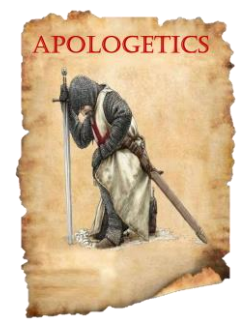


# APOLOGETICS



The  
Mind's  
Journey  
to  
Heaven





# Intro to the Religious Arguments Part 1

# MY DEFINITIONS

- **RELIGION** = Man's efforts to achieve right relationship with their God.
- **FALSE RELIGION** = Anything that alters the Truth as revealed by God in the Protestant Bible.
- **CULT** = Any religious movement which denies the orthodox beliefs of Christianity. Usually involve the following...per Steven Hassan in his book "Combatting Cult Mind Control":
  - Behavior Control: An individual's associations, living arrangements, food, clothing, sleeping habits, finances, etc., are strictly controlled.
  - Information Control: Cult leaders deliberately withhold or distort information, lie, propagandize, and limit access to other sources of information.
  - Thought Control: Cult leaders use loaded words and language, discourage critical thinking, bar any speech critical of cult leaders or policies, and teach an "us vs. them" doctrine.
  - Emotional Control: Leaders manipulate their followers via fear (including the fear of losing salvation, fear of shunning, etc.), guilt, and indoctrination.
- **OCCULT** = Religions based on knowledge of the hidden or paranormal...usually associated with demonic possession, communication with the dead, and supernatural power over others.
- **DENOMINATION** = Variations of belief within protestant Christianity ...i.e. Baptist vs Lutheran vs Presbyterian vs ??.
- **SECT** = A dissenting or schismatic religious body; especially one regarded as extreme or heretical.

# Guiding Principles

1. Focus on bringing clarity to the Gospel by Introducing them to Jesus.
2. Don't assume they believe what their religion teaches. Respect them enough to let them say what they believe.
3. False Religions and Cults are complex...
  - It can take years to truly understand...don't expect to become an expert.
  - Learn enough to be able to communicate effectively and to bring clarity about the major tenets of their beliefs vs True Christianity.
  - Witness to them but don't worship with them.
4. The Cross will offend but don't seek this...try to build bridges!
5. No one usually cares what you believe until they know you love them! At a minimum, respect is a love language.
6. Patience...How long did the Lord work on you before you believed?

# Cautions

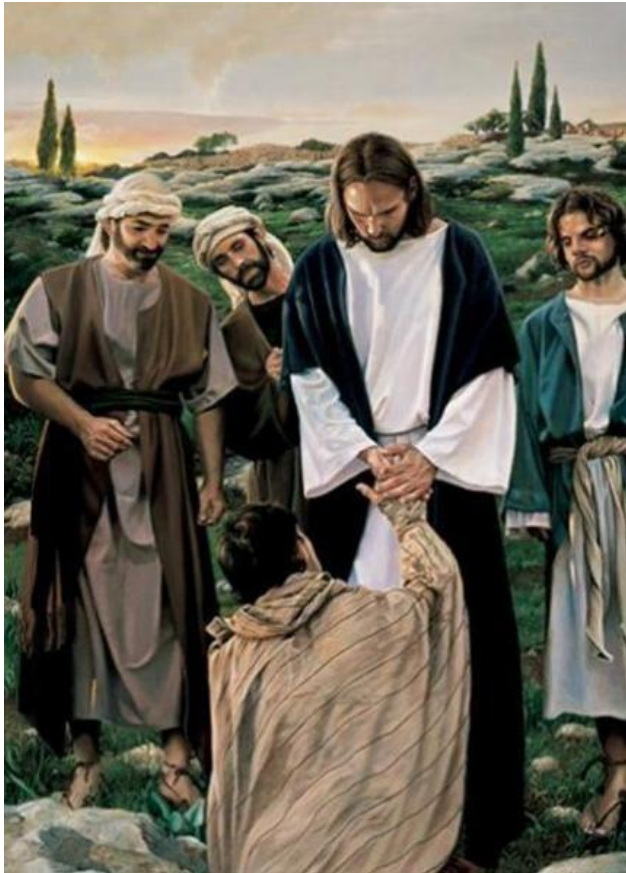


1. Do not assume that you would never fall prey to false truths of false religions and cults.
  - The Bible describes false teachers as smooth talkers from within your own fellowship. Romans 16:17-20
  - There is a reason people fall prey to their enticing lies.
2. BE BEREANS...Test those who call themselves “Christians”!
3. It is good to go in “twos” if you can.
4. Demonic occults can be dangerous. Research, inquire with elders and pray prior to deeply engaging.
  - Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world! I John 4:4



# The Lord is over all!

- Lepers are healed...seas are calmed...demons flee.



