

WHO IS GOD



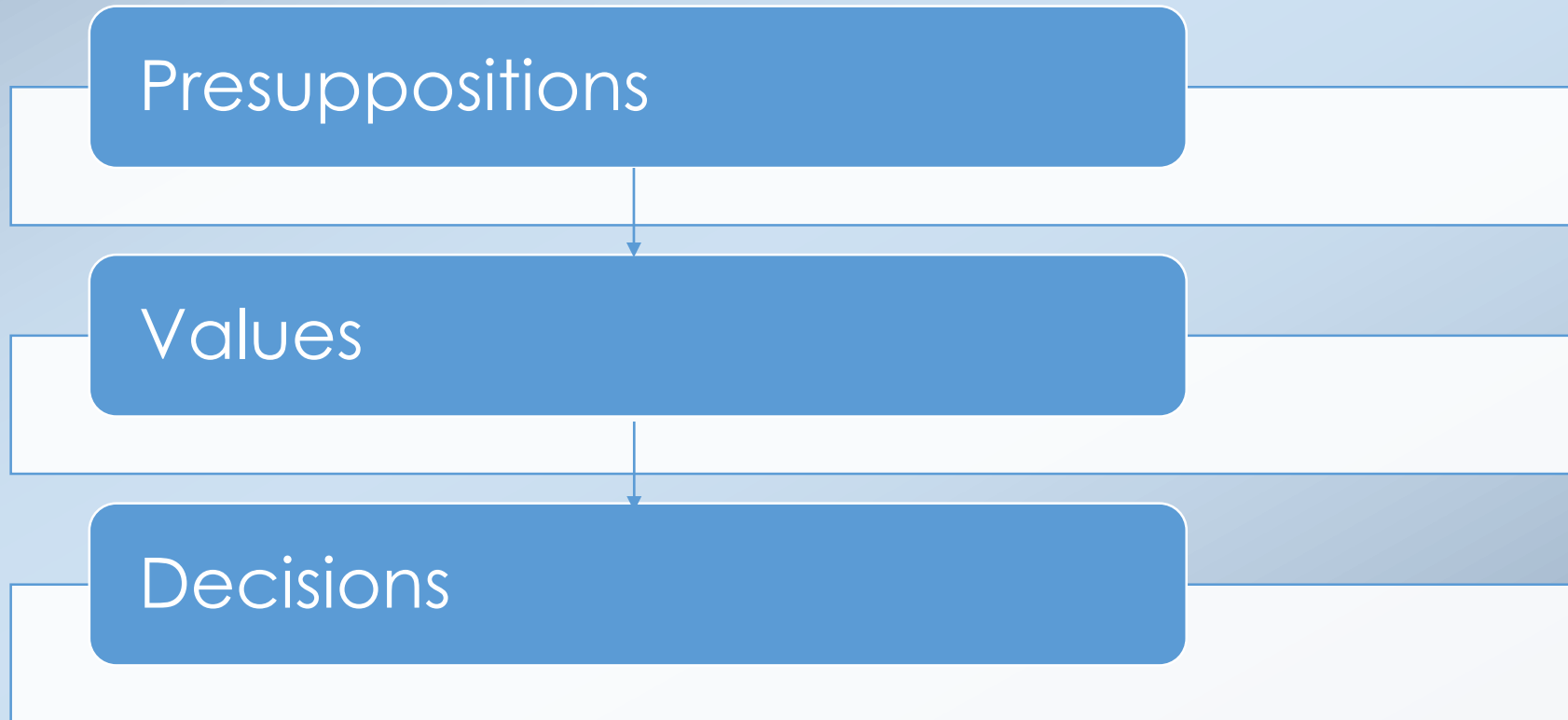
Pr. Daniel Dei

Assumptions

- ❑ Answering this question is the necessary **foundation** for knowing and understanding God, His creation, and His plan for humanity.
- ❑ The doctrine of God is not a cold and impotent force, but a **vital element** of your spiritual, moral, and social being.

