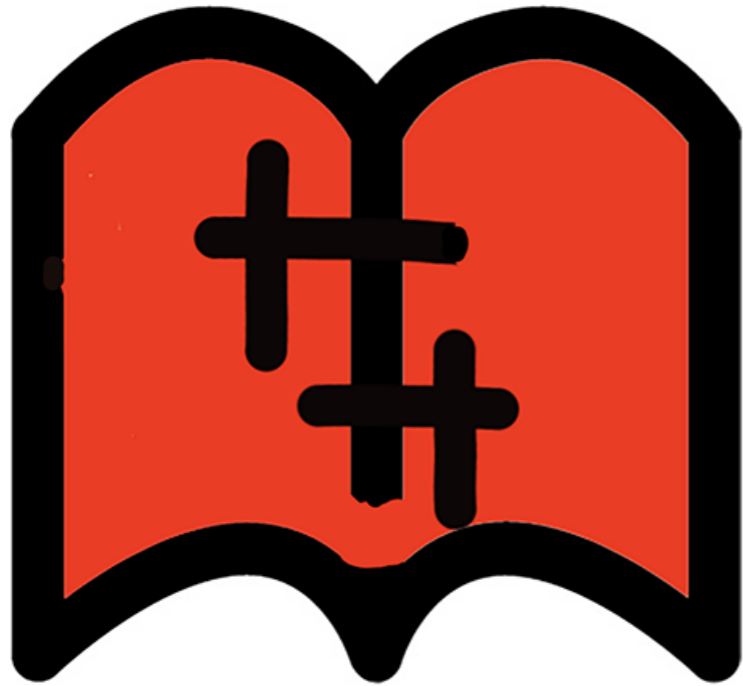
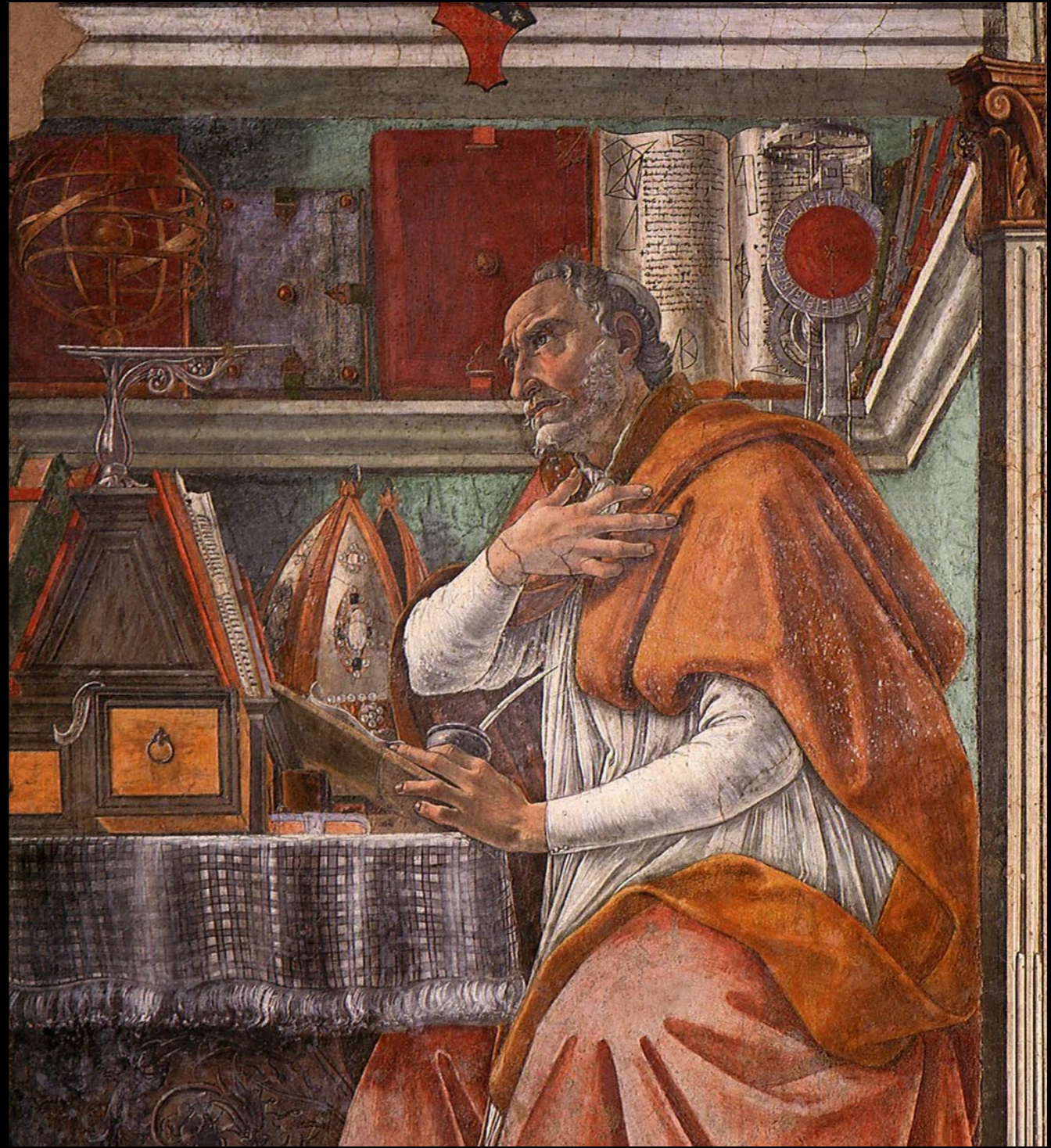


