



When Paul and his companions had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue.



² As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures,



³ explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah," he said.



⁴ Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.





10 As soon as it was night, the brothers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue.



11 Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.



¹² Many of the Jews believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.





14 But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you.



15 You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.



16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives.
 It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.



17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.



¹ I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he comes to set up his Kingdom:



² Preach the word of God.

Be prepared,

whether the time is favorable or not.

Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.



³ For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching.



They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.



⁴ They will reject the truth and chase after myths.
 ⁵ But you should keep a clear mind in every situation.



Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you.



⁶ As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near.



⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.

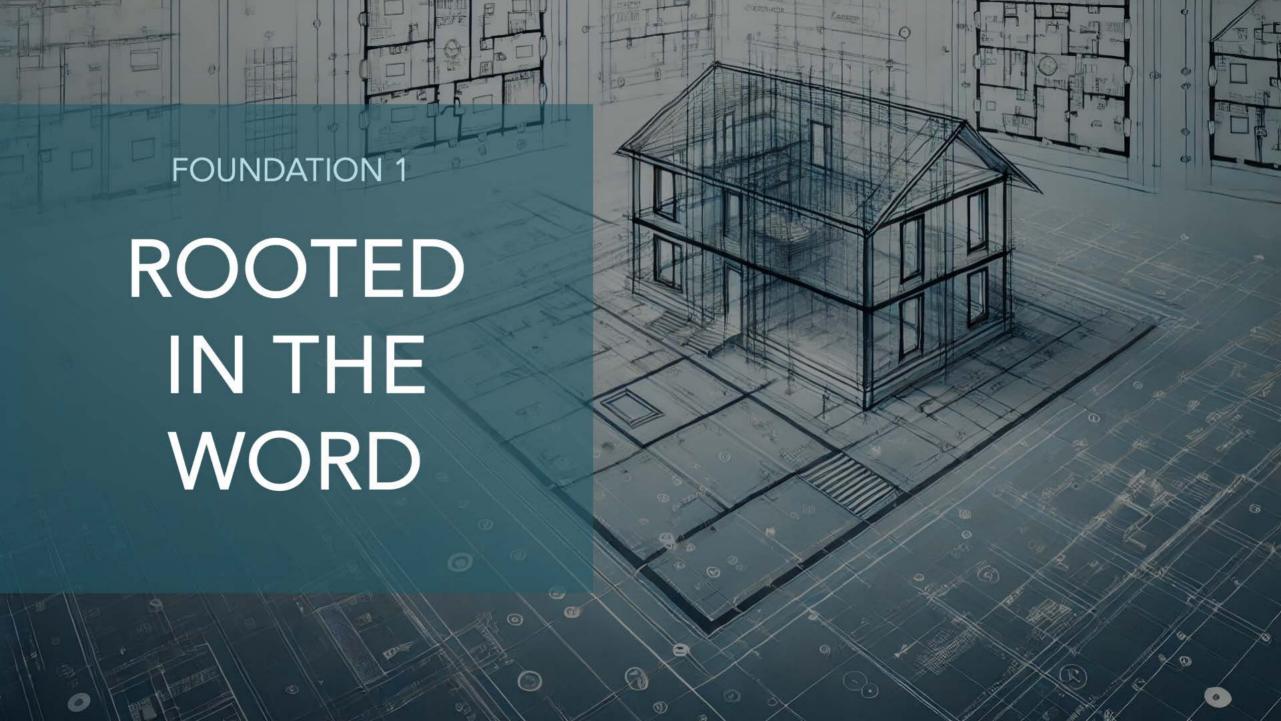


8 And now the prize awaits me
—the crown of righteousness,
which the Lord, the righteous Judge,
will give me on the day of his return.



And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing.







exhaled

16 All Scripture is θεόπνευστος by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives.

It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.



