

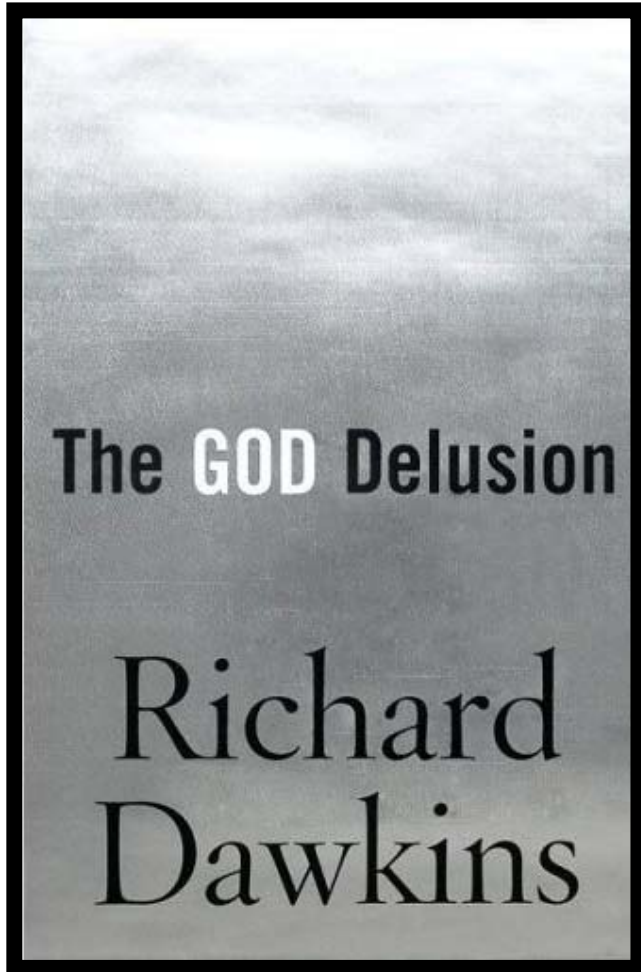
Church History Literacy

The Age of Reason – Modern Mind and a Modern Church

Lesson 79

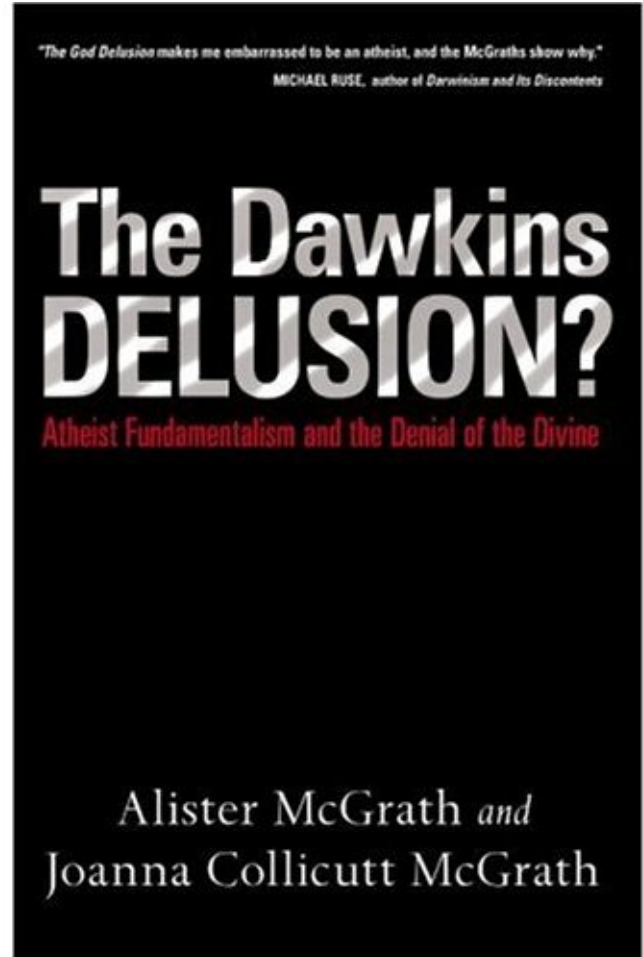
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The **GOD** Delusion

Richard
Dawkins



"The God Delusion makes me embarrassed to be an atheist, and the McGraths show why."

MICHAEL RUSE, author of *Darwinism and Its Discontents*

The Dawkins
DELUSION?

Atheist Fundamentalism and the Denial of the Divine

Alister McGrath *and*
Joanna Collicutt McGrath

Is there a science and faith
tug of war?

