

Christmas: the Gift of beginning

Today: The End of Confusion

1 Corinthians 2:6-14

Matthew 2:1-2 "Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."





Modern day 3 wise men

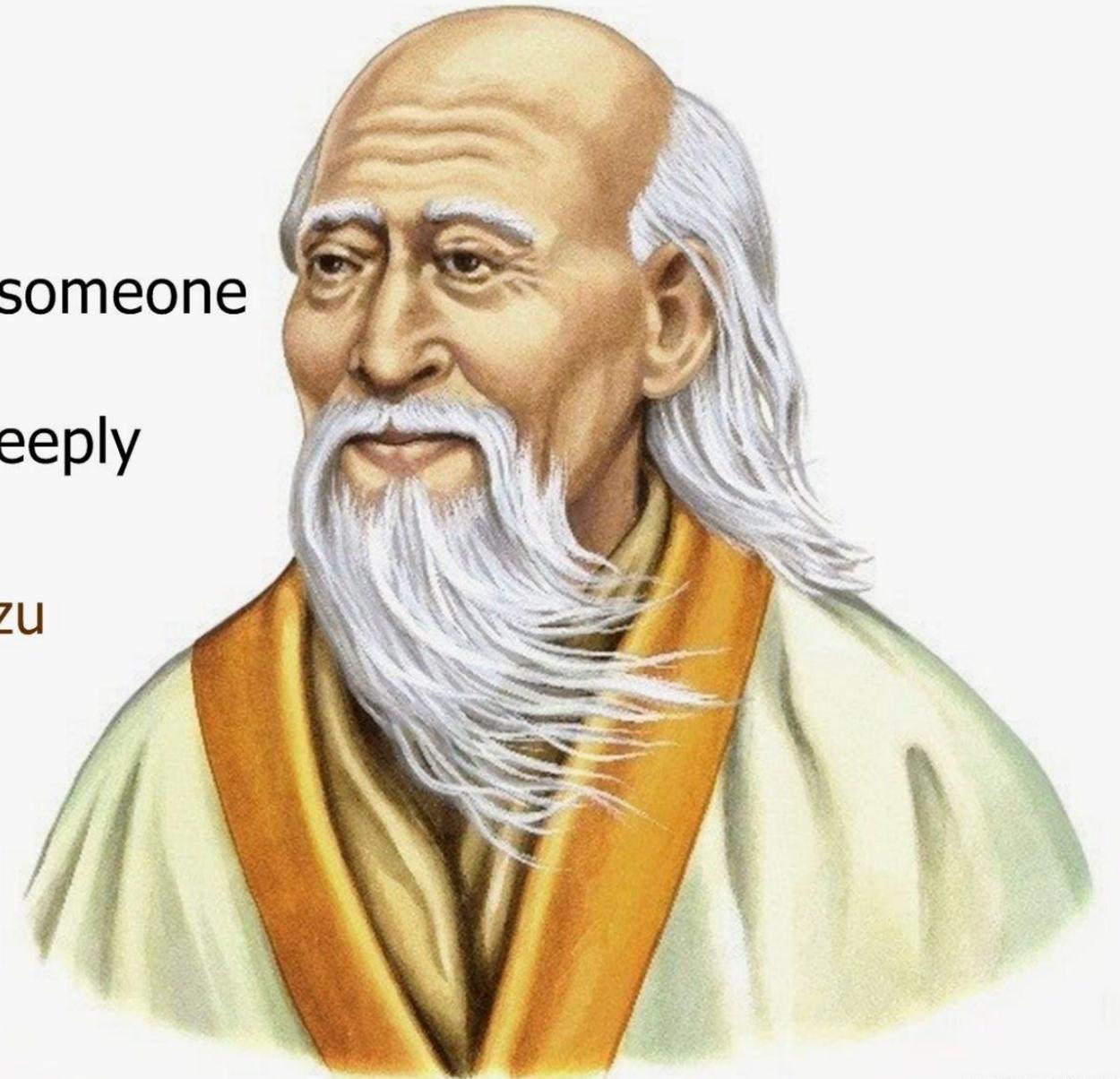


Who is wise? Confucius? Lao Tzu?



"Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage."

Lao Tzu

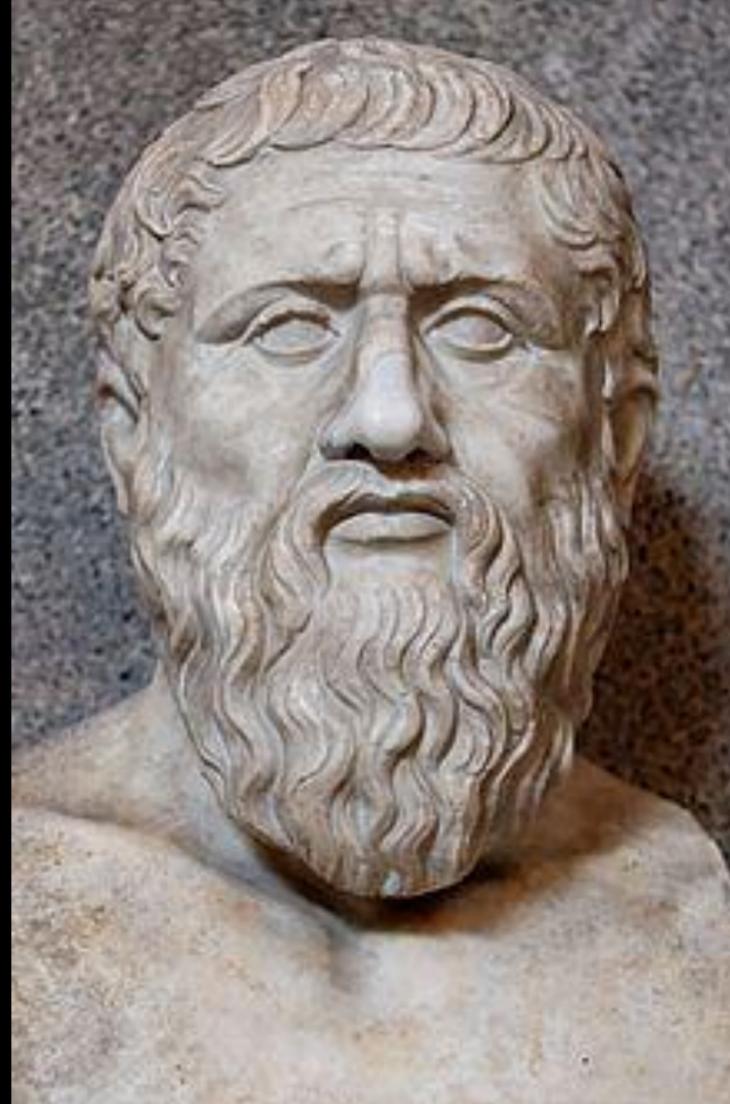
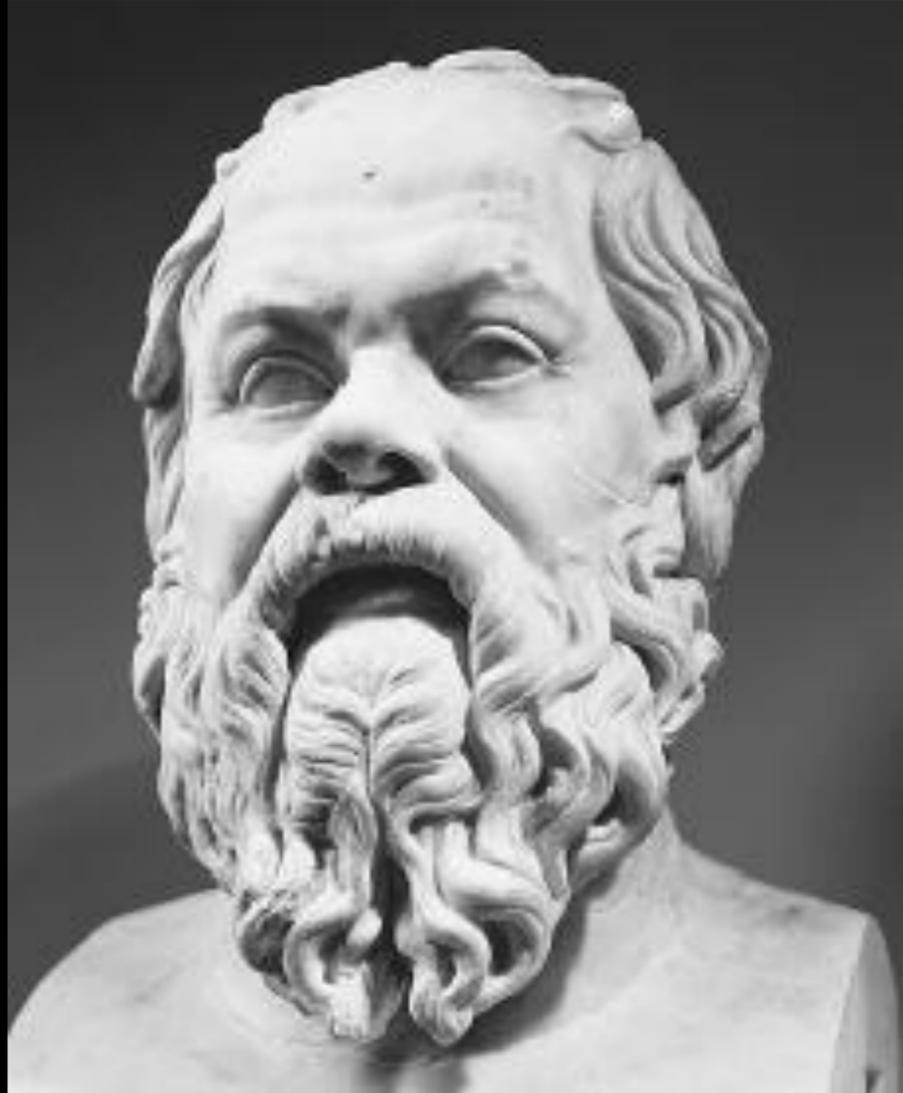


