

IS IT REASONABLE TO **BELIEVE IN GOD**

The Most
Reasonable
Explanation For
Morality,
Conscience &
Spirituality?



IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD



- ▶ The Most Reasonable Cause For The Material Universe?
- ▶ The Most Reasonable Cause For Organization of The Universe?
- ▶ The Most Reasonable Cause of Life & its complexities?
- ▶ The Most Reasonable Explanation For Reason, Ethics, Consciousness?
- ▶ The Most Reasonable Explanation For Man's desire to Worship, Seek God, & The Bible?

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

Intelligent design, or “chance?”

The law of cause and effect states that every material effect must have an adequate cause that existed before the effect.

UNIVERSE

EARTH

LIFE

MIND

RELIGION

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

WHY ARE HUMANS THE ONLY CREATURES WITH THE ABILITY TO REASON?

Key Evolutionary Stages



START
Protocells



1
Multicellular
Life



2
Animals



3
Fish and
Tetrapods



4
Mammals



5
Great Apes



END
Homo sapiens



IS IT REASONABLE TO **BELIEVE IN GOD**

The Most Reasonable Explanation For:

- ▶ Sense of Morality?
- ▶ Ability to Reason?
- ▶ Consciousness?
- ▶ Emotions?
 - *Compassion? Fear? Love? Guilt?*
- ▶ Religion?

A woman's profile is shown in silhouette on the left side of the image. Inside her head, a vibrant sunset scene is visible, featuring a bright sun low on the horizon over a body of water with waves. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. The overall background of the image is a soft, light blue gradient.

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

Genesis 1:26–27 (NKJV)

²⁶ Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

A woman's profile is shown in silhouette, facing right. Inside her head, a vibrant sunset scene is visible, with a bright sun low on the horizon over a body of water. The foreground of the scene inside her head is a rocky beach with many dark, smooth stones.

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

Romans 2:14–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵ who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*)

A woman's profile is shown in silhouette on the left side of the image. Inside her head, a vibrant sunset scene is visible, featuring a bright sun low on the horizon over a body of water, with waves breaking on a beach. The foreground of the scene inside her head is filled with dark, smooth stones.

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Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.



IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

1. **Man has rational intelligence.** He has ability to reason, invent, communicate, etc.
2. **Man has a will, and a power to choose.** He is a free moral agent.
3. **Man has emotions.** He can experience joy, love, fear, anger, hatred, sorrow, etc.
4. **Man has a conscience.** He is able, not only to distinguish right from wrong, but also to have an inherent sense of guilt when he has done wrong and a sense of approval when he has done right.

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD



Leah Libresco

In an interview with a CNN news reporter, Libresco noted that her conversion from atheism to theism was “kinda the same thing with any scientific theory, almost, that it had more explanatory power to explain something I was really sure of. **I’m really sure that morality is objective, human independent**; something we uncover like archaeologists not something we build like architects” (Merica, 2012, emp. added).

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

NATURAL EVOLUTION CANNOT ACCOUNT FOR OBJECTIVE MORALITY



- ▶ If God exists, then we have a sound foundation for objective moral values and duties.
- ▶ If God does not exist, then we do not have a sound foundation for objective moral values and duties.

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

NATURAL EVOLUTION CANNOT ACCOUNT FOR OBJECTIVE MORALITY



“There are no purposive principles whatsoever in nature. There are no gods and no designing forces that are rationally detectable. . . . Second, modern science directly implies that there are no moral or ethical laws, no absolute guiding principles for human society.”
(Darwin On Trial, pg 124)

