

Why I'm NOT ...

~~Atheist~~

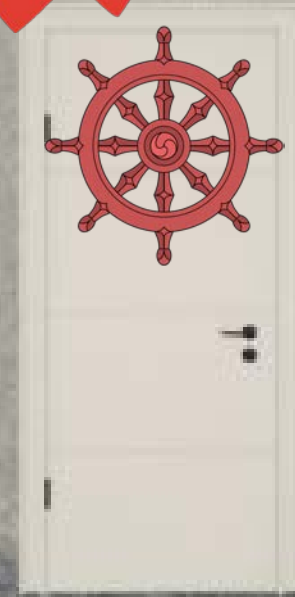
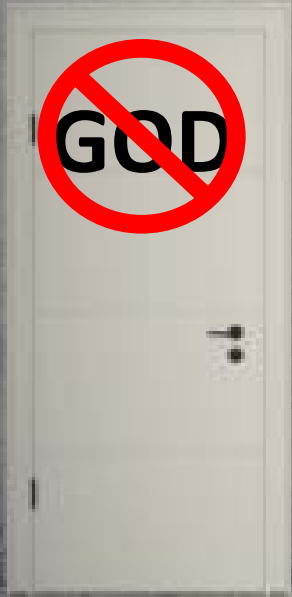
Agnostic

Hindu

Muslim

~~Buddhist~~

Jewish/
Christian



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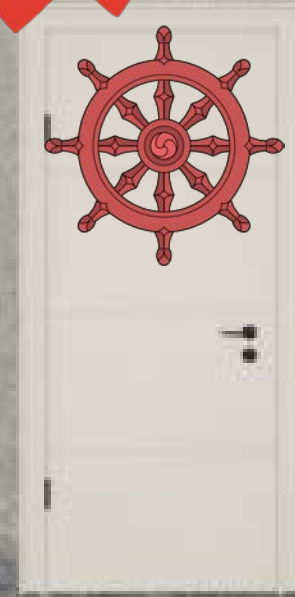
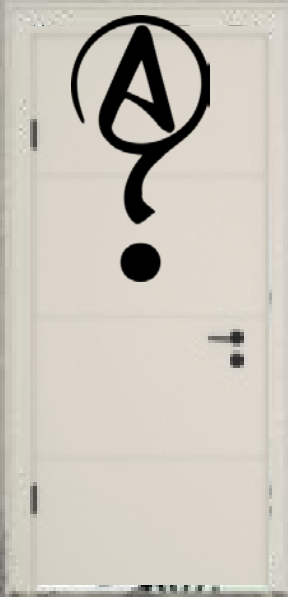
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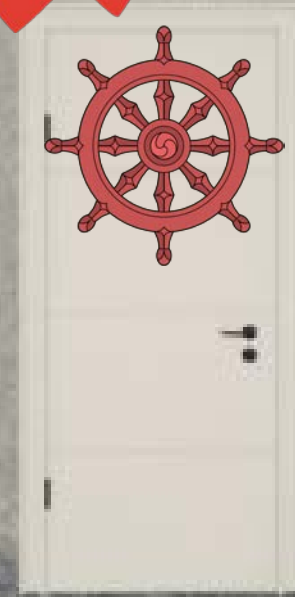
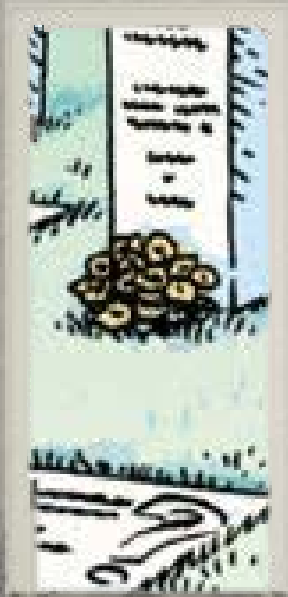
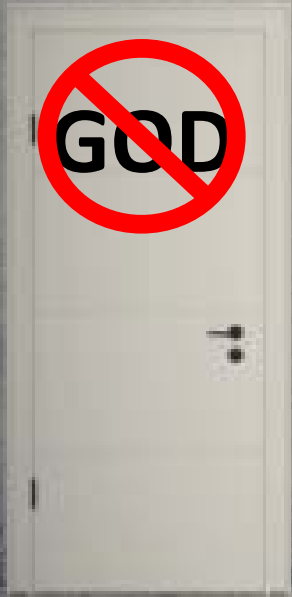
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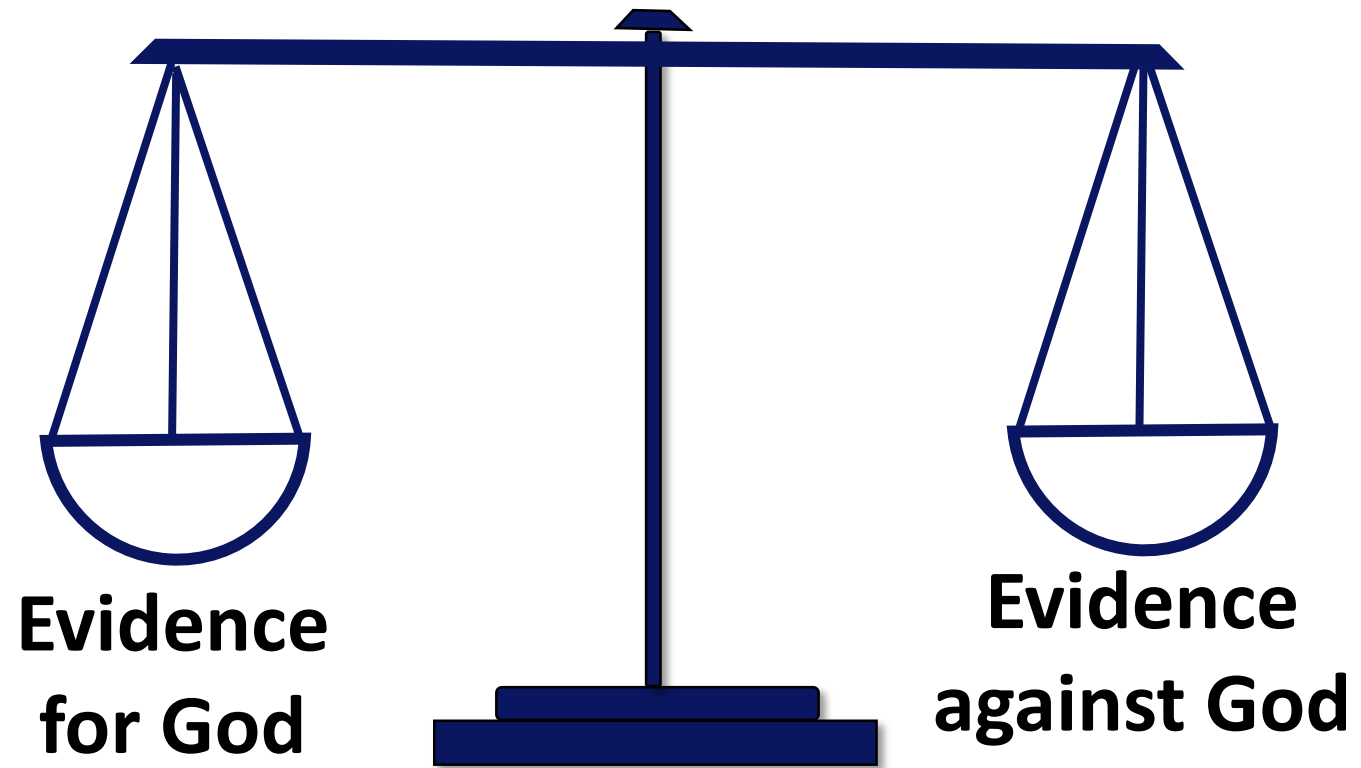


Agnostics don't believe in God, but aren't ready to say they are certain there is no God.



