

Book Report on Superwhamadyne.com by Lloyd Gardner of: ***Atlas Shrugged*** by Ayn Rand.

Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand

Copyright Ayn Rand, 1957.

Copyright renewed Eugene Winick, Paul Gitlin, and Leonard Peikoff, 1992.

All rights reserved.

Published by Signet, an imprint of the New American Library, a division of Penguin group (USA) inc.

An incredible book! How could Ayn Rand be so prophetic concerning our current economic crisis?

In her book, ***Atlas Shrugged***, Ayn Rand details the attacks of Government against man's being, Capitalism, private property, and man's mind. She imagines a time when the industrialists of the USA follow the lead of one brilliant technician (John Galt), abandon their industries, and let the looters and regulators have the fruit of their own deceptions. These men (and women) of industry will wait in "Atlantis" (Galt's Gulch) for the world to come crashing down, then they will leave their paradisaical hide-out and rebuild the world in their image with only a slight modification to the Constitution of the United States: "Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of production and trade." pp. 1069

Some of my favorite passages:

But when a society establishes criminals-by-right and looters-by-law – men who use force to seize the wealth of disarmed victims – then money becomes its creators' avenger. Such looters believe it safe to rob defenseless men, once they've passed a law to disarm them. pp. 383

Do you wish to know whether that day (that society vanishes in a spread of ruins and slaughter) is coming? Watch money. Money is the barometer of a society's virtue. When you see that trading is done, not by consent, but by compulsion – when you see that in order to produce, you need to obtain permission from men who produce nothing – when you see that money is flowing to those who deal, not in goods, but in favors – when you see that men get richer by graft and by pull than by work, and your laws don't protect you against them, but protect them against you – when you see corruption being rewarded and honesty becoming a self-sacrifice – you may know that your society is doomed. pp. 383

So they (the looters) proclaim that there is no law of identity, that nothing exists but change, and blank out the fact that *change* presupposes the concept of what changes from what and to what, that without the law of identity, no such concept as 'change' is possible. As they rob an industrialist while denying his value, so they seek to seize power over all existence while denying that existence exists. pp. 951-952

Wow Ayn, I think you hit the nail on the head! Even those who only listen to CNN should be able to recognize the prophetic nature of these statements and their current fulfillment.

To the Atheist, **I recommend *Atlas Shrugged* without reservation.** You should stop reading at this point.

To the Bible Believing Christian (and Jew) I recommend ***Atlas Shrugged*** with just a few minor reservations for which I hold Ayn Rand harmless. I hold her harmless because she accepted the philosophy of Aristotle, and was apparently exposed only to Christian religiosity, and did not understand that Churchianity has little in common with the teaching of the Bible. The descriptions of Christianity she makes (in some cases distorts) is worthy of her condemnation. We Bible Believing Christians (and Jews) are used to the world misrepresenting, misunderstanding and maligning us. The

following apologetic is not given for the purpose of convincing the Atheist to change his belief system. It is given for the Bible Believing Christian (or Jew) who, having studied Objectivism, and read Ayn Rand's books, to understand that true Christianity (or Judaism) is NOT necessarily antithetical to Objectivism. While the Bible Believing Christian (or Jew) is free to dismiss Objectivism and Aristotle, he is not free to dismiss the eternal truths that Aristotle discovered which were outlined in the Bible long before Aristotle was a gleam in his father's eye.

There are minority populations of radical Bible Believers who do not force a division between the use of their scientific minds and their "religious" minds. In fact, there can be no such dichotomy. A = A, Facts are Facts. Truth is Truth. Evidence is Evidence. True faith is built upon Facts, Truth, and Evidence.

I do not possess all the knowledge of science required to build an airplane, but I can still use my mind to evaluate objective truths which allow me to have faith to fly on an aircraft.

The present world would still be in the Dark Ages were it not for the Bible Believing scientists, engineers, explorers, and industrialists who invented vaccines, split atoms, generated electricity, calculated physical constants, identified the disciplines of calculus, created constitutions, designed earth movers and reversible motors, separated cotton from its seeds, rose up against tyranny, opposed Churchianity, and freed the slaves.

