

# ACTS

*THE GOSPEL  
ON THE MOVE*



## Study 1

# Factors that drive a renewed church

## Acts 1



Rome

Puteoli

Syracuse

Thessalonica

Athens

Corinth

Ephesus

Derbe

Tarsus

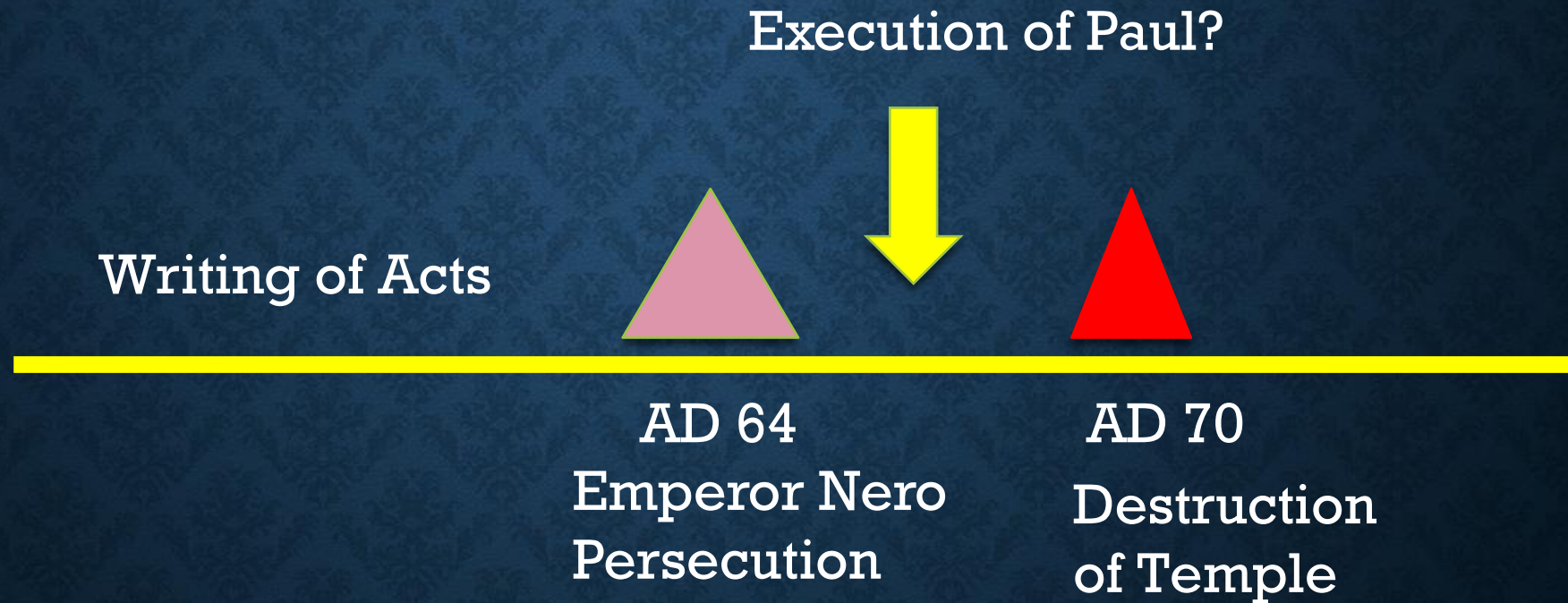
Antioch

Damascus

Caesarea

Jerusalem

# TIME OF WRITING



## **KEY VERSE**

**Acts 1:8 (ESV) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”**

# ACTS

<b>Jerusalem</b> Acts 1-7	<b>Judea Samaria</b> Acts 8-12	<b>Ends of the Earth</b> Acts 13:28
<b>Apostle Peter</b>		<b>Apostle Paul</b>
<b>Jewish Evan</b> <b>City</b>	<b>Transition</b> <b>National</b>	<b>Gentile Evangelism</b> <b>Cross cultural</b>
<b>AD 33</b> Acts 1-2:47	<b>AD 36-40</b> Acts 8:1-9:32	<b>AD 46-57</b> Acts 13-21

Church is born  
Tested, Purified  
Strengthened

Gospel spread ,  
Multiplying  
Changing lives,  
breaking traditions

Gospel spread , extended ,rejected  
unifying Jew and Gentile

Acts 1:8 (ESV) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

# DR LUKE

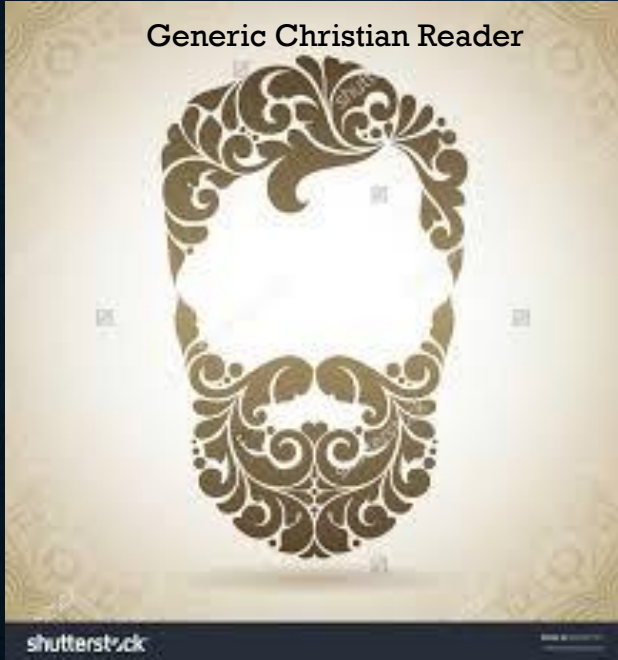
Gentile, Doctors,  
educated person,  
historical account, title  
mentioned



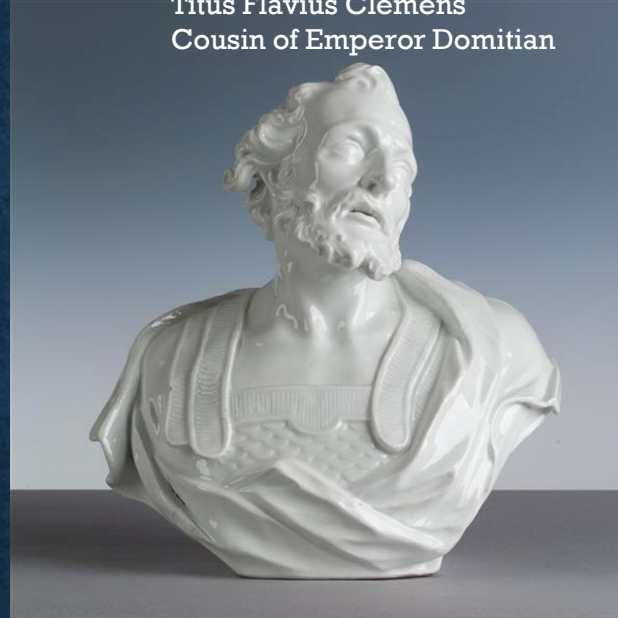
Acts 1:1-3 (ESV) In the first book **O Theophilus** I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

# THE RECIPIENT :THEOPHILUS

Generic Christian Reader



Titus Flavius Clemens  
Cousin of Emperor Domitian



Romans middle class




Luke : Most excellent Theophilus

Acts : O Theophilus

Reason for Gentile predisposition



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(Luke 24:50-51 ESV)

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. 51 While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven.