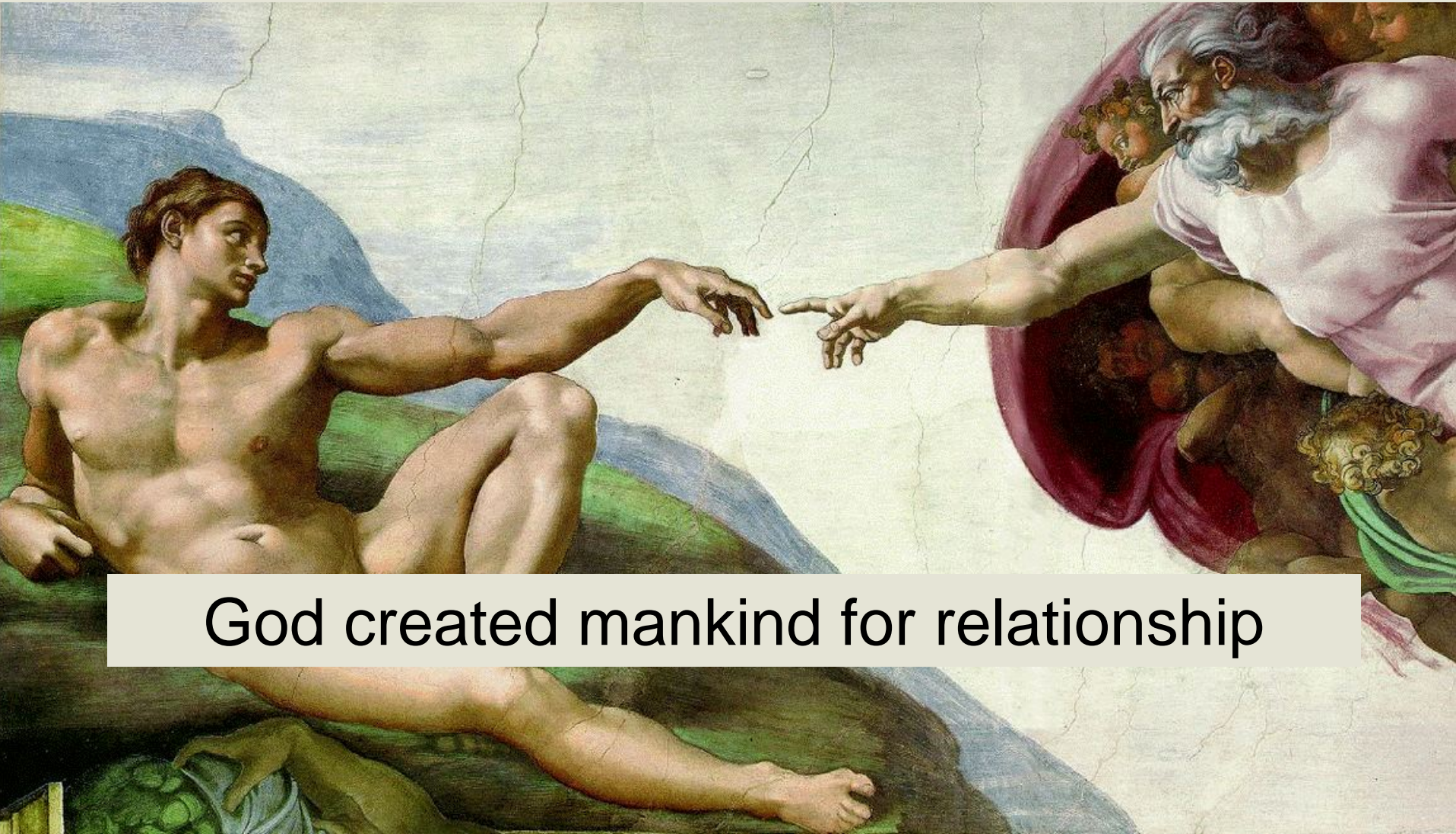




No, ours is a
reasonable well
balanced faith

Christian Basics

Christian Basics



God created mankind for relationship

Christian Basics



God made us finite, but perfect

Christian Basics



Through sin, we lost our perfection

Christian Basics

God redeemed us through His Son



Basics: God has revealed himself

Basics: God has revealed himself



Through his Son

Basics: God has revealed himself

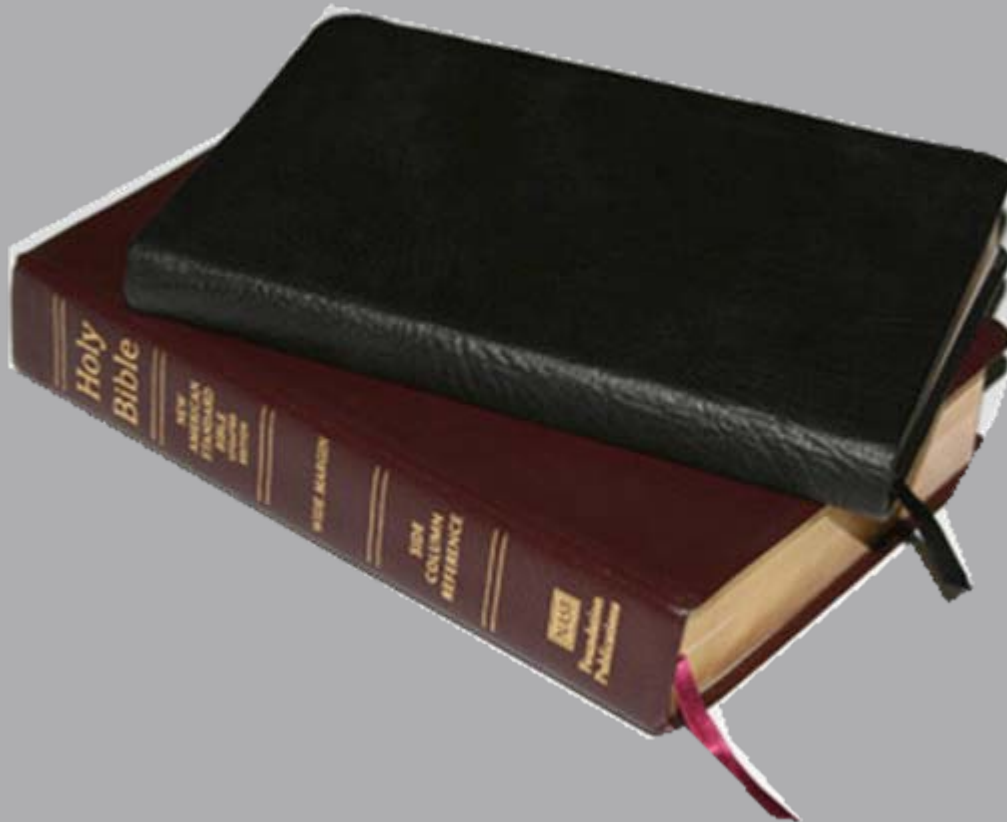


Through his Son



and his Word

Basics: The Bible is God's perfect delivery of His message, inerrant in what it claims to be



Now Medieval thought:



The church interprets Scripture and faith

Medieval: What we do not understand must be a “God thing”

Medieval: What we do not understand must be a “God thing”