Now the academic world, lost in their quagmire of unprovable evolutionary theories, and in full defiance of scientific (Aristotelian) method, refuses to allow a Bible Believing Christian (or Jew) the right to claim the title of scientist. Nevertheless, we Bible Believers are not controlled by these mindless oracles of political correctness, but continue to think, invent, and design despite their refusal to grant professorships, titles or respect.

Atlas Shrugged makes frequent mention of Biblical doctrine, claiming that these things are the figment of man's imagination. These things include: God, Divine Authority, heaven, original sin, sin, guilt, self-sacrifice, humility, etc. Let's assume for an instant that there is no God, that man is the only perfection, the only authority. It would seem that, since these Biblical teachings are the result of man's thought process, that Ayn would give credence to the development of man's mind as expressed in the Bible. She does not. Despite this denial of the existence of a mind that could "create the myths of God, Original Sin, guilt, and humility", ***Atlas Shrugged*** nevertheless gives constant proof of the depraved nature of man, the effects of sin, and the ultimate result of sin – death – while denying the very existence of these Biblical doctrines.

Since God has revealed Himself to man in many ways over the centuries, and documented these revelations in creation (causality), man's history, global geology, intelligent design, prophetic statements, physical appearances, and the Bible, it seems illogical to write God (or those who have come to know Him) out of the logic equation.

Having Reason, Purpose, and Self Esteem as the supreme ruling values of a man's life hardly disqualifies him from being a Bible Believer.

Concerning the Radio Sermon by John Galt in *Atlas Shrugged*, (pages 923-979).

Definitions from John Galt's radio sermon (pages 923-979):

Axiom: An axiom is a statement that identifies the base of knowledge, and of any further statement pertaining to that knowledge, a statement necessarily contained in all others ... pp. 952

Axiom: God exists and He has made His presence known. Man can gain a knowledge of God through

knowledge, revelation, and logic. God exists. God does what God does, and no man can stop Him.

Isai. 43:10. Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: **that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am** he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

Isai. 43:11. I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.

Isai. 43:12. I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God.

Isai. 43:13. Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: **I will work, and who shall let it?**¹

Faith: The alleged shortcut to knowledge, which is faith. pp. 932 For centuries, the mystics of spirit have proclaimed that faith is superior to reason, but have not dared to deny the existence of reason... (faith) in the supernatural begins as faith in the superiority of others. pp. 956

Faith: Involves substance, evidence, and reason to believe. We see the moon and stars above us. We see and feel the earth below us. We reason that some intelligence designed this, and it was NOT man.

Hebr. 11:1. Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen.

Hebr. 11:2. For by it the elders obtained a good report.

Hebr. 11:3. Through faith **we understand** that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

While it is true, that man cannot make something from nothing, God has no such limitation.

Einstein² was certainly not a “Mystic of Spirit”, and one who sought shortcuts to knowledge. He stated: “I want to know how God created this world. I am not interested in this or that phenomenon, in the spectrum of this or that element. I want to know His thoughts, the rest are details.”

God: The good, say the mystics of spirit, is God, a being whose only definition is that he is beyond man's power to conceive – a definition that invalidates man's consciousness and nullified his concepts of existence. pp. 940 Those irrational wishes that draw you to their creed (the mystics), those emotions you worship as an idol, on whose altar you sacrifice the earth, that dark, incoherent passion within you, which you take as the voice of God, or of your glands, is nothing more than the corpse of your mind. An emotion that clashes with your reason, an emotion that you cannot explain or control, is only the carcass of that stale thinking which you forbade your mind to revise. pp. 949

God: Those who have no knowledge of the Bible may make such claims. Those who can acquire knowledge from the Bible know that God is not a violation of man's conscience nor a nullifier of man's concepts of existence, neither is He an emotion that clashes with man's reason.

Eccl. 7:25. I applied mine heart³ **to know**, and **to search**, and **to seek out wisdom**, and **the reason of things**, and **to know** the wickedness of folly, even of foolishness and madness:

Isai. 1:18. Come now, and **let us reason together**, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet⁴, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Isai. 41:20. **That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand** together, that the hand of the LORD hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.

Isai. 41:21. **Produce your cause**, saith the LORD; **bring forth your strong reasons**, saith the King of Jacob.

1 **who shall let it?:** There is a challenge to the mind of man! God is saying “Who is going to give me permission to do what I want, when I want? And who is going to try to stop Me once I begin some action?”

