

# Church History Literacy

## The Age of Reason – Modern Mind and a Modern Church

### Lesson 79

*Biblical-Literacy.com*

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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*

Alistair McGrath *and*  
Joanna Collicutt McGrath

Is there a science and faith  
tug of war?



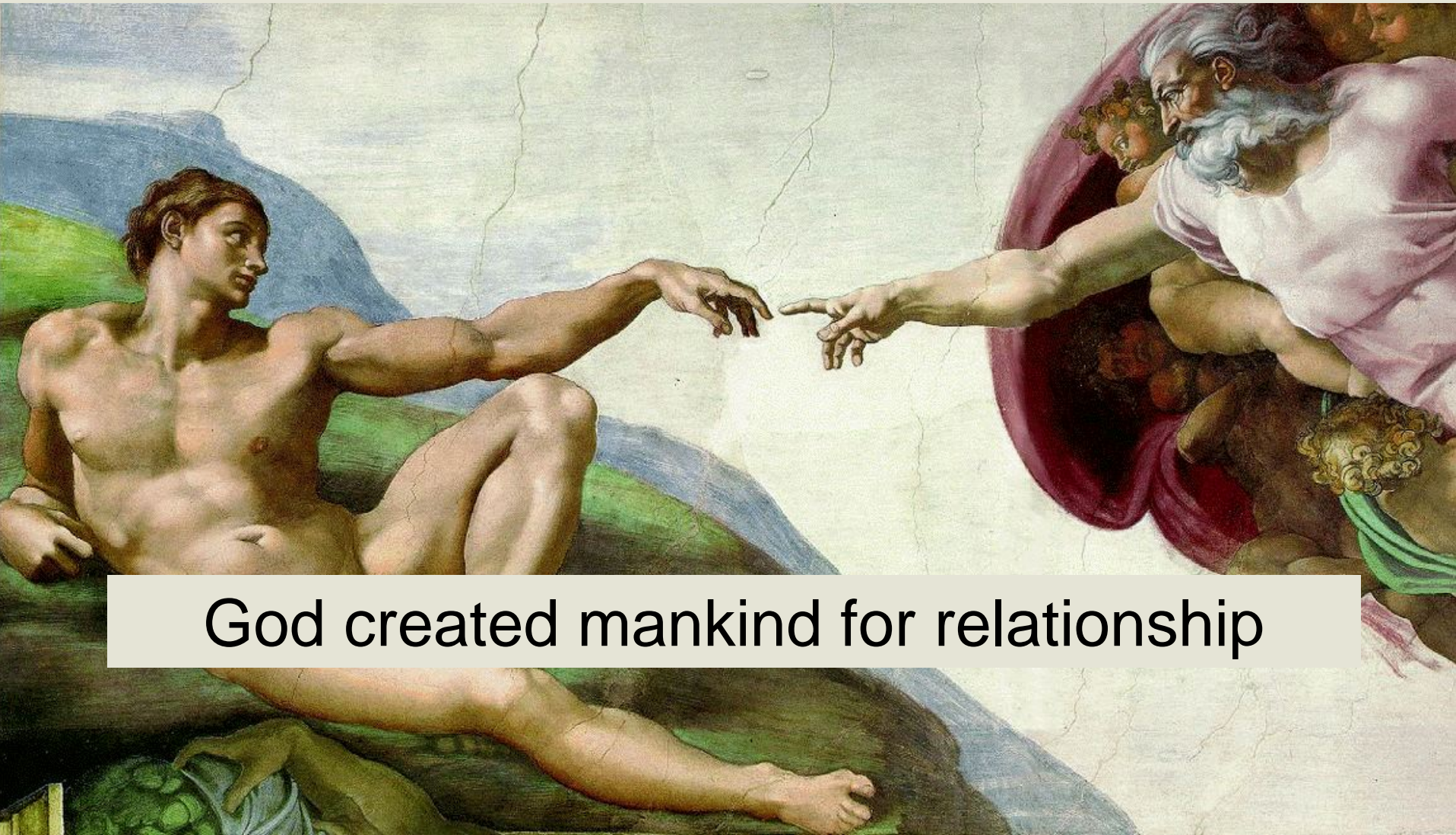


No, ours is a  
reasonable well  
balanced faith

