



THE NEED FOR BIBLICAL APOLOGETICS

Dr. Christopher Cone

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www.agathonu.com

A person in medieval armor, including chainmail and a leather shield, is holding a sword. The image is dark and moody, with the text overlaid on the left side.

NEED

#1

—The Bible Demands It

A knight in chainmail armor is shown from the chest up, holding a large, dark, textured shield with a cross emblem. The knight's hands are visible, gripping the shield and a sword. The background is dark and out of focus.

The Biblical Pattern

Philippians 1:7 Defense & Confirmation

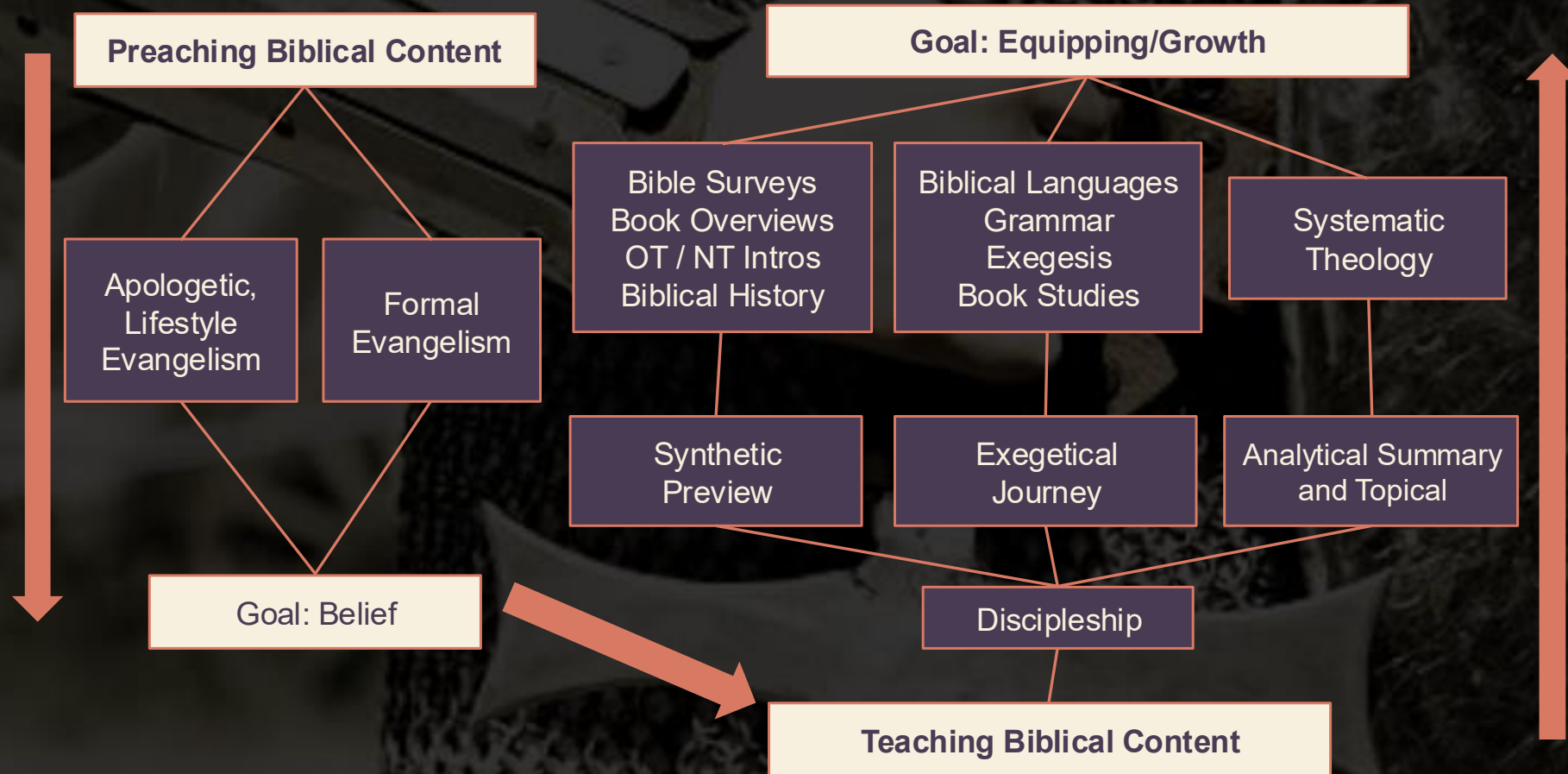
1 Peter 3:15 – Evangelism (Apologetics)

2 Timothy 2:2 – Discipleship

Titus 2:3 – Discipleship

Pedagogical Flow Chart

(Note preaching/teaching distinction)



A close-up, slightly blurred image of a medieval knight's arm and hand. The knight is wearing chainmail armor and a leather gauntlet. They are holding a large, double-bladed battle-axe. The background is dark and out of focus.

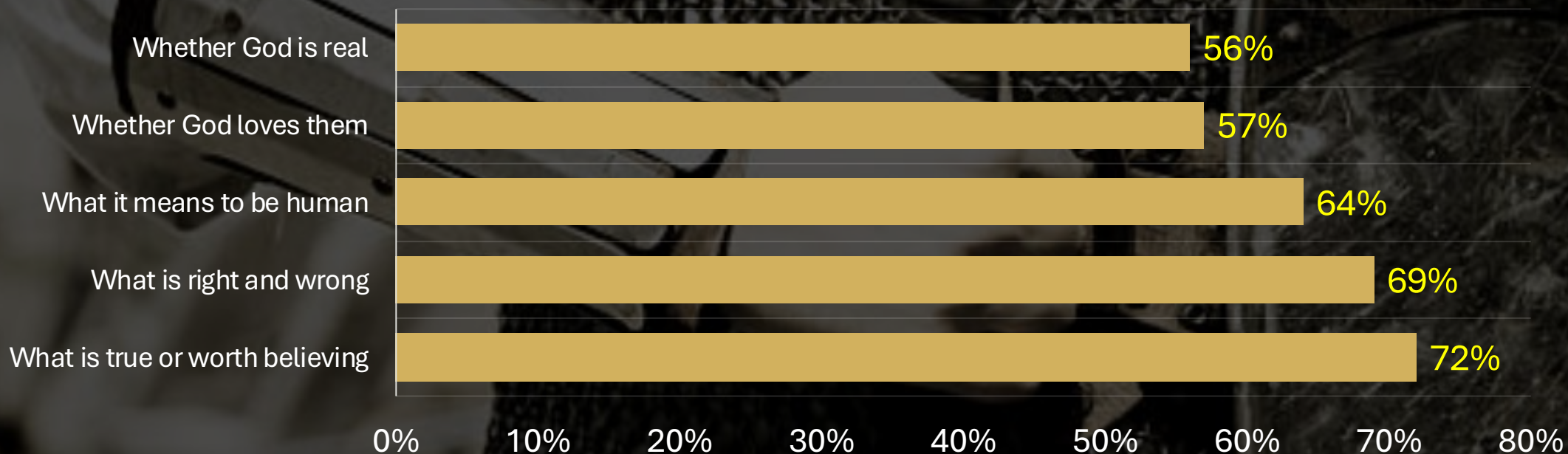
NEED

#2

– People are Hungry For It

Teens feel pressure to find answers

At least some pressure to resolve these questions



U.S. teens ages 13–18. February 2026 survey, n = 1,500.

Barna / Christ In Youth, published June 11, 2026

Evidence and religious knowledge

Components of Worldview



Is God real?

Does God love us?

What does it mean to be human?

What is right and wrong?

What is true or worth believing?

Evidence and religious knowledge

66%

Need evidence to
support their beliefs

57%

Think science offers facts,
but religion and morality do not

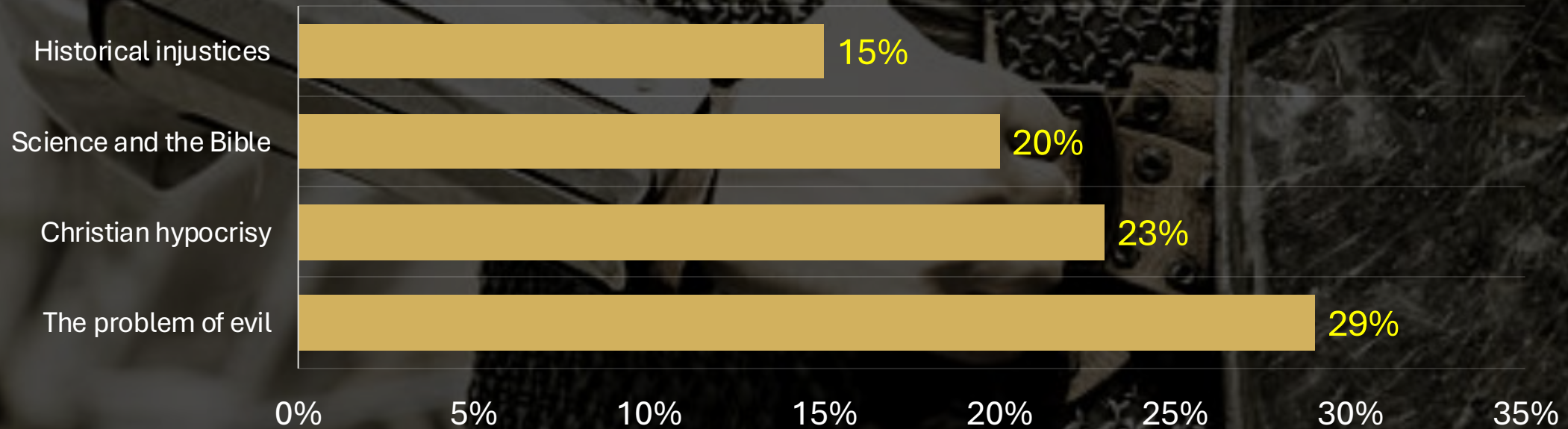
The task includes explaining how we can know what is true.

Barna, U.S. Gen Z ages 13–24, n = 2,000. Survey: August 2023. Published: September 2024.



Barriers overlap with our questions

Reasons non-Christian teens gave for doubting Christianity



Historical baseline: 2016–17 surveys, published in 2018.

Barna, non-Christian U.S. teens ages 13–18. These are not current prevalence estimates.

Belief deserves serious attention

85%

Of adults who switched religions, this share did so by age 30

51%

Of former adherents now unaffiliated, this share cited loss of belief as a major reason

Young adulthood matters. Honest questions deserve time.

Pew Research Center, published December 2025. U.S. adult subgroups, not all young adults.



Nine recurring objections

- 01** Evil and suffering
- 02** The reliability of Scripture
- 03** Violence and hypocrisy
- 04** The exclusivity of Christ
- 05** Faith and reason
- 06** Equality and human dignity
- 07** The resurrection
- 08** Care for the environment
- 09** Science and faith

A close-up, slightly desaturated photograph of a medieval knight's arm and hand. The knight is wearing chainmail armor and a leather bracer. They are holding a large, double-headed battle-axe. The background is dark and textured, possibly a shield or a wall.

