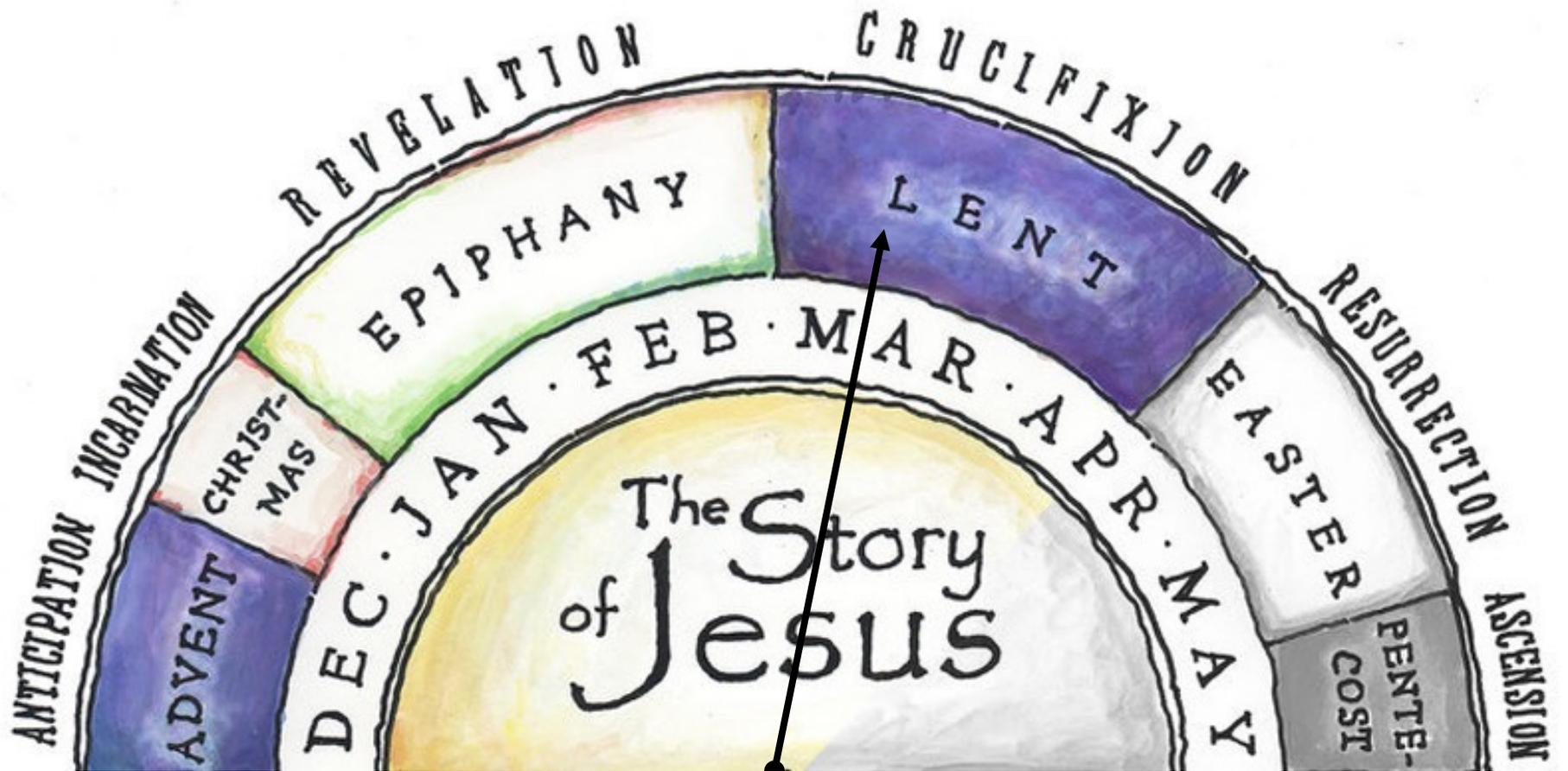


God of wilderness and water, your Son  
was baptized and tempted as we are.  
Guide us through this season,  
that we may not avoid struggle,  
but open ourselves to blessing,  
through the cleansing depths of repentance  
and the heaven-rending words of the Spirit.  
Amen.