Mining Biblical



Truth



By Ken Requard

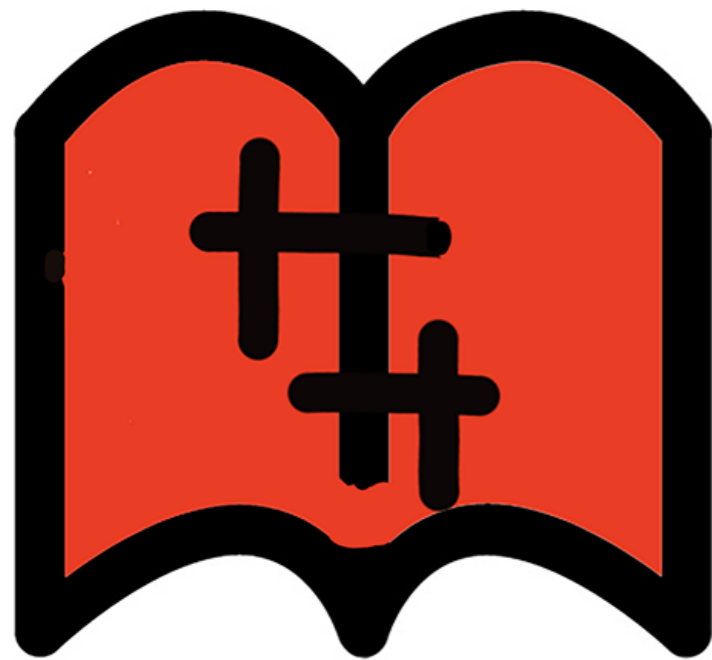


Digging Deeper 11

Whole Bible on Prophecy

Covenant Enforcers

Mining Biblical



Truth





Last week we examined the futility of the power of kings.

Who will speak the truth to power?

The few, the chosen, the Prophets!





