



Basic Theology

Class 2

Before We Begin – 4 Definitions

1. Orthodox – the accepted belief or opinion
2. Catholic – Universal
3. Objectivity – judging by an *external* (outside) standard
4. Subjectivity – judging by an *internal* standard

Matthew 7:24-27

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and *yet* it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the rock.”

Matthew 7:24-27

“And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act upon them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and it fell, and great was its fall.”

Chapter 3: Question of Authority



3. The Question of Authority

I. Authority in Liberalism

A. Reason:

- ❖ Science (Is the earth *really* flat? And *who* really made who?)

**Is it Logical
to Assume
that God
Does *Not*
Exist?**



Is it Logical to Assume God Does Not Exist?

- ✓ Does humankind's denial lessen the reality of God's existence? Does our belief prove that God exists?
- ✓ The created world and all forms of life must have an origin. Thus, there must have been a time when these things came into existence.
- ✓ What is the most *logical* explanation?

Is it Logical to Assume God Does Not Exist?

- ✓ Was it created? Or did it evolve from something else?
- ✓ Science has disproved *abiogenesis* and *spontaneous generation* shows us that only life brings forth life. The idea of life coming from non-life is illogical and ridiculous, as well as being clearly unscientific.

Is it Logical to Assume God Does Not Exist?

- ✓ Could the world have come into existence by accident or chance? This is an absurd assumption. Is it logical that *Webster's Unabridged Dictionary* could result from an explosion at a print shop?
- ✓ Clue: the UNIVERSE is MORE complicated than a dictionary!

Is it Logical to Assume God Does Not Exist?

- ✓ As for evolution, where did the original matter come from and *who* or *what* caused the process to start?
- ✓ Obviously, it is *less logical* to believe that life came from non-life than to believe that a living, intelligent Creator brought life forth.

Is it Logical to Assume God Does Not Exist?

- ✓ Therefore, the *unbeliever* has to accept more *by faith* than the believer does – and he/she has to accept many illogical positions!
 - Uncaused causes
 - Intelligent life w/o an intelligent Creator
 - Life coming from non-life
 - The miraculous appearance of matter

Our Conclusion

It takes *more faith* to believe modern science's explanation of the origin of matter and life than it does to simply accept the Bible's claim that "in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" and that He created humankind in His own image.

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- ❖ History (Did the five cities of the plain *not* exist? How about the Hittite empire? Or the Exodus?)

Black Stele of Hammurabi



The Black Stele of Hammurabi

Material - Polished
Black Diorite Pillar

Old Babylonian

Ap. Date: 1790 BC

Height: 89 inches

Width: 2 feet

Text: Cuneiform



Source: www.bible-history.com/archaeology/assyria/hammurabi-stele.html

The Black Stele of Hammurabi

Babylon, Iraq

Excavated in ancient
Susa (Shushan) by
French Archaeologists
1901-1902

Location: Louvre
Museum, France



Source: www.bible-history.com/archaeology/assyria/hammurabi-stele.html

The Black Stele of Hammurabi

Hammurabi was the king of Babylon around 1800 BC and was a contemporary of Abraham. Nearly 400 years *before* Moses wrote Bible's first five books!



Source: www.bible-history.com/archaeology/assyria/hammurabi-stele.html

The Black Stele of Hammurabi

This pillar, discovered in 1901, is decorated with a bas-relief of Hammurabi being commissioned by the sun god Shamash to inscribe the laws. The code contains nearly 4,000 lines of text containing around 282 laws, a historical prologue, and a literary and religious epilogue.



Bible History Online

Source: www.bible-history.com/archaeology/assyria/hammurabi-stele.html

The Black Stele of Hammurabi

The discovery of the Hammurabi Stele was one of the most important discoveries in Biblical Archaeology.

It is an original document from the time of Abraham, bearing testimony of a highly advanced system of law and a remarkably advanced time period.



The Five Cities of the Plain



The Five Cities of the Plain

"And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations; That these made war with Bera king of **Sodom**, and with Birsha king of **Gomorrah**, Shinab king of **Admah**, and Shemeber king of **Zeboiim**, and the king of **Bela, which is Zoar**. All these were joined together in the vale of Siddim, which is the salt sea."

Genesis 14:1-2

The Five Cities of the Plain

The Ebla Tablets were discovered in northern Syria by two professors from the University of Rome. Since 1974, 17,000 tablets have been unearthed from the era of the Ebla Kingdom (Northern Syria). These tablets have already made valuable contributions to biblical criticism.



