

**GOD, n.**

1. The Supreme Being; Jehovah; the eternal and infinite spirit, the creator, and the sovereign of the universe.

God is a spirit; and they that worship him, must worship him in spirit and in truth. John 4:24

2. A false god; a heathen deity; an idol.

Fear not the gods of the Amorites. Judges 6:10.

3. A prince; a ruler; a magistrate or judge; an angel. Thou shalt not revile the gods, nor curse the ruler of thy people.

---

**GOD and RELIGION, Offences against.** Apostacy is an offence against God and religion. It appears from *Bracton*, 1. 3. c. 9. that in his time apostates were burnt to death; but this punishment afterwards became obsolete, and the offence for a long time was cognizable only in the Ecclesiastical Courts, which corrected the offender *pro salute animæ*.

By stat. 9 and 10 W. 3, c. 32. if any person educated in, or having made any profession of, the Christian religion, shall by writing, printing, teaching, or *advised* speaking, deny the Christian religion to be true, or the Holy Scriptures to be of divine authority, he shall upon the first offence be rendered incapable to hold any office or place of trust; and for the second be rendered incapable of bringing any action, being guardian, executor, legatee, or purchaser of lands, and shall suffer three years' imprisonment without bail. To give room, however, for repentance, if within four months after the first conviction the delinquent will, in open court, publicly renounce his error, he is discharged for that once from all disabilities.

All publications blaspheming God, or turning the doctrines of the Christian religion to contempt and ridicule, are undoubtedly the subject of indictment, punishable by the temporal courts with fine, imprisonment, and also infamous corporal punishment, in the discretion of the court. 1 Hawk. P. C. c. 3: 1 Russell, 209, 217.

Heresy is another offence, for which the offender is subject only to ecclesiastical censure, by stat. 29 Car. 2. c. 9: see that title.

See further, 4 Comm. 42. 65: and this Diet. tits. Blasphemy, Religion, Simony, Sunday, Swearing.

“In my view, the Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government ought to be instructed... No truth is more evident to my mind than that the Christian religion must be the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people. — Preface”

Noah Webster 1829

GOD and RELIGION, *Offences against.* *Apostacy* is an offence against God and religion. It appears from *Bracton*, l. 3. c. 9. that in his time apostates were burnt to death; but this punishment afterwards became obsolete, and the offence for a long time was cognizable only in the Ecclesiastical Courts, which corrected the offender *pro salute animæ*.

By stat. 9 and 10 W. 3. c. 32. if any person educated in, or having made any profession of, the Christian religion, shall by writing, printing, teaching, or *advised* speaking, deny the Christian religion to be true, or the Holy Scriptures to be of divine authority, he shall upon the first offence be rendered incapable to hold any office or place of trust; and for the second be rendered incapable of bringing any action, being guardian, executor, legatee, or purchaser of lands, and shall suffer three years' imprisonment without bail. To give room, however, for repentance, if within four months after the first conviction the delinquent will, in open court, publicly renounce his error, he is discharged for that once from all disabilities.

All publications blaspheming God, or turning the doctrines of the Christian religion to contempt and ridicule, are undoubtedly the subject of indictment, punishable by the temporal courts with fine, imprisonment, and also infamous corporal punishment, in the discretion of the court. 1 *Hawk. P. C.* c. 3: 1 *Russell*, 209, 217.

*Heresy* is another offence, for which the offender is subject only to ecclesiastical censure, by stat. 29 *Car.* 2. c. 9: see that title.

See further, 4 *Comm.* 42. 65: and this Dict. tits. *Blasphemy*, *Religion*, *Simony*, *Sunday*, *Swearing*.

GODS DENNY F