



# Jesus and the Failures of the Church



Andy Bannister

Solas

[www.solas-cpc.org](http://www.solas-cpc.org)





Jerusalem  
15 July, 1099

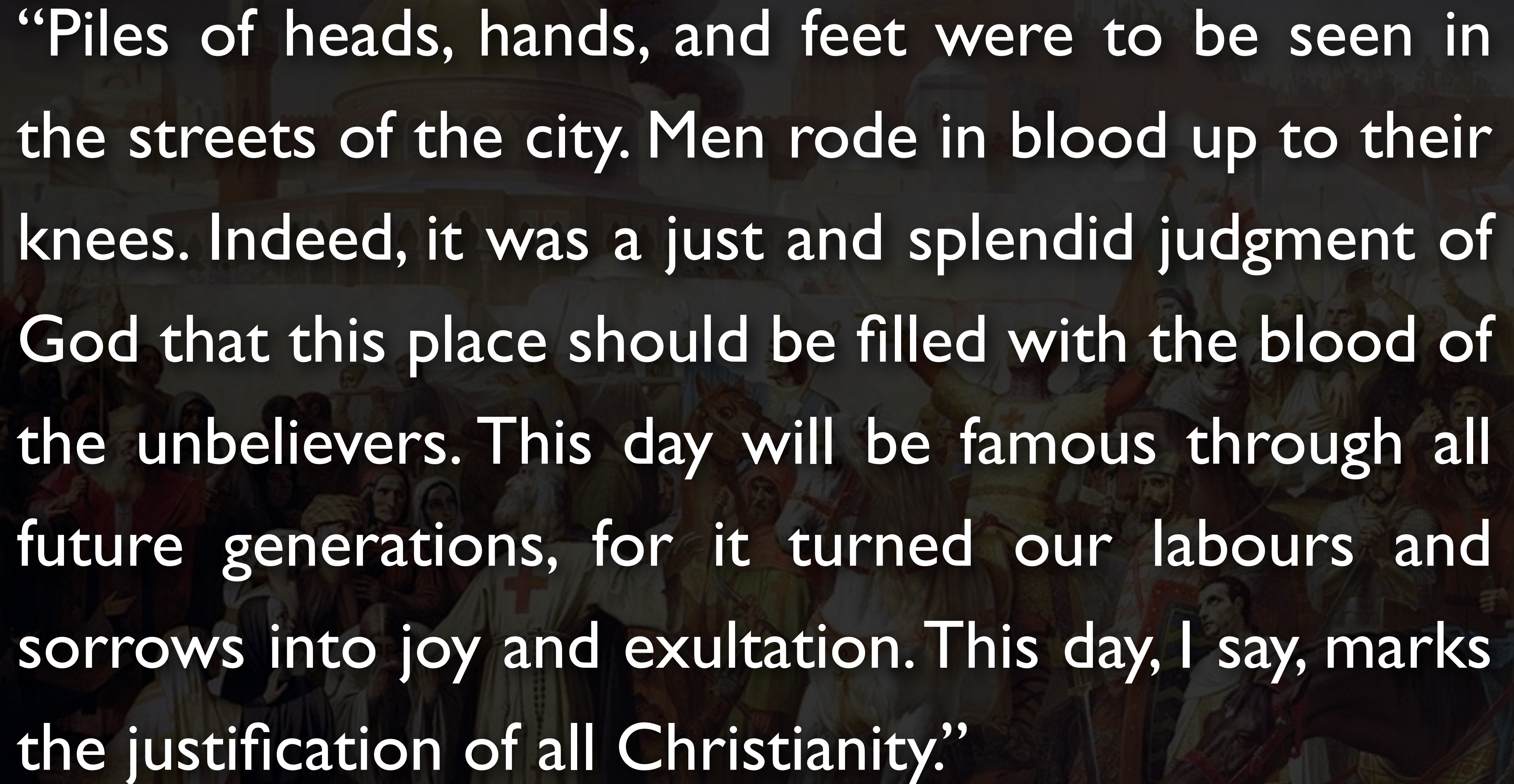










A dark, historical painting depicting a battle scene. In the background, a church with a prominent dome is visible. The foreground is filled with soldiers in various states of combat, some on horseback and some on foot, engaged in a fierce battle. The overall tone is somber and dramatic, with a focus on the chaos and violence of the scene.

“Piles of heads, hands, and feet were to be seen in the streets of the city. Men rode in blood up to their knees. Indeed, it was a just and splendid judgment of God that this place should be filled with the blood of the unbelievers. This day will be famous through all future generations, for it turned our labours and sorrows into joy and exultation. This day, I say, marks the justification of all Christianity.”