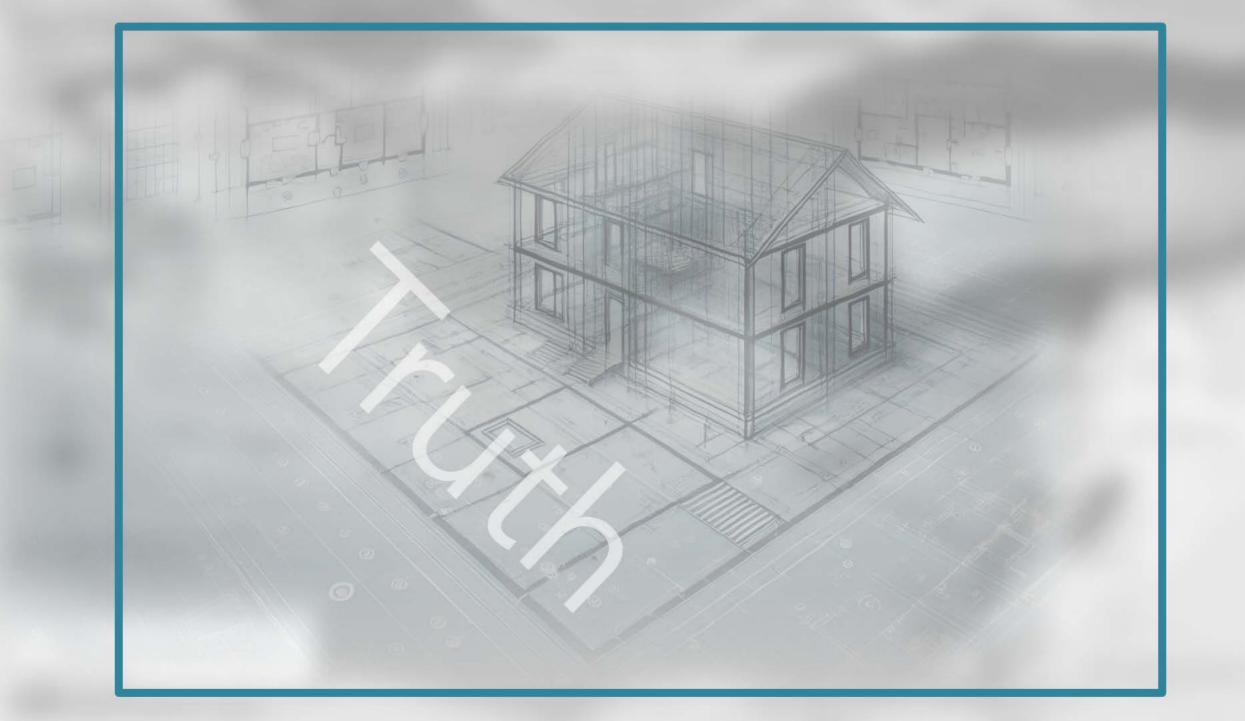


3:17 God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.



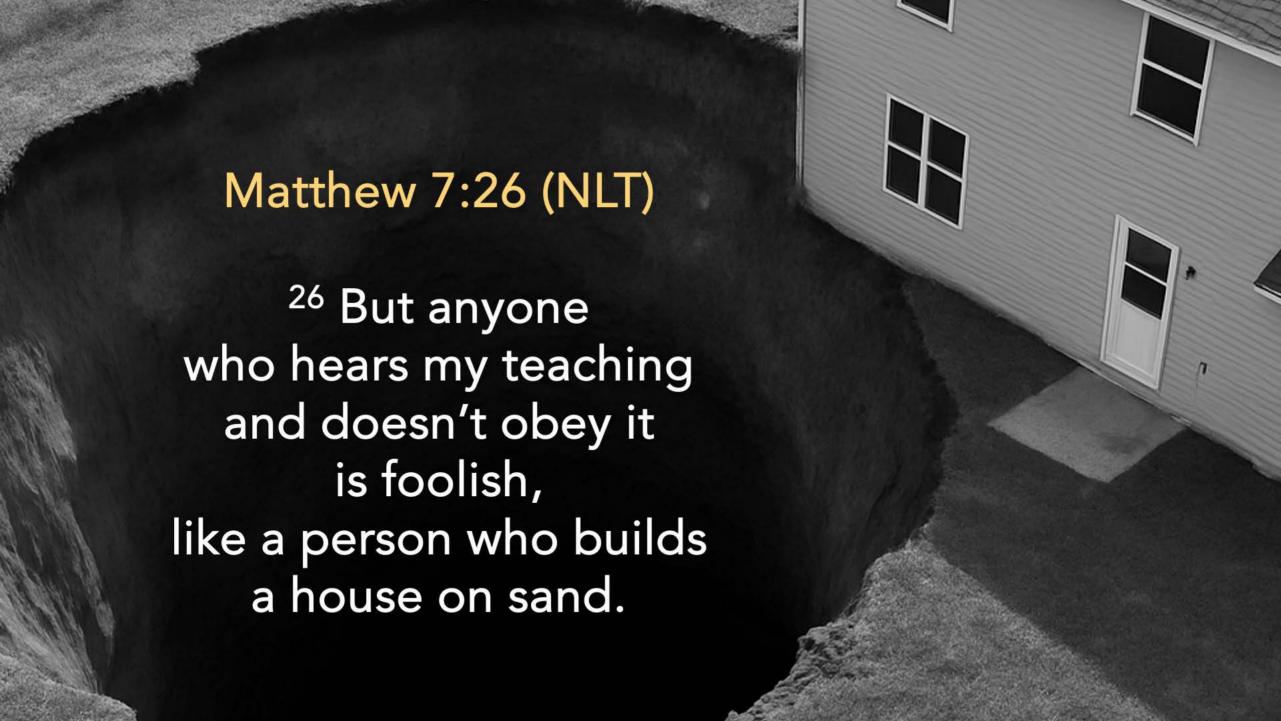
4:4 They will reject the truth and chase after myths.
 5 But you should keep a clear mind in every situation.





