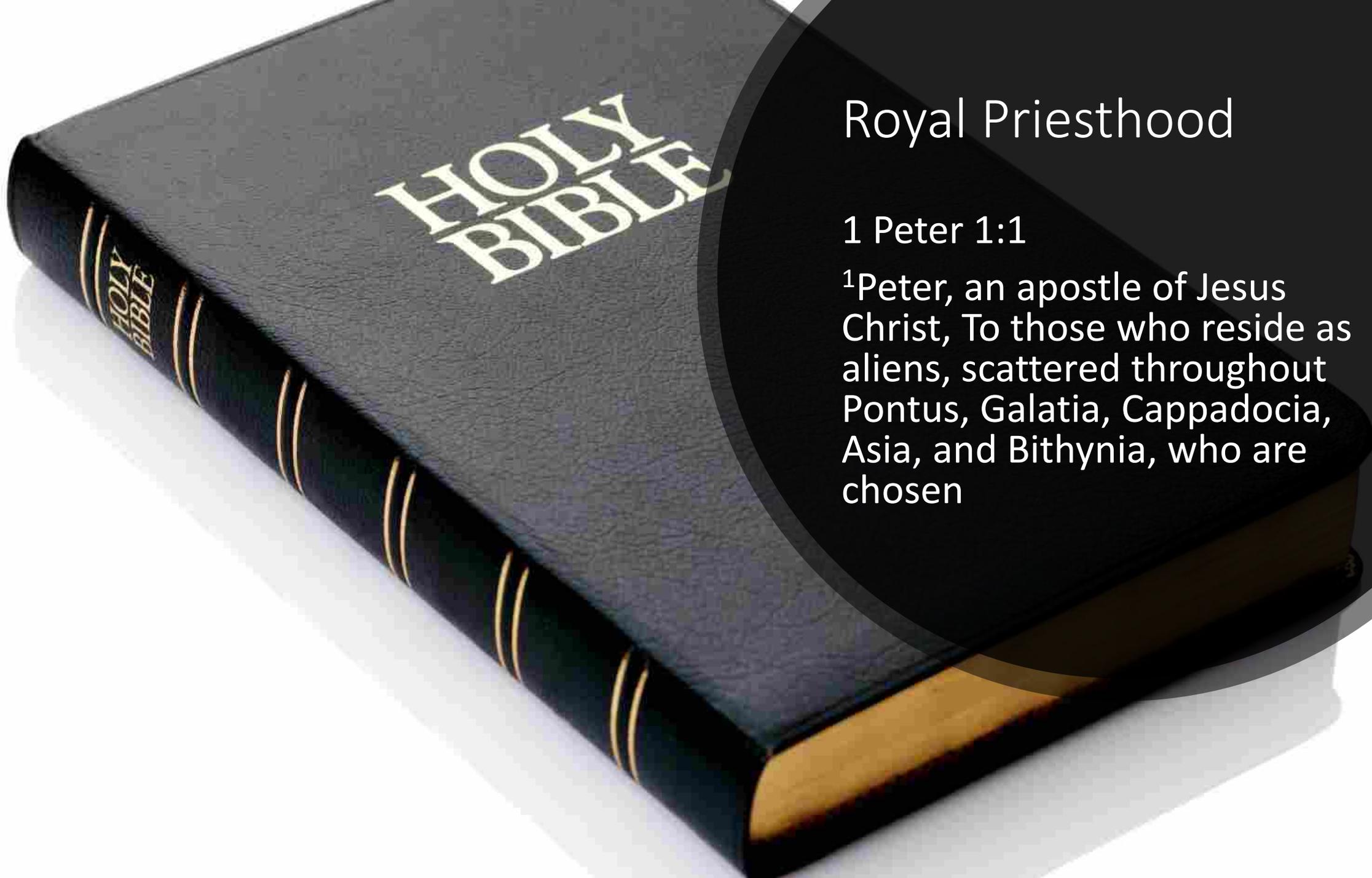




THE REFORMATION

You are a Royal Priesthood

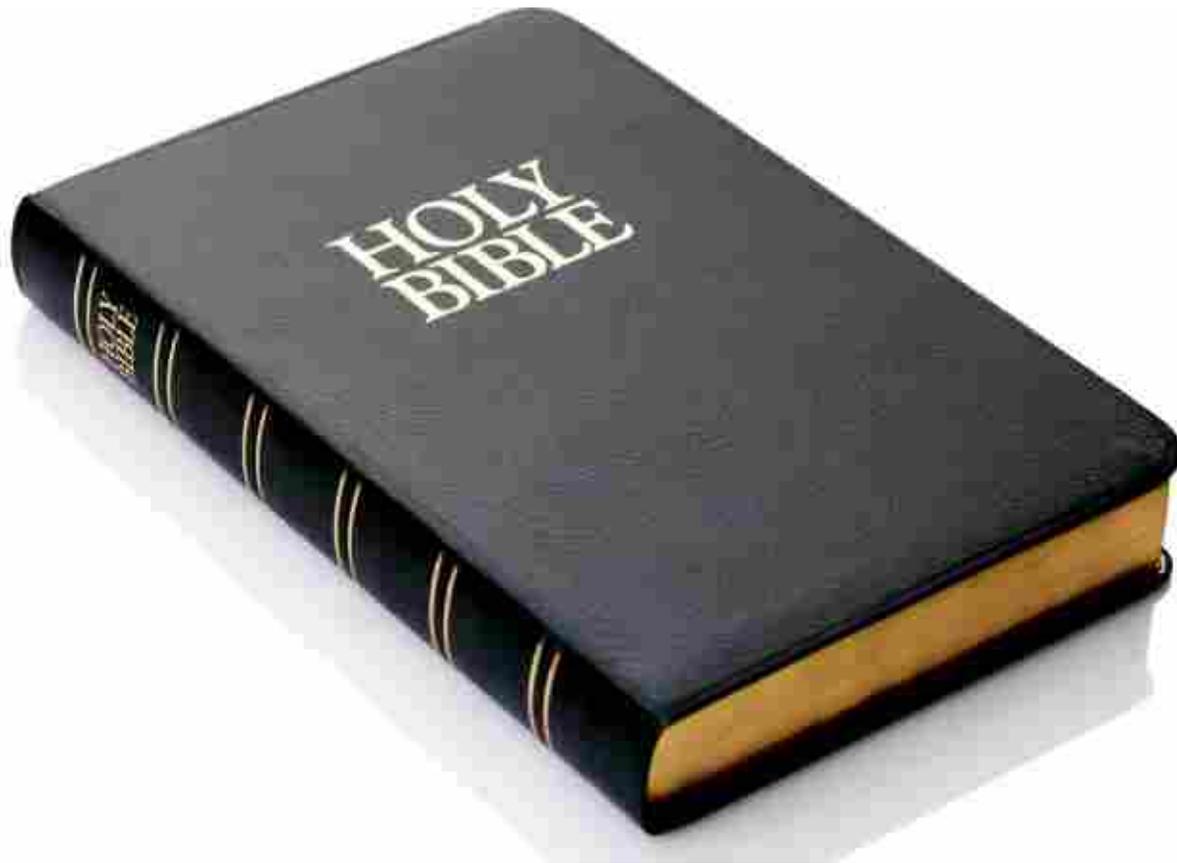
1 Peter 1:22-2:12



Royal Priesthood

1 Peter 1:1

¹Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen



Royal Priesthood

- Chosen (1:1)
- Born again (1:23)
- Citizens (2:13-17)
- Servants (2:18)
- Peter wrote this letter to husbands and wives (1 Peter 3:1-7)
- He wrote it to elders (1 Peter 5:1)
- Peter wrote to young people (1 Peter 5:5)

