

# Why I'm NOT ...

~~Atheist~~

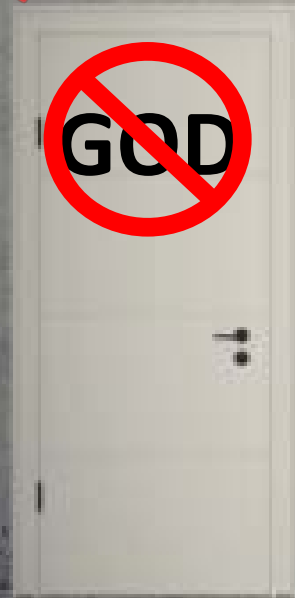
Agnostic

Hindu

Muslim

~~Buddhist~~

Jewish/  
Christian



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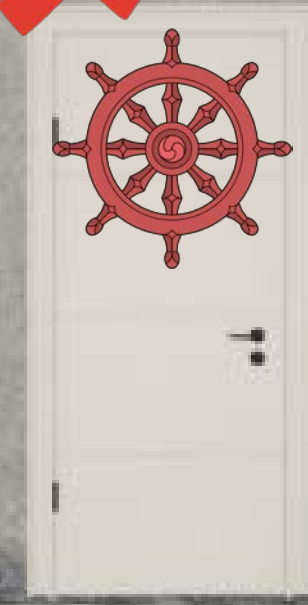
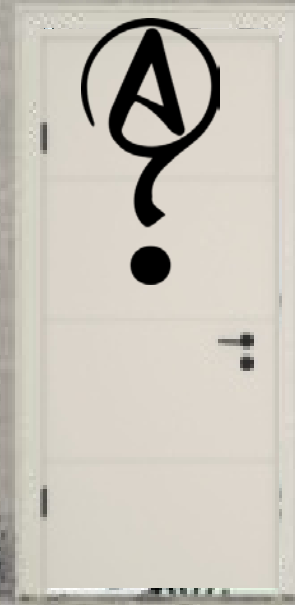
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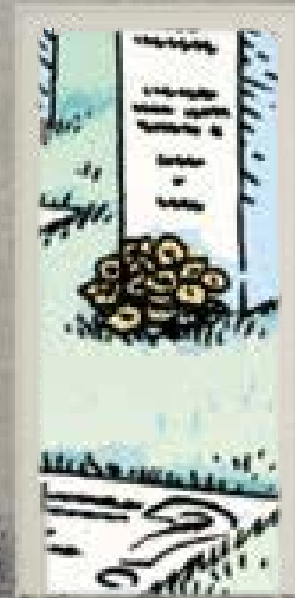
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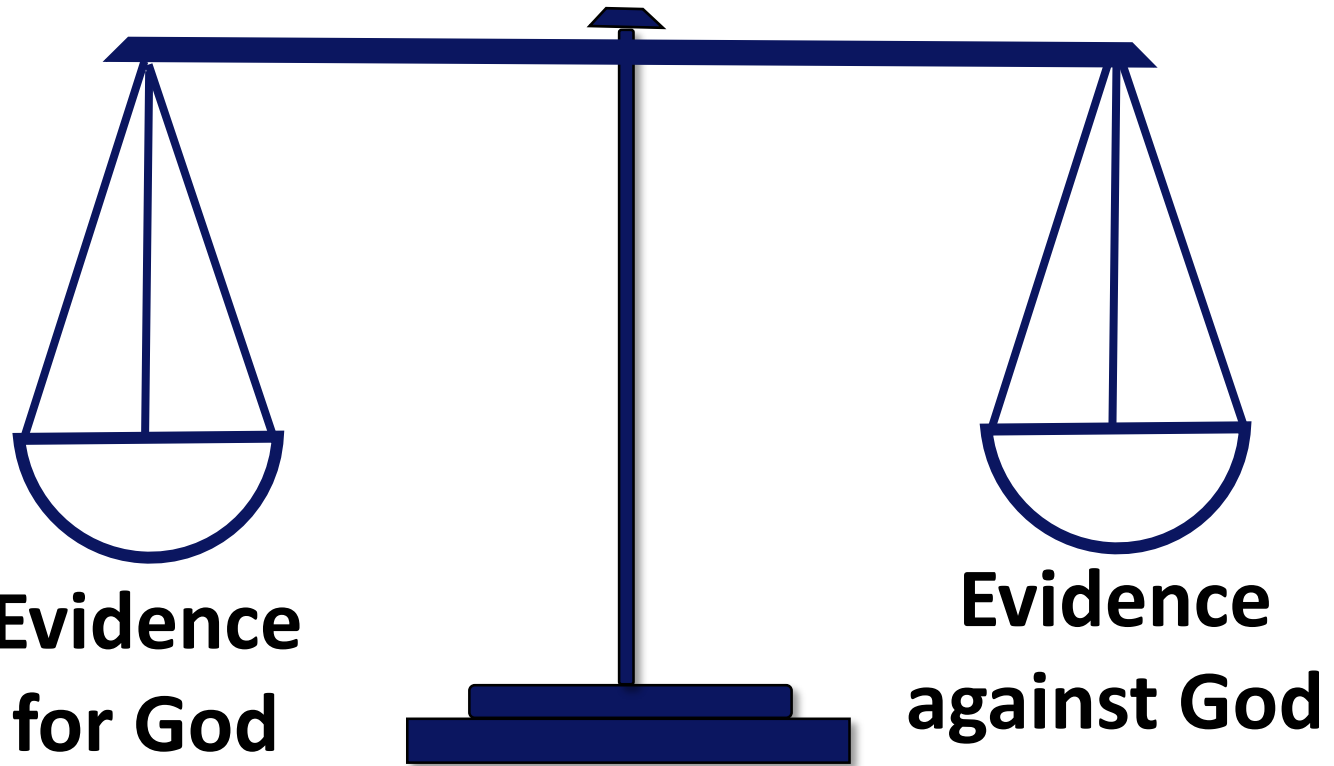


Agnostics don't believe in God, but aren't ready to say they are certain there is no God.