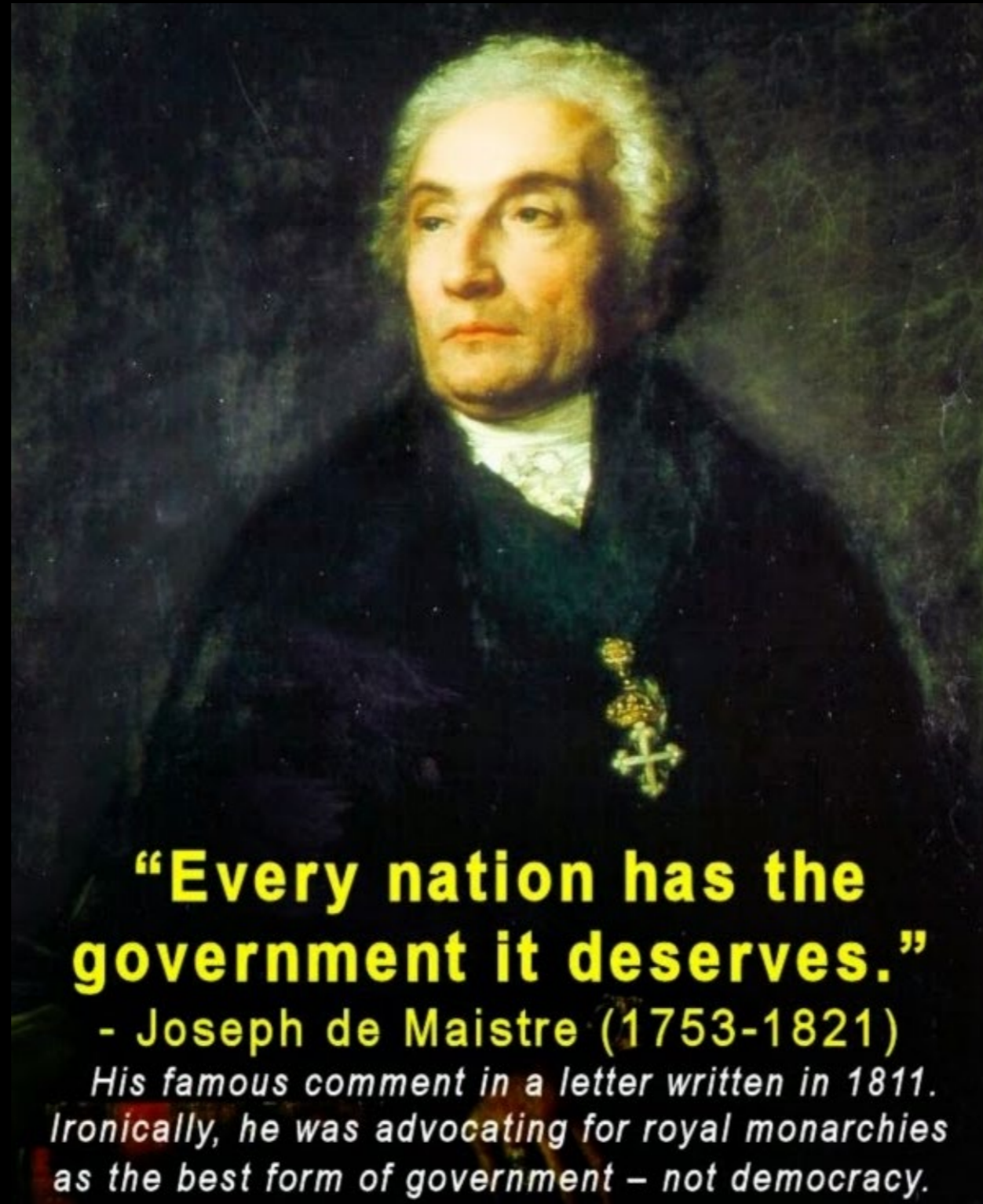
Kings only have authority under
God: even pagan Kings!

*For **all authority**
comes from God,
and those in positions of authority
have been placed there by God.*

Romans 13:1 [NLT]



Prophets: You deserve holier government ... but...



“Every nation has the government it deserves.”

- Joseph de Maistre (1753-1821)

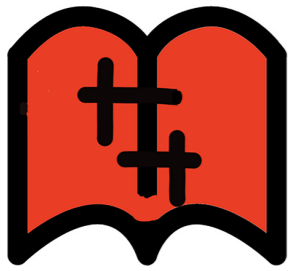
His famous comment in a letter written in 1811. Ironically, he was advocating for royal monarchies as the best form of government – not democracy.



Challenge Question for Week 11:

Read 2 Samuel 7. What principle does God teach David through the prophet Nathan?

Dining Biblical



Truth



David seeks to build a house for the Lord.

Nathan: Good idea!

The Lord: Not so fast!

You will not build a temporary house for me.

I will build an eternal house for you and your descendants.



God uses Nathan to re-direct the attention of the King from what he can do for God vs what God can do for him.

We don't earn our salvation.

Salvation is a gift from God.



Dining Biblical



Truth

FOREWORD BY TIMOTHY KELLER

BIBLICAL CRITICAL THEORY

How the Bible's Unfolding Story Makes Sense
of Modern Life and Culture



CHRISTOPHER
WATKIN

Prophecy makes sense of life and culture.



Prophets communicate God's perspective and desires.

The essential question: Where does truth come from?



From inside culture or from outside?



Prophets are God's culture-warriors.



Christians are called to speak the truth to culture to conform it to God's will or face God's wrath.