(Acts 1:1-2 ESV)

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

## ASCENSION BINDS THE TWO

# FACTORS THAT DRIVE A RENEWED CHURCH

## 1. Gospel driven

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(Acts 1:3 ESV)

## 2. Spirit driven

but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now  
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you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth  
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All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.  
(Acts 1:14 ESV)

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# GOSPEL BASED ON JESUS MINISTRY AND TEACHING

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# LUKE WRITES

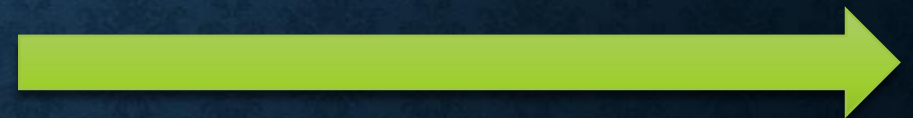
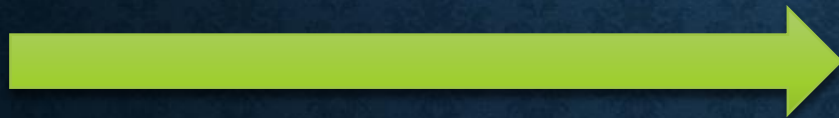
**Gospel of Luke**

Ascension

**Acts**

Jesus taught and did

Jesus continues to do  
through his disciples  
By the HS



All other religions founders completed their mission in their life times and left their disciples to complete the work

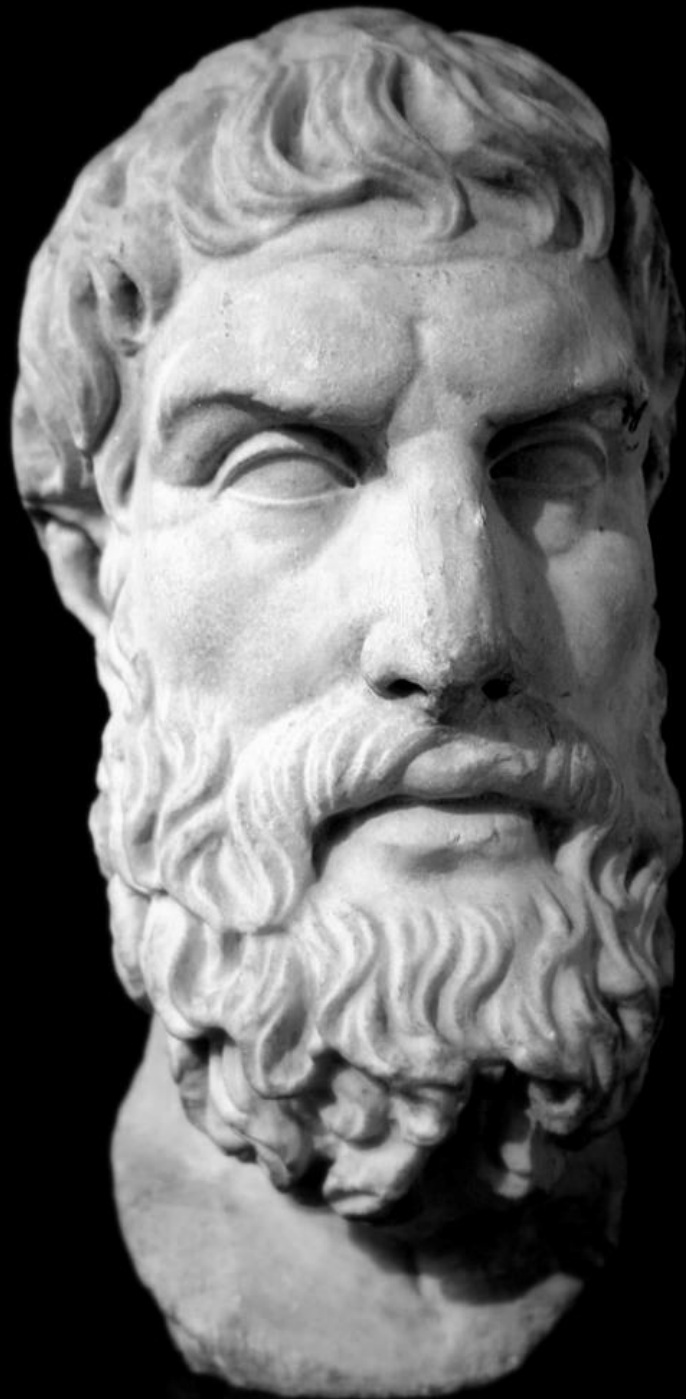
# GOSPEL IS THE BASIS OF JESUS COMMANDS

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# GOSPEL IS BASED ON HISTORY

Acts 1:1-3 (ESV) In the first book. O Theophilus, I have dealt with you in all my former letters, telling you of the things that have fulfilled what the prophets said would happen. I have written to you of these things until the day when I went to Jerusalem to receive the commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many **proofs**, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

