full circle, having realised that all matter is electromagnetism and gravity, working through, indeed, four fundamental interactions. Similarly, the DNA of life has four chemicals (rather than “four humours”).

Just once a year, “the head of the year”, or Rosh Hashanah, at the holiest time of the holiest day (of atonement, or Yom Kippur), the holiest priest of the holiest tribe of the holiest nation – wearing light fabric of four colours (corresponding to the four-coloured heavy fabric of the veil) – would step behind the fabric of the material world to ascend the Holy of Holies, to renew the vows and covenants with God at the single point on earth that marries up to heaven. Only this one man, at this one moment of the year, at this one place on Earth, could then utter, and somehow “see” (Isaiah 6), the hallowed Name of God: the One True God at the centre of the world at the annual centre of time, and, vitally, at the *centre of language*. This annual ‘rehearsal’ behind the (final) curtain is for the “end of time” when all things are definitively brought back to one head: the time for judgement and sealing, and the marriage of Heaven and Earth.

This all happened of course in Jerusalem, being the capital of Judah (or Judea) and established by King David as the capital of the united kingdom of Israel. This is the Holy Land, of God’s Holy presence (or *Shekinah*) on Earth. This was the *microcosmos of the cosmos*. Indeed, the furniture of the First Temple (lost to the Second Temple) represented the 6 + 1 days of the Creation and the Garden of Eden. They reappear in Jerusalem according to the Christian *Apocalypse*, with the Messiah as the light between 6 lights, like the branches of the menorah (*Rev 1:13*).

According to Christian theology (almost always ignored in the Church, whose holy centre was set in Rome and/or Constantinople), Jesus performed the role of the all-atoning Temple High Priest (even though he was of the King David’s Messianic tribe of Judah, rather than the Moses’ and Aaron’s priestly tribe of Levi). On the eve of his death, Jesus said, according to John (my emphasis):

> “Holy Father, keep them in thy Name which thou hast given me, that they may be One, even as we are.” *John 17:11*

And this is the other thing the Church has historically failed to do, partly because it went on to teach that there are three gods, not One (a theology, incidentally, that Isaac Newton rejected outright, even though he was, necessarily, a member of the Church of England).

The Church has simply ignored the very opening of the prayer that Jesus taught us: “Hallowed be thy Name”, and the fact that Jesus said that the most important commandment of all is the *Shema Yisra’el* (*Mark 12:29–31*). I know of no Christian who hallows the holiest of holy Names, and hardly any who knows what it means.

In the Bible there are in fact many names for God (the most common being Elohim), but one four-lettered word that must not be uttered, because this Name, *the Name is God*. Indeed, God is sometimes referred to as HaShem, meaning “the Name”.

However, to be fair to the Church, the *lingua franca* in the Roman Empire 2000 years ago, including for Jews, was Greek. The Church was founded on the Greek language (including the Jews’ translation of their Bible into the Septuagint). Had Alexander the Great not imposed the Greek language throughout his vast empire, there would have been no *lingua franca*, and the
Church could not have transmitted the knowledge of God of Israel (and the Septuagint) from the Holy Land to the world.

The Church did at least borrow the Greek concept of Logos, translated into English as “the Word” (with a majuscule W), but which really means, in Greek philosophy, the all-unifying principle of all things, from reason, to mathematics, to music, to matter. (This is why today many of our fields of study are suffixed “ology”.) Jews also borrowed the Logos of Greek philosophy, notably through the Jewish philosopher Philo of Alexandria (c. 20 BC to c. 50 AD) who probably beat the Christians to the concept, writing: “the Logos of the living God is the bond of everything, holding all things together and binding all the parts, and prevents them from being dissolved and separated”.

Today, leading atheist thinkers such as the Jewish atheist David Deutsch are seeking the eternal “principle” that unites the diverse laws of physics with everything else. They are eternally failing because they are allergic to the eternal principle that is or will be: the Name, or, if you prefer, Logos. And because this eternal principle is itself language – “And God said... and so it came to be”, or “In the beginning was the Word...” – our language can and must be used to express objective truth always centred on the Name, or the Logos.

If you remove the Logos from language, every word becomes contingent on every other word, and Truth becomes impossible. All thoughts and statements become arbitrary and relative: words can mean whatever you want them to mean because, according to the intellectuals, it is impossible to express objective truth in human languages because you must deconstruct language from its fixed centre: the Name, or the Logos. There is good reason why Jews are “named in the Name”, a tradition carried over into Christian baptism.