2 **Einstein: Einstein: The Life and Times** by Ronald W. Clark, Copyright 1947, 1953, Harper Collins Publishers, New York. pp.37.

3 **mine heart:** As seen here, the Bible frequently uses the term “heart” to refer to the mind as well as the seat of the emotions.

4 **though your sins be as scarlet:** In *Atlas Shrugged*, Guilt is described as imposed upon man by the mystics of spirit (the preachers). However, Guilt is the natural state of man caused by “Original Sin” which the book denies. What *Atlas Shrugged* fails to identify is that God is the remover of guilt and the forgiver of sin.

- Isai. 41:22. **Let them bring them forth**, and **shew us**⁵ what shall happen: let them **shew the former things**, what they be, that we may consider them, **and know the latter end of them**; or **declare us things for to come**.
- Isai. 41:23. **Shew the things that are to come hereafter**, that we may know that ye are gods: yea, do good, or do evil, that we may be dismayed, and behold it together.
- Acts. 17:2. And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days **reasoned with them** out of the scriptures,
- Acts. 17:3. Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.
- Acts. 24:25. And as **he reasoned** of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

Human Being: The day when he (a baby) grasps that matter has no volition is the day when he grasps that he (the baby) has (volition) – and this is his birth as a human being. pp. 953

- Jere. 1:4. Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,
- Jere. 1:5. **Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee**; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and **I ordained thee a prophet** unto the nations.
- Hebr. 7:9. And as I may so say, **Levi** also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham.
- Hebr. 7:10. For **he was yet in the loins of his father**, when Melchisedec met him.

The Bible teaches that man is man (human) from the moment of conception. I will give the benefit of the doubt that Ayn was merely saying that the baby has not yet become **aware** that he is a human.

Humility: Discard the protective rags of that vice which you called a virtue: humility – learn to value yourself, which means: to fight for your happiness ... pp. 970

- Roma. 12:1. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies **a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable **unto God**, which is your reasonable service.
- Roma. 12:2. And be not conformed to this world: **but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove** what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
- Roma. 12:3. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself **more highly than he ought to think**⁶; but to **think soberly**, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.
- Jame. 4:10. **Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord**⁷, and **he shall lift you up**.
- Psal. 139:13. For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.
- Psal. 139:14. I will praise thee; for **I am fearfully and wonderfully made**: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.
- Isai. 41:10. Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: **I will strengthen thee**; yea, **I will help thee**; yea, **I will uphold thee** with the right hand of my righteousness.

Humility does not oppose valuing yourself. It requires correctly identifying who I am and what God wants me to be, and what I can achieve by application of the mind and mercy of God.

Moral breach: the conscious choice of an action you know to be evil, or a willful evasion of knowledge, a suspension of sight and of thought. That which you do not know is not a moral charge against you; but that which you refuse to know, is an account of infamy growing in your soul. Make every allowance for errors of knowledge; do not forgive or accept any breach of morality. pp. 970

- Jame. 4:17. Therefore to him that **knoweth to do good, and doeth it not**, to him it is sin.
- Roma. 6:21. What fruit had ye then **in those things whereof ye are now ashamed**? for the end of those things is death.
- Roma. 6:22. But now **being made free from sin**, and **become servants to God**, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.
- Roma. 6:23. For the wages of sin is death; but **the gift of God is eternal life** through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 5 **shew us:** God is challenging men. OK! You think man is god? Try this! Create a Universe, show what the result will be of any action. Make a prophetic utterance and live long enough to see it come to pass!
- 6 **more highly than he ought to think:** This does not mean to denigrate oneself, it means that man should give a thoroughly honest appraisal of himself.
- 7 **Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord:** Notice that it did NOT say "Humble yourselves in the sight of man" whether thy be priests or presidents. We are to live our lives with a constant correct evaluation of ourselves, and not accept the evaluation of other men. Only God is worthy to investigate our motives.

Moral perfection: an unbreached rationality – not the degree of your intelligence, but the full and relentless use of your mind, not the extent of your knowledge, but the acceptance of reason as absolute. pp. 970

- Prov. 22:1. **A good name** is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.
- Acts. 24:16. And herein do I exercise myself, to have always **a conscience void of offence** toward God, and toward men.
- 1Pet. 3:16. **Having a good conscience**; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.
- 1Pet. 1:15. But as he which hath called you is holy, so **be ye holy** in all manner of conversation;
- 1Pet. 1:16. Because it is written, **Be ye holy**; for I am holy.