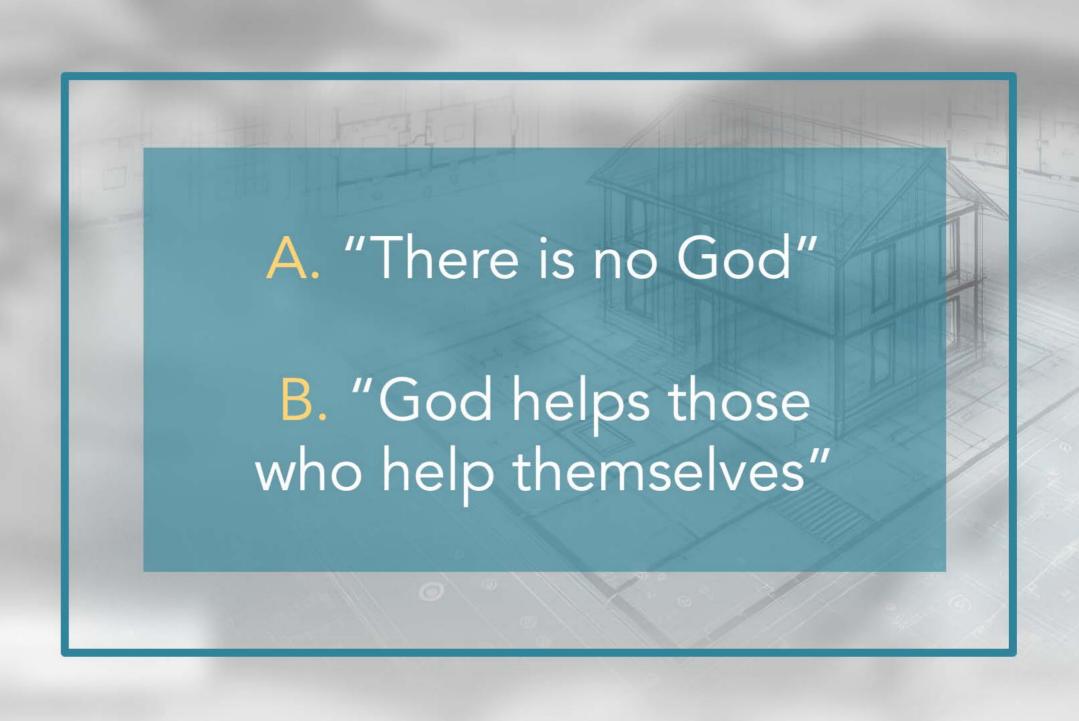
"The Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, were verbally inspired by God and are a complete revelation of His will for the salvation of people. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice."