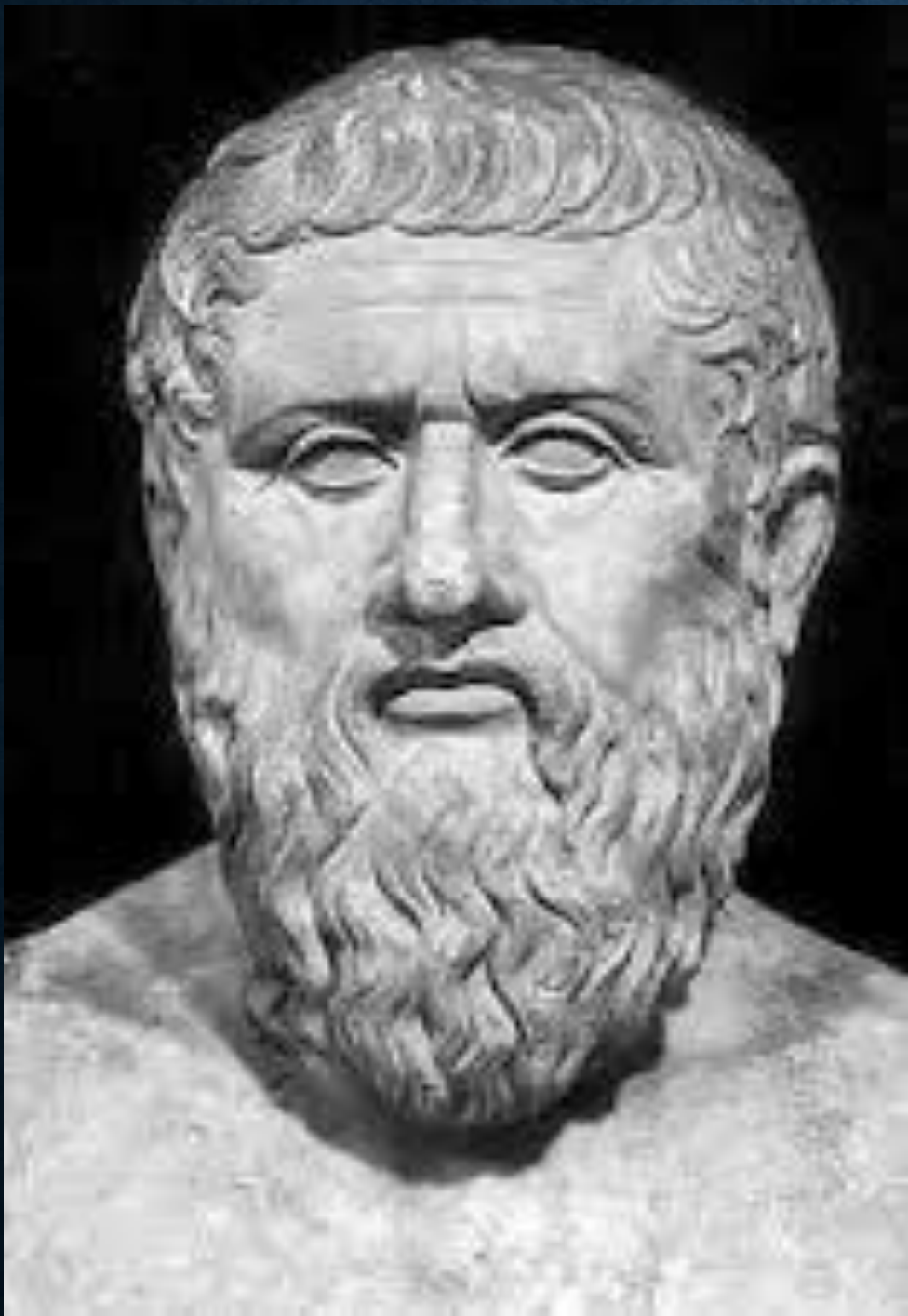
Faith is based on actual event not theory.  
Authenticity based on historicity



## EPICURUS

Therefore death [thanatos], the most fearsome of evils, is nothing to us, seeing as when we exist, death is not present; and when death is present, we do not exist.





# PLATO

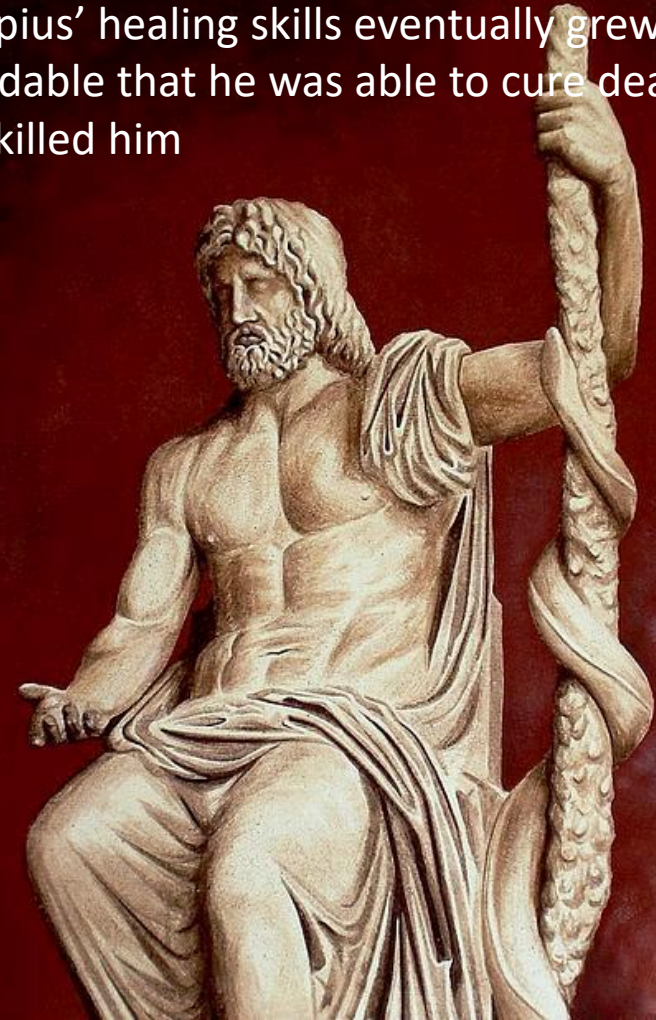
Immortality of soul based  
on reincarnation

# HERCULES AND ASCLEPIUS

Hercules his body burnt then went to with gods  
ins spiritual body



Asclepius' healing skills eventually grew so  
formidable that he was able to cure death  
Zeus killed him



