

PORTRAIT  
OF THE  
*King*



ATONEMENT

# **“Christ Crucified”**

**MATTHEW 27:45-56**



- a. The only religion that encourages a relationship between the Creator and His creation
- b. The only religion that is not works-based
- c. No set of rules that are designed to keep their god happy
- d. The only religion with an empty tomb
- e. The only religion that makes its most important event the celebration of the humiliation of its god

**Ways that Christianity  
is Unique**



**KEY POINT:**

**Jesus' death was no ordinary death.**



- I. Miraculous Results (vs. 45-53)
  - A. Supernatural Darkness (vs. 45)



*And an angel of the Lord appeared to them,  
and **the glory of the Lord shone around them,**  
and they were filled with great fear.*

**Luke 2:9**



# Statements Made by Jesus in the Dark

<b>The Saying</b>	<b>The Meaning</b>
<i>“Father, forgive them”</i> (Luke 23:34)	Love for those persecuting Him
<i>“Today, you will be with Me in paradise”</i> (Luke 23:43)	Forgiveness to the thief that trusted Him for salvation
<i>“Woman, behold your Son”</i> (John 19:26-27)	Compassion for His mother

- I. Miraculous Results (vs. 45-53)
  - A. Supernatural Darkness (vs. 45)
  - B. Sovereign Departure (vs. 46-49)





- a. Written by David 1,000 years before the cross
- b. At least 9 references to the passion narrative
- c. Messianic

**Psalm 22**



*Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;  
he has put him to grief; ...*

**Isaiah 53:10**



- a. One of the loneliest words
- b. Means “to abandon, to leave in the lurch, to leave behind”
- c. N.T. examples – Demas (II Timothy 4:10, 16),  
or those who refuse to gather (Hebrews 10:24-25)

*“Forsaken”*



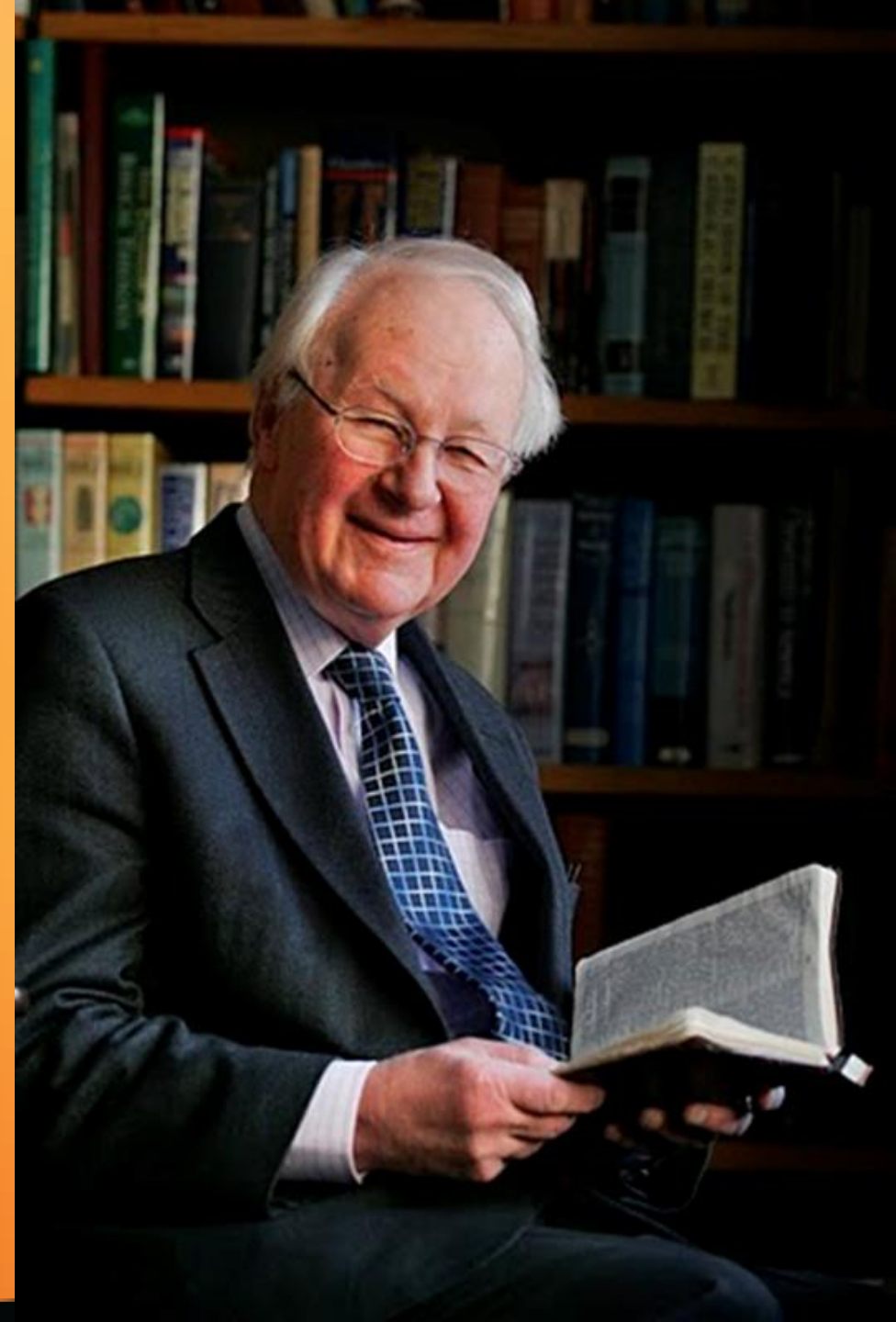
*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

**II Corinthians 5:21**



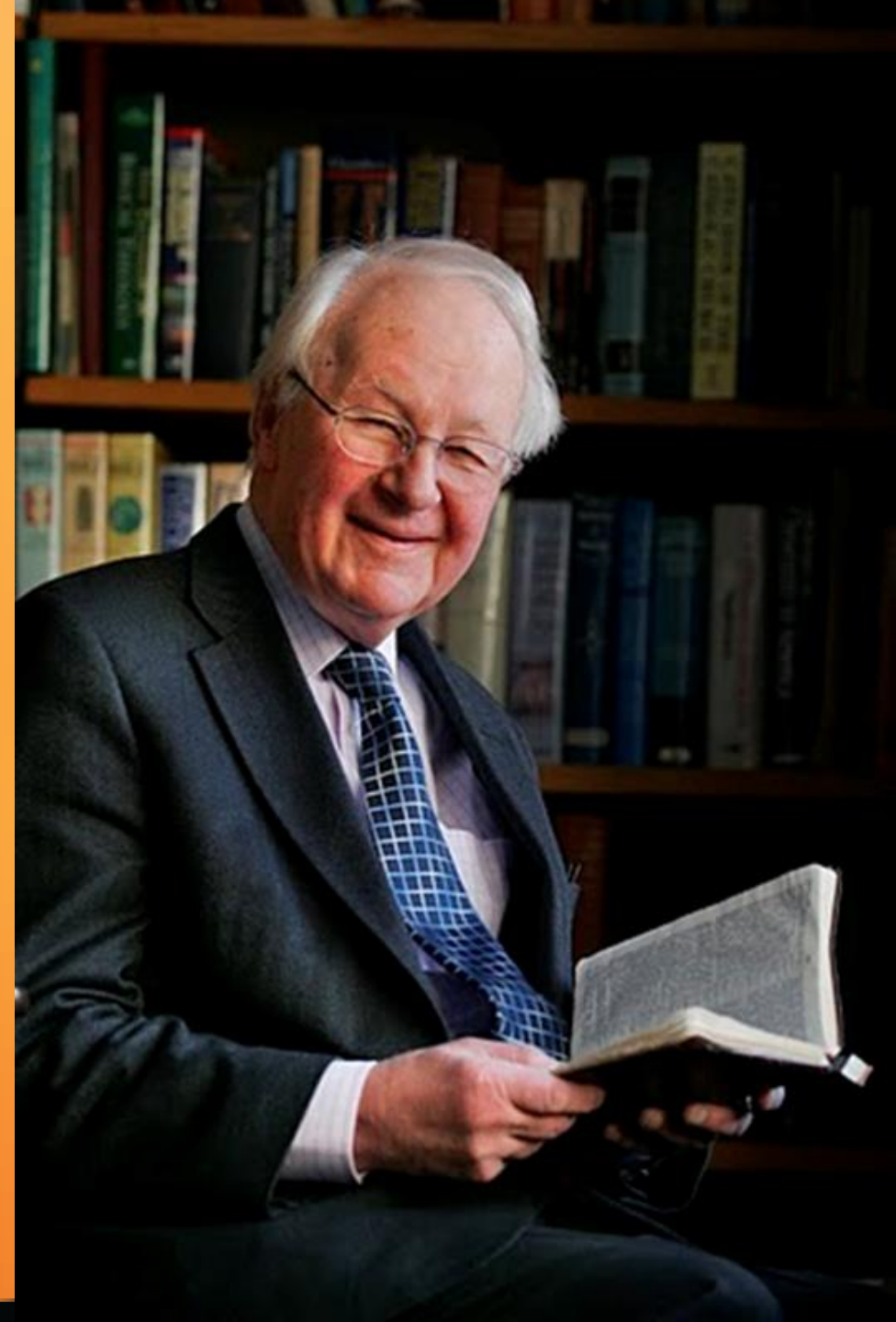
“Every time we look at the cross, Christ seems to say to us, ‘I am here because of you. It is your sin I am bearing, your curse I am suffering, your debt I am paying, your death I am dying.’ Nothing in history or in the...

