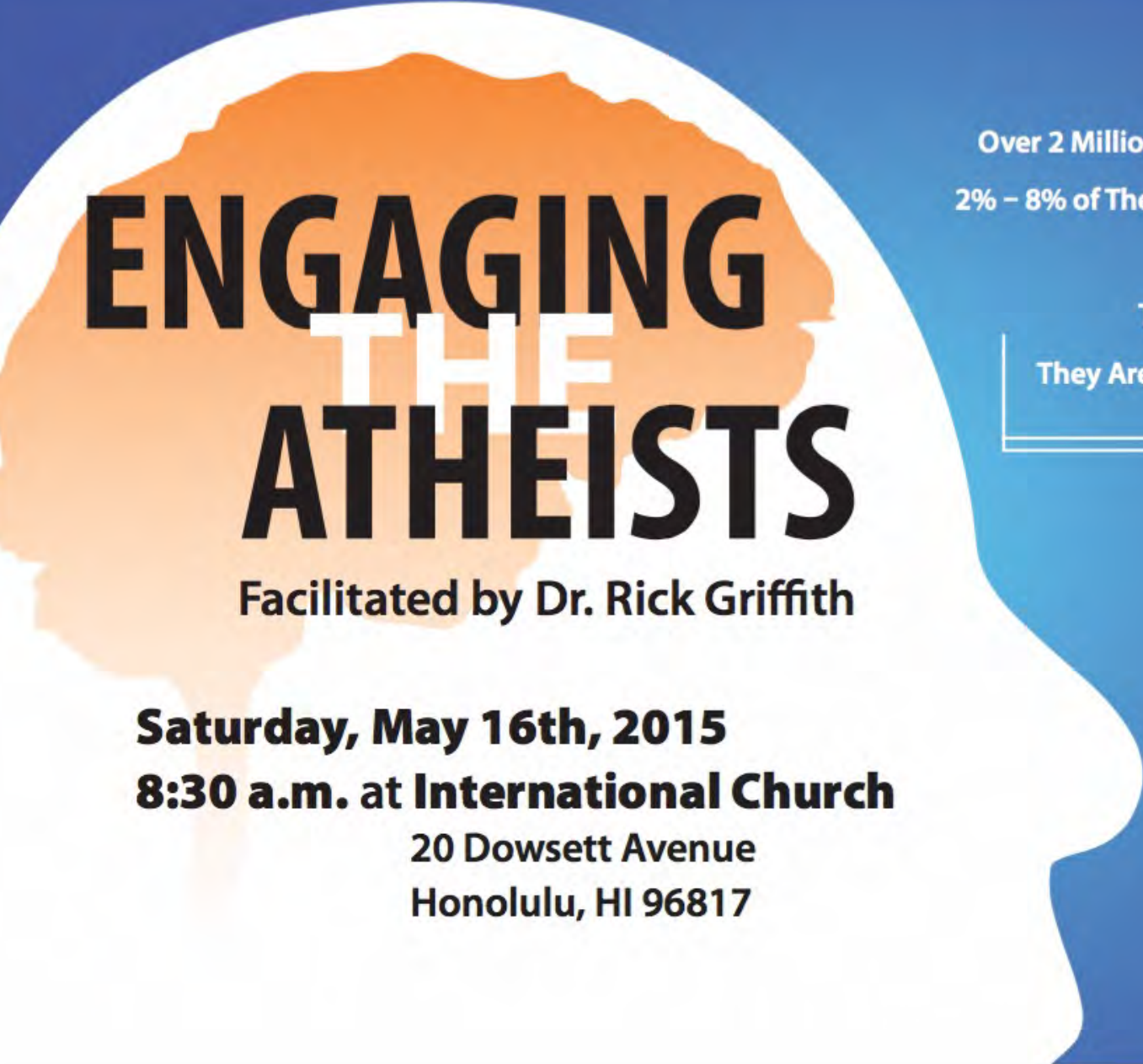


A Seminar to Strengthen Your Faith and the Faith of Others



ENGAGING THE ATHEISTS

Facilitated by Dr. Rick Griffith

Saturday, May 16th, 2015

8:30 a.m. at International Church

20 Dowsett Avenue

Honolulu, HI 96817

Over 2 Million People In The USA Claim To Be Atheists

2% – 8% of The World's Population Claim To Be Atheists

They Teach That Jesus Was A Myth

They Do Not Believe In Intelligent Design

They Are Becoming More Vocal With Their Beliefs

How To Respond To
Our Atheist Friends
Who Believe Jesus
Is Merely A Myth

Dr. Rick Griffith • Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary • BibleStudyDownloads.org



Don't believe in God?

Join the club.

OKCCoR.ORG



Millions of Americans
are living happily
without religion.

*Learn
more*



LivingWithoutReligion.org



"God free, happy, and
inspired by wonder."

Will Scharff, Sacramento.
Technology Analyst . . . Atheist

SAC.FFRF.ORG

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

believe in humanity,
not god."

Brooke Byrd, Sacramento.
Volunteer . . . Atheist

C.FFRF.ORG

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION





Humbug.







Dear Christians,
I share my toys.
Why won't you share the season?
Happy holidays for all!



Dear Santa,

All I want for Christmas is to

skip church!

I'm too old for fairy tales.

Atheist Christmas Card



DEAR CHILDREN
One day you will learn about Santa
Claus. On that day remember everything
the adults told you about Jesus.



What to do?

1

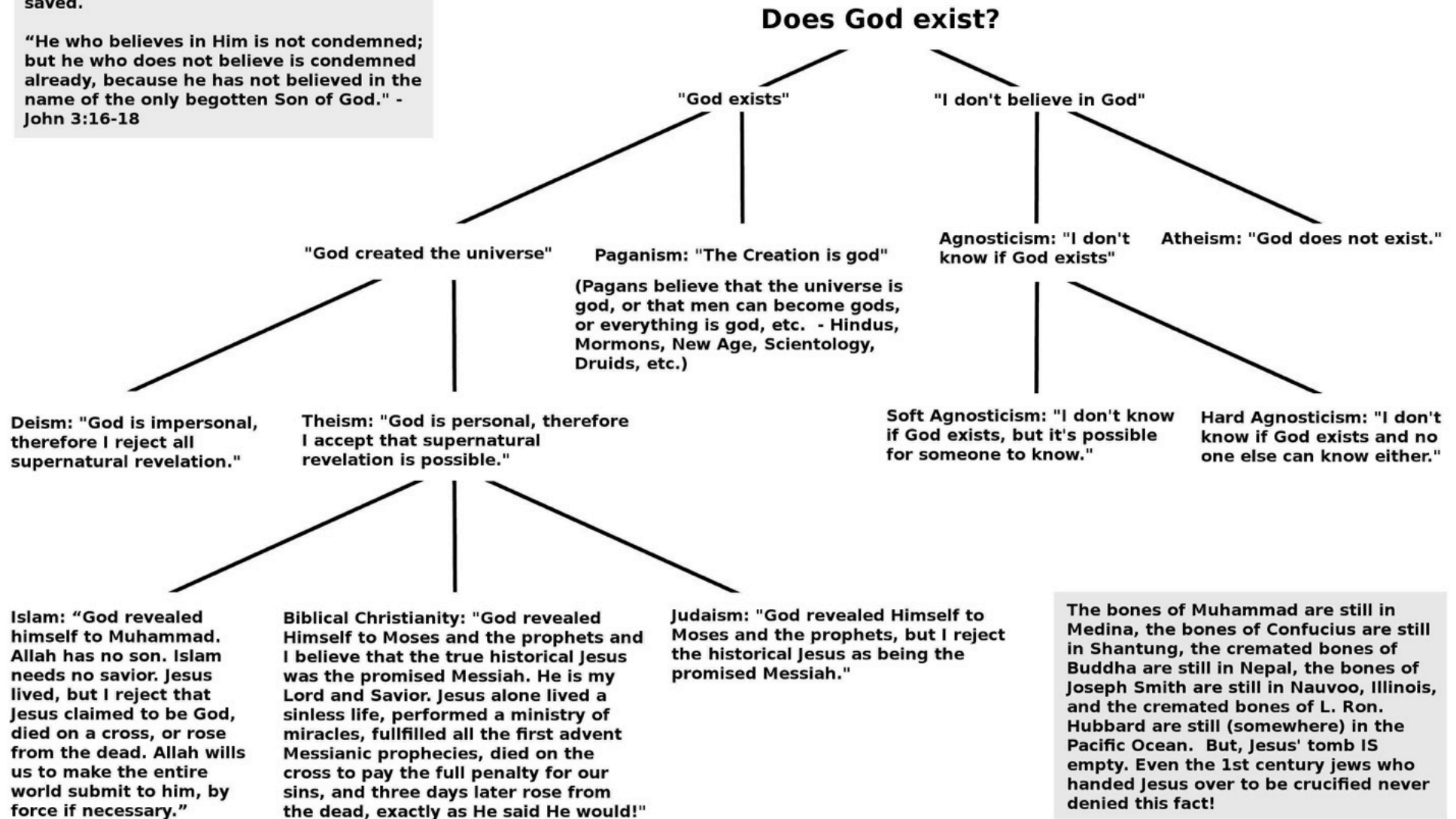


Kirkpatrick Worldview Chart

1

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." - John 3:16-18



The bones of Muhammad are still in Medina, the bones of Confucius are still in Shantung, the cremated bones of Buddha are still in Nepal, the bones of Joseph Smith are still in Nauvoo, Illinois, and the cremated bones of L. Ron. Hubbard are still (somewhere) in the Pacific Ocean. But, Jesus' tomb IS empty. Even the 1st century jews who handed Jesus over to be crucified never denied this fact!

Ten Possible Worldviews

2





Worldviews:
How does God relate to the world?



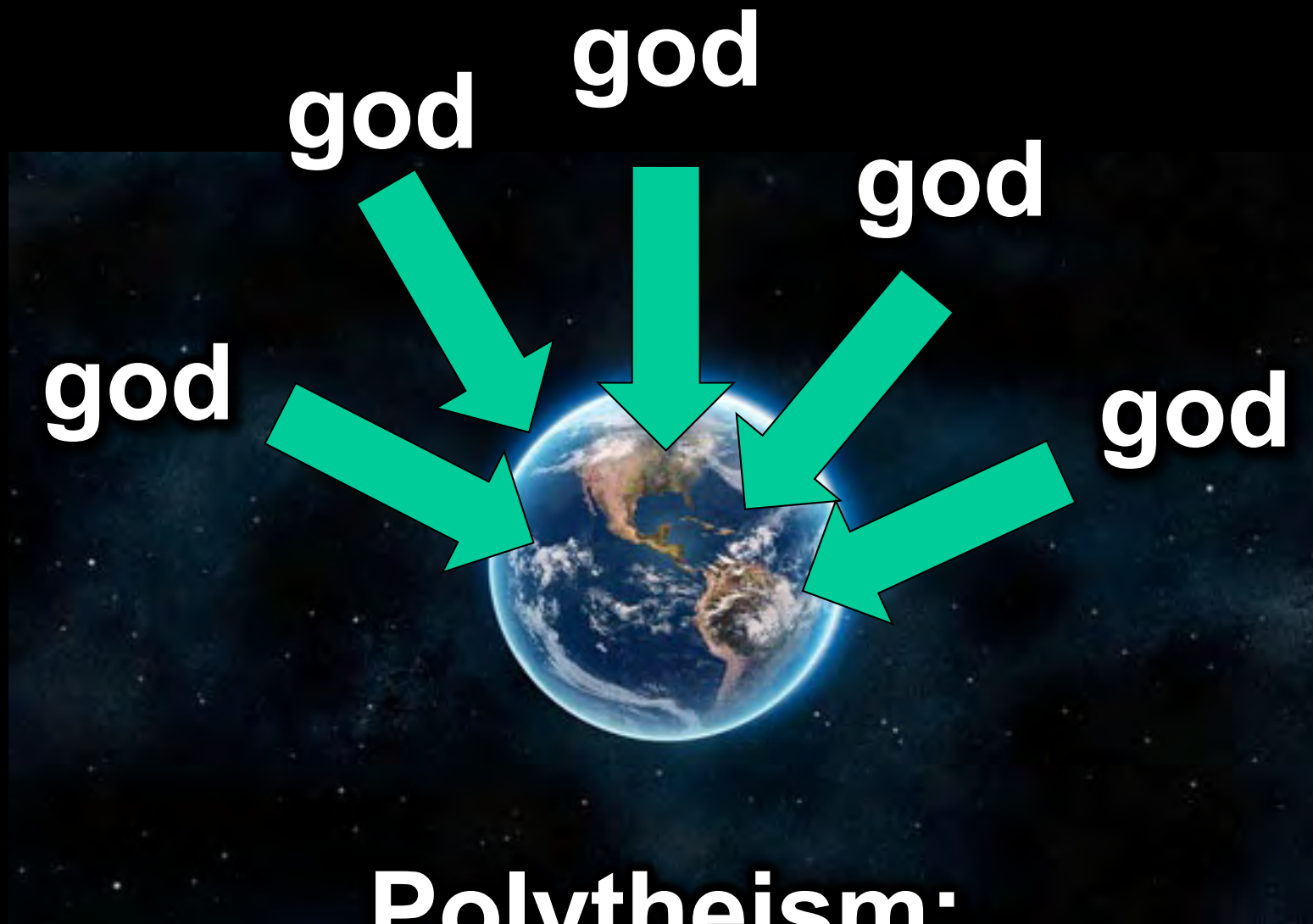
Agnosticism:

We cannot be sure if a God is involved in our world (Confucius, Kant, Dewey, Bertrand Russell, Carl Sagan)



Atheism:

**No God exists or is involved in our world
(Dawkins, philosophical Buddhism)**



Polytheism:

Many gods relate to the worlds (Ancient Near East, Greek & Roman mythology, Mormons)



Panentheism:

**A finite impersonal god is *in* the world
(animism, Native American religion)**

god



Finite Godism:
A finite personal god interacts with the world
(Kushner)



Pantheism:

**An infinite impersonal god is the world itself
(Hinduism, Star Wars)**



Deism:

God created the world but left it alone so no miracles occur (Jefferson, Franklin)



Christian Theism:
The Triune God loves our world and works miracles (Biblical view)

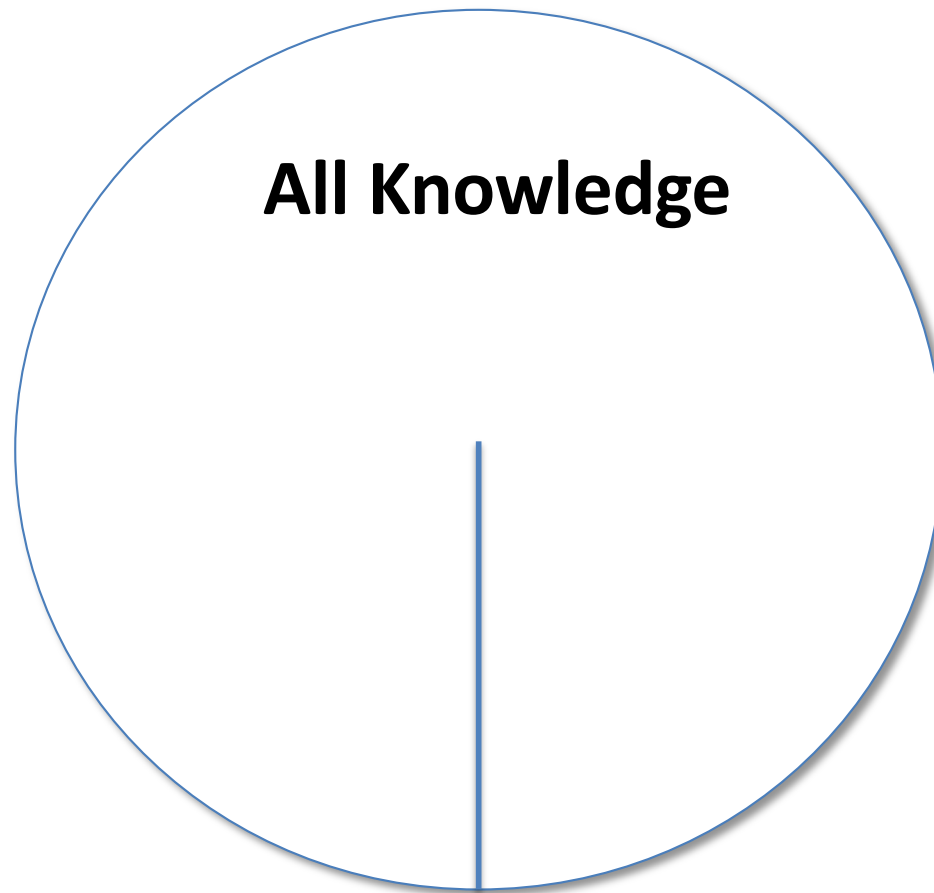
God



Unipersonal Theism:

The Unitarian God relates to our world and works miracles (Islam, Jehovah Witnesses)

The Quick Guide for Dealing with Atheists



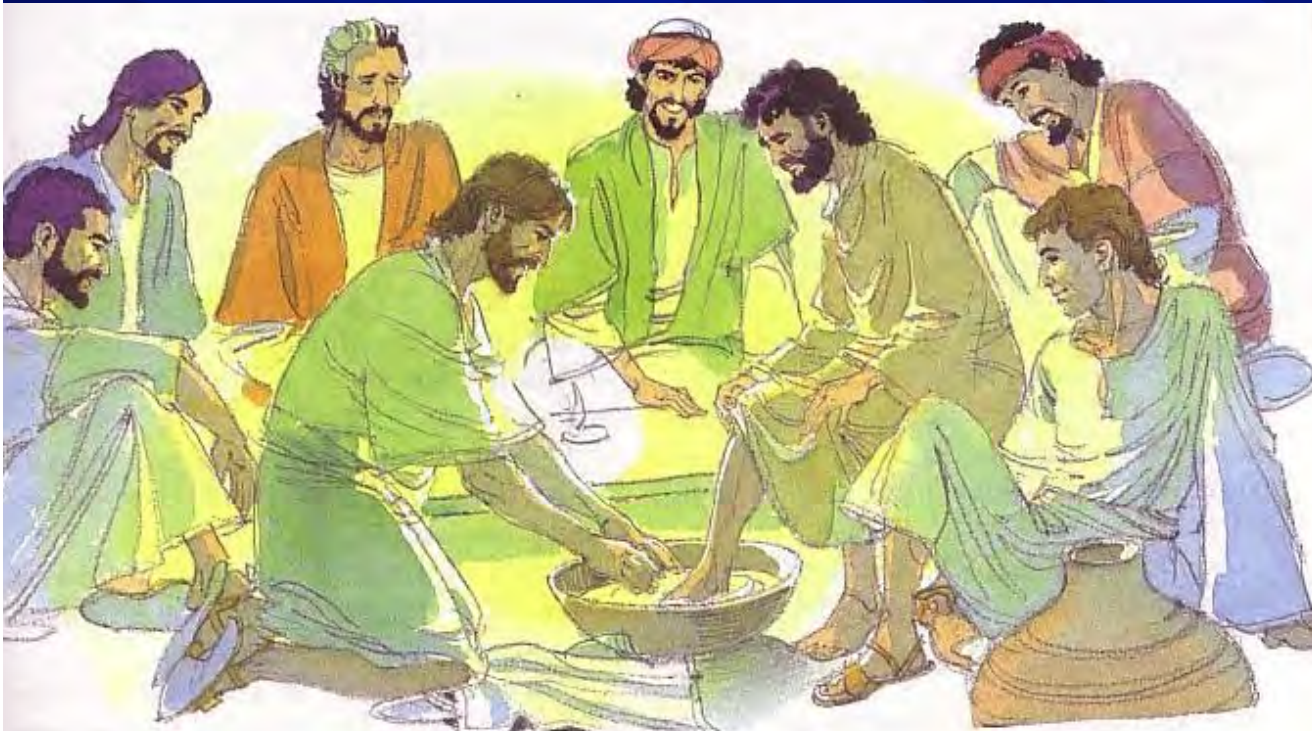
Jesus has always been God

**"In the beginning
was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God"**

(John 1:1)

God became man in Jesus

- "So the Word became human and lived here on earth among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father" (John 1:14 NLT)

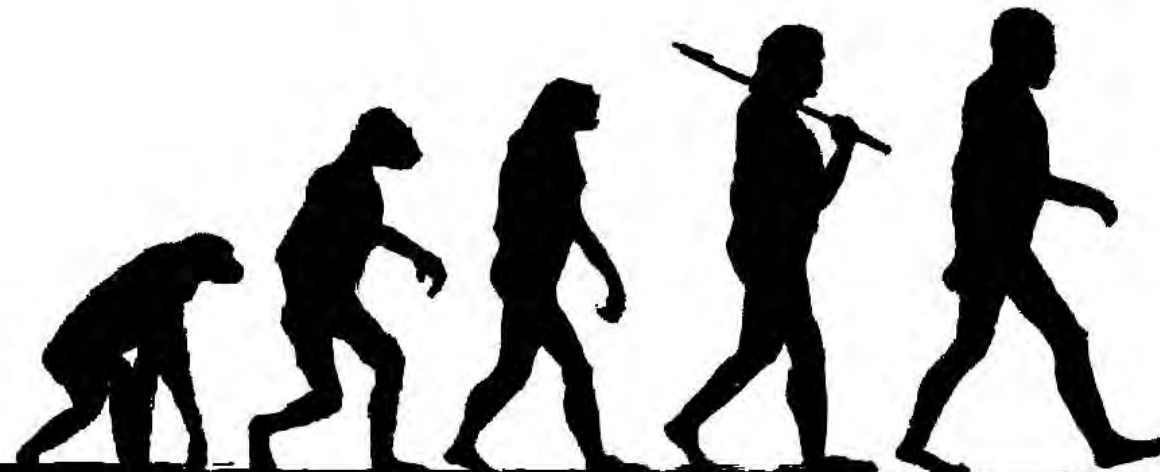




Answer the Critics

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. **Always be prepared to give an answer** to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

1 Peter 3:15



**Atheism is a
faith system**



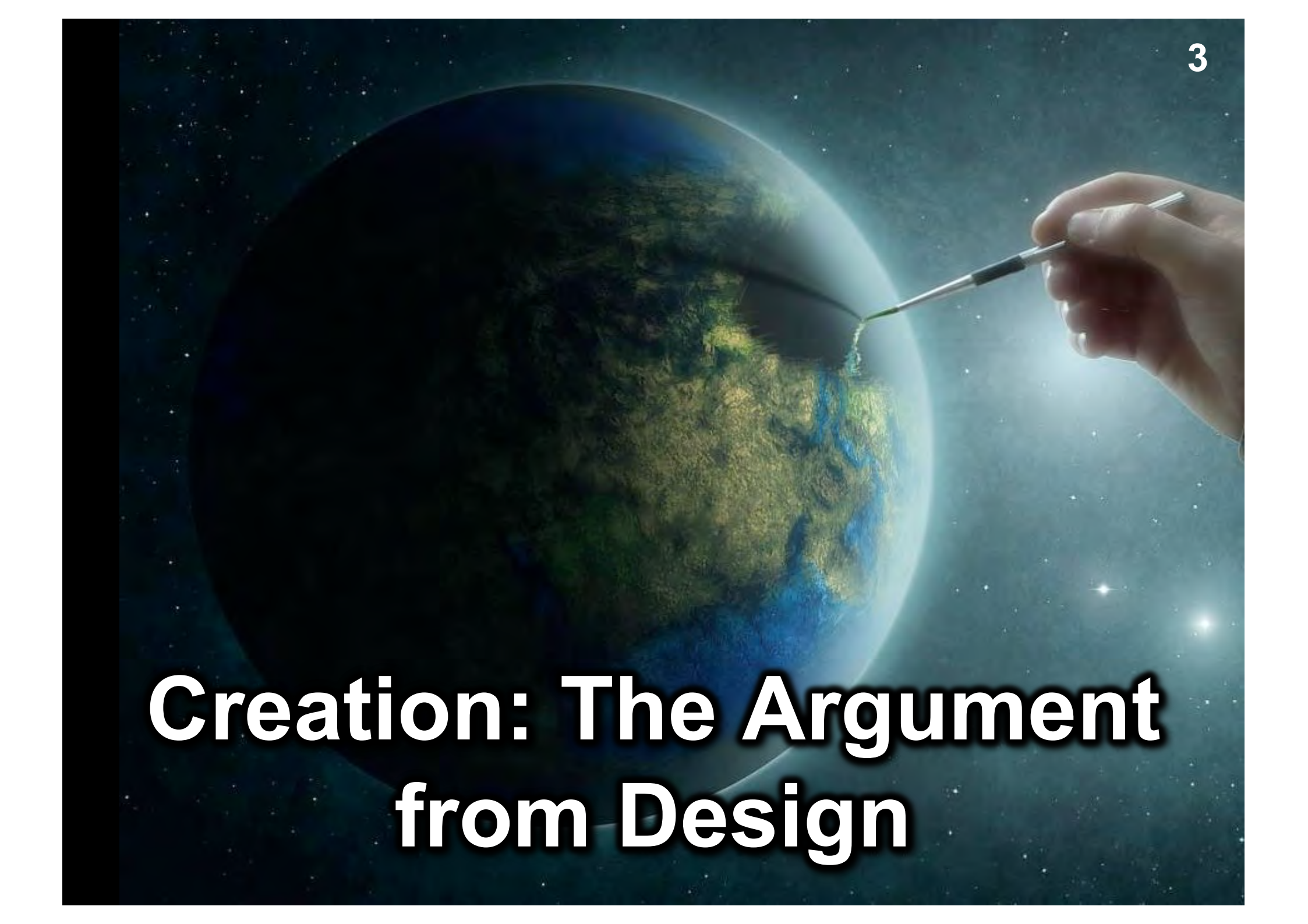
Foreword by David Limbaugh ³

I Don't Have Enough
FAITH
to Be an
ATHEIST



Norman L. Geisler
Frank Turek

**Atheism is a
faith system**

A conceptual image showing a hand holding a paintbrush, applying paint to a globe of the Earth. The globe is partially covered in green and blue, representing land and water, while the rest is dark. The background is a deep space filled with stars. The overall theme is creation and design.

Creation: The Argument from Design



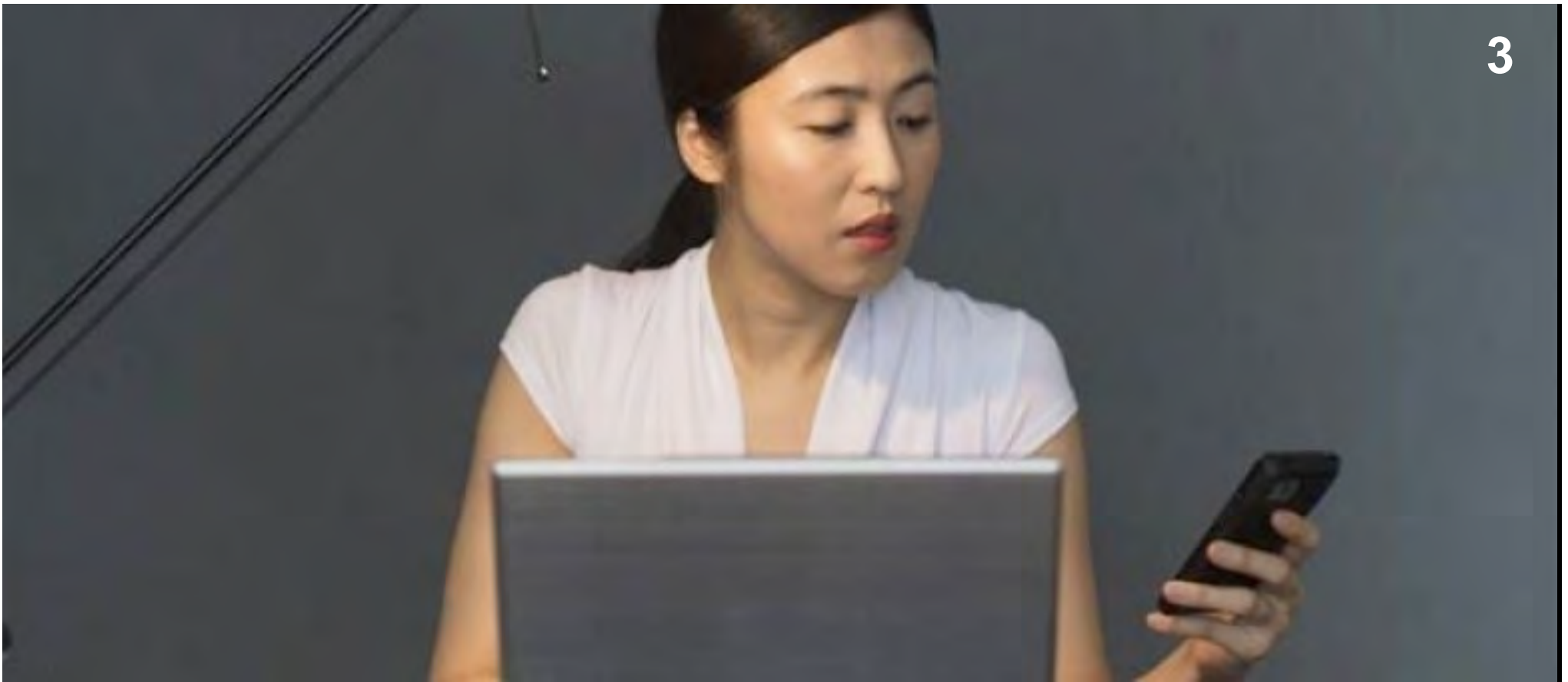
ATHEISM

**In the beginning there was nothing...
and then it exploded.**



ATHEISM

The religious belief in a spontaneous, causeless, sourceless, purposeless, meaningless existence.



**Are our computers and smart
phones designed?**



Is this building designed?



Is this baby designed?



Did this turtle get here by itself?

If not, what is your explanation?

Dr. Terry Mortenson

*Adapted and expanded by
Dr. Rick Griffith*

Creation or Evolution: Genesis Matters

1:1

answersingenesis.org

Dr. Rick Griffith, Crossroads International Church
cicfamily.com & biblestudydownloads.com



answersin**genesis.org**

believing it. defending it. proclaiming it.

America has the largest number of:

3

- **Churches/Seminaries**
- **Christian Colleges**
- **Christian Bookshops/Resources**
- **Christian Radio/TV**

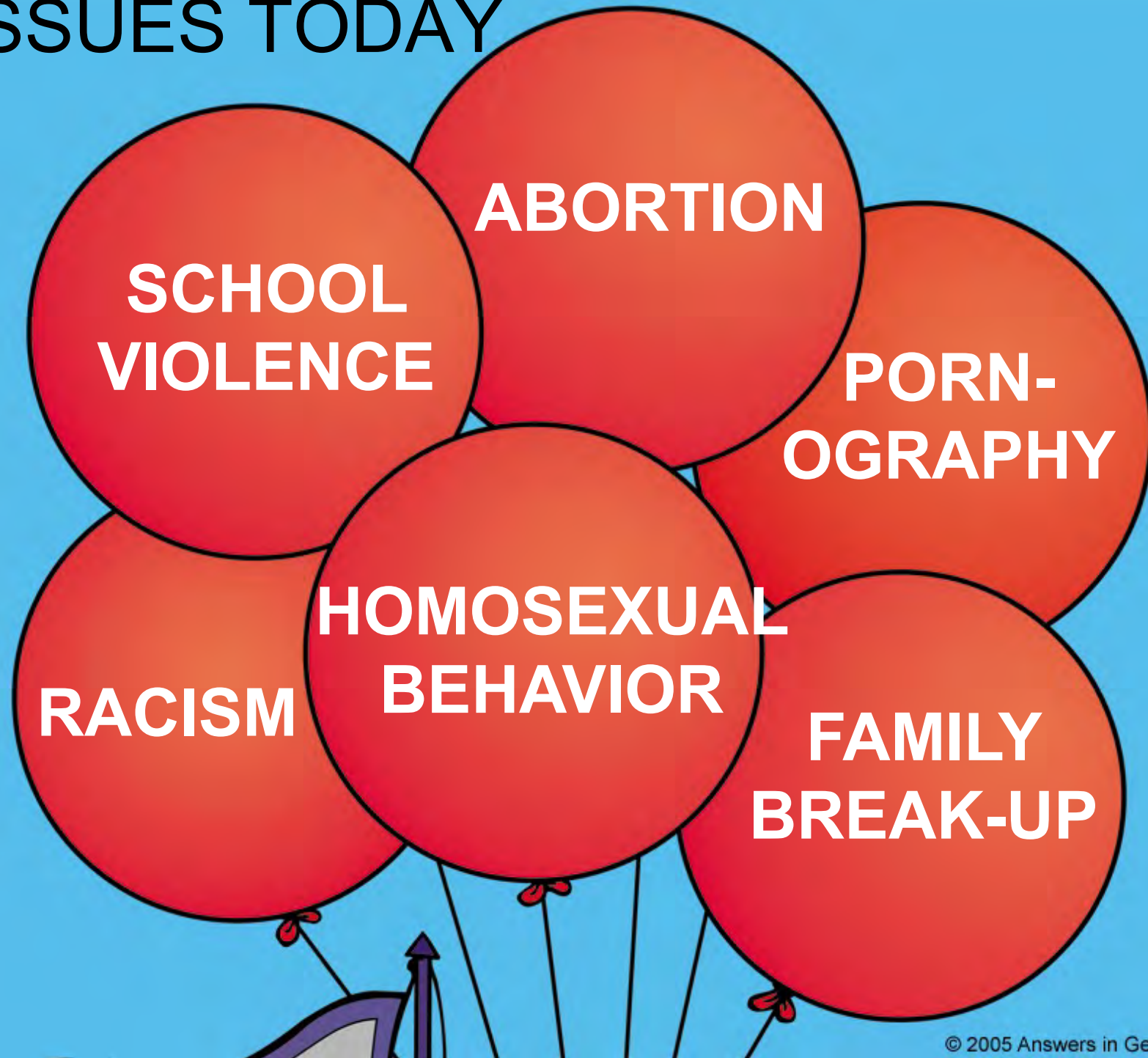
America has the largest number of:

- **Churches/Seminaries**
- **Christian Colleges**
- **Christian Bookshops/Resources**
- **Christian Radio/TV**

**But is becoming
LESS Christian
EVERY day!**

ISSUES TODAY

3



**"A minority of born-again
adults (44%) and an even
smaller proportion of born-
again teenagers (9%) are
certain of the existence of
absolute moral truth."**

Barna Research Online, 'The Year's Most
Intriguing Findings, From Barna Research
Studies,' December 12, 2000, www.barna.org.

"The 'American Family In Crises Research' by the Southern Baptist Council on Family Life uncovered some disturbing facts. Of the children raised in evangelical homes, 88% leave the church at age 18 and never return."

Pastor's Weekly Briefing, Focus on the Family, 26 July 2002, quoted in Gary Foster, The Foster Letter, 10 Aug. 2002, p. 1.

general books³

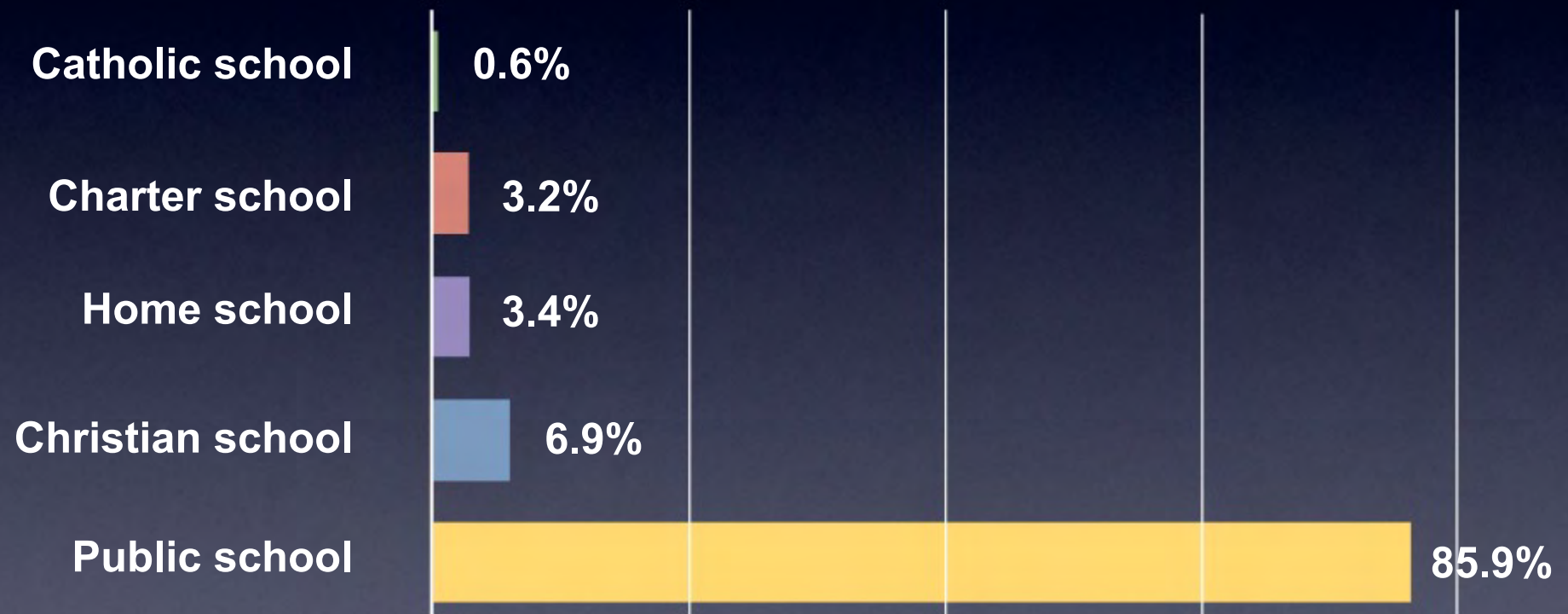
Already Gone

by Ken Ham and Britt Beemer,
with Todd Hillard

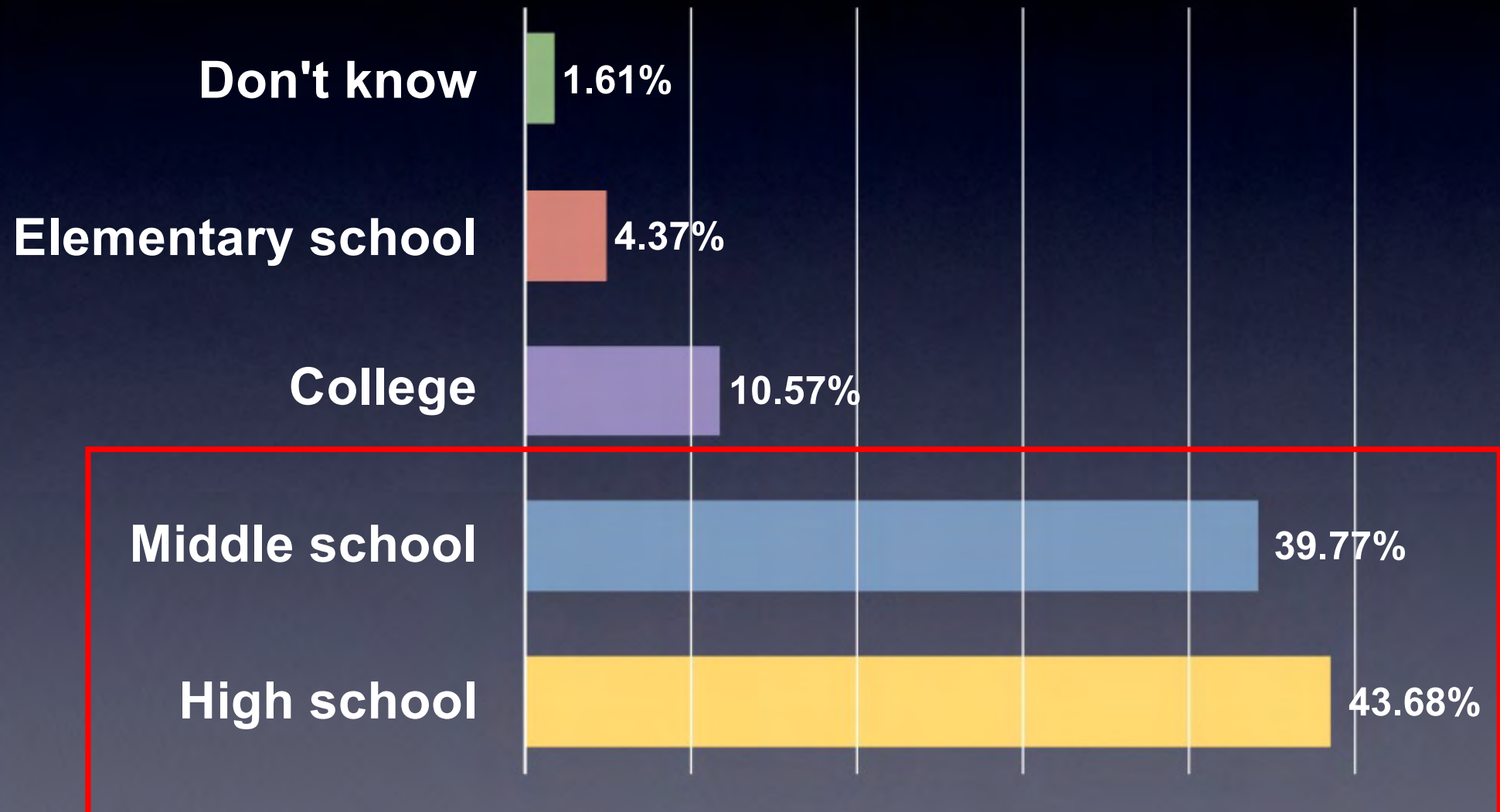


answersingenesis.org

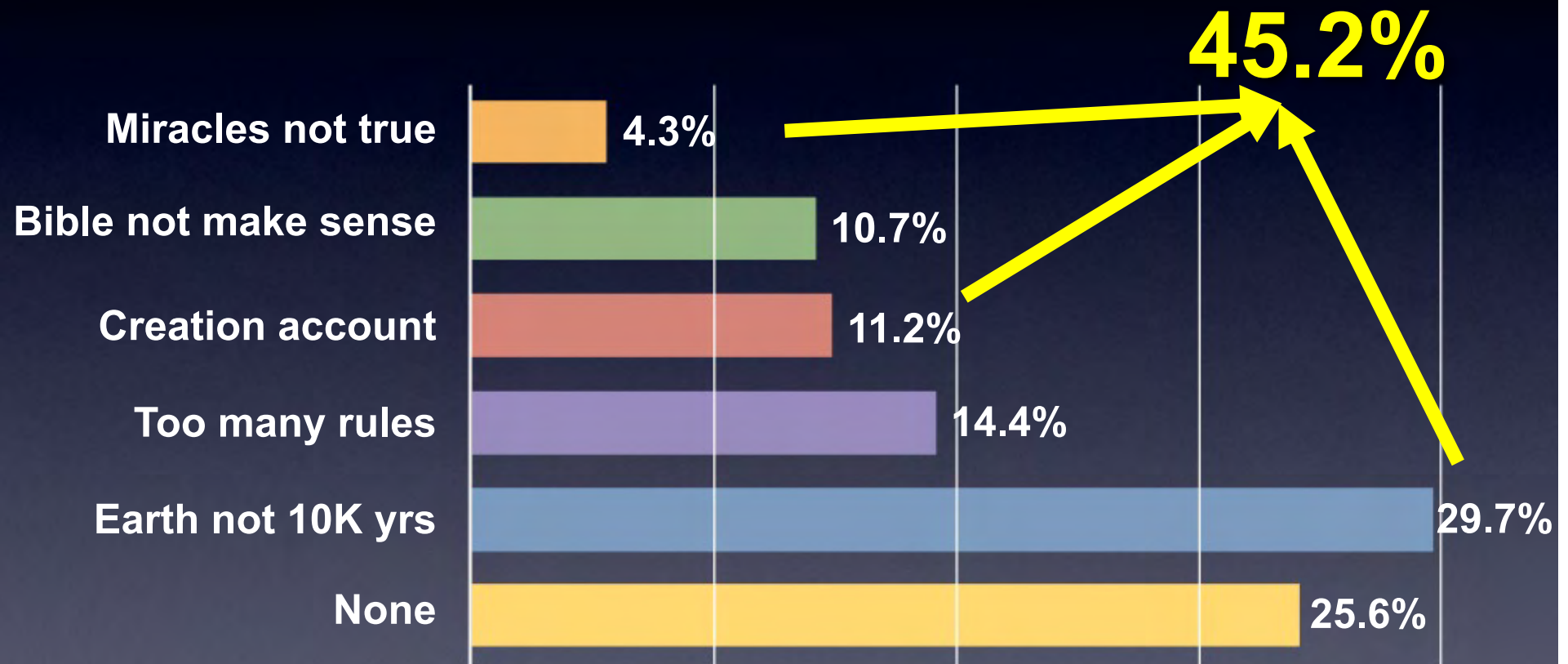
High school attended



If you don't believe, when did you first have doubts?

