



Where is God in My Suffering?

Andy Bannister

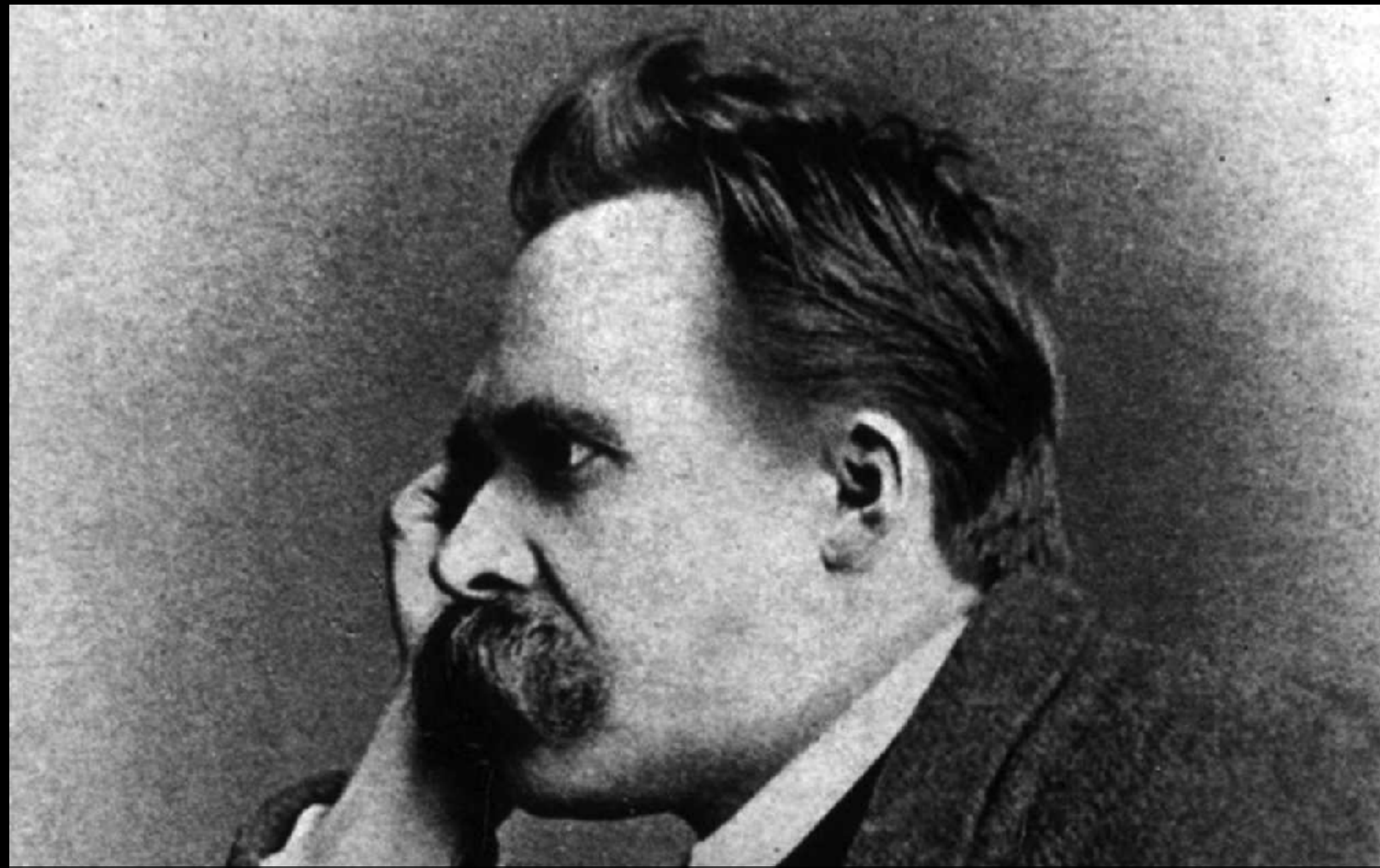


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Why?