Moral purpose: the achievement of your happiness is the only moral purpose of your life, and that happiness – not pain or mindless self indulgence – is the proof of your moral integrity, since it is the proof and result of your loyalty to the achievement of your values. pp. 970

- Roma. 14:22. Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. **Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.**
- Psal. 32:1. Blessed is he **whose transgression is forgiven**, whose sin is covered.
- Psal. 32:2. Blessed is the man **unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity**, and in whose spirit there is no guile.
- Job. 5:17. Behold, **happy is the man whom God correcteth**: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:

Mystic: a man who surrendered his mind at the first encounter with the minds of others. He chose the authority of others, he chose to submit rather than to understand, to believe rather than to think. pp. 956 A mystic is driven by the urge to impress, to cheat, to flatter, to deceive, to force that omnipotent consciousness of others. Every dictator is a mystic, and every mystic is a potential dictator. pp. 957

- Deut. 10:20. Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; **him shalt thou serve**, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name.
- Matt. 4:10. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and **him only shalt thou serve.**
- Psal. 1:1. Blessed is the man **that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly**, nor **standeth in the way of sinners**, nor **sitteth in the seat of the scornful.**
- Psal. 1:2. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.
- Psal. 84:12. O LORD of hosts, **blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.**
- Psal. 119:9. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by **taking heed thereto according to thy word.**

It is no shame for a man to submit his mind to the mind of God. The Jew just wants to be left alone. They are not trying to force men to convert to Judaism. The Bible Believing Christian simply wants to let man know what God has done and then to let man make up his own mind.

- Matt. 20:25. But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them.
- Matt. 20:26. But **it shall not be so among you**: but **whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister**;
- Matt. 20:27. And **whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant**:
- Matt. 20:28. **Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.**
- 2Pet. 3:9. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is **longsuffering** to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish**, but that all should come to repentance.
- Reve. 22:16. I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.
- Reve. 22:17. And **the Spirit and the bride say, Come**. And **let him that heareth say, Come**. And **let him that is athirst come**. And **whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.**

Mystic of spirit: The good, say the mystics of spirit, is God, a being whose only definition is that he is beyond man's power to conceive – a definition that invalidates man's consciousness and nullified his concepts of existence. pp. 940 The mystics of spirit curse matter, the mystics of muscle curse profit. pp. 947 Just as your mystics of spirit

invented their heaven in the image of our earth, omitting our existence, and promised you rewards created by miracle out of non-matter – so your modern mystics of muscle omit our existence and promise you a heaven where matter shapes itself of its own causeless will into all the rewards desired by your non-mind. For centuries, the mystics of spirit had existed by running a protection racket - by making life on earth unbearable, then charging you for consolation and relief, by forbidding all the virtues that make existence possible, then riding on the shoulders of your guilt, by declaring production and joy to be sins, then collecting blackmail from the sinners. pp. 950-951

Einstein did not consider God beyond man's ability to conceive. Certainly this would not be the only definition that the mind could conceive. Ayn has created a straw man which does not comply with reality. Then she knocks the straw man down. This is not a logical method for the objective mind.

While it is true, that we will never comprehend everything about the creative genius of God, we are commanded by that same God to search Him out, to behold the wonders of His laws in creation.

Roma. 11:33. O the depth of **the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments**, and his ways past finding out!

Roma. 11:34. For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?

Jame. 1:5. **If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God**, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Einstein⁸: Ronald Cook quotes Abba Eban's comments following Einstein's death: "The Hebrew mind has been obsessed for centuries by a concept of order and harmony in the universal design. The search for laws hitherto unknown which govern cosmic forces; the doctrine of a relative harmony in nature; the idea of a calculable relationship between matter and energy – these are all more likely to emerge from a basic Hebrew philosophy and turn of mind than from many others."

Prov. 25:1. These are also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out.

Prov. 25:2. It **is the glory of God to conceal a thing**: but **the honour of kings is to search out a matter**.

Deut. 29:9. Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, **that ye may prosper in all that ye do**.

