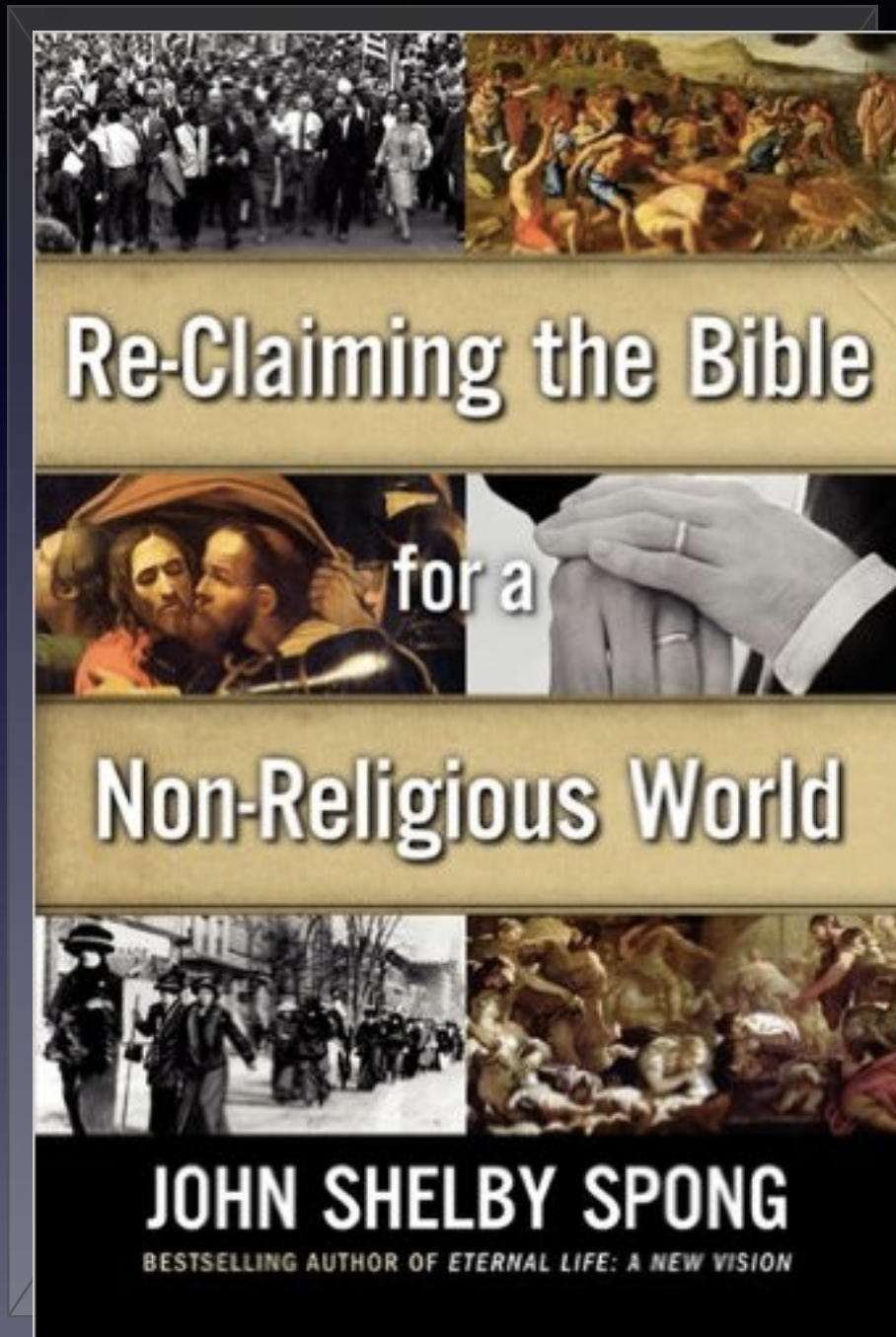


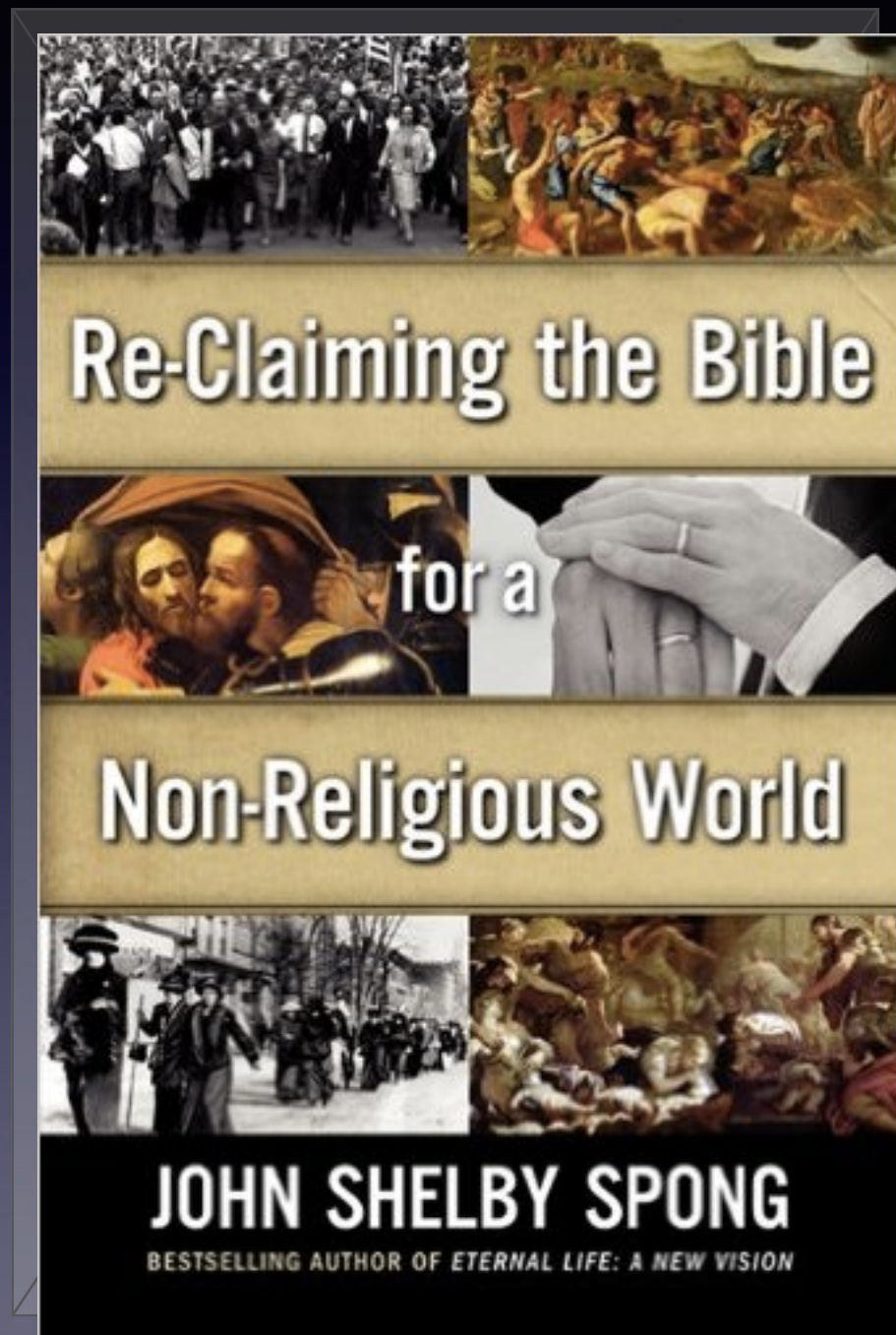
# Reclaiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World