**John Stott**



“...universe cuts us down to size like the cross. All of us have inflated views of ourselves, especially in self-righteousness, until we have visited a place called Calvary. It is there, at the foot of the cross, that we shrink to our true size.”

**John Stott**



- I. Miraculous Results (vs. 45-53)
  - A. Supernatural Darkness (vs. 45)
  - B. Sovereign Departure (vs. 46-49)
  - C. Self-giving Death (vs. 50)



*<sup>11</sup> I am the good shepherd.*

*The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.*

*<sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and  
I lay down my life for the sheep.*

**John 10:11, 15**





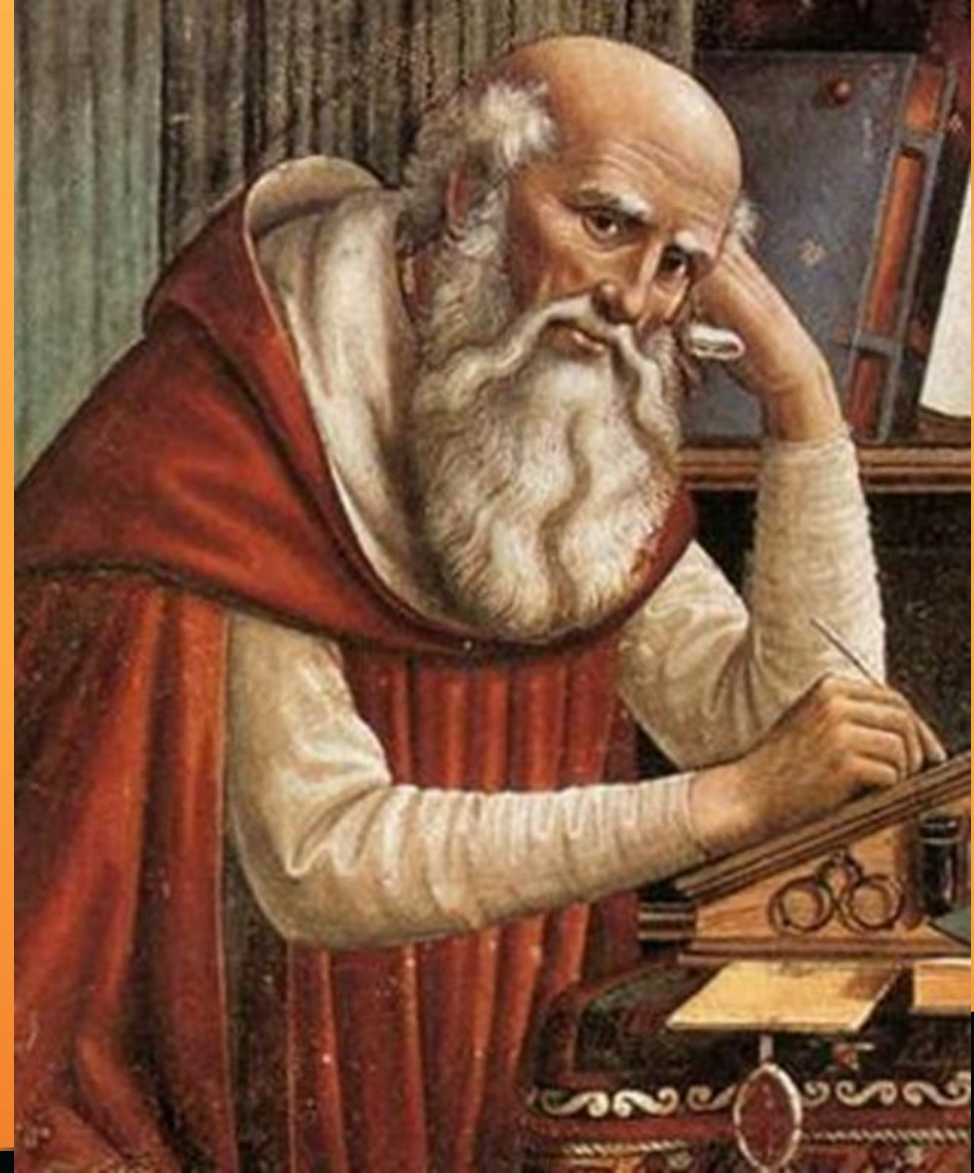
*<sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.*

**John 10:18**



“He gave up his life because he willed it, when he willed it, and as he willed it.”

**St. Augustine**



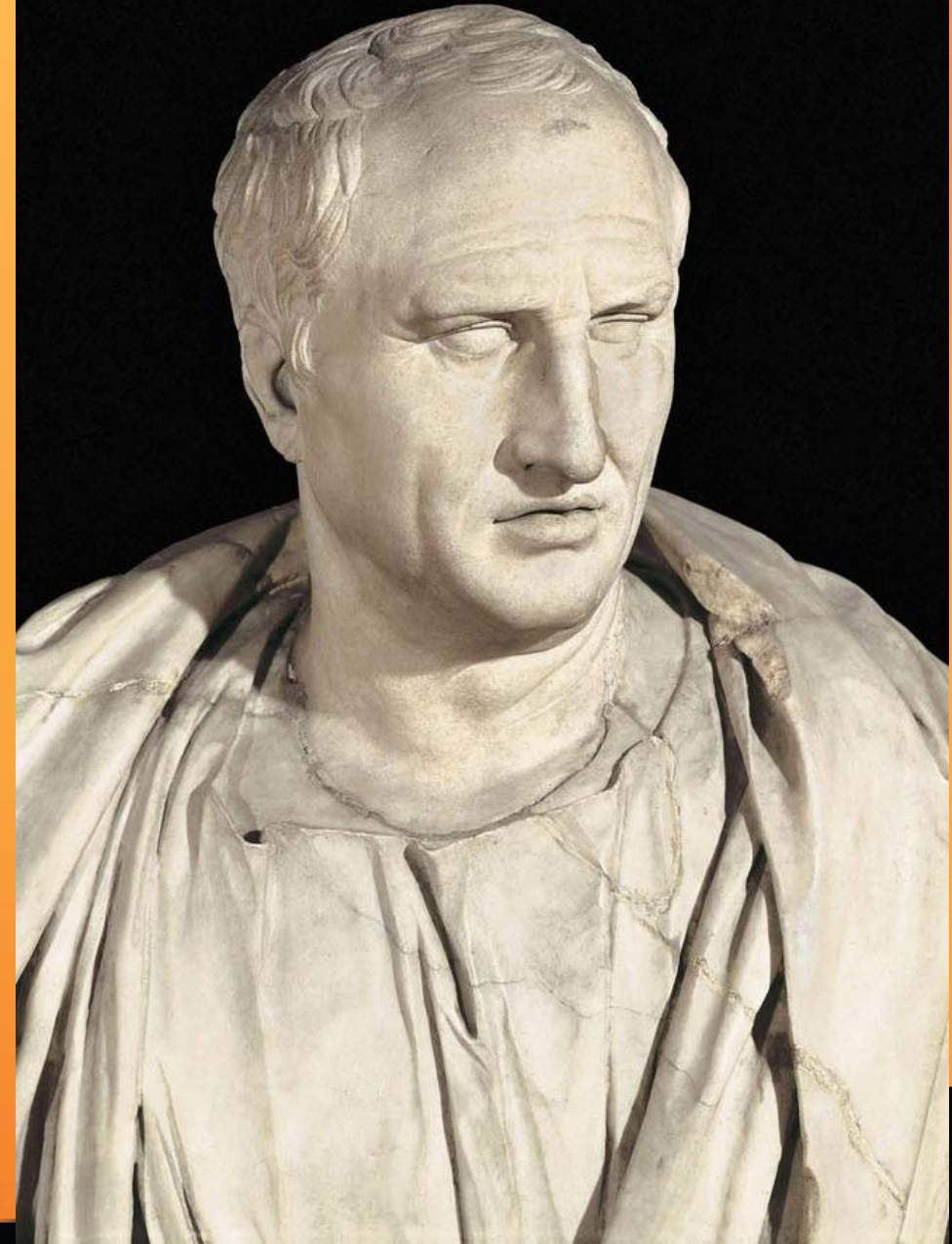
- a. From the Persian and Greek Empires
- b. Perfected as a mode of torture by the Romans
- c. For the vilest of criminals, slaves, and foreigners

