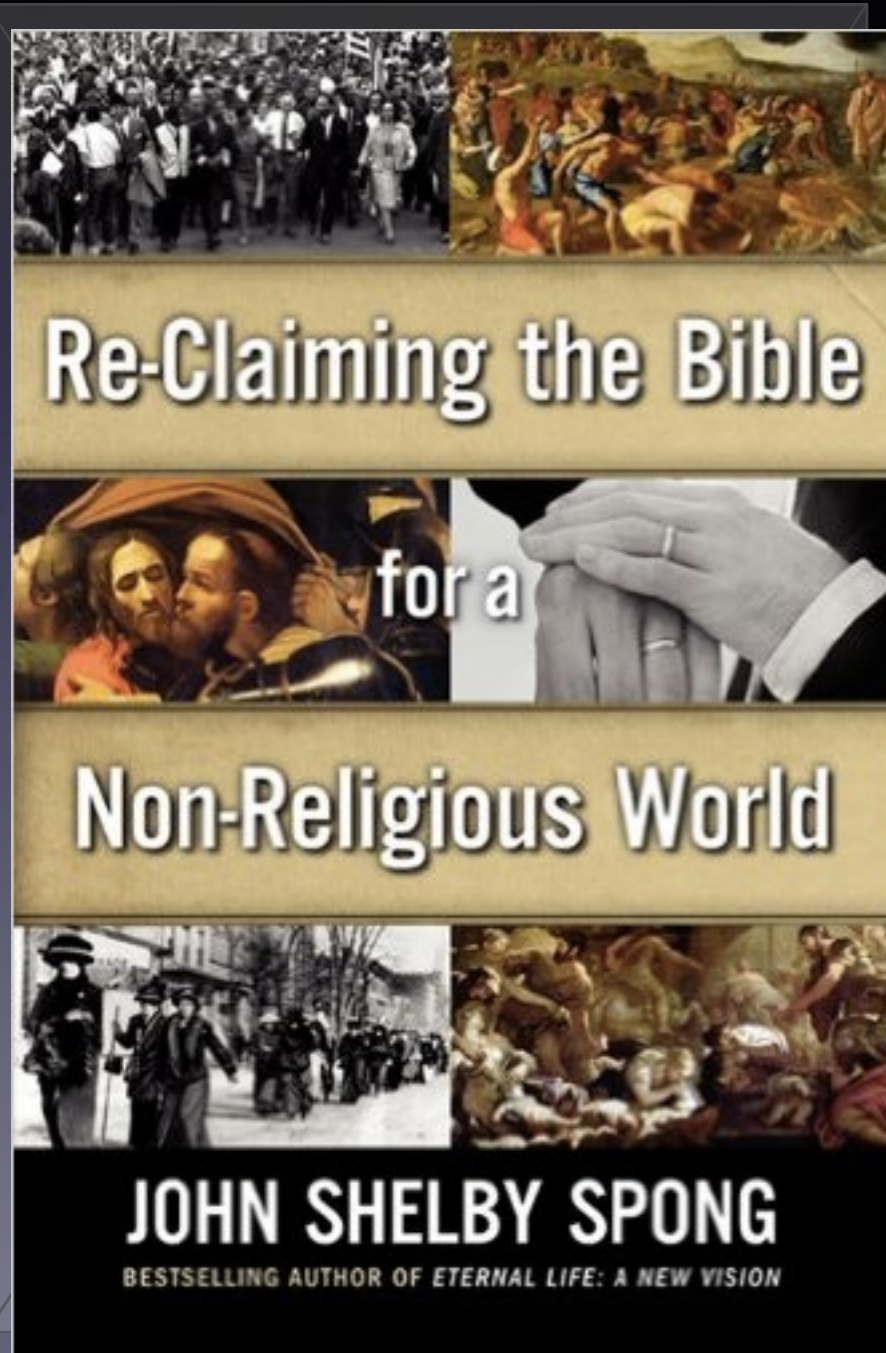


Reclaiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World

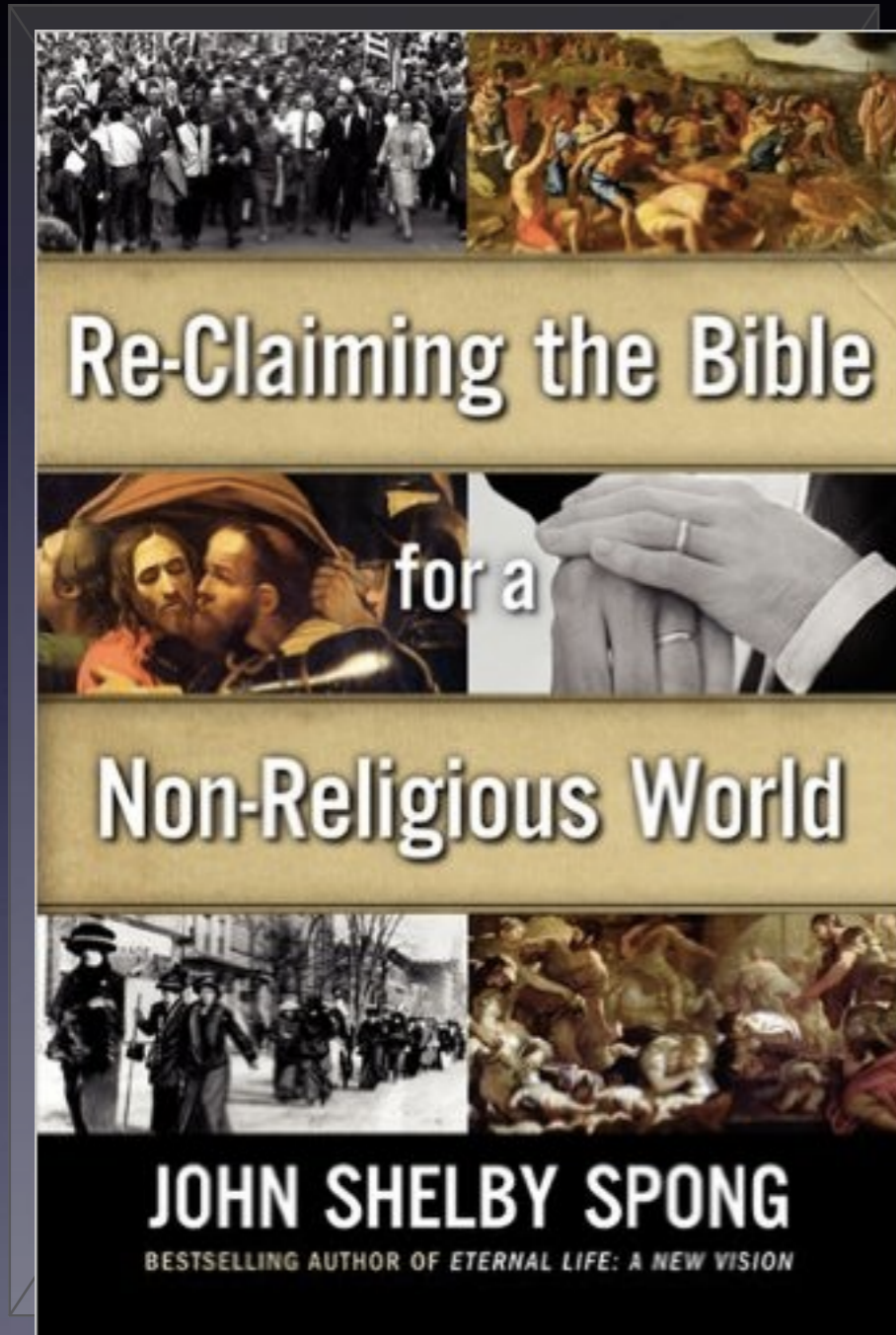
ACTS

Fall 2016

St David's United Church
Calgary



Reclaiming the Bible



Session # 10

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

Opening



Halleluljah - Cohen

Sung in Welsh

Cor Clanaethwy