Throughout the 2000 years since Philo of Alexandria, to this day – despite the antisemitism and frequent expulsions and ghettoization of Jews, and despite the relativity tiny number of Jews (Jesus called his own tribe, “the salt of the earth”) – there has been much fruitful cross-fertilisation of Jewish and Christian thinking and culture that brought us to our modern world. One hopes, with the very recent thawing of relations between some Muslim nations and Israel, Islam too can once again be a pioneering contributor to civilisation, as it was a thousand years ago. The Muslim nations, at least, are not suffering the pandemic levels of intellectual and cultural and linguistic atheism/relativism that we have in the West. Muslims are unlikely to start suffering from Scientism and intellectual deconstructionism and neo-anarchism.

A threefold cord is not easily broken, but just as Islam needs to sort out its own mess, as does much of Judaism (its liberal and its ultra-religious extremes), the West needs to recover from its relativism and multicultural arbitrariness, and regain a generalised awareness of the Holy.

We will move on from our fractured and relativist “Cubism” to the Whole or Holy Cube/Kaaba.

Today, in the prevalent Western philosophies (including Scientism), we have lost the holiness implied in Logos. We have overtly “deconstructed” ourselves from the Holy. We have intentionally made it impossible to allude to holiness in our language. We have intentionally removed God from the centre of our thinking and dialogue. Hence the French philosopher Jacques Derrida – an atheistic Jew – launched the whole “Post-Modernist” movement, protesting that all Europeans languages are “logocentric”. We must re-construct.

The reason atheism in Europe is so common today is not because of the advances in science: “Big Bang” is the most Biblically resonant theory in the history of science. And it is not because people think more deeply than they used to (in my experience most people, especially
scientists, do not think deeply at all). It is because the intellectuals (including Dawkins and Deutsch) have talked themselves, and their students, out of faith in God, making everything relative, and nothing Holy: no Holy language, no Holy time, and no Holy geography. No God of Israel means no need for Israel, the banner of God: “Israel is my Son”. No Name, or Shem, at the centre of our thoughts and language.

Shem or Sem is, incidentally, where we get the word “Semite”. Anti-Shem-itis, whether is it religious or irreligious, is detachment from God, the Name. I think this is why many antisemitic atheists find it difficult to accept that they are antisemites. The notorious antisemite Jeremy Corbyn MP for instance (who caused British Jews to think about leaving en masse for the first time since they were allowed to return under Oliver Cromwell) consistently says he is not antisemitic, parroting such things as: “I condemn anti-semitism and all other forms of racism”. As I have written many times, antisemitism is far more serious and devastating than racism.

One rare British Christian who did hallow the Name, and to know why we must – and to know why Jews must have sovereignty in Jerusalem and Israel – was Sir Isaac Newton. You see below in his Hebrew handwriting the word “Shem”, or “Sem”, meaning Name:

Photograph of the notes of Sir Isaac Newton, the man who gave the world its first empirical concept of a single universalising force in all the matter of the cosmos. Newton has struck through the Latin and replaced it with Hebrew: the second (and hushed) verse of Shema Yisrael:

“Blessed is the Name of His glorious kingdom for all eternity”.

It is fitting that Newton’s theological work, penned in Cambridge and hidden for almost 300 years, is now in Jerusalem, at the National Library of Israel. Most of it did not become available to the public until the 1990s.

And it is ironic that Dr David Deutsch, born in Israel, came to study at Cambridge University, going on to lead a school of scientific philosophy that denies the Holy of everything, not least that to which the fabric of the universe owes its unity.
6. Eden Restored

“And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.” (Revelation 21:16, KJV)

Both the Christian and Muslim *apocalypse* (literally “unveiling” of the curtain or fabric) envision the Holy City as a Cube descending on Jerusalem. The Christian cube descends supernaturally on Jerusalem from the sky, whereas the Muslim cube – or Kaaba – is supernaturally transported from Mecca to Jerusalem.

Christian and Islamic scripture and theology are, of course, a supersessionist cut-and-paste of Jewish scripture and the vast library of Jewish oral commentaries (committed to the written word, or Talmud, in anticipation of the destruction of the Temple in AD70). We even find in the Quran passages from non-canonical biographical gospels by the 1st-century and 2nd-century Christian writers, such as Jesus’ miraculous animation of sparrows from clay (that we find in the *Infancy Gospel of Thomas*).

The Holy of Holies behind the veil of the Jerusalem Temple, housing the Ark of the Covenant and housing the very holiest Name of God, was a cube: 20 x 20 x 20 cubits: 1 Kings 6:20.

