



Our Walk and Witness



Apologetics,
Evangelism,
and Disciple-

Apologetics, Evangelism,
and Discipleship

For we live by faith, not
by sight. • For we live by
faith, not by sight. • For
we live by faith, not by

6 WEEK CLASS WITH DR. DAVID GIESLER

NGIM.org/all-resources/

PowerPoints





**a certain kind EVANGELISM,
a certain kind of APOLOGETIC,
and a certain kind of DISCIPLESHIP**



At NGIM we call this blend of
Apologetics, Evangelism, and
Discipleship, the four R's of being:

ROOTED

RESTED

READY

REACHING



1. The key to **rootedness** is abiding in Christ.
2. The key to **restedness** is abiding in the word of God.

DISCIPLESHIP

To be truly effective in witnessing today we need to remember actively blend apologetics, evangelism, and discipleship.

ROOTED



RESTED

READY

REACHING

DISCIPLESHIP

To be truly effective in witnessing today we need to remember to actively blend apologetics, evangelism, and discipleship.

Being Ready means...

You and I should be **so changed** by Christ that **we care so much** about the lost around us that **we will eagerly look for those opportunities** to remove barriers and help them take steps to the cross, **whether we are asked** specific questions or not.





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Evangelism,
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6 WEEK CLASS WITH DR. DAVID GIESLER

**Isn't It True That
How We Live Our
Life Depends
on Who We Trust?**





Isn't it true that if
we can trust Jesus...



...then we can we trust the Bible!

What Did Jesus Teach About the Bible!

1. It is divinely authoritative (Mt. 4:4, 7, 10).
2. It is imperishable (Mt. 5:17-18).
3. It is infallible (Jn. 10:35).
4. It is inerrant (without error) (Mt. 22:29).
5. It is historically reliable (Mt. 12:40; Mt. 24:37-38).
6. It is scientifically accurate (Mt. 19:4-5).
7. It has ultimate supremacy (Mt. 15:3, 6).



**So It Is Important
To Know That We
Can Trust Jesus?**

HE WAS LOOKING FOR ANSWERS... AND FOUND SO MUCH MORE.



NORM GEISLER:

NOT QUALIFIED



**How could I be happy in
heaven if my sister wasn't
there?**



I can trust God for what I don't know because of what He's revealed to me that I do know.

NORM GEISLER

The background of the slide is a composite image. On the left side, there are several golden wheat stalks with their heads of grain. The rest of the background is a dark, textured surface, possibly soil or a wooden table. In the center, there is a semi-transparent white rectangular box containing text. Behind the text, a book with a wooden cover and a wooden cross resting on it is visible, though slightly faded and semi-transparent.

**Rev. 21:4 promises me that some day
God “will wipe away every tear from
their eyes...”**

The Bible Can Be Trusted

- I. If God exists, then miracles are possible
- II. The N.T. documents are historically reliable
- III. In the NT Jesus claimed to be God
- IV. Jesus proved to be God by an unprecedented convergence of miracles
 - A. The miracle of fulfilled prophecy
 - B. The miracle of the Resurrection
- V. Therefore, Jesus was God in human flesh
- VI. What Jesus (who is God) teaches is true
- VII. Jesus taught the Bible is the Word of God
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4 The wise men of the east. S. MATTHEW.

manuel, which, being interpreted, is, God with us.)
24 Then Joseph, being raised from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:
25 And brought forth her first-born son: and he called his name JESUS.

CHAP. II.
The eastern Magi worship Christ.

1 NOW, when Jesus was born in Beth-lehem of Judea, in the days of Herod the king, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,
2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.
3 When Herod the king heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him:
4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.
5 And they said unto him, In Beth-lehem of Judea: in the land of Juda, as it is written by the prophet,
6 And thou, Beth-lehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.
7 Then Herod when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.
8 And he sent them to Beth-lehem, and said, Go, and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him.
9 When they had heard

10 When they saw the star, they departed, and went before them, till they stood over where the young child was.
11 And, when they were into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him, when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts, gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.
12 And being warned of a dream, they departed in the same night into the land of Egypt: for Herod sought to slay the young child and his mother.
13 But when Herod was dead, they returned into the land of Israel: for they were warned of a dream.
14 When he arose, he fled into Egypt with his mother, and abode there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I have called my people into Egypt, and I will comfort them, saith the Lord.
15 And when Herod was dead, Joseph took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Galilee: and he dwelt in Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, He shall be called a Nazarene.

Chap. iii.

Christ is baptized.

17 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers! who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth, therefore, fruits of repentance: and think not to say unto your father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.
18 And now also the ax is laid to the root of the trees: which every tree which beareth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.
19 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:
20 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.
21 But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?
22 And Jesus, answering, said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.
23 Then he suffered him, and he baptized him: and he put forth his hand, and touched his head.
24 And as he baptized him, he saw the Spirit of God descending, and abiding upon him: and there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.
25 And when he was come up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit of God descending, and abiding upon him: and there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.
26 And the Spirit of God departed from him.
27 And he was tempted of the devil.
28 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.
29 And when the devil saw that he had fasted, he said unto him, If thou art the Son of God, command that these stones be turned into bread.
30 And Jesus answered and said unto him, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord.
31 And he said unto him, If thou art the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall command his angels concerning thee, and upon their hands shall they bear thee up, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.
32 And Jesus answered and said unto him, It is written, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.
33 And when he had finished these sayings, the devil departed from him: and Jesus came into the synagogue of Nazareth, and taught them, and they were astonished, saying, Whence hath this? and what wisdom is given unto him? and he said unto them, I have here a scroll, the name of which is, The book of the prophets: and I have unrolled it, and ye have heard: but ye will say, How can this be? I say unto you, that every scripture is fulfilled in me.
34 And he said unto them, Ye will say, How can this be? I say unto you, that every scripture is fulfilled in me.
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“How can you believe the Bible when it was written by so many different people who were imperfect?”

A young skeptic in Italy



“Would you agree that if there is
A God who can create the
universe, then He’s powerful enough
to ensure that what He wants to
communicate to us reaches us,
Even through imperfect people?”

WHAT IF THEY DON'T BELIEVE IN OBJECT TRUTH...?

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. The opposite of true is false.
3. It is true that the theistic God exists.
4. If God exists then miracles are possible.
5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God.
6. The New Testament is historically reliable.
7. The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God.
8. Jesus' claim to be God was miraculously confirmed by:
 - a. His fulfillment of many prophecies about Himself;
 - b. His sinless and miraculous life;
 - c. His prediction and accomplishment of His resurrection
9. Therefore, Jesus is God.
10. Whatever Jesus (who is God) teaches is true.
11. Jesus taught that the Bible is the Word of God.
12. Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God (and anything opposed to it is false).

See *Twelve Points That Show Christianity Is True* by Dr. Norman Geisler for more details, which can be ordered at: www.ngim.org

WHAT IF THEY BELIEVE ALL RELIGIONS ARE THE SAME...?

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. **The opposite of true is false.**
3. It is true that the theistic God exists.
4. If God exists then miracles are possible.
5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God.
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WHAT IF THEY BELIEVE IN OBJECT TRUTH BUT NOT A THEISTIC GOD?

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. The opposite of true is false.
3. **It is true that the theistic God exists.**
4. If God exists then miracles are possible.
5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God.
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What we need to remember!

There cannot be:

...the Son of God,

...the Word of God,

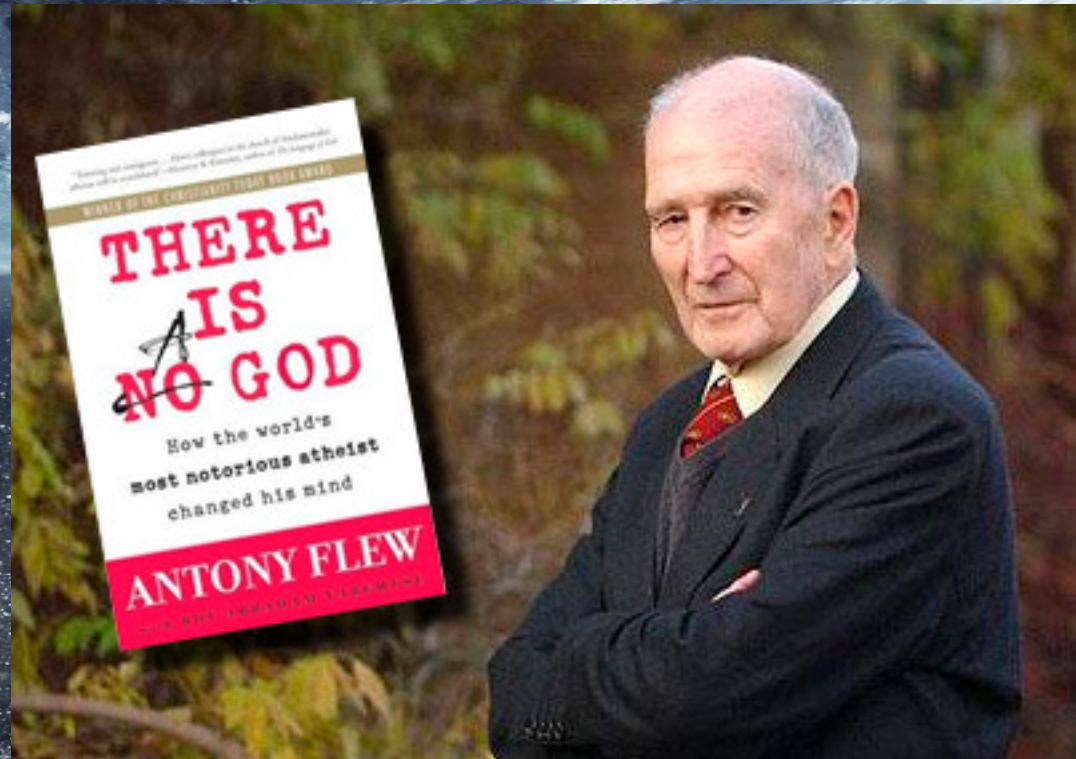
...miraculous acts of God,

...the salvation of God—

unless there is a God!

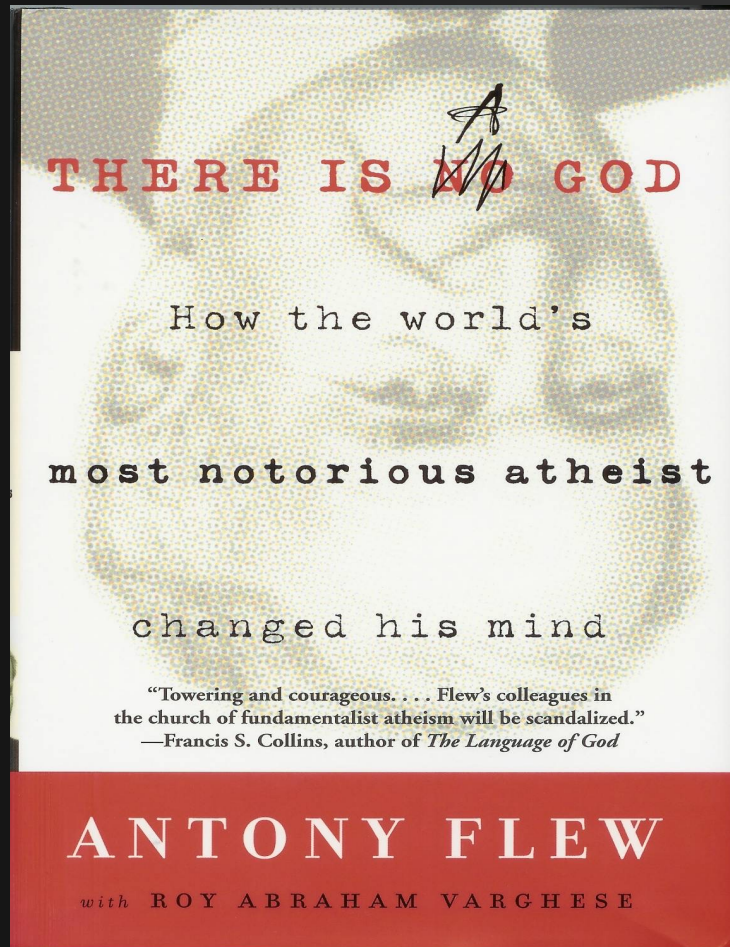


DO YOU KNOW ANTHONY FLEW'A STORY?