# Christian Basics



# Christian Basics



God created mankind for relationship



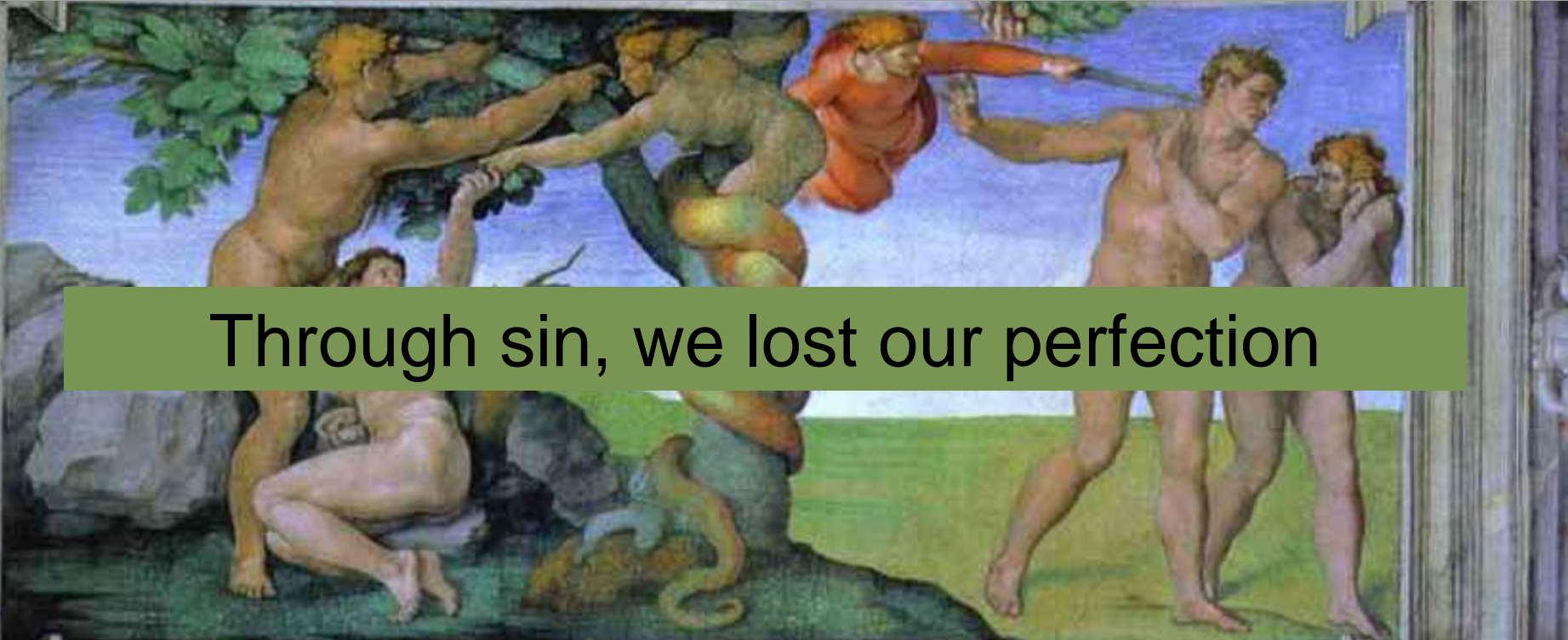
# Christian Basics



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

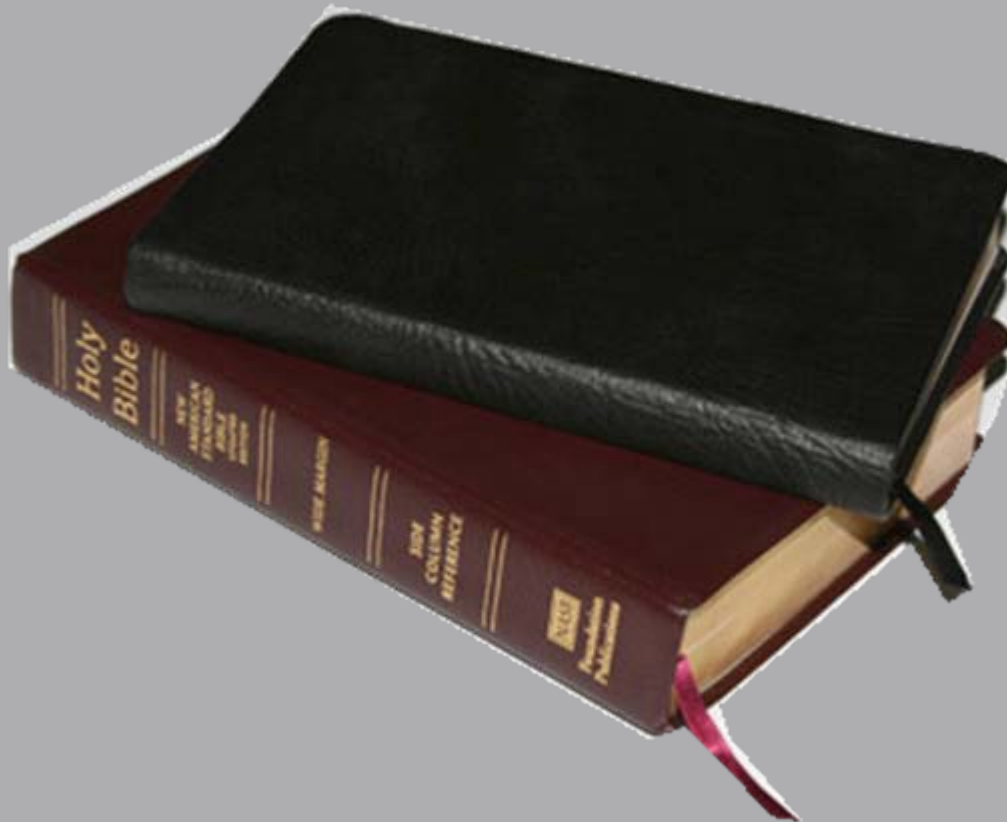


Through his Son



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”

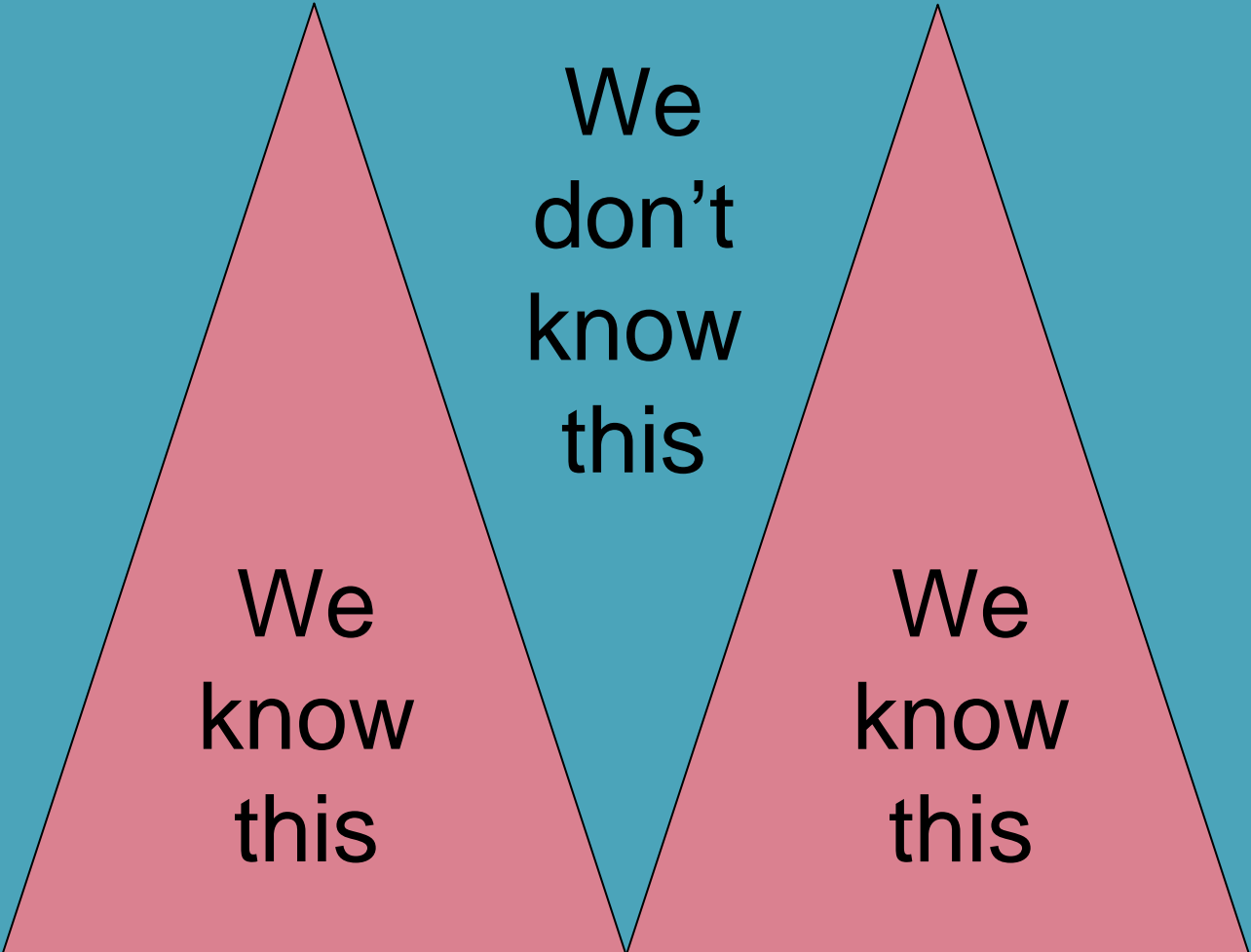


We  
know  
this

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”