Community Choir North Wales

Britains Got Talent 2015

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-4JmRnv_nE



Starting Remarks

ACTS Advent Booksale

- next Sundays
- 15 books
- Excellent presents for friends and family

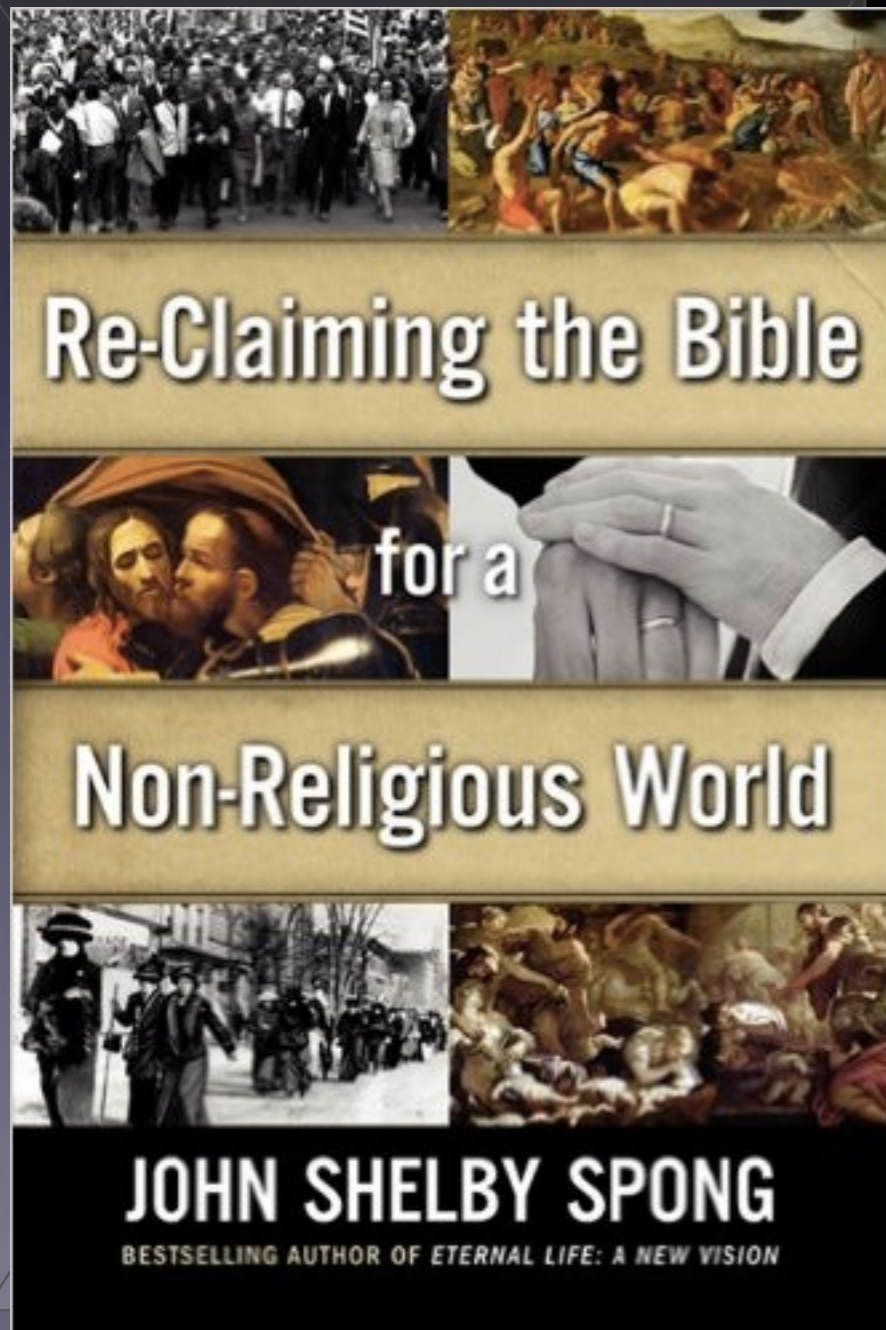


Reclaiming the Bible

Ken Kitteridge

Course Assessment
Fall - 2016

(handout)