At a 2004 symposium he announced his new beliefs to the world, his change of heart was “almost entirely because of the DNA investigations”.

Reason Leads Atheist to God



“Nor do I claim to have had any personal experience of God or any experience that may be called super-natural or miraculous. In short, my discovery of the divine has been a pilgrimage of reason and not of faith” (93).

12 Steps in Establishing the Case for Christianity


1. Truth about reality is knowable.
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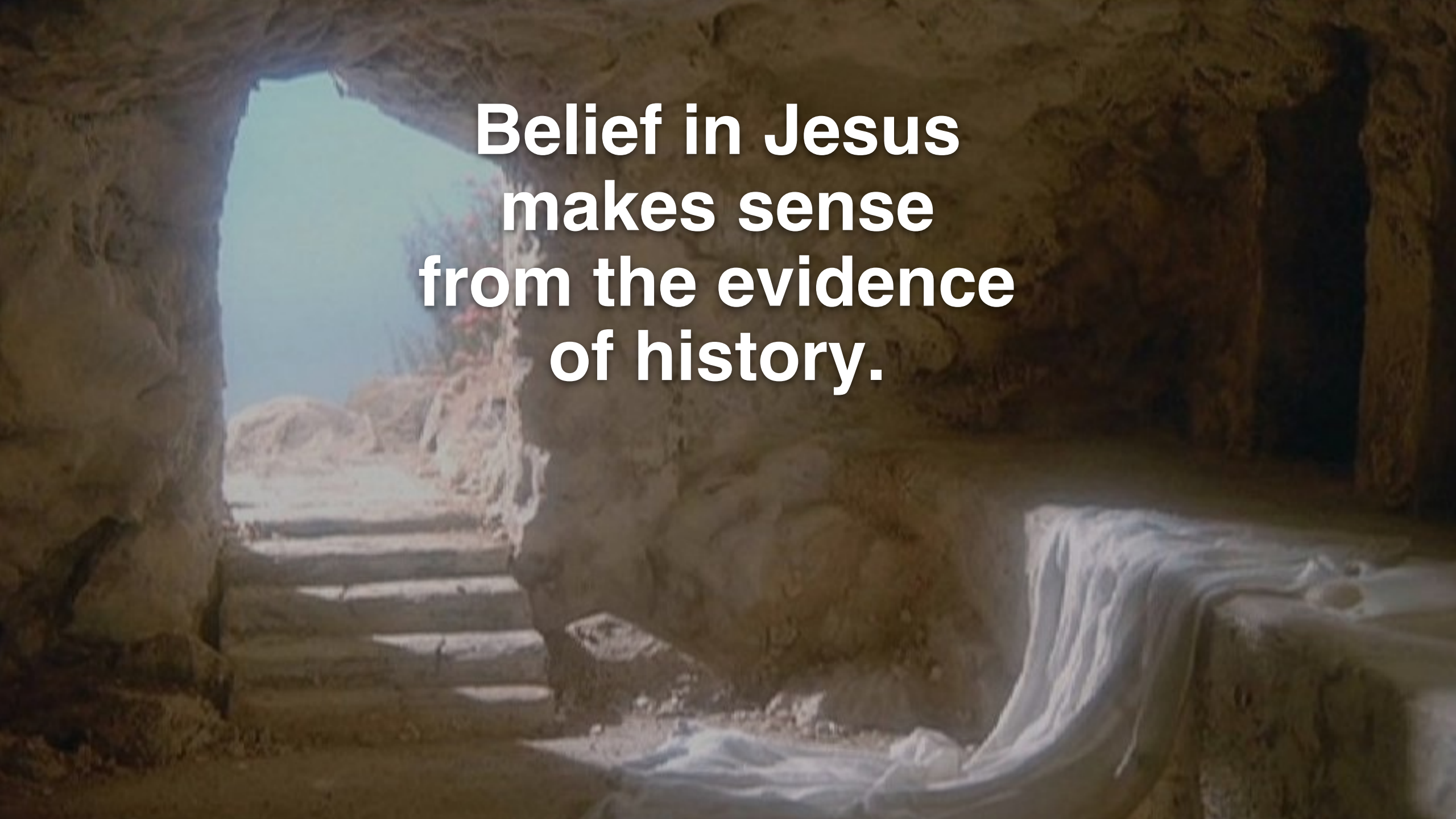


**Belief in God makes
sense of our logical
and moral compass**





**Belief in God makes
sense in light of
the intelligent design
we see around us.**

A photograph of the interior of a tomb, likely the tomb of Jesus. The scene is dimly lit, with a bright opening on the left side. A white shroud is draped over a stone slab on the right. The walls are made of rough, textured stone. The text "Belief in Jesus makes sense from the evidence of history." is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font in the center of the image.

**Belief in Jesus
makes sense
from the evidence
of history.**

**Belief in Jesus gives meaning
and significance to my life.**



In Him all things hold
together. Col. 1:17



(Now at this point if this person says:)

**“I still don’t think God exist,”
then ...GO DEEPER!**

**If we see the world through a theistic lens
we can build an unshakable foundation**



THREE MAJOR RELIGIOUS WORLD VIEWS



Judaism
Christianity
Islam

THEISM

God Made All



Zen Buddhism
Hinduism
New Age

PANTHEISM

God Is All



Religious
Humanism

ATHEISM

No God At All

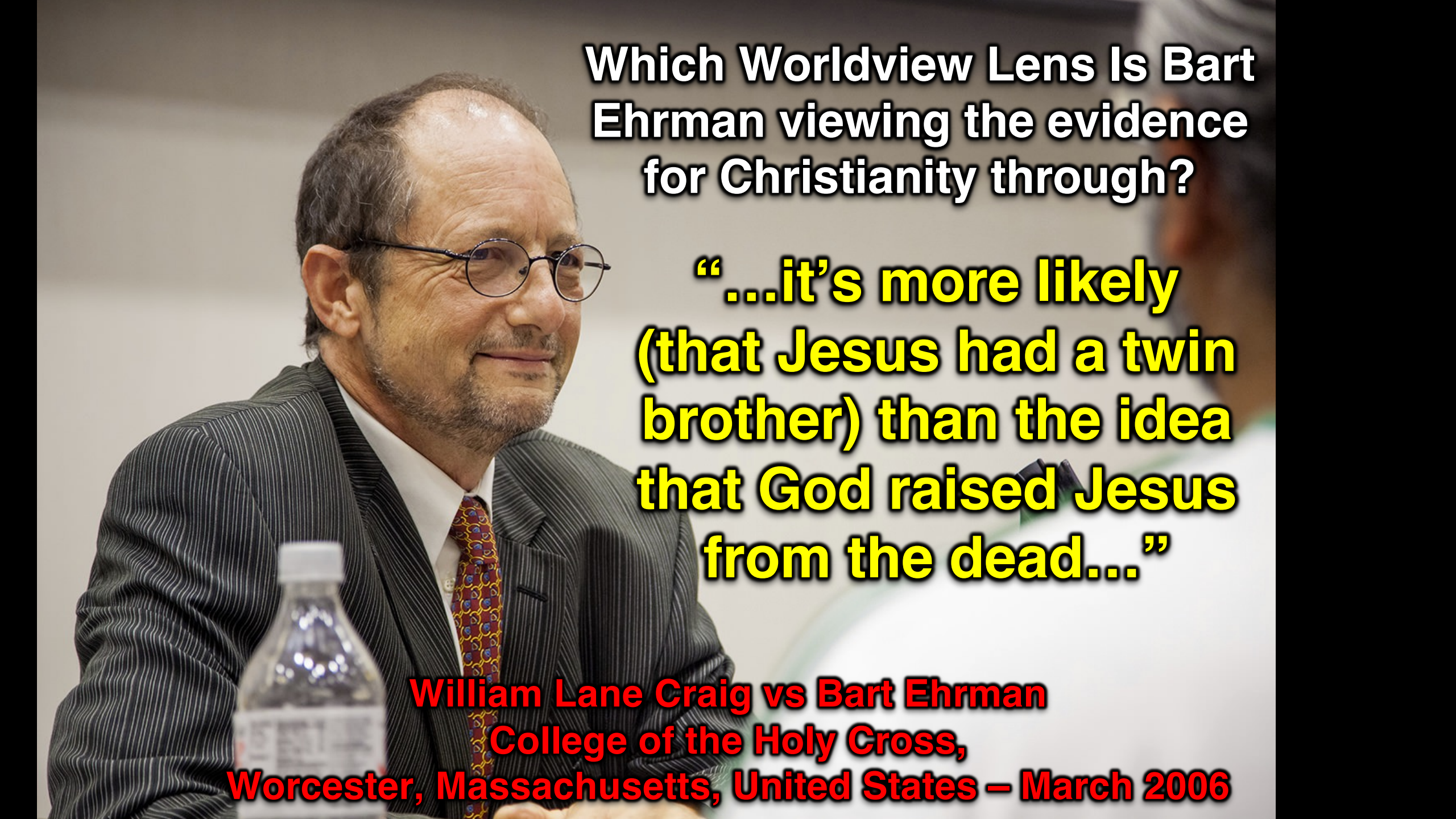
A hand holds a magnifying glass over a tropical beach scene. The magnifying glass focuses on a specific area of the beach, making it appear larger and more detailed. The background shows a wide view of the beach, ocean, and palm trees under a cloudy sky. The text 'ILLUSTRATION' is at the top right, and 'A worldview is like a lens.' is in the center right.

ILLUSTRATION

**A worldview is
like a lens.**

**Viewing Your World Through the
Right Lens Is Important
Because Your worldview
lens will color your conclusion!**





Which Worldview Lens Is Bart Ehrman viewing the evidence for Christianity through?

