

*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](http://LivingWithoutReligion.org)



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

Will Scharff, Sacramento.  
Technology Analyst . . . Atheist

[SAC.FFRF.ORG](http://SAC.FFRF.ORG)

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION

believe in humanity,  
not god."

Brooke Byrd, Sacramento.  
Volunteer . . . Atheist

C.FFRF.ORG

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION FOUNDATION





1

**Humbug.**



I SAID THE "S-H" WORD.

I SAID THE "F" WORD.

I SAID "CHRISTMAS."

WHO NEEDS  
~~CHRIST~~  
DURING

~~CHRISTMAS?~~

NOBODY.

[atheists.org](http://atheists.org)



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

A photograph of Santa Claus, dressed in his traditional red and white suit, holding a small, fluffy white dog. The image is framed by a black border with a white inner line. Below the image, the text is written in white on a black background.

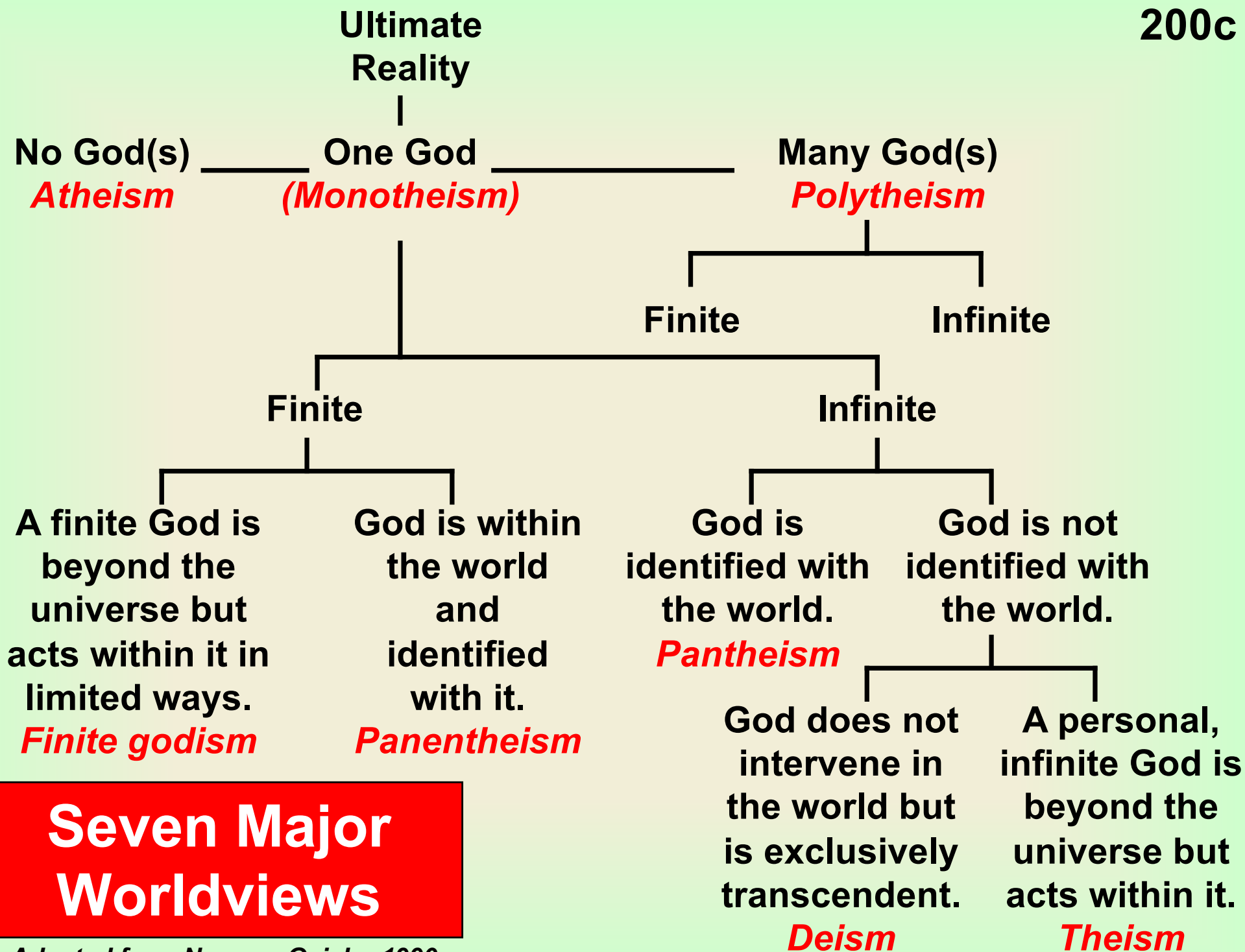
**DEAR CHILDREN**  
One day you will learn about Santa  
Claus. On that day remember everything  
the adults told you about Jesus.



# What to do?

1





**Seven Major Worldviews**

Adapted from Norman Geisler 1990

# Ten Possible Worldviews

2



Adapted from:

- Peter Kreeft
- Norman Geisler
- William D. Watkins



**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)**

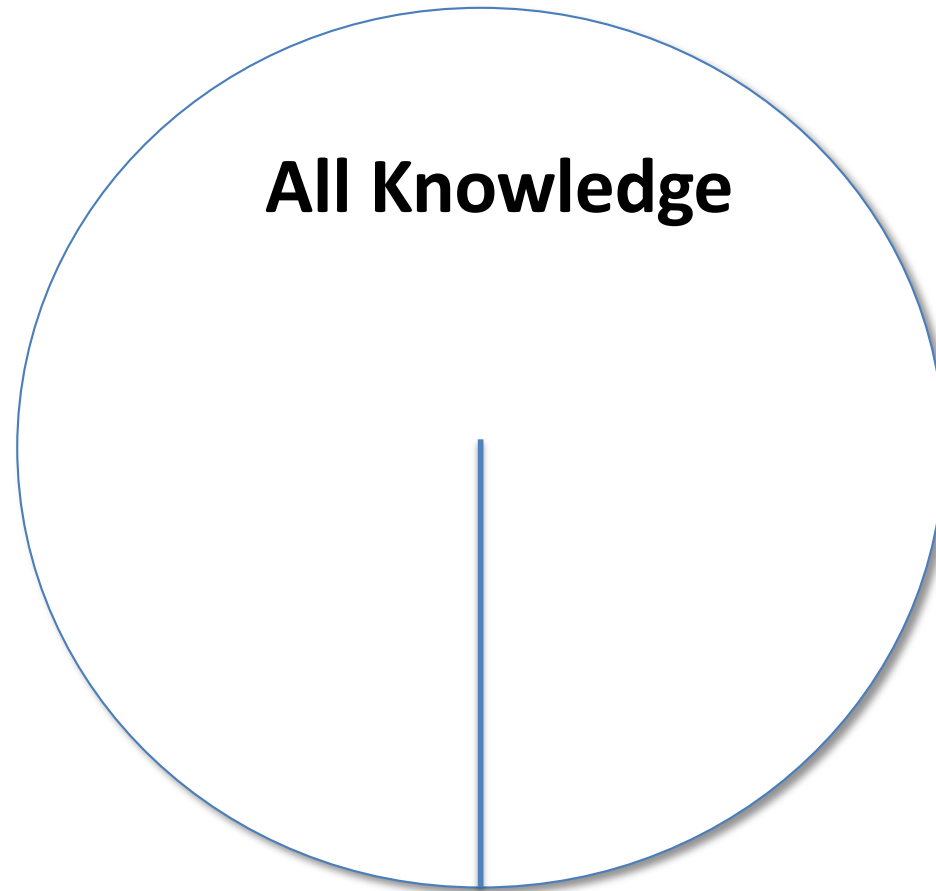
# God



## Unipersonal Theism:

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

# The Quick Guide for Dealing with Atheists



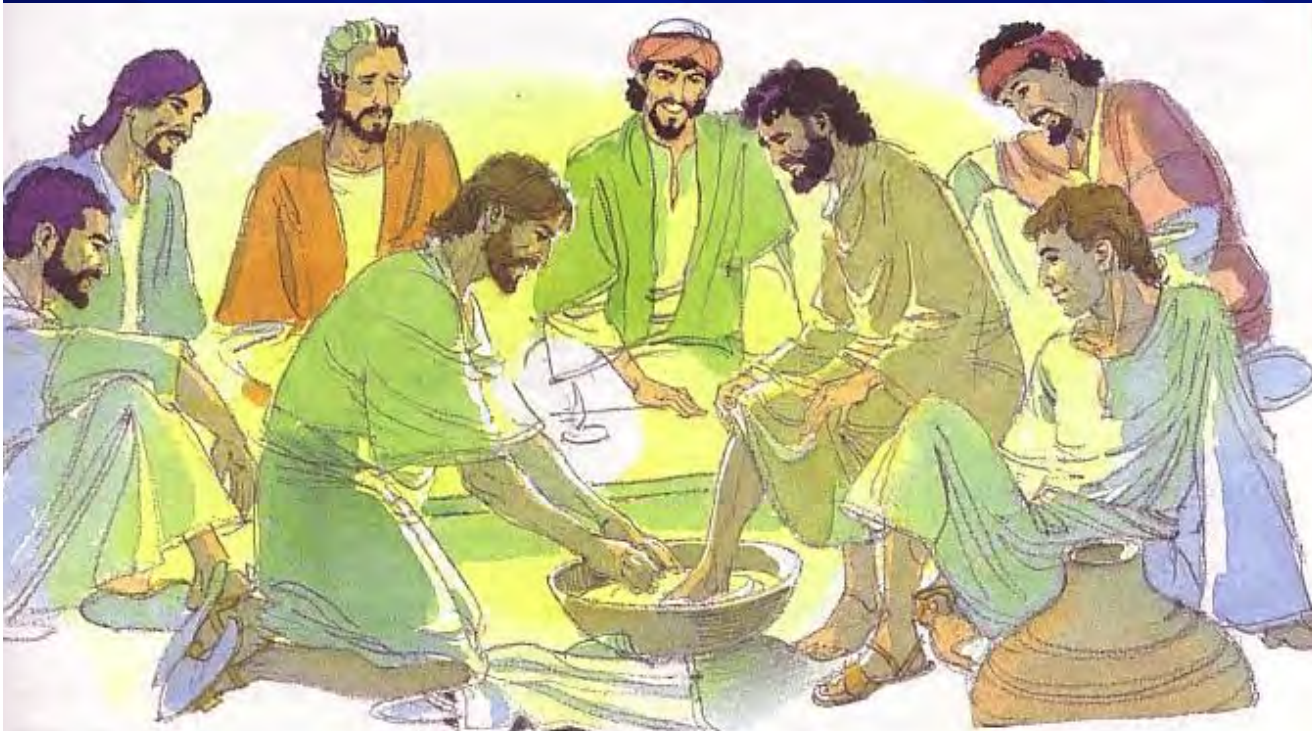
***Jesus has always been God***

**"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)

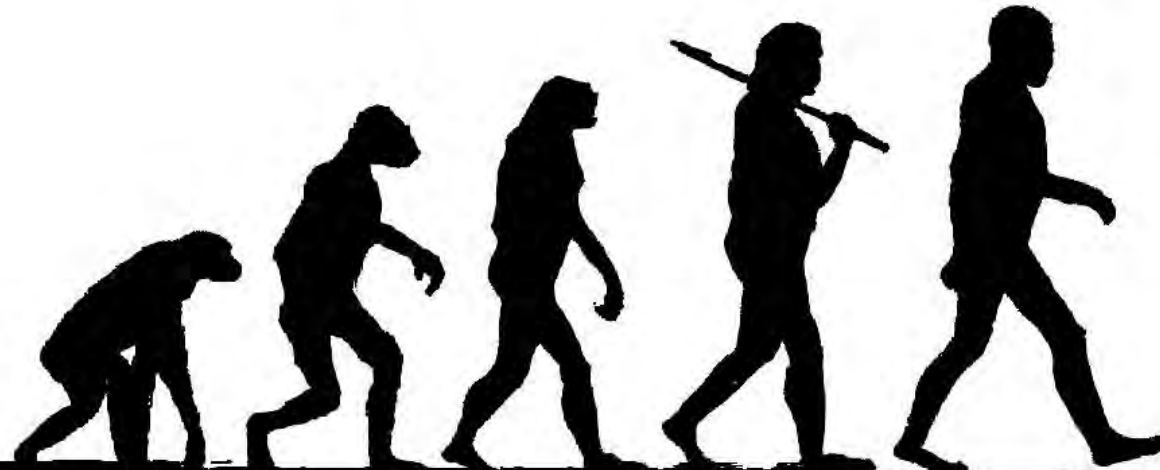




# Answer the Critics

"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 hand holding a pen is shown drawing the Earth in space. The Earth is a large, glowing sphere with green and blue colors, set against a dark blue background filled with stars. The hand is positioned on the right side of the frame, with the pen tip touching the Earth's surface. The overall scene is a metaphorical representation of creation or design.

# Creation: The Argument from Design



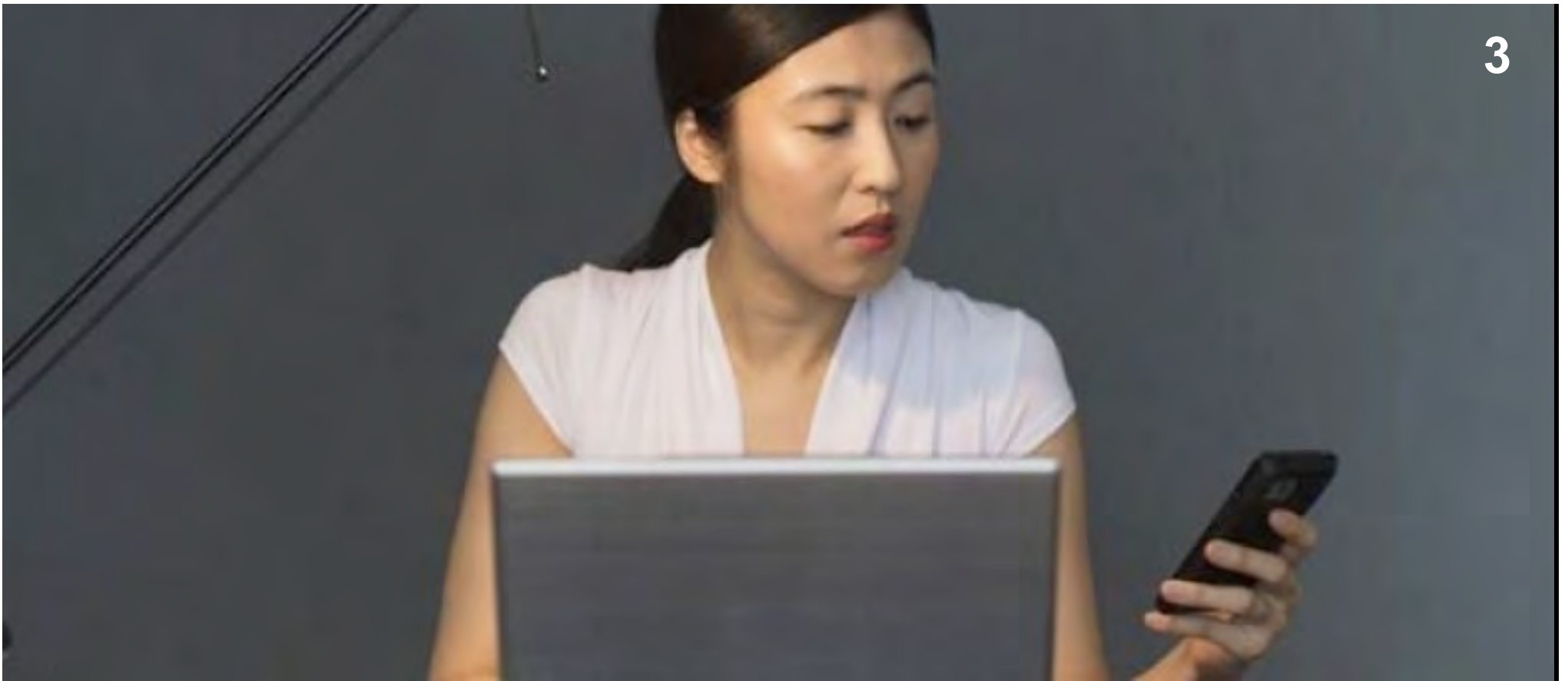
# ATHEISM

**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](http://answersingenesis.org)

**Dr. Rick Griffith, Crossroads International Church**  
[cicfamily.com](http://cicfamily.com) & [biblestudydownloads.com](http://biblestudydownloads.com)



**answersingenesi.org**

believing it. defending it. proclaiming it.

**America has the largest number of:**

- **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

**SCHOOL  
VIOLENCE**

**ABORTION**

**PORN-  
OGRAPHY**

**RACISM**

**HOMOSEXUAL  
BEHAVIOR**

**FAMILY  
BREAK-UP**

**"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](http://www.barna.org).

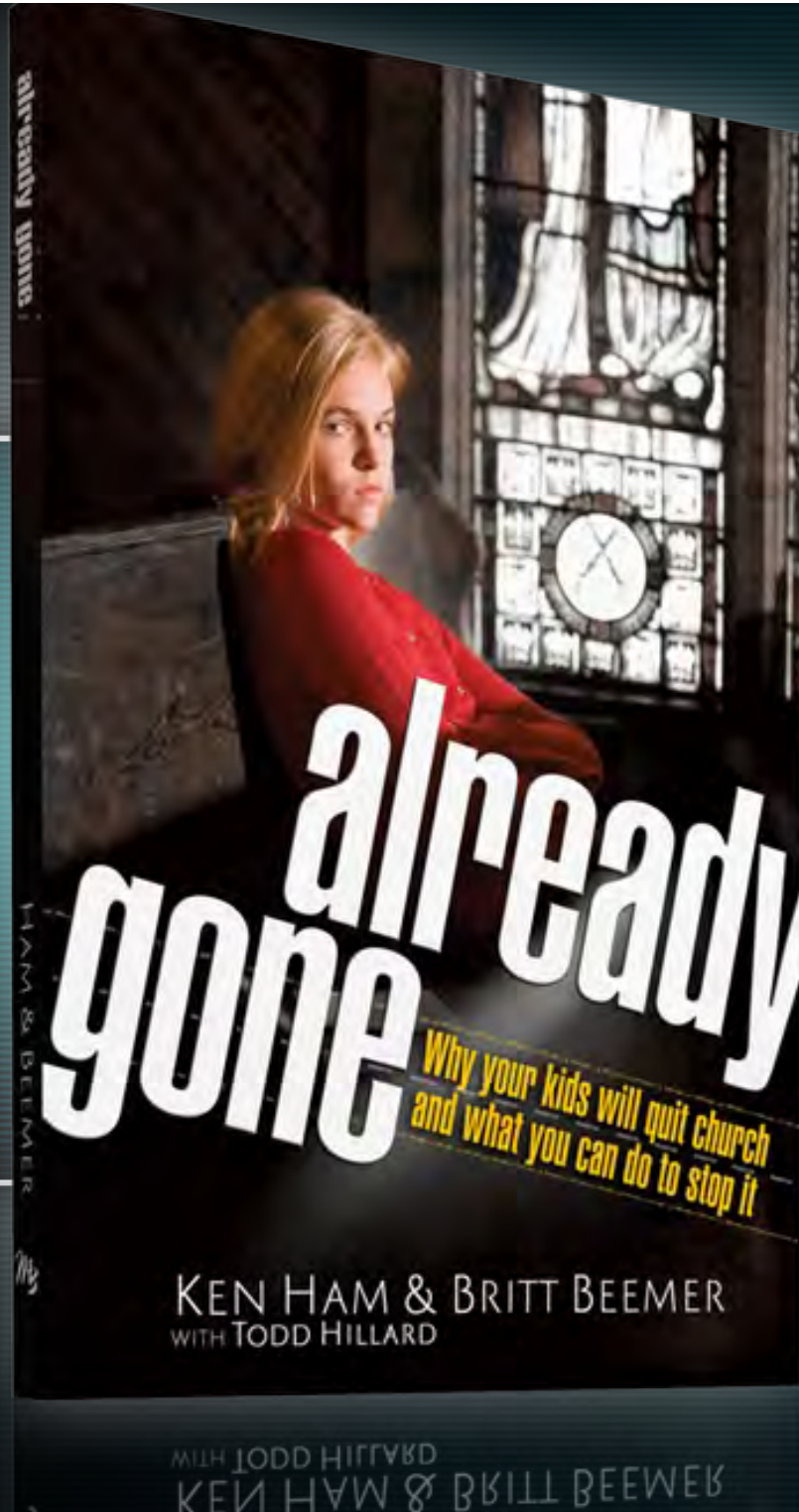
**"The 'American Family In Crises Research' by the Southern Baptist Council on Family Life uncovered some disturbing facts. **Of the children raised in evangelical homes, 88% leave the church at age 18 and never return.**"**

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

general books<sup>3</sup>

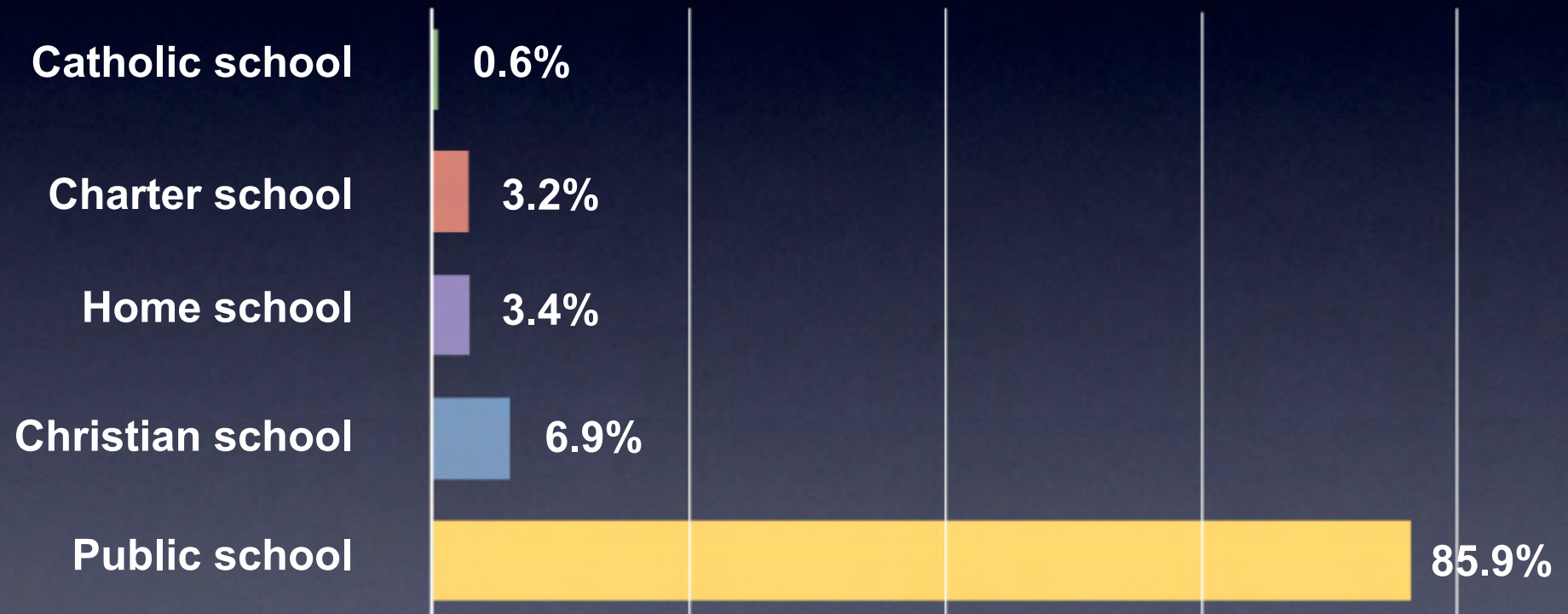
# Already Gone

by Ken Ham and Britt Beemer,  
with Todd Hillard

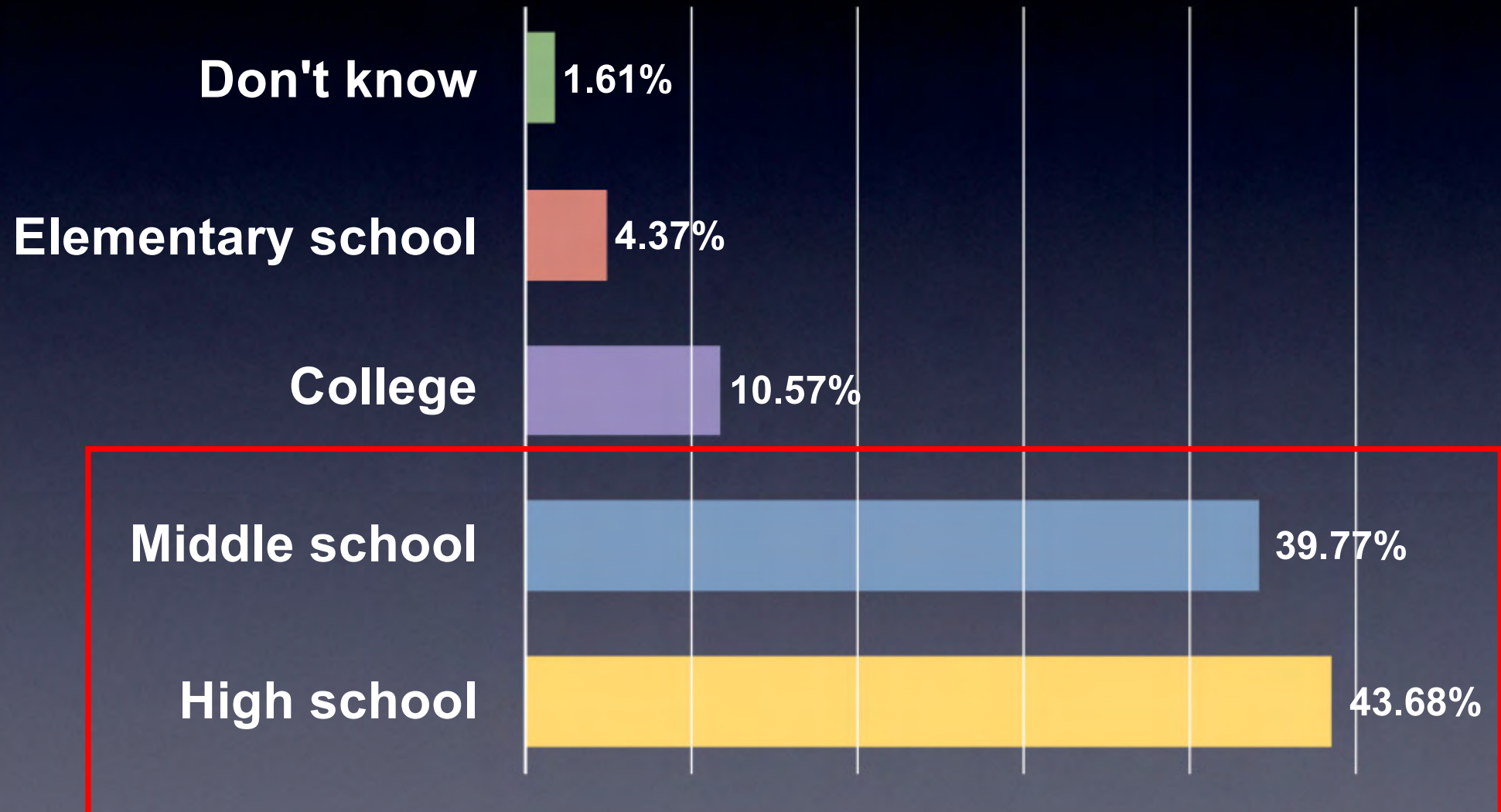


[answersingenesis.org](http://answersingenesis.org)