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NATURAL EVOLUTION CANNOT ACCOUNT FOR OBJECTIVE MORALITY

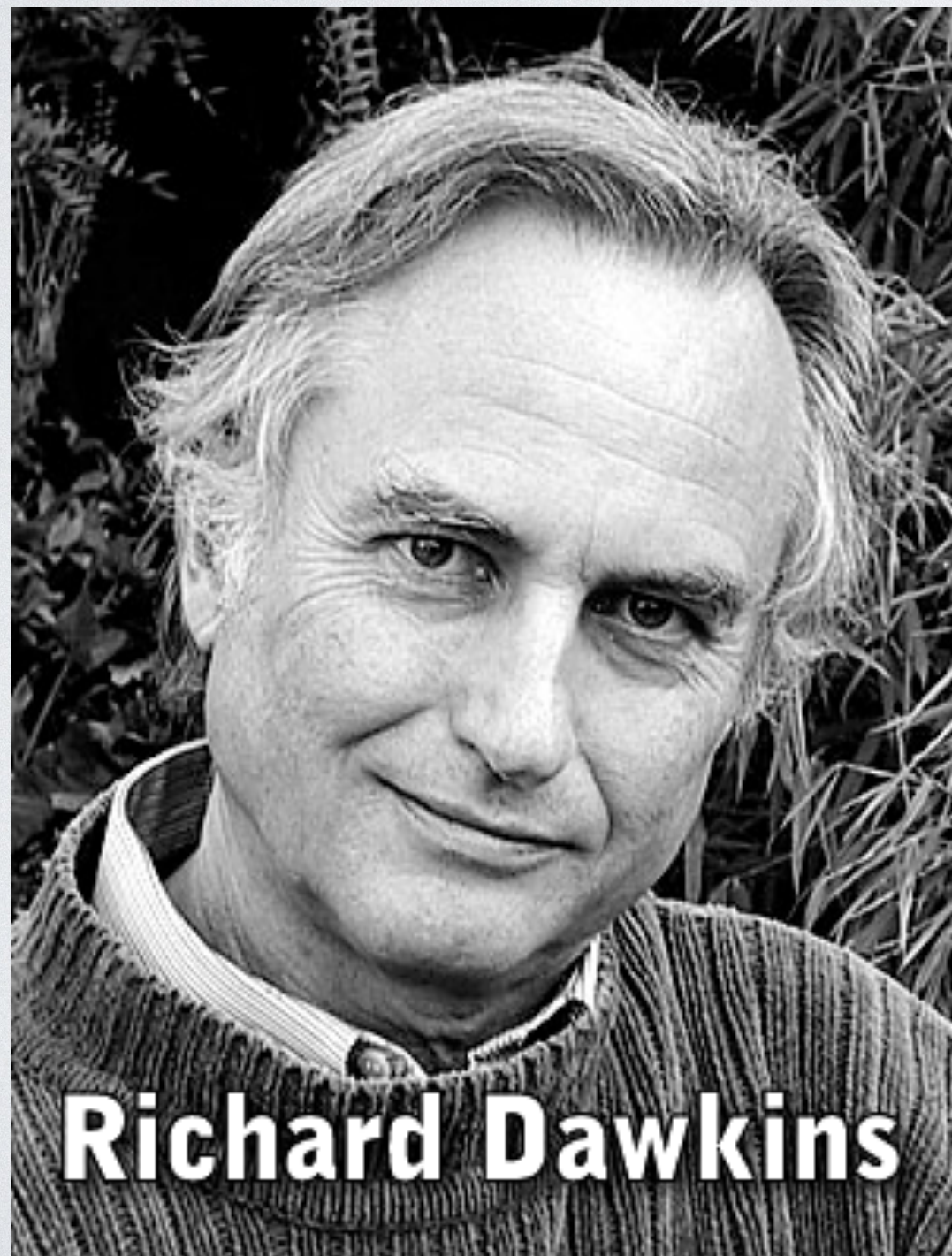


“Third, human beings are marvelously complex machines. The individual human becomes an ethical person by means of two primary mechanisms; heredity and environmental influences. That is all there is. Fourth, we must conclude that when we die, we die and that is the end of us.”

(Darwin On Trial, pg 124, 125)

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

FROM INANIMATE MATTER TO MORAL CONSCIOUSNESS?



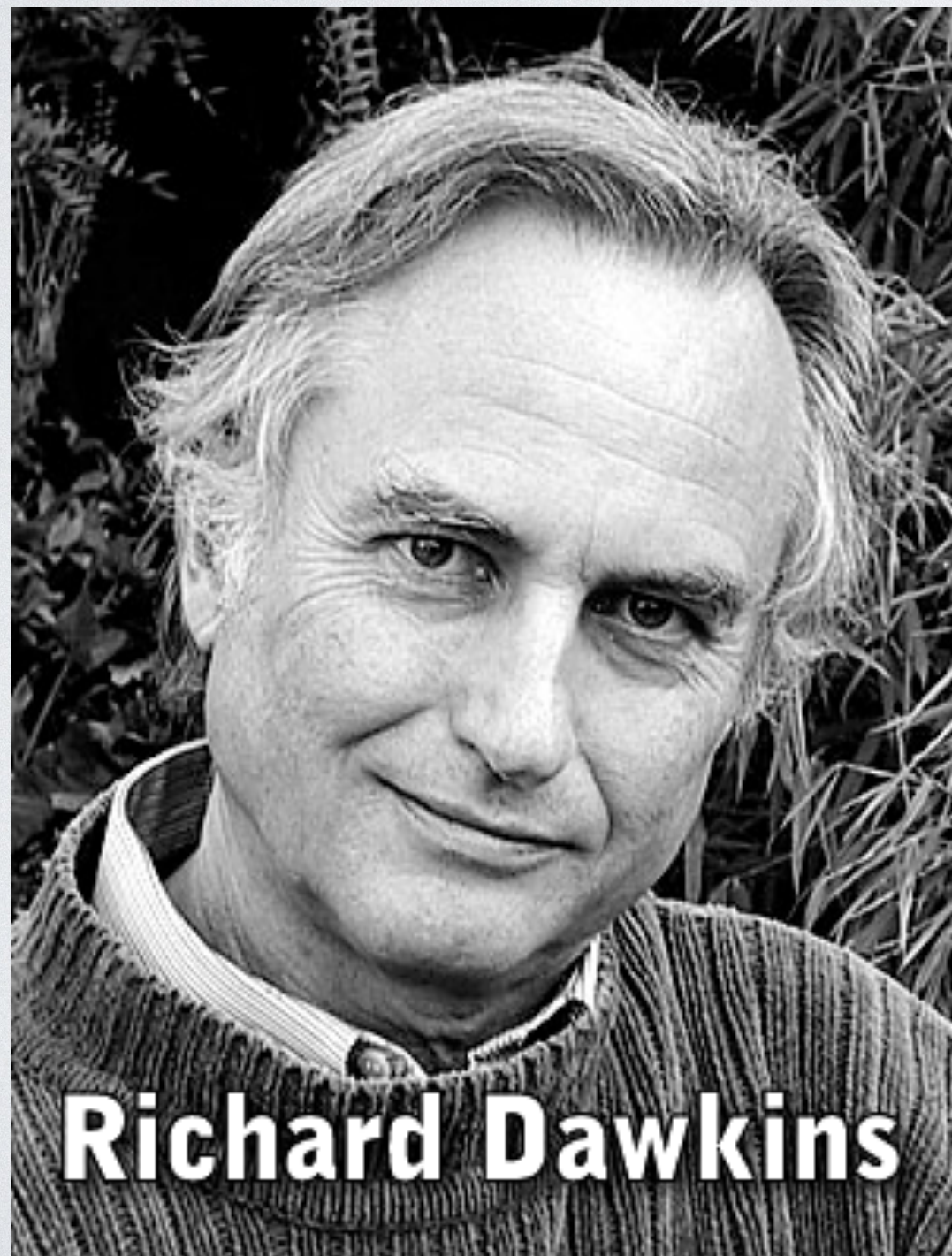
Richard Dawkins

“New Naysayers” . . . atheism is smarter” (2006, p. 47-49).

