

The Bible was not written TO US;
but the Bible was written FOR US.

אַנְשֵׁי־יִהוּדָא יֵשׁ אֲנֵשׁ׃ לֹא הָלַךְ בִּבְעֻצָּת

רַעְשָׁנִים וּבְדִירָה׃ חֲטָאִים לֹא עָמַד

וּבְמִוָּשֶׁב לֵצִים לֹא יָשָׁב׃

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but the Bible was written FOR US.



GREATER

A Greater Hope

Easter

Greater Trust

April 11

Greater Love

April 18

Greater Passion

April 25

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

John 20:19-20 (NIV 2011)

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

John 20:24-25 (NIV 2011)

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

John 20:26-27 (NIV 2011)

²⁸ Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

John 20:28 (NIV 2011)

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; **blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**”

John 20:29 (NIV 2011)

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:30-31 (NIV 2011)

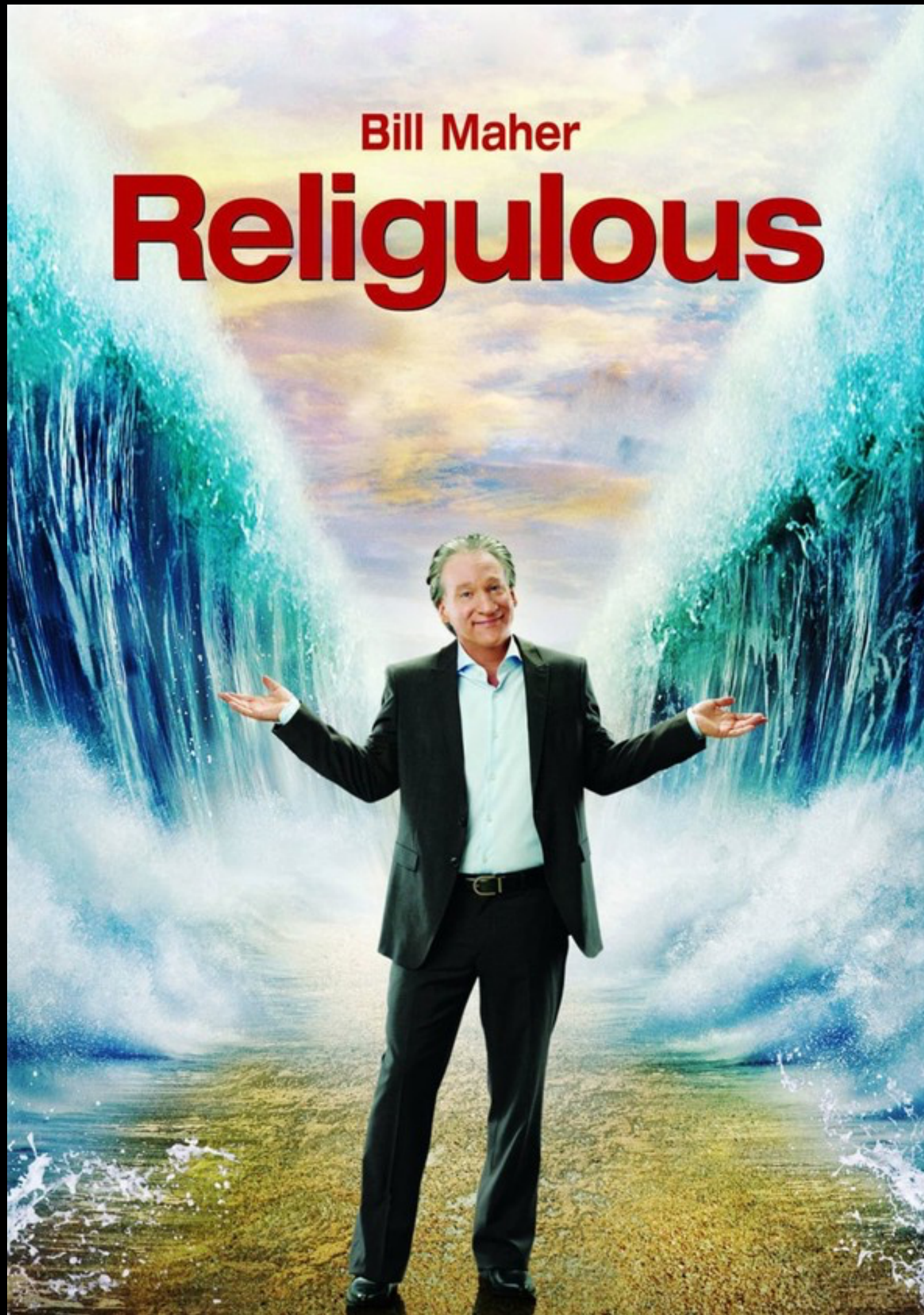
²⁹ Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; **blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**”

John 20:29 (NIV 2011)

Fact One: Jesus was a real
historical person.

Bill Maher

Religulous



Pliny the Younger (112 A.D.) - “They declared that the sum total of their guilt or error amounted to no more than this; they had met regularly before dawn on a fixed day to chant verses alternately among themselves in honor of Christ as to a god, and also to bind themselves by oath, not for any criminal purpose...

... but to abstain from theft, robbery, and adultery, to commit no breach of trust and not to deny a deposit when called upon to restore it ... I am all the more inclined to believe this since, in search for the truth, I tortured two of their serving girls – whom they call “deaconesses.”

Epistle 10.96

Fact Two: Jesus really died on
a Roman cross.

Tacitus (115 A.D.) - “Nero fastened the guilt [of the burning of Rome] and inflicted the most exquisite torture on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. *Christus*, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the *extreme penalty* during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of our procurator, Pontius Pilatus.”

Annals 15.44

Lucian of Samosata (180 A.D.) - “The Christians, you know, worship a man to this day – the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites, and was **crucified** on that account.”

The Death of Peregrine 11-13

Fact Three: Jesus' disciples
were eye-witnesses of the
resurrection and they passed
what they saw down to
others.

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that **he appeared** to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (NIV 2011)

⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (NIV 2011)

Irenaeus (130-202 A.D.) - “But Polycarp also was not only instructed by apostles, and **conversed with many who had seen Christ**, but was also, by apostles in Asia, appointed bishop of the Church in Smyrna, whom I also saw in my early youth, for he tarried [on earth] a very long time,...

...and, when a very old man, gloriously and most nobly suffering martyrdom, departed this life, having always taught the things which he had learned from the apostles.”

Against Heresies, 3.3.4

Fact Four: The explosion of
a new worldview was
on the scene.

33 A.D. “more than 500 people”



350 AD – approximately 33 million people

Rodney Stark

The Rise of Christianity (Harper Collins, 1996)

1. Jesus didn't really die.

2. The body was stolen.

3. The accounts that we have
are all biased.

4. You can't prove
it scientifically.



BIOLOGOS



SCIENCE FOR
THE **CHURCH**

¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV 2011)