

Anchored

UNCHANGING TRUTH FOR
UNCERTAIN TIMES



Anchored

Clarity



Anchored

Evangelical Free Church of America
10 point **Statement of Faith**



Anchored

“Why are you doing this *boring* series on theology?”

1.

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“Why are you doing this boring series on theology?”

1. Theology should be anything but boring.

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Theology (theos- God; ology- the study of; reason) is an exciting and practical pursuit because it connects deep questions about life, suffering, and the divine directly to our everyday experience and decisions.

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Theology is the systematic study of religious faith, practice, and the nature of divinity.

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Christians centrally and uniquely choose the Bible as the source of their theological study. It describes the substance of their faith, how to live it out, and an understanding of who God is and what He is like.

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However...

Consider theology as a map to guide and reveal the God of reality.

The starting place for truth has moved to a new place. The starting place has become, not just is the Bible true, but is there anything we can rely on that we can call truth itself? **Does absolute truth exist?**

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What started 70 years ago as a
battle for the Bible
has now become a
debate concerning
***the existential search for
or rejection of
the concept of truth.***

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Natural Theology

- **Definition:** Knowledge of God gained through human reason, science, conscience, and observation of the natural world (general revelation).
- **Source:** Observation, logic, and philosophy (e.g., looking at the complexity of the universe to argue for a Creator, commonly known now as Intelligent Design).
- **Limits:** Can suggest God is powerful, wise, or exists as a first cause, but cannot teach specific details like salvation, grace, or the Trinity.
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Romans 1:18-20

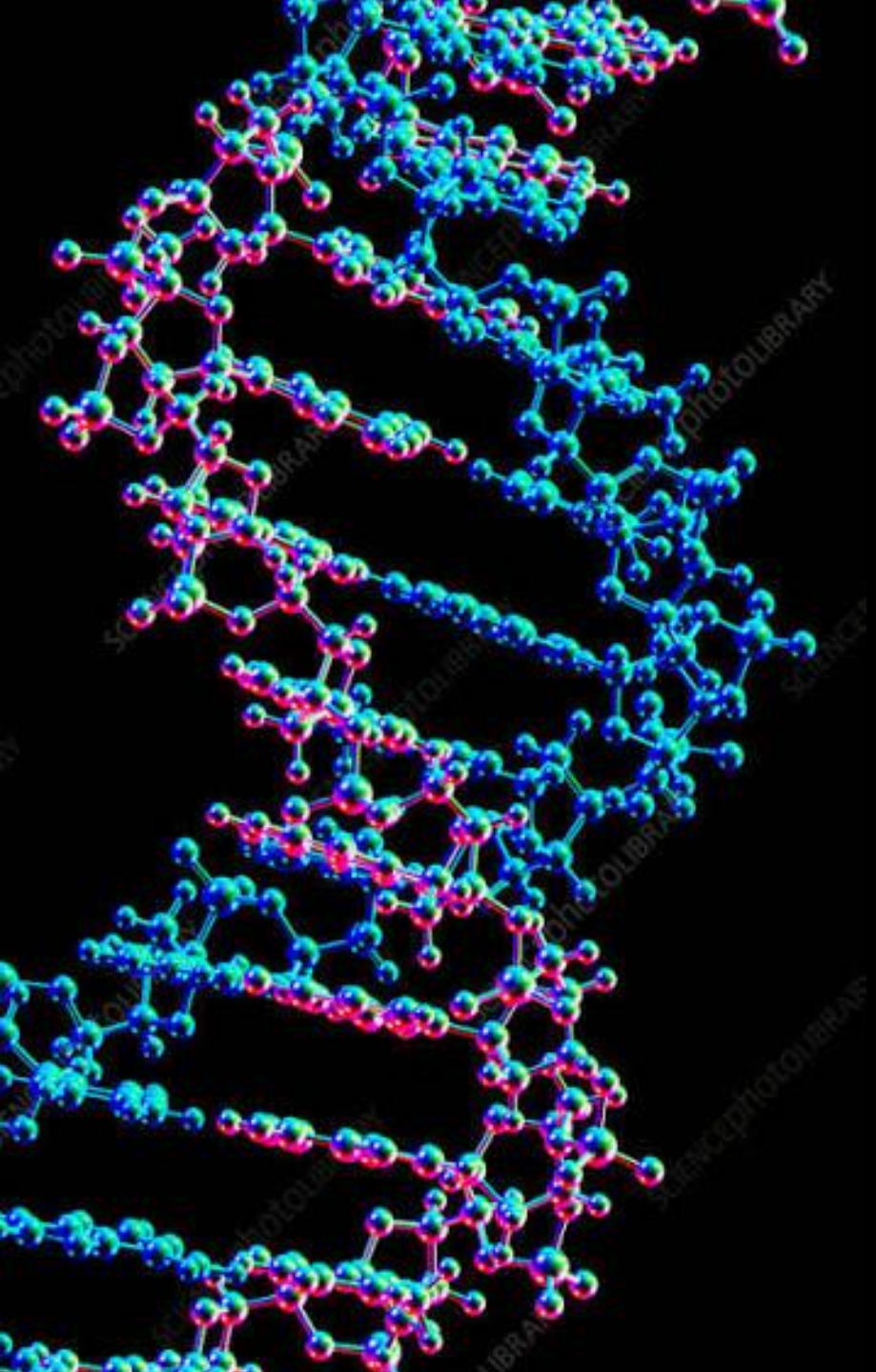
¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

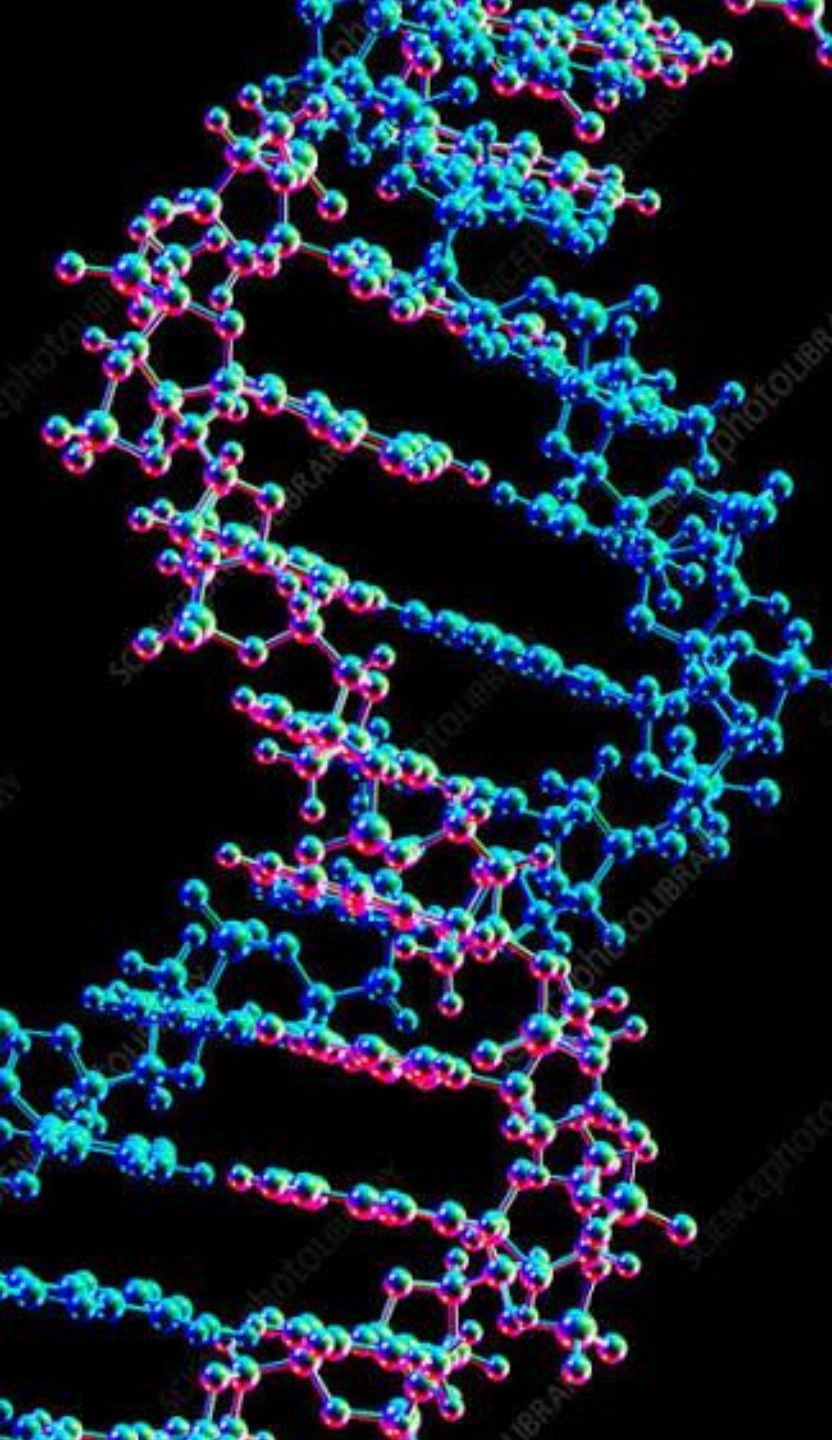
•**Key idea:** Natural theology is what human minds can figure out about God without any extra help.

