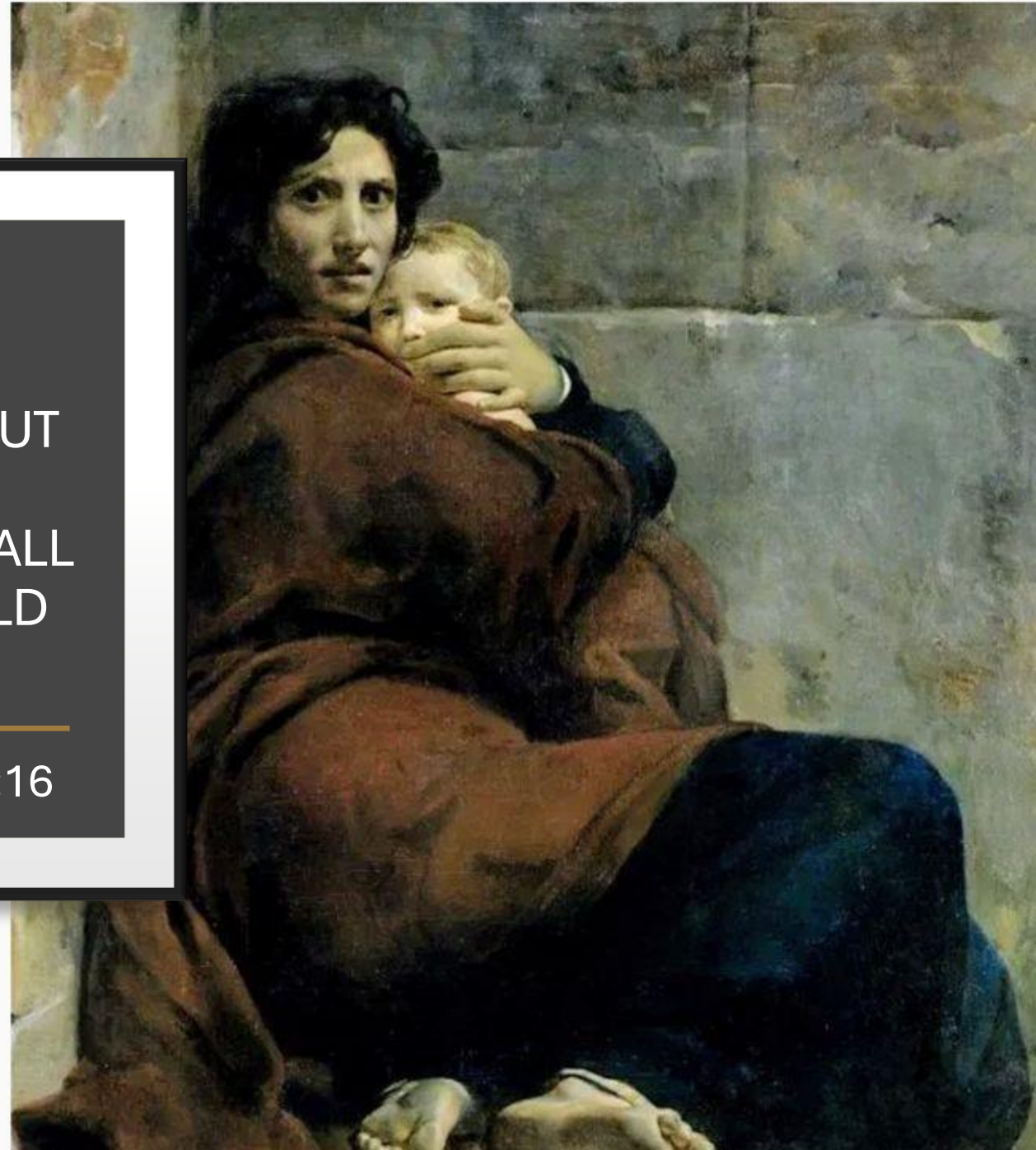


“THEN HEROD...WAS EXCEEDINGLY
ANGRY; AND HE SENT FORTH AND PUT
TO DEATH ALL THE MALE CHILDREN
WHO WERE IN BETHLEHEM AND IN ALL
ITS DISTRICTS, FROM TWO YEARS OLD
AND UNDER...”