**Where Did Crucifixion  
Come from?**



“There is no fitting word that can possibly describe so horrible a deed...Let the very name of the cross be far removed not only from the body of a Roman citizen, but even from his thoughts, his eyes, his ears. For it is not...

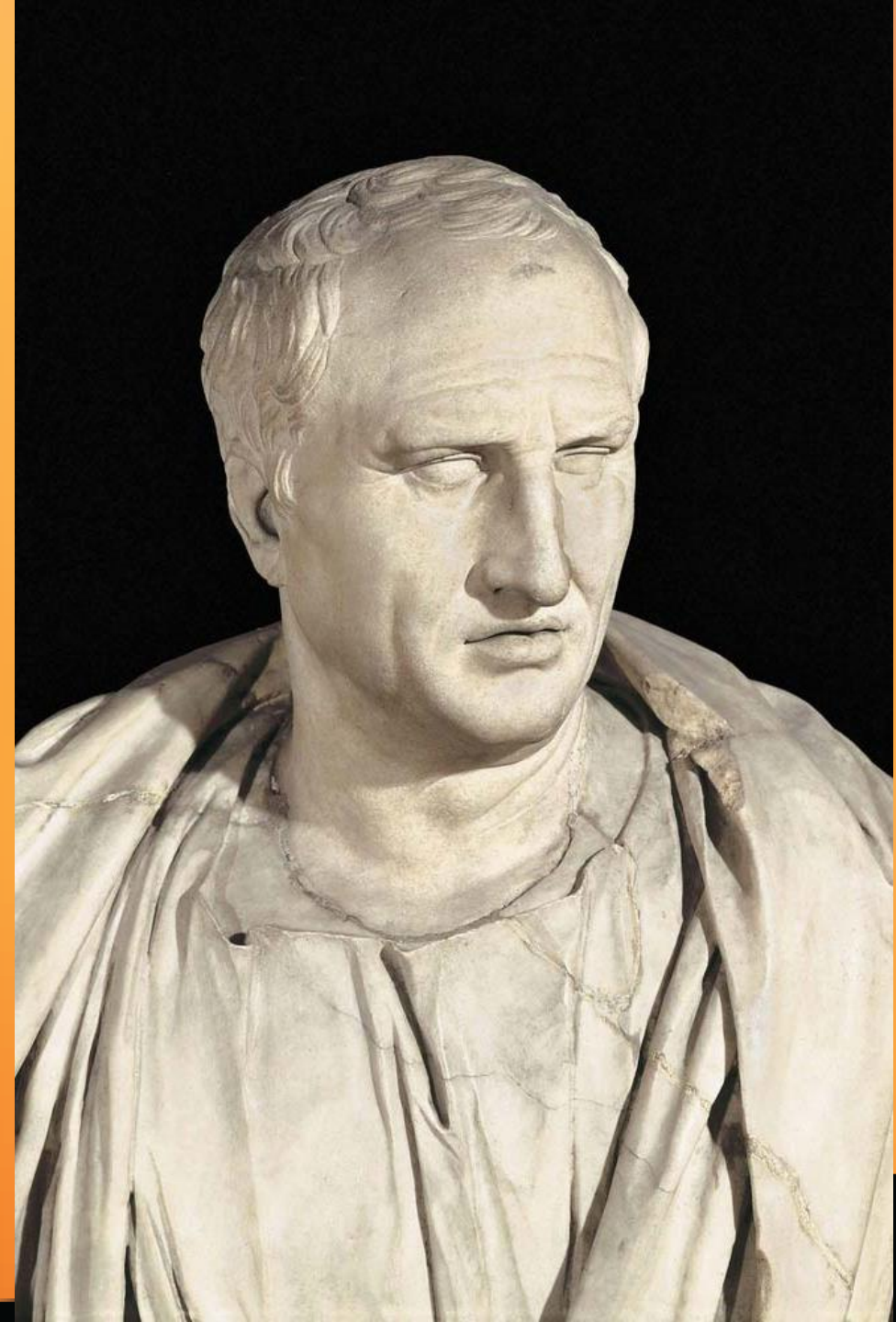
**Cicero**





“...only the actual occurrence of these things or the endurance of them, but liability to them, the expectation, indeed the mere mention of them, that is unworthy of a Roman citizen and a free man.”

**Cicero**



a. Abhorrent – Deuteronomy 21:23

*his body shall not remain all night on the tree,  
but you shall bury him the same day,  
for a hanged man is cursed by God.*

*You shall not defile your land that the LORD your God  
is giving you for an inheritance.*

**What Did Jews Believe  
About Crucifixion?**



a. Abhorrent – Deuteronomy 21:23

b. Cursed – Galatians 3:13

*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—*

**What Did Jews Believe  
About Crucifixion?**



- a. Nailed to it with long spikes (5-7 inches long) through the wrists and feet
- b. Board at bottom of cross placed for criminal to place his weight

**How Does One Get Put onto  
the Cross?**





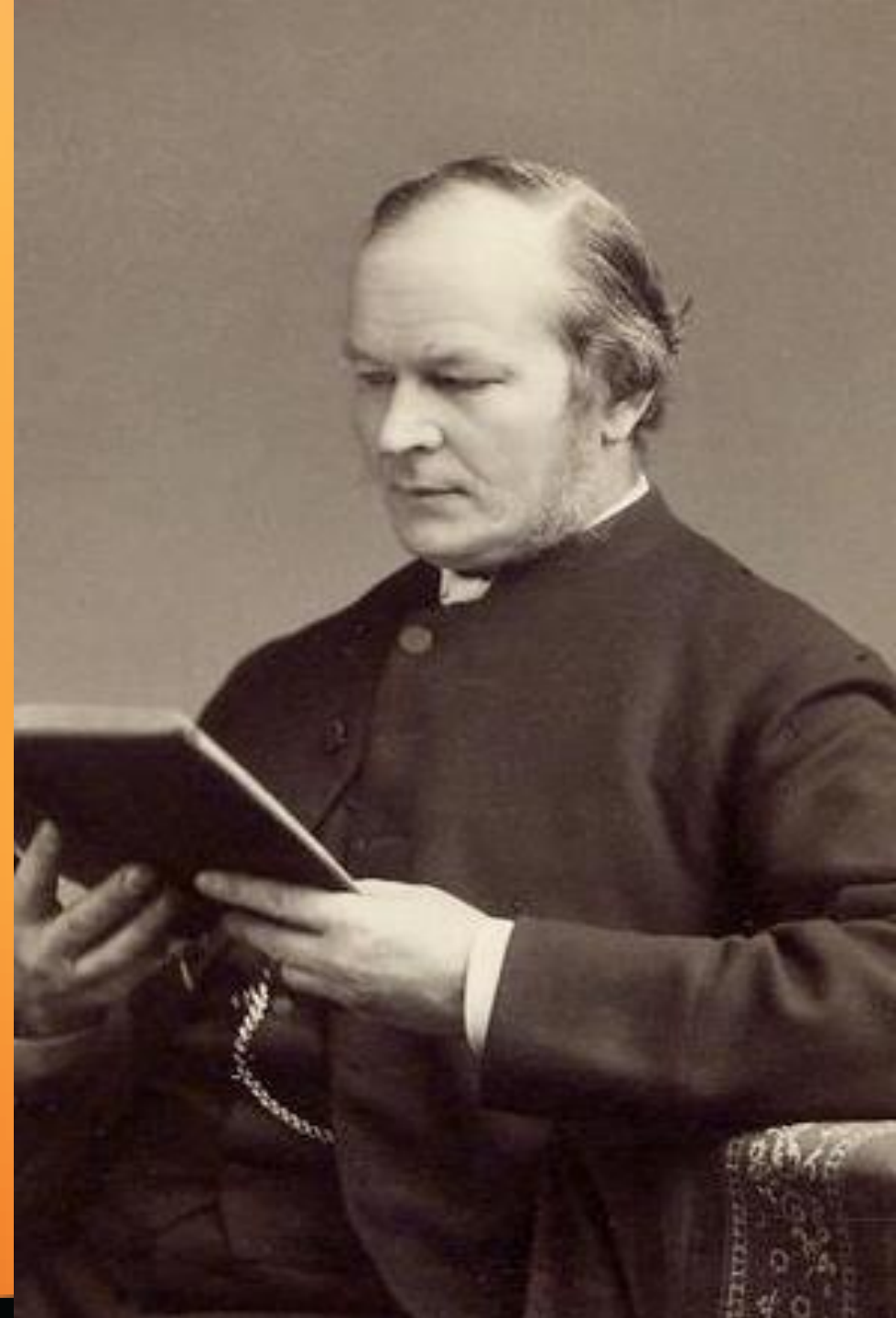
- a. Bleeding – could be massive
- b. Breathing – had to push yourself up
- c. Pests and predators
- d. Other – nausea, fever, thirst, cramping, throbbing pain, sleeplessness, hunger, dehydration, infection