Josh. 1:8. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: **for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success**.

Psal. 34:8. **O taste and see that the LORD is good**: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

Eccl. 7:11. **Wisdom is good with an inheritance**: and by it **there is profit to them** that see the sun.

Mystic of muscle: The good, say the mystics of muscle, is Society. pp. 940

The mystics of spirit curse matter, the mystics of muscle curse profit. pp.

947 most mystics of muscle started out as mystics of spirit, that they keep switching from one to the other. pp. 697

Matt. 12:35. **A good man** out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and **an evil man** out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

Matt. 24:43. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, **and would not have suffered his house to be broken up**.

The Bible endorses private property rights. Much of the Old Testament deals with governmental protection of property rights. The Bible even authorizes force for the protection of your goods from those who would plunder you.

Pride: When you learn that pride is the sum of all virtues, you will learn to live like a man. pp. 970

Psal. 10:4. **The wicked, through the pride of his countenance**, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.

Prov. 8:13. The fear of the LORD is **to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy**, and the evil way, and **the froward mouth**, do I hate.

8 **Einstein: *Einstein: The Life and Times*** by Ronald W. Clark, Copyright 1947, 1953, Harper Collins Publishers, New York. pp.36.

Prov. 16:18. Pride goeth before destruction, and **an haughty spirit** before a fall.
 Prov. 16:19. Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than **to divide the spoil with the proud.**
 Roma. 12:3. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think**; but **to think soberly**, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Pride is often seen as evil. Ayn was not encouraging arrogance, but rather the calm assurance brought about by an accurate assessment of one's abilities and virtues, as seen in the following verse.

Ephe. 3:12. In **whom we have boldness and access with confidence** by the faith of him.

Rights: You who've lost the concept of a right, you who swing in impotent evasiveness between the claim that rights are a gift of God, a supernatural gift to be taken on faith, or the claim that rights are a gift of society, to be broken at its arbitrary whim – the source of man's rights is not divine law or congressional law, but the law of identity. A is A – and Man is Man. Rights are conditions of existence required by man's nature for his proper survival. pp. 972

Numb. 36:6. This is the thing which the LORD doth command **concerning the daughters** of Zelophehad, saying, Let them marry to whom they think best; only to the family of the tribe of their father shall they marry.
 Numb. 36:7. So shall not **the inheritance of the children of Israel** remove from tribe to tribe: for every one of the children of Israel shall **keep himself to the inheritance** of the tribe of his fathers.
 Numb. 36:8. **And every daughter, that possesseth an inheritance** in any tribe of the children of Israel, shall be wife unto one of the family of the tribe of her father, that the children of Israel may enjoy every man the inheritance of his fathers.

The Bible teaches property rights. It even teaches the property rights of women. When the time comes that the Messiah of Israel rules the world from Jerusalem, property rights will still be maintained and protected by the Divine Hand.

Mica. 4:2. 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.**
 Mica. 4:3. 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.
 Mica. 4:4. 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.

An Apologetic Concerning Faith and Logic

I have never met Ayn Rand, though others have, but I know Ayn Rand existed. How? I read her book. I have never met God, though others have, but I know He exists. How? I have read His Book. God has chosen numerous times to reveal Himself on earth. He has left behind the creative evidence of His existence.

Gene. 35:9. And **God appeared unto Jacob again**, when he came out of Padan-aram, and blessed him.
 Gene. 35:10. And God said unto him, Thy name is Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name: **and he called his name Israel.**
 Gene. 35:11. And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; **a nation and a company of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins;**

God has left behind His works (creation, Israel, man's mind, DNA, the alphabet). No Bible Believing Christian (or Jew) would ever deny that A = A, that matter exists, or that creative Design is involved in all that we see. Our job in this world is NOT to hide from the incomprehensible, but rather to apply our minds to the study and DISCOVERY of the presently incomprehensible. As Einstein declared: "to know the mind of God".

Deut. 29:29. The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: **but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever**, that we may do all the words of this law.

We are commanded by God to search out things and to subdue nature, to bring it into subjection to our

minds. God has thrown down the gauntlet⁹. He has made the challenge to man, to those with a mind, to search Him out.