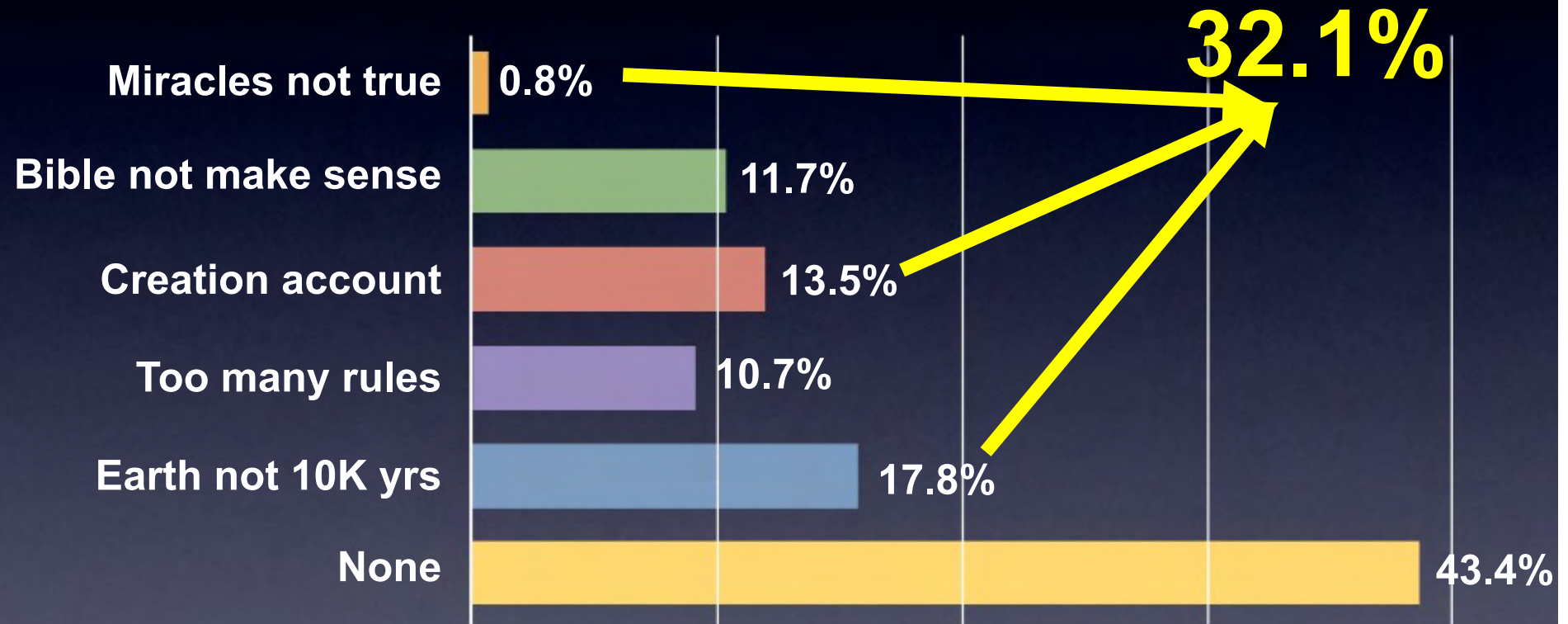


Which of these makes you question the Bible the most?



Those Who Often Attended Sunday School

Which of these makes you question the Bible the most?



Those Who Rarely Attended Sunday School

Psalm 11:3

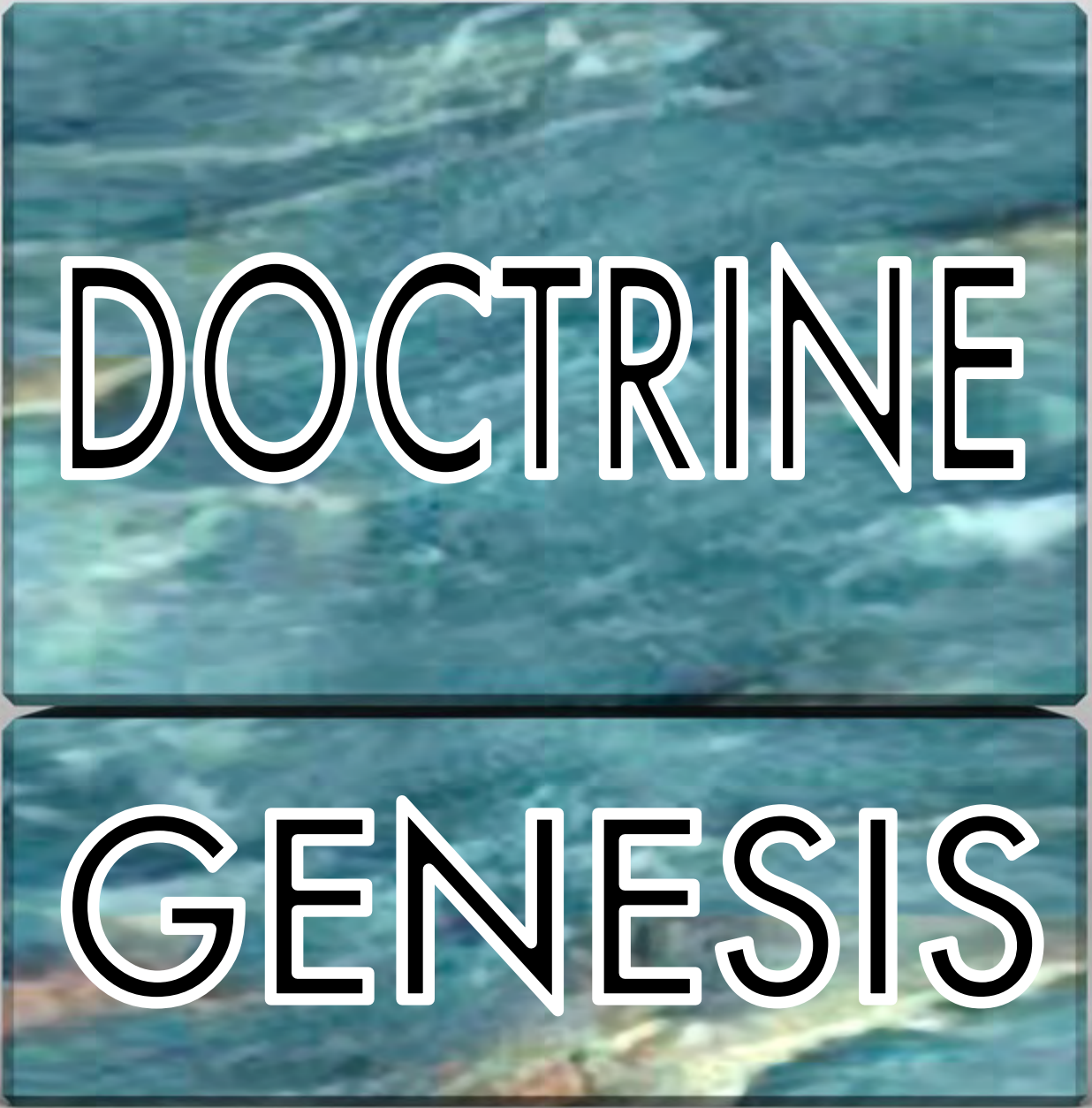
**"If the foundations are
destroyed, what can the
righteous do?"**





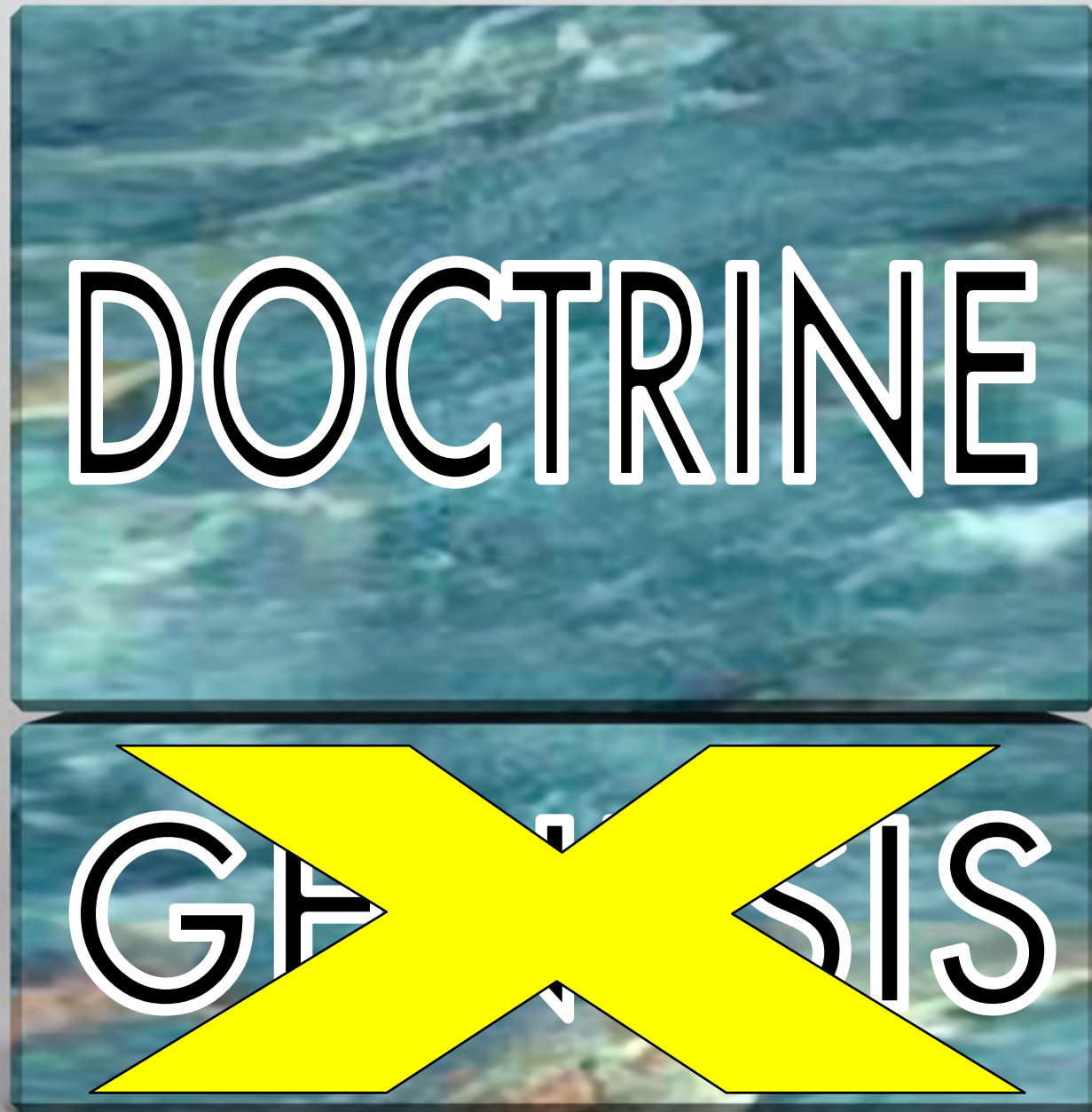




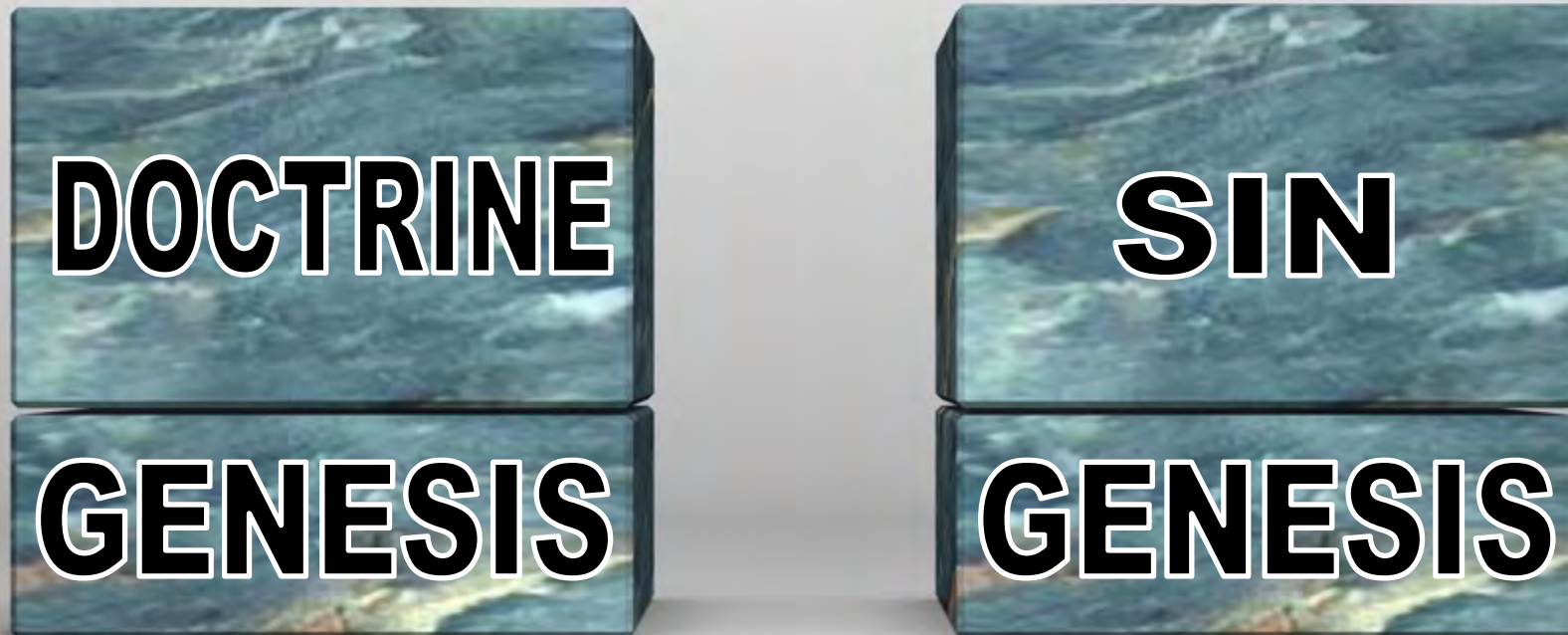


DOCTRINE

GENESIS







**Genesis is foundational to all other
biblical doctrines**

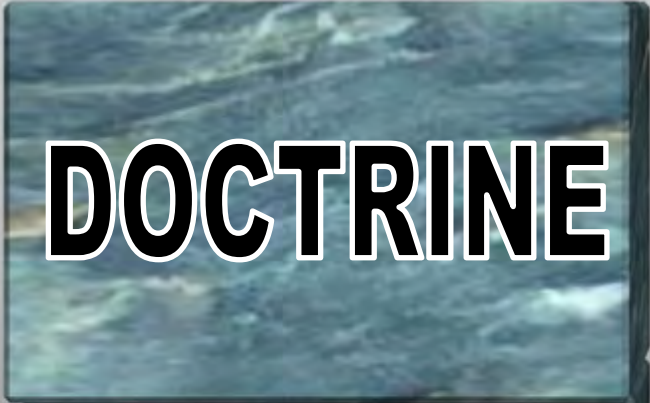
The image features two identical stacks of two rectangular blocks each. The blocks have a blue, marbled texture. The top block of each stack contains the word 'DOCTRINE' and the bottom block contains the word 'GENESIS'. The text is in a bold, black, sans-serif font with a white outline. The stacks are positioned on a light gray surface against a light gray background.

DOCTRINE

GENESIS

CLOTHING

GENESIS



DOCTRINE



GENESIS



**7-DAY WEEK
DOMINION
WORK
CURSE
NATIONS**

**1st COMING
2nd COMING**



GENESIS

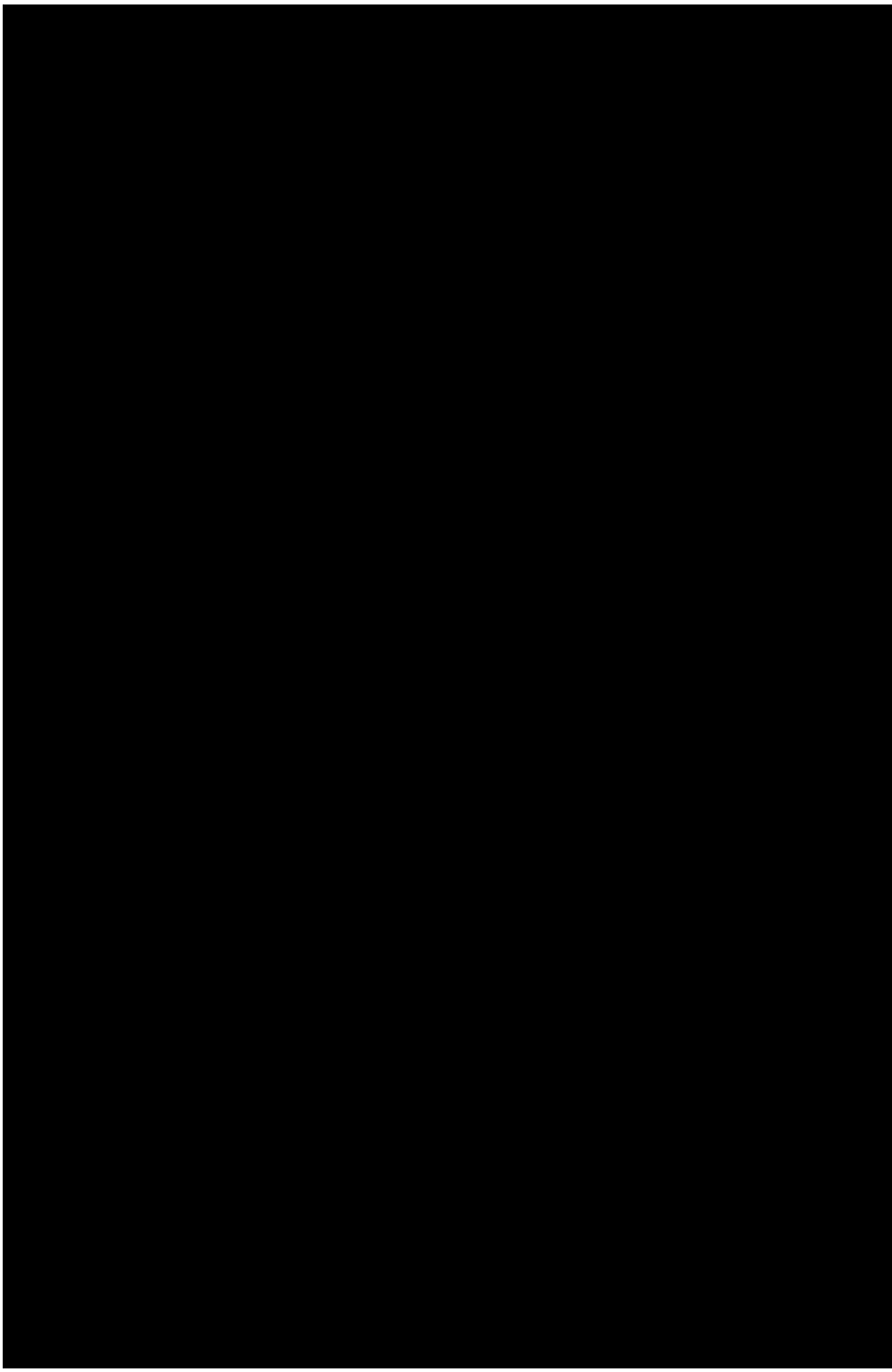
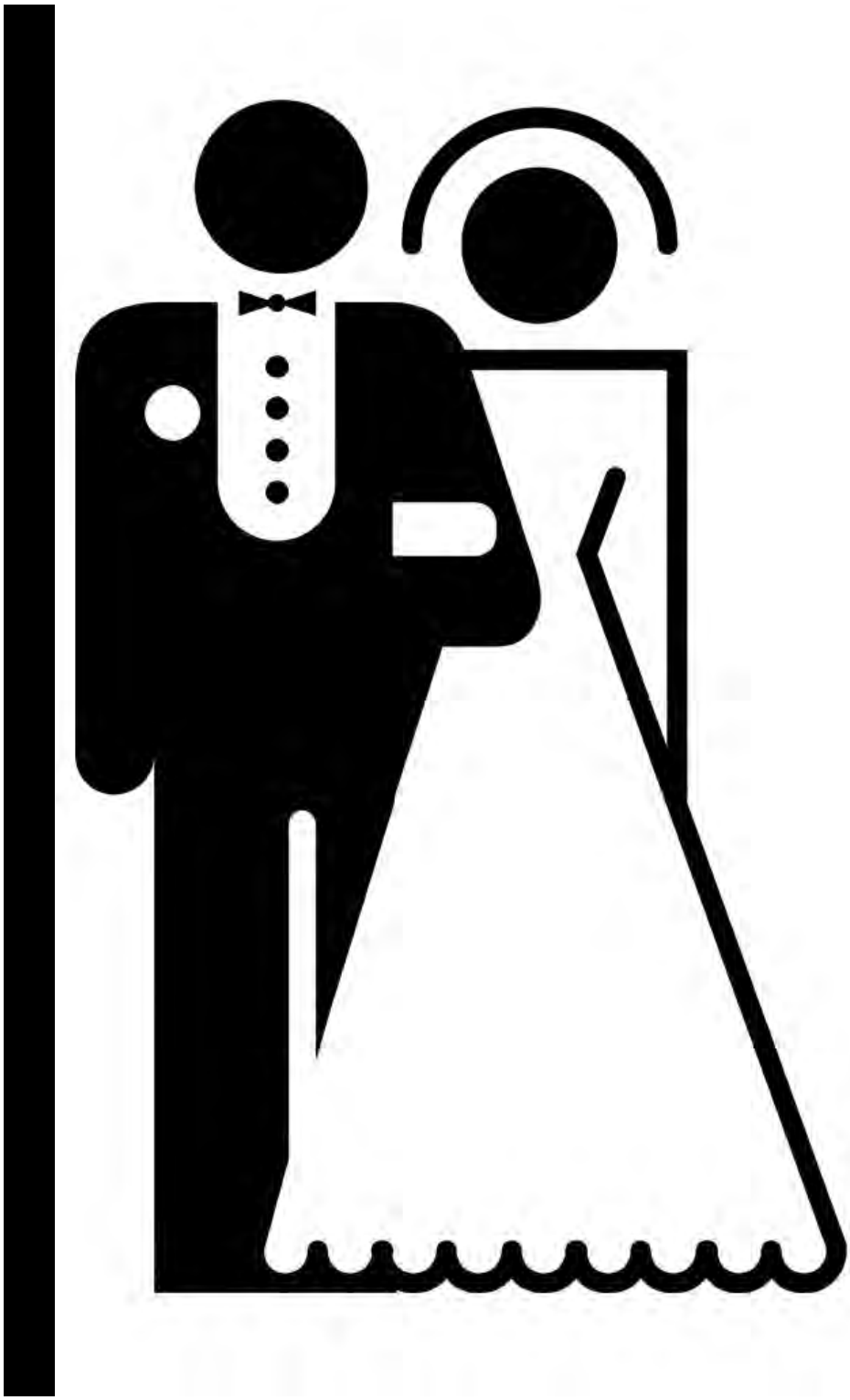
The image features two identical stacks of two rectangular blocks each. The blocks have a blue, marbled texture. The top block of each stack contains the word 'DOCTRINE' and the bottom block contains the word 'GENESIS', both in bold black capital letters with a white outline. The stacks are positioned on a light gray surface against a light gray background.

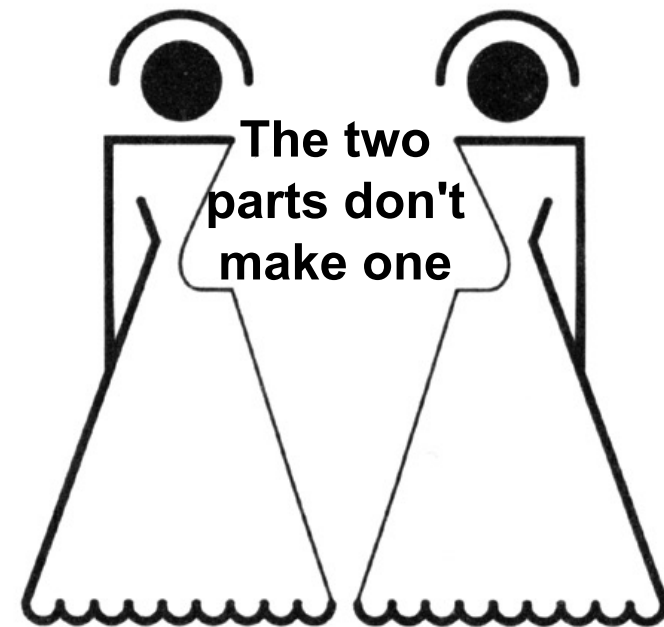
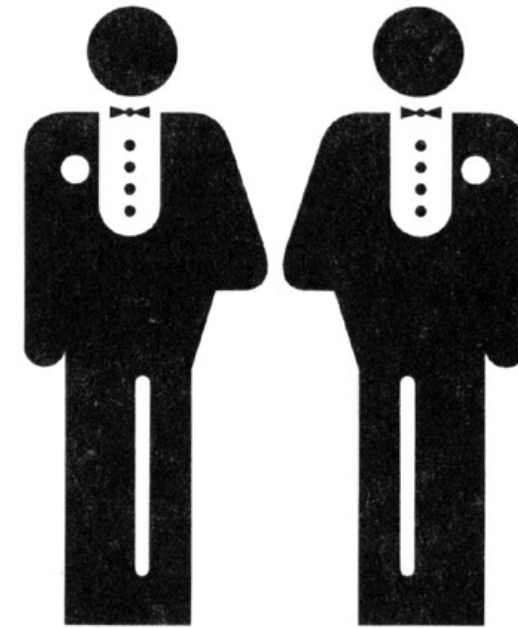
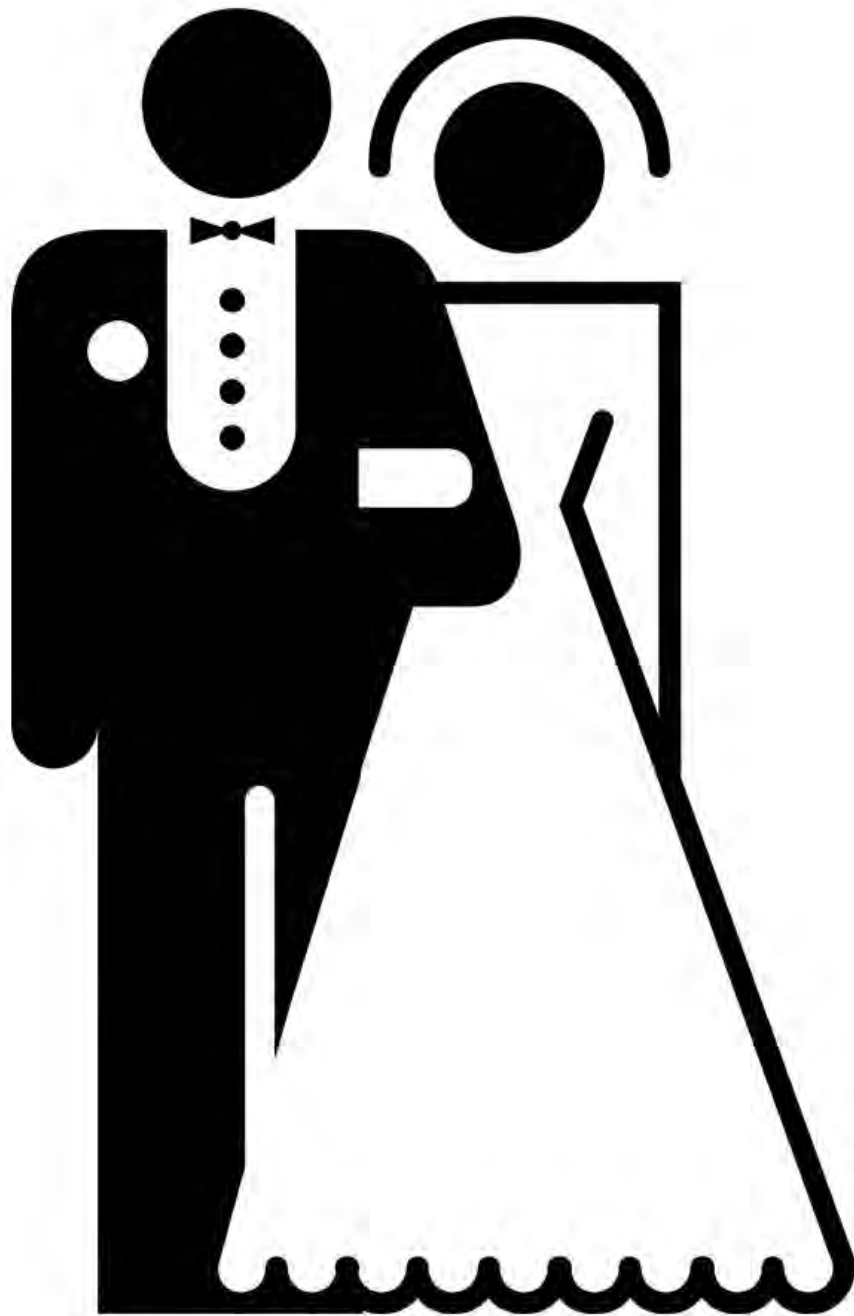
DOCTRINE

GENESIS

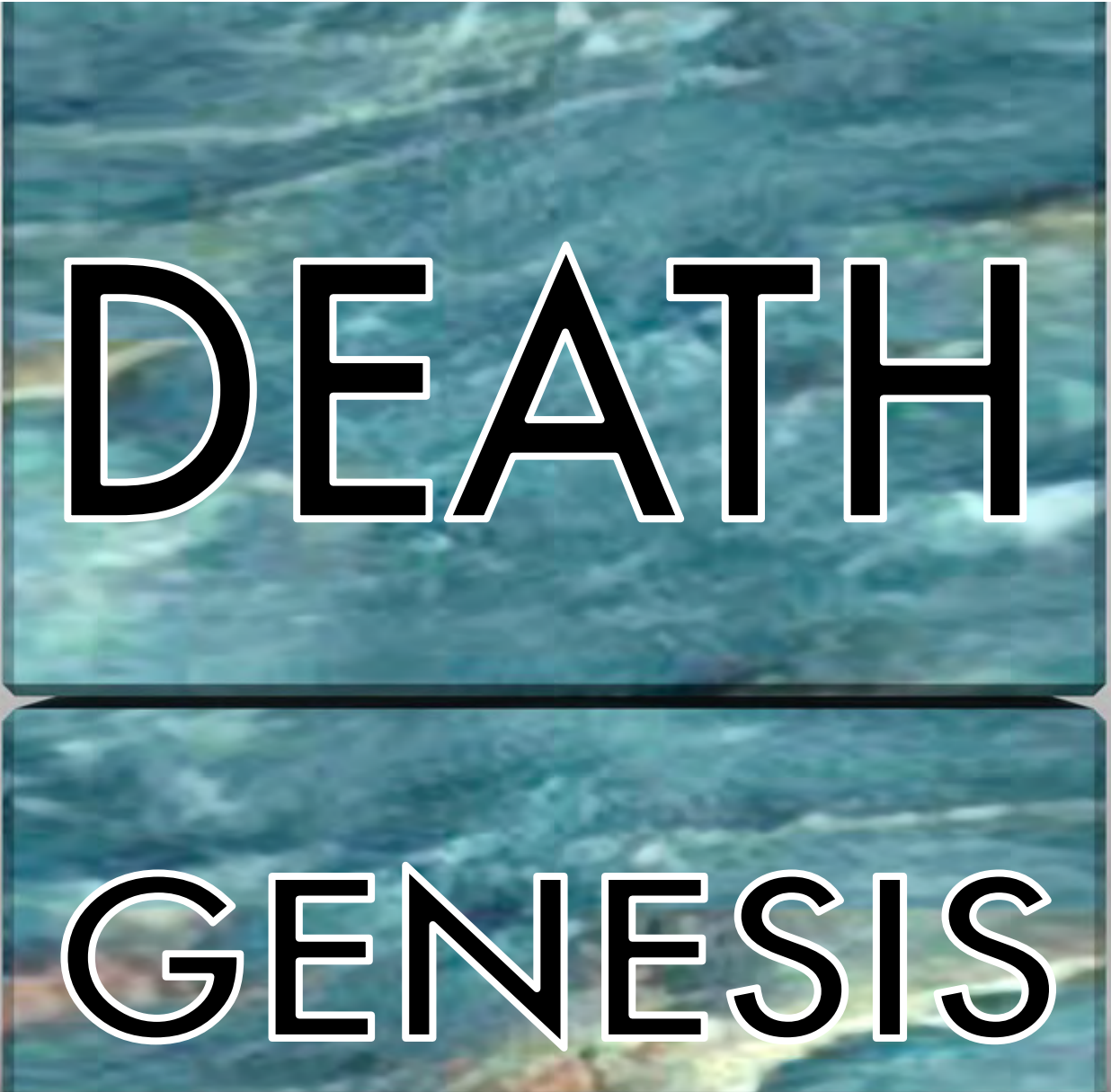
MARRIAGE

GENESIS





The two
parts don't
make one



DEATH

GENESIS

**Genesis is foundational to the
doctrine of death**



WHY?



Why would a loving God allow earthquakes?



**FOSSIL
RECORD**

**MILLIONS
OF YEARS**

=

**PAIN
DEATH
KILLING
DISEASE
STRUGGLE
SUFFERING
EXTINCTION**

EVOLUTION

MILLIONS OF YEARS



DEATH
Suffering Disease Bloodshed



**MAN'S
EXISTENCE**

EVOLUTION

MILLIONS OF YEARS

3



DEATH
Suffering Disease Bloodshed



**MAN'S
EXISTENCE**

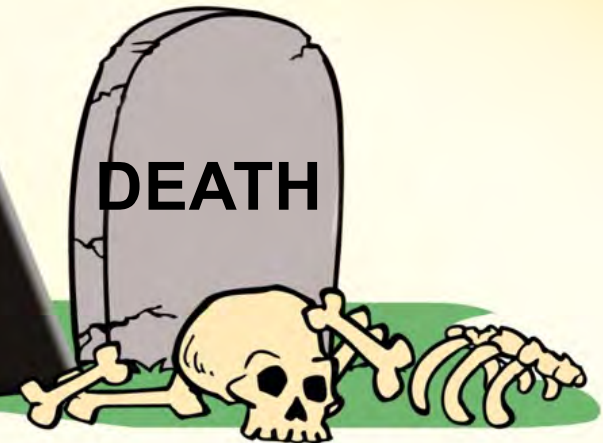
CREATION

**MAN'S
ACTIONS**



SIN

DEATH



Genesis 1:29-30

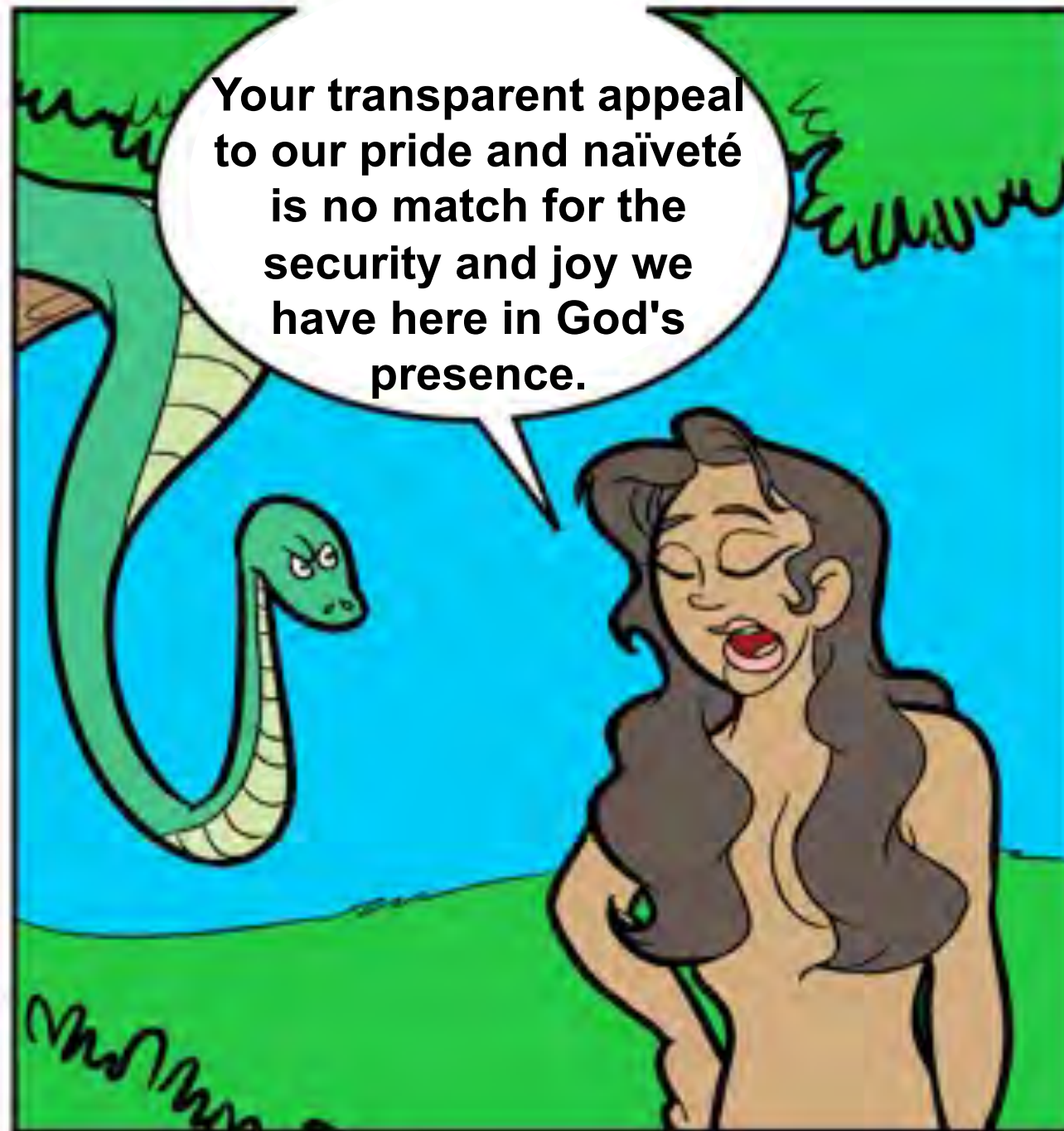
3

"Then God said, 'Behold, **I have given you** every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; ³⁰**and to every beast** of the earth **and to every bird** of the sky **and to every thing that moves** on the earth which has life, I have given **every green plant for food**'; and it was so."