ACTS  
Fall 2016

St David's United Church  
Calgary



# Reclaiming the Bible



## Session # 7

- Opening
- Questions
- Overview
- Break
- Videos
- Discussions
- Closing



# Opening



# What book to study next?

## TOPICS

- theology
- spirituality
- religion
- culture
- justice

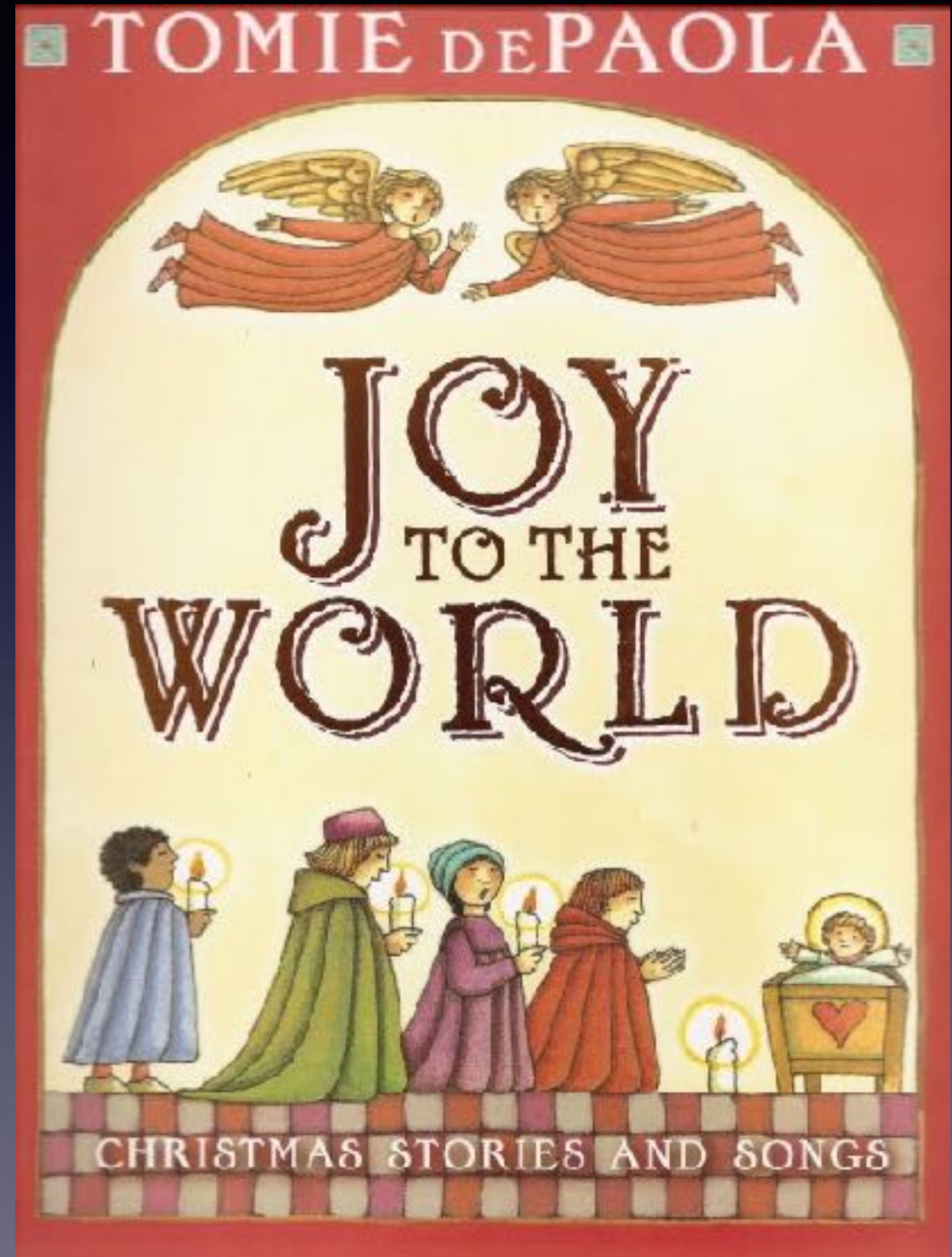




# Advent Book Sale

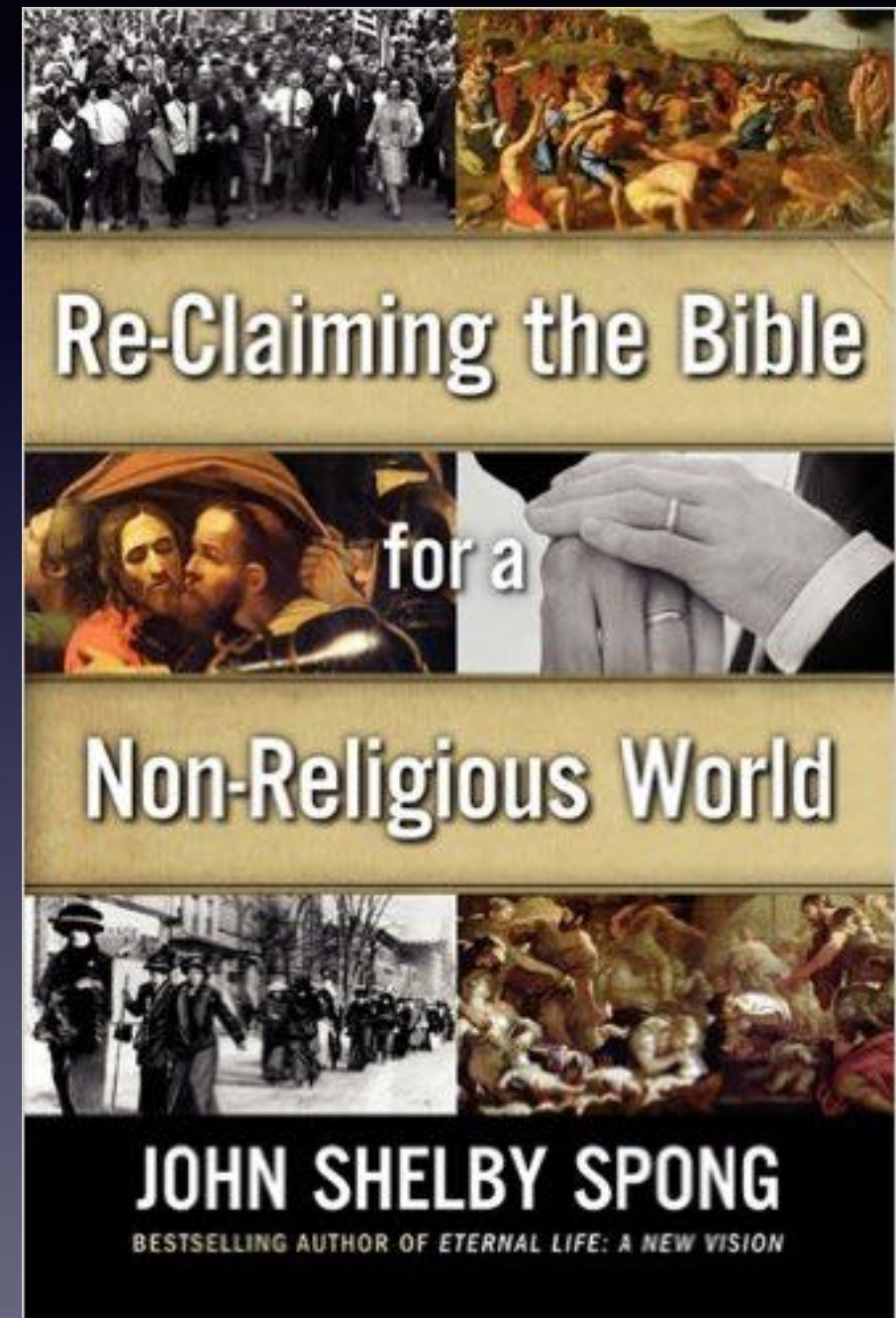
Also, in two week we begin our ACTS Advent Book Sale and we would be interested in titles you would consider buying at that two-week sale.

Please mention your suggestions to Wayne. He will be ordering the titles this week.