We
know
this

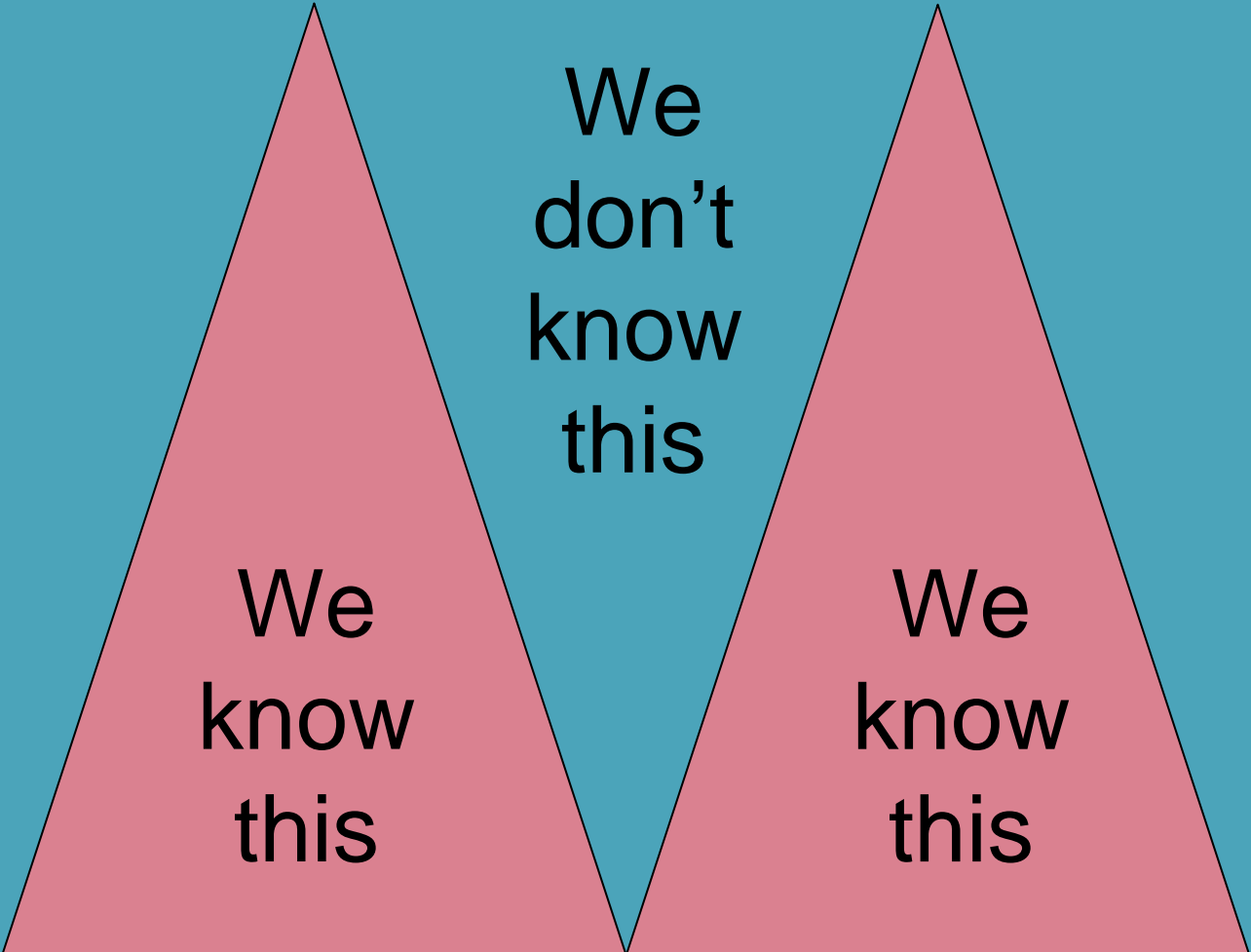
Medieval: What we do not understand must be a “God thing”



We
know
this

We
know
this

Medieval: What we do not understand must be a “God thing”



We
don't
know
this

We
know
this

We
know
this

Medieval: What we do not understand must be a “God thing”

The diagram consists of two pink triangles pointing upwards, positioned symmetrically on either side of a central vertical axis. The text 'It must be God!' is centered between the two triangles. The text 'We know this' is centered inside each triangle.

It
must
be
God!

We
know
this

We
know
this

Medieval: “God of the Gaps”



It
must
be
God!

We
know
this

We
know
this

Medieval: “God of the Gaps”



