

Should we Doubt our Faith?

What if someone questions our faith?

Michael Burns

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Reddit · r/Christianity

150+ comments · 1 year ago

:

Is there any proof that Christianity is the truth?

As far as I know, **there is no credible physical evidence for Christianity**, nor is there any physical evidence for any religious belief system.

Proving Christianity is false : r/DebateReligion - Reddit Sep 10, 2022

What's the best evidence that proves Christianity is true. : r/Bible Oct 14, 2023

There is no reason or evidence to believe that Christianity is ... Dec 2, 2017

Is there any evidence for christianity?? : r/exchristian - Reddit Jan 19, 2023

More results from www.reddit.com

Eight Reasons Why Christianity Is False

1. There is clear evidence that **prayer does not work** despite the Bible promising prayers will be answered.
2. There is clear evidence that **humans invent gods and there is no reason to believe the Jewish god is an exception.**
3. There is clear evidence that **religions and gods are propagated through culture by infecting children**, and no evidence that they are propagated by gods.
4. There is clear evidence that **religions evolve as human understanding of the world changes** whilst a real, God-given religion, should never need to change.

5. There is clear evidence that **humans on this planet have unequal access to Christianity** so, if Christianity is true, billions would be condemned to hell for no fault of their own. This contradicts the Christian notion that God is omni-benevolent.
6. There is clear evidence that **the Bible, supposedly inspired by God, is riddled with the type of errors** that we would expect from Iron Age men but not from the creator of the universe.

7. Christian theology is incoherent to the point of absurdity. God killing his son so he can forgive our future sin is like me breaking my son's legs so I can forgive my neighbour in case she ever parks her car on my drive. It is quite ridiculous.

8. There is clear evidence that the arguments presented for the existence of God are founded on logical fallacies – all of them. All that is left for Christians is faith and their feelings. We know that faith and feelings can be used to believe in any god at all – including non-existent gods. So faith and feelings are epistemologically worthless. And that is all Christians have.

I rest my case.

Is there any proof that Christianity is true?

No.

There is absolutely no proof Christianity is true. You can check the geology records, the fossil records, and the history books; there is absolutely no proof. Most people try to refute this claim by saying read The Bible. But, it turns out that only 1 in 10 Christians actually have read the bible. And still, they believe reading the bible will automatically turn people into Christians. When actually, a good portion of the people who have read it turn AWAY from Christianity.

Definitions

Proof:

noun

1. **evidence sufficient to establish a thing as true**, or to produce belief in its truth.

2. anything serving as such evidence:

What proof do you have?

3. the act of testing or making trial of anything; test; trial:

to put a thing to the proof.

4. the **establishment** of the truth of anything; demonstration.

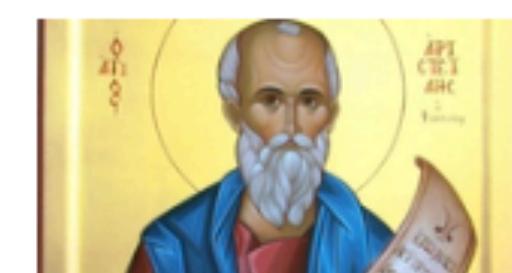
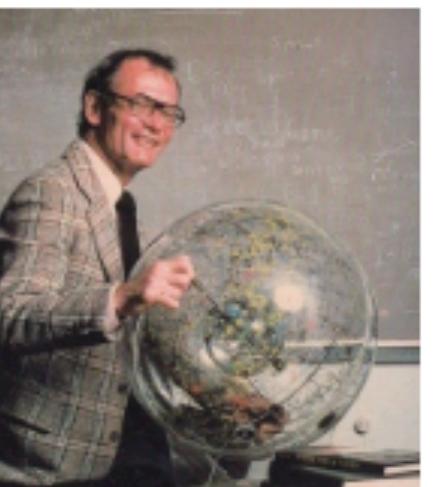
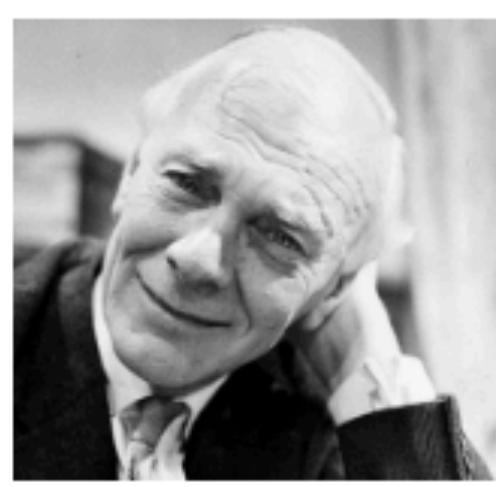
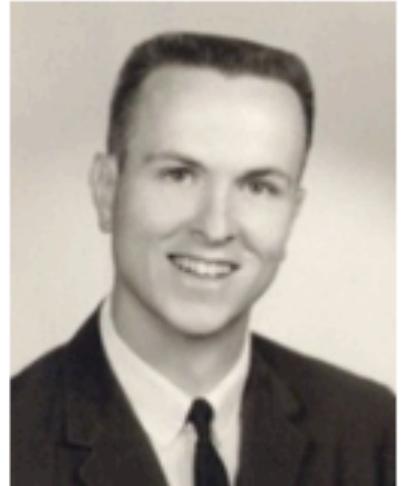
Definitions

Evidence: noun

1. that which tends to prove or disprove something; ground for belief; proof.
2. something that makes plain or clear; an indication or sign:
His flushed look was visible evidence of his fever.
3. **Law.** data presented to a court or jury in proof of the facts in issue and which may include the testimony of witnesses, records, documents, or objects.

Panel of Expert Skeptics

30 Expert Skeptics



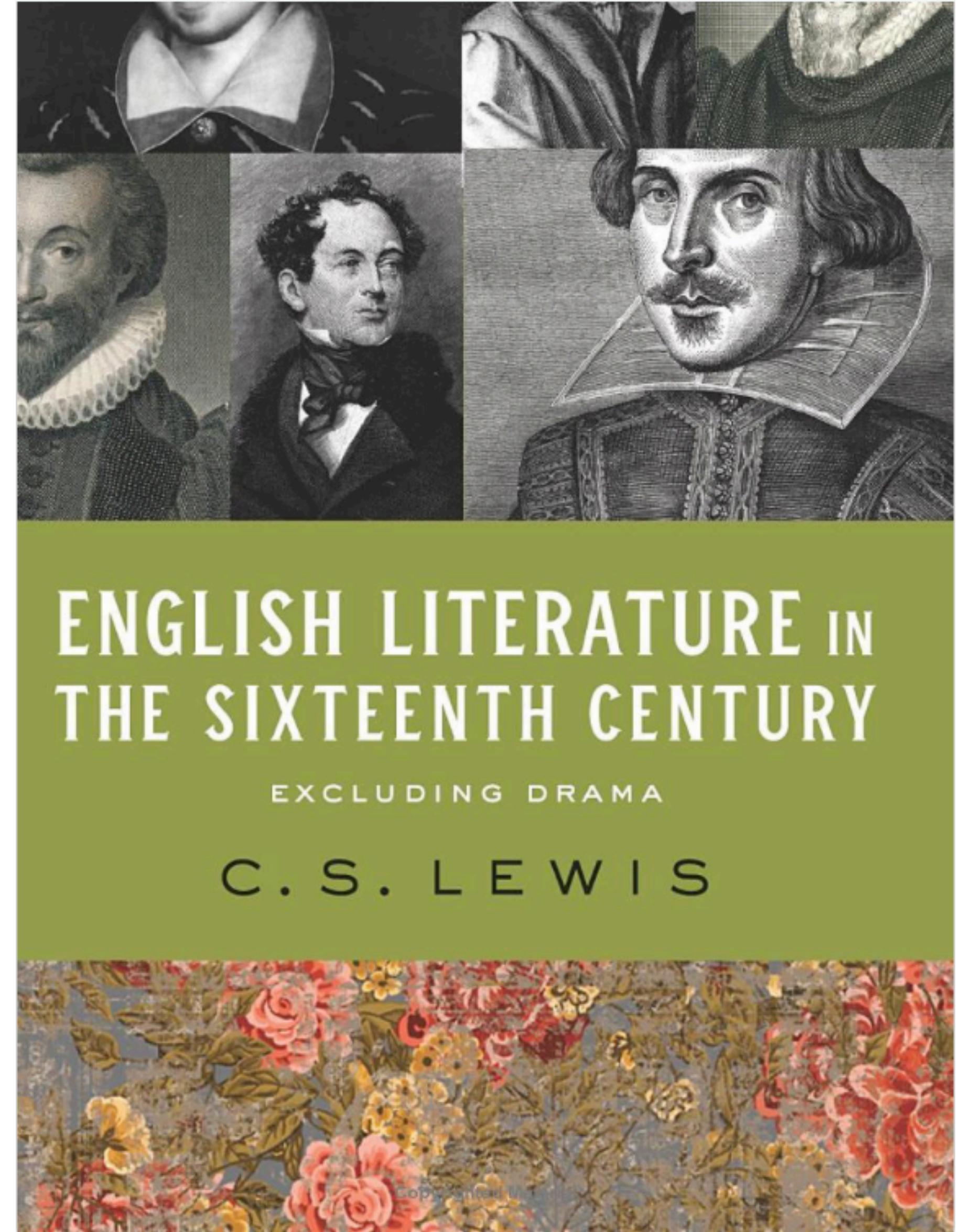
C.S. Lewis

Atheist / Mythology & Literature Expert

- Spent his youth reading extensively
- Atheist goes to Oxford
- Triple First (Summa Cum Laude x3)
- Joins the Icelandic mythology club
- Lewis: “Christianity is a myth”
- Tolkien: “Yes of course, but it is a TRUE myth”
- Surprised by Joy



- Thesis: **English Literature in the Sixteenth Century (Excluding Drama)**
- Read **everything** written in or **translated to** English in that century
- 20,000 books
- 6,000 favorites (by memory)
- Shakespeare, Luther, Bacon ...
- Tyndale: First Bible translated to English from Hebrew & Greek

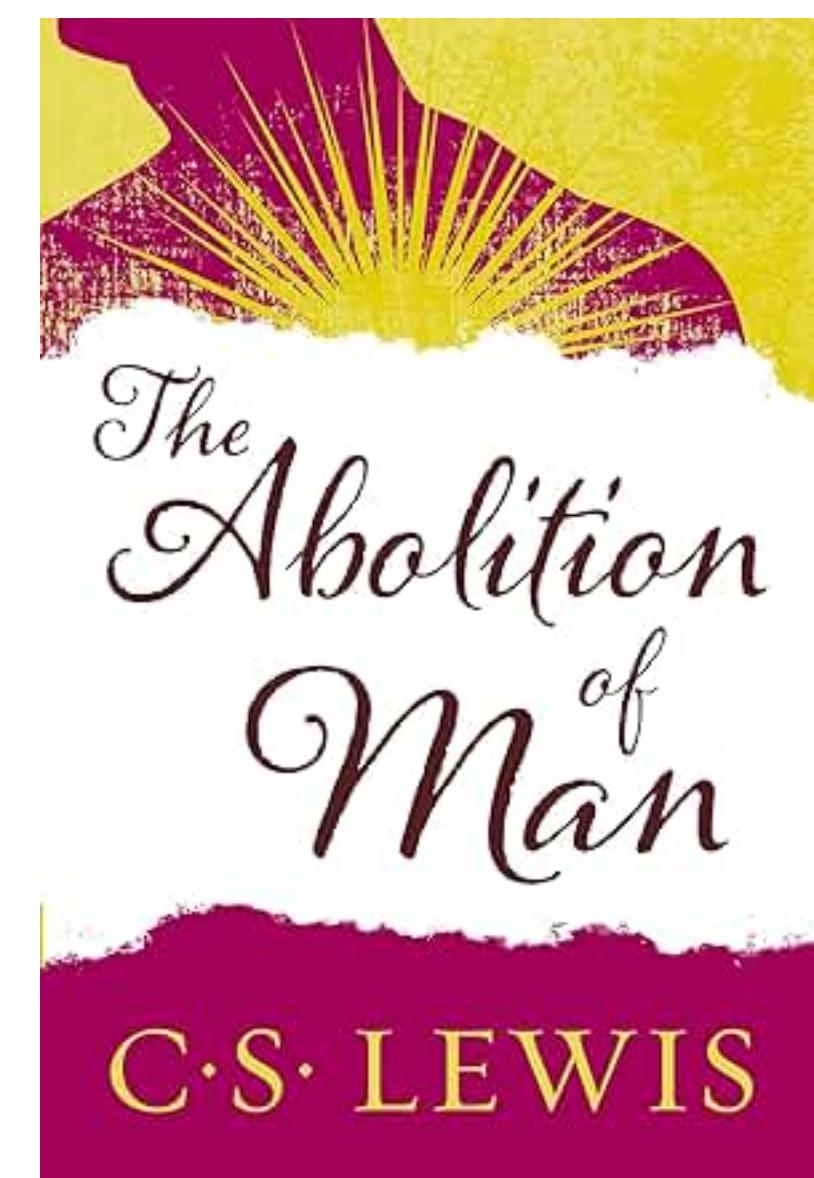
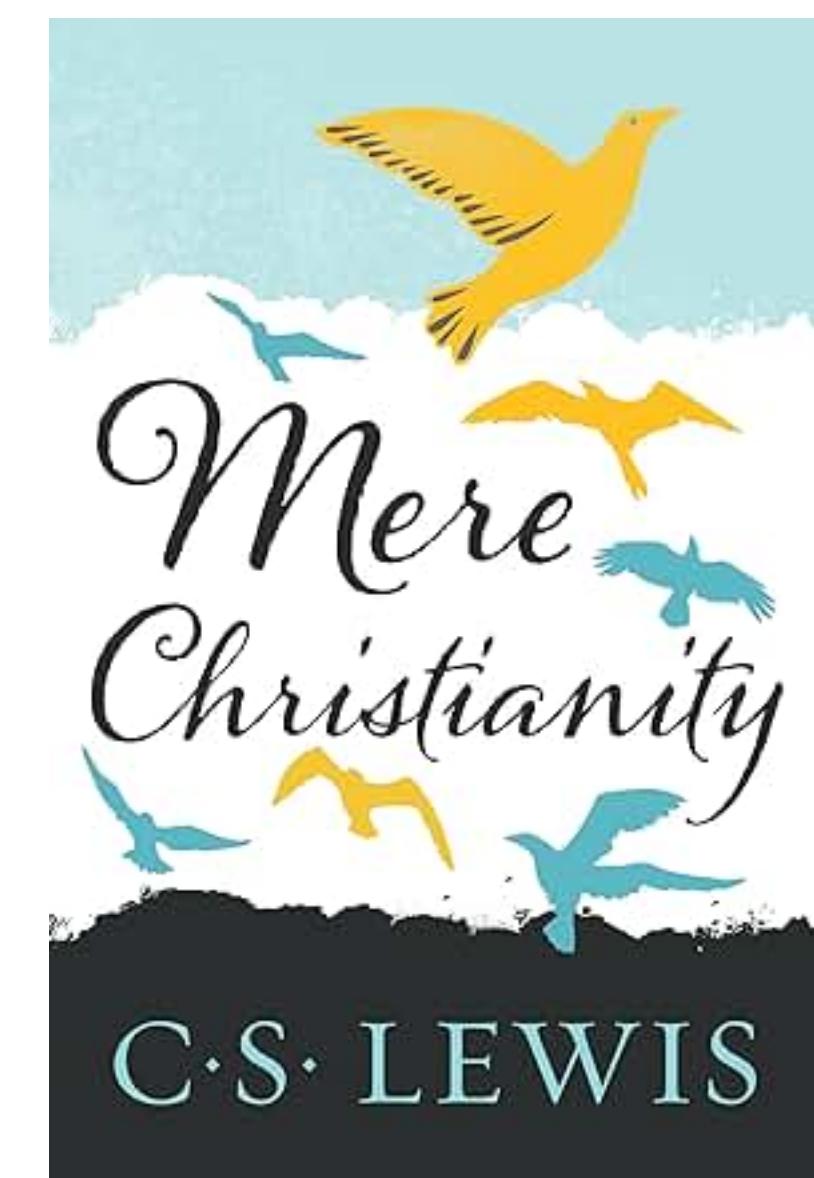
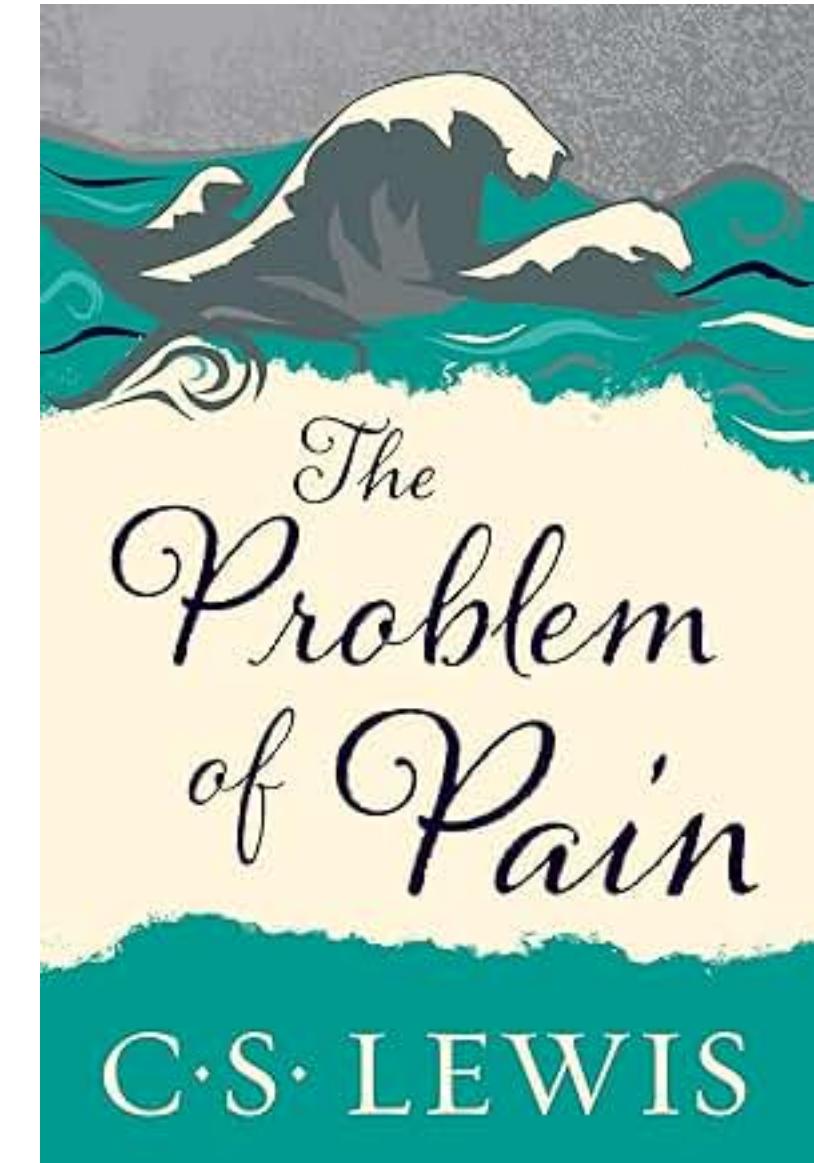
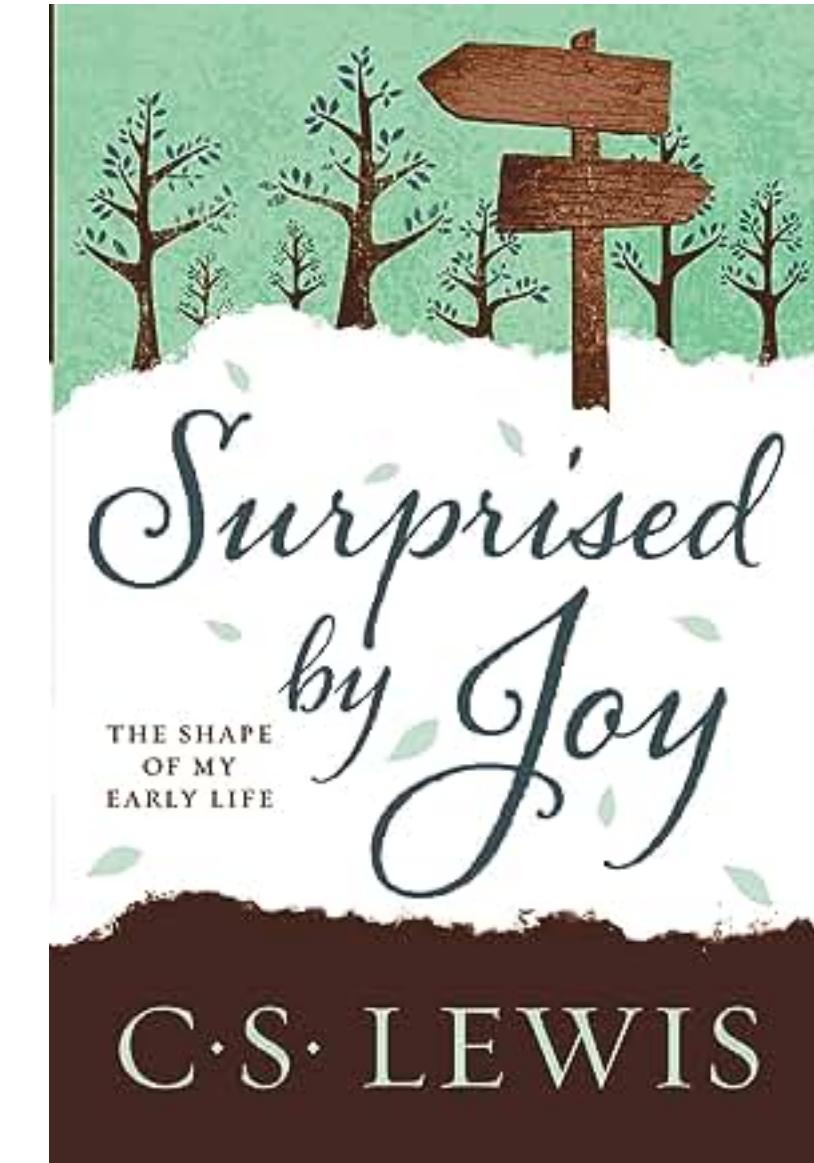




I BELIEVE IN CHRISTIANITY AS
I BELIEVE THAT THE SUN HAS RISEN
NOT ONLY BECAUSE I SEE IT
BUT BECAUSE BY IT I SEE
EVERYTHING ELSE

C. S. Lewis

celebquote.com

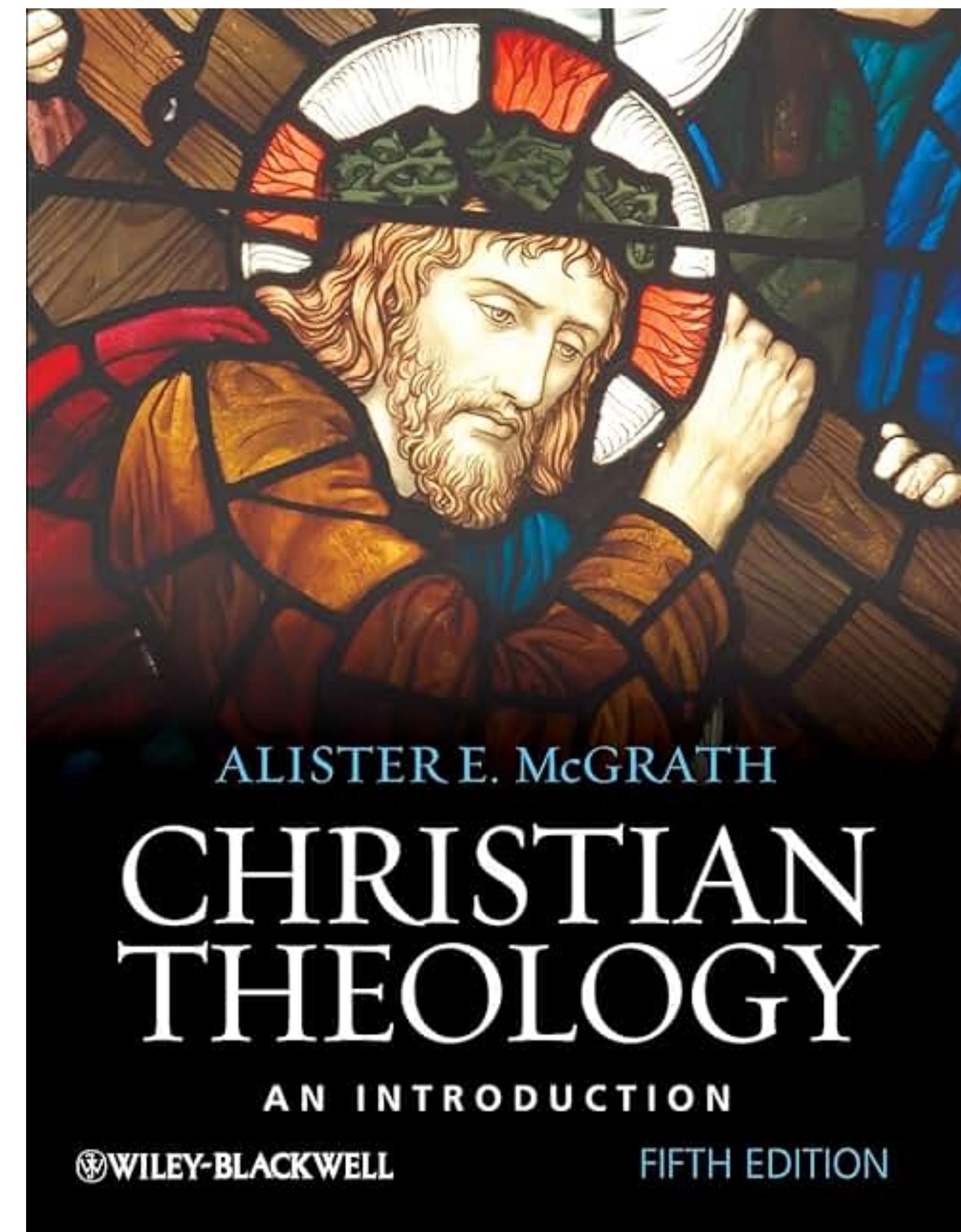
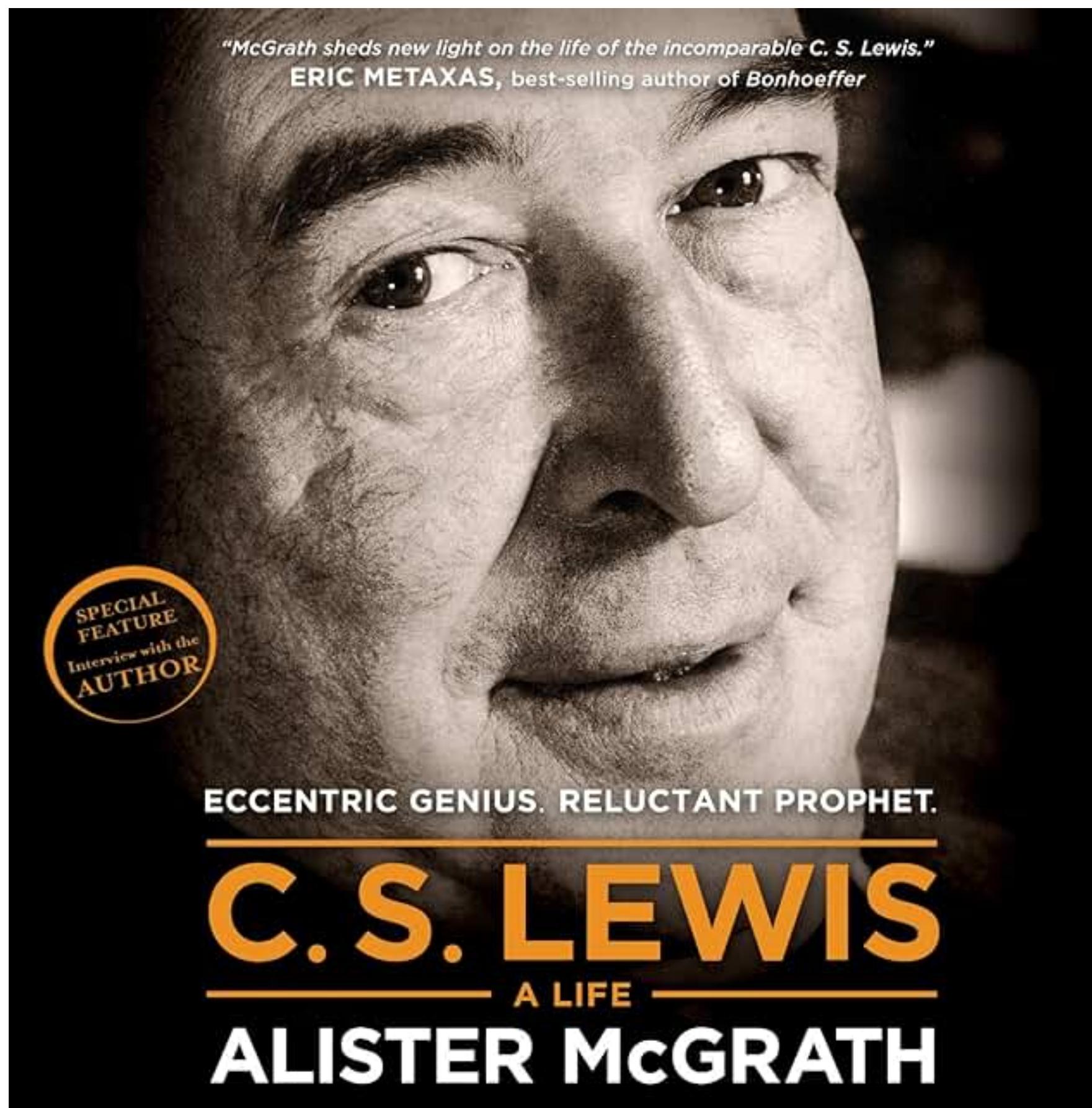