Biologists understand that the driving force in evolution is the survival and propagation of our genes. They may impel us to **instinctive acts of goodness**...even when it seems counterproductive to our own interests—say, by risking our life to save someone else. **Evolutionary psychology can explain how selfless behavior might have evolved (pp. 48-49,).**

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FROM INANIMATE MATTER TO MORAL CONSCIOUSNESS?



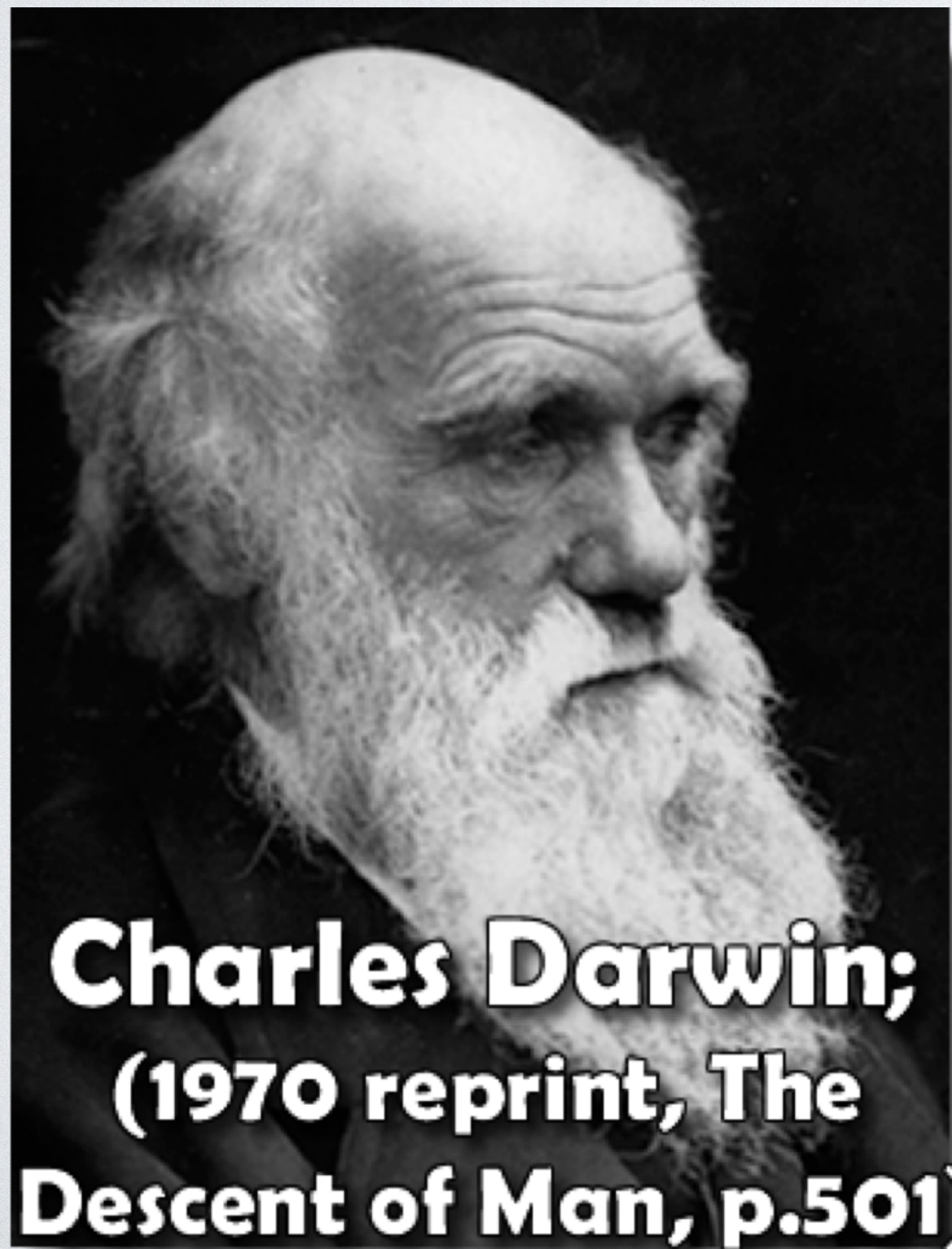
Richard Dawkins

“New Naysayers” . . . atheism is smarter” (2006, p. 47-49).

(1) “The recipient may be a blood relation who carries some of our own genes.” (2) “Or our acts may earn us future gratitude, or reputation for bravery that makes us more desirable as mates.” (3) “The impulse for generosity must have evolved while humans lived in small bands in which almost everyone was related, so that **goodness became the default human aspiration**” (p. 49).

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

FROM INANIMATE MATTER TO MORAL CONSCIOUSNESS?



“With savages, the weak in body or mind are soon eliminated; and those that survive commonly exhibit a vigorous state of health. We civilised men, on the other hand, do our utmost to check the process of elimination; we build asylums for the imbecile, the maimed, and the sick; we institute poor-laws; and our medical men exert their utmost skills to save the life of everyone to the last moment.”