## How Did the Criminal Suffer on the Cross?



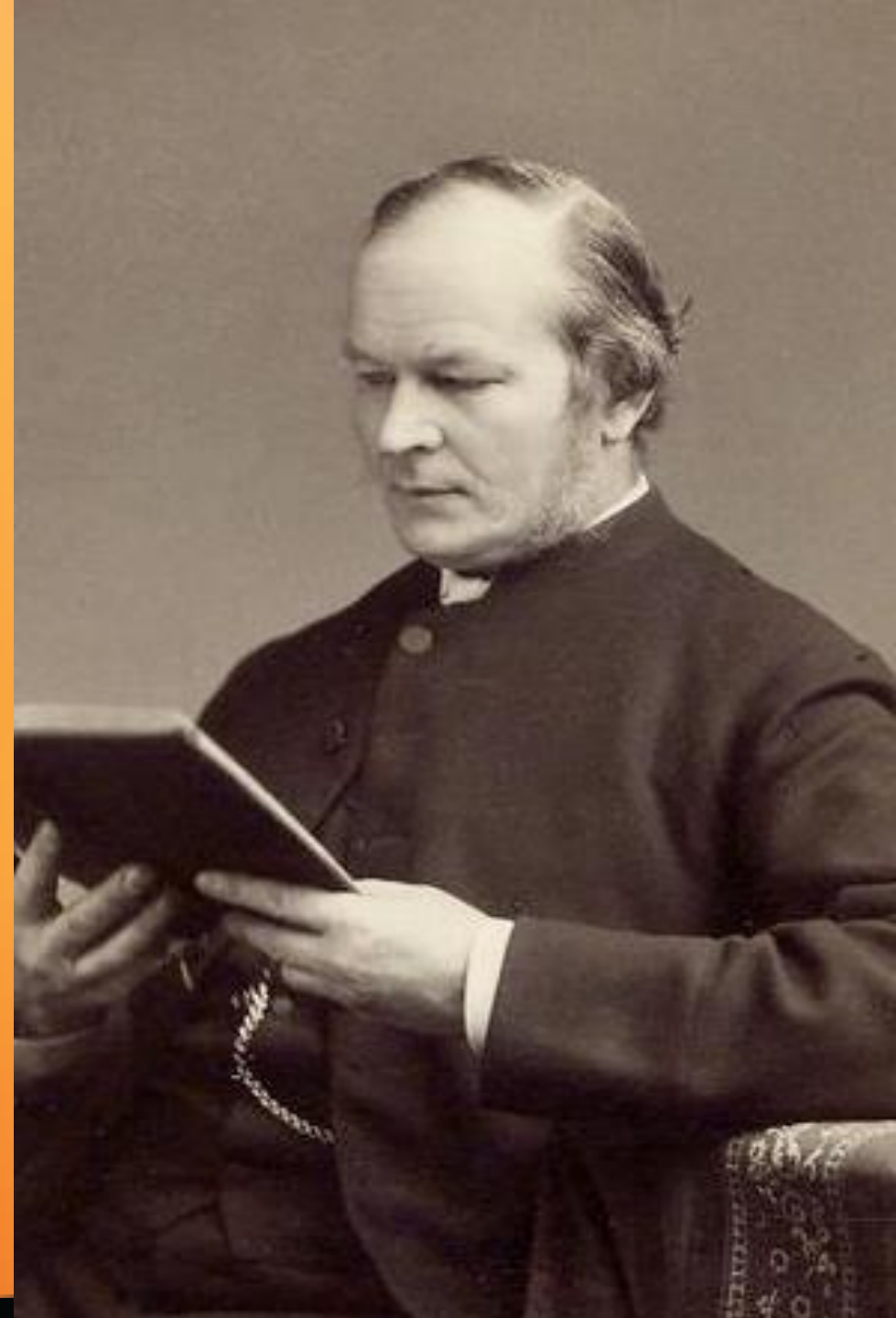
“The unnatural position made every movement painful; the lacerated veins and crushed tendons throbbed with incessant anguish; the wounds, inflamed by exposure, gradually gangrene; the arteries—especially at the...

**Frederick Farrar,**  
*The Life of Christ*



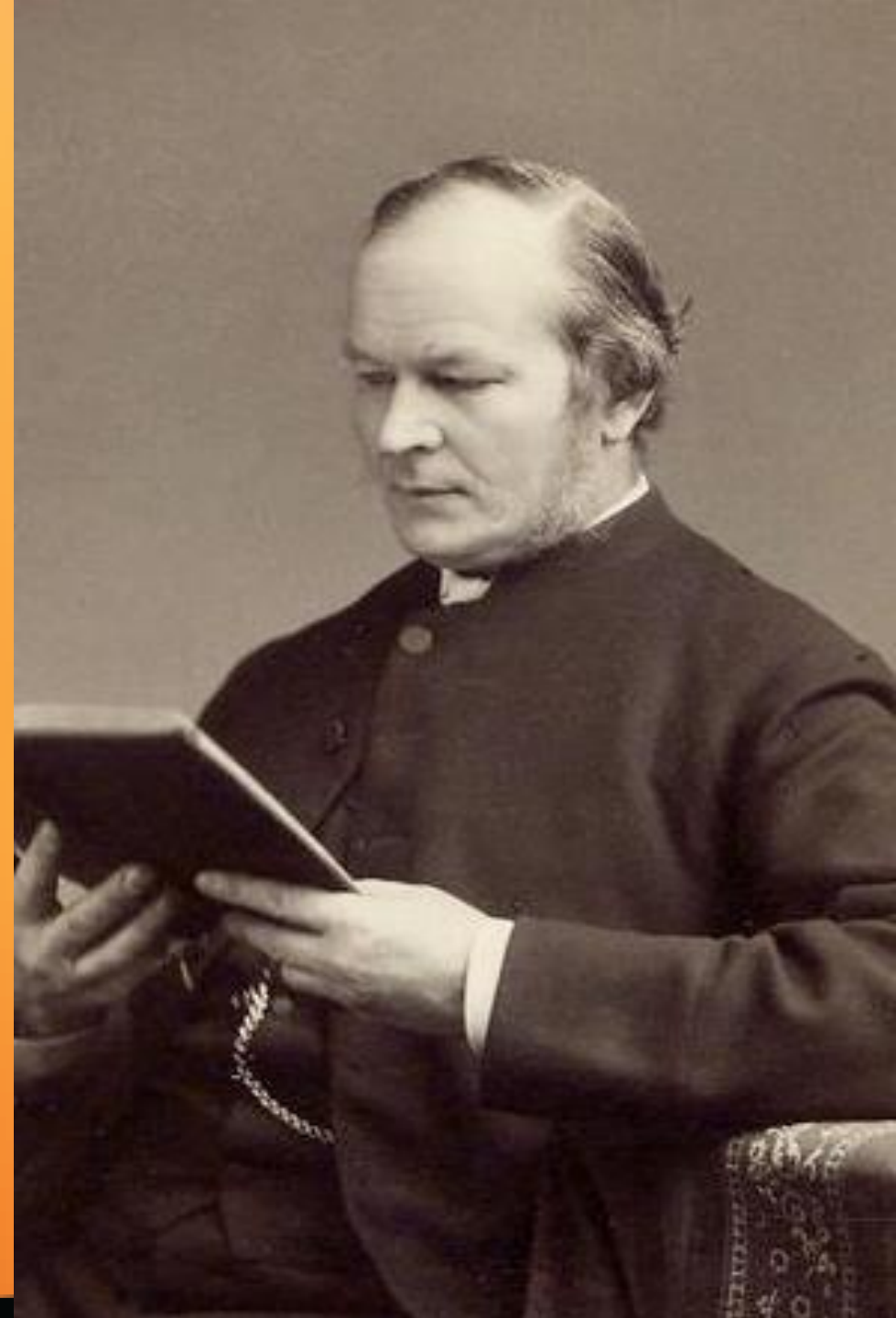
“...head and the stomach—  
became swollen and oppressed  
with surcharged blood;  
and while each variety of  
misery went on gradually  
increasing, there was added to  
them the intolerable pang of a  
burning and raging thirst;...

