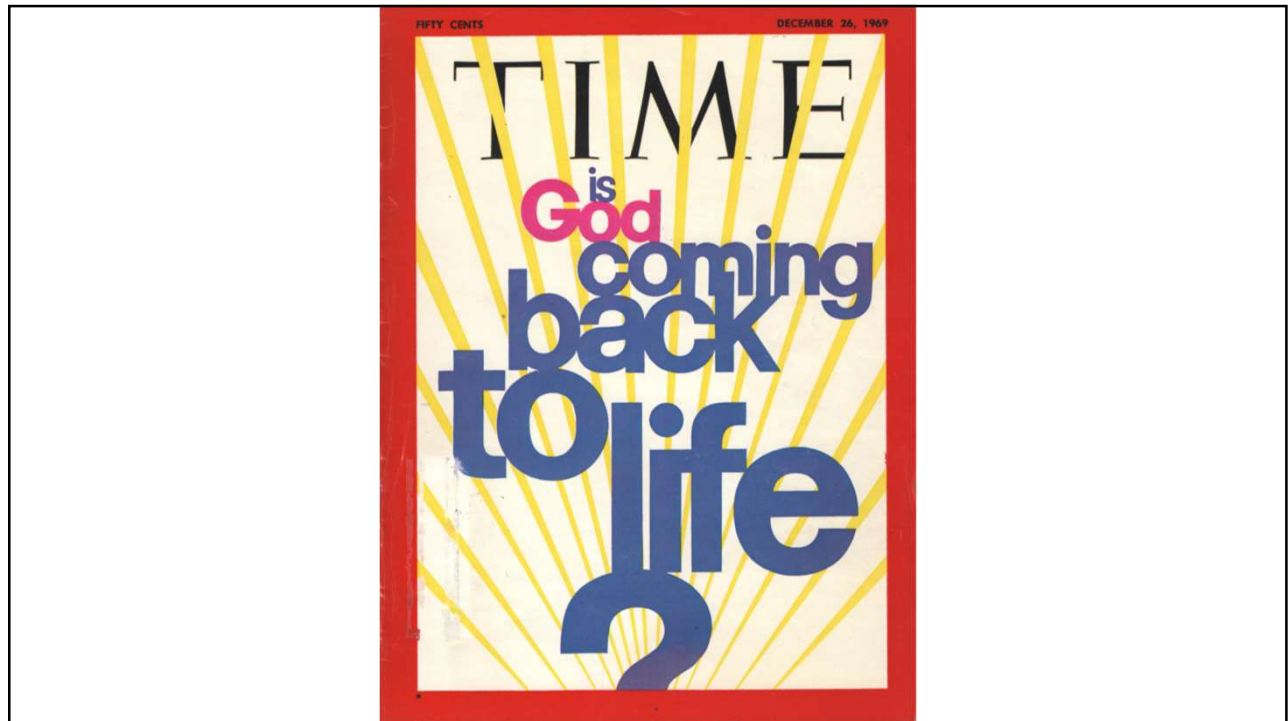


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4

Theism



- ✓ from the Greek word θεός (*theos*) meaning 'God'
- ✓ the world view that affirms the existence of God

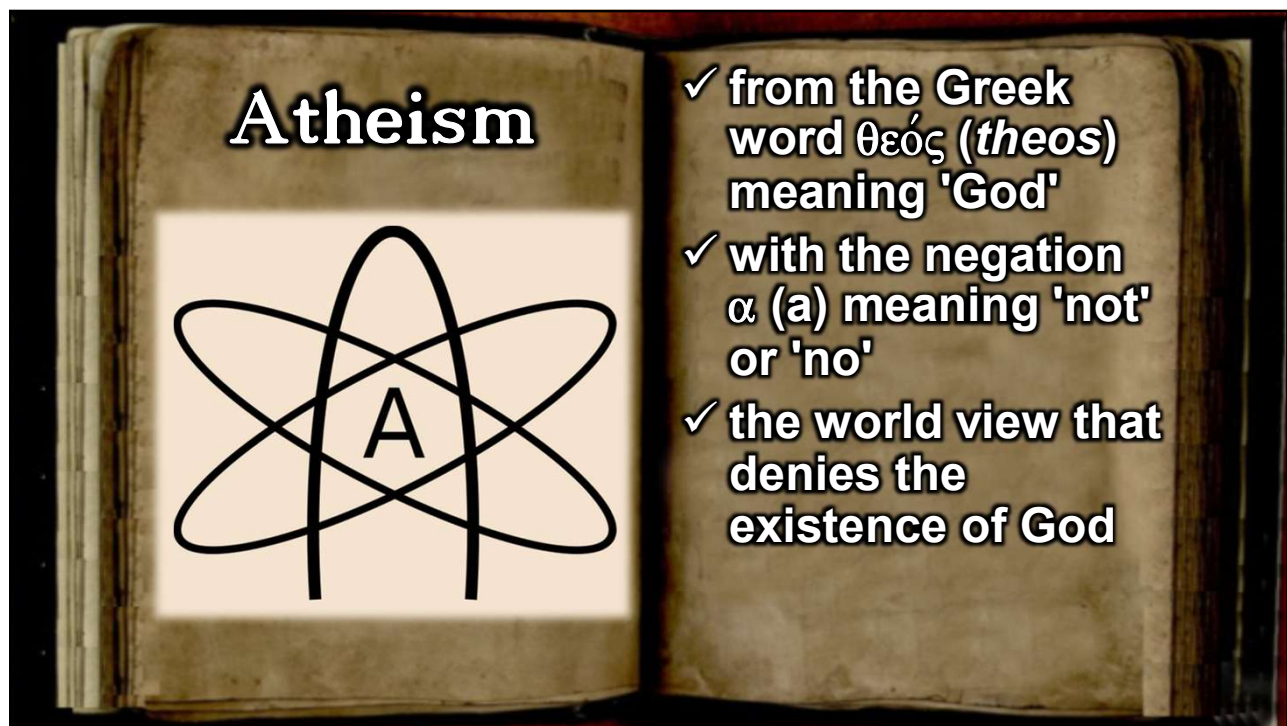
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Agnosticism

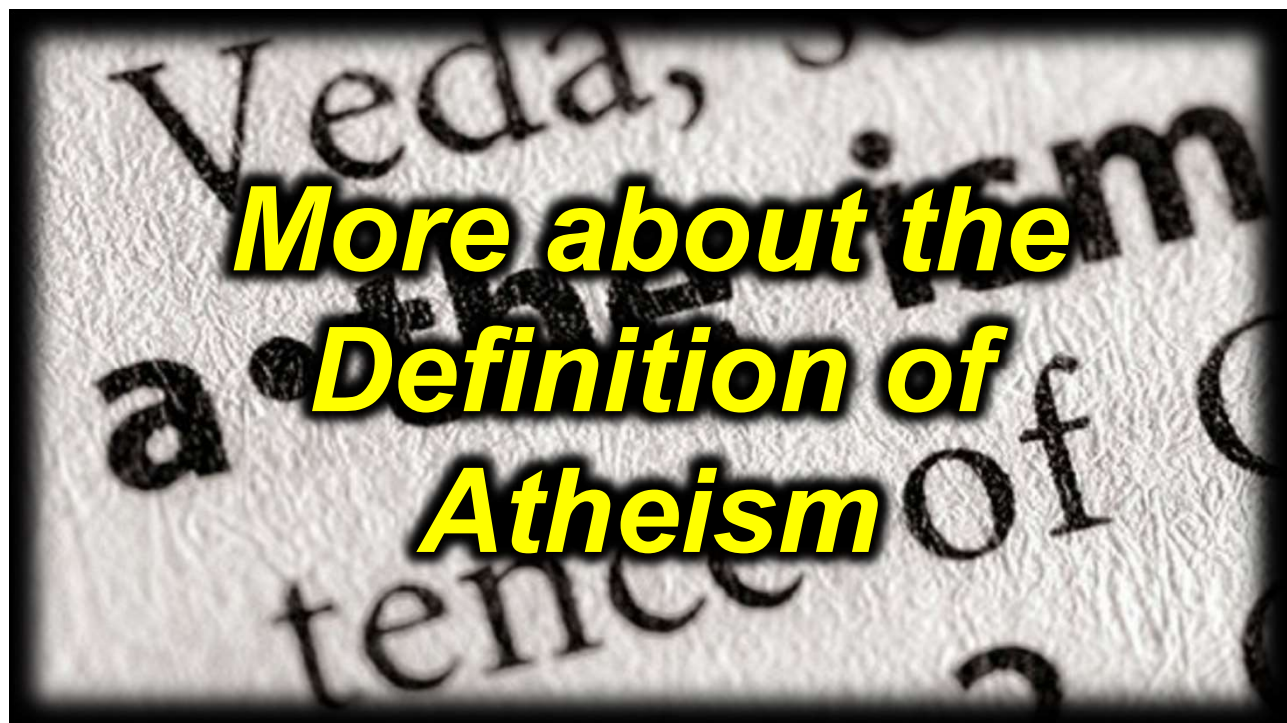


- ✓ from the Greek word γνῶσις (*gnosis*) meaning 'knowledge'
- ✓ with the negation α (*a*) meaning 'not' or 'no'
- ✓ the suspension of judgment on the question of God's existence

6



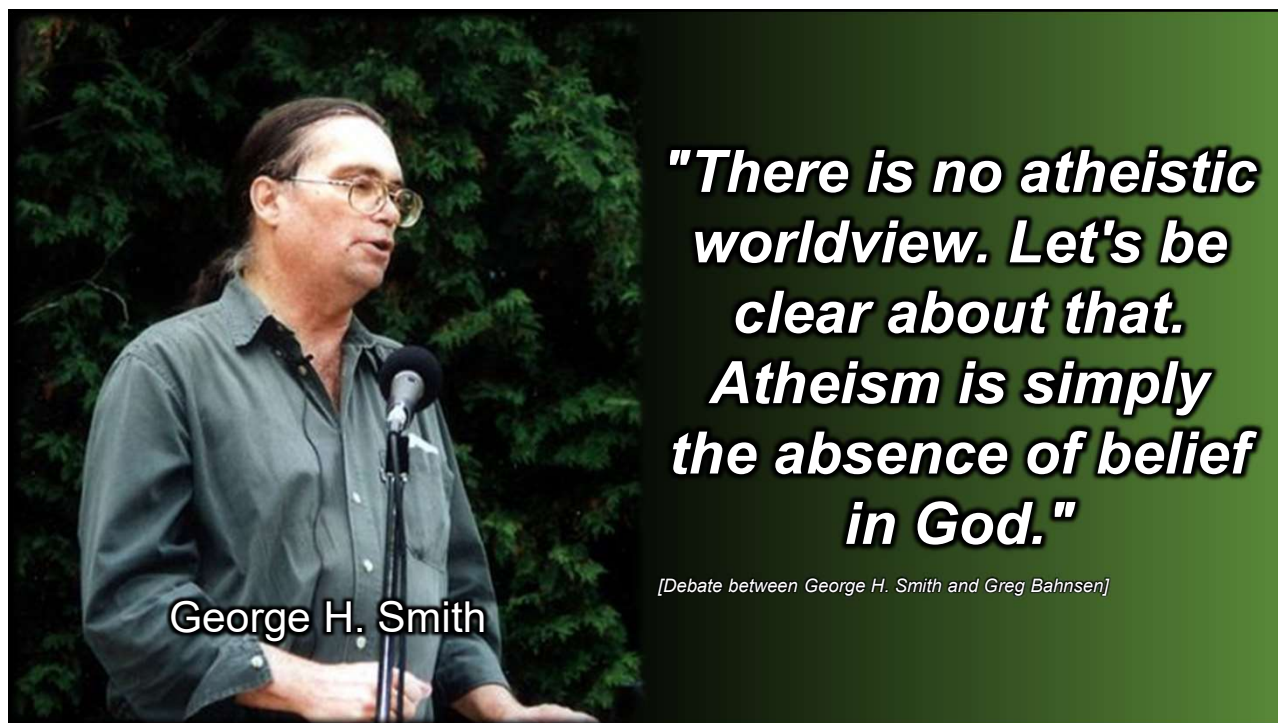
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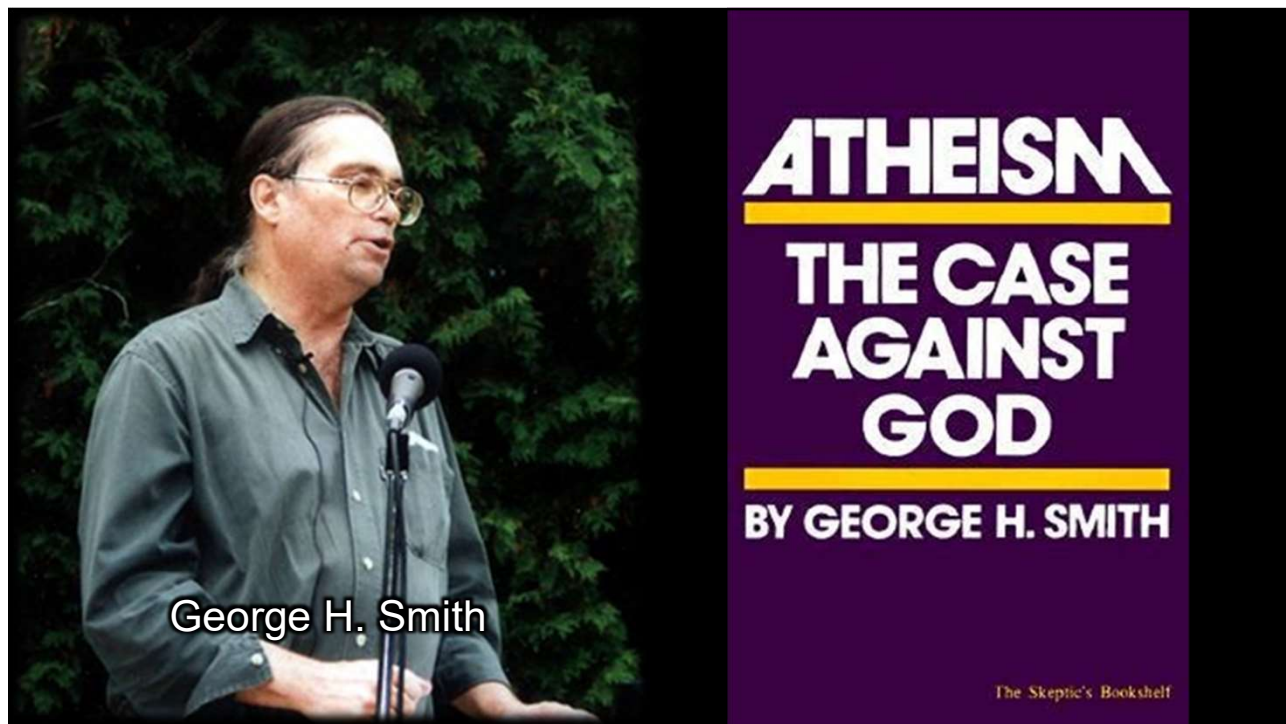
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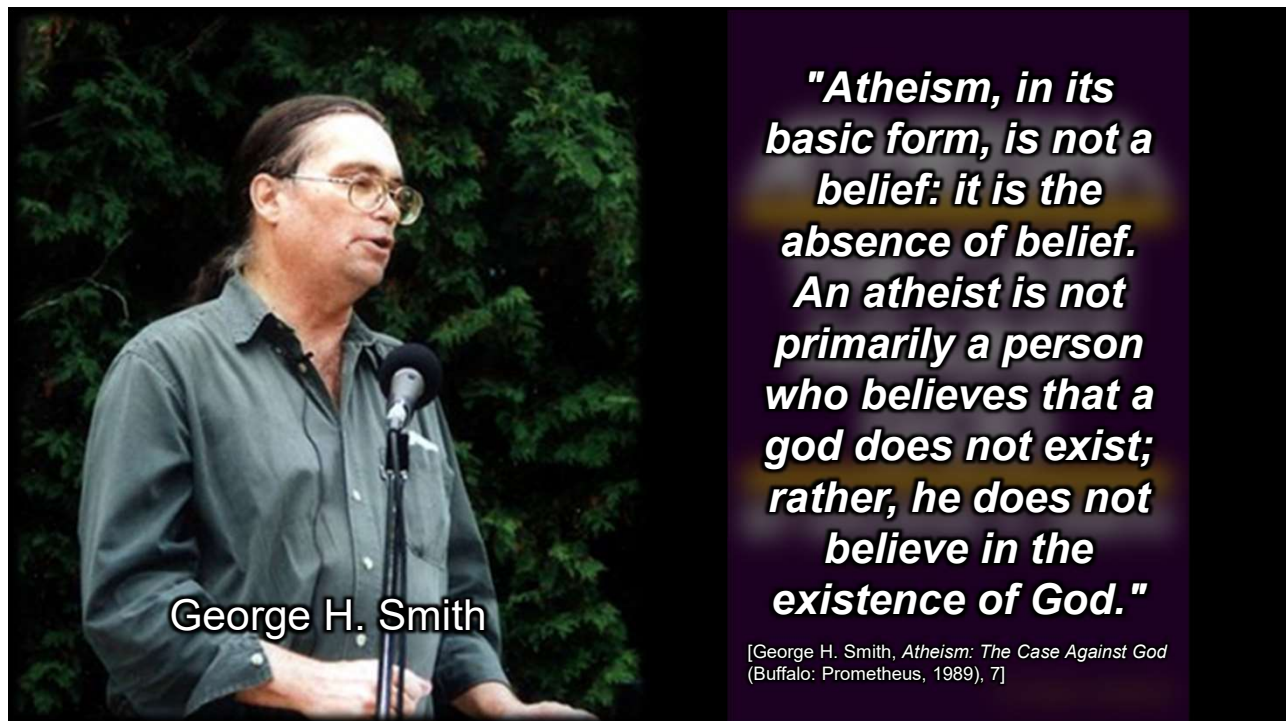
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11



12



George H. Smith

"From the mere fact that a person is an atheist, one cannot infer that this person subscribes to any particular positive belief"

[George H. Smith, *Atheism: The Case Against God* (Buffalo: Prometheus, 1989), 21]

13

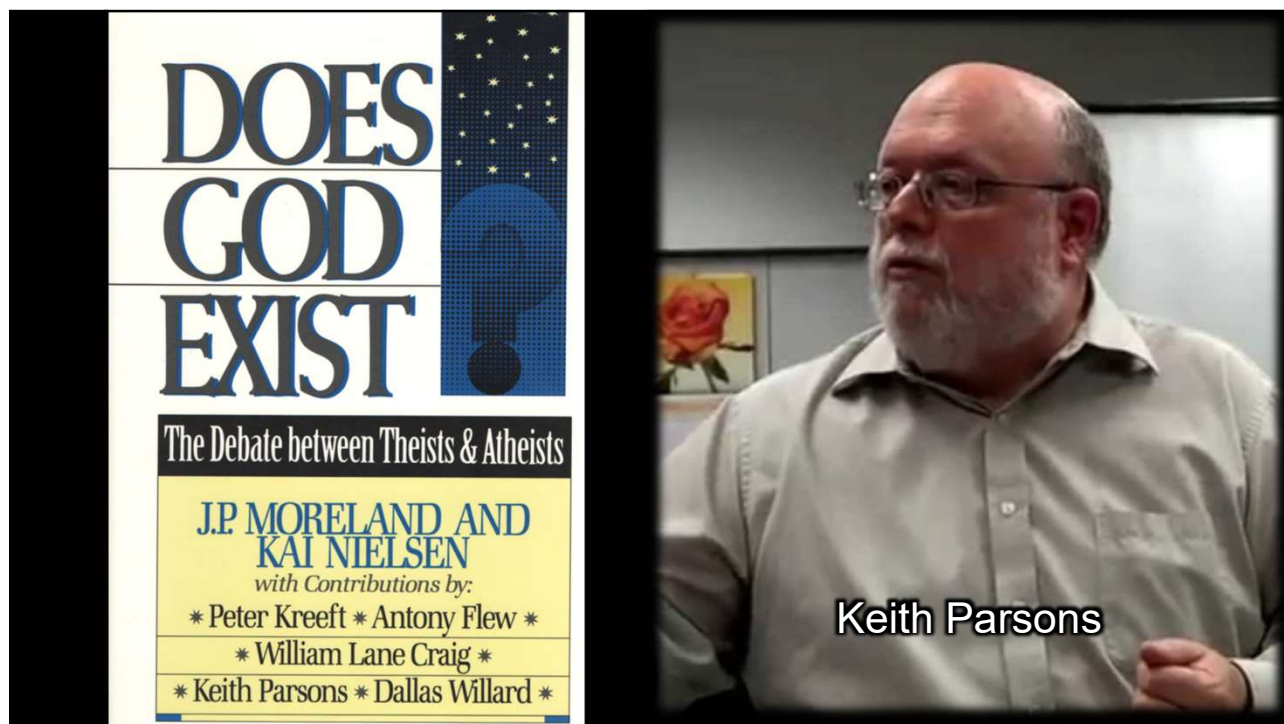
"From the mere fact that a person is an atheist, one cannot infer that this person subscribes to any particular positive belief"

[Smith, *Atheism*, 21, cf. p. 27]

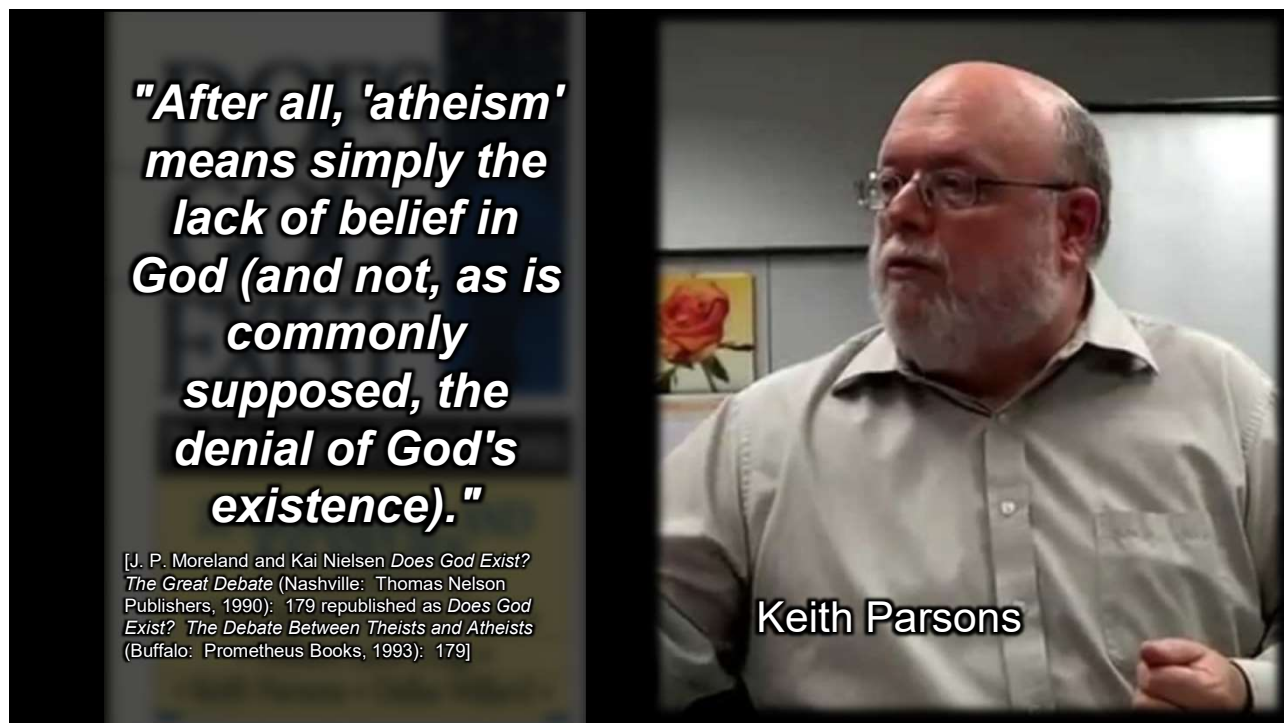
"If atheism is correct,

- *man is alone*
- *there is no god*
- *for knowledge, man must think for himself*
- *for success, man must work*
- *for happiness, man must strive to achieve it*
- *all of these are sole responsibility of man*

