

THE 12-POINT CHRISTIAN APOLOGETIC FRAMEWORK OF NORMAN GEISLER

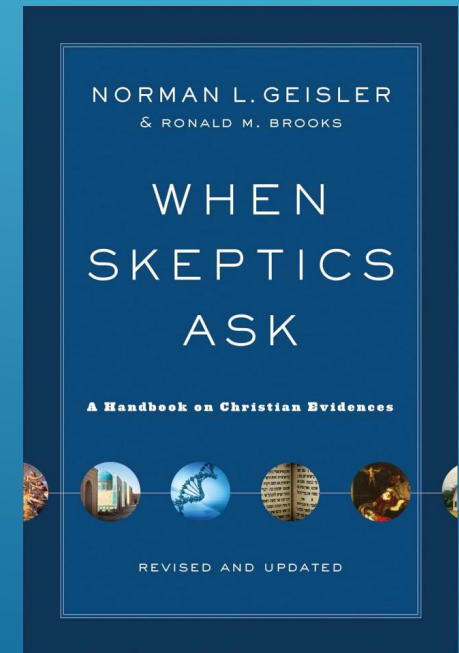
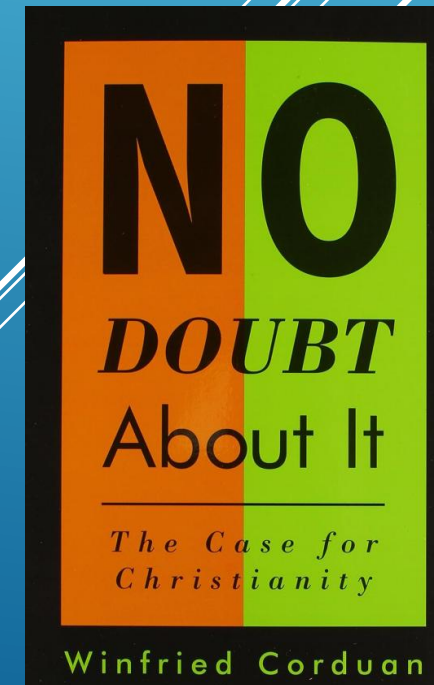
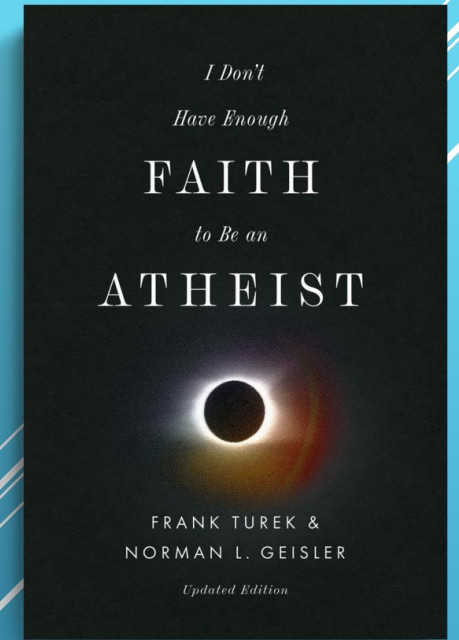
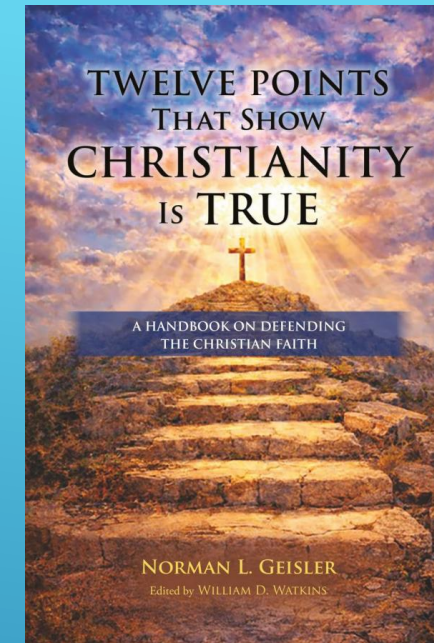
Christopher Travis Haun

