

# “I Defy Him to Strike me Dead”

By Tony Melton

An atheist once told a group of people that he was going to prove that God did not exist. He took out his watch and arrogantly said, “If there is a God, I defy him to strike me dead in the next five minutes.” Standing before his audience, he watched his clock. At the end of five minutes, he said, “See I told you there was no God!” Later another man commented about the exhibition saying, “Does the gentlemen think that he can exhaust God’s patience in five minutes.”

Sometimes people misinterpret God’s patience and kindness and falsely conclude that God does not exist. However, we should realize that God does not view “time” as we do. The Bible says, “. . . do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day” (2 Peter 3:8). What does this mean? It means that what seems like ages to us is no time at all to God. If 1000 years is as one day to God, then the average lifetime of a person would represent about one hour and thirty minutes. James expresses our life as a vapor of smoke that appears for a moment and then vanishes.

Making judgments concerning God’s actions based upon a time-scale is very unwise. Just because God allows sin and wickedness to prevail in the world year after year does not mean that He does not exist. The Bible tells us that God is “long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). God patiently waits, giving man time and opportunity to make preparations for the next life.

God is not just letting men and women’s sins go unnoticed, nor is He forgetting about all the evil men do (Romans 2:5). He is just giving people time to forsake their sins and obey the truth. How is your life today? Are you testing the patience of God?