Raymond of Aguilers





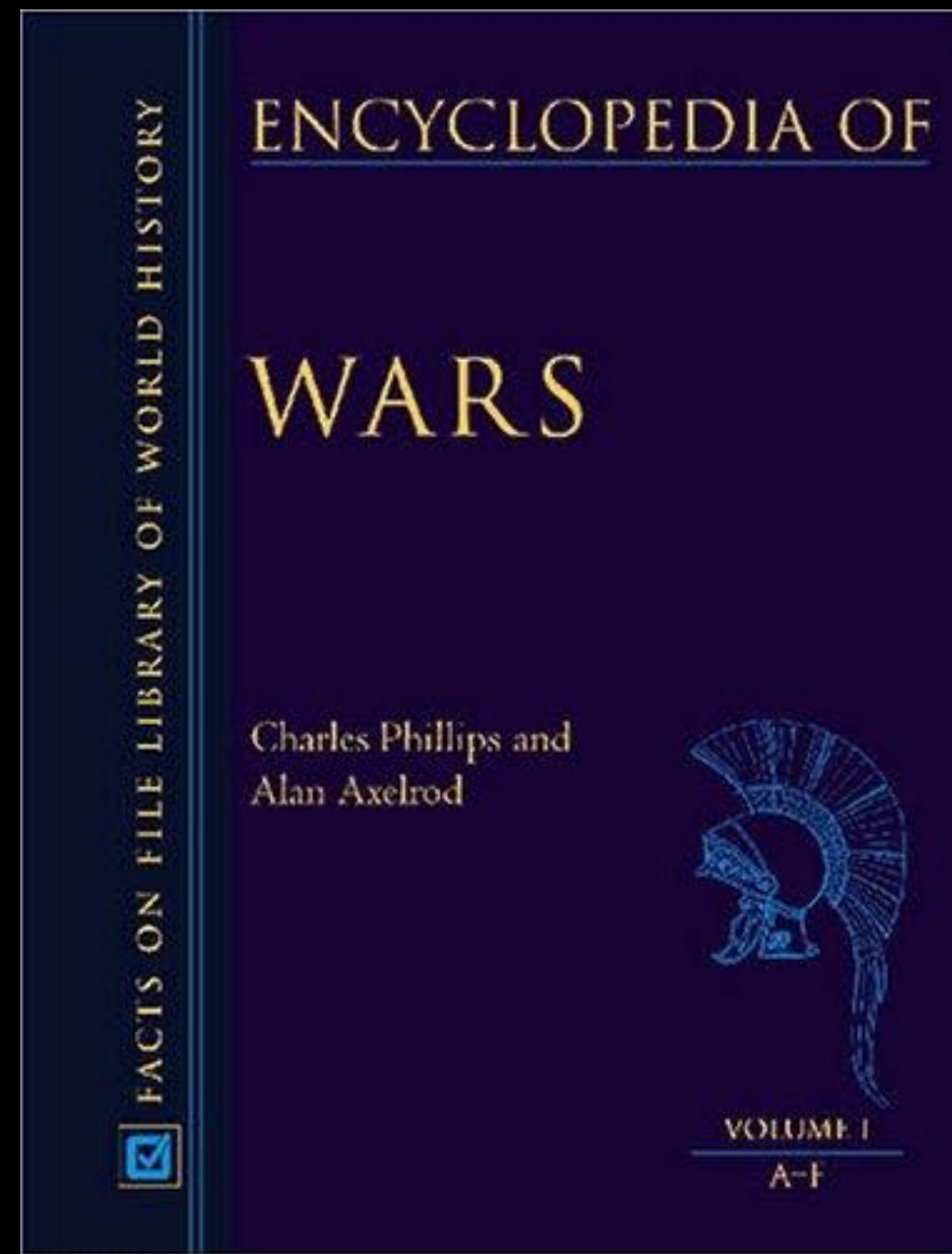


“Love your enemies  
and pray for those  
who persecute you.”

- Jesus of Nazareth







1,763 wars between 8000BC and 2003AD

Just 123 are “religious”





The Ongoing Problem of Religious Violence









**Northern Ireland: “The Troubles”**  
1968-1998



**YOU  
ARE NOW**    
**ENTERING**  
**LOYALIST SANDY ROW**  
**HEARTLAND OF SOUTH BELFAST**  
**ULSTER - FREEDOM FIGHTERS**  
 **QUIS-SEPARABIT.** 







Dedicated to Vols  
~ Bobby McCrudden,  
Mundo O'Rawe  
Pearse Jordan ~

In passing this mural, pause a little while,  
Pray for us and Erin Then Smile





**Enniskillen: Remembrance Day Bombing**  
8th November 1987





**Belfast, Northern Ireland**  
The "Peace Wall"



A dark, atmospheric photograph of a large crowd of people gathered in a field, with a central figure in a white robe standing with arms outstretched. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting dusk or dawn, with a hazy, mountainous background. The central figure is the focal point, standing with arms outstretched, possibly in a gesture of blessing or teaching. The crowd is dense and fills the foreground and middle ground, extending towards the background. The overall mood is solemn and significant.

“Love your enemies and pray for those  
who persecute you.”

“If anyone slaps you on the right cheek,  
turn to them the other cheek also.”