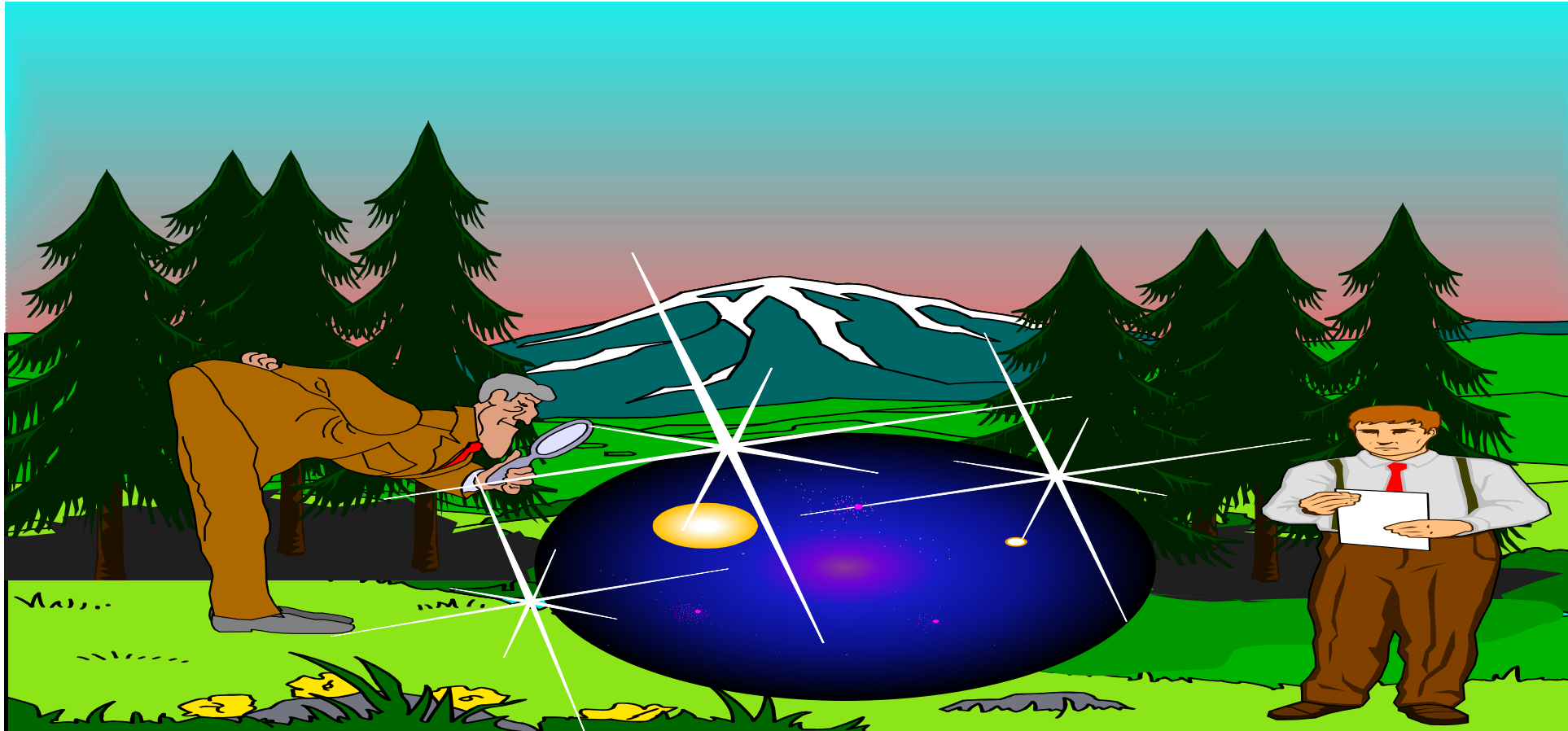
“...it’s more likely (that Jesus had a twin brother) than the idea that God raised Jesus from the dead...”

**William Lane Craig vs Bart Ehrman
College of the Holy Cross,
Worcester, Massachusetts, United States – March 2006**

**Building an unshakable foundation begins
with seeing through a theistic lens!**



Why is there something rather than nothing?



There are only two possibilities

Either

**No one created something
out of nothing OR**

**Someone created something
out of nothing.**

**If there is no God, why is there something
rather than nothing?**

Which is more likely?

**That Mind produced Matter
or that Matter produced
Mind?**

“It is easier to believe that infinite mind can make matter than it is that finite matter can produce a mind that can contemplate the infinite.”

Norman Geisler, *Knowing the Truth About Creationism* p. 7

Establishing the Existence of God

Because if there ever was a time where there was nothing, there would still be nothing.

1. **Would you agree that if something presently exists,**
2. **And something can not come from nothing,**
3. **Then something must have always existed.**

Removing Their Barriers



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Nothing
cannot
create
something.

An inference about our Creator from observations in the known universe

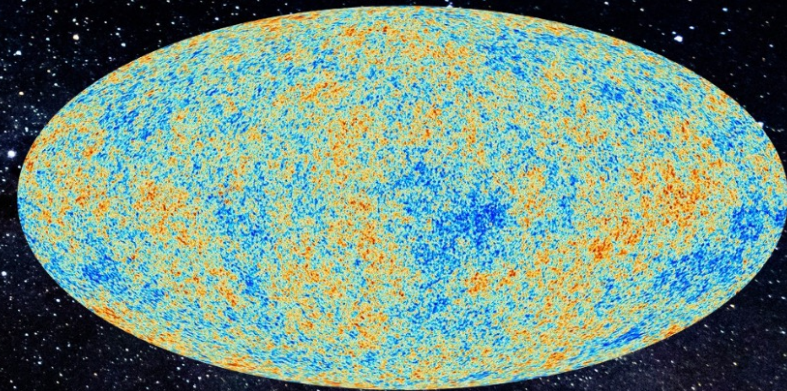


One light-year is 5.88 trillion miles. Cosmologists have theorized that the universe is 94 billion light-years long. Obviously that is only how big the *known* universe is. Certainly the power to create stars and galaxies in that big space, had to be pretty powerful. So our creator has to be pretty powerful.

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ROMANS 1:19-20



94 Billion Light-years

Z Q M

WHEN YOU HAVE ELIMINATED THE
IMPOSSIBLE, WHATEVER REMAINS, HOWEVER
IMPROBABLE, MUST BE THE TRUTH.

— SHERLOCK HOLMES

Even if God's existence seems highly
improbable to you, it must be true if
you remove the impossible!

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Now if it is valid to argue from effect to cause, then there are other attributes about this Creator that he/she must possess other than being an infinitely powerful power.

For example since we are a moral effect, we know our Creator must be moral also. Since you and I are intelligent, we know our Creator must be intelligent. As a result, we can conclude that this Creator must be infinitely intelligent, infinitely moral, and infinitely powerful in order to create the universe.

Understanding Faith, Reason, Apologetics and Evangelism



An Independent Standard for Measurement



C.S. Lewis
Mere Christianity, p 25.

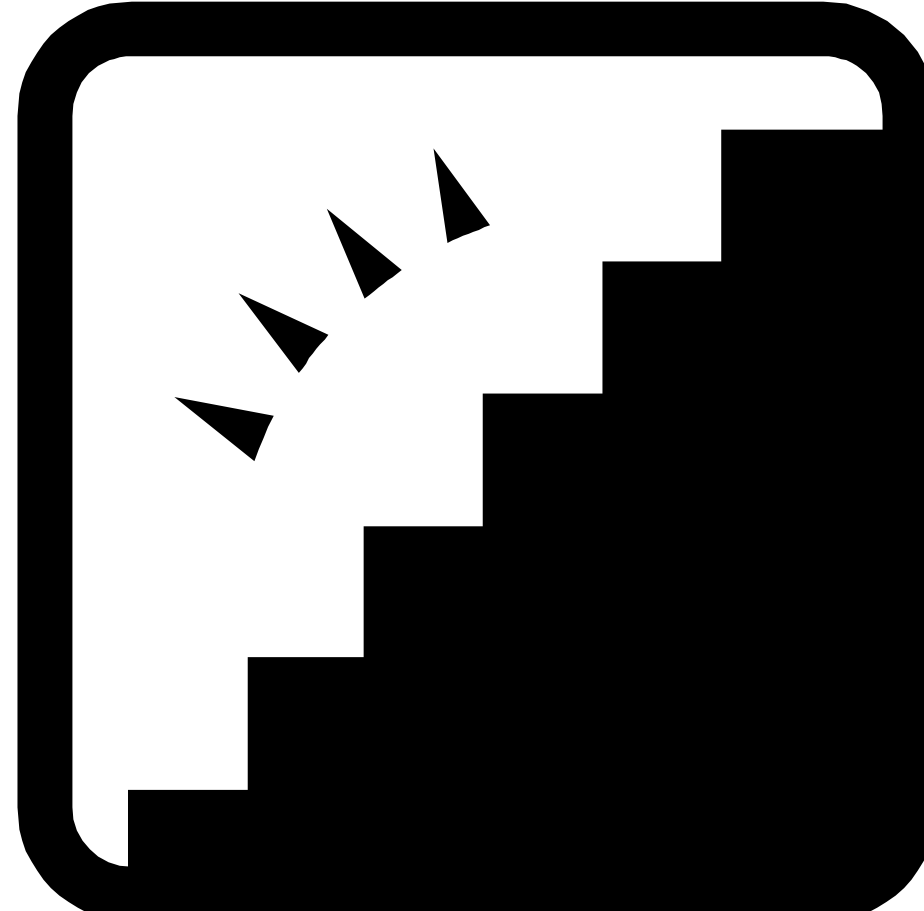
“The moment you say that one set of moral ideas can be better than another, you are, in fact, measuring them both by a standard, saying that one of them conforms to that standard more nearly than the other. But the standard that measures two things is something different from either.”

EVIDENCE FOR A THEISTIC GOD FROM PHILOSOPHY

Argument from the
reality of intelligent
effects - God is an
intelligent cause

Argument from the
reality of moral
effects – God is a
moral cause

Argument from effect
to cause - God is an
infinite power



* This God is identical to the God described in the Bible, a Theistic God

Evidence That The Universe had a Beginning From Science.

Three lines of evidence from science

- 1. Second Law of thermodynamics**
- 2. Expanding universe**
- 3. Background radiation echo**

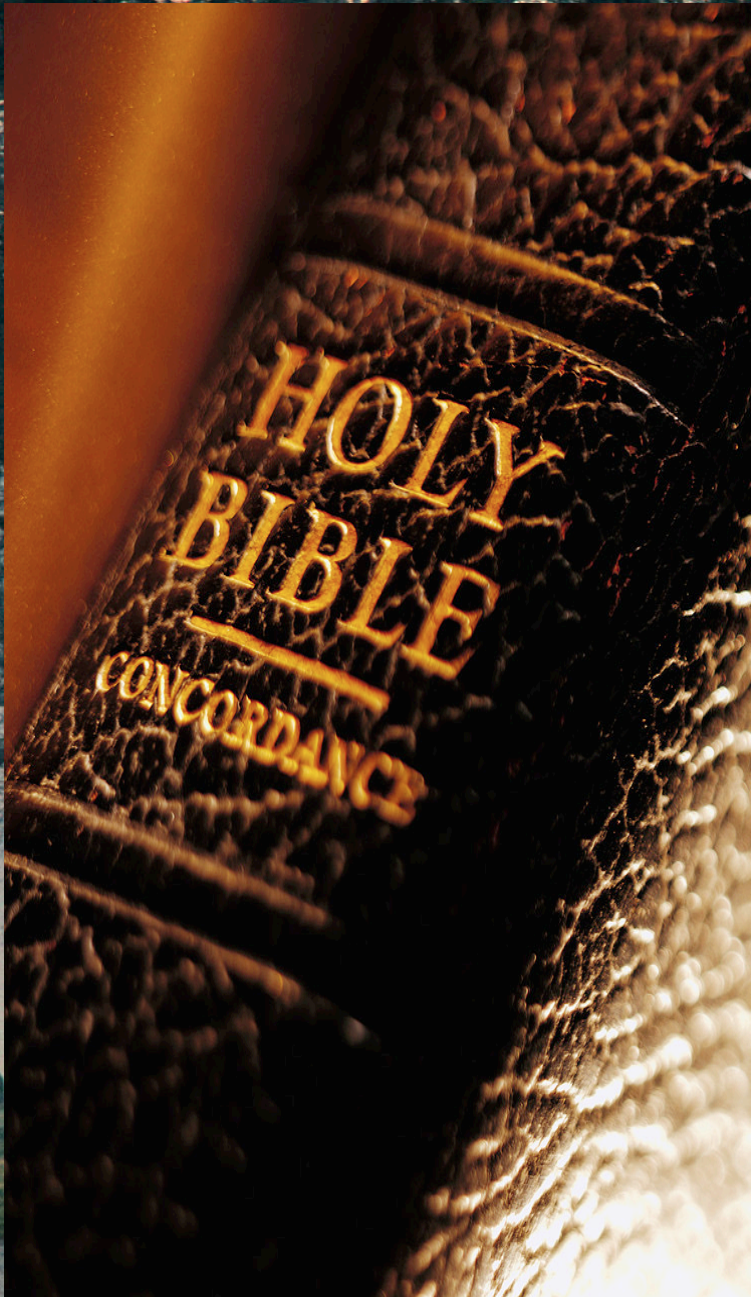
A group of people are silhouetted against a bright sunset over the ocean. In the background, a large wooden crucifix stands on a pier. The sun is a bright yellow circle in the upper right corner of the frame. The people are mostly men, some with their heads bowed in prayer. A woman is visible on the right side of the group, also looking down. The overall mood is solemn and reflective.