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FROM INANIMATE MATTER TO MORAL CONSCIOUSNESS?



- ✦ Our sense of moral “oughtness” allegedly comes (1) from wanting to pass on our genes, (2) from a desire to be a hero and gain popularity, and/or (3) by default.
- ✦ The “driving force” of evolution—natural selection—runs contrariwise to such moral, human impulses as empathy, charity, and pity,
- ✦ The desire to pass on one’s genes or to be a hero fails to explain the origins of human morality.

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

MORAL STANDARDS OF ATHEISM?



Relativism: there are no universal, objective criteria for determining morals and ethics.

Hedonism: the aim of “moral” conduct is the attainment of the greatest possible pleasure with the greatest possible avoidance of pain.

Utilitarianism: “good” is that which ultimately gives the greatest amount of pleasure to the greatest number of people.

Situationism: something is “right” because the individual determines it is right on a case-by-case basis.

Determinism: man is not responsible for his actions.

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MORAL STANDARDS OF ATHEISM?

- 
- ✓ **Religions:** Atheism / Agnosticism / Humanism / New Age Movement / Woke
 - ✓ **Governments:** Germany, WWI, Fascism and Hitler's Nazism WW2
 - ✓ **Politics:** Dictatorships, Communism –
 - ✓ **Societies:** Humanistic Influence in Psychology

- ✓ Erosion of constitutional right to religious freedoms –
- ✓ Works of the flesh are socially acceptable – (adultery, fornication, pornography, drunkenness, gambling, homosexuality . . .) The ONLY SIN is to say such things are wrong!!!
- ✓ Abortion / Euthanasia

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

FROM INANIMATE MATTER TO MORAL CONSCIOUSNESS?



- ✦ To suggest that the morality inherent in all mankind evolved from a warm pool of inorganic slime in the great long ago is an inadequate explanation.
- ✦ Morals could only have been placed in mankind by a Being who understood, even to a greater degree than men, the difference between right and wrong.

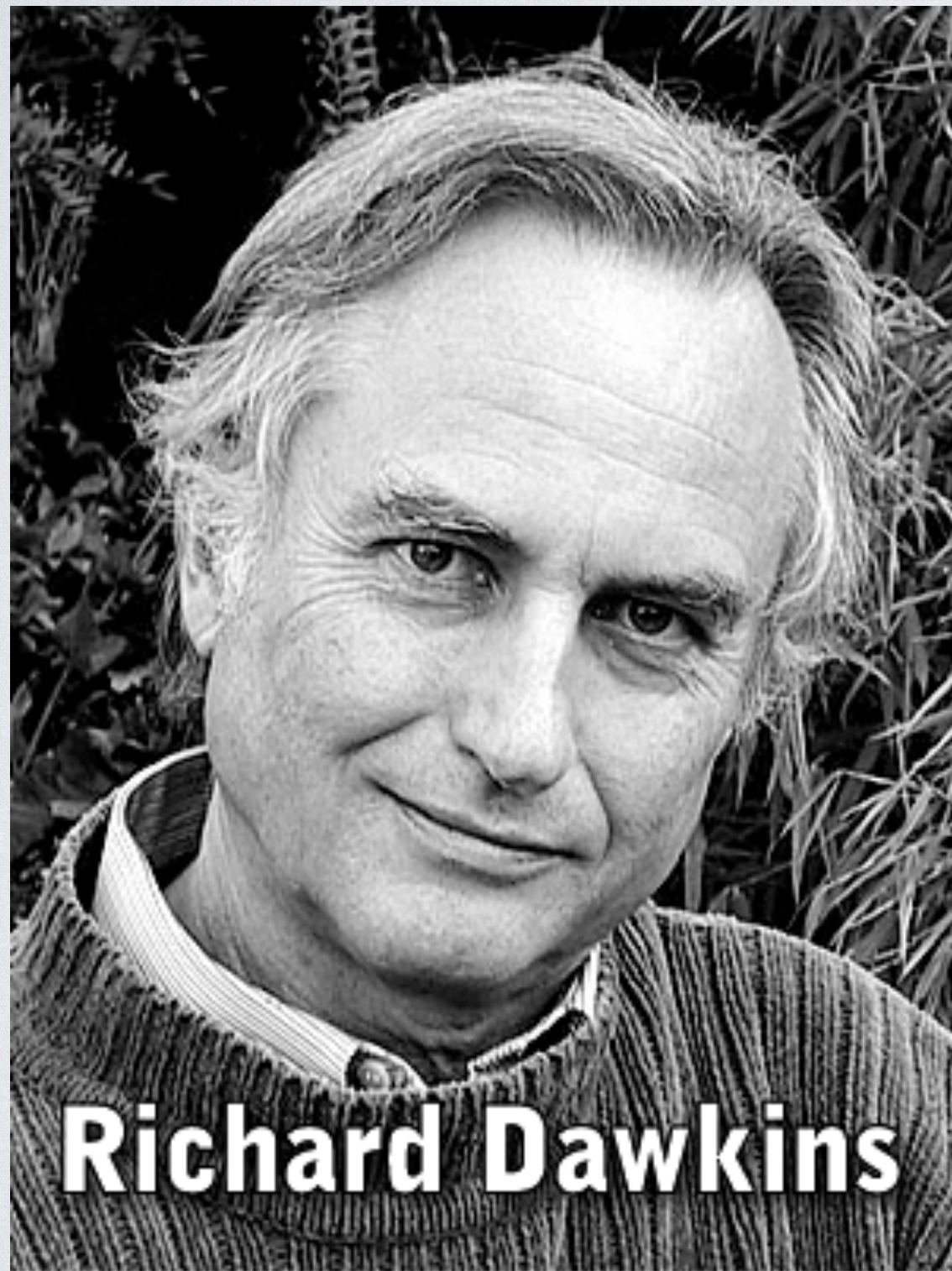


IS IT REASONABLE TO **BELIEVE IN GOD**

The Most
Reasonable
Explanation
For Man's
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Worship, Seek
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Bible?