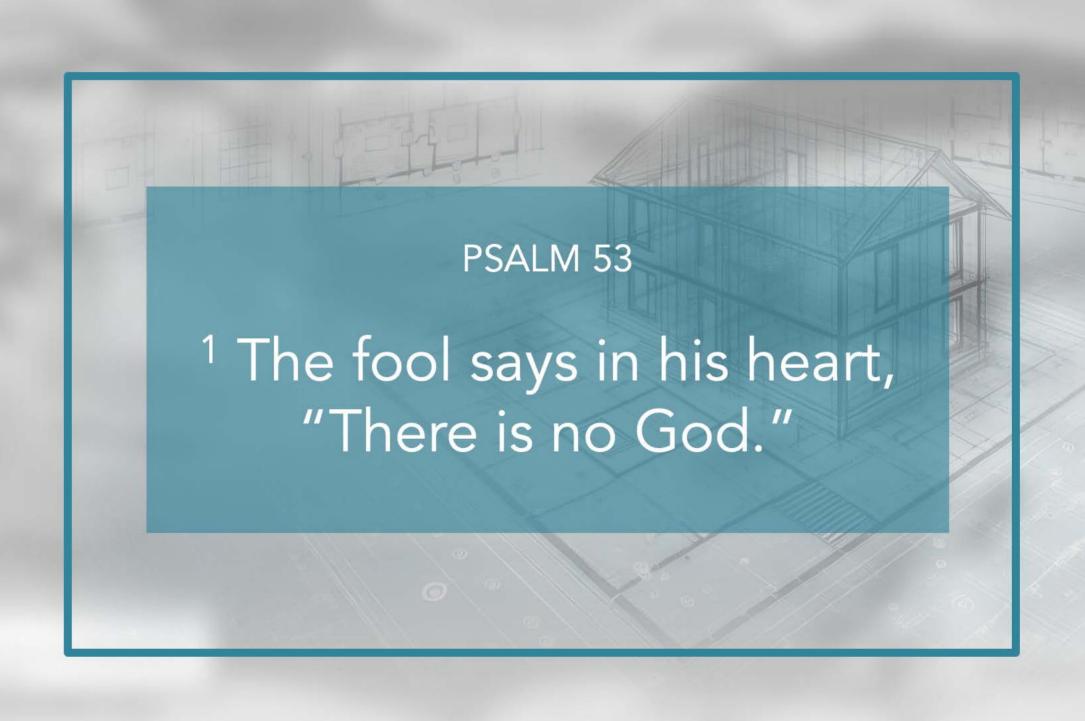
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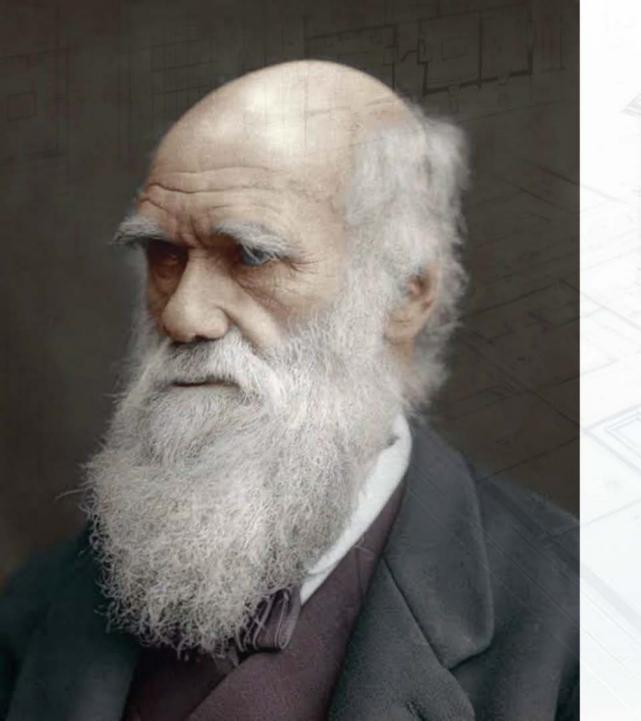








