

How to Contextualize the Gospel Message?

Surachet Insom, D. Min.

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AWR Cambodia

- ព័ត៌មានបន្ថែម
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Adventist World Radio-Khmer
- 2- វិទ្យុសំឡេងមេត្រីភាព (អាមេរិក)
Adventist World Radio-Khmer
- 3- AWR LAO-ພາສາລາວ
Adventist World Radio-Lao (ພາសា)
- 4- AWR THAI-ภาษาไทย
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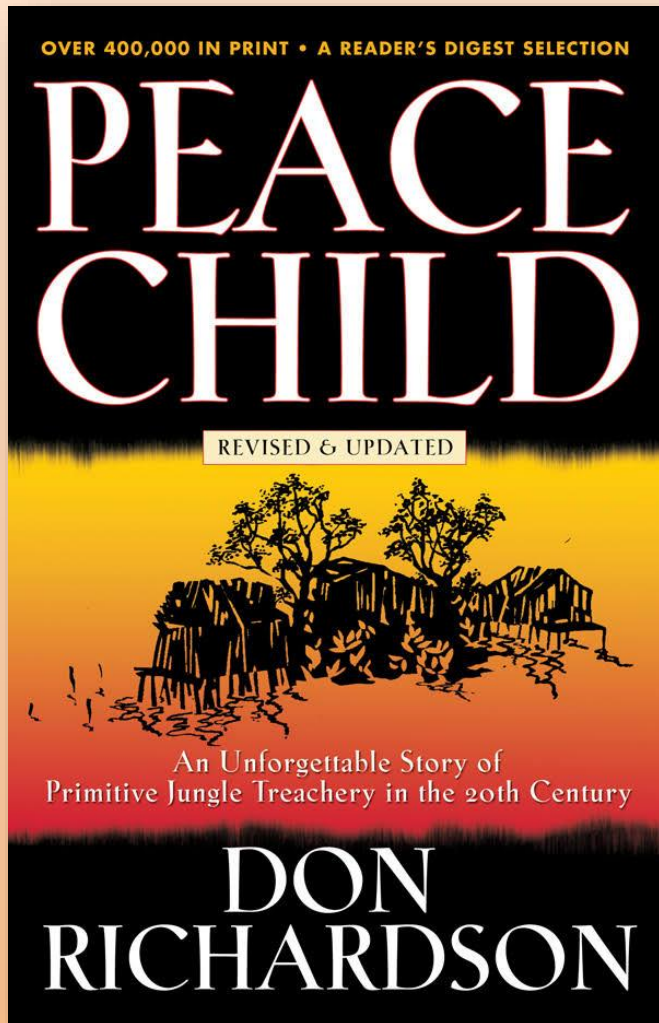








The Peace Child



- **Don Richardson** (born 1935) a Canadian Christian missionary, worked among the tribal people of Western New Guinea, Indonesia.

The Peace Child



- Hidden among tribal cultures, there are usually some practices or understandings, calls "redemptive analogies",
- He used to illustrate the meaning of the Christian Gospel, contextualizing the biblical









