

Neighborly Apologetics

12. The Veracity of the Bible and “Contradictions” II



the Footprints of Paul

*contemplations
on the first 300
years of the Way*

Neighborly Apologetics

The Royal Law
Love your neighbor

God has entrusted the primary work
of the Kingdom to the common
Christian family

with a priestly role in our neighborhoods

Neighboring Apologetic Categories:

- 1. Evil and Suffering*
- 2. Absolute Truth and Relativism*
- 3. “Only One Way” and Religious Pluralism*
- 4. Faith and Reason*
- 5. Free Will and Sovereignty*
- 6. God’s Existence and Troubling Nature*
- 7. Goodness of Man, Judgment and Hell*
- 8. Hypocrisy and Christian Crimes of the Past*
- 9. The Claims of Jesus and the Resurrection*
- 10. Miracles*
- 11. Science and Evolution*

today (part II) —————→ *12. The Veracity of the Bible and “Contradictions”*

Plus: Burning Issues of our Day

Veracity of the Bible

Veracity: *conforming to truth; facts; accuracy*

Veracity of the Bible

you may want to begin with a
“logical and rational” preface

*the necessity of a
Relational Organizing Force*

Webinar “Faith and Reason”

from: Webinar “Faith and Reason”

Observation #1 order exists and it exists cosmically everywhere

Conclusion: there must be a Transcendent Ordering Force

Observation #2 order includes exquisite relationships

Conclusion: there must be a Relational Transcendent Ordering Force

this is a rational thought process

“You may not agree with me or believe this, but you cannot charge me with thinking irrationally.”

from: Webinar “Faith and Reason”

Observation #1 order exists and it exists cosmically everywhere

Conclusion: there must be a Transcendent Ordering Force

Observation #2 order includes exquisite relationships

Conclusion: there must be a Relational Transcendent Ordering Force

*it is also rational to assume this Person would
communicate with us*

“You may not agree with me or believe this, but you cannot
charge me with thinking irrationally.”

the Bible is the most widely distributed
and read book in the world

Christianity

it would be reasonable
to give it an honest
examination



Veracity of the Bible

archeology continues to confirm the Bible's history

amazingly brought forth

amazingly preserved

amazingly protected

amazingly prophecies, always right

amazing amount of manuscript support

amazing amount of manuscript support

*writing in 2025
about something
that happened in:*

<i>ancient work</i>	<i># of copies</i>	<i>years after</i>	
Illiad, Homer	643	500	1525 A.D.
Gallic Wars, Julius Caesar	10	1000	1025 A.D.
Herodotus	8	1300	725 A.D.
Thucydides	8	1300	725 A.D.
Pliny the Younger	7	750	1275 A.D.
New Testament	24,000+	25	2000 A.D.

Veracity of the Bible

archeology continues to confirm the Bible's history

amazingly brought forth

amazingly preserved

amazingly protected

amazingly prophecies, always right

amazing amount of manuscript support

amazing amount of internal consistency & cohesion

presenting a comprehensive, united worldview dealing with every area of life, including the most controversial elements

Veracity of the Bible and Charges of Contradictions/Problems



Charges of Contradictions/Problems

We've already covered most of them!

Problem of Evil and Suffering

Absolute Truth and Relativism

“Only One Way” and Religious Pluralism

Free Will and Sovereignty

Miracles

Goodness of Man, Judgment and Hell

Science and Evolution

Charges of Contradictions/Problems

fall into five categories

1. Textual Corruption and Transmission Issues
2. Historical Inaccuracy
3. Moral and Ethical Offenses
4. Human Origin vs Divine Inspiration
5. Theological Inconsistencies and Contradictions

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1. Textual Corruption and Transmission Issues

“There are thousands of errors in the NT alone”



1. Textual Corruption and Transmission Issues



both viable and meaningful: chance of being original and they change the textual meaning. Example: 1 John 1:4, "... so that **our** joy may be complete" vs "...so that **your** joy may be complete.

Important: these are < 1% of the variants and zero, none, change the essential message and doctrine

creates a question about the original wording

change the meaning of the text

is the variant:

viable? ☒ **yes** ☐ **no**

meaningful? ☒ **yes** ☐ **no**

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2. Historical Inaccuracy

Dead Sea Scrolls (1947) - confirmed the careful preservation and transmission of Scripture

Tel Dan Inscription (1993) - confirms 'House of David'

Moabite Stone (Mesha Stele) (1868) - confirms King Mesha, King Omni, Moab's rebellion, 2 Kings 3

Lachish Letters (1930s) - confirms cities of Lachish and Azekah; military actions, Jeremiah 34:7

Hezekiah's Tunnel (1867) - confirms 2 Kings 20:20

Pool of Siloam (2004) - confirms John 9

Nazarene Site (2009) - confirms Nazarene's presence in 1st Century A.D.

Pilate Stone (1961) - confirms Gospel accounts of Pontius Pilate, Roman prefect of Judea

Solomonic Gezer (2023) - confirms biblical accounts in 1 Kings 9:15-17

cities, kings, coins, customs corroborated

critics continually disproven (Hittites, Belshazzar, David, etc.)

2. Historical Inaccuracy



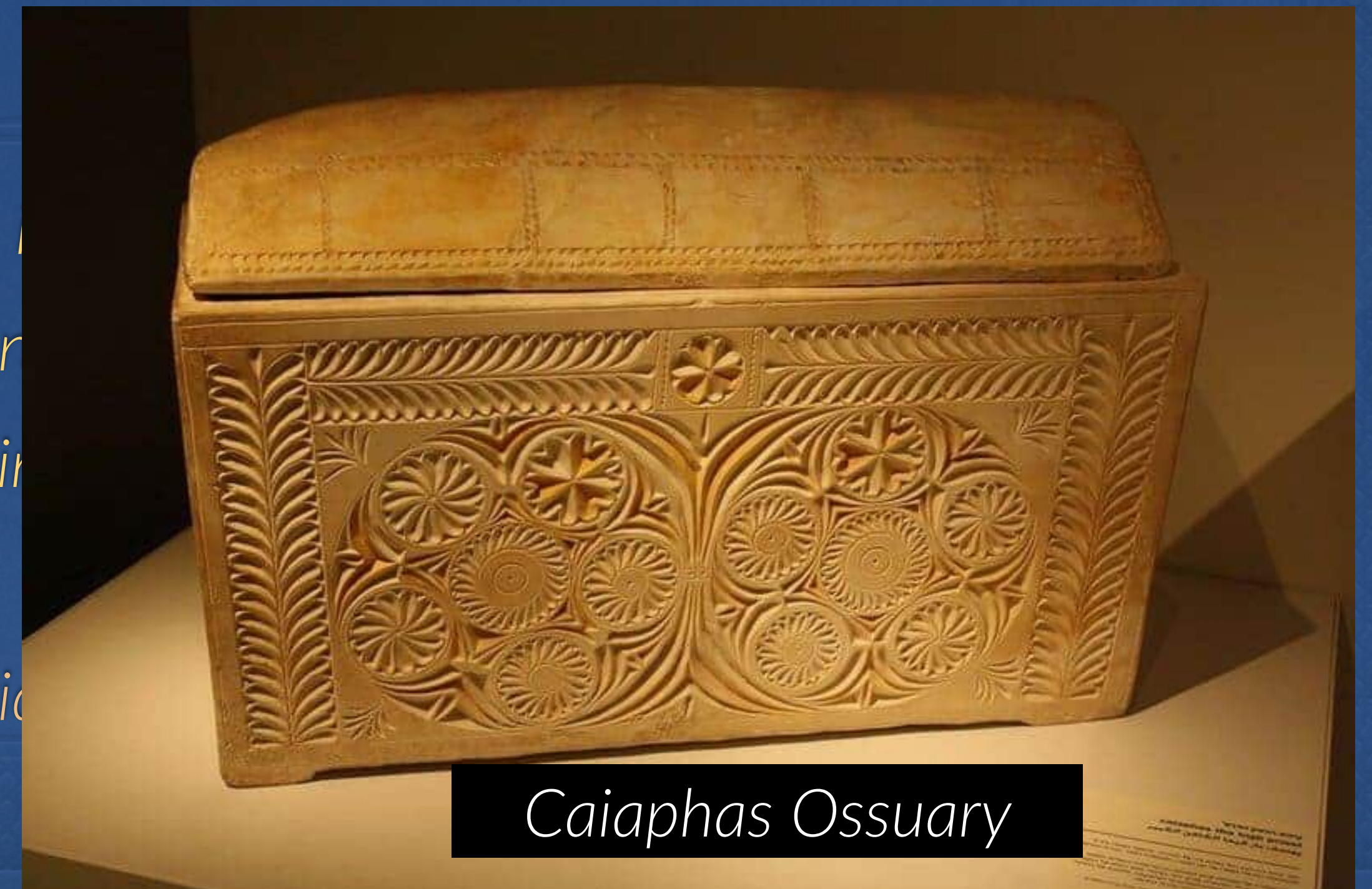
Merneptah Stele



Babylonian Chronicles



Cyrus Cylinder



Caiaphas Ossuary

cities, kings, coins, customs corroborated
critics continually disproven (Hittites, Belshazzar, David)

2. Historical Inaccuracy

charges against the creation account

TWO COMPETING VIEWS ... ONE COMPELLING TRUTH

IS GENESIS HISTORY?