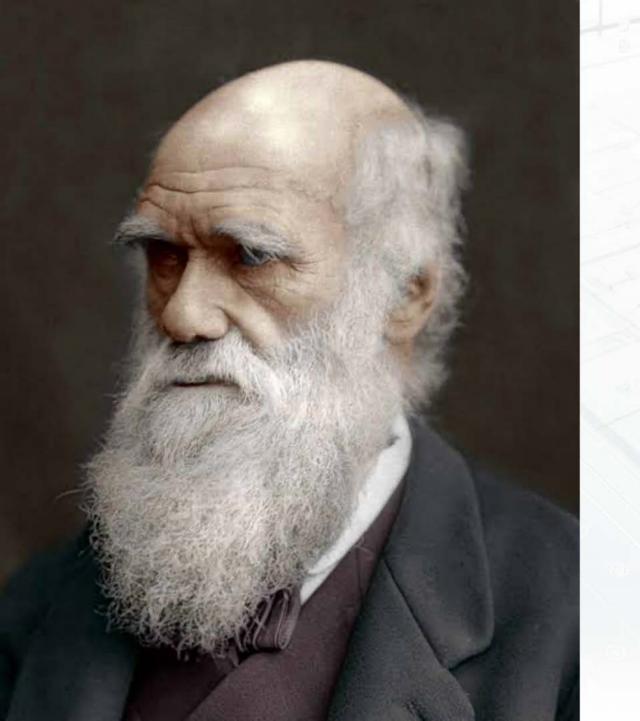




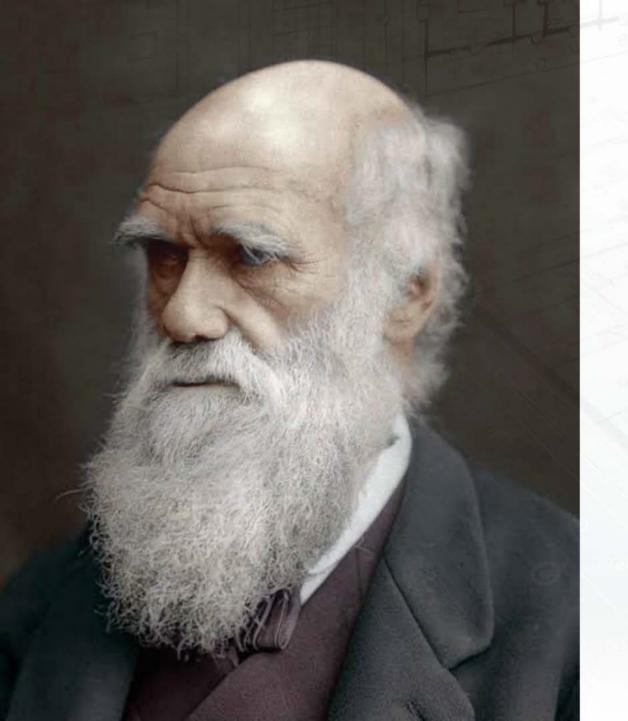
CHARLES DARWIN

Proponent of Theory of Evolution

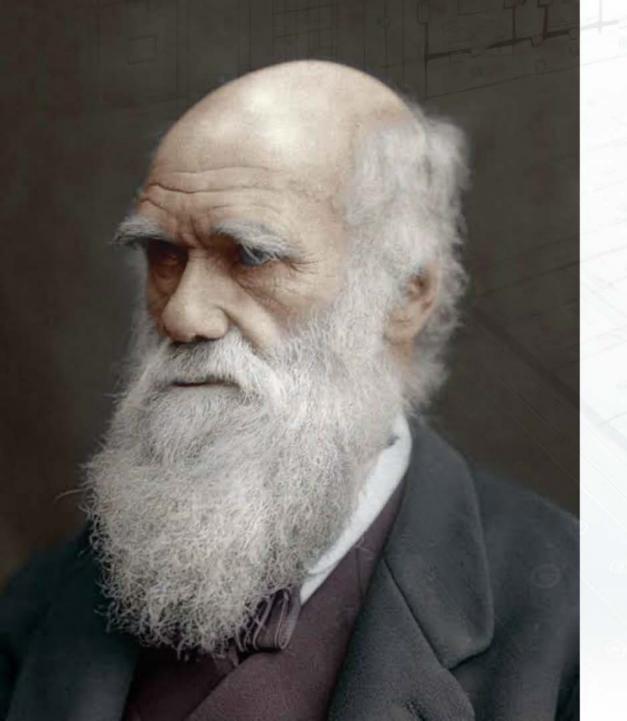
(1809 - 1882)



