

***The Religion of the Force:  
An Analysis of Star Wars***

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Provost

Professor of Philosophy and Apologetics

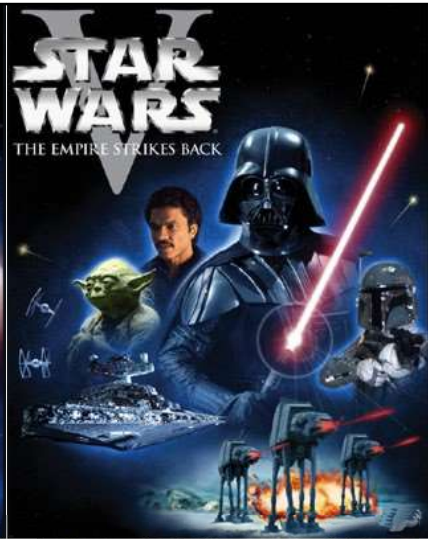
Southern Evangelical Seminary

Charlotte, North Carolina, USA

***The Star Wars  
Phenomenon***



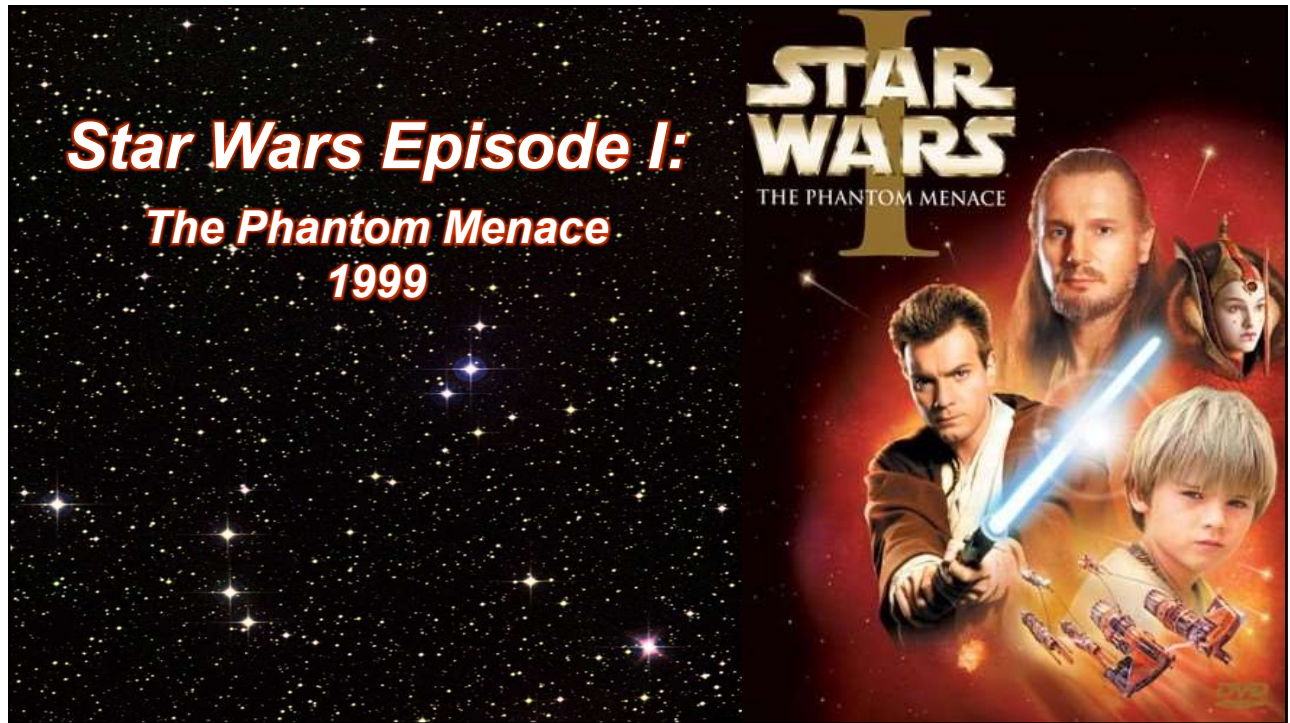