What we understand  
words to mean is  
important

# Weighing the Evidence





# The evidence: Our perceptions of reality

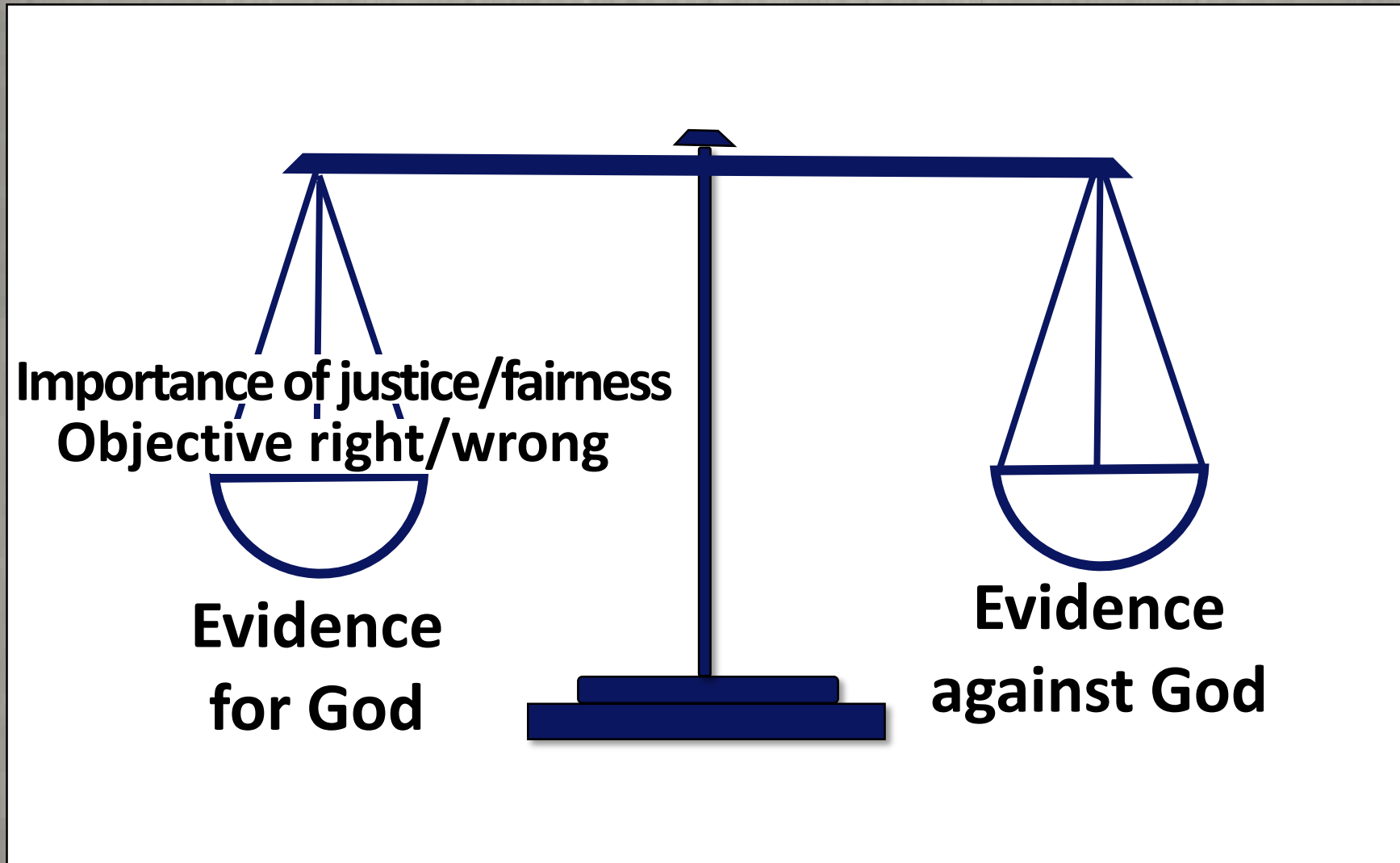
## Positive Perceptions

1. Why is there objective right/wrong?
2. Why is there “beauty”?
3. Why is “justice” and “fair” important?
4. Why is there a basis for dignity and honor?
5. Why do we uniquely value humanity?
6. Why is there meaning and significance in life?
7. Why do my actions fail to meet my standards?

## Negative Perceptions

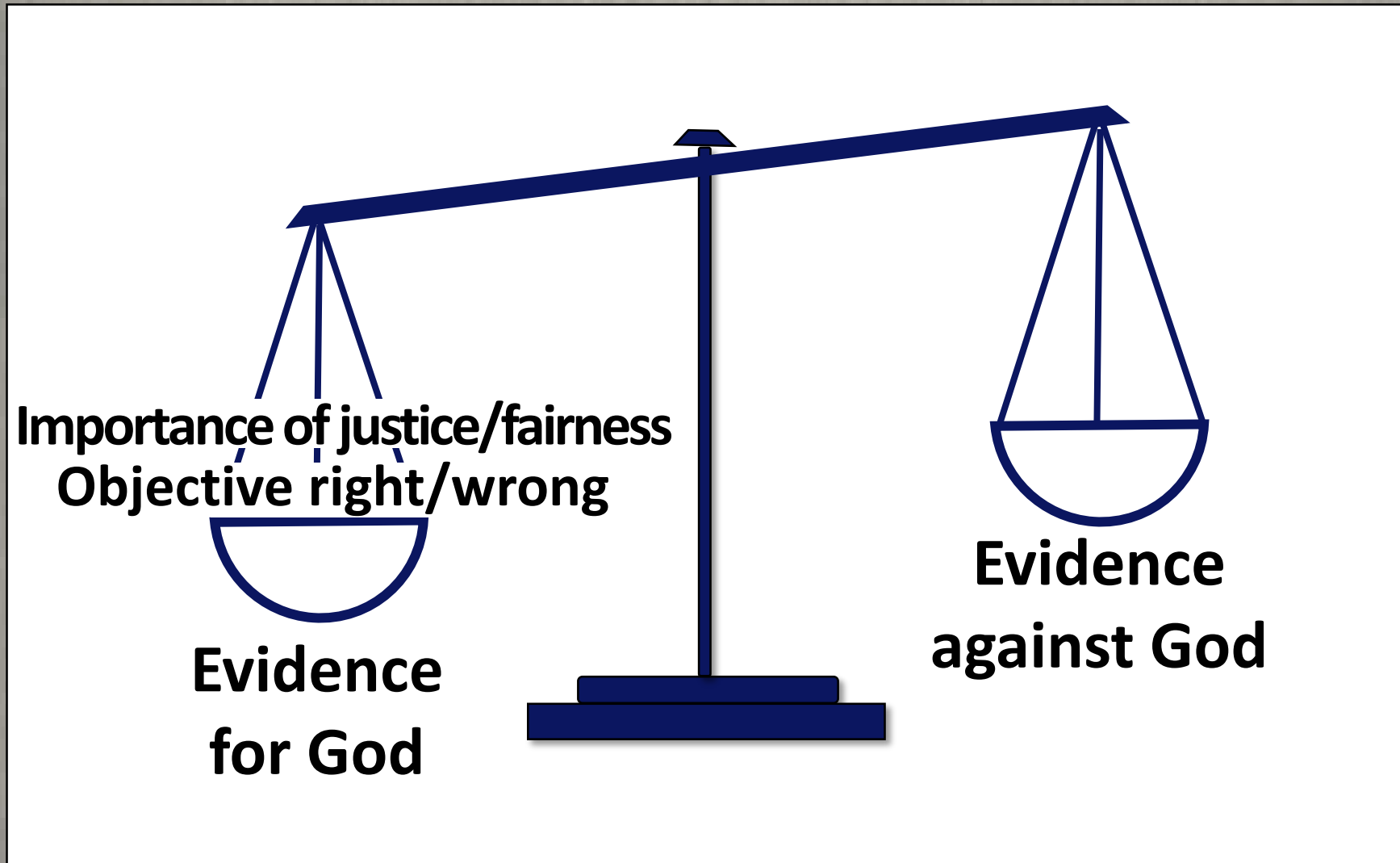
1. Why is there suffering?
2. Why can't we see God?
3. Why do many prayers seem unanswered?
4. How does God mesh with science making sense of the cosmos?

