

# Christianity Not as Old as the Creation: The Last of Defoe's Performances

Editor: **G A Starr**

*The Pickering Masters*

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April 1730 saw the publication of *Christianity as Old as the Creation*, a work which came to be known as 'the Deists' Bible'. Barely a month later, an anonymous pamphlet appeared in response. *Christianity Not as Old as the Creation* challenged not simply the author of the volume, Matthew Tindal, but the religious philosophy of Deism in general.

Using *A New Family Instructor* (1727) for comparative analysis, Starr argues that there is enough convincing internal evidence – and a concurrent absence of any conflicting external evidence – for a 'probable' attribution to Daniel Defoe.

This is the first time *Christianity Not as Old as the Creation* has appeared in a scholarly edition. Starr's attribution is not only a significant contribution to Defoe scholarship, but in making it he simultaneously provides an excellent 'how to' guide for scholars wishing to add other non-attributed works to the Defoe canon.



*Daniel Defoe and the Devil at Leapfrog (1706)*

- First critical edition of the text
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- Sheds new light on the English Deists
- Provides excellent 'how to' guide for further Defoe attribution

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