



# THEISM

## NOTES



# HOW DOES CHRISTIANITY ANSWER THE FOUR BIG QUESTIONS?

- **Creation**: We are created by a personal God who is transcendent. We are made in His image.
- **Fall**: Sin entered the world through the first humans; humans are sinful people in need of redemption
- **Redemption**: We can't fix it; we can only be redeemed by the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ
- **Eternity**: We will spend eternity with God in heaven, or separated from God in hell

# BASICS OF THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

- There is a transcendent God who created the world through Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:15-17)

## COLOSSIANS 1:15-17

- *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities- all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things and by Him all things hold together.*

# BASICS OF THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

- There is a transcendent God who created the world through Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:15-17)
- Human beings were created in God's image. (Genesis 1:26-27)

## GENESIS 1:26-27

- *Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth.”*
- *So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female.*

# BASICS OF THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

- There is a transcendent God who created the world through Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:15-17)
- Human beings were created in God's image. (Genesis 1:26-27)
- The first humans sinned and brought brokenness into creation.

# BASICS OF THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

- God fixed our brokenness by Jesus' death and resurrection on the cross. (Romans 5:8)



## ROMANS 5:8

- *But God proves His own love for us in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us.*

# BASICS OF THE CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

- God fixed our brokenness by Jesus' death and resurrection on the cross. (Romans 5:8)
- The Christian worldview is based squarely on the person of Jesus Christ.

# GOD MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN IN TWO WAYS

- Nature: This is called general revelation
- Psalm 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of his hands.*

# GOD MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN IN TWO WAYS

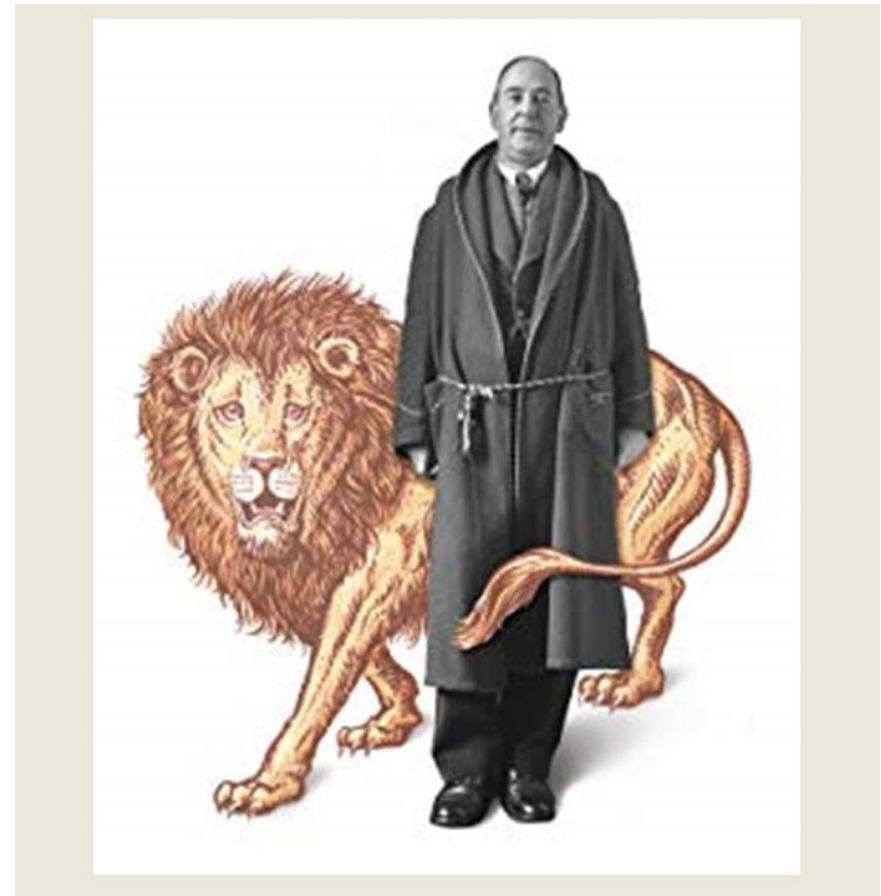
- Bible: This is called special revelation
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 *All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

# THE MAIN STORY

- Christianity is not just a set of commands and inspirational sayings; it is the story God is telling, the story that makes sense of all other stories.