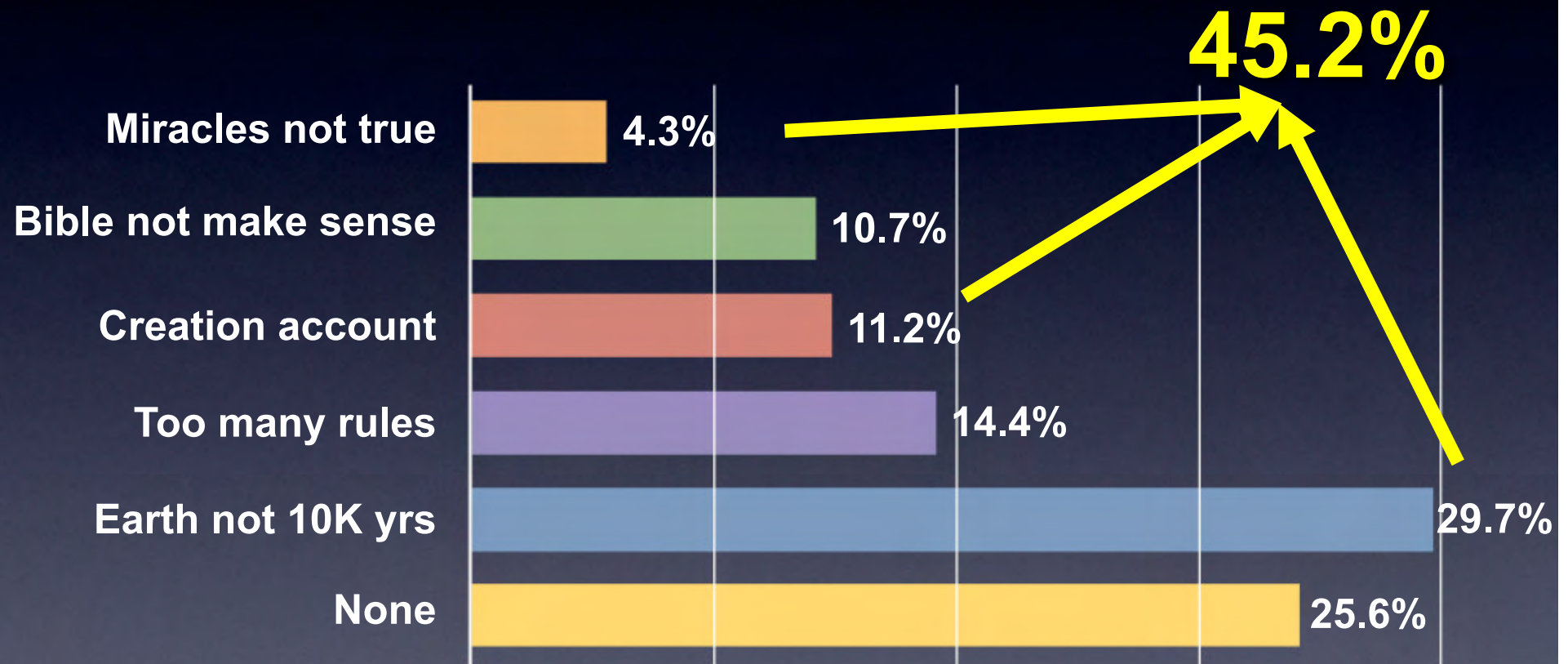
# High school attended



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

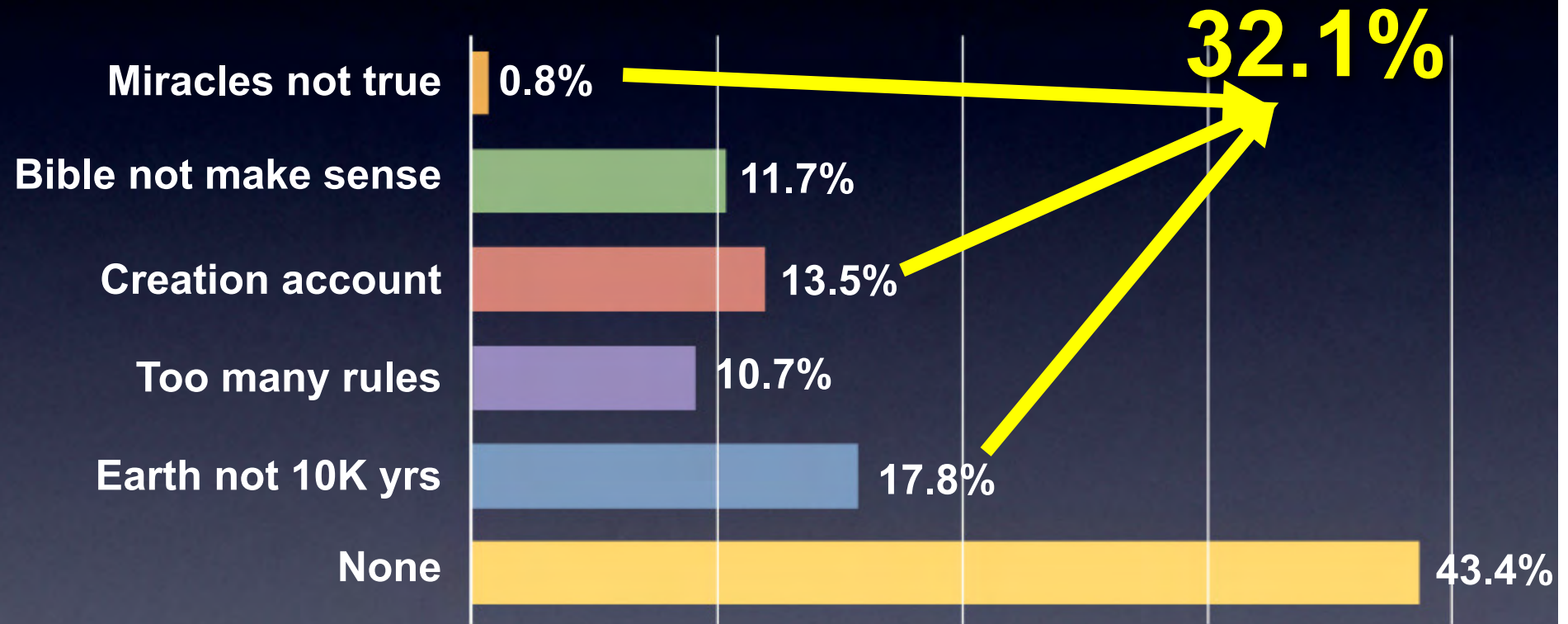


# Which of these makes you question the Bible the most?



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?"**

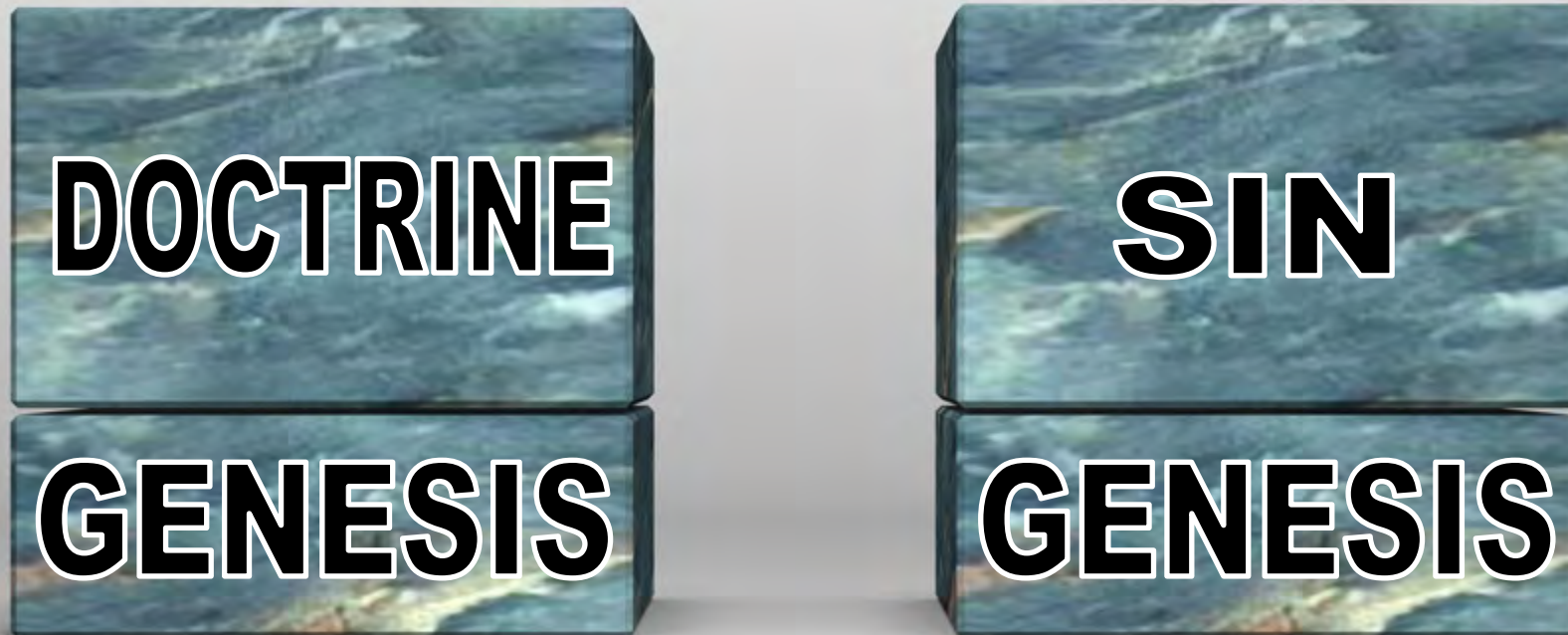












**Genesis is foundational to all other  
biblical doctrines**

**DOCTRINE**  
**GENESIS**

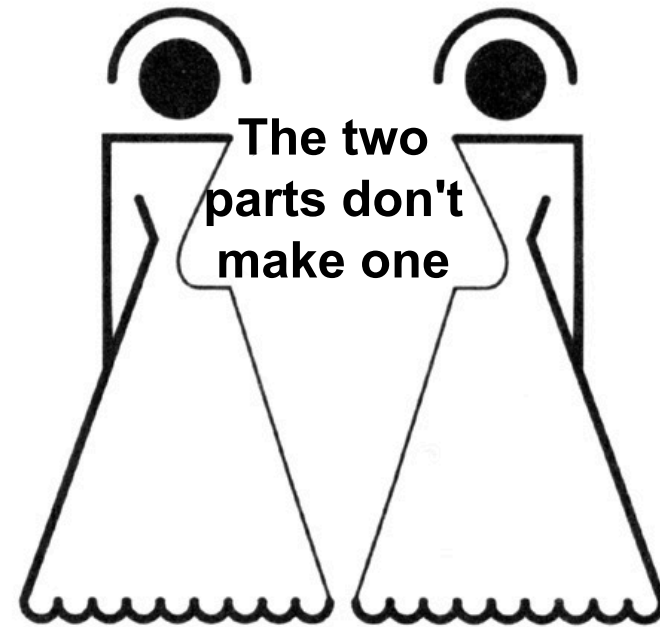
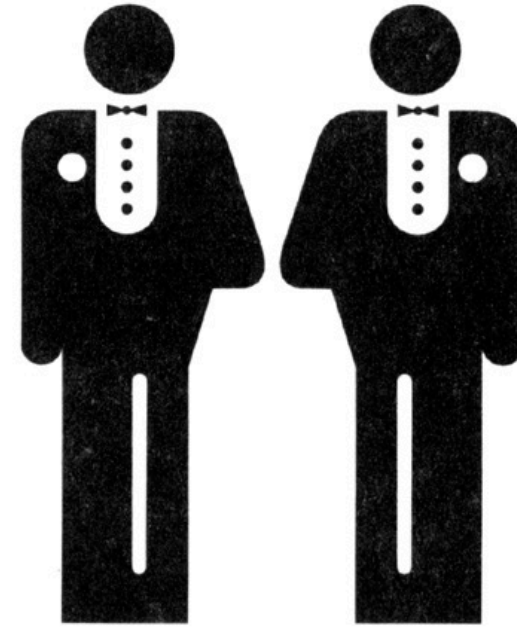
**CLOTHING**  
**GENESIS**

**DOCTRINE**  
**GENESIS**

**7-DAY WEEK**  
**DOMINION**  
**WORK**  
**CURSE**  
**NATIONS**  
**1st COMING**  
**2nd COMING**  
**GENESIS**

**DOCTRINE**  
**GENESIS**

**MARRIAGE**  
**GENESIS**





DEATH

GENESIS

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

# WHY?



© Reuters

**Why would a loving God allow earthquakes?**



**FOSSIL  
RECORD**

**MILLIONS  
OF YEARS**

**=**

**PAIN**

**DEATH**

**KILLING**

**DISEASE**

**STRUGGLE**

**SUFFERING**

**EXTINCTION**

# EVOLUTION

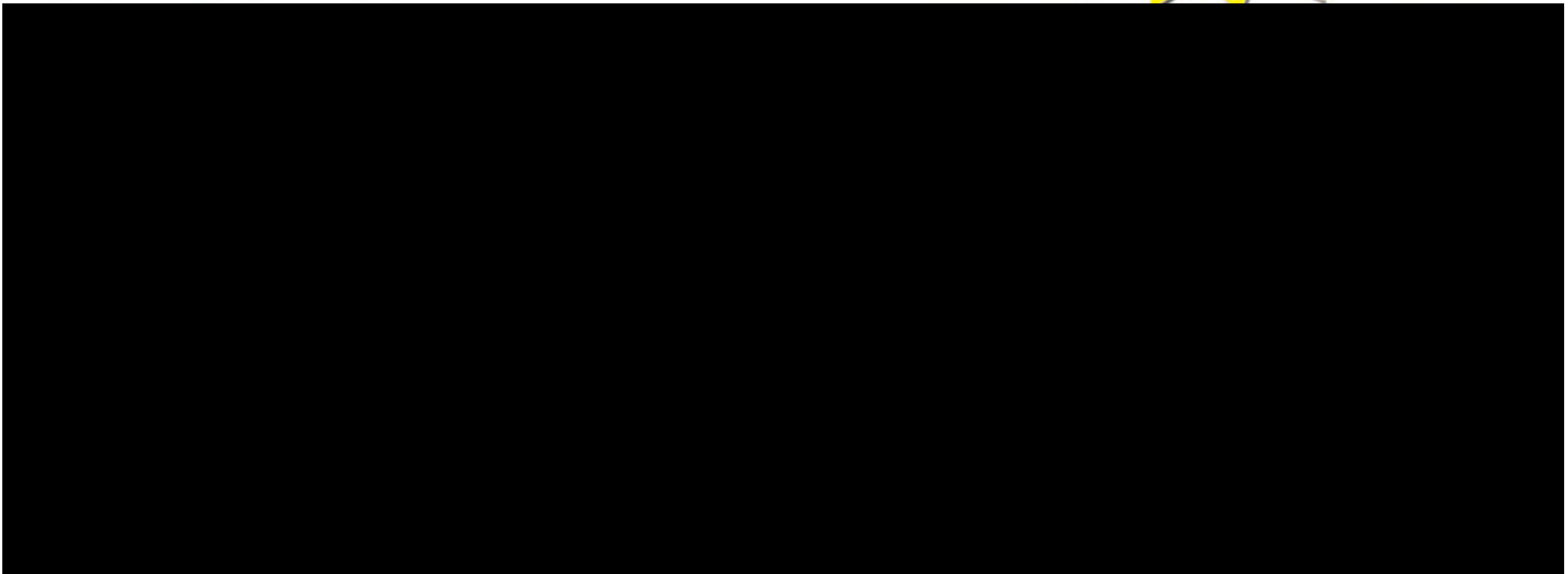
MILLIONS OF YEARS



**DEATH**  
Suffering Disease Bloodshed



**MAN'S  
EXISTENCE**



# Genesis 1:29-30

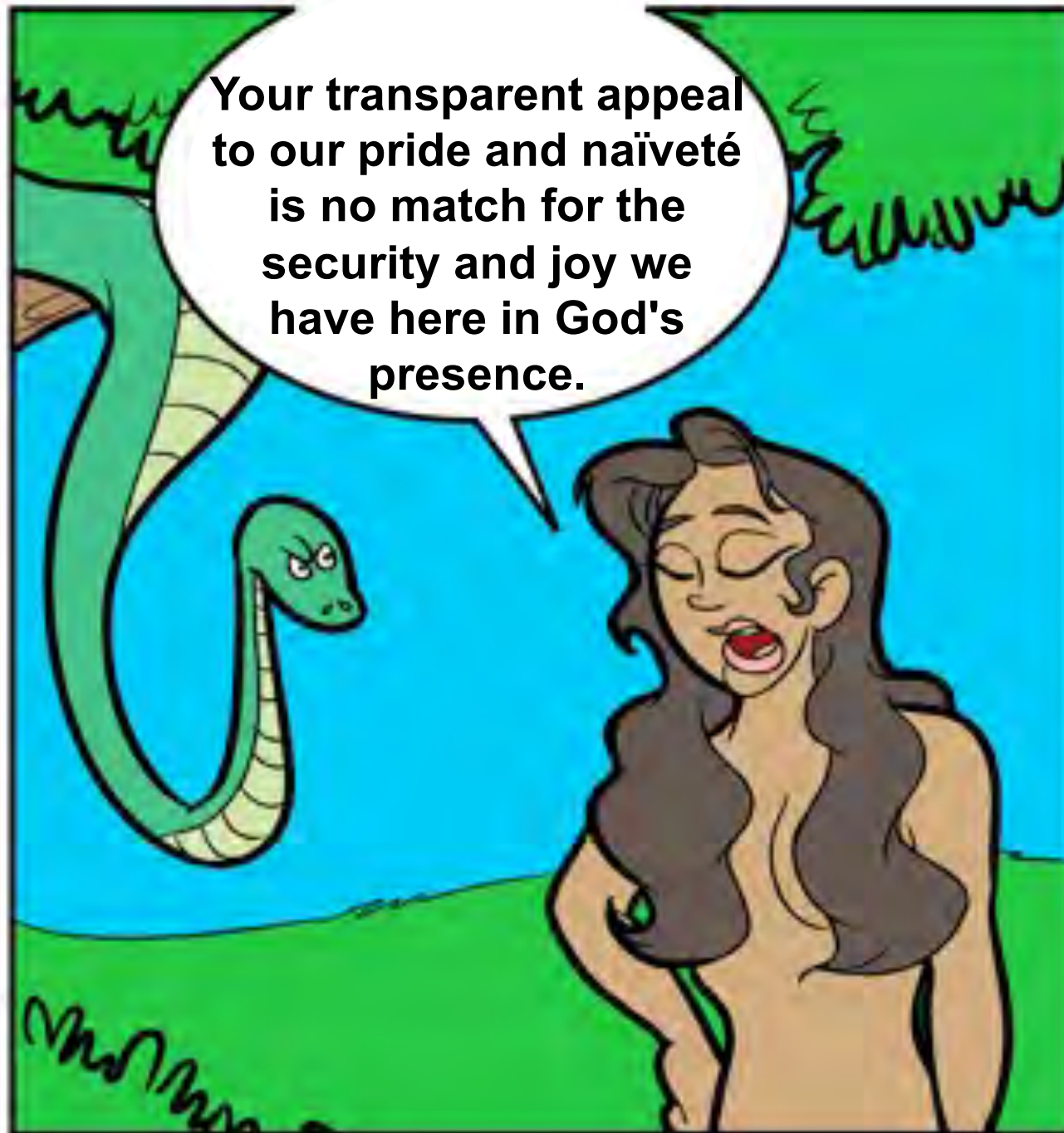
3

"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; <sup>30</sup>**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.**







It's organic, rich in antioxidants, and now available in convenient GO-PACKS.

We'll take **two.**

והנחש היה ערום מכל חית השדה אשר עשה יהוה אלהים

# The Sad Results

**The Fall brought  
many  
consequences**

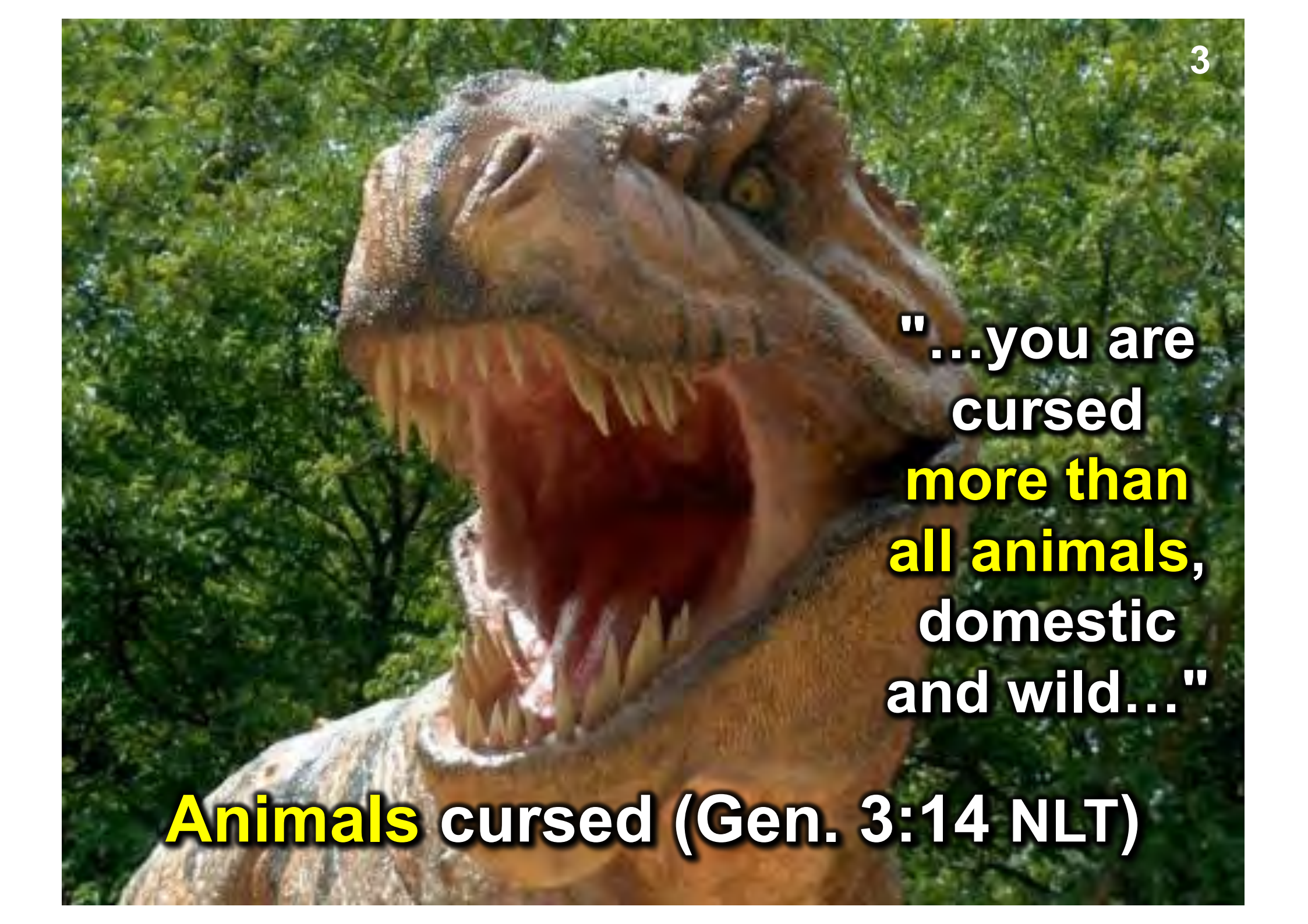


A photograph of a woman with long brown hair looking intently at a light-colored snake with dark spots. The snake is coiled around a tree branch. The background is a blurred natural setting with green foliage.

**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..."

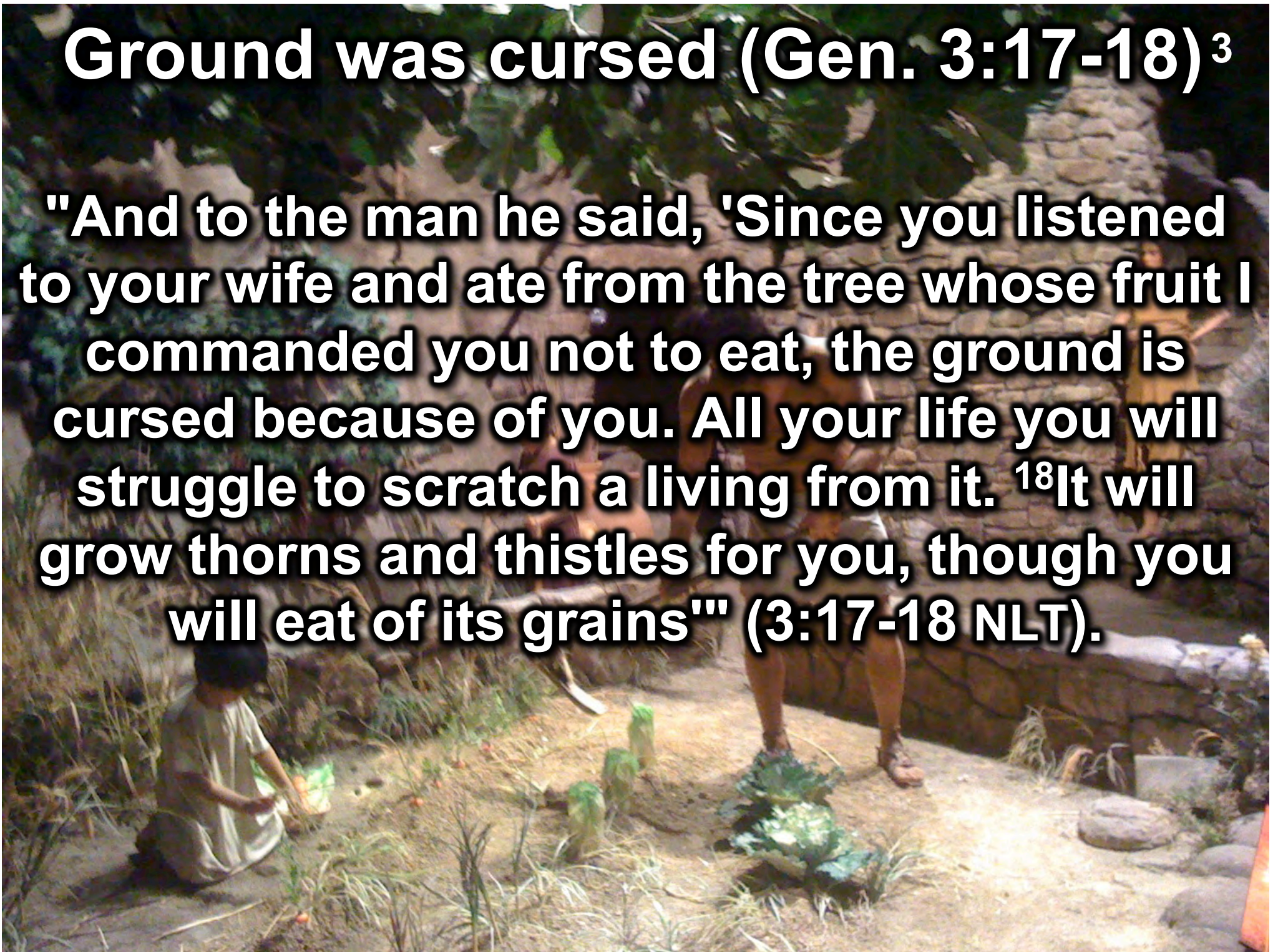
**Animals** cursed (Gen. 3:14 NLT)

<sup>3</sup>  
Eve judged **physically**: increased  
pain in childbirth (Gen. 3:16)



# Ground was cursed (Gen. 3:17-18)<sup>3</sup>

**"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. <sup>18</sup>It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains'" (3:17-18 NLT).**



# Adam & Eve began to die **physically** <sup>3</sup>



**"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**

**Redemption<sup>3</sup>  
through a  
sacrifice gave  
them animal skin  
coverings**

**Genesis 3:21**



# Creation in bondage to corruption <sup>3</sup>

(Rom. 8:19-23)

**"For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. <sup>20</sup>Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, <sup>21</sup>the 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](http://www.nature.com)>.

"Many dinosaurs had **cancer**, 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

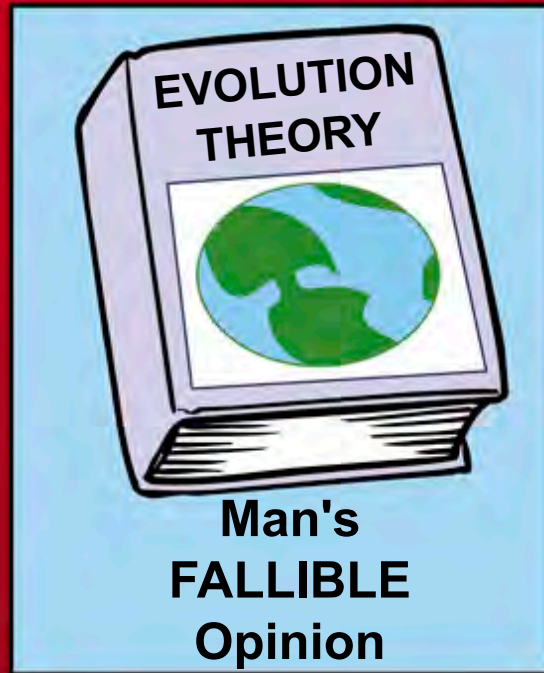
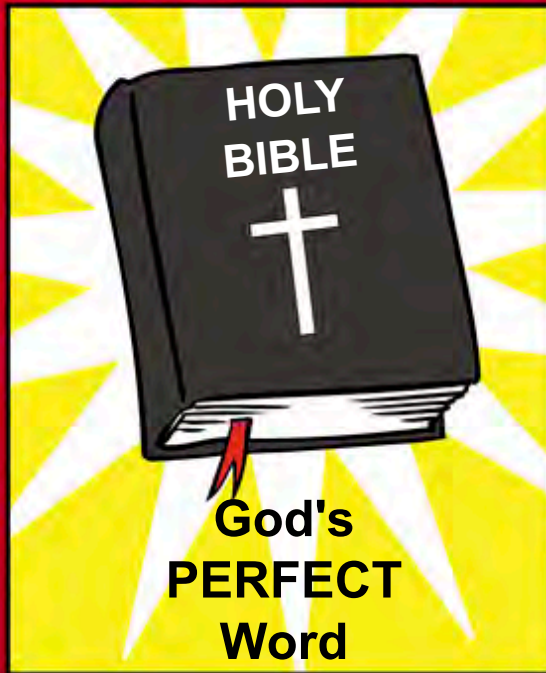
# Evolution

3



# The Bible





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

OH ADAM, THIS IS SUCH A PERFECT WORLD!

