

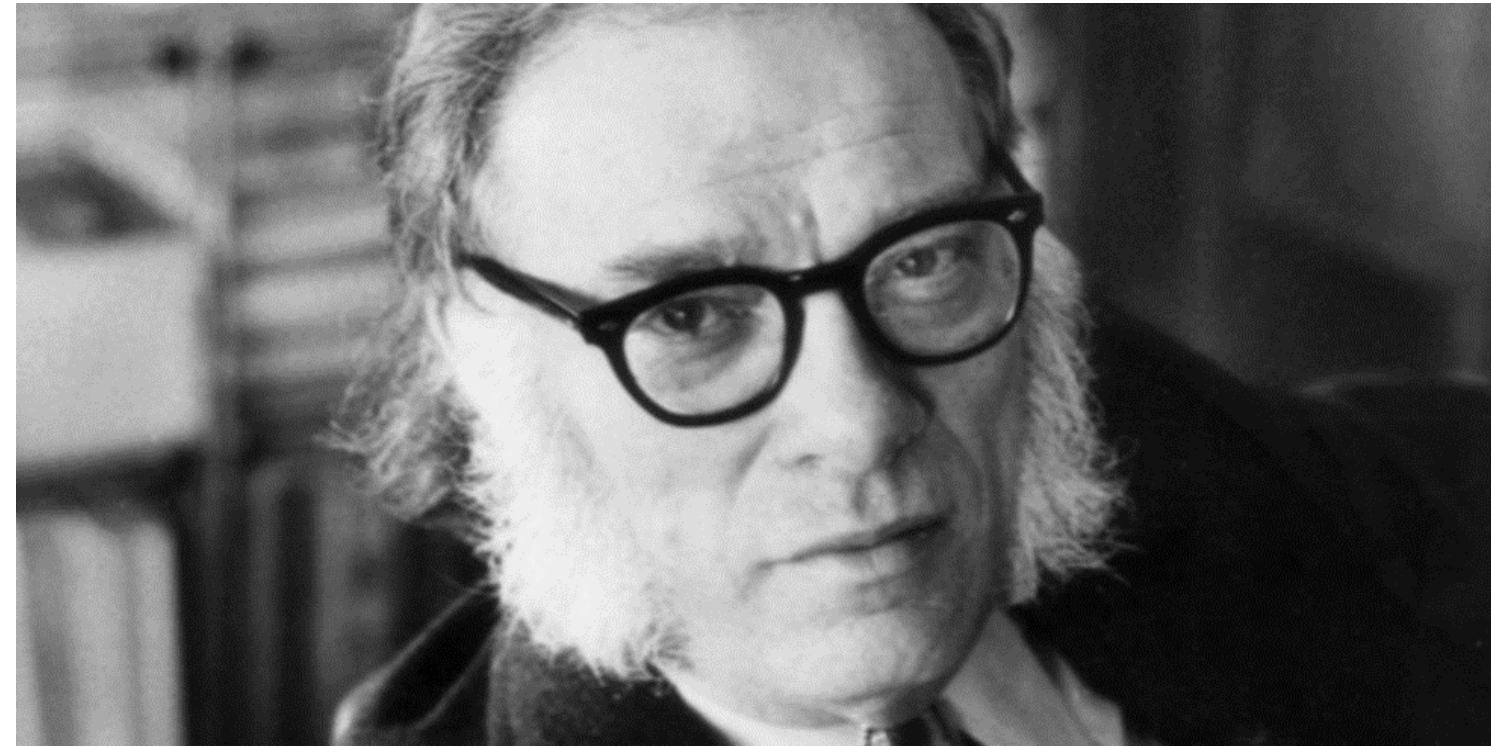


GOD
UNBOXED

The JOYFUL God

Revelation 21-22

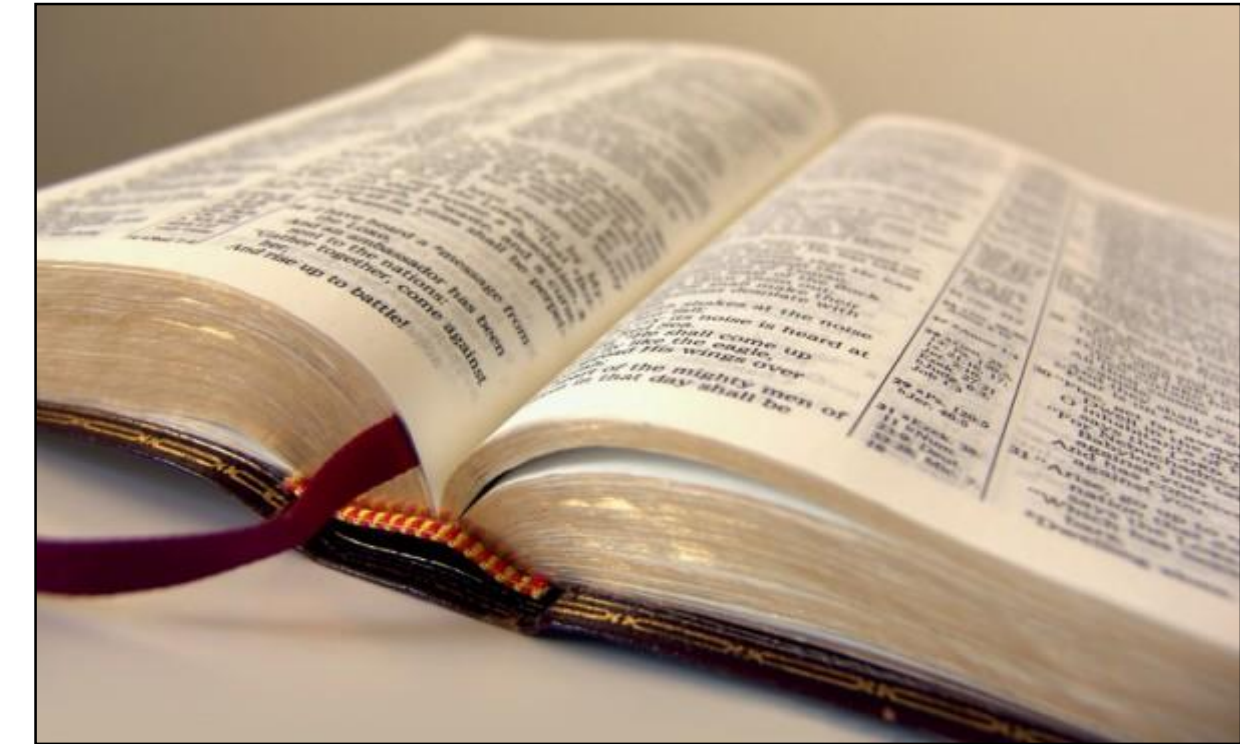
Who should we believe?



“I don’t believe in an afterlife, so I don’t have to spend my whole life fearing hell, or fearing heaven even more. For whatever the tortures of hell, I think the boredom of heaven would be even worse”

(Isaac Asimov – scientist, author, atheist)

OR...



*“You make known to me the path of life; **in Your presence there is fullness of joy**; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore” (Ps 16:11)*



Our agenda for this morning:

1. Examine a “key principle” that will help us understand joy in heaven
2. Note the difference between the world’s joy and Biblical joy
3. Visit heaven (through the text!) 😊



1 John 1:3-4

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us.

