

# RE»»RENEW

**CONSIDERING CHRISTIANITY**

[severn.cc/renew](http://severn.cc/renew) for more info



# ***2 Claims***

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- 1. Everyone tells themselves a story about the world and our place in it.**
- 2. Christianity is a true and better story.**

# Considering Christianity

## *Is It a True & Better Story?*



# ***2 Claims***

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**1. Everyone tells themselves a story about the world and our place in it.**

**2. Christianity is a true and better story.**



# **Christianity is a True & Better Story**

***Historical Reality***

***Moral Reality***

***Scientific Reality***



AN AMAZON ORIGINAL SERIES

# THE MAN IN THE HIGH CASTLE



# ***A Provocative Question***

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*Is the Holocaust morally wrong  
for all people at all times?*







# ***A Provocative Question***

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*Is the Holocaust morally wrong  
for all people at all times?*



# ***A Moral Common Ground***

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*The strong should protect the weak, not destroy them.*

***BUT WHY?***





**Which story makes the  
most sense?**



# Naturalism

# Super- Naturalism

*Atheism*  
*Secular Humanism*  
*Scientism*  
*Marxism*

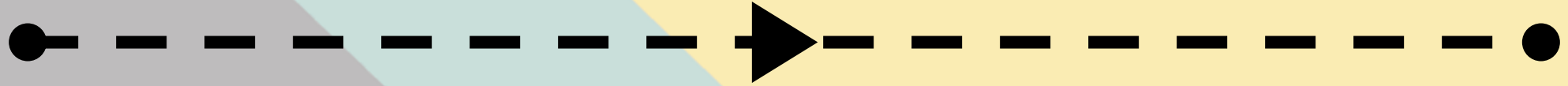
*Agnosticism*  
*Deism*  
*Enlightenment*  
*Romanticism*  
*Consumerism*

*Judaism*  
*Christianity*  
*Islam*  
*Buddhism*  
*Hinduism*  
*Paganism*



# ***The Moral **STORY** of Naturalism***

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*Beginning:*

*Accident*

*End:*

*Death*

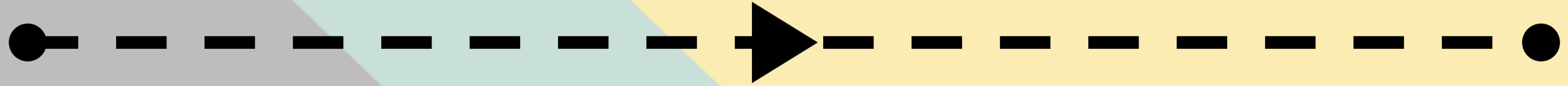
***“That Man is the product of causes which had no prevision of the end they were achieving; that his origin, his growth, his hopes and fears, his loves and his beliefs, are but the outcome of accidental collocations of atoms; that no fire, no heroism, no intensity of thought and feeling, can preserve an individual life beyond the grave; that all the labours of the ages, all the devotion, all the inspiration, all the noonday brightness of human genius, are destined to extinction in the vast death of the solar system, and that the whole temple of Man's achievement must inevitably be buried beneath the debris of a universe in ruins--all these things, if not quite beyond dispute, are yet so nearly certain, that no philosophy which rejects them can hope to stand...”***

