



Confident Christianity

Sharing the gospel
in an age of tough questions

Solas

at

**St Paul's Centre
St Helier, Jersey**



Five Steps to Answer Any Tough Question

Andy Bannister
Solas



www.solas-cpc.org



The Church and Questions

Answering Questions

Three Key Things to Remember

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Three Key Things to Remember

- The aim is to answer the *questioner*, not the *question*.
- Clarify a question: e.g. you might ask “what” and “why” questions, or find out why your friend asked it.
- Be willing to admit your limitations!

Sympathise

Hidden assumptions

Apply the Bible

Retell the gospel story

Equip your friend



If God exists, why is there suffering and pain?

HARD QUESTION #1

If God exists, why
is there pain and
suffering?

Sympathise

Hidden Assumptions

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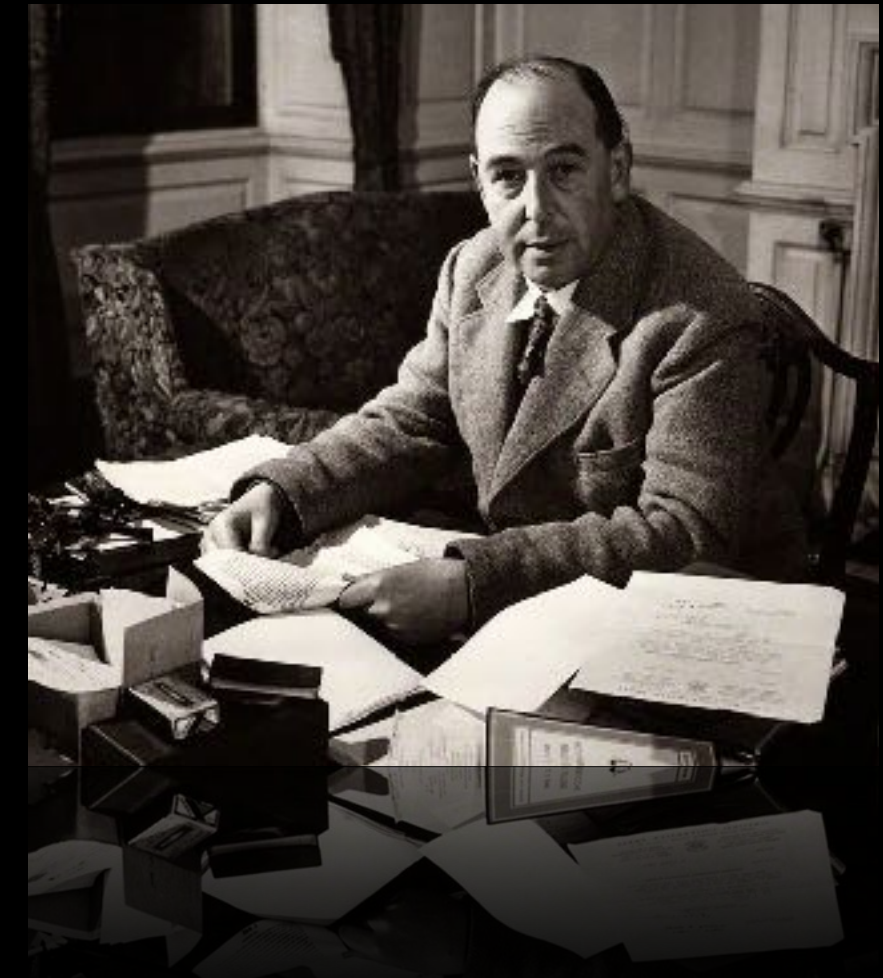
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“My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line.”

C. S. Lewis
Mere Christianity



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Compassion

= com (*with*) + passion (*suffer*)

= to suffer alongside



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Revised and updated
Sharon Dirckx

Winner of Speaking
Volumes Christian Book Award

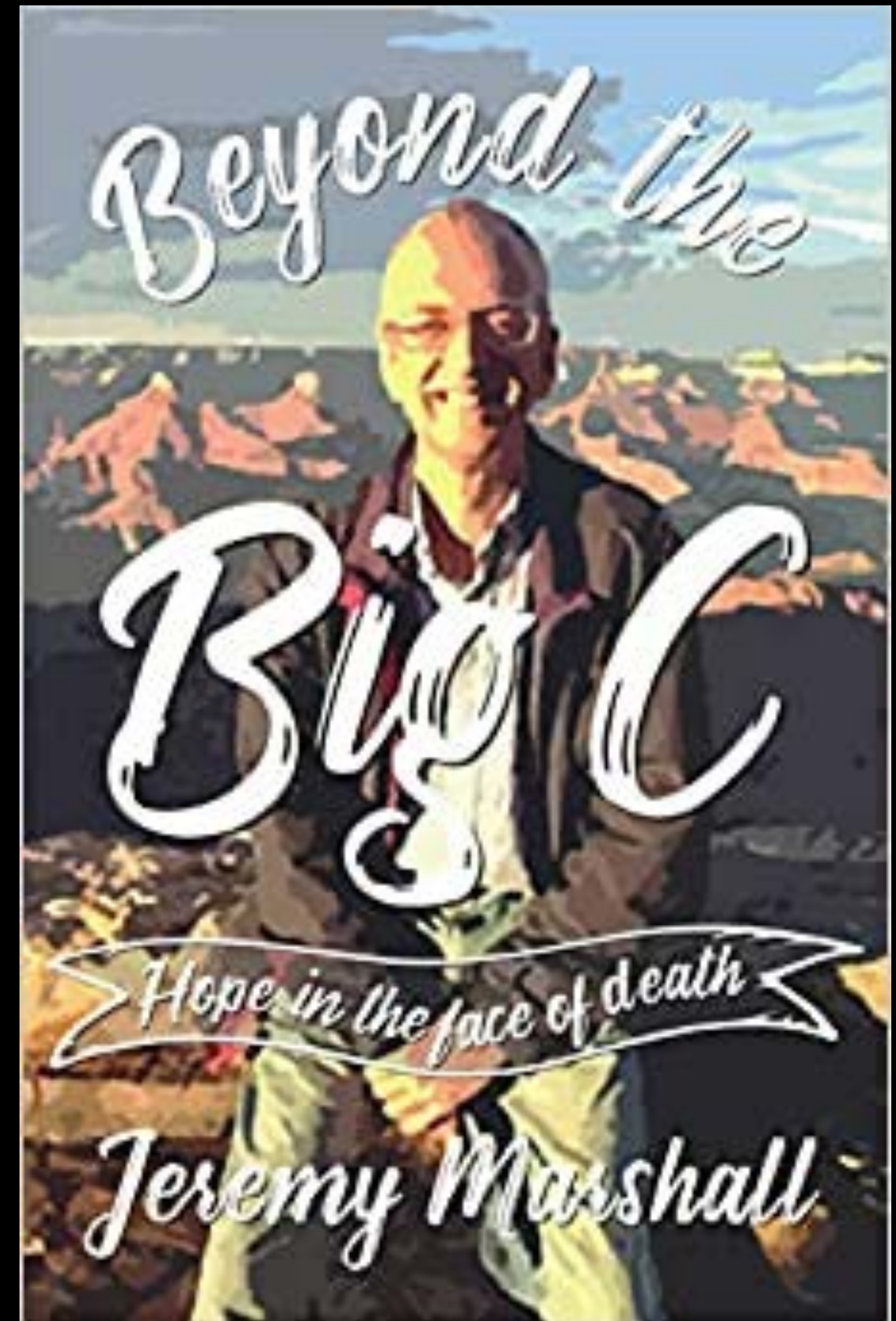
Why?

