

This gorilla is seemingly immovable

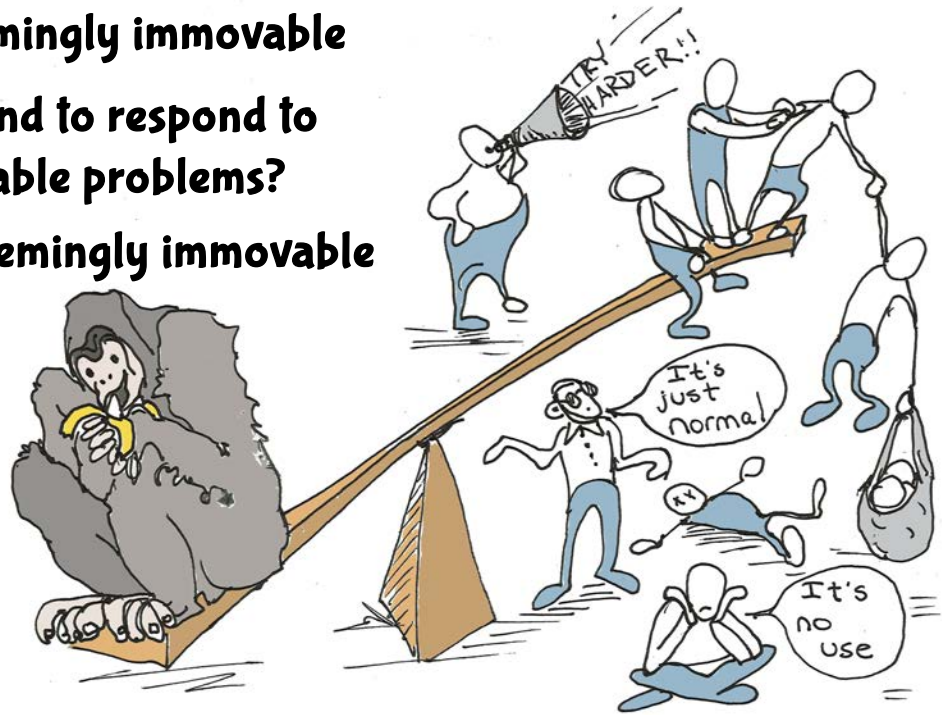
How do ~~people~~ ^{you} tend to respond to seemingly immovable problems?

What are some seemingly immovable problems today?

What problem is most problematic for you today?

Or this year?

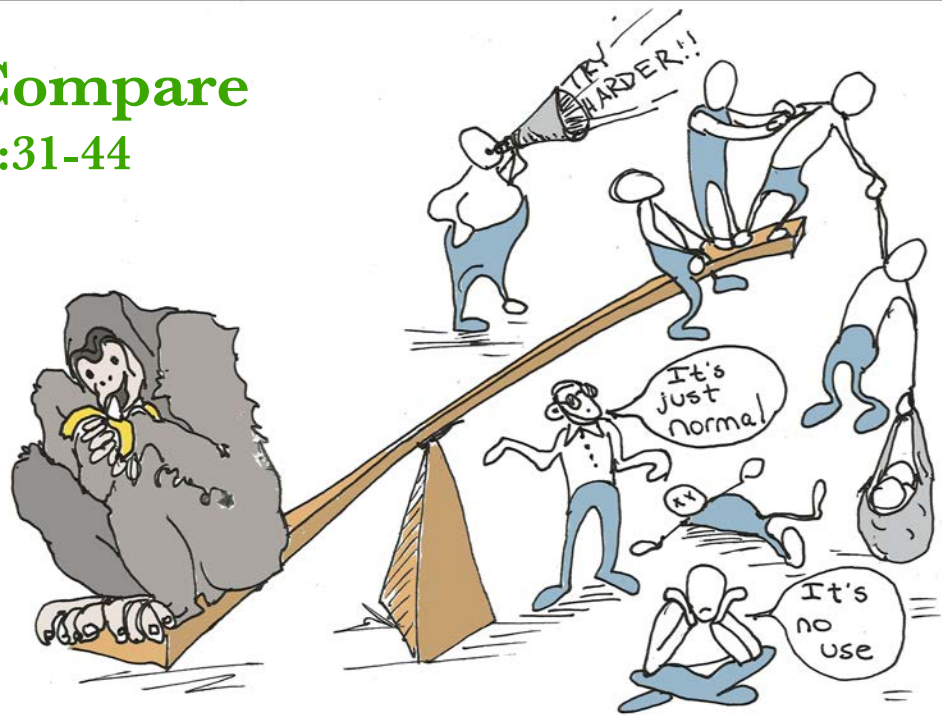
Or this decade?