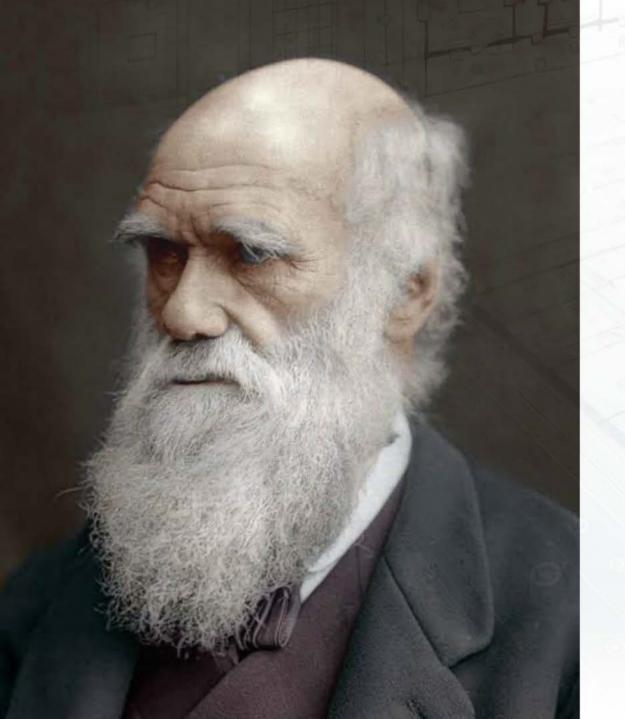
I had gradually come, by this time, to see that the Old Testament from its false history of the world... was no more to be trusted than the sacred books of the Hindus, or the beliefs of any barbarian.



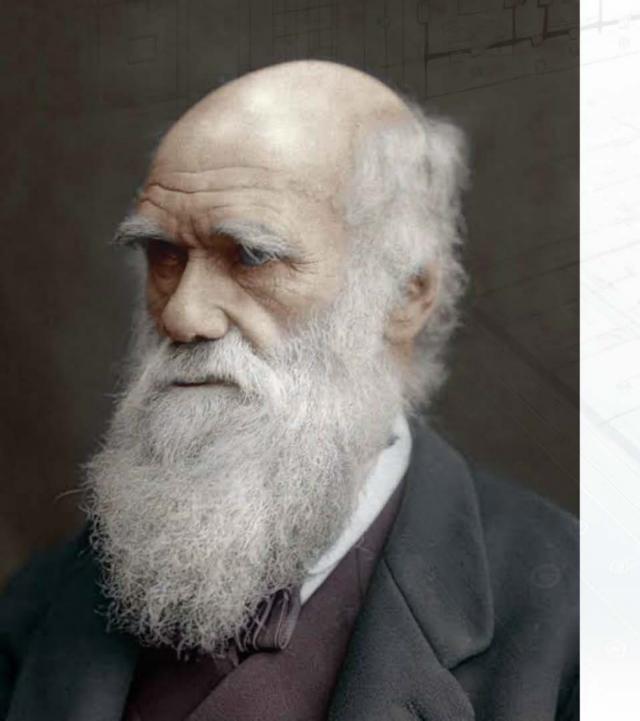
Beautiful as is the morality of the New Testament, it can hardly be denied that its perfection depends in part on the interpretation which we now put on metaphors and allegories.



