

mythology. Such are, the FORMATION OF THE WORLD; THE FALL AND CORRUPTION OF MAN; the hostility of a powerful and supernatural agent of wickedness under his appropriate and scriptural emblem, the SERPENT; THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WORLD BY WATER; the RE-PEOPLING OF IT BY THE SONS OF NOAH; the EXPECTATION OF ITS FINAL DESTRUCTION BY FIRE: and, above all, the *promise of a great and divine DELIVERER.*

4. All nations have dispersed from the patriarchal seats in Asia: this has often been satisfactorily proved. All religions, however superstitious, agree in a common origin. All the great masters of human reason in the ancient world, had, therefore, heard of God and his perfections; of moral distinctions; of man's immortality; and of a future state. The best of their notions were in the world long before they lived; the worst only, by which they corrupted the primitive truths, were of their own invention.

Y. I perceive, then, that human reason has no claim at all, even in these early ages, to the credit of these discoveries; but tell me how it is, that men who reject the Bible are so confident in ascribing so much power to their unaided reason.

T. My answer may, perhaps, surprise you; but I will prepare you for it by reminding you that the philosophers of antiquity made no such pretensions, and that this confidence in human reason is the boast only of men where Christianity is already known. The ancient sages confessed the weakness of their understanding, and their inability to discover truth. Pythagoras, Socrates, Plato, Cicero, and others, all confess their ignorance, and their doubts, on those very subjects which some of the moderns pretend to be clearly discoverable without a revelation; and the only reason which can be given why infidel philosophers of the present age speak with so much assurance as to their own ability to make better