“He who has a **why** to live for
can bear almost any how.”

Friedrich Nietzsche



David Foster Wallace

1962 - 2008

In the day-to-day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. And an outstanding reason for choosing some sort of God or spiritual-type thing to worship ... is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive. If you worship money and things — if they are where you tap real meaning in life — then you will never have enough. Never feel you have enough. It's

the truth. Worship your own body and beauty and sexual allure and you will always feel ugly, and when time and age start showing, you will die a million deaths before they finally plant you ... Worship power — you will feel weak and afraid, and you will need ever more power over others to keep the fear at bay. Worship your intellect, being seen as smart — you will end up feeling stupid, a fraud, always on the verge of being found out. And so on.

David Foster Wallace

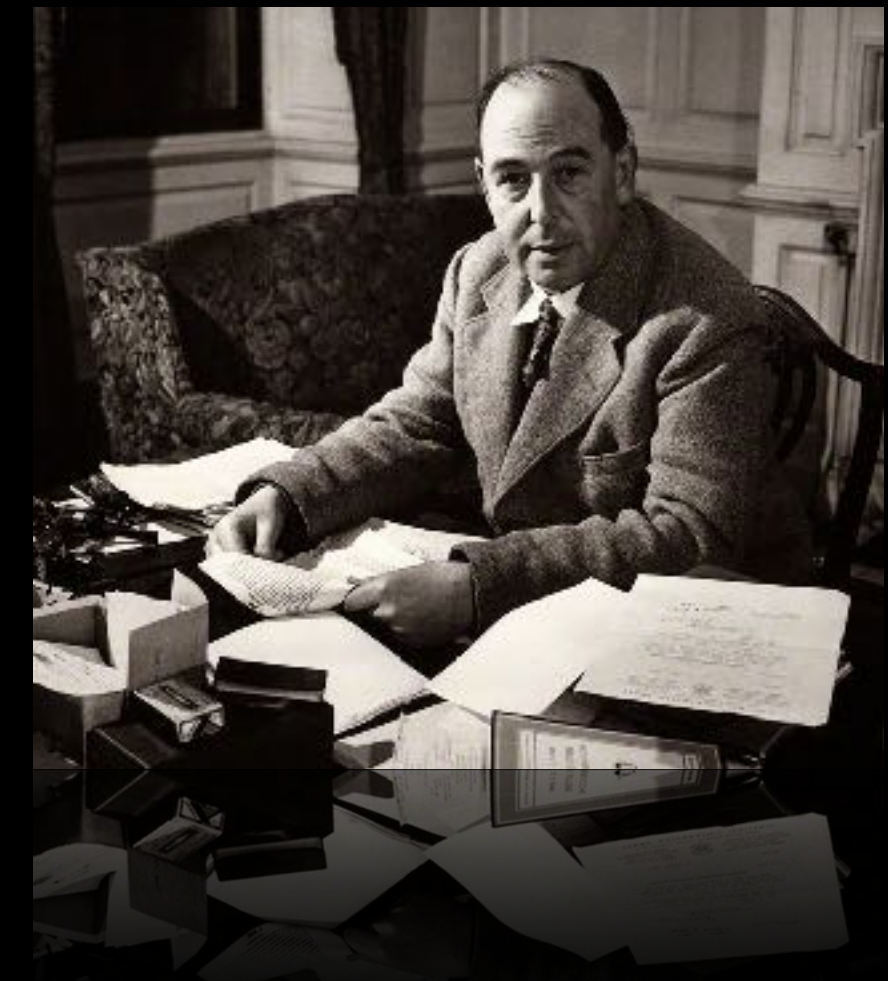


Does Suffering Disprove God?

“If the universe is so bad, or even half so bad [as the pessimists claim], how on earth did human beings ever come to attribute it to the activity of a wise and good Creator? Humans are fools, perhaps; but hardly so foolish as that. The direct inference from black to white, from evil flower to virtuous root, from senseless work to a workman infinitely wise, staggers belief.”