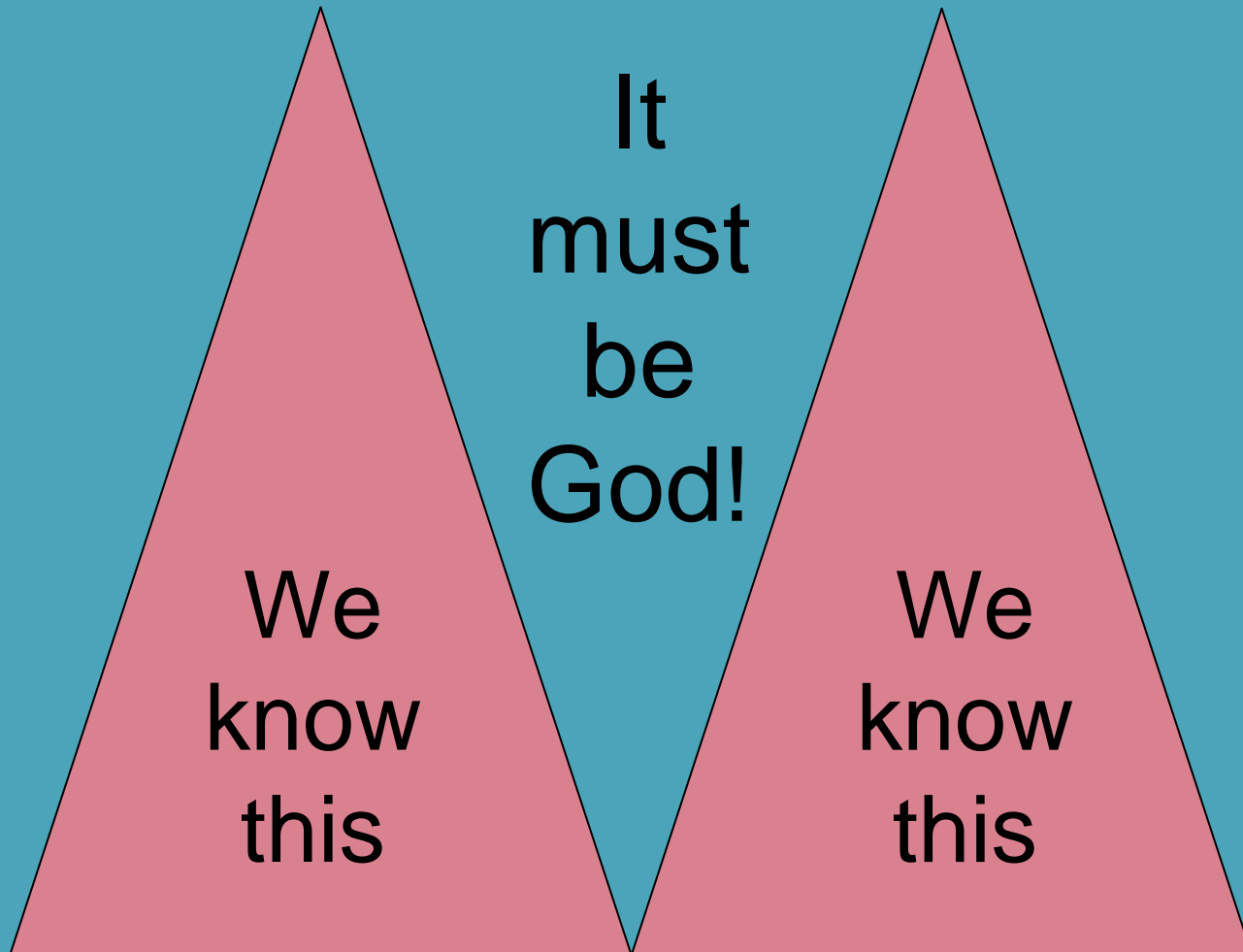


It  
must  
be  
God!