1

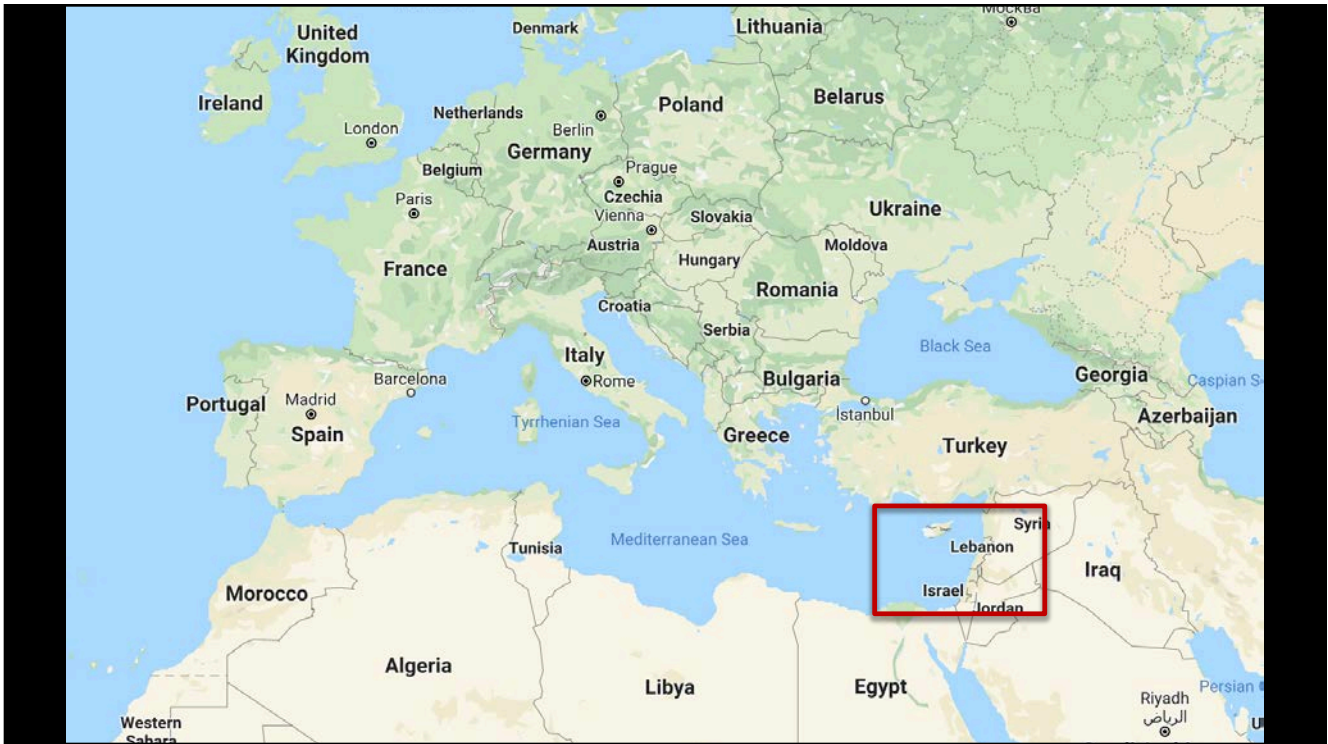
Beyond Compare

Luke 4:31-44

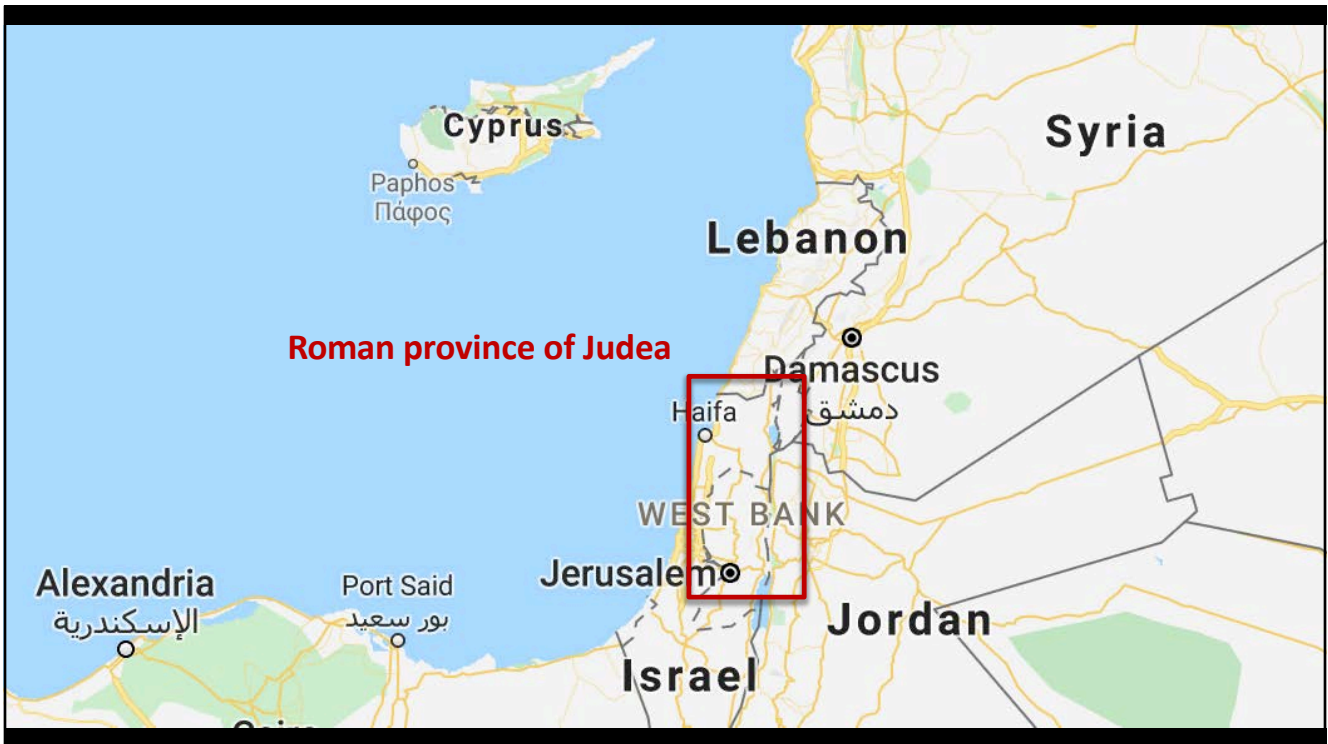


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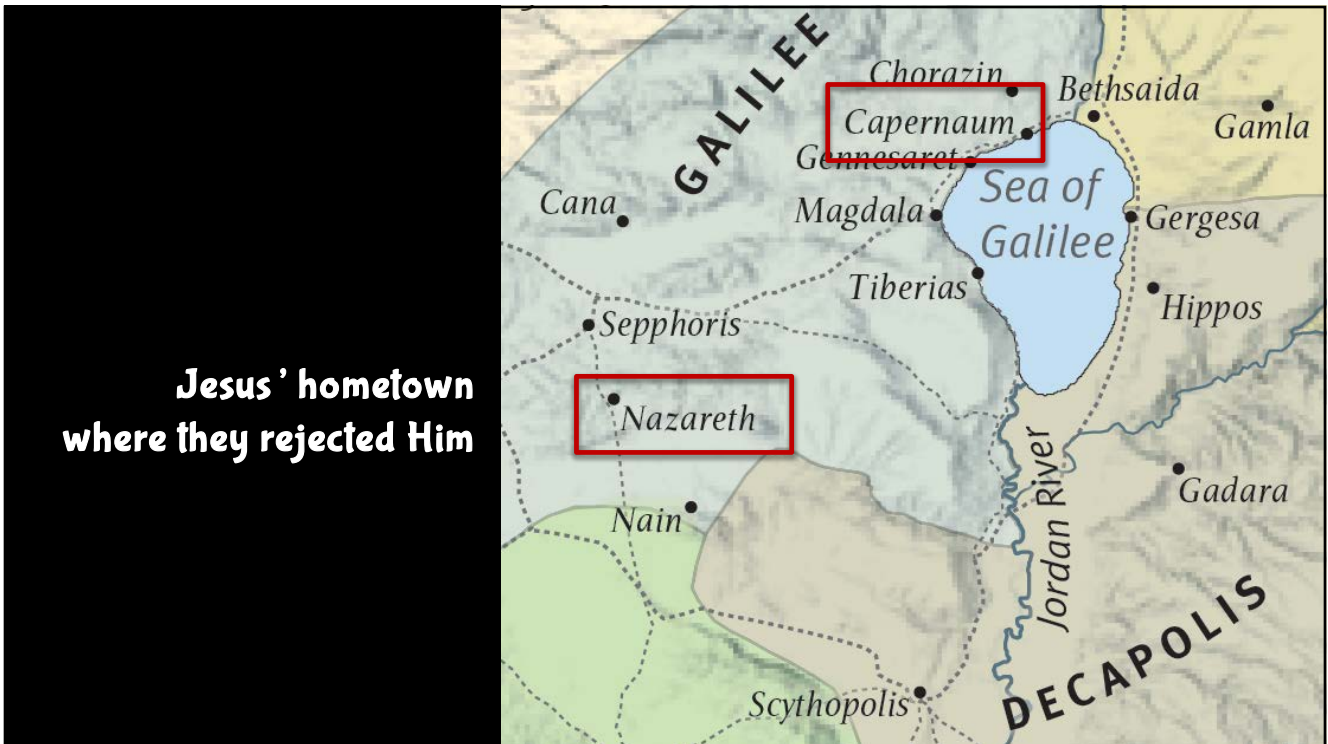
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4



5



6

Luke 4:31-32

31 Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath he taught the people. **32** They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority.