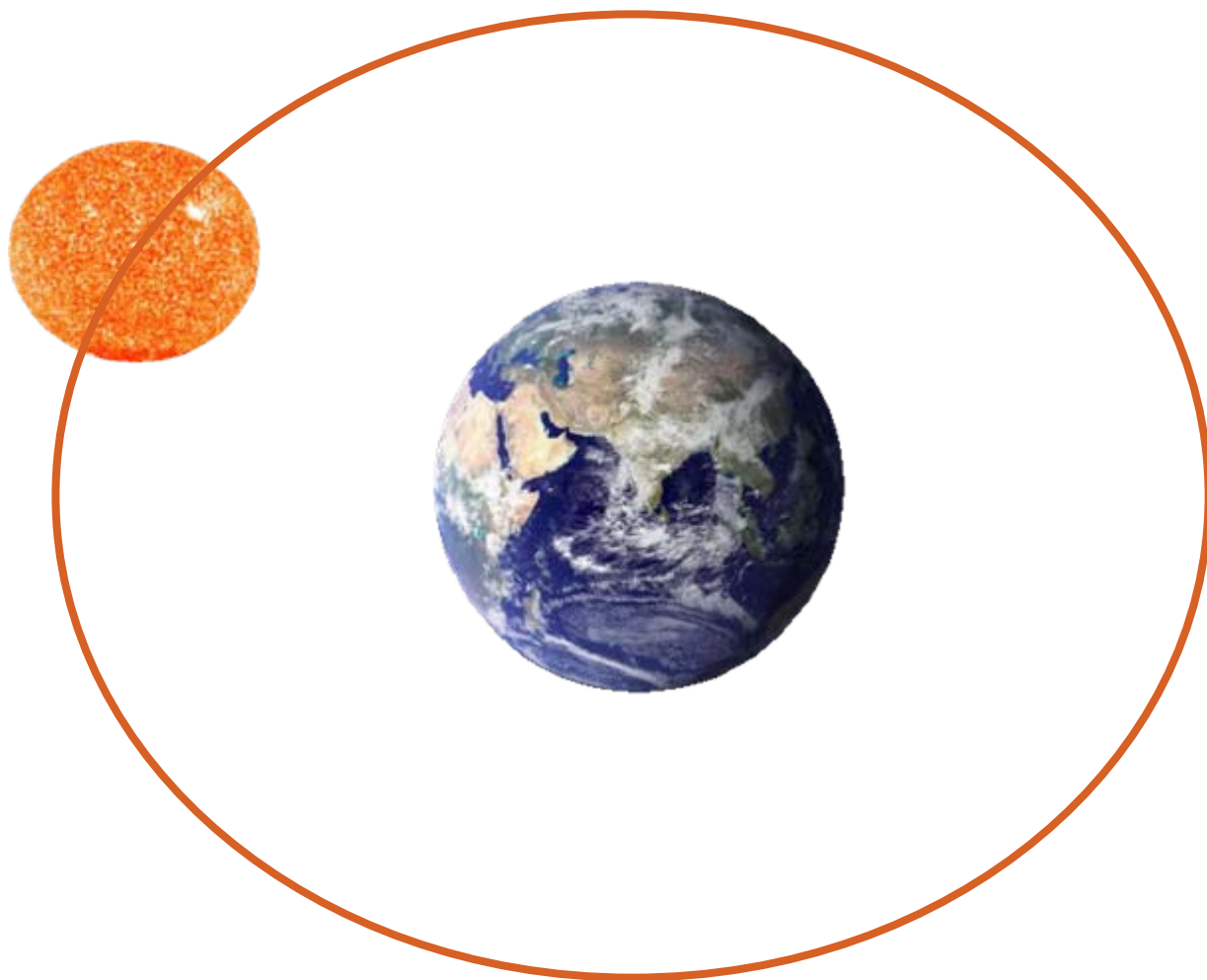


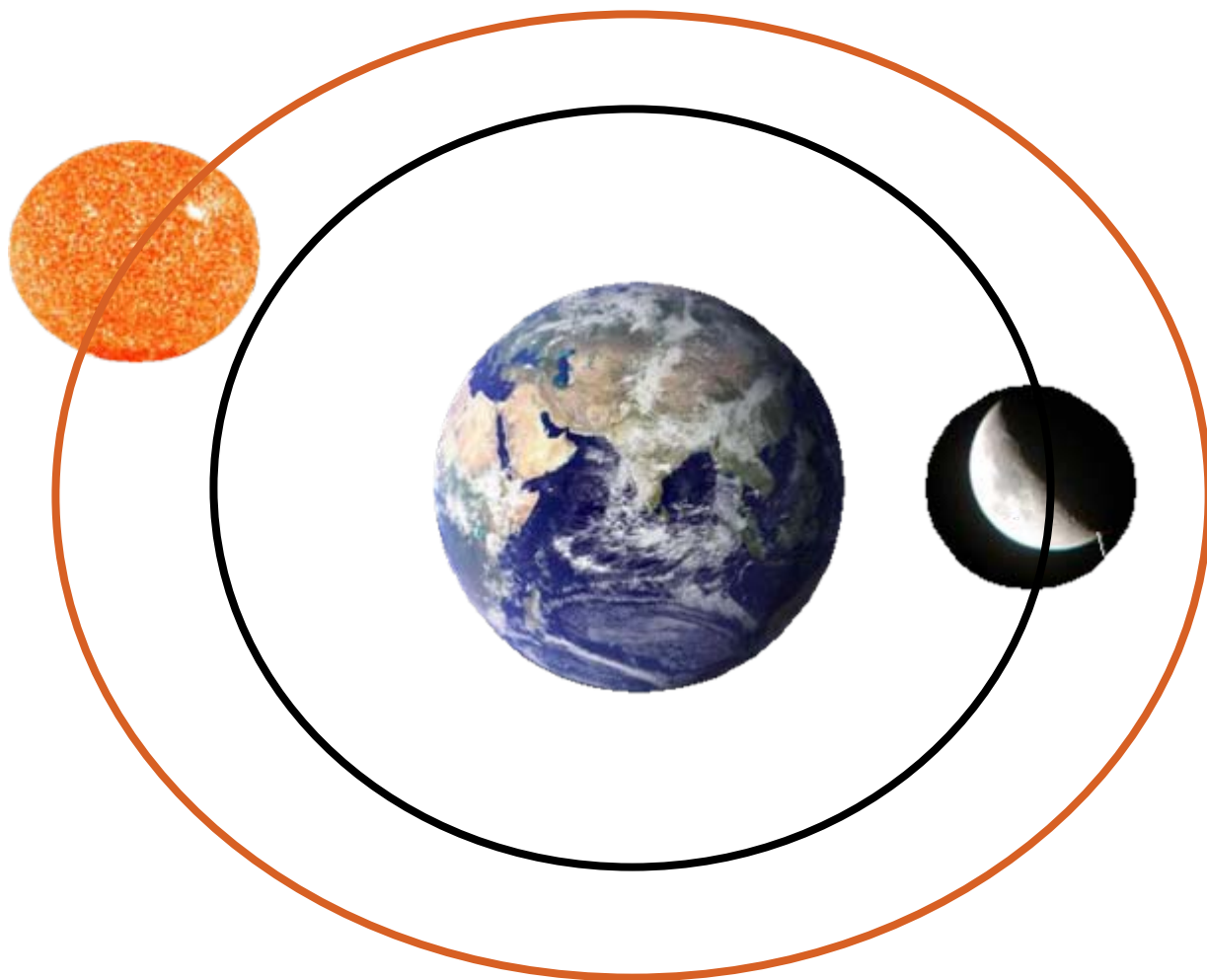


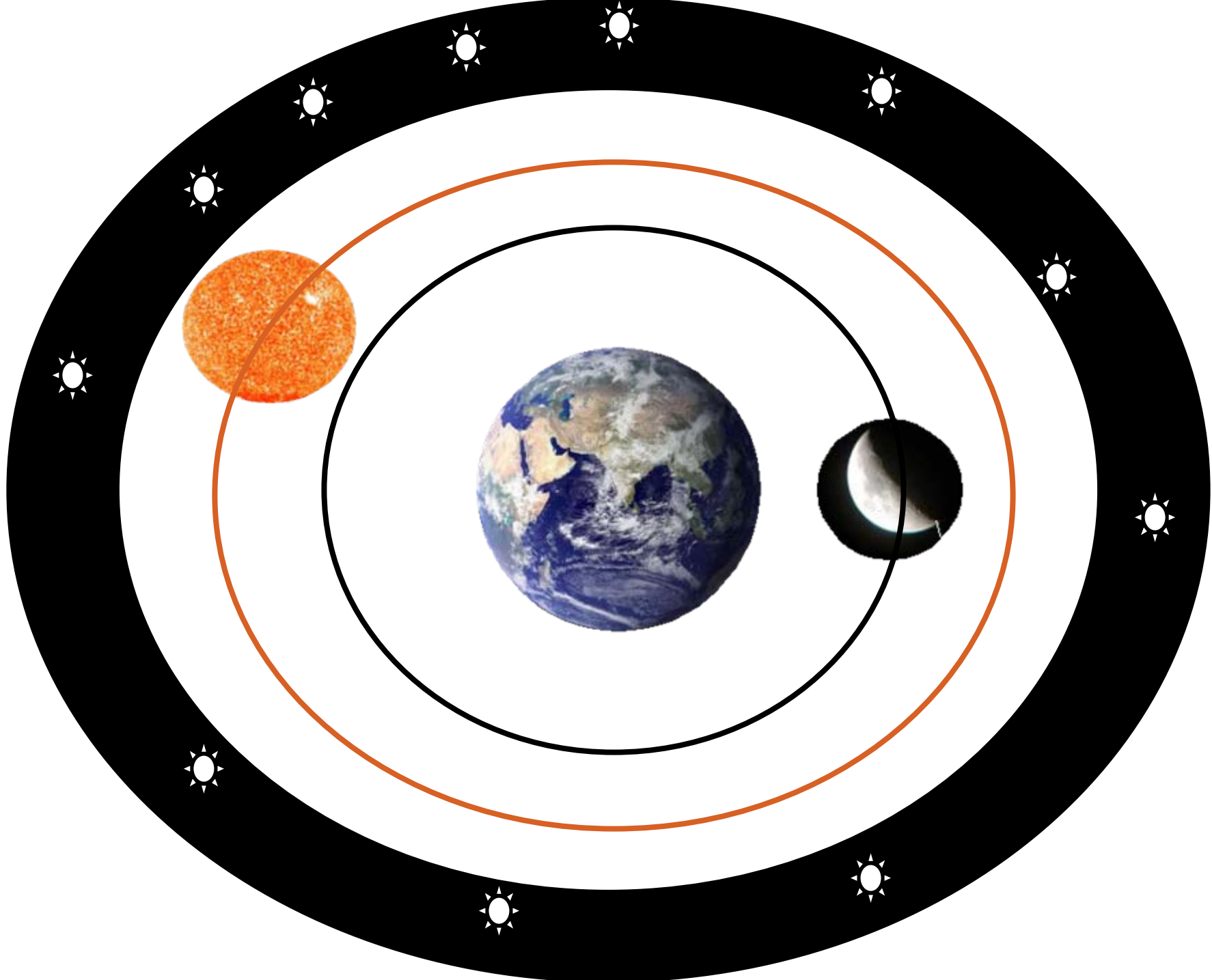


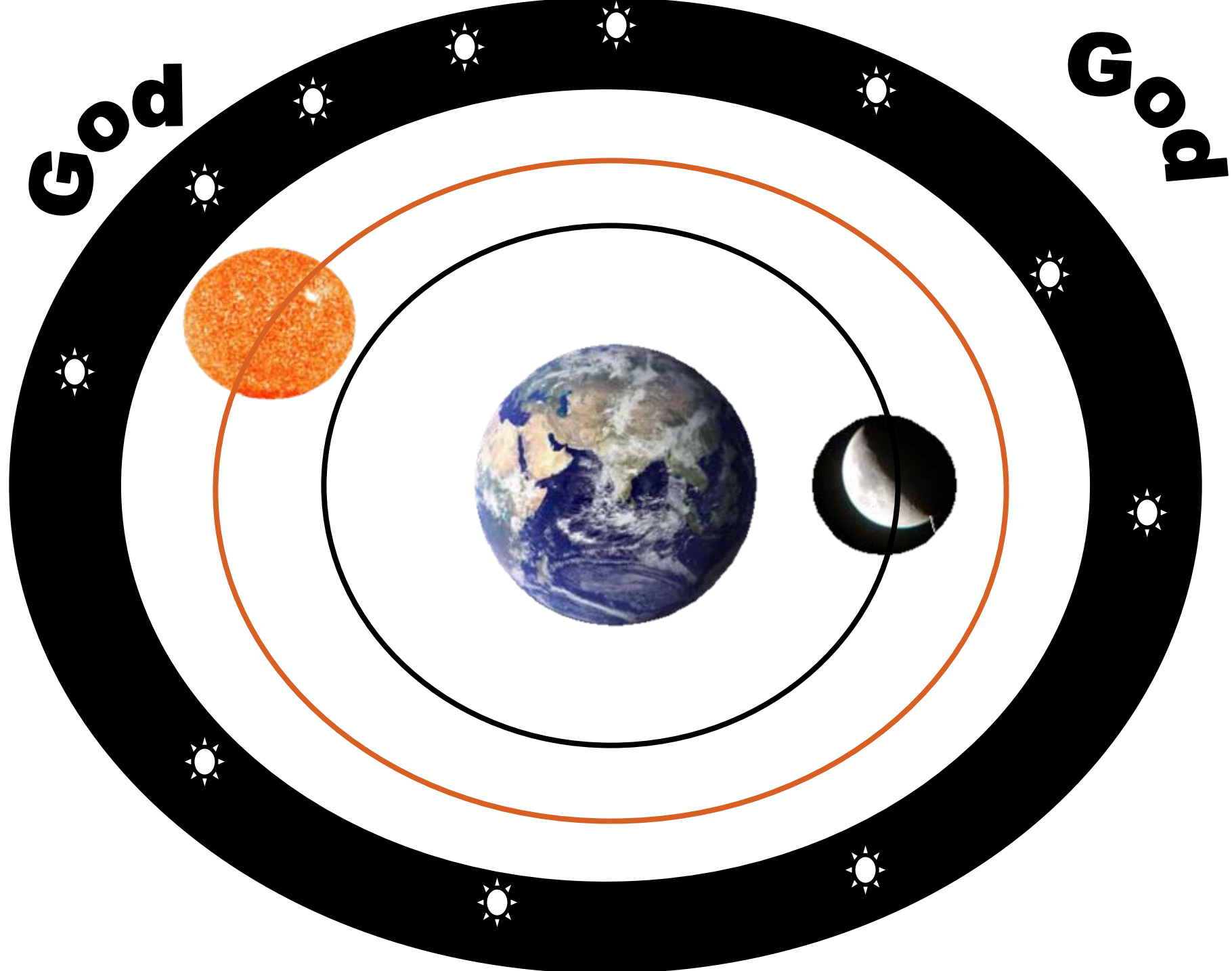












Contrary to Church interpretation of Scripture

“The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved” Psalms 93:1, 96:10, 1 Chron. 16:30

Contrary to Church interpretation of Scripture

“The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved” Psalms 93:1, 96:10, 1 Chron. 16:30

“He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved.” Psalms 104:5

Contrary to Church interpretation of Scripture

“The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved” Psalms 93:1, 96:10, 1 Chron. 16:30

“He set the earth on its foundations; it can never be moved.” Psalms 104:5

“The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises.” Ecclesiastes 1:5

Galileo was not allowed his own view of Scripture





Enter
modern
thought:
Rene
Descartes
(1596-1650)



Doubt everything
except what
reason can prove
(reason alone
establishes truth)

Descartes
begins with
what he
knows is
true and
builds on it





MATRIX

I think!
Therefore
I am





This is the Dawn
of the Age of
Reason



Sir Isaac
Newton uses
logic and
reason to
explain many
of the gaps!