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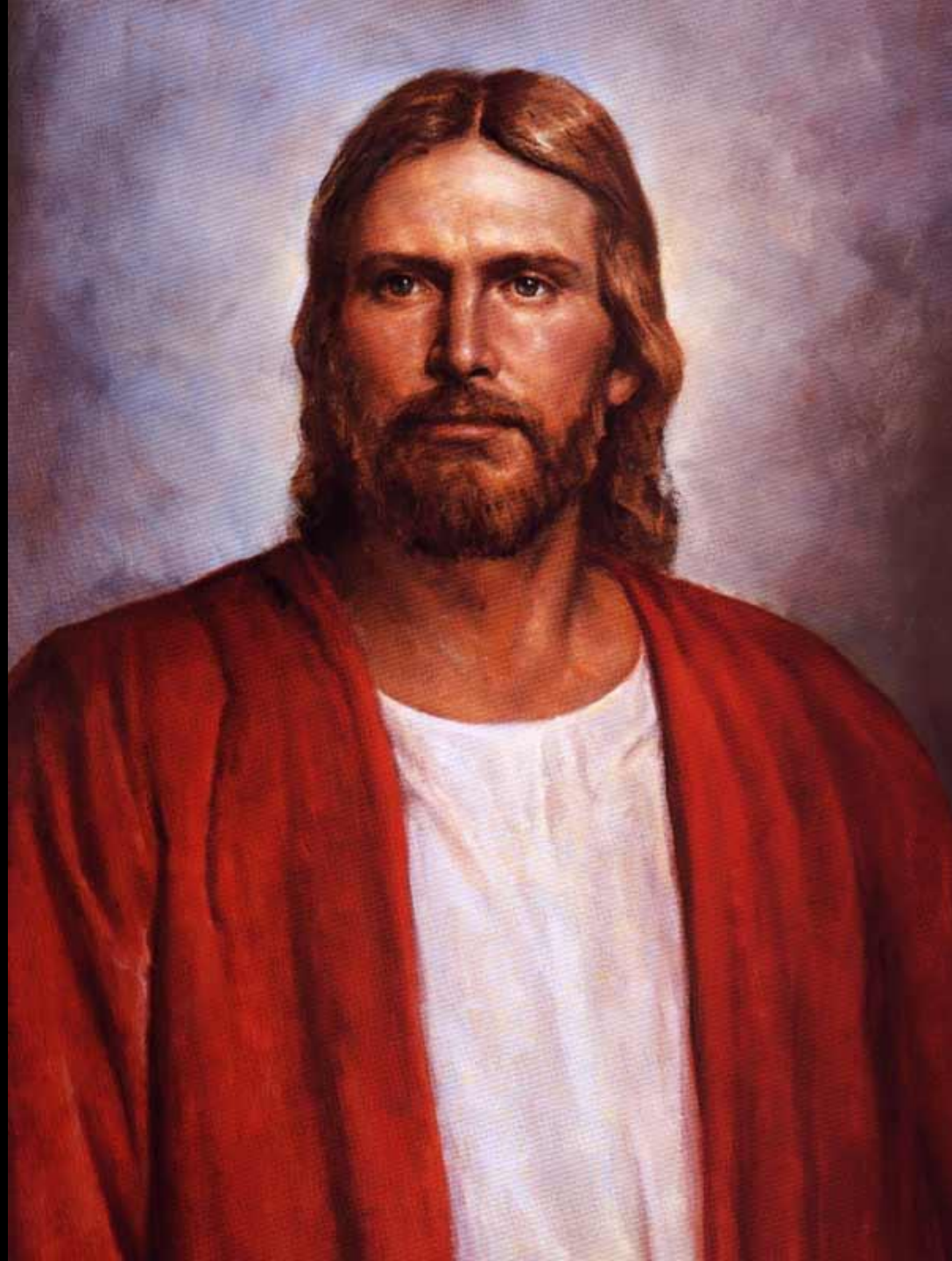


ข้าวเหนียวมูนชาร์โคล









Jesus Contextualized Himself

- **Christ took humanity that He might reach humanity.**
- **A divine-human Saviour was needed to bring salvation to the world.**
- **And to men and women has been committed the sacred trust of making known "the unsearchable riches of Christ."-- The Acts of the Apostles, p. 134**



In each of us

There is a little of all of us

The principle behind Paul's exhortation



- For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.
- To the Jews I became as a Jew, **in order to win Jews.**

The principle behind Paul's exhortation


- To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law.
- To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.

