RELIGIONS, ESPECIALLY THE ABRAHAMIC RELIGIONS OF Judaism, Christianity and Islam, have long used the threat of hell to terrify, manipulate, and thus control believers. Western holiday music, ostensibly Christian but largely secular, contains this mild remonstrance: "He sees you when you're sleeping. He knows when you're awake. He knows if you've been bad or good, so be good for goodness sake!" Traditionally, the worst that came from not being good was a lump of coal in one's Christmas stocking—a threat that might have loomed large for many children, but is less than intimidating for most adults. On the other hand, the threat of eternal torment is another story. In at least some cases it may have resulted in behavior that is more prosocial than would otherwise have been the case, leading many to claim that without god and the threats that he imposes, morality would not exist.

Even though Judaism says very little about either heaven or hell, there are numerous cases of divine retribution announced, with apparent satisfaction, in the Hebrew bible. Here is just a sample.

For the sin of disobedience, Adam and Eve were expelled from Eden (Genesis 3:14-24). The Noahic Flood was imposed upon a sinful planet (Genesis 6-7); the people of Sodom and Gomorrah were obliterated because of their indiscretions, chiefly sexual (Genesis 19:23-29); ditto for Onan because of, as one might expect, onanism (masturbation) (Genesis 38:6-10); plagues were visited upon the Egyptians because they ignored the entreaties of Moses (Exodus 7-14); different plagues scourged the Israelites for worshipping the Golden Calf (Exodus 32), and Uzzah was struck dead for having touched the Ark of the Covenant (Samuel 6:1-7).

The Christian bible also contains many statements of God's retributive inclinations, such as, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him" (John 3:36); "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth" (Romans 1:18); and "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience" (Ephesians 5:6). Although it is widely believed that a signal quality of Christianity is its focus on love, kindness, and forgiveness, this is to some extent belied by the focus on anger, violence, and retribution, not only in the afterlife, but especially in this life as a means of intimidating the living.

The idea that God's wrath can be discerned in natural disasters, from epidemics to floods, hurricanes, and so forth, although denied in some quarters, is widespread, especially among fundamentalists and evangelicals. For example, televangelist Pat Robertson claimed that the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti may well have been a delayed divine punishment for Haitians having made a "pact with the devil" when they overthrew their French slave-holding overlords two centuries earlier. A week after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, when appearing on The 700 Club,...
Religion is the most effective tool to use to control the mass population at the spiritual level. This is because most people have been conditioned to believe that religion is heavily influenced by the words of Creation (God). In order for the Controllers to control us, they need to weaken the spiritual power within us. The end game of the Controllers is to create a worldwide catastrophic event so that they can manipulate the survivors into accepting their fascist one world government. To achieve this goal, they need to first control two things: money and religion. They have always been in control of money and religion to a large degree, but in the late 1700s their controlling empire was threatened by a generation of very brave men and women. Cruel & Unusual Punishment: The Terrifying Implications of Islamic Law is a wake up call to the free world: Nonie Darwish presents an insider’s look at Sharia and examines how radical Muslim laws are destroying the Western world from within. Cruel and Usual Punishment is an insider’s look at how Muslims sacrifice their basic human rights to obey the archaic and brutal laws handed down to their prophet centuries ago. Heed this warning: Sharia Law is attempting to infiltrate Western culture and destroy democracy. Sharia Law is about the most evil form of government which exists on the face of the earth. Islam the only accepted religion on earth.” Omar Ahmad. My response to this: Oh hell no, not in my country. Judeo-Christian we began, and Judeo-Christian we shall remain. Tonight mourners attended vigils to pay tribute to the victims of the triple killing. They lit candles outside the Notre-Dame de l'Assomption Basilica in Nice and in front of the French Embassy in Berlin. The attacks come amid fury across the Islamic world at President Macron for defending satirical cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed, and on the day that Sunni Muslims mark the Prophet's birthday. General view of the Black Carpet to pay tribute to victims of the attack in Nice today at the Cannes Festival. The first attack took place at 9am in Nice, before the second attack in Avignon two hours later. Separately, a guard at the French consulate in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, was stabbed.