Looking at God, evil
and personal suffering

Where is God in all the Suffering?

AMY ORR-EWING

AMY ORR-EWING



Beyond the Big C



What about the violence in the Old Testament?

HARD QUESTION #2

What about all the violence in the Old Testament?

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“Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

Jonah 4:1-3



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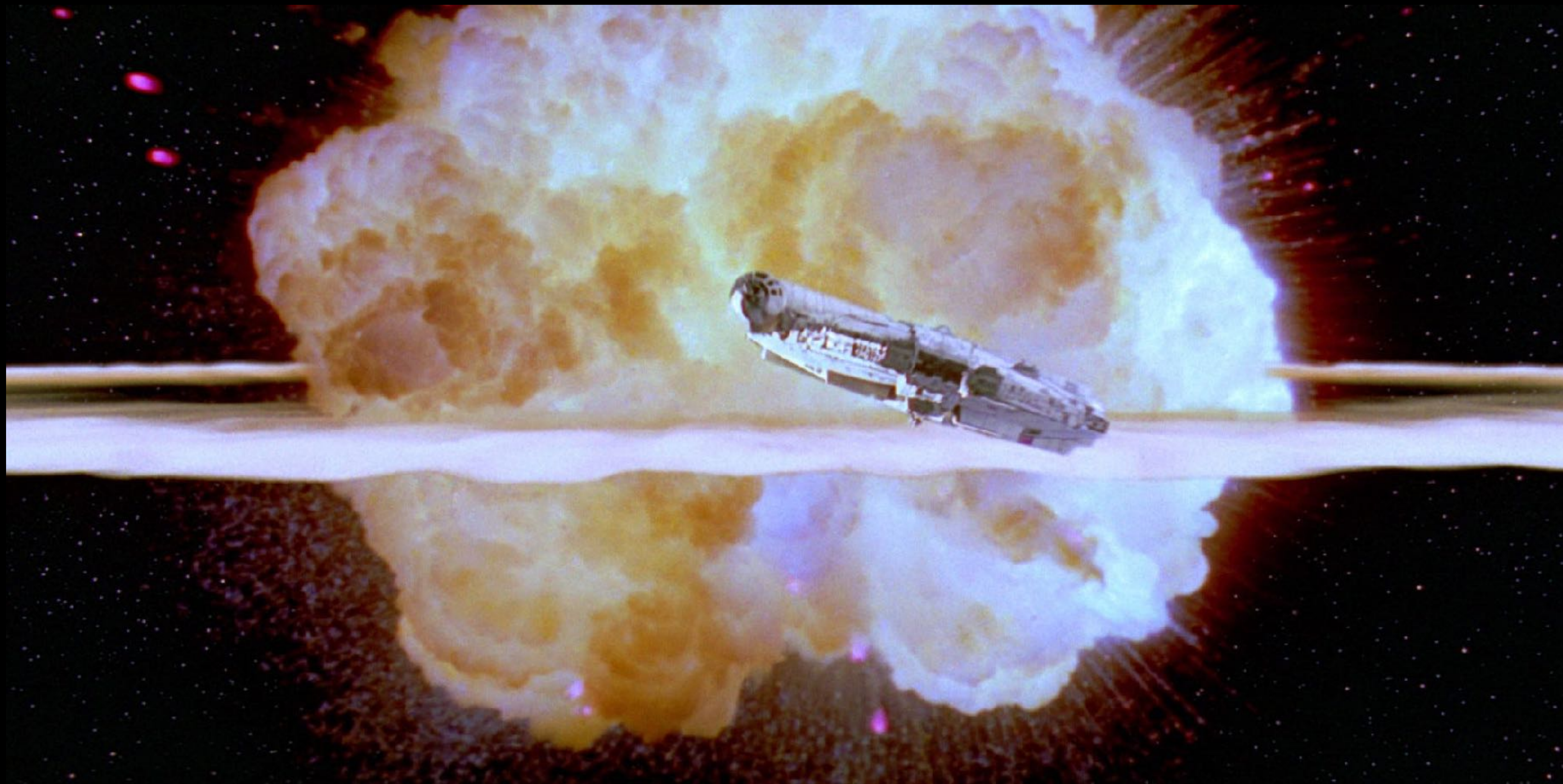
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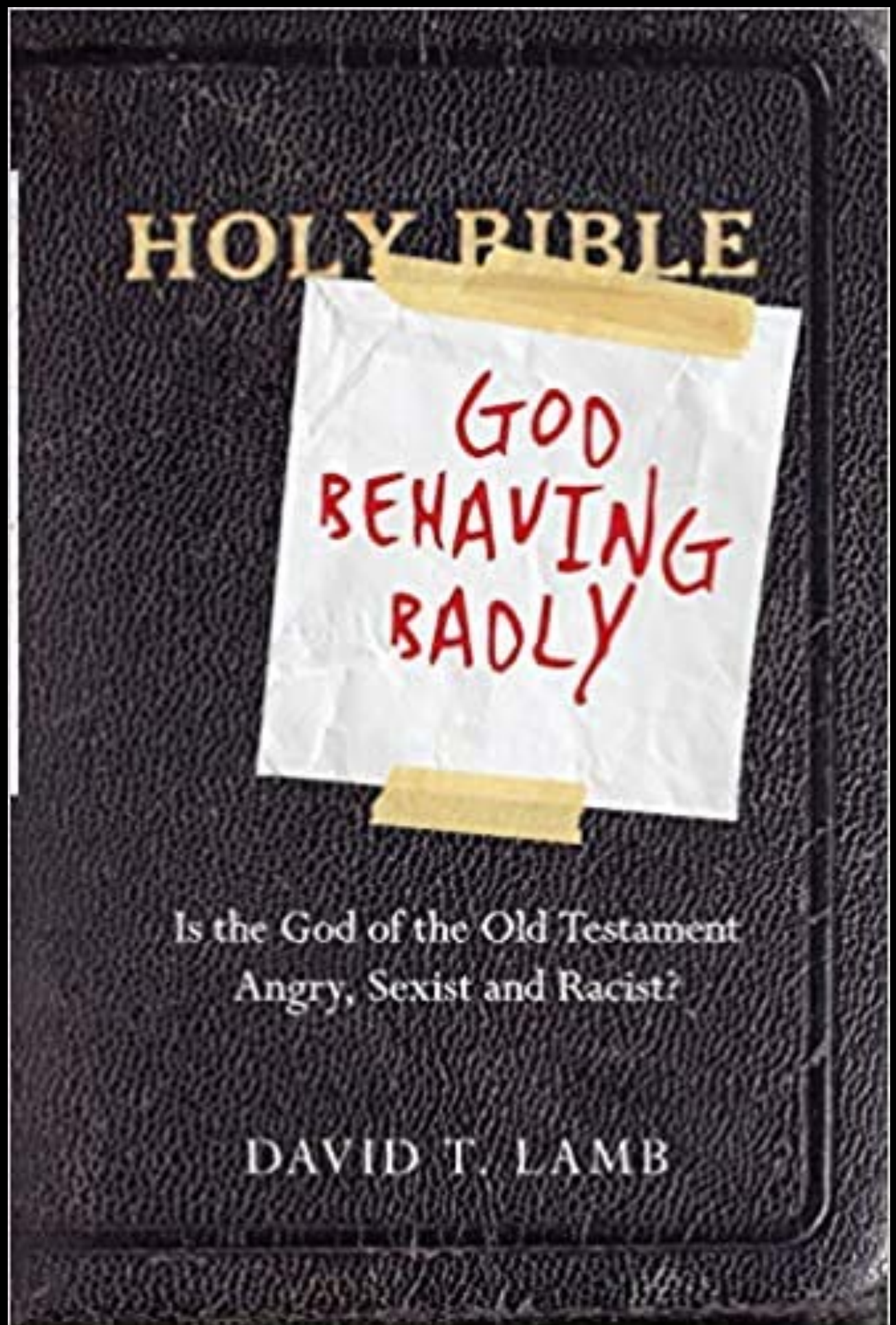
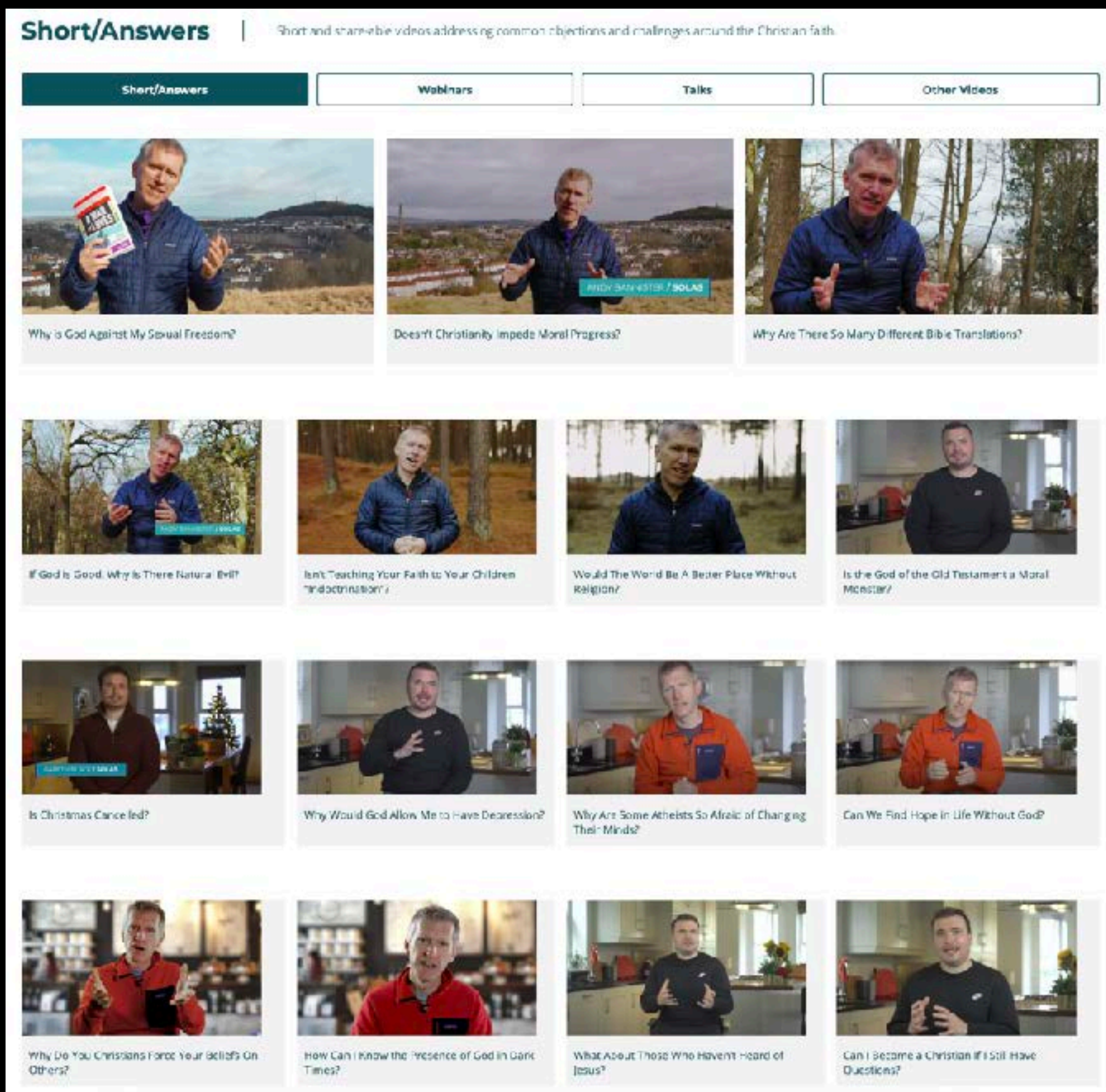
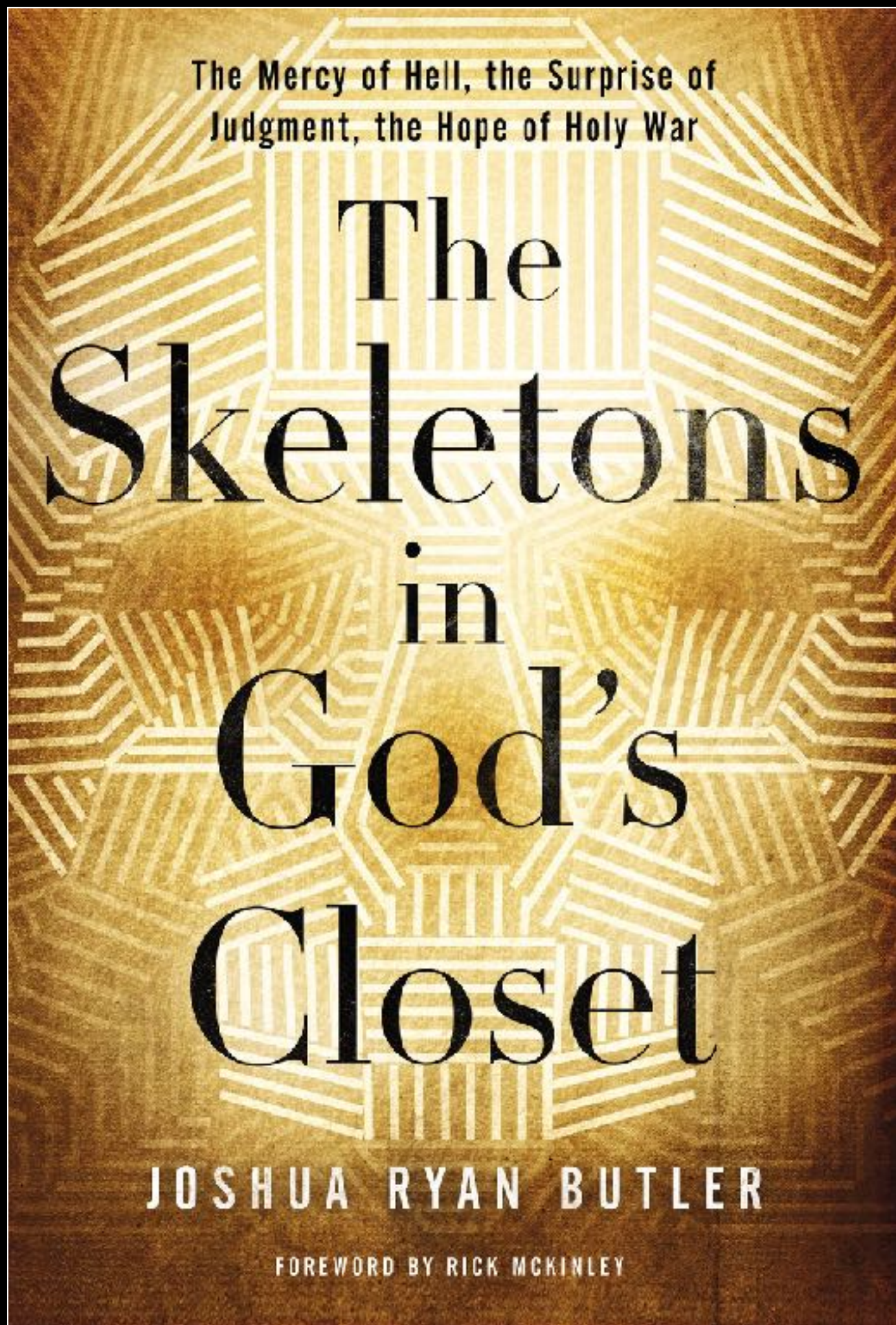
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Short Answers
www.solas-cpc.org/shortanswers