# Identifying Counterfeits!

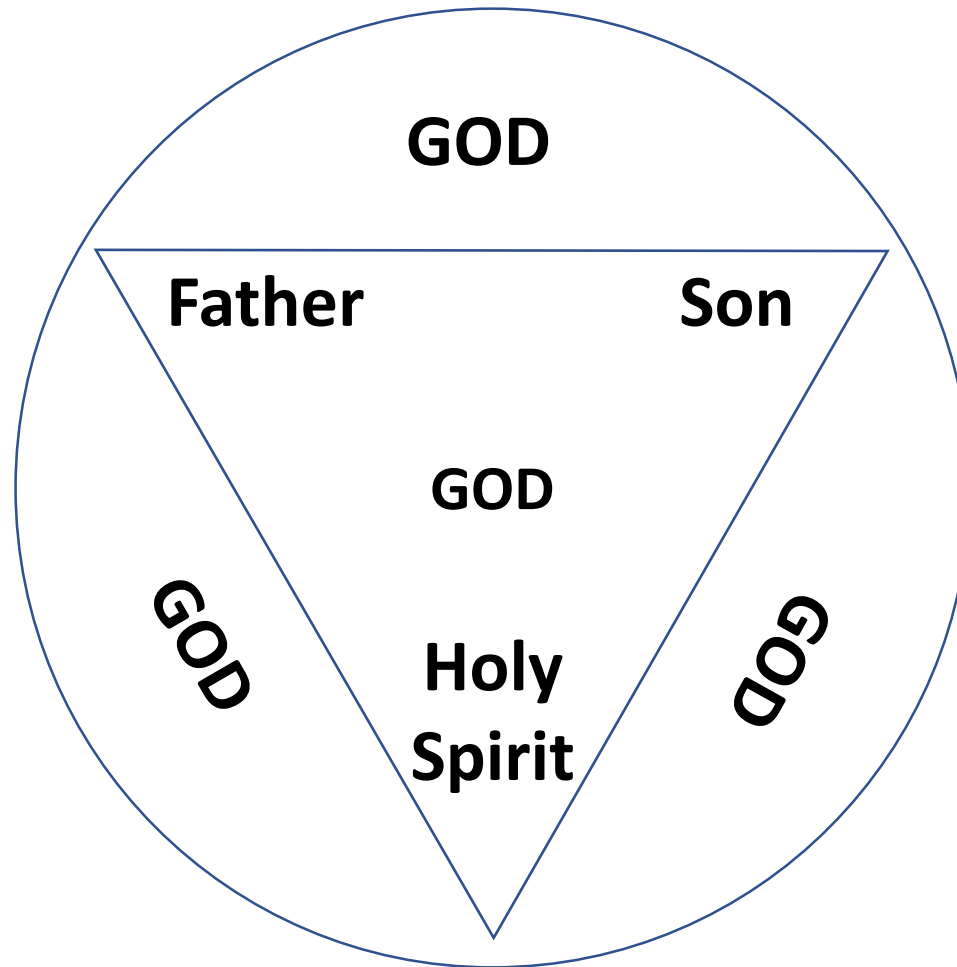
Which one is fake?

How do we know?

By studying the real thing!



# THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST



ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE



HOME

# IN THE BEGINNING

BACK

VERSES

SKEPTICS CORNER

Does God Exist

Evolution

Bible is a Myth

FALSE RELIGION ASSERTIONS

There are many gods



**GOD**

HOME

BACK

## GOD CREATED

VERSES

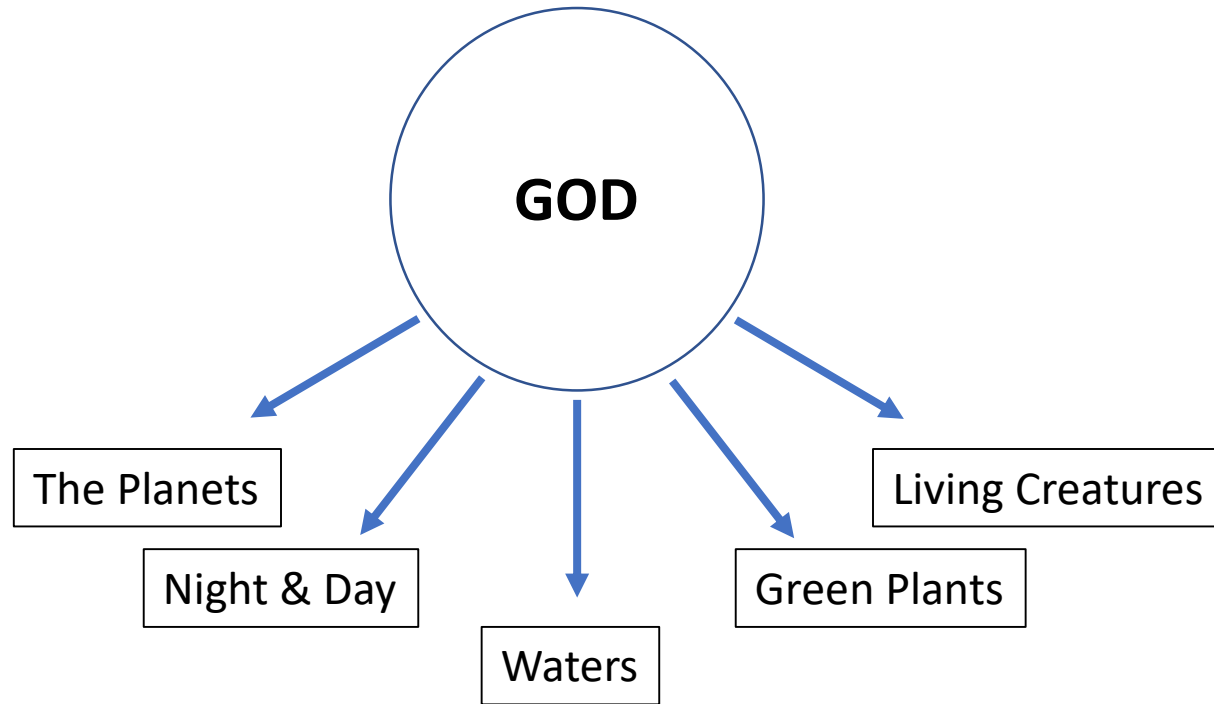
SKEPTICS CORNER

Evolution

Bible is a Myth

FALSE RELIGIOUS ASSERTIONS

Creation is God



## VERSES

## SKEPTICS CORNER

Is Christianity Pantheistic

Trinity Analogies

What about other Genders?