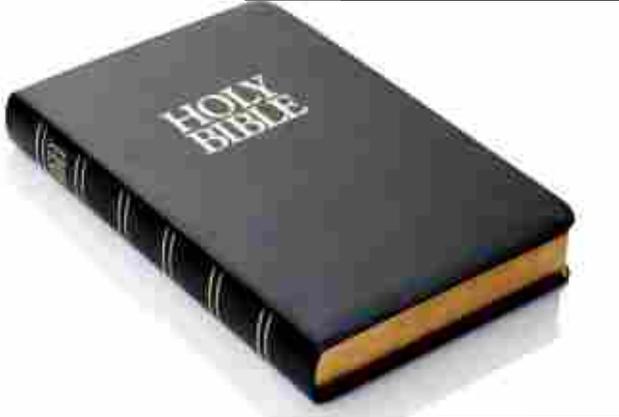
1 Peter 2:4-10 is a gold mine of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms

- **Moses** (1 Peter 2:9 with Exodus 19:5-6)
- **Prophets** (1 Peter 2:6 with Isaiah 28:16; 1 Peter 2:8 with Isaiah 8:14; 1 Peter 2:10 with Hosea 1-2)
- **Psalms** (1 Peter 2:1-3 with Psalm 34; 1 Peter 2:7 with Psalm 118).

Exodus 19:5–6

⁵‘Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine;

⁶and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”



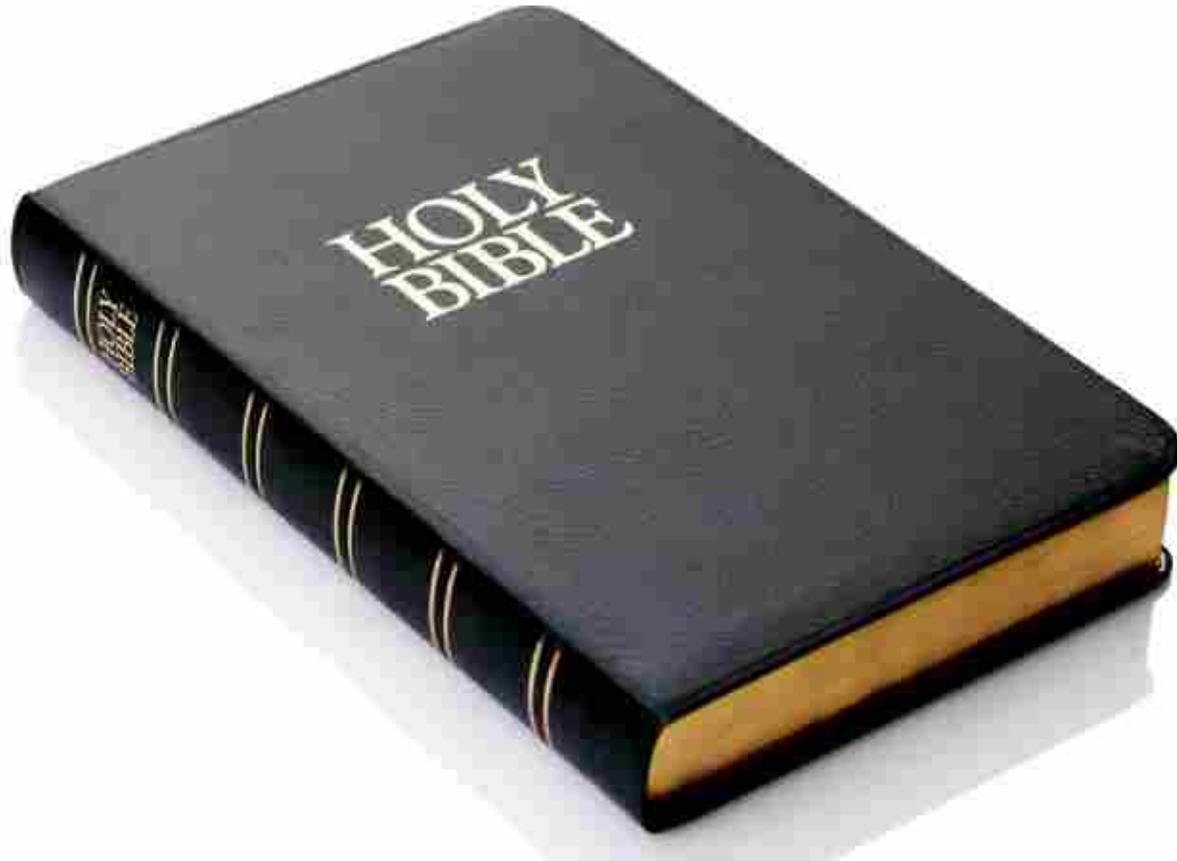
1 Peter 2:9

⁹But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

The Kimberly Mine (South Africa)

This may be the largest ever hand-dug excavation in the world, this 1097 meter deep mine yielded over 3 tons of diamonds before being closed in 1914. The amount of earth removed by workers is estimated to total 22.5 million tons.





Royal Priesthood

- Chosen (1:1)
- Born again (1:23)
- Christian Citizens (2:13-17)
- Servants (2:18)
- Husbands and wives (1 Peter 3:1-7)
- Elders (1 Peter 5:1)
- Young men (1 Peter 5:5)

Royal Priesthood

- **Kings (Royal)**

Deuteronomy 17:18–20

¹⁸“Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests.

¹⁹“It shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes,

²⁰that his heart may not be lifted up above his countrymen and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or the left, so that he and his sons may continue long in his kingdom in the midst of Israel.

- **Priests:**

Ezra 7:10

¹⁰For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the LORD and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel.

Malachi 2:7

⁷“For the lips of a priest should preserve knowledge, and men should seek instruction from his mouth; for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts



“The laity ought to understand the faith, and since the doctrines of our faith are in the Scriptures, believers should have the Scriptures in a language familiar to the people, and to this end the Holy Ghost endued them with knowledge of all tongues.”