– MATTHEW 2:16



THE SIN OF BLAME

PART I: BLAMING GOD

1ST SUNDAY OF TUBA

INTRODUCTION

- Blame can be place on:
 - God
 - Others
 - Ourselves
- Today: God



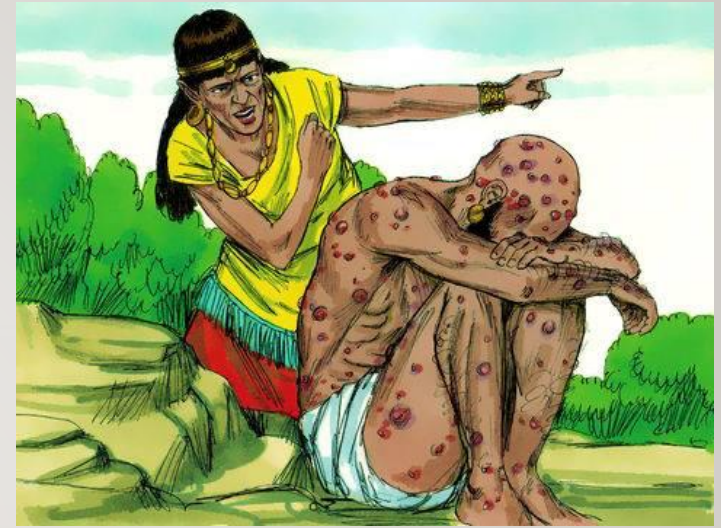
DEFINITION

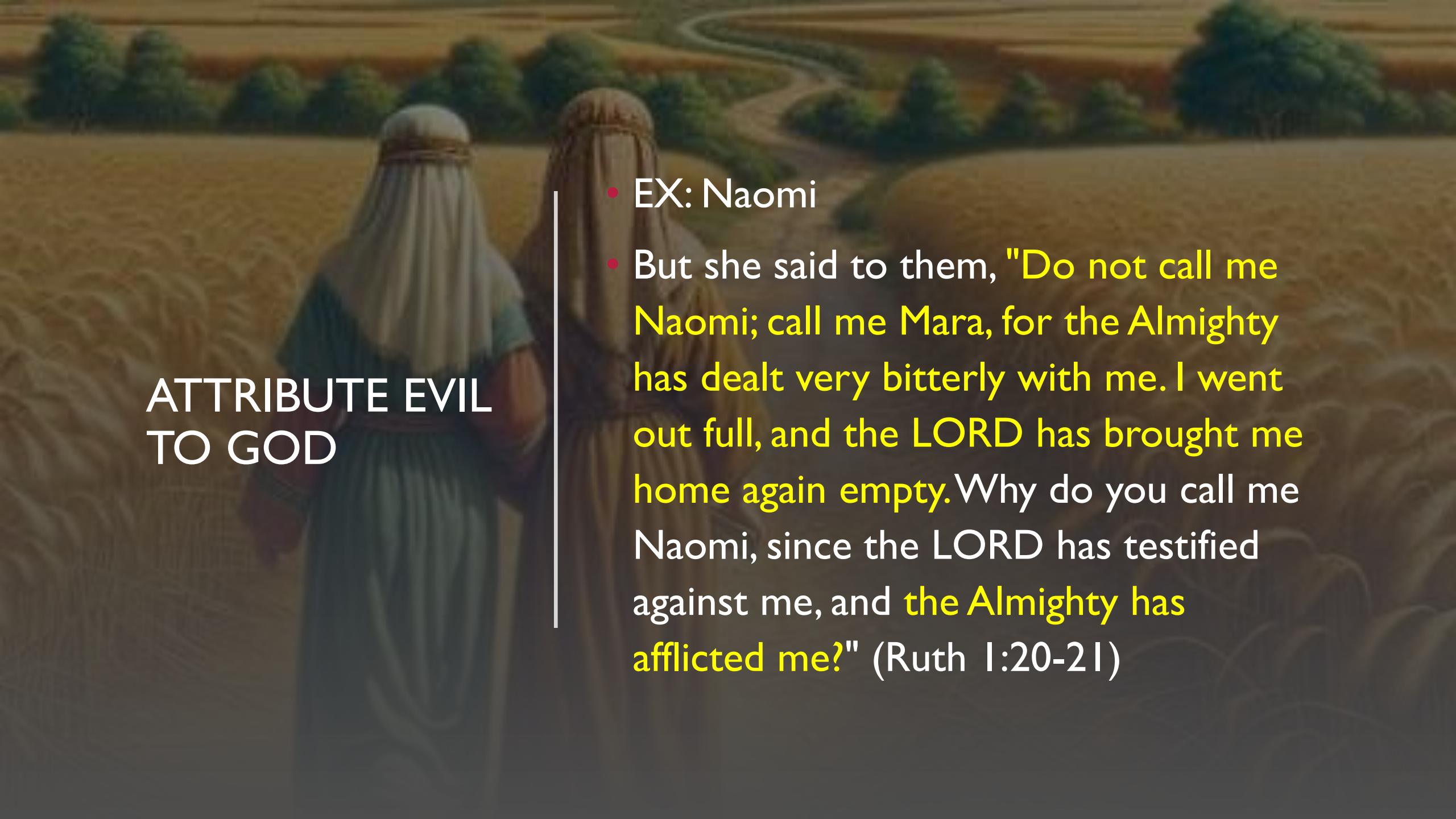
- "A cognitive and emotional process in which an individual attributes responsibility for a negative event to another person, themselves, or external circumstances." (American Psychological Association)
- "To say or think that someone or something did something wrong or is responsible for something bad happening." (Cambridge Dictionary)

