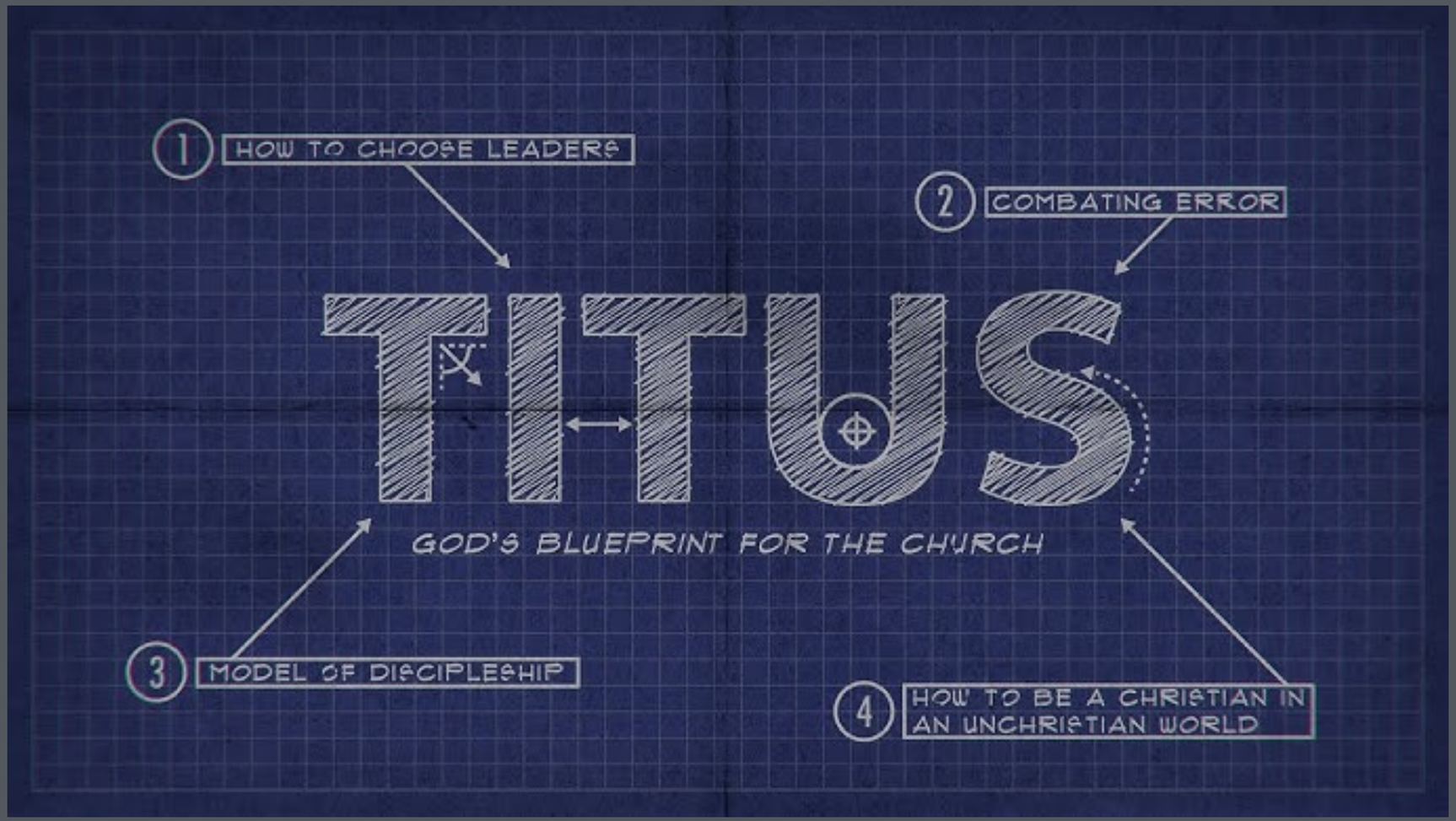