And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

We write this to make **your joy complete.**

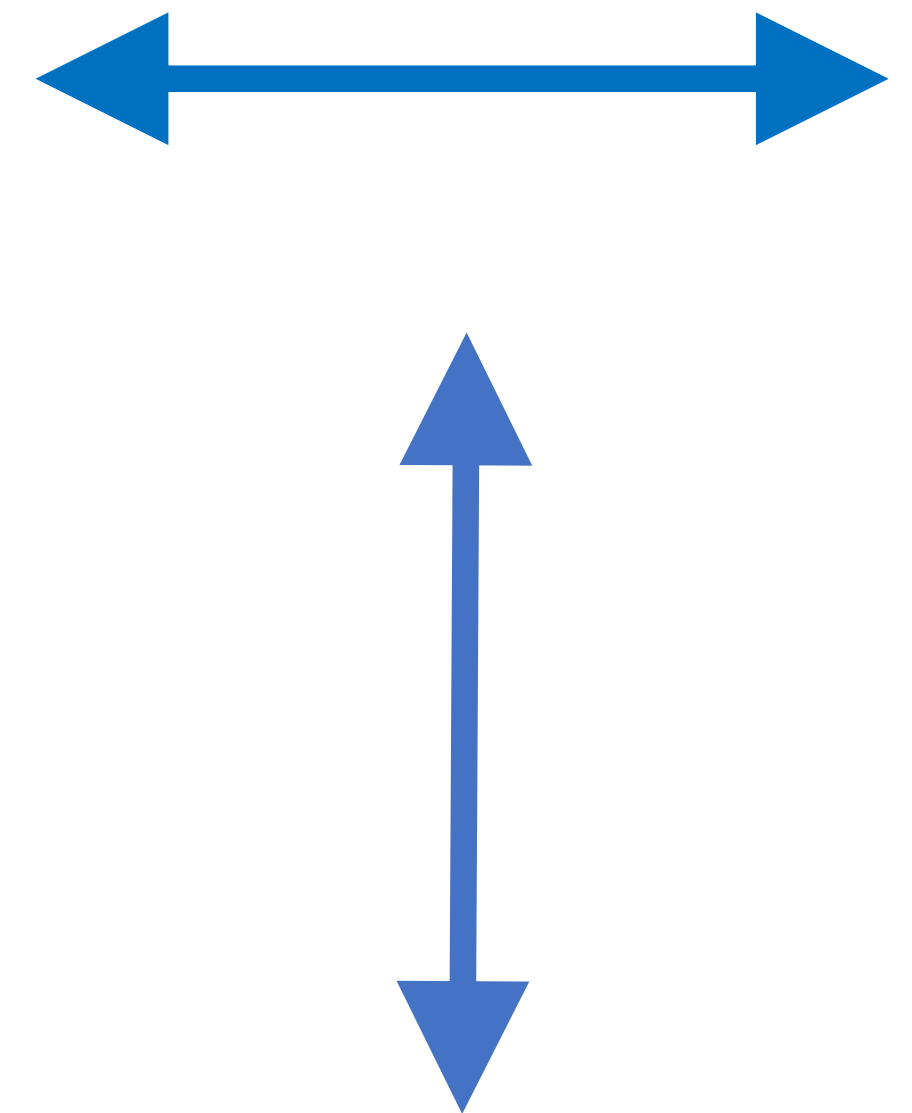