The principle behind Paul's exhortation

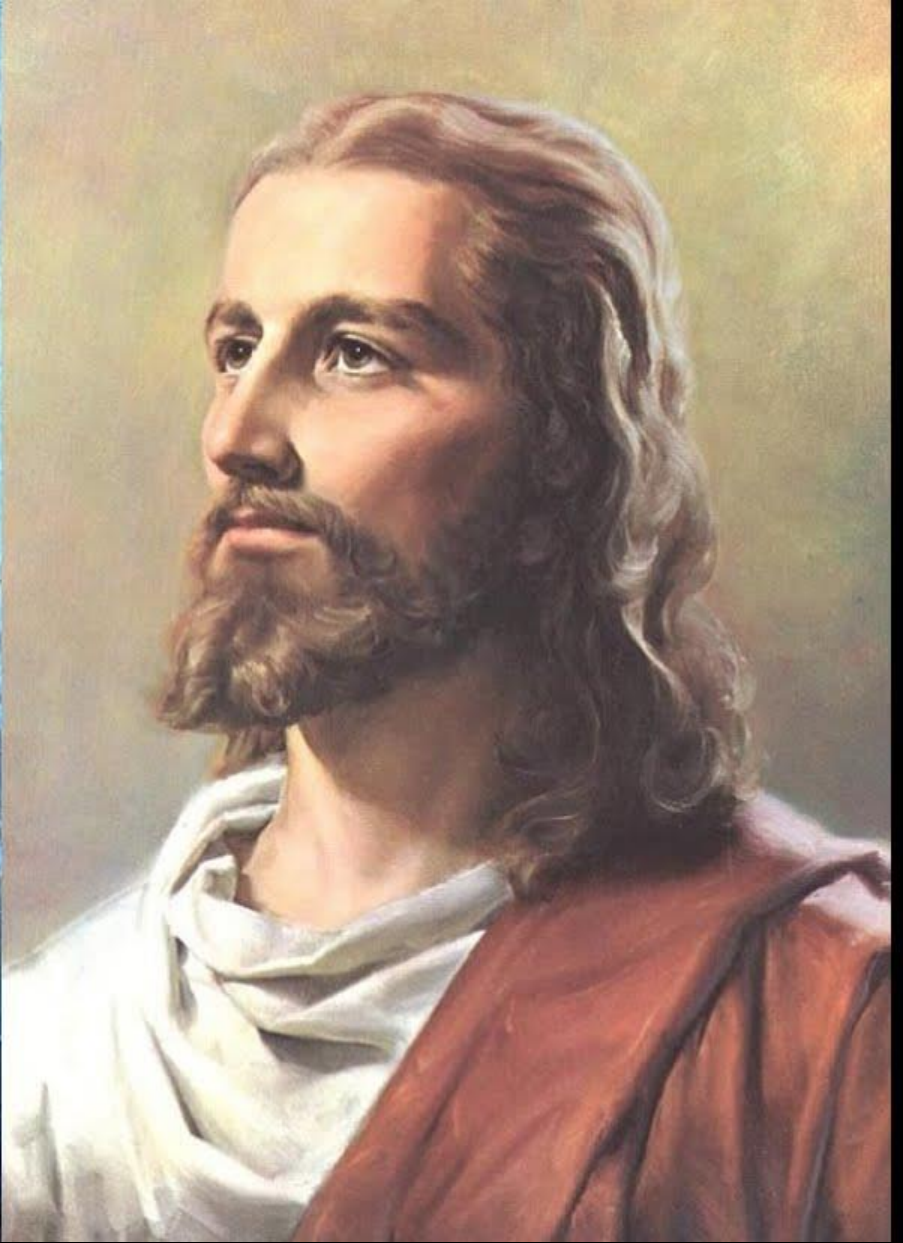
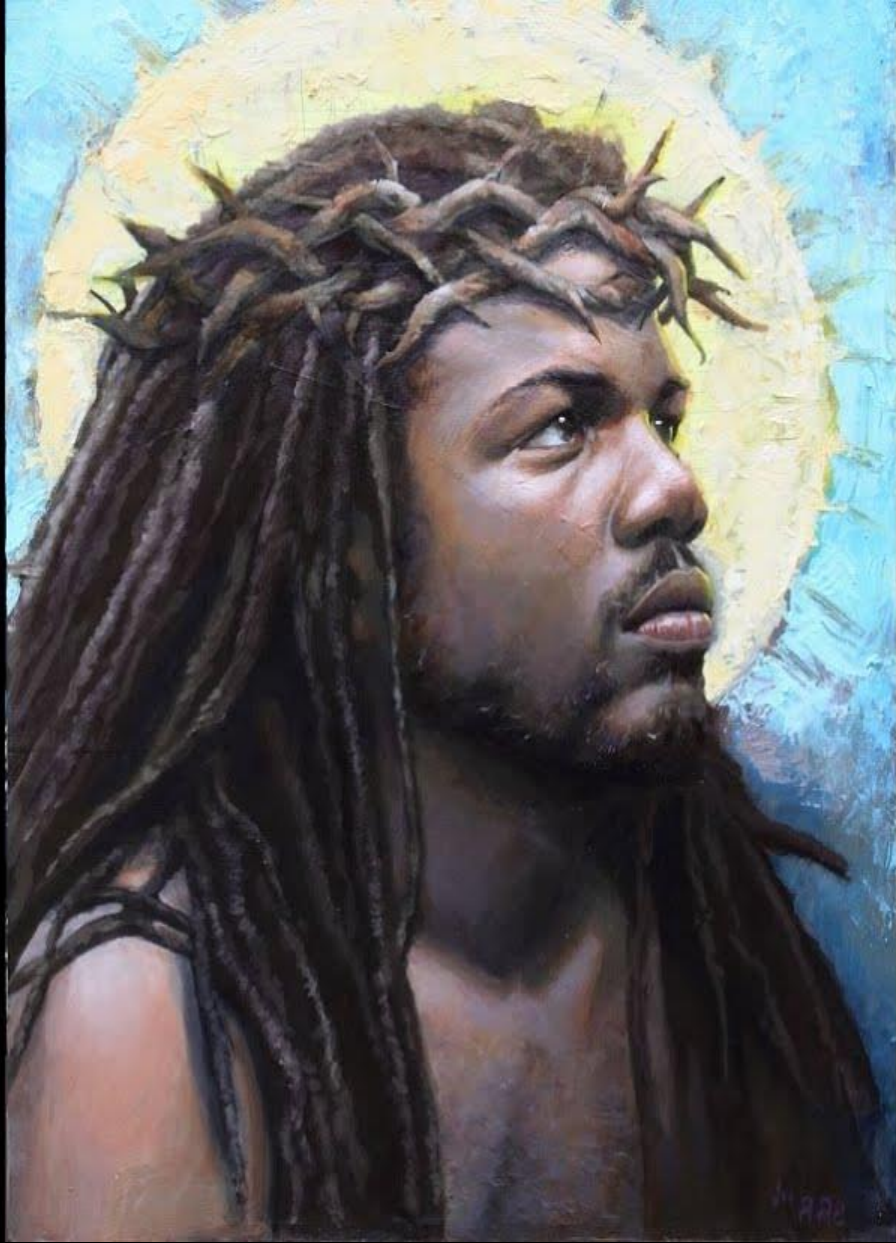


- **I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.**

1 Corinthians 9:19-22



**Contextualization involves
an attempt to present the
Gospel in a culturally
relevant way.**





OUR SAVIOUR



Give Bible Study for Buddhist, Where to Begin?