**Episode IV**  
**1977**

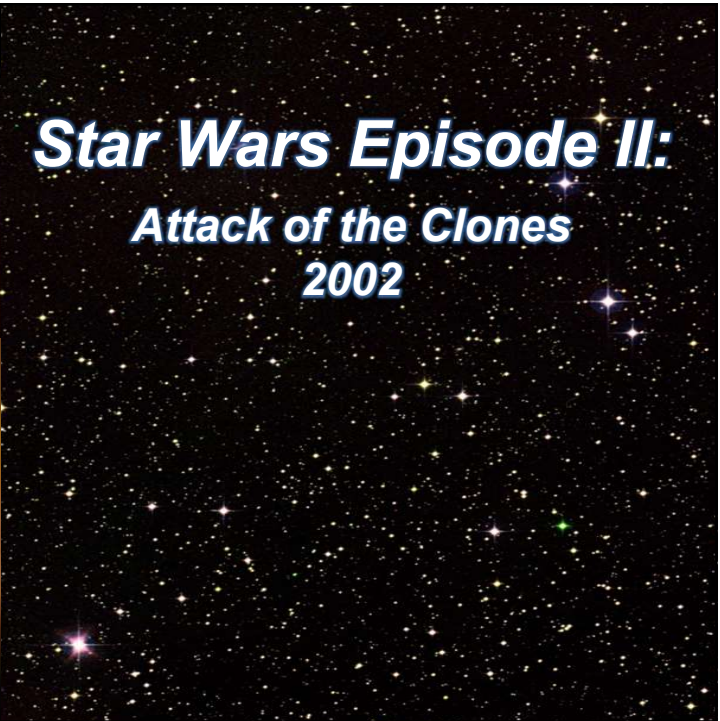


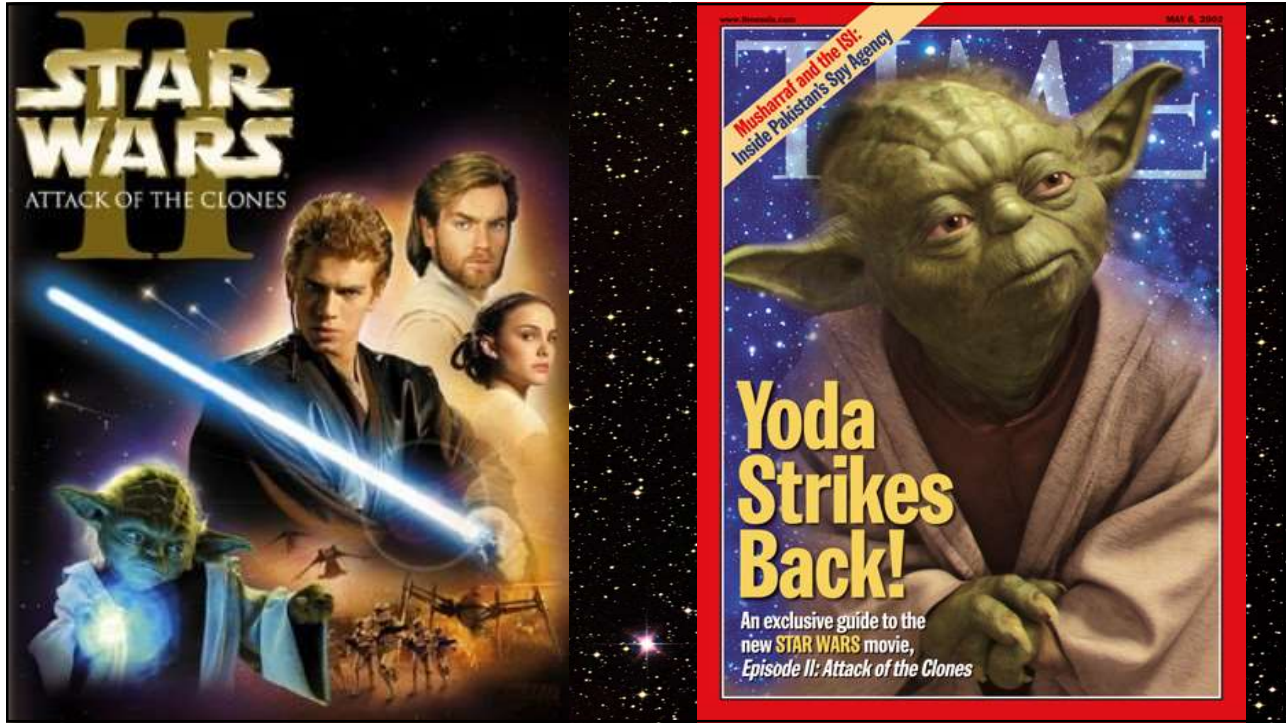
**Episode V**  
**1980**











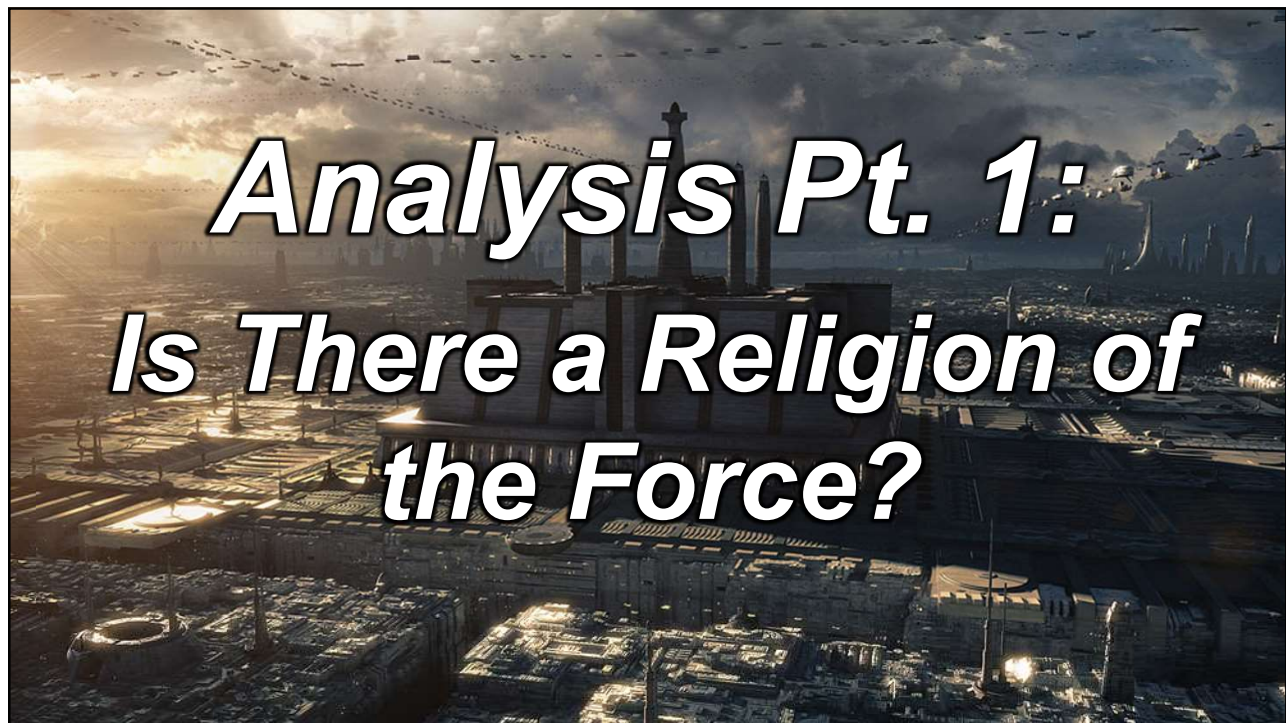


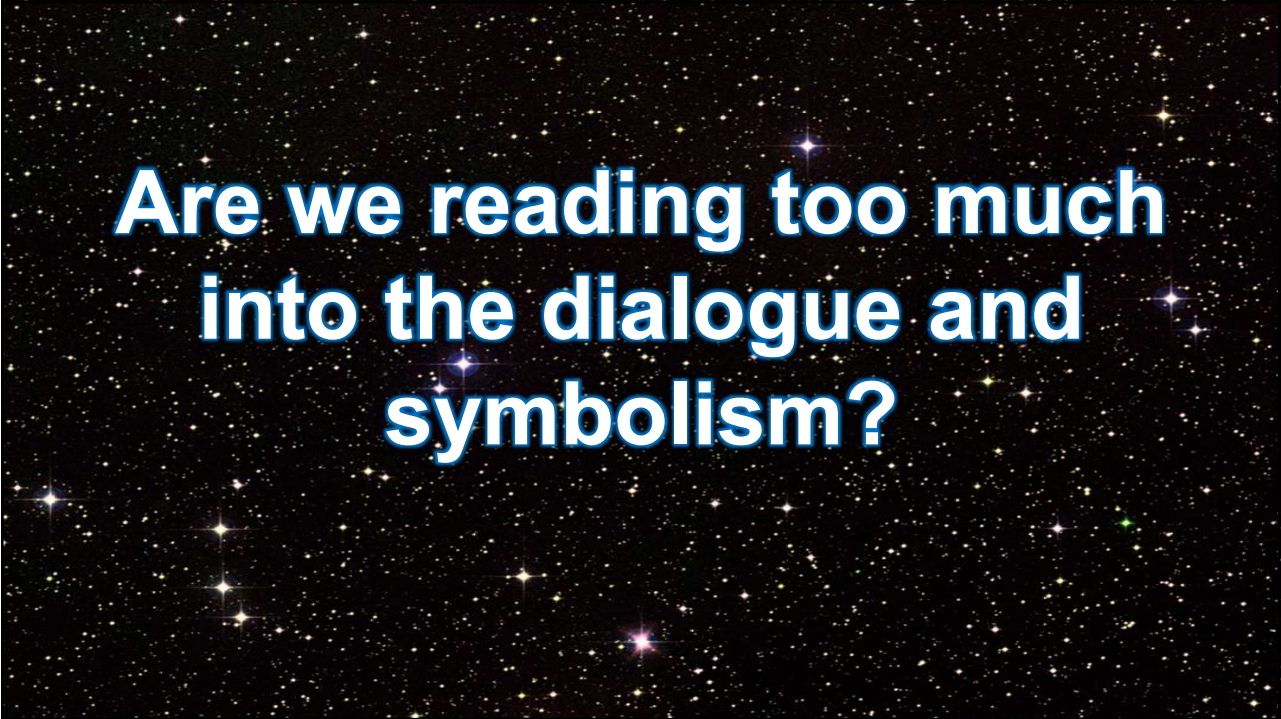




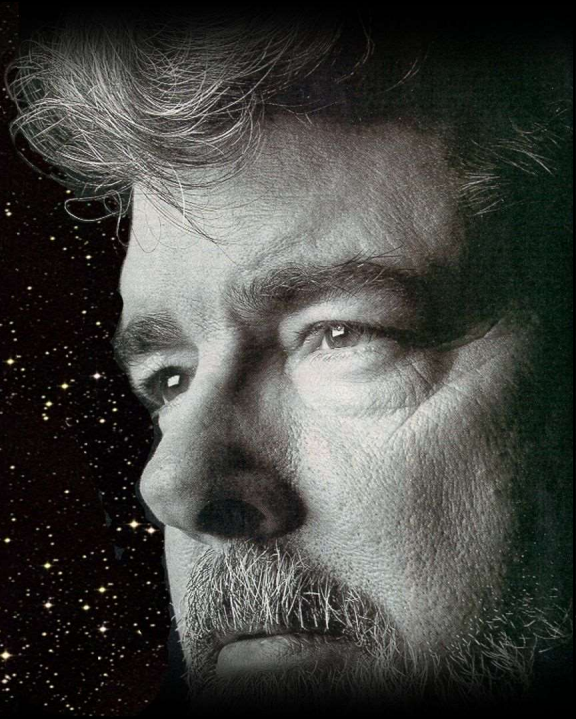








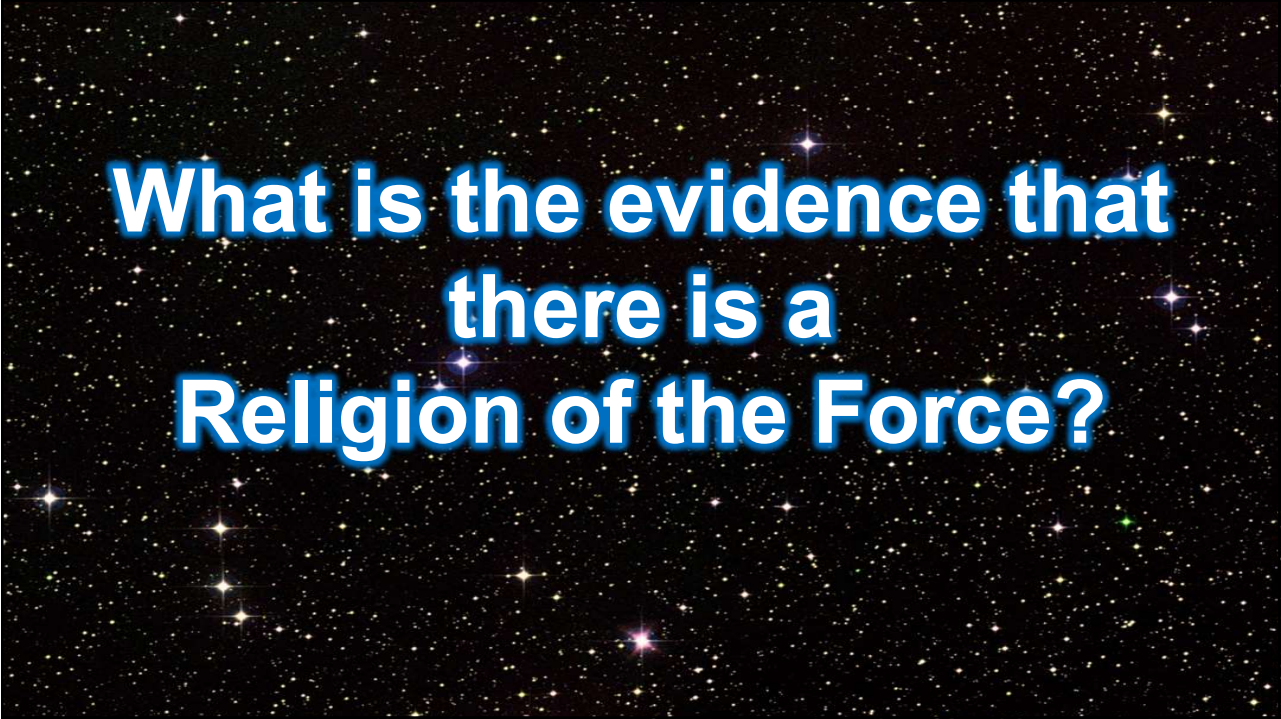
**Are we reading too much  
into the dialogue and  
symbolism?**