Sabbath = Friday sunset until Saturday sunset (their holy day of rest)

7

Luke 4:33-37

33 In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, **34** “Go away! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

35 “Be quiet!” Jesus said sternly. “Come out of him!” Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him.

synagogue = Jewish gathering place for worship and teaching
demon = evil spiritual being

8

Luke 4:33-37

36 All the people were amazed and said to each other, “What words these are! With authority and power he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!” **37** And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area.

9

Luke 4:38-39

38 Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. **39** So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.

Simon = will become a follower of Jesus, renamed Peter
wait on them = serve them a meal

10

Luke 4:40-41

40 At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. **41** Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.

sunset = when the Sabbath was over and work could be done

laying his hands on = symbol of blessing

Messiah = God’s chosen servant to bring God’s reign and rule

11

Luke 4:42-44

42 At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. **43** But he said, “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.” **44** And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Judea = land of the Jewish people

12

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Luke 4:31-44bib.ly/Lu4.NIV

31-32: Jesus taught with authority, amazing the people

- Luke intentionally wrote for people like us
 - They didn't know the geography of the Judean province of the Roman Empire
- **Authority**: different from what they were used to hearing
 - Perhaps: direct knowledge rather than abstract ideas

33-37:

38-39:

40-41:

42-44:

14

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Luke 4:31-44

31-32: Jesus taught with authority, amazing the people

33-37: Jesus' power over evil spirits amazed the people

- Demons: evil powers that attempt to ruin God's good purposes in the world
 - Many of us are much more afraid of a virus (biological and digital!) than we are of demons
 - Much of the world recognizes power of evil spirits!
- Jesus' presence was enough to threaten demons

38-39: • They knew who He was and His power and purpose

40-41: • Jesus immediately neutralized their power to harm

42-44: • People were amazed at His authority and power

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38-39: **Jesus' power over sickness amazed the people**

- After seeing Jesus' power over evil spirits, people expected that He could heal diseases too
- Same kind of power over a different kind of force
 - Sickness was more frightening than
 - Rebuked the sickness (perhaps personified)
 - Verses 40-41 show sickness and evil spirits

40-41: are not the same thing

42-44: • Healing was immediate and complete!

19

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Luke 4:31-44

31-32: Jesus taught with authority, amazing the people

33-37: Jesus' power over evil spirits amazed the people

38-39: Jesus' power over sickness amazed the people

40-41: Jesus freed many from power of sickness and demons

- Many came to be healed by His power
- Laying his hands on them
 - They had experienced little touch during illness
 - Individually and personally healed each one
- Demons knew Jesus' true identity: Son of God
 - And hated Him for it!

42-44: • Jesus didn't want or need their testimony about Him

21

Luke 4:42-44

⁴² At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. ⁴³ But he said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." ⁴⁴ And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

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Luke 4:31-44

31-32: Jesus taught with authority, amazing the people

33-37: Jesus' power over evil spirits amazed the people

38-39: Jesus' power over sickness amazed the people

40-41: Jesus freed many from power of sickness and evil spirits

42-44: **Jesus' purpose is to bring the Kingdom to others too**

- Jesus prayed to know God's purpose for Him
 - "Success" and "failure" call for times of prayer!
- People wanted Him to stay: "resident healer"
- Jesus knew His purpose
 - Bring the Kingdom of God to others too
 - Not just talk and not just action: life-changing words