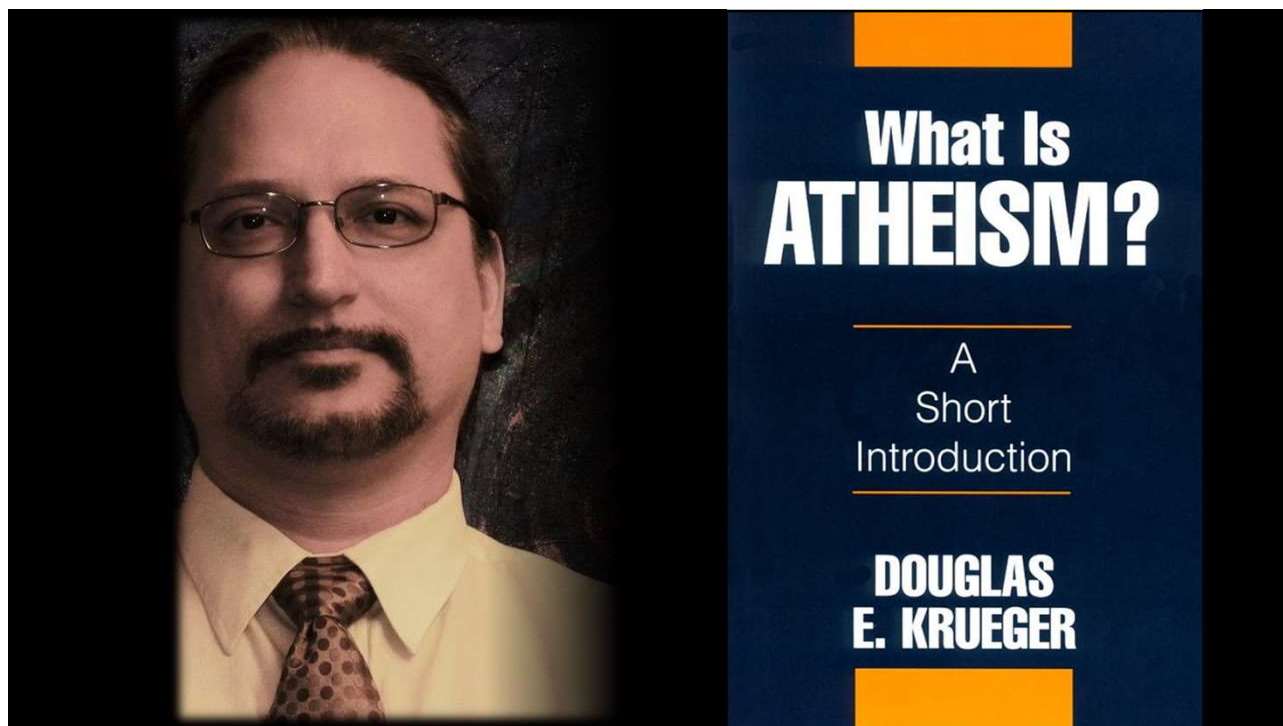
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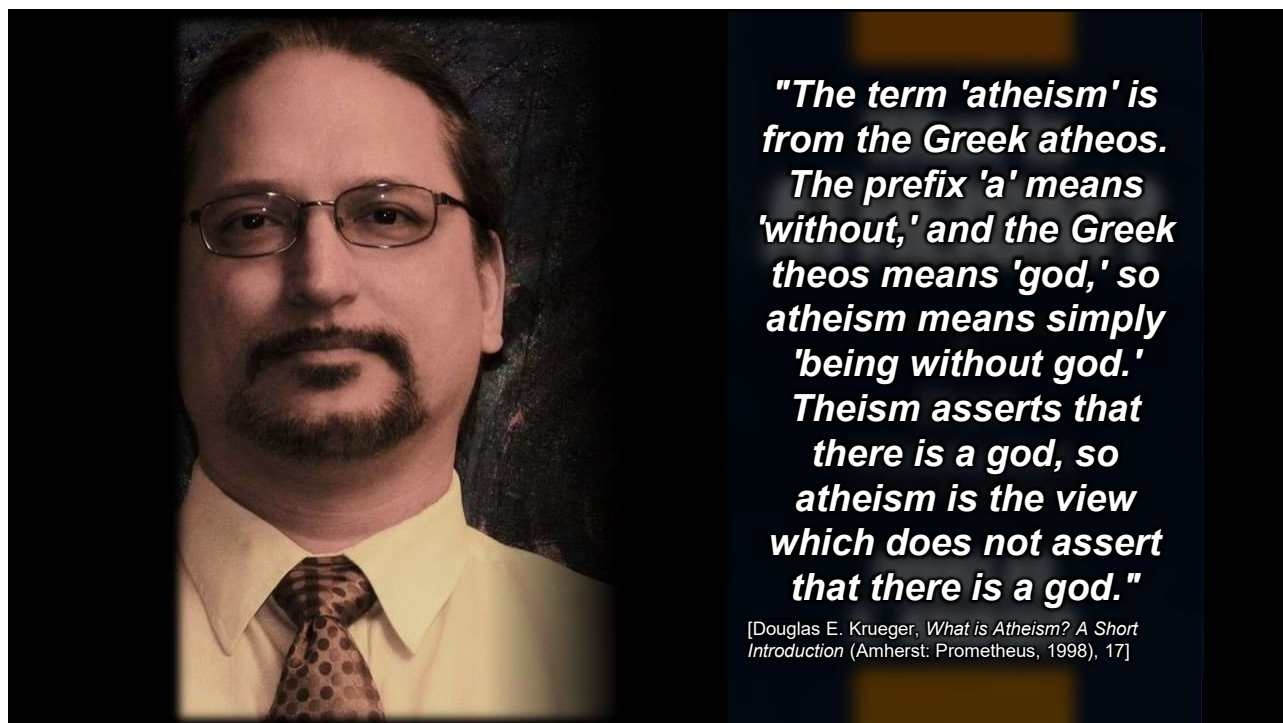
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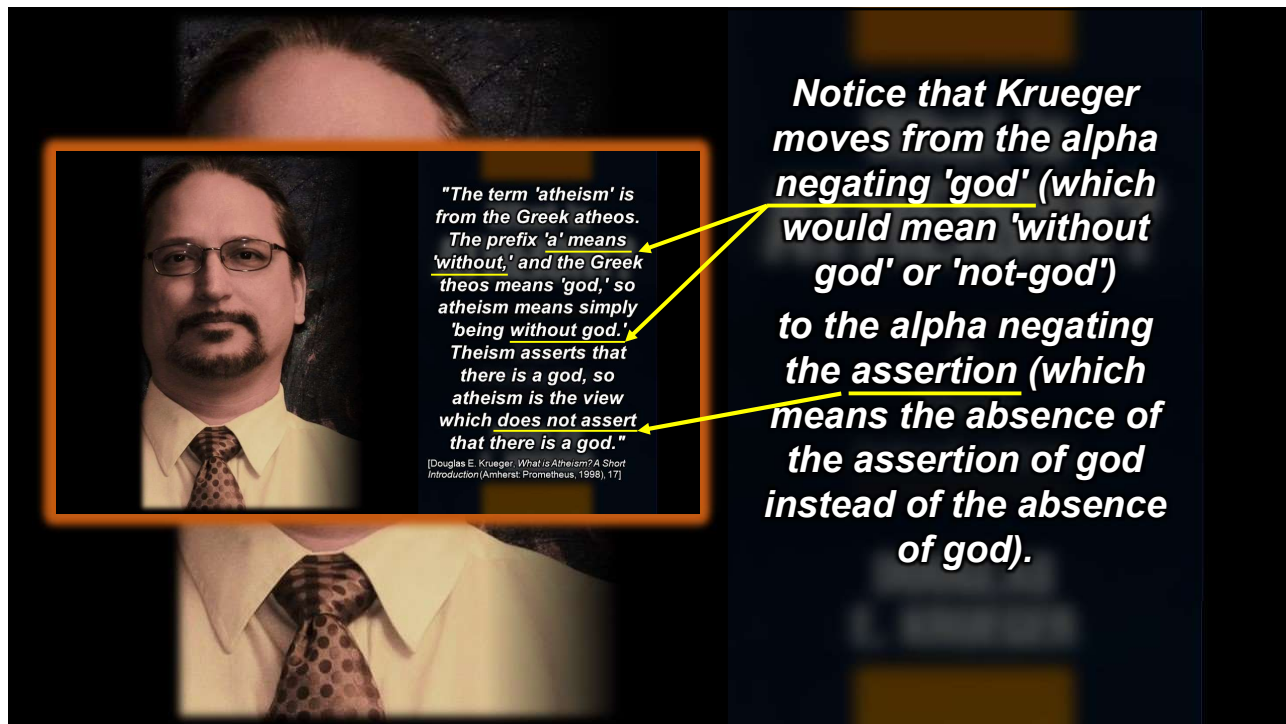
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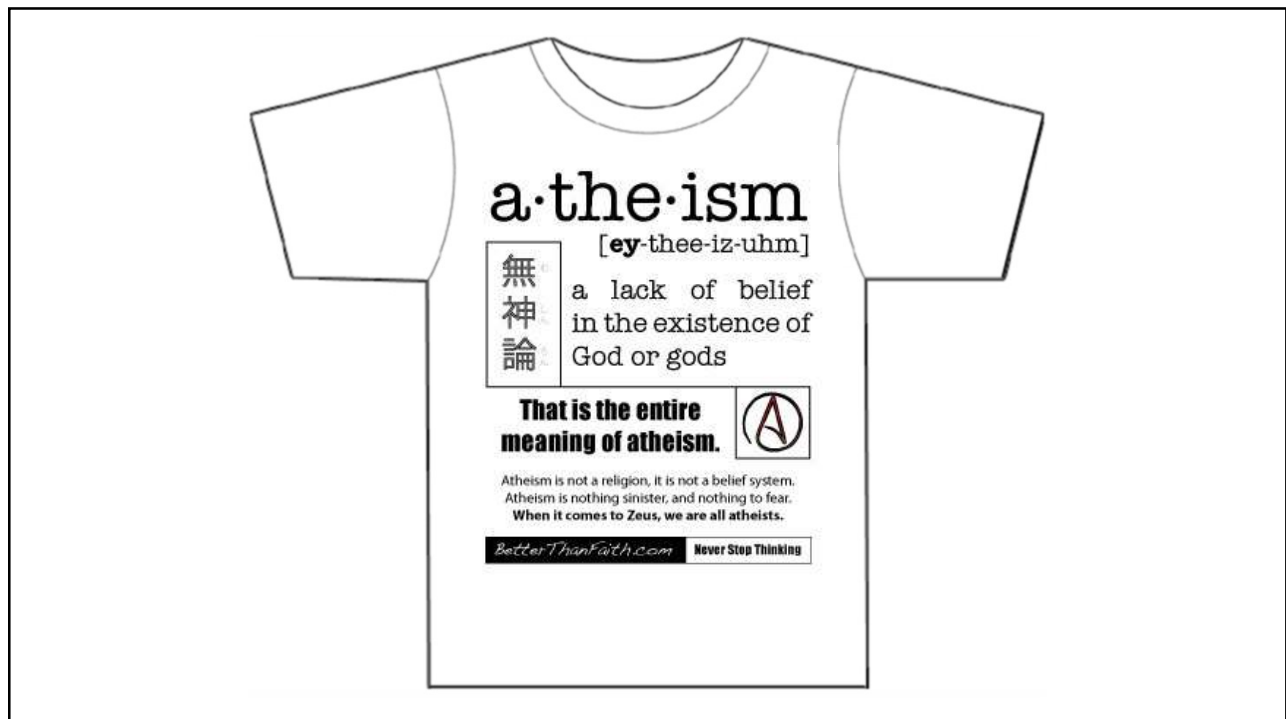
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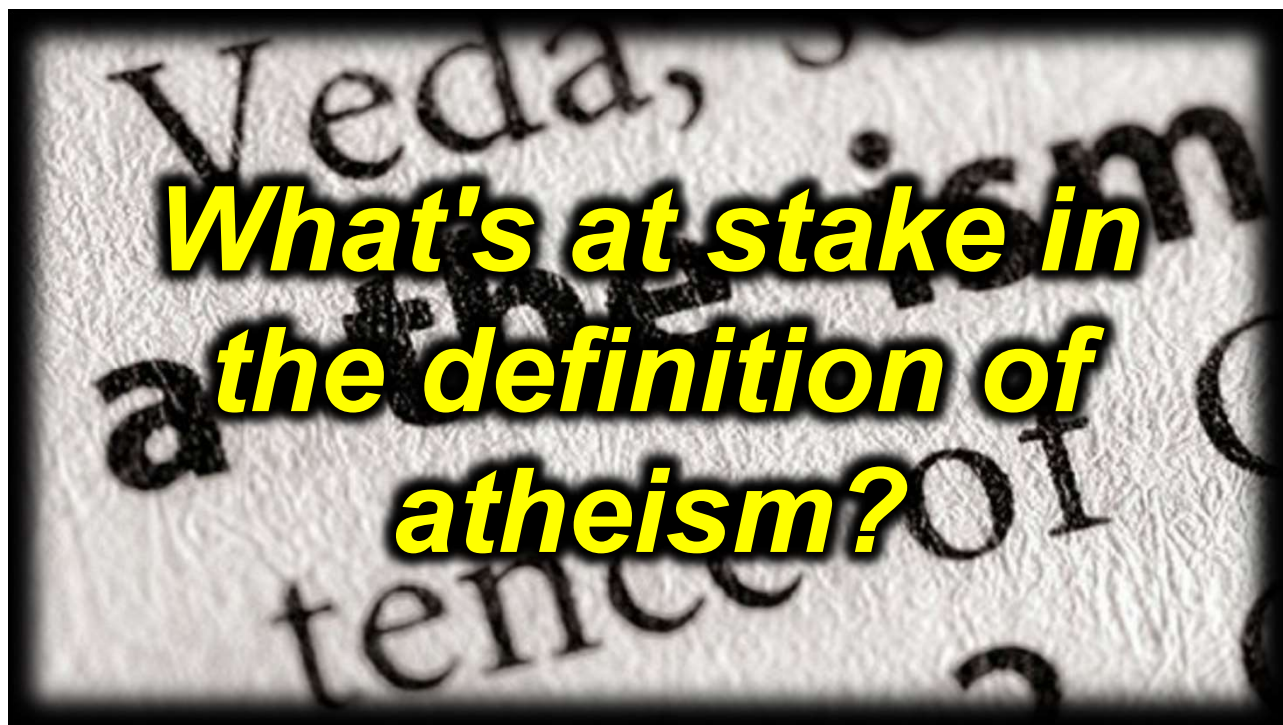
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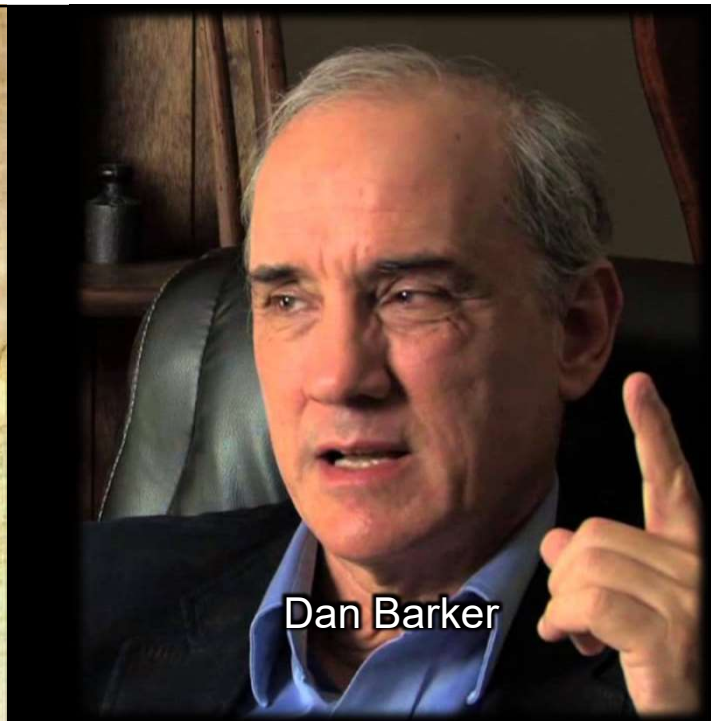
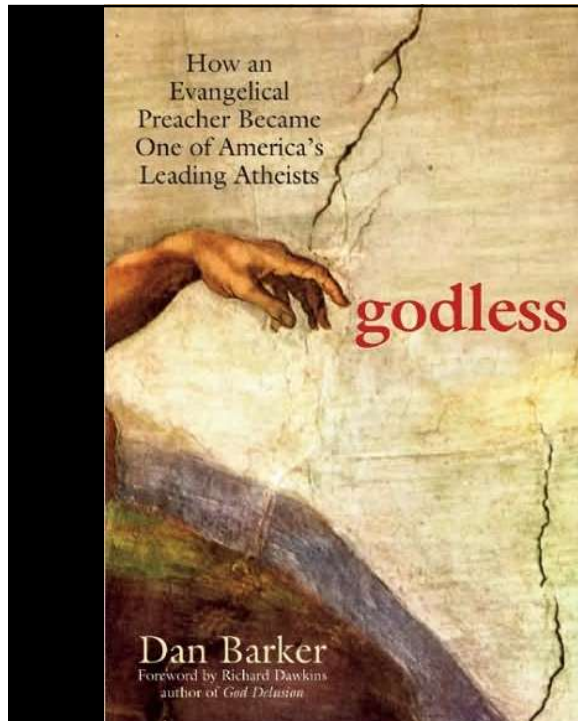
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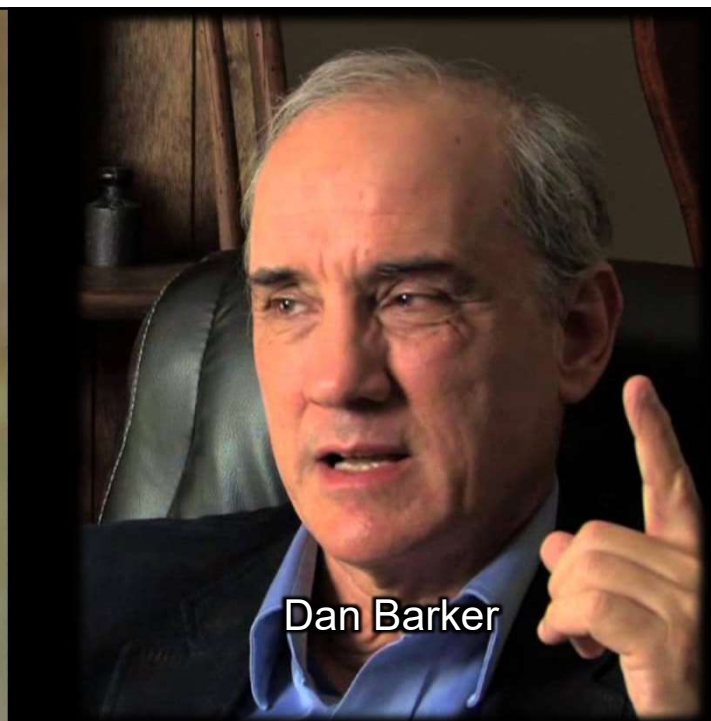
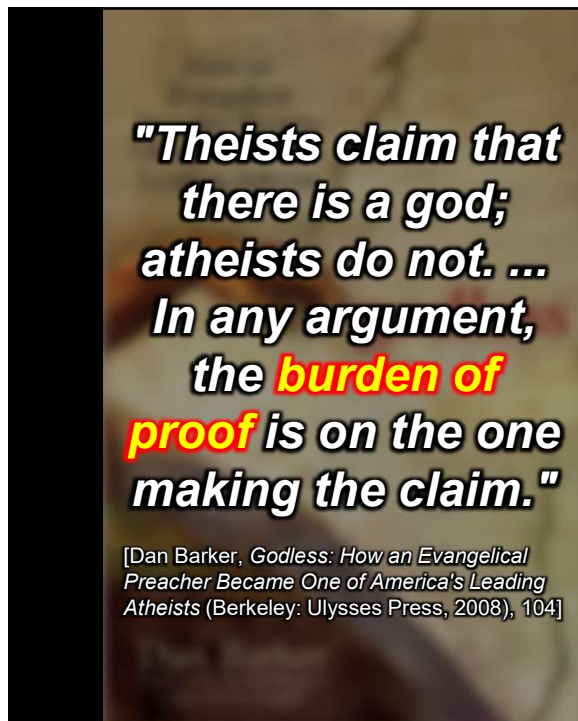
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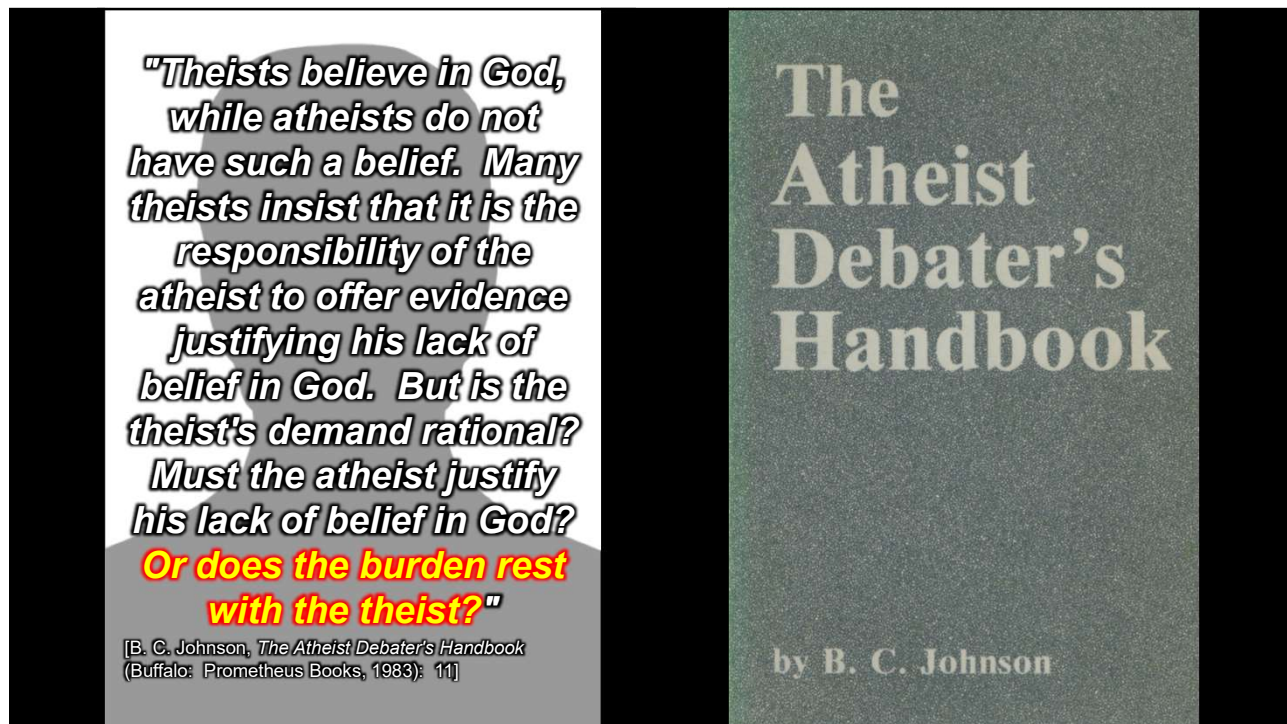
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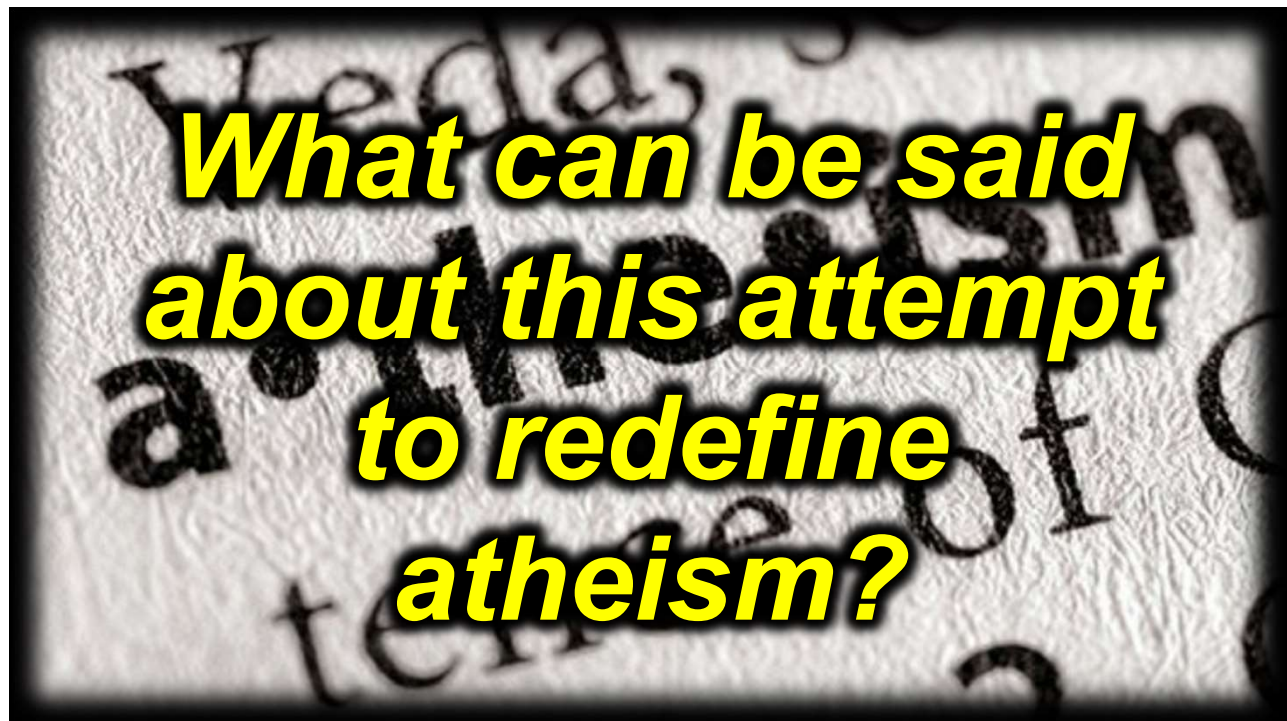
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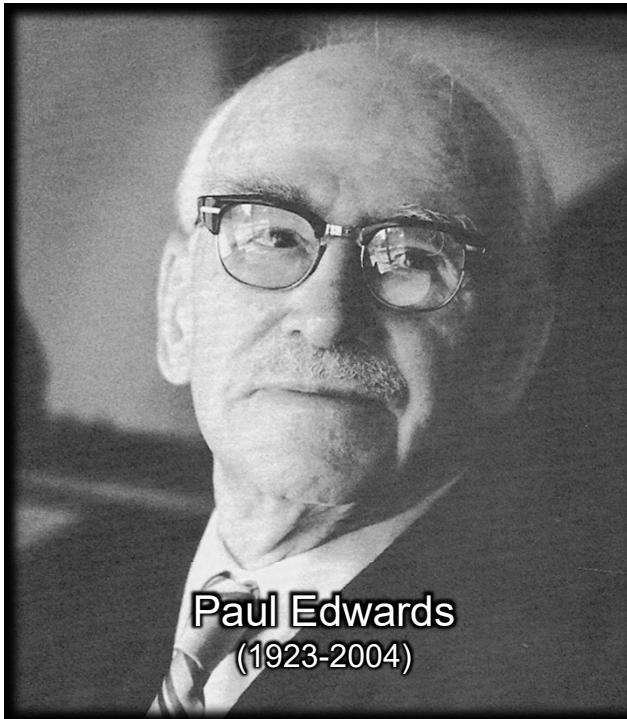


26



First, this definition conflicts with the standard academic definition of atheism.

27



Paul Edwards
(1923-2004)

"According to the most usual definition, an 'atheist' is a person who maintains that there is no God, that is, that the sentence 'God exists' expresses a false proposition."

[Paul Edwards ed. in chief, *The Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1967): s.v. "Atheism," p. 175.]

28

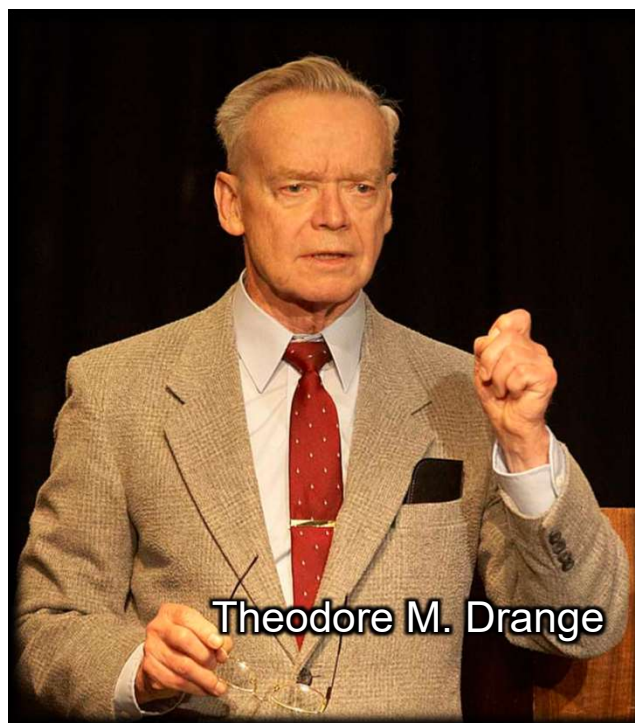
"[A]theism is not to be identified with sheer unbelief.... A child who has received no religious instruction ... is not an atheist—for he is not denying any theistic claims."

[Ernest Nagel, "Philosophical Concepts of Atheism" in *Critiques of God: Making the Case Against Belief in God*, Peter A. Angeles, ed. pp. 4-5]



Ernest Nagel
(1901-1985)

29



Theodore M. Drange

"Is the proposition that God exists true or false? You are a theist if and only if you say that the proposition is true or probably true, you are an atheist if and only if you say that it is false or probably false, and you are an agnostic if and only if you understand what the proposition is, but resist giving either answer, and support your resistance by saying, 'The evidence is insufficient' (or words to that effect)."

[Theodore M. Drange "Atheism, Agnosticism, Noncognitivism," from https://infidels.org/library/modern/theodore_drange/definition.html, accessed 01/15/19]

30



31



32

***"Two things fill the mind
with ever new and
increasing admiration and
awe, the oftener and more
steadily we reflect on
them: the starry heavens
above me and the moral
law within me."***

[*Critique of Practical Reason*, trans. Lewis White Beck (New York: Macmillan Publishing, 1956), 166]

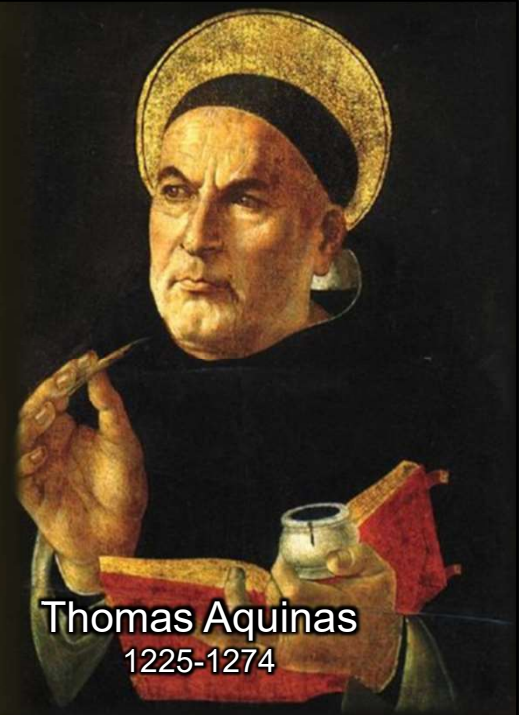


Immanuel Kant
1724-1804

33

***"Beginning with sensible
things, our intellect is led
to the point of knowing
about God that He exists,
and other such
characteristics that must
be attributed to the
First Principle."***

[*Summa Contra Gentiles*, I, 3, §3, trans. Anton C. Pegis (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1975), 64]

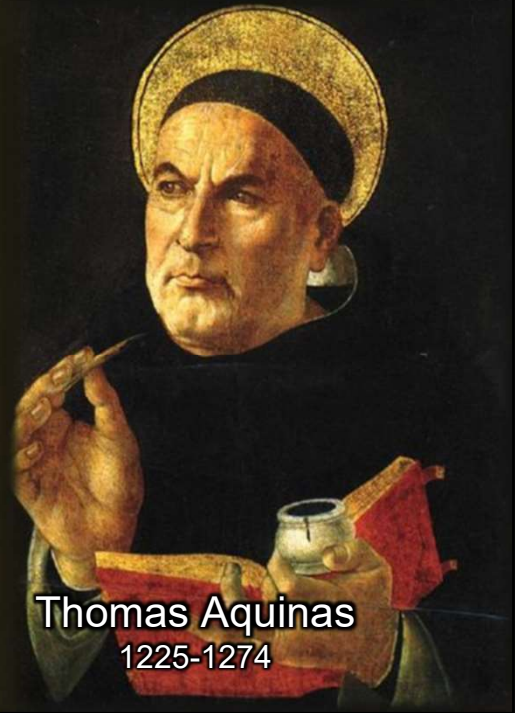


Thomas Aquinas
1225-1274

34

"From every effect the existence of its proper cause can be demonstrated, so long as its effects are better known to us; because since every effect depends upon its cause, if the effect exists, the cause must pre-exist. Hence the existence of God ... can be demonstrated from those of His effects which are known to us.."

[*Summa Theologica*, I, Q2, Art. 2, trans. Fathers of the English Dominican Province (Westminster: Christian Classics, 1948), 12]



Thomas Aquinas
1225-1274

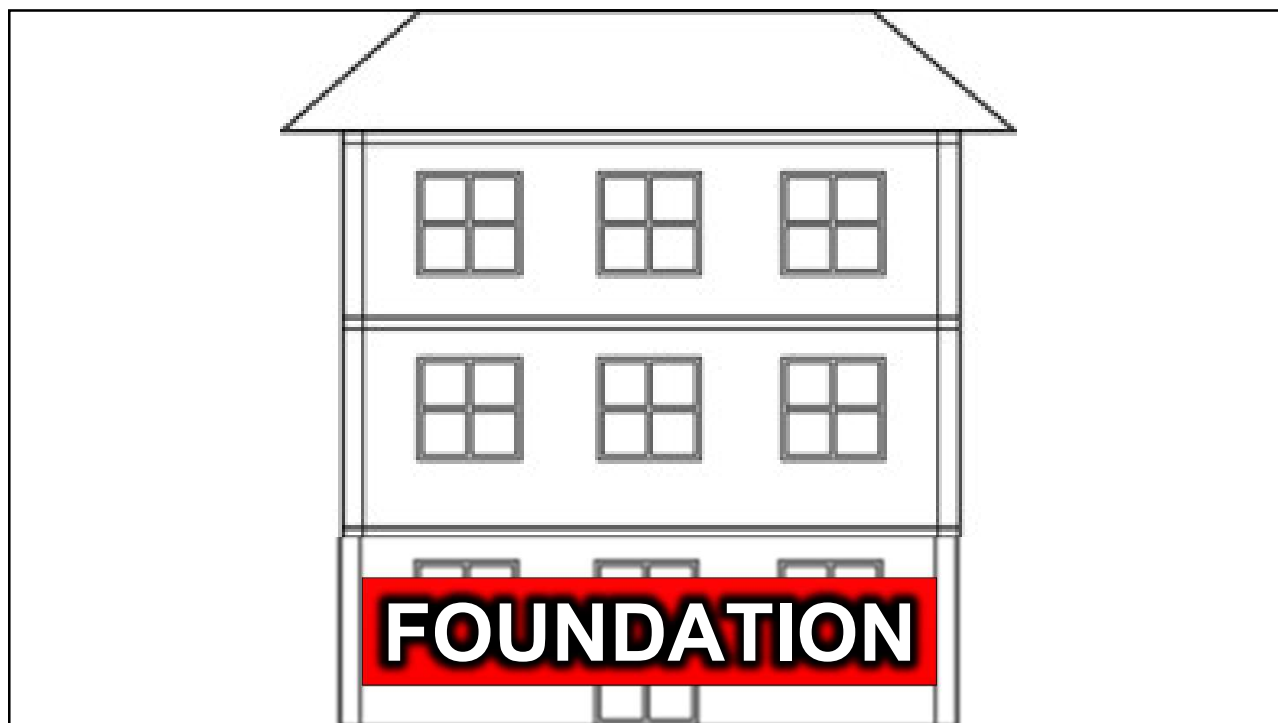
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GOD