We  
know  
this

We  
know  
this

# Medieval: “God of the Gaps”



# Medieval: “God of the Gaps”





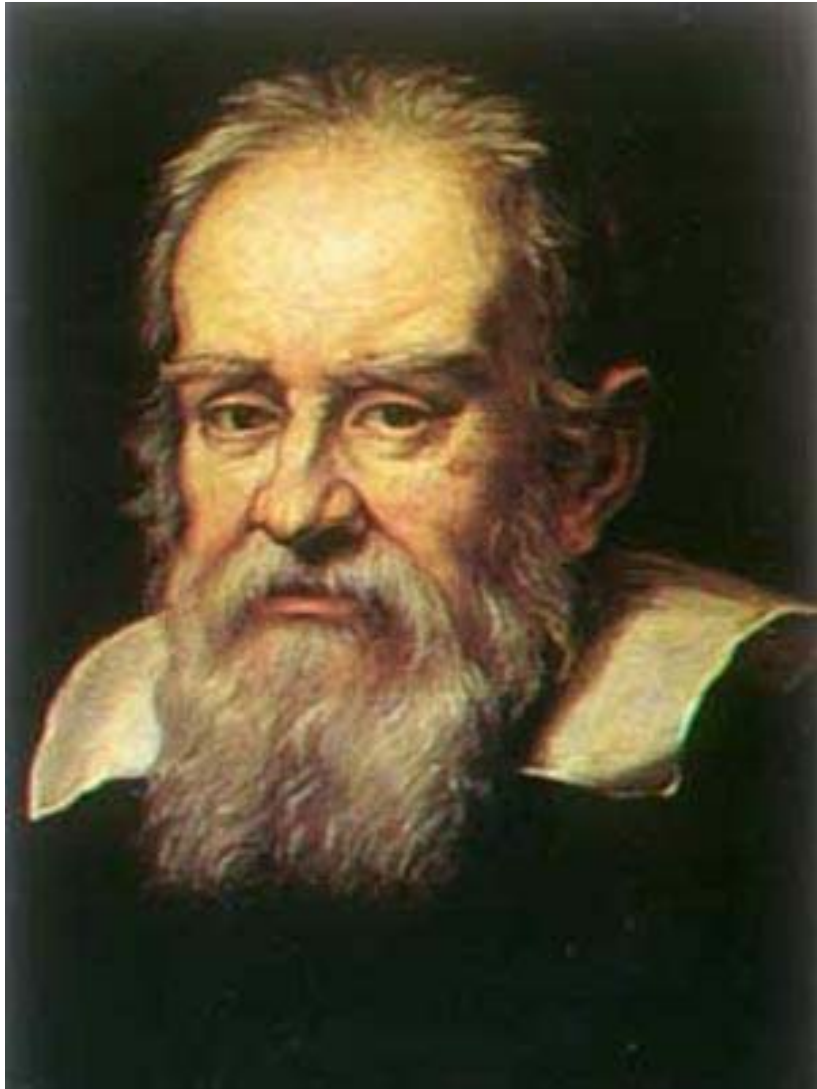










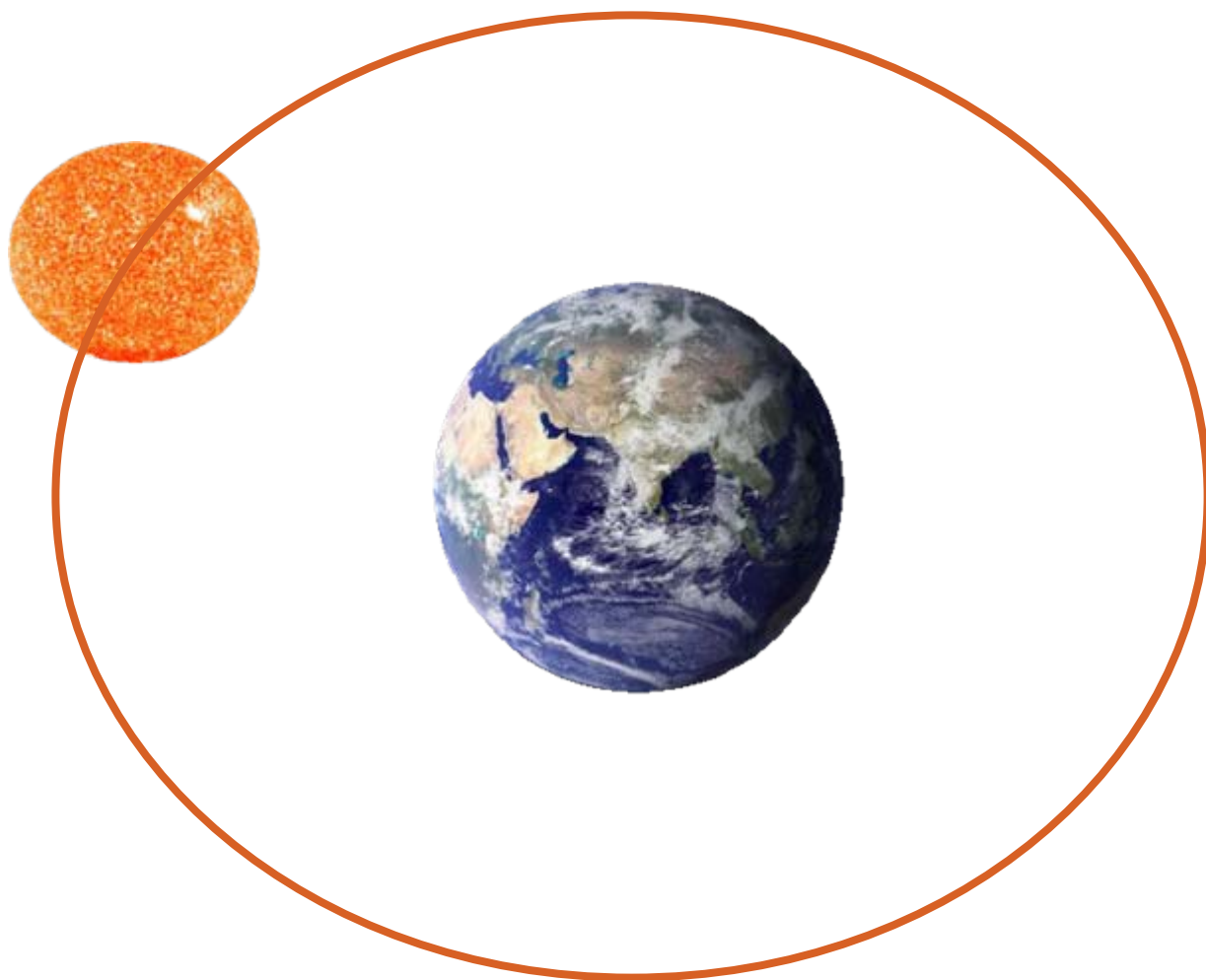


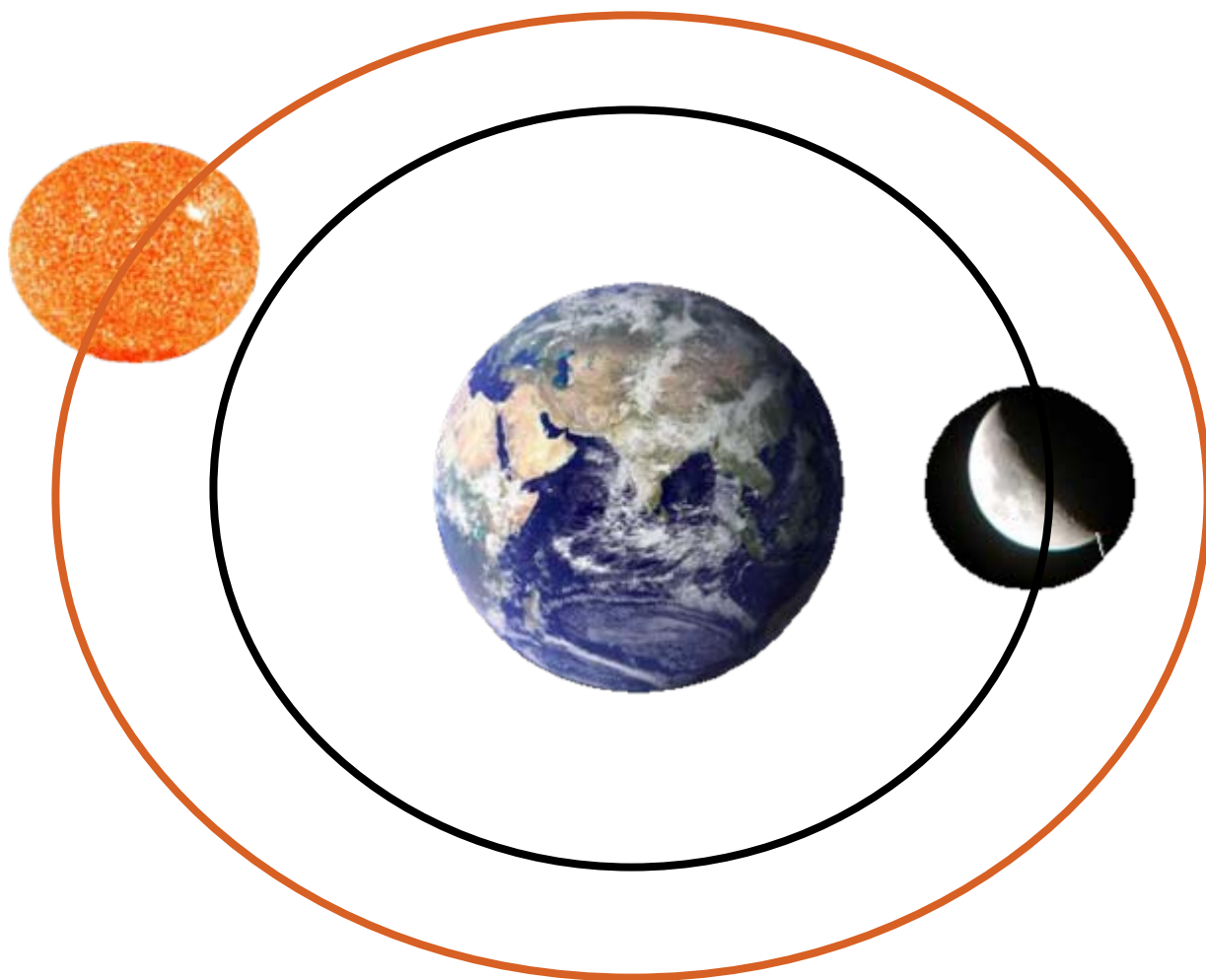
Galileo Galilei 1633

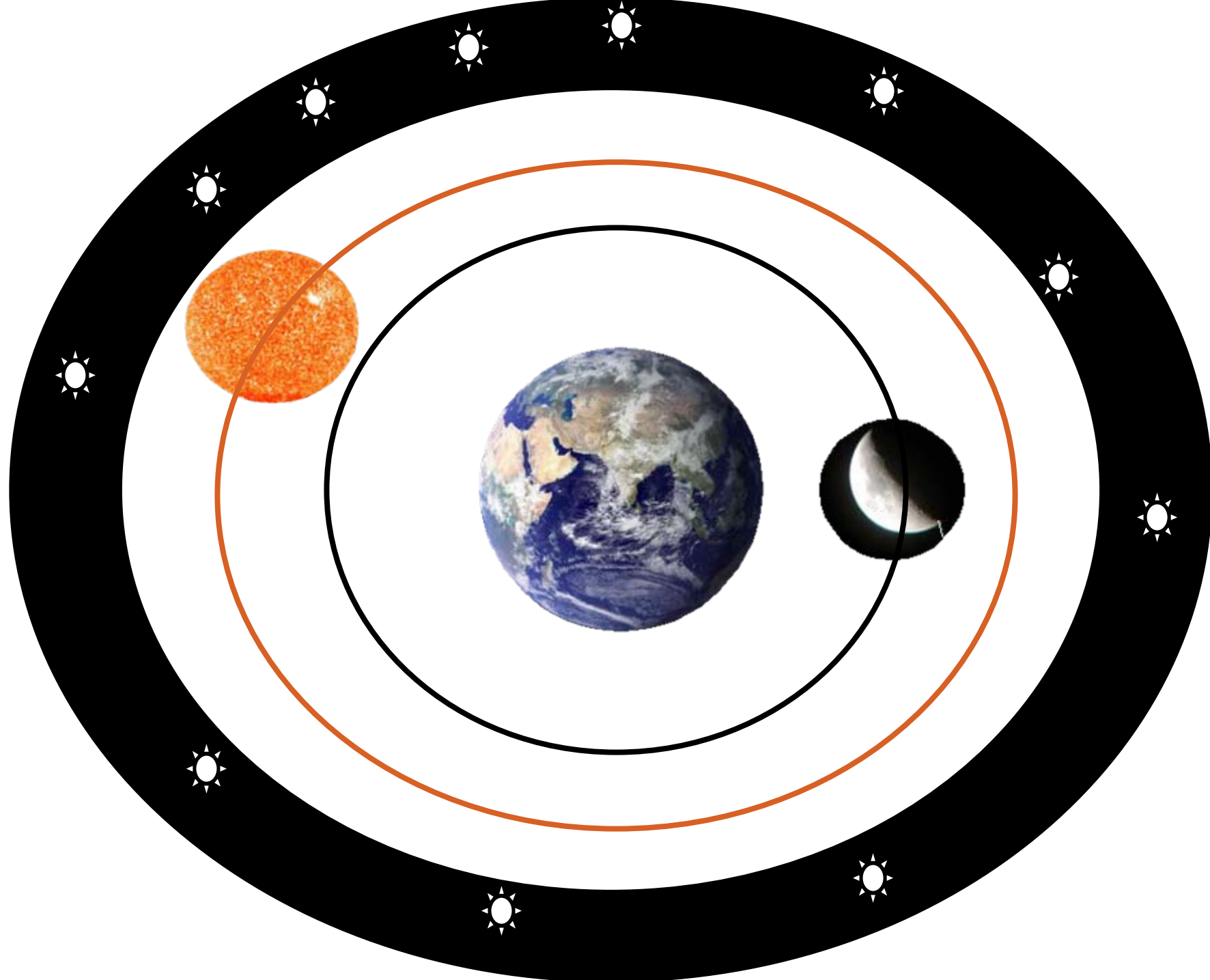


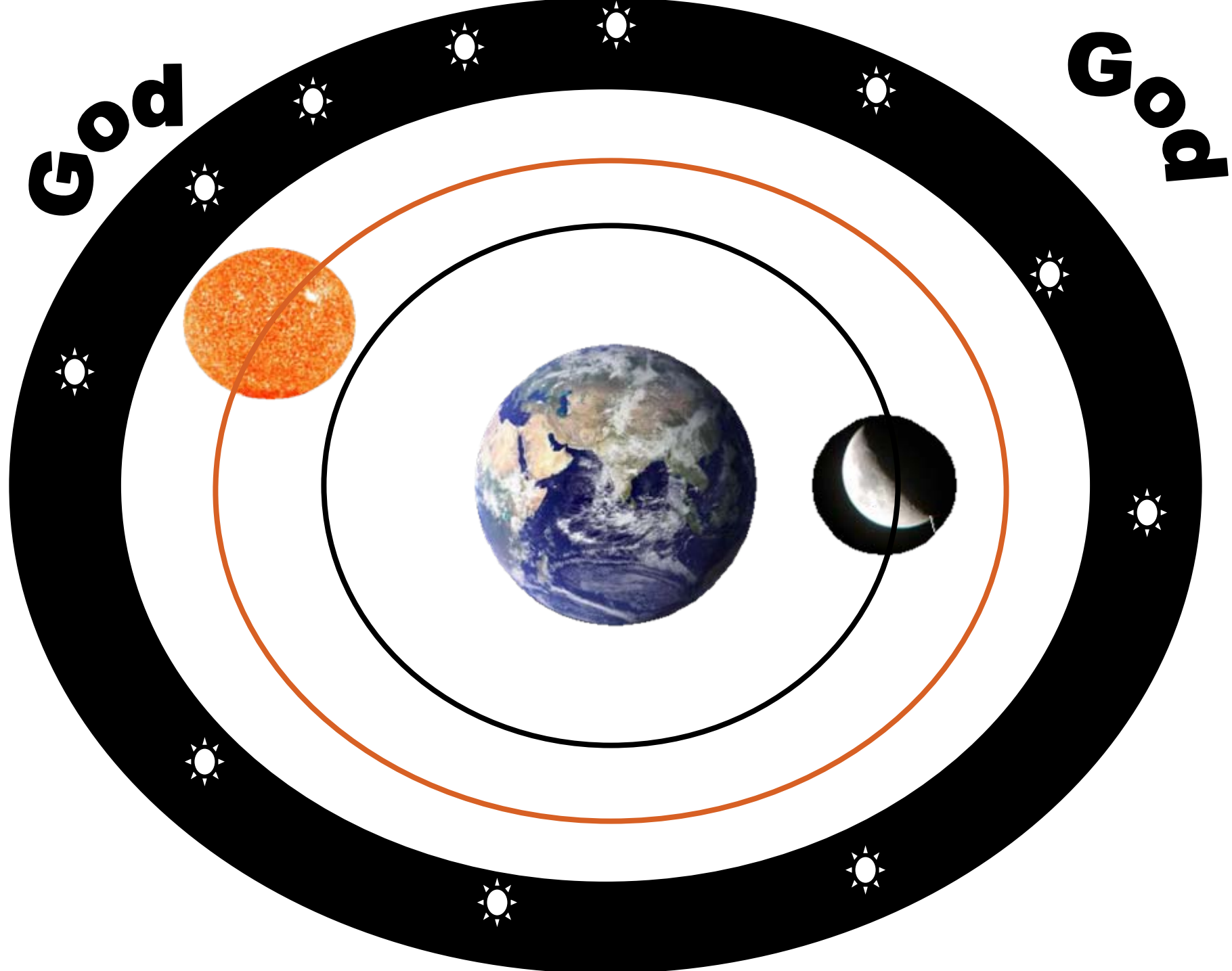












# Contrary to Church interpretation of Scripture

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



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“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



A movie poster for 'The Matrix' featuring the three main characters: Trinity (Keanu Reeves), Neo (Laurence Fishburne), and Morpheus (Keanu Reeves). They are all wearing black sunglasses and looking down with serious expressions. The background is a dark blue with a faint, glowing green digital rain effect. The title 'MATRIX' is written in a large, white, serif font at the bottom.