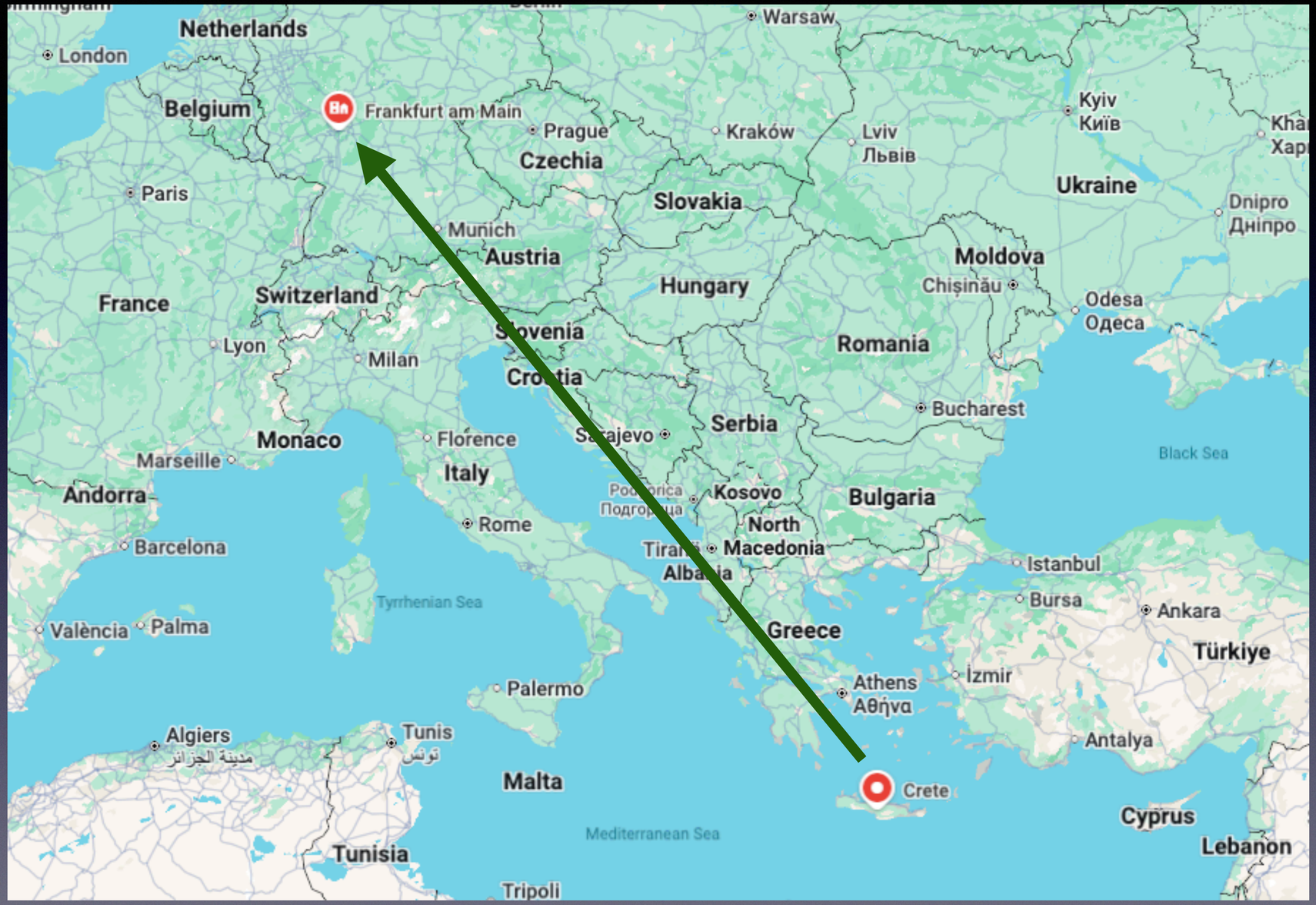