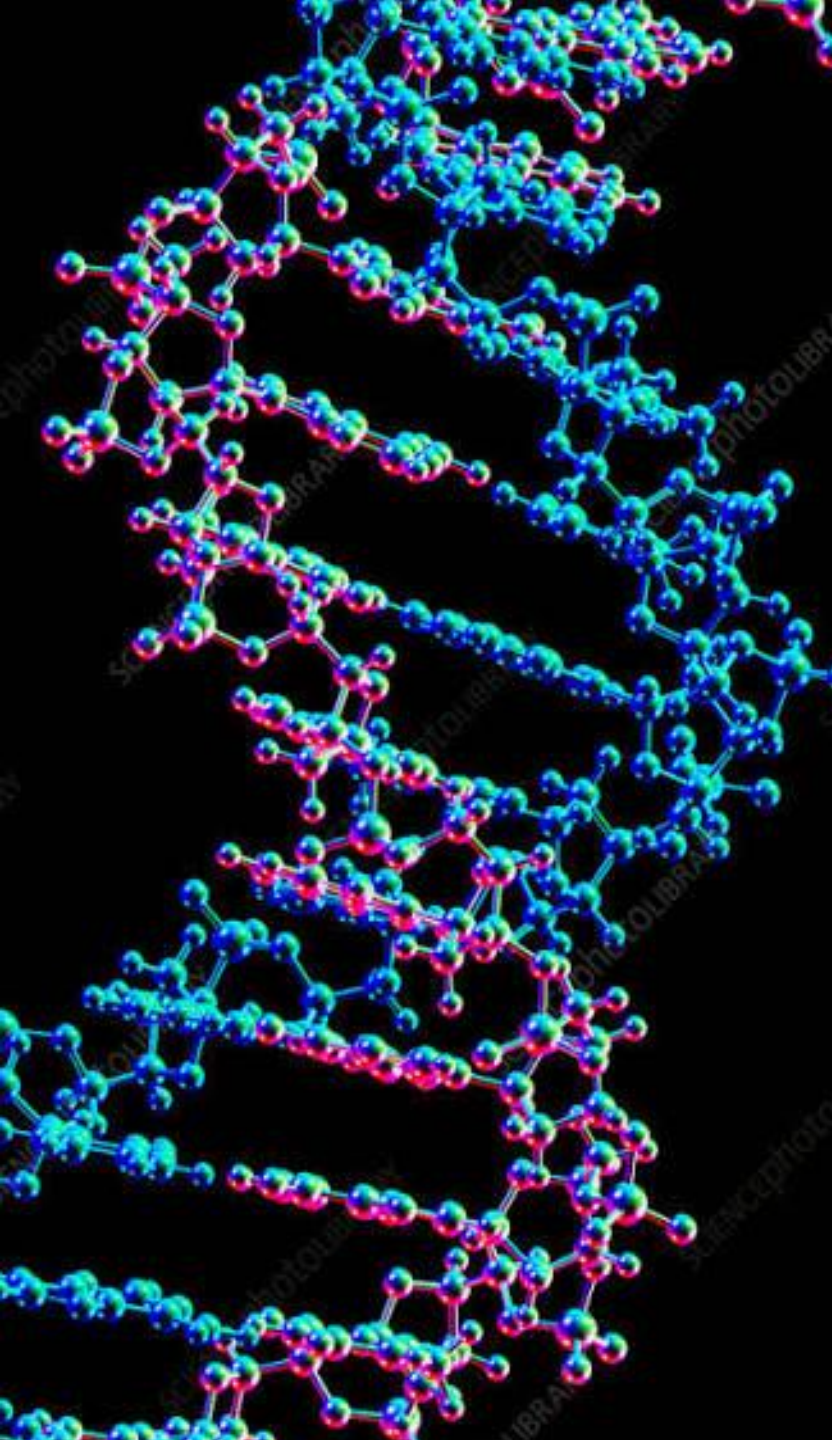
The “painting” can tell you some
things about the “painter”...

The “painting” can tell you some
things about the “painter”...

...but the “painter” can
tell you a lot more
about the “painting.”