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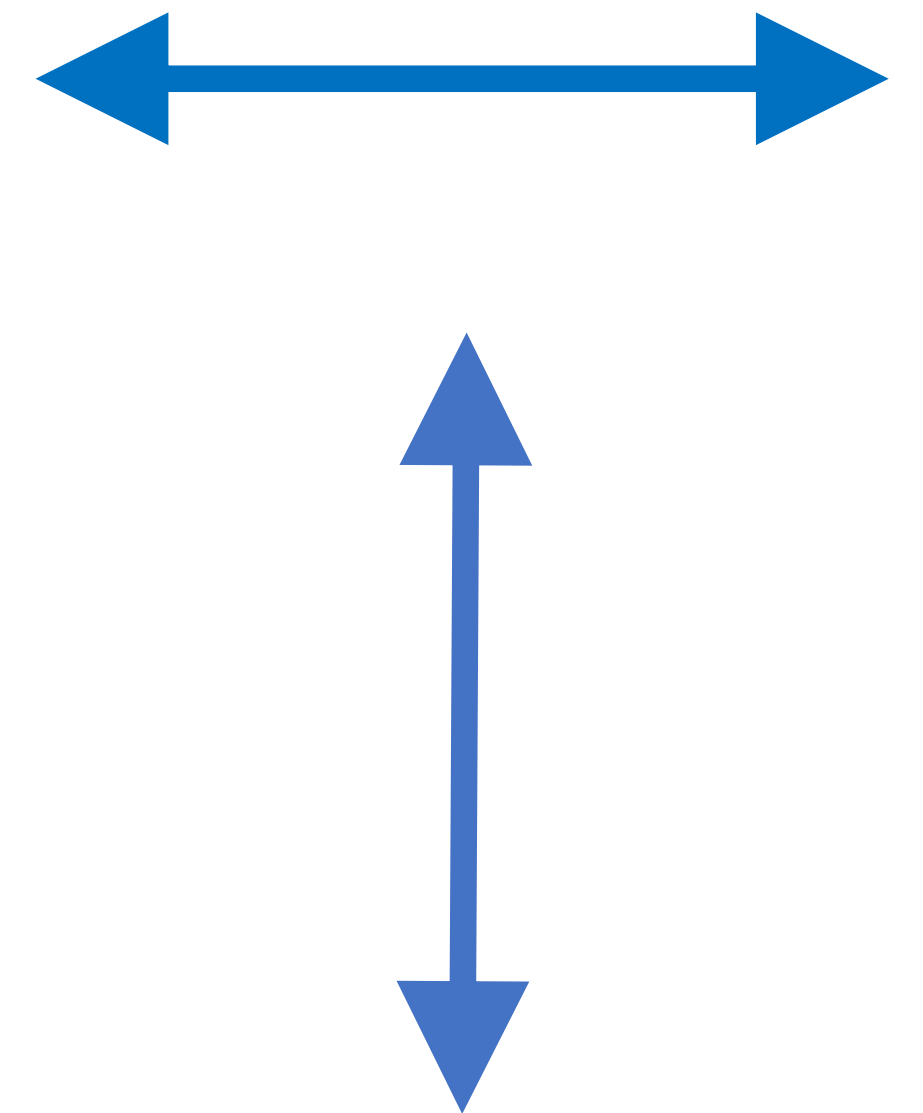
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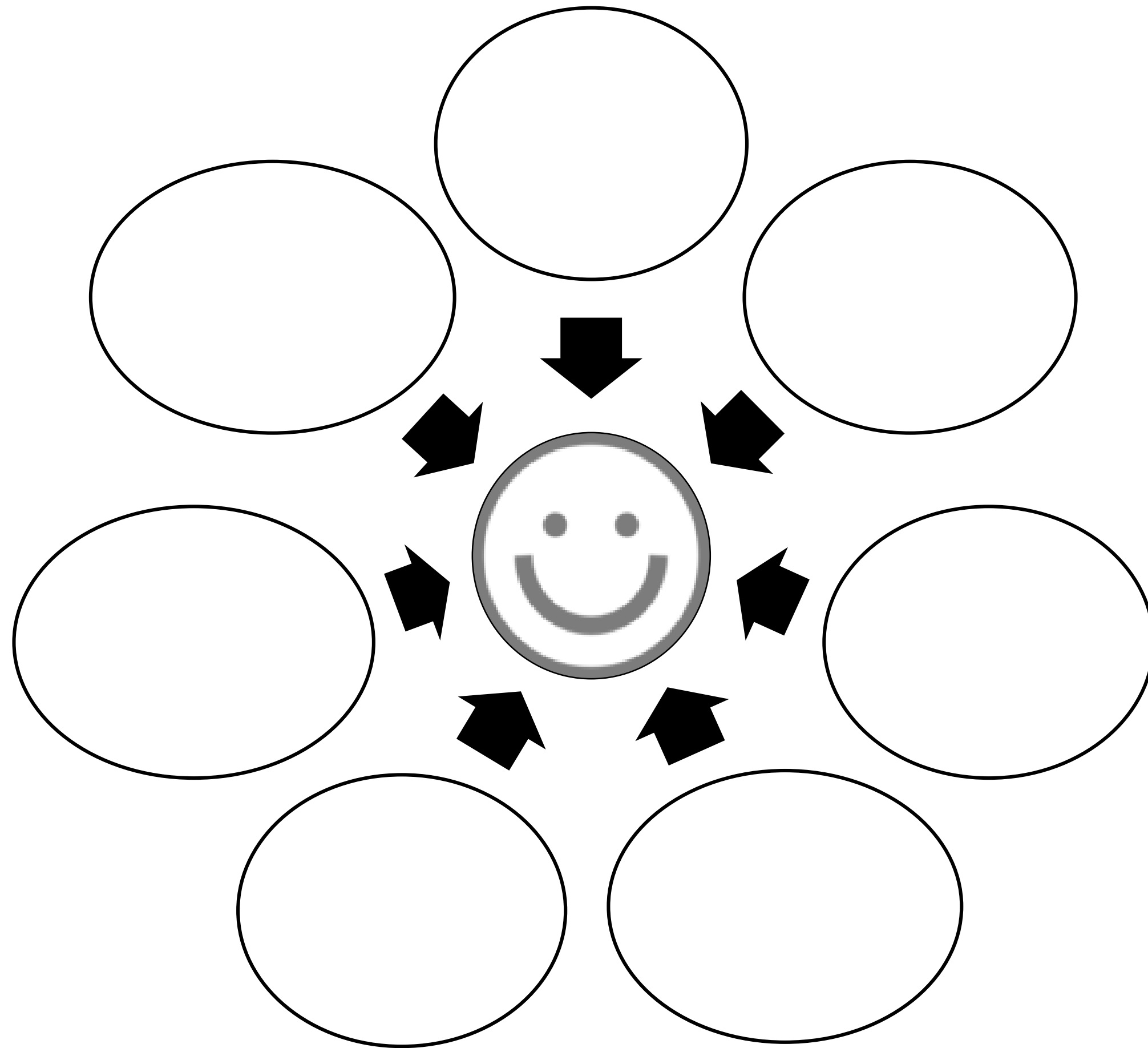


