



*Esther*

Just because you  
can't see God,

# Big Trouble

*Esther 3*

doesn't mean  
He isn't there...

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# Big Trouble

Just because you  
can't see God,

doesn't mean  
He isn't there...

*“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I  
have overcome the world!” (John 16:33)*





# Oxfordshire parents' court challenge over Christian assemblies

🕒 29 July 2019 f 💬 🐦 ✉️ 🔗 Share



A couple are taking the Church of England to court over Christian school assemblies which they say are "indoctrinating" their children.

## Top Stories

**Texas Walmart shooting 'possible hate crime'**  
Officials say the suspect may have written an online tract expressing white nationalist and racist views.

🕒 6 minutes ago

**Nine killed in Ohio in second US mass shooting**

🕒 38 minutes ago

**Two US mass shootings in less than 24 hours**

🕒 3 hours ago

## Features



**#ElPasoStrong following mass shooting**



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# Big Trouble

- An ancient and on-going hostility (1-4)



# Big Trouble

- An ancient and on-going hostility (1-4)

**Amalekites (Ex 17)**

**Agag (1 Samuel)**

**Haman (Esther)**

**Israel (Ex 17)**

**Saul (1 Samuel)**

**Mordecai (Esther)**



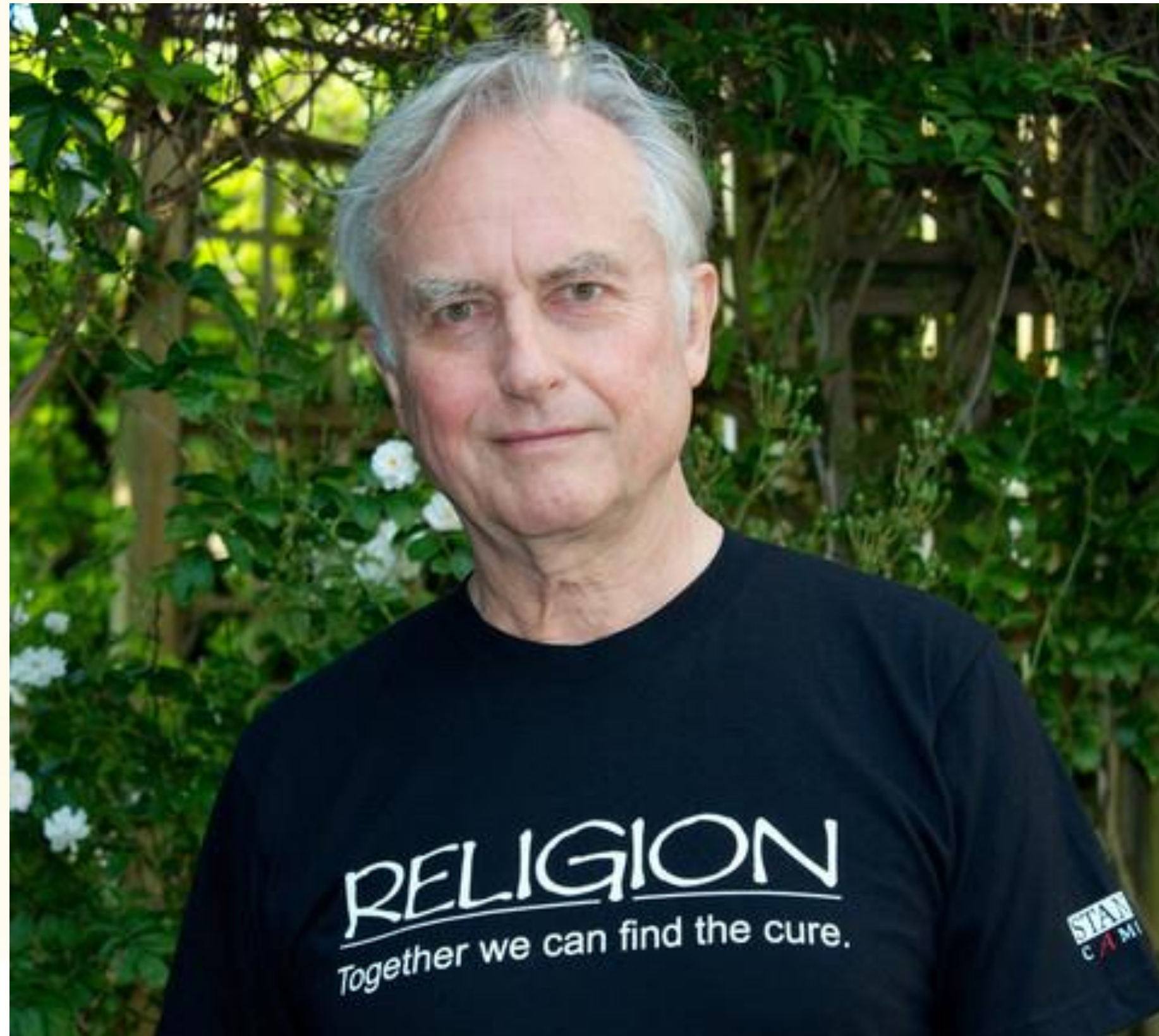
# Big Trouble

- An ancient and on-going hostility (1-4)
- A disproportionate and brutal hostility (5-7)