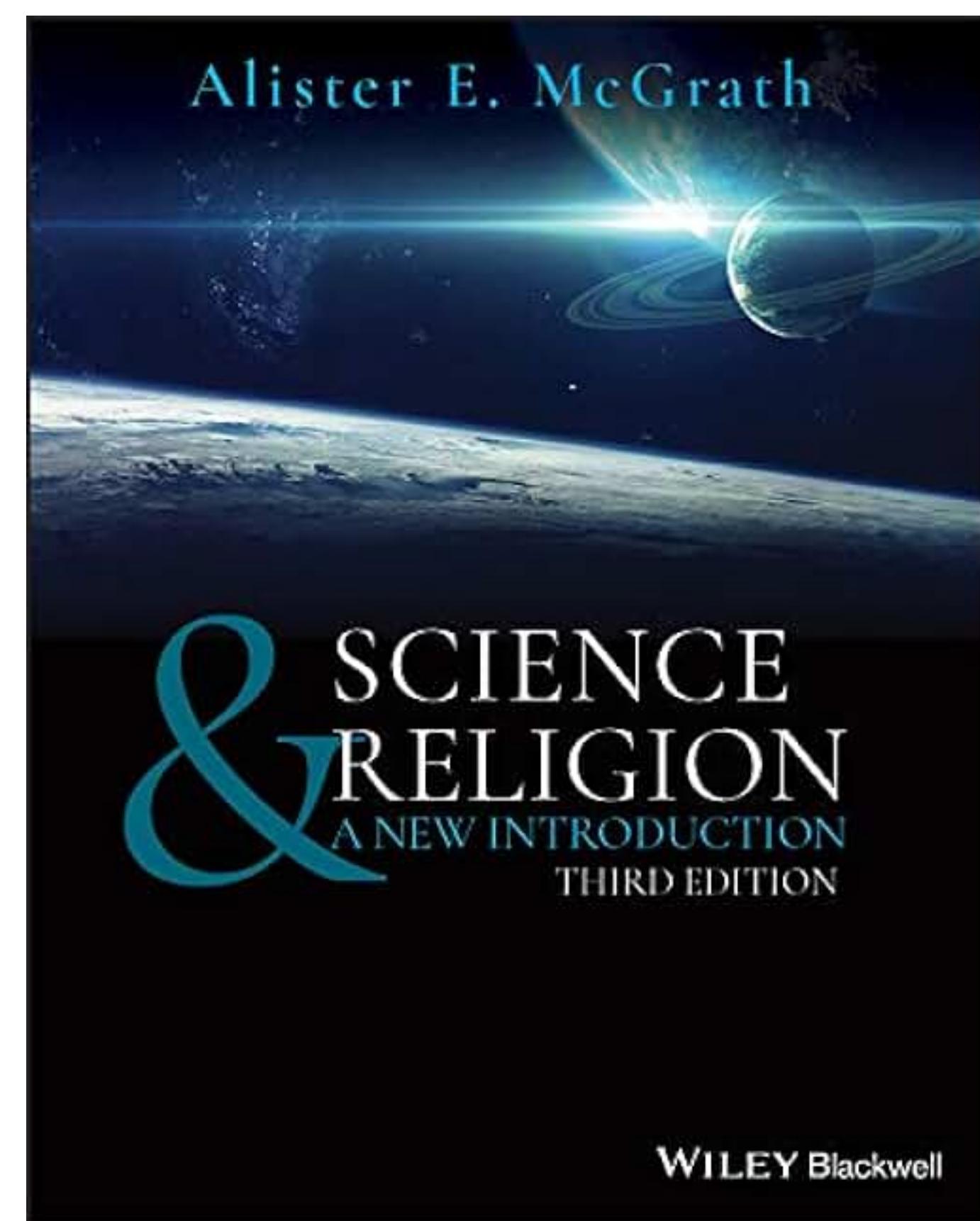
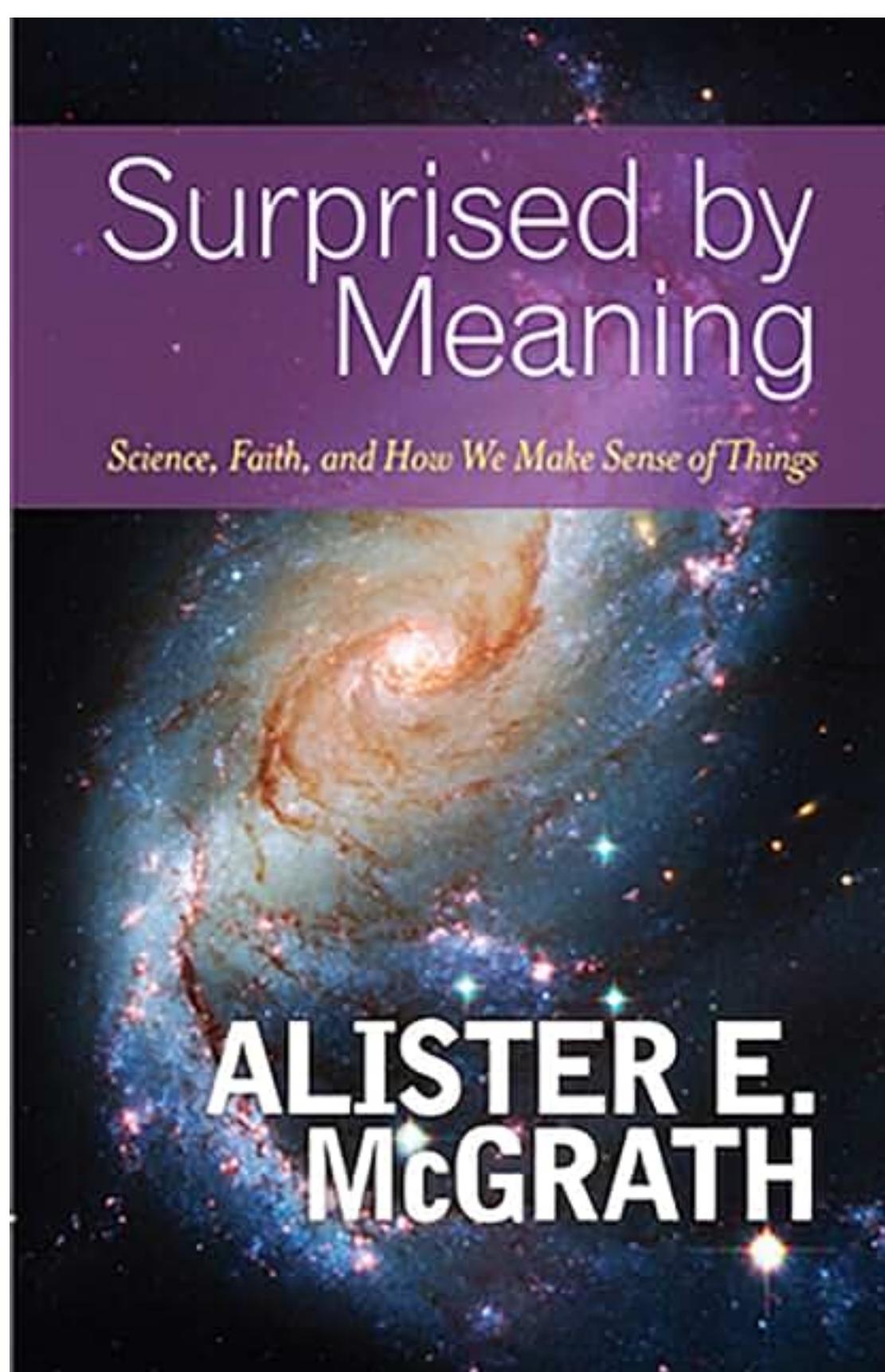
Alister McGrath

C.S. Lewis 2.0

- Spent his youth reading Lewis and science
- Atheist goes to Oxford
- Studied mathematics, physics, and chemistry
- “Why I realised my atheism was wrong”
- Triple First: Chemistry, Molecular Biology, and Mathematics
- Professorship in Science and Religion at the University of Oxford
- Professorship in Science and Religion
- Also professor at King’s College London
- Anglican priest
- Chris Sneller’s doctoral advisor





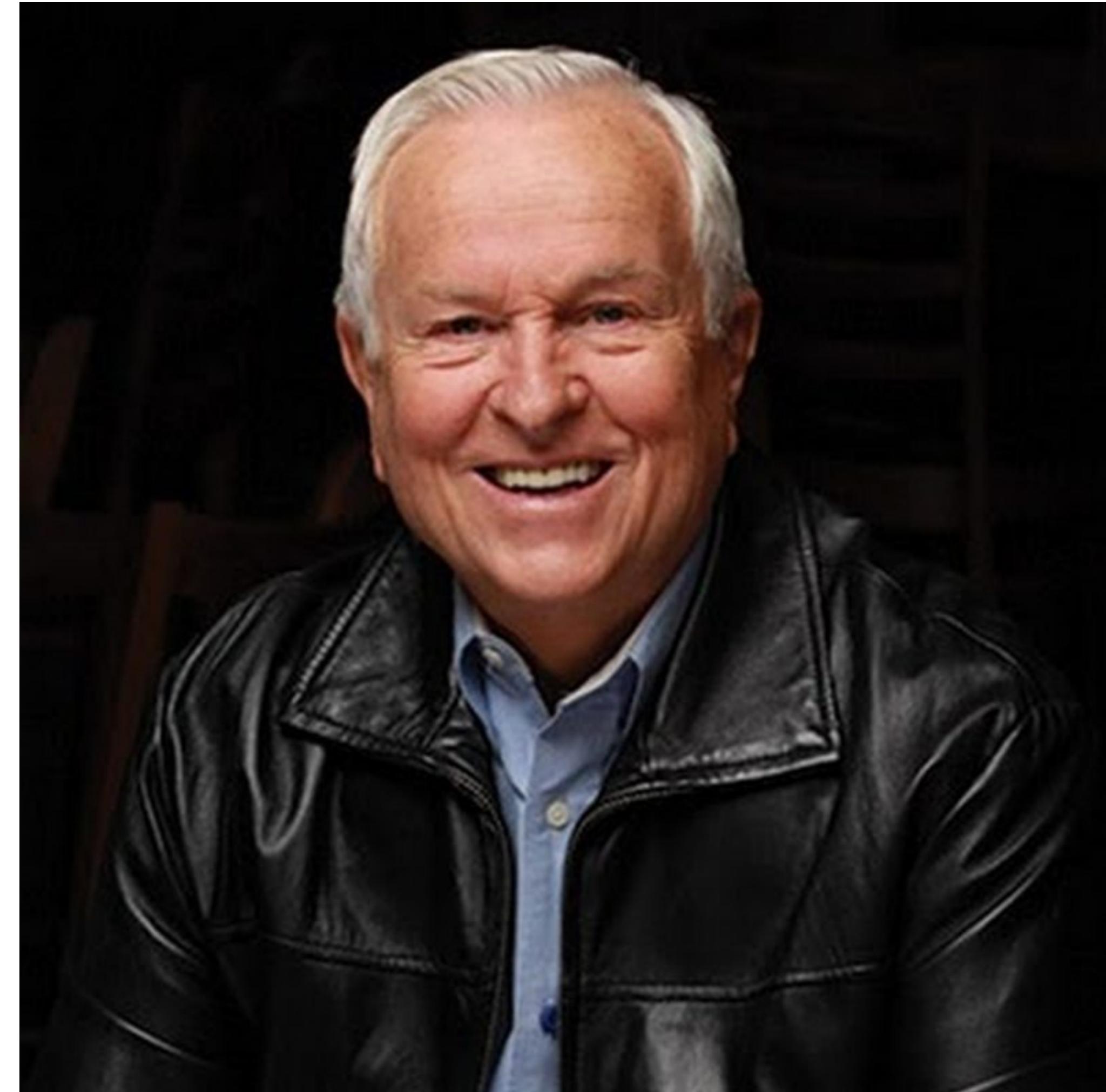
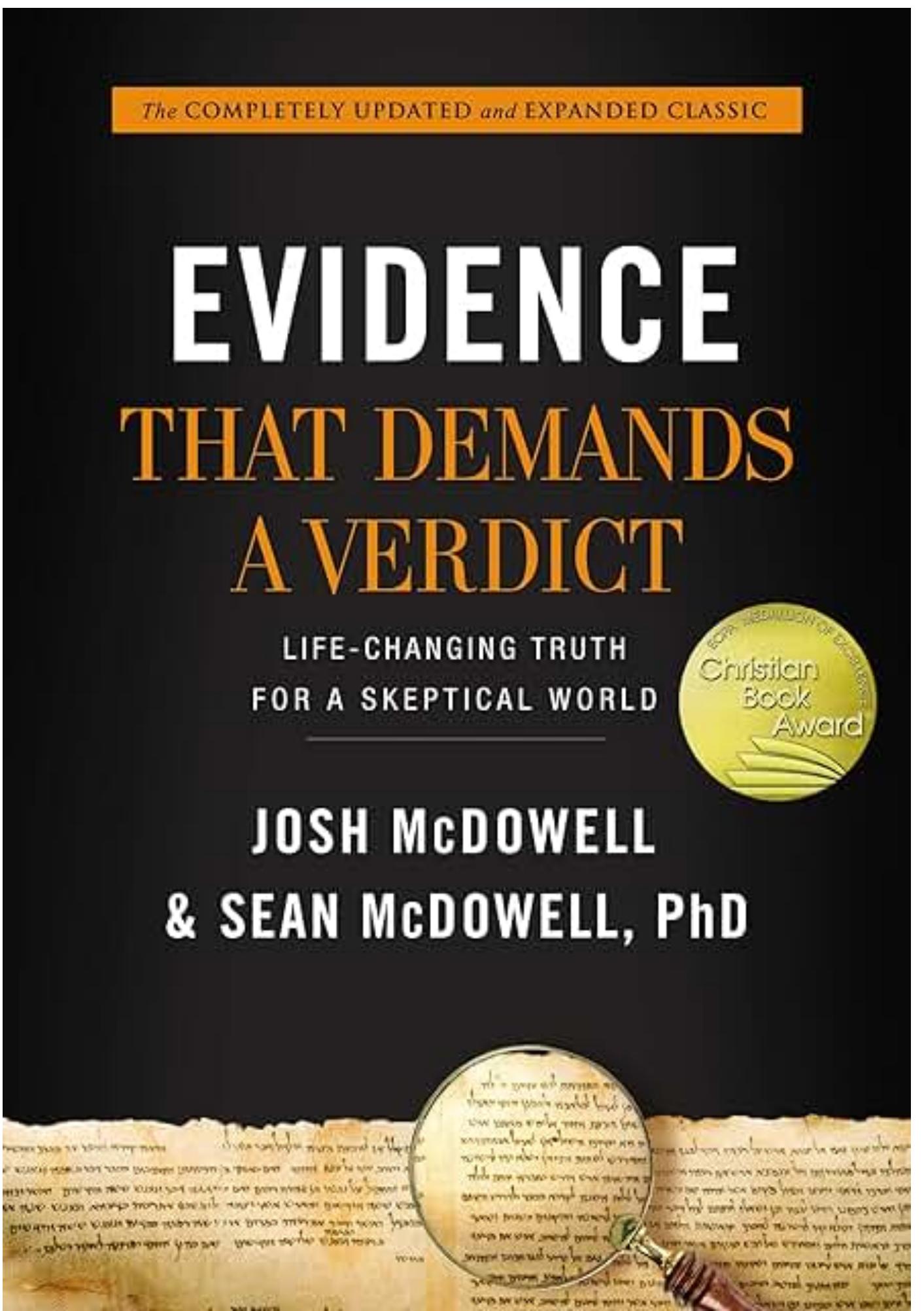


Josh McDowell

Young man “demands a verdict”

- College paper: **Evidence That Demands a Verdict**
- “I spent a lot of money to completely discredit Christianity, but it backfired.”

