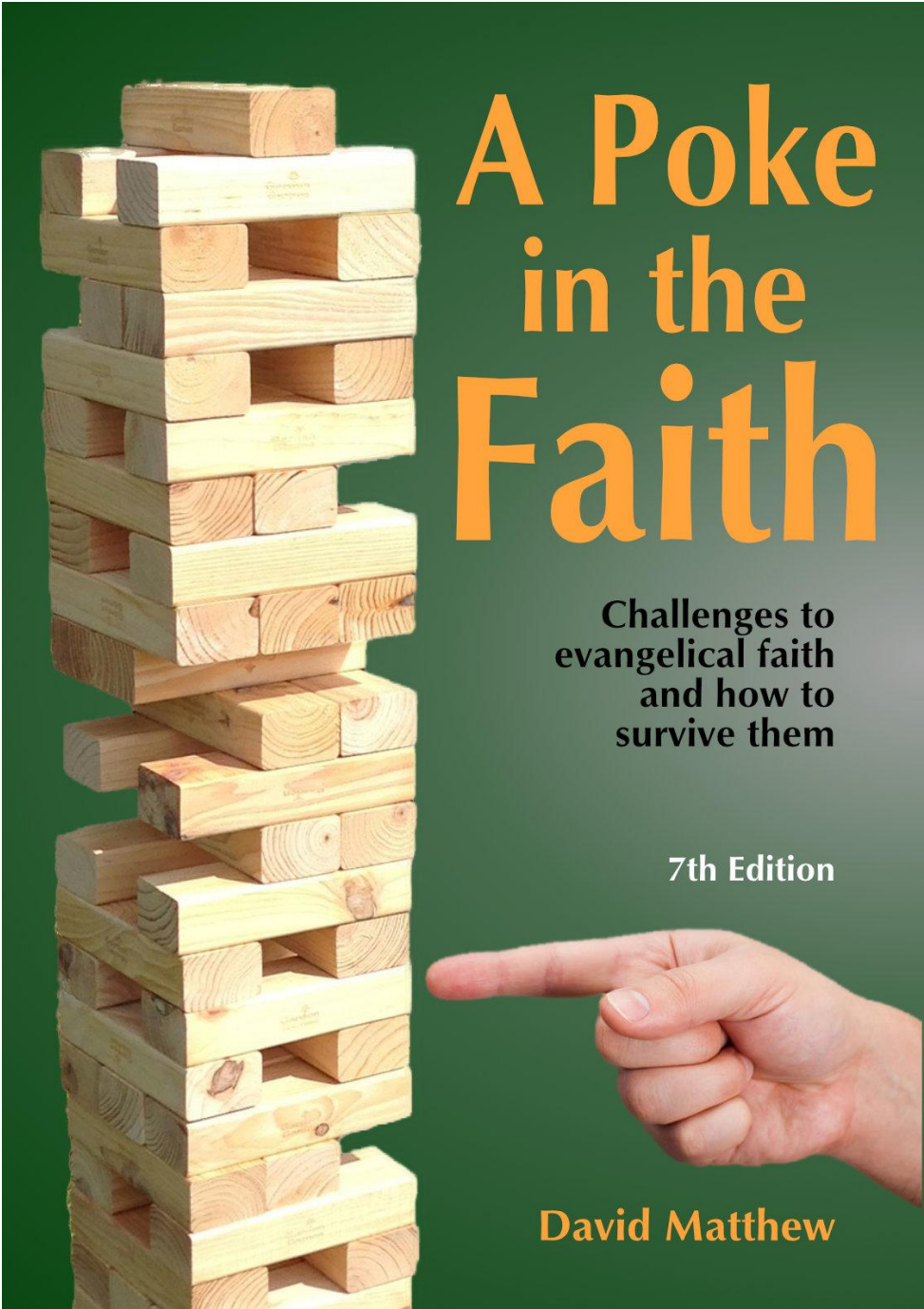




A Poke in the Faith

Challenges to
evangelical faith
and how to
survive them

7th Edition

David Matthew

PDF companion to the Audiobook

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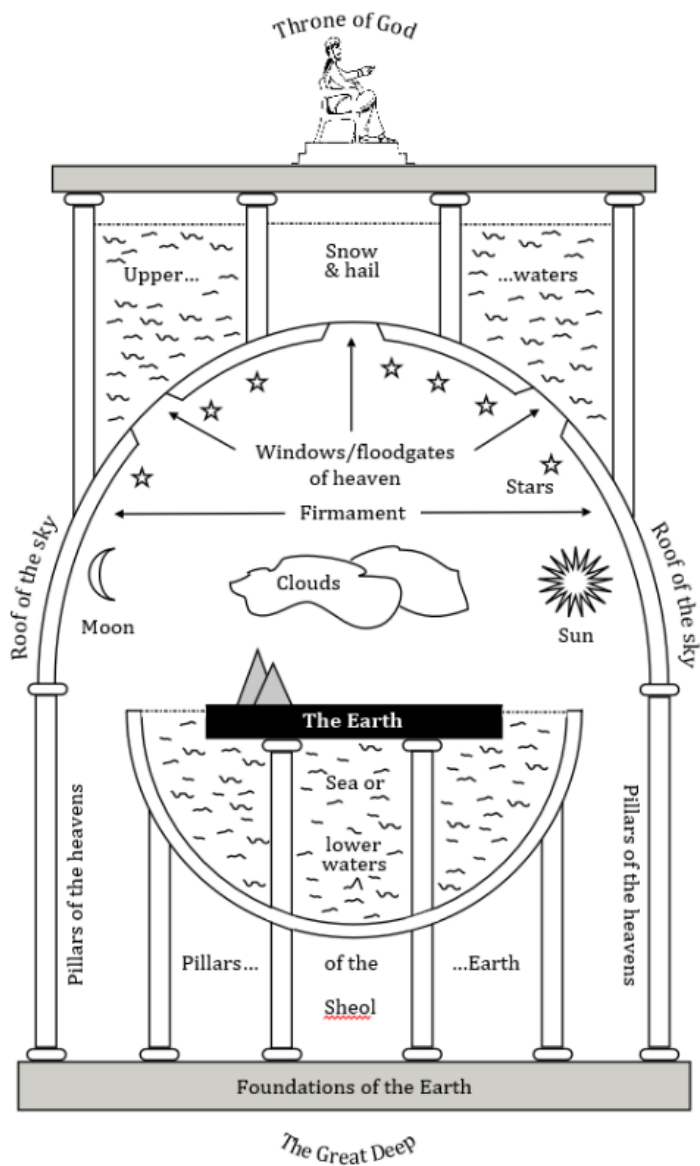
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27 - Tools for Digging Deeper

That's it. But below, I suggest some books that provide further detail on the issues we have considered. Most have been written by prominent and respected evangelical block-pokers. Use the list to dig further into the topics that interest you. For your convenience, I have grouped them in categories, but bear in mind that these are loose categories, and many of the books cover issues in several of them.

Your book-budget might not be large, so consider using an e-reader like the Kindle or the associated apps; e-books are usually cheaper than their paper equivalents, and you can have them on your device within minutes.

Maybe you're not a great reader and one book will be your limit. In that case I encourage you to read the first one, by Greg Boyd.

On the value of a degree of uncertainty

- *Benefit of the Doubt: Breaking the Idol of Certainty* by Gregory A. Boyd (Baker Books, 2013)
- *The Sin of Certainty: Why God Desires our Trust more than our 'Correct' Beliefs* by Peter Enns (HarperOne, 2016)

The Bible: interpreting and understanding it

- *How the Bible Actually Works: in which I explain how an Ancient, Ambiguous, and Diverse Book leads us to Wisdom rather than Answers—and why that's Great News* by Peter Enns (Hodder & Stoughton, 2019)
- *The Badly Behaved Bible: Thinking again about the Story of Scripture* by Nick Page (Hodder & Stoughton, 2019)
- *A More Christlike Word: Reading Scripture the Emmaus Way* by Bradley Jersak (Whitaker House, 2021)
- *The Blue Parakeet: Rethinking How You Read the Bible* by Scot McKnight (Zondervan, 2008)
- *Inspiration and Incarnation: Evangelicals and the Problem of the Old Testament* by Peter Enns (Baker Academic, 2005)