Why Should
We Trust What The
Bible Says About Jesus?

Criticism Leveled Against Christians

“You say you believe in the Bible because of Jesus, but then you say you believe in Jesus because of the Bible.”

“Isn't this circular reasoning?”



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12 Steps That Show Christianity Is True

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
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*See **Twelve Points That Show Christianity Is True** by **Dr. Norman Geisler**
(This can be ordered on Amazon)*

A wooden suspension bridge with metal railings and cables, stretching across a river. The bridge is made of wooden planks and is surrounded by a dense forest of green trees. The water in the river is a clear, light blue-green color. The bridge leads towards the background, disappearing into the forest.

“I am accountable”

1st Plank

“I cannot measure up”

2nd Plank

“I am a sinner”

3rd Plank

**“I need an outside
source for help”**

4th Plank

**“I need what only
Jesus can provide.”**

5th Plank

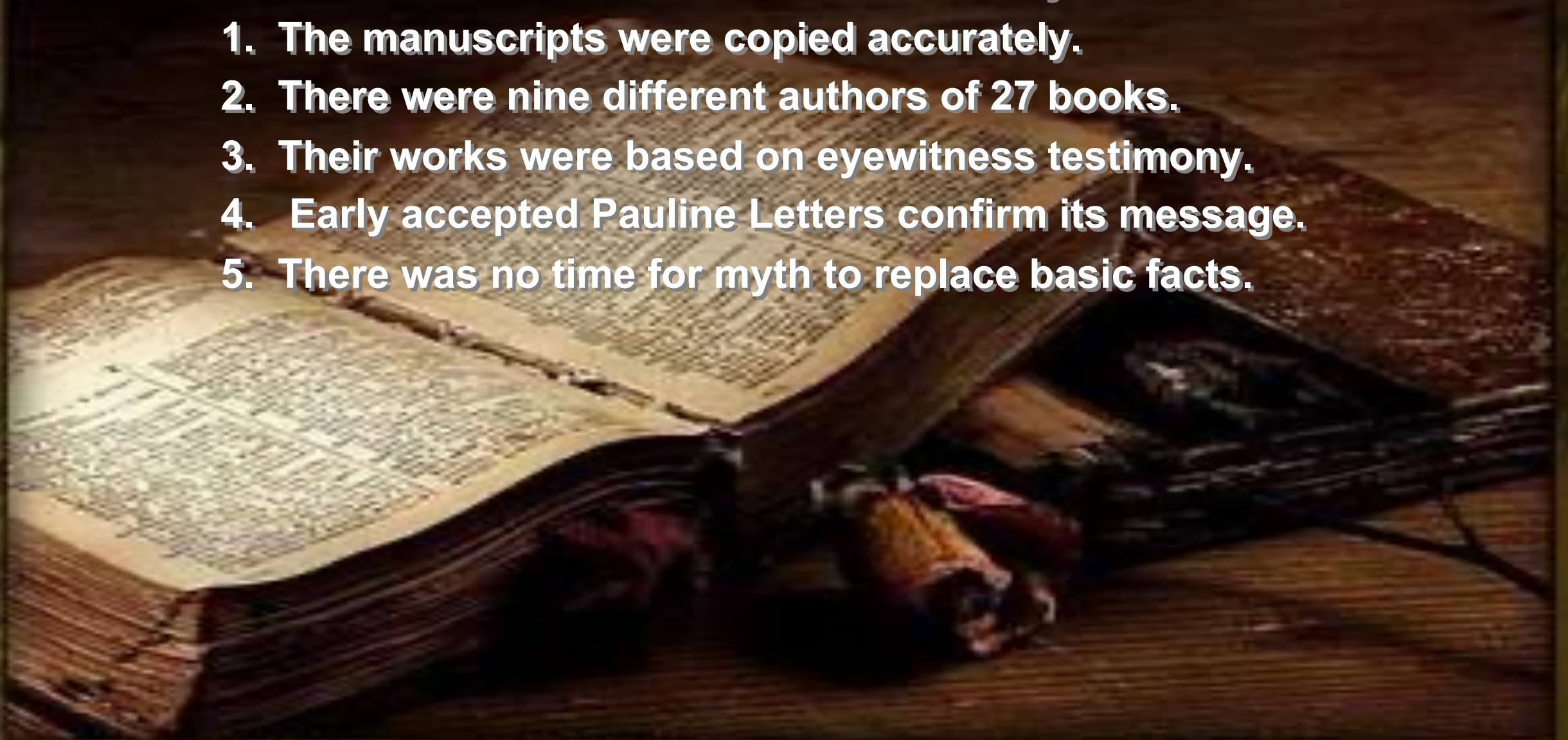
12 POINTS THAT SHOW CHRISTIANITY IS TRUE

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
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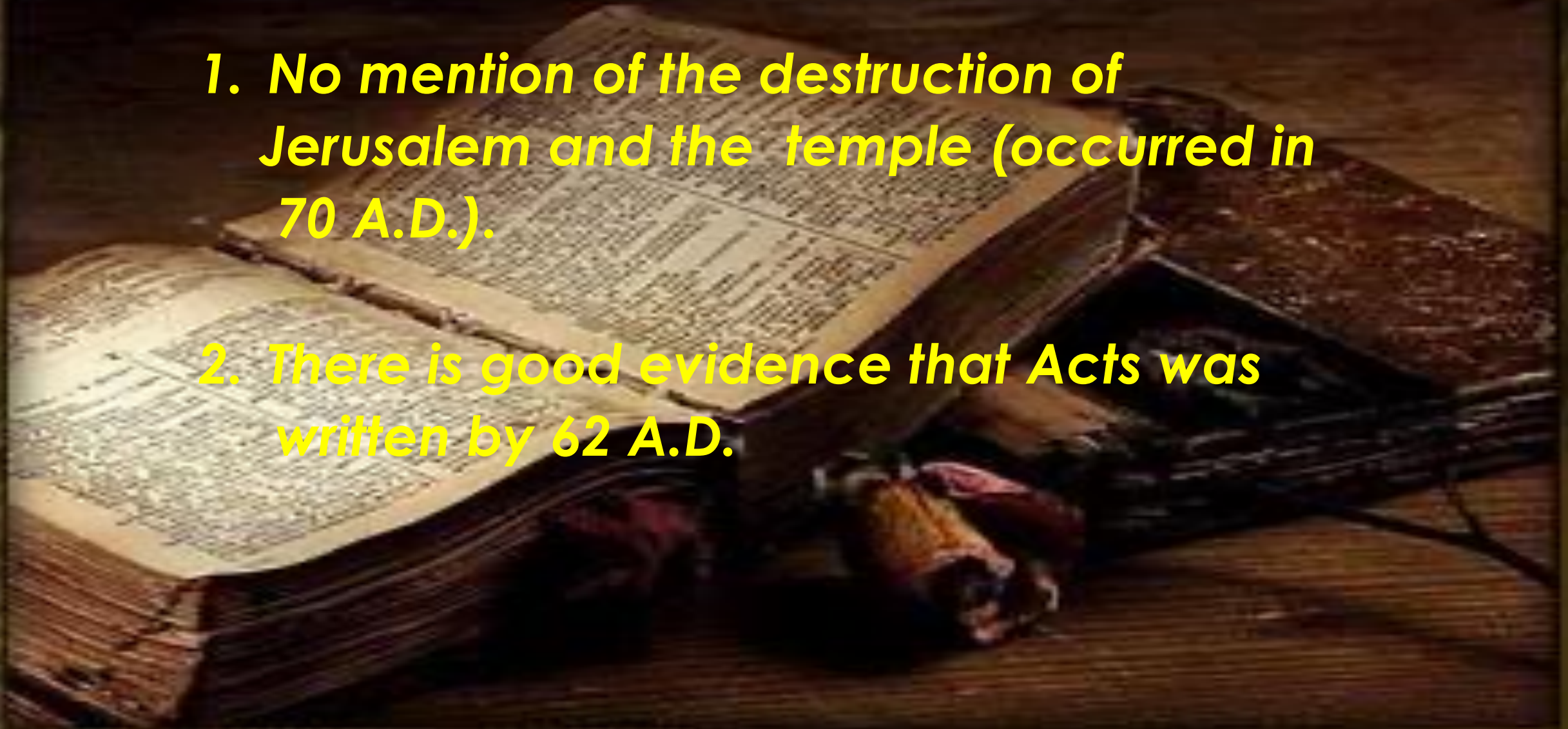
Ten Good Reasons for Reliability of the NT:

1. The manuscripts were copied accurately.
2. There were nine different authors of 27 books.
3. Their works were based on eyewitness testimony.
4. Early accepted Pauline Letters confirm its message.
5. There was no time for myth to replace basic facts.



Evidence for Early NT Authorship

- 1. No mention of the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple (occurred in 70 A.D.).**
- 2. There is good evidence that Acts was written by 62 A.D.**



Evidence for Acts by A.D. 62

- 1. No mention of Fall of Jerusalem--70 A.D.*
- 2. No reference to the Jewish War--66 A. D.*
- 3. No hint of Nero's persecutions--c. 65 A.D*
- 4. Apostle Paul is still alive--c. 65 A.D.*
- 5. Apostle James is still alive--c. 62 A.D.*

Note: Josephus recorded James' death at 62 A.D. (*Antiquities*, 20.9.1).

“

It is like writing the life of President Kennedy without mentioning his assassination (in 1963).”

