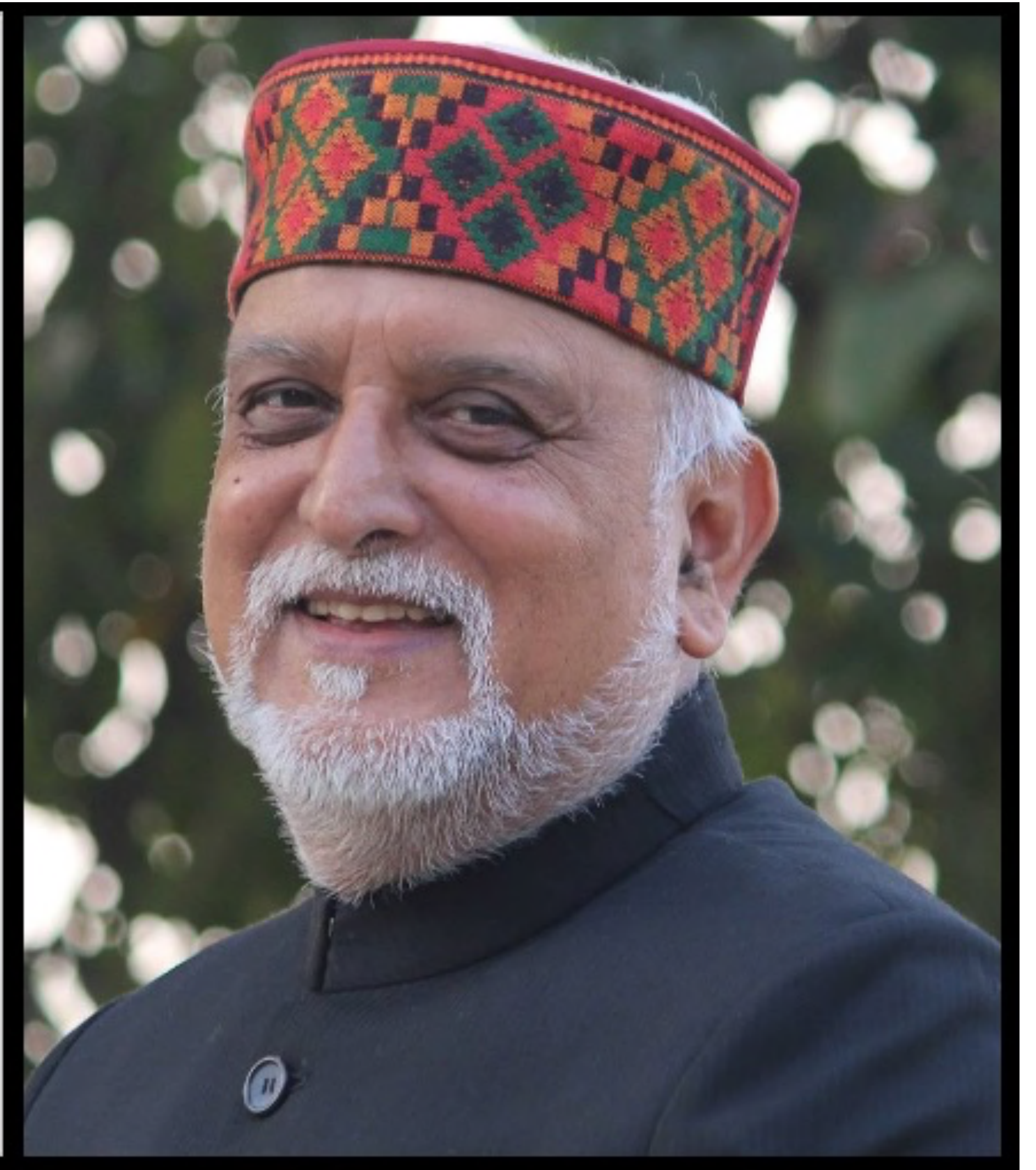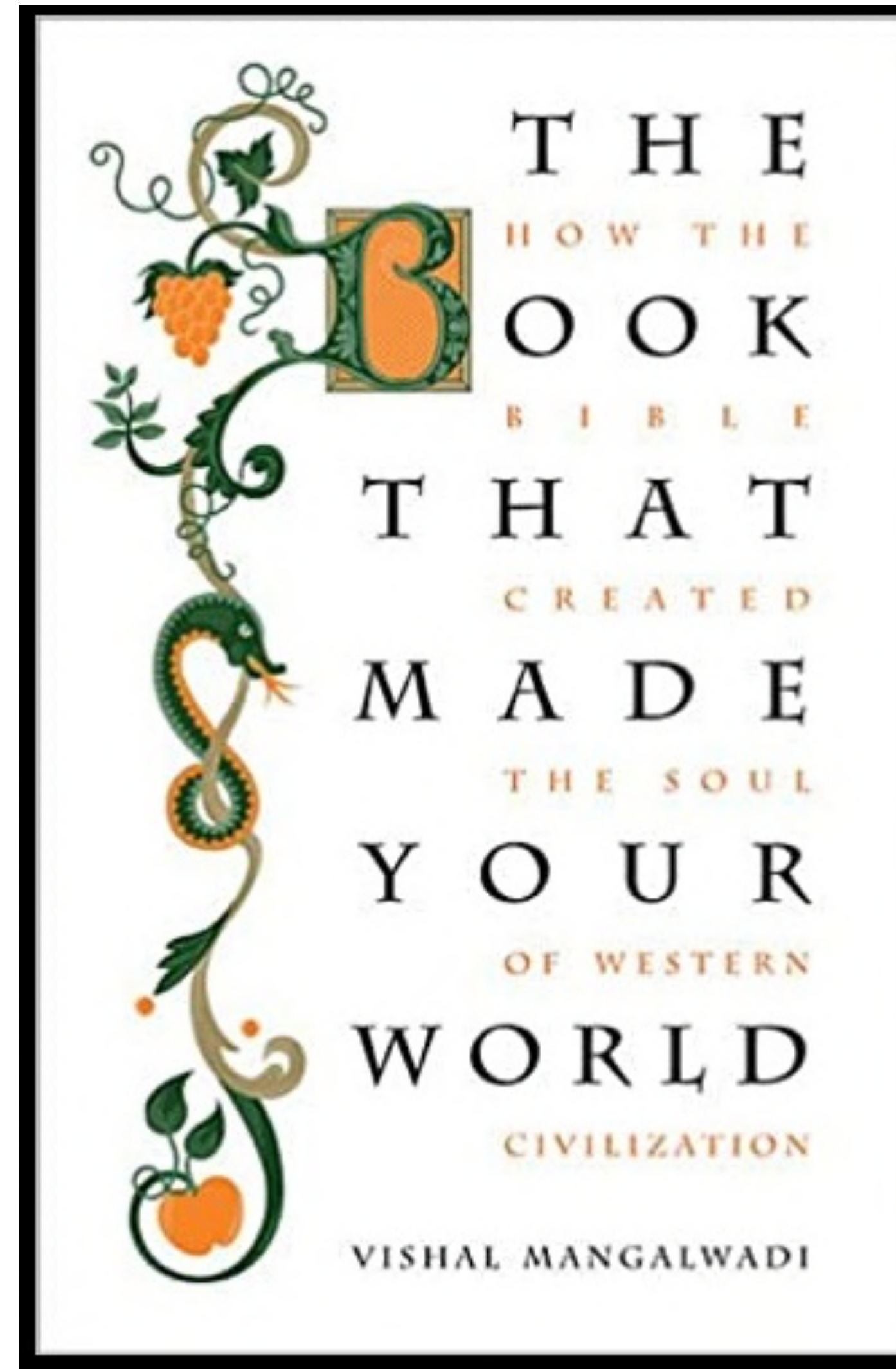# The Book that made your world

How the Bible created the soul of Western civilization

The Bible Applied, June 2022

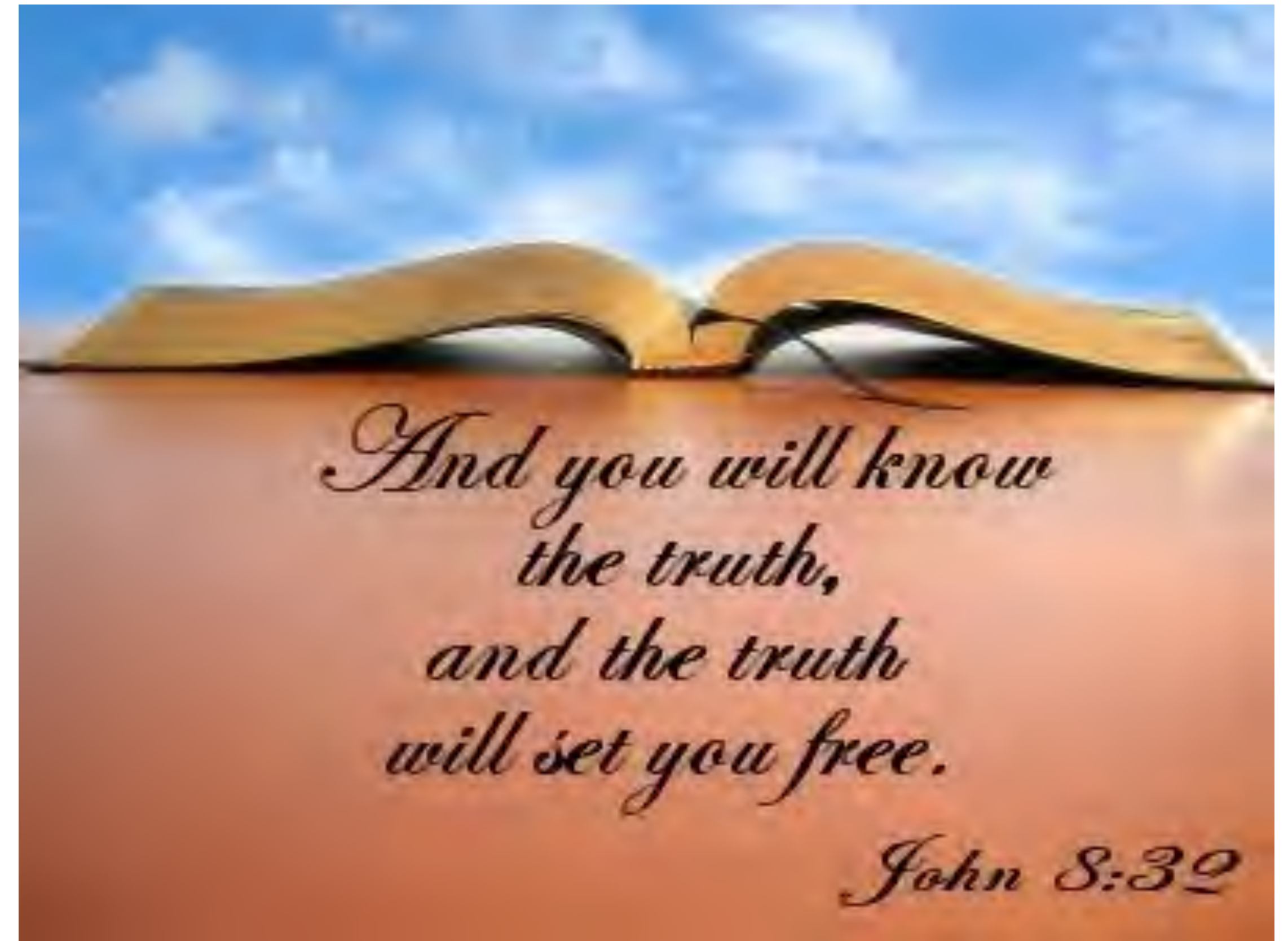# Foundation for modern world of justice, freedoms, economic opportunities

- Assessment of the Bible's profound impact on the modern world

- Serious evaluation of Bible's relevance to contemporary public discourse is urgently needed

- Generations cannot respond to, comprehend, interpret and respond to riddles of life without a comprehensive worldview

- Alan Bloom, '**The closing of the American Mind**', the Bible gave impetus to the West's **intellectual endeavour to examine all great ideas**

- Transformation of individual lives, families, whole communities gave shape to the modern world

THE BOOK THAT MADE YOUR WORLD

HOW THE BIBLE CREATED THE SOUL OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

VISHAL MANGALWADI

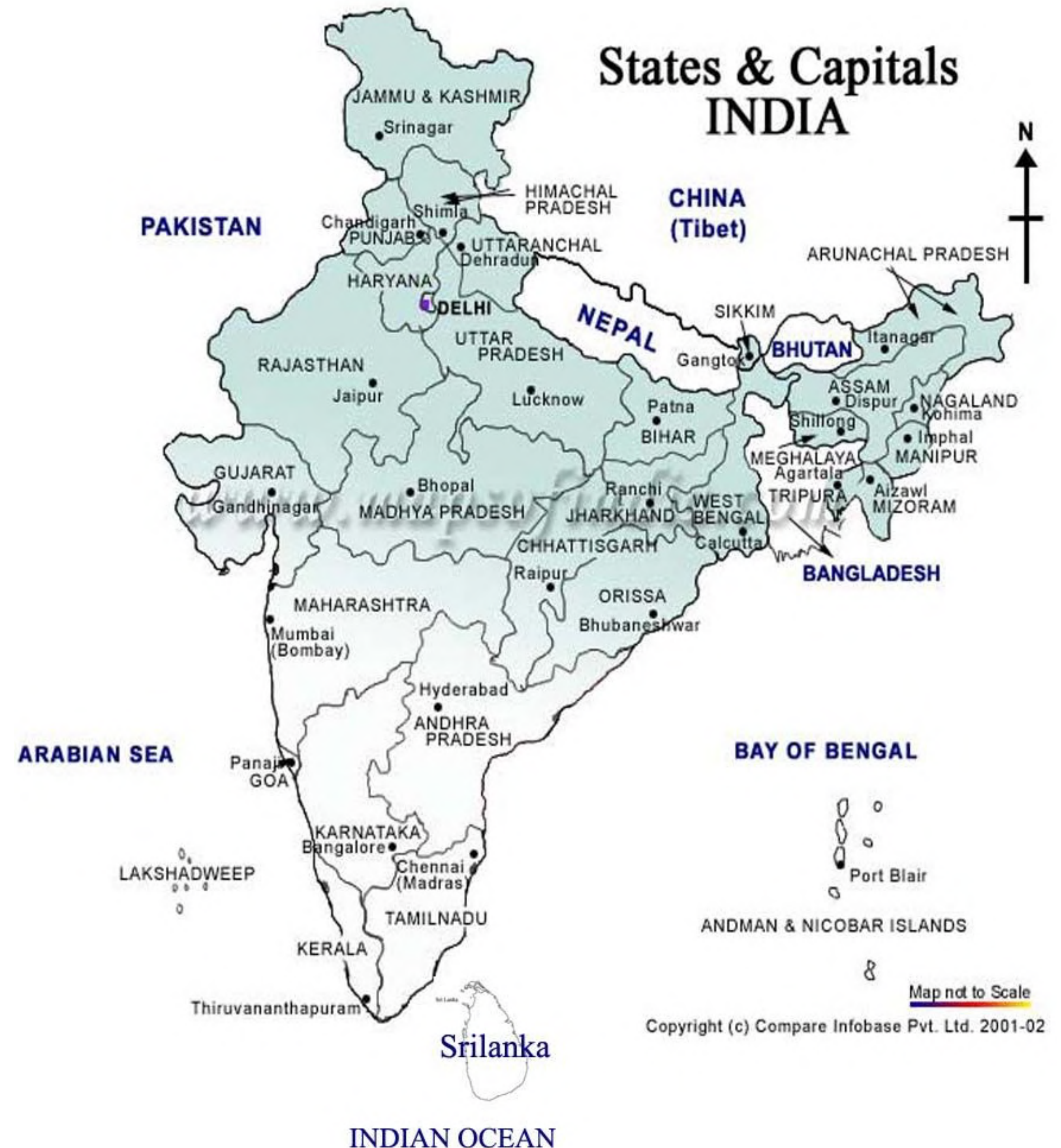# The impact of the Biblical worldview on the world

- Investigations reveal that Biblical worldview emerges as critical source of unique vision of western thought, values, institutions

- Bible understood to be God's revelation to humanity provided the basis for remarkably humane society

- A civilization in which

  ○ truth was understood to be real

  ○ collective pursuit of virtue shaped behaviour

  ○ redemptive work of God in Jesus

  provided transformative response to human selfishness, corruption and sin

And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

John 8:32

The impact of the Biblical worldview on India

- Western missionary movement was single most important force that created contemporary India, world's largest democracy

- Southern India's missionaries sacrificially engaged in uplifting untouchables from oppressive caste system, were accused of CIA funding

- The Bible began and sustained education, emancipation, modernization of India

- Economic system, free press, political liberties, corruption-free public life had come from the Bible

States & Capitals
INDIA

PAKISTAN

CHINA (Tibet)

JAMMU & KASHMIR
- Srinagar

HIMACHAL PRADESH
Chandigarh Shimla
PUNJAB
UTTARANCHAL
Dehradun
HARYANA
DELHI

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

SIKKIM
Gangtok
BHUTAN Itanagar

RAJASTHAN
Jaipur

UTTAR PRADESH
Lucknow

NEPAL

Patna
BIHAR

ASSAM
Dispur NAGALAND
Shillong Kohima
Imphal
MEGHALAYA MANIPUR
Agartala
TRIPURA Aizawl
MIZORAM

GUJARAT
Gandhinagar
Bhopal
MADHYA PRADESH

Ranchi
JHARKHAND WEST BENGAL
CHHATTISGARH Calcutta

BANGLADESH

MAHARASHTRA
Mumbai (Bombay)

Raipur
ORISSA
Bhubaneshwar

ARABIAN SEA

Panaji
GOA

Hyderabad
ANDHRA PRADESH

BAY OF BENGAL

LAKSHADWEEP

KARNATAKA
Bangalore
Chennai (Madras)

TAMILNADU

KERALA

Port Blair

ANDMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

Thiruvananthapuram

Srilanka

Map not to Scale

Copyright (c) Compare Infobase Pvt. Ltd. 2001-02

INDIAN OCEAN

HUMANITY

Conception of human dignity
The inherent value and dignity of each human being came from the Bible

- Rural India - female infanticide is not uncommon, girls are considered a burden and female infants left to die of malnourishment or are buried alive

- Traditional Hindu fatalism does not believe that fate or karma can be transcended or that history or nature and hence poverty can be changed

- Ramkrishna Paramhans, one of the fathers of modern Hinduism, adopted Buddhist teaching of **Anatta - no self**

- Life is empty, same implication as Hindu doctrine of reincarnation and **Brahma - universal self**

- Individuality is an illusion, salvation requires dissolution into universal consciousness

- **Faith in reincarnation trivializes death as well as life**

- The spirit is like a garment that one leaves and puts on one that is new

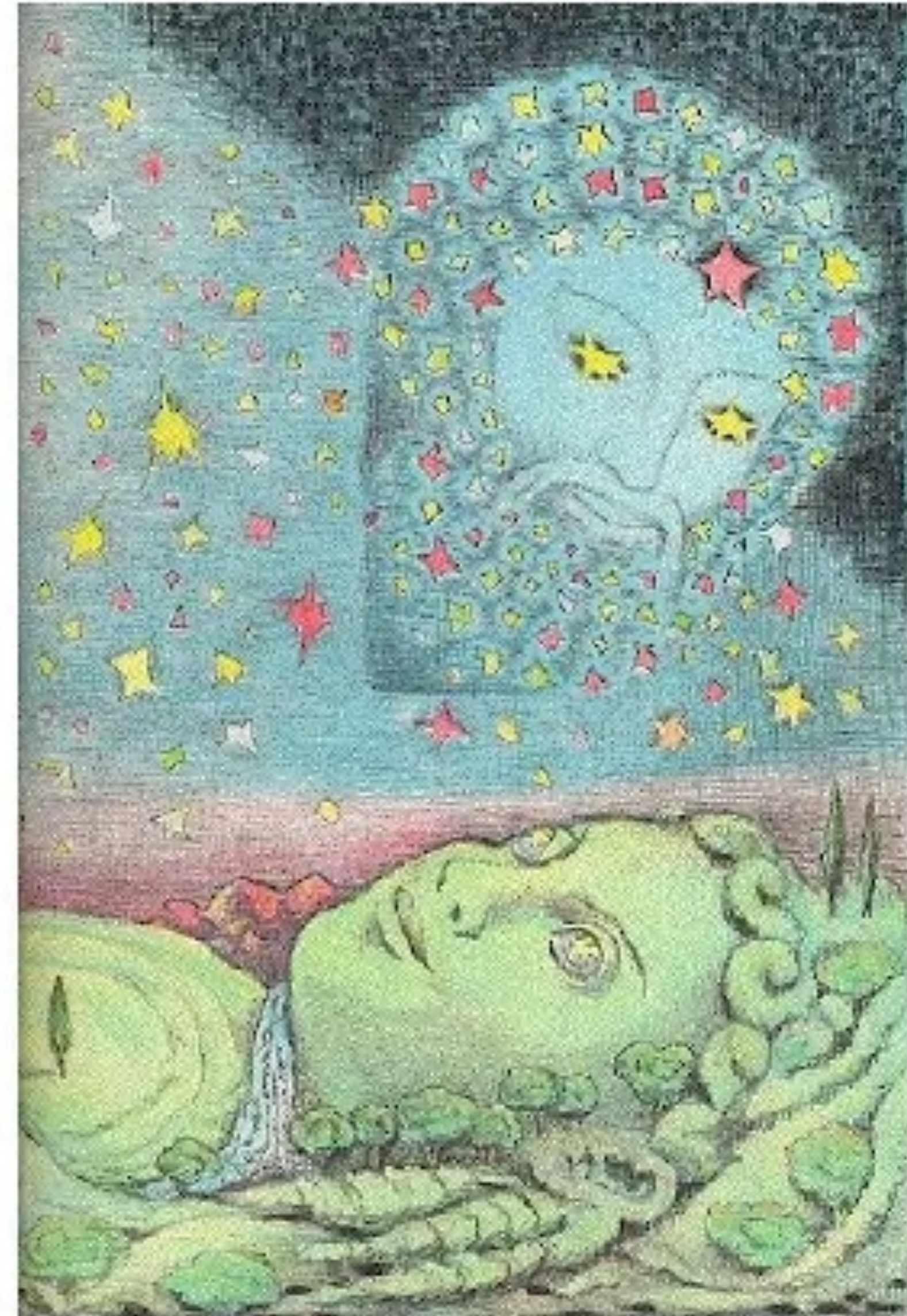- **Differences in worldview are a matter of life and death**

Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita encouraging Arjuna to kill his cousins and teachers:

"Thou grievest where no grief should be! For the wise in heart mourn not for those that live, nor those that die.