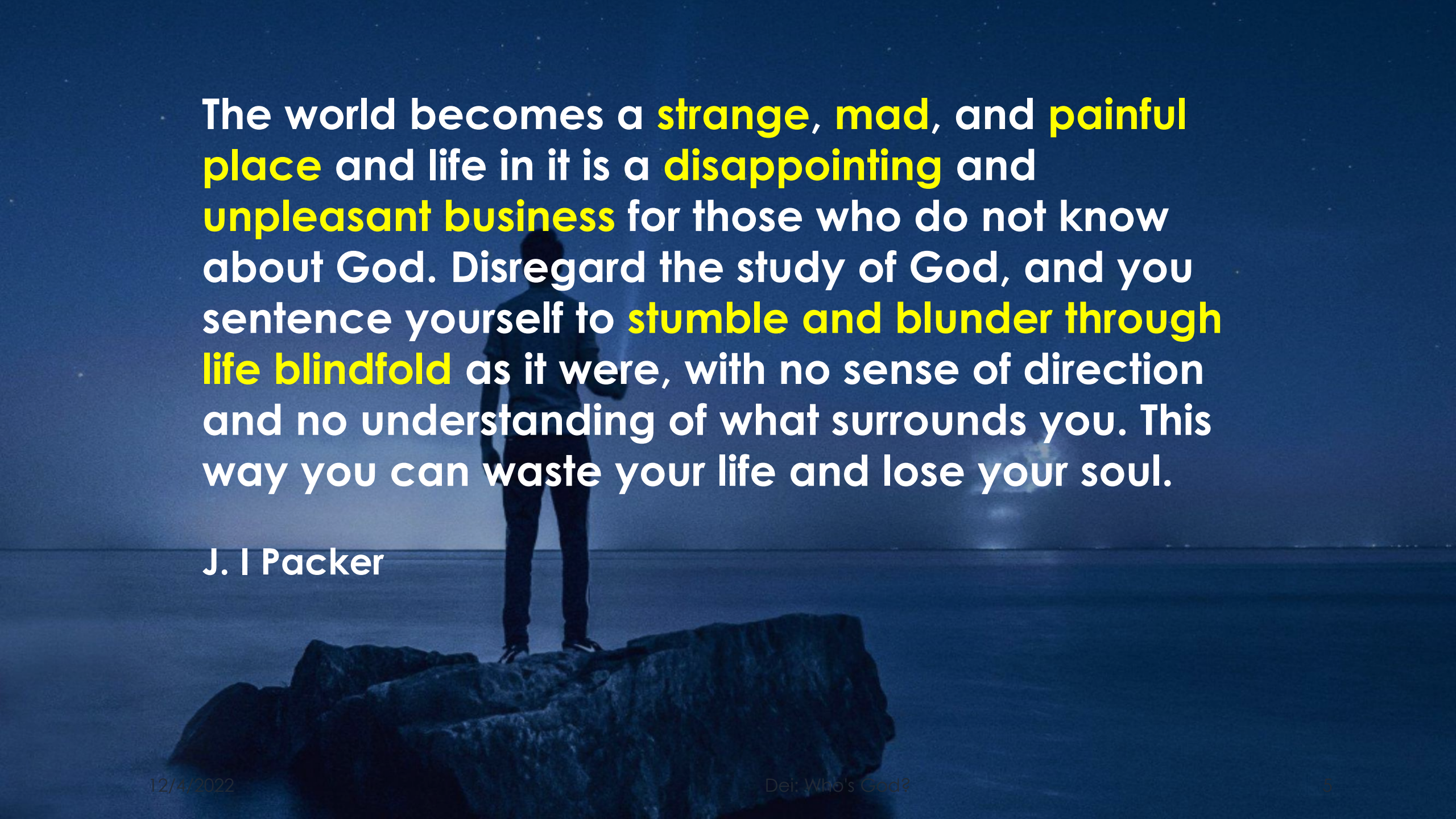


Impact on Worldview



IMPORTANCE

- It is the **difference** between life and death, a sense of significance and happiness, and joy and peace.
- It is the first step in **turning** from all the false gods of the world to the one true and living God.
- **Foundational** to a healthy relationship with God and a deeper personal, practical encounter with Him.
- **Without God**, everything else in the Bible and in life becomes hazy and meaningless.

A person is standing on a large, dark rock in the foreground, looking out over a vast, dark, and misty landscape. The background is a deep blue, almost black, sky with some faint, glowing light sources, possibly stars or distant galaxies. The overall mood is contemplative and somewhat somber.

The world becomes a **strange, mad, and painful place** and life in it is a **disappointing and unpleasant business** for those who do not know about God. Disregard the study of God, and you sentence yourself to **stumble and blunder through life blindfold** as it were, with no sense of direction and no understanding of what surrounds you. This way you can waste your life and lose your soul.

J. I Packer

“In the **beginning** **God** created the heavens and the earth.”