September 11, 2026

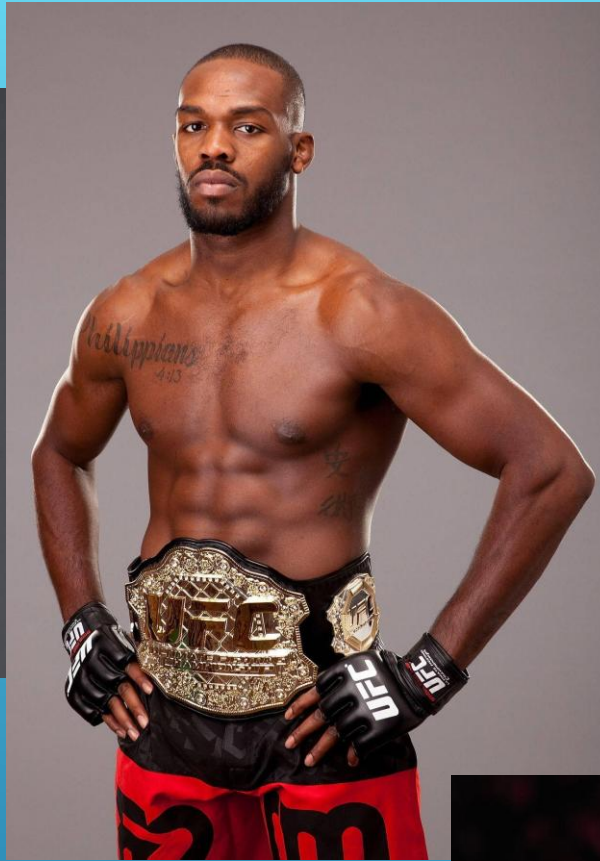
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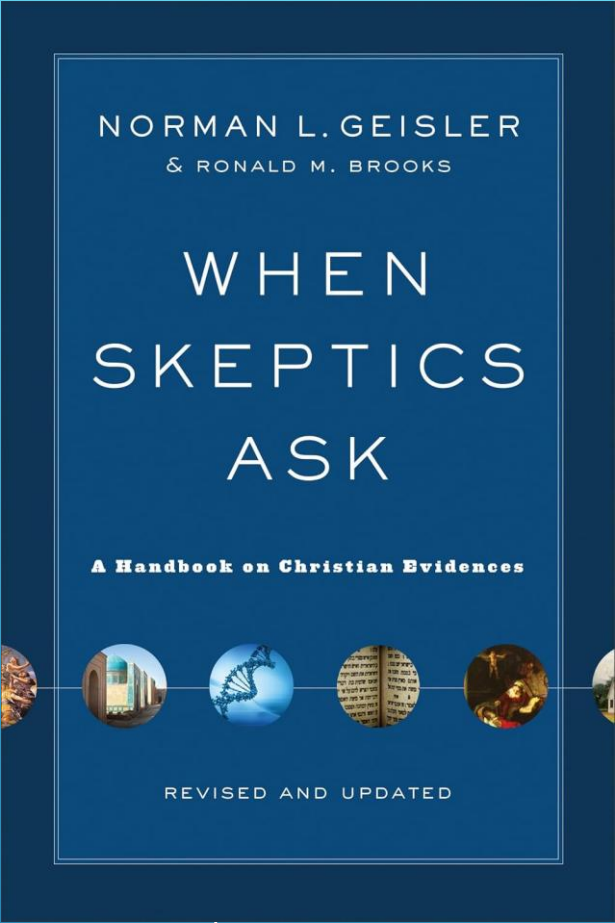
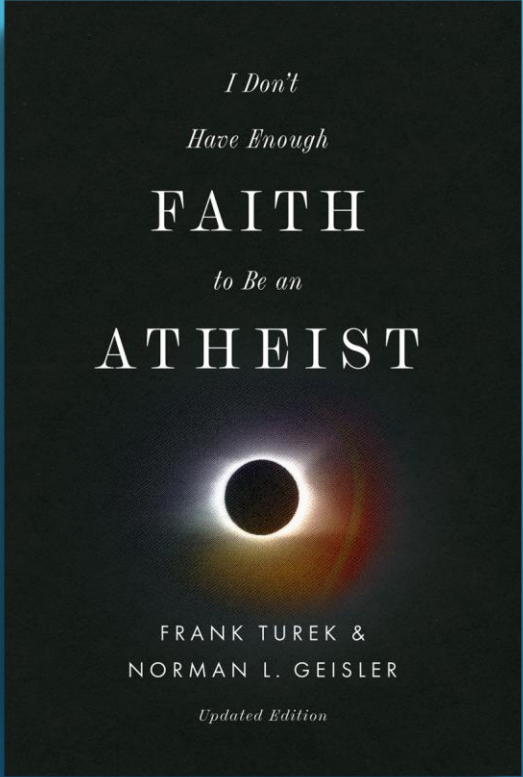
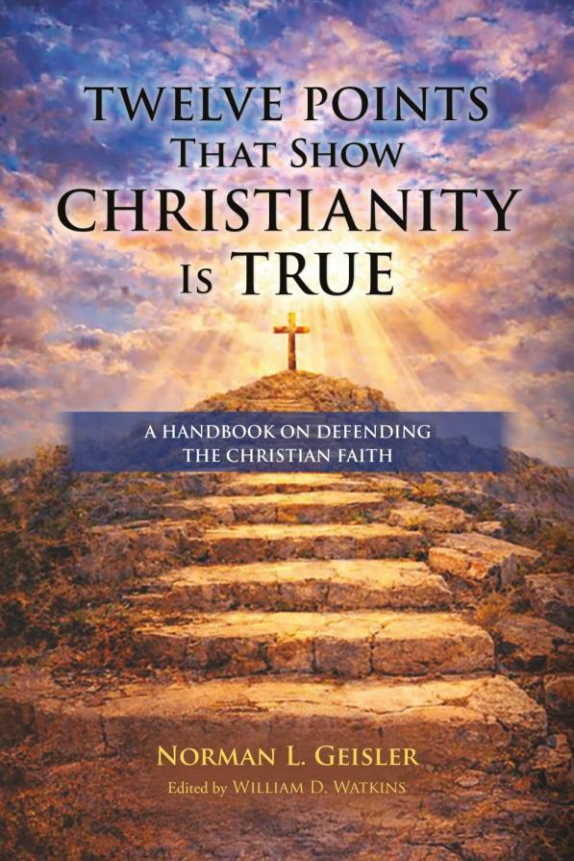
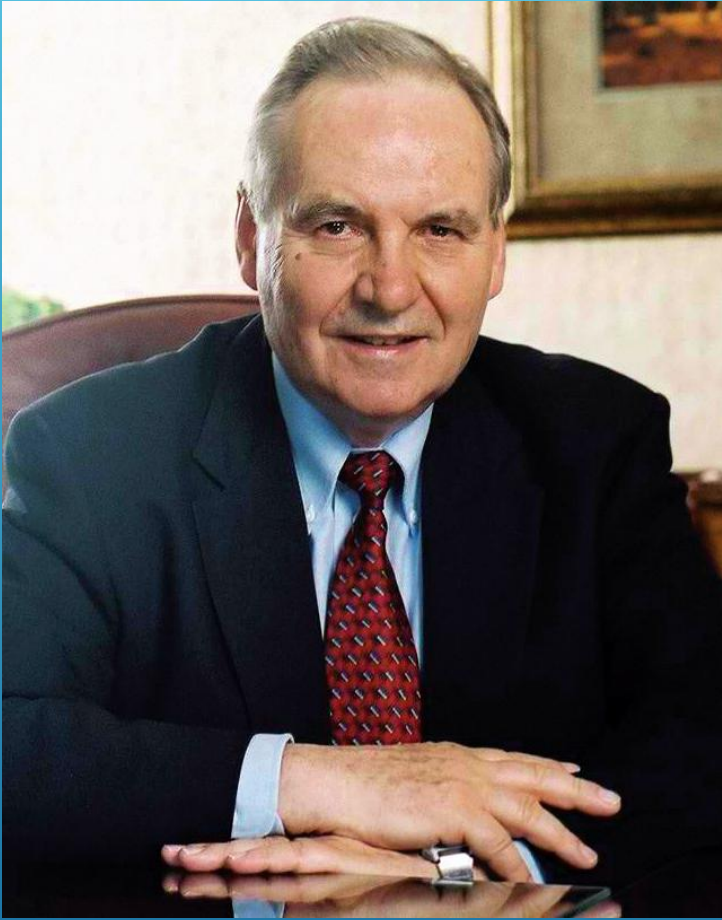
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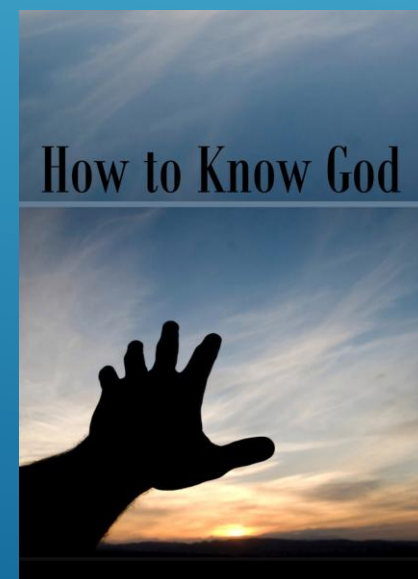