Conception of human dignity
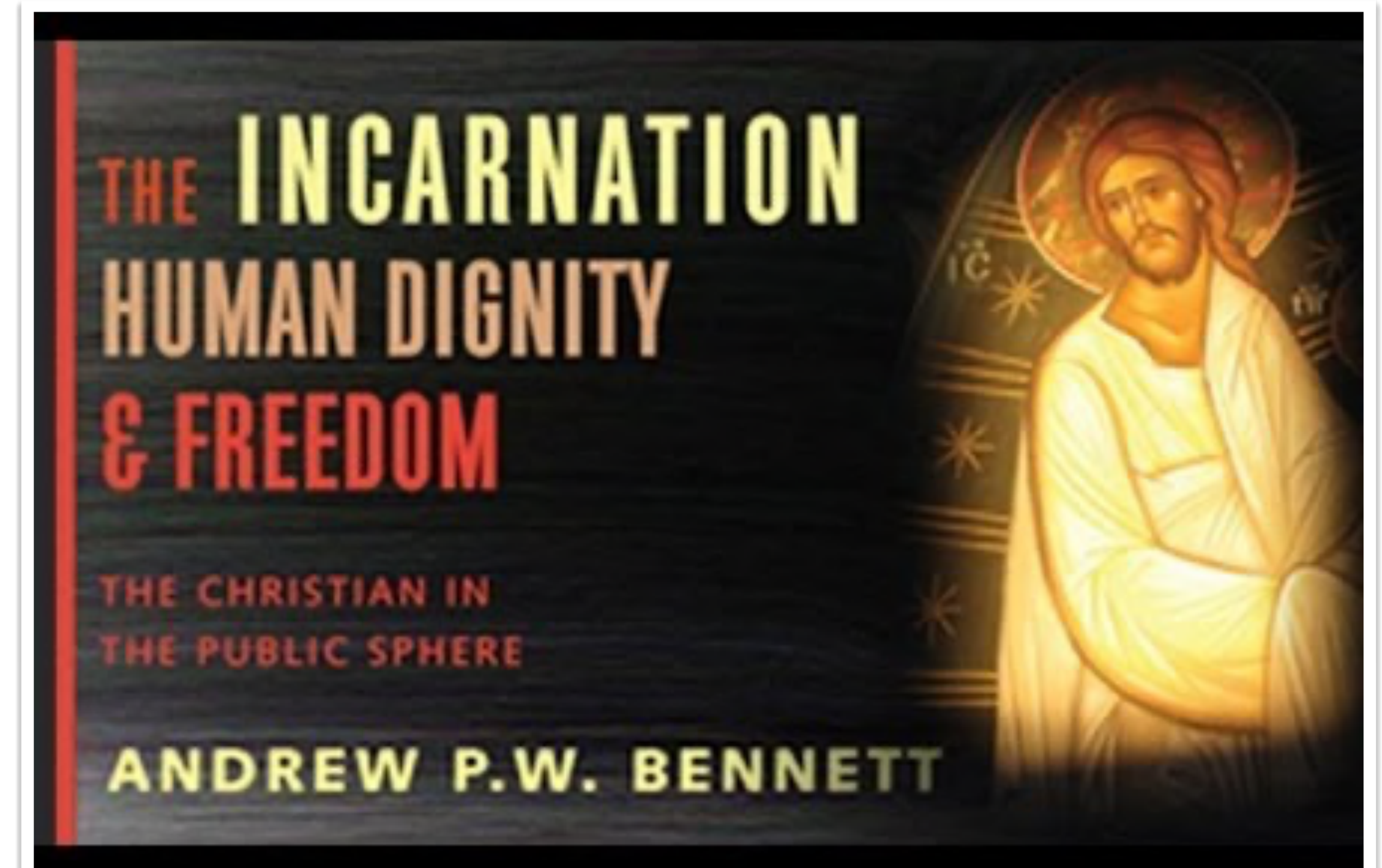## Contrasts with Greco Roman and Islamic worldviews

- Infanticide was common in Greece and Rome

- We understand destiny is not determined by karma. Not fated to misery

- We don't point to the Bible or theological creeds, **we assume that these ideas are common sense**

- In India, even educated families torture or kill DILs for dowry

- Notion of human dignity and rights came to India through Christian education. 3000 years of Hinduism, 2600 of Buddhism, 1000 years of Islam, century of secularism did not confirm unique value of human being

- Contrasted with Greco-Roman cosmological worldview of paganism, worshipped and feared spirits

- Gods cannot change course of cosmic downward cycle of history and man committed hubris when he tried to rise above status assigned to him

Conception of human dignity
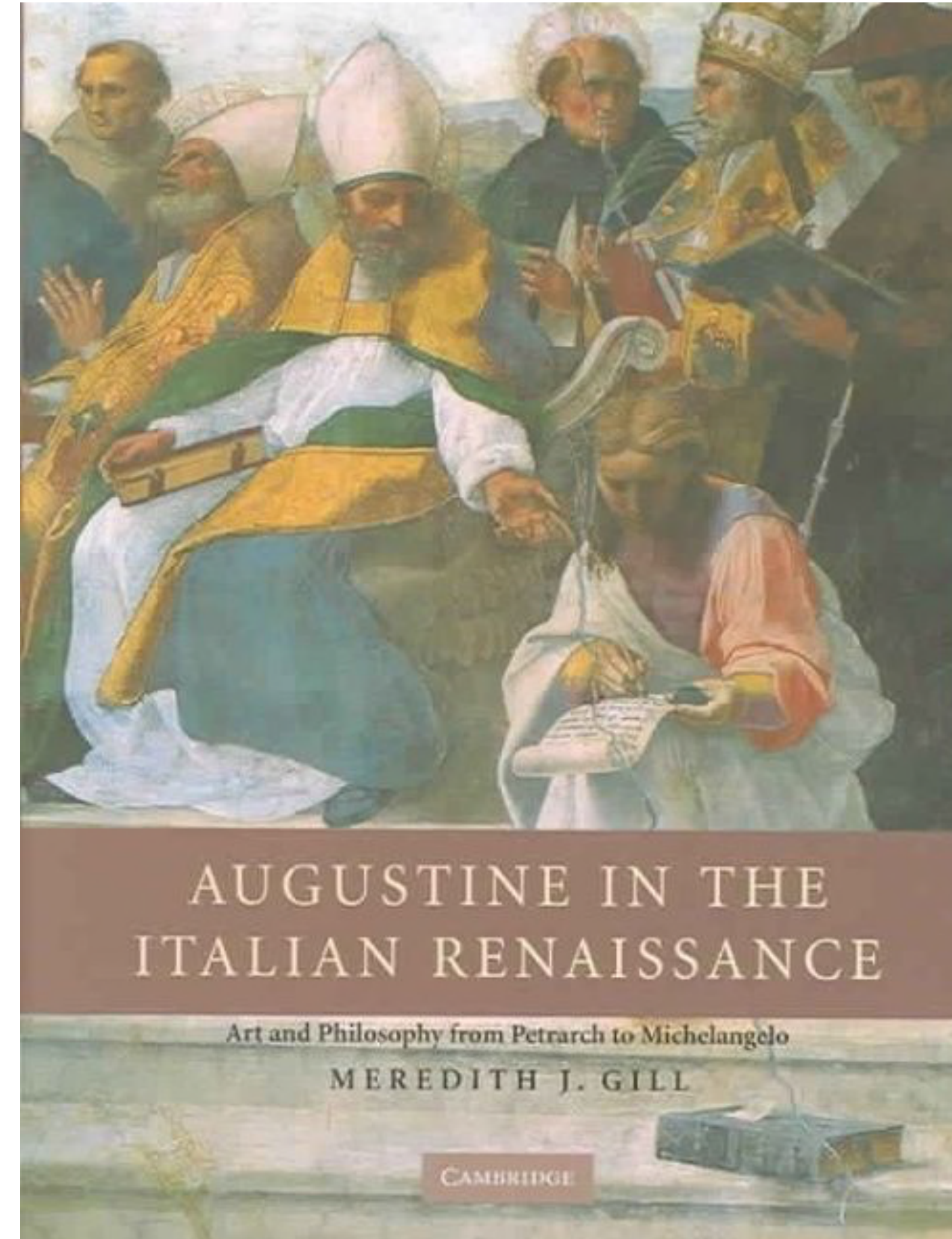## The incarnation of Christ as the basis

- **Islamic fatalism,** man's fate or fortune was not in his hands

- In Islam, for God to become a creature as lowly as man would violate his dignity. Reduced man to the level of beasts

- Failure to appreciate value of human beings prevented Islamic civilization from developing full potential of its people

- Fundamental rights and liberties caused West to overtake Islamic civilization

- Marxism: individuality as bourgeois, individual expression to be liquidated for communal consciousness

Conception of human dignity
Renaissance humanism rested on Biblical ideas

- Even the intellectual ferment of the Renaissance discovered the idea of humanity's unique dignity and abilities through the Bible

- Anthropology and Theology belong together in Renaissance thought. Since man is made in God's image, he must also be free and hence not created to be trapped in inescapable cycle of misery

- Renaissance writers derived their high view of man from creation of man, but human dignity was most supremely affirmed in incarnation of Christ

- God came as man to make human beings sons and daughters of God. Unique in the created order

- Italian poet Petrarch (1300s) in developing Renaissance humanism rested his case on Bible, **"Man's natural knowledge of himself leads only to knowledge of his misery and tends to despair".** God's descent means man's ascent
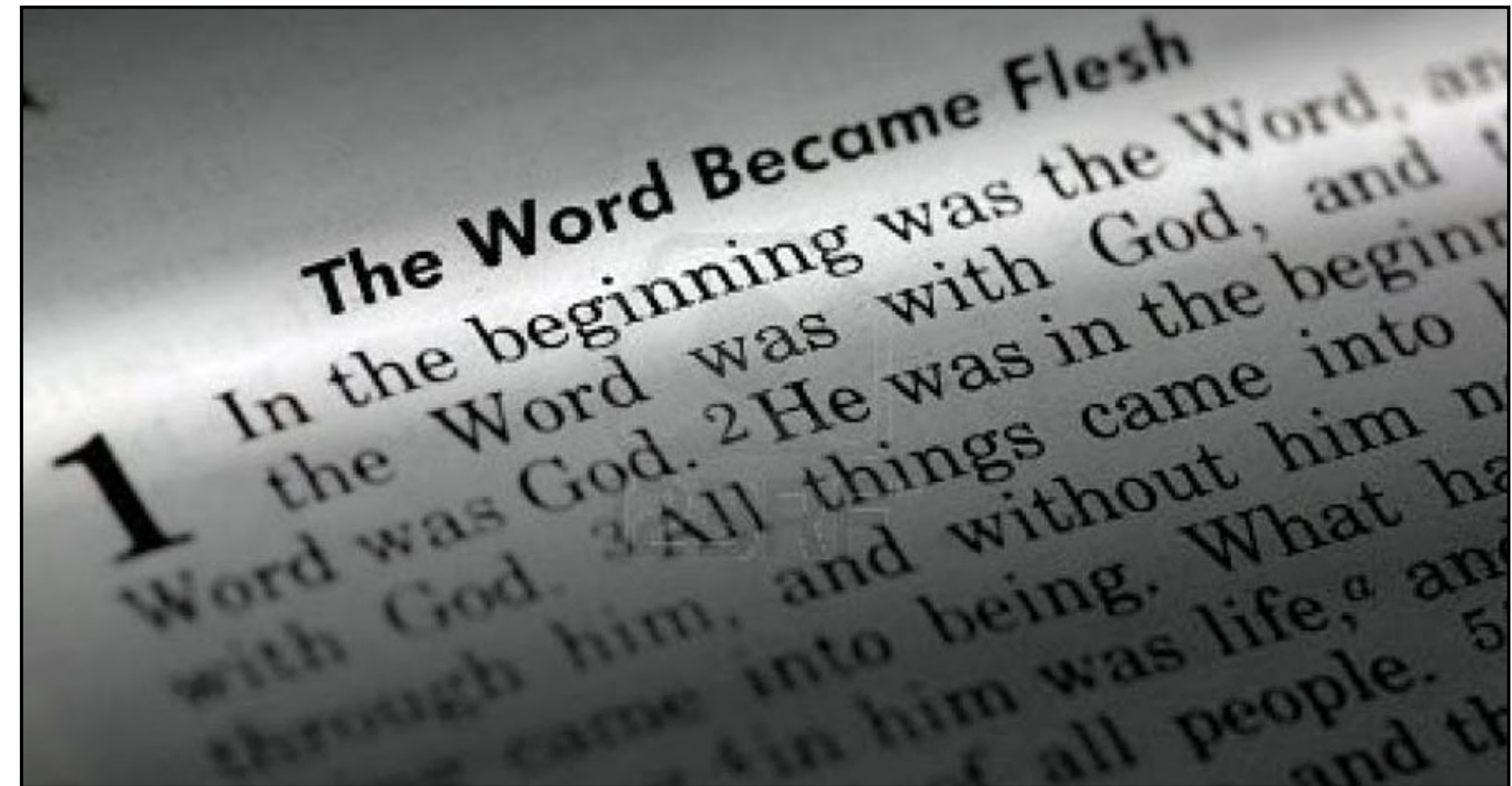

AUGUSTINE IN THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE

Art and Philosophy from Petrarch to Michelangelo

MEREDITH J. GILL

CAMBRIDGE

*Petrarch,
Father of Humanism*

RATIONALITY

The significance of 'Logos'
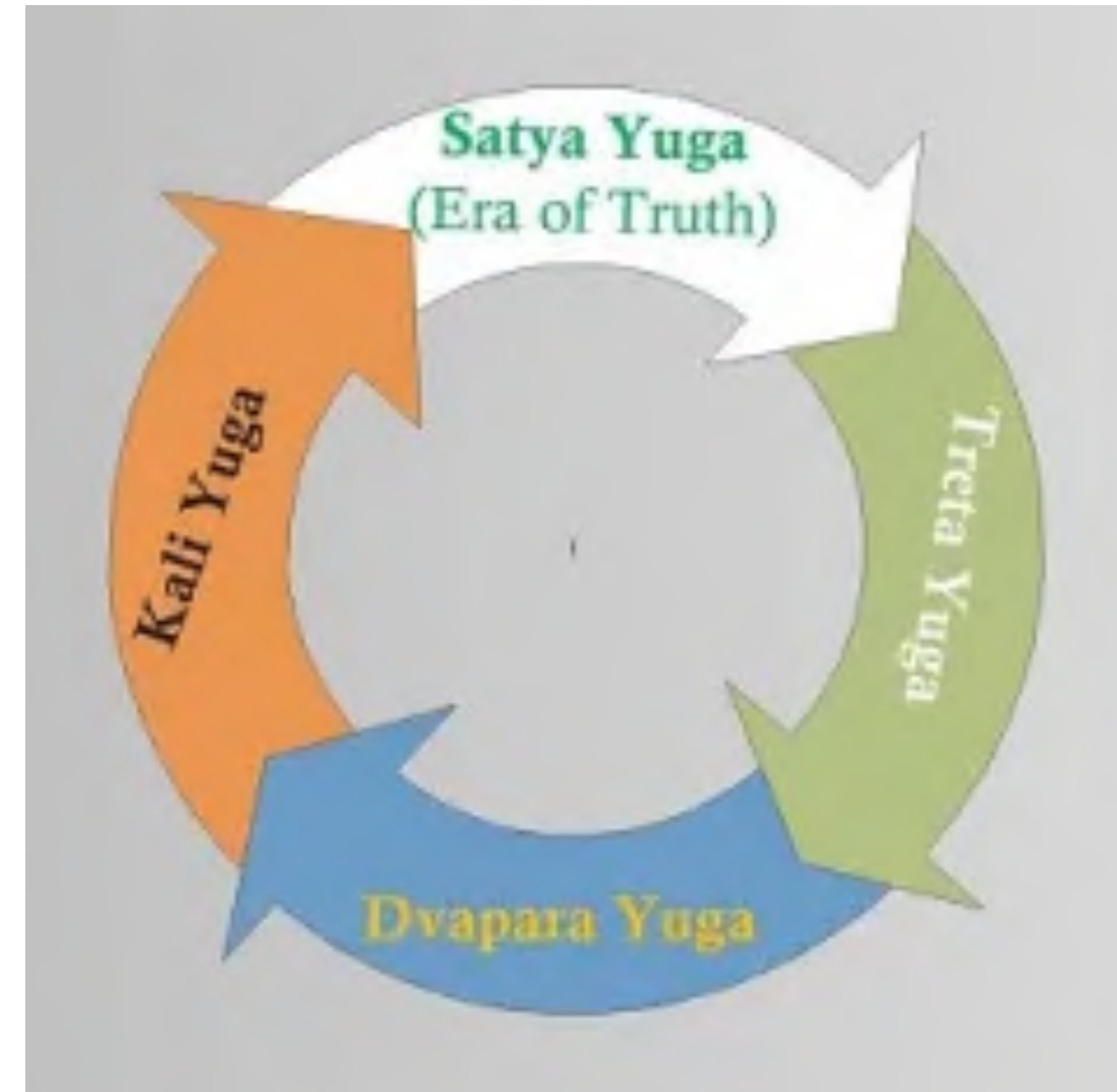## What made the West a thinking civilization?

- The Bible informs that the ultimate reality behind the universe is the rational Word, Logos of a personal God

- 'Logos' entered time and space with Jesus

- Contrasted with primeval silence, senseless sound mantra, energy or impersonal consciousness

- Mechanical path to salvation: Transcendental Meditation started by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. Mantra, name of Hindu god, recited mindlessly by focusing attention on scared sound like aum. Goal to empty mind of all rational thought, not to know truth, to transcend thinking, **achieve avigya** - ignorance

- Creation is product of cosmic illusion, Maya. Hindu philosophical tradition did not cultivate intellect and rationality

- Jesus said, "I am the truth". **If God speaks to us in rational words, then human rationality is really significant**

- The theological assumption that the way to know the truth is to cultivate our minds and meditate on God's Word constitutes the basis of Western civilization

Biblical worldview provided rationale for believing reason
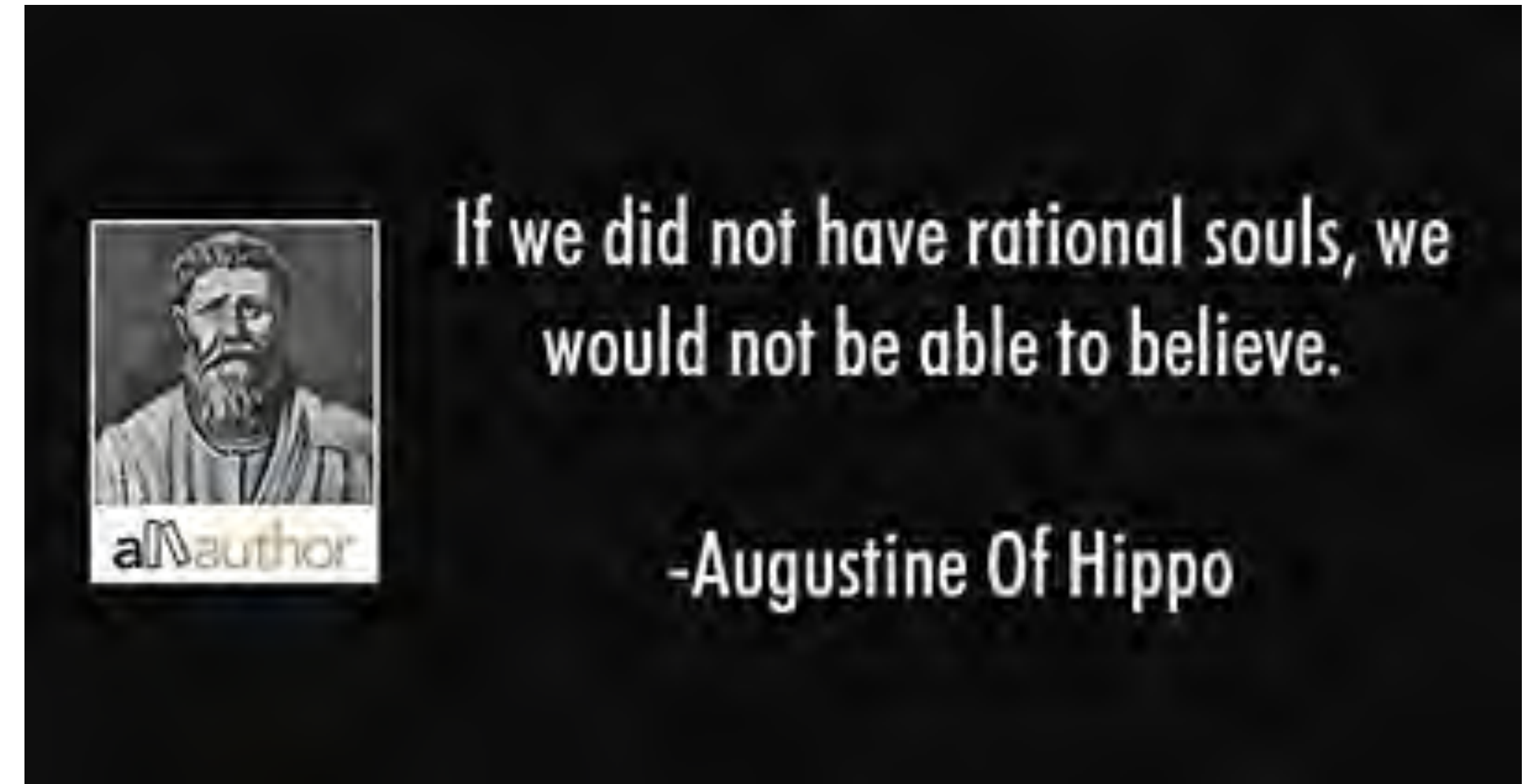
View of time as real and linear

