

**OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE:
GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS**

St. Augustine and Aquinas

I. The Middle Ages



OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

Rome collapses in the fifth century, ushering in a period known as the Middle Ages which runs from approximately 400 to 1300 a.d.



OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

The beginning of the Middle Ages (AKA Dark Ages)

Fall of Rome –

- No central power to provide order
- Many Peoples invaded the area
- Social and Economic Chaos
 - Loss of education, literacy
 - Trade Declined
- Cities were abandoned
 - Moved to towns, villages



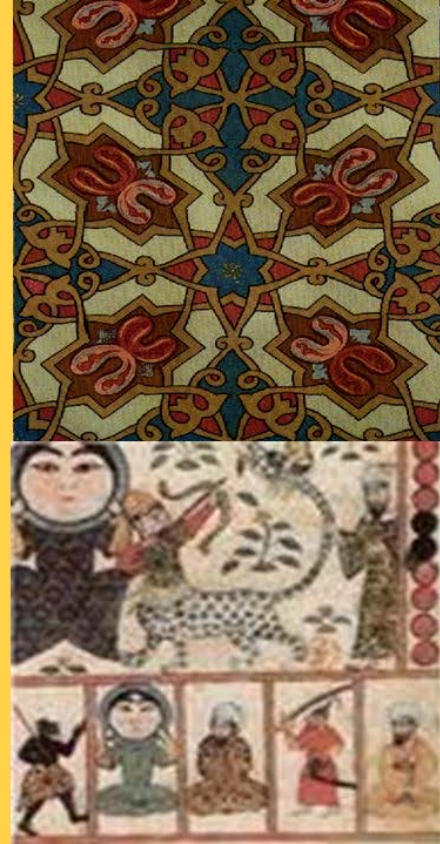
The first half of the period was known as the “Dark Ages” since learning and other advancement virtually disappeared.

OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

However, the Islamic world was flourishing and through increased contact with that civilization, Europe had a revival in learning.

Golden Age of Islam

Muslims absorbed and blended customs and traditions from many of the peoples they ruled. The glory of the empires was reflected in their emphasis on learning, achievements in the arts and sciences, and flourishing economies based on trade. This was known as the Golden Age of Islam.



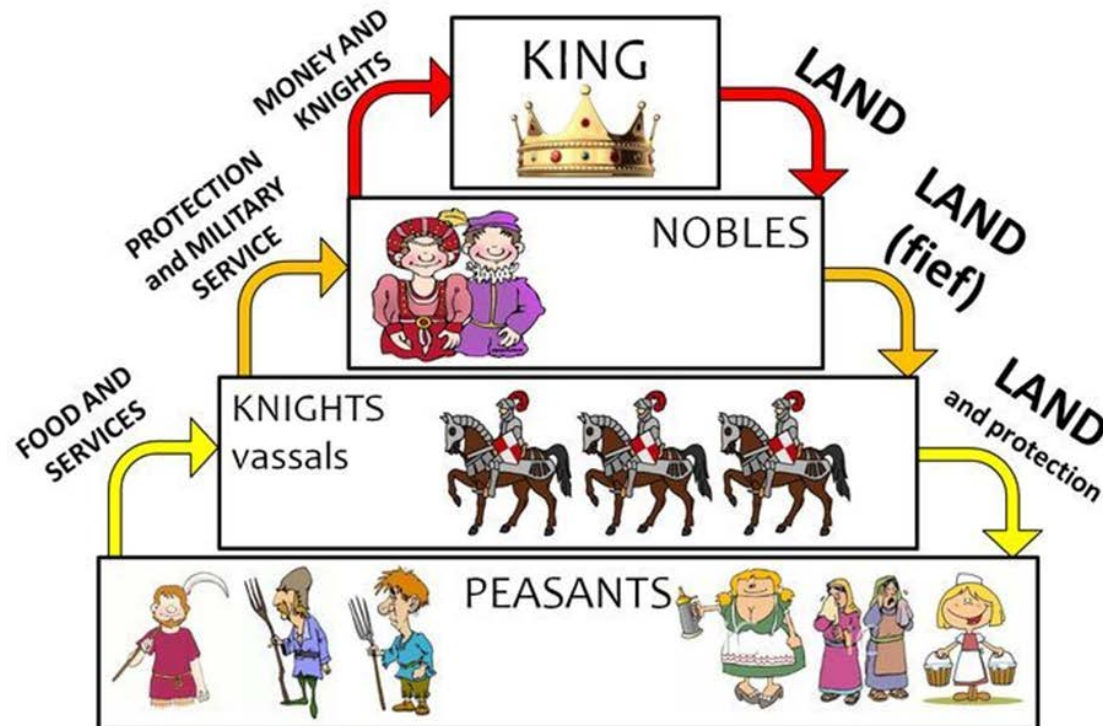
OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

In the second half of the Middle Ages, the system of *feudalism* was firmly in place.