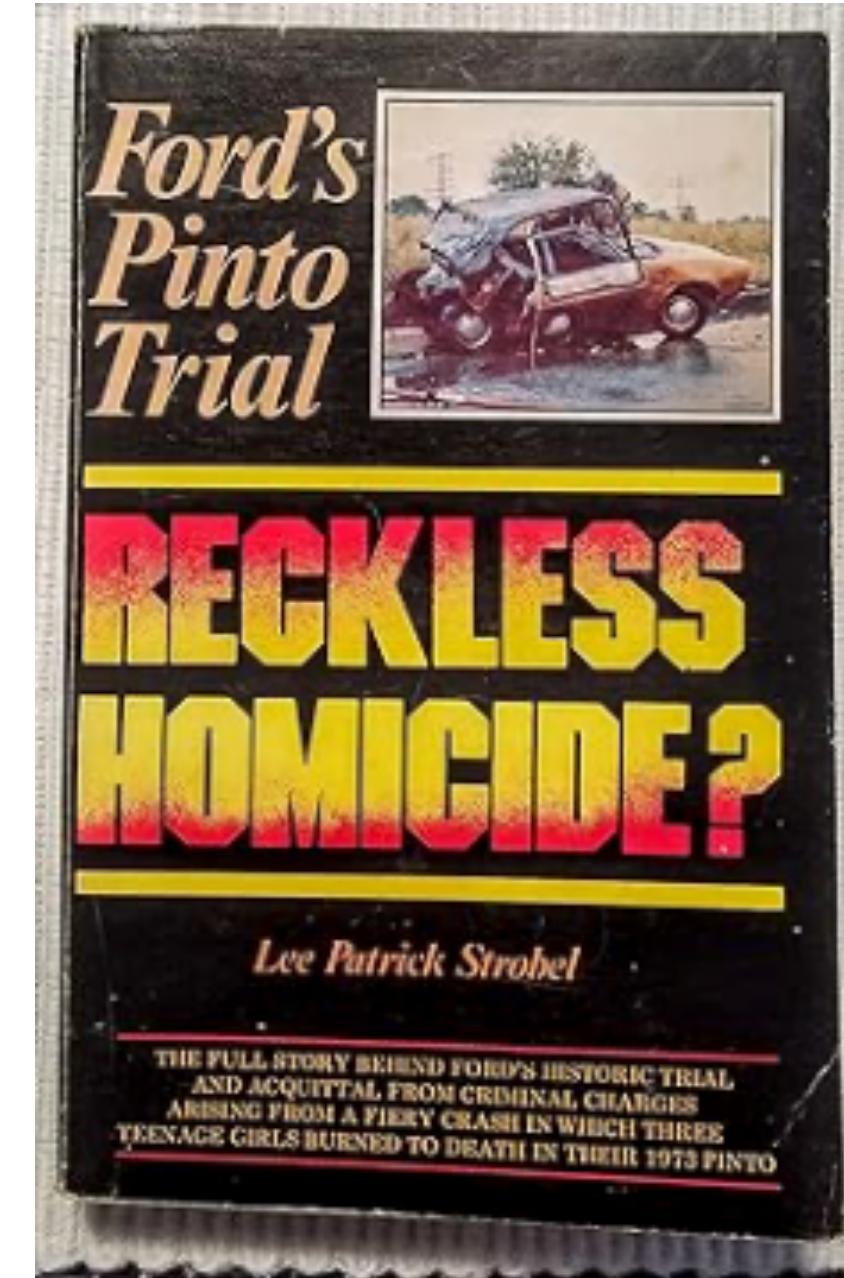


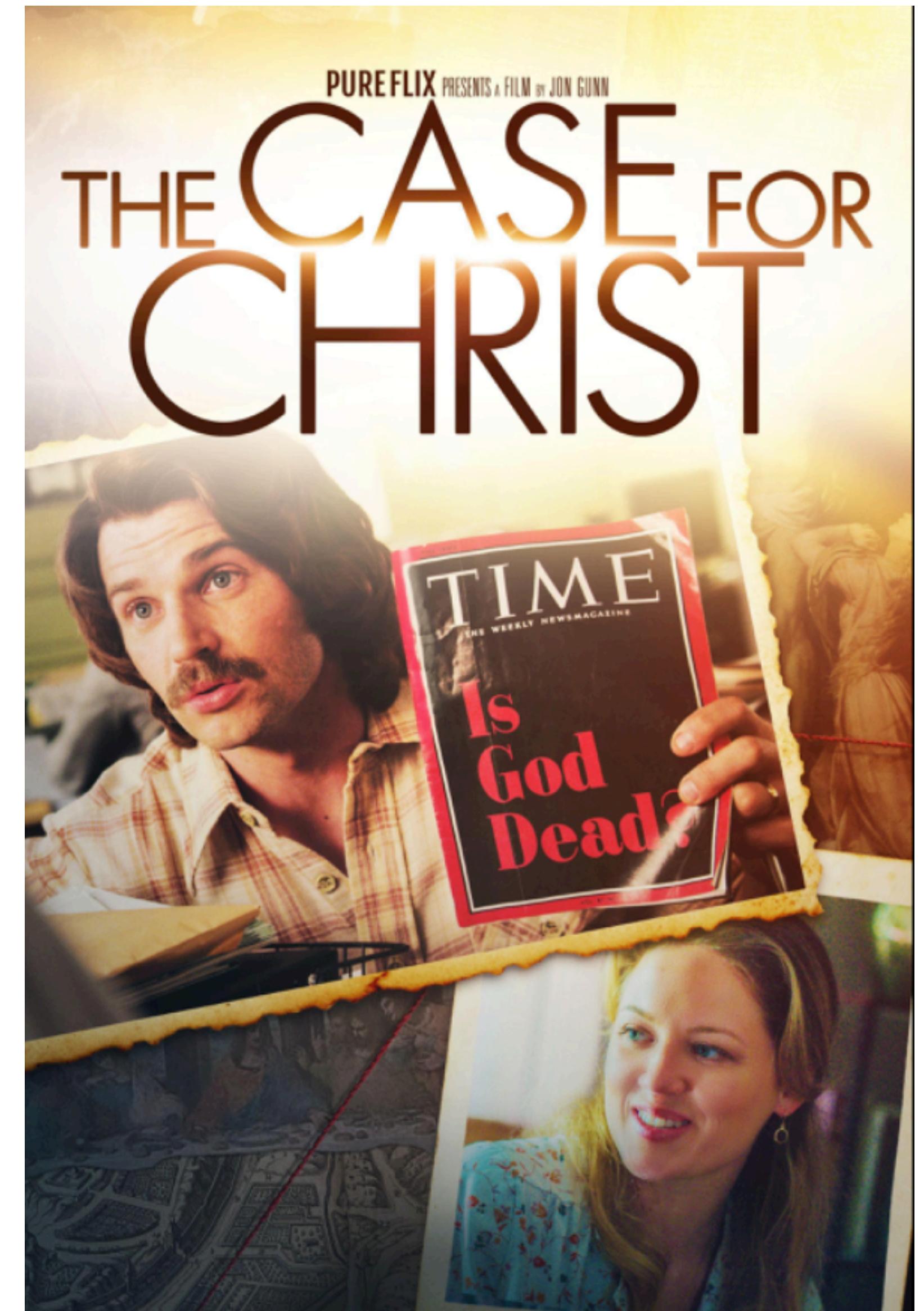


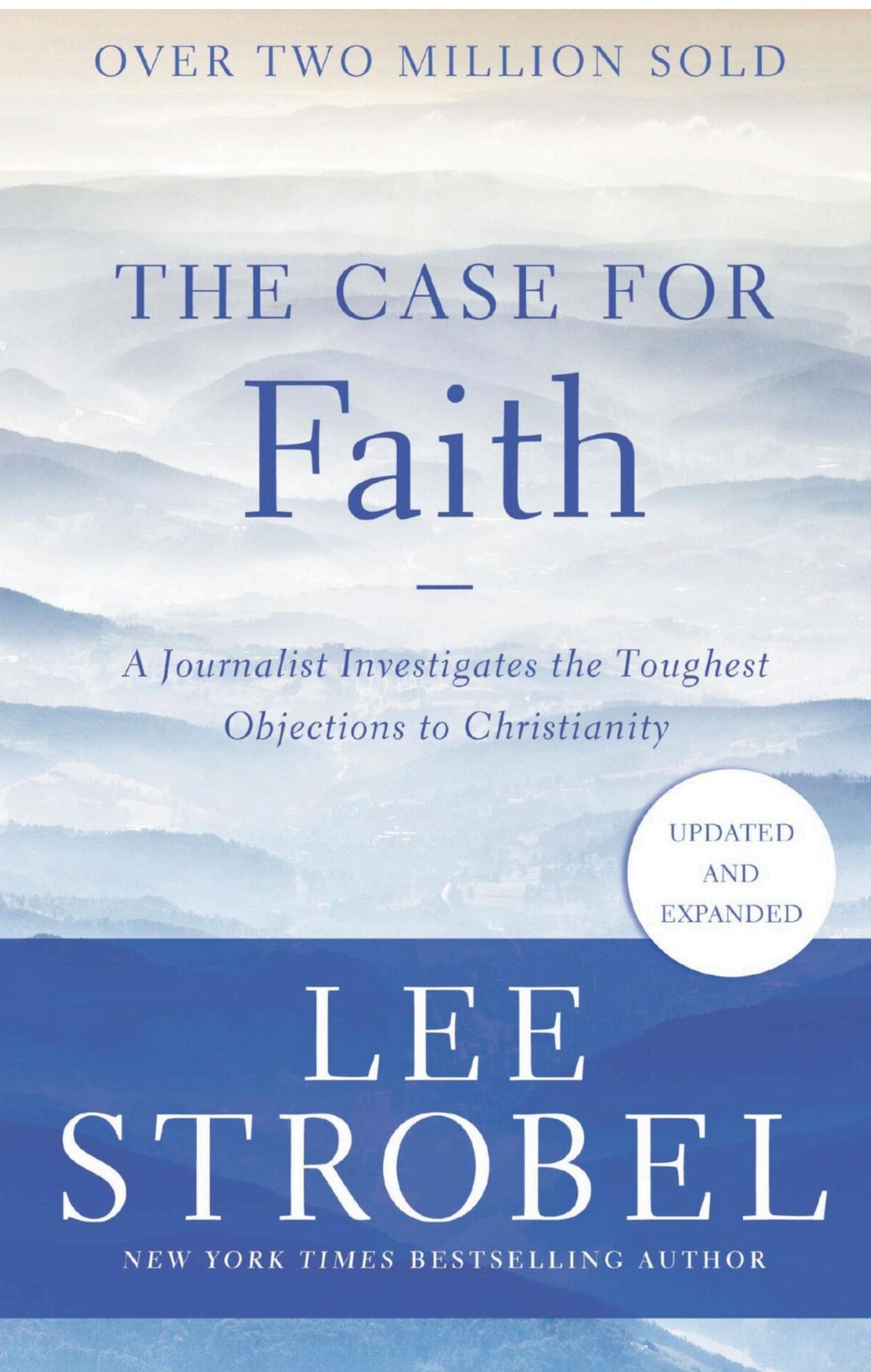
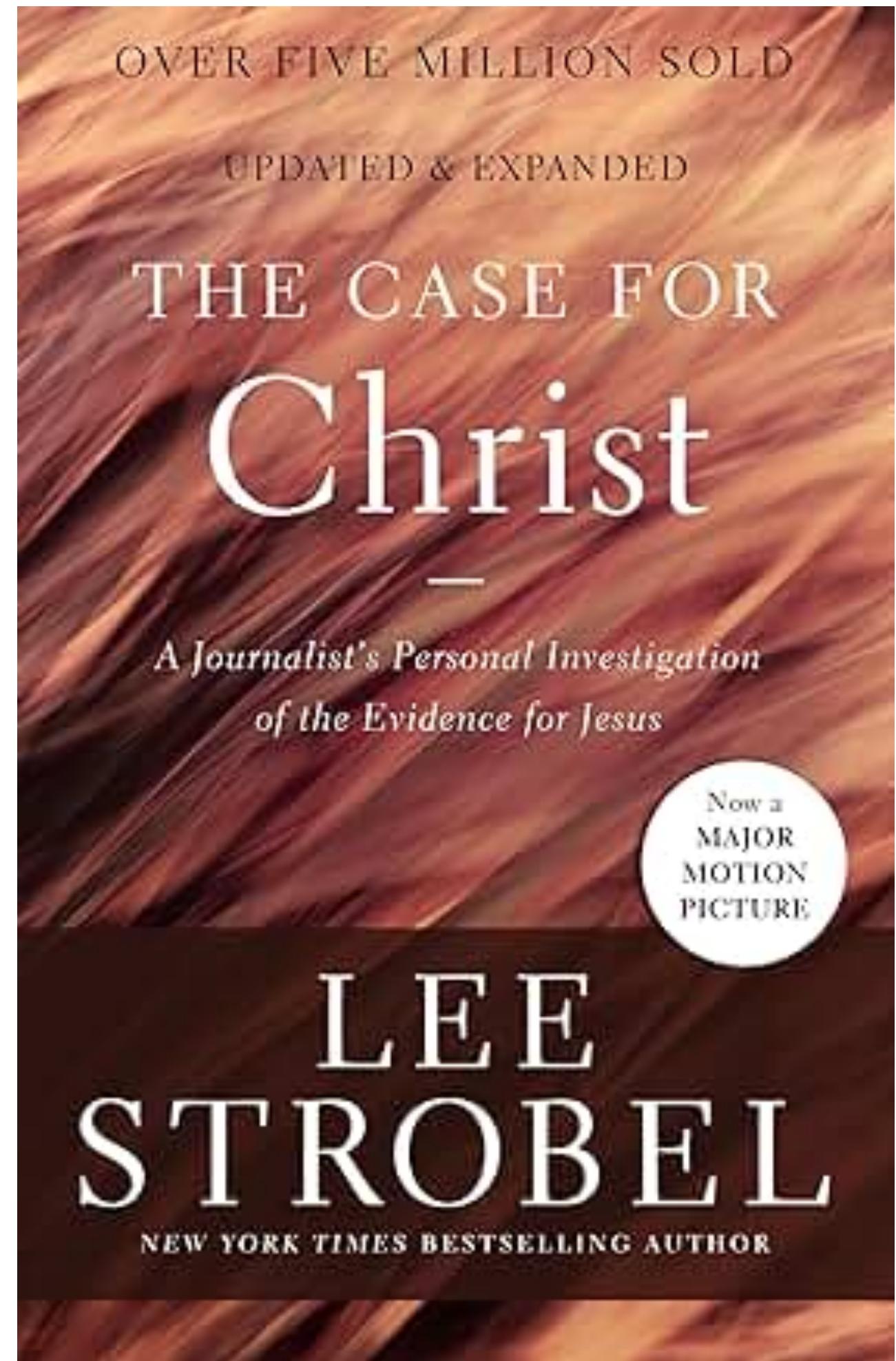
Lee Strobel

Award winning journalist

- Investigative journalist for Chicago Tribune
- Wins award for journalism
- Wife Leslie converted to Christianity
- Used investigative skills to prove her faith wrong







J. Warner Wallace

Cold-case homicide detective, Los Angeles

- Second generation police detective
- **Cold-case homicide** detective
- High profile cold-case murders
- Never lost a single case
- 6 episodes of Dateline, CourtTV
- Atheist (Agnostic?)
- Wife Susie wanted to go to church, he went along
- Pastor: “**Jesus was the smartest man ever.**”
- Decided to investigate the evidence



Cold-case homicide

- High stakes: **life and death**
- No statute of limitation
- High burden of proof
- Crime scene **long gone**
- **Witnesses** have either cold memories or cold bodies
- Only evidence collected long ago and **kept under strict chain of custody**
- Very special techniques
- **Circumstantial evidence**
- **Cumulative case**

AS FEATURED IN *GOD'S NOT DEAD 2*

COLD-CASE CHRISTIANITY

A HOMICIDE DETECTIVE INVESTIGATES
THE CLAIMS OF THE GOSPELS

J. WARNER
WALLACE

*forewords by LEE STROBEL
and RICE BROOCKS*



foreword by JOHN STONESTREET

FORENSIC FAITH

A Homicide Detective Makes the Case for a
More Reasonable, Evidential Christian Faith

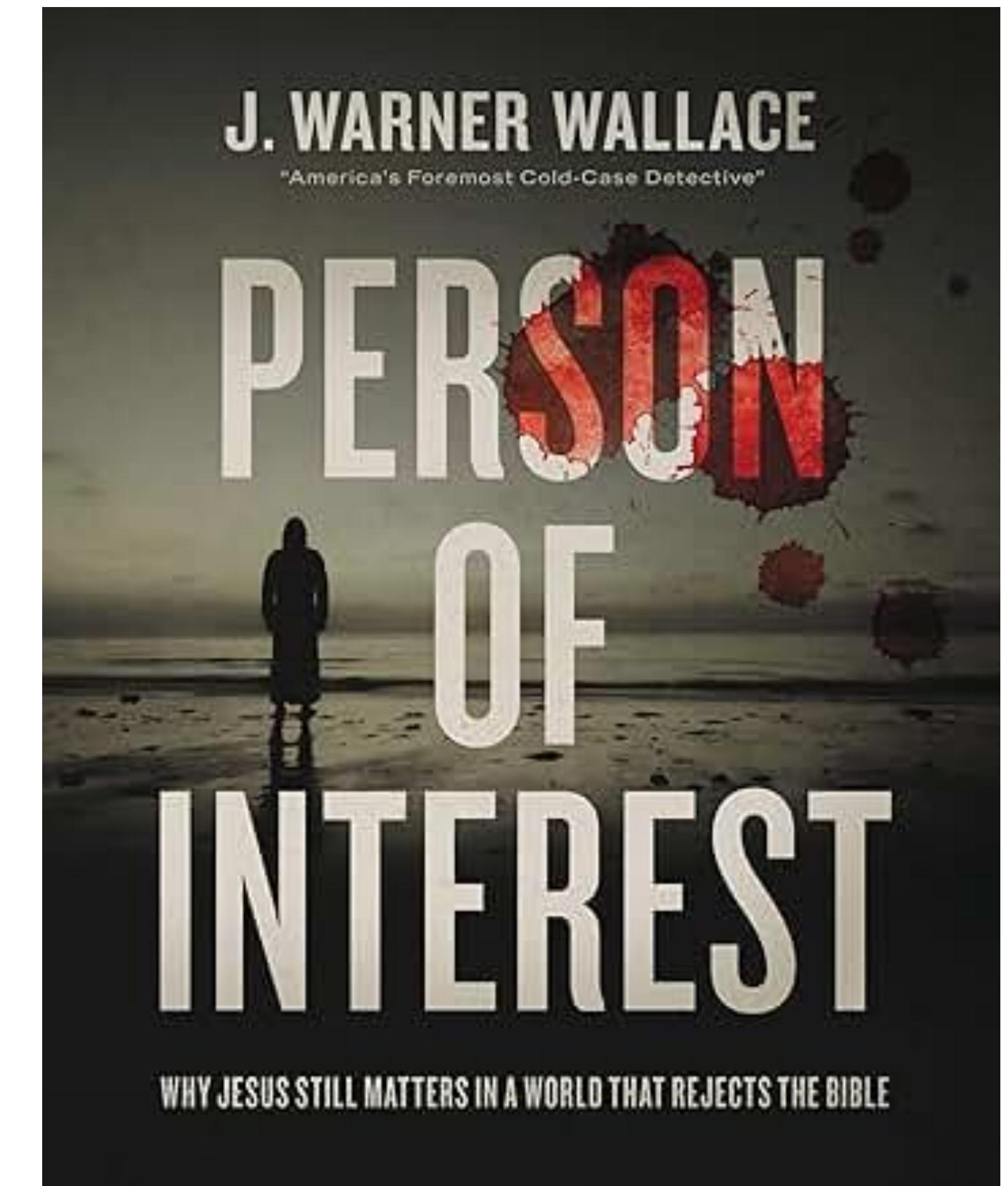
J. WARNER WALLACE

AUTHOR OF *COLD-CASE CHRISTIANITY*
AND *GOD'S CRIME SCENE*

Person of Interest: Jesus

Savior of the world

- Jesus' life, death, resurrection and teachings changed the world
- As a civilization
 - End of slavery, medicine, education, art, literature, music, science, law, morality.
- As individuals

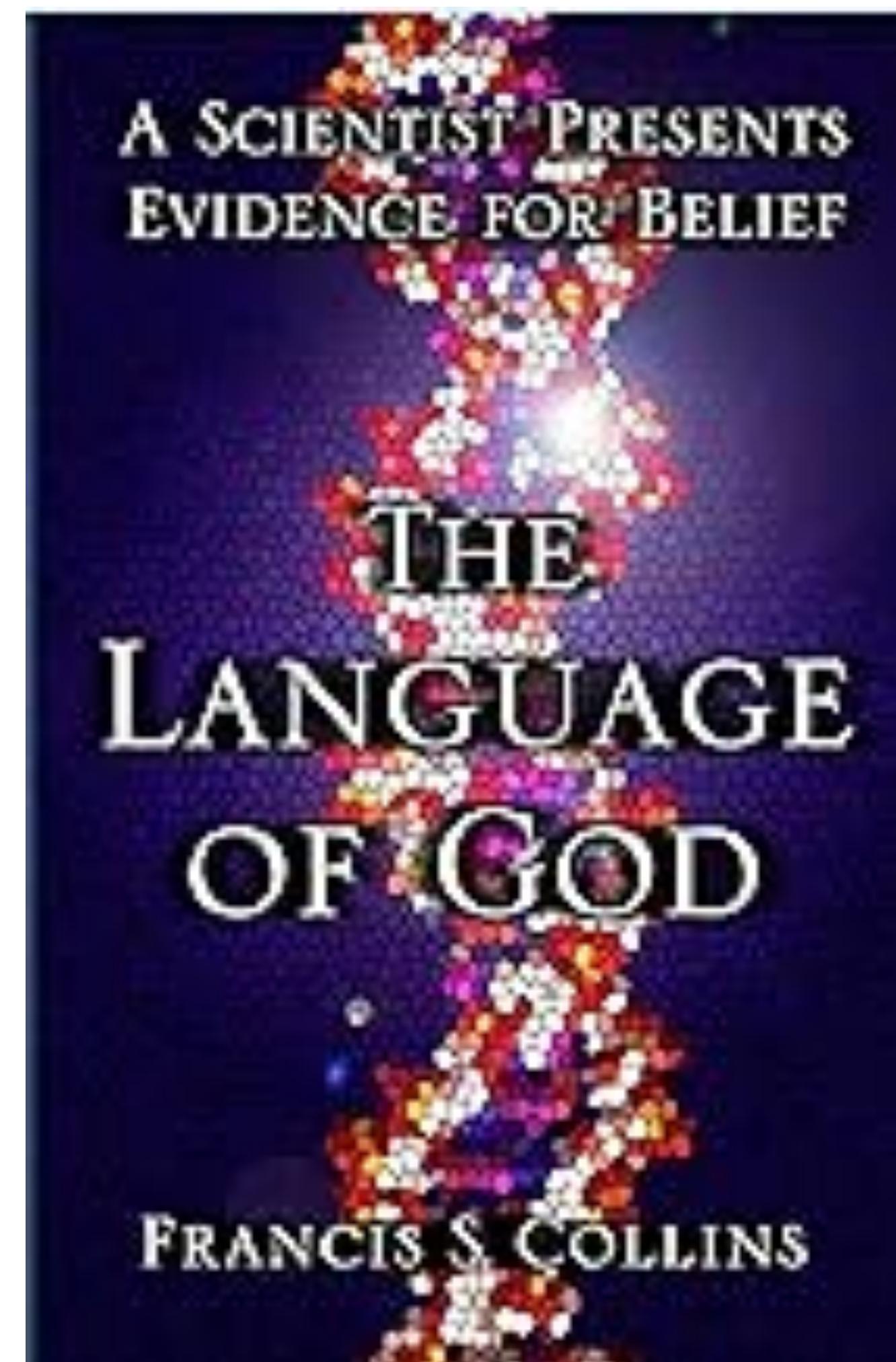
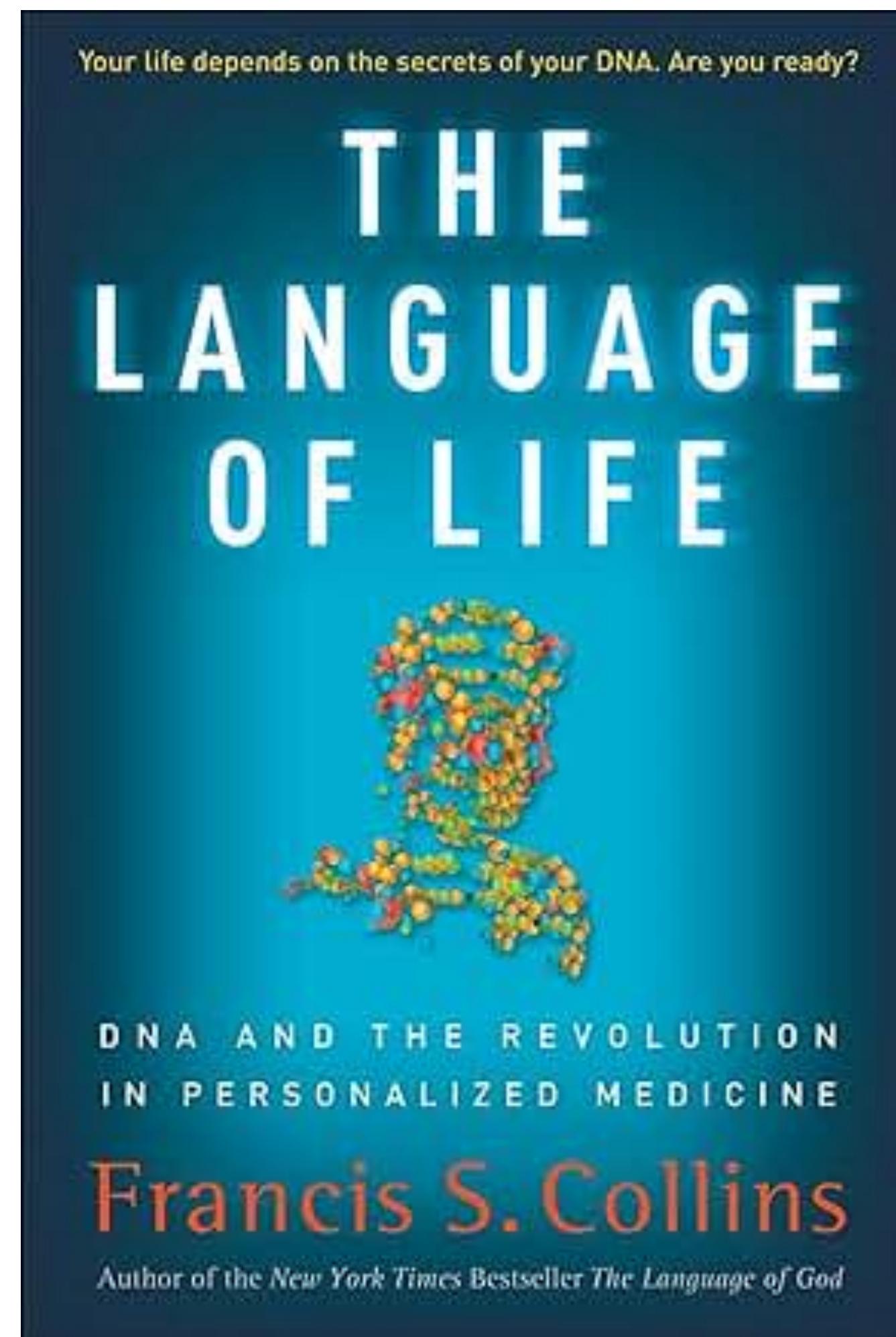


Francis Collins

Director: Human Genome project

- Started career as an **agnostic**
- Studied chemistry, but not that “messy field” biology
- Nobel Prize for **physics** with Steven Weinberg
- **Templeton Prize** (... for affirming life’s spiritual dimension)
- Foreign Member of **Royal Society**
- Founder of **BioLogos Foundation**
- Director: **National Institutes of Health**





Thomas

The doubting apostle

But Thomas, one of the twelve, who was called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples were saying to him, “**We have seen the Lord!**” But he said to them, “**Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.**”

Eight days later His disciples were again inside, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, “**Peace be to you.**”

Then He said to Thomas, “**Place your finger here, and see My hands; and take your hand and put it into My side; and do not continue in disbelief, but be a believer.**”

Thomas answered and said to Him, “**My Lord and my God!**”

John 20:24-28



David Wood

Sociopath / attempted murderer / prisoner

- Atheist that had **antisocial personality disorder**
- Believed that “**morality was merely societal rules** that were beneath him”
- Attempted to **kill his father** by smashing in his head with a hammer
- Sent to prison for 10 years for malicious wounding
- Met fellow prisoner named **Randy** who was a **devout Christian**
- Tried to “out fast” Randy, ended up in prison hospital dying
- Realized that he was **not as smart as he thought**
- **Acts 17 Apologetics** ministry
- YouTube personality
- AnsweringMuslims.com
- Expert in Islam using oldest and most reliable Islamic sources



Nabeel Qureshi

- Pakistani-American **Ahmadi Muslim**
- Grandparents were Ahmadi Muslim missionaries
- Attended Old Dominion University to “**witness to American Christians**”
- However, most Christians were simply not interested
- ... until he met **David Wood**, became close friends
- David mostly **asked good questions about Islam**
- In his attempt to answer David he realized **his faith was faulty** and **gave his life to Christ**.



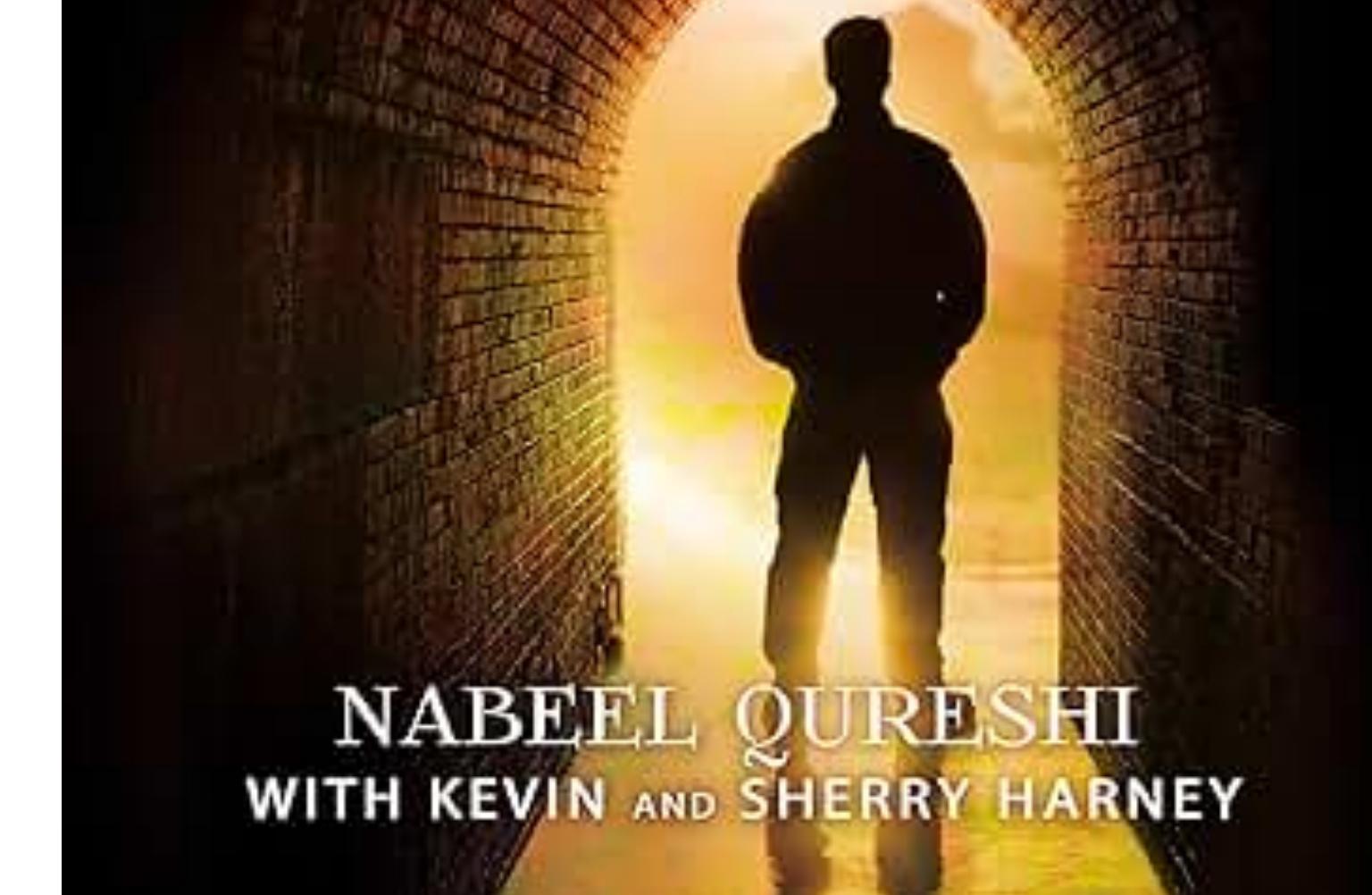


STUDY GUIDE

EIGHT SESSIONS

SEEKING ALLAH, FINDING JESUS

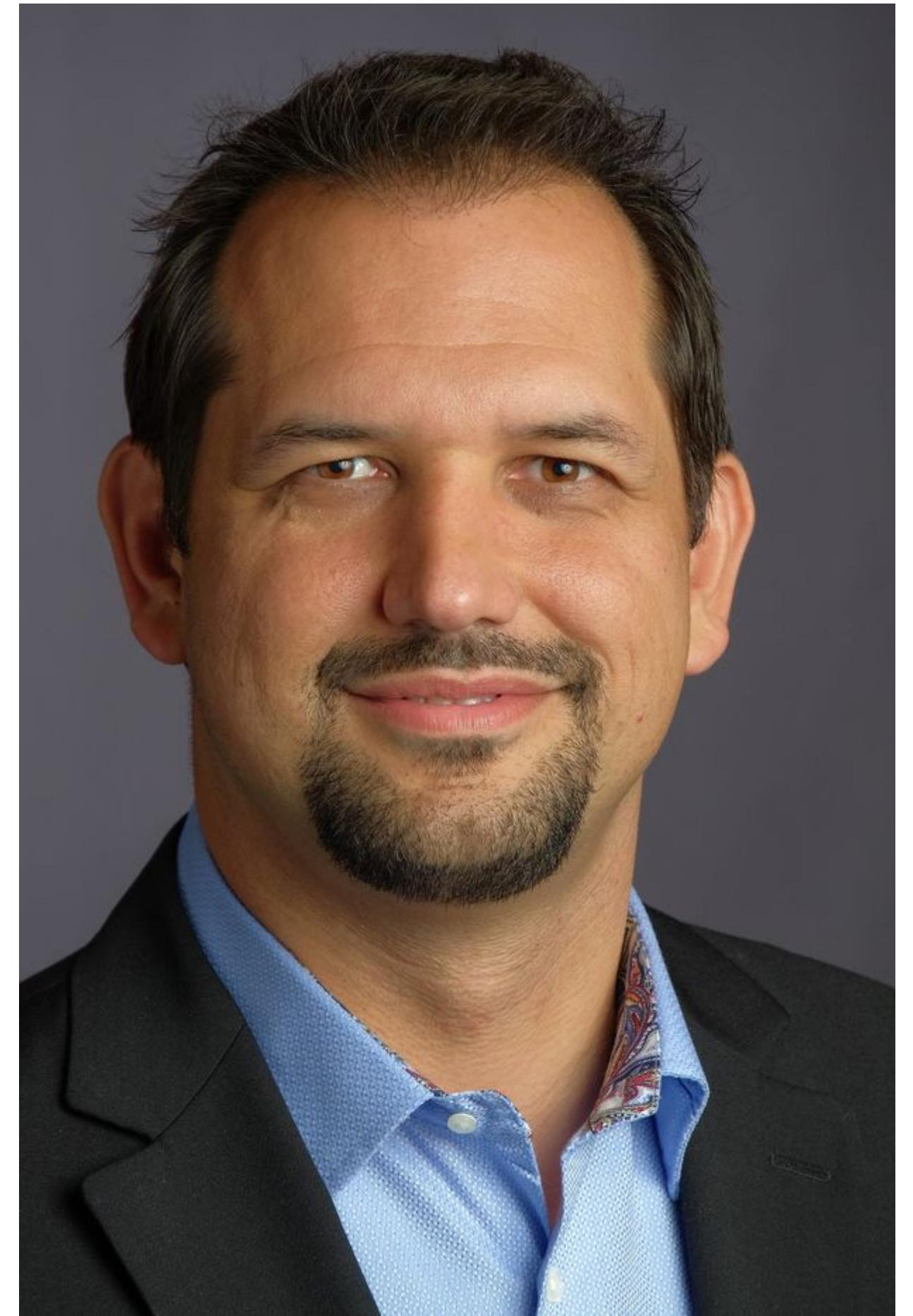
A Former Muslim
Shares the Evidence
that Led Him from
Islam to Christianity