What we understand
words to mean is
important

Weighing the Evidence



The evidence:

Our perceptions of reality

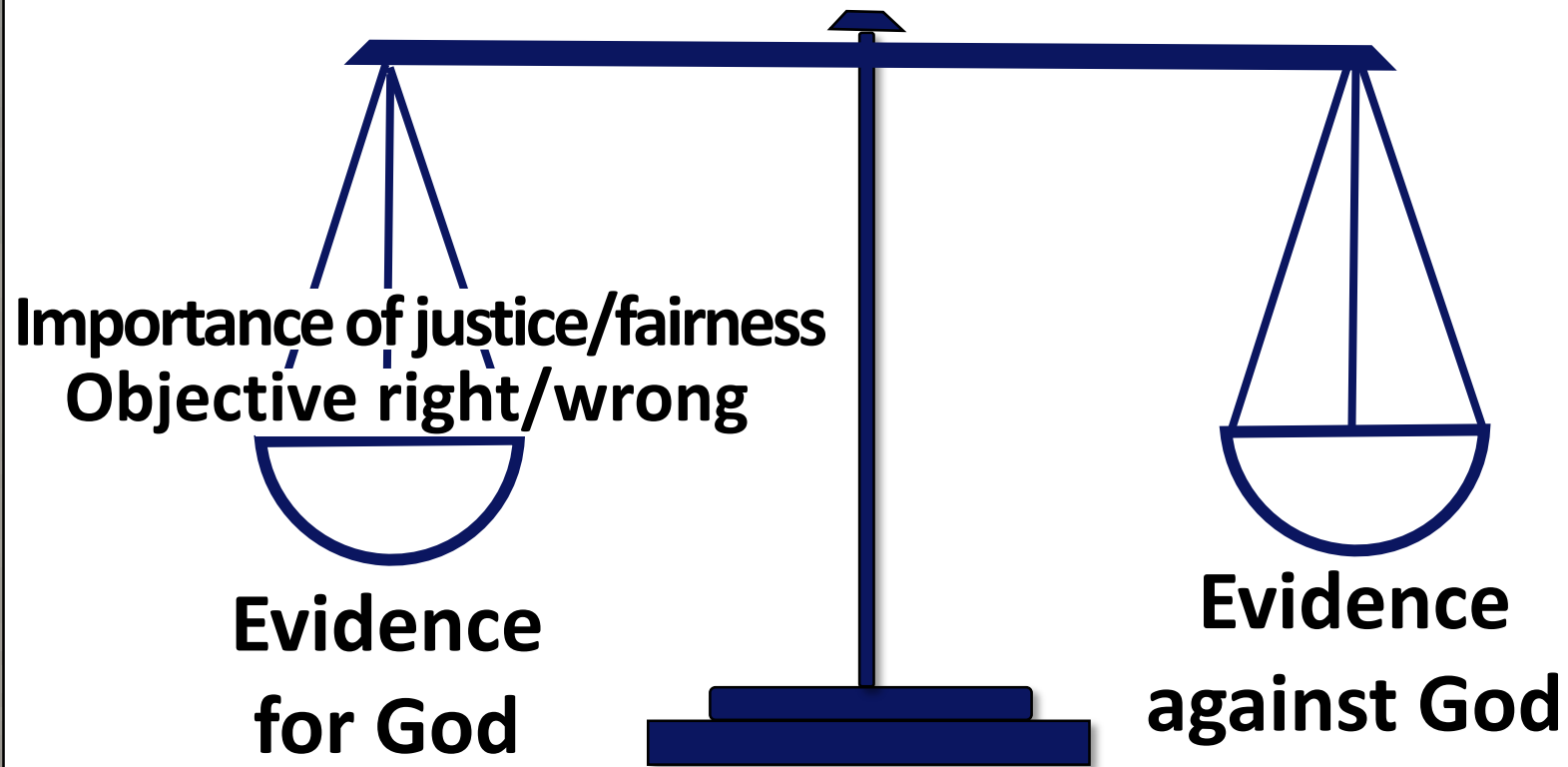
Positive Perceptions

- ✓ 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?

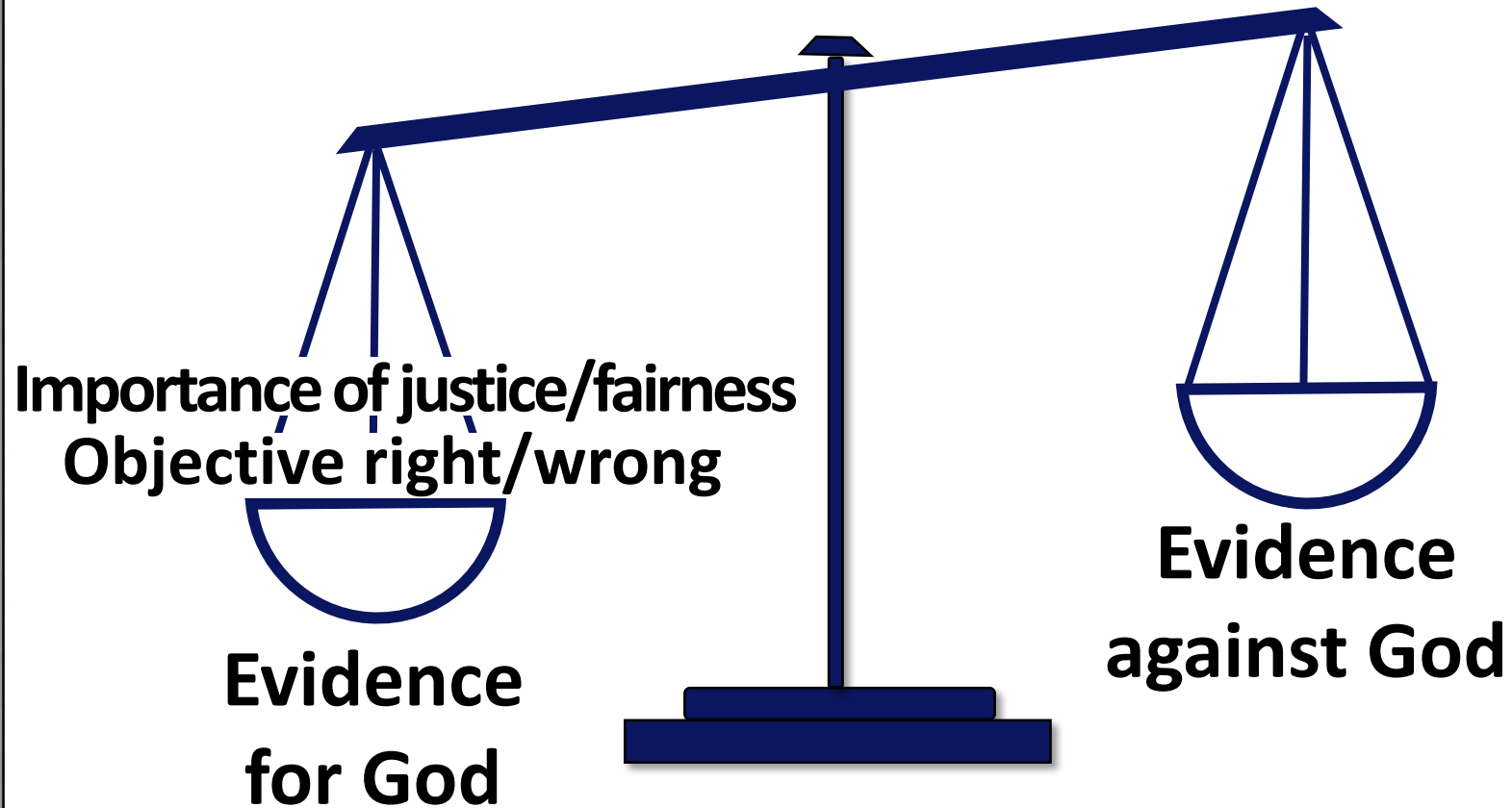
Negative Perceptions

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?