- Greek platonism and gnosticism are suspicious of time. Time is cyclical or 'Maya' in Hinduism because incarnations are mythical not historical

- Jews believed **time is real and linear. God acts in history**

- This view of time is hallmark of Christian orthodoxy and saved West from gnosticism

- Rationality was part of the nature of God given to man; systematization of revealed truth instead of mind-altering drugs, meditation, sexual exercises by Asian monks

Biblical worldview provided rationale for believing reason
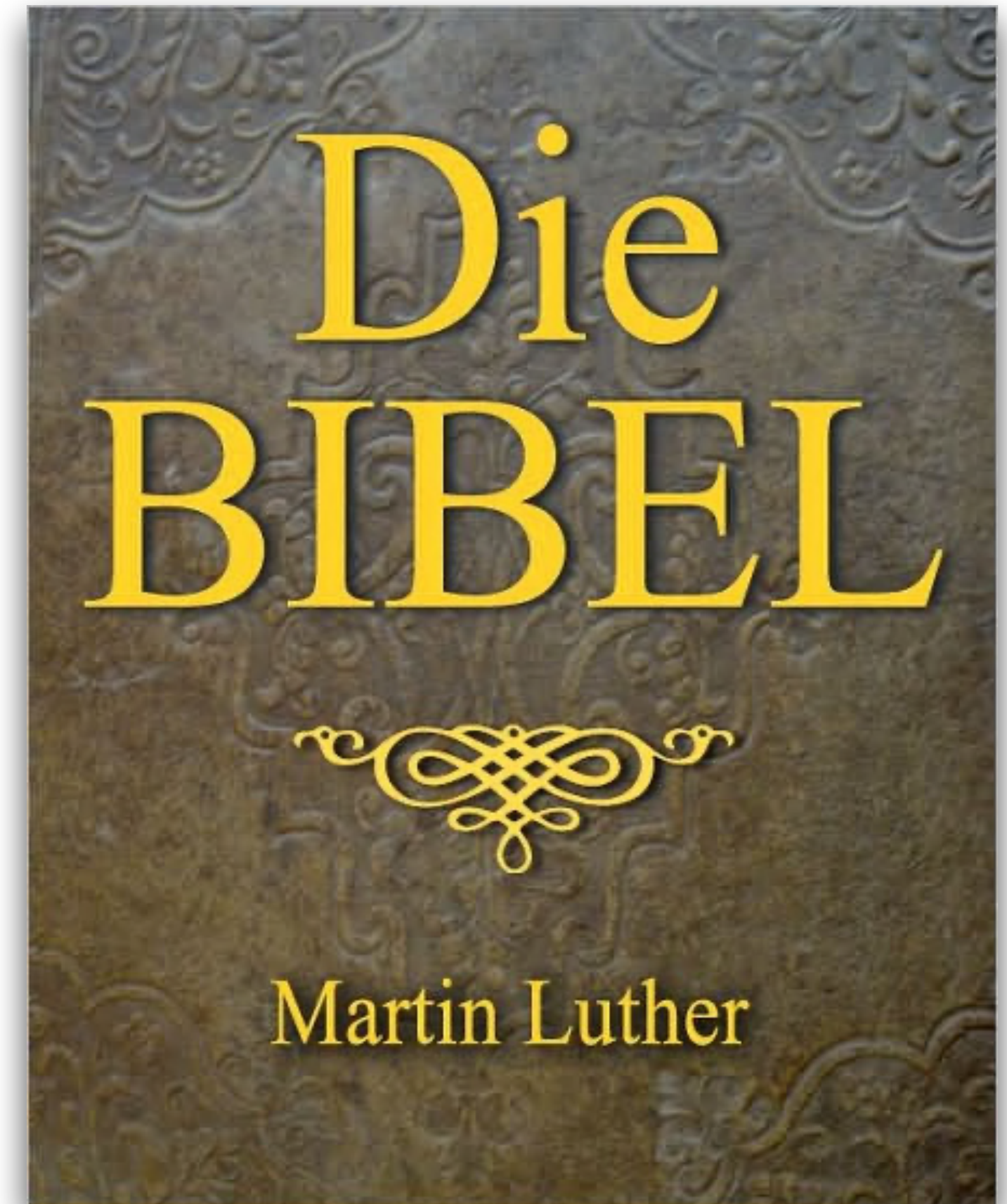
The light of logic in the Middle Ages

- Augustine 354 AD and Boethius 480 AD were church fathers who played key roles in preserving logic and lent intellectual foundations to middle ages, Renaissance, Reformation

- Skeptics questioned whether human self existed, or our minds meant anything, whether our wills were really free

- In the middle ages, reason and rationality had everything to do with Theology, Religion, Church and became more pronounced after universities were founded ~1200 AD

If we did not have rational souls, we would not be able to believe.

-Augustine Of Hippo

Relationship to intellectual awakening
Wisdom literature: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

- Greeks had rejected rationality completely in favour of mysticism

- Mass awakening of European mind: Lollards, Wycliffe, Tyndale, Luther translated the bible into the vernacular. People began to read and think for themselves

- Catholic church was seeped in superstition of relics, pilgrimages, belief in purgatory

- Ale houses and taverns became debating clubs questioning traditions of church and state and applying Biblical wisdom to intellectual and social questions of the day

- Logical revolution spread to other aspects of people's lives. From middling power, Protestant countries propelled to world politics, economics, thought - '**peculiar relationship b/w biblical spirituality and intellectual awakening**'

Die BIBEL

Martin Luther

TECHNOLOGY

Role played by monks in developing Technology
The sociology of technology as a fruit of Biblical worldview
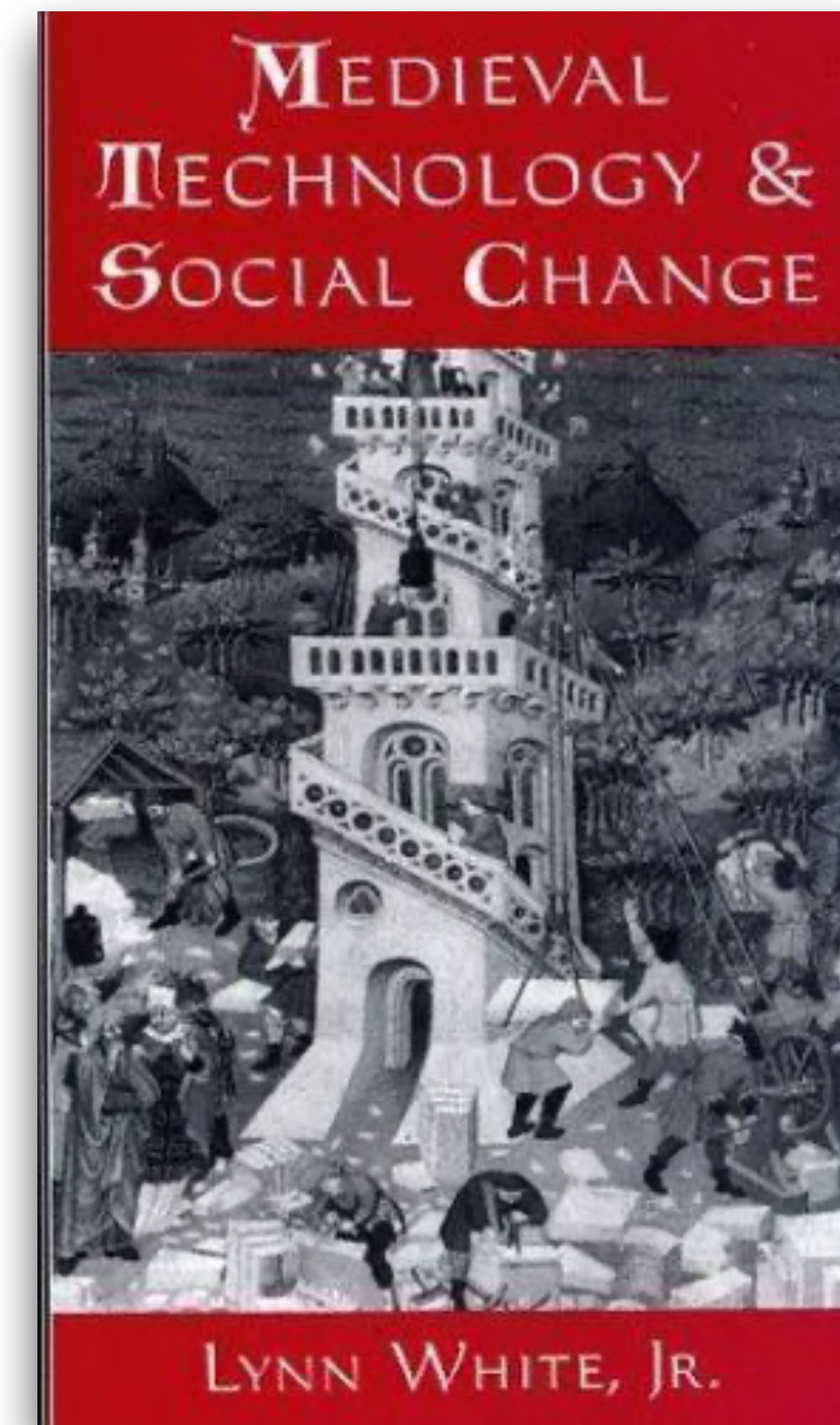
- Aldous Huxley, pioneer of contemporary environmentalism, blamed Christianity for ecological crisis of modern world

  - God commanded humans to establish their dominion as stewards over the earth

  - Church has affirmed man's value over nature's

- Pollution kills far more people in less technologically advanced countries

- Lack of pumped water in India led to shameful Hindu practice forcing untouchables to carry human waste in a container over their heads

- Other cultures (Egyptian pyramids) have used technology for the ruling elite for war, pleasure, monuments, oppression

- Only one culture for general welfare. Historian Lynn White Jr - **humanitarian technology came out of Biblical theology and was not rooted in economic necessity**

Role played by monks in developing Technology
The sociology of technology as a fruit of Biblical worldview

- White pointed to new methods of crop rotation and plowing and tied them to the rise of manor-based collective farming and the shift in European prosperity and power from the Mediterranean to the North. White also touched on the stirrup, the lateen sail, the wheel barrow, the spinning wheel, the hand crank, water-driven mills and wind mills

- **Development of technology not merely a matter of ingenuity**

  - Chinese clock making did not become an industry as it did in Europe; no desire to know or organize time

  - Water mill invented century before Christ. Usefulness for grinding grain known in Afghanistan, yet Christian monks in Europe put it to widespread use for grinding and developing power machinery

MEDIEVAL TECHNOLOGY & SOCIAL CHANGE

LYNN WHITE, JR.

White concluded: "The chief glory of the later Middle Ages was not its cathedrals or its epics or its scholasticism: it was the building for the first time in history of a complex civilization which rested not on the backs of sweating slaves or coolies but primarily on non-human power"

and he credited this as well as Western primacy in technology to Western theology's "activist" tradition and "implicit assumption of the infinite worth of even the most degraded human personality" and its "repugnance towards subjecting any man to monotonous drudgery"

Role played by monks in developing Technology
The sociology of technology as a fruit of Biblical worldview

- Historian Erntz Benz's seminal essay in 1964. Bible presented a God who was a **creator and architect of cosmos**, commanding man to rule over earth creatively; not a dreamer, dancer

- Unique Christian idea that matter created for spiritual purpose. Adam not to despise or transcend it but to take care of earth.

- **Judeo-Christian view of reality and destiny produced and nurtured technology in 4 ways**

  - Bible emphasized intelligent craftsmanship of the world's design

  - Humans participate in divine workmanship by being good artisans themselves

  - We follow divine example when using physical universe for righteous ends

  - Use time wisely because each moment is valuable, one time opportunity

- Christianity destroyed classical animism - humans not spirits were meant to rule over nature; using nature rationally for human ends

- New birth included reorientation of will to do good works (moral activism against sin) combined with strong work ethic - conducive to promoting liberating technology, especially true after Protestant Reformation

Why did Christian monks develop technology?

- Buddhist monks did not lack creative genius. Constructed Buddha statutes in Bamiyan which lasted millennia

- Crucial difference required monks - Beg for food, v work for theirs ("if a man did not work, he could not eat")

- **Bible distinguished work from toil**

  - To work was to be like God

  - Curse on sin - mindless, repetitive, dehumanizing labor

  - People must do what other species or natural forces cannot do, use creative reason to liberate humans from curse of toil

  - Western technology predates Western science by `5 centuries due to revitalization of human spirit after dark ages, technology as force for human emancipation and empowerment

- Ancient philosophers supported slavery, no concept of sin and no revelation from which to begin critiquing slavery

- Anti-slavery doctrines in Christian theology soon after decline of Rome, accompanied by eventual disappearance of slavery except in fringes of Christian Europe

- Technological advances made slave labor unnecessary (horse harness, lateen sail); oppression of women and children in other cultures
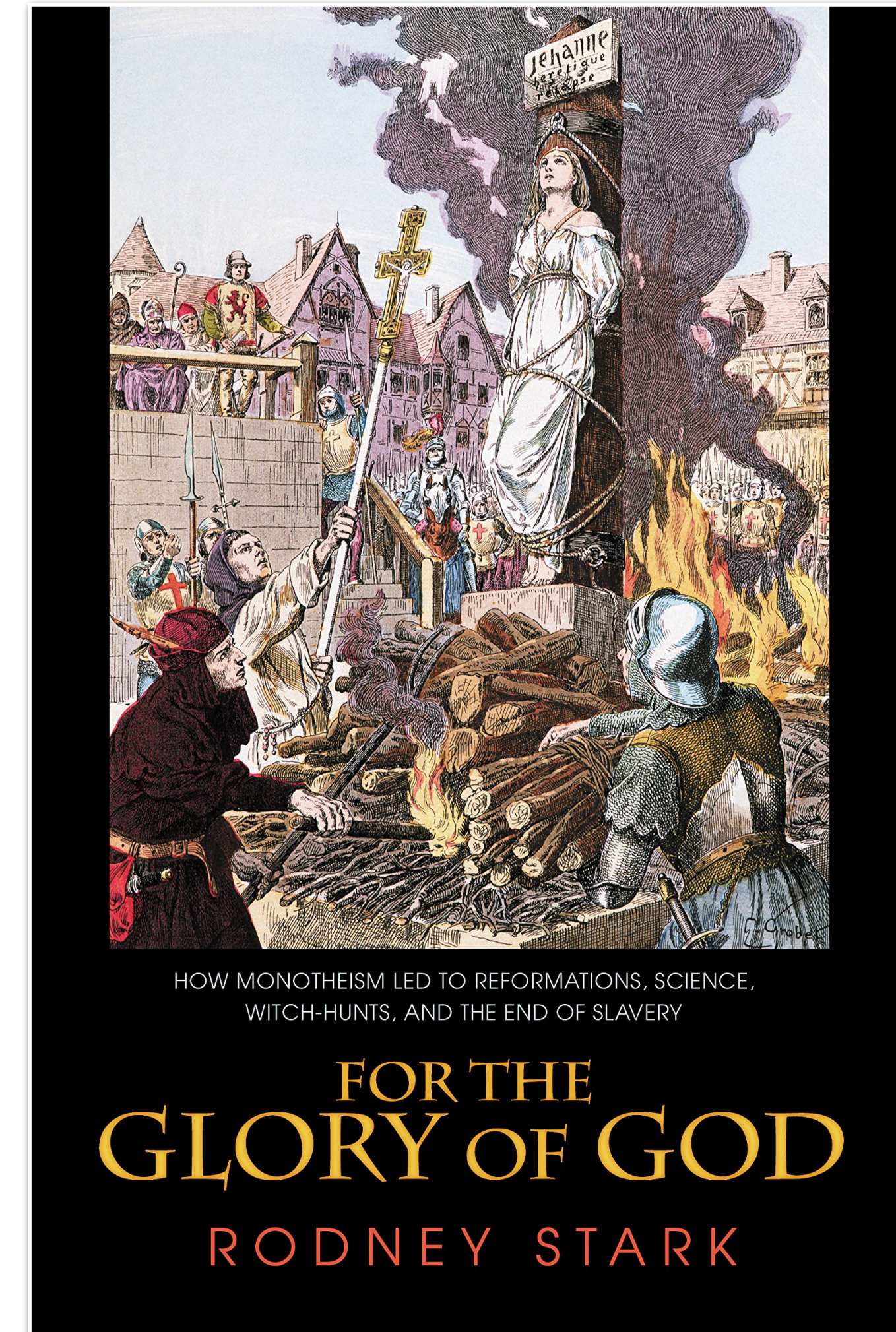

Christian artist depicted use of horse in agriculture in a church because it reflected Biblical values

Technology is secular but Secularism does not liberate

- A people needs more than ingenuity to develop their land and technology, increase productivity, save for emergencies. Need wise leadership, political stability, fair taxation, just laws, economic security - incentive against creativity or productivity

- Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim kingdoms did not exist to serve people. People existed for glory of rulers not God

- Historian's accounts of daily routines of Mughal diwan-i-khas of ruthless violence, extortion, petty tyrants, helps understand nature of non Biblical leadership

- Rulers were exploiting subjects to build grand monuments and artifacts - Red fort in Delhi, Taj Mahal, Peacock Throne

- Without good shepherds, slavery, oppression of women, untouchables will be norm

- Non-biblical cultures need more than technology, a philosophy that values people

- Rodney Stark on slavery and abolition, enlightenment figures fully accepted slavery. **Moral indictment of slavery assembled by men and women who opposed slavery because it was sin**

HOW MONOTHEISM LED TO REFORMATIONS, SCIENCE, WITCH-HUNTS, AND THE END OF SLAVERY
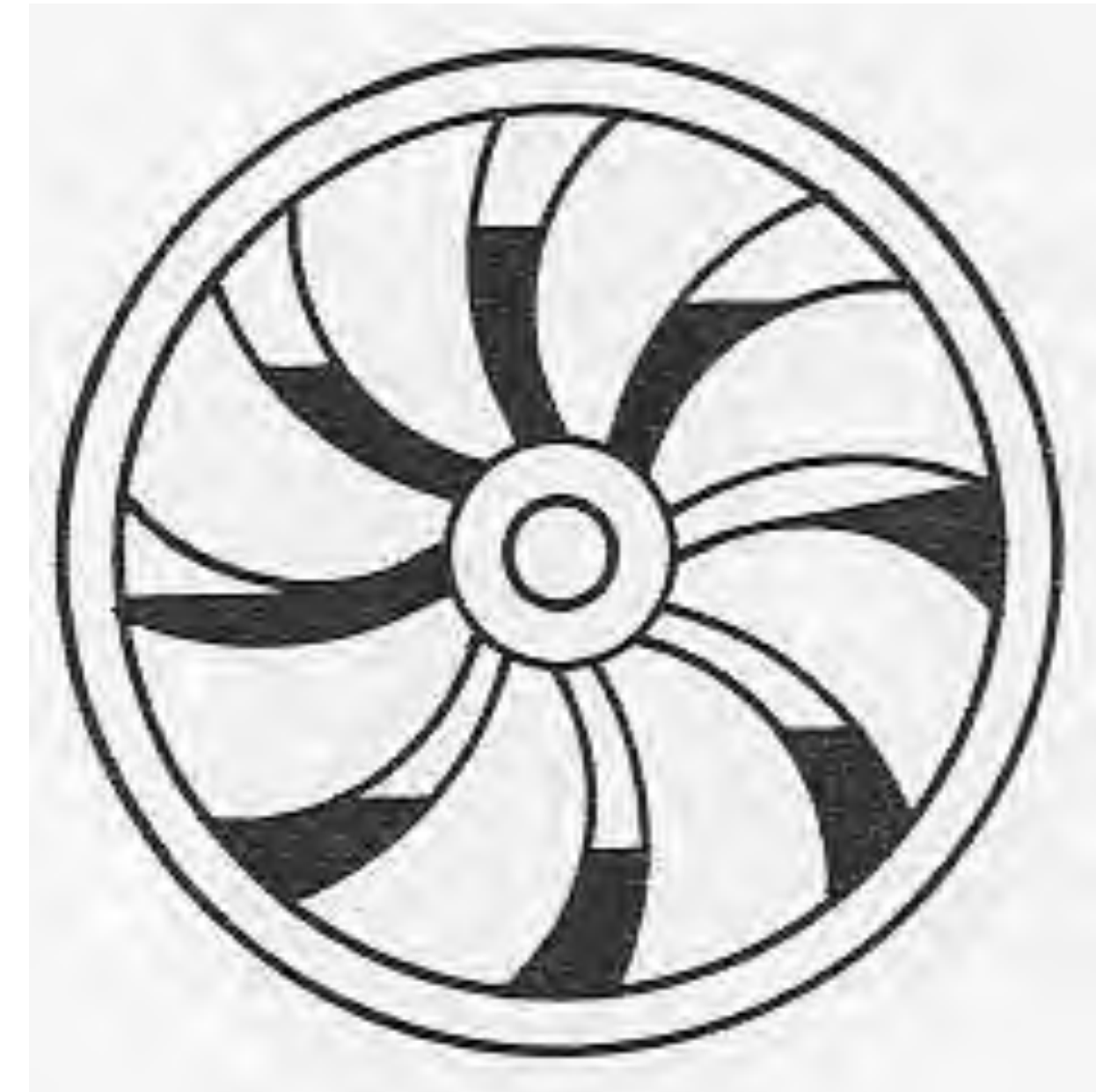
FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