23

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The Big Idea

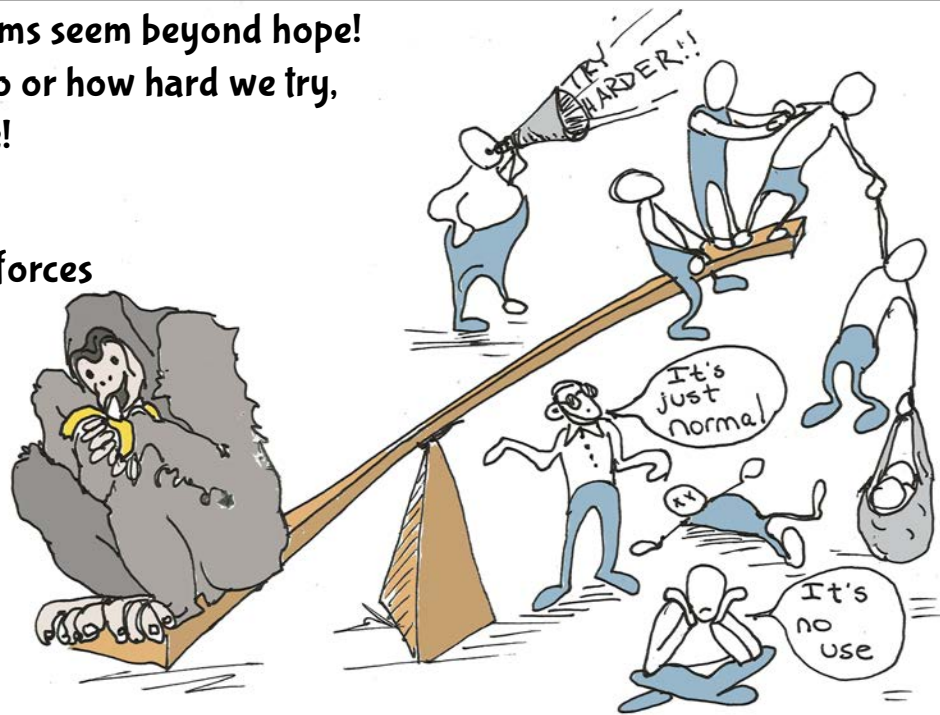
**Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
is the unstoppable power
of the growing and life-giving Kingdom of God,
which is to be brought to all peoples**

25

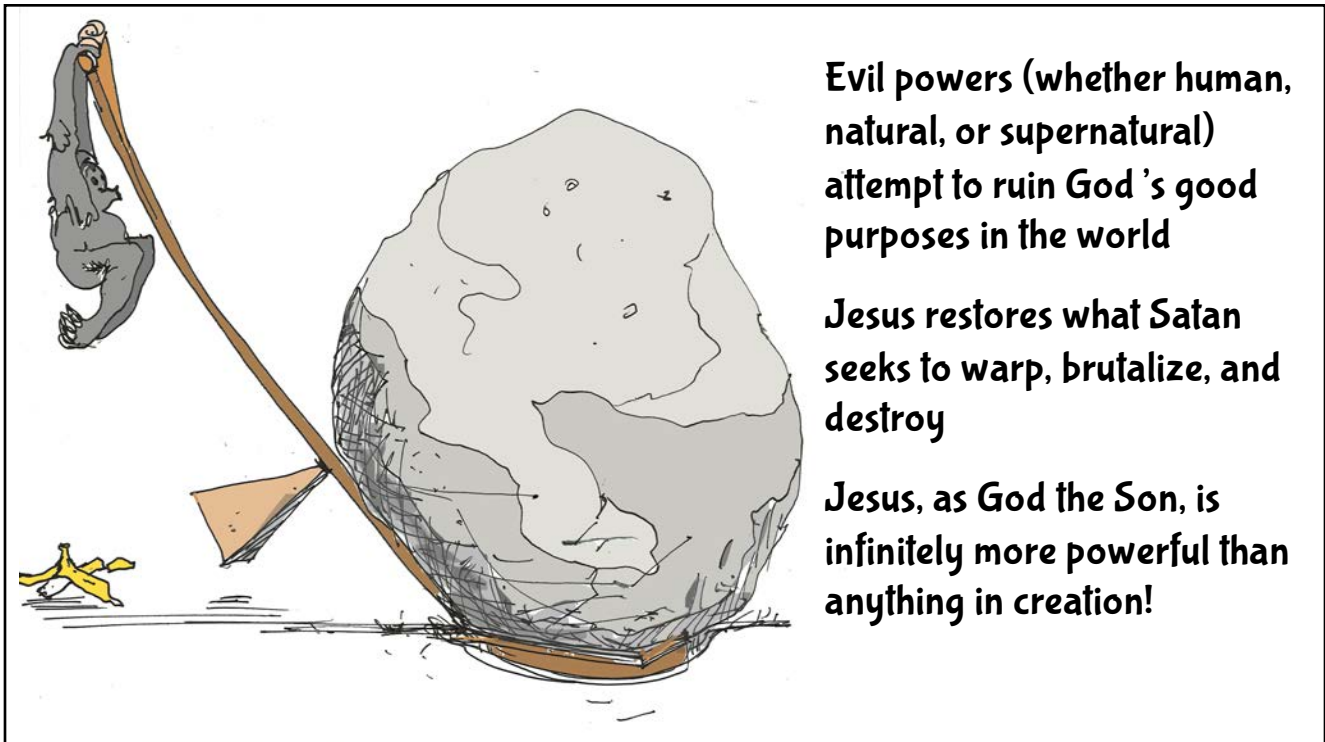
Some of life's problems seem beyond hope!
No matter what we do or how hard we try,
they seem immovable!

Especially...