- **Buddhists do not believe the Bible!**
- **It is waste of time to prove the Bible as the word of God by using series of texts to convince the Buddhist.**
- **It is pointless to try to use a series of Bible texts to prove the inspiration of the Bible.**

Give Bible Study for Buddhist, Where to Begin?

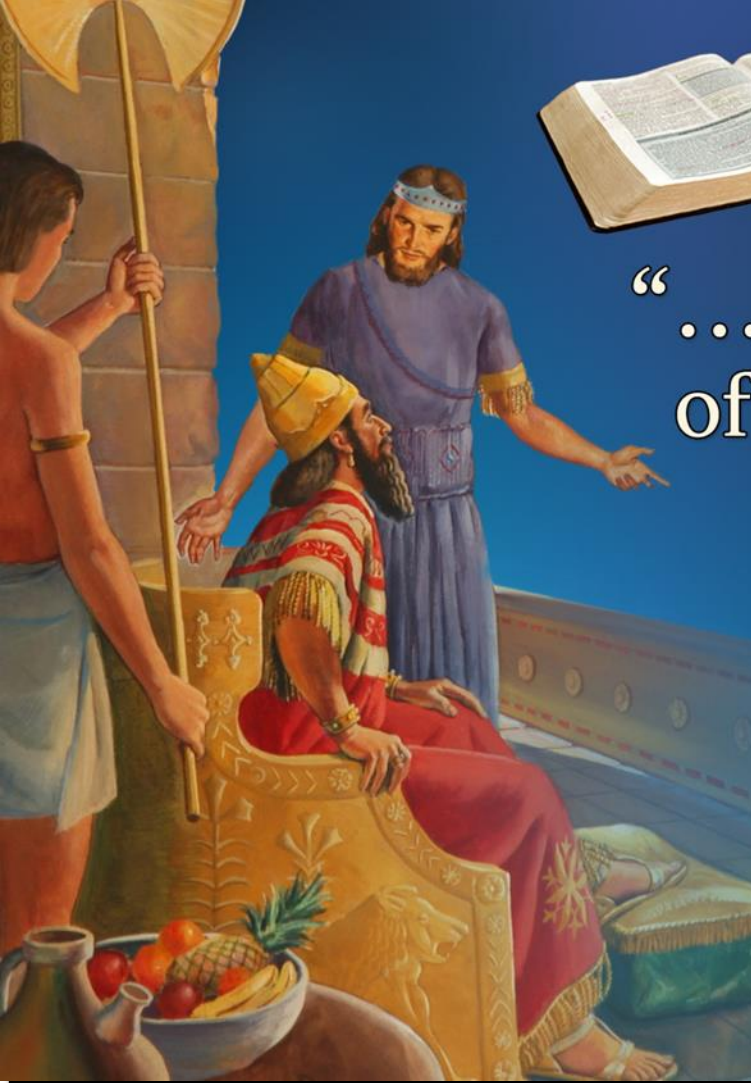


- **Buddhists have no knowledge or experience with the Bible.**
- **What about prophecy? Will Buddhists interest?**
- **What Daniel 2 have to do with Buddha?**



Daniel 2:32

“...Its chest and arms of silver...”



How to Introduce the Sabbath?

