

✧ 1 Peter 3:15 ✧

*"But sanctify the Lord  
God in your hearts,  
always be ready to give  
a **defense** to everyone  
who asks you a reason  
for the hope that is in  
you, with meekness and  
fear;"*



**defense**

ἀπολογία

(apologia)

NT Greek word translated  
'defense'



Why would Peter expect his readers to be asked about the hope that is in them?

❖ *Because they were bearing up under persecution*

What exactly is that hope?

❖ *The hope of the resurrection and eternal life*

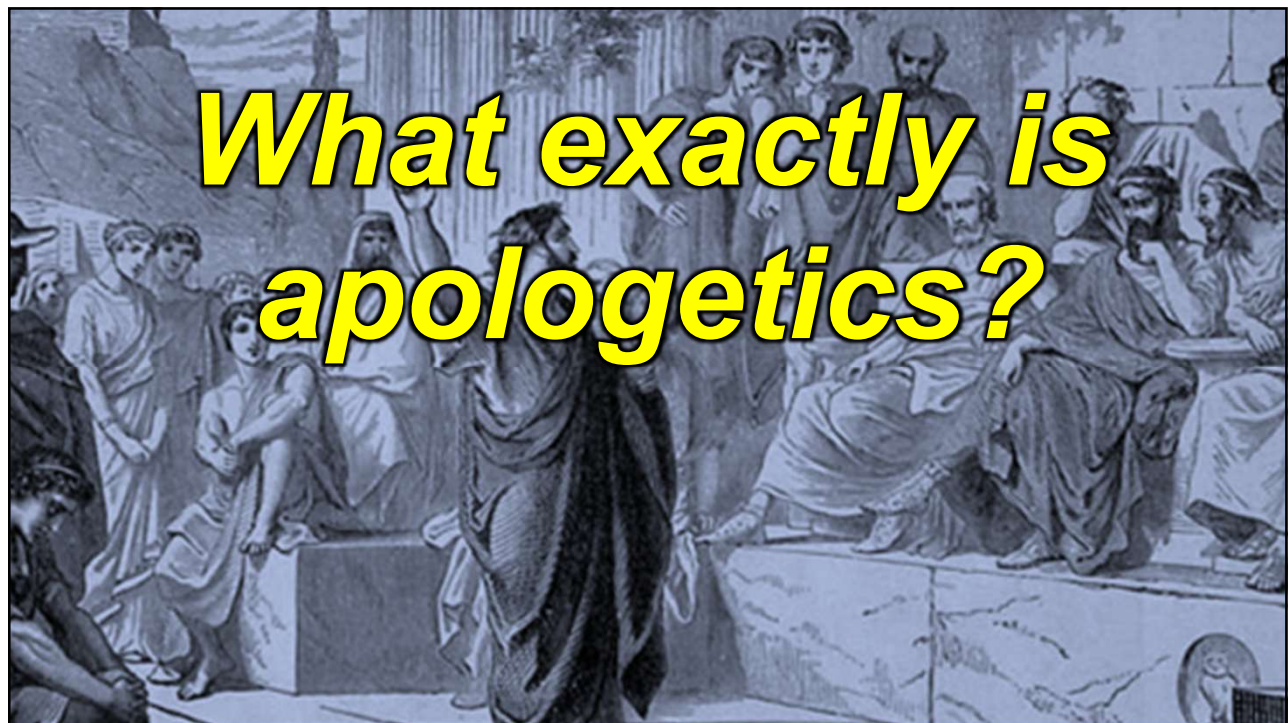
What is their reason for that hope?

❖ *God raised Jesus from the dead, proving that our sins are forgiven by His grace through our faith.*

What is the defense of that reason?

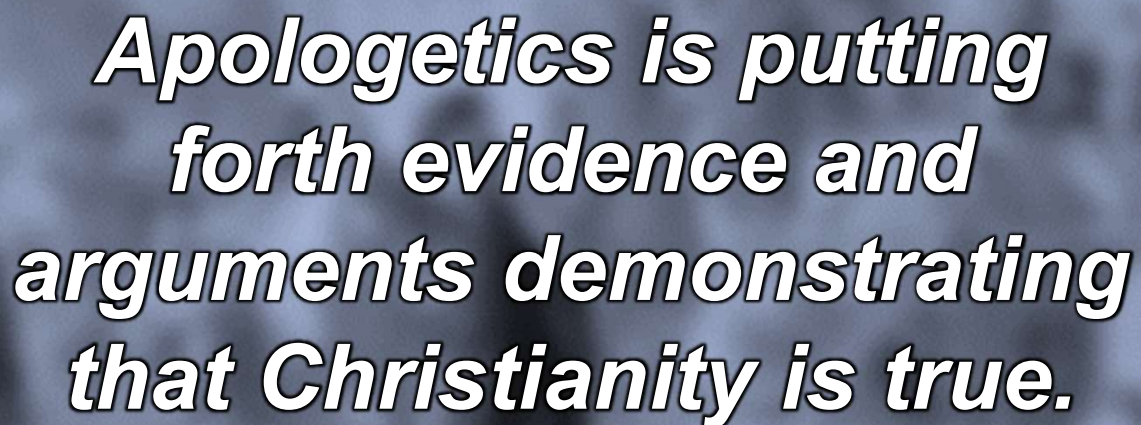
✧ 1 Peter 3:15 ✧

*"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, always be ready to give a **defense** to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;"*





***Apologetics means "the defense of the faith."***



***Apologetics is putting forth evidence and arguments demonstrating that Christianity is true.***

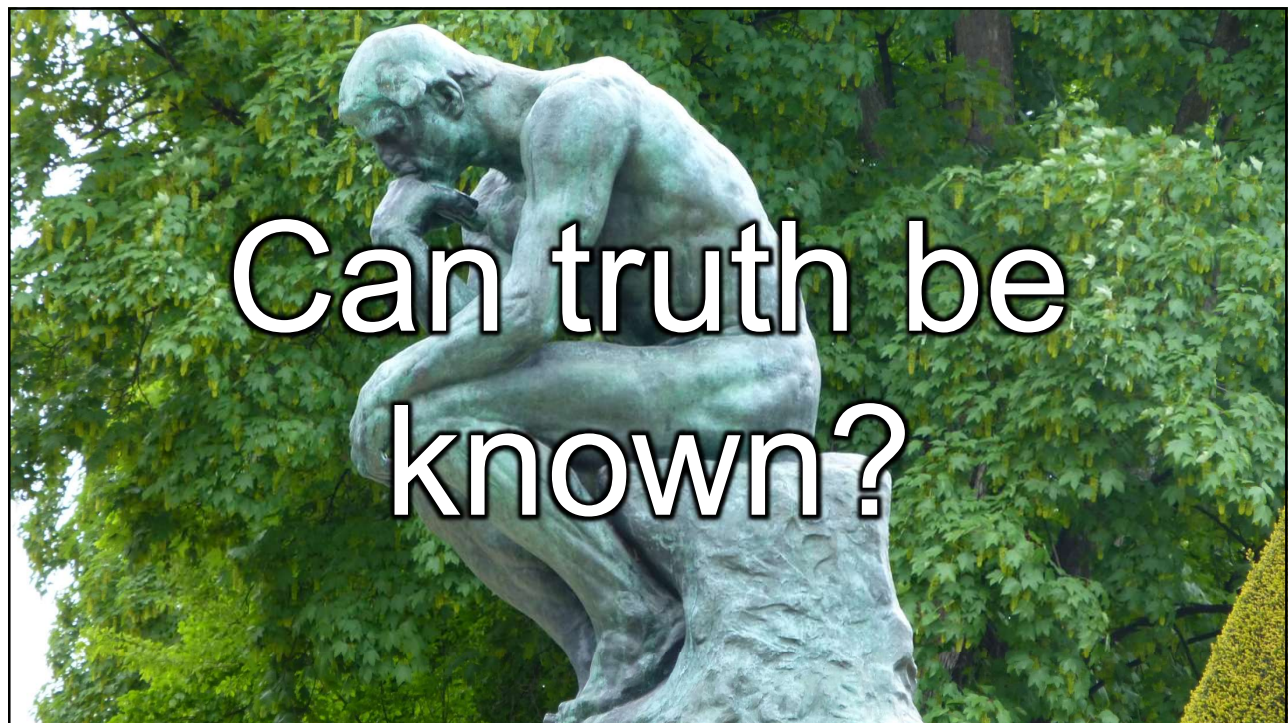
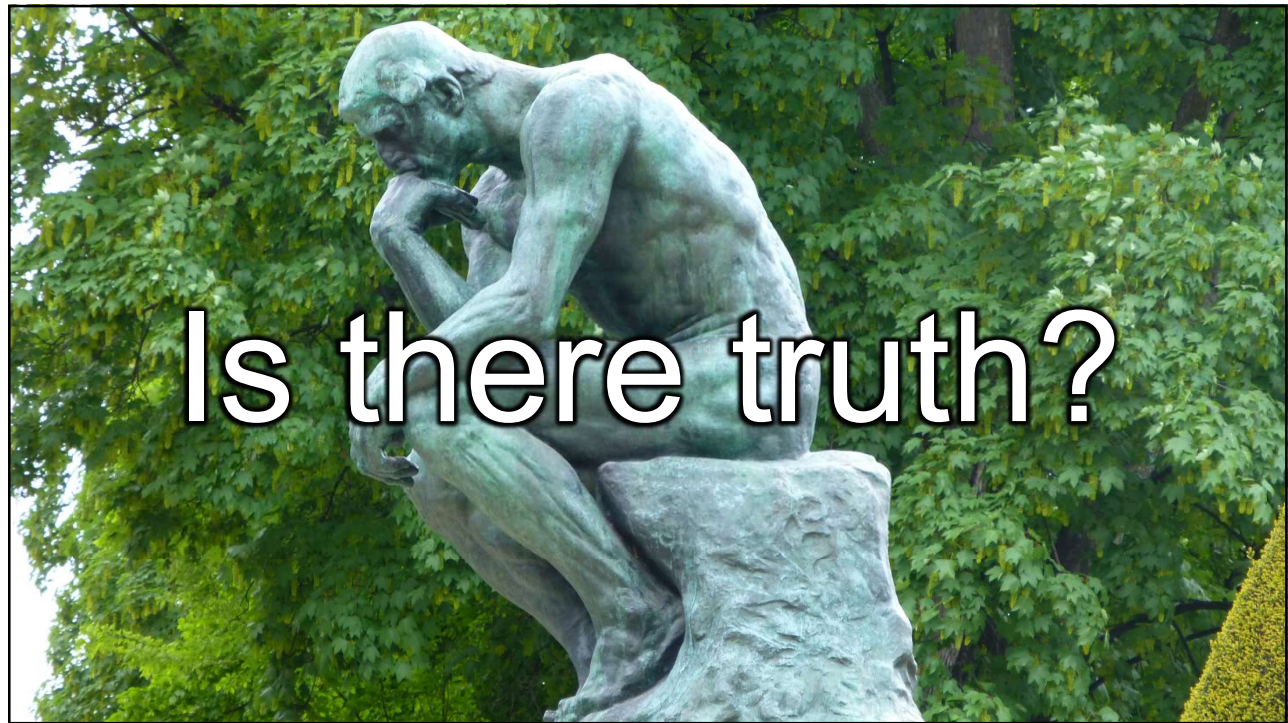


*Apologetics is knowing  
and showing why  
you believe that  
Christianity is true.*

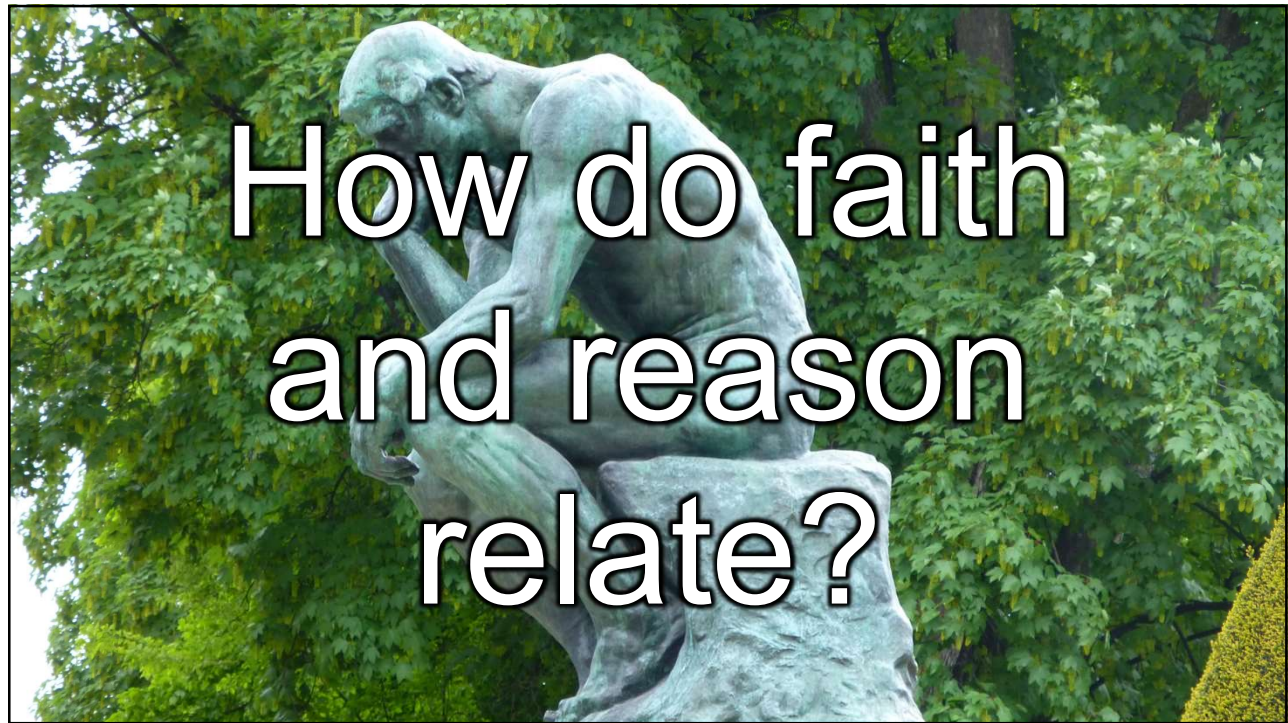
*Apologetics is **knowing**  
and showing why  
you believe that  
Christianity is true.*



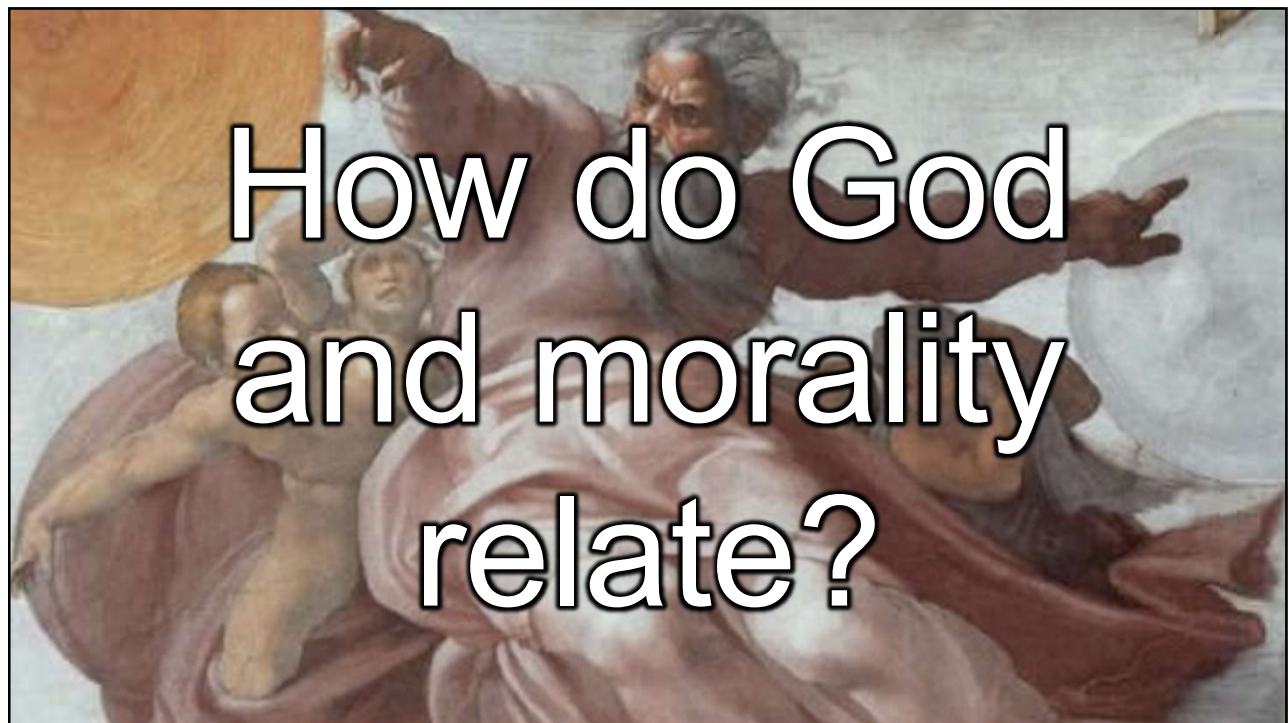




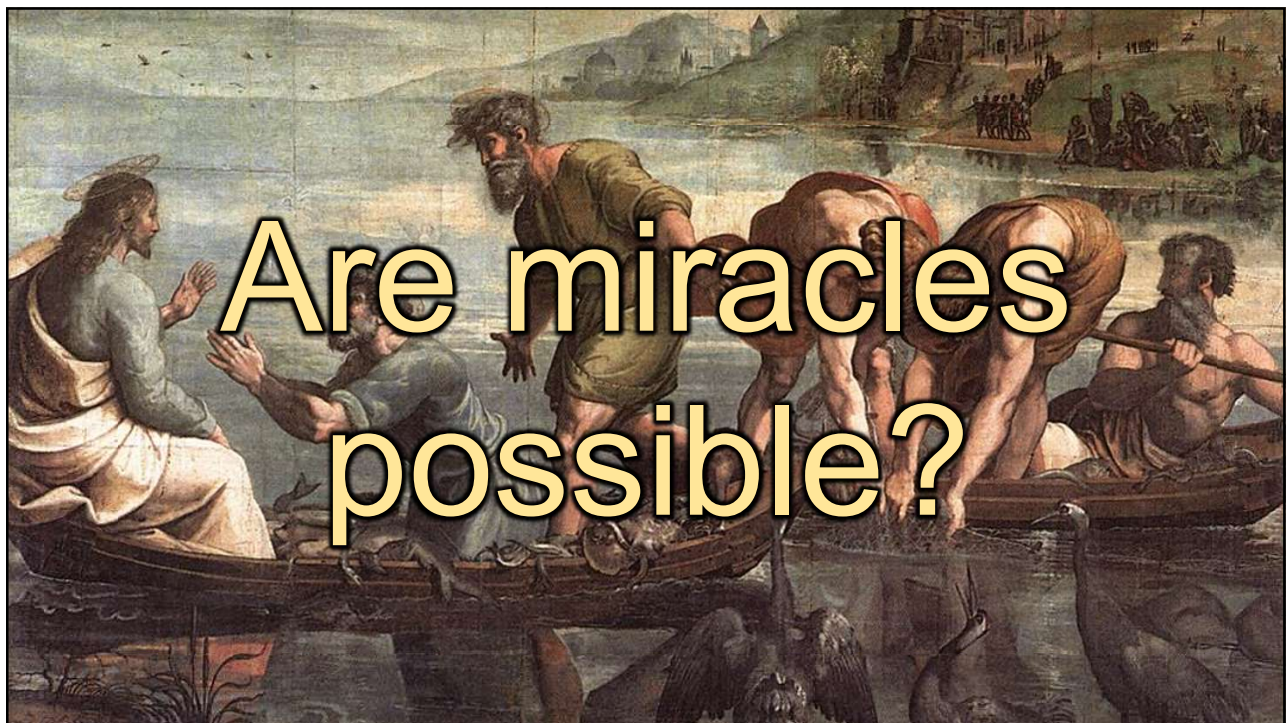








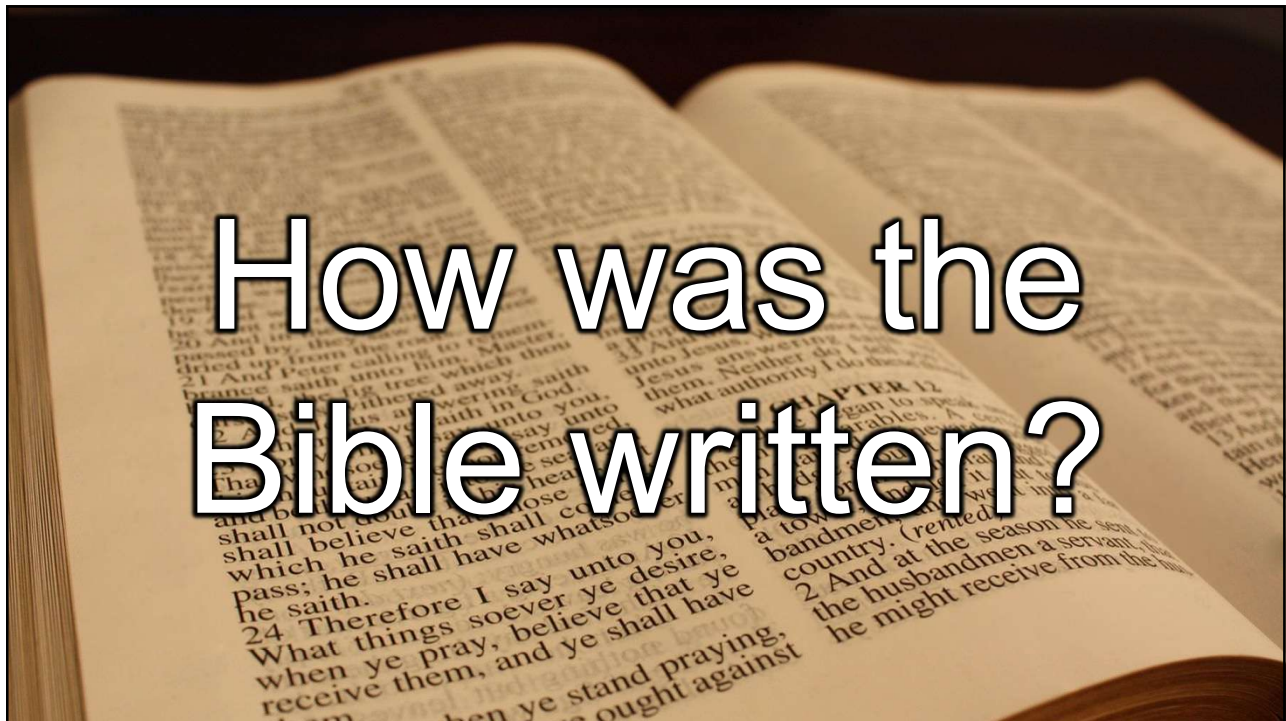






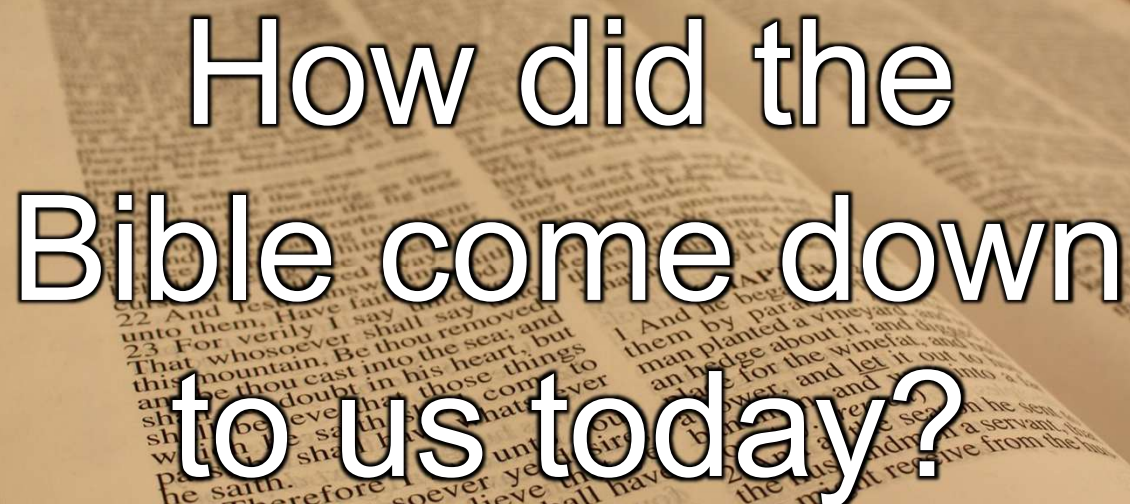


Are miracles  
actual?



How was the  
Bible written?



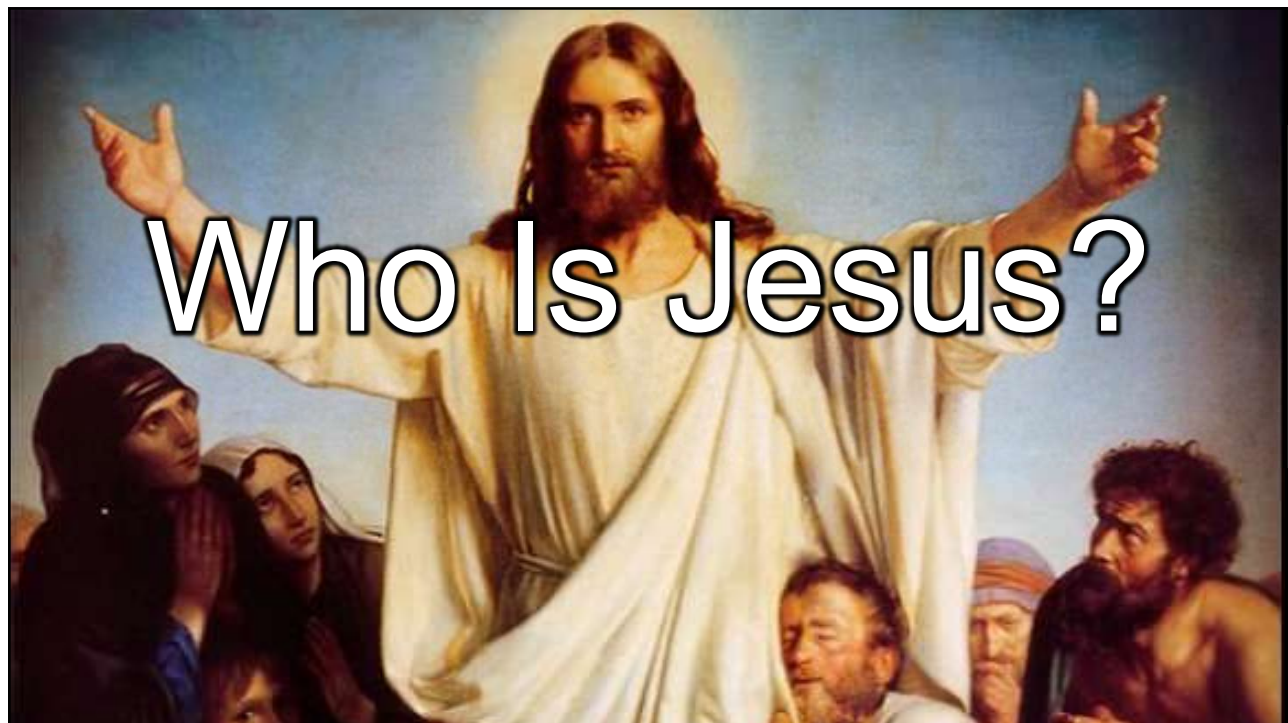
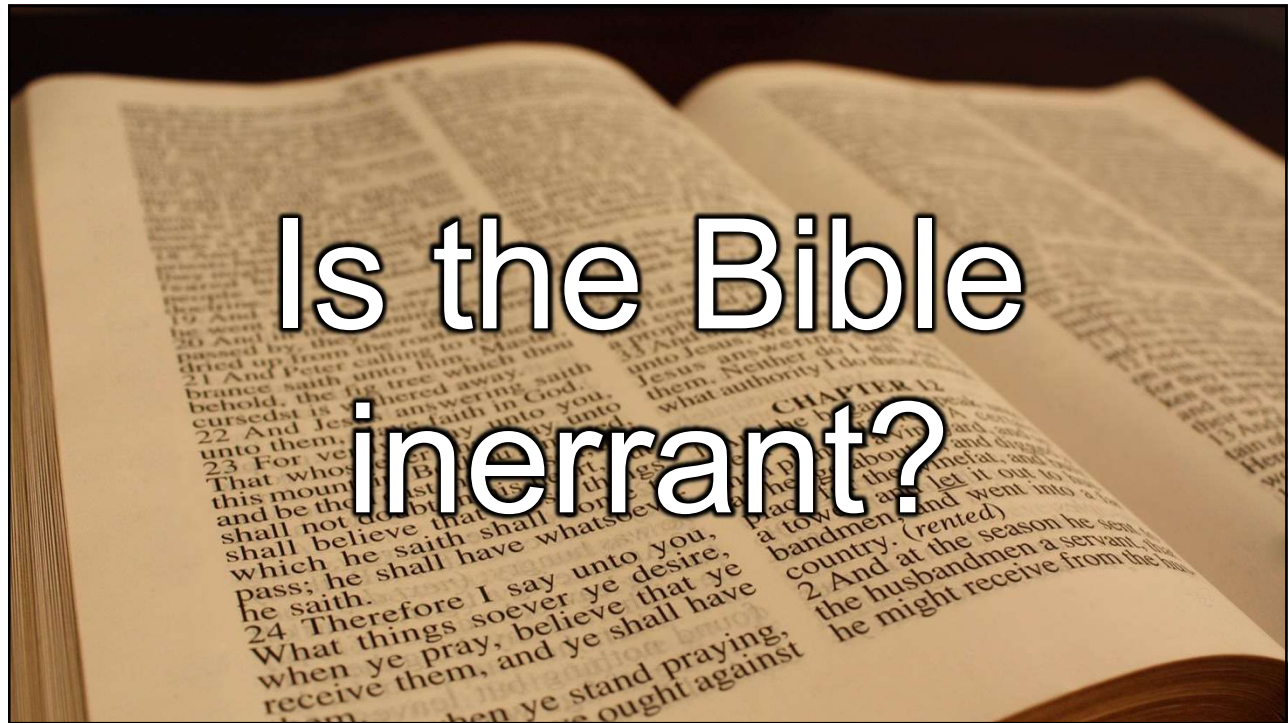
An open Bible is shown with its pages slightly aged and yellowed. The text is in an older English translation, likely the King James Version. The question "How did the Bible come down to us today?" is superimposed in large, white, bold letters with a black outline over the center of the open pages. The background text visible includes verses 22, 23, and 24 of a chapter, discussing faith and prayer.