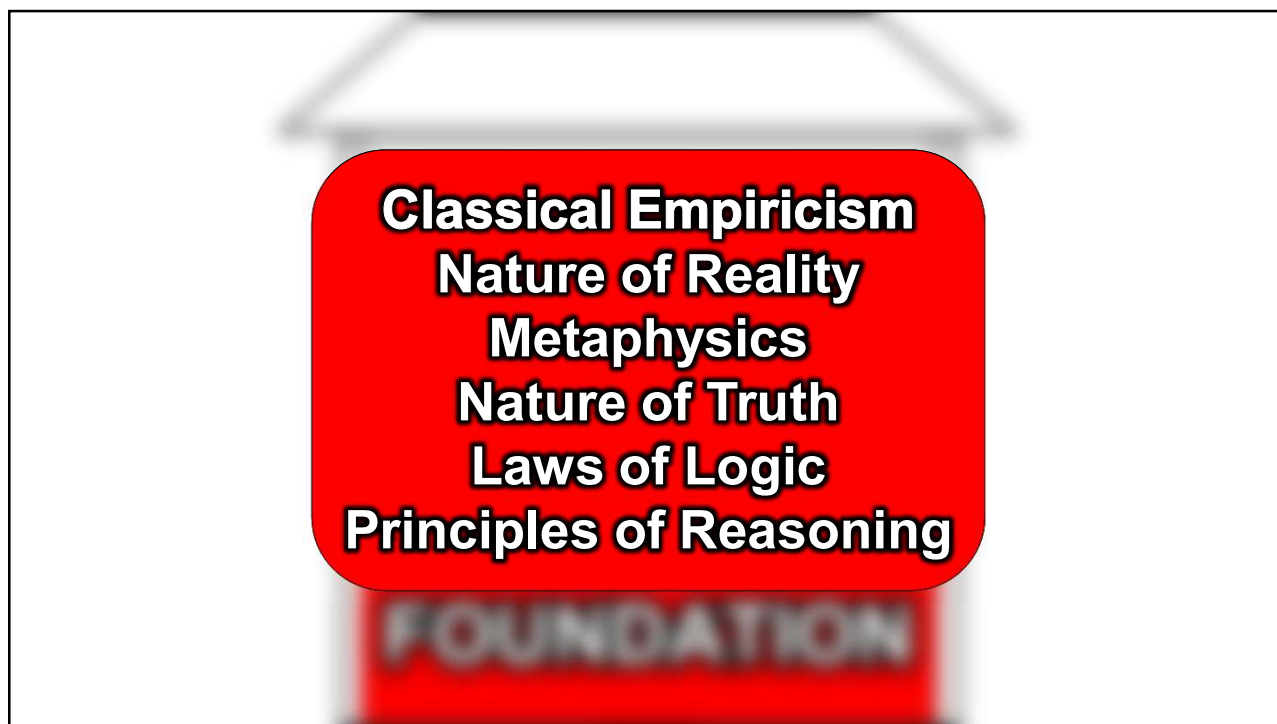
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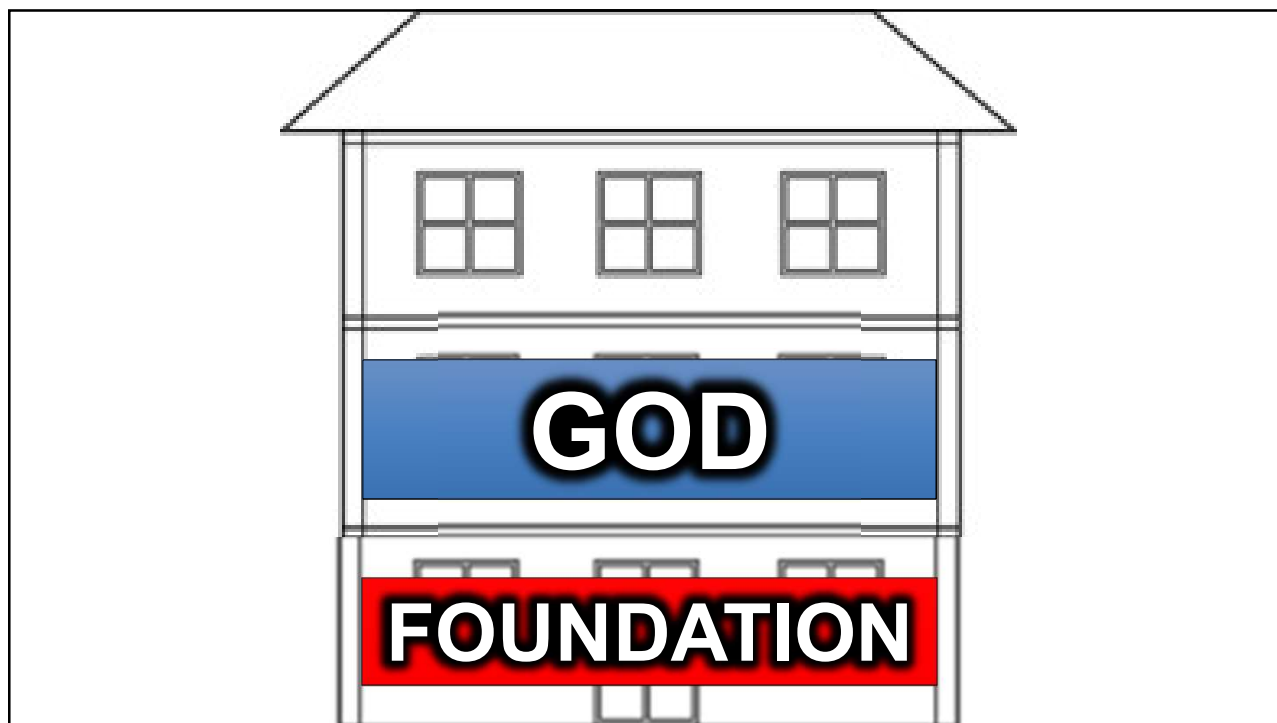
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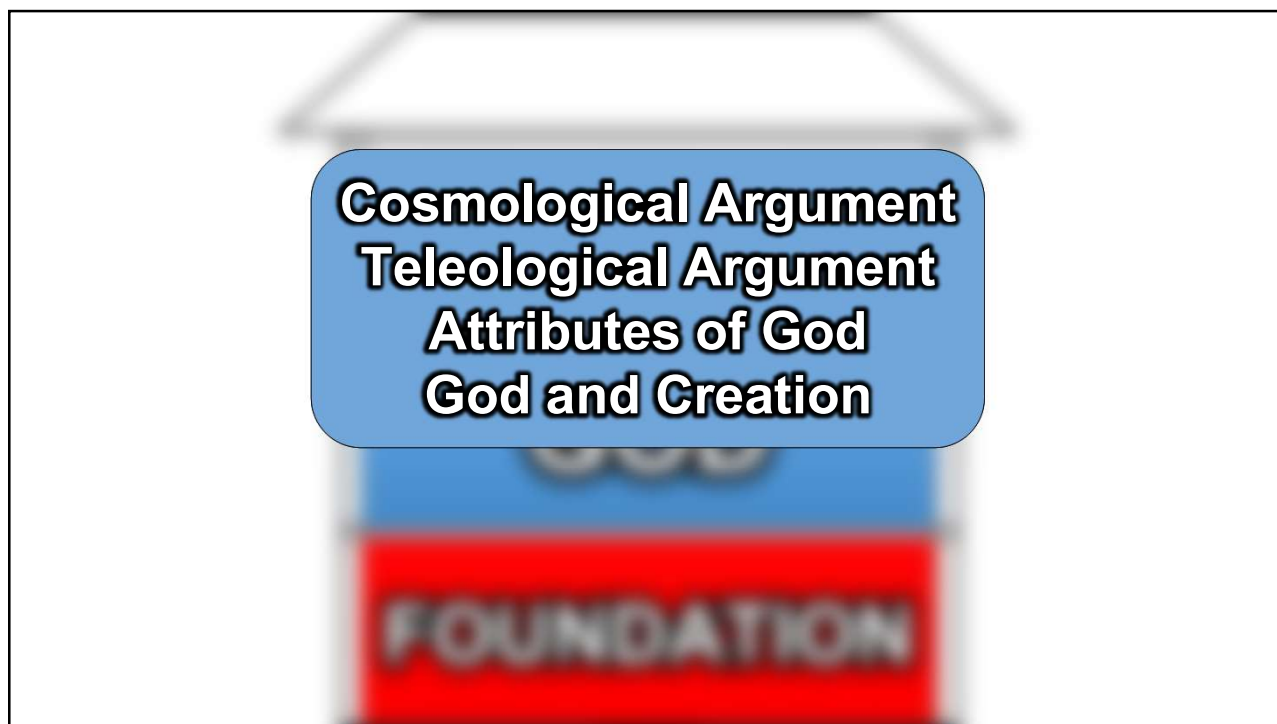
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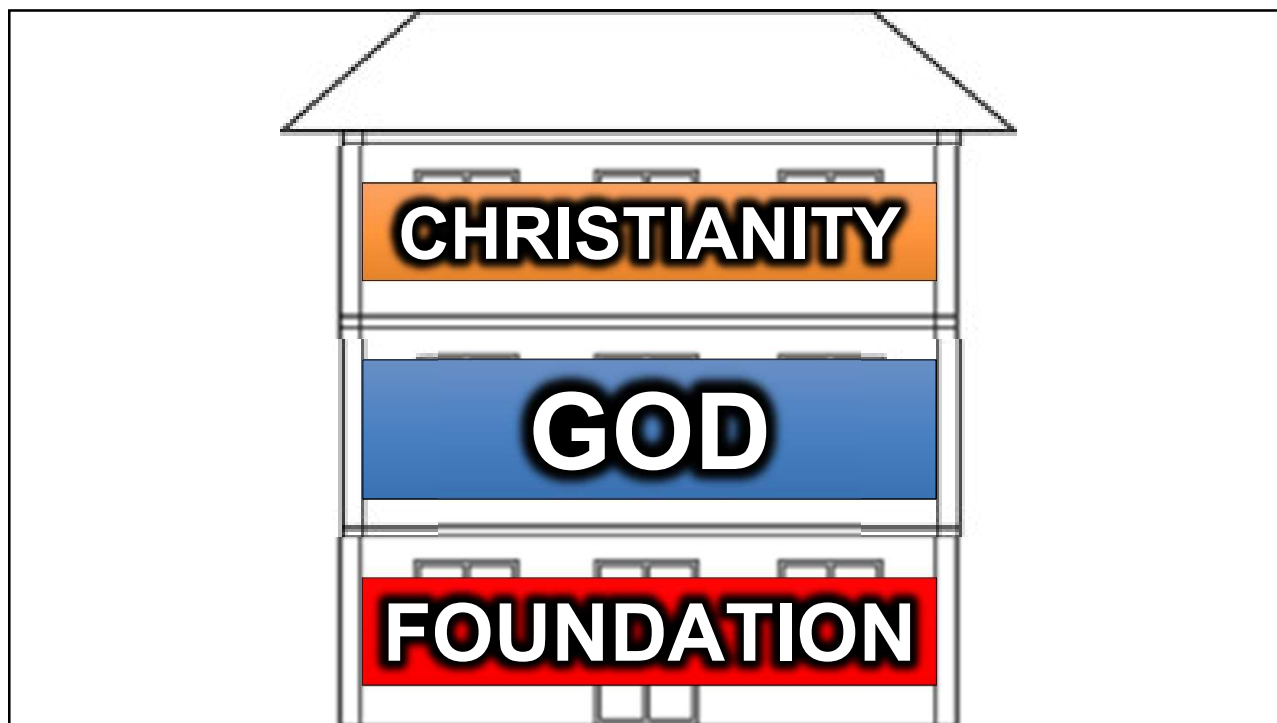
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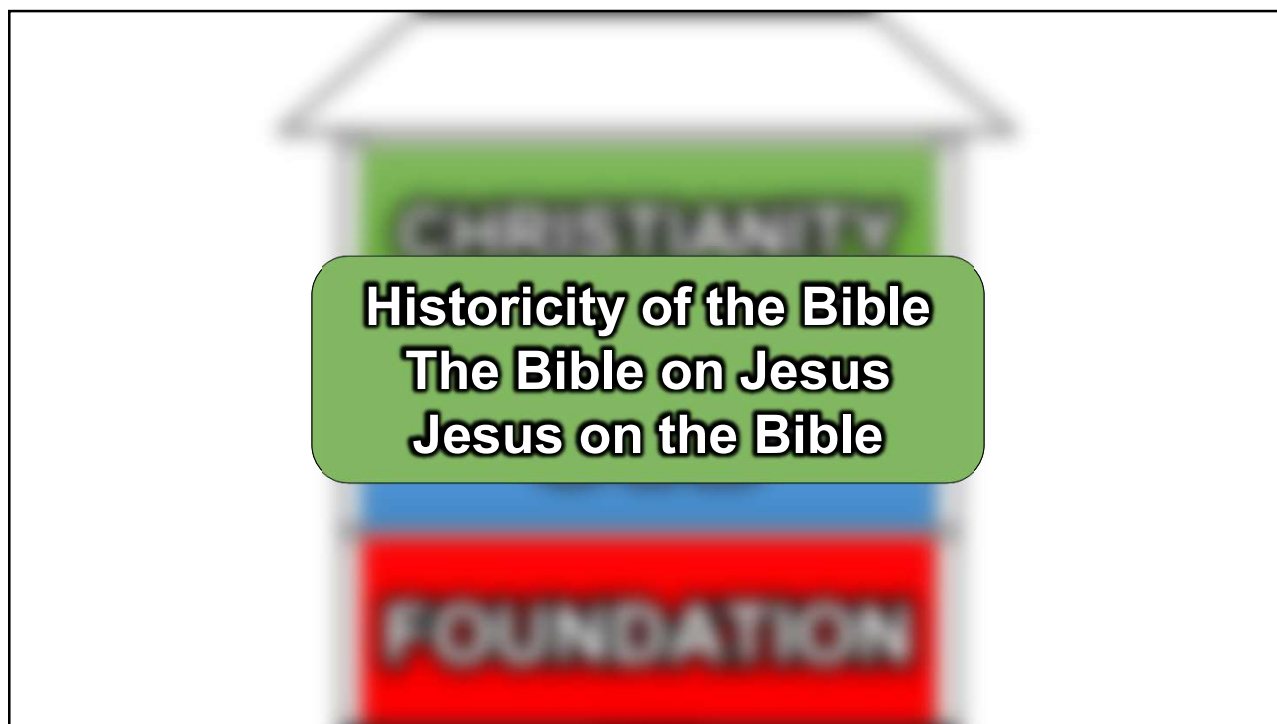
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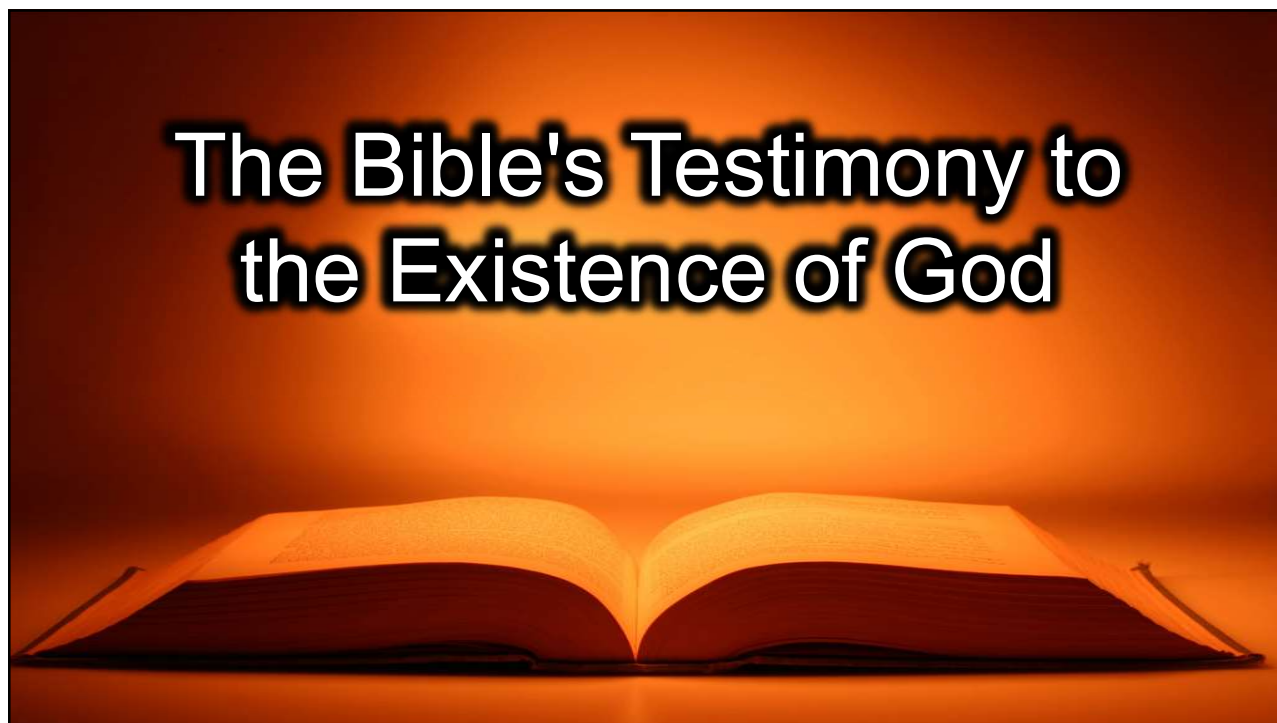
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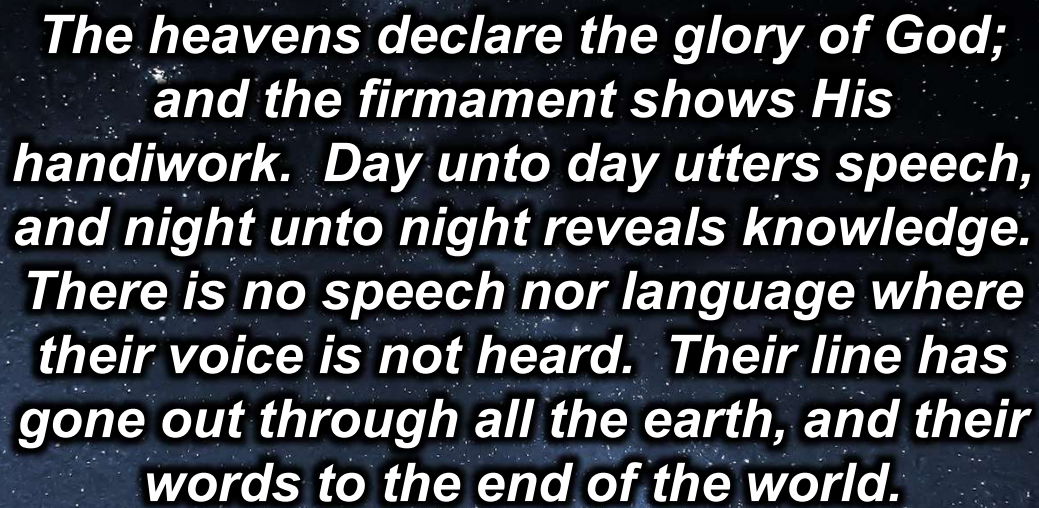
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43



44



***The heavens declare the glory of God;
and the firmament shows His
handiwork. Day unto day utters speech,
and night unto night reveals knowledge.
There is no speech nor language where
their voice is not heard. Their line has
gone out through all the earth, and their
words to the end of the world.***

Psalm 19:1

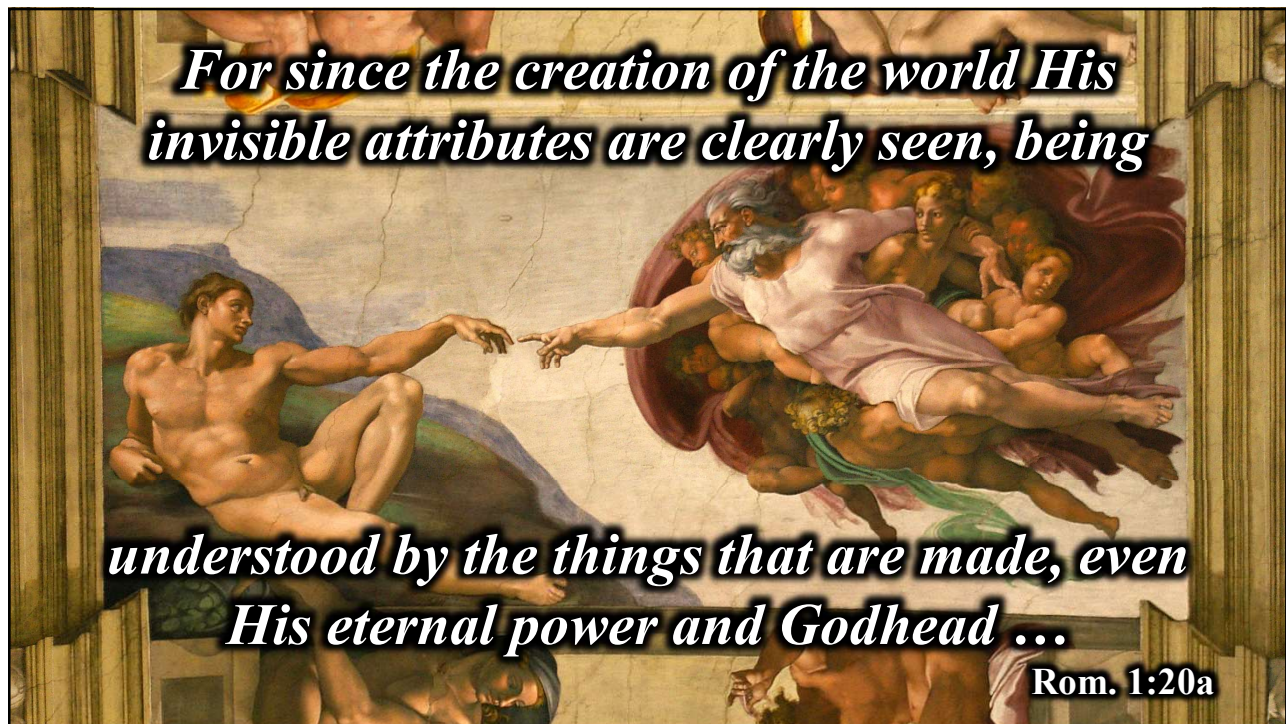
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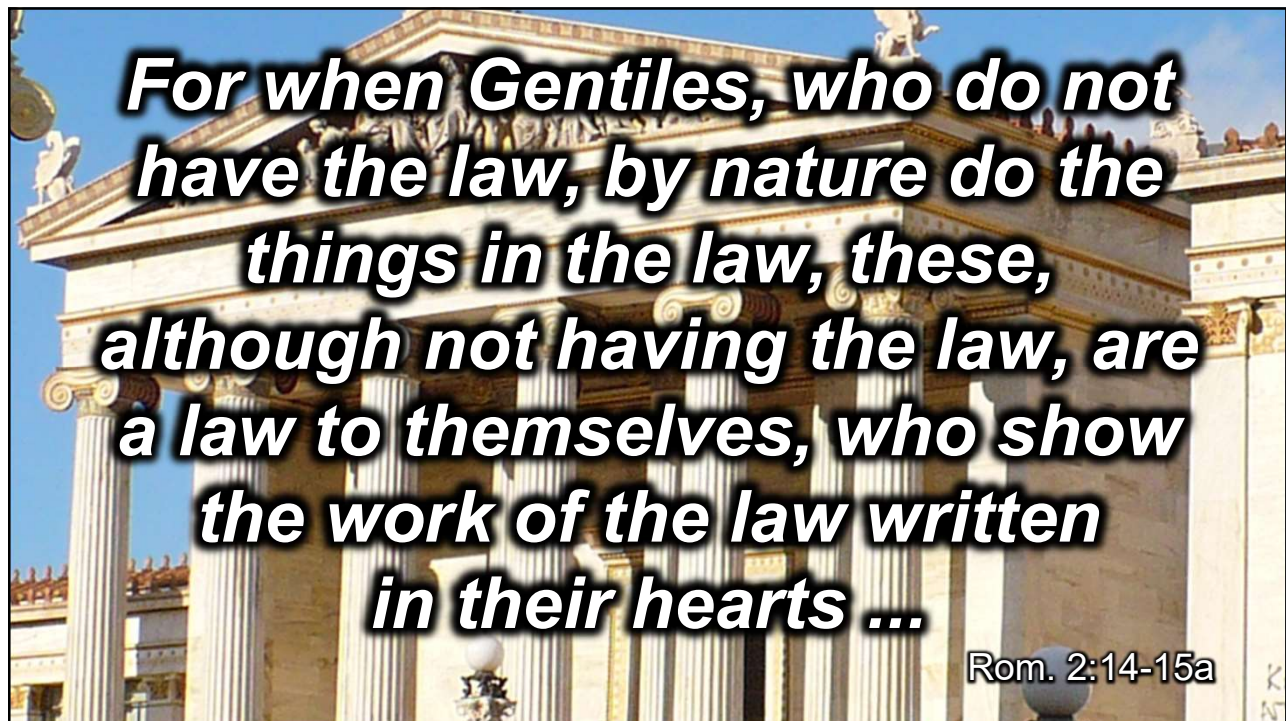
***The heavens declare
His righteousness,
And all the peoples
see His glory.***

Psalm 97:6

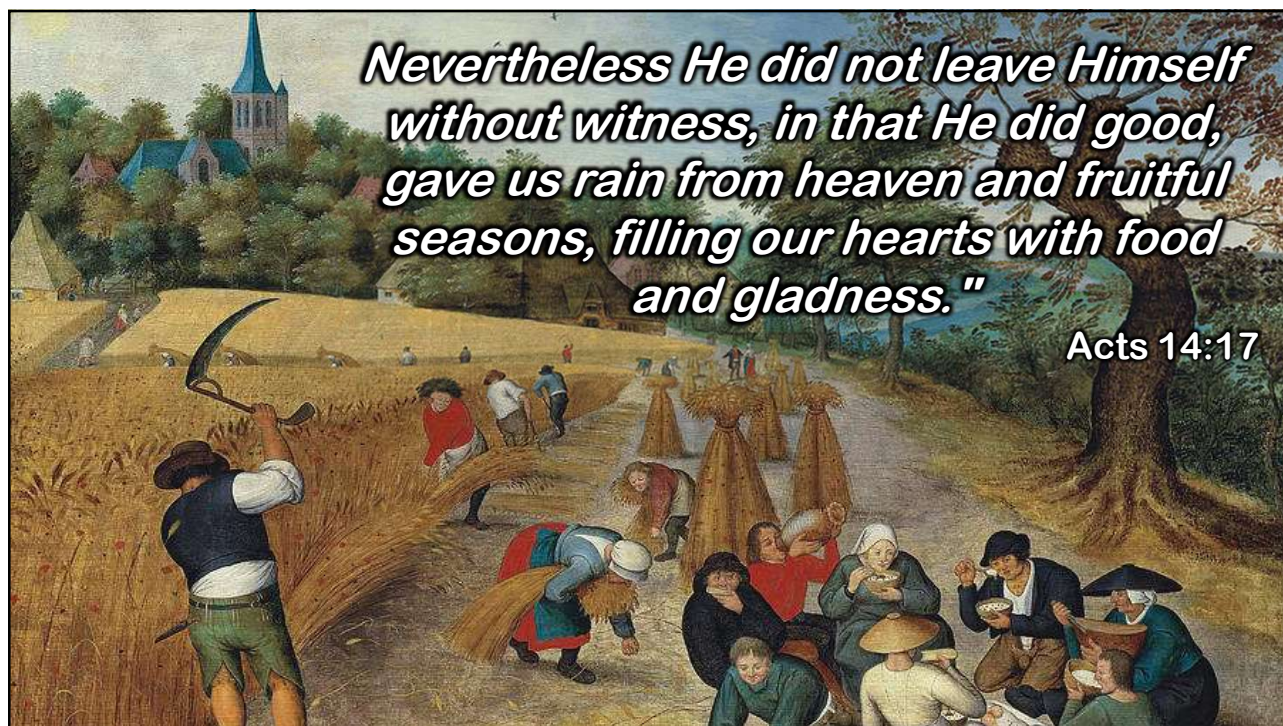
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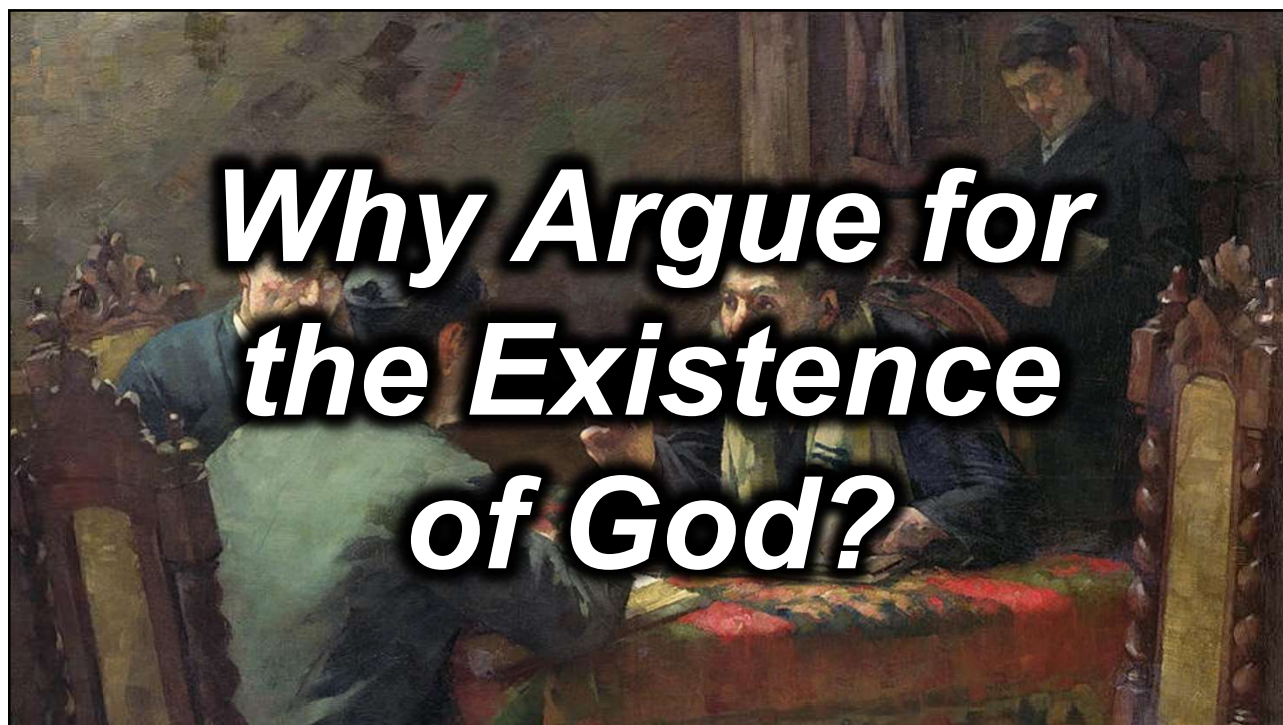
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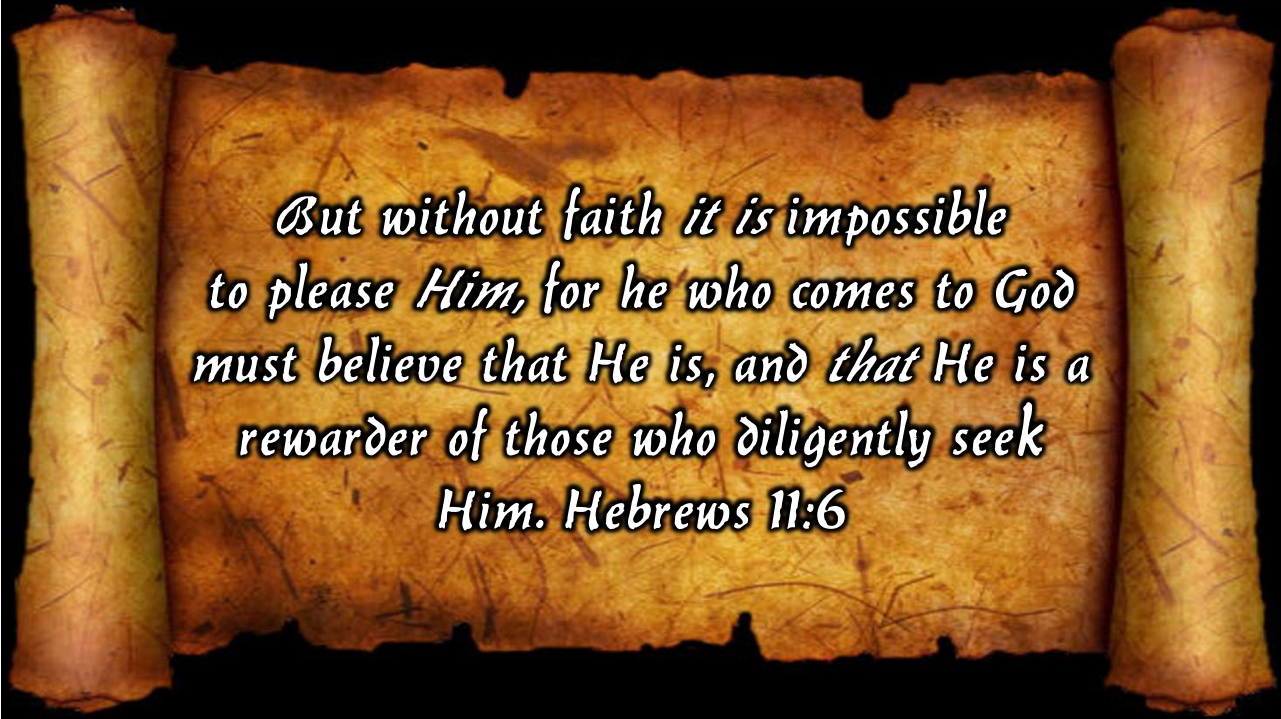
∞ Belief in God and Eternal Life ∞

*You can't argue someone into
faith in Christ.*

*Belief in God is a necessary but not
sufficient condition for salvation.*

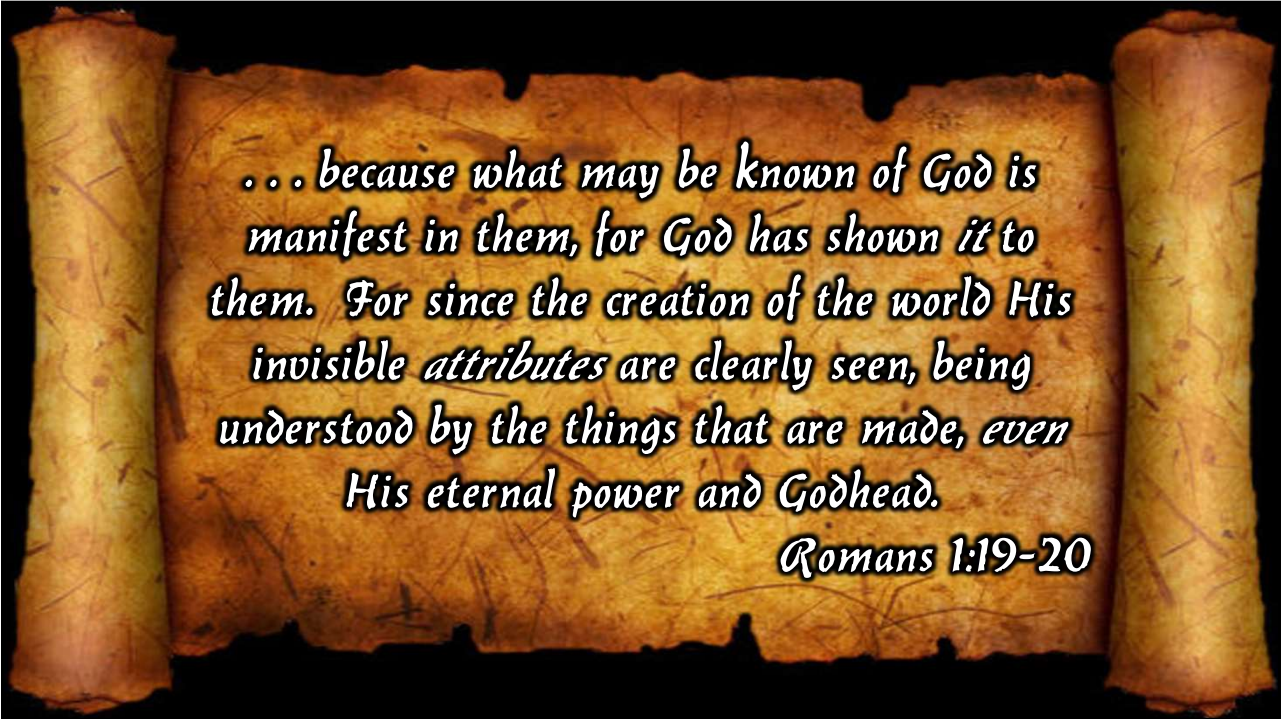
*One can be lost and still believe in God's
existence, but one cannot get saved
without believing in God's existence.*

51

A scroll with a textured, aged appearance, featuring a central rectangular section with a slightly darker, more uniform color. The scroll is unrolled, showing the text on the central section. The edges of the scroll are slightly frayed and uneven.