Key Principle

Our experience of joy is determined by the condition of our relationships



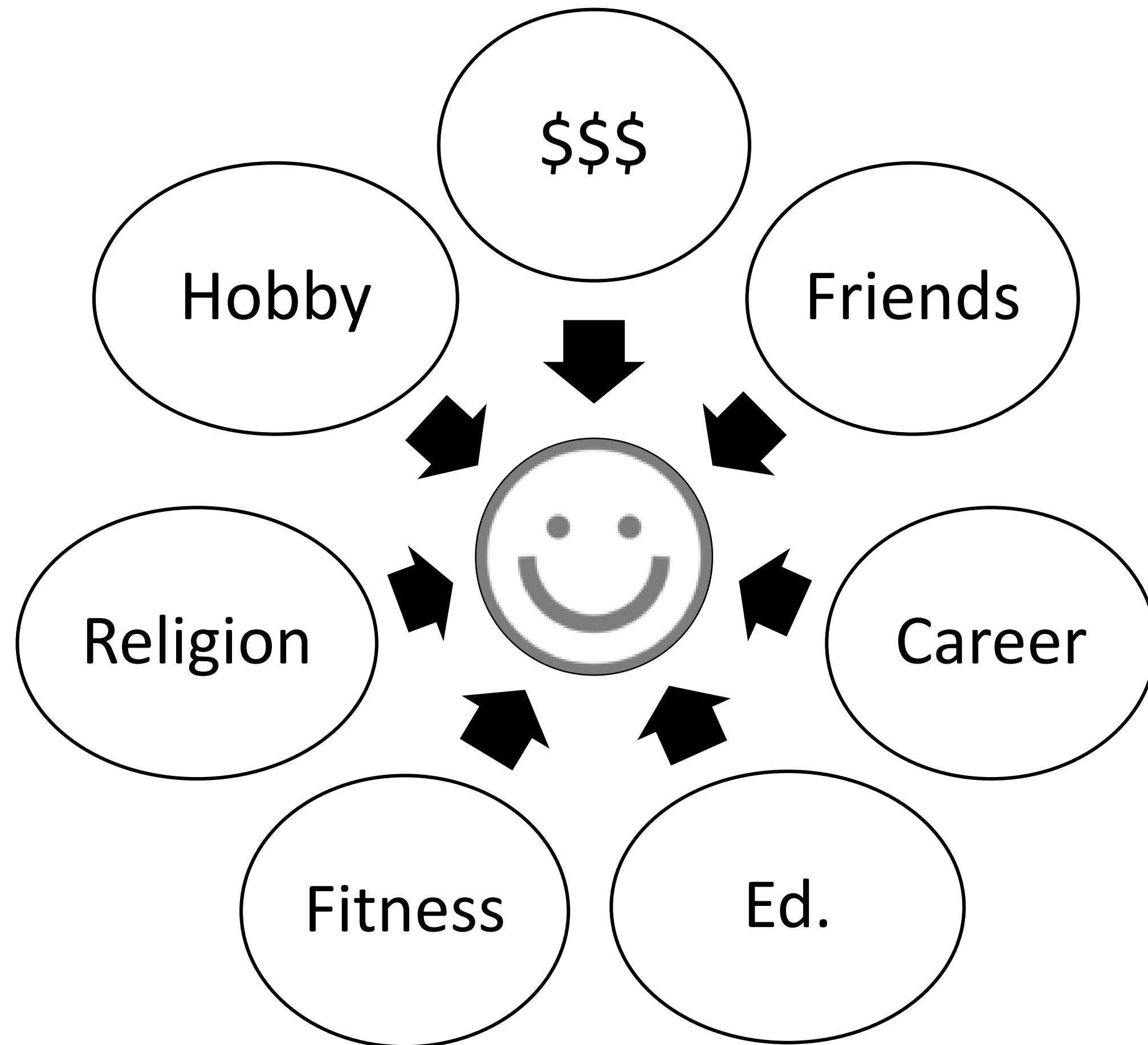
**World's view (counterfeit joy)....
as a "PURSUIT"**



Karl Marx:

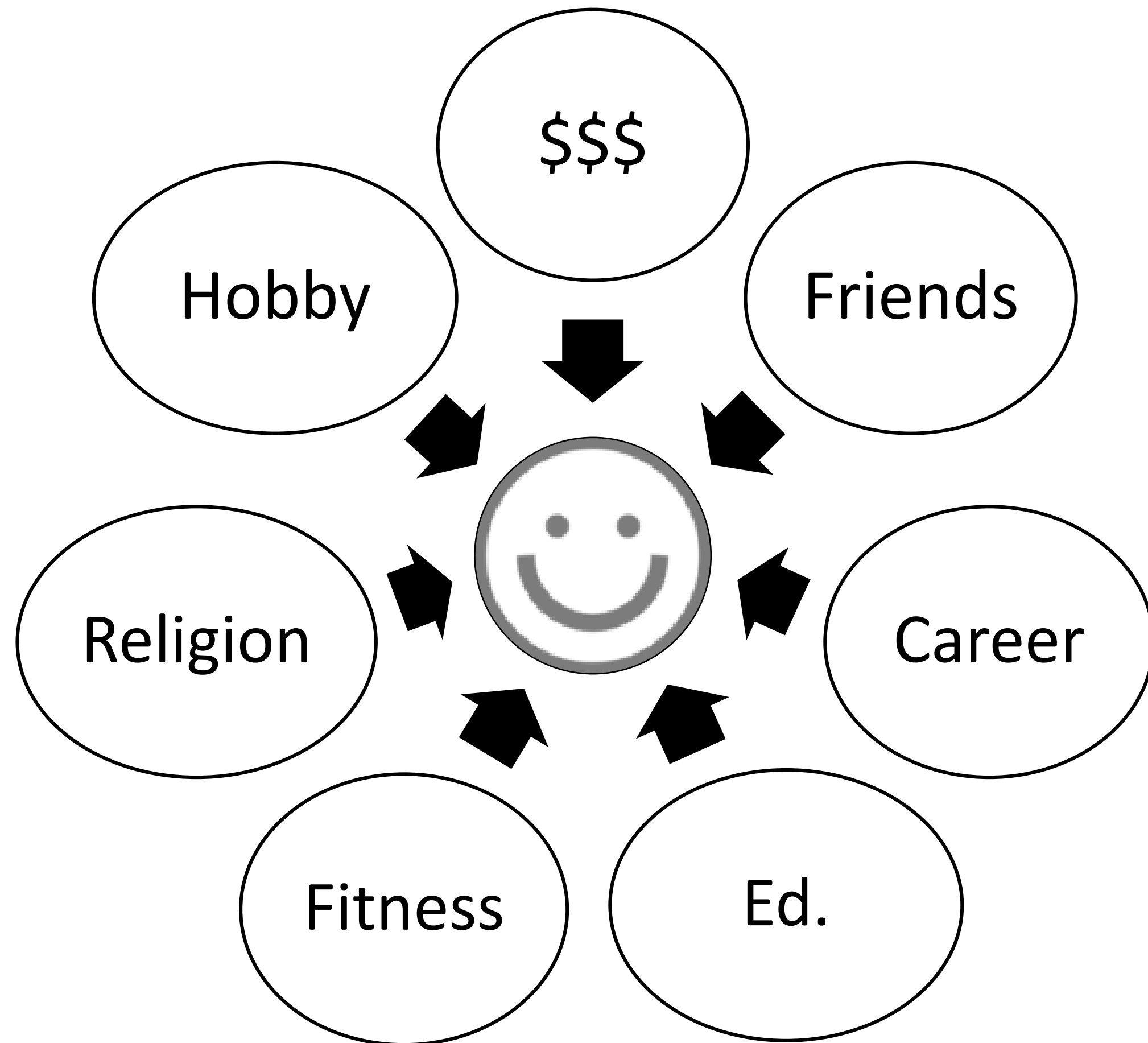
*"The first requisite for
people's happiness is the
abolition of religion"*