Abdu Murray

Lebanese Muslim / Trial Lawyer

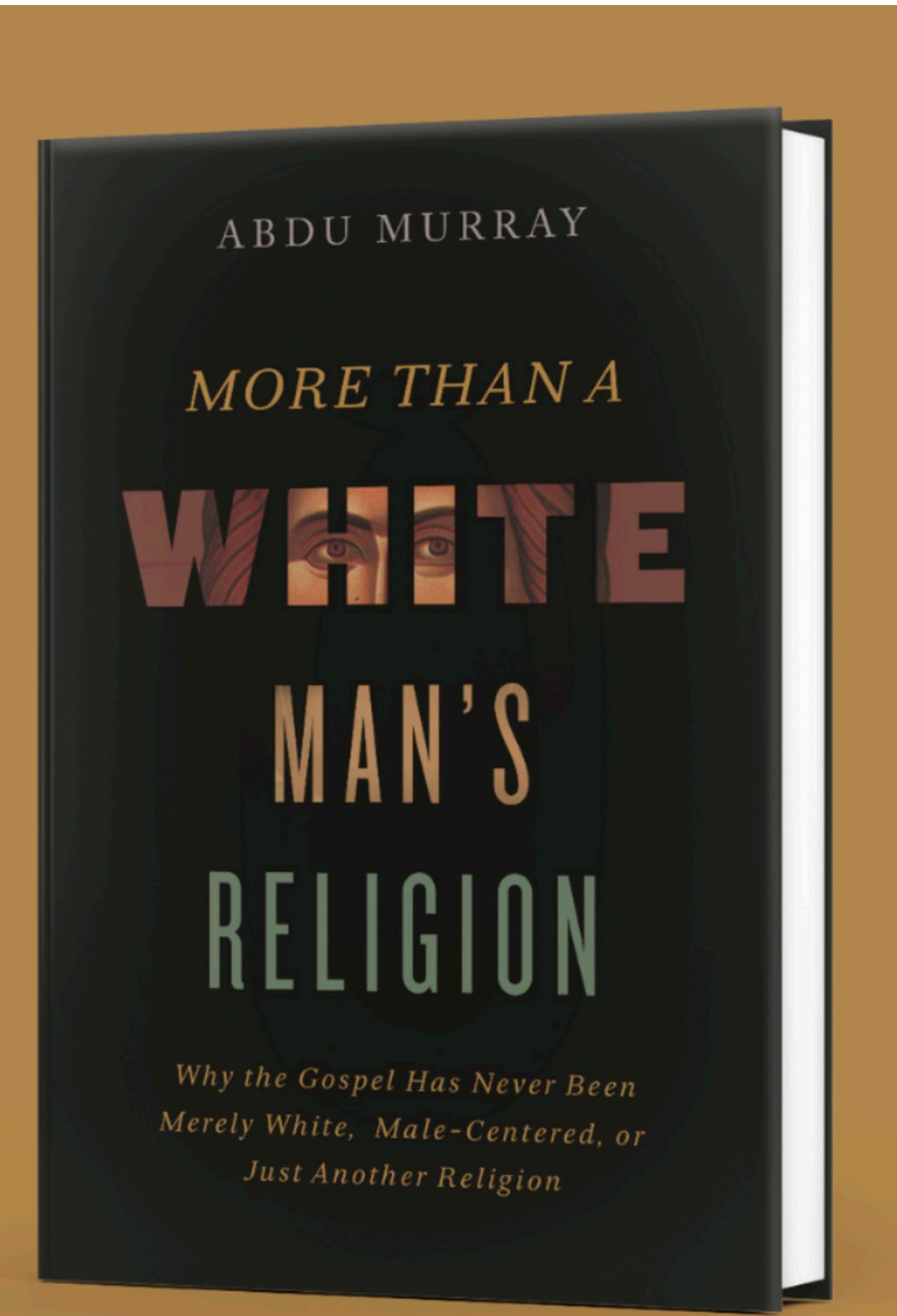
- Born into a **Shiite Muslim** family in Detroit
- **Assumed** that Islam is true and anything that contradicts it is a lie
- Always asked people **why** they believe
- Many said that they were raised Christian. “**Not good enough!**”
- But some Christians **answered his questions well** and when they could not, **they researched it and came back with an answer**
- Was given a Gideon’s Bible and read it **for ammunition**
- John the Baptist: “**for I tell you that God is able, from these stones, to raise up children for Abraham.**” Mt 3:9
- Abdu realized that **his Muslim tradition** was “**not good enough!**”



Abdu Murray

- Abdu started asking “**What is the real truth?**”
- The Quran and Bible contradict on some very important issues. **Which is true?**
- Q: How do we know that anybody **really loves us?** A: By their **sacrifice for us.**
- Q: How do we **REALLY KNOW** that God loves us? A: By His **ultimate self sacrifice for us.**
- While investigating things that he thought were Christianity’s weaknesses, like the **Trinity**, he discovered **they are its greatest strengths.**
- Before, he believed that **if (a simple) God is just** but then pays for our sins Himself, **it means nothing** because no real transaction happened.
- But if God the Father is truly just, **He must demand payment** for our sins. If **God the Son pays the ultimate price**, then a **VERY REAL transaction** did satisfy the Father’s justice. **Our God is complex and His essence is VERY REAL love.**

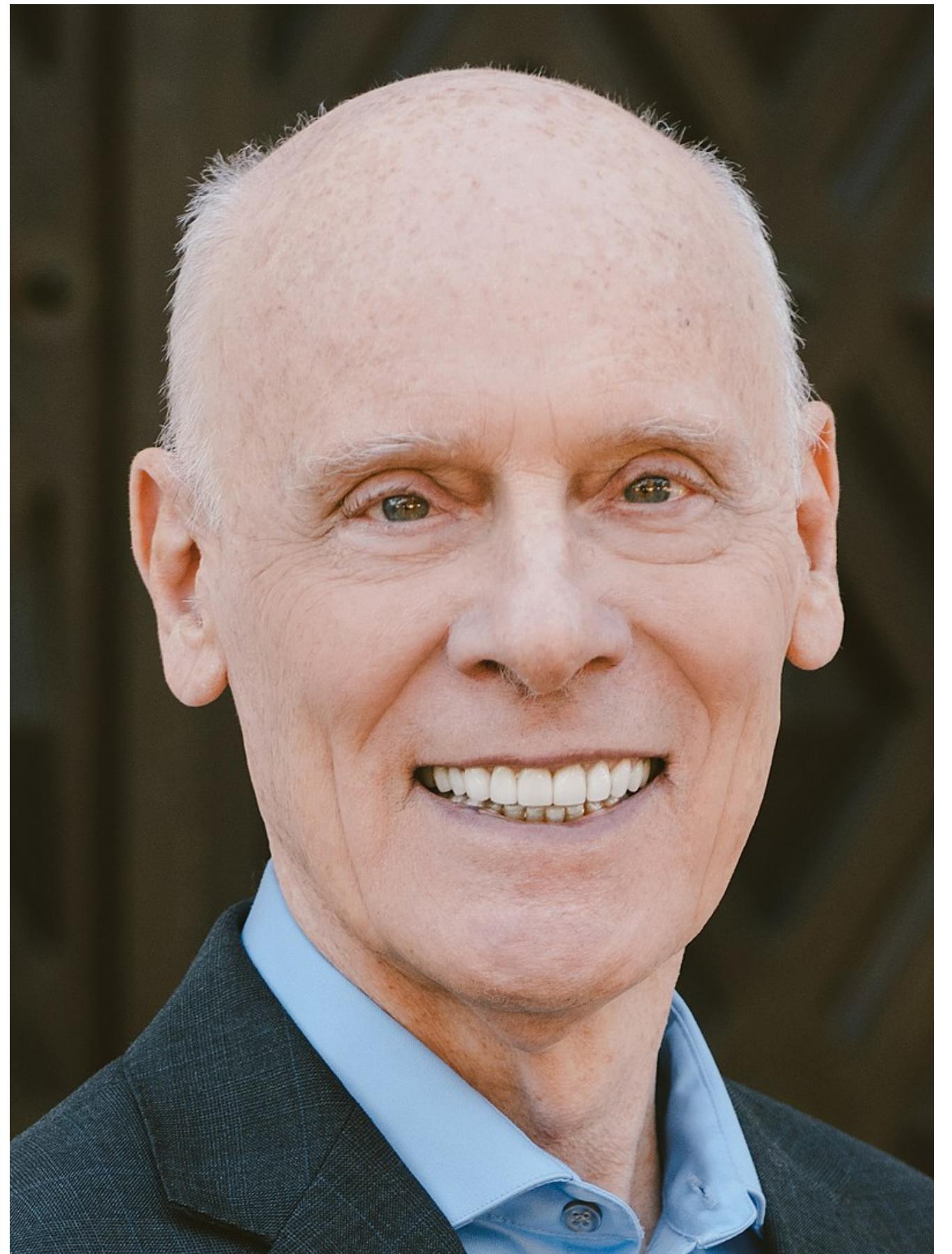
THE TRUTHS of CHRISTIANITY
PROVIDE LIBERATION and
DIGNITY to ALL PEOPLE

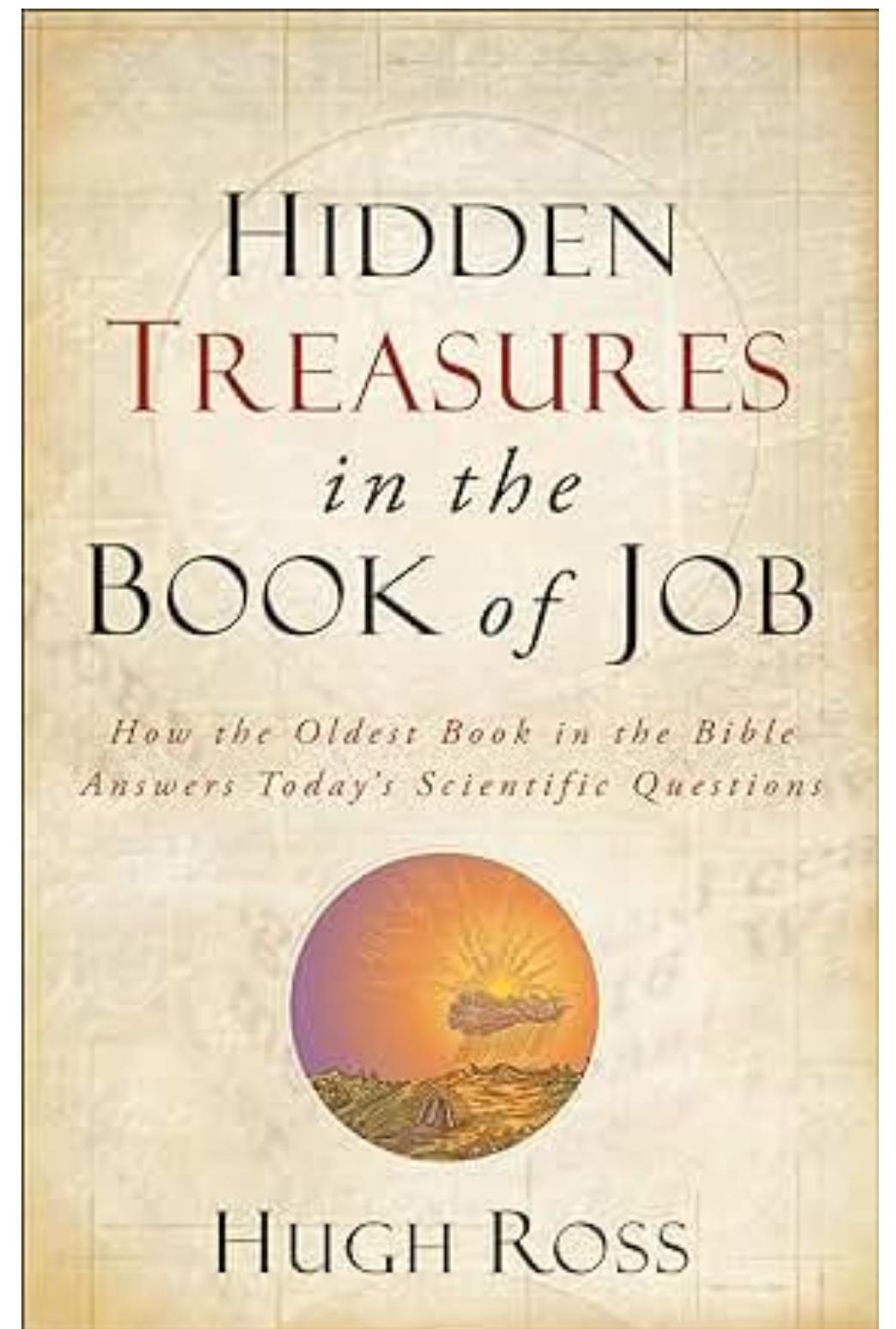


Hugh Ross

Astrophysicist

- He began his career as an atheist
- Astrophysicist with doctorate in astronomy from University of Toronto.
- Research in quasars and galaxies
- Studied Steven Hawking's research
- “Scientific and historical evidence deeply rooted my confidence in the veracity of the Bible.”





4000 years ago...

In Job 38:31-33 The Lord asks
Job:

“Can you tie up the chains of the Pleiades,

Or untie the cords of Orion?

Can you bring out a constellation in its season,

And guide the Bear with her satellites?

Do you know the ordinances of the heavens,

Or do you establish their rule over the earth?



BIGSTOCK

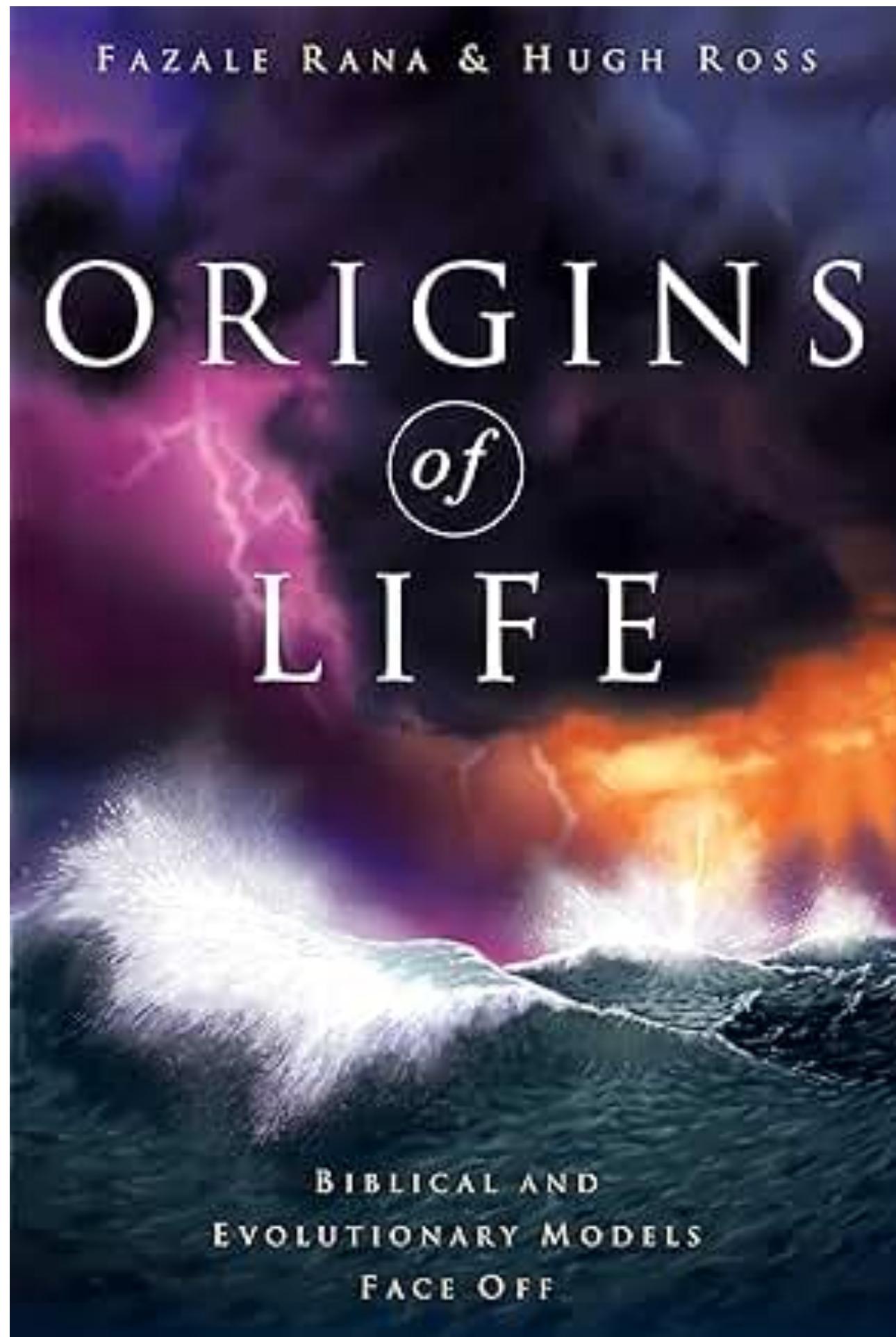
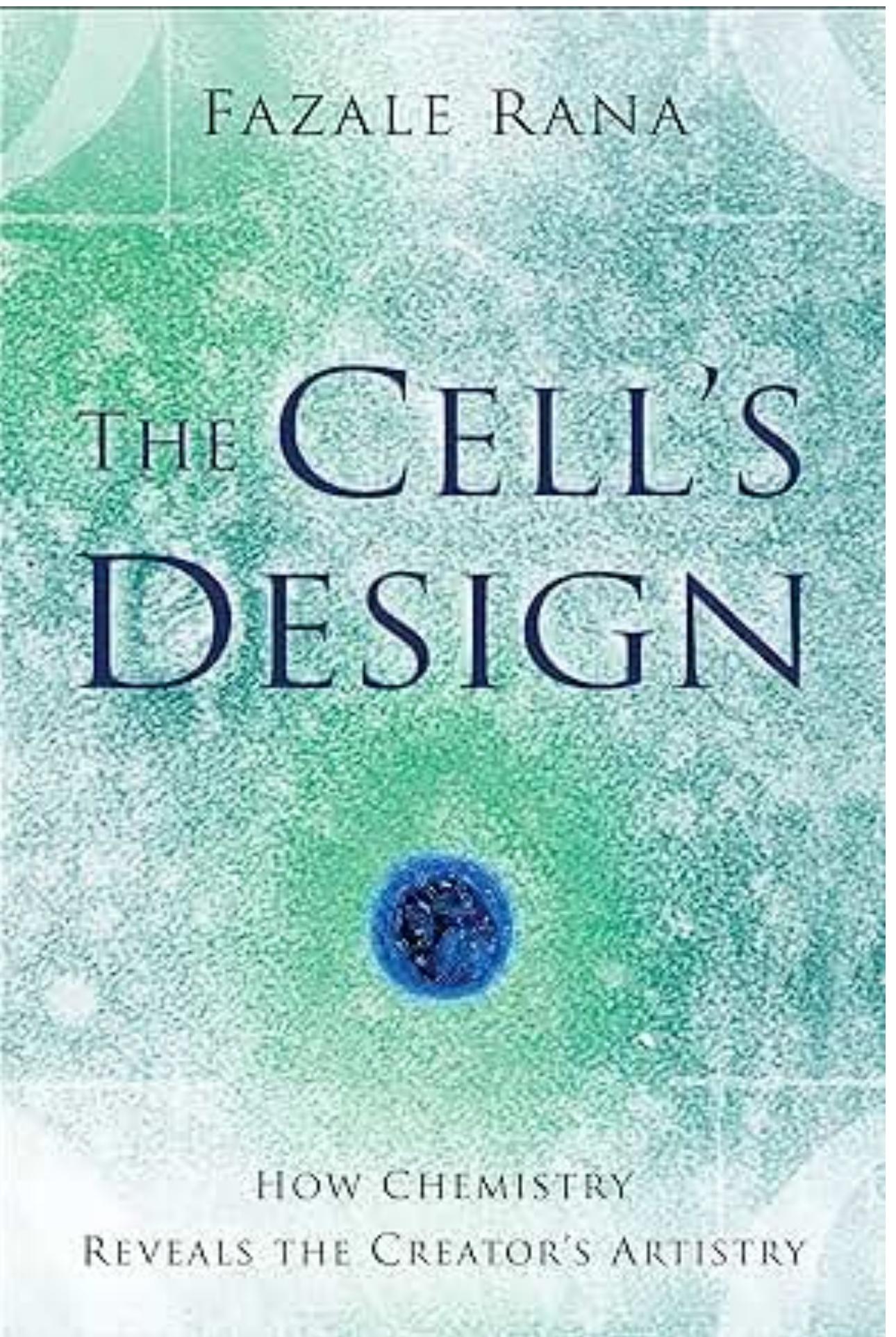
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Fazale Rana

Muslim / Biochemist

- “As a graduate student studying biochemistry, I was **captivated** by the cell’s complexity, elegance, and sophistication. The inadequacy of evolutionary scenarios to account for life’s origin **compelled me to conclude that life must come from a Creator.**”
- “**Reading through the Sermon on the Mount convinced me** that Jesus really was who Christians claimed him to be: Lord and Savior.”

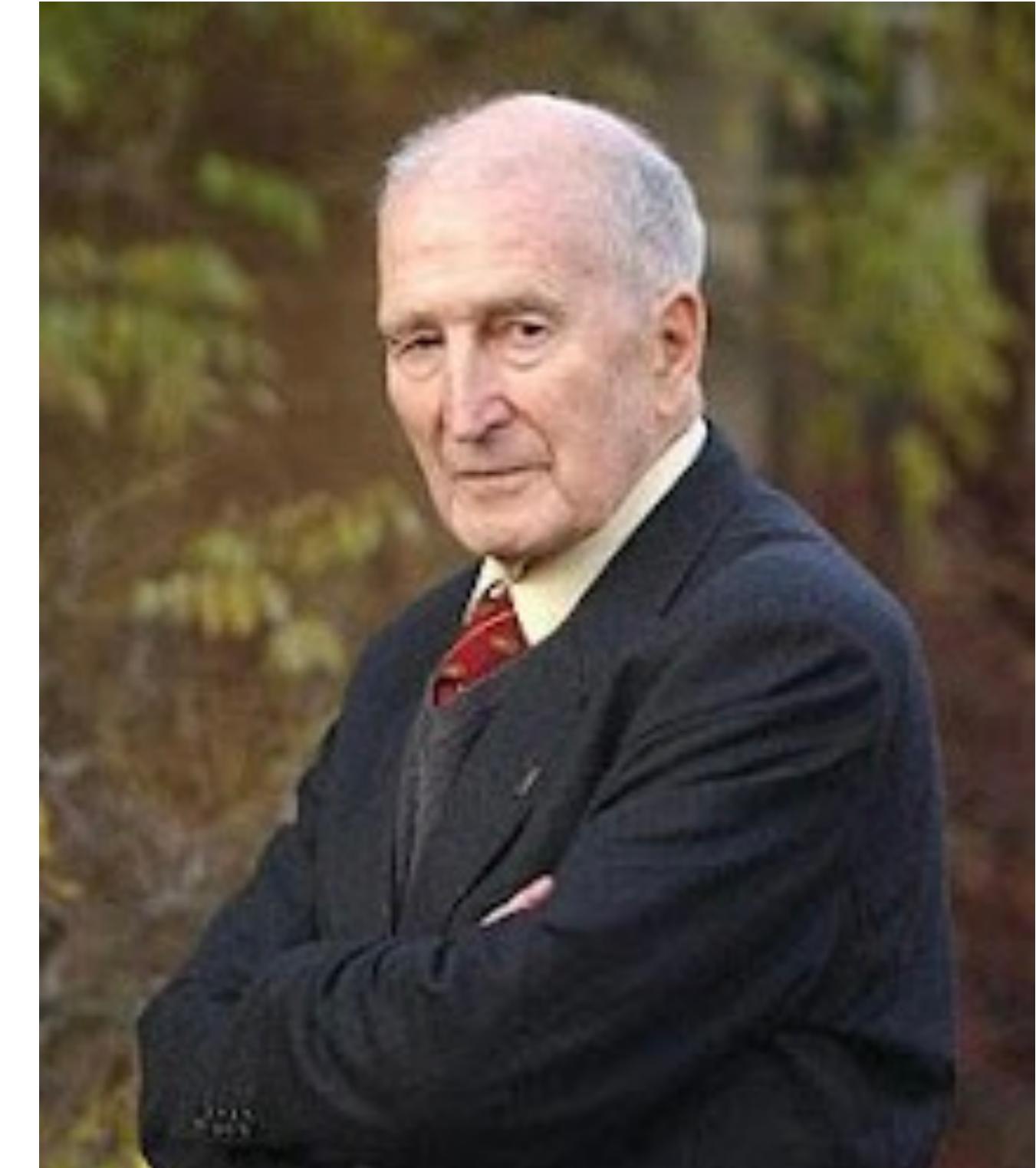




Anthony Flew

Dean of intellectual atheism in the 20th century

- Flew was the guy that Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, and the other Neo-darwinists **quoted as the authority** for over 60 years.
- As an atheist, he admitted, "The **evidence** for the resurrection is better than for claimed miracles in any other religion. It's outstandingly different in quality and quantity"
- As soon as he published his final book they all abandoned him and said really nasty things...