- Jesus of Nazareth





**Nero**  
AD37-68













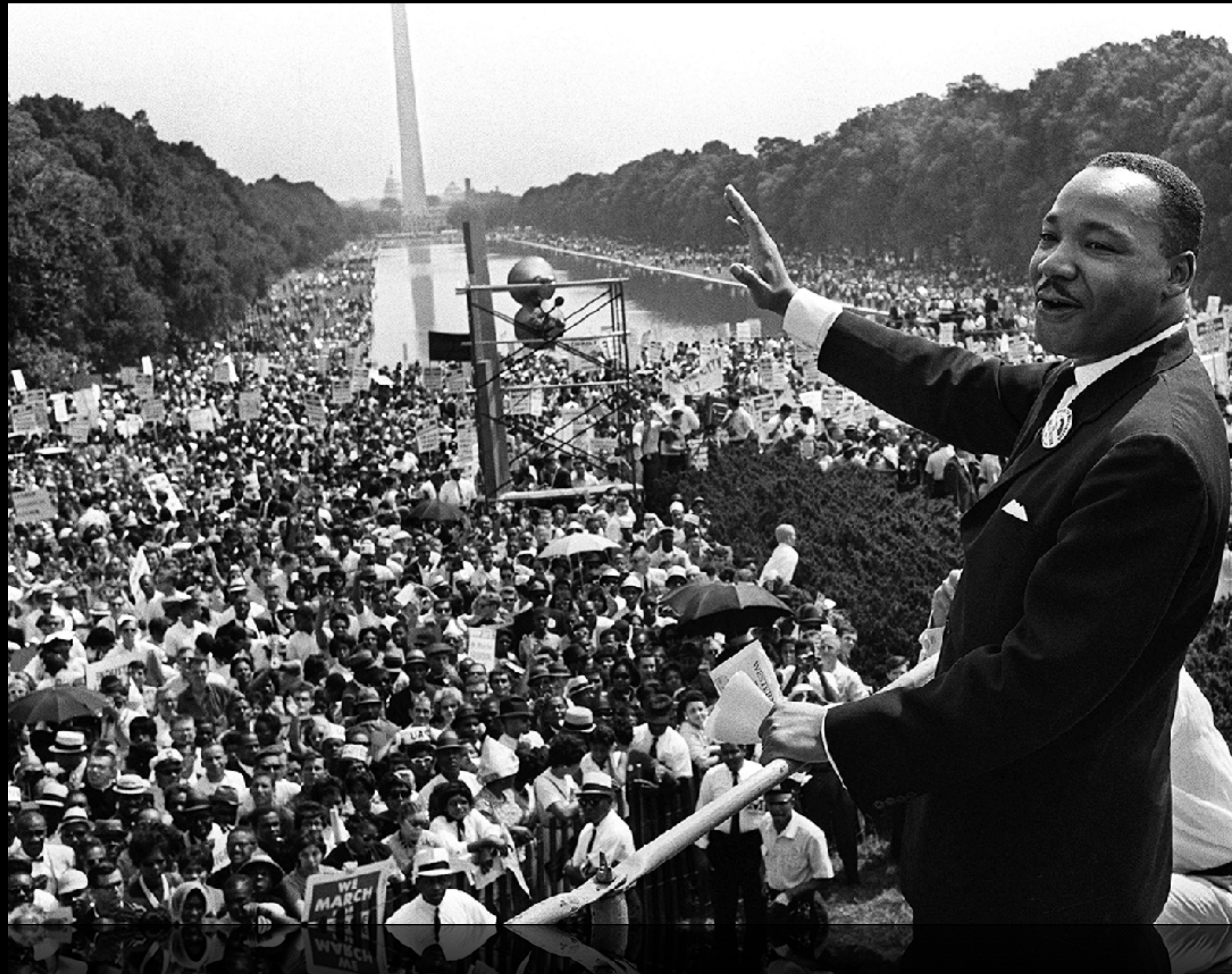
**Ignatius of Antioch**  
AD35-107



“In response to their anger, be gentle; in response to their boasts, be humble; and in response to their cruelty, be civilised. Do not be eager to imitate them. Let us show by our gracious forbearance that we are their brothers and sisters. Let us be eager to be imitators of the Lord.”

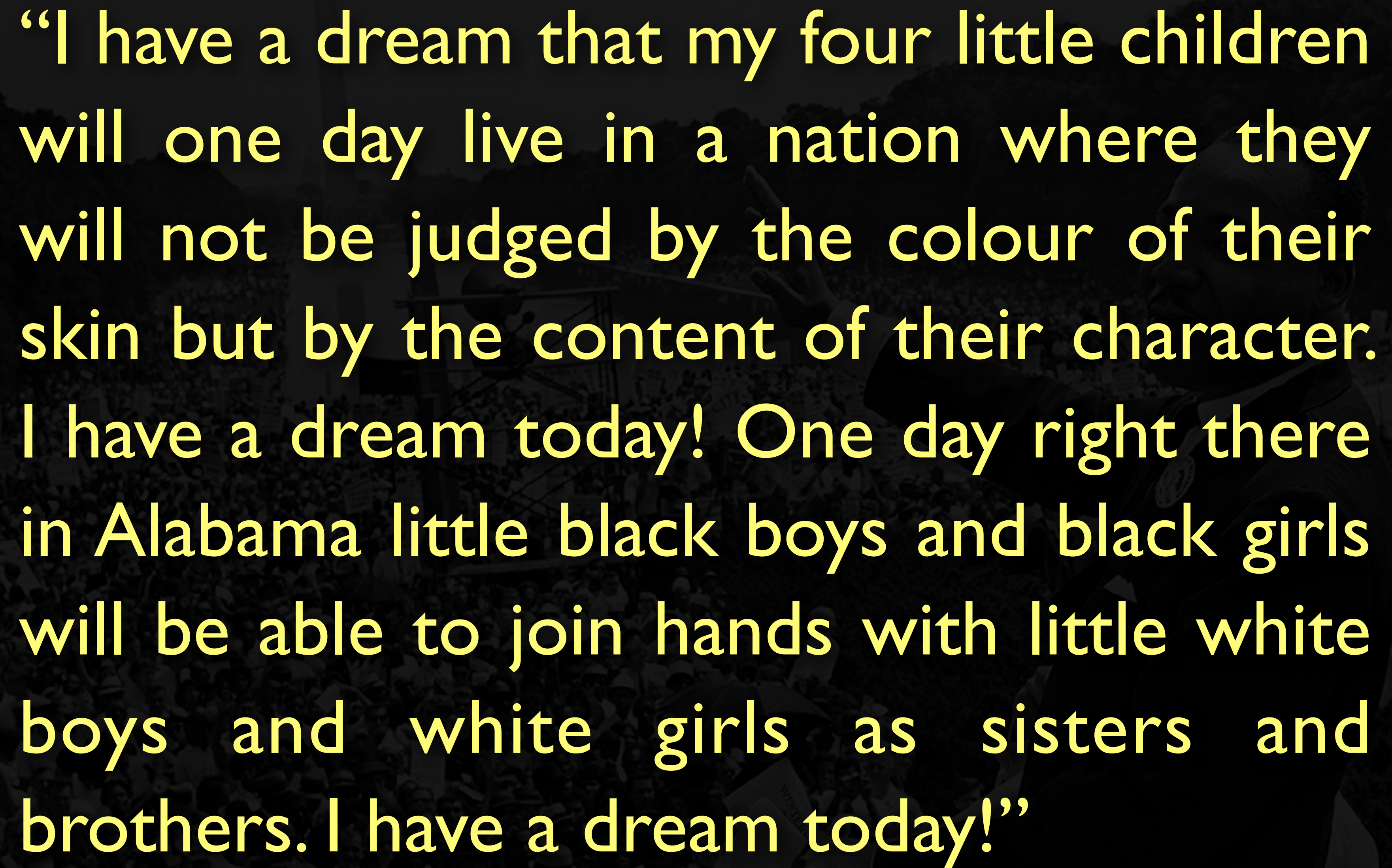
Ignatius, *Letter to the Ephesians*





Martin Luther King Jr.  
1929-1968





“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today! One day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today!”

Martin Luther King Jr.