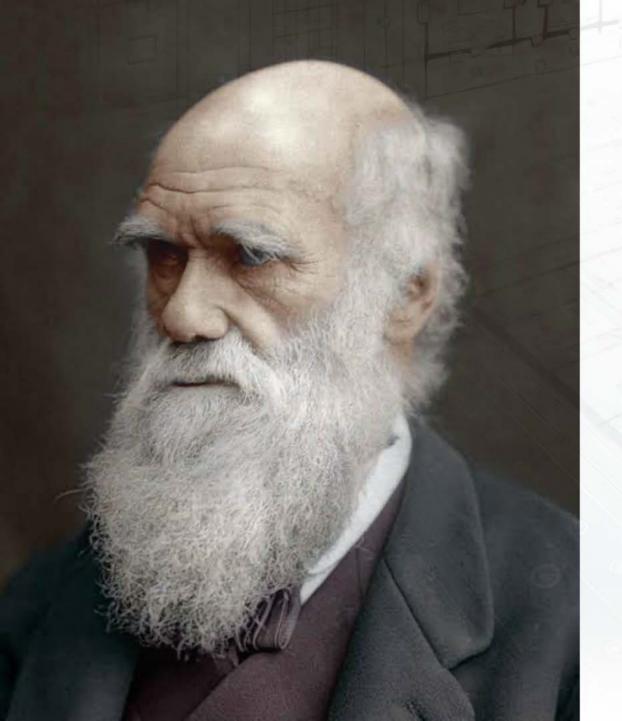
I can well remember often inventing day-dreams of old letters between distinguished Romans and manuscripts being discovered which confirmed in the most striking manner all that was written in the Gospels.



But I found it more and more difficult, with free scope given to my imagination, to invent evidence which would suffice to convince me.

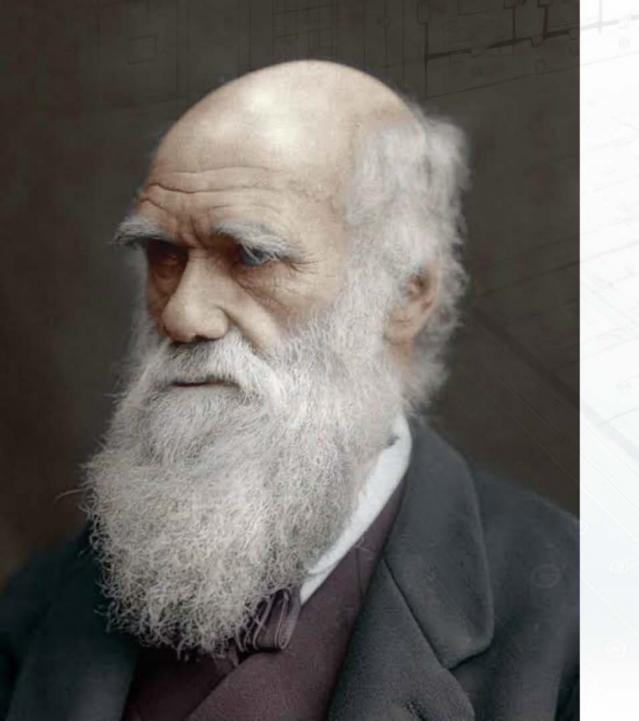


Thus disbelief crept over me at a very slow rate, but was at last complete. The rate was so slow that I felt no distress, and have never since doubted even for a single second that my conclusion was correct.



I can indeed hardly see how anyone ought to wish Christianity to be true; for if so the plain language of the text seems to show that the men who do not believe—and this would include my Father, Brother, and almost all my best friends—will be everlastingly punished.

And this is a damnable doctrine.



...by such reflections as these, I gradually came to disbelieve in Christianity as a divine revelation.

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SEAL OF HEZEKIAH (2700 BC)

Mentions Hezekiah, Son of Ahaz, King of Judah

#8 - The Seal Impression of the Prophet Isaiah (2018)