1 HOW TO CHOOSE LEADERS
2 COMBATING ERROR
TITUS
GOD'S BLUEPRINT FOR THE CHURCH
3 MODEL OF DISCIPLESHIP
4 HOW TO BE A CHRISTIAN IN AN UNCHRISTIAN WORLD

St. Titus Church - Crete

Silver Amulet - Frankfurt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Solid Foundation

- Our churches must be based on a solid foundation of the Truth of the Gospel
- Titus 1:1-4
- Paul described himself as both a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ.
- In Philippians, he had only used the word “servant.”

Solid Foundation

- The term “apostle” gave Paul the authority to correct issues in the church at Crete.
- But he used the term “servant” first to show that even though he is an apostle, he is really a servant of Jesus.
- He is not there to lord his authority over them.
- He is there to encourage them.

Solid Foundation

- Paul will encourage ordinary believers to consider every facet of their lives as an expression of the will of God.
- To see themselves as missionaries of the Gospel, no matter what their actual occupation is.
- To realize that their lifestyle and their reputation will either draw people into their church community or turn them away from the faith.

Solid Foundation

- Titus was Paul's disciple who had been left in Crete to organize and establish the church there.
- Timothy and Titus were the only two people Paul called his "true son" in the faith.
- Paul uses the term "son in the faith" to describe those whom he had led to Christ, of whom he was a "spiritual father," like Onesimus in Philemon (1:10).

Solid Foundation

- Paul is describing the deeper relationship he had with these men.
- They represented and carried on his mission in the same way a biological son would carry on the family business.
- They had been his companions, and he had even left them in charge of certain churches, to work as his “fixer” in those areas which needed some help.

Solid Foundation

- The truth of God's Word: "knowledge of the truth" (v. 1) and "God who never lies" (verse 2)
- That God's Word has been true forever – "promised before the ages began" (verse 2)
- That Paul has been entrusted with the preaching of it, and now they would be (verse 3)

Sound Leadership

- Our churches must have spiritually mature and theologically sound leadership
- Titus 1:5-9
- They needed local church leadership in each town on the island of Crete. Of course, in our world today, we have multiple churches in each city.

Sound Leadership

- Requirements for Elders
- This is a list of qualifications without much explanation for each one. But, as a group, they describe someone who is:
- Above reproach in his lifestyle (verse 7)
- Theologically sound in his doctrine (verse 9)

Sound Leadership

- “Above reproach” means that an elder must be so righteous that no one can say anything negative about him, so that even if his enemies come up with elaborate lies about him, no one will believe them.
- In 1 Timothy, Paul told Timothy that an elder must have a good reputation with the outside world, too, not only those inside the church (1 Timothy 3:7).

Sound Leadership

- For better or for worse, we represent our church and Jesus Himself to the outside world. The way we live can either bring glory or shame to Jesus' name.
- Though none of us are perfect, if we are walking with Jesus, our lives will bring glory to Jesus' name. Even when we mess up, we can bring glory to His name if we humbly point to Him in our weaknesses.

Sound Leadership

- Family - Paul moves to the home life of a perspective elder, specifically his marriage and his children.
- The elder is to be the husband of one wife, literally a “one woman’s man.”
- Concerning the perspective elder’s children, they are to be believers who are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient.

Sound Leadership

- <u>God's Steward</u>:
- As Jesus described in His parables (Luke 16:1–13; Matthew 25:14–30), everything we have belongs to God; we are merely His stewards. That includes our money, our families, our lives and our churches.
- They must run the church as God Himself would have run it. It is not their church.

Sound Leadership

- Note that many of these are similar to the list of the characteristics of love in 1 Corinthians 13, which, because God is love, doubles as a list of the character traits of God.
- The Corinthians list was not meant to be exhaustive, but is a list of particular traits with which the Corinthians particularly struggled. These lists are also not meant to be exhaustive, especially considering the fact that the lists in Timothy and Titus are not identical.

Sound Leadership

- Paul lists the negatives:
- Not Arrogant – humble like Jesus (Philippians 2:5–8)
- Not Quick-Tempered – slow to anger, like God (Psalm 103:8)
- Not a Drunkard – but filled with the Spirit, like Jesus (Ephesians 5:18; Luke 4:1)

Sound Leadership

- Paul lists the negatives:
- Not Violent – peaceable like Jesus (Isaiah 9:6; Acts 8:32)
- Not Greedy – generous and not loving wealth like Jesus (Acts 20:35; Matthew 19:24)

Sound Leadership

- The references to debauchery and drunkenness are not only important morally, they are also important from a religious perspective.
- The drunken worship of Dionysus was well known on the island of Crete, and Paul was intentionally trying to contrast the behavior of the leaders of that cultic worship with the leaders of the Christian Church.