Jere. 29:11. For I know the thoughts that **I think** toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.
Jere. 29:12. **Then shall ye call upon me**, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and **I will hearken unto you**.
Jere. 29:13. And **ye shall seek me, and find me**, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

This is not the mamby-pamby-pie-in-the-sky-in-the-great-by-and-by of mystics of the spirit. It is real, it is matter, it is conceivable. It should be sought out by the scientific method. God has presented a challenge to men and to their minds.

2Pet. 3:3. Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,
2Pet. 3:4. And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were **from the beginning of the creation**.
2Pet. 3:5. For this **they willingly are ignorant of**¹⁰, **that by the word of God the heavens were of old**, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:
2Pet. 3:6. Whereby the world that then was, **being overflowed with water, perished**:

God declares that there are **two great evidences** of His existence that are so obvious that man must deliberately shut his mind off from seeing them. He must WILLINGLY IGNORE what his mind is telling him: These two evidences, that can be subjected to the scientific method, are:

1. **God created the universe** (Genesis 1), and
2. **God destroyed the earth in a deluge** (Genesis 6).

1. For God to create, He must exist and He must have causality. The Creation must show **evidence** of the Designer. The Creation must obey the laws of God. These laws must be discoverable, quantifiable and repeatable. Nature must be in subjection to nature's God.

We drive by a pasture and see a rock, we give it no thought. We drive by a pasture and see a rock setting on top of a rock and we wonder – Why? We drive by a pasture and see three rocks setting on top of each other and we immediately recognize design. Some intelligent force placed them there for some purpose.

We recognize design in computer software, which in its most elementary level, is composed of sequences of zeros and ones. Simple little pulses of electricity that comprise stop bits, start bits, data, etc. We look at a DNA molecule composed of intertwining connections of 20 amino acids, comprising a genetic self-replicating bio-computer program, composed of sequences of amino acids, which contain the start bits, stop bits, and data of the digital code. This has been proven using the scientific method!

If a man can reason that intelligence is required to stack three rocks, what kind of intelligence is required to stack 20 amino acids into a genetic code that defines a living organism. To deny this Intelligence is to deny reason.

2. If God destroyed the earth by water, this event should have been so catastrophic that you could see evidence of it by looking out your window from any place on earth. In fact, this event should have been so catastrophic you could the evidence of it from outer space. You should see the evidence of uplift to move the water away from the land. You should see the channeling, scab lands, sand and gravel deposits, sorting, huge sedimentary layers, death and destruction and the fossil evidence thereof left by the run off. You should find the decaying debris that forms coal and oil below many hundreds of feet of sediment. You should see incredibly huge canyons that drained the water off the rising continents. You should see huge oceans containing the water that once covered the earth. Look out your window. Do you see it? Apply the Scientific Method to your observations.

9 **God has thrown down the gauntlet:** God has challenged you to a dual of wits. Will you take up the challenge?

10 **they willingly are ignorant of:** Ken Hamm says the literal Greek means: "They are stupid on purpose!"

Concerning Bible Doctrine Illustrated in *Atlas Shrugged*

Dagny did not need to search out John Galt. He told her to simply make the sign of the dollar on the pedestal of the statue of Nate Taggart, and then return to her apartment. She would be swept off to Galt's Gulch within 24 hours. She chose to disobey and caused John Galt untold suffering, nearly destroying him. Dagny should have believed and obeyed Galt. Do we forbid the God of the universe to make a few demands on our lives? Do we hate Him for identifying our sin? Do we continue to hate Him for providing the means whereby these sins could be paid off?

Hebr. 11:6. But **without faith it is impossible to please him**: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Atlas Shrugged also contains the account of Dagny jumping into an airplane and flying off. There is no record of her ever learning to fly, no indication that she checked the maintenance records. Yet her faith in herself and in the designer of the aircraft made it possible for her to not only fly the aircraft, but to figure out the aspects of navigation (while flying), and figure out how to land safely. She had faith in her ability to “do something” when she took off again from Utah with a low fuel tank not knowing where or how far she would fly. I am not sure that Abraham exhibited a (quantitatively) greater faith when he left his family and headed for the promised land.