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

THE ORIGIN OF RELIGION



Richard Dawkins

Dawkins, Richard (2006),
The God Delusion (New
York: Houghton Mifflin).

“Why, if it is false, does every culture in the world have religion? True or false, religion is ubiquitous, so where does it come from?” (p. 159).

“Though the details differ across the world, no known culture lacks some version of the time-consuming, wealth-consuming, hostility-provoking rituals, the anti-factual, counter-productive fantasies of religion” (p. 166).

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

THE ORIGIN OF RELIGION



Sam Harris

(2010), *The Moral Landscape: How Science Can Determine Human Values* (New York: Free Press).

“Similarly, several experiments suggest that children are predisposed to assume design and intention behind natural events—leaving many psychologists and anthropologists to believe that children, left entirely to their own devices, would invent some conception of God” (2010, p. 151).

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

THE ORIGIN OF RELIGION



Deborah Kelemen

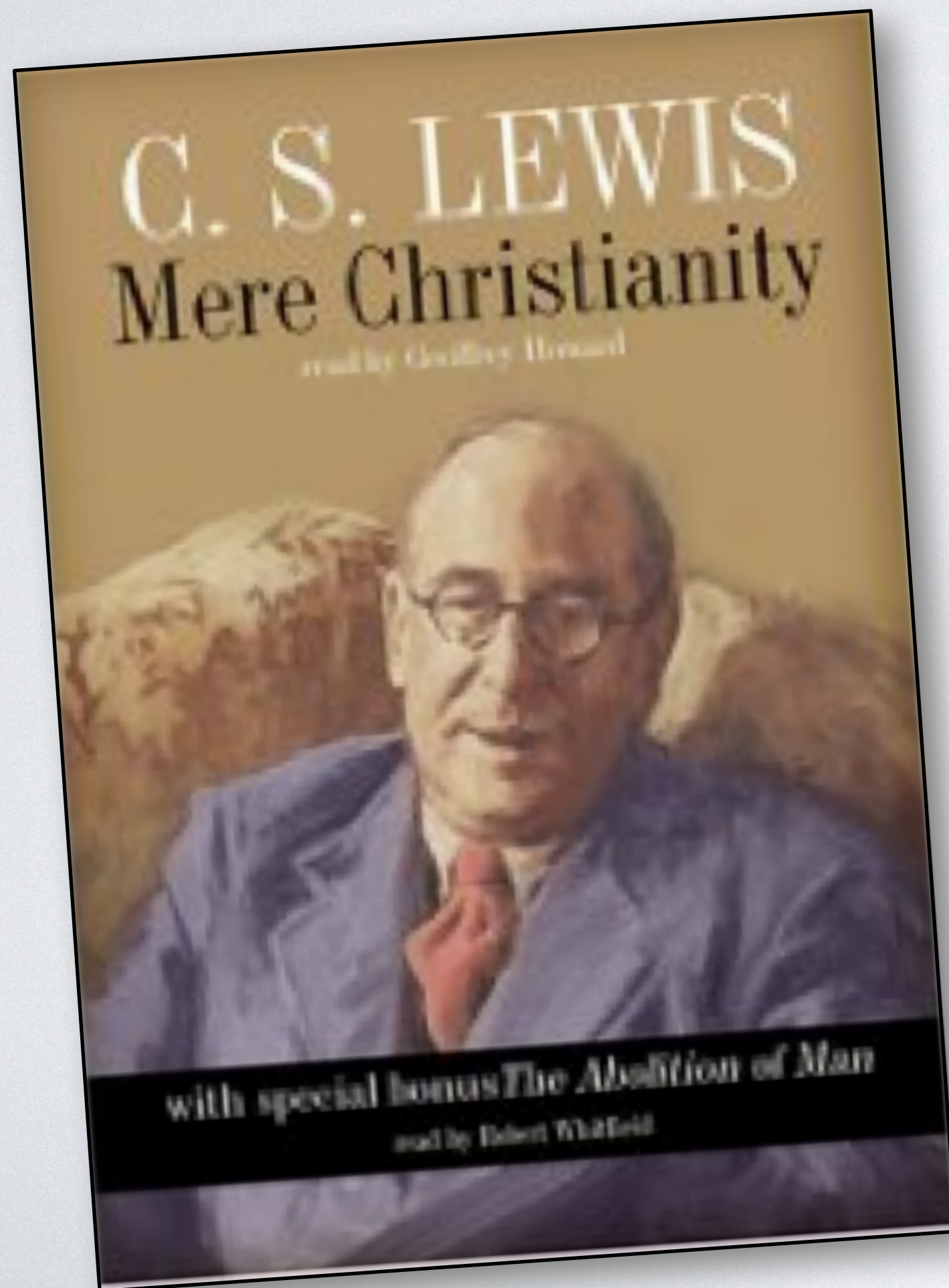
Psychological & Brain Sciences

Are Children ‘Intuitive Theists’?
Reasoning About Purpose and
Design in Nature,” *Psychological
Science*, 15[5]:295-301.