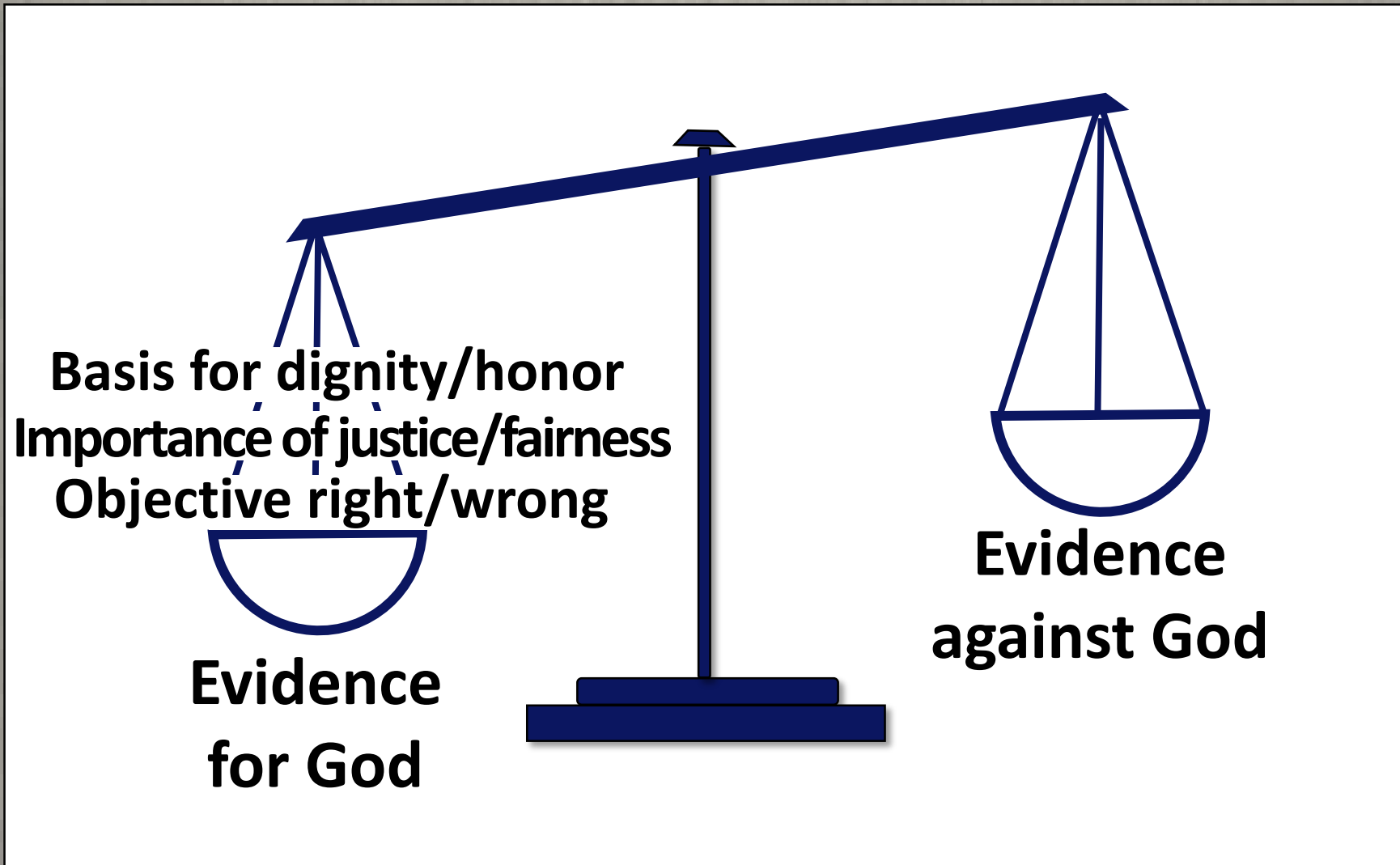
Weighing the Evidence



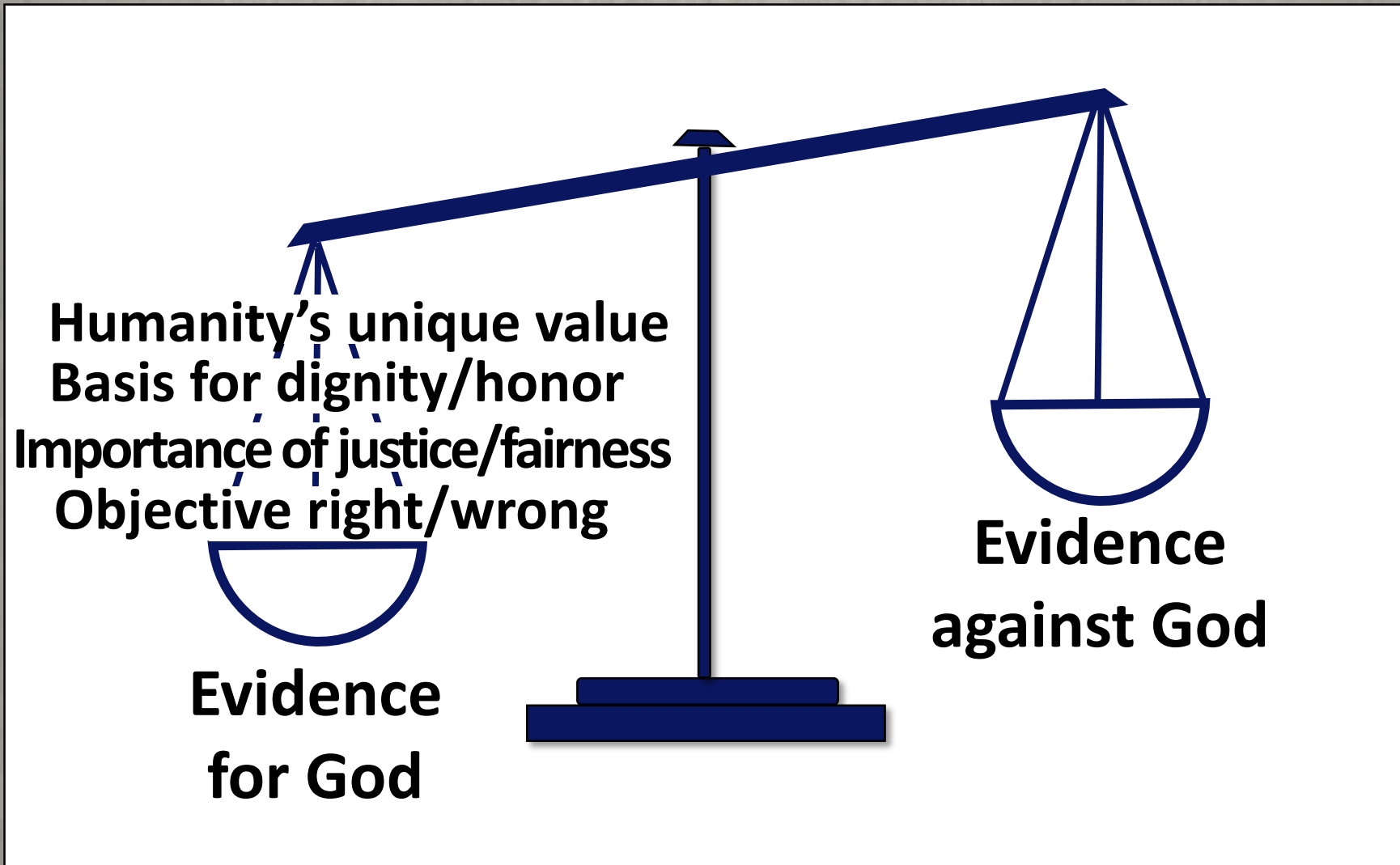
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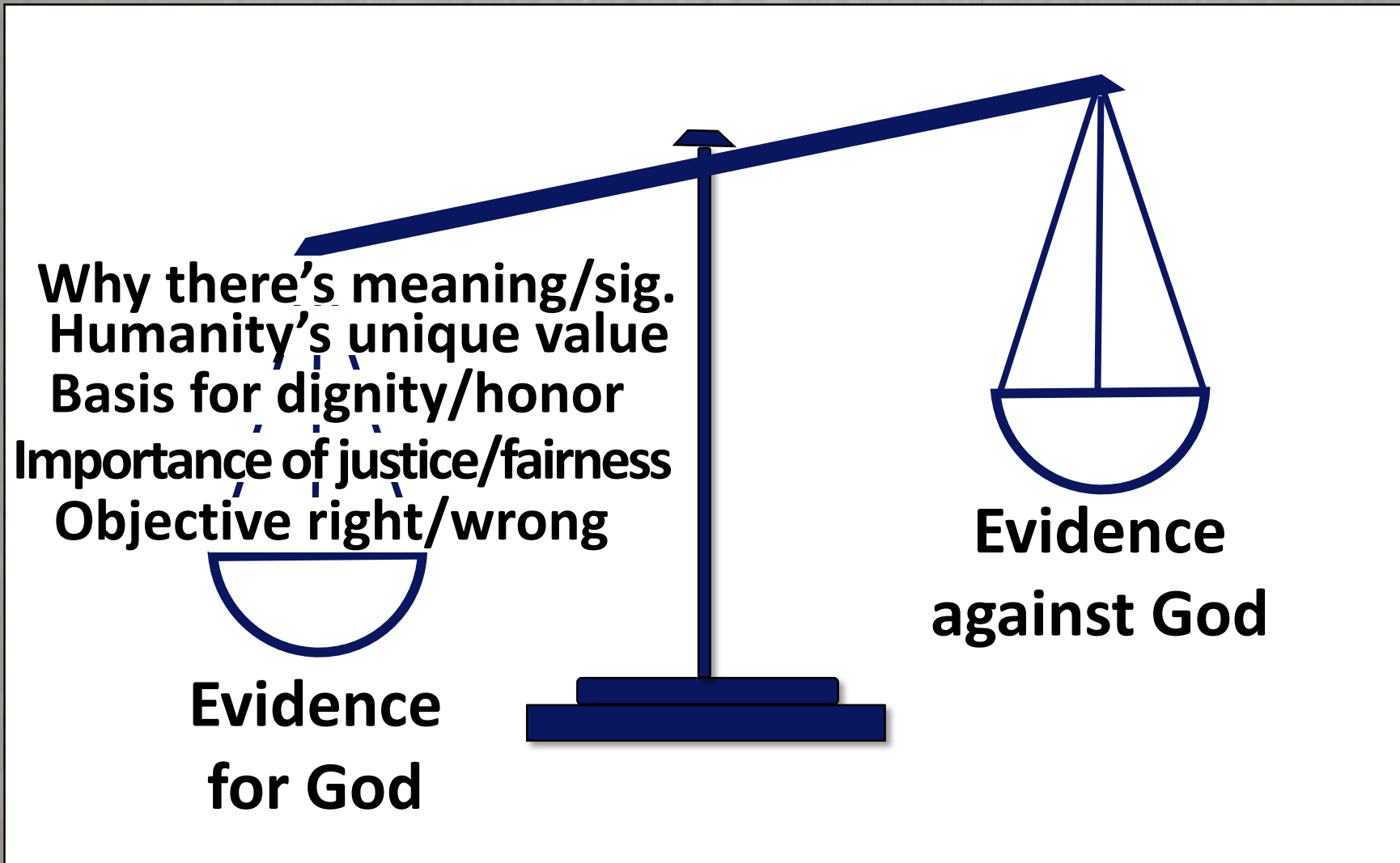
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Why do my actions fail to meet my standards?