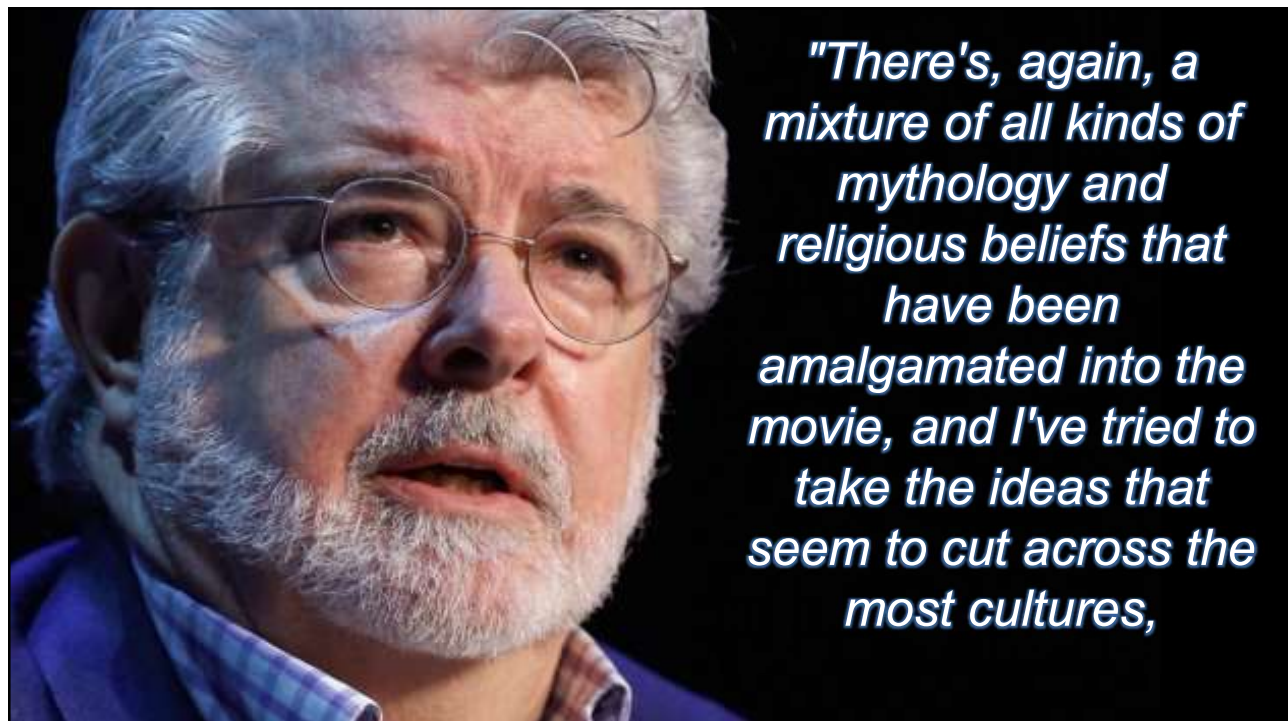
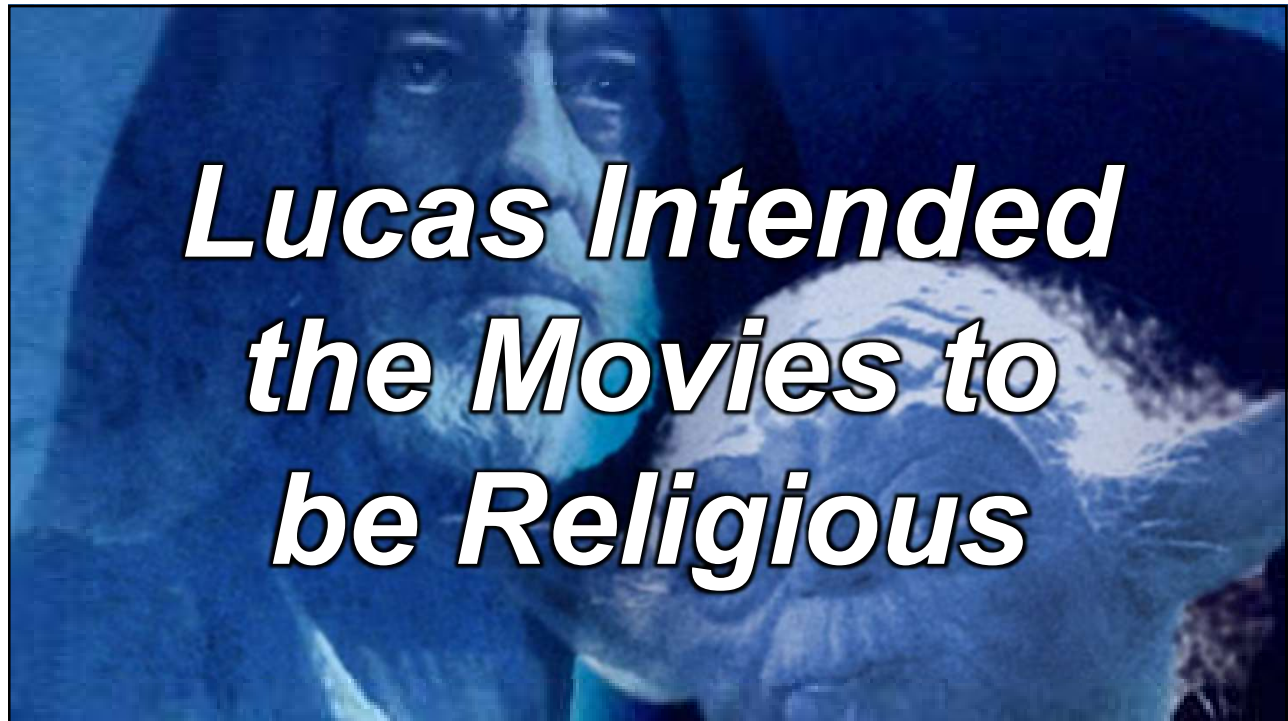
*"When I did Star Wars I  
consciously set about to  
re-create myths and the  
classic mythological  
motifs and I wanted to  
use those motifs to deal  
with issues that existed  
today."*

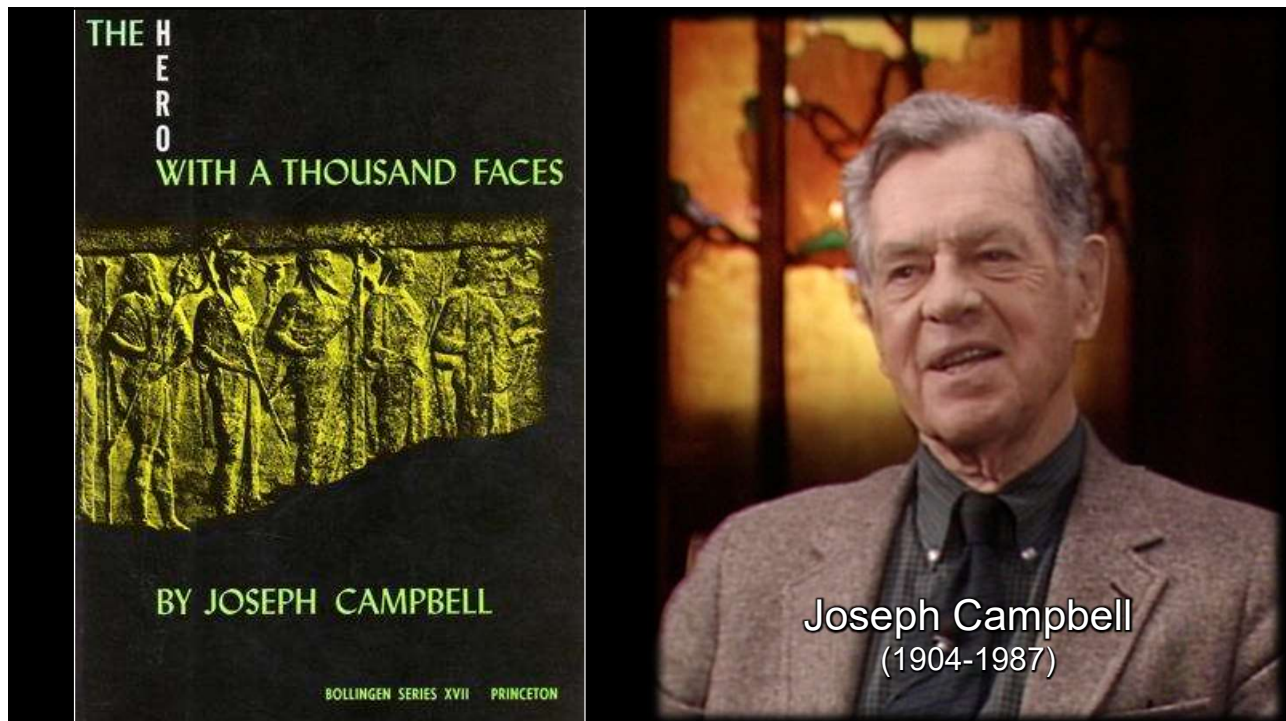
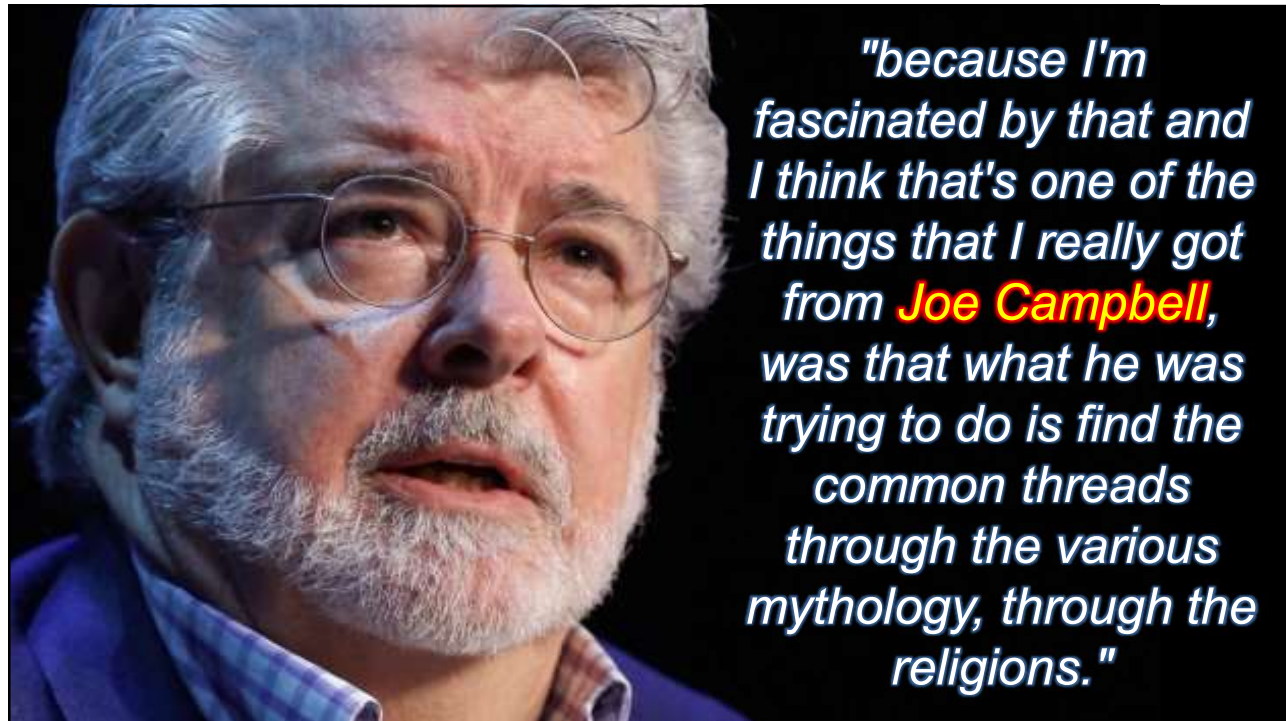
A dark, starry night sky with numerous small, bright stars scattered across the field. The stars vary in brightness and color, with some appearing as distinct points of light and others as faint, hazy patches. The overall effect is a deep, cosmic background.

