

"This will become a classic."—ANNE RICE, author of *Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt*

# SIMPLY CHRISTIAN

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Why Christianity Makes Sense

N. T. WRIGHT

# Simply Christian

14 October 2012

[simplychristian.eklund.io](http://simplychristian.eklund.io)

# Before we get started

- Please try to arrive on time. I promise to end on time.
- I encourage you to read the book. Besides being really well-written interesting book, it will make the class much better.
- Discussion invited/encouraged
- [simplychristian.eklund.io](http://simplychristian.eklund.io)
  - Links
  - Discussion areas
- Email—if you want email from me with notes, etc. put your name on the list

# Three Parts

1. Part 1 explores the “echoes of a voice.” Think of it as an overture. We will cover part one today.
2. Part 2 covers the central Christian belief about God. (Weeks 2-4).
3. Part 3 describes what Wright believes it looks like in practice to follow Jesus, especially how his followers are to advance the God’s plan. (week 5-7).

# Echoes of a Voice: Justice

1. It really is a dream. Live is not fair and we had just better get used to it.
2. It is a dream of a different world, a world where we really belong. This is world that is unrelated to this world, a dream of a future utopia.
3. Maybe there is something really speaking to us, someone whispering in our ears that cares about this world and our present selves.

# Echoes of a Voice: Spirituality

- The Holy Ghost Explosion:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XSCuY7jyoTs>
- The Toronto Blessing:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCeVZ6e2T0E>
- Benny Hinn (about 1:30):  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sthm3vH6ixY>

# Spirituality books

- Amazon search on “spirituality” yields:

Books › ["spirituality"](#)

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Related Searches: [spiritual books](#).

Showing 1 - 12 of 174,298 Results

## Format

**Paperback**  
(106,255)

**Hardcover**  
(31,036)

**Kindle Edition**  
(13,016)

**Audible Audio Edition**  
(4,154)

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# Number 7 on the list

7.



## Spirituality Simplified by Jeff Maziarek (Nov 19, 2003)

★★★★★  (32 customer reviews)

### Formats

#### Paperback

Order in the next **25 hours** to get it by **Monday, Oct 15.**

Only 11 left in stock - order soon.

Eligible for **FREE** Super Saver Shipping.

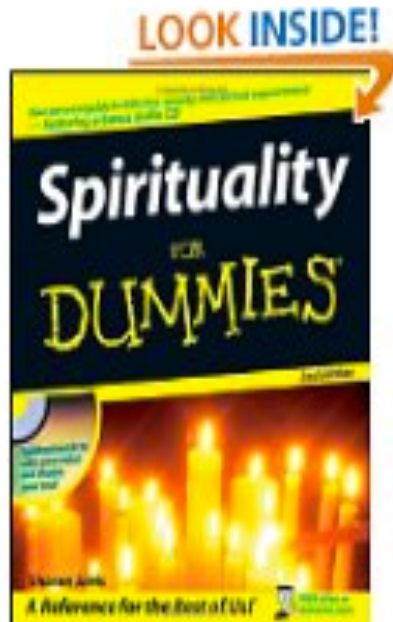
**\$1**

#### Kindle Edition

**\$**

# Number 9 on the List

9.



## Spirituality For Dummies by Sharon Janis (

★★★★☆  (12 customer reviews)

### Formats

#### Paperback

Order in the next **23 hours** to get it by **Monday, Oct 15**.

**Only 3 left in stock - order soon.**

Eligible for **FREE** Super Saver Shipping.

#### Kindle Edition

Auto-delivered wirelessly

**Excerpt - Front Cover:** "... Spirituality for DUMMIES :

Sell this back for an Amazon.com Gift Card



# Number 19 on the List

19.



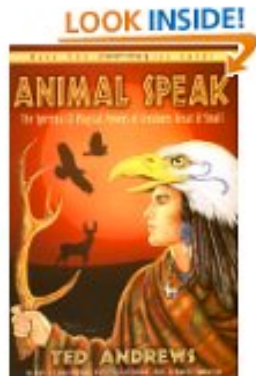
**Mother Earth Spirituality: Native American Paths to Healing Ourselves and Our World (Religion and Spirituality)** by Ed McGaa and Marie N. Buchfink  
(May 10, 1990)

★★★★★  (32 customer reviews)

Formats	Price	New	Used	Collectible
<b>Paperback</b>				
Order in the next <b>29 hours</b> to get it by <b>Monday, Oct 15</b> . Eligible for <b>FREE</b> Super Saver Shipping.	<del>\$17.99</del> <b>\$12.10</b>	\$8.50	\$0.61	\$10.97
<b>Kindle Edition</b>				
Auto-delivered wirelessly	<b>\$9.78</b>			

# Number 63

63.