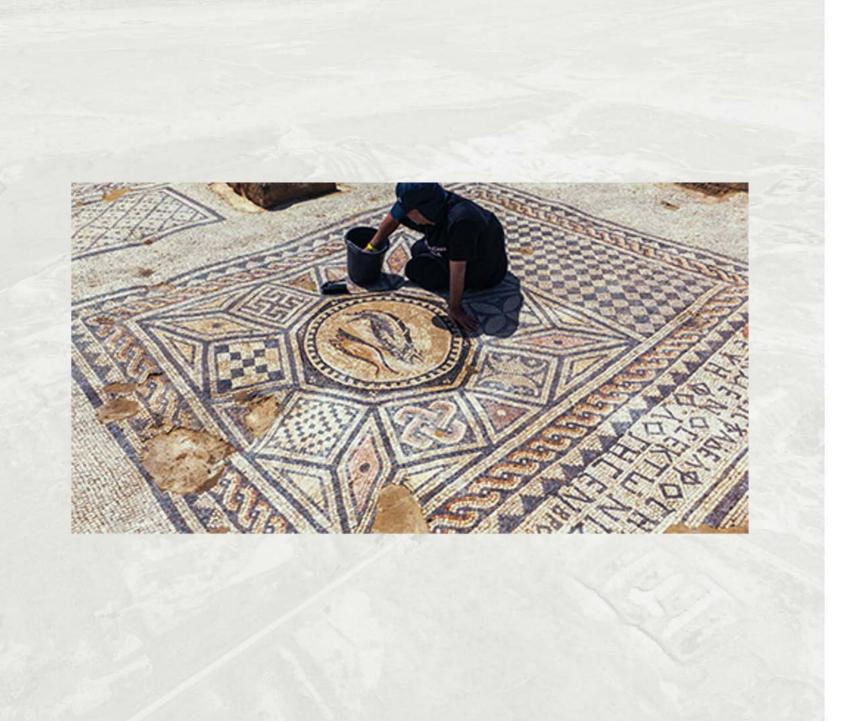




The Isaiah Bulla, a 2,700-year-old clay seal impression which may have belonged to the biblical prophet Isaiah. Photo Credit: Ouria Tadmor/© Eilat Mazar

SEAL OF ISAIAH (2700 BC)

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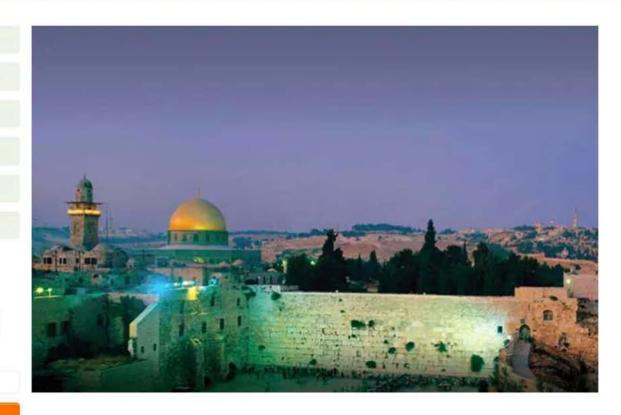






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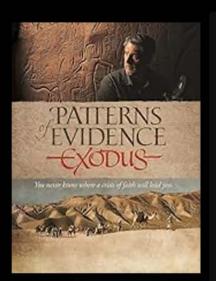


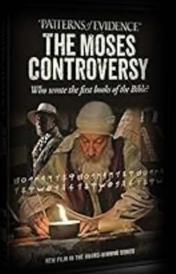
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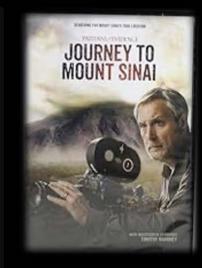
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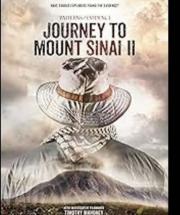


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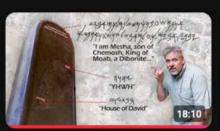
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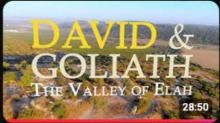
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That night,
as I lay in a prison cell bed,
I noticed something scribbled
on the metal bunk above me:
"If you're bored,
read Jeremiah 29:11."



So I did and was intrigued by the promise I read there: "'I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."



I read the Bible more and more. As I did, I realized I'd placed my identity in the wrong thing. The world tells those of us with same-sex attractions that our sexuality is the core of who we are.



But God's Word paints quite a different picture. Genesis 1:27 informs us that we are all created in the image of God. The apostle Paul says that in Christ "we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). Thus, my identity is not gay, ex-gay, or even straight. My true identity is in Jesus Christ alone.



Clarity comes not by trying to decide which approach is more compassionate but by observing which approach is grounded in the correct version of truth—God's truth.



With good intentions, we may rush into doing "what's right," but if we don't begin with right thinking, there's a good chance we could be doing what's wrong.

HOLY SEXUALITY AND THE GOSPEL

Sex, Desire, and Relationships Shaped by God's Grand Story

CHRISTOPHER YUAN