- Evil spirits and evil forces
- Sickness and death
- Broken dreams
- Injustice
- Greed
- Inner turmoil
- Hate & fear
- And so on



26

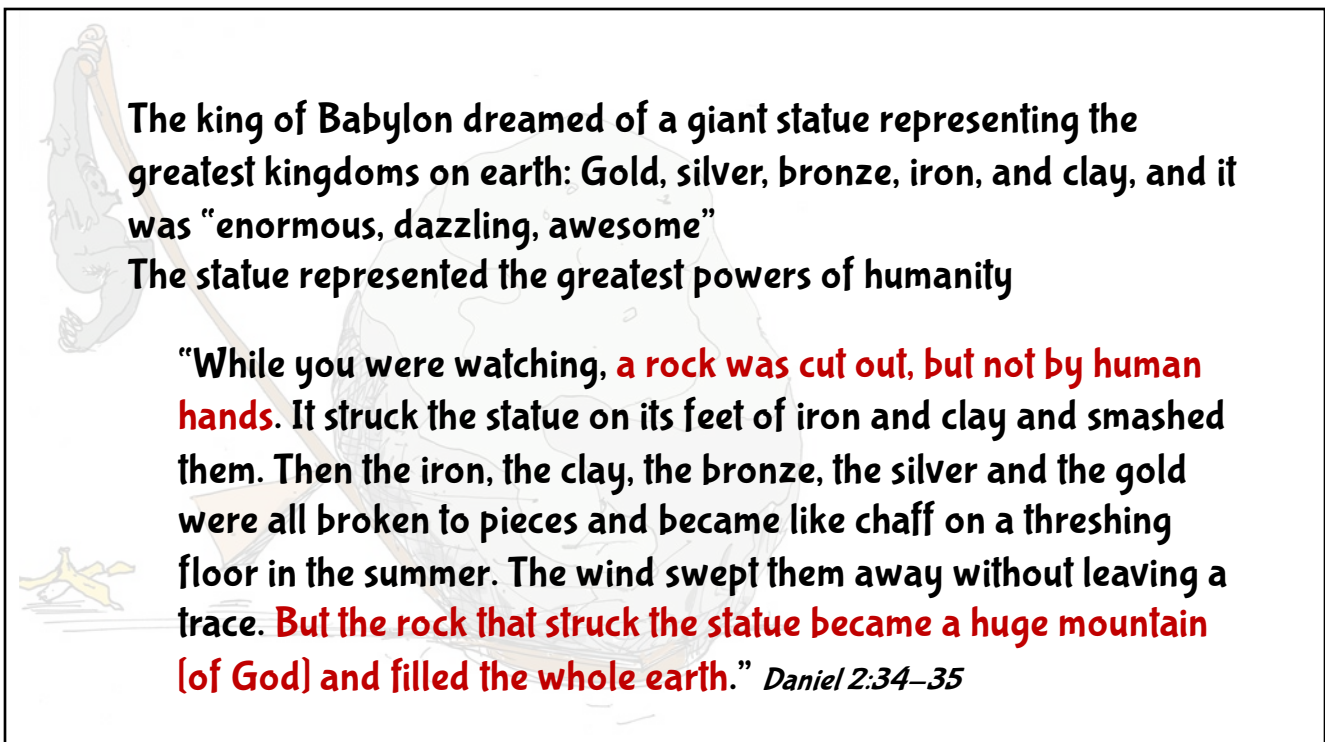


Evil powers (whether human, natural, or supernatural) attempt to ruin God's good purposes in the world

Jesus restores what Satan seeks to warp, brutalize, and destroy

Jesus, as God the Son, is infinitely more powerful than anything in creation!