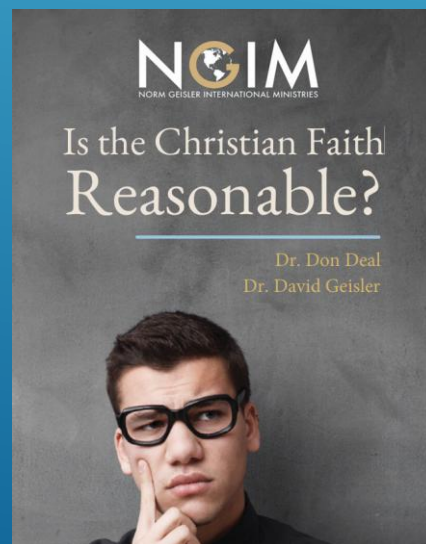
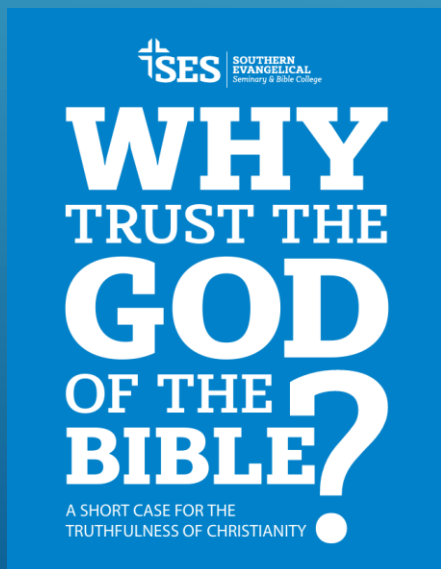
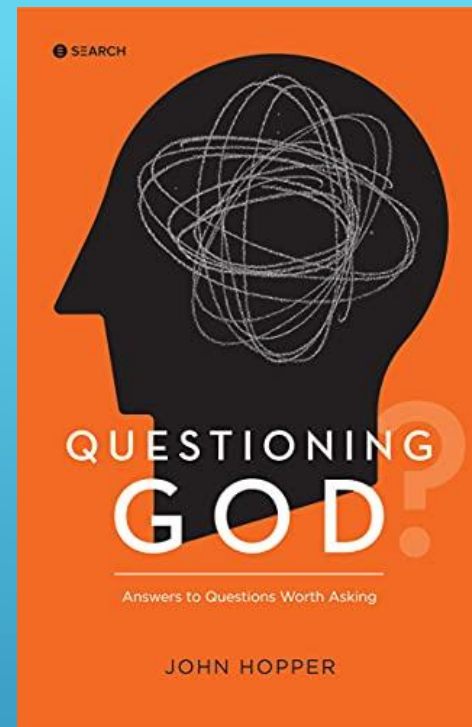
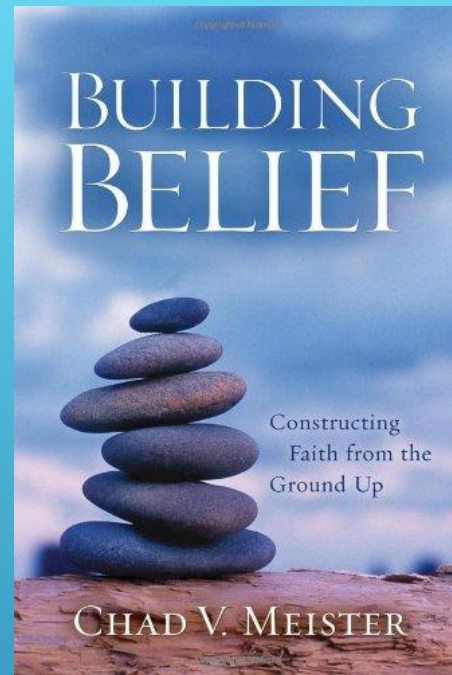
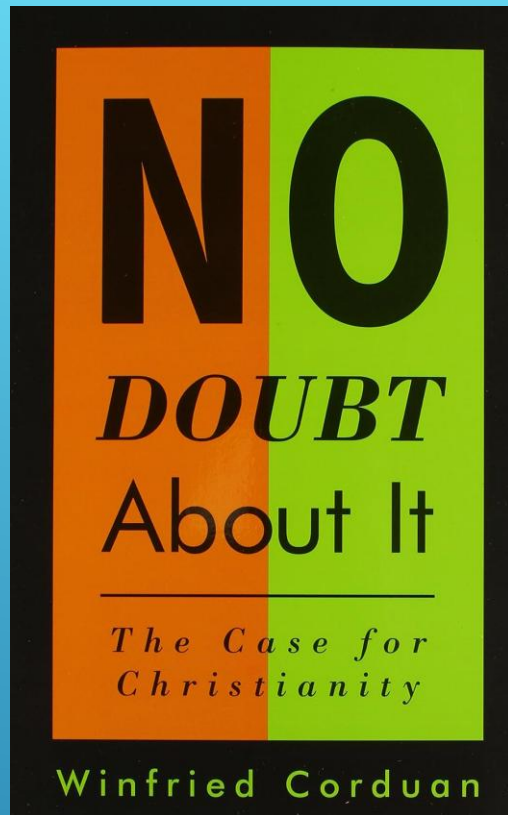
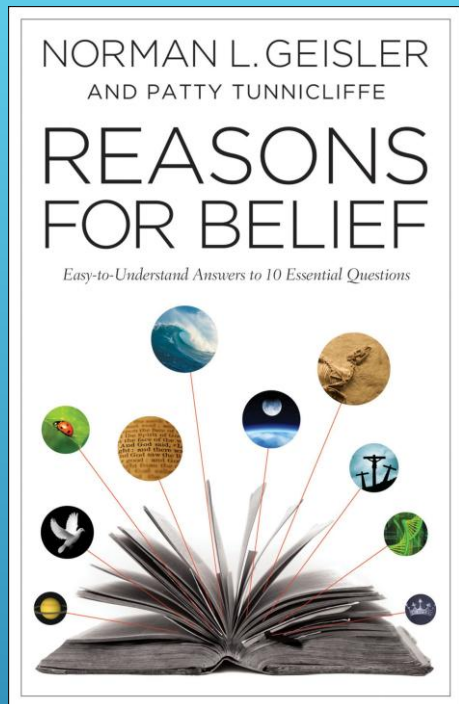
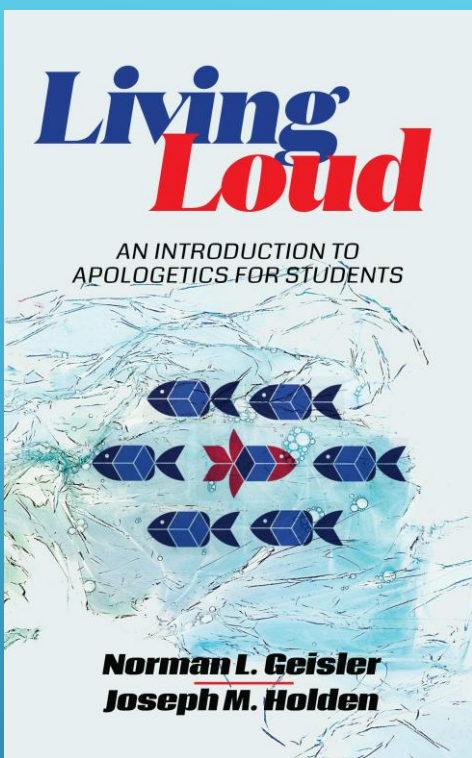
