Dr. Norman Geisler

Evidence for Early NT Authorship

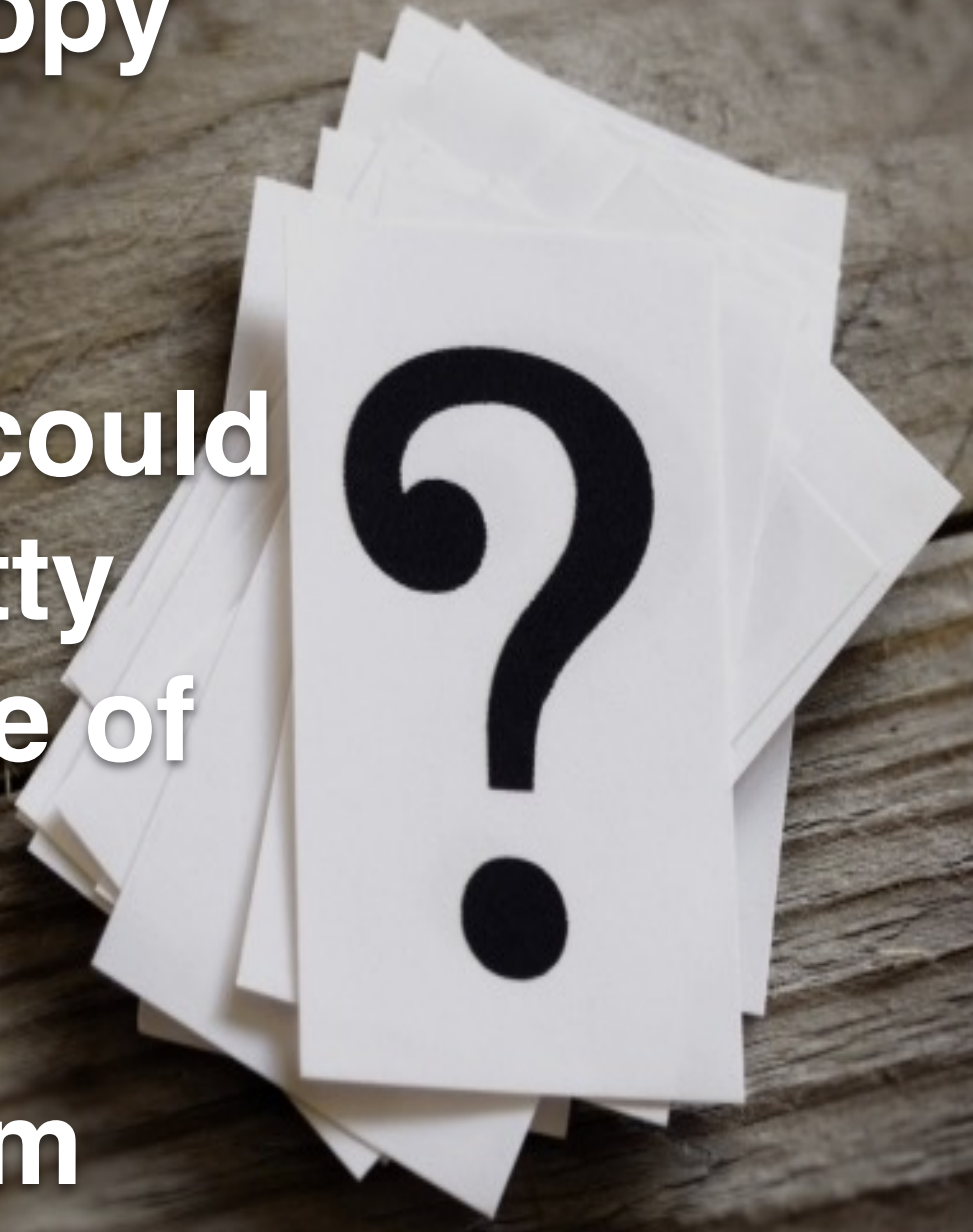
3. *Luke was written before Acts (thus by 61 A.D.).*
4. *Most critics date Mark earlier than Luke (thus by 60 A.D.).*
5. *Even critical scholars agree that 1 Cor. was written by 55-56 A.D.*

All this was during the life of eyewitnesses!

Ten Good Reasons for Reliability of the NT:

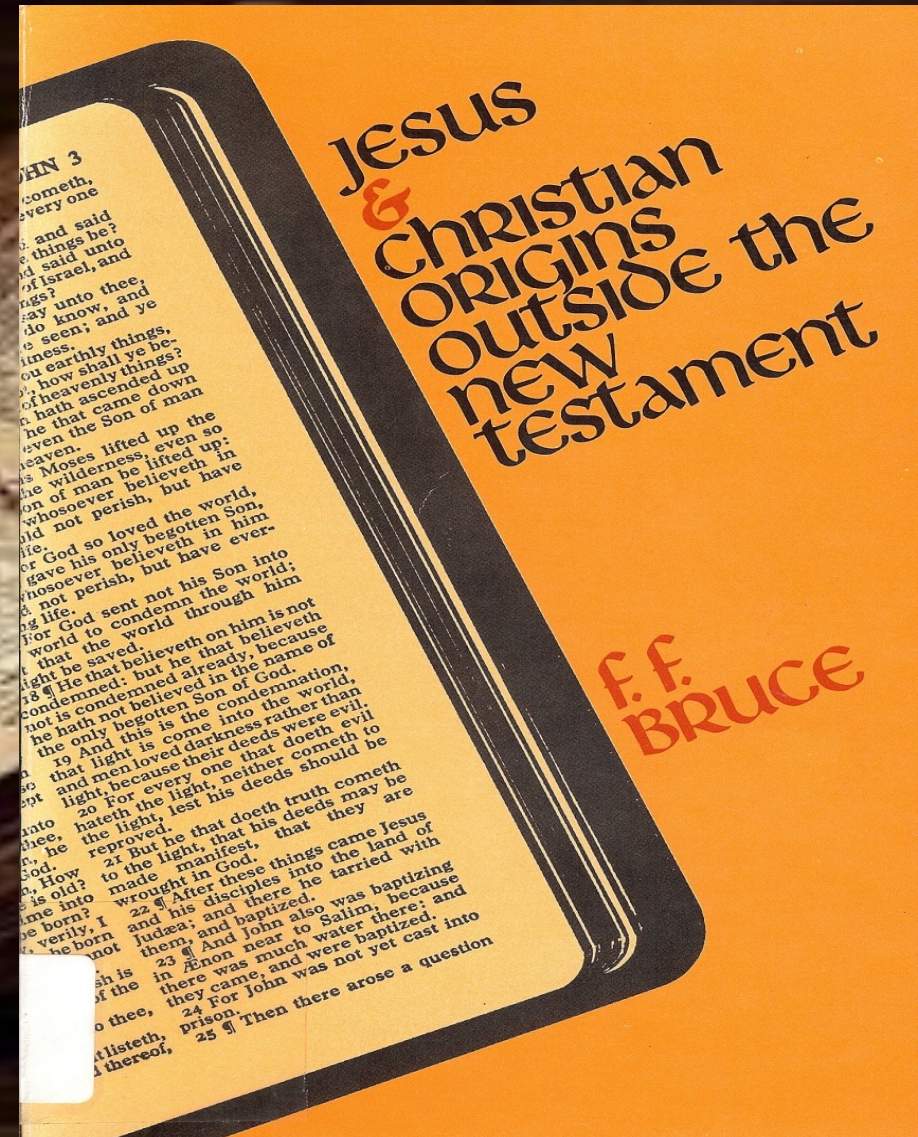
1. The manuscripts were copied accurately.
2. There were nine different authors of 27 books.
3. Their works were based on eyewitness testimony.
4. Early accepted Pauline Letters confirm its message.
5. There was no time for myth to replace basic facts.
6. **The nature of the records is authentic.**
7. **Noted Roman historians have confirmed it.**
8. **Noted legal experts have vouched for it.**
9. **Numerous archaeological finds supported it.**
10. **Non-Christian sources support their message.**

**Even if every copy
of the New
Testament was
destroyed, we could
still paint a pretty
accurate picture of
Jesus' life just
based on the
information from
secular sources!**



Non-Christian Sources for the NT

F. F. Bruce, *Jesus and Christian Origins Outside the NT.*



Non-Christian Sources for the NT

F. F. Bruce, *Jesus and Christian Origins Outside the NT.*

- (1) Jesus was from Nazareth.
- (2) He lived a virtuous life.
- (3) He performed unusual feats.
- (4) He introduced new teaching contrary to Judaism.
- (5) He was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
- (6) His disciples believed He rose from the dead.
- (7) His disciples denied polytheism.
- (8) His disciples worshiped Him.
- (9) His teachings and disciples spread rapidly.
- (10) His followers believed they were immortal.
- (11) His followers had contempt for death.
- (12) His followers renounced material goods.

Story of Jesus from secular writers

“Jesus lived during the time of Tiberius Caesar. He lived a virtuous life. He was a wonder worker. He had a brother named James. He claimed to be the Messiah. He was crucified under Pontius Pilate. An eclipse and an earthquake occurred when he died. He was crucified on the eve of the Jewish Passover. His disciples believed that he rose from the dead. His disciples were willing to die for their belief. Christianity spread rapidly as far as Rome. His disciples denied the Roman gods and worshiped Jesus as God.”

Taken from Dr. Norman Geisler's PowerPoint lecture "Twelve Points that Show Christianity is True"

- **Only 5% of the New Testament has been even questioned as a textual variant.**

"Most modern textual critics can agree on the bulk of the text (some 95 per cent of it, perhaps). It is the remaining 5 per cent or so where disputes occur and differing conclusions may be found."

Keith Elliot and Ian Moir in *Manuscripts and the Text of the New Testament*, page 8

**Even if every copy
of the New
Testament was
destroyed, we could
construct a lot of
the New Testament
word for word
based on the
citations of the early
church fathers!**



The percentage of the N.T. quoted from the Early Church Fathers up until 325 A.D. Council of Nicea

Subtotal Gospels 88%

Matthew 87.3%

Mark 78.1%

Luke. 84.9%

John. 96.7%

Subtotal Paul. 58.0%

Subtotal Gospels and Paul 77%

<https://biblequery.org/Bible/BibleReliability/SummaryOfBibleReliability.html>

The percentage of the N.T. quoted from the Early Church Fathers plus Manuscripts up until 325 A.D. Council of Nicaea

Pre-Nicene Manuscripts	+	Pre- Nicene writers	
Gospel 53%	+	Gospels 88%. = 92%	
Paul 73%	+	Paul 58%. = 85%	

<https://biblequery.org/Bible/BibleReliability/SummaryOfBibleReliability.html>

**The percentage of the N.T. quoted
from the Early Church Fathers and other writers
by 350 A.D.**

Whole New Testament 100.%

<https://biblequery.org/Bible/BibleReliability/SummaryOfBibleReliability.html>

Percent of Accuracy of the NT

Even Critic Bart Ehrman admits: “In fact, most of the changes found in early Christian manuscripts have nothing to do with theology or ideology. Far and away the most changes are the result of mistakes pure and simple—slips of the pen, accidental omissions, inadvertent additions, misspelled words, blunders of one sort or another”
(Misquoting Jesus, 55).

12 POINTS THAT SHOW CHRISTIANITY IS TRUE

1. Truth about reality is knowable.
2. The opposite of true is false.
3. It is true that the theistic God exists.
4. If God exists then miracles are possible.
5. Miracles can be used to confirm a message from God.
6. The New Testament is historically reliable.
7. The New Testament says Jesus claimed to be God.
8. **Jesus' claim to be God was miraculously confirmed by:**
 - a. His fulfillment of many prophecies about Himself;
 - b. His sinless and miraculous life;
 - c. His prediction and accomplishment of His resurrection
9. Therefore, Jesus is God.
10. Whatever Jesus (who is God) teaches is true.
11. Jesus taught that the Bible is the Word of God.
12. Therefore, it is true that the Bible is the Word of God (and anything opposed to it is false).