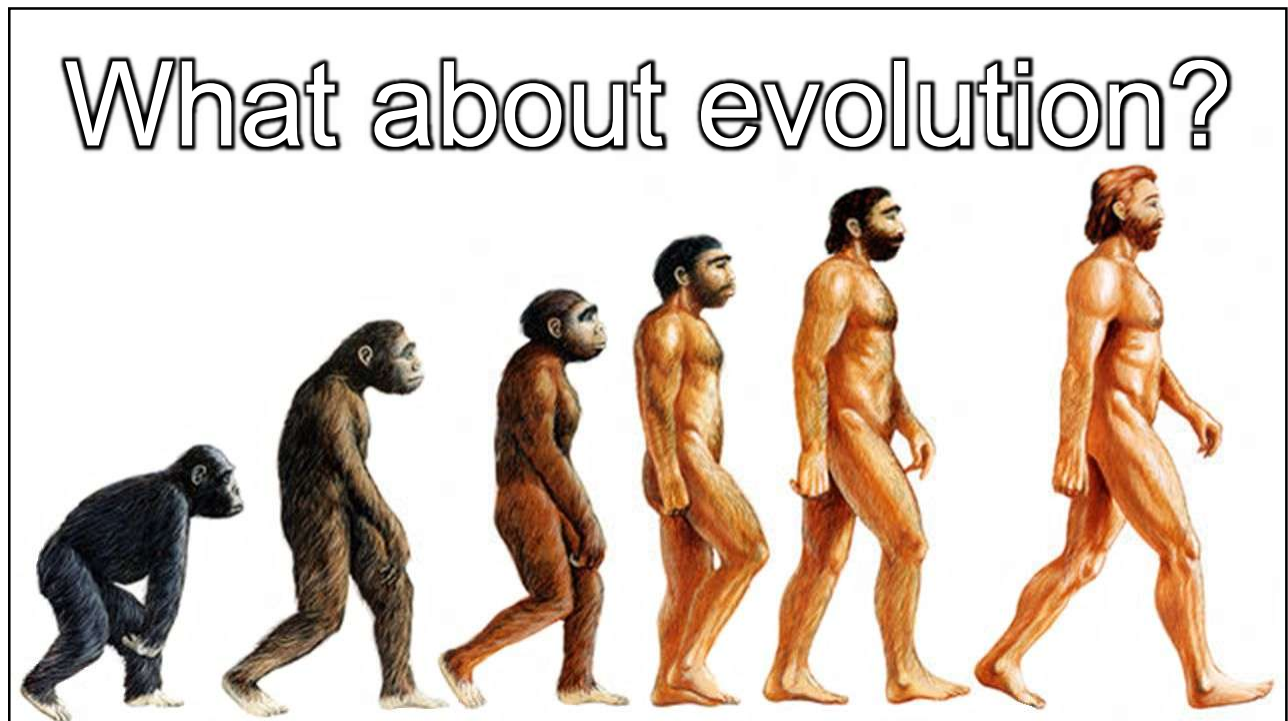
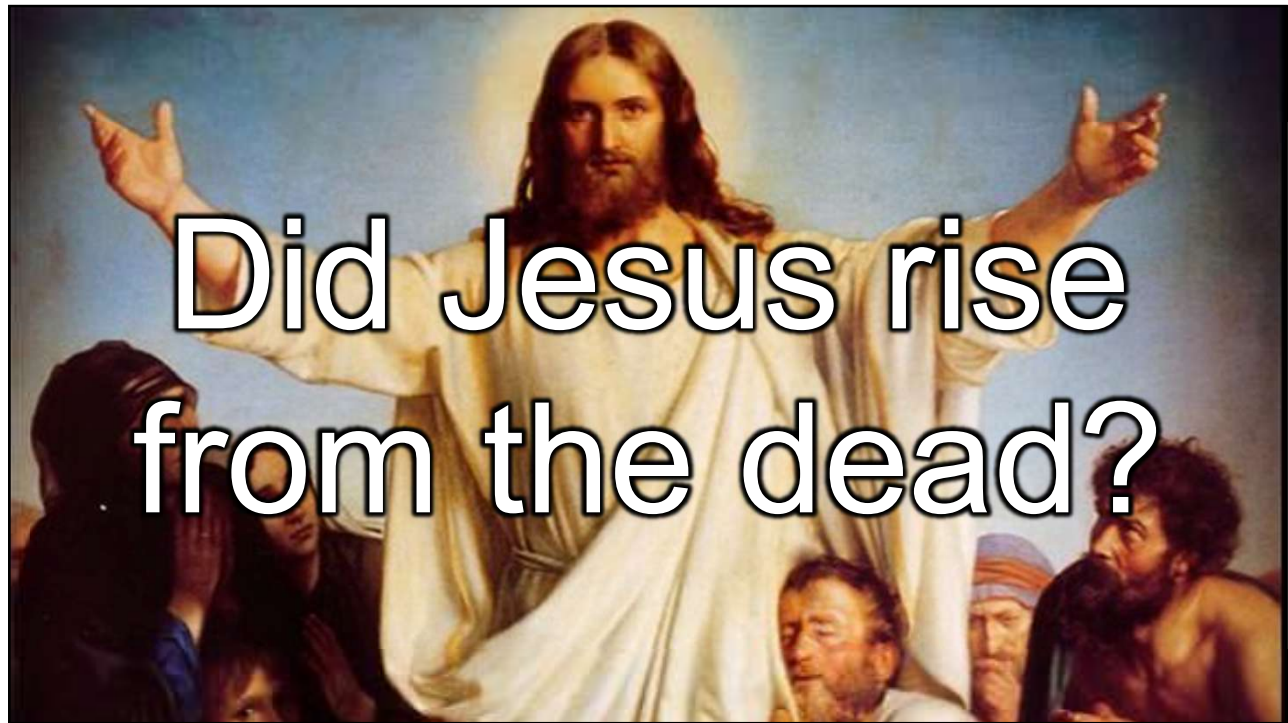
How did the  
Bible come down  
to us today?

An open Bible is shown, similar to the one in the first image, with the same text overlaid. The question "Is the Bible reliable?" is superimposed in large, white, bold letters with a black outline over the center of the open pages. The background text is the same as in the first image, showing verses 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24.

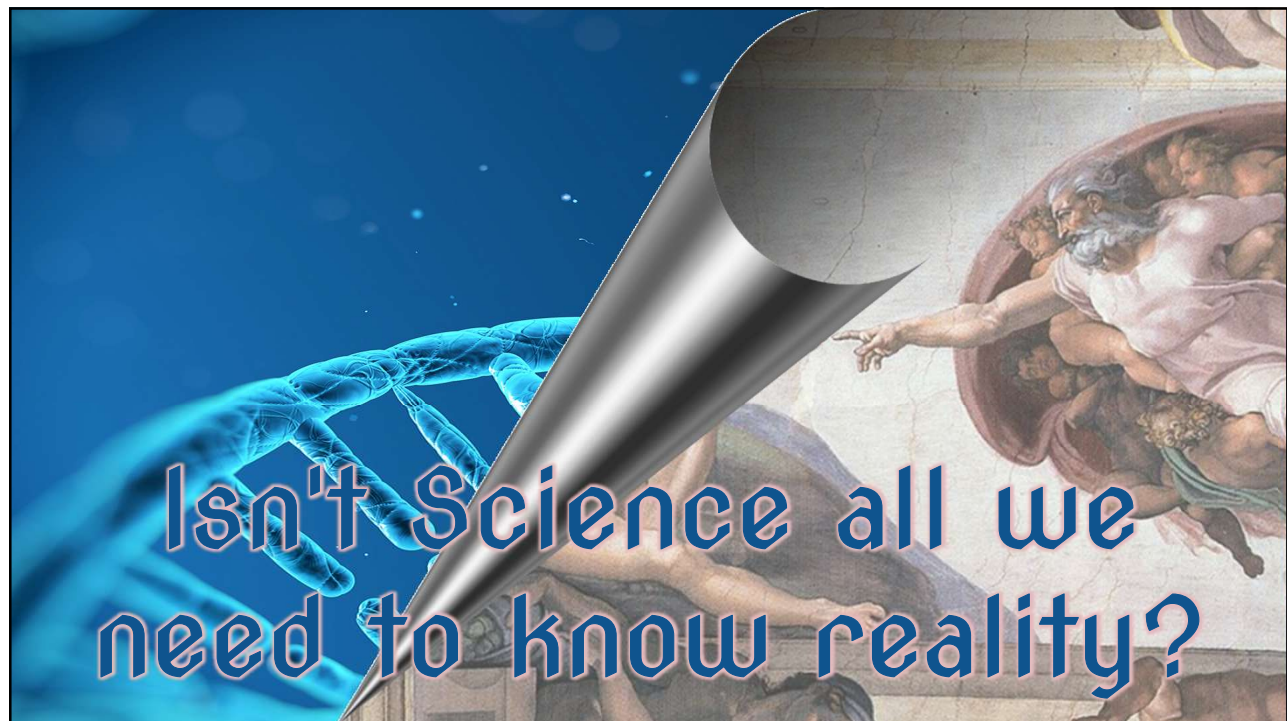
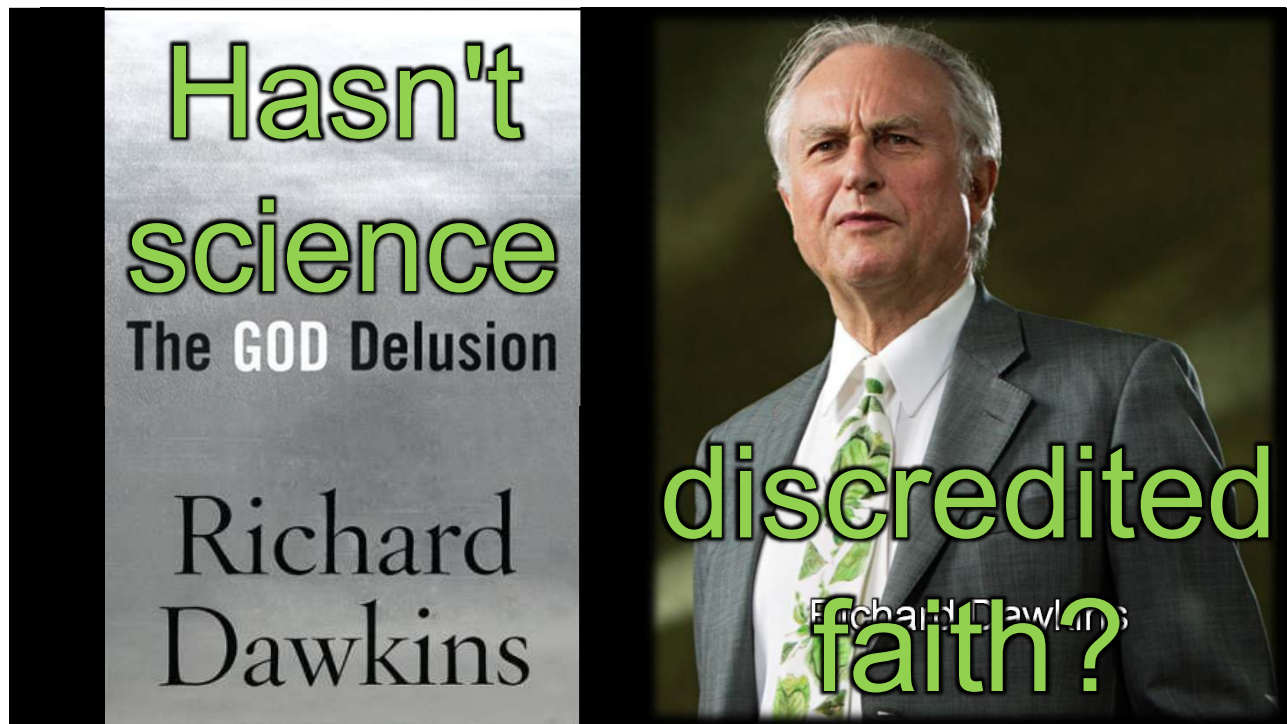
Is the Bible  
reliable?





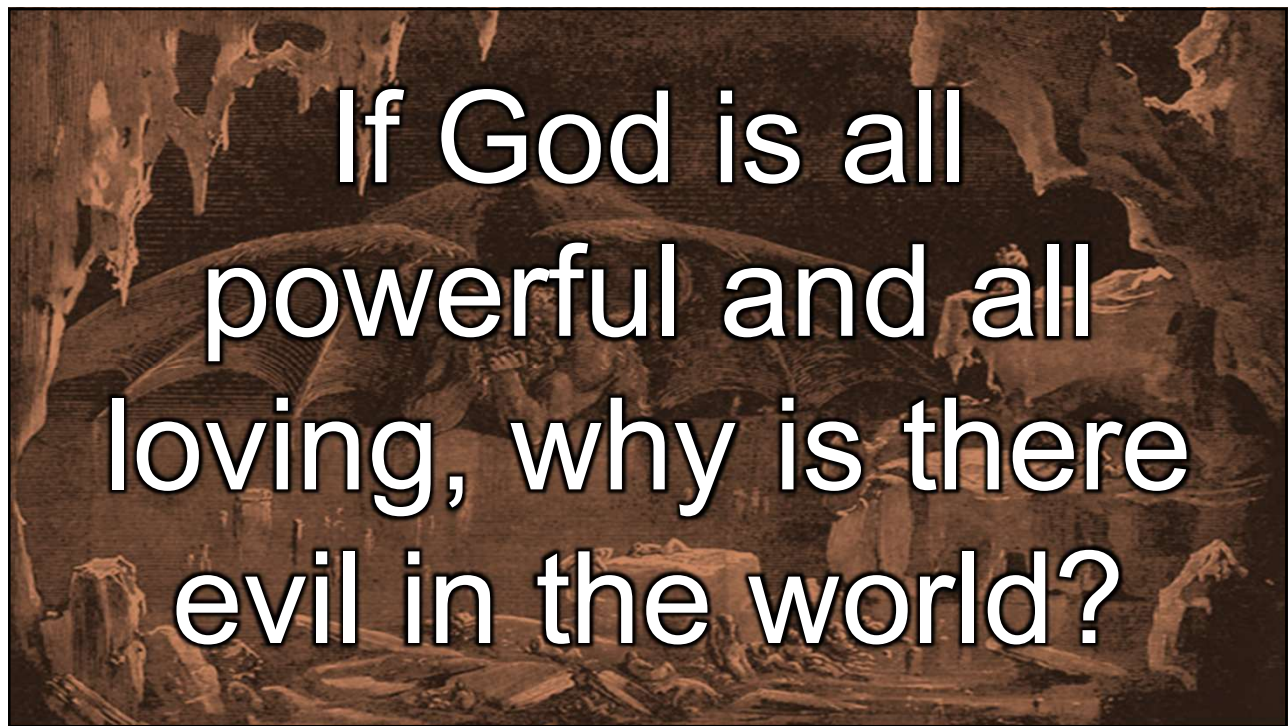












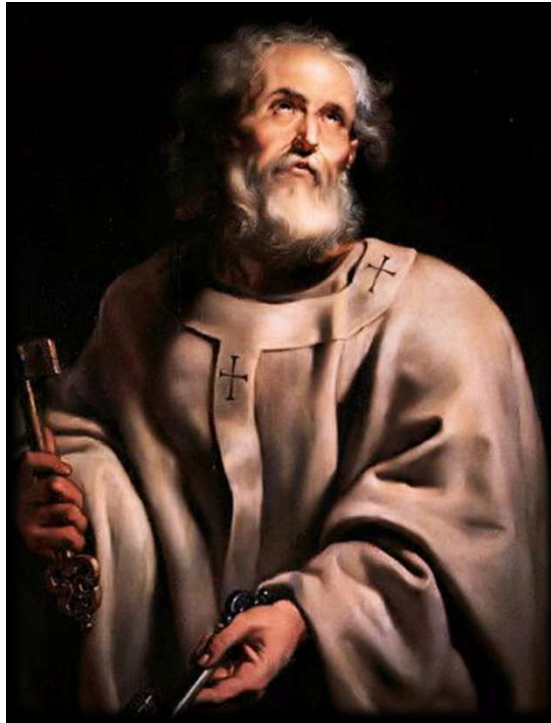
***The Bible is clear  
about defending the faith.***

***The apostles engaged  
in defending the faith.***

***The evidence is strong  
for defending the faith.***

***The Bible is clear  
about defending  
the faith.***



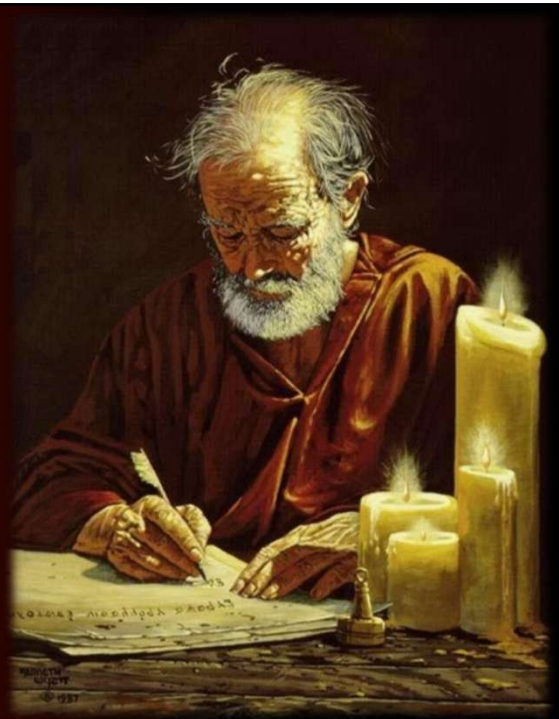


✧ 1 Peter 3:15 ✧

*"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;"*

*Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.*

*Jude 3*



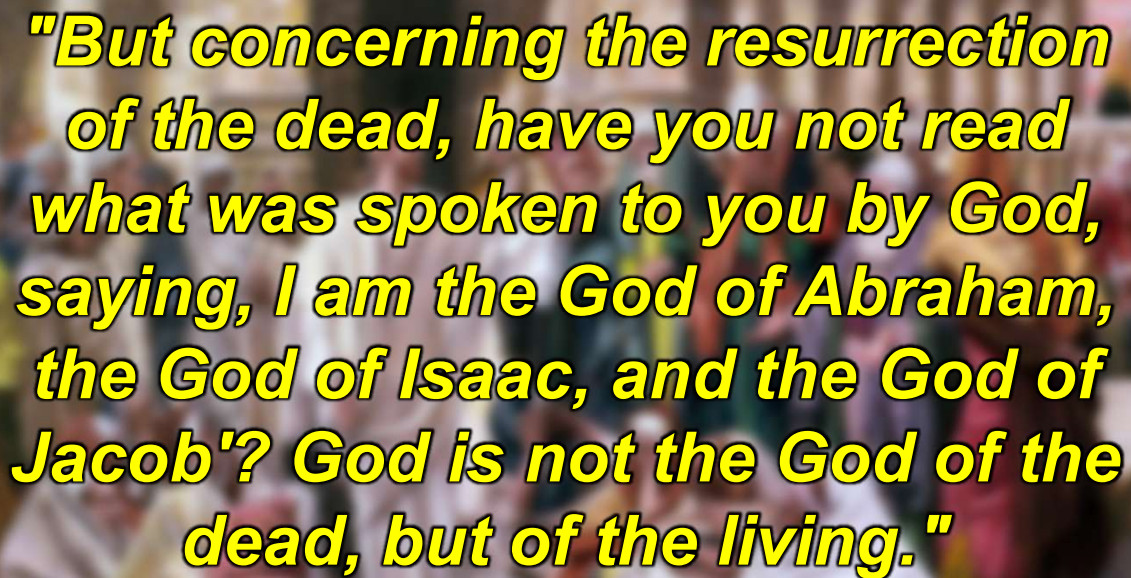


***"For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, whose mouths must be stopped,"***

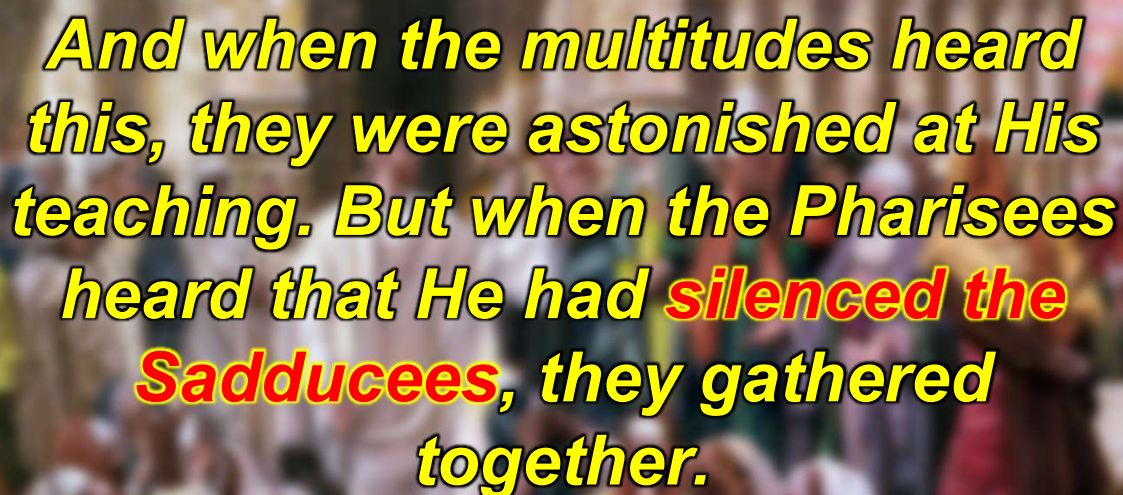
Titus 1:10-11a  
(cf. Matthew 22:29-34)

***Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven."***

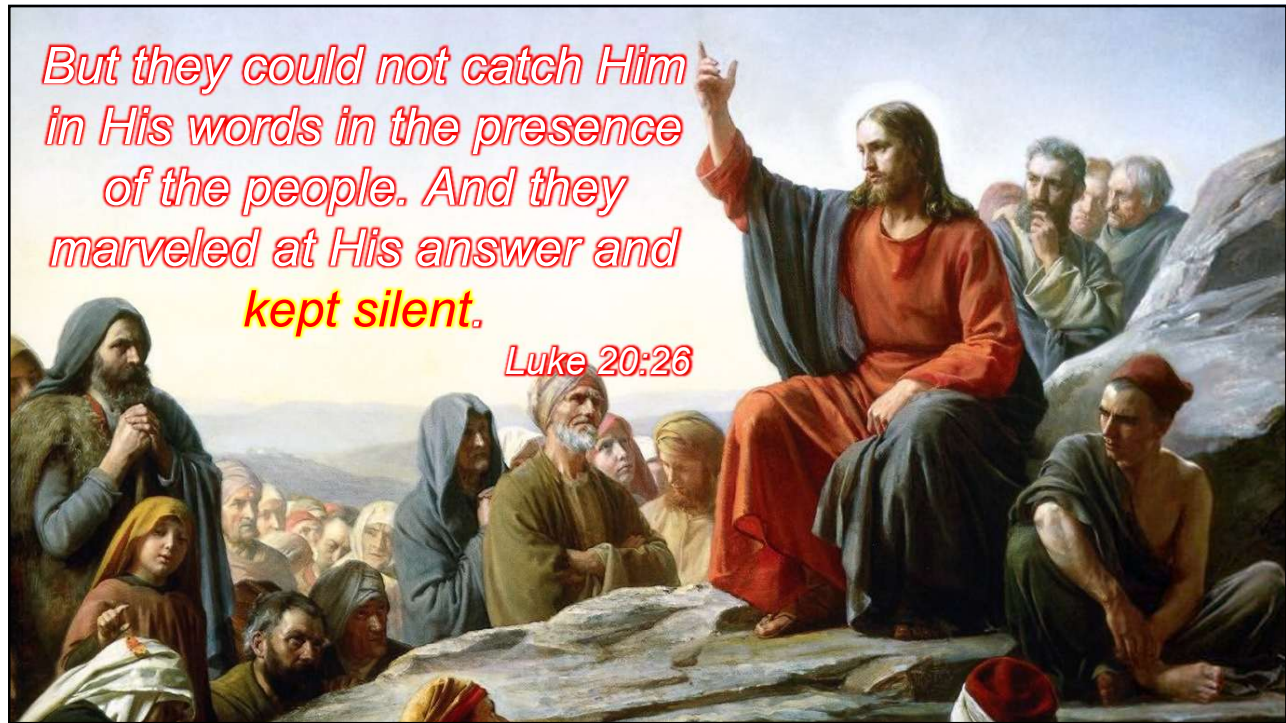




***"But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."***

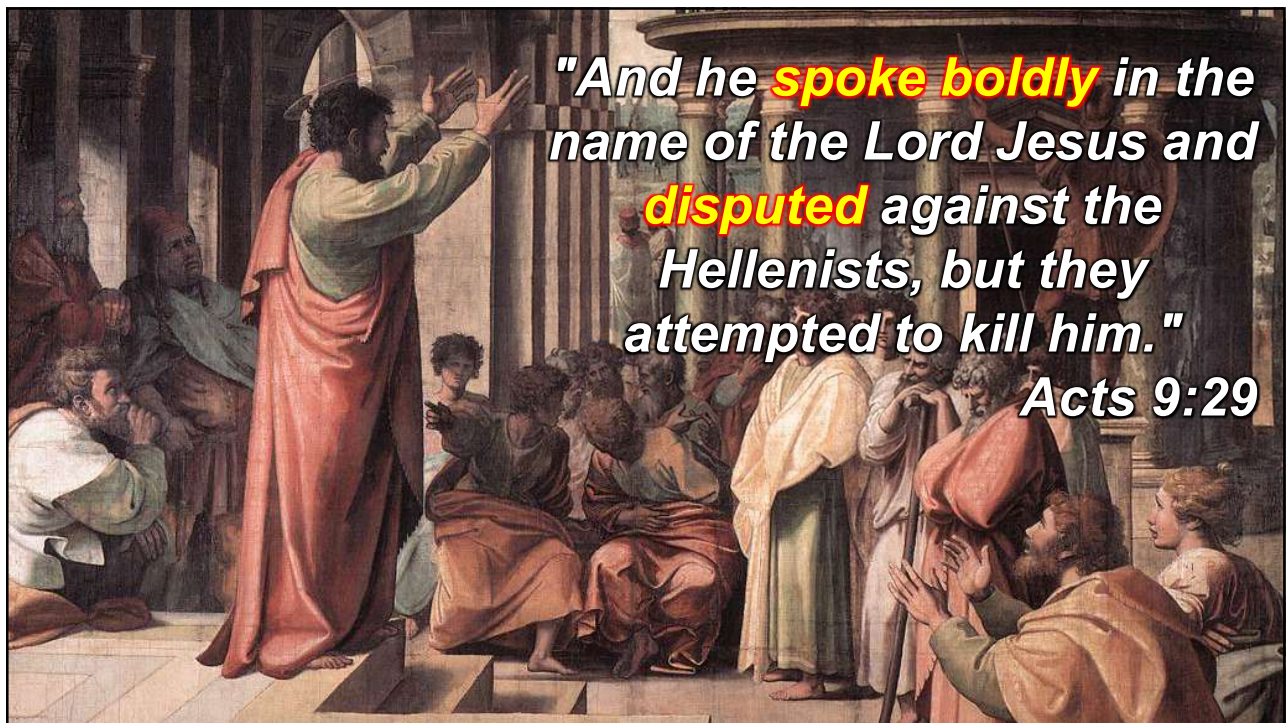
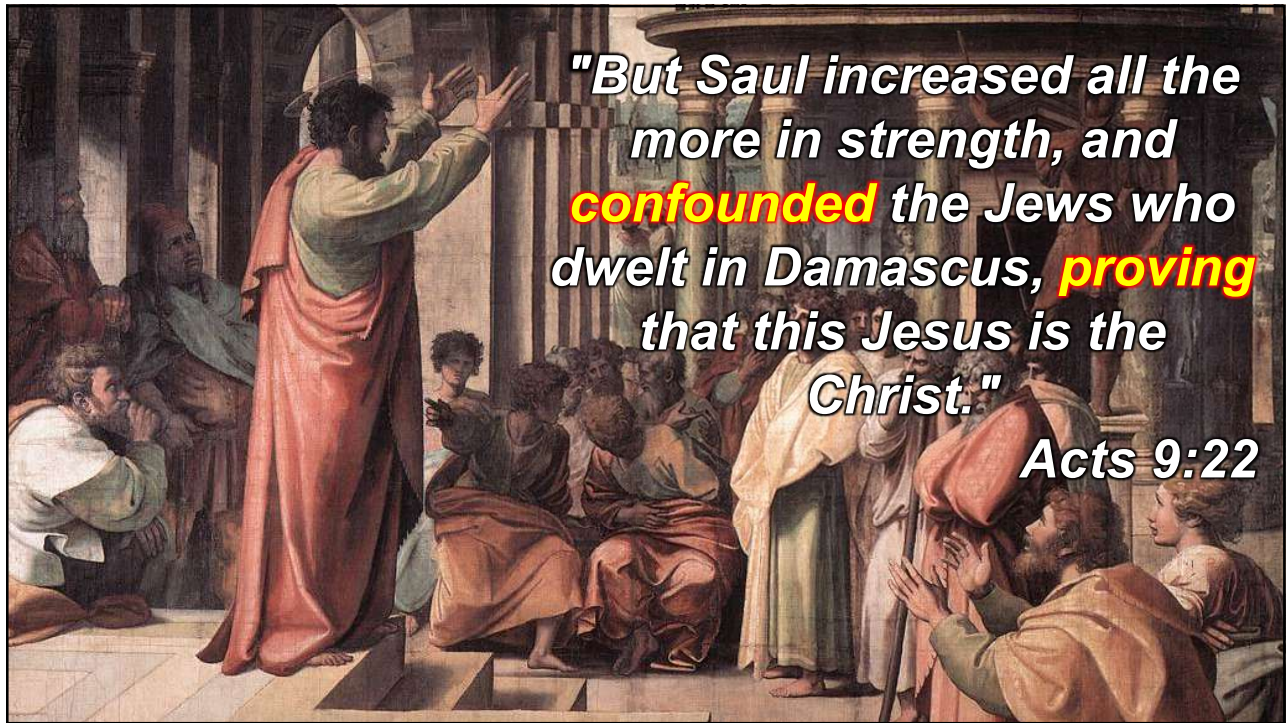


***And when the multitudes heard this, they were astonished at His teaching. But when the Pharisees heard that He had **silenced the Sadducees**, they gathered together.***

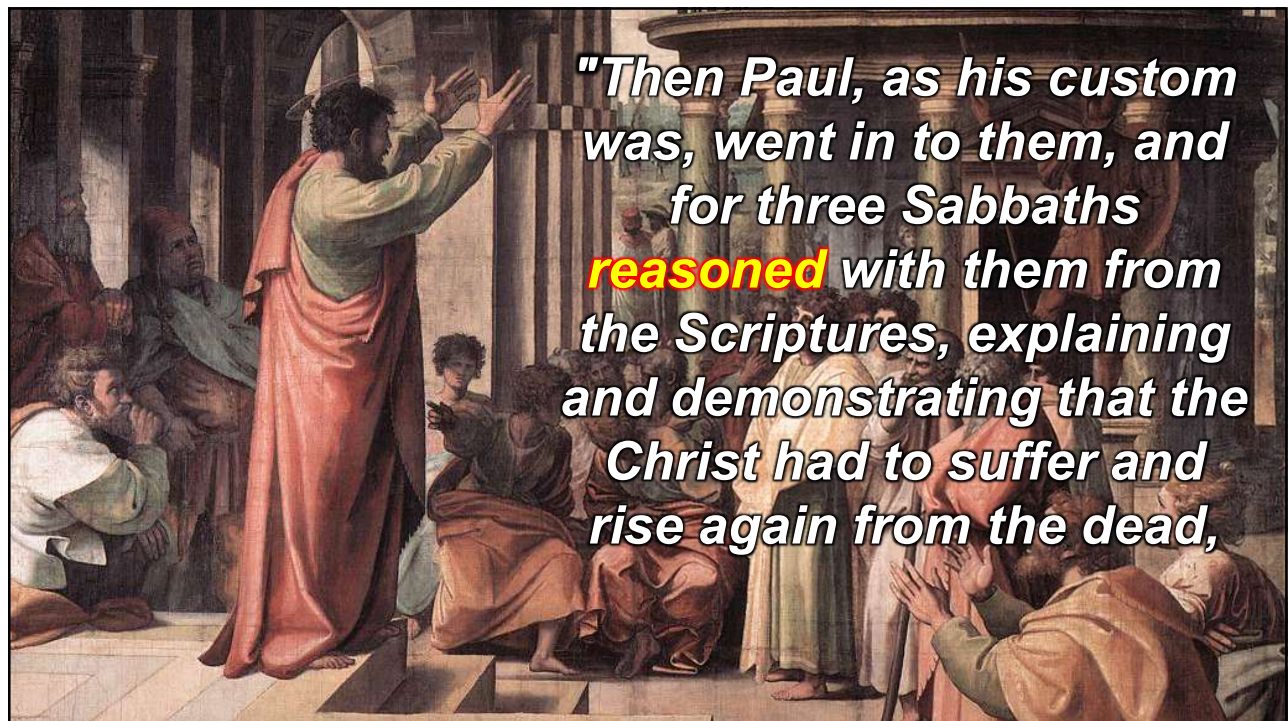
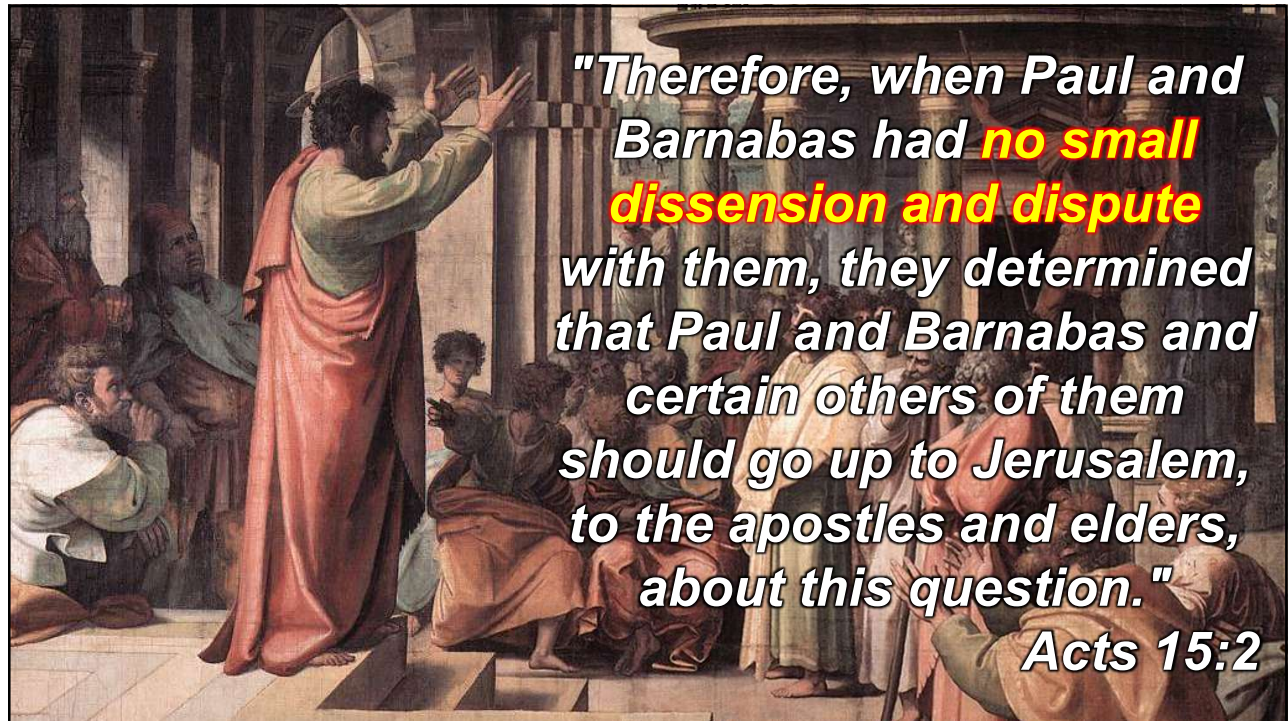