Some Comments on Conservative and Progressive Churchs



Jesus for the Non-Religious

John Spong

7m excerpt

TV Ontario

In Conversation with Allan Gregg

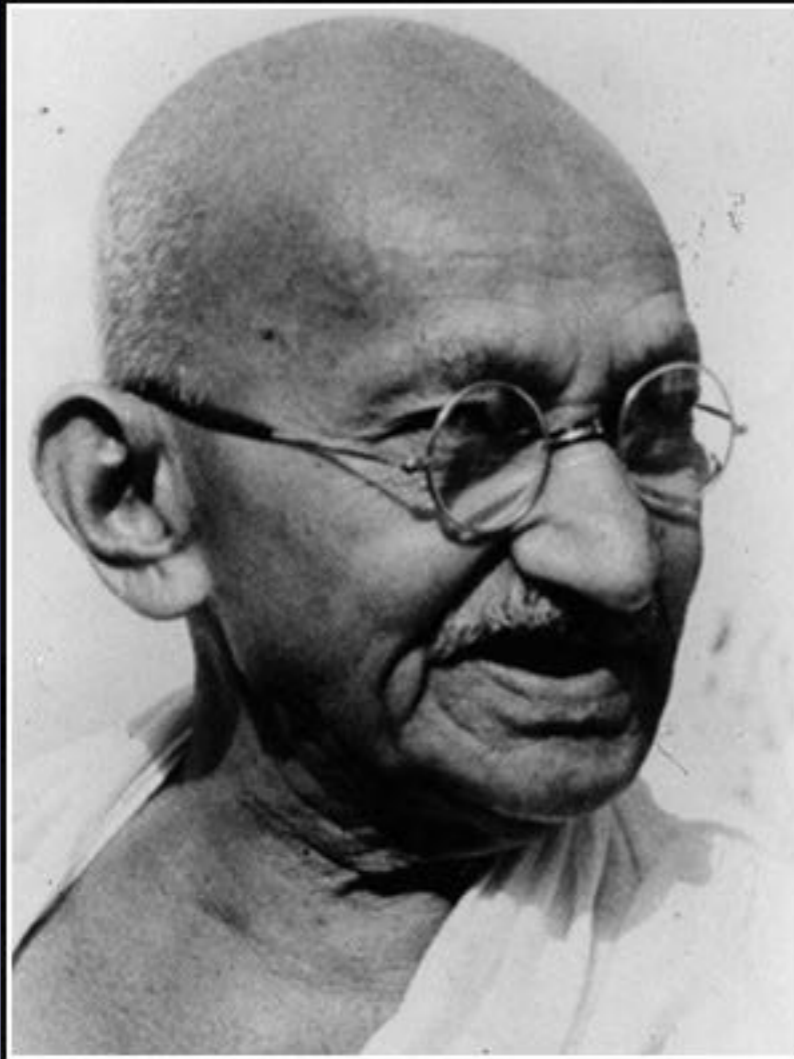
13 Nov 2012

full - 27m15s

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fUmKEH9jnu8>



tvo



God is Light, not darkness. God is
Love, not hate. God is truth, not
untruth. God alone is great.

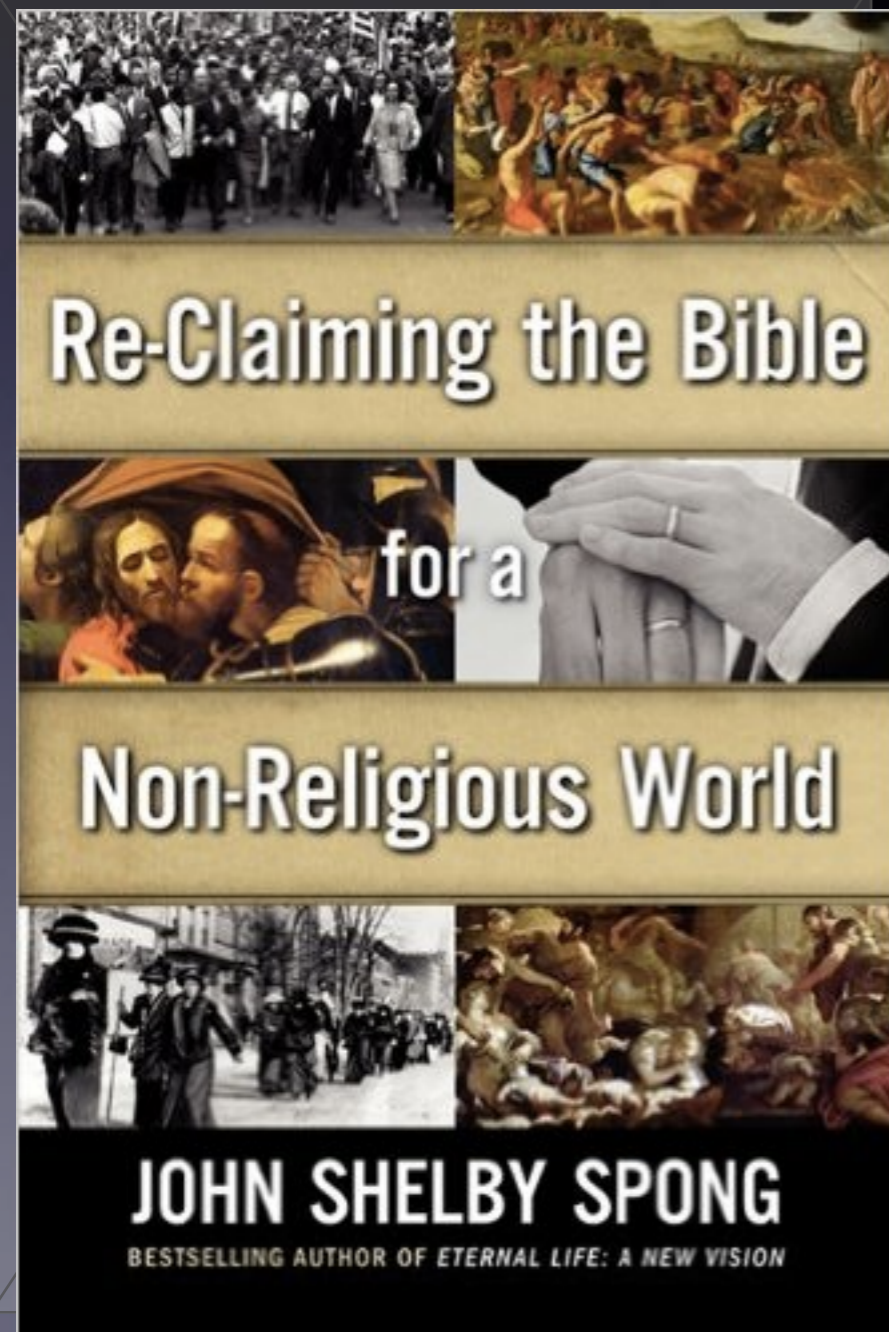
— *Mahatma Gandhi* —

AZ QUOTES



Break

Preliminary Points



- a good study
- good commentary
- consistent attendance
- good involvement.

Thank you!!