NEED

#3

– It Is How We Are Equipped

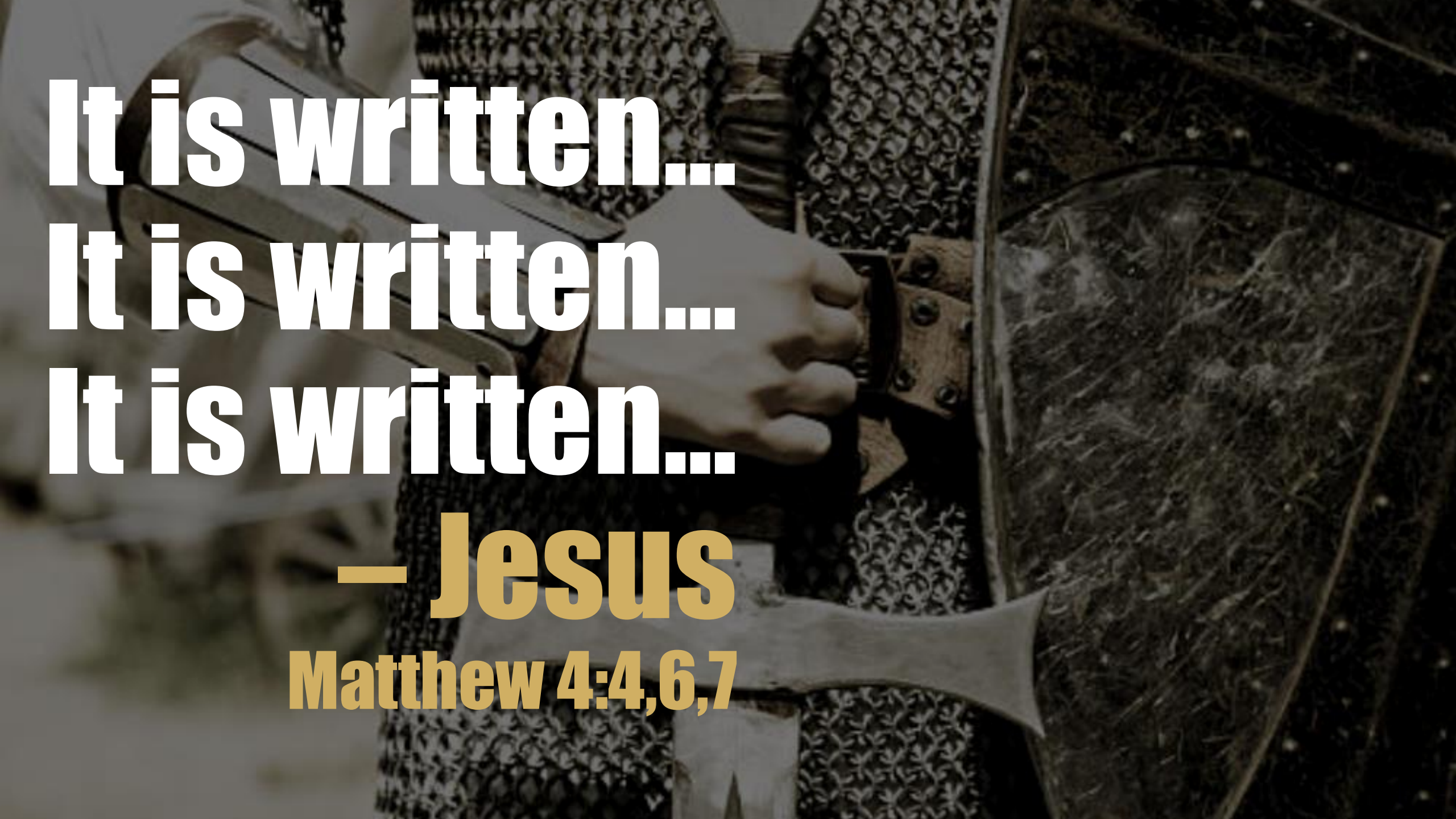
A person wearing chainmail armor is shown from the chest down, holding a sword in their right hand and a shield in their left. The background is dark and textured.

Ephesians 6:13-18a
the armor

Ephesians 6:16
the shield

2 Corinthians 10:3-5
the weapons

Ephesians 6:17
the sword



It is written...

It is written...

It is written...

— Jesus

Matthew 4:4,6,7



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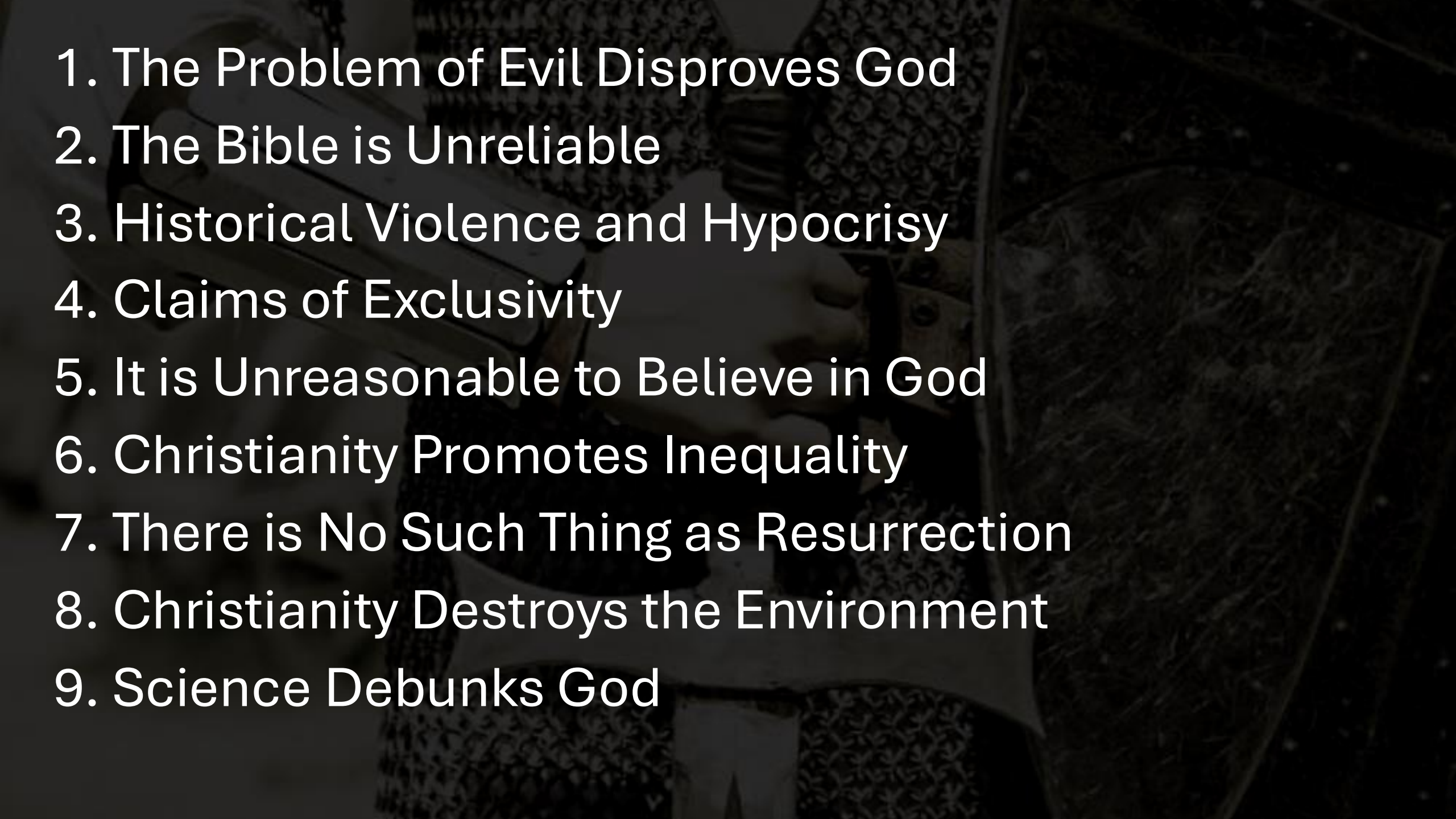
Dr. Christopher Cone

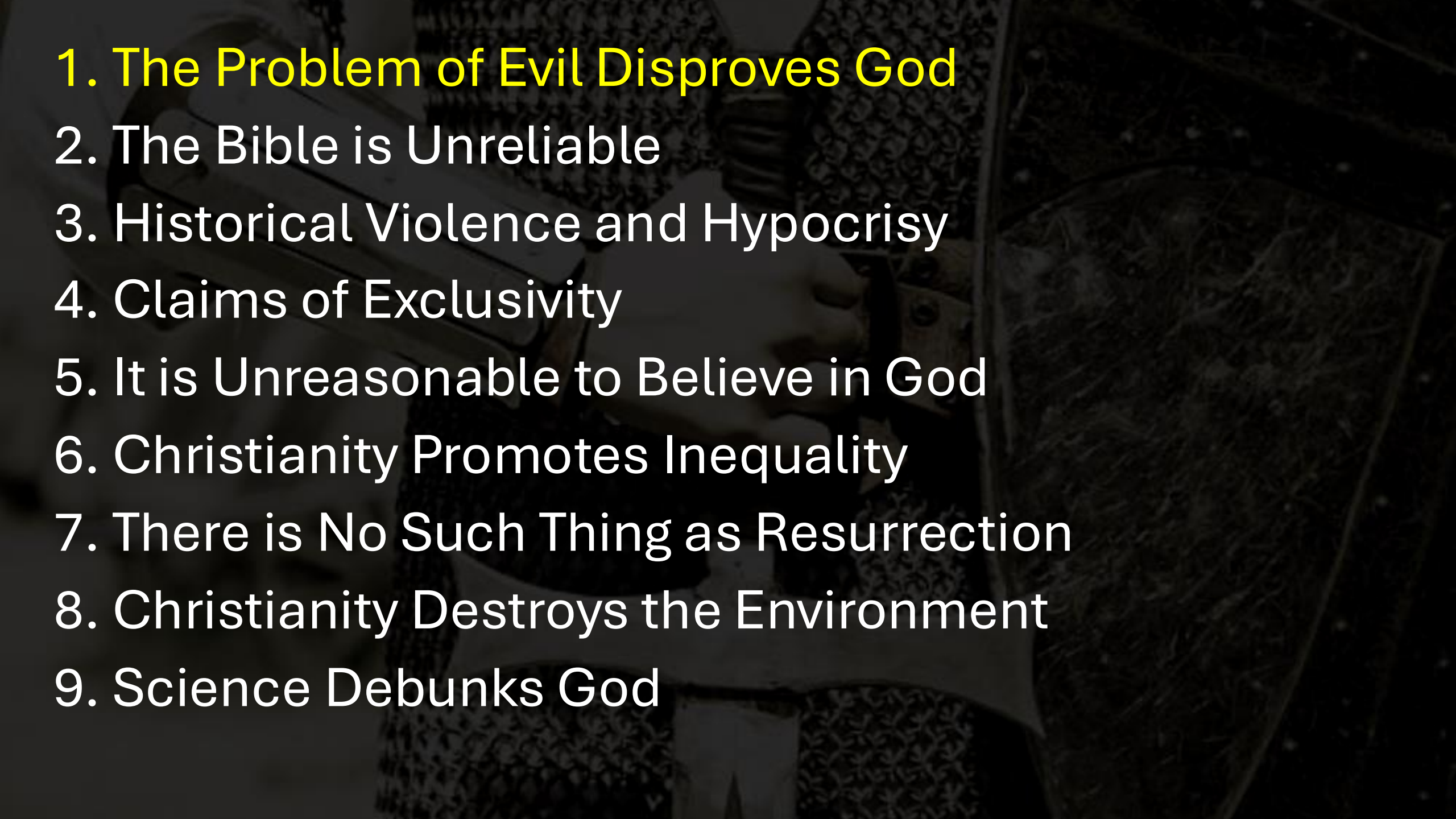
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ADDRESSING_{THE} QUESTIONS

- 
1. The Problem of Evil Disproves God
 2. The Bible is Unreliable
 3. Historical Violence and Hypocrisy
 4. Claims of Exclusivity
 5. It is Unreasonable to Believe in God
 6. Christianity Promotes Inequality
 7. There is No Such Thing as Resurrection
 8. Christianity Destroys the Environment
 9. Science Debunks God



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the problem of evil

If God is all knowing, all powerful,
and all good, then how can evil
exist?

ANSWERING
ARGUMENTS
AGAINST
GOD



the problem of evil

If God is all knowing, all powerful, and all good, then how can evil exist?