RODNEY STARK

"The excesses of political correctness have all but erased awareness that slavery was once nearly universal to all societies that could afford it, and that only in the West did significant moral opposition ever arise and lead to abolition"

Inventions from others cultures failed in development of technology

- Watermill appeared in 1st century BC in Denmark, Turkey, China

- Windmill in Tibet to rotate Buddhist prayer cylinders, 6th century AD, Iran and Afghanistan to grind grain

- Watermill and windmill reinvented to relieve monks from drudgery and power labor-saving devices in milling, tanning, blacksmithing and other industries. Narrator thanks God that such machines can alleviate oppressive labor of man and beast

- Crank, most important invention after wheel, replaced human arm, liberating humans for creative endeavours

- Wheelbarrow (could be Chinese invention) - failed to use it for socio-economic potential

- Flywheel described by theologian Theophilus, came from religious motivations to use creativity for glory of God and service of weak

- Core idea for clock inspired by Indian mathematician, Bhaskaracharya's view of perpetual motion described in Siddhanta Shiromani AD 1150. **William of Auvergne, bishop of Paris 1228 AD**, put forward idea of clock to use abstract mathematical notions to practical use for time management of monks

- Time as physical reality versus eternal, terrible god Kaal, or as part of cosmic illusion, Maya
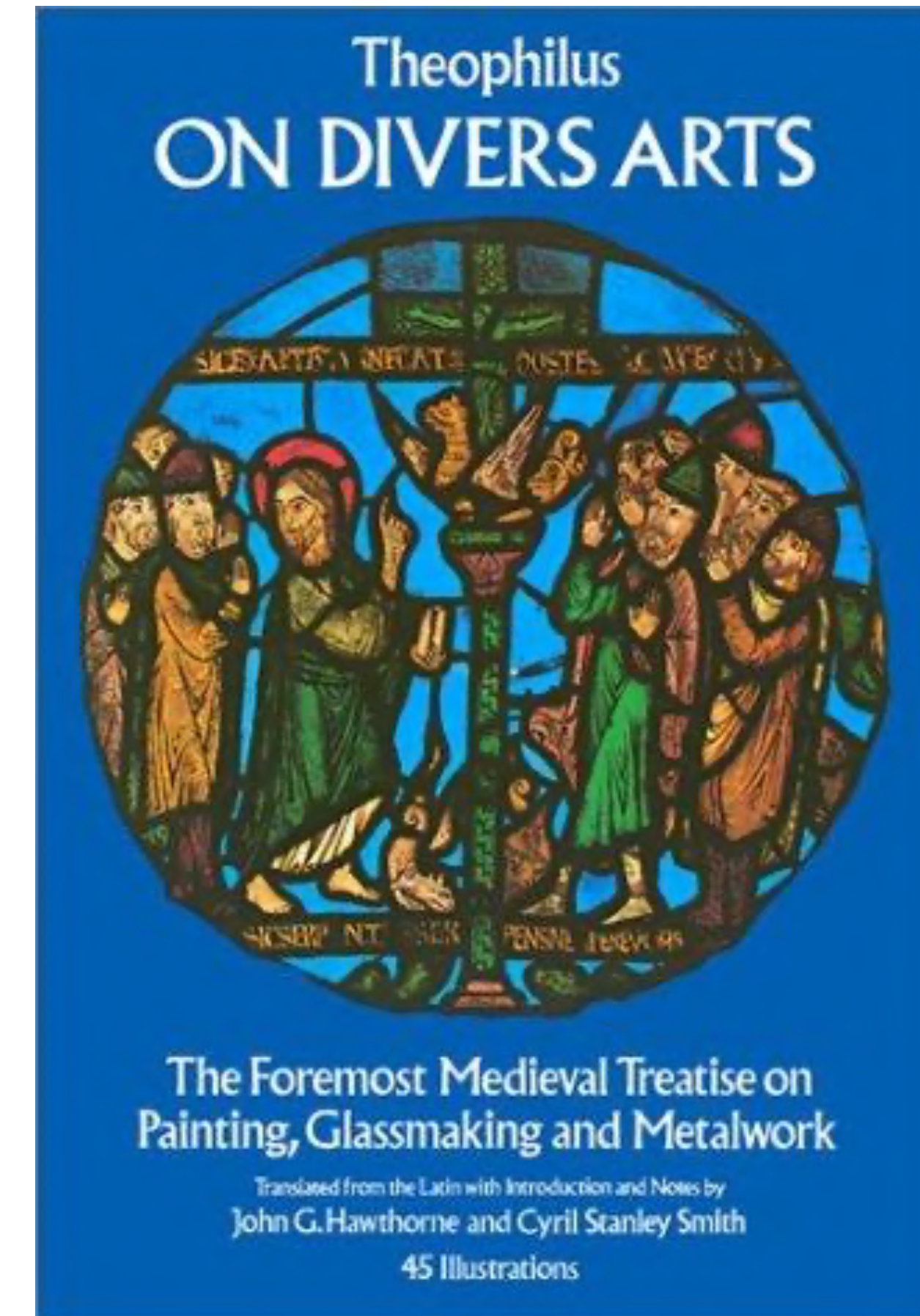

Perpetual motion wheel

No dichotomy of hand and head
Anti labor and anti technological snobbishness of Greco Roman literature

- **Eyeglasses** invented in 1280 near Pisa, monks were main patrons, to study the Bible. Doubled productive life of western scholars and craftsmen. Christian monks were able to spend mature years improving texts and technologies, role in Renaissance

- Indian monks closed eyes in meditation. 'Fly' to galaxies, out of body experiences, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, promoter of TM in West, popularized Yogic technique of meditation through levitation in corporate America

- **English Benedictine monk, Eilmer of Wiltshire Abbey,** first European in 11th century made a glider which flew for 600 ft

- Initial monastic movement was quest for authentic Biblical Christianity, and followed the Bible in exalting virtue of manual labor, unlike ancient world. **God who liberated Jews worked for 6 days and commanded humans to do the same**

- Hindu tradition conceives of God as mediator or **yogeshwar** (god of yoga)

- Brahmins believed manual work was duty of lower castes, result of bad karma from previous birth. Gandhi tried to import Pauline work ethic into India, with spinning wheel

German monk, Metallurgist, Craftsman, Writer, Theologian, 1122 first major document on history of technology

Postmodernism condemns technology as dehumanizing force

Hollywood exalts magic of buddhist meditation over tech innovation, humanity v machines

- Mahatma Gandhi - anti technology stance, simple natural life morally superior

- Jawaharlal Nehru studied in England, first PM of India, **England's Christian conscience had struggled to minimize evils of industrial revolution;** led India away from handlooms into mechanization and industrialization

- During 17th century Mughal years, Indian agriculture dependant on rains despite northern perennial rivers fed by Himalayan glaciers

- No dams, canals, warehouses built as buffer in drought for peasants

- Pre-Aryan Indus Valley civilization had access to warehousing tech `1500 years before Christ

212 AGRA AND DIVERS PERTICULARITIES THERE [REL. XV

Fabrick is 4 square[1], such a stately gate and such rancks of small Cipresse Trees.

This Kinge is now buildinge a Sepulchre for his late deceased Queene Tage Moholl [Tāj Mahal][2] (as much to say att[3] the brightnes of the Moholl), whome hee dearely affected, haveing had by her 9 or 10 children, and thought in her life tyme to use noe other woman (which is strange if true consideringe their libertie in that kinde). He intends it shall excell all other. The place appoynted [is] by the river side where shee is buried, brought from Brampore [Burhānpur] where shee dyed accompanyinge him in his warrs, as shee did all the tyme of his troubles[4].

Pre modern India's finest achievement. Shahjahan started construction in 1631. Eyewitness accounts from Peter Mundy, who traveled across this region during that time, "Highway stowed with dead bodies from Surat to Burhanpur. Dead bodies everywhere. Noisome smell from a neighboring pit where 40 dead bodies were thrown. Survivors searching for grains in excrement of men and animals. Women were seen to roast their children. A man or women no sooner dead but cut into pieces to be eaten. Monsoon had failed and people had nothing to eat"
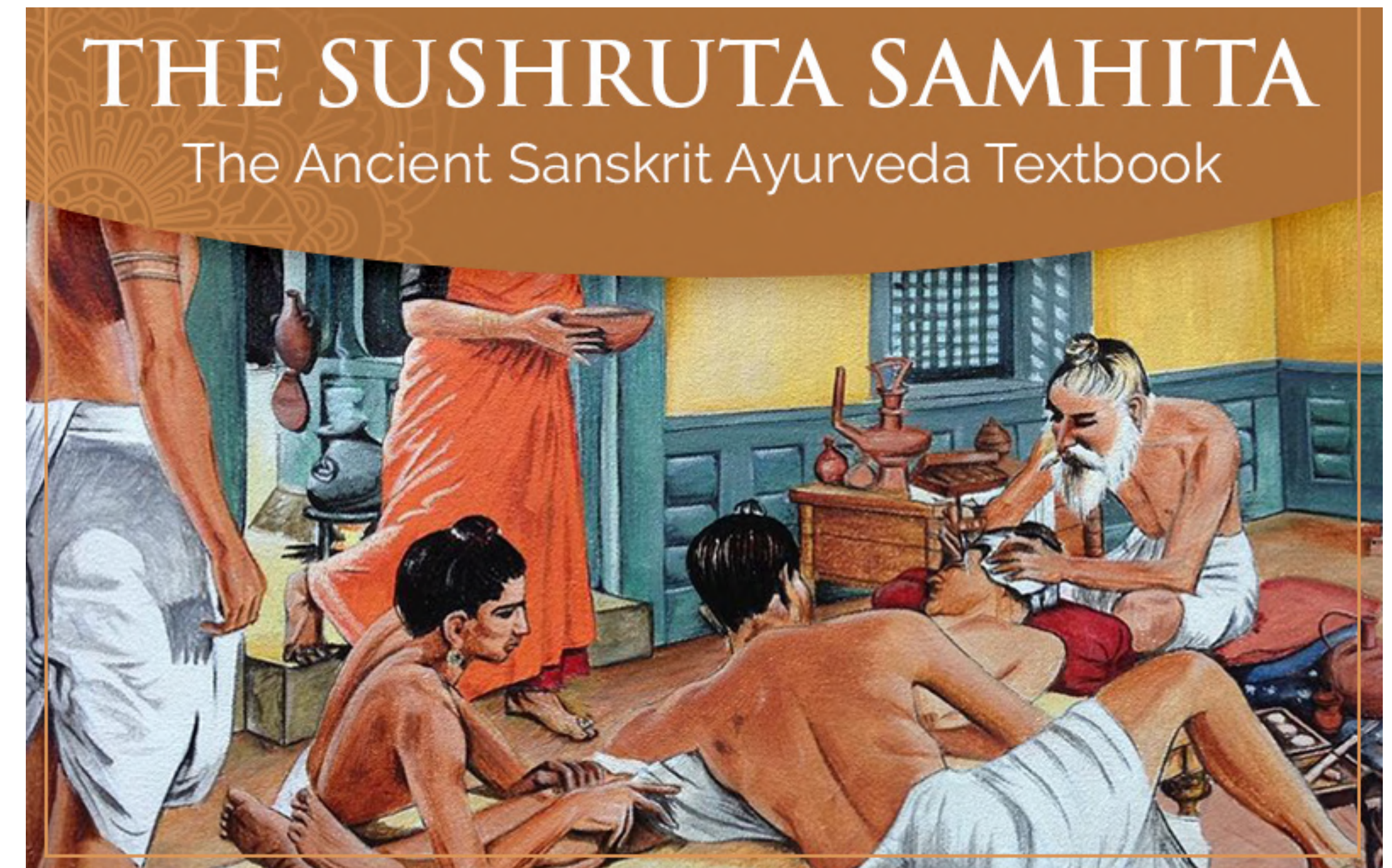
How Christianity revolutionized India

HOW THE BIBLE CHANGED INDIA

SCIENCE

Science: What is its source?
Faith makes a difference - science & technology to establish dominion over nature

- Bible-based science developed knowledge in small increments like a puzzle because God had already given us the big picture

- Secular universities have survived because larger culture had retained Biblical outlook

- Having rejected Bible, West is trying to find meaning through myths like Greeks who realized that a finite mind cannot know universal truth

- Irony: Britain gave universities to India setting minds free and now turning to enslaving myths. It was West's quest for truth that birthed science

- A culture may have capable individuals, but **they don't look for laws of nature if it is enchanted and ruled by millions of deities who don't follow established laws**

- Ancient India's great surgeon Sushruta (600 BC) in Varanasi but his tradition didn't develop into scientific medicine

- 5th century, Aryabhatta suggested earth rotates on its axis and revolves around sun

- Indian mathematicians, introduced zero, Ramagupta, Mahavir, Bhaskara, eons ahead of West

THE SUSHRUTA SAMHITA
The Ancient Sanskrit Ayurveda Textbook

Theory of nature consistent with Christian theology
Polytheistic animistic and Greek cosmological (Gaia) view of nature

- Lacked philosophical motivation (world is unreal and is Maya or illusion), sought to escape world and meditate inwardly to find reality there

- Recover God's mandate to establish human dominion over earth. Religio-scientific exercise that collected data to show design in nature, which Darwin theorized to be due to random natural selection

- Prior to intertwining with technology and industry, until 19th century, **science was subdivision of theology, natural philosophy or general revelation**

- Particular way of viewing material world - physical universe was real, understandable because God created it as rational, ordered and regulated by natural laws

- Because of spread of Western education, most educated people do not realize that **scientific way of seeing nature is peculiar way of observing the world - objective method molded by Biblical worldview.** This perspective is not natural, universal, or common sense

Gaea (or Gaia), primordial "Mother Earth" who governed the universe before the Titans
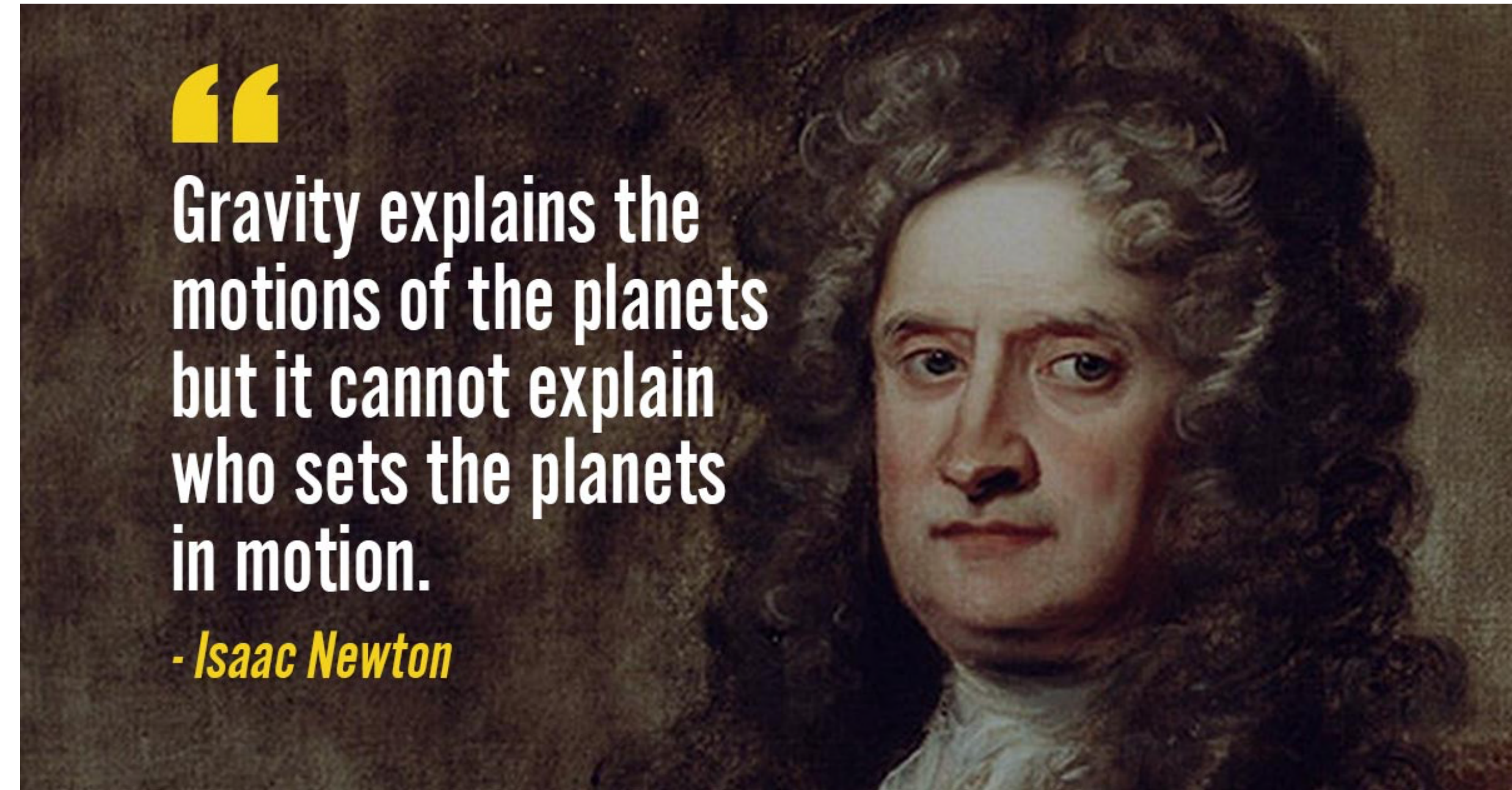
Biblical doctrine of creation is unique

The world is completely dependent on God, God is discontinuous with the world and its order is not an intrinsic property

- Theologians pursued science for Biblical reasons, germinating in 13th & 14th centuries, blossomed after 16th century Reformation with spread of literacy

- Notion of fundamental laws of nature derived from belief in **divine Lawgiver**

- **Descartes**: 6 laws God has put into nature

- **Newton**: highest aim of scientific work was to give evidence of laws impressed upon nature by God

- Alfred Whitefield, Harvard lectures, 1925: Western science sprung from Bible's teaching that cosmos was product of intelligible rationality of personal being, God. Hence, personal beings, humans, could understand cosmos

- **Formation of scientific movement:** belief that every detailed occurrence can be correlated with its antecedents in a perfectly definite manner exemplifying general principles without which scientific labor would be without hope. Motive of research that there is a secret which can be unveiled

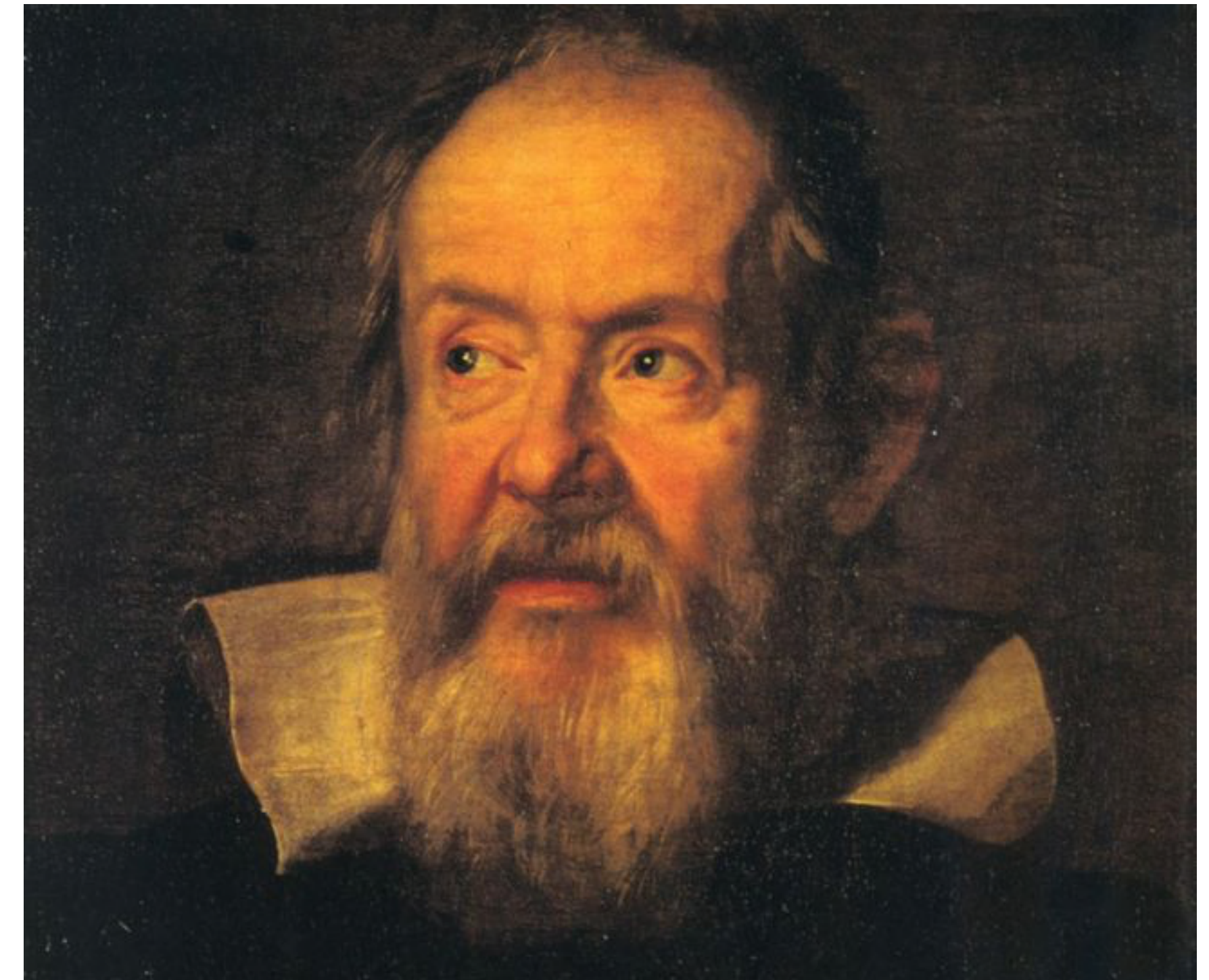" Gravity explains the motions of the planets but it cannot explain who sets the planets in motion.