**Opening Prayer**

A decorative banner at the bottom of the page features a dark background with white geometric patterns, including a grid and a circular motif. Overlaid on this are several hands in various colors (red, blue, green, purple) reaching out or holding each other, symbolizing unity and prayer.

# CHURCH CALENDAR

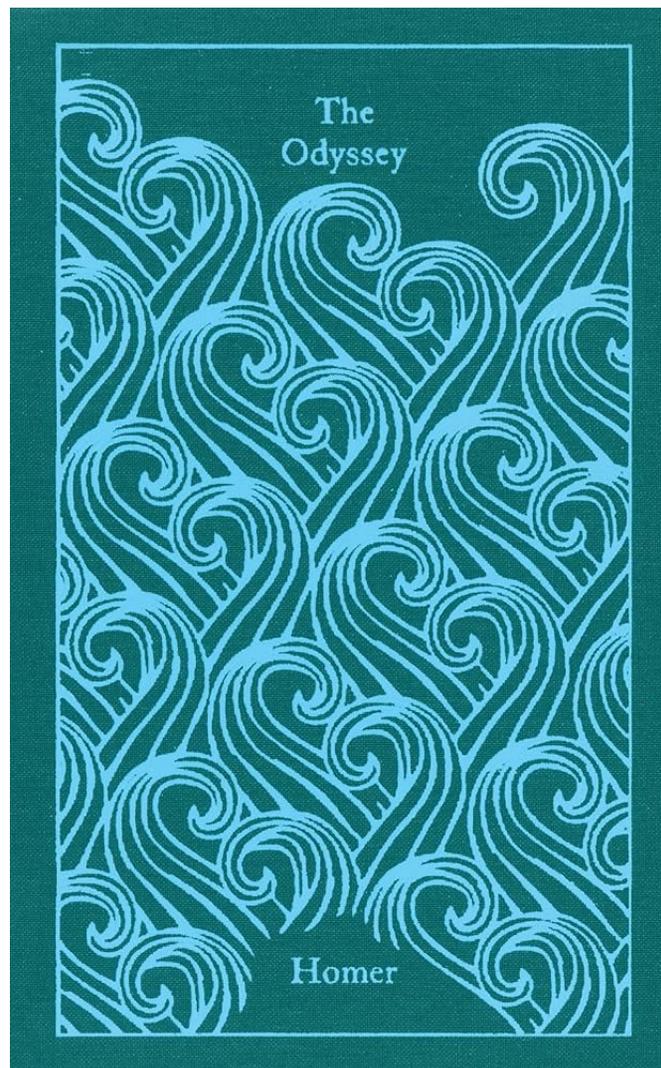
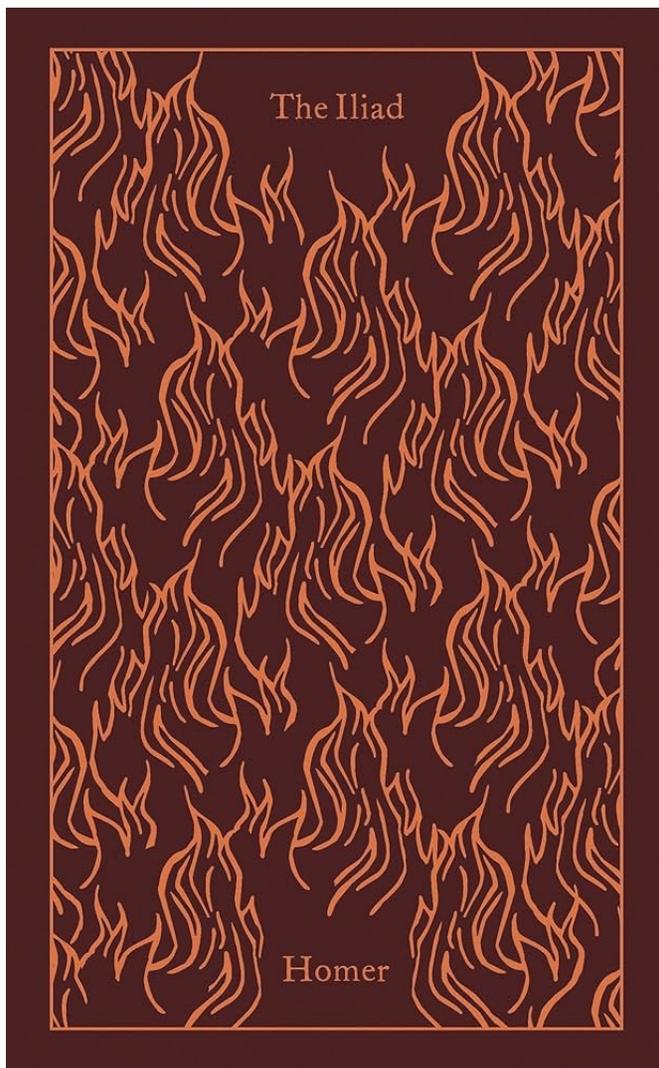