# Important considerations -

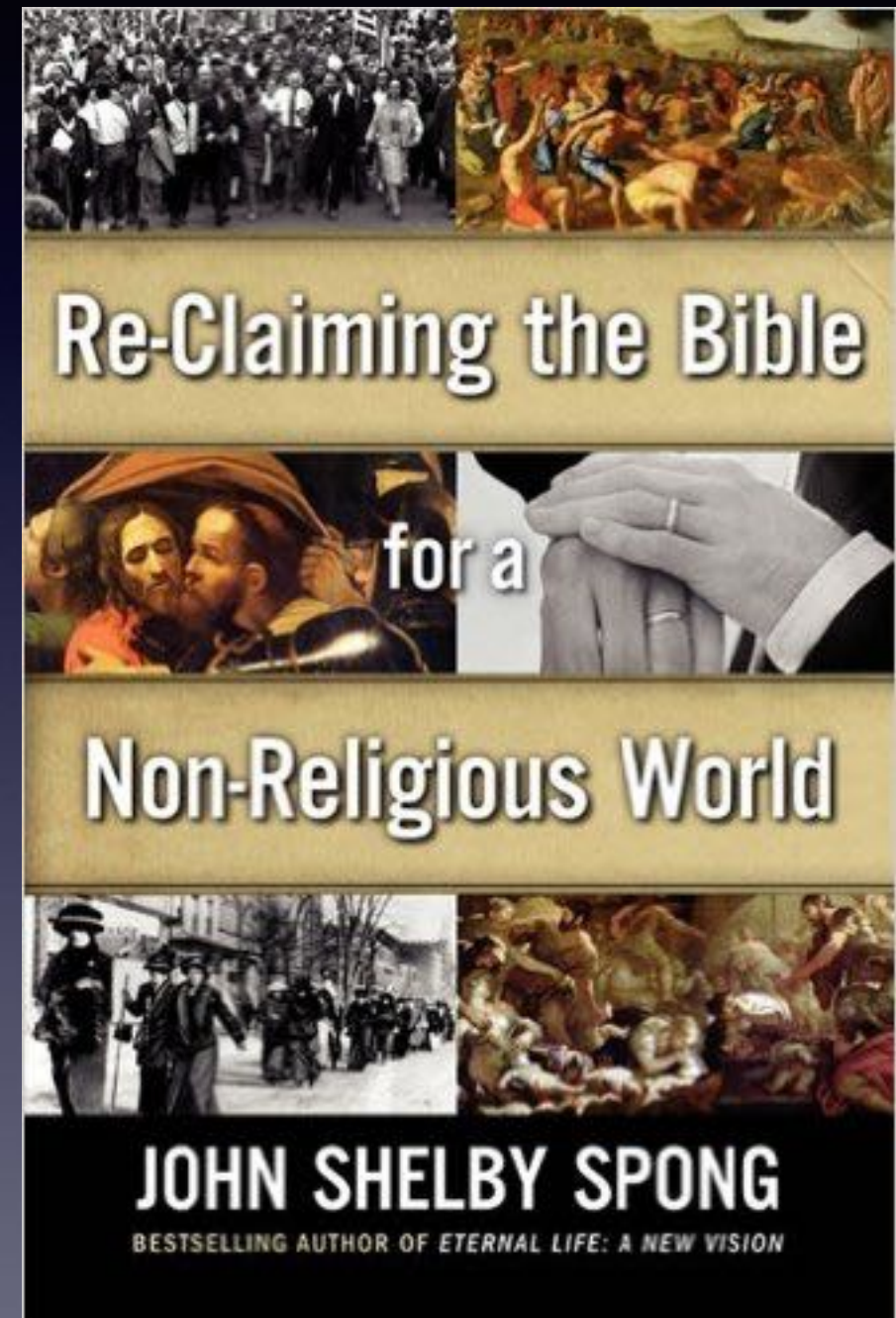
- Spong's vocation as a pastor is demonstrated in this session.
- He is not only interested in biblical theology. He is committed to interpreting that theology to an intelligent worshipping community.





# Important considerations -

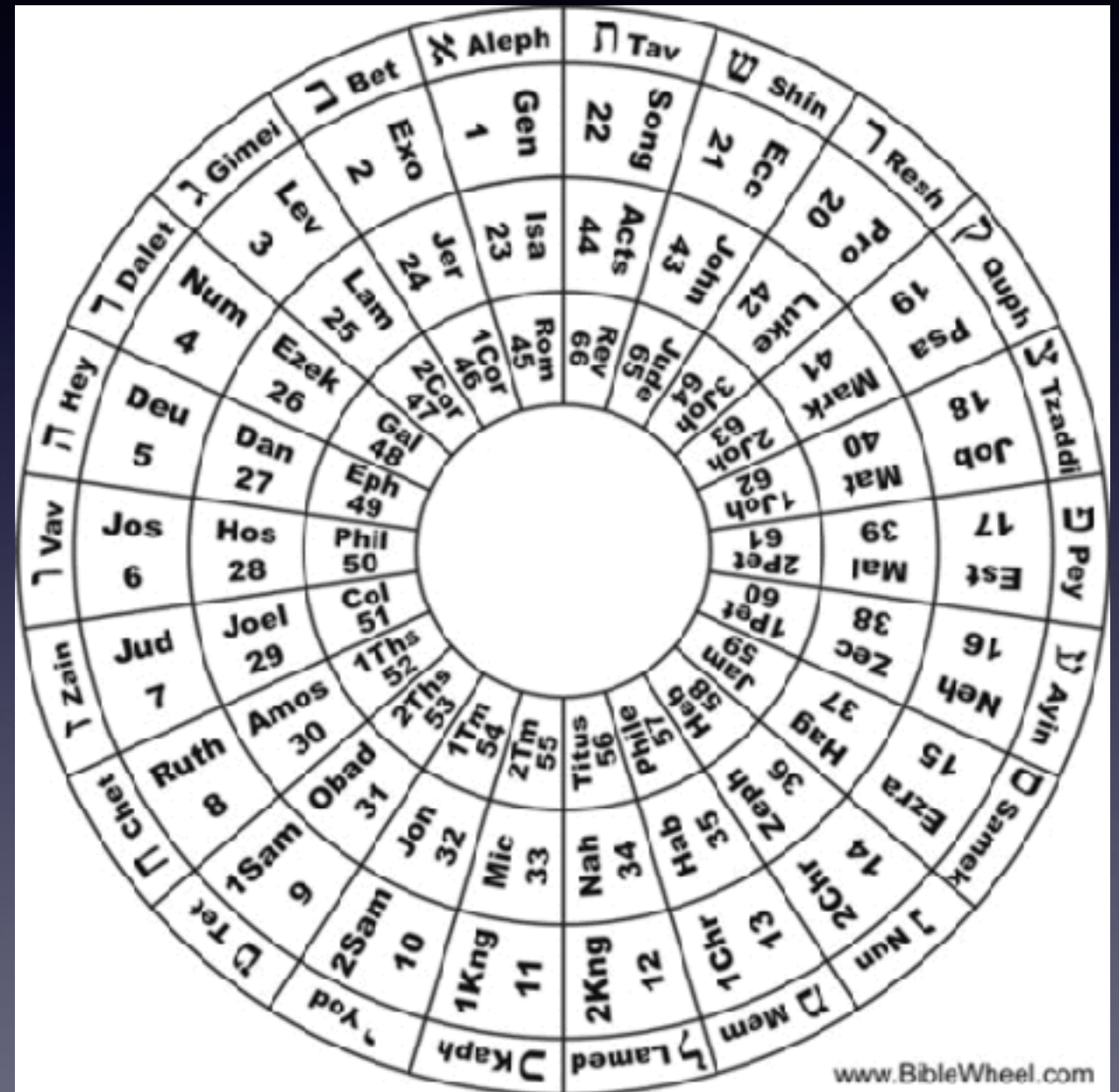
- Tonight, we focus on the Synoptic Gospels - Mark, Matthew, and Luke, as well as the book of Acts, written by the author of Luke.
- The gospel of John will be considered in session ten, under the theme of "The Johannean Corpus."



