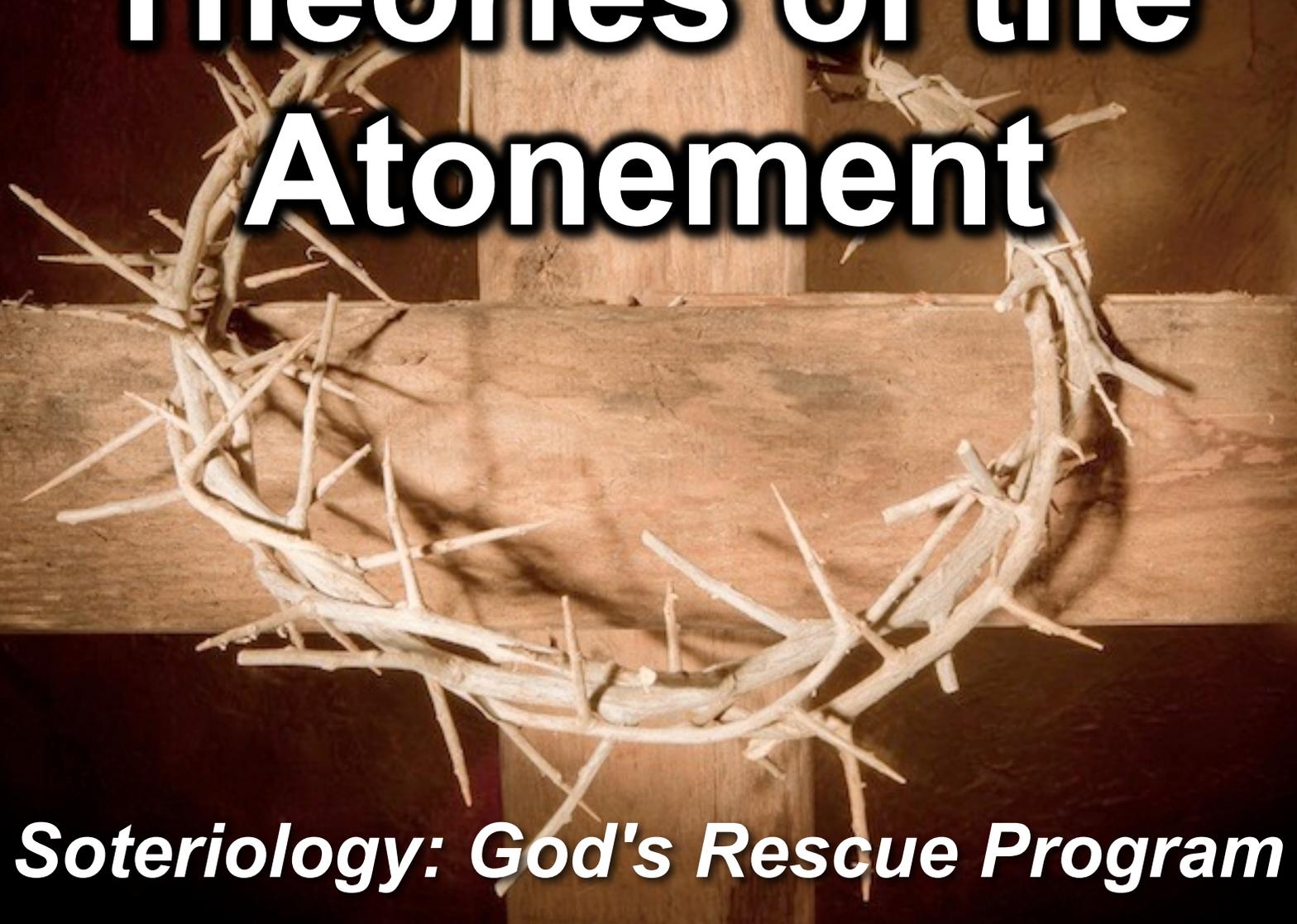


# Theories of the Atonement

A crown of thorns, made of dry, light-colored twigs and branches, is draped over the horizontal beam of a wooden cross. The cross is made of dark brown wood and is set against a dark, textured background. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the wood and the sharp points of the thorns.