Isaac Newton spent 50 years of continuous study on the Jerusalem Temple⁴, reading the original Hebrew and other ancient languages, and studying Jewish philosophy and Jewish ritual, in pursuit of mysteries such as what Newton called, “the sacred cubit of the Jew”. Newton knew that the Jerusalem Temple is a microcosm of the cosmos. Although there is not space for me to explain here, Newton got his universal laws not primarily through looking through the telescope he had invented, but through analysis (in all available languages including Hebrew) of the Jerusalem Temple, which, according to 1 Kings, is the revealed *Wisdom* (*chochmah*), *Knowledge* (*binah*) and *Intellect* (*daat*) of God, sometimes expressed today by the Jewish acronym “Chabad”.

Even Newton’s universal “inverse square law”, which we now know applies not just to universal gravity but to electromagnetism and sound, we find in the geometrical relationship between the square Holy of Holies and the rectangular Holy Place (same width, double the length).

And even more astounding is that we now know that gravity is not a force (as Newton thought it was), but a (differential) geometry with waves (discovered just a few years ago) that are
analogous to sine waves: i.e. analogous to the waves of electromagnetism, sound, speech, and, indeed, music. Newton had tried, in vain, to bring the 7 notes of the diatonic scale (or octave) into the schema, with the 7 colours of light, and the 7 of everything in the Bible.

The last Psalm, Psalm 150, describes the time at which Earth is to be filled with music, in which even the creatures join in the Song. Psalm 150 is really the musical direction for the Temple orchestra, which builds up into a choral climax for the world, or as we read in the very last lines of our very last Psalm:

“Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD.
Hallelujah.”  Psalm 150:6

7. From our atheistic Einsteinian paradigm to our rapprochement with God

By a rapprochement with God I do not necessarily mean more religion – religion is good for some people but not for others, evidently. But we do need more religious literacy, and in Europe (or “Christendom” as it used to be called) that means a restoration of Christian literacy.

Even Richard Dawkins, in the God Delusion, acknowledges that contemporary Biblical illiteracy is harming Western civilisation and its understanding of our great cultural inheritance.

God of Israel did not create a religion or demand that we create one. The Holy Language has no word for “religion”. Modern Hebrew of course has a word for “religion”, just as it has words for “computer” and “airport”, but there is no concept of religion in the Bible. “Israel” was not a religion, but a people, whom God called His “Son” (or, elsewhere His “Bride”), and through whom God began setting out the history of the world and its ultimate united destiny. Every aspect of the life of the People Israel was supposed to be about the covenants with God (and the Jews’ unique obligations to God), pointing to His apocalyptic promises for the whole world, through (after the fall from power of the tribe of Benjamin) the tribe of Judah, with the priestly Levites amongst them. (Saint Paul, incidentally, was a Benjaminite, unlike Jesus, who was a Jew in all senses of the word.)

Christians – including me – accept Jesus of Nazareth as Messiah. Frankly, this is the only thing the 30,000-plus denominations of Christianity can agree upon, apart from their “ecumenical” antisemitism/anti-Israelism. Jesus was necessarily of the tribe of Judah/Judea, necessarily the tribe of King David. He was a rabbi who, when he ventured into Samaria and encountered the woman at the well, taught that “salvation is of the Jews” (or, elsewhere His “Bride”), and through whom God began setting out the history of the world and its ultimate united destiny. Every aspect of the life of the People Israel was supposed to be about the covenants with God (and the Jews’ unique obligations to God), pointing to His apocalyptic promises for the whole world, through (after the fall from power of the tribe of Benjamin) the tribe of Judah, with the priestly Levites amongst them. (Saint Paul, incidentally, was a Benjaminite, unlike Jesus, who was a Jew in all senses of the word.)

But, here again, words matter. “Salvation” in Western Christianity (much less so in Greek Christianity) soon came to mean individuals’ being “saved” from a place called Hell. But “salvation” did not mean that in the faith of Rabbi Jesus (in which there is no such created eternal place as Hell).

Our destiny in the afterlife (or life after this life) really should matter to all of us. Being eternally detached from God is a fate worse than death. To draw on my earlier analogy: what personal computer would want to be condemned as unsafe, riddled with viruses, and eternally detached – blocked by the heavenly firewall – from the One Internet? Thank Heaven that Heaven has Bill Gates to keep out the riffraff and the Communist cyber attackers. But
“Salvation” in the Holy Language refers not to our afterlife; it refers to life on Earth. Salvation (or Yeshuah in Hebrew, which is related to the name Joshua or Jesus) is the gathering of the world into its complete state: its wholeness: its Holiness, on Earth. It is the deliverance from evils, and pestilence. It is health, and welfare, and happiness among all nations. It is ultimately the blessing of all nations. It is not, as it soon came to mean in the Church, “saving” the Christian “elect” from a place called “Hell” to which all non-Christians were “predestined” even before they were born.