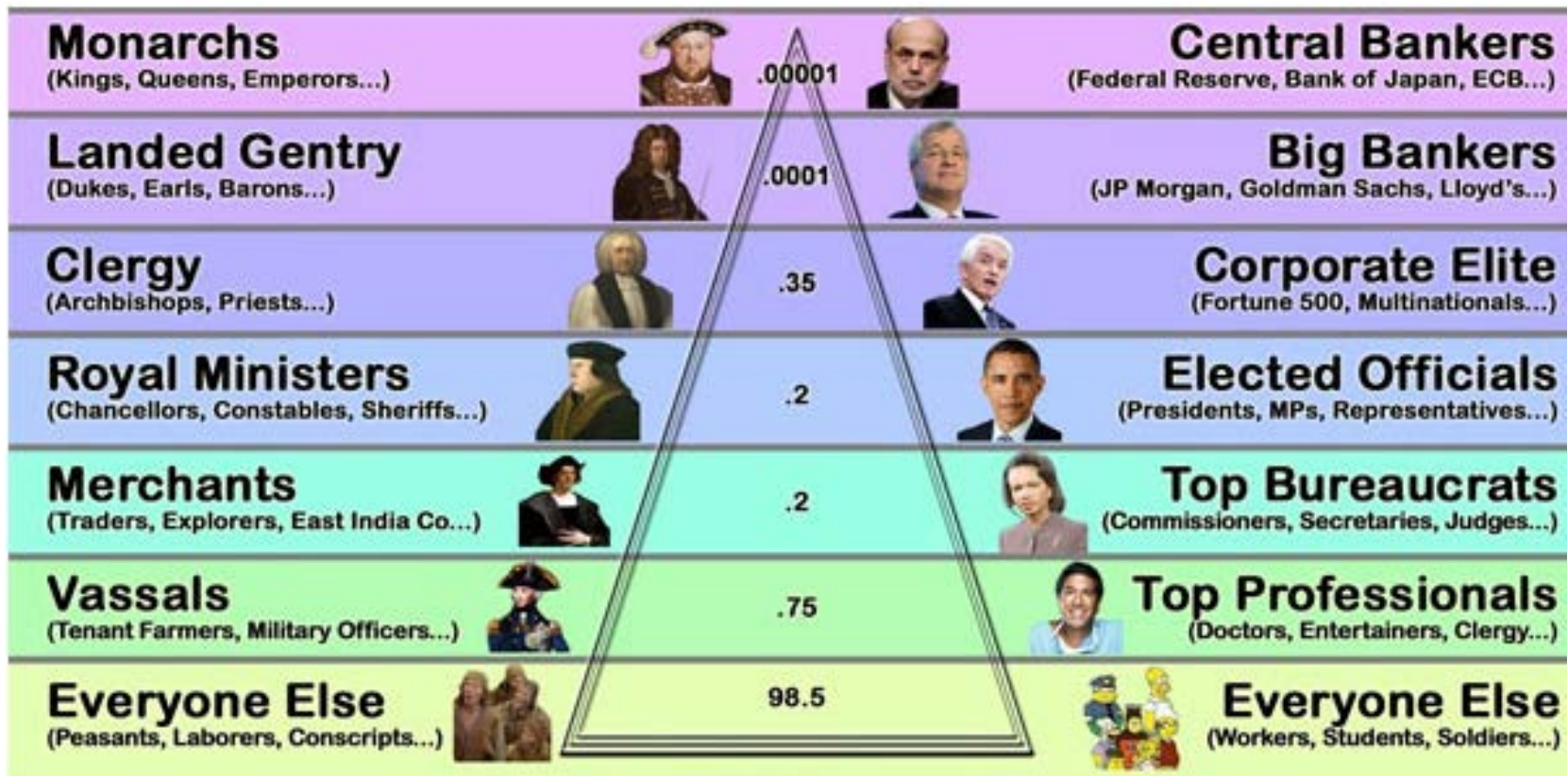
OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

It was an exceptionally complex network of rights and obligations and class rankings from monarch to serf.



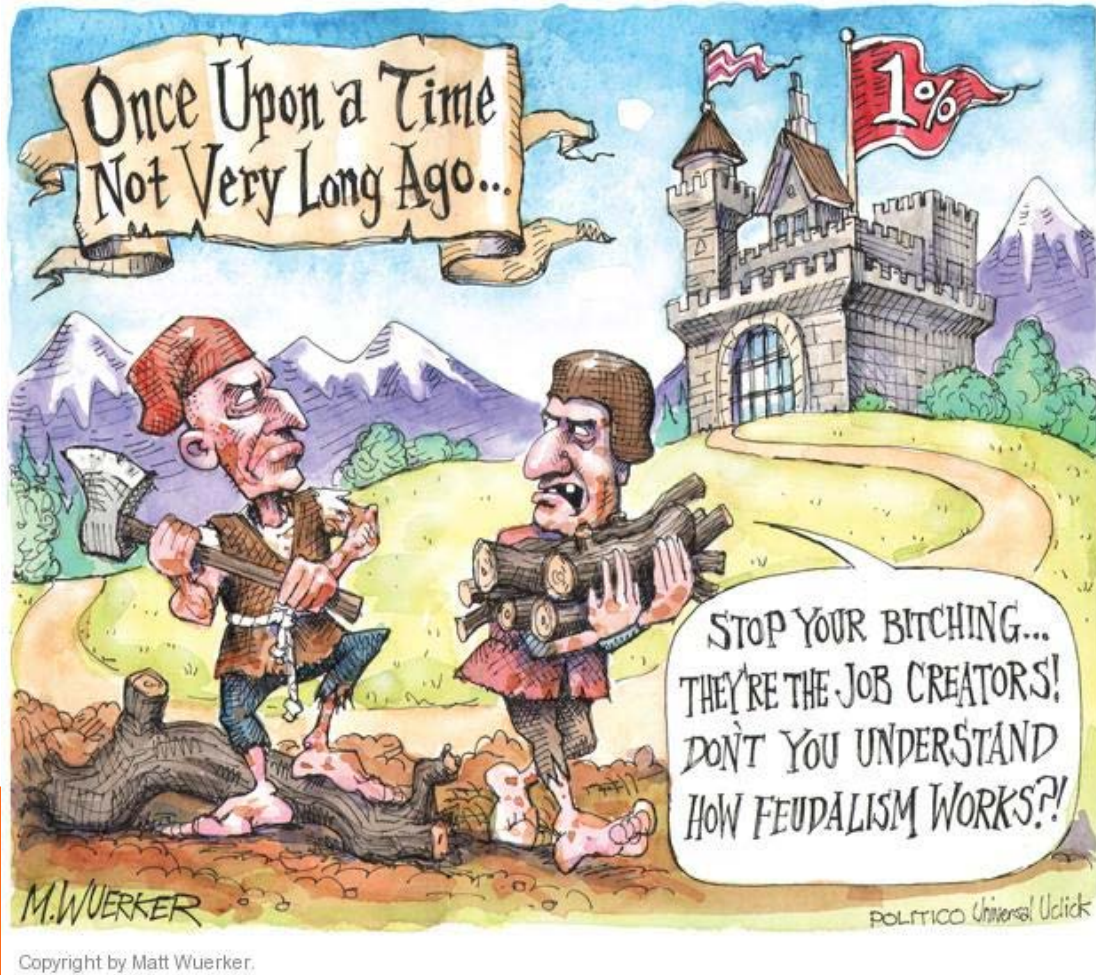
Feudal Pyramid of Power

OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS



The class you were born into was the class you remained until death (hmm....what's changed?)

OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS



Copyright by Matt Wuerker.

The dominant force throughout this period was the Church of Rome, which maintained a hierarchy of authority and law.

OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

Most philosophical discussions which occurred during this time, took place within the framework of this theology. Two of the most influential thinkers of this time were Augustine and Aquinas.