**Frederick Farrar,**  
*The Life of Christ*



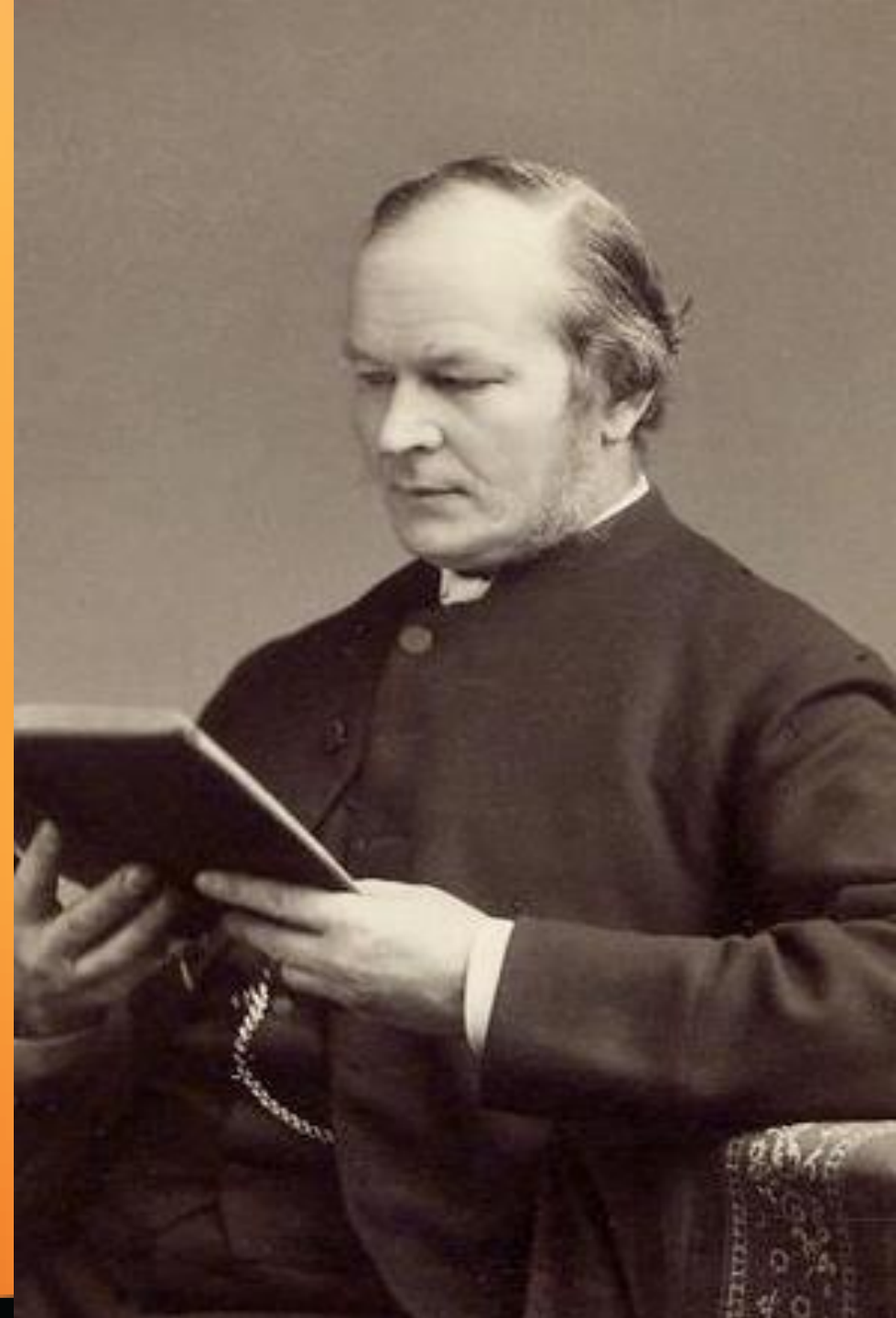
“...and all these physical complications an internal excitement and anxiety, which made the prospect of death itself—of death, the awful unknown enemy, at whose approach man usually shudders most—bear the aspect of a...

**Frederick Farrar,**  
*The Life of Christ*



“...delicious and exquisite release...Nothing could be more horrible than the sight of this living body, breathing, seeing, hearing, still able to feel, and reduced to the state of a corpse by forced immobility and absolute helplessness...