“Our Father... thy Kingdom Come on Earth as it is in Heaven”. Elsewhere Jesus said: “seek the Kingdom first”, and the rest will fall into place. And, elsewhere he said (echoing the Psalms of King David, as Jesus often did), “Jerusalem is the city of the great king”.

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The incumbent Jewish and Arab politicians and administrators of Israel, and the USA, have no right to give away the sovereignty of any part of Judea and Samaria in a “peace” deal. These man’s best-laid plans for peace cannot deliver peace because they oppose God’s plans: the plans that inspired civilisation.

In his first ever op-ed in an Israeli paper, the United Arab Emirates ambassador to the United States, Yousef al-Otaiba, wrote: “Recently, Israeli leaders have promoted excited talk about normalization of relations with the United Arab Emirates and other Arab states. But Israeli plans for annexation and talk of normalization are a contradiction.”

Al-Otaiba went on to say Jewish sovereignty of Judea would “send shockwaves around the region, especially in Jordan, whose stability — often taken for granted — benefits the entire region, particularly Israel”. To what “stability” of Jordan is Al-Otaiba referring?

Jordan is a dangerously unstable Muslim-Brotherhood hotbed. The king tolerates the Muslim Brotherhood, who elevated him to power in the first place. Jordan is teaching and spreading genocidal antisemitism to its own people and throughout the whole Arab speaking word. I very recently wrote a joint piece with Dr Richard Landes – historian and Senior Fellow of Bar Ilan University – that I will make available as soon as I can. Our joint piece of about 9000 words tracks the “ticking timebomb” of Islamism to Jordan, where the Hashemite Kingdom has elevated the Hamas mass murderer Ahlam Tamimi to celebrity status. In 2001, Tamimi, disguised as a tourist, had escorted a Hamas suicide bomber to a pizzeria in Jerusalem that she had scouted, knowing that it would be packed with Jewish children during the school holidays. She told the suicide bomber (with a guitar case on his back, rigged by Hamas with explosives and flesh-ripping bolts and nails), to order a pizza, wait 10 minutes, and then detonate himself, as she made her way home to later calmly report the event on Palestinian TV (she was an undergraduate journalist at the time). For five years she was given a weekly slot on Jordanian TV (Jordan having some of the most heavily censored TV even by Arab standards), spouting the genocidal anti-Israelist, Jihadi ideology of the Muslim brotherhood to Arab speakers in all nations, and bragging about the number of Jewish children that she had murdered. She remains an immensely popular celebrity throughout the Arab world.

And so we do not need lectures from UAE diplomats telling us that the “stability” of Jordan “benefits the entire region”. There is nothing stable, or desirable, about a nation whose government gives a media platform to genocidal antisemitism/anti-Israelism. Few nations in the world are more antisemitic than Jordan, even by Arab standards. And, with the exception of Qatar, no nation broadcasts as much antisemitism to the vast Arab-speaking world.
Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria are not the Jews’ or the Arabs’ “real estate”, to do deals with, even if those deals are ostensibly in the interests of peace and prosperity. I have Jewish friends who strongly disagree, but that’s because perhaps a good half of my Jewish friends are atheistic and agnostic “pragmatists” who have lost the plot, or rather are happy to relinquish the tiny plot of very original “Abraham Accord” and land purchase. Muslim Arabs occupy more than enough land: a bigger landmass than United States. The Jewish state is less than a 500th of the Arab lands in Muslim dominion, and God Almighty has set this tiny patch of land aside for Jewish sovereignty, and as “the head nation, not a tail nation”.

The other thing to note is that for most of the past two millennia Christians and Muslims have shown very little interest in the Land, the Crusades being the exception, and the Crimean War. (The Crimean War (1853-1856) was wholly caused by Christian denominational dispute over who should have authority over Jerusalem’s Church of the Holy Sepulchre, a war that dragged in the empires of Europe, Turkey and Russia.) The Land was all but forgotten: diseased, fallow and desolate, including even Jerusalem, whose diseased and parlous condition shocked the first Western “tourists” to start visiting the place in the 19th century. It is only the world’s observant Jews who have never forgotten Jerusalem.