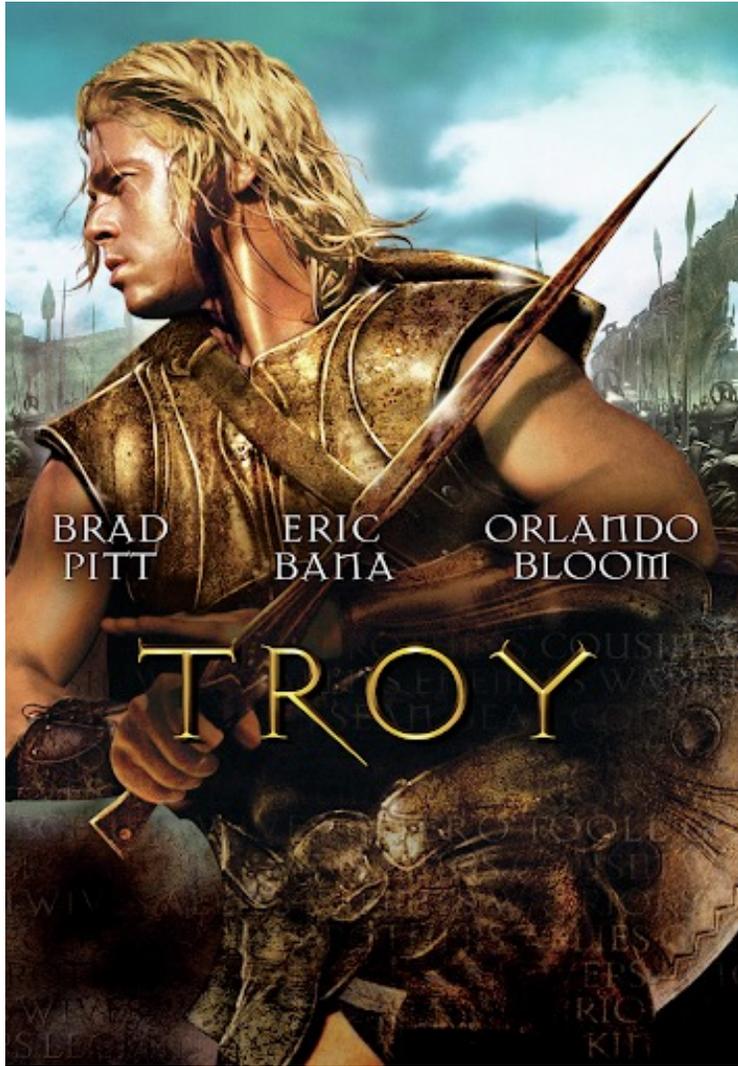
A movie poster for 'The Odyssey' by Christopher Nolan. The background is a dark blue, misty landscape with a forest and mountains. In the foreground, a person's back is visible, wearing a blue and white striped tunic and a dark, feathered helmet. The text is centered on the left side. 