# 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

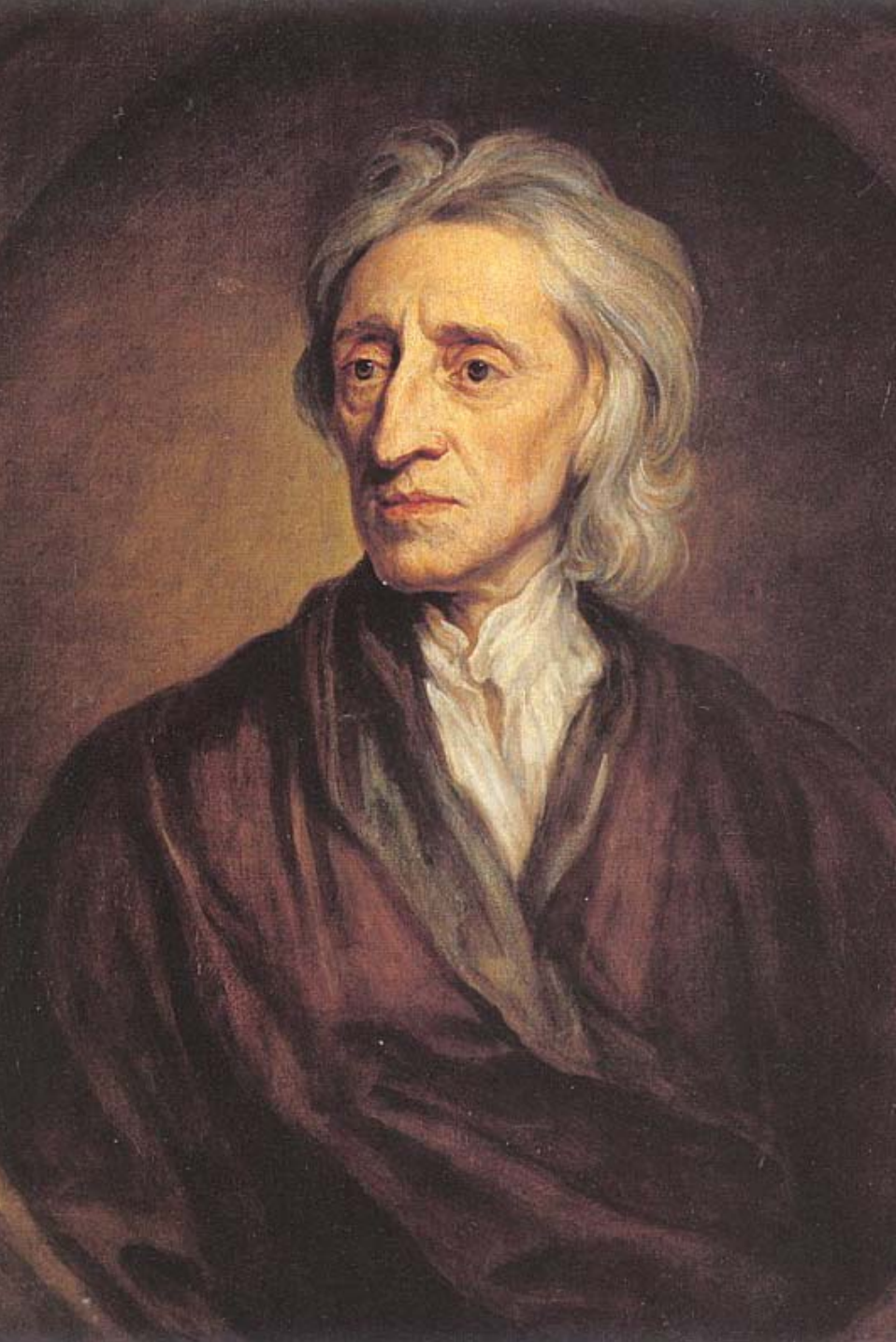




Every 75-76 Years !



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

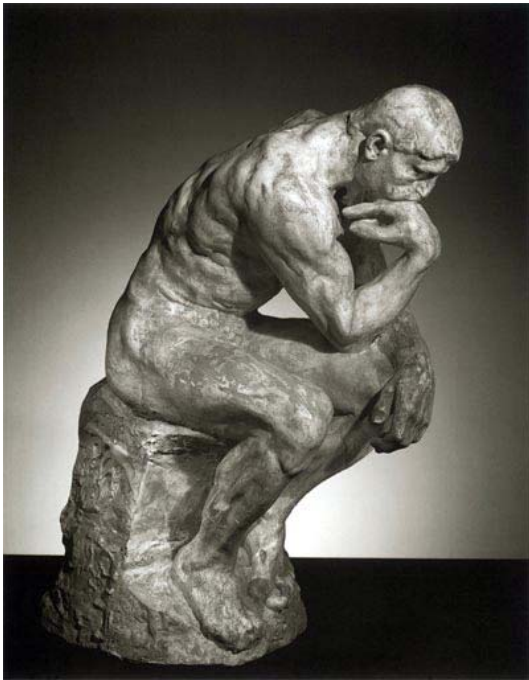


John Locke  
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Locke applies “reason” to