***The apostles engaged  
in defending  
the faith.***

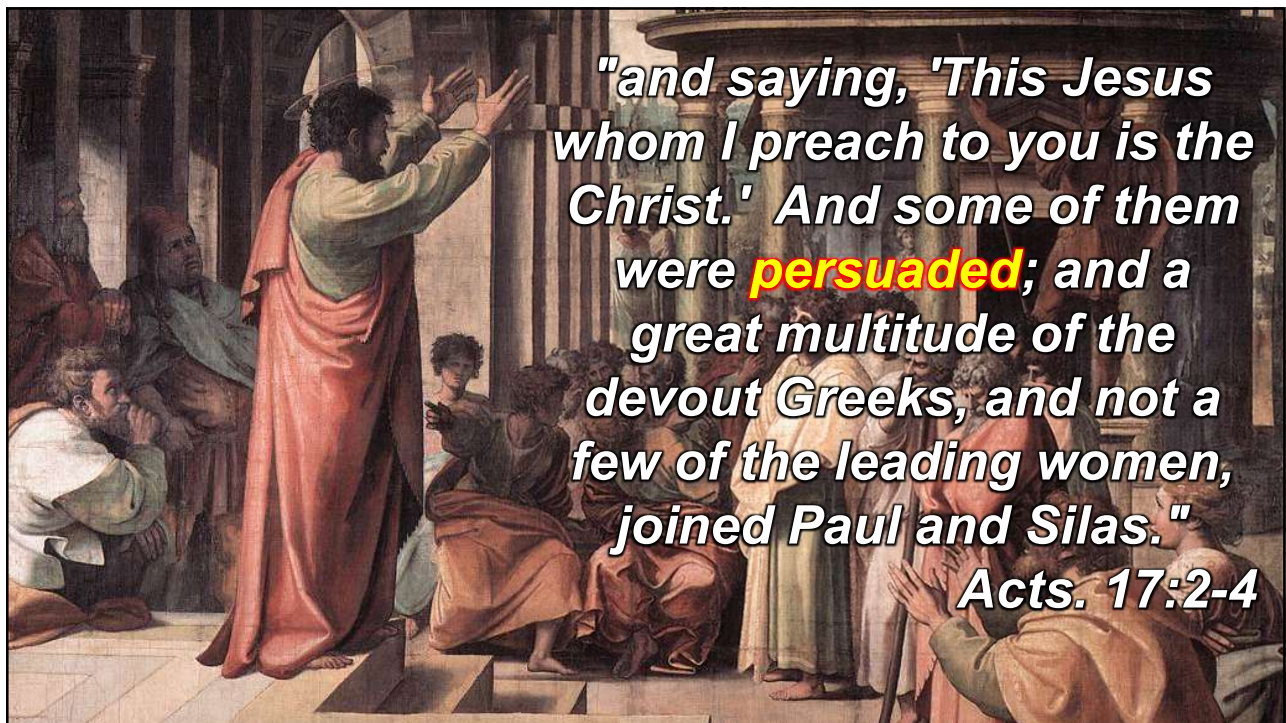
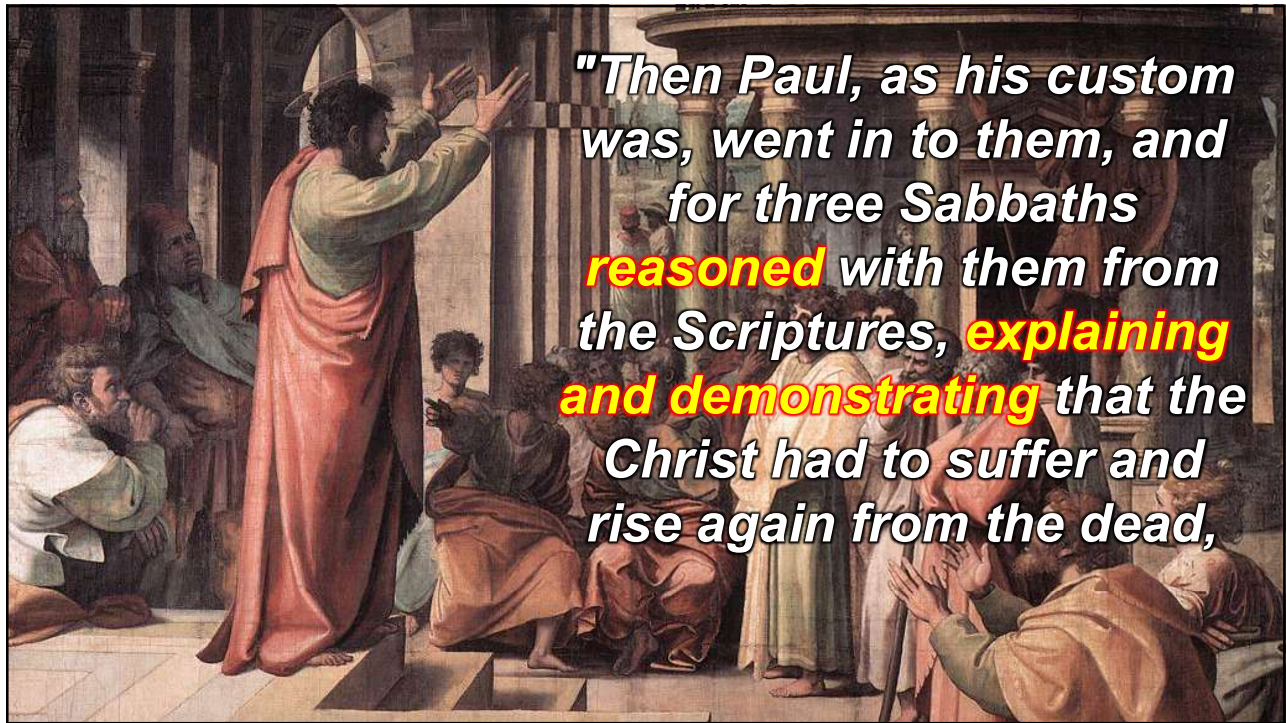




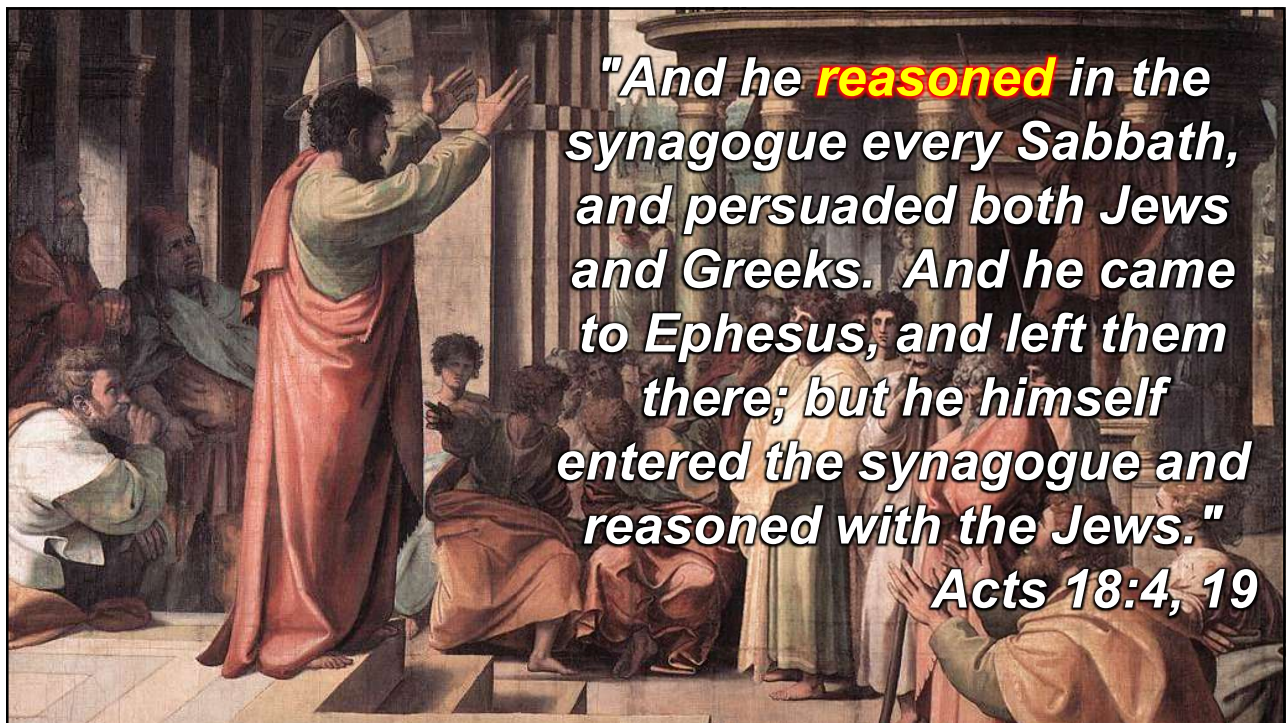
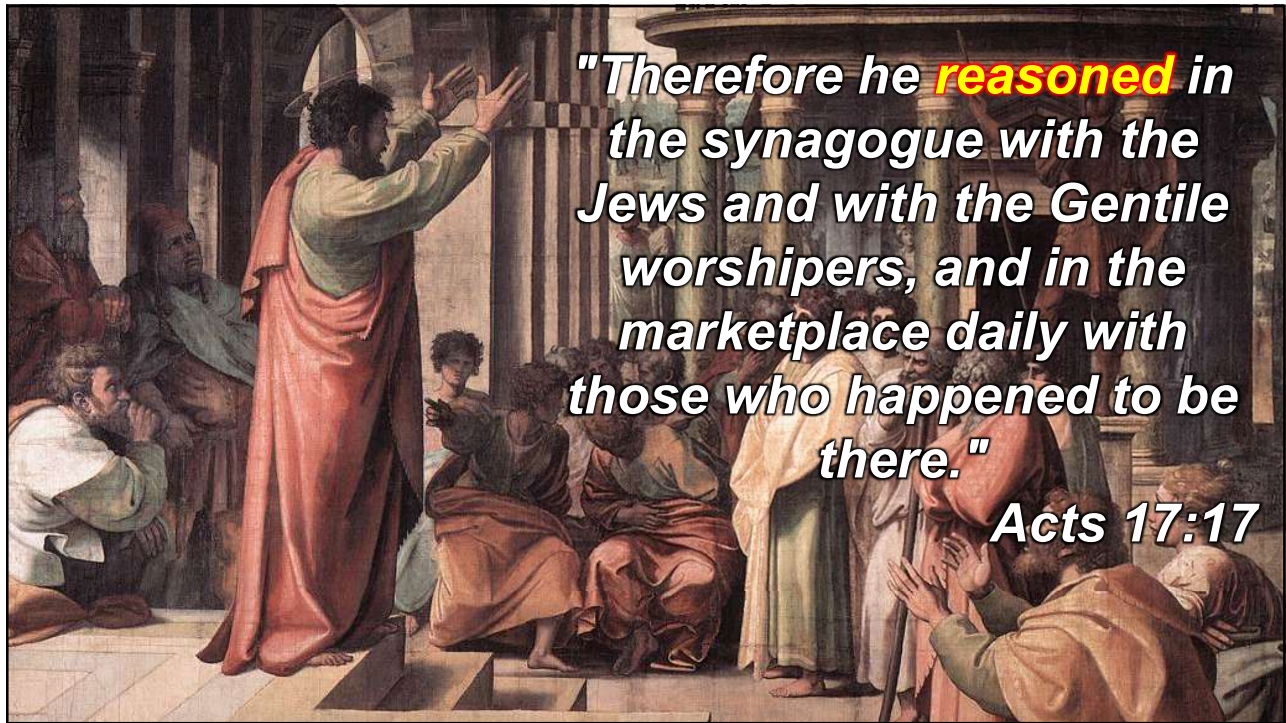




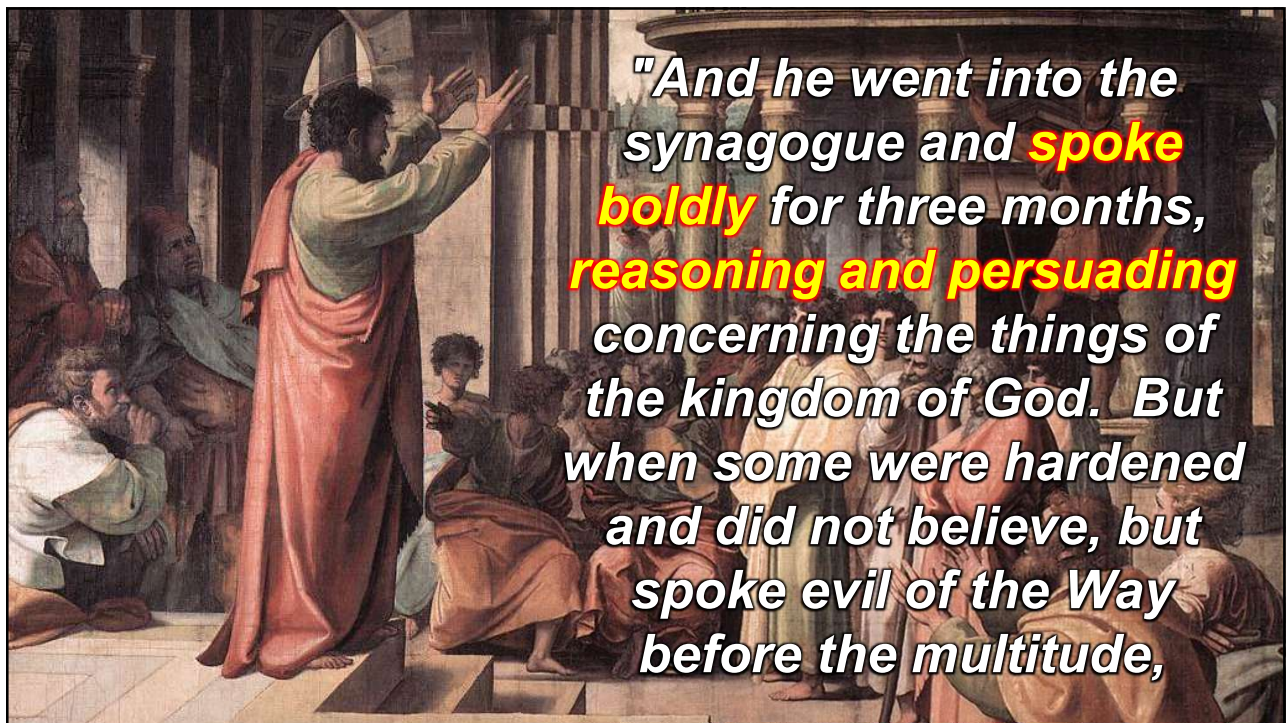
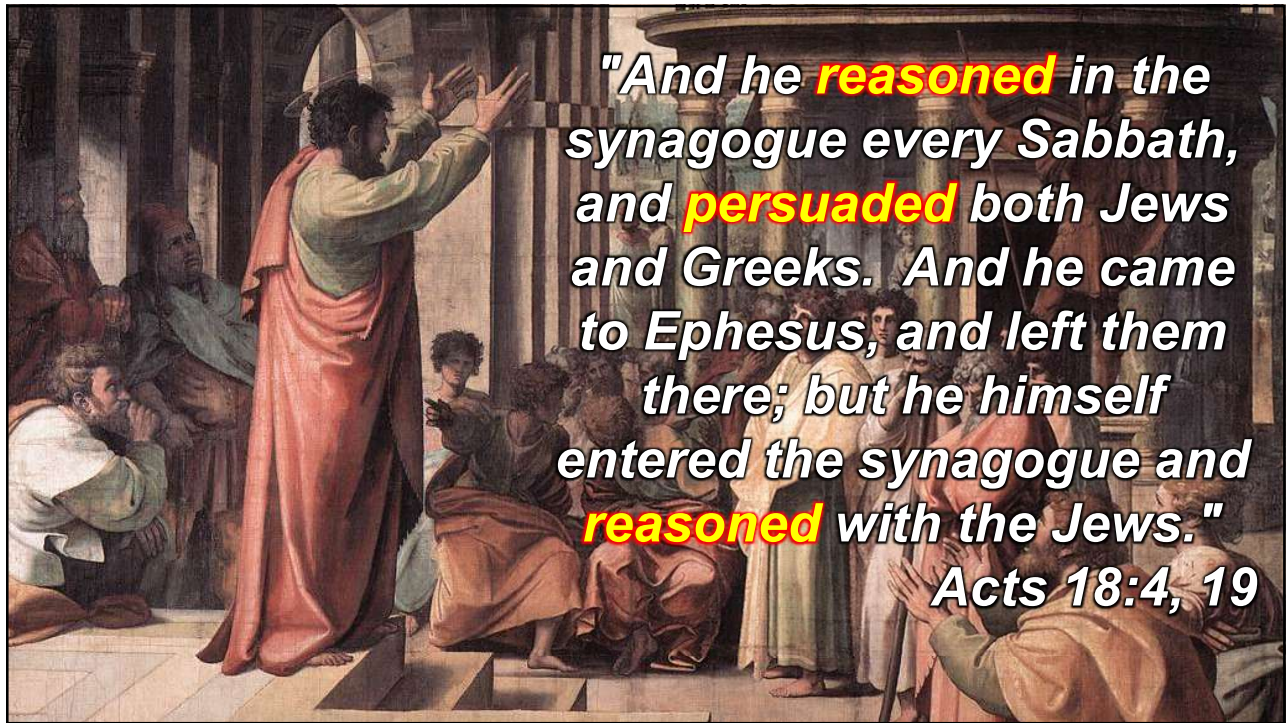




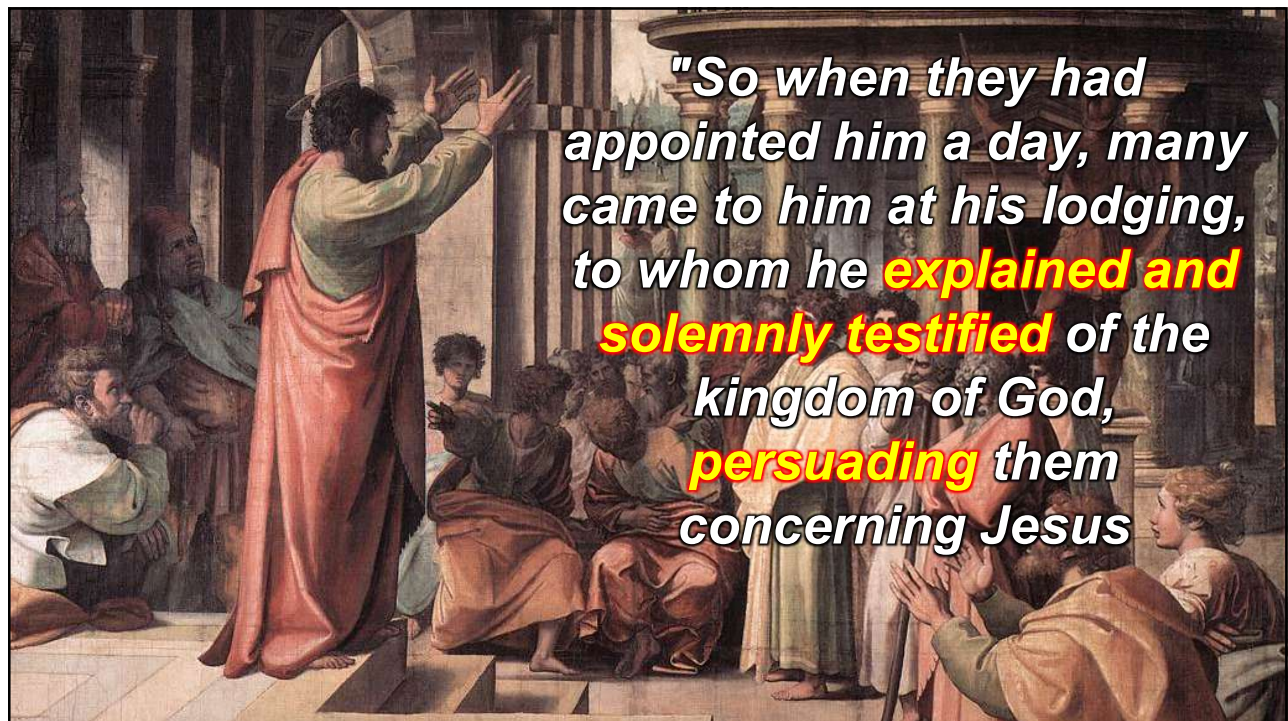
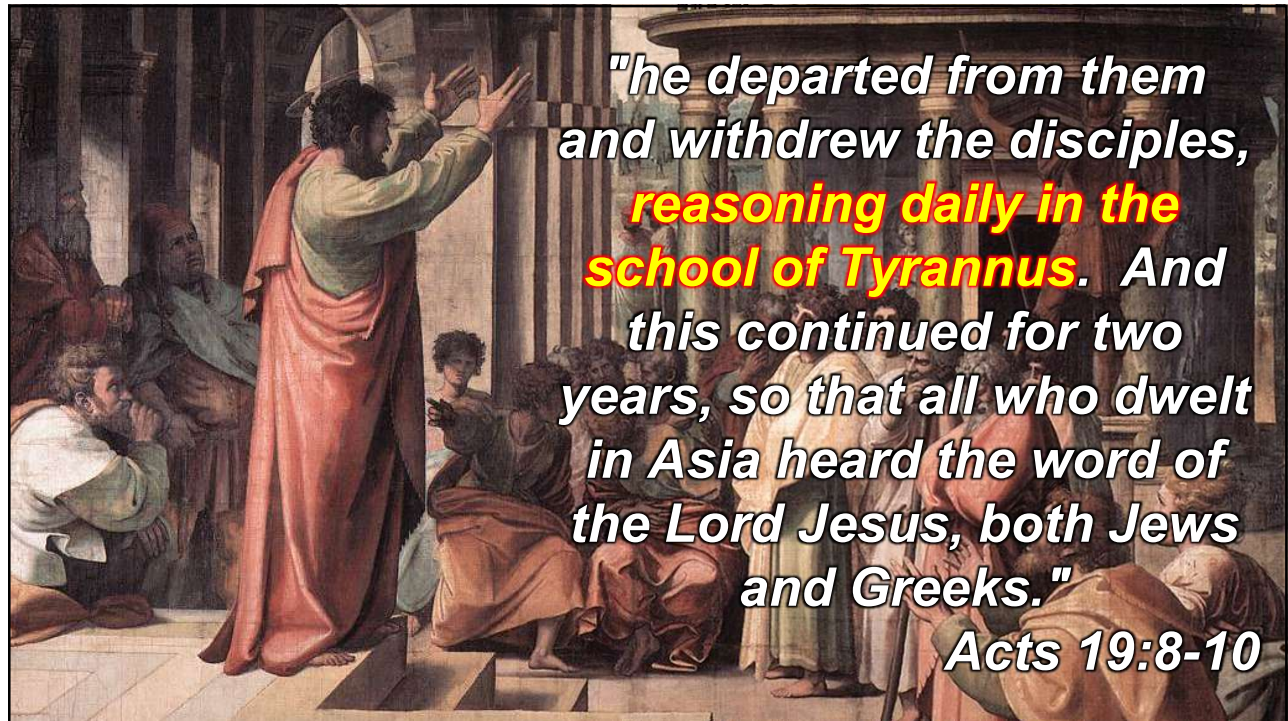




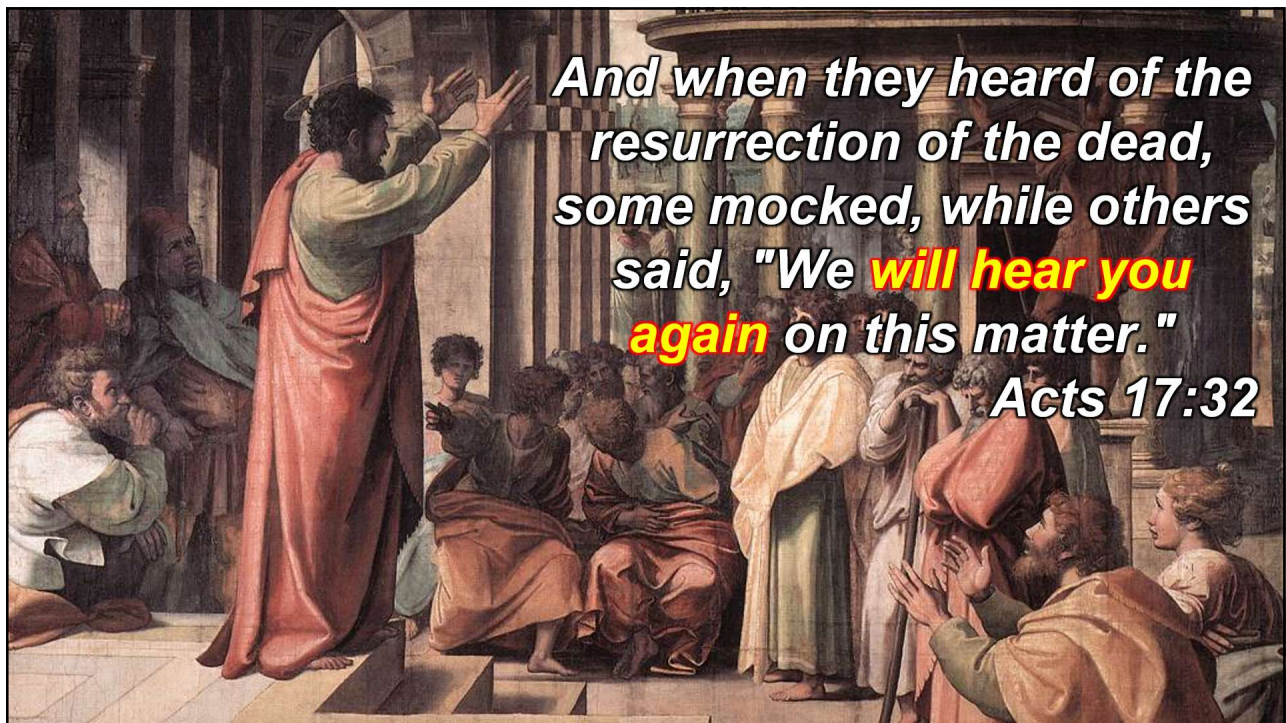
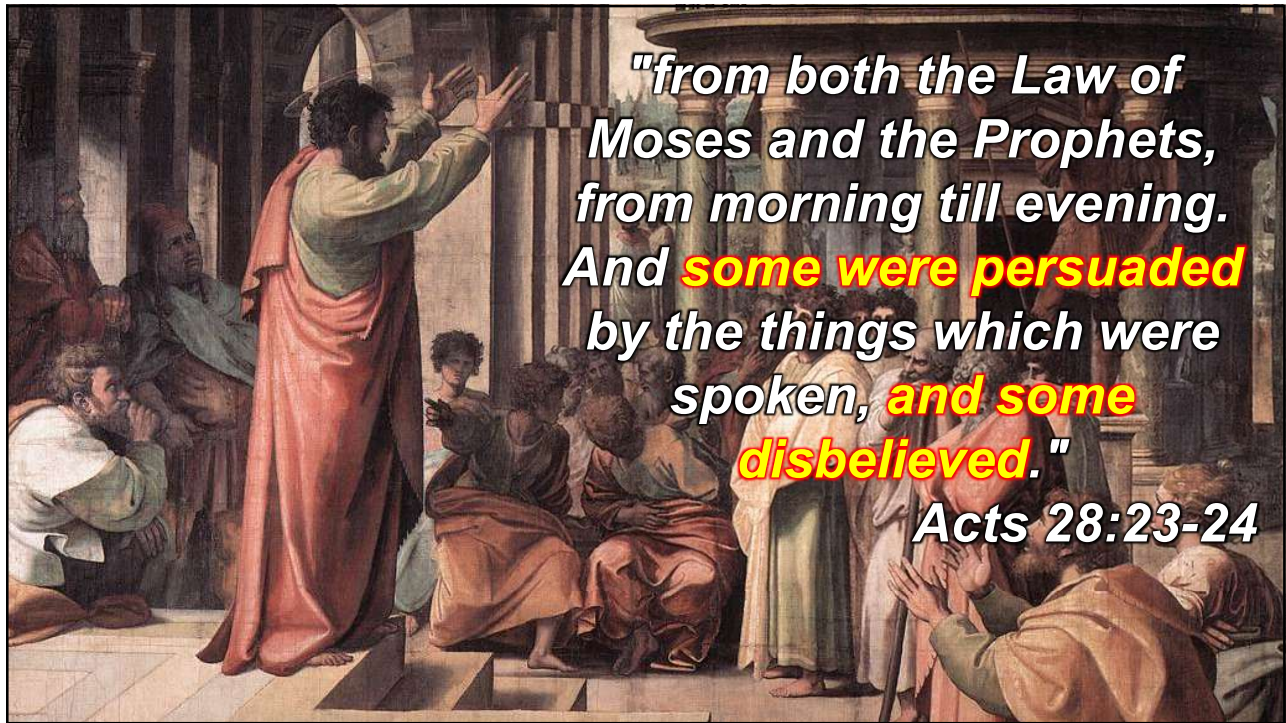




