

A hand is shown in silhouette, moving a chess piece on a board. The background is a deep blue gradient. The chess pieces are also in silhouette, with some blurred in the background to create a sense of depth. The overall mood is strategic and contemplative.

Tactics

Christianity Under Attack

Review



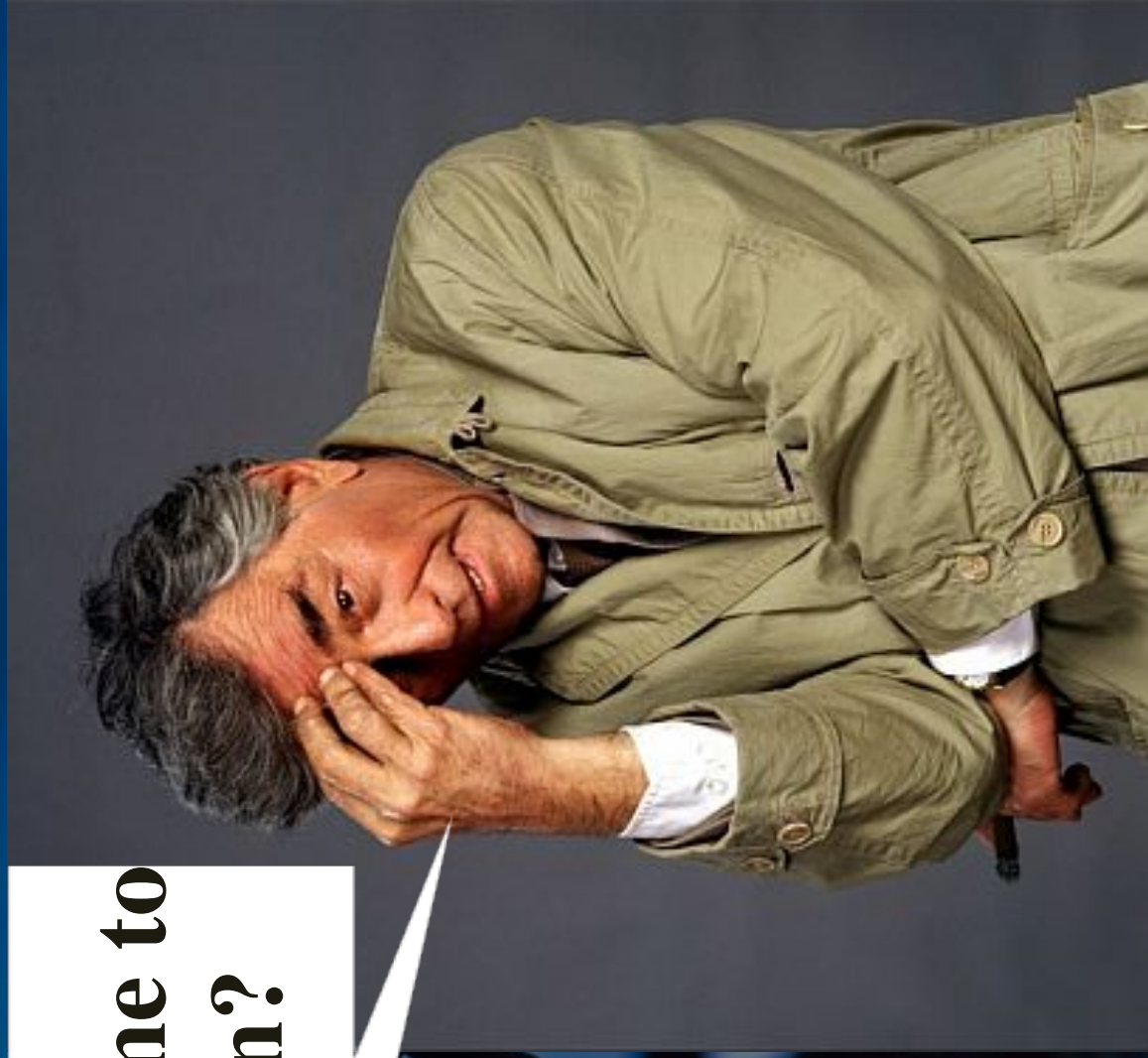
“Columbo 1”

**What do you mean
by that?**



“Columbo 2”

**How did you come to
that conclusion?**



“Columbo 3” Narrate the Debate & Find the

I'm a bit confused on
something you just
said....