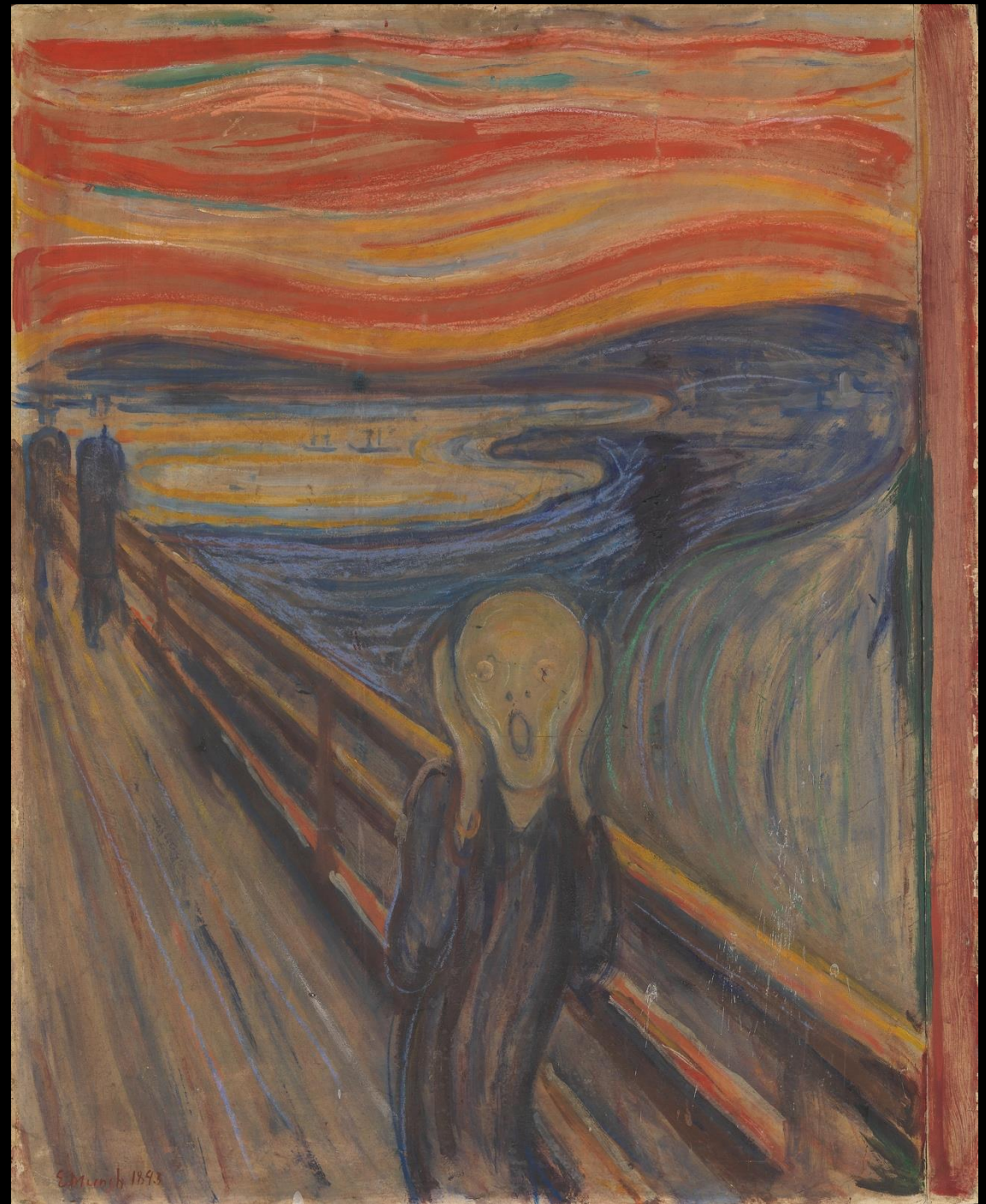




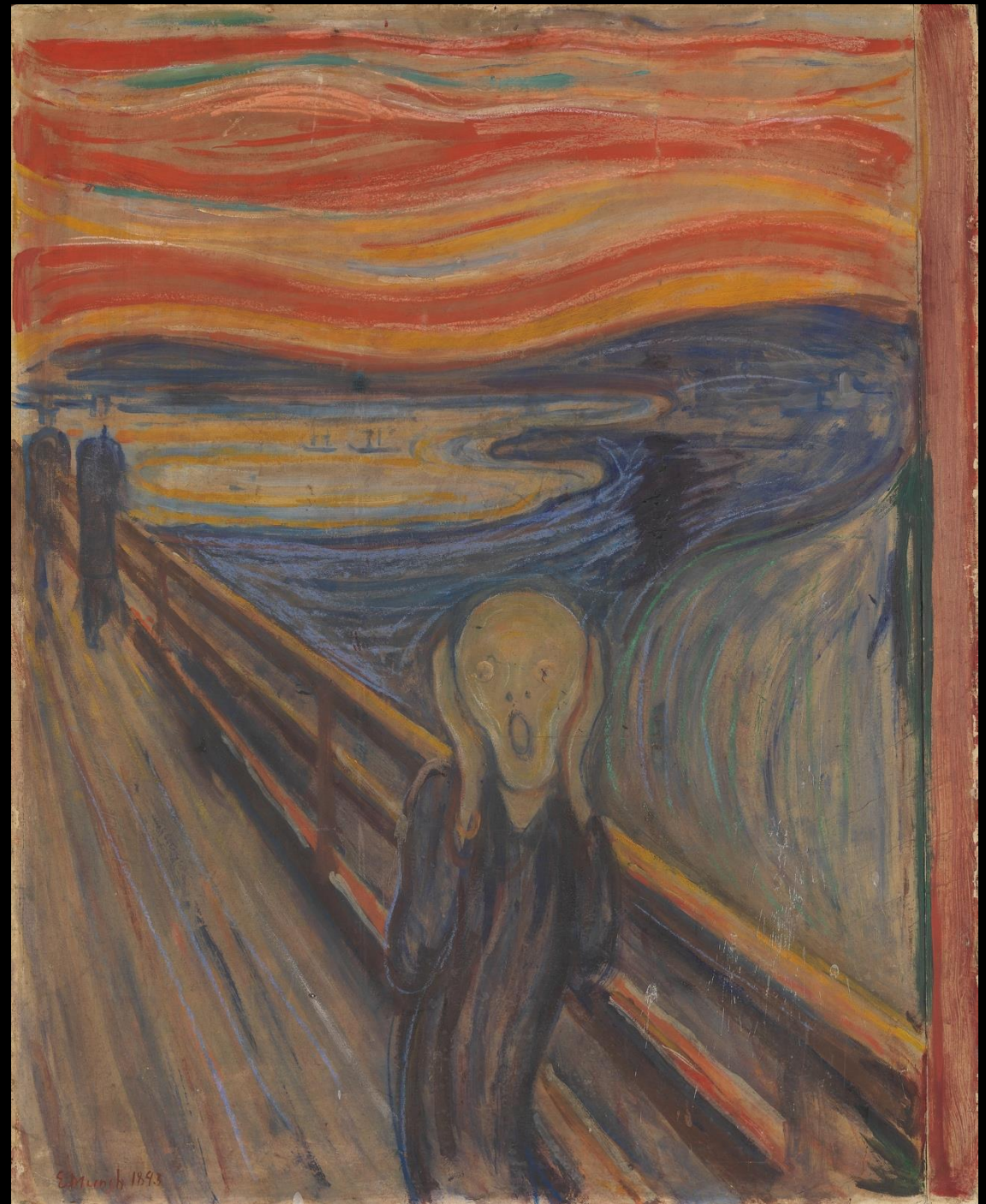




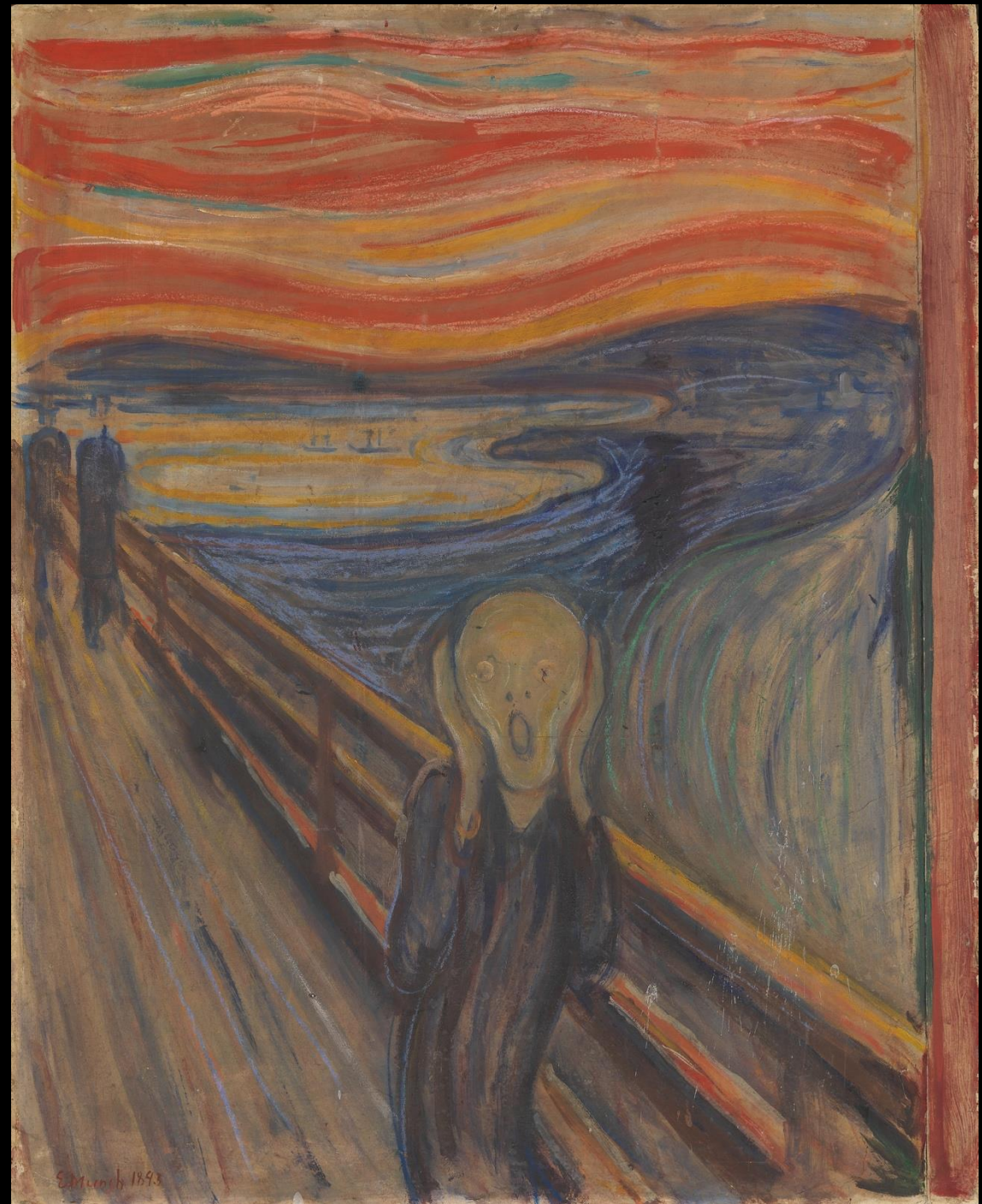




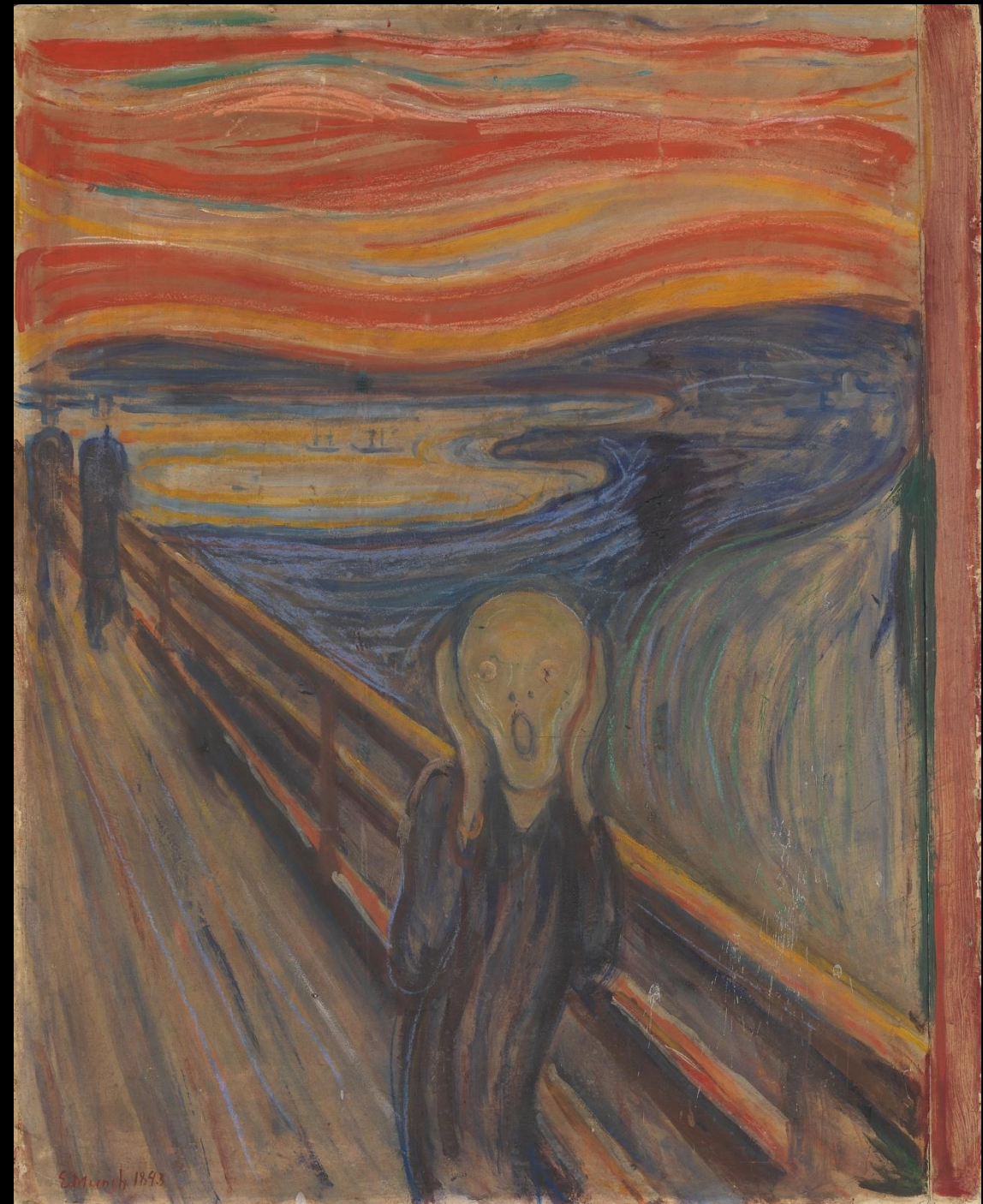
Scream



The Scream



The Scream
by Norwegian painter,
Expressionism
Edvard Munch
1863-1944 (1893)