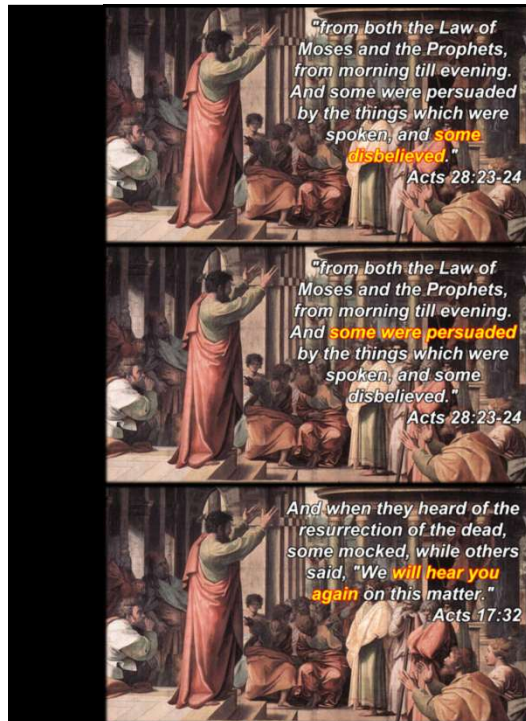












***Notice the three different responses to Paul preaching and apologetics.***

***I submit that we should expect the same responses.***

***In other words, we will not win every argument!***

***The evidence is strong for defending the faith.***

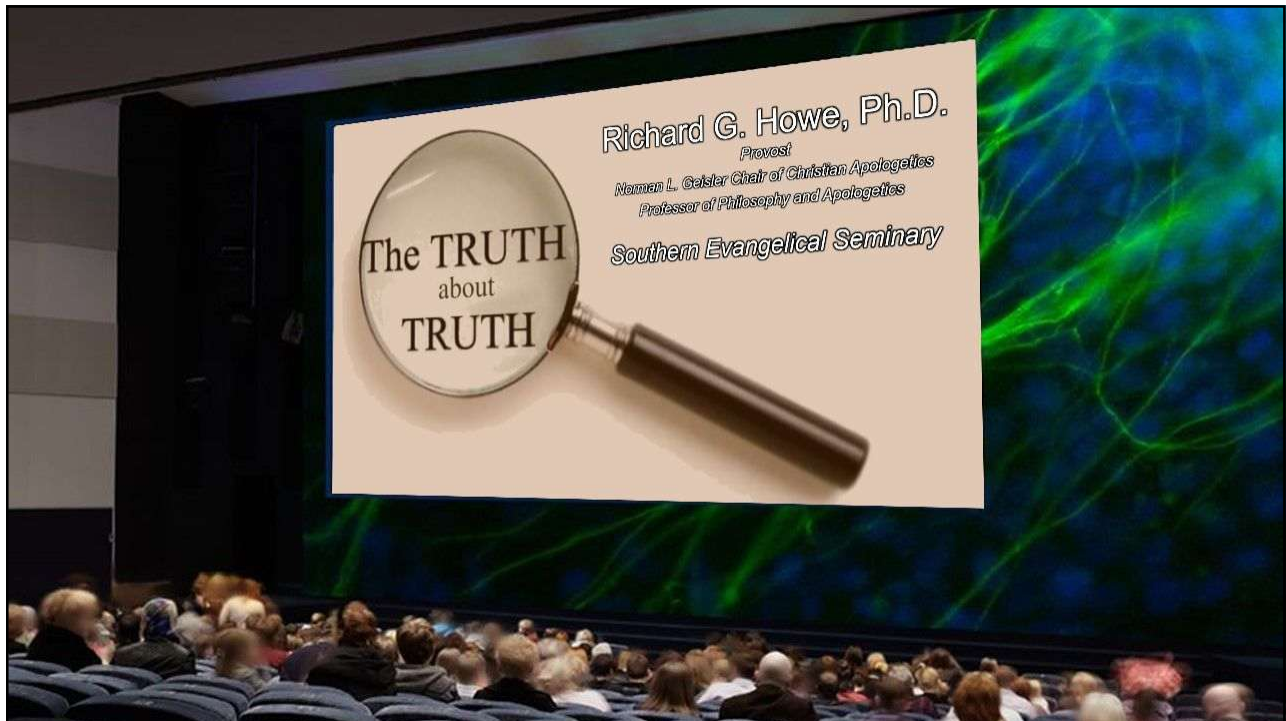
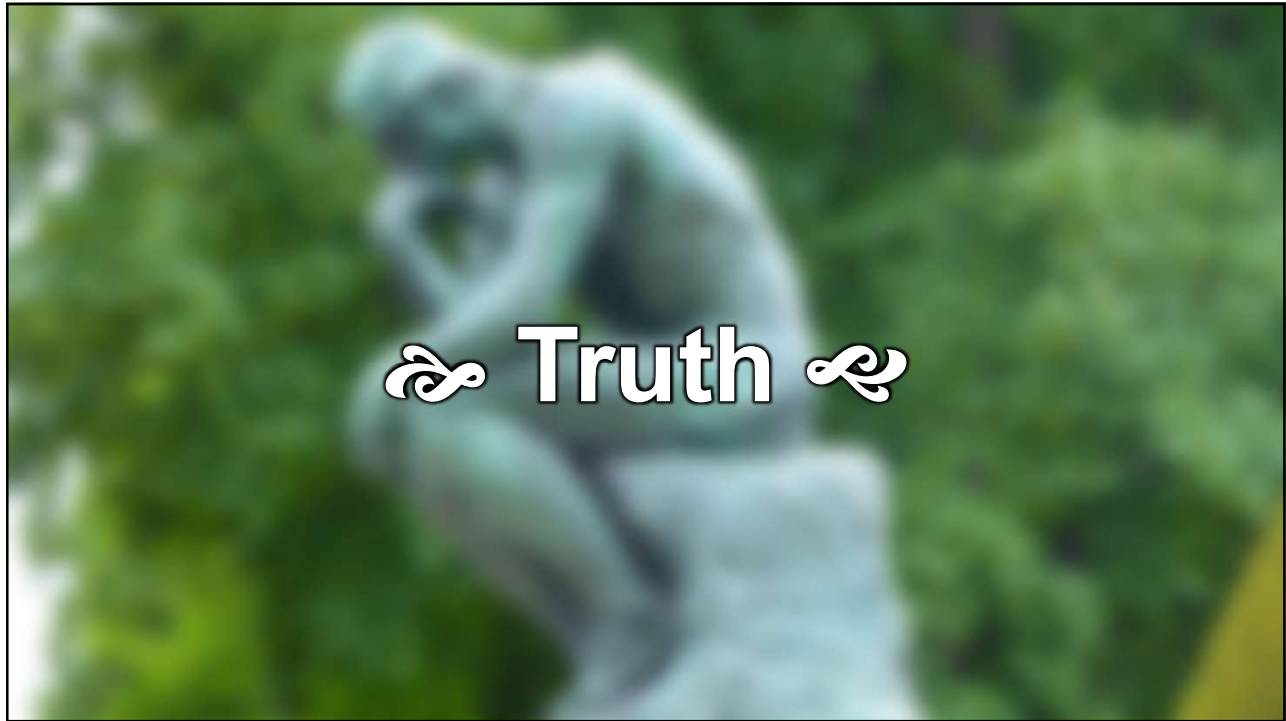


***Christianity is  
supported by philosophy.***

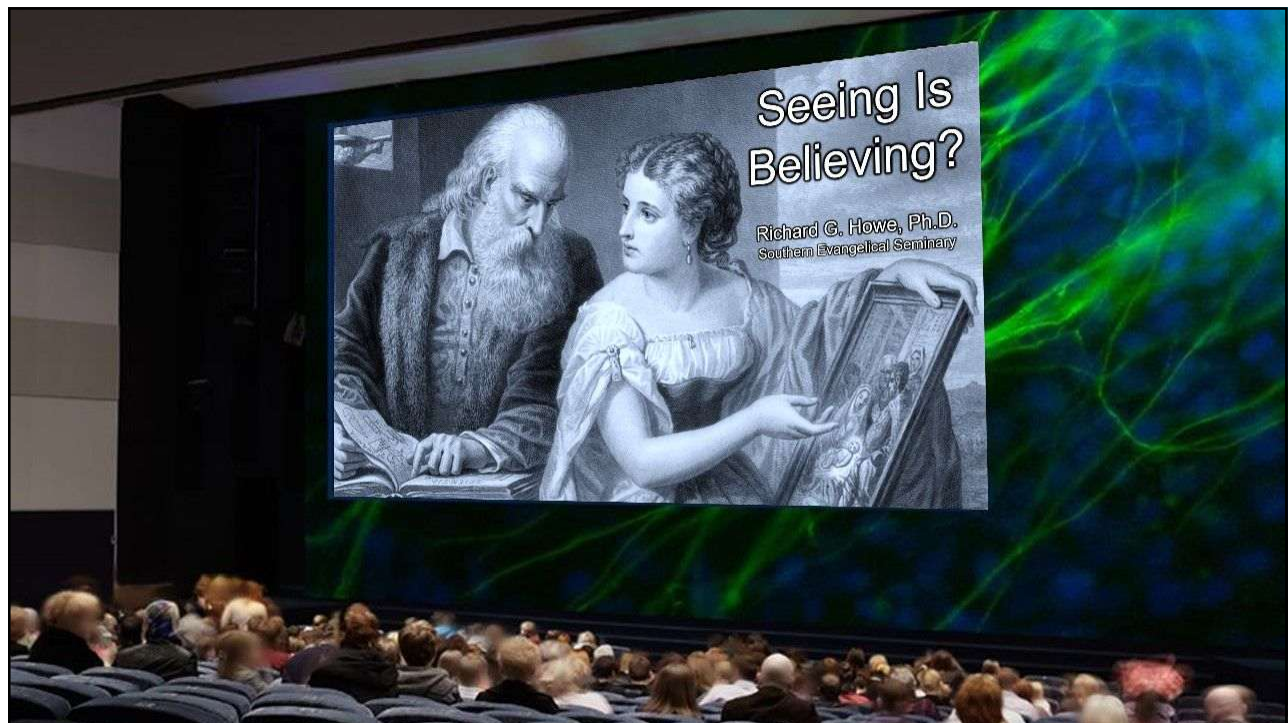
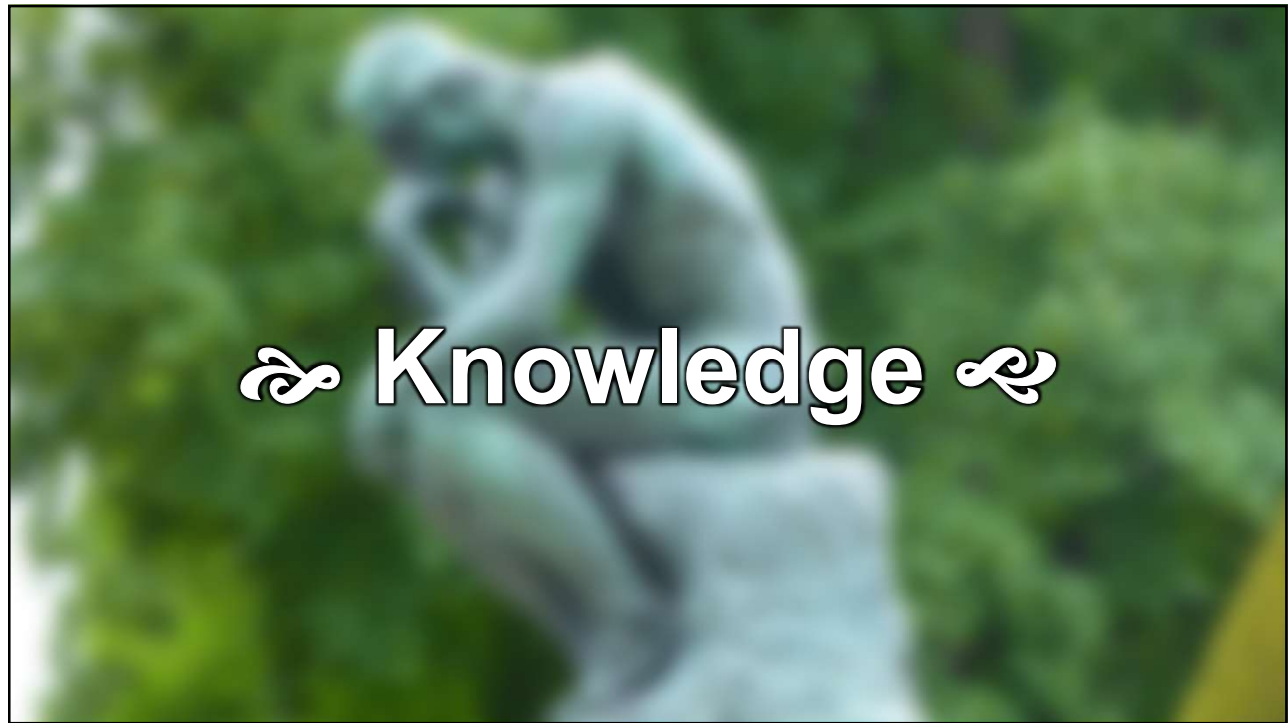
***Christianity is  
grounded in history.***

***Christianity is  
corroborated by science.***

***Christianity is  
supported by  
philosophy.***

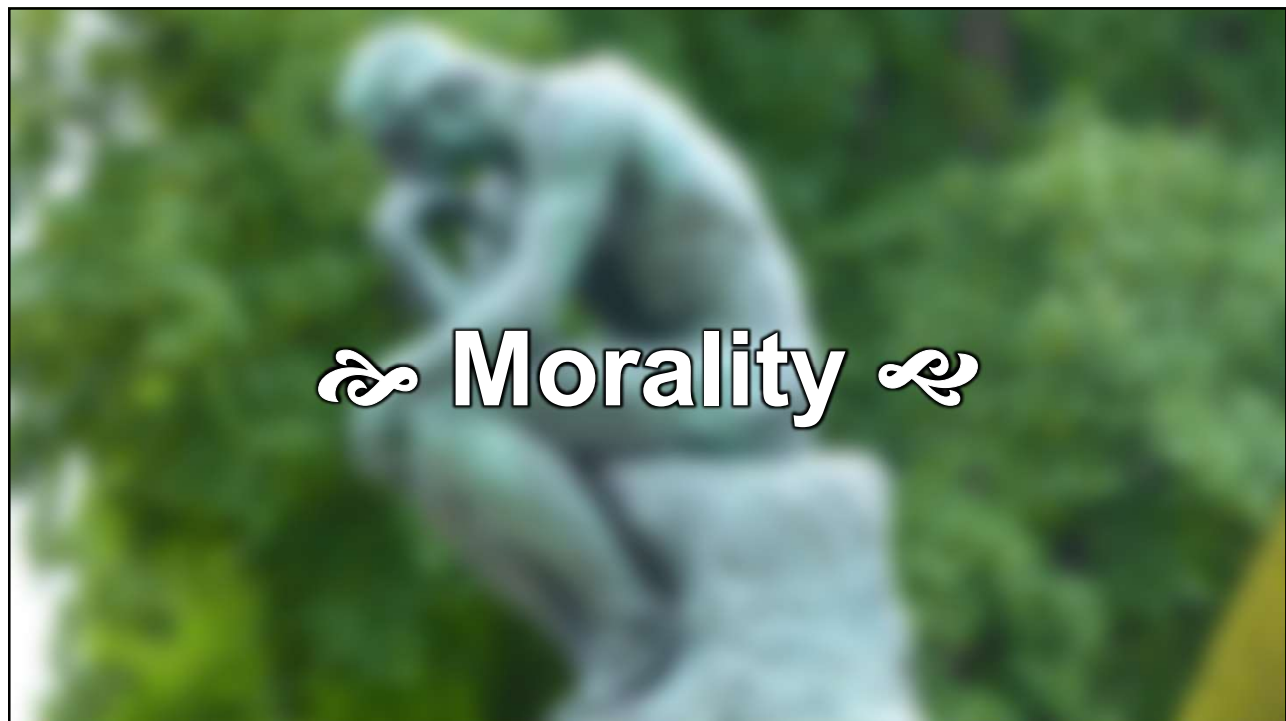
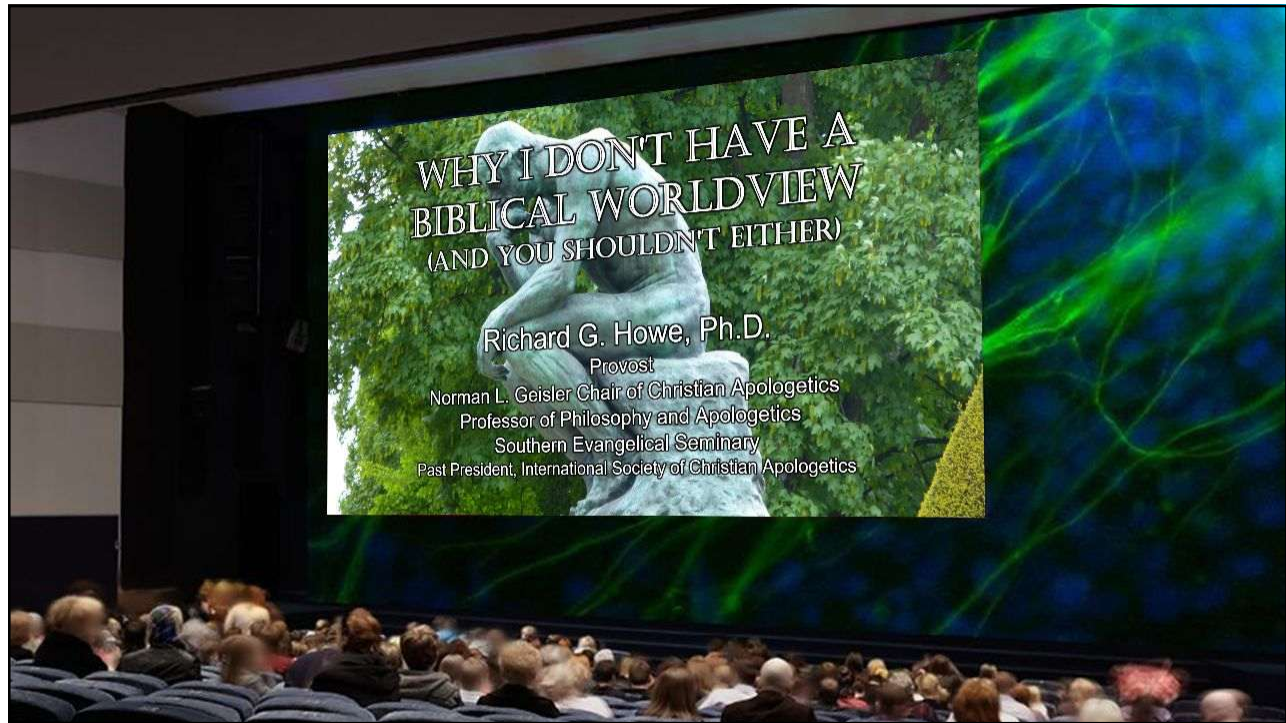


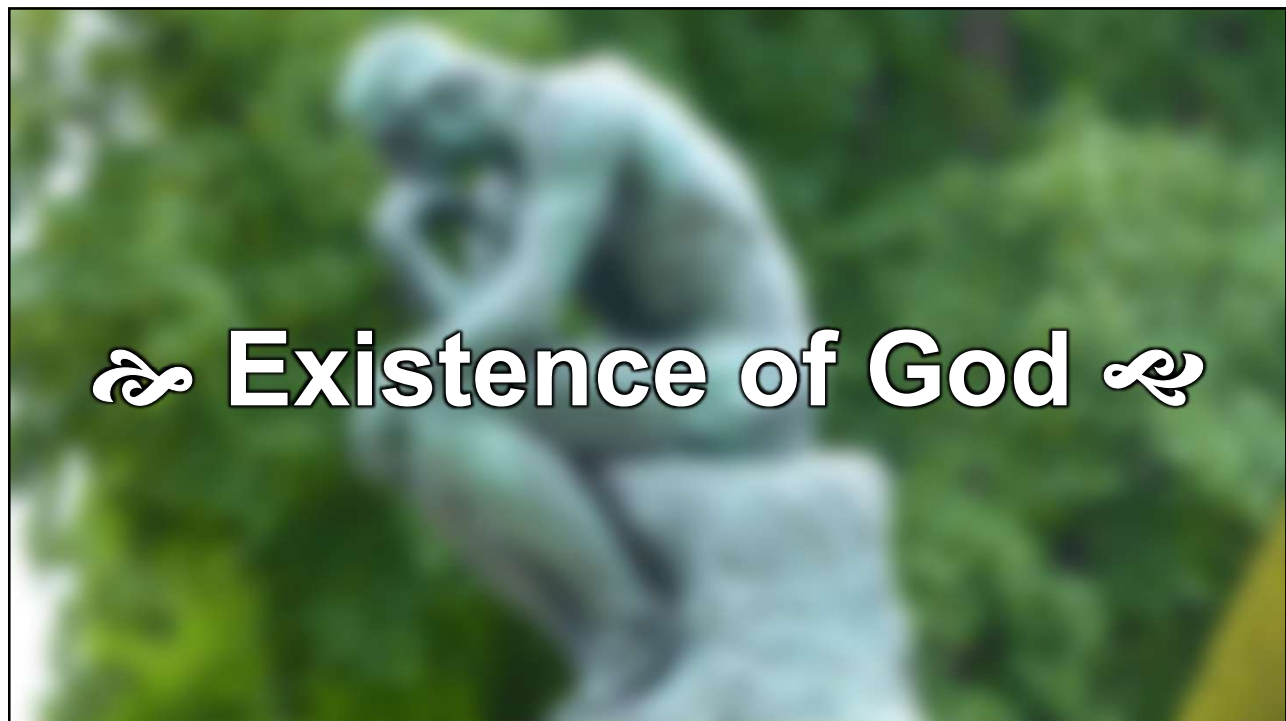
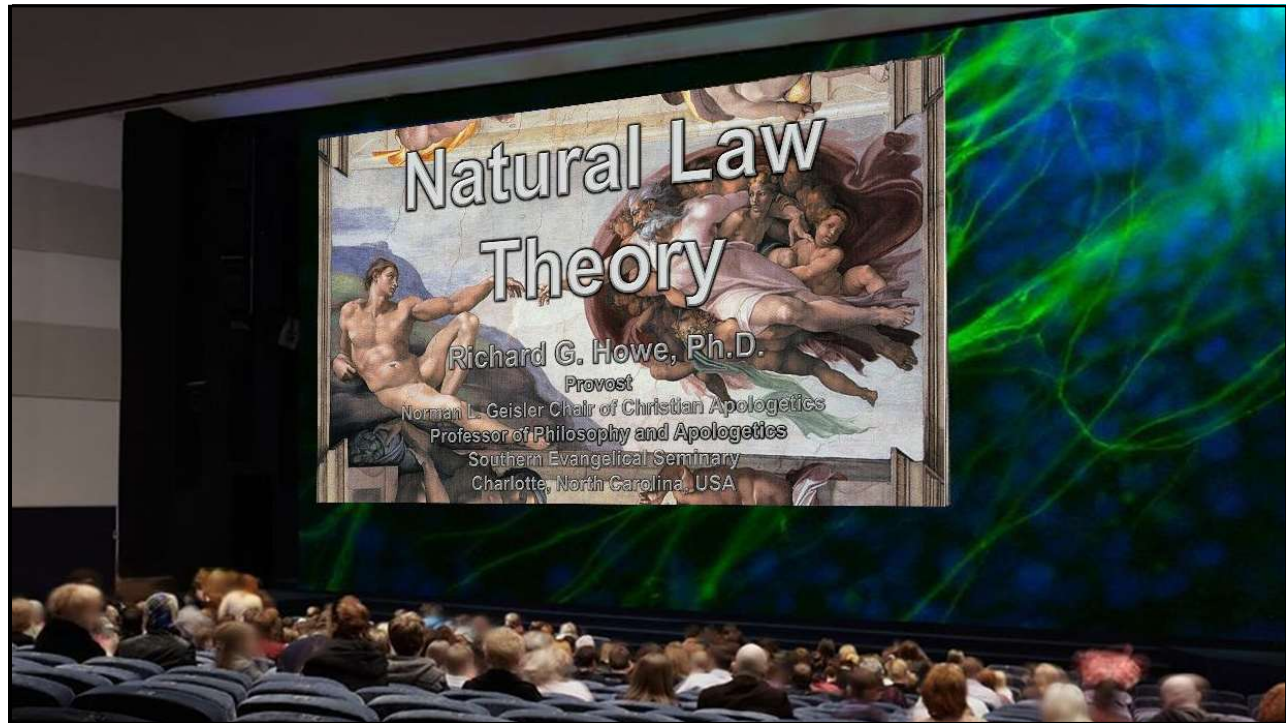




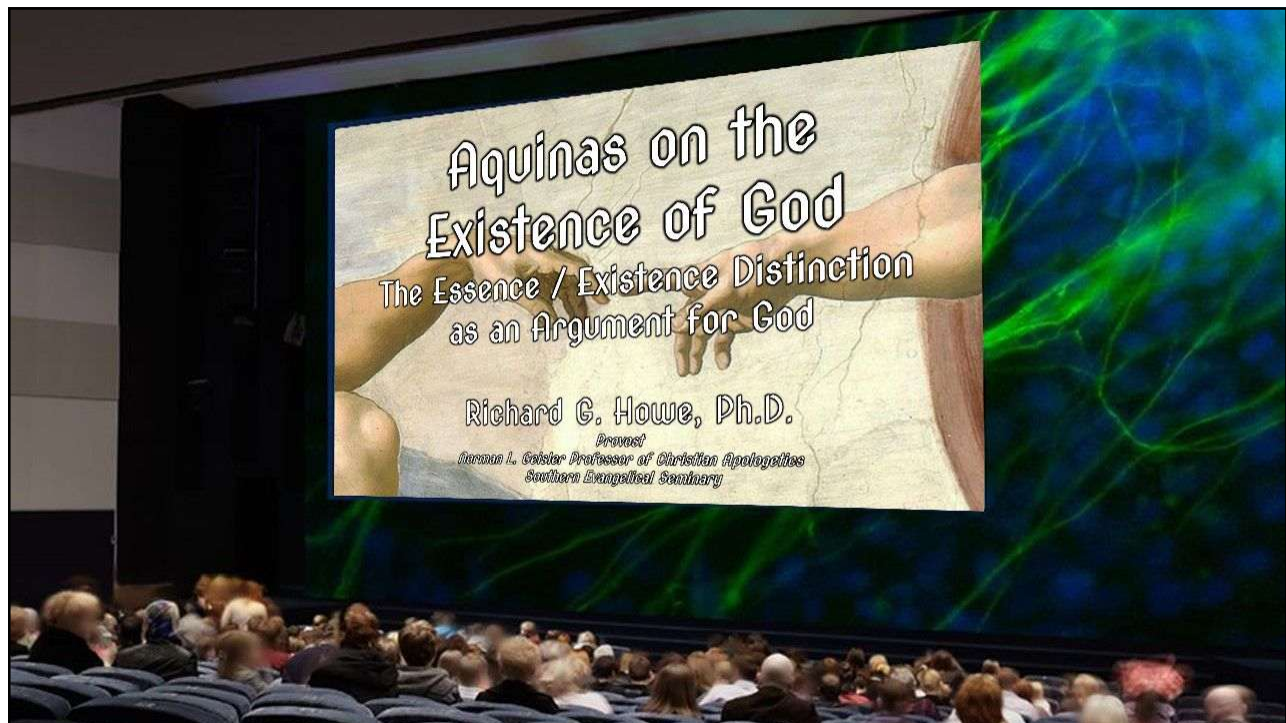
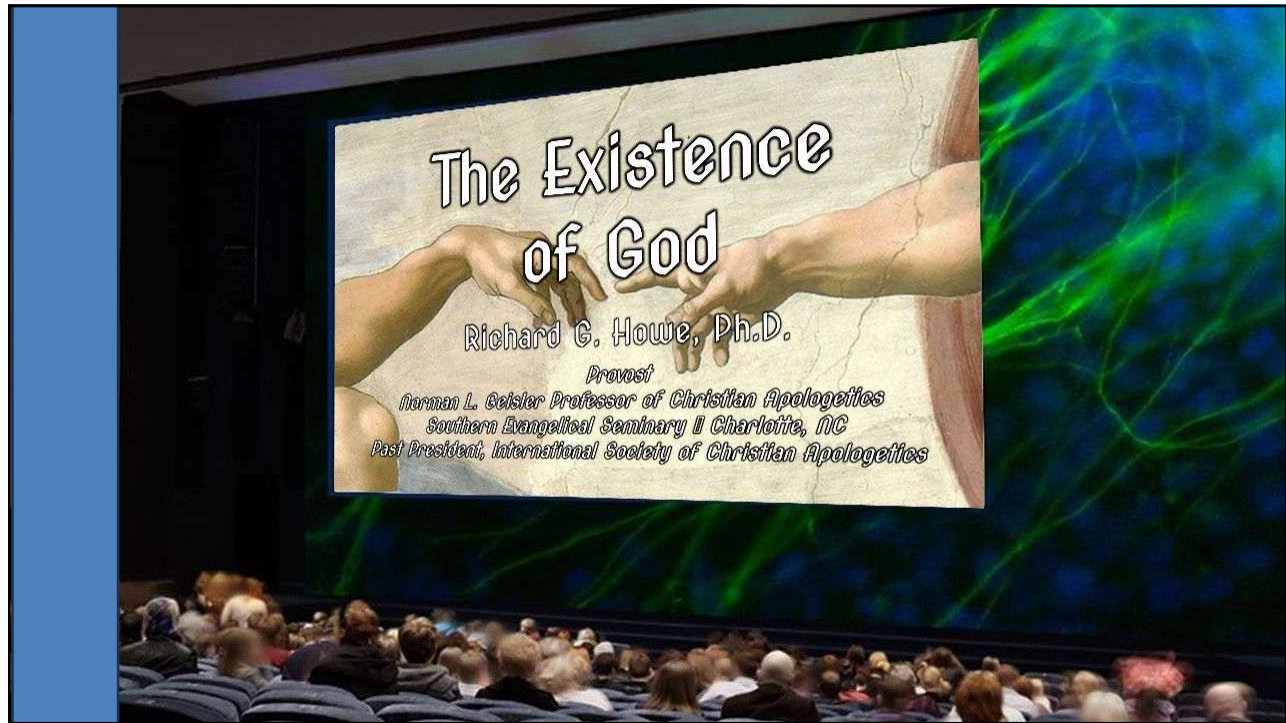