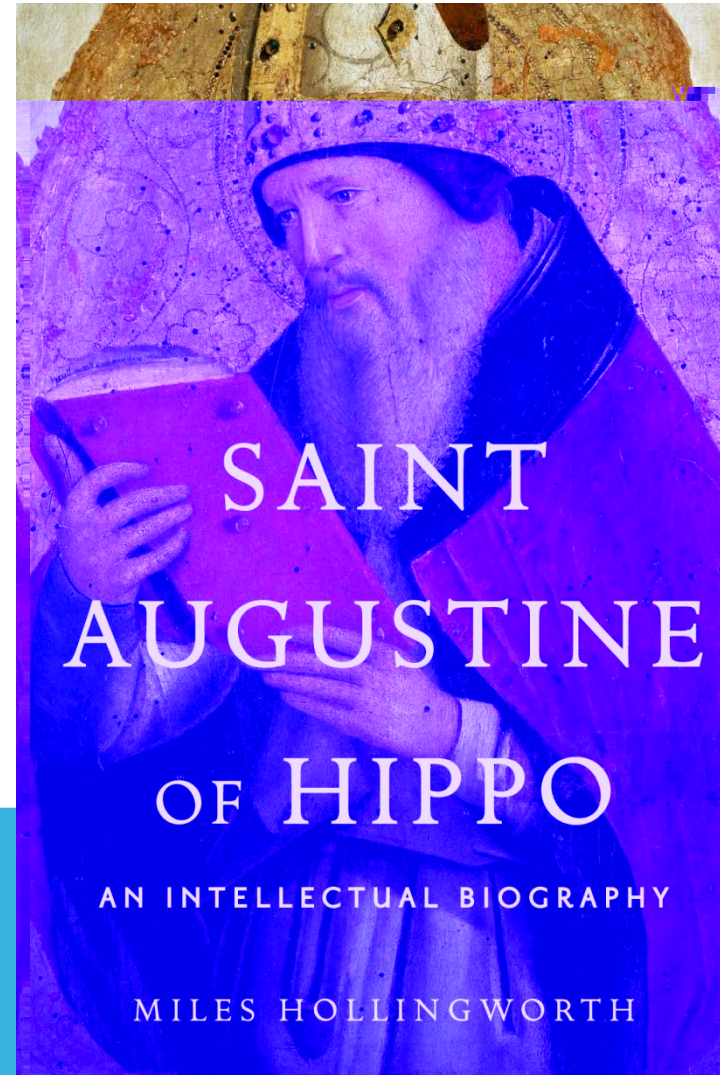


**OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE:
GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS**

**II. Augustine
(Early Middle Ages:
354-430 a.d.)**

OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

His work is a
bridge between
the classical
pagan thinkers
and ensuing
Christian
scholars.



OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

TWO CITIES

CITY OF GOD	CITY OF MAN
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on love of God, even to the contempt of self.• The greatest glory is found in and with God.• God is the source of its strength.• Consists of those who live according to God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on love of self even to the contempt of God.• Seeks glory from men.• Delights in its own strength as represented in the person of its rulers.• Consists of those who live according to man.

His major work is *The City of God* where he distinguishes between the heavenly city and the earthly city.

OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

The City of God offers grace and salvation to those who love God; the earthly (secular) city exists to secure order and justice in a sinful world, but is also subject to God.

Life and Legacy


- Augustine lived from 354 A.D. to 430 A.D.
- Roman empire and its fall are the context of Augustine's political thought.
- Christianity was viewed by many Roman intellectuals as the cause of Rome's fall.
- Augustine's *The City of God against the Pagans* rebutted these accusations.

OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

As opposed to pre-Christian writers, who did not have a conception of linear advancement or improvement of the human condition, Augustine argues that the appearance of the Christian church offered the means toward perfection and that history was a struggle moving in that direction.

**OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE:
GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS**

**III. Aquinas
(Late Middle Ages:
1225-1274 a.d.)**



OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

Aquinas lived and wrote when the feudal system was firmly established and society highly structured.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS



- Saint Thomas Aquinas was a Catholic Priest in the Dominican Order and one of the most important Medieval philosophers and theologians.
- He was immensely influenced by scholasticism and Aristotle and known for his synthesis of the two aforementioned traditions.
- Although he wrote many works of philosophy and theology throughout his life, his two monumental works are *Summa Theologica* and *Summa Contra Gentiles*. But his most influential work is the *Summa Theologica* that extensively discusses man which consists of three parts; God, Ethics and Christ.

OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

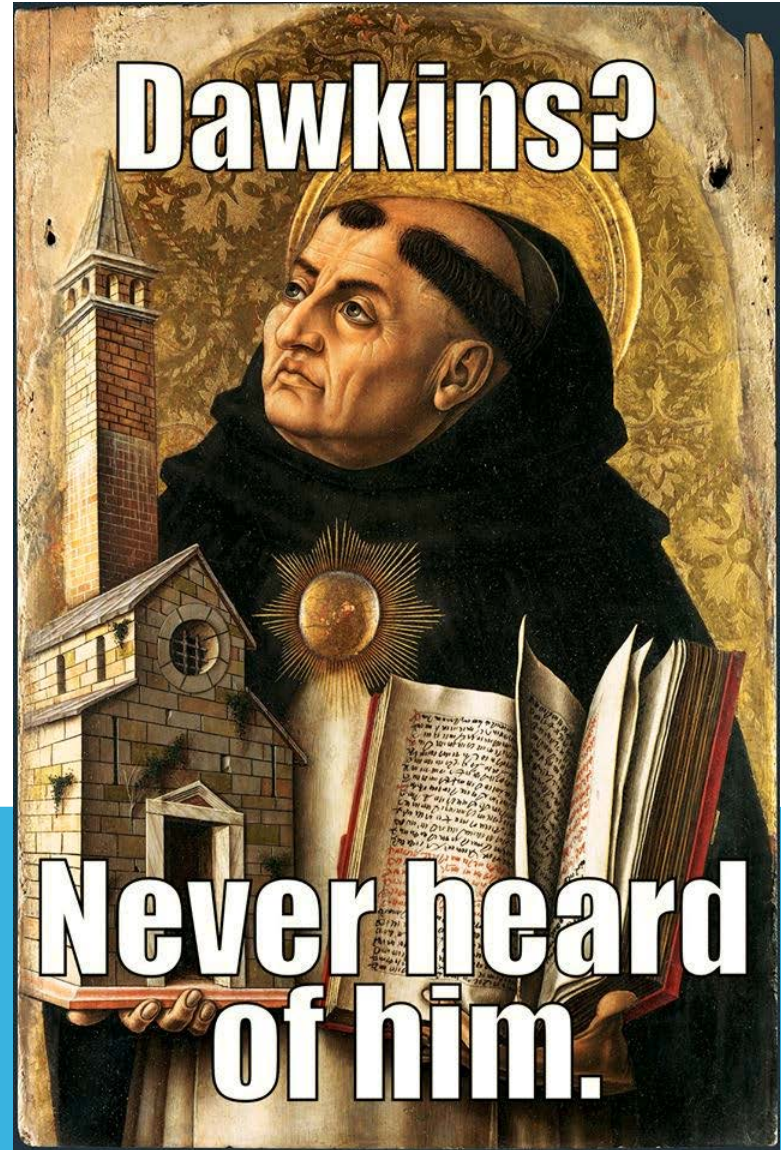
Neo-scholasticism/ Thomism

- Intellectual movement that developed in the 1300's
- Faith by reason
- Combination of realism and idealism
- Thomists – Thomas Aquinas, The teacher
 - Mental disciplinarians that can develop reason, will power, and memory
 - The student
 - Rational being that is capable of acquiring Truth and knowledge

He attempted to integrate the ideas of Aristotle with the teachings of the church and has disciples (known as “Thomists”) even to the present day.

OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

Like Augustine, his thought was bounded and guided by the assumptions of Christianity; but he differed from him in believing that the state could be a means of freeing individuals.



OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

Government is a natural development to meet legitimate human needs and political power *can* be put into the service of fixing practical problems and developing human virtue.

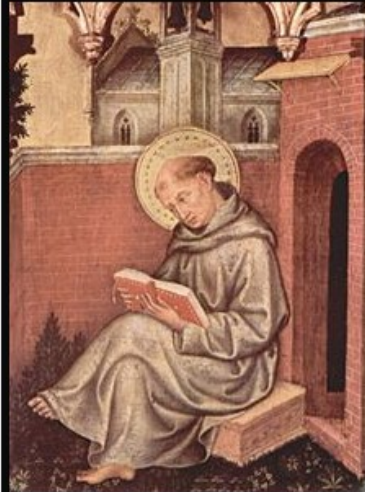


Hold firmly that our faith is identical with that of the ancients. Deny this, and you dissolve the unity of the Church.

- Saint Thomas Aquinas

OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

For Aquinas, the world was hierarchically arranged, with God at the top ruling through divine *reason*. Below this, governments and individuals tried to act within the moral limits imposed by fallible human nature.



Human salvation demands the divine disclosure of truths surpassing reason.

(Thomas Aquinas)



**OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE:
GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS**

**IV. The Dawn of the
Modern Era
(1300 – 1500 a.d.)**



OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

At this point in history the individual becomes an identifiable, discrete entity, unique, autonomous, as opposed to being identified by tribe, community, or class.

Europeans	
 Dark Ages 500A.D. – 1300A.D. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fall of Roman Empire• War• Black Death (Plague)• Trade – dangerous - Muslim world was treacherous for Europeans	 Renaissance 1300A.D. – 1500A.D. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Time of rebirth• Emphasis on education, invention, arts (Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles)• Nations were created – France, England, Spain, Portugal (competitive)• Inventions = long sea voyages possible• More money – more trade

OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

Machiavelli's *The Prince* is a product of this era.

Machiavellian

Niccolò Machiavelli

(1469 - 1527)

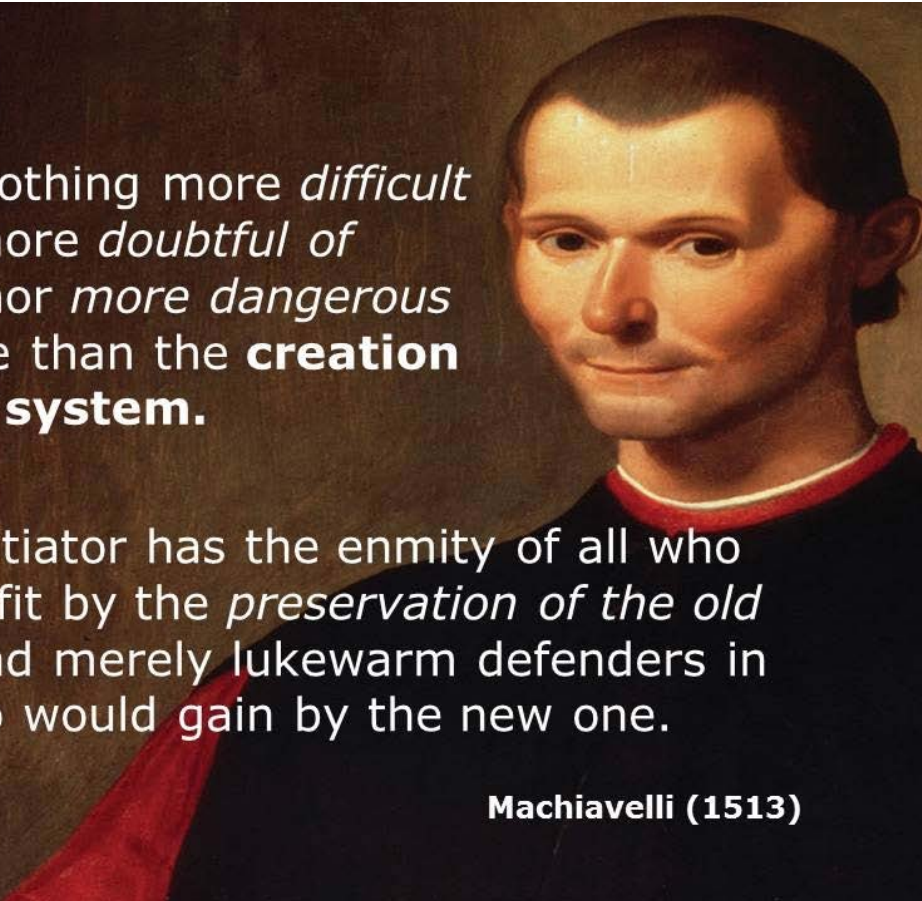
The Prince (1513)



- Better for a ruler to be feared than to be loved
- Ruler should be quick and decisive in decision making
- Ruler keeps power by any means necessary
- The end justifies the means
- Be good when possible, and evil when necessary

OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

Why the change in philosophical outlook?

A portrait of Niccolò Machiavelli, a man with short dark hair, wearing a dark tunic with a red collar and a red sash. He is looking slightly to the left of the viewer with a neutral expression.

There is nothing more *difficult to plan*, more *doubtful of success*, nor more *dangerous to manage* than the **creation of a new system**.

For the initiator has the enmity of all who would profit by the *preservation of the old system* and merely lukewarm defenders in those who would gain by the new one.

Machiavelli (1513)

OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

1. The rise of Protestant religions which put more emphasis on the importance of *individual* conscience.

In 1521 Pope Leo X excommunicated Luther from the Catholic Church.

Luther again refused to recant his writings before the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V of Germany, who issued the famous Edict of Worms.

