

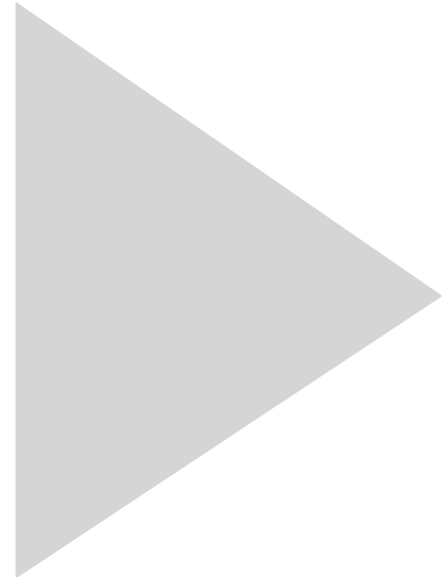
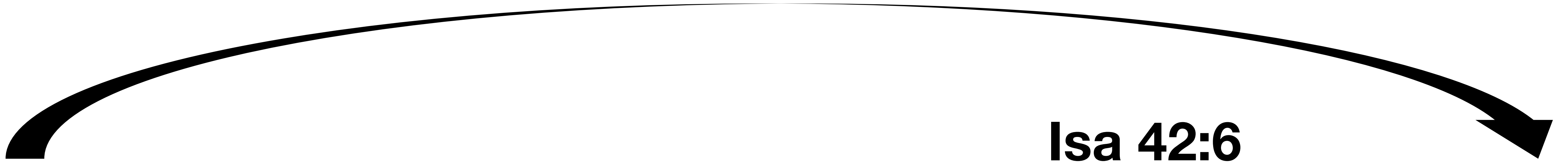
Christmas Gift

How the advent of Jesus holds clues
to some of Christianities hardest challenges.

Jesse Gentile

1. Isn't Christianity a Threat to Diversity?

CREATION



FALL

**Abrahamic
Covenant**

Gen. 12:1-3

**Davidic
Covenant**

**Ex. 9:14, 16
Ps 67, 96, 117**

**New
Covenant**

**Isa 42:6
Isa 49**

Rev 5

**NEW
CREATION**



Christianity was diverse from the beginning: multicultural and multiethnic.

“We must abandon this absurd idea that Christianity is a Western religion.”

“Christianity is the most ethnically, culturally, socioeconomically, and racially diverse belief system in all of history.”

Middle Eastern Religion

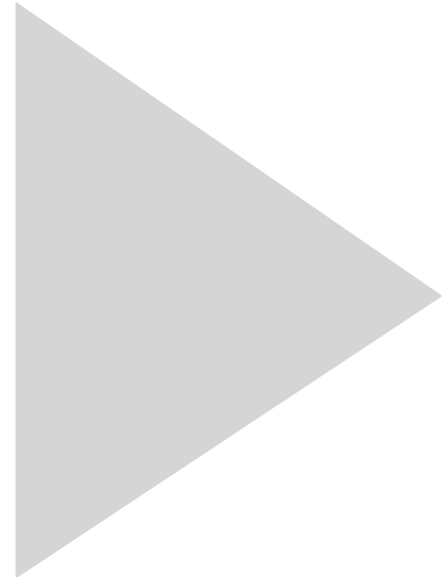
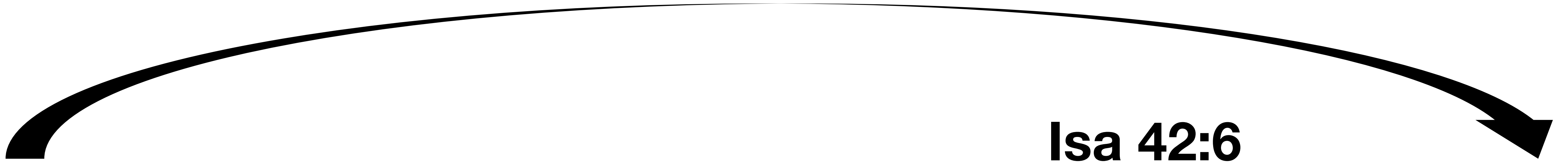
Christianity in India

Christianity in Asia

Christianity in the Americas

1 John 4:14 “We have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the **Savior of the world...**”

CREATION



FALL

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Covenant**

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Covenant**

**Isa 42:6
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Rev 5

**NEW
CREATION**



In the incarnation we see God coming to all people in order to bring all the nations, not just Israel, back into God's presence from where they had been ejected.

