

**THE BIBLE:**

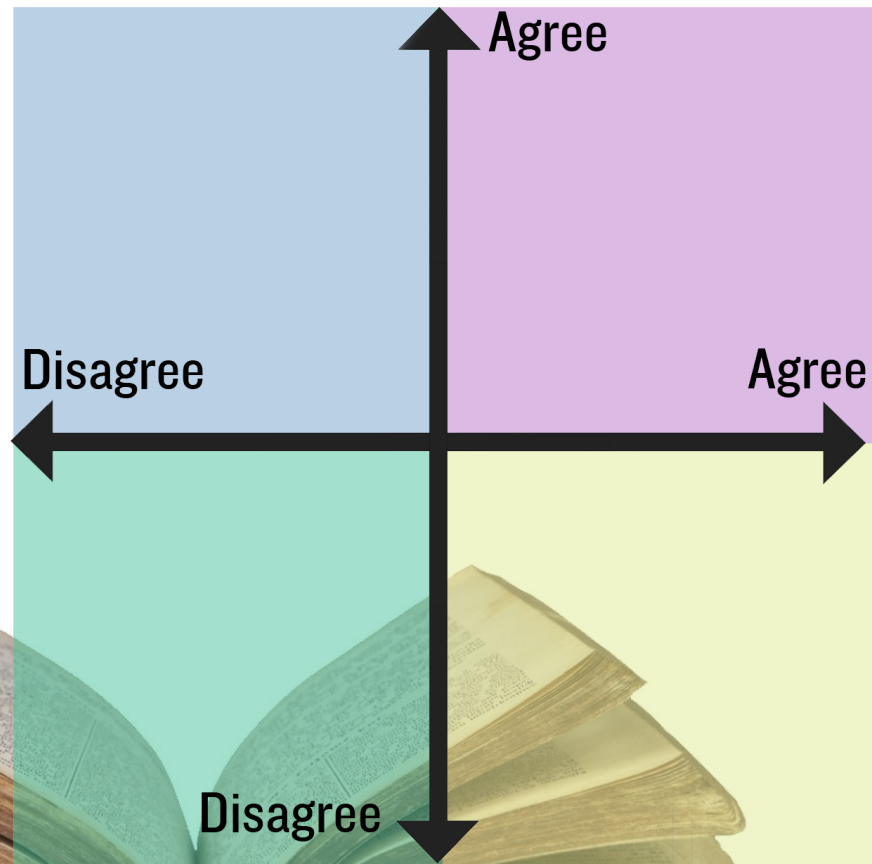
**GOSPEL,**

**GUIDE, OR**

**GARBAGE?**

# WHICH, IF ANY, PARTS OF THE BIBLE DO YOU FIND ETHICALLY COMPELLING?

Sexuality

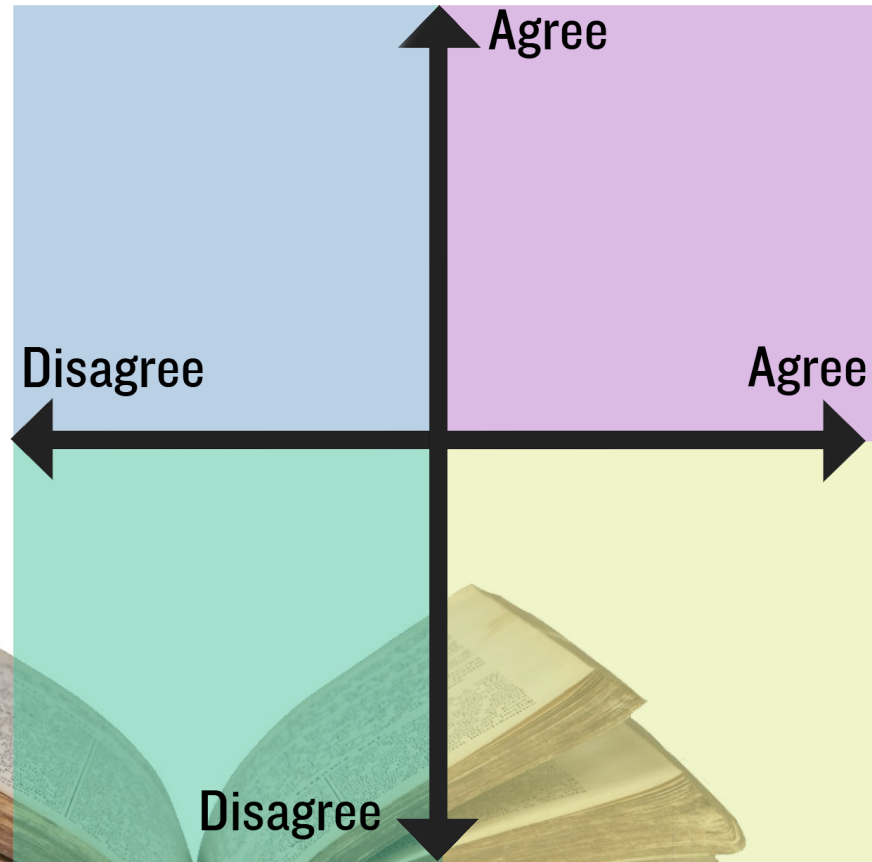


Social Justice



# WHICH, IF ANY, PARTS OF THE BIBLE DO YOU FIND ETHICALLY COMPELLING?

Golden Rule "Do Unto Others"



Forgiving and Loving Even Your Enemies



# WHO IS JESUS TO YOU?



**Moral Exemplar**

**Historical Figure**

**Lunatic**

**Revolutionary Thinker**




**Liar**

**Fictional Character**

**Lord**

**Prophet**

# WHO SAID THIS?

	 Jesus	 Buddha	 Mohammed
<b>“Do to others as you would have them do to you.”</b>			
<b>“Heaven lies beneath the feet of your mother.”</b>			
<b>“No one saves us but ourselves, no one can and no one may.”</b>			
<b>“The most perfect of the believers in faith is he who is the best in conduct.”</b>			
<b>“Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone.”</b>			
<b>“Hatred does not cease by hatred, but only by love.”</b>			



# HOW COULD YOU TELL IF A RELIGION IS MERELY MADE UP?

*Select your top 3*



It's too local



It's too easy



It resembles other neighboring ideas



It legitimates people in power



Unfulfilled promises



It legitimizes wealth



It has places of internal incoherence



It has questionable historical evidence



It legitimates men's desire for sex (e.g. via polygamy, etc.)



Other

God created man in his own image.  
And man, being a gentleman, returned the favor.  
-- Rousseau

# WHY WOULD PEOPLE CREATE A RELIGION LIKE THIS?

- Take the most challenging ethics of Judaism
- The promised land and wealth
- The sacredness of Jewish distinctives (customs, foods, Temple, priests, etc.)
- + Love for the Roman oppressors, other Gentile enemies, and the poor
- + Die before you worship the Roman Emperor

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- = Christianity

An overt desire for self-inflicted punishment

Jesus was really resurrected and established the movement