MILLIONS OF YEARS

FOSSIL RECORD

THE  
SEA  
RUGG  
UFFERIN  
EXTINCTION



EXTINCTION  
STOP  
SUFFER  
EXTINCT



Noah's  
FLOOD



GARDEN OF EDEN

**PAIN**  
**DEATH**  
**KILLING**  
**DISEASE**  
**STRUGGLE**  
**SUFFERING**  
**EXTINCTION**

# Mass <sup>3</sup> Extinctions

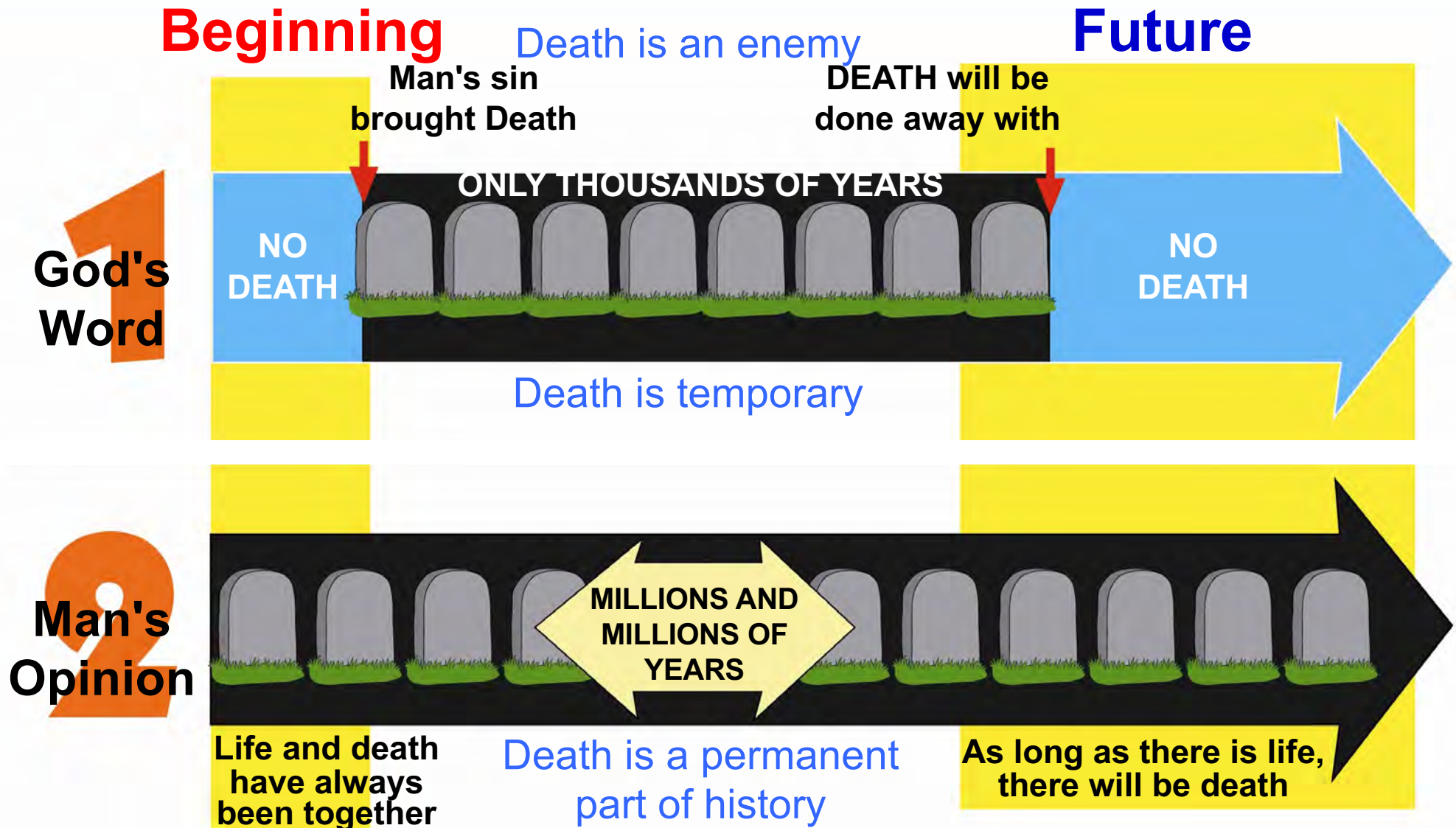
FOSSIL RECORD

# 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?

5



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

# WHERE DO YOU "FIT" MILLIONS OF YEARS? <sup>5</sup>

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**.

A vintage black car with a convertible top, driving on a road. The car is positioned in the lower right area of the slide, with a speech bubble coming from it.

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



**Progressive  
Creation**

**Theistic  
Evolution**

# **COMMON FACTOR**

**Framework  
Hypothesis**

**Other  
Compromise  
Positions**

**Gap  
Theory**

MILLIONS  
OF YEARS

5

Progressive  
Creation

X

Theistic  
Evolution

X

PAIN  
DEATH  
KILLING  
THORNS  
DISEASE  
STRUGGLE  
SUFFERING  
CORRUPTION



Frank  
Hypothesis

X

Compromise  
Positions

X

THE  
VIEW

X





GOSPEL



GENESIS

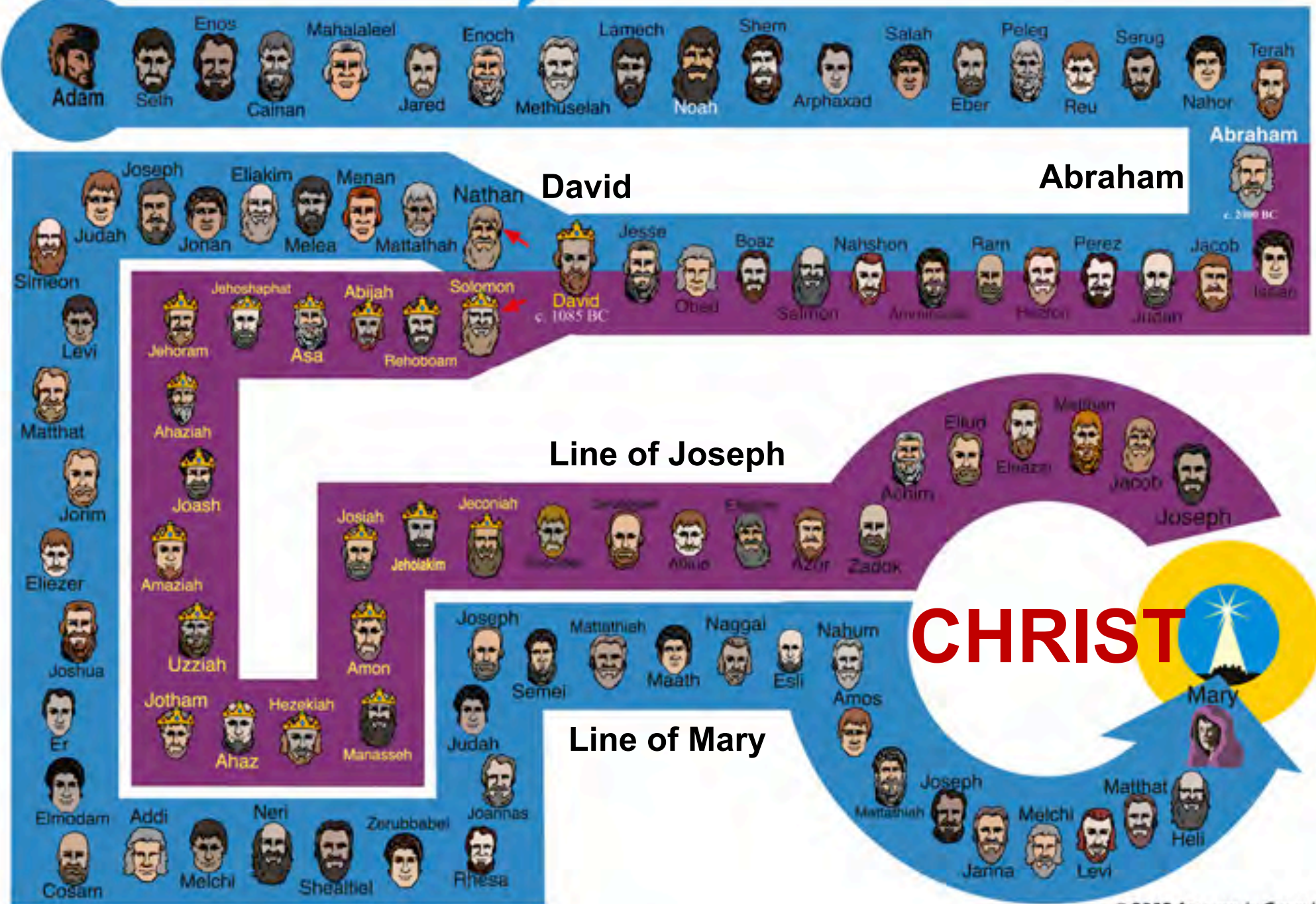
Genesis is foundational to the **gospel**

## 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."



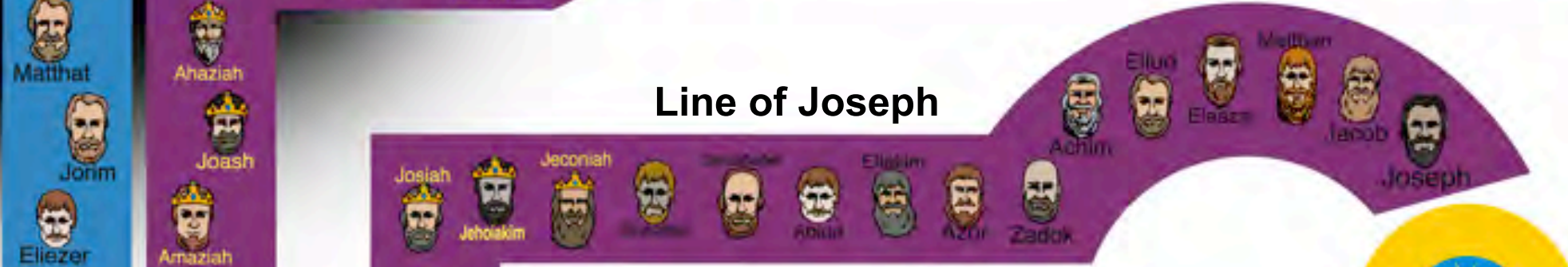
# From Adam to Christ!



**CHRIST**



# From Metaphor to Christ?



# CHRIST



Mary

**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.**



# 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

Man's Fallible Knowledge



My thinking in every area

Gay  
Marriage

Abortion

Euthanasia

Moral  
Relativism

# THE PROBLEM 5

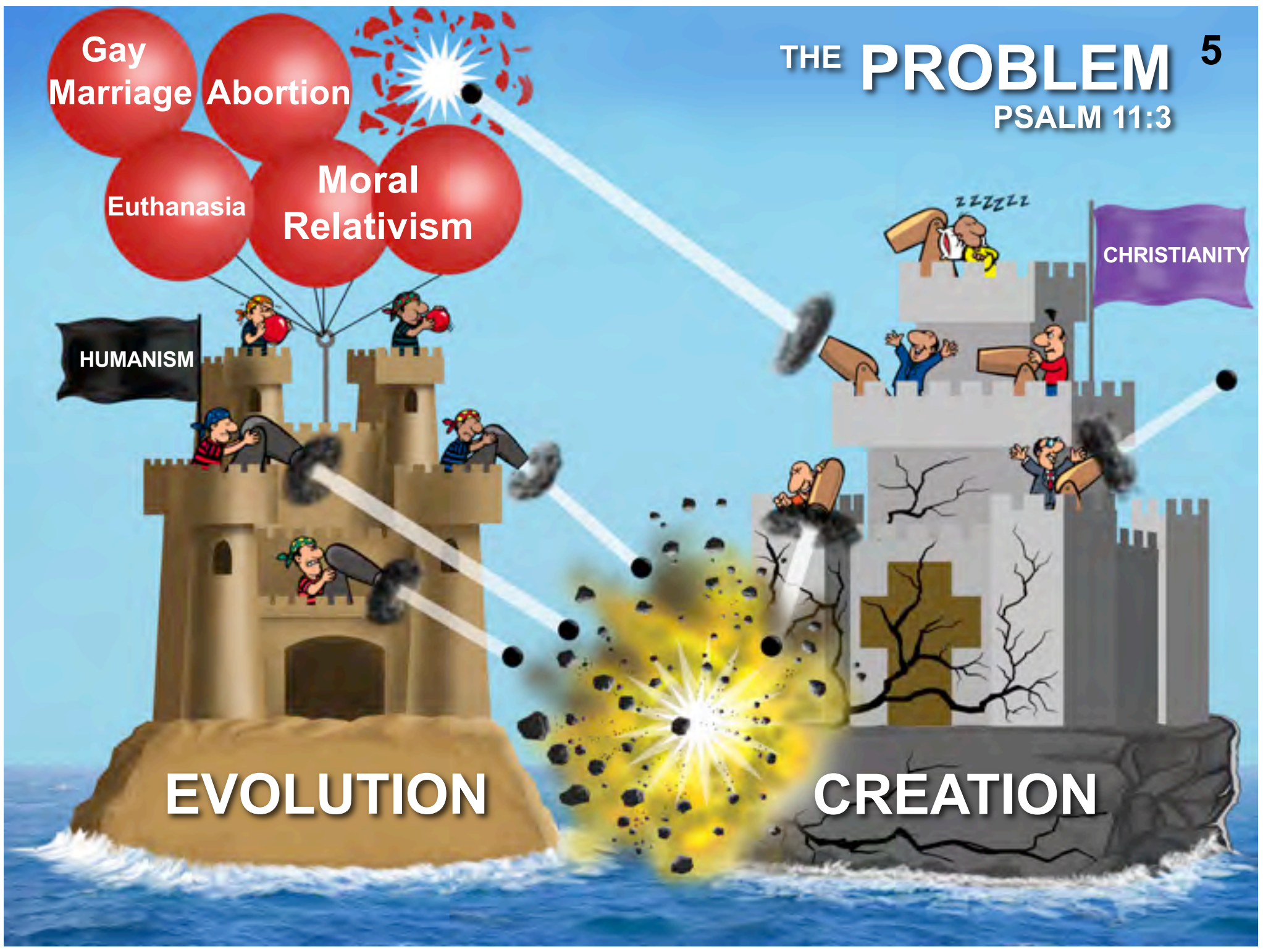
PSALM 11:3

HUMANISM

CHRISTIANITY

EVOLUTION

CREATION



REMOVE  
GOD FROM  
PLEDGE OF  
ALLEGIANCE

REMOVE  
THE CROSS  
FROM  
PUBLIC  
PLACES

PRAYER OUT  
OF PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS

NO CHRIST IN  
CHRISTMAS

5

GAY  
MARRIAGE

NO PUBLIC  
NATIVITY  
SCENES

SCHOOL  
VIOLENCE

CREATION  
OUT OF  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS

FAMILY  
BREAK-UP

RACISM

HOMOSEXUAL  
BEHAVIOR

NO  
LOVING  
GOD  
IN  
TRAGEDY

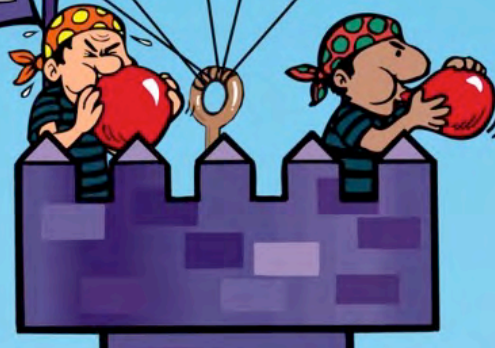
EUTHANASIA

ABORTION

PORNOGRAPHY

REMOVAL OF  
10 COMMAND-  
MENTS

HUMANISM

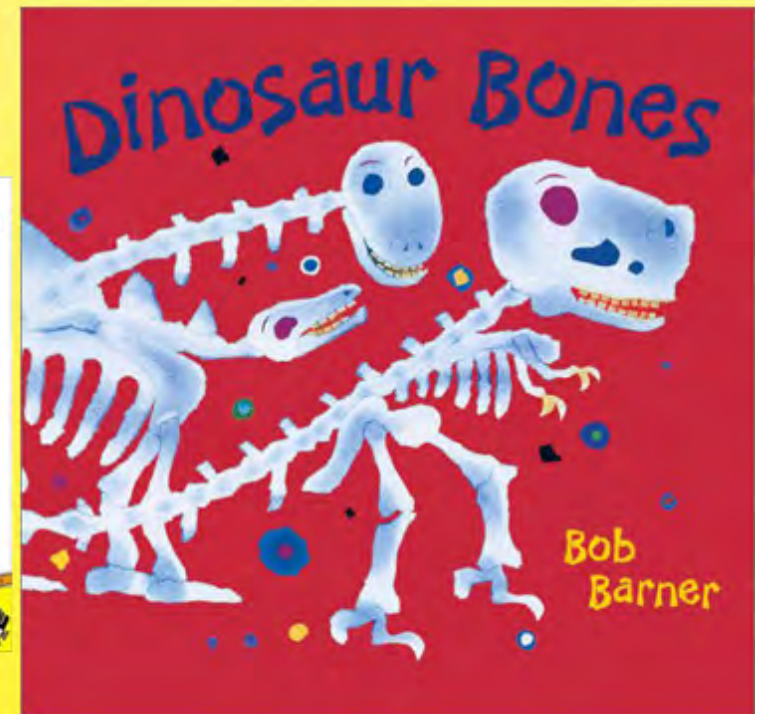
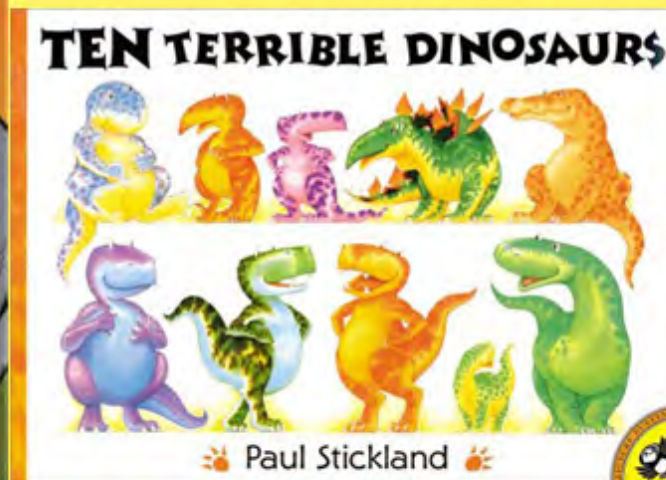
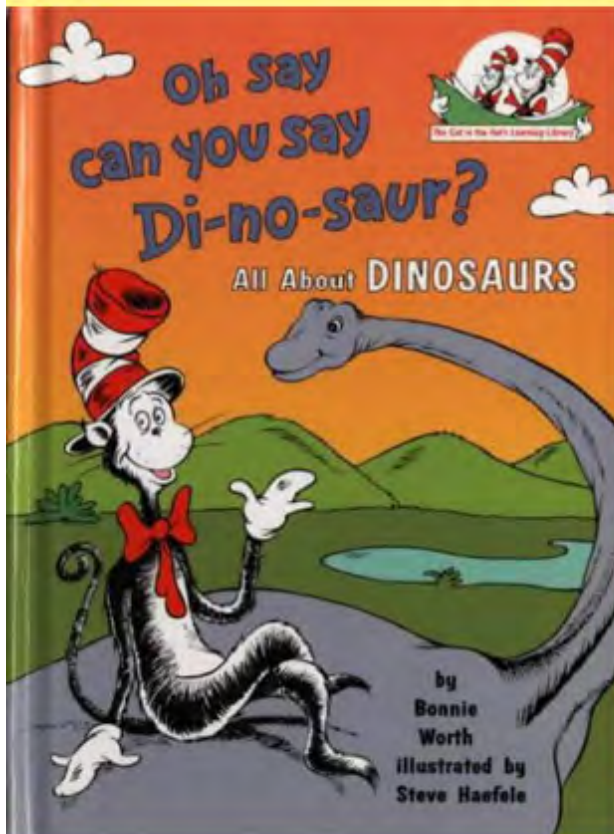
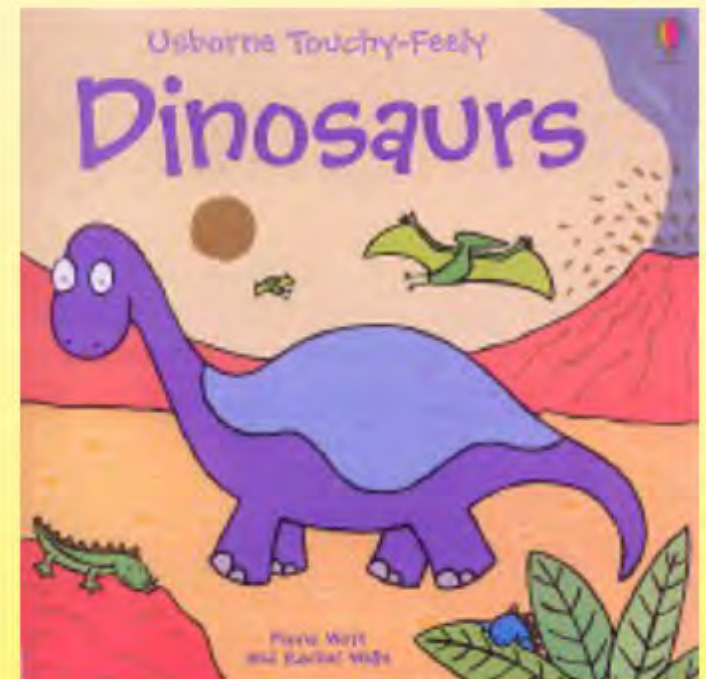
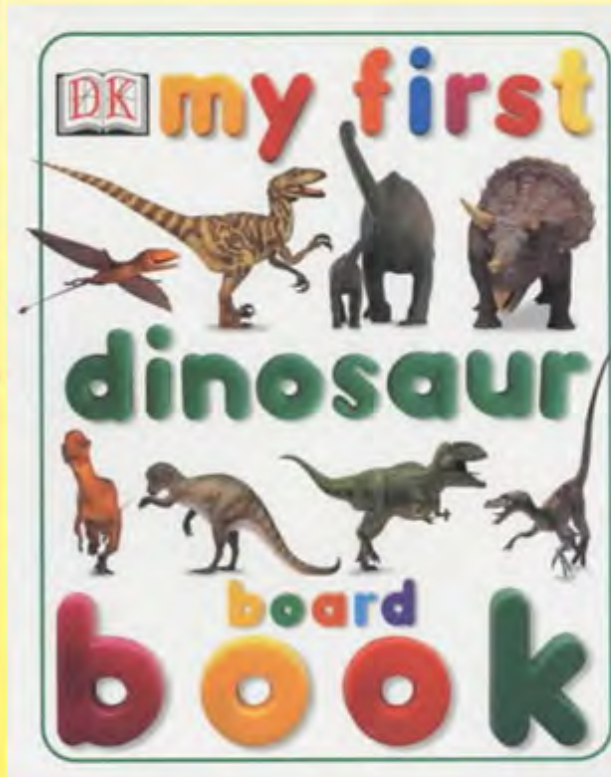
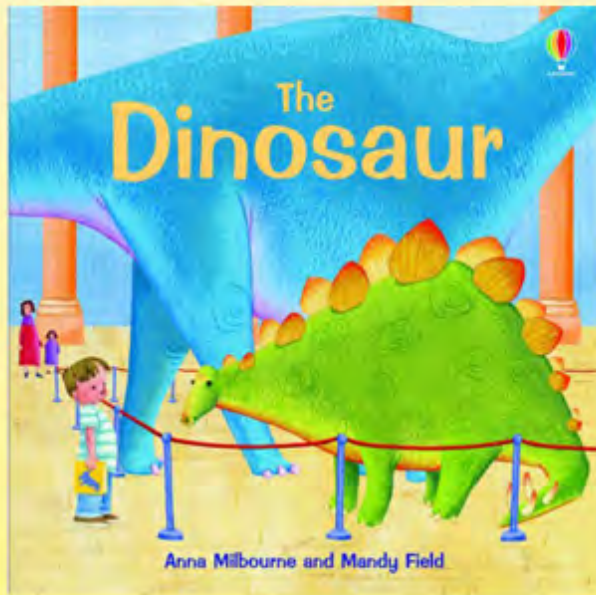


# Results of Humanism

# The Media assumes evolution is true 5



THE WORLD



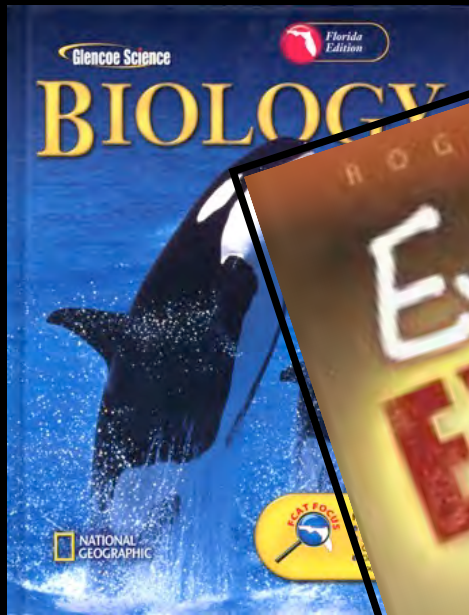
# Grand Canyon National Park

5





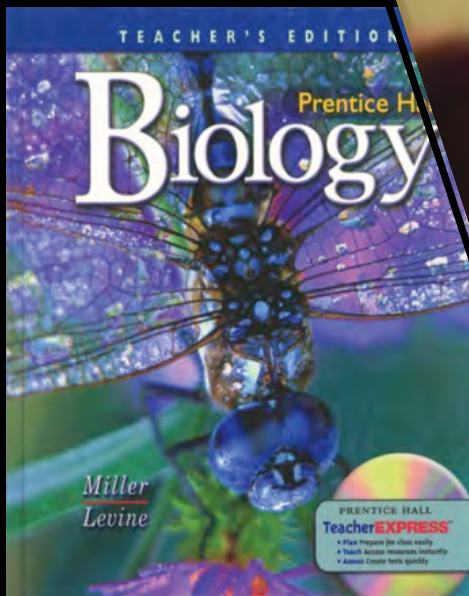
**Natural History Museum, London**



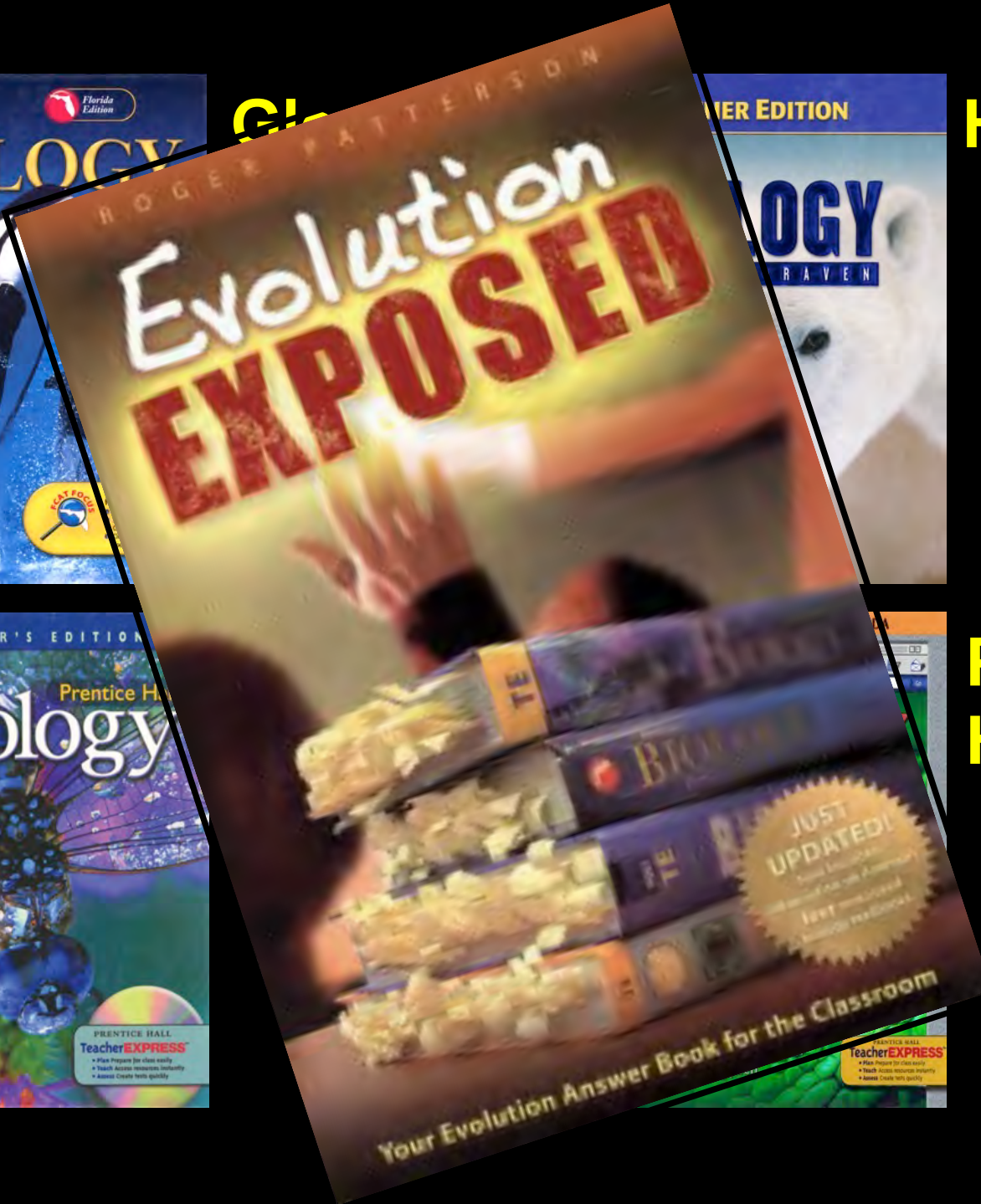
Glencoe



Holt



Prentice Hall





**What's Inside**

- [About UMD](#)
- [Academics](#)
- [Arts & Entertainment](#)
- [Athletics, Sports, & Recreation](#)
- [Campus Life](#)
- [Campus Services](#)
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- [Current Students](#)
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- [Community](#)