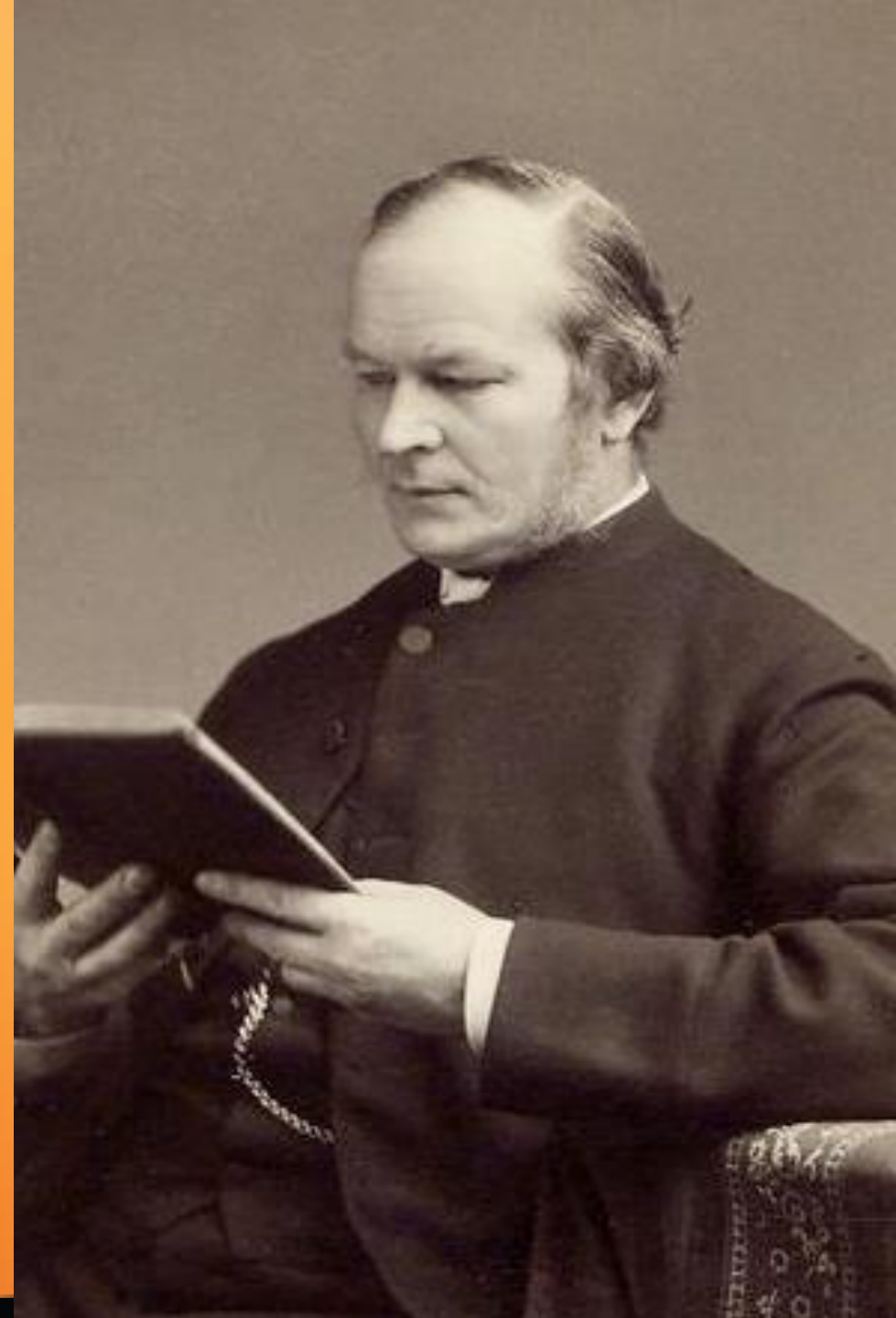
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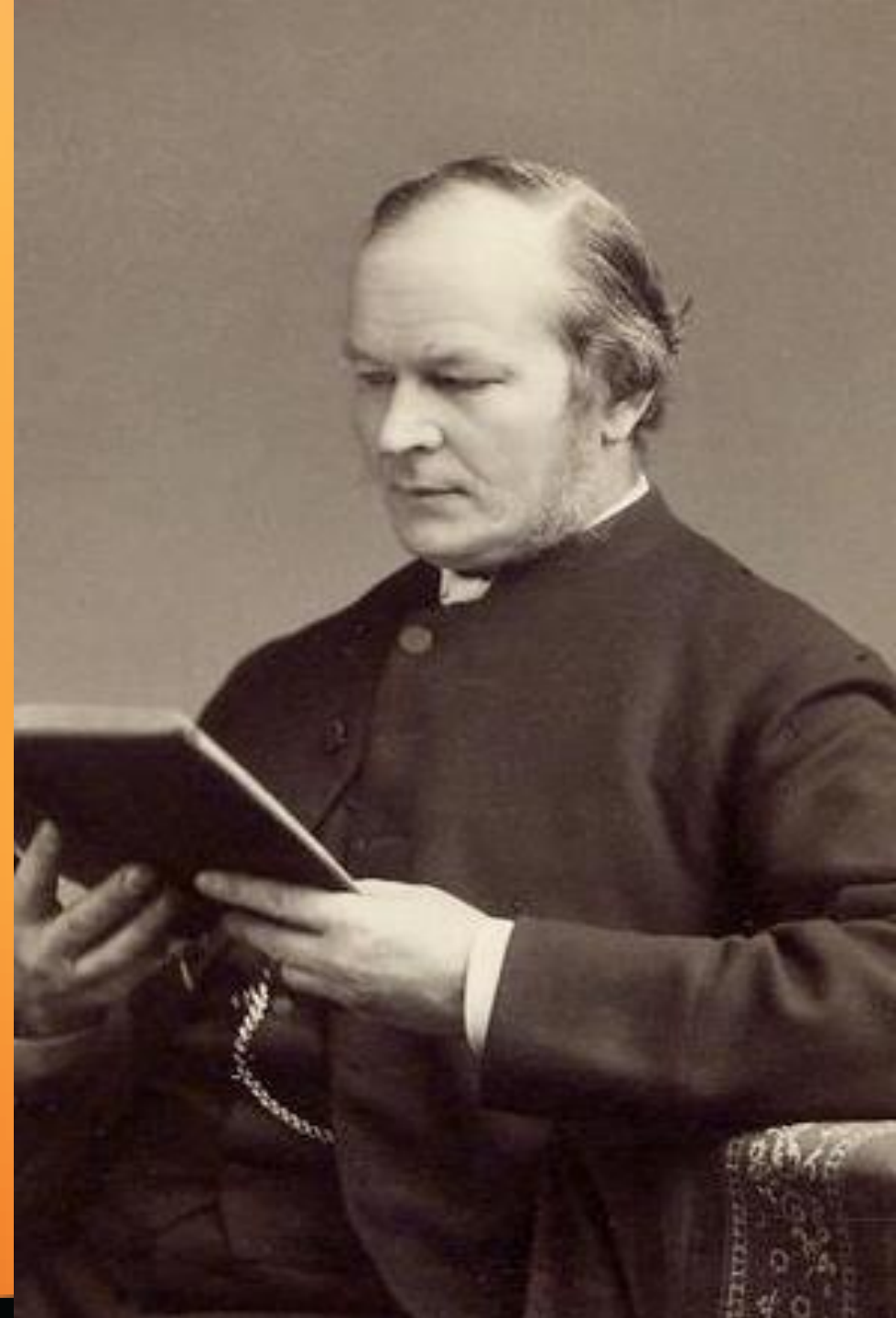
“...We cannot even say that the crucified person writhed in agony, for it was impossible for him to move. Stripped of his clothing, unable even to brush away the flies that fell upon the wounded flesh, already lacerated by the...

**Frederick Farrar,**  
*The Life of Christ*



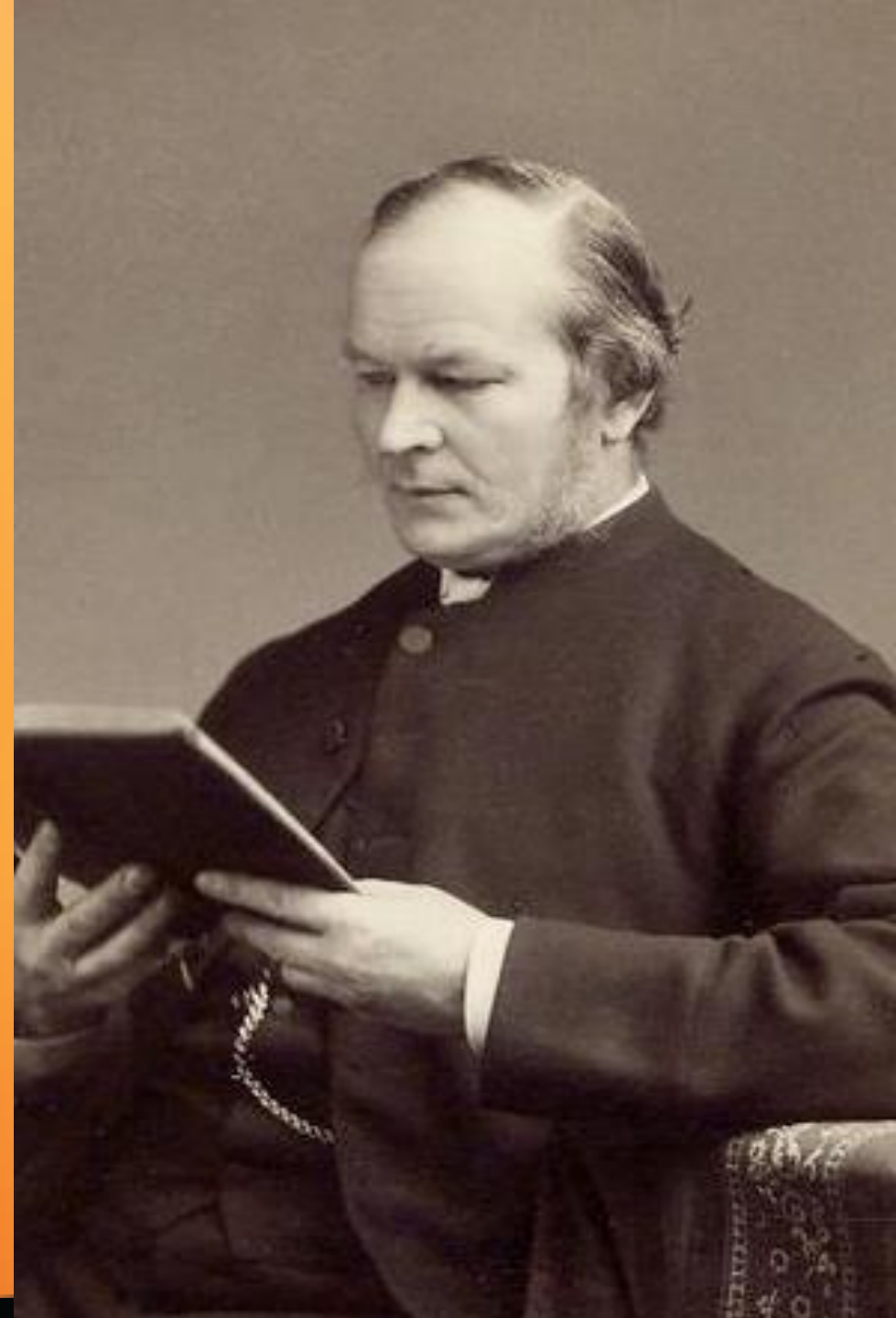
“... preliminary pleasure in the sight of the tortures of others, a feeling that is increased and not diminished by the sight of pain—the cross represented miserable humanity reduced to the last degree of impotence, suffering, and degradation...”