HOSTED BY DEL TACKETT
CREATOR OF "THE TRUTH PROJECT"

A ONE-NIGHT EVENT
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23 ONLY
IN SELECT CINEMAS

IsGenesisHistory.com

COMPASS CINEMA

THE TRUTH PROJECT

FATHOM EVENTS

2. Historical Inaccuracy

charges against the creation account

charges against the flood account

IS
GENESIS
HISTORY?

MOUNTAINS
AFTER THE FLOOD



2. Historical Inaccuracy

charges against the creation account

charges against the flood account

charges against other miraculous events (plagues, Red Sea, virgin birth, resurrection, etc.)

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3. Moral and Ethical Offenses

Violence and Warfare

God condemns:

violence - “The Lord tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence. Psalm 11:5

Warfare for the purpose of God’s judgment

vs

Warfare for selfish pursuits

Genocide by God’s Judgment: consider the Flood

Consider the Final Judgment

3. Moral and Ethical Offenses

Violence and Warfare

Slavery

the overthrow of slavery in Britain was brought about by the Christian convictions of William Wilberforce

the overthrow of slavery in the U.S. was brought about primarily by the convictions of Christians

*“The Lord chooses to change people and society gradually, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the proclamation of the truth of the Word of God”
- Warren Wiersbe*

estimated 27 million slaves in our world today

3. Moral and Ethical Offenses

Violence and Warfare

Slavery

Treatment of Women

if Jesus Rose from the Dead...

Women are created in the image of God

God told men He would not hear their prayers if they are unfaithful to their wives (Malachi 2:13-14)

The man who hates and divorces his wife," says the Lord, the God of Israel, "does violence to the one he should protect," says the Lord Almighty. (Malachi 2:16)

God made provision for women to be protected, provided for, and granted fair treatment. Laws protected women at all stages including widows and the unmarried.

At the resurrection, it was the women who were granted first access to the risen Jesus

50 days of contemplations from Resurrection to Pentecost

3. Moral and Ethical Offenses

Violence and Warfare

Slavery

Treatment of Women

Human Sexuality Issues

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. (Romans 1:24)

Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. (Romans 1:26)

3. Moral and Ethical Offenses

Violence and Warfare

Slavery

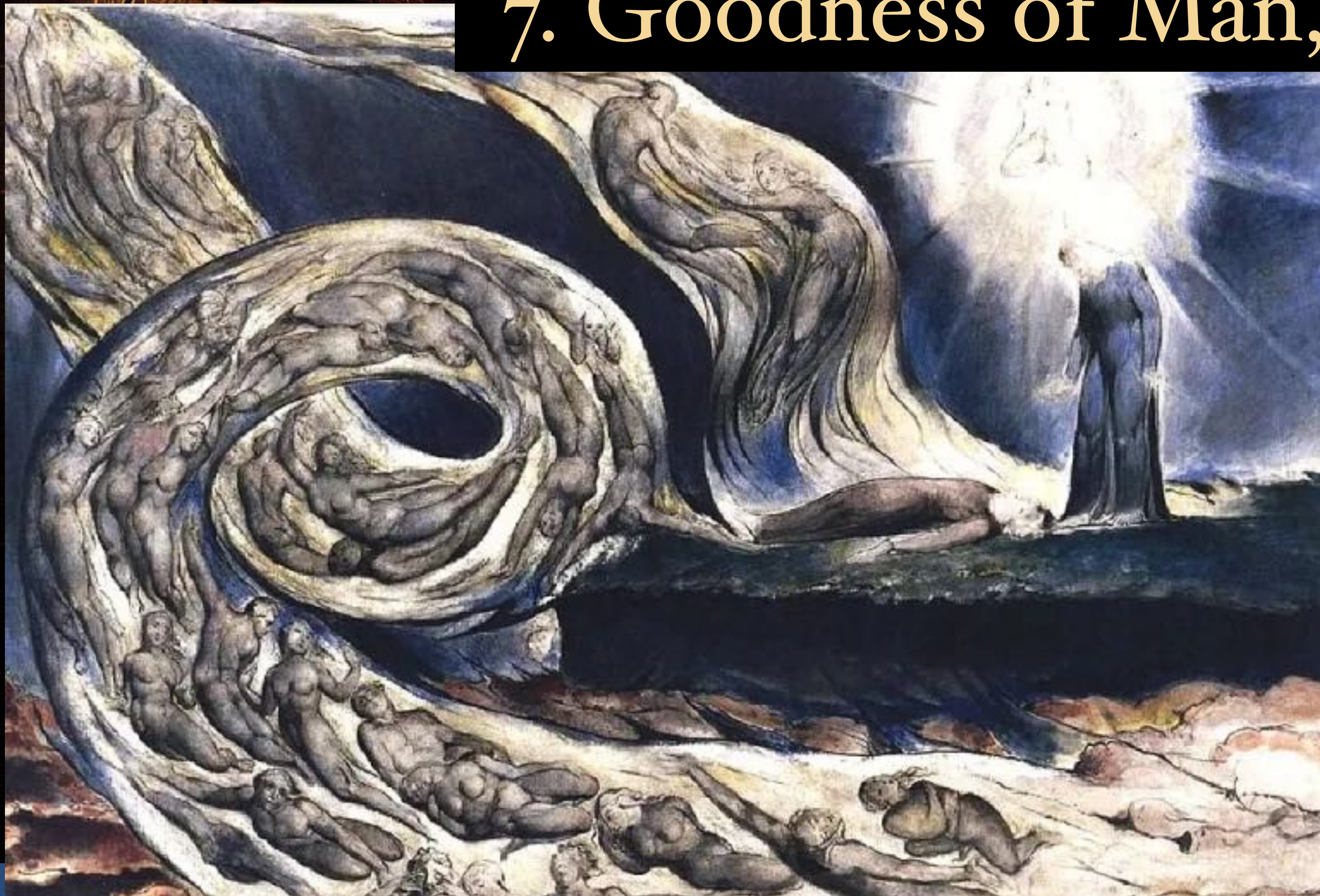
Treatment of Women

Human Sexuality Issues

Eternal Punishment and Hell

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7. Goodness of Man, Judgment and Hell



3. Moral and Ethical Offenses

Violence and Warfare

He is There and He is Not Silent

Slavery

If God isn't the ethical authority, then who is?

Treatment of Women

*"Everyone did what was right in his own eyes"
(Judges 17:6)*

Human Sexuality Issues

Eternal Punishment and Hell

Divine Commands vs Moral Autonomy

Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them. (Romans 2:14-15)

3. Moral and Ethical Offenses

Violence and Warfare

Slavery

Treatment of Women

Human Sexuality Issues

Eternal Punishment and Hell

Divine Commands vs Moral Autonomy

Exclusivity and Salvation

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3. Only One Way & Religious Pluralism