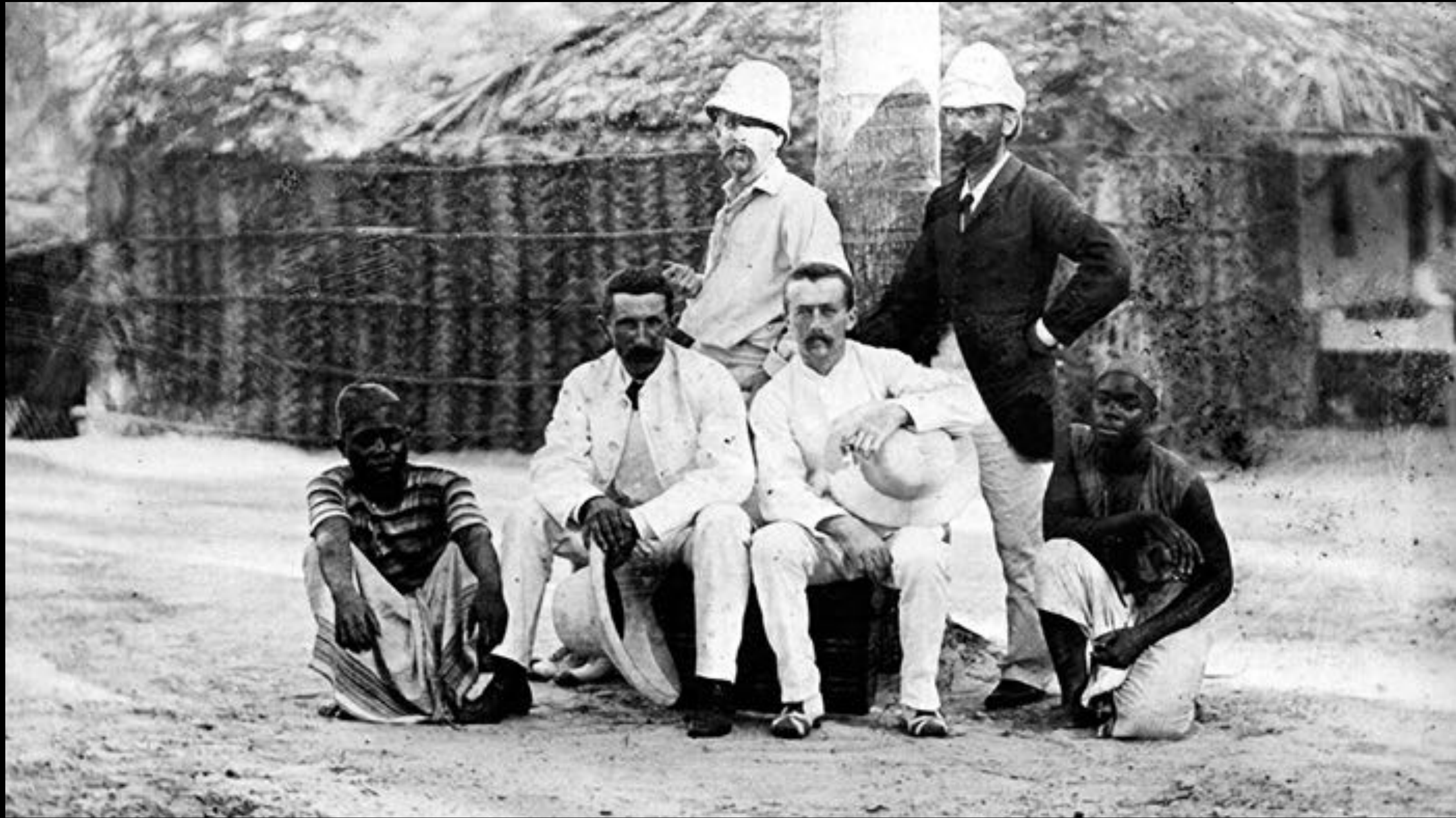




**Martin Luther King's house firebombed**

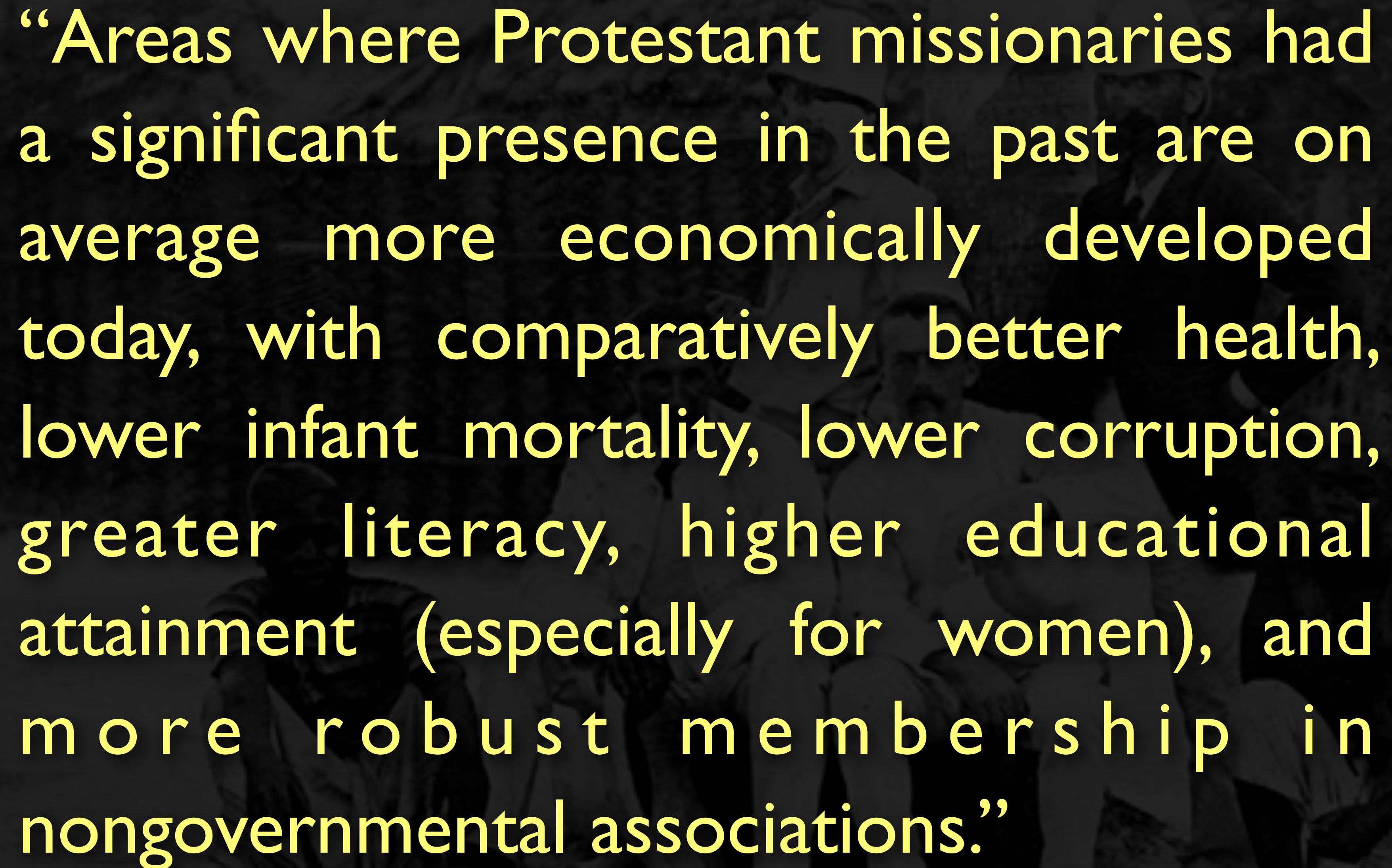
30th January 1956





## The Impact of Missionaries



A group of people, including men and women, are sitting on the ground in a circle. They appear to be in a community meeting or church service. The background is dark and slightly blurred, focusing attention on the text.