# PHARISEES

Law

Interpretations of the Torah

Middle Class

Resurrection of the Dead

Belief in Afterlife

Rejected the Jewish Leaders

# SADDUCEES

Temple

Torah Alone

Upper Class

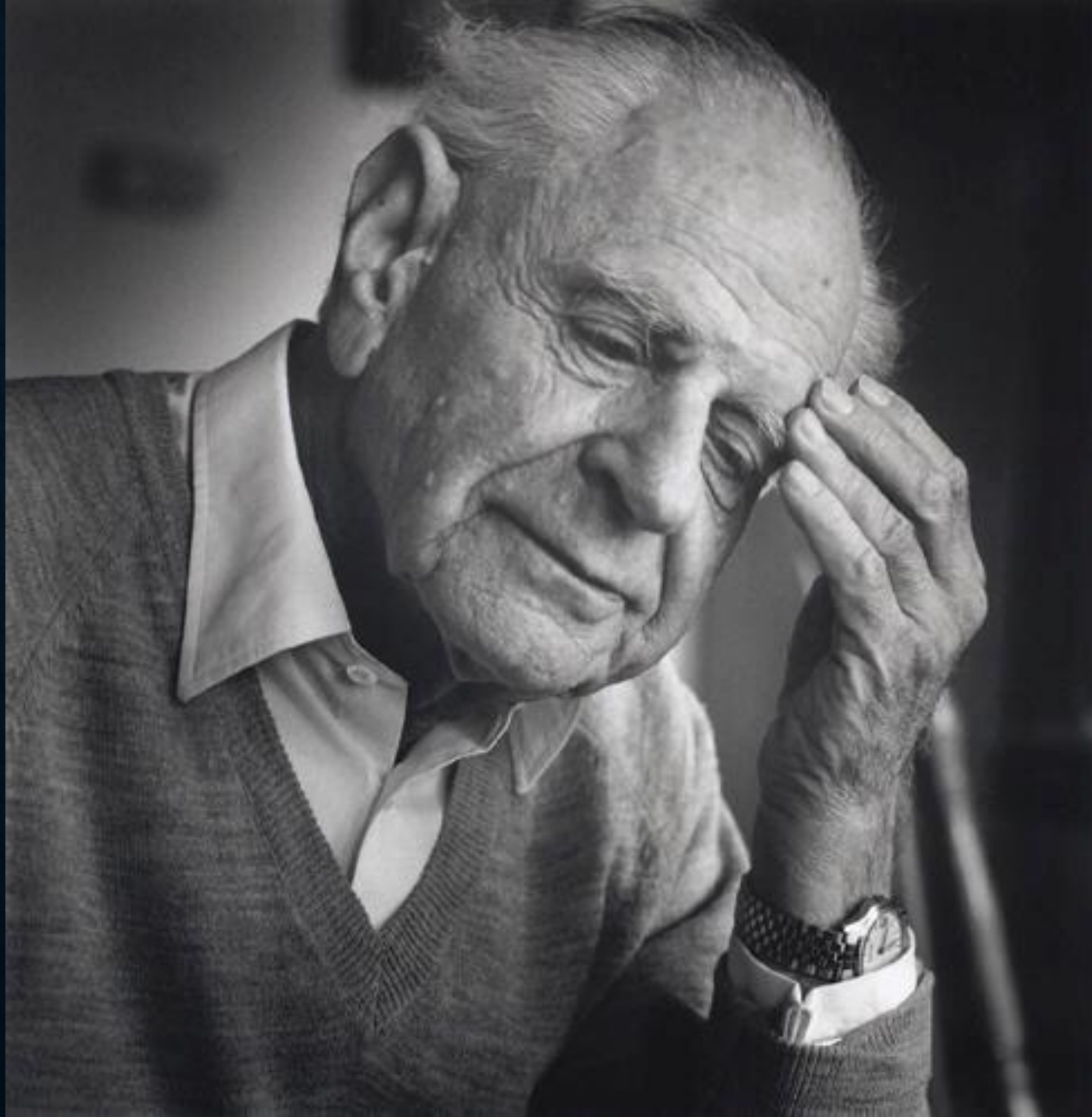
No Resurrection

No Afterlife

Supported Jewish Leaders







# **KARL POPPER**

**What is  
unfalsifiable is  
unscientific**

**False**



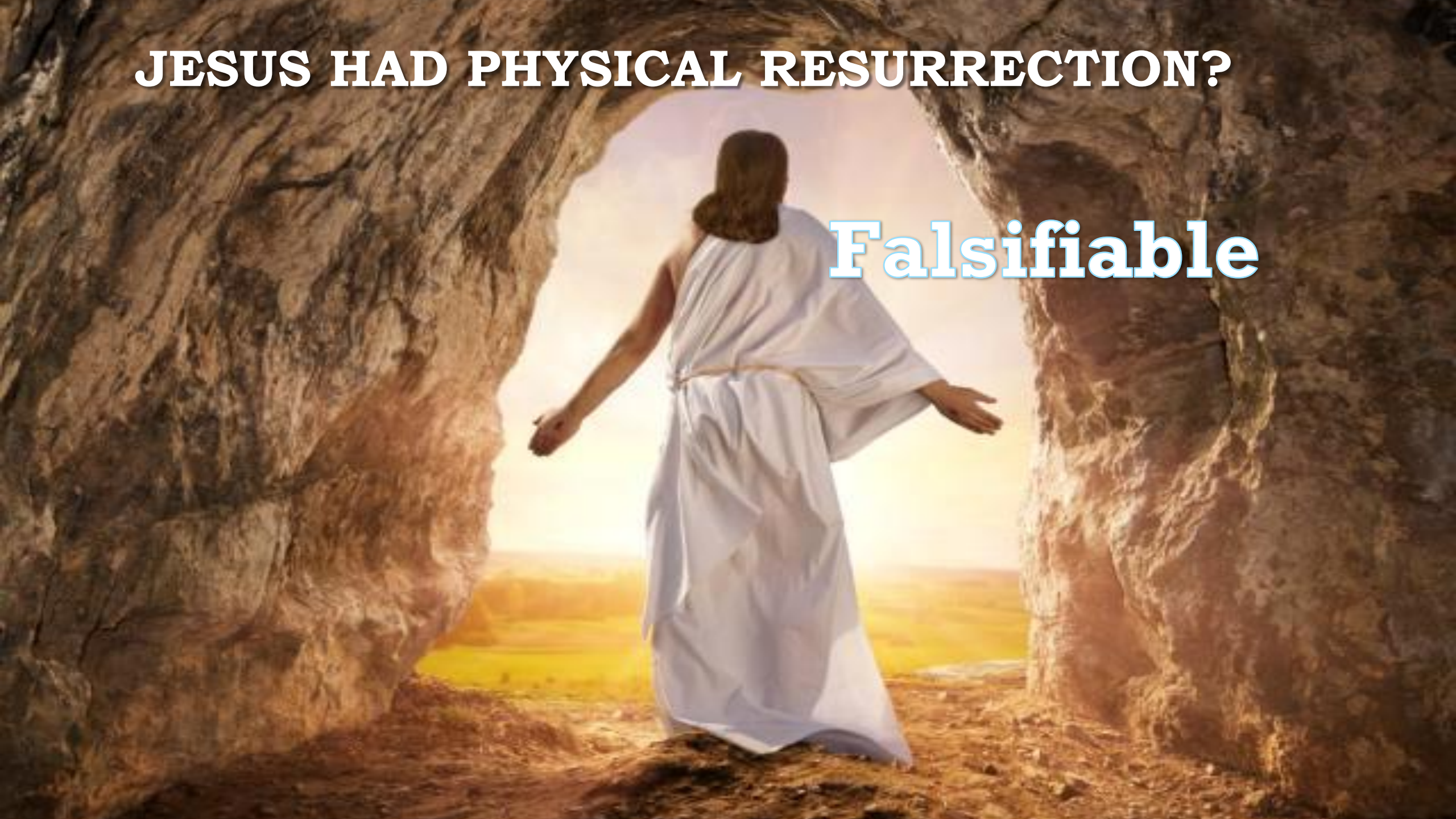
**JESUS HAD SPIRITUAL RESURRECTION?**

**Non falsifiable**

A glowing blue and white light emerges from a hole in a stone slab, symbolizing resurrection. The light is bright and ethereal, with a blue glow at the base and a white glow at the top. The stone slab is dark and textured, and the background is dark.