Pre-Fall world:

Man and animals were vegetarians.
In the Bible, plants were not living souls.







והנחש היה ערום מכל חית השדה אשר עשה יְהוָה אלהים

The Sad Results

**The Fall brought
many
consequences**

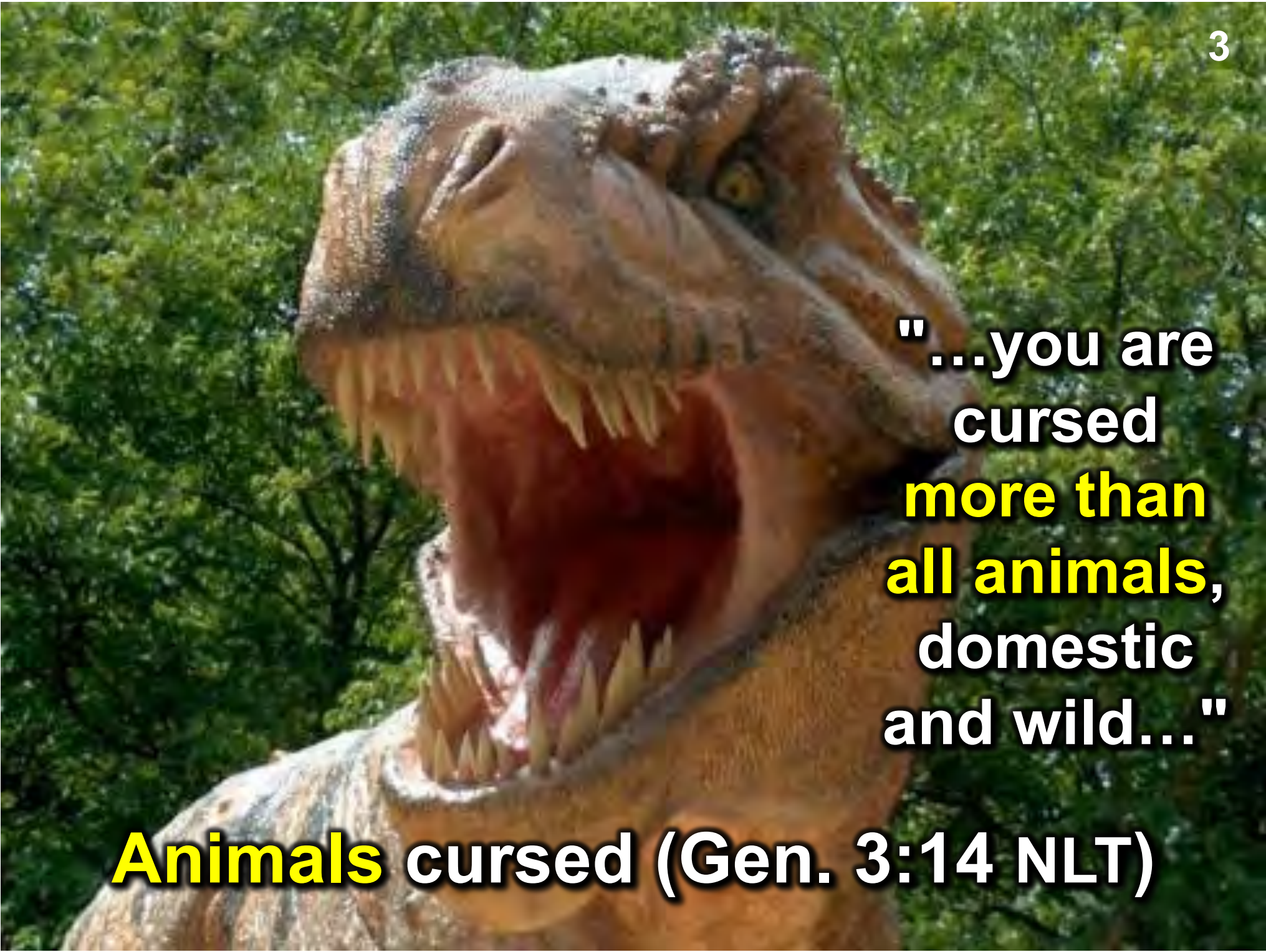


A woman with long brown hair is looking at a light-colored snake with dark spots. The snake is coiled around a tree trunk. The background is a blurred forest scene.

Serpent judged physically (Gen. 3:14)

3

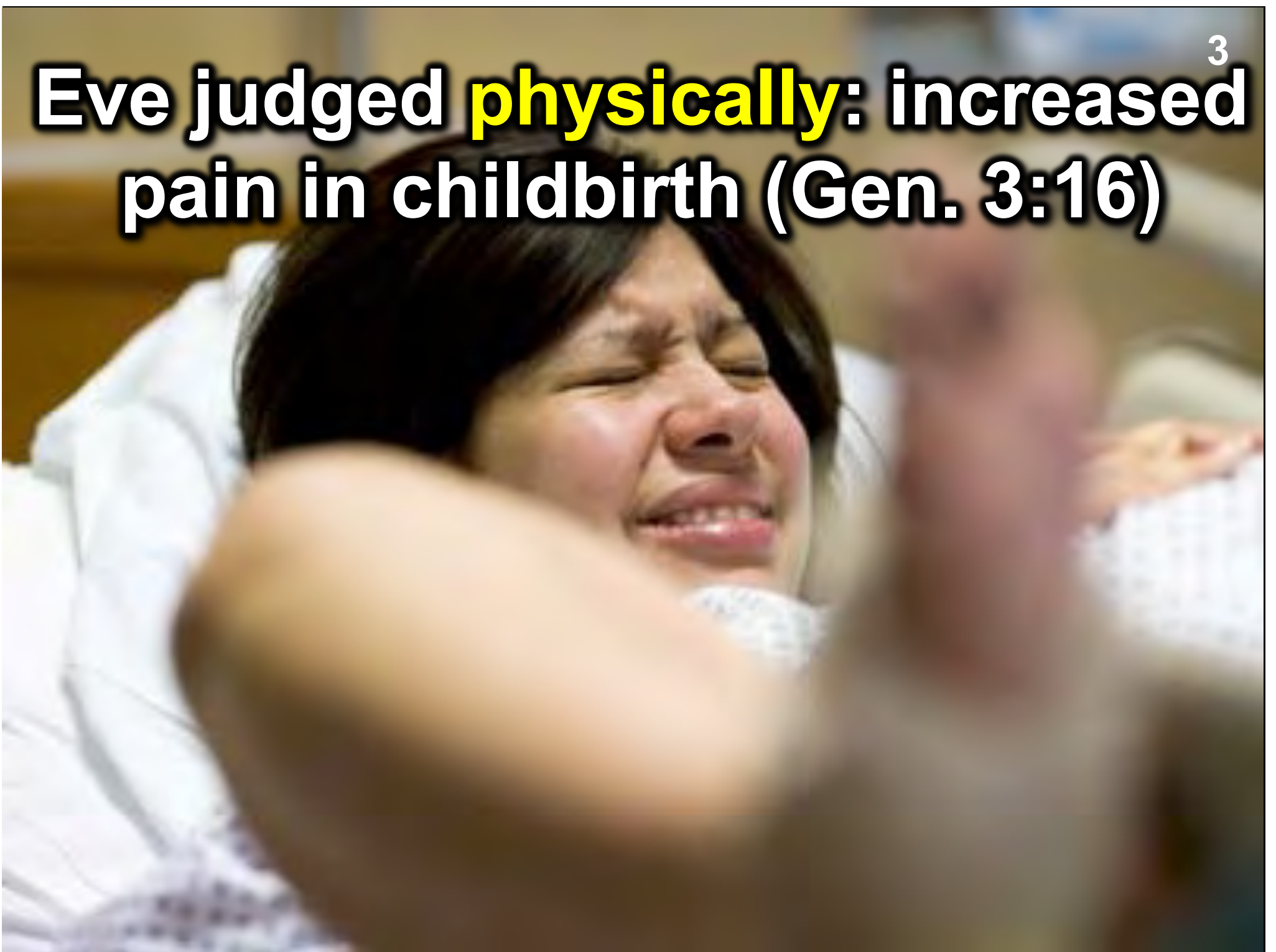
"Then the LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, you are cursed... You will crawl on your belly, groveling in the dust as long as you live.'"



"...you are
cursed
more than
all animals,
domestic
and wild..."

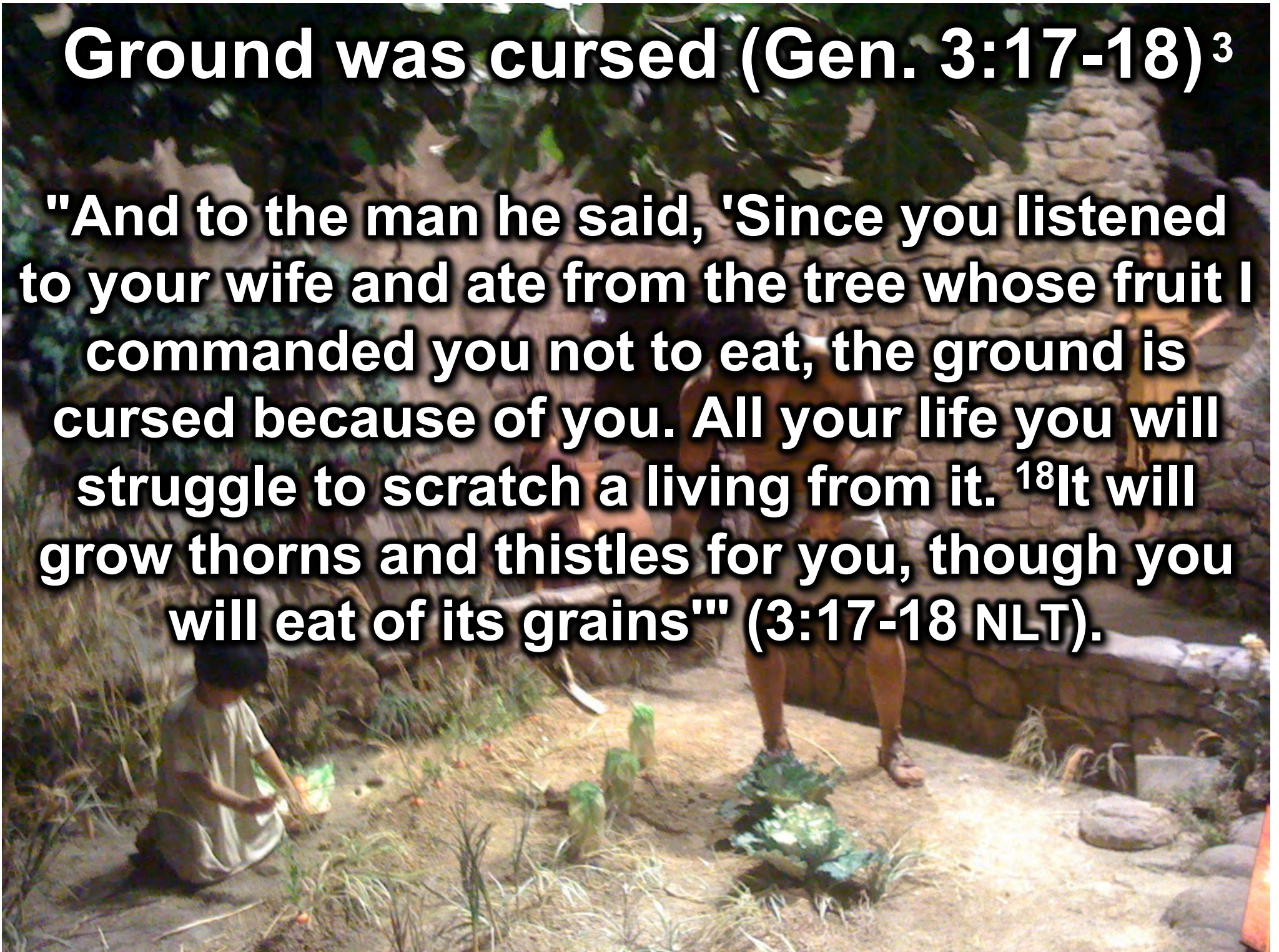
Animals cursed (Gen. 3:14 NLT)

³
Eve judged **physically**: increased
pain in childbirth (Gen. 3:16)



Ground was cursed (Gen. 3:17-18)³

"And to the man he said, 'Since you listened to your wife and ate from the tree whose fruit I commanded you not to eat, the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it. ¹⁸It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains'" (3:17-18 NLT).



Adam & Eve began to die **physically** ³



"By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return" (3:19 NLT).

Implied Death

**Redemption³
through a
sacrifice gave
them animal skin
coverings**

Genesis 3:21



Creation in bondage to corruption ³ (Rom. 8:19-23)

"For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. ²⁰Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, ²¹the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay"
(Rom. 8:19-21 NLT).

Which
will you
believe?

If God
cursed the
earth with
thorns
AFTER
Adam
sinned...



Genesis 3:18

***"Both
thorns and
thistles it
shall grow
for you"***





One of 10,000 dinosaur bones X-rayed in the USA

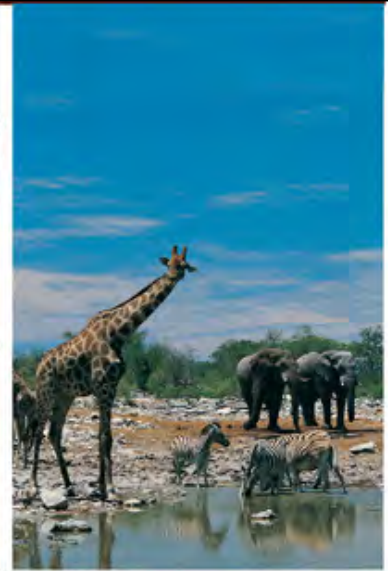
John Whitehead, "Dinosaurs got cancer," *Discover*, 21 Oct. 2003, <www.nature.com>.

"Many dinosaurs had *cancer*,³ researchers have discovered. Their tumours were like those of human patients, showing that cancer has been around, essentially unchanged, for a very long time. 'Diseases look the same independent of what critter is affected,' says Bruce Rothschild ..."

Disease in fossil humans are "dated" to be much older than any acceptable date for Adam

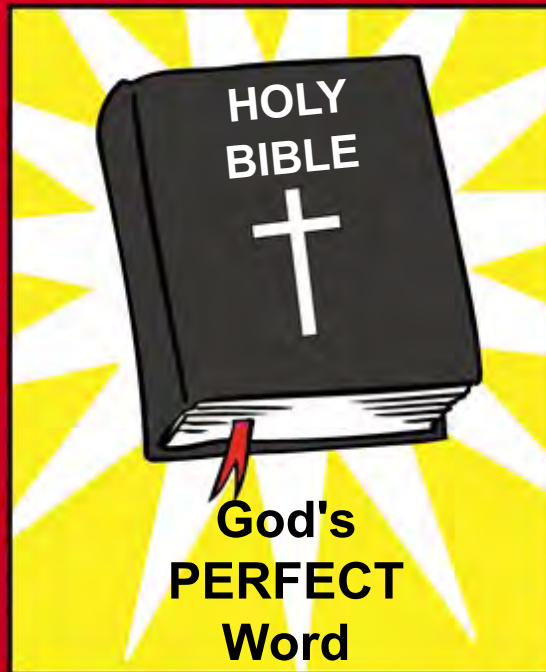
Evolution

3

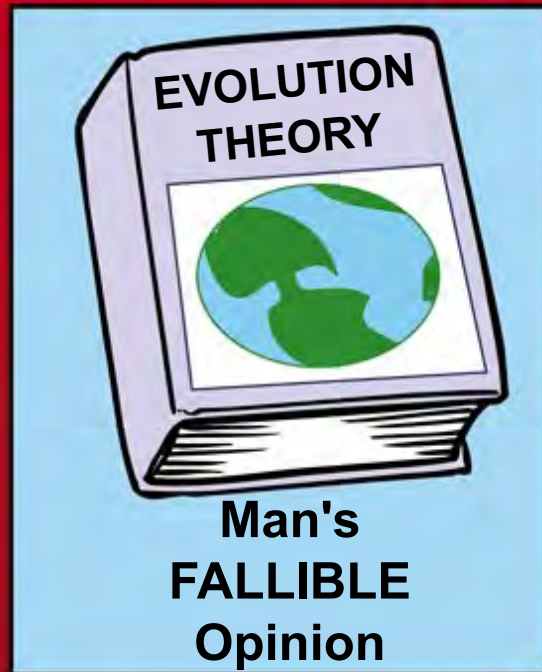


The Bible



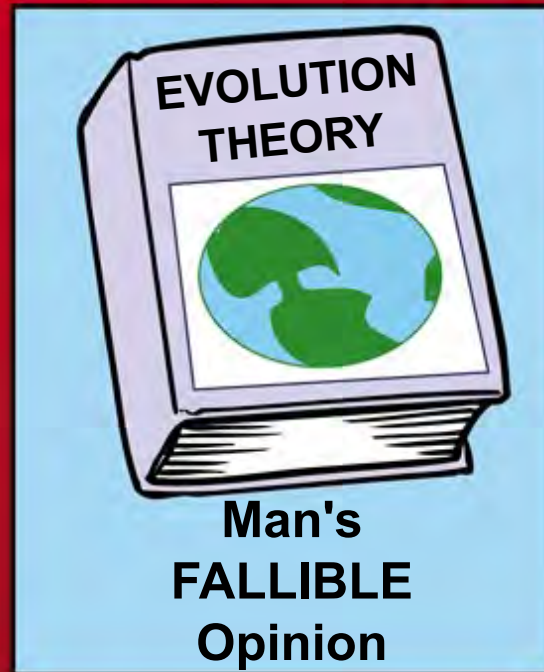
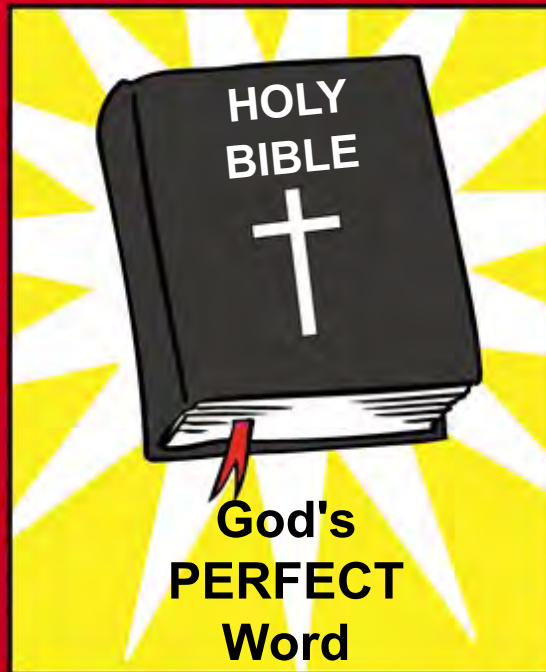


God's
PERFECT
Word



Man's
FALLIBLE
Opinion

When people
TRY to make
them agree,
guess which
one gets
"MODIFIED"?



When people
TRY to make
them agree,
guess which
one gets
"MODIFIED"?



MILLIONS
OF YEARS



**PAIN
DEATH
KILLING
DISEASE
STRUGGLE
SUFFERING
EXTINCTION**

FOSSIL
RECORD



OH ADAM, THIS IS
SUCH A PERFECT
WORLD!

YES EVE! IT'S "VERY
GOOD" JUST LIKE GOD
SAID!

**MILLIONS
OF YEARS**

OH ADAM, THIS IS
SUCH A PERFECT
WORLD!

**FOSSIL
RECORD**

**LAND
SEA
RUGG
UFFERIN
EXTINCTION**

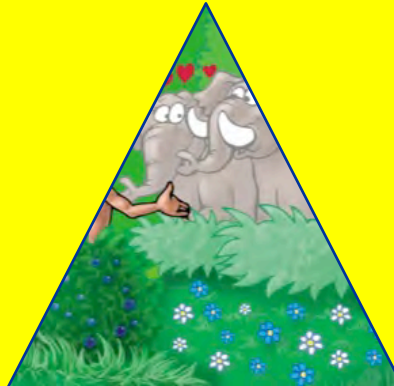
**PAIN
DEATH
KILLING
DISEASE
STRUGGLE
SUFFERING
EXTINCTION**

Noah's Flood



ST
SUF
EXTIN

Noah's
Flood





**PAIN
DEATH
KILLING
DISEASE
STRUGGLE
SUFFERING
EXTINCTION**

Mass ³ Extinctions

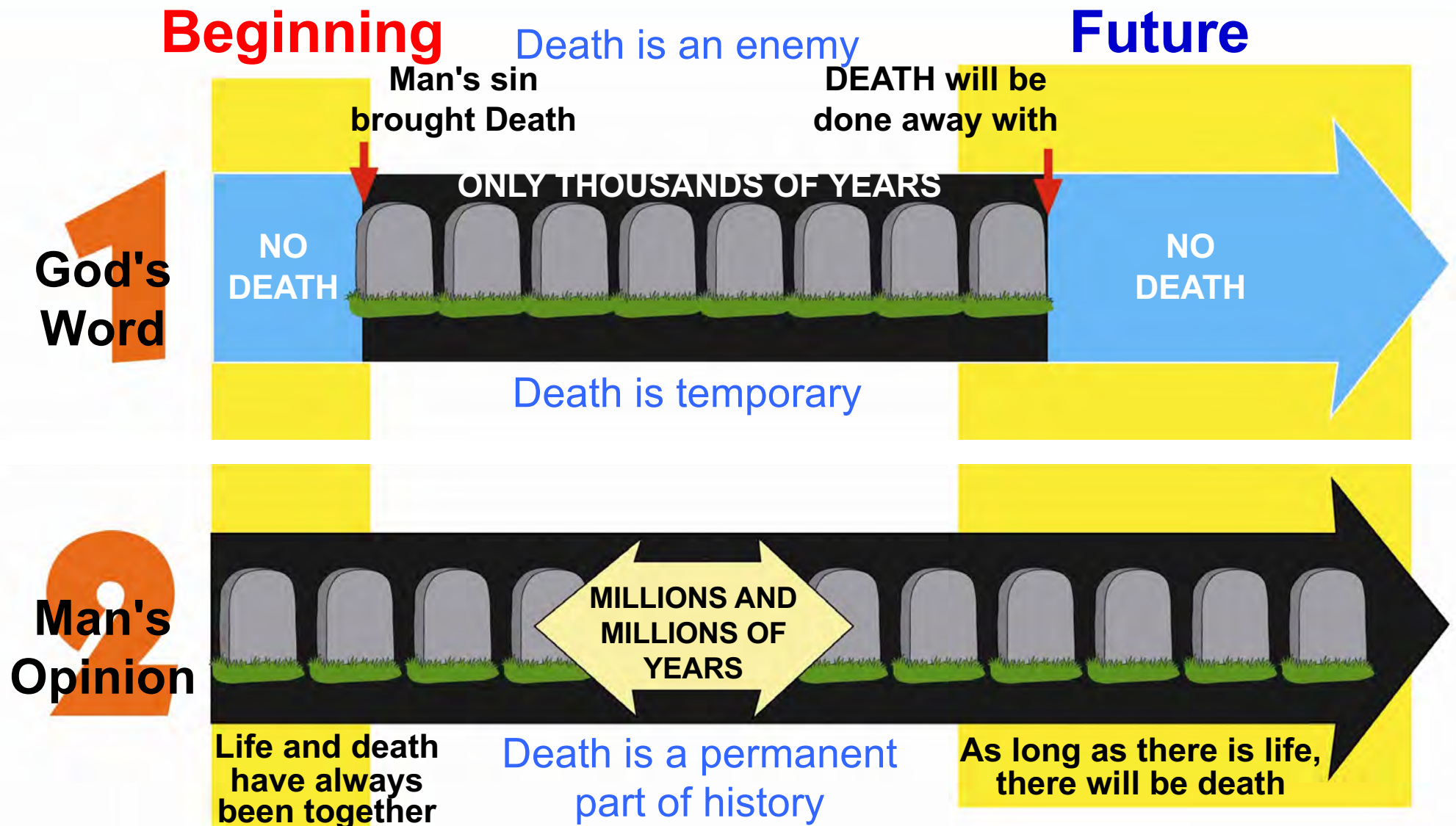
FOSSIL
RECORD

Noah's Flood

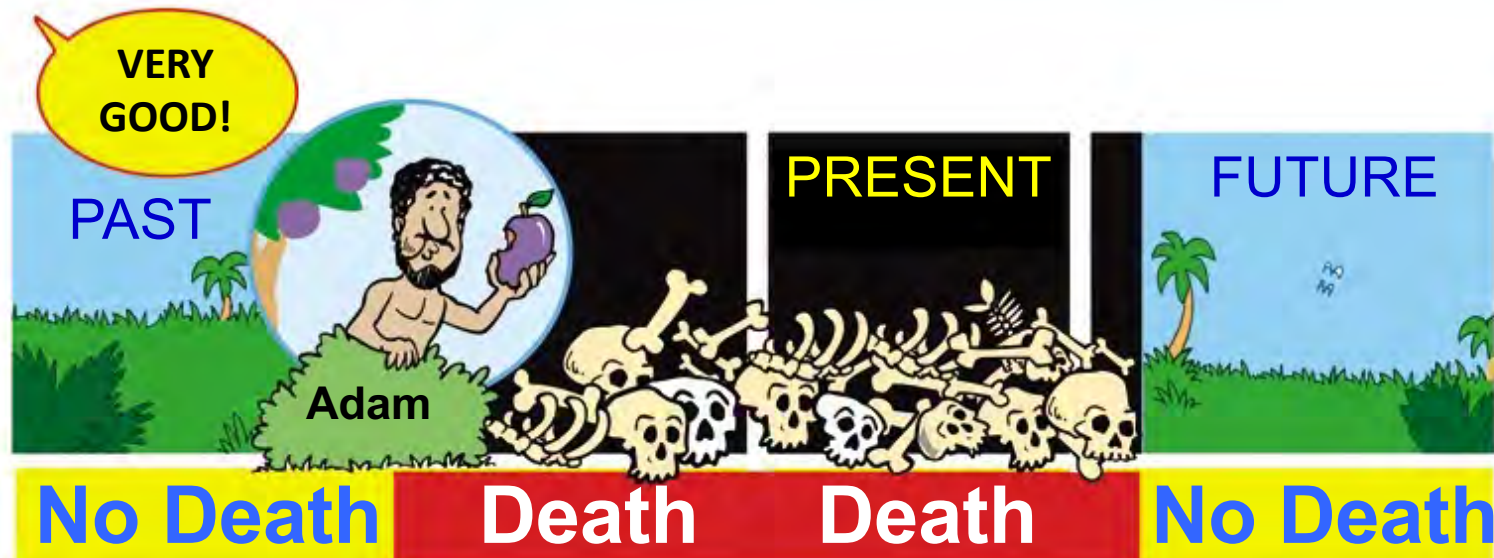
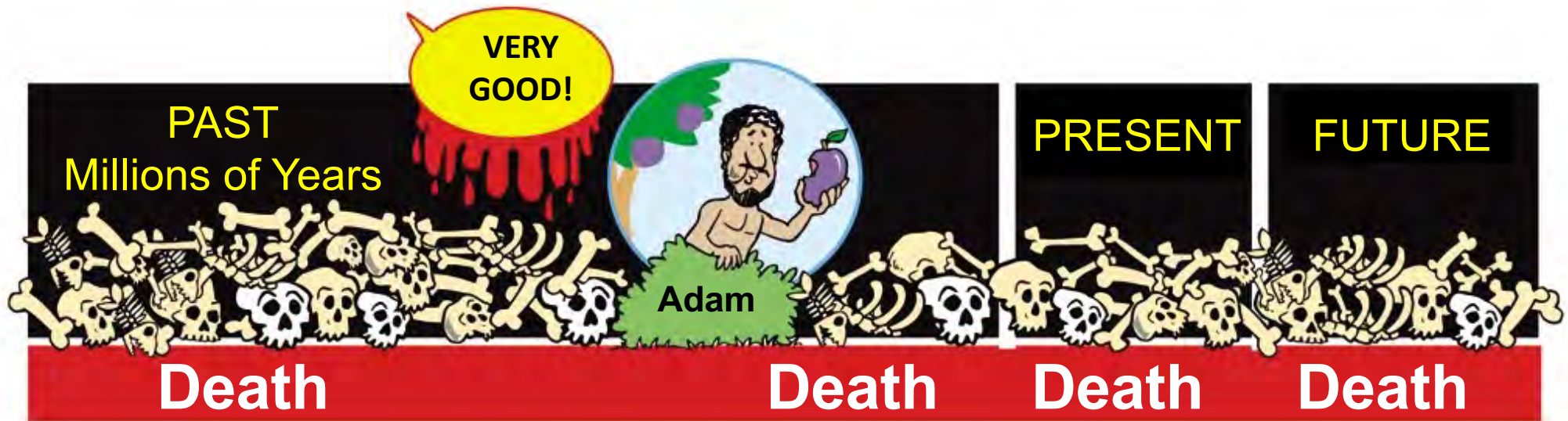
**Fossil
Graveyards**

How long has death existed (Rom. 5:12)?

Two Histories of *Death*



Which View of Death Matches Romans 5:12?



WHERE DO YOU "FIT" MILLIONS OF YEARS? ⁵

Somewhere?

Between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2
(gap theorists)

Spread the millions of years out in the six "days"
(progressive creationists and theistic evolutionists)



Exodus 20:11

"For **in six days** the Lord made the heavens and earth, the sea, and **all that is in them**, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."





Back in my
grandfather's **day**
it took 12 **days**
to drive across the
country in the **day**.



Are we
there yet?

Genesis 1: Literal Days

1. *Yom* is defined literally in v. 5

Genesis 1:5

"God called the light **day**, and the darkness He called **night**. And there was **evening** and there was **morning**, one **day**."



Genesis 1: Literal Days

1. *Yom* is defined literally in v. 5
2. *Yom* with numerical adjectives
3. *Yom* with "evening" & "morning"
4. *Yom* is defined literally in v. 14

Genesis 1:14

"Then God said, 'Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the **day** from the **night**, and let them be for signs and for **seasons** and for **days** and **years**.'"



Time Since First Day of Creation

5 days before Adam (Genesis 1)	= 5 days
Adam to Abraham (Genesis 5 & 11)	= ~ 2,000 yrs.
Abraham to Christ	= ~ 2,000 yrs.
Christ to present	= ~ 2,000 yrs.
Total	= ~ 6,000 yrs.

Big Bang

5



**Progressive
Creation**

**Theistic
Evolution**

COMMON FACTOR

**Framework
Hypothesis**

**Other
Compromise
Positions**

**Gap
Theory**

MILLIONS
OF YEARS

5

Progressive
Creation

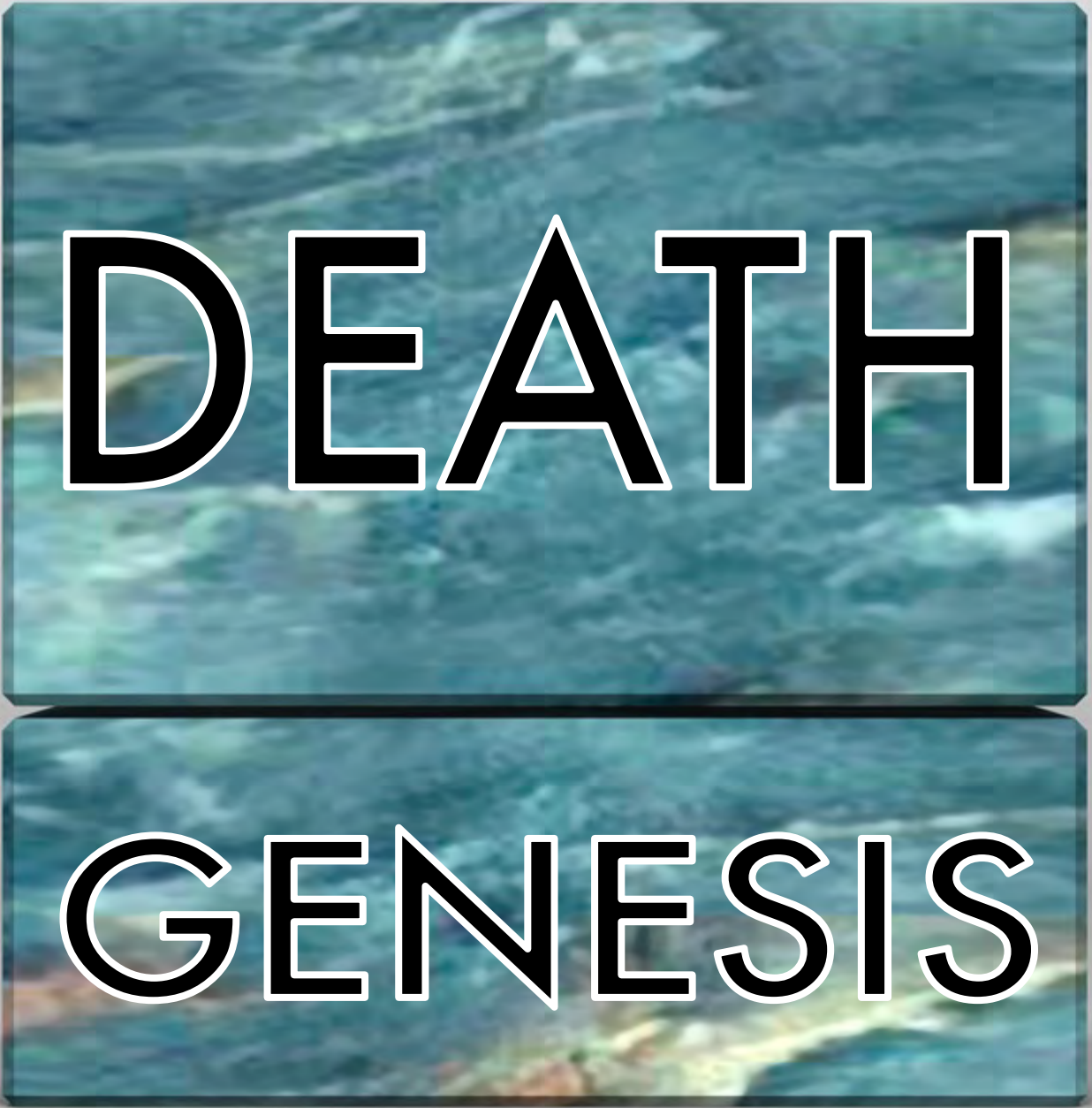
Theistic
Evolution

PAIN
DEATH
KILLING
THORNS
DISEASE
STRUGGLE
SUFFERING
CORRUPTION

Franklin
Hypothesis

Compromise
Positions

Theory



DEATH

GENESIS





GOSPEL

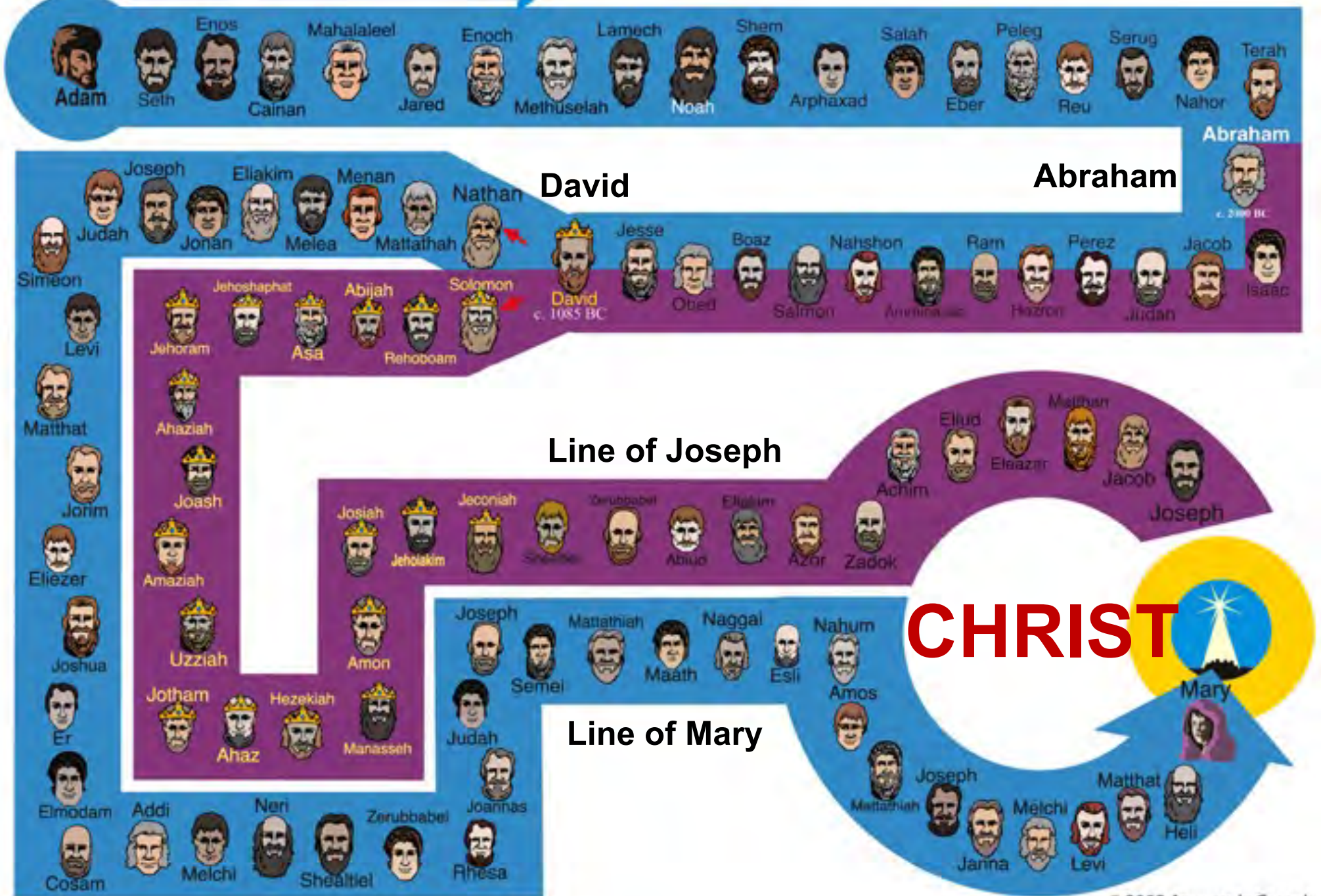
GENESIS

Genesis is foundational to the **gospel**

Genesis 3:15

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."

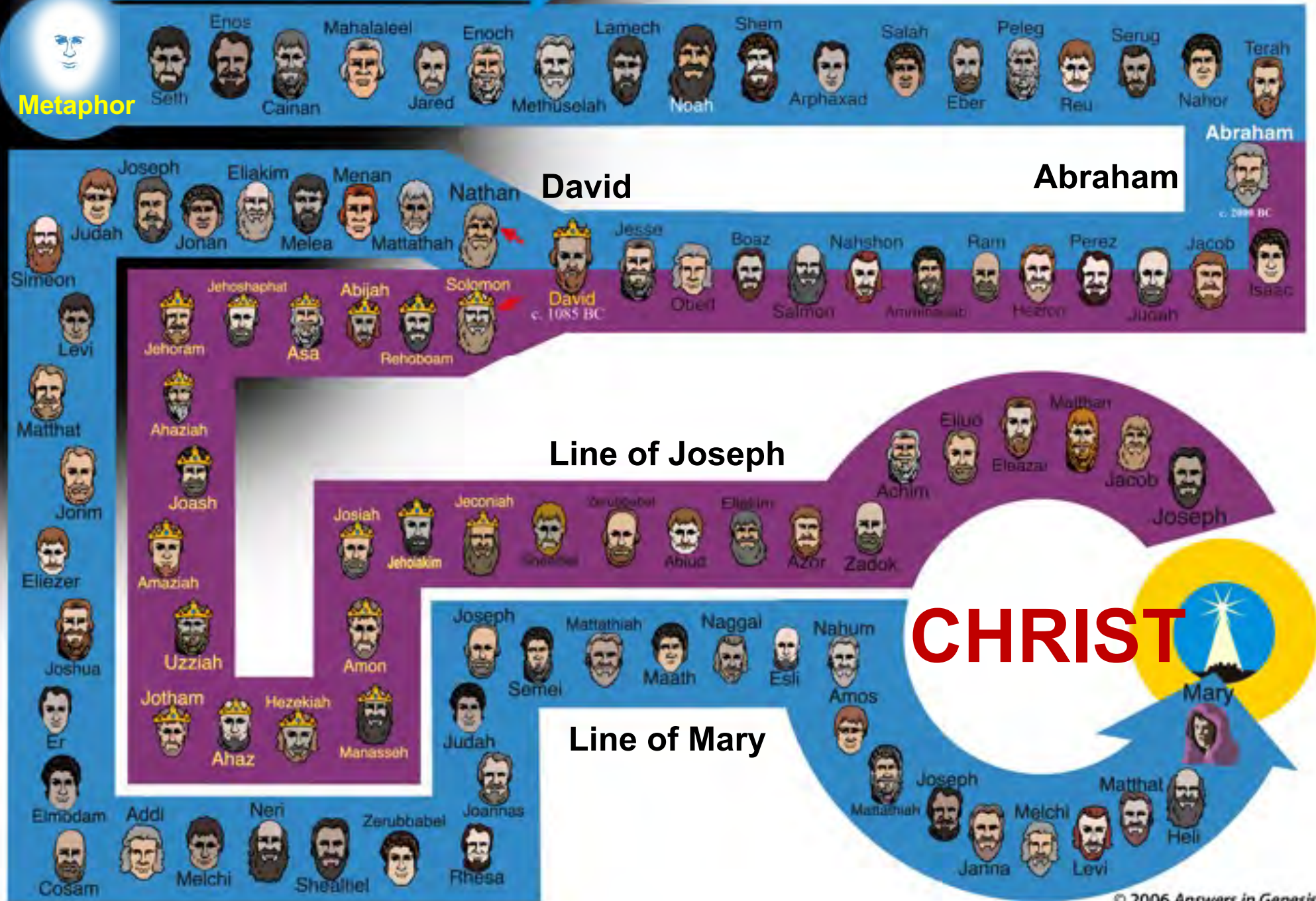




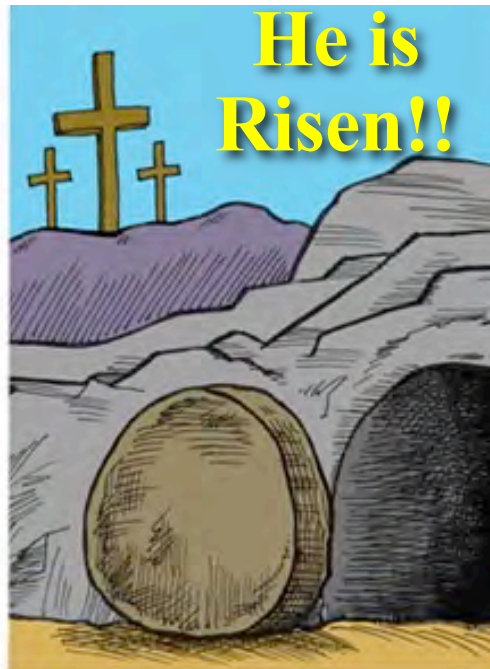
From Metaphor to Christ?