A FILM BY CHRISTOPHER NOLAN

# THE ODYSSEY

07.17.26





# ARES: GREEK GOD OF WAR

- Alt: God of Courage
- Embodies the physical valor necessary for success in war
- Reflects sheer brutality/bloodlust
- Endows places/objects with savage, dangerous, or militarized quality
- Seen as having a destructive and destabilizing effect



## MARS: ROMAN GOD OF WAR

- Alt: Agricultural guardian
- Namesake of the month of March
- Viewed with greater character/dignity than Ares, who was often viewed with contempt/revulsion
- Seen as the source of military power that would secure peace
- Shield/spear of Mars; symbol of masculinity/virility



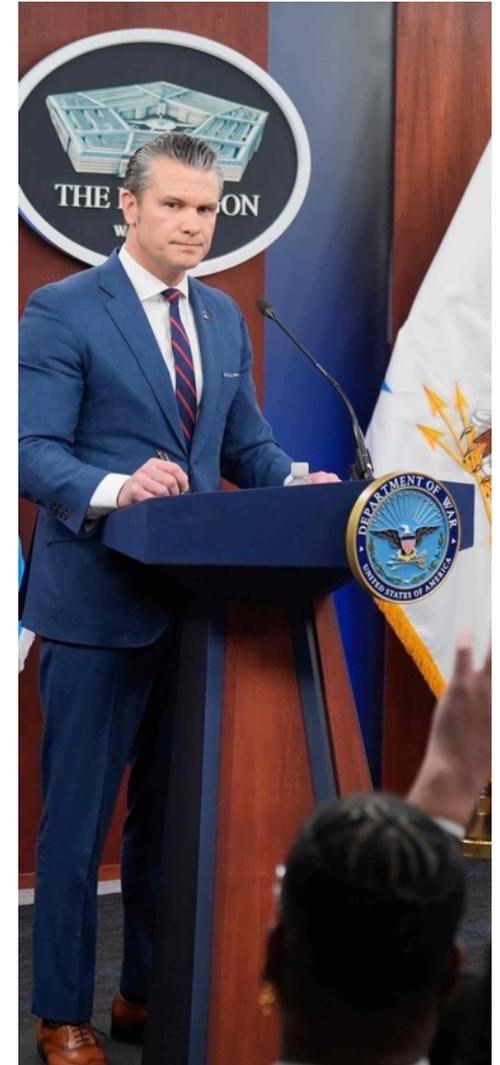
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- Recently renamed the *Department of Defense* to the *Department of War*



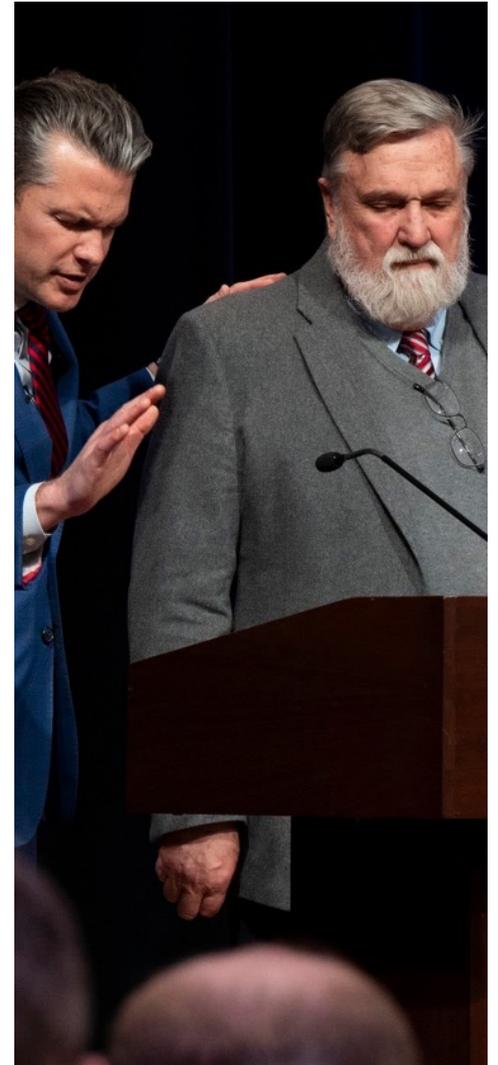
- Advocates repealing the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment re: women's right to vote
- Argues slavery more benign than has typically been taught, and that it fostered a "genuine affection between the races"
- Sees the United States as a "backslidden Christian republic"
- Describes his politics as "slightly to the right" of one Confederate General