The image is a screenshot of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History website. At the top left is the Smithsonian logo and the text "Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History". To the right are social media icons for Facebook and Twitter, a "FAQ" link, and a "Support Our Work" button. Below this is a search bar. The main heading is "What does it mean to be human?". A navigation bar contains links: "Human Evolution Research", "Human Evolution Evidence", "Human Characteristics", "Education" (which is highlighted), "Exhibit", "About Us", and "Multimedia". Below the navigation bar, the breadcrumb trail reads "Home » Education » Introduction to Human Evolution". The main title of the page is "Introduction to Human Evolution". A large yellow box highlights a text block that reads: "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 this text, on the left, is a sidebar with links: "Human Origins Glossary", "Teaching Evolution through Human Examples", and "Frequently Asked Questions". At the bottom left of the sidebar is a link to "Mystery Skull Interactive". On the right side of the page, there is a large image of a human skull, and below it is a link to "Human evolution".

Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

What does it mean to be human?

Human Evolution Research Human Evolution Evidence Human Characteristics **Education** Exhibit About Us Multimedia

Home » Education » Introduction to Human Evolution

Introduction to Human Evolution

Introduction to Human Evolution

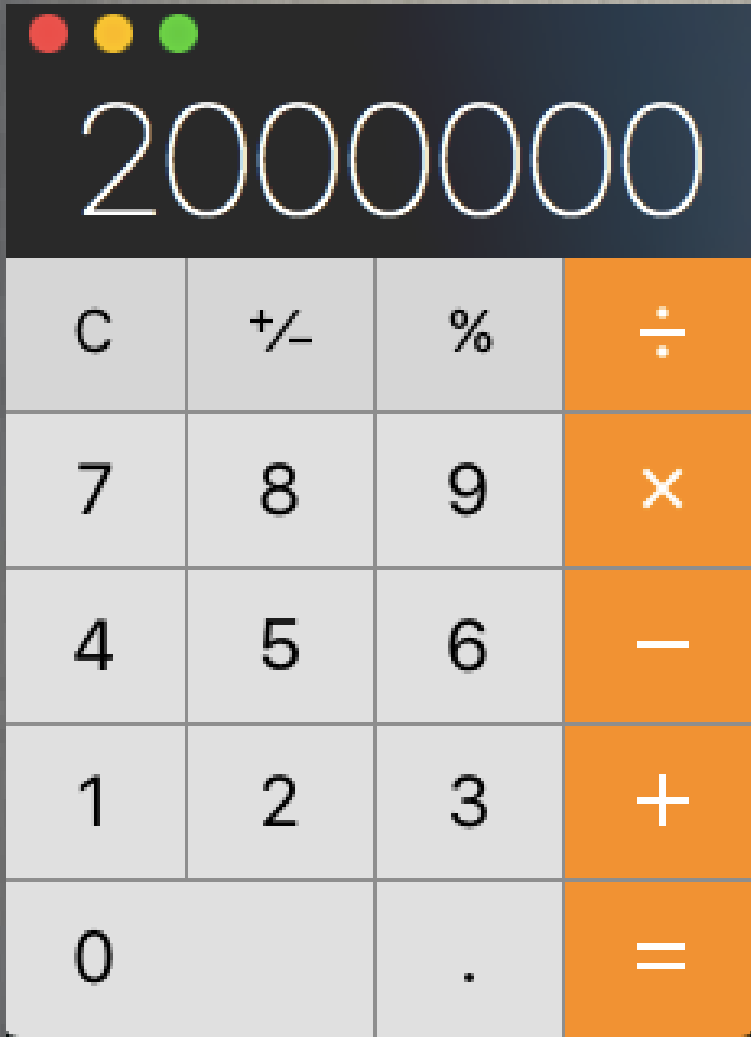
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Human Origins Glossary
Teaching Evolution through Human Examples
Frequently Asked Questions