- Bertrand Russell in *A Free Man's Worship*



# ***The Moral **STORY** of Naturalism***

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*Beginning:*

*Accident*

*Middle:*

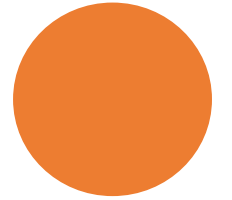
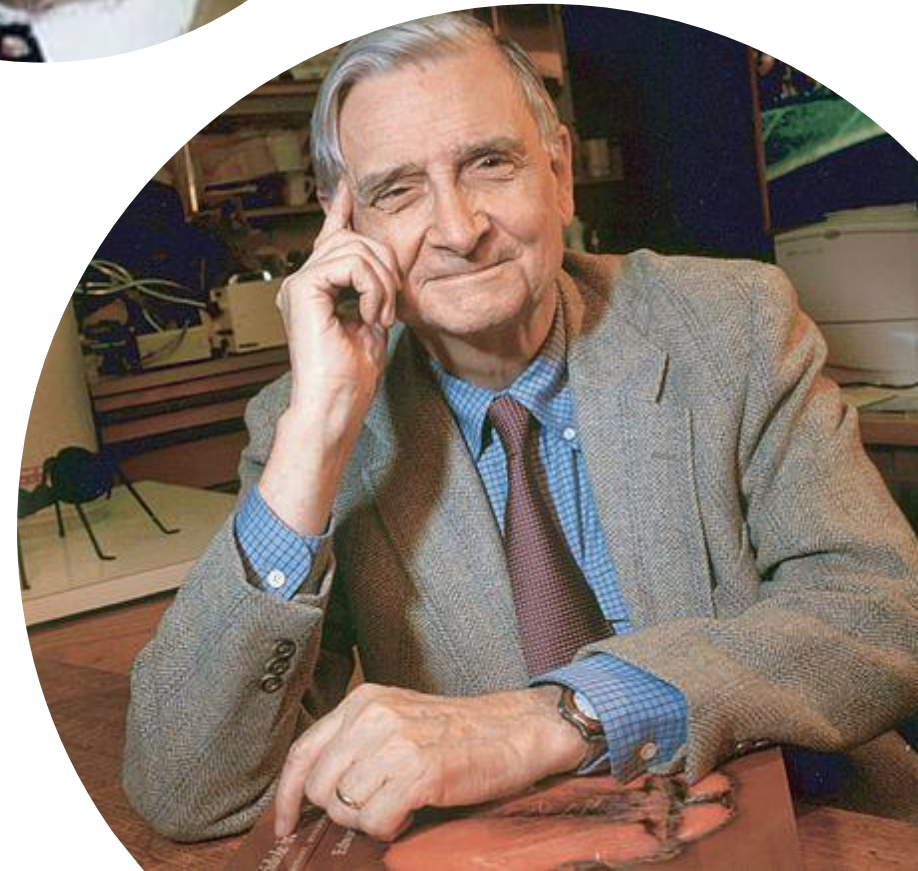
*Natural  
Selection*

*End:*

*Death*

***“Morality, or more strictly our belief in morality, is merely an adaptation put in place to further our reproductive ends...In an important sense, ethics as we understand it is an illusion fobbed off on us by our genes to get us to cooperate.”***

- Michael Ruse & E.O. Wilson in *The New Scientist*







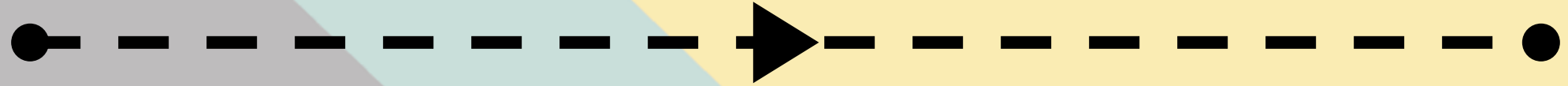
***"I don't quite know what good is, if it indeed exists. I'm quite suspicious of the concept. I think it might be another one of these unfortunately quite nihilistic evolutionary sort of illusions."***