“the proposal that children might be intuitive theists becomes increasingly viable,” ... “together, these research findings tentatively suggest that children’s explanatory approach may be accurately characterized as intuitive theism” (2004, 15:299).

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

THE ORIGIN OF RELIGION




“Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for these desires exists. A baby feels hunger; well, there is such a thing as food. . . . If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.

(C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, Bk. III, chap. 10, "Hope")

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

THE ORIGIN OF RELIGION



“Man alone possesses a unique, inherent religious inclination; he has both the desire and the ability to worship. Regardless of how “primitive” or “advanced” he may be, and despite living isolated from all other humans, man always has sought to worship a higher being. And even when man departs from the true God, he still worships something. It might be a tree, a rock, or even himself.

Apologetics Press :: IN THE “IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD” [PART II] Eric Lyons, M.Min.
and Bert Thompson, Ph.D. APRIL 2002 REASON & REVELATION 22(4):25

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

THE ORIGIN OF RELIGION



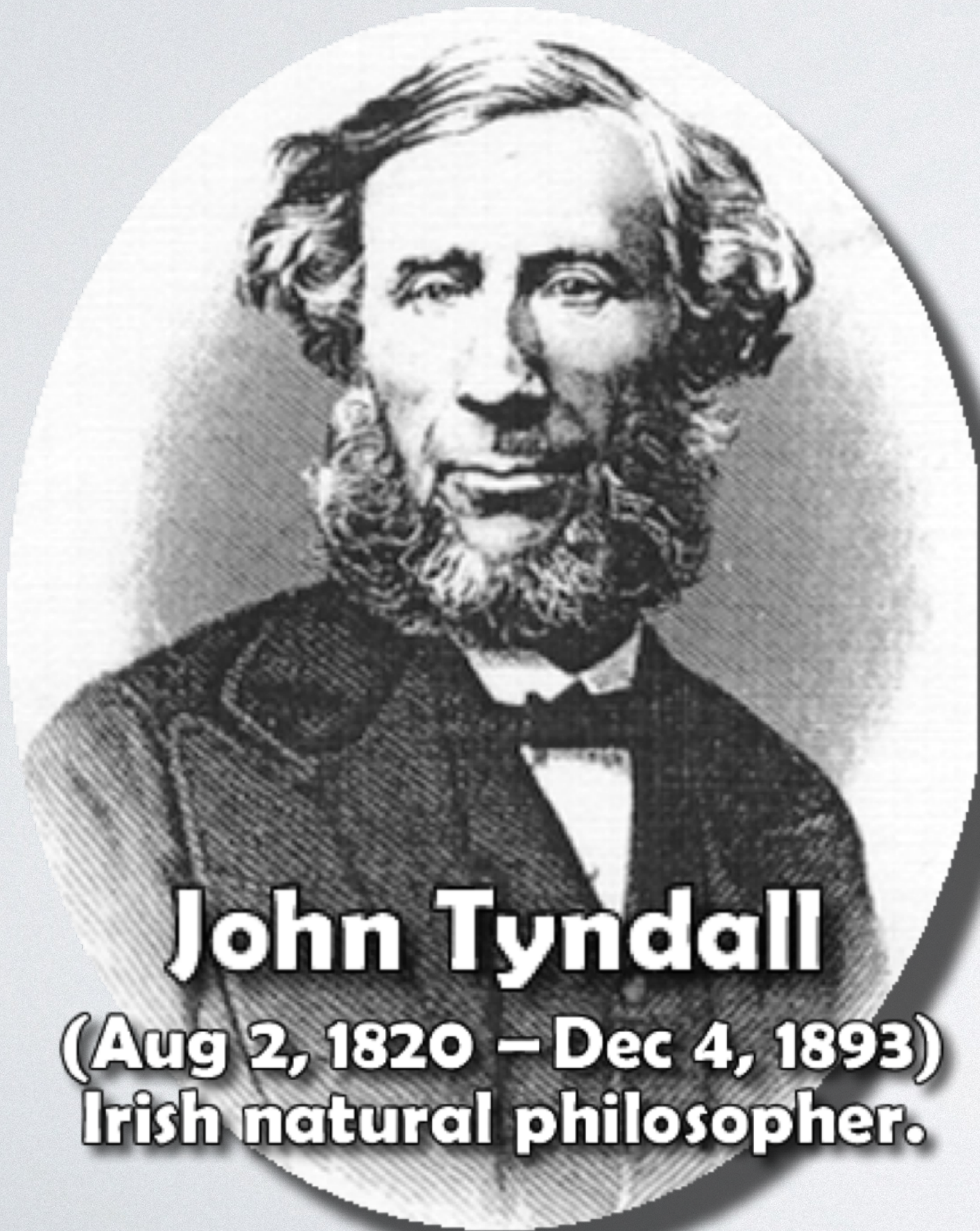
- (1) First, the ability of Speaking.
- (2) Second, desire to improve his education, accumulate knowledge, and build on past achievements.
- (3) Third, man is creative.
- (4) Fourth, gift of reasoning.
- (5) Fifth, man's free-will capacity to make rational choices.
- (6) Sixth, the ability to choose between right and wrong.
- (7) Seventh, man possesses a conscience.
- (8) Eighth, can experience heart-felt emotions.
- (9) Ninth, inherent religious inclination;.
- (10) Tenth, man bears the spiritual imprint of God due to the fact that he possesses an immortal soul.