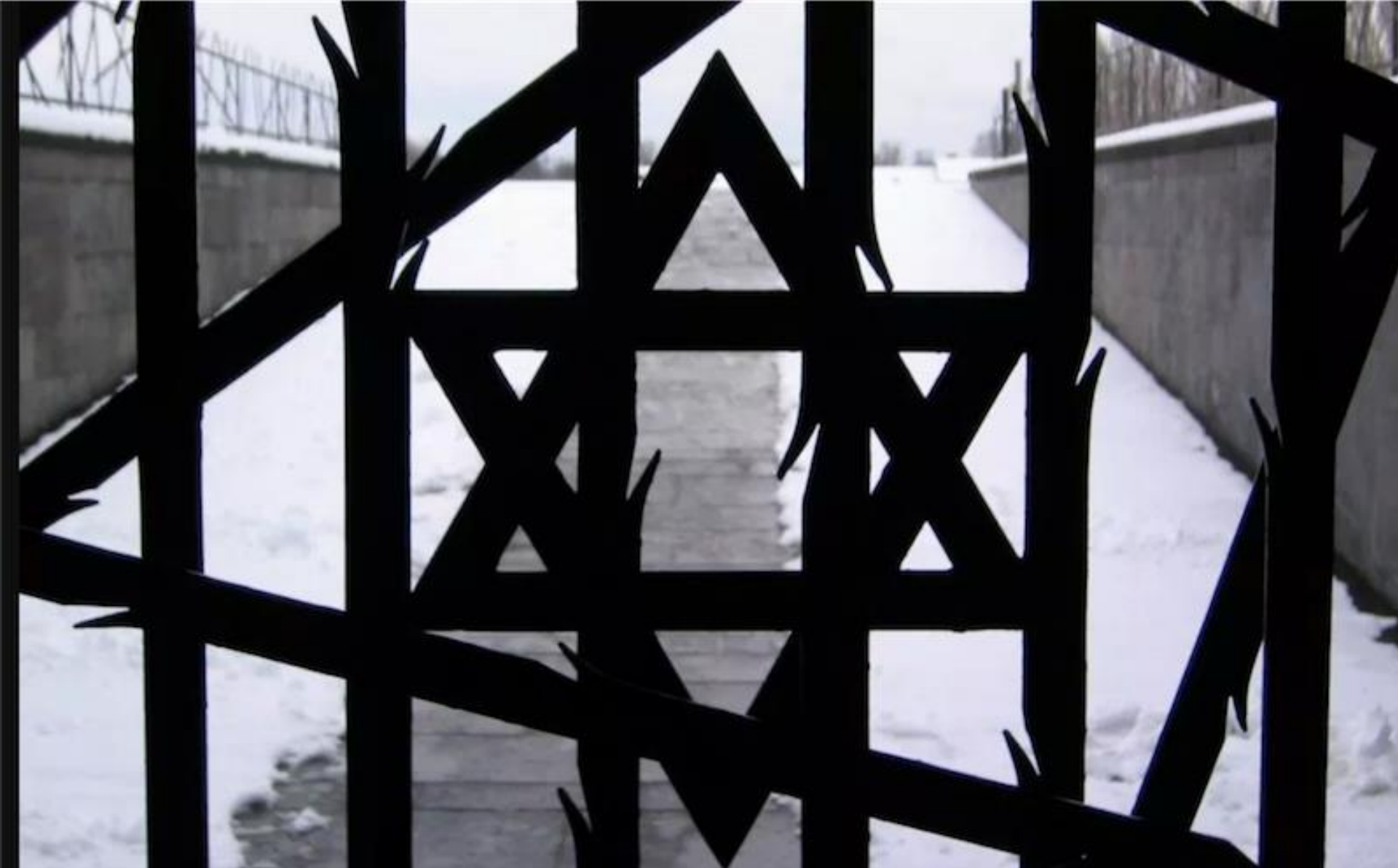
- **Buddhist do not believe in creation.**
- **Buddhist do not believe in God.**
- **They do not believe the Bible.**
- **They stop working on Saturday & Sunday.**
- **Could this be a bridge to introduce the Sabbath?**

The Plumb-pudding in danger: or State Epicures taking in Petit Sou.

"the great Globe itself, and all which it inherit," is too small to satisfy such insatiable appetites.

Printed by J. G. ...