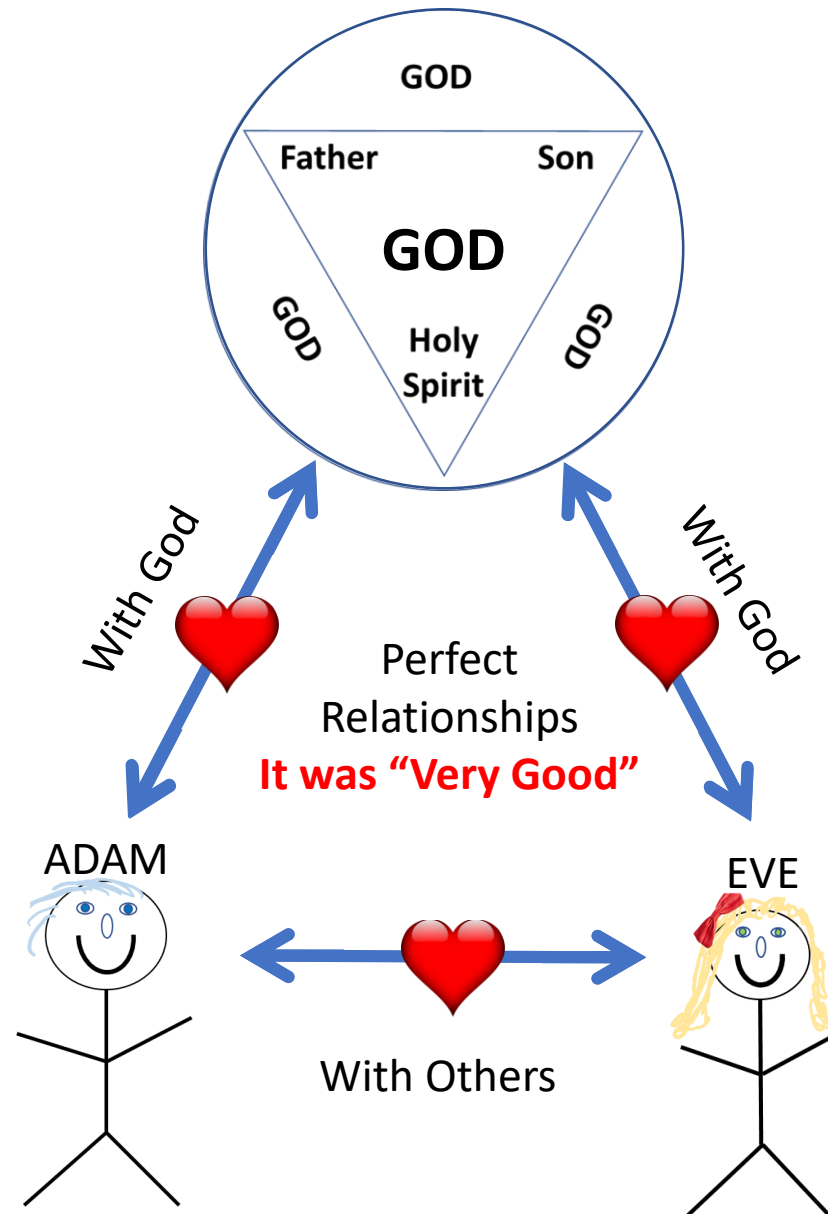
Do we all come from one DNA?

Where does the diversity come from?

## FALSE RELIGION ASSERTIONS

DEISM: God isn't personally involved.

God is only One Person.



## GOD'S IMAGE REVEALED IN BIBLE

- Trinitarian
- Creative
- Works hard...6 of 7 days
- Relational
- Communicates
- Enjoys Creation
- Sacrificial
- Others focused
- Never makes a mistake
- Forgives
- Freely gives
- Has always been, is and will always be
- No respecter of nationality, color, gender, genealogy, bank account, beauty or skill

# MAN REBELLED AND BECAME BROKEN

## VERSES

## SKEPTICS CORNER

Why did God put the Tree in the Garden?

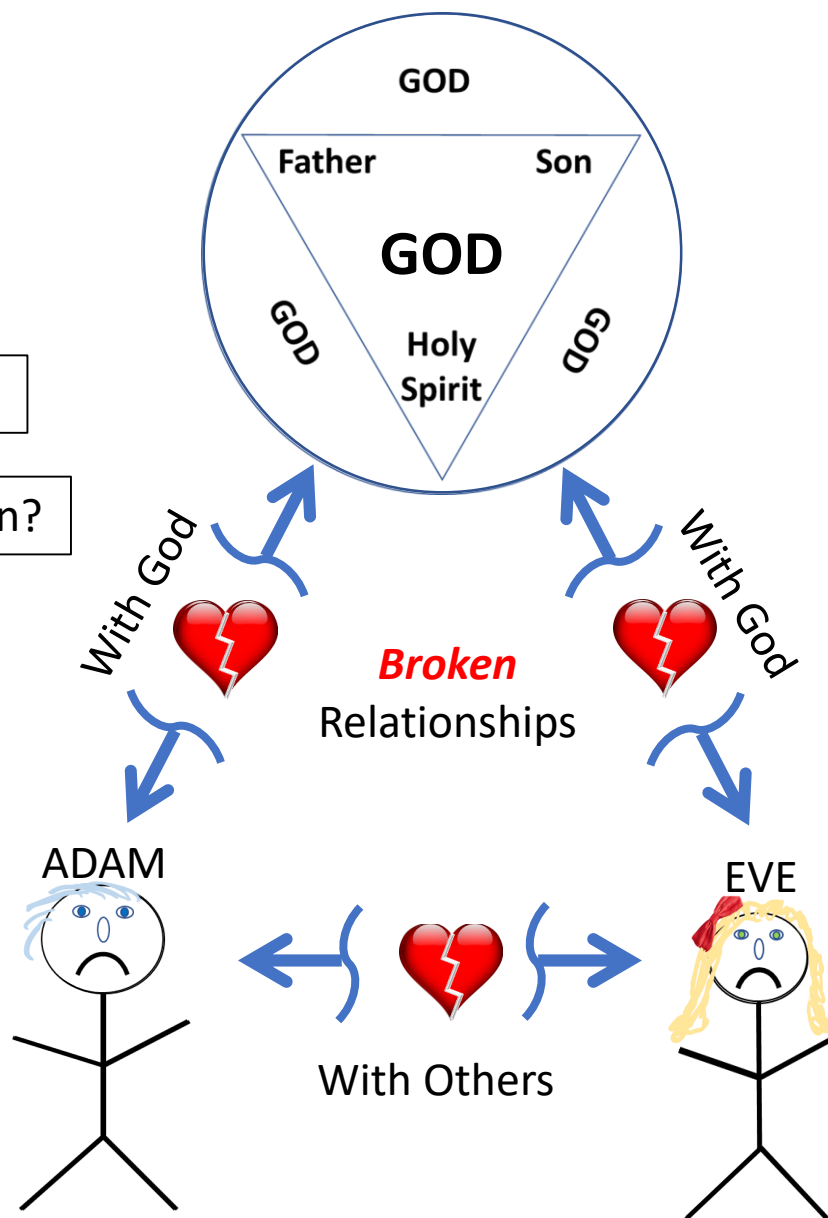
Why would God allow Satan in the Garden?

