

2nd Kings

7-24-22

**7:1 About this time tomorrow, a seah
or 6 qts of the finest flour will sell
for a shekel – 1/2 oz – and
Two seahs of barley for a shekel at the
gate of Samaria.**

2 Kings 5 – Elisha's Enlightenment

✝ 2 Kings 7 – Elisha's Economic Ecstasy

2 Kings 12 – God Honors

2 Kings 17 – God Judges

2 Kings 19 – God Hears

2 Kings 22 – God Moves



**Famine In Samaria
by Gustave Doré (1832-1883)**

FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class

Michael G. Maness
PreciousHeart.net/SS
... Click Here

2 Kings 5

We left Elisha at his house ... somewhere
He transferred Gen. Naaman's leprosy to
his LYING Servant Gehazi & descendants
Elisha racking up the miracles ...

For many rich & poor ... Elisha was *indisputably* ...
incontrovertibly ... incredibly *endearing* ...

Man of God

Perhaps Elisha's house was in Samaria



Alternate Title
Go to the Food
Or
When Your Enemy
Feeds YOU



Four Lepers wood engraving, 1886, author unknown

Samaria > Capital of Israel

Northern Kingdom

**2 Kings 6-7 focuses on the famine
and Aram's Siege of Samaria**

Yes ... oddly enough ...

SAME Kingdom of Gen. Naaman

Interestingly enough ...

1 Kings 19:15 Elijah anointed

Hazael is King of Aram / Syria

We see Hazael LATER 2 Kings 13



Likely about 848 B.C.

**King Ben-Hadad II of Aram / Syria
capital in Damascus**

**King Joram of Israel
capital in Samaria**

**We can just assume
Gen. Naaman has passed
no more mention of him**

**LATER Samaria becomes a region
bordered by Galilee in north
by Judea in south**



First hear of Samaria as Shamir

Judges 10, home of Judge Tola who judged for 22 years

Samaria oil painting by Carl Haag (1820–1915)



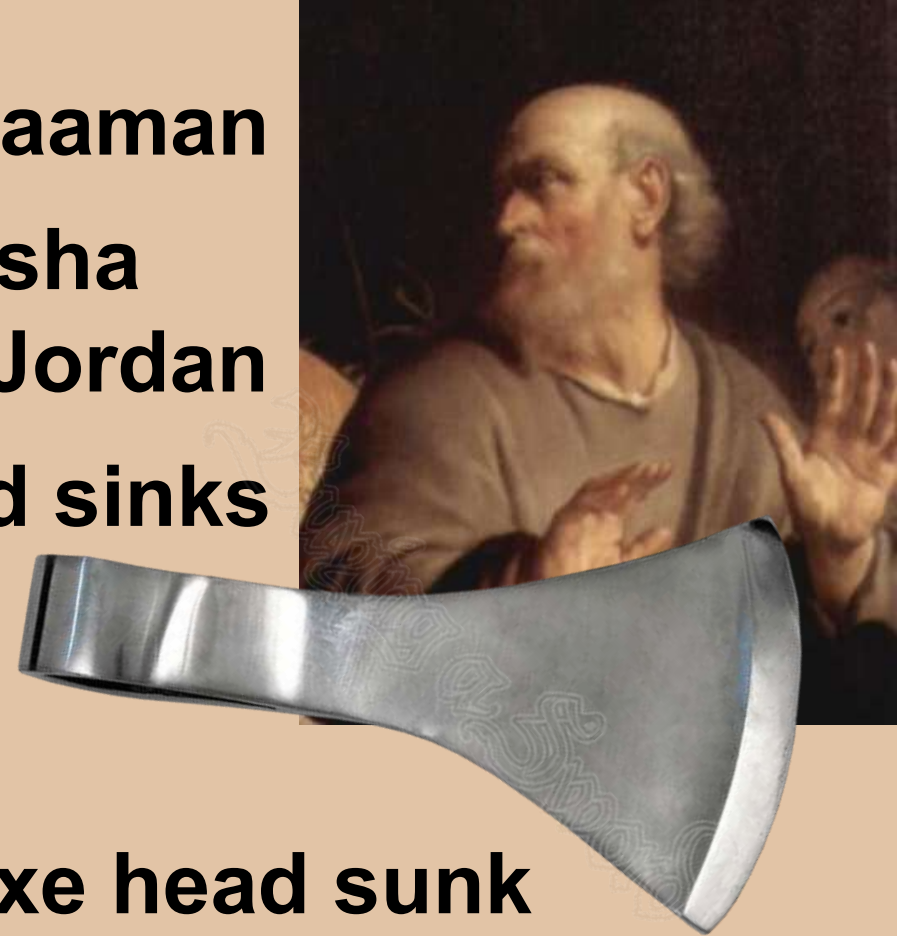
**Chapter 6 ... after healing Gen. Naaman
Opens w prophets appealing to Elisha
for a place to meet ... they go to Jordan
While cutting down trees ... axe head sinks
5:5 “Oh no, my lord!” he cried out.**

“It was borrowed!”