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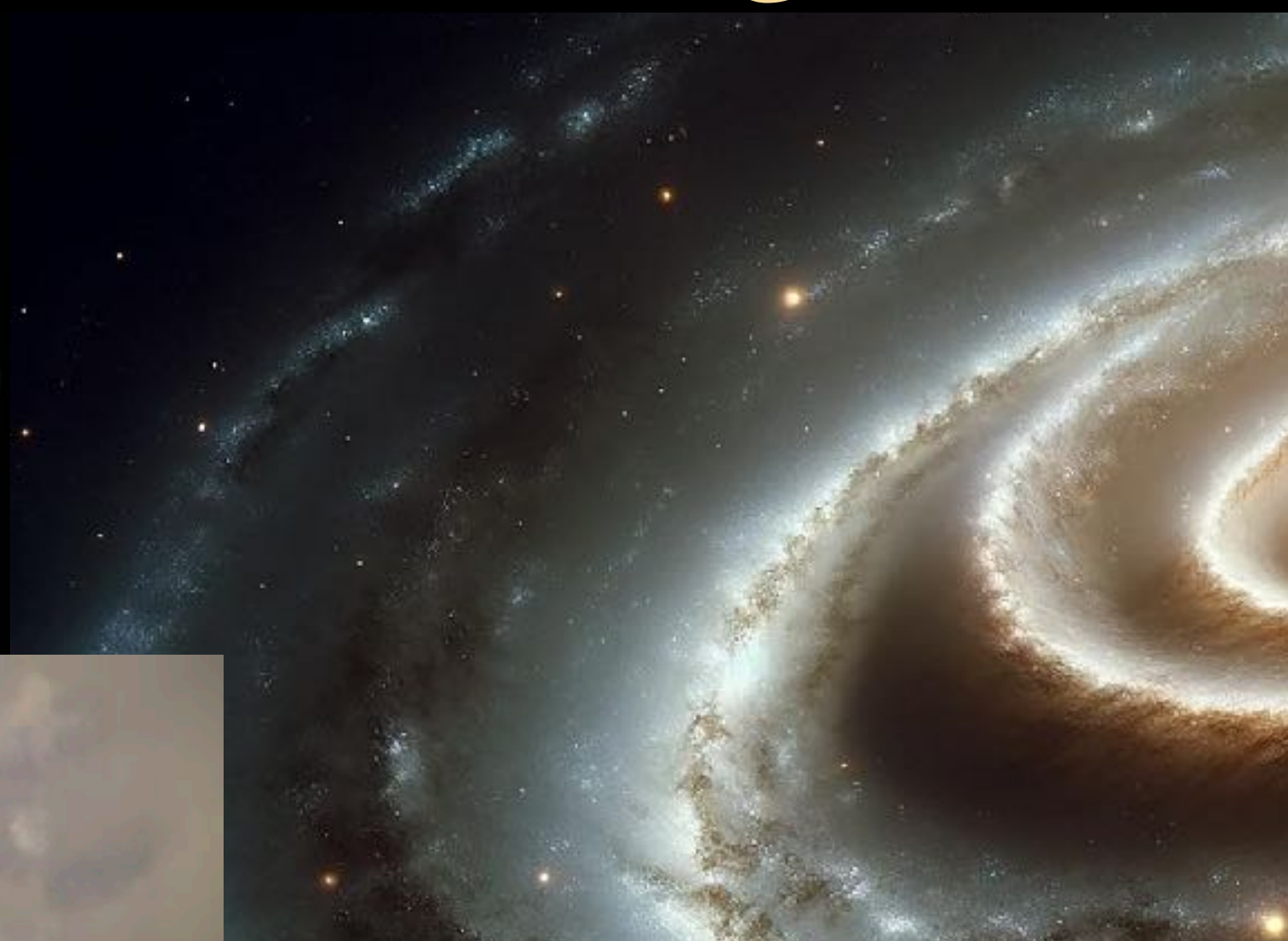
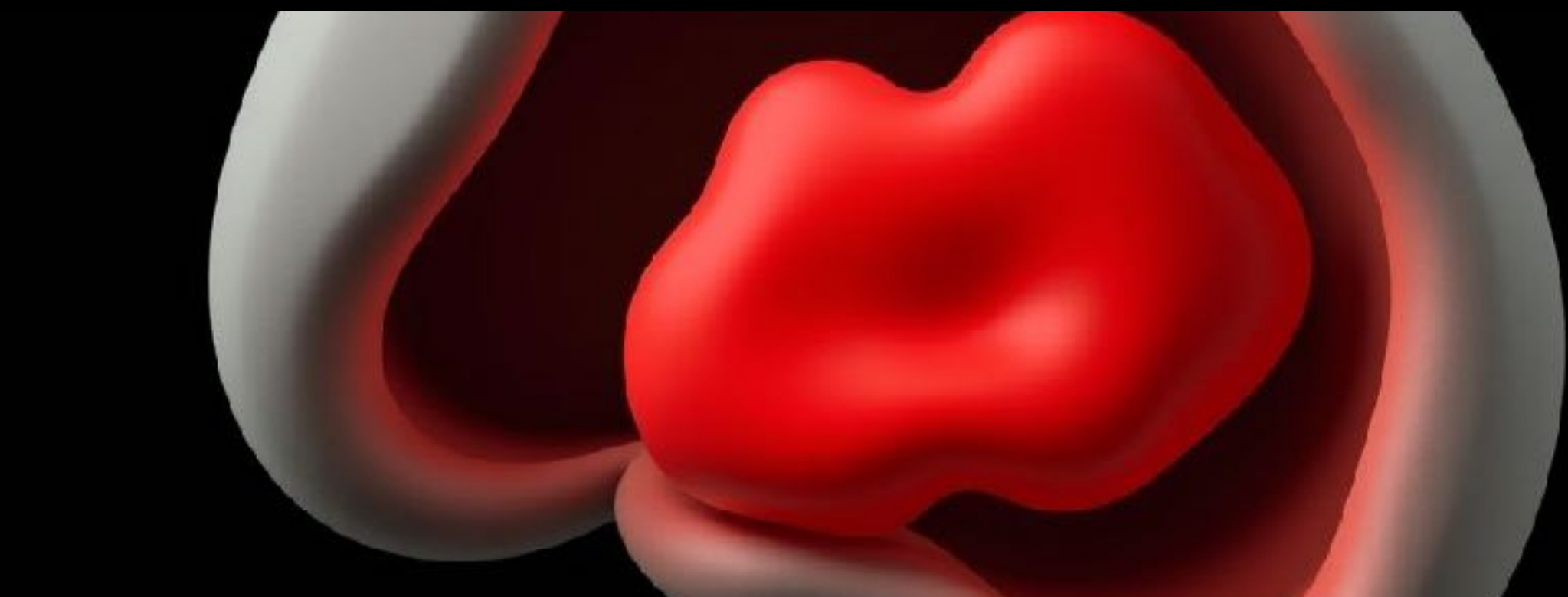
Is God a God of love or wrath?





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6. God's Existence and Troubling Nature



5. Theological Inconsistencies and Contradictions

Is God a God of love or wrath?

Resurrection accounts are different

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Christ's Resurrection

#1 Historical Facts

#2 Witnesses

#3 Appearances

#4 Polemic & Creed

#5 Times, Events, Places

#6 Harmonized Account

#7 Implications

if Jesus Rose from
the Dead...

*50 days of contemplations from
Resurrection to Pentecost*

5. Theological Inconsistencies and Contradictions

Is God a God of love or wrath?

Resurrection accounts are different

Is God truly sovereign or does man have free will?



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5. Free Will and Sovereignty



Charges of Contradictions/Problems

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Charges of Contradictions/Problems

You never know where these charges will come from



Charges of Contradictions/Problems

You never know where these charges will come from

“Your Bible Doesn’t Know Math”



“Your Bible Doesn’t Know Math”

Then he made the sea of cast metal. It was round, ten cubits from brim to brim, and five cubits high, and a line of thirty cubits measured its circumference.

1 Kings 7:23

Circumference = d times π

$$31.42 = 10 \text{ times } 3.1417$$

“If the diameter is 10 cubits, then the circumference has to be well over 31 cubits, NOT 30!”