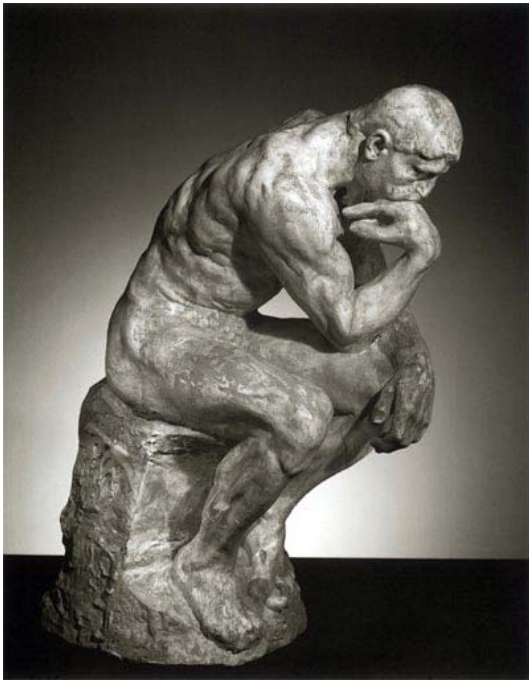


# Locke applies “reason” to

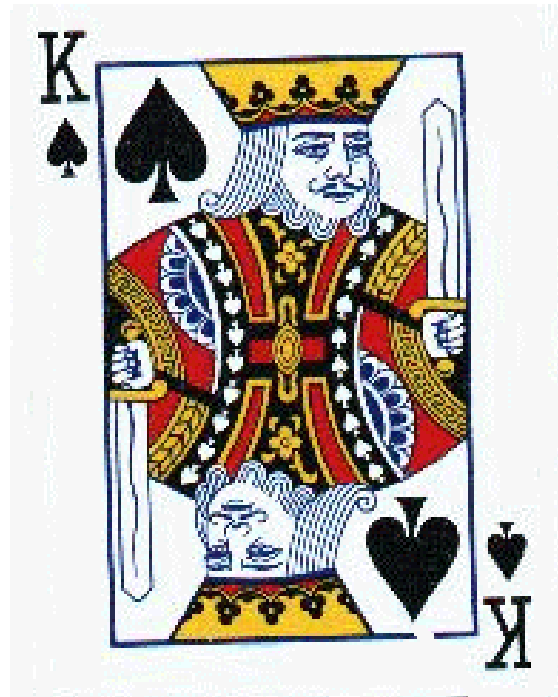


## Philosophy

# Locke applies “reason” to

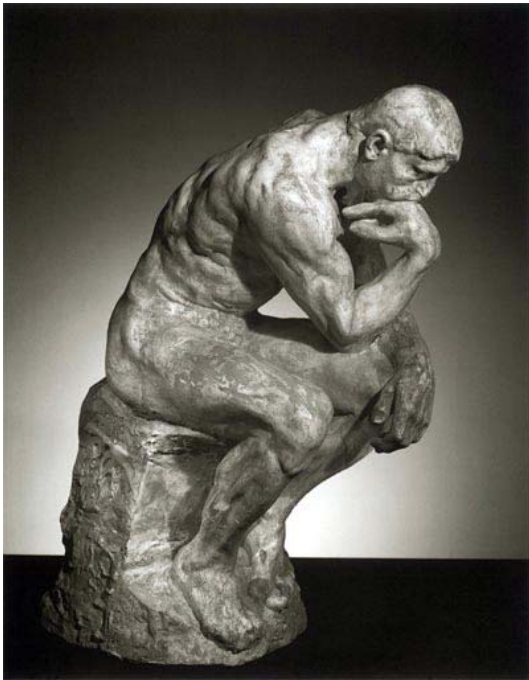


Philosophy

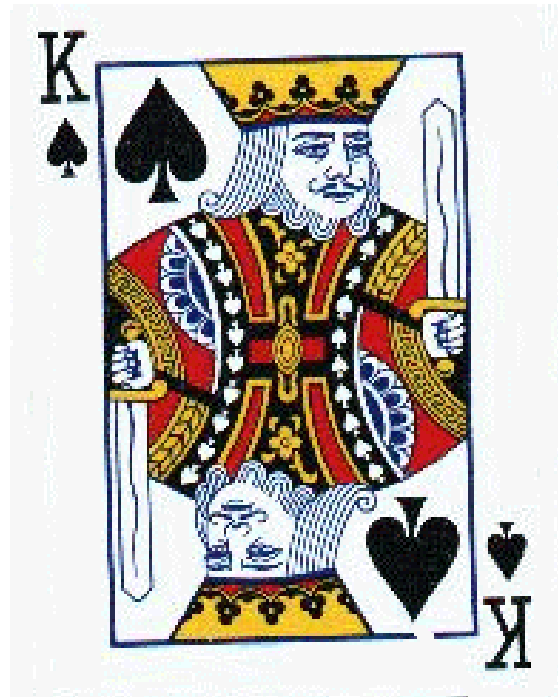


Politics

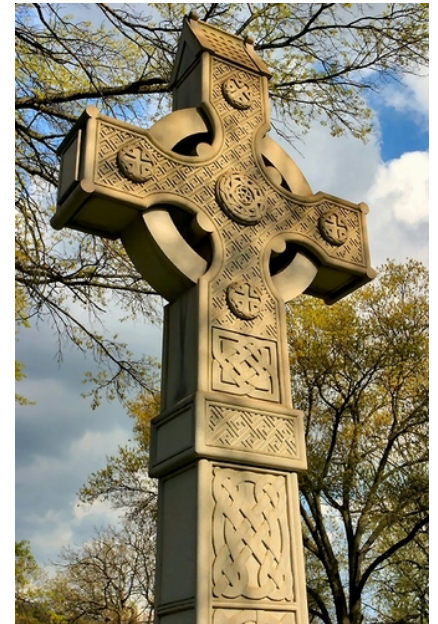
# Locke applies “reason” to



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



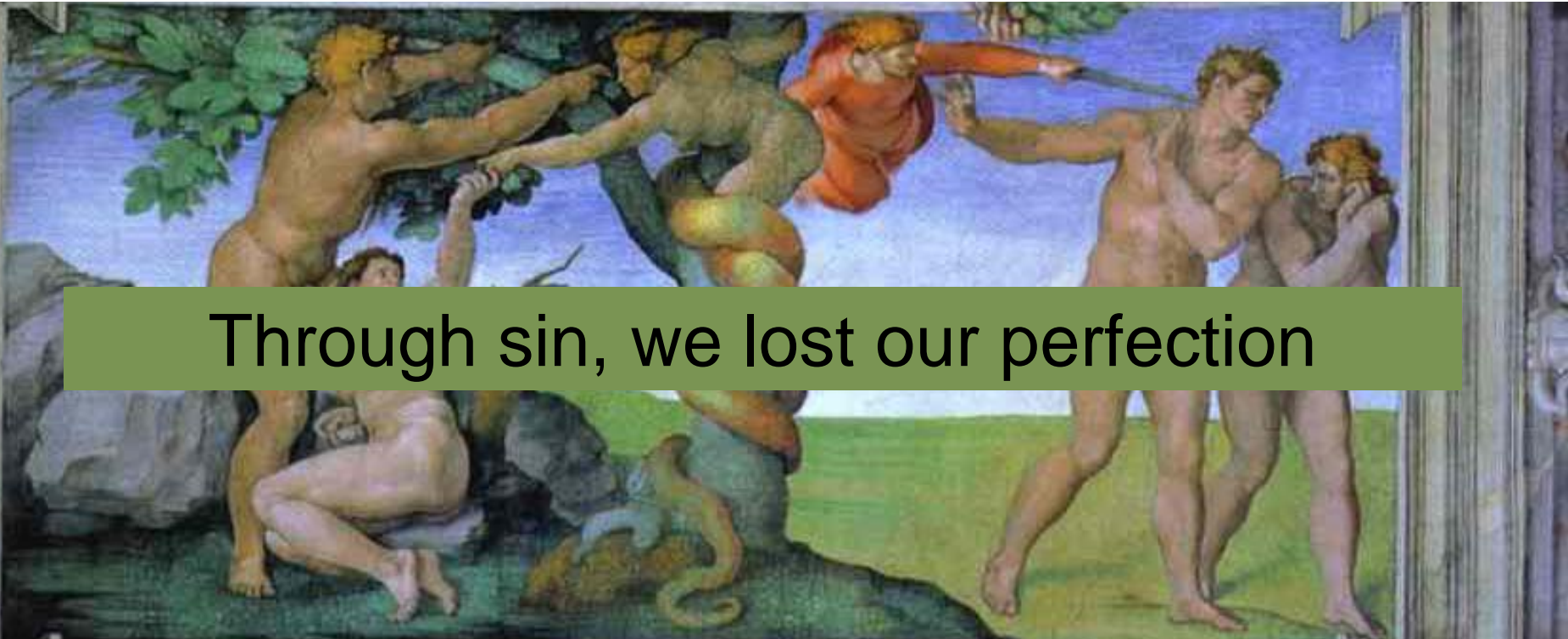
“The most  
formidable  
weapon against  
errors of any kind  
is reason. I have  
never used any  
other.”

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.”

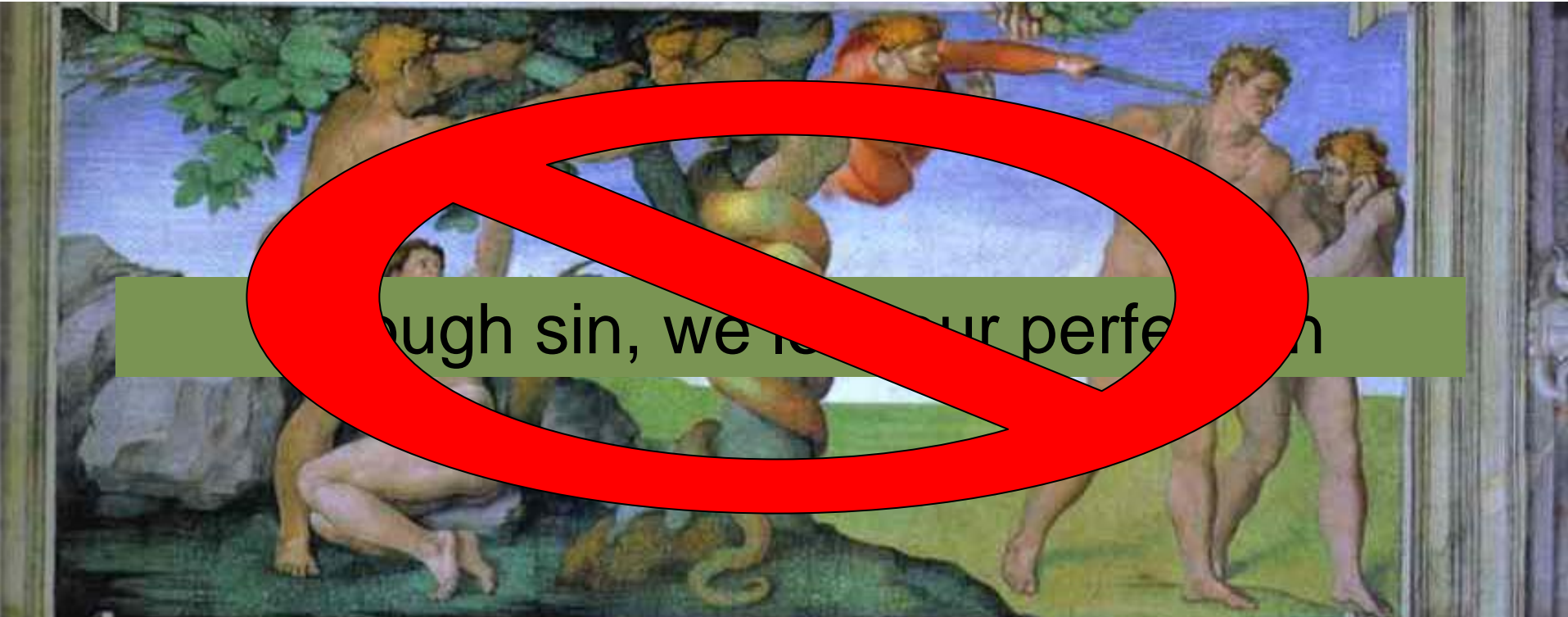
# A denial of the doctrine of original sin