Sir Edmund Halley explains comets





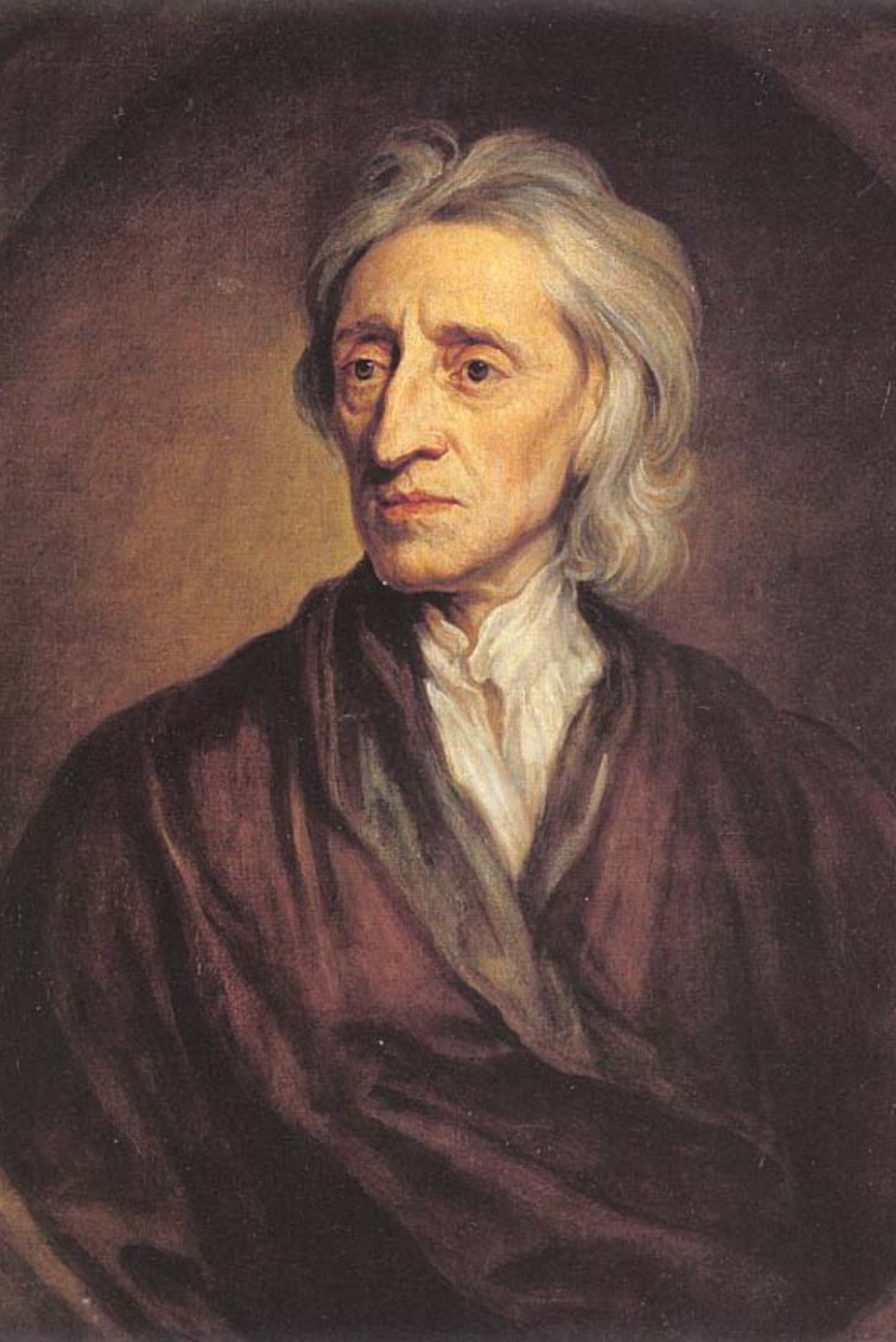
Bayeux Tapestry - 1066



Every 75-76 Years !



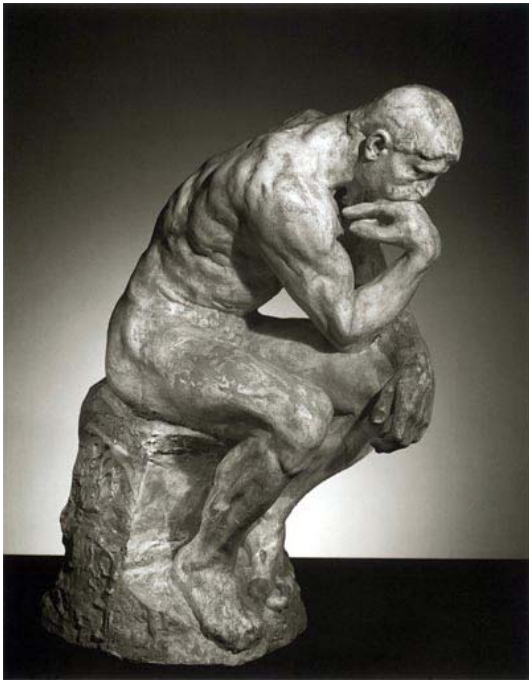
John Locke
puts a different
emphasis on
“reasoning to
truth”



John Locke
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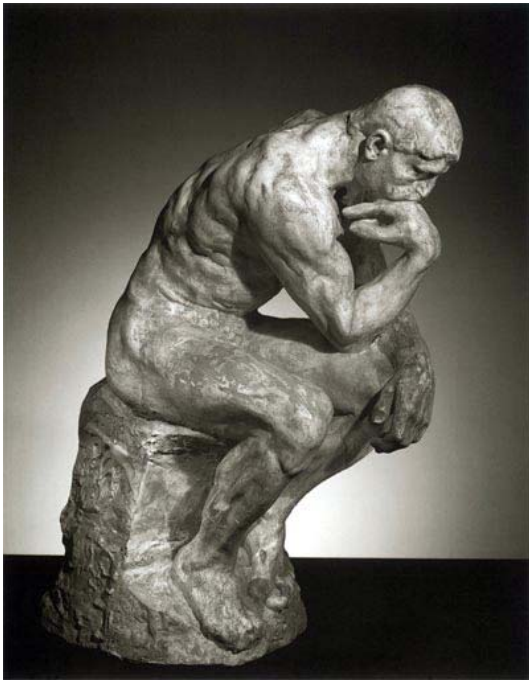
Locke applies “reason” to