Where is the Garden today?

## FALSE RELIGION ASSERTIONS

Man isn't totally broken.

Man is just ignorant.



Bible describes brokenness

- Enemy of God
- Selfish
- Unable to relate to God and others properly
- Loves things other than God
- Unable to love selflessly
- Blind to the truth
- Lost...follows own way but this leads to death
- Does not seek God
- Dead in our sins
- Hostile towards God

## HOPE

YET EVEN IN OUR REBELLION  
GOD PROMISES A SAVIOR!



HOME

# Mankind Deserves Death and Hell

VERSES

SKEPTICS CORNER

Is it fair to condemn to Hell?

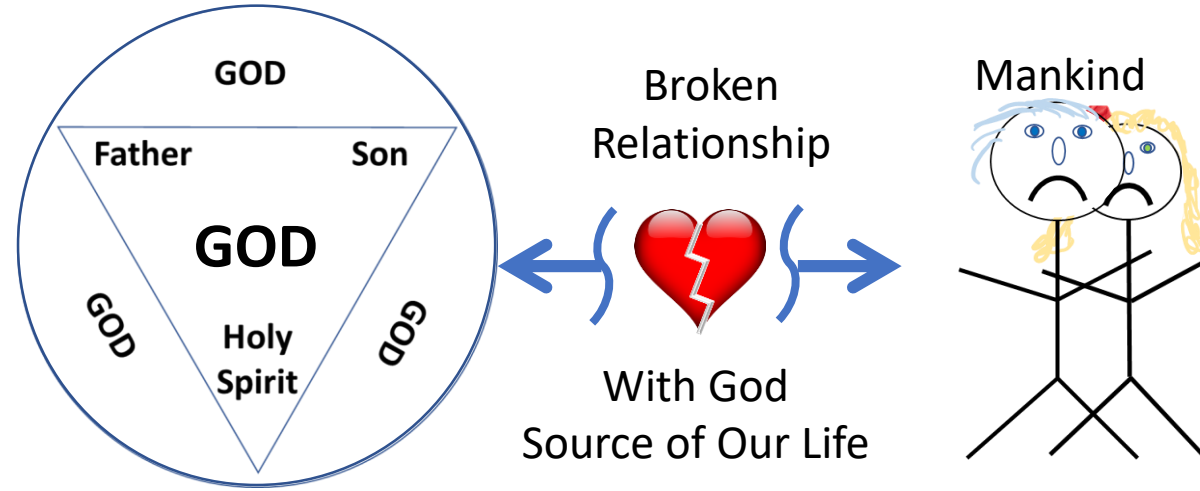
Isn't Man basically good?

FALSE RELIGION ASSERTIONS

Hell doesn't exist.

Purgatory & 2<sup>nd</sup> Chances.

Karma & Reincarnation.



1<sup>st</sup> Death  
Judgement  
2<sup>nd</sup> Death

**ETERNAL HELL**

HOME

# Man Tries to Fix His Problem on His Own

VERSES

SKEPTICS CORNER

Is it fair to condemn to Hell?