- ▶ The battle for Truth
- ▶ The battle for God
- ▶ The battle for the Bible
- ▶ The battle for Jesus

THE FOUR GREAT APOLOGETIC BATTLES

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POINT #1 TRUTH ABOUT REALITY IS KNOWABLE

- ❖ There is a Real World
 - One's own existence is undeniable
 - A real external world exists
- ❖ Truth About Reality is Knowable
 - Denial of this is self-defeating
- ❖ What Is Truth?
 - Truth is correspondence to reality
- ❖ Skepticism Fails
- ❖ Agnosticism Fails
- ❖ What We Know
 - Self, external world, other minds, and the laws of logic





Bible (Inspired)

Jesus

Bible (reliable)

God

Truth



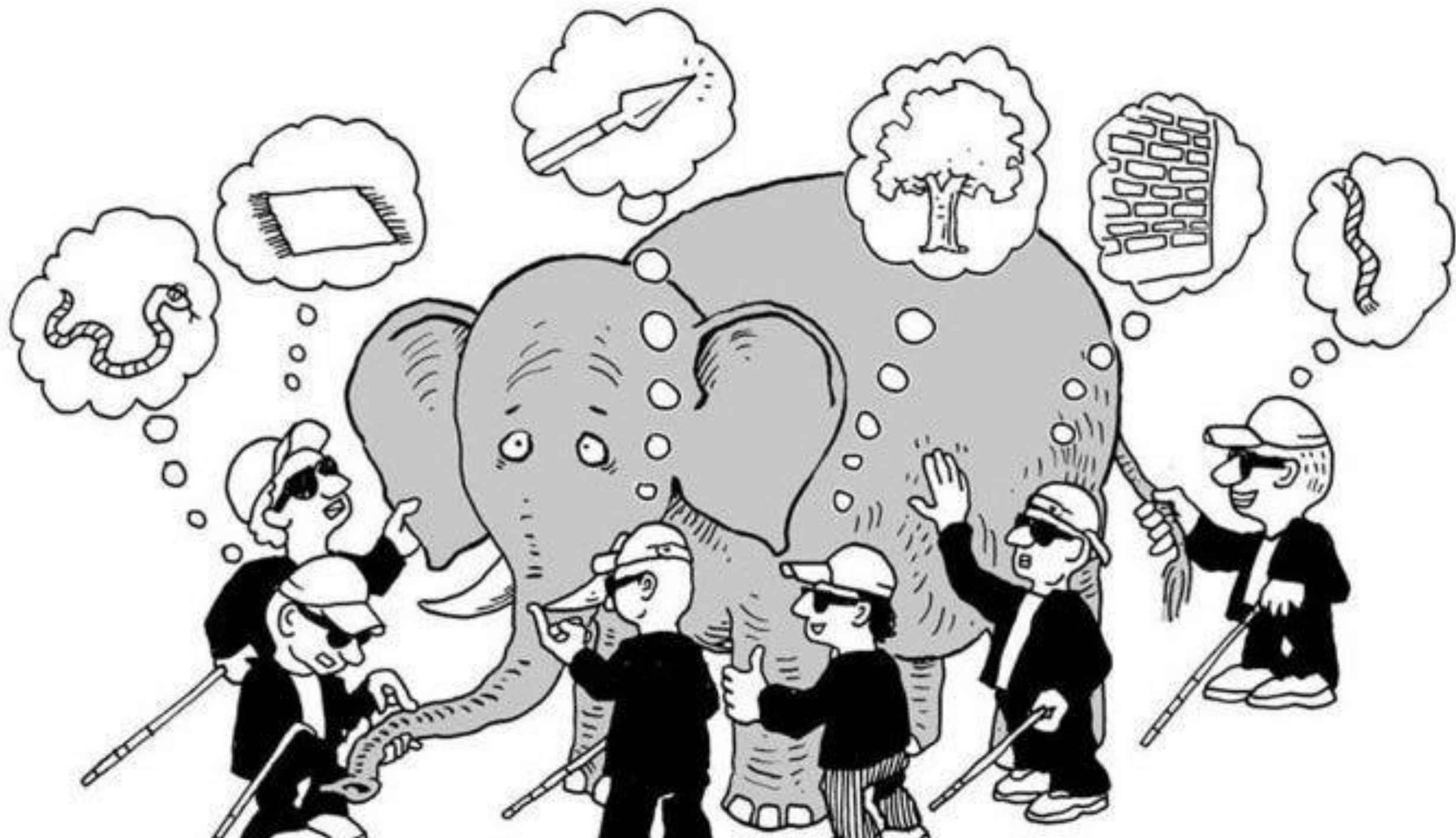
POINT #2 OPPOSITES CANNOT BOTH BE TRUE

- ❖ The Consequence of the Law of Non-Contradiction
 - ❖ Law of Non-Contradiction: A is not non-A
 - ❖ Law of Identity: A is A
 - ❖ Law of Excluded Middle: either A or non-A
- ❖ All Views Cannot be True
- ❖ One Religion Could be True
- ❖ Other Religions Could be True on Various Things
- ❖ God and Logic
- ❖ The Laws of Logic Apply to God
- ❖ Is God Subject to Logic?
- ❖ What about sincere Jews, Muslims, Mormons, and Jehovah's Witnesses?
- ❖ What about those who never heard about Jesus?



Blind Men And The Elephant

The Blind Men and the Elephant John Godfrey Saxe (1816–1887) It was six men of Indostan To
learning much inclined, Who went to see the Elephant (Though all of them were blind), That each
by observation Might satisfy his mind





POINT #3 THE THEISTIC GOD EXISTS

▶ Which God are We Talking About?

- ▶ Theism
 - ▶ Deism
 - ▶ Finite Godism
 - ▶ Atheism
 - ▶ Pantheism
 - ▶ Panentheism
 - ▶ Polytheism
- 
- A series of white diagonal lines of varying lengths and thicknesses are positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, creating a modern, abstract graphic element.

W

Atheism,
Materialism,
Physicalism

$W \mid ?$

Agnosticism

$W=G$

Pantheism

$W \rightleftharpoons G$

Panentheism
Process-
Theism

$G \vdots W$

Neo-Theism

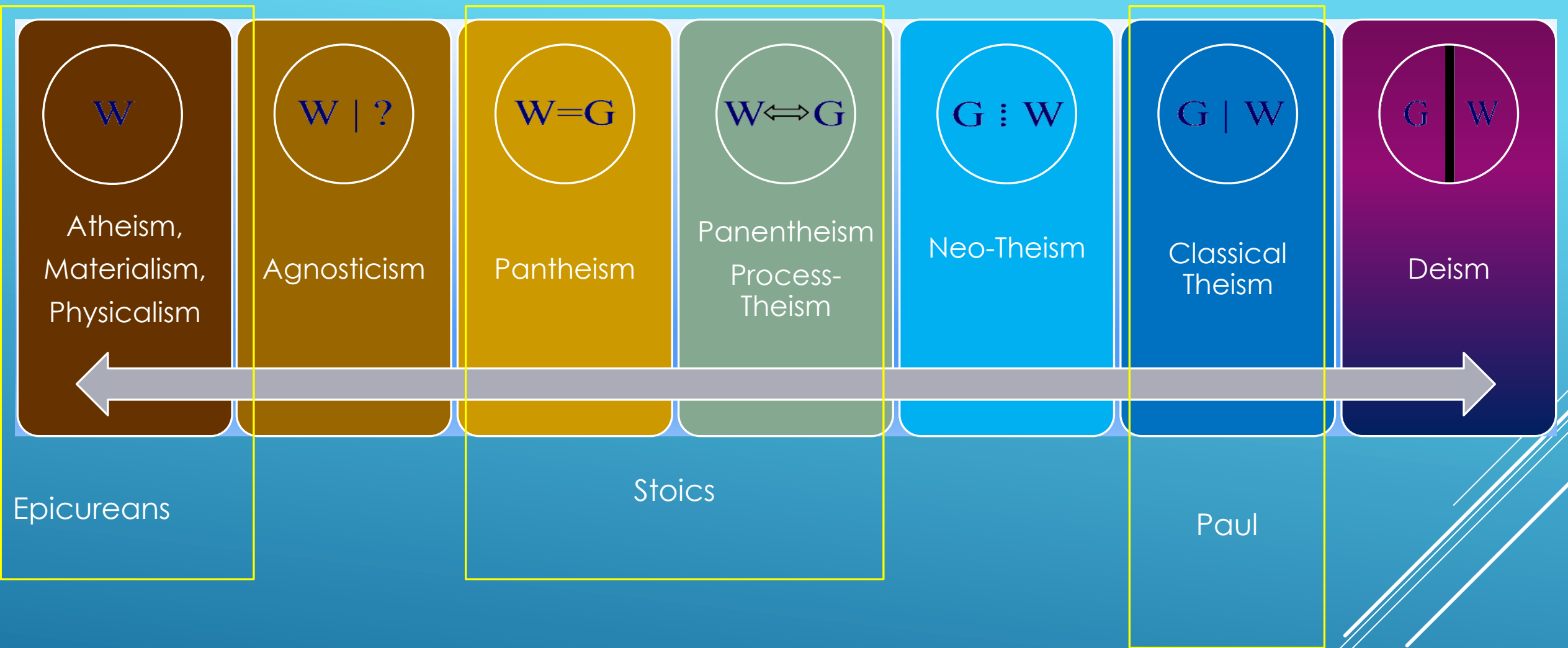
$G \mid W$

Classical
Theism

$G \mid W$

Deism





Acts 17

Paul to the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers:

“The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.”