5

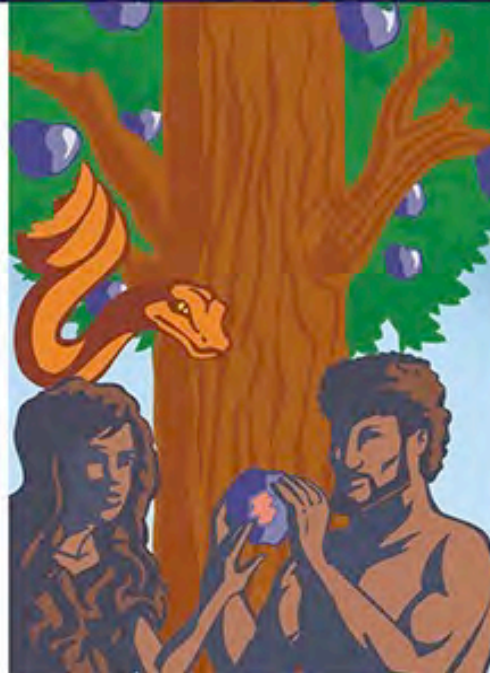
Metaphor



**Jesus
Christ
"The Last
Adam"**
1 Cor. 15:45



**For as in Adam all die,
Even so in Christ shall all be made alive.**
1 Cor. 15:22



**"The
First
Adam"**
1 Cor. 15:45

**Jesus
Christ
"The Last
Adam"**
1 Cor. 15:45



**For as in Adam all die,
Even so in Christ shall all be made alive.**
1 Cor. 15:22



**"The
First
Adam"**
1 Cor. 15:45

"The most devastating thing though that biology did to Christianity was the discovery of biological evolution. Now that we know that Adam and Eve never were real people the central myth of Christianity is destroyed. If there never was an Adam and Eve, there never was an original sin..."



Frank Zindler

"If there was never an original sin, there is no need of salvation. If there is no need of salvation, there is no need of a savior. And I submit that puts Jesus, historical or otherwise, into the ranks of the unemployed. I think that evolution is absolutely the death knell of Christianity."



Frank Zindler (American atheist, in a debate with Dr. William Lane Craig), *Atheism vs Christianity* (video), Zondervan, 1996.



GOSPEL



GENESIS





Genesis is foundational to **morality**



MORALITY



GENESIS

Genesis is foundational to **morality**



Genesis is foundational to **morality**



EVOLUTION & ATHEISM

"Let me summarize my views on what modern evolutionary biology tells us loud and clear. ... There are no gods, no purposes, no goal-directed forces of any kind. There is no life after death."



William B. Provine (Prof. of Biology, Cornell Univ.), *Origins Research*, 16:1/2 (1994), p. 9.

EVOLUTION & ATHEISM

"When I die, I am absolutely certain that I am going to be dead. That's the end for me. There is no ultimate foundation for ethics, no ultimate meaning to life and no free will for humans, either."



William B. Provine (Prof. of Biology, Cornell Univ.), *Origins Research*, 16:1/2 (1994), p. 9.



My thinking in every area

6 CREATION DAYS

IN YOUR PAST

GOD IS AUTHORITY

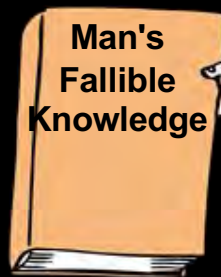
GOD SETS THE RULES

OR

MILLIONS OF YEARS

IN YOUR PAST

MAN IS AUTHORITY
RELATIVE MORALITY



My thinking in every area

Gay
Marriage

Abortion

Euthanasia

Moral
Relativism

THE PROBLEM ⁵

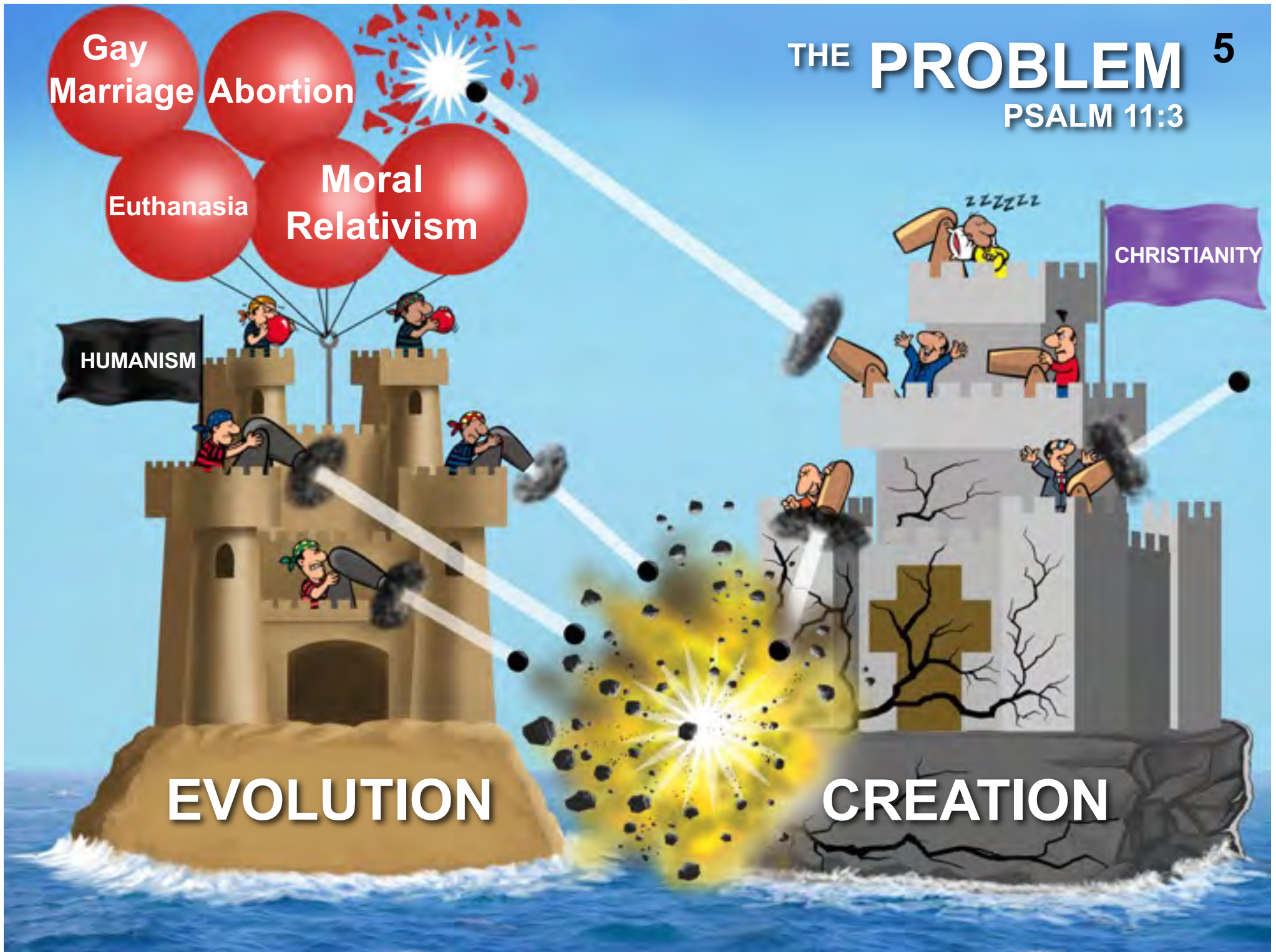
PSALM 11:3

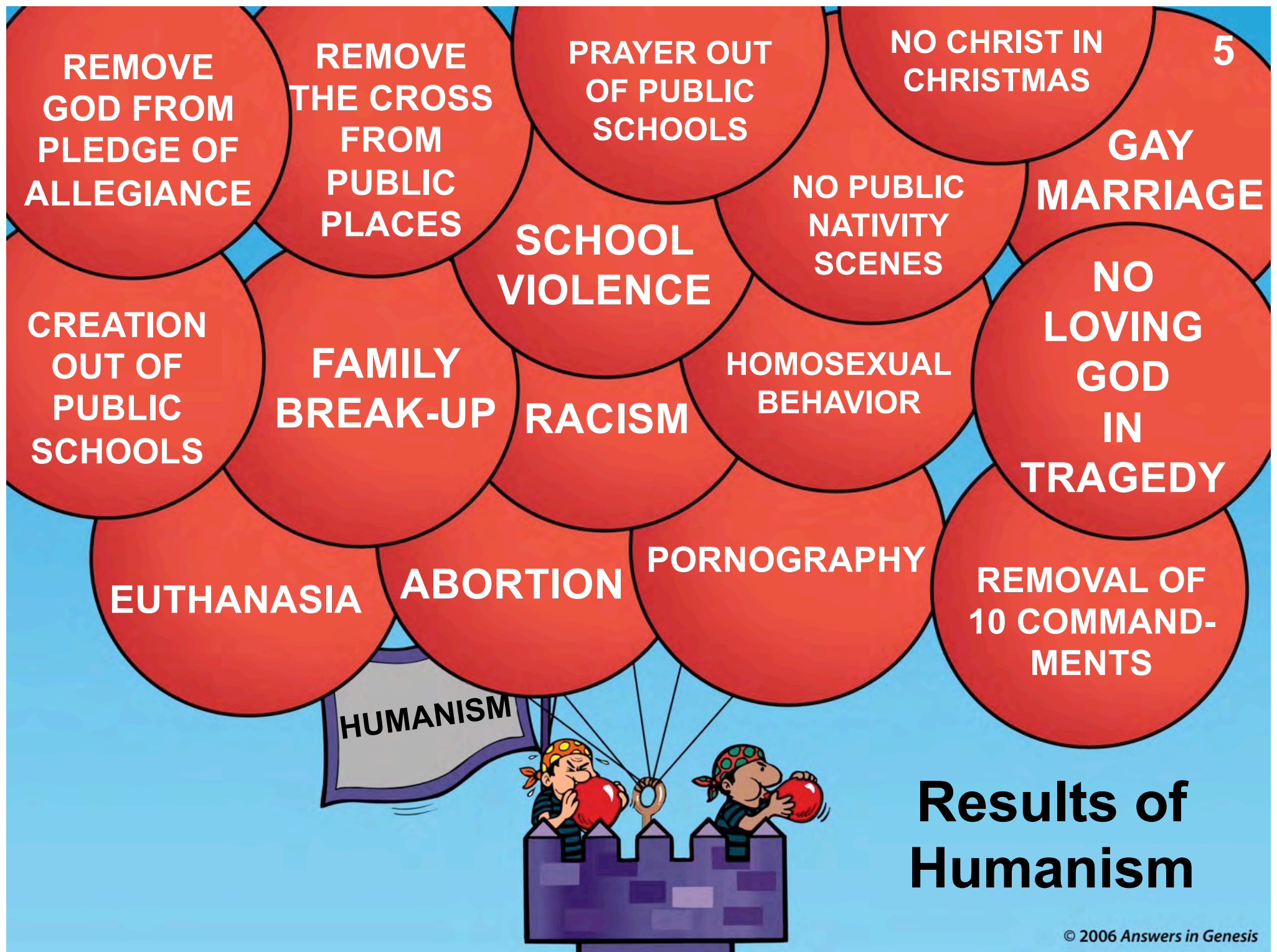
HUMANISM

CHRISTIANITY

EVOLUTION

CREATION



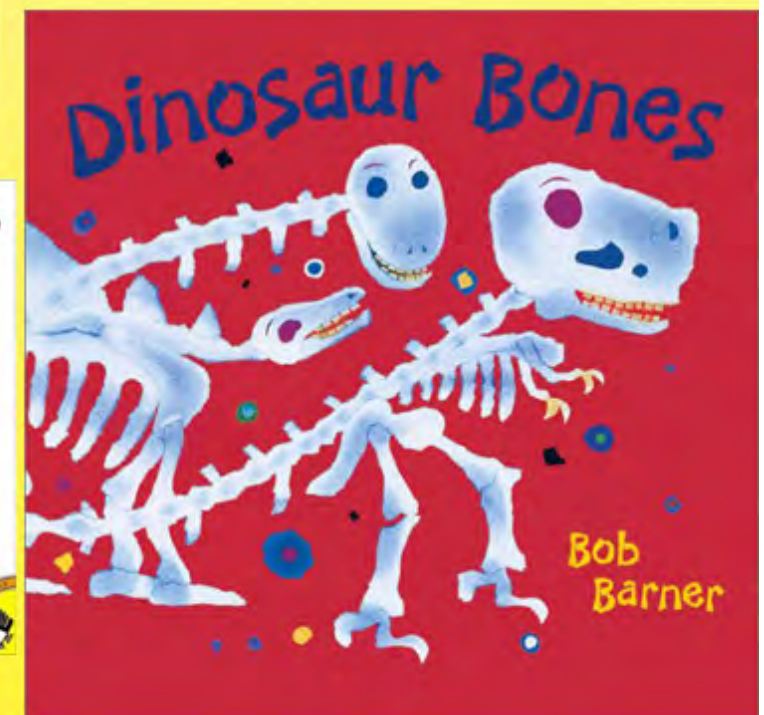
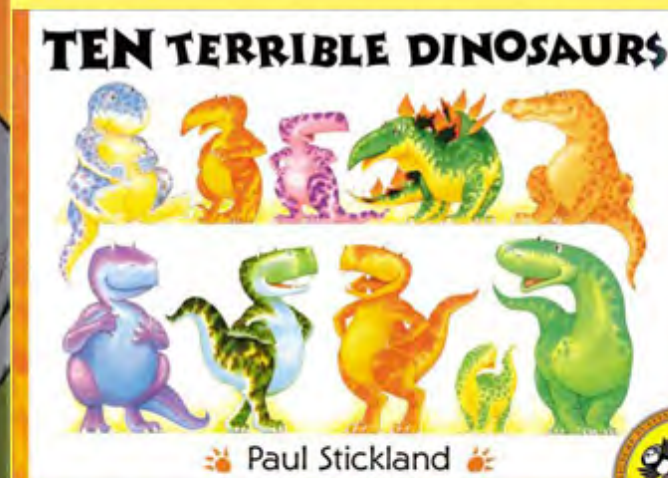
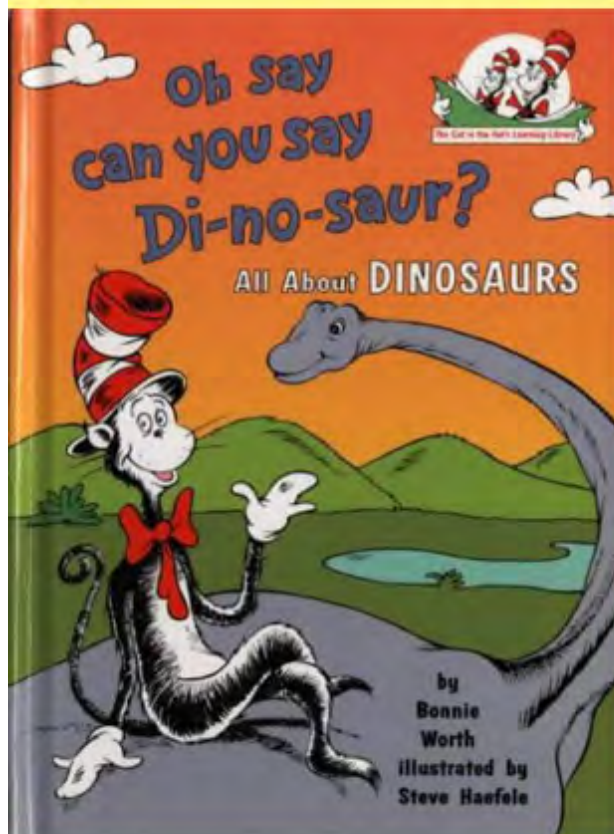
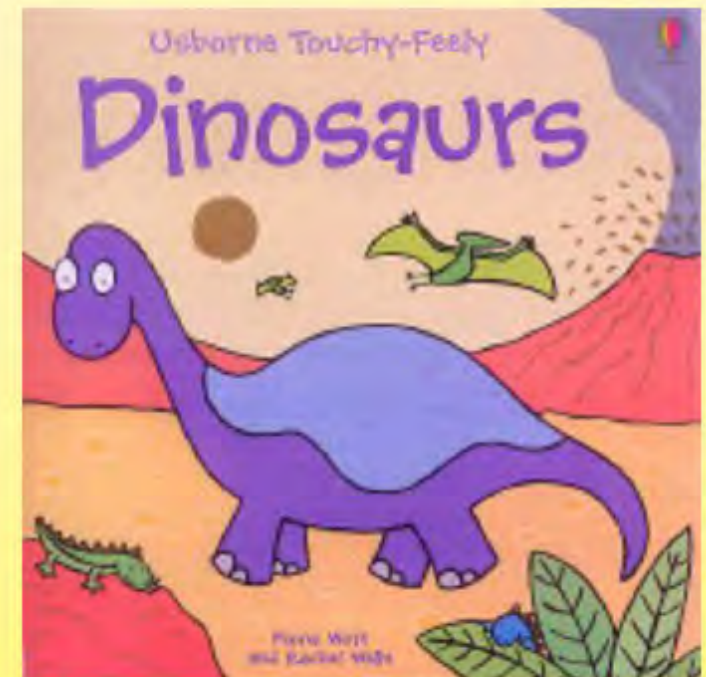
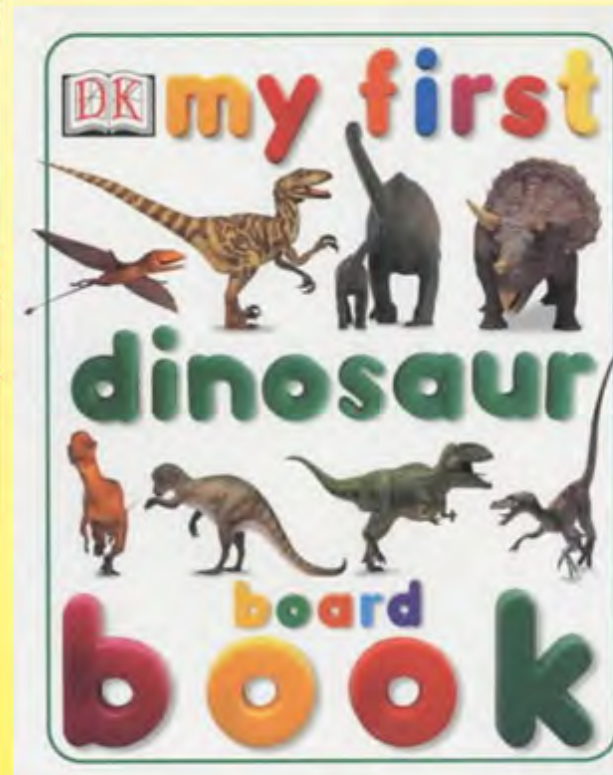
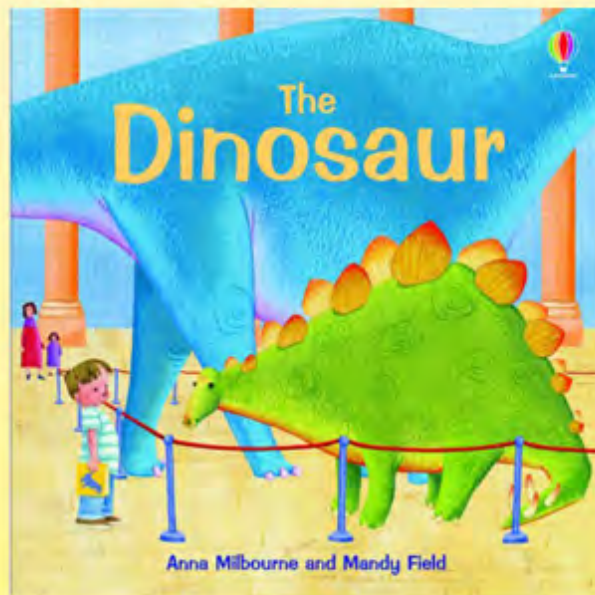


Results of Humanism

The Media assumes evolution is true 5

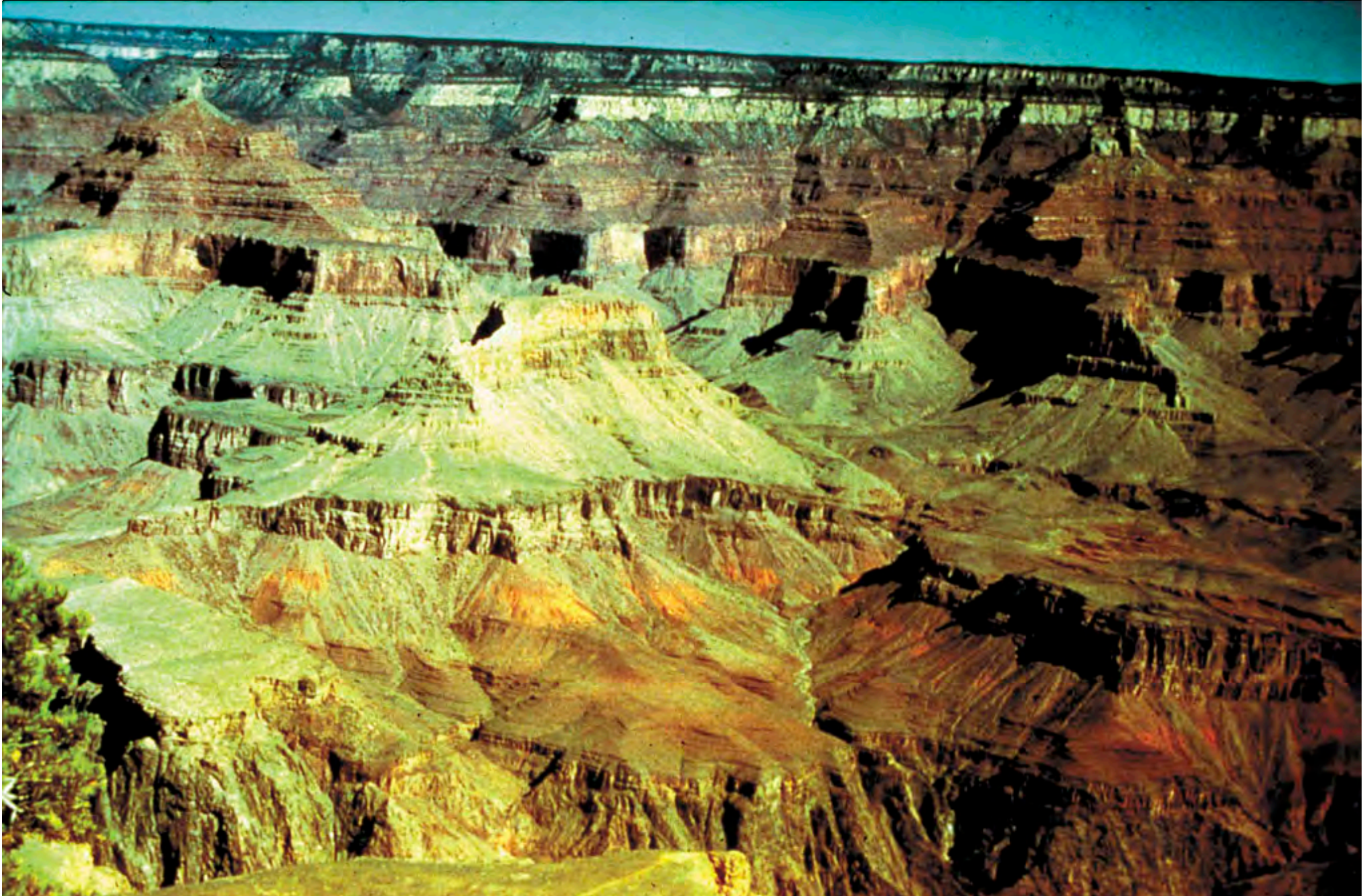


THE WORLD



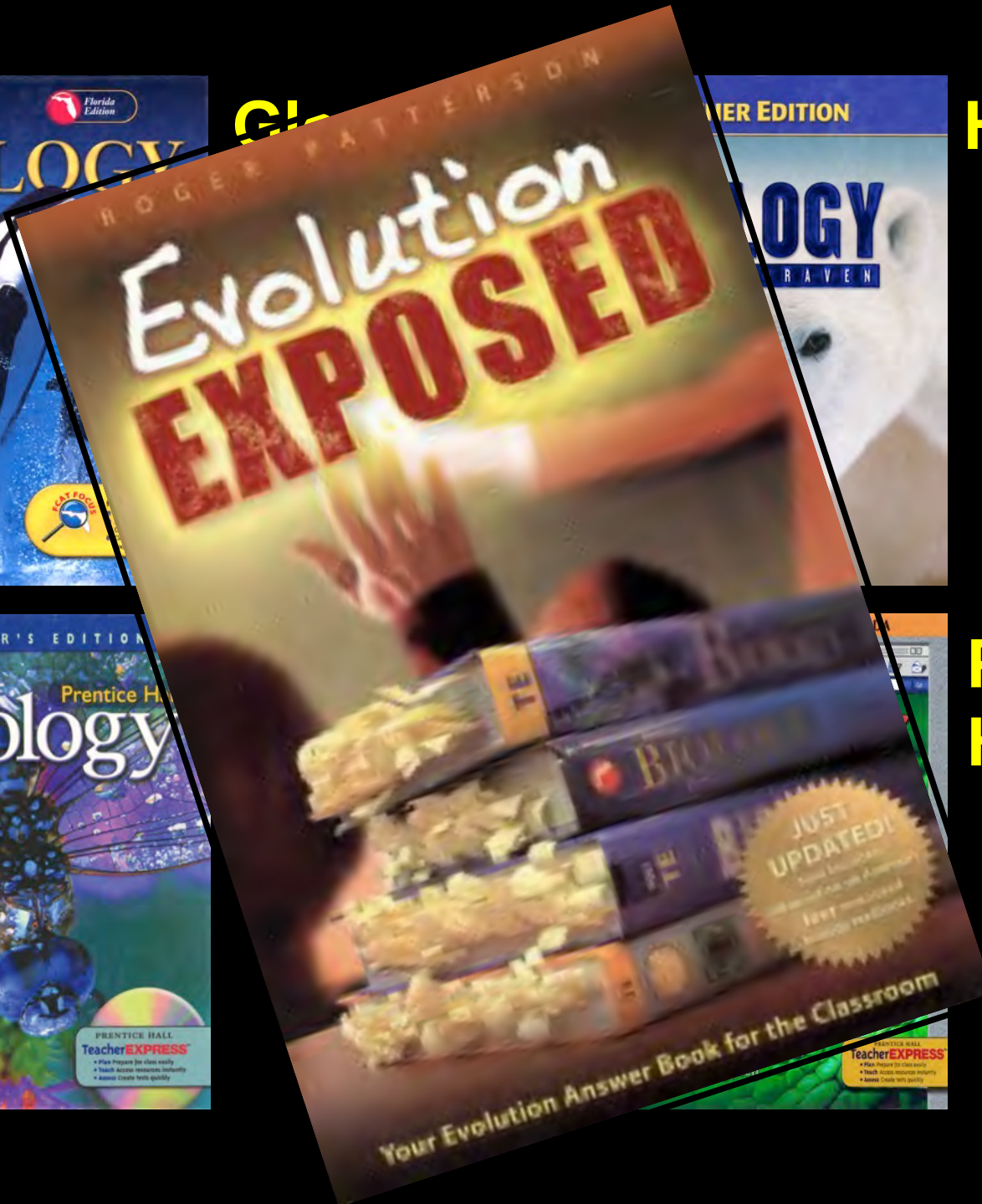
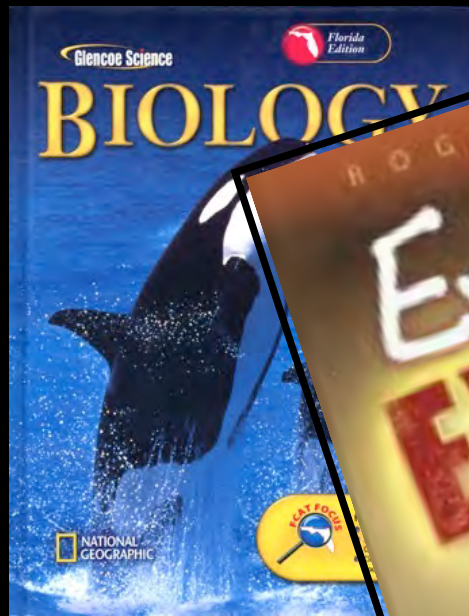
Grand Canyon National Park

5





Natural History Museum, London



Holt

Prentice
Hall



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Duluth, MN Weather

36°F, Overcast

Thu: 45°F / 38°F

Fri: 41°F / 33°F

Sat: 46°F / 35°F

[Hear the Fog Horn](#)



Turning Church Kids into Skeptics

**BIBLE-
BELIEVING**

EVOLUTIONIZED

**Secular
Media &
Education**

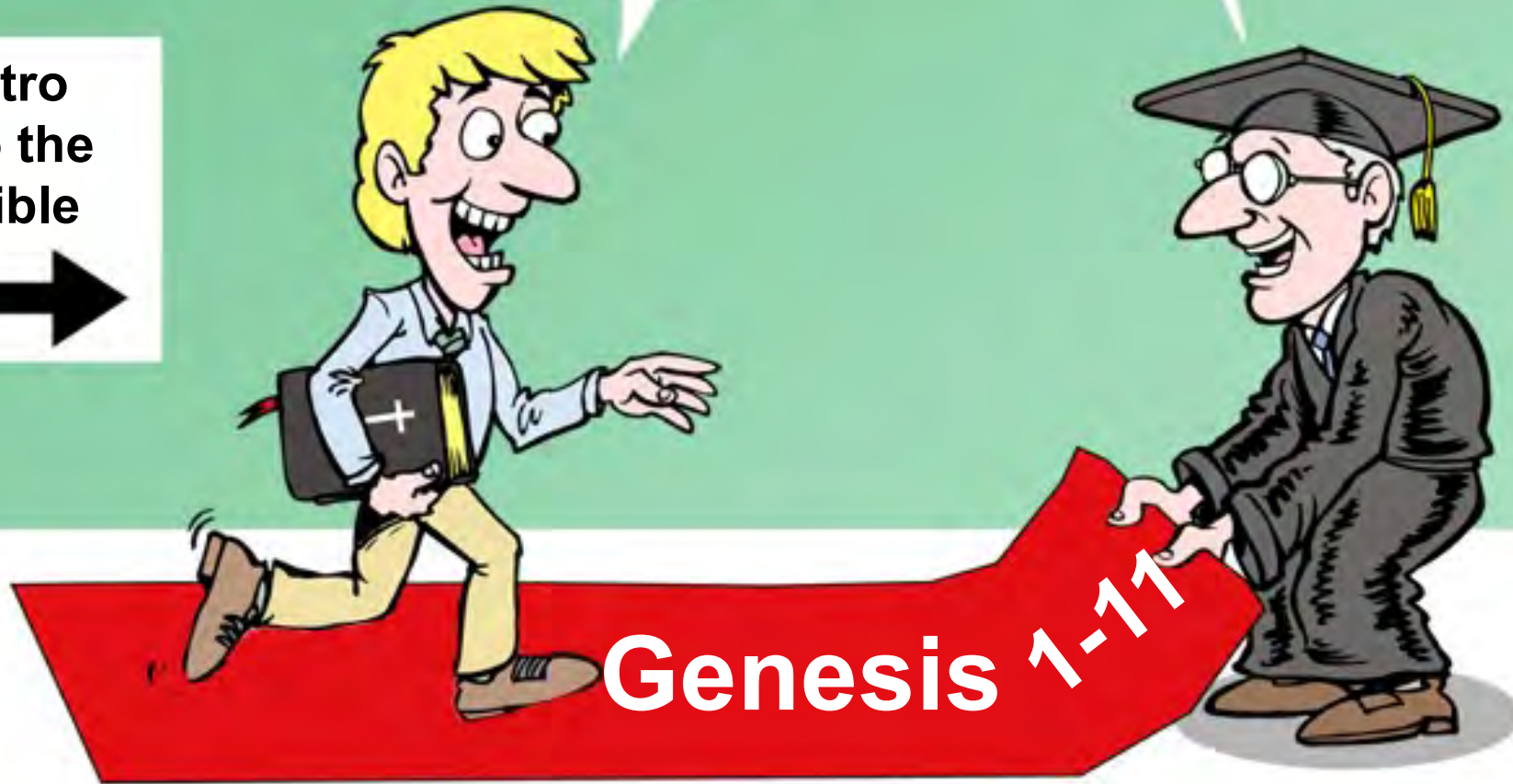


Intro
to the
Bible



HERE I AM!
READY TO
LEARN ABOUT
GOD'S WORD.

WELCOME
TO CHRISTIAN
COLLEGE!



Genesis 1-11

**LESSON #1: DON'T BELIEVE
THIS PART!**

**Intro
to the
Bible**



THE SOLUTION ⁵

ISAIAH 58:12



1 Peter 3:15

"But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being **ready to make a defense** to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence."

Genesis is foundational to the reliability and authority of **the Bible**





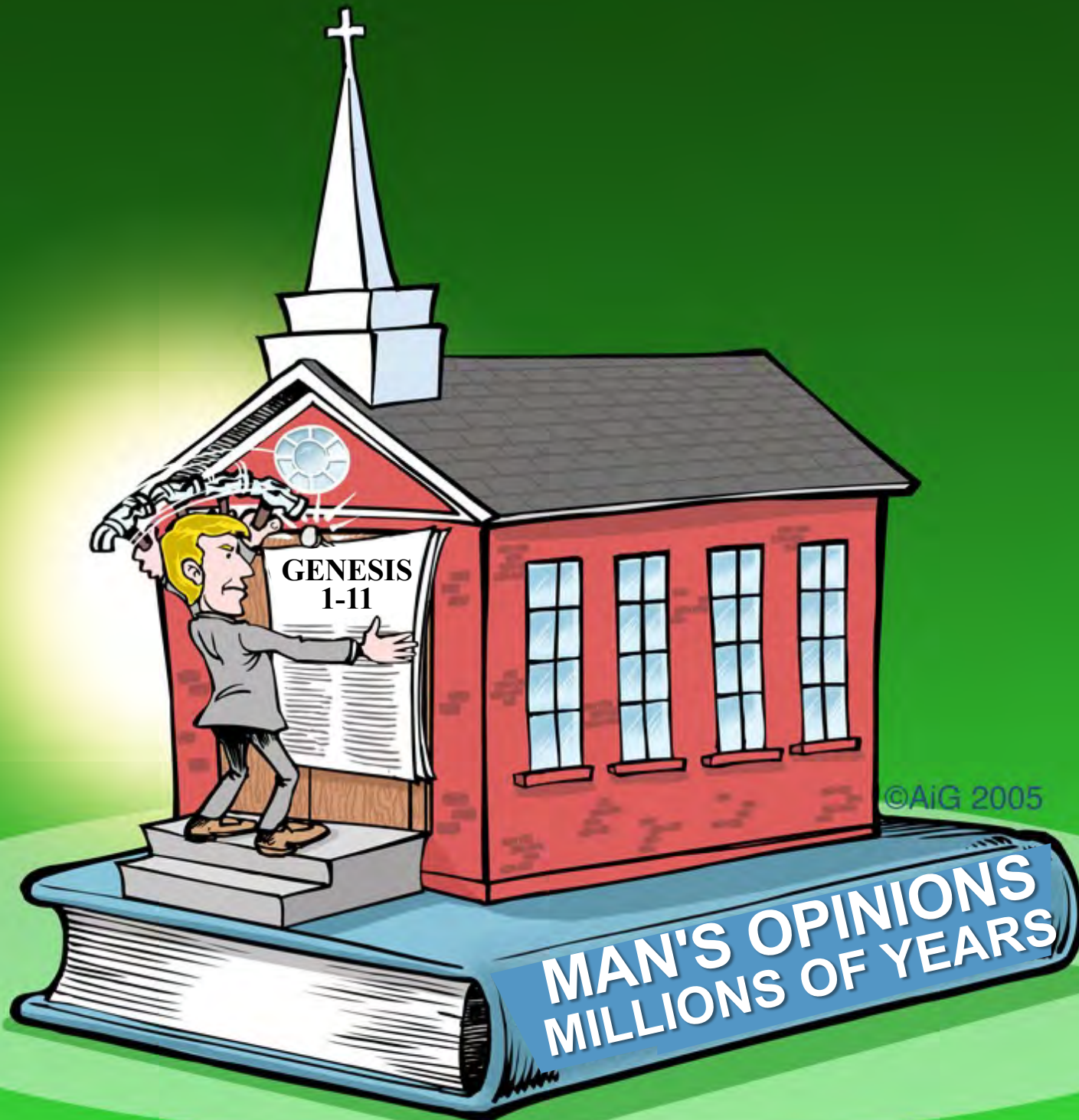
answersin**genesis.org**

believing it. defending it. proclaiming it.

Evolution & Millions of Years: Do they really matter?

- **Destroy any basis for morality**
- **Contradict the Bible's teaching on death**
- **Make the gospel unbelievable**
- **Undermine the reliability & authority of the Bible**

**Evolution & millions of
years are destructive LIES!**





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A large background image for the main banner showing a pair of hands holding an open, small, black leather-bound book with yellowed pages. A semi-transparent dark grey box is overlaid on the lower left of the image.

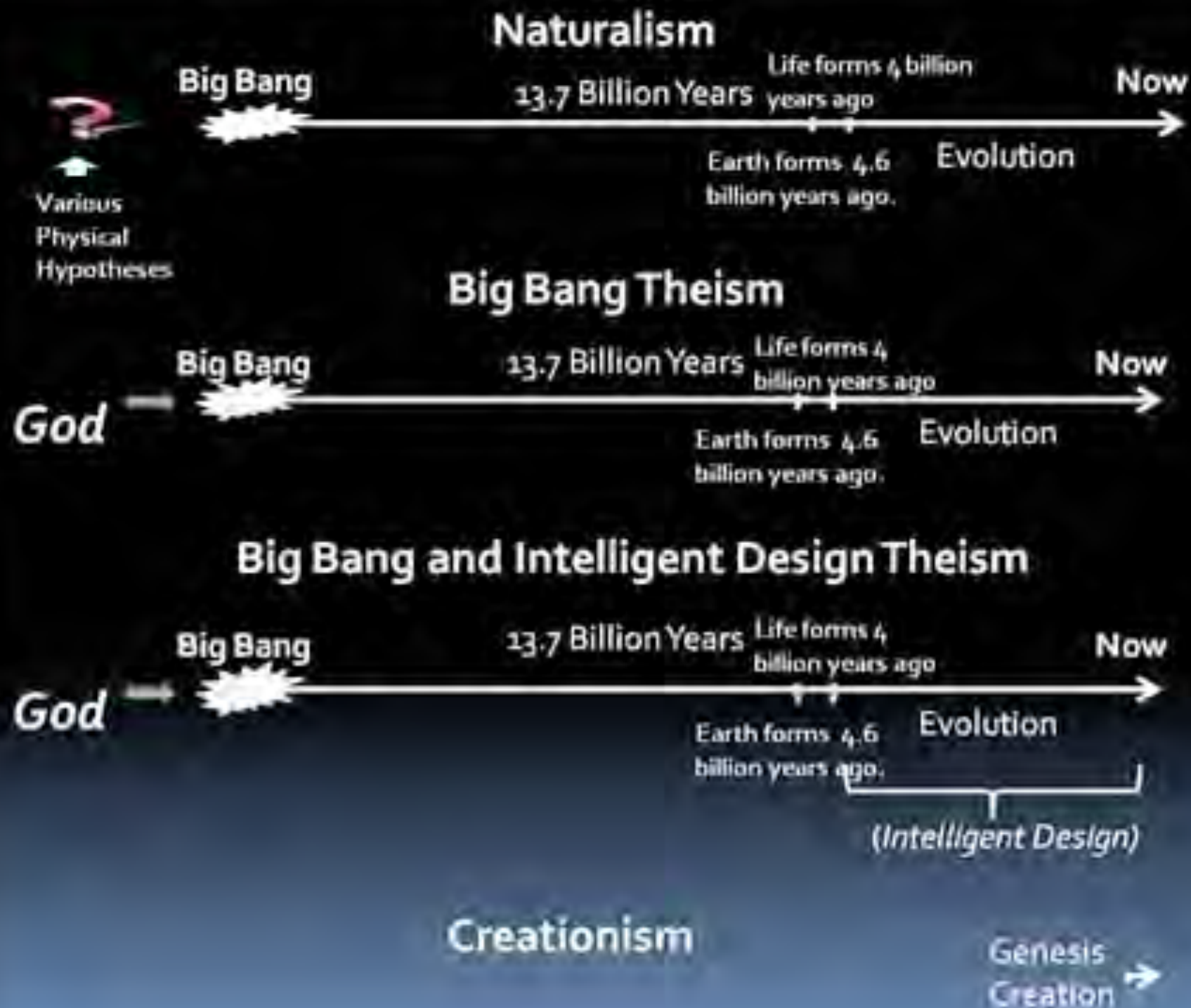
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Apologetics at BibleStudyDownloads.org





FACT

**We must deal with facts
instead of speculation**



**"Can we, just for a moment, Your Honor,
ignore the facts?"**

No genealogies?