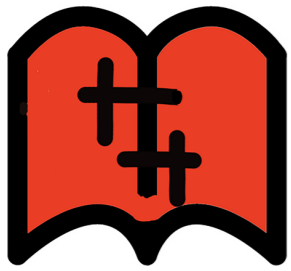
The War of Facts vs Truth



**Everything we
hear is an
opinion, not a
fact. Everything
we see is a
perspective, not
the truth.**

..Marcus Aurelius

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Truth

Dragnet TV Show.

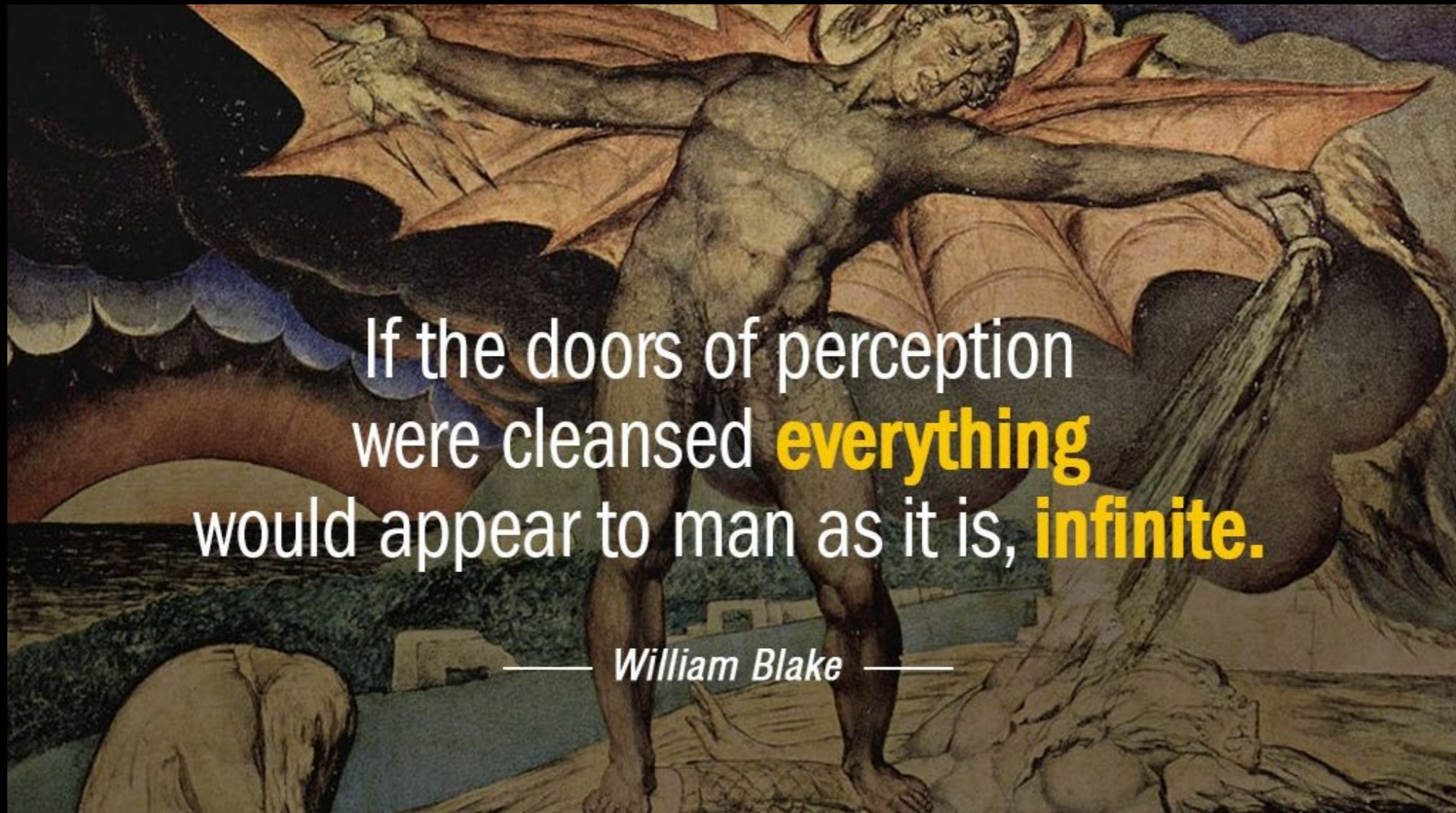
**Just the facts, mam.
Just the facts.**



Impossible! Because “facts” are not absolute, being influenced by our perspective as humans.



