Underlined=book title and author

Green= Main Idea

In the novel *Night*, by Elie Wiesel, one clear outcome of Elie’s experience is that the camps had destroyed his faith in his God, while increasing his faith in himself.

Context and Signal Phrase:

"And I, the former mystic, was thinking: Yes, man is stronger, greater than God. When Adam and Eve deceived You, You chased them from paradise. . . . But look at these men whom You have betrayed, allowing them to be tortured, slaughtered, gassed, and burned, what do they do? They pray before You! They praise Your name!" (Wiesel 67-68).

Analysis:

At this point in the story, Elie clearly thinks that “man is stronger. . . than God,” stating this directly (67). Obviously, this thought shows a lack of faith in an all-powerful Jewish God. Even further, however, does his faith decline when he actually accuses his God, rather than the Nazis, of being part of the destruction of his people, who are being, in his words, “betrayed. . . tortured, slaughtered, gassed, and burned” (68). Anyone who accuses their God of such acts is obviously losing faith that their God is a giving, charitable being—which are characteristics of what he initially felt about his God during his youth, as he explored the mysteries of his God.