The Five Cities of the Plain

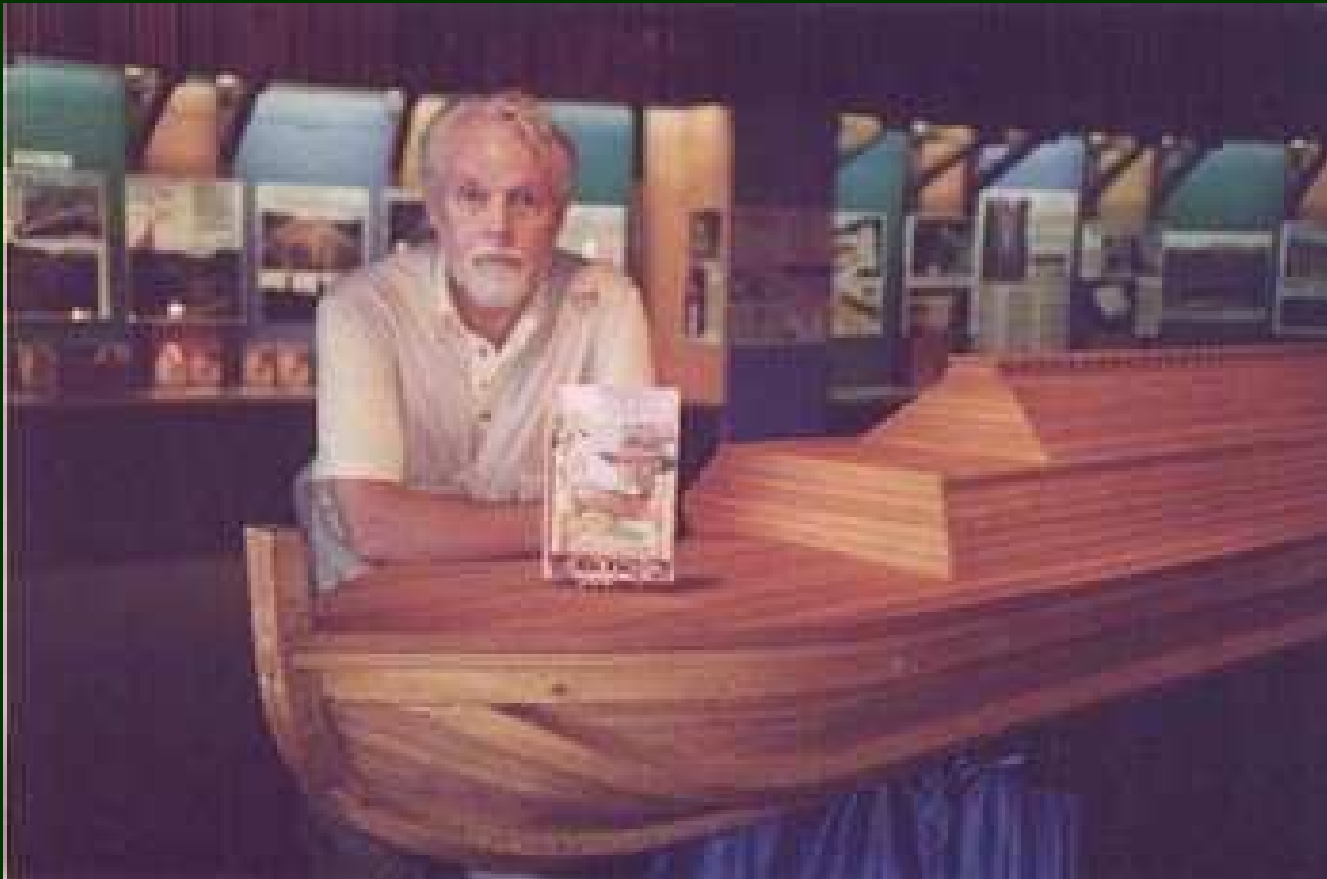
Critics used to describe the five Cities of the Plain (Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim and Zoar) as legendary. The Ebla tablets, however, refer to all five Cities of the Plain! On one tablet *the cities are listed in the exact same sequence as Genesis 14.*



Sodom and Gomorrah



Sodom and Gomorrah



Biblical Archeologist Ron Wyatt, 1933-1999

Source: ArkDiscovery.com

Sodom and Gomorrah



Wyatt Archaeological Team: “For the first time in modern history we have found literally millions of round balls of nearly pure sulfur (brimstone) embedded in an ashen area near the Dead Sea, which show clear signs of having once been ancient building structures. These sulfur balls are mostly golf ball sized, and have burn marks all around them . . .”