**- Alex O'Connor**



# ***The Moral STORY of Naturalism***

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*Beginning:*

*Middle:*

*End:*

*Accident*

*Natural  
Selection*

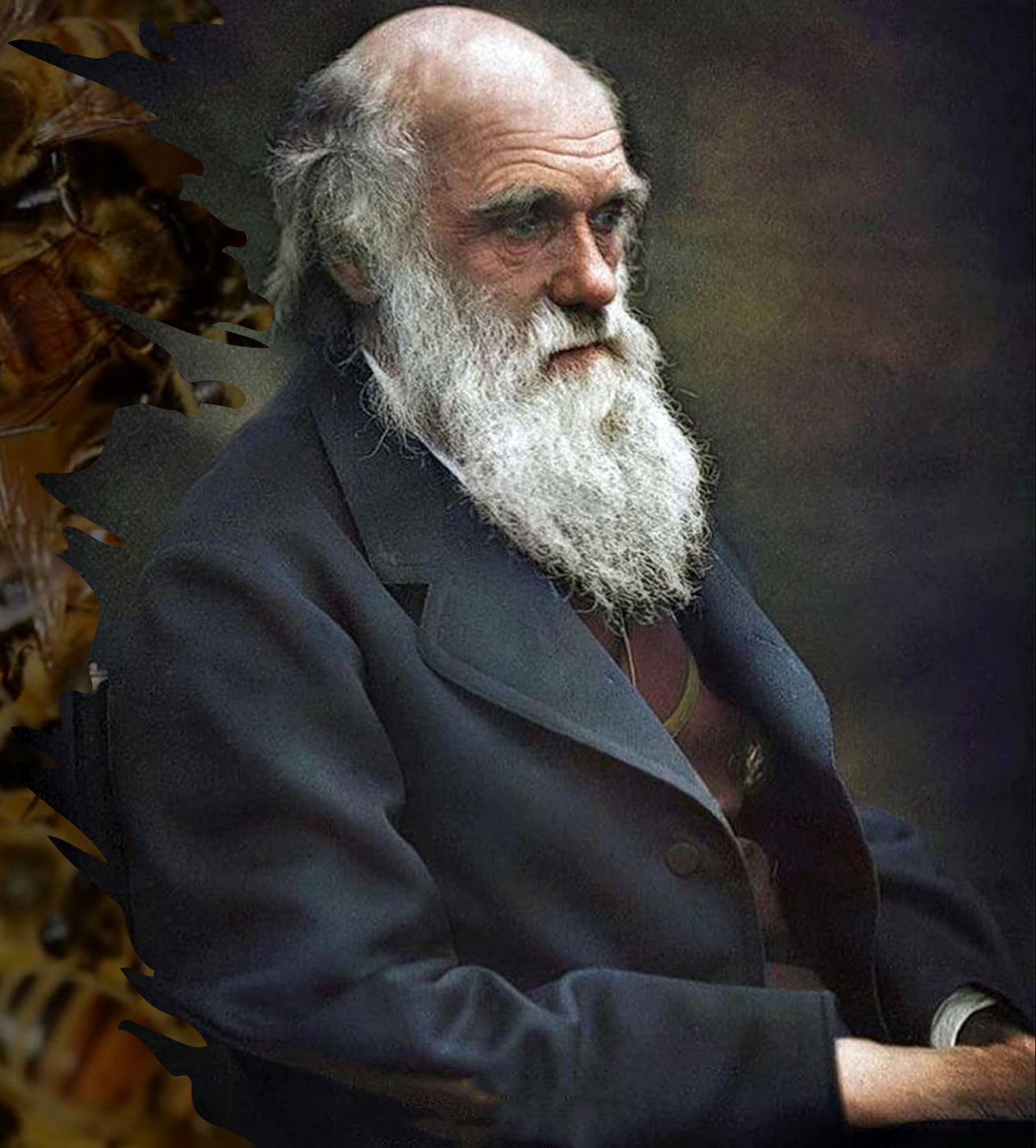
*Death*

**Morality is a Trick**



***"...there can hardly be a doubt that our unmarried females would, like the worker-bees, think it a sacred duty to kill their brothers, and mothers would strive to kill their fertile daughters, and no one would think of interfering."***

***- Charles Darwin in  
Descent of Man***



# ***The Moral RESULTS of Naturalism***

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- What would it look like if people lived consistently in line with the story of naturalism?
  - *Look at 20<sup>th</sup> century dictatorships*