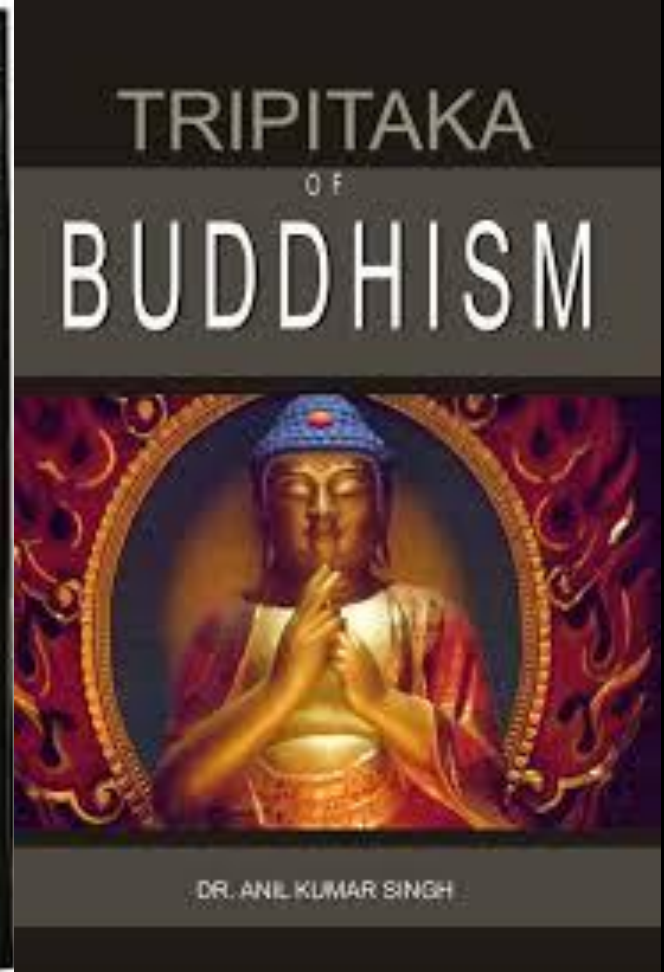
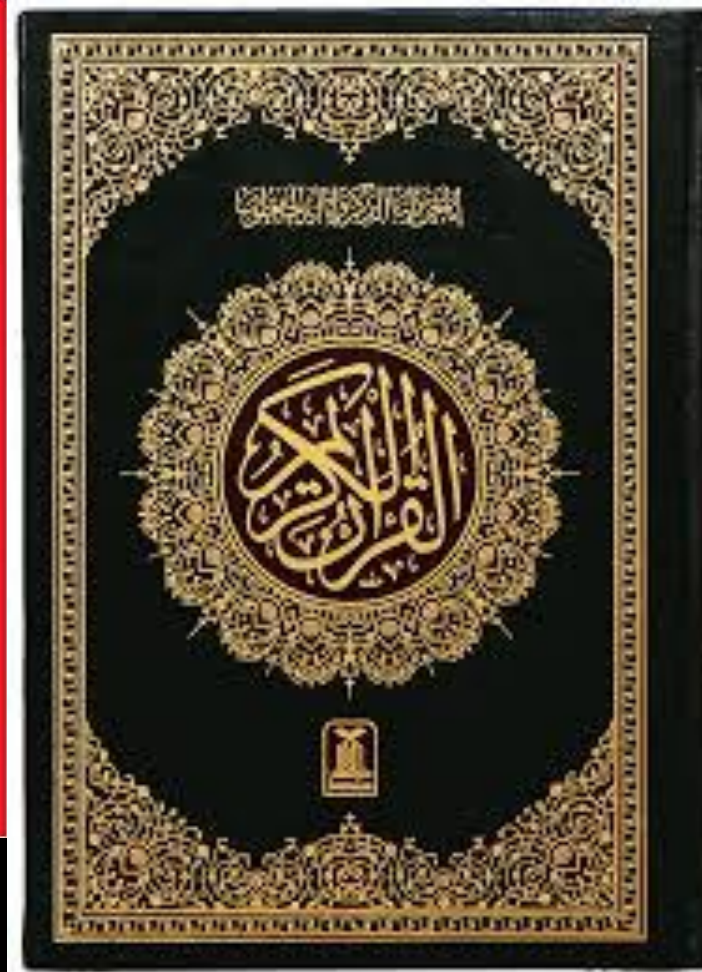
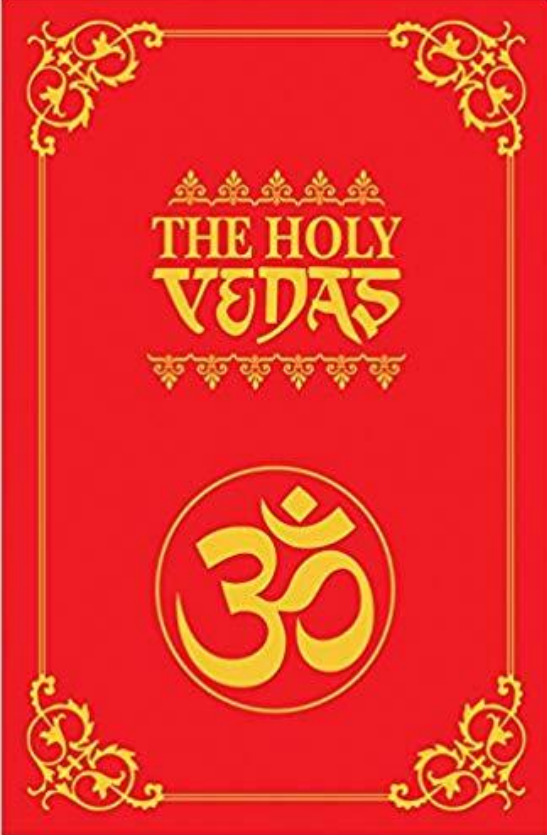
Contextualization

- **Contextualization is the idea of translating gospel truth into language understood by our culture.**
- **Cross-cultural missionaries and Bible translators have been doing this for centuries.**
- **They take the unchanging truth of the Gospel and put it into language that fits the context they are trying to reach.**

Contextualization

- Contextualization simply means:
- **Translating the Gospel** — in both word and deed— into understandable terms appropriate to the audience.





