

Religious Beliefs and Practices in 'The Simpsons'



Homer the Heretic

- The Lord came down in a cloud, stood with [Moses] there, and pronounced his holy name, the Lord. The Lord then passed in front of him and called out, "I, the Lord, am a God who is full of compassion and pity, who is not easily angered and who shows great love and faithfulness. I keep my promise for thousands of generations and forgive evil and sin; but I will not fail to punish children and grand-children to the third and fourth generation for the sins of their parents." Moses quickly bowed down to the ground and worshipped. (Exodus Ch. 34: 5-8)
- [Paul spoke to the Athenians] God, who made the world and everything in it, is Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in man-made temples. Nor does he need anything that we can supply by working for him, since it is he himself who gives life and breath and everything else to everyone. From one man he created all the races of mankind and made them live throughout the whole earth. He himself fixed beforehand the exact times and the limits of the places where they would live. He did this so that they would look for him, and perhaps find him as they felt about for him. Yet God is actually not far from any one of us; ... (Acts Ch. 17:24-27)
- A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another even as I have loved you (John 13:34)
- Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always preserves. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)
- 'God is not proud. He will have us even though we have shown that we prefer everything else to him.' (CS Lewis)
- "I'm not a bad guy. I work hard and I love my kids. So why should I spend half my Sunday hearing about how I'm going to Hell?... I figure I should try to live right and worship you in my own way." (Homer Simpson)
- "What's the big deal about going to some building on Sunday? Isn't God everywhere?" (Homer Simpson)
- "What if we picked the wrong religion? Every week we're just making God madder and madder." (Homer Simpson)

- “Perfect teeth. Nice smell. A class act all the way.” (Homer Simpson, describing God)
- “Thou hast forsaken my church!” (God)
- “The Lord is vengeful. O Spiteful One, show me who to smite, and he shall be smotten!” (Homer Simpson)
- “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy” (Rev. Lovejoy)
- “Dear Lord, may your loving hand guide Homer to the mattress square and true.” (Ned Flanders)
- “Truly this was an act of God.” (Lisa Simpson)
- “[God was] working in the hearts of your friends and neighbours when they came to your aid” (Rev. Lovejoy)

The Genesis Tub

- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. (Genesis 1: 1-2)
- For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the deep places of the earth: the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker. (Psalm 95:3-6)
- O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. (Psalm 104: 24)
- Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked. (Psalm 97: 10)
- “Tiny little people! My God, I’ve created life!” (Lisa Simpson)
- “You can’t protect them every second. Sooner or later, you’ll let your guard down and then flush, it’s toilet time for Tiny Town.” (Bart Simpson)
- “You look down on us from Heaven, you gave us life, and only your divine intervention can save us from the Devil” (Leader of tiny people)
- “If you’re so good, why do you allow bad things to happen?” (Bill Watson, tiny person)

Bart Sells His Soul

- I believe in ... the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. (The Apostles' Creed)
- Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather be afraid of God, who can destroy both body and soul in hell. (Matthew 10: 28)
- Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgement, but has passed from death to life. (John 5: 24)
- I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in me will live even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. (John 11: 25-26)
- Listen to this secret truth: we shall not all die, but when the last trumpet sounds, we shall all be changed in an instant as quickly as the blinking of an eye. For when the trumpet sounds, the dead will be raised, never to die again, and we shall all be changed. For what is mortal must be changed into what is immortal; what will die must be changed into what cannot die. So when this takes place, and the mortal has been changed into the immortal, then the scripture will come true: 'Death is destroyed; victory is complete!' (1 Corinthians 15: 51-54)
- "Soul! There's no such thing as a soul! It's just something they made up to scare kids, like the Boogie Man or Michael Jackson." (Bart Simpson)
- "But every religion says there's a soul, Bart. Why would they lie? What would they have to gain?" (Milhouse)
- "I didn't want hungry birds pecking at my soul forever" (Milhouse)
- "Your soul is the only part of you that lasts forever." (Lisa Simpson)
- "Well, whether or not the soul is real, it's a symbol of everything that is fine inside us." (Lisa Simpson)
- "Some philosophers believe that nobody is born with a soul; that you have to earn one through suffering and thought and prayer." (Lisa Simpson)

Lisa the Skeptic

- To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see. (Hebrews 11: 1)
- And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20: 12-15)
- "There has to be more to life than just what we see Lisa, everyone needs something to believe in." (Marge Simpson)
- "Get your angel glow sticks! No one gets into heaven without a glow stick!" (Homer Simpson)
- "What grown person could believe in angels?" (Lisa Simpson)
- "My poor Lisa. If you can't make a leap of faith of faith now and then, I feel sorry for you." (Marge Simpson)
- "Don't feel sorry for me Mom, I feel sorry for you." (Lisa Simpson)
- "I don't know what's going to happen, but I really wish we could make peace before sunset." (Marge Simpson)

Bart Gets An 'F'