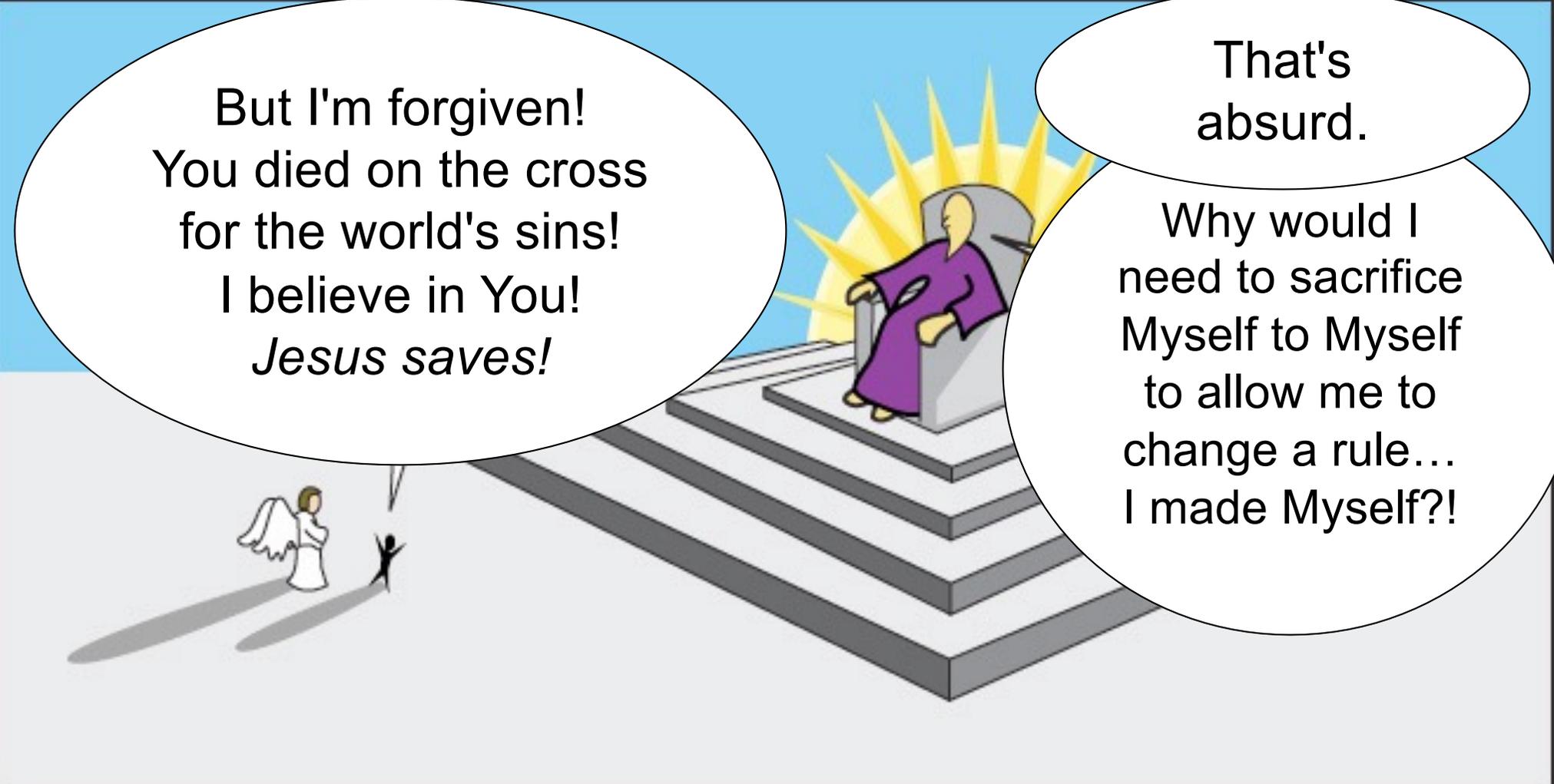
*Soteriology: God's Rescue Program*

# What is "Atonement"?

**"The word atonement comes from 16th-century English and literally means  
at-one-ment.**

**Atonement is the process of reconciliation between God and human beings (either on a communal or individual basis) with the goal of righting a wrong or injury, i.e. sin."**