**JESUS HAD PHYSICAL RESURRECTION?**

**Falsifiable**





# EXAMPLES

Faith statement not falsifiable

Following 8 fold path will lead to Nirvana



# EXAMPLES

Faith statement not falsifiable

Blowing yourself up will land you in heaven with 40 virgins



After public ministry Jesus crucified publically

Jesus rose from grave publically

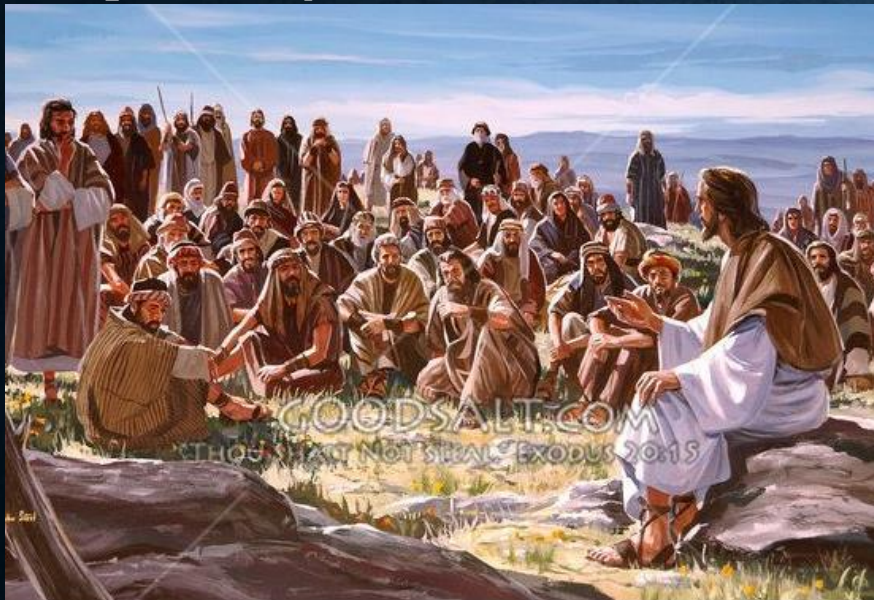
Falsifiable statements

**CHRISTIANITY**



Jesus publically showed himself to crowds

The public told everyone what they saw



# READILY FALSIFIABLE

1 Corinthians 15:6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep

# JESUS APPEARANCES

- Women at the tomb, Mary Magdalene,
- Emmaus disciples,
- Peter in Jerusalem,
- Ten disciples, eleven disciples, seven disciples fishing in Galilee,
- Eleven disciples in Galilee,
- The five hundred,
- James the Lord's brother

**Falsifiable statement**

Jesus rose from the dead



**Scientific /Historical  
proof**

Jesus did rise from the dead

You will have eternal life and rise again



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**TRUTH**



**SPIRIT**

**John 4:24 God is spirit, and those who worship him  
must worship in spirit and truth**

## WORK OF SPIRIT

John 16:13-14 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you



Spirit

Truth

**Baptism**

**JESUS**

**Baptism of HS**

**Repentance**

**Old Covenant**

**JESUS**

**New Covenant**

Ezekiel 36:25-27 ESV I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules

# MISUNDERSTANDING THE KINGDOM

Acts 1:6-11 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,

# MISUNDERSTANDING OF DISCIPLES ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD

, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

Geographically

Ethnically -Jews

Earthly

Luke 17:20-21 ESV Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, “The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, 21 nor will they say, **Entos---within , inside of you** look, here it is! or there! for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you”



# THE SPIRIT WILL TAKE THE GOSPEL TRUTH TO ENABLE WITNESS

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# THE VISION

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# THE PROVINCES OF ASIA MINOR 1ST CENTURY A.D.

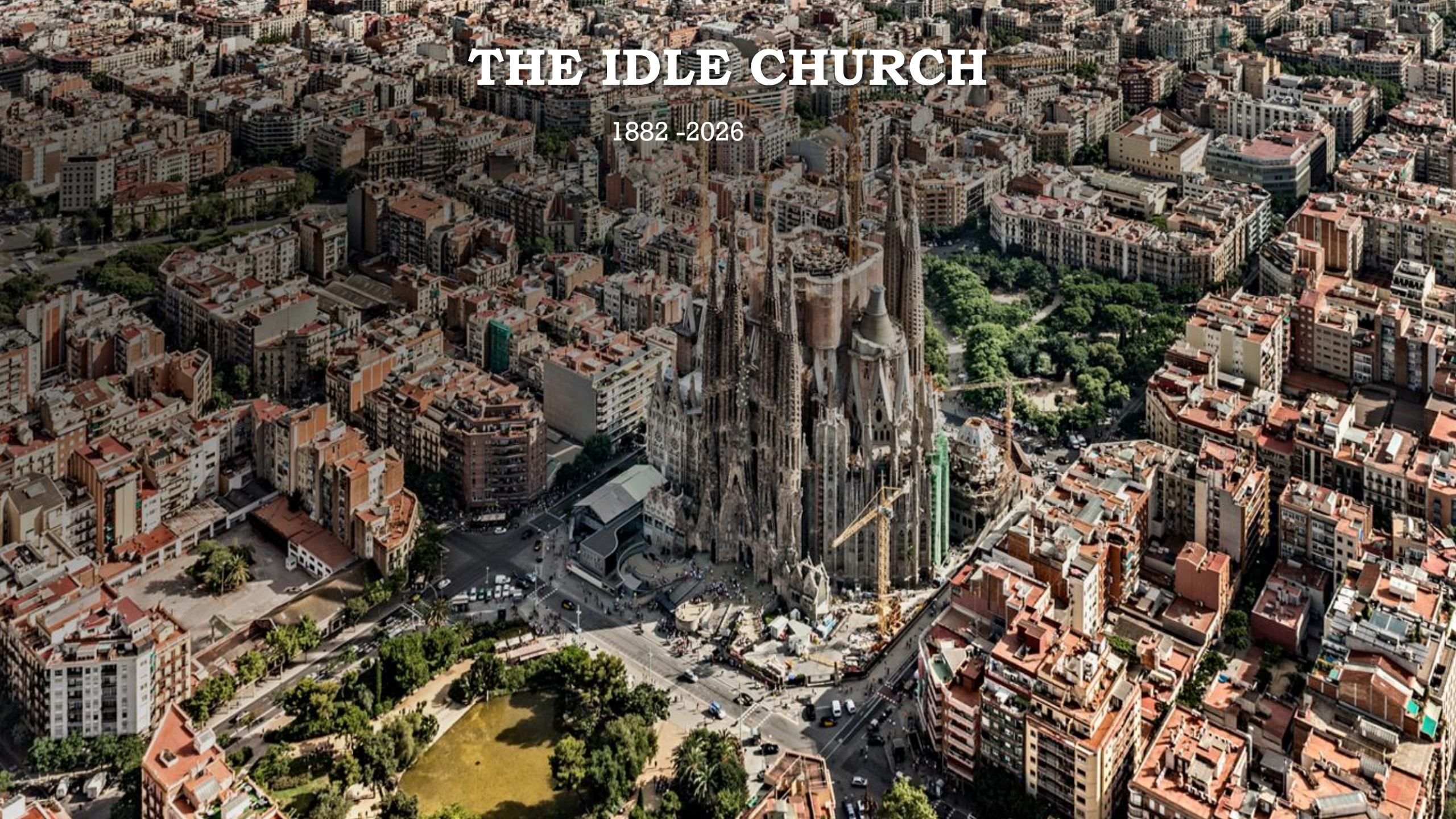
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## Gods mission-the world