Review Finding the Flaws



“You shouldn’t force your morality on other people.”

Practical Suicide

- There is no logical contradiction
- Statement simply can’t work in real-life application.

Response

“You’re saying I shouldn’t force my views of right and wrong on others. Aren’t you now forcing your morality on me?”

“You only believe in Christianity because you were born in a Christian family.”

Genetic Fallacy

Belief that argument is refuted because they discover the psychological reason why someone believes it



“By claiming that homosexuality is wrong, Christians demote homosexuals to a ‘less than’ status, making them the object of scorn, hatred,

Taking the High Ground Off:

Reductio Ad Absurdum

- Take the claim for a “test drive”
- Take the claim to an absurd conclusion

Response

“By claiming that Christianity is wrong, progressives demote Christians to a ‘less than’ status, making them the object of scorn, hatred, and physical abuse.”

“Republicans just want poor people to suffer and old people to die; they only care about the rich. This is just wrong.”

Strawman

Attack a weak or exaggerated version of your opponent's position, then declare them to be wrong



A person's hands are shown in silhouette, holding several chess pieces against a blue background. The pieces include a king, a queen, a rook, a knight, and a pawn. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the contours of the hands and the pieces.

“It is impossible to know anything with certainty about Suicide (Egmal Suicide)

- Statement is self-refuting (violates the Law of Non-Contradiction)
 - It fails to meet its own criteria for validity

Response

“Is your statement something we know with certainty about God?”

“Darwin’s finches demonstrate evolution in action. Therefore, the evolution from a single-celled organism to everything you see now also occurred.”

Equivocation

Changing the meaning of a word mid-argument


“God doesn’t exist because there is so much evil in the world.”

Infanticide

- The claim cannot be made unless the parent concept on which the claim depends is true, yet the claim denies the parent concept.

Response

“What is ‘evil’? On what basis do you judge something as ‘evil’? Why is that a valid standard for judging something as ‘evil’?”

A close-up photograph of a hand moving a black chess piece on a board. The background is a blurred chessboard with other pieces. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the hand and the piece being moved.

Person 1: “The cities with the highest rate of gun violence are the ones with the strictest gun control laws. Gun control laws actually do more harm than good because they limit individuals’ ability to protect themselves.”

Person 2: “You’re just a hate-filled, judgmental bigot who wants to see children die.”

Ad Hominem

“Homosexuals are just born that way; they should just be accepted.”

“Science has discovered a many violent criminals lack a gene that helps with impulse control. These criminals need treatment.”

- The two statements contradict each other

Response

“If someone is born a certain way, why don't we just accept them? Why do they need treatment?”

“We have fossils of the same type of animal that have different features. The fossils show that animal at various stages of evolution. Therefore, evolution is true.”

Circular reasoning
(aka “begging the question”)

Assume the conclusion in the premise

Review

- Steamroller
 - Constantly interrupts
 - Step 1: Stop Him
 - Step 2: Shame Him
 - Step 3: Leave Him
- Rhodes Scholar
 - Used when evidence for someone's argument is someone's (including their own) "expert opinion"
 - Insist on actual factual evidence, and look for bias
- Just the Facts, Ma'am
 - Someone presents false facts to support a claim
 - Find the real facts and use them to refute

Common Attacks on Christianity



“How could a good God condemn non-believers to an eternity in

- If God is love, would He find a way to bring people everlasting joy and life instead?
- Is it really fair for finite mistakes or bad choices made in this life to result in eternal punishment?
- What about those who haven't heard the Gospel?

What is “good”?

What is “fair”?

What is Heaven? What is Hell?

“There is too much evil in the world for there to be a God as

- If God ~~is described in the Bible~~ ^{is wholly} benevolent, then He would eradicate evil and suffering.
- The world is full of evil and suffering.
- Therefore, God is either 1) not omnipotent, 2) not omniscient, 3) not benevolent, or 4) doesn't exist.

What is “evil”?