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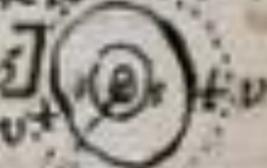
Socrates?

Plato?

Aristotle?



Sir Isaac Newton?

marble, y^e Oculus Mundi Stone, &c) become
& transparent by being soaked in water
& fills up y^e reflecting pores] 

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of coloured circles
Which circles were
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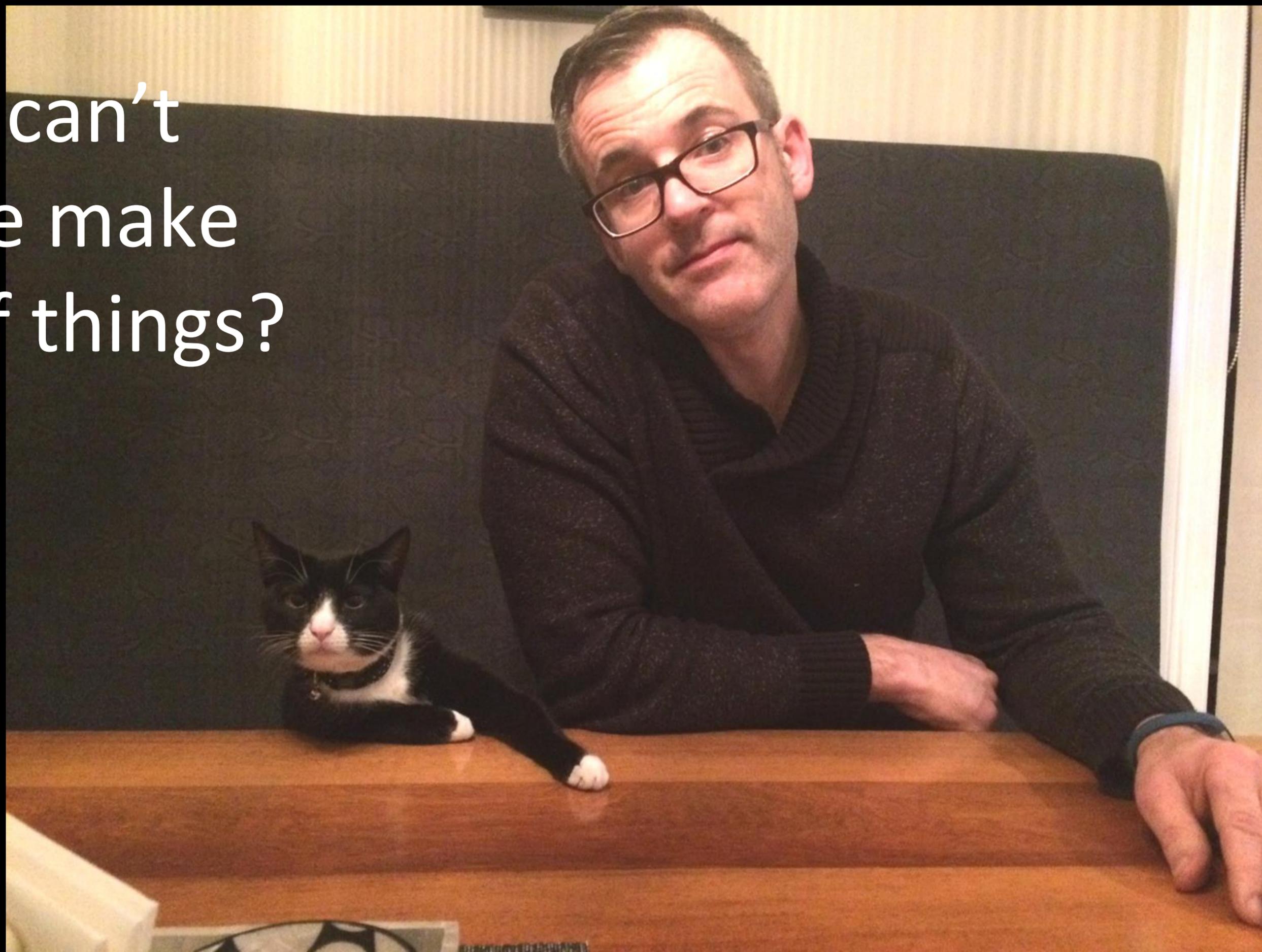


M. Scott Peck?- “The Road Less Travelled”

"Life is difficult... [it] is a series of problems. Do we want to moan about them or solve them? Do we want to teach our children to solve them?"



Why can't
anyone make
sense of things?



We are living in an age of confusion:

What am I supposed to do?

Why am I like this?

What's life all about?

Who am I?

Matthew 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth,
but if salt has *lost its saltiness*, how shall its
saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for
anything except to be thrown out and
trampled under people's feet.

mōrainō

to make or act as a simpleton: - become fool,
make foolish

Is the lack of something a clue?

Isaiah 29:14 “therefore, behold, I will again do wonderful things with this people, with wonder upon wonder; and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden.”

1Corinthians 1:19-20 “For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

So How do I become wise?
How do I end my confusion?

- Do we need a Teacher or a Savior?

Yoda meets Jesus

John 3:1-2 “Now there was a man of the Pharisees (Jedi) named Nicodemus (Yoda), a ruler of the Jews (head of the Jedi council). This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.”

After the teaching...

John 3:9-10 “Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?”

- Why can't people get it?

Without God, there is something darkened in us.

Romans 1:21-22 “For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools.”

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Isaiah 11:1-2 “There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.”

Isaiah 52:13-15 “Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. As many were astonished at you— his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind— so shall he sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.”

1 Corinthians 2:6-14

1Corinthians 2:10-11 “these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.”

1Corinthians 2:12-14 “Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”

We need Spiritual Birth

John 3:3-4 “Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Yoda said to Him, “How can a man be born when old he is? Enter can he the second *time into his mother's womb and be born?*”

John 3:5-8 “Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born again. The Spirit breathes where He desires, and you hear His voice, but you do not know from where He comes, and where He goes; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

God's Wisdom makes me Just, Reasonable and Peaceful.

James 3:17-18 "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."

Wisdom is attractive.

Isaiah 60:1-3 “Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of Jehovah has risen on you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the peoples; but Jehovah shall rise on you, and His glory shall be seen on you. And the nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawning.”