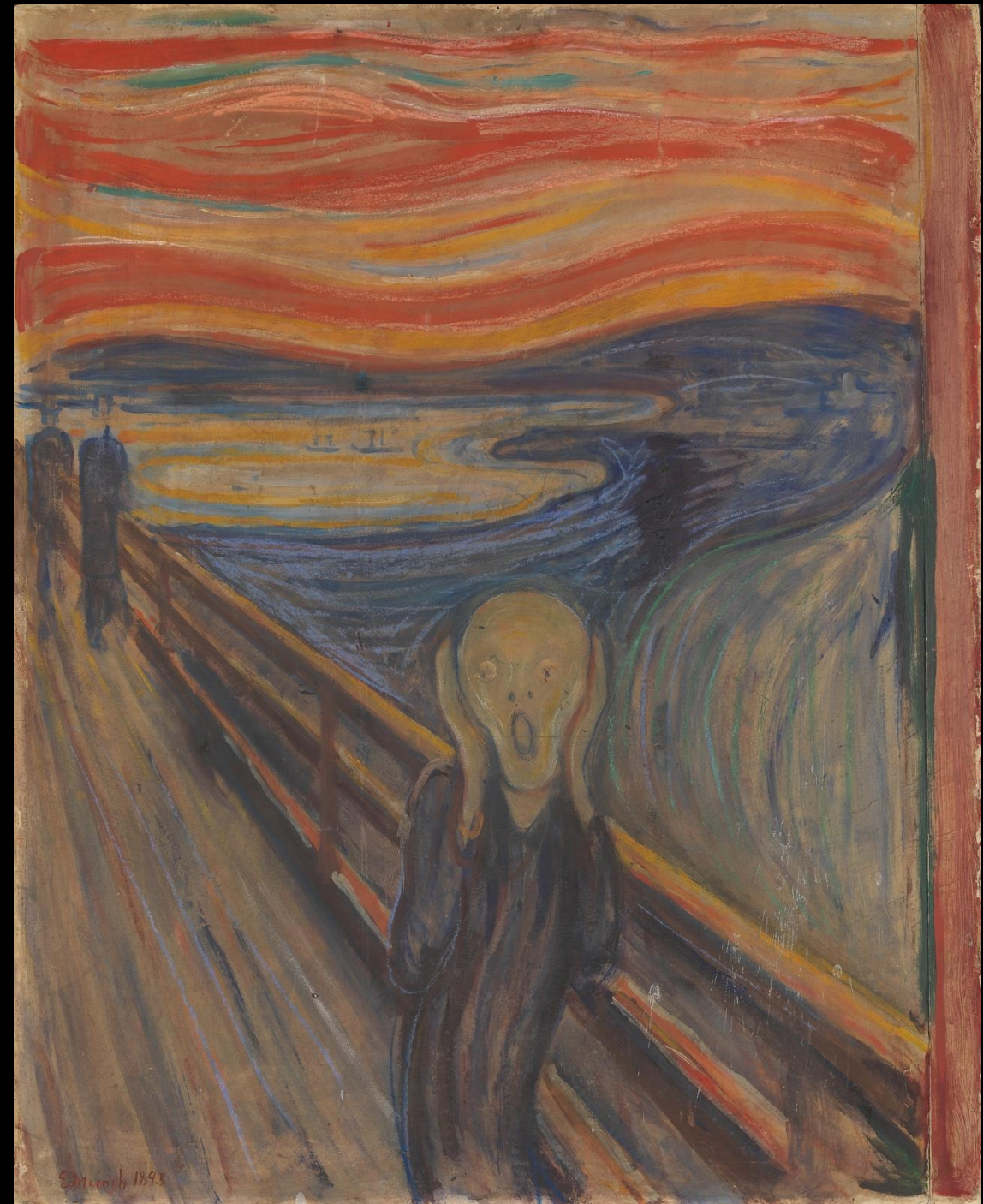
The Scream

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1863-1944 (1893)

"I was walking down the road with two friends when the sun set; suddenly the sky turned red as blood. I stopped and leaned against the fence, feeling unspeakably tired. Tongues of fire and blood stretched over the bluish black fjord. My friends went on walking, while I lagged behind, shivering with fear. Then I heard the enormous, infinite scream of nature. After that I gave up hope of ever being able to love again."