- Micah 6:8
- Isaiah 55:8-9
- Romans 9:14-21
- Romans 11:33-36



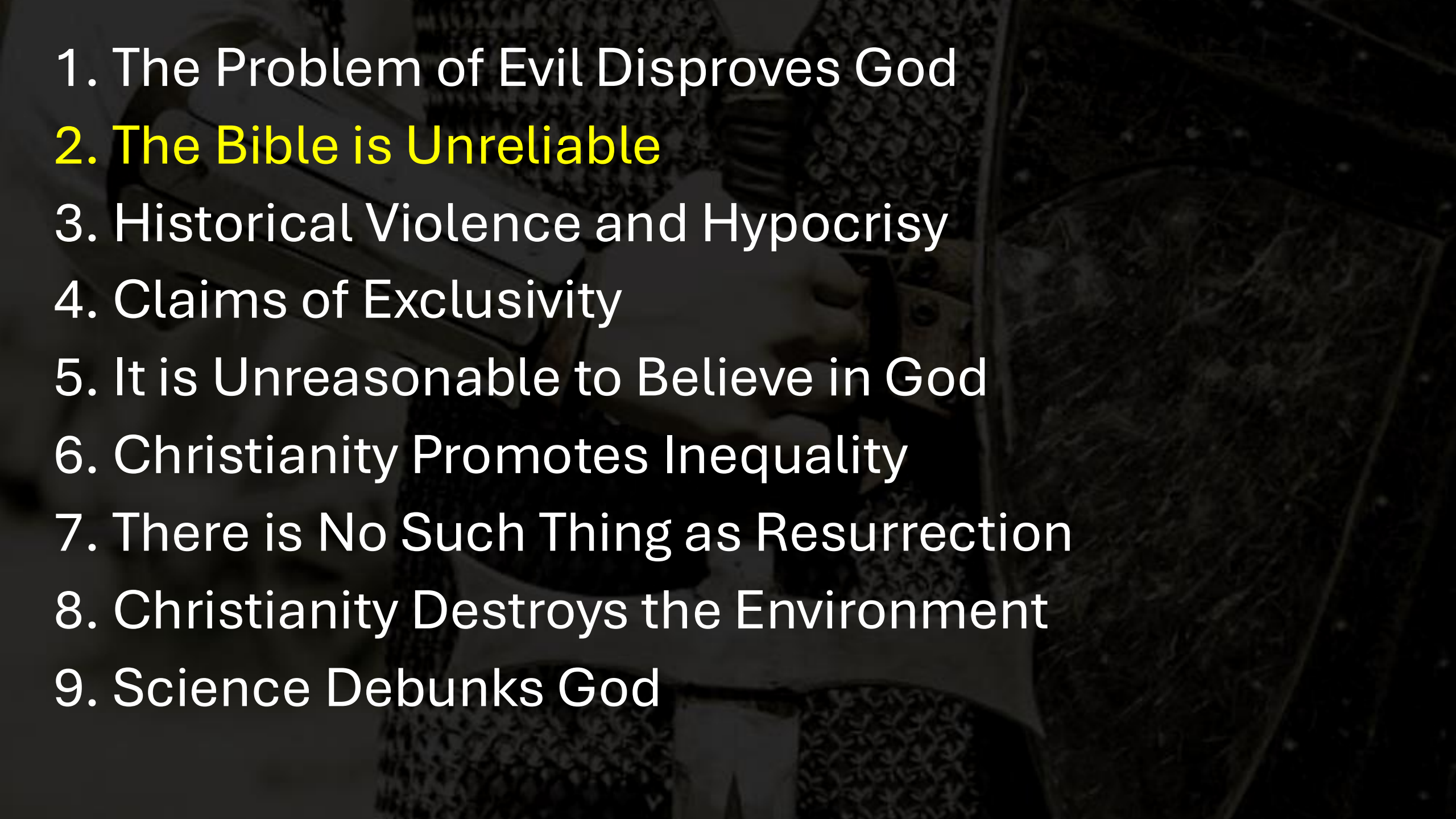
**ANSWERING
ARGUMENTS
AGAINST
GOD**

the problem of evil

Fallacious Philosophy

- Elevates Man as God's judge
- Who defines good?
- False dichotomy

**ANSWERING
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the Bible is unreliable

The Bible has contradictions and errors and is not reliable

**ANSWERING
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The Bible has contradictions and errors and is not reliable

ANSWERING
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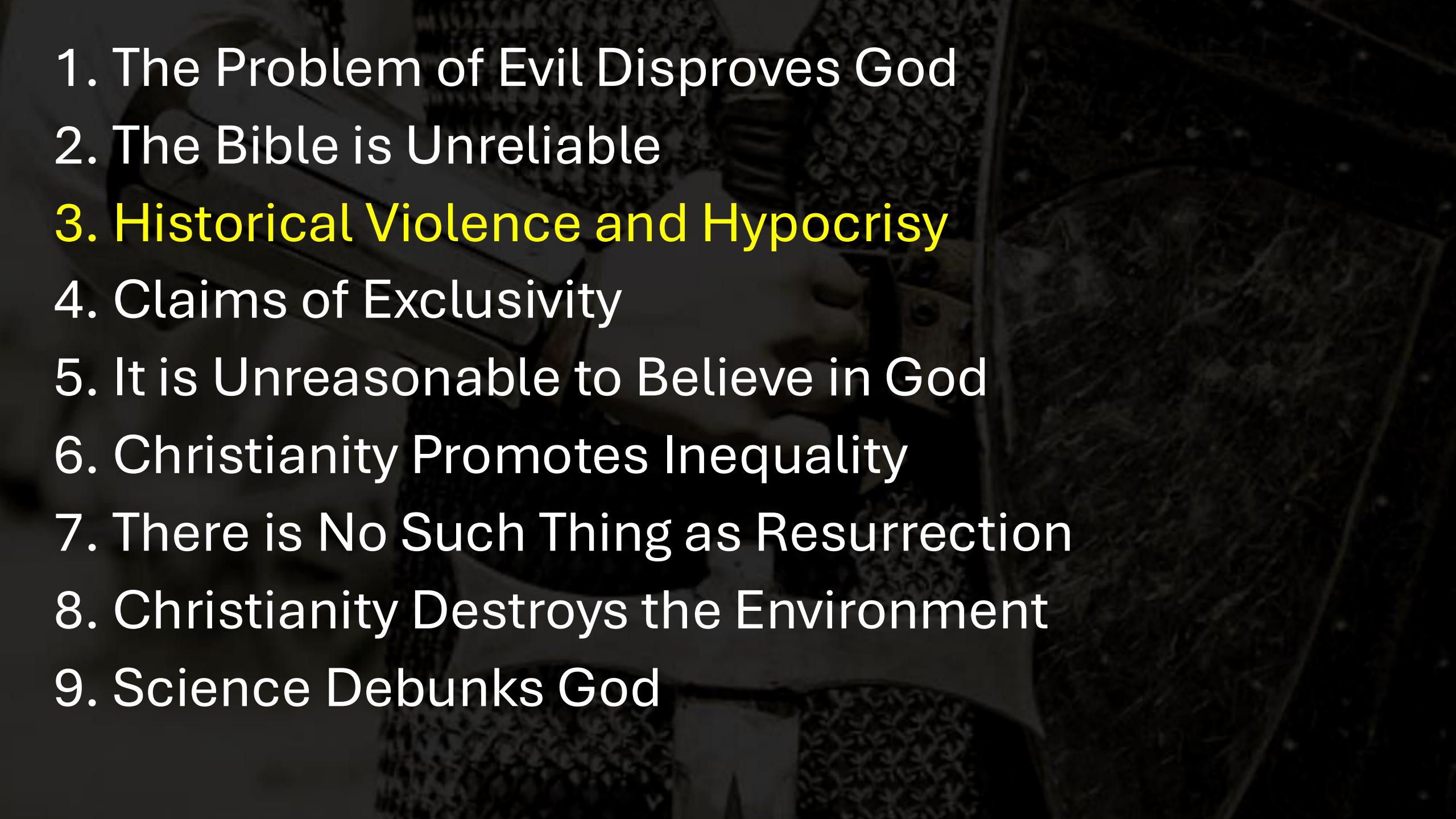
- James 2:24 vs. Romans 3:28
- Matthew 16:28, 17:1
- Jeremiah 31:31
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

the Bible is unreliable

Fallacious Philosophy

- Biased reading
- Circular reasoning
- Textual and contextual ignorance
- Hasty generalization

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historical violence and hypocrisy

Many evils done in the name of God

Christians are hypocrites

God is genocidal

God hates (Insert people here)

**ANSWERING
ARGUMENTS
AGAINST
GOD**

historical violence and hypocrisy

ANSWERING ARGUMENTS AGAINST GOD

Many evils done in the name of God

- James 1:13-16

Christians are hypocrites

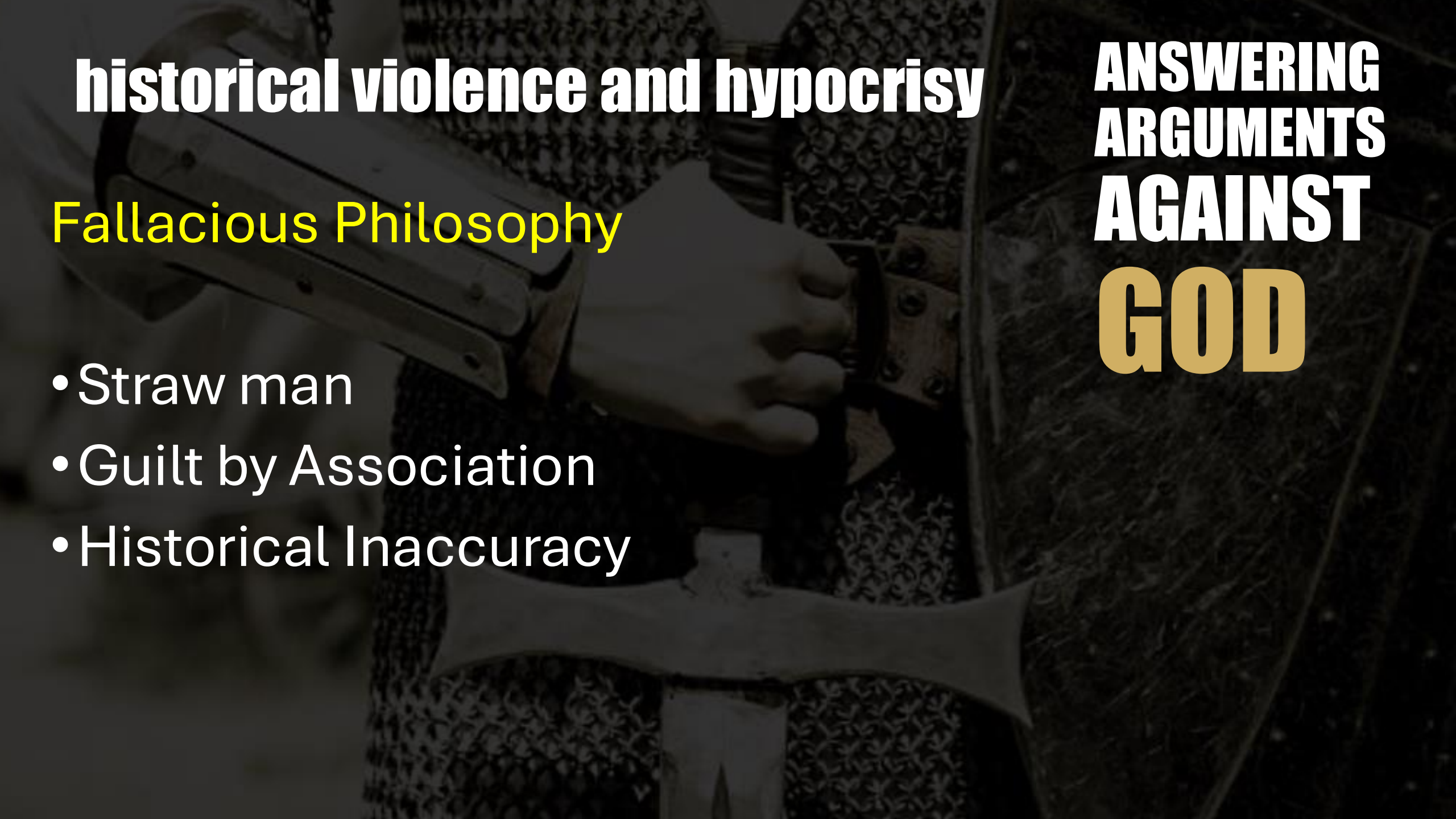
- Romans 3:9-18

God is genocidal

- Numbers 33:51-53

God hates (Insert people here)