Through sin, we lost our perfection



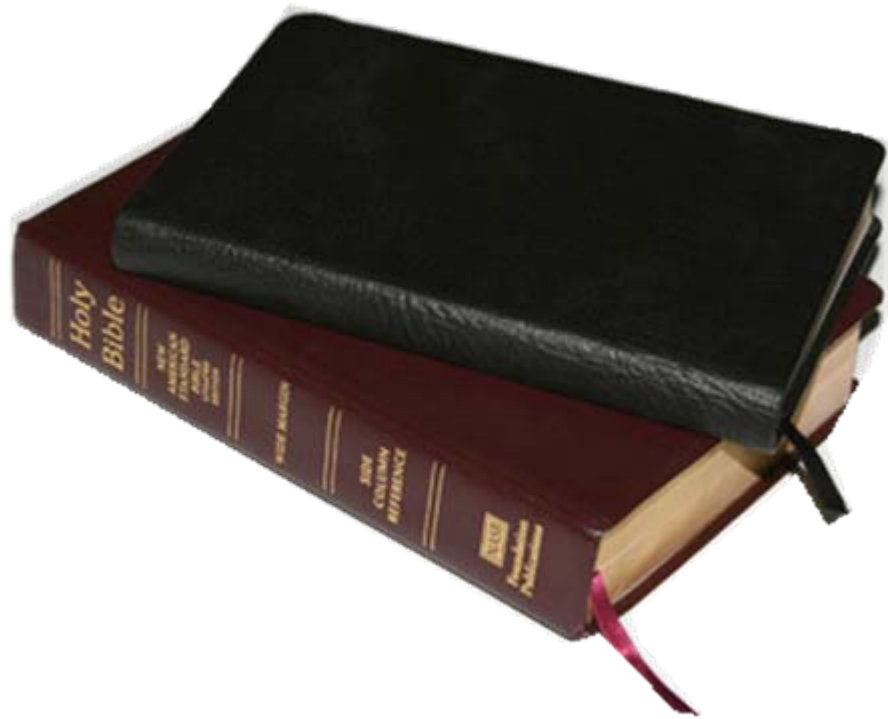
# A denial of the doctrine of original sin



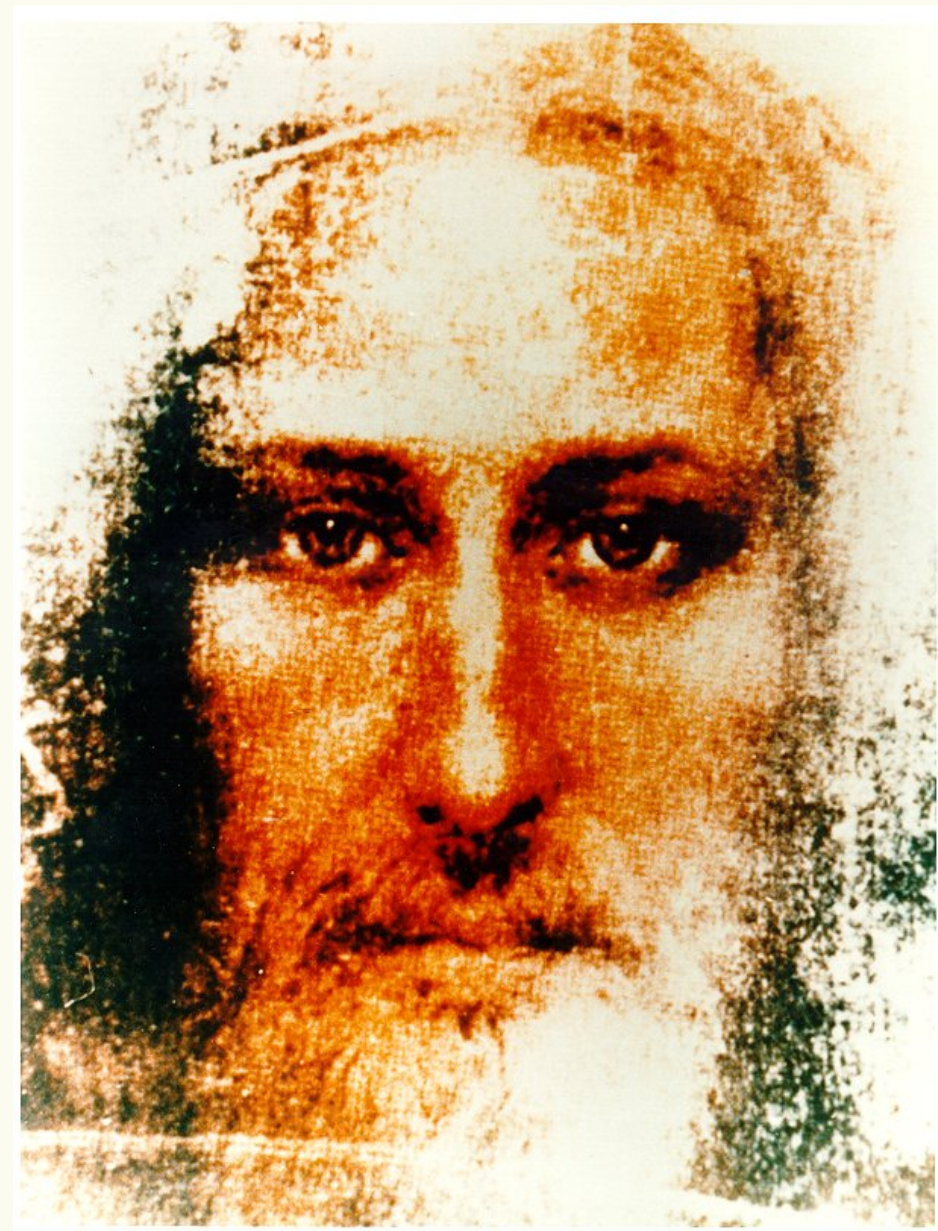




The problem  
of evil was  
seen as a  
“Christian”  
problem



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)