Apologetics Press :: IN THE "IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD" [PART II] Eric Lyons, M.Min. and Bert Thompson, Ph.D. APRIL 2002 REASON & REVELATION 22(4):25

<https://apologeticspress.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/0204.pdf>

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THE ORIGIN OF RELIGION



John Tyndall

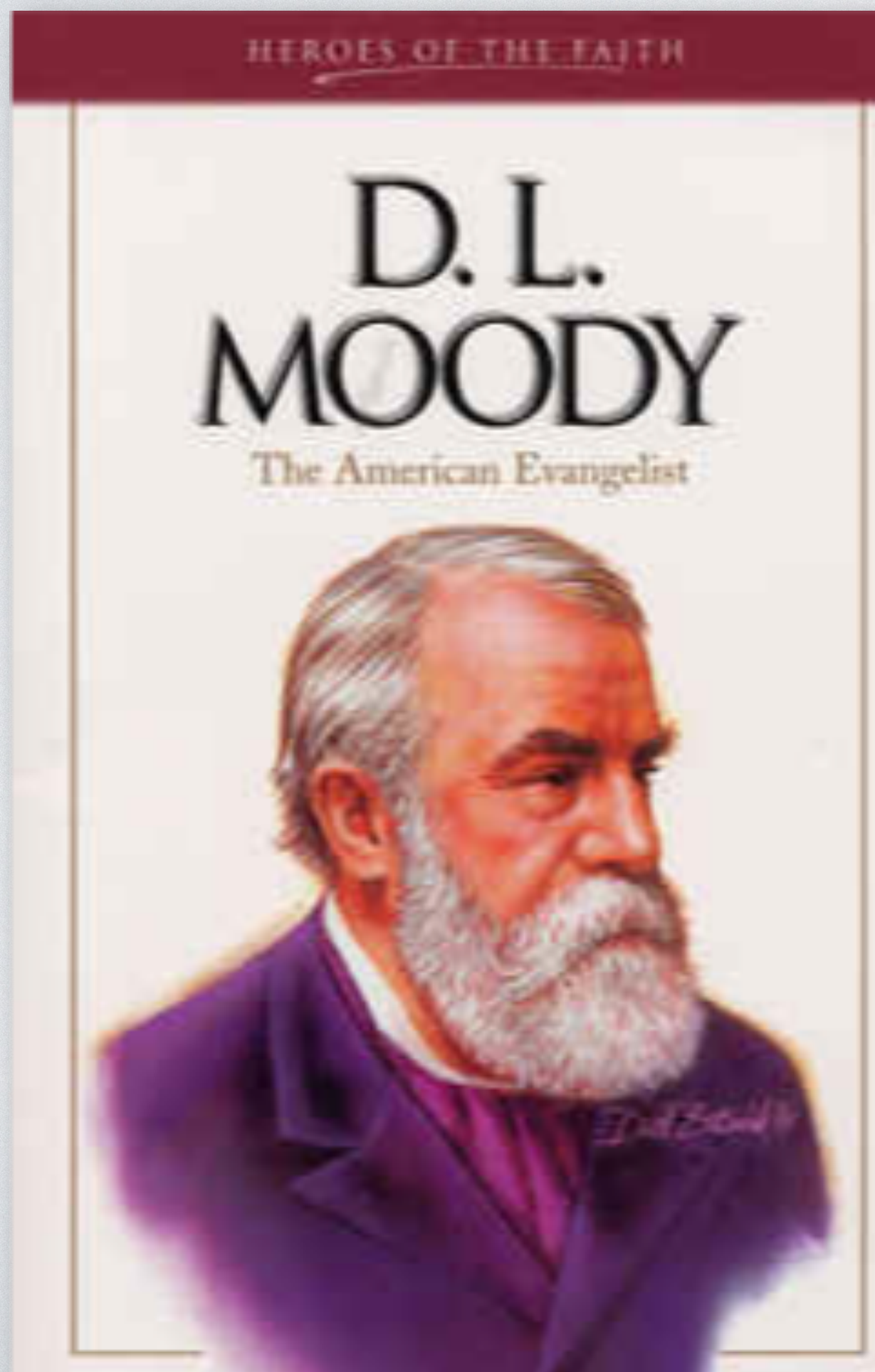
(Aug 2, 1820 – Dec 4, 1893)
Irish natural philosopher.

“Religion lives not by the force and aid of dogma, but because it is ingrained in the nature of man. To draw a metaphor from metallurgy, the moulds have been broken and reconstructed over and over again, but the molten ore abides in the ladle of humanity. An influence so deep and permanent is not likely soon to disappear.”

(Clarence Darrow and Wallace Rice/ “Infidels and Heretics: An Agnostic’s Anthology”, 1929, p. 146).

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

THE ORIGIN OF RELIGION



“[p]hilosophers [have] agreed that even the most primitive races of mankind reach out beyond the world of matter to a superior Being. It is as natural for man to feel after God as it is for the ivy to feel after a support. Hunger and thirst drive man to seek for food, and there is a hunger of the soul that needs satisfying, too. Man does not need to be commanded to worship, as there is not a race so high or so low in the scale of civilization but has some kind of god. What he needs is to be directed aright.”

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

THE ORIGIN OF RELIGION

“Reason and experience both FORBID us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle”

George Washington's
FAREWELL ADDRESS, SEPTEMBER 1796



IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

THE ORIGIN OF RELIGION



John Rist, *Real Ethics*
(Cambridge: Cambridge
University Press, 2003), p. 1.

“There is “widely admitted to be a crisis in contemporary Western debate about ethical foundations.

Ultimately, this crisis is the result of approaching ethics without reference to God. When morality is severed from its theological roots, secular ethics cannot sustain itself - it withers and dies.”