- John 3:16, Romans 9:13

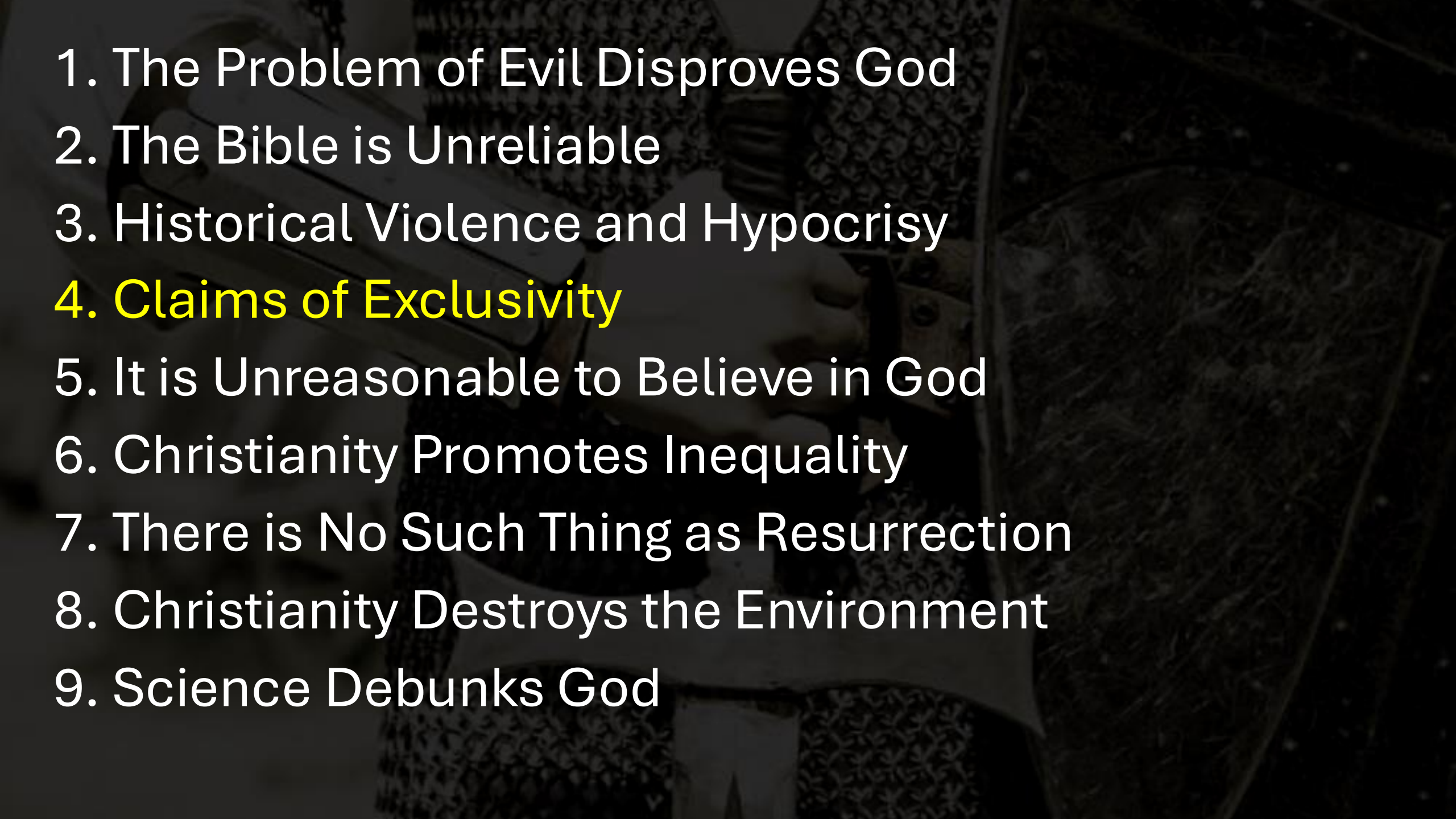


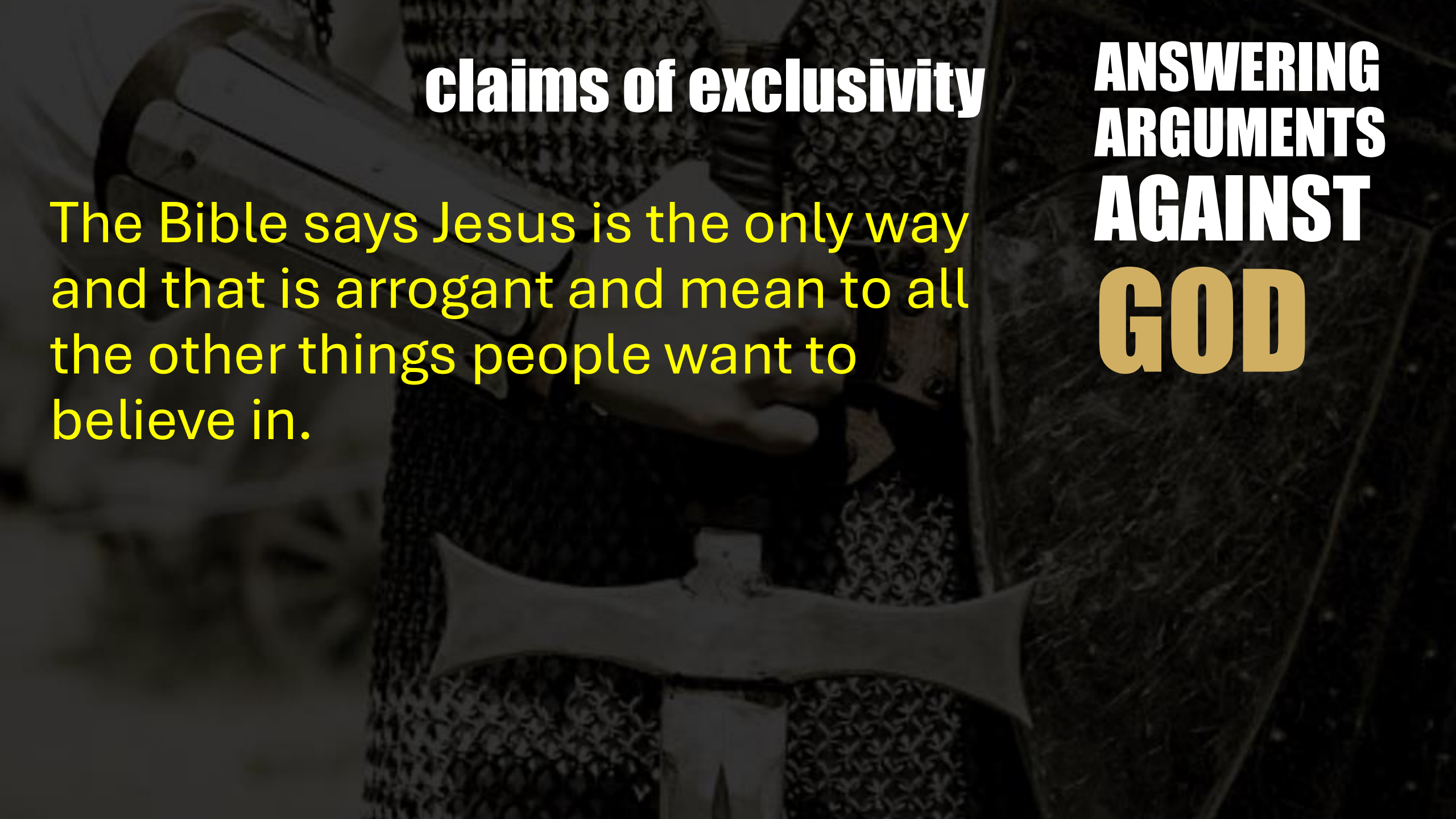
historical violence and hypocrisy

Fallacious Philosophy

- Straw man
- Guilt by Association
- Historical Inaccuracy

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claims of exclusivity

The Bible says Jesus is the only way and that is arrogant and mean to all the other things people want to believe in.

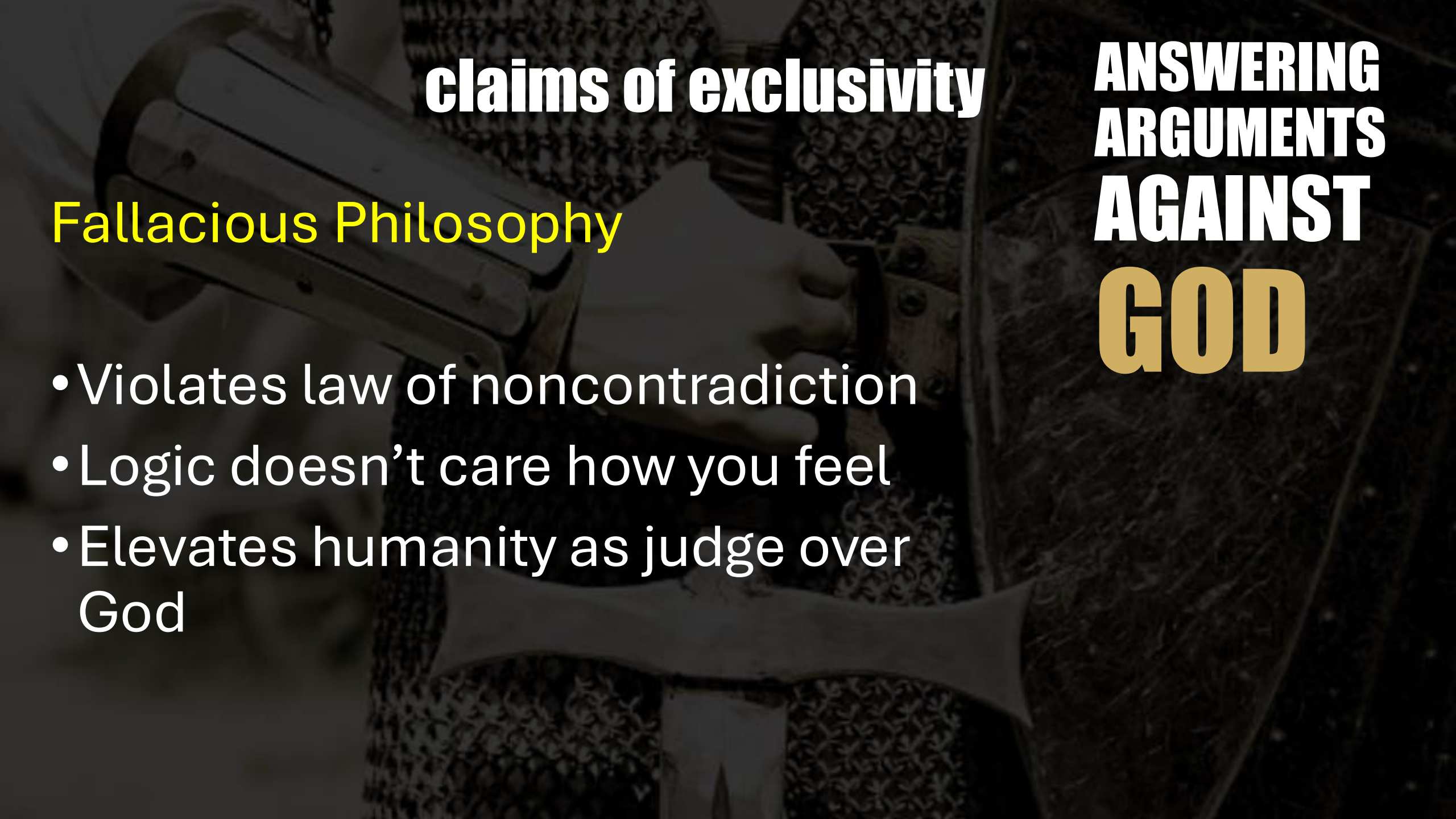
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claims of exclusivity

The Bible says Jesus is the only way and that is arrogant and mean to all the other things people want to believe in.

- John 14:6
- 1 Timothy 2:5

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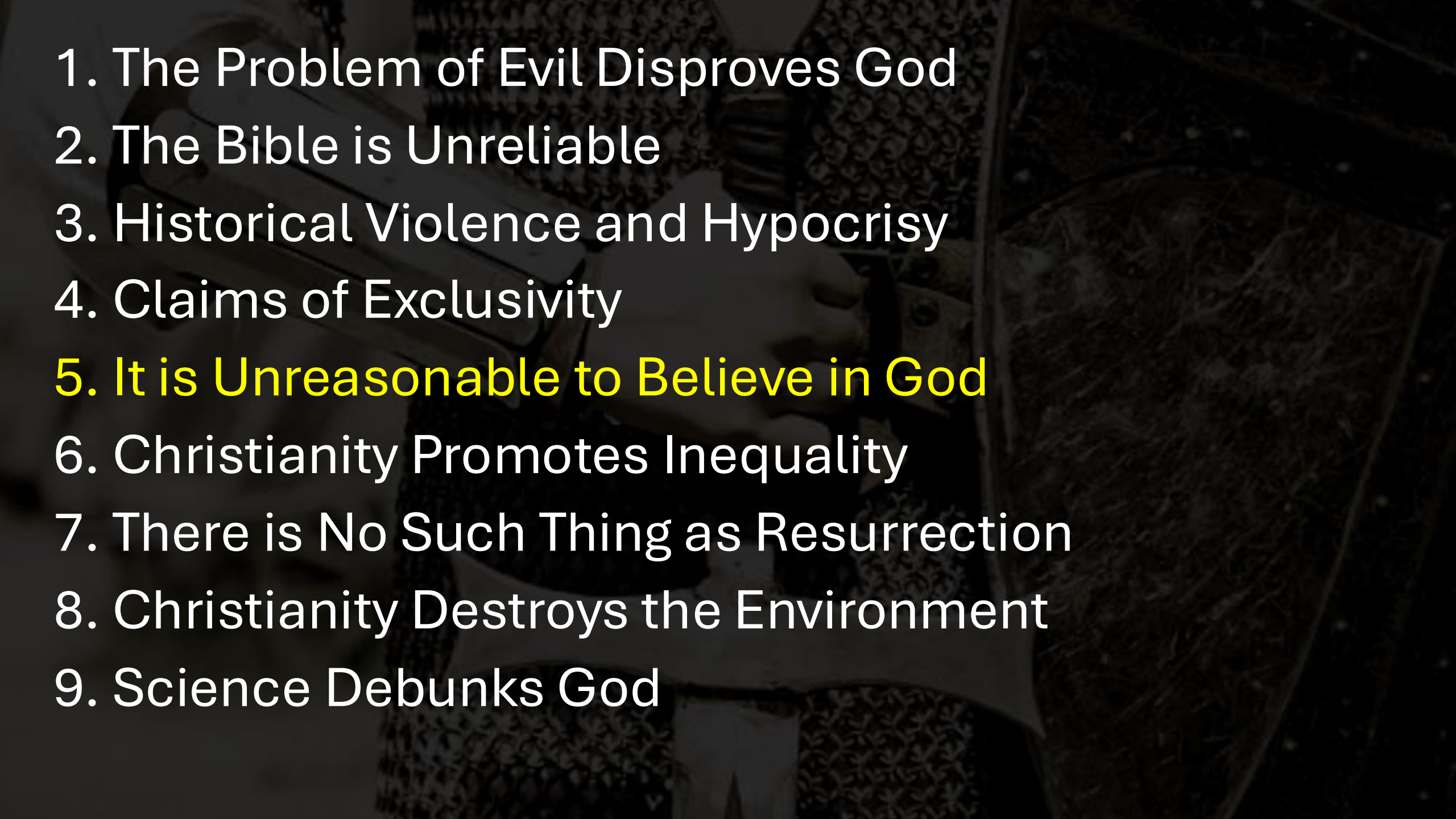