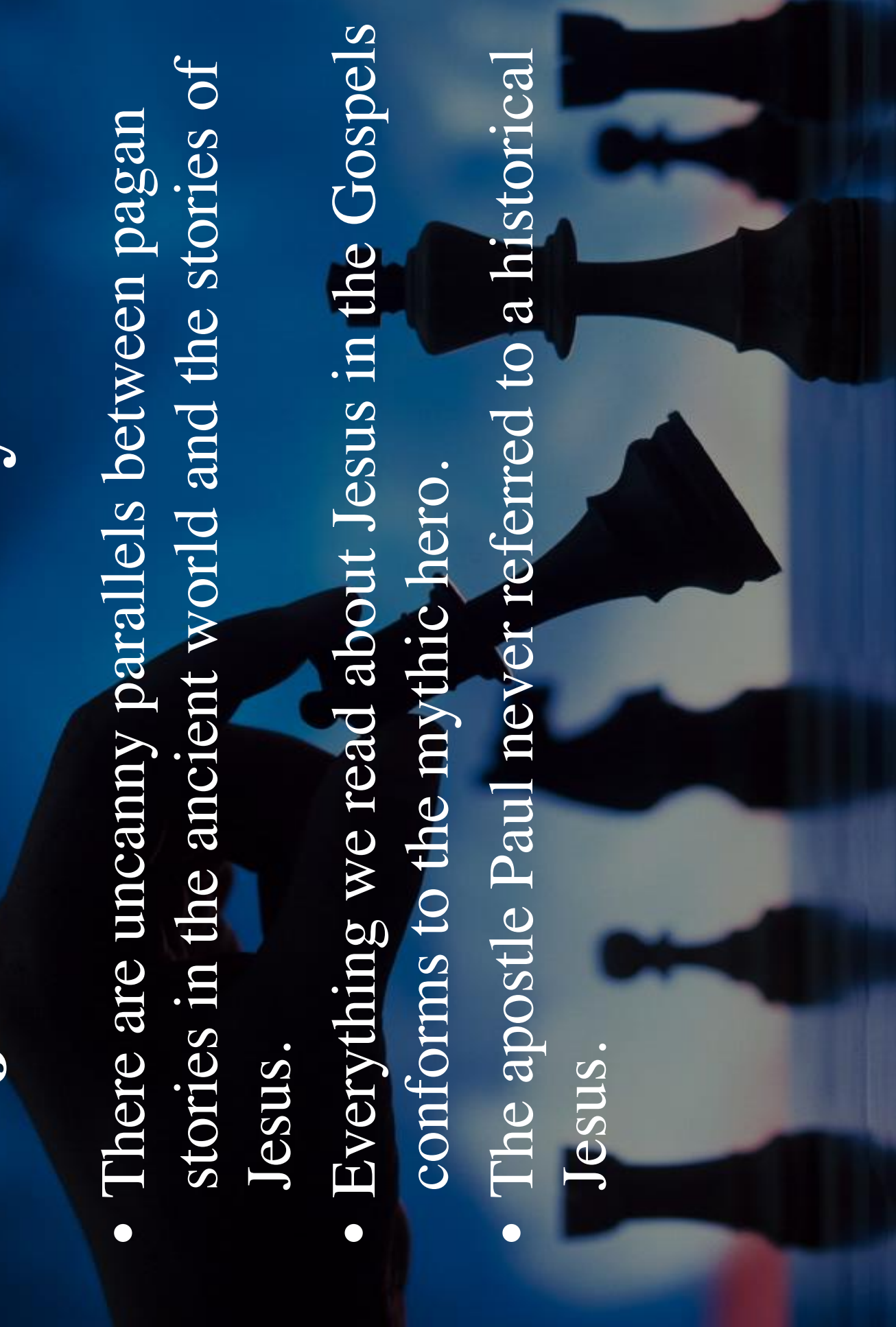
“Jesus can’t be the only way to Heaven.”

- There are many religions out there.
- All seek God.
- How can Christianity assert that all of these sincere, well-meaning, God-seeking people are going to Hell?

Who is God?

“Jesus never really existed.”