POINT #3 THE THEISTIC GOD EXISTS

- ▶ The Cosmological Arguments for God's Existence
 - ▶ Horizontal (Kalam) form
 - ▶ Vertical form
- ▶ The Teleological Arguments for God's Existence
 - ▶ The Anthropic Principle
 - ▶ The Teleological Argument from Microbiology
 - ▶ The Biological Argument from Specified Complexity
- ▶ The Moral Argument
- ▶ The Argument from Religious Need
- ▶ Answering Some Important Objections



POINT #4 | MIRACLES ARE POSSIBLE

- All that Glitters is Not Gold
 - The Possibility of Miracles
 - Are More Miracles Possible?
 - An Evaluation of Hume's Argument Against the Credibility of Miracles
 - A Scientific Objection to Miracles
 - The Historical Objection to Miracles
- 
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POINT #5 | MIRACLES CAN BE USED TO CONFIRM A MESSAGE FROM GOD

- ▶ The Primary Purpose of Miracles
 - ▶ The Primary Purpose of Miracles in Judaism
 - ▶ The Primary Purpose of Miracles According to Christianity
 - ▶ The Primary Purpose of Miracles According to Islam
- ▶ Even Unbelievers Admit Miracles Could be Used for Divine Confirmation
- ▶ The Logical Connection Between Miracles and Divine Confirmation
- ▶ Criteria for Miraculous Confirmation

POINT # 6 | THE NEW TESTAMENT IS HISTORICALLY RELIABLE

▶ The Reliability of the New Testament Manuscripts

- ▶ The Number of the New Testament Manuscripts
- ▶ The Early Date of the New Testament Manuscripts
- ▶ The Accuracy of the New Testament
- ▶ The Confirmation of the New Testament Manuscripts by Early Church Fathers

POINT # 6 | THE NEW TESTAMENT IS HISTORICALLY RELIABLE

▶ The Reliability of the New Testament Account

- ▶ The Historicity of the Gospel Accounts
- ▶ The Author of Luke is Known to be an Accurate Historian
- ▶ The Gospel of Luke Was Written by about A.D. 60–61
- ▶ William F. Albright on the Historicity of the Gospels
- ▶ The Confirmation by a Liberal Critic of the New Testament
- ▶ The Gospels are too Early to be Mythological
- ▶ Historical and Archaeological Confirmation of the Gospels
- ▶ The Evidence for the Historicity of Paul's Early Epistles
- ▶ Confirmation of the New Testament by Early "Creeds" or Traditions
- ▶ Confirmation for the New Testament From the Basic Facts Position
- ▶ The Internal Evidence for the Historicity of the Gospels

POINT # 6 | THE NEW TESTAMENT IS HISTORICALLY RELIABLE

- ▶ Objections to the Historicity of the New Testament
 - ▶ Is History Knowable?
 - ▶ Are Miraculous Accounts Unreliable?
 - ▶ Do Unusual Claims Demand Unusual Evidence?
 - ▶ Do Religious Motives Negate Doing Credible History?
 - ▶ Do We Have the Exact Words of Jesus?

The Resurrection of Christ

15 Now I would remind you, brothers,¹ of the gospel ²I preached to you, which you received, ³in which you stand, ⁴and by which ⁵you are being saved, if you ⁶hold fast to the word I preached to you— ⁷unless you believed in vain.

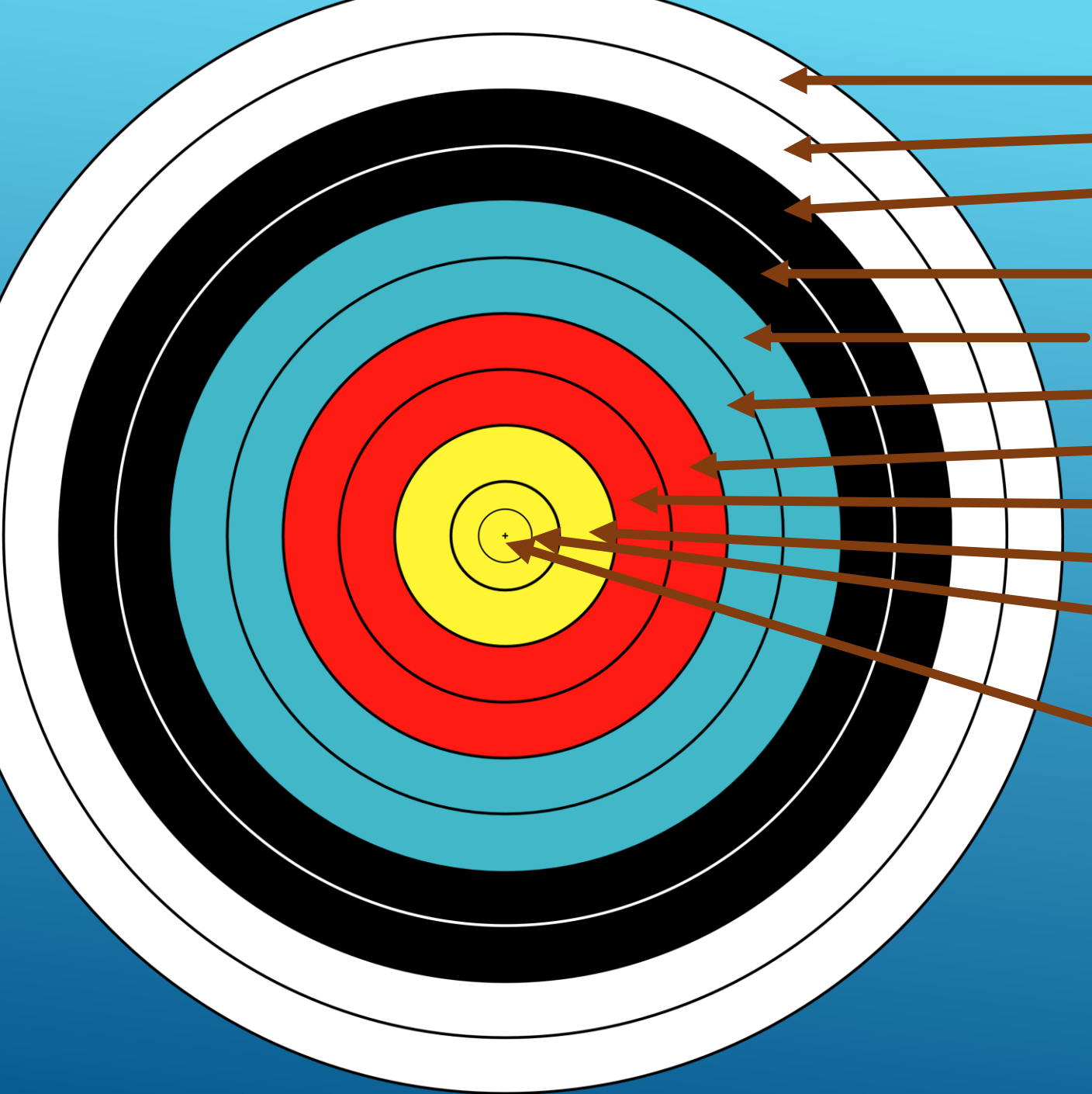
⁸For ⁹I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died ¹⁰for our sins ¹¹in accordance with the Scriptures, ¹²that he was buried, that he was raised ¹³on the third day ¹⁴in accordance with the Scriptures, ¹⁵and that ¹⁶he appeared to Cephas, then ¹⁷to the twelve. ¹⁸Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ¹⁹Then he appeared to ²⁰James, then ²¹to all the apostles. ²²Last of all, as to one untimely born, ²³he appeared also to me. ²⁴For ²⁵I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because ²⁶I persecuted the church of God. ²⁷But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. ²⁸Whatever I undertook to do, I undertook it for my fellow men, so that I might save them.