# CS LEWIS

- *“Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.”*



# GOD IS TRANSCENDENT AND IMMANENT

- Christianity is an open system
- There is a transcendent God acting on the world
- Transcendent: God who is beyond and separated from time and space (Psalm 113:5-6, Isaiah 55:8-9)
- Immanent: God who is with us in the world (Jeremiah 23:24)

## PSALM 113:5-6

- *Who is like the Lord our God?*
- *the one enthroned on high,  
6 who stoops down to look  
on the heavens and the earth?*



## ISAIAH 55:8-9

*<sup>8</sup> “For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
and your ways are not my ways.”*

*This is the LORD’s declaration.*

*<sup>9</sup> “For as heaven is higher than earth,  
so my ways are higher than your ways,  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

# GOD IS PERSONAL

- The universe we experience suggests an intelligent, purposeful, and personal designer.
- The biblical God created humans in “His own image.”
- We cannot bend God to our expectations (Psalm 50:21)

## PSALM 50:21

- *<sup>21</sup> You have done these things, and I kept silent;  
you thought I was just like you.  
But I will rebuke you  
and lay out the case before you.*

# GOD HAS MADE HIMSELF KNOWN

- God is transcendent: beyond and separated from the world
- God is immanent: in the world
- God made Himself visible in the person of Jesus Christ.

## JOHN 14:6-9

- *<sup>6</sup> Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you know me, you will also know<sup>[a]</sup> my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”*
- *<sup>8</sup> “Lord,” said Philip, “show us the Father, and that’s enough for us.”*
- *<sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been among you all this time and you do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”*

# GOD HAS MADE HIMSELF KNOWN

- God sustains the world
- *For everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things , and by Him all things hold together.  
Colossians 1:16-17*

# GOD HAS CREATED

- Because God has created, human life has special meaning
- We were created for a purpose
- The creation was “*meab tob*” immeasurably good in all ways. (Genesis 1:31)
- God saw all that He had made, and it was **very good** indeed.

# GENERAL REVELATION

- God's revealing of Himself through nature



## PSALM 19:1-6

- *The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands. Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge. There is no speech, there are no words; their voice is not heard. Their message has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens He has pitched a tent for the sun. It is like a groom coming from the bridal chamber; it rejoices like an athlete running its course. It rises from one end of the heavens and circles to the other end; nothing is hidden from its heat.*

## ROMANS 1:18-20

- *For God's wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth, since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them. For His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what he has made. As a result, people are without excuse.*

## ROMANS 2:14-15

- *So, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, instinctively do what the law demands, they are a law to themselves even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts. Their consciences confirm this. Their competing thoughts will either accuse or excuse them....*

# COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT



**Whatever begins to exist *has a cause*.**

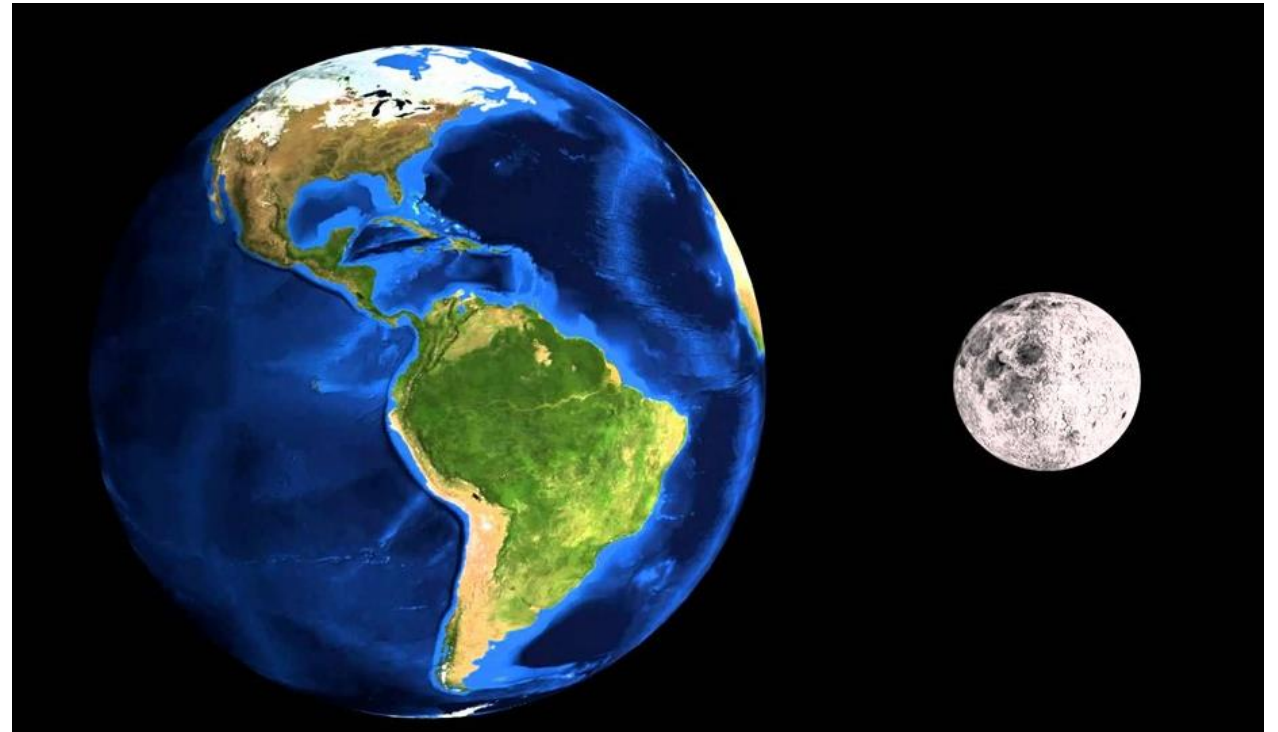
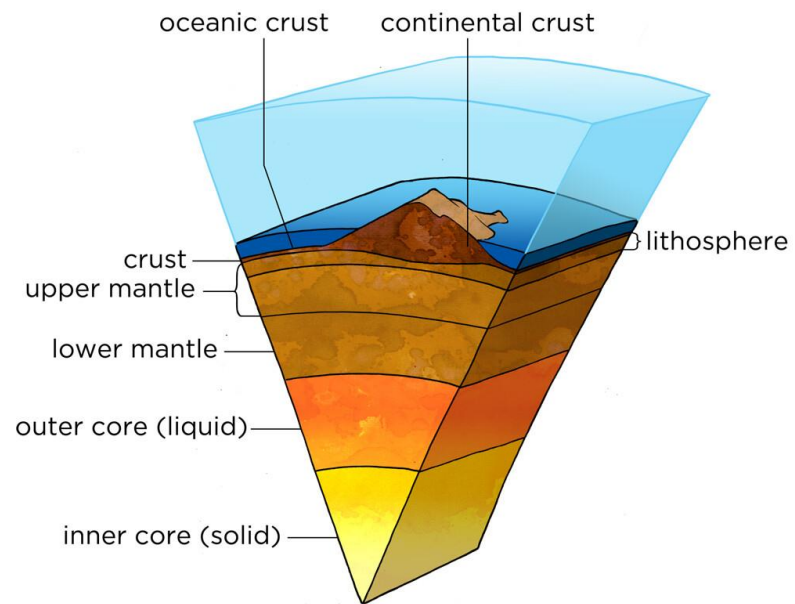
**The universe began to exist.**

**Therefore, the universe *has a cause*.**

# FINETUNING OF THE UNIVERSE

- The earth's relationship to the sun and moon
- The earth's atmospheric conditions
- The earth's terrestrial nature