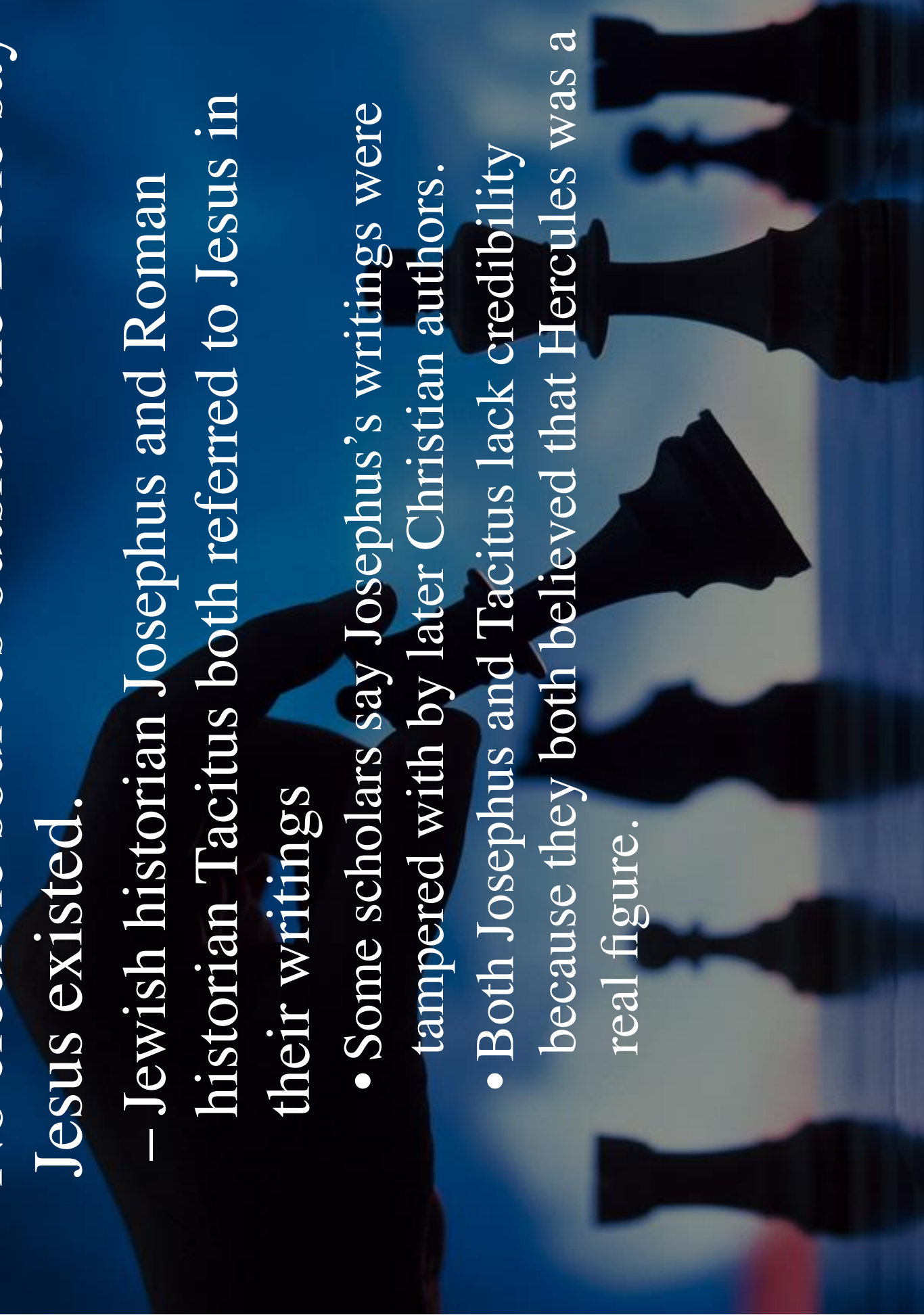
- There are uncanny parallels between pagan stories in the ancient world and the stories of Jesus.
- Everything we read about Jesus in the Gospels conforms to the mythic hero.
- The apostle Paul never referred to a historical Jesus.



- No credible sources outside the Bible say Jesus existed.

- Jewish historian Josephus and Roman historian Tacitus both referred to Jesus in their writings

- Some scholars say Josephus's writings were tampered with by later Christian authors.
- Both Josephus and Tacitus lack credibility because they both believed that Hercules was a real figure.



“Jesus may have existed, but he was not God.”

- On the basis of modern work in history and Bible scholarship, the view now is that none of the Gospels was written by the apostle to whom it is attributed.
- Mark was the first Gospel written, and all of the other Gospels borrowed heavily from it and another source (now lost), referred to by scholars as the “Q Gospel.”

Homework

- Anticipate, Reflect, & Prepare for arguments relating to:
 - Abortion
 - Homosexuality