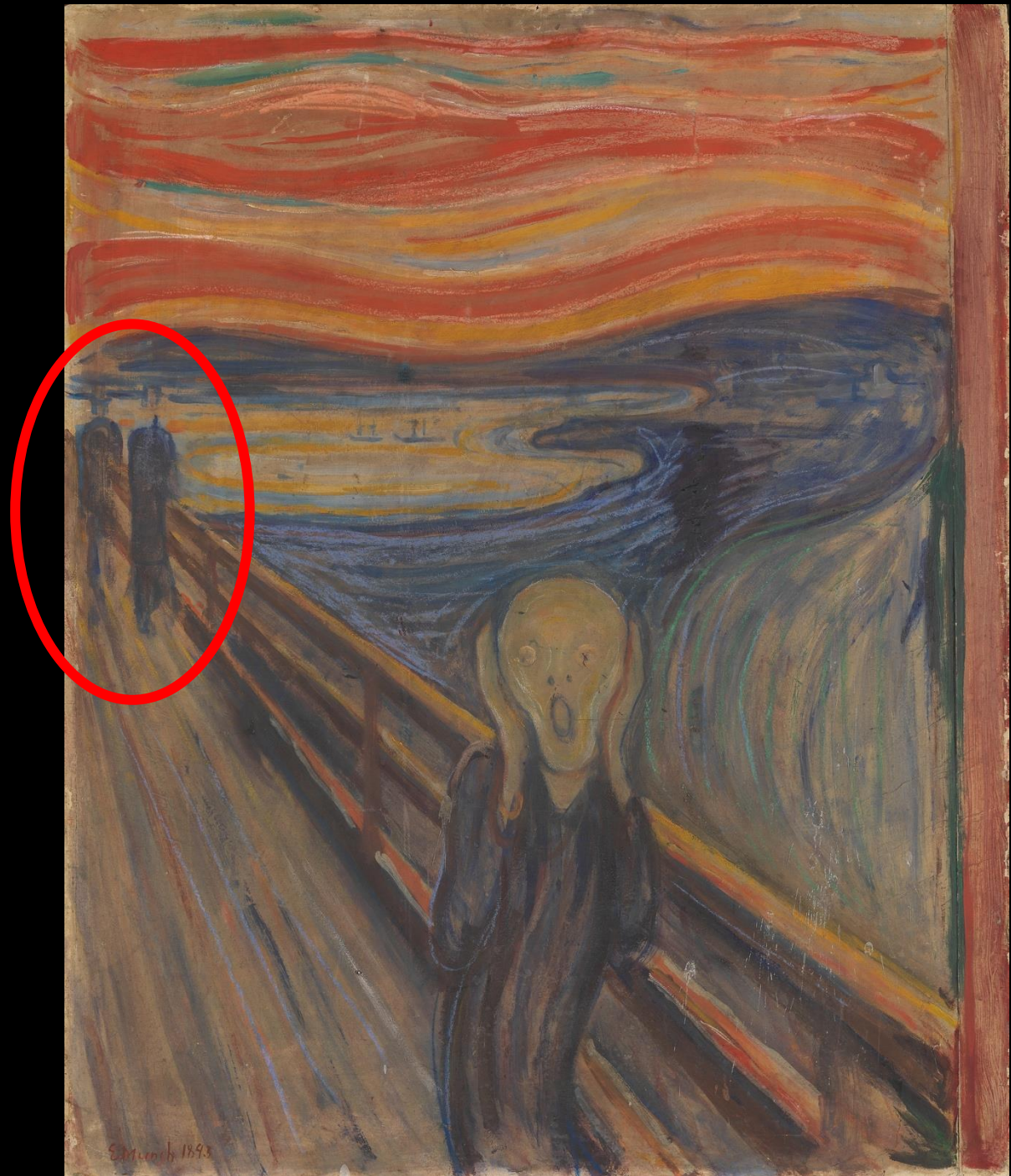
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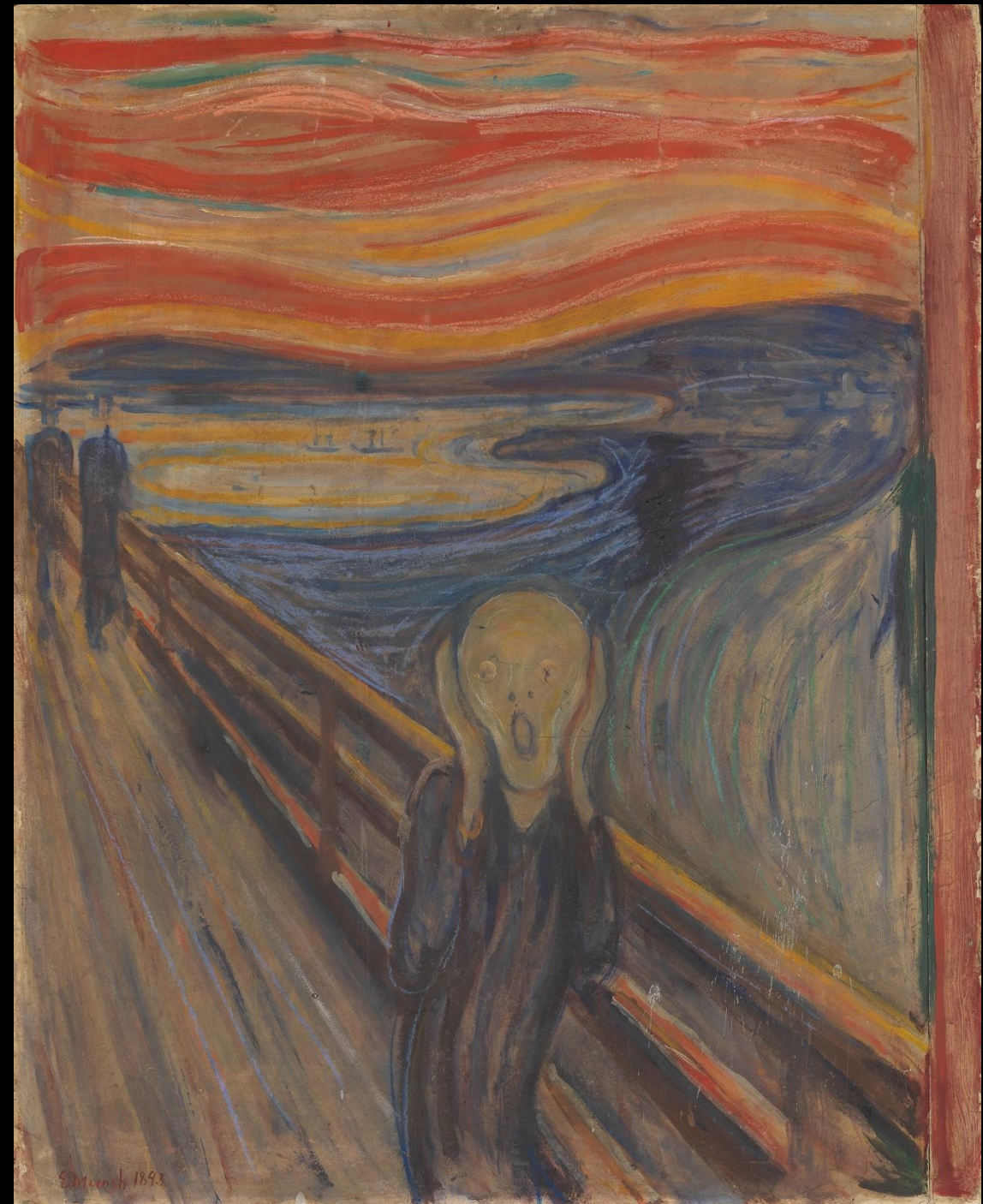
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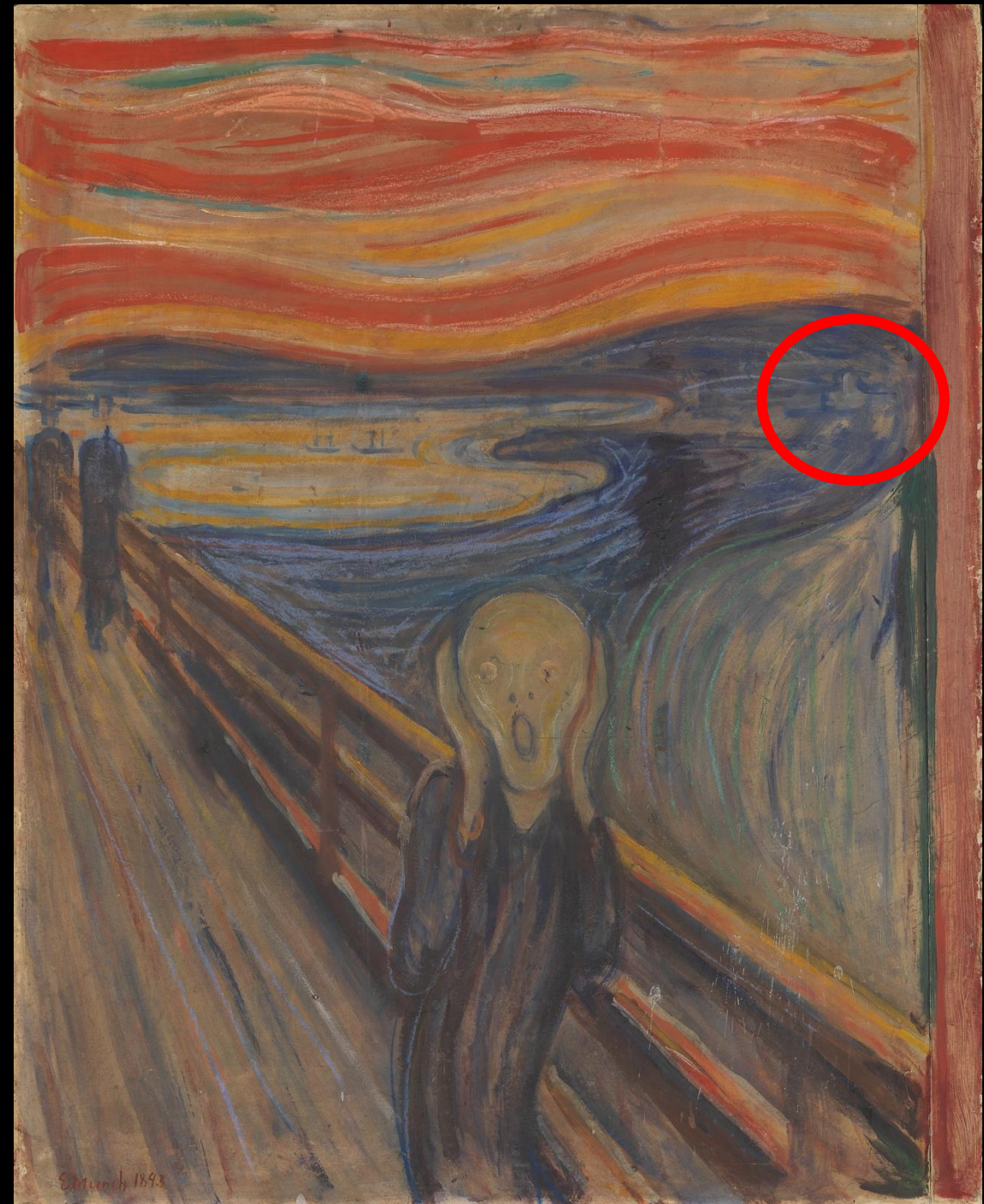
At the time of this experience Munch's sister Catherine was a patient at a mental asylum suffering with manic depression sketched on the middle right side of the painting. In addition, a longtime girlfriend had just broken off their relationship.

Munch lived in a lifelong state of fear and depression and anxiety. It seemed to be inherent in his family of origin- a state of being left alone or being isolated from others.