# A Skeptic Muses...

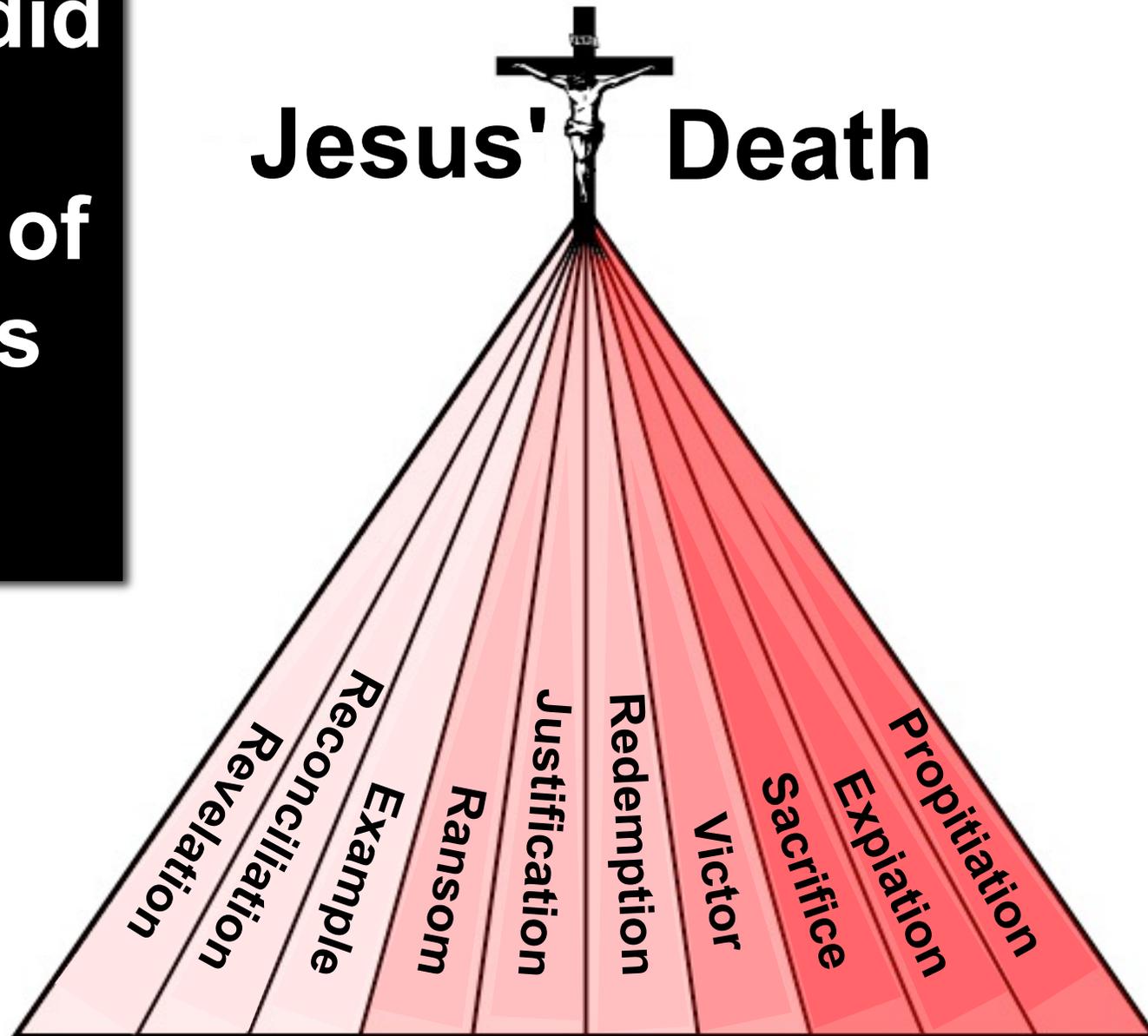


But I'm forgiven!  
You died on the cross  
for the world's sins!  
I believe in You!  
*Jesus saves!*

That's  
absurd.

Why would I  
need to sacrifice  
Myself to Myself  
to allow me to  
change a rule...  
I made Myself?!

