

Chapter 1 : End of Faith by Rena Willemin

*The End of Faith by Sam Harris is a genuinely frightening book about terrorism, and the central role played by religion in justifying and rewarding calendrierdelascience.com blame "extremists" who "distort" the "true" message of religion.*

Apr 15, Pete rated it really liked it Recommends it for: All serious thinkers Shelves: First, some easy floating down the river. Where does your support for the following graded series fall off? If you are still nodding after 4 , you agree with Harris and incidentally, me on the main thesis of his book. It has been pointed out for a long time now that religious ideas uniquely get a free pass. Guests on a Sunday morning talk show may strenuously disagree with each other over taxes, who should be president, or which sports team is better, but to say "Bringing up that god of yours again, eh? Like many others before him, Harris points out the absurdity and arbitrariness of this situation, and argues that it should change. Religious beliefs should be attacked like other irrationalities; religious stories should not be talked about as if they were true by people who know they could not possibly be true; religion should not shield anyone from criticism. What is new in this book are two arguments that would raise the stakes. First, rather than patiently waiting for atheism to gain footing in the world, the ascendancy of Islamist power and the machinations of the Christian right make it an urgent matter. Second, religious moderates should be chastened as enablers of fundamentalism. Harris states "Religious moderates are, in large part, responsible for the religious conflict in our world, because their beliefs provide the context in which scriptural literalism and religious violence can never be adequately opposed". So far, so good. We soon approach some rapids -- Harris sets out on some heavy philosophical terrain about free will and ethics in his trumping up of Islamist terrorism as a force that should command our greatest attention. And, at the end of the river, our little raft finds itself in a Shambhala bookstore. Somehow we have gone from demanding the End of Faith to claiming that medieval Tibetan mystics had very useful things to say about the human mind. The last 2 chapters of the book simply do not belong with the rest. Harris ought to have expanded his spiritual views in another volume and kept The End of Faith focused on arguments for ending faith. Overall, however, the book is a bracing tonic for atheists, and as we have seen, represents a powerful challenge to the status quo. Its main accomplishment is to have revived this discussion in the public intellectuosphere.

### Chapter 2 : The End of Faith - Wikipedia

*The End of Faith: Religion, Terror, and the Future of Reason and millions of other books are available for Amazon Kindle. Learn more Enter your mobile number or email address below and we'll send you a link to download the free Kindle App.*

A Novel by Rena Willemin was definitely one of those books! From page one, I was hooked! Valentina is one of the few people to survive a major pandemic. One day she sees a pregnant woman in trouble, so she does what most people do. Little does she know how important the woman was and how that action will change her life for the worse. We follow Valentina as she struggles to survive in a fight for her life. The character of Valentina was amazing! She really felt like someone I and probably a lot of women could relate to. Val goes from being just a normal loving wife to a hard core woman determined to fight to stay alive. I definitely felt what she was feeling at all stages throughout the book. I loved the world building in this book. This is another element which made the book seem more real. The pacing of the book was done really well as well. It definitely held my attention throughout the whole book. The cover definitely suits the book. The colouring of the cover also has a post-apocalyptic feel to it as it gives a feeling of despair. The title definitely suits this book especially as there is a prophet involved and what feels like a religious cult. A Novel definitely made me realise just how something like this could happen especially after the scare with Bird Flu. It paints a very realistic portrait of what life could possibly be like if a pandemic of epic proportions were to happen. In fact, this book probably will have me thinking about "what if" long after this review. I was so happy to see that this book is part of a series. Valentina is already trying to deal with all the other stresses of her life - a cheating husband, her subsequent mis-carriages and a pushy, over-zealous and over-bearing mother- but now finds herself with a whole new batch of problems when she becomes just one of a handful of survivors following the initial outbreak. In a world where the motto survival of the fittest has never been more apt, Valentina does her level best to carry on in this brave new world she finds herself in. But when she crosses paths with a radical Preacher who is heralding in a new society crafted in the image of his own ideals, she quickly finds herself all alone, on the run and being hunted by the armed and extremely deadly mercenaries who enforce his will. The Preacher predicted the apocalypse long before it occurred, has been preparing for it all his life in fact, and will nothing and no one step in his way. Even if his destiny is inexpicably entwined with this mysterious girl, Valentina The book swooped me up into its world very early on and I found Valentina a very easy character to connect and form a bond with! It is fair to say, I loved this book to pieces -so much so that I already have it pencilled in to join my own personal books and authors to read before you die list that I maintain on my Blog when I get around to updating it! This book is absolutely awesome, I cannot praise it enough, and it is a testament to how good it is that, upon reaching the final chapters, I was left wondering what would happen next to the characters and their lives in the days that followed. Imagine my delight then, when I discovered that this is just the first part of a proposed trilogy! Seriously, this book is THAT good that if you like post-apocalyptic fiction in even the loosest of terms then you are going to simply adore this! It has an easy-going writing style, seriously strong characterisation and leaves you in its final pages desperate for more! Please, you need to have this in your life and read it!