Source: ArkDiscovery.com

Sodom and Gomorrah



“Webster's Dictionary says that "brimstone" = sulfur . . . Each of the cities of the plain contain evidence of brimstone which God rained down upon the cities to destroy them. The brimstone is composed of 96-98 percent sulfur, with trace amounts of magnesium which create an extremely high temperature burn. . .”

Source: ArkDiscovery.com

Sodom and Gomorrah

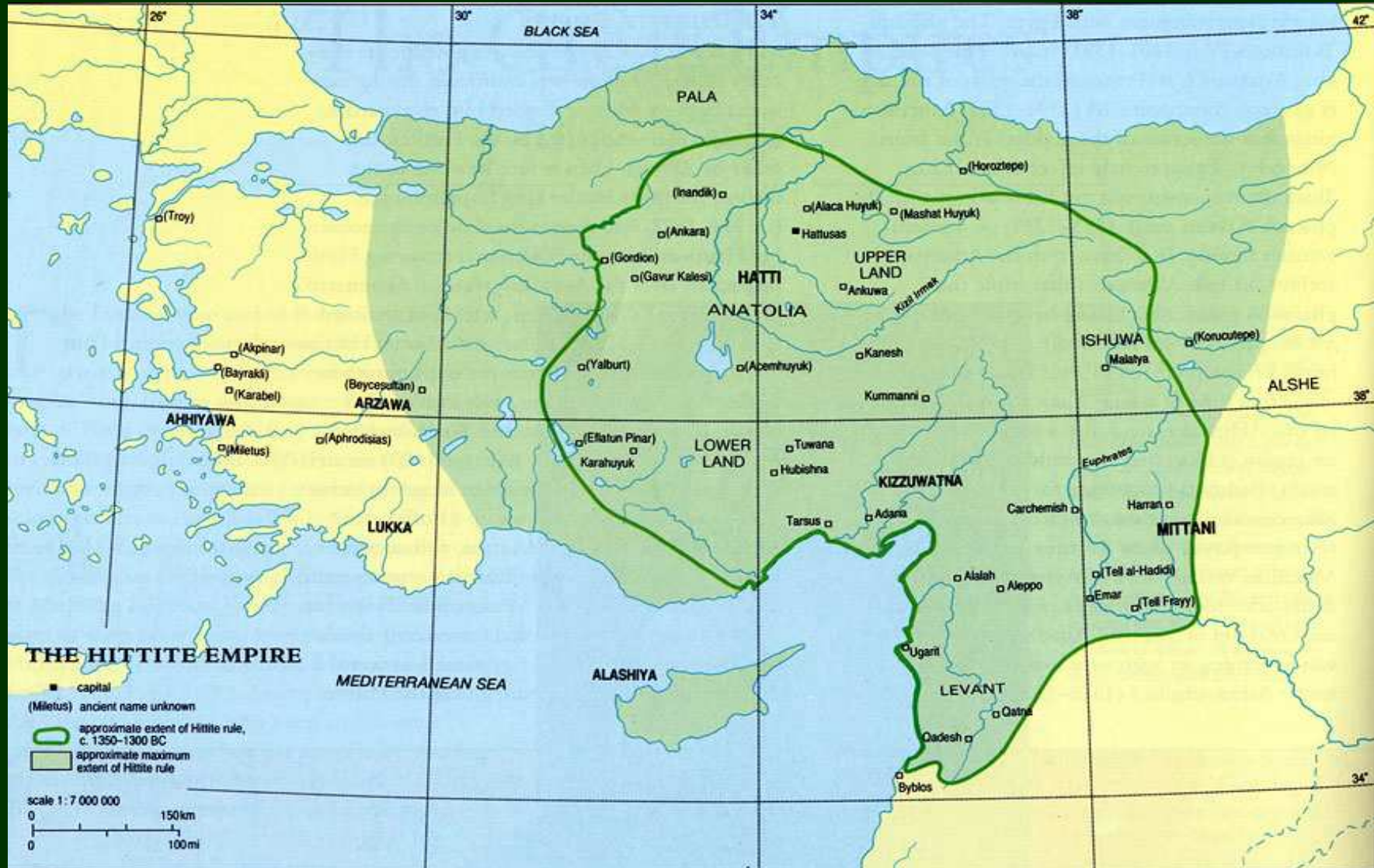


“This is the only place on earth where you can find pure sulfur in a round ball. This brimstone is **NOT** from any type of geo-thermal activity as there is no evidence of such in the area, and geo-thermal sulfur nodules are only 40 percent pure sulfur.”