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- [30-60-90 Graduation Roadmap](#)
- [Admissions \(Undergraduate\)](#)
- [Admissions \(All Others\)](#)
- [Email](#)
- [Emergency Preparedness](#)
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- [Emergency Closings](#)
- [Events & Calendars](#)
- [This week at UMD](#)
- [Construction Updates](#)
- [News](#)

**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](#)

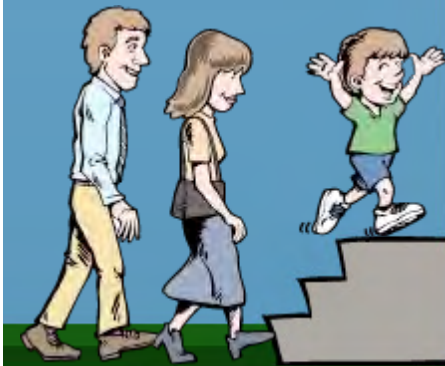


# Turning Church Kids into Skeptics

**BIBLE-  
BELIEVING**

**EVOLUTIONIZED**

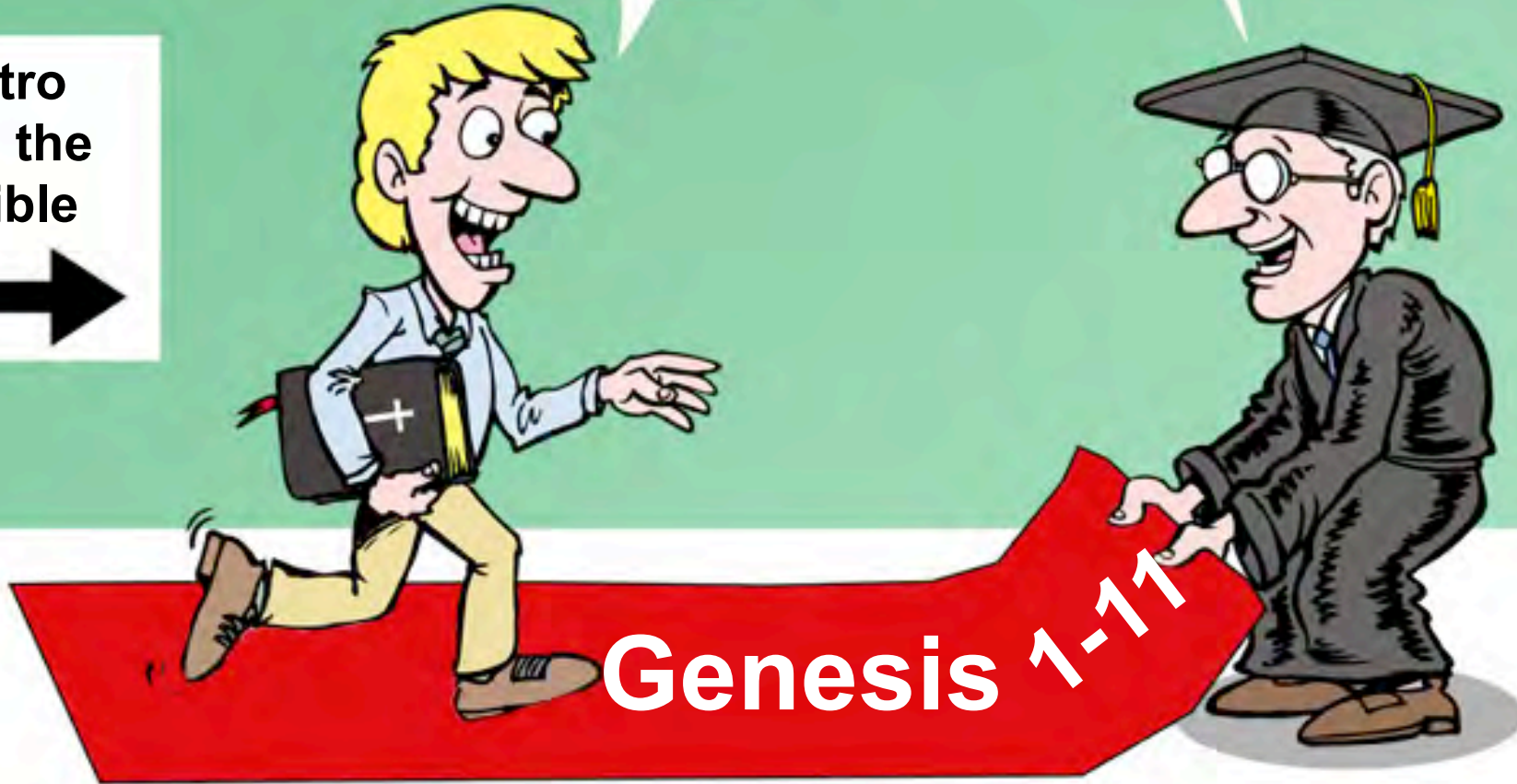
**Secular  
Media &  
Education**



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

WELCOME  
TO CHRISTIAN  
COLLEGE!

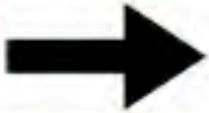
Intro  
to the  
Bible



Genesis 1-11

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

**Intro  
to the  
Bible**



# THE SOLUTION <sup>5</sup>

ISAIAH 58:12

Gay  
Marriage

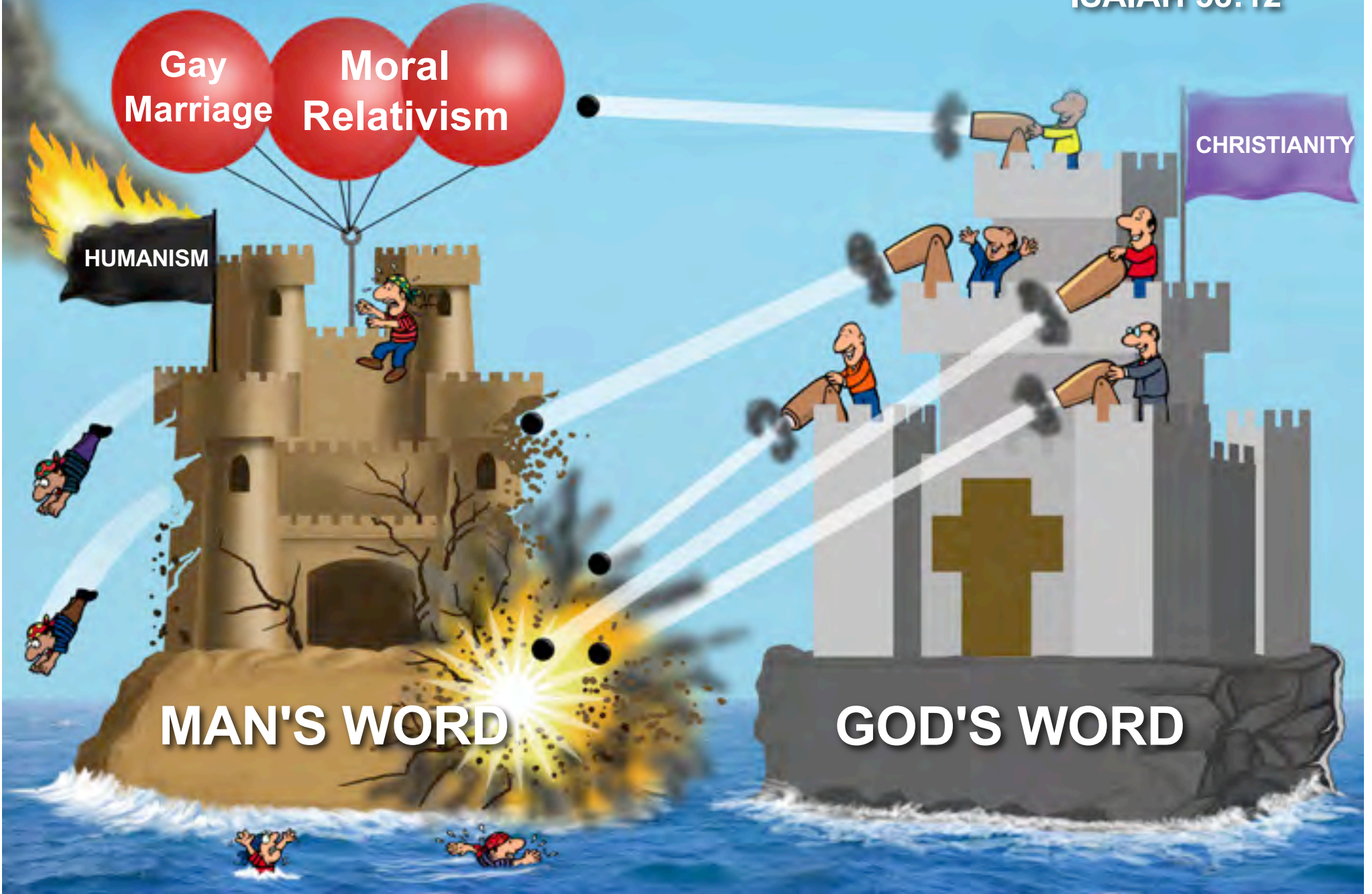
Moral  
Relativism

CHRISTIANITY

HUMANISM

MAN'S WORD

GOD'S WORD



# 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**





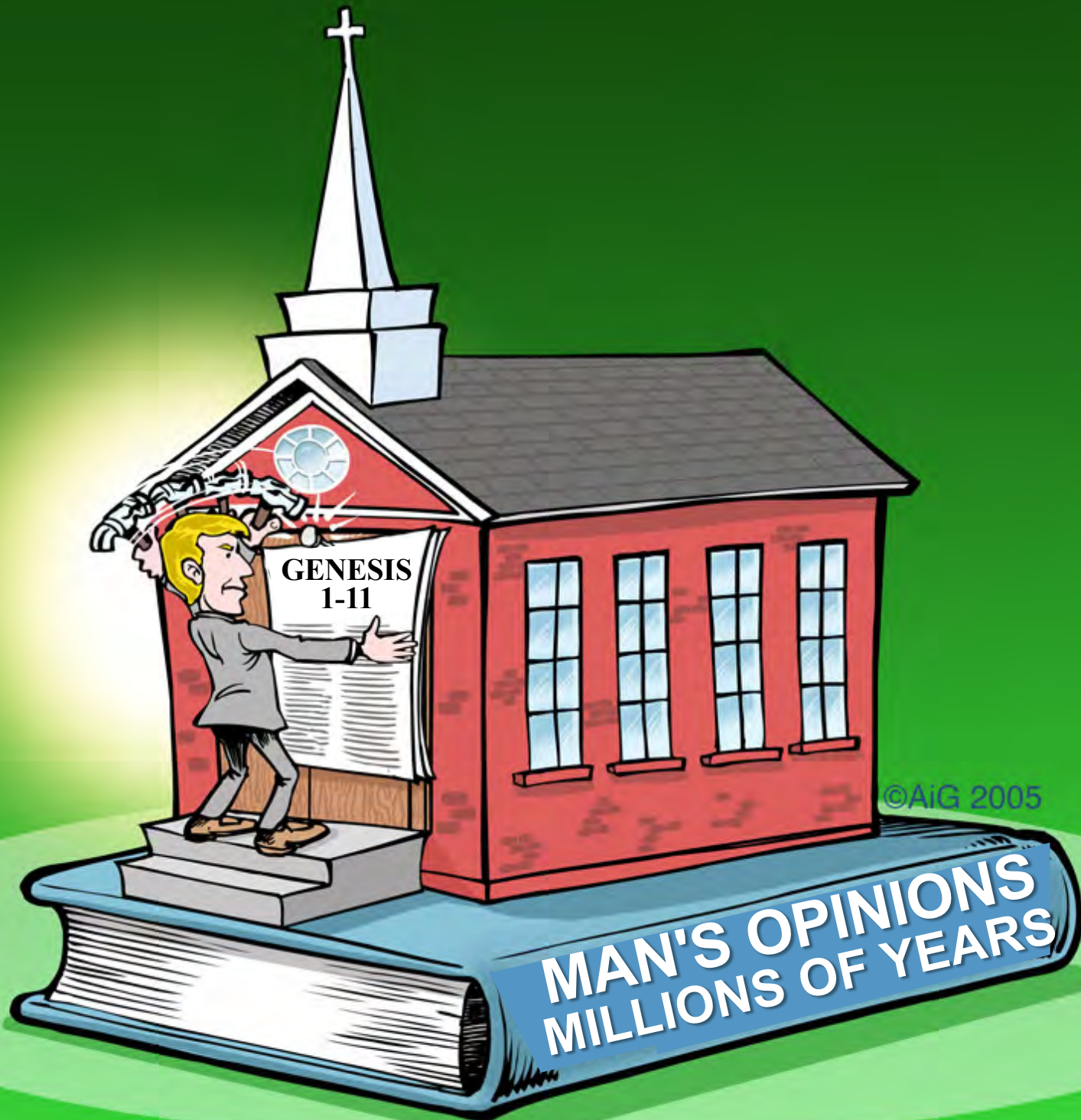
**answersingenesi.org**

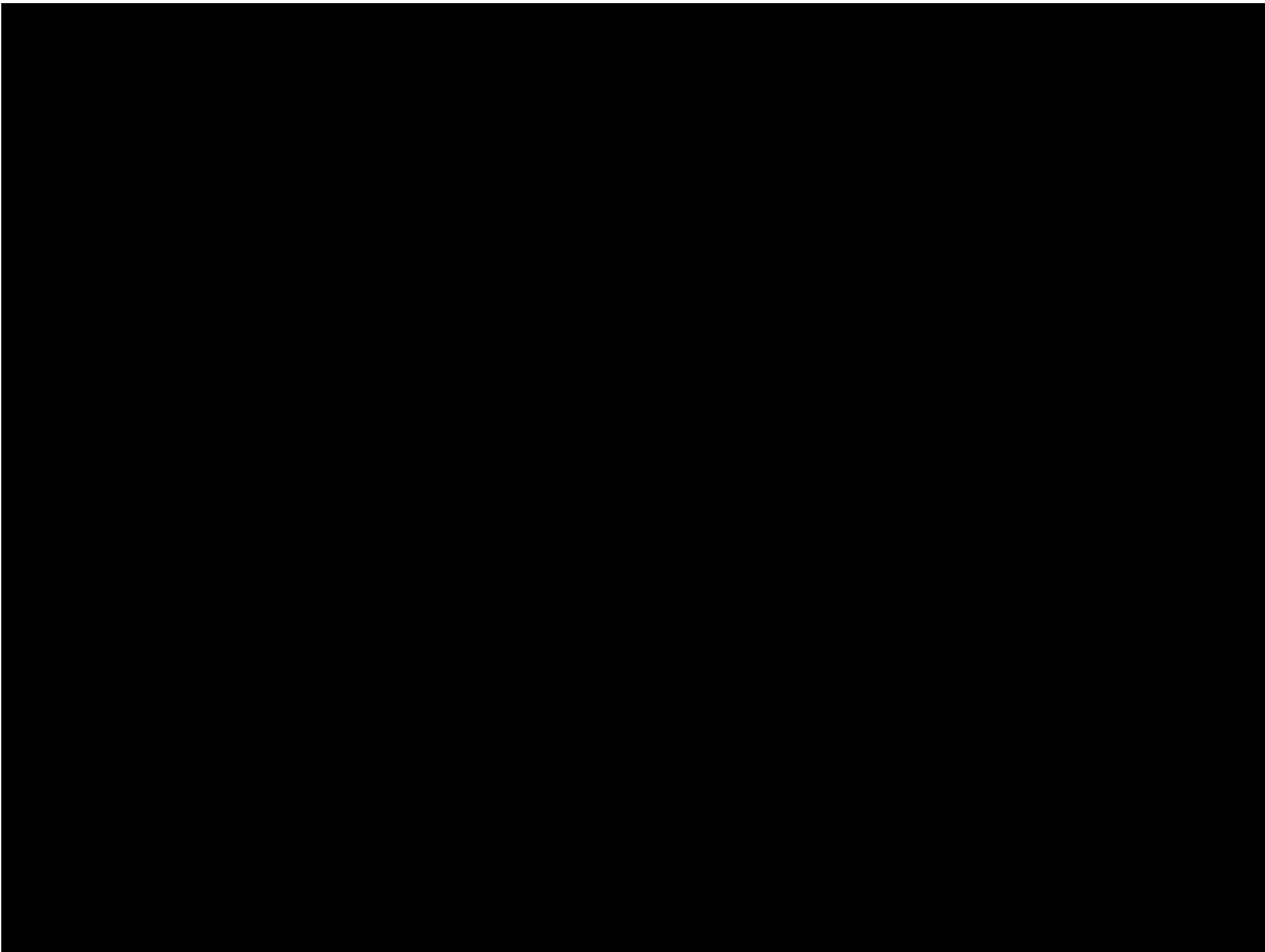
believing it. defending it. proclaiming it.

# **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!**





# Get this presentation for free!



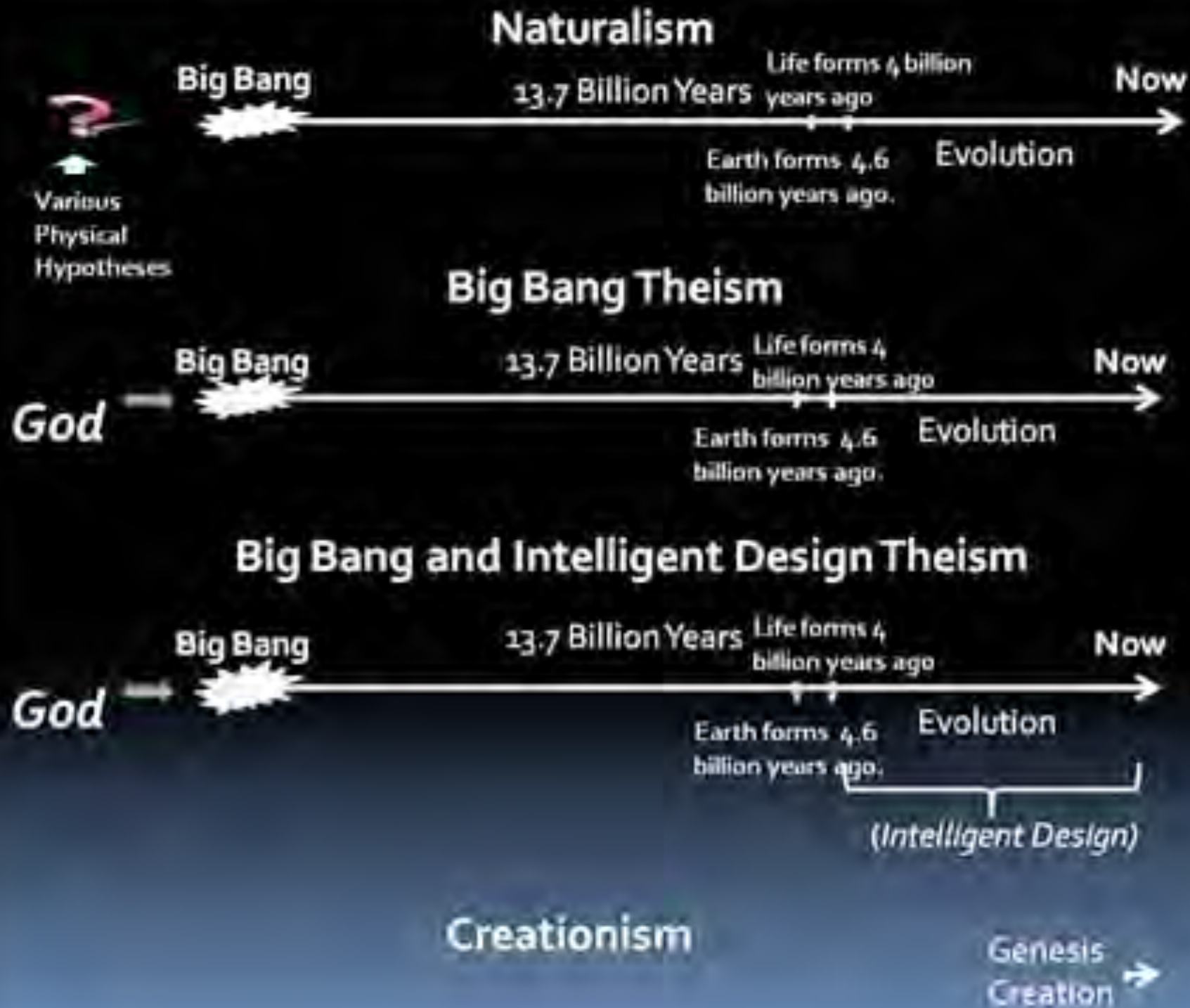
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**FACT**

**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?



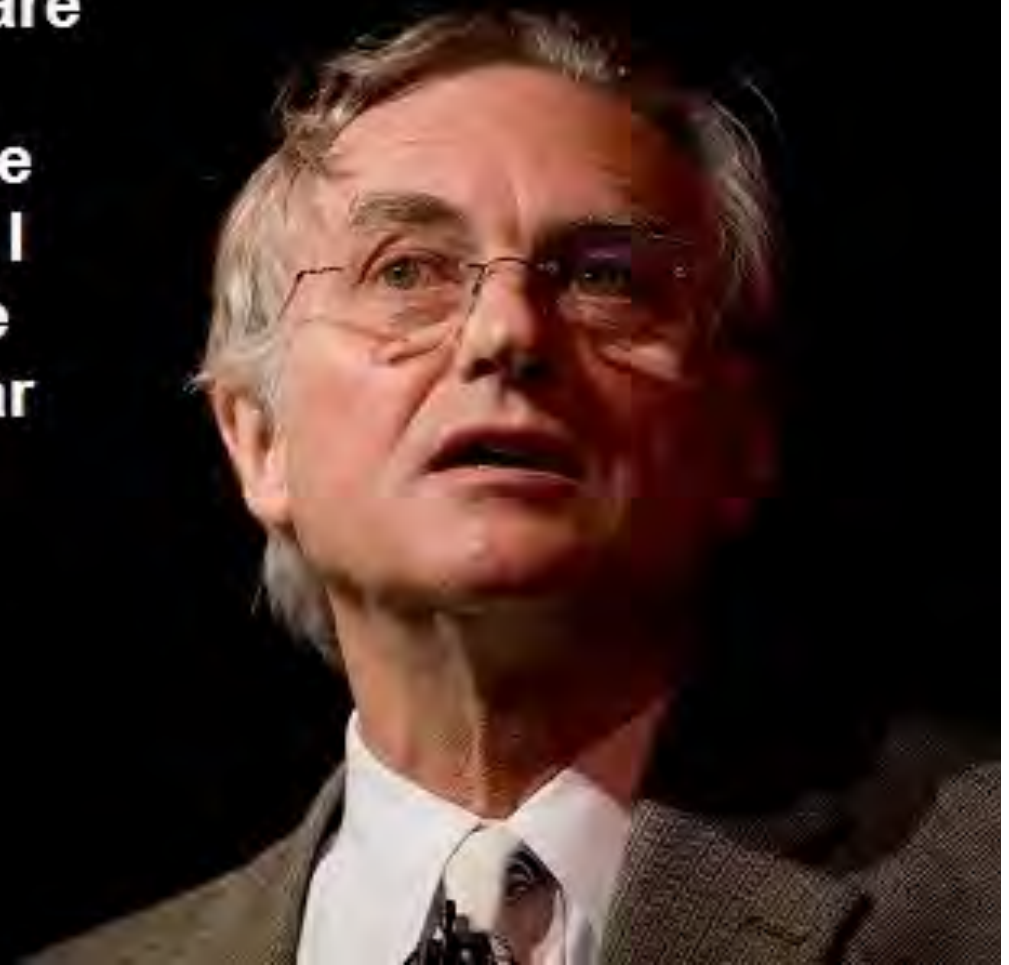
**MODERN MAN**  
This genius thinks we came from a monkey.  
*"Professing themselves to be wise they became fools."  
(Romans 1:22)*



**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**

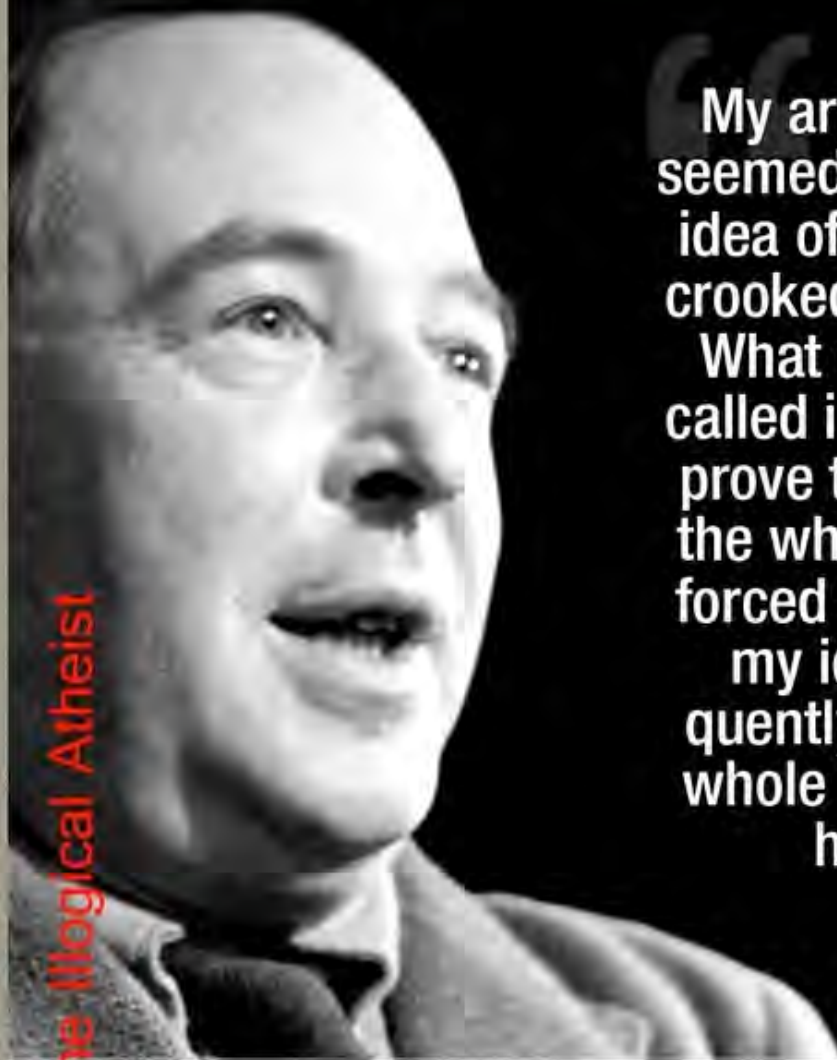
# Another Moral Argument for God



- 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



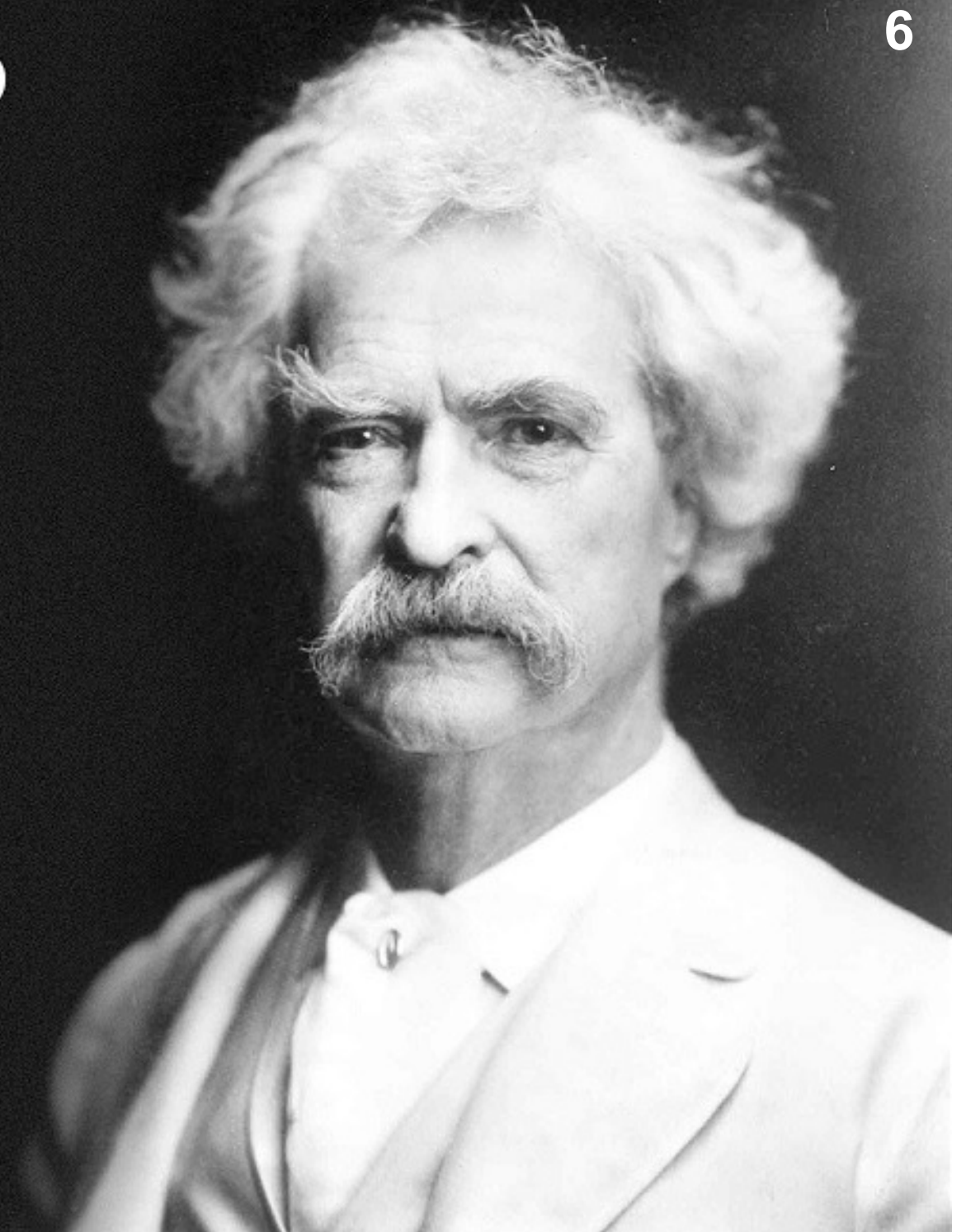
“My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. Just how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust? ... Thus in the very act of trying 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