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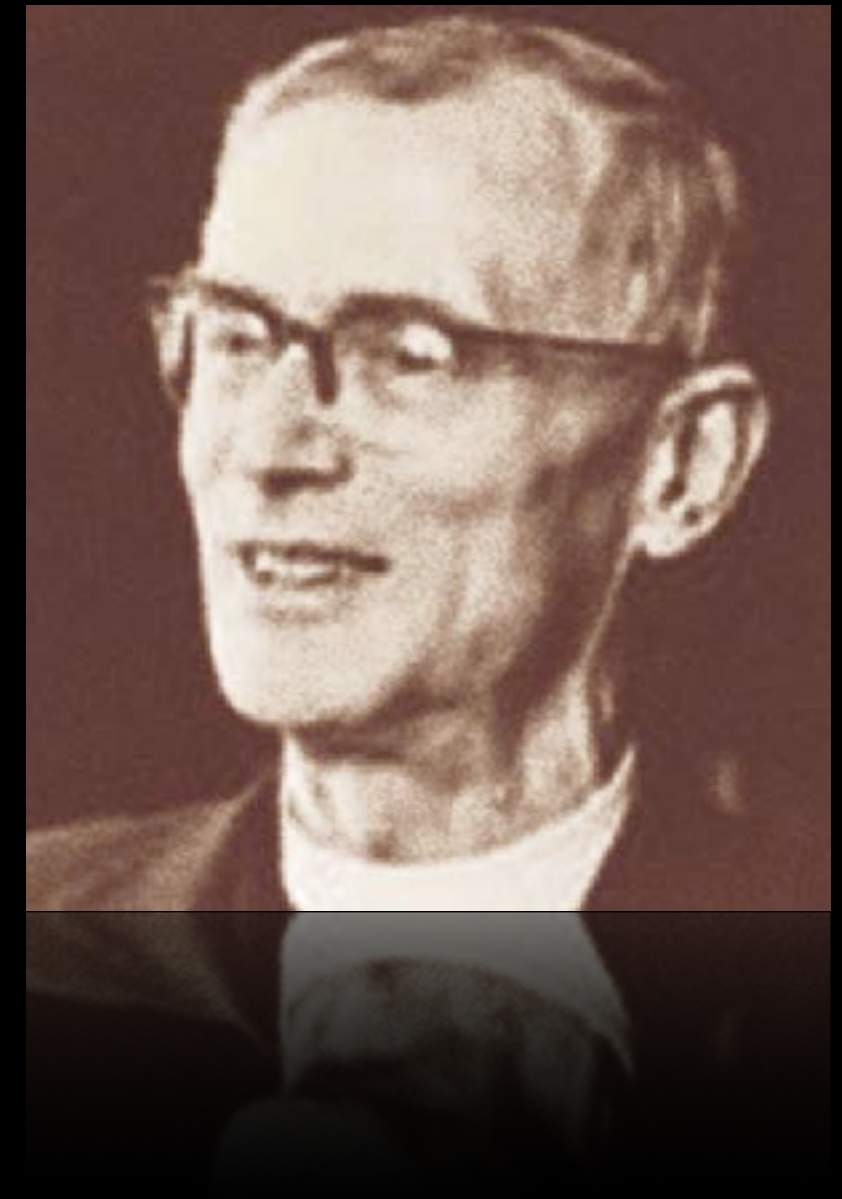
Apply the Bible