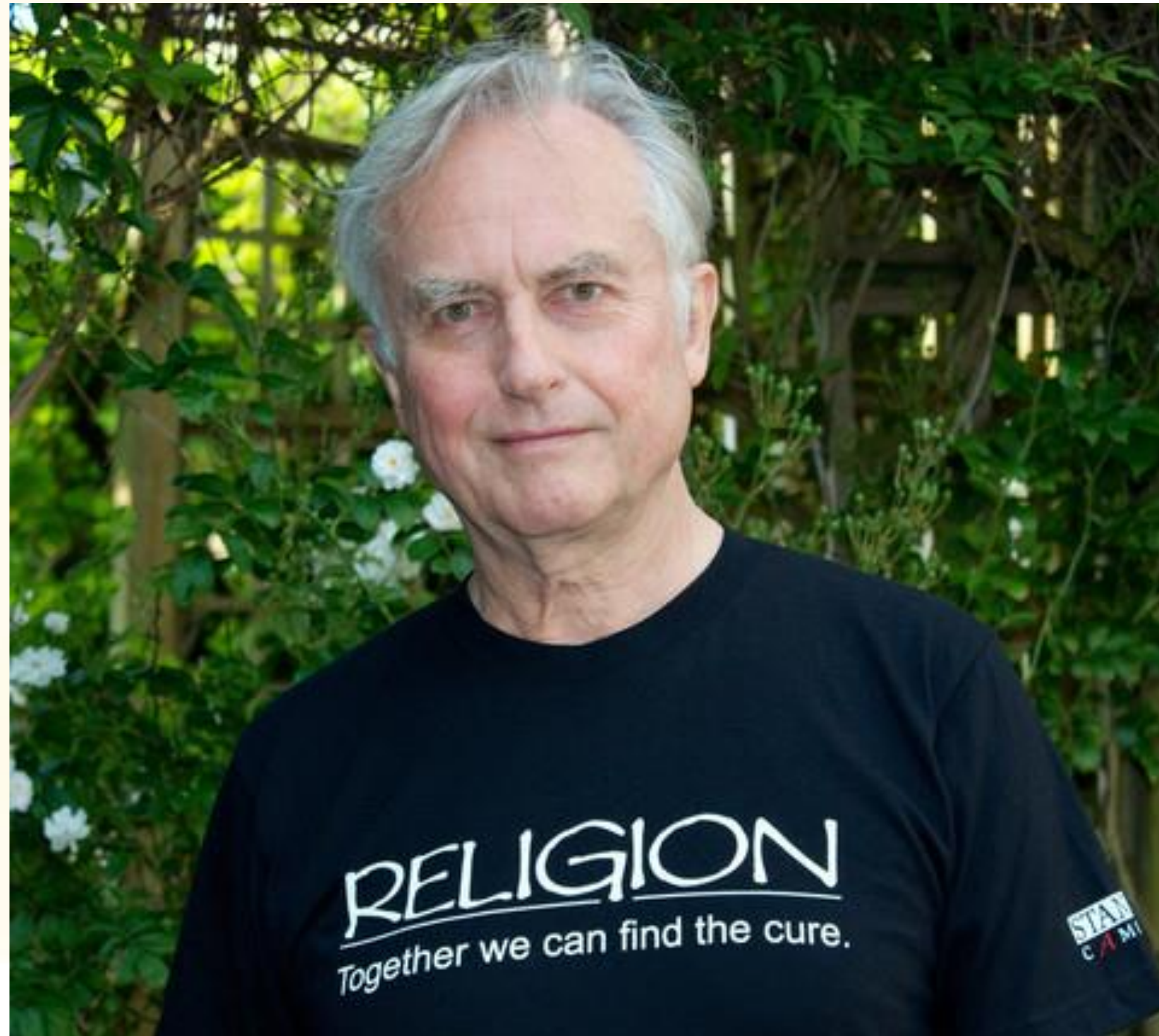




# Richard Dawkins on Religion...