*But without faith it is impossible
to please Him, for he who comes to God
must believe that He is, and that He is a
rewarder of those who diligently seek
Him. Hebrews 11:6*

52

A scroll with a textured, aged appearance, unrolled to reveal text. The scroll is set against a dark background.

... because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead.

Romans 1:19-20

53

∞ Belief in God and the Evidence ∞

God may use the evidence to bring some to believe that God exists.

Evidence can expose the fact that, for some, the problem of unbelief is not a matter of their intellect.

Evidence can help strengthen the faith of those who already believe.

54

*... so that they are without excuse,
because, although they knew God, they did
not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful,
but became futile in their thoughts, and
their foolish hearts were darkened.*

Romans 1:20b-21

55

*Now a certain Jew named Apollos,
born at Alexandria, an eloquent
man and mighty in the Scriptures,
came to Ephesus. ... And when
he desired to cross to Achaia, the
brethren wrote, exhorting the
disciples to receive him; and when
he arrived, **he greatly helped those
who had believed through grace**;
for he vigorously refuted the Jews
publicly, showing from the
Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.*

Acts 18:24, 27-28



56

∞ Belief in God and the World ∞

Belief in God is virtually universal geographically (all over the world) and chronologically (throughout all time).

This does not prove that God exists, but it may be an indicator that God exists.

57



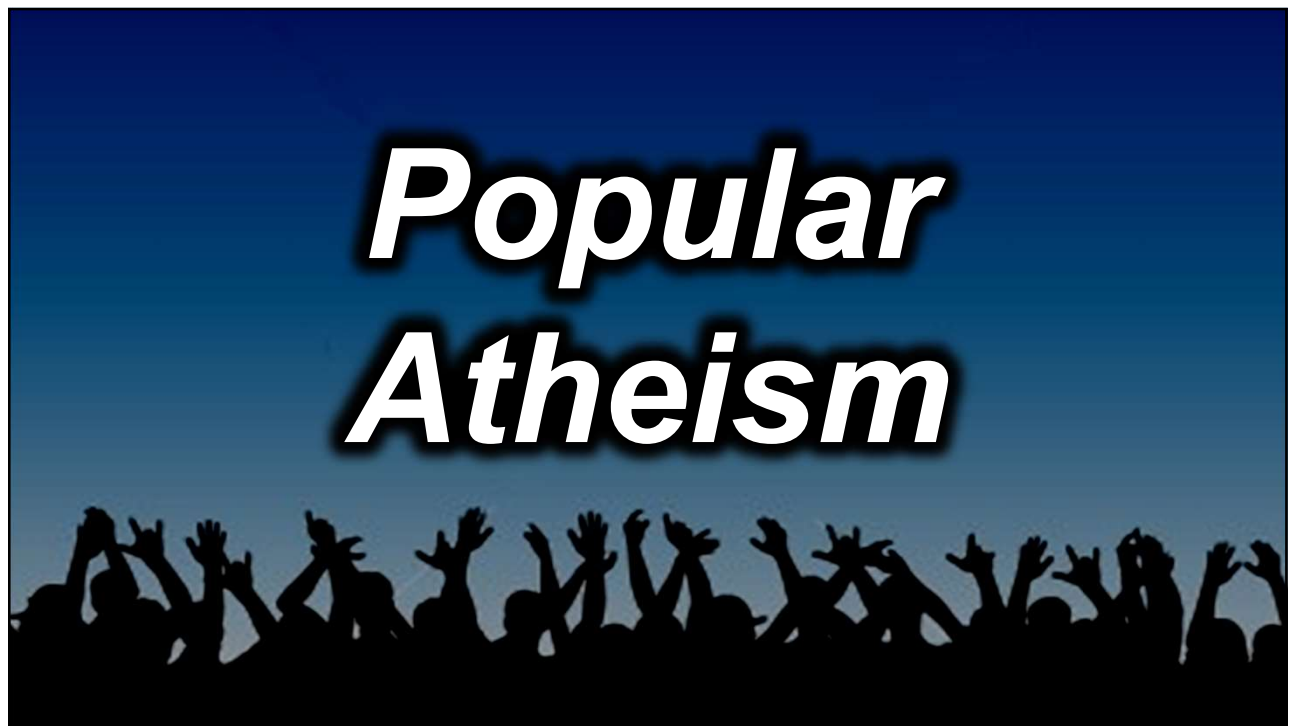
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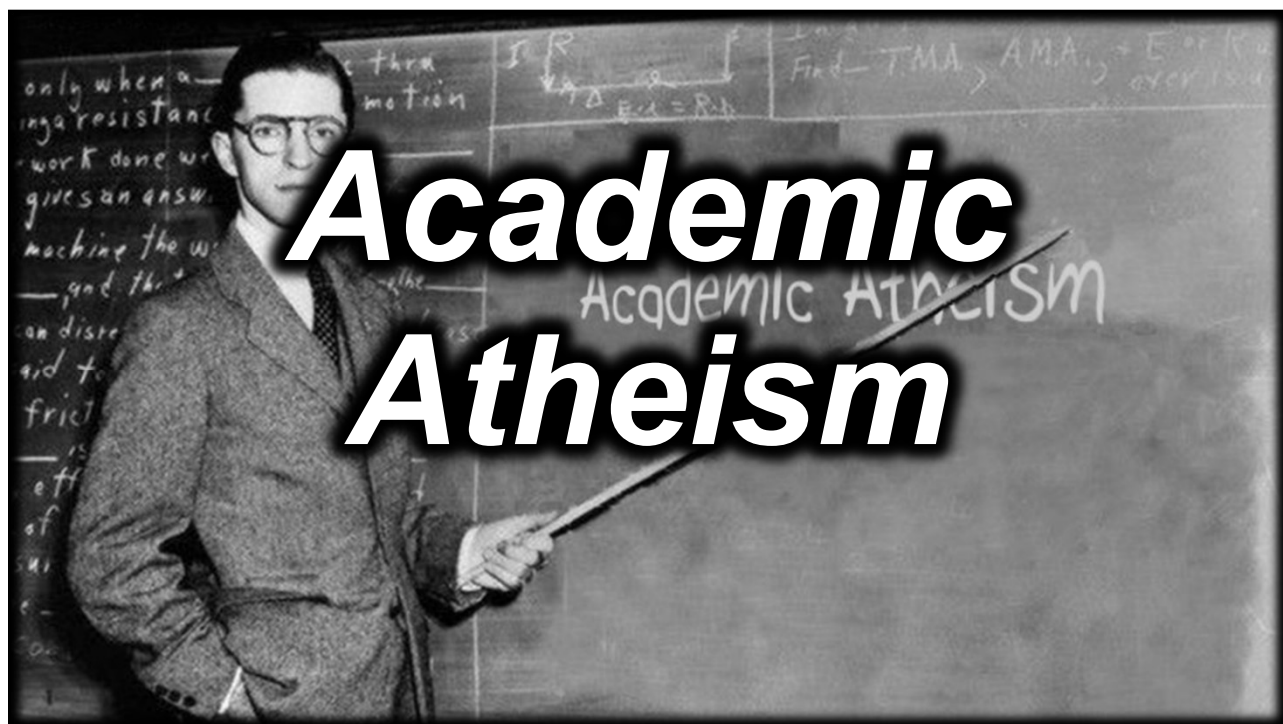
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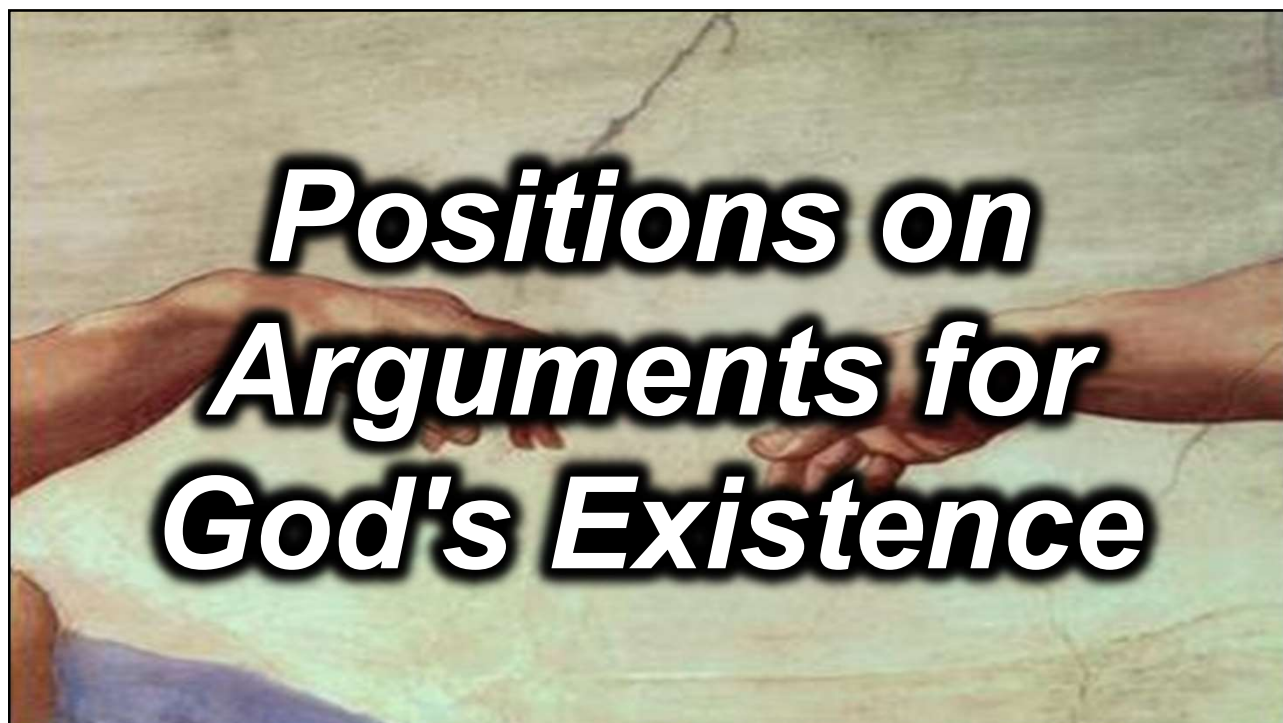
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62



63



64

Perhaps it is not surprising that there are different views on whether or how there is any relevance for the arguments for the existence of God.

65

It might be surprising to some, however, that the different views do not fall along the lines of theists and non-theists.

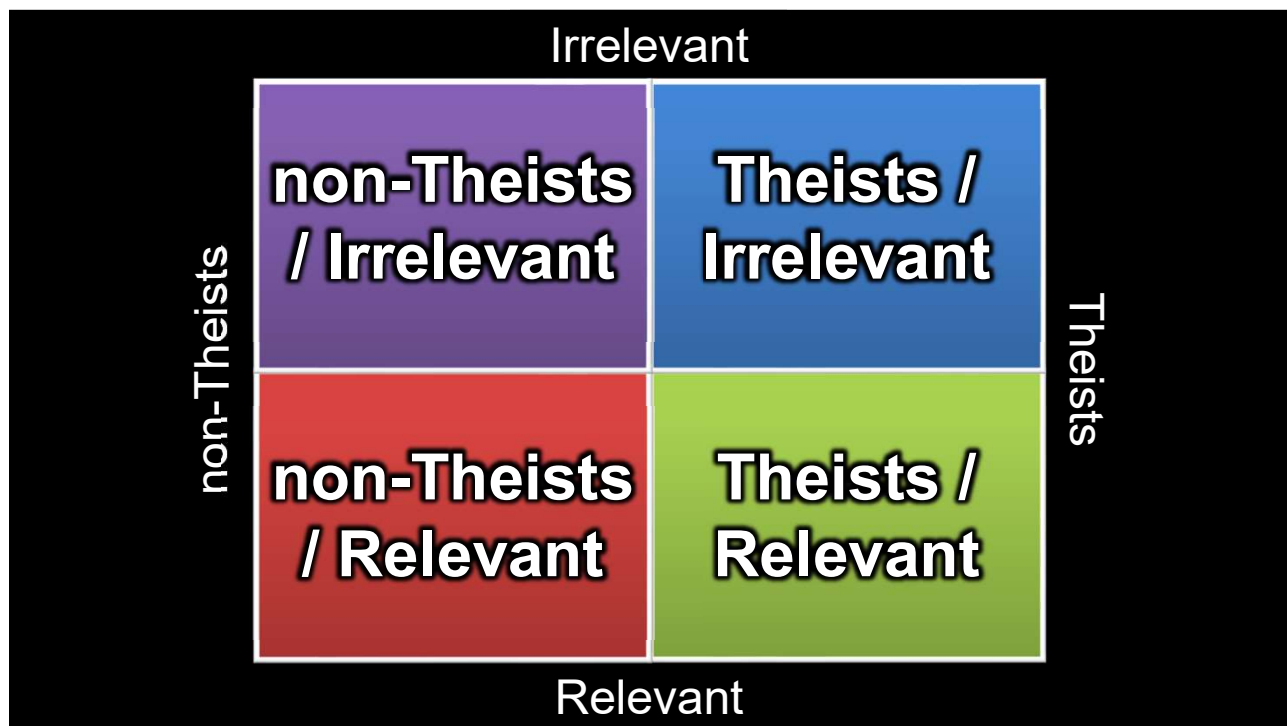
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***In combining the options of
theists and non-theists together
with the options of relevant and
irrelevant we get these results.***

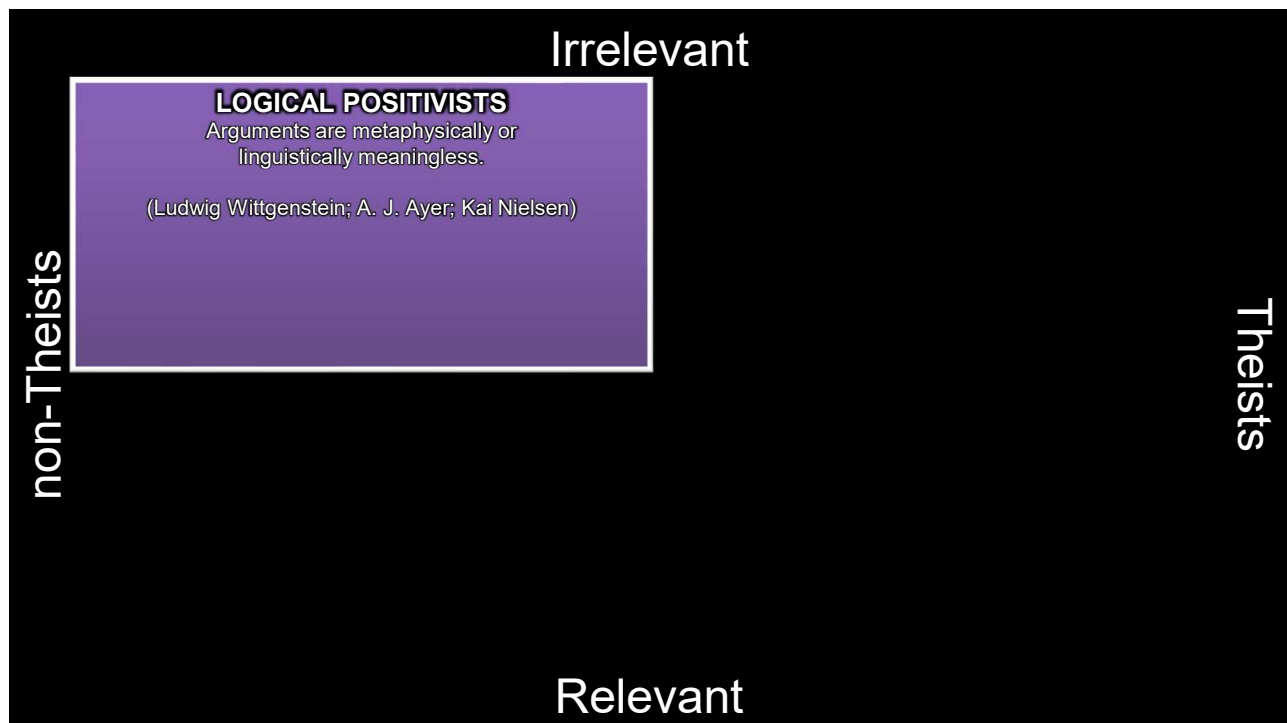
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***Non-theists - irrelevant
Non-theists - relevant
Theists - relevant
Theists - irrelevant***