“Your Bible doesn’t know math”

“Your Bible Doesn’t Know Math”

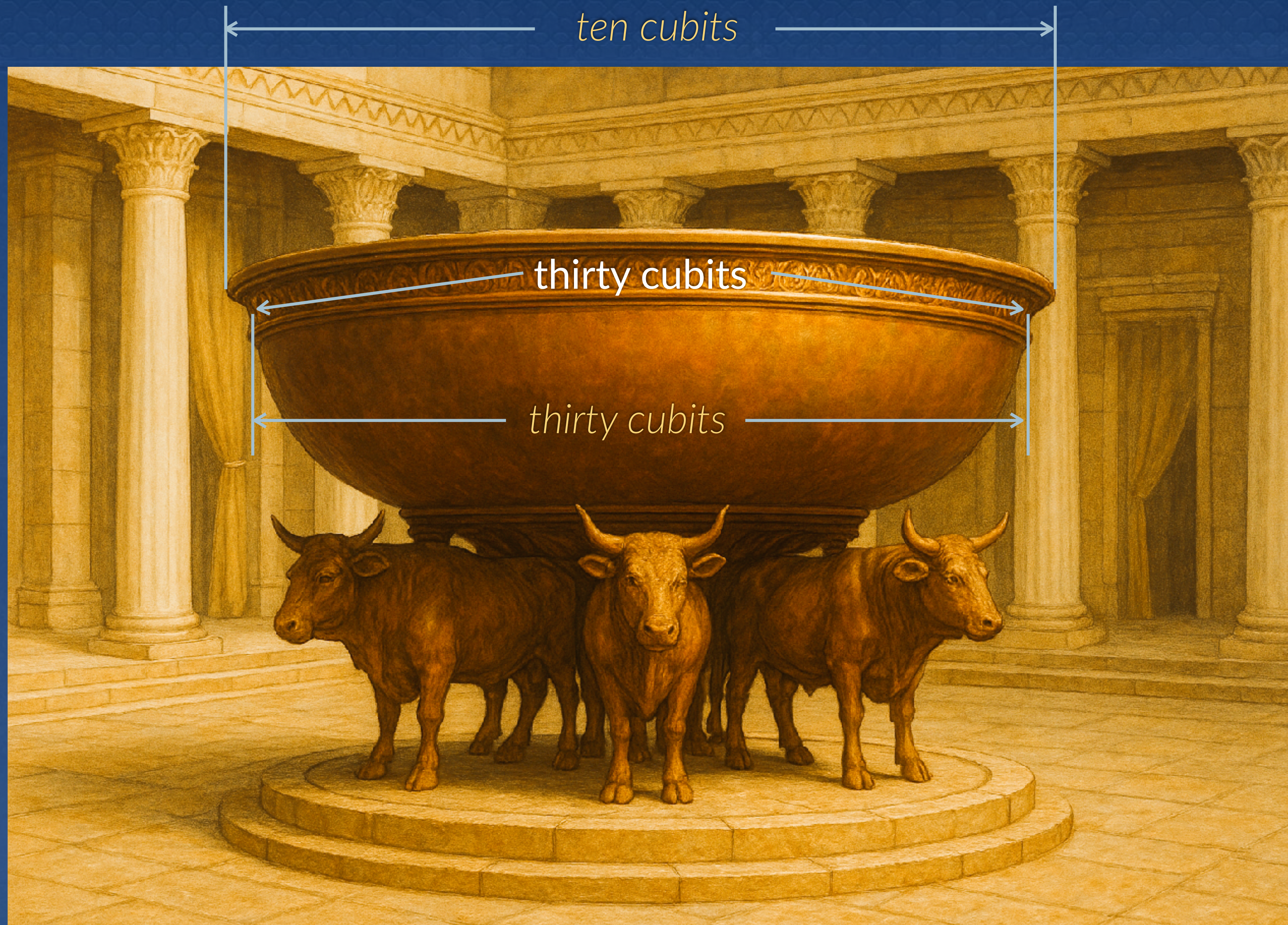
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1 Kings 7:23

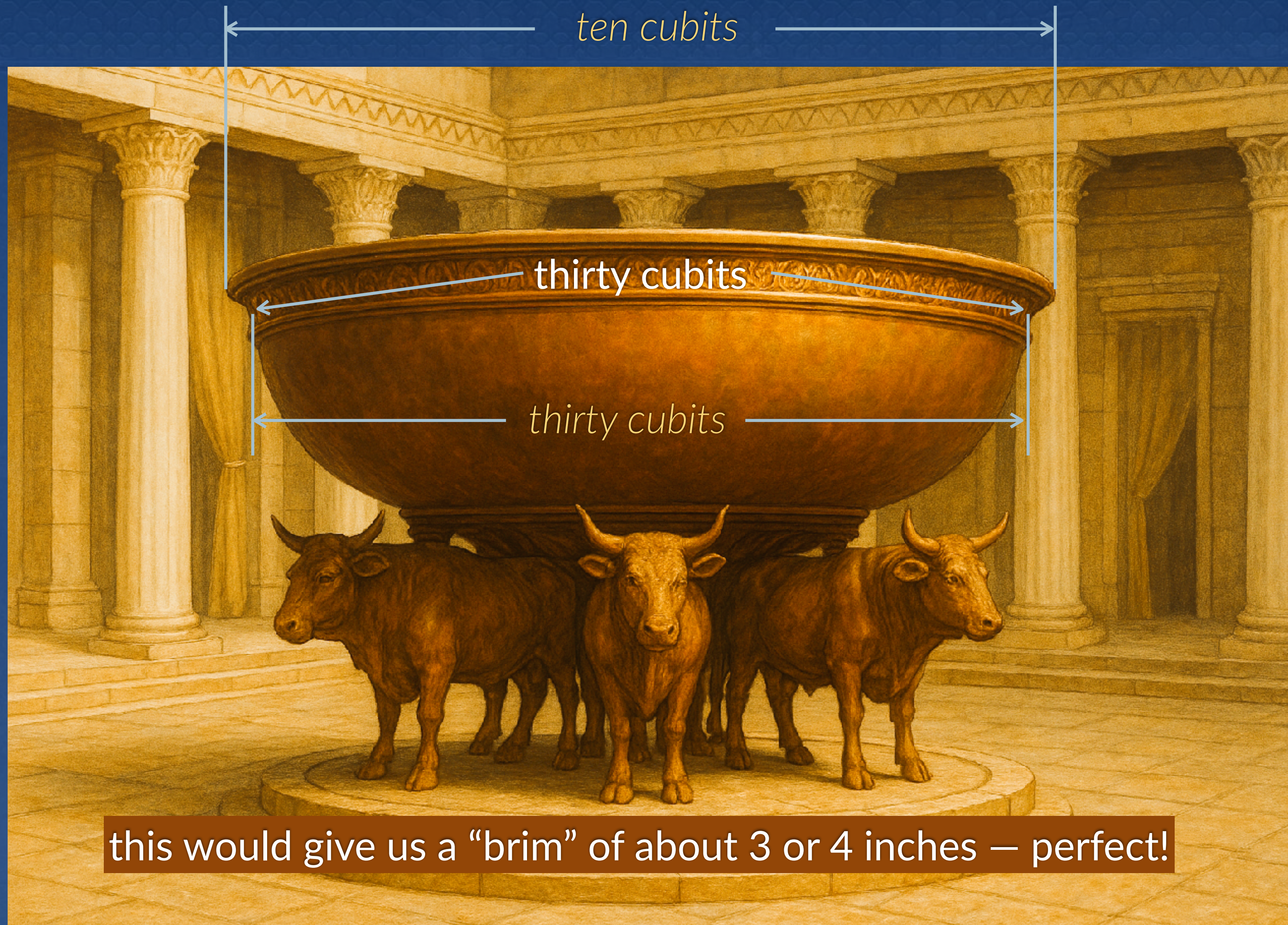


*Its thickness was a handbreadth, and **its brim was made like the brim of a cup, like the flower of a lily.** It held two thousand baths.*

1 Kings 7:26



Its thickness was a handbreadth, and its brim was made like the brim of a cup, like the flower of a lily. It held two thousand baths.



Its thickness was a handbreadth, and its brim was made like the brim of a cup, like the flower of a lily. It held two thousand baths.