B. Picart Inv. 1713.
JEAN WICLIF.

John Wycliffe

1320-1384

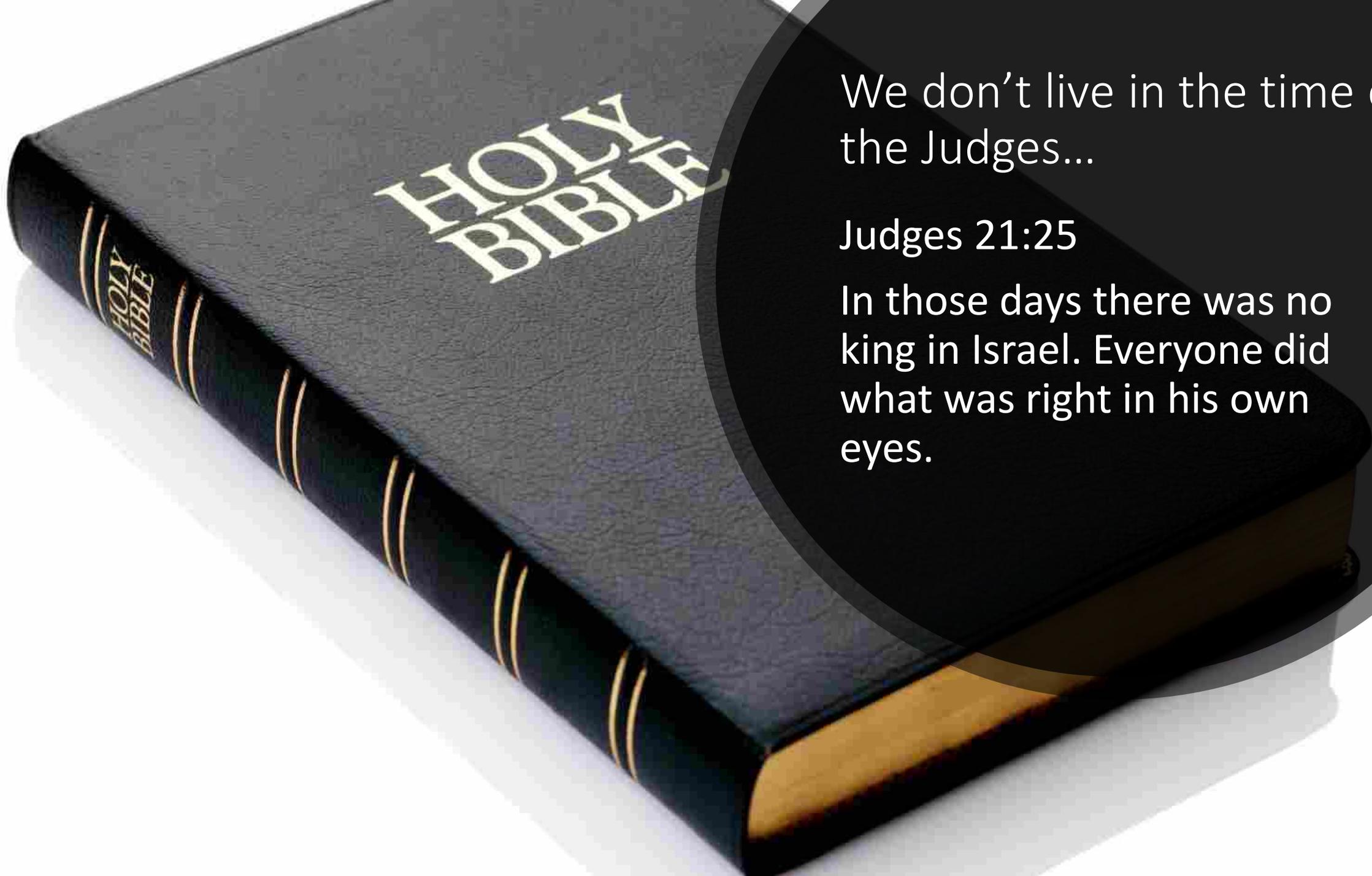
“Morning Star of the Reformation”

Just as the LORD had commanded Moses

- **Tabernacle** (Exodus 39:1,5,7,21,26,29,31,32, 42-43; 40:16,19,21,23,25,27,29,32)
- **Priesthood** (Leviticus 8:4,9,13,17,21,29,36; 9:1-2,5-7,10,16,21)

David's preparation for the building of the temple

- **“All this,” said David, “the LORD made me understand in writing by His hand upon me, all the details of this pattern.” (1 Chronicles 28:19)**



We don't live in the time of the Judges...

Judges 21:25

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

What is the role of Scripture in relationship to authority?

- You can compare Luther's writings with the Pope's response.
- You don't need to be a Protestant or even a Christian to see that the Pope was not 100% right and Luther was 100% wrong.



Exsurge Domine

Condemning the Errors of Martin Luther
Pope Leo X - 1520

2. To deny that in a child after baptism sin remains is to treat with contempt both Paul and Christ.

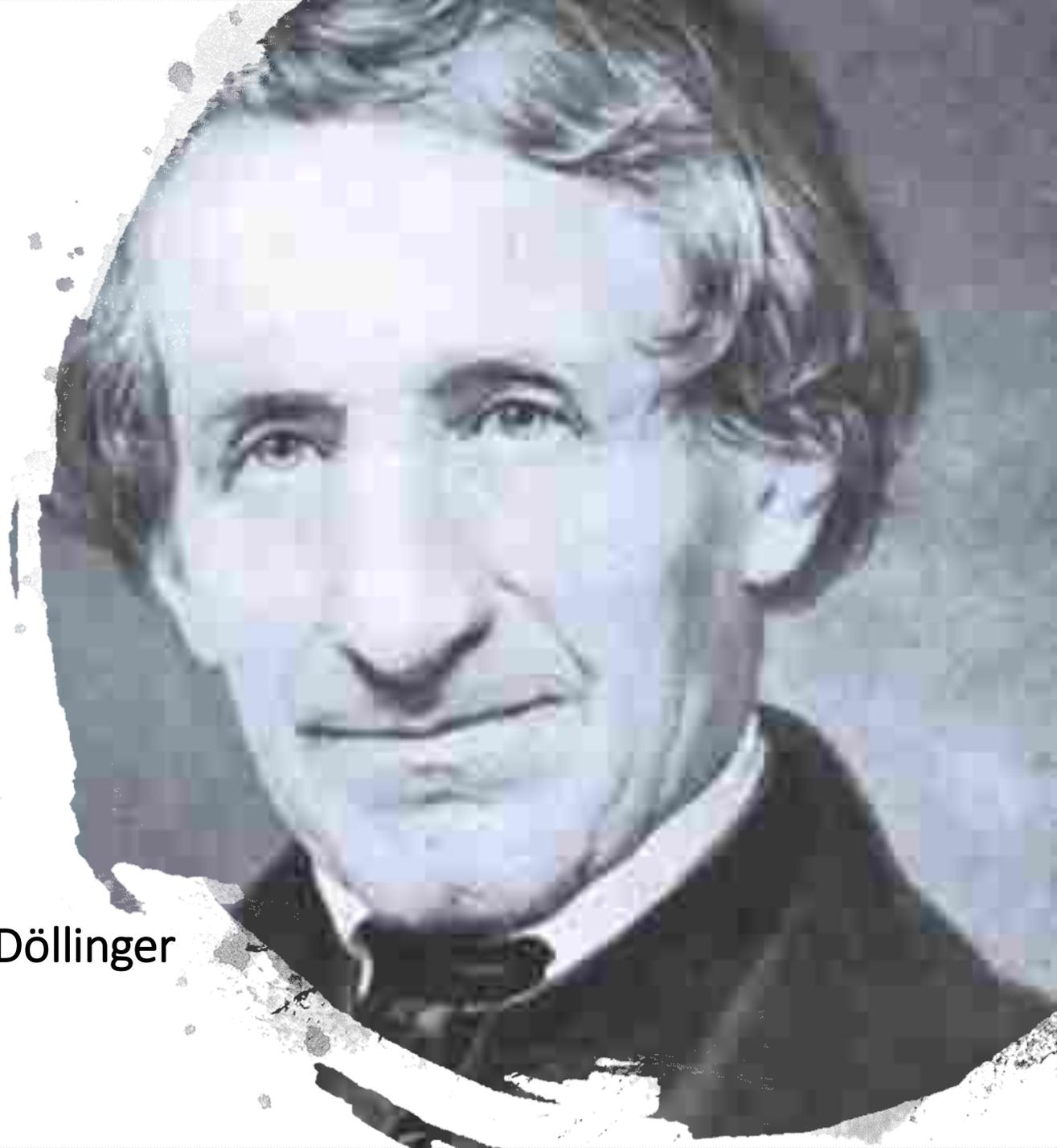
5. That there are three parts to penance: contrition, confession, and satisfaction, has no foundation in Sacred Scripture nor in the ancient sacred Christian doctors.