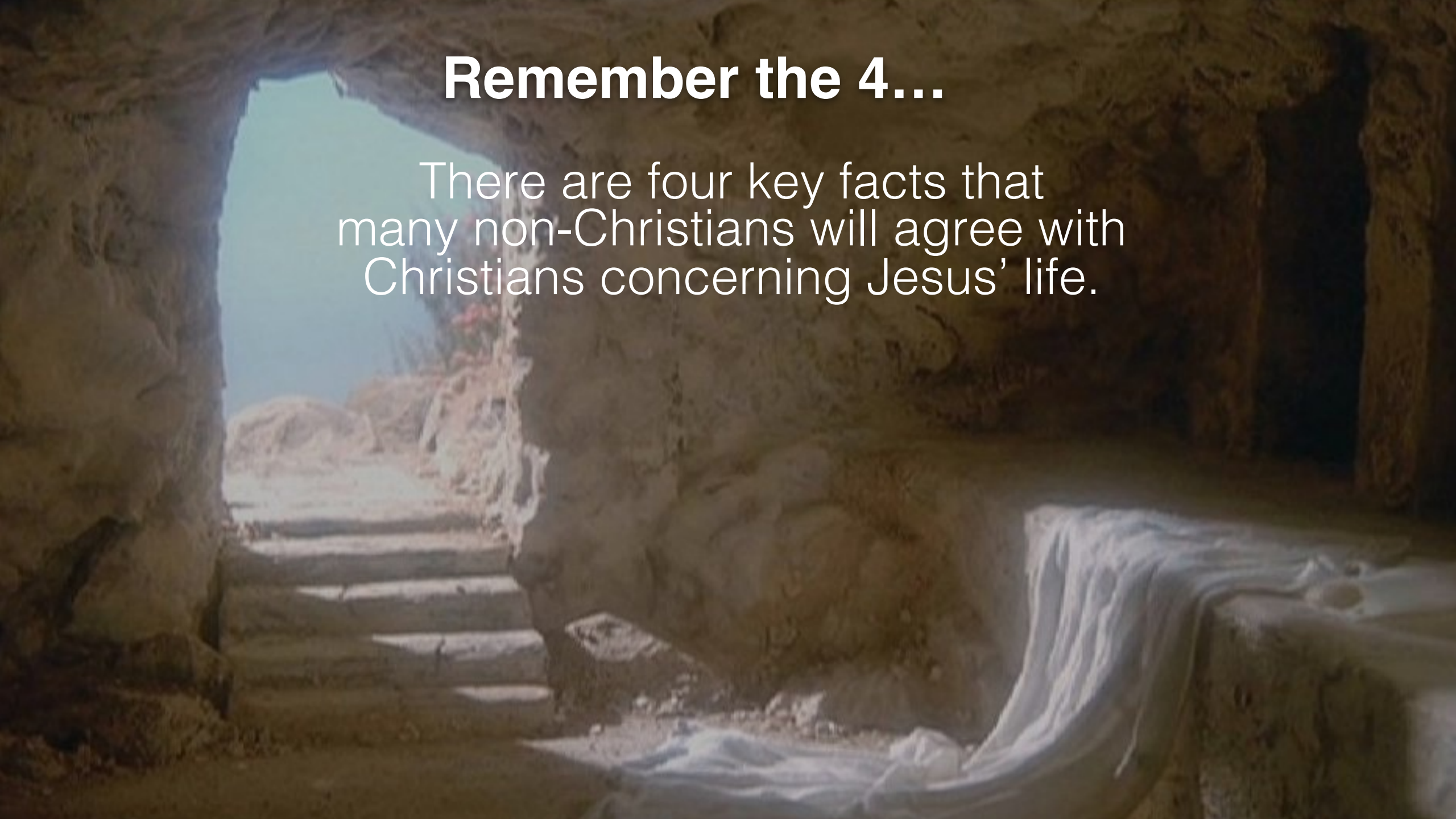
See *Twelve Points That Show Christianity Is True* by Dr. Norman Geisler for more details, which can be ordered at: www.ngim.org



**A few things to
remember about
the Resurrection
of Jesus!**

Remember the 4...

There are four key facts that many non-Christians will agree with Christians concerning Jesus' life.



The Four Facts Are:

1. Jesus died by crucifixion.
2. He was buried in a tomb that was found empty three days later.
3. Something happened to convince a large number of his disciples that he had resurrected from the dead.
4. His disciples (who knew him the best) were willing to die for their belief that Jesus appeared to them.

Evidence for The Resurrection

Even critical scholars agree that 1 Cor. was written by 55-56 A.D.

This was 25 to 30 years after Christ's death.



Evidence for The Resurrection

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. (1 Cor. 15:3-8)

12 POINTS THAT SHOW CHRISTIANITY IS TRUE

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See *Twelve Points That Show Christianity Is True* by Dr. Norman Geisler for more details, which can be ordered on amazon.

Jesus Taught We Can Trust The Bible!

1. It is divinely authoritative (Mt. 4:4, 7, 10).
2. It is imperishable (Mt. 5:17-18).
3. It is infallible (Jn. 10:35).
4. It is inerrant (without error) (Mt. 22:29).
5. It is historically reliable (Mt. 12:40; Mt. 24:37-38).
6. It is scientifically accurate (Mt. 19:4-5).
7. It has ultimate supremacy (Mt. 15:3, 6).

12 POINTS THAT SHOW CHRISTIANITY IS TRUE

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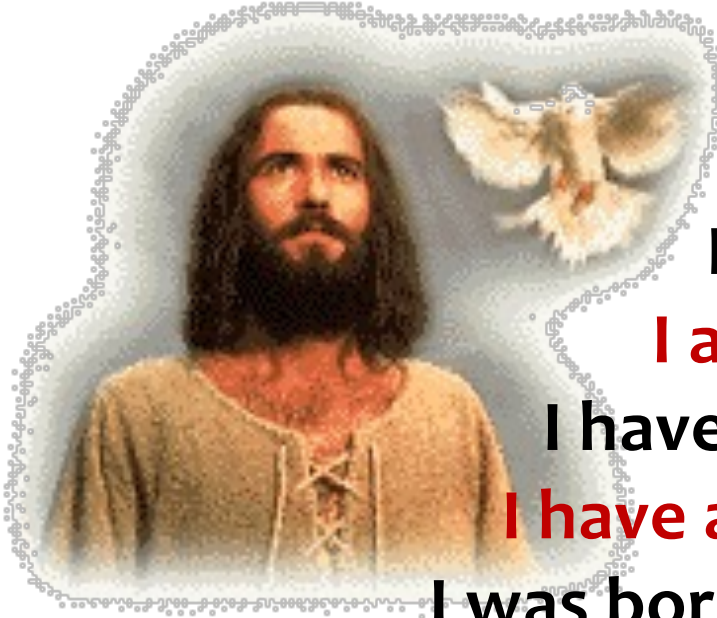
A photograph of an empty tomb, likely the one in Jerusalem. The view is through a rough-hewn stone archway. Inside the tomb, a white cloth lies on the floor. The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from the opening, creating a dramatic and somber atmosphere.

Christ's Unique Life

**Jesus Christ is
the only major religious leader
that ever claimed to be God,
who fulfilled prophecy,
lived a sinless life, and then died on
the cross and rose from the dead.”**

Dr. David Geisler

Which Religions Leader Ever Said This!



I am without sin (John 8:46)

I have always existed (John 8:58)

I am the only Son of God (John 3:16)

I am the light of the world (John 8:12)

I have come to save the world (John 3:17)

I have authority to forgive sins (Mark 2:10)

I was born to testify to the truth (John 18:37)

You trust in God; Trust also in me (John 14:1)

I am the Truth and only way to God (John 14:6)

I will come again to judge the world (Matt 25:31-46)



I Am Put Here for the Defense of the Gospel

Dr. Norman L. Geisler: A Festschrift in His Honor



edited by
Terry L. Miethe

“So I cast my lot with Him-not the one who claimed wisdom, Confucius; or the one who claimed enlightenment, Buddha; or the one who claimed to be a prophet, Muhammad, but with the one who claimed to be God in human flesh. The one who declared, ‘Before Abraham was born, I am’- and proved it.”

Dr. Norman Geisler



So since I can trust Jesus...



...then I can trust the Bible!

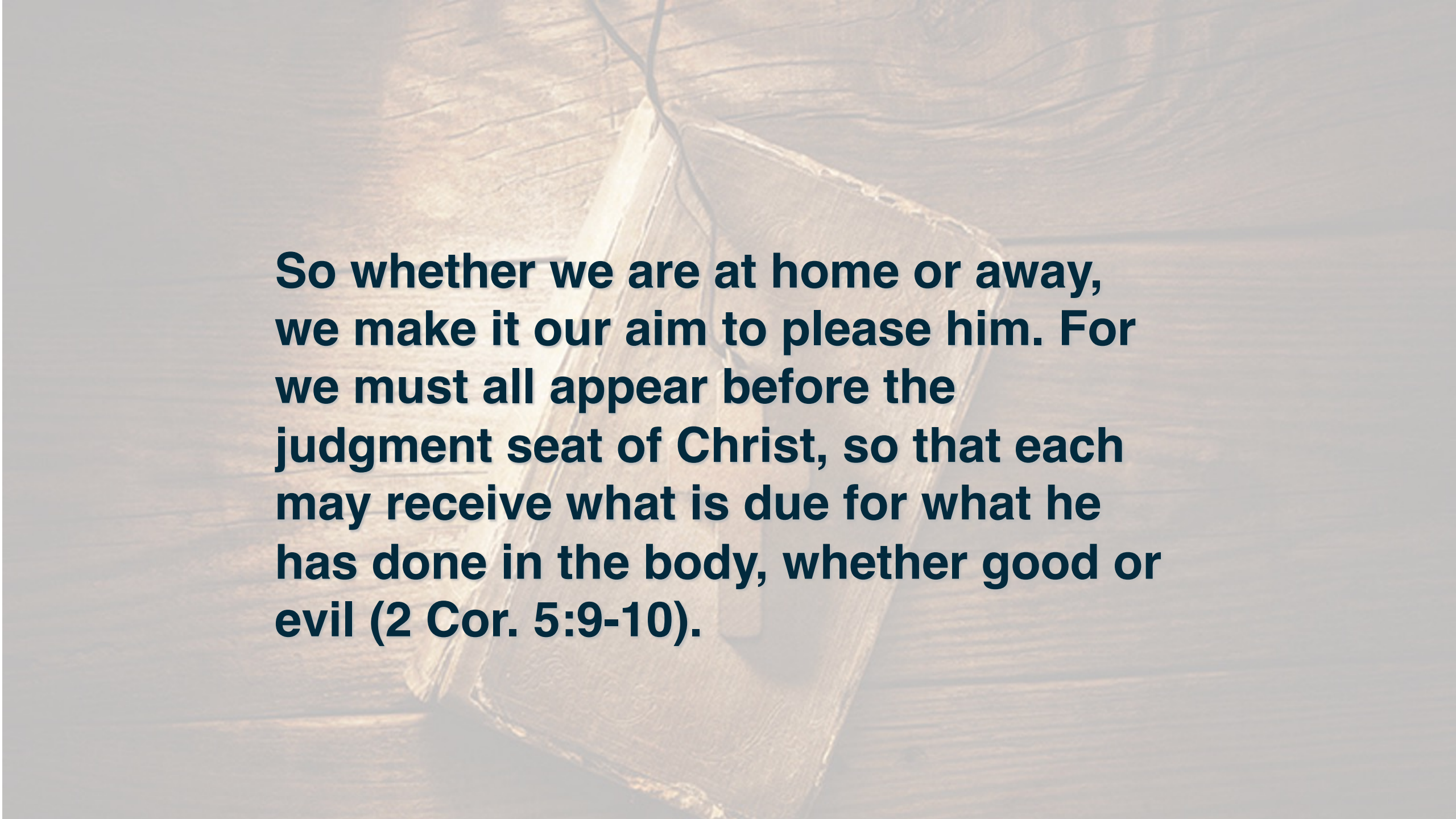
**How should
this truth, that
we can trust the
Bible because
we can trust
Jesus, impact
how we live?**



An open book with text overlaid. The book is open, showing two pages of text. The text is in a serif font, likely a classic Bible translation. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wooden table or a book cover. The overall tone is serious and contemplative.