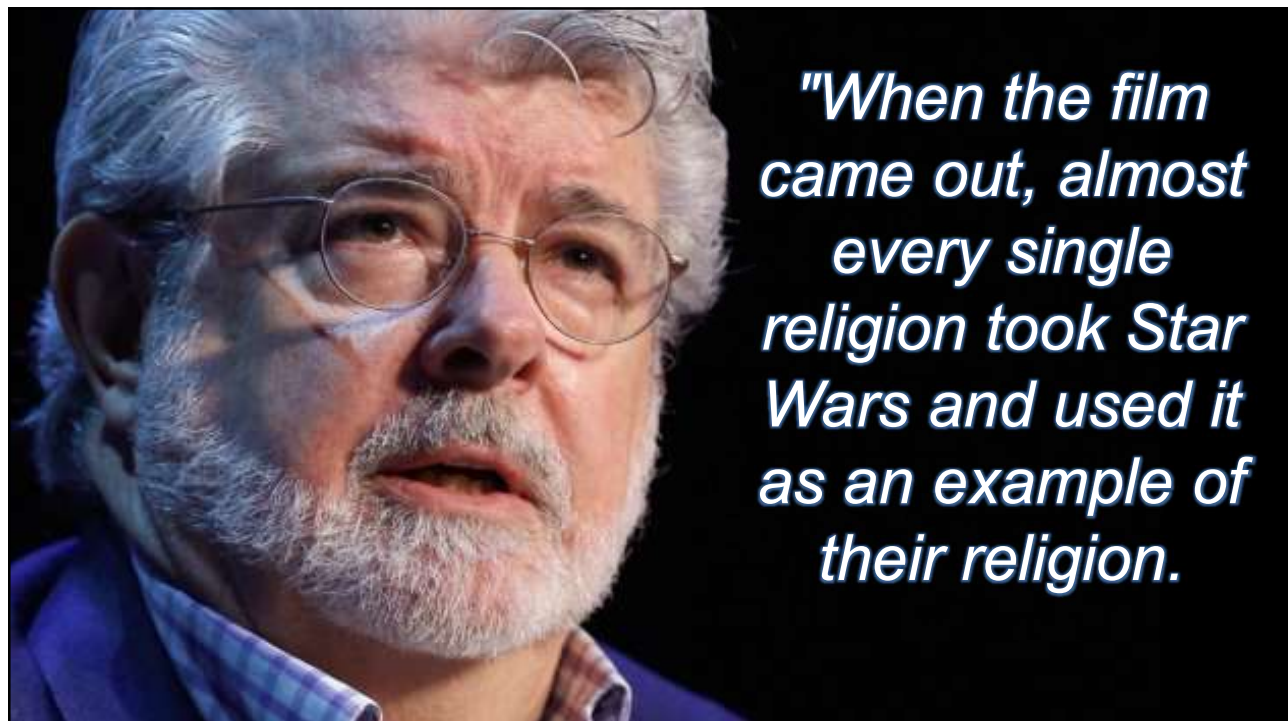
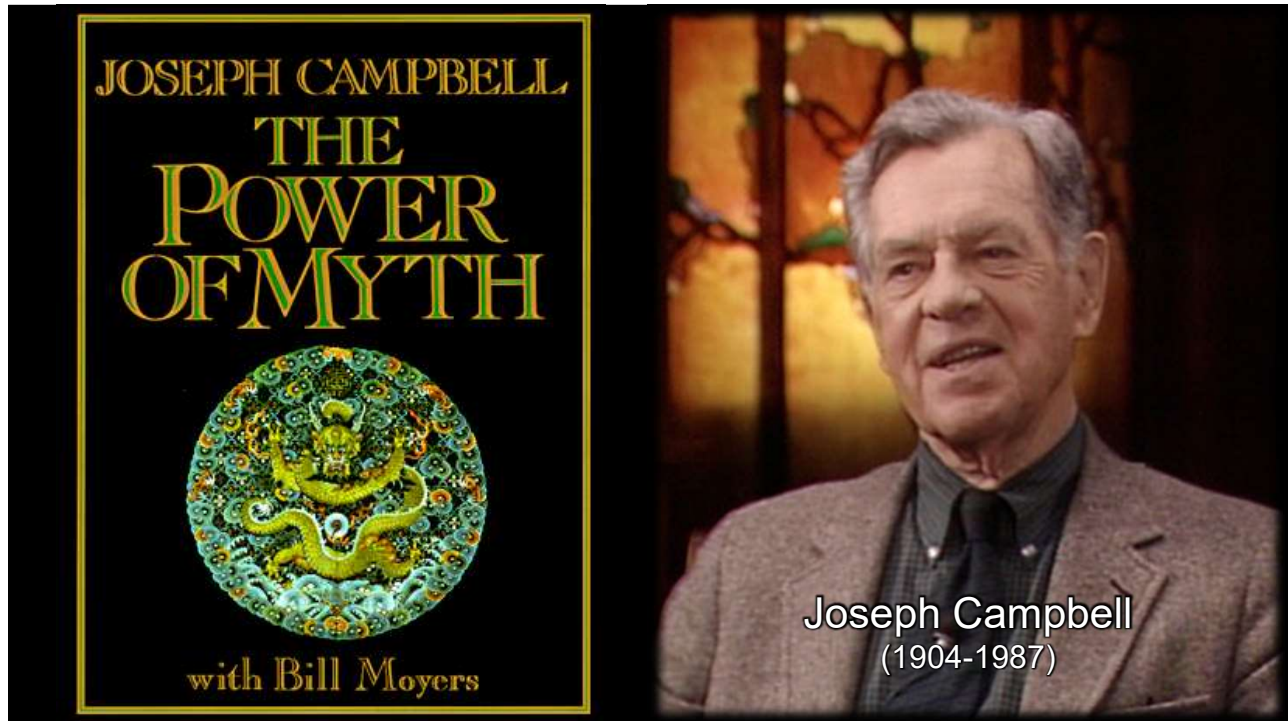
**Was Lucas intentionally  
trying to teach something?**

A dark, starry night sky with numerous small, bright stars scattered across the field. The stars vary in brightness and color, with some appearing as distinct points of light and others as faint, hazy patches. The overall effect is a deep, cosmic background.

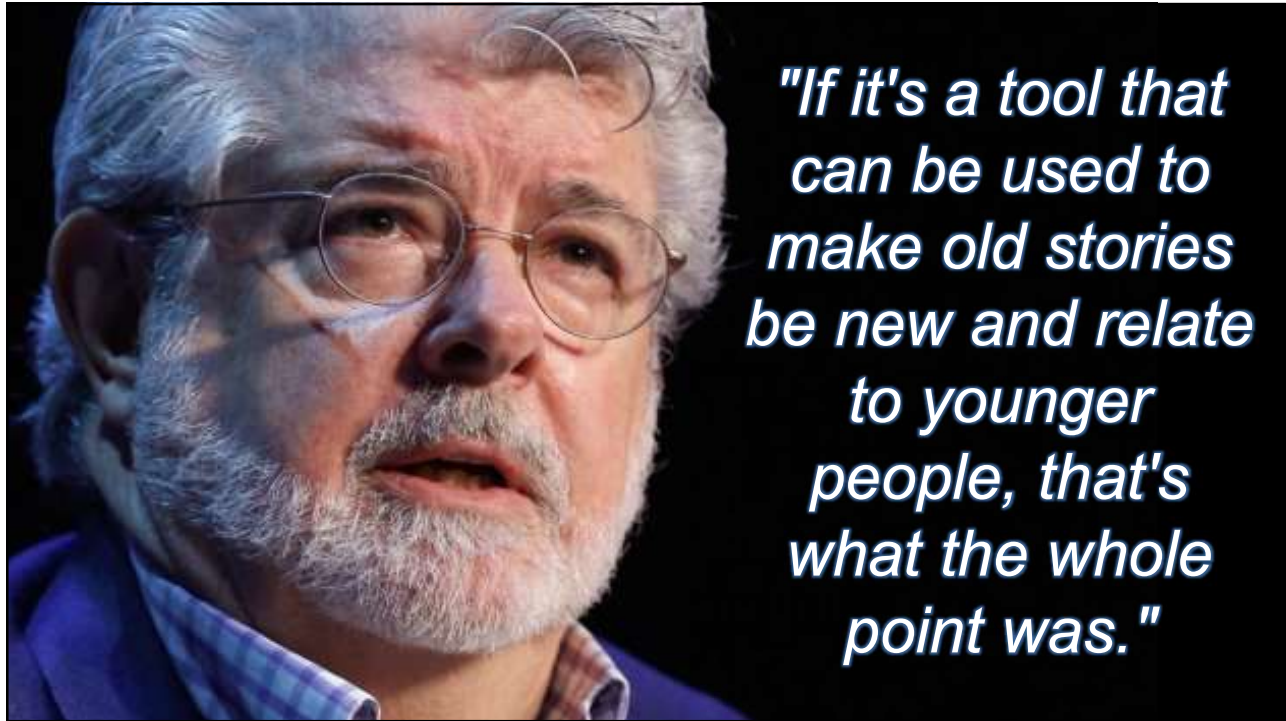
**What is the evidence that  
there is a  
Religion of the Force?**