- *The Bible Made Impossible: Why Biblicism is not a Truly Evangelical Reading of Scripture* by Christian Smith (Brazos Press, 2nd edition, 2012)
- *The Bible Tells Me So: Why Defending Scripture Has Made Us Unable To Read It* by Peter Enns (Harper One, 2014)
- *Five Views On Biblical Inerrancy* by J. Merrick & S.M. Garrett, eds. (Zondervan, Counterpoints series, 2013)
- *The Divine Spiration of Scripture: Challenging Evangelical Perspectives* by A.T.B. McGowan (Apollos, 2007)
- *Reading Backwards: Figural Christology and the Fourfold Gospel Witness* by Richard B. Hays (Baylor University Press, 2014)
- *Four Views on Moving Beyond the Bible to Theology* by G.T. Meadors, ed. (Zondervan: Counterpoints series, 2009)
- *Beyond the Bible: Moving from Scripture to Theology* by I. Howard Marshall (Paternoster, 2004)
- *Surprised by Scripture: Engaging with Contemporary Issues* by N.T. Wright (SPCK, 2014)
- *Discovering Biblical Equality: Complementarity without Hierarchy* by R.W. Pierce and R.M. Groothuis, eds., (IVP/Apollos, 2005)

Hermeneutics and Sexuality

- *God and the Gay Christian: The Biblical Case in Support of Same-sex Relationships* by Matthew Vines (Convergent Books, 2014)
- *The Widening of God's Mercy: Sexuality within the Biblical Story* by Christopher B. Hays & Richard B. Hays (Yale University Press, 2024)
- *Homosexuality and the Bible: Two Views* by D.O. Via and A.J. Gagnon (Fortress Press, 2003)

The nature of God

- *God of the Possible: A Biblical Introduction to the Open View of God* by Gregory A. Boyd (Baker Books, 2000)
- *The Uncontrolling Love of God: An Open and Relational Account of Providence* by Thomas Jay Oord (IVP Academic, 2015)

- *God Can't: How to Believe in God and Love after Tragedy, Abuse and Other Evils* by Thomas Jay Oord (SacraSage, 2019)
- *God Can't Q&A* by Thomas Jay Oord (SacraSage, 2020)
- *Divine Echoes: Reconciling Prayer with the Uncontrolling Love of God* by Mark Gregory Karris (Quoir, 2018)
- *The Jesus Driven Life: Reconnecting Humanity with Jesus* by Michael Hardin [2nd edition] (JDL Press, 2013)
- *Cross Vision: How the Crucifixion of Jesus makes sense of Old Testament Violence* by Gregory A. Boyd (Fortress Press, 2017)
- *A More Christlike God: A more Beautiful Gospel* by Bradley Jersak (Plain Truth Ministries, 2015)
- *Disarming Scripture: Cherry-Picking Liberals, Violence-Loving Conservatives, and Why we All need to Learn to Read the Bible like Jesus Did* by Derek Flood (Metanoia Books, 2014)
- *A Farewell to Mars: An Evangelical Pastor's Journey Toward the Biblical Gospel of Peace* by Brian Zahnd (David C. Cook, 2014)
- *Reading the Bible with René Girard* by Michael Hardin, ed. (JDL Press, 2015)

Genesis, creation and human origins

- *Creationism and the Conflict over Evolution* by Tatha Wiley (Cascade Books, 2009)
- *The Lost World of Genesis One: Ancient Cosmology and the Origins Debate* by John H. Walton (IVP Academic, 2009)
- *The Lost World of Adam and Eve: Genesis 2-3 and the Human Origins Debate* by John H. Walton (IVP Academic, 2015)
- *The Evolution of Adam: What the Bible Does and Doesn't Say About Human Origins* by Peter Enns (Brazos Press, 2012)
- *Creation or Evolution: Do we Have to Choose?* by Denis Alexander (Monarch, 2008)
- *The Selfless Gene: Living with God and Darwin* by Charles Foster (Hodder & Stoughton, 2009)

- *Genesis for Normal People* by Peter Enns & Jared Byas, 2nd Edition (The Bible For Normal People, 2019)
- *The Sacred Chain: How understanding Evolution lead to Deeper Faith* by Jim Stump (HarperOne, 2024)
- Much helpful material on this subject is available online at <https://biologos.org>