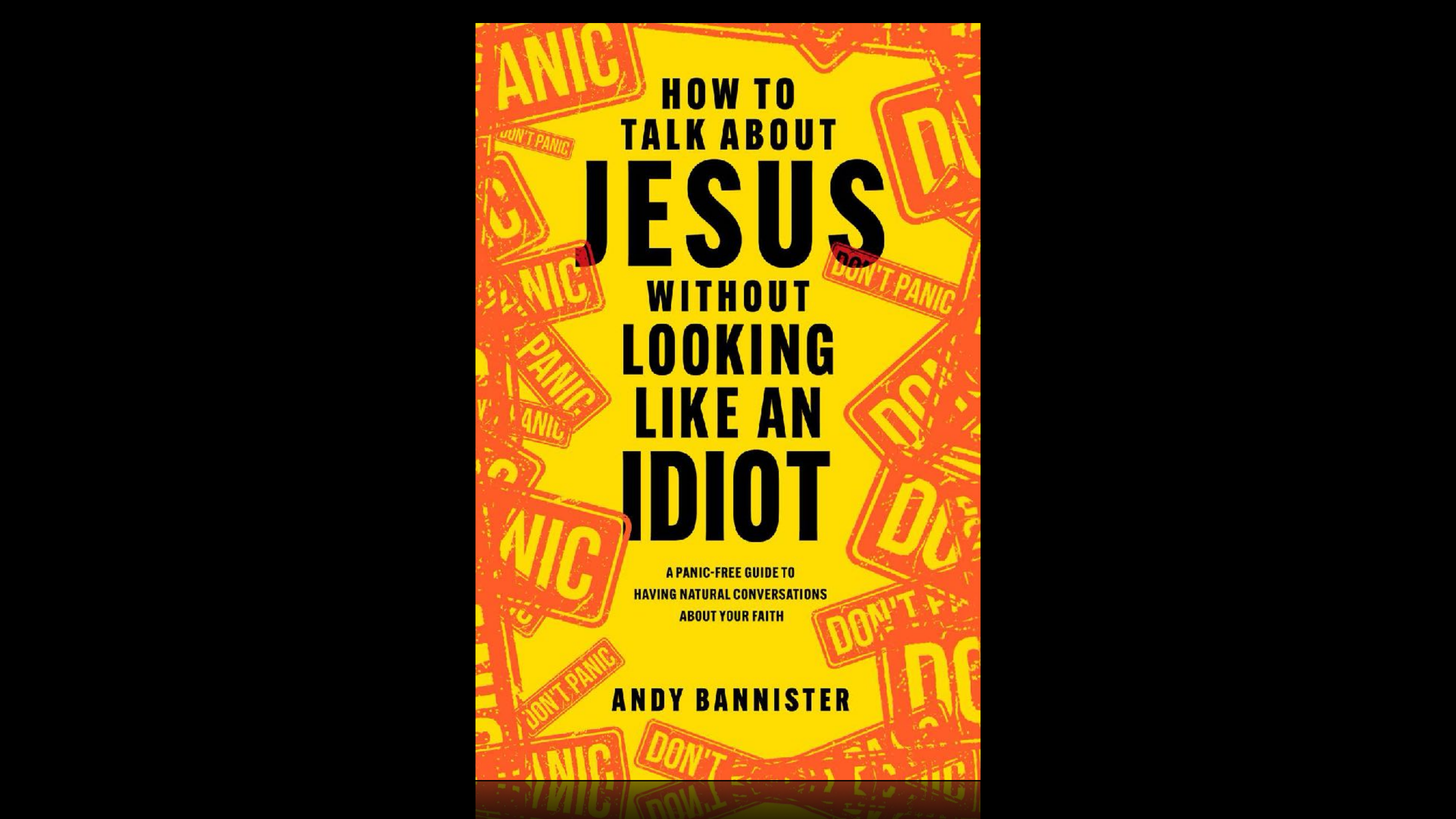
Retell the gospel story

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“Though argument does not create conviction, the lack of it destroys belief. What seems to be proved may not be embraced; but what no one shows the ability to defend is quickly abandoned. Rational argument does not create belief, but it maintains a climate in which belief may flourish.”