Locke applies “reason” to



Philosophy

Locke applies “reason” to

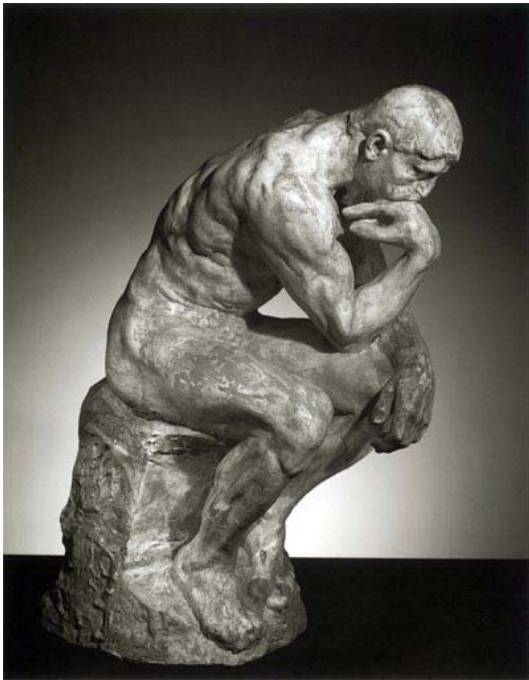


Philosophy



Politics

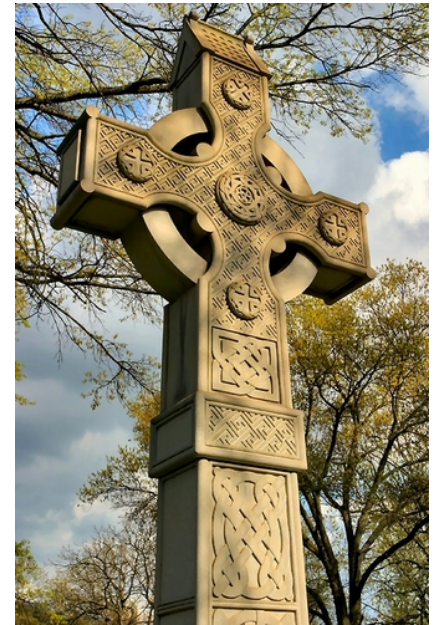
Locke applies “reason” to



Philosophy



Politics



Religion

This “rationalism” gives rise to
deism





This
“rationalism”
gives rise to
atheism



This
rationalism
gives rise to
praise for God



Good societal
effects:
American
revolution

“We the people...”



Good societal
effects:
American
revolution



Bad societal effects: French revolution



**Church effects:
Rise of
liberalism**



The possibility
of Miracles
was dismissed



“Revelation”
was seen as
unnecessary
and absurd



“The most formidable weapon against errors of any kind is reason. I have never used any other.”

The Age of Reason



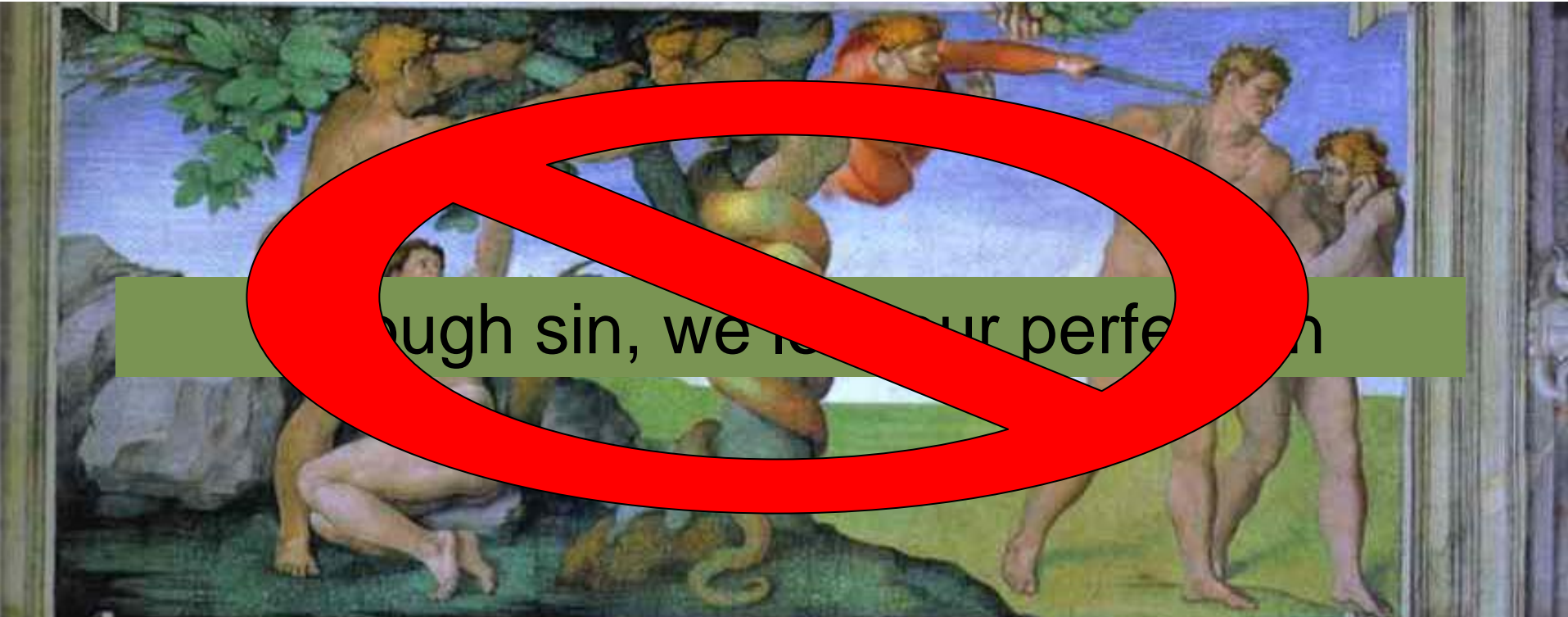
“the Bible ... the fall of man, the account of Jesus Christ being the son of God, and of his dying to appease the wrath of God, and of salvation ... are all fabulous inventions ... that the only true religion is Deisms ... upon this only (so far as religion is concerned) ... I rested all my hopes of happiness hereafter so say I now - and so help me God.”