# Weighing the Evidence

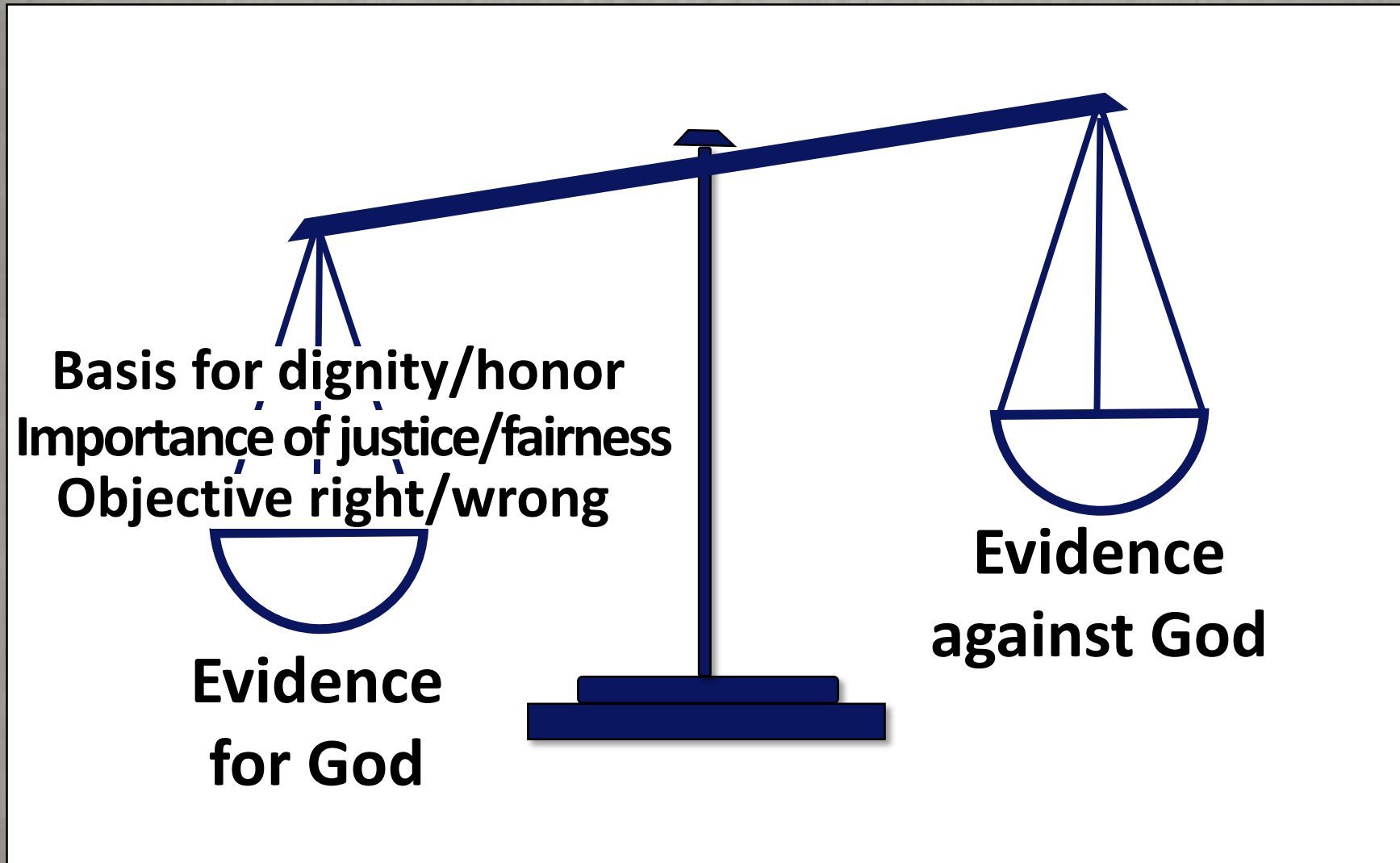




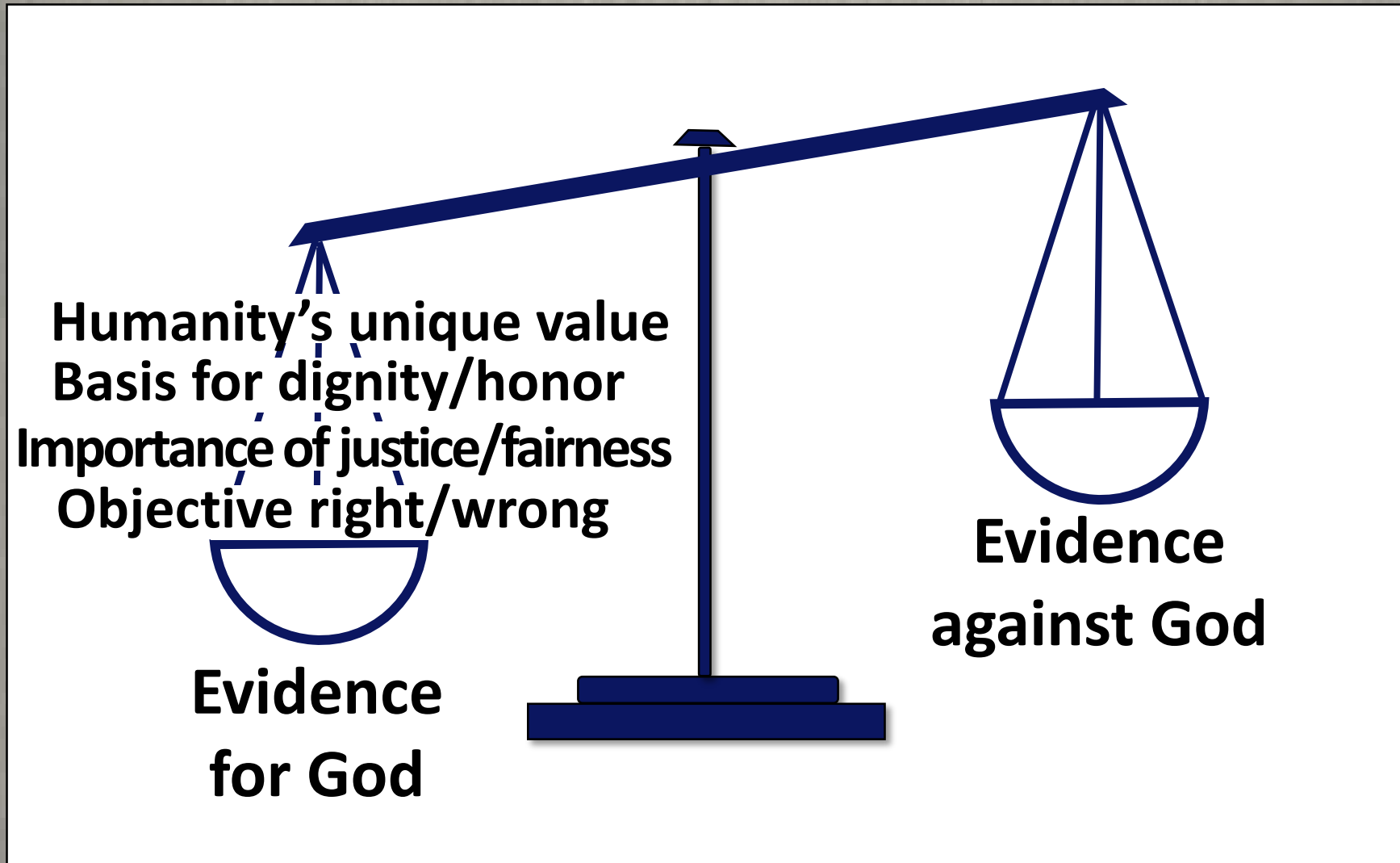
# Weighing the Evidence



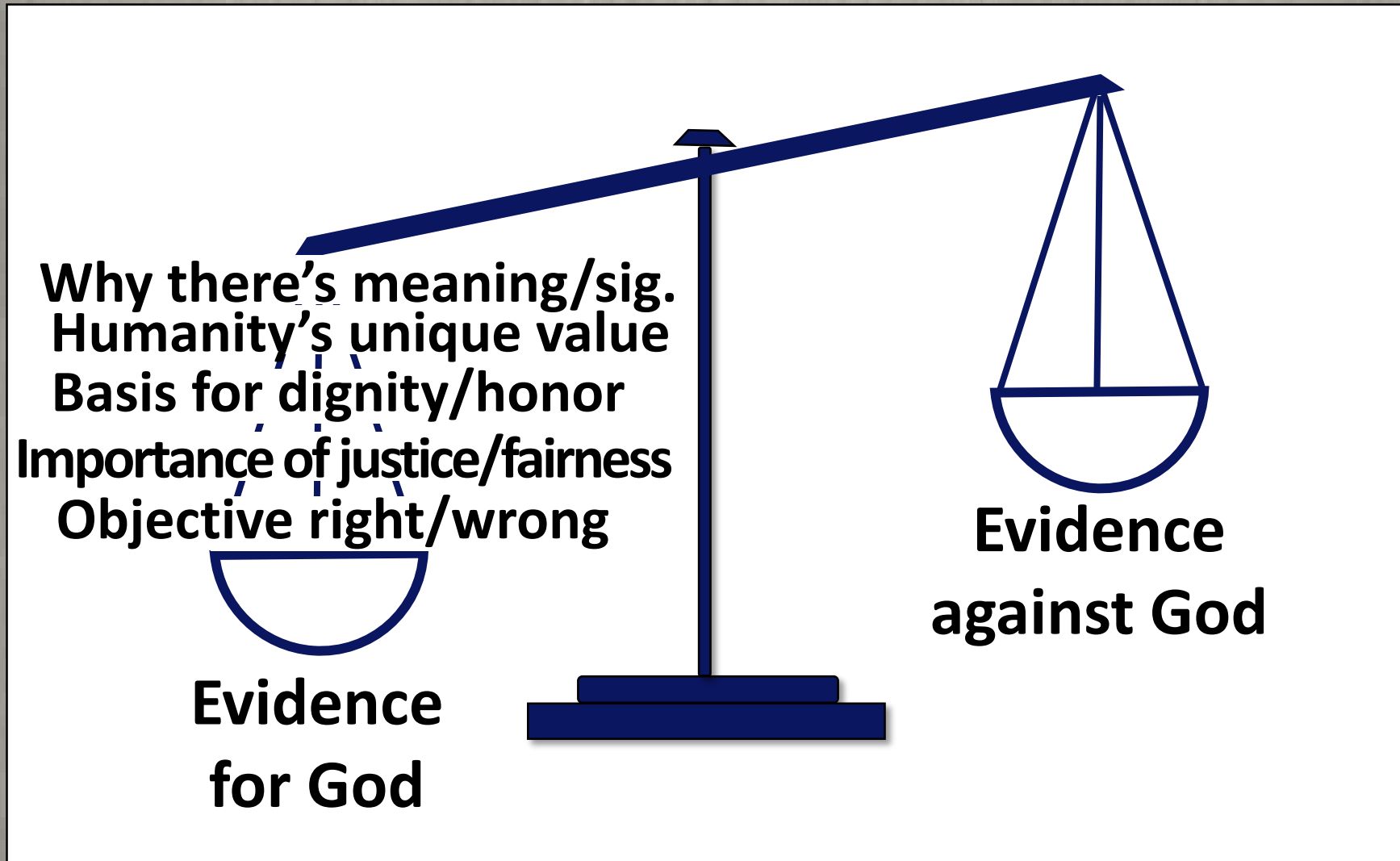
# Weighing the Evidence



# Weighing the Evidence



# Weighing the Evidence



# The evidence: Our perceptions of reality

## Positive Perceptions

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# Why do my actions fail to meet my standards?

Smithsonian  
National Museum of Natural History

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## What does it mean to be human?

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### Introduction to Human Evolution

Introduction to Human Evolution

Human Origins Glossary  
Teaching Evolution through Human Examples  
Frequently Asked Questions

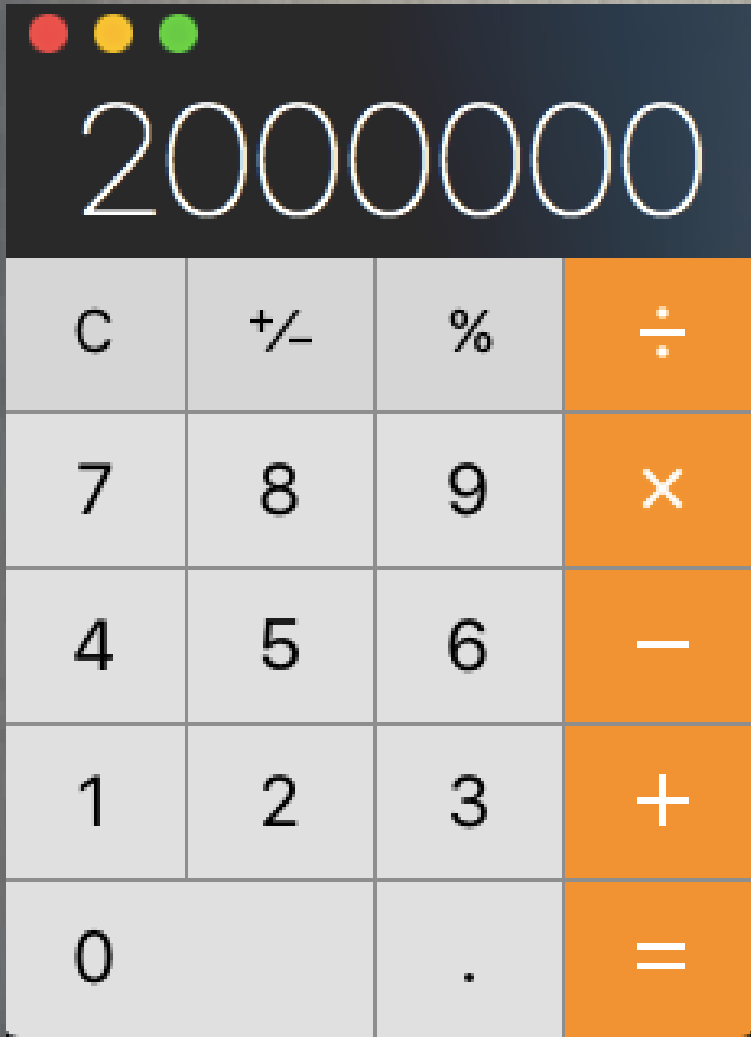
Mystery Skull Interactive

Human evolution

Early humans first migrated out of Africa into Asia probably between 2 million and 1.8 million years ago. They entered Europe somewhat later, between 1.5 million and 1 million years.

The image shows a screenshot of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History website. The main heading is "What does it mean to be human?". Below it is a navigation menu with "Education" highlighted. The page title is "Introduction to Human Evolution". A large yellow box highlights a text block stating: "Early humans first migrated out of Africa into Asia probably between 2 million and 1.8 million years ago. They entered Europe somewhat later, between 1.5 million and 1 million years." Below the highlighted text is a list of links: "Human Origins Glossary", "Teaching Evolution through Human Examples", and "Frequently Asked Questions". At the bottom left is a link for "Mystery Skull Interactive" and at the bottom right is a link for "Human evolution". A human skull is visible in the background of the page.

# Why do my actions fail to meet my standards?



My ancestors  
Have had  
2,000,000 years  
Or well over  
75,000 generations to naturally  
select people who don't  
over eat!