**What did  
the  
death of  
Jesus  
do?**



**Purpose & Fulfillment**

# Three Main Atonement Theories

## **SATAN**

**Views Relating  
Christ's Death to  
Satan**



## **PUNISHMENT**

**Views Owing to God's  
Justice & Substitution**

## **EXEMPLARY**

**Views Seeing Christ's  
Death an Example to  
Influence**

# Three Main Atonement Theories

**SATAN**

**BATTLE AGAINST  
SATAN**



**PUNISHMENT**

**SATISFACTION FOR  
HUMAN SIN**

**EXEMPLARY**

**ILLUSTRATION OF  
GOD'S LOVE**

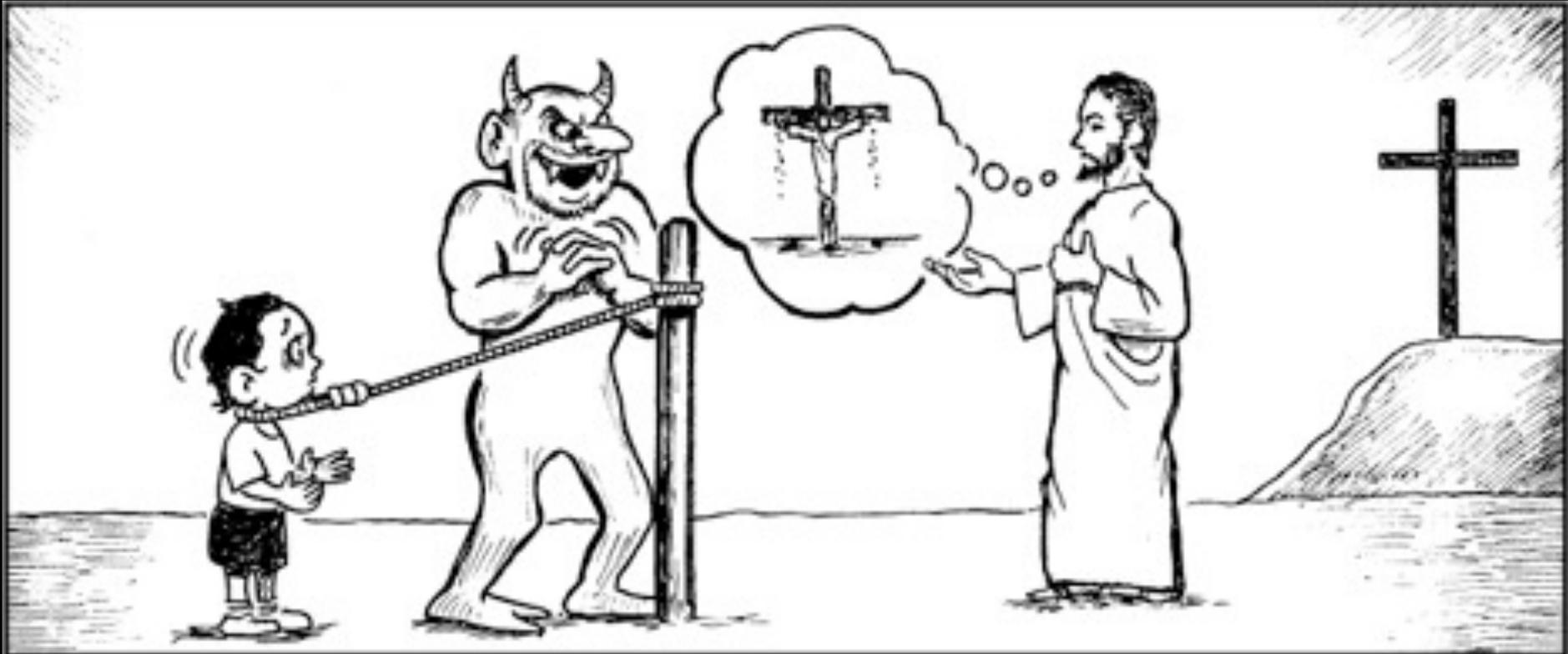
# Three Main Atonement Theories

## SATAN

Views Relating  
Christ's Death to  
Satan



# The Ransom to Satan View <sup>49</sup>



**"For even the Son of man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).**

**First Proposed by Origen (185-254)  
Recently by Jack Chick of Chick's Tracts**

# **Dramatic** **(Aulen, 1879-1978)**



49

**"Christ in His death  
gained victory over  
the powers of evil."**

**—Explained by Ryrie,  
*Basic Theology*, 356  
(not held by him)**

# Three Main Atonement Theories

## **SATAN**

**Views Relating  
Christ's Death to  
Satan**



## **EXEMPLARY**

**Views Seeing Christ's  
Death an Example to  
Influence**

# Moral Influence

(Peter Abelard, 1079-1142)