# FINE TUNING OF THE UNIVERSE

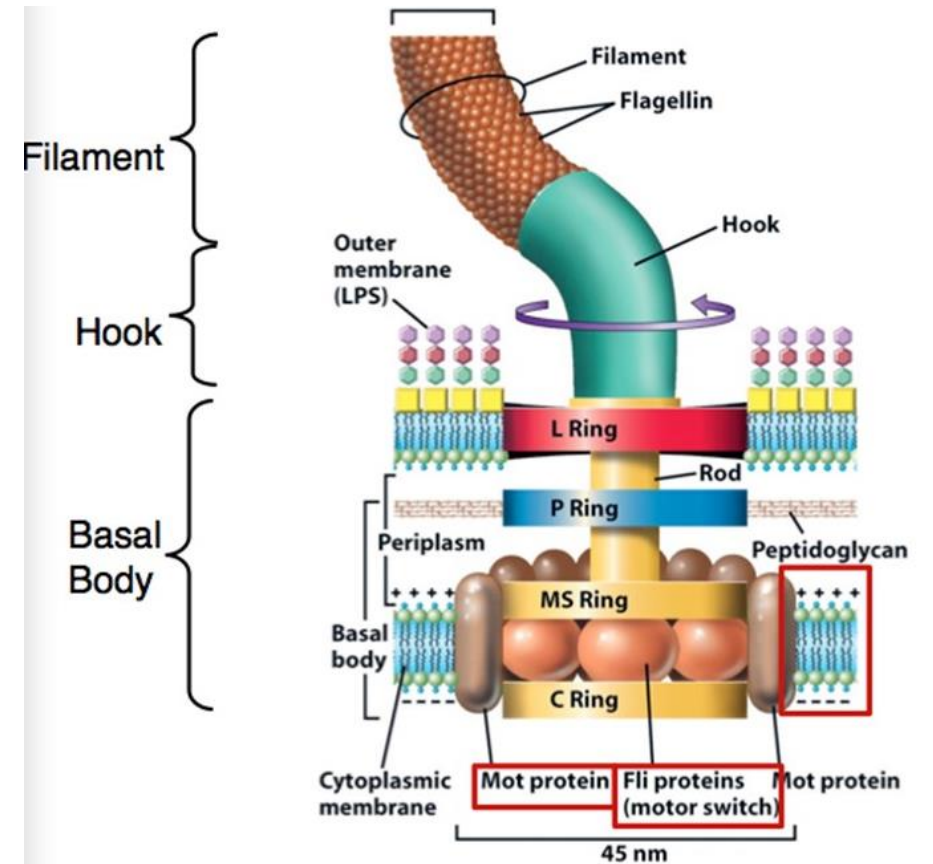
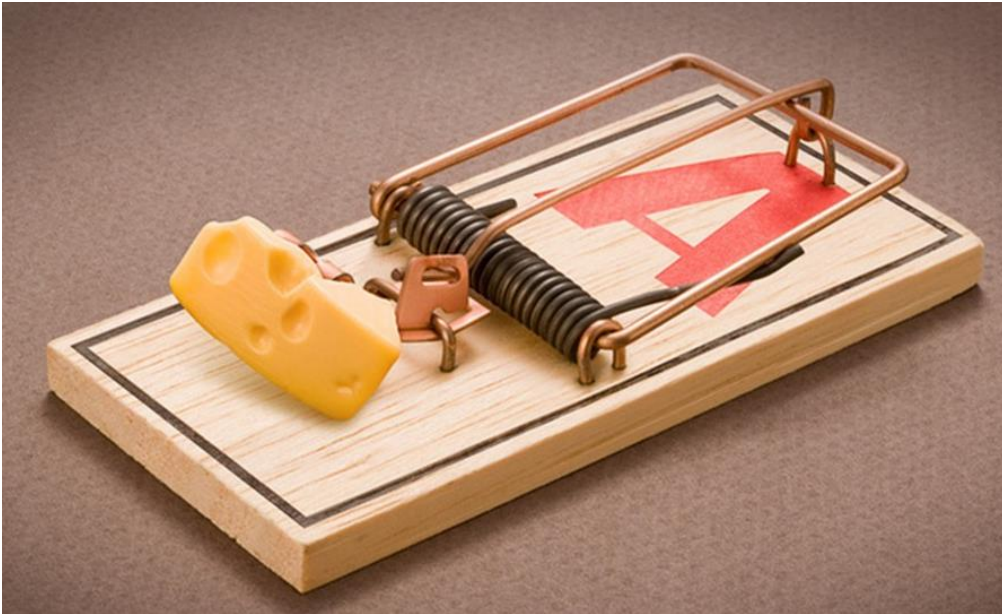


# IRREDUCIBLE COMPLEXITY

- A system made up of many well matched, interacting parts that contribute to the function of the system.
- Removing any one of these parts causes the system to stop functioning
- Examples; blood clots, bacterial flagellum