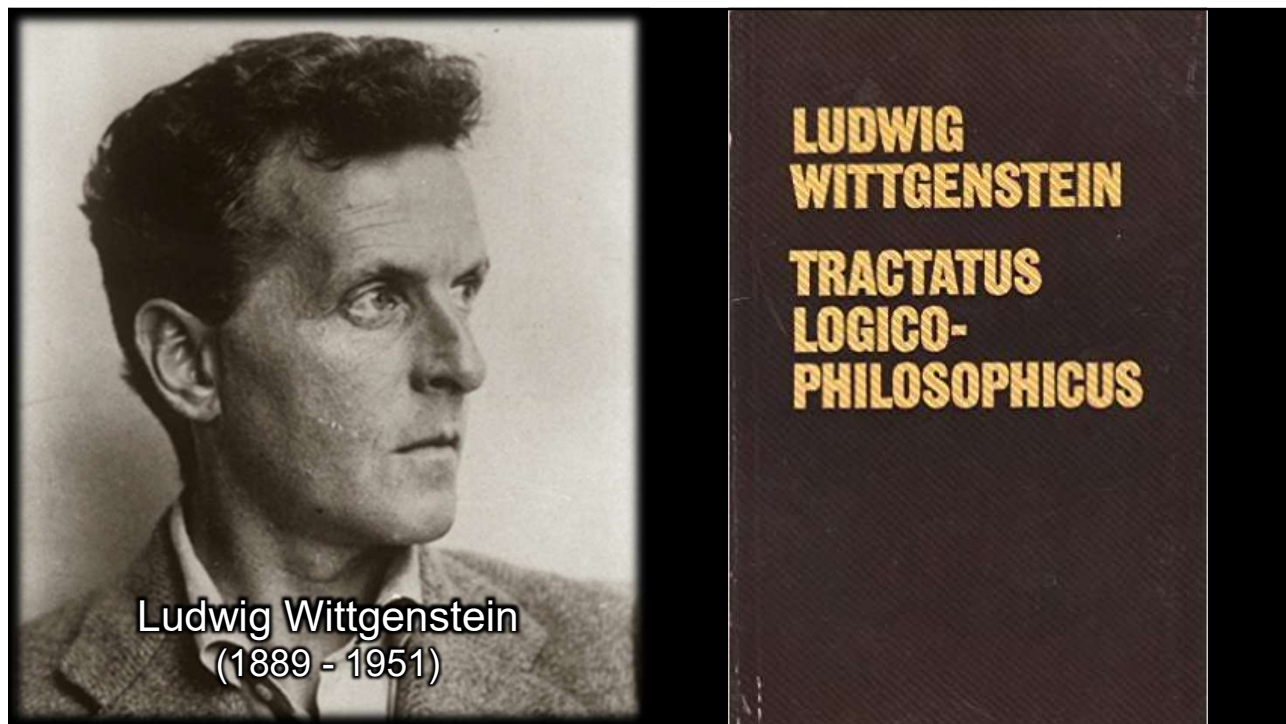
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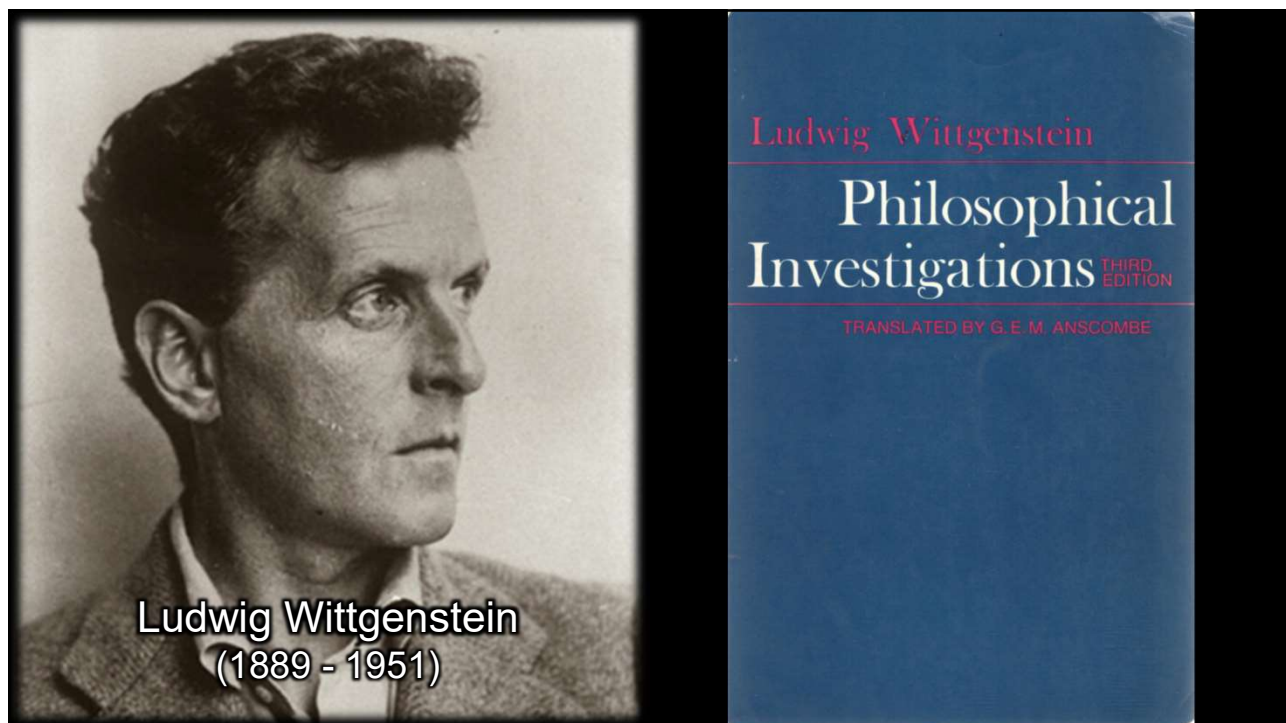
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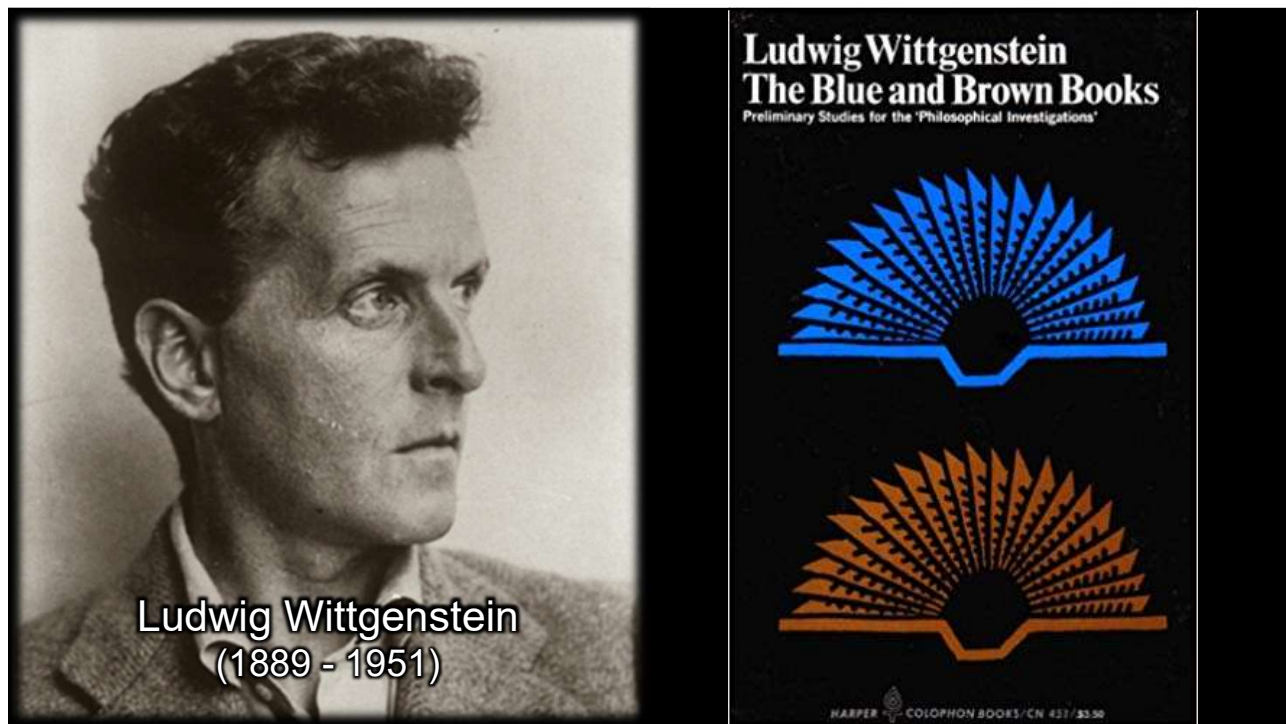
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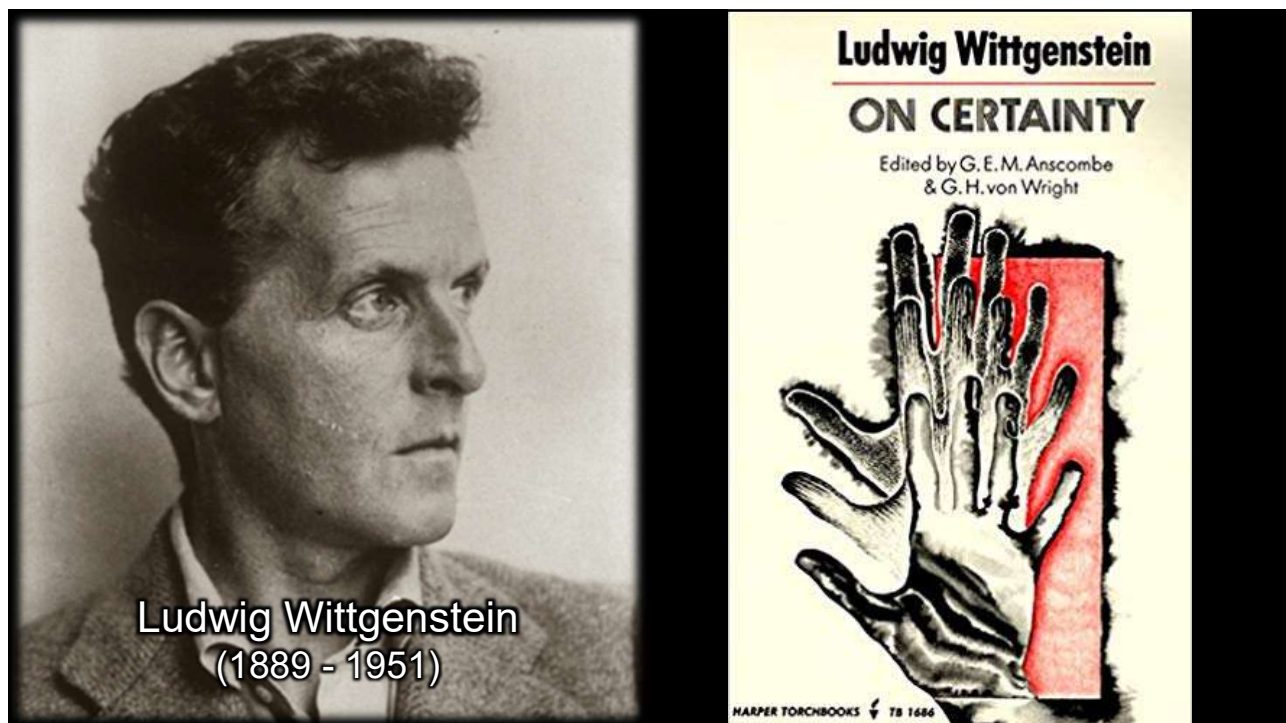
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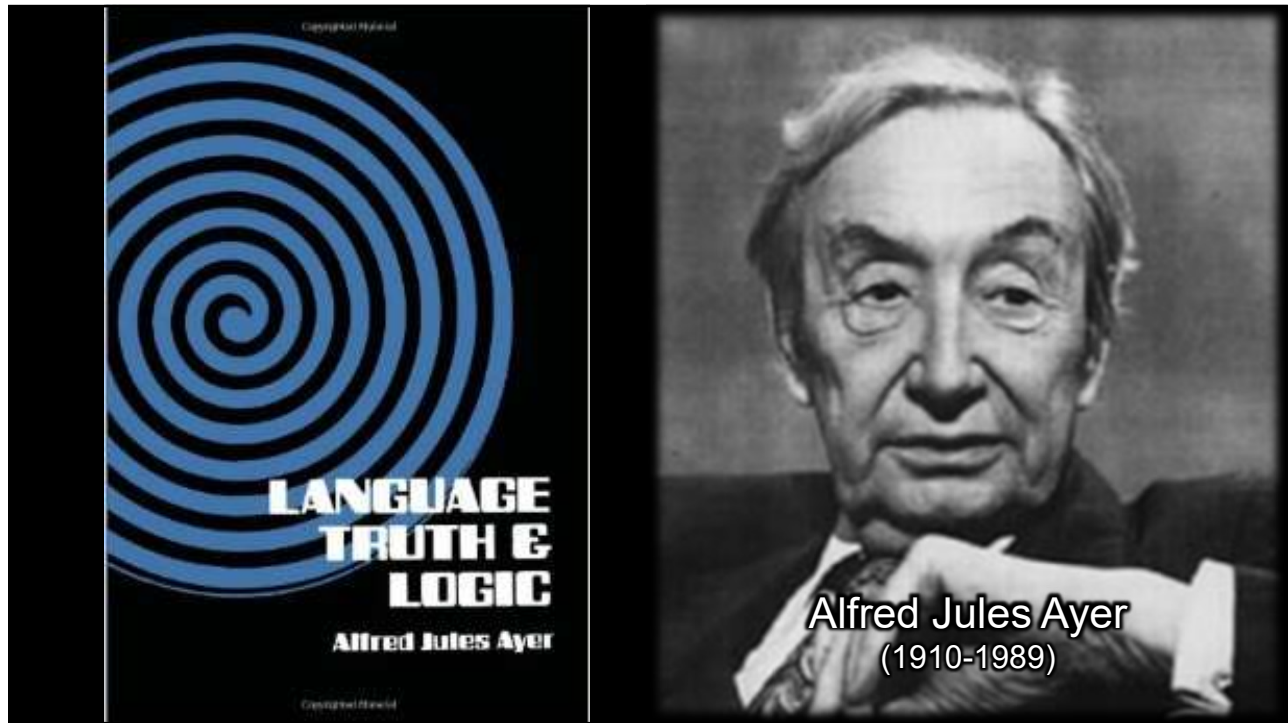
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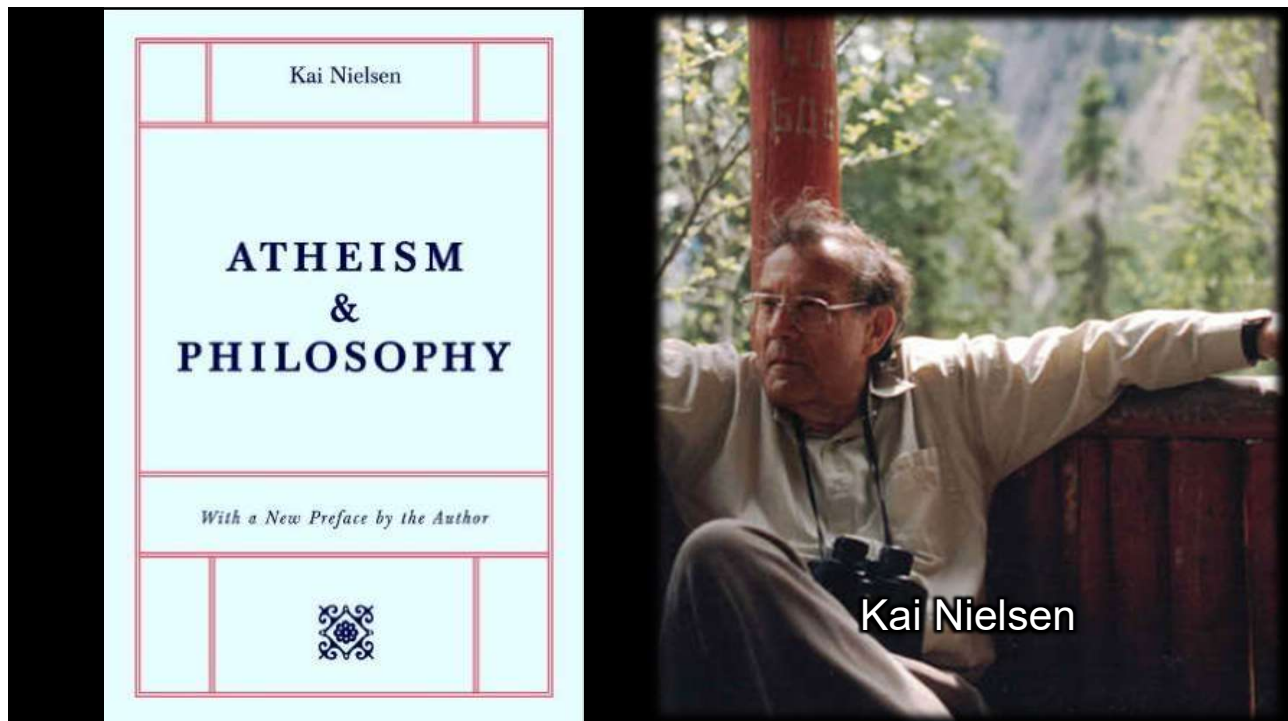
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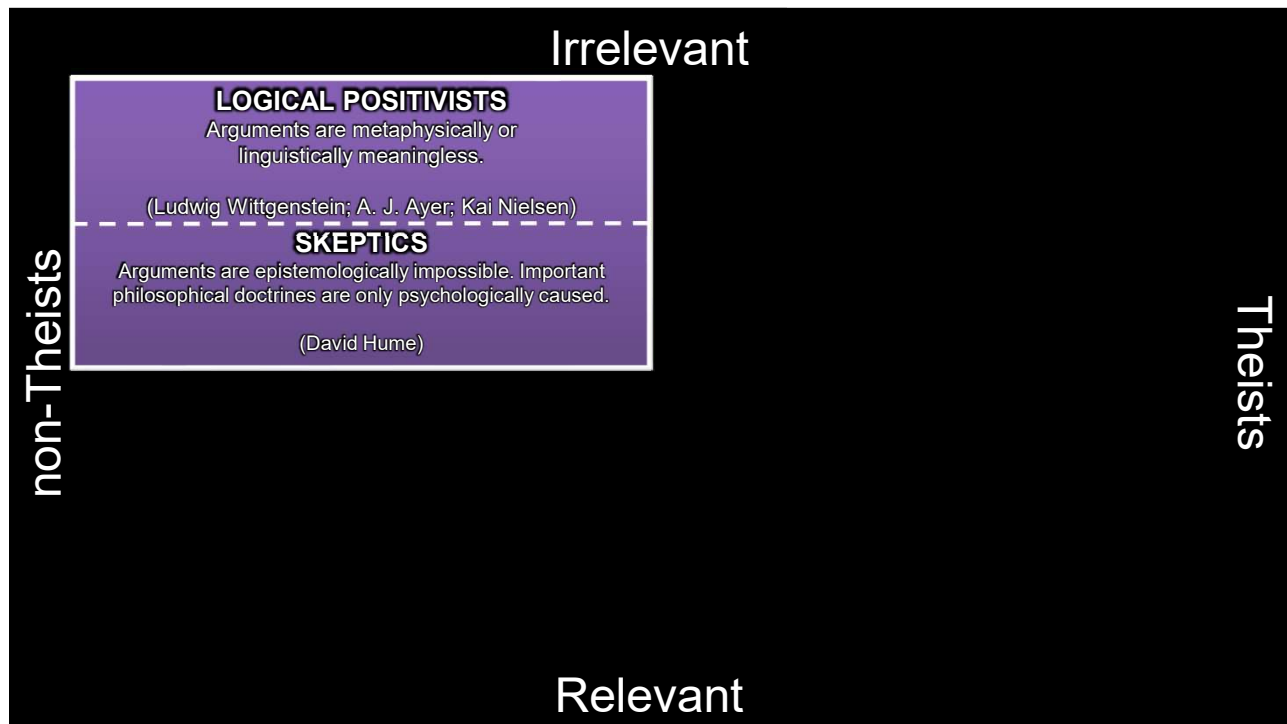
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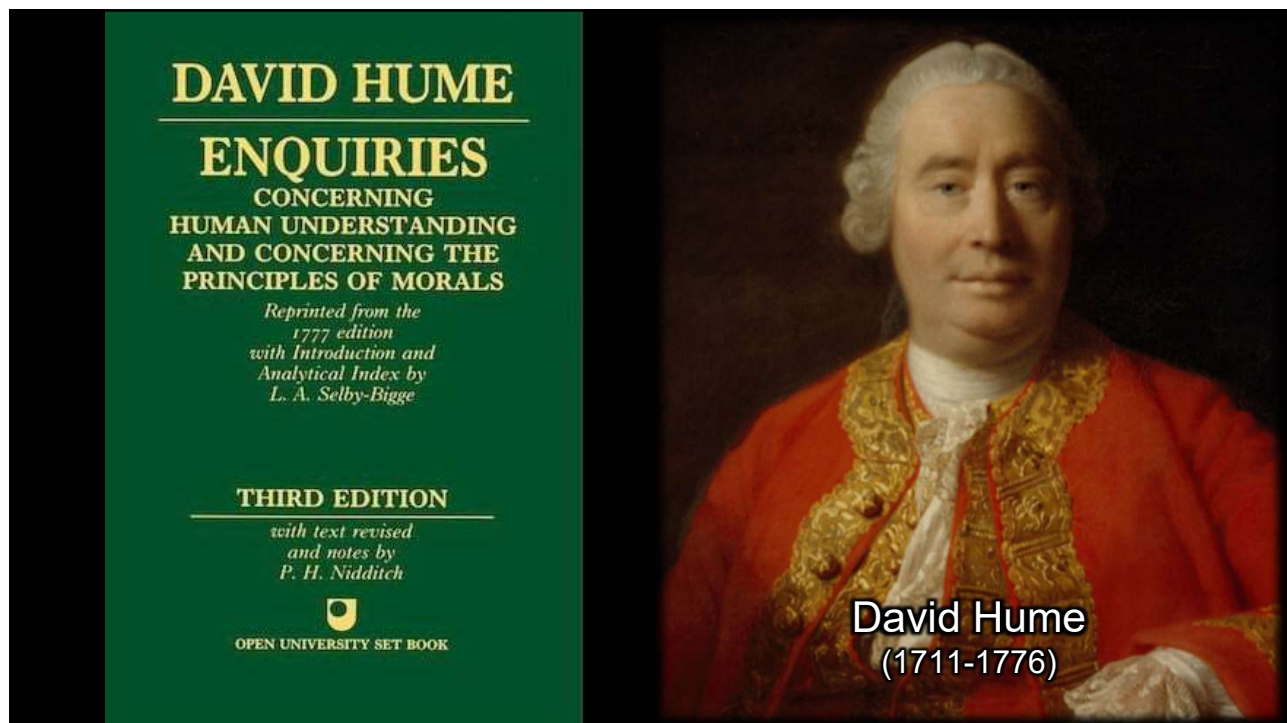
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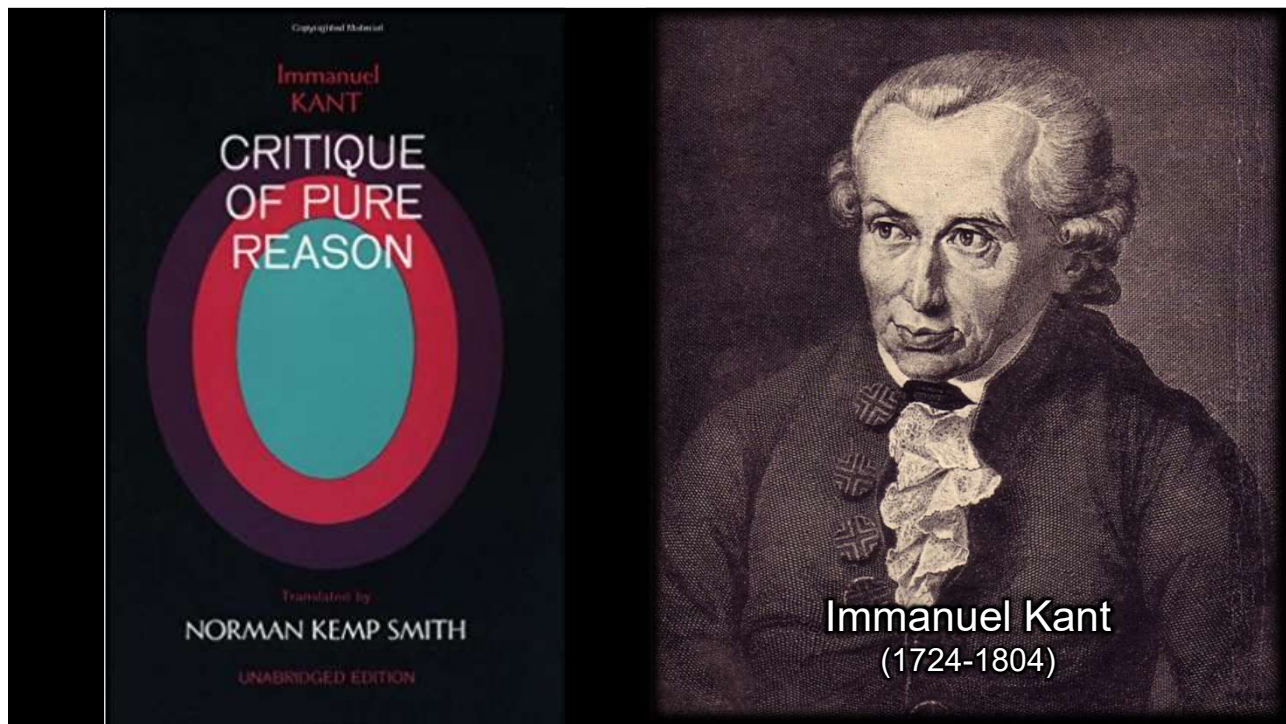
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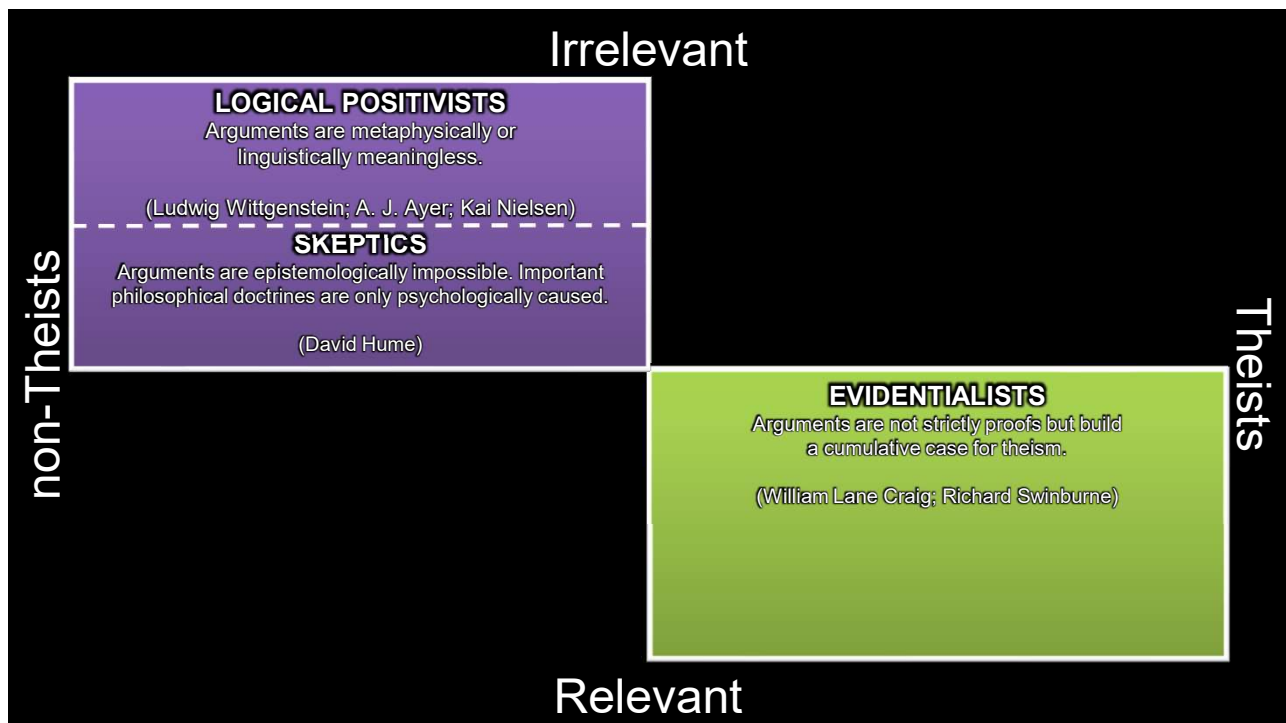
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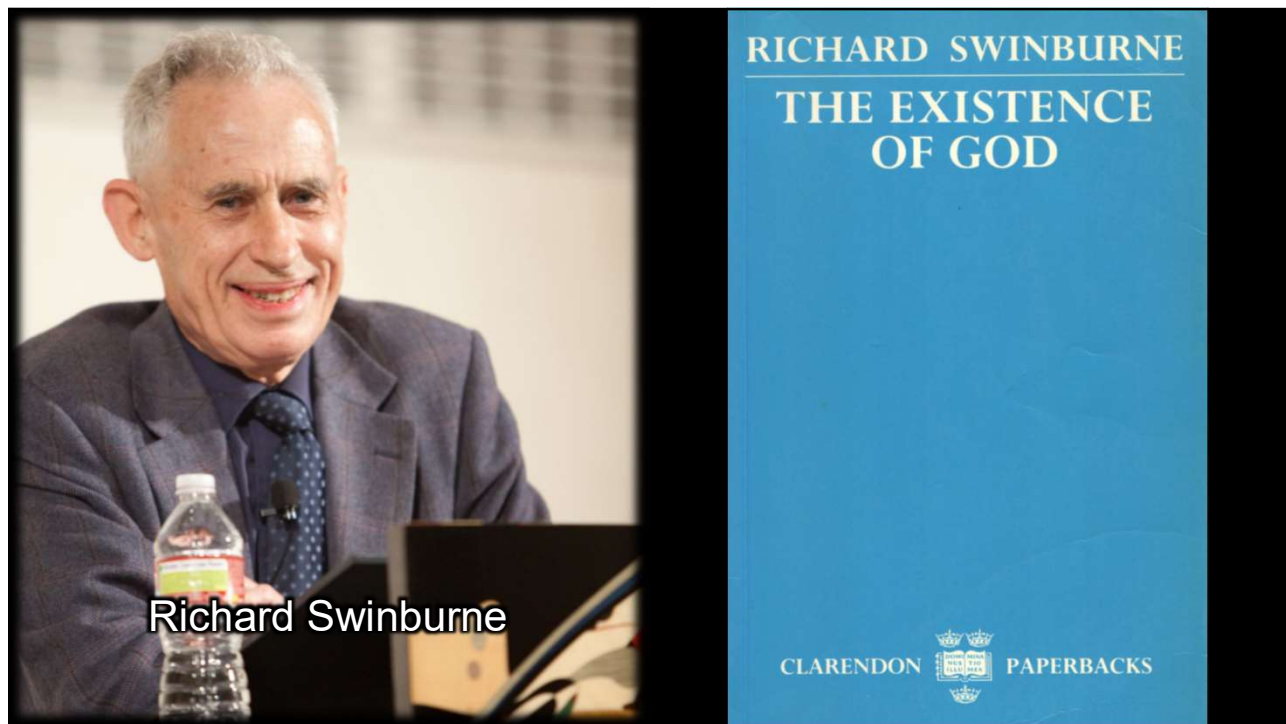
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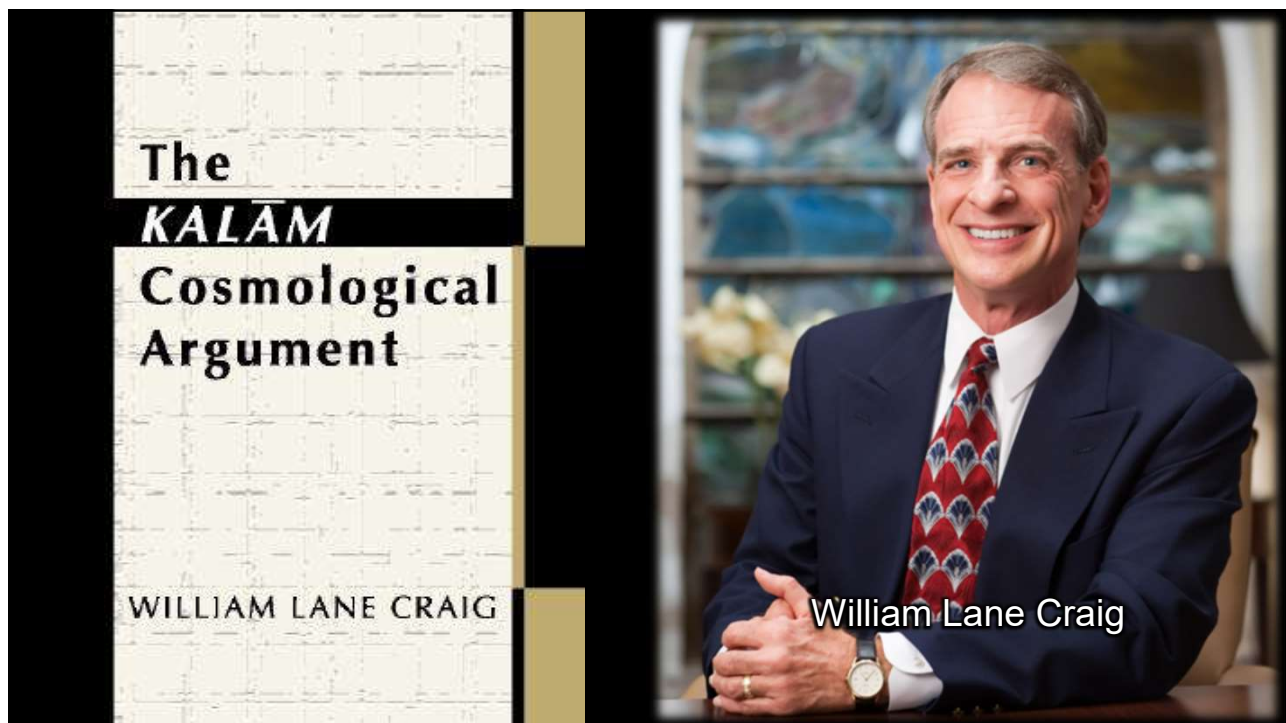
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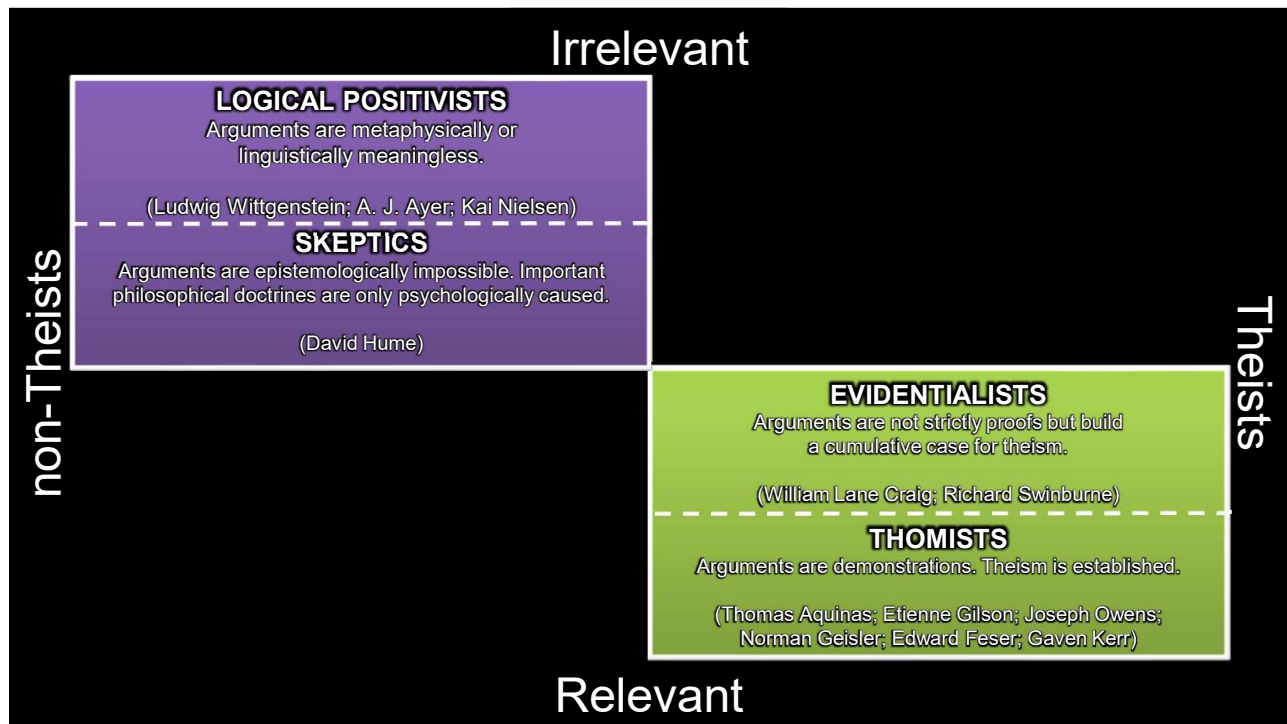
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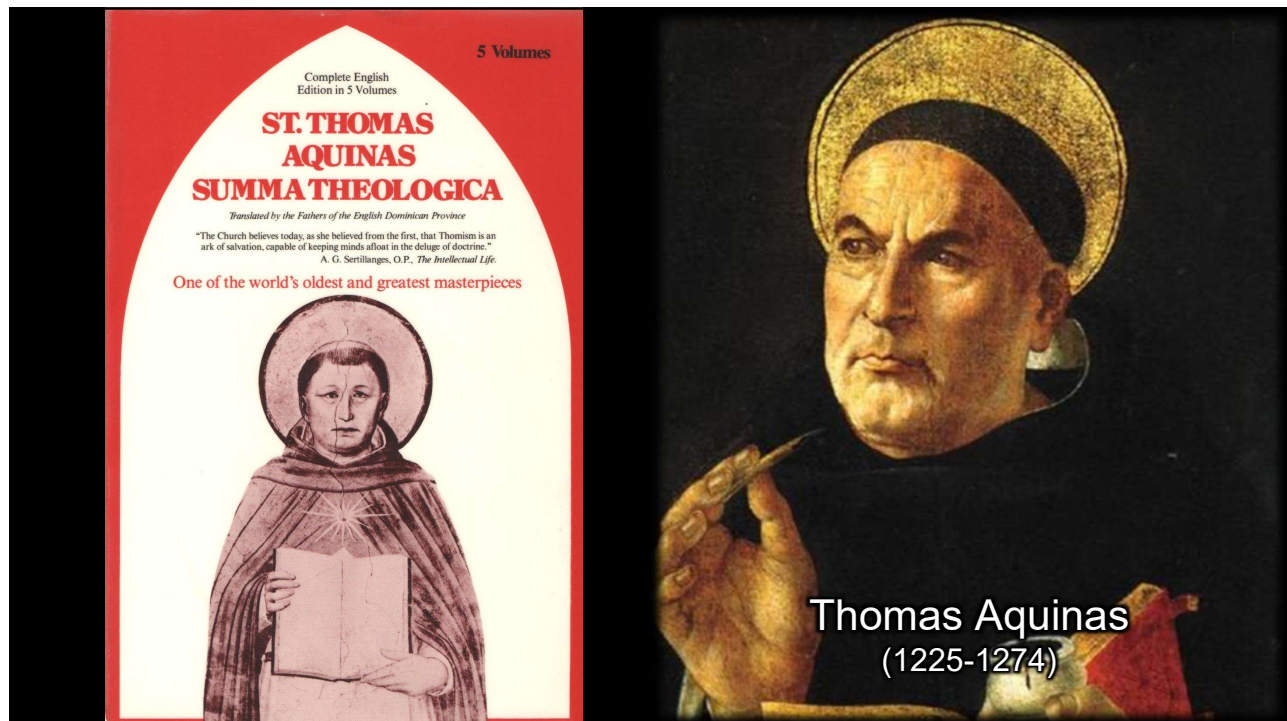
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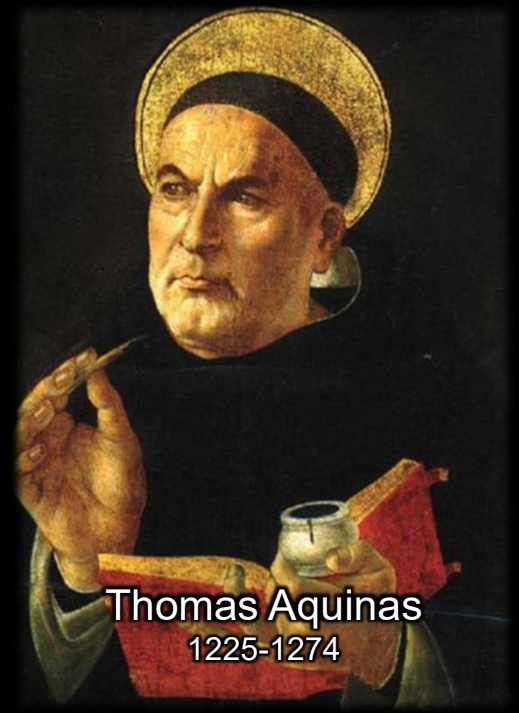
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84

Thomas Aquinas's "Five Ways"

- *Argument from motion*
- *Argument from efficient causality*
- *Argument from necessary being*
- *Argument from degrees of perfection*
- *Argument from final causality*