Jesus, the Gospels, the gospel and the kingdom of God

- *How God Became King: The Forgotten Story of the Gospels* by N.T. Wright (Harper One, 2012)
- *Simply Good News: Why the Gospel is News and What Makes it Good* by N.T. Wright (SPCK, 2015)
- *The King Jesus Gospel: The original Good News Revisited* by Scot McKnight (Zondervan, 2011)
- *The Day the Revolution Began: Rethinking the Meaning of Jesus' Crucifixion* by N.T. Wright (SPCK, 2016)
- *Salvation by Allegiance Alone: Rethinking Faith, Works and the Gospel of Jesus the King* by Matthew W. Bates (Baker Academic, 2017)

Eschatology: heaven, hell and future hope

- *Surprised by Hope* by N.T. Wright (SPCK, 2007)
- *Her Gates Shall Never Be Shut: Hell, Hope and the New Jerusalem* by Bradley Jersak (Wipf & Stock, 2009)
- *The Fire That Consumes: A Biblical and Historical Study of the Doctrine of Final Punishment* by Edward W. Fudge [3rd edition] (Cascade Books, 2011)
- *A New Heaven and a New Earth: Reclaiming Biblical Eschatology* by J. Richard Middleton (Baker Academic, 2014)
- *The Evangelical Universalist* by Gregory MacDonald (SPCK, 2006)
- *That All Shall Be Saved: Heaven, Hell and Universal Salvation* by David Bentley Hart (Yale University Press, 2019)
- *No Other Name: An Investigation into the Destiny of the Unevangelized* by John Sanders (Eerdmans, 1992)

- *Raising Hell: Christianity's Most Controversial Doctrine Put under Fire* by Julie Ferwerda (Vagabond Group, 2014)
- *Satan and the Problem of Evil* by Gregory A. Boyd (IVP Academic, 2001)
- *Deconstructing Hell: Open and Relational Responses to the Doctrine of Eternal Conscious Torment* by Chad Bahl, ed. (SacraSage, 2023)

Human nature and atonement theories

- *Original Blessing: Putting Sin in its Rightful Place* by Danielle Shroyer (Fortress Press, 2016)
- *Christus Victor* by Gustaf Aulén (Collier Books, 1969)
- *Did God Kill Jesus?: Searching for Love in History's most Famous Execution* by Tony Jones (HarperOne, 2015)
- *Sinners in the Hands of a Loving God* by Brian Zahnd (WaterBrook, 2017)
- *Saints in the Arms of a Happy God: Recovering the Image of God and Man* by Jeff Turner (Sound of Awakening Ministries, 2014)

Calvinism: for and against (mostly against)

- *Young, Restless, No Longer Reformed: Black Holes, Love and a Journey In and Out of Calvinism* by Austin Fischer (Cascade Books, 2014)
- *Arminian Theology: Myths and Realities* by Roger E. Olson (IVP Academic, 2006)
- *For Calvinism* by Michael S. Horton (Zondervan, 2011) and *Against Calvinism* by Robert E. Olson (Zondervan, 2011)

Paul and justification

- *Paul: Fresh Perspectives* by N.T. Wright (SPCK, 2005)
- *Justification: God's Plan and Paul's Vision* by N.T. Wright (SPCK, 2009)
- *The Lost Message of Paul: Has the Church misunderstood the Apostle Paul?* by Steve Chalke (SPCK, 2019)

Trinitarian theology

- *The Shack: Where Tragedy Confronts Eternity* by William P. Young (Hodder & Stoughton, 2007)
- *The Shack Revisited* by C. Baxter Kruger (Hodder & Stoughton, 2012)

The more radical end of the spectrum

- *The Meaning of Jesus: Two Visions* by Marcus J. Borg and N.T. Wright (HarperCollins e-books, 1999)
- *How To Be a Bad Christian: And a Better Human Being* by Dave Tomlinson (Hodder & Stoughton, 2012)
- *A New Kind of Christianity: Ten Questions that are Transforming the Faith* by Brian D. McLaren (Hodder & Stoughton, 2010)

Help with deconstructing and reconstructing your faith

- *Religious Refugees: (De)constructing Toward Spiritual and Emotional Healing* by Mark Gregory Karris (Quoir, 2020)

More from David Matthew can be found at
www.davidmatthew.org.uk
and you can email him from there.