What did you believe was a fact in the past but now are confident is not true?



If the doors of perception were cleansed **everything** would appear to man as it is, **infinite.**

— William Blake —

Some of the doors of our perception are closed - like GEHAZI who could not see the divine warriors protecting Elisha.

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Truth

Prophets open the doorway to the infinite reality of God.



1 Corinthians 13:12

For now we
see in a
mirror dimly,

BUT THEN FACE TO FACE.

Now I know
in part;

THEN I SHALL KNOW FULLY,

even as I have been
fully known.



**DO YOU SWEAR TO TELL THE
TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH AND
NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH SO HELP
YOU GOD?**

The Prophets did hold back the full truth,
like the apostle Paul said in Acts 20:27:
I did not shrink from telling you the
whole counsel of God.



God intervenes in culture by speaking truth through his prophets.

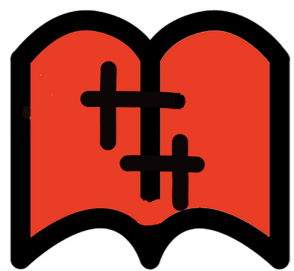
Prophets remind the people of the covenant relationship with God that they freely accepted.

Samuel was the last “prophet-priest-king” until Jesus came. He had divine authority and secular institutional power. After him, these roles are separated because the people demanded a human king.

1 Samuel 8 is a pivotal chapter of warnings regarding human kings.

Watkin points out that if the Bible was written as “royal propaganda,” it would not include 1 Samuel 8!