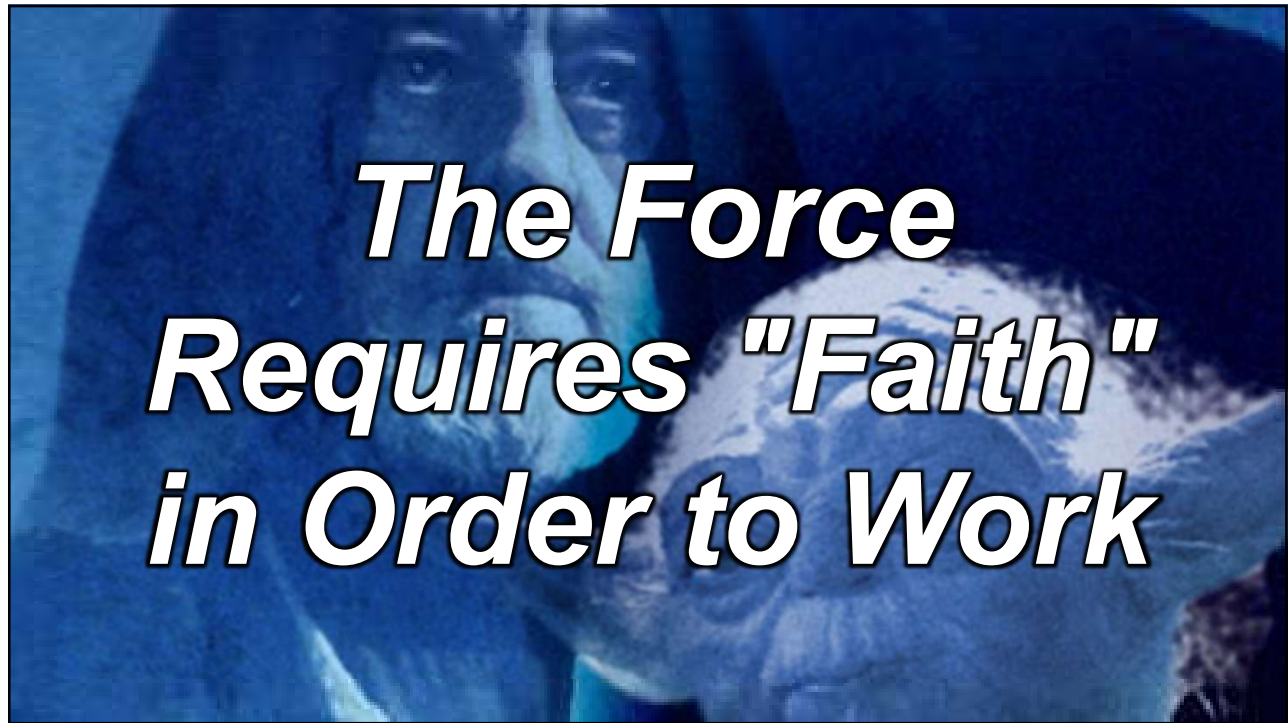




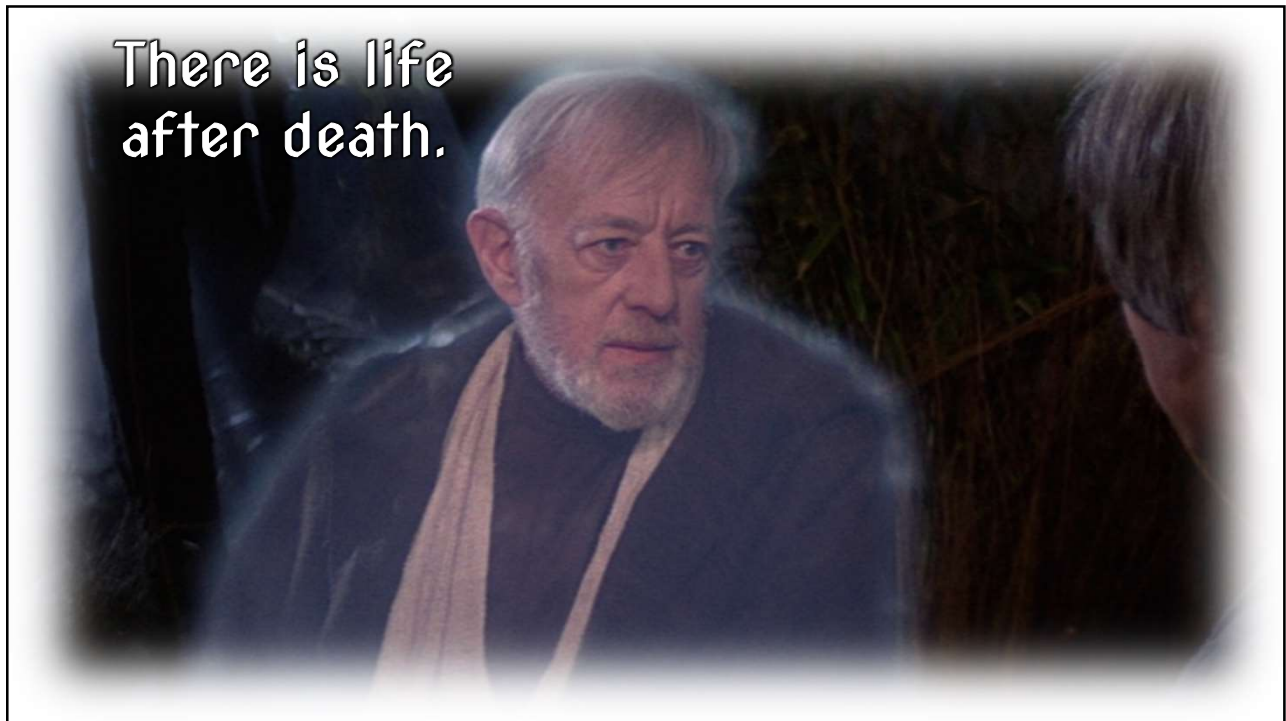






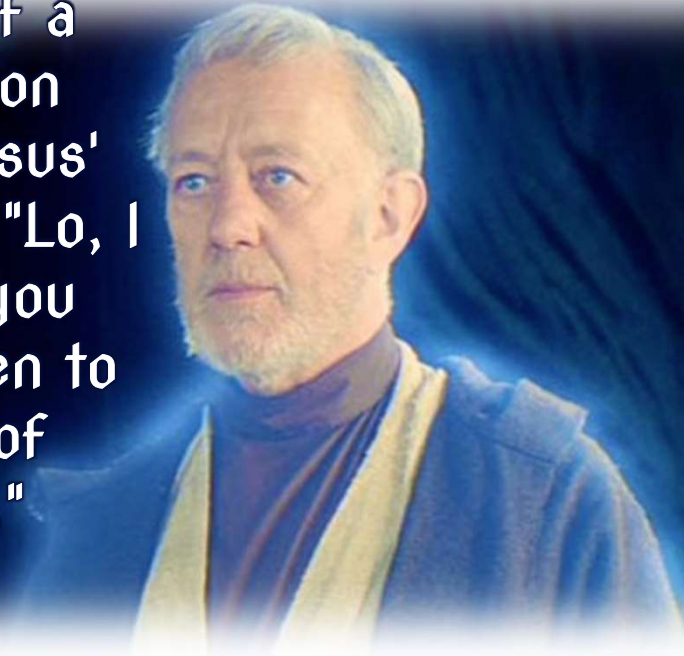






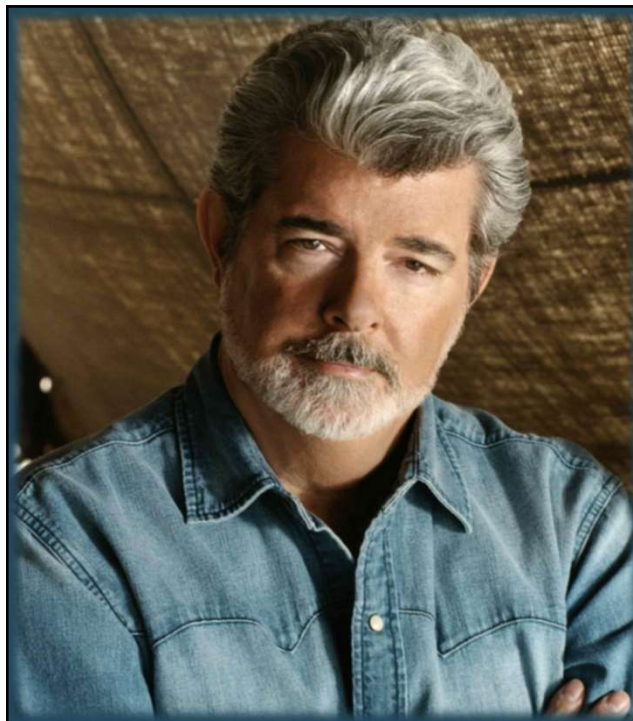
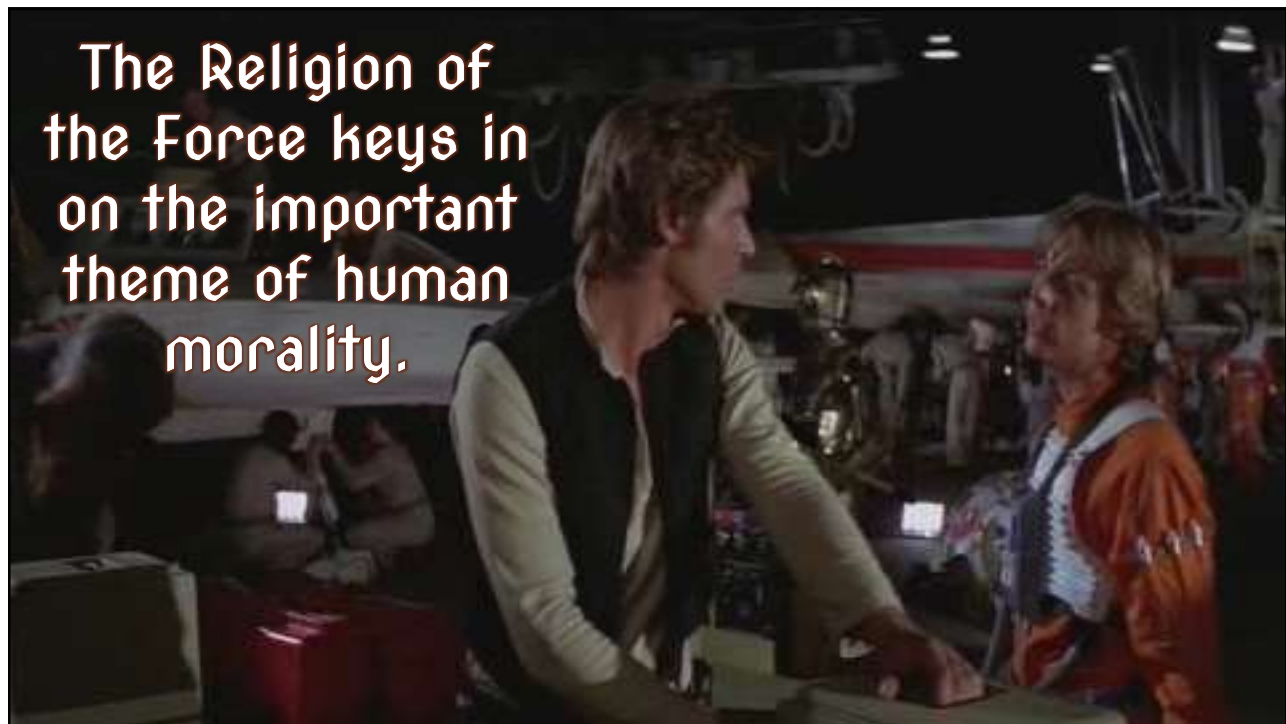


The use of a  
benediction  
mimics Jesus'  
benediction "Lo, I  
am with you  
always, even to  
the end of  
the age."