"Towering and courageous... Flew's colleagues in the church of fundamentalist atheism will be scandalized."—FRANCIS S. COLLINS, author of *The Language of God*

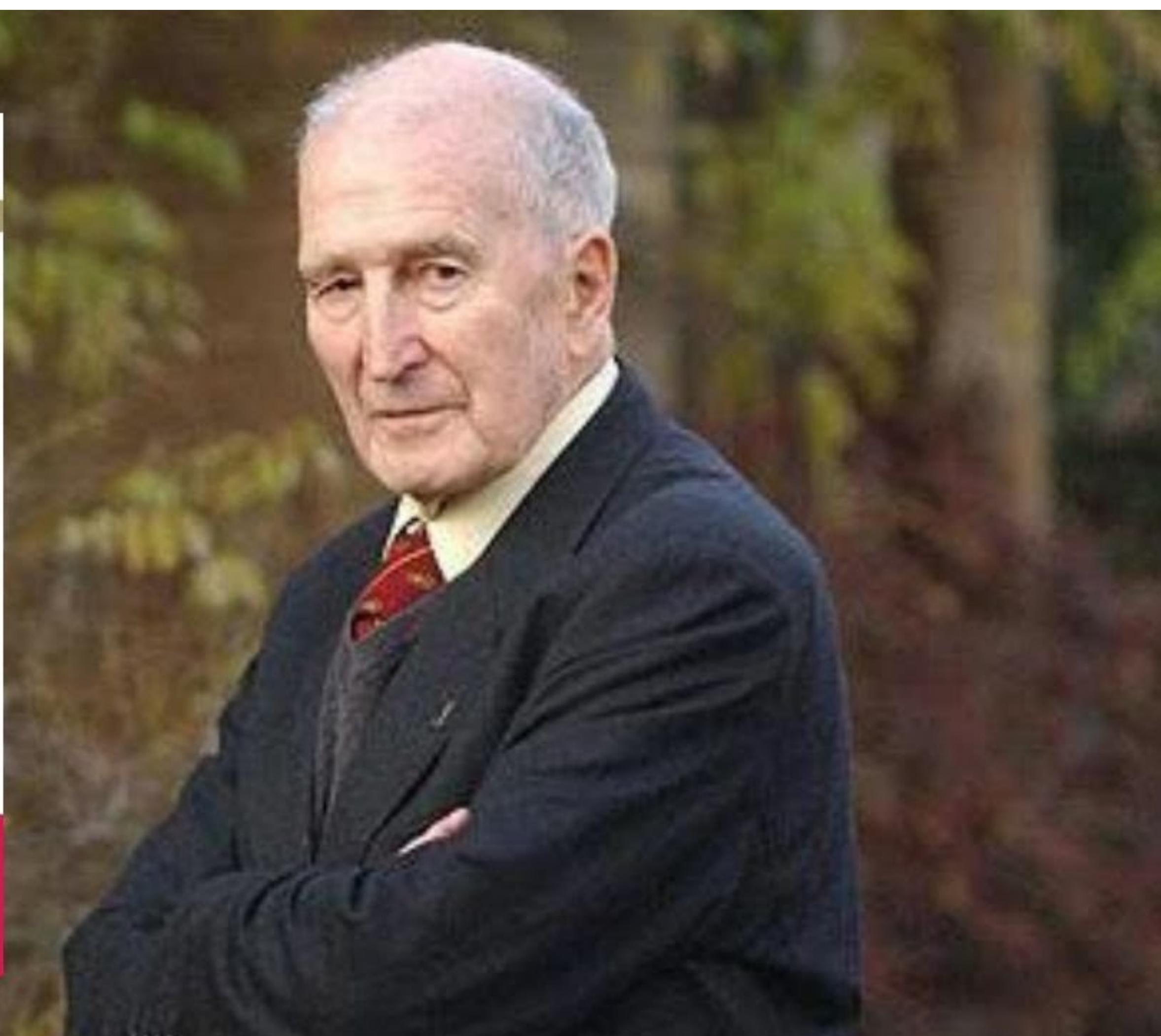
WINNER OF THE CHRISTIANITY TODAY BOOK AWARD

THERE IS NO GOD

How the world's
most notorious atheist
changed his mind

ANTONY FLEW

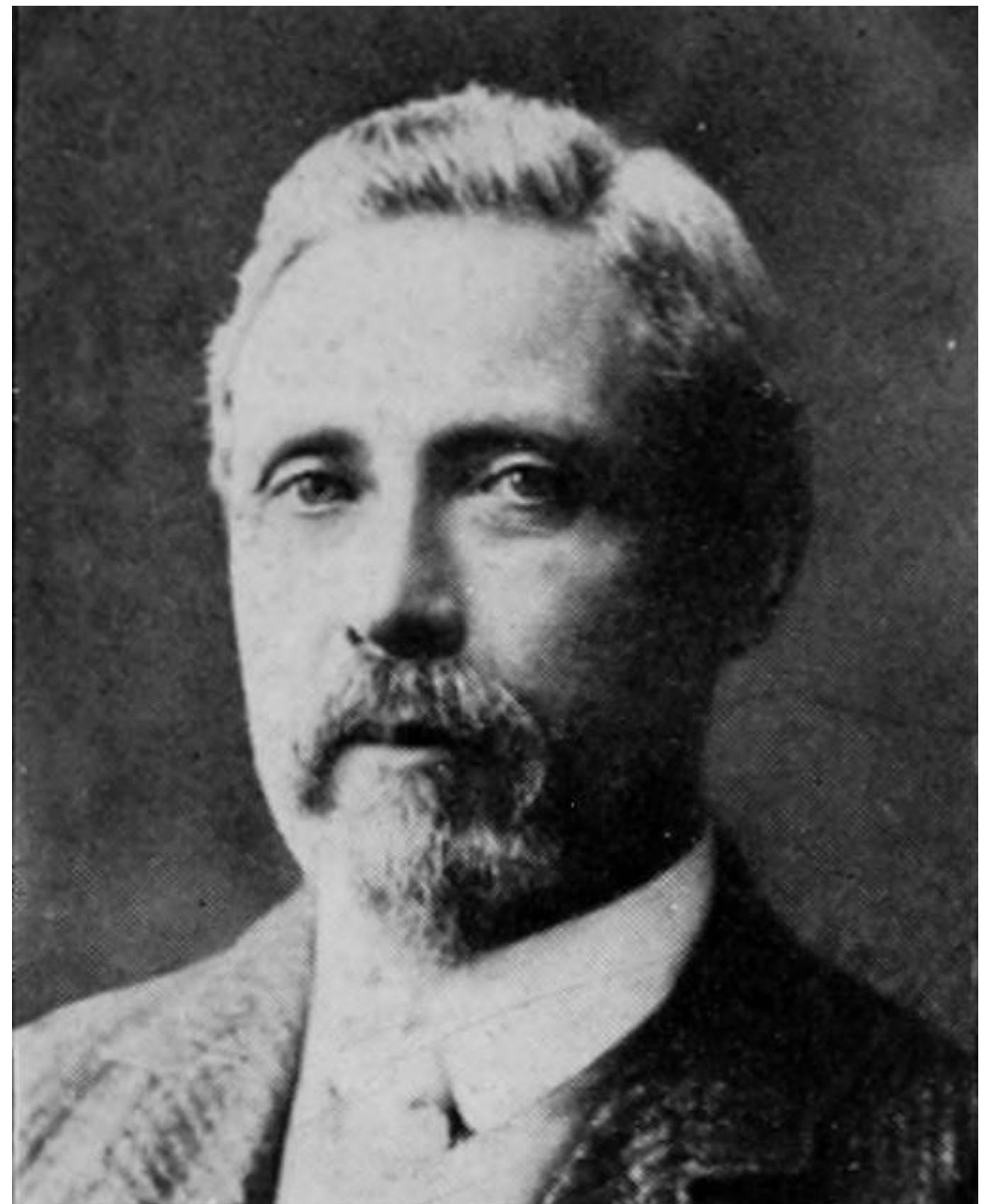
with ROY ABRAHAM VARGHESE



Sir William Mitchell Ramsay

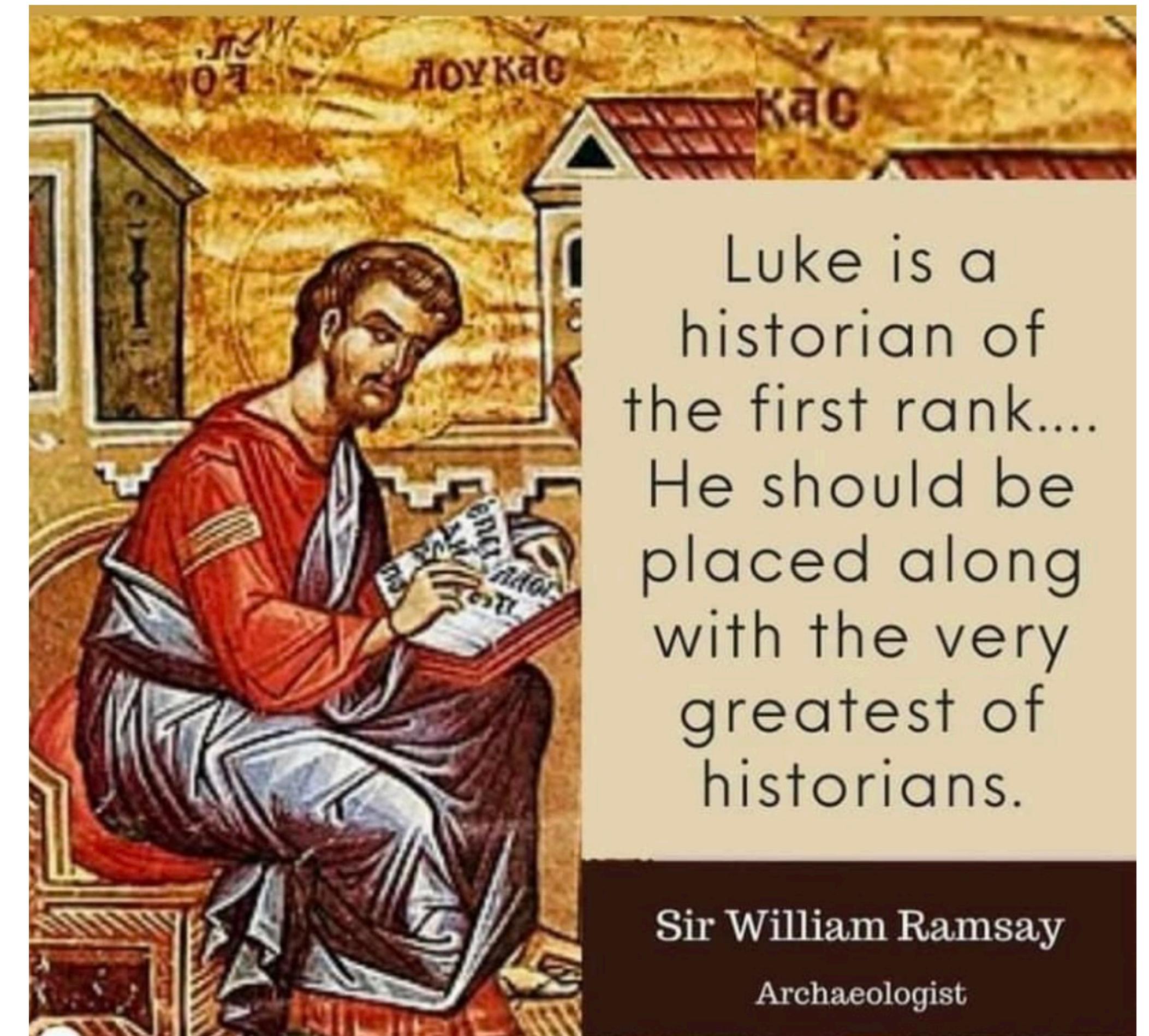
Scottish Archeologist and New Testament scholar

- Educated in the Tübingen school of thought (founded by F. C. Baur)
 - which doubted the reliability of the New Testament
 - They taught that Paul made up Christianity and differed from the rest of the Apostles.
- He did 34 years of field research in Turkey (you know, where Paul and Luke went).
- Student at Oxford, then professor of humanity at Aberdeen

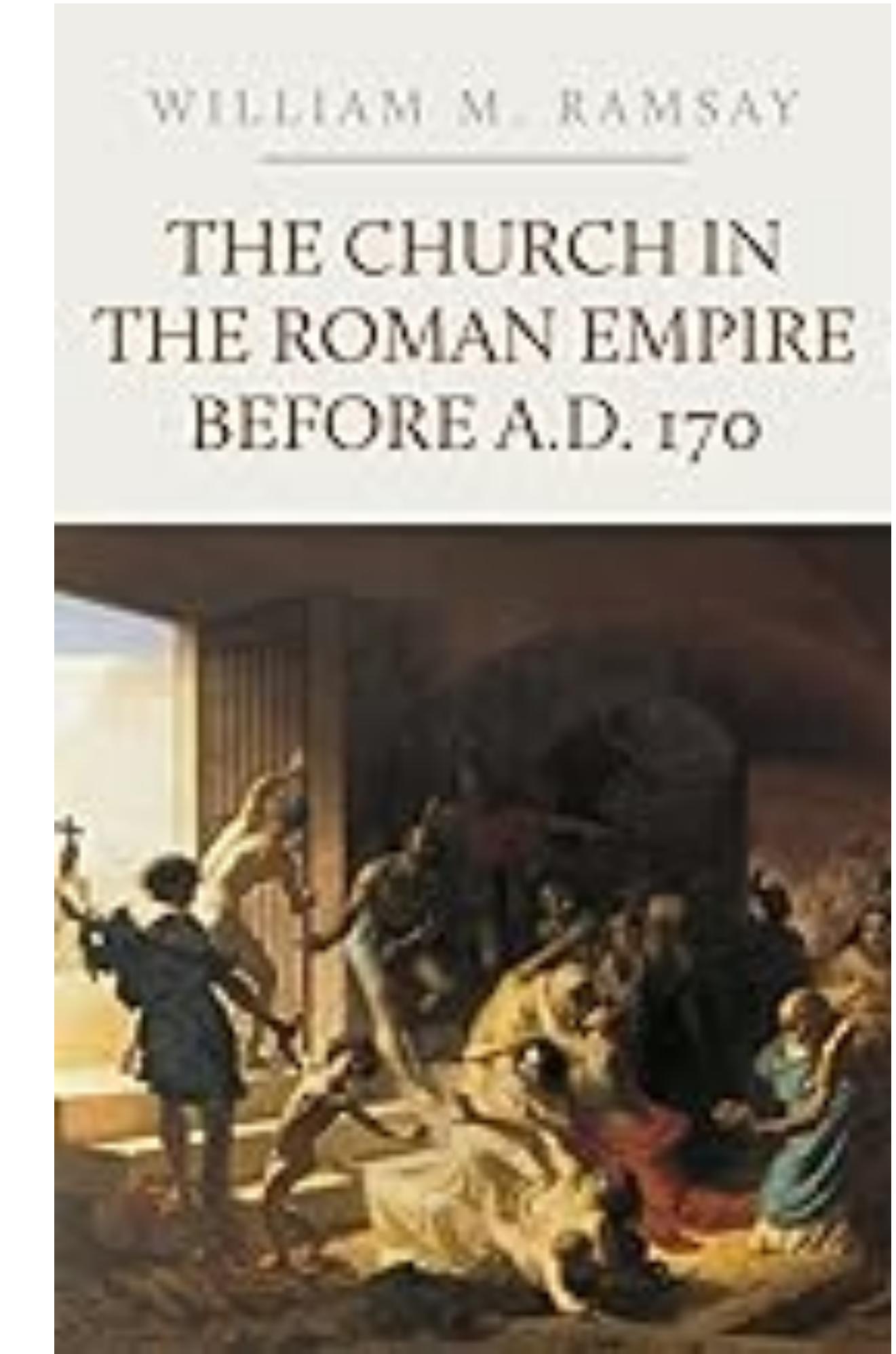
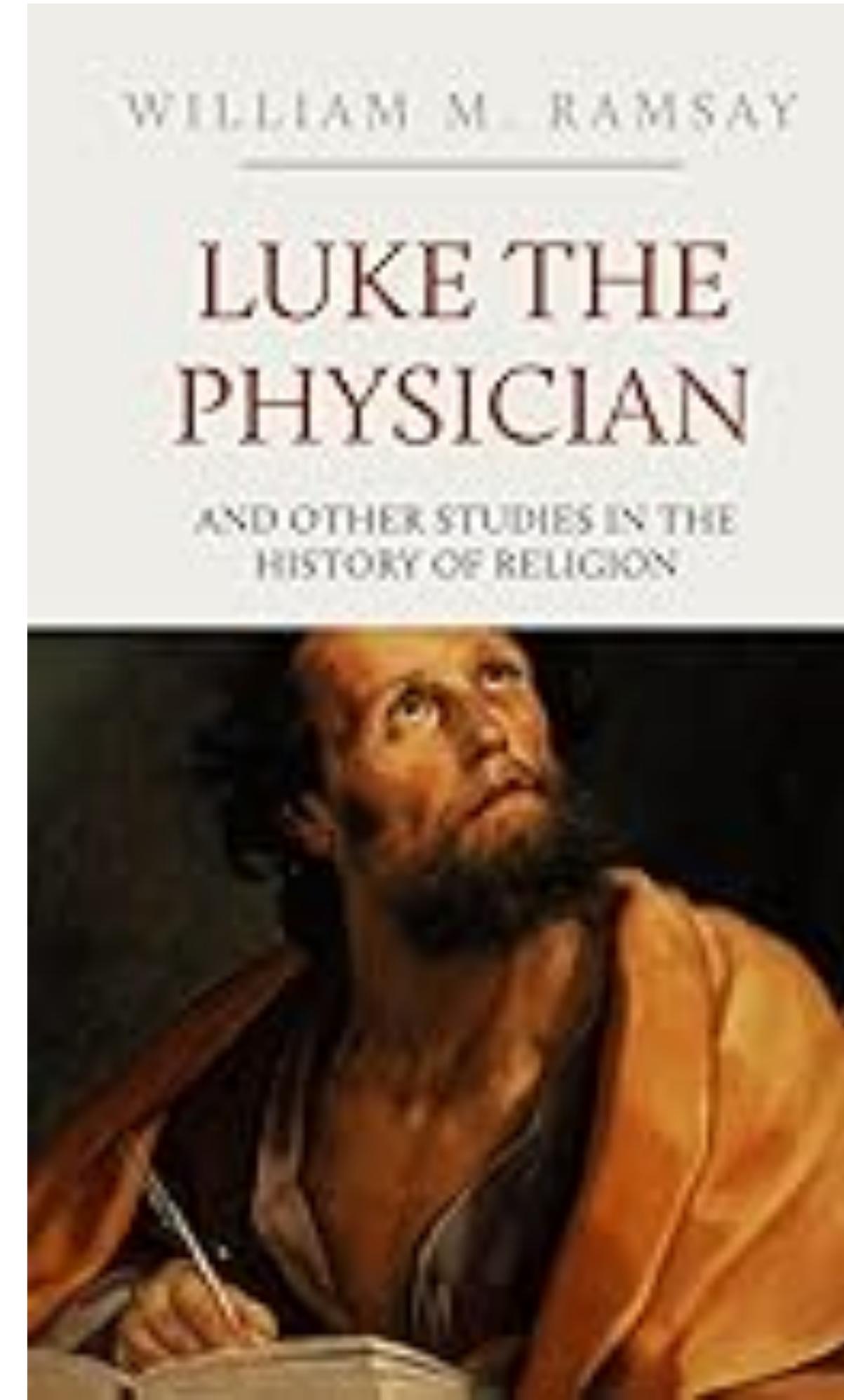
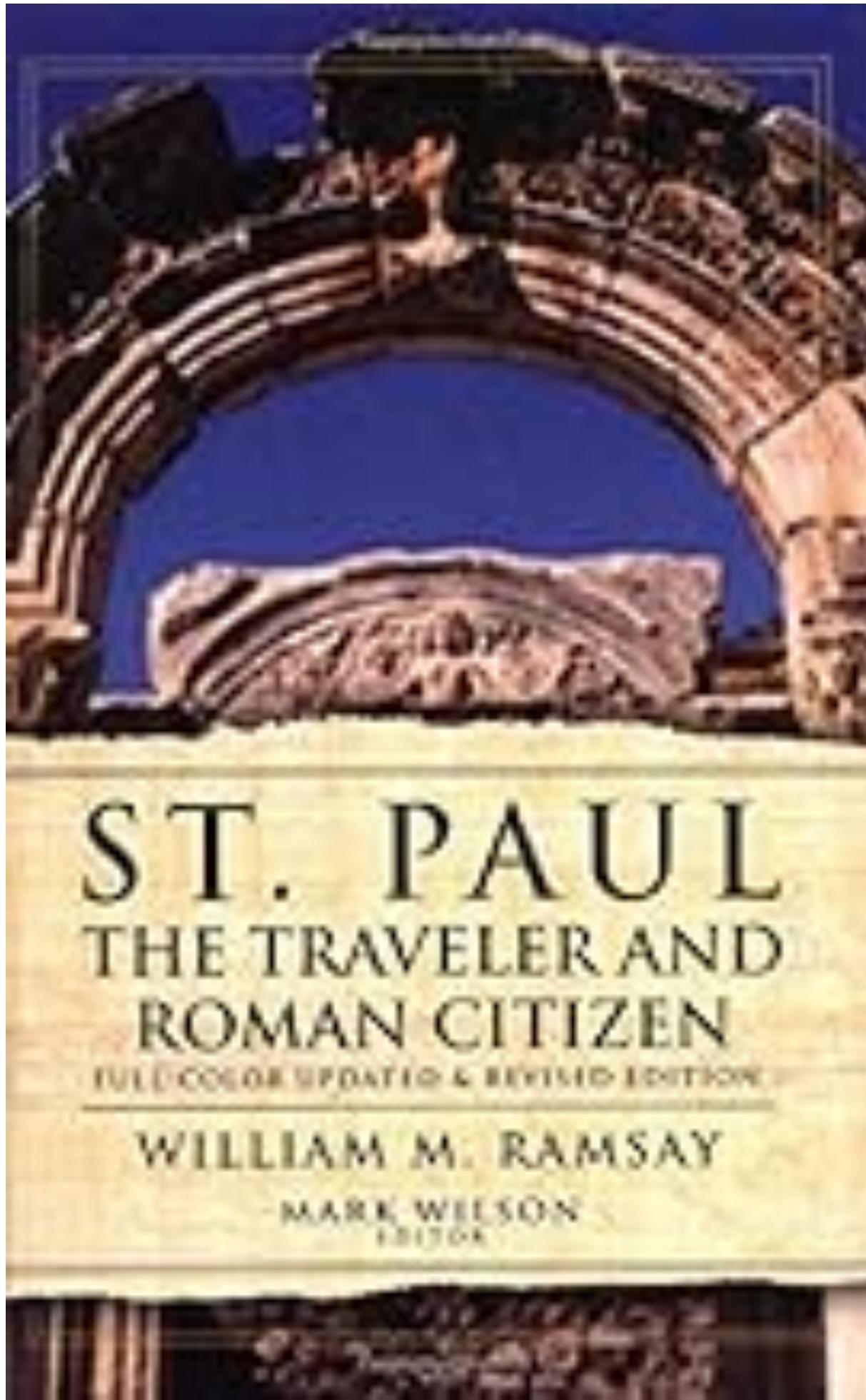


Sir William Mitchell Ramsay

- Knighted in 1906 for distinguished service to the world of scholarship
 - 3 honorary fellowships from Oxford
 - 9 honorary doctorates from British, Continental and North American universities.
 - Original member of the British Academy
 - Gold medal from Pope Leo XII
 - Victorian medal of the RGS.



Sir William Mitchell Ramsay



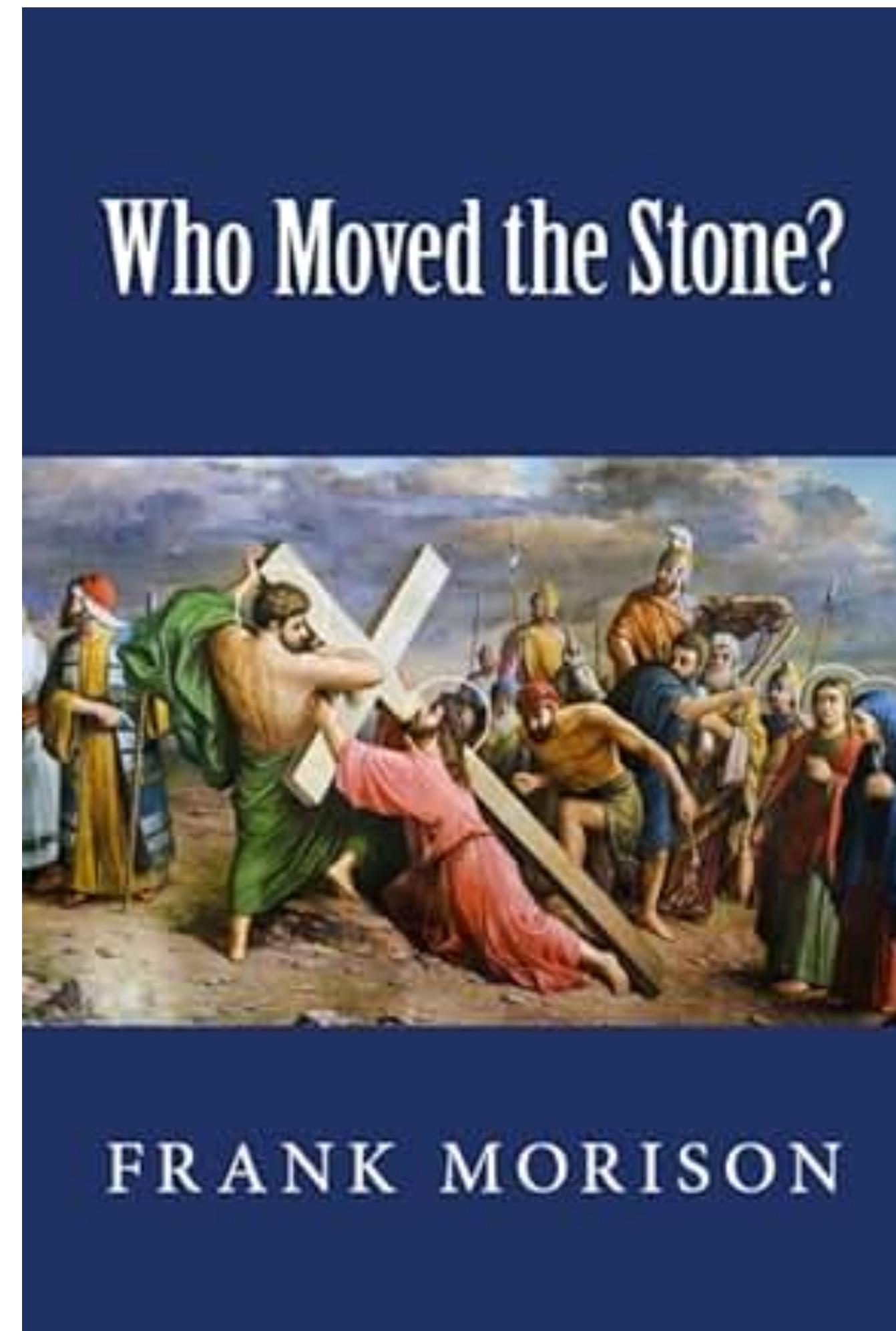
Albert Henry Ross

aka Frank Morison

- Skeptical regarding the resurrection of Jesus
- Set out to analyze the sources and to write a short paper entitled “***Jesus - the Last Phase***” to demonstrate the myth.
- His research back fired and he ended up publishing the book “**Who Moved The Stone?**”



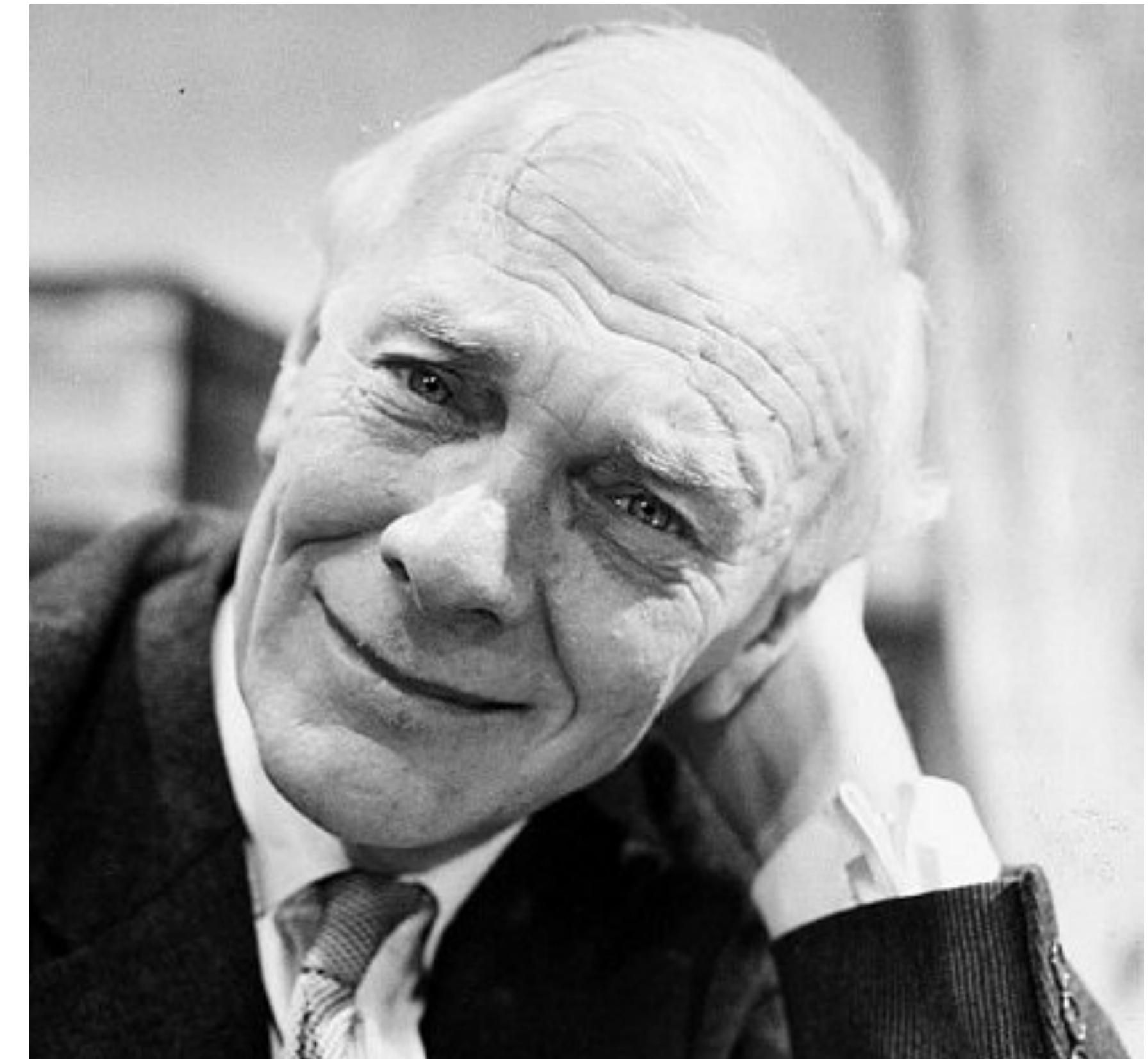
The Gospel Truth:



Malcom Muggerdige

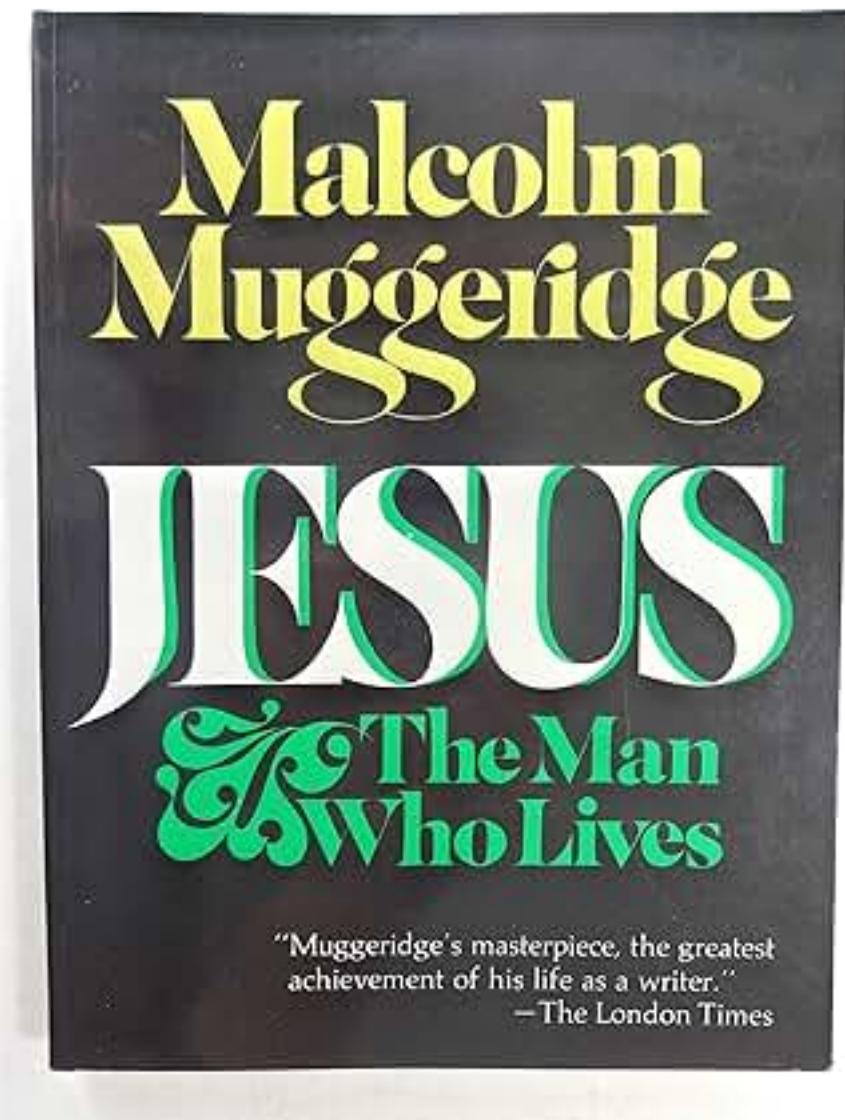
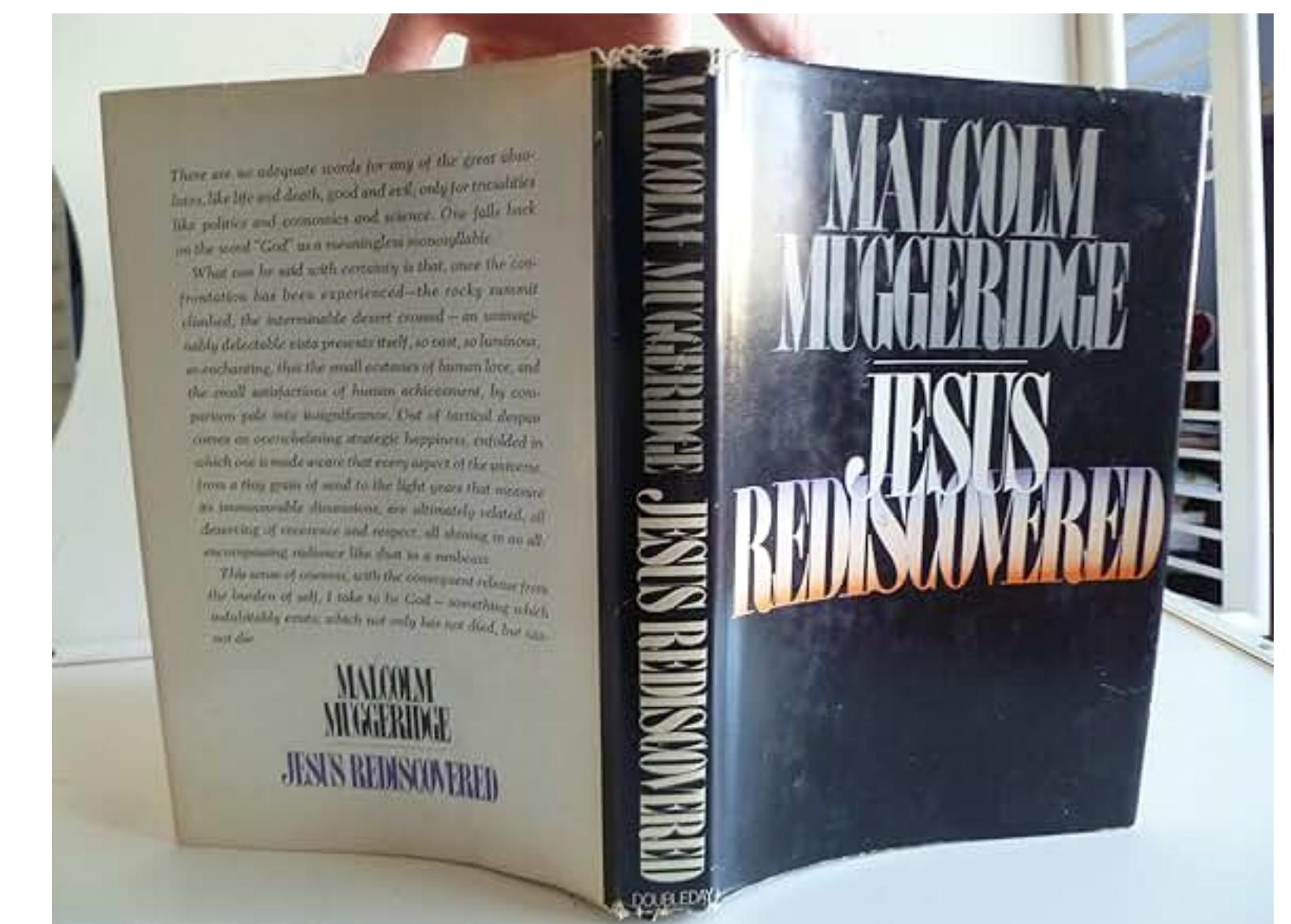
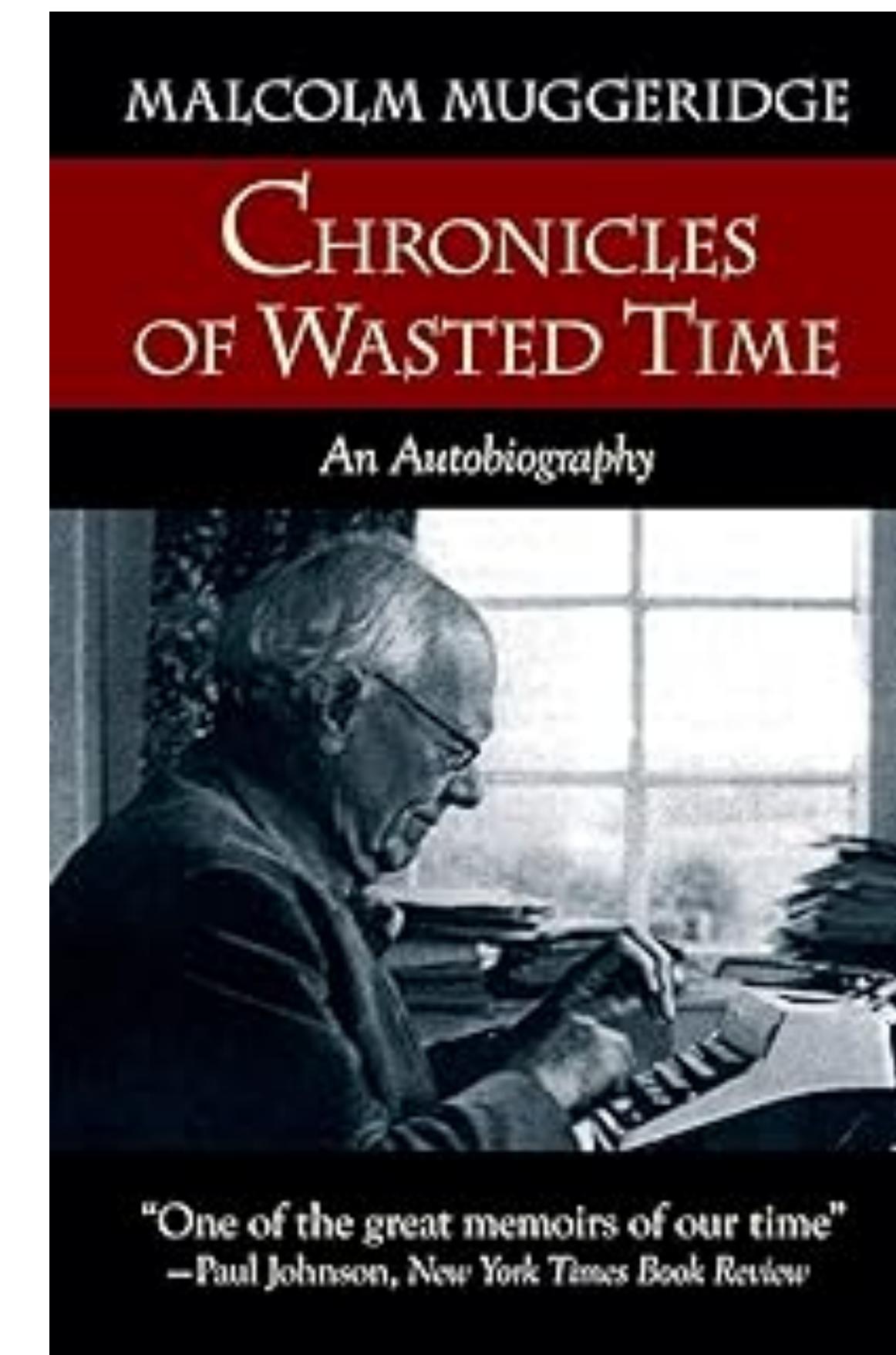
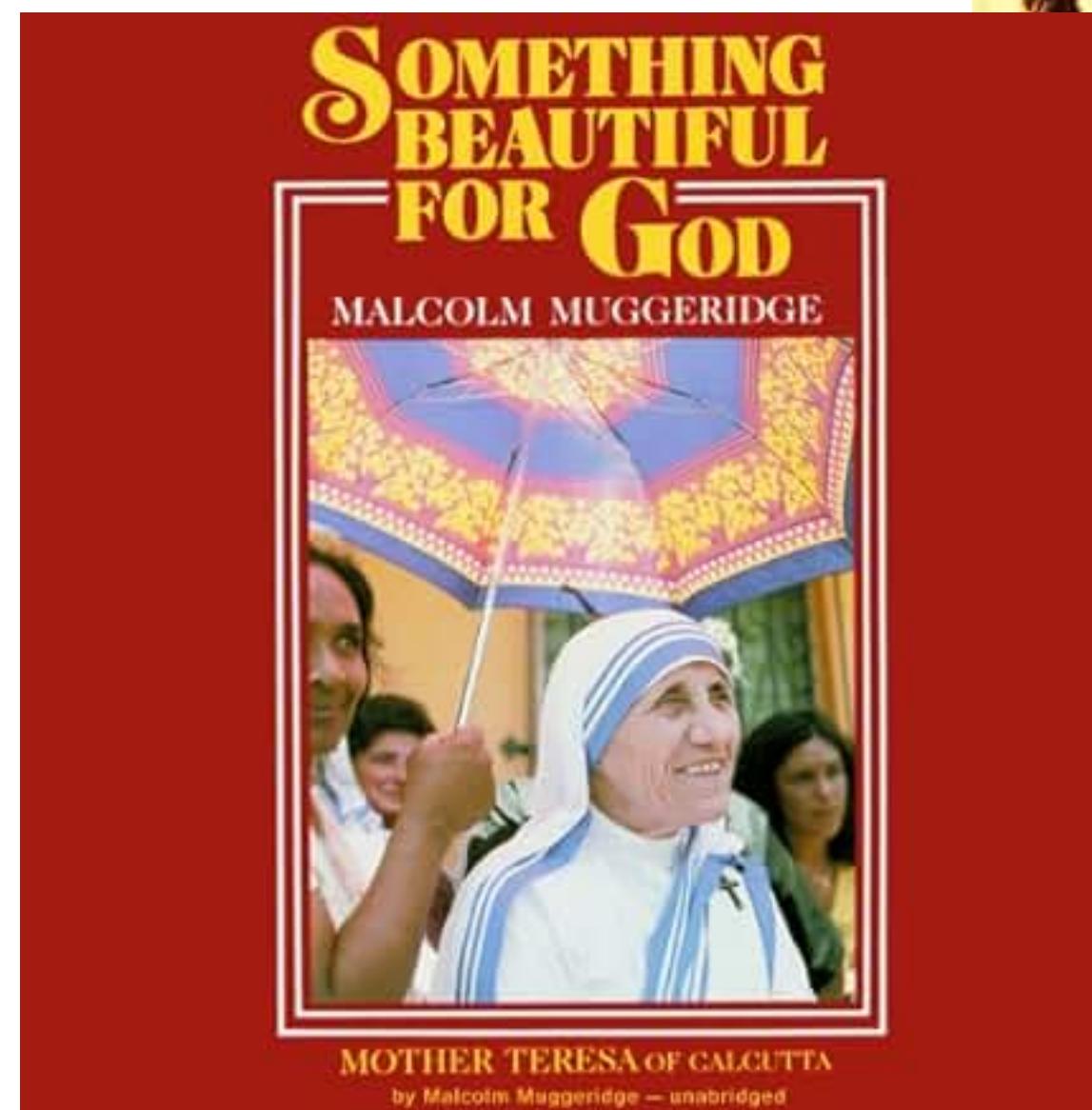
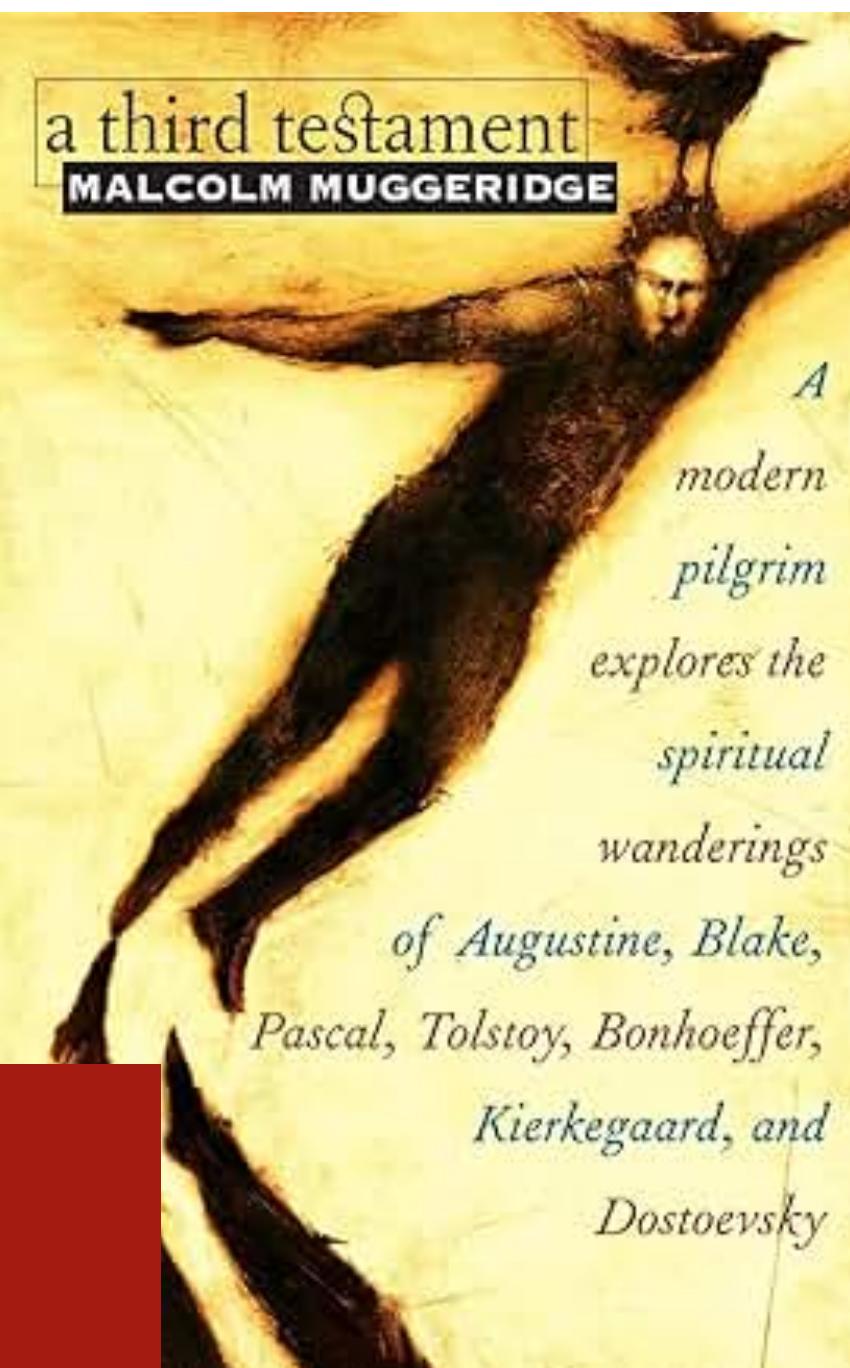
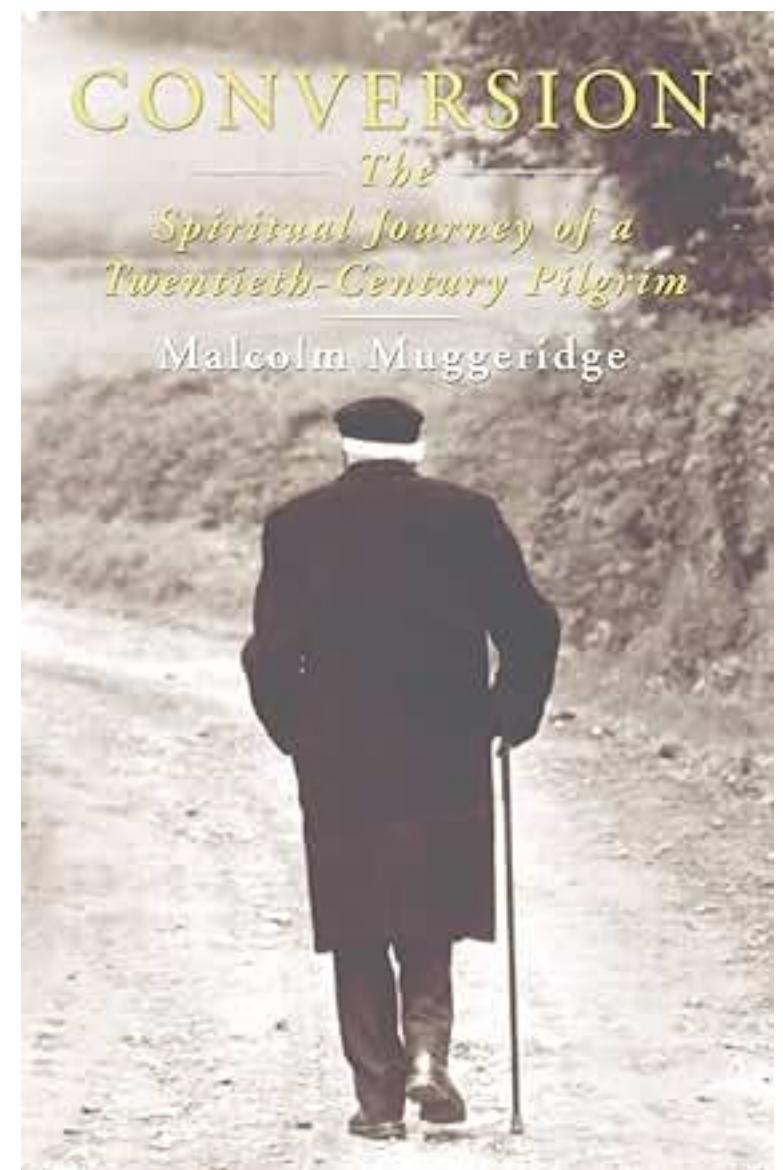
English agnostic, journalist, satirist, Member of Parliament

- Attracted to communism later turned to anti-communist after living in the Soviet Union.
- Soldier and spy during World War II.
- Converted to Christianity in the 1960's.
- Promoted the work of Mother Teresa.
- Wrote many books on faith:



Malcom Muggeridge

Books on Faith



Allan Rex Sandage

Cosmologist

- Greatest observational cosmologist in the world
- Deciphered the secrets of the stars
- Plumbed the mysteries of quasars
- Revealed the age of globular clusters and the distances of remote galaxies
- Quantified the universe's expansion (to the surprise of Albert Einstein)
- Won Astronomy's version of the Nobel Prize
- Protege of the great Edwin Hubble
- Concluded that God is '*the explanation for the miracle of existence.*'



Sir Fred Hoyle

Cosmologist

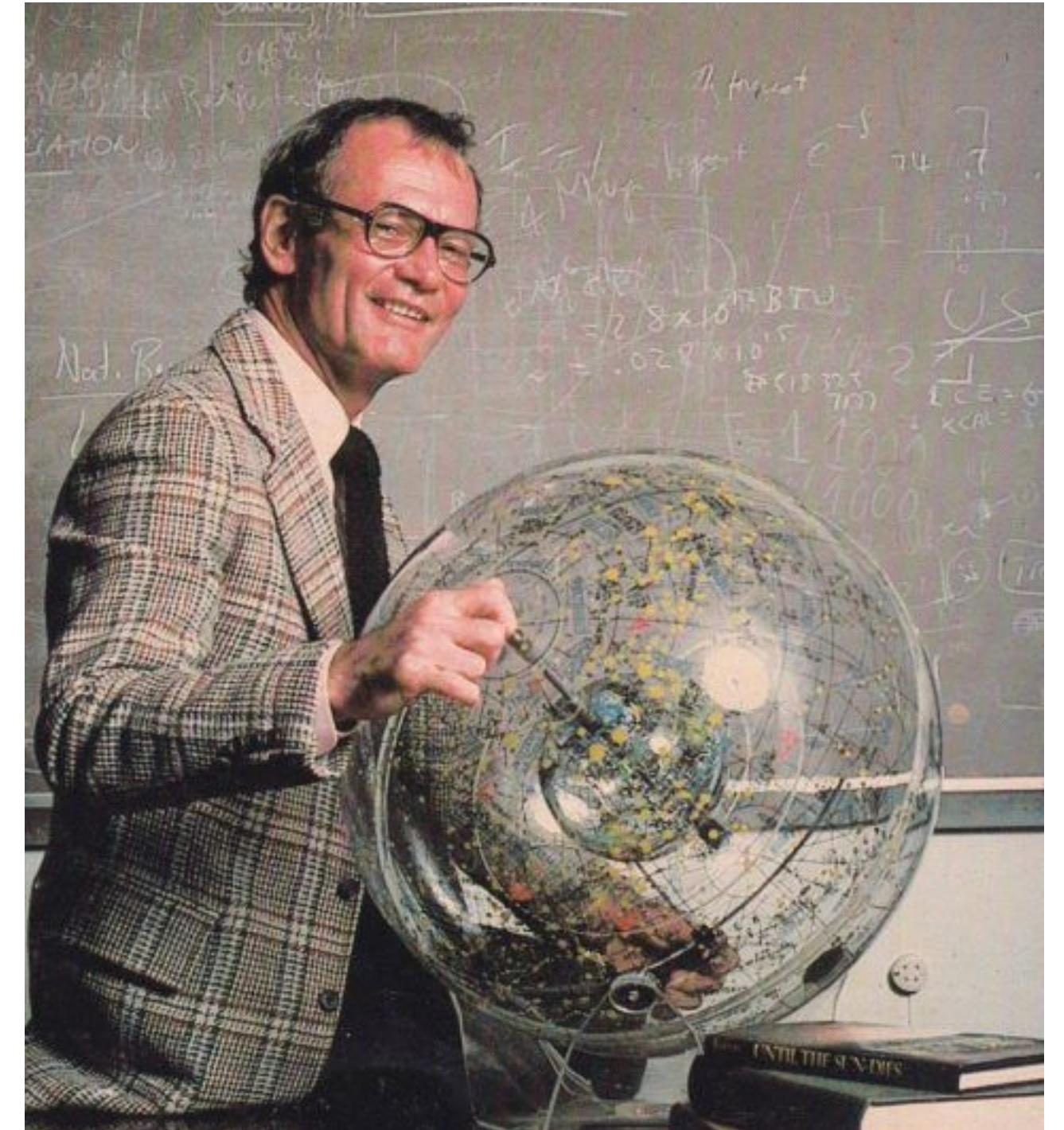
- Devised the steady state theory of the universe to avoid the existence of God
- He coined the term “Big Bang” to mock the theory of the expanding universe
- Evidence ultimately convinced him of the expansion from nothing, and existence of an Intelligent Designer of the universe
- Concluded that “*a super intellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as with chemistry and biology, and ... there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature.*”