“Areas where Protestant missionaries had a significant presence in the past are on average more economically developed today, with comparatively better health, lower infant mortality, lower corruption, greater literacy, higher educational attainment (especially for women), and more robust membership in nongovernmental associations.”

Robert Woodberry





**Eliza Jane Gillett Bridgman**

1805-1871







“ A BREATHTAKING JOURNEY ”

Tim Costello AO

# FOR THE LOVE OF GOD +-

How the church is **BETTER + WORSE**  
than you ever imagined



“ REFRESHING AND EYE-OPENING ”

CJ Johnson, ABC Radio



SIMON SMART

JUSTINE TOH

JOHN DICKSON

CINEMA VERSION



Johann Sebastian Bach  
Suite No. 1 in G Major  
BWV 1007

**Prélude**

(Allegro)

*mf*

*trill.*

*f*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*ritard.*

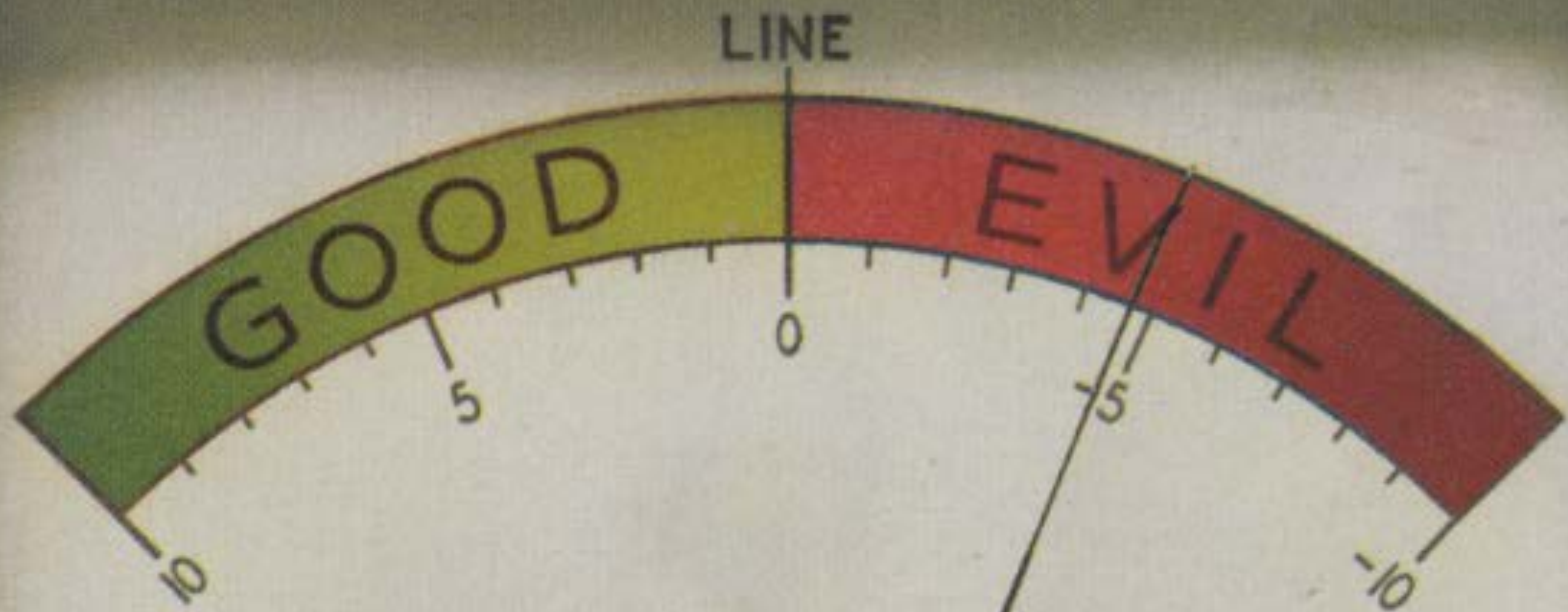




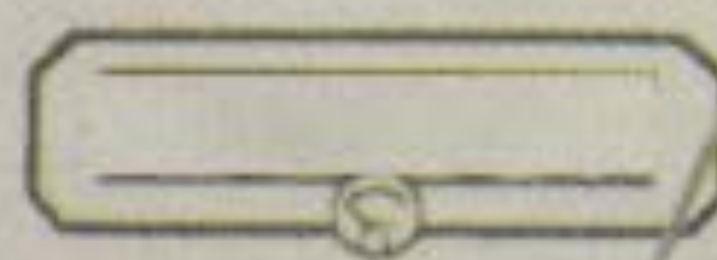








EVIL METER



MODEL NO. 648

ELECTRICAL INSTRUMENT COMPANY,  
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA U.S.A.