Austin Farrer





**HOW TO
TALK ABOUT
JESUS
WITHOUT
LOOKING
LIKE AN
IDIOT**

**A PANIC-FREE GUIDE TO
HAVING NATURAL CONVERSATIONS
ABOUT YOUR FAITH**

ANDY BANNISTER



www.solias-cpc.org



evangelism



The image is a collage of three photographs from church services. The top-left photo shows a woman at a podium with a sign that says 'Thy Will Be Done'. The top-right photo shows a man at a podium with a screen displaying 'Welcome to Dumfries Baptist Church'. The bottom photo shows a wide view of a church sanctuary with many people seated in pews. The word 'training' is overlaid in large, white, lowercase letters across the center of the collage.

training



News

Resources

Events

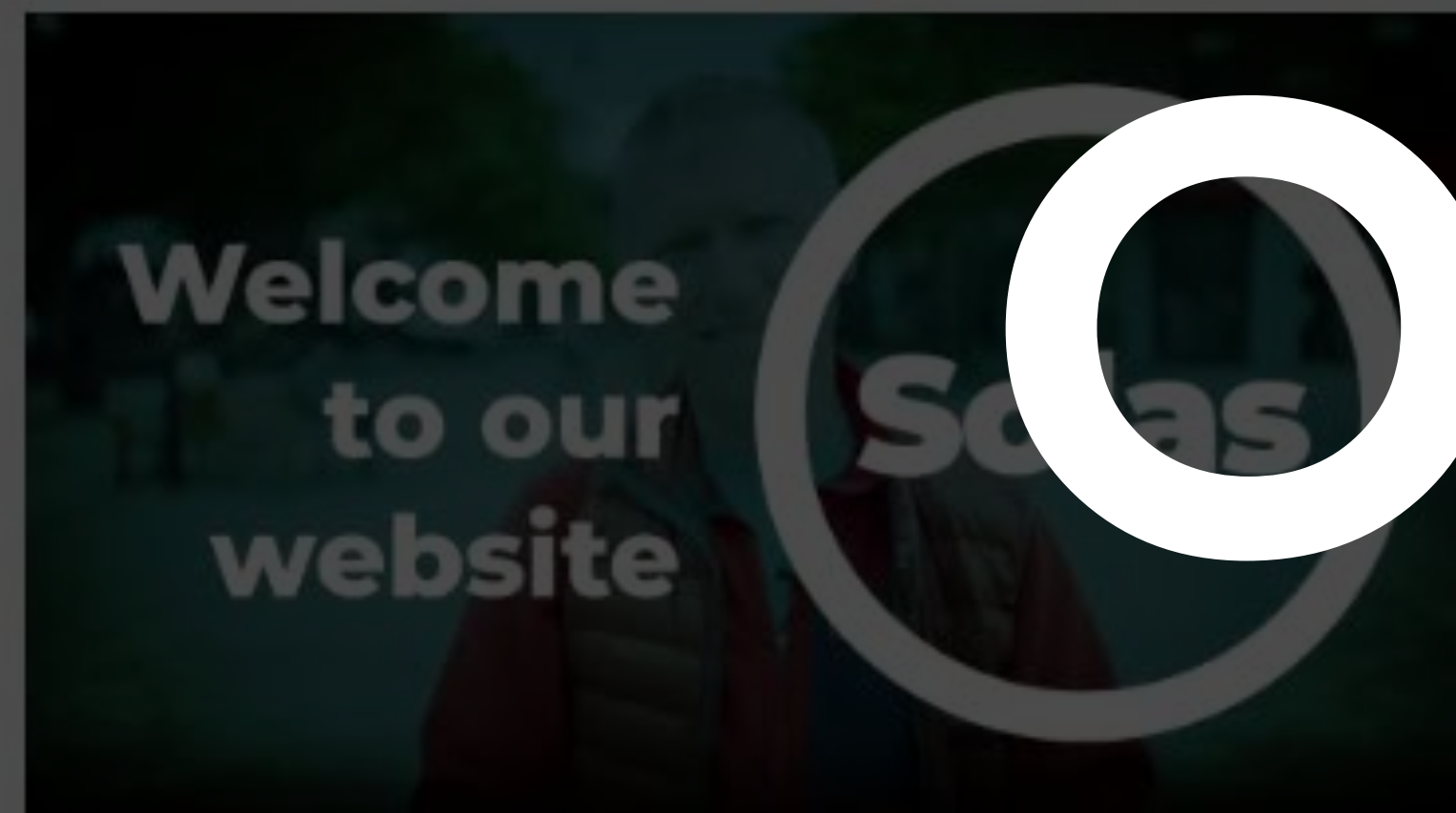
About

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Featured



First Time Here? Watch This



Have You Ever Wondered... Why Suffering and Evil Seem So Wrong?



Why Do Suffering and Evil Seem So Wrong?

online resources



EXPLORERS

SU Scotland

SESSION 1: WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?



Aim

To explain what 'the gospel' means and explore what its effect on our lives might be.



Starter

At the centre of what Christians believe is something called 'the gospel', which literally means 'good news'. When we hear news, we must evaluate it to decide if it is true. Can you guess which of the following is fake news?



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Short/Answers

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Talks

Other Videos



Why is God Against My Sexual Freedom?



Doesn't Christianity Impede Moral Progress?



Why Are There So Many Different Bible Translations?



If God is Good, Why is There Natural Evil?



Isn't Teaching Your Faith to Your Children 'indoctrination'?



Would The World Be a Better Place Without Religion?



Is the God of the Old Testament a Moral Monster?



Is Christmas Cancelled?



Why Would God Allow Me to Have Depression?



Why Are Some Atheists So Afraid of Changing Their Minds?



Can We Find Hope in Life Without God?



Why Do You Christians Force Your Beliefs On Others?



How Can I Know the Presence of God in Dark Times?



What About Those Who Haven't Heard of Jesus?



Can I Become a Christian if I Still Have Questions?

Short Answers

www.solas-cpc.org/shortanswers

Have You Ever Wondered?



What Is Love?



Have You Ever Wondered Why the Best Stories Are About Good and Evil?



Have You Ever Wondered Why We Long for Happiness?



Why Are Human Beings So Curious?



Did Jesus Actually Exist?



Have You Ever Wondered Why We Long For Justice?