# THE IDLE CHURCH

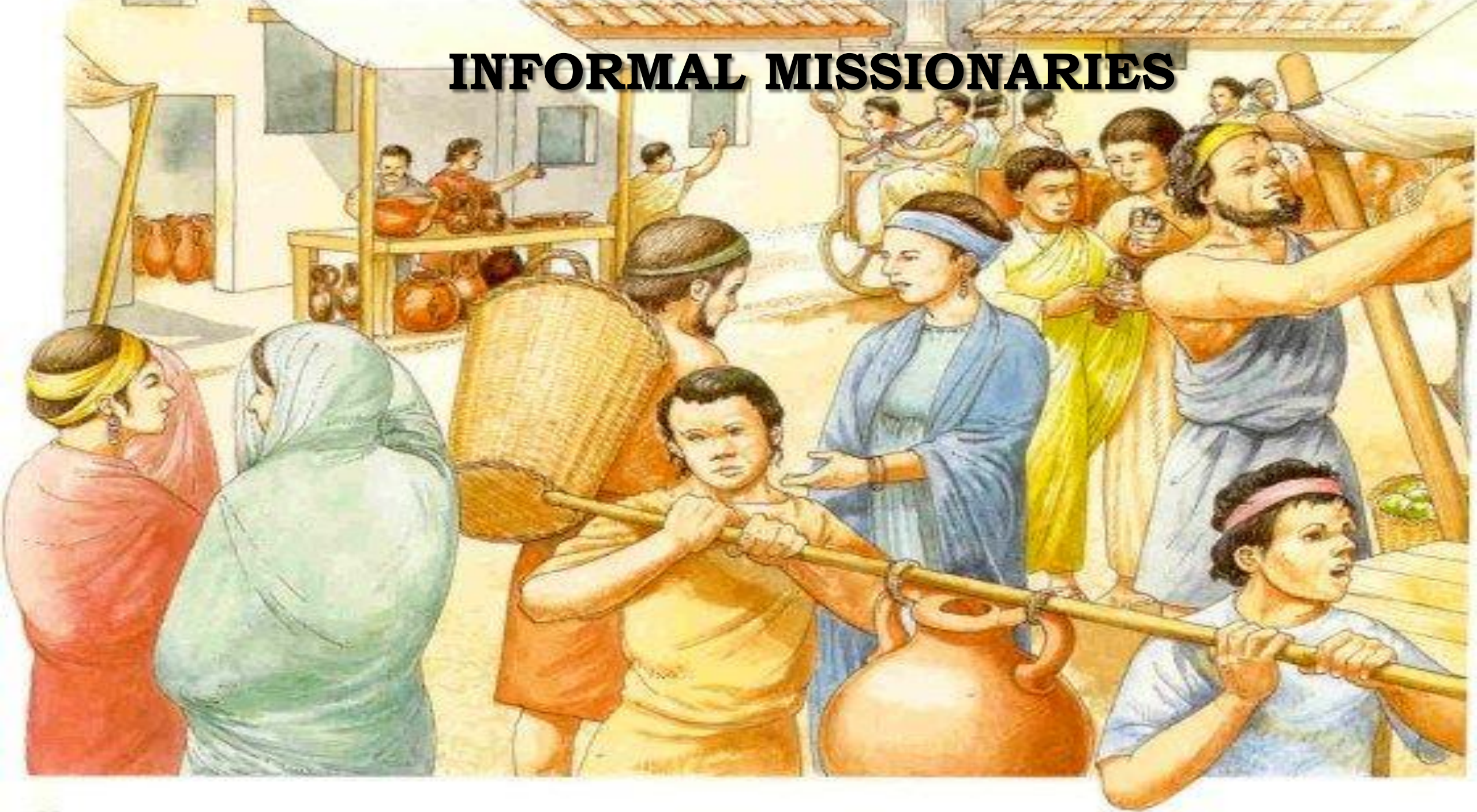
1882 - 2026





**THE MISSIONAL CHURCH**

# INFORMAL MISSIONARIES



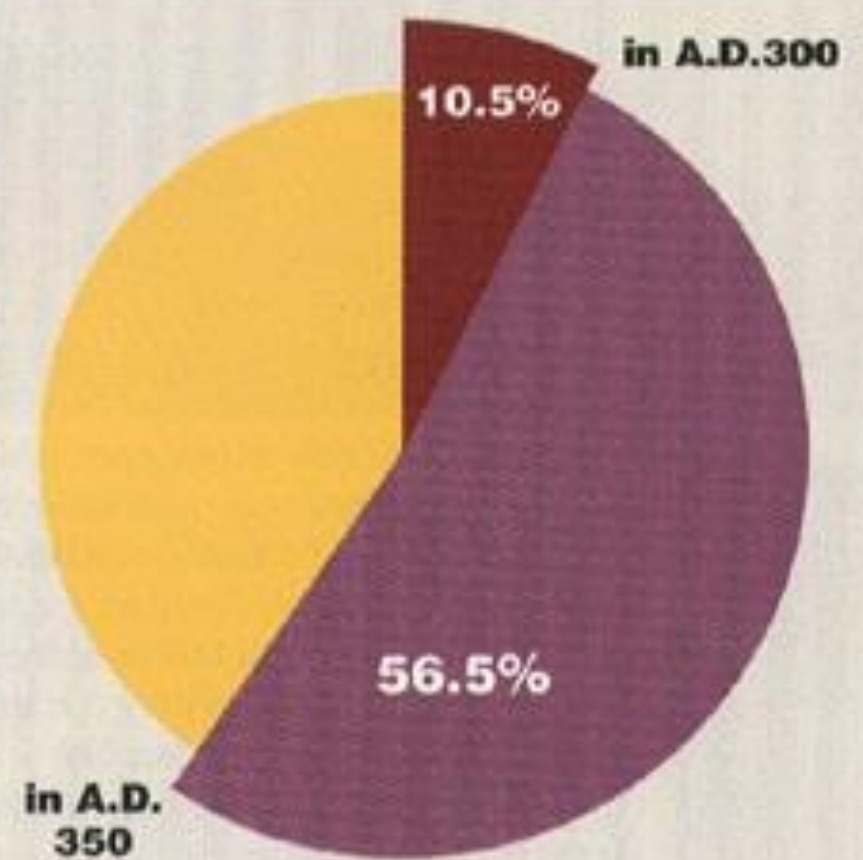


# TERTULLIAN APOLOGIA AD 200

*We are but of yesterday ,and we have filled every place among you- cities, islands, fortresses, towns, market places, the very camp, tribes, companies, palace ,senante, forum-we have left nothing to you but the temples of your gods*



Growth rate of  
40% per decade



Year	Number of Christians	Percent of Empire's Population
100	7,500	0.0126
150	41,000	0.07
200	220,000	0.36
250	1,170,000	1.9
300	6,300,000	10.5
350	34,000,000	56.5

"A fresh, blunt and highly persuasive account of how the West was won—for Jesus."  
—Newsweek

# THE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY



How the Obscure, Marginal Jesus Movement Became the Dominant Religious Force in the Western World in a Few Centuries

RODNEY STARK

## FACTORS FUELING GROWTH

1. Network of family and friends
2. Discontent with contemporary religions of the day
3. Economically privileged more likely to understand the faith and the need for its beliefs
4. Christian response to epidemics and earthquakes..understanding of why they occur and hope for future. Larger numbers survive and mix with pagans