- Isaac Newton

The rationality of God contrasted to other cultures

Conception of Lawgiver imposing ordinances on nature absent, despite many insights into nature

- Observed accurately but **made no effort to empirically verify their explanations or model the world**

- Copernicus, 1473 formed prelim Heliocentric theory, but it was Newton, 1642 who modelled planetary orbits due to gravity

- Without explanation, one can have facts but not science. Biblical culture turned **astrology into astronomy,** alchemy into chemistry, mathematics into language of science

- Rodney Stark explored Bible's role in pioneering scientific revolution - 'for the glory of God', U of W

- List of 52 most important scientists who pioneered scientific revolution, all but 2 were Christians. 60% were devout who did science for the glory of God.

- Included Robert Boyle who funded translation into various languages, Newton who wrote on theology and prophecy

- William Occam (Occam's razor), Oxford (1285): God's ordained power by which He condescends to work within the natural and moral law He established

- Galileo Galilei, 1564 - **God's two books, book of Nature and book of God's Word.** One of founders of scientific method who relied on empirical observation over human logic or authority
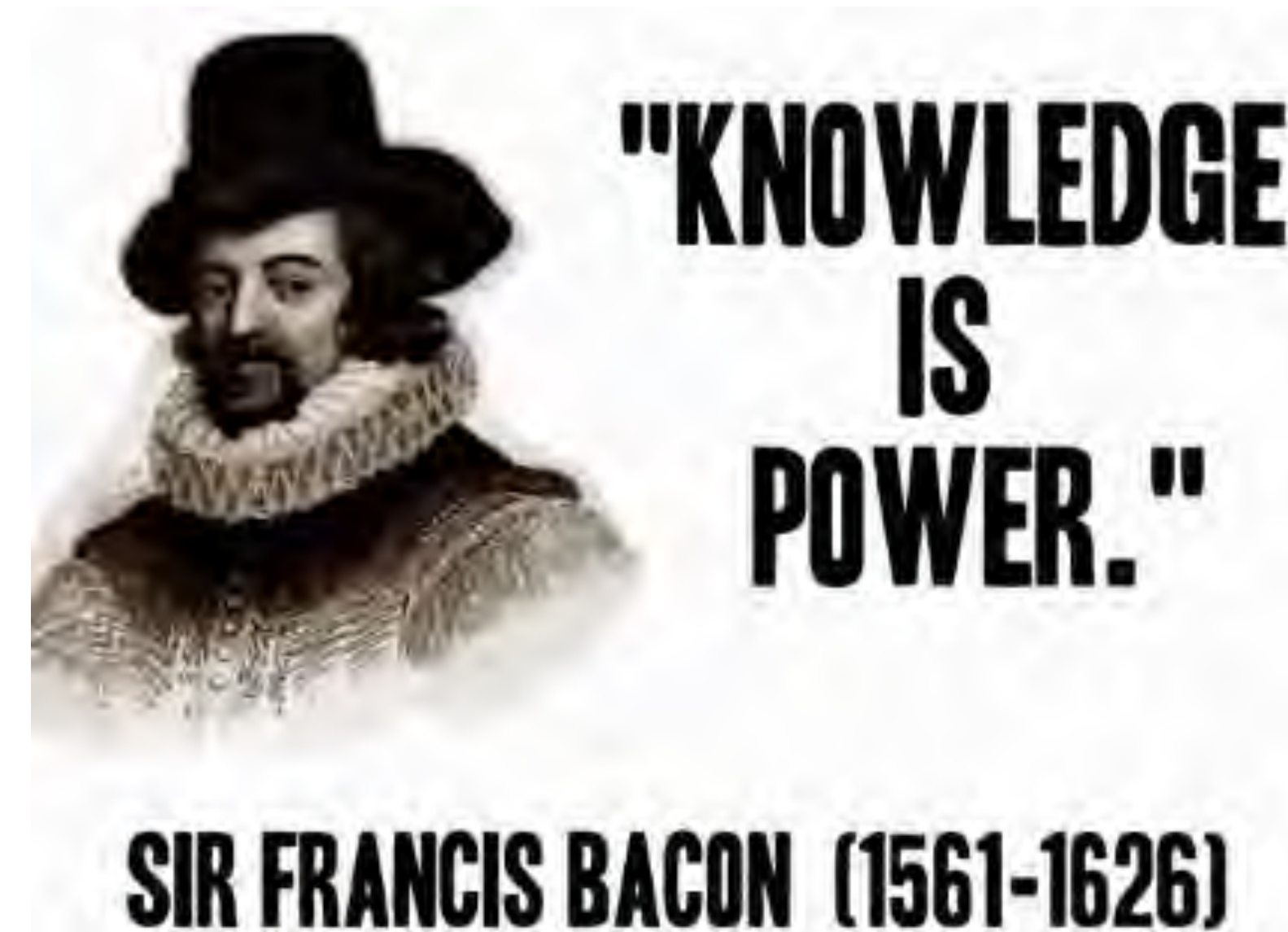

Galileo's Letter to the Church (1632)

for the Holy Bible and the phenomena of nature proceed alike from the divine Word, the former as the dictate of the Holy Ghost and the latter as the observant executrix of God's commands. For the Bible is not chained in every expression to conditions as strict as those which govern all physical effects; nor is God any less excellently revealed in Nature's actions than in sacred statements of the Bible. Perhaps this is what Tertullian meant by these words. 'We conclude that God is known first through Nature, and then again, more particularly, by doctrine; by Nature in His words, and by doctrine in His revealed word.

Sin and science

Redemption meant recovery of creative and ordered knowledge of natural world (not flight from world, or mystical absorption into God)

- Bible's teaching on creation was key factor in birth of modern science. Biblical perspectives on sin, the curse and salvation

- Gnosticism material world was evil. God could not have incarnated in a material body

- Christians lived in same world filled with inexplicable suffering

- John refuted gnostic teaching as demonic heresy, the physical incarnation, resurrection, ascension was ultimate proof that matter was good and existed for God's glory

- Bible deals with real problems in a physical world, suffering as an abnormality that God hates and due to fall into sin. Crown of creation fell, dominion over creation fell with him. Sin hinders attempts to establish dominion over earth

- Reformation awakened popular interest in discovering and knowing truth which in turn, boosted science

- Since all things exist for the glory of God, and heavens declare His glory, **Christians should study all things, including the heavens**

"KNOWLEDGE IS POWER."

SIR FRANCIS BACON (1561-1626)

"Man by the Fall fell at the same time from the state of innocence and from his dominion over creation.

Both of these losses, however, can even in this life be in some part repaired; the former by religion and faith, the latter by arts and sciences.

LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

Jesus preached in the people's language
Reformers followed Jesus and apostles' example

- Jesus preached in **Aramaic**, language of the people since Hebrew was a scholarly language

- Scripture was written in Koine, the trade language of the Roman Empire

- Jerome translated Hebrew and Greek Bible in 405 AD into Latin known as Vulgate (common language/vulgar)

- For 1000 years, Bible was not translated into dialects of the people, which had no written form. Allowed Roman church to tighten grip on people

- Reformers fostered an environment where language could develop and flourish; German, French, English allowing spiritual and secular knowledge to flow

- Languages of people became strong enough to become languages of law, technology, marketplace, allowing **people to participate in public affairs** instead of Latin-speaking elite

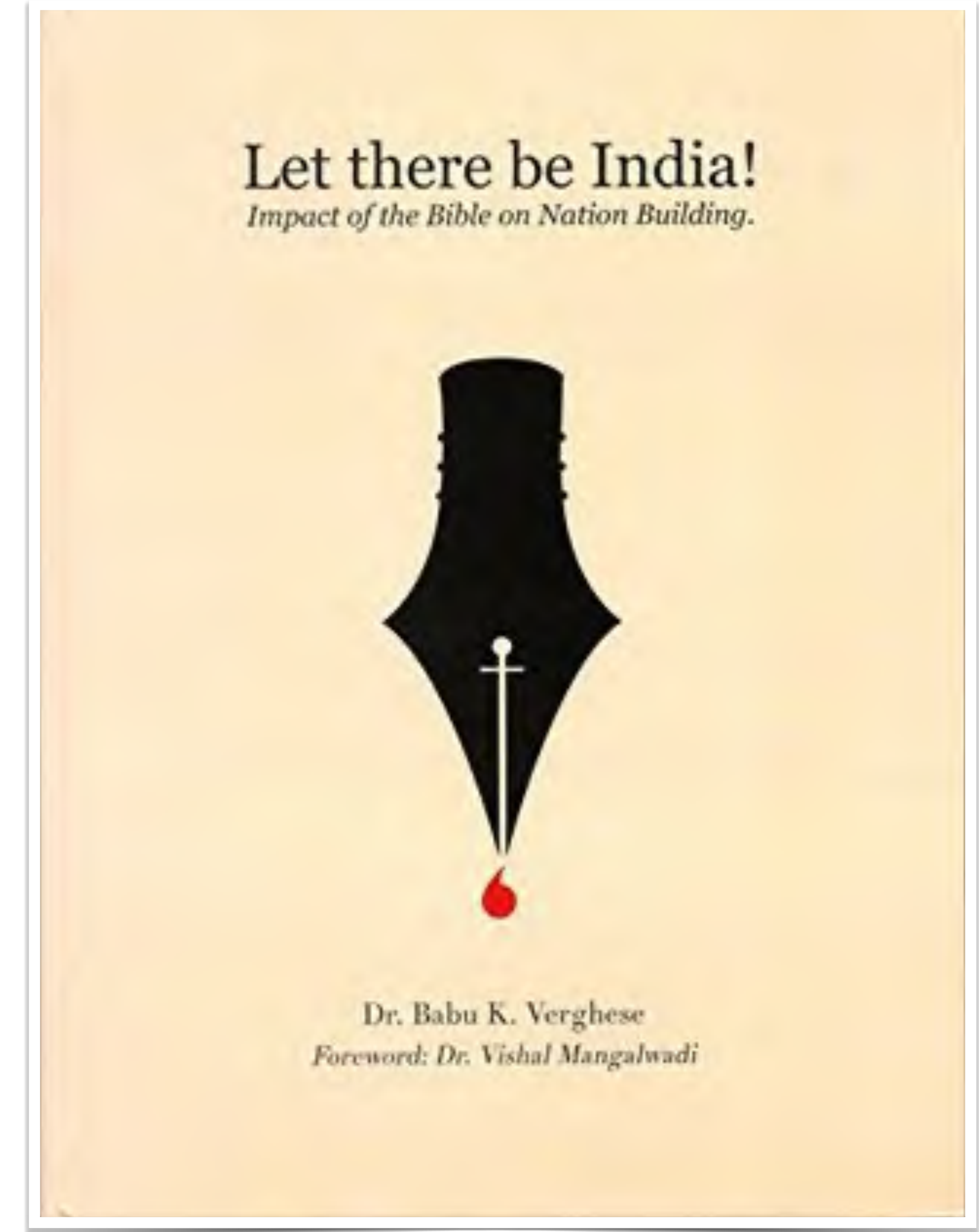Indeed we are a nation whose ideals are founded on the Bible. Also, it is quite impossible to understand our history or literature without grasping this fact.
The truths of the Judaic-Christian tradition are infinitely precious, not only, as I believe because they are true, but also because they provide the moral impulse which alone can lead to that peace, in the true meaning of the word, for which we all long.

Bible translators created 73 modern literary Indian languages

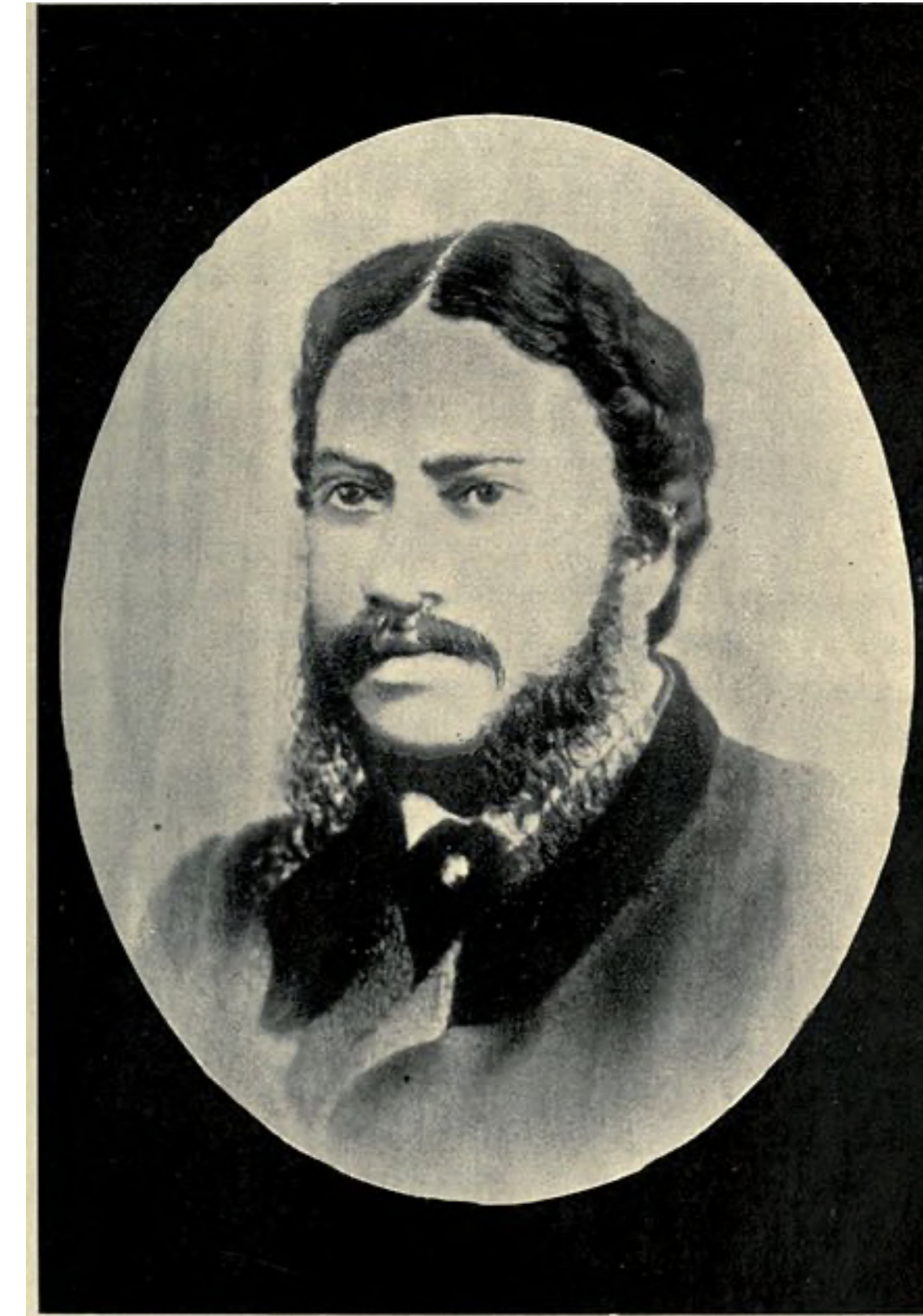## Forged dialects, created grammar, rules, dictionaries

- Missionaries struggled against East India company's commercial interests

- One way to keep government of the rulers, for the rulers, and by the rulers is to run to in a language not understood by the ruled

- Sanskrit, in pre-British India was not shared with women or non-Brahmin males

- British Bible translator Henry Martin, 1781 forged Northern Delhi dialects into literary language, **modern Urdu, now Pakistan's national language**

- Rev Gilchrist and missionary linguist, Kellogg in Allahabad coalesced 12 dialects for developing modern Hindi from dialect spoken by poet Tulsidas, 1532, and wrote 'A grammar of the Hindi language'

- William Carey, the father of modern India, led Bible translation and publication for 40 years. Helped abolish widow burning

- Decades of sacrificial work allowed Hindustani to become court language at lower admin levels. Peasants could go to British court in North India and be understood

Let there be India!
Impact of the Bible on Nation Building.

Dr. Babu K. Verghese
Foreword: Dr. Vishal Mangalwadi

Geographic polytheism's impact on national identity

Made India vulnerable to Mughals and then Europeans

- In Indian polytheism each tribe and caste had its distinct god. Hence each caste had its own dharma or religious duty. **Could not be united as equals under one law from one God** that applied equally to all people groups

- Monotheism - one God who loves the world, who chose Abraham to bless all nations of earth through him

- Inspiration for balance between nationalism and internationalism

- Non-Aryans categorized as dasa (slaves), dasyu (servants), asura (demons), rakshas (monsters), mallinja (untouchables)

- Bible translators began to create a new national identity, attracted Indian writers such as **Madhusudan Dutt** to Christ

- Became fluent in 10 European and Indian languages. Milton wrote in English for people despite Cromwell govt's use of Latin

- He would need to write in Bengali for literary expression, **ushered in Bengali nationalist movement.** Bengal led Indian renaissance, revivalism and reformism

Madhusudan Dutt (1907)

Long sunk in superstition's night,
By Sin and Satan driven,
I saw not, cared not for the light
That leads the blind to Heaven.
But now, at length thy grace, O Lord!
Birds all around me shine;
I drink thy sweet, thy precious word,
I kneel before thy shrine!

Bible translators developed formal Indian languages
Forged dialects, created grammar, rules, dictionaries

- Brahmi script became extinct despite Ashoka's efforts to unify India through language. In Buddhism, Shunyata was ultimate reality, human mind was product of Avigya. Logic and words had no relation to truth. Buddhist monks barely studied own scriptures, empty minds not fill them with great ideas

- Every single modern Indian language was developed by Bible translators ('Let there be India')

- Bible translators created 73 modern literary languages such as Hindi, Urdu, Bengali from dialects of illiterate Indians, creating grammar and dictionaries

- Henry Martin translated Bible into Hindustani (work in settling orthography, proportion of words from Arabic and Persian)

- Gilchrist developed 'Tables and principles of Hindustani' in 1802, root of Hindi & Urdu

- Confidence that Hindi could become national language due to key figure behind work of Nagari Pracharini Sabha (society for promoting Devanagari script), American missionary Rev E. Greeves in Banaras

William Carey   William Ward   Joshua Marshman

The Serampore trio's aim was to give an education in arts and sciences to students of every "caste, colour or country" and to train people for ministry in the growing church in India.

On 5 July 1818, William Carey, Joshua Marshman and William Ward issued a prospectus for a proposed new "College for the instruction of Asiatic, Christian, and other youth in Eastern literature and European science". Thus was born Serampore College - which still continues to this day.

Bible's influence on English literature
16th and 17th century Renaissance literature

- Poetry paraphrased Biblical narratives such as Christ's victory over sin in **Dream of the Rood** to **Beowulf**, an epic poem

- Shakespeare has been secularized over his overtly Christian outlook. **Sacrificial love was evident in all his dramas, grace was a key word and evil was its counterpart**

- His comedies were illustration of themes and passages from Scripture

- Classical Greek poets Aeschylus, Homer, Seneca, Virgil delved into psychology and explored culture but failed to build a foundation for positive cultural change. Worldview was fatalistic under petty gods. Why choose good if compromise makes life easier?