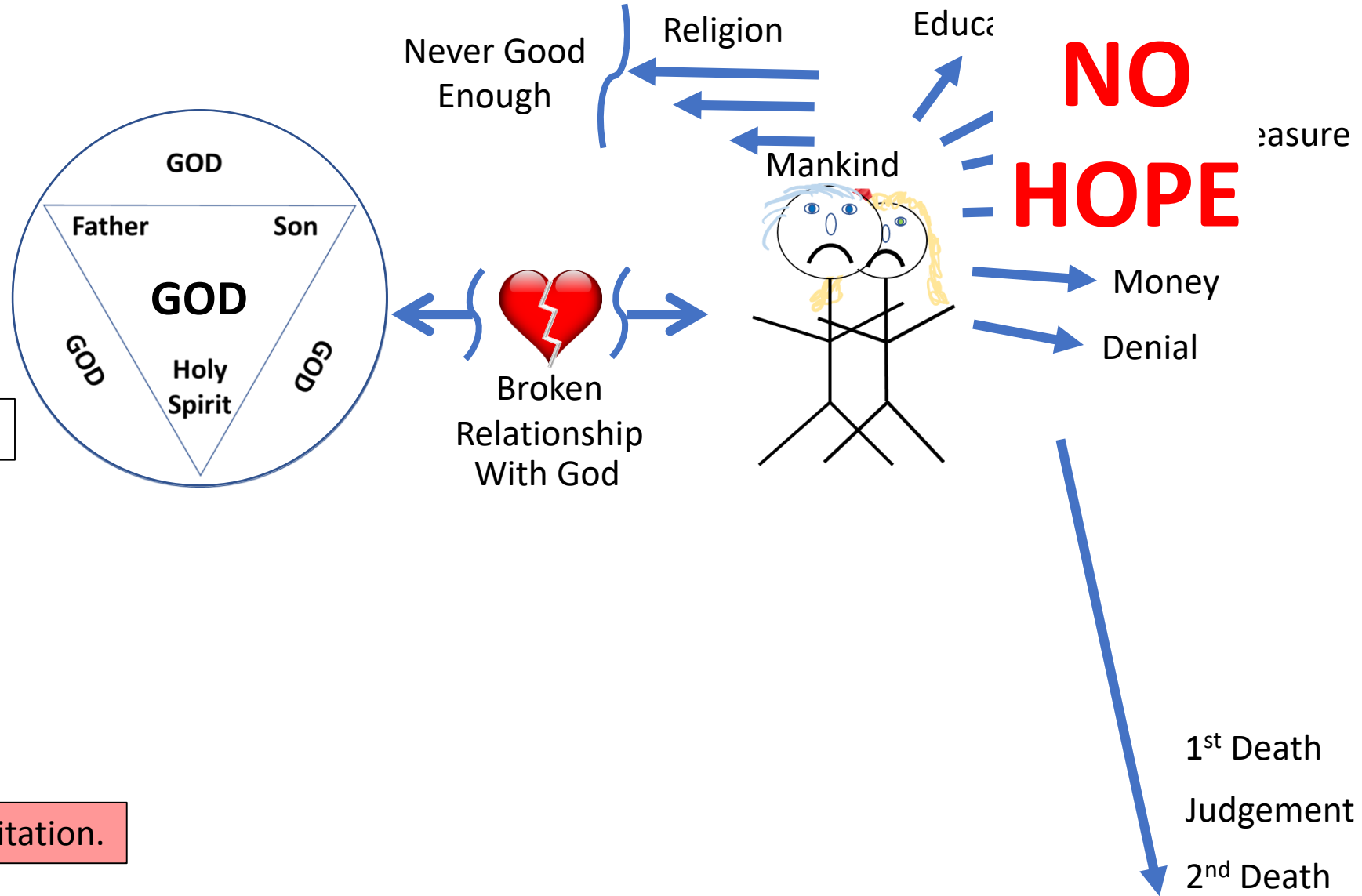
Why aren't our good works enough?

FALSE RELIGION ASSERTIONS

You can keep the Law of Moses

Good works vs Bad Works Scale

You need to transcend through meditation.



HOME

VERSES

SKEPTICS CORNER

Who was Jesus really?