Charges of Contradictions/Problems

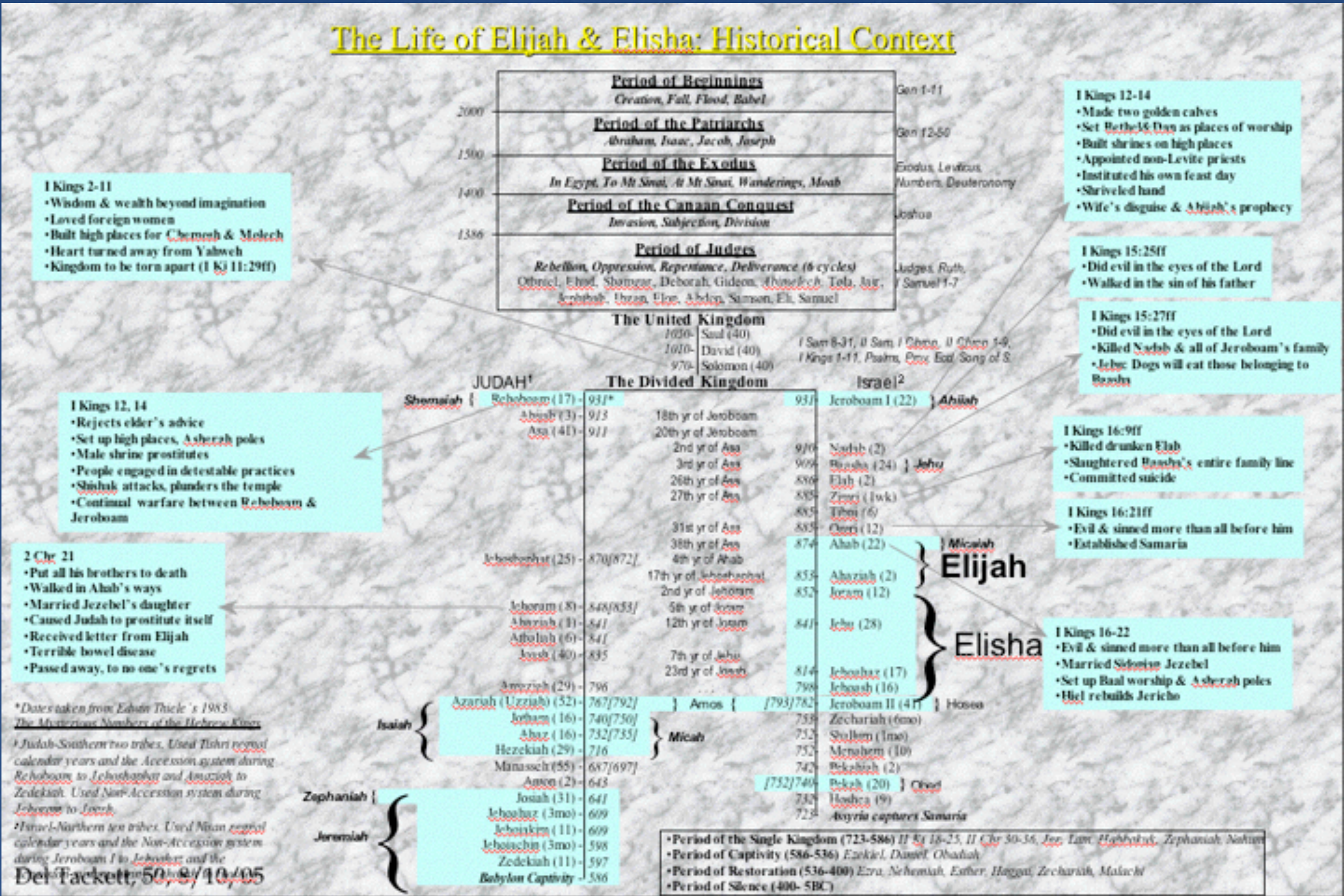
You never know where these charges will come from

internal crisis

is the Bible truly God's Word and inerrant?

is the Bible truly God's Word and inerrant?

The Life of Elijah and Elisha



B.C. 874 872 869 853 852 848 841

Asa (38)

41

Jehoshaphat

Judah

Ahab

22

(4)

Israel

1 Ki 16:29 In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab son of Omri became King of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria over Israel twenty-two years

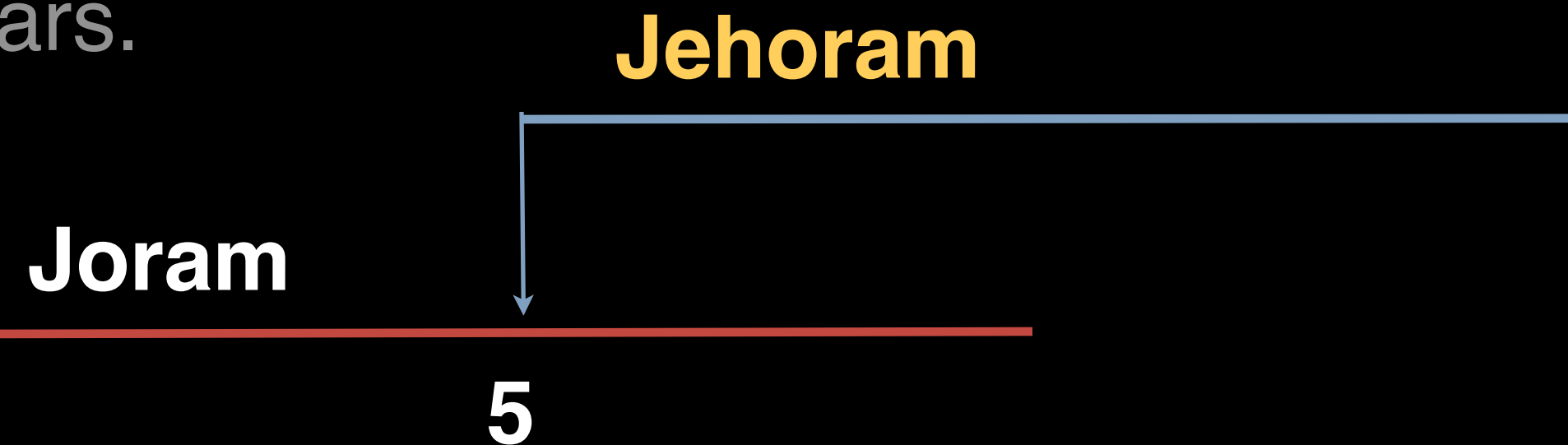
JORAM & JEHORAM

2 Kings 8:16

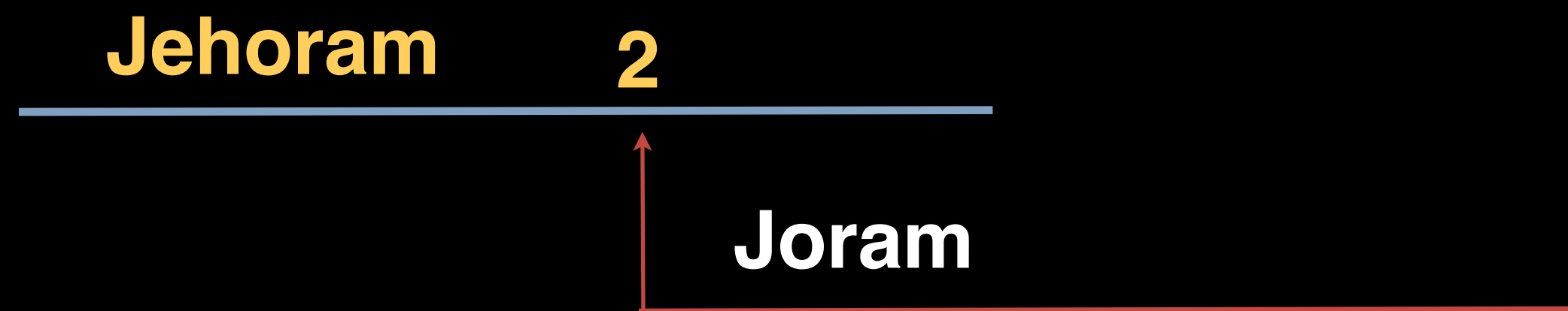
2 Kings 1:17

HOW TRUE IS THE BIBLE?

2 Ki 8:16 In the fifth year of Joram son of Ahab king of Israel, when Jehoshaphat was king of Judah, Jorhoram son of Jehosaphat began his reign as king of Judah. He was thirty-two years old, and he reigned in Jerusalem eight years.