- Augustine's City of God - sinful humans are incapable of building a just city without divine help; e**mbedded in European consciousness**

- Dante's Divine Comedy - cosmic journey ends with vision of Triune Godhead, values necessary for developing a city of God on earth

- Pilgrims on the Mayflower sought a land where God's law and grace would reign instead of human oppression, nurtured on idea of **New Jerusalem**

> Not a whit. We defy augury. There is special providence in the fall of a sparrow. If it be now, 'tis not to come; if it be not to come, it will be now; if it be not now, yet it will come. The readiness is all.
>
> William Shakespeare

Hamlet places his life in God's hand affirming God's sovereignty

Bible's influence on English literature
Secular literature too was a byproduct of the Bible

- Idea of heavenly Jerusalem inspired John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress 1678 and drove Biblical spirituality deep into soul of Western civilization

- **Bunyan's hero was very different from Homer's terrifying Achilles** and Odyssesus, the trickster. His first goal was deliverance from burden of sin and overcoming overpowering temptations

- 'Puritans as Democrats', historian Jacques Barzun, socio-economic political reforms that we ascribe to the secular enlightenment c**ame from writers expounding the Bible.** The English wrapped every idea and attitude in religious language and used precedents from Scripture as their best authority

- Puritan arguments were full of Biblicisms and advocated for a republic, vote for all, abolition of rank and privilege, equality before law, free trade, better distribution of property justifying those goals from Scripture

- **So-called secular corpus imbued with religious sensibility and Biblical allusions** - Lord Tennyson, John Ruskin (great impact on Gandhi), Steinbeck's East of Eden - 'Timshel in Gen 4:7' means that humans are not slaves of fate or forces beyond control, but we have ability to choose, and can overcome sin, contrasted to eastern fatalism

" But the Hebrew word, the word timshel—'Thou mayest'—that gives a choice. It might be the most important word in the world. That says the way is open. That throws it right back on a man. For if 'Thou mayest'—it is also true that 'Thou mayest not.' "

John Steinbeck (East of Eden)

UNIVERSITY

Influence of the Bible on education
University was invented and established by Christians and integral to missionary enterprise

- Colonialism and commerce did not spread education around world

- Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim rulers did not establish single significant centre of learning despite brilliant holy men, like the friars who founded Oxford and Cambridge

- Religious quest to kill their minds through drugs, nails, ashes. Path to enlightenment was **gyana marg** - knowledge of self, god, oneness of everything

- Biblical view allows minds to grasp partial and finite knowledge which grows incrementally through coordinated efforts of generations

- Pre-British education was Brahmin monopoly mostly of religious texts in dead Sanskrit

- British evangelicals forced colonial rulers to educate Indians - supported freedom and self rule
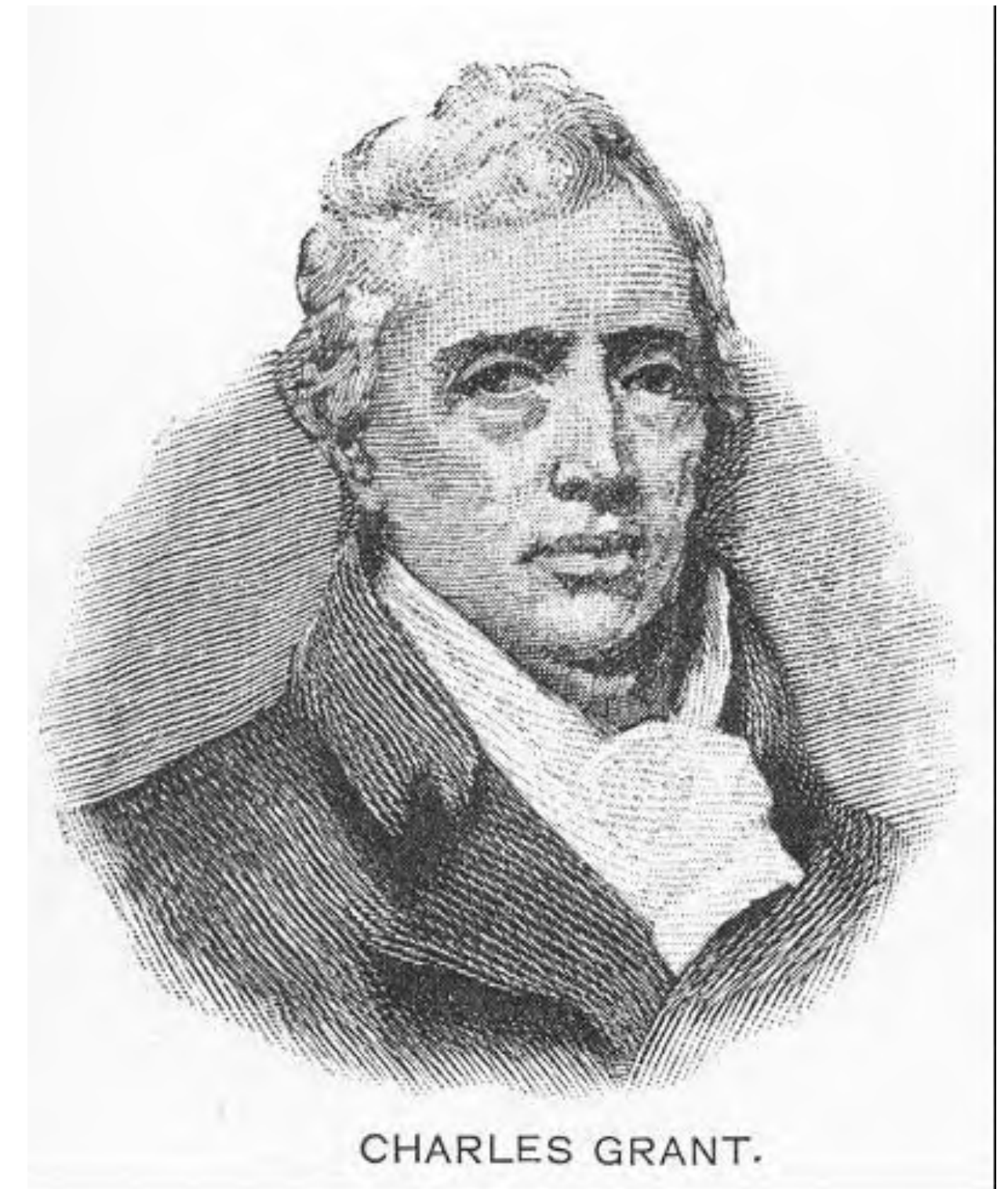

Night view of Vizianagaram Hall, University of Allahabad is one of the oldest modern universities in India. Its origins lie in the Muir Central College, named after Lt. Governor of North-Western Provinces, Sir William Muir in 1876, who suggested the idea of a Central University at Allahabad, which later evolved to the present university. It was known as the "Oxford of the East".

India's secular problems arose from religious worldview

Required transforming religious presuppositions

- Charles Grant, 1746 was a British politician influential in Indian and domestic affairs who, motivated by his evangelical Christianity, championed the causes of social reform and Christian mission, particularly in India

- **Great famine of Bengal**, 1769-70 killed millions, motivated Grant to transform Indian mind, industry, economy, agriculture

- Realignment of British mission with God's purposes for India

- Grant wrote his rationale for missions encouraged by **William Wilberforce,** evangelical British MP. His arguments triggered a movement enabling India to be a leading centre of education

- William Carey's influence on reformers like **Raja Ram Mohan Roy** triggered India's Renaissance

- In 1832, Roy, Sanskrit scholar wrote to British govt arguing that funding Sanskrit system of education would keep India in darkness, instead promoting liberal system incl sciences

CHARLES GRANT.

Observations on the State of Society among the Asiatic Subjects of Great Britain, particularly with respect to Morals; and on the means of improving it.—Written Chiefly in the Year 1792.
Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be printed, 15 June 1813.

Modern reformation of education

Darwin's survival of fittest would never pave way for education and humanizing of handicapped

- Robert Raikes, 1780, distressed by corruption of street children - vice can be better prevented than cured. England was becoming a literate society educated by God's Word

- **Restoring human dignity to deaf and blind** - Christians began opening asylums for blind by 4th century. By 16th century, Christians began teaching blind to read through raised letters on wax/wood

- **Sign language** was developed by priest, Charles-Michel de l'Epee financed and founded in Paris first public deaf school in 1754. Thomas Gallaudet, a divinity and Yale graduate student, brought it to US to help deaf hear the Gospel

- Puritans established Harvard within 1st decade of arrival, example of symbiosis b/w Bible and education. Bible directly inspired the first 123 colleges & universities that taught secular subjects

- Biblical worldview turned information into meaningful knowledge and wisdom, beyond equipping for jobs, grasping big picture of truth. By itself, human mind cannot find answers to meaning and purpose of life and universe
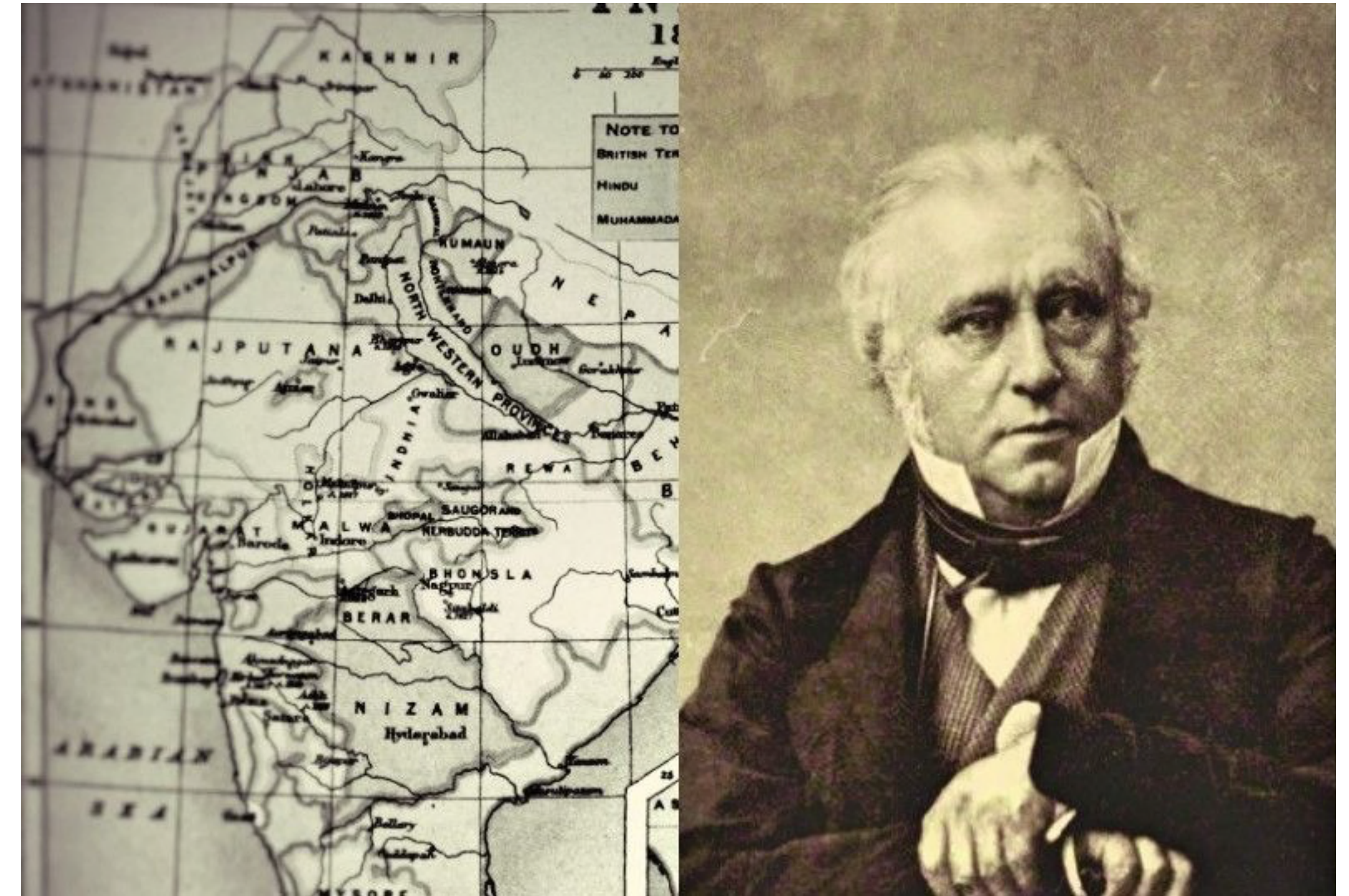

The school founded by Gallaudet in Hartford is now the American School for the Deaf

Western missions spread education throughout the world

Educating millions and transforming nations, inspired and sustained by the Bible

- Charles Trevelyan, civil servant of East India Co, aim of evangelicals' education mission was to end British rule in India. He championed arriving at this via reform over revolution, to exchange subjects into allies, mutual benefit and goodwill, trained into independence, monument to British benevolence

- Lord Macauley's speech to British parliament appealed to the path of duty, good government, instruction in European knowledge and that India's demand of European institutions would be a proud day in English history

- In 19th & 20th centuries, Western missions led to educational revolutions in most of non Western world - created, financed 100s of universities, 1000s of colleges, 10s of thousands of schools

- In medieval era, cathedrals started schools to meet needs of Christian institutions influenced by visionaries like Augustine. Some grew into universities

- Treatise on Christian learning by Augustine: The ultimate goal of scholarship in various areas such as logic, grammar, science, was to mine spiritual knowledge

- H.G Wells: Catholic church provided system of popular teaching, universities, methods of intellectual communication

Thomas Macaulay

Modern reformation of education
Pioneers of American education were indebted to Comenius

- Bible remained central to education in modern era because it is a library, written by at least 40 authors, over 1600 years, in 3 languages yet has a meta narrative of creation and recreation

- Books give expanding, progressive yet coherent view of life and world

- Modern education began with Martin Luther's call for complete overhaul

- The desire to read the Bible for each child fuelled European literacy

- Jan Amos Comenius, 1592, **father of modern education**, Moravia (now CZ), bishop of Moravian brethren, wrote 90 books on education, inspiring birth of Royal Society of Science in England, helping establish first modern university in Germany, Halle-Wittenburg

- Education as means of forming again God's image in humanity. Biblical philosophy 'Pan Sophia' - integrating all wisdom, secular and sacred into Biblical framework

- Comenius was invited to head up new university, Harvard
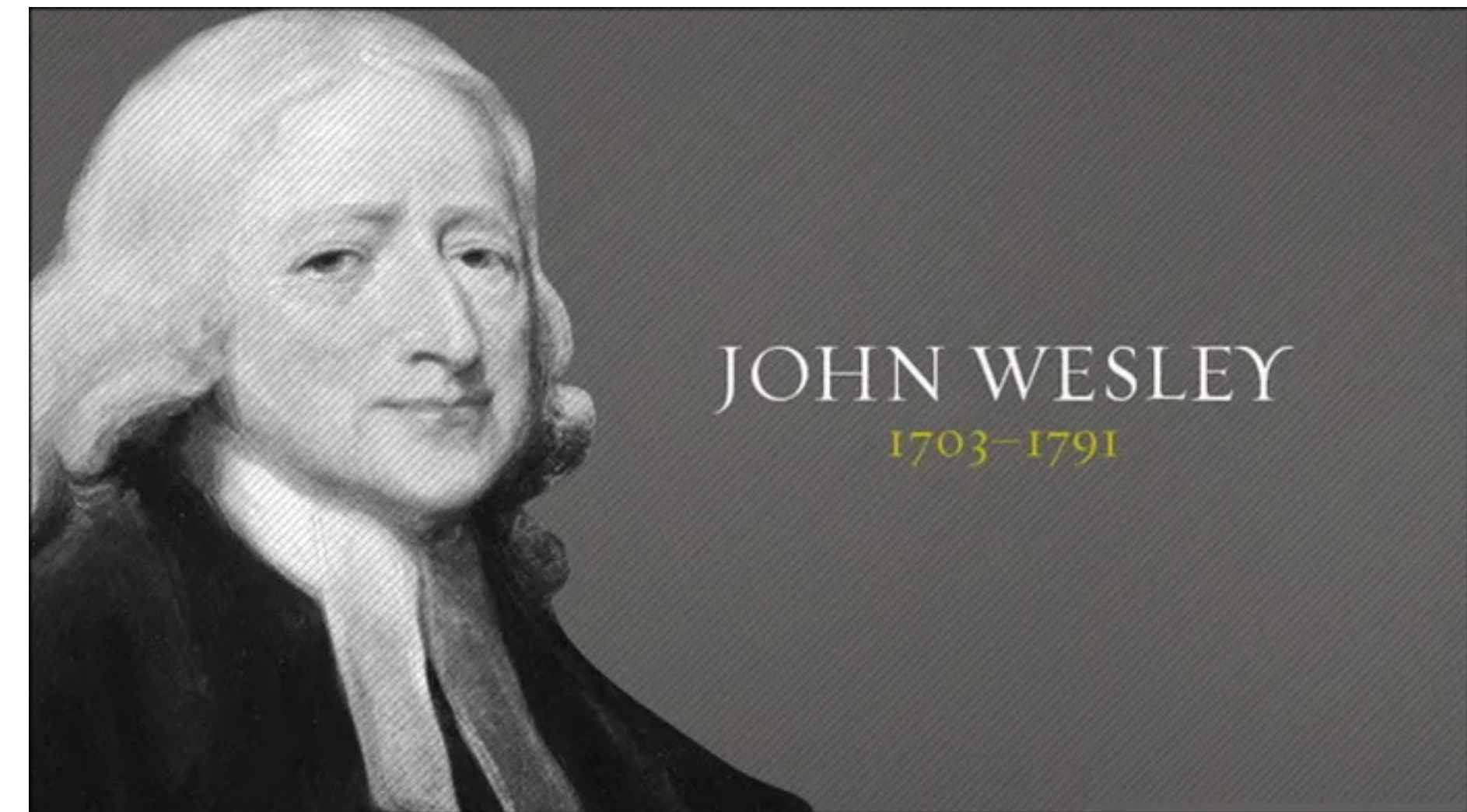
What does "pansophism" actually refer to?

- Comenius believed there was only one truth.
- The light of reason must submit in obedience to the will of God. (This is Comenius's fundamental pedagogical and pansophic principle.)
- "the unification of all scientific, philosophical, political, and religious knowledge into one all-embracing, harmonious world view."

MORALITY

Morality: why are some less corrupt?

The roots of moral transformation reside in the power of Scriptures
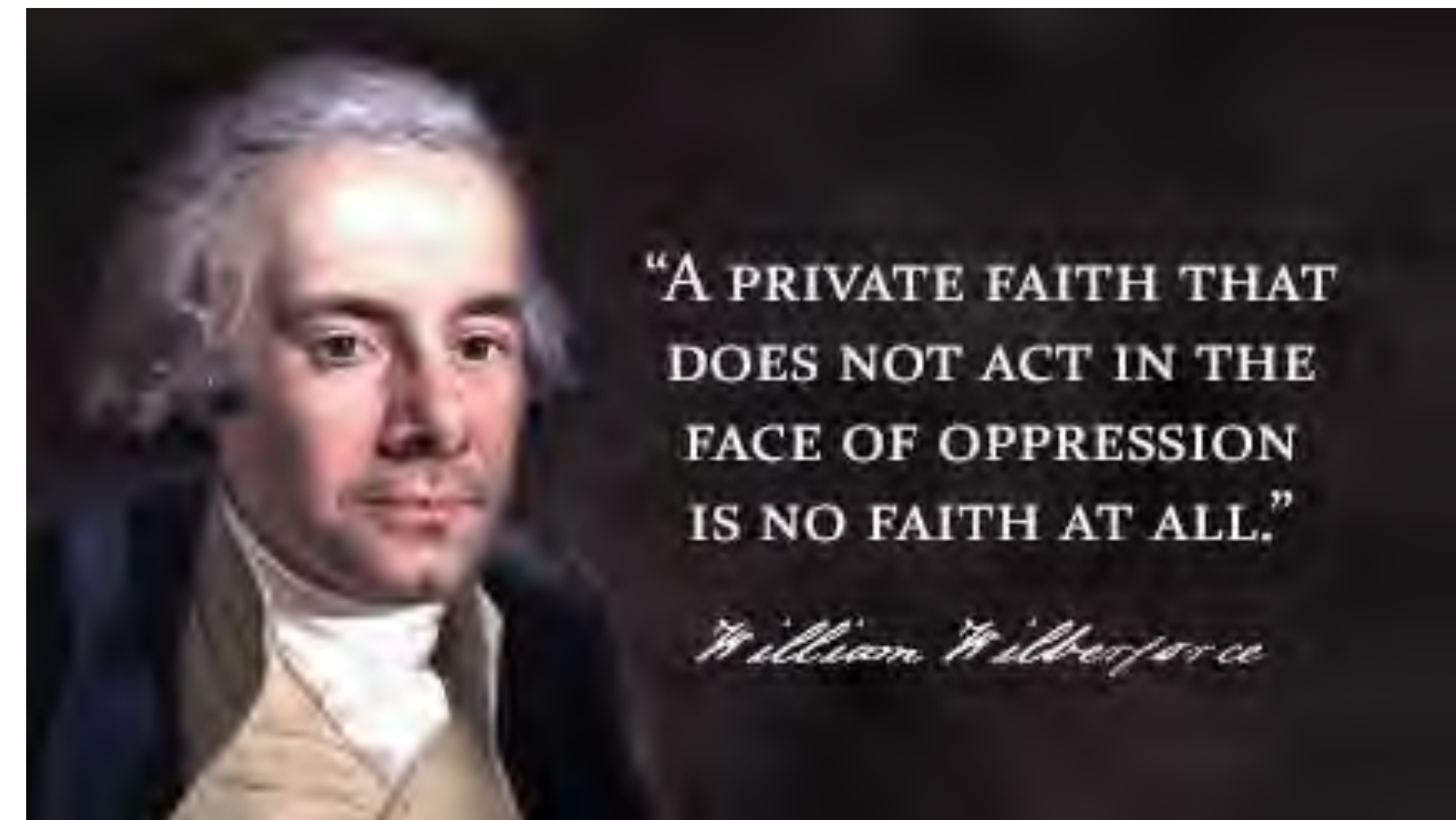
- Founder of the Methodist movement - John Wesley

- **The Great Awakening** expounded the Bible to the unchurched under John Wesley in England for >50 years

- 18th century was a period of severe moral deterioration in England - rampant crime, prostitution, corruption, illiteracy and drunkenness

- Make men and women conscious of God - this in turn would reclaim their homes and nation from paganism and corruption

- Individual regeneration would lead to social transformation, **an inevitable byproduct of conversion** because the high moral principles of Scripture would take root in people's minds

- The 1st Methodist church in 1739 at Bristol became a hub of social services, employment bureau, loans for poor, free medical dispensary

- Massive cultural influence in Britain. Encyclopedia Britannica - 'No man in the 18th century did so much to create a taste for good reading and supplied so many books at the lowest prices'

- In America, the evangelical revival was led by Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield

JOHN WESLEY
1703-1791

Morality: why are some less corrupt?