“President Donald Trump has been anointed by Jesus to light the signal fire in Iran to cause Armageddon and mark his return to earth.”  
***(U.S. Military Commander)***

**NOTE: So far, the *Military Religious Freedom Foundation* has fielded over 200 complaints from over 50 military installations...**



*Then they gathered the kings together  
to the place that in Hebrew  
is called Armageddon.*

HOLY  
BIBLE

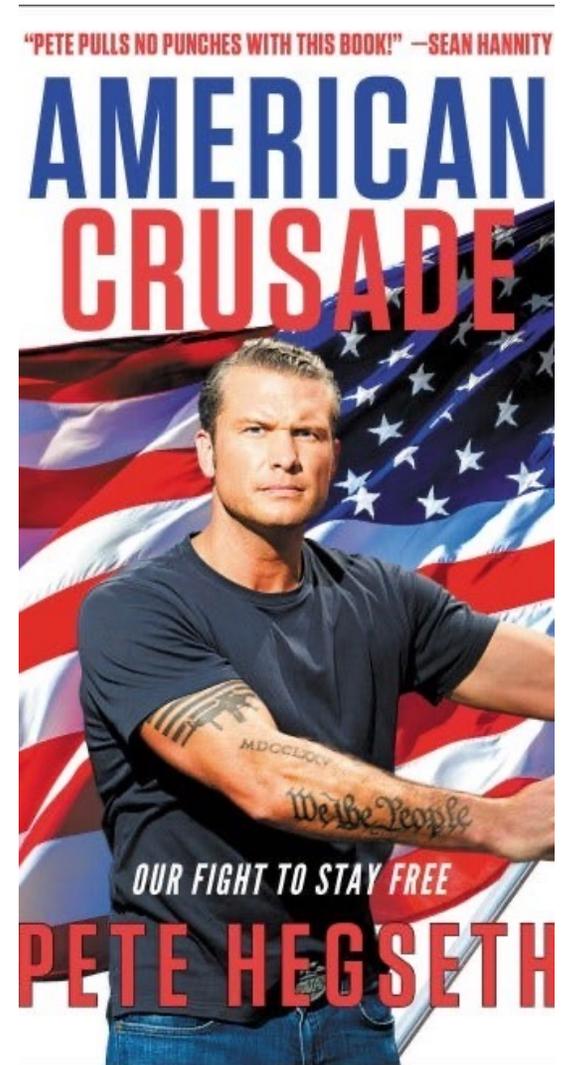
REV

16:16



# CHRISTIAN DOMINIONISM

Developed primarily in the 1970s, this is a group of political ideologies seeking to institute a nation governed by their particular interpretation and application of certain OT laws