Gen 1:1 (NASB)

- He is incomprehensible

“Do you think you can explain the **mystery of God**? Do you think you can **diagram** God Almighty? God is far higher than you can imagine, far deeper than you can comprehend, Stretching farther than earth’s horizons, far wider than the endless ocean...”

Job 11:7-8 (MSG)

We Can Never Fully Understand God

A man in a dark suit is sitting on a concrete ledge, leaning back. Instead of a head, he has a large, glowing yellow lightbulb. He is holding a small black object, possibly a remote or a tool, near the base of the lightbulb. The background is a blurred cityscape under a blue sky.

We Can Never Fully Understand God

- We can never **fully understand** any single thing about God.
 - His greatness (Ps. 145:3),
 - His understanding (Ps. 147:5),
 - His knowledge (Ps. 139:6),
 - His riches, wisdom, judgments, and ways (Rom. 11:33) are *all* beyond our ability to understand fully.
 - His ways and thoughts (Isa. 55:9)
 - His acts (Job 26:14; cf. 11:7–9; 37:5).

A man in a dark suit is sitting on a concrete ledge, leaning back. Instead of a head, he has a large, glowing lightbulb. He is holding a small object, possibly a remote or a tool, near the base of the lightbulb. The background is a blurred cityscape under a blue sky.

**God is Incomprehensible
but Knowable**

- Jesus' statement: "And this is **life eternal**, that they should know Thee, the only true God, and Him whom thou didst send, even Jesus Christ," John 17:3.
- We have understanding through Jesus: "the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we know Him that is true, and we are in Him that is true, even in His Son Jesus Christ." I John 5:20.

Christ was not simply speaking of gaining an entrance into heaven, but of knowing and experiencing an **eternal quality** of life now, a life of meaning, purpose, and usefulness to God and humanity with peace and joy.

We do not know what God is in His **essential Being** (*quid*), but can know something of His nature, of what He is to us, as He reveals Himself in His **divine attributes** (*qualis*).

A man in a dark suit is sitting on a concrete ledge, leaning back. Instead of a head, he has a large, glowing lightbulb. He is holding a small black object, possibly a remote or a tool, near the base of the lightbulb. The background is a blurred cityscape under a blue sky.

God Can Truly Be Known

- Through Scripture, we can know **true things** about God:
 - It is true to say that God is love (1 John 4:8),
 - that God is light (1 John 1:5),
 - that God is spirit (John 4:24),
 - that God is just or righteous (Rom. 3:26).

A man in a dark suit is sitting on a concrete ledge, leaning back. Instead of a head, he has a large, glowing yellow lightbulb. He is holding a small black object, possibly a remote or a tool, near the base of the lightbulb. The background is a blurred cityscape under a blue sky.

God Can Truly Be Known

- Several biblical passages speak of our **knowing God himself**.
 - Knowing God is the foundation of our joy and sense of worth (Jer. 9:23–24).
 - Knowing God is life (John 17:3),
 - Knowing God is promised in the new covenant (Heb. 8:11),
 - We have an understanding of God through the Son (1 John 5:20; see also Gal. 4:9; Phil. 3:10; 1 John 2:3, 13; 4:8).

A man in a dark suit is sitting on a concrete ledge, leaning back. Instead of a head, he has a large, glowing yellow lightbulb. He is holding a small black object, possibly a remote or a microphone, up to the base of the lightbulb. The background is a blurred cityscape under a blue sky.