**Elijah cuts a stick ... throws where axe head sunk
5:6-7 made the iron float. “Lift it out,” Elisha said**

Astonishing Miracle

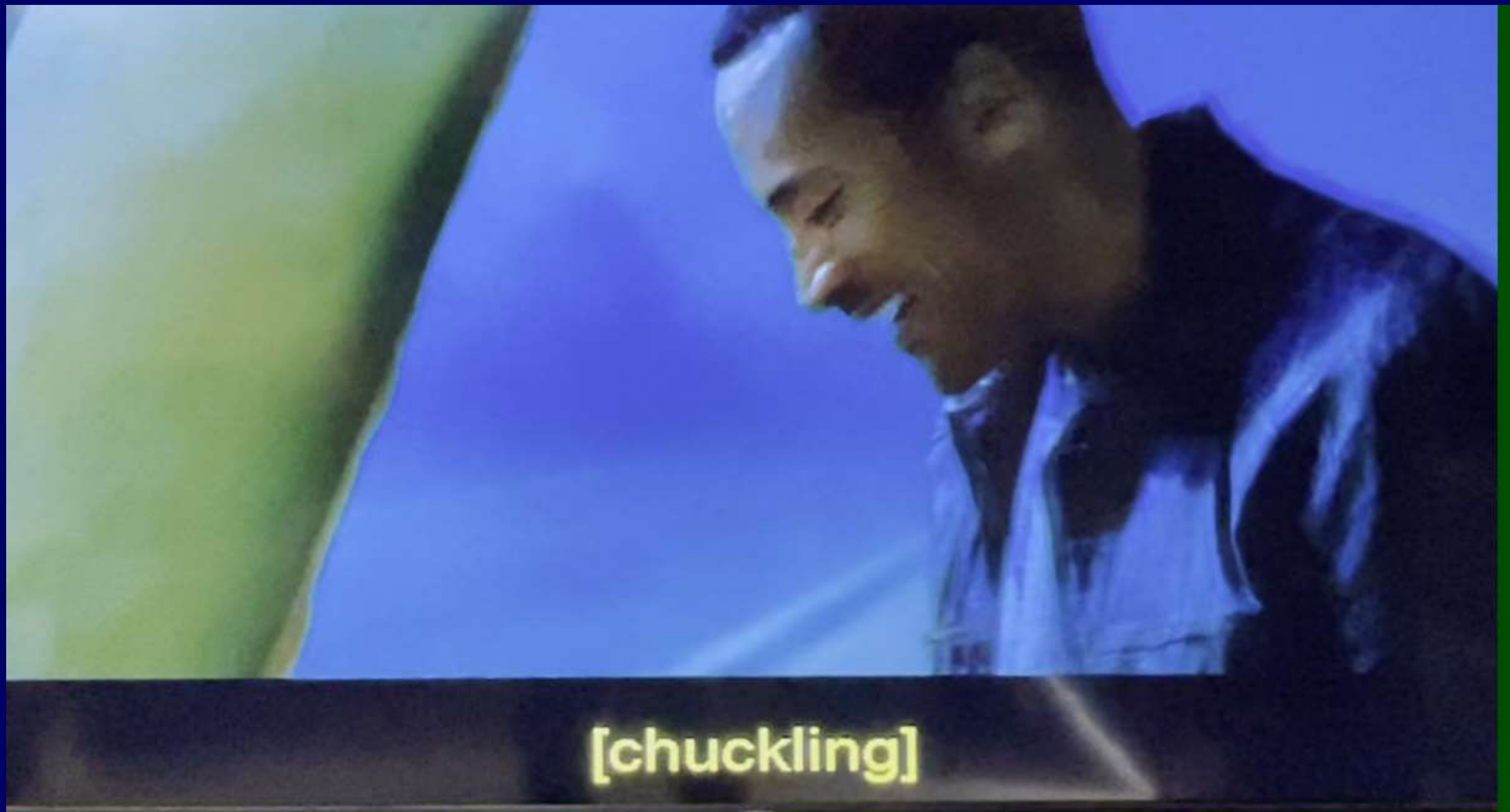
Reminds of a Scene from Star Wars





Remember when Yoda
RAISED Luke Skywalker's
X-wing fighter
out of the pond





[chuckling]

Forever we humans have struggled
with the nature of the SPIRITUAL

Most of the world believes in a “god”

Christians *believe* we have the TRUTH ...