Mystery Skull Interactive

Human evolution

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

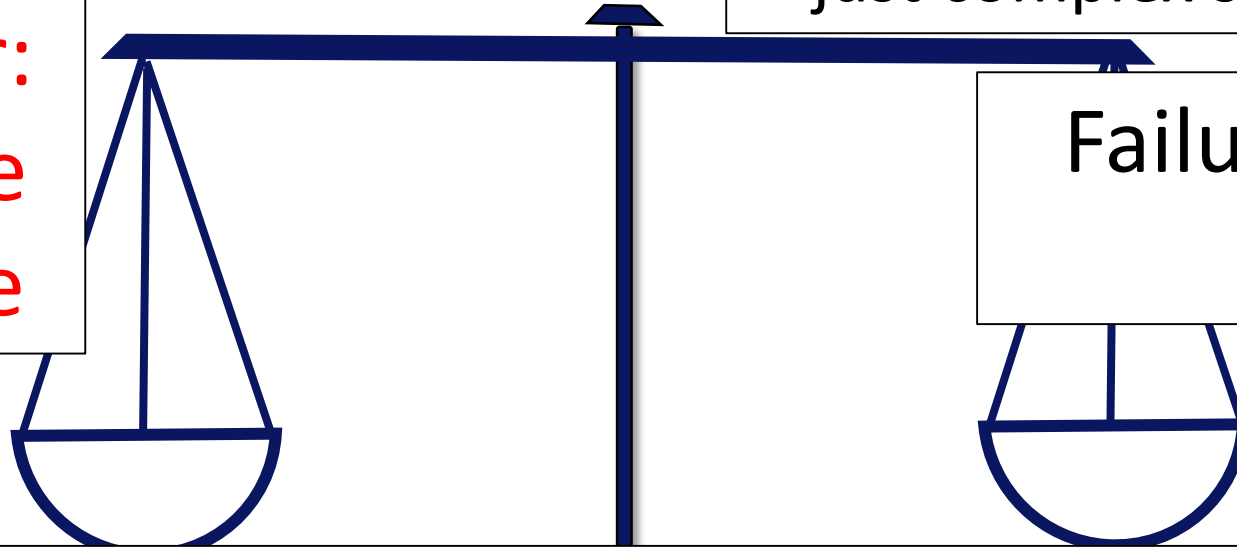
Life as a sinner:
The fruit of the
poisonous tree