27

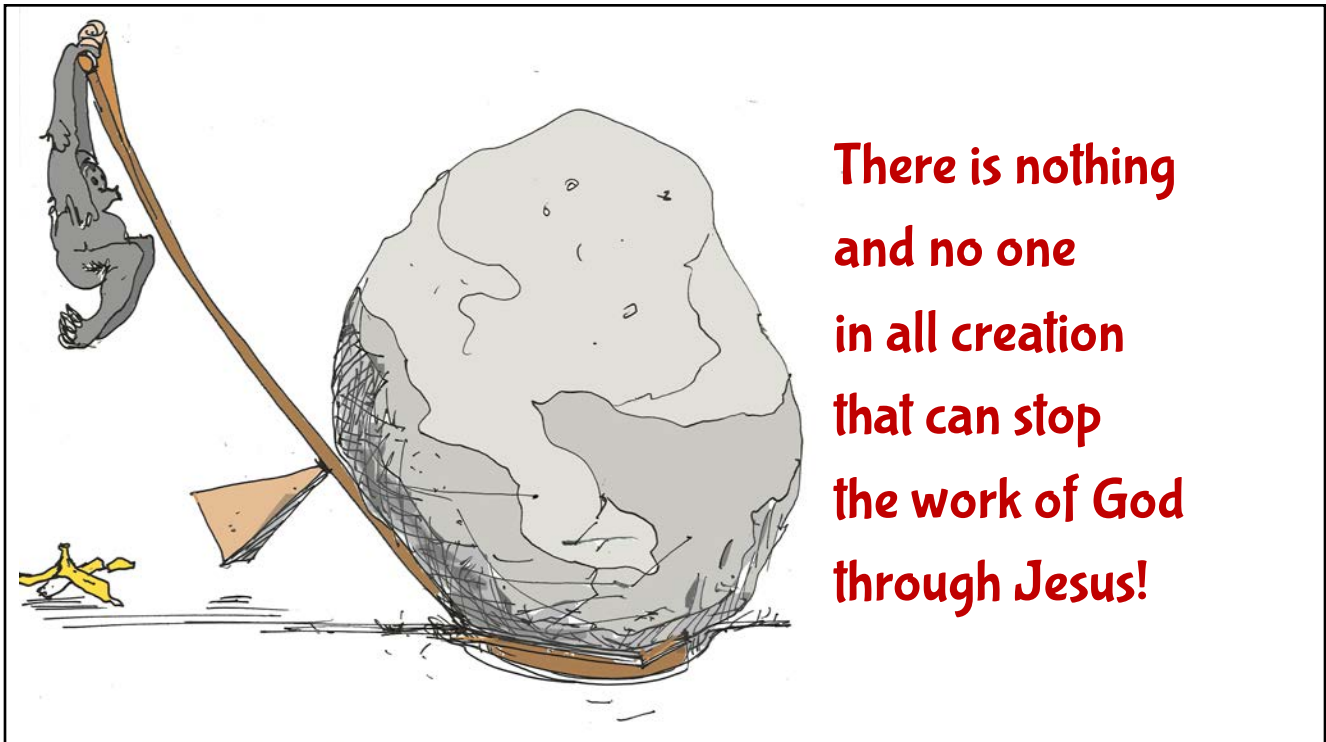


The king of Babylon dreamed of a giant statue representing the greatest kingdoms on earth: Gold, silver, bronze, iron, and clay, and it was "enormous, dazzling, awesome"

The statue represented the greatest powers of humanity

"While you were watching, **a rock was cut out, but not by human hands.** It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. **But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain (of God) and filled the whole earth.**" *Daniel 2:34–35*

28



29

“Not merely”

- Jesus is not just...
 - A beautiful human being
 - A great moral example
 - A wonderful teacher
 - A spiritual giant
- Jesus is...
 - The Son of God
 - Who alone has the power to bring the reign and rule of God to earth
 - The only source of what is good, life-giving, and whole

30

How much heat energy?

BTU = British Thermal Unit: measure of heat energy

1 wooden match	1 BTU	Bad hair day
1 gallon of gas	120 thousand BTUs 120,000	Failing out of school or losing a job
1 cubic meter of wood	53 million BTUs 53,000,000	Losing a life-long dream
Energy use in the US for 1 whole year	100 quadrillion BTUs 100,000,000,000,000,000	Global pandemic plus racial & political turmoil Losing jobs, lives, and relationships
By the whole world	600 quadrillion BTUs	For the whole world

31

How much heat energy?

600 quadrillion BTUs (600,000,000,000,000,000)

How long does it take the sun to produce 600 quadrillion BTUs?

→ Six thousandths of a second (.006 seconds)

→ It takes the sun .006 seconds to produce the energy that matches
the world's biggest tragedies