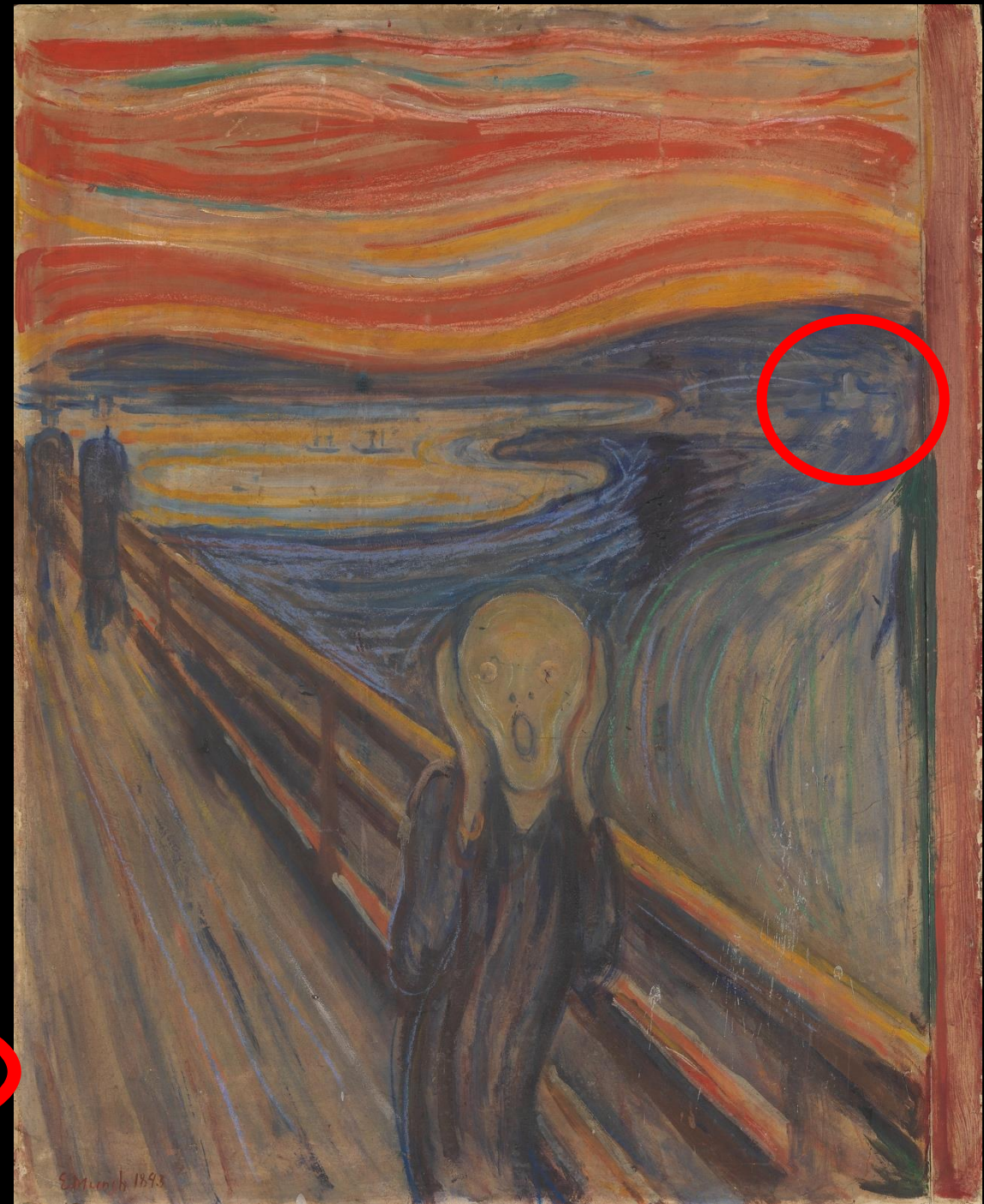
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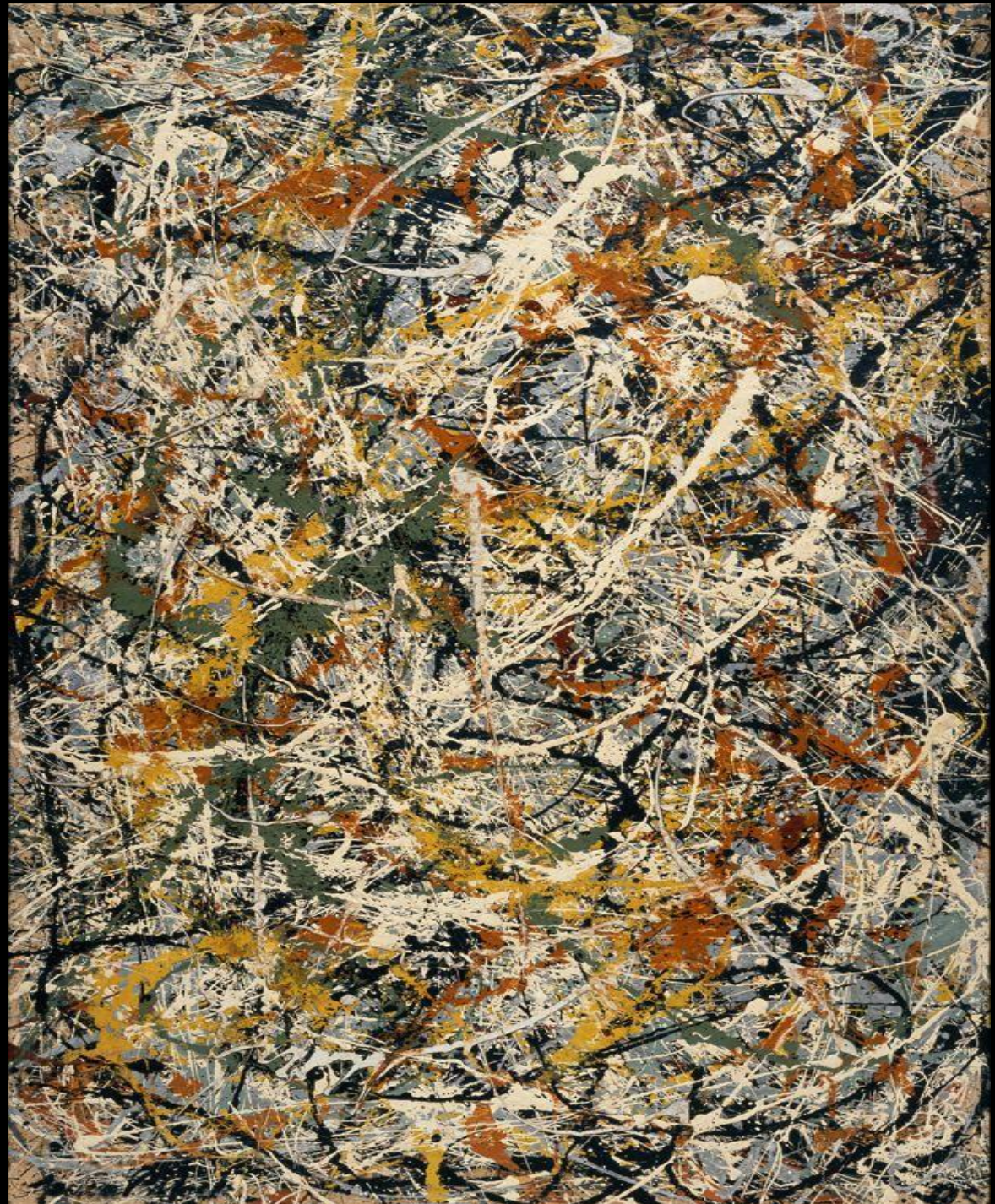
Self Portrait in Hell

1903

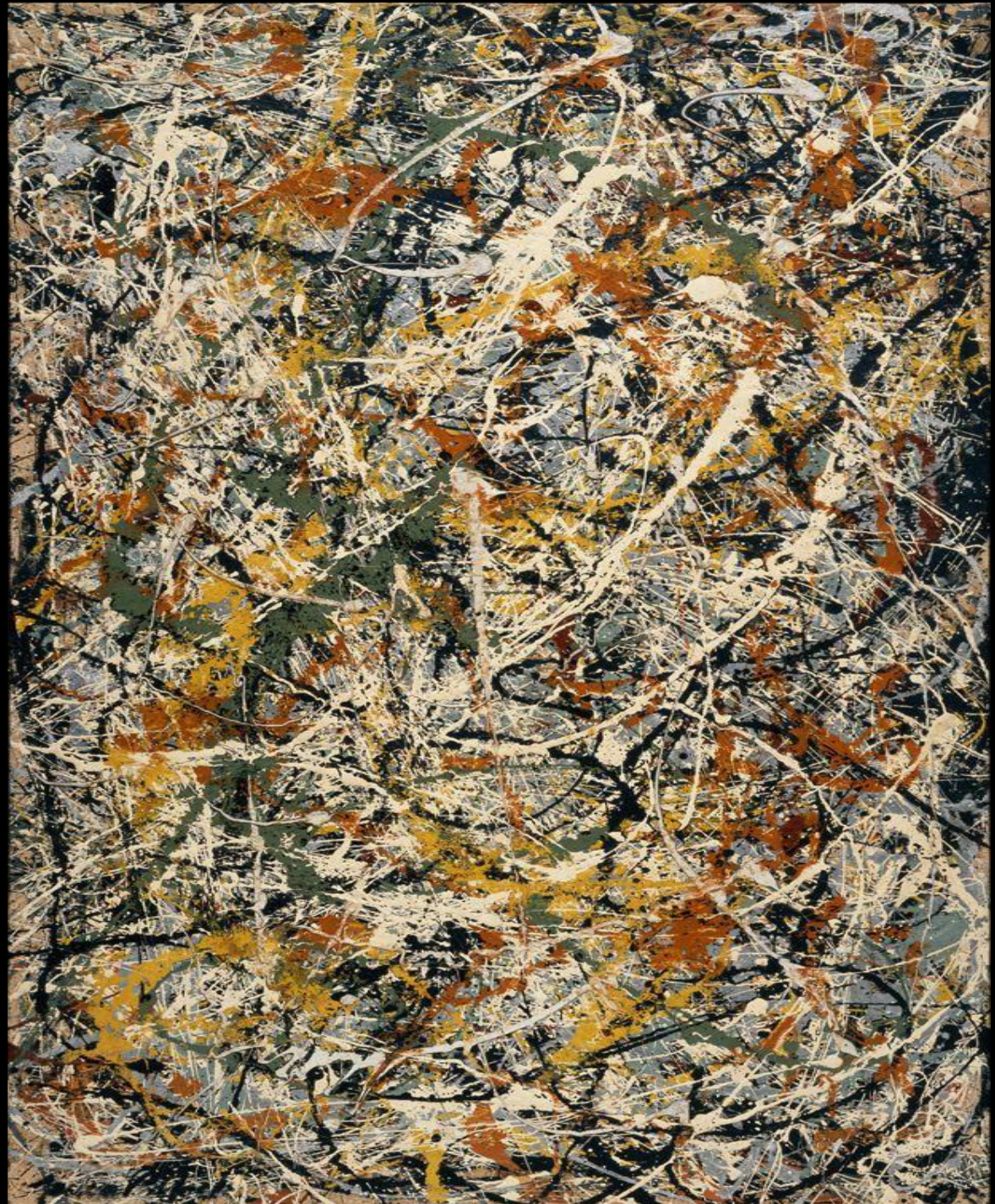
“This piece depicts the artist naked and vulnerable in his garden at home, surrounded by fiery red and black brushstrokes that reflect an internal, psychological hell of isolation, anxiety, and guilt.”