Concerning Commentary About Ayn Rand's Philosophy as Stated by Her Followers

http://www.aynrand.org/site/PageServer?pagename=objectivism_pobs

The philosophic source of this viewpoint and its major advocate in the history of philosophy is Aristotle. Its opponents are all the other major traditions, including Platonism, Christianity, and German idealism. Directly or indirectly, these traditions uphold the notion that consciousness is the creator of reality. The essence of this notion is the denial of the axiom that existence exists.

Many scholars (mystics?) of Israel and of the early church tried to harmonize their scripture with the teaching of the great Greek philosophers. In the long run, it really does not matter. Truth is Truth, whether it comes from Scripture or from Aristotle. However, science has moved on from the five elements of air, water, fire, earth and aether. This does not say, however, that any Bible Believing Christian (or Jew) holds that consciousness is the creator of reality. Certainly, we do not deny that existence exists.

http://www.aynrand.org/site/PageServer?pagename=objectivism_pobs3

The alternative to reason is some form of mysticism or skepticism.

The mystic seeks supernatural knowledge; the skeptic denies the possibility of any knowledge. The mystic claims that man's means of cognition are inadequate and that true knowledge requires illumination from God; the skeptic agrees, then throws out God. The mystic upholds absolutes, which he defends by an appeal to faith; the skeptic answers that he has no faith. The mystic's faith, ultimately, is in his feelings, which he regards as a pipeline to the beyond; the skeptic drops the beyond, then follows *his* feelings, which, he says, are the only basis of action in an unknowable world.

Are the scientists who discovered the genetic code of DNA and RNA mystics? Is the geologist who suddenly realizes that he is looking at the result of a cataclysmic event suddenly a mystic? Just because an ancient book told men that the evidence was there thousands of years before, is the scientist now a mystic because he acknowledges the truth? Must the thinking, logic, and objectivism of the scientist be suddenly discarded because he discovers that his findings were already recorded in the Bible?

http://www.aynrand.org/site/PageServer?pagename=objectivism_pobs5

The proper political system, in essence—the system which guards the freedom of man's mind—is the original American system, based on the concept of inalienable individual

rights. "[T]he source of man's rights is not divine law or congressional law, but the law of identity. A is A—and Man is Man. *Rights* are conditions of existence required by man's nature for his proper survival."

Like it or not, an objective (and even cursory) reading of the Founding Fathers clearly reveals that the inalienable individual rights of man ARE the gift of God, **and for this reason** are not subject to the whims of governments, societies, or philosophers. This concept of God given rights in no way abrogates the concept of identity, existence, or causality. If God = God, and He makes Himself known and knowable, does He not have the right to Identity? And if God created all and left the evidence of intelligent design as proof, has He no right to claim causality? Do these issues in some way detract from the existence and causality of man? I don't think so!

Must I presume that this concept, of God given rights, is to be removed from the Declaration of Independence by the vote of the residents of Galt's Gulch?

http://www.aynrand.org/site/PageServer?pagename=objectivism_pobs6

In the ancient world, after centuries of a gradual decline, the choice was the ideas of classical civilization or the ideas of Christianity. Men chose Christianity. The result was the Dark Ages.

The Christianity of the Dark Ages was hardly the Christianity of the Bible. Read the 95 thesis of Martin Luther to get an idea of the tyranny, mysticism, and superstition that plagued the earth during the Dark Ages.

I WONDER ...

I cannot help but wonder how the book would have turned out had Francisco d'Anconia received a call from Dagny stating, "Frisco, were going to have a baby!"

What would have been the effect on the outcome of *Atlas Shrugged* had Hank Rearden taken his new wife, Lillian, into the office of the foundry, set her up with a desk and forced her to share his burdens and successes rather than letting her rot in stagnation at home?

Why Dagny didn't provide for Willard in the same way that Hank provided for his loyal employees?

What becomes of the wives and minor children of the deserters? Are family members to be treated as looters also?

Why cannot Ayn accept the mind of a man who yields himself to the philosophy of the Bible, even IF the philosophy of the Bible is strictly from the mind of man, yet she accepts the philosophy of Aristotle who was just teaching one more set of philosophies from the mind of man?

Why, If Ayn can hold people accountable for the natural laws identified by the fictitious John Galt and his imaginary Utopia; why does she reject the voluntary acceptance of the natural laws identified by the historical Christ and His promise of a future Kingdom on this earth (heaven)?

Thanks Rush, for recommending this book.

Lloyd, October, 2009