LUCY

Nearly all experts agree Lucy was just a 3 foot tall chimpanzee.



HEIDELBERG MAN

Built from a jawbone that was conceded by many to be quite human.



NEBRASKA MAN

Scientifically built up from one tooth, later found to be the tooth of an extinct pig.



PILTDOWN MAN

The jawbone turned out to belong to a modern ape.



PEKING MAN

Supposedly 500,000 years old, but all evidence has disappeared.



NEANDERTHAL MAN

At the Int'l Congress of Zoology (1958) Dr. A.J.E. Cave said his examination showed that this famous skeleton found in France over 50 years ago is that of an old man who suffered from arthritis.



NEWGUINEA MAN

Dates way back to 1970. This species has been found in the region just north of Australia.



CROMAGNON MAN

One of the earliest and best established fossils is at least equal in physique and brain capacity to modern man... so what's the difference?



MODERN MAN

This genius thinks we came from a monkey.

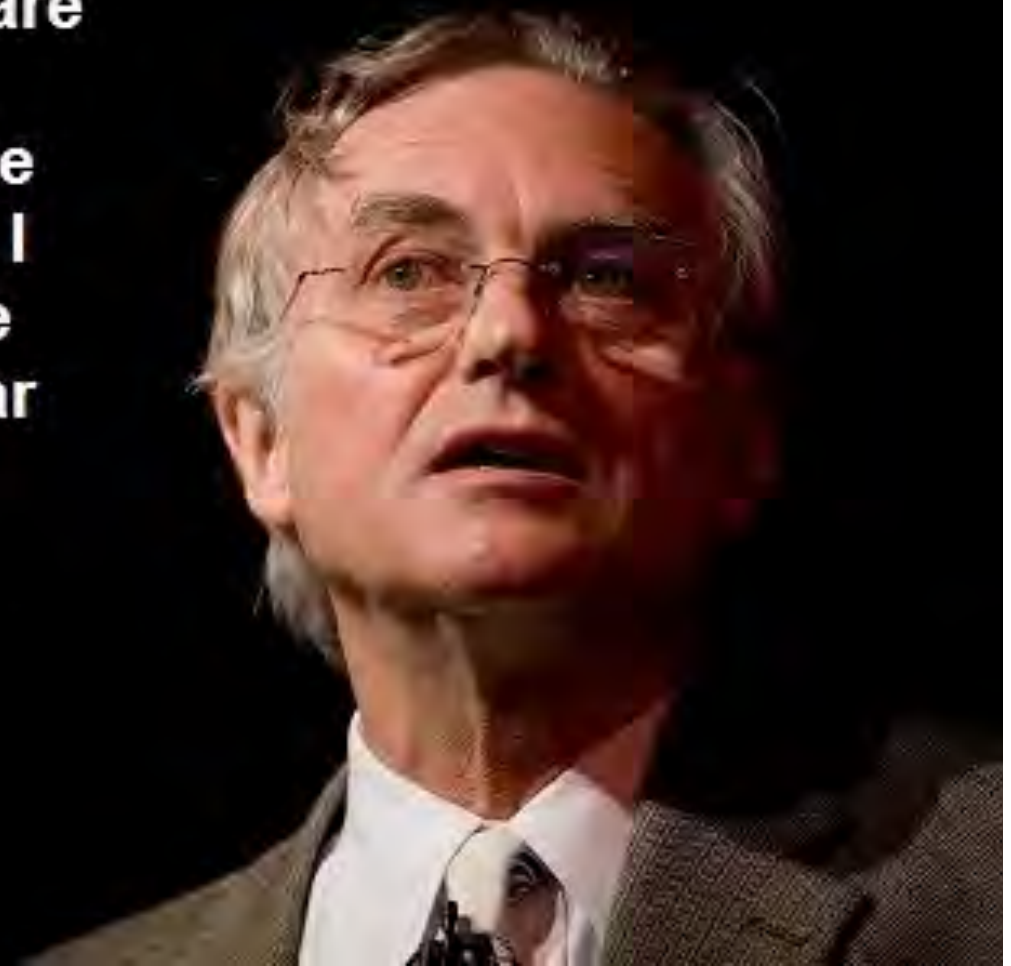
*"Professing themselves to be wise they became fools."
(Romans 1:22)*



**The Moral Argument: Why
do atheists believe in
morality?**

“There are no Christians, as far as I know, blowing up buildings. I am not aware of any Christian suicide bombers. I am not aware of any major Christian denomination that believes the penalty for apostasy is death. I have mixed feelings about the decline of Christianity, in so far as Christianity might be a bulwark against something worse.”

-- Richard Dawkins



Richard Dawkins

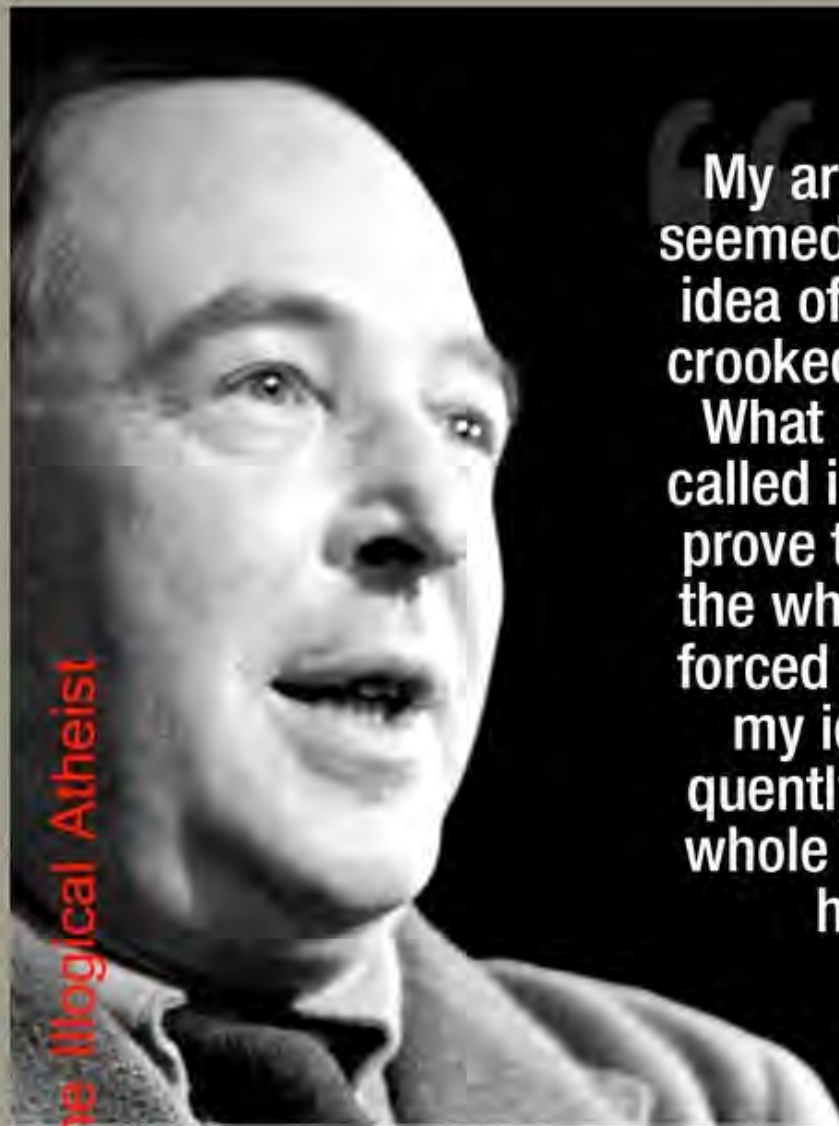
Another Moral Argument for God



- If God does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not exist.
- Objective moral values and duties exist.
- Therefore, God exists.

**"The fool says in his heart,
'There is no God'"**
(Psalm 14:1)

Why is this true?



The Illogical Atheist



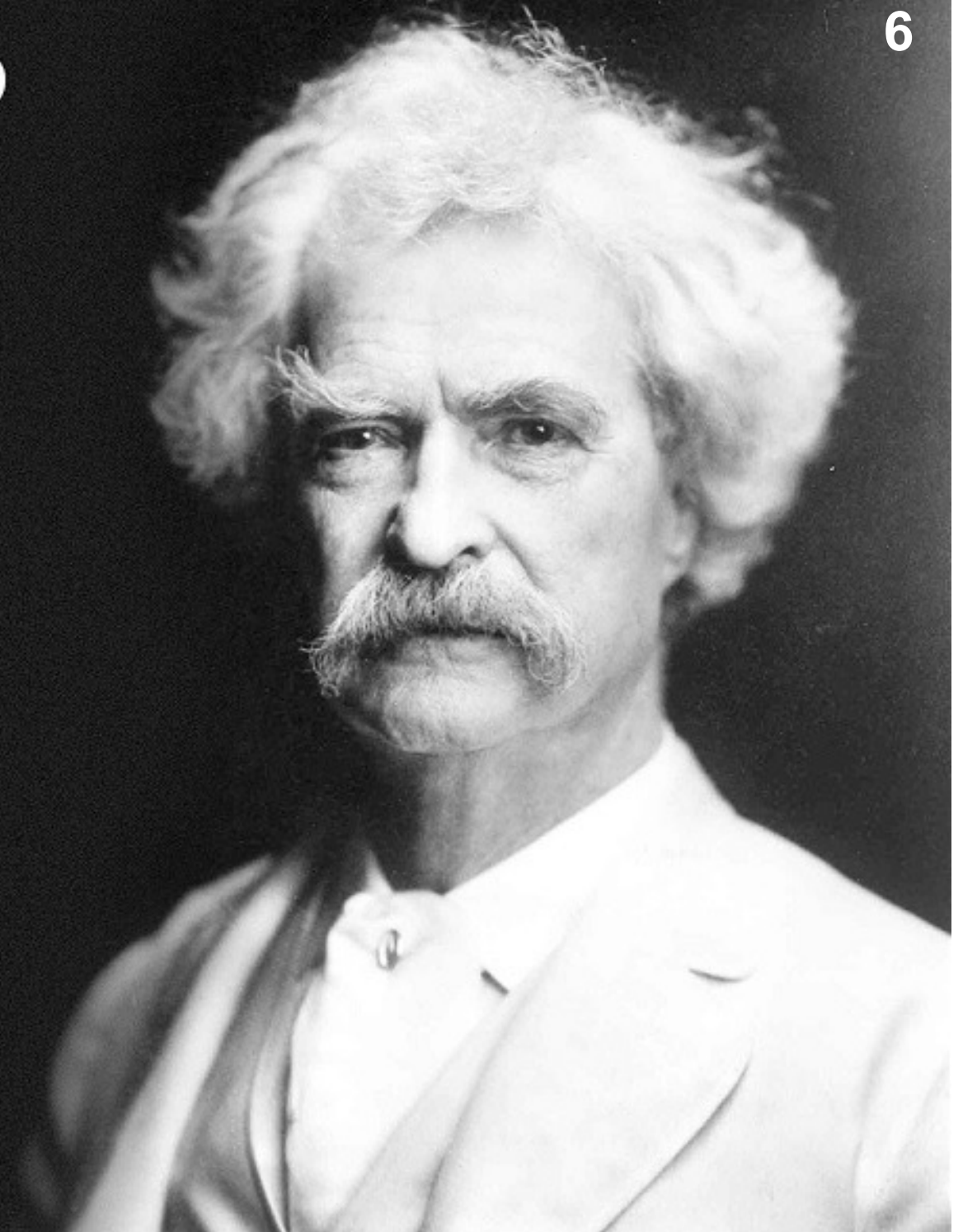
“My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. Just how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust? ... Thus in the very act of trying to prove that God did not exist—in other words, that the whole of reality was senseless—I found I was forced to assume that one part of reality—namely my idea of justice—was full of sense. Consequently atheism turns out to be too simple. If the whole universe has no meaning, we should never have found out that it has no meaning.”

C. S. LEWIS

Mere Christianity, 1952. pp 45-46

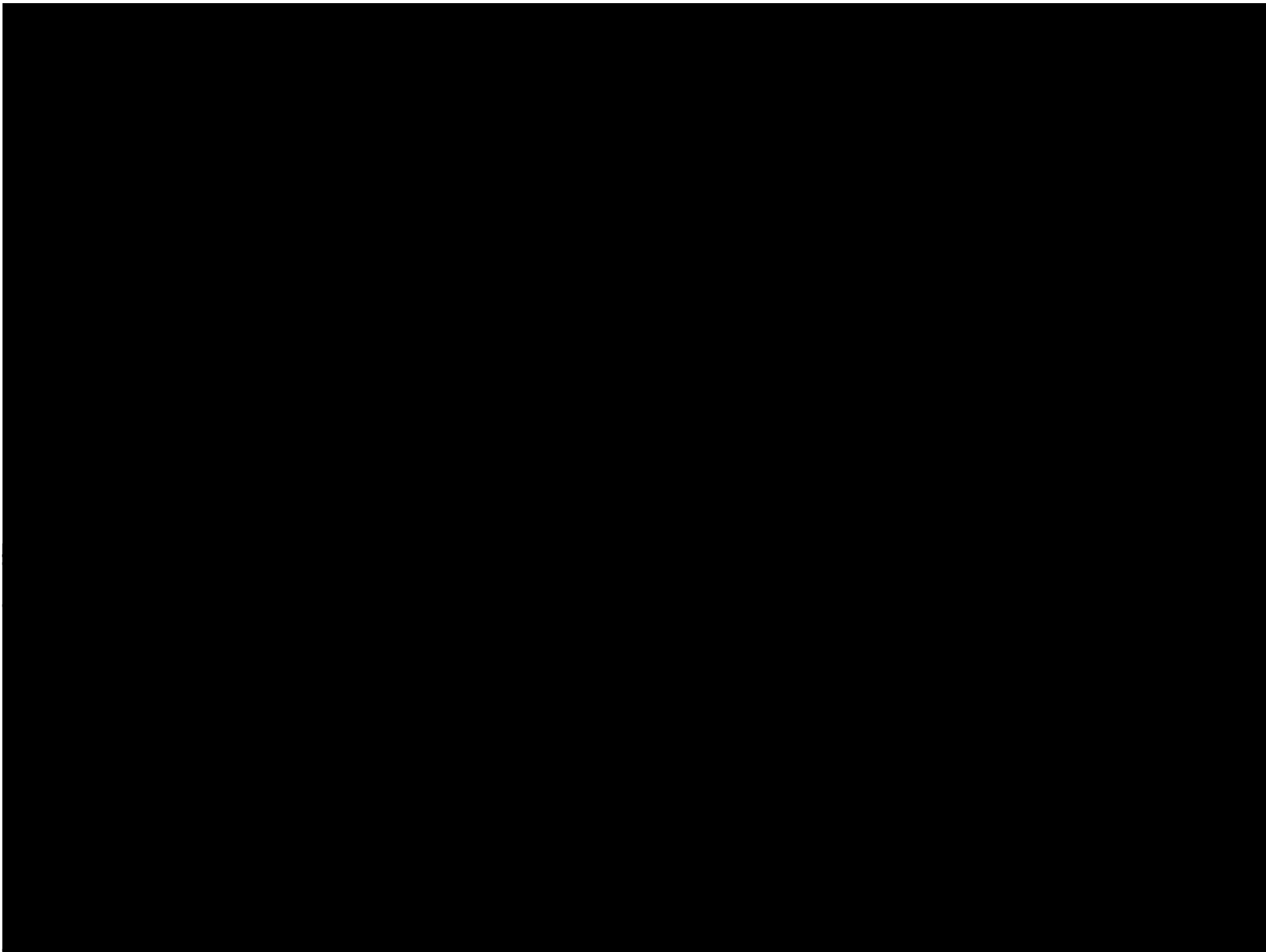
“IT'S EASIER TO
FOOL PEOPLE
THAN TO
CONVINCE
THEM THAT
THEY HAVE
BEEN FOOLED.”

~MARK TWAIN





Ben Stein Interview of Richard Dawkins



The Reliability of the Bible: Attacks Against Scripture



*Since the early church false teaching
has tried to undermine our faith*



- The Bible is continually attacked
- However, discoveries continue to verify its accuracy

Is the Bible reliable?

7

**Brown accuses
via the mouth of
"historian" Leigh
Teabing...**

**"The Bible is a product of man,
my dear. Not of God... [It] has
evolved through countless
translations, additions, and
revisions. History has never had
a definitive version of the book."**

**We trust ourselves
instead of God.**

7

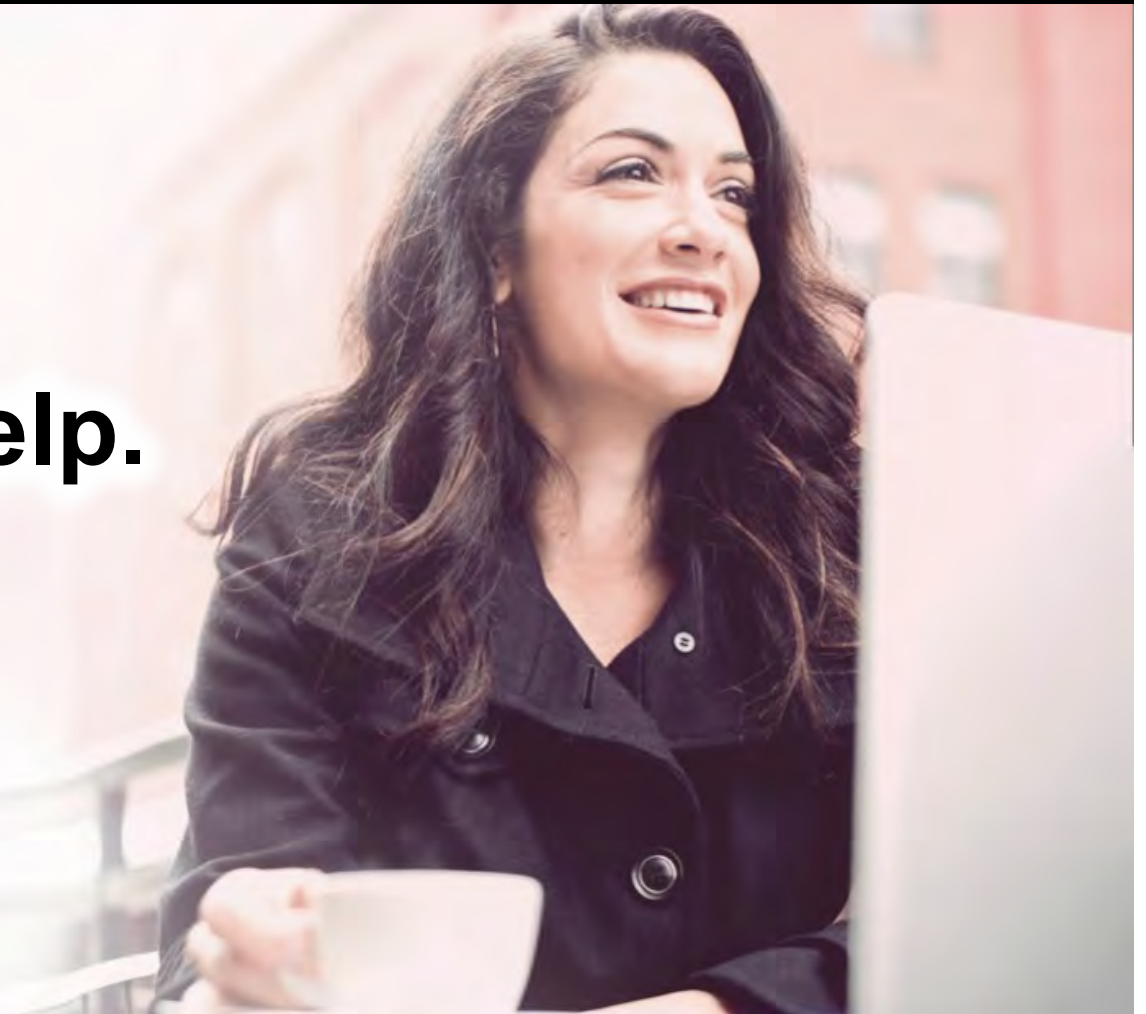
Jenn 13:1

**Praying won't help.
Doing will.**



Without God. We're all good.

cficanada.ca



7

We trust **ourselves** instead of God.

Deave 27:1

Lead with your heart.
Not with your Bible.

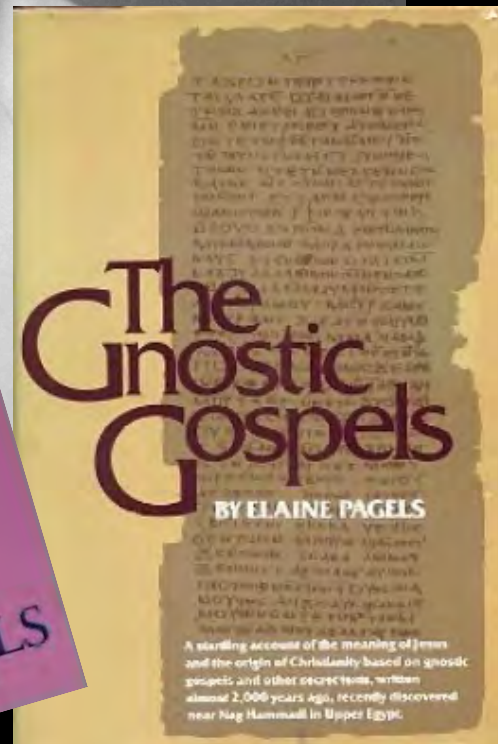
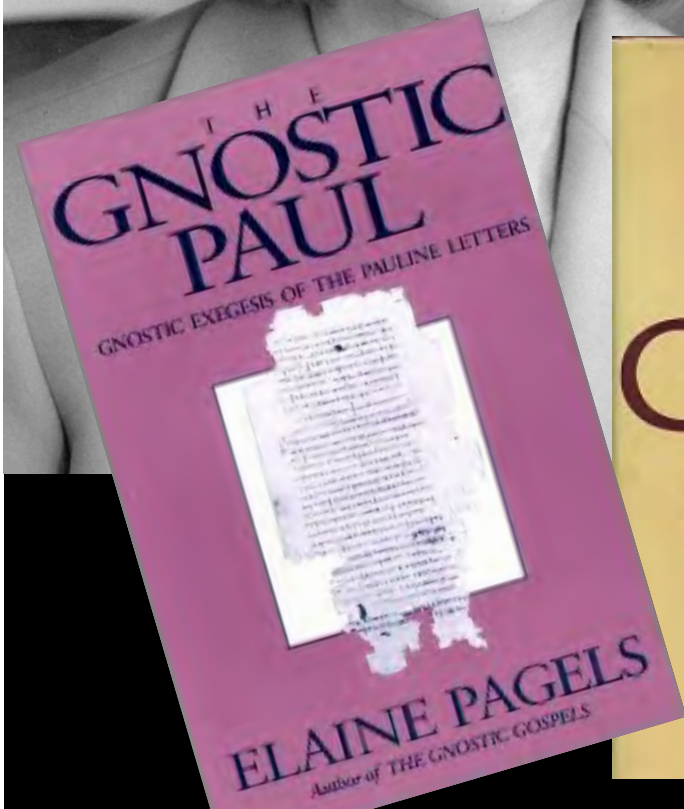


Without God. We're all good.
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Some liberal ⁷ scholars redefine Christianity

Elaine Pagels teaches at Princeton that first century Christianity was also Gnostic!



Smearing History ⁷

Dan Brown
"Gospel"

Supposed
80
Gospels!

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

Selected
for their
"Male
Bias"

Gospel
Truth

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

**18 Heretical
Gospels
Written**

1st Cent.

**AD 325
Council of Nicaea**

Acceptance of the Four Gospels Before Nicaea

Clearing History ⁷

X= Citation
or allusion

O= Named
as authentic

Individuals

Pseudo-Barnabas (70-130)

Clement of Rome (95-97)

Polycarp (110-150)

Hermas (115-140)

Didache (120-150)

Papias (130-140)

Irenaeus (130-202)

Matthew	X	X	X	X	X	O
Mark	X		X	X		O
Luke	X		X		X	O
John				X		O

Gospel of
Thomas
AD 50-140

Gospel of
Judas
AD 170?

1st
Cent.

AD 325
Council of Nicaea

Irenaeus (AD 180)

7



"They declare that Judas the traitor was thoroughly acquainted with these things, and that he alone, knowing the truth as no others did, accomplished the mystery of the betrayal; by him all things, both earthly and heavenly, were thus thrown into confusion. They produce a fictitious history of this kind, which they style the *Gospel of Judas*."

Against Heresies 1.31.1

Irenaeus (AD 180)



"It is not possible that the Gospels can be either more or fewer in number than they are. For, since there are four **zones** of the world... and four principal **winds**... it is fitting that [the Church] should have four **pillars**...." (then he lists Matthew, Mark, Luke & John)

Against Heresies 3.11.8

Irenaeus (AD 180)



Against Heresies 3.1

"**Matthew** also issued a written Gospel among the Hebrews in their own dialect, while Peter and Paul were preaching at Rome, and laying the foundations of the Church. After their departure, **Mark**, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, did also hand down to us in writing what had been preached by Peter. **Luke** also, the companion of Paul, recorded in a book the Gospel preached by him. Afterwards, **John**, the disciple of the Lord, who also had leaned upon His breast, did himself publish a Gospel during his residence at Ephesus in Asia."

Acceptance of the Four Gospels Before Nicaea

Clearing History ⁷

X= Citation
or allusion

O= Named
as authentic

Individuals **Canons** **Translations**

Pseudo-Barnabas (70-130)
Clement of Rome (95-97)
Polycarp (110-150)
Hermas (115-140)
Didache (120-150)
Papias (130-140)
Irenaeus (130-150)
Justin Martyr (150-155)
Origen (185-254)
Cyril of Jerusalem (315-386)
Marcion (140)
Muratorian (170)
Barococcio (206)
Apostolic (300)
Tatian Diatesseron (170)
Old Latin (150-170)
Old Syriac (200)

Matthew	X	X	X	X	X	O	X	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Mark	X		X	X		O	X	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Luke	X		X		X	O	X	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
John				X		O	O	X	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O

Gospel of
Thomas
AD 50-140

Gospel of
Judas
AD 170?

1st
Cent.

AD 325

Council of Nicaea

For Further Details see...

The NT Canon in the First Four Centuries

H. Wayne House, *Chronological & Background Charts to the NT*

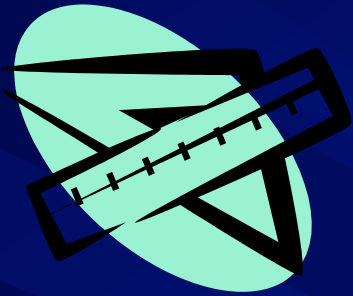
	BOOK	INDIVIDUALS															CANONS					TRANSLATIONS			COUNCILS						
		PSUEDO-BARNABAS (c. 70-130)	CLEMENT OF ROME (c. 95-97)	IGNATIUS (c. 110)	POLYCARP (c. 110-130)	HERMAS (c. 110-50)	DIDACHE (c. 115-40)	PAPIAS (c. 120-50)	IRENAEUS (c. 130-40)	DIODORUS (c. 130-202)	JUSTIN MARTYR (c. 150)	TERTULLIAN (c. 150-55)	ORIGEN (c. 185-254)	CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA (c. 150-215)	EUSEBIUS (c. 325-40)	JEROME (c. 340-420)	AUGUSTINE (c. 400)	MARCION (c. 140)	MURATORIAN (c. 170)	BAROCCOCCIO (c. 170)	APOSTOLIC (c. 206)	CHELLENHAM (c. 300)	ATHANASIUS (367)	TATIAN DIATHESSARON (c. 170)	OLD LATIN (c. 150-170)	OLD SYRIAC (c. 200)	NICEA (c. 325-40)	HIPPO (393)	CARTHAGE (397)	CARTHAGE (419)	
Matt.		X	X		X	X	X	O	X	X	X	X	O	O	O	O			O	O	O				O	O	O	O			
Mark		X			X	X		O	X	X	X	X	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O	O		O	O	O	O			
Luke		X			X		X	O	X	X	X	X	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O	O		O	O	O	O			
John			X		X			X	O	X	X	X	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O	O		O	O	O	O			
Acts					X	X		O	X	X	X	X	O	O	O	O				O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O		
Rom.			X		X		X	O	X	O	X	X	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O		
1 Cor.			O		X	X	X	O	X	O	X	X	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O		
2 Cor.					X	X		O	X	X	O	X	X	O	O	O			O	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O		
Gal.					X			O	X	X	O	X	X	O	O	O			O	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O		
Eph.		X	X	X	X			O	X	X	X	X	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O		
Phil.					X	X	X	O		O	X	X	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O		
Col.					X	X		O	X	X	O	X	X	O	O	O			O	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O		
1 Thess.					X	X	X	O	X	X	X	X	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O		
2 Thess.					X	X		O	X	X	X	X	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O		
1 Tim.			X		X	X	X	X		O	X	X	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O		
2 Tim.		X				X		X			X	X	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O		
Titus		X	X					X	X	O	X	X	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O		
Philemon				X									O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O	O			O	O	O	O		
Heb.		X	X			X		X		O	X	?	O	O	O	O				O	O	O	O				O	O	O	O	
James		X				X							O	?	O	O				O	O	O	O				O	O	O	O	
1 Peter		X			X	X		O	X	O	X	O	O	O	O	O				O	O	O	O				O	O	O	O	
2 Peter		X	X										?	O	?	O				O	O	?	O					O	O	O	
1 John					X	X		O		O	X		O	O	O	O				O	O	O	O				O	O	O	O	
2 John					X			X					?	O	?	O				O	O	O	?	O				O	O	O	
3 John													?	O	?	O				O	O	O	?	O				O	O	O	
Jude							X			O	X		O	?	O	O				O	O	O	O				O	O	O	O	
Rev.					X	X	O	O	X	O	X	O		O	O	O			O			O	O			O		O	O	O	

X = Citation allusion

O = Named authentic

? = Named disputed

X = Citation or allusion
O = Named as authentic
? = Named as disputed



NT Canonicity Requirements

What did it take for early documents to be considered Scripture?

- **Written by Apostle (or under an Apostle)**
- **Widely Accepted (used by churches)**
- **Theologically Sound (no false doctrine)**

None of these applied to the books Dan Brown says were the "real Scripture," such as the *Gospel of Philip* & *Gospel of Thomas*

Chronological Literature Chart

Dates show time of writing and works appear in *italics*

400 300 200 100 BC/AD 100 200 300 400 500 600 700

GREEK LXX

(Greek OT)

Polybius

Diodorus

Strabo

Plutarch

----- Hermetica ----

Philo

(Jewish/Greek)

JEWISH

OT

(completed)

Jamnia "Council"

MT

600-1000

-----OT Apocrypha-----

----- Pseudepigrapha -----(some extended to 7th century)

- Dead Sea Scrolls -

----- Rabbinic Literature -----

----- Midrash (oral tradition) -----

Talmud = Mishnah 200 + Gemara 500

--- Tosefta ---

Josephus 77-94

(Jew writing for Rome)

Cicero

ROMAN



Hebrew Bible		Christian Bible	
I The Law (Pentateuch)	Genesis	Genesis	
	Exodus	Exodus	
	Leviticus	Leviticus	
	Numbers	Numbers	
	Deuteronomy	Deuteronomy	
II The Prophets	Joshua	Joshua	
	Judges	Judges	
	Samuel	Ruth	
	Kings	Samuel (1 and 2)	
	Isaiah	Kings (1 and 2)	
	Jeremiah	Chronicles (1 and 2)	
	Ezekiel	Ezra	
	Hosea	Nehemiah	
	Joel	Esther	
	Amos	Job	
	Obadiah	Psalms	
	Jonah	Proverbs	
	Micah	Ecclesiastes	
	Nahum	Song of Solomon	
	Habakkuk	Isaiah	
	Zephaniah	Jeremiah	
	Haggai	Lamentations	
	Zechariah	Ezekiel	
	Malachi	Daniel	
III The Writings (Hagiographa)	Psalms	Hosea	
	Proverbs	Joel	
	Job	Amos	
	Song of Solomon	Obadiah	
	Ruth	Jonah	
	Lamentations	Micah	
	Ecclesiastes	Nahum	
	Esther	Habakkuk	
	Daniel	Zephaniah	
	Ezra	Haggai	
	Nehemiah	Zechariah	
	Chronicles	Malachi	

The Hebrew Canon

- Jewish and Christian books are the same but in different order and classification

	The Law
	Prophets
	Wisdom Writings
	Historical

Hebrew Bible	
I The Law (Pentateuch)	Genesis
	Exodus
	Leviticus
	Numbers
	Deuteronomy
II The Prophets	Joshua
	Judges
	Samuel
	Kings
	Isaiah
	Jeremiah
	Ezekiel
	Hosea
	Joel
	Amos
	Obadiah
	Jonah
	Micah
	Nahum
	Habakkuk
	Zephaniah
	Haggai
	Zechariah
	Malachi
III The Writings (Hagiographa)	Psalms
	Proverbs
	Job
	Song of Solomon
	Ruth
	Lamentations
	Ecclesiastes
	Esther
	Daniel
	Ezra
	Nehemiah
	Chronicles

Christian Bible	
Genesis	Genesis
	Exodus
	Leviticus
	Numbers
	Deuteronomy
Joshua	Joshua
	Judges
	Ruth
	Samuel (1 and 2)
	Kings (1 and 2)
	Chronicles
	Ezra
	Nehemiah
	Esther
	Job
	Psalms
	Proverbs
	Ecclesiastes
	Song of Solomon
	Isaiah
	Jeremiah
	Lamentations
	Ezekiel
	Daniel
Hosea	Hosea
	Joel
	Amos
	Obadiah
	Jonah
	Micah
	Nahum
	Habakkuk
	Zephaniah
	Haggai
	Zechariah
	Malachi

The Hebrew Canon

Matthew 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the **Law** or the **Prophets**; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

	The Law
	Prophets
	Wisdom Writings
	Historical

Hebrew Bible	
I The Law (Pentateuch)	Genesis
	Exodus
	Leviticus
	Numbers
	Deuteronomy
II The Prophets	Joshua
	Judges
	Samuel
	Kings
	Isaiah
	Jeremiah
	Ezekiel
	Hosea
	Joel
	Amos
	Obadiah
	Jonah
	Micah
	Nahum
	Habakkuk
	Zephaniah
	Haggai
	Zechariah
	Malachi
III The Writings (Hagiographa)	Psalms
	Proverbs
	Job
	Song of Solomon
	Ruth
	Lamentations
	Ecclesiastes
	Esther
	Daniel
	Ezra
	Nehemiah
	Chronicles

Christian Bible	
Genesis	Genesis
	Exodus
	Leviticus
	Numbers
	Deuteronomy
Joshua	Joshua
	Judges
	Ruth
	Samuel (1 and 2)
	Kings (1 and 2)
	Chronicles
	Ezra
	Nehemiah
	Esther
	Job
Psalms	Psalms
	Proverbs
	Ecclesiastes
	Song of Solomon
	Isaiah
	Jeremiah
	Lamentations
	Ezekiel
	Daniel
	Hosea
Joel	Joel
	Amos
	Obadiah
	Jonah
	Micah
	Nahum
	Habakkuk
	Zephaniah
	Haggai
	Zechariah
	Malachi

The Hebrew Canon

Luke 24:44 "... everything written about me in the **Law** of Moses and the **Prophets** and the **Psalms** must be fulfilled."

	The Law
	Prophets
	Wisdom Writings
	Historical

1. Hebrew: The Masoretic Text (MT)



- Unpointed text
(1400 BC – AD 800)

בראשית ברא אלהים

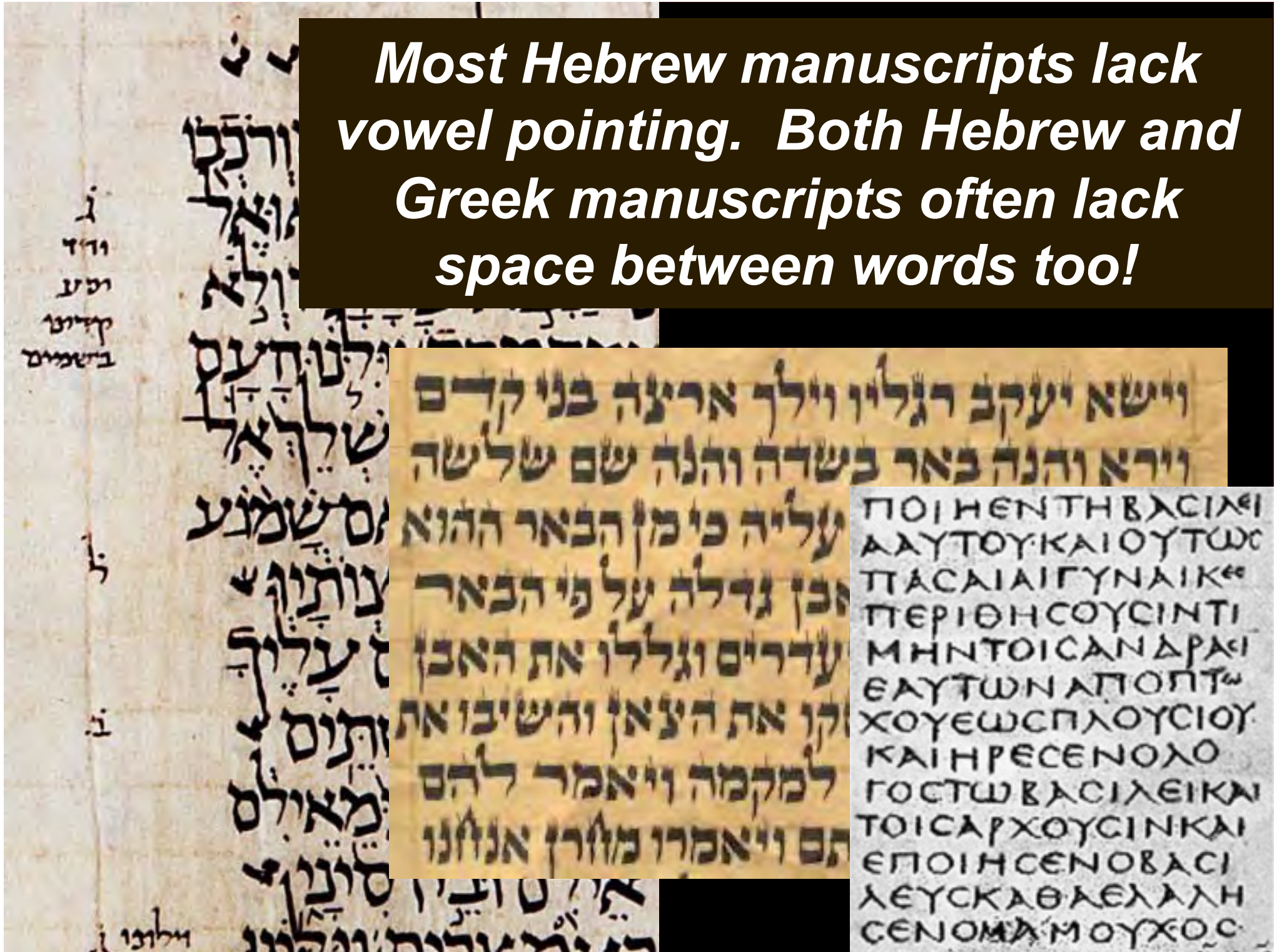
mhl

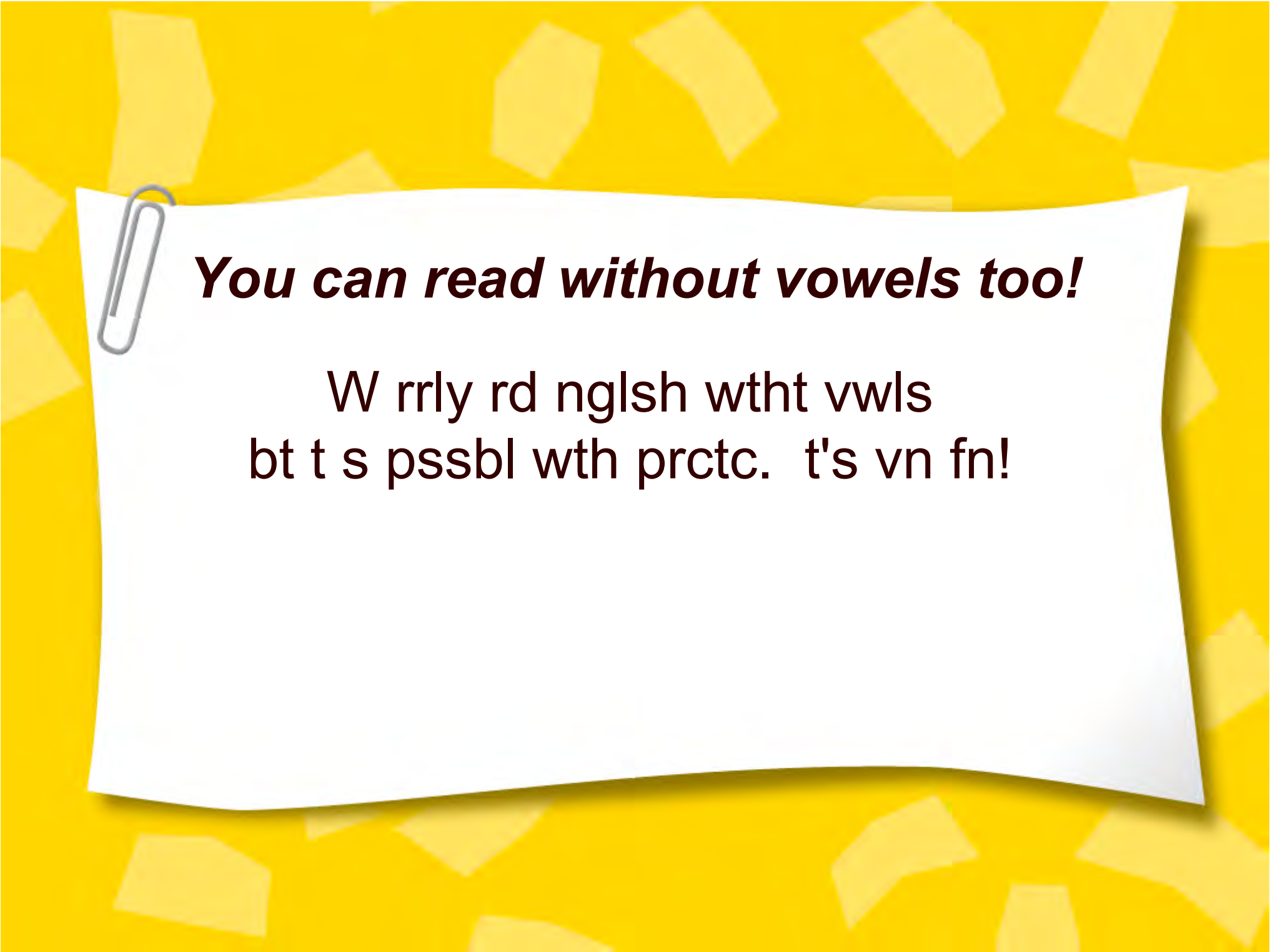
rb

hthsrb



Most Hebrew manuscripts lack vowel pointing. Both Hebrew and Greek manuscripts often lack space between words too!