# Why do my actions fail to meet my standards?



My ancestors have had 2,000,000 years or well over 75,000 generations to naturally select people with rock solid self-control

# Why do my actions fail to meet my standards?

Judeo-Christian God

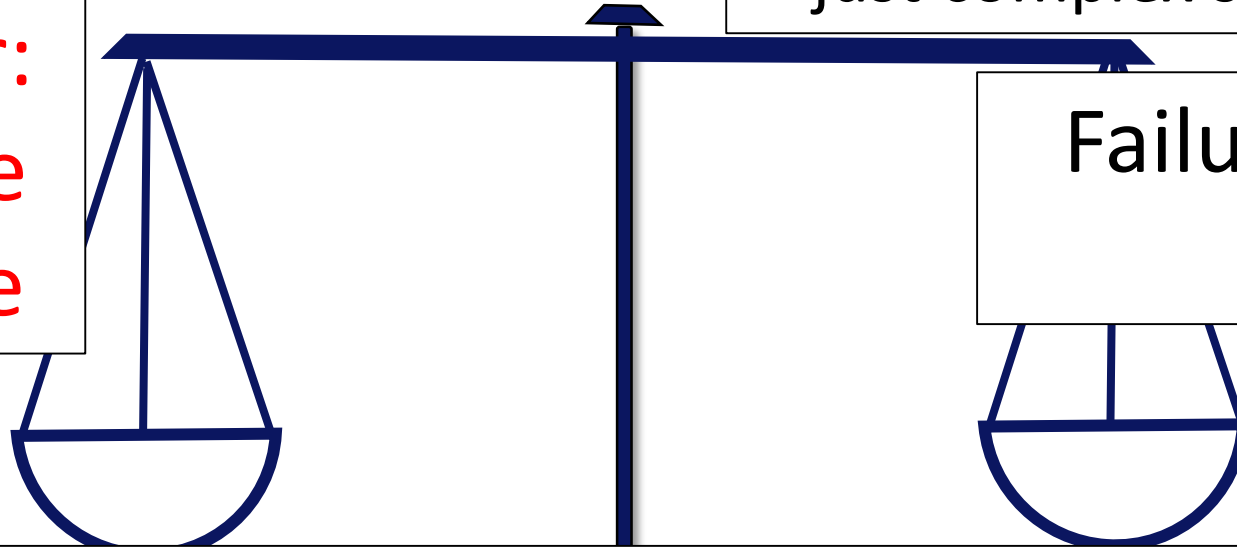
No God

just complex sacks of chemicals

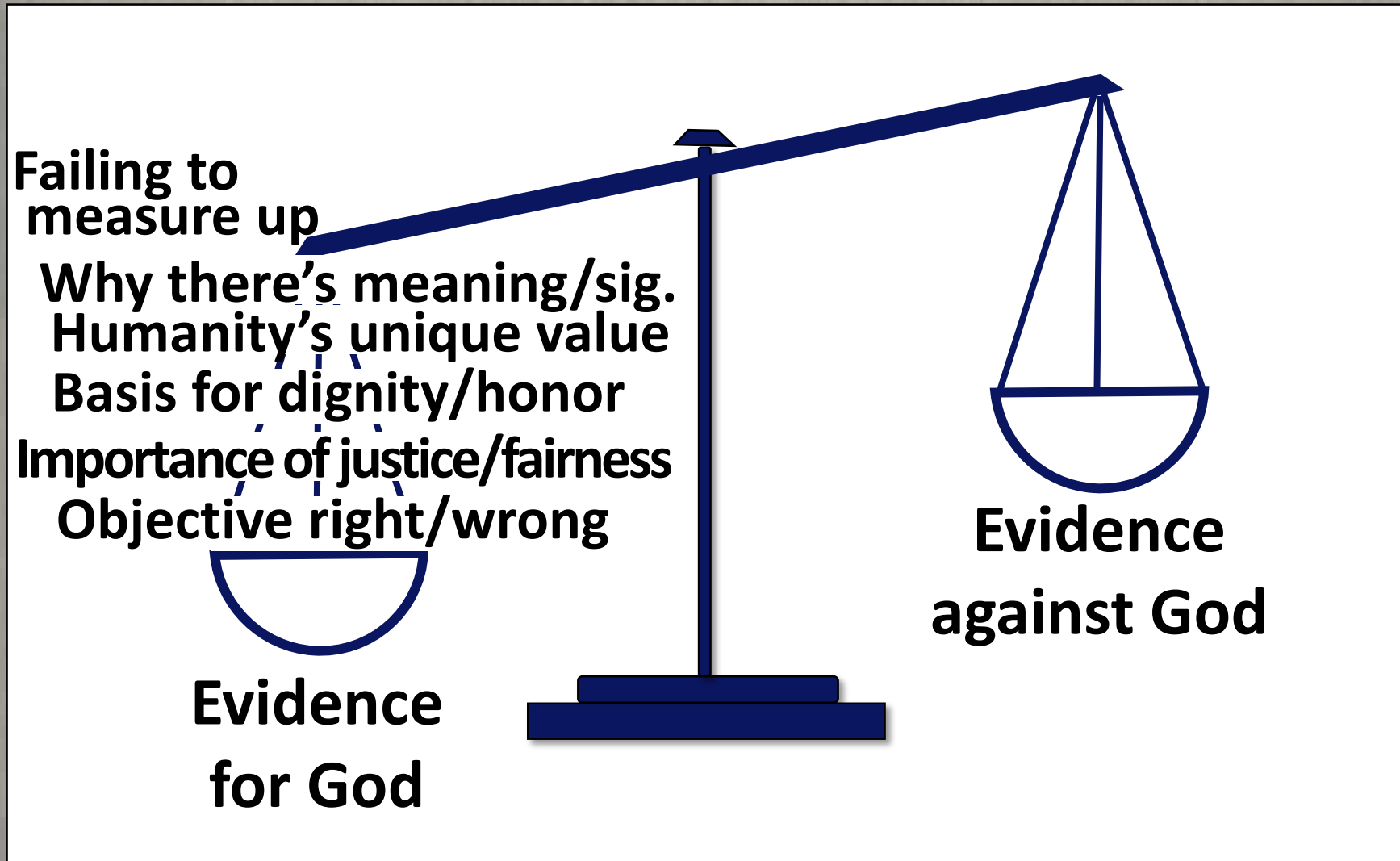
Life as a sinner:  
The fruit of the  
poisonous tree