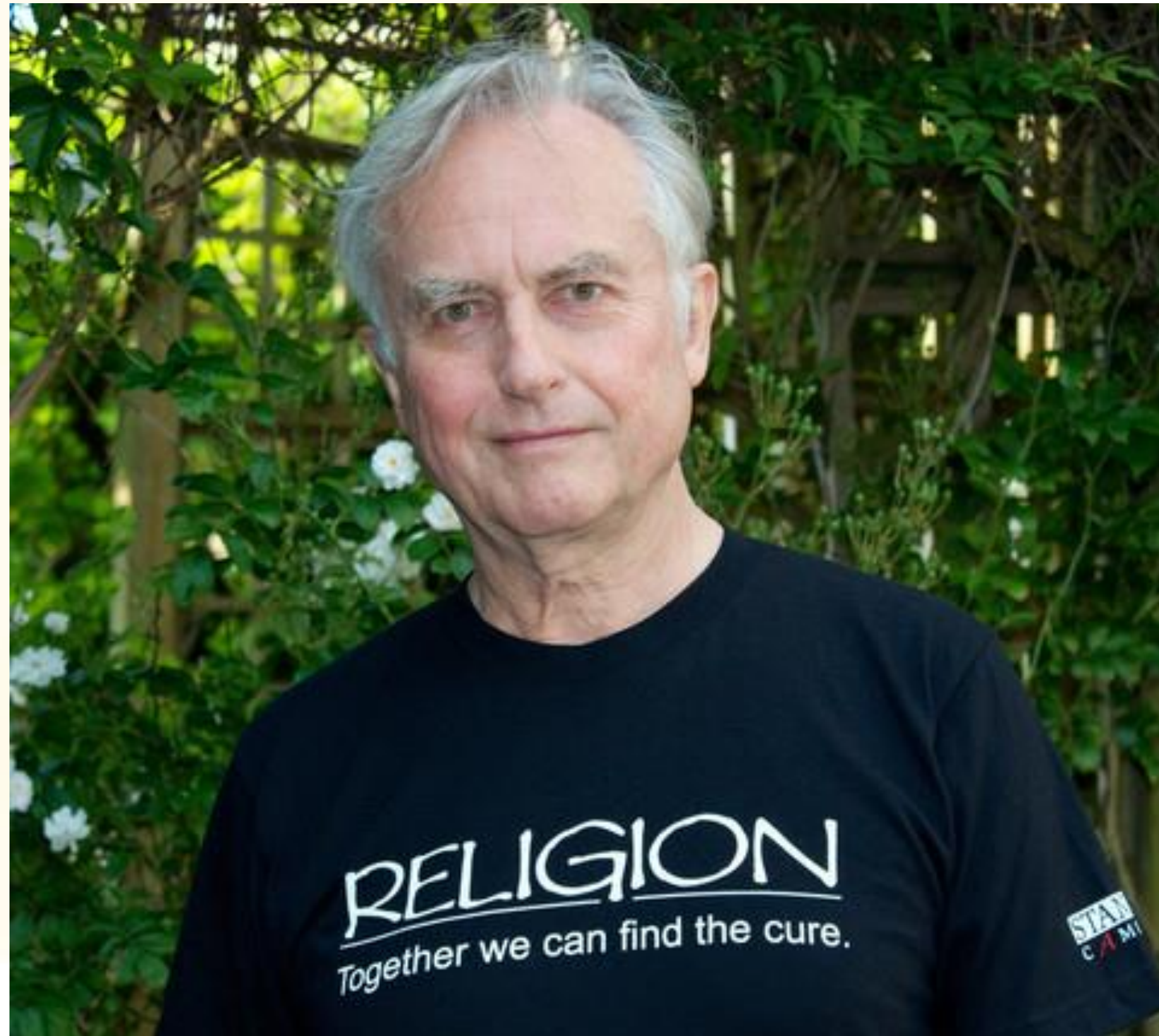
# Richard Dawkins on Religion...