C. S. Lewis

The Problem of Pain



God and Suffering

Four Key Ideas

- It matters *which* god we are talking about

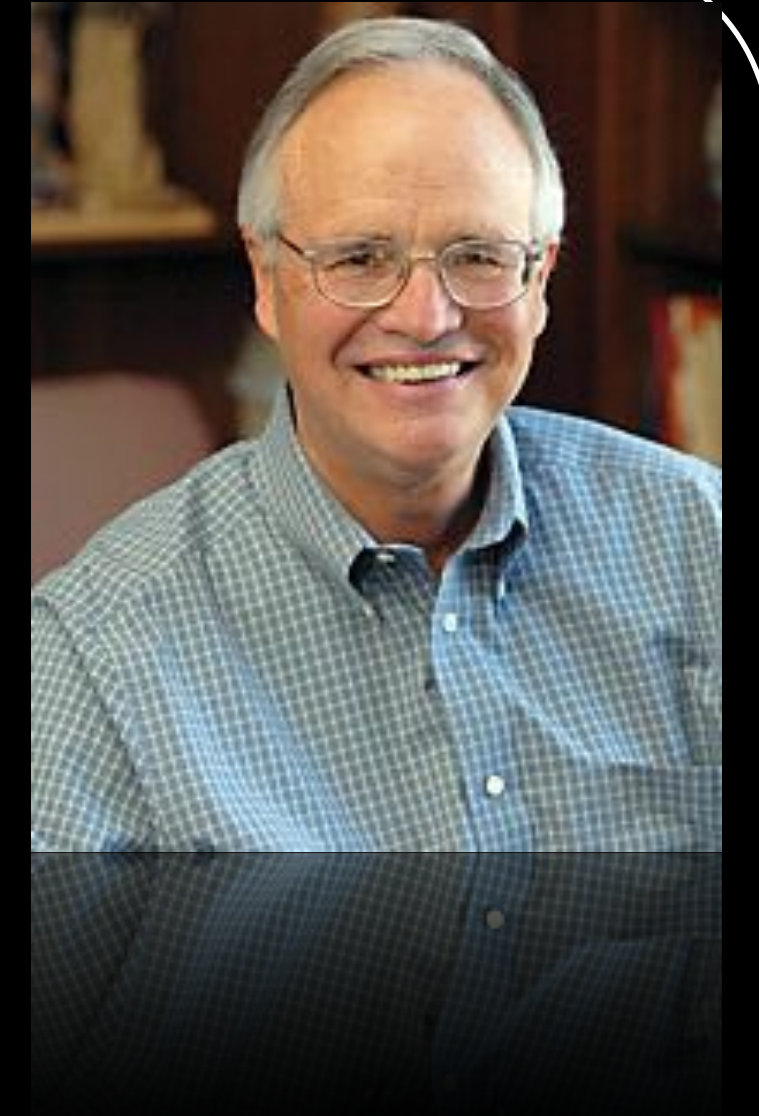
God and Suffering

Four Key Ideas

- It matters *which* god we are talking about
- The Bible is very honest that something has gone wrong: the world is not as it should be

“I used to think that the top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that thirty years of good science could address these problems. I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed, and apathy, and to deal with these we need a cultural and spiritual transformation. And we scientists don't know how to do that.”

Gus Speth



God and Suffering

Four Key Ideas

- It matters *which* god we are talking about
- The Bible is very honest that something has gone wrong: the world is not as it should be
- God has *done* something about the root cause of pain and suffering