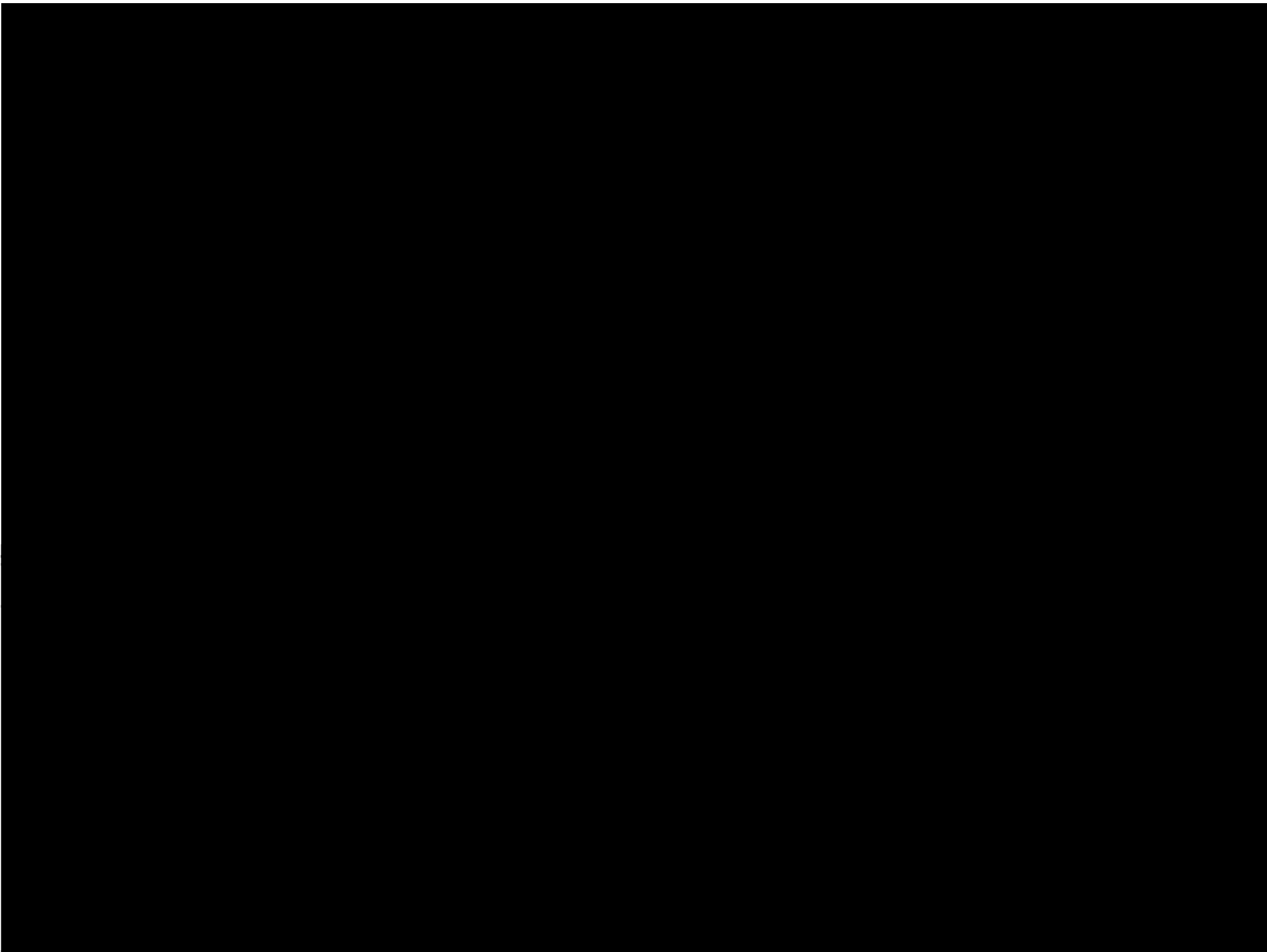
“IT'S EASIER TO  
FOOL PEOPLE  
THAN TO  
CONVINCE  
THEM THAT  
THEY HAVE  
BEEN FOOLED.”

~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.

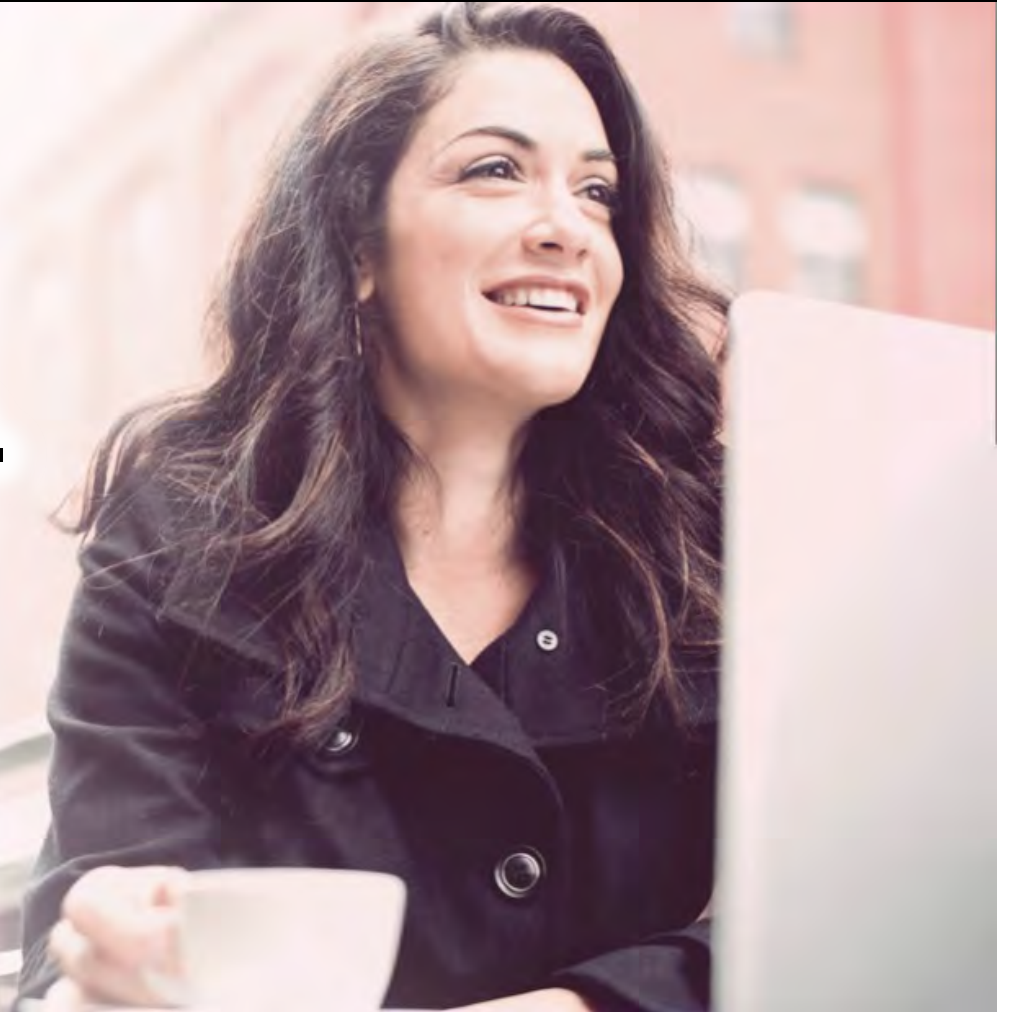
**Jenn 13:1**

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



Without God. We're all good.

[cficanada.ca](http://cficanada.ca)



We trust **ourselves**  
instead of God.

**De** Luke 27:1

Lead with your heart.  
Not with your Bible.



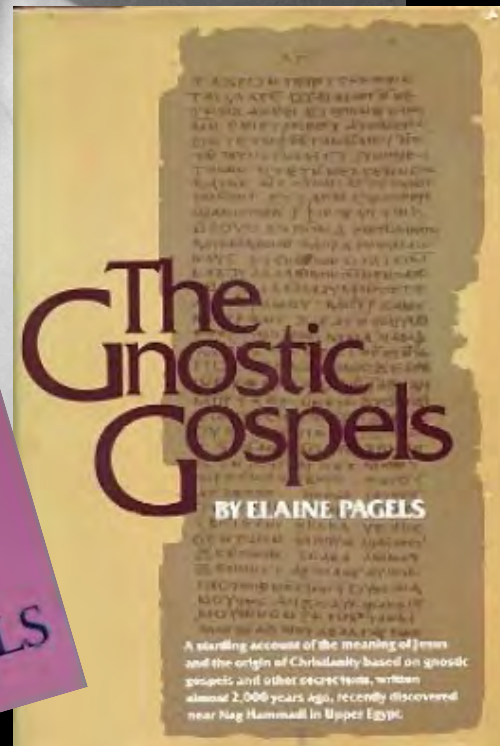
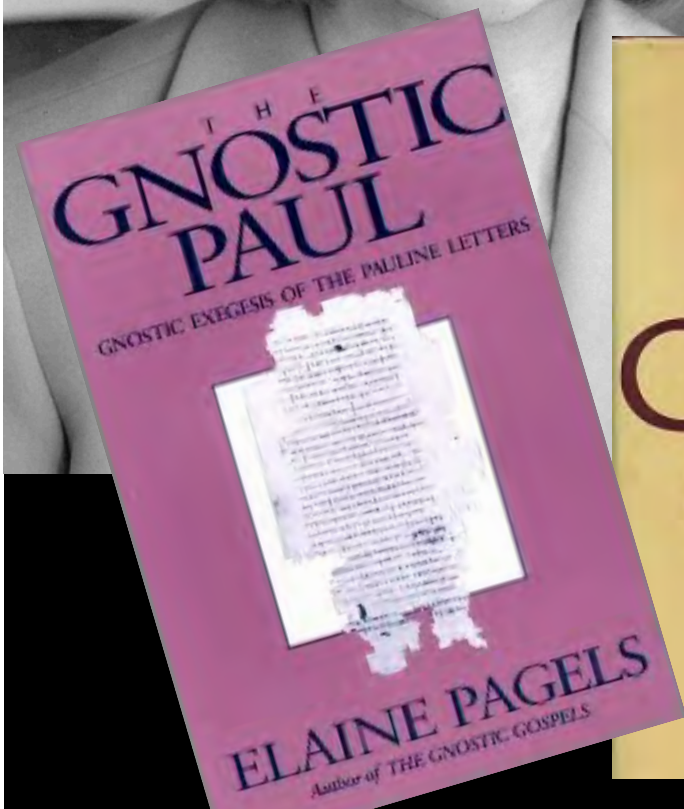
Without God. We're all good.

[cficanada.ca](http://cficanada.ca)

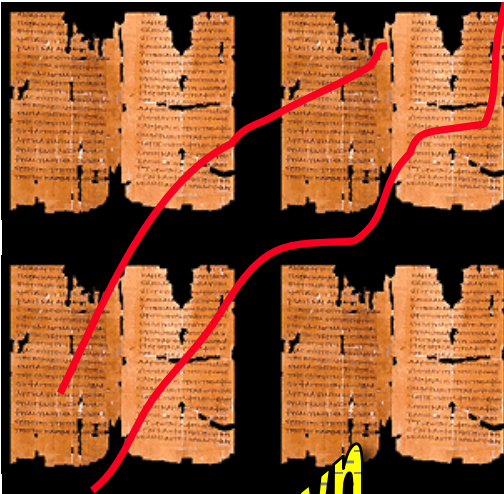


# Some liberal <sup>7</sup> scholars redefine Christianity

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



# Smearing History <sup>7</sup>



**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 <sup>7</sup>

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 <sup>7</sup>

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 (130-140)  
 Justin Martyr (150-202)  
 Origen (185-254)  
 Cyril of Jerusalem (315-386)  
**Marcion (140)**  
**Muratonian (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?

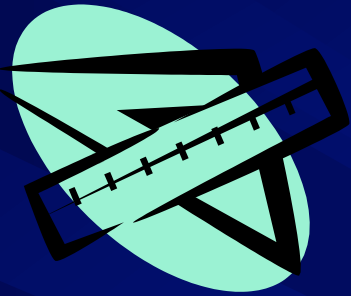
1st Cent.

AD 325

Council of Nicaea

Geisler & Nix, *Introduction to the Bible* (Chicago: Moody, 1968)





# 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	
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)
Proverbs	
Job	
Song of Solomon	
Ruth	
Lamentations	
Ecclesiastes	
Esther	
Daniel	
Ezra	
Nehemiah	
Chronicles	

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

Christian Bible
Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy
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
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	
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Christian Bible
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Hosea
Joel
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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







***You can read without vowels too!***

W rrlly rd nglsh wtht 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!

# 1. Hebrew: The Masoretic Text (MT)



■ Unpointed text

(1400 BC – AD 800)

■ Pointed text by Masoretes

(AD 800 - present)

בראשית ברא אלהים

mhl rb hthsrb

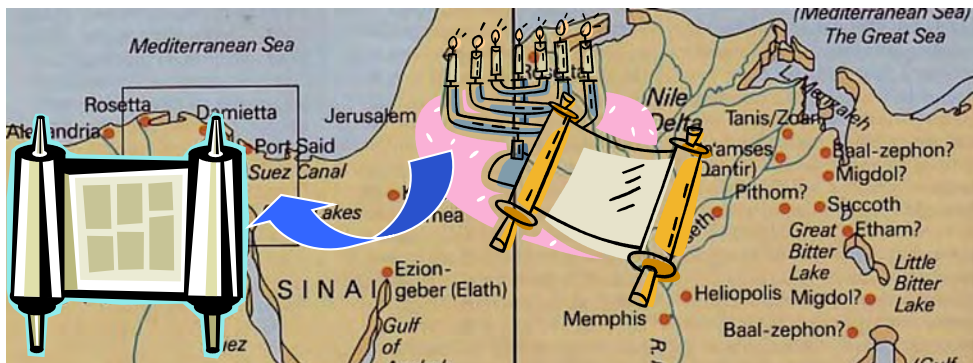
mihole arab htihser eb

Bereshith bara elohim

In the beginning God created

בראשית ברא אלהים

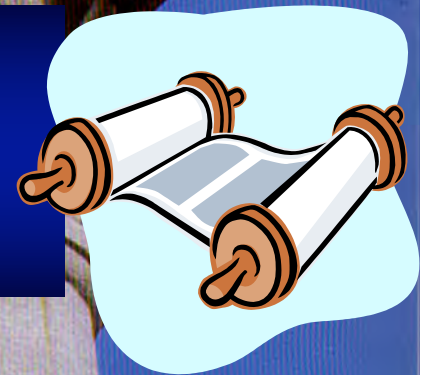




## 2. Greek: The Septuagint (LXX)

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

בראשית ברא אלהים

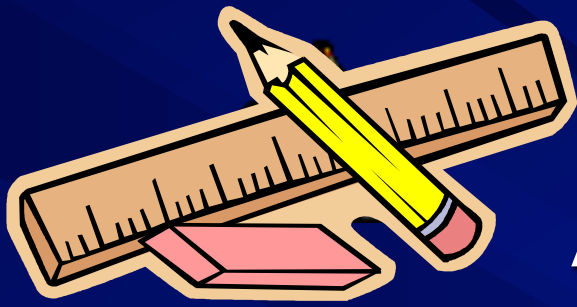


ἐν ἀρχῇ ἐποίησεν ὁ θεὸς

# 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 Canoncity

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

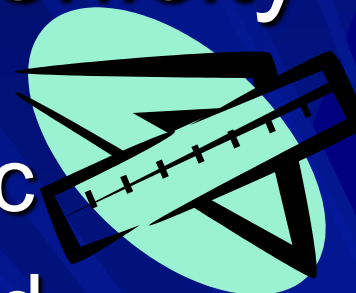
	Irenaeus of Lyons c. AD130-200	Muratorian Canon AD170-210	Eusebius' EH 3.25 c. AD260-340	Athanasius' 39th Paschal letter AD367	Present Order
Matthew					Matthew
Mark					Mark
Luke					Luke
John					John
Acts					Acts
Romans					Romans
1 Corinthians					1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians					2 Corinthians
Galatians					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	

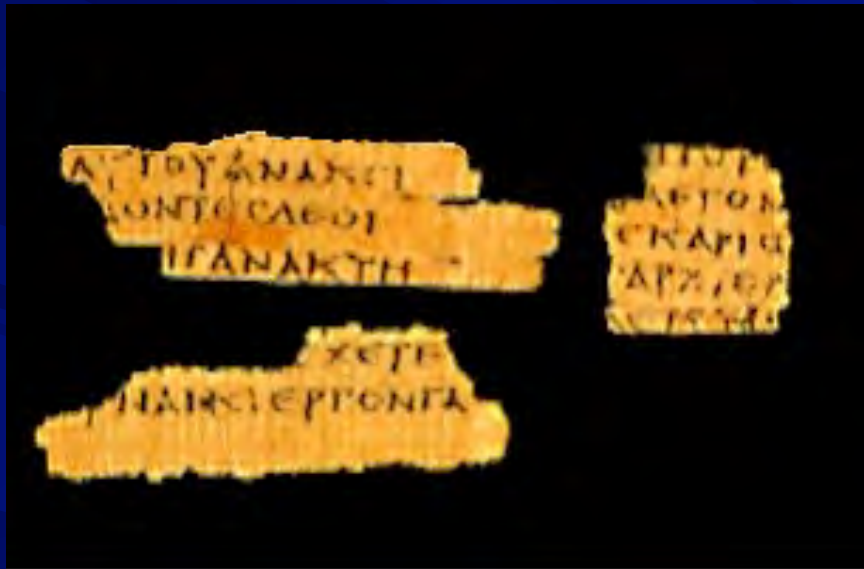
- Gospels
- Pauline Epistles, probably collected into a corpus c. AD 80-85
- 'Catholic' Epistles
- Disputed
- Apocryphal (selected works)
- S Spurious
- Permitted reading
- \*\* Permitted reading but not for public worship

# NT Canonicity

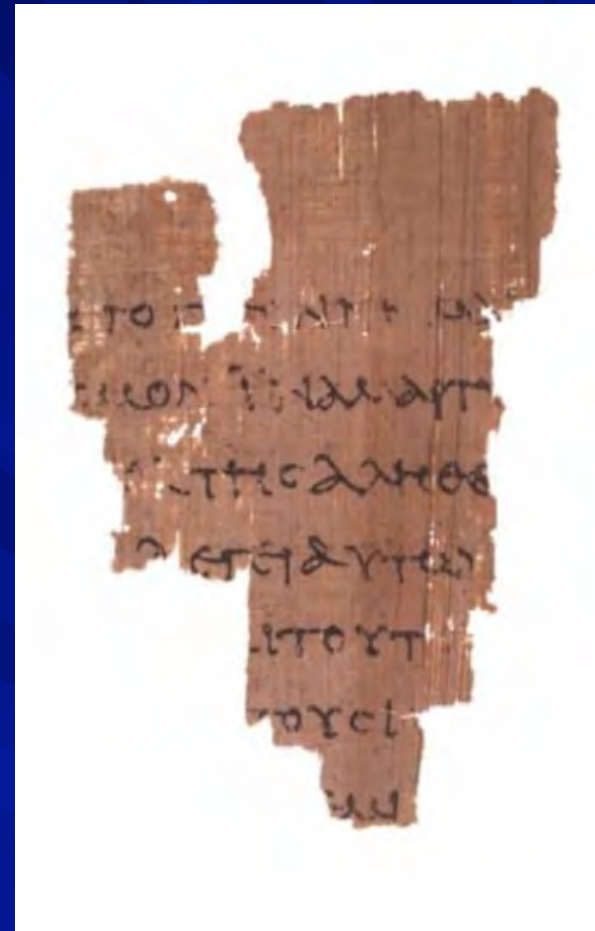
- Apostolic
- Accepted



# Really Early Fragments!



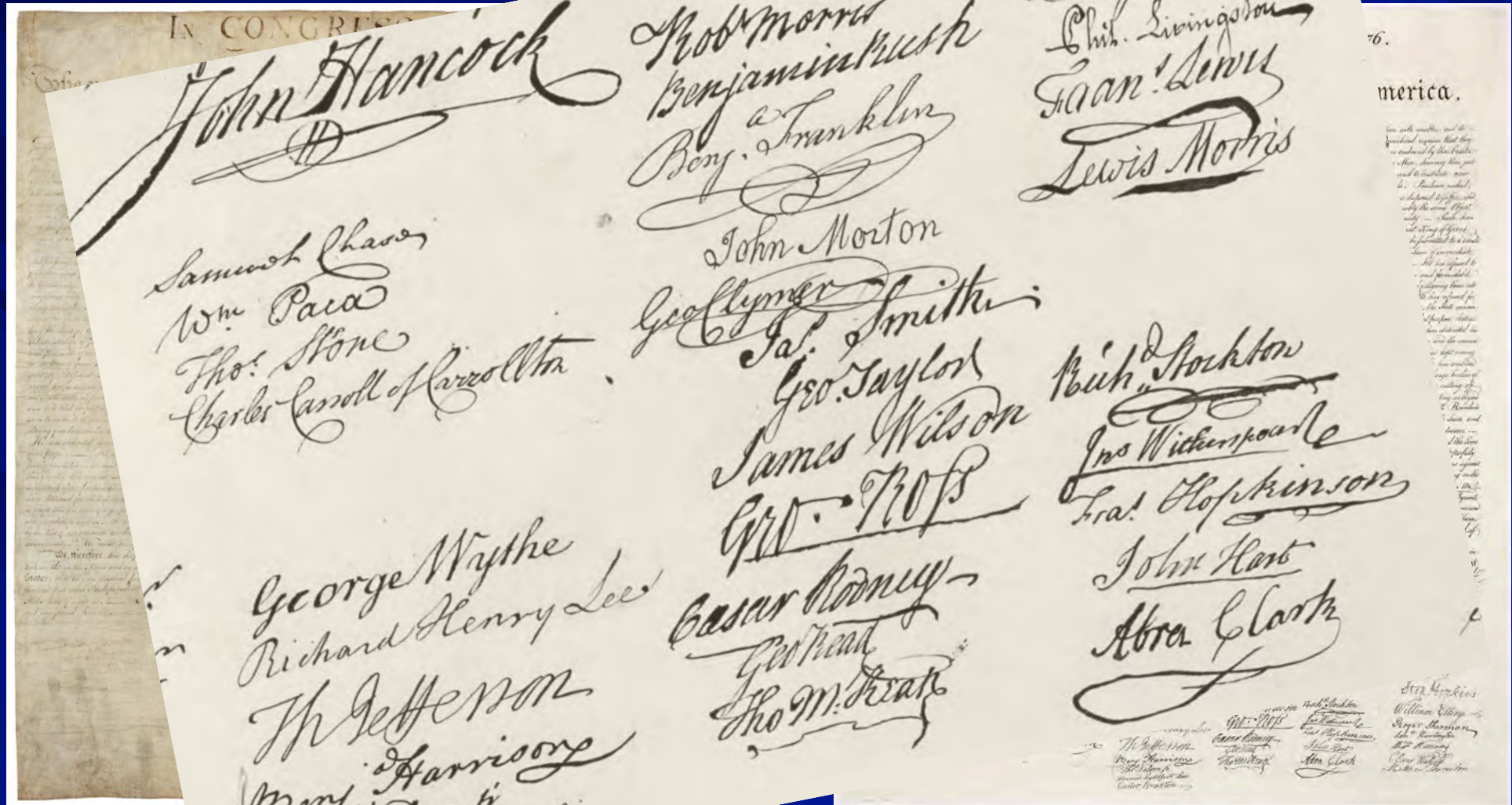
- Magdalen Fragment of Matthew
- AD 50-200



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

# Why No Original NT B

? 7



- Original Declaration of Independence
- AD 1776

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

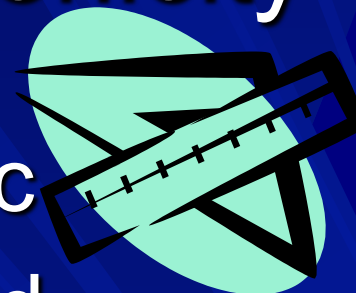
	Irenaeus of Lyons c. AD130-200	Muratorian Canon AD170-210	Eusebius' EH 3.25 c. AD260-340	Athanasius' 39th Paschal letter AD367	Present Order
Matthew					Matthew
Mark					Mark
Luke					Luke
John					John
Acts					Acts
Romans					Romans
1 Corinthians					1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians					2 Corinthians
Galatians					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
- Pauline Epistles, probably collected into a corpus c. AD 80-85
- 'Catholic' Epistles
- Disputed
- Apocryphal (selected works)
- S Spurious
- Permitted reading
- \*\* 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). <sup>7</sup>

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

Rome  
Peter Wrote 2 Peter  
AD 64

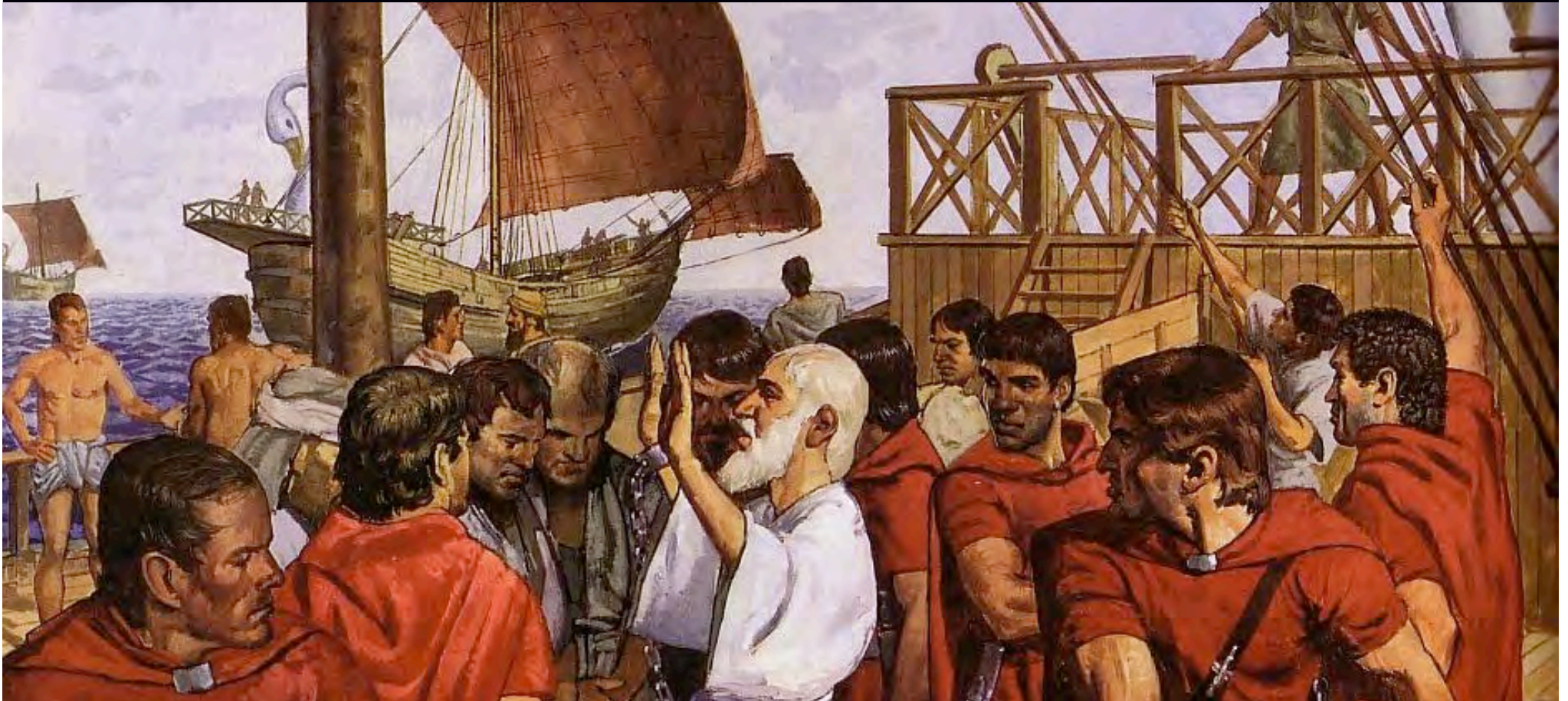
**Peter Also  
Called Paul's  
Letters  
"Scripture"!**

"...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 Jesus<sup>8</sup> was only a man" really need to worship secretly in the catacombs? Nonsense!**