**2. How Can You Say There is
Only One True Faith?**



"Blind men and elephant", from Martha Adelaide Holton & Charles Madison Curry, *Holton-Curry readers*, 1914.

1. This criticism easily “begs the question.”

1. The “exclusivism-is-wrong” charge is just another way of making another exclusive truth claim.

2. Many people are exclusivists about moral/ethical truth.

**3. Attacking exclusivism
attacks every conversion from
one faith to another.**

**4. Attacking exclusivism
attacks every intellectual move
from on faith to another.**

What the “answer” is depends on what you think the problem is.

**5. Don't equate disagreement
and disrespect. Jesus
disagreed with a lot of people.**

6. Jesus did not teach there were multiple ways to God.

In the garden Jesus asks God if there was any other way. There was not. The **incarnation** is the only answer to humanities separation from God.

**Does Exclusivism Require
Certainty?**

**3. How Can Christianity be
True if There is So Much
Suffering?**



Genocide Is in the Christmas Story

Why is Rachel heard weeping in Ramah? Over the slaughter of children in Bethlehem?



1. Logical Problem of Evil
Evidential Problem of Evil
Natural Evil
Moral Evil

The Logical Problem

- 1.If God is all good he wants to stop evil.
- 2.If God is all powerful he can stop evil.
- 3.There is evil.
- 4.There is not an all powerful and all good God.

Omniscience

Evidential Problem

1. Gratuitous evils exist.

2. The hypothesis of indifference, i.e., that if there are supernatural beings they are indifferent to gratuitous evils, is a better explanation for (1) than theism.

3. Therefore, evidence prefers that no god, as commonly understood by theists, exists.

**2. In the story of humanity we
get to see what we really are
as a race ‘on our own.’**

This is really us...

Fred E. Katz

**Ordinary
People
and
Extraordinary
Evil**

A Report on the
Beguilings of Evil

"Only a tiny proportion of this century's massive killings are attributable to the actions of those people we call criminals, or crazy people, or socially alienated people, or even, people we identify as evil people. The vast majority of killings were actually carried out by plain folk in the population—ordinary people, like you and me."

Page 10

"A fascinating
memoir...
a vivid diary of
prison life."