**World's view (counterfeit)....
Joy as a "PURSUIT"**

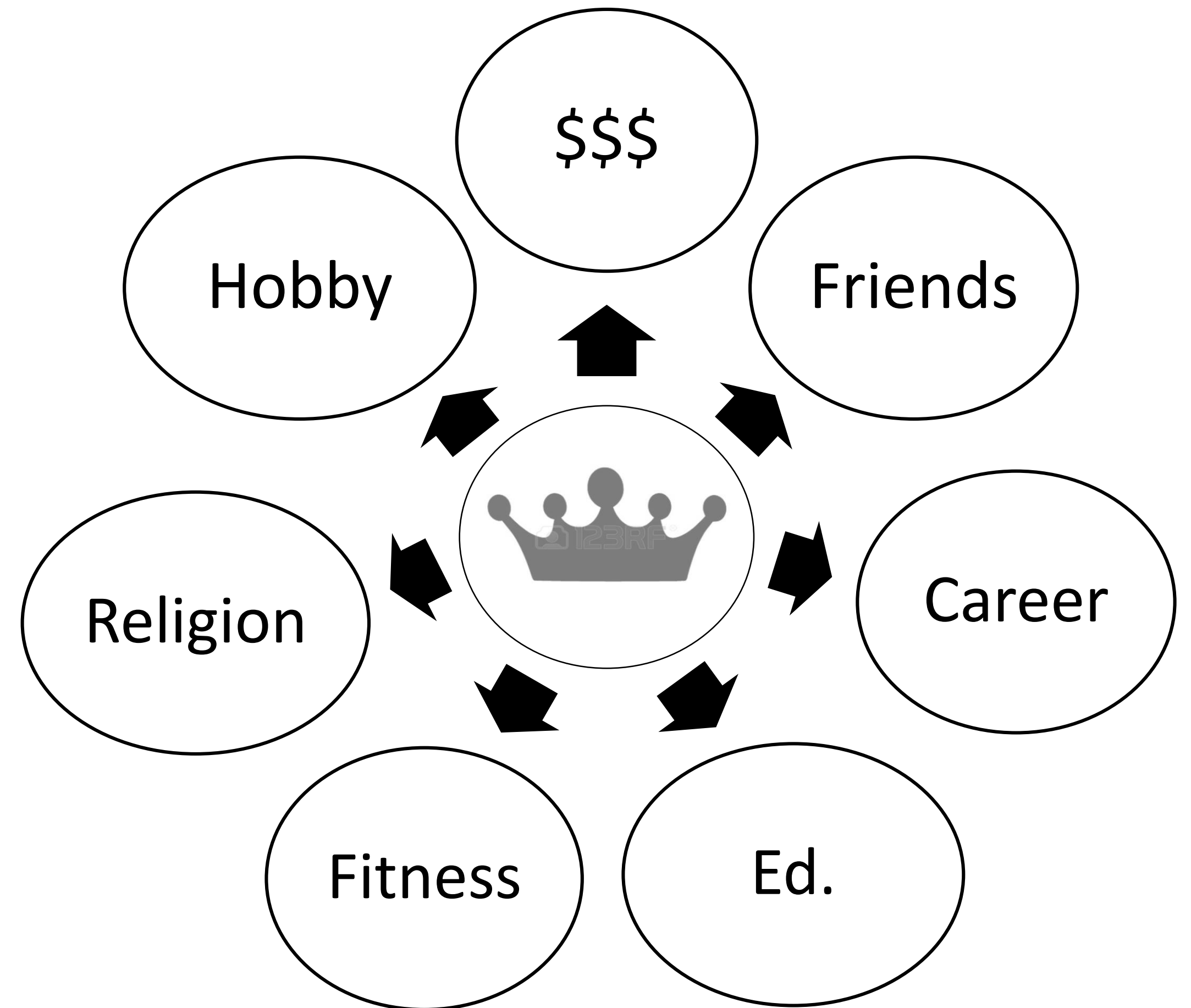


Following this logic, the more I have or achieve... the happier I'll be

**World's view (counterfeit)....
Joy as a "PURSUIT"**



**Biblical view (true)....
Joy as a "FRUIT"**



All I once held dear, built my life upon
All this world reveres, and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss
Spent and worthless now, compared to this

Knowing you, Jesus
Knowing you, there is no greater thing
You're my all, you're the best
You're my joy, my righteousness
And I love you, Lord

(Graham Kendrick)



Revelation 19



Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

Jude 24 - To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with **great joy**