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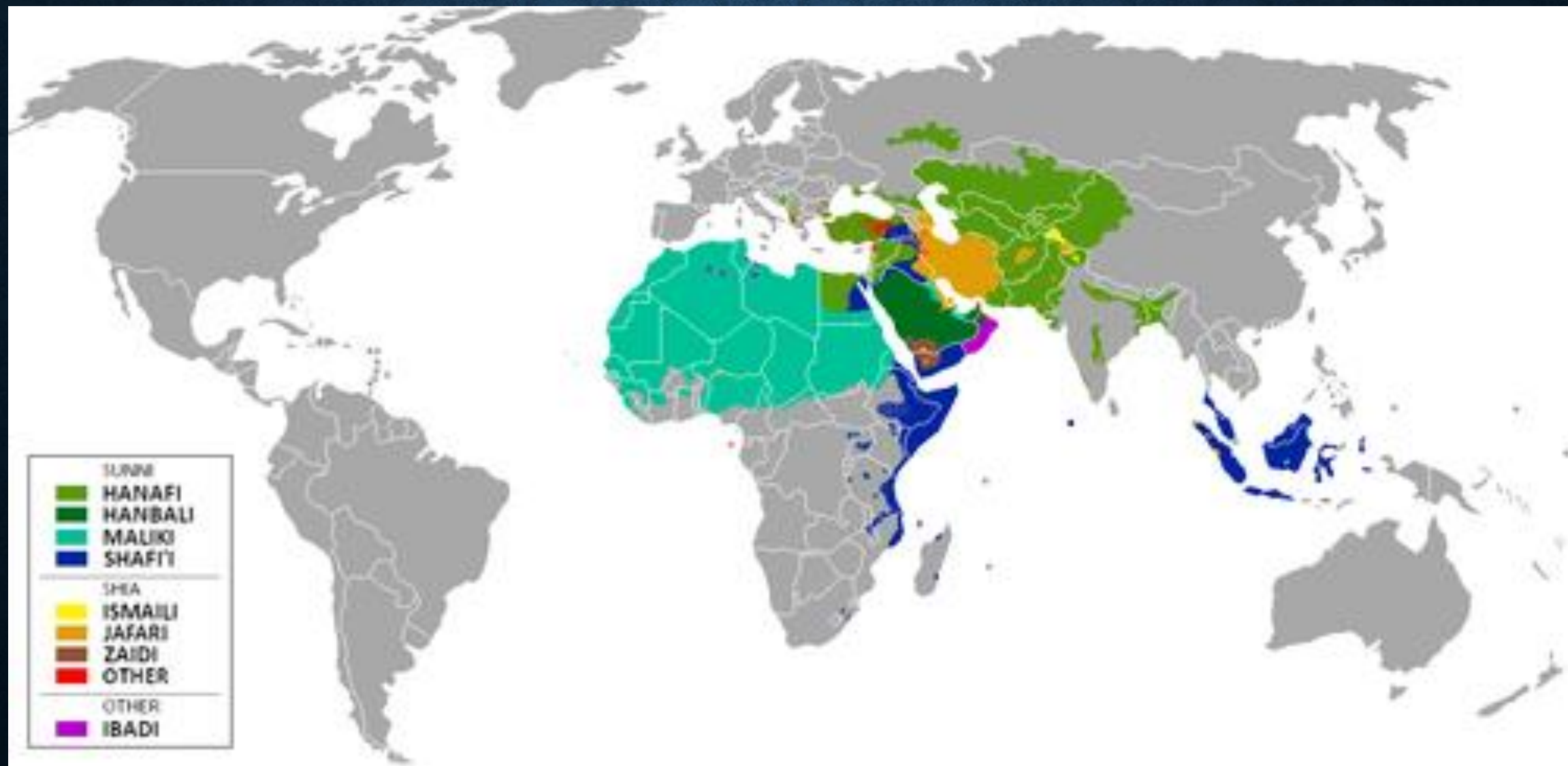
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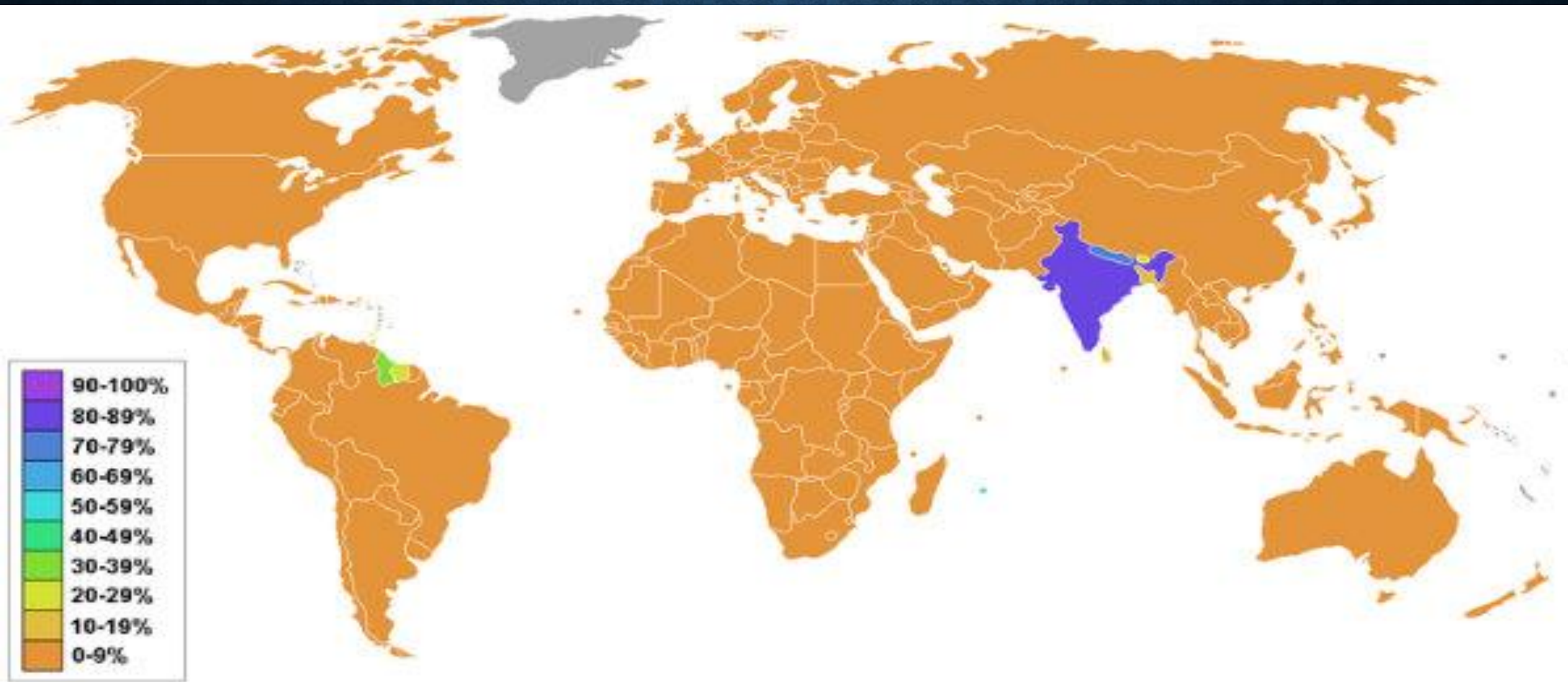
## FACTORS FUELING GROWTH