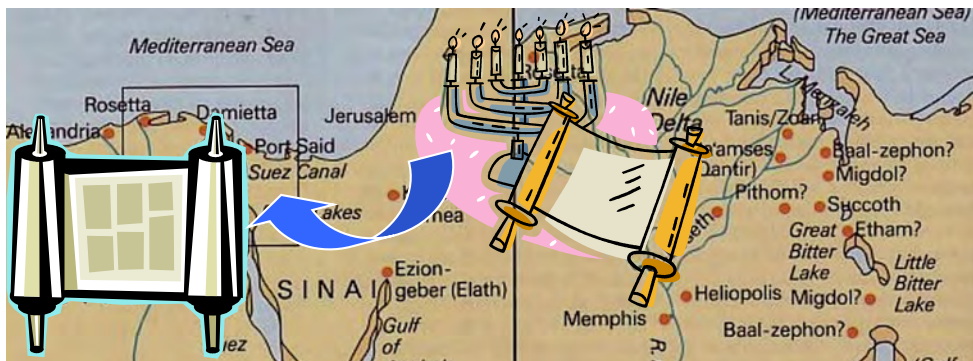
You can read without vowels too!

W rrly rd nglsh wtth vwls
bt t s pssbl wth prctc. t's vn fn!

You can read without vowels too!

W rrly rd nglsh wtth vwls
bt t s pssbl wth prctc. t's vn fn!

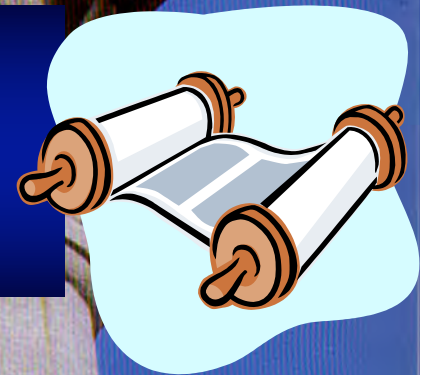
We rarely read English without vowels
but it is possible with practice. It's even fun!



2. Greek: The Septuagint (LXX)

- The OT Hebrew text was translated into Greek in Alexandria around 250 BC

בראשית ברא אלהים

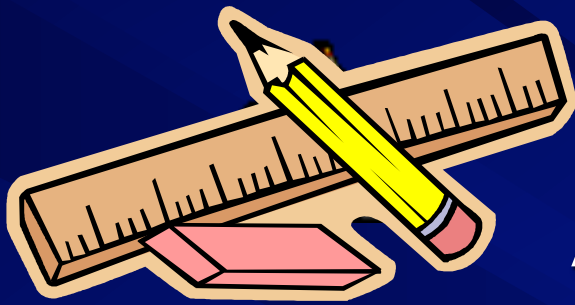


ἐν ἀρχῇ ἐποίησεν ὁ θεὸς

Why study the LXX?



1. Earliest translation of the Hebrew Scriptures
2. Valued highly by Jews
3. Parent text
4. Provides intertestamental history (has Apocrypha)



3. OT Canonicity

Accepted at Council of Jamnia, AD 90

Why Adopted So Late?

- Apocrypha
- LXX
- Antilegomena
- Samaritans
- Pharisaical Tradition

What Criteria was Used?

- Authoritative & Enduring
- Doctrinal Suitability
- Prophetic Authorship
- Claim to be God's Word
- Dynamic Character



Canonicity is vital for those seeking God

	Irenaeus of Lyons c. AD 130-200	Muratorian Canon AD 170-210	Eusebius' EH 3.25 c. AD 260-340	Athanasius' 39th Paschal letter AD 367	Present Order
Matthew					Matthew
Mark					Mark
Luke					Luke
John					John
Acts					Acts
Romans					Romans
1 Corinthians					1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians					2 Corinthians
Galatians					Galatians
Ephesians					Ephesians
Philippians					Philippians
Colossians					Colossians
1 Thessalonians					1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians					2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy					1 Timothy
2 Timothy					2 Timothy
Titus					Titus
Philemon					Philemon
Hebrews					Hebrews
James			D		James
1 Peter					1 Peter
2 Peter			D		2 Peter
1 John					1 John
2 John			D		2 John
3 John			D		3 John
Jude			D		Jude
Revelation					Revelation
Wisdom of Solomon					
Apocalypse of Peter			S		
Shepherd of Hermas		**	S	*	
Acts of Paul			S		
Epistle of Barnabas			S		
The Didache			S	*	
Gospel according to the Hebrews			S		

Gospels	Apocryphal (selected works)
Pauline Epistles, probably collected into a corpus c. AD 80-85	S Spurious
'Catholic' Epistles	* Permitted reading
D Disputed	** Permitted reading but not for public worship

NT Canonicity

■ Apostolic

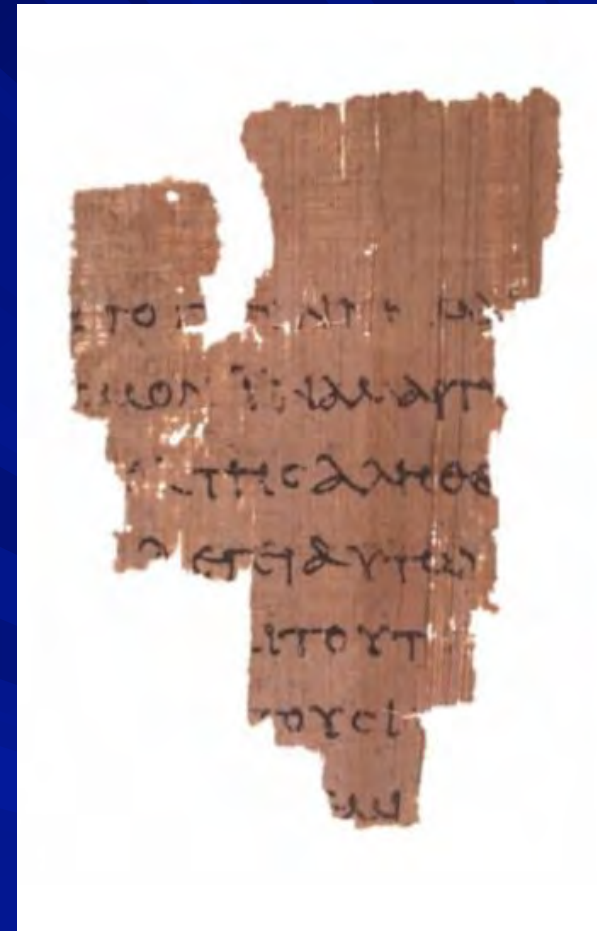
■ Accepted



Really Early Fragments!



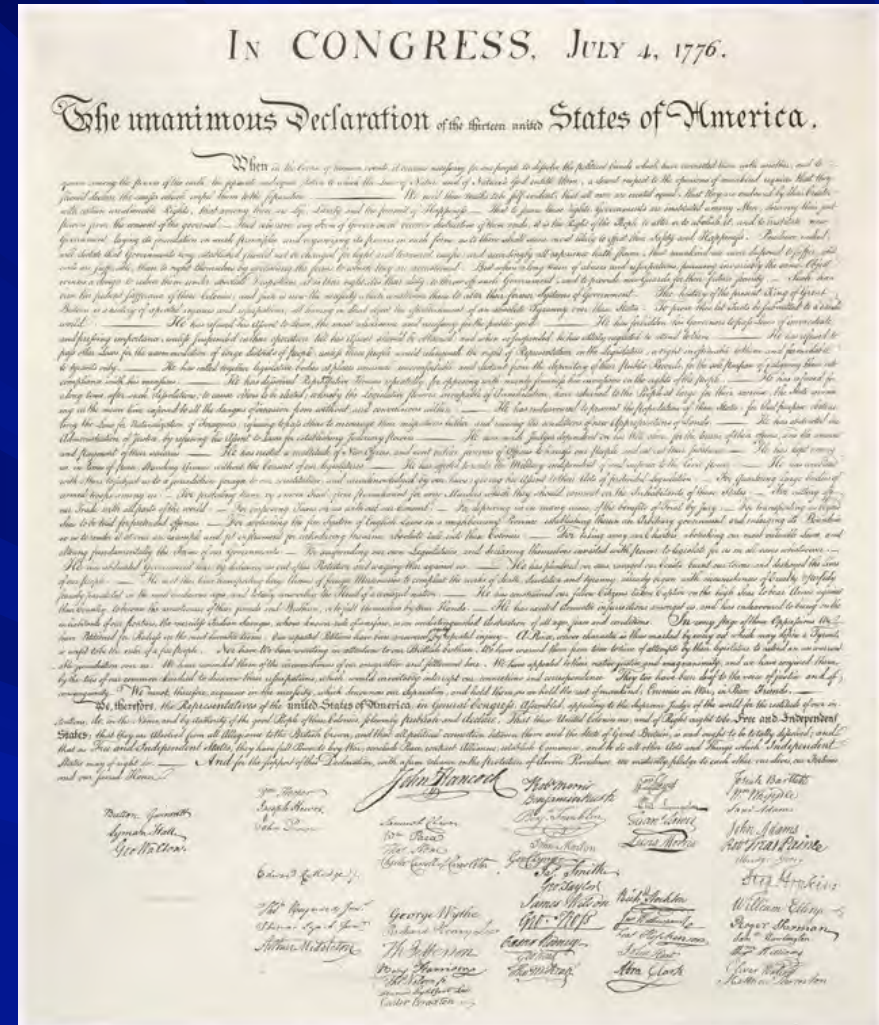
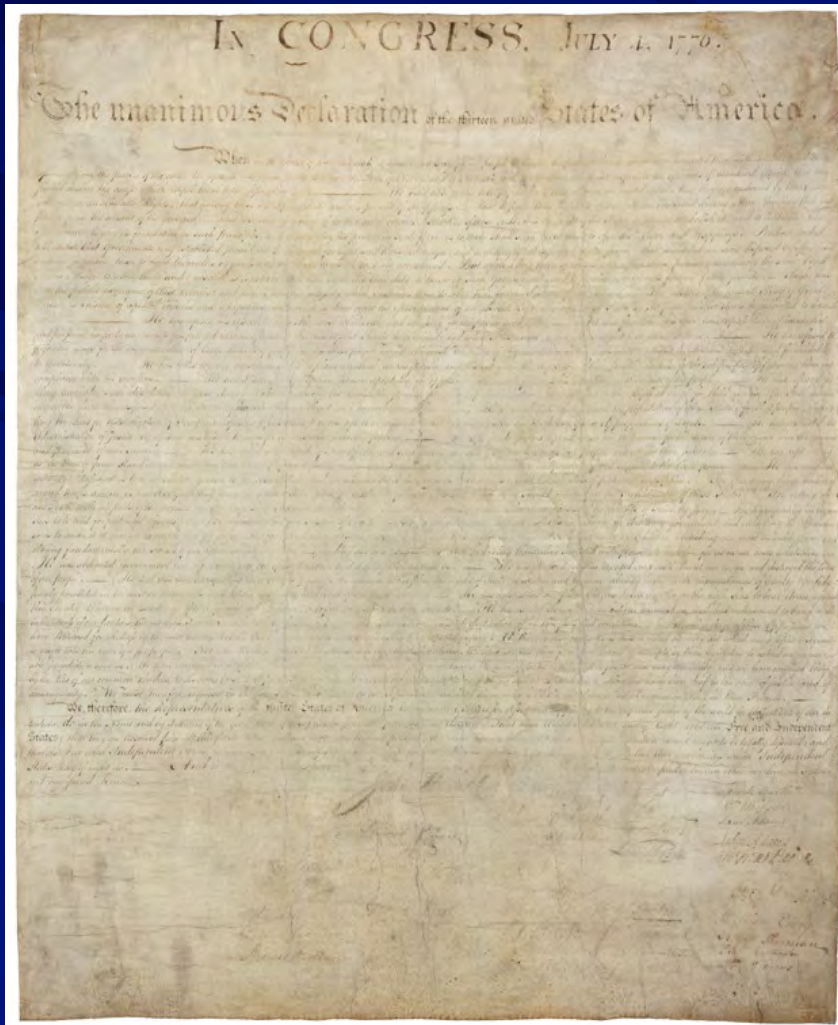
- Magdalen Fragment of Matthew
- AD 50-200



- John Rylands Fragment of John 18:31-33, 37-38
- AD 125

Why No Original NT Documents?

7



- Original Declaration of Independence
- AD 1776

- Engraving of the Declaration by printer William J. Stone
- AD 1823

Why No Original NT D

?

7



- Original Declaration of Independence
- AD 1776

- Engraving of the Declaration by printer William J. Stone
- AD 1823

	Irenaeus of Lyons c. AD130-200	Muratorian Canon AD170-210	Eusebius' EH 3.25 c. AD260-340	Athanasius' 39th Paschal letter AD367	Present Order
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Colossians					Colossians
1 Thessalonians					1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians					2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy					1 Timothy
2 Timothy					2 Timothy
Titus					Titus
Philemon					Philemon
Hebrews					Hebrews
James			D		James
1 Peter					1 Peter
2 Peter			D		2 Peter
1 John					1 John
2 John			D		2 John
3 John			D		3 John
Jude			D		Jude
Revelation					Revelation
Wisdom of Solomon					
Apocalypse of Peter			S		
Shepherd of Hermas		**	S	*	
Acts of Paul			S		
Epistle of Barnabas			S		
The Didache			S	*	
Gospel according to the Hebrews			S		

Gospels	Apocryphal (selected works)
Pauline Epistles, probably collected into a corpus c. AD 80-85	S Spurious
'Catholic' Epistles	* Permitted reading
D Disputed	** Permitted reading but not for public worship

NT Canonicity

■ Apostolic

■ Accepted





Macedonia
Paul Wrote 1 Timothy
AD 62

For the Scripture says, "Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain," and "**The worker deserves his wages**" (1 Timothy 5:18). ⁷

Paul Called
Luke's Gospel
"Scripture"
within 5 years!

Caesarea
Luke Written
AD 57-59

Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for **the worker deserves his wages...** (Luke 10:7)



Paul's Letters Written
AD 49-62

The map shows the Eastern Mediterranean region, including Italy, Greece, and Asia Minor. Red dots indicate locations where Paul's letters were written: Rome (Italy), Ephesus (Asia Minor), Corinth (Greece), and several locations in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey). The text 'Paul's Letters Written AD 49-62' is placed in the upper right area of the map.

Rome

Peter Wrote 2 Peter
AD 64

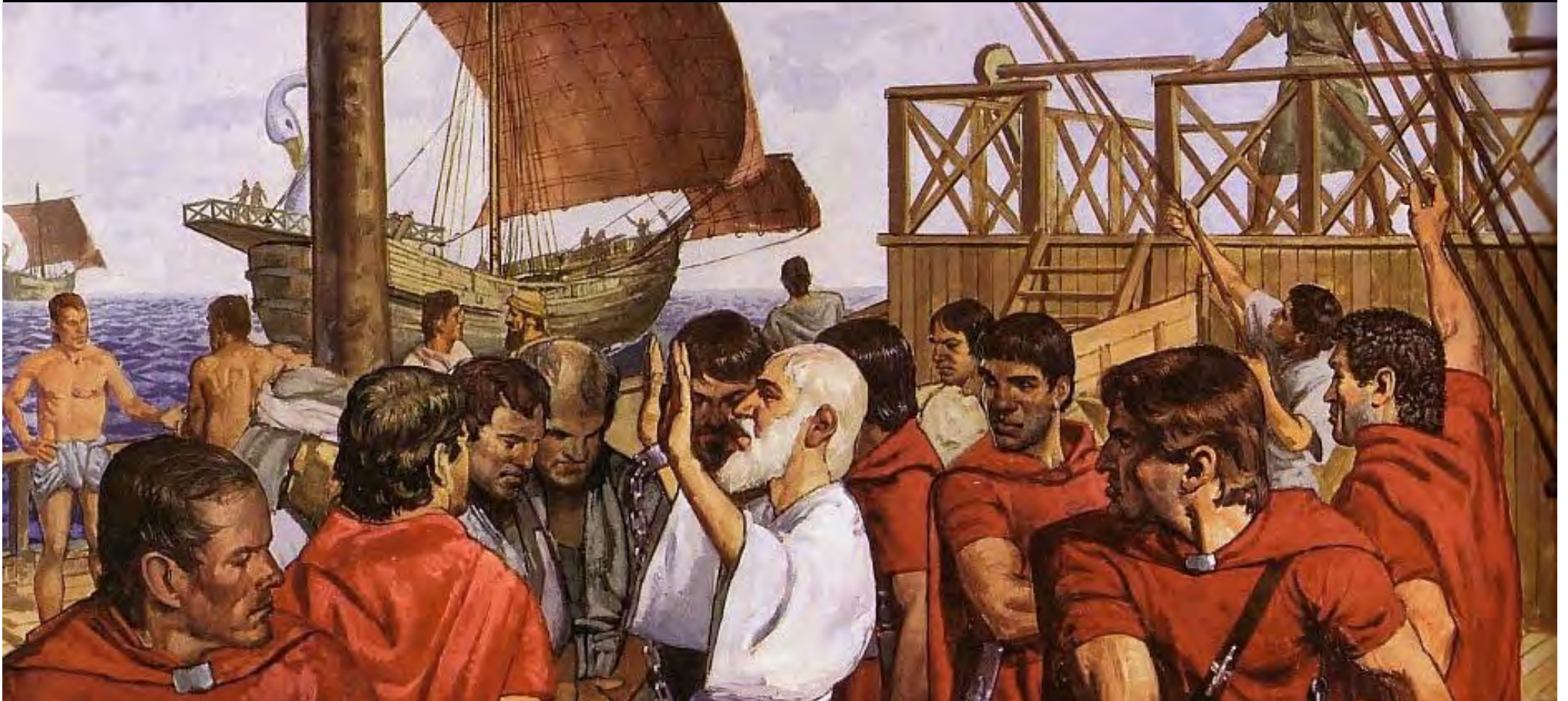
**Peter Also
Called Paul's
Letters
"Scripture"!**

"...Our dear brother **Paul also wrote to you** with the wisdom God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, **as they do the other Scriptures**, to their own destruction" (2 Peter 3:15-16)

Would Christians who "believed that Jesus⁸ was only a man" really need to worship secretly in the catacombs? Nonsense!



Would Christians who "believed that Jesus⁸ was only a man" die as martyrs? Hardly!

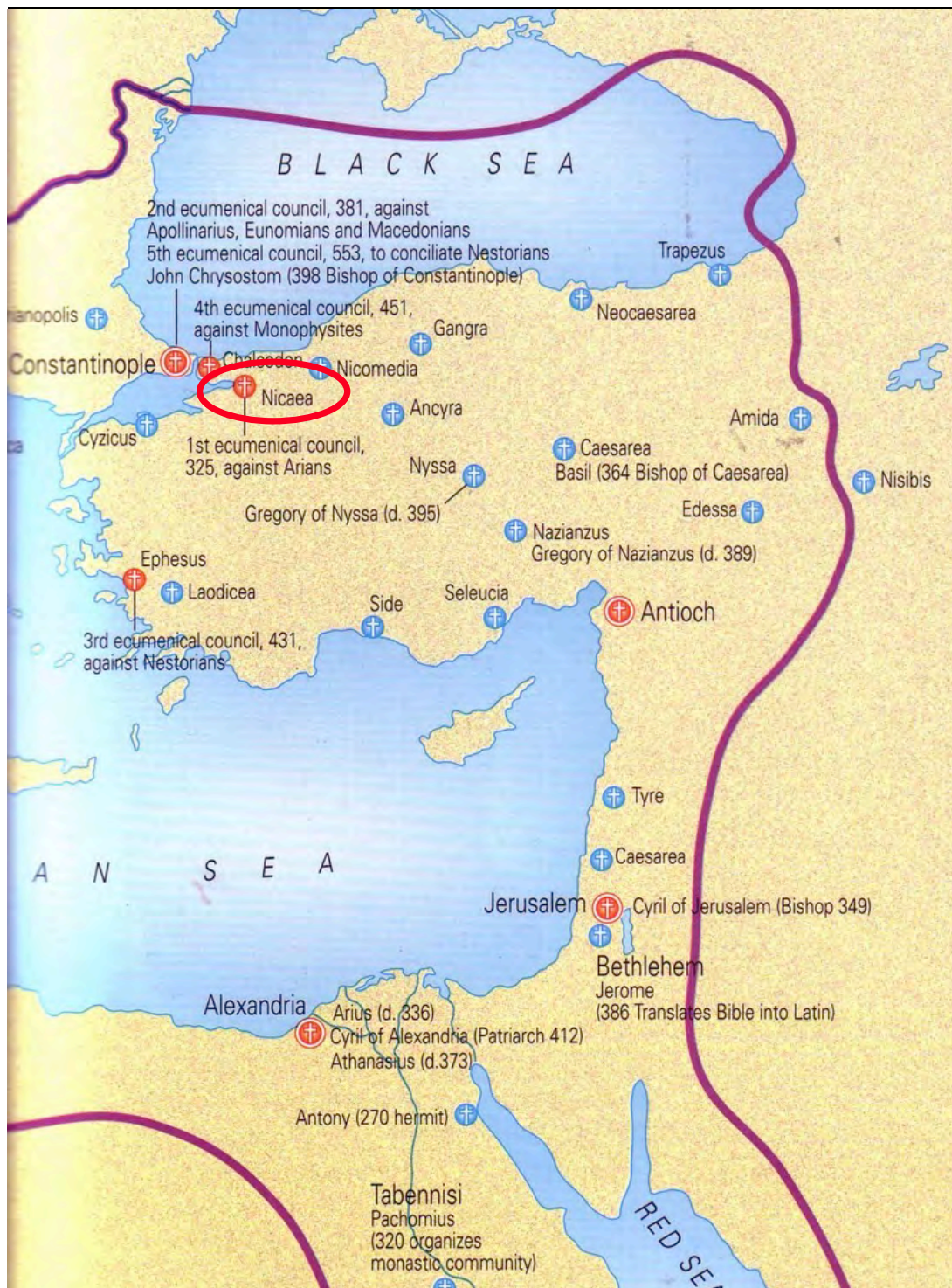


Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, refused emperor worship and was brought to Rome to be fed to wild beasts.



Perpetua's Martyrdom (AD 203)

What About Nicaea (AD 325)?



**Bishops throughout
the Eastern Empire
gathered &
excommunicated
Arius of Alexandria**

*Teachings of the Heretic Arius*⁸

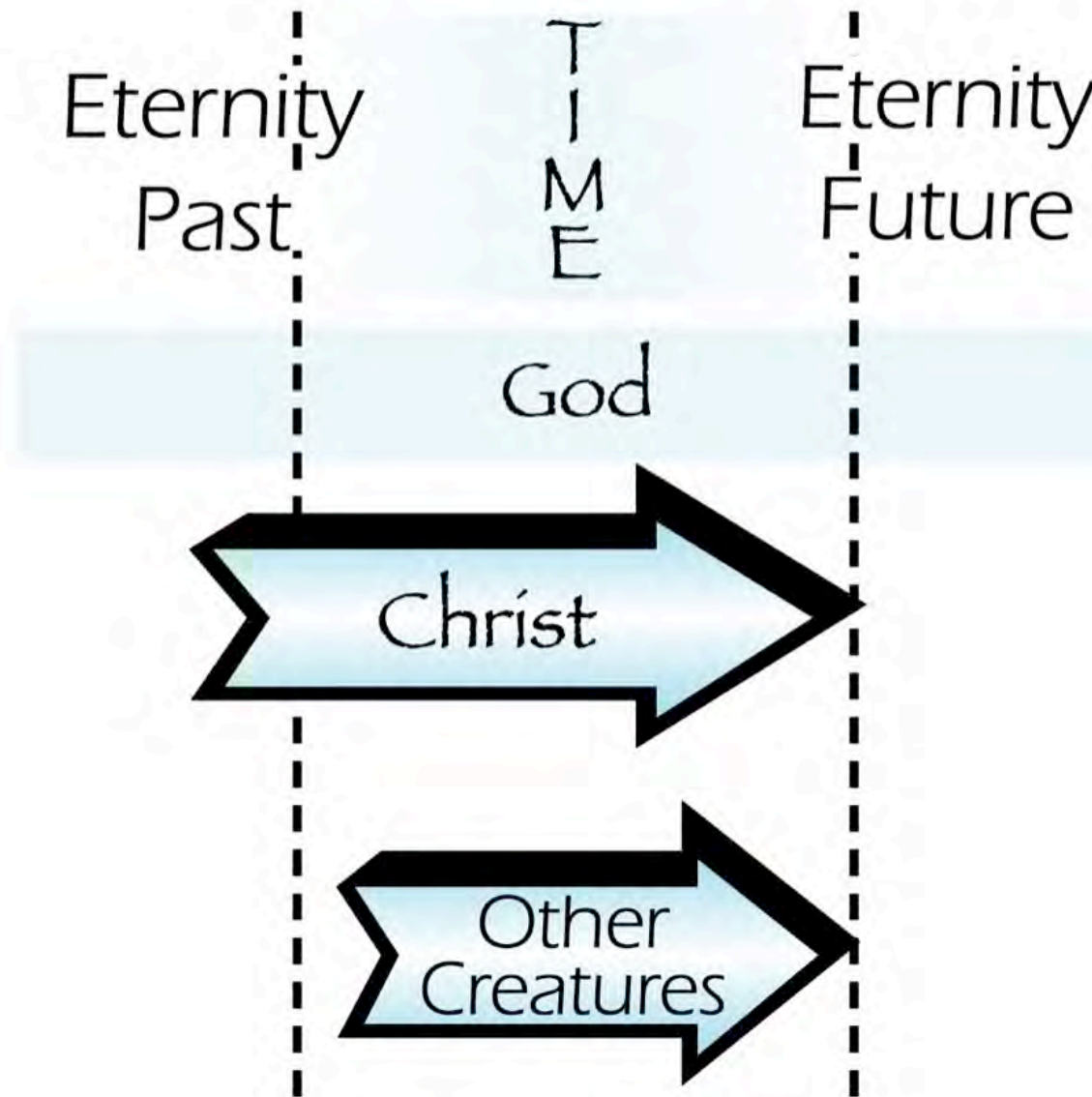


Chart 61

Arianism: Opponents and the Issue

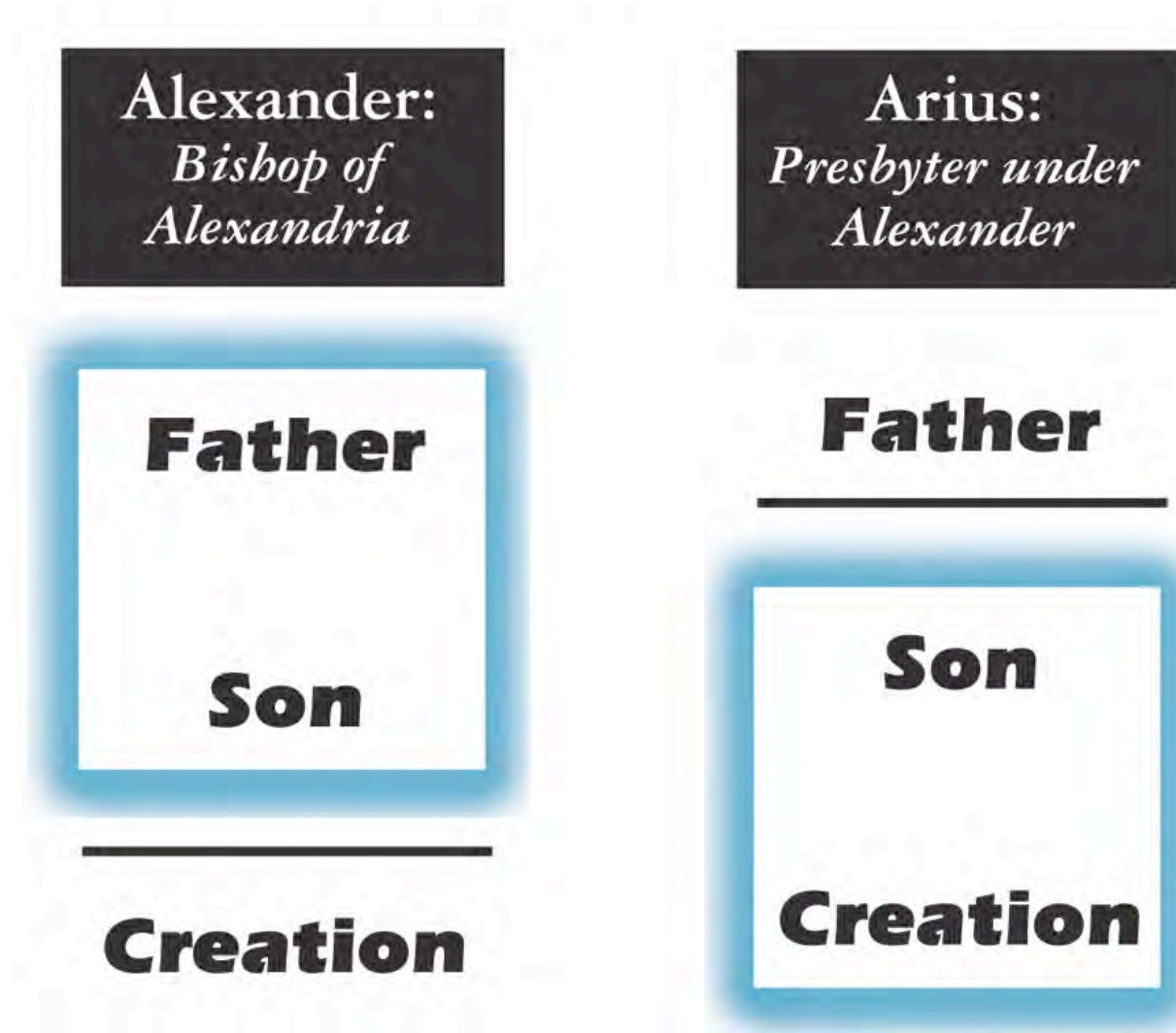


Chart 62

The Nicene Creed (AD 325)

8

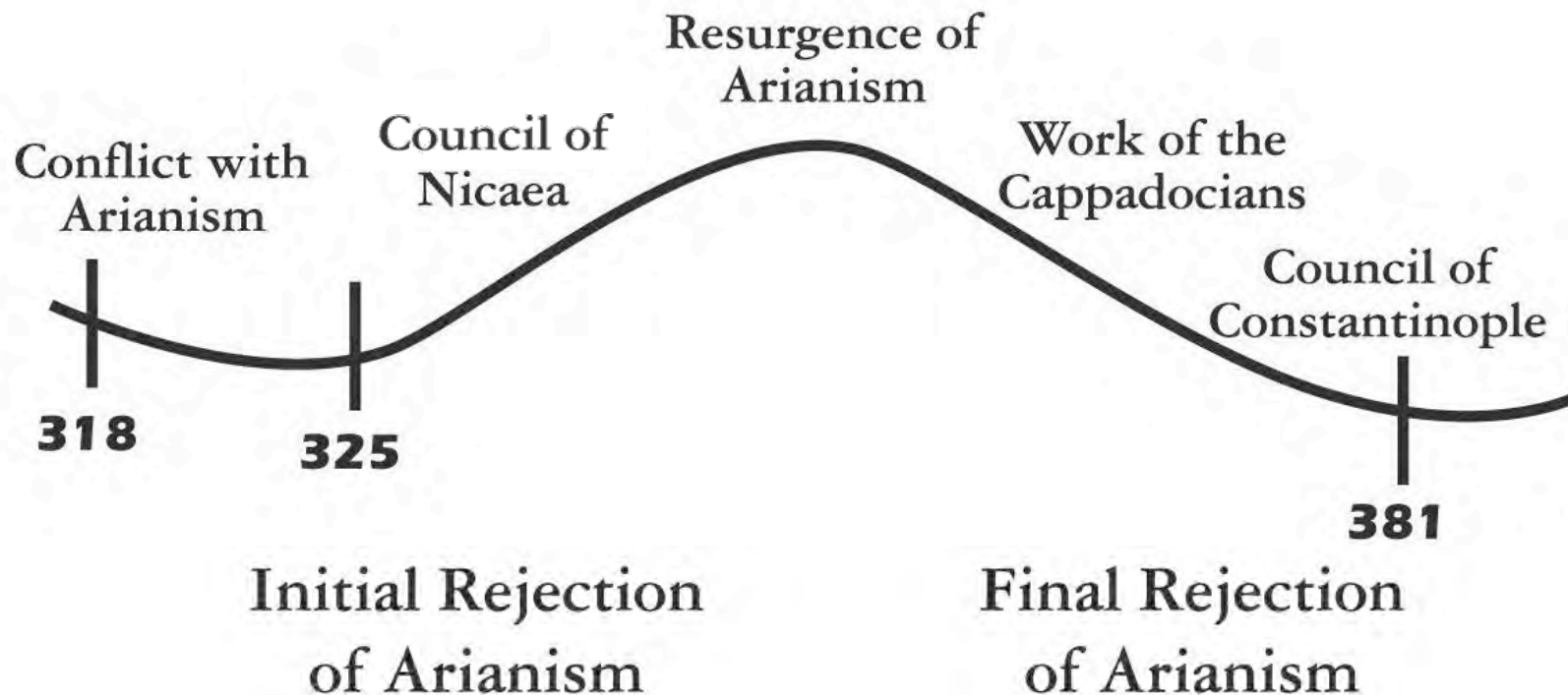
We believe in one God, the Father All Governing, creator of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father as only begotten, that is, from the essence [reality] of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not created, of the same essence [reality] as the Father, through whom all things came into being, both in heaven and in earth; Who for us men and for our salvation came down and was incarnate, becoming human. He suffered and the third day he rose, and ascended into the heavens. And he will come to judge both the living and the dead.

And [we believe] in the Holy Spirit.

Chart 63

*The Arian Controversy and Trinitarianism*⁸



The Resurgence of Arianism

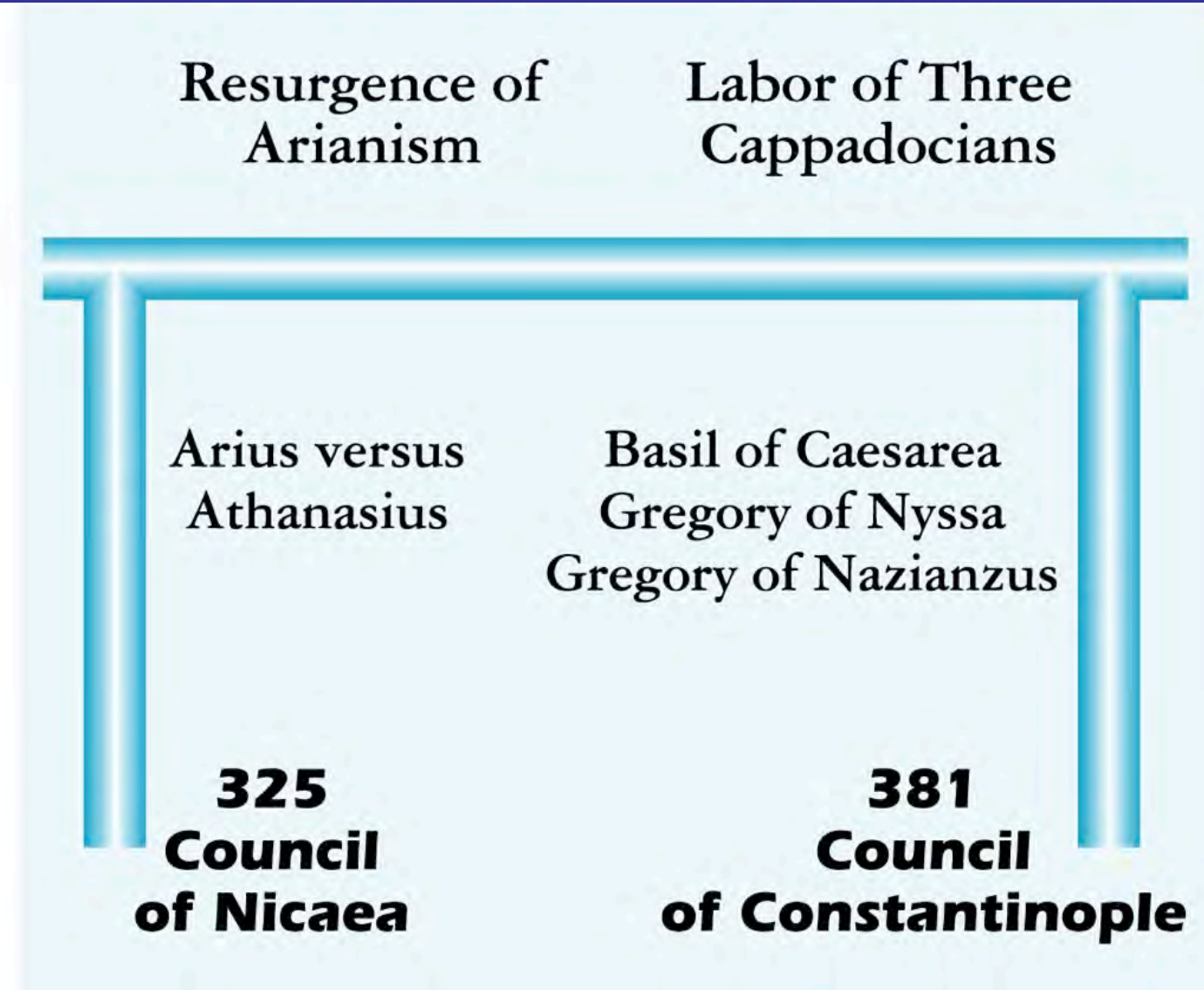
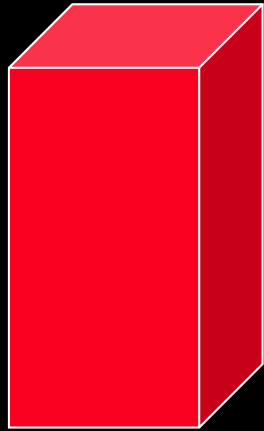


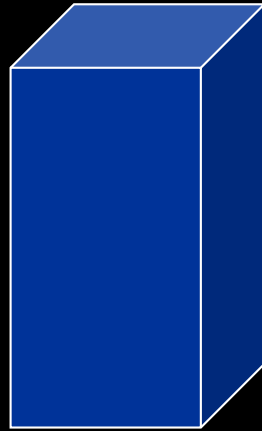
Chart 65

What About Nicaea?