Failures of natural  
selection

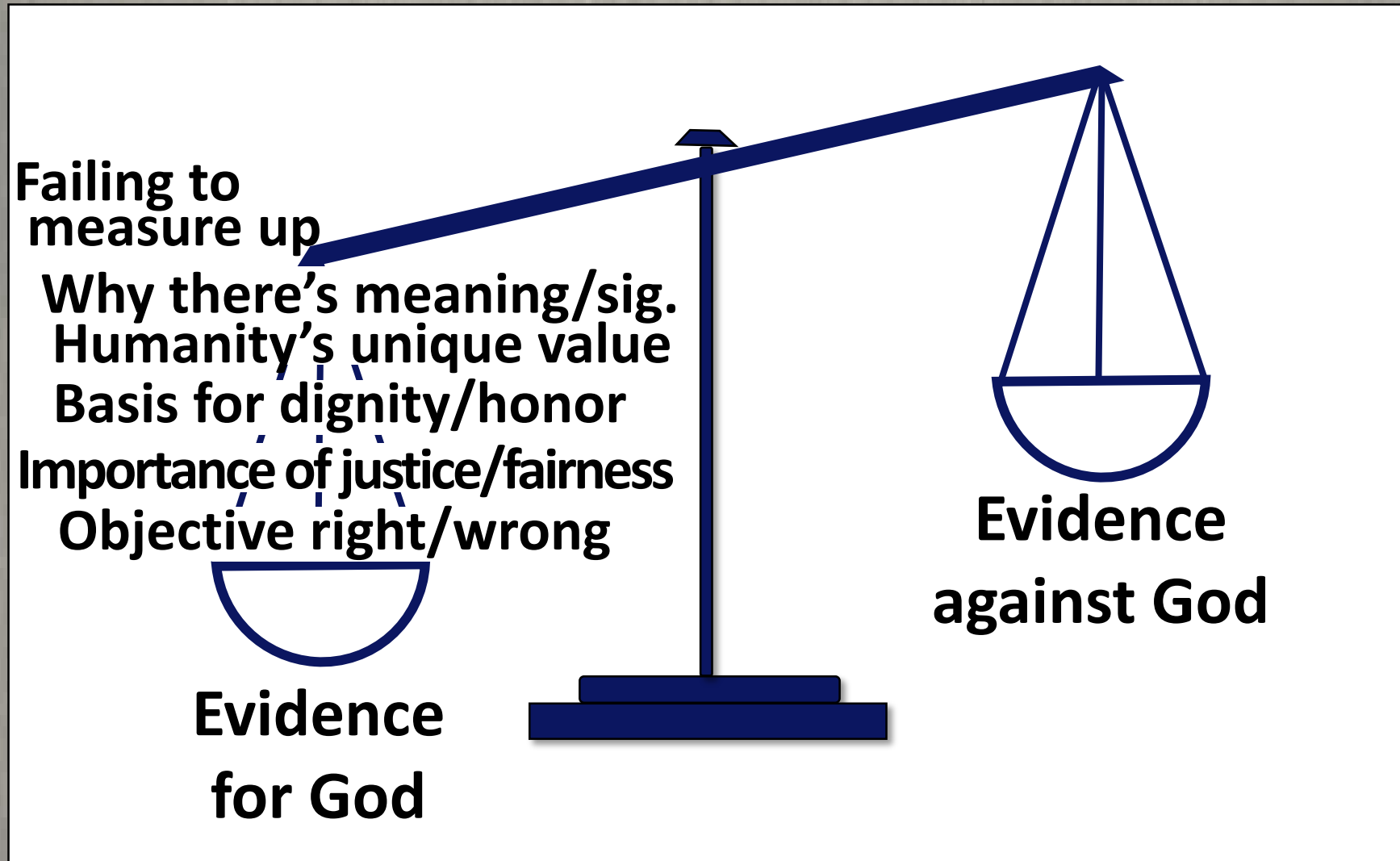
What about the Mao Zedongs,  
Hitlers, Stalins, Pol Pots, etc.?



# Weighing the Evidence



# Weighing the Evidence



# The evidence: Our perceptions of reality

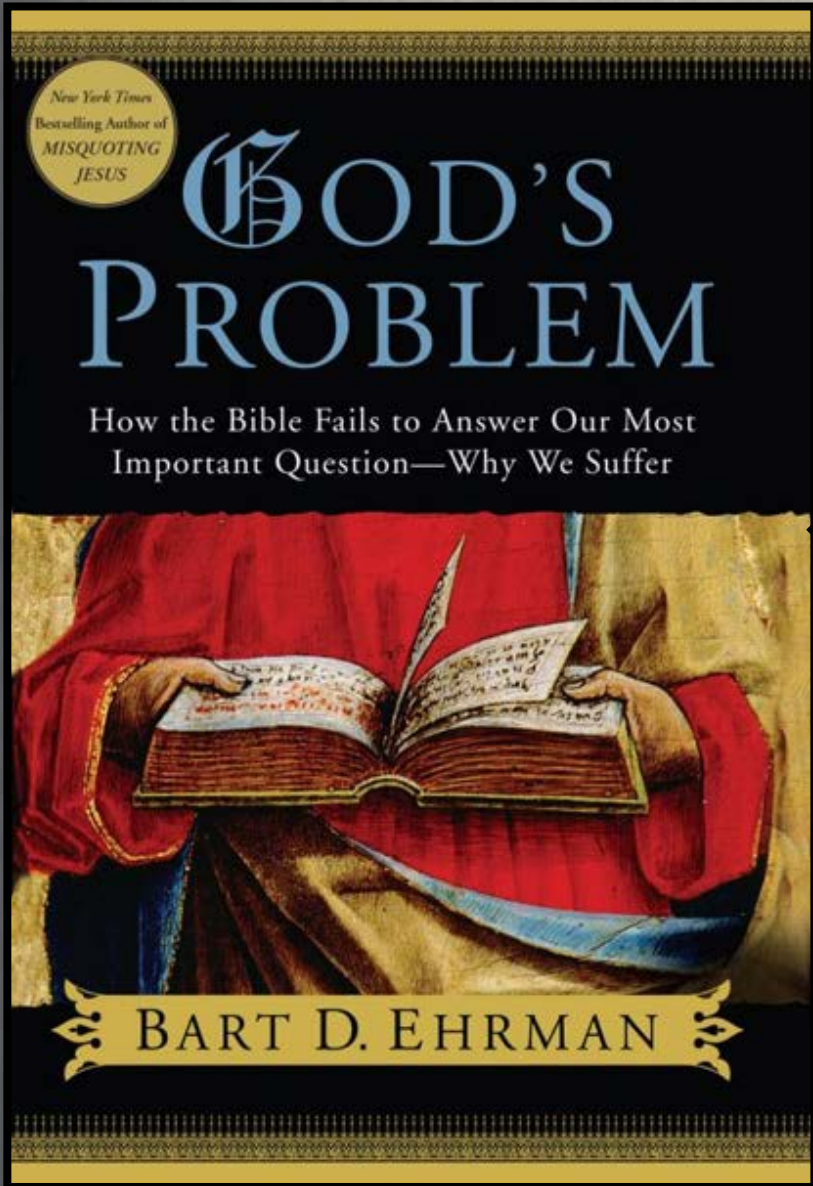
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## Negative Perceptions

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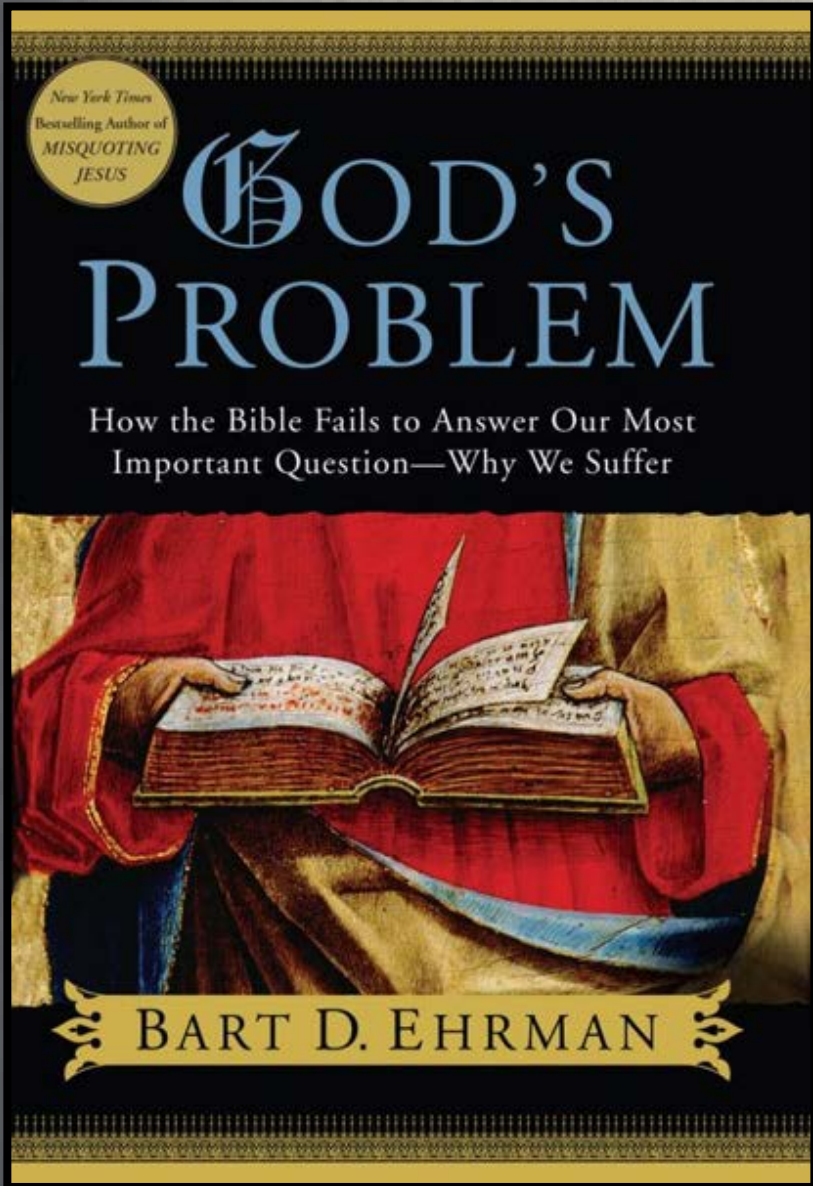
# Why is there suffering?