“So again with Penance. What is given as the essential form of the sacrament was unknown in the Western Church for eleven hundred years, and never known in the Greek.”

—Roman Catholic theologian and historian, Ignaz von Döllinger

Johann Joseph Ignaz von Döllinger
1799-1890



Satisfaction for sin needed to be made through such things as prayer, fasting, alms giving.

1. In the 14th century a Treasury of Merits was accepted in Roman Catholicism.

- The Papacy had the authority to dispense from this treasury of merits and they did so through pilgrimages and indulgences for alms.

- The sale of indulgences served to satisfy for sins committed and could be purchased to decrease one's time in purgatory.

2. "In 1476 Pope Sixtus IV extended the scope of an Indulgence to souls in purgatory" (Sproul, "Faith Alone")



“Every time a coin in the coffer rings...”

Exsurge Domine

Condemning the Errors of Martin Luther
Pope Leo X - 1520

25. The Roman Pontiff, the successor of Peter, is not the vicar of Christ over all the churches of the entire world, instituted by Christ Himself in blessed Peter.





The “pernicious poison”
of Luther’s errors

33. That heretics be
burned is against the will
of the Spirit.

34. To go to war against
the Turks is to resist God
who punishes our
iniquities through them.

<https://www.papalencyclicals.net/leo10/l10exdom.htm>



The “pernicious poison”
of Luther’s errors

37. Purgatory cannot be
proved from Sacred
Scripture which is in the
canon.

<https://www.papalencyclicals.net/leo10/l10exdom.htm>



Pope Francis 

@Pontifex

Welcome to the official Twitter page of His Holiness Pope Francis

© Vatican City  vaticannews.va  Joined February 2012

Indulgences are still a thing in the 21st century. Today, Roman Catholics can make pilgrimages to the Pope's social media accounts

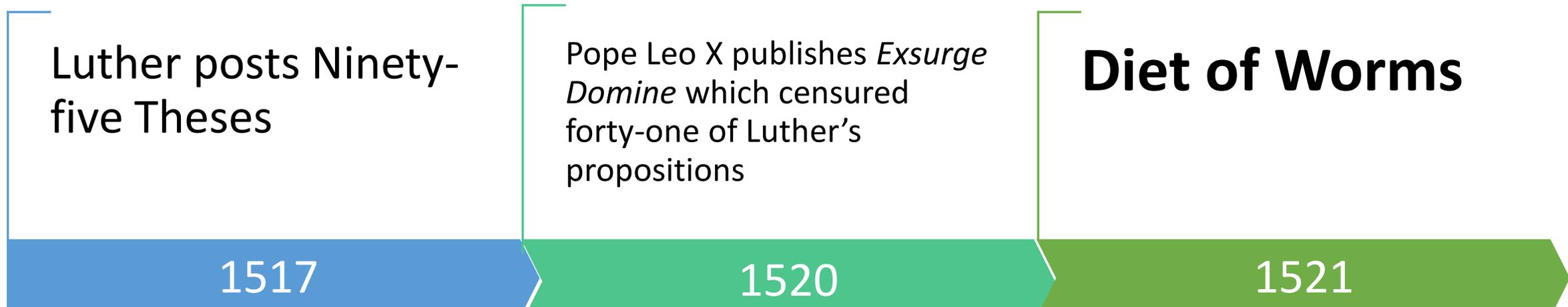
In 2013 Pope Francis granted indulgences (time off in purgatory) to Catholics who closely followed his Twitter or other social media accounts during the World Youth Day event in Rio de Janeiro.

<http://bit.ly/34lnCVc>

What did Luther mean at the Diet of Worms?

Martin Luther, “Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason—I do not accept the authority of popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other—my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. God help me. Amen.”