**Frederick Farrar,**  
*The Life of Christ*



“...The penalty of crucifixion combined all the most ardent torturer could desire: torture, the pillory, degradation, and certain death, distilled slowly drop by drop. It was an ideal form of torture.”

**Frederick Farrar,**  
*The Life of Christ*





*For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
and like a root out of dry ground;  
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
and no beauty that we should desire him.*

**Isaiah 53:2**



- a. Could last 3 hours to 3 days, depending on the scourging
- b. Usually died of hypovolemic shock or exhaustion asphyxia

**How Would a Person Die on  
the Cross?**



- I. Miraculous Results (vs. 45-53)
  - A. Supernatural Darkness (vs. 45)
  - B. Sovereign Departure (vs. 46-49)
  - C. Self-giving Death (vs. 50)
  - D. Sanctuary Devastation (vs. 51a)





He was torn for our transgressions

He was torn for our sins

He was torn for our iniquities

He was torn for our transgressions  
He was torn for our iniquities

He was torn for our transgressions  
He was torn for our iniquities

He was torn for our transgressions  
He was torn for our iniquities

He was torn for our transgressions

He was torn

*14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

**Hebrews 4:14-16**



*<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,<sup>20</sup> by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,<sup>21</sup> and since we have a great priest over the house of God,<sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

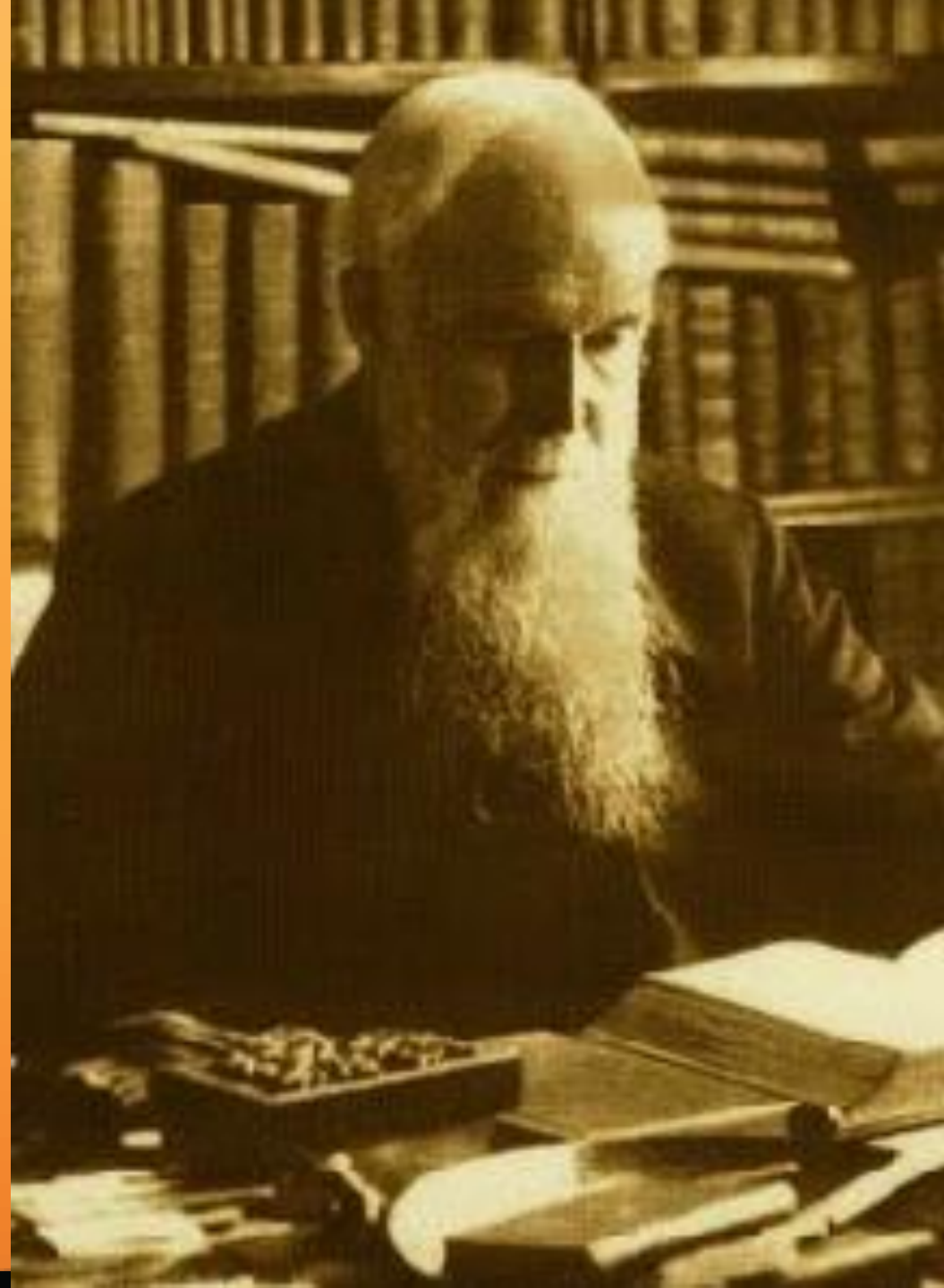
**Hebrews 10:19-22**





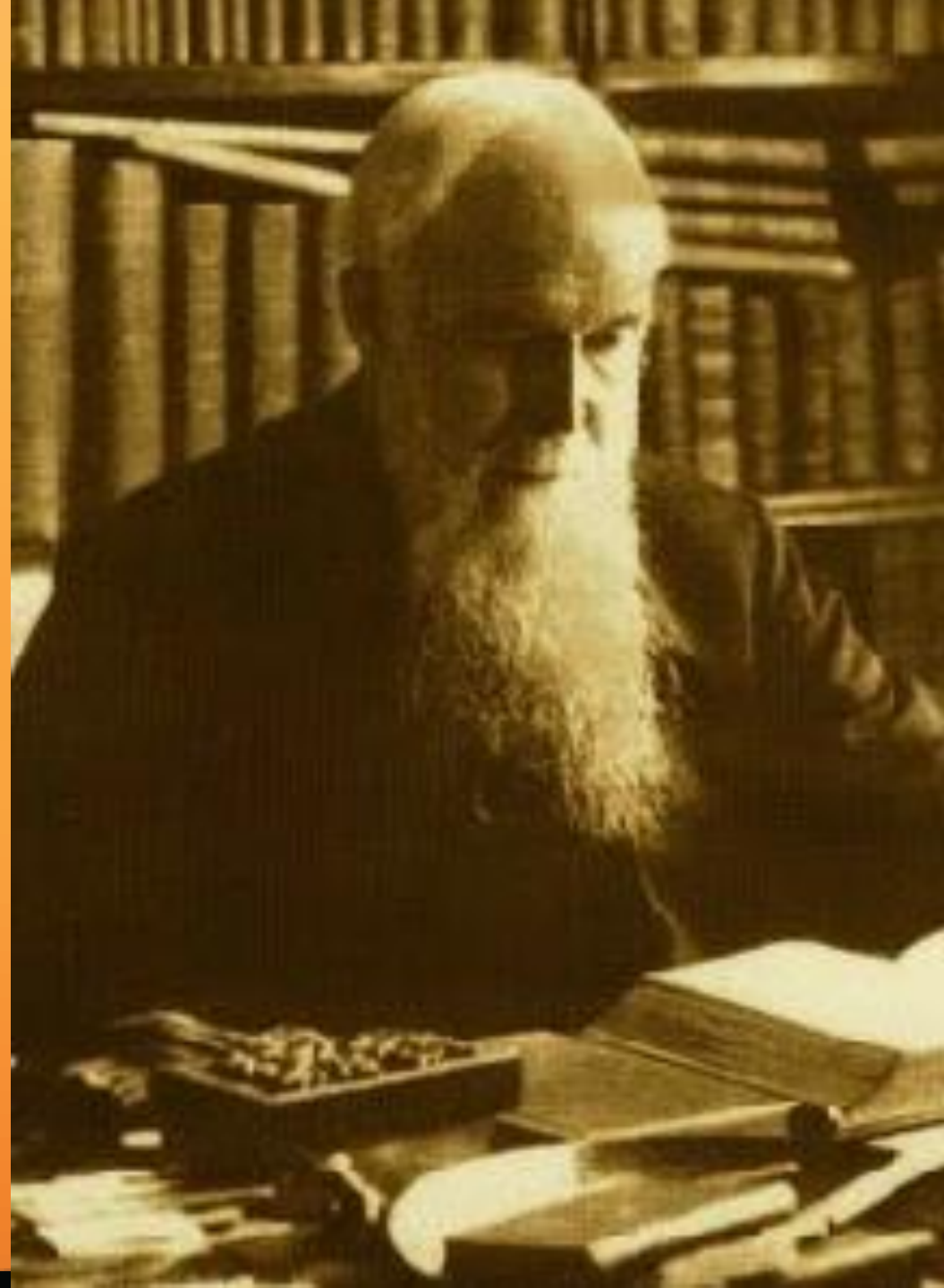
“That rending of the veil  
proclaimed the termination  
and passing away of the  
ceremonial law: it was a sign  
that the old dispensation of  
sacrifices and ordinances was  
no longer needed: its work  
was done; its occupation...