# Liturgical Cycles

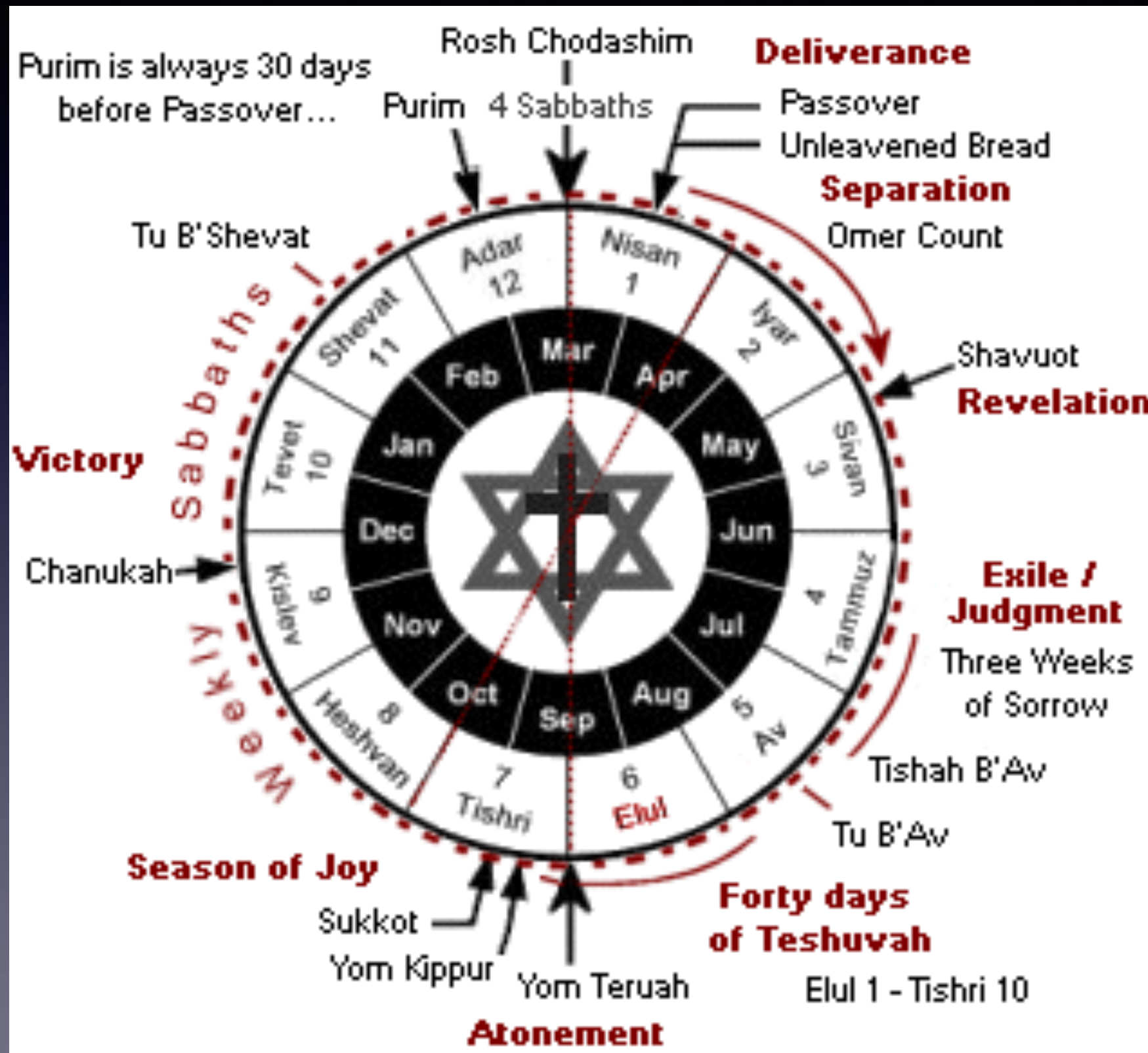
Frequently in this session on the Synoptic Gospels Spong makes reference to the Hebrew Bible's annual liturgical cycle and the way the gospel writers built on this, transforming it into a Christian cycle.

Why do you think both Hebrew and Christian communities find an annual liturgical cycle so appealing?





# Jewish Liturgical Cycle



# Exploring Mark

- Mark was written with a focus on seeing Jesus' life and ministry as a fulfillment of the Jewish Law and Prophets.





# Exploring Mark

- Following a liturgical cycle based in the Hebrew Bible, but with Christian themes, is one way Spong is suggesting we need to view Jesus "through Jewish eyes" (pp. 299-302).



# Mark's Use of Synagogue Worship Patterns

- Spong declares that, for many in the early church, following Jesus takes the place of temple worship as practiced by the Jewish faith tradition.
- The "Jesus story" became an adaptation of Jewish religious life.





# Mark's Use of Synagogue Worship Patterns

For our purposes in this course Spong's point is well taken. But we need to recognise this as a teaching device that - while natural and helpful - is not the only way to introduce or explain the development of the gospel message in the early church..



# Mark's Use of Synagogue Worship Patterns

It is a reflection of Spong's pastoral "teaching" style.

It also shows the combining of modern interfaith scholarship with liturgical studies. Something not previously possible.