The first Jewish disciples all had the same hallucination

A subconscious desire to put a human face to the Jewish YHWH

It gave the most meaning to life

Guilty feelings

A desire for 'community'

Other

# A HUMAN INVENTION?

The period 163 BCE – 135 CE was filled with military, revolutionary movements as Jews struggled against Greek, then Roman oppression. For 300 years, the uniform view was: the Jewish Messiah would oust the foreigners and recapture

Jerusalem. Below is a greatly shortened list of such movements:

## Timeline of Jewish Independence Movements 163 BCE to 130 CE

<b>163 BCE</b> <b>Judas Maccabeus</b> recaptures Jerusalem, cleanses the Temple, and sets a pattern	<b>40 BCE</b> <b>Hezekiah</b> leads skirmishes, revolts	<b>3 BCE</b> <b>Judas</b> leads a revolt	<b>6 CE</b> <b>Judas the Galilean</b> leads a Jewish independence movement	<b>28 CE</b> <b>Pilate</b> puts down a revolt in Jerusalem	<b>40's CE</b> <b>Jacob and Simon</b> , sons of Judas, lead a rebellion	<b>66 CE</b> <b>Menahem</b> , son or grandson of Judas, seized the Temple and burned the records	<b>67-70 CE</b> <b>John of Gischala</b> leads revolts in the Jewish-Roman War	<b>130 CE</b> <b>Bar-Kochba</b> leads the Jewish rebellion
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# JESUS' RESURRECTION: A JEWISH INVENTION?

The Mass Hallucination Theory: The earliest Jewish followers of Jesus all had the same delusion...

The Swoon Theory: Jesus survived crucifixion and escaped the tomb...

The Stolen Body Theory: The earliest Jewish followers of Jesus stole Jesus' dead body...

The Growth of Legend Theory: The followers of Jesus invented the idea of resurrection...

The Christian Theory: Jesus' resurrection forced his earliest Jewish followers and others... against their own prejudices and preconceptions, to shift their entire worldview and see the Scriptures afresh.

...thereby failing to deliver on any national hopes, but still persuading many Jewish people and Romans to shift their entire worldview anyway.