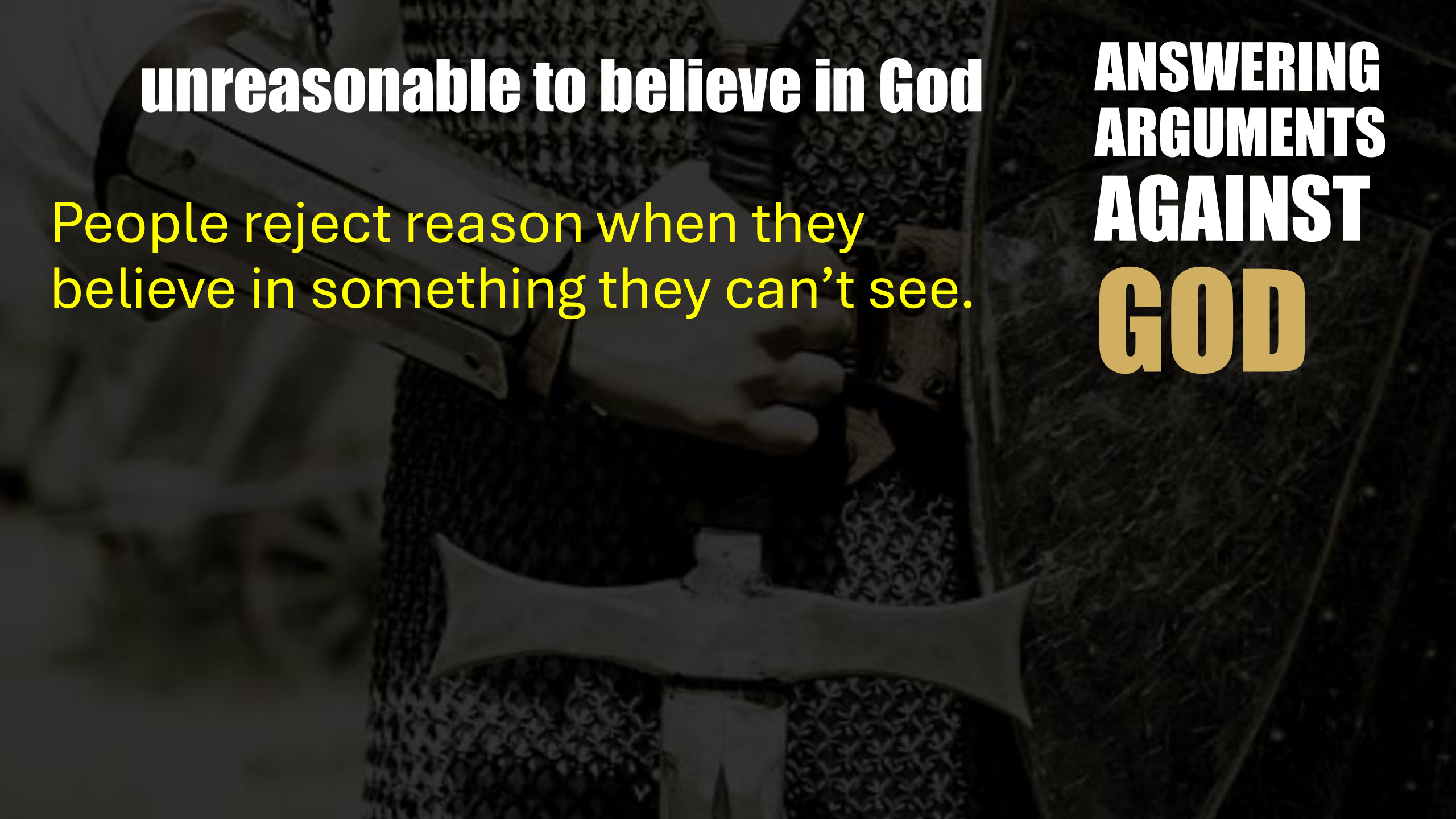
claims of exclusivity

Fallacious Philosophy

- Violates law of noncontradiction
- Logic doesn't care how you feel
- Elevates humanity as judge over God

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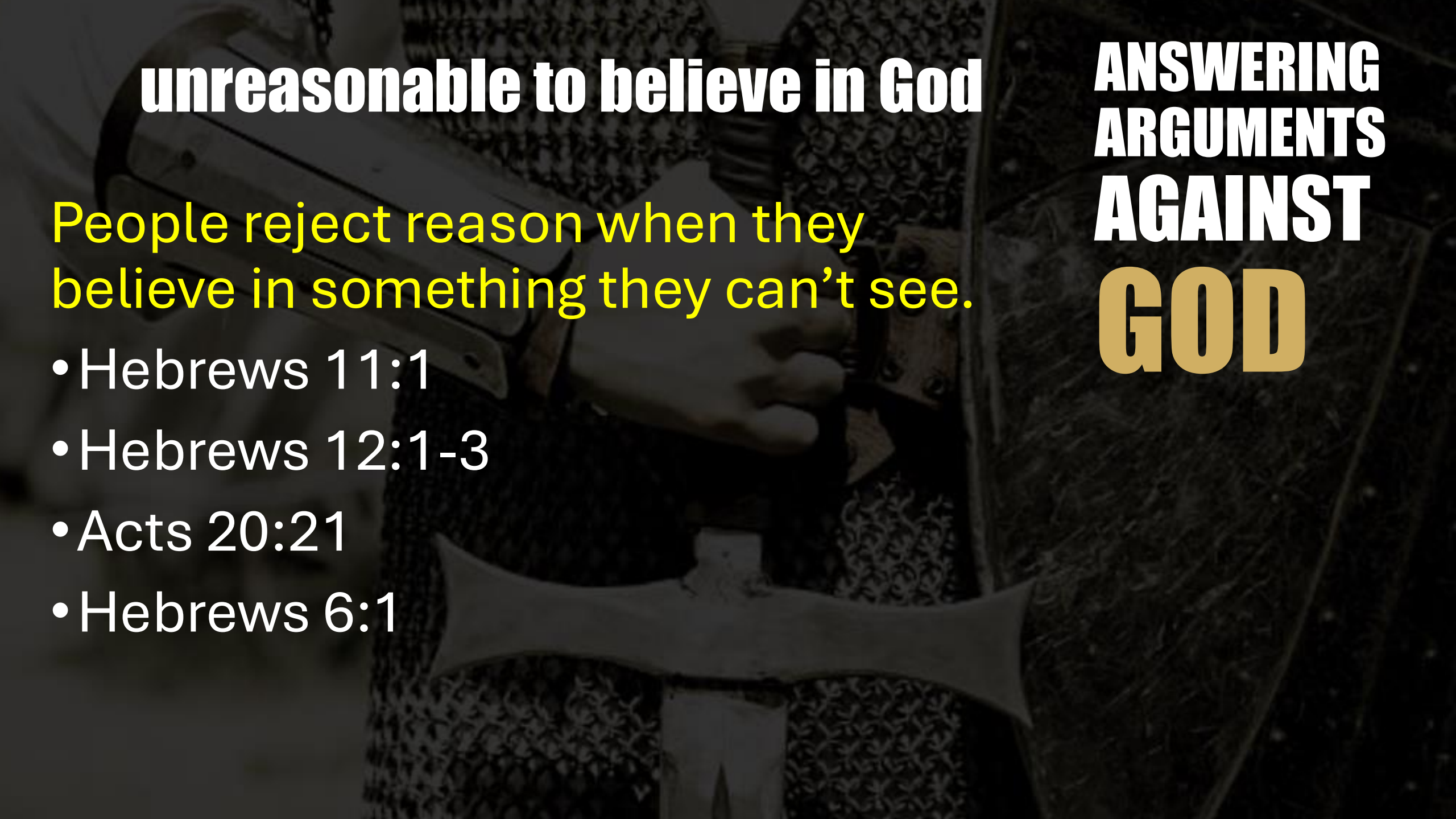
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unreasonable to believe in God

People reject reason when they
believe in something they can't see.

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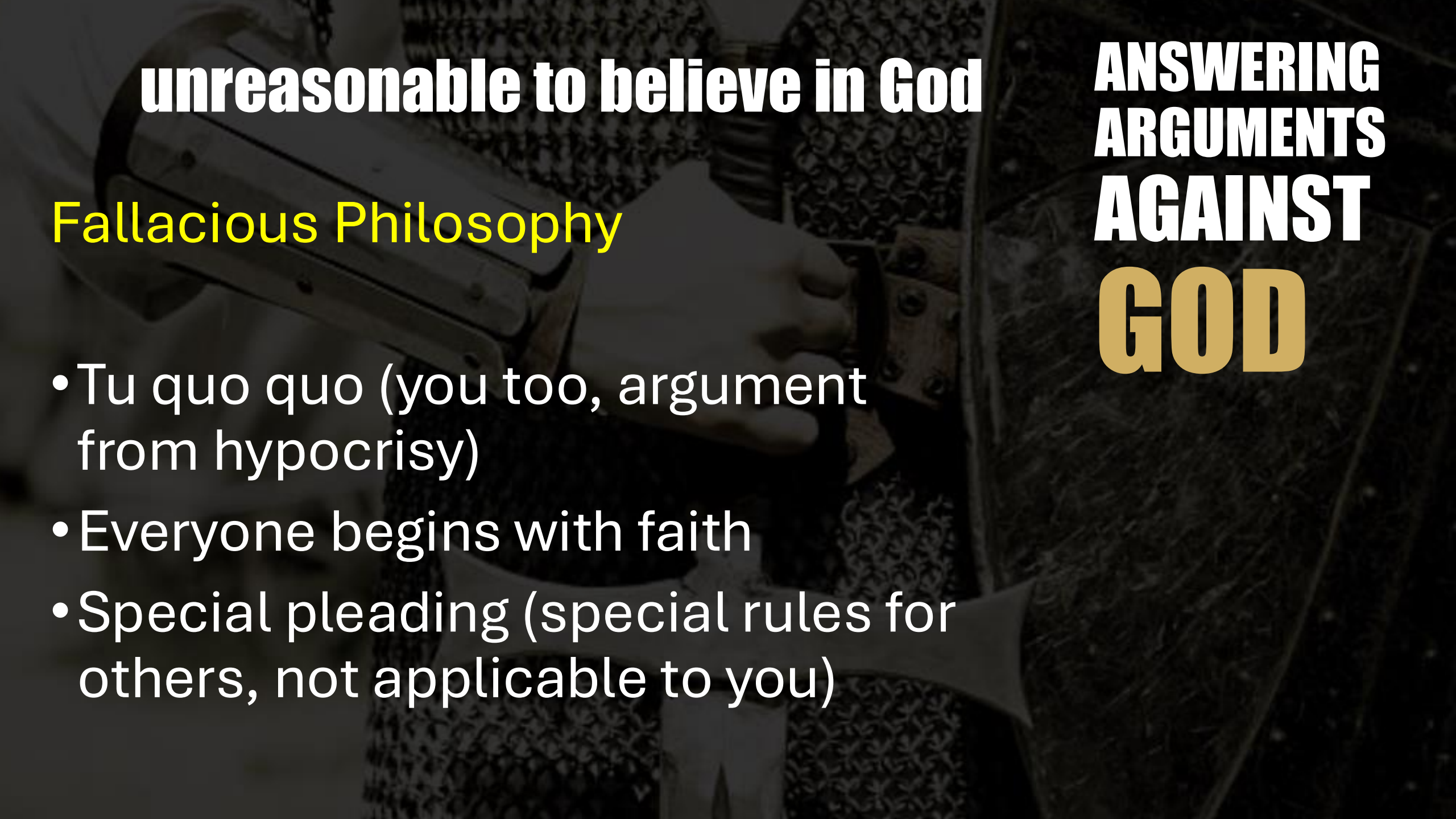


unreasonable to believe in God

People reject reason when they believe in something they can't see.