He declared Luther an outlaw and a heretic and gave permission for anyone to kill him without consequence.

Protected by Prince Frederick, Luther began working on a German translation of the Bible, a task that took 10 years to complete.



"I would never have thought that such a storm would rise from Rome over one simple scrap of paper..."
(Martin Luther)

OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

The Commercial Revolution

Before

- Feudalism and manorial system existed in Europe
- Most people made their living around agriculture
- Society organized around feudal manors

Impact of Change

- Trade increased in Europe
- Contributed to the decline of feudalism and Manorialism
- Growth of towns and cities
- Middle class grows
- Trade guilds formed to promote standards on prices and quality
- Banking, Joint Stock Companies, Insurance
- Contributed to rise of capitalism

2. The decay of feudalism and the rise of entrepreneurial capitalism.

OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

3. Scientific advances stimulated belief in the power of human rationality.



The success of the West, including the rise of science, rested entirely on religious foundations, and the people who brought it about were devout Christians.

— Rodney Stark —

AZ QUOTES

OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS



4. Each of these factors encouraged new political ideas, especially the idea that governments should be more responsive to their citizens.

**OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE:
GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS**

Christianity And The Bible



OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

Important Points:

- 1. Difference between Old and New Testaments.**
- 2. Academic vs. theological interpretations.**
- 3. 3 reasons to believe in the existence of God.**
 - a. Human rationality (natural theology)**
 - b. Bible, church, miracles (revealed theology)**
 - c. Direct knowledge (experiential theology)**
- 4. The “problem of evil” as disproving God’s existence.**

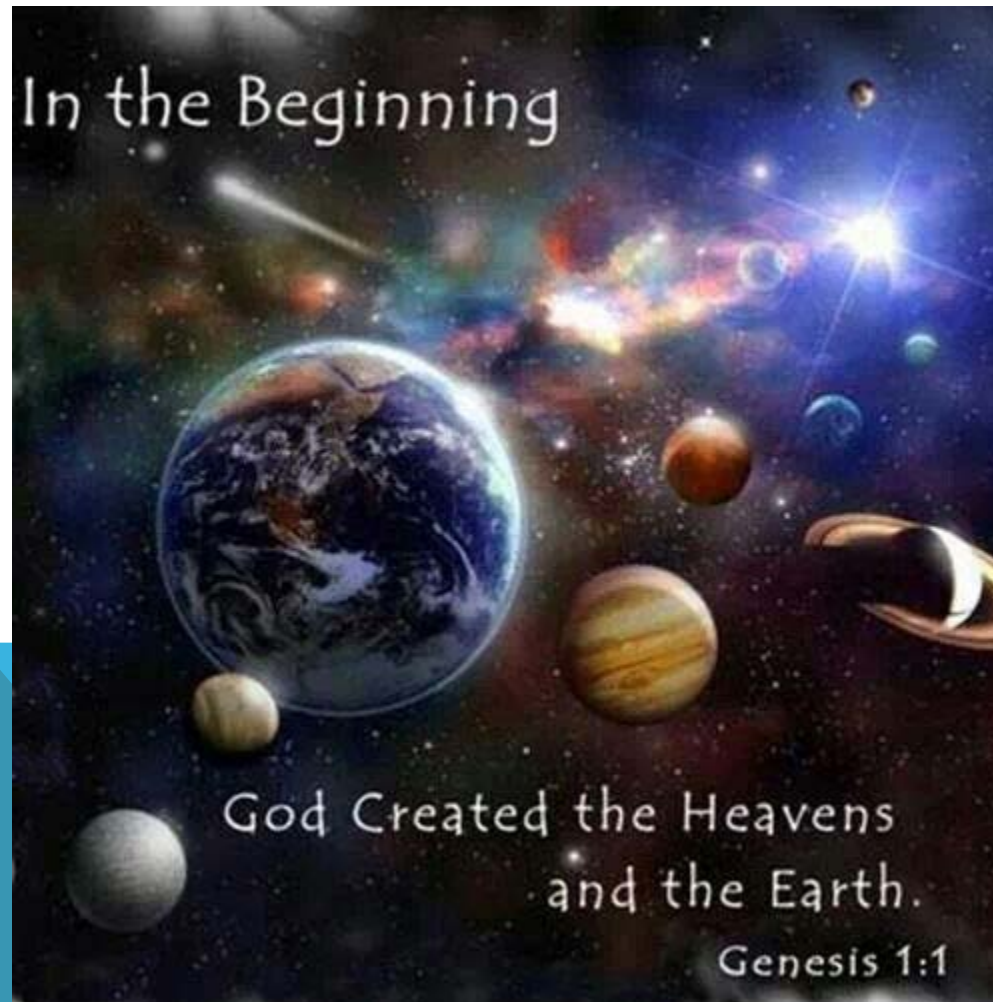
**OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE:
GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS**

I. Theory of the Universe



**OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE:
GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS**

God created the universe.

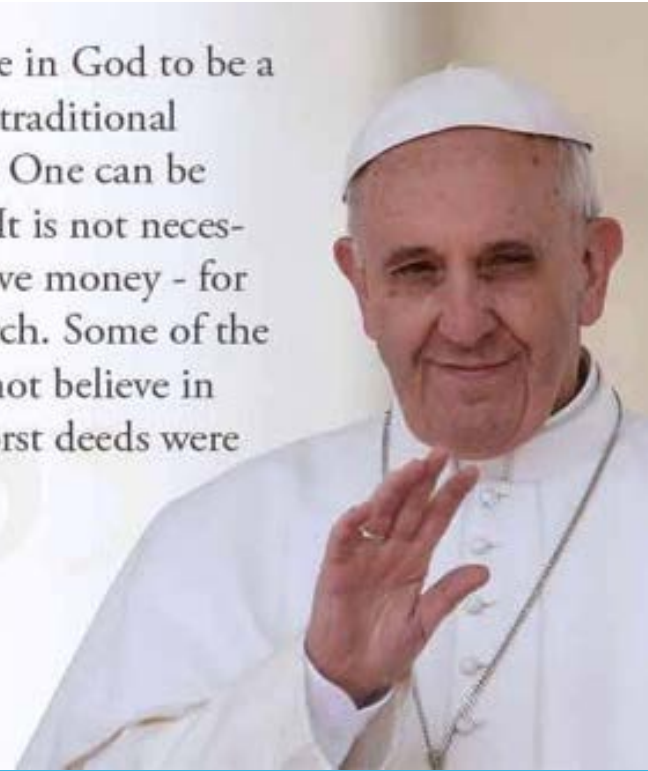


OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

**God does not
have a “body”
and is not one
object among
others in the
universe.**

It is not necessary to believe in God to be a good person. In a way, the traditional notion of God is outdated. One can be spiritual but not religious. It is not necessary to go to church and give money - for many, nature can be a church. Some of the best people in history did not believe in God, while some of the worst deeds were done in His name.