Compassion

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

= to suffer alongside

God and Suffering

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God and Suffering

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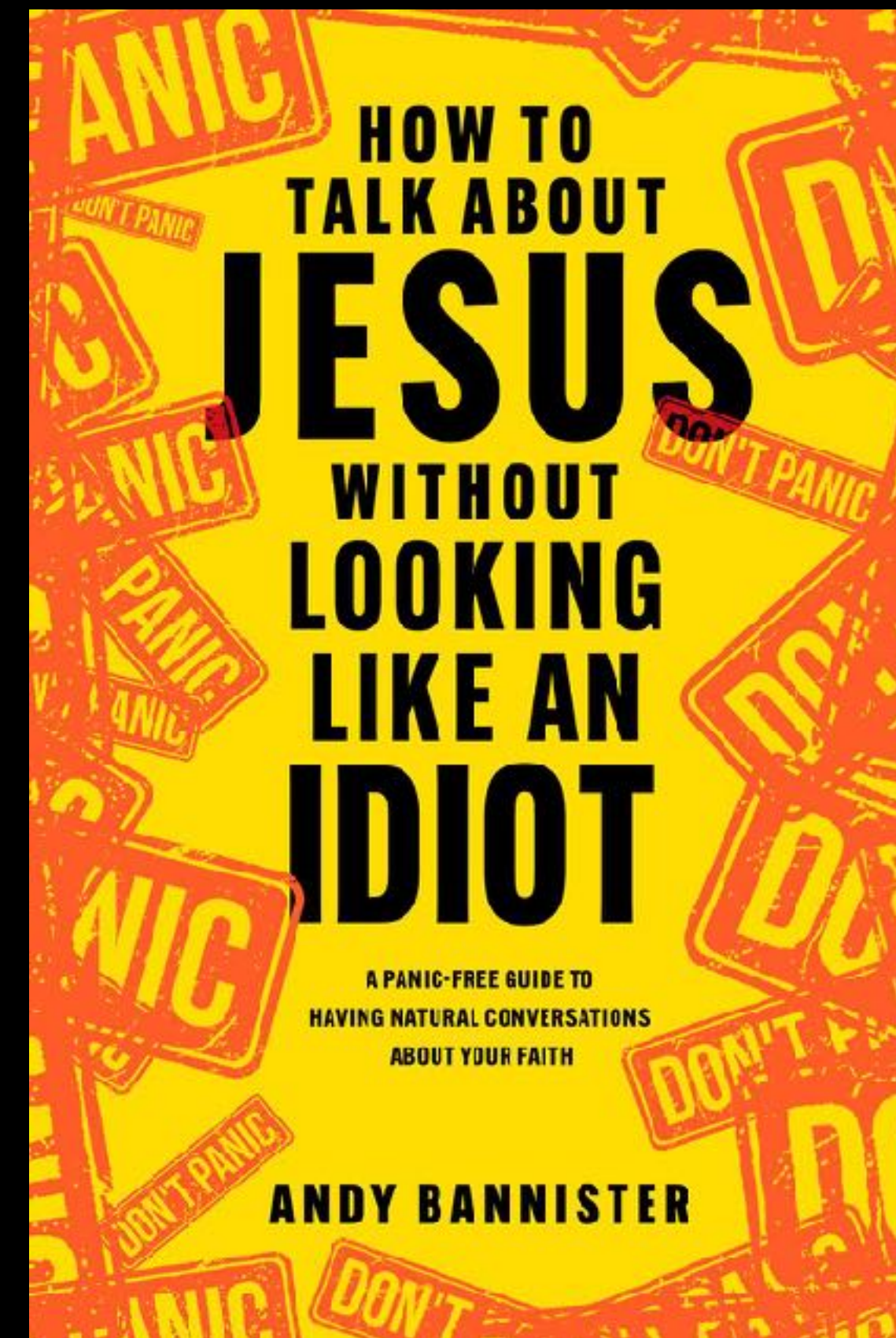
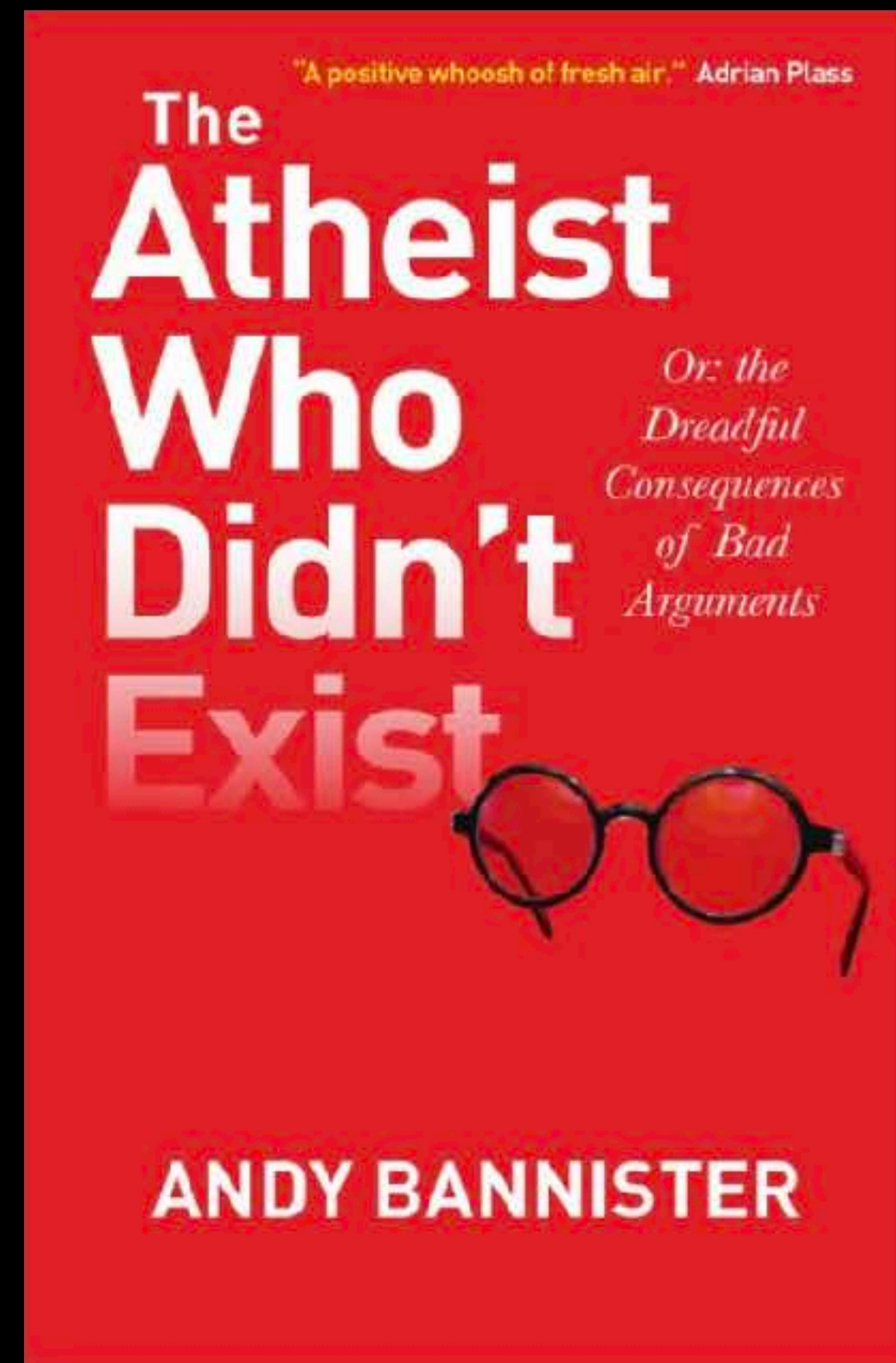