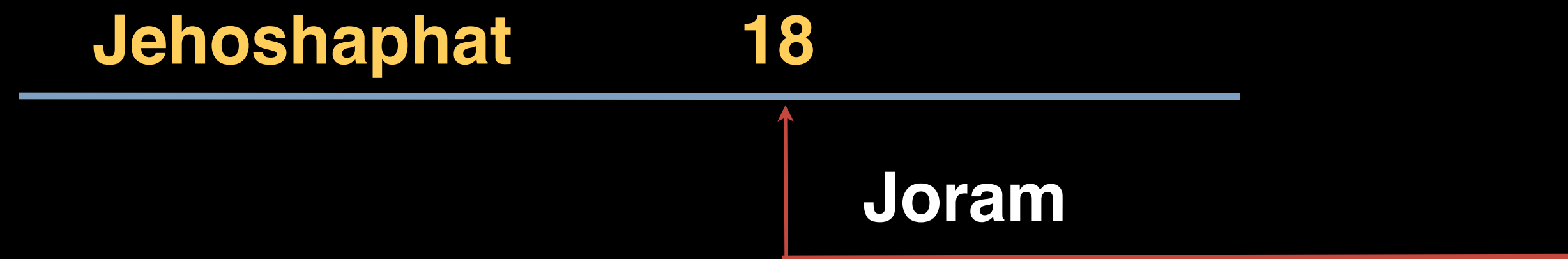


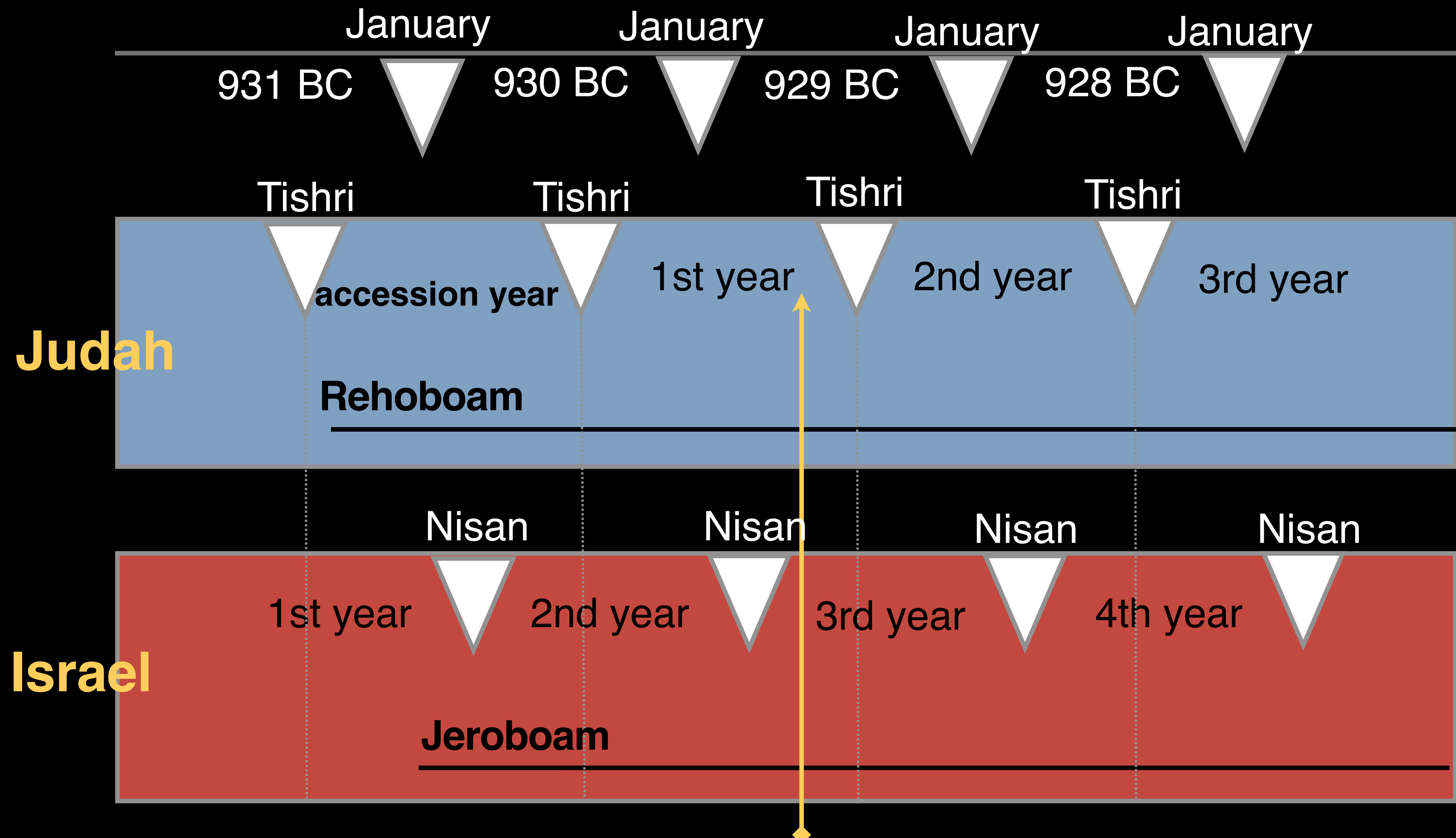
2 Ki 1:17 So Ahaziah died, according to the word of the Lord that Elijah had spoken. Because Ahaziah had no son, Joram succeeded him as king in the second year of Jehoram son of Jehoshaphat



HOW TRUE IS THE BIBLE?

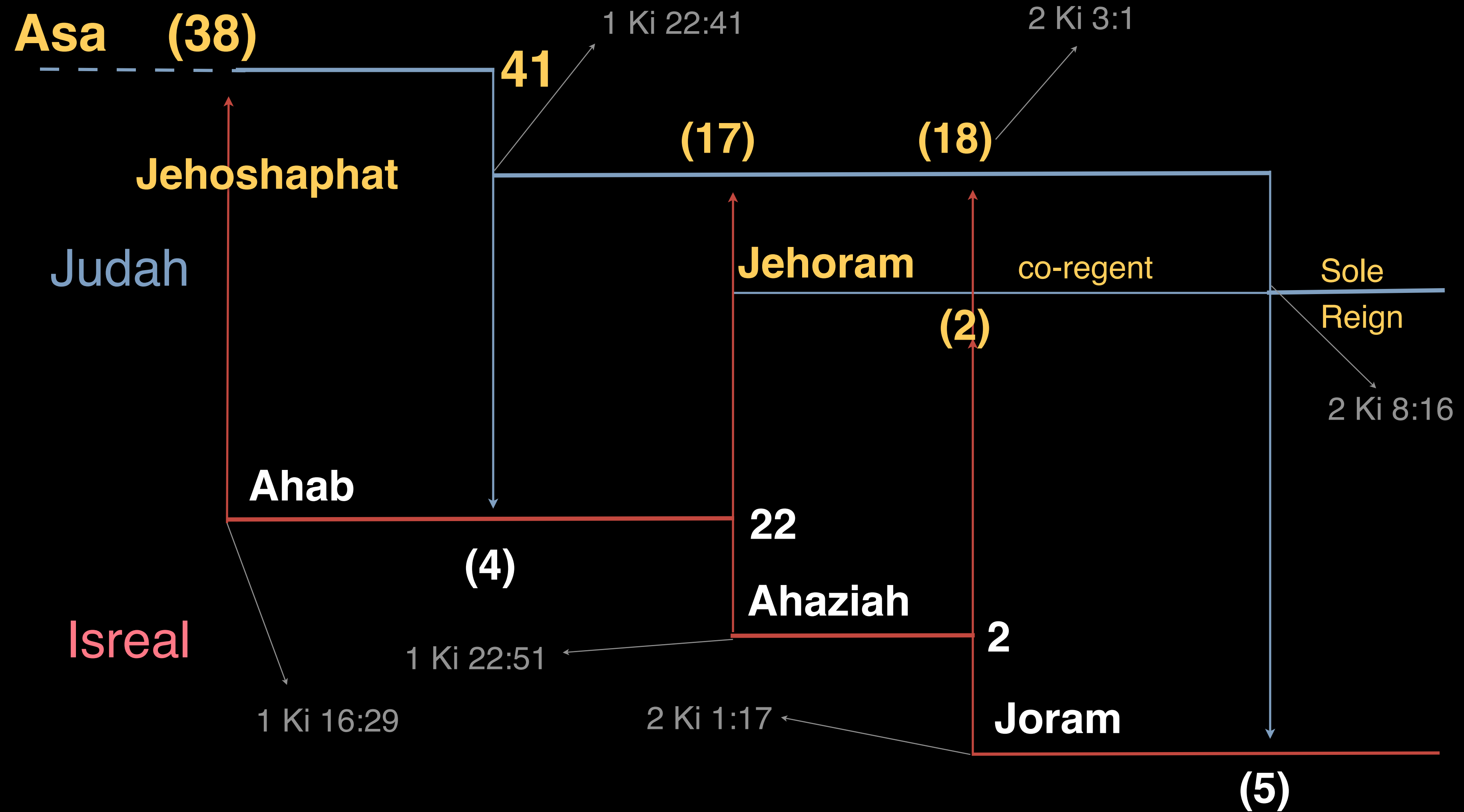
2 Ki 3:1 Joram son of Ahab became king of Israel in Samaria in the eighteenth year of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, and he reigned twelve years





So, Jeroboam, who actually started to reign after Rehoboam, would be considered to be in his 3rd year when Rehoboam was still in his first year