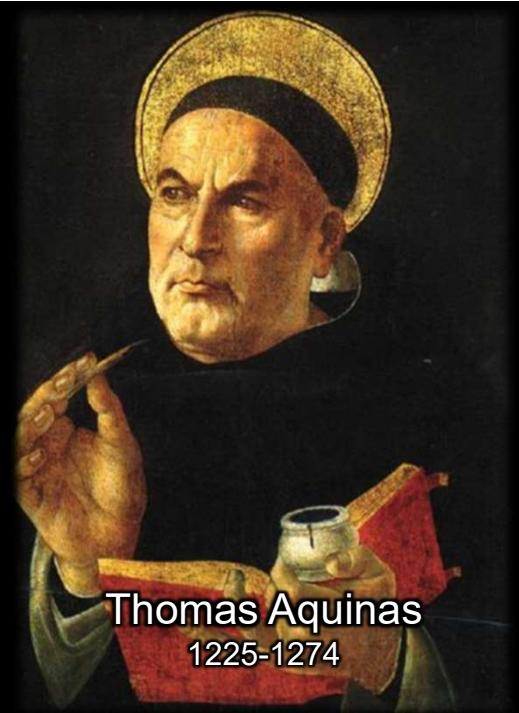


Thomas Aquinas
1225-1274

85

Thomas Aquinas On being and essence

Translated by
Armand Maurer



Thomas Aquinas
1225-1274

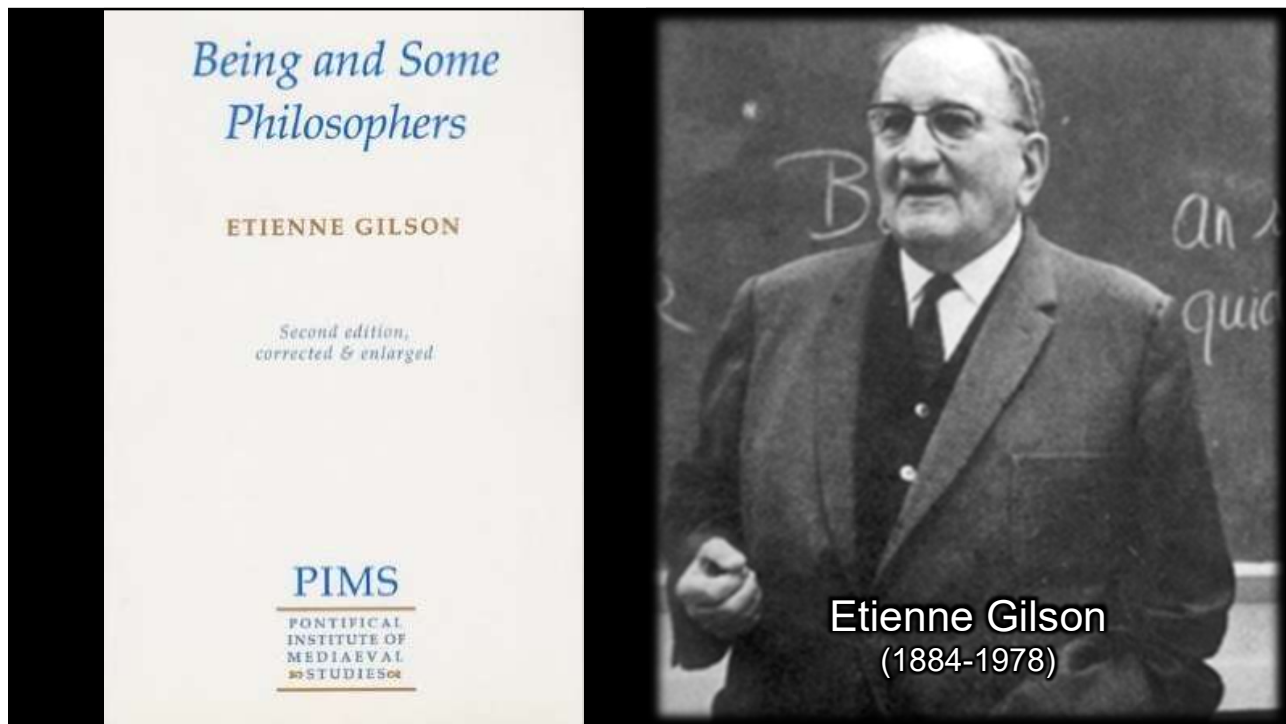
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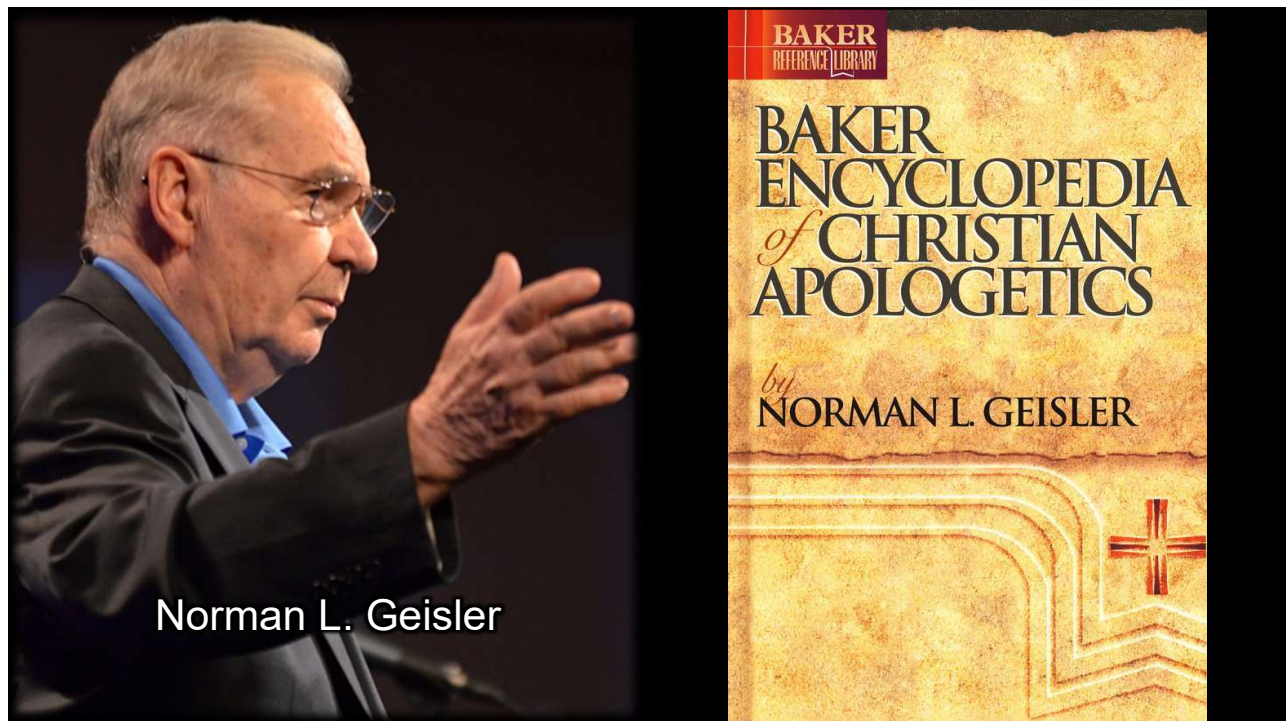
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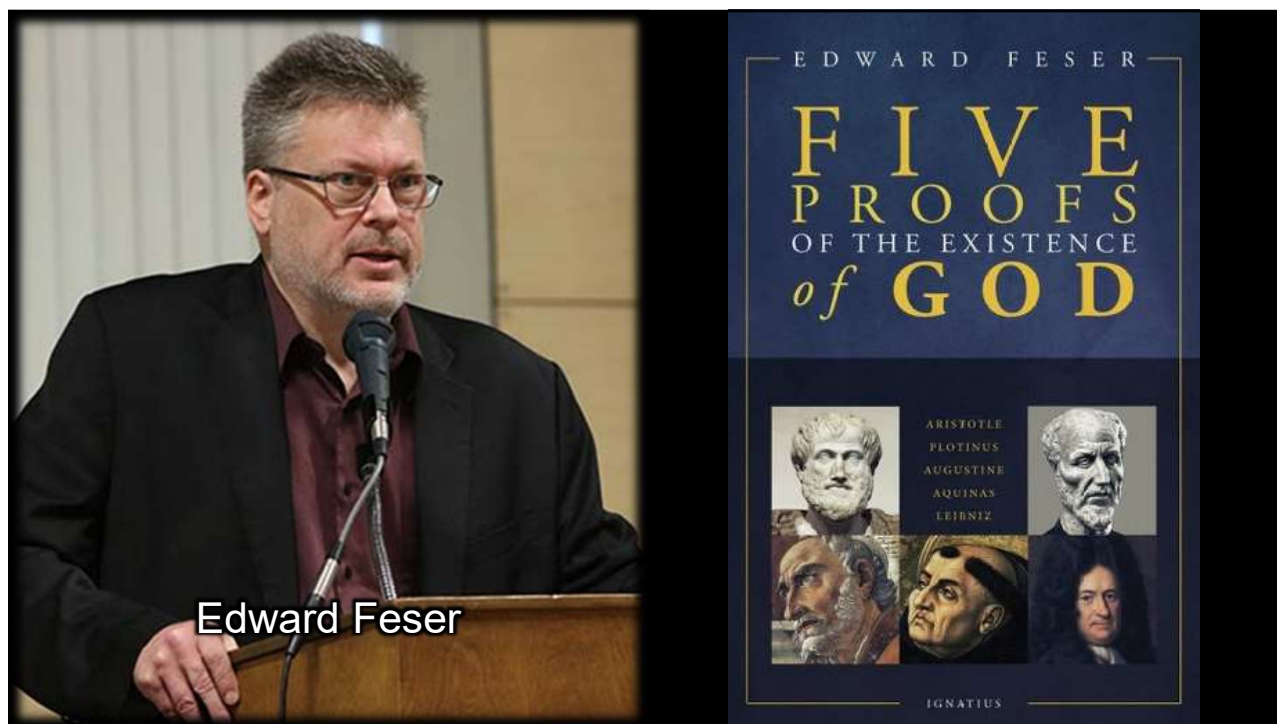
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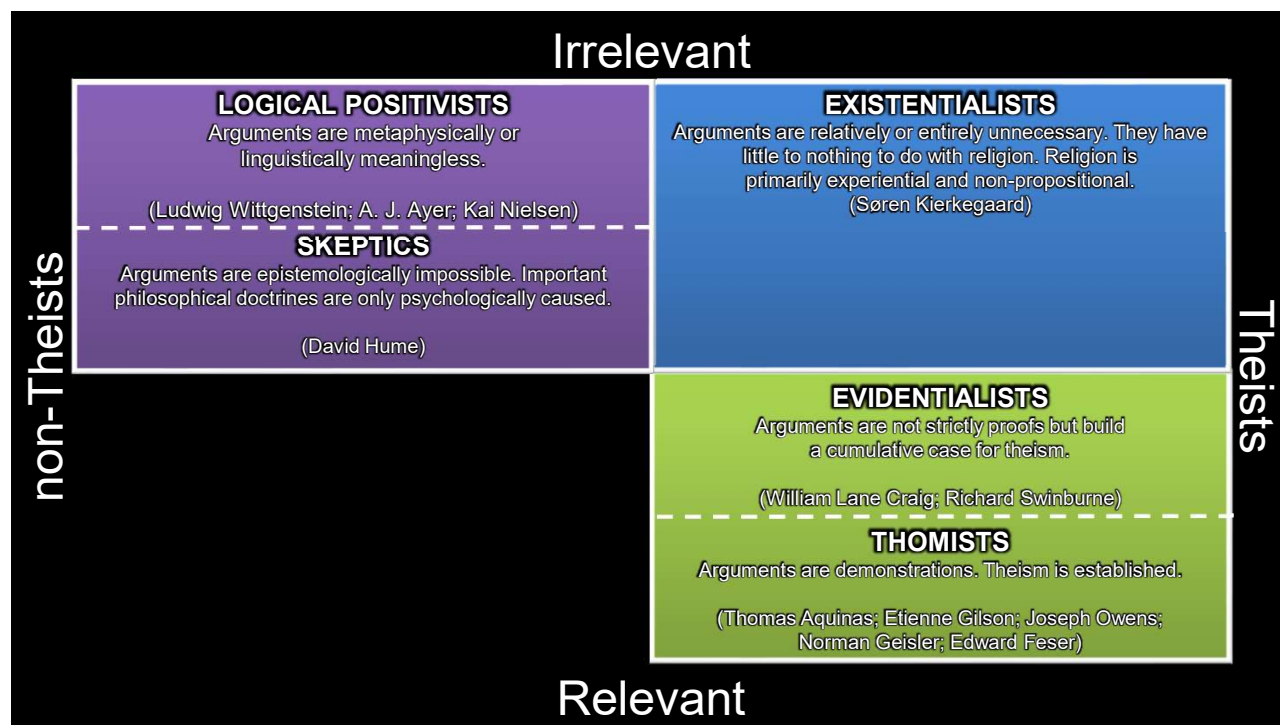
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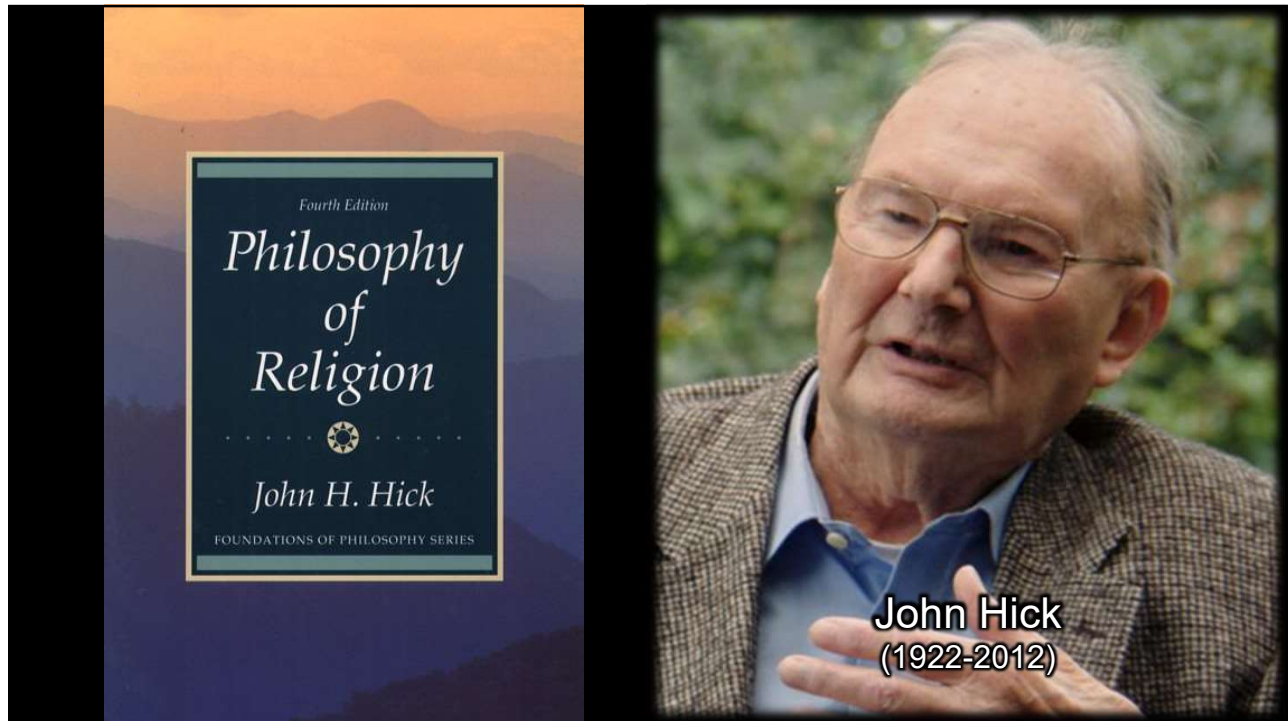
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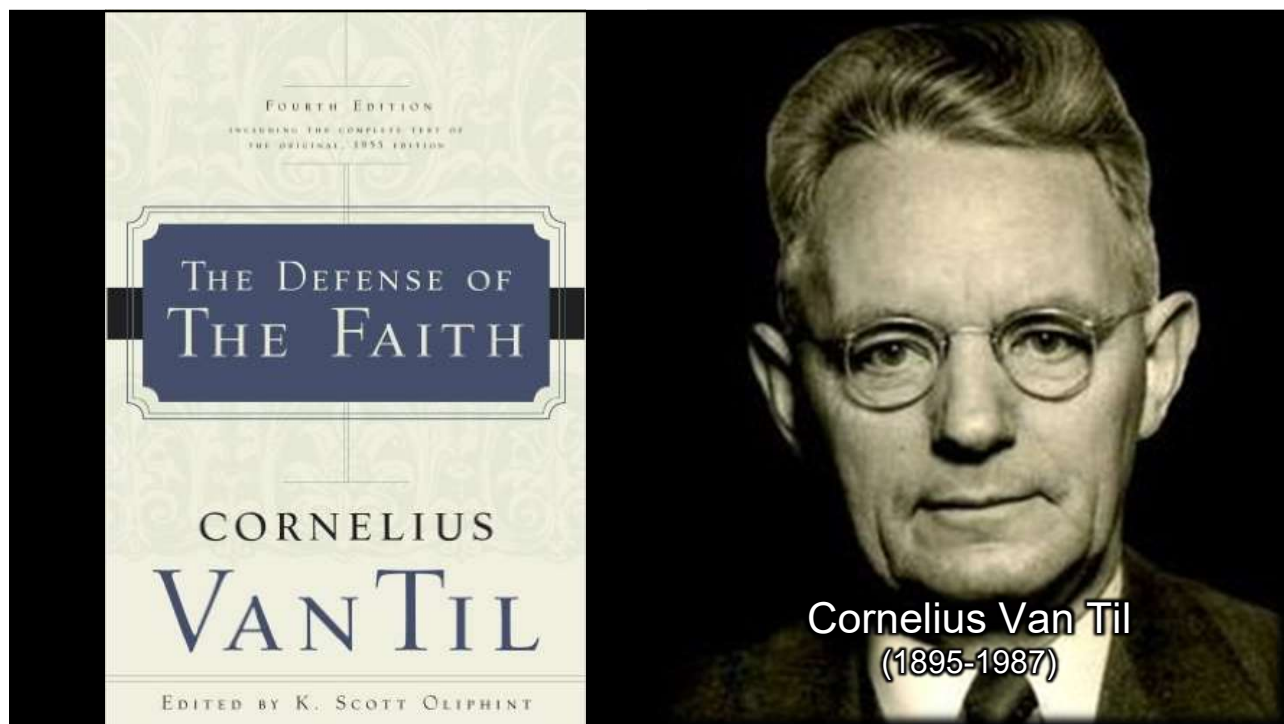
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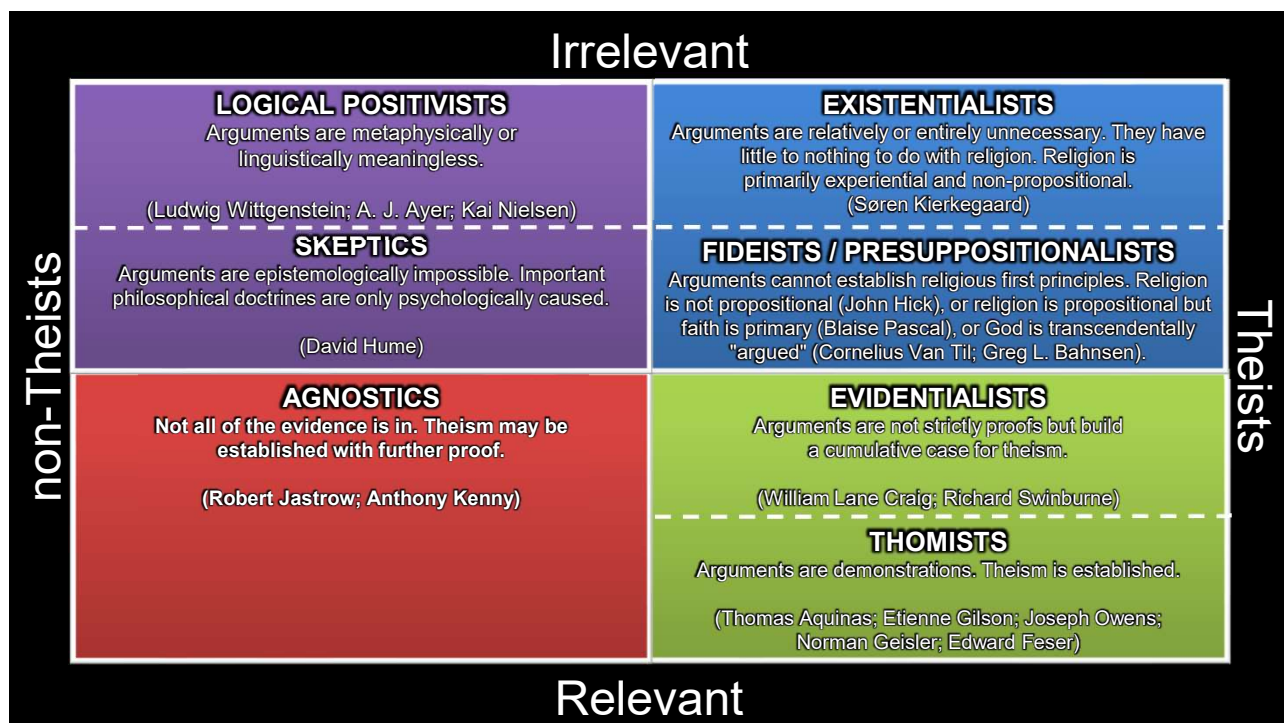
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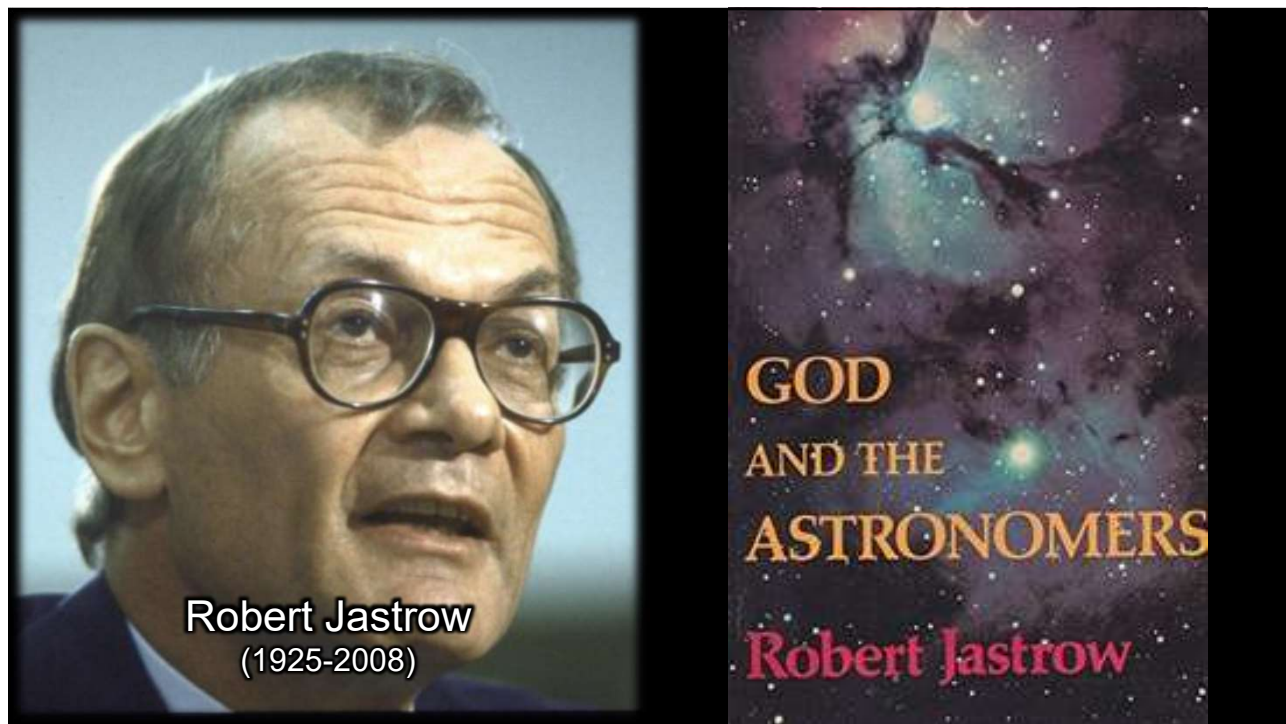
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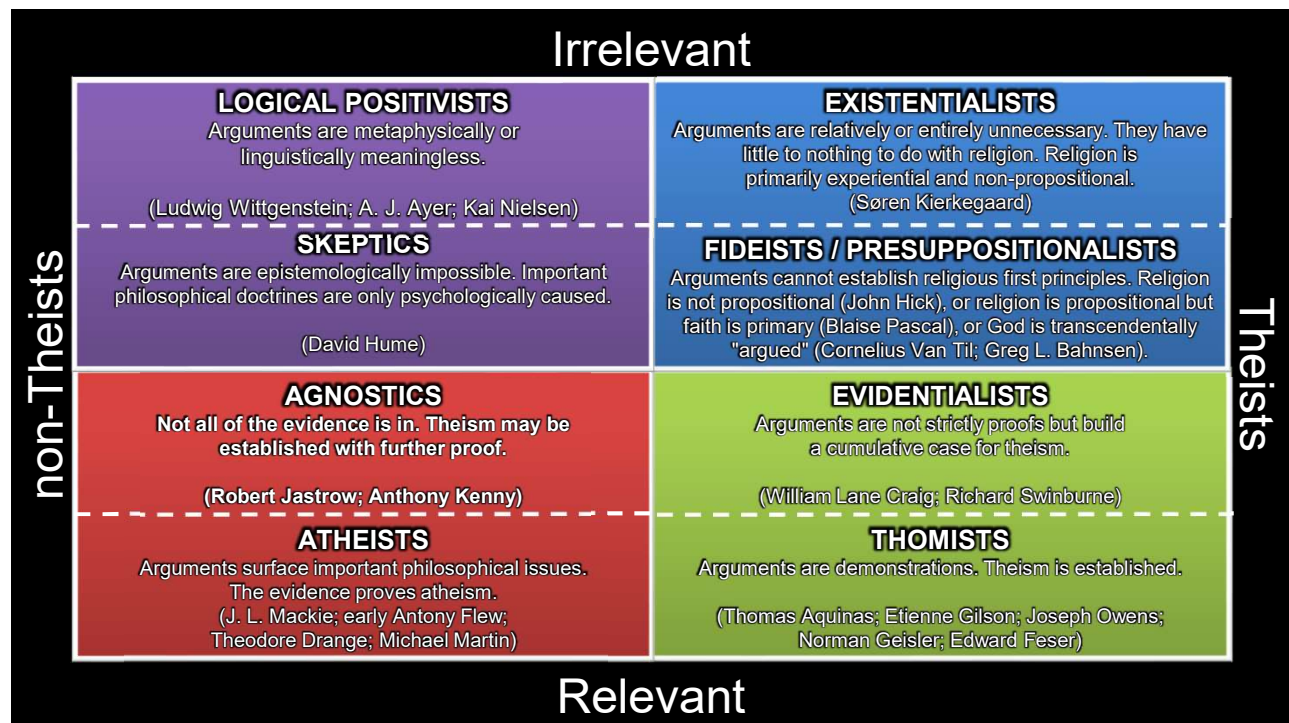


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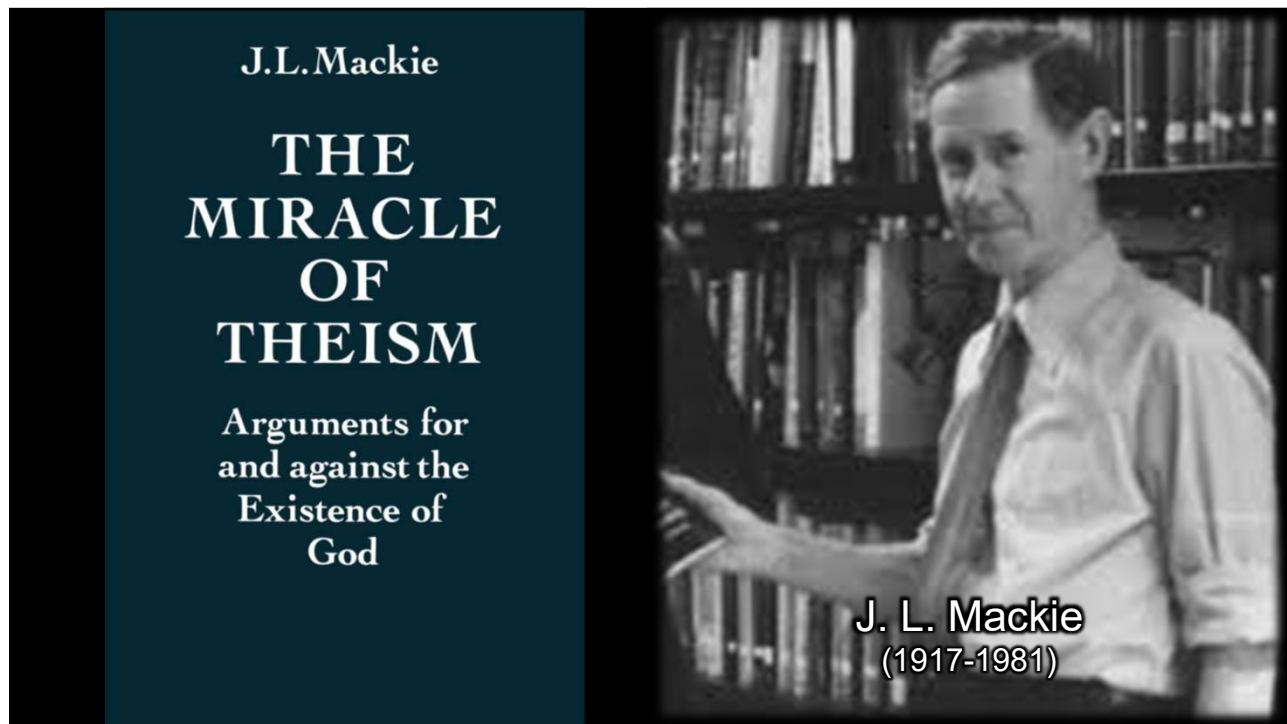


Robert Jastrow
(1925-2008)

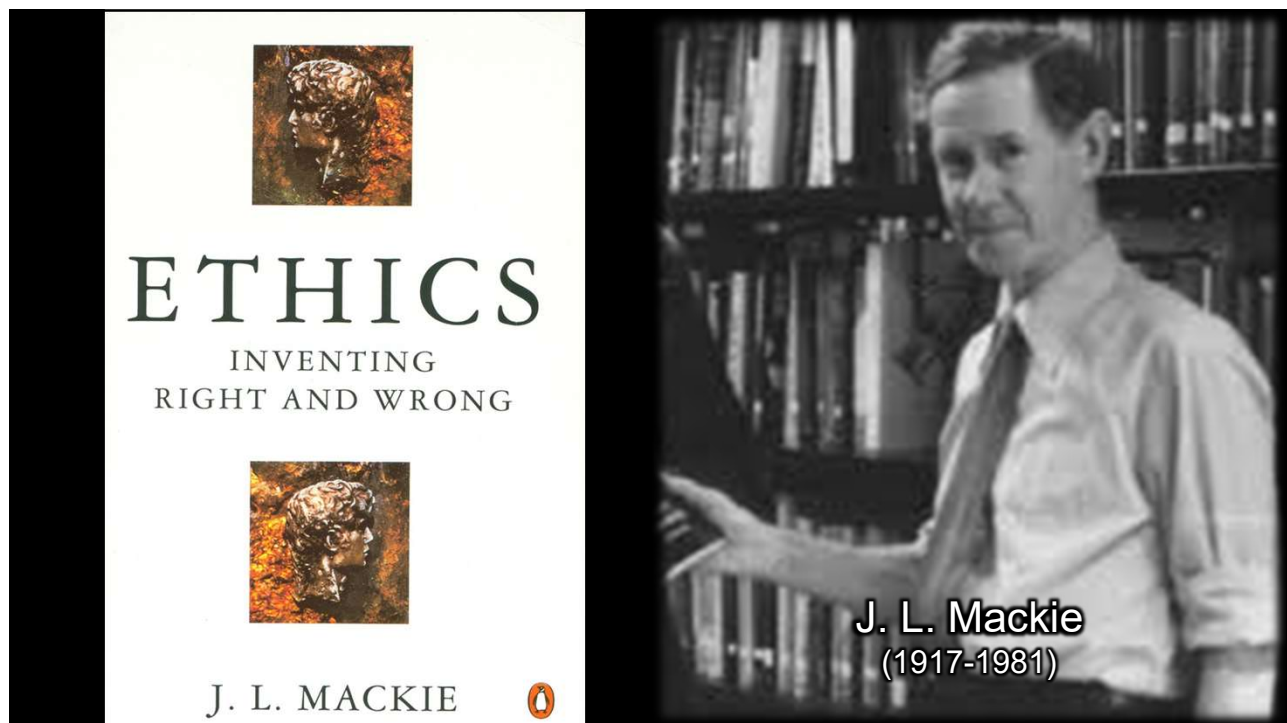
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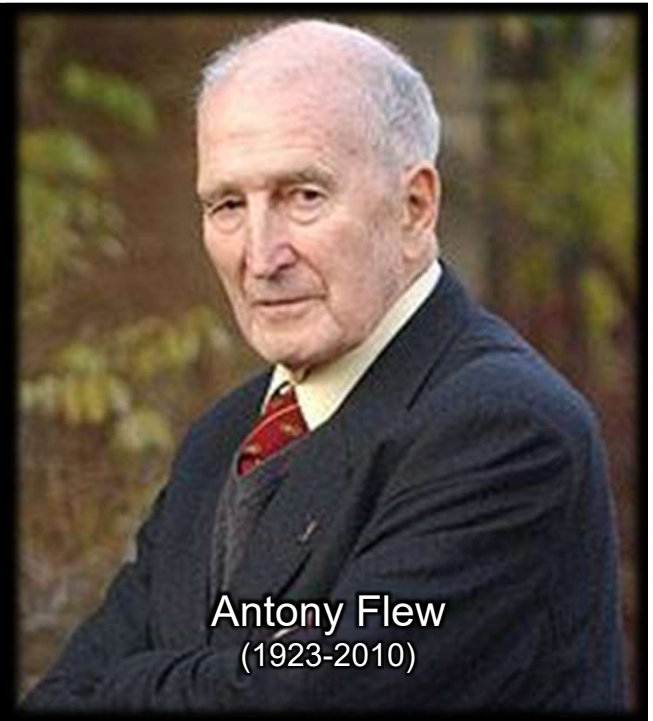
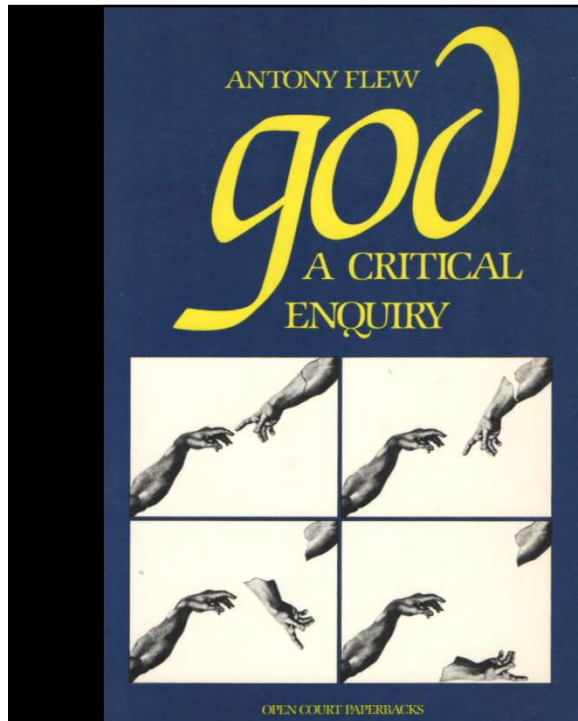
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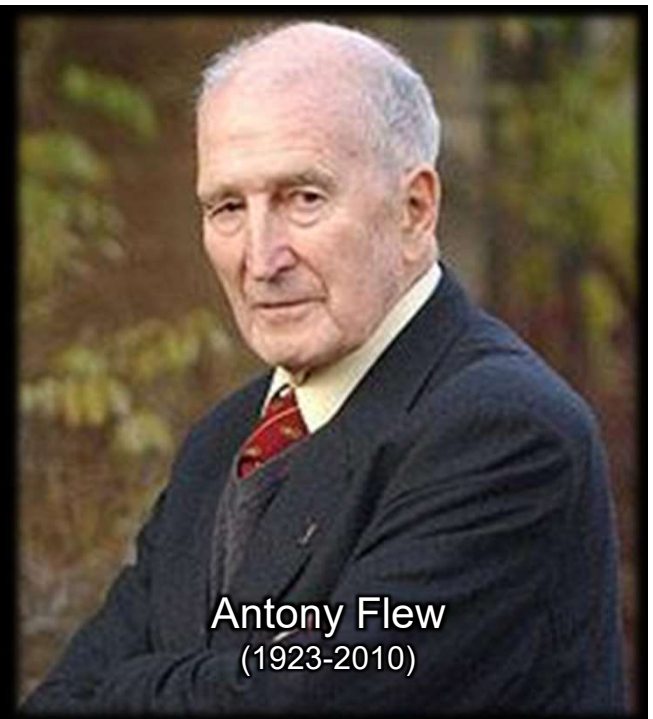
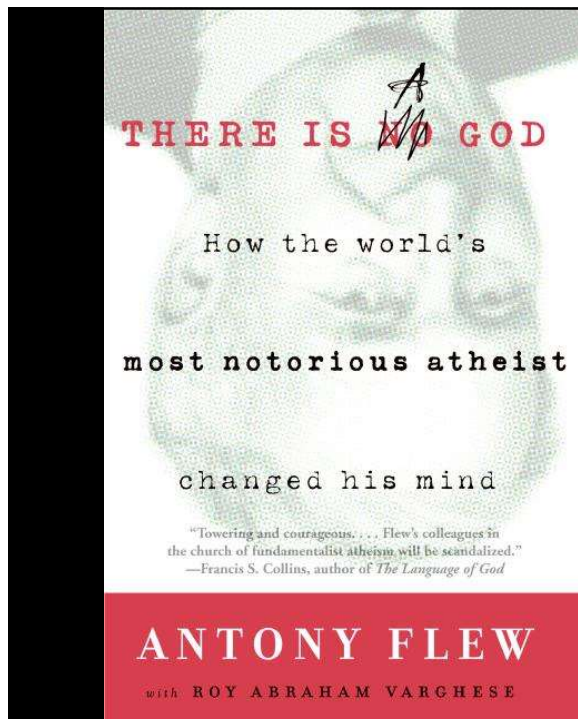