There might be 1 septillion stars in the universe

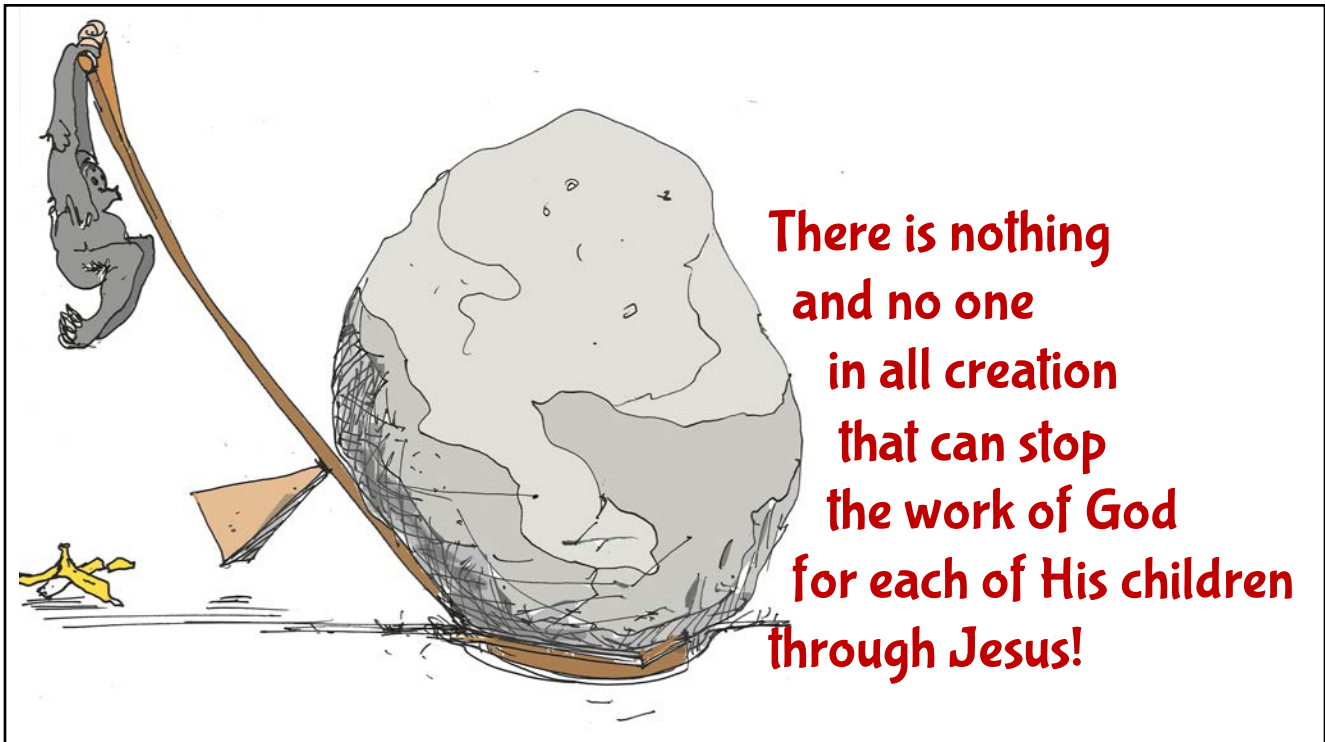
1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000

God's greatness is beyond comparison with my greatest trouble!!!

"He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—
how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"

Romans 8:32

32



33

The Big Idea

**Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
is the unstoppable power
of the growing and life-giving Kingdom of God,
which is to be brought to all peoples**

34

Application

- Rejoice in Jesus Christ, no matter the challenge or trouble
 - Power/Vulnerability worldview
 - There are powers that are too big for me to control
 - Often too big even to comprehend
 - I need someone who is smart enough or powerful enough to protect me from them
 - Like a witch doctor
 - Jesus is the power greater than any other power!
 - Jesus protects us with that power!

35

Jesus said:

“I give [my sheep] eternal life,
and they shall never perish;

no one will snatch them out of my hand.

My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all;

no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.” *John 10:28-29*

36

For I am convinced that
 neither death nor life,
 neither angels nor demons,
 neither the present nor the future,
 nor any powers,
 neither height nor depth,
 nor anything else in all creation,
 will be able to separate us from the love of God
 that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Romans 8:38-39*

37

Application

- Rejoice in Jesus Christ, no matter the challenge or trouble
 - Power/Vulnerability worldview
 - There are powers that are too big for me to control
 - I need someone who is smart enough or powerful enough to protect me from them (like a witch doctor)
 - Jesus is the power greater than any other power!
 - Jesus protects us with that power!
 - **Nothing and no one can ever separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus!**
 - **Hallelujah!!**

38

Application

- Rejoice in Jesus Christ, no matter the challenge or trouble
- Take this power-filled message everywhere it is needed
 - Jesus said: “**I must proclaim (with power) this good news** of the kingdom of God to others also, for that is why I was sent.” *Luke 4:43*
 - Do not get pulled aside by other (and smaller) things
 - The Father’s purpose for us:
 - **That we will bring this power-filled message to the peoples in our area, to the peoples in our region, to the peoples throughout the world!**

39

Application

- Rejoice in Jesus Christ, no matter the challenge or trouble
- Take this power-filled message everywhere it is needed
 - With **power & authority**
 - Not just information or explanation
 - Active first-hand knowledge
 - The joy and Spirit of God flowing through us as we share
 - The **Spirit speaking** as we speak His words
 - The **Spirit working** as we do His will

40

Application

- Rejoice in Jesus Christ, no matter the challenge or trouble
- Take this power-filled message everywhere it is needed

41

The Big Idea

**Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
is the unstoppable power
of the growing and life-giving Kingdom of God,
which is to be brought to all peoples**

42

What problems or challenges seem too big in your life?

Who around you is facing problems or challenges that seem too big?

The one who made a septillion suns will certainly not find that challenge too great!

He is a generous and good God

**Ask Him, obey Him, and trust Him,
and He will do an amazing work!**