4 Types of Soil

A Sower Went Out to Sow

Pathway :
- trampled on
- birds ate it up
~ **Destroyed** ~



packed soil

Rocky :
- not rooted ;
- sun-scorched
~ **Withered away** ~



stony ground

Thorny:
- choked
- suffocated
~ **Died** ~



thorny ground

Good Soil :
- grew up,
- increased,
- yielded
~ **Fruitful** ~



good soil

บัวสีชมพู



Understanding Our Reason for Being

**God is sovereign –
God is Lord, Creator,
everything belongs
on Him**

Man is the Image of God



“I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” Ps. 139:14

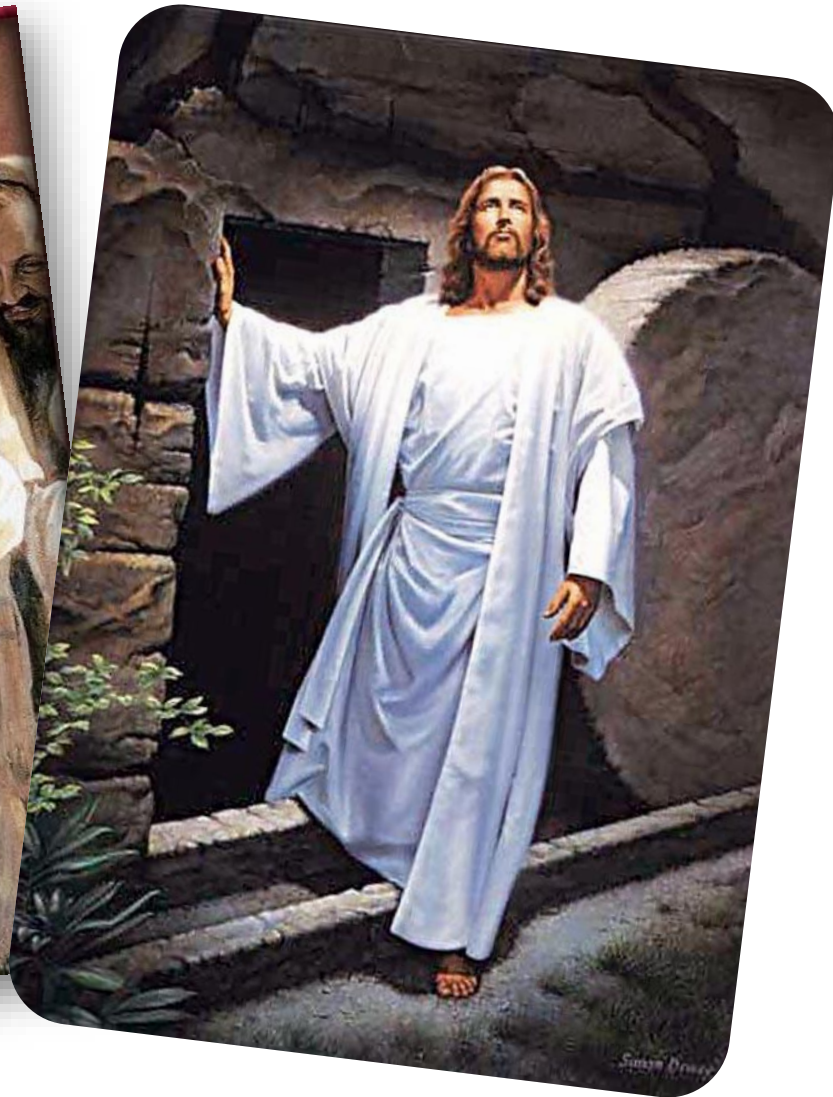
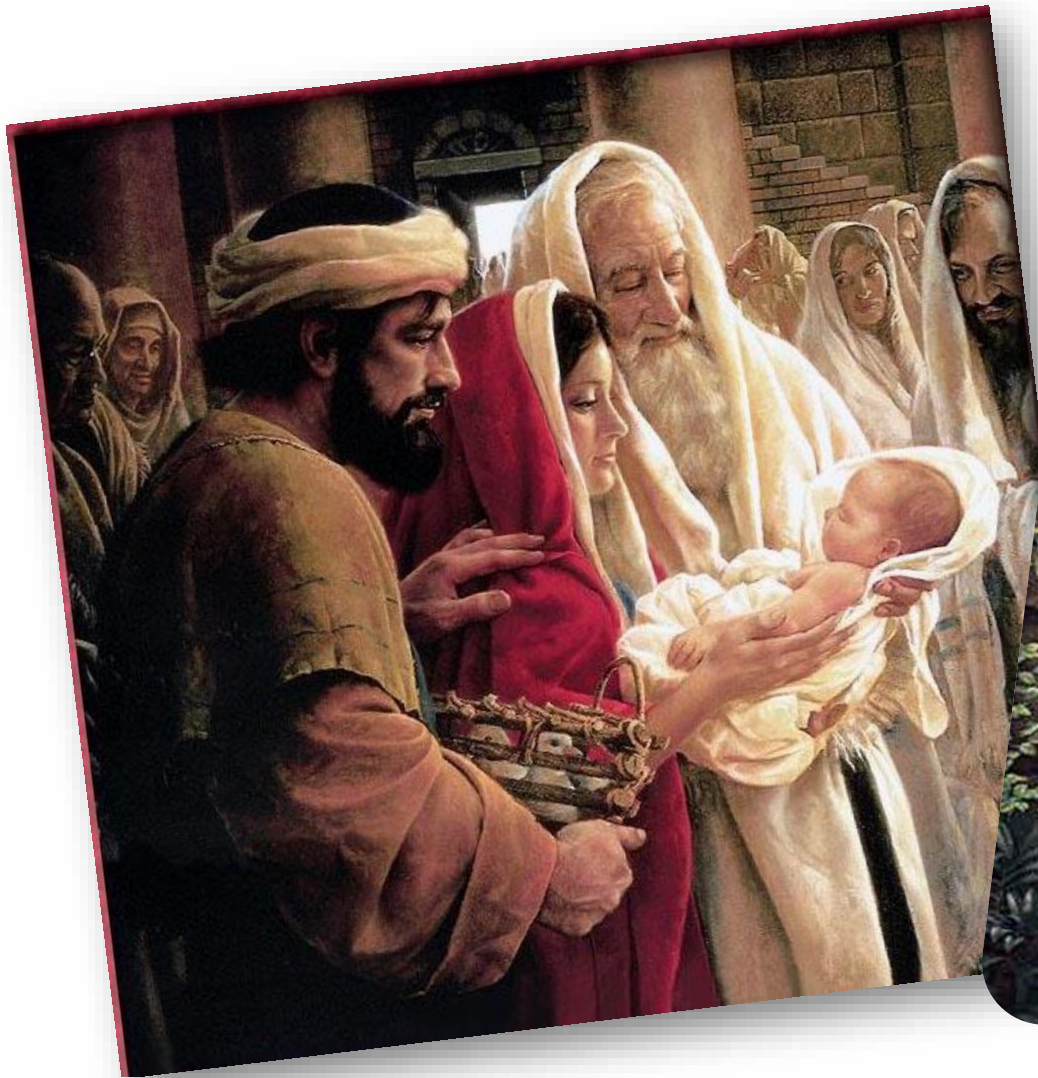
Sin is Real