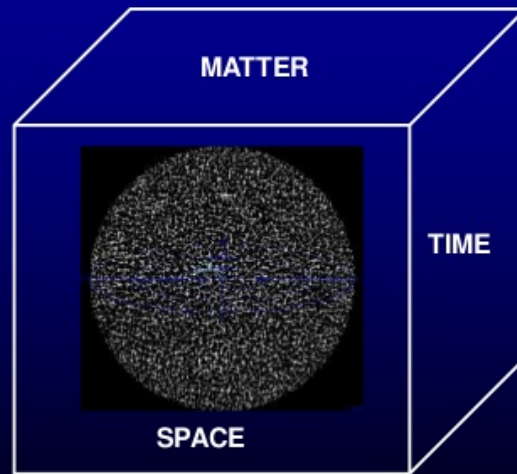
-POPE FRANCIS



OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

GOD is **OUTSIDE** of *His* Creation

GOD



**He does not
occupy a
position in
space or last
for a certain
length of time.**

OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

He is *not* identified with the whole universe or the sum total of everything that exists (pantheism).

THREE MAJOR RELIGIOUS WORLD VIEWS

THEISM

God Made All

Judaism

Christianity

Islam

PANTHEISM

God Is All

Buddhism

Hinduism

New Age

ATHEISM

No God At All

Religious

Humanism

OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

God is not a scientific postulate, or an abstraction, or a “mere architect” (deism).

DEISM

- “Higher Power” (could be a god)
- created the universe
- does NOT participate in our universe
- may or may not know about humans
- does not necessarily interact with us
- does not listen/care about prayers
- rejects revelation
- unknowable
- no known ongoing effect on our universe
- does not subscribe to the claims of religion (holy books, supernatural claims, prophets, etc.)

THEISM

- God / gods (named)
- created the universe
- participates in our universe
- cares about humans
- interacts with us
- listens to prayer
- believes in revelation
- knowable
- constant effect on our universe
- subscribes to claims of religion (ie. accepts supernatural claims)

Side note:

** revelation here means the revealing of a god / gods / divine message through supernatural means, miracles, holy books (ie. written by god), etc*

**OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE:
GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS**

II. Theory of Human Nature



OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

REVIEW

"IN THE BEGINNING GOD..." Genesis 1:1

"IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH" Genesis 1:1-25

Day 1: Light

Day 2: Separation of waters below and waters above

Day 3: Separation of water from dry land and creation of vegetation

Day 4: Creation of the galaxies, and time

Day 5: Creation of fish and fowl

Day 6: Creation of animals and mankind

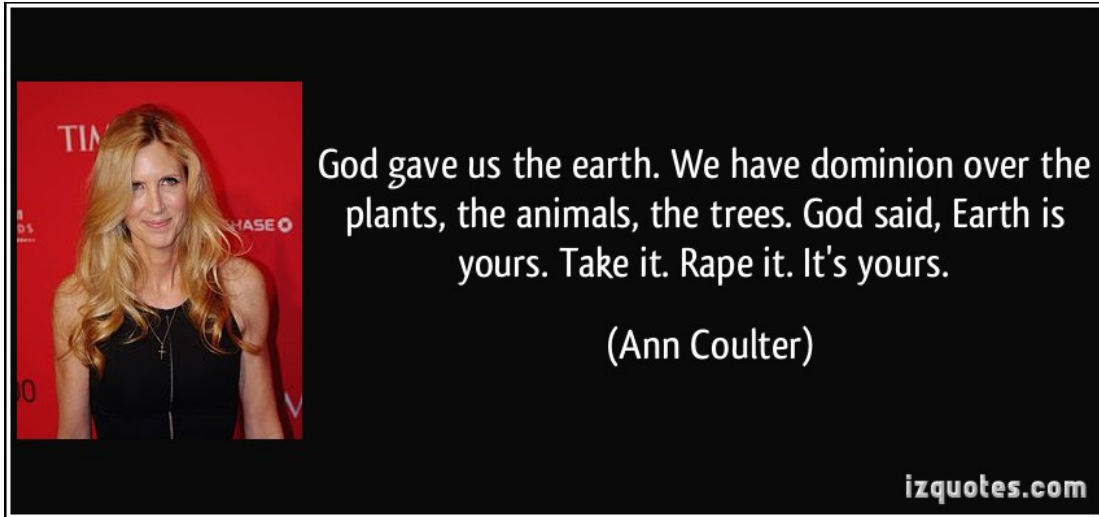
Day 7: Creation complete – God rests



Creation stories in Genesis should be viewed “symbolically,” using myths and parables, not historically or scientifically.