The "death of Christ was not an expiation for sin but a suffering with His creatures to manifest God's love. This suffering love should awaken a responsive love in the sinner and bring an ethical change in him. This, then liberates from the power of sin."



—Explained by Ryrie,  
*Basic Theology*, 356

# Governmental (Grotius, 1583-1645)

49



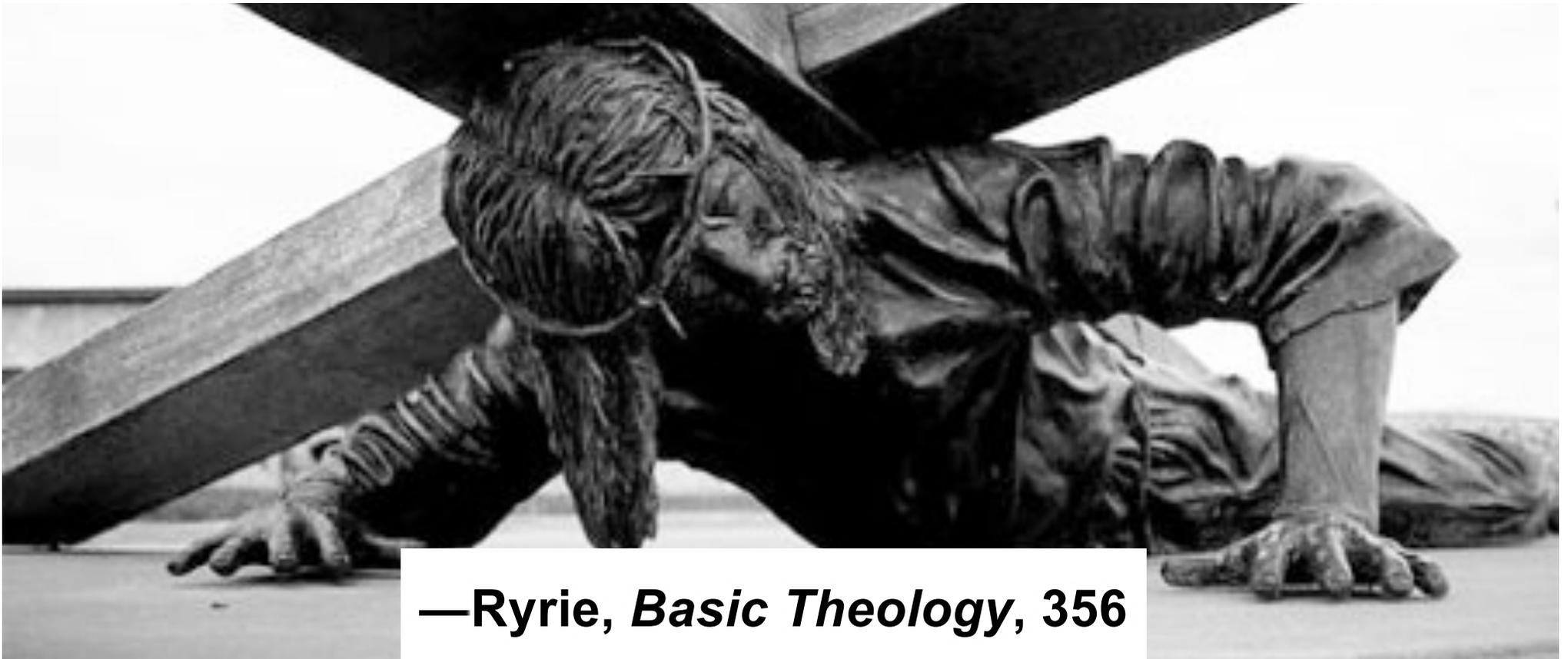
**"God's government demanded the death of Christ to show His displeasure with sin. Christ also did not suffer the penalty of the Law, but God accepted His suffering as a substitute for that penalty."**