- Hebrews 11:1
- Hebrews 12:1-3
- Acts 20:21
- Hebrews 6:1

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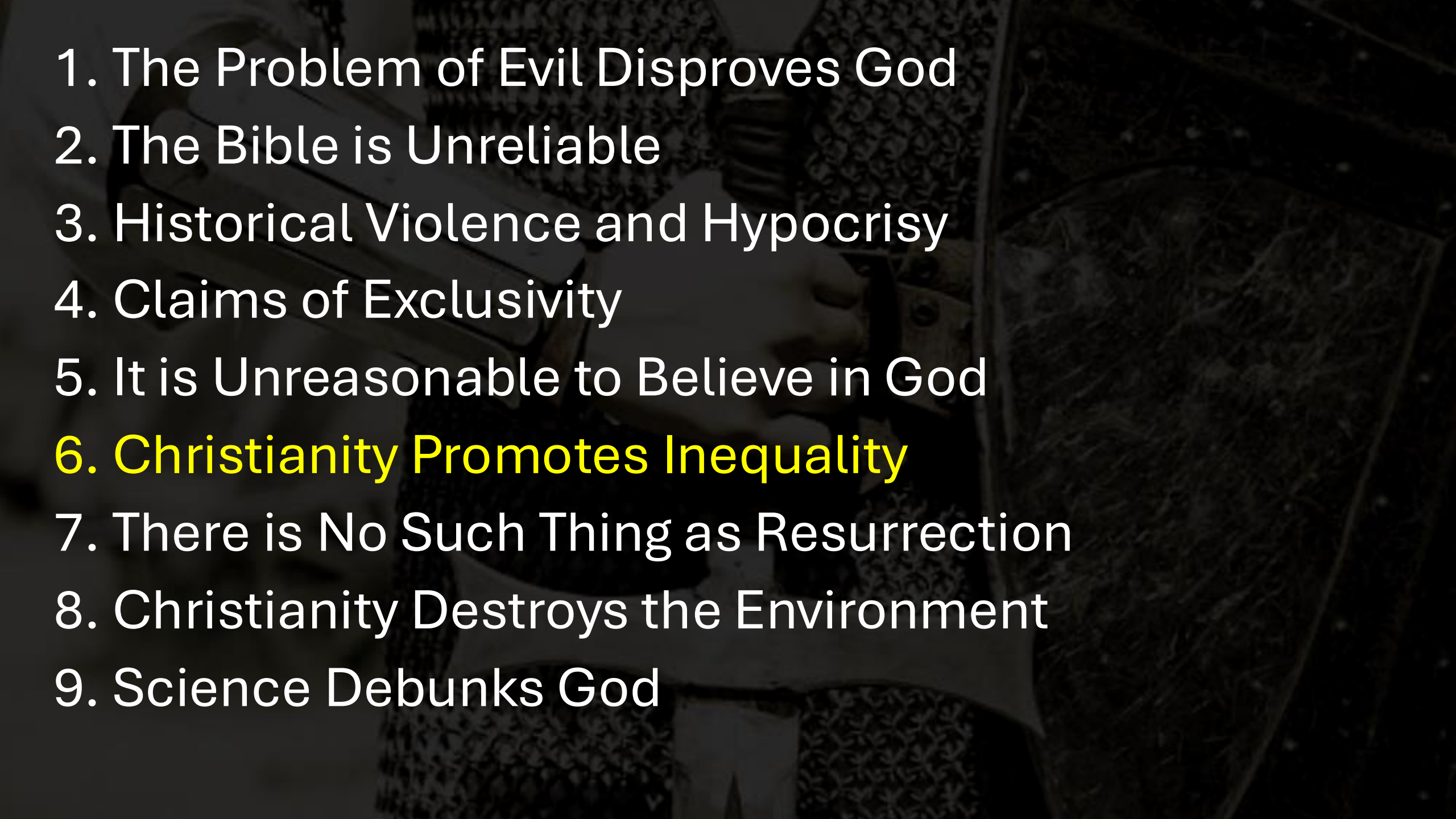


unreasonable to believe in God

Fallacious Philosophy

- Tu quo quo (you too, argument from hypocrisy)
- Everyone begins with faith
- Special pleading (special rules for others, not applicable to you)

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Christianity promotes inequality

Women, slaves, homosexuals are less, and therefore the Bible is morally bankrupt

**ANSWERING
ARGUMENTS
AGAINST
GOD**

Christianity promotes inequality

Women, slaves, homosexuals are less, and therefore the Bible is morally bankrupt

- Genesis 1:27-30
- Ephesians 5:21
- Genesis 9:6
- Philemon 16-17
- 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

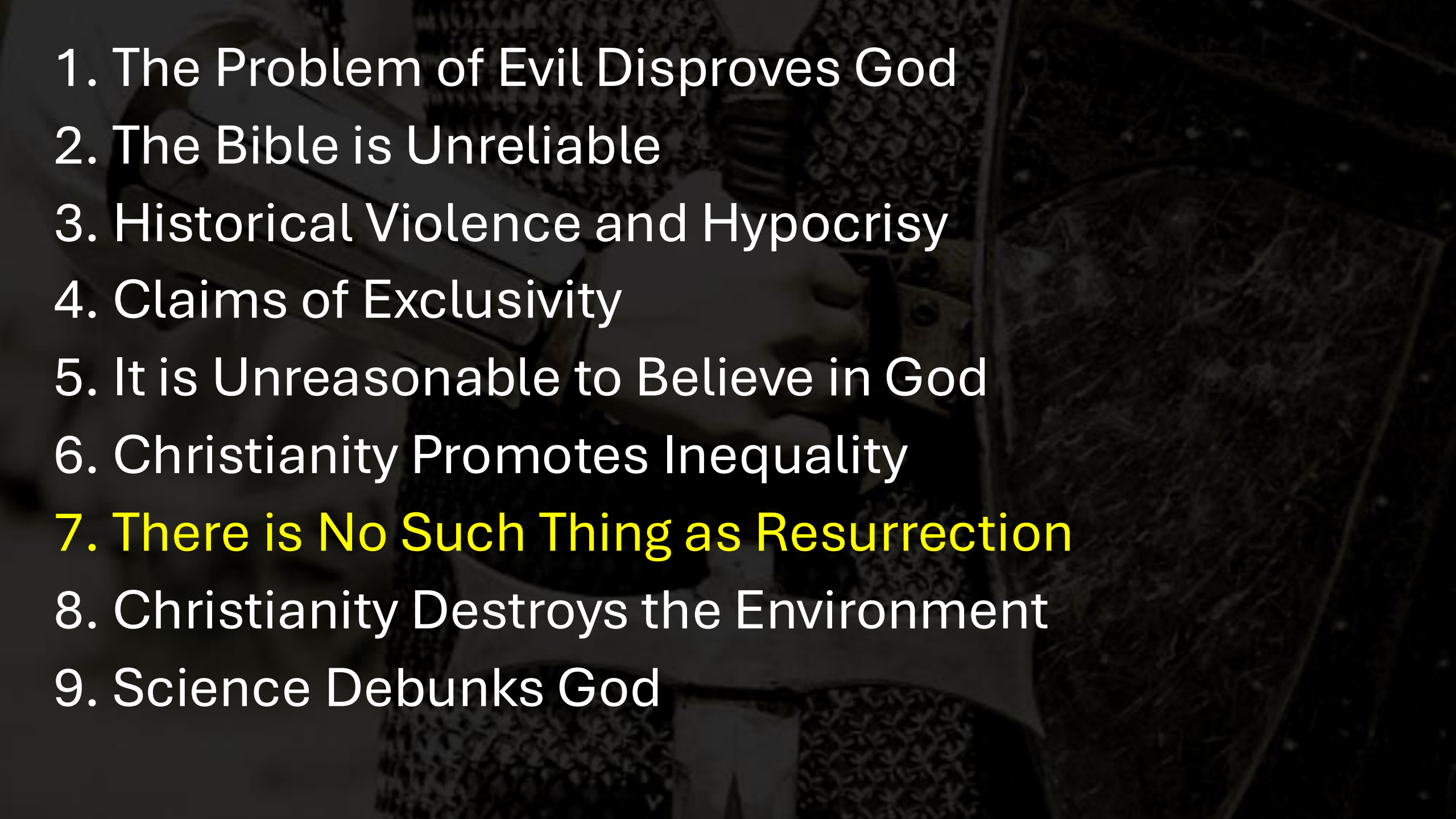
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Christianity promotes inequality

Fallacious Philosophy

- Strawman hermeneutics (disregards context)
- Suppression of evidence

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no such thing as resurrection

There is no resurrection, therefore
Jesus was not resurrected.

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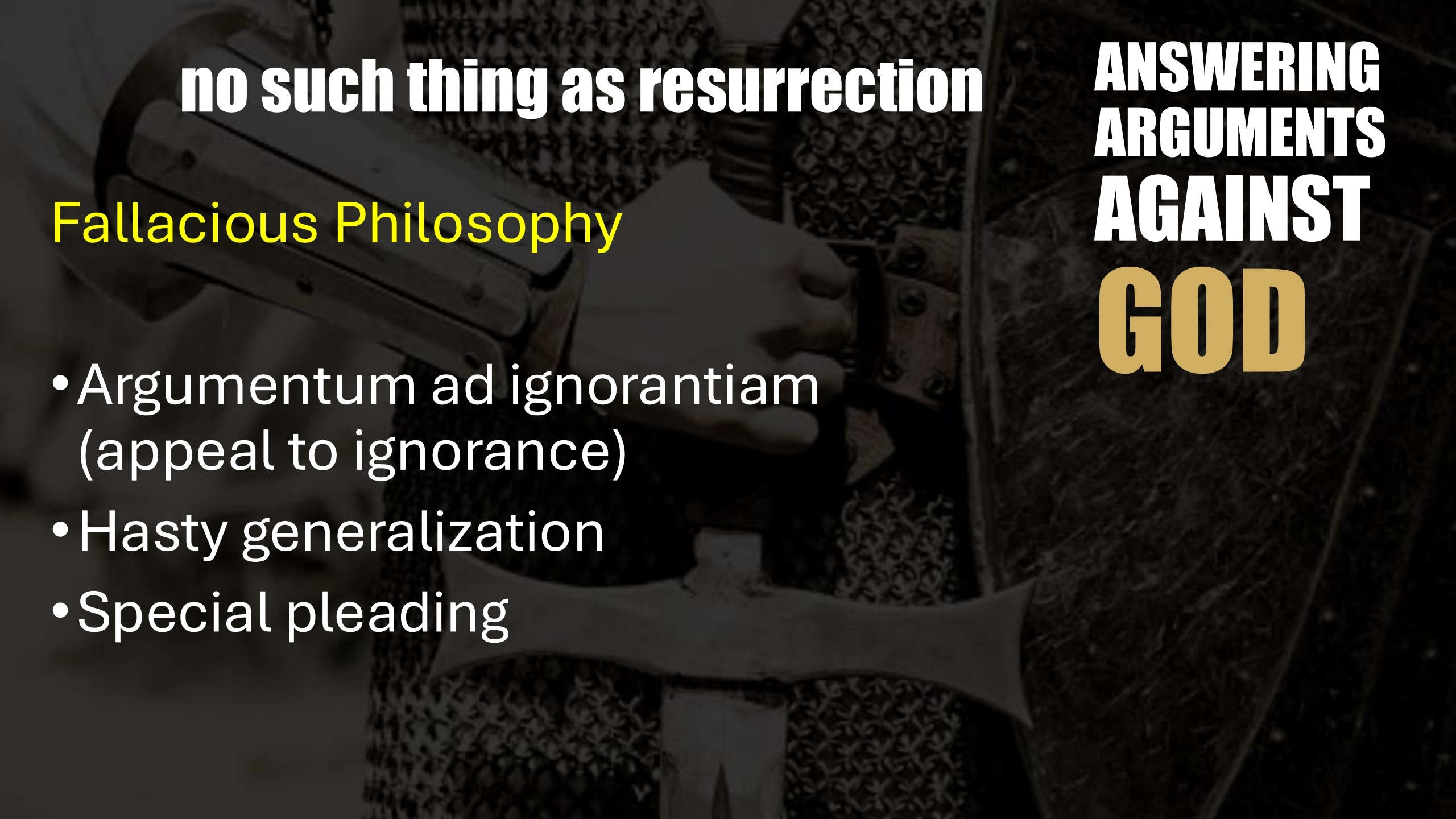


no such thing as resurrection

**ANSWERING
ARGUMENTS
AGAINST
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**There is no resurrection, therefore
Jesus was not resurrected.**