No God

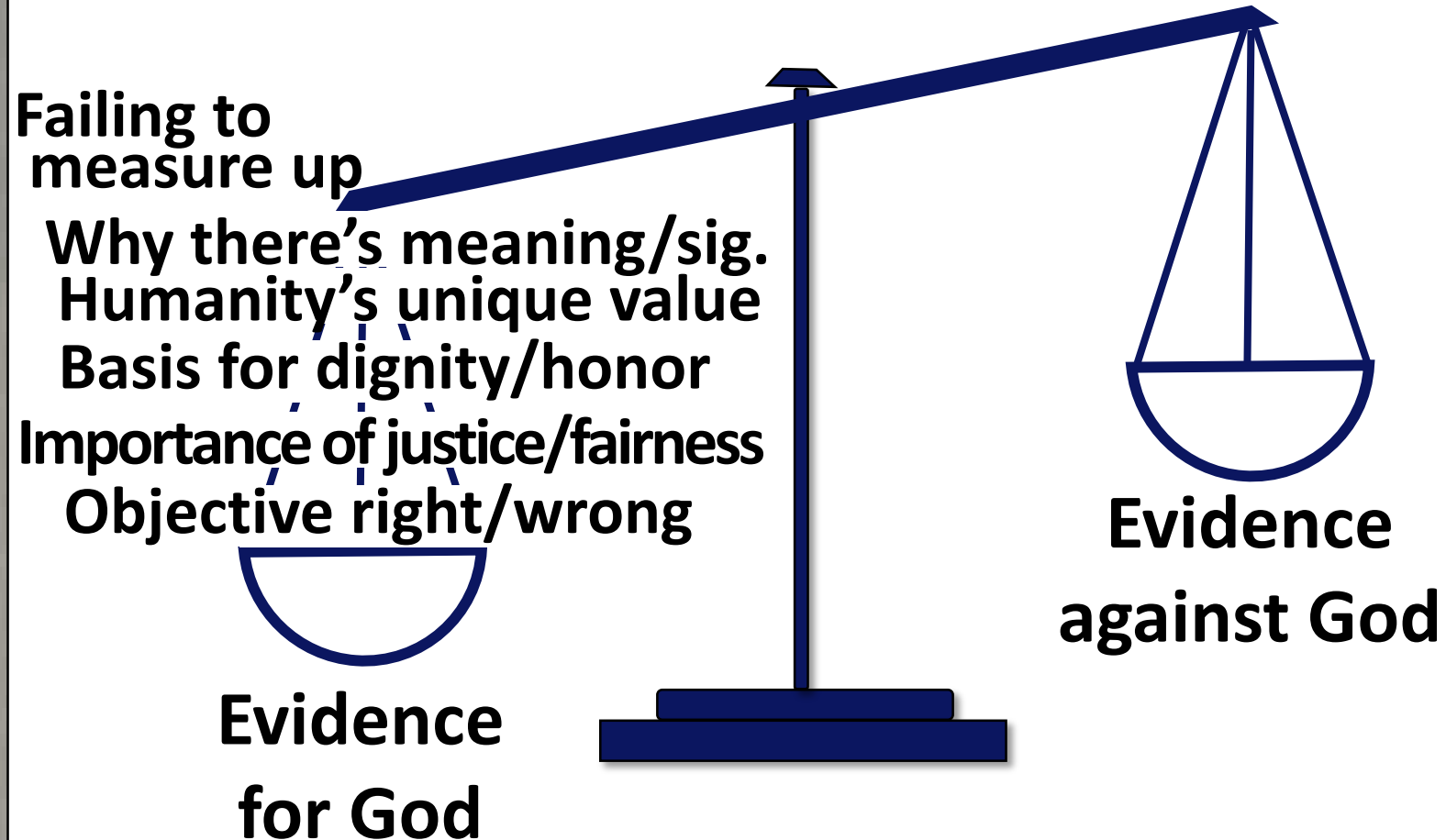
just complex sacks of chemicals

Failures of natural
selection

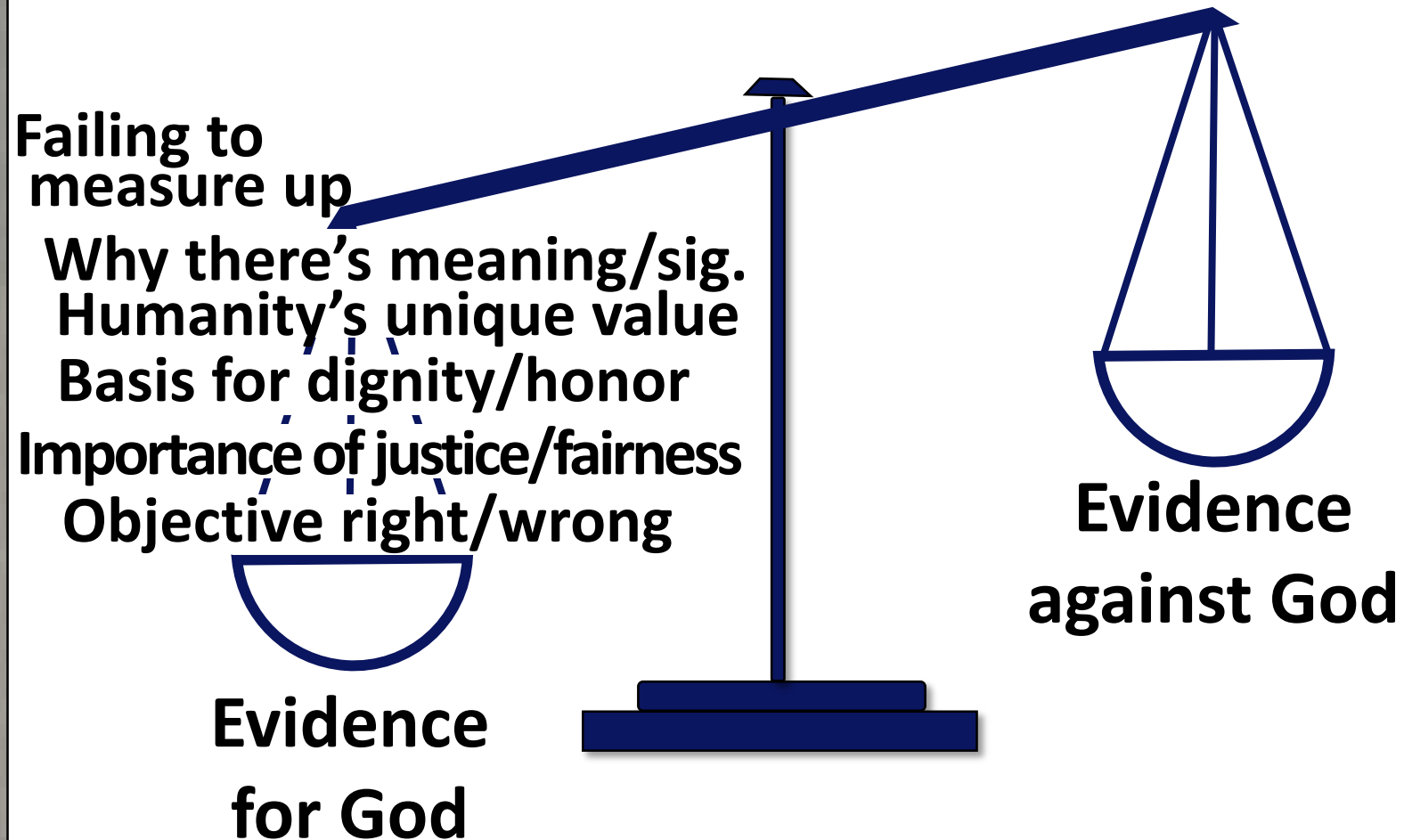
What about the Mao Zedongs,
Hitlers, Stalins, Pol Pots, etc.?



Weighing the Evidence



Weighing the Evidence



The evidence:

Our perceptions of reality

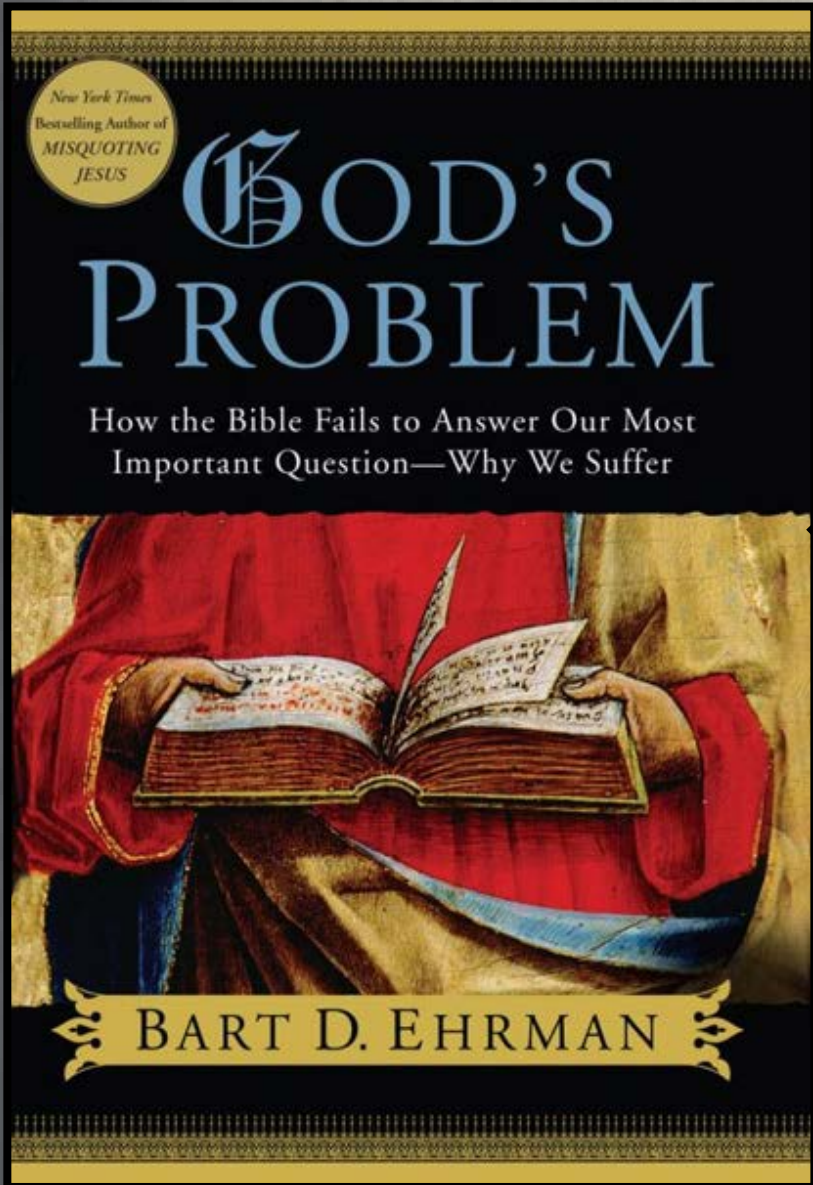
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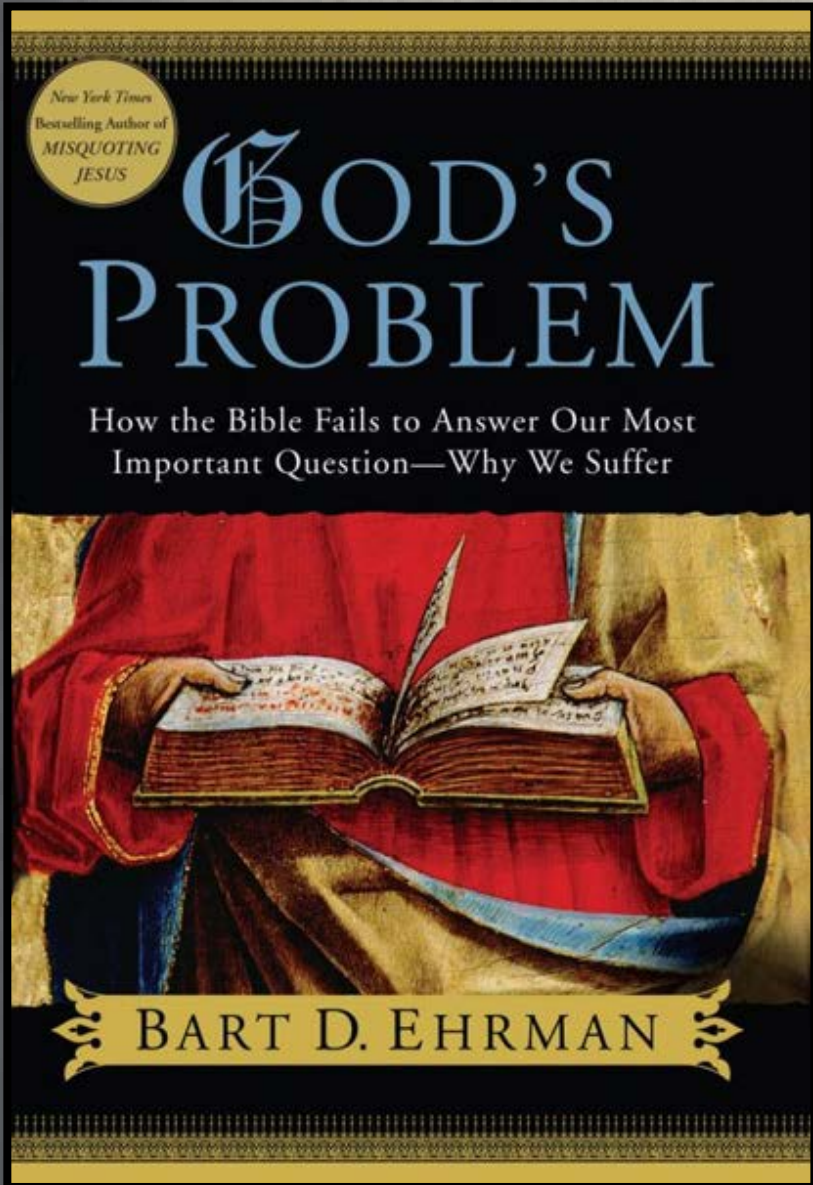
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Why is there suffering?