“It is fashionable to wax apocalyptic about the threat to humanity posed by the AIDS virus, "mad cow" disease, and many others, but I think a case can be made that faith is one of the world's great evils, comparable to the smallpox virus but harder to eradicate.”



# Richard Dawkins on Religion...



“Oxford’s Christian Union is notoriously nasty and predatory”



# Big Trouble

- An ancient and on-going hostility (1-4)
- A disproportionate and brutal hostility (5-7)



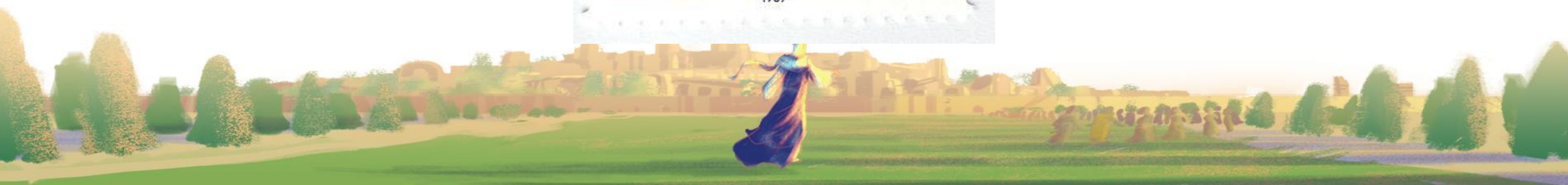
# Big Trouble

- An ancient and on-going hostility (1-4)
- A disproportionate and brutal hostility (5-7)
  - Anti-Semitism or Persecution of God's people?



# Paul Schneider

– Christian opponent of Anti-Semitism



# Big Trouble

- An ancient and on-going hostility (1-4)
- A disproportionate and brutal hostility (5-7)
- A sinister and scheming hostility (8-11)



# Big Trouble

- An ancient and on-going hostility (1-4)
- A disproportionate and brutal hostility (5-7)
- A sinister and scheming hostility (8-11)
- A determined and calculating hostility (12-14)





# Gen 12:2-3

'I will make you into a great nation,  
and I will bless you;  
I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.  
I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you.



# Big Trouble

- An ancient and on-going hostility (1-4)
- A disproportionate and brutal hostility (5-7)
- A sinister and scheming hostility (8-11)
- A determined and calculating hostility (12-14)
  - A hint of the Passover gives a glimmer of hope



# Samuel Rutherford



*“Christ charges me to believe his daylight at midnight.”*



# To take home...

- Face the reality of persecution



# To take home...

- Face the reality of persecution
- Don't be surprised if you face opposition to your faith and mission



# To take home...

- Face the reality of persecution
- Don't be surprised if you face opposition to your faith and mission
- Pray for the persecuted church



# Open Doors World Watch List



# To take home...

- Face the reality of persecution
- Don't be surprised if you face opposition to your faith and mission
- Pray for the persecuted church
- Be faithful in what you do face





# To take home...

- Face the reality of persecution
- Don't be surprised if you face opposition to your faith and mission
- Pray for the persecuted church
- Be faithful in what you do face
- Set your heart on eternity