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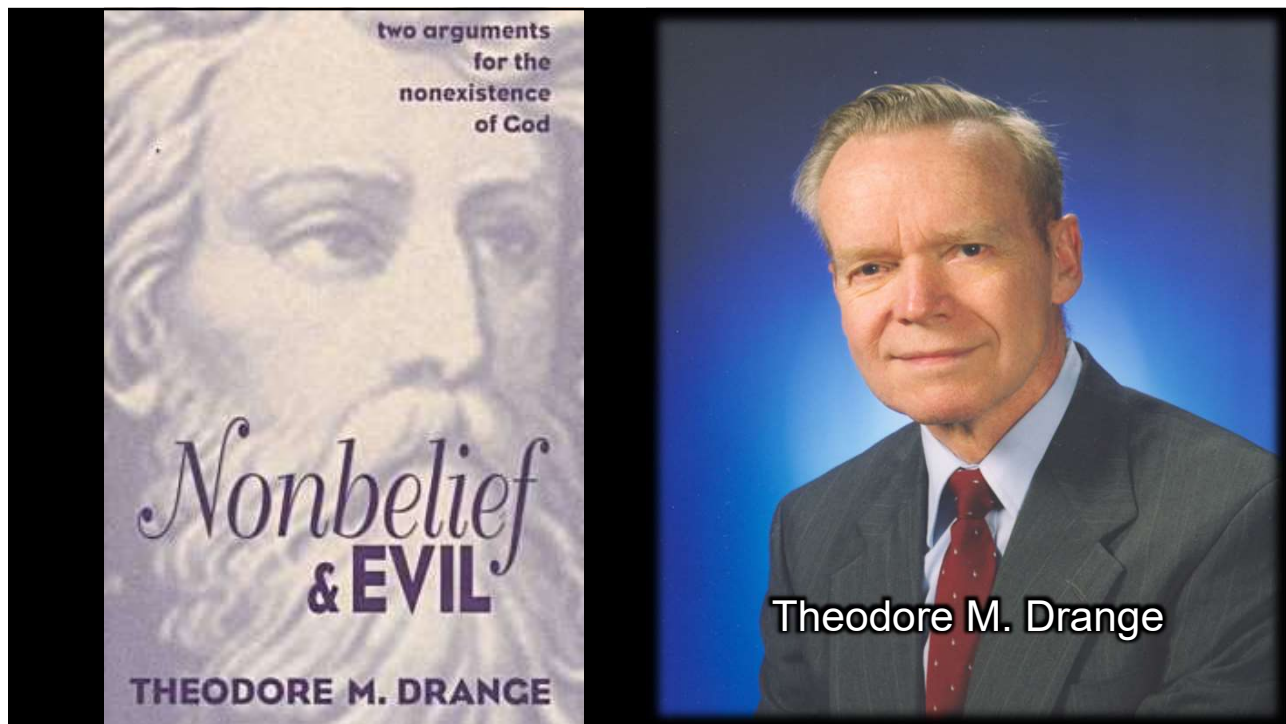
Antony Flew
(1923-2010)

103

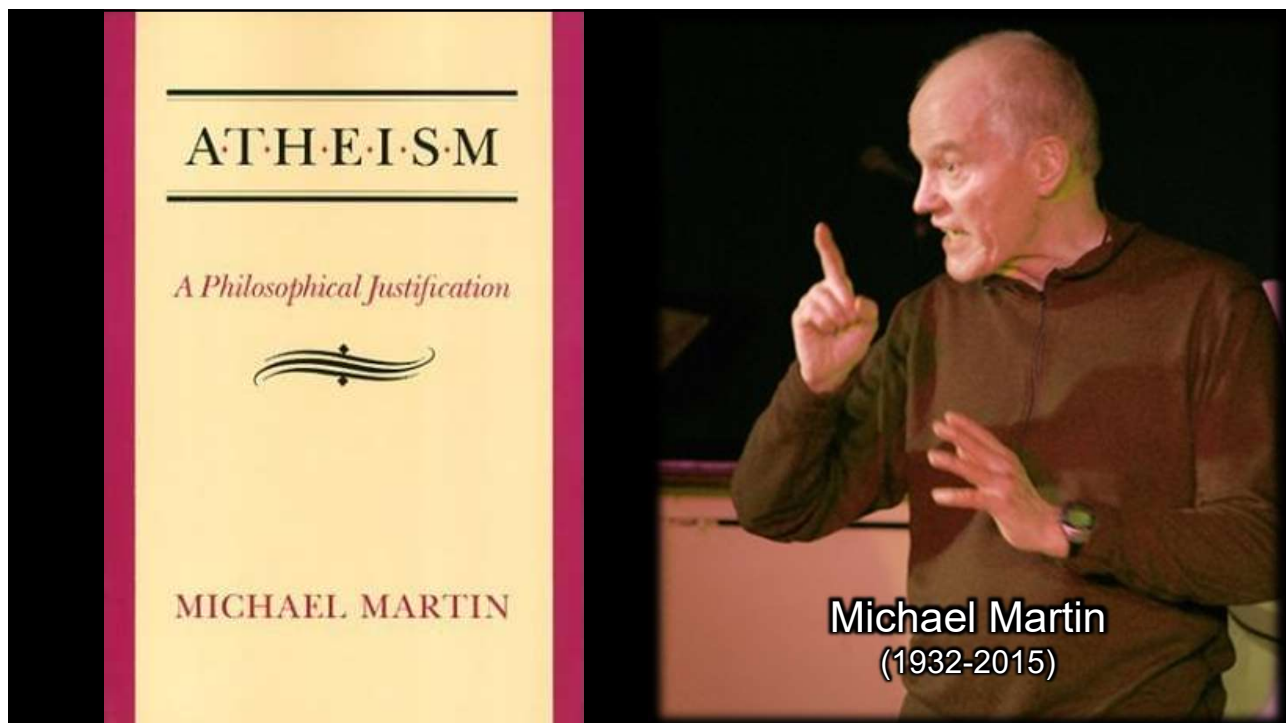


Antony Flew
(1923-2010)

104



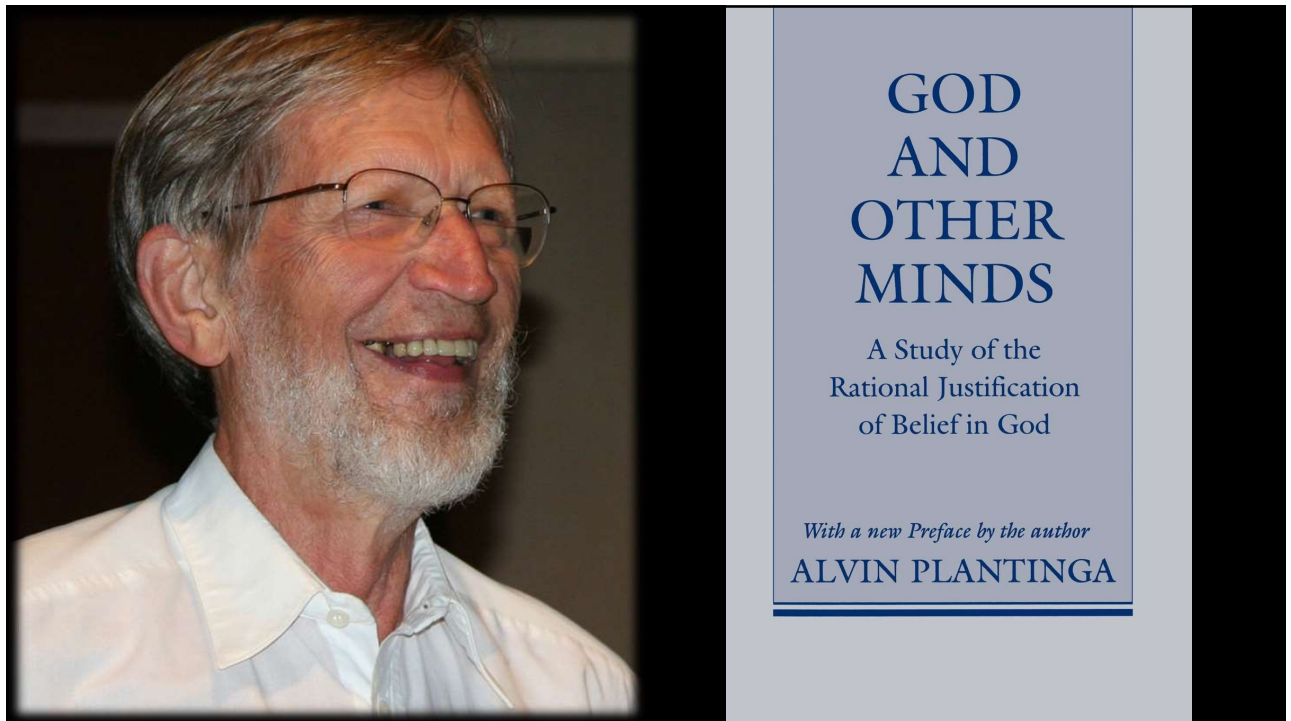
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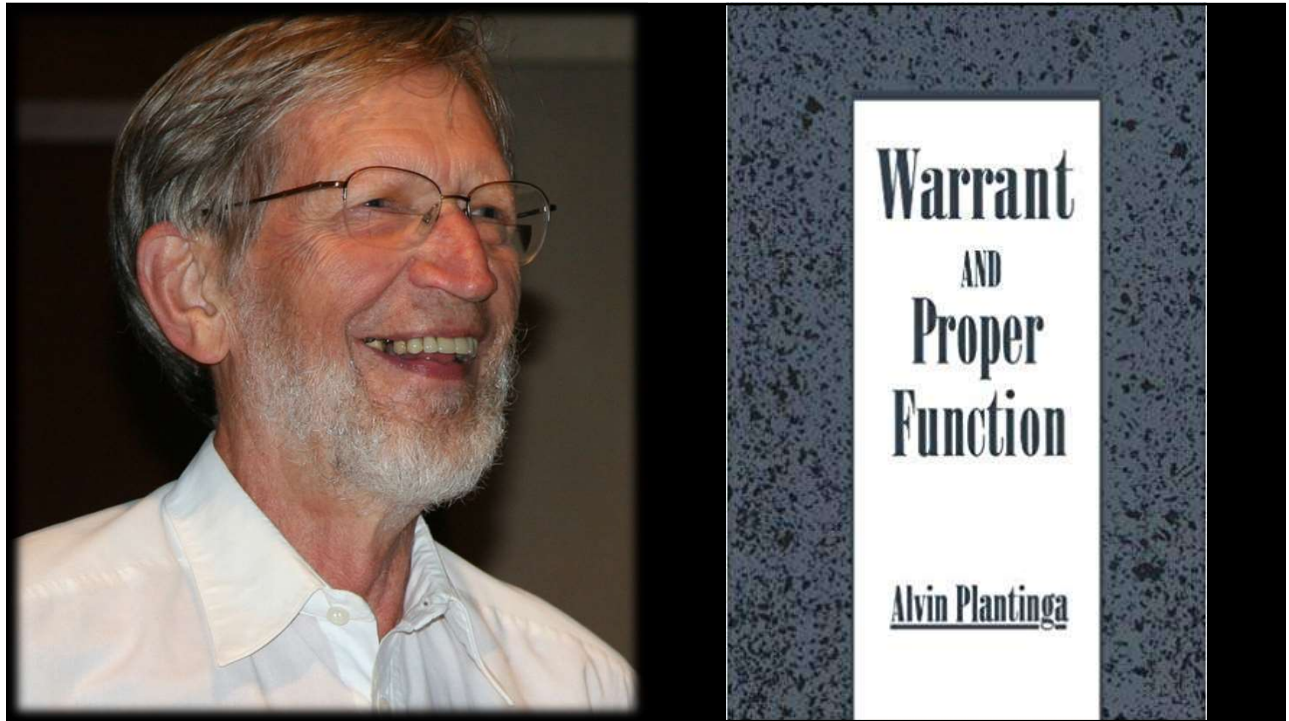
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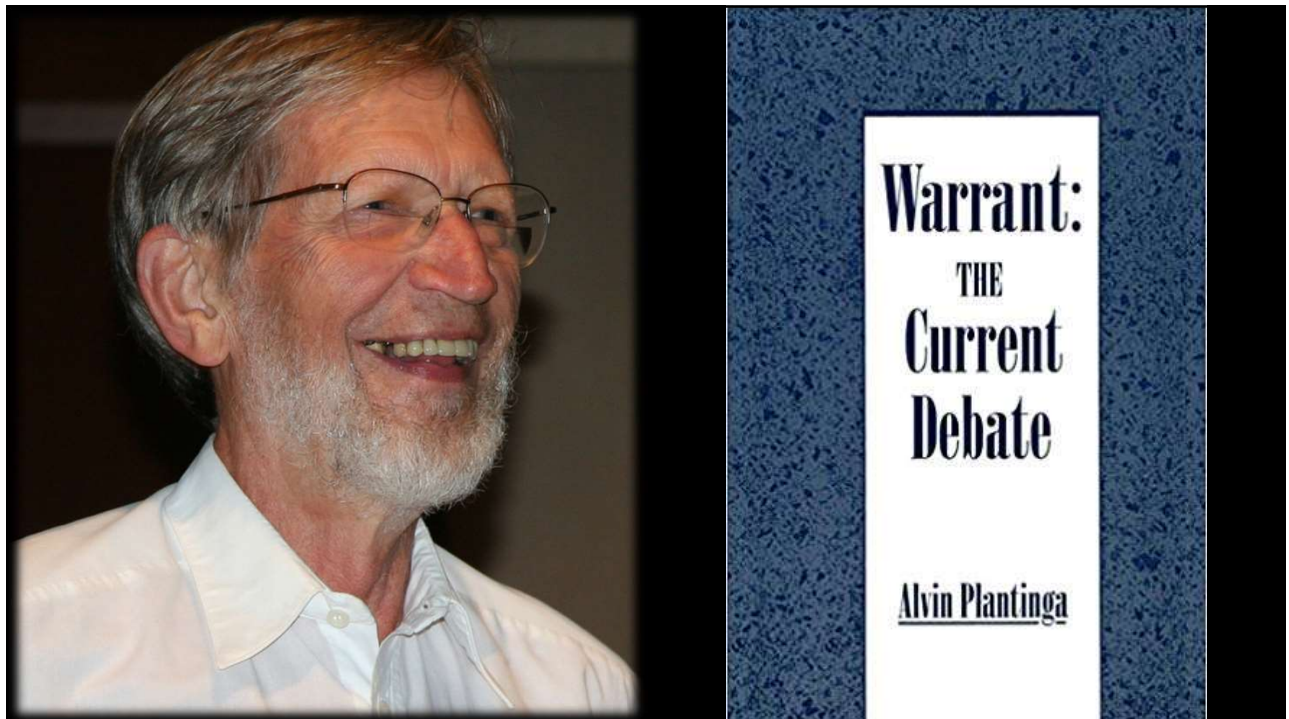
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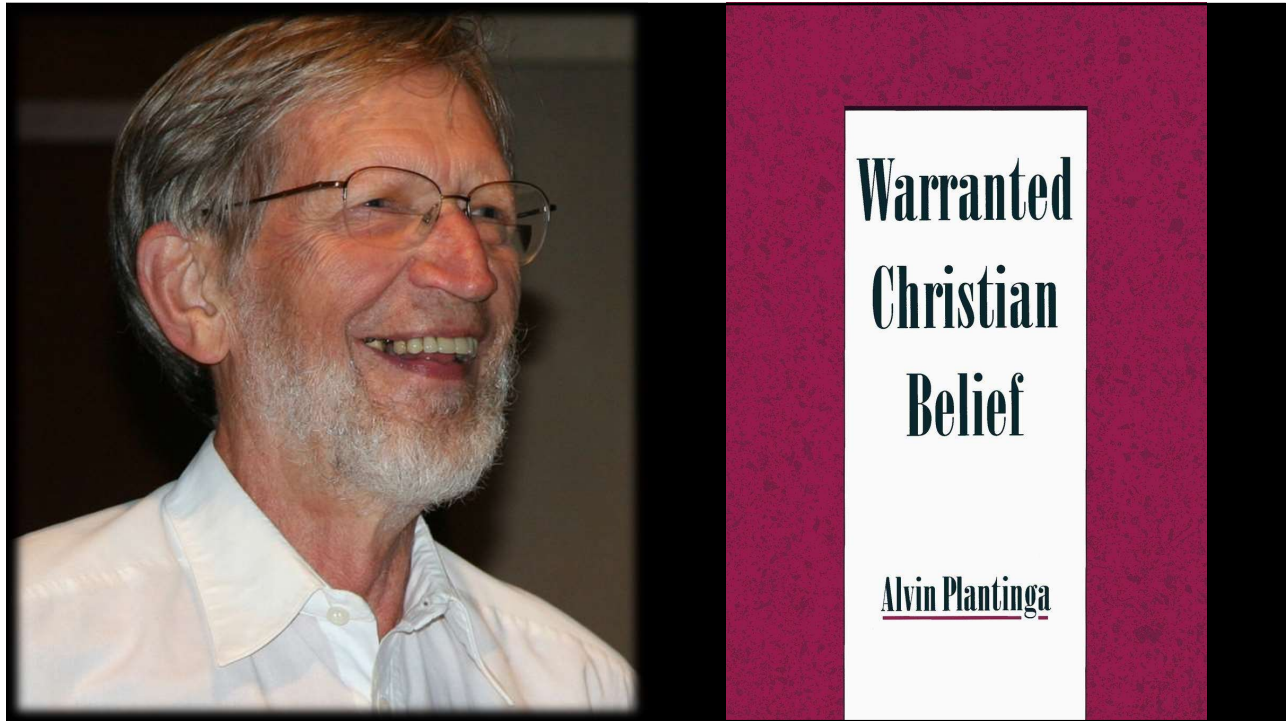
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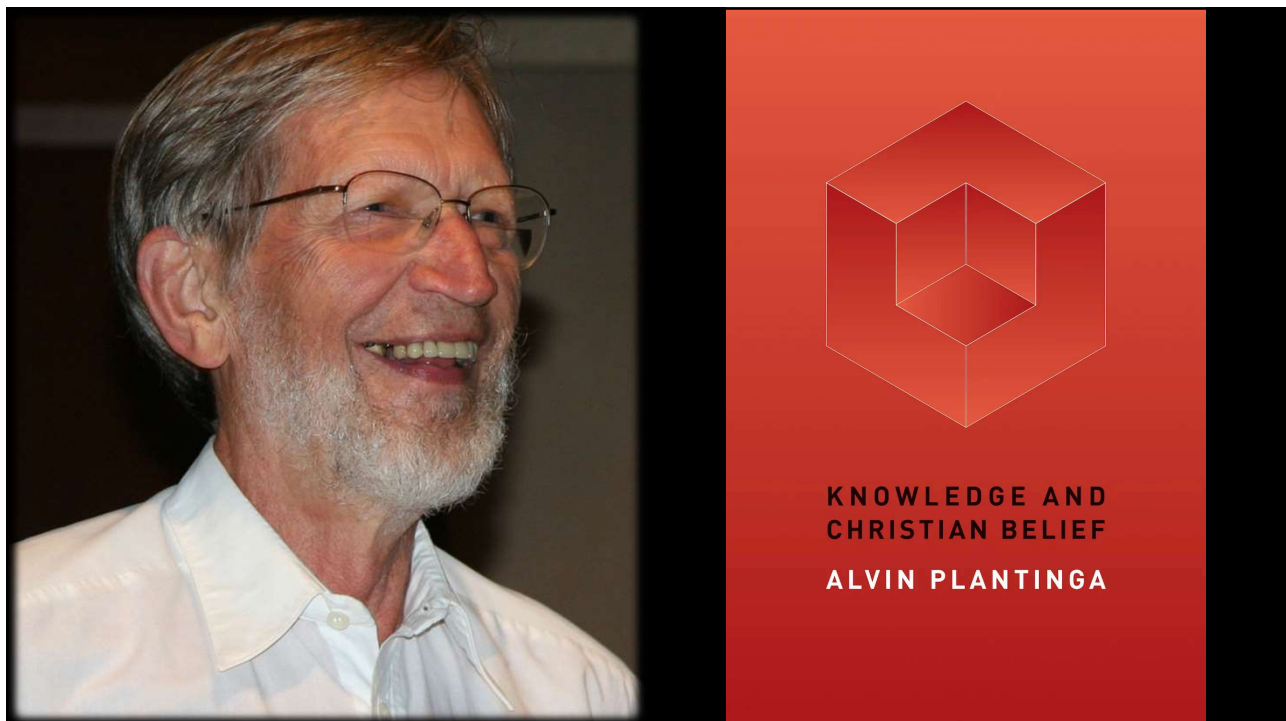
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110



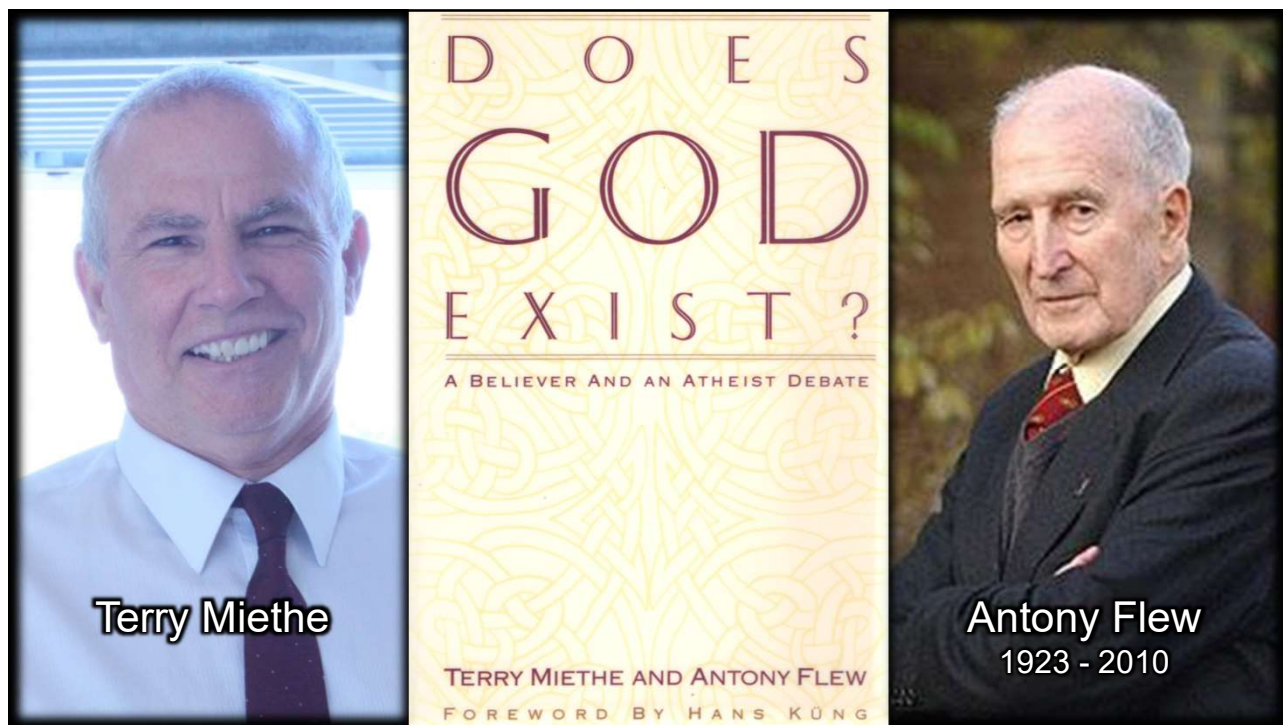
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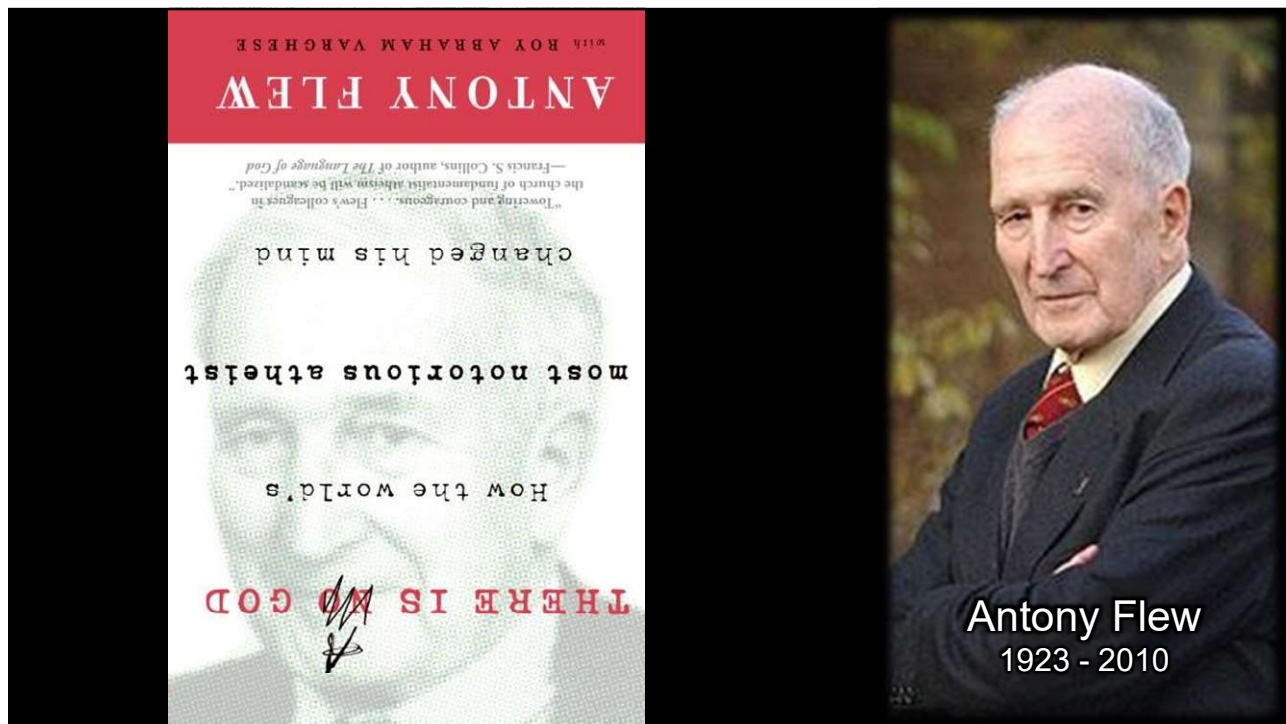
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114