Would Christians who "believed that Jesus<sup>8</sup> 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 <sup>8</sup>

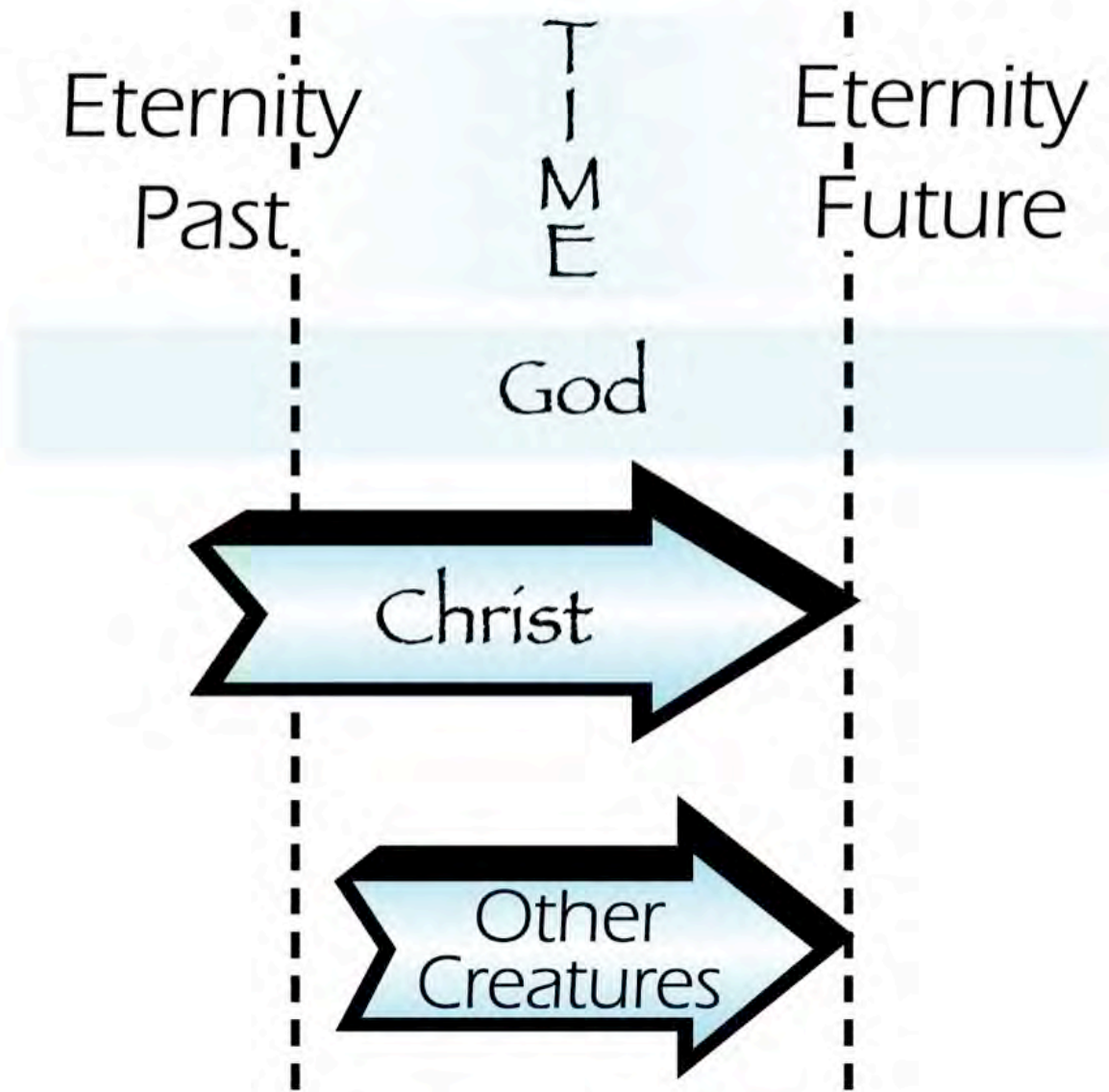


Chart 61

# Arianism: Opponents and the Issue

Alexander:  
*Bishop of  
Alexandria*

Arius:  
*Presbyter under  
Alexander*

**Father**

**Father**

---

**Son**

**Son**

---

**Creation**

**Creation**

Chart 62

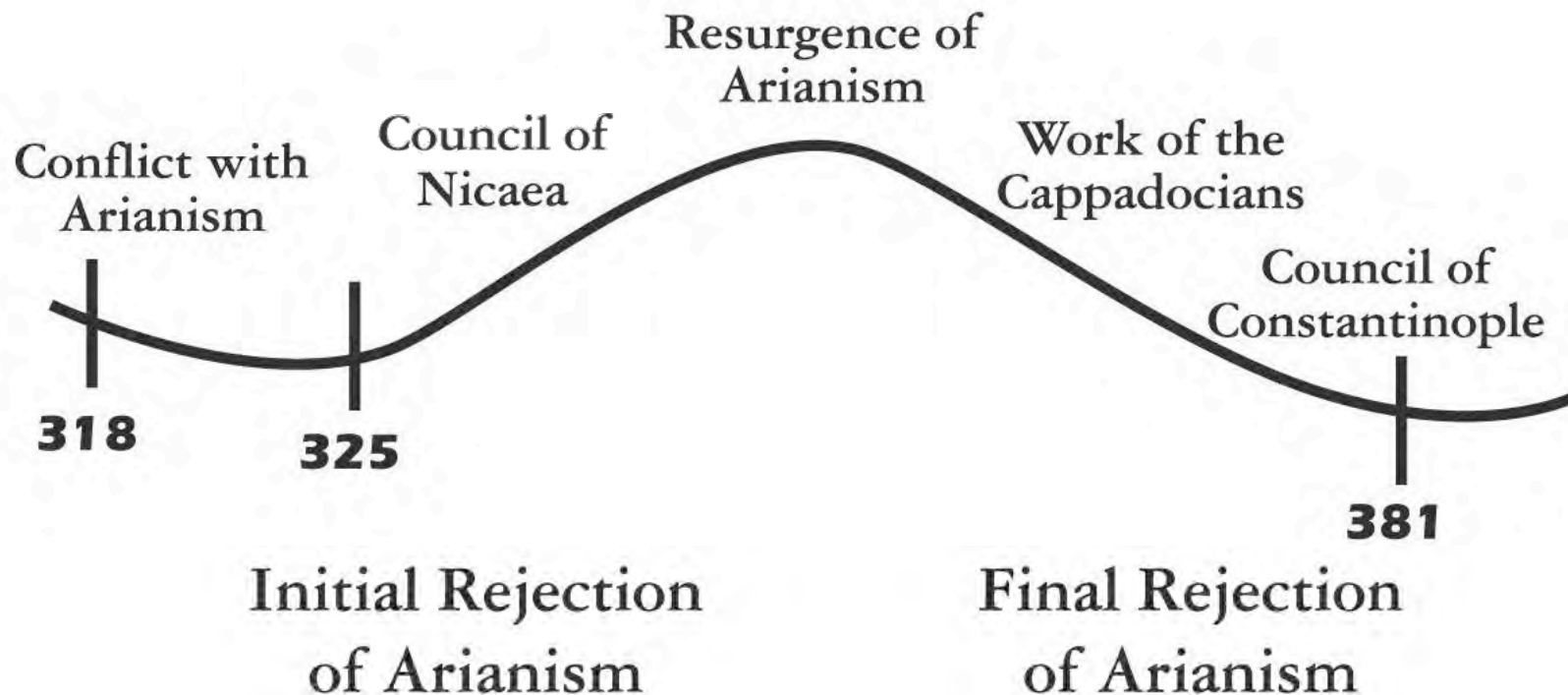
# The Nicene Creed (AD 325)

**W**e 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.

# The Arian Controversy and Trinitarianism<sup>8</sup>



# The Resurgence of Arianism

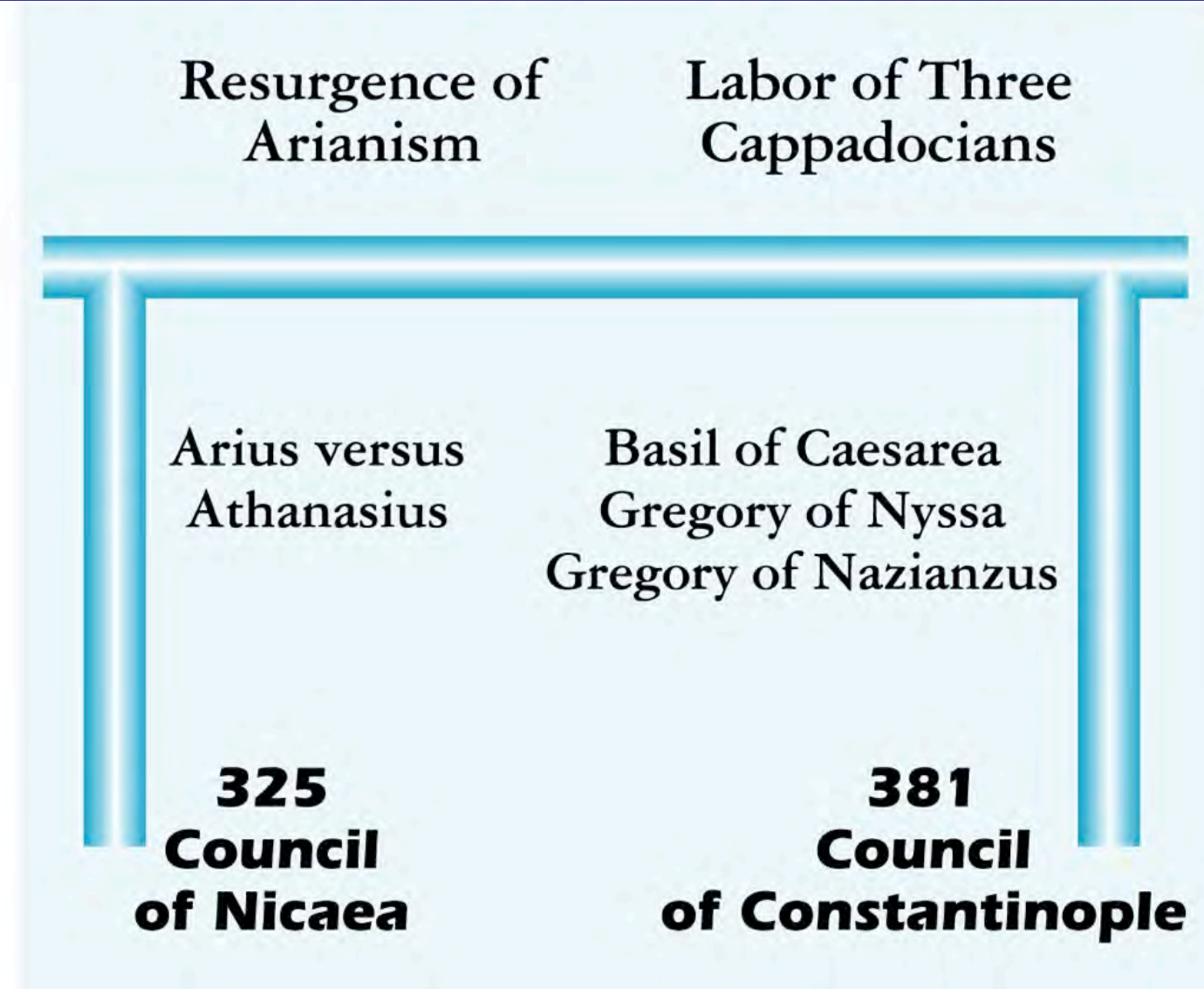
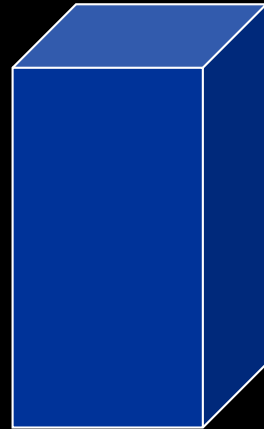
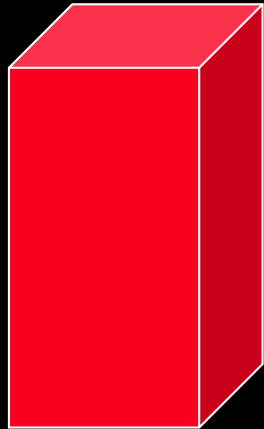


Chart 65

# What About Nicaea?

**Fiction**

**Fact**



8

300 votes

**Arians:**  
"Jesus Not God"

**Orthodox:**  
"Jesus is God"

**Arians:**  
"Jesus Not God"

**Orthodox:**  
"Jesus is God"

**AD 325**

**Council of Nicaea**

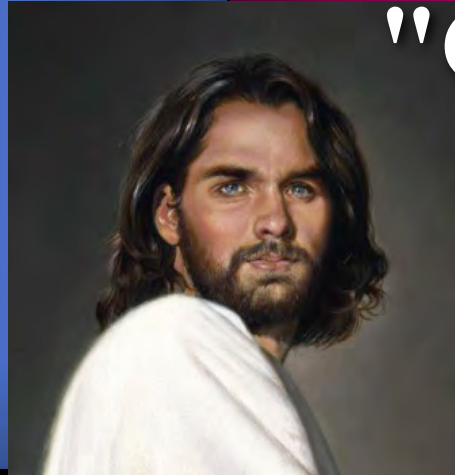


# **Biblical Interpretation Errors**

**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

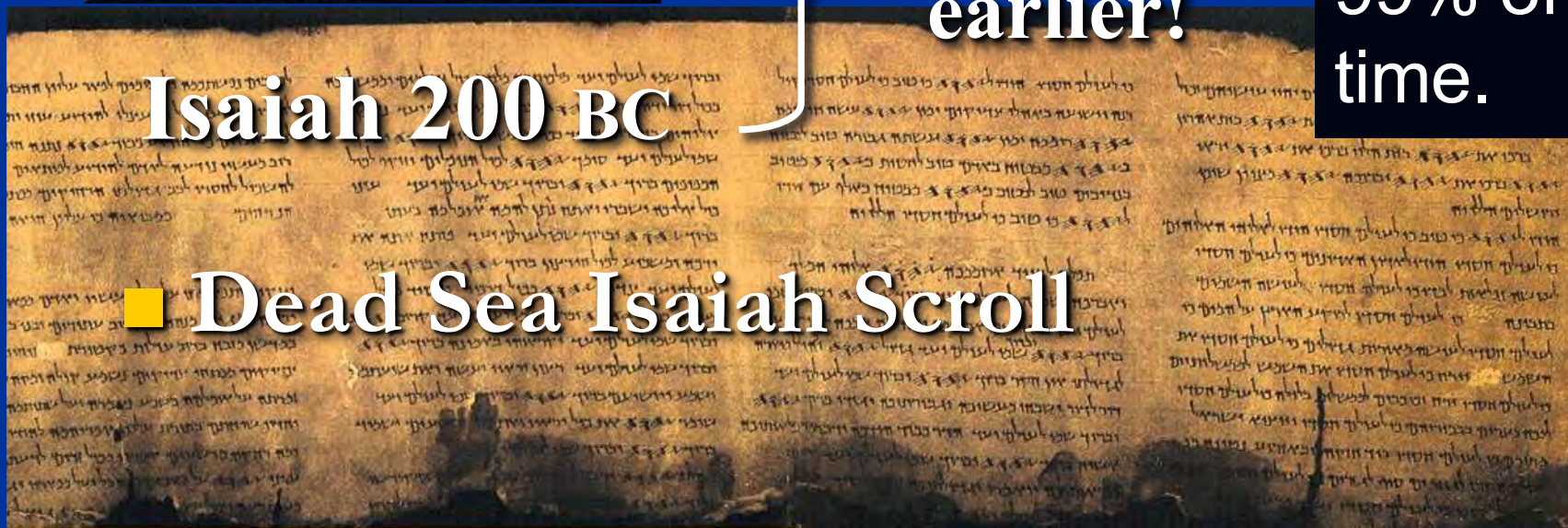
- Masoretic Isaiah Scroll



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



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

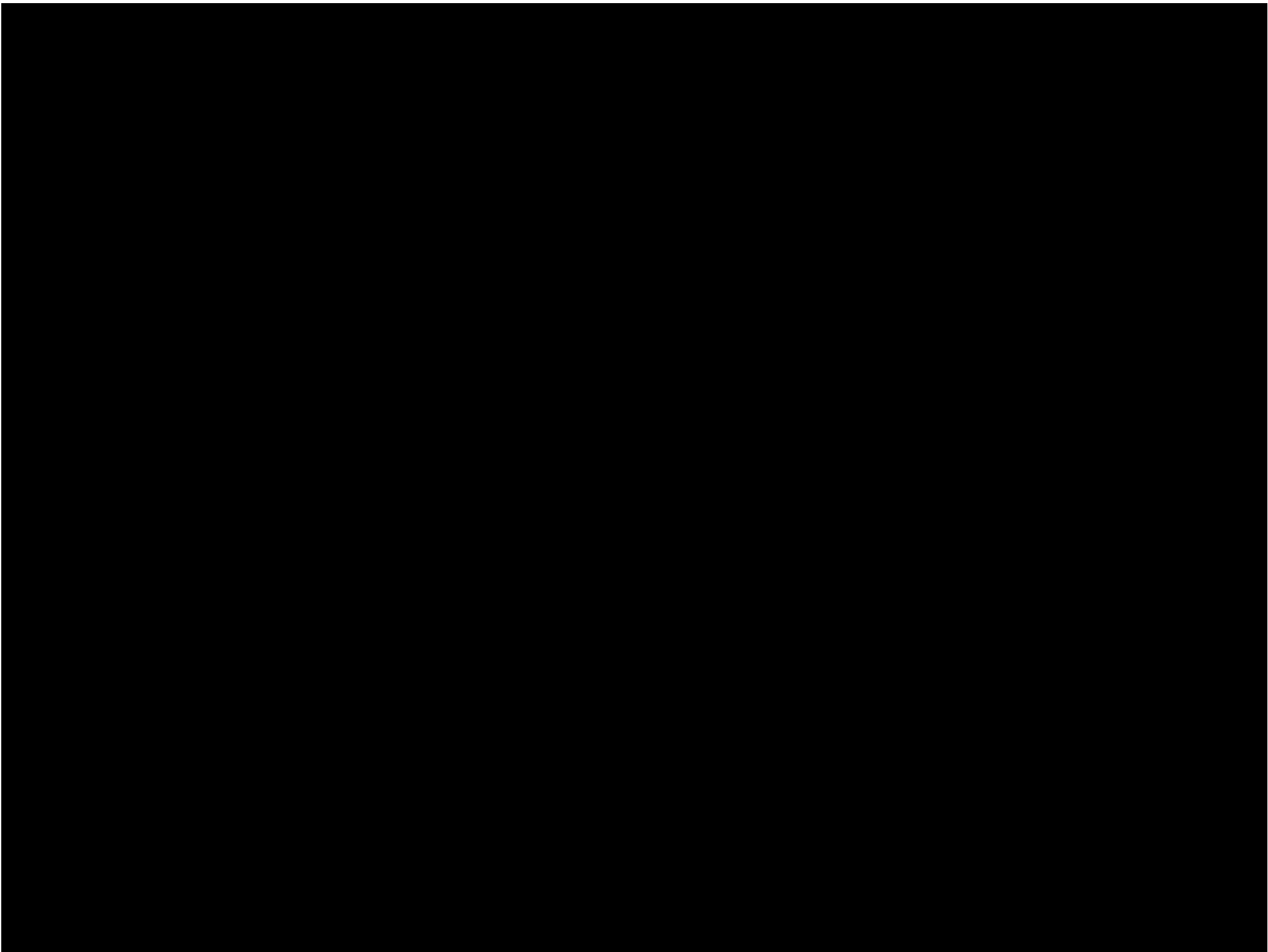
4 letters = **stylistic** changes

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

17 letters = no affect on biblical teachings

# 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




# Was Jesus a Myth?

11



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



 American Atheists • Reasonable since 1963 •

LAMAR



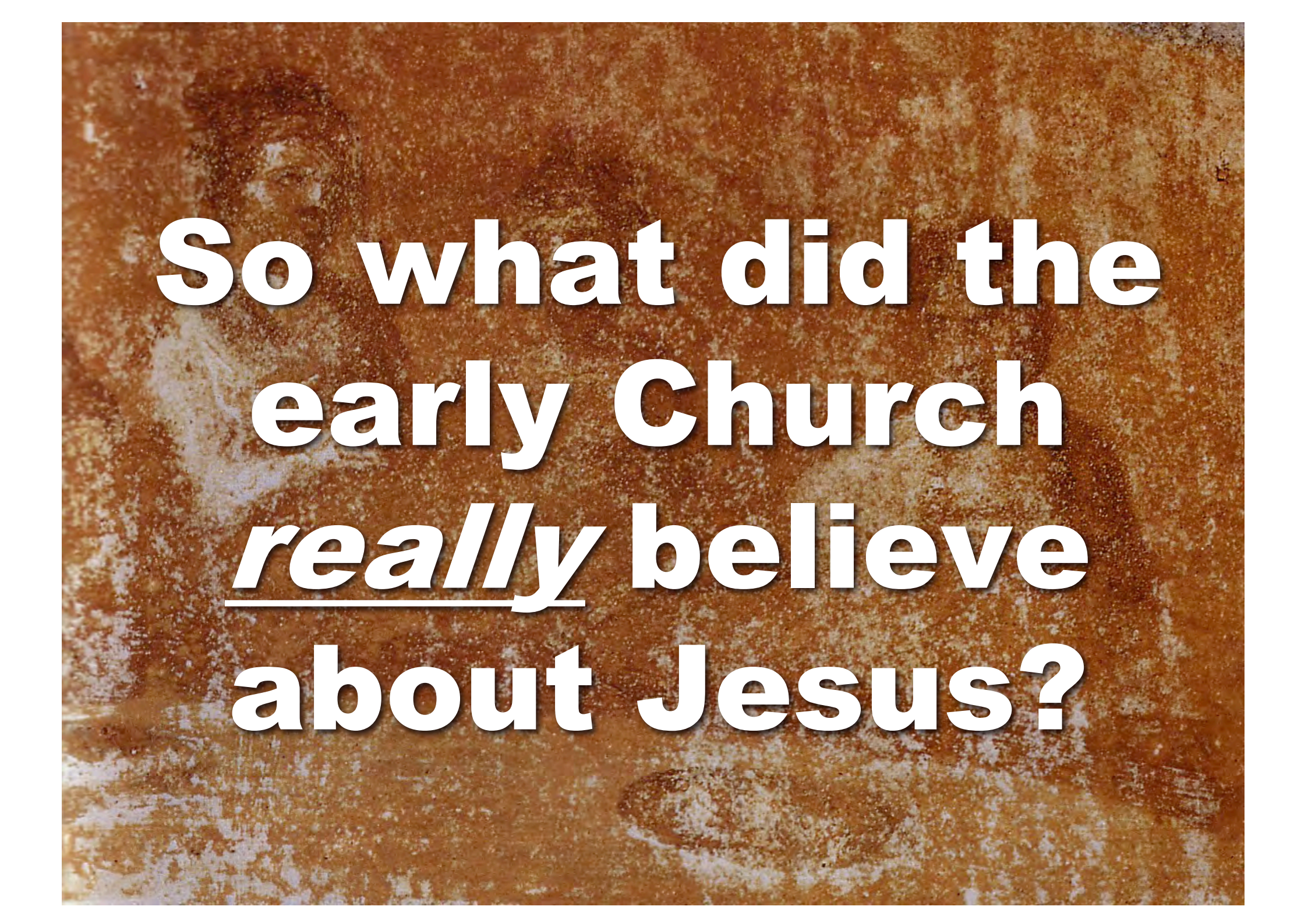
*Keep the MERRY!*



*Dump the MYTH!*

 **american atheists** [atheists.org](http://atheists.org)

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

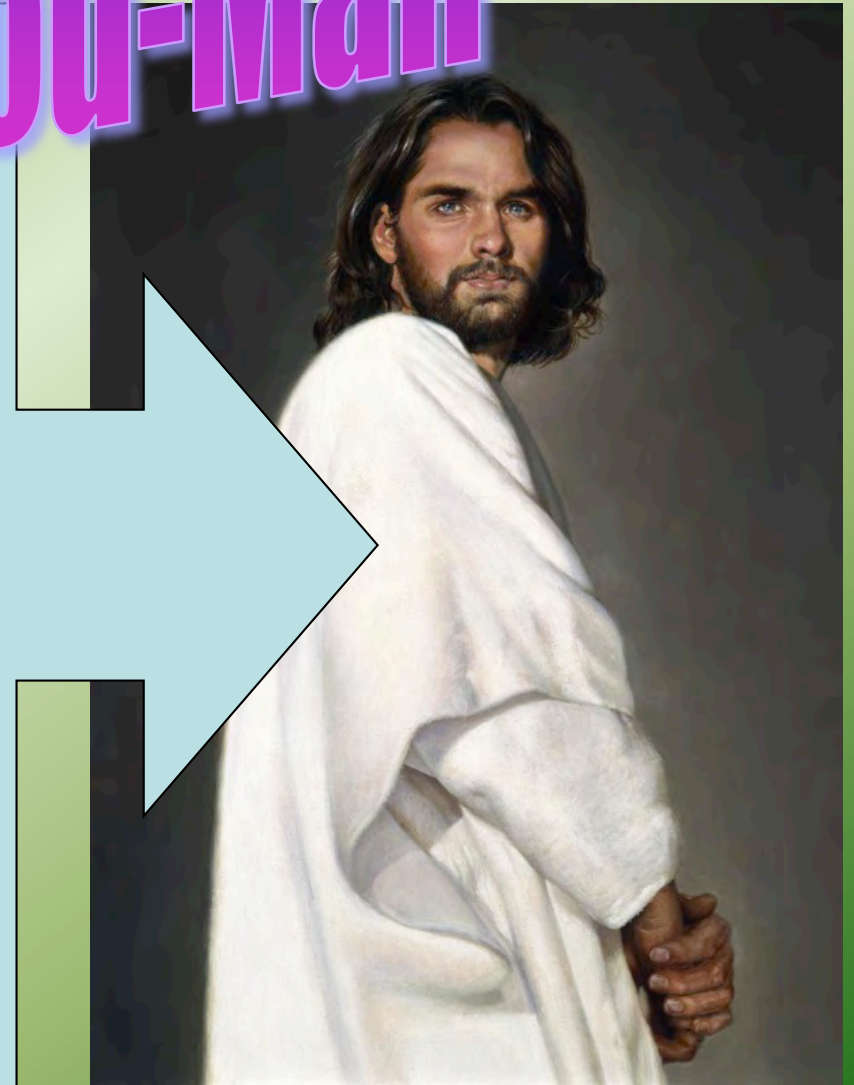
**Brown:**

**Only human**

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

**Bible:**

**God-Man**



A black and white portrait of Leigh Teabing, a man with short, light-colored hair, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. His hands are resting on a surface in front of him.