“I saw Satan fall
like lightning
from heaven”

Luke 10:18



God is Revealed in His Son



Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. John 14:9

The Church is a Bridge Builder

**On this rock I will build
my church, and the gates
of hell shall not prevail
against it. Matt. 16:18**



God-fearing men and

women searching for truth

- In every place, in regions afar as well as nearer home, **there are God-fearing men and women searching for truth.**
- They know that there is a God; they offer their prayers to Him; they trust Him; they act just as Christians act.

In Heavenly Places, p. 332.2

Contextualization

- Contextualization also involves **building relationships with people** who don't believe.
- We don't expect them to come to us; **we go to them.**
- We meet them where they are.
- We **enter into their world by seeking to identify with their struggles, their likes, their dislikes, their ideas.**
- Chuck Colson speaks of it as entering into people's "stories."

Contextualization

- We must **enter into the stories** of the surrounding culture, which takes real listening.
- We **connect with** the literature, music, theater, arts, and issues that express the existing culture's hopes, dreams, and fears.
- This **builds a bridge** by which we can show **how the Gospel can enter and transform those stories.**

Contextualization

- Contextualization **begins with a broken heart** for the lost and a driving desire to **help them understand God's liberating truth.**
- **Only by real listening and learning** can we hope to persuasively communicate God's **unchanging Word** to our constantly **changing world.**

Contextualization

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Christian Contextualization

In Christian evangelism, to contextualize is to ***tailor the presentation of the gospel to the wider sociological context in order to achieve greater understanding for greater acceptance of the message.***

Contextualization

- On the foreign field, this means that the gospel is presented in **Western terms that may not be understood by the indigenous peoples.**
- Truth is presented with no regard for the background, experience or thinking of the hearers.
- Gospel truth remains, but it is set in a rigid framework that allows little room for creativity.

Contextualization

- A message is presented in terms that are easily understood by the audience, but truth is compromised.
- We see this in places where Christian customs have been added to pagan belief systems, resulting in a **confused syncretic of doctrine**, and in churches that try to incorporate modern philosophy into their theology, whether or not it's biblical.
- The result is a watering down of the truth.

Contextualization

- The necessary balance falls somewhere between those two extremes.
- **The gospel must be presented in terms that are easily understood, but truth must also remain distinct from untruth.**
- This occurs in churches that understand the culture in which they function and adapt their methods to the preferences of that culture.
- **Gospel truth remains**, presented in a culturally relevant manner, and no attempt is made to “sanitize” the cross to avoid offense (1 Corinthians 1:23).

Contextualization

- **The Christmas song “Some Children See Him” describes the baby Jesus from the point of view of various children of the world: to different children, Jesus is “lily white,” “bronzed and brown,” “almond-eyed,” or “dark as they.”**
- **The children understand Jesus in terms of their own background and culture. That is contextualization.**