The other religions *believe* that too

Study any religion in depth ... ALL *exclude* the others

So there are a LOT of opinions ... my point is simple

MOST of the world believes in the SPIRITUAL ...

Christians believe Jesus is *THE* Way, Truth, Life



For US ... we not only **BELIEVE**
this is the **REALITY** for us

Therefore, OUR reality is in conflict with the
Muslim ... Buddhist ... Taoist ... Wiccan
Indeed ... in conflict with Atheism and ...

Indeed ... in conflict with some Science deductions

We BELIEVE God is above Science ... **Super**-Natural

There are scientists who do NOT believe God exists

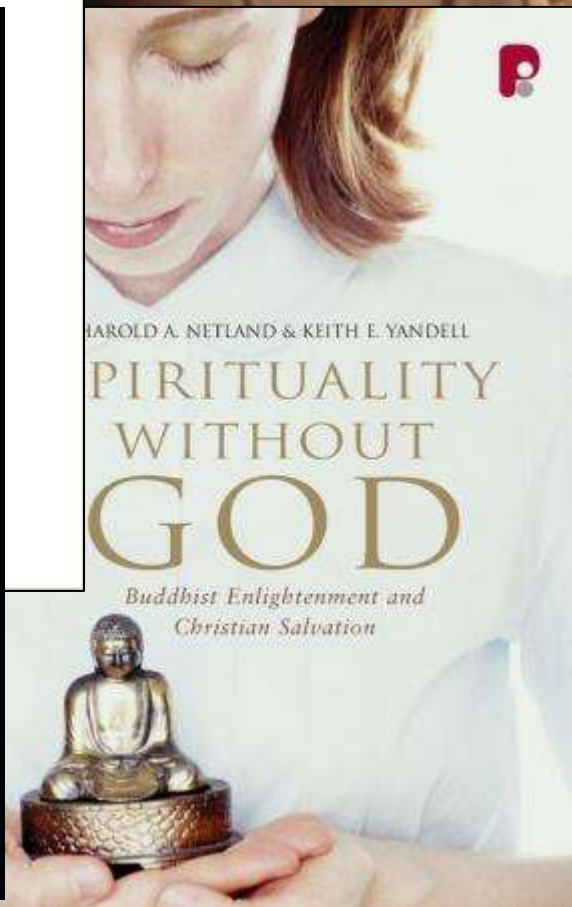
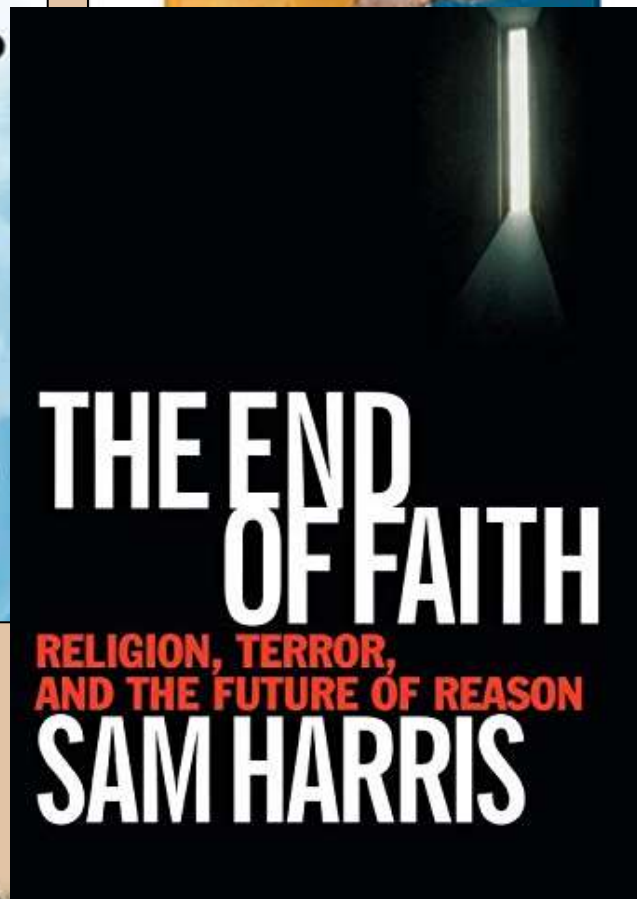
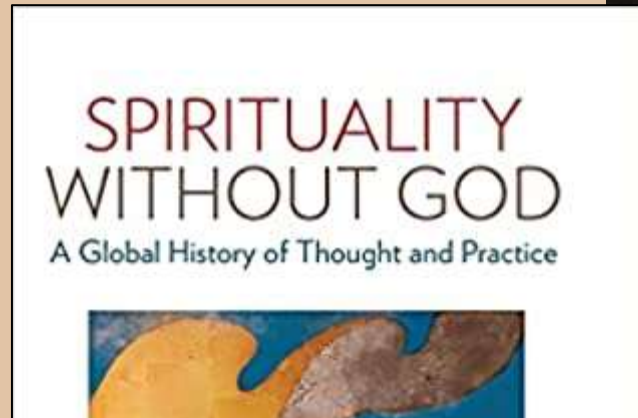
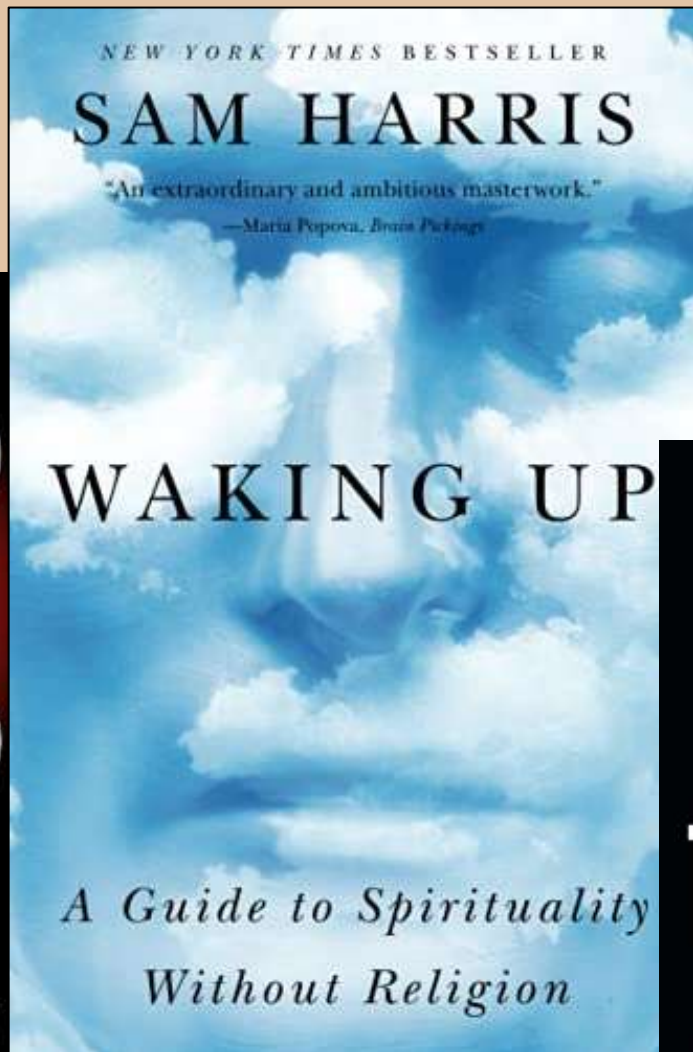
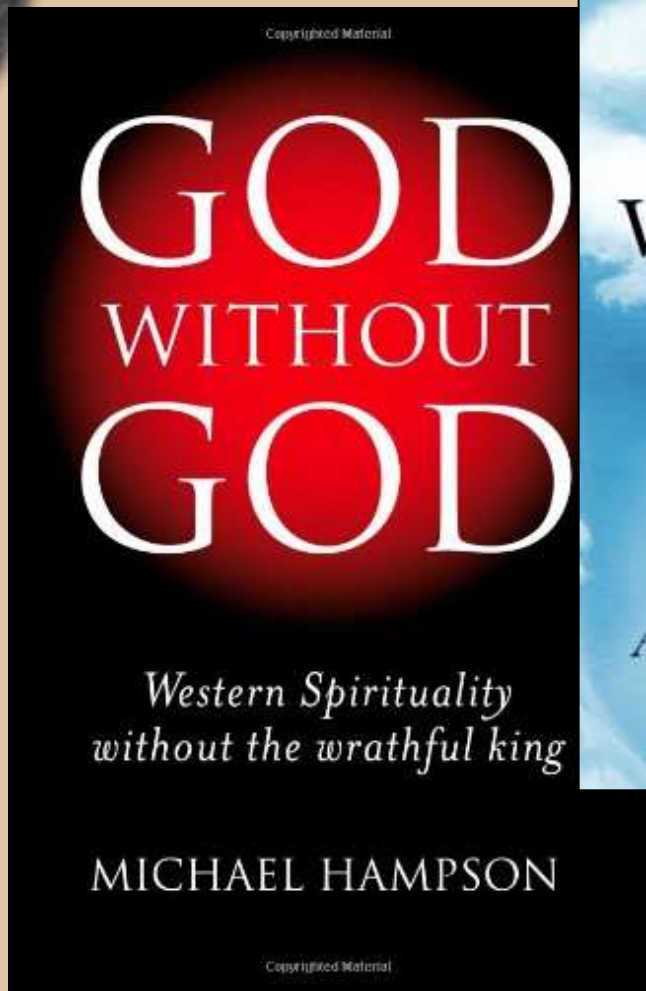
No Miracles ... None ... Just Imagination