The Hittite Empire



The Hittite Empire



Source: www.utexas.edu/courses/classicalarch/images.html

The Hittite Empire



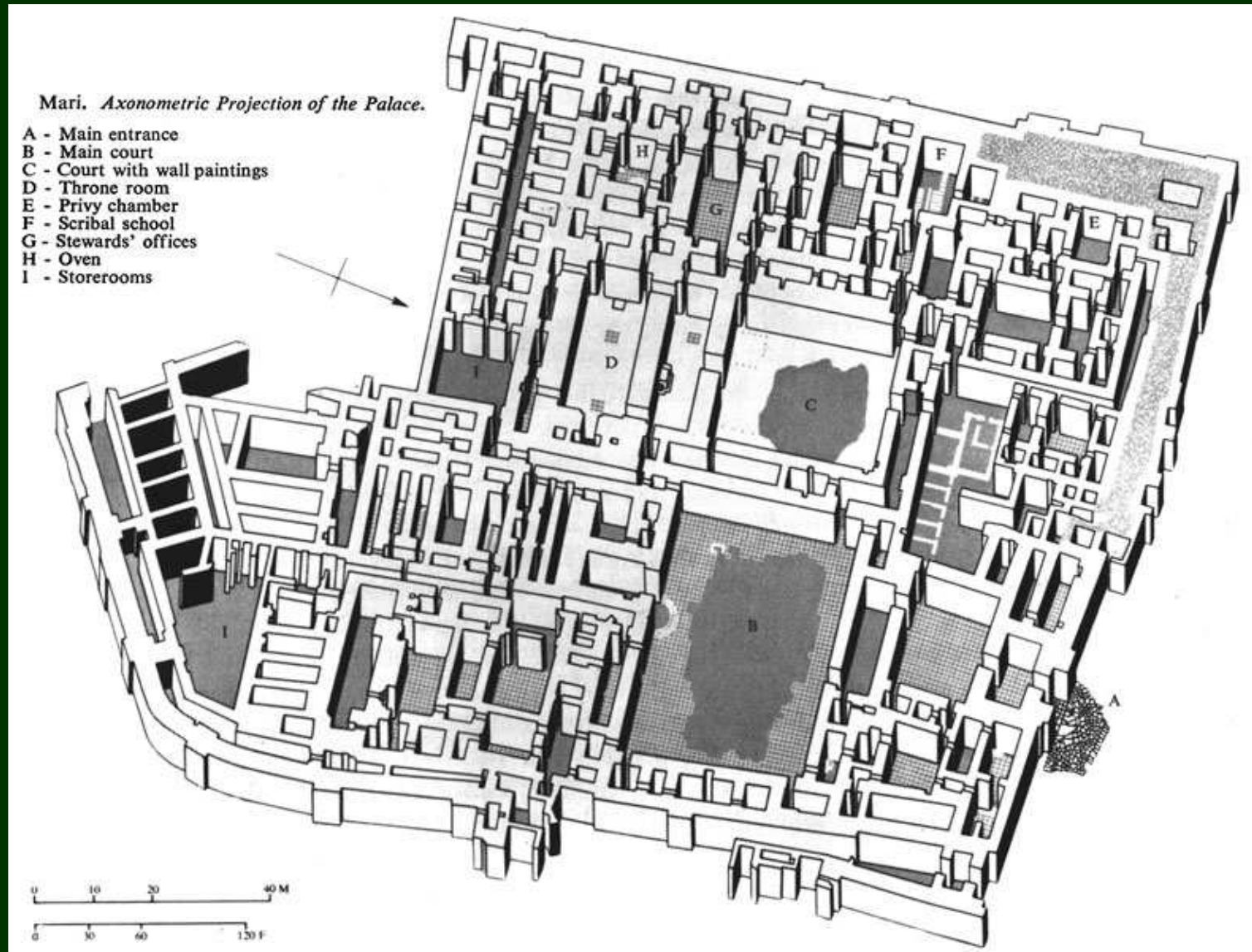
The Lion's Gate at Hattusa, ca. 1300 b.c.