Biblical revival changed history through men's characters and prevented a bloody revolution like in France

- Individual conversion leads to change in society - 13 years before the abolition committee was formed to end slave trade, Wesley published a treatise denouncing slavery as national disgrace

- Wrote to **William Wilberforce,** evangelical MP who led lifelong campaign to abolish slave trade

- Wesley deplored futile wars such as Britain's against American colonies and spoke out against societal excesses leading to food wastage, advocated fair wages, vocational training, attacked corruption in elections, and paved way for penal system reform

- More influential in moving minds of people than any other public figure of his age, or kings or statesmen through his advocacy and travels

- Biblical revival caused Britain to sing - 9000 hymns by Charles, rich poetical heritage to English-speaking world, sank deep into subconscious life of people

- Britain was saved from lapsing into infidelity to God with purging and ennobling influence on society. At the close of 18th century, strong influence of evangelicals who championed reform at home and abroad in Africa and India. Relatively corruption-free India in 19th century
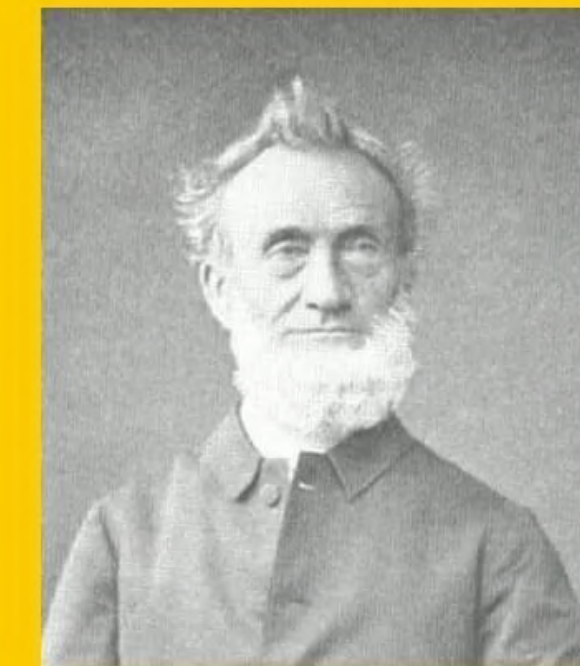
- "Let me wear out, not rust out"

"A PRIVATE FAITH THAT DOES NOT ACT IN THE FACE OF OPPRESSION IS NO FAITH AT ALL."

William Wilberforce

1759-1833

Morality: why are some less corrupt?

Transformation of nations is inter-generational, forged through religious experience

- Under the influence of Biblical revival, Biblical perspective was recovered by **poets, novelists and writers** - William Wordsworth, Bronte sisters, Rudyard Kipling, Lord Tennyson, Charles Dickens

- Impact of Bible in labor of social emancipators in 19th century: slave trade, industrial reform, and prison humanization, ship safety regulations

- Launched Sunday school and preaching traditions of Finney, Moody, Spurgeon

- Biblical Christianity introduced back into universities, evangelical tradition in Cambridge, global missionaries carried modernity into remote parts of world at great cost to serve people who could not repay them

- Morality played a significant role in state policy and administration. Public realm was impacted, character values sustained free institutions, and many evils eradicated

- Several movements - factory schools, orphanages, YMCA, Salvation Army, Meullers homes, Polytechnics, Boy Scouts - 99/100 were Christians

- Result of addressing root cause of spiritual atrophy and moral decay - restoration of Biblical authority in the English world led to a civilization finding its soul

THE SALVATION ARMY

DOING THE MOST GOOD℠

Our mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

To get a man soundly saved it is not enough to put on him a pair of new breeches, to give him regular work, or even to give him a University education. These things are all outside a man, and if the inside remains unchanged you have wasted your labor. You must in some way or other graft upon the man's nature a new nature, which has in it the element of the Divine. — William Booth

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Why did America surge ahead of Europe?

The beginning of women's liberation

- Strength of traditional American character and culture, infusion of liberty are informed by Biblical teachings on gender roles, sex, marriage and family life - Alexis de Tocqueville, French historian, Democracy in America, after failed French Revolution

- **Monogamy** as a Christian idea spread to world in 19th century mainly through Western missionary movement

<u>What did it do for the status of women and what impact did it have on civilization?</u>

- Connection between morality, liberty = status of women, strength of society

- Khajuraho carvings depict tradition of sacred sex kept women enslaved, 'bheeterwali', no opportunity for education

<u>Why did women's liberation begin in America?</u>

- Patriarchy criticized, but this practical hierarchy of husbands and wives was with affirmation of metaphysical equality

- Most cultures believed women were intrinsically inferior: Hindu sages taught that souls with poor karma incarnated as females to serve males

De Tocqueville added:

"In the United States the sovereign authority is religious... There is no country in the whole world where the Christian religion retains a greater influence than in America...

America is still the place where the Christian religion has kept the greatest real power over men's souls; and nothing better demonstrates how useful and natural it is to man, since the country where it now has the widest sway is both the most enlightened and the freest."

Why did America surge ahead of Europe?

Bible's contribution to women's rights and emancipation

- Rise of Christianity in its early pagan Greco-Roman setting. Impact of Bible's laws on women's improved status: Adultery, rape, love for wives, care for widows, on womanhood in general

- Condemnation of divorce, marital infidelity, infanticide, polygamy, double standards that gave men sexual license. No social pressure for Christian widows to remarry who kept their husband's estate, and church sustained poor widows. Raised the age of marriage from 12, most Christian women did not marry before 18

- Easy divorce and polygamy practiced in Islam weaken women's rights and dignity

- Christian opposition to abortion and infanticide which was common among Roman women who left their newborns to die by wild beasts

- The family not the monastery is God's school of character - Martin Luther

- Instead of viewing marriage as a cross like radical feminists did, the Bible's view of monogamous, lifelong marriage values love above pleasure, holiness and humility, instead of gratification

"Do not murder a child by abortion or kill a newborn infant."

Taken from The Didache: The Teaching of the 12 Apostles First Century AD

Why did America surge ahead of Europe?

Enslavement of women and Stagnation of civilization in other cultures

Clear ethical foundation v other traditions:

- Muhammed visited Zaid, his adopted son - Zaynab was his wife and cousin to prophet

- Muhammed was married to Ayesha when she was only 6. He had a timely revelation in Quranic sura allowing marriage to wives of adopted sons

- Biblical commandment made it a sin to covet neighbour's wife. NT commands **self-discipline, inner holiness for men and to deal with lust and adultery in hearts**

- Islam began conquering NW India at beginning of 2nd millennium, when Khajuraho temples were being built, continuing enslavement of women for 800 years

- Emancipation of Asian women began in 19th century by western missionaries brought biblical worldview and mores

- Bengali reformer, Keshab Chandra Sen in the 1870s grasped this and became the first Indian to demand Polygamy be banned

But put you on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.

—Romans 13:14

MEDICAL CARE

Compassion, caring, and medical commitment

A culture of care

- Friedrich Nietzsche was a critic of Judeo-Christian compassion and the religion of the weak and crucified Galilean, in contrast with civilization's celebration of strength, sensuality and tough acceptance of death as in gladiatorial games

- Nazi Aryan supremacy influenced by his teachings was convinced equality, emancipation of women, democracy, revolt of downtrodden came from Jews and Christians

- Many Hindus can't believe that poor are not victims of own karma, God cares for the poor and hence suspect western philanthropy and dislike that Christians choose to educate the poor and empower lower castes

- Bible greatest humanizing force in history - movement of abolition of slavery, liberating temple prostitutes, morality to wars, prison reform, justification to civil disobedience

"Christianity has taken the side of everything weak, base, ill-constituted. Christianity is called the religion of compassion. One loses force when one has compassion. Compassion, on the whole, thwarts the law of evolution, which is the law of selection. It preserves that which is ripe for destruction; it defends life's disinherited and condemned. In every noble morality it counts as weakness. Nothing in our unhealthy modernity is more unhealthy than Christian compassion."

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

Compassion, caring, and medical commitment

'First, do no harm'

- Plato and Aristotle recommended infanticide as state policy, 'The 12 tables', earliest known Roman legal code 450 BC codified exposing female infants, deformed and weak male infants to the elements

- Christian monasteries began to preserve, transcribe, and spread medical knowledge, carefully recording what treatment worked and what didn't. Began practicing medicine and **translated Greek medical texts into Arabic**, blessing the Arab world

- Medieval universities were educational arms of the church. Catholic priest wrote 1st modern book of surgery in AD 1363. Christian artists like Da Vinci gathered phenomenal knowledge of human anatomy building on that knowledge

- The aphorism Primum non nocere (First, do no harm) is attributed to Sydenham

Puritan Thomas Sydenham (1624 – 1689) was an English physician. He was the author of Observationes Medicae which became a standard textbook of medicine for two centuries so that he became known as 'The English Hippocrates'.

Father of English medicine: "let him reflect that he has undertaken the care of no mean creature, for, in order that he may estimate the value, the greatness of the human race, the only begotten Son of God became himself a man, and thus ennobled it with his divine dignity, and far more than this, died to redeem it."

Compassion, caring, and medical commitment
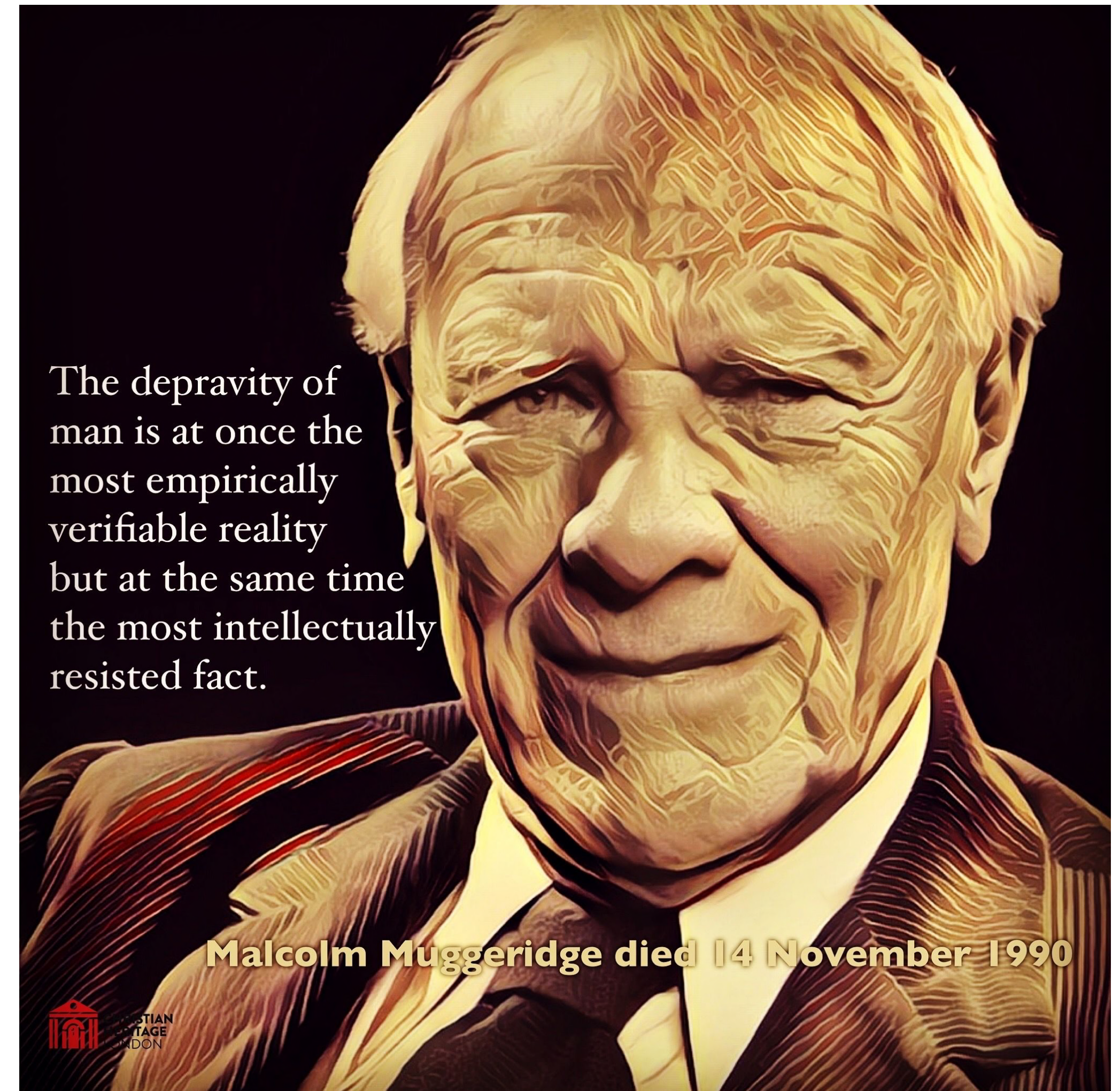
Impact of culture on Indian medicine

- Ayurveda, ancient Indian system of medicine. Sushruta is believed to have performed the first cataract surgery. His works on surgery compiled until 7th century AD. Records of earliest plastic surgery (due to noses being cut off due to penalties), massage, aromatherapy

- Decline of Indian medicine - attitude toward knowledge due to secrecy maintained by gurus, no challenge to authority led to no academic culture, service restricted to lowest caste system (women as midwives)

- **Health of women ignored** as 2nd class humans, precluded development of gyn care (tetanus and infections common), suffering as cosmic justice, doctrine of karma kept from forming institutions of caring

- Daughter of American missionary, **Ida Sculler** established a clinic in India in 1900 which grew to the Vellore Christian Medical College

- First hospital in Delhi, St Stephen's, by **Priscilla Winter**, founder of Delhi Female Medical Mission distributed medicines to women when they went to the Yamuna river

Ida with her students

Biblical teachings on love and compassion

Not matters of private piety but move believers into the public arenas

- Buddhism also believed in Karma, devoted to own spiritual enlightenment, with detachment as a virtue, **lacked motivation for developing tradition of welfare of others**

- Malcolm Muggeridge, raised a secular humanist, observed the difference in behavior between Christians and non-Christians, after spending many years in India and Africa, where he witnessed "much righteous endeavor undertaken by Christians of all denominations." By contrast, however, "I never, as it happens, came across a hospital or orphanage run by the Fabian Society or a Humanist leper colony."

The depravity of man is at once the most empirically verifiable reality but at the same time the most intellectually resisted fact.

Malcolm Muggeridge died 14 November 1990

STEWARDSHIP

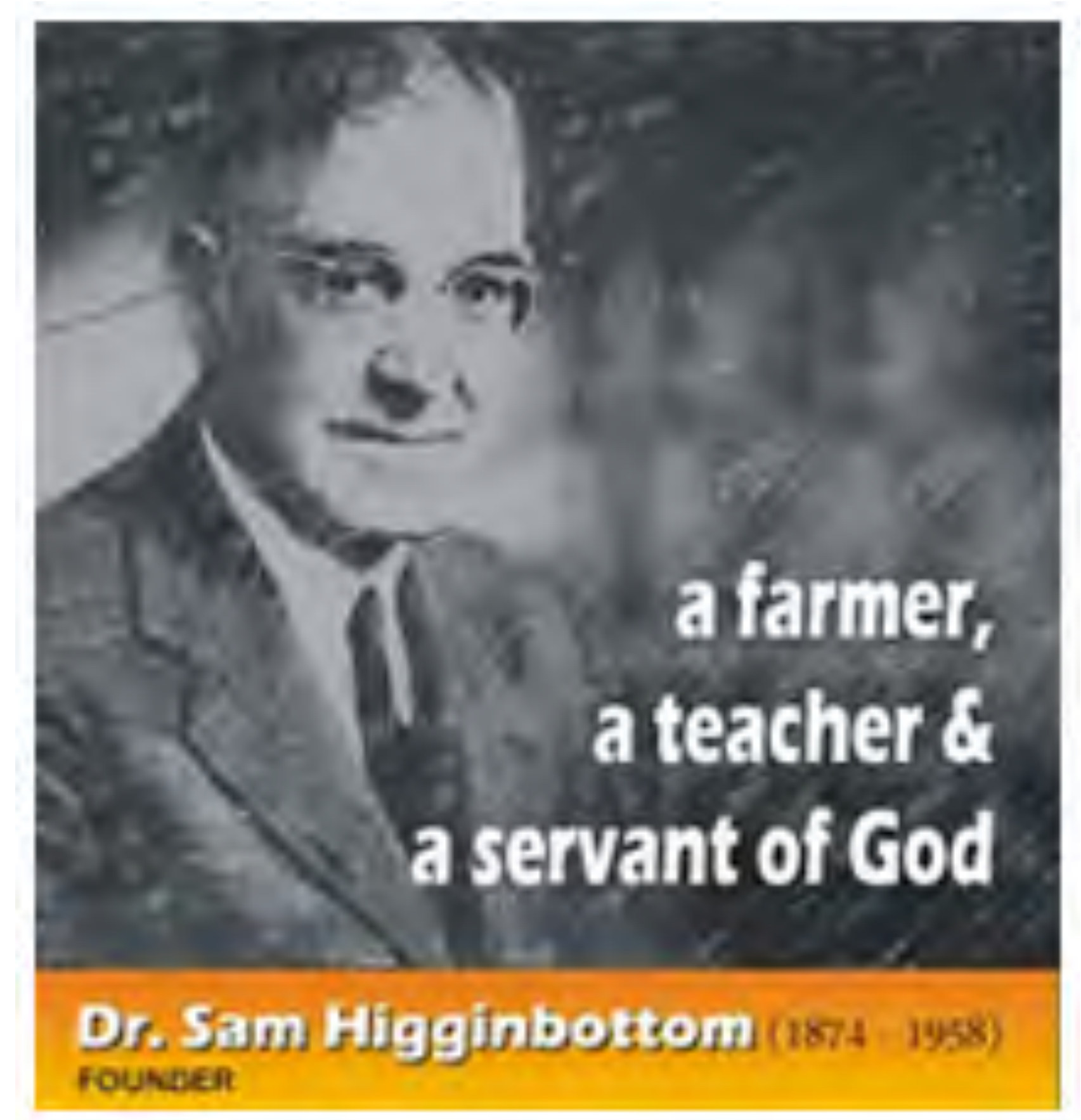# Biblical principle of stewardship of wealth

- Biblical doctrine of 'calling or vocation' rediscovered during the Reformation played a significant role in the forming of the modern world

- Integrity is not a natural universal human trait. Corruption was kept down in Europe and America due to Biblical influence on moral climate

Spirituality that saved industrial capitalism

- America takes for granted what the Bible has done for its economy. Puritans who migrated to America built the moral and family infrastructure on which to build national wealth

Women and economy

- Educational opportunities and status of women determined poverty or wealth of nation

- Mary McCormick, wife of Chicago industrialist formed effective team with her husband, took charge of the firm after his death

- Sam Higginbottom in establishing Allahabad Agricultural Institute, 1910 helped develop poorest farmers in the world

a farmer,
a teacher &
a servant of God

Dr. Sam Higginbottom (1874 - 1958)
FOUNDER

LIBERTY

Source of Liberty and Freedom

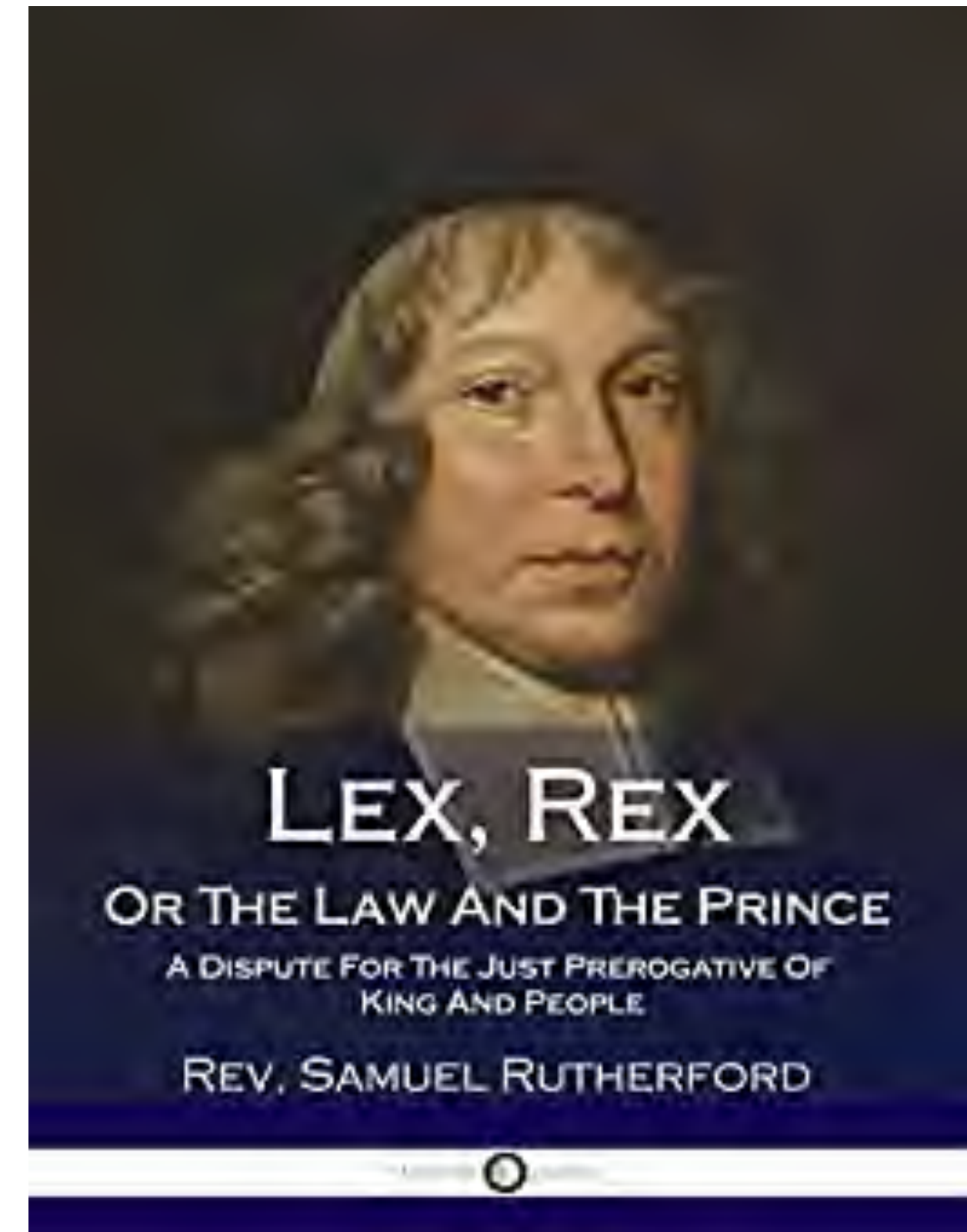## Rule of Law flowed from the idea that God is the Ultimate Ruler