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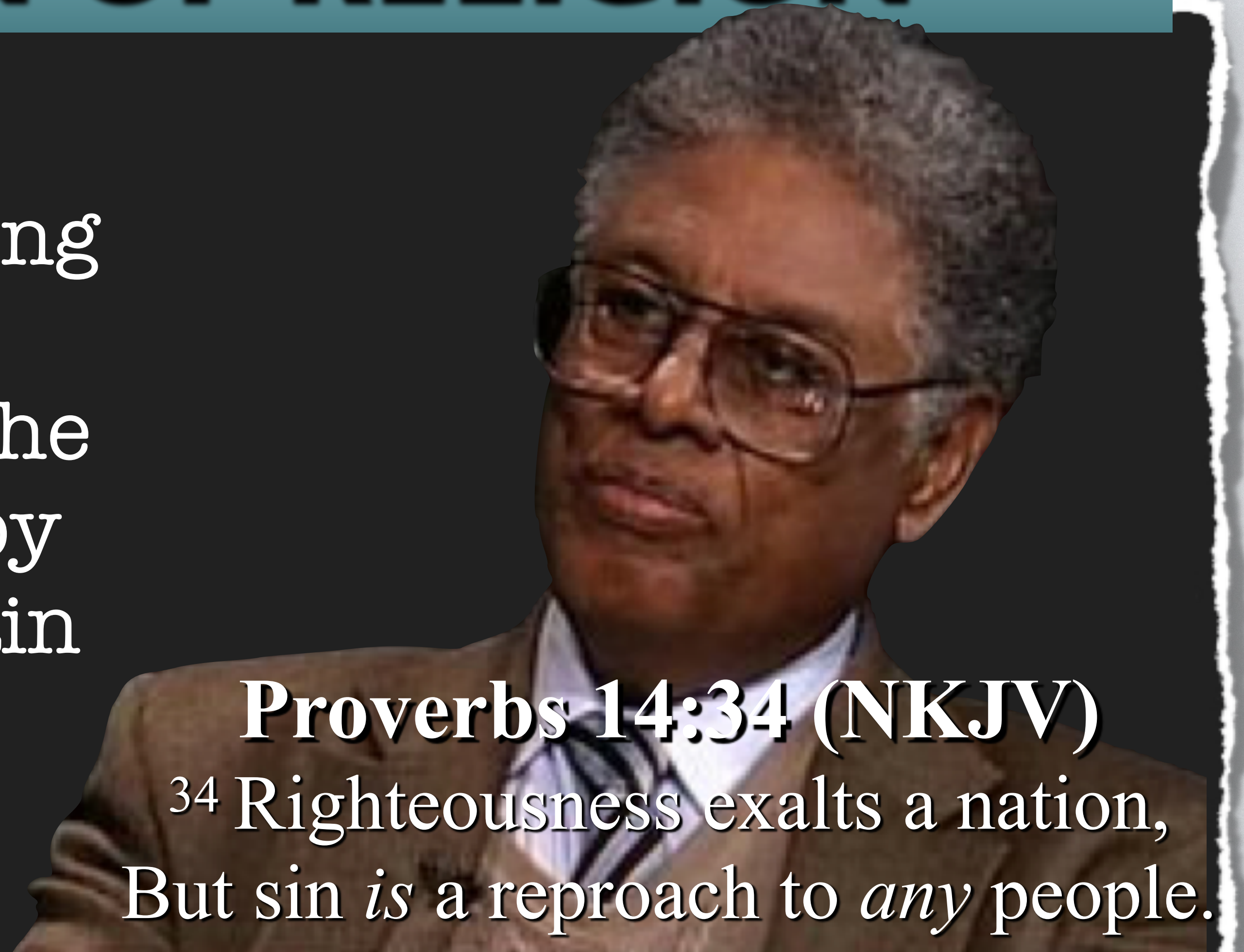
THE ORIGIN OF RELIGION

"Without a moral framework, there is nothing left but immediate self-indulgence by some and the path of least resistance by others. Neither can sustain a free society."

Thomas Sowell

Proverbs 14:34 (NKJV)

³⁴ Righteousness exalts a nation,
But sin is a reproach to *any* people.



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Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.



IS IT REASONABLE TO **BELIEVE IN GOD**

THE BIBLE
CONTAINS THE
ANSWER FOR
EVERY
QUESTION MAN
SEEKS
ANSWERS TO

- **Origin**
- **Order –**
- **Religion –**
- **Ethics –**
- **Identity –**
- **Eschatology -**

A woman's profile is shown in silhouette on the left side of the image. Inside her head, a vibrant sunset scene is visible, with a bright sun low on the horizon over a body of water. Below the horizon, a large crowd of people is seen from behind, looking towards the sunset. The overall background is a soft, light blue gradient.

IS IT REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD

Acts 17:30–31 (NKJV)

³⁰ Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹ because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

BELIEVE IN GOD

The Most Reasonable
Explanation For
Morality, Conscience
& Spirituality?

IS GOD





BELIEVE IN GOD

**NOT ONLY IS IT
REASONABLE TO
BELIEVE IN GOD,**

**IT IS
UNREASONABLE
NOT TO**

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July 21, 2024

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The Most Reasonable
Explanation For Morality,
Conscience & Spirituality?

Charts by Don McClain

Preached October 13, 2013 W 65th Street church of Christ / July 20, 2024, Bryant church of Christ
9500 AR 5, Aexander AR, 72002 - 501-568-1062 / Email - donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

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Romans 2:14–16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵ who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*) ¹⁶ in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