POINT #7 | JESUS CLAIMED TO BE GOD

- ▶ In The New Testament Documents Jesus Claimed to be God
- ▶ The Old Testament Background for Christ's Claims to Deity
- ▶ Jesus's Claims to Deity
 - ▶ Christ Claimed to be Messiah-God
 - ▶ Others Claimed Jesus was God
 - ▶ Other Humans Recognized Christ's Deity
- ▶ Some Objections Answered

POINT #8 | JESUS' CLAIM TO BE GOD WAS CONFIRMED BY A UNIQUE SET OF MIRACLES

- ▶ Jesus was Confirmed to be God by Supernatural Prophecy
 - ▶ The Purpose of Miracles in the Old Testament
 - ▶ The Purpose of Miracles According to the New Testament
- ▶ Jesus was Confirmed to be God by Supernatural Events He Performed
- ▶ Jesus was Confirmed by a Supernatural Sinless Life
 - ▶ Jesus' Sinlessness Was Confirmed by Those Who Knew Him Best
 - ▶ Jesus' Flawless Character was Confirmed by His Enemies and Others
 - ▶ The Indirect Confirmation by Jesus' False Accusers
 - ▶ Jesus Taught and Lived the Highest Ethic of the Sermon on the Mount
 - ▶ Answering Christ's Critics
 - ▶ His Sinless Character Places Him in a Category of His Own
 - ▶ His Sinless Character Confirms His Claim to be God
- ▶ Jesus was Confirmed to be God by a Supernatural Resurrection
 - ▶ Jesus Actually Died Physically
 - ▶ Jesus Rose Physically from the Dead Several Days Later
- ▶ Answering Some Objections to the Physical Resurrection



From Abraham's line (Gen. 22:18)

From tribe of Judah (Gen 49:10) (before 70 AD)

From David's line (Isa. 9:6-7; 11:1-2; Jer.23; 1 Ch.17)

From Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)

Born of a virgin (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14)

Be preceded by a herald (Isa. 40:3-5)

Be "a prophet like Moses" (Deut. 18:15-19)

Both human and divine (Isa. 9:6-7; Ps.80:17)

Would be the King of Israel

Be presented to Israel 483 years after decree to rebuild Jerusalem (Dan. 9:26)

Enter as King into Jerusalem on a donkey (Zech. 9:9)

Would be rejected and executed (Isa. 49:1-13; Is. 50:4-9; Is. 53; Ps. 22; Dan 9:26) despite innocence

Buried in a rich man's tomb (Isa. 53:9)

Resurrected from the dead (Isa. 53:10-11; Ps. 16:10)

POINT # 9 | JESUS WAS SUPERNATURALLY CONFIRMED TO BE GOD IN HUMAN FLESH

▶ Criteria for Miraculous Confirmation

- ▶ They Must be Truly Supernatural Events
- ▶ There Should be Multiple Miracles
- ▶ The miracles should be in connection with some truth claim in the name of God
- ▶ The Predictive Element Confirms its Supernatural Nature
- ▶ The Miracles must be unique

▶ Why Alleged Supernatural Events of Other Religions Are Not Qualified

- ▶ Miracle Claims in Judaism
- ▶ Other Non-Christian Religions
- ▶ Miraculous Claims about Buddha
- ▶ Miraculous Claims About Hare Krishna
- ▶ Miraculous Claims for Apollonius of Tyana
- ▶ The Miraculous Claims for Muhammad

▶ One Final Thought about Miracles and Non-Christian Religions

POINT #10 | WHATEVER JESUS AFFIRMED IS TRUE, IS TRUE

- ▶ A Review of the Evidence
- ▶ What About Jesus' Human Limitations?
 - ▶ Humans Do Not Always Err
 - ▶ Jesus is Also God Who Can't Err
- ▶ What About Divine Accommodation?
 - ▶ It Confuses Adaptation and Accommodation
 - ▶ Accommodation is Contrary to Fact

11 | JESUS AFFIRMED THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD

- ▶ **Jesus Confirmed the Old Testament Is the Word of God**
 - ▶ Jesus affirmed the Old Testament Scriptures were imperishable
 - ▶ Jesus affirmed the Old Testament Scriptures were inspired of God
 - ▶ Jesus affirmed the Scriptures are unbreakable
 - ▶ Jesus affirmed the Old Testament is the very Word of God
 - ▶ Jesus ascribed ultimate supremacy to the Old Testament
 - ▶ Jesus affirmed the inerrancy of the Scriptures
 - ▶ Jesus affirmed the historical reliability of the Old Testament
 - ▶ Jesus affirmed the scientific accuracy of the Old Testament
- ▶ **Jesus Promised the New Testament Would be the Word of God**
 - ▶ Jesus said the Holy Spirit would teach His disciples “all truth”
 - ▶ The apostles claimed this divine authority Jesus gave them
 - ▶ The New Testament is the only authentic record of apostolic teaching
 - ▶ Therefore, the “all truth” Jesus promised is in the New Testament
- ▶ **Christ and the Critics**

POINT #12 | THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD AND ANYTHING OPPOSED TO IT IS FALSE

- ▶ Moral Truths in Other Religions
- ▶ Theological Truths in Other Religions
- ▶ What This Does Not Mean
 - ▶ This does not deny all truth outside the Bible
 - ▶ Christianity is true in its essential teachings
 - ▶ Whatever opposes those essential teachings is false



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Twelve 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 of and resurrection from the dead.
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).

📄 🔄 📝 Summarize 🗣️

Point 1: Truth About Reality is Knowable | 12 Points that Show Christianity is True



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Point 1: Truth About Reality is Knowable | 12 Points that Show Christianity is True

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Point 2: The Opposite of True is False | 12 Points that Show Christianity is True

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Point 3: The Theistic God Exists | 12 Points That Show Christianity is True

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Point 4: If God Exists Miracles are Possible | 12 Points that Show Christianity is True

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Point 5: A Miracle Can Confirm a Message from God | 12 Points that Show Christianity is True

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Point 6: The New Testament is Historically Reliable | 12 Points that Show Christianity is True

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Point 7: Jesus Claimed to be God | 12 Points that Show Christianity is True

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Point 8: Jesus' Claim to be God is Confirmed by Miracles | 12 Points that Show Christianity is True

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Point 9: Jesus is God | 12 Points that Show Christianity is True

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Point 10: Whatever Jesus Teaches is True | 12 Points that Show Christianity is True

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Point 11: Jesus Taught That the Bible is the Word of God | 12 Points that Show Christianity is True

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Point 12: The Bible is the Word of God | 12 Points that Show Christianity is True

