

***The God Delusion* by Richard Dawkins**

“A delusion is a persistent false belief held in the face of strong contradictory evidence, especially as a symptom of psychiatric disorder....

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“God is...a pernicious delusion....”

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**When one person suffers from a delusion,
it is called insanity.**

**When many people suffer from a delusion
it is called Religion.”**

How Does a Catalyst Act?

(1 Kings 18:1-40)

**Catalyst: Becoming a Change Agent
in a “Couldn’t Care Less” Culture, No. 4**

1 Kings 18:1 (NIV)

**After a long time,
in the third year,
the word of the LORD came to Elijah:
“Go and present yourself to Ahab,
and I will send rain on the land.”**

How Do Catalysts Act?

- 1. Catalysts look for opportunities when God is getting people's attention (18:1).**
- 2.**

1 Kings 18:17-18 (NIV)

**When he saw Elijah, he said to him,
“Is that you, you troubler of Israel?”**

**¹⁸ “I have not made trouble for Israel,” Elijah
replied. “But you and your father’s family
have. You have abandoned the LORD’s
commands and have followed the Baals.**

1 Kings 18:19 (NIV)

**Now summon the people from all over Israel
to meet me on Mount Carmel.
And bring the four hundred and fifty
prophets of Baal and the four hundred
prophets of Asherah,
who eat at Jezebel's table.”**

1 Kings 18:21 (NIV)

Elijah went before the people and said,

**“How long will you waver
between two opinions?**

**If the LORD is God, follow him;
but if Baal is God, follow him.”**

But the people said nothing.

1 Kings 18:24 (NIV)

**Then you call on the name of your god,
and I will call on the name of the LORD.
The god who answers by fire—he is God.”**

**Then all the people said,
“What you say is good.”**

1 Kings 18:30 (NIV)

**Then Elijah said to all the people,
“Come here to me.”**

**They came to him,
and he repaired the altar of the LORD,
which was in ruins.**

1 Kings 18:36 (NIV)

At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed:

“O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command.

1 Kings 18:37 (NIV)

**Answer me, O LORD, answer me,
so these people will know that you, O LORD,
are God, and that you are turning their
hearts back again.”**

1 Kings 18:38 (NIV)

**Then the fire of the LORD fell
and burned up the sacrifice,
the wood, the stones and the soil,
and also licked up the water in the trench.**

1 Kings 18:39 (NIV)

**When all the people saw this,
they fell prostrate and cried,
“The LORD—he is God!
The LORD—he is God!”**

How Do Catalysts Act?

- 1. Catalysts look for opportunities when God is getting people's attention (18:1).**
- 2. Catalysts look for opportunities to provide persuasive evidence (18:19-39).**

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NIV)

**The god of this age
has blinded the minds of unbelievers,
so that they cannot see
the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ,
who is the image of God.**



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