Fiction



Arians:
"Jesus Not God"

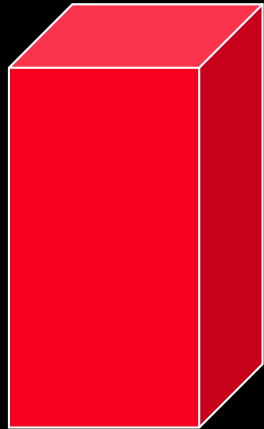


Orthodox:
"Jesus is God"

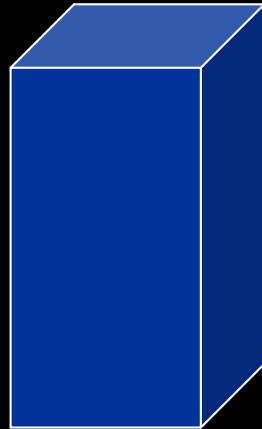
What About Nicaea?

Fiction

Fact



Arians:
"Jesus Not God"



Orthodox:
"Jesus is God"



Arians:
"Jesus Not God"



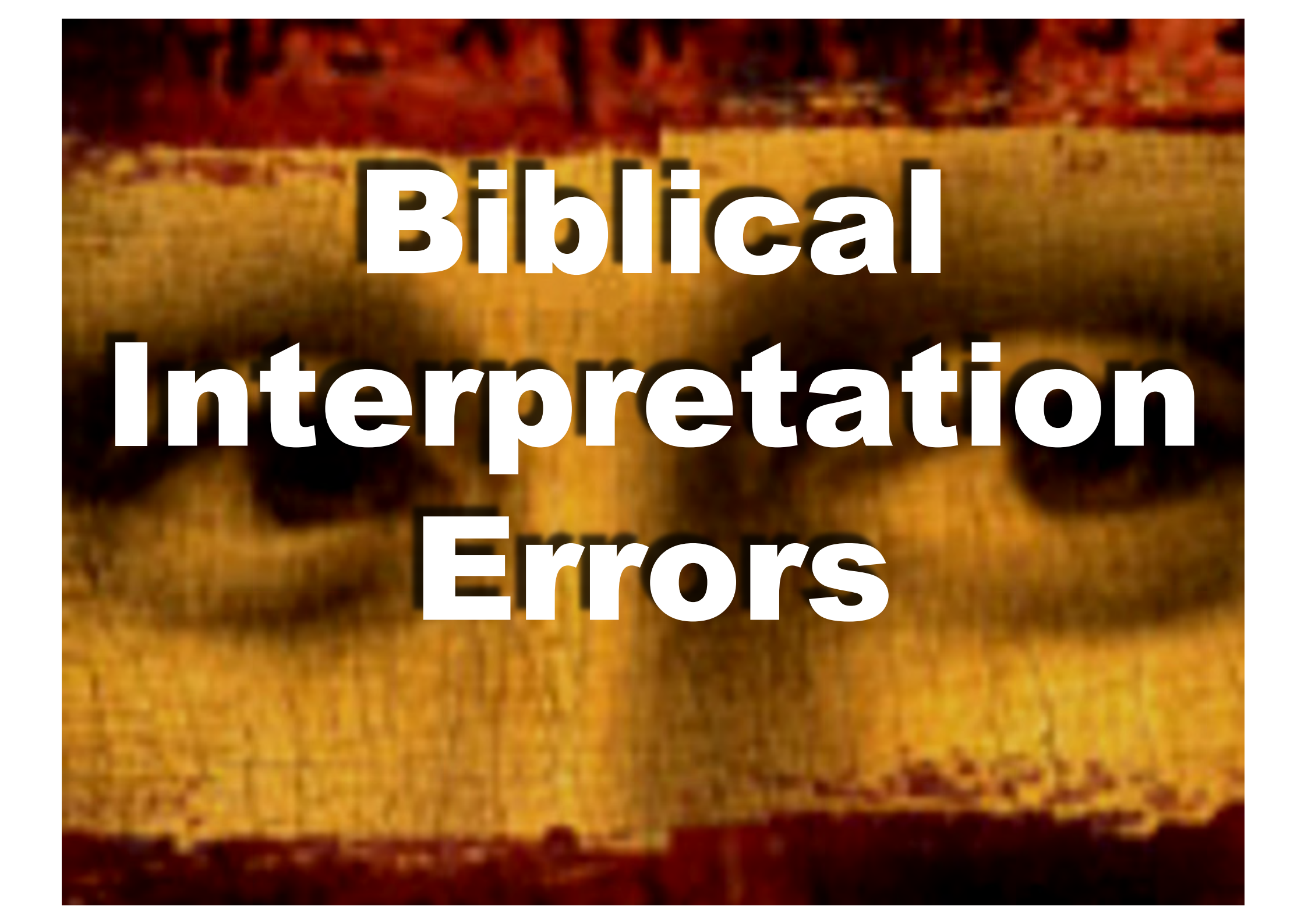
Orthodox:
"Jesus is God"

300 votes

8

2 votes

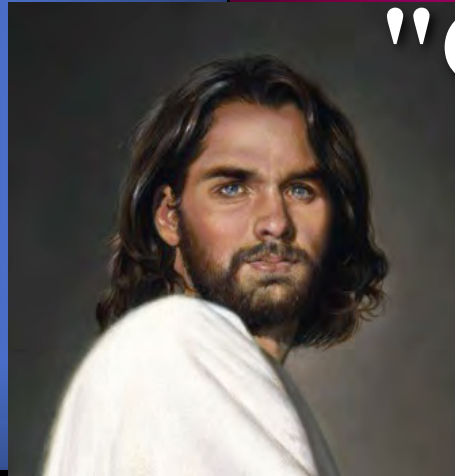
AD 325
Council of Nicaea



Biblical Interpretation Errors

Paul:

**"Christ, who is
God over all"
Rom. 9:5**



Peter:

**"God and Savior
Jesus Christ"
2 Pet. 1:1**

1st century belief in Deity

The Father:

**"About the Son He
says, 'Your throne,
O God...'" Heb. 1:8**

Jesus:

**"I and the Father
are one"
John 10:30**

Belief in Christ's Deity Before Nicaea

Ignatius: "God Himself was manifest in human form" (AD 105)

Clement: "It is fitting that you should think of Jesus Christ as of God" (AD 150)

Irenaeus: "He is God, for the name Emmanuel indicates this" (AD 180)

Tertullian: "... Christ our God" (AD 200)

Origen: "No one should be offended that the Savior is also God" (AD 225)

Lactantius: "We believe Him to be God" (AD 304)

Accuracy of Transmission

9

■ Masoretic Isaiah Scroll



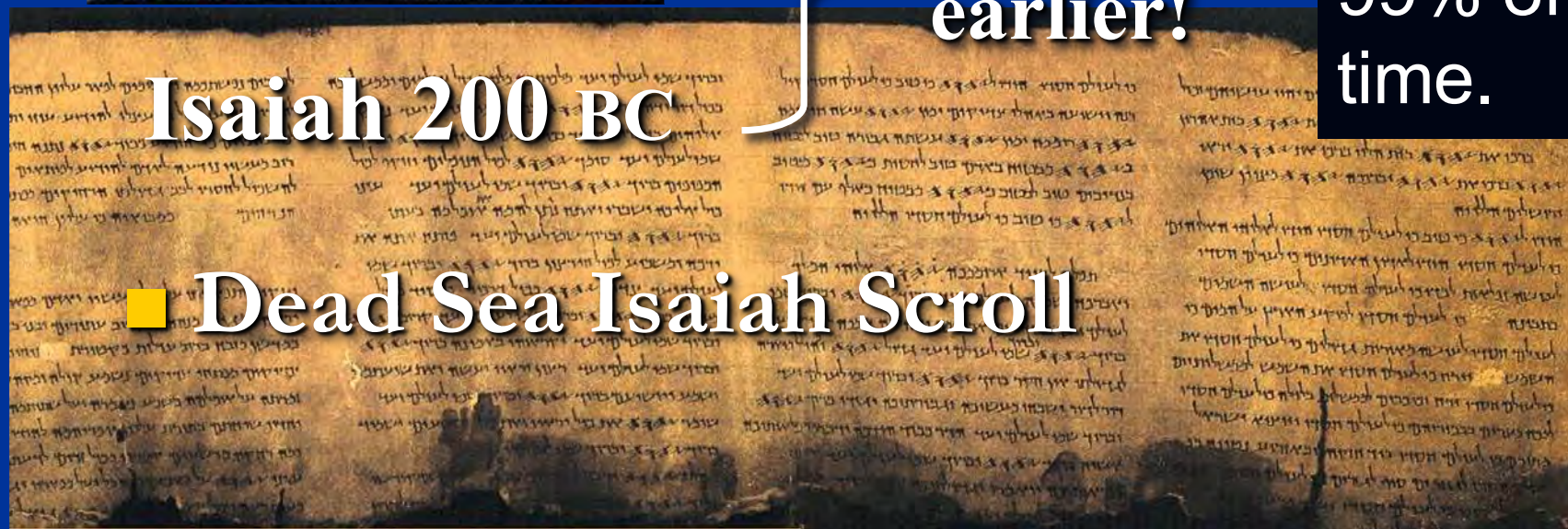
Isaiah AD 1000

1200 years
earlier!

This Isaiah scroll matches the A.D. 1000 Masoretic Text upon which all modern translations are based 99% of the time.

Isaiah 200 BC

■ Dead Sea Isaiah Scroll



ISAIAH: QUMRAN v. THE MASORETES



200 BC

AD 1000

Of the 166 Hebrew words in Isaiah 53, only seventeen letters in Dead Sea Scroll 1QIsb differ from the Masoretic Text:

10 letters = **spelling** differences

4 letters = **stylistic** changes

3 letters = **added word** for "light" (vs. 11)

17 letters = no affect on biblical teachings



Was Jesus a Myth?



You KNOW it's a Myth
This Season, Celebrate REASON!



American Atheists • Reasonable since 1963 •

LAMAR



Keep the MERRY!



Dump the MYTH!

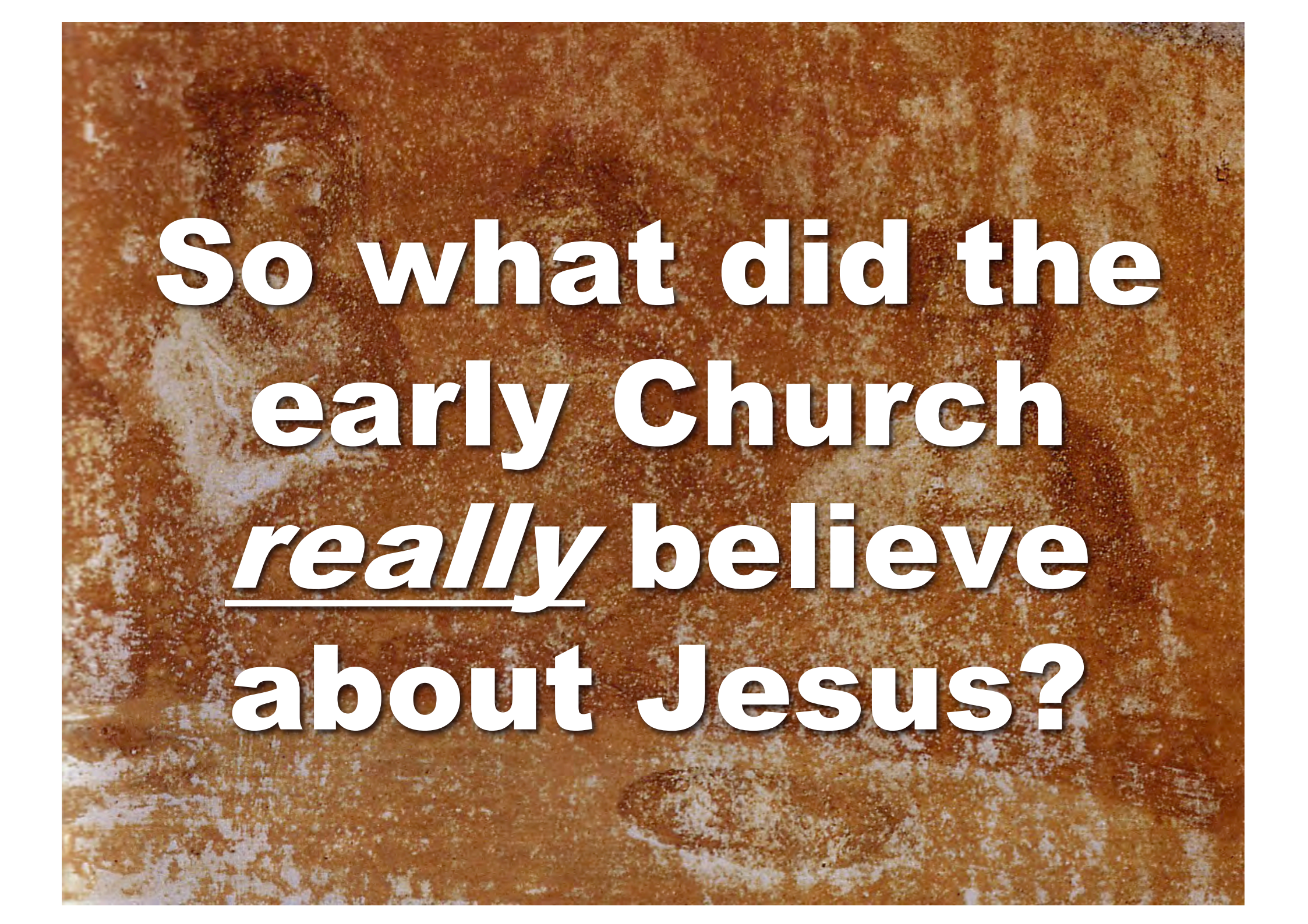
 **american atheists** atheists.org

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American Atheists



**So what did the
early Church
really believe
about Jesus?**

Brown:

Bible:

Only human

God-Man

**Who is
Jesus
Christ...
really?**



A black and white portrait of Leigh Teabing, an older man with short, light-colored hair, resting his chin on his hand. The image is partially obscured by text boxes.

***Brown's view of Jesus through
"historian" Leigh Teabing...***

**"My dear," Teabing declared,
"until [AD 325], Jesus was
viewed by His followers as a
mortal prophet... a great and
powerful man, but a *man*
nonetheless. A mortal."**

**[Sophie:] "Not the Son of God?"
"Right," Teabing said. "Jesus'
establishment as 'the Son of
God' was officially proposed and
voted on by the Council of
Nicaea."**

The Father
SON Holy
The Spirit



theTrinity

The Creator of the world is actually
Jesus (John 1:1-3).



Jesus Christ is the same yesterday,
today, and



F O R E V E R

Hebrews 13:7

**"So do not be
attracted by
strange, new
ideas. Your
strength comes
from God's grace,
not from rules
about food, which
don't help those
who follow them"
(13:9 NLT).**



Roman Historians

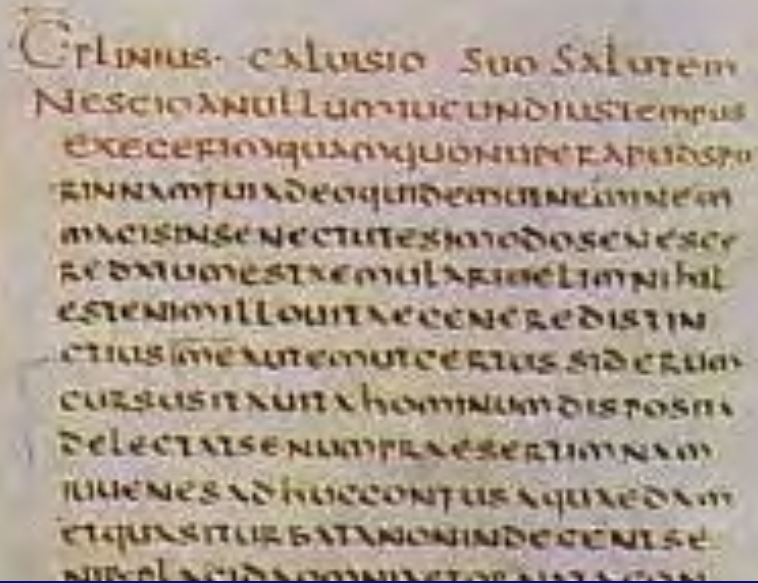
(year of death)

- Cicero (43 BC)
- Livy (AD 17)
- Pliny the Younger (AD 113)



Pliny the Younger (AD 111-113)

11



C. PLINIUS. CALPURNIO SVO SALUTEM
NESCIO ANULLUM VICE VINDICTE
EXCEPIT QUAMQUONIAM REPARANDUM
FINNAMPTI ADEO QUONIAM NEAMPTI
MAEIS INGENECTITES MODOS ENESER
REDUM EST NEAMPTI ADEO QUONIAM
EST ENIM VINDICTA REGENEREDISTIN
CTIUS INEAMPTI ADEO QUONIAM
CURSUS INEAMPTI ADEO QUONIAM
DELECTATSE NUMPTI ADEO QUONIAM
IUVENES ADEO QUONIAM ADEO QUONIAM
ET QUONIAM ADEO QUONIAM ADEO QUONIAM
ADEO QUONIAM ADEO QUONIAM ADEO QUONIAM

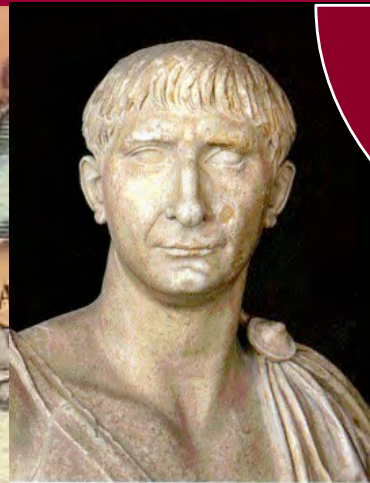


- Wrote letters to the Emperor Trajan
- Said Christians gathered on a certain day (Sunday?) "to sing responsively a hymn to Christ as if to a god" (*Epistle* 10.96)—the earliest Latin reference to Jesus Christ

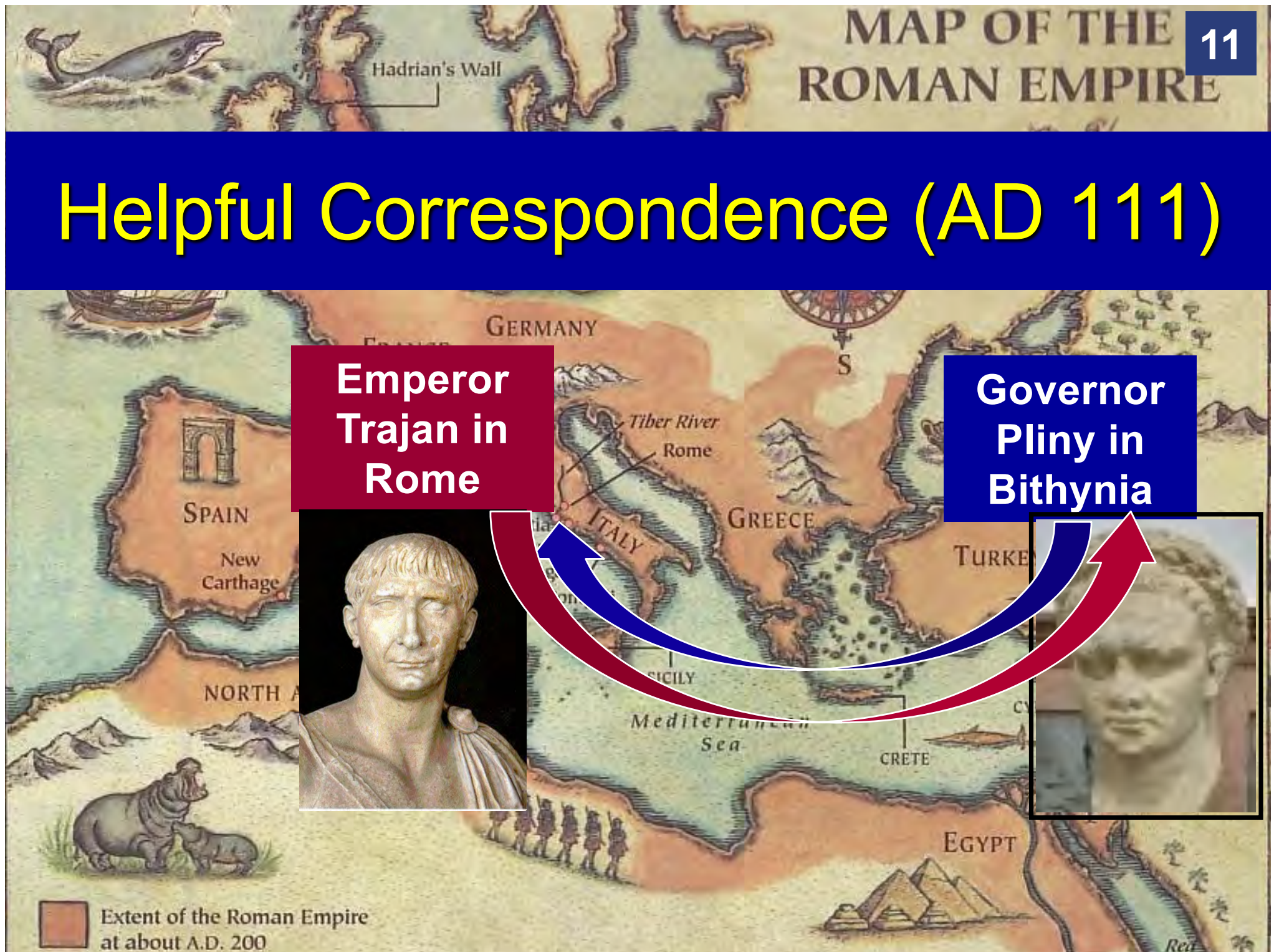
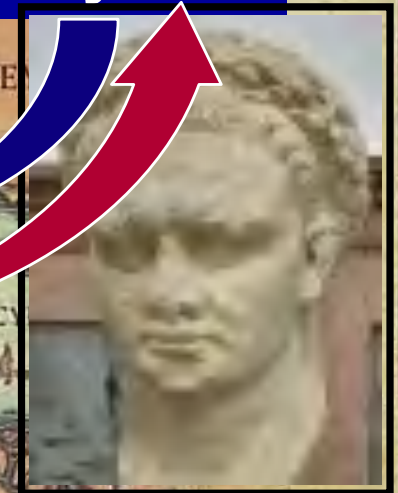
MAP OF THE
ROMAN EMPIRE

Helpful Correspondence (AD 111)

Emperor
Trajan in
Rome



Governor
Pliny in
Bithynia

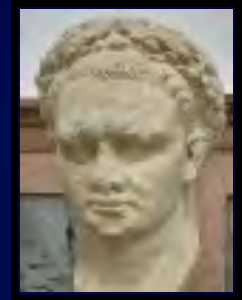


Extent of the Roman Empire
at about A.D. 200

Early Church Suffering

12

Governor Pliny to
Emperor Trajan (AD 111):



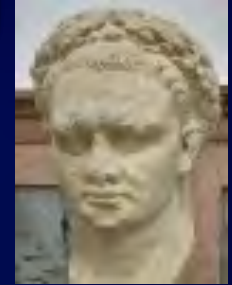
I have observed the following procedure: I interrogated these as to whether they were Christians; those who confessed I interrogated a second and a third time, threatening them with punishment; those who persisted I ordered executed...

Pliny, Letters 10.96

Early Church Suffering

12

Governor Pliny to
Emperor Trajan (AD 111):



Those who denied that they were or had been Christians, when they invoked the gods in words dictated by me, offered prayer with incense and wine to your image, which I had ordered to be brought for this purpose together with statues of the gods, and moreover cursed Christ—none of which those who are really Christians, it is said, can be forced to do—these I thought should be discharged.



Pliny, *Letters* 10.96

Early Church Suffering

12

Emperor Trajan to
Governor Pliny (AD 111):

You observed proper procedure, my dear Pliny, in sifting the cases of those who had been denounced to you as Christians... They are not to be sought out... Whoever denies that he is a Christian and really proves it—that is, by worshipping our gods—even though he was under suspicion in the past, shall obtain pardon through repentance..."



Pliny, Letters 10.96



Roman Historians

(year of death)

- Cicero (43 BC)
- Livy (AD 17)
- Pliny the Younger (AD 113)
- Tacitus (AD 120)

About persecuted Christians under Nero:
"Their name comes from Christus, who, in the reign of Tiberius as emperor was condemned to death by the procurator Pontius Pilate"

(Tacitus, *Annals* 15.44 in AD 115)



Roman Historians

(year of death)

- Cicero (43 BC)
- Livy (AD 17)
- Pliny the Younger (AD 113)
- Tacitus (AD 120)
- Suetonius (AD 121)

Claudius expelled Jews from Rome "who had been continually stirring up trouble under the influence of Chrestus" (oops!)

(Suetonius, *Lives of the Caesars*, ch. 25, in AD 120; cf. Acts 18:2)

Extant Copies of Pagan vs. NT Writings

Author	When Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	Number of Copies
Plato	347 BC	AD 900	1200 yrs	7
Catullus	54 BC	AD 1550	1600 yrs	3
Pliny	AD 113	AD 850	750 yrs	7

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Pliny	AD 113	AD 850	750 yrs	7
Paul, Luke, etc.	AD 95	AD 250	150 yrs	24,772

Josephus



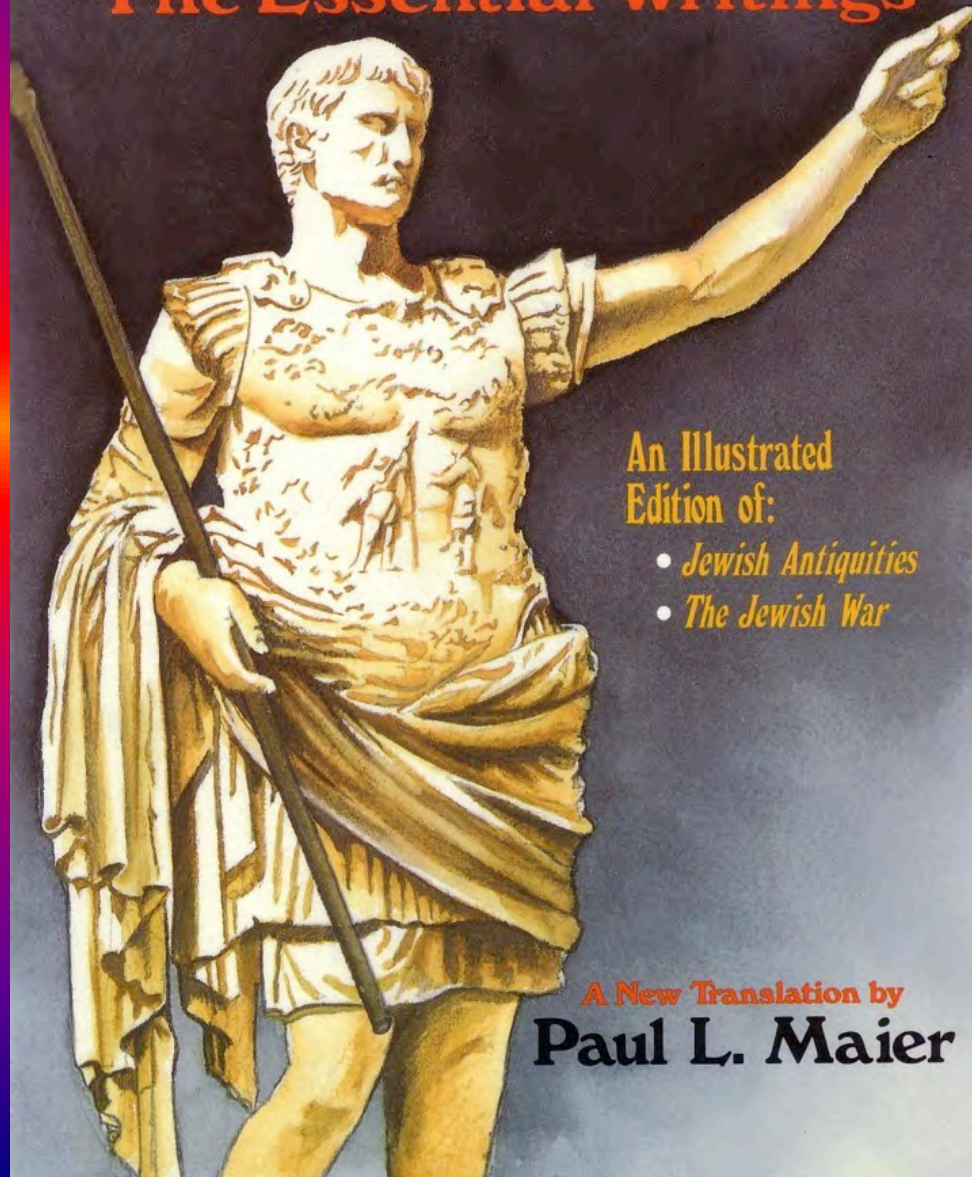
AD 37 – ca. 100

Life in 3 Stages:

- Pharisee
- General
- Historian

JOSEPHUS

The Essential Writings



An Illustrated
Edition of:

- *Jewish Antiquities*
- *The Jewish War*

A New Translation by
Paul L. Maier

Writings:

- *Jewish War* (AD 77)
- *Antiquities* (AD 93-94)
- *Life*
- *Against Apion*

Evaluation of Josephus



- Roman bias
- Exaggerations
- Egotism
- Digressions

Significance of Josephus



- **Earliest non-Christian witness to the historicity of Jesus Christ (AD 93-94)**

Short quote by Josephus

"Convening the judges of the Sanhedrin, he [Ananus, son of Annas] brought before them a man named James, the brother of **Jesus who was called the Christ**, and certain others. He accused them of having transgressed the law, and condemned them to be stoned to death"

(*Ant.* 20.9.1 in Maier, 276; cf. Whiston, 4:140).

Josephus inaccurately refers to James as the brother of Jesus (cf. Acts 12:1-2; AD 44).

Long quote (two versions)



14

Jewish

"At this time there was a wise man called Jesus, and his conduct was good, and he was known to be virtuous. Many people among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. But those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive. Accordingly, he was perhaps the Messiah, concerning whom the prophets have reported wonders. And the tribe of the Christians, so named after him, has not disappeared to this day."

Christian

"About this time lived Jesus, a wise man, *if indeed one ought to call him a man.* For he was the achiever of extraordinary deeds and was a teacher of those who accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. *He was the Messiah.* When he was indicted by the principal men among us and Pilate condemned him to be crucified, those who had come to love him originally did not cease to do so; for *he appeared to them* on the third day restored to life, as the prophets of the Deity had foretold these and countless other marvelous things about him. And the tribe of Christians, so named after him, has not disappeared to this day."

Our Context

How could atheism have such
overwhelming success?

Frey Fabrications

James Frey, author
of the 2005

novel *A Million
Pieces*,

was

accused in

2006 that he

wasn't a
criminal, didn't go
to jail, etc.

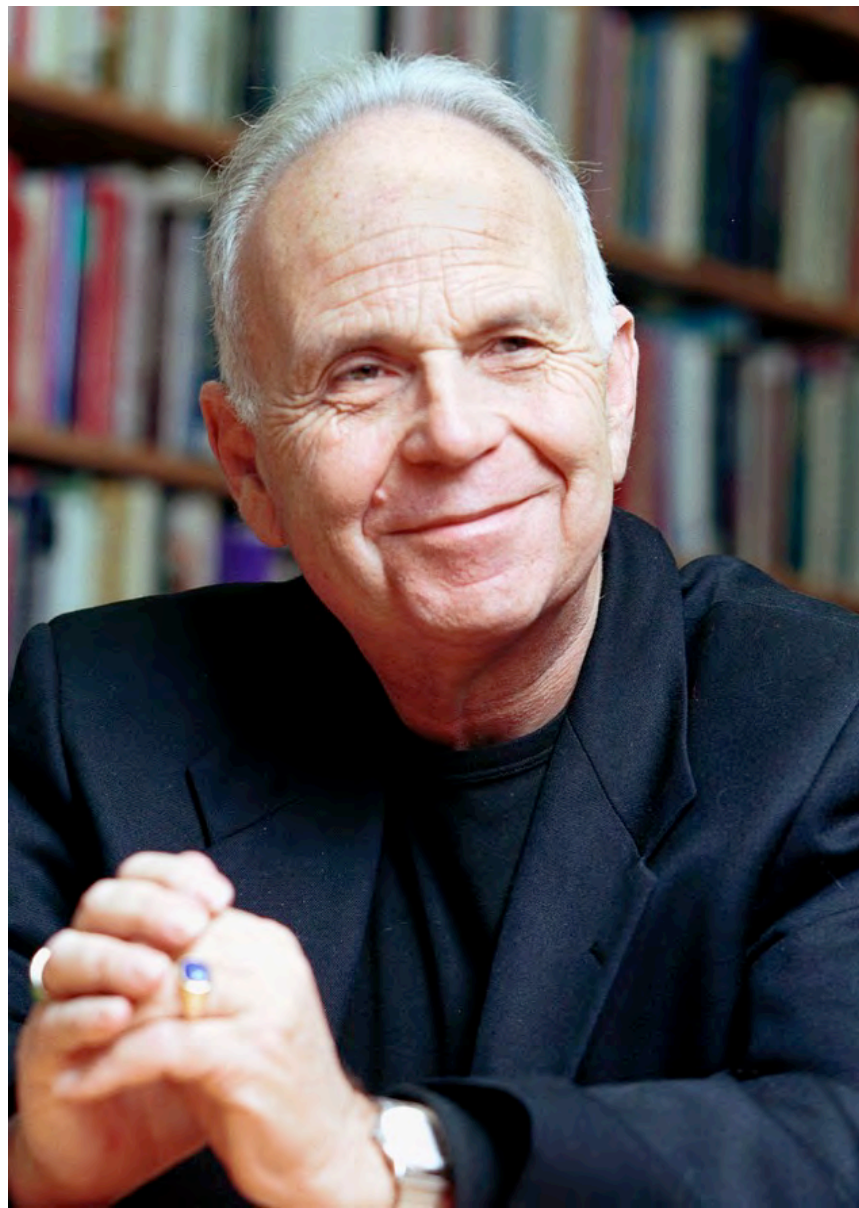
His Response?
"The writer of a memoir
is retailing a subjective
story"



"Much ado about nothing"



- ***Oprah Winfrey's first response when shown that Frey made up parts of his memoir (12 Jan 06)***
- ***Two weeks later she changed her view and expressed disappointment in Frey's lying (26 Jan 06)***



Entertainment Better Than Truth

*[The death of
objectivity] "relieves
me of the obligation to
be right"; it "demands
only that I be
interesting"*

*Literary theorist
Stanley Fish*

"The Enshrinement of Subjectivity"

- **Movies**

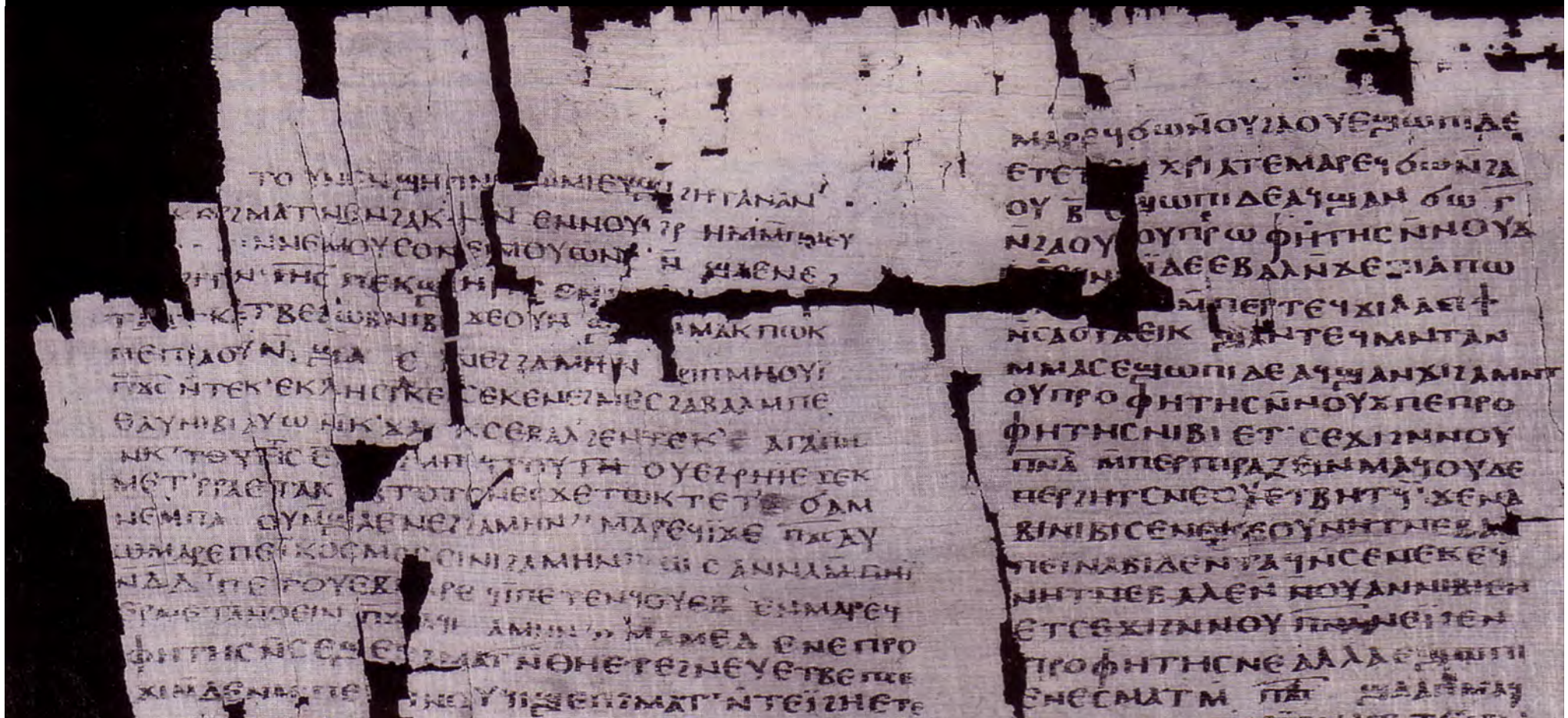


"Based on a true story"

The typical
prologue to
movies that
contain *some*
truth



**Today "all literary sources
are considered equal"!**



NT Apocrypha: 18 Gospels

GOSPELS

Arabic Gospel of the Infancy

Armenian Gospel of the Infancy

Assumption of the Virgin

Resurrection of Christ by Bartholomew

History of Joseph the Carpenter

Protoevangelium (Infancy Gospel) of James

NT Apocrypha: 18 Gospels

The Gospel of:

- Bartholomew
- Basilides
- Cerinthus
- the Ebionites
- Mary Magdalene
- Marcion
- the Birth of Mary
- Pseudo-Matthew
- the Hebrews
- Philip
- Thomas
- Infancy Gospel of Thomas

NT Apocrypha: 21 "Acts"

Apostolic History of Abdias
Fragmentary Story of Andrew
Ascent of James
Martyrdom of Matthew
Passion of Paul
Passion of Peter and Paul

NT Apocrypha: 21 "Acts"

The Acts of:

- Andrew
- Andrew and Matthias
- Andrew and Paul
- Barnabas
- James the Great
- John
- John by Prochorus
- Paul
- Peter
- Peter and Andrew
- Peter and Paul
- Philip
- Pilate
- Thaddeus
- Thomas

NT Apocrypha: Others



APOCALYPSES

James Stephen
Paul Thomas
Peter the Virgin

EPISTLES

Epistles of Christ and Abgarus

Epistle of the Apostles

Third Epistle to the Corinthians

Epistle to the Laodiceans

Epistle of Lentulus

Epistles of Paul and Seneca

Apocryphal Epistle of Titus

Brown's Key Sources are Gnostic

Two Types Addressed in 1 John

Docetic Gnosticism

From *dokeo*, "to seem"
(Christ only *seemed* to be a man)

Matter is Evil

Depreciated Materialism

Denied Christ's Humanity

Touched Jesus (1:1)

Led to Asceticism

Immorality exalted

Cerinthian Gnosticism

From Cerinthus, founder in Asia
(Christ only *seemed* to be God)

Spirit is Good

Exalted Knowledge (*gnosis*)

Denied Christ's Deity

Water & Blood (5:6)

Led to Pride

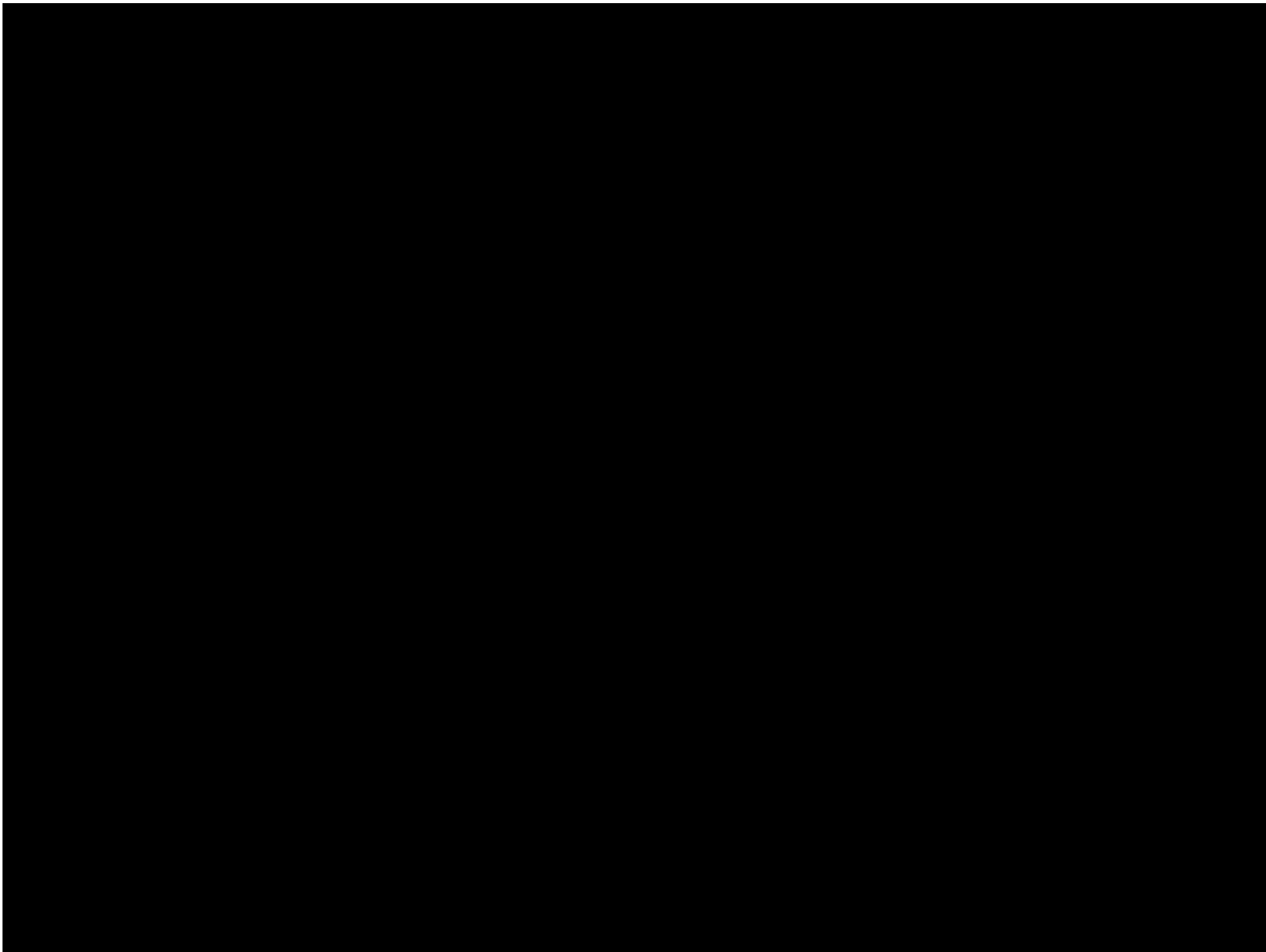
Education exalted

The Gospel of Judas

- Judas said, "Master, could it be that my seed is under the control of the rulers?" Jesus answered and said to him, "... you will grieve much when you see the kingdom and all its generation." When he heard this, Judas said to him, "What good is it that I have received it? For you have set me apart for that generation." Jesus answered and said, "You will become the thirteenth, and you will be cursed by the other generations—and you will come to rule over them. In the last days they will curse your ascent [47] to the holy [generation]."

