

WHY DOES PAINE REJECT CHURCH RELIGION?

Churches are human inventions.

*All religions claim a special relation to God etc. But "revelation" only occurs for people who actually *immediately* encounter God, his voice etc. But for everybody else, that "revelation" = HEARSAY.

The Christians *voted* on the word of God.

Churches actually operate to enslave, for power and profit.

Note that circa 1790 "science" does not appear to have this character. What about now?

IF THEY'RE FALSE, WHERE DO E.G. CHRISTIAN STORIES COME FROM?

A melding of Hebrew religion with Greek mythology.

"Son of God"= an old standard. Zeus for example had sex with tons of mortal women, who then bore demi-god kids.

The "trinity" just a reduction from the former pantheon...

Also consider Joseph Campbell: the *serpent*, which is evil in the Western monotheist account, was a favorite symbol of the much older goddess-, Dionysian and Shaivist religion...

WHAT IS DEISM? / (WHAT DOES PAINE BELIEVE?)

A supposedly "rational" religion

One God

immortality

equality

"religious" / ethical duties

*The Word of God = *The Universe itself*

A plurality of worlds: all the stars are suns

Each *thing* is a world... the universe is infinite

The universe is organized in the best possible way, (for man?)

WHAT ABOUT JESUS?

He was a virtuous reformer and a revolutionary.