—1521, Diet of Worms

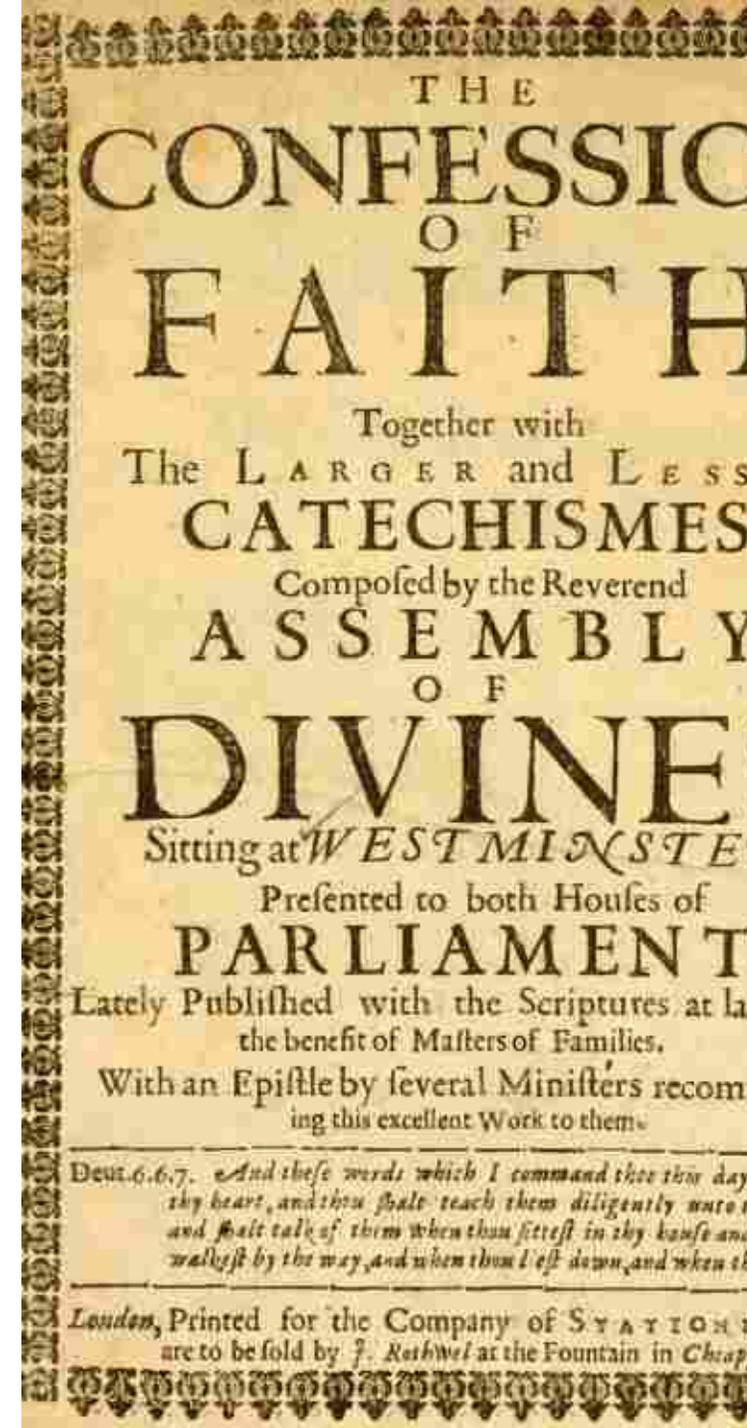


The Reformation was about:

- **Final Authority**

“The supreme judge by which all controversies of religion are to be determined, and all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, doctrines of men, and private spirits, are to be examined, and in whose sentence we are to rest, **can be no other but the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scripture.”**

—Westminster Confession of Faith (Chapter 1:10)



It's not just Pope Leo X, who misunderstood the "Royal Priesthood." Protestant Christians still misunderstand it.

- A dismissal of the church.
- **A dismissal of creeds and confessions.**

Who said,

- “I venerate them [ecumenical councils] from my heart, and desire that they be honored by all.”



“I venerate them [ecumenical councils] from my heart, and desire that they be honored by all.”

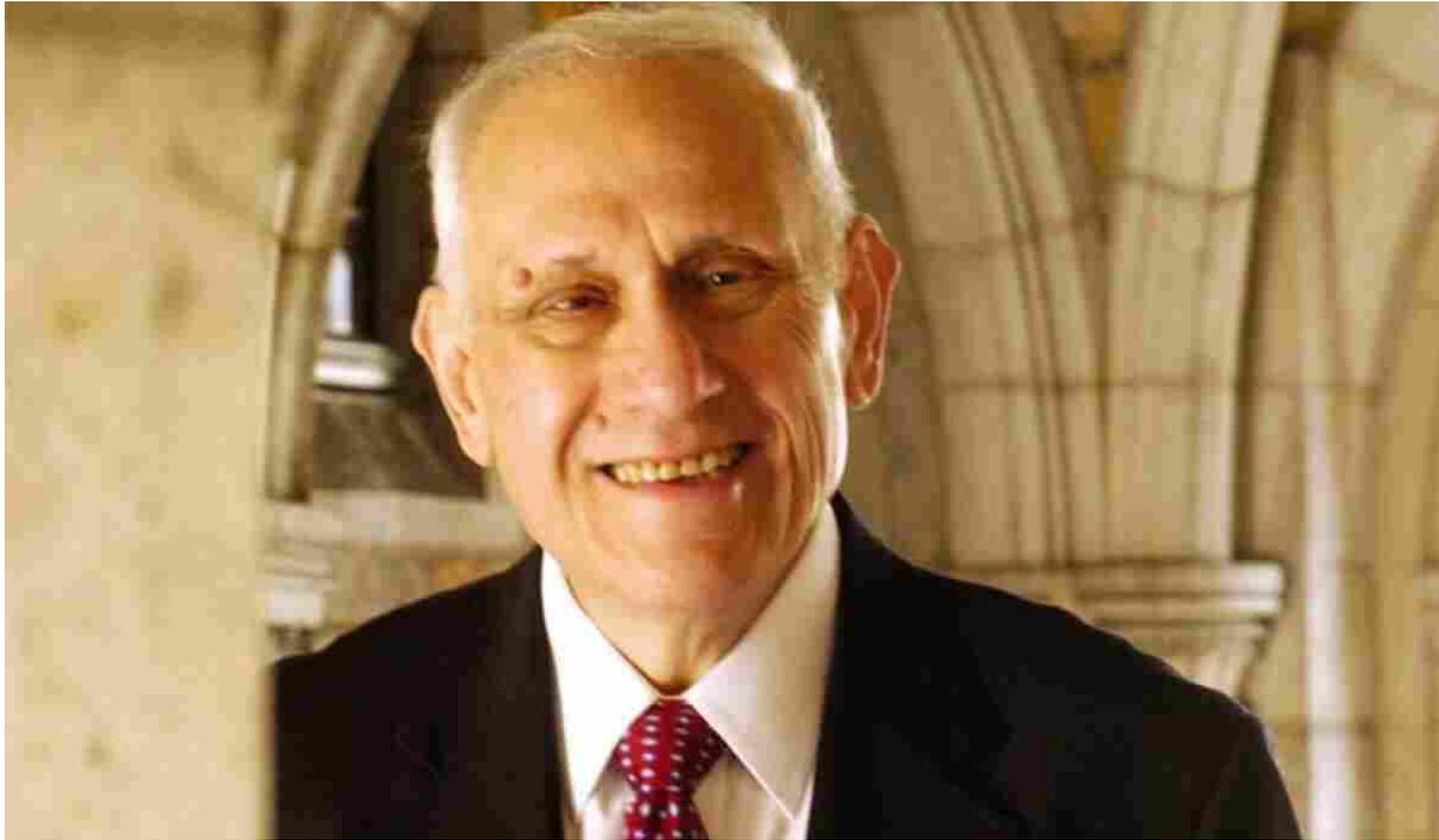
—John Calvin Institutes, IX.ix.1 “Councils and Their Authority”

John Calvin (1509-1564)

A common misunderstanding of the Reformation:

- A dismissal of the church.
- A dismissal of creeds and confessions.
- **I am the final authority.**