Why Are Human Beings So Curious?

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Have You Ever Wondered Why We Long For Justice?

Edited by
ANDY BANNISTER
GAVIN MATTHEWS

HAVE
YOU EVER
WONDERED?

Finding the
Everyday Clues to
Meaning,
Purpose & Spirituality

The book cover features a large, stylized question mark in the center, constructed from various colored paper strips (blue, yellow, orange, red) that appear to be curled and layered. The background is a solid light blue. The title 'HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED?' is printed in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the question mark. Below the main title, the subtitle 'Finding the Everyday Clues to Meaning, Purpose & Spirituality' is written in a smaller, dark blue font, following the curve of the question mark's stem. At the top, the editors' names are listed in a small, dark blue font.

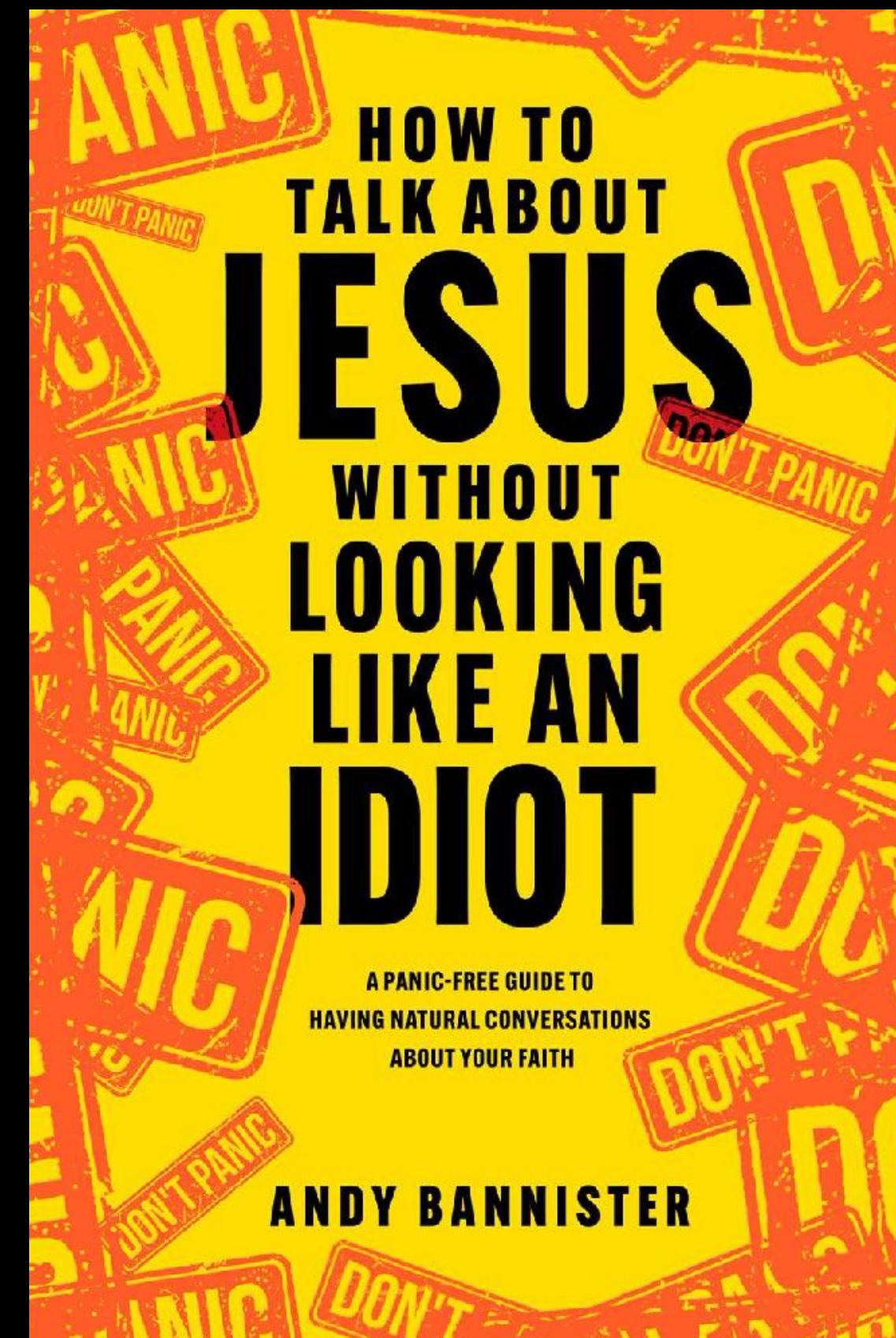
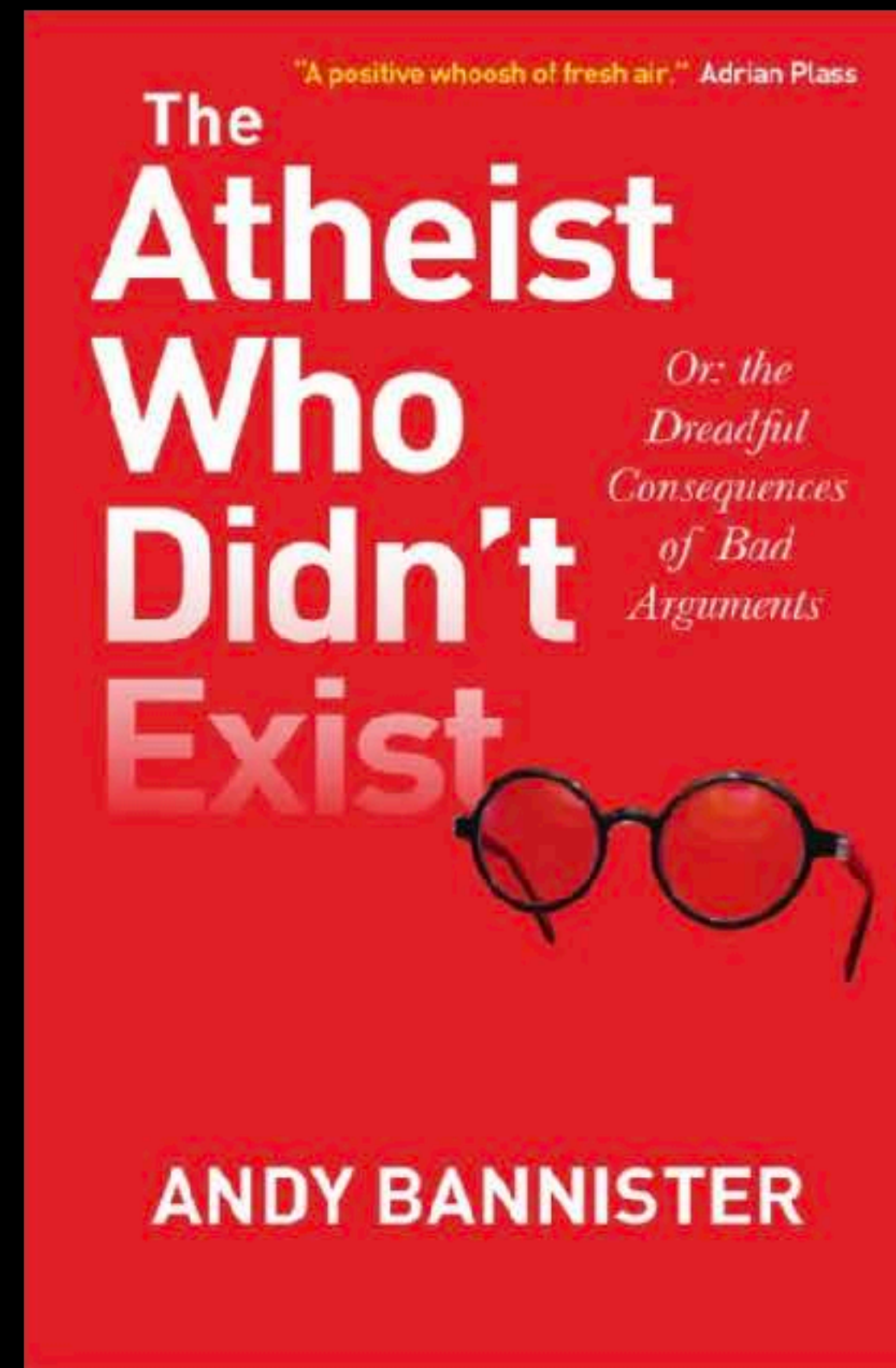
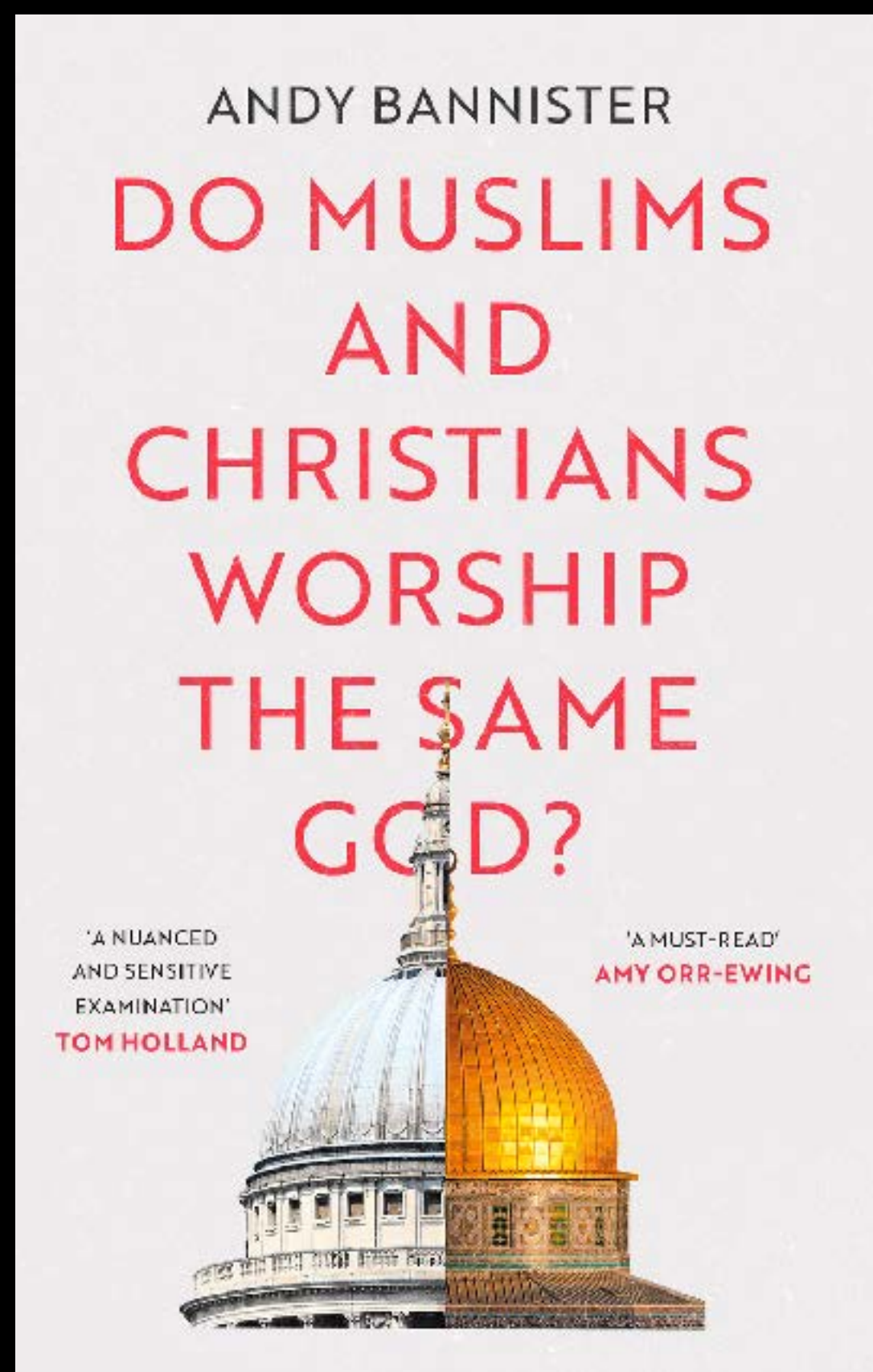
www.solas-cpc.org/hyew



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