Art Critic Contemporary





Figures in a Landscape



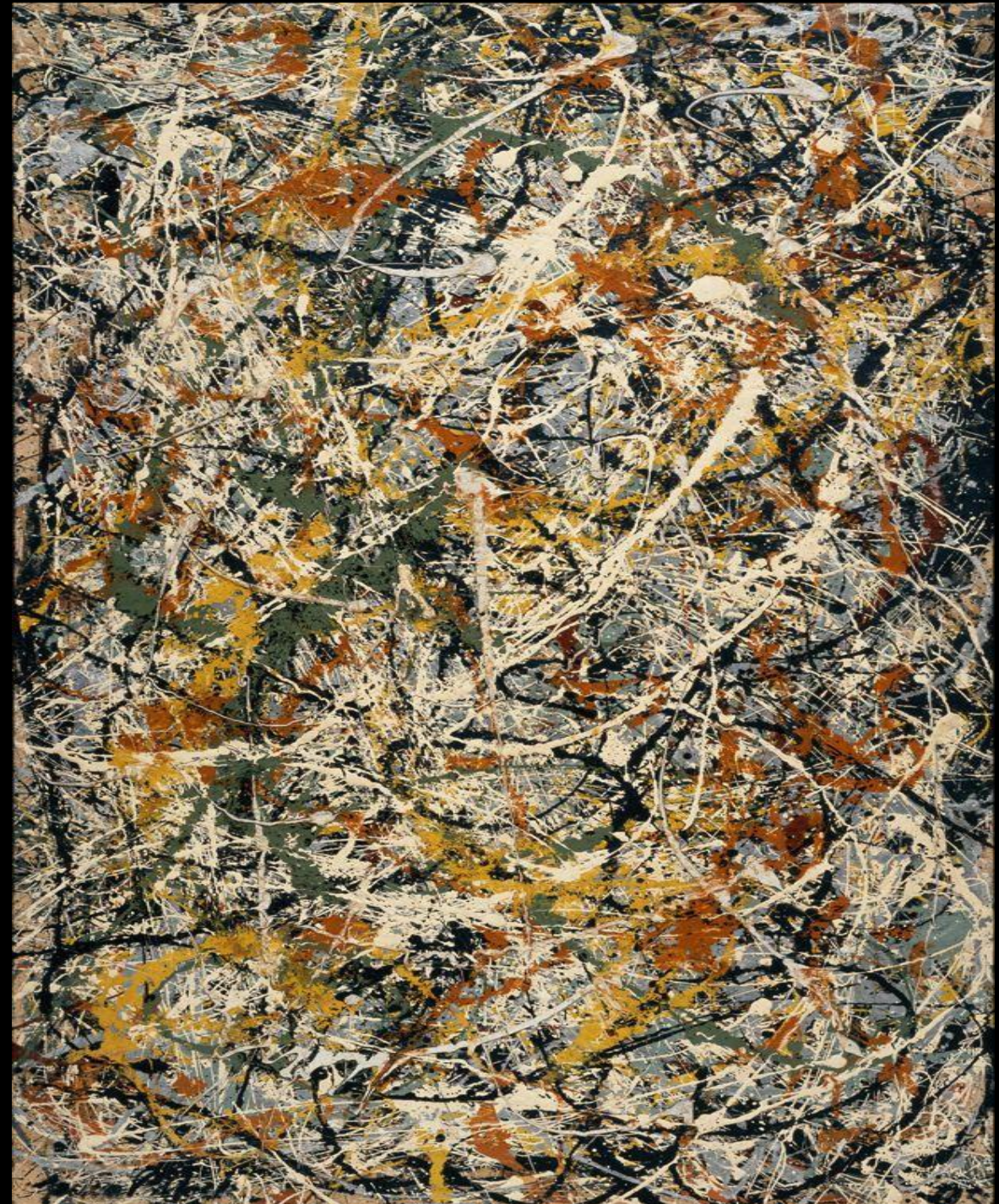
Figures in a Landscape

Jackson Pollock

1912-1956

Abstract Expressionism

drip technique or poured painting



Figures in a Landscape

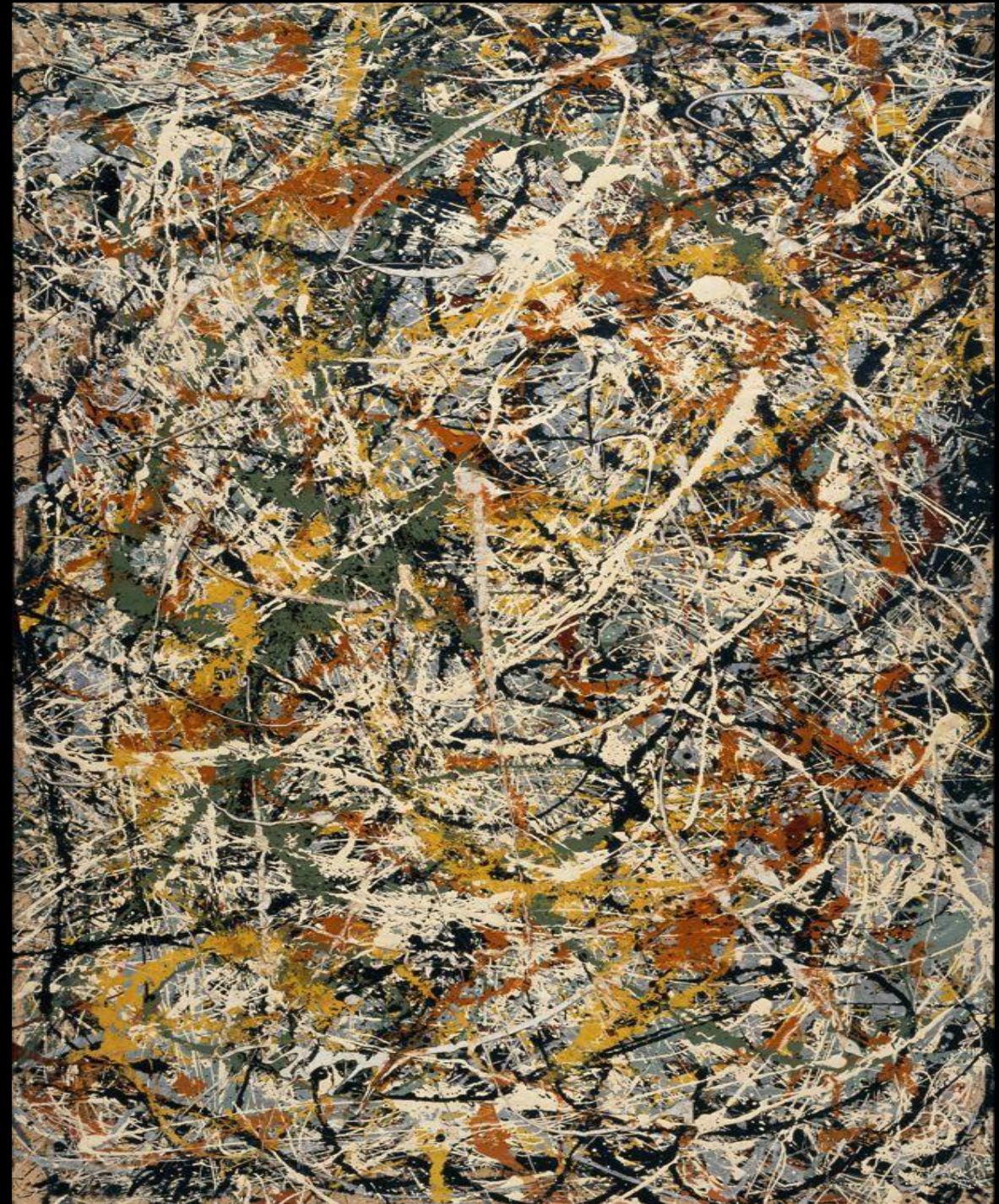
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Looking for
meaning or figure
(*substance? truth?*)
out of what hopefully
was not just chaos?