# Mark's Use of Synagogue Worship Patterns

- Liturgical reenactment of the Jesus story helps me to participate personally and meaningfully in the life and meaning of Jesus.
- For example - "The Way of the Cross"



# Mark's Use of Synagogue Worship Patterns

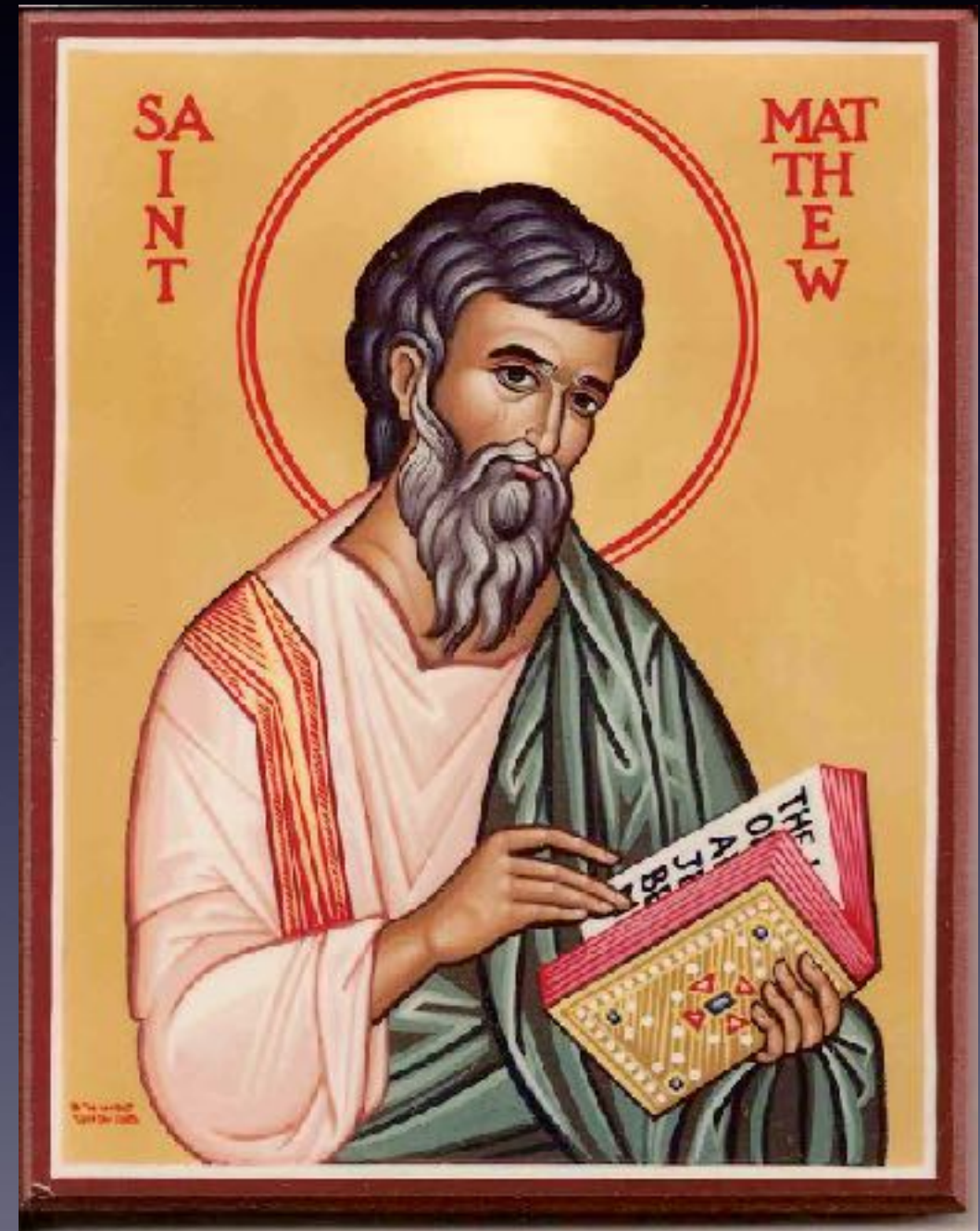
- Ritual enactment can be most helpful to those raised in a liturgical tradition.
- It may be less meaningful for those who didn't have that background.
- It may appeal those who are new to the key points of the Jesus story.





# Exploring Matthew

Matthew quoted Hebrew Bible scripture in such a way as to make it serve his own interpretive agenda.