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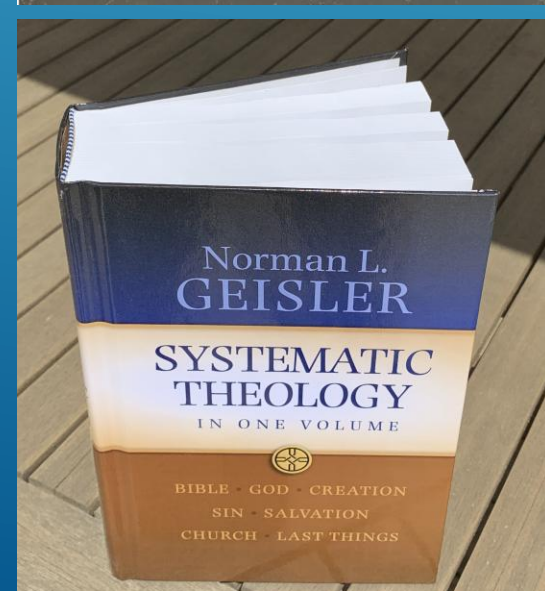
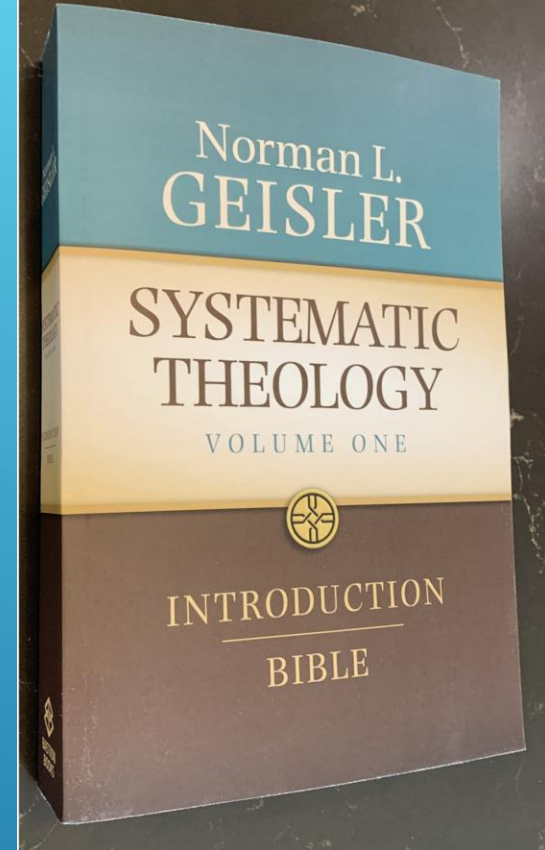
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Point 2: The Opposite of True is False | 12 Points that Show ...
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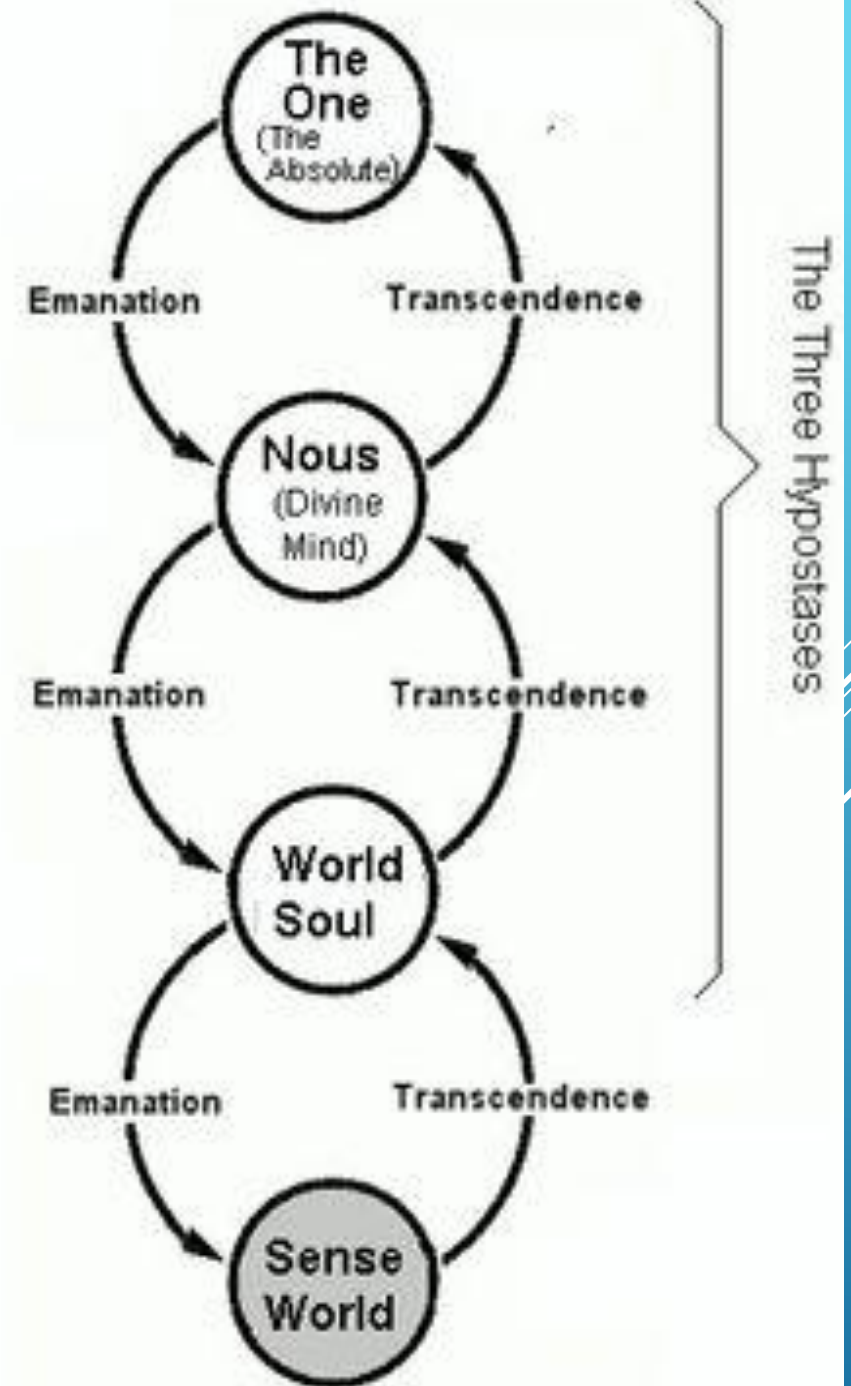
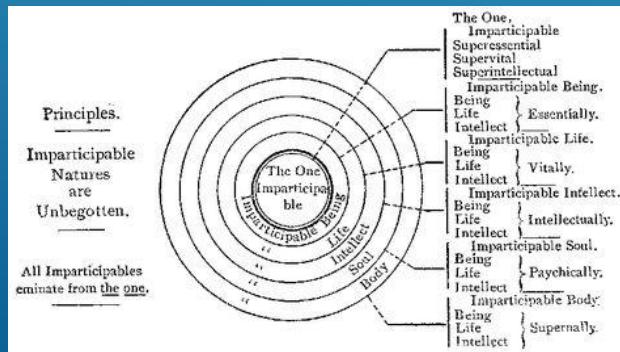
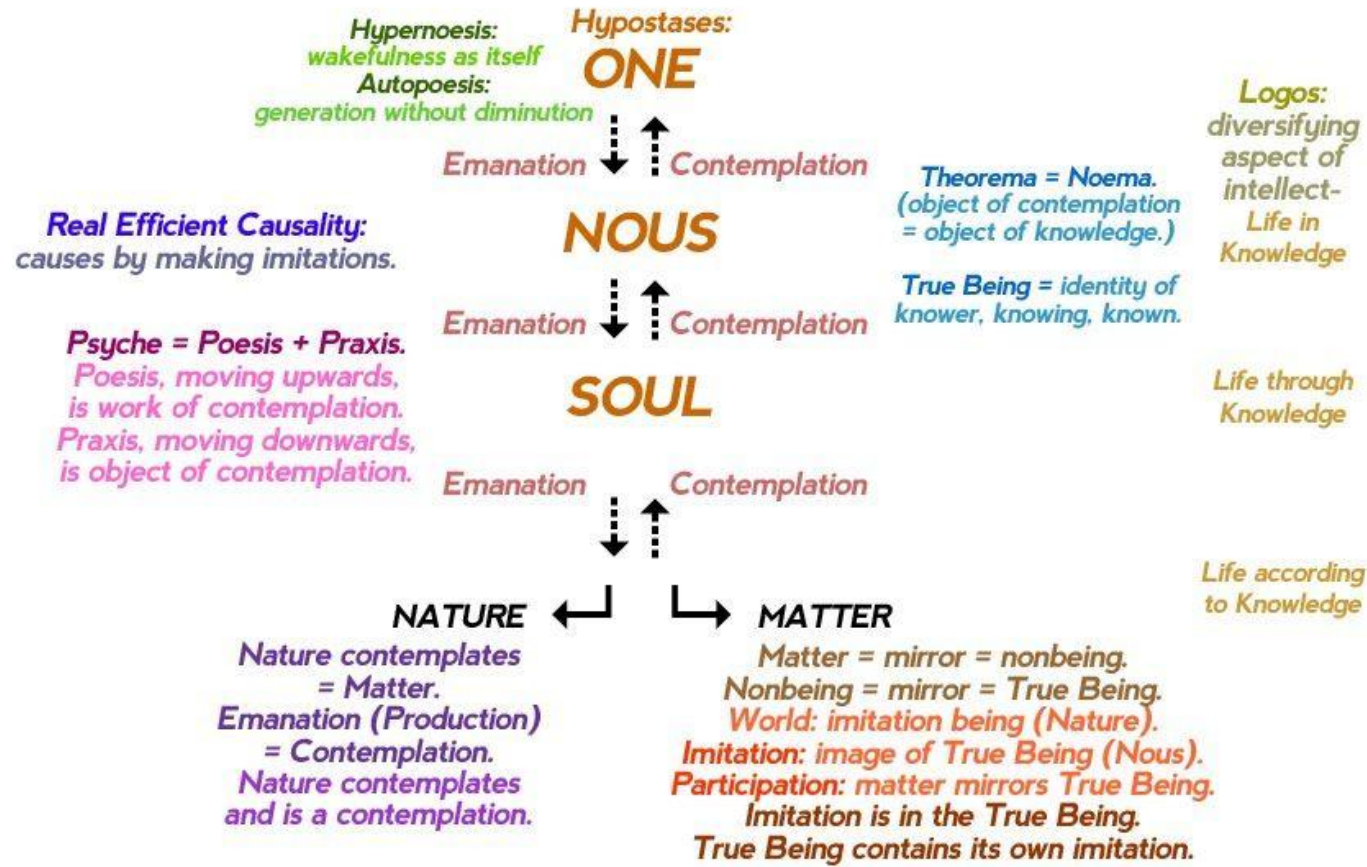
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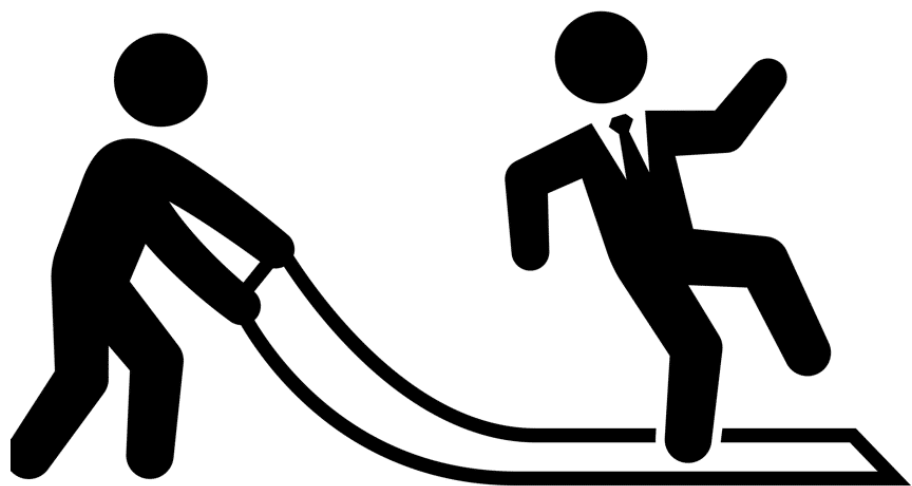
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PART TWO: BIBLE [BIBLIOLOGY]