God Can Truly Be Known

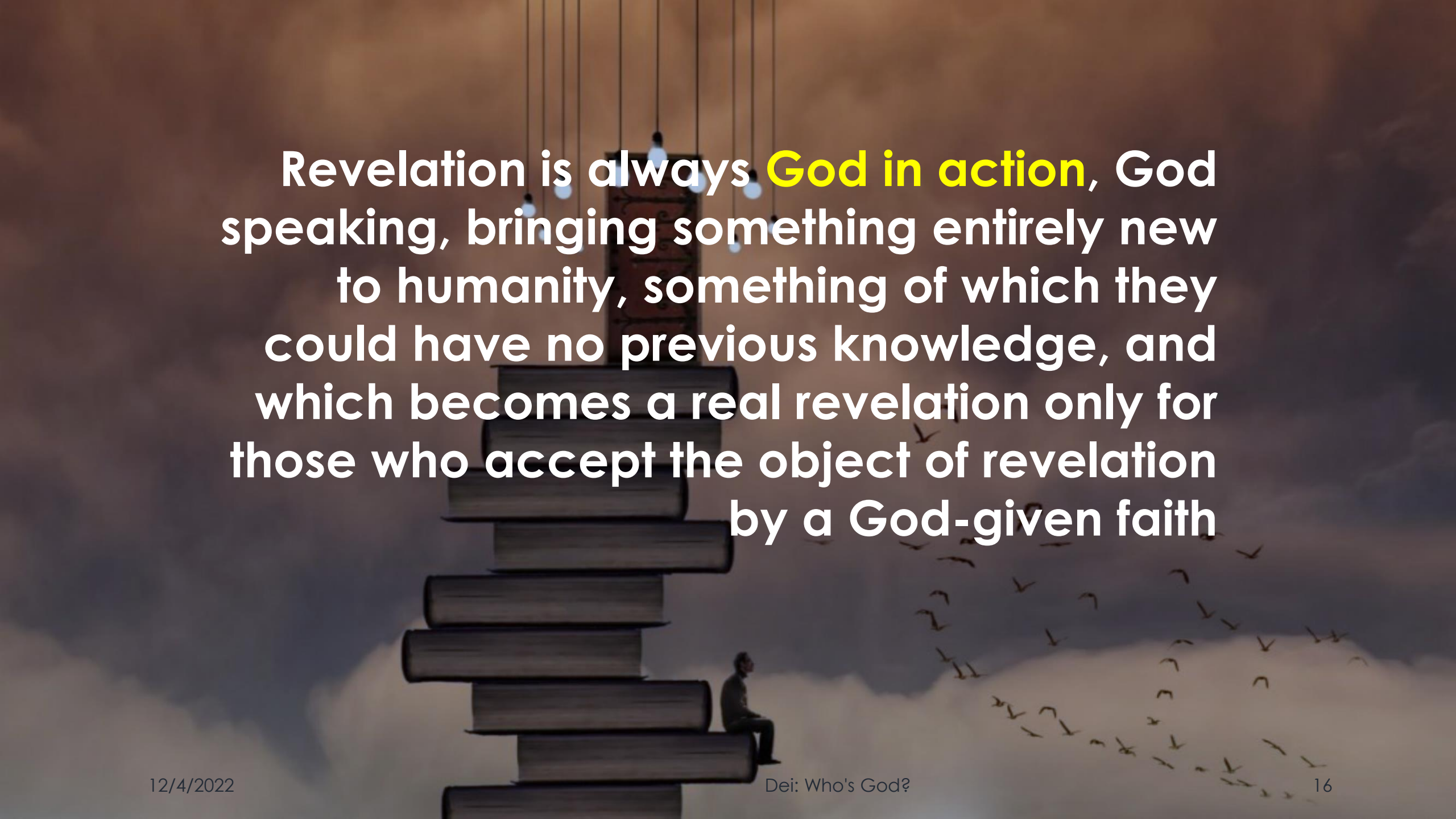
- The Christian life includes a **personal relationship** with God.
 - We speak to God in prayer, and He speaks to us through His Word.
 - We commune with Him in his presence,
 - We sing His praise,
 - we are aware that He personally dwells among us and within us to bless us (John 14:23).
 - This personal relationship with God the Father, with God the Son, and with God, the Holy Spirit may be said to be the greatest of all the blessings of the Christian life (Rev 3:20)

God's Self-Disclosure



12/4/2022

- **Self-Revelation: God Communicates Knowledge of Himself to humanity: I Cor. 2:11.**
- **Innate and Acquired Knowledge of God (Psa 139:14)**
- **General Revelation (Psa 19)**

A person is sitting on a tall, precarious stack of books. The books are stacked in a slightly irregular manner, with some protruding more than others. The person is small in comparison to the height of the stack. The background is a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with warm orange and yellow tones near the horizon and darker, blueish tones above. Numerous birds are flying in the sky, their silhouettes scattered across the frame. The overall mood is contemplative and symbolic.

Revelation is always **God in action**, God speaking, bringing something entirely new to humanity, something of which they could have no previous knowledge, and which becomes a real revelation only for those who accept the object of revelation by a God-given faith

Although we cannot fully know everything about God, since he has chosen to reveal himself to his creatures in a variety of ways we can know him **personally, meaningfully, and significantly**, in a limited, true but ever-increasing way throughout eternity.

Reflections

- How can the notion 'God is incomprehensible yet knowable' fit into the quest of the present-day Christian to know God?
- How is 'knowing God' central to the Christian's quest for life's meaning and purpose?