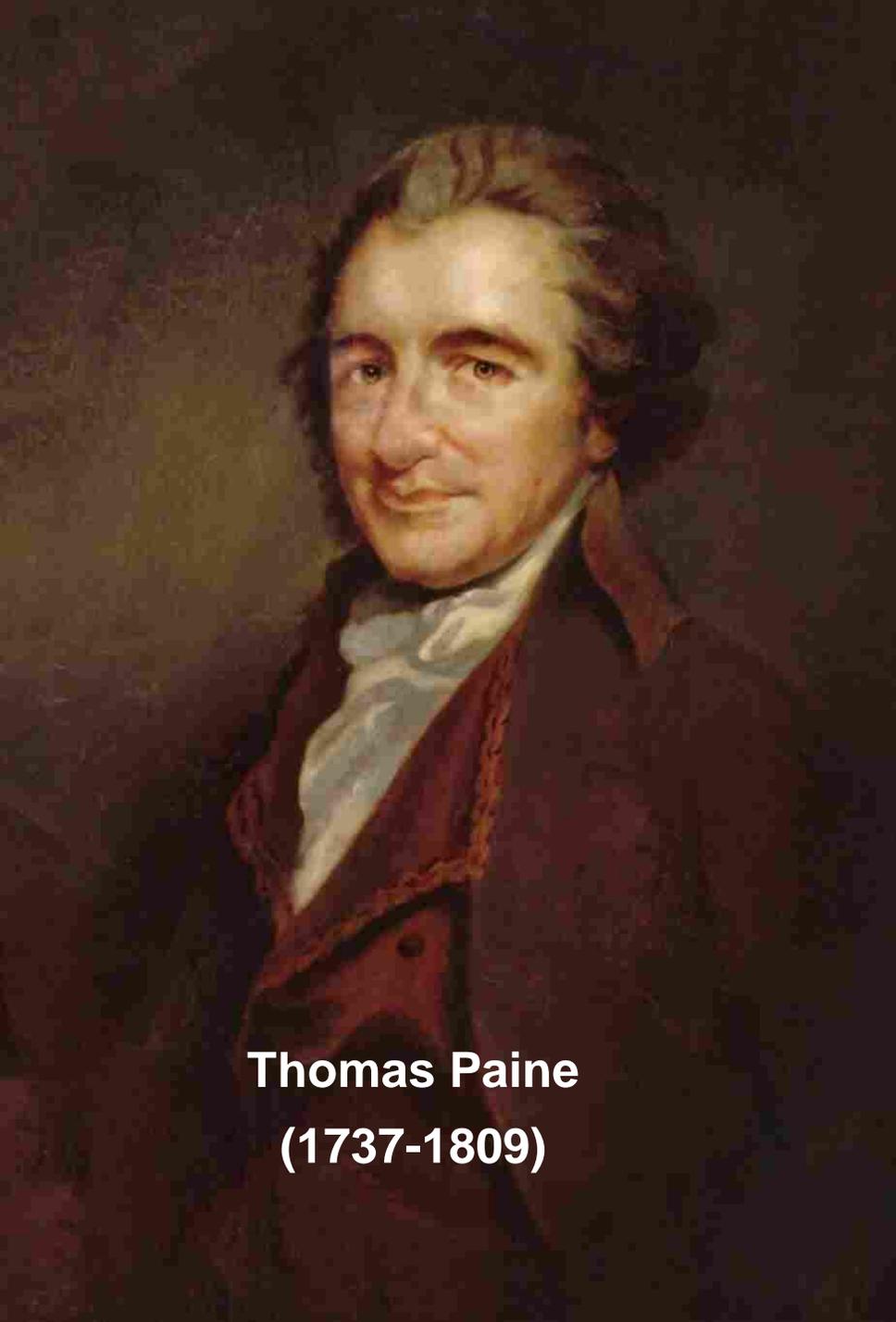
How much of our understanding about our “royal priesthood” is shaped by radical individualistic and enlightenment thinking?



INDIVIDUALISM AND THE ENLIGHTENMENT

- “the core of everything is the single individual person”
- “the individual is the ultimate”
- “You may not stamp out the rights of individuals. They are inherent in everything”

—Professor Donald Kagan,
American historian and
classicist at Yale University;
<http://oyc.yale.edu/transcript/154/clcv-205>



Thomas Paine
(1737-1809)

The Enlightenment

“I do not believe in the creed professed by the Jewish church, by the Roman church, by the Greek church, by the Turkish church, by the Protestant church, nor by any church that I know of. My own mind is my own church.”

— Thomas Paine, *The Age of Reason*

Does our Royal Priesthood mean:

- No creeds
- No church attendance
- No submission to church authority
- My own mind, my own interpretation

Pew: Why Americans Go to Church or Stay Home

Among those who rarely attend church, Christians name a variety of reasons

Among U.S. adults who attend religious services a few times a year or less often, % who say _____ is a "very important" reason they DO NOT attend religious services

| | I practice my faith in other ways | NET Dislikes | I haven't found a church/house of worship I like | I don't like the sermons | I don't feel welcome | I am not a believer | NET Logistics | I don't have the time | Poor health/difficulty getting around | There isn't a church/house of worship for my religion in my area |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|--|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % | % |
| Total | 37 | 37 | 23 | 18 | 14 | 28 | 22 | 12 | 9 | 7 |
| Christian | 44 | 38 | 28 | 14 | 15 | 11 | 29 | 15 | 13 | 9 |
| Evangelical Protestant | 46 | 41 | 33 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 31 | 13 | 13 | 10 |
| Mainline Protestant | 39 | 42 | 33 | 10 | 17 | 5 | 20 | 12 | 9 | 3 |
| Catholic | 47 | 31 | 19 | 17 | 14 | 12 | 29 | 19 | 16 | 10 |

Is this what Peter meant about our Royal Priesthood? Is this how it was supposed to be lived out in Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms?

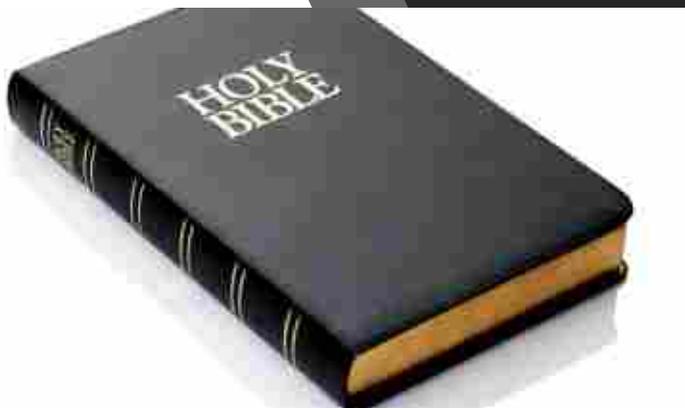
- I practice my faith in a different way?
- I dislike temple?
- I haven't found a temple I like?
- I don't like the prophets' sermons?
- I don't feel welcome? I don't have the time?
- There isn't a house of worship in my area?
- If we don't "like"—not to mention love—fellow Christians, we don't have to worship with them?
- We can opt out if we don't "like" something about the service (i.e. the preaching)?

Progressive Church Allows Anyone To Interrupt Sermon With A Point Of Personal Privilege

August 23rd, 2019



Some professing Christians today don't go to church because they don't like the sermons.