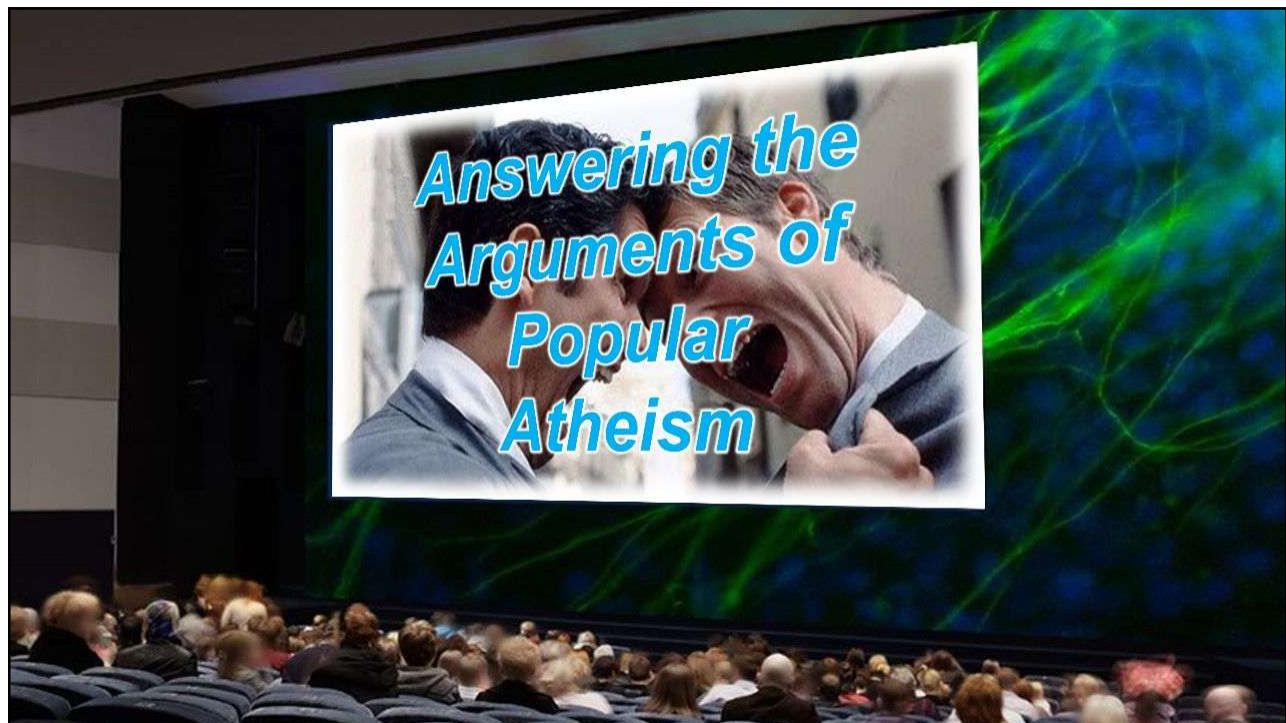
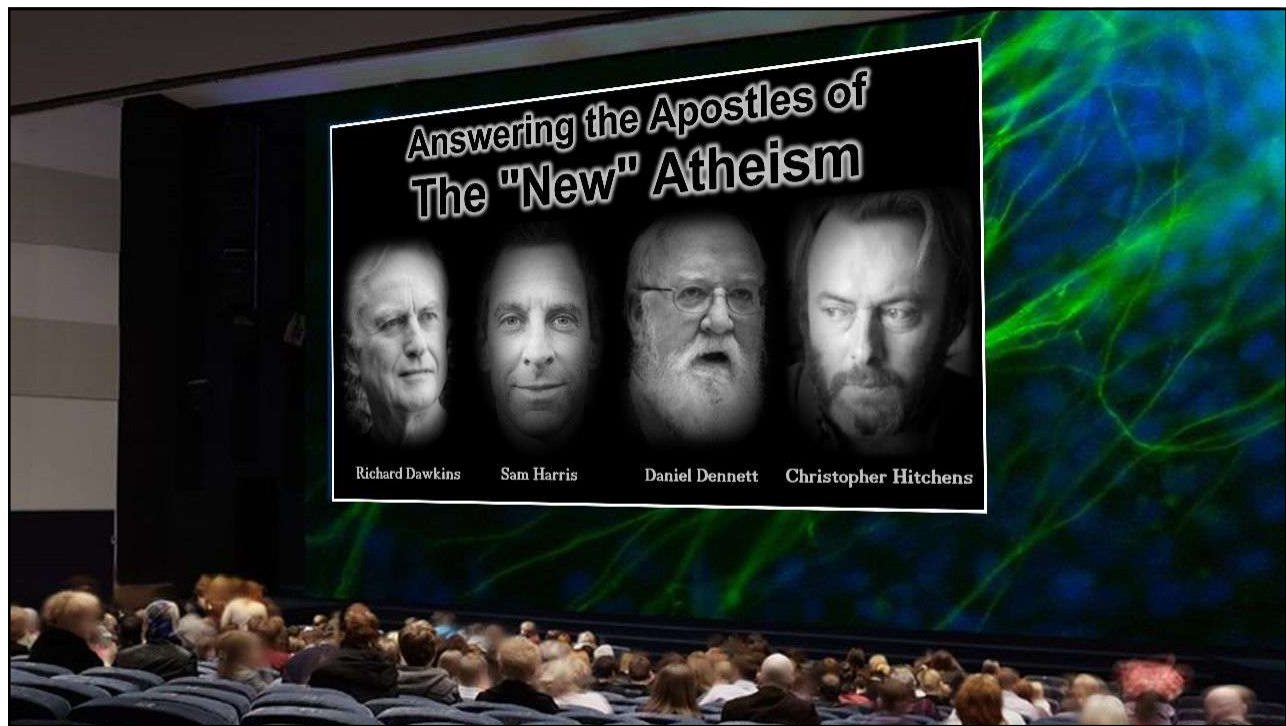




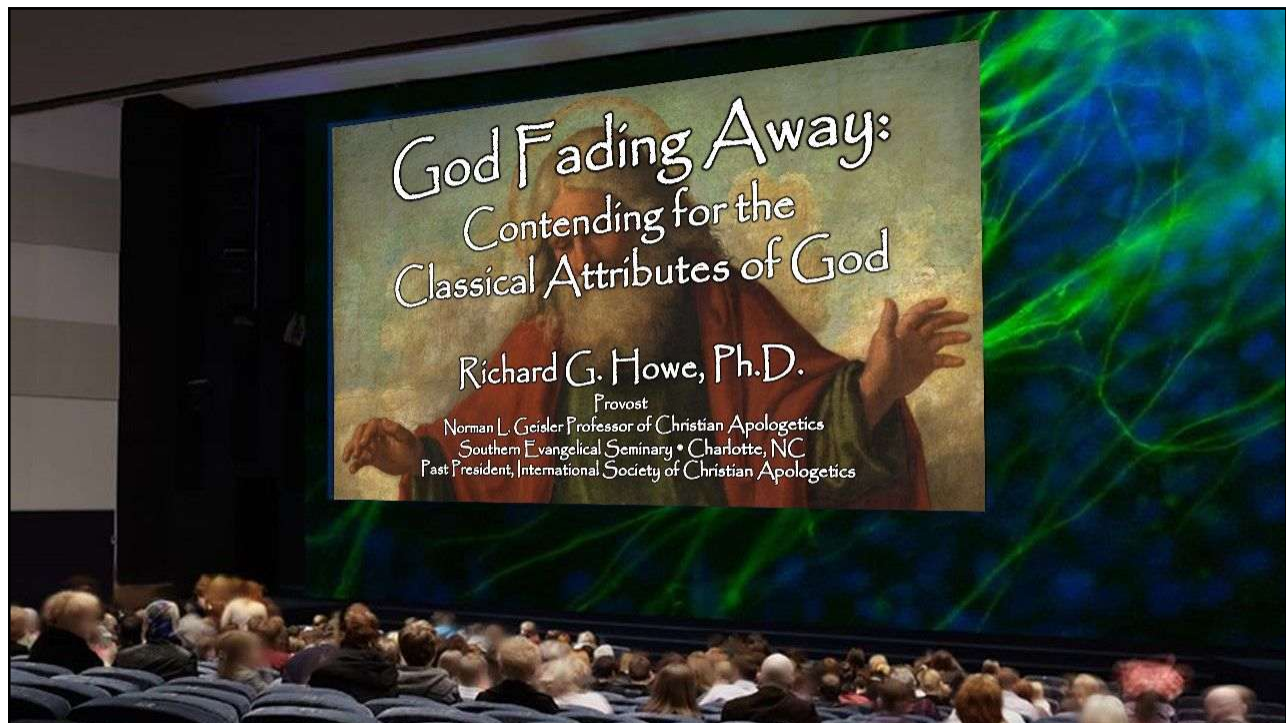
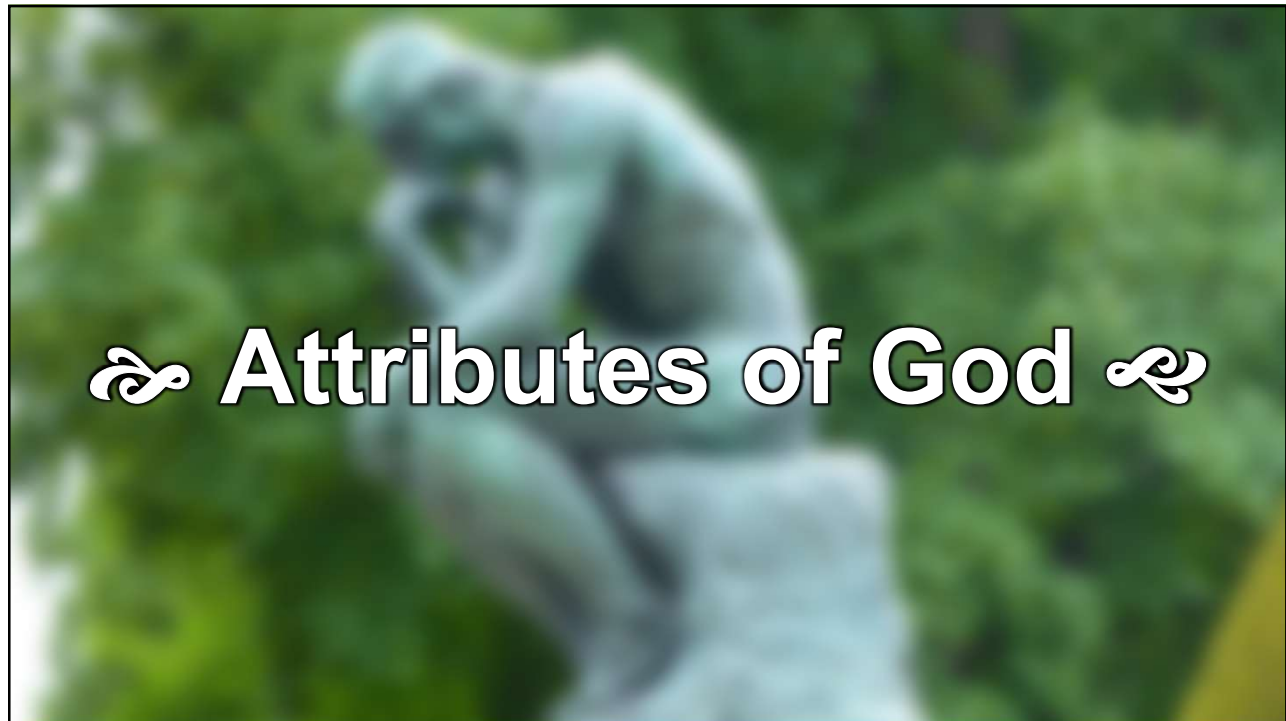


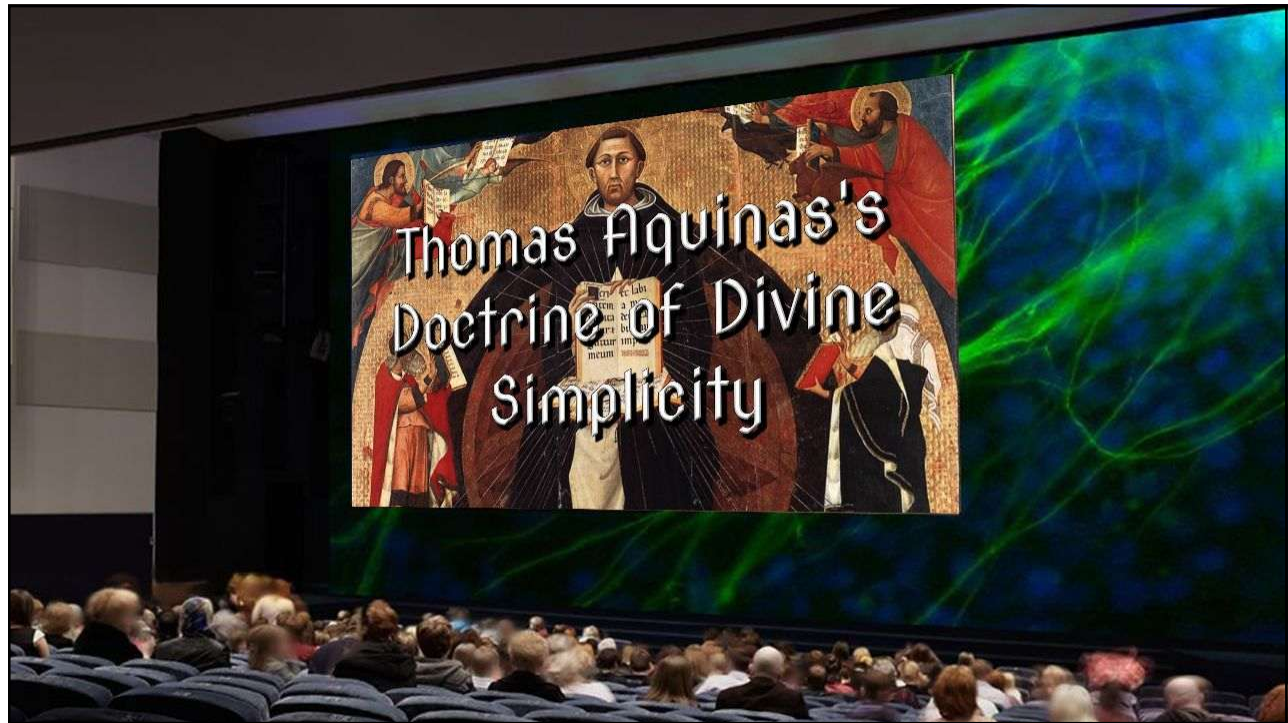




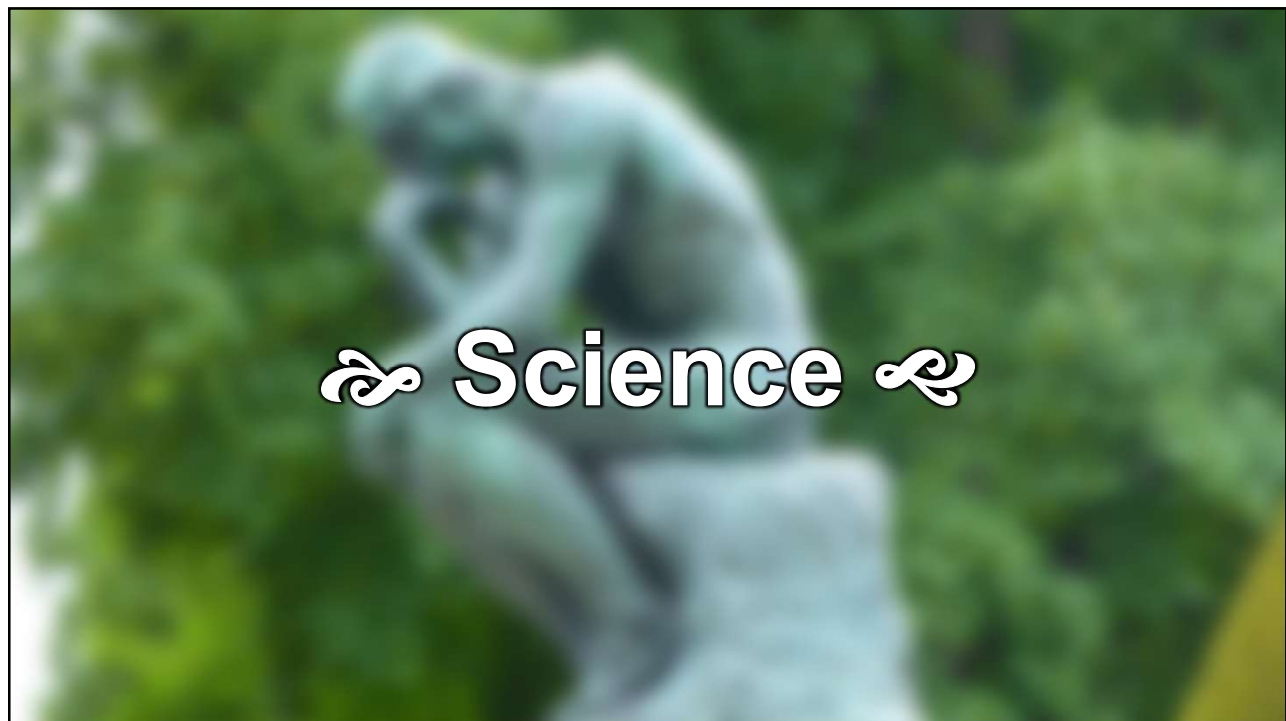
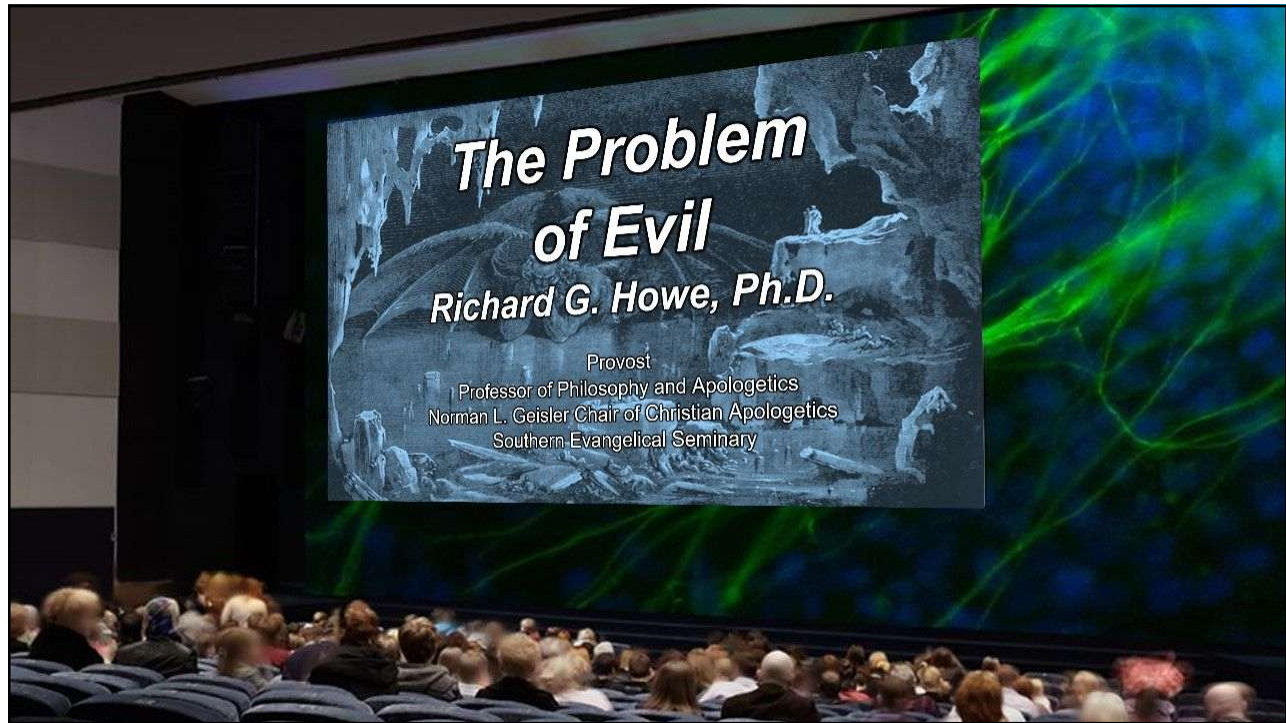


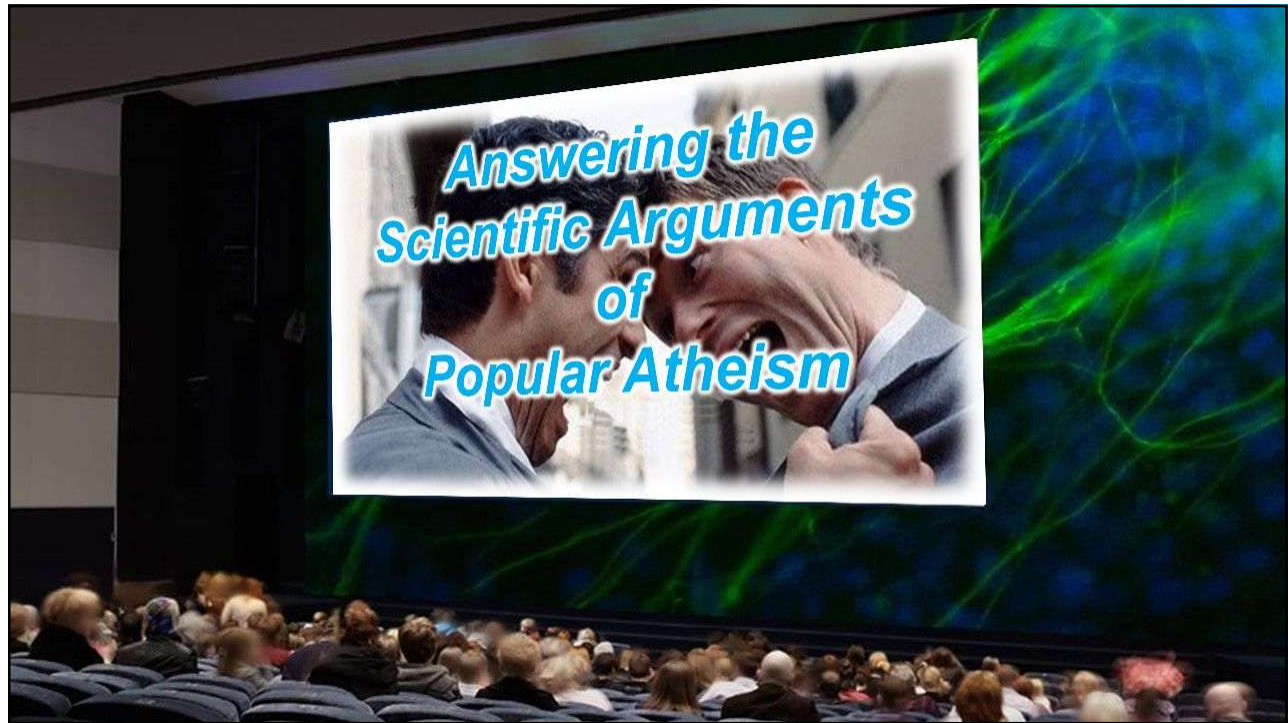












***Christianity is  
grounded in history.***





# ***Eyewitness Testimony***



***"For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty."***

***2 Peter 1:16***



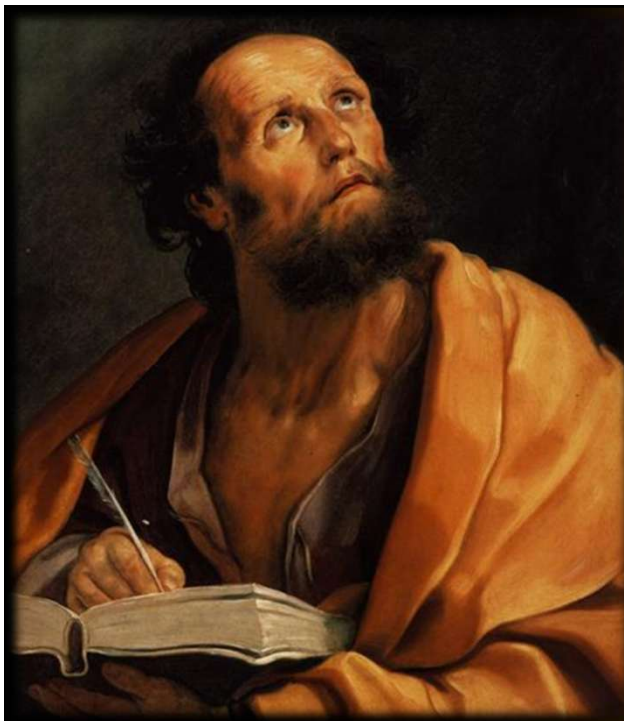
***"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life; the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness,***



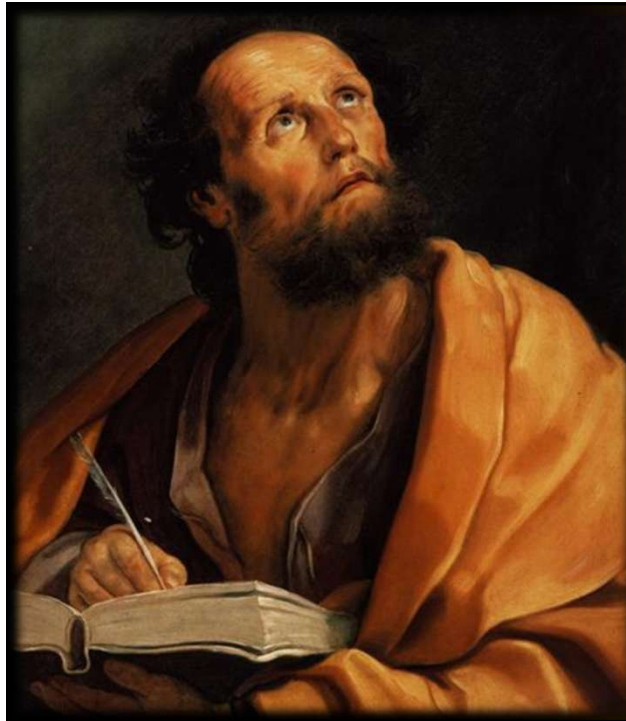


***"and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us; that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ."***

***1 John 1:1-3***

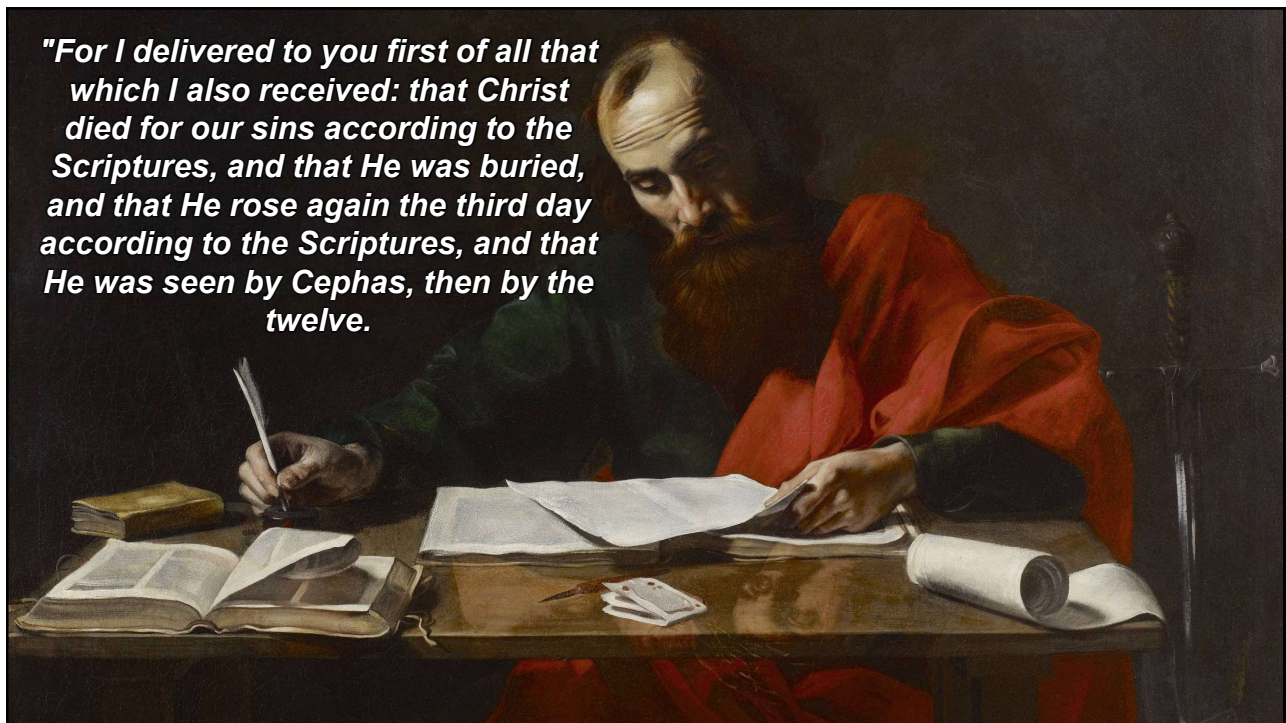


***"Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which are most surely believed among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us,***



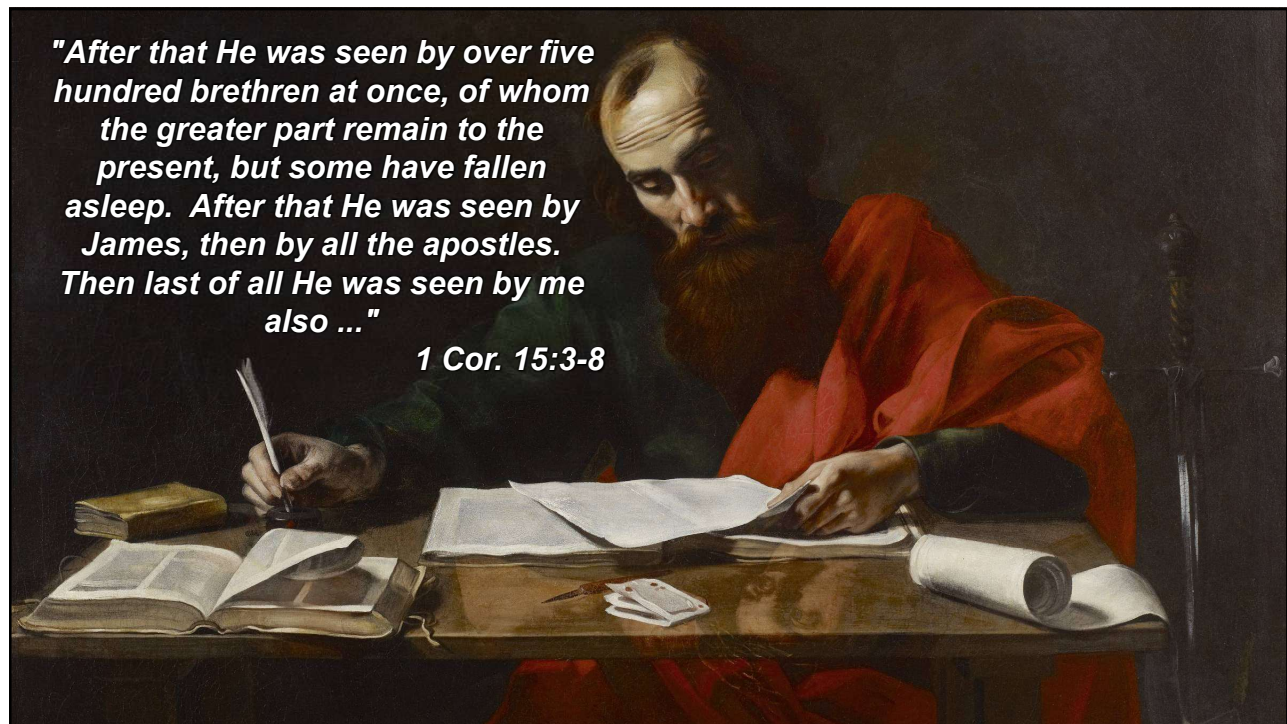
***"it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed."***

***Luke 1:1-4***



***"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve."***





*"After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also ..."*

*1 Cor. 15:3-8*

**Notice the Argument of  
1 Cor. 15**

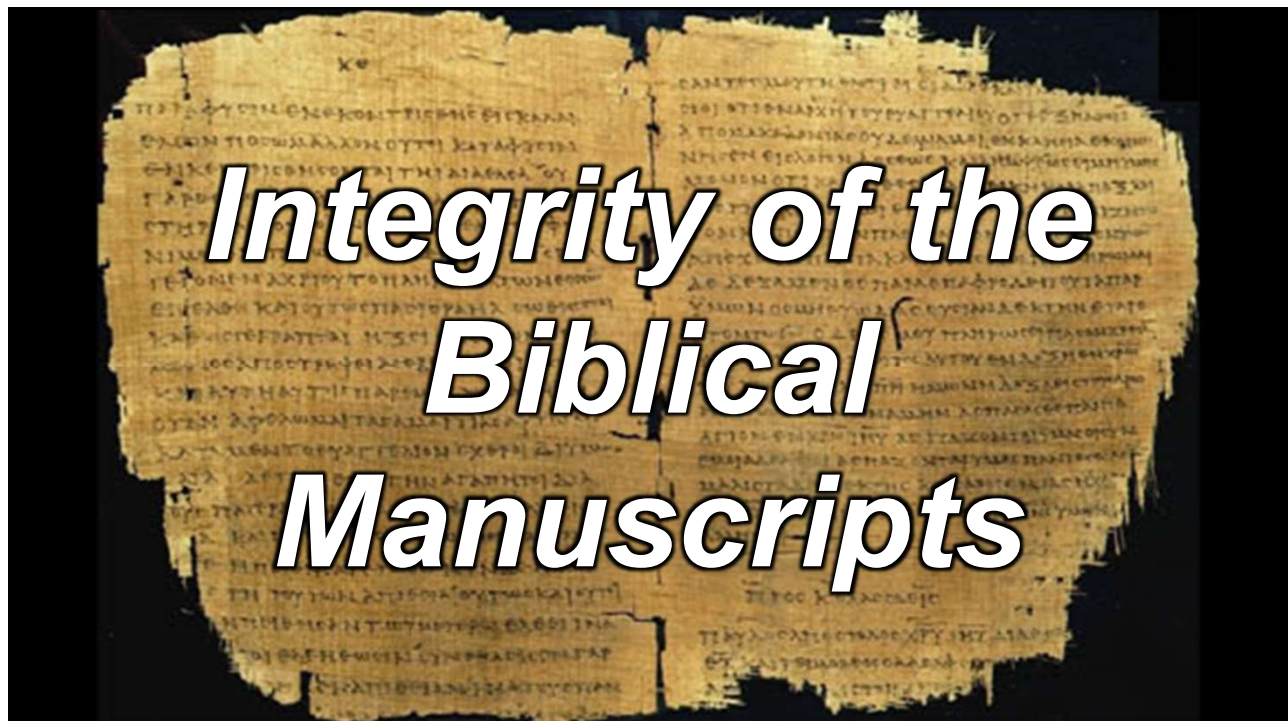
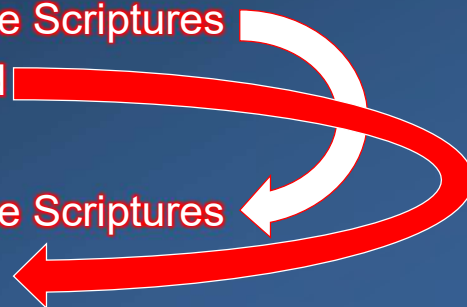
*"... Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen ..."*