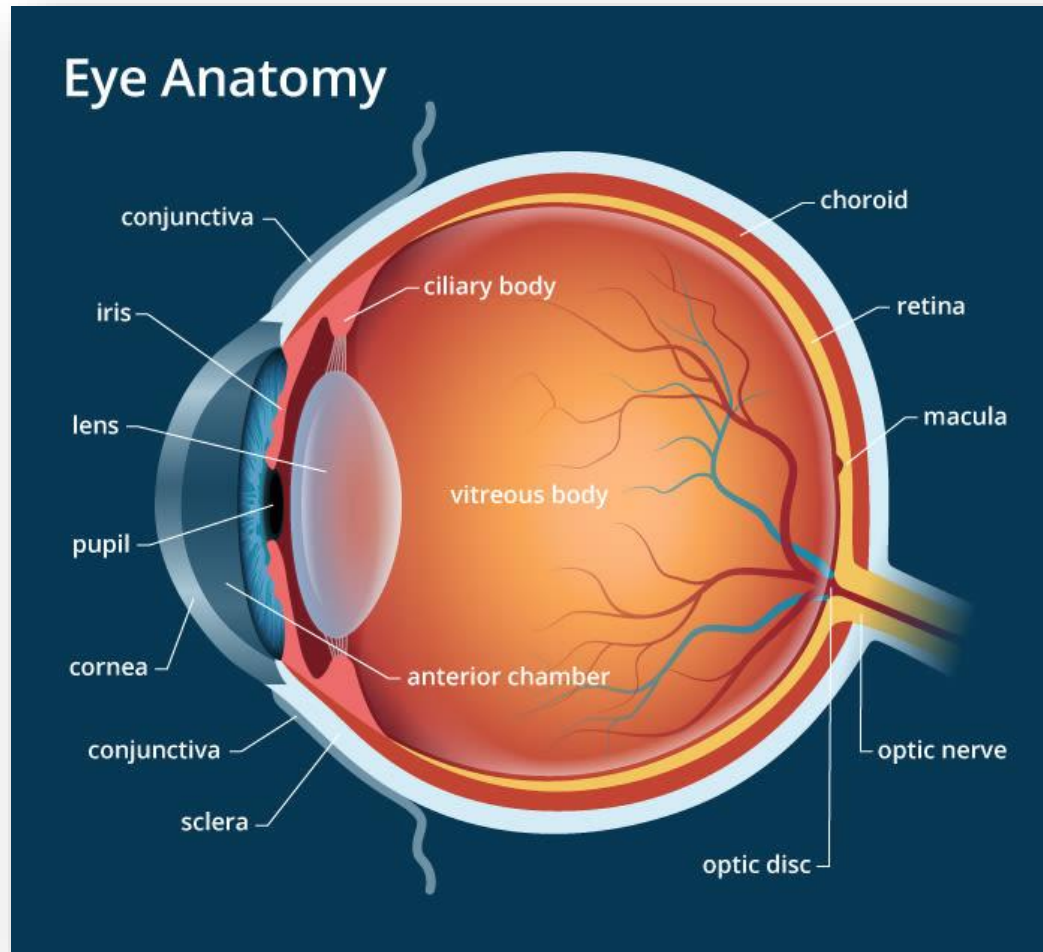


# IRREDUCIBLE COMPLEXITY





# IRREDUCIBLE COMPLEXITY



# SPECIFIED COMPLEXITY

- Does this show an identifiable pattern of design?
- Can it be produced by natural causes?
- Is it highly improbable?

# SPECIFIED COMPLEXITY



# ANTHROPIC PRINCIPLE

- The universe is uniquely designed for human life



# SPECIAL REVELATION

- General revelation tells us what exists, not why it exists
- Special revelation answers the questions we have about life
- The Bible is the reliable basis for understanding all reality

# SHARPER

- The acronym, SHARPER, can help us have confidence in the Bible as the word of God we can trust to direct our lives