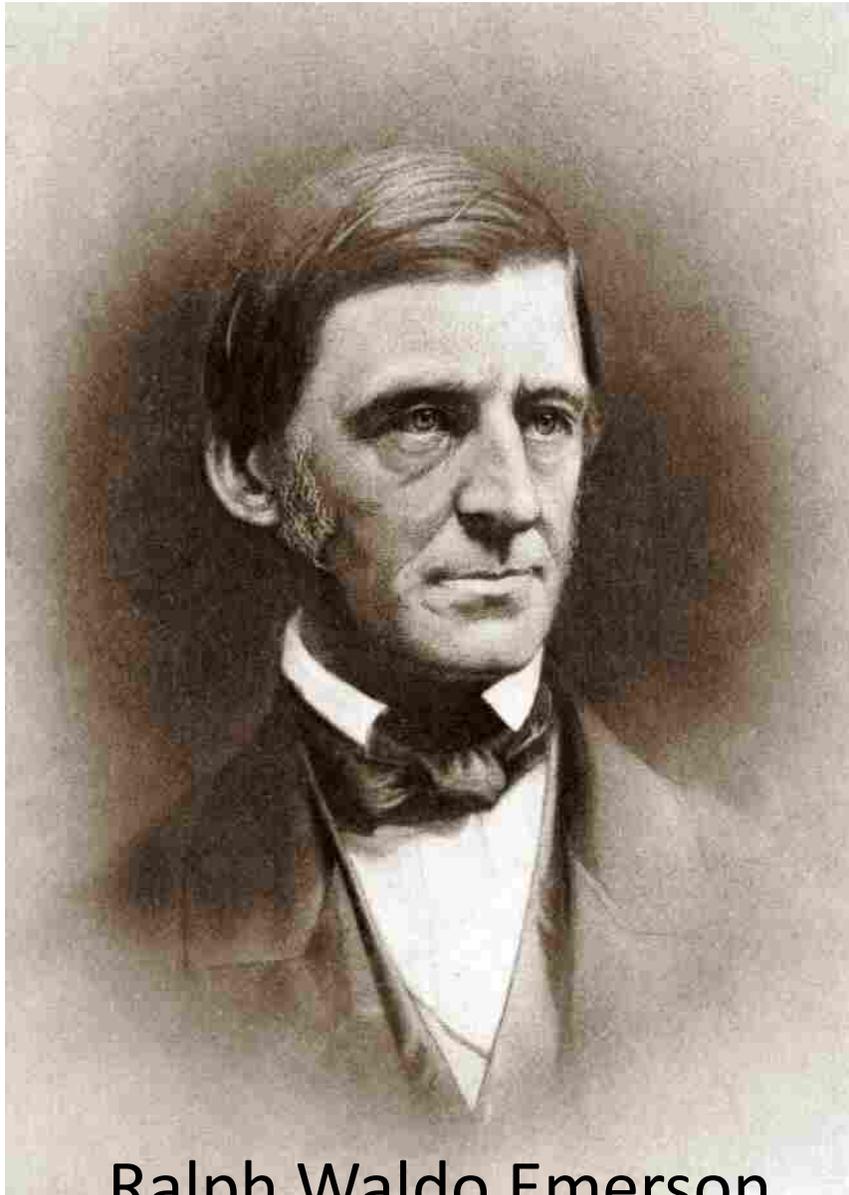


1 Kings 22:6–8

⁶Then the king of Israel [Ahab] gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said to them, “Shall I go against Ramoth-gilead to battle or shall I refrain?” And they said, “Go up, for the Lord will give it into the hand of the king.”

⁷But Jehoshaphat said, “Is there not yet a prophet of the LORD here that we may inquire of him?”

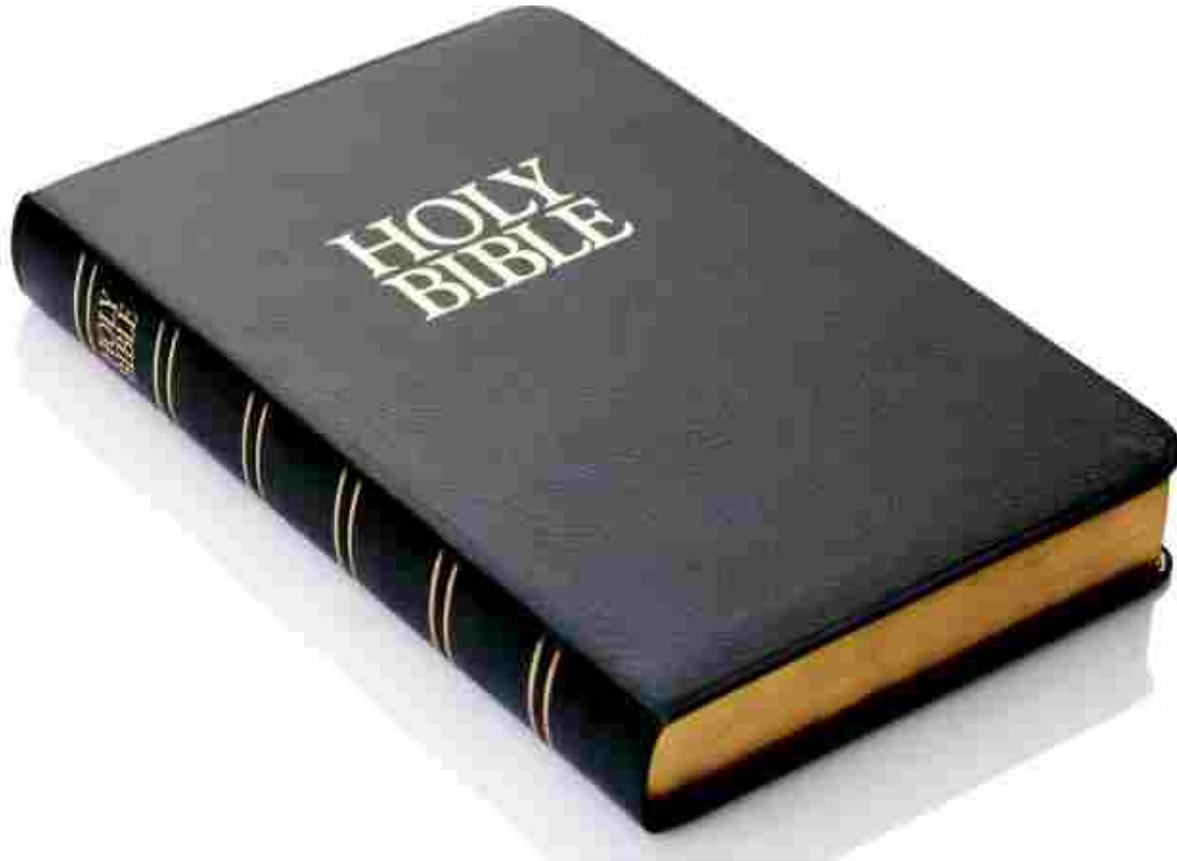
⁸The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “There is yet one man by whom we may inquire of the LORD, **but I hate him, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil.** He is Micaiah son of Imlah.” But Jehoshaphat said, “Let not the king say so.”



Ralph Waldo Emerson
1803-1882

Is this what Peter meant about our being a Royal Priesthood?

In 1832 Ralph Waldo Emerson resigned from being a Unitarian minister and became a **community of “self.”**



1 Peter 2:4–5

⁴As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious,

⁵you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Is the church Jesus is building
a community of “self?”

Is this what Peter meant about our being royal priests?