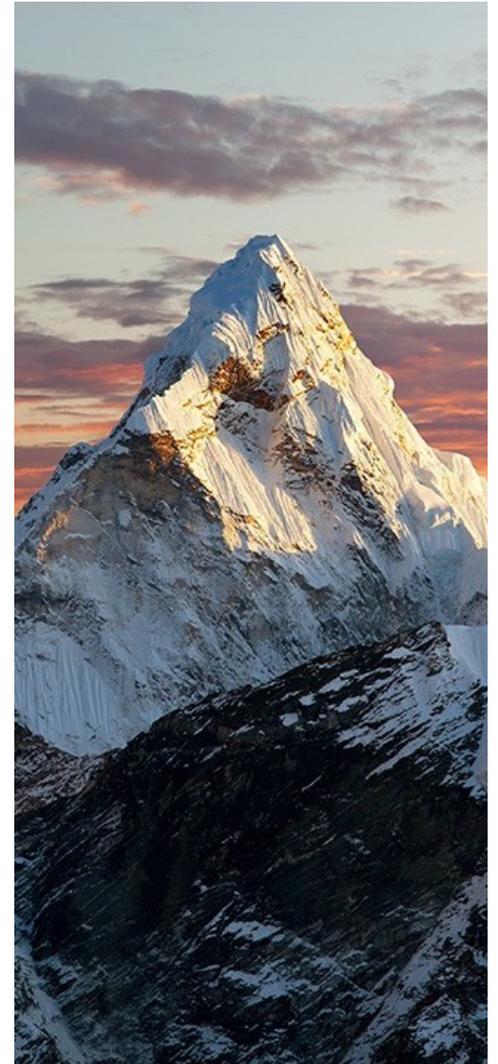




# SEVEN MOUNTAINS MANDATE

- ▲ Business
- ▲ Education
- ▲ Entertainment
- ▲ Family
- ▲ Government
- ▲ Media
- ▲ Religion

*Christians are to seize control over these spheres of influence in order to establish their version of the kingdom of God here on earth*



## SOME HELPFUL REMINDERS

1. Nowhere in scripture does Jesus model such a perspective



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3. The goals of this strategy are based on interpretive CHOICES for how to read/apply scripture





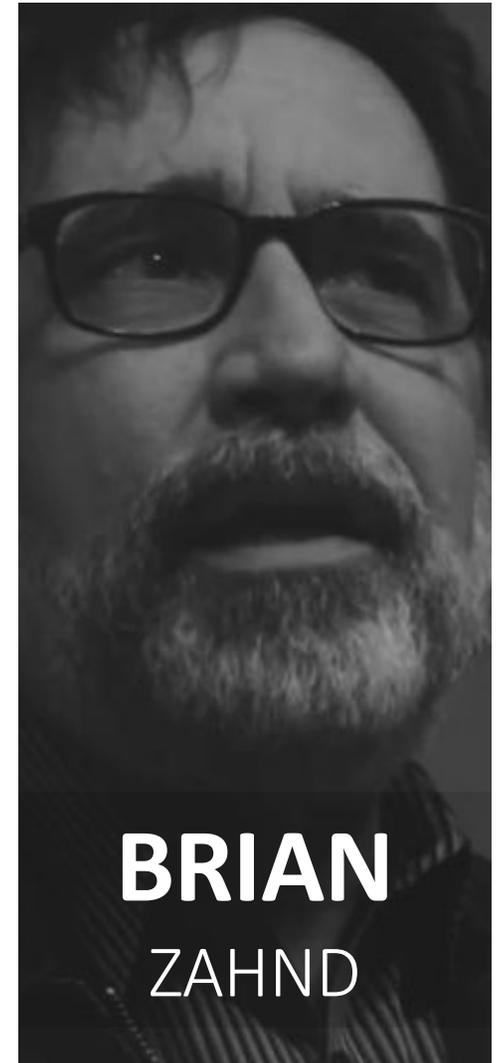
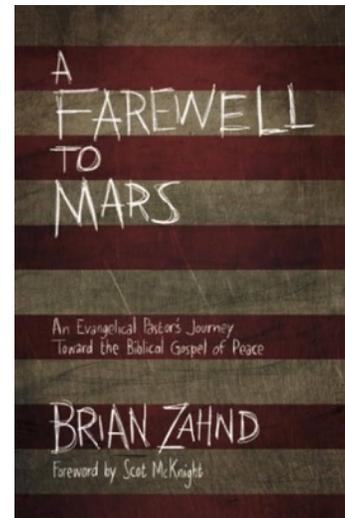
*See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah,  
the Root of David, has triumphed...  
Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if  
it had been slain, standing at  
the center of the throne...*