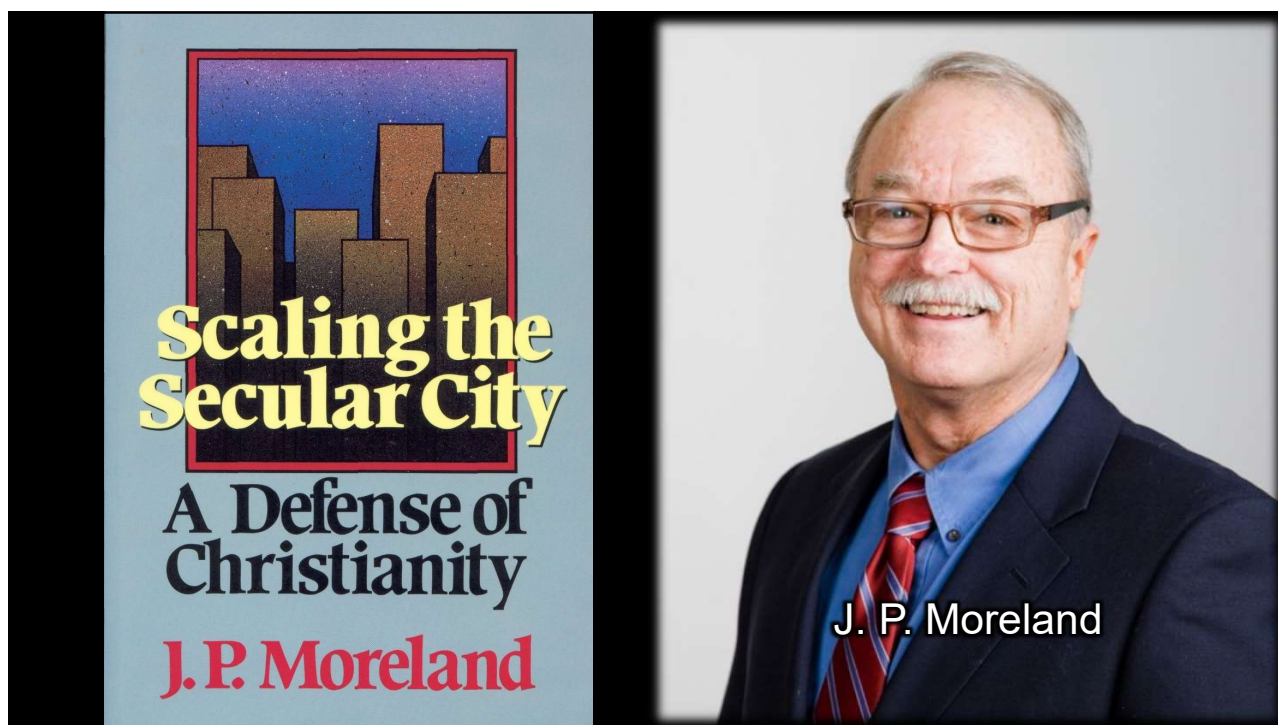
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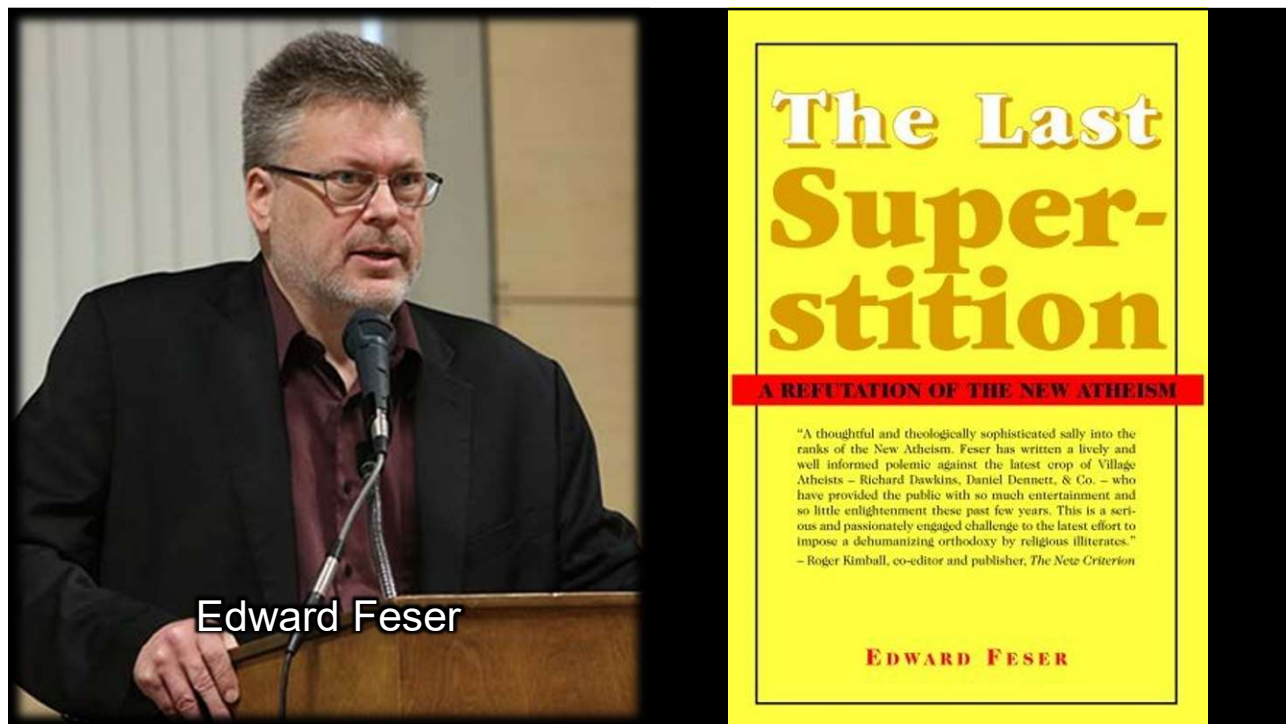
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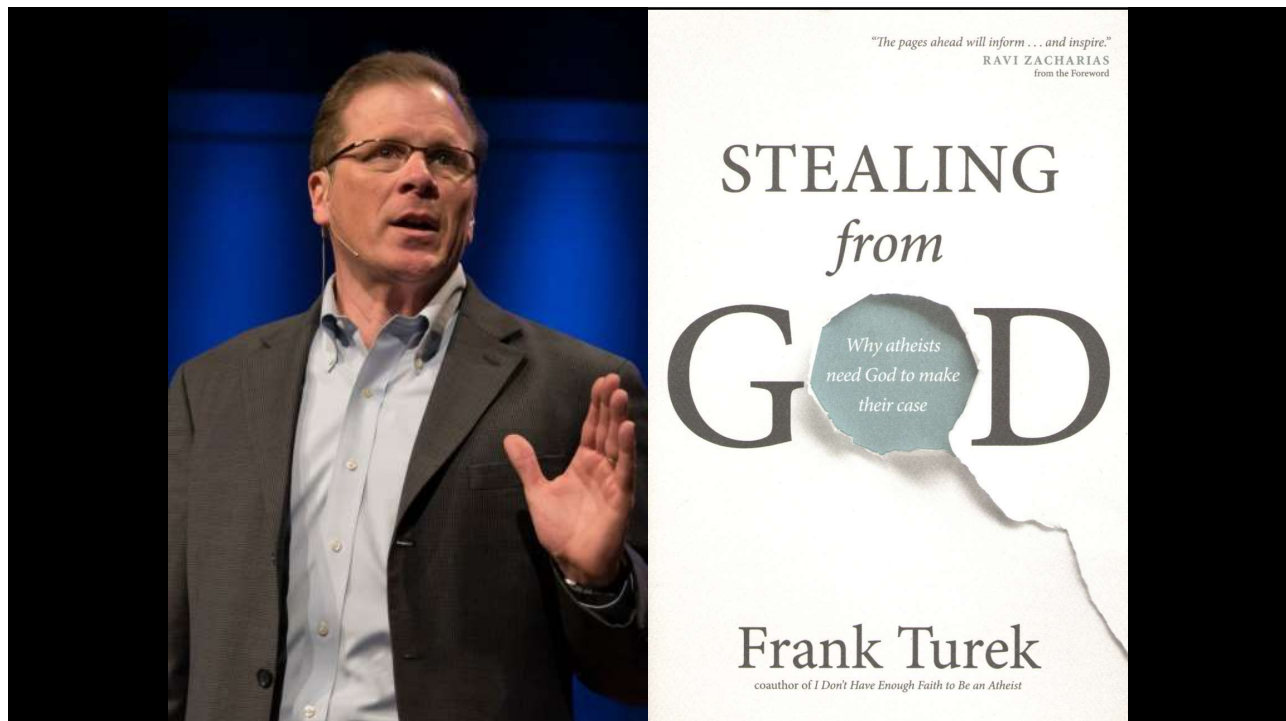
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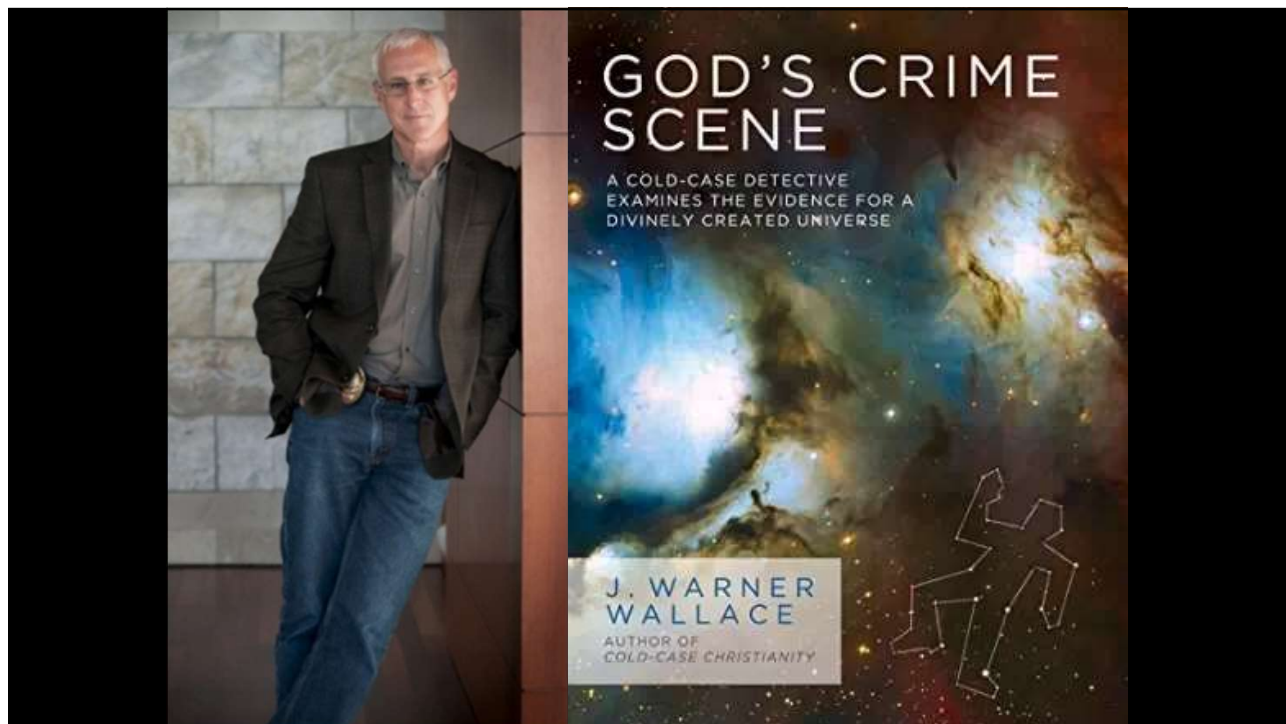
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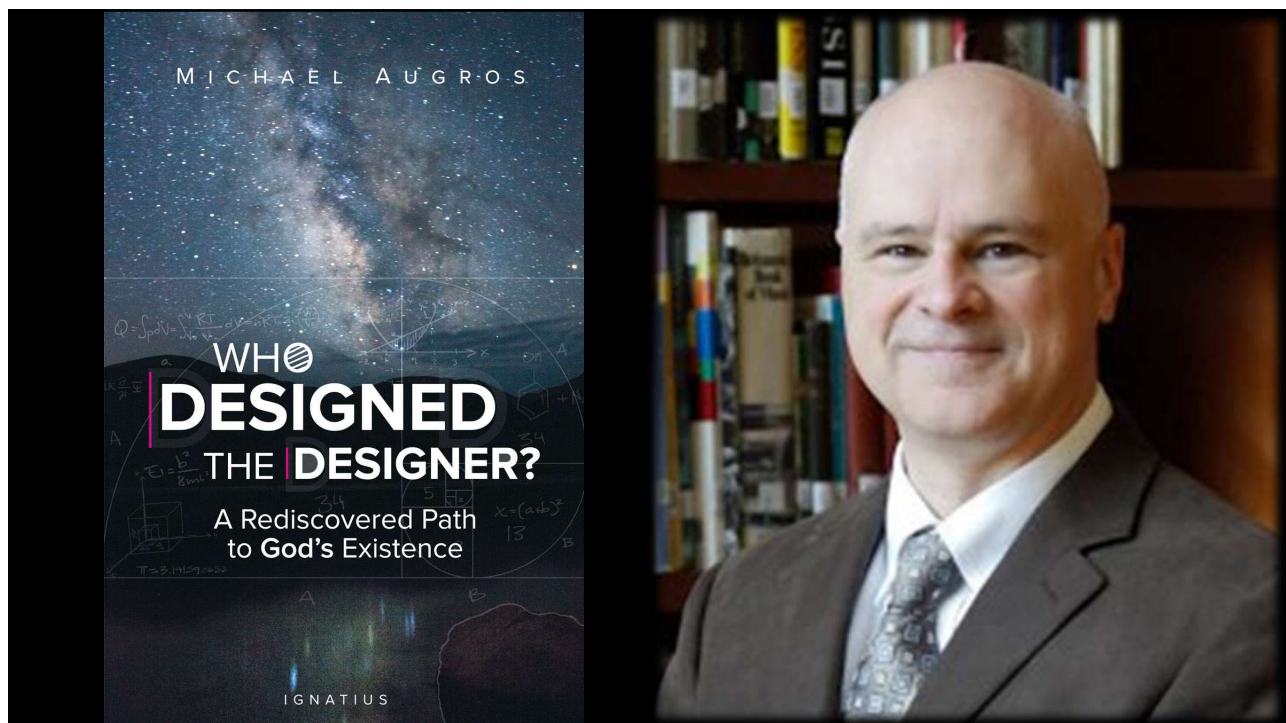
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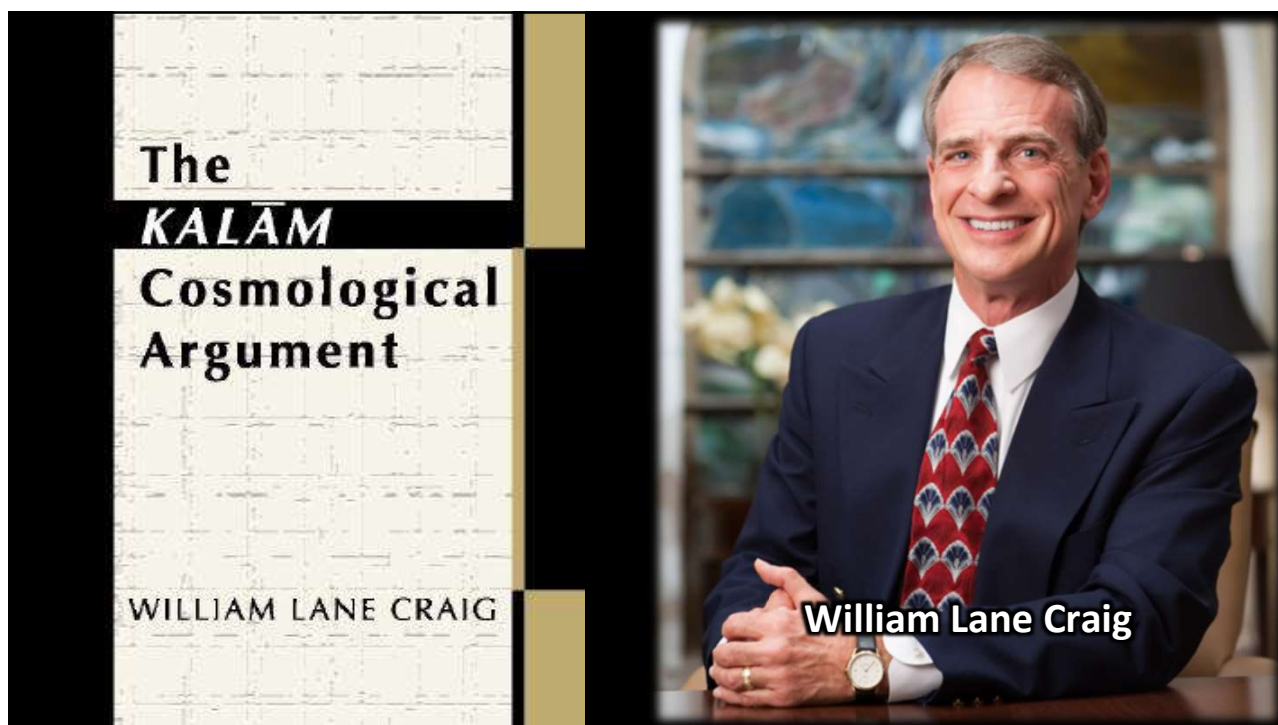
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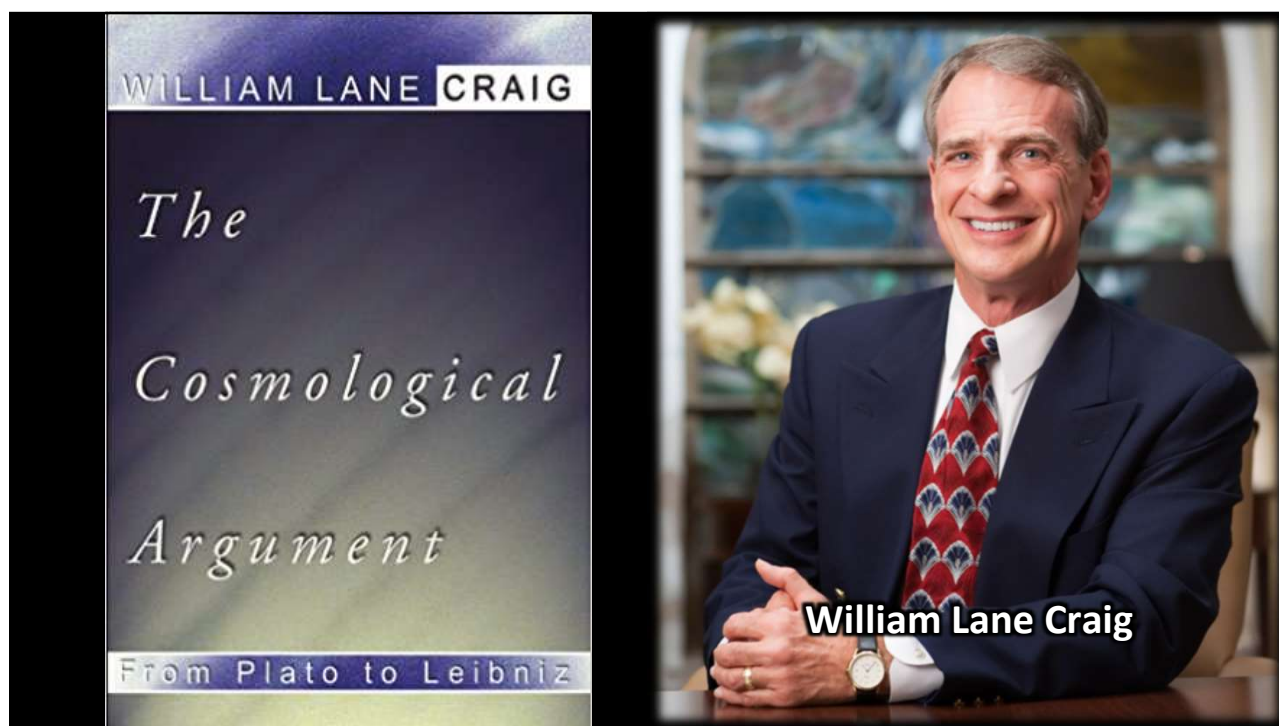
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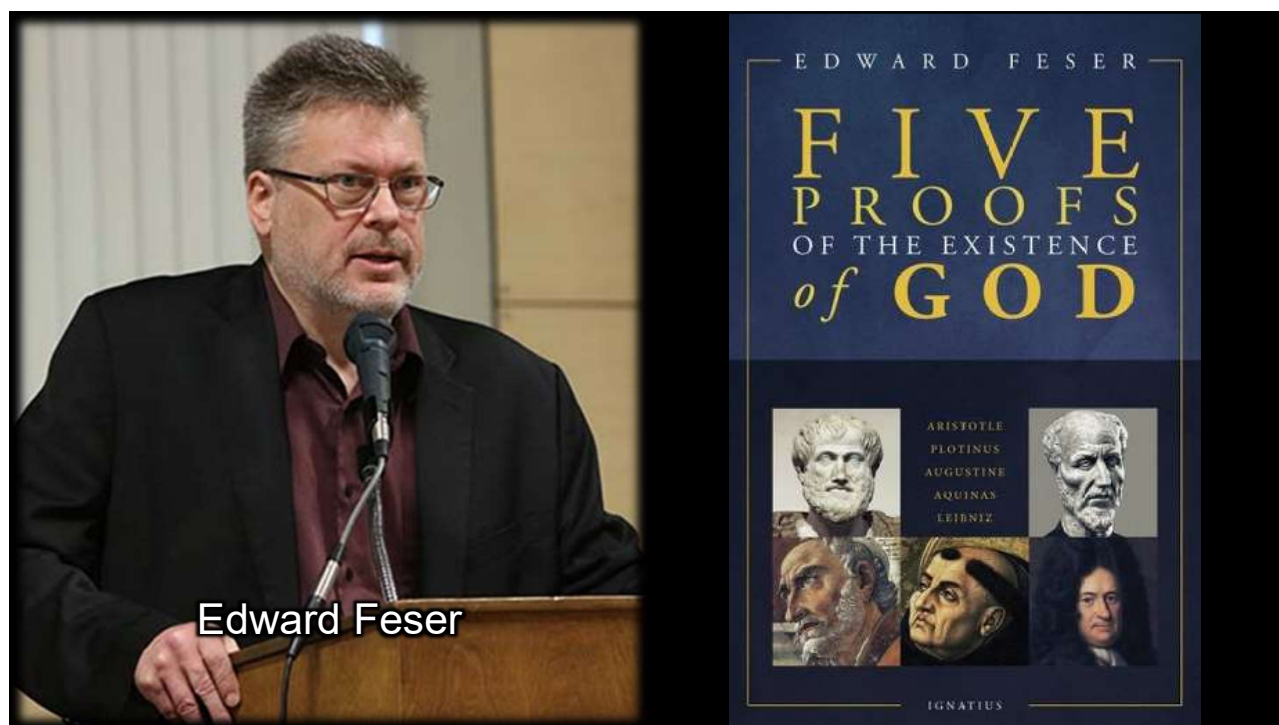
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124



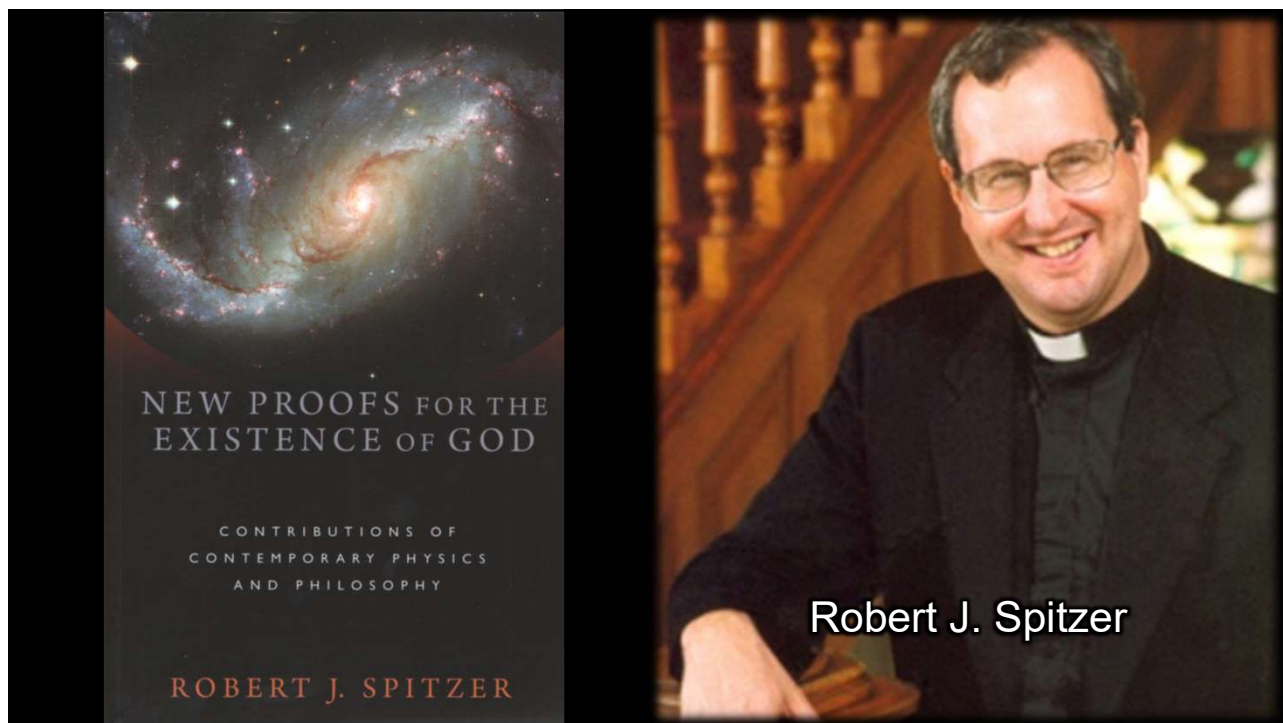
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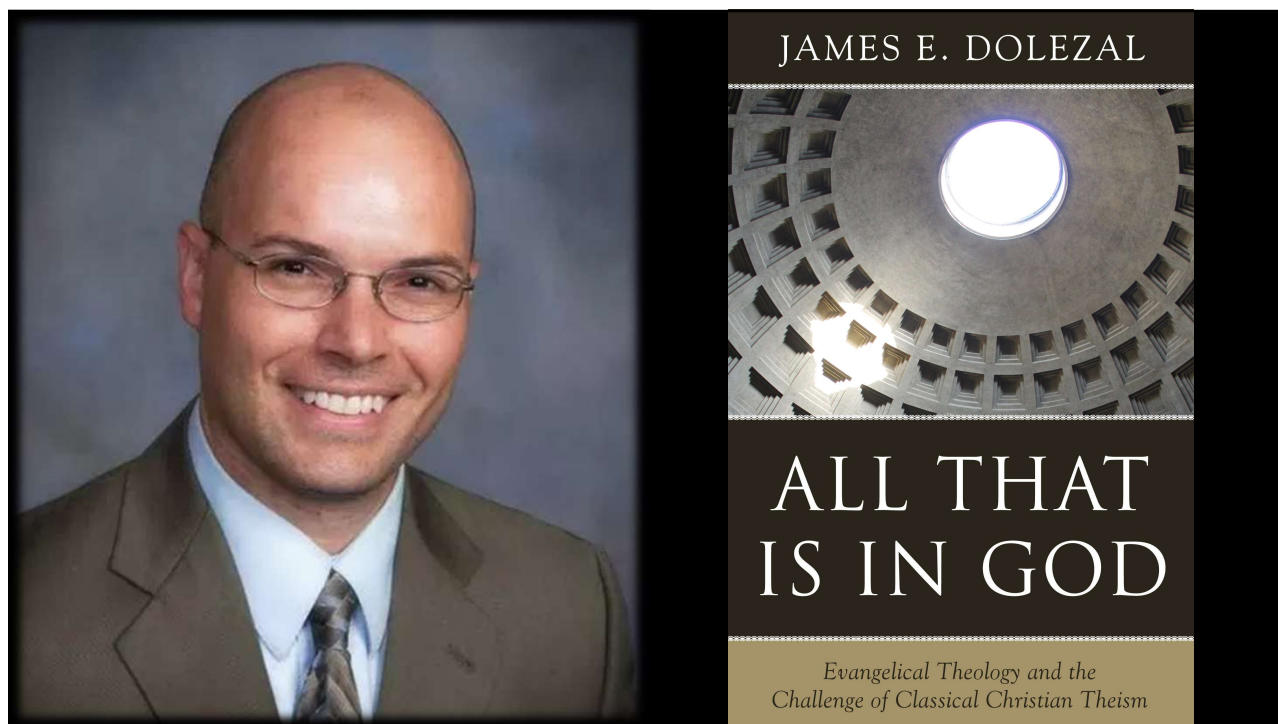
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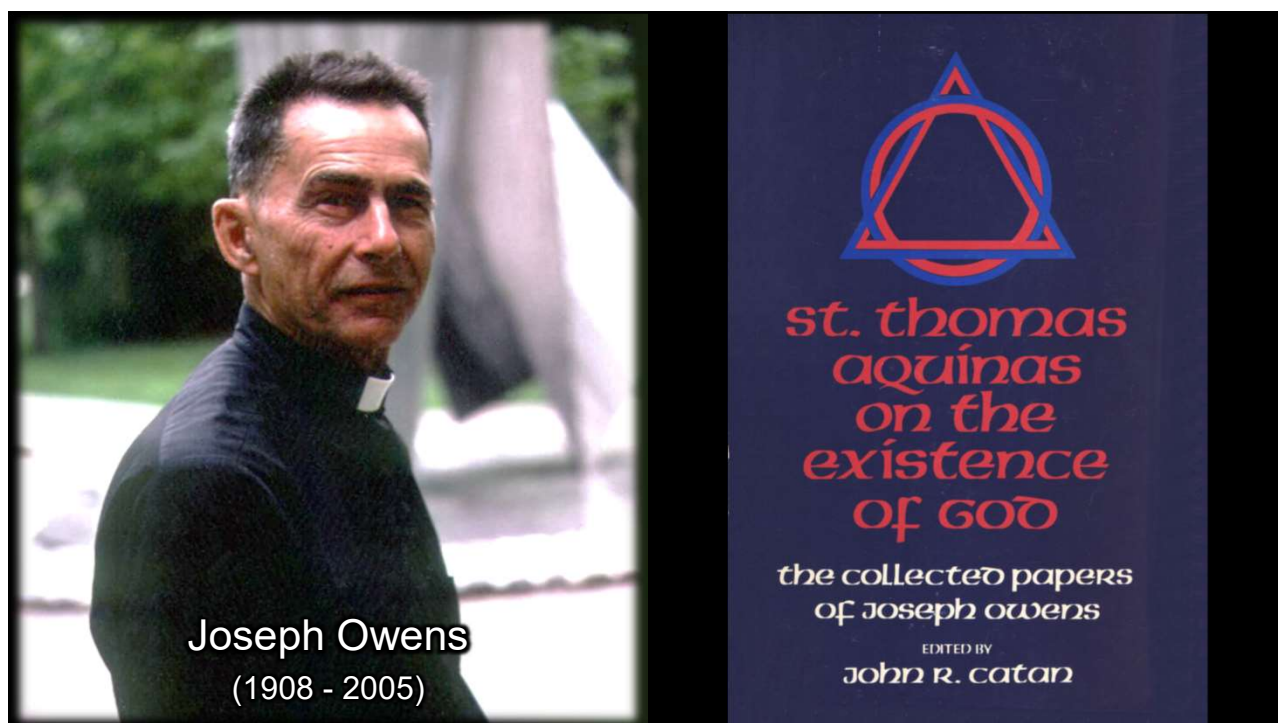
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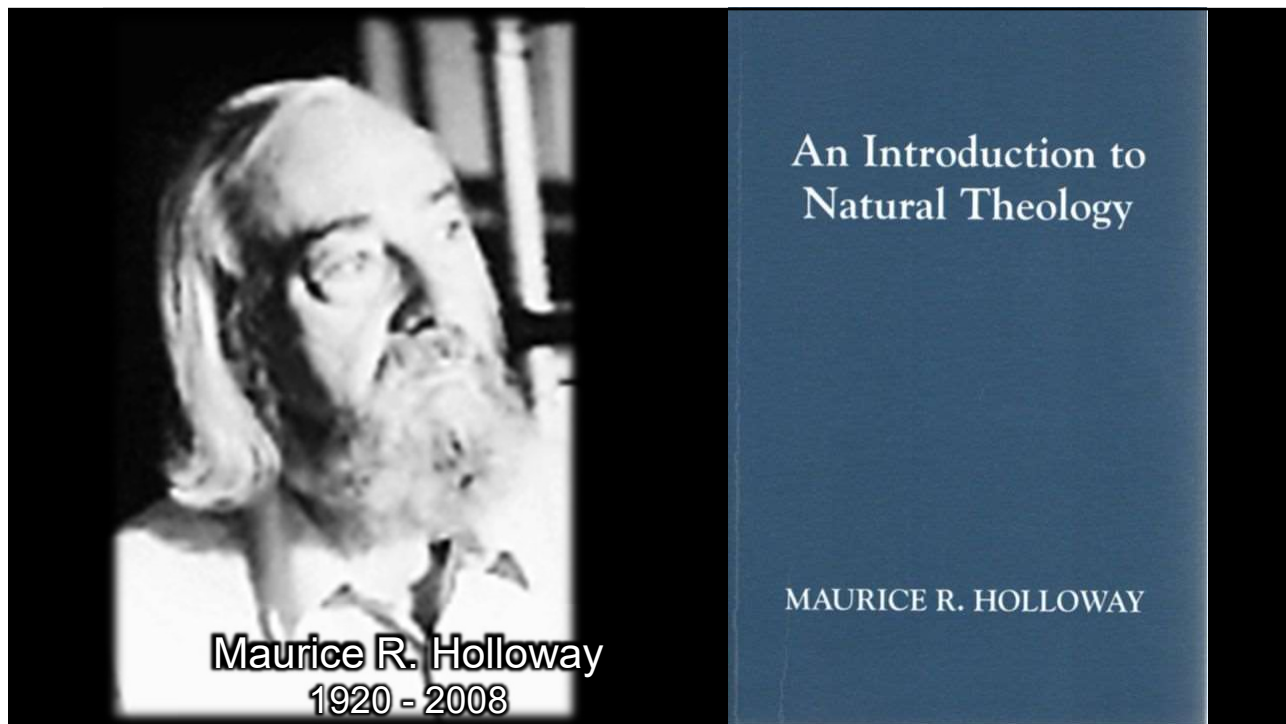
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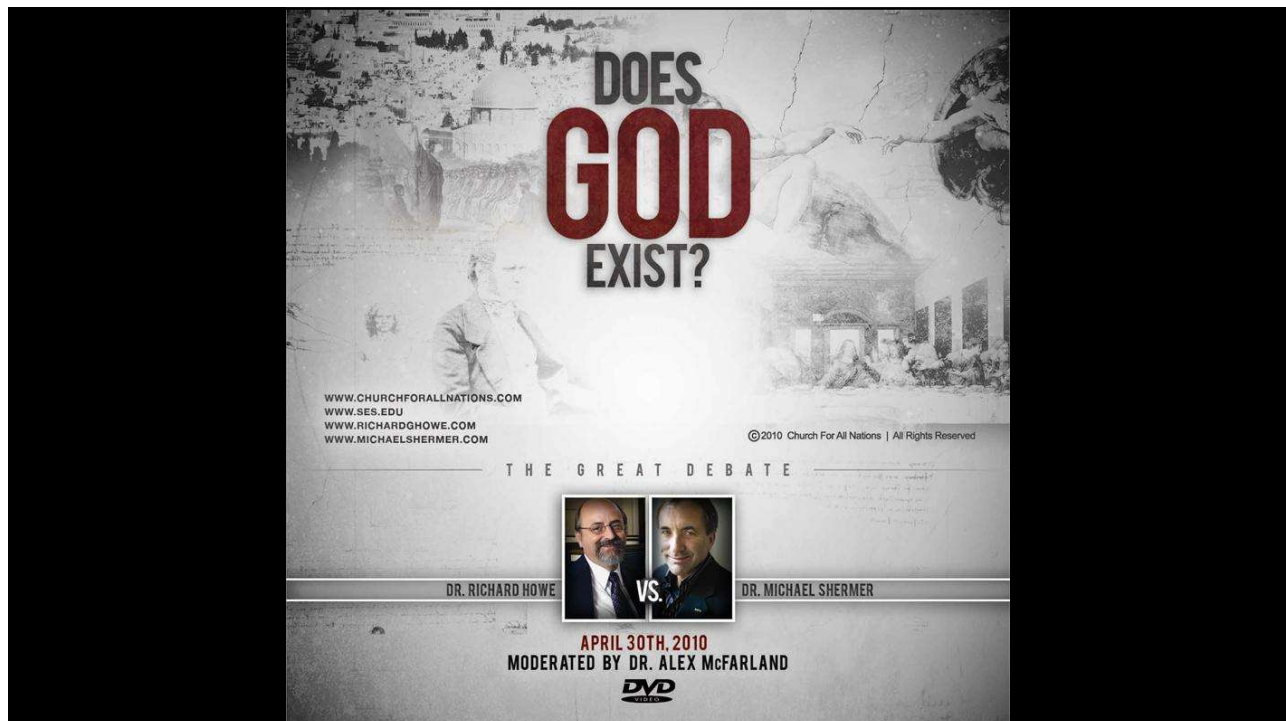
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