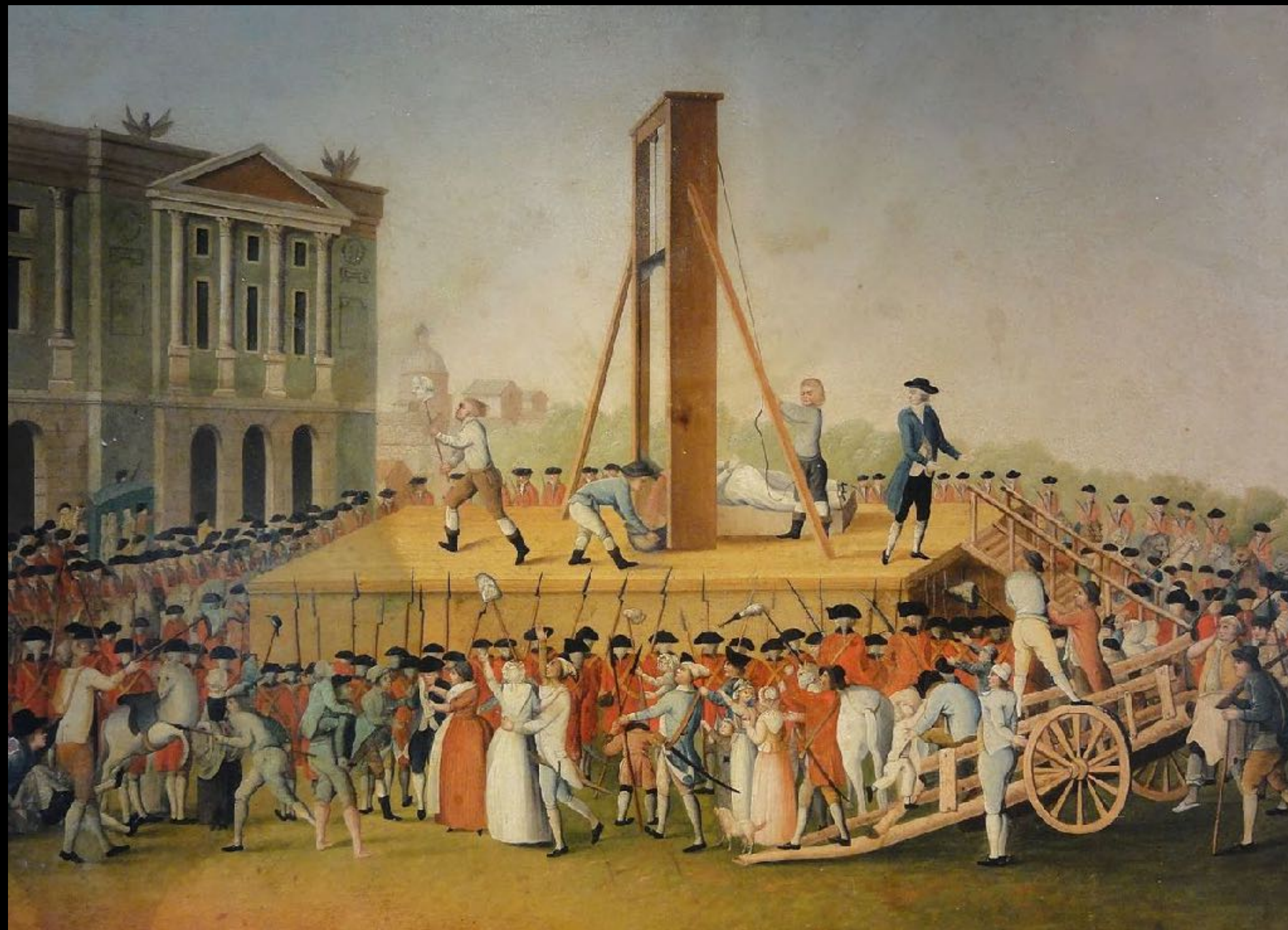




# Spanish Inquisition

6,000 killed in 300 years





# French Revolution

18,000 killed in six months





## Stalin's Russia

20,000,000 killed in 30 years



Humility



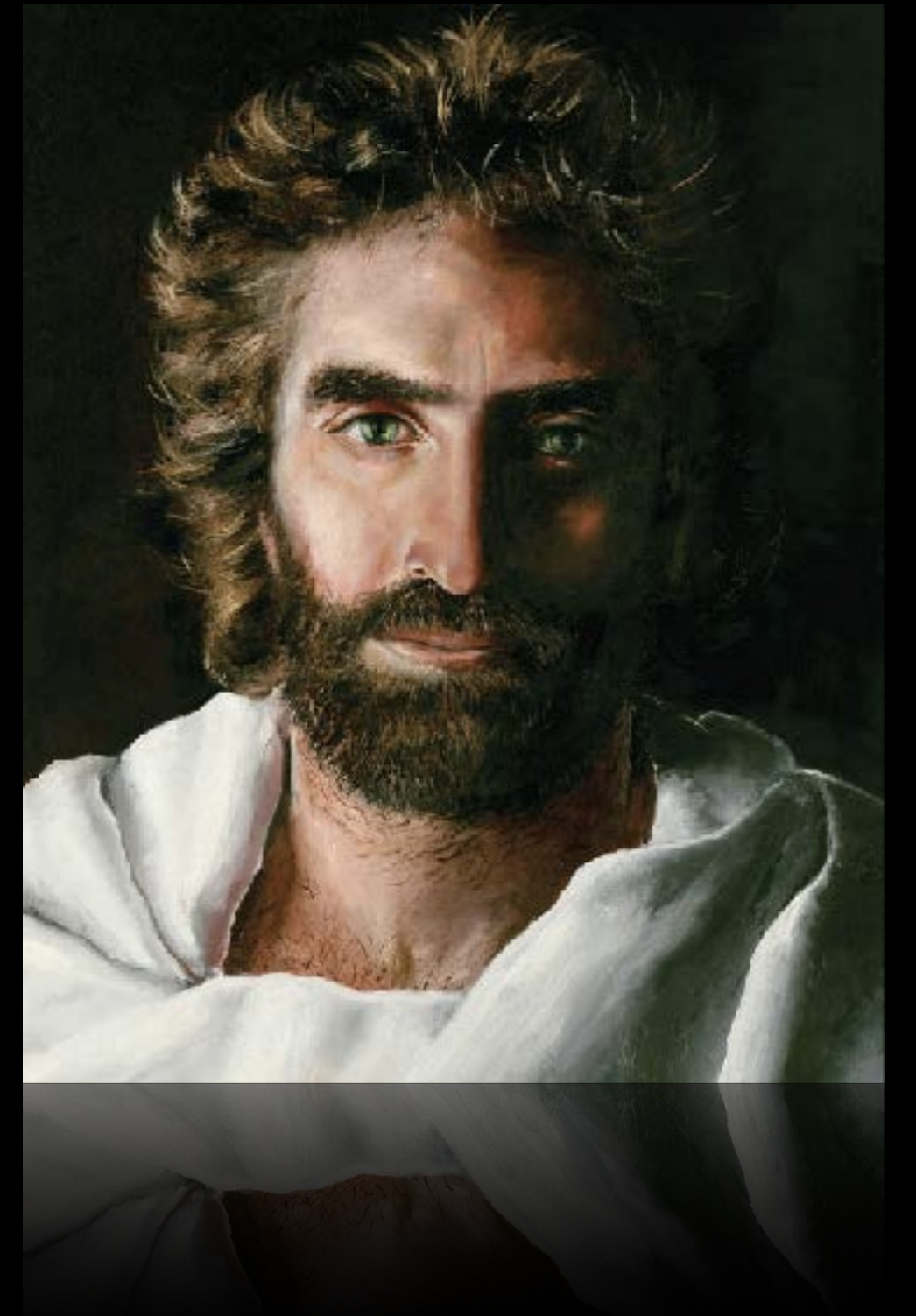
# Religion (and Atheism) Can Lead to a Sense of Superiority





Jesus said to his disciples: “Whoever wants to become great among you must be a servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man [Jesus’s title for himself] did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

The Bible: Gospel of Mark 10:43-45











Corrie ten Boom

1892 - 1983







“It was at a church service in Munich that I saw him, the former SS man who had stood guard at the shower room door in the processing centre at Ravensbruck. He was the first of our actual jailers that I had seen since that time. And suddenly it was all there—the roomful of mocking men, the heaps of clothing, Betsie’s pain-blانched face.