If there is an all-powerful and loving God in this world, why is there so much excruciating pain and unspeakable suffering? The problem of suffering has haunted me for a very long time... Ultimately, it was the reason I lost my faith



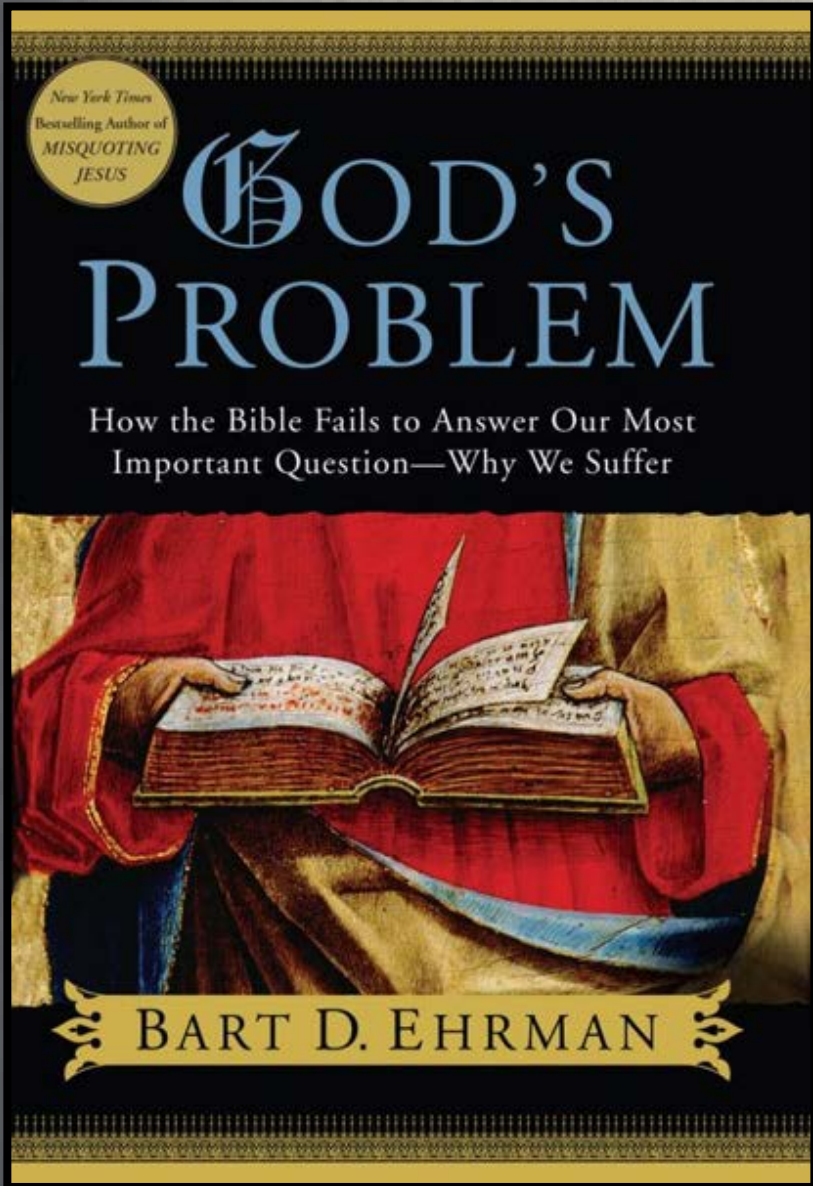
# Why is there suffering?



Where is this God now? If he came into the darkness and made a difference, why is there still no difference? Why are the sick still wracked with unspeakable pain? Why are babies still born with birth defects? Why are young children kidnapped, raped, and murdered? Why are there droughts that leave millions starving, suffering horrible and excruciating lives that lead to horrible and excruciating deaths?



# Why is there suffering?



If God intervened to deliver the armies of Israel from its enemies, why doesn't he intervene now when the armies of sadistic tyrants savagely attack and destroy entire villages, towns, and even countries? If God is at work in the darkness, feeding the hungry with the miraculous multiplication of loaves, why is it that one child—a mere child!—dies every five seconds of hunger? Every five seconds.

# Why is there suffering?



Suffering is tragic  
and real.

# Why is there suffering?



**IMPORTANT:** That this bothers us is an indication of our hard-wiring for justice and fairness

1. What **kind of God** would exist that explains suffering?

What **kind of world** would explain suffering?

3. What **kind of humanity** would explain suffering?





What we understand  
words to mean is  
important



Beware of thinking  
God must be what  
we think he should  
be versus who he is



Beware of thinking  
God must be what  
we think he should  
be versus who he is

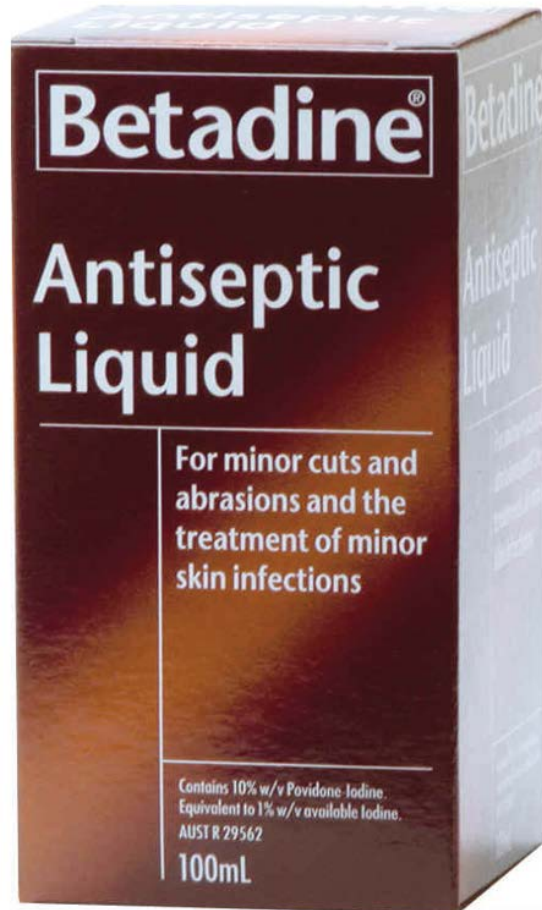


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Shall God eliminate  
all cancer?