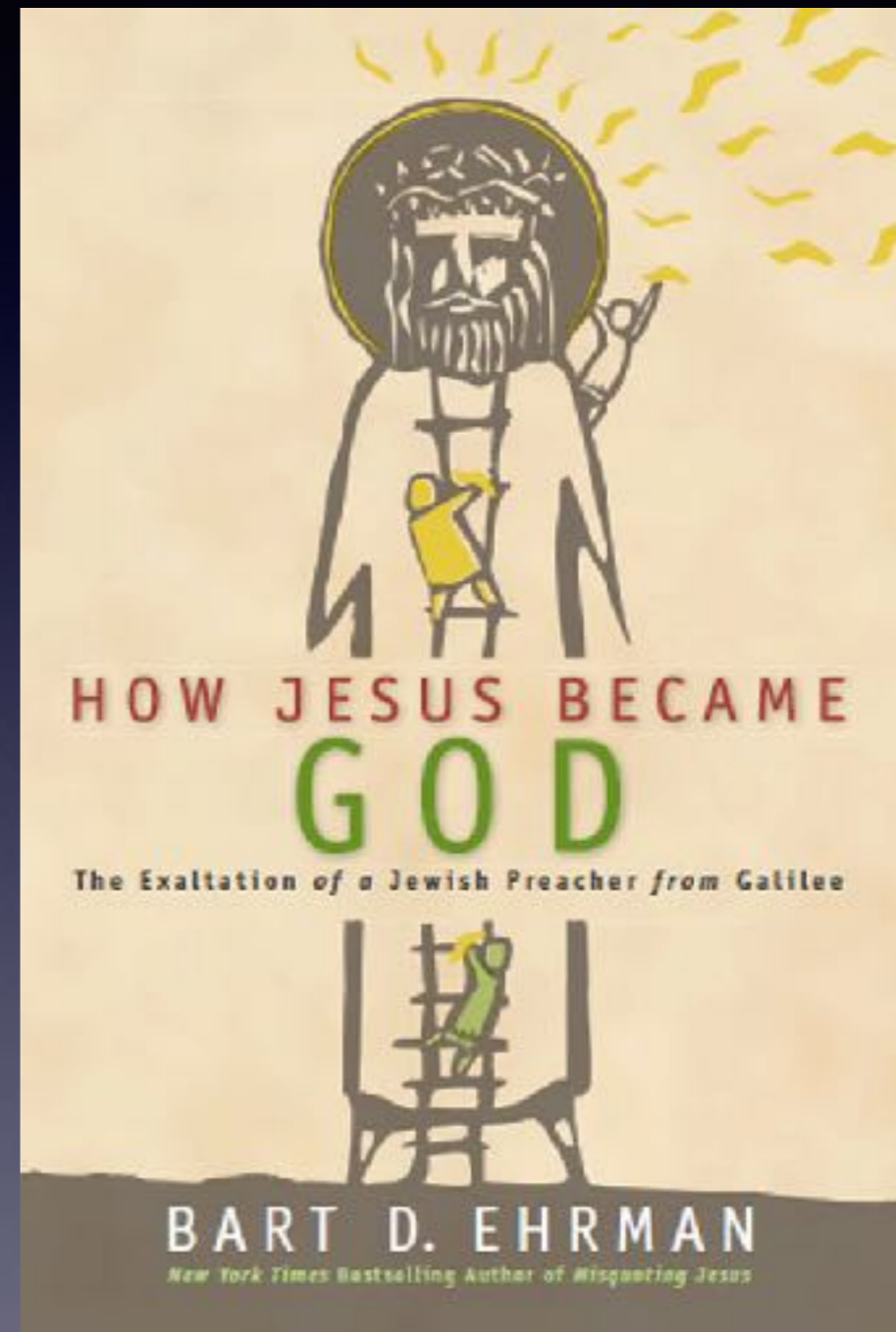
Introducing ACTS Winter Study.

Winter Bookstudy

How Jesus Became
God: The Exaltation of
a Jewish Preacher
from Galilee

by Bart D. Herman

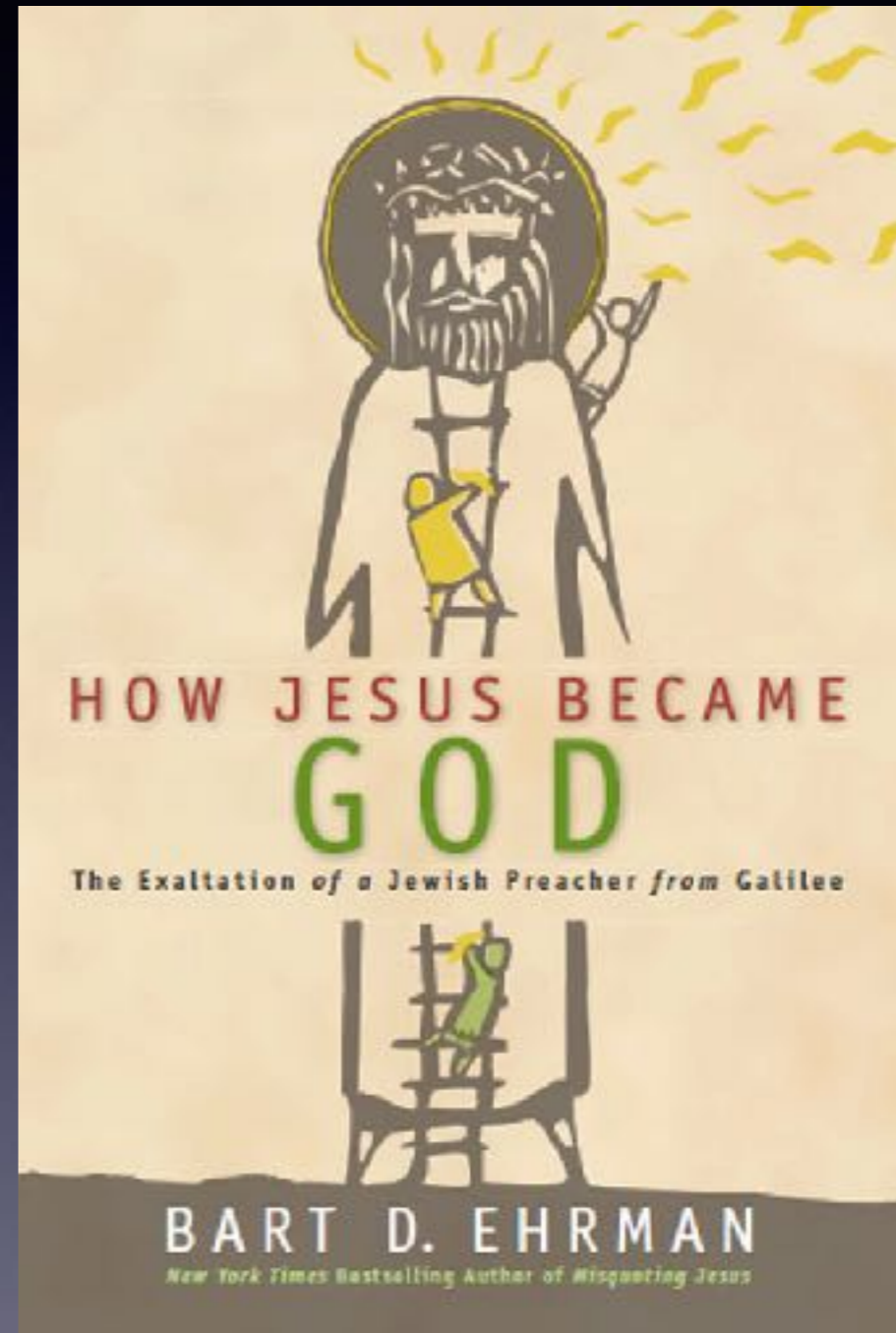
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Introducing ACTS Winter Study.