Dining Biblical



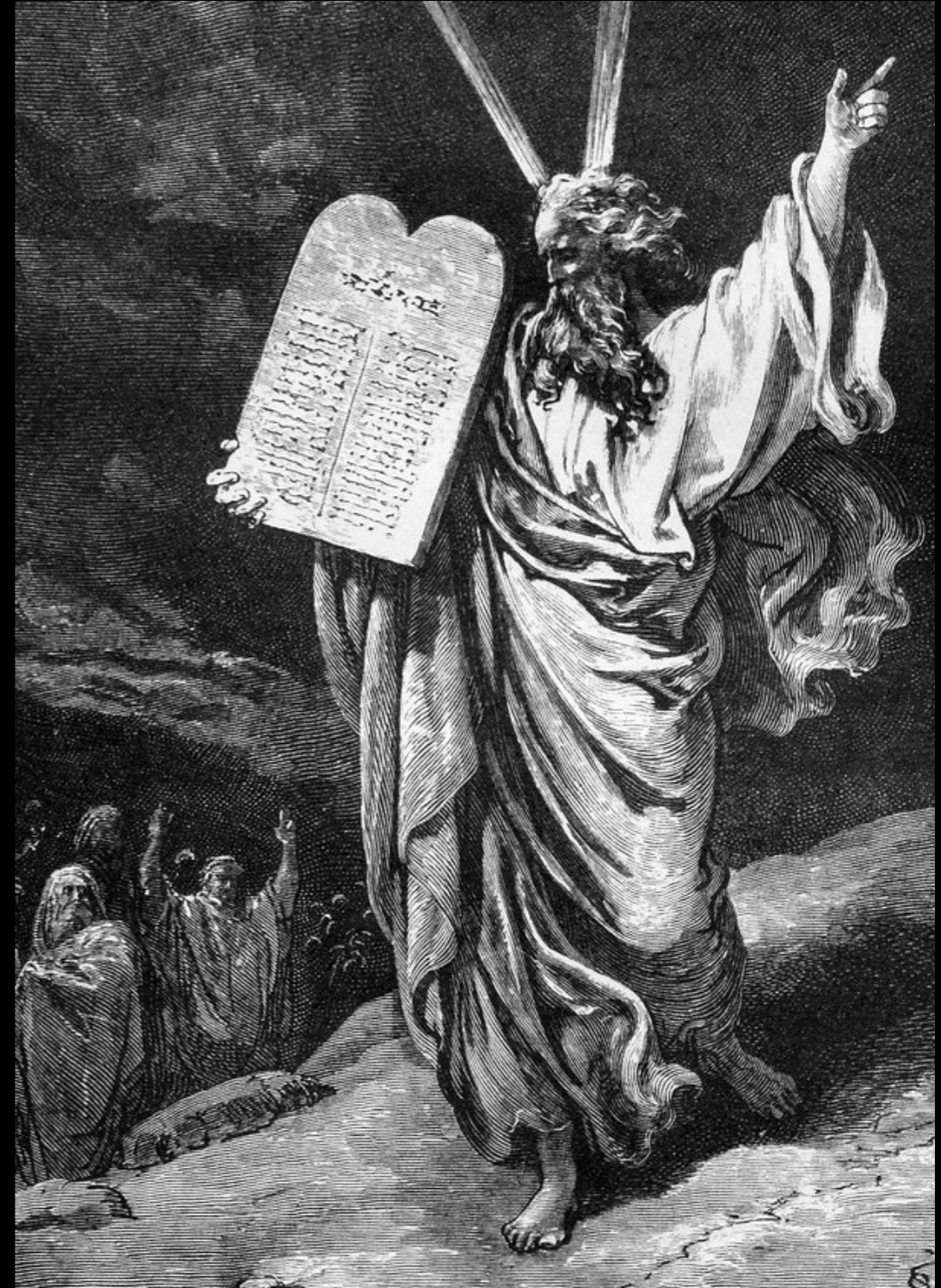
Truth

Welcome the loyal opposition.





In the Biblical
Theocracy of
Israel, “man does
not write the law -
God does!” -
Watkin.



Hebrews 1:1-3 (ESV)

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets,
²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.





Who most effectively speaks the truth to power today? Who supports the people's right to hear the truth?

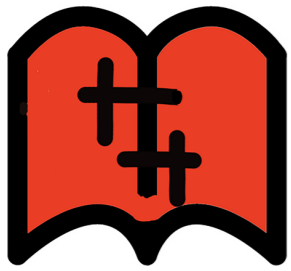
Journalists?

Pastors?

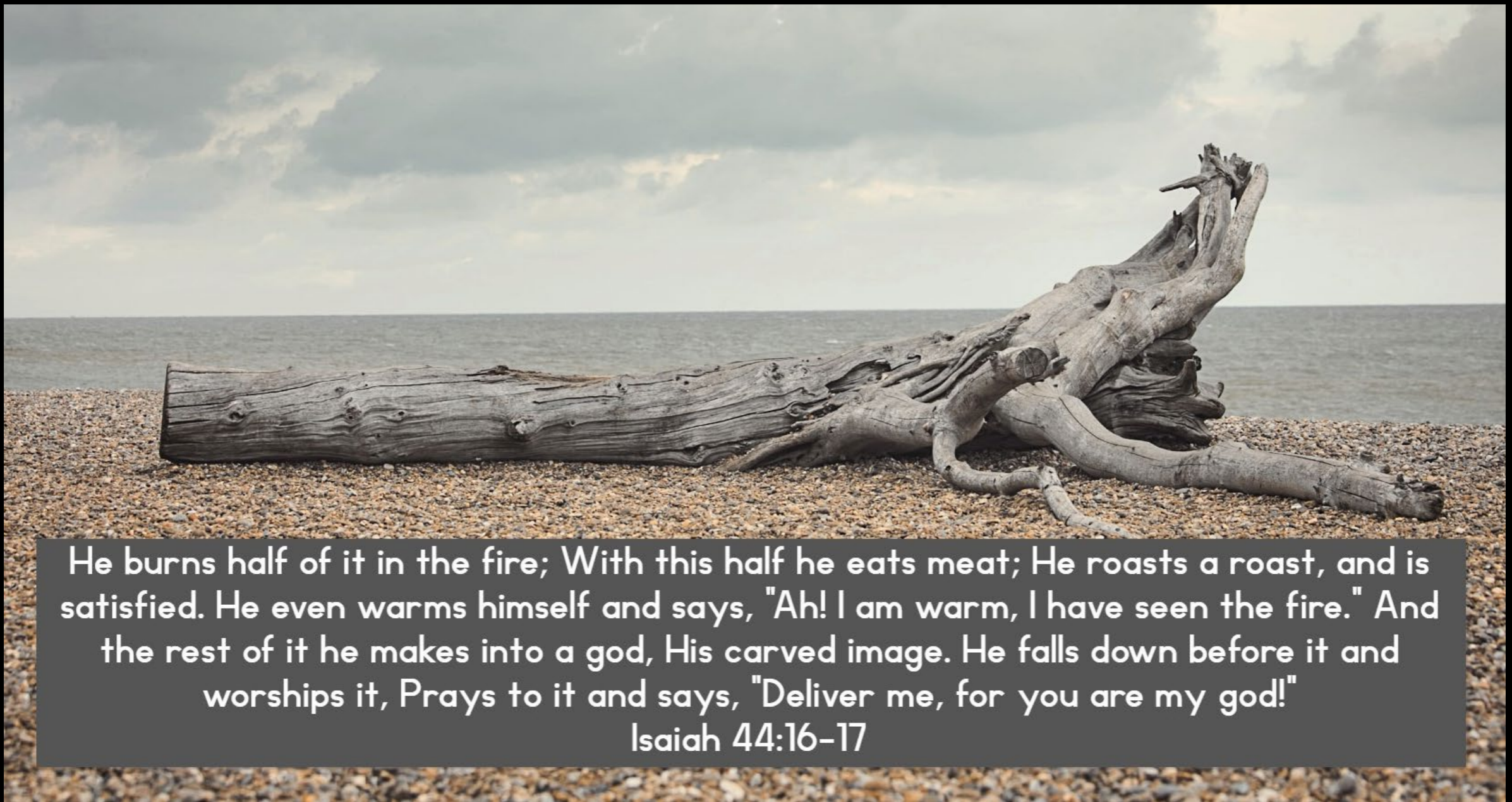
Academicians?