**—Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 356**

# Example

## (Socinus, 1539-1604)

**"Christ's death did not atone for sin, but revealed faith and obedience as the way to eternal life and inspiring people to lead a similar life."**



**—Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 356**

# Barthian

(Karl Barth, 1886-1968)

**"Christ's death was principally a revelation of  
God's love and His hatred of sin."  
—Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 356**



# Three Main Atonement Theories

## **SATAN**

**Views Relating  
Christ's Death to  
Satan**



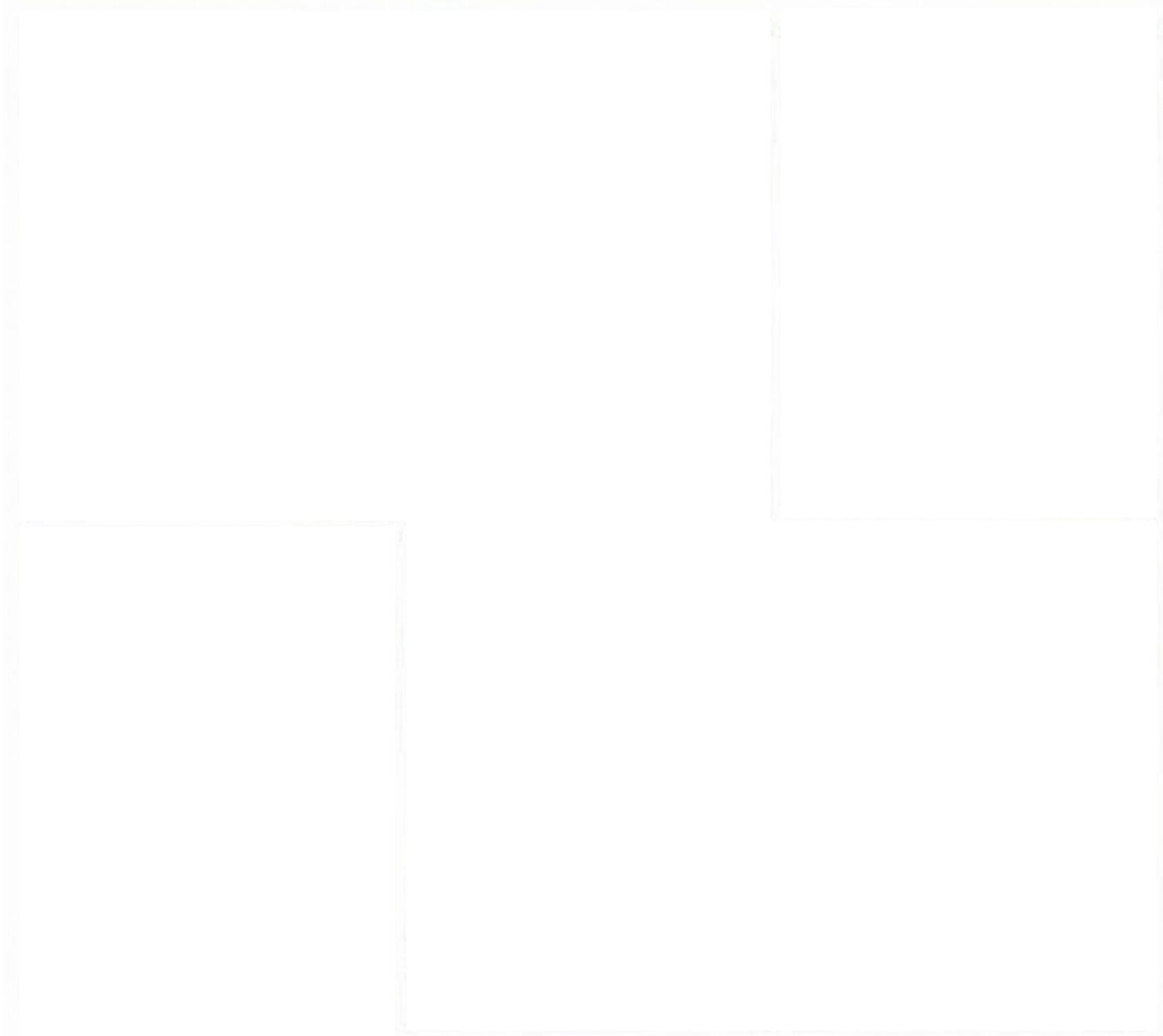
## **PUNISHMENT**

**Views Owing to God's  
Justice & Substitution**

## **EXEMPLARY**

**Views Seeing Christ's  
Death an Example to  
Influence**

# Life Stages



# Life Stages



# Life Stages



# Life Stages



# Life Stages



# Life Stages



# Life Stages



# Recapitulation (Irenaeus, 130-202)

50

**"Christ recapitulated in Himself all the stages of life including what belonged to us as sinners. His obedience substituted for Adam's disobedience, and this should effect a transformation in our lives."**

—Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 355