FALSE RELIGION ASSERTIONS

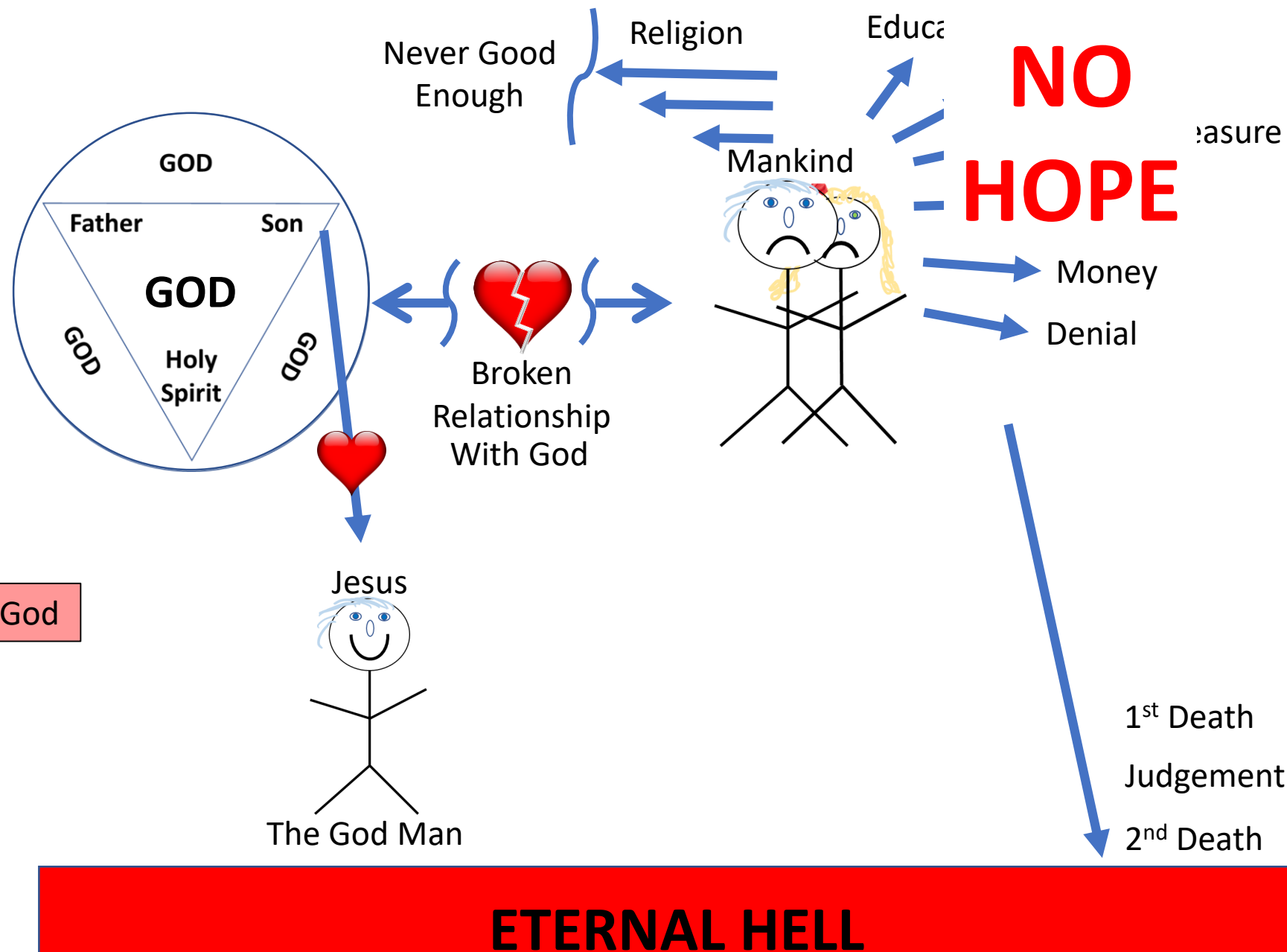
Jesus was a man who evolved to be God

Jesus was just a good teacher

God can never become a man

Jesus was an angel

# God sends His Eternally Begotten Son



HOME

# Jesus Pays the Price We Couldn't Pay

VERSES

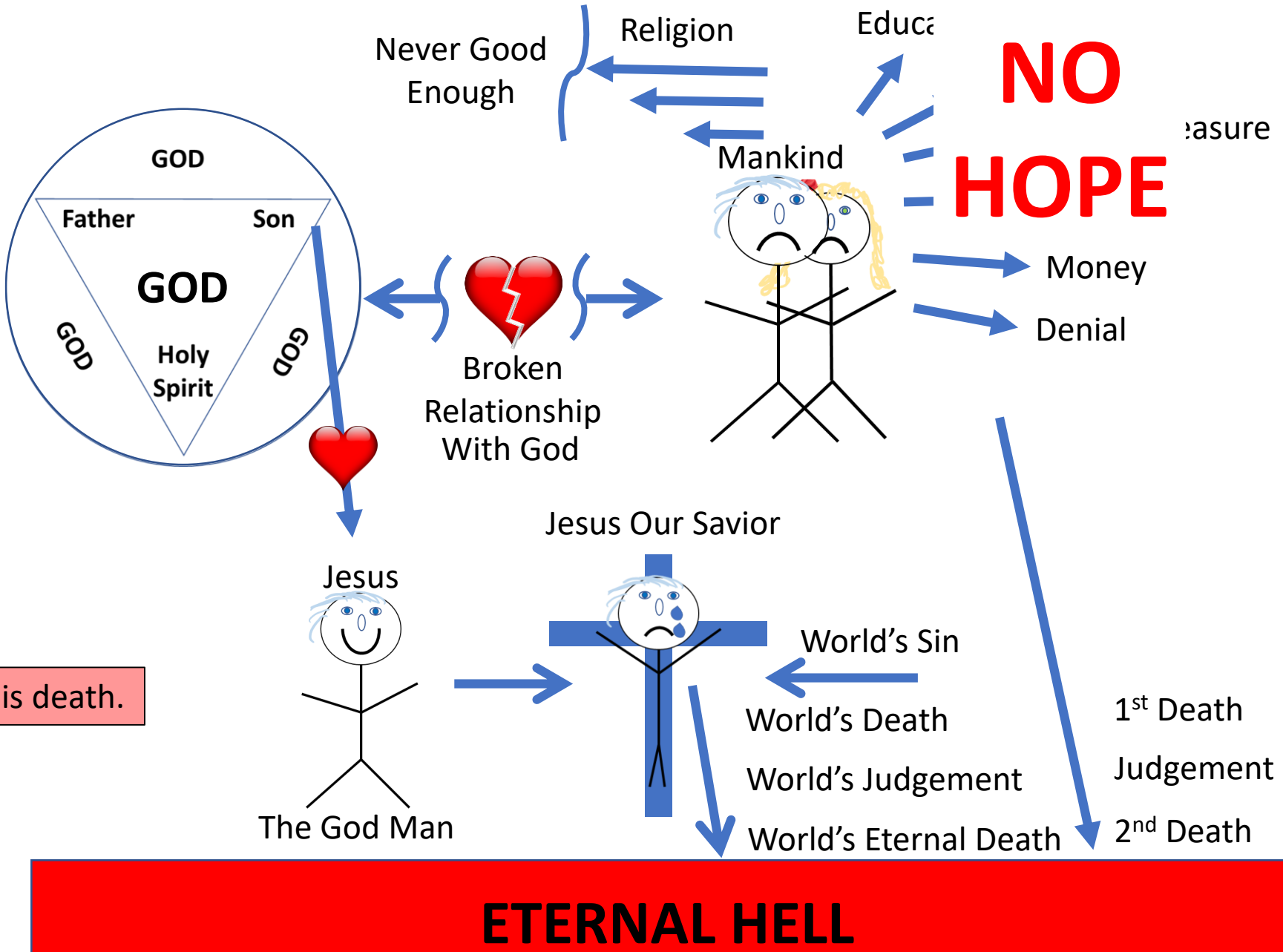
SKEPTICS CORNER

How can one man pay the price for all?

FALSE RELIGION ASSERTIONS

Jesus didn't really die.

Disciples created Savior myth after His death.





HOME

VERSES

SKEPTICS CORNER

Isn't the resurrection a hoax?