This book continues where Spong left off.

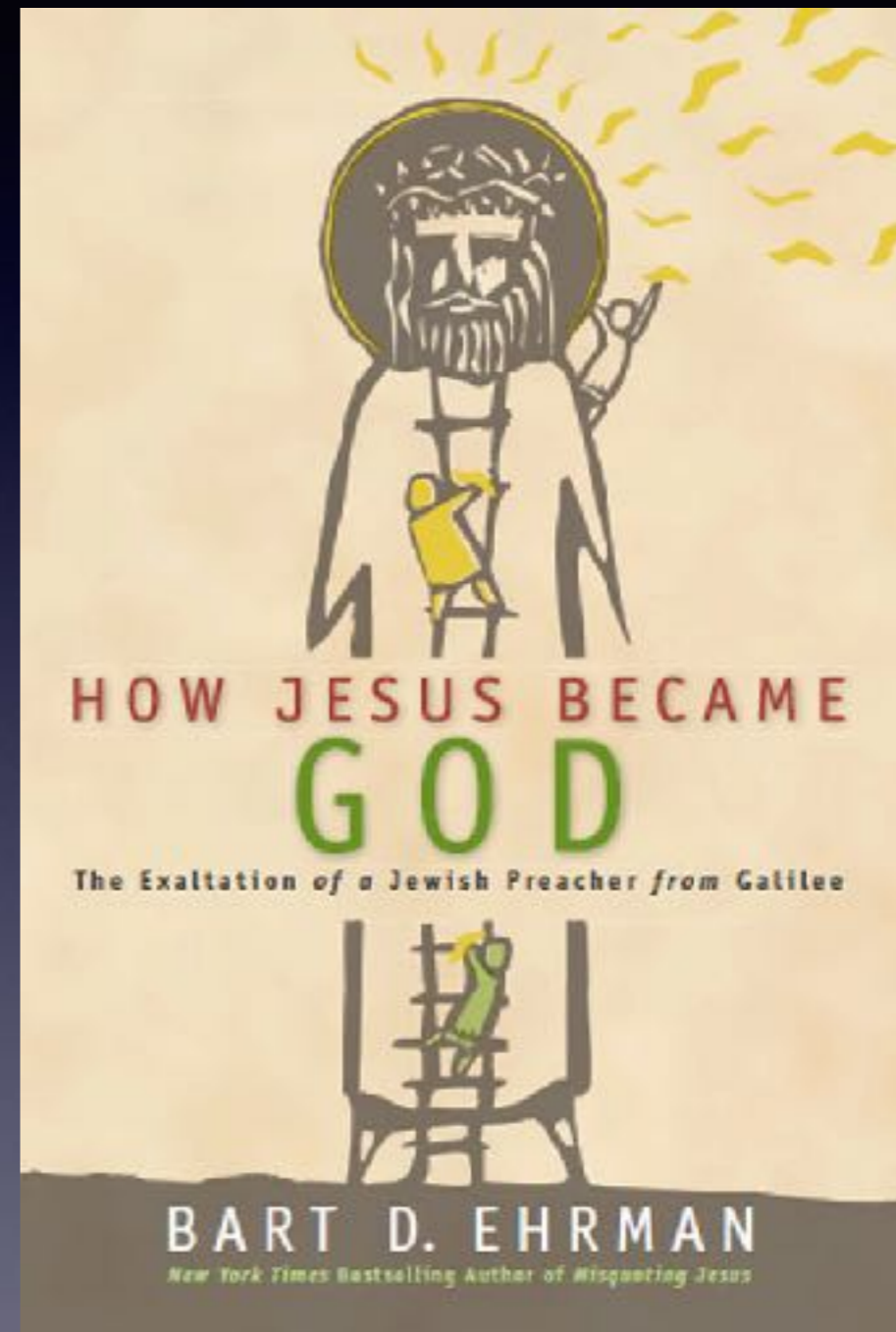
We will focus on how Jesus the human evolves through the experience of the early Christian community into a Divine Being, who was worshipped as God



Introducing ACTS Winter Study.

This development separated Christianity from Judaism that did not accept Jesus as the Messiah