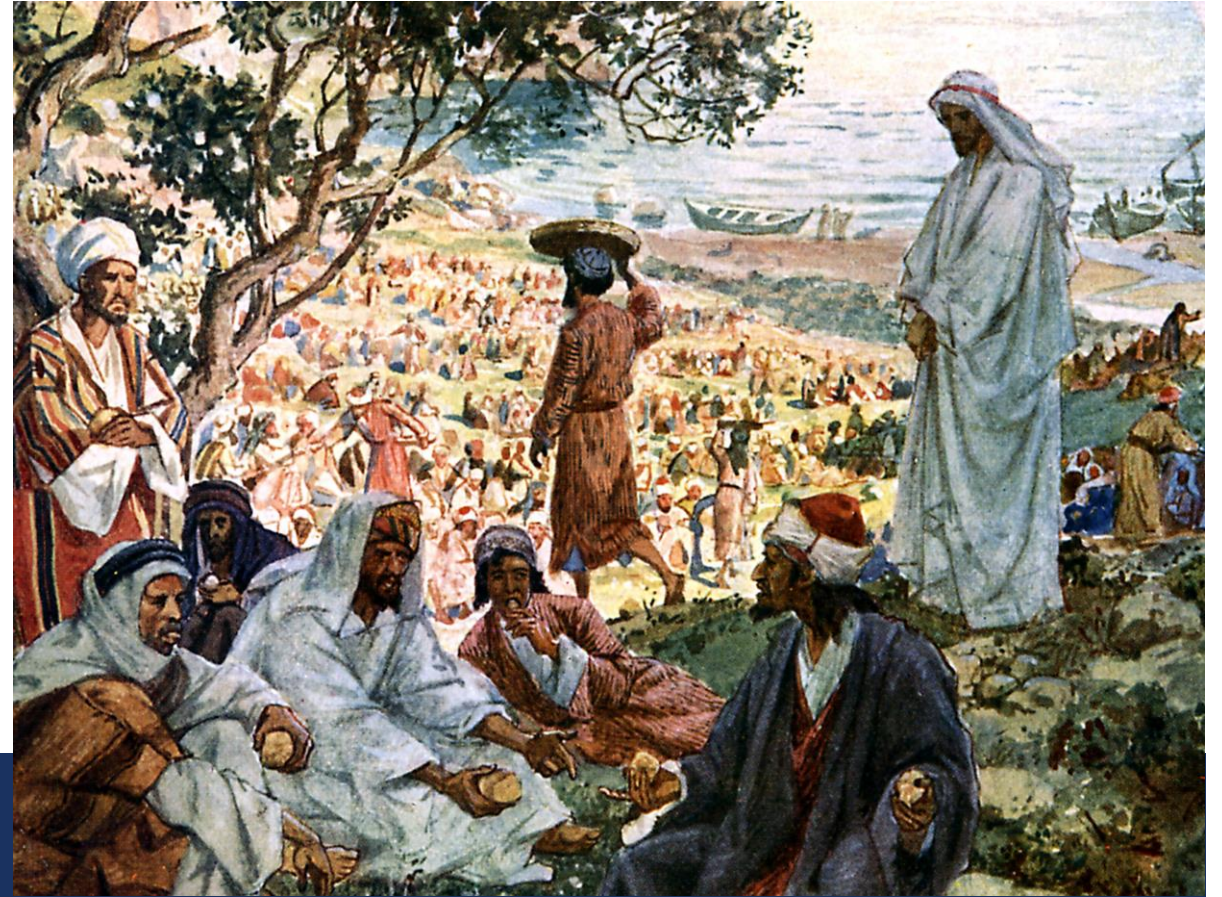
# SAME

- The Bible has been consistently passed down and transcribed to us for centuries. The copies we have can reconstruct the original to over 99% accuracy.



# HISTORICAL LY ACCURATE

- The names and places mentioned in the Bible are real





# A

ARCHAEO-LOGICALLY VERIFIED

- Archaeology has verified the historicity of the Bible



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## **R**ELIABLE MANUSCRIPTS

- The number of reliable manuscripts far exceeds that of any other ancient document