❖ Christ Died

- according to the Scriptures
- and was buried

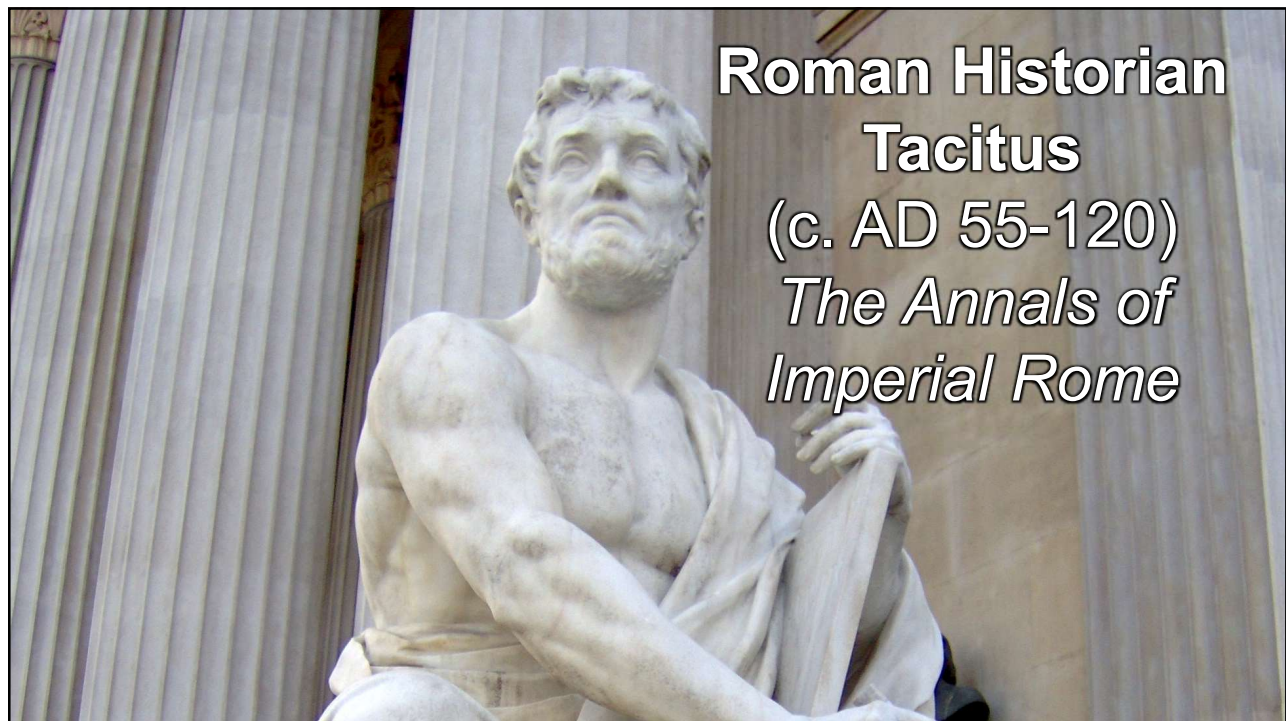
❖ Christ Rose

- according to the Scriptures
- and was seen



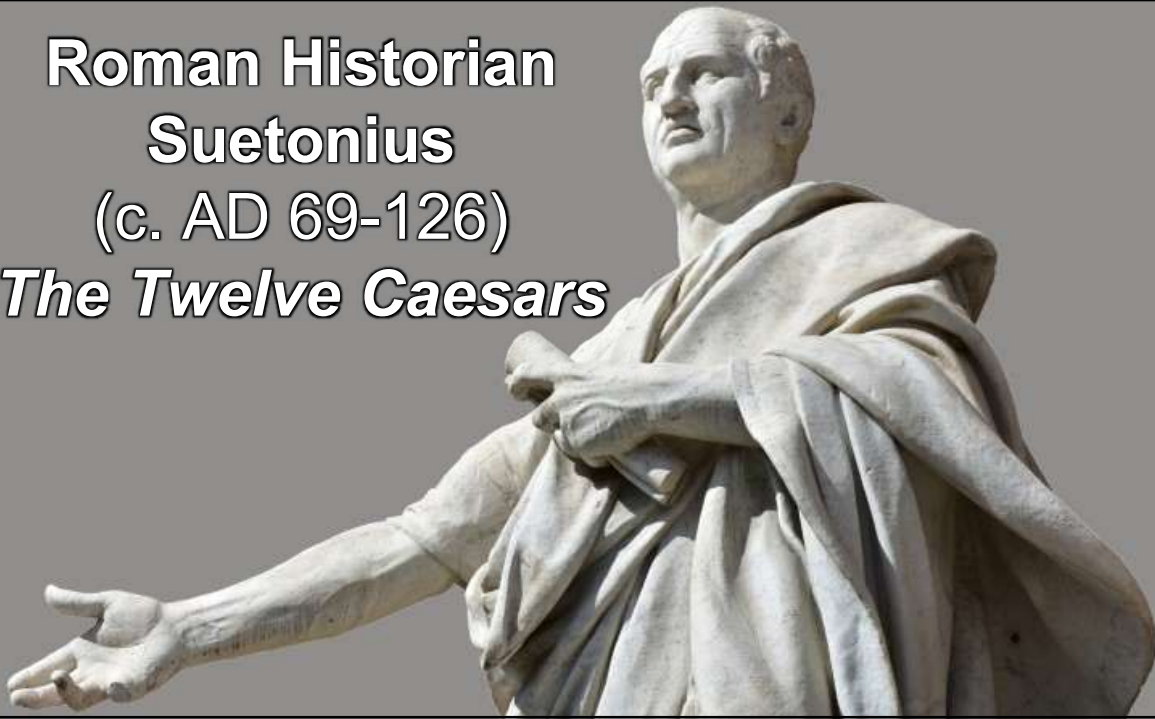


# ***References Outside the Bible to Biblical People, Places, and Events***

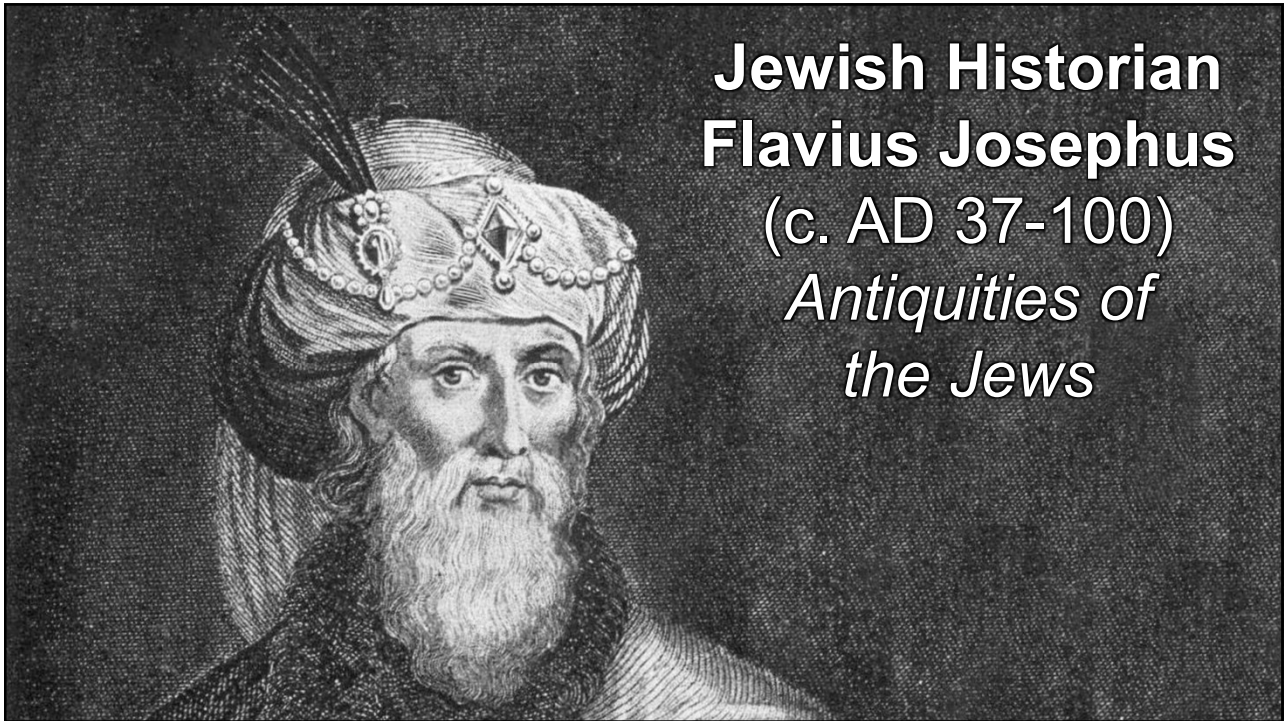


**Roman Historian  
Tacitus**  
(c. AD 55-120)  
*The Annals of  
Imperial Rome*

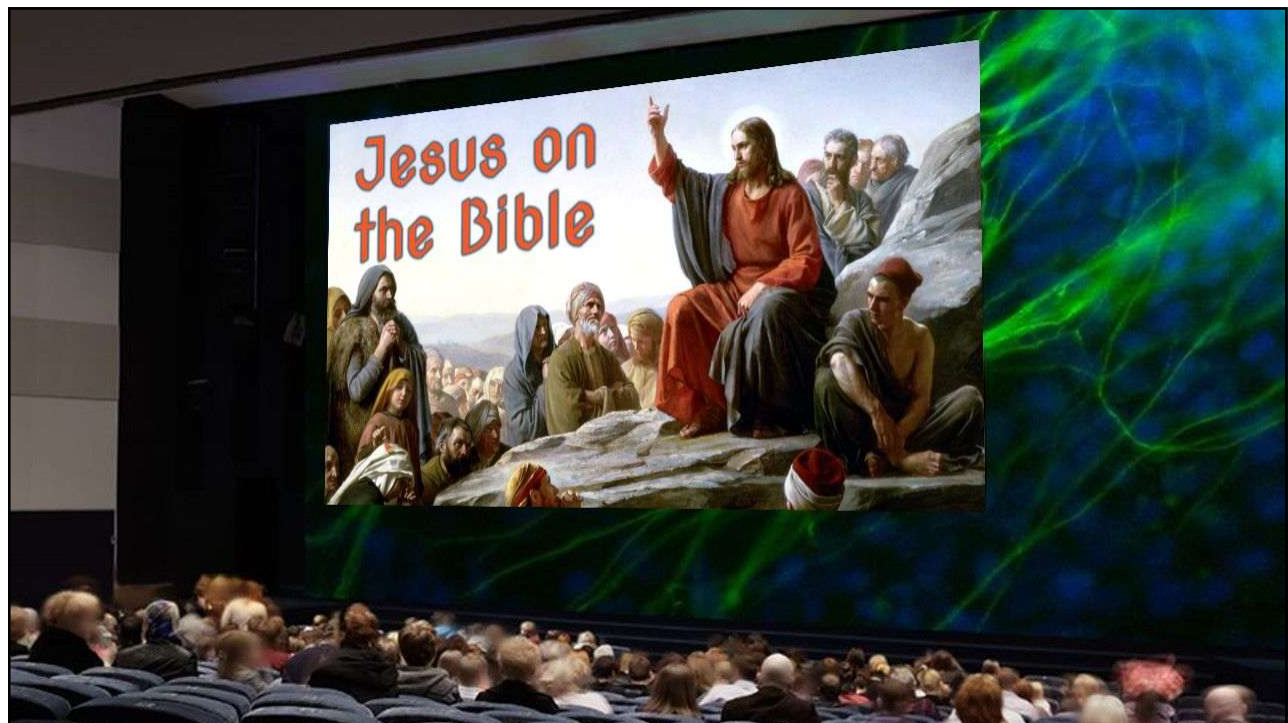
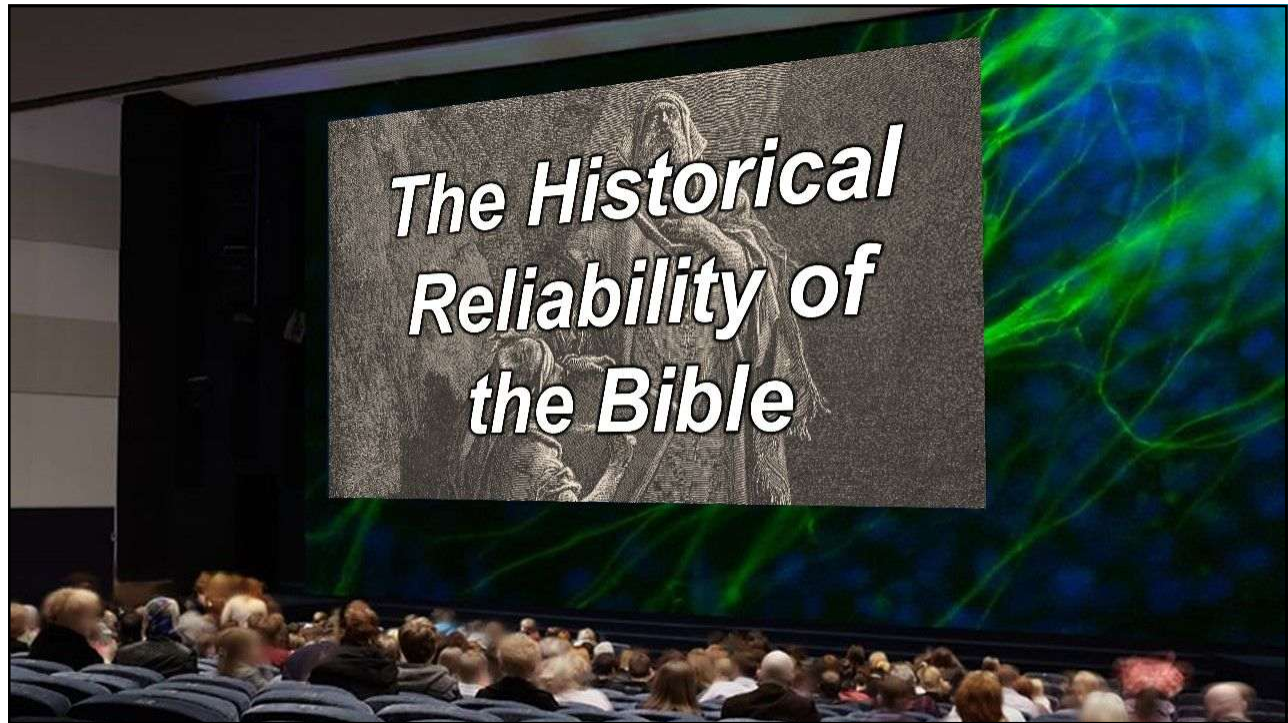
**Roman Historian  
Suetonius**  
(c. AD 69-126)  
*The Twelve Caesars*



**Jewish Historian  
Flavius Josephus**  
(c. AD 37-100)  
*Antiquities of  
the Jews*

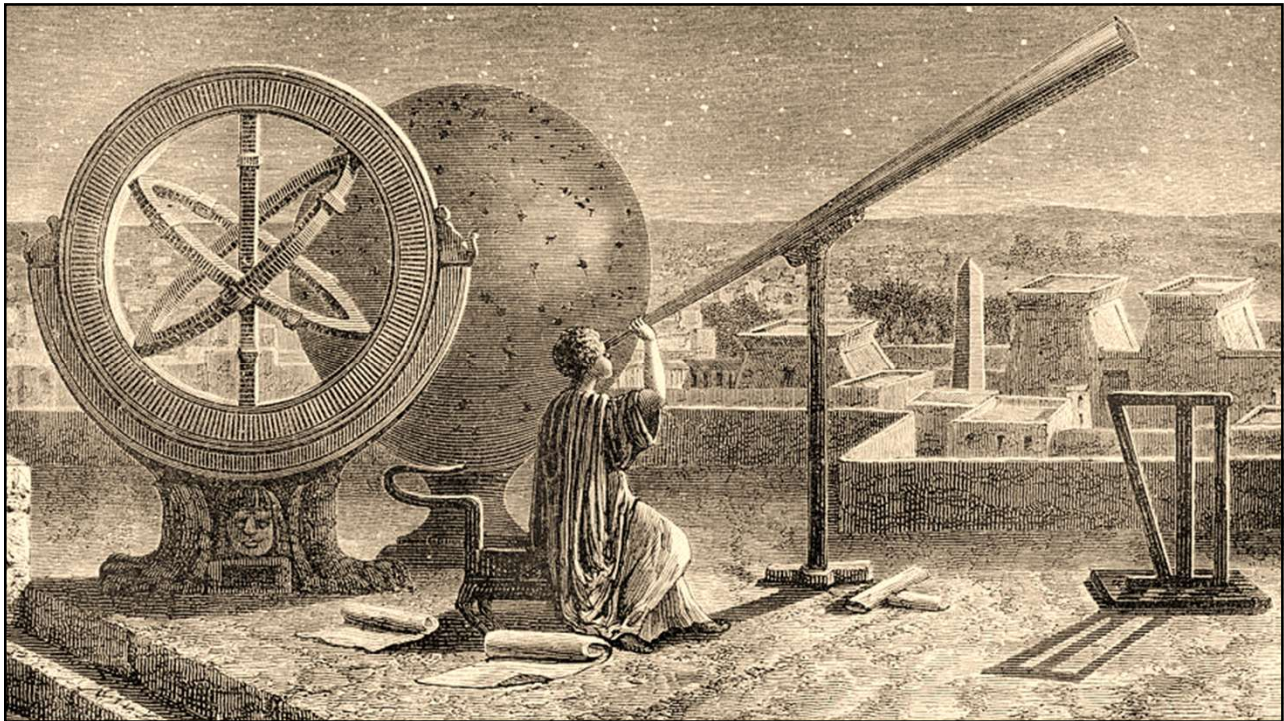




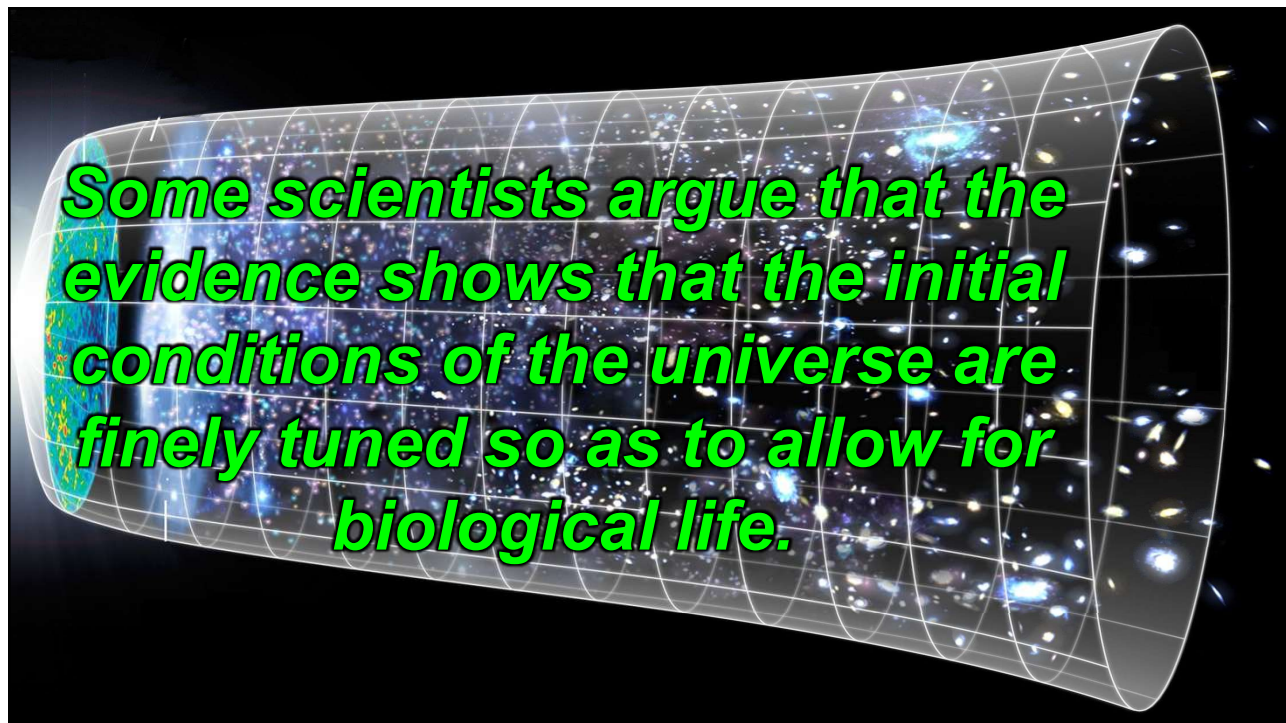
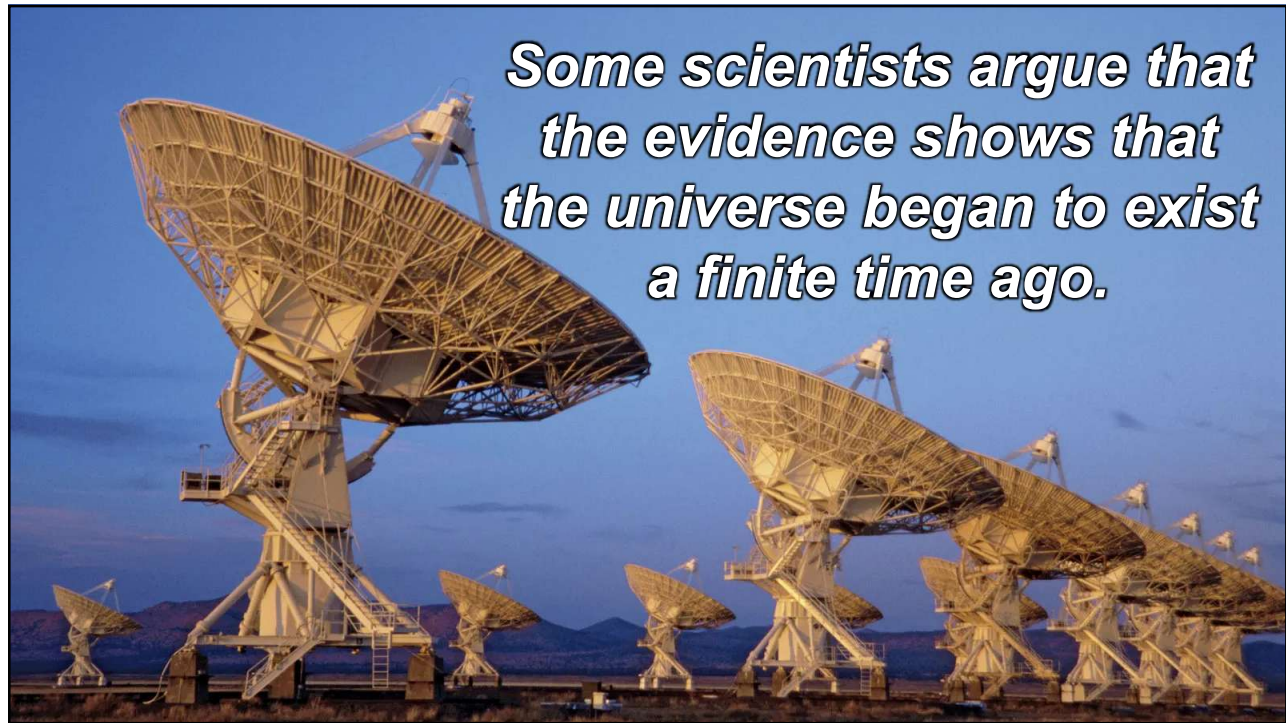


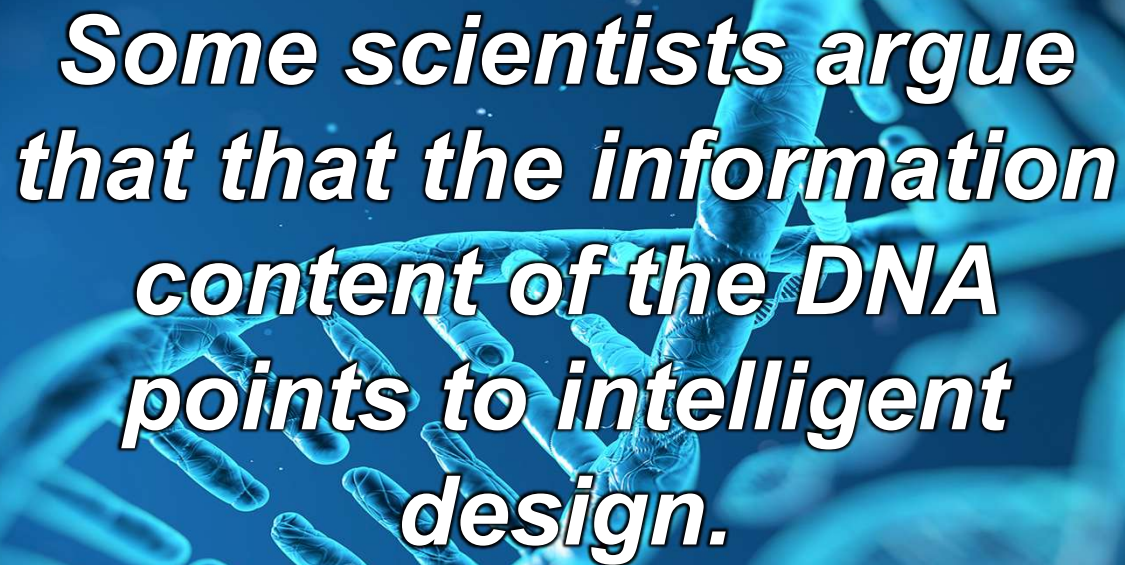


***Christianity is  
corroborated by  
science.***

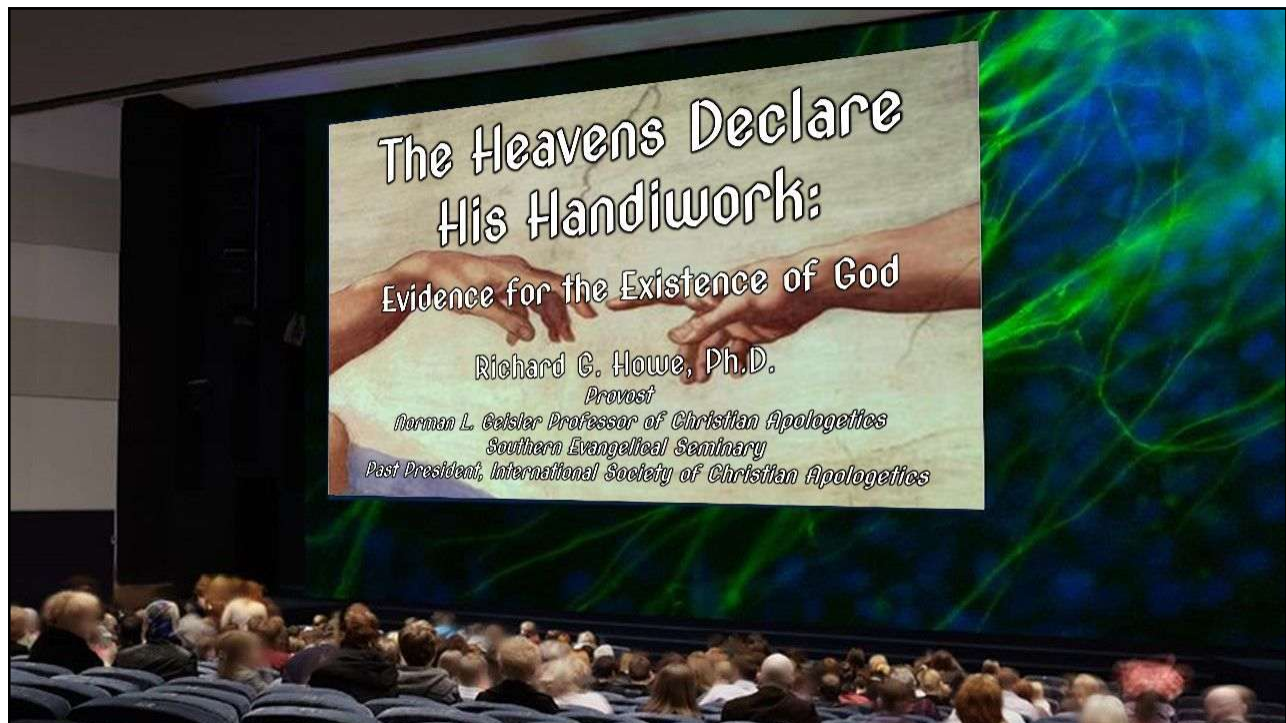




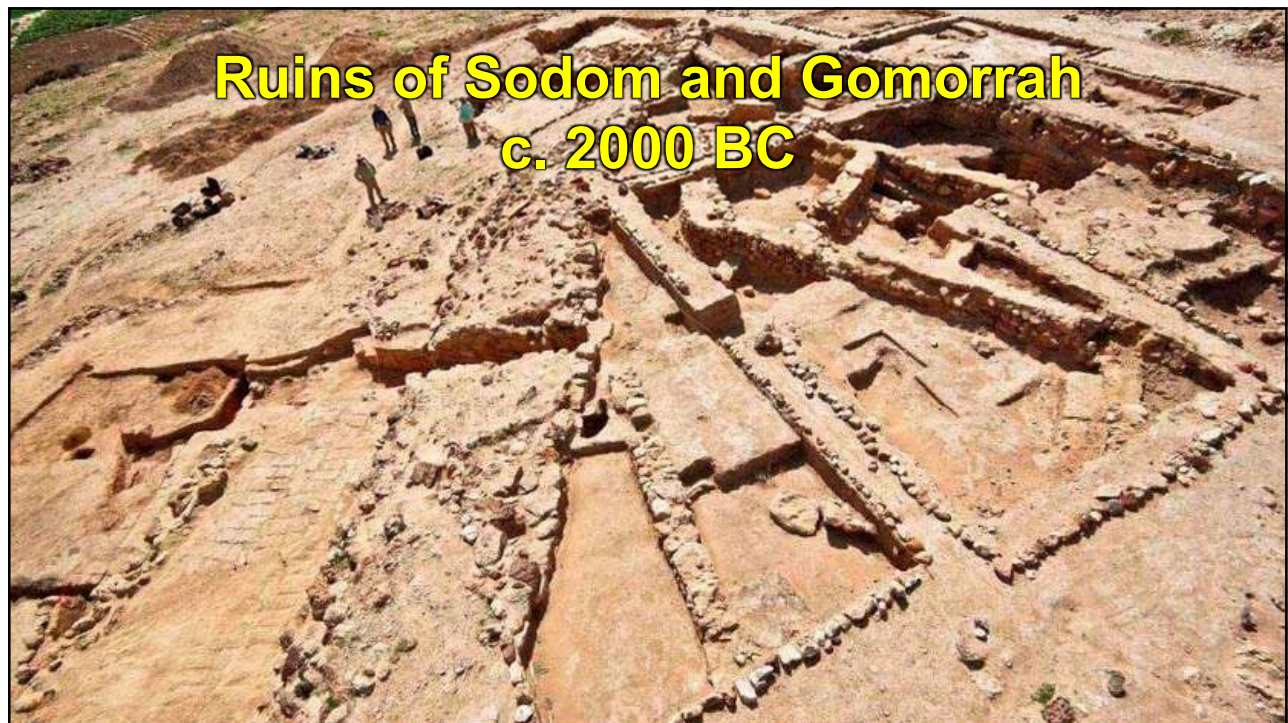
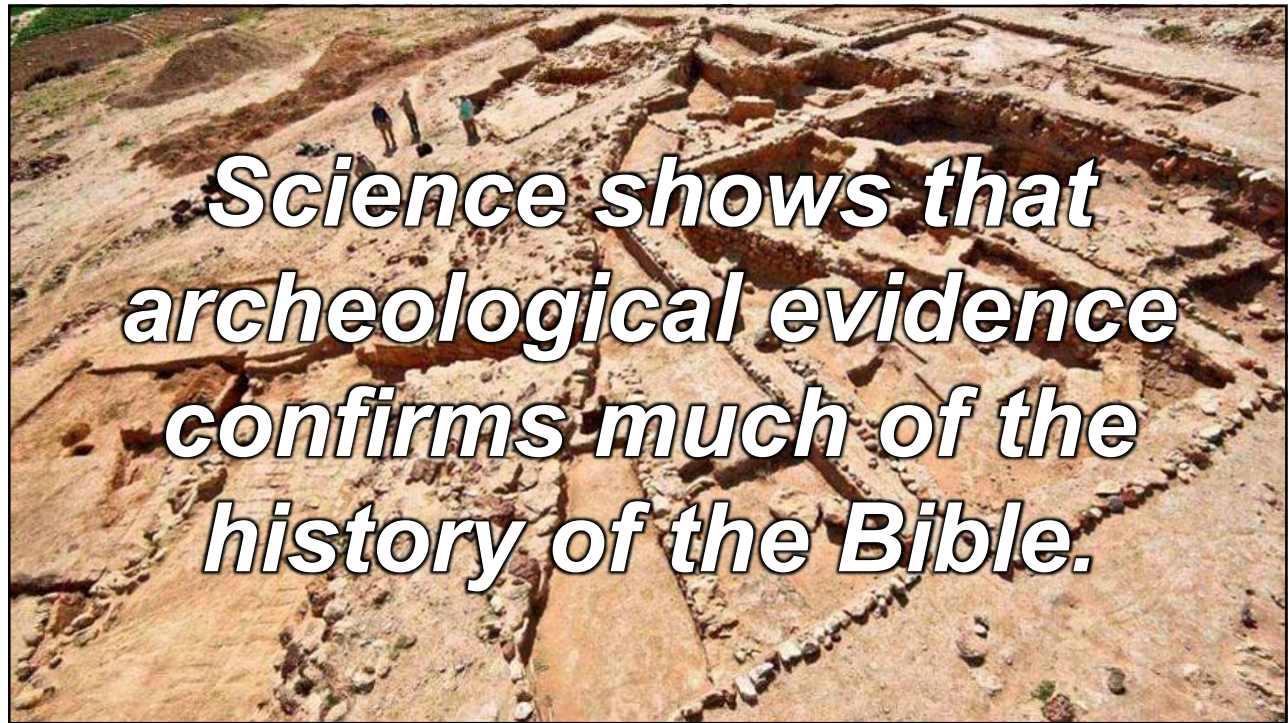