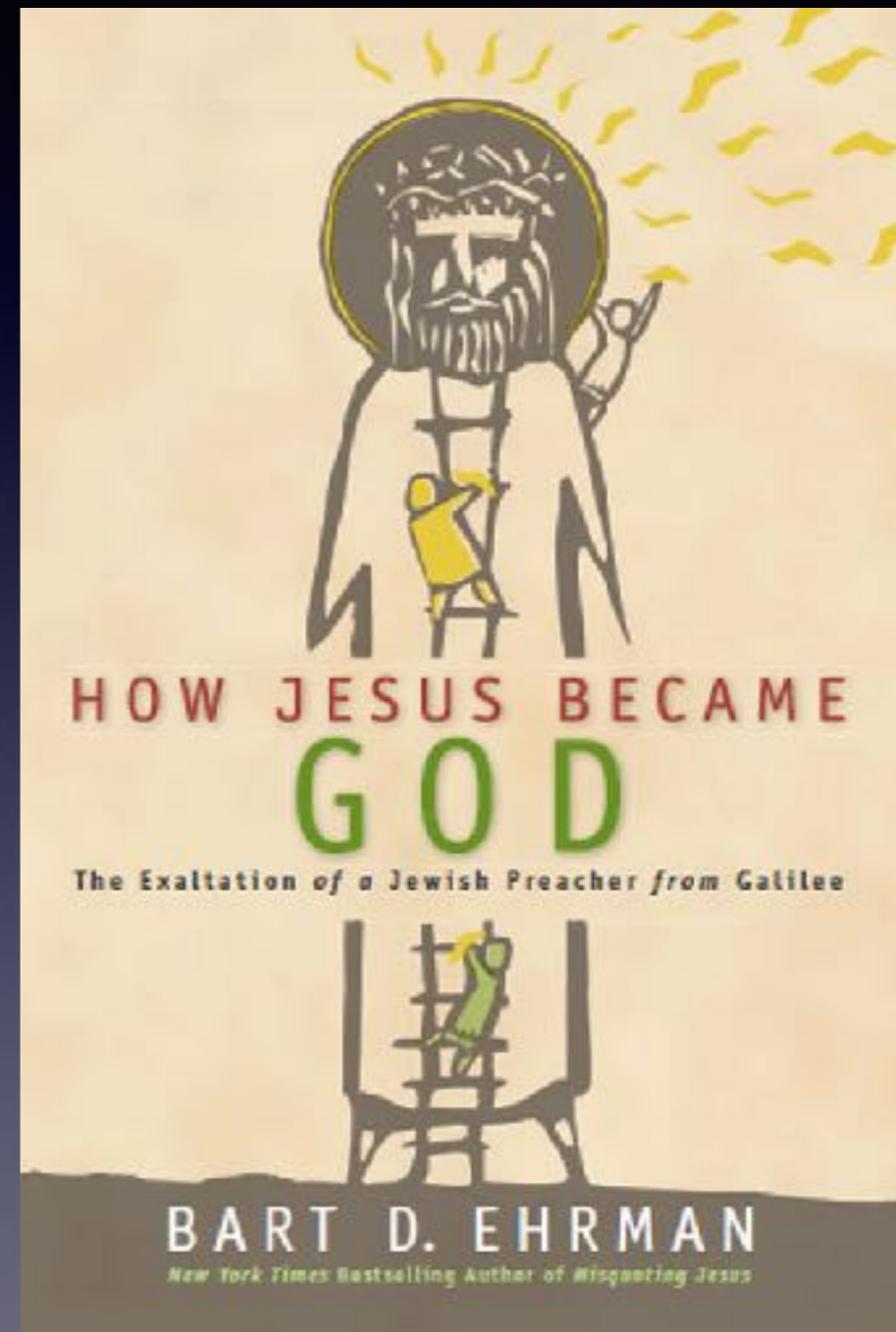
It separated Christianity from Islam, coming later, that did not accept Jesus as divine, or equal to God.



Introducing ACTS Winter Study.

What happened during the early centuries of Christianity has had implications leading up to the present day.

We did not want our followup study of Spong and the Bible to be a repeat. Rather we sought an important continuation of a story that we think will appeal to you as well.



The Johannine Corpus



The Gospel of John

This gospel captures the essence of the Jesus experience more profoundly than any other part of the New Testament.

The Johnine Corpus



The Gospel of John

- Not a Literal Book.
- It is a different kind of Gospel than the others and has tended to be the favourite one.

The Johnine Corpus



The Gospel of John

- The I AM passages are central.
- John is a profoundly mystical interpretation of the life of Jesus of Nazareth.

The Johnine Corpus



The Gospel of John

- John moves us past a literal meaning of the Jesus story to a life-giving relationship with God through Jesus
- Christianity has suffered because early church councils read John literally, not figuratively, and turned his message into doctrines to be believed, rather than an experience of Jesus to be lived.

The Johannine Corpus

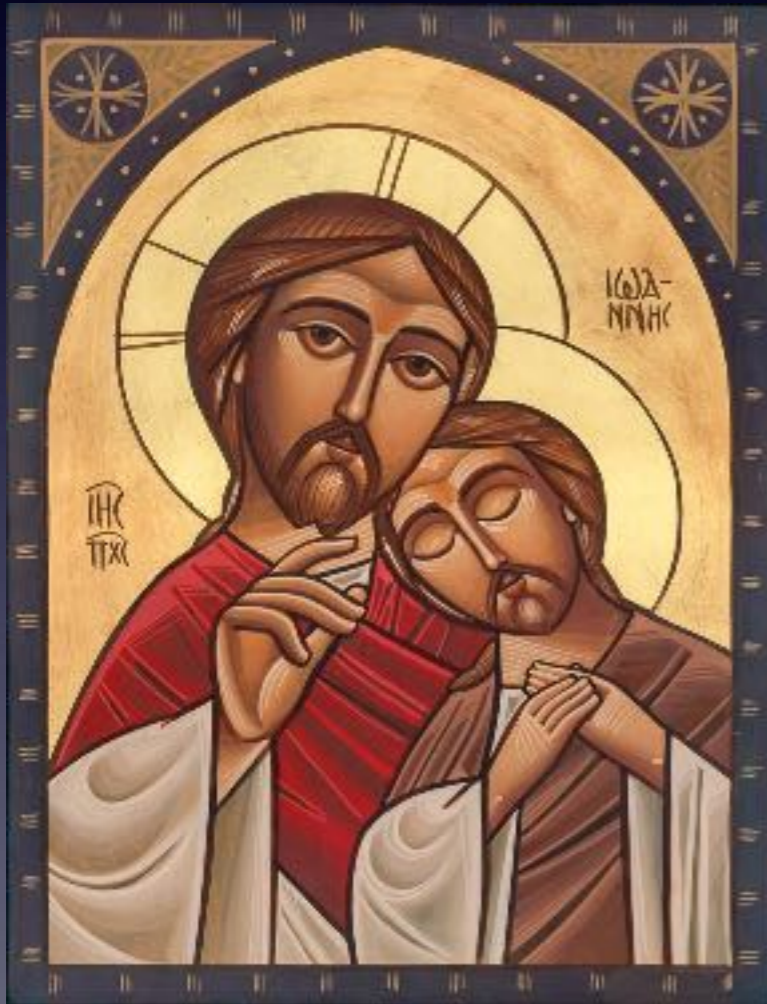
The Raising of Lazarus



- Spong does not believe the Lazarus was a historical figure.
- Rather, he was a literary construct of John that makes Jesus crucifixion inevitable.