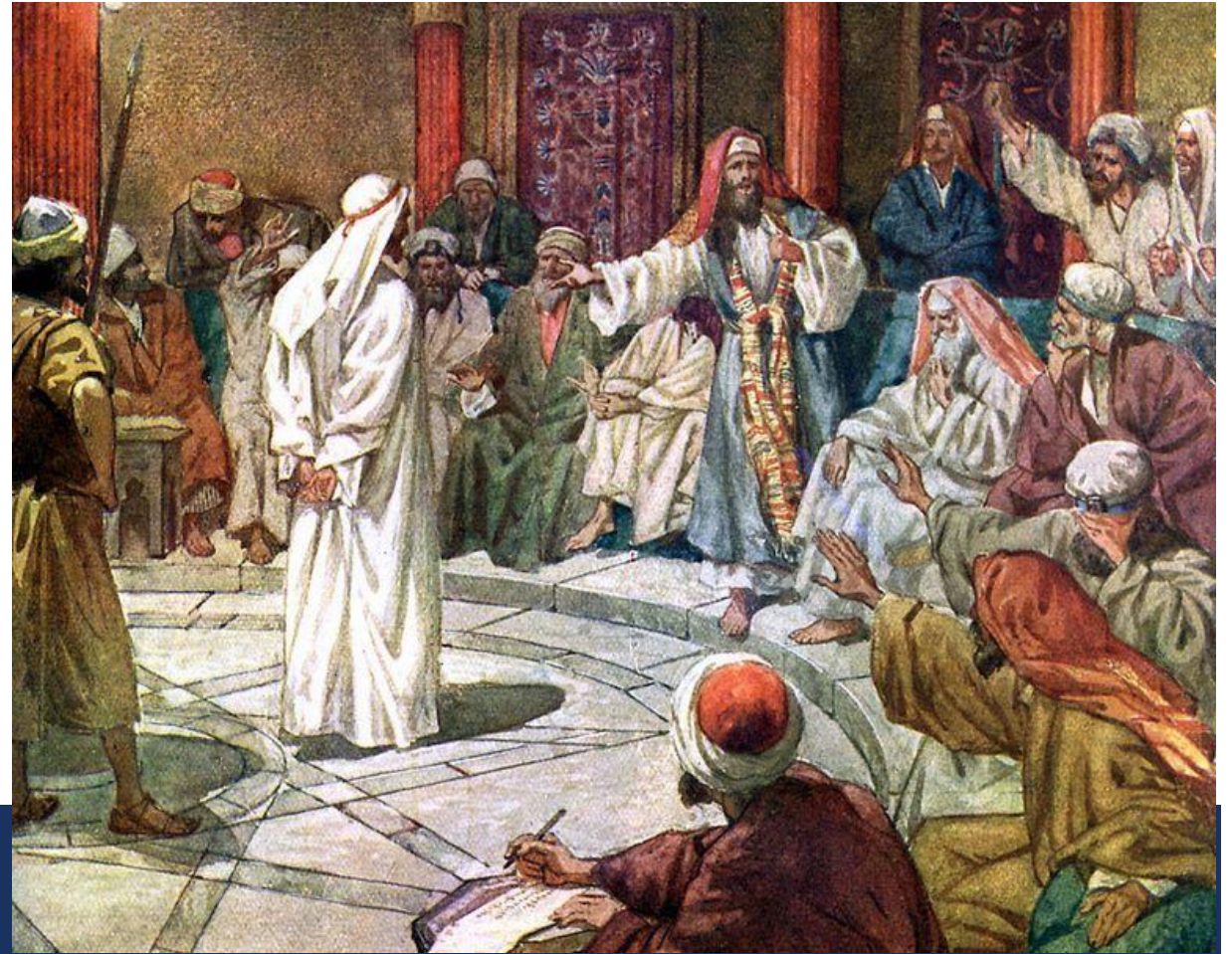
# P ROPHETIC

- Numerous predictions made in the Bible have been fulfilled throughout history



# E<sub>X</sub>TRAORDINARY IMPACT

- Scripture has powerfully altered the lives of people and nations



# RELEVANT

- Scripture gives timeless insights into the nature of God and humanity.



## REDEMPTION: WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

- We can't do anything about the brokenness in the world
- We needed a transcendent God to act on the world and fix it



## REDEMPTION: HOW CAN THE WORLD BE SET RIGHT AGAIN?

- God is the Redeemer who buys back His wayward creation
- Redeem: to buy back what was once in your possession
- He redeemed us by dying on the cross for our sin and rising to life on the third day (1 Cor. 15:3-4)



# WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

- We have all sinned and are in need of redemption
  - Romans 3:23

- Sin brings eternal separation from God
- Romans 6:23a

# WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

- God offers eternal life through the gift of Jesus
  - Romans 6:23b

- God showed He loved us by dying on the cross
- Romans 5:8

## WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

- You must confess that Jesus is Lord and believe He rose from the dead

- *If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*

- *Romans 10:9-10*