What was God's plan for us from the beginning?

God's plan from the beginning was not to make you and I feel overwhelmed by the task God has left His followers to do!

An open book with a wooden cover, showing the pages and the binding. The book is positioned diagonally across the frame, with the pages visible on the left and right sides. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light brown color.

**So whether we are at home or away,
we make it our aim to please him. For
we must all appear before the
judgment seat of Christ, so that each
may receive what is due for what he
has done in the body, whether good or
evil (2 Cor. 5:9-10).**



Jesus said

“Take my yoke upon you,
and learn from me, for I
am gentle and lowly in
heart, and you will find rest
for your souls. 30 For my
yoke is easy, and my
burden is light.”

Matthew 11:29-30 ESV


“There is no fear in love, but perfect love cast out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.”
(1 John 4:18, ESV)



**“We love because
He first loved us.”**

(1 John 4:19, ESV)





Forgive

**“Therefore I tell you, her sins,
which are many, are forgiven
—for she loved much. But he
who is forgiven little, loves little.”**

(Luke 7:47, ESV)

A Perspective To Remember

— The more we realize our sinful condition apart from Christ, the more we will realize the degree in which we have been forgiven.

— The degree in which you and I realize we have been forgiven a great debt will be the degree in which through God's power we will be able to love in return.

— This love will translate into having a great desire to serve God.

**If you and I realize how
much God has forgiven
us, it will free us up...**



An open book with text on the pages, resting on a wooden surface. The text is overlaid in yellow with a black outline.

What was God's ...?

We also need to keep in mind that whatever God has called us to do, we must do it in His strength not our own.

What Was God's Plan From The Beginning?

8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" (Gen. 3:8-9)

An open book with text on the pages, resting on a wooden surface. The text is in a serif font, and the pages are aged and slightly yellowed. The book is open to a page with a large heading and several columns of text. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wooden table or desk.

What was God's ...?

**What can we discern of
God's original plan for
Adam and Eve from these
verses before the Fall?**

God's Plan From The Beginning...

And God blessed them (Adam and Eve). And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth. (Gen. 1:28)

An open book with a dark cover and aged, yellowed pages is lying on a wooden surface. A large, ornate metal padlock is fastened to the book's spine, preventing it from being opened. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the paper and the grain of the wood.

God's plan had a snag!

What was God's concern with Adam and Eve, even before the Fall?

Why did God allow Satan to tempt Adam and Eve?

What good purpose could that have possibly served?

Why Should God Permit Any Evil?

LOVE *is the greatest good.*

LOVE *requires free choice.*

FREE *implies possibility of the opposite choice.*

GOD *alone is love, the greatest good.*

GREATEST *good for humanity is God's love.*

GREATEST *evil for humanity is rejecting God.*

Why Should God Permit Evil?

TO STOP *evil is to stop free choices.*

TO STOP *free choices is to stop love.*

TO STOP *love is to stop the greatest good.*

TO STOP *the greatest good is the greatest evil.*

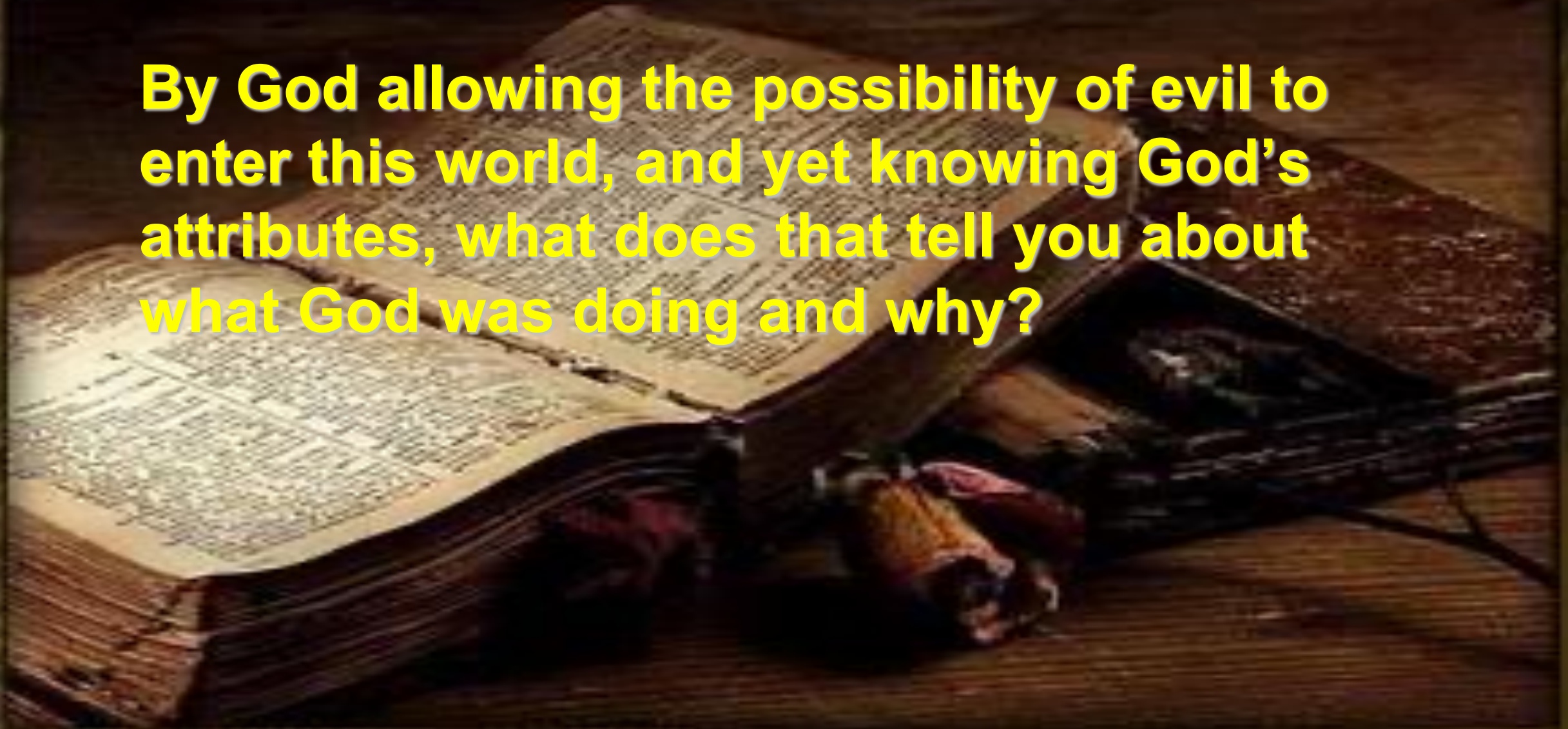
Question:

Did we really want God to never permit the possibility of evil ?

Do we really want God to stop our evil?

God's plan was...

By God allowing the possibility of evil to enter this world, and yet knowing God's attributes, what does that tell you about what God was doing and why?



What Was God's Plan From The Beginning?

“...He is the best of all beings possible and, as such, He must produce the best of all worlds actually possible (if He is going to create). Permitting this evil world is the best of all possible ways to produce the best of all possible worlds. Our own societies are an illustration of this point.

Norm Geisler, If God, Why Evil? P. 68-69

What Was God's Plan From The Beginning?

“We permit cars, boats, and airplanes knowing there will be accidents and deaths.” Nonetheless, we deem that the end of human freedom, mobility, and happiness justifies permitting (though discouraging) the evils we know will sometimes happen. God does the same with His World.”

Norm Geisler, If God, Why Evil? P. 68-69

God's Plan From The Beginning

²⁴ He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds^[a] among the wheat and went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. ²⁷ And the servants^[b] of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ ²⁸ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ ²⁹ But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.” **(Matt. 13:24-30)**

God's Plan From The Beginning

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."³⁷ He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one,³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers,⁴² and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear. **(Matt. 13:36-43)**

What was God's plan...?

God's plan from the beginning included the redemption of mankind.



Redemption of Mankind

An open book with text on the pages, resting on a wooden surface. The book is the central focus of the image, with its pages slightly aged and the text clearly visible. The background is a dark, textured wooden surface.

"The underlying theme of all the Scriptures is *Redemption*: in the *Old Testament* the *anticipation* of it in type and prophecy; in the *Gospels* the *accomplishment* of it by the death of Christ; In the *Acts* and *Epistles*, the *application* of it to the needs of man; in the *Revelation*, the *achievement* of it in the subjection of all kingdoms to the rule of God."

W. Graham Scroggie, *The Unfolding Drama of Redemption*, p.32

Redemption of Mankind

* **But God didn't redeem us merely so we would merely escape the fires of hell after we die.**

He wants us to experience the abundantly life that Christ came to give us.

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” (Jn. 10:10)

Redemption of Mankind

An open book with a quill pen resting on it, set against a dark background. The book is open to a page with dense text, and the quill is positioned diagonally across the pages. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the paper and the dark feathers of the quill.

Why was God's plan for redemption for mankind so critical to restore our intimate fellowship with Him?

Because God could not forgive us without us being declared righteous.

Yet God couldn't declare us righteous without exercising his justice while at the same time demonstrating His love.

God's Plan of Redemption

But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. Rom. 5:8-9

Redemption of Mankind

God's plan of redemption includes making us holy!

14 Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. (Heb. 12:14)



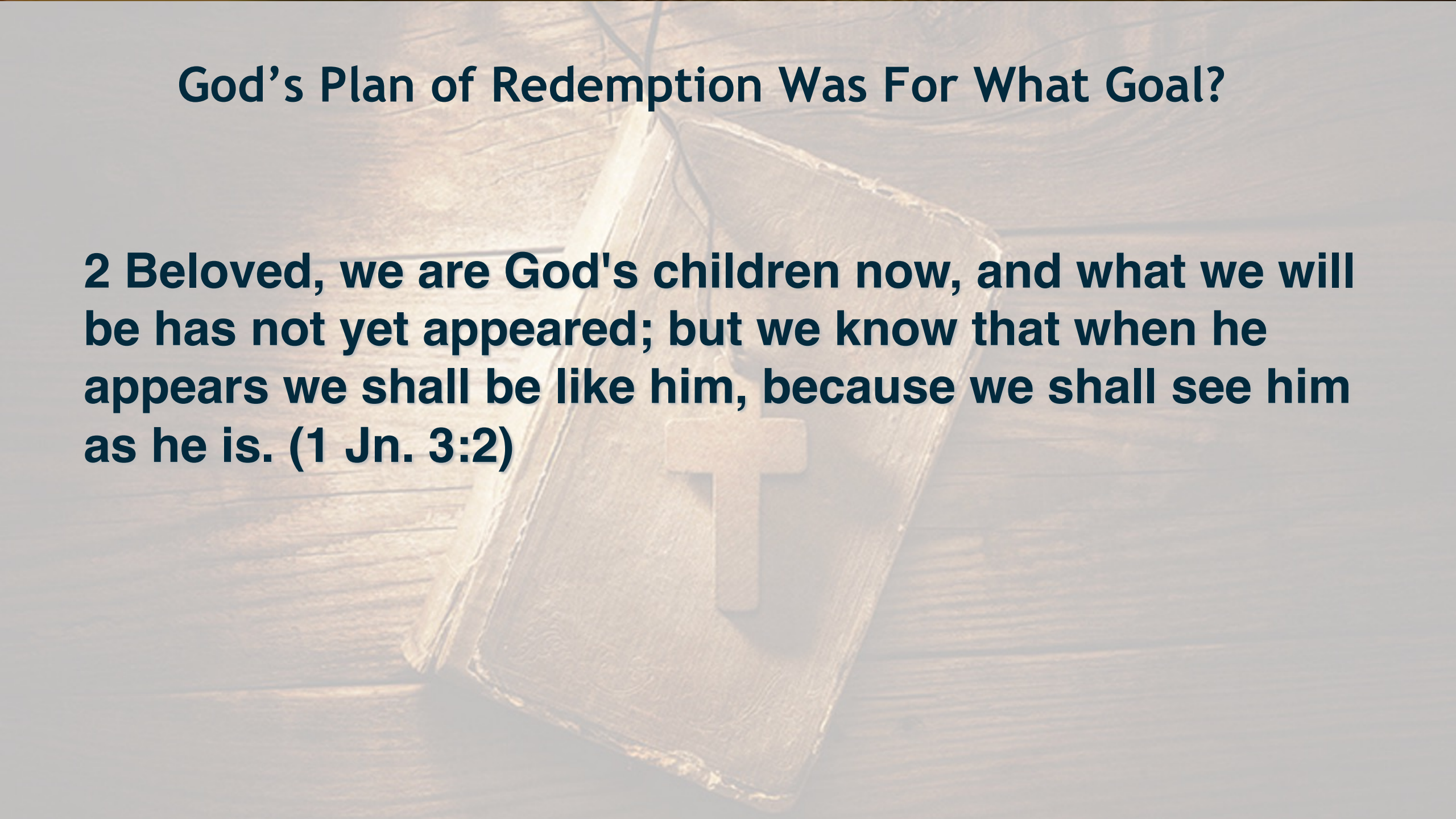
Redemption of Mankind

God's final plan was that we would become like Christ!