The Gospel of Judas

- Jesus said, "... Truly [I] say to you, Judas... you will exceed all of them. For you will sacrifice the man that clothes me" (sections 55-56).



How Do We Respond to Attacks Against Scripture Today?



1. Know both the Word and the enemy arguments

JESUS

Liar

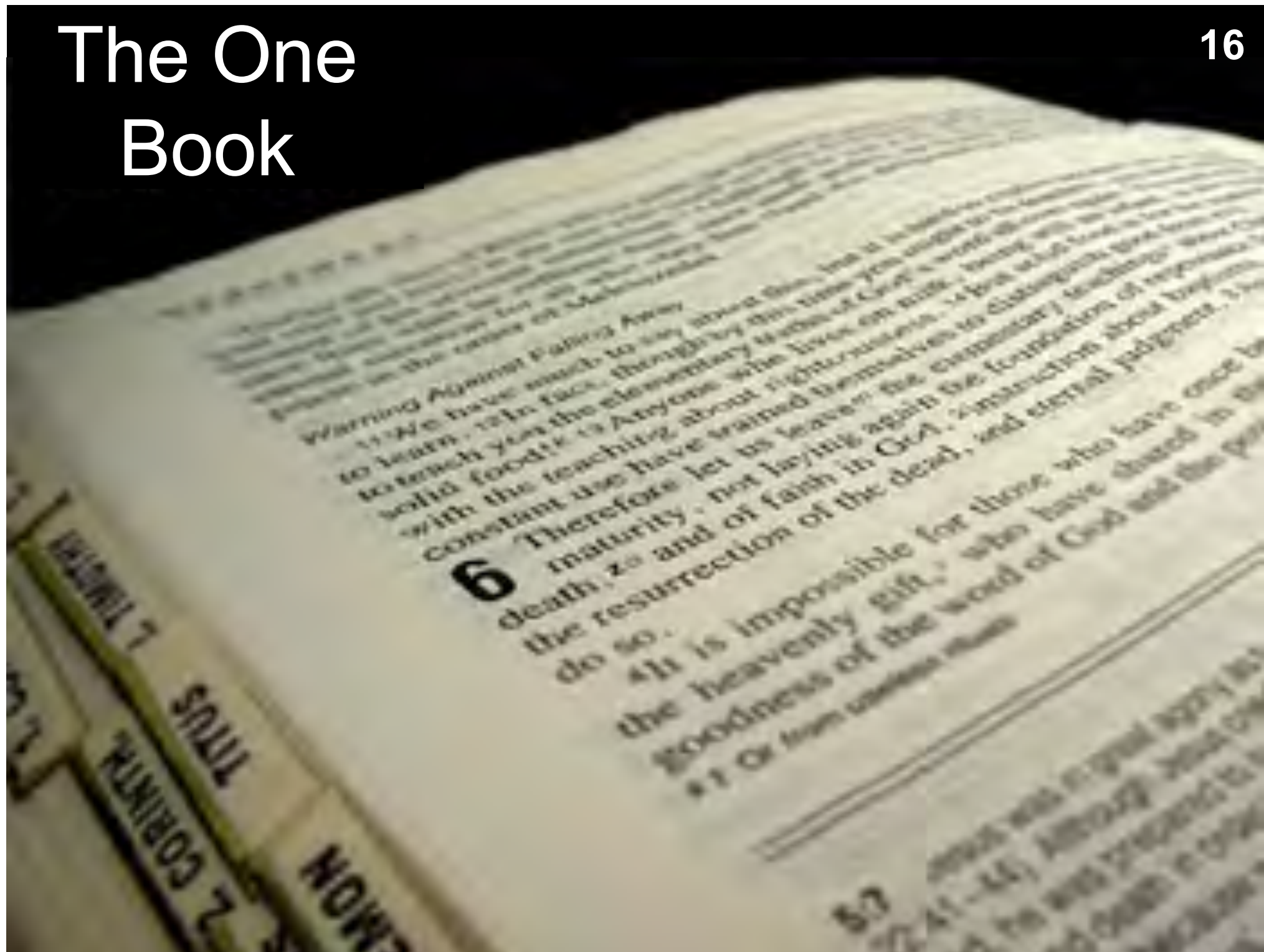
?

Lunatic

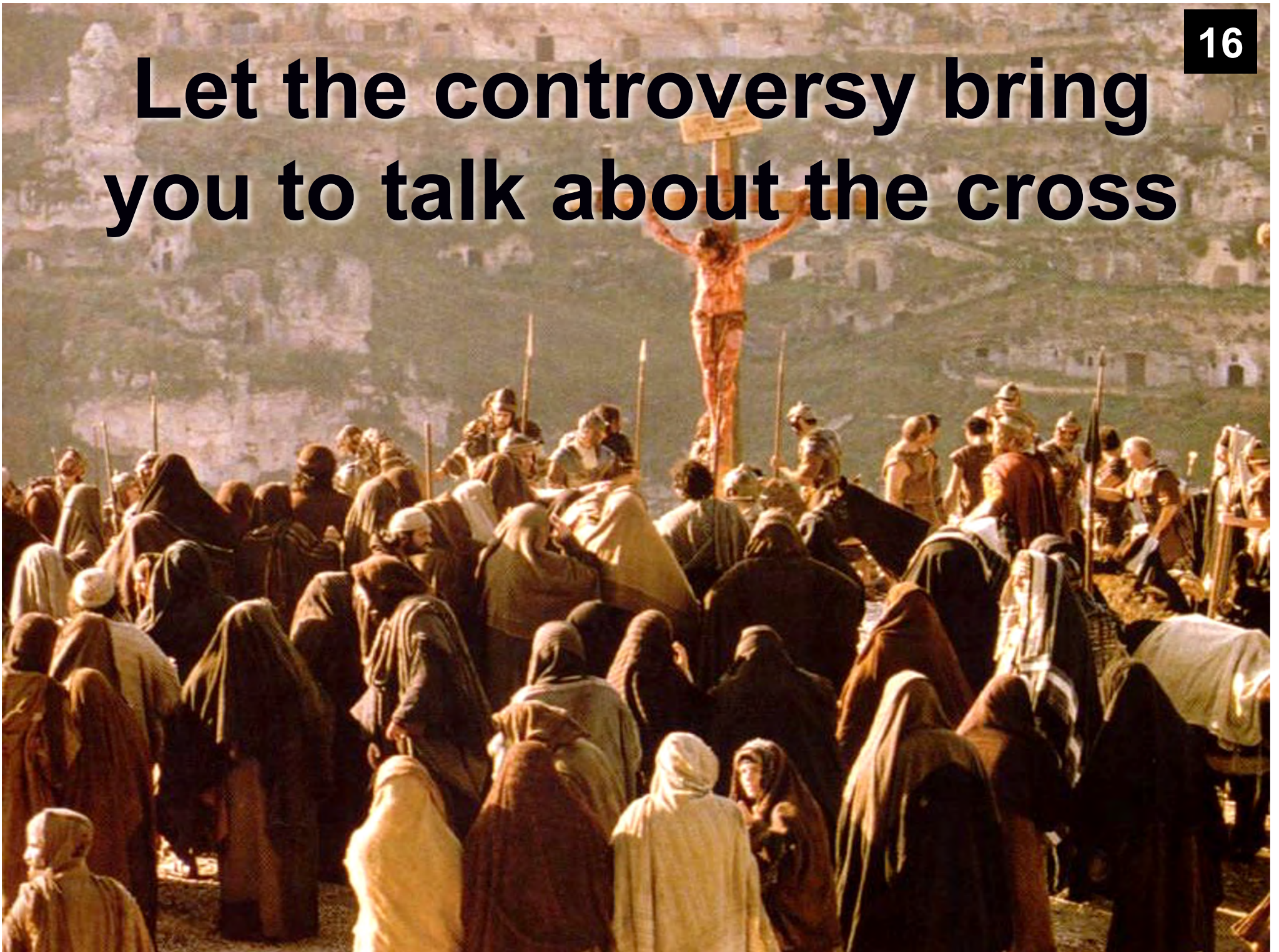
Lord

The One Book

16



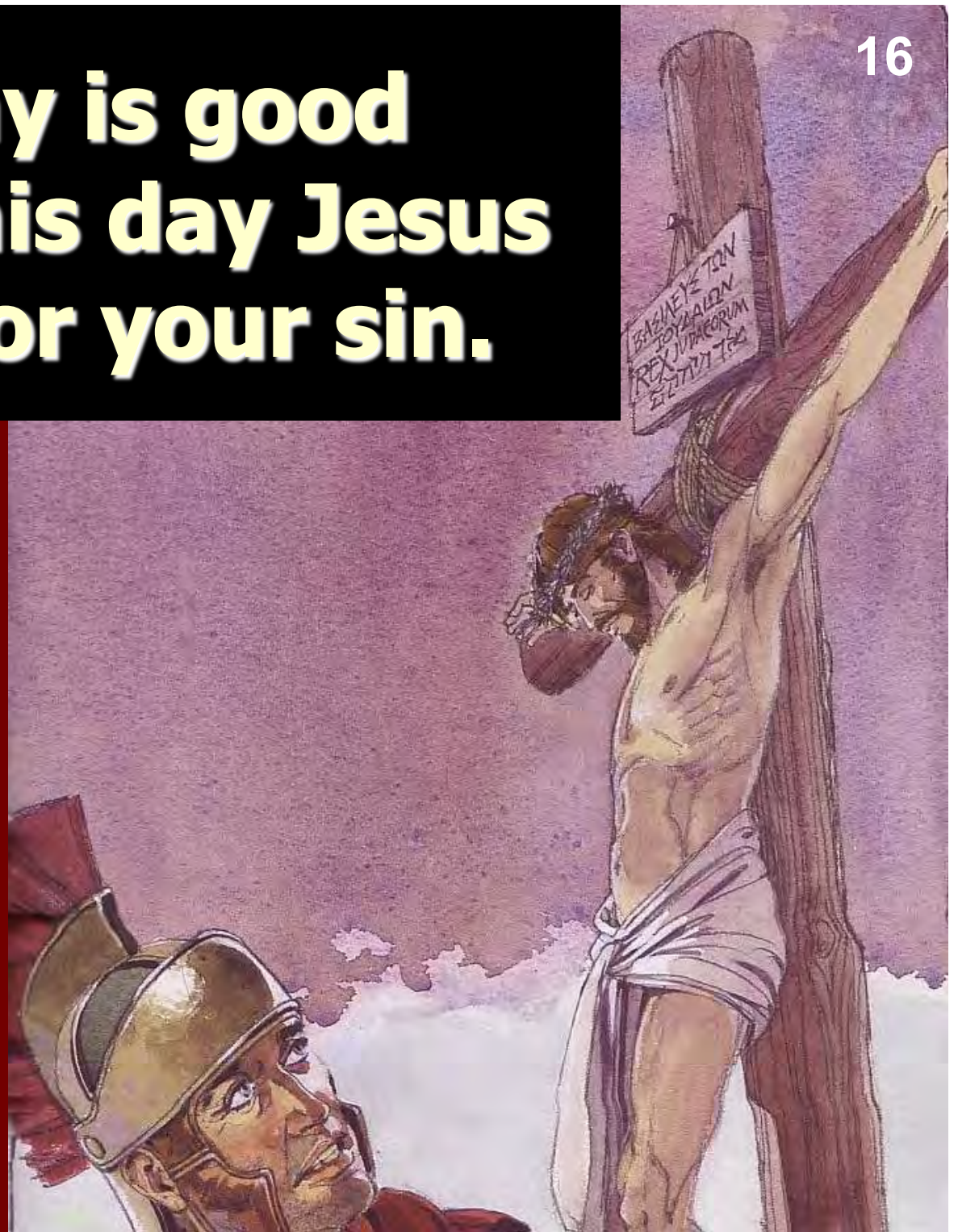
**Let the controversy bring
you to talk about the cross**



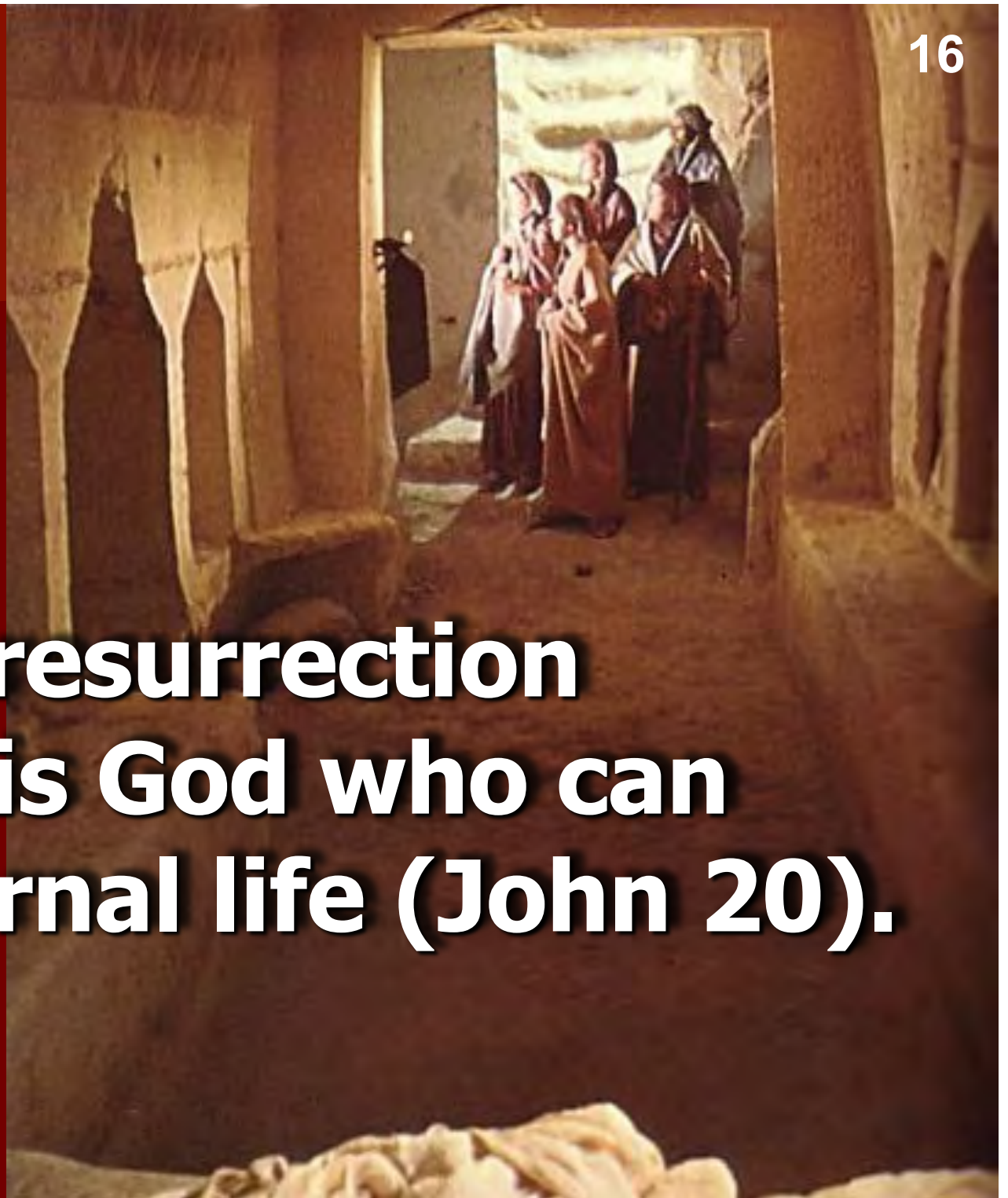
What's So Good About Good Friday?

- **Jesus controlled His own arrest**
- **Jesus' illegal trials proved Him innocent**
- **Jesus' death paid for our sin**
- **Jesus' resurrection proved He gives eternal life**

**Good Friday is good
because on this day Jesus
Christ paid for your sin.**



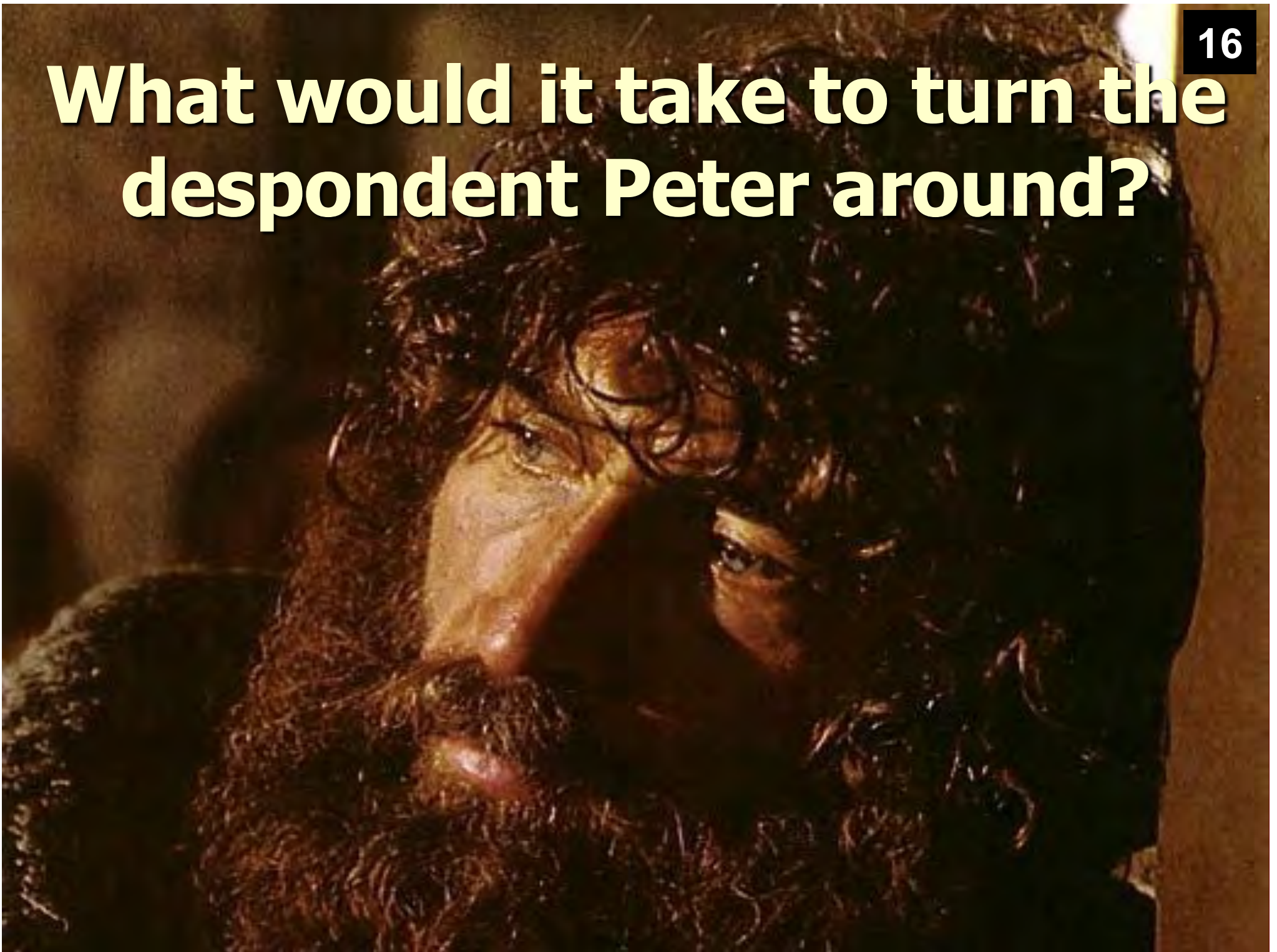
**But Jesus' resurrection
proved He is God who can
give us eternal life (John 20).**



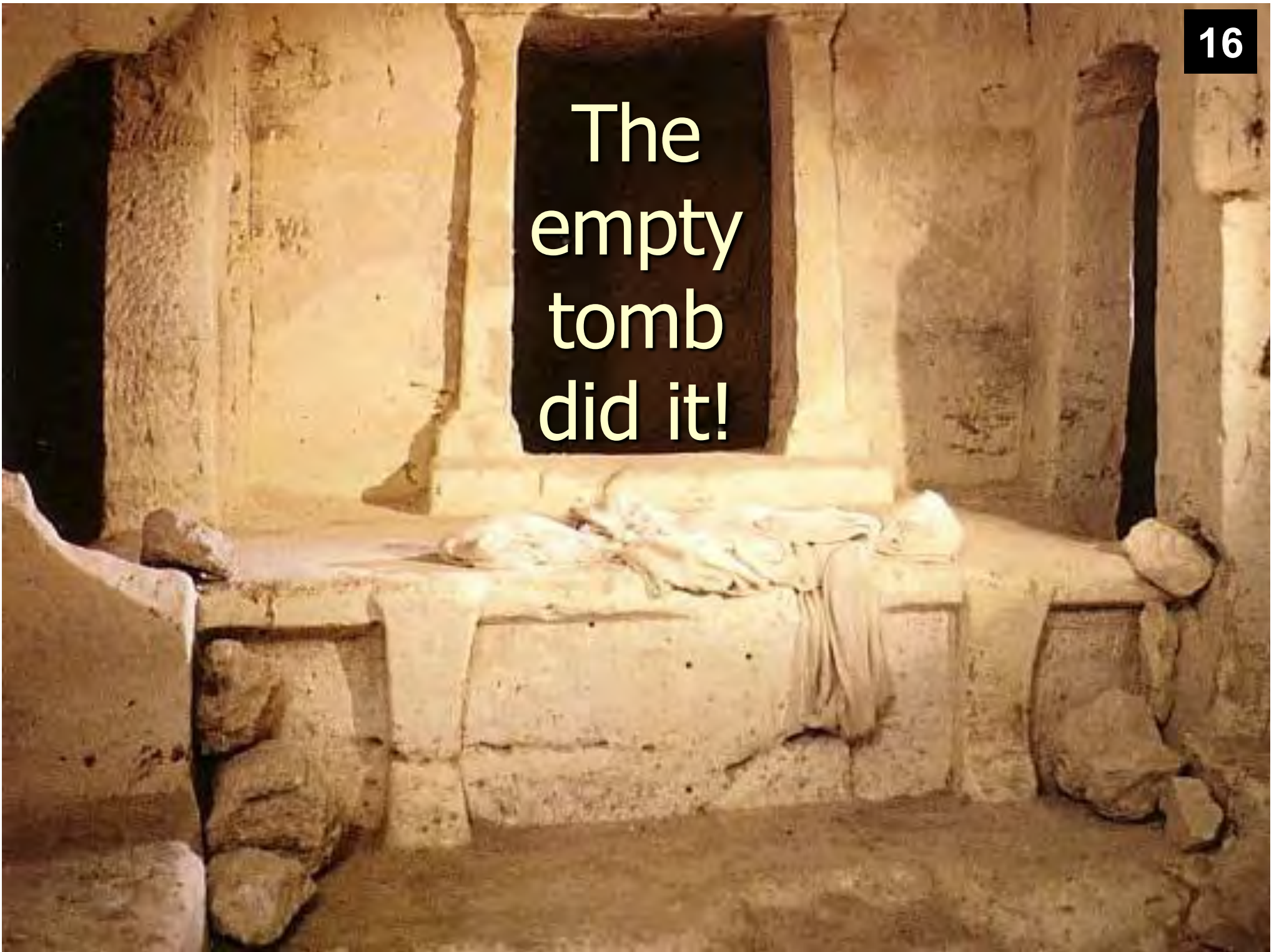
How can we explain the empty tomb?

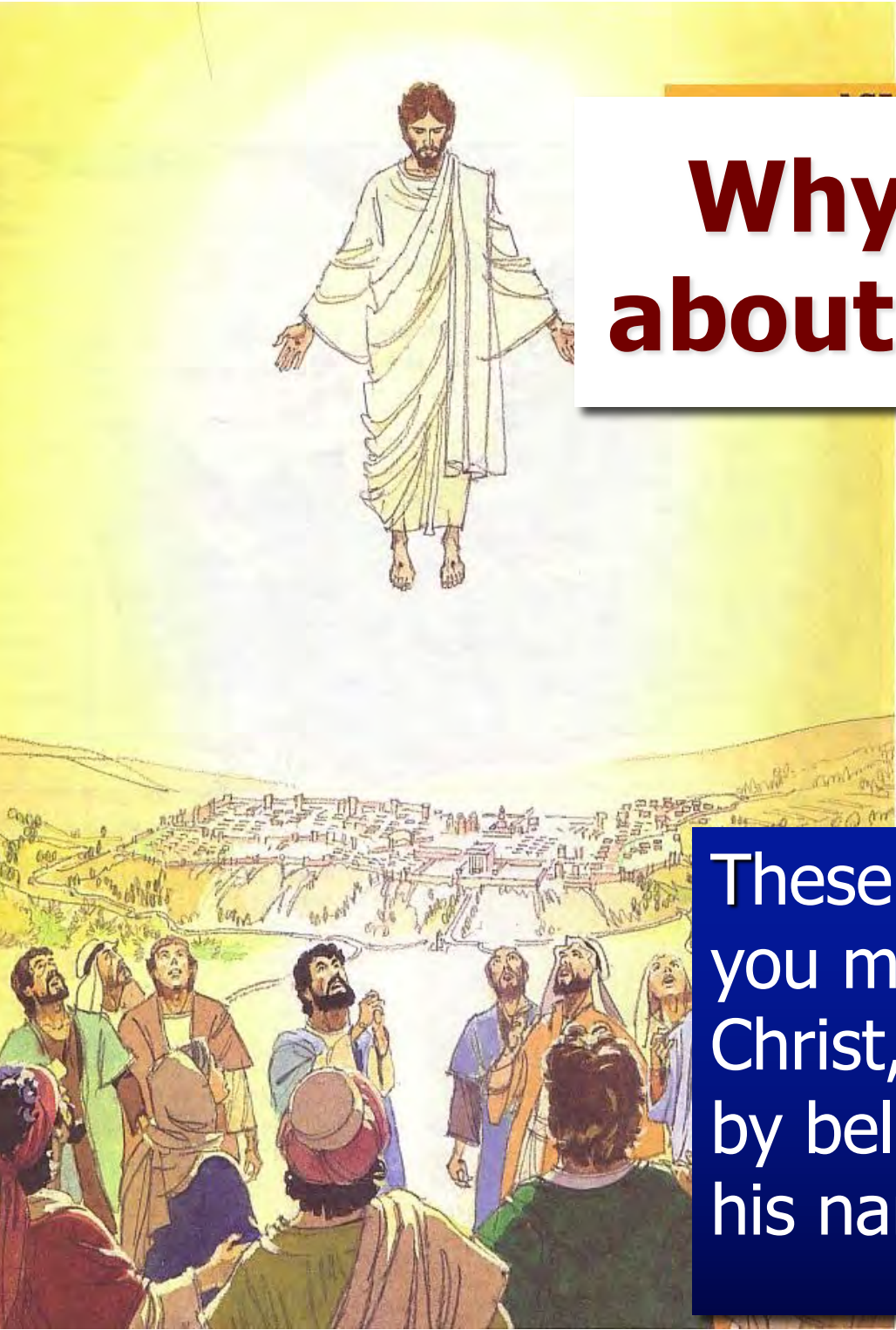
- He never died?
- Jesus' strength?
- Disciples?

**What would it take to turn the
despondent Peter around?**



The
empty
tomb
did it!





Why did John write about Jesus' miracles?

- So you can have eternal life by believing in Him!

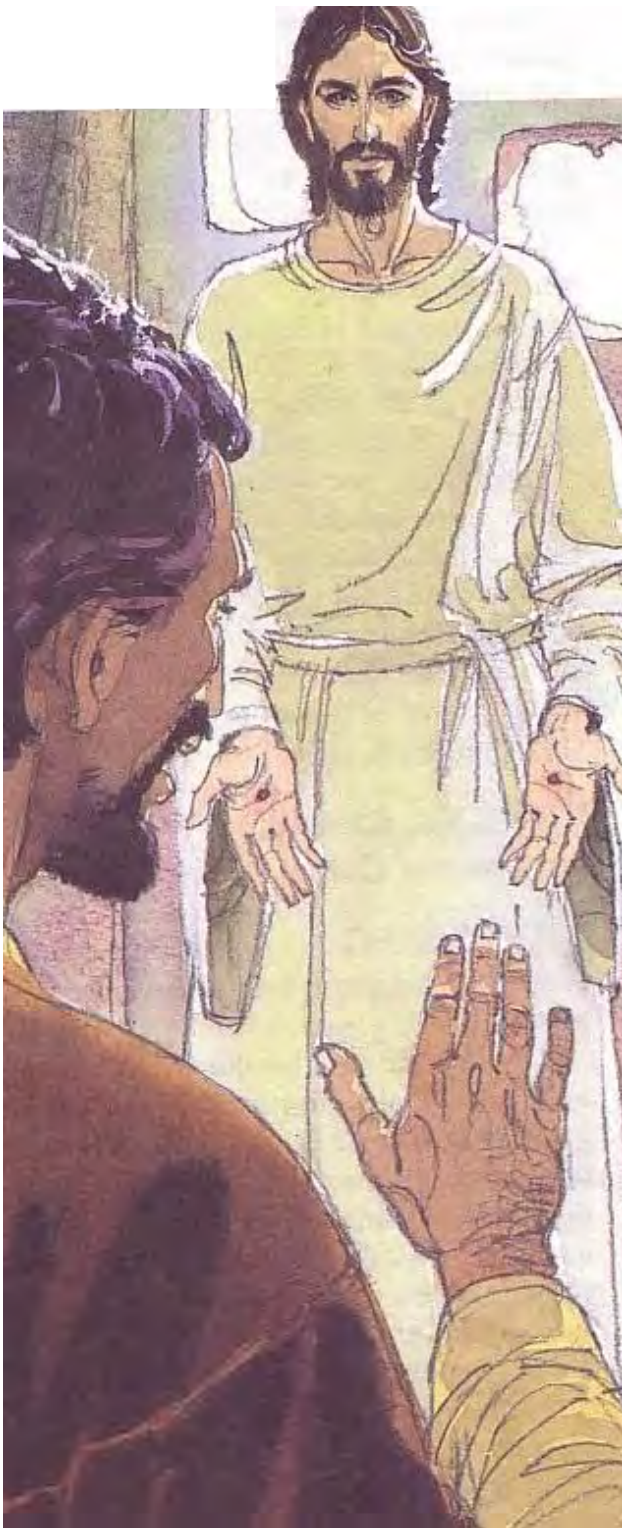
These [signs] are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name (John 20:31).

8000 ad tunc hinc est hinc et hinc
 8000 ad tunc hinc est hinc et hinc
 8000 ad tunc hinc est hinc et hinc
 8000 ad tunc hinc est hinc et hinc

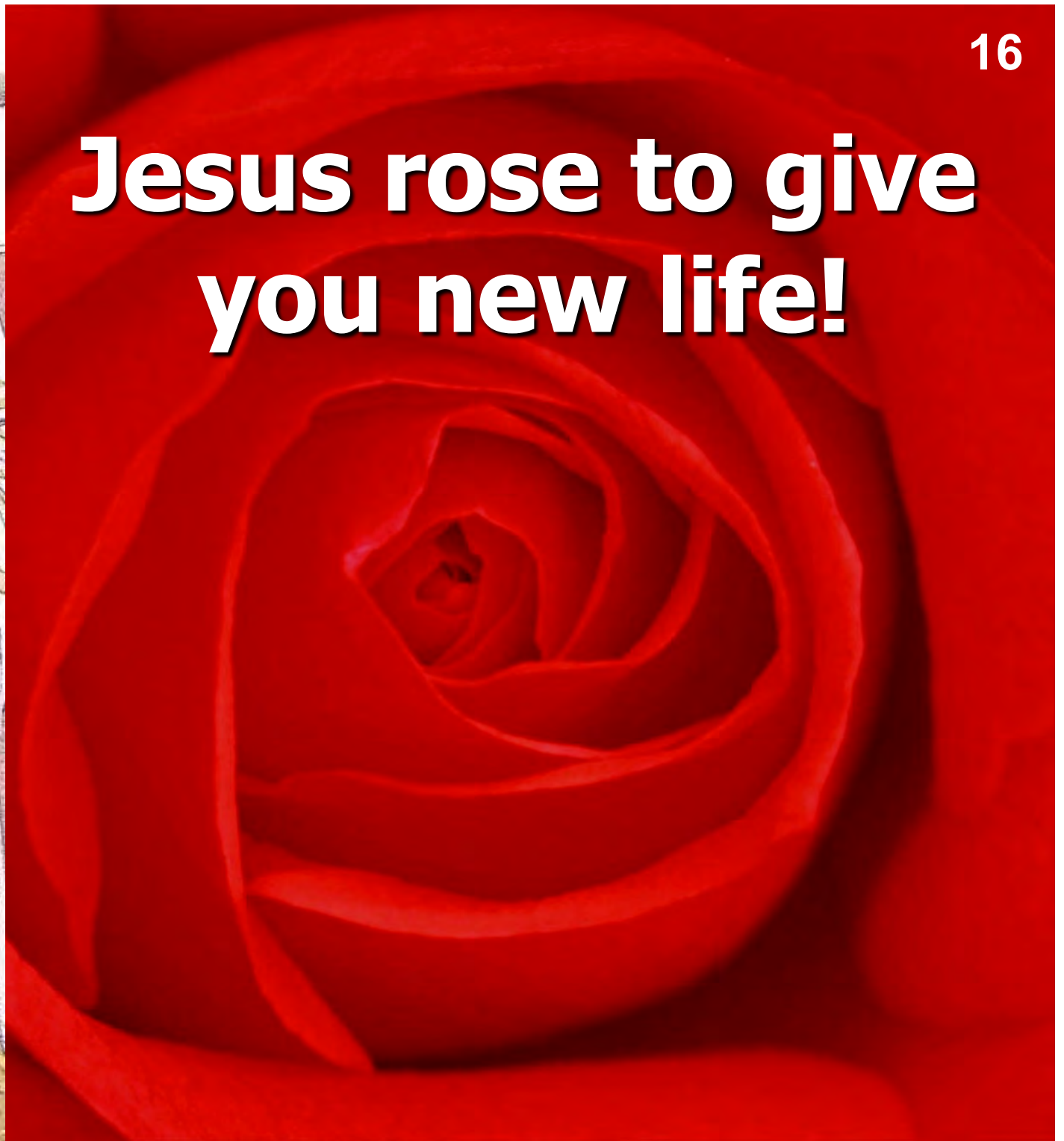
For God so loved the world that he
gave his one and only Son, that
whoever believes in him shall not
perish but have eternal life.

**For God so loved the world that he
gave his one and only Son, that
whoever believes in him shall not
perish but have eternal life.**

John 3:16



**Jesus rose to give
you new life!**



**WHAT IF GOD
DOES NOT BELIEVE
IN ATHEISTS?**

If our greatest need had been **information**,

God would have sent us an **educator**.

If our greatest need had been **technology**,

God would have sent us a **scientist**.

If our greatest need had been **money**,

God would have sent us an **economist**.

If our greatest need had been **pleasure**,

God would have sent us an **entertainer**.

But our greatest need was **forgiveness**,

so God sent us a **Saviour**.

We need Christ!

We need a RISEN Savior



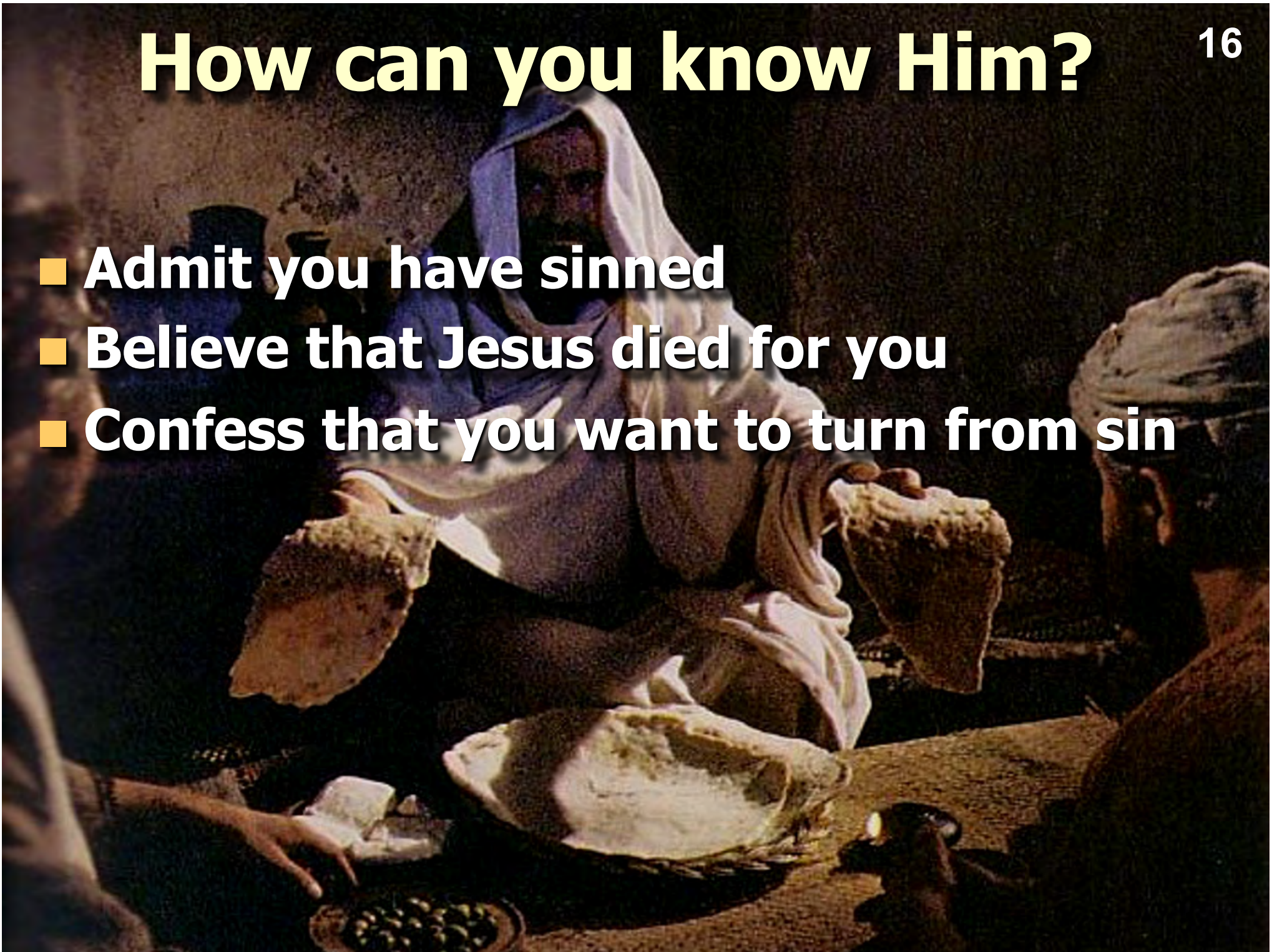
**What or who are you trusting to
save you from your sin?**



How can you know Him?

16

- **Admit you have sinned**
- **Believe that Jesus died for you**
- **Confess that you want to turn from sin**



Questions?



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