The other fact that we cannot ignore is that prevalent in Islam – as in Christianity – is supersessionism. Islam claims that Abraham was a Muslim, as was Moses and Jesus, and that the Holy Language is Arabic. This is why in the Muslim holy cities – Mecca and Medina – all we non-Muslims are denied access. In Jerusalem, no-one is denied (unless he or she is a threat to everyone else, or refuses to pass through the metal detectors), as in the famous words (similar to Isaiah) of the Prophet Micah:

But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.

For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.

Micah 4:1-5

The seven Emirates of the region we now call UAE are not pacific knights in shining armour. But they have fallen out with (and blockaded) the neighbouring emirate, Qatar, which is now the stronghold of the Muslim Brotherhood that unleashed the revolutionary and misnamed “Arab Spring”. Egypt itself has now cracked down on its Muslim Brotherhood (which is why Egypt has built a wall to seal out the Arabs of the Gaza Strip), just as the UAE has, apparently, cracked down on the Emirati Brotherhood, since the UAE arrested and tortured the British
doctoral student Matthew Hedges (critic of the Muslim Brotherhood) as a “spy”. The UAE has a long way to go before it earns my trust. The UAE is the biggest financial contributor to the antisemitic education (through UNWRA) of the ‘Palestinians’ and one of the biggest contributors to the US universities that turn out to be, unsurprisingly, the most antisemitic.

There is, incidentally, no standing “international law” that grants Judea and Samaria (that most of the world insists on calling “West Bank”) to the Arabs since the British took it from the Ottoman Syria in 1917 after four centuries of Ottoman rule. UN resolutions are the wish lists of a corrupt and deeply antisemitic institution, not in themselves international law, no matter how much the obsessively anti-Israelist UN (with its 57-nation Muslim bloc, in cahoots with over a 100 Christian nations and the secularised nations) would like them to be. If UN resolutions were international law, Israel would have ceased to exist decades ago.

Israel’s presence in Judea and Samaria is legal (according to the international lawyers I have read). The San Remo Conference (1920) drew up rules for the British Mandate. Article 6 charged Britain with the duty to facilitate Jewish immigration in the territory which then included Transjordan. This international law has never been revoked. The Arabs already have their new ‘Palestinian’ state: the now failing state of Judenrein Jordan.

But in any case, there is a higher Law than international law. This is the Land set aside by its Creator, the Lawmaker. Biblically speaking, the reference is Abraham’s land purchase, and Jacob’s purchase of land from the sons of Hamor, and King David’s establishment of Jerusalem as the capital of his kingdoms. Indeed, “Israel” takes her name from Jacob, whom God named “Israel”.

If Israel ceases to remind the world that Judea and Samaria are the very beating heart of the Jewish Holy Land, there is nothing Abrahamic about the “Abraham Accord”. The Jewish state needs to exist there. The very last verse of the last chapter of the Jewish Bible of is of Jews’ going up to “Jerusalem in Judea”.

“Israel”, in its very name, was, is, and ever shall be, the inexorable unfolding of the divine will on Earth, piloted through the Chosen People: the growing up and going up of all nations to their holy destiny centred on Zion. This is the true Peace: the “swords into plowshares”, according Isaiah’s famous prophecy of God’s word from Mount Zion. Jews have known this for around 3000 years, and within the past few centuries, the whole world has heard the message, as it was spread around the world – from the Americas to Asia to Australasia – by the Christians of Europe. A part of this Isaiah prophecy even made it to the BBC motto – “nation shall speak peace unto nation”, and is carved into the “Isaiah wall” at the United Nations headquarters in New York. (This is ironic, because the BBC and the UN are two of the most notorious Zion-bashing institutions of our times.) The fact that Christianity was often sold as the religion of peace through violent conquest has to be acknowledged, but history is what it is, and no-one can realistically deny that civilisation – not least science – is overwhelmingly indebted to Christianity.

Shalom, Salem, Jeru-salem, is the City of the Great King. Even “before Abraham was, I AM”.

And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

*Genesis 14:18-20 (KJV)*
Jewish tradition tells us that Melchizedek was Shem, son of Noah (the son named “Name”). Christian tradition has it that the Melchizedek was the Christ (the “Word” or Logos). Whatever, true peace cannot come through any of man’s diverse plans for the world. True Peace will come, so long as we do not choose to try to impose our own plans on the Holy Land of Israel. True Peace can come only through God’s plans and blessings for all nations, as promised to Abraham and the Jews and all the nations. There is no alternative.

Shalom.

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