- 1 Corinthians 15:13-19
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-8
- Ephesians 1:18-20

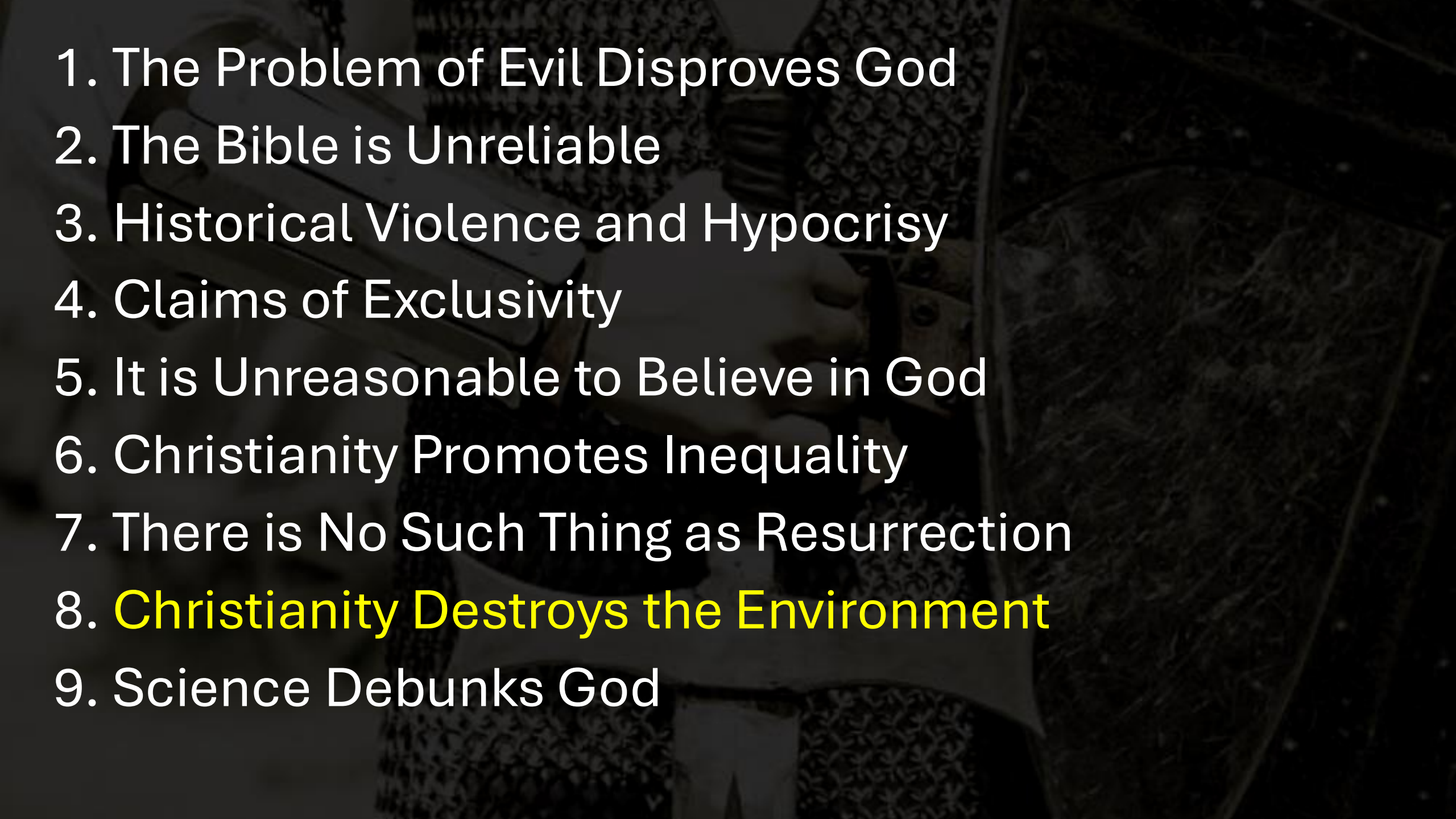


no such thing as resurrection

Fallacious Philosophy

- Argumentum ad ignorantiam
(appeal to ignorance)
- Hasty generalization
- Special pleading

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Christianity destroys the environment

The environmental crisis was
caused by the Bible and the Judeo-
Christian ethic

**ANSWERING
ARGUMENTS
AGAINST
GOD**

Christianity destroys the environment

The environmental crisis was caused by the Bible and the Judeo-Christian ethic

- Genesis 1:26-28
- Genesis 2:15-17
- Genesis 3:17-19
- Genesis 9:1
- Psalm 24:1-4

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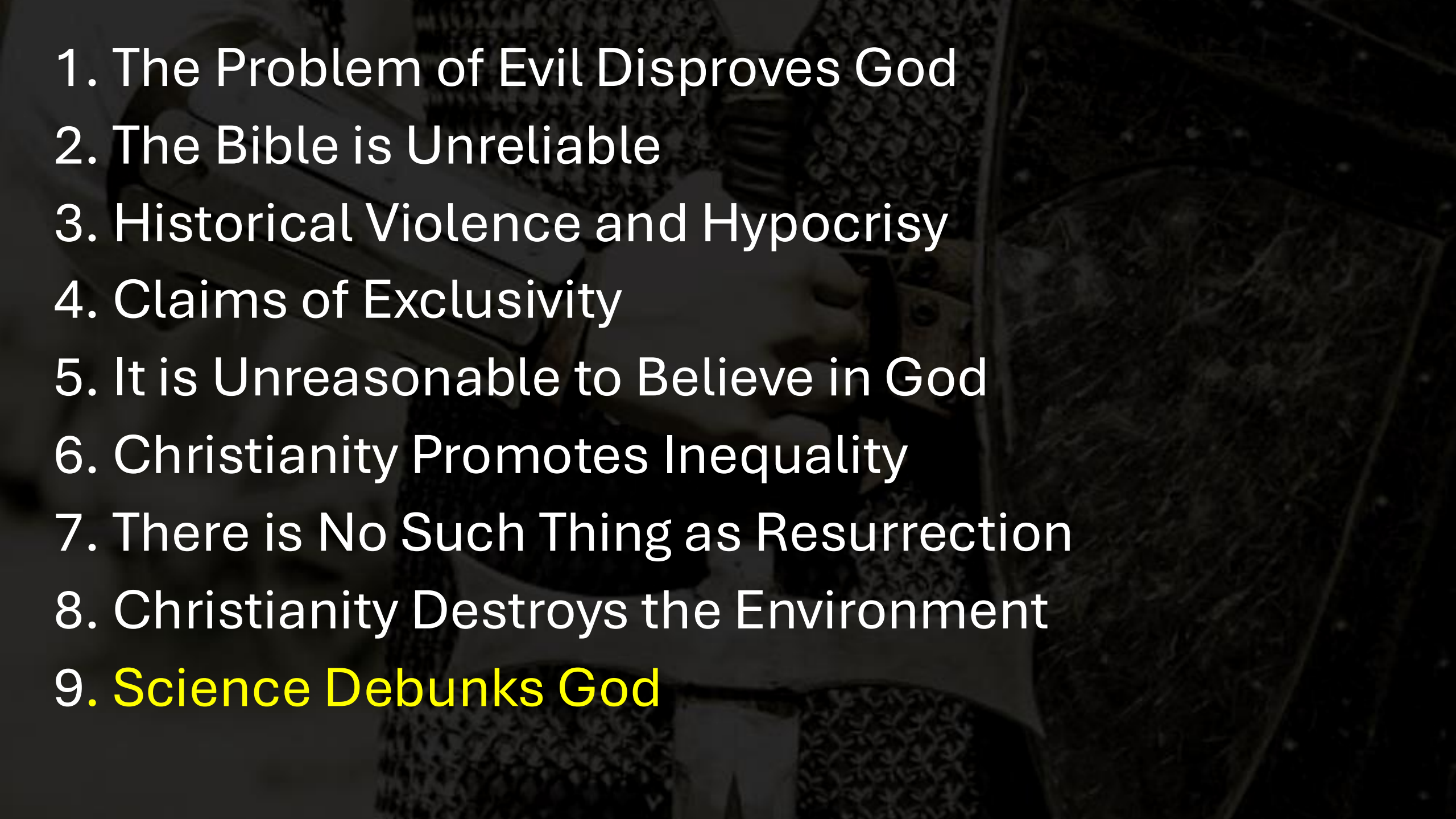