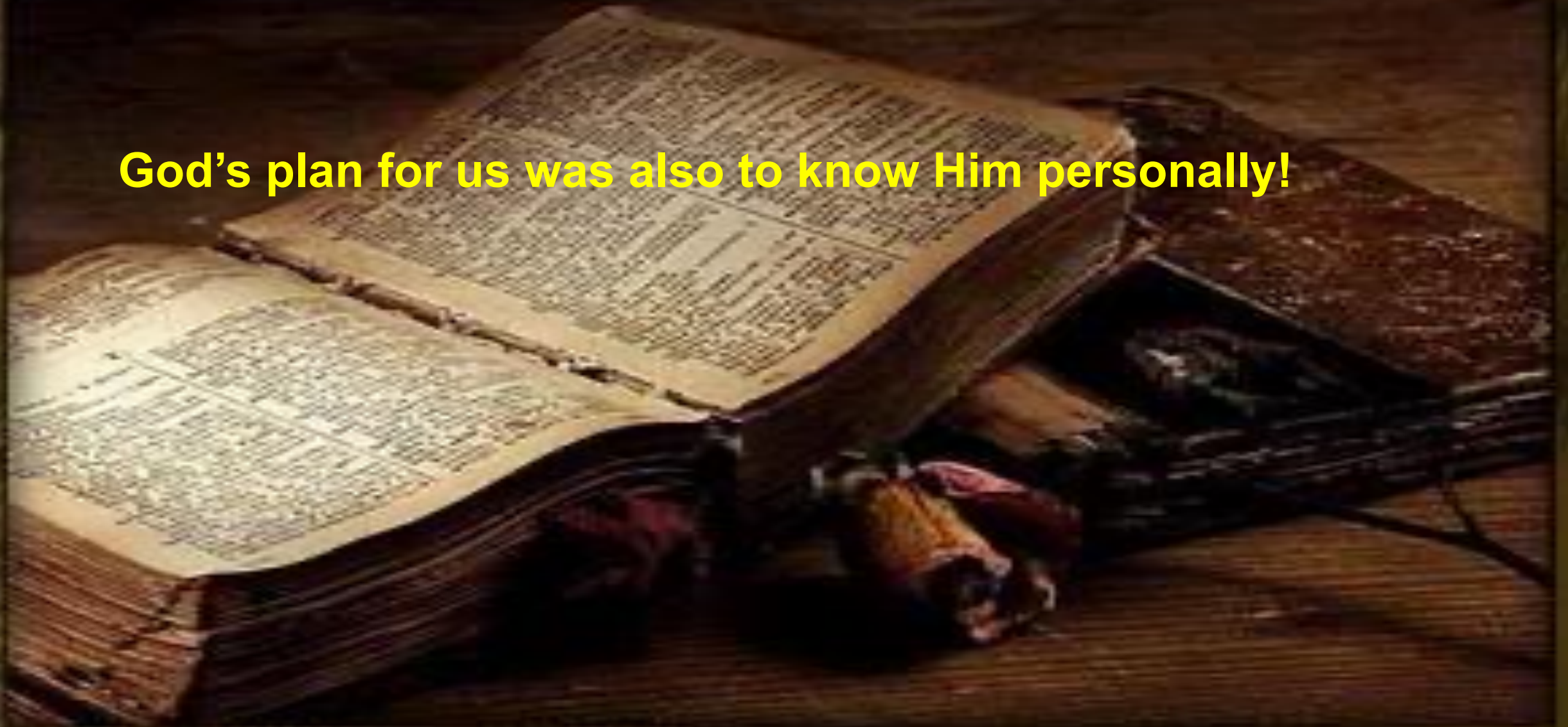
God's Plan of Redemption Was For What Goal?

2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. (1 Jn. 3:2)



Redemption of Mankind

God's plan for us was also to know Him personally!



What Was God's Plan From The Beginning?

28 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. (Phil. 3:8-11)

Redemption of Mankind

Because God's plan after the fall was our redemption, His goal for us in this life was not to maximize our happiness.

God's plan was to bring about the knowledge of God in this life that brings happiness in the next life.

God's Final Plan

4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” Rev. 21:4

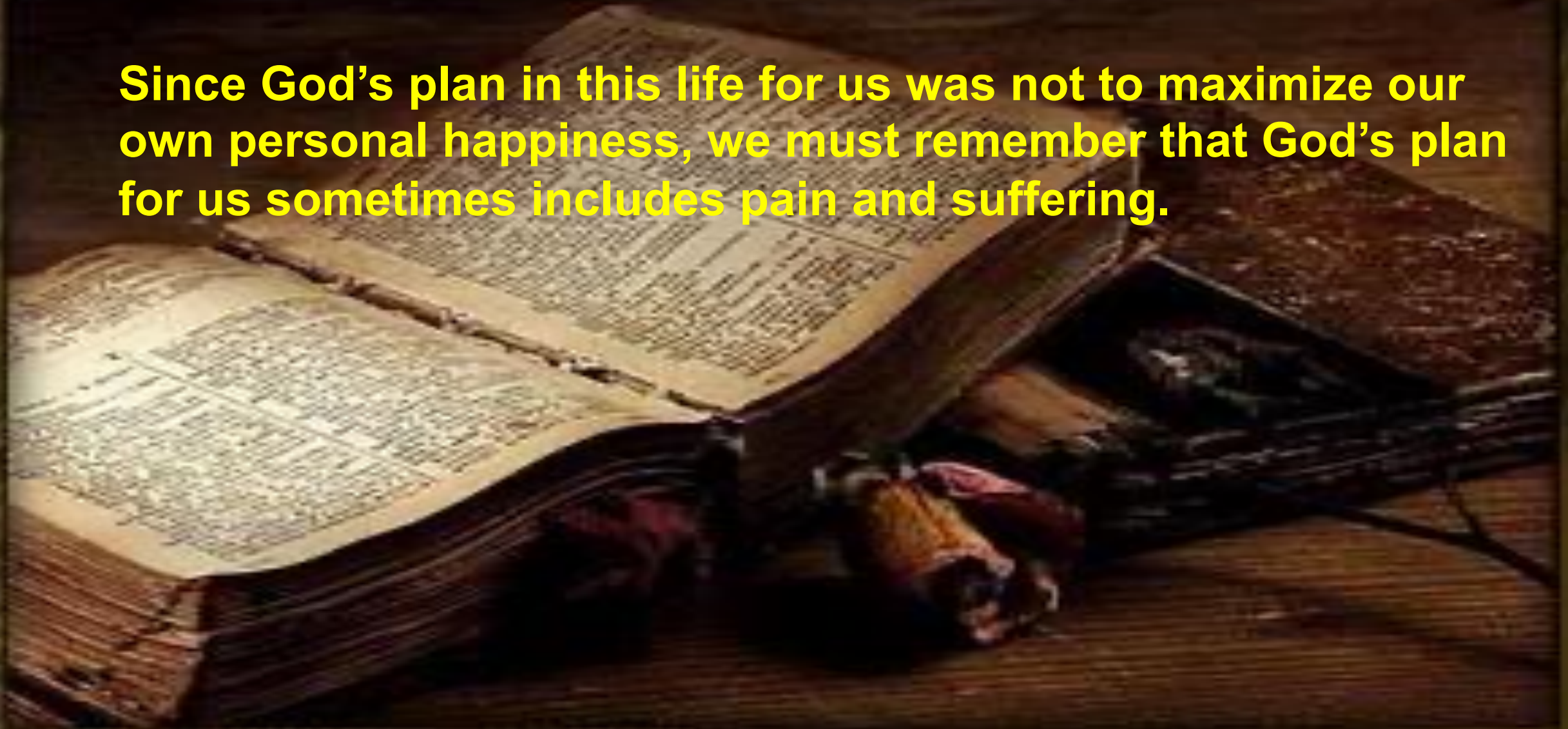
What Was God's Plan From The Beginning?

“This present world is not the best of all possible worlds, but it is the best of all possible ways to the best of all achievable worlds.”

Norm Geisler, *If God, Why Evil?* p. 68

Redemption of Mankind

Since God's plan in this life for us was not to maximize our own personal happiness, we must remember that God's plan for us sometimes includes pain and suffering.



Why Was Pain and Suffering a Part of God's Plan For Us?

2 Count it all joy, my brothers,[a] when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. 4 And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (Js. 1:2-4)

Why Was Pain and Suffering a Part of God's Plan For Us?

3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.(Rom. 5:3-5)

1. How We Should Walk?

- Keep in mind that God's plan from the beginning was to redeem mankind.

How was God going to accomplish this?

- Through the blood of Christ.



What was His plan in doing this?

- **So we can be reconciled to God.**

What was His eternal plan for mankind for those who accept his gift to be redeemed?

- **Intimate eternal fellowship with God and conforming us to be just like Christ (1 Jn. 3:2).**

2. How We Should Witness?

Some Practical Suggestions For Taking
That Next Step In Our Witness To Others



Taking That Next Step

1. Determine who the Lord is placing on your heart to reach out to!
2. Pray for open doors. (Col. 4:3)
3. Look for divine appointments daily! (Acts 8:29)
4. Make the most of every conversation you have with pre-believers to help them take one step closer. (1 Cor. 3:6; Col. 4:5; 1 Cor. 9:22)





**What changes will you make
if you purpose to live your
life by the Word of God?**





Our Walk and Witness



Apologetics,
Evangelism,
and Disciple-

Apologetics, Evangelism,
and Discipleship

For we live by faith, not
by sight. • For we live by
faith, not by sight. • For
we live by faith, not by

6 WEEK CLASS WITH DR. DAVID GIESLER

What Was God's Plan...?

And all who dwell on earth will worship it, (the beast) everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain (Rev. 13:8).

Redemption of Mankind

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. (Eph. 2:13-22)

Redemption of Mankind

18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens,[a] but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by[b] the Spirit.
(Eph. 2:13-22)