Robert Jastrow

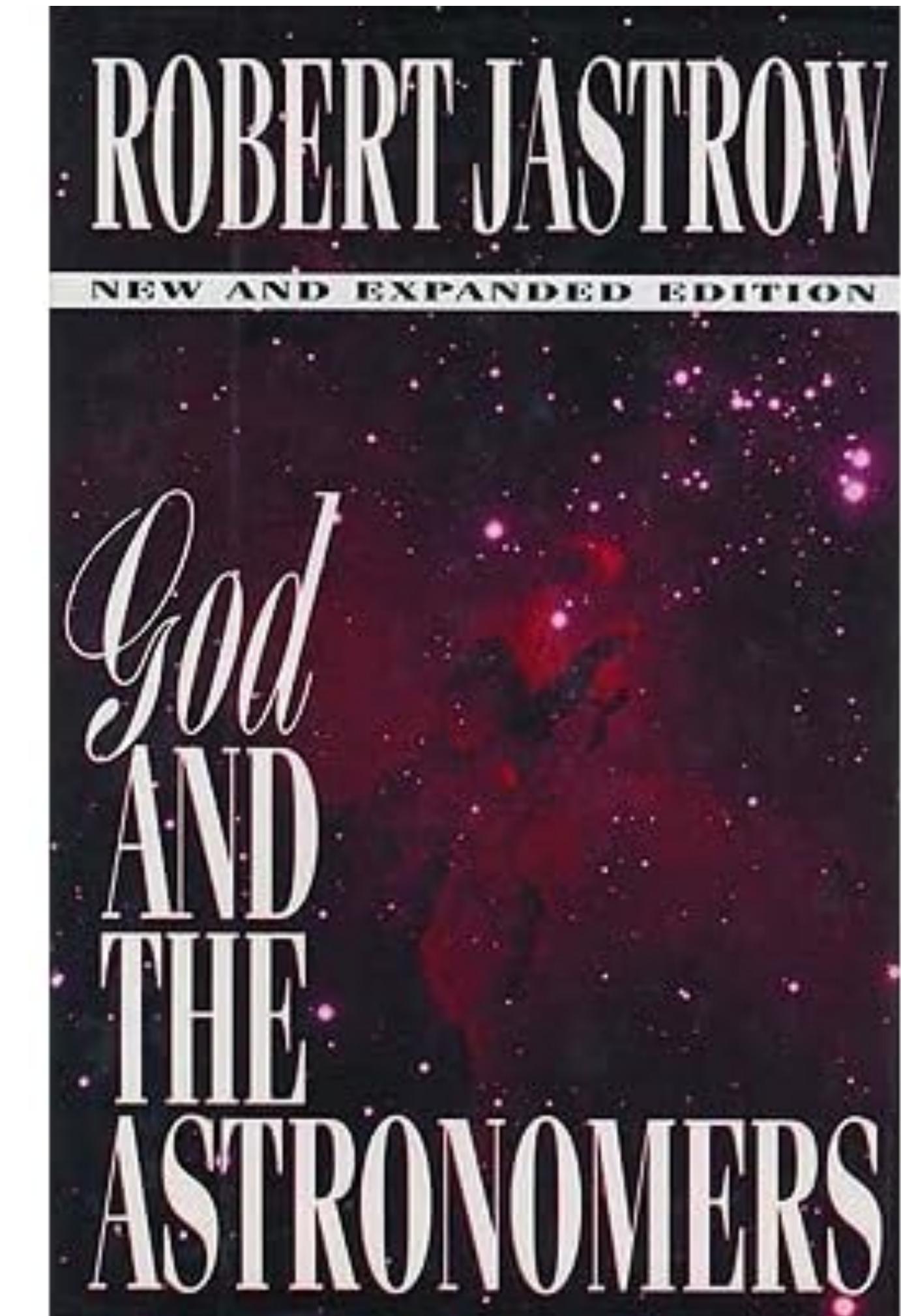
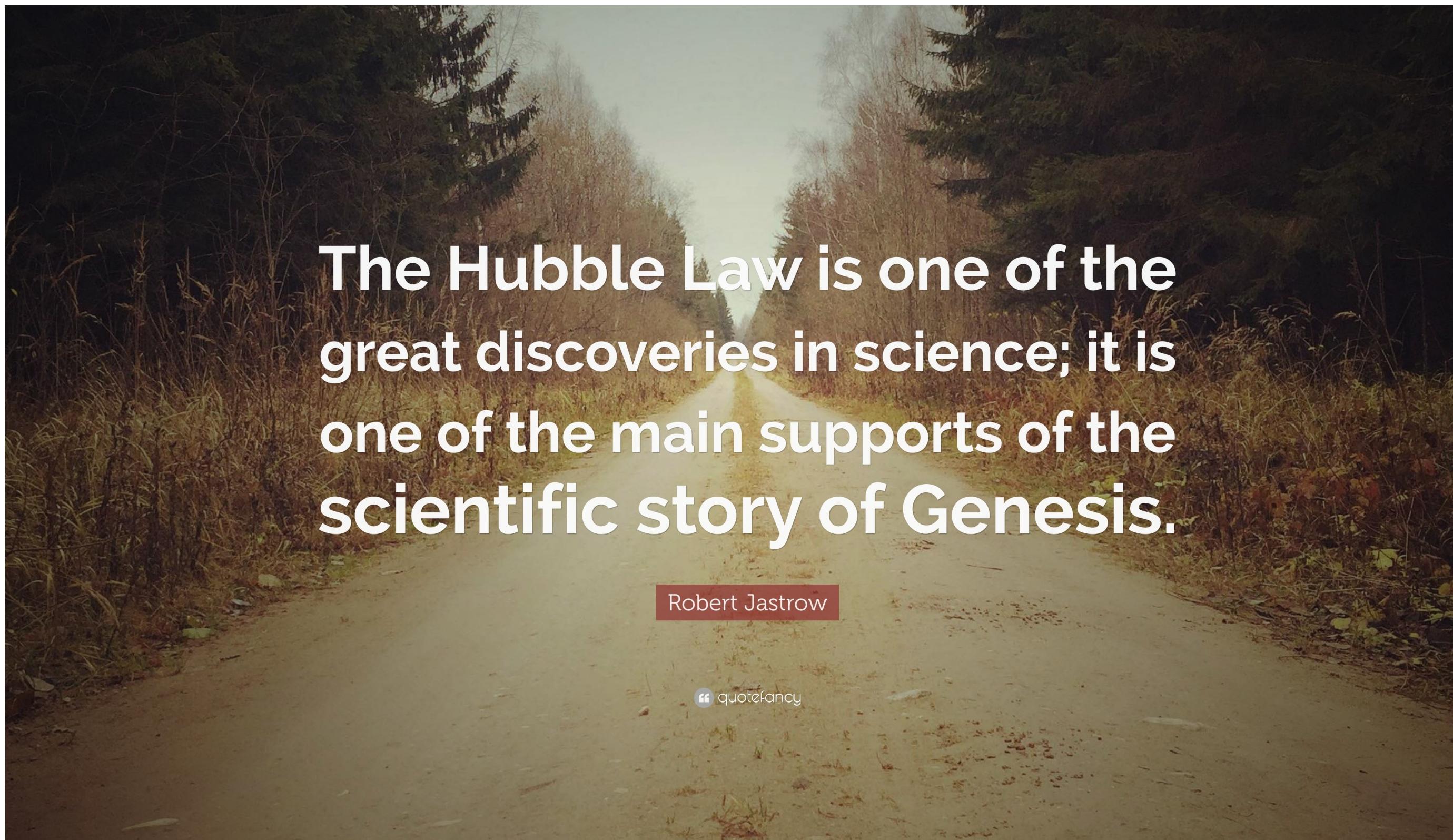
Cosmologist

- Confessed agnostic
- Director of Mount Wilson observatory and founder of the Goddard Space Institute
- Concluded that the Big Bang points toward God
- Began to hold the belief that *“if there was a beginning to the universe, there was also a Creator.”*



Robert Jastrow

Cosmologist

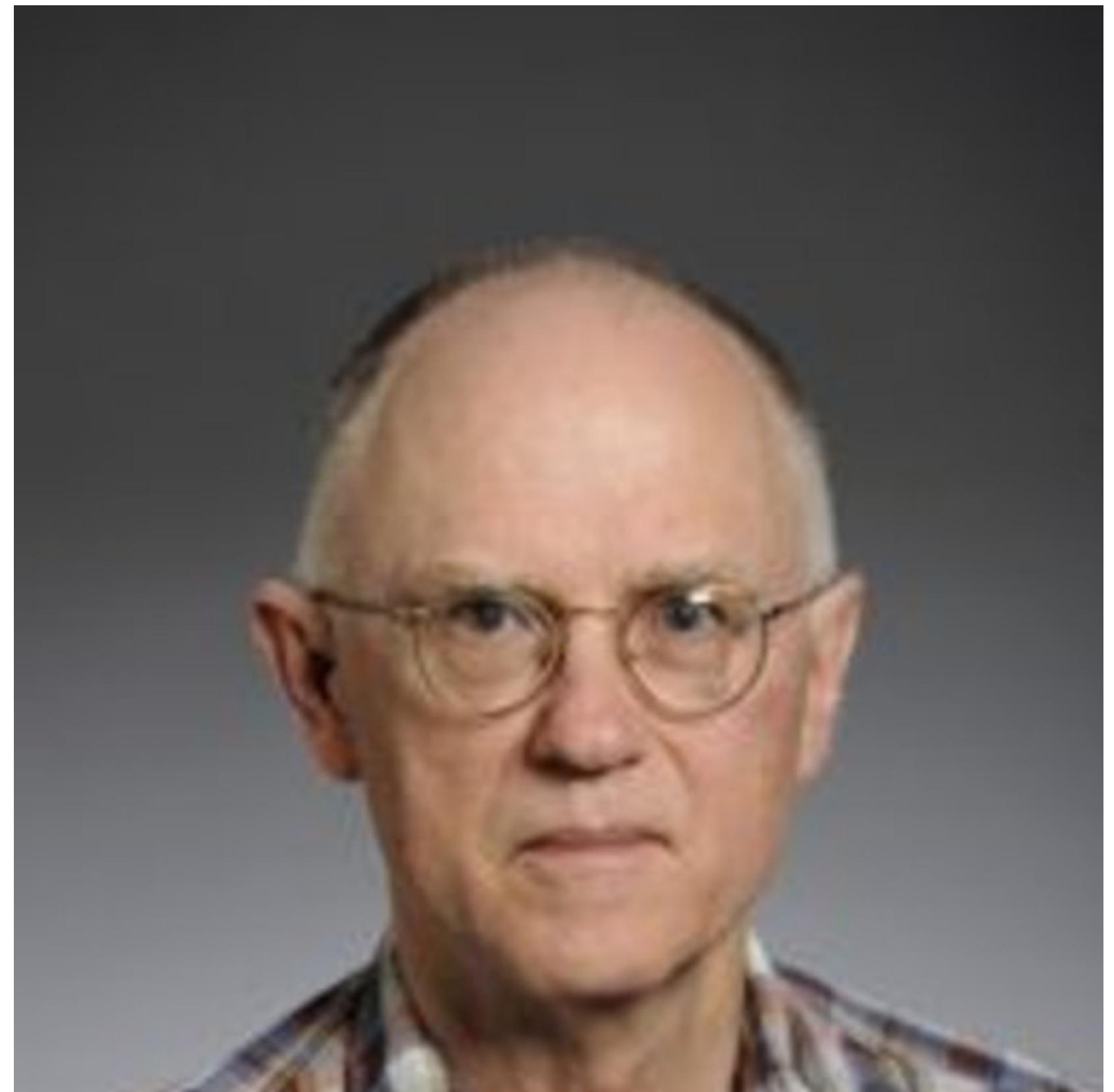


Robert Griffiths

Mathematical Physicist

- Originator of the “*consistent histories*” approach to quantum mechanics

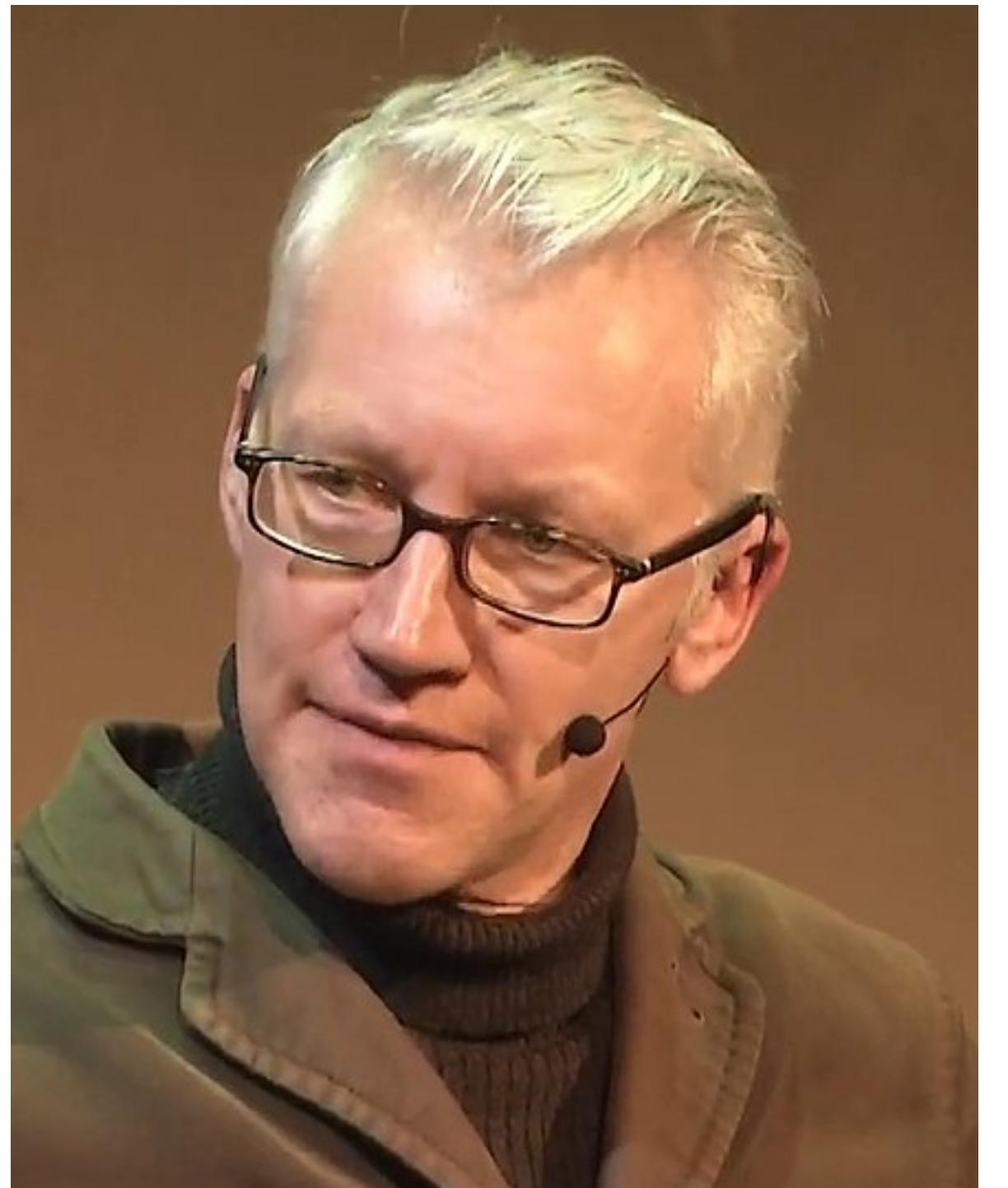
'If we need an atheist for a debate, I go to the philosophy department. The physics department isn't much use.'



Tom Holland

Expert on ancient history

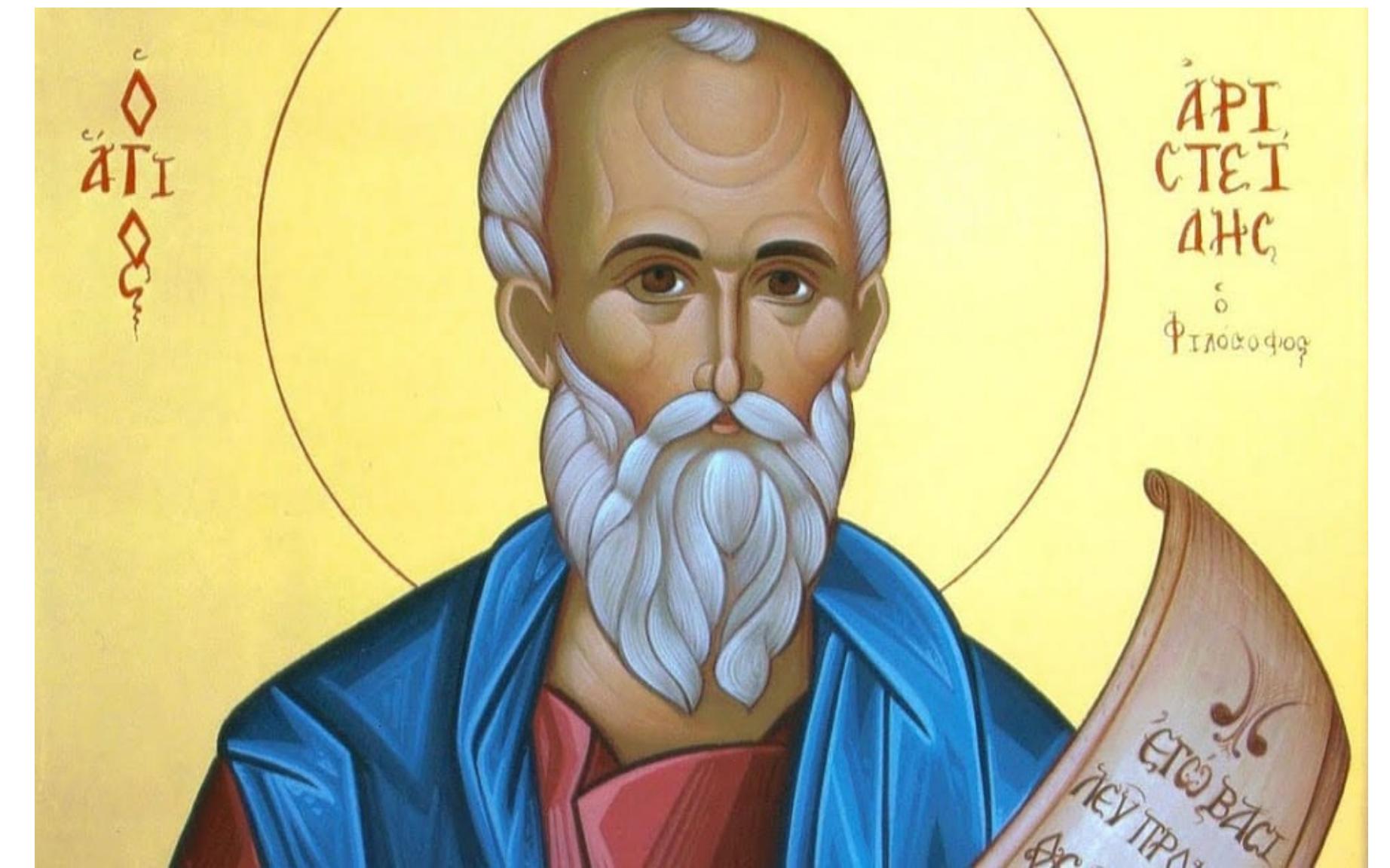
- The historian became both fascinated and appalled by the might and cruelty of the Roman Empire and aspects of the Islamic world that arose later.
- He describes Paul's own theological vision in the New Testament as a "depth charge" under the foundations of the classical world which we are still feeling the ripples of through Latin Christendom, The Reformation and The Enlightenment.
- YouTube video: "*I was wrong about Christianity*"
- YouTube video: "*How St. Paul changed the world*"
- YouTube video: "*Why I changed my mind about Christianity*"
- Despite being attracted to aspects of Christianity, he has yet to make the metaphysical step of faith.



Athenagoras of Athens

Platonist Philosopher

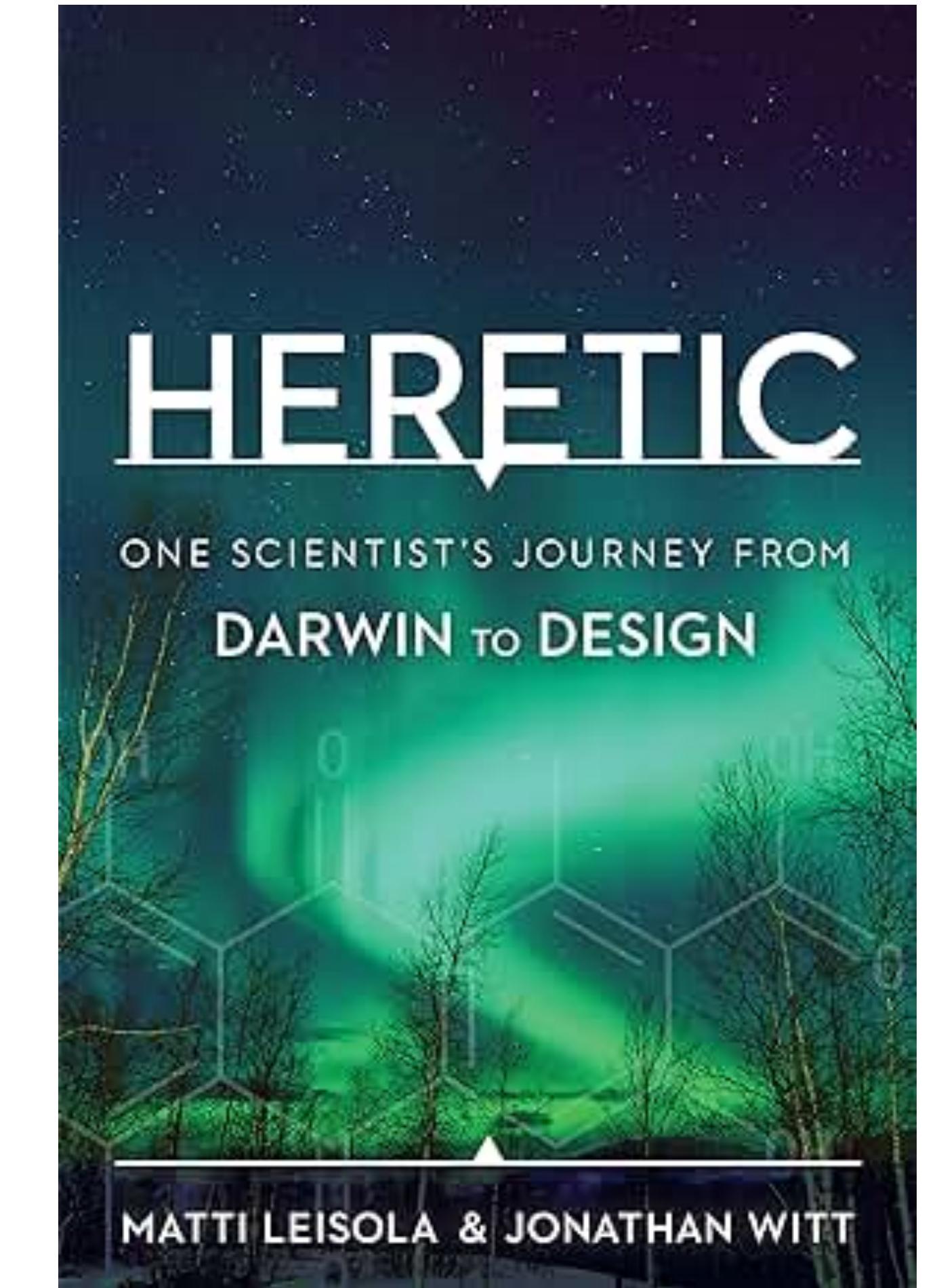
- Headed the Academic School in Alexandria.
- Around 176 AD he became a Christian through reading Scripture which he initially sought to refute.
- After his salvation, he wrote two works (that we know of) in defense of Christianity:
 - *Embassy for the Christians* (on the nature of man)
 - *On the Resurrection of the Dead.*



Matti Leisola

Gifted Finnish Bioengineer, a good Darwinist.

- A student loaned him a book criticizing evolution
- He reacted angrily
- Set out to defend evolution
- His efforts raised more questions than they answered
- Became a full-on Darwin skeptic



George Lyttelton & Gilbert West

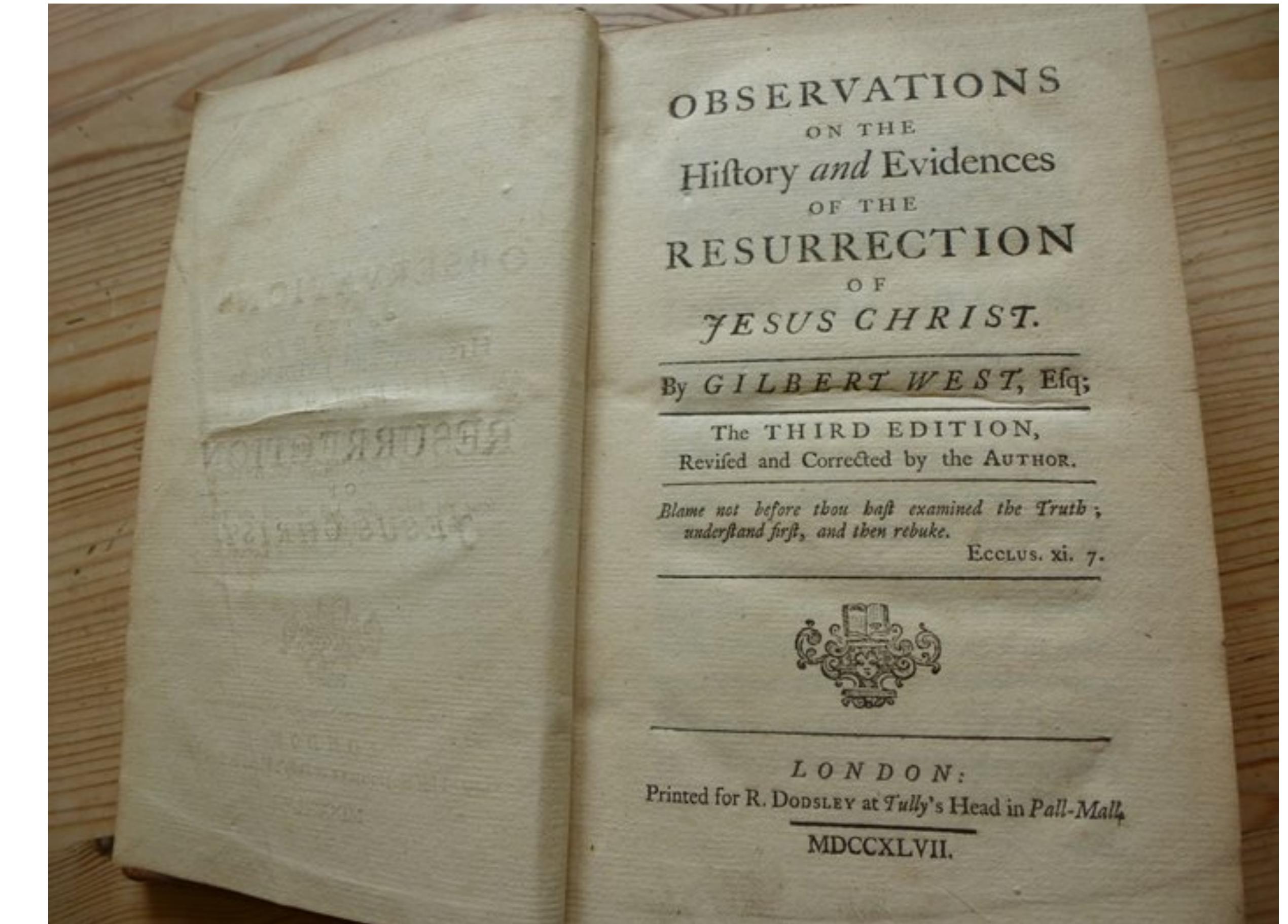
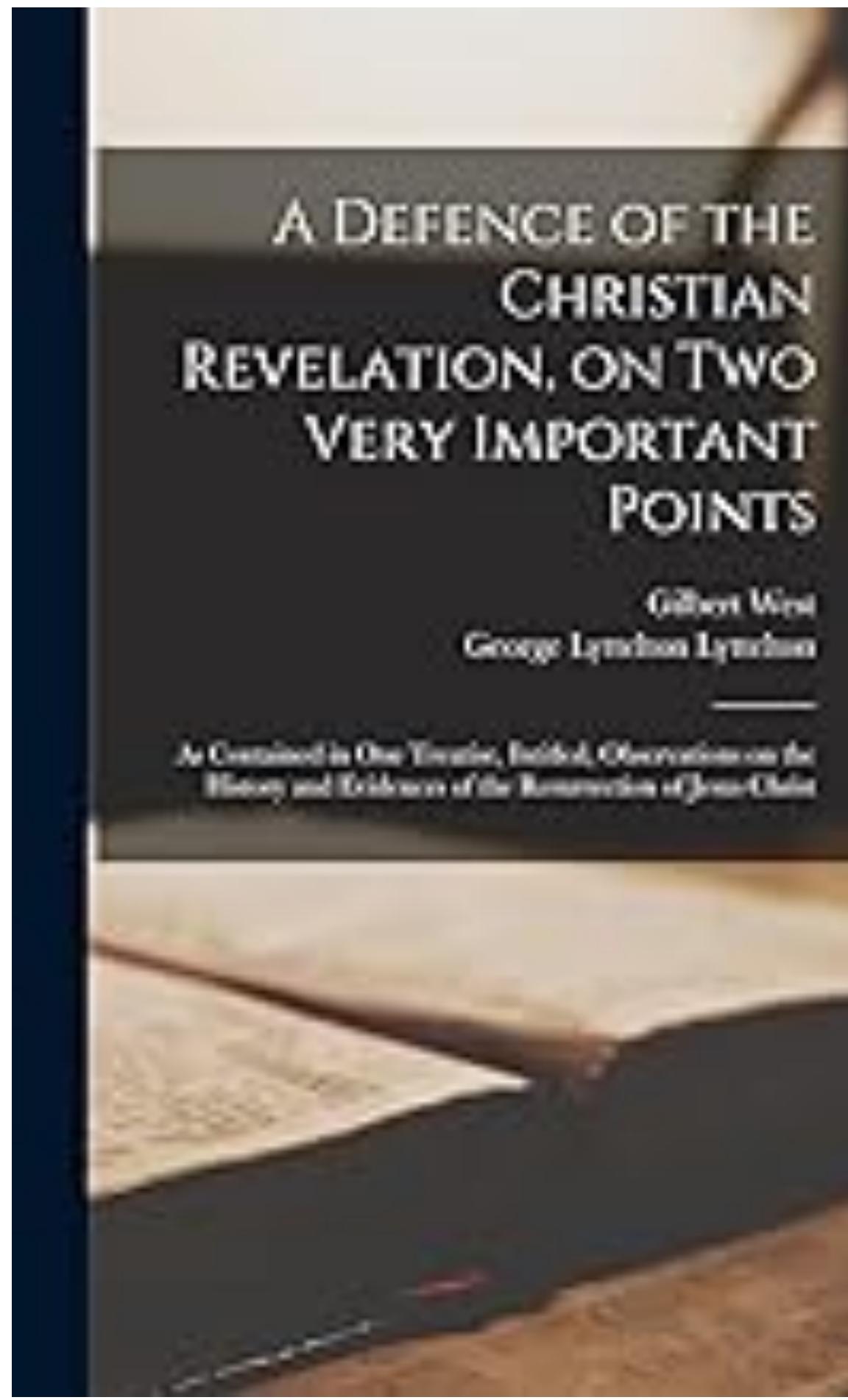
Poet, Oxford graduate, Member of Parliament