**Chapter 3 : Observer review: The End of Faith by Sam Harris | From the Observer | The Guardian**

*The End of Faith: Religion, Terror, and the Future of Reason is a book by Sam Harris, concerning organized religion, the clash between religious faith and rational thought, and the problems of tolerance towards religious fundamentalism.*

What have you been thinking about? Indeed, Harris does not want us to remain neutral about his primary subject of faith. An End not Justified by the Means Harris is a powerful communicator who gives much colour to the issues he is dealing with. He has written this book in order to convince the reader that all religious beliefs are absurd and are, furthermore, hazardous to us. Harris is reacting against modern Islamic terrorists and the religious elitism of the American government. Harris divides his book into seven chapters. He sets out his stall in chapter one, underlining the urgency of the situation. He seeks to demolish the credentials of religious faith in chapter two. Chapters three to five aim to illustrate the damaging effect of religious belief both historically and today. Harris argues simply that it is not acceptable for religious belief to have any public influence. Chapter six puts forward the value of science as opposed to religion for establishing morality. In chapter seven, Harris concludes by pointing the reader to a new kind of spirituality which is devoid of religious faith. Harris builds his spirituality on rational grounds thus rendering faith superfluous. The subject of faith ties the book together, as the title suggests. Harris is careful to establish what he means by faith. The individual not only intellectually accepts these propositions, but the way they live is also affected by them. Harris removes any distinction between religious faith and other beliefs that we hold. This reason should be consistent with our knowledge of the way the world is and should be a consequence of this knowledge. Harris argues that if there is not a consistency between what we claim religiously and other areas of our knowledge or experience, then our religious beliefs are not really claiming anything objective at all. Interestingly, he suggests that individuals of faith would want to avoid the conclusion that these are justifications. Religious beliefs must be as open to scrutiny as any other beliefs. Harris scrutinises these three justifications for belief in God using the example of the Pope. According to Harris, the Pope says that Jesus was born of a virgin and resurrected bodily after death. He is the Son of God, who created the universe in six days. Harris appeals to us to dismiss the authority of the Pope. Is it so overwhelmingly obvious that the Pope has only one source of evidence for saying these things? Since Harris himself suggests two other justifications for belief, why should the Pope only have this one? Is it impossible that the Pope has personal spiritual experiences, that he is in fact in communication with God? Harris overlooks these possibilities for some reason, but gives no reason why it is obvious that the Bible is the only source the Pope has for what he says. Harris appeals to us to dismiss the explanatory power of the Bible. The obvious inference is that the Bible alone cannot justify Christian beliefs. If the Bible is a justification for belief, as Harris is right to assert, then he has to do more work to unpack this throw-away dismissal of it. He says very clearly, however, that spiritual experiences require authentication. If the Pope had a vision of Jesus, we would need authentication that this Jesus was who he said he was. Harris gives no indication of what a sufficient number would be. He argues that it would be logical to require additional evidences to authenticate a spiritual experience. The reason for this is not clear. Of course, the vision of Jesus would have to say something coherent and consistent with the Bible, but if it did we could reasonably believe our experience to be true. This is an incredible statement given that Harris demands justification for belief. He shows us his natural bias against religious belief. According to Harris, no amount of evidence could justify these beliefs. For if there is sufficient evidence to believe God exists then most other religious doctrines would fall into the category of subordinate beliefs. In essence, Harris decides before entering the debate that religious faith is futile and completely unfounded. This is why he has little time for the Bible, religious experiences and the authority of the church. He dismisses them out of hand because he thinks the beliefs they justify are just preposterous. This is why his arguments carry little persuasive power and are more of a rallying cry for like-minded individuals. One of the biggest criticisms that Harris levels at the faith of religious individuals is that it is unchallengeable: He argues that no amount of evidence could justify religious belief; he asserts that religious individuals have closed minds, but he is just as adamant in holding on to his atheism. Harris requires faith to believe that there is no God. Harris criticises himself by attacking the

faith of others. It seems that nothing could change about this world to convert Harris to religious belief. I think that religious individuals should challenge their beliefs for their consistency, but I also think that Harris should be prepared to challenge his own atheism. This means that he is reduced to flinging mud at members of religious communities. It is for this reason that the majority of his book is given over to examples of the evils caused by religious beliefs rather than a rational repudiation of religious belief itself. One can point to misunderstandings or hidden agendas to repudiate these actions. It is important to notice that most religious individuals are also shocked by these atrocities and find them completely unacceptable and unjustifiable. Harris must deal with the truth claims and their justifications in a much more satisfactory manner to persuade us to abandon religious faith. He must come down from his high horse, otherwise he will continue to appear an unpersuasive, arrogant and harsh individual. For myself, I believe in the claims of Jesus Christ for two reasons. Firstly, I believe because I find the Bible to be authoritative and historically accurate. I find it to be authoritative in what it says about me, others and this world. Within the full story of the Bible most, if not all, of life is touched upon in a profound way which leads me to believe it is divinely inspired. I find it historically accurate because the life, crucifixion, empty tomb and eye witness testimonies to the resurrection of Jesus are all recognised as historical facts. These core beliefs are defended by historians. Secondly, I believe because of experiences. I have experienced that when I pray, things tend to work out better, and that when I read the Bible, I am filled with joy. I have experienced that when I live my life for God and not for me, extraordinary things are possible. I have experienced God changing me and giving me freedom to become a unique individual. These two pillars, the Bible and my experiences, are enough for me to believe in the claims of Jesus Christ. The End of Faith: Religion, Terror, and the Future of Reason Keywords: Faith, belief, evidence, God, atheism, rationalism Author: Opinions expressed in Culturewatch articles are those of the author, and are not necessarily representative of the views of Damaris Trust.

**Chapter 4 : The End of Faith (Audiobook) by Sam Harris | [calendrierdelascience.com](http://calendrierdelascience.com)**

*This timely book delivers a trenchant analysis of the clash of reason and faith in today's world. Observing the effects of religious fundamentalism, it argues that the problem lies in all religions, because each of them believes that theirs is the one true god, and that all others must therefore be false.*