Experts?

Comedians - satirists?



The role of satire.



He burns half of it in the fire; With this half he eats meat; He roasts a roast, and is satisfied. He even warms himself and says, "Ah! I am warm, I have seen the fire." And the rest of it he makes into a god, His carved image. He falls down before it and worships it, Prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for you are my god!"

Isaiah 44:16-17

Satire gets our attention: penetrating our hearts.

Dining Biblical



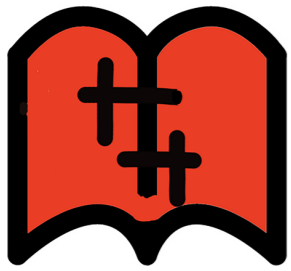
Truth

Jesters in Medieval courts could speak the truth and survive!



Jesters do oft prove prophets.
-William Shakespeare

Dining Biblical



Truth

As covenant enforcers, the prophets have spiritual power.

Clint Eastwood The Enforcer



They enforce with words, not bullets.

Dining Biblical



Truth

Prophets (like cops) remind the people that they consented to live under the law.





Politicians tell the people what they want to hear - the “noble lie” or “official lie.”

Prophets tell the people what they need to hear - God’s truth.



But if people don't believe in absolute truth, then they won't listen to truth as in the case of Pontius Pilate: Jesus says "I am the truth" and Pilate asks: "What is truth?" - then walks away.

Today, a person might respond: "Your truth or my truth?"



Moses defines true prophets.