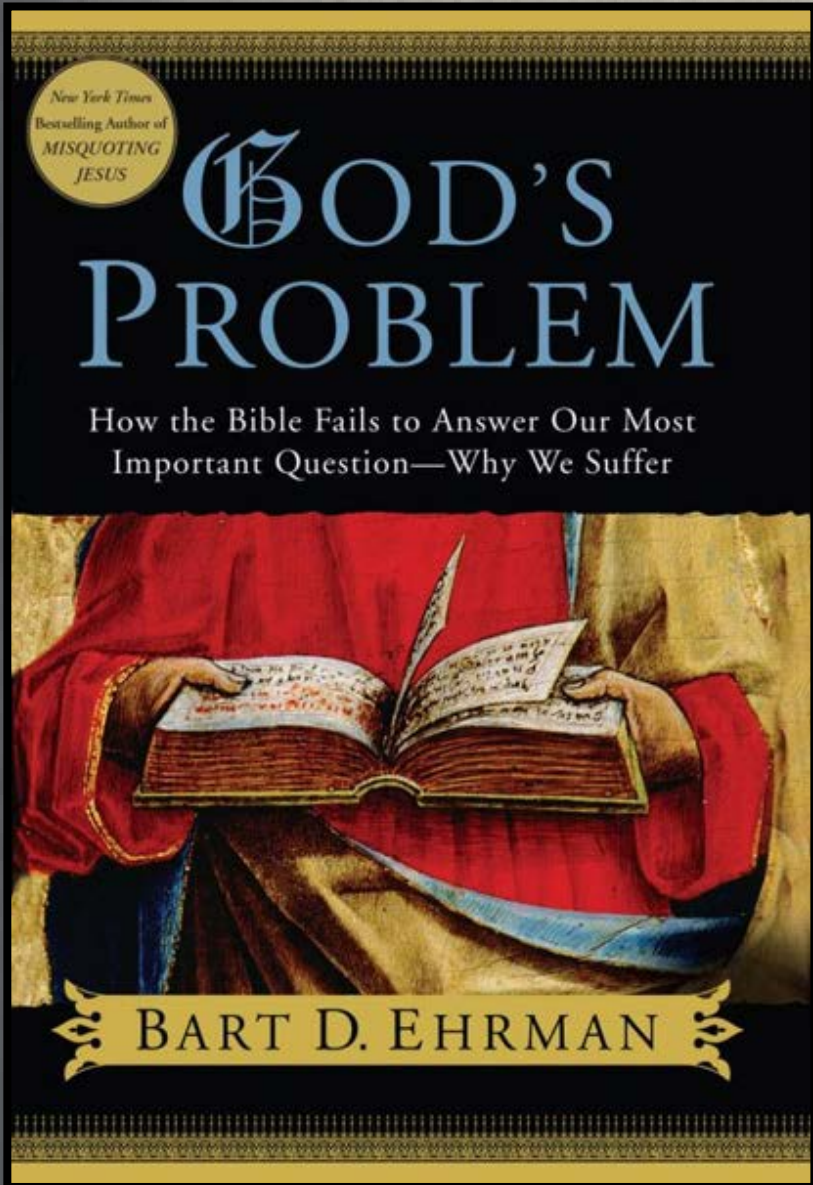
If there is an all-powerful and loving God in this world, why is there so much excruciating pain and unspeakable suffering? The problem of suffering has haunted me for a very long time... Ultimately, it was the reason I lost my faith

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



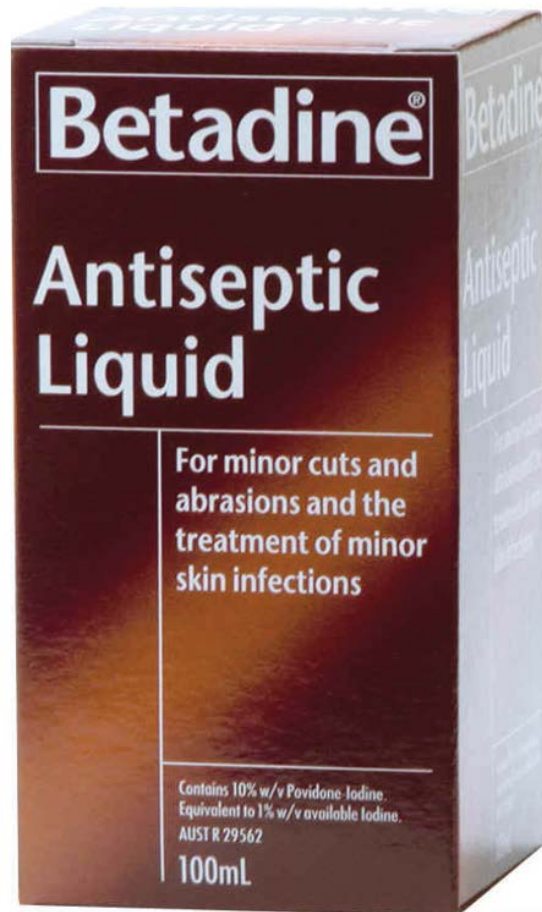
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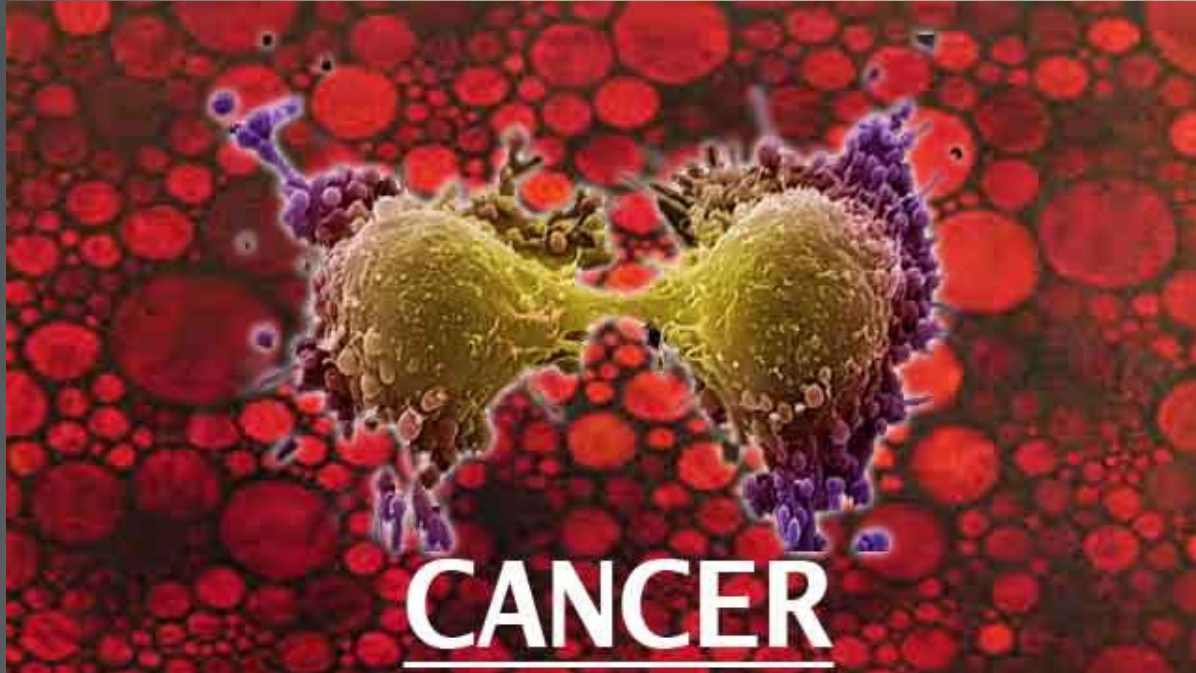
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Shall God eliminate
all cancer?