***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



the **Trinity**

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

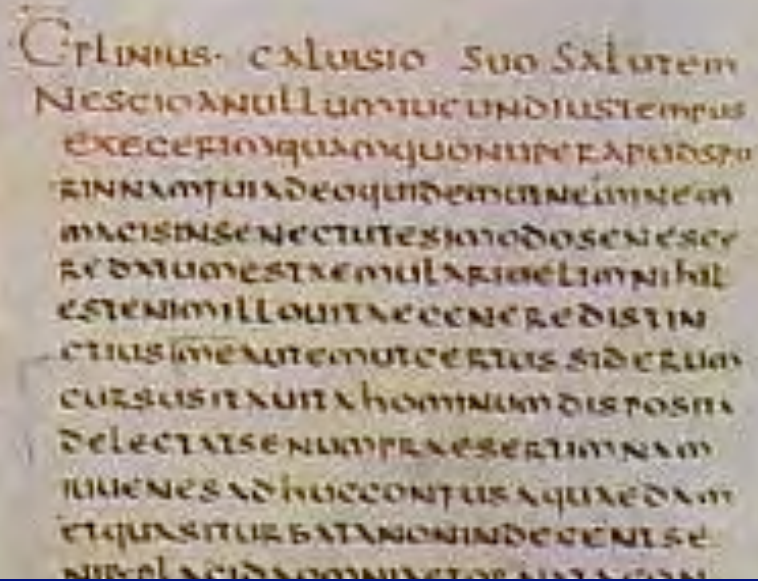
(year of death)

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



# Pliny the Younger (AD 111-113)

11



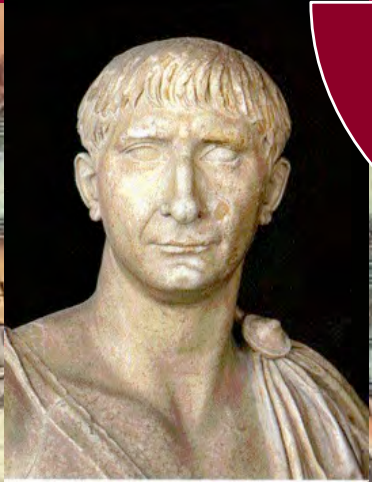
PLINIUS CALPURNIO SUO SALUTEM  
NE SCIO ANULLUM VICE UNDIUS TEMPER  
EXCEPERO QUAM QUONIAM REPARANDUM  
EST INNAMPTUM DEO QUONIAM IN ME ANIMAM  
MAGIS IN SENECTUTE SINO DOSENESER  
REDO MUM EST ANIMAM REBELIUM NIBIL  
EST ENIM ILLI QUI NE CENERE DISTIN  
CTUS IME ANIMAM CERTUS SIDERUM  
CURSUS ITA VITAM HOMINUM DISTIN  
DELECTAT SE NUMPTA REBELLIONAM  
IUVENES AD HUC CONTUS AQUAEDAM  
ET QUANTUM BATA NON INDE CENISE  
MURELA CIDA DOMINATOR VITAM



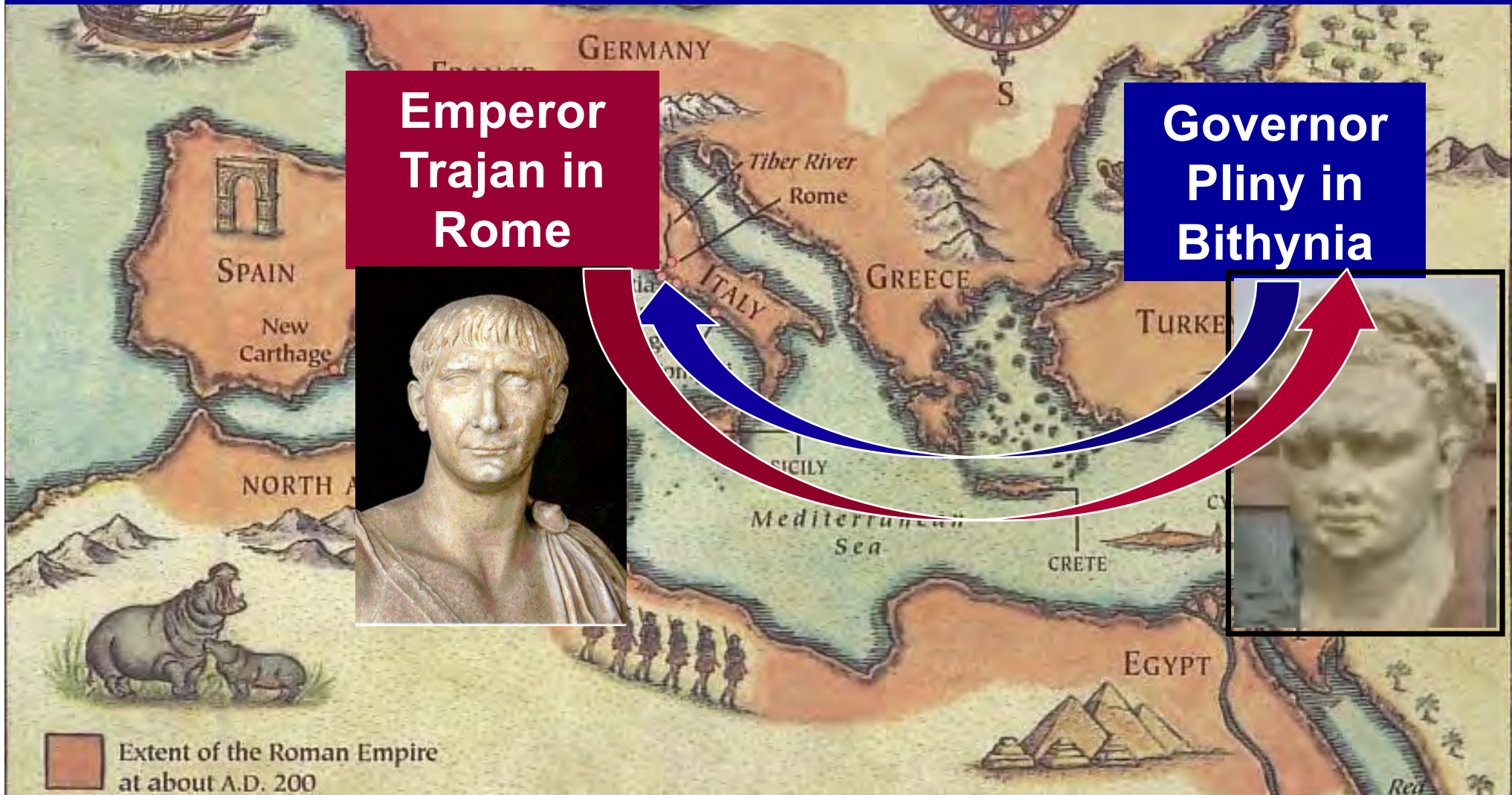
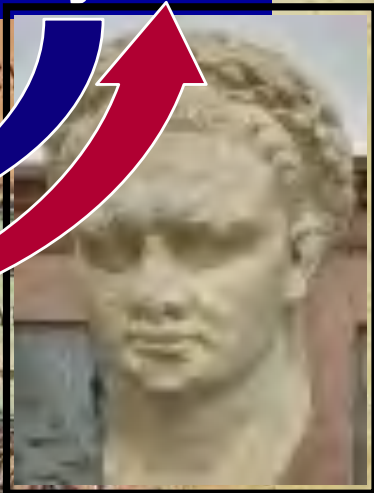
- Wrote letters to the Emperor Trajan
- Said Christians gathered on a certain day (Sunday?) "to sing responsively a hymn to Christ as if to a god" (*Epistle* 10.96)—the earliest Latin reference to Jesus Christ

# Helpful Correspondence (AD 111)

**Emperor  
Trajan in  
Rome**



**Governor  
Pliny in  
Bithynia**

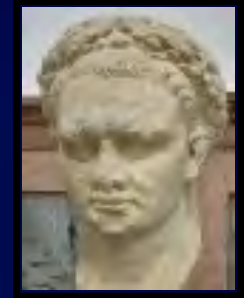


Extent of the Roman Empire at about A.D. 200

# Early Church Suffering

12

Governor Pliny to  
Emperor Trajan (AD 111):



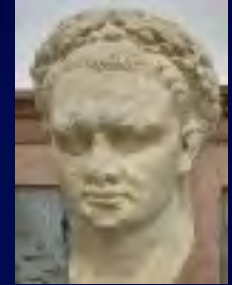
**I have observed the following procedure: I interrogated these as to whether they were Christians; those who confessed I interrogated a second and a third time, threatening them with punishment; those who persisted I ordered executed...**

*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<sup>10</sup>

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

Josh McDowell, *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, 40;  
John Grassmick, "NT Introduction," Dallas Seminary class notes, 160

# Josephus



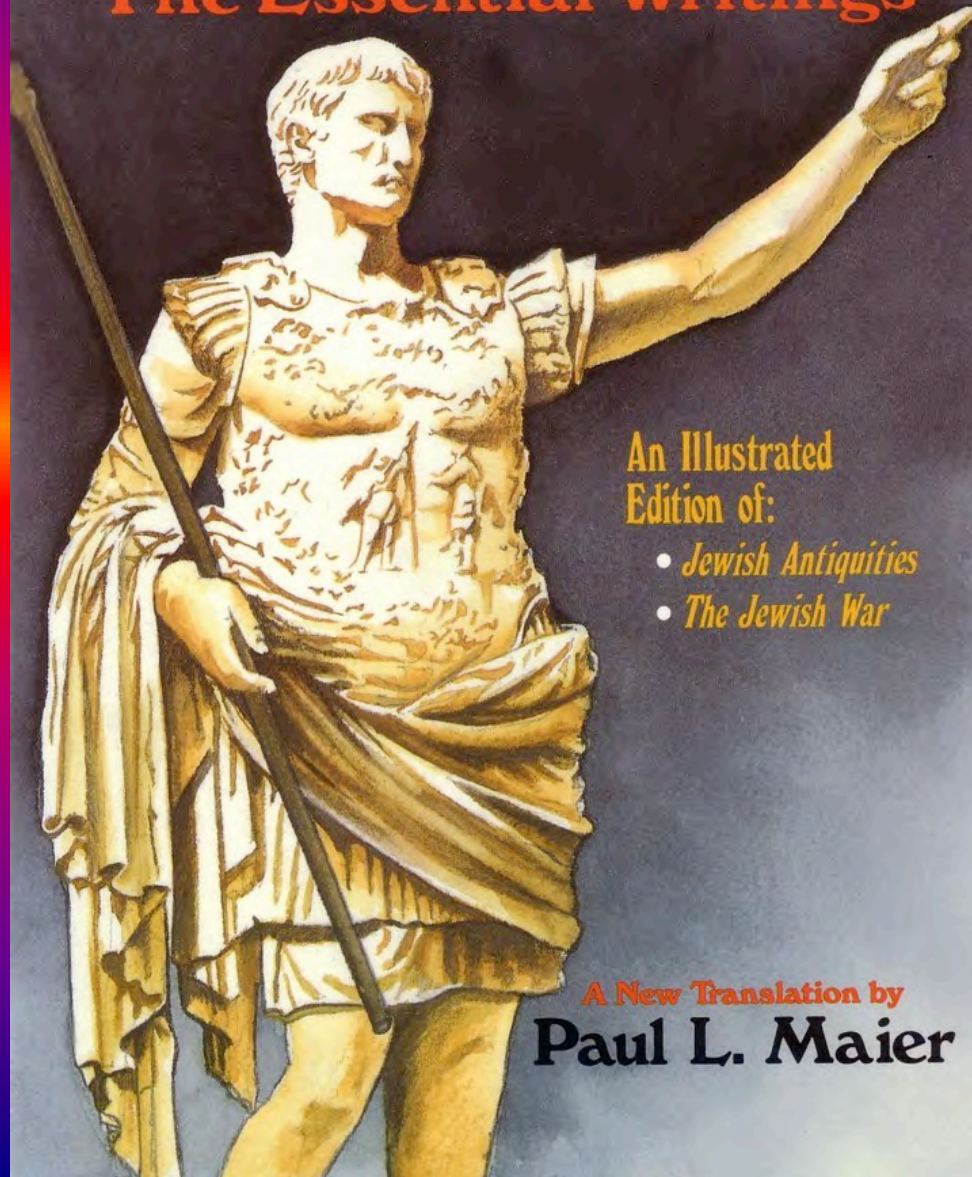
AD 37 – ca. 100

## 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)



## 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"



Jan

The memoir is a work of fiction. The author, James Frey, is a professional storyteller. The book is a work of fiction. The author, James Frey, is a professional storyteller. The book is a work of fiction. The author, James Frey, is a professional storyteller.

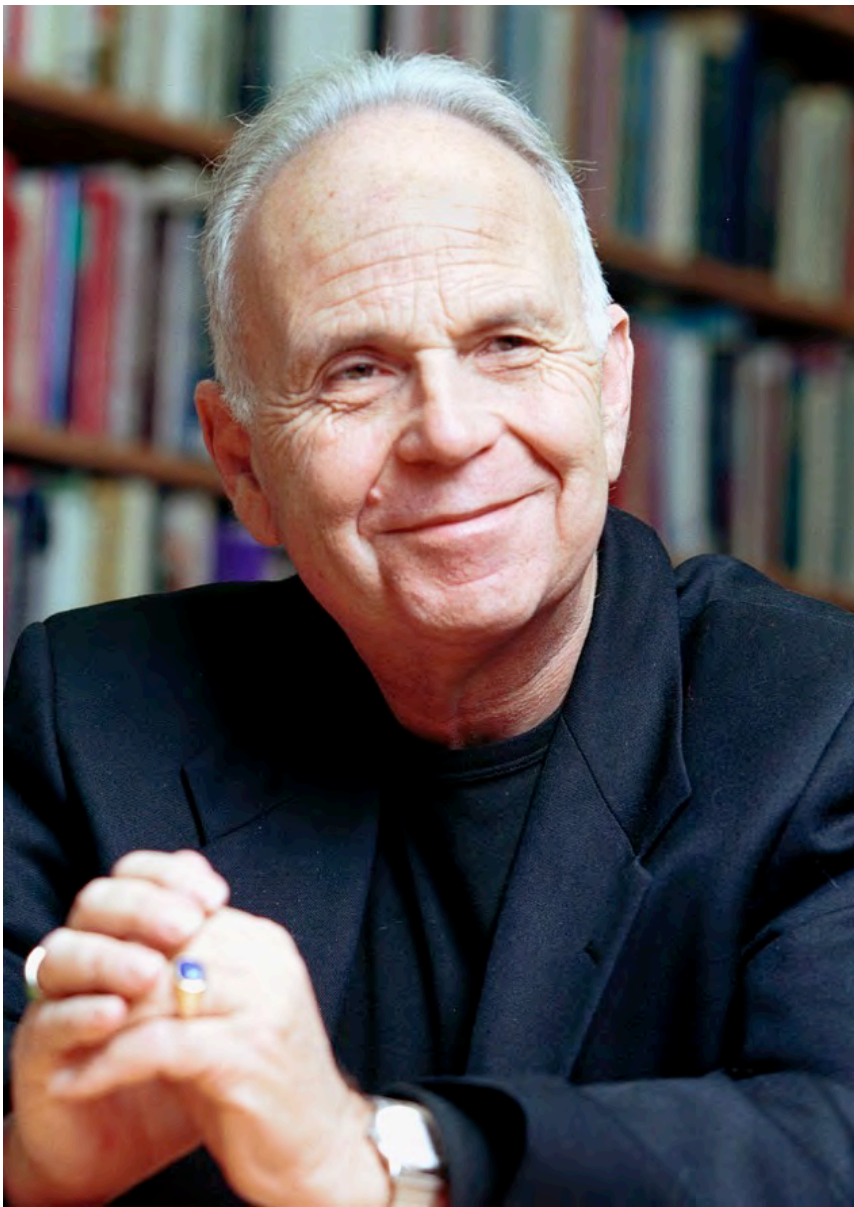
# "Much ado about nothing"



- *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





# 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

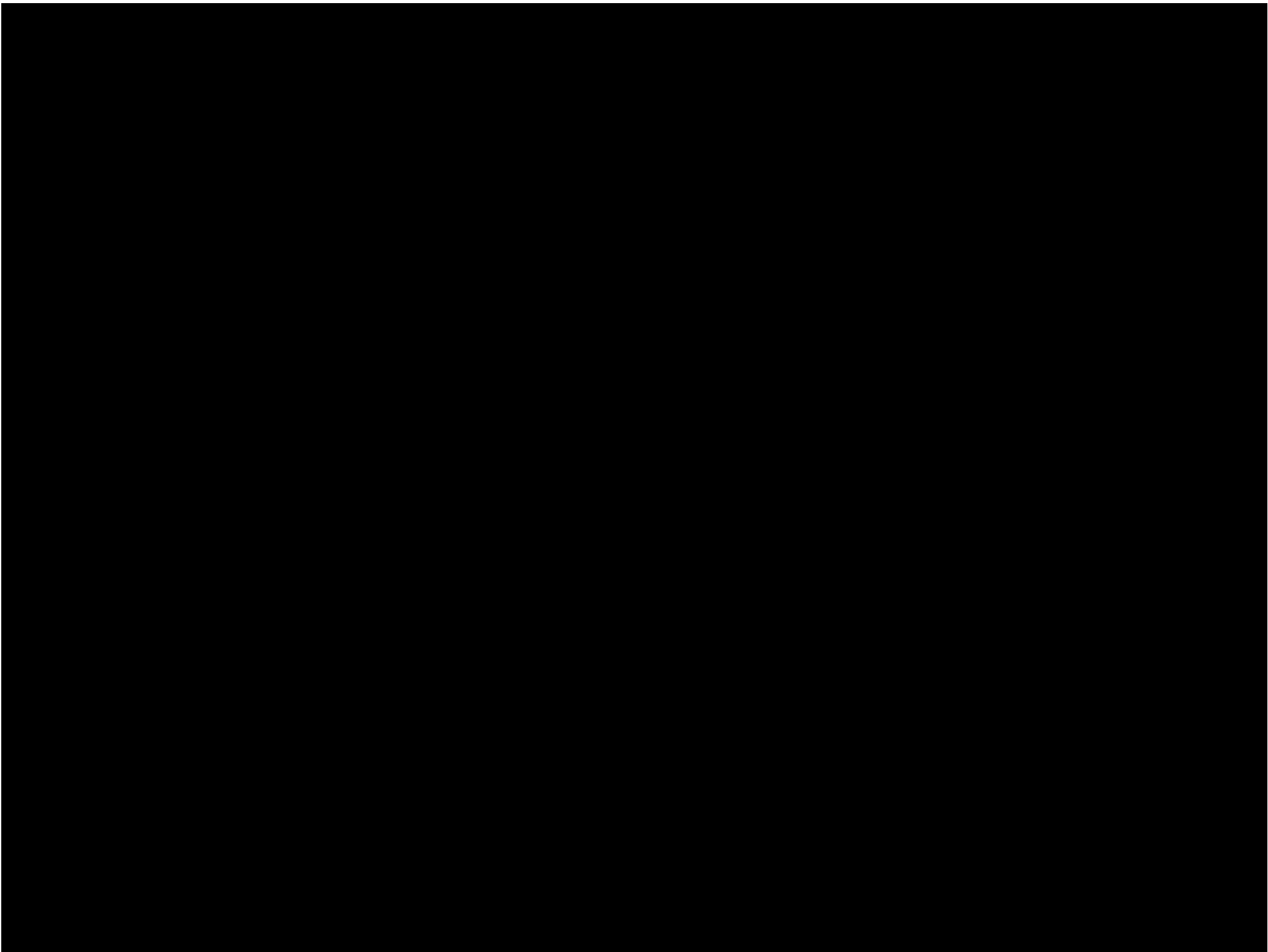
Education exalted

# *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

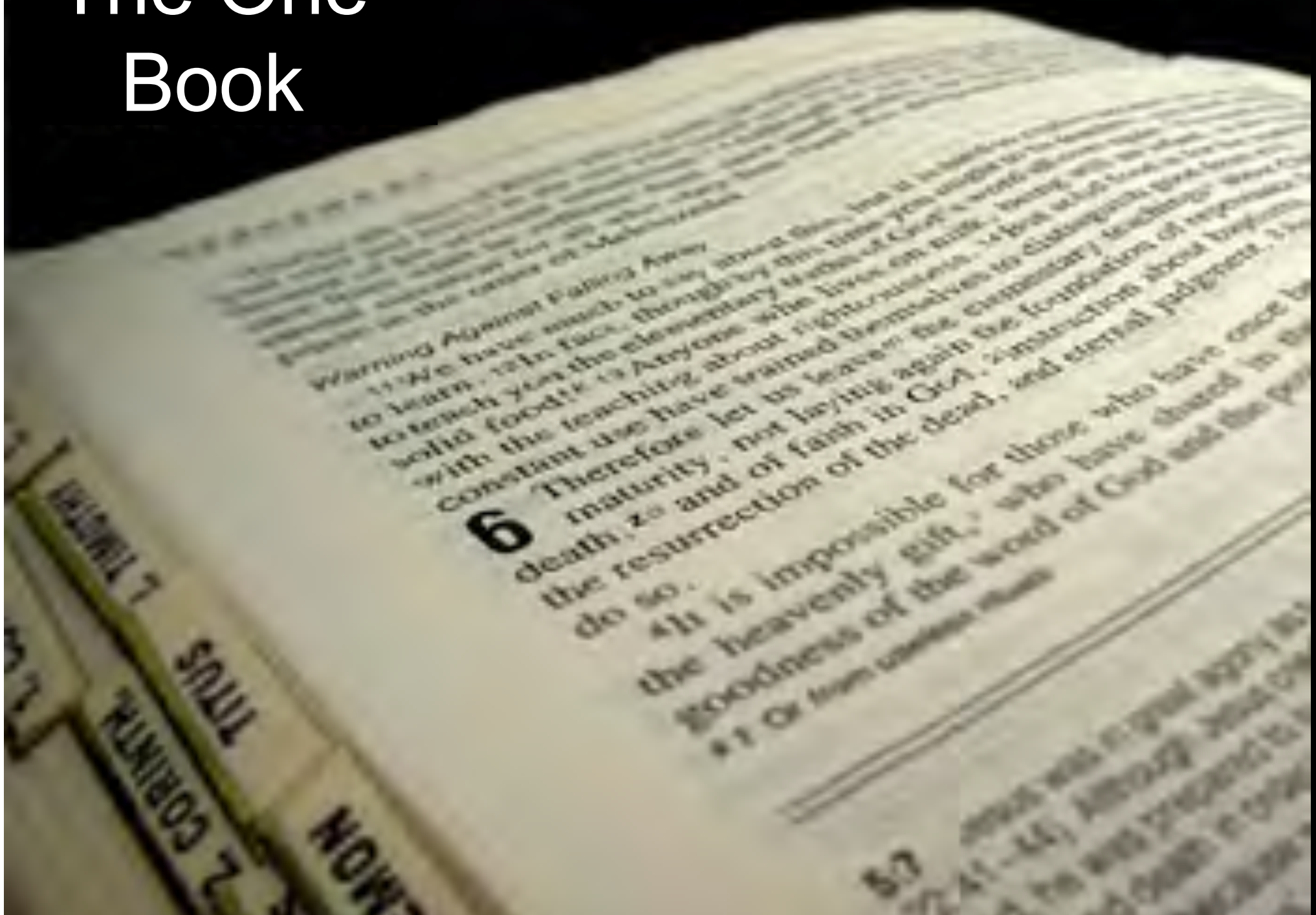
**Liar**

**?**

**Lunatic**

**Lord**

# The One Book



Warning Against Falling Away  
11 We have much to say about this, but it is forbidden to  
to learn. 12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be able  
solid food<sup>13</sup> is anyone who lives on milk. 14 But what makes you  
with the teaching about righteousness, the expiation of sins,  
constant use have trained themselves to distinguish between  
maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance  
death,<sup>20</sup> and of faith in God. 21 Instruction about baptism,<sup>22</sup>  
the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 23

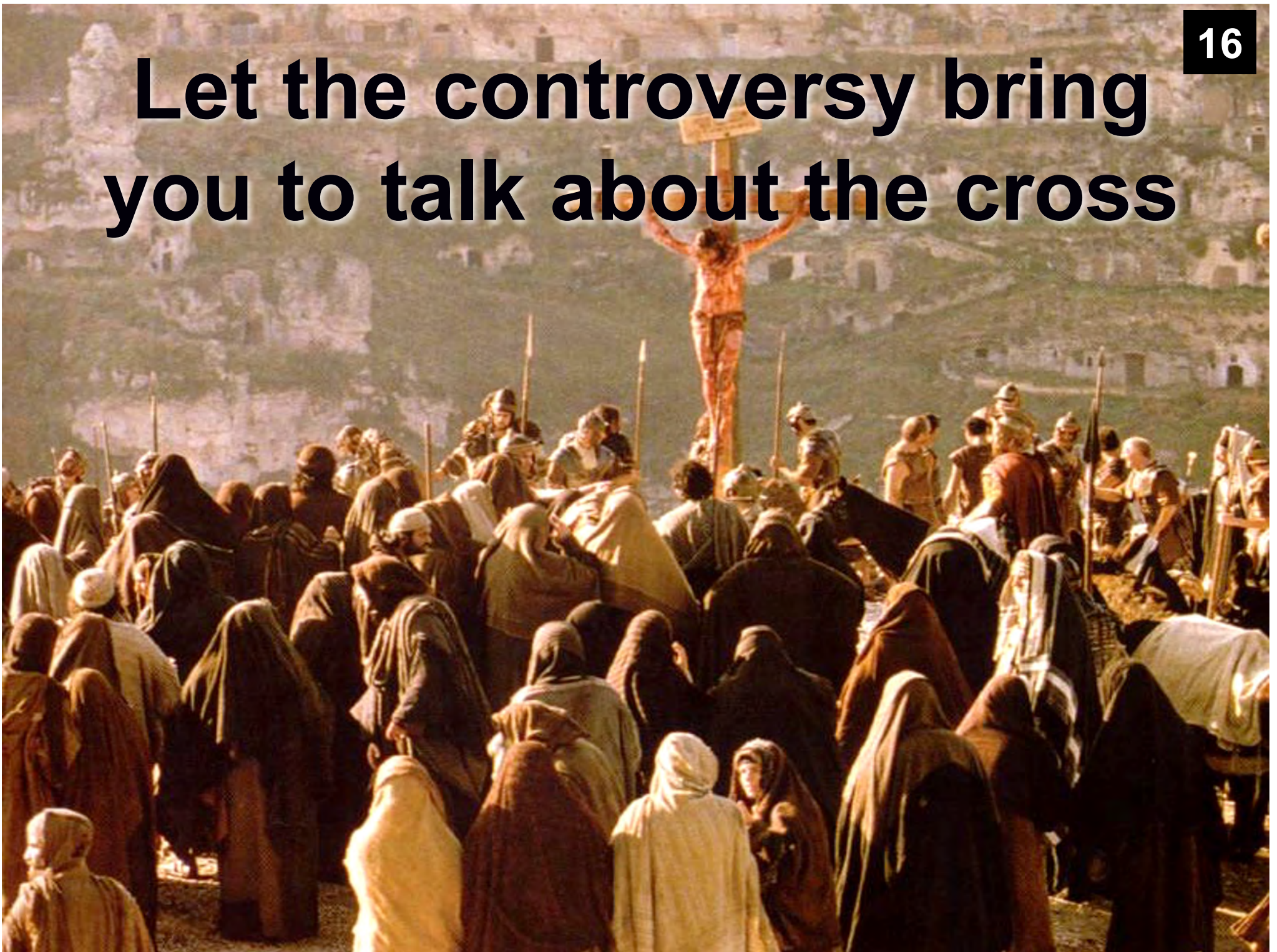
**6**

Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings of  
maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance  
death,<sup>20</sup> and of faith in God. 21 Instruction about baptism,<sup>22</sup>  
the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 23  
do so.  
It is impossible for those who have once been  
the heavenly gift,<sup>24</sup> who have shared in the  
goodness of the word of God and the power  
\* 1 Or from within them

TITUS  
2 CORINTH  
ROMAN

20  
21-22  
23  
24

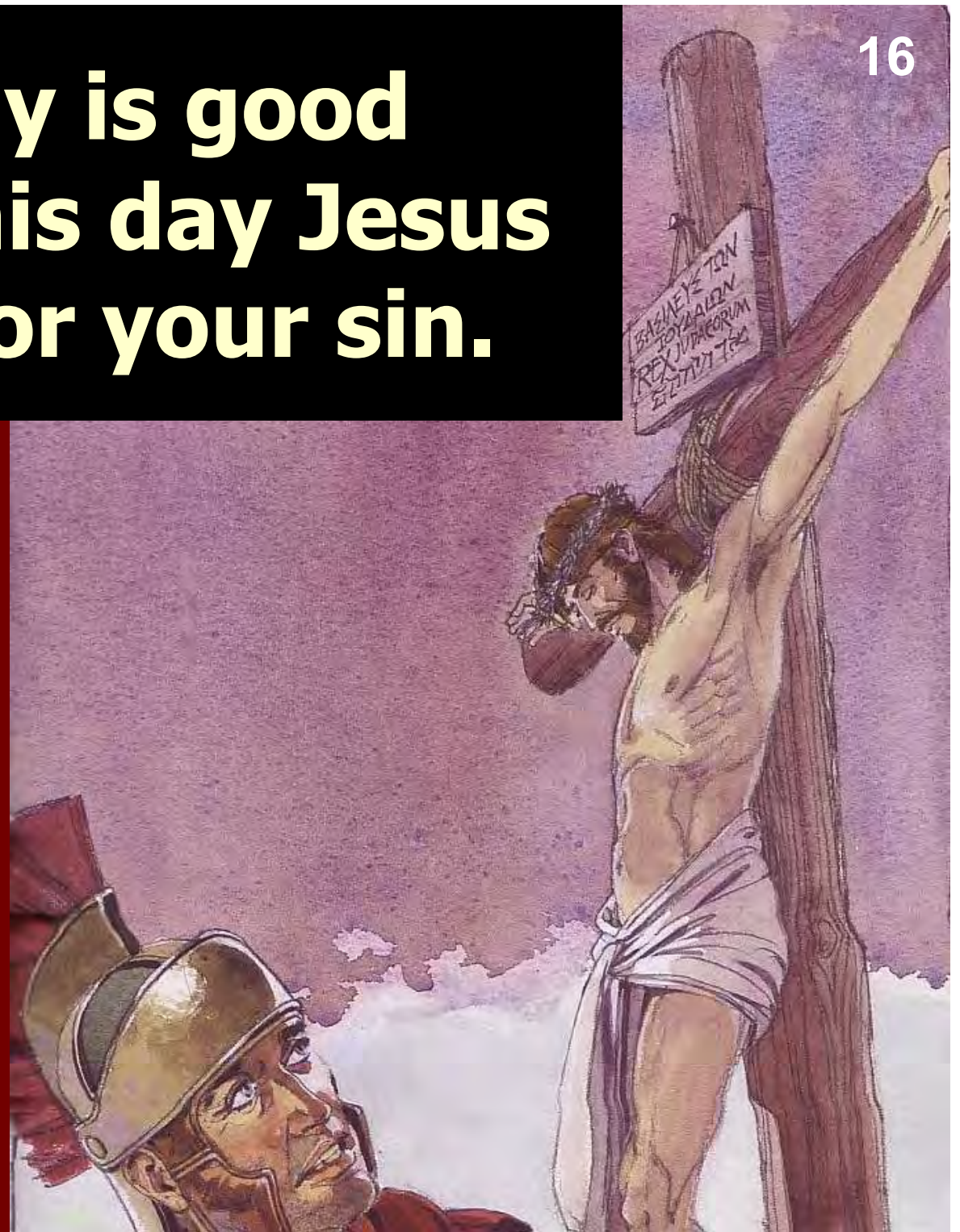
**Let the controversy bring  
you to talk about the cross**



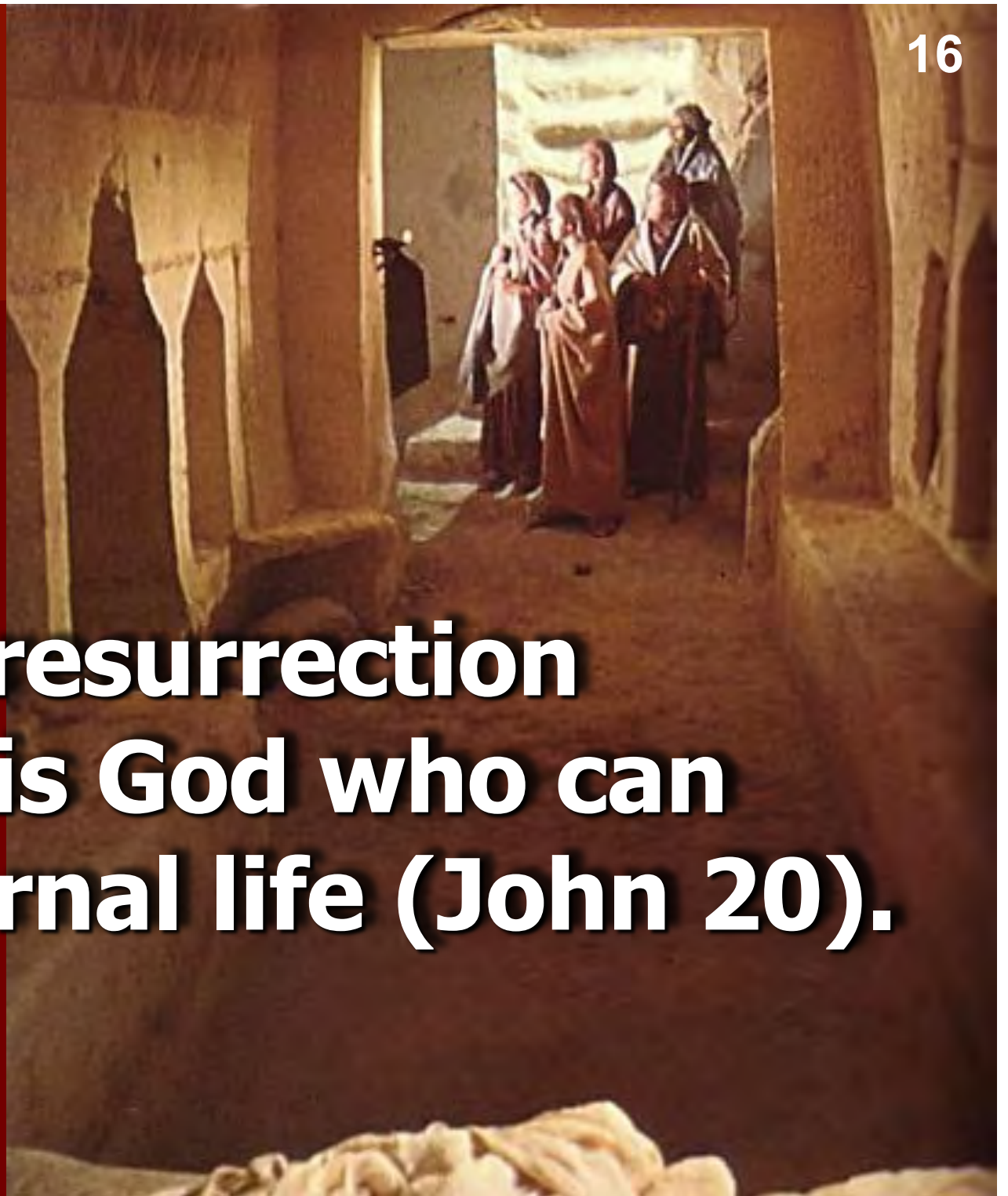
# What's So Good About Good Friday?