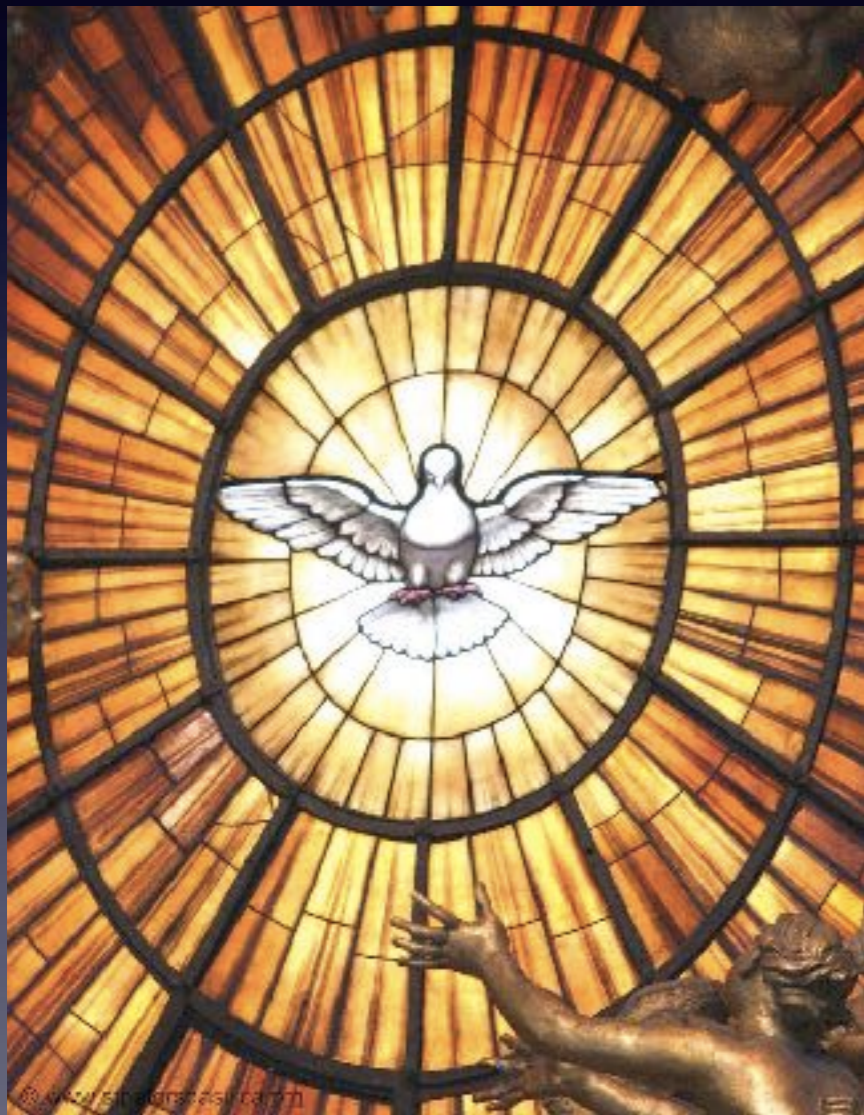
The Johannine Corpus

The Beloved Disciple



- John contains numerous references to the Beloved Disciple that do not appear elsewhere. Why?
- Spong believes that this disciple is clearly a symbol, and not a person. A symbol of what?

The Johannine Corpus



The Beloved Disciple & Lazarus the same?

John seeks to introduce a new spiritual consciousness as a result of linking the Lazarus and crucifixion stories.

The Johannine Corpus

The Epilogue of John



- Peter is the central figure of the resurrection story. He saw first.
- Galilee was where the resurrection experience first dawned.

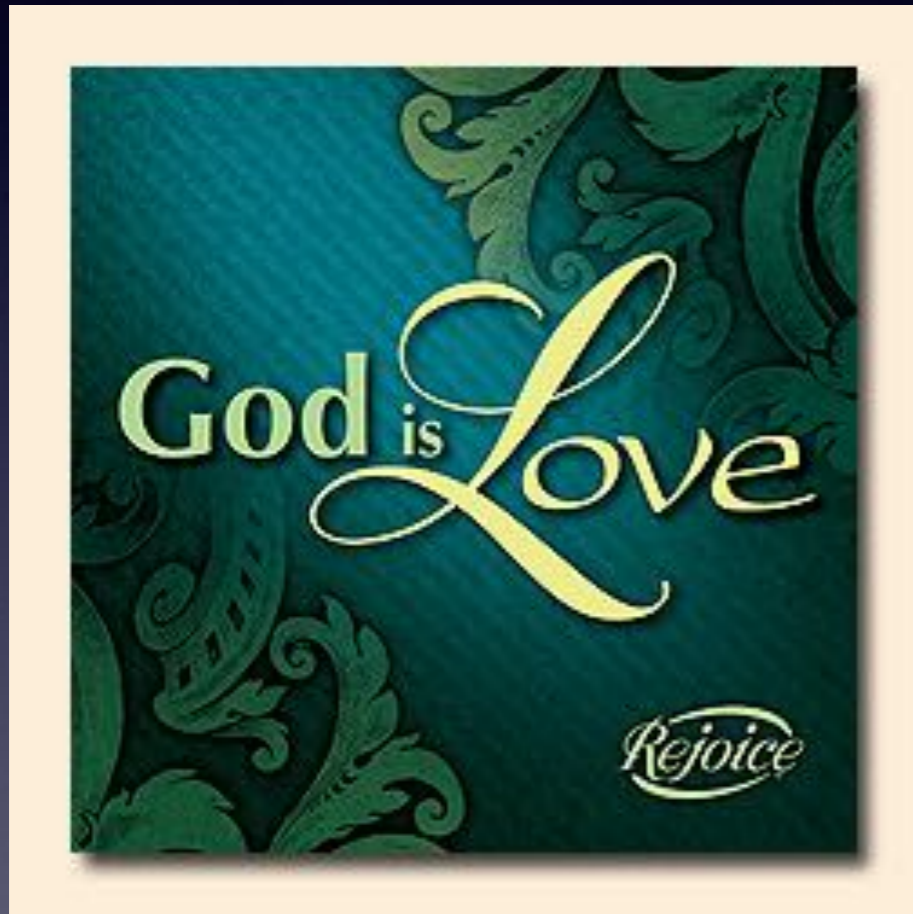
The Johannine Corpus

The Epilogue of John



- The third day - a symbol, not a measure of time.
- Jesus is known to us in the breaking of bread (communion, eucharist)