Sound Leadership

- Paul lists the positives:
- Hospitable – as God shows His love for the foreigner (Deuteronomy 10:17–20)
- Lover of good – as God is good (Exodus 33:19)
- Self-controlled – like Jesus, who was tempted in every way but did not sin (Hebrews 4:15)

Sound Leadership

- Paul lists the positives:
- Upright – like the righteousness of Christ (Romans 3:22)
- Holy – as God is holy (Leviticus 11:44; 1 Peter 1:16)
- Disciplined – like Jesus, who said, “Not my will, but your will” (Luke 22:42)

Sound Leadership

- Theologically Sound
- Hold firm to the truth they have been taught (verse 9)
- Be able to give instruction in sound doctrine (verse 9)
- Rebuke those who contradict sound doctrine (verse 9)

Sound Leadership

- When false teachers attack the truth of the Gospel, a strong leader will hold firm to what he knows to be true.
- An elder needs to know the truth well enough to teach it to others (verse 9) and to recognize and rebuke falsehood when he hears it (verse 9).
- This means our church leaders need to really know God's Word well.

Sound Leadership

- Everyone in our churches will be so familiar with the truth of Scripture that they can spot false teachers easily.
- At the very least, church elders should be able to do so.
- They must also be bold enough to call out false teaching when they hear it.

Sound Leadership

- But really, the entire church is called to be a kingdom of priests, a holy nation (1 Peter 2:9).
- We are all called to this standard of holiness.
- This is the definition of spiritual maturity, and we should all be working toward it.

Sound Leadership

- Our churches must rebuke false teachers in our midst
- Titus 1:10-16
- In these verses, Paul described the false teachers in Crete: insubordinate, empty talkers, and deceivers (verse 10).
- People who were going around stirring up dissension and deceiving people for personal gain (verse 11).

Sound Leadership

- Empty talk” would have described pseudointellectuals in the ancient world. One of the great pastimes of Greek culture was waxing philosophical about anything and everything under the sun in public forums.
- This would have been a sect of Jewish believers living in Crete though, because they were focusing on Jewish myths (verse 14)

Sound Leadership

- Greek logicians played with the claim by a Cretan that all Cretans were liars.
- If he had told the truth, he was lying. But if he was lying, then they reasoned that all Cretans told the truth.
- The saying became so ubiquitous that “’to cretize” became slang for “to lie.”

Sound Leadership

- They are *detestable*, though they strive to avoid detestable things.
- They are *disobedient* to the spirit of the law, though they try to obey the letter.
- They are *unfit for any good work*, though they claim to know God.