**Worse ... Much Worse ...
There are a LOT of media that
Works to make FAITH itself absurd ...
Several times ... especially the
Christian Faith is lampooned like a
FANTASY**



**Side by Side ... then ... CATCH the Culture today
Assault on Religion AT THE SAME TIME there is
Belief in a *Nebulous* SPIRITUALITY**

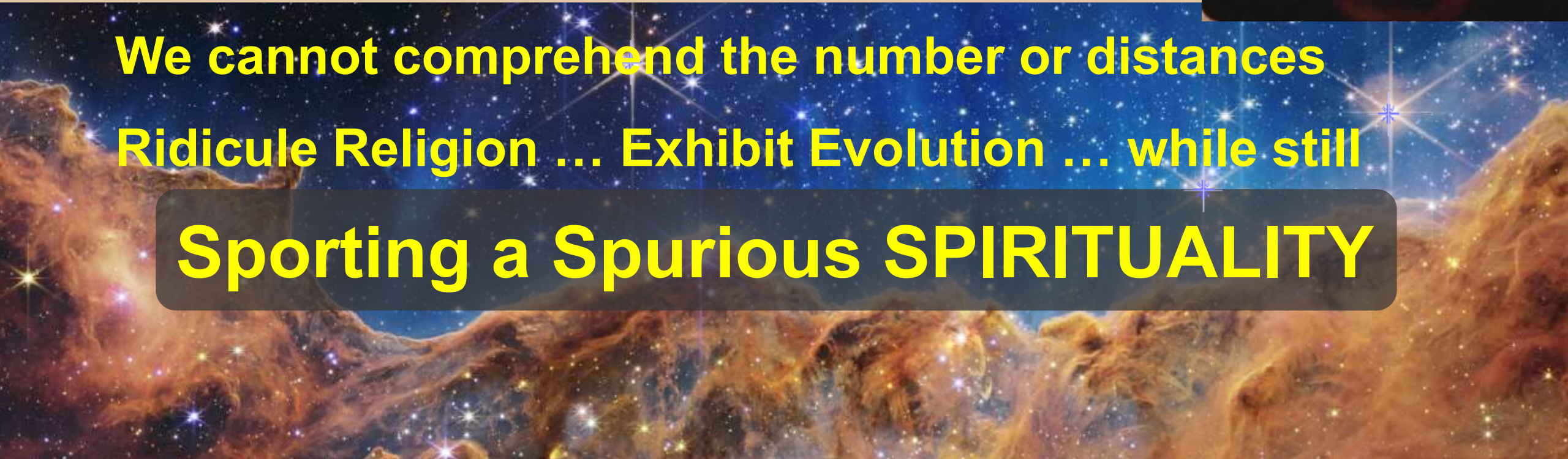


Let me rephrase that ... reword that
There is a tension ... a conflict
SCIENCE gives us **PROOF** of an endless
UNIVERSE

So large ... so many stars ... so far away

We cannot comprehend the number or distances
Ridicule Religion ... Exhibit Evolution ... while still

Sporting a Spurious SPIRITUALITY



Miracles like a jar that stays full of oil
Healing a Gen. Naaman

Making an axe head FLOAT ...

These defy physics ... defy established laws

Yet ... if evolution and NO God is true ...

Define how *LOVE* came to be ... by *chance?!?* ... **No!**

How Loyalty ... Honesty ... and Honor came to be

Treasured

Greatest *Treasures* we have are **INVISIBLE**



**Chapter 6 ... in 848 B.C. & like in A.D. 33
after the axe head ... yikes!**

**God tells Elisha what King Aram does
then Elisha RELAYS to Israel's King Joram**

6:9 Man of God sent word to king of Israel:

**“Beware of passing that place, because
the Arameans are going down there.”**

“Enrages” King of Aram ... *and this wonderful verse*

**6:12 “Elisha ... tells the king of Israel the very words
you speak in your bedroom.”**



Reminds of a classic moments in first Star Wars

“These are not the droids you seek,” Obi-wan says in a mind-control to boarder guards at Mos Eisley Space Port.

DC Comics Multiverse of characters ...

What's Your Superpower?

Moving of objects & raising axe head
there are connections between us ...

Premonitions ... instincts ... affections ...
... magicians have manipulated ...

Mothers have had **FEELINGS** ...

Then we have God *revealing* to us ...