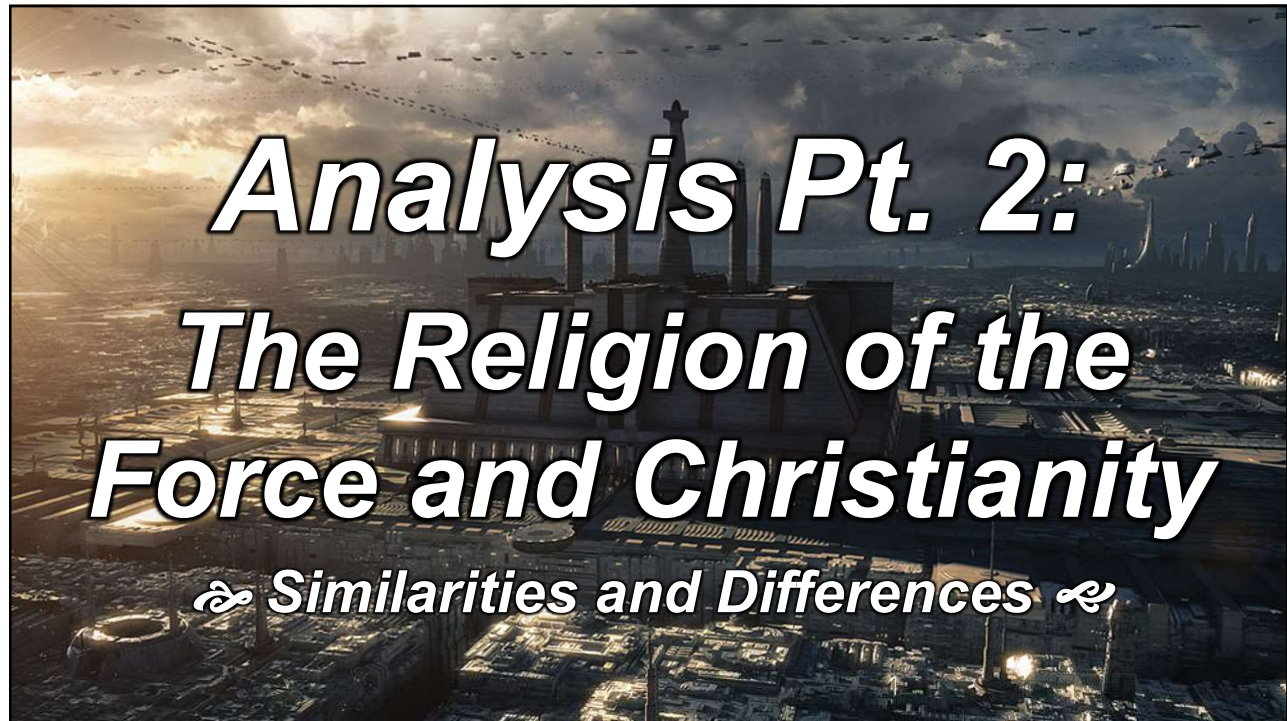


The Force was  
seemingly able to  
effect a virgin  
birth.





*Lucas sought to awaken a spirituality and a belief in God in the movie goer.*







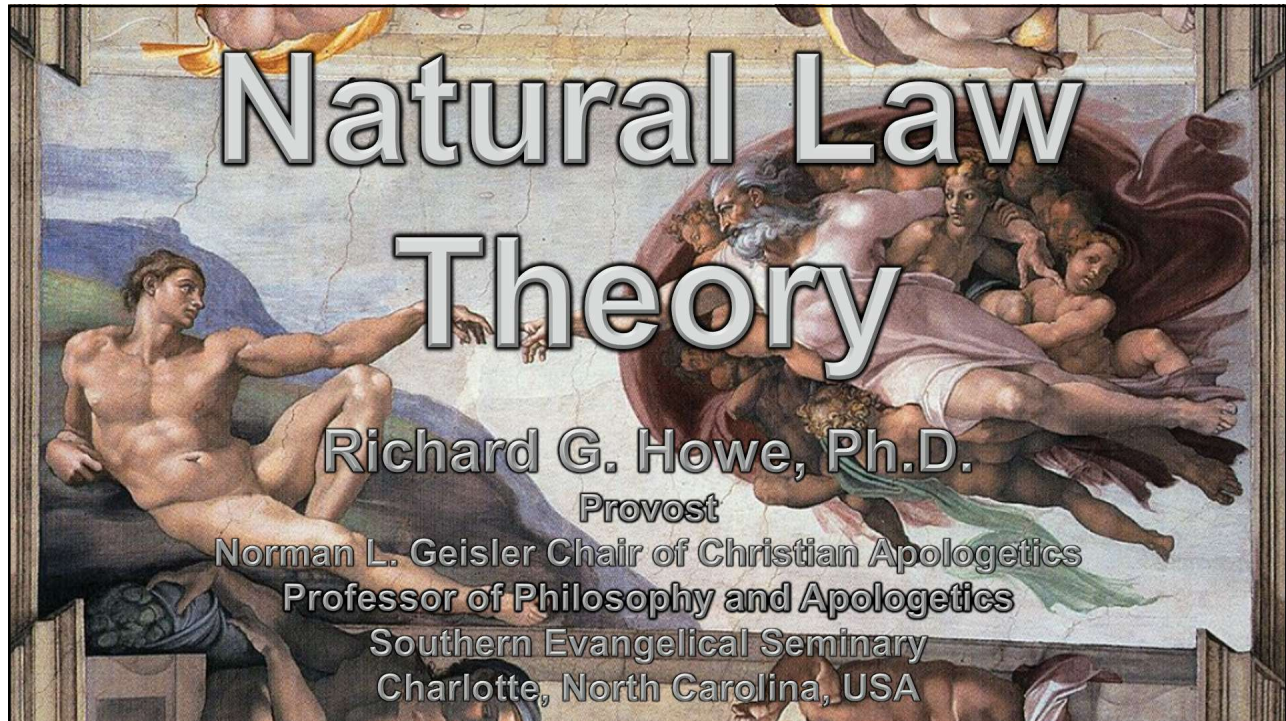
## ∞ Similarities ∞

- ❖ There is a spiritual dimension to life.
- ❖ There is a supreme Power in reality.



## ∞ Similarities ∞

- ❖ Humans are caught in a conflict between good and evil.
- ❖ Humans have a choice in this conflict.



## ∞ Similarities ∞

- ❖ Evil can be overcome by making proper contact with the Supreme Power.



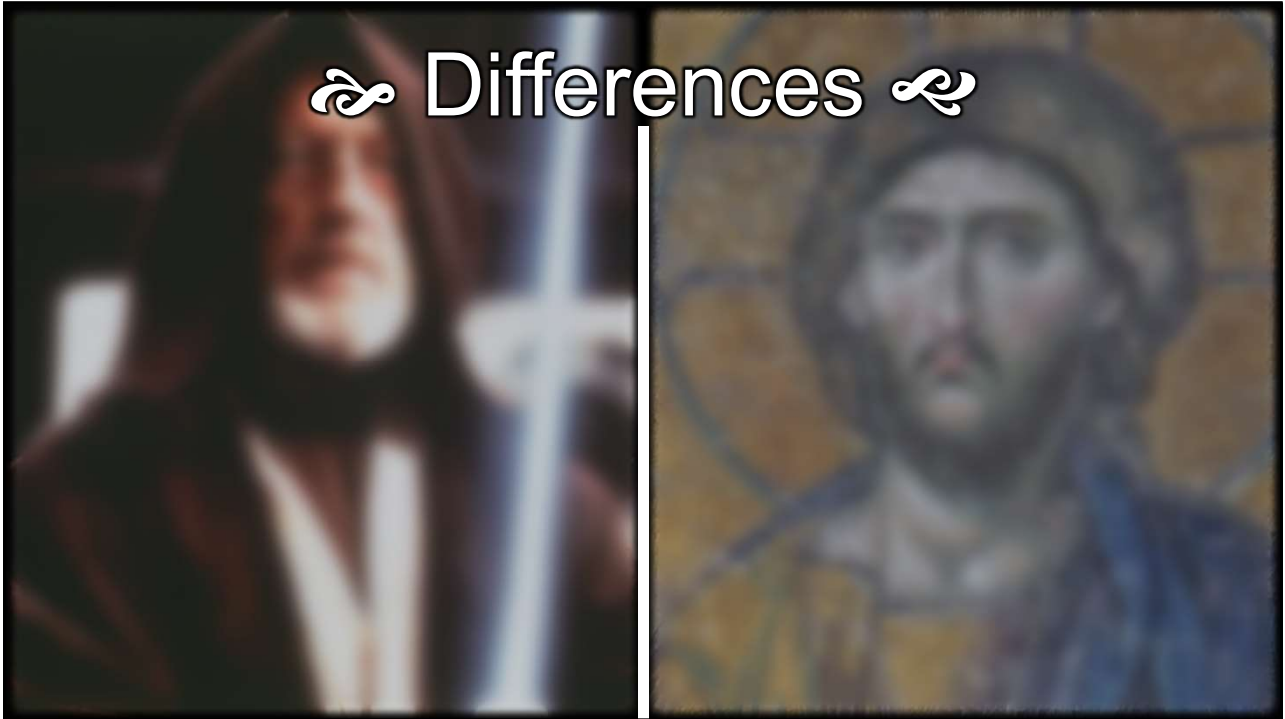
## ∞ Similarities ∞

- ❖ "Faith" is an essential ingredient in this contact with the Supreme Power.