He came up to me as the church was emptying, beaming and bowing. “How grateful I am for your message, Fräulein”, he said. “To think that, as you say, He has washed my sins away!”

His hand was thrust out to shake mine. I tried to smile, I



struggled to raise my hand. I could not. I felt nothing, not the slightest spark of warmth or charity. And so again I breathed a silent prayer. Jesus, I cannot forgive him. Give me Your Forgiveness.

As I took his hand the most incredible thing happened. From my shoulder along my arm and through my hand a current seemed to pass from me to him, while into my heart sprang a love for this stranger that almost overwhelmed me.

And so I discovered that it is not on our forgiveness any more than on our goodness that the world's healing hinges,



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Corrie ten Boom



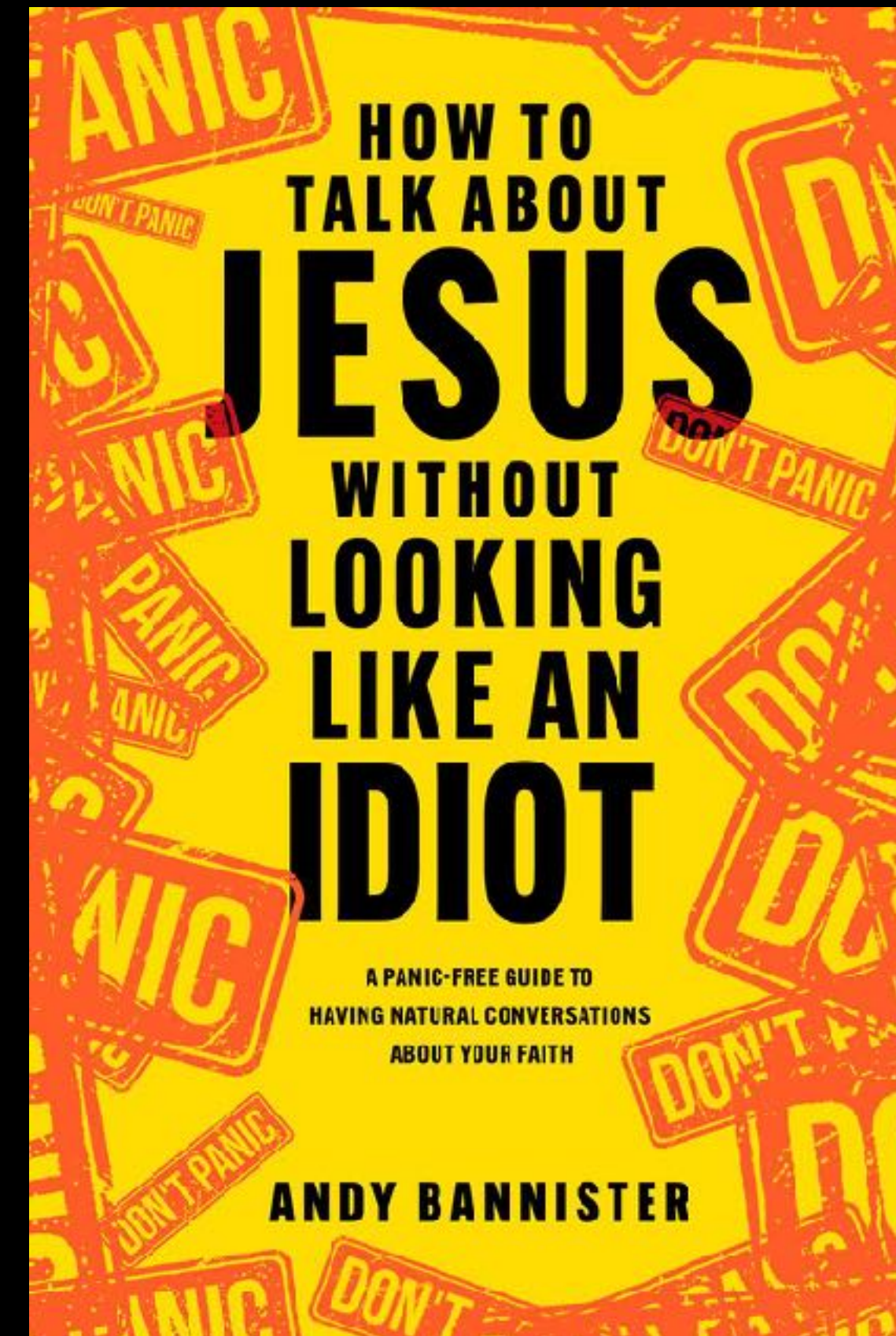
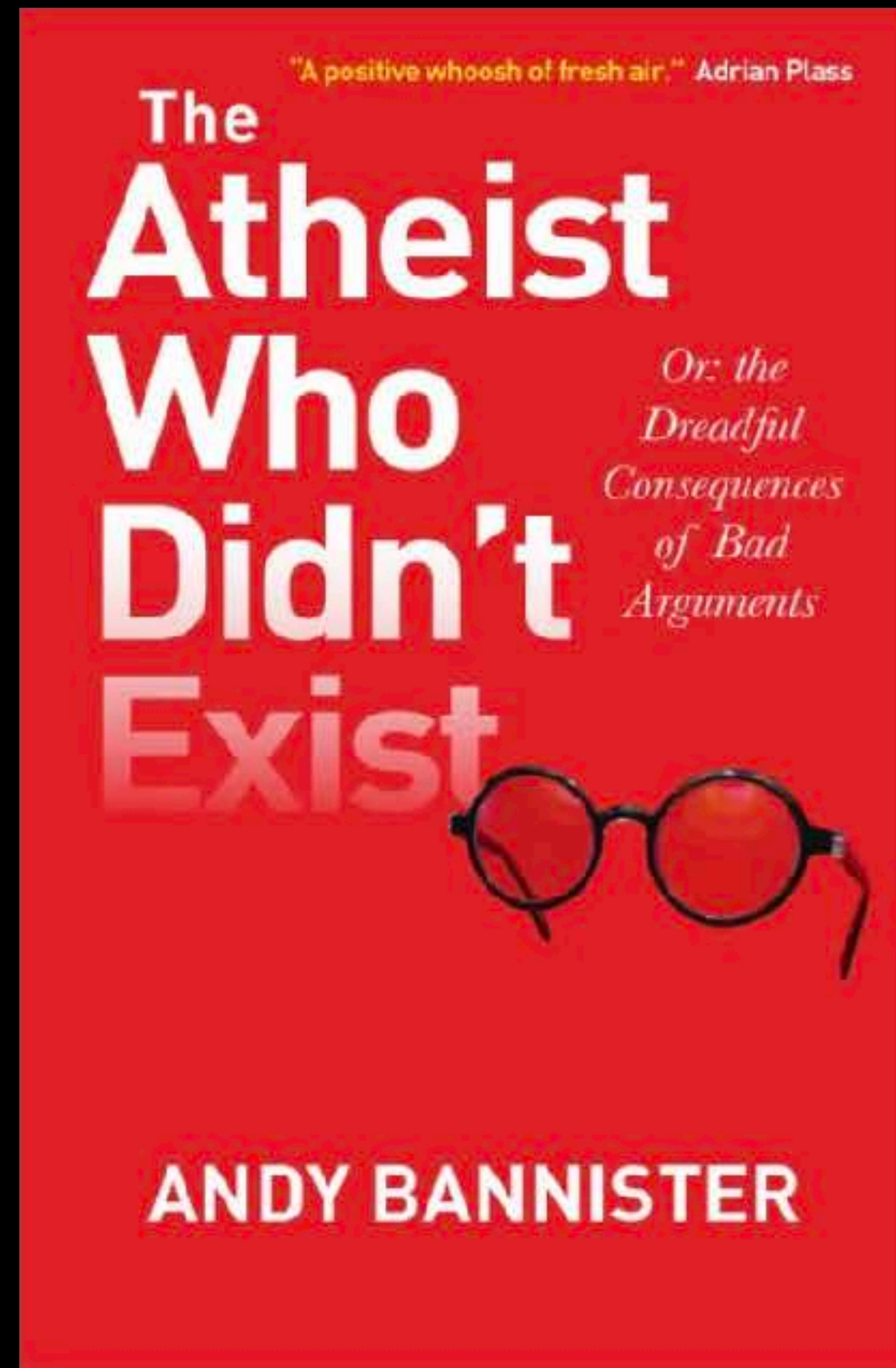
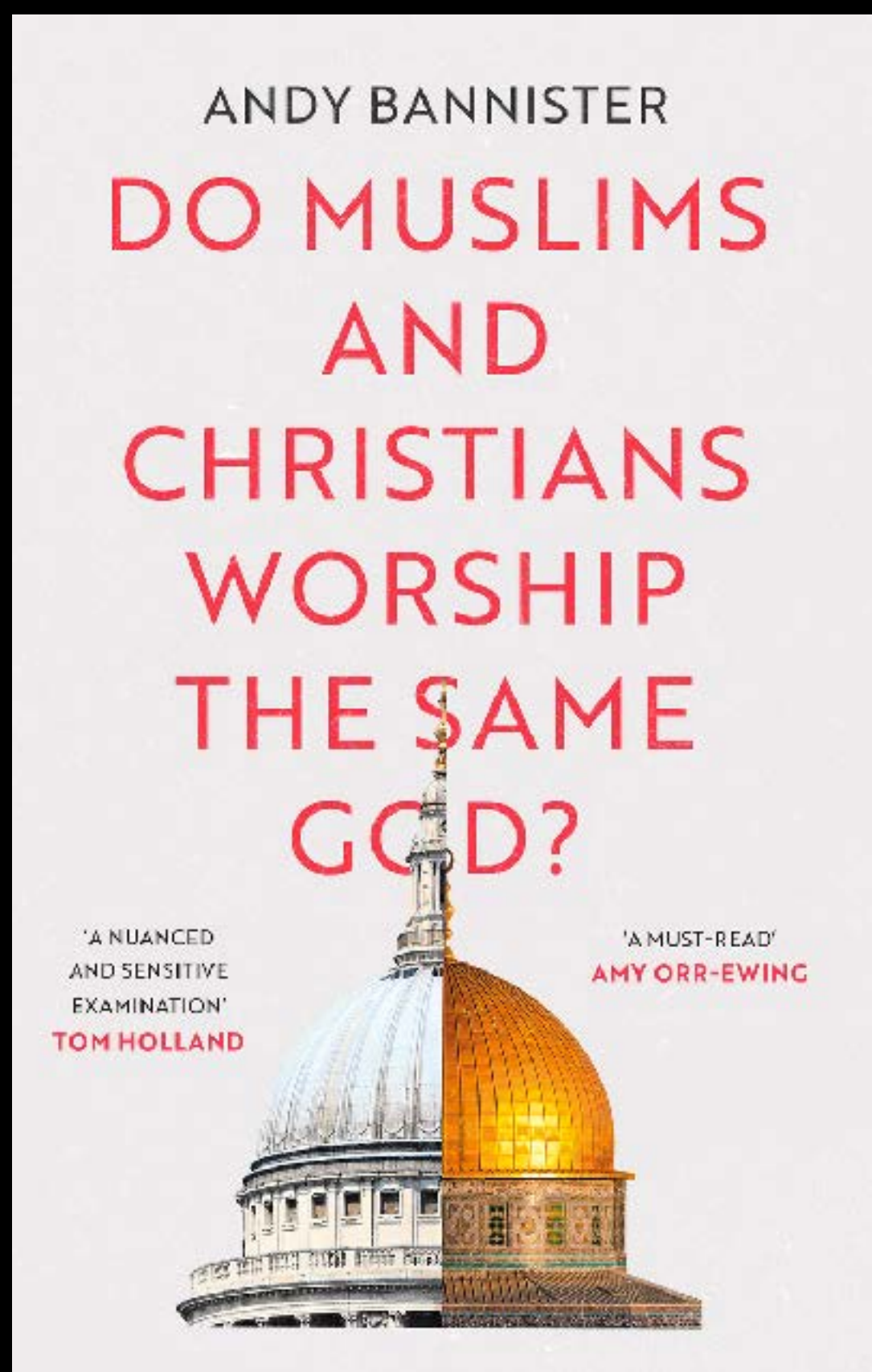
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Corrie ten Boom





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