HOLY  
BIBLE

REV

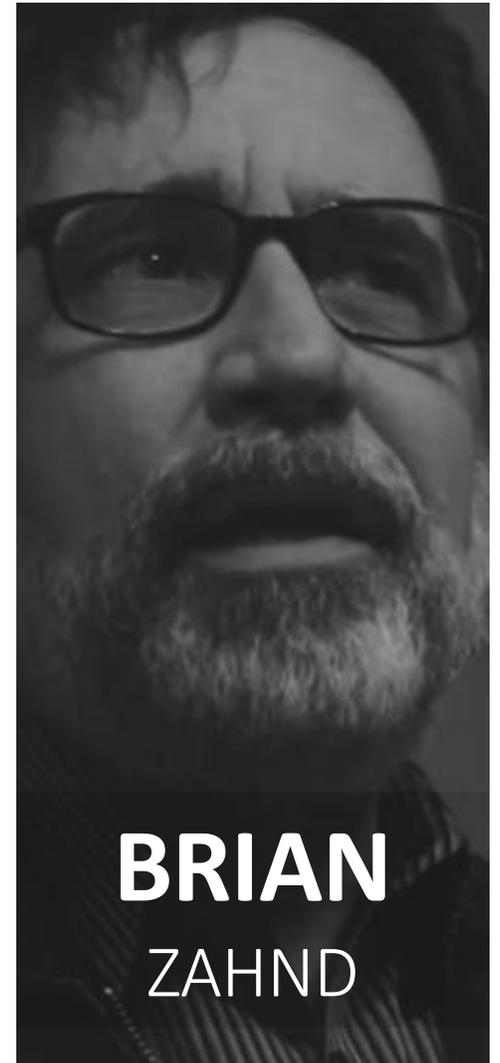
5:5-6

That Jesus won his kingdom in a way that gives him solidarity with victims everywhere is something that would have been utterly inconceivable to Ramesses the Great, Alexander the Great, or Julius Caesar...



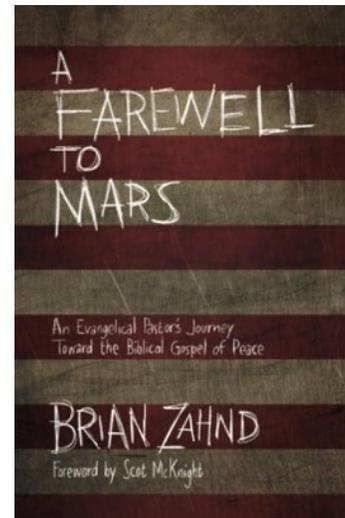
Pharoah and Caesar didn't have to worry much about public sympathy for the hapless victims (of violence), but their modern counter-parts do... because Christ has forever changed how we think about victims.

This is part of how Jesus repairs the world – by drawing us away from the self-deception that leads to the self-inflicted curse of Cain.

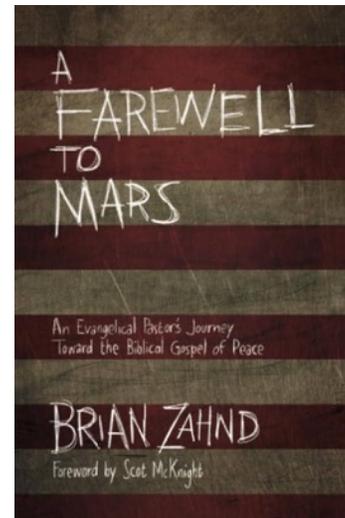


**BRIAN**  
ZAHND

Even the most ardent secularists among us generally cling to notions of human rights, economic and social justice, providence for the indigent, legal equality, or basic human dignity that pre-Christian Western culture would have found not so much foolish, as unintelligible. It is simply the case that we distant children of the pagans...