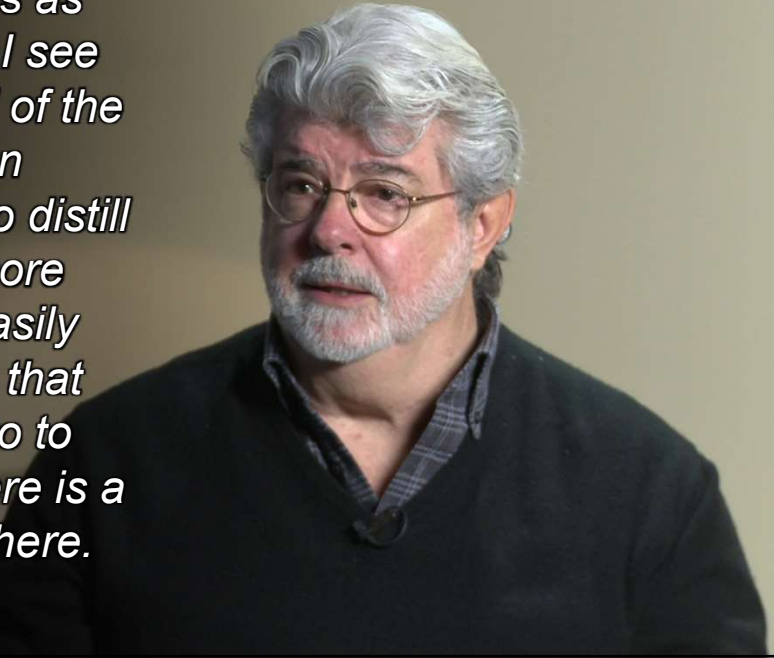


## ∞ Similarities ∞

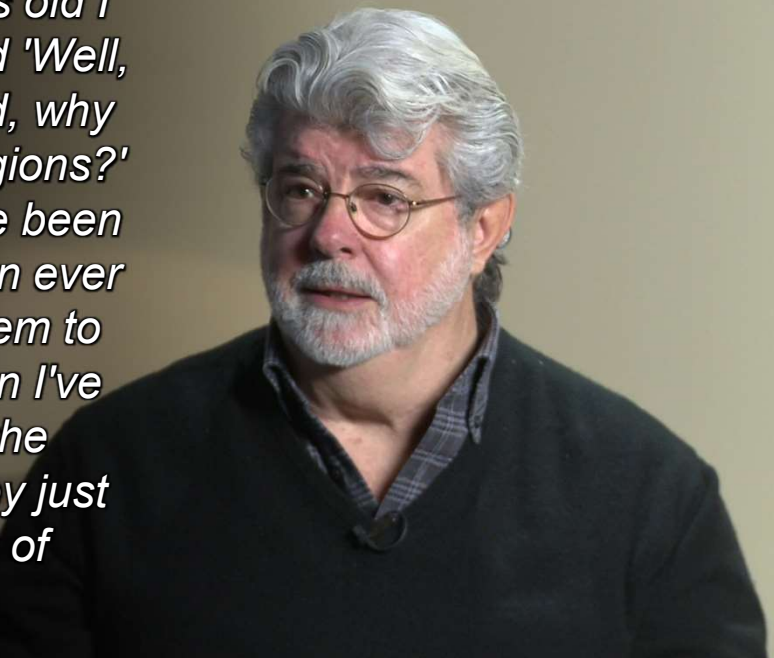
- ❖ There is immortality awaiting the faithful.

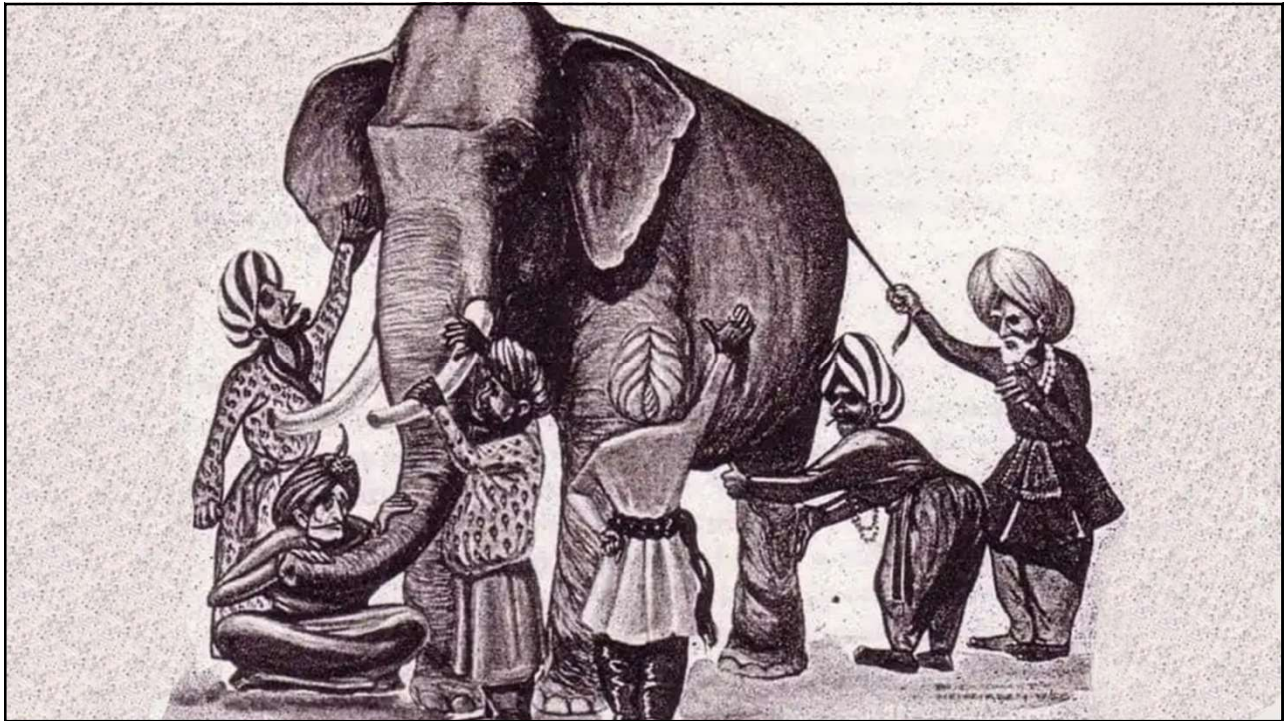


*"I don't see Star Wars as profoundly religious. I see Star Wars as taking all of the issues that religion represents and trying to distill them down into a more modern and more easily accessible construct that people can grab onto to accept the fact that there is a greater mystery out there."*

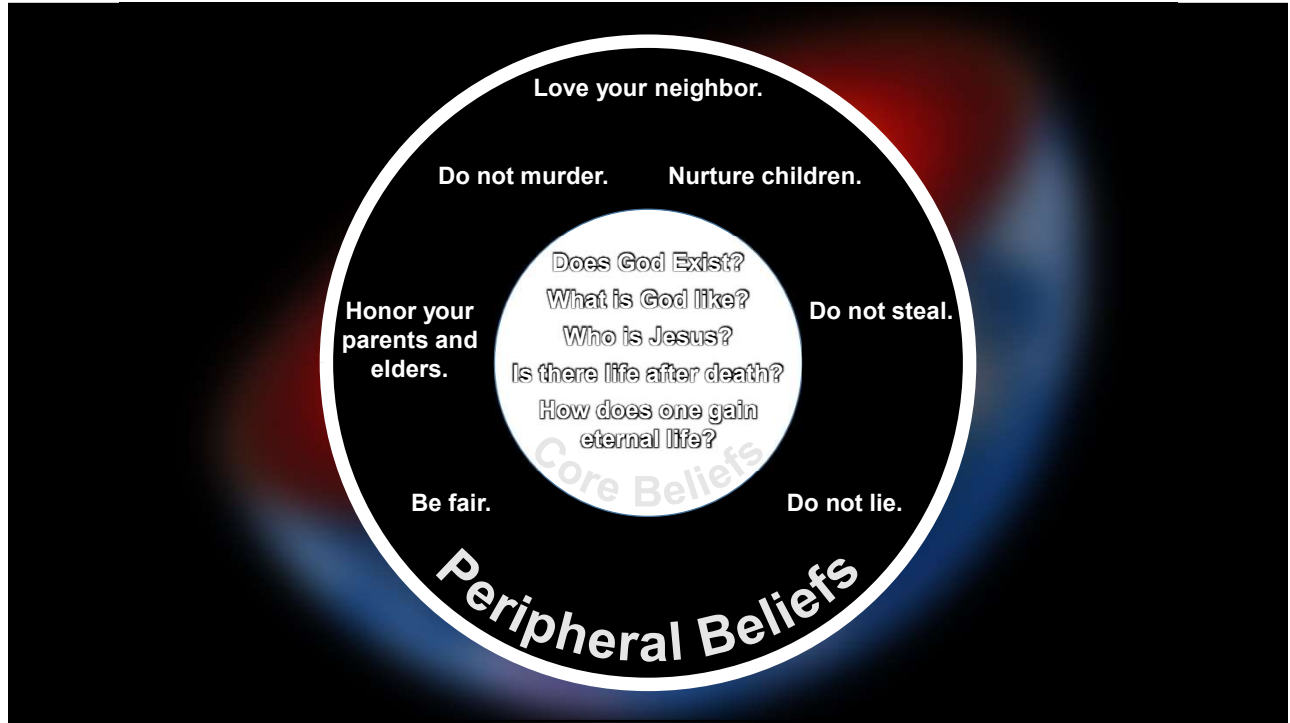


*"When I was ten years old I asked my mother I said 'Well, if there's only one God, why are there so many religions?' And over the years I've been pondering that question ever since and it would seem to me that the conclusion I've come to is that all the religions are true. They just see a different part of the elephant"*





***Core Beliefs***  
**vs.**  
***Peripheral Beliefs***



# Religious Pluralism

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Norman L. Geisler Professor of Christian Apologetics,  
Southern Evangelical Seminary  
Past President, International Society of Christian Apologetics

 Differences   
The background of this slide is split into two panels. The left panel shows a close-up of a person's face with a glowing energy field around them. The right panel shows a traditional religious painting of a bearded man with a halo, representing God.

The Force is an impersonal energy field, created by living things and permeating all things.