Remember Jesus at the Last Supper ...
telling Judas to go ahead ...

6:12 “Elisha ... tells the king of Israel the very words
you speak in your bedroom.”



King of Aram wants to capture Elisha

Finds out Elisha is in Dothan

6:14 sent horses and chariots
and a strong force there....
and surrounded the city.

Elisha's servant wakes up – *YIKES*

City is Surrounded

6:16 “Don’t be afraid,” said Elisha
“Those who are with us are more
than those who are with them.”



Astounding Miracle revealing invisible Army

6:17 Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, Lord”

Servant saw “hills full of horses & chariots”

6:18 Elisha prayed to the Lord,

“Strike this army with blindness.”

Tada ... Elisha leads the army by the hand to Samaria

Strange words ... Elisha told them,

“This is not the road and this is not the city.

Follow Me



**Elisha Bringing the
Blinded Syrian Army
into Samaria, c. 1613
by Antonio Tempesta,
a Florentine, 1555-1630**



Elisha leads them into Samaria ...
Elisha prays ... the soldiers' eyes OPEN
They see they are INSIDE Samaria
King of Israel asks about KILLING them
No sir ... Elisha orders food be given ...
They we are told ... go back ... then we read
6:23 bands from Aram stopped raiding Israel ...
Then in 6:24 ... “After some time” we are told that
Ben-Hadad's long siege causes Great Famine



FAMINE = Starvation + Death

Few in the USA today *know*

So much missing between end of 6
Opening of 2 Kings 7

6:26 woman cried to king,
“Help me, my lord the king!”

King asks what’s up ...

Then we hear just how utterly
... utterly terrible the famine is



Famine In Samaria
by Gustave Doré (1832-1883)

FAMINE = Starvation + Death
so hungry ... your bones hurt
so hungry ... you cannot think ...
SOOO hungry ... ALL you think about is
Can I Make it for another HOUR

*your stomach and
your eyes bulge*

*Death is
KNOCKING*



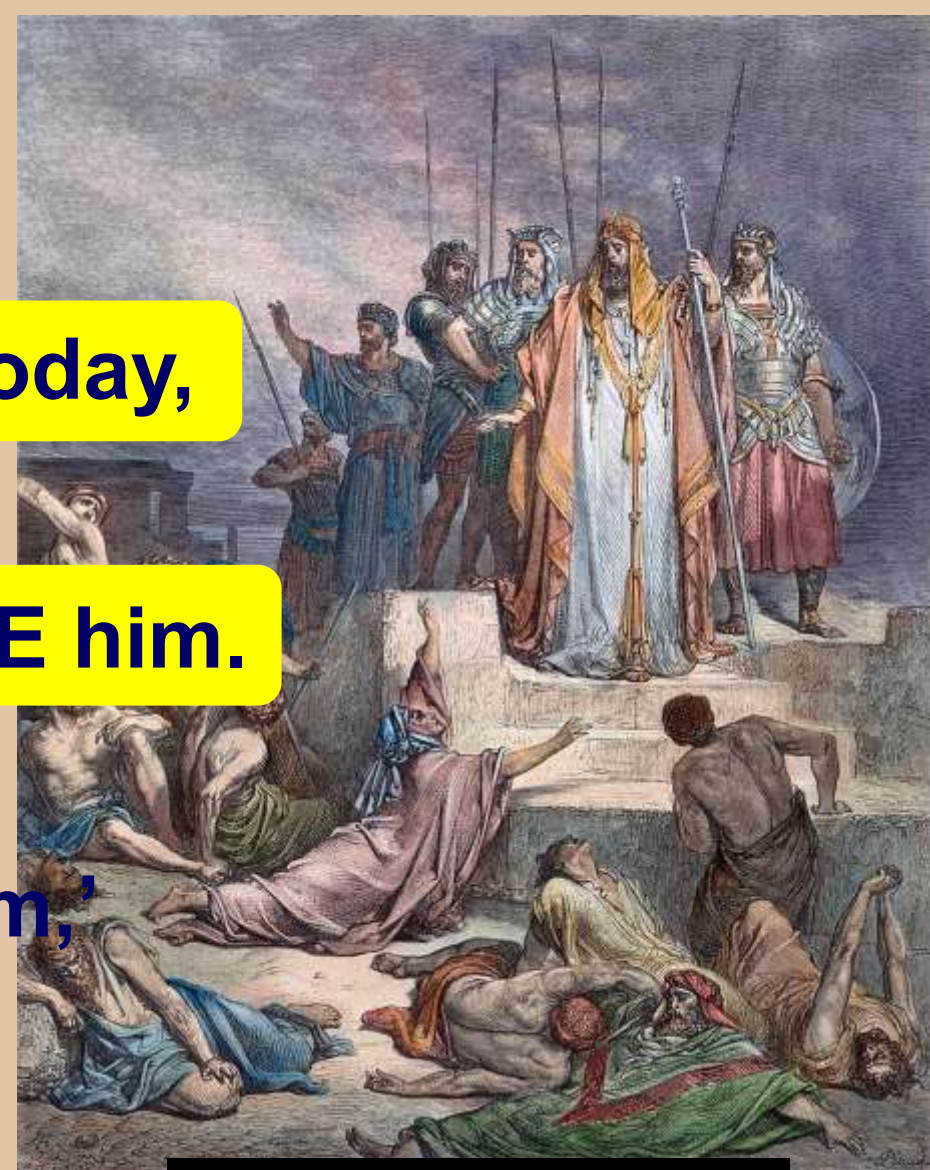
Woman answered the King,
“This woman said to me, ‘Give up
your son so we may **EAT** him today,
tomorrow we’ll **EAT** my son.’