—TIME

Shantung Compound



**The Story of
Men and Women
Under Pressure**

2,000 MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN

HERDED TOGETHER UNDER

THE MENACE OF JAPANESE GUNS

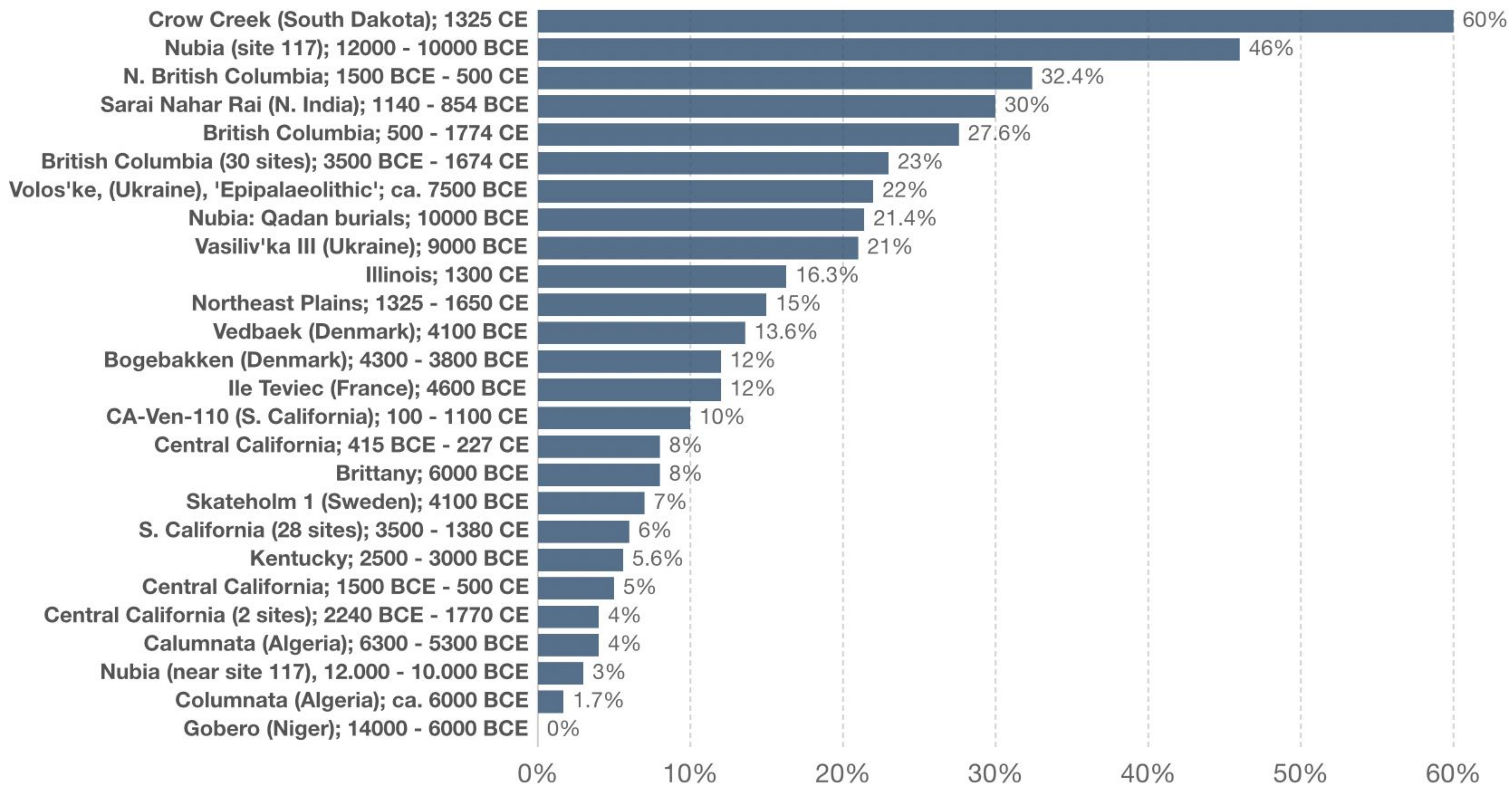
REBUILD A WORLD AND

REDISCOVER THEMSELVES

Langdon Gilkey

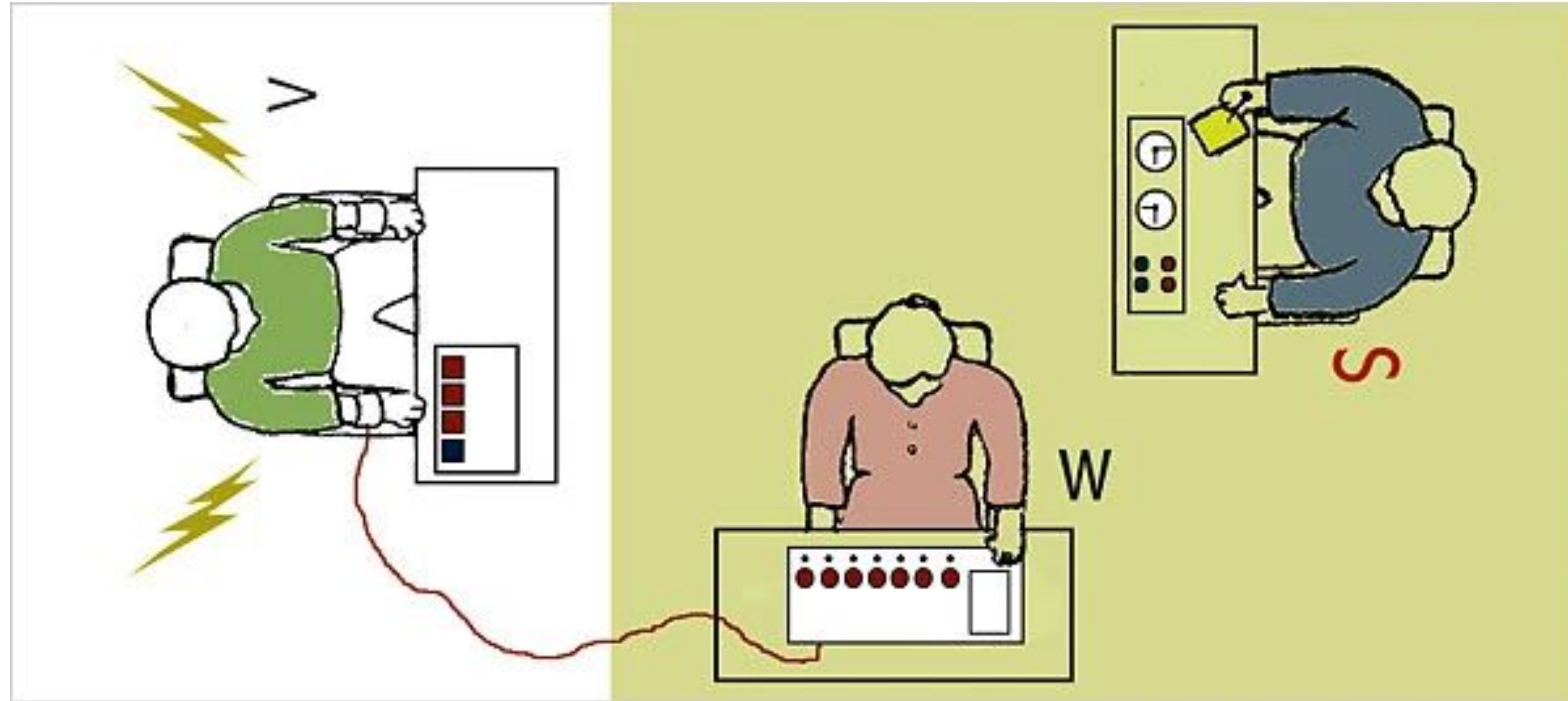
Share of deaths from violence deaths (prehistoric archeological sites)

+ Add society



Source: Bowles, S. (2009), Gat, A. (2008), Knauft, B. M. et al (1987), Keeley, L. H. (1996), Pinker, S. (2011), and Walker, R. S., & Bailey, D. H. (2013)
OurWorldInData.org/ethnographic-and-archaeological-evidence-on-violent-deaths • CC BY

Stanley Milgram experiments



**Why don't more people
commit crimes? Story of the
first humans without
consequences.**

Romans 3:10-12

3. We mistakenly assume the best answer is to buffer our circumstances without fixing us deeply within.

**4. God is the only one
ultimately doing anything.
Covenant.**

**God gets personally involved:
incarnation.**

5. His name isn't just Immanuel, it's Jesus.. he will save his people from death by saving them from sin .

The problem of suffering is the pain of loss; being alone, losing those we love; the fear of death's victory. God comes to be with us, to go with us, and undo the loss, & victory.

Jesus prayed multiple times about the possibility of not drinking the “cup” of the cross. We hear no answer from heaven.