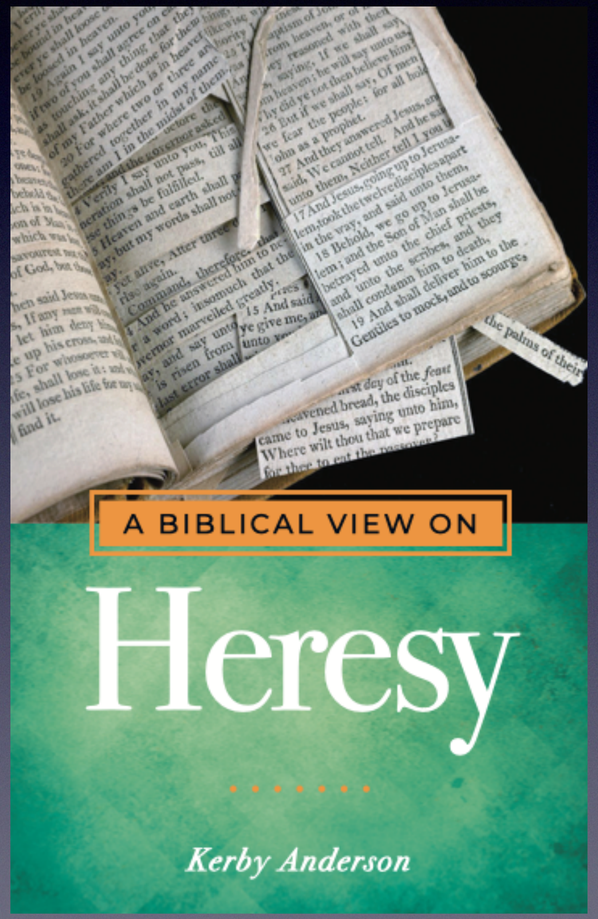
Sound Leadership

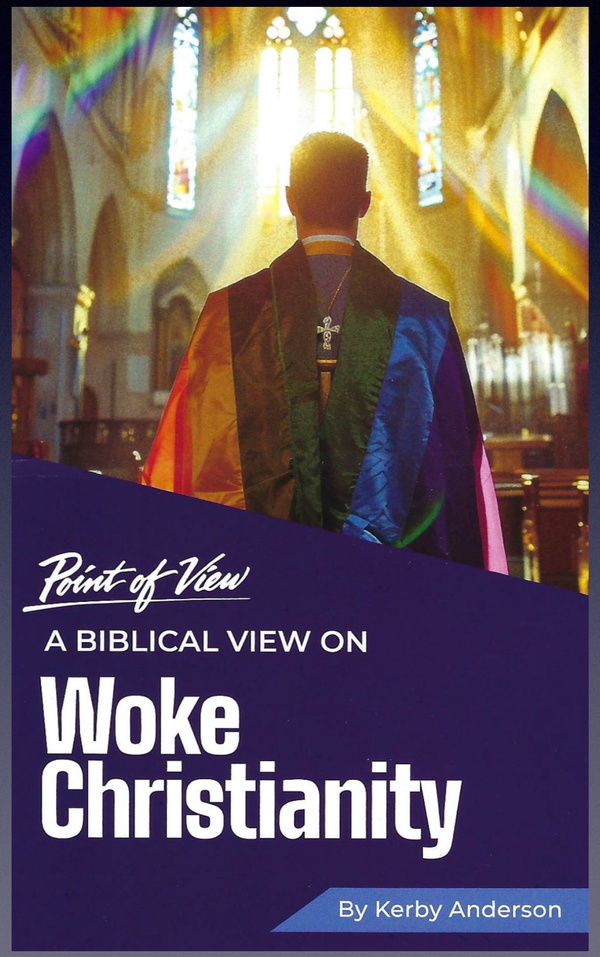
- Paul did not take this false teaching lightly.
- He commanded Titus to rebuke them sharply (verse 13).
- At the end of Philippians, Paul had told two leaders in the church at Philippi that they needed to be unified.
- He just told them to agree in the Lord (Philippians 4:2).

Sound Leadership

- He calls out false teaching. He rebukes it, because he knows if it is allowed to stay, it will infect the church just as one rotten apple spoils the whole bunch.
- As God said in the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 17:7) and Paul told the Corinthians, you must purge the evil from among you (1 Corinthians 5:13).

Resources - False Teaching





Ask Kerby

What is the Book of Enoch, and why has it become so popular?

Book of Enoch

- Old Testament history ends with the people of Judah returning to the land and rebuilding the temple.
- The last book of the Old Testament, Malachi, was written around 450–400 BC.
- This period is sometimes called “the silent years” because no prophetic writings were added to Scripture.

Book of Enoch

- One of those works written during that period is the Book of Enoch, also known as First Enoch.
- The Book of Enoch is apocalyptic literature, like Revelation.
- Apocalyptic literature gives readers a “look behind the curtain” by revealing the spiritual realm, the defeat of evil, the restoration of humanity, and final judgment.