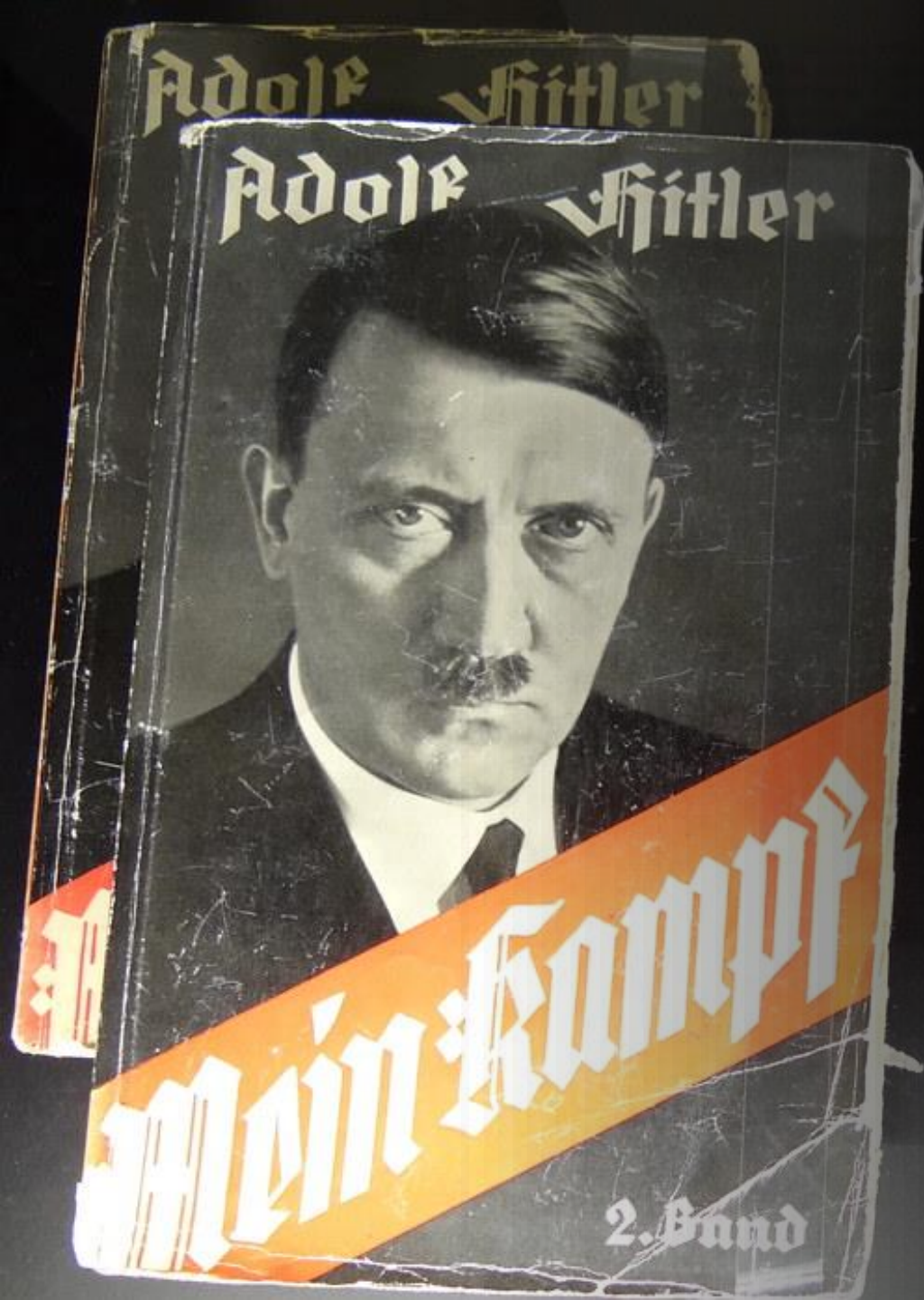




***"Of all religions, secular and otherwise, that of Marxism has been by far the bloodiest - bloodier than the Catholic Inquisition, the various Catholic crusades, and the Thirty Years War between Catholics and Protestants...."***

***"...In total, Marxist regimes murdered nearly 110 million people from 1917 to 1987. For perspective on this incredible toll, note that all domestic and foreign wars during the 20<sup>th</sup> century killed around 35 million. That is...Marxism is more deadly than all the wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including World Wars I and II, and the Korean and Vietnam Wars."***

***- R.J. Rummel in The Killing Machine  
That Is Marxism***



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***“The stronger must dominate and not mate with the weaker...Only the born weakling can look upon this principle as cruel, and if he does so it is merely because he is of a feebler nature and narrower mind; for if such a law did not direct the process of evolution, then the higher development of organic life would not be conceivable at all.”***

- Adolf Hitler in *Mein Kampf*



# ***The Moral RESULTS of Naturalism***

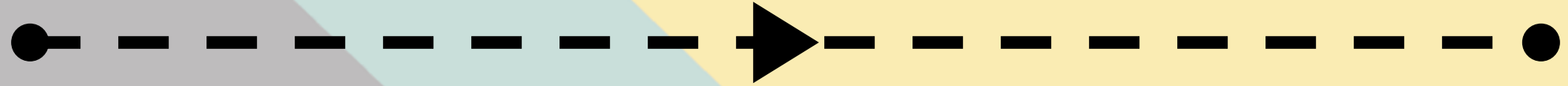
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- What would it look like if people lived consistently in line with the story of naturalism?
  - *Look at 20<sup>th</sup> century dictatorships*
  - *The strong would dominate the weak.*



# ***The Moral STORY of Naturalism***

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*Beginning:*

*Middle:*

*End:*

*Accident*

*Natural  
Selection*

*Death*

**Morality is a Trick**

# Naturalism

# Super- Naturalism

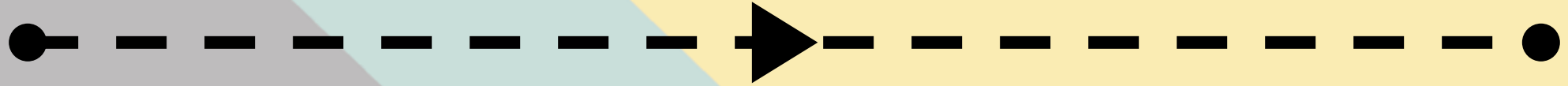
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*Judaism*  
*Christianity*  
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*Buddhism*  
*Hinduism*  
*Paganism*