6:29 So we cooked my son and **ATE** him.

The next day I said to her,

‘Give up your son so we may eat him,’
but she had hidden him.”

6:30 When the king heard the
woman’s words, he tore his robes.



Famine In Samaria
by Gustave Doré (1832-1883)

Unbearable **FAMINE** ...

6:31 King said, “May God deal with
me, be it ever so severely,
if the head of Elisha ...
remains on his shoulders today!”

6:32 Elisha sitting in his house
with elders ...

King sent a messenger

PROBLEM of knowing what
OTHERS are doing

KNOWING what they plan for **YOU**



Famine In Samaria
by Gustave Doré (1832-1883)

unbearable FAMINE ...

**Elisha said to the elders,
“Don’t you see ...**

**this murderer is sending
someone to cut off my head?**

**Elisha tells them
HOLD THE DOOR**

**The king said, “This disaster is
from the Lord. Why should I wait
for the Lord any longer?”**



**Famine In Samaria
by Gustave Doré (1832-1883)**

FAMINE = Starvation + Death

Few in the USA today *know*

So much missing between end of 6
Opening of 2 Kings 7

7:1 Elisha replied,

“Hear the word of the Lord.

About this time **TOMORROW**,
a seah or 6 qts of the finest flour
will sell for a shekel – 1/2 oz – and
two seahs of barley for a shekel
at the gate of Samaria.”



Famine In Samaria
by Gustave Doré (1832-1883)

another very strange miracle

Four Men with Leprosy

7:4 ... **HEAVY Reasoning**

If they go to the city > **We DIE**

If they stay at the gate > **We DIE**

If they go to Arameans ... perhaps

They will help ... or > **We DIE**

Not a lot of options ...

Yet ... unknown to **EVERYONE**

Except Elisha ... **something happens**



Famine In Samaria
by Gustave Doré (1832-1883)

Poor Lepers Know **NOTHING**

7:6 Lord caused the Arameans
to hear sound of chariots ... a
Great Army ... they said, “Look
“King of Israel has hired the Hittite
& Egyptian kings to attack us!”

So they Arameans RAN AWAY ...

Leaving ALL Behind

Poor Lepers Know **NOTHING**

No One KNOWS ANYTHING



Famine In Samaria
by Gustave Doré (1832-1883)

at dusk ... at sundown ... Lepers go to Face their Fate

Discover Delectable Delicacies

Get Gobs of Gold

**Copious
Collections of
Clothes**

Poor Lepers ...

**Pouring in
Prosperity...**

Hide a Lot of Loot

**Then Feel Guilty
Notify All of
Nocturnal News**



Four Lepers wood engraving, 1886, author unknown

**Israel's King does NOT Trust
Thinking it a trick ... Sends Scouts
Road is strewn with clothes ...
Then the Economic Ecstasy ...
7:16 People went out & Plundered
the camp of the Arameans.**

**So a seah of the finest flour sold
for a shekel ... as the Lord said.**

**Doubting Officer days before in 7:2
> trampled by the horde of people**



**Famine In Samaria
by Gustave Doré (1832-1883)**

Extravagant Economic Ecstasy is a

- ❖ **Remarkable Reeling of Relief**
- ❖ **Magnificent Meal-Making Marvel**
- ❖ **Profoundly Propitious Provision**
- ❖ **Stomach-Healing Sumptuousness**
- ❖ **Delight in Delicious Delicacies**
- ❖ **Freeing from Frenetic Fatal Fears**

**Couple of Mothers bring their
Children OUT of Hiding**



Famine In Samaria
by Gustave Doré (1832-1883)

Greater Lesson ...

Easy to See

No One but Elisha Saw ...