# Exploring Matthew

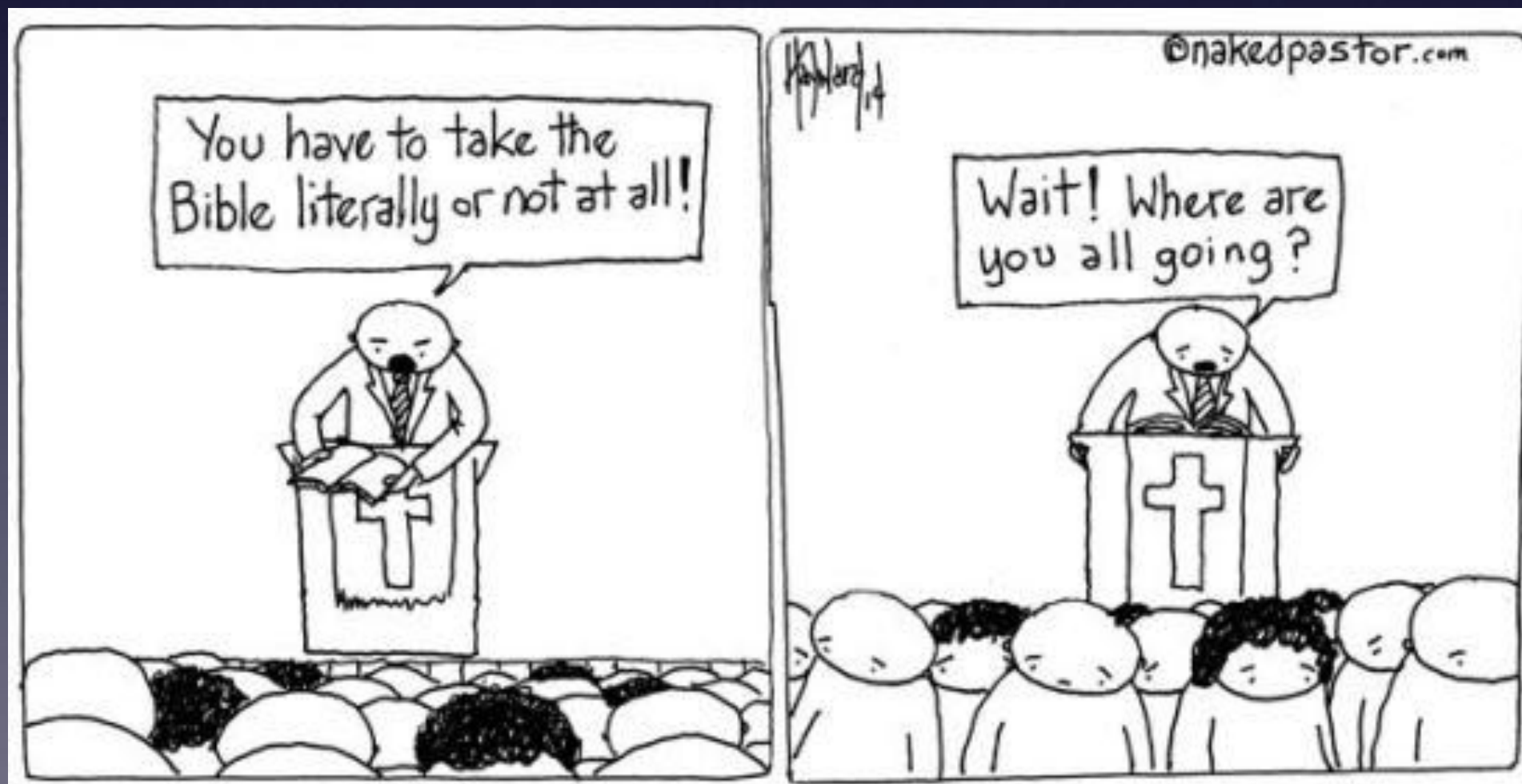
- Matthew's interpretive secret - the synagogue liturgical year.
- Matthew presents the Jesus story through the narrative motifs of Joseph and Moses. These figures would be familiar to Jewish believers but would have to be learned by those outside the Hebrew faith tradition.