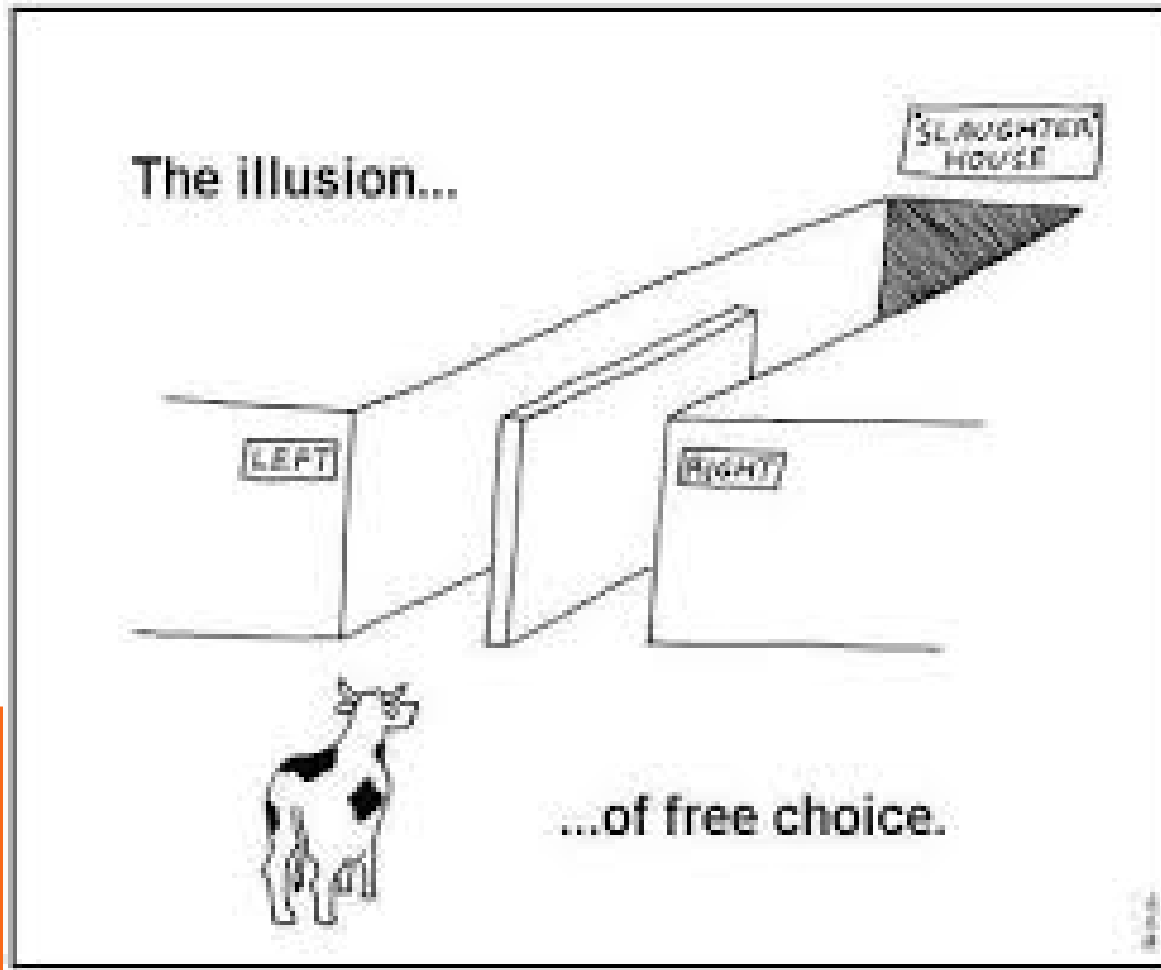
OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

Humans are
continuous
with nature and
yet dominion
over it.



izquotes.com

OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS



The notion of freedom leading to a choice; belief in Him or faithlessness.

OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

The story of Abraham (the testing of faith).

- 1. Leaving his homeland**
- 2. Parting with his nephew Lot**
- 3. God's promise of a son (Isaac)**
- 4. The sacrifice of Isaac**



**OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE:
GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS**

III. Diagnosis

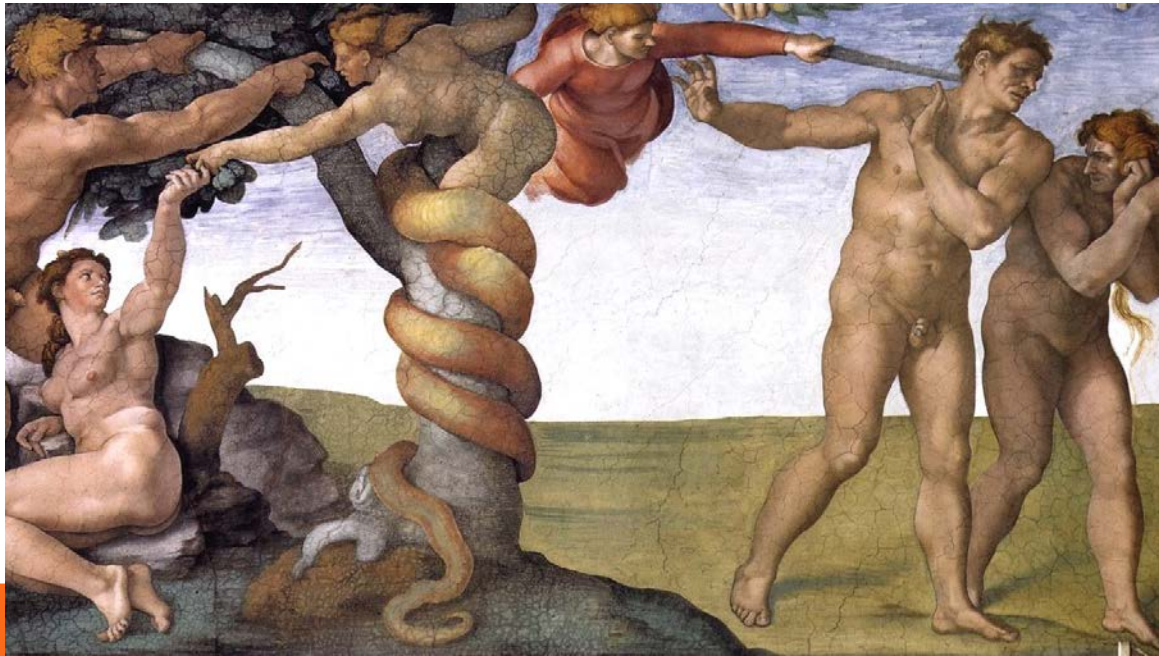


OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

Basic problem: we are infected with sin, misuse free will, choose evil rather than good, and therefore disrupt our relationship to God.



OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS



Although we are free, we are subject to sin, and that is the fatal flaw in our nature.

**OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE:
GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS**

IV. Prescription



OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

Basic solution: since we have turned away and broken our relationship with Him, then we need God to forgive us and restore this relationship.