**During the Stomach-Churning
Cannibalistic FAMINE**

Only Elisha – Only the Pastor Knew

NO ONE Else Knew ... even AFTER

Even as the Great Economic Relief

Set the People Free to Feast



**Famine In Samaria
by Gustave Doré (1832-1883)**

Greater Lesson ...

Easy to See

No One Else SAW ... Rest of Story

**No One Knew what
God Was Doing**

**Only Elisha – Only the Pastor Knew
Important**

Great Economic Relief

No One Knew God's Work



Famine In Samaria
by Gustave Doré (1832-1883)

Greater Lesson Here ...

When You've Lost Hope

Listen to the Man of God

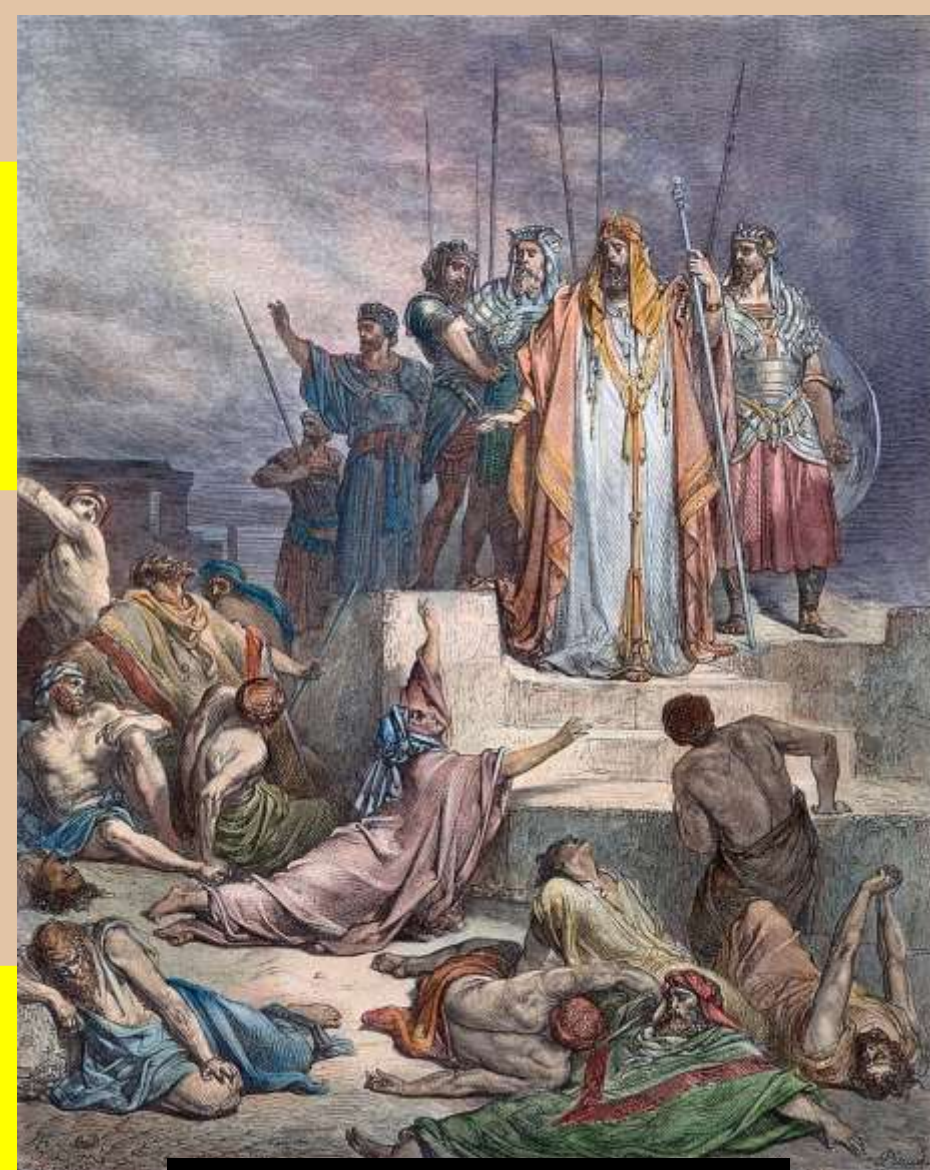
**We May Never KNOW
During or After the Famine**

God still works ... Often

Routing Armies *Behind* the Scenes

If you find yourself at a FEAST ...

Better Thank the Lord



**Famine In Samaria
by Gustave Doré (1832-1883)**

Perhaps the Greatest Lesson ... is from Four Lepers

Face Your Fate with Faith

Go with God

Alone & Alienated

First to Find

First to Feast

Poor Lepers ...

Left Pride at the

City Gate

**Left Their Life to
Life-giver's Hands**



Four Lepers wood engraving, 1886, author unknown