HOW DO WE BLAME GOD?

QUESTION HIS GOODNESS

- EX: Job's wife
 - “Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!” (Job 2:9)
- EX: Israelites blamed God in the wilderness
 - And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" (Ex. 17:3)





ATTRIBUTE EVIL TO GOD

- EX: Naomi
- But she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. I went out full, and the LORD has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the LORD has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?" (Ruth 1:20-21)

LUKE 13:1-5 I

There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? 3 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

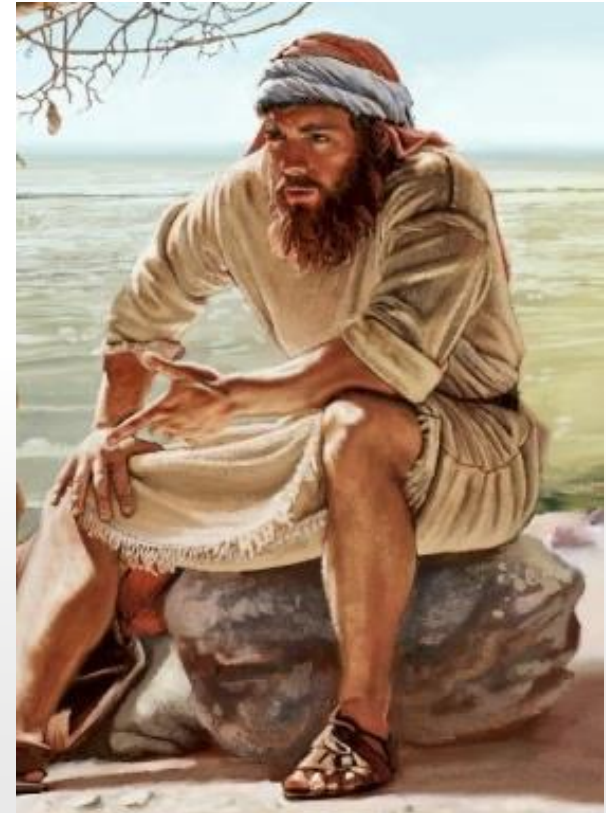
ATTRIBUTE EVIL TO GOD

- EX: Israelites After the Spies' Report
- “Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?” (Num. 14:3)



UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

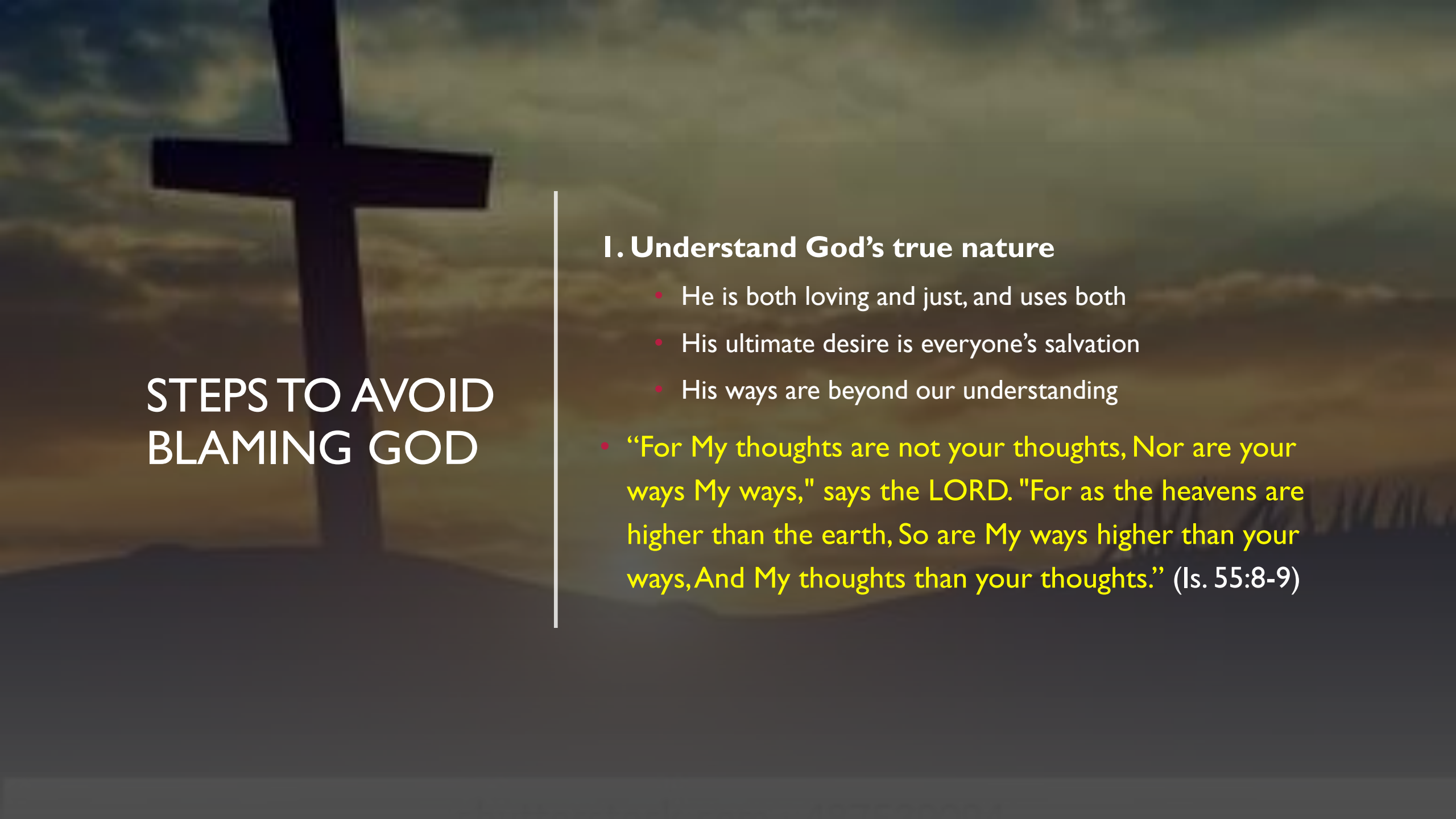
- EX: Jonah
- "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm. 3 Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!" (Jon. 4:2-3)



UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

- EX: Mary and Martha
 - “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.” (John 11:21, 32)
- EX: The Jews Expecting a Political Messiah
 - "We were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel." (Luke 24:21)





STEPS TO AVOID BLAMING GOD

I. Understand God's true nature

- He is both loving and just, and uses both
- His ultimate desire is everyone's salvation
- His ways are beyond our understanding
- “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” (Is. 55:8-9)

STEPS TO AVOID BLAMING GOD

2. See the bigger picture

- “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” (Rom. 8:28)

3. Reframe Expectations

- Trust in God's sovereignty, even when His plans differ from yours.
- "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding." (Prov. 3:5)

STEPS TO AVOID BLAMING GOD

4. Recognizing Human Responsibility

5. Develop trust in God's timing

- “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” (Jer. 29:11-13)