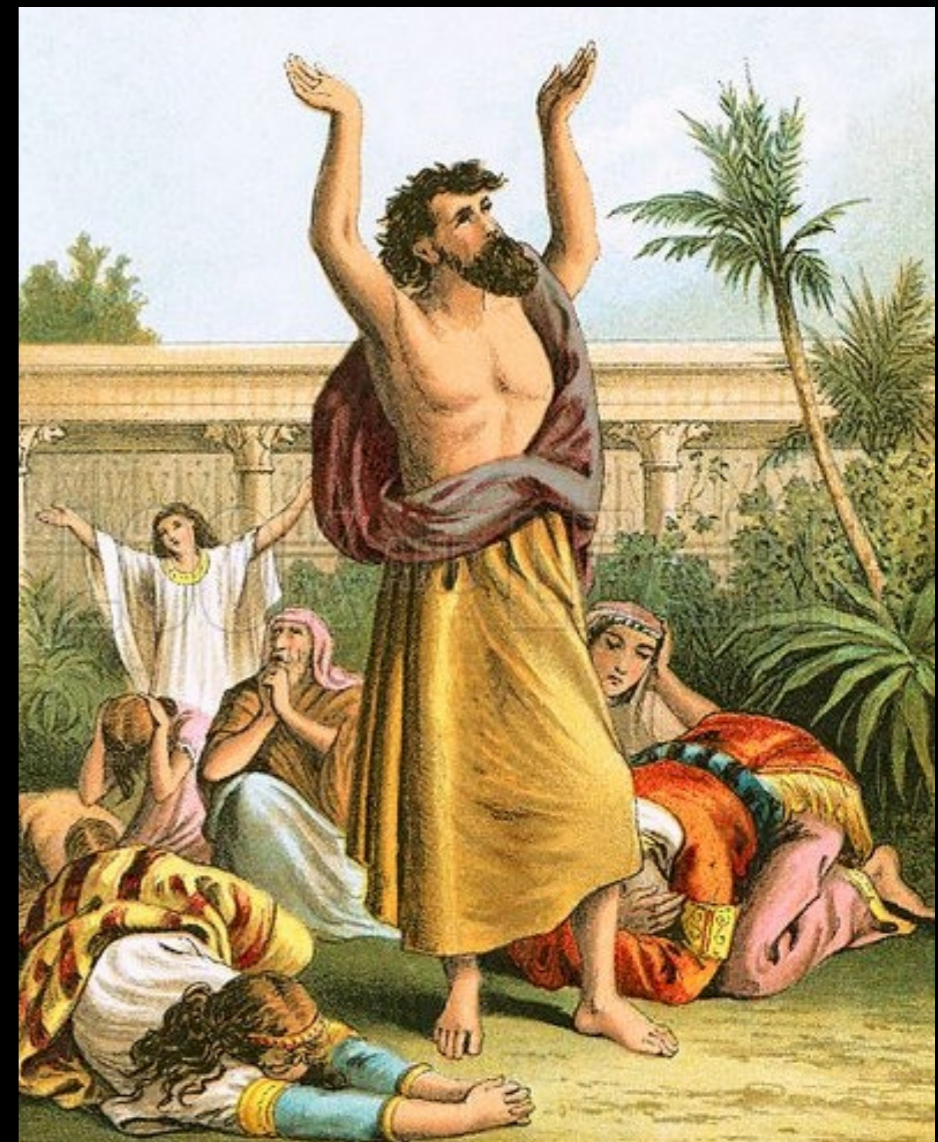
But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death."

You may say to yourselves, "How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the Lord?" If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously, so do not be alarmed.



But are there “true” prophecies that don’t come to pass?

There are instances where God uses a prophet to warn people. If they heed the warning, then the prophesied judgment may be removed or delayed. Example: Jonah and Nineveh.





Are prophecies fulfilled only once?

Walken proposes a “triad” of fulfillments of some prophecies:

First - historical fulfillment.

Second - fulfillment in the 1st coming of Jesus.

Third - fulfillment in the 2nd coming of Jesus.



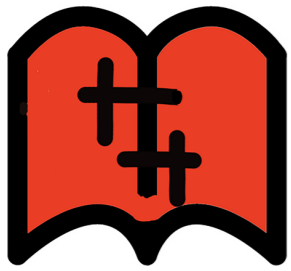
Example: DAVIDIC DYNASTY.

First - historical fulfillments from Solomon to the last pre-exilic king.

Second - fulfillment in the 1st coming of Jesus as “Son of David” - as spiritual king.

Third - fulfillment in the 2nd coming of Jesus as eternal king.

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Truth

Biblical Prophets come from inside the group they criticize as in the case of Isaiah confessing that he was from a people of unclean lips. Modern prophets see themselves as outside the group they criticize: Greta Thunberg, Climate Activist.





“A prophet’s task is to reveal the **fault lines** hidden beneath the comfortable surface of the worlds we invent for ourselves, the national myths as well as the little lies and delusions of control and security that get us through the day.”

- Philip Graham Ryken



Biblical Prophets come from within culture but their message is from beyond culture promoting conformity with TRUTH.

Modern secular prophets come from within culture but their message is from themselves promoting conformity with their feelings - their perceived "facts."

Feelings are real but they are not REALITY!



Key Questions about what we see and hear:

First: Is it a “fact” affected by human perspective or an absolute truth spoken by God?.

Second: Is it consistent with scripture?
(Bereans: Acts 17:11) Is it consistent with God’s attributes and his covenant?

Third: Is it something that I am applying only to others, not to myself?



The powerpoint slides of this talk are on our website. You can access additional information on Prophets and Prophecy on our website: www.biblemining.org or view a revised Perspectives Video on prophets and prophecy on our YouTube channel.



Challenge Question for Week 12:

In the story of Jonah, we see two versions of Jonah - the disobedient runaway and the obedient but unrepentant prophet. Can you think of a NT parable that has these same two character types?

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Truth



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info@biblemining.org.

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