Why is there suffering?

Judeo-Christian God

God is God
People are people
People make real
choices

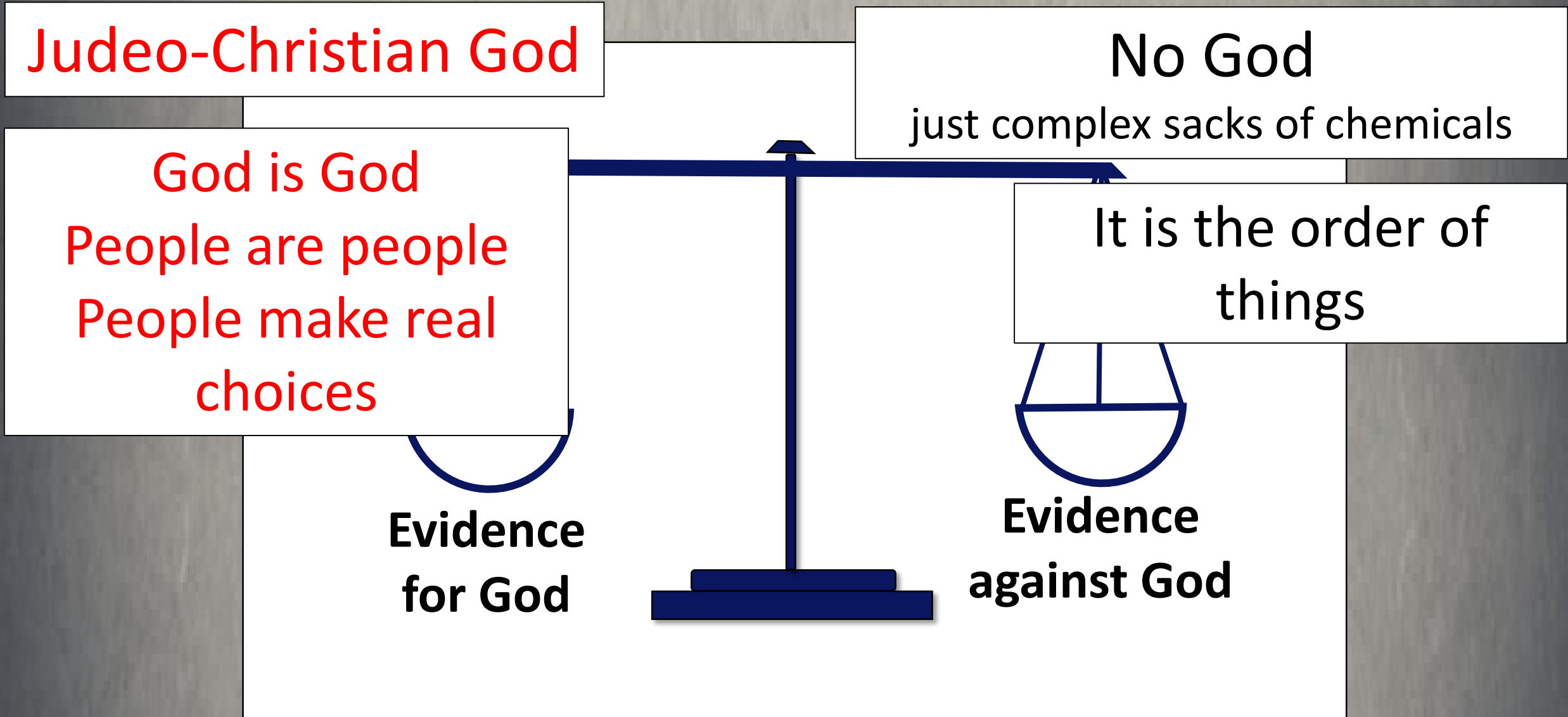
Evidence
for God

No God

just complex sacks of chemicals

It is the order of
things

Evidence
against God



ADAM RAISED A CAIN

WORDS AND MUSIC BY
BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

DRIVING MINOR BLUES



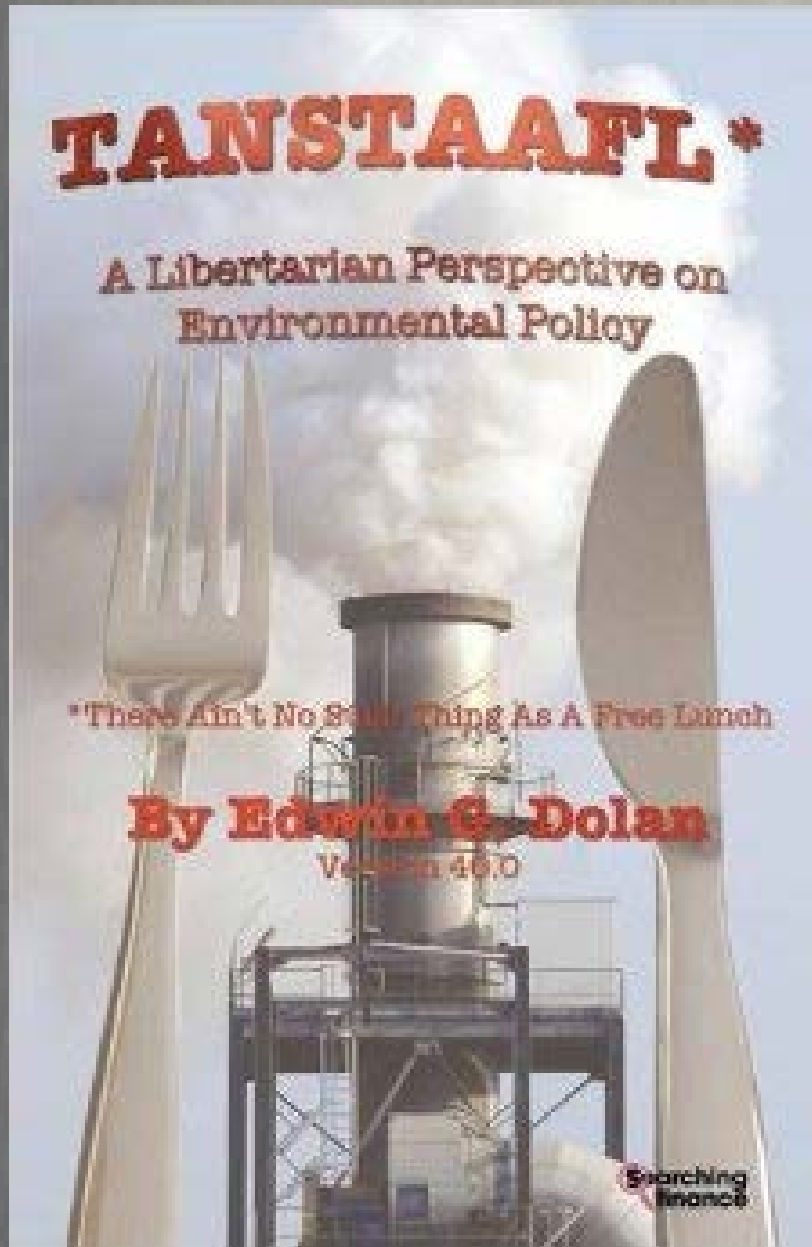
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Cain and Abel:
a story of **choices**
and **consequences**



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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