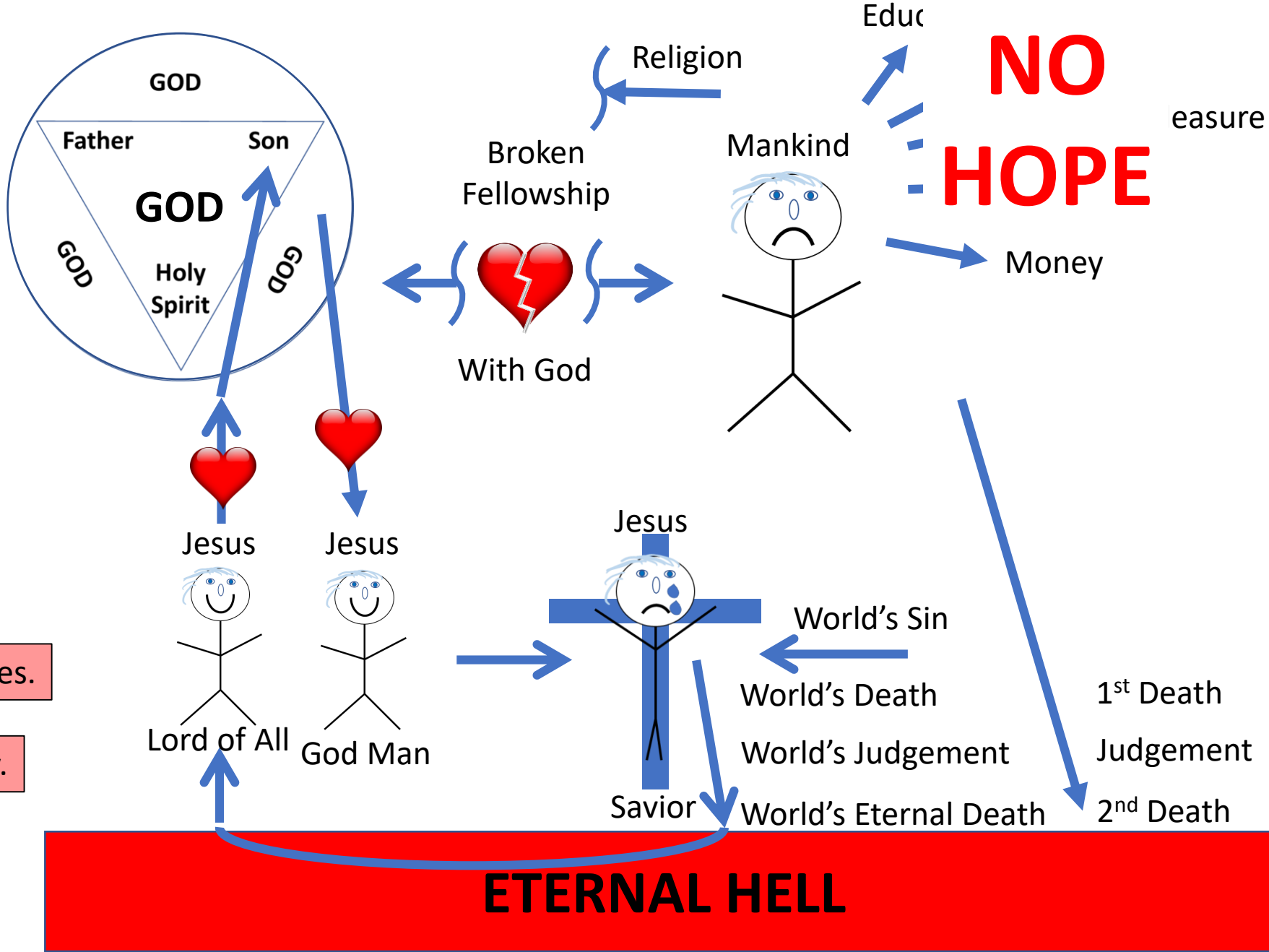
FALSE RELIGION ASSERTIONS

Jesus was translated to Heaven

Jesus body was stolen by the disciples.

Jesus resurrection was spiritual only.

# Jesus Resurrection



HOME

VERSES

SKEPTICS CORNER

But I am too bad...

Isn't this easy believism?