B.C. 874 872 869 853 852 848 841



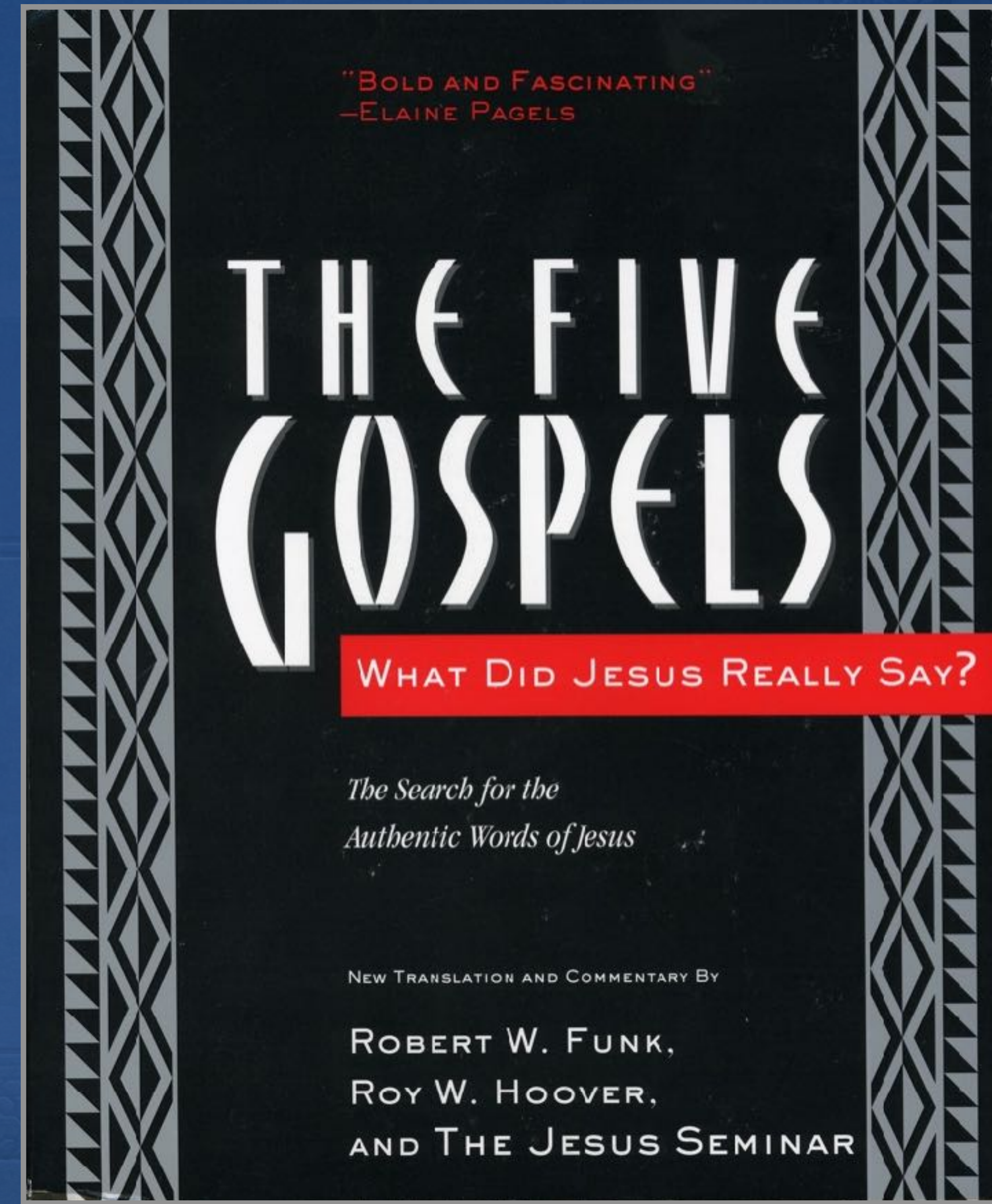
do we **really** believe
the **Scriptures**
to be the **Word of God?**

the Jesus Seminar

"The Search for the Authentic Words of Jesus"

*the "scholars" of the Jesus Seminar do not believe
in the deity of Christ, nor His miracles, atonement,
or resurrection.*

*Their "search" is not an honest search. It is merely
a scam to promote a Jesus of their own desire.*



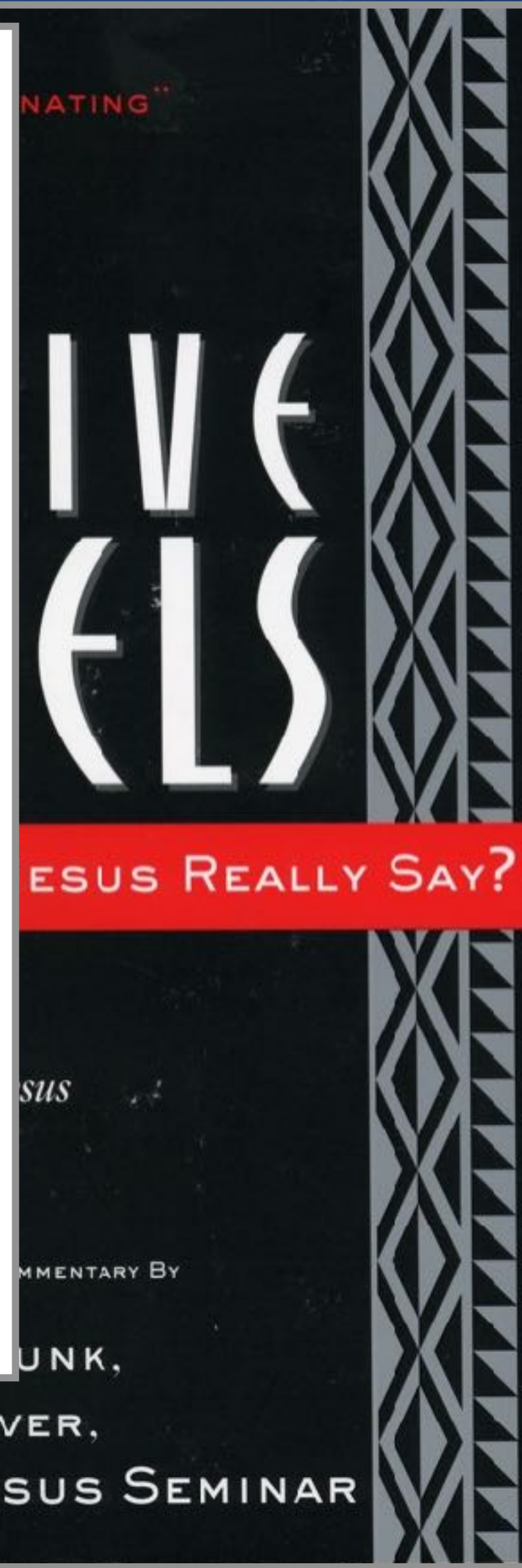
THE COLORED BEADS

red: Jesus undoubtedly said this or something very like it (That's Jesus!)

pink: Jesus probably said this (Sure sounds like Jesus.)