# Exploring Matthew

Many of the themes were meant to be interpreted figuratively, not literally.



# Exploring Matthew

Consider and reflect on the biblical image of Egypt

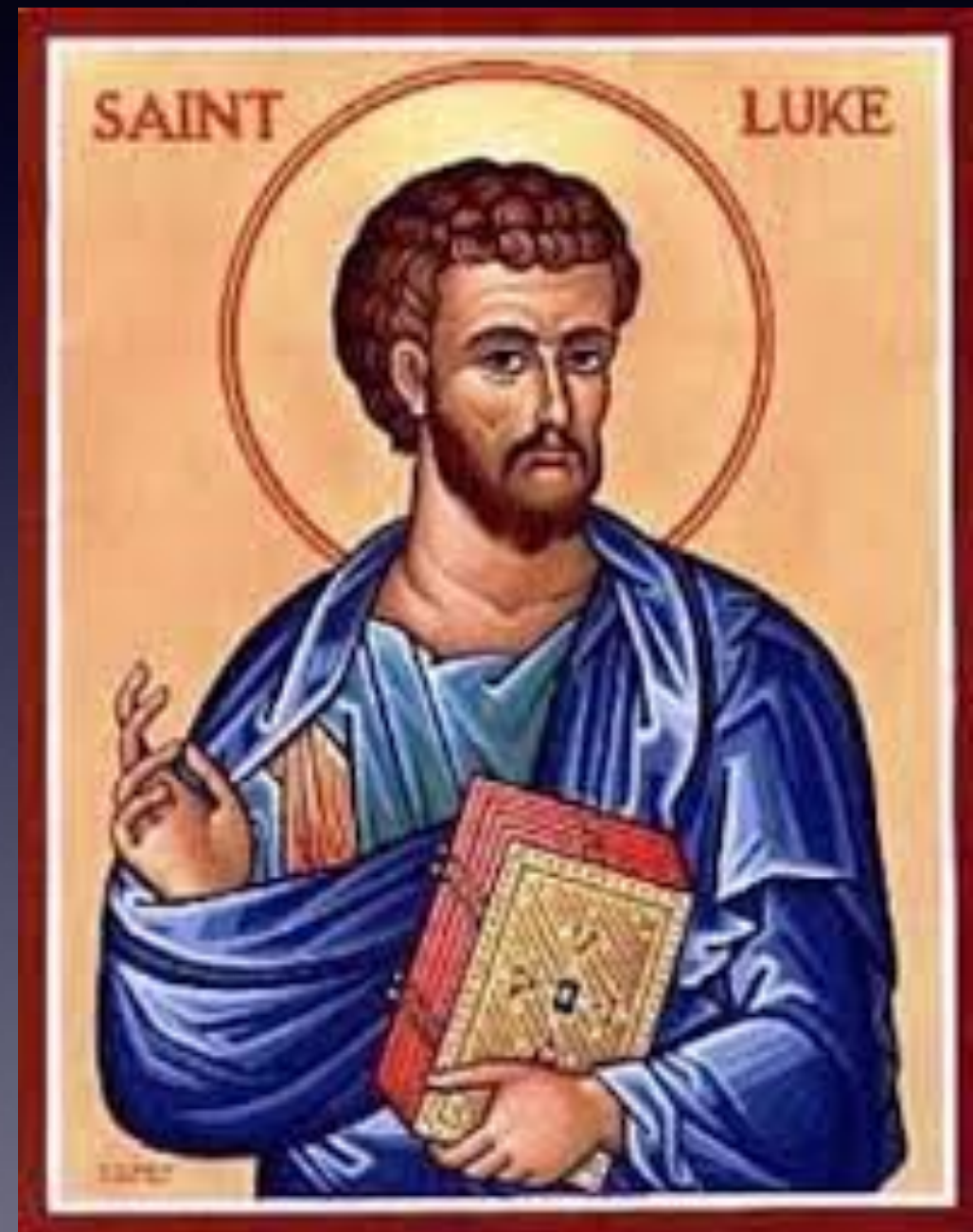
- A place of escape
- A place of liberation
- Matthew needs to be read "through Jewish eyes" in order to understand its meaning.