**"Sinful man robbed God of His honor. God rewarded the death of Christ by viewing it as a work of supererogation so that He can pass on its stored-up merits to us. Faith is necessary to appropriate this."**

**—Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 355**

# **Satisfaction**

**(Anselm, 1033-1109)**

# Substitution View

**JESUS PAID IT ALL**

**Isaiah 53:5**

# Penal Substitution View



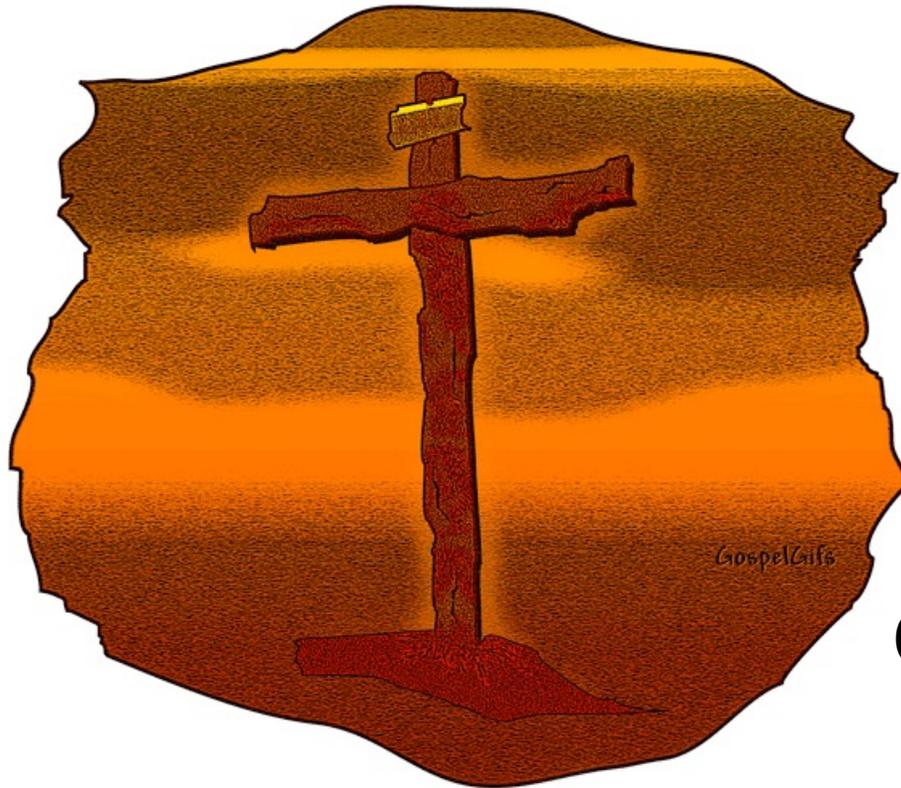
**"Christ the sinless  
One took on Himself  
the penalty that  
should have been  
borne by man and  
others"**

—Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 356

# Conclusion

50

**"While there may be truth in views that do not include penal substitution, it is important to remember that such truth, if there be some, cannot save eternally. Only the substitutionary death of Christ can provide that which God's justice demands and thereby become the basis for the gift of eternal life to those who believe."**



—Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 355

# Preach the Gospel



**Christ died for our sins  
He was buried  
He was raised  
He appeared  
(1 Cor. 15:1-8)**

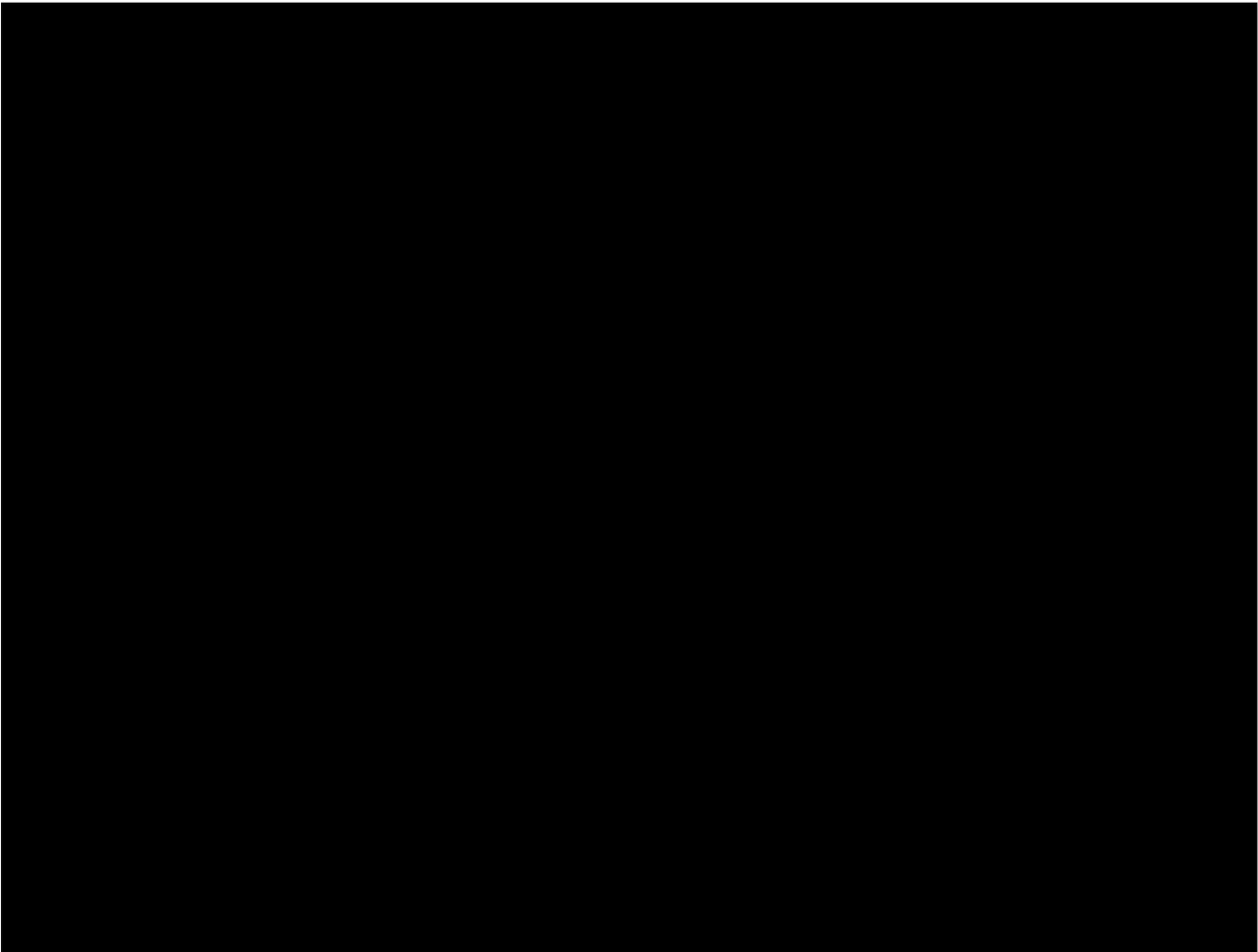
**USE A  
SUBSTITUTION  
ILLUSTRATION**

- ✓ **Book**
- ✓ **Cancer**
- ✓ **Kai**
- ✓ **Snake**
- ✓ **Drawbridge**

# Most–The Movie

- **A father must make the painful decision whether to kill his own son in order to save the lives of people on an oncoming train**

# Most-The Movie



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