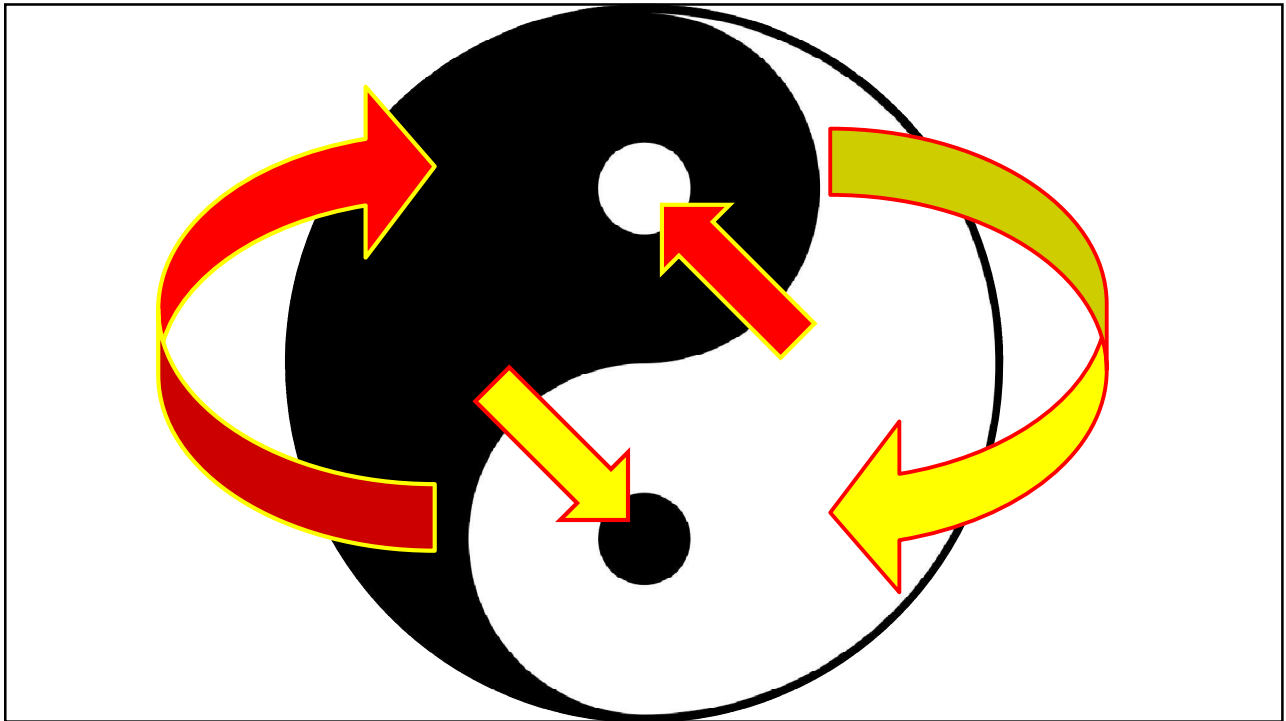
The Christian God is a personal being who is the transcendent creator and upholder of all things.  
(Matt. 6:9; John 14:9; Gen. 1:1, 21; Isaiah 40)

 Differences   
The background of this slide is split into two panels. The left panel shows a close-up of a person's face with a glowing energy field around them. The right panel shows a traditional religious painting of a bearded man with a halo, representing God.

The Force has both a good side and an evil side.



# The Yin / Yang of Daoism





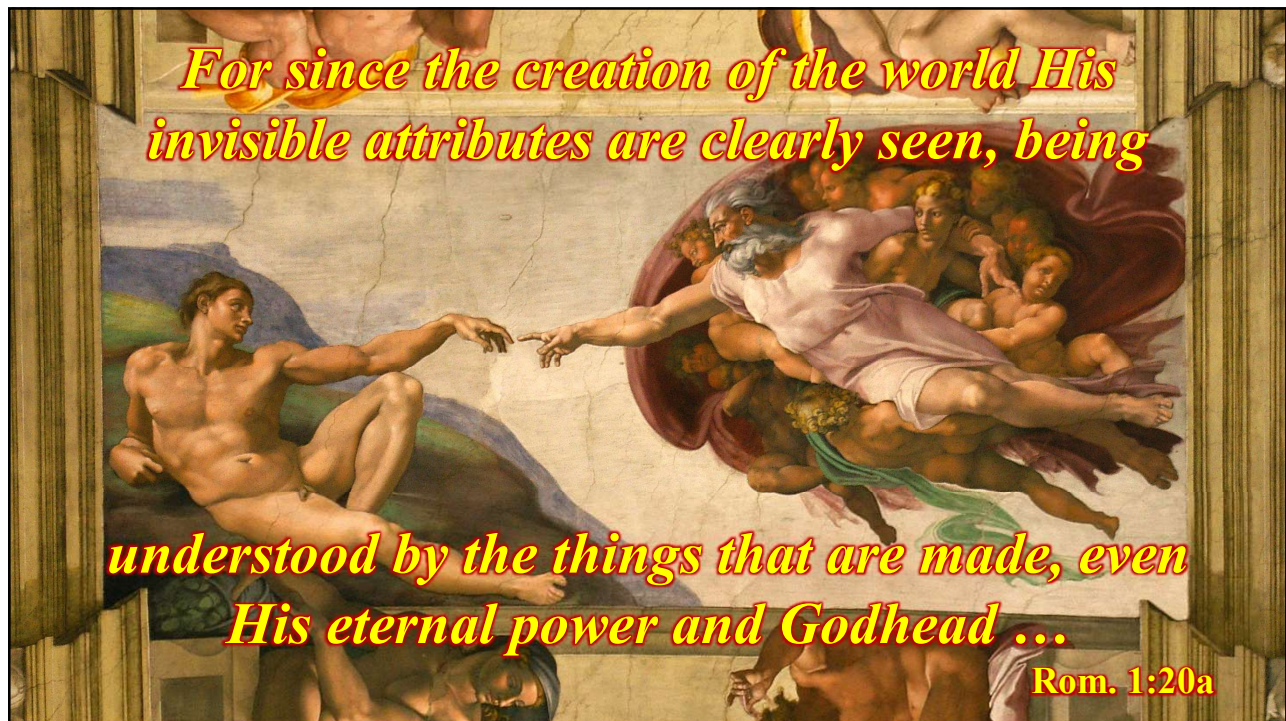
## ↻ Differences ↻

<p>The Force has both a good side and an evil side.</p>	<p>The Christian God is absolutely good with no taint of evil. (Psalm 99:9)</p>
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## ∞ Differences ∞

The Force is anti-empirical, teaching that one should not trust the senses that God created in us.

God has revealed Himself through the things that are made (Rom. 1:20).



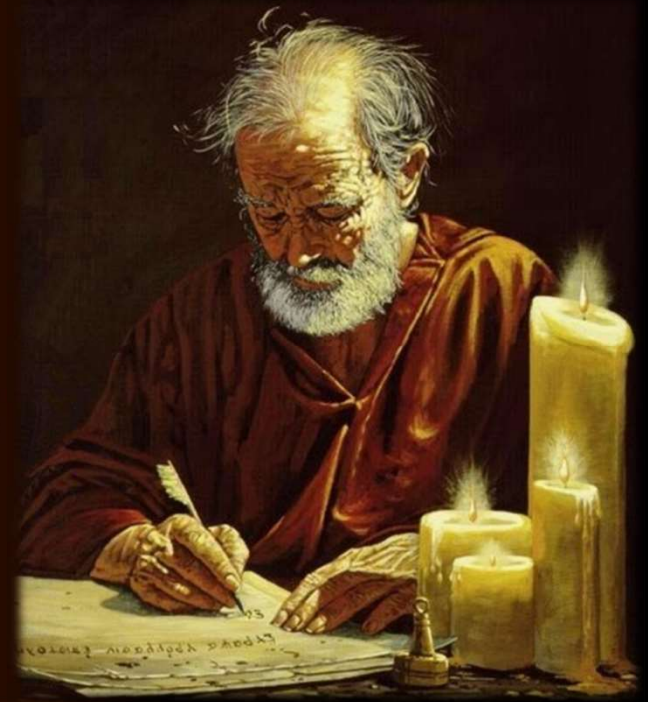
## ∞ Differences ∞

The Force is anti-empirical, teaching that one should not trust the senses that God created in us.

Christianity is based on eyewitness testimony.  
(Luke 24:36-43; Acts 1:3; 1 John 1:1-2)

### ∞ 1 John 1:1-3 ∞

*"That which was from the beginning, which we have **heard**, which we have **seen with our eyes**, which we have **looked upon**, and **our hands have handled**, concerning the Word of life—the life was manifested, and we have **seen**, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—that which we have **seen and heard** we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ."*



## ∞ Differences ∞

The Force is non-rational, a power to be felt but not to be perceived or thought.

God is a person to be discovered through creation, known by reason, and loved with one's heart. (Matt. 22: 36, 37)

## ∞ Differences ∞

Yoda teaches that one knows good from evil by feelings, namely, being calm, peaceful, passive.

The Bible teaches that one knows good from evil by testing, evidence, and discernment. (1 John 4:1; 1 Thess. 5:21; Hebrews 5:13-14)

## ∞ Differences ∞

**In Star Wars, our human nature is ultimately a non-physical luminosity.**

**The Bible teaches that humans have both a material and immaterial aspect. (Genesis 2:7)**

## ∞ Differences ∞

**When a Jedi Master dies he dematerializes.**

**The Scriptures teach that the soul of the believer goes directly to heaven awaiting our physical bodies to be resurrected.**

## ∞ Differences ∞

**When a Jedi Master dies  
he dematerializes.**

**"So we are always confident,  
knowing that while we are at  
home in the body we are  
absent from the Lord. {7} For  
we walk by faith, not by sight.  
{8} We are confident, yes, well  
pleased rather to be absent  
from the body and to be  
present with the Lord.**

**(2 Cor. 5:6-8)**

## ∞ Differences ∞

**After death, a Jedi Master  
can appear as a  
luminous, translucent  
being.**

**The Scriptures teach that  
all our bodies are  
physically resurrected in  
the end.**

## ∞ Differences ∞

After death, a Jedi Master can appear as a luminous, translucent being.

"Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation." (John 5:28-29)

**Three Questions for  
*The Religion of the  
Force and Christianity***





***If the religion of the Force is not Christian, what religion is it?***



***What difference does it make if one follows the religion of the Force or the religion of Jesus?***



***What should our  
response be?***

- 1. Be able to defend your Christian faith.  
(1 Pet. 3:15)**
- 2. Be equipped to know the difference between  
pantheism, panentheism, and theism.**
- 3. Be equipped to know the difference between  
occult philosophy and a sound Christian  
philosophy.**
- 4. Understand the difference between right and  
wrong from sound reason and revealed truth.**