- **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.**



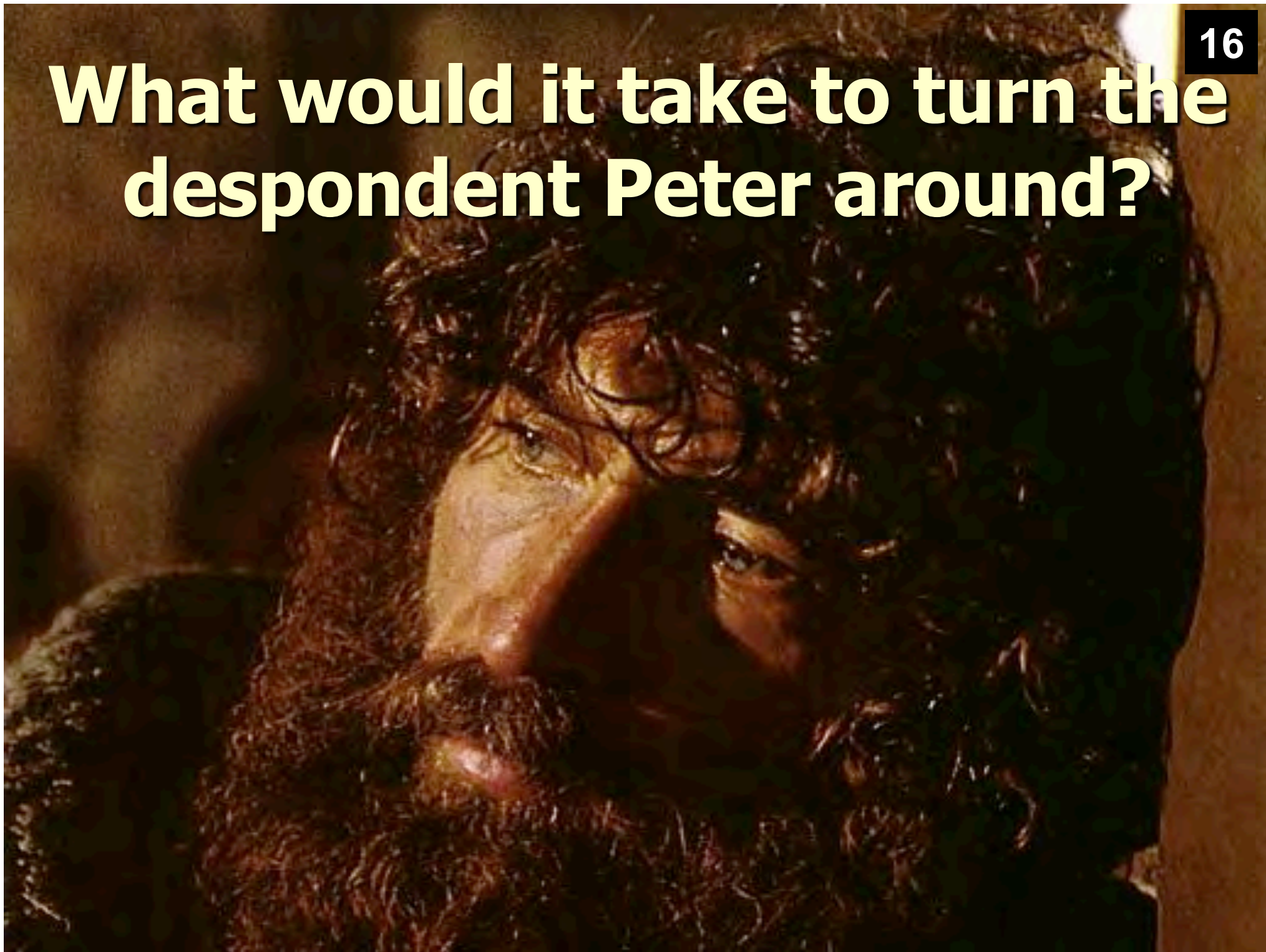
**But Jesus' resurrection proved He is God who can give us eternal life (John 20).**



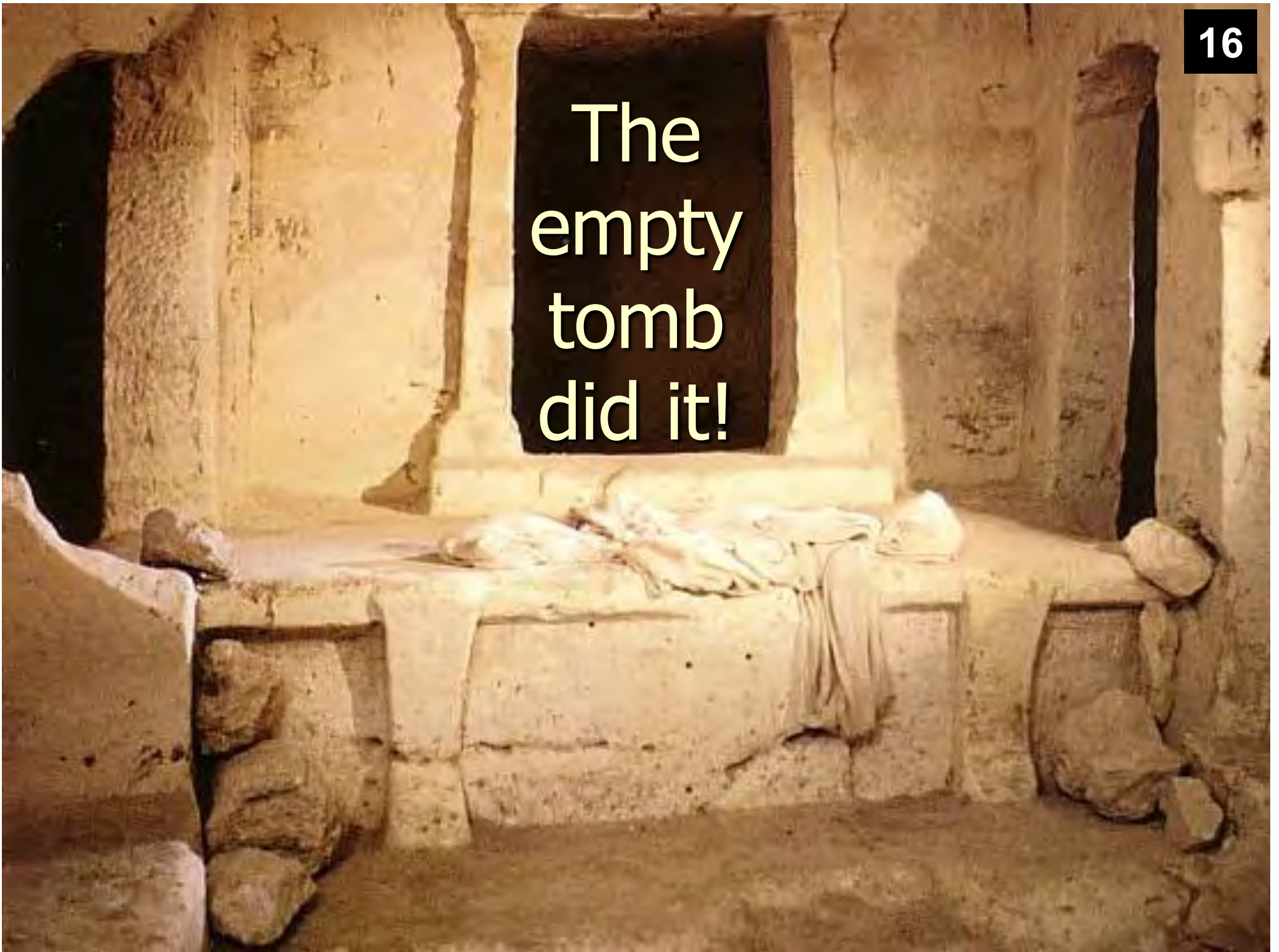
# How can we explain the empty tomb?

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

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



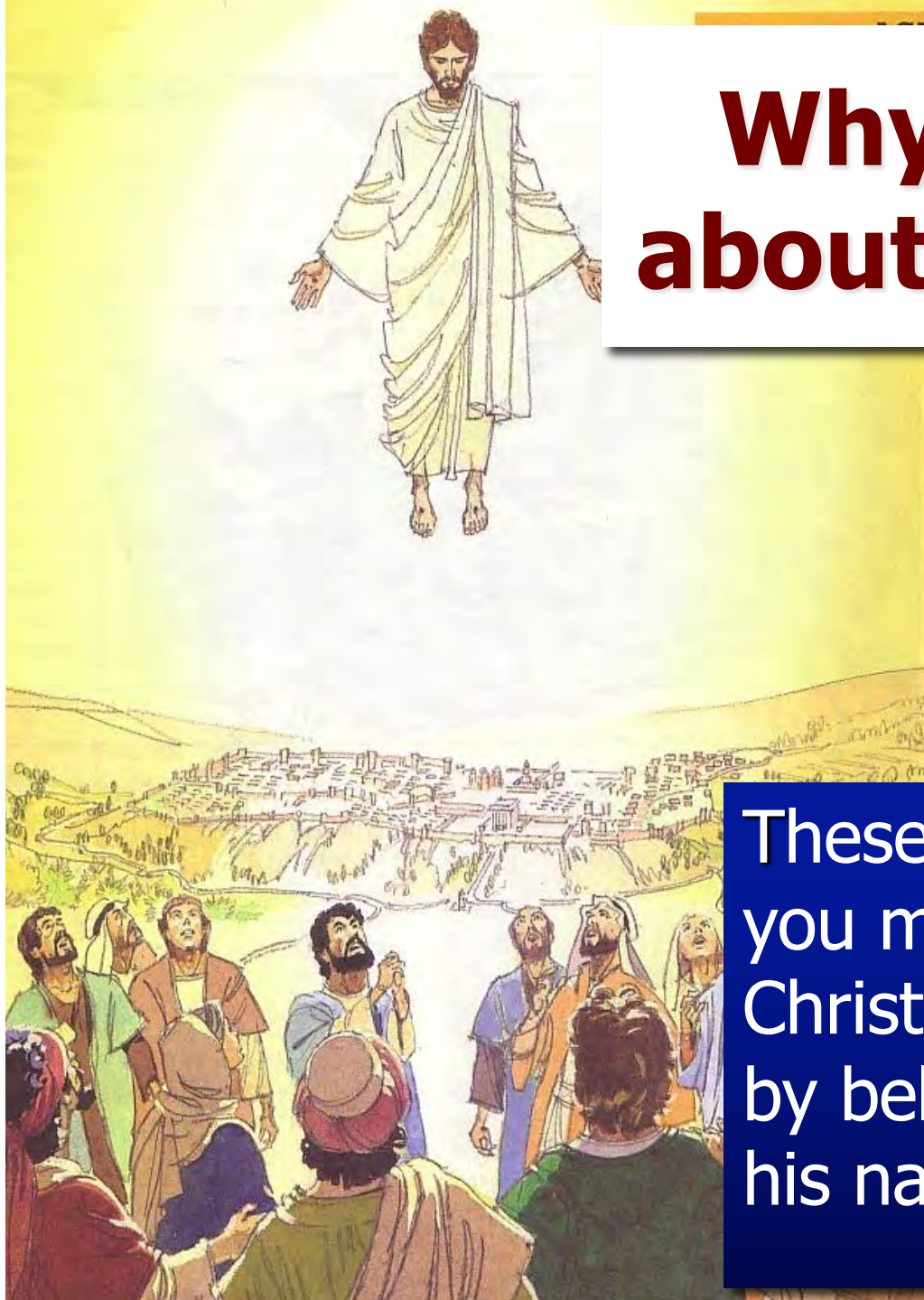
The  
empty  
tomb  
did it!



# Why did John write about Jesus' miracles?

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

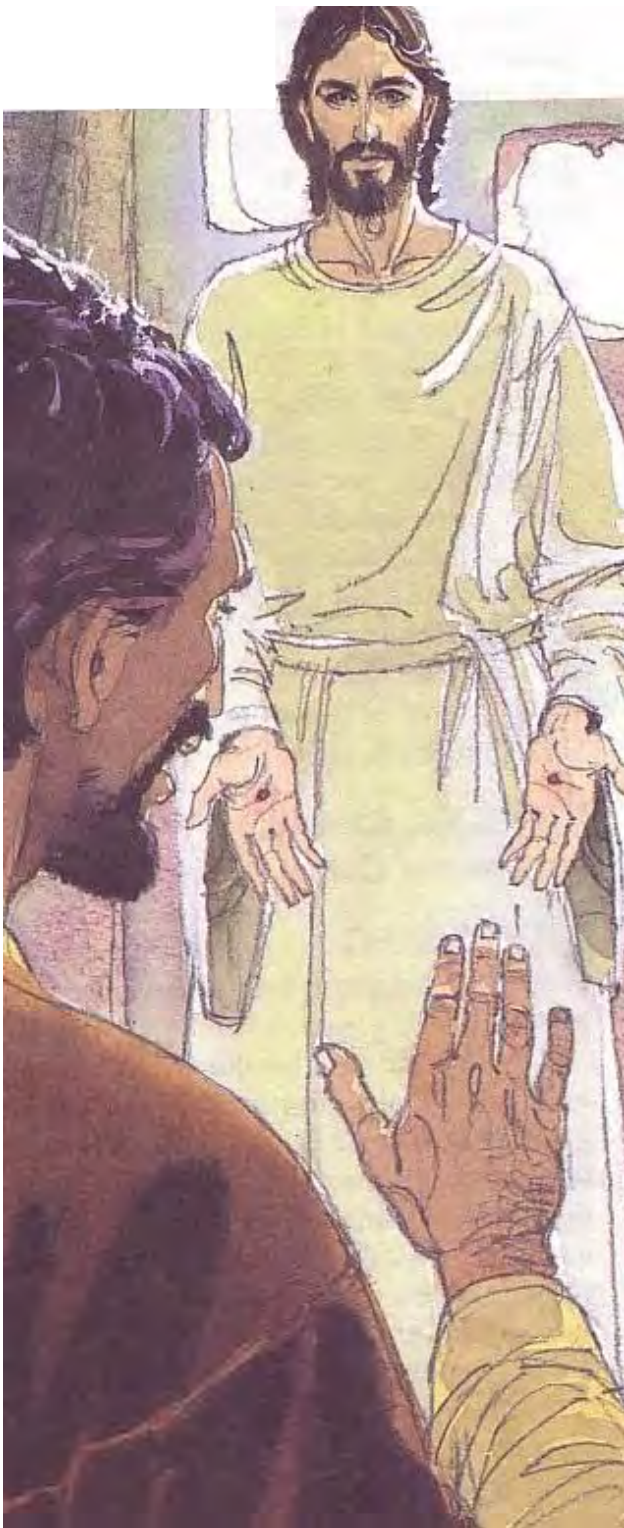
These [signs] are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name (John 20:31).



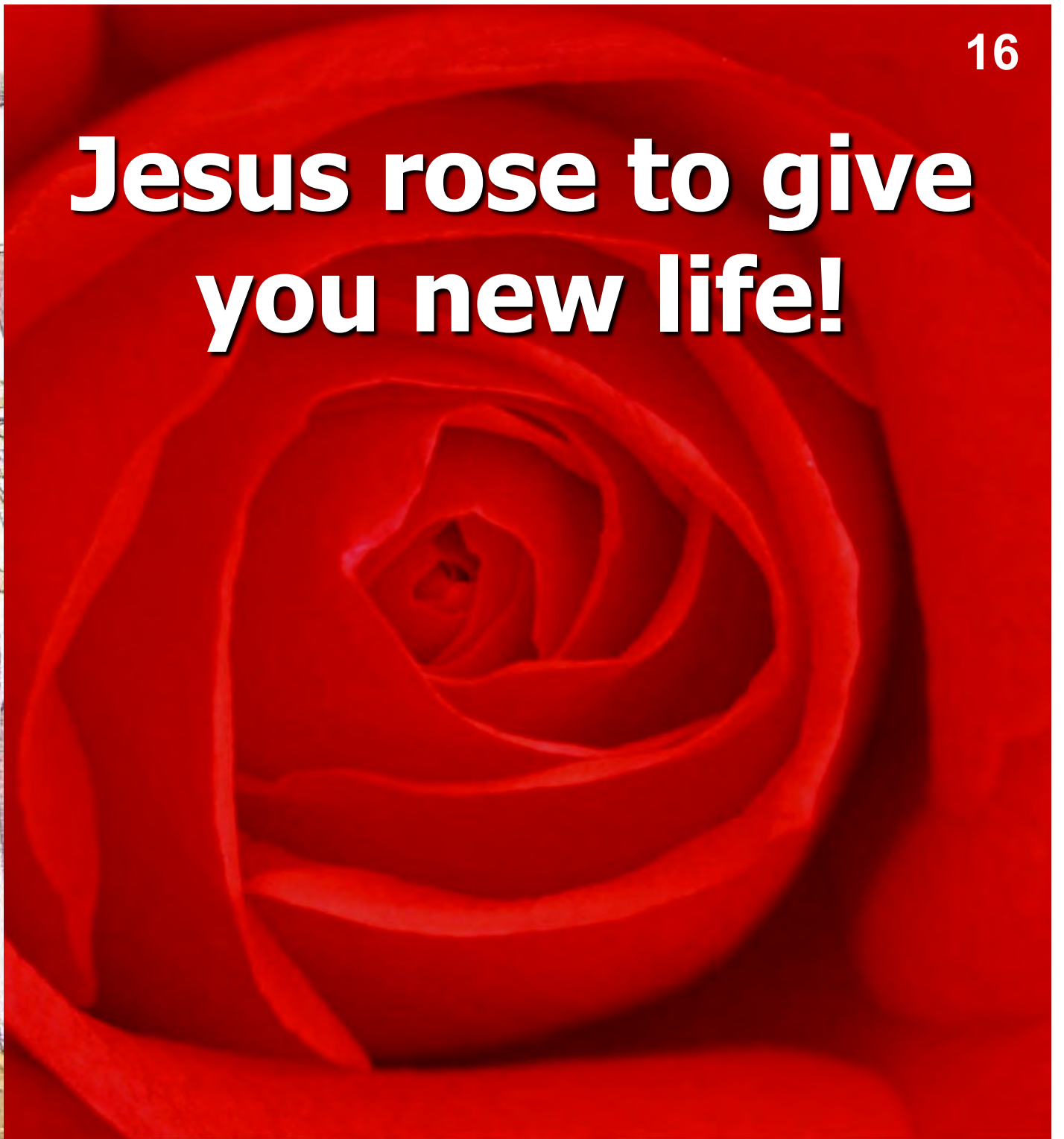
For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**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



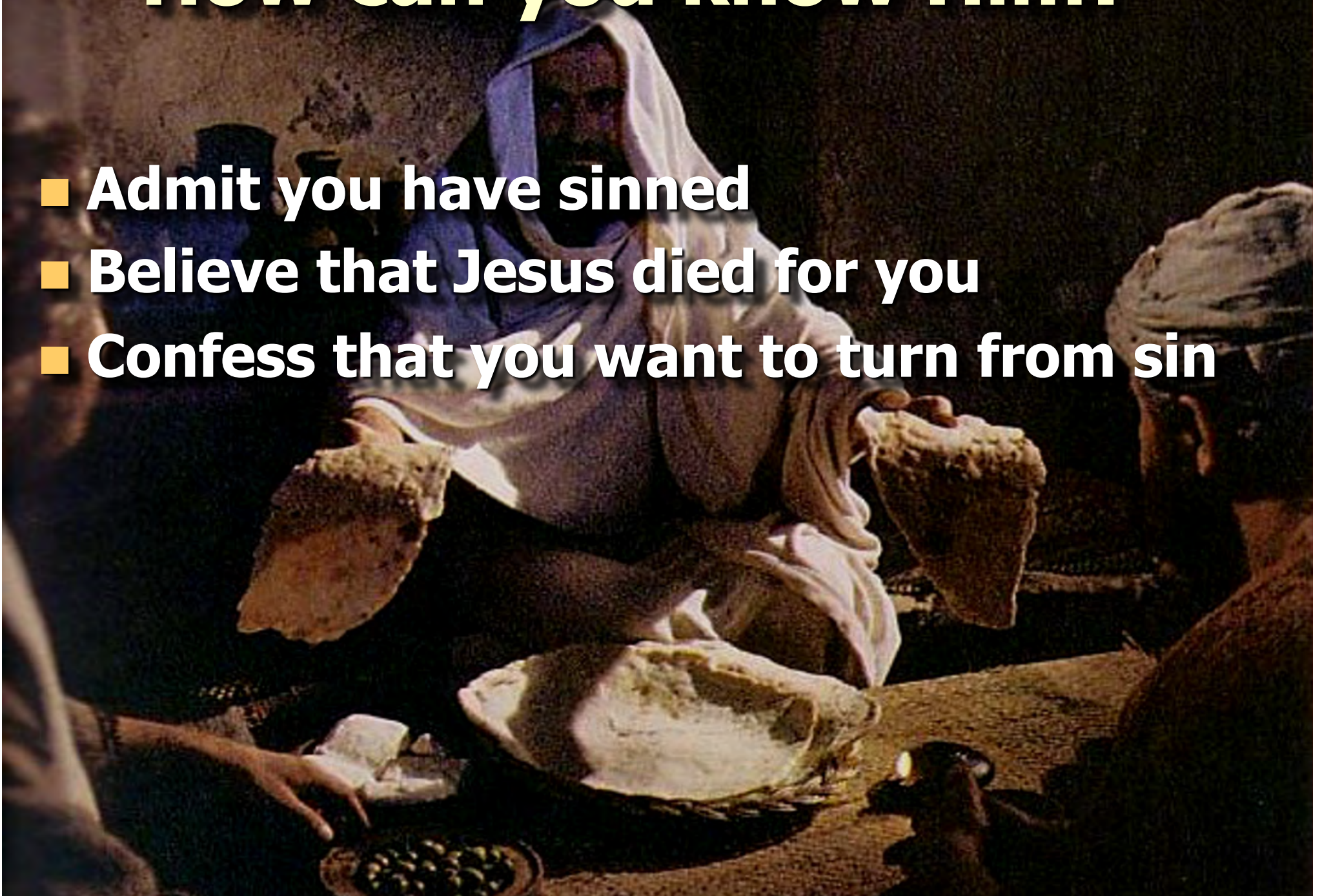
**What or who are you trusting to  
save you from your sin?**



# How can you know Him?

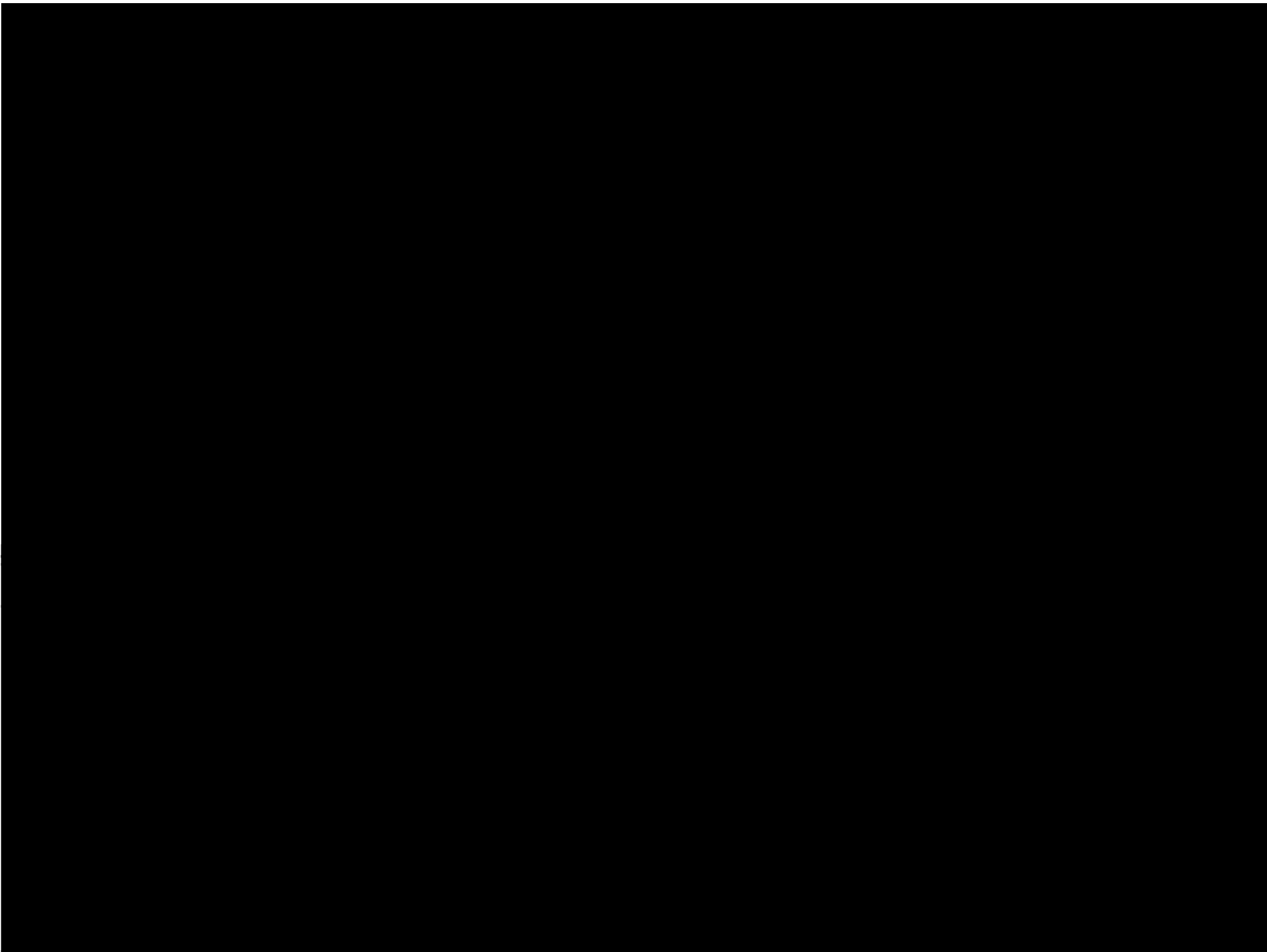
16

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



# Questions?





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