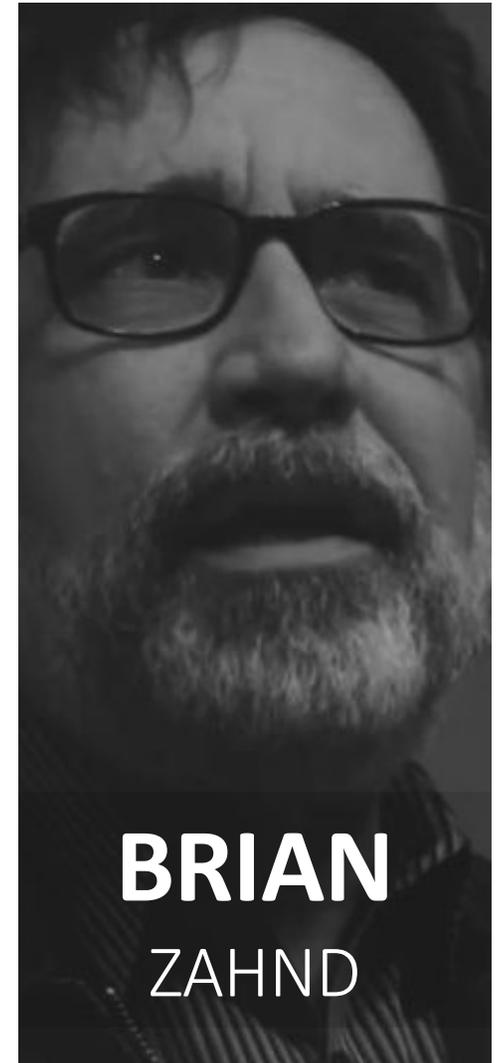
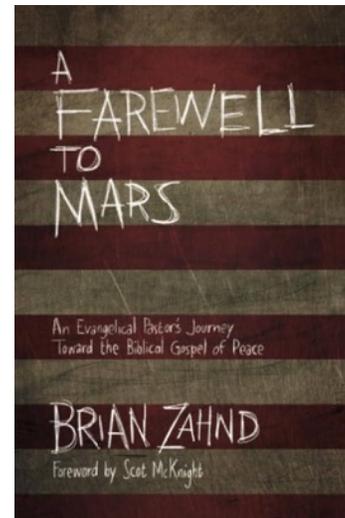


...would not be able to believe in any of these things – they would never have occurred to us – had our ancestors not once believed that God is love, that charity is the foundation of all virtues, that all of us are equal before the eyes of God, that to fail to feed the hungry or care for the suffering is to sin against Christ...





It's high time that a morbid fascination with a supposed unalterable script of God-sanctioned-end-time hyperviolence be once and for all left behind... We are not hoping for Armageddon; we are helping build New Jerusalem.



*But the fruit of the Spirit  
is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,  
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness  
and self-control. Against such things  
there is no law.*

HOLY  
BIBLE

**GAL**

5:22-23

*Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth...  
Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy...  
Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.*

HOLY  
BIBLE

MATT

5:5,7,9

*You have heard that it was said,  
'Love your neighbor and hate  
your enemy.' But I tell you, love your  
enemies and pray for those who persecute  
you, that you may be children of your  
Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise  
on the evil and the good, and sends rain  
on the righteous and the unrighteous.  
If you love those who love you,  
what reward will you get?*

HOLY  
BIBLE

MATT

6:43-46

*For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

HOLY  
BIBLE

ROM

10:12-13

*After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.*

*They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.*

*And they cried out in a loud voice:*

*“Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”*

**HOLY  
BIBLE**

**REV**

**7:9-10**



God of the covenant, in the glory of the cross  
your Son embraced the power of death  
and broke its hold over your people.

In this time of repentance,  
draw all people to yourself,  
that we who confess Jesus as Lord  
may put aside the deeds of death  
and accept the life of your kingdom.

Amen.

**Closing Prayer**

A decorative banner at the bottom of the page features a dark background with white line art of hands holding hearts. The hearts are colored in red, green, blue, and purple, and are arranged in a circular pattern.