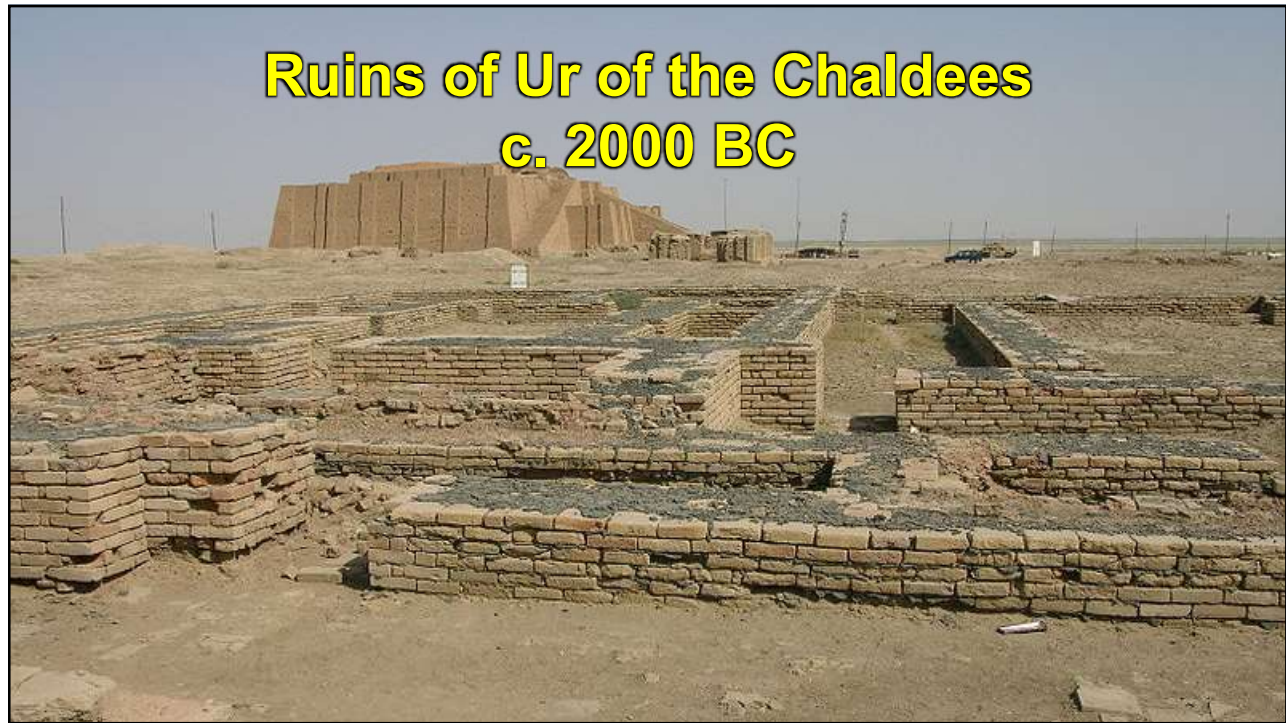
***Some scientists argue  
that that the information  
content of the DNA  
points to intelligent  
design.***









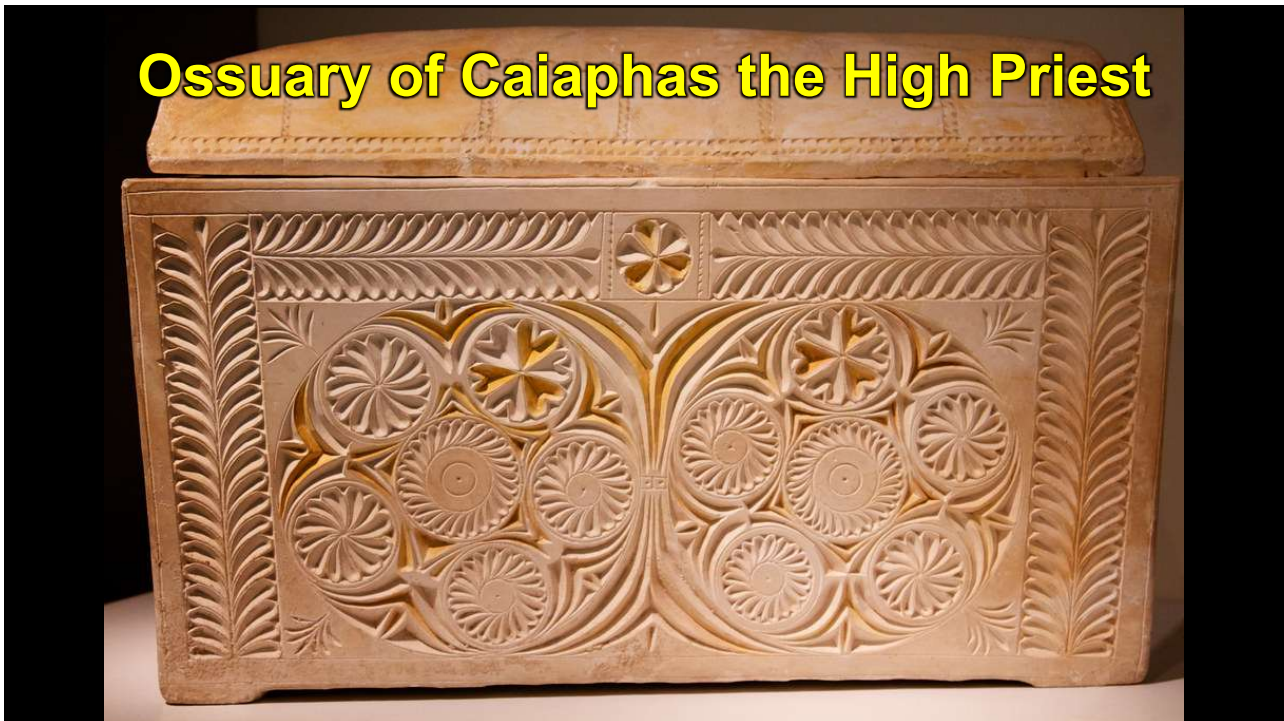




**Ruins of the Pool of Siloam (John 9)**



**Ossuary of Caiaphas the High Priest**



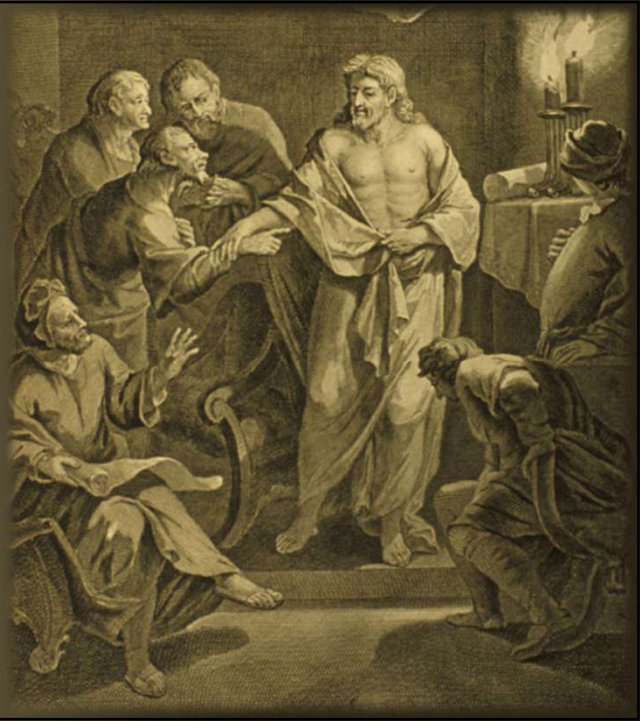






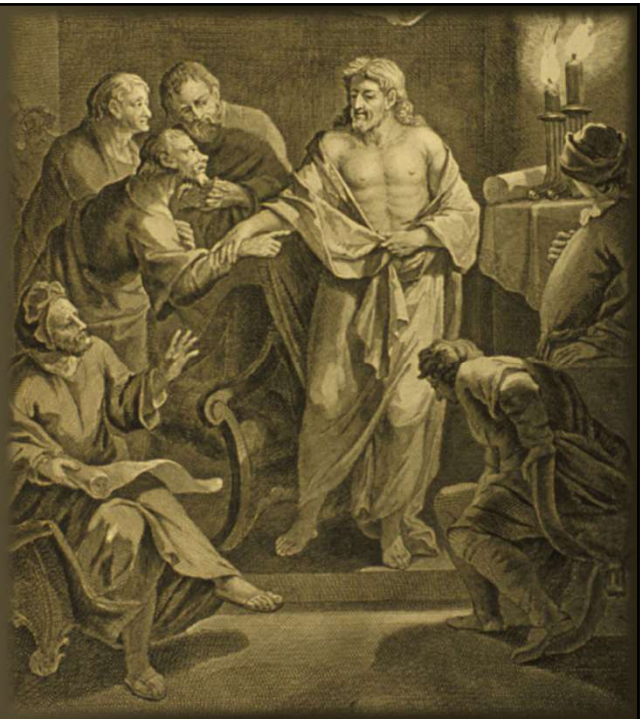
🌀 John 20:24-31 🌀

*Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."*



🌀 John 20:24-31 🌀

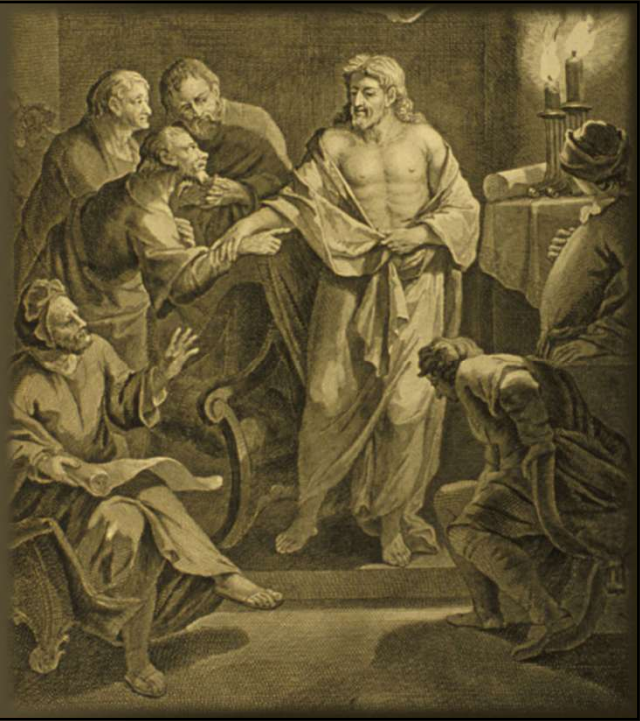
*And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."*





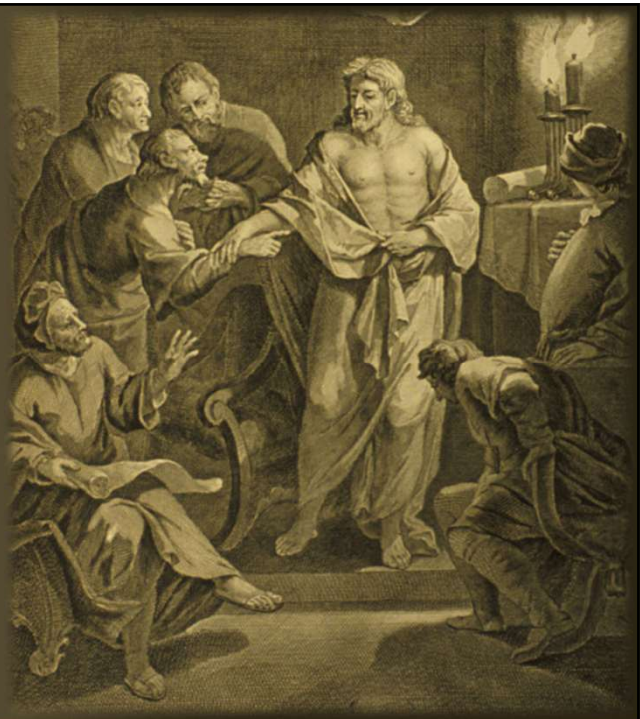
✠ John 20:24-31 ✠

*And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*



✠ John 20:24-31 ✠

*And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*





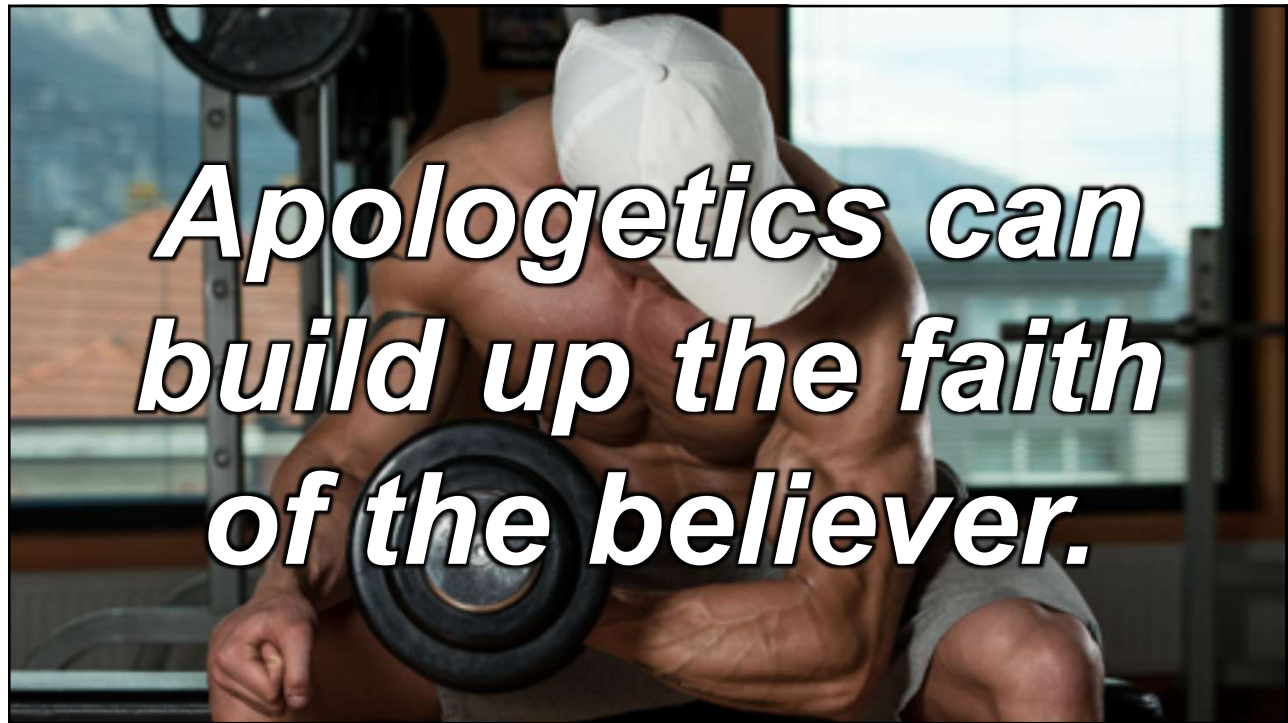


Apologetics  
can expose  
dishonest  
questions.

✠ John 10:24-26 ✠

*Then the Jews surrounded Him and said to Him, "How long do You keep us in doubt? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly." {25} Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. {26} But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you.*





≈ Acts 18:24, 26-28 ≈

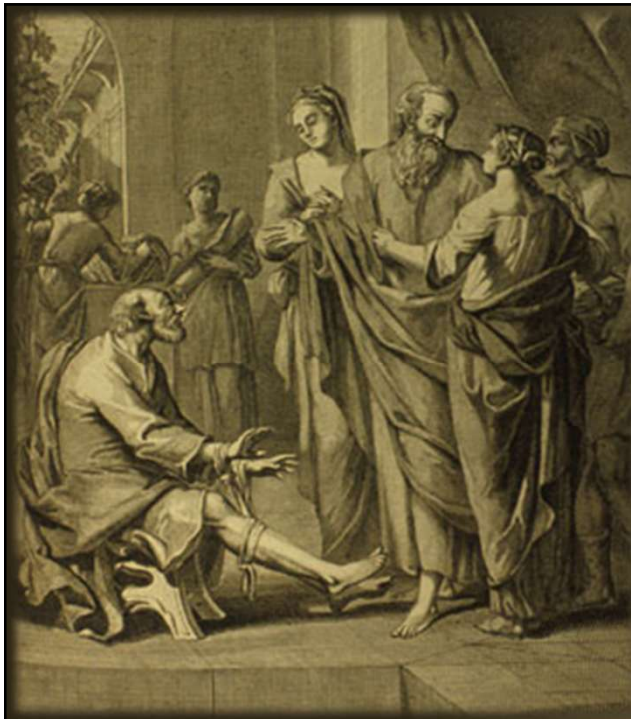
*"Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. ... So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately."*





☞ Acts 18:24, 26-28 ☞

*"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, 26-28 ☞

*"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, 26-28 ☞

*"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.**"*



***What Apologetics  
Can't Do***




➤ *Apologetics can't change the heart.*



*Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.*

Acts 16:14



*Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. **The Lord opened her heart** to heed the things spoken by Paul.*

Acts 16:14



- *Apologetics can't change the heart.*
- *Apologetics can't make everyone believe.*

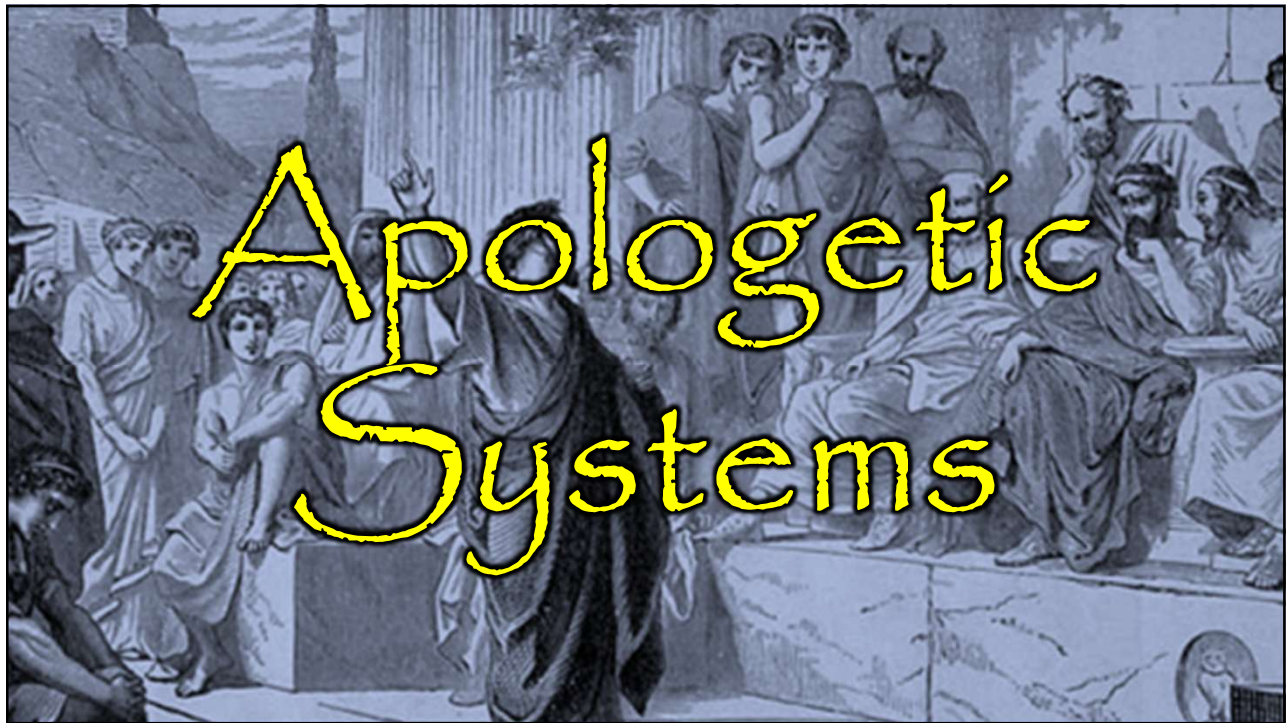


***"And some were persuaded  
by the things which were  
spoken, and some  
disbelieved."***

Acts 28:24



- *Apologetics can't change the heart.*
- *Apologetics can't make everyone believe.*
- *Apologetics can't settle every doctrinal issue.*



***Classical Apologetics***  
***Evidentialism***  
***Presuppositionalism***  
***Reformed Epistemology***



**DIALOGUE**

**4 VIEWS**

**ON**

**APOLOGETICS**





James White  
*Presuppositionalism*



Randall Rauser  
*Reformed Epistemology*

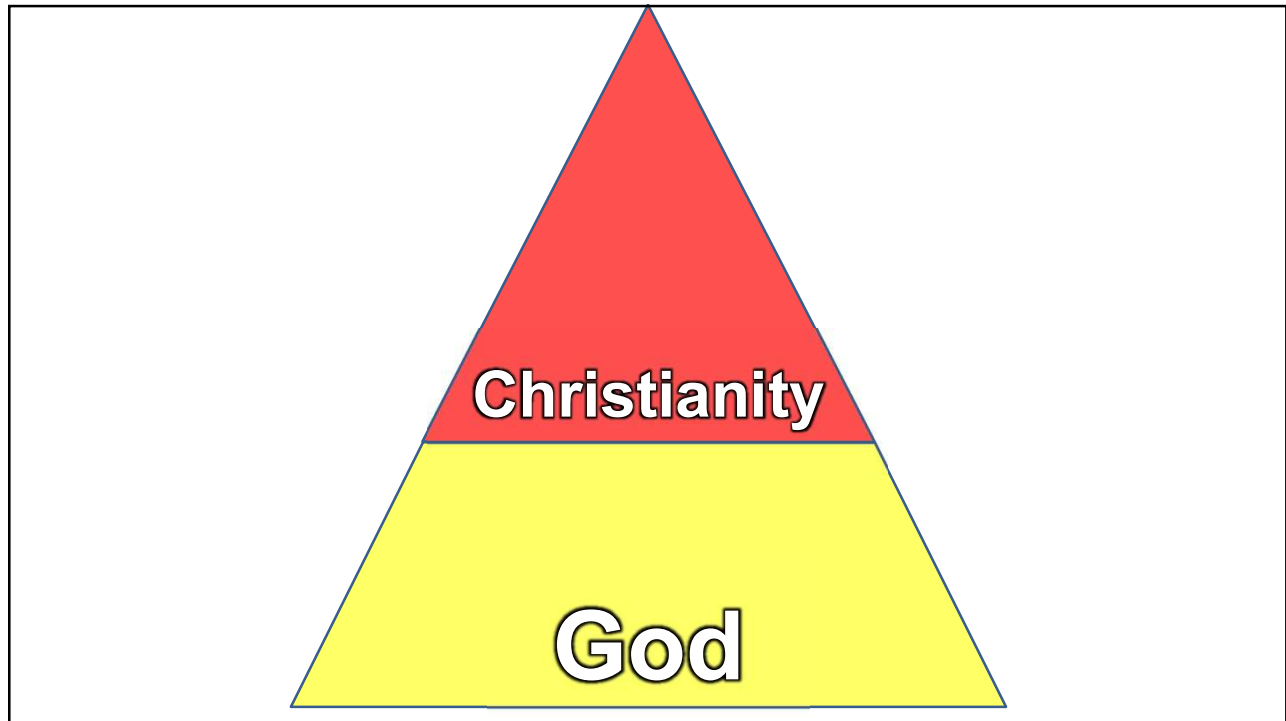


Richard G. Howe  
*Classical Apologetics*

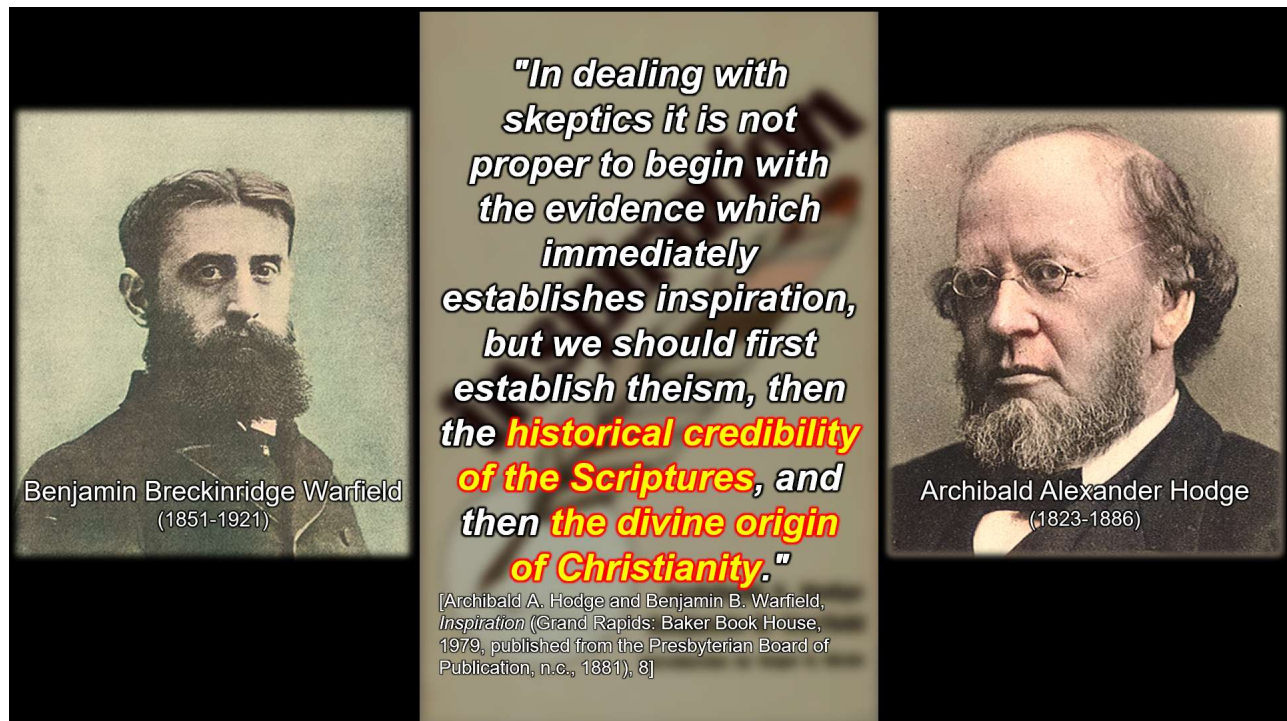
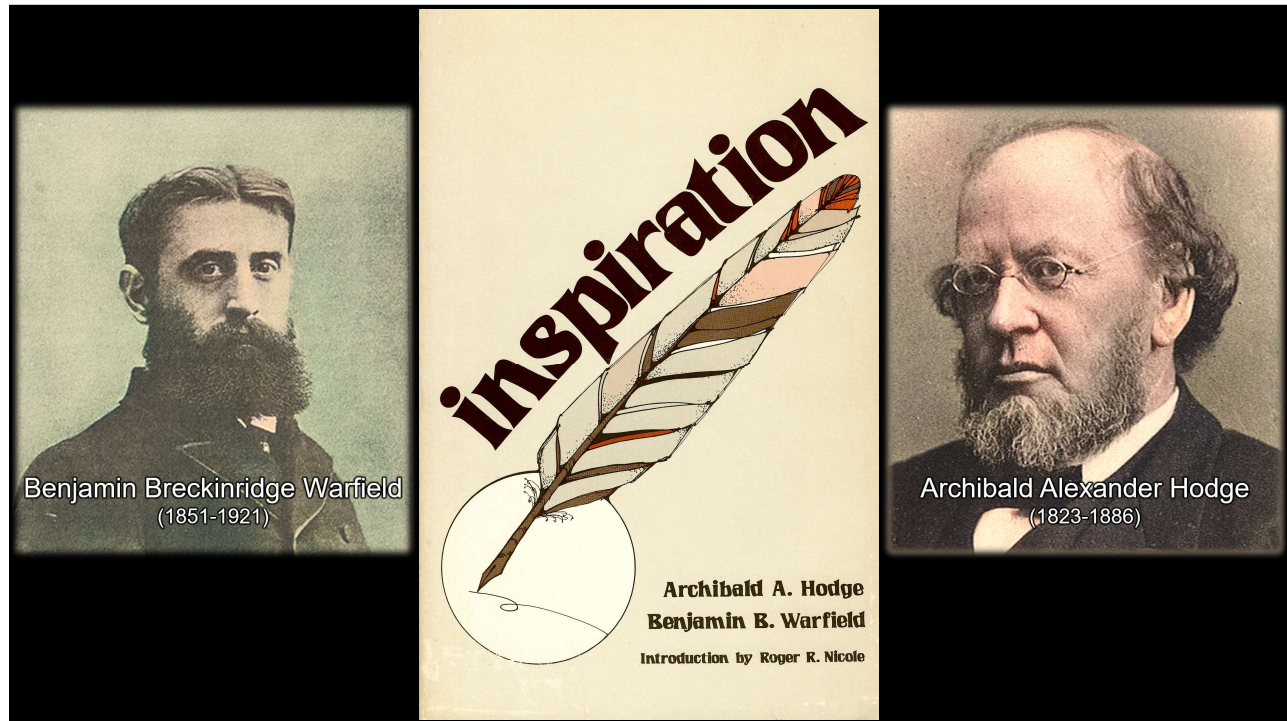