# ***The Moral STORY of Christianity***

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*Beginning:*

*Middle:*

*End:*

*Creation*

*Supernatural  
Redemption*

*Life*



**Morality is True**



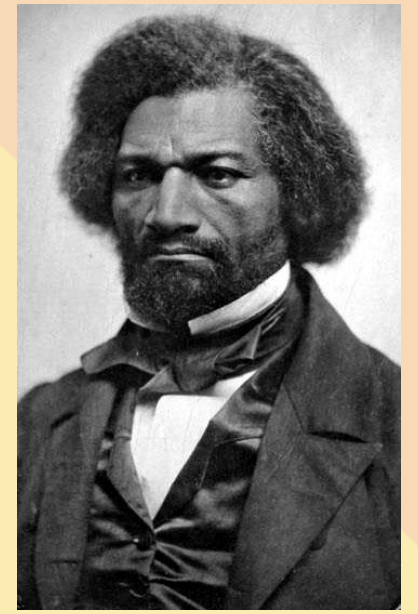
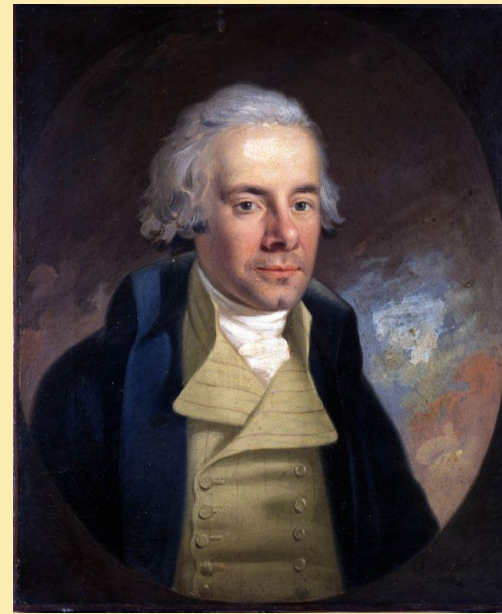
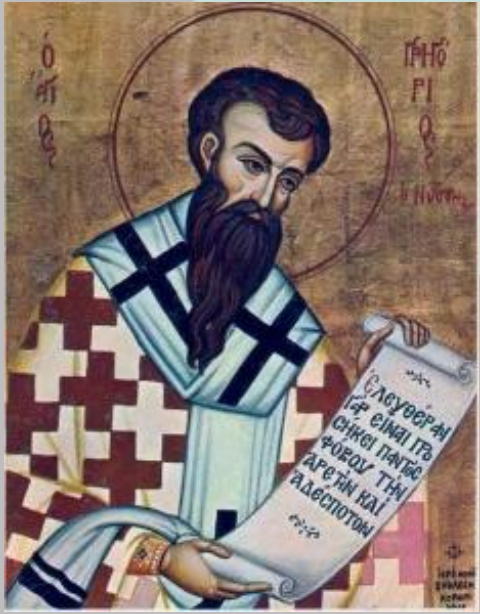
# ***The Moral RESULTS of Christianity***

- What would it look like if people lived consistently in line with the story of Christianity?
  - *Look at children, slaves, and women.*



***“At the time of Jesus’ life...child abuse, as noted by one historian, was ‘the crying vice of the Roman Empire.’ Infanticide was common. Abandonment was common. Hippocrates, who lived about 400 years before Jesus, often wrote about how physicians should ethically interact with patients. But Hippocrates never mentioned children. That’s because children were property, no different than slaves. But Jesus stood up for children, cared about them, when those around him typically didn’t.”*** - Dr. Paul Offit in *Why I Wrote This Book*










***"The human body was not an object, not a commodity to be used by the rich and powerful as and when they pleased. 2000 years of Christian sexual morality had resulted in men as well as women widely taking this for granted. Had it not, then #MeToo would have had no force."***

*- Tom Holland in  
Dominion*



***“Crucifixion was not merely a punishment. It was a means of achieving dominance...Terror of power was the index of power. That was how it had always been and always would be. It was the way of the world. For 2000 years, though, Christians have disputed this. Many of them, over the course of this time, have themselves become agents of terror. They have put the weak in their shadow; they have brought suffering, and persecution, and slavery in their wake. Yet the standards by which they stand condemned for this are themselves Christian... ‘God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.’ This is the myth that we in the West still persist in clinging to.”***