**J.C. Ryle, *Expository  
Thoughts on Matthew***



“...was gone from the moment that Christ died. There was no more need of an earthly high priest, and a mercy-seat, and a sprinkling of blood, and an offering up of incense, and a day of atonement: the true High Priest had at length appeared;...

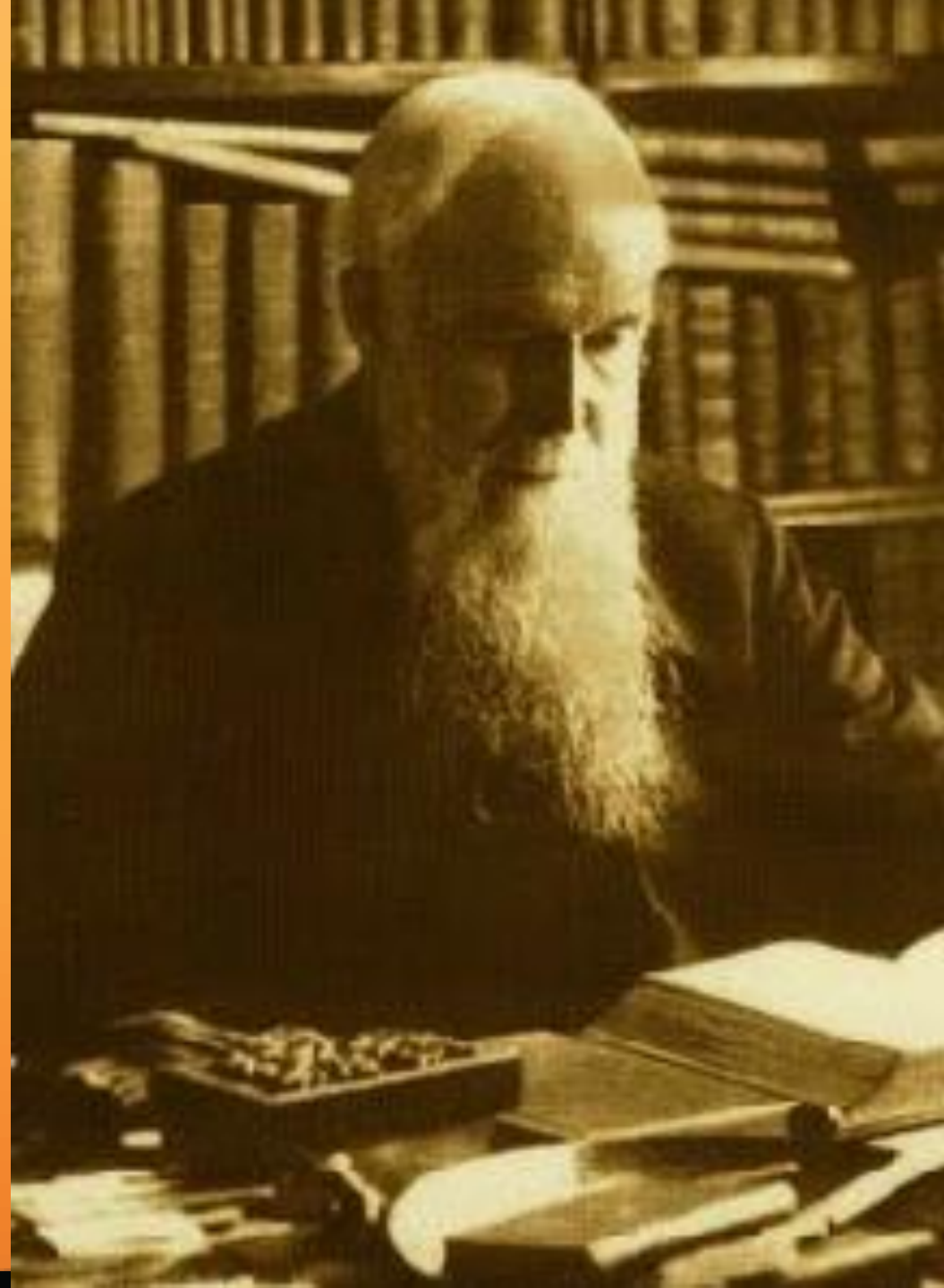
**J.C. Ryle, *Expository Thoughts on Matthew***





“...the true Lamb of God had been slain; the true mercy-seat was at length revealed. The figures and shadows were no longer wanted. May we all remember this! To set up an altar, and a sacrifice, and a priesthood now is to light a candle at noon-day.”

**J.C. Ryle, *Expository Thoughts on Matthew***



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  - E. Soil Disturbance (vs. 51b)



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  - D. Sanctuary Devastation (vs. 51a)
  - E. Soil Disturbance (vs. 51b)
  - F. Subduing Death (vs. 52-53)



- I. Miraculous Results (vs. 45-53)
- II. Memorable Reaction (vs. 54-56)
  - A. From a Centurion and the Crowd (vs. 54)



- I. Miraculous Results (vs. 45-53)
  
- II. Memorable Reaction (vs. 54-56)
  - A. From a Centurion and the Crowd (vs. 54)
  - B. From Jesus' Followers (vs. 55-56)



## KEY POINT:

Jesus' death was no ordinary death.





“The relationship of redemption, propitiation, and reconciliation, therefore, becomes clear.

Christ by His death redeemed or paid the price for sin.

This payment constituted a propitiation or satisfaction of God’s righteousness. ...

**John Walvoord**



“... This freed the love of God to act in grace toward the sinner in reconciling the sinner to Himself on the basis that Christ has died in his place. The believer who comes into the position of being in Christ through faith and through the baptism of the Holy Spirit thus is reconciled to ...

**John Walvoord**



“... God because God sees him in Christ. The whole act of reconciliation therefore, is an act of God, a free gift to man, provided for all men, effective in those who believe. Those once estranged in Adam are now reconciled in Christ.”

**John Walvoord**



*Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—  
more than that, who was raised—who is at the right  
hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*

**Romans 8:34**





The death of Christ secures  
our freedom from  
condemnation. It is as sure  
that we cannot be  
condemned as it is sure that  
Christ died. There is no  
double jeopardy in God's  
court. We will not be...

**John Piper, *The Passion of  
Jesus Christ***





“...condemned twice for the same offenses. Christ has died once for our sins. We will not be condemned for them. Condemnation is gone not because there isn’t any, but because it has already happened.”

**John Piper, *The Passion of Jesus Christ***





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