A denial of the doctrine of original sin



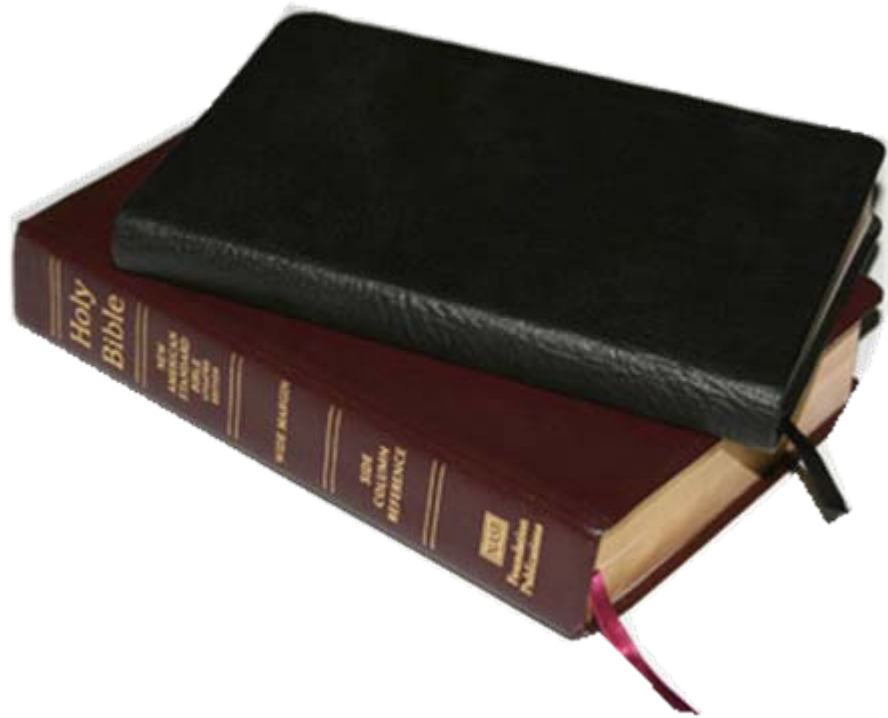
Through sin, we lost our perfection

A denial of the doctrine of original sin

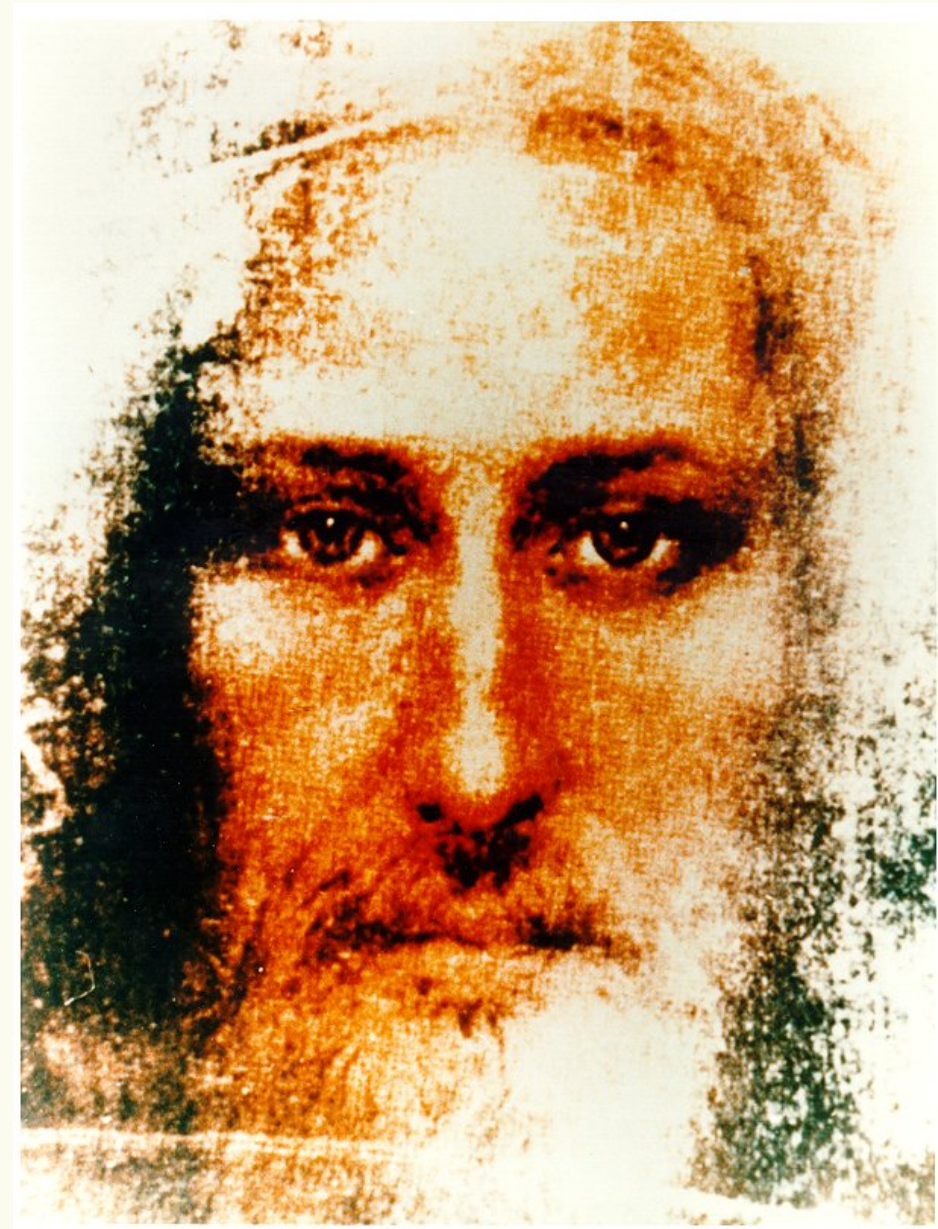




The problem
of evil was
seen as a
“Christian”
problem



Scripture was
no longer
“scripture”



And the
search for a
“real” Jesus
began

Points for Home:
Reason is valid

Points for Home: Reason is valid

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Rom 12:2)

We believe in reason and
revelation

We believe in reason and revelation

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning
of wisdom, and the knowledge of the
Holy One is understanding.”

(Pro. 9:10)

Our reason confirms our belief

Our reason confirms our belief

“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.”

(Col. 2:8)

Reason alone is
“unenlightened”

Reason alone is
“unenlightened”

“the world through wisdom did
not know God.”

(1 Cor. 1:21)

Reason with understanding is
the logical answer

Reason with understanding is the logical answer

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning
of wisdom, and the knowledge of the
Holy One is understanding.”

(Pro. 9:10)