# Why is there suffering?

Judeo-Christian God

No God

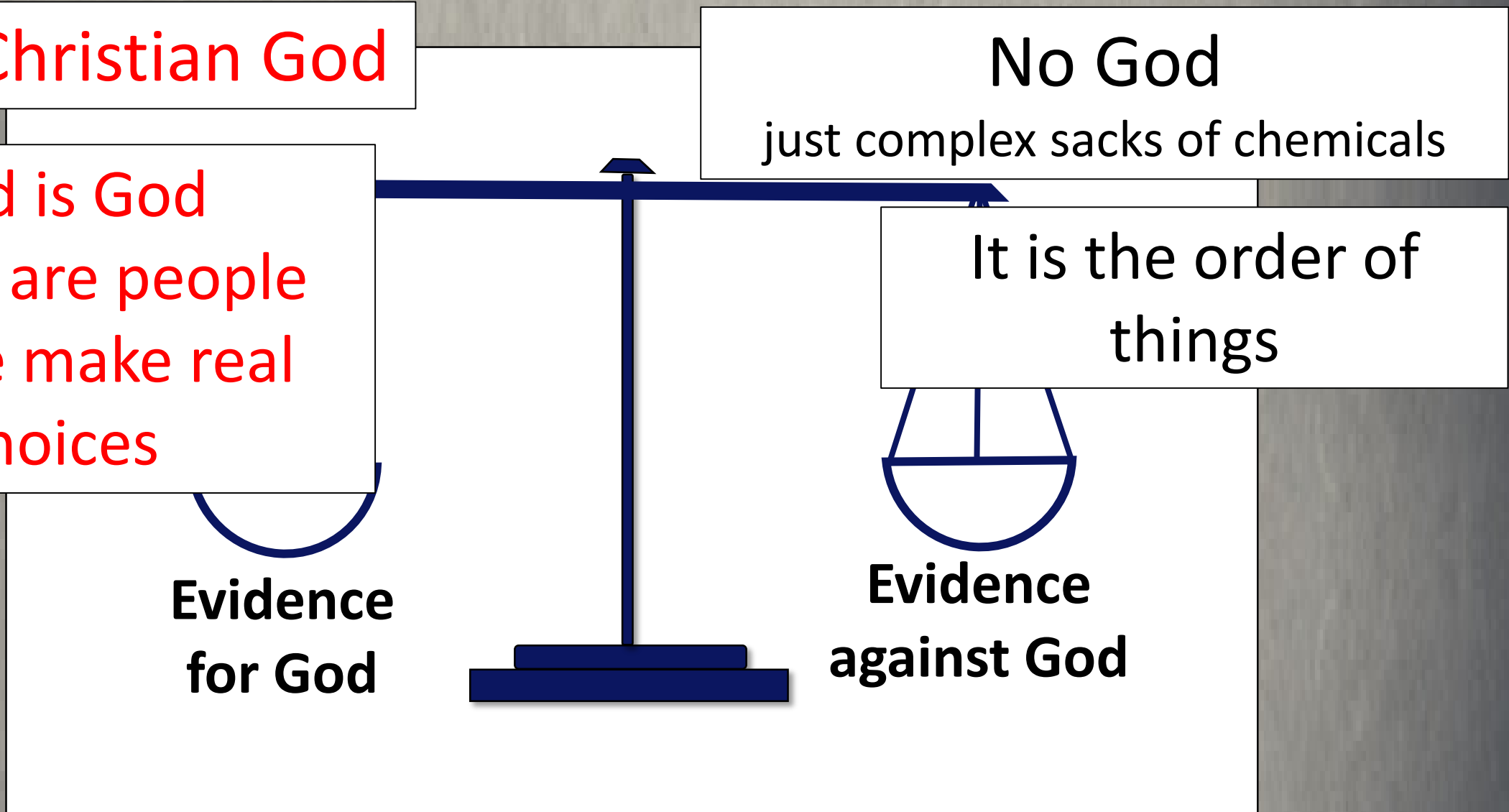
just complex sacks of chemicals

God is God  
People are people  
People make real  
choices

It is the order of  
things

Evidence  
for God

Evidence  
against God





# ADAM RAISED A CAIN

Words and Music by  
BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

Driving Minor Blues



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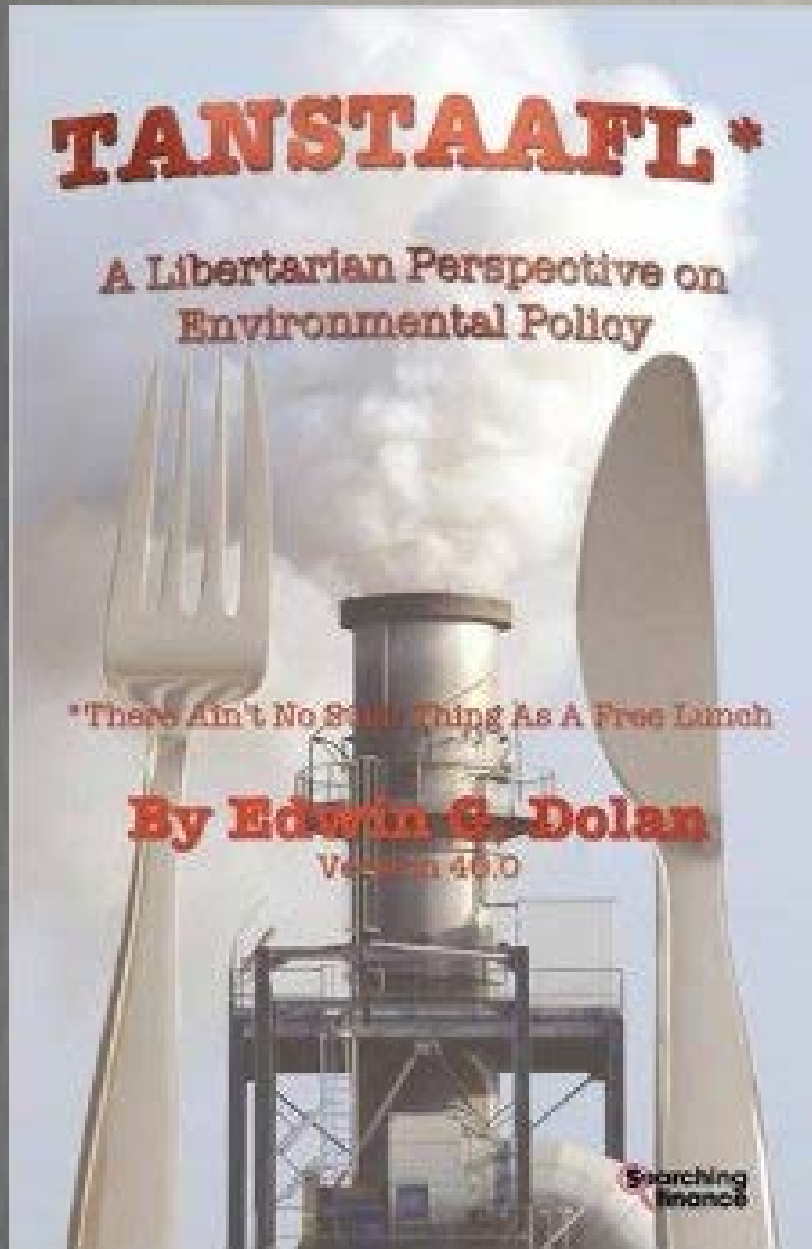
Cain and Abel:  
a story of **choices**  
and **consequences**





How dare you G

“This wasn’t my plan”  
“This wasn’t my choice”  
“And I **DO** have a solution”  
A *real* and *just* solution”



Why not our solution?  
Why doesn't God  
eliminate all cancer?

Why not send a lightning  
bolt for Hitler?

## Points for home



*“Sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned”  
(Rom. 5:12)*

**I am personally thankful for  
God’s just solution**

## Points for home



*“I was hungry and you  
gave me food”  
(Mt. 25:35)*

**I need to share God’s agenda  
on suffering**

## Points for home



*“Cursed is the ground  
because of you”  
(Gen. 3:17)*

**We live in a war zone,  
not Paradise**



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