- Lyttelton had a friend named Gilbert West
- They lived in the “Age of Reason” when deism was all the rage.
- Both were critical of Christianity
- Lyttleton offered to disprove Paul’s conversion
- West set out to discount the resurrection
- Both became Christians



Lyttelton & West

The results:



John Dickerson

Journalist / Jesus Skeptic

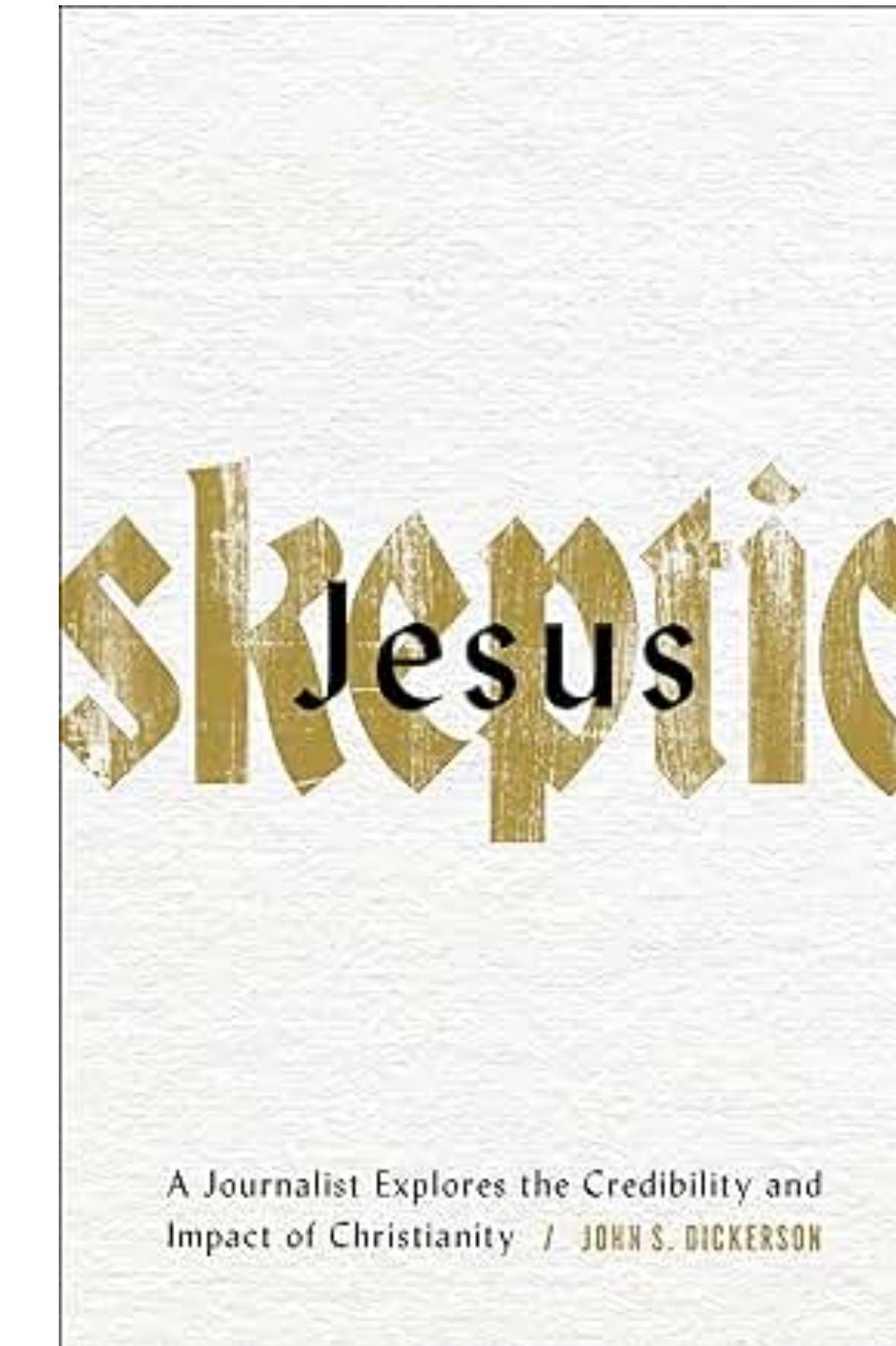
- Prize winning journalist and bestselling author
- Livingston Award for Young Journalists
- Interviewed the gamut of lifestyles about their search for ultimate meaning.
- *I struggled to understand how people could find such meaning and purpose in someone they could not see with their eyes, touch with their hands, or hear with their ears. I was not sure that a God existed at all, let alone that Jesus was that God. At times, I wondered if these well-intentioned people had been duped into believing a myth.*
- Now, lead pastor and sought after conference speaker.



Measuring Christianity's Impact on Society

Are you thankful for any of these things?

- The Scientific Revolution
- Life before Jesus's Influence
- Seeds, Trees and Fruit
- Universities
- Hospitals and Modern Medicine
- The Evil of Slavery
- The End of Open Slavery
- Literacy and Public Education
- Summary Thoughts on Christian Influence



Thank Jesus!

Jay Sekuloh

Jewish Lawyer

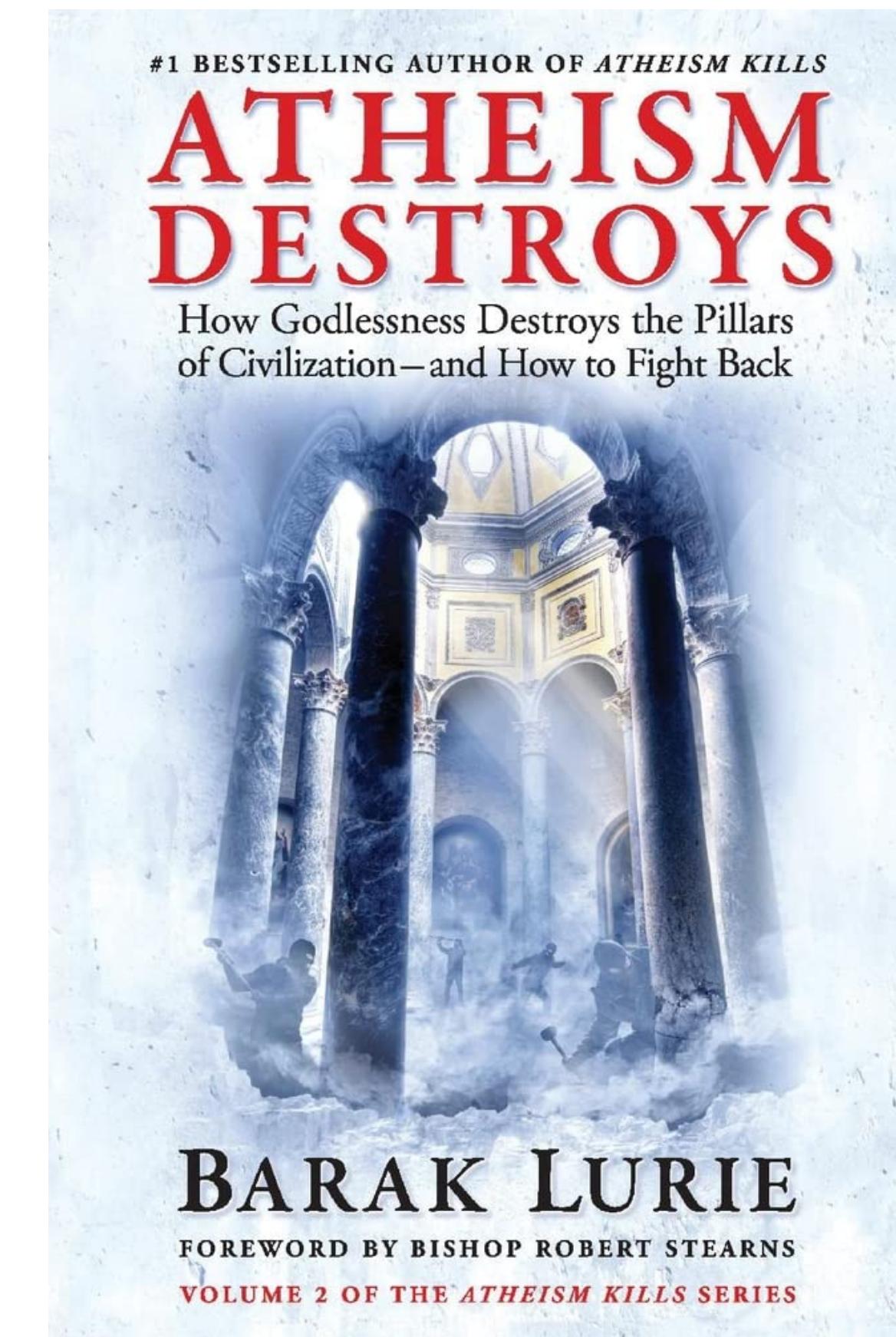
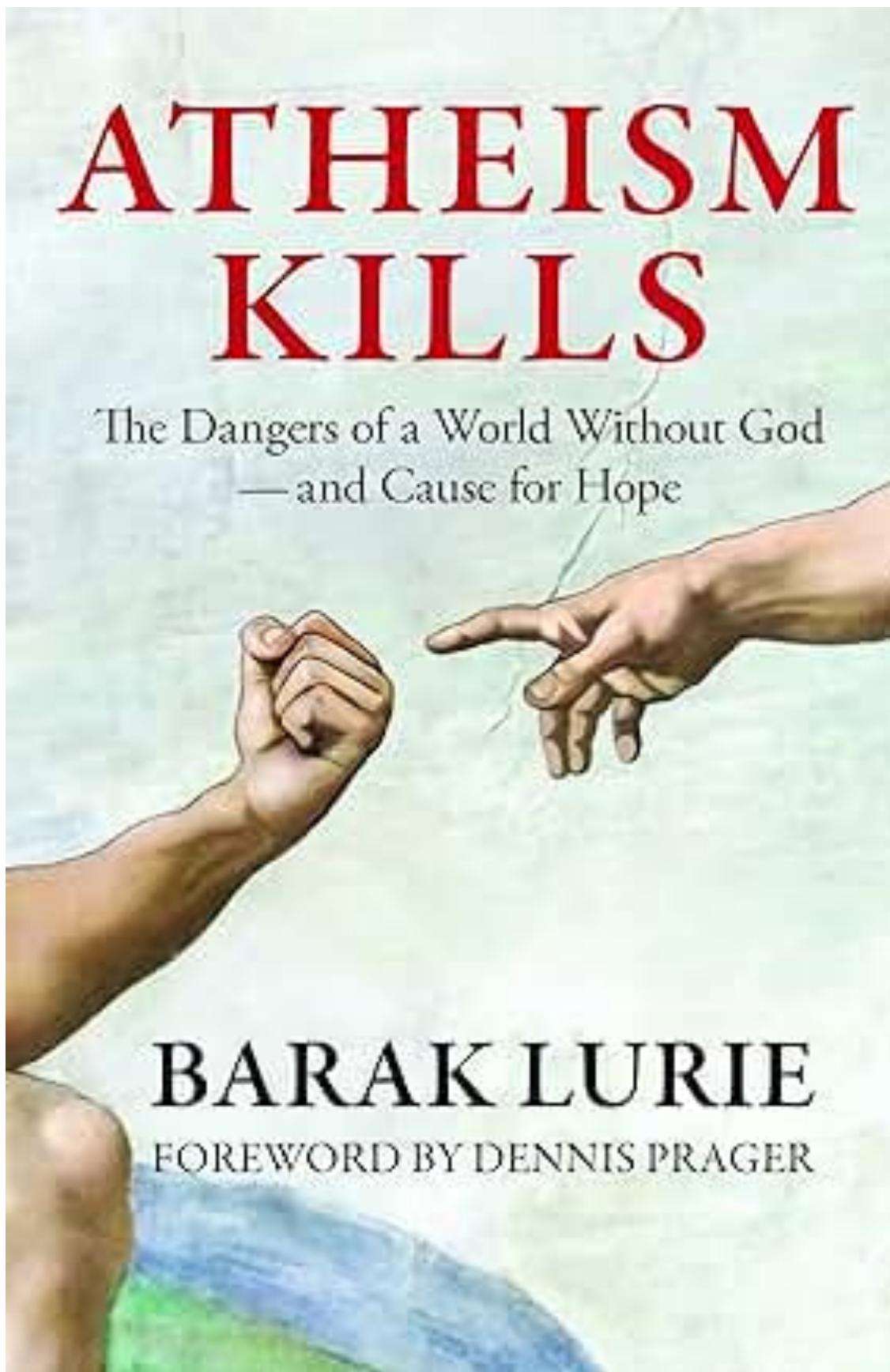
- Jewish Lawyer from Brooklyn
- Came to believe in Jesus
- YouTube: *How Jay Sekulow Came to Know Jesus*



Barak Lurie

Atheist, Attorney, Author, Talk Show Host

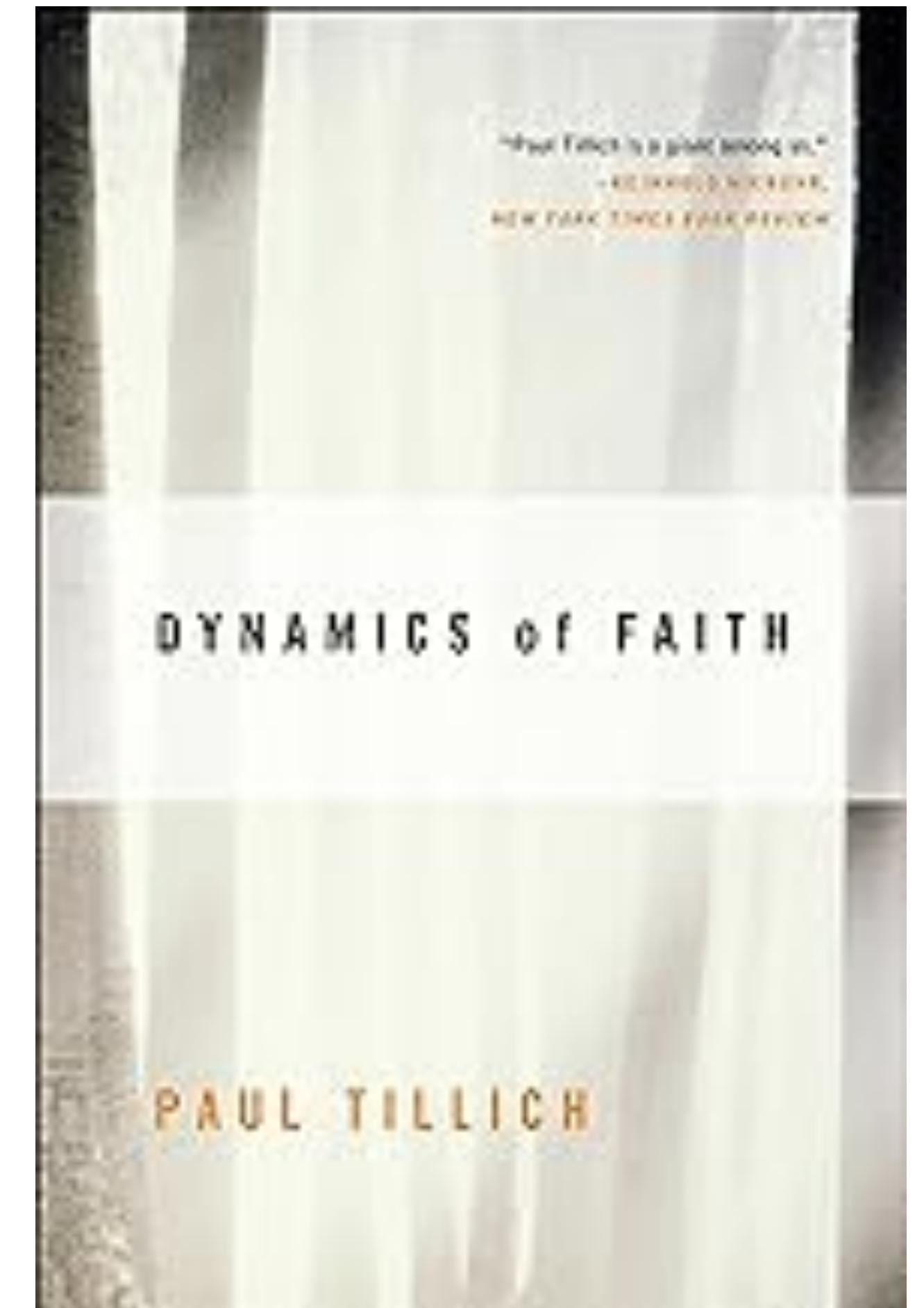
- <http://BarakLurie.com>



Paul Tillich

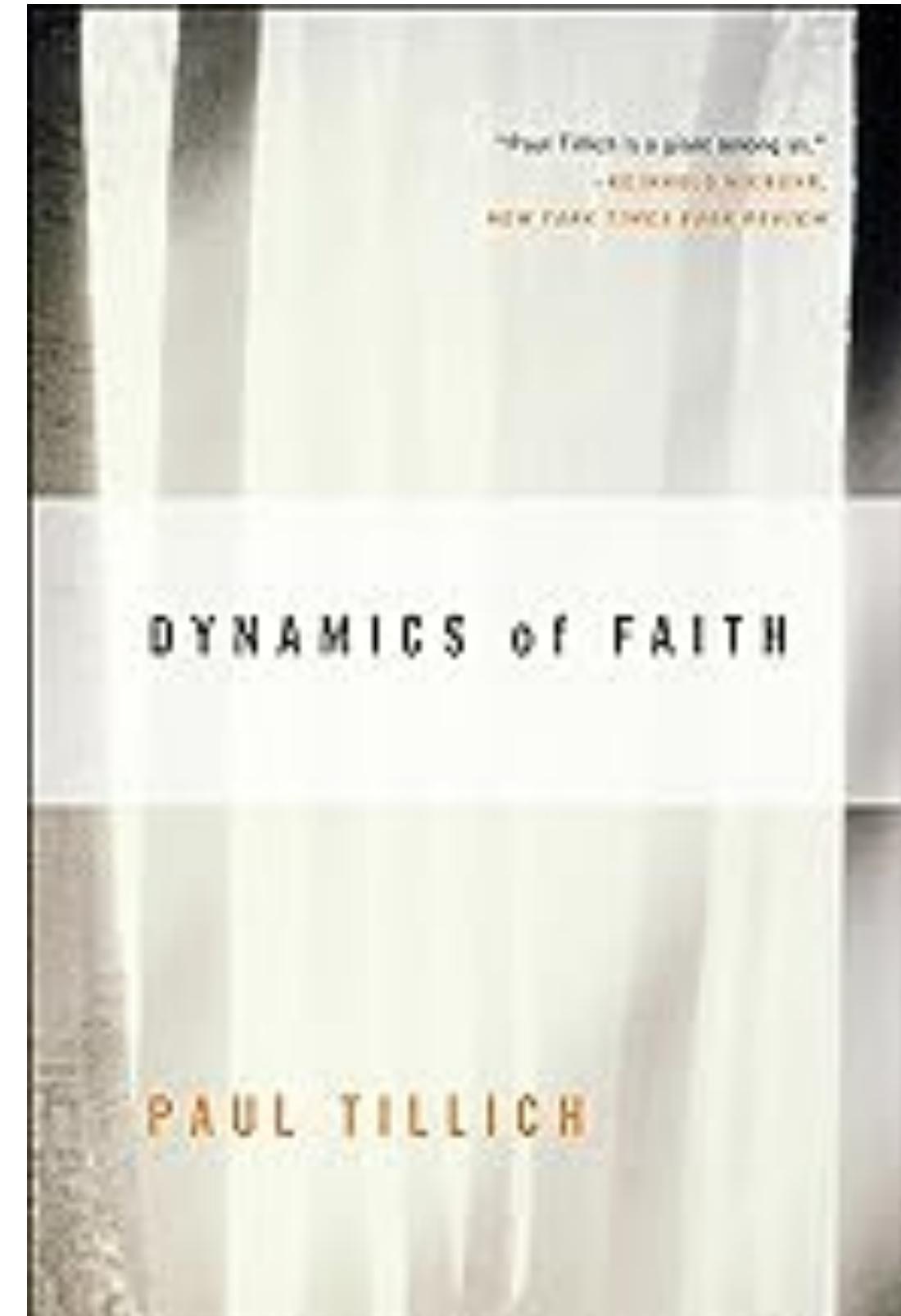
Dynamics of Faith

- “Doubt is not the **opposite** of faith, it is an **element** of faith.”



“An act of faith is an act of a **finite** being who is grasped by and turned to the **infinite**. It is a finite act with all the limitations of a finite act, and it is an act in which **the infinite participates** beyond the limitations of a finite act.”

Tillich, Paul. Dynamics of Faith (Perennial Classics) (p. 18). HarperCollins. Kindle Edition.



What is the difference?

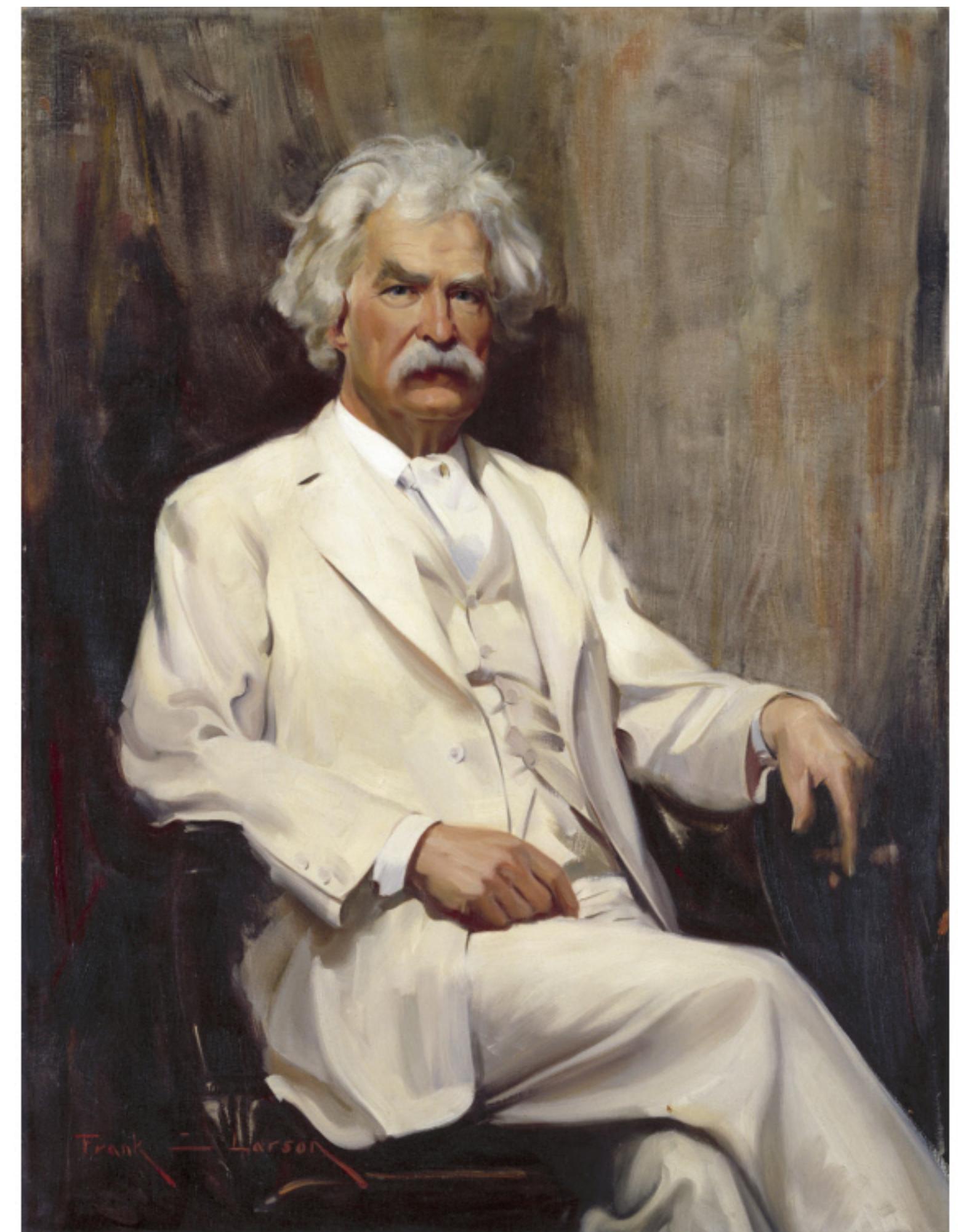
What is the difference between a **skeptic** and an **advocate**?

Engagement with scripture,

Act of the Holy Spirit.

Samuel Clemens

"It ain't the parts of the Bible that I
can't understand that bother me, it is
the parts that I do understand"



Cliffe Knechte

Church pastor and campus evangelist

That's a great question...

I

Do

Not

Know

... but what I do know is ...