Revelation 21



1 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

Revelation 21



3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

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Revelation 22



1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 22



3 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22



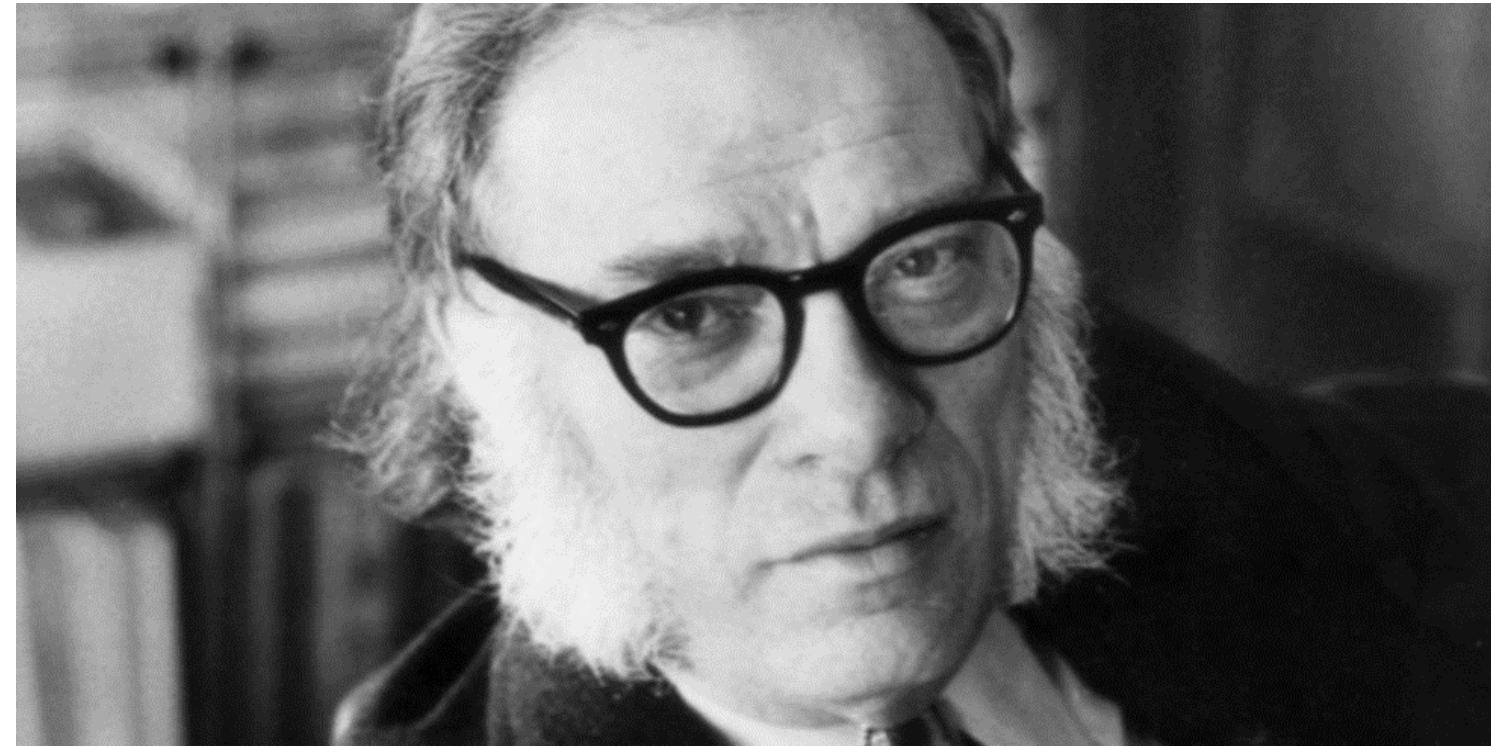
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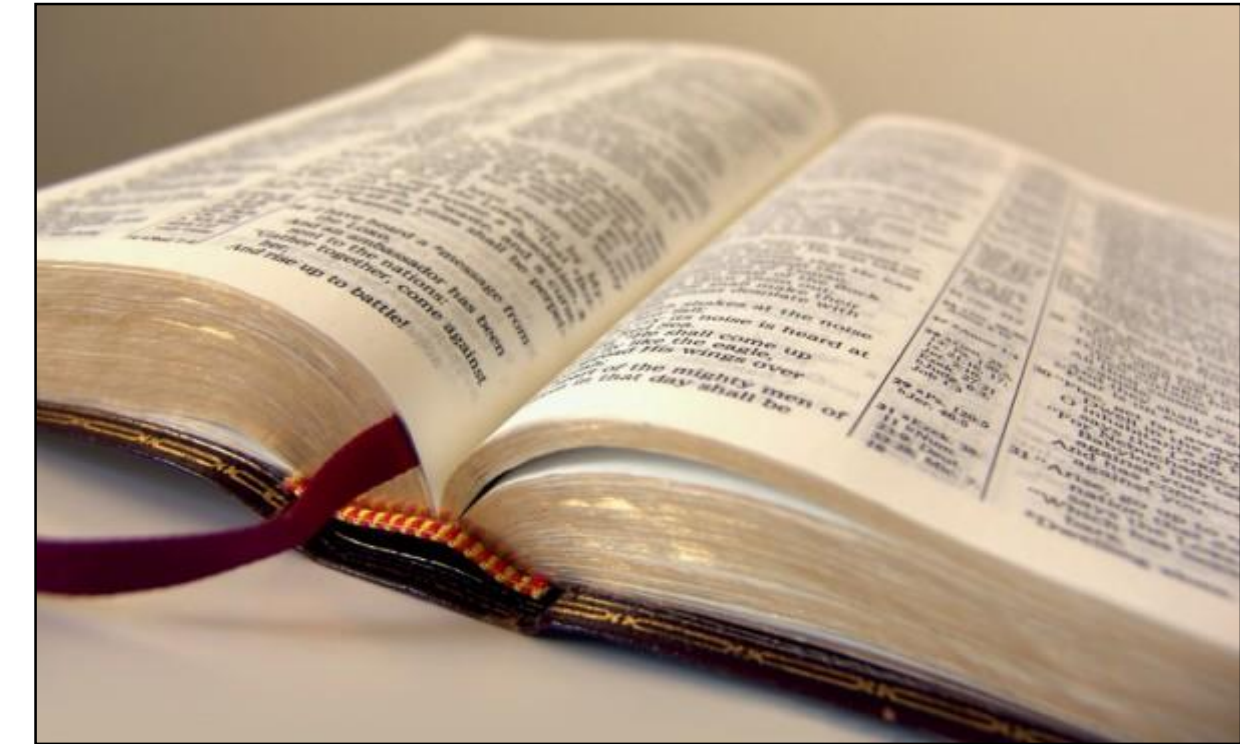
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