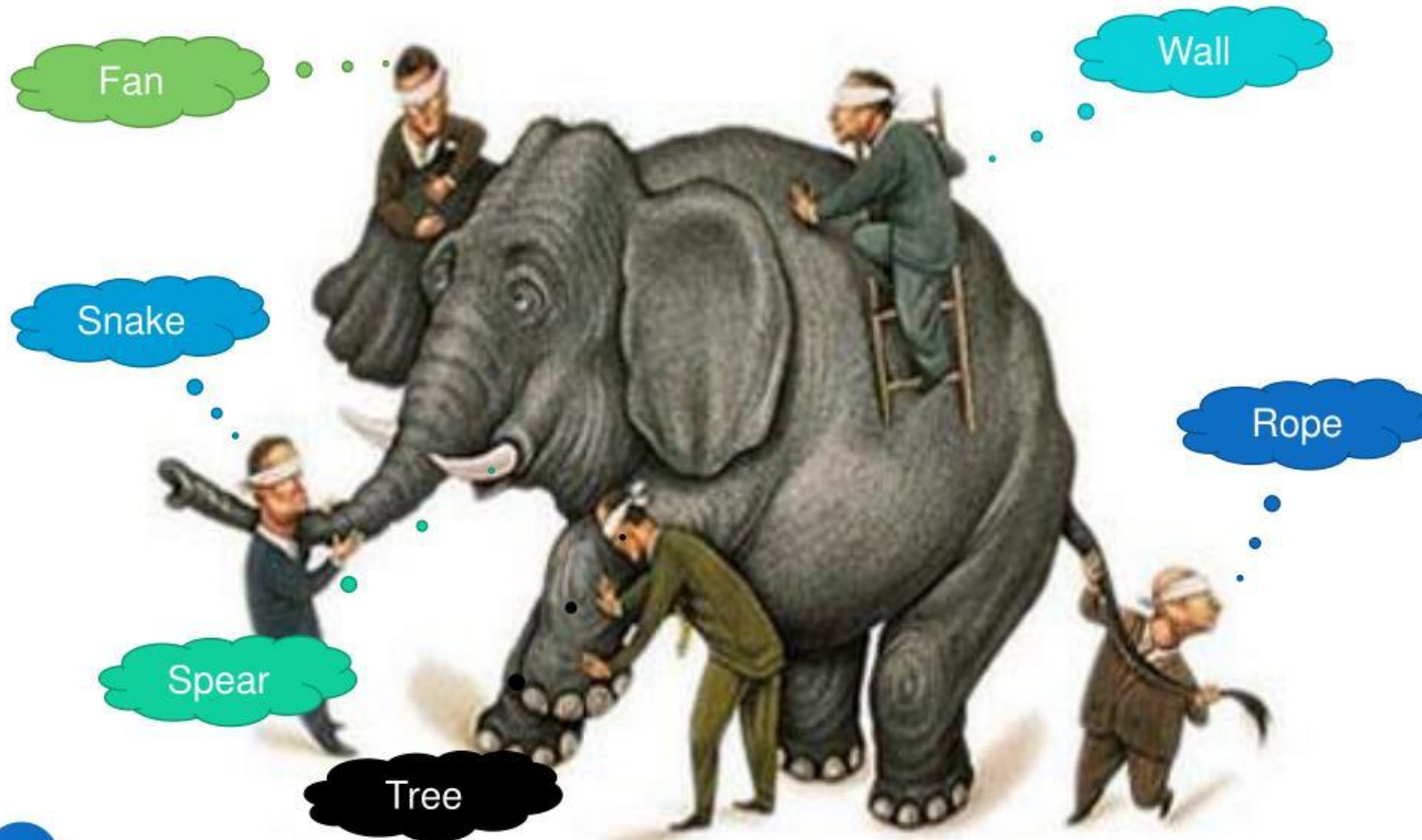
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The elephant metaphor: poem by John Godfrey Saxe (1816-18-87)



The Blind Man And The Elephant

It was six men of Indostan, to learning much inclined,
who went to see the elephant (Though all of them were blind),
that each by observation, might satisfy his mind.

The first approached the elephant, and, happening to fall,
against his broad and sturdy side, at once began to bawl:
'God bless me! but the elephant, is nothing but a wall!'

The second feeling of the tusk, cried: 'Ho! what have we here,
so very round and smooth and sharp? To me tis mighty clear,
this wonder of an elephant, is very like a spear!'

The third approached the animal, and, happening to take,
the squirming trunk within his hands, 'I see,' quoth he,
the elephant is very like a snake!'

The fourth reached out his eager hand, and felt about the knee:
'What most this wondrous beast is like, is mighty plain,' quoth he;
'Tis clear enough the elephant is very like a tree.'

The fifth, who chanced to touch the ear, Said; 'E'en the blindest man
can tell what this resembles most; Deny the fact who can,
This marvel of an elephant, is very like a fan!'

The sixth no sooner had begun, about the beast to grope,
than, seizing on the swinging tail, that fell within his scope,
'I see,' quoth he, 'the elephant is very like a rope!'

And so these men of Indostan, disputed loud and long,
each in his own opinion, exceeding stiff and strong,
Though each was partly in the right, and all were in the wrong!

So, oft in theologic wars, the disputants, I ween,
tread on in utter ignorance, of what each other mean,
and prate about the elephant, not one of them has seen!

John Godfrey Saxe