Jonathan McClatchie  
*Evidentialism*









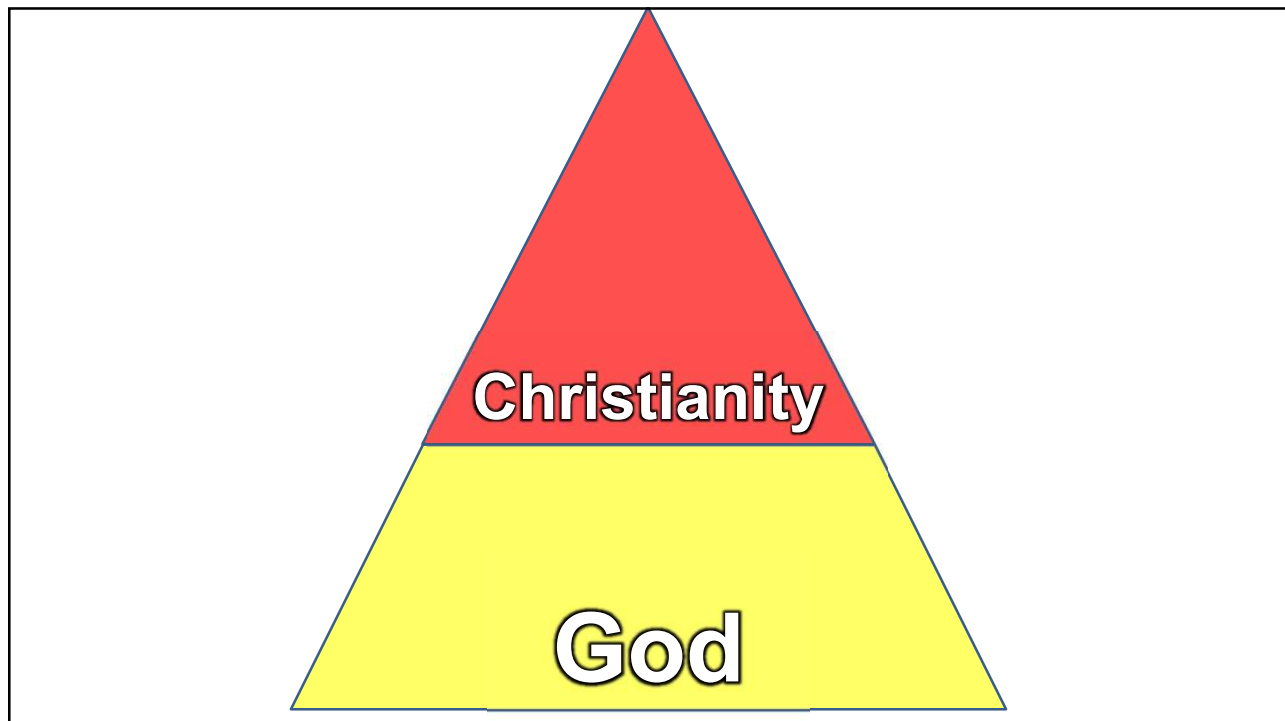
Benjamin Breckinridge Warfield (1851-1921)

Archibald A. Hodge (1823-1886)

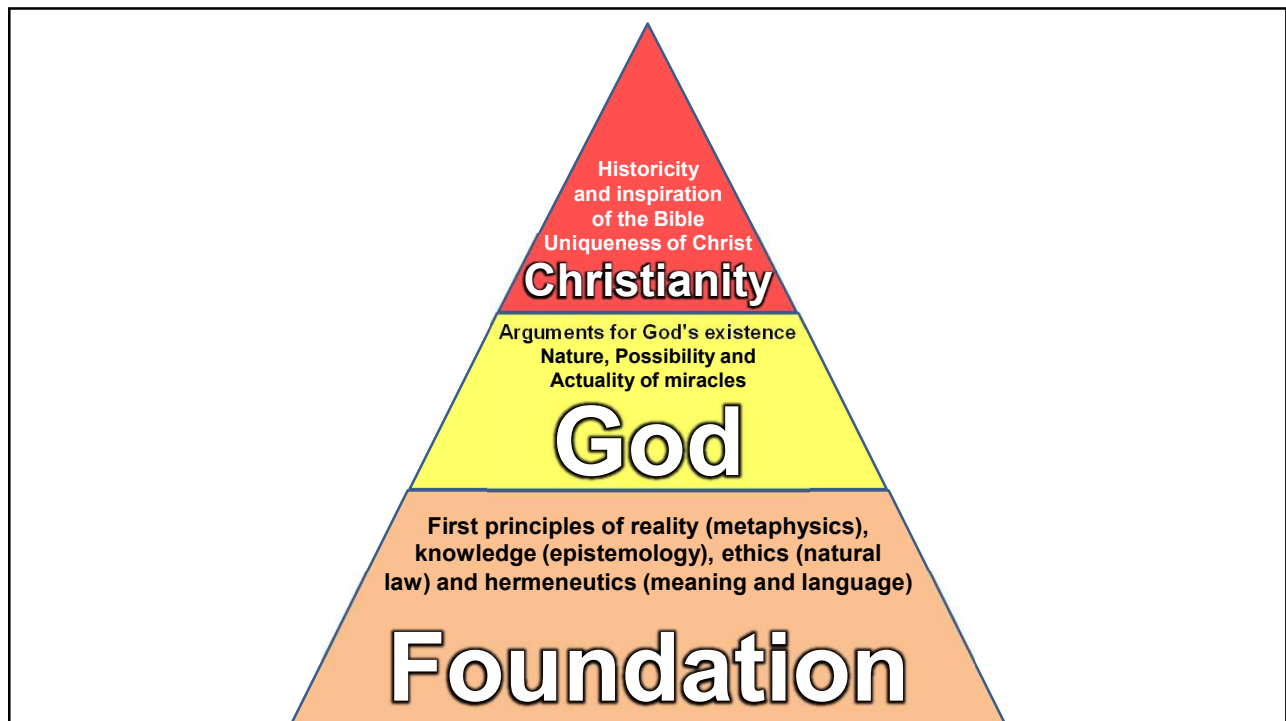
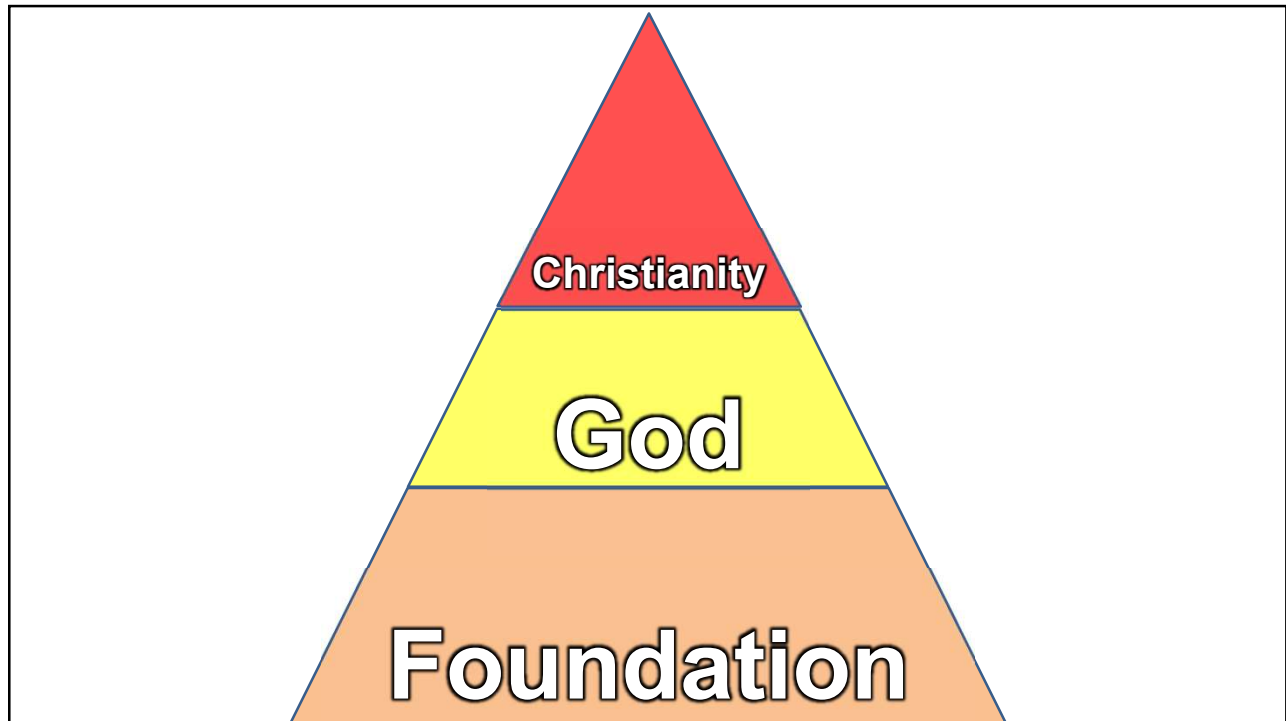
*"In dealing with skeptics it is not proper to begin with the evidence which immediately establishes inspiration, but we should first establish theism, then the **historical credibility of the Scriptures**, and then the **divine origin of Christianity**."*

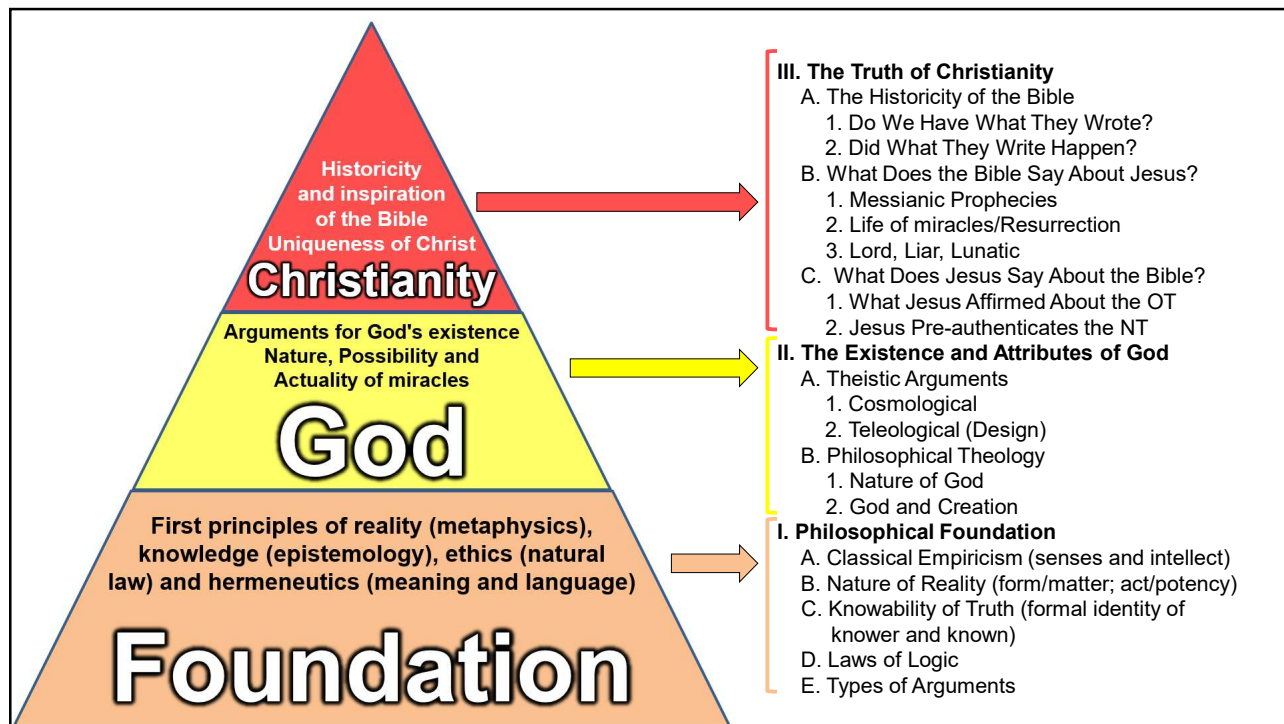
[Archibald A. Hodge and Benjamin B. Warfield, *Inspiration* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1974, published from the Presbyterian Board of Publication, n.d., 1881), 8]

***These two moves were generally counted as the one step of demonstrating the truth of Christianity.***









**Christianity**  
 Historicity and inspiration of the Bible  
 Uniqueness of Christ

**III. The Truth of Christianity**  
 A. The Historicity of the Bible  
 1. Do We Have What They Wrote?  
 2. Did What They Write Happen?  
 B. What Does the Bible Say About Jesus?  
 1. Messianic Prophecies  
 2. Life of miracles/Resurrection  
 3. Lord, Liar, Lunatic  
 C. What Does Jesus Say About the Bible?  
 1. What Jesus Affirmed About the OT  
 2. Jesus Pre-authenticates the NT

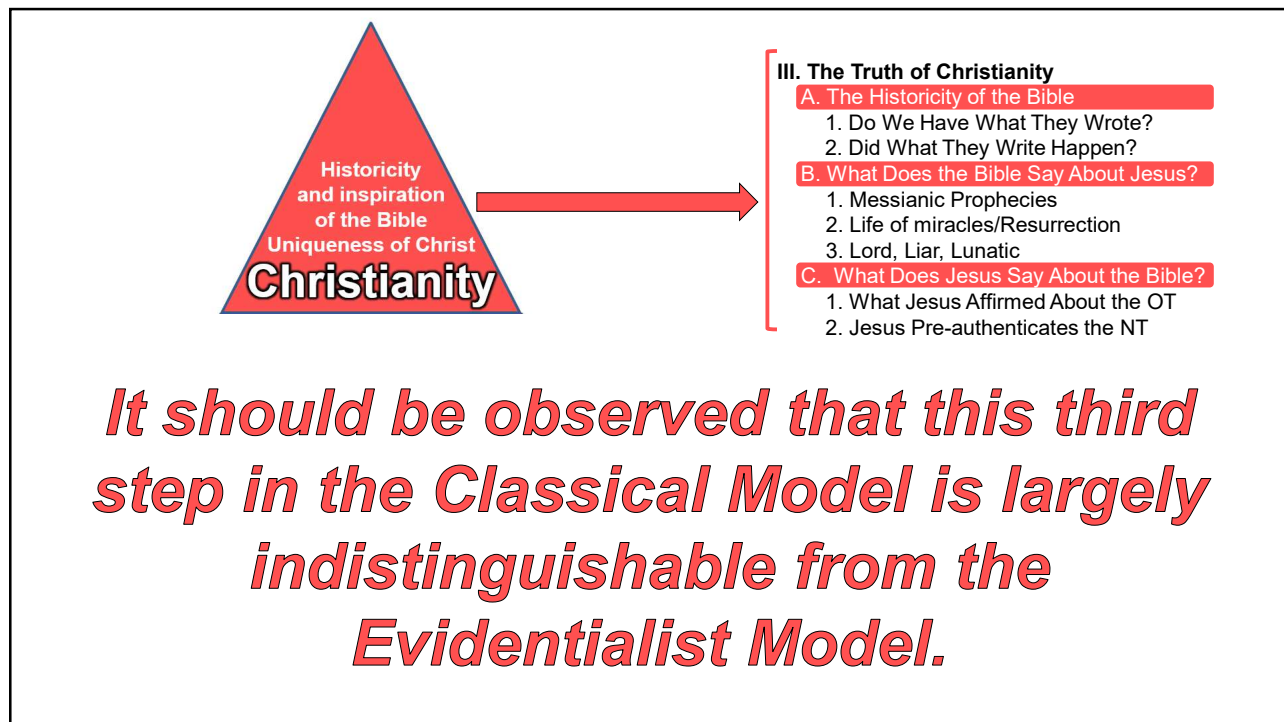
John Warwick Montgomery  
(1931-2024)

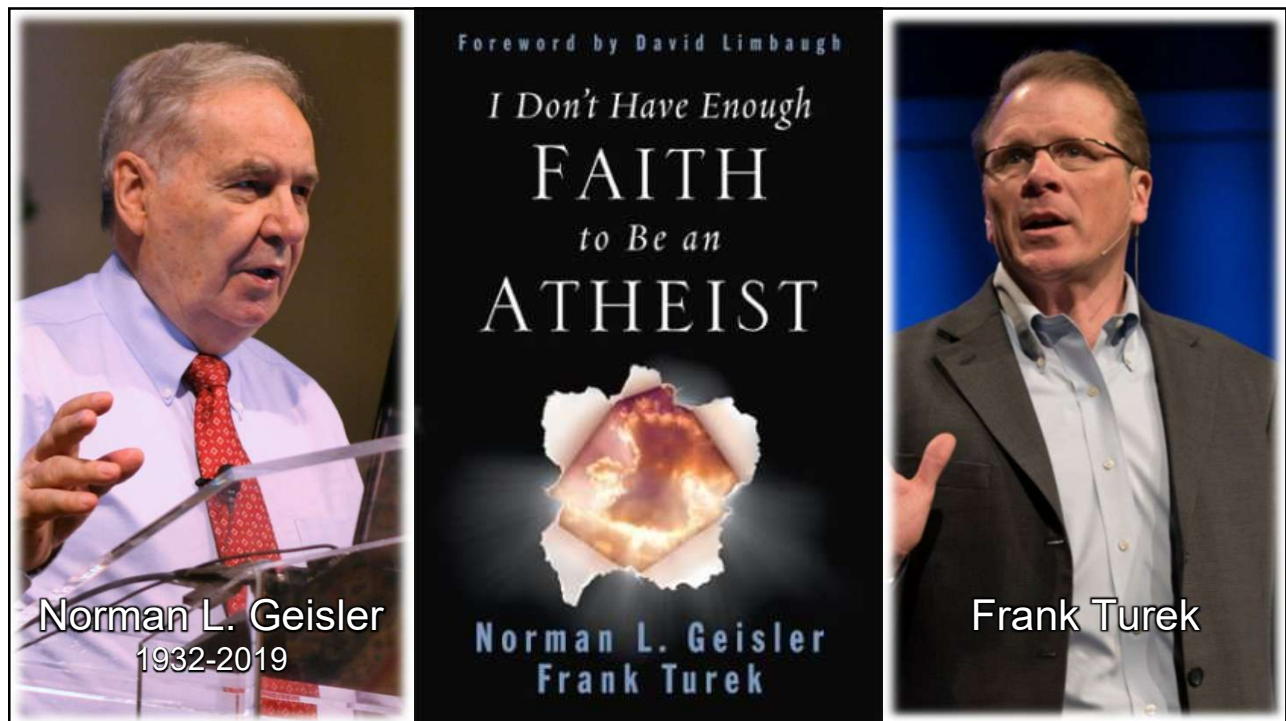
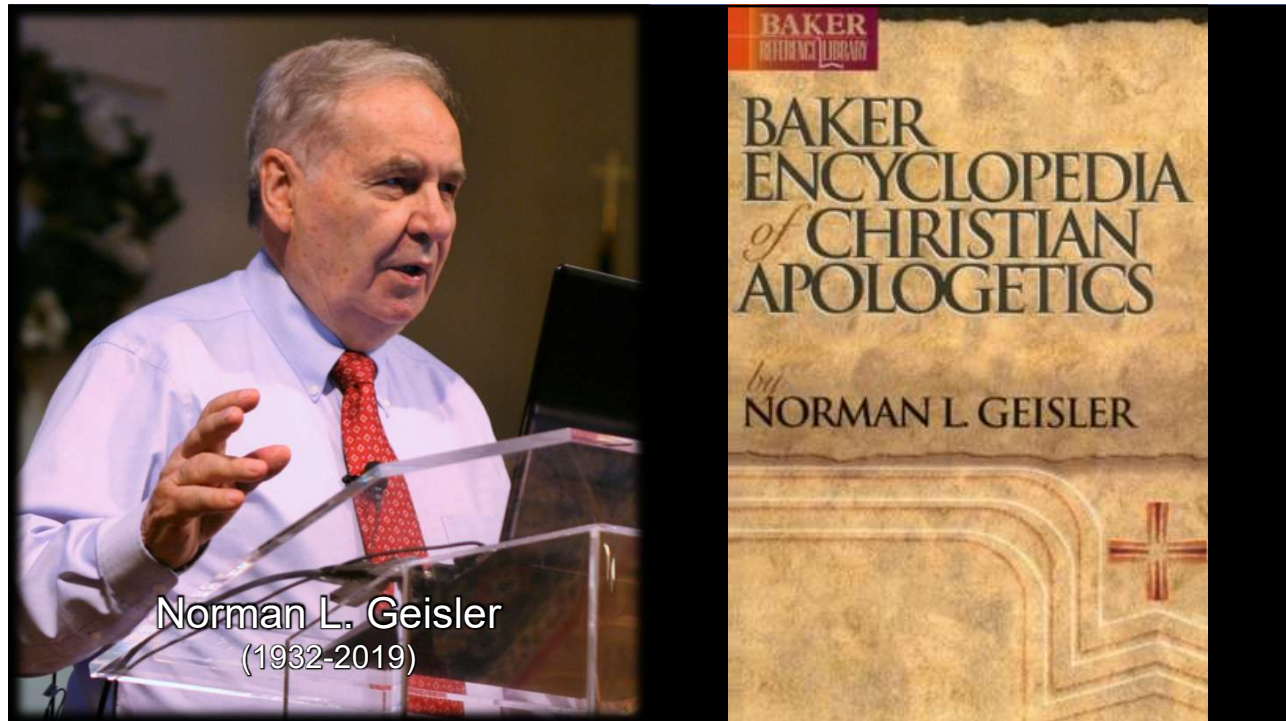
*God's Inerrant Word*  
 AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE TRUSTWORTHINESS OF SCRIPTURE  
 Edited by John Warwick Montgomery

**"The Case for Inerrancy: A Methodological Analysis"**

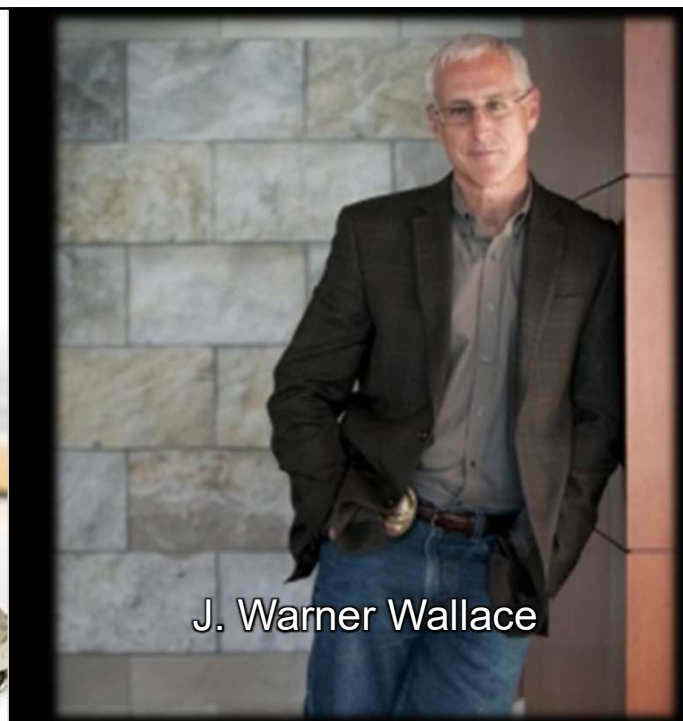
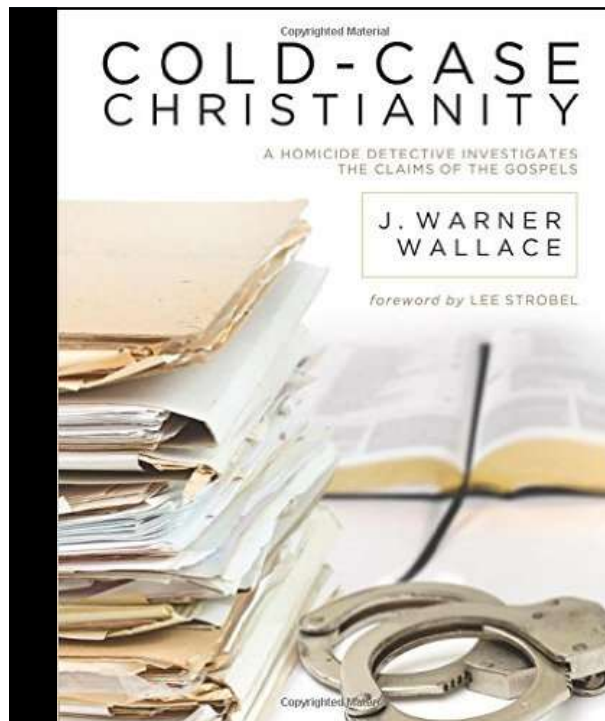
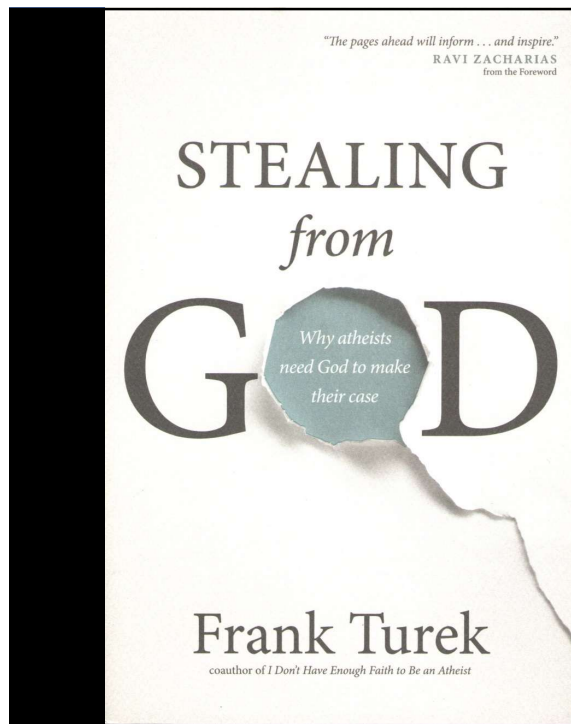
R. C. Sproul  
(1939-2017)

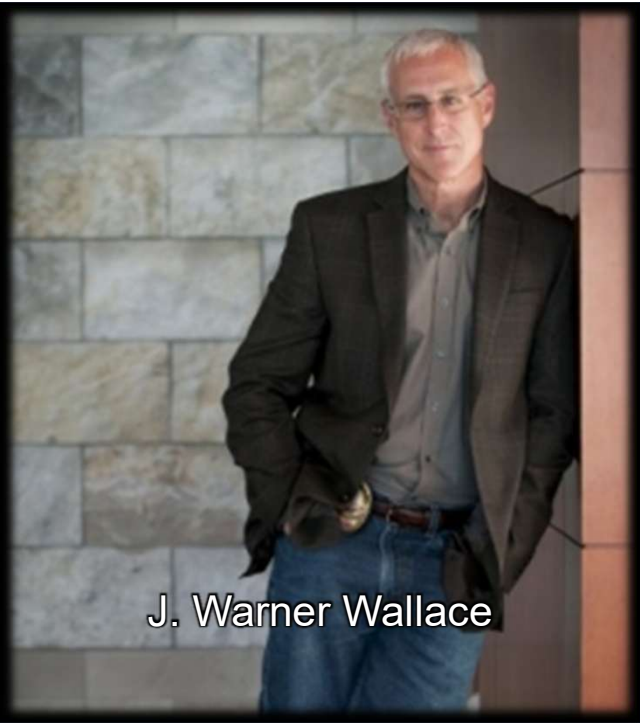
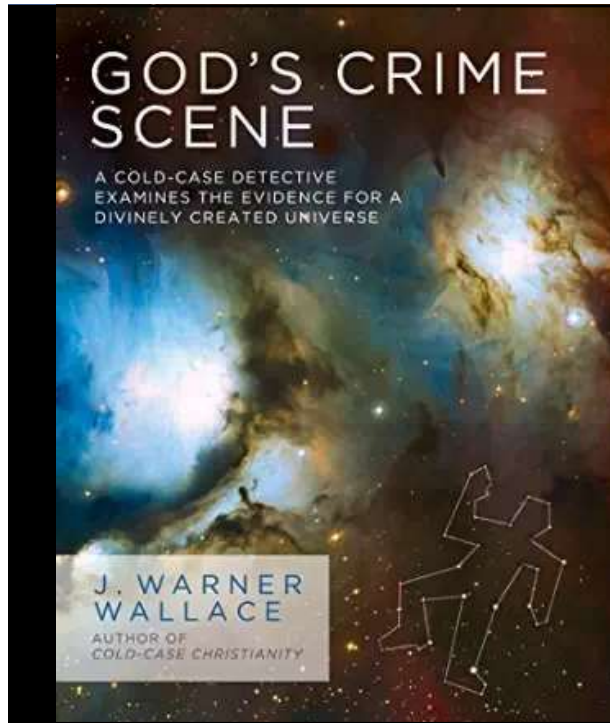




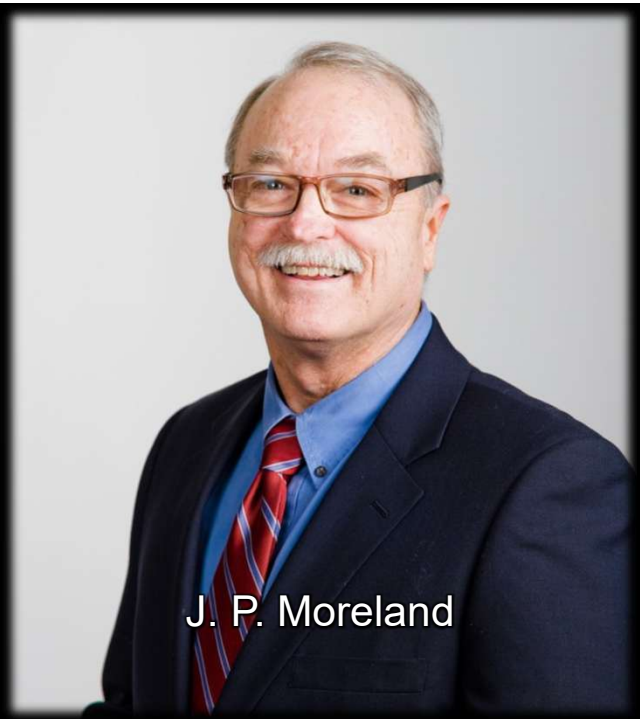
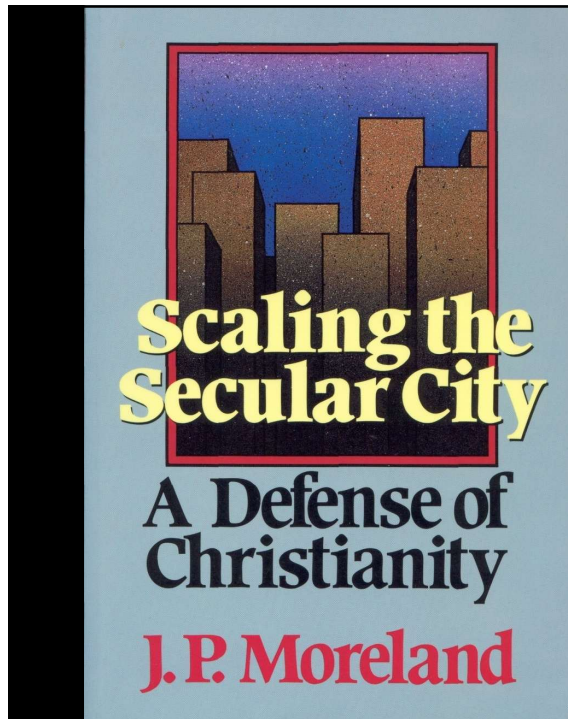








J. Warner Wallace



J. P. Moreland