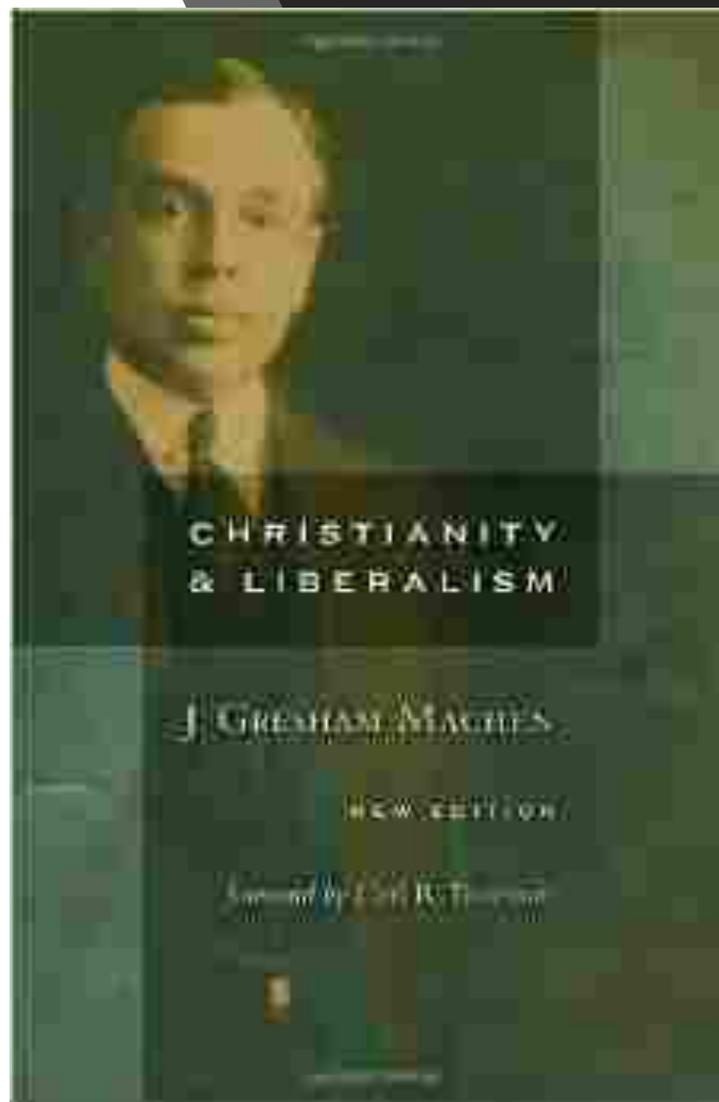
“I have endeavored to read the Scriptures as though no one had read them before me, and I am as much on my guard against reading them today, through the medium of my own views yesterday, or a week ago, as I am against being influenced by any foreign name, authority, or system whatever.”

—The Christian Baptist

Alexander Campbell was the founder of the Disciples of Christ and influential in the development of non-denominational churches.



Alexander Campbell
(1788-1866)



“If the Church were led to wipe out of existence all products of the thinking of nineteen Christian centuries and start fresh, the loss, even if the Bible were retained, would be immense...In no branch of science would there be any real advance if every generation started fresh with no dependence upon what past generations have achieved. Yet in theology, vituperation of the past seems to be thought essential to progress.”

—J. Gresham Machen, *Christianity and Liberalism*, [New York: Macmillan, 1924], 46.

Once a person, including a toddler, has **final** authority over something/anything—they don't naturally want to give it up.

- Why join a church?
- Why subscribe to a creed/confession or teach your children a catechism?



What happens when someone crosses our “final authority” line?



We have become our own
“Popes”

- We scream
- We demand
- We quit
- We leave

The Reformation was not about establishing a new papacy of “Self”

I  ME



“If we reject the claim of the Pope of Rome to be infallible, we must also avoid that disproportionate recognition of the right of private judgment which would allow every individual Christian to claim to be a pope.”

—J.G. Vos, “The Visible Church: Its Nature Unity And Witness” Westminster Theological Journal Volume 9 [vnp.9.2.164-9.2.166]



J.G. Vos
1930-1983

Who interprets Scripture?

- Who interprets Scripture?
 - Scripture interprets Scripture
 - Priesthood of all believers
 - The church (Creeds and Confessions)

Sola Scriptura & Interpretation

- Who interprets Scripture?
- Who is the **final** interpreter of Scripture?

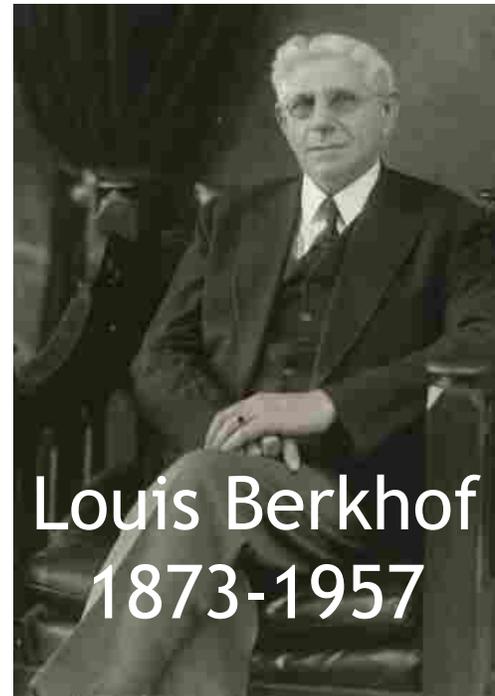
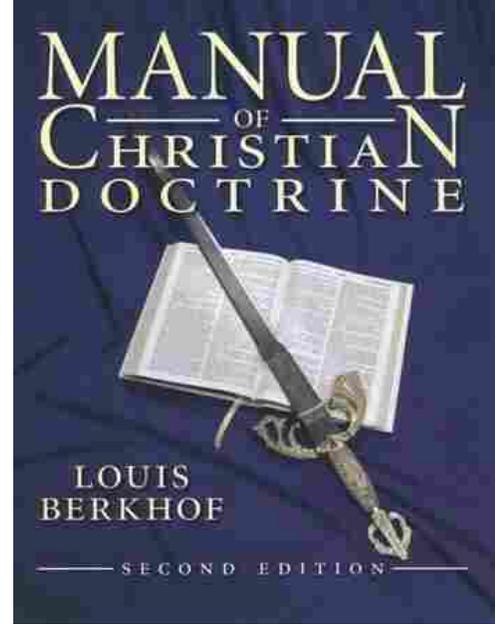
Who is the **final** interpreter of Scripture?

- **God alone**
- People, including professing Christians, may think/act like their conscience is the final interpreter. It's NOT. Such thinking/behavior is blasphemous/idolatrous.

God does not need us. We need God and one another.

- Aseity (life, self-existence, independence)

“God...does not, like man, depend for his existence on anything outside of Himself.”
(p.62)



Louis Berkhof
1873-1957

You are a Royal Priesthood

- Do you know your Bible? Do you study it in the context of the church Jesus is building.
- Does this humble you to serve or be served?
- Does it lead to toward fellowship or away to the “community of self”?
- Do you love the church or do you disdain/ignore Christ’s other sheep?
- Would you take the time to sit down and write your “theses” and discuss them with others? We don’t have **final** authority over anything or anyone, including ourselves!