- Role of women and intermarriage with pagans...as infanticide banned. Women treated better
- Martyrs

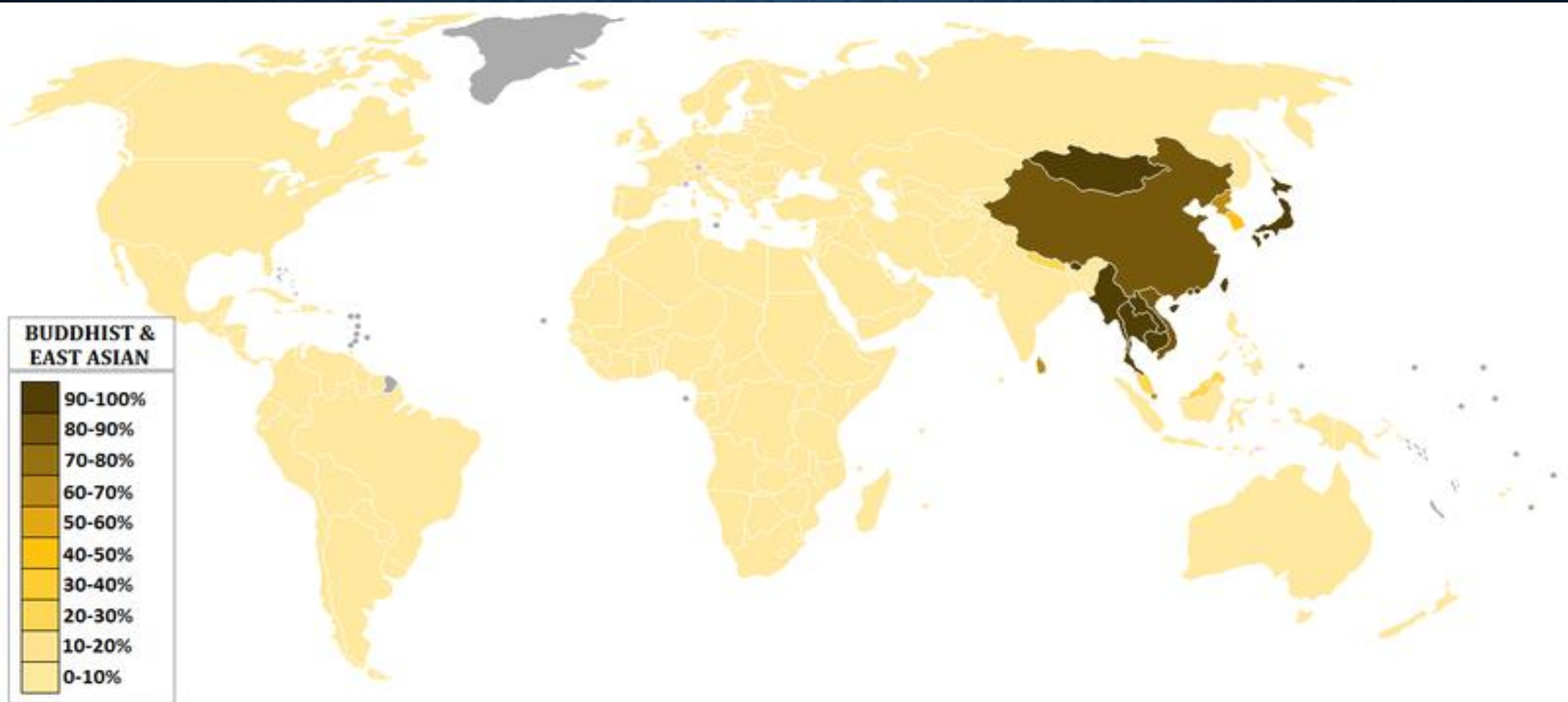
# ISLAM : 96% NEAR WHERE IT WAS FOUNDED..



# HINDUSIM : 98% NEAR WHERE IT WAS FOUNDED..



# BUDDHISM : 88% NEAR WHERE IT WAS FOUNDED..



# World Wall Map

2011 @Copyright www.MapsNworld.com

# Christianity



# IN A CENTURY



9% population to 50%



0% population to 40%



# FACTORS THAT DRIVE A RENEWED CHURCH

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(Acts 1:3 ESV)

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(Acts 1:21-22 ESV)

# THE ASCENSION

Acts 1:9-11 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on **he was lifted up,** and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven



## ST AUGUSTINE

*You ascended from before our  
eyes and and we turned back  
grieving only to find you in our  
hearts*

# RELATIONAL INTIMACY

John 20:16-18 ESV Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them,

‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

Do not cling to me ..she was afraid she would loose him again..

If Jesus ascends means she will never ever loose Him again..thru Spirit

So He can come into your heart

- Romans 8:34 ESV Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.
- Hebrews 7:25 ESV Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them

The image shows a highly ornate throne room. In the center, a blue throne with gold accents sits on a raised platform. The room is decorated with gold pillars topped with eagle finials, a large crystal chandelier, and several red upholstered stools. The walls are covered in gold leaf and intricate carvings. The floor is covered with a patterned rug. The overall atmosphere is one of grandeur and historical significance.

Ancient throne rooms  
are always court rooms

# **JESUS OUR ADVOCATE**



LAW AND JUSTICE

**I am not asking for mercy ...I paid for his sin hence it is unjust for him to be punished. I am not asking for mery but justice  
We are great in the eyes of the only court that matters**

Acts 1:14 All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

All major redemptive events in Acts are accompanied by prayer



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- Acts 1:15-16 ESV In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, 16 “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus.”

# SELECTIONS PROCESS..NOT HAPHAZARD



**Qualifications**

1. Spent time with apostles
2. Time Baptism- Ascension
3. Witness of resurrection

Justus    Matthias



**Matthias**



Proverbs 16:33 ESV The  
lot is cast into the  
lap, but its every  
decision is from the  
Lord

Leviticus 16:8-10 And Aaron shall cast lots over the two goats, one lot for the Lord and the other lot for Azazel. 9 And Aaron shall present the goat on which the lot fell for the Lord and use it as a sin offering

Numbers 26:55-56 ESV 55 But the land shall be divided by lot. According to the names of the tribes of their fathers they shall inherit. 56 Their inheritance shall be divided according to lot between the larger and the smaller

# The 12 Tribes of Israel



1. Reuben



2. Simeon



3. \*Ephraim



4. Judah



5. Dan



6. Naphtali



7. Gad



8. Asher



9. Issachar



10. Zebulun



11. \*Manasseh



12. Benjamin

(Clipart by Logos Bible Clips, used with permission)



## TWELVE

Revelation 21:12-14 It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— 13 on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb



# COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT GROWTH OF KINGDOM

Money

Laws

Miracles

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# KEY TO VICTORY

Revelation 12:11 ESV And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death