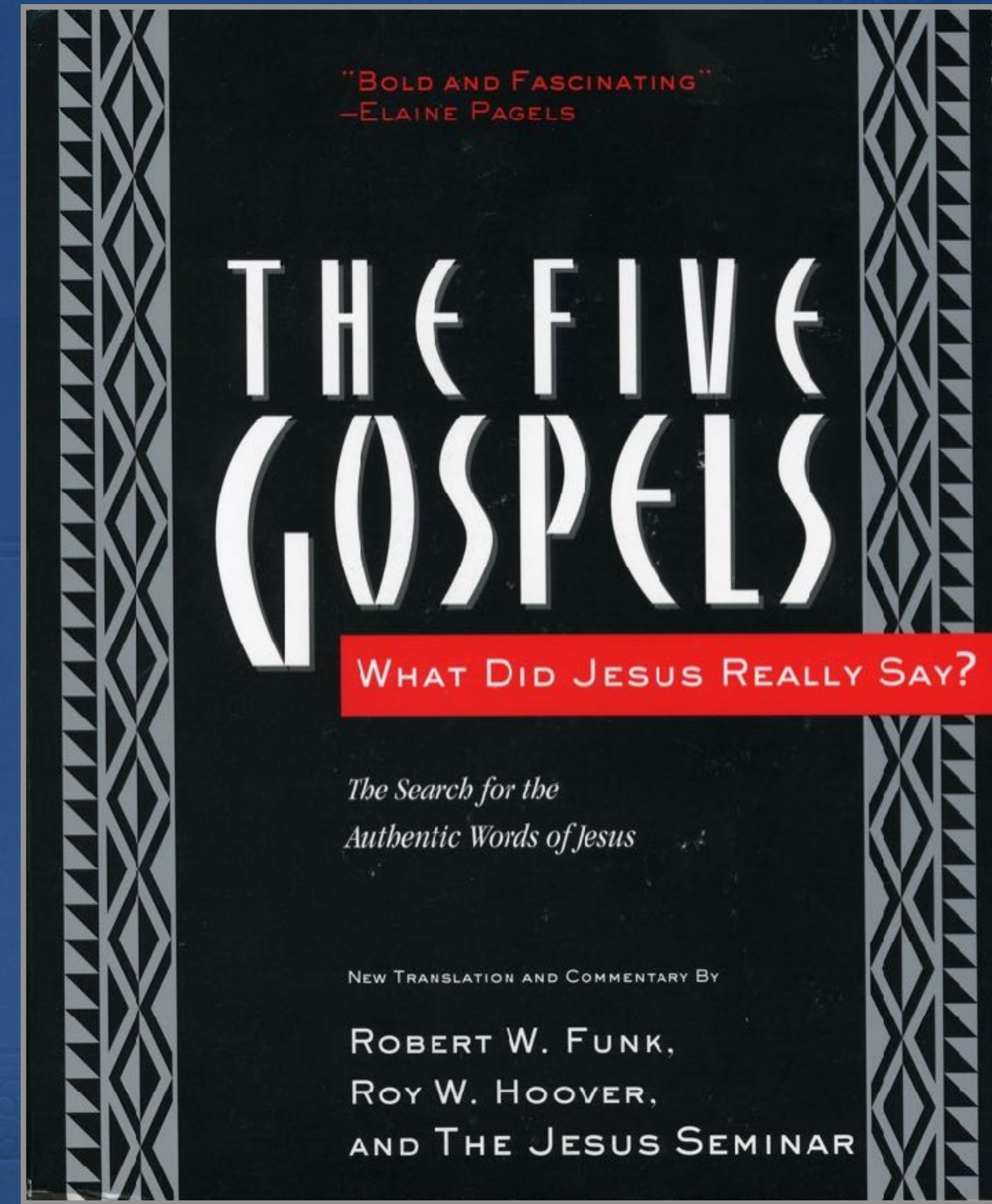
grey: Jesus did not say this, but the ideas contained in it are close to his own (Well, maybe)

black: Jesus did NOT SAY THIS
it represents the perspective or content of a later or different tradition (There's been some mistake.)



According to
the Jesus Seminar:

Eighty-two percent of the words
ascribed to Jesus in the gospels were
not actually spoken by him.



Piety in public. The core of this complex is the injunction in 6:3, attested also in Thom 62:2, although there without context. Matthew (or the community before him) has expanded on the admonition in his own characteristic way in 6:2, 4. The subject in 6:1, "don't flaunt your religion in public," is also Matthew's

Our Father in the heavens,
your name be revered.

¹⁰Impose your imperial rule,
enact your will on earth as you have in heaven.

¹¹Provide us with the bread we need for the day.

¹²Forgive our debts
to the extent that we have forgiven those in debt to us.

¹³And please don't subject us to test after test,
but rescue us from the evil one.

evidence that Jesus made remarks about prayer than that he said things about giving and fasting.

Lord's prayer. This prayer is derived from the Sayings Gospel Q (the two versions are set side by side in Table 4). Luke has more nearly preserved the original form overall; Matthew has amplified the address ("in the heavens") and several of the petitions, but he has also best preserved two of the petitions.

In Q the prayer probably read:

Authentic words of Jesus

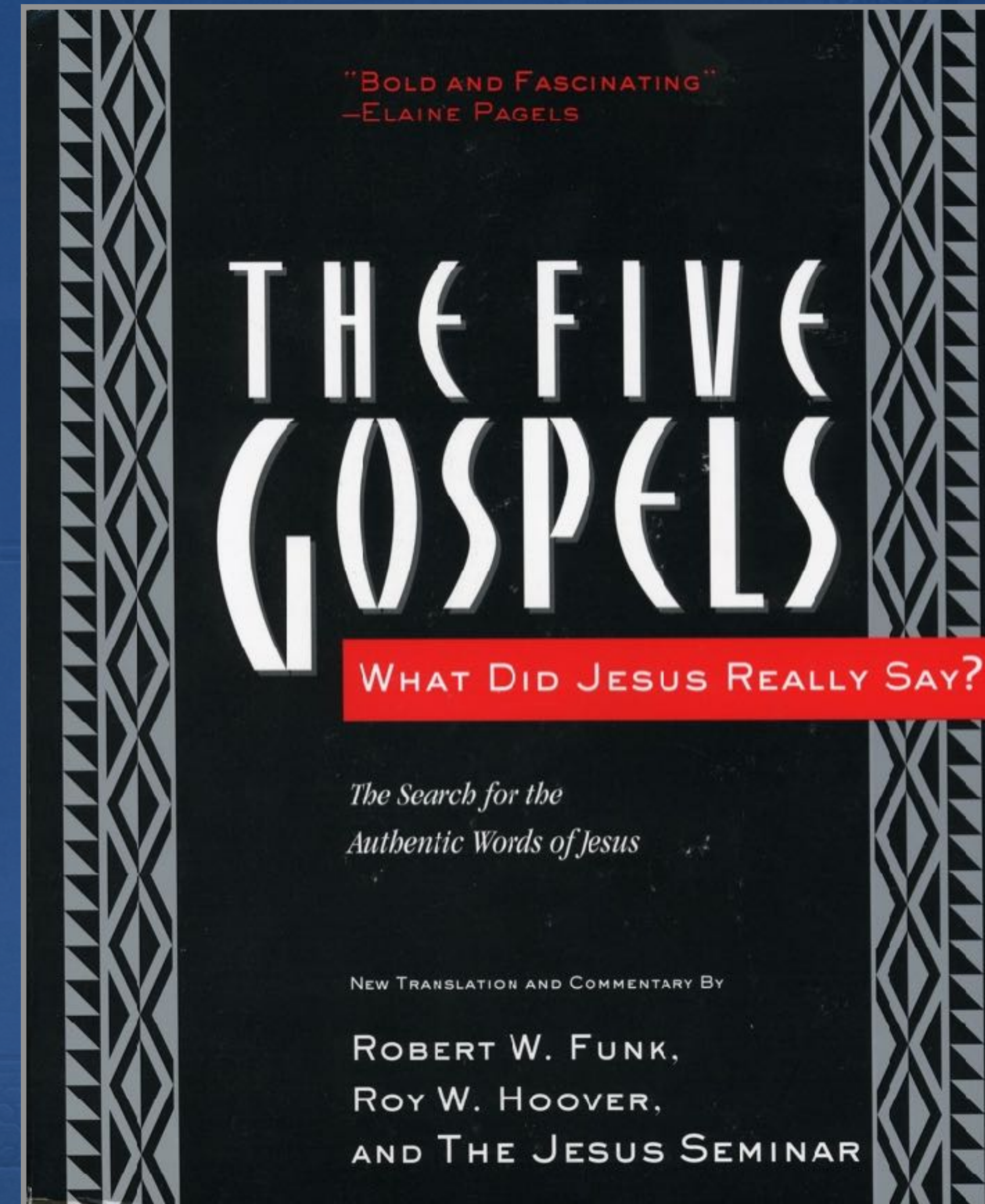
NEW TRANSLATION AND COMMENTARY BY

ROBERT W. FUNK,
ROY W. HOOVER,
AND THE JESUS SEMINAR

*Their “search” is not an honest search. It is merely
a scam to promote a Jesus of their own desire.*

there are many who do the same

they want a Jesus of their own making



ATTACK ON GOD'S WORD

All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but **the Word of the Lord stands forever.**

1 Peter 1:24-25

how do we proceed?

The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

1 Corinthians 2:14

how do we proceed?

Conduct yourselves with **wisdom** toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.
Let your speech always be with **grace**,
as though **seasoned** with salt,
so that you might **know how to respond** to **each** person.

Colossians 4:5-6

how do we proceed?

And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone... Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

2 Timothy 2:24-26

Veracity of the Bible

archeology continues to confirm the Bible's history

amazingly brought forth

amazingly preserved

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amazingly prophecies, always right

amazing amount of manuscript support

Charges of Errors and Contradictions

I have yet to find one after years and years of study

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