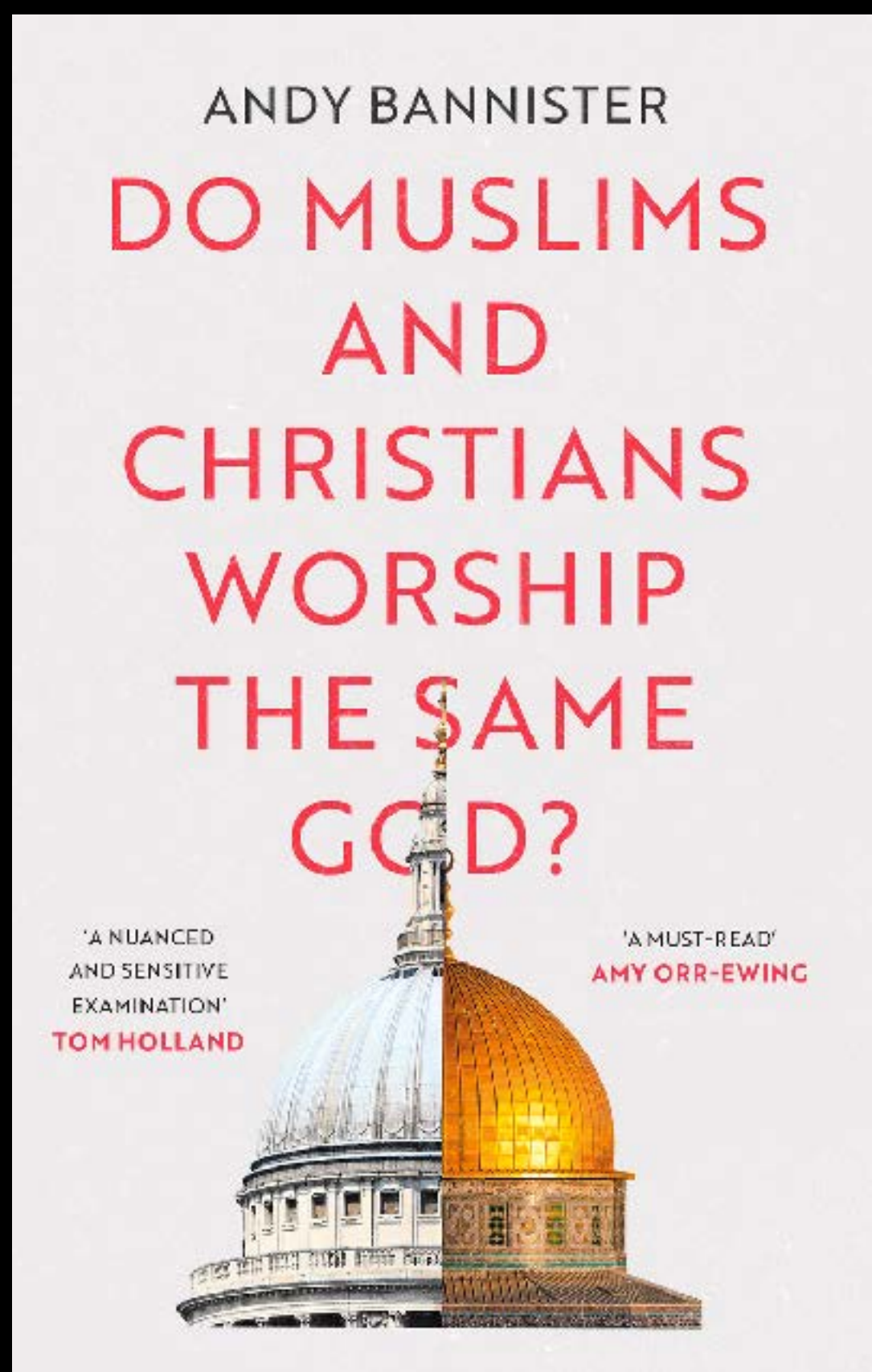
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- The Bible is very honest that something has gone wrong: the world is not as it should be
- God has *done* something about the root cause of pain and suffering
- God does not desert or abandon us when suffering strikes

Even when I must walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for you (O Lord) are with me.”

The Bible: Psalm 23:4

Jesus said: “Come to me, all you
who are heavy laden, and I will
give you peace.”

The Bible: Gospel of Matthew 11:28



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