The Johannine Corpus

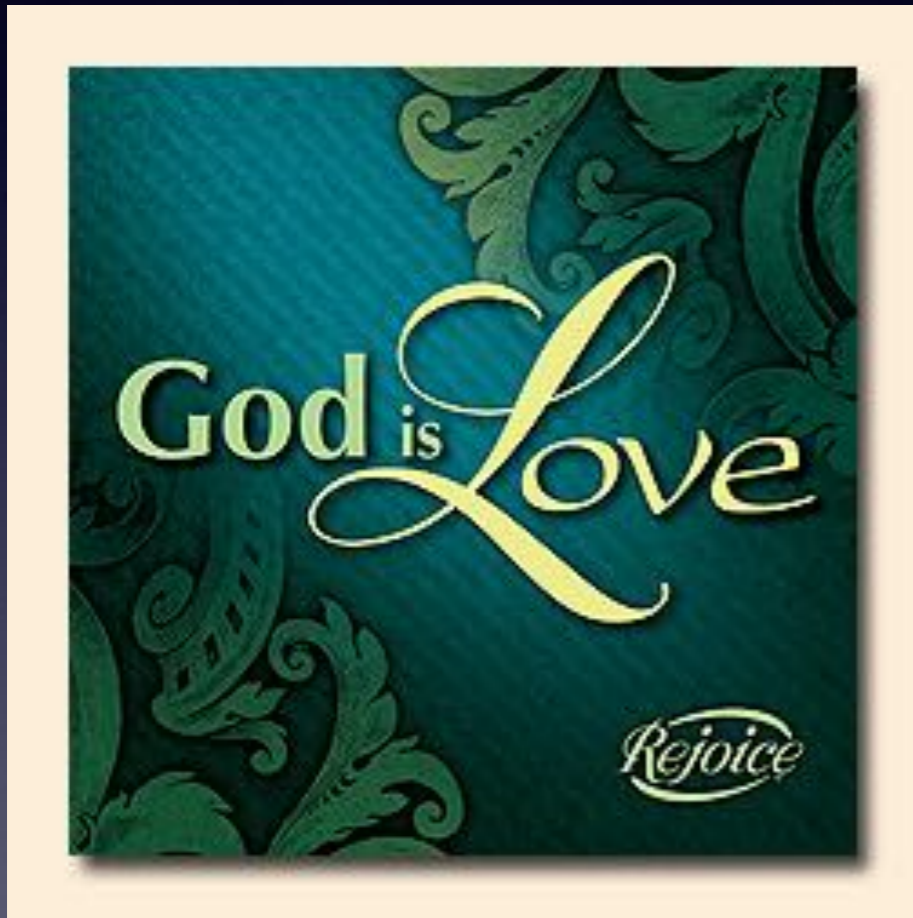


The Epistles and Revelation

Spong sees value in I John but not in II and III John, or Revelation.

The Johannine Corpus

1 John - God as Love

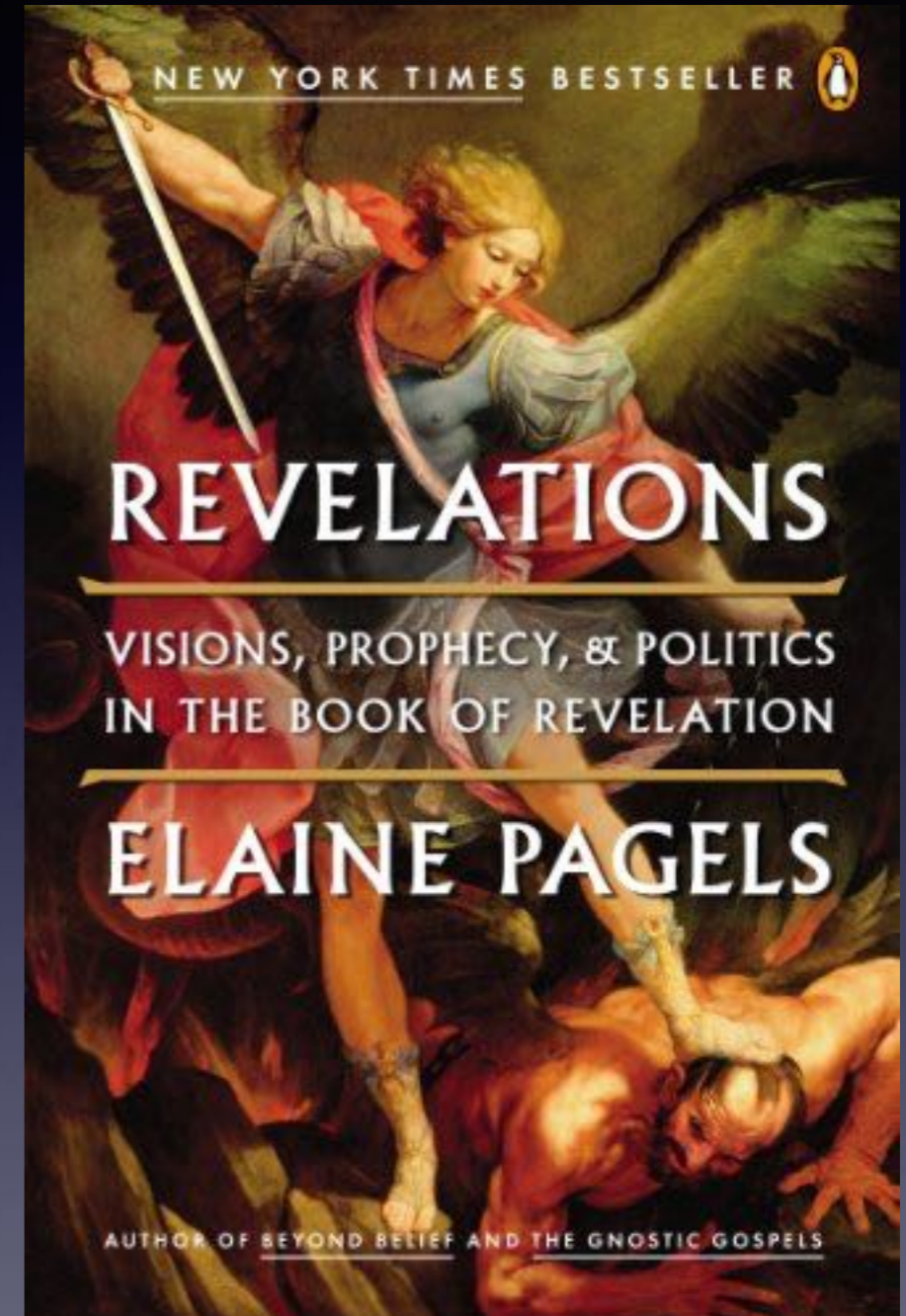


- It is in dramatic contrast to much of the conflict and violence of subsequent Christian history.
- The value of this book is of greater significance than the other two letters of John and the book of Revelation.

Book Study 29 - Revelations

Pagels explains

- how the book of Revelation just barely managed to be included in the New Testament canon.
- what were the social conditions at the time of it's writing.
- meanings other than apocalyptic prophesy.



*I have come that you may have Life,
and Life more abundantly!*

John 10:10



*Richard Anton Howros
Feed My Sheep Jerusalem*

Discussion Questions

1. What discoveries about the Bible have I made after this study?
2. What difference will it make? For Me? For St. Davids?

Closing