Luke - Moving toward the gentile world.

Luke introduces a  
"post-Judaistic"  
Christianity.



# Luke - Moving toward the gentile world.

- Luke recreates Jesus in light of the Hebrew scriptures - but not as literal history.
- Jews reading this would appreciate the Hebrew nuance. Secularized Jews or Gentile "ethical monotheists" might not.
- It was not necessary, but helpful, to know Jewish antecedents.





# Luke - Moving toward the gentile world.

- Luke is a reflection of an evolving, “missionary” Christianity that was no longer confined to Hebrew understandings.
- Judaism has never been a “missionary” religion like Christianity or Islam.



# Luke - Moving toward the gentile world.

Paul had obviously influenced this departure into a uniquely new "Christian" faith direction.





# Luke's Vision of Universalism

Pentecost

-

its story is  
pivotal for Luke.



# Luke - Moving toward the gentile world.

- Luke's goal is to make Jesus a figure of universal faith, not dependent, or based on, the Jewish faith.
- For him, Pentecost and its universal theme moves us beyond Jesus' death and resurrection





# Luke - Moving toward the gentile world.

We are now beginning to discover a Jesus through a Greek or a Roman lens.



# Acts - Christian Universality and Inclusivity

Peter (on left)

Disciple of Jesus  
advocated a Jewish-  
based focus  
for the early church  
until his vision in  
Caesarea





# Acts - Christian Universality and Inclusivity

Paul - (on right)

Convert and apostle, advocated a new faith, focused on the death/resurrection of Jesus and a message that sent him "to the ends of the earth"



# Acts - Christian Universality and Inclusivity

Ultimately, Peter accepted Paul's inclusive embrace of the Jesus message and universal mission.

Paul moves from the margins to centre stage.





# Paul and Early Christians as viewed through Acts.

The Gospel message evolves from Jesus in Galilee to Jerusalem and the apostles convey it to the whole world.



# Paul and Early Christians as viewed through Acts.

The Jerusalem Council (Acts 15) concluded that both Christianities reflected in Peter and Paul should be allowed to share their witness.

Principle: when fellow-apostles could not work together, they should disband their relationship and carry on with new partners.





# Paul and Early Christians as viewed through Acts.

Paul's vision at Troas  
(Troy) Acts 16

"Come over to  
Macedonia and help  
us"

"I go to the gentiles"



# Paul and Early Christians as viewed through Acts.

Paul enters Greece.

From this point, Paul preached more openly in Gentile-based locations, and did not automatically seek out Jewish ones.





# Spong's Concluding Question:

Is the Acts account accurate - concerning the focus-shift in the early church and the early spread of the faith to the Gentile world?

We can't be sure, But the Christian church did, however, move with Paul into all the world, and continues to do so.



# Video

## God's Story - Passover

4m

Produced by Crossroads Kids Club - producer of  
childrens's bible stories.

Illustrates the way New Testament uses the story models  
of the Hebrew Bible - (Mishnah).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1lwMt-KLkSE>







Break



# Tour Turkey 2013 - Ephesus - Excerpts

- Virgin Mary Site
- Ephesus - Ruins
- Library of Celsus
- Great Theatre





# Next - Virgin Mary

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### Meryem Ana'ya Övgü Duası

Selam sana Aziz Kraliçe, Aziz Theotokos, Meryem, Sen ki iffetinle Kiliseyi oluşturdun ve Göksel Kutsal Peder seni seçti,  
Sevgili Kutsal Oğul ve Teselli verici Kutsal Ruh'la birlikte seni kutsadı. Sen daima tüm lütuflarla ve iyiliklerle dolusun,  
Selam sana, Allah'ın Sarayı, Selam sana, Allah'ın Kutsal Efkariyeti Kutusu, Selam sana Allah'ın evi,  
Selam sana Allah'ın giysisi, Selam sana Allah'ın Hizmetkârı Selam sana.  
Ey Kutsal erdemler, hepimize selam olsun, Kutsal Ruh'un lütfu ve nuruyla müminlerin kalplerini ayandırın ve  
velasızlıklarını Allah'a sadakata döndürün.

Assisi'li Aziz Fransuva



06.05.2013 08:10







I pray for the disbelief  
to turn into faith,  
the hate to love,  
the ignorance to  
learning, the fear  
to faith. Thank you  
for all you do, and  
I pray for hope  
and love in the hearts  
of those who lack it.  
Most of all, I pray for  
the courage to act.











# Next - Ephesus - City Ruins

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18.04.2013 03:25













148

06.05.2013 10:07































ΕΥΔΙΚΙΗΣ ΜΩ  
ΛΟΙΟΣ ΔΟΦΡΟΣΥΝΗΣ  
ΑΡΕΤΑΩΝ ΜΑΡ  
ΤΥΣ ΕΓΩ ΣΤΗ  
ΛΗΘΕΥΔΟCΙ  
ΩΙΤΕΛΕΘΩ





# Next - Library of Celsus

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MAY/ 6/2013















Menorah, seven branched  
candlestick Judaic Symbol,  
incised on the steps of the  
Celsus - Library  
Roman Imperial Period













ΑΡΕΤΗ  
ΚΕΛΕΥΟΥ



# Next - Great Theatre

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MAY/ 6/2013













MAY/ 6/2013



# Discussion Questions



# Next Readings

## SESSION 9

### PART XI - THE PASTORAL EPISTLES, HEBREWS AND THE GENERAL EPISTLES

Chapter 52 - 54

## Study Website

<http://rtb.stdavidscalgary.net>



# Closing





# Leonard Cohen - Hallelujah



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrLk4vdY28Q>