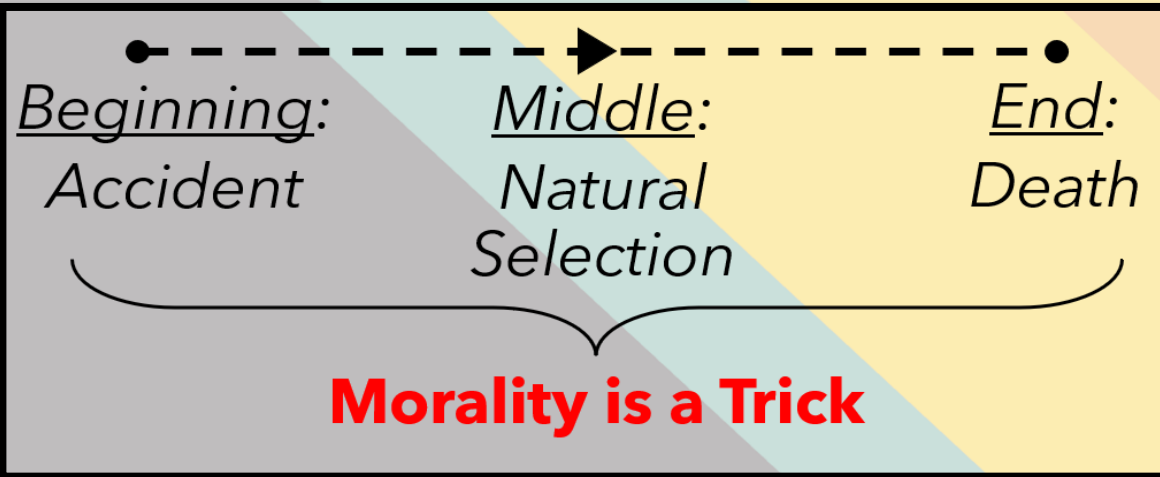
- Tom Holland in *Dominion*

# ***The Moral RESULTS of Christianity***

- What would it look like if people lived consistently in line with the story of Christianity?
  - *Look at 1<sup>st</sup> century children, slaves, and women.*
  - *The strong would protect the weak.*