God Repairs a Broken Relationship

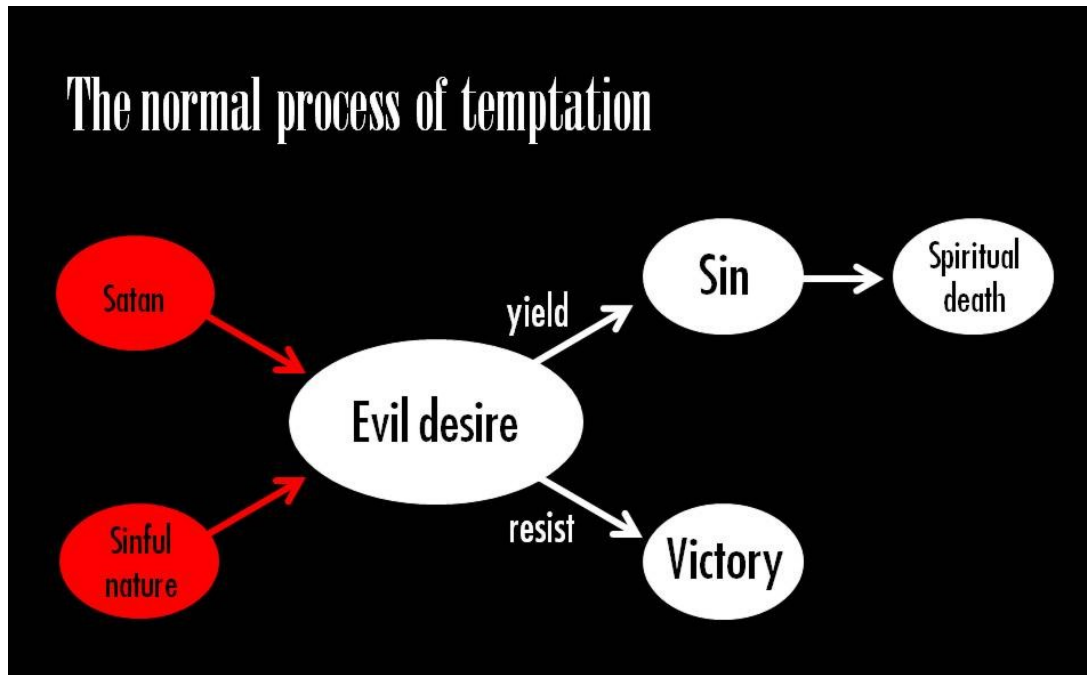
- We broke our relationship with Him by sinning **Isaiah 59:2**
- God sent His Son to reconcile us to Himself **2 Cor. 5:18-19**
- Requires **trust** | **John 4:16; Rom. 10:9**
- Requires a **change** of **heart** **v.16-17**
- We must be **in Christ** **v.17** (requires baptism into Christ **Rom. 6:3-7**)
- Requires **change** of **conduct** **v.17; Rom. 6:4**
- God is pleading with you now **v.20**

OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

This leads to
salvation, a
regeneration of
humanity made
possible by the
mercy,
forgiveness
and love of
God.

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED ?		
Both Jesus and the apostles (guided by the Holy Spirit) taught that to be saved, it is necessary that one:		
<i>Hear</i>	Romans 10:13-17	John 6:45 Revelation 1:3
<i>Believe</i>	John 2:30-31	Hebrews 11:6 Acts 16:31
<i>Repent</i>	Luke 13:3-5	Acts 2:38 Acts 17:30-31
<i>Confess</i>	Matthew 10:32-33 Romans 10:9-10	
<i>Be Baptized</i>	Mark 16:15-16 Acts 2:38	1 Peter 3:21 Acts 22:16
<i>Live Godly</i>	Titus 2:11-14	Romans 12:1-2 2 Peter 1:5-11

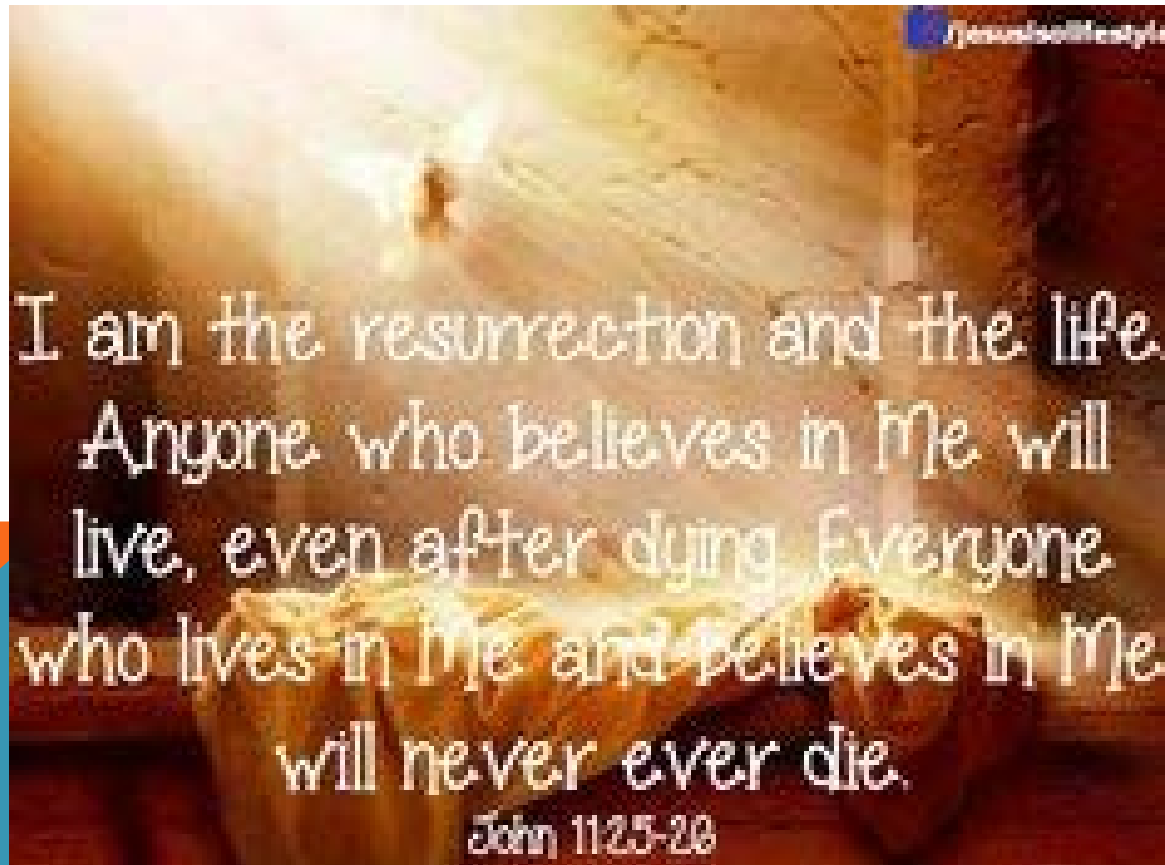
OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS



The Christian concept of “the spirit” and “the flesh.” Not mind and matter but regenerate (born again) and unregenerate humanity.

OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

Christian concept of “eternal life” as not necessarily life after death but of a “resurrection.”



**OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE:
GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS**

**V. Critical
Discussion**



OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

**Doctrines of
incarnation,
atonement, and
resurrection
are a problem
for human
rationality.**

OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

**The Holy Trinity
multiplies the
conceptual
problems
rather than
solves them.**

OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

If *bodies* are resurrected, they must occupy space and time – where are they?



OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE: GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS

The question of time: is “everlasting life” even desired? What is a “timeless” state?

**OUR PRE-MODERN HERITAGE:
GOD, THE BIBLE, AUGUSTINE, AND AQUINAS**

Is salvation and grace due to God, or our individual, freely chosen response to God?