Book of Enoch

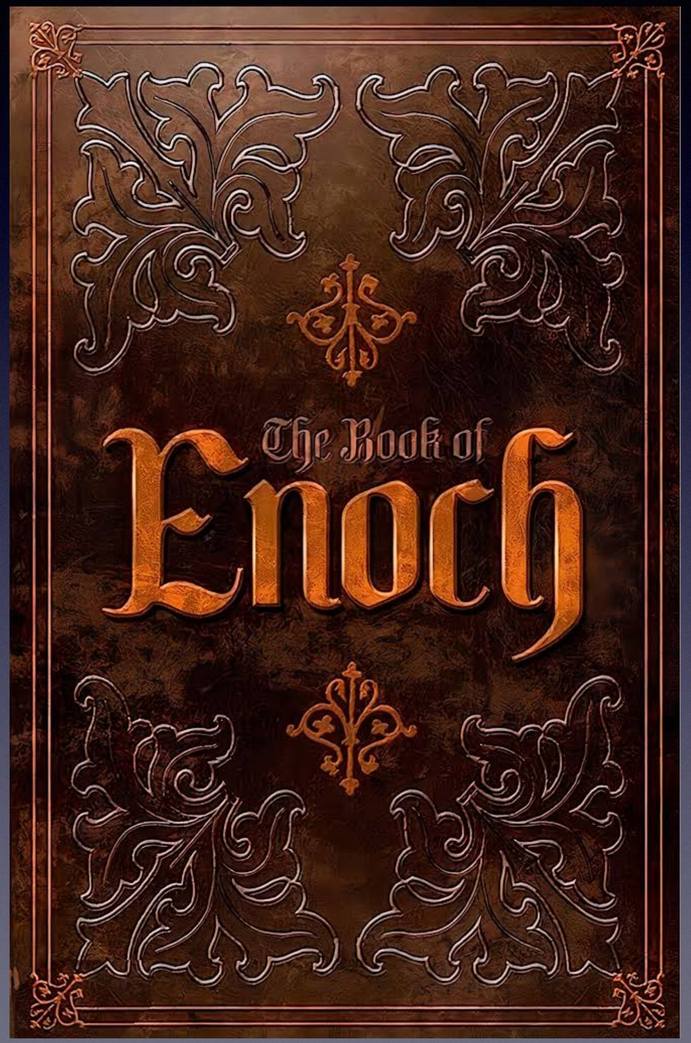
- The Protestant, Catholic, and Eastern Orthodox Churches do not accept the Book of Enoch as part of the Bible.
- However, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church does accept the Book of Enoch as a canonical book because it explains the origin of evil in the world and is an apocryphal book that retells the Genesis story.

Book of Enoch

- The Book of Enoch is interesting not because it carries biblical authority.
- It is helpful because it shows how some Second Temple Jews interpreted Genesis, evil, angels, judgment, and messianic hope before and during the time of the New Testament.

Book of Enoch

- The Book of Enoch is commonly discussed in five major sections:
- The Book of the Watchers (1-36), The Book of Parables (37-71), The Book of the Luminaries (72-82), The Book of Dreams (83-108), and The Epistle of Enoch.



Book of Enoch

- The Book of the Watchers
- Enoch is told to watch the heavens and see how God organized the heavens.
- It discusses the fall of th angels who decide to take human women as their wives.
- Four angels see what they are doing and report to God.

Book of Enoch

- The Book of Parables
- This introduces three figures: the Holy One, the Son of Man, and the Lord of Spirits.
- The Holy One defends the righteous from the wicked.
- The section also refers to the Battle of Armageddon.

Book of Enoch

- The Book of Luminaries - shows time is not arbitrary.
- The Book of Dreams - is a series of dreams from Adam to the end of the age.
- It also presents creation until the coming of the Messiah and can be helpful in understanding the symbolism in the book of Revelation.

Book of Enoch

- The Book of Enoch is not in our Bible because ancient Jewish communities and later mainstream Christian councils did not view it as divinely inspired.
- There was a lack of acceptance by ancient Jewish authorities at the time. They never included the text in the Hebrew Bible (the Tanakh).

Book of Enoch

- Got Questions: We should treat the Book of Enoch in the same manner we do the other apocryphal writings.
- Some of what the Apocrypha says is true and correct, but much of it is false and historically inaccurate.
- These are fallible historical documents and not the inspired, authoritative Word of God.

Resources - False Teaching