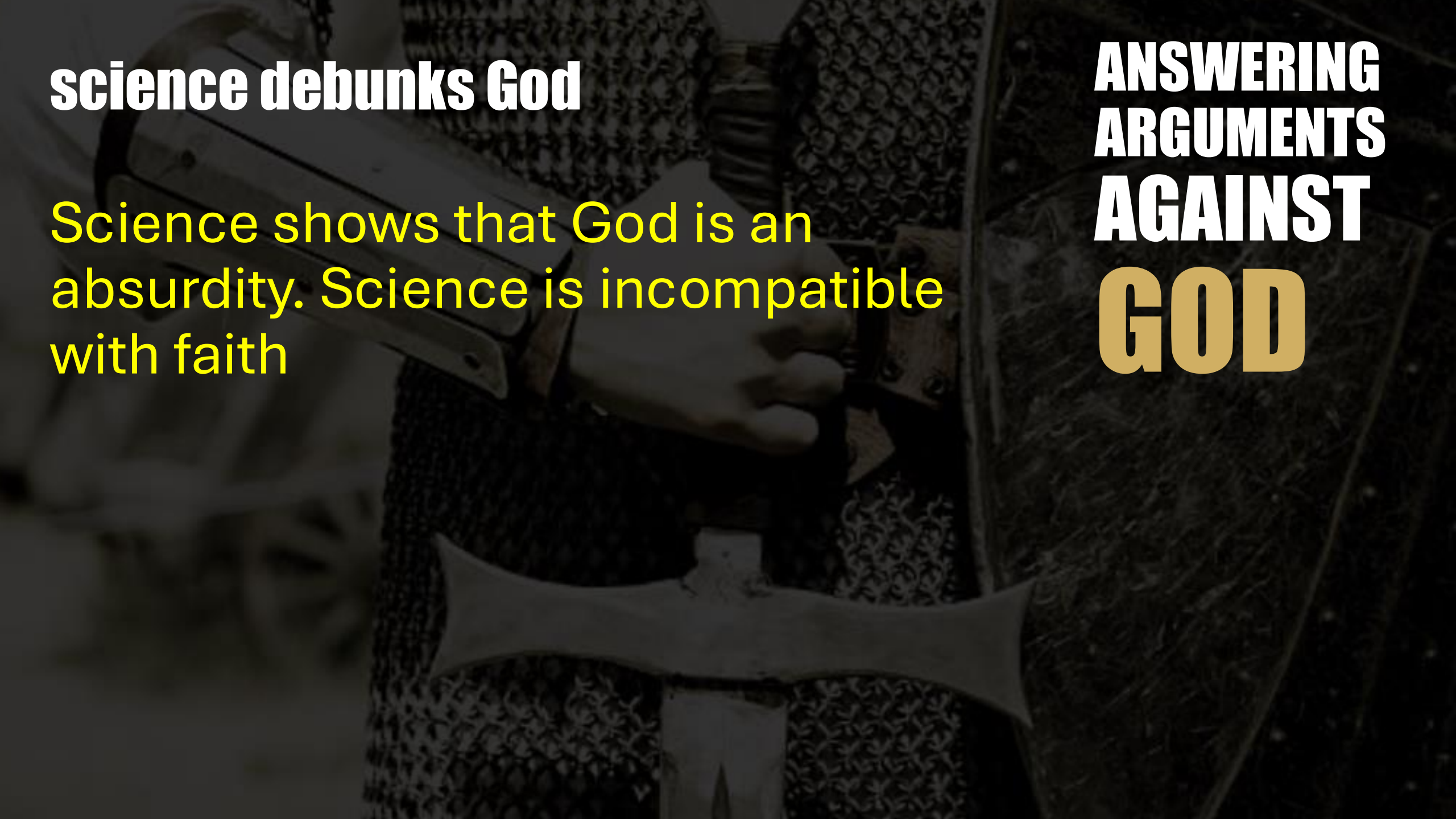
Christianity destroys the environment

Fallacious philosophy

- Strawman hermeneutic
- Guilt by association

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science debunks God

Science shows that God is an absurdity. Science is incompatible with faith

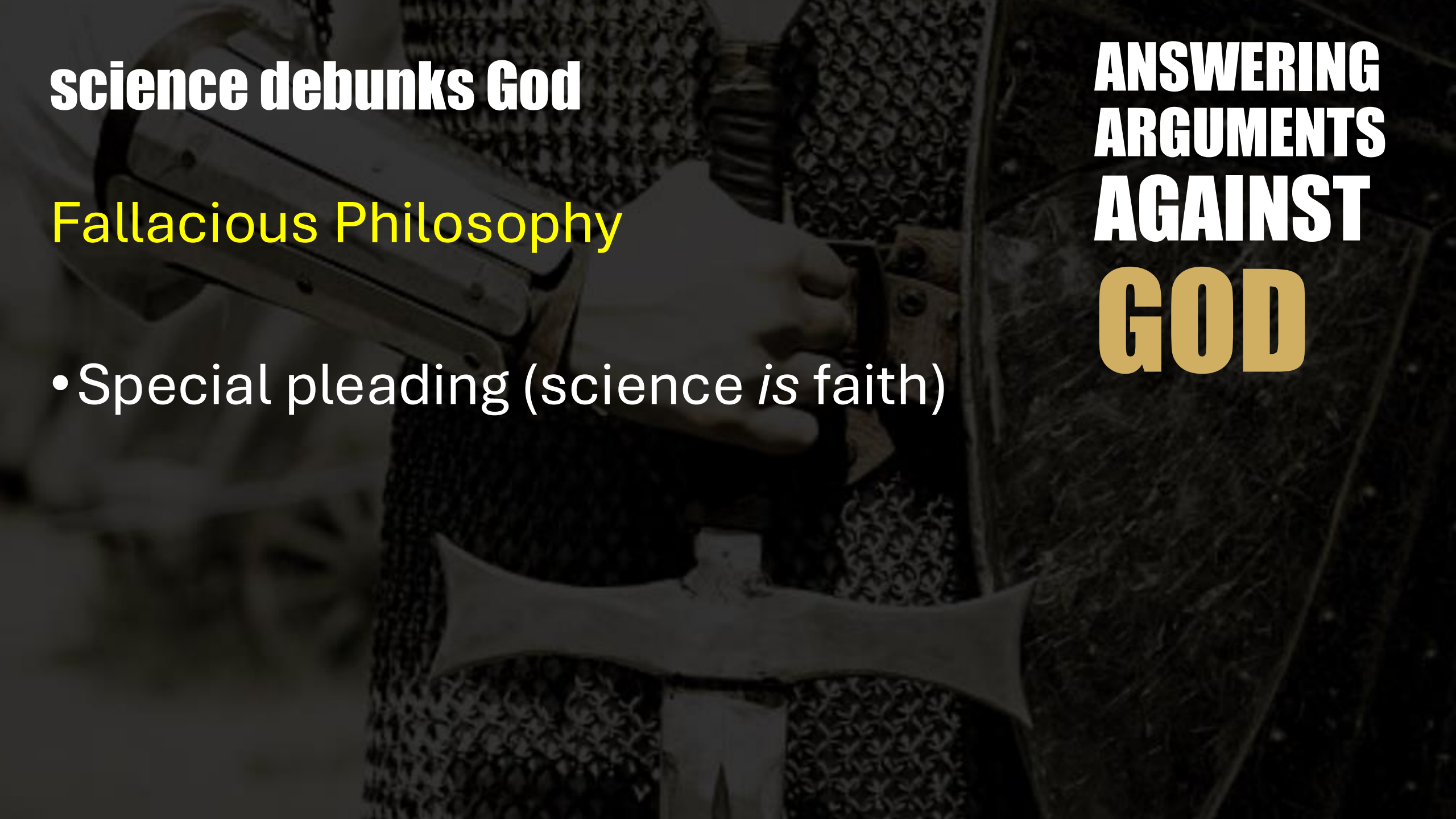
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science debunks God

Science shows that God is an absurdity. Science is incompatible with faith

- Proverbs 1:7, 9:10
- Romans 1:18-20
- Psalm 14:1
- Proverbs 25:2

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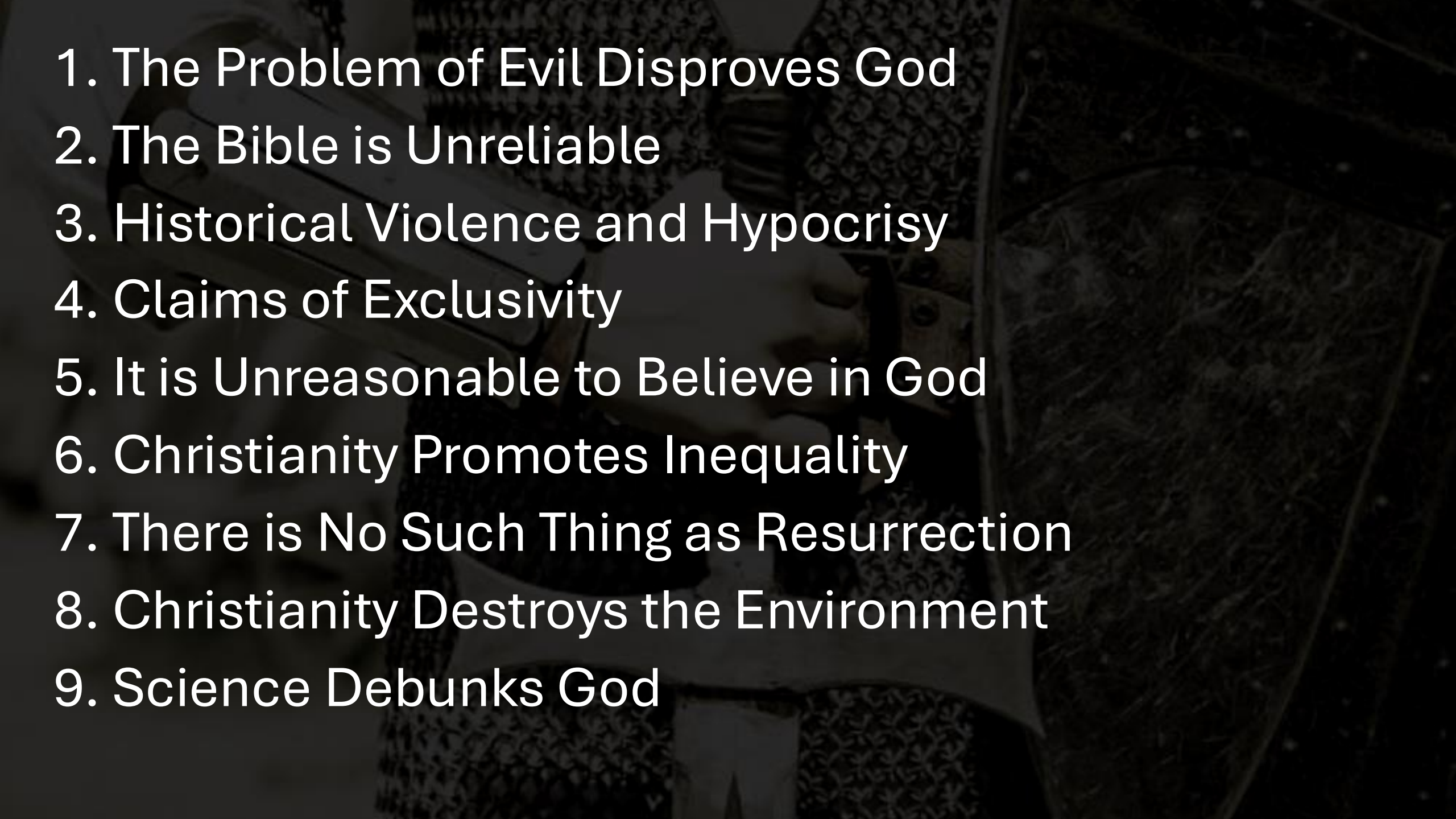
The background of the image is a dark, moody photograph. It features a knight in full chainmail armor, holding a sword. The knight's face is blurred in the lower-left corner, while the rest of the image shows the intricate details of the armor and the hilt of the sword. The overall tone is somber and historical.

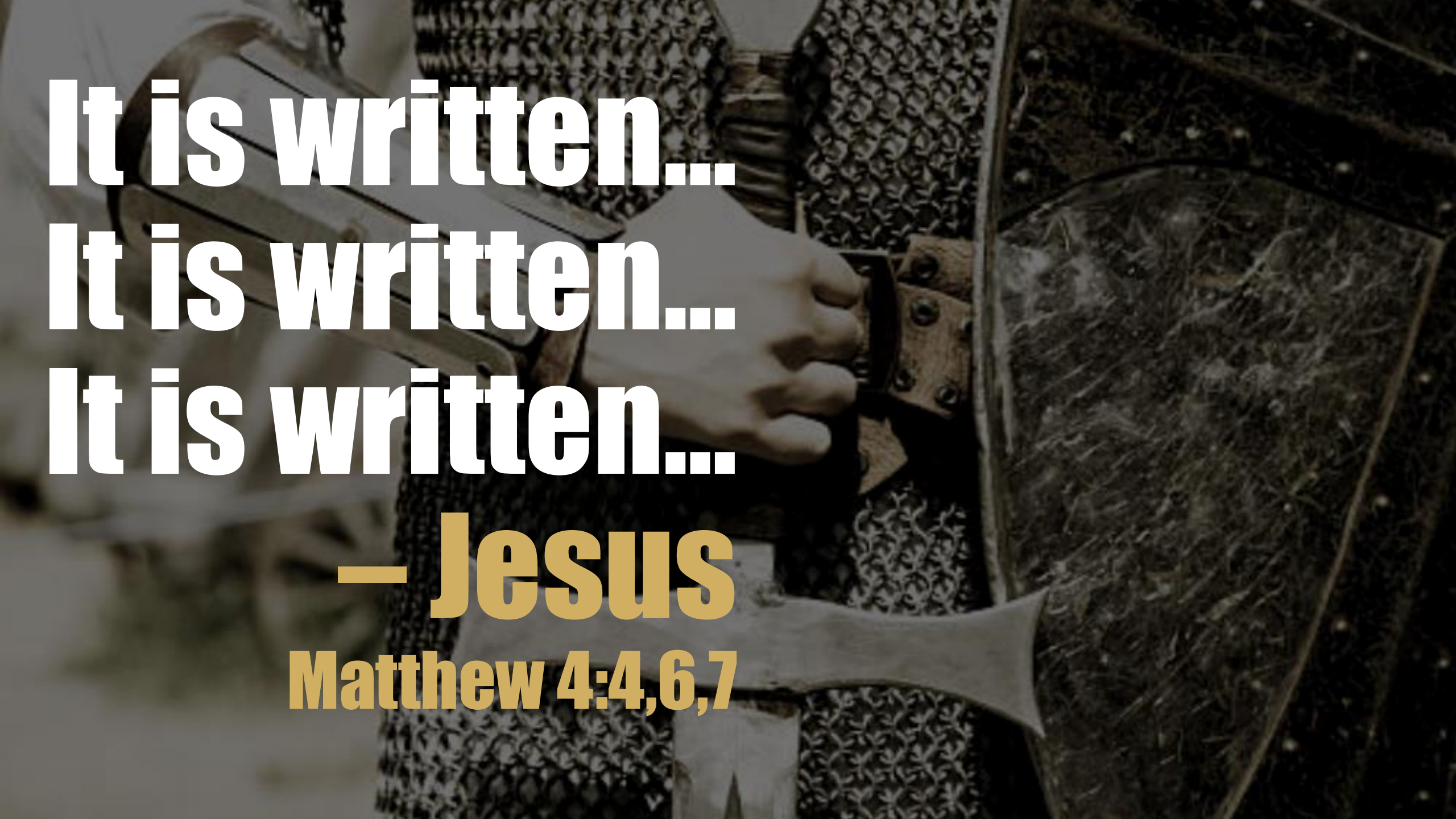
science debunks God

Fallacious Philosophy

- Special pleading (science *is* faith)

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