# Naturalism

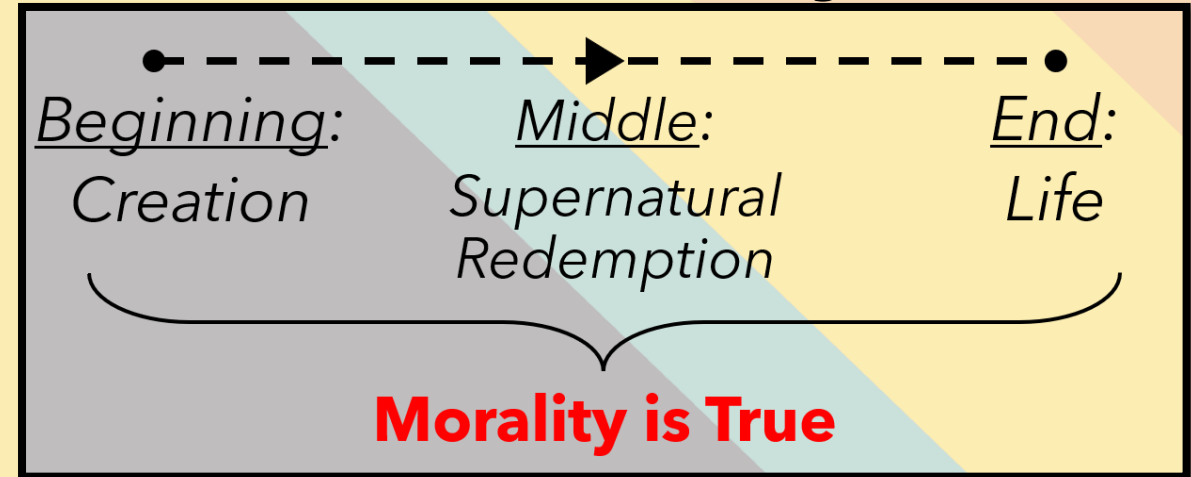


**Marxist & Nazi Violence**



**The Strong Dominate the Weak**

# Christianity



**Elevation of Children, Slaves & Women**



**The Strong Protect the Weak**

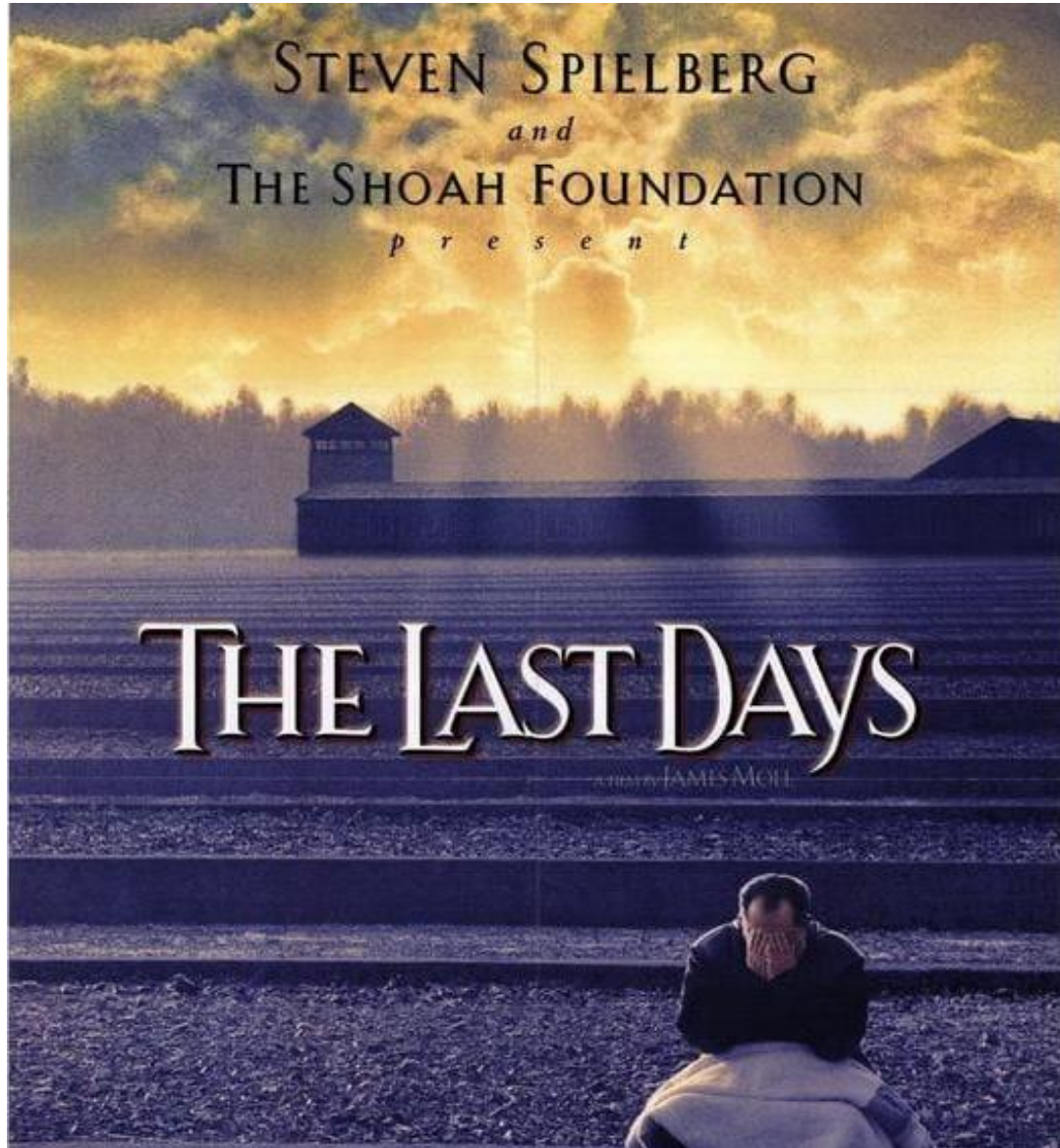
# **The BIG Objection**

# ***The Problem of Evil***

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- Why would a good God allow evil - like the Holocaust?





# ***The Problem of Evil***

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- Why would a good God allow evil – like the Holocaust?
  - *I don't know...but I don't like the alternative*