The Hittite Empire



Source: www.utexas.edu/courses/classicalarch/images.html

The Hittite Empire



Source: www.utexas.edu/courses/classicalarch/images.html

The Hittite Empire



Relief sculpture of Tuthalia IV, ca. 1250

Source: www.utexas.edu/courses/classicalarch/images.html

The Hittite Empire



King Nabu-apil-iddina and the Sun god

Source: www.utexas.edu/courses/classicalarch/images.html

The Hittite Empire



Relief of the Hittite Kings

Source: <http://community.webshots.com/photo/139798183/139798845EDSMwV>

3. The Question of Authority

I. Authority in Liberalism

A. Reason:

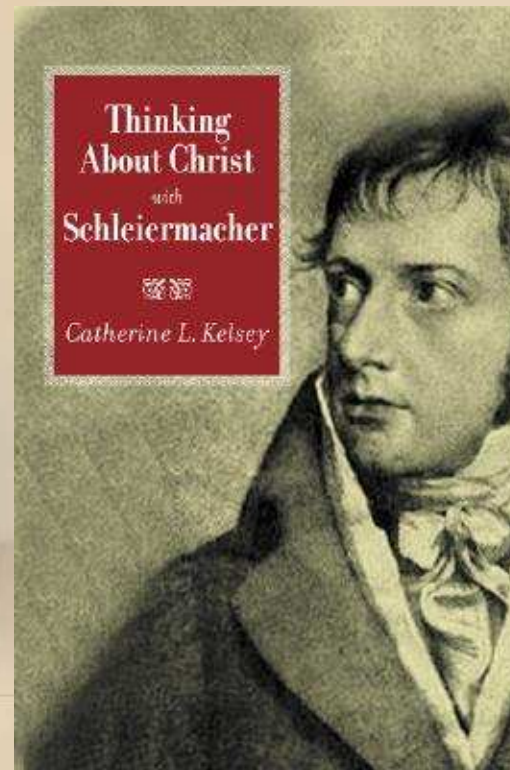
- ❖ Science (Is the earth *really* flat? And *who* really made *who*?)
- ❖ History (Did the five cities of the plain *not* exist? How about the Hittite empire? Or the Exodus?)
- ❖ Logic (Is *logical* to deny a First Cause? Or a purposeful existence for humankind? Or the fallacy of abiogenesis?)

3. The Question of Authority

I. Authority in Liberalism

A. Reason

B. Feelings



3. The Question of Authority

I. Authority in Liberalism

- A. Reason
- B. Feelings
- C. Conscience



Kant

Historical Progress of Liberalism

1. The Word says it, I believe it
2. The Word and I (my reason) come to a conclusion
3. I come to a conclusion

A Final Word on Liberalism

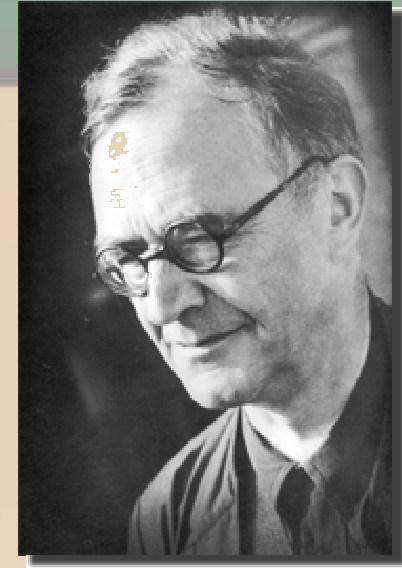
Q. Why do people attack the authority of the Word of God?

A. To escape accountability.

3. The Question of Authority

I. Authority in Liberalism

- A. Reason
- B. Feelings
- C. Conscience



II. Authority in Neo-Orthodoxy

- A. Karl Barth
- B. What is “The Word”?

3. The Question of Authority

III. Authority in Conservatism

A. Conservative Catholicism

1) Church Tradition (Mark 7:9)



3. The Question of Authority

III. Authority in Conservatism

A. Conservative Catholicism

- 1) Church Tradition
- 2) The Bible + Apocrypha (Rev 22:18-19)

3. The Question of Authority

III. Authority in Conservatism

A. Conservative Catholicism

- 1) Church Tradition
- 2) The Bible + the Apocrypha

B. Conservative Protestantism

- 1) Sola Scriptura – “Scripture Alone”
- 2) Creeds, Under Scripture
- 3) Religious Experience, Under Scripture

Authorities

1. Subjective authority:

- Liberalism
- Neo-Orthodoxy

Authorities

1. Subjective authority:

- Liberalism
- Neo-Orthodoxy

2. Objective authority:

- Roman Catholicism
- Eastern Orthodox Church
- Protestantism

End