- And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (Matthew 6: 5-6)
- Be merciful to me, O God, because of your constant love. Because of your great mercy wipe away my sins! Wash away all my evil and make me clean from my sin! Give me again the joy that comes from your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. Then I will teach sinners your commands, and they will turn back to you. (Psalm 51: 1-2 and 12-13)
- And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. (Luke 18: 1)
- This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven: May your holy name be honoured; may your kingdom come; may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need. Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us. Do not bring us to hard testing, but keep us safe from evil.' (Matthew 6: 9-13)
- "Well, Old Timer, I guess this is the end of the road. I know I haven't always been a good kid, but if I have to go to school tomorrow, I'll fail the test and be held back. I just need one more day to study, Lord. I need your help. A teachers' strike, a power failure, a blizzard.... Anything that'll cancel school tomorrow. I know it's asking a lot, but if anyone can do it, you can! Thanking you in advance, Bart Simpson." (Bart Simpson)

Other Simpson Prayers

- Rub a dub, dub, thanks for the grub. (Bart)
- Good drink, good meat, good God, let's eat. (Homer)
- Dear God, we paid for all this stuff ourselves, so thanks for nothing. (Bart)
- Dear God, thanks for Ziggy comics, little baby ducks, and 'Sweatin' to the Oldies' volumes one, two, and three. (Ned Flanders)

- Thank you God most of all for nuclear power, which has yet to cause a single, proven fatality, at least in this country. (Homer)
- We especially thank you for nuclear power, the cleanest, safest energy source there is, except solar, which is just a pipe dream. (Homer)
- Thanks for the occasional moments of peace and love our family's experienced ... well, not today. You saw what happened. O Lord, be honest! Are we the most pathetic family in the world, or what? (Homer)
- Lord, on this blessed day, we thank thee for giving our family one more crack at togetherness. (Homer)
- Dear Lord, thank you for the microwave bounty, even though we don't deserve it. I mean ... our kids are uncontrollable hellions. Pardon my French, but they act like savages! Did you see them at the picnic? Of course you did; you're everywhere, you're omnivorous, O Lord! Why did you spite me with this family? (Homer)
- Dear God, this is Marge Simpson. If you stop this hurricane and save our family, we will be for ever grateful and recommend you to all our friends. (Marge)
- Dear Lord, if you spare this town from becoming a smoking hole in the ground, I'll try to be a better Christian. I don't know what I can do. Ummm ... oh, the next time there's a canned food drive, I'll give the poor something they actually like, instead of old lima beans and pumpkin mix. (Marge)
- I'm not much of a praying man, but if you're up there, please save me, Superman. (Homer)
- Dear God, give a bald guy a break! (Homer)
- God, if you really are a God, you'll give me tickets to that game. (Homer)
- Thanks for all the bad things adults do which distracts attention from the stuff I'm doing. (Bart)

Home Sweet Home-Diddly-Dum-Doodily

- I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.
(Mark 1: 8)
- Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19)
- He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. (Mark 16: 16)
- Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
(Acts 2: 38)
- "I once was lost/ But now am found/ Was blind, but now I see" ('Amazing Grace', sung by Flanders family)
- "Do you reject Satan and all his empty promises?" (Ned Flanders)
- "Oh, Bartholomew. I feel like St Augustine of Hippo after his conversion by Ambrose of Milan." (Homer Simpson)

Like Father, Like Clown

- *Barukh attah, Adonai Eloheinu, melekh ha-olam, Borukh atoh, Adoynoy Eloyheinu, melekh ho-oylom...* [Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe...] (Hebrew *Brucha*, quoted by Krusty the Clown)
- “That’s Hebrew. Krusty must be Jewish.” (Lisa Simpson)
- “My father was a rabbi, his father was a rabbi, his father...well, you get the idea...people would come from miles around to ask his advice.” (Krusty the Clown)
- “*Rebonno Shel Olam*” [Master of the Universe] (Rabbi Krustofski)
- “The best charity is to give and not let anybody know.” (Rabbi Krustofski, quoting the medieval Jewish Philosopher Maimonides)
- “He turned his back on our traditions, our faith and on me!” (Rabbi Krustofski)
- Ham, sausage and bacon, with a smidge of mayo... on white bread. (Ingredients of ‘Krusty the Clown’ sandwich – **breaks Kosher food laws**)
- “What’s the one thing rabbis prize above everything else?...Knowledge” (Lisa Simpson)
- A child should be pushed aside with the left hand and drawn closer with the right. (Babylonian Talmud, quoted by Bart Simpson)
- “Doesn’t your religion command you to make up with Krusty?” (Bart Simpson)
- Honour thy father and thy mother. (Exodus 20:12, quoted by Rabbi Krustofski)
- “At all times, let a man be supple as a reed and not rigid as a cedar.” (Rabbi Simon ben Eleazer, a second-century Talmudic scholar, quoted by Bart Simpson)
- “You shall meditate on the Torah all day and all night” (Joshua 1: 8, quoted by Rabbi Krustofski)
- Who will bring redemption? The jesters. (Talmud, quoted by Bart Simpson)