- Oppression and slavery were contrary to God's intent for humans made in His image

- Moses to the Messiah - stories of repeated loss and freedom

- Jesus proclaimed 'Liberty to the captives', come to bring God's kingdom on earth

- Biblical cultures value freedom as the essence of God and His image, gave birth to political ideas revived during 16th century European reformation, most important pillars of modern democracy

- Huguenot monument, South Africa, symbolizes triune God. Feeling violent religious persecution in France

- Reformed and Huguenot writers carried the torch of liberty to rest of the world

Source of Liberty and Freedom

India's freedom too was a fruit of the Gospel

- William Carey, 1792, Indians are without the gospel, without government, without laws, without arts, without sciences

- Lord McCauley speech to British Parliament in 1833 public mind of India may expand till it outgrows our system, capacity for better government, they may demand European institutions of liberty

- Muslim emperors, Hindu militia, European merchants might still be ruling India

- Modern political thought: Biblical political theory - Scottish theologian, Samuel Rutherford in 1644 book, Lex Rex (The Law and the Prince)

- John Milton, puritan writer and political theorist, tolerance and freedom of expression

LEX, REX

OR THE LAW AND THE PRINCE

A DISPUTE FOR THE JUST PREROGATIVE OF KING AND PEOPLE

REV. SAMUEL RUTHERFORD

The book defends the rule of law and the lawfulness of defensive wars (including pre-emptive wars) and advocates limited government and constitutionalism in politics and the "Two Kingdoms" theory of Church-State relations

Sacrificial missions to stone age tribes

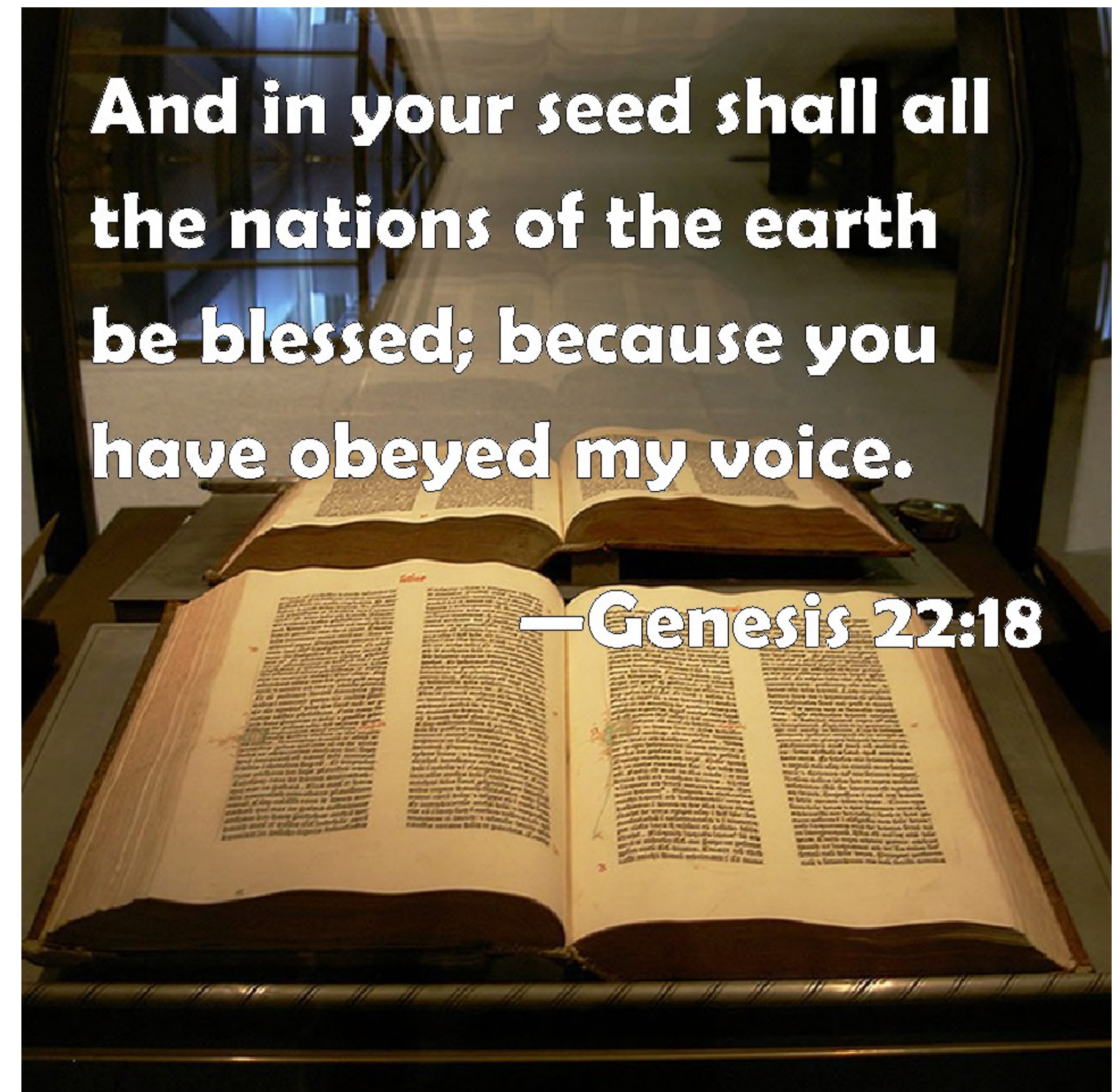## Transforming the most savage headhunting tribe in India

- William Wilberforce and Charles Grant, evangelical MPs persuaded the British Parliament to require East India company to spend Rs.100,000/y to educate Indians

- Bible translators developed languages of Muslim nations - Urdu and Bengali

- Hmars, one of the most savage head-hunting tribes in the world, migrated from central China to the forests in India

- 1910, in state of Manipur, Gospel of John. The chief found the address of the sender, **Watkins Roberts,** businessman from Wales

- He explained the Gospel using their tradition for settling tribal wars using a sacrificial animal

- Within 30 years, every village of the tribe had been evangelized

- Emancipation from superstition, subsistence living, oppression, chronic poverty, from the stone age was the beginning

Sacrificial missions to stone age tribes

The Gospel's generational impact on a culture

- Schools established by Bible translator of Hmar language, turned educator, **Rochunga Pudaite.** Within 10 years, 85 schools, college, hospital. 85% literacy rate higher than Indian average

- Taught the Bible as basis of character and holistic human growth. Founder and chairman of 'Bibles for the world'

- Graduates became ambassadors, secretaries of state, high ranking officers of IAS, professionals, pastors

- Several prominent names: HT Sangliana, MP, Vice chairman of minorities commission

- Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, Princeton that built western civilization were established to teach the Bible

- **No virtue to romanticize miseries of primitive tribes that live at mercy of natural elements, germs, demons, authoritarian priests**

- Bible sets imagination free, able to overcome hate, and contribute to the world

- Partial fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham that through him all nations of the world will be blessed by His children who obey His voice
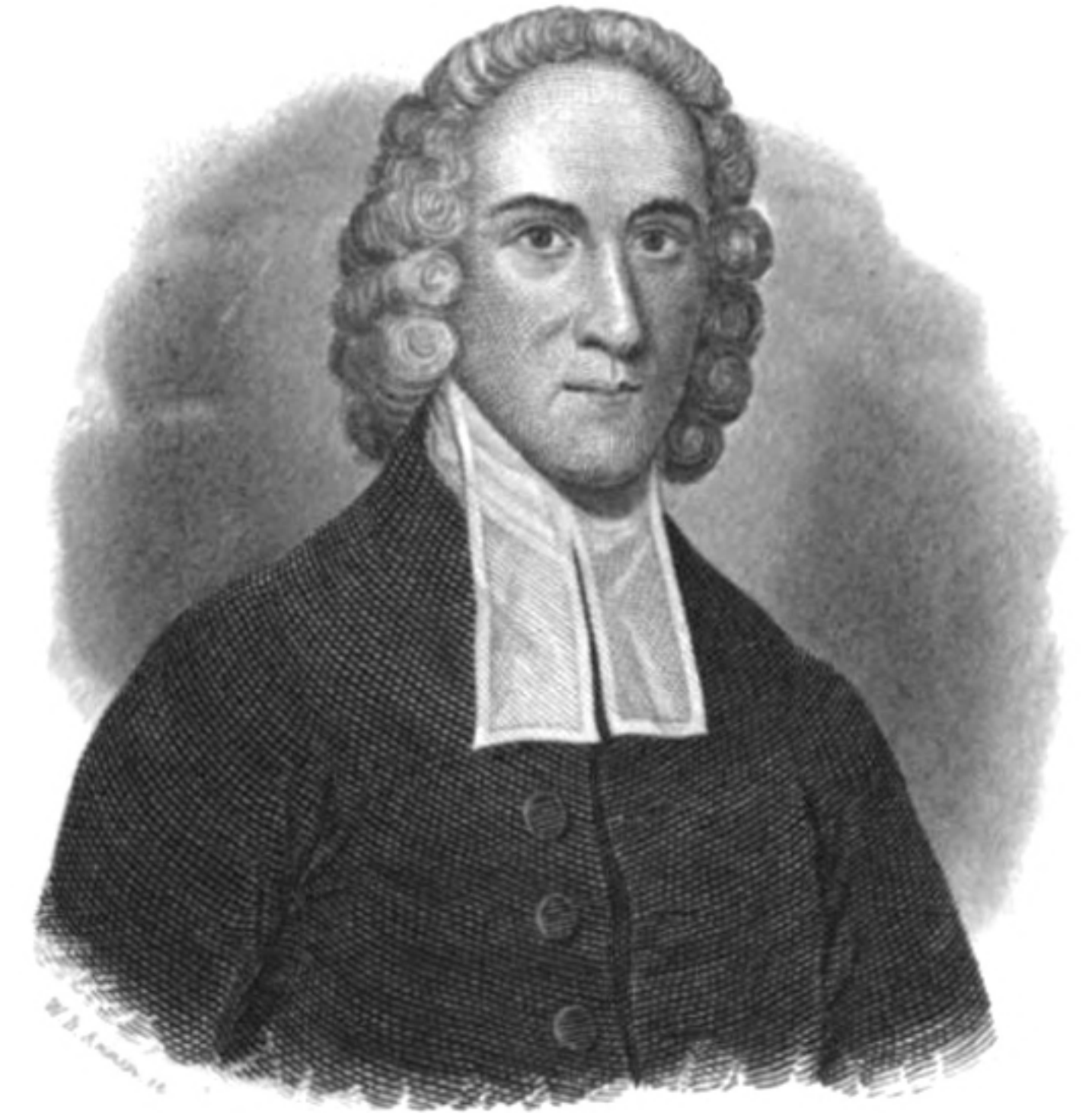

And in your seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because you have obeyed my voice.

—Genesis 22:18

Watershed movements in shaping America and Britain

Spiritual revival versus secular enlightenment in successful democracies

- **The Great Awakening in America in 1730s** and its British counterpart became watershed movements by teaching people to revere God's Word and its principles

- **Secular enlightenment in France** by contrast led to revolution degenerating into totalitarianism

- Force that democratized America and led to democracy and quest for political liberty

- The roots of **the American Revolution**, US War of Independence against Great Britain (1775-83) were embedded in the Great Awakening

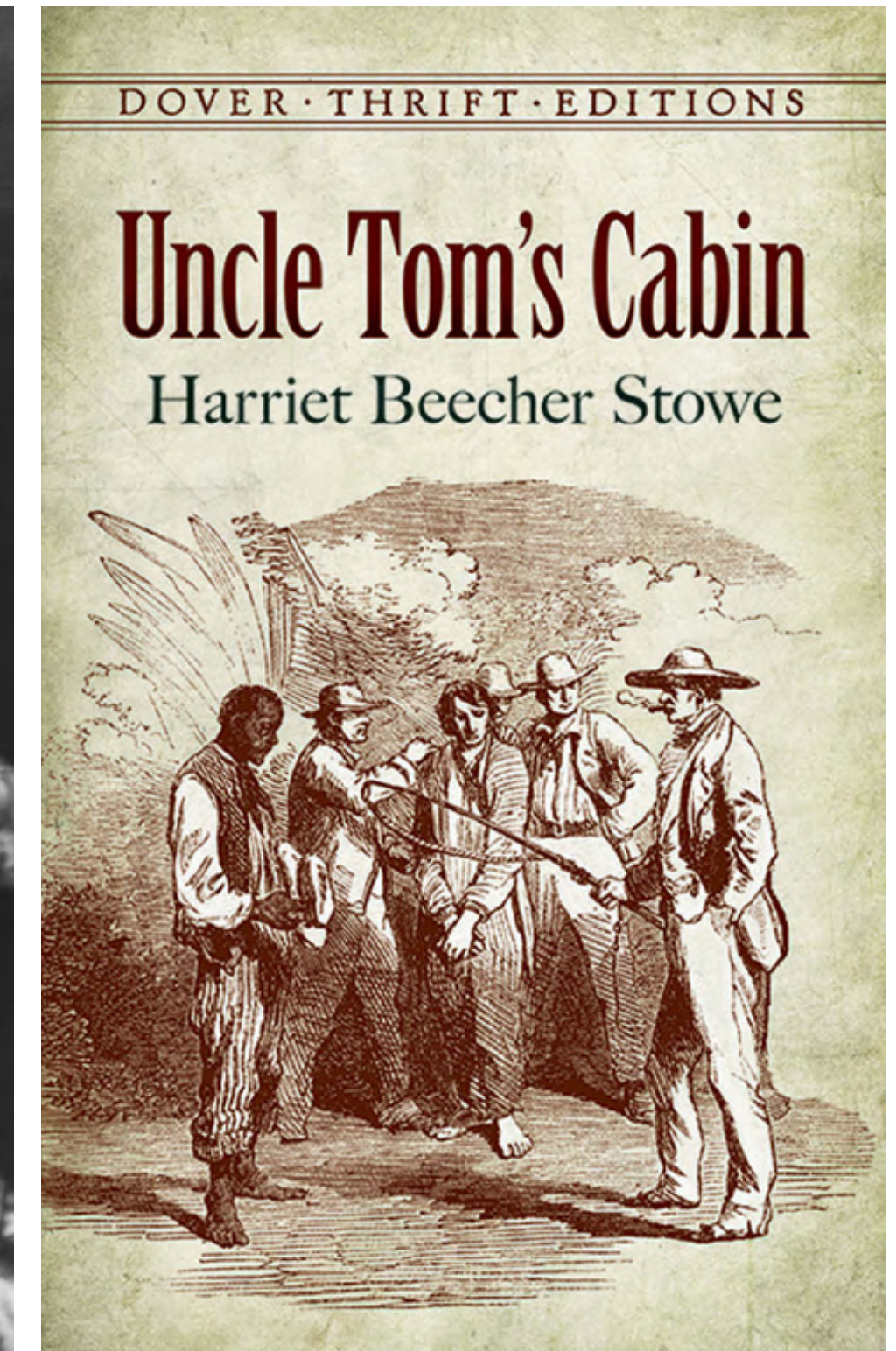- Covenants of the Bible are the founding covenants of western civilization

Jonathan Edwards, Father of the Great Awakening

Watershed movements in shaping America and Britain

Spiritual revival versus secular enlightenment in successful democracies

- Spiritual awakening led to far-reaching social consequences, and grassroots intellectualism

  - Jonathan Edwards, president of Princeton, George Whitefield founded UPenn, based on notion that God wants everyone to know the truth

  - Rev. John Harvard - motto 'Truth for Christ and the Church' (1692)

  - Whitefield preached to black people, British revival led to abolition of slave trade

  - Anti-slavery preachers, Charles Finney, Lyman Beecher, his daughter wrote 'Uncle Tom's cabin'

DOVER·THRIFT·EDITIONS
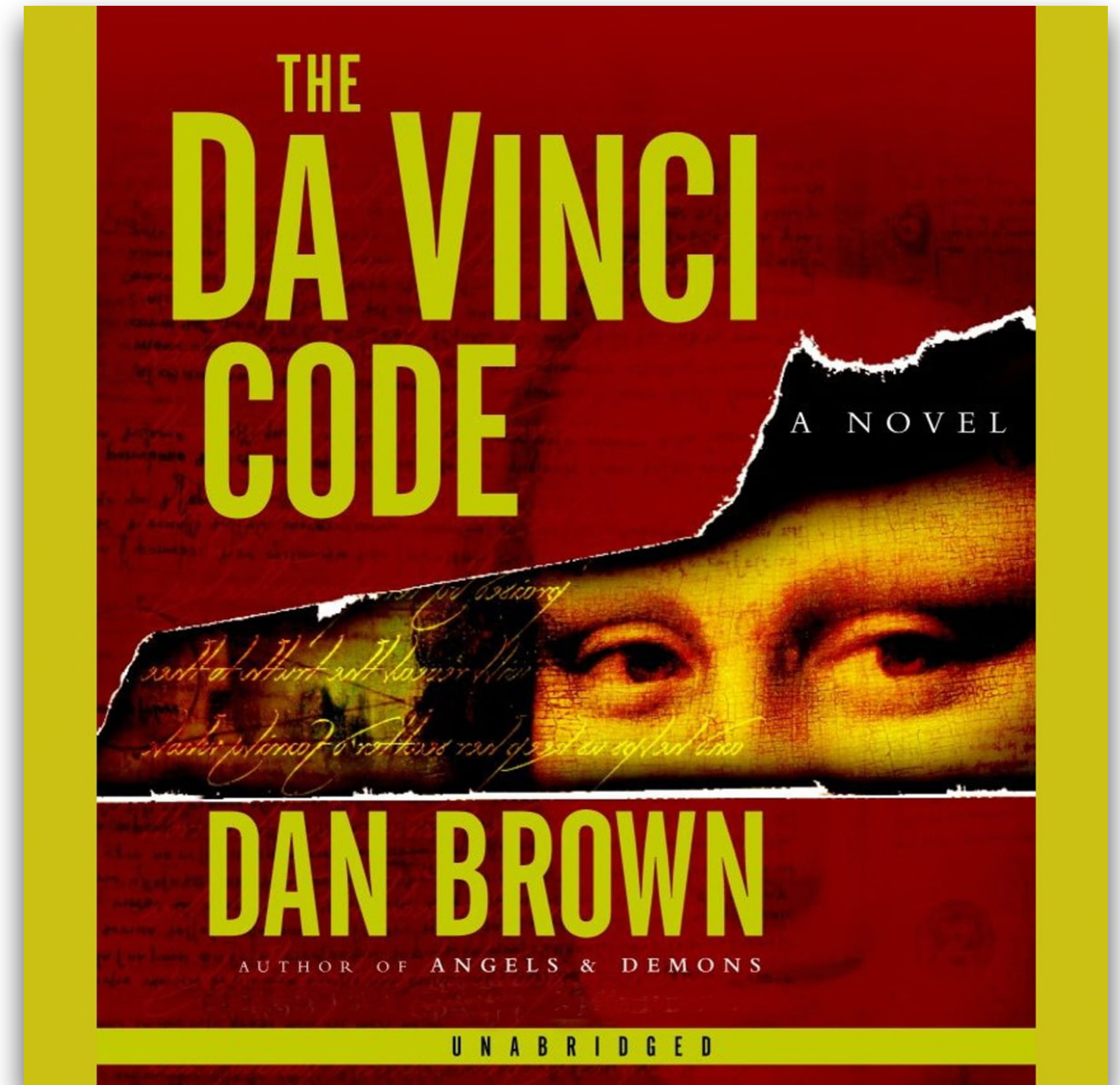**Uncle Tom's Cabin**
Harriet Beecher Stowe

When President Lincoln met Harriet Beecher Stowe in 1863, he is reported to have said, "So you're the little woman who wrote the book that made this great (civil) war!"

Is the Bible a fax from heaven?

- Scholarly compilation unlike other religious scriptures

- Not delivered through trances or angels

- Gospels claim to be objective, public truth from Jesus and apostles' teachings, events such as ascension witnessed by 500 people

- Writers challenged religious and state authorities, open themselves to cross examination. Luke - systematic research of facts, corroborating with eyewitnesses

- Evidence of being Word of God - 1817 predictions, 8352 verses, representing 27% of the Bible

- Documented fulfillment of short and mid term prophecies - Canon reflects Word of God as spoken by prophets

- Christianity is about **public truth, publicly authenticated,** not private, subjective, unverifiable, secret, inner religious experience

What is the evidence for the Bible being the Word of God?

Are inalienable rights self-evident to the human mind?

- Equality and human rights were never self-evident truths anywhere in the world

- In Rome, by Pilate's time, belief that no one could know truth in any rational sense explained by words, only mystical truth ("what is truth?")

- The **1776 American Declaration of Independence** grounded inalienable rights in the Creator not the State

- These truths **appeared common sense** to the Founders, since their sense was shaped by the Bible

- Hinduism: People are made unequal; higher castes from head, shoulders, belly of divine being, and lower caste made from feet

- Law of Karma accentuated these differences. Buddha believed in karma as metaphysical cause for inequality of human beings

- **Any nation that refuses to live under the truth condemns itself to live under sinful man**

We hold these truths to be self-evident:
that all men are created equal; that they are
endowed by their Creator with certain
unalienable rights; that among these are life,
liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

-Thomas Jefferson-

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