## Animal-Speak: The Spiritual & Magical Powers of Creatures Great & Small by Ted Andrews

★★★★★  (166 customer reviews)

### Formats

#### Paperback

Order in the next **29 hours** to get it by **Monday, Oct 15**.  
Eligible for **FREE** Super Saver Shipping.

### Price

~~\$21.95~~ **\$13.54**

### New

**\$12.99**

### Used

**\$6.99**

#### Kindle Edition

Auto-delivered wirelessly

**\$9.44**

**Excerpt - Front Matter:** "... destroyed the mysticism and spirituality surrounding it. It has burst ..." [See a random page](#)

# Echoes of a Voice: Relationship

- “It seems that we humans were designed to find our purpose and meaning not simply in ourselves and our own inner lives, but in one another and in the shared meanings and purposes of a family, a street, a workplace, a community, a town, a nation.”

# Echoes of a Voice: Beauty



# Beauty

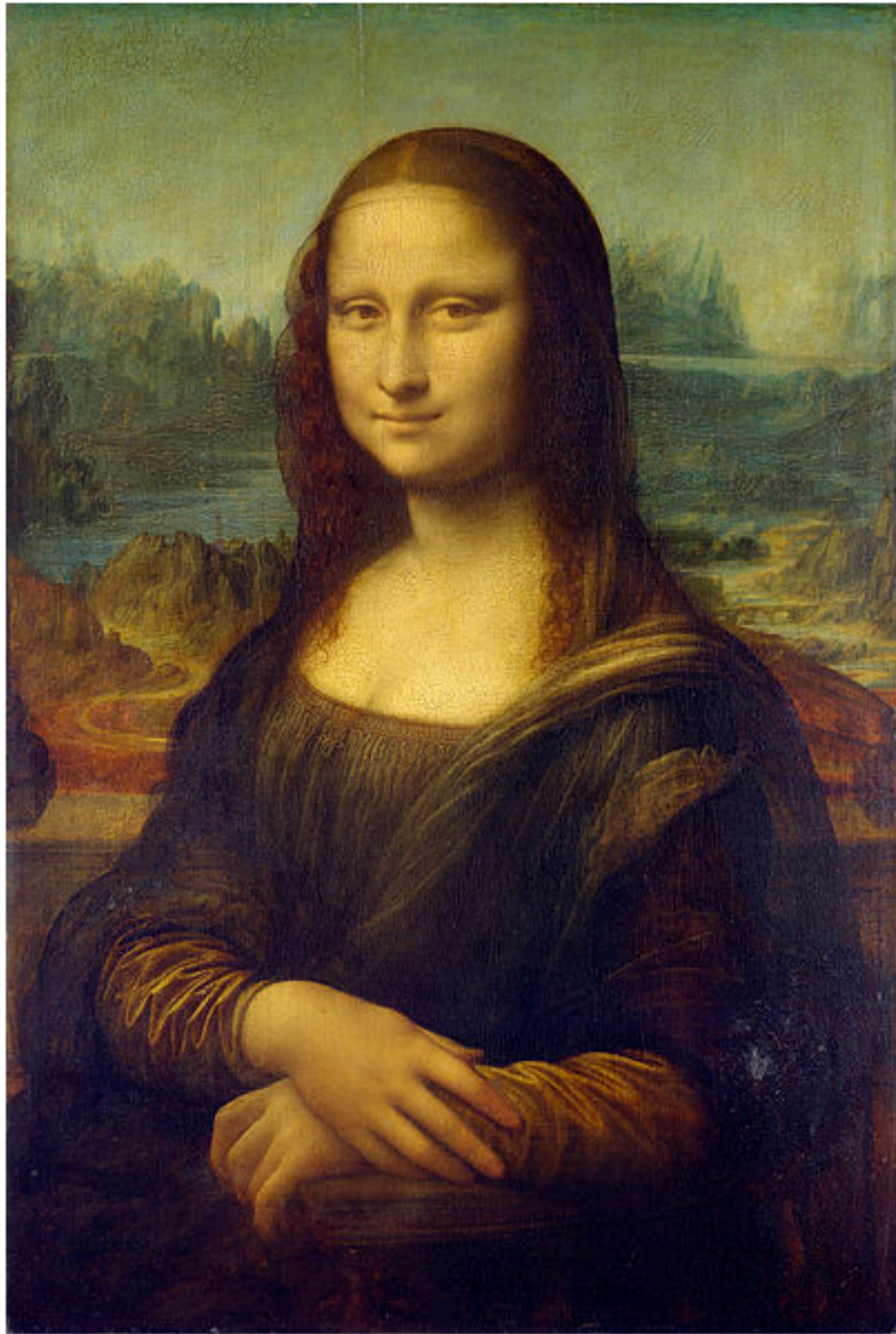
Rembrandt's *Prodigal Son*



*The Prodigal Son*  
c. 1669  
oil on canvas, 262 x 205 cm.