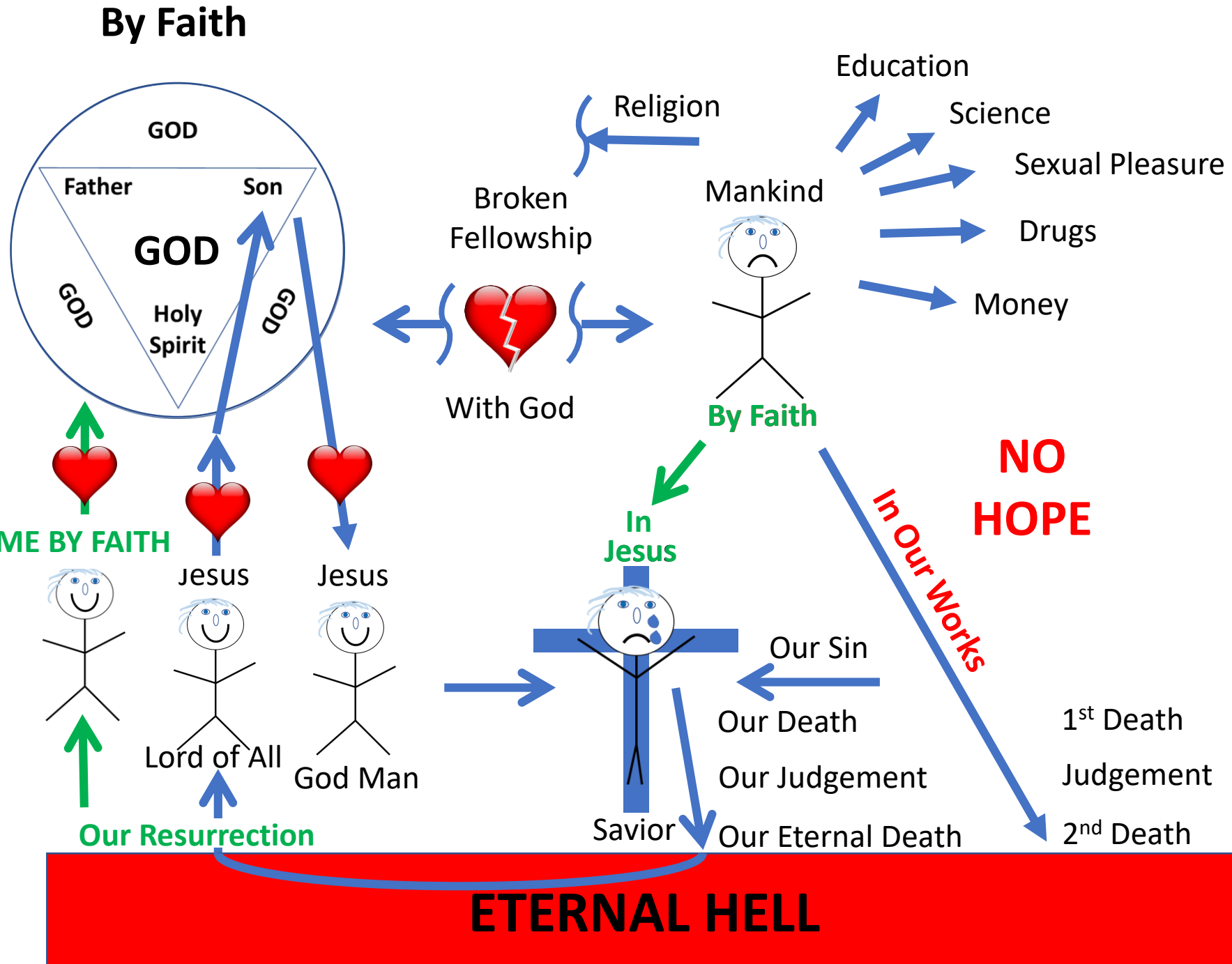
FALSE RELIGION ASSERTIONS

You must still keep OT Law

Faith is a burning in your bosom.

It is a matter of how much faith!

Everyone is saved.



HOME

VERSES

SKEPTICS CORNER

Do I really have to go to Church?

Don't they just want my money?

Can I really trust the Bible?

FALSE RELIGION ASSERTIONS

The Bible has not been translated correctly.

There is new revelation.

Only Pope/Prophet can interpret.

Catholic Communion required to be saved.

Must be married in temple...have children...to be saved

## Now What...

If God already sees me as his child...perfect in Christ...  
Then why am I still here?...And how come I don't feel perfect?

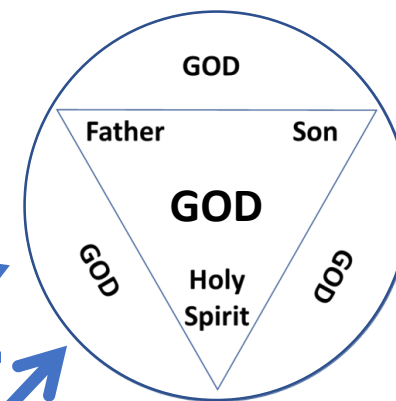
**HOW WILL HE FINISH WHAT HE HAS STARTED?**

Christ righteousness is imputed immediately by faith and  
Now we are being transformed into the image of Christ by...



IN CHRIST

IN CHRIST



After God is finished I will...

Love Jesus Christ  
Love God's Word ...the Bible  
Love God's People...the church  
Have Joy even in midst of suffering  
Full and Complete inside  
Restored relationships...with God & Others

Before Christ came into my life, I...

Did not love God  
Did not love the Bible  
Did not love God's People  
Did not have Joy in the Lord  
Empty and Broken inside  
Broken relationships ...with God and Others

# What if you have never heard of them before?

- Most false religions are similar at a high level but vary on the specifics.
- Focus on clarifying questions in the following domains:
  - Definition of their God vs the Bible
  - What do they do with Jesus?
  - How do they discern truth...Whom do they Trust?
    - Is Truth governed by man or God?
    - One source of truth through one man or many?
    - What methods do they use to determine if it is true or not?
  - How are they “saved” in their beliefs?
    - By man’s works or by God’s works?
    - Does it deal with the depravity of man sufficiently?
    - How does it deal with the topic of Faith? Sovereign Grace?
    - Look for the checklist and the treadmill of their religion.
  - How do they deal with those who disagree with them?
    - God says those who are truly His will treat their enemies with love.
    - Are they open to criticism or closed to any questions?





# What should you look for as openings?

- Any sign of seeking truth.
- Poor in Spirit.
- Two way open dialog at a minimum.
- Bridges from what they care deeply about to the real Gospel.
  - Examples:
    - They want to go to Heaven...then find out why they believe their religion will get them there. Show them why the Bible says faith in Jesus will guarantee the result.
    - They believe in right and wrong...why...on what basis? How does their list compare to what Jesus gave us?
    - Their religious leader is important to them...how do they know this person was honest and trust worthy? What test have they given them? Could they stand up to the same tests given to Jesus?




# Now Help Them To See the Contrast & Show Them The Greatness of Jesus!

## TRUE BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY VS WORKS OF RELIGION

Ezekiel 36:26

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B  
E  
L  
I  
E  
F

Heart  
Of  
Stone?





Heart  
Of  
Flesh?

B  
E  
L  
I  
E  
F

OR

New Heart    Towards God

Truly Desire God, The Bible, His People, The Lost  
VS  
Just Shoving Religion in Your Mouth and Faking It!





Applications	Religious Actions
Operating System	World View
BIOS	Spiritual Heart
Hardware	Body

**OUR BIOS HAS A FATAL VIRUS**

# Where are we going to go?

- Major Secular Questions Asked of Christians
  - How do we know God exists?
  - Doesn't science prove Christianity is false? Can any rational person believe in the Christian Faith?
    - Science is the only discipline which is objective and can therefore be trusted.
    - Evolution has proven that we were not created.
  - Can you trust the Bible as accurate?
  - How can a good God exist if He allows suffering and evil?
  - Is it fair for God to condemn someone to hell? What about those who have never heard the Gospel?
  - Aren't all people basically good?
  - Isn't Christianity arrogant to say it is the only way to heaven? Aren't all religions just different ways to the same God?
  - Isn't Christianity just a bunch of Do's and Don'ts?
  - Isn't the institutional Christian Church just about getting your money?
  - Do you really have to go to church to be a Christian?
  - Wasn't the resurrection of Jesus just a made-up hoax?
- Major World Religion's Arguments against true Christian Faith
  - Intro to Religious Arguments Part 1
  - **Intro to Religious Arguments Part 2**
  - Roman Catholic Arguments
  - Islamic Arguments
  - Mormonism Arguments
  - Buddhism Arguments
  - Hinduism Arguments