# ***The Problem of Evil***

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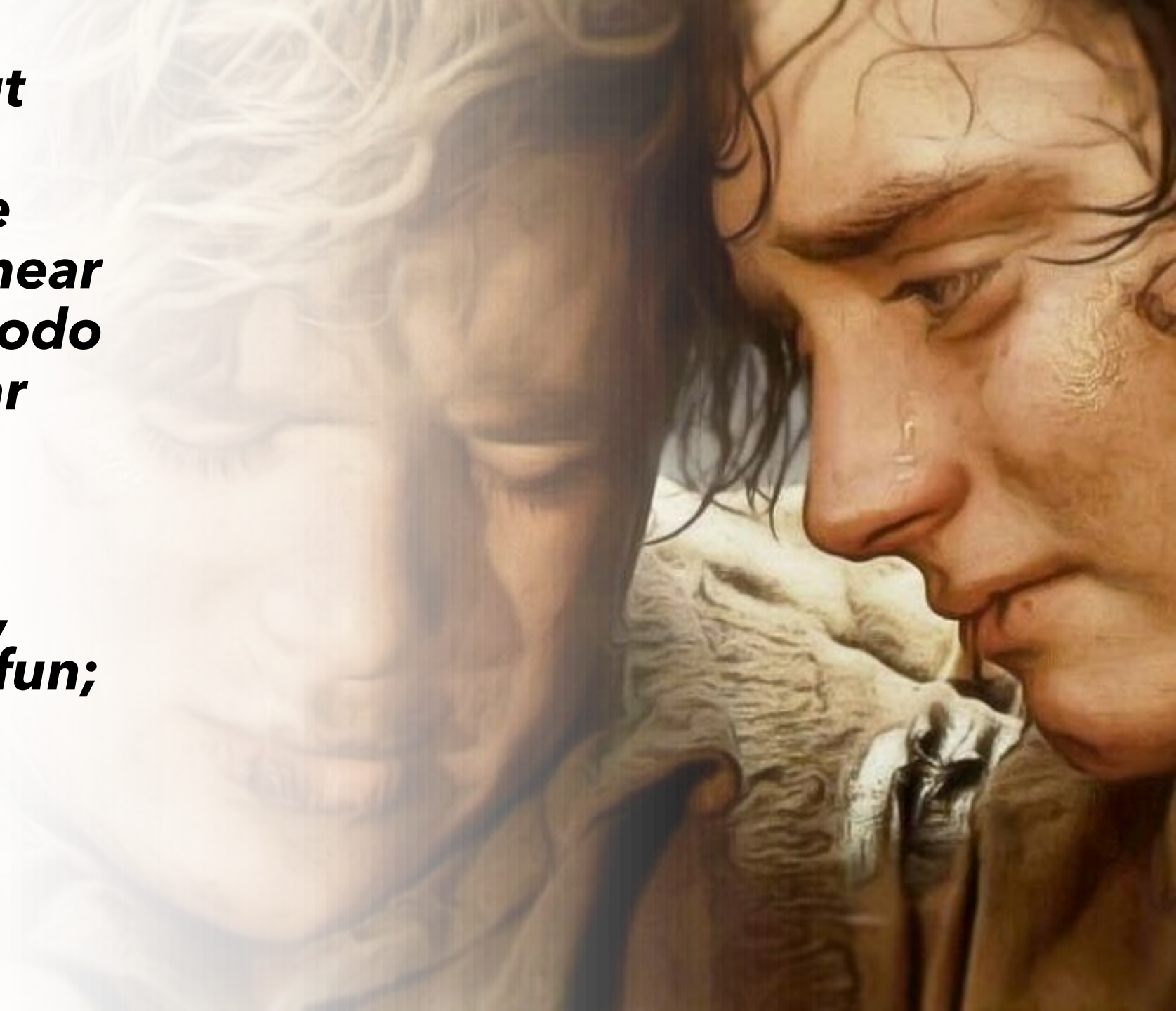
- Why would a good God allow evil – like the Holocaust?
  - *I don't know...but I don't like the alternative*
- What Christianity does offer:
  - *Help for the Present*



**Frodo: You've left out one of the chief characters - Samwise the Brave. I want to hear more about Sam...Frodo wouldn't have got far without Sam.**

**Sam: Now Mr. Frodo, you shouldn't make fun; I was being serious.**

**Frodo: So was I.**



# ***The Problem of Evil***

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- Why would a good God allow evil - like the Holocaust?
  - *I don't know...but I don't like the alternative*
- What Christianity does offer:
  - *Help for the Present*
  - *Hope for the Future*



***“I believe like a child that suffering will be healed and made up for, that all the humiliating absurdity of human contradictions will vanish like a pitiful mirage, like the despicable fabrication of the impotent and infinitely small Euclidean mind of man, that in the world’s finale, at the moment of eternal harmony, something so precious will come to pass that it will suffice for all hearts, for the comforting of all resentments, for the atonement of all the crimes of humanity, of all the blood that they’ve shed; that it will make it not only possible to forgive but to justify all that has happened.”***

*- Fyodor Dostoevsky in The Brothers Karamazov*





# ***Revelation 21:4***

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He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

# ***One more class...***

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## **Is Christianity a True & Better Story?**

**Oct. 16**

**Scientific  
Evidence &  
Objections**

**Nov. 20**

**Moral  
Evidence &  
Objections**

**Jan. 15**

**Historical  
Evidence &  
Objections**