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Revealed (Revelatory) Theology

- **Definition:** Knowledge of God gained when God chooses to make Himself directly known through supernatural means (special revelation).
- **Source:** Holy scriptures, miracles, personal religious experiences, and most significantly through and in Jesus Christ.
- **Limits:** Relies heavily on faith and acceptance of the specific tradition or text rather than purely independent human proof.
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Hebrews 1:1-3

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power.

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“...a Christianity which has balance, not only exegetically and intellectually, but also in the area of reality and beauty; an insistence that beginning with the Christian system as God has given it to men in the verbalized propositional revelation of the Bible, one can move along and find that every area of life is touched by truth and a song.”

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- just subjective opinions.

These opinions attempt to control the day by either majority rule, by dictatorial edit, or by surrender to an elite.

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2. **Theology is simply understanding the revealed nature of God and how He engages mankind.**
3. Christendom is being torn apart at the seams by what many call an “alternative orthodoxy” that rejects, redefines, and reimages a “Biblical orthodoxy”.
3. The EFCA is an association of autonomous churches united around ten core convictions.

(The EFCA exists to glorify God by making living

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Evangelicalism

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Evangelicalism

A worldwide interdenominational and multi-ethnic movement within Christianity that emphasizes:

- the proclamation of the gospel message,
- the personal responsibility that each individual has to accept or reject that message,
- and the authority of the Bible in all things pertaining to everything it speaks to.

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Evangelicalism has lost the richness of **well-reasoned** and **compassionate** thinking.

These qualities have been replaced by a paper-thin misapplied empathy and a hiding behind baseless cultural correctness.

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(The EFCA exists to glorify God by making His Word known and loved.)

What has been revealed (special revelation) concerning:

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1

God Theology Proper

What has been revealed (special revelation) concerning:

2

God Theology Proper

The Bible Bibliology

What has been revealed (special revelation) concerning:

3

God Theology Proper

The Bible Bibliology

The Human Condition Biblical Anthropology,
Harmartiology

What has been revealed (special revelation) concerning:

God Theology Proper

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4

Jesus Christ Christology

What has been revealed (special revelation) concerning:

God Theology Proper
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The Work of Christ Soteriology

5

What has been revealed (special revelation) concerning:

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The Holy Spirit Pneumatology

6

What has been revealed (special revelation) concerning:

God	Theology Proper
The Bible	Bibliology
The Human Condition	Biblical Anthropology, Harmartiology
Jesus Christ	Christology
The Work of Christ	Soteriology
The Holy Spirit	Pneumatology
The Church	Ecclesiology, Missiology

7

What has been revealed (special revelation) concerning:

God	Theology Proper
The Bible	Bibliology
The Human Condition	Biblical Anthropology, Harmartiology
Jesus Christ	Christology
The Work of Christ	Soteriology
The Holy Spirit	Pneumatology
The Church	Ecclesiology, Missiology
Christian Living	Sanctification, Practical Theology

8

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Christ's Return	Eschatology
Response and Eternal Destiny ...	Eschatology

Theology is purposed to help us answer the critically important questions we all wrestle with:

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- **What is the origin of my life?**

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How did I get here?

Theology is purposed to help us answer the critically important questions we all wrestle with:

- What is the origin of my life?
- **What is the meaning and purpose of my life?**

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Why am I here?

Theology is purposed to help us answer the critically important questions we all wrestle with:

- What is the origin of my life?
- What is the meaning and purpose of my life?
- **Where can I find a moral structure for my life that I can trust?**

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Is there anything that is really right and really wrong? If so, why?

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- **What is the destiny of my life?**

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- **What is the destiny of my life?**

Is there anything after death? If so, how does it relate to today?

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- **What do I do with the angst I face as a result of being a broken person in a broken world?**

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- Where can I find a moral structure for my life that I can trust?
- What is the destiny of my life?
- **What do I do with the angst I face as a result of being a broken person in a broken world?**

What do I do with my confusion, my guilt, and my shame?

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So.....therefore.....what now?



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So.....therefore.....what now?

- Commit yourself to being:
a **well-reasoned** and **compassionate** person.
(To be well versed Biblically / Theologically)

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Grace and Truth

John 1:14

*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from
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Grace + Truth = Love

...making a priority of others in light of the beauty of God.

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So.....therefore.....what now?

- Buy a good systematic theology book and read the key parts, such as

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The Christian Faith by Michael Horton

Systematic Theology for Adults by Valorrea

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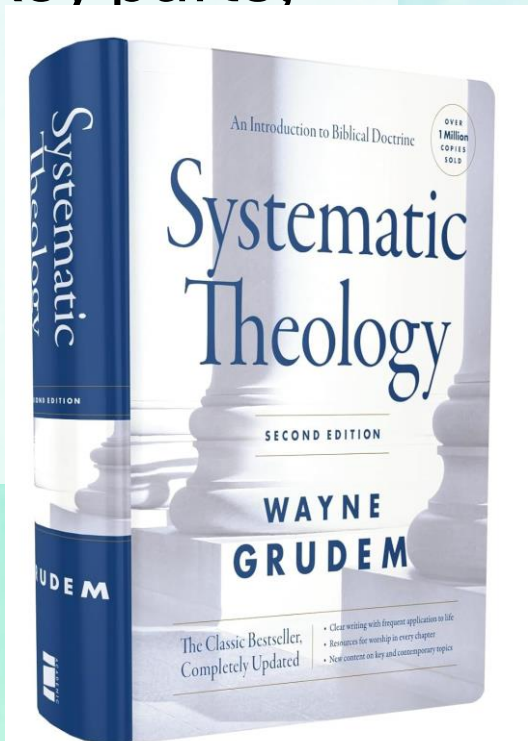
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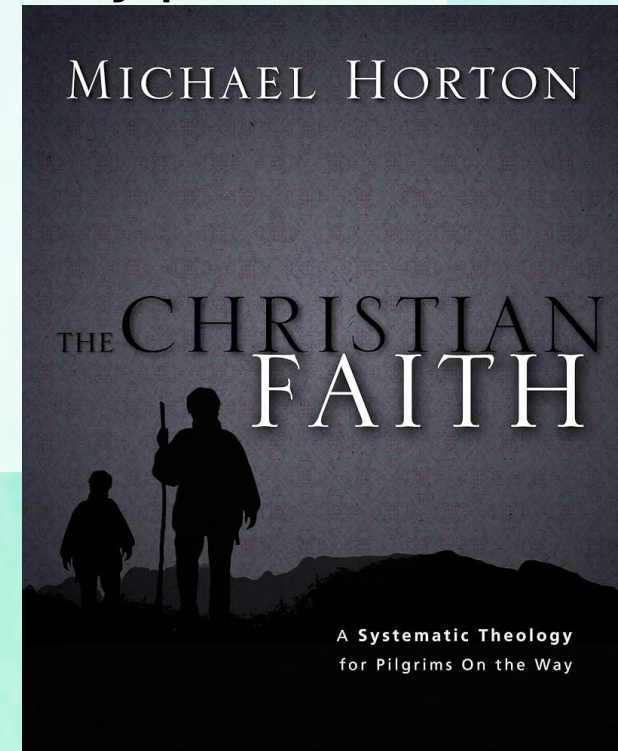
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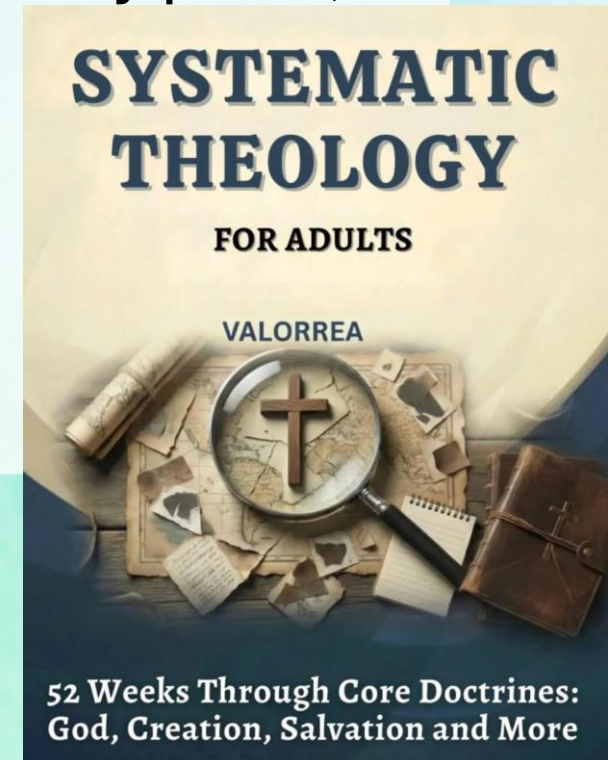
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So.....therefore.....what now?

- Read something that is intellectually stimulating:

The Questions Christians Hope Nobody Will Ask

by Mark Mittleberg

Mere Christianity

by C.S. Lewis

God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?

by John C. Lennox

The Reason for God

by Timothy Keller

Cold Case Christianity by J. Warner Wallace

Anchored

So.....therefore.....what now?

“Buckle up baby”

Anchored

So.....therefore.....what now?

“Buckle up baby”

We’re going for a ride
into the revealed authentic beauty of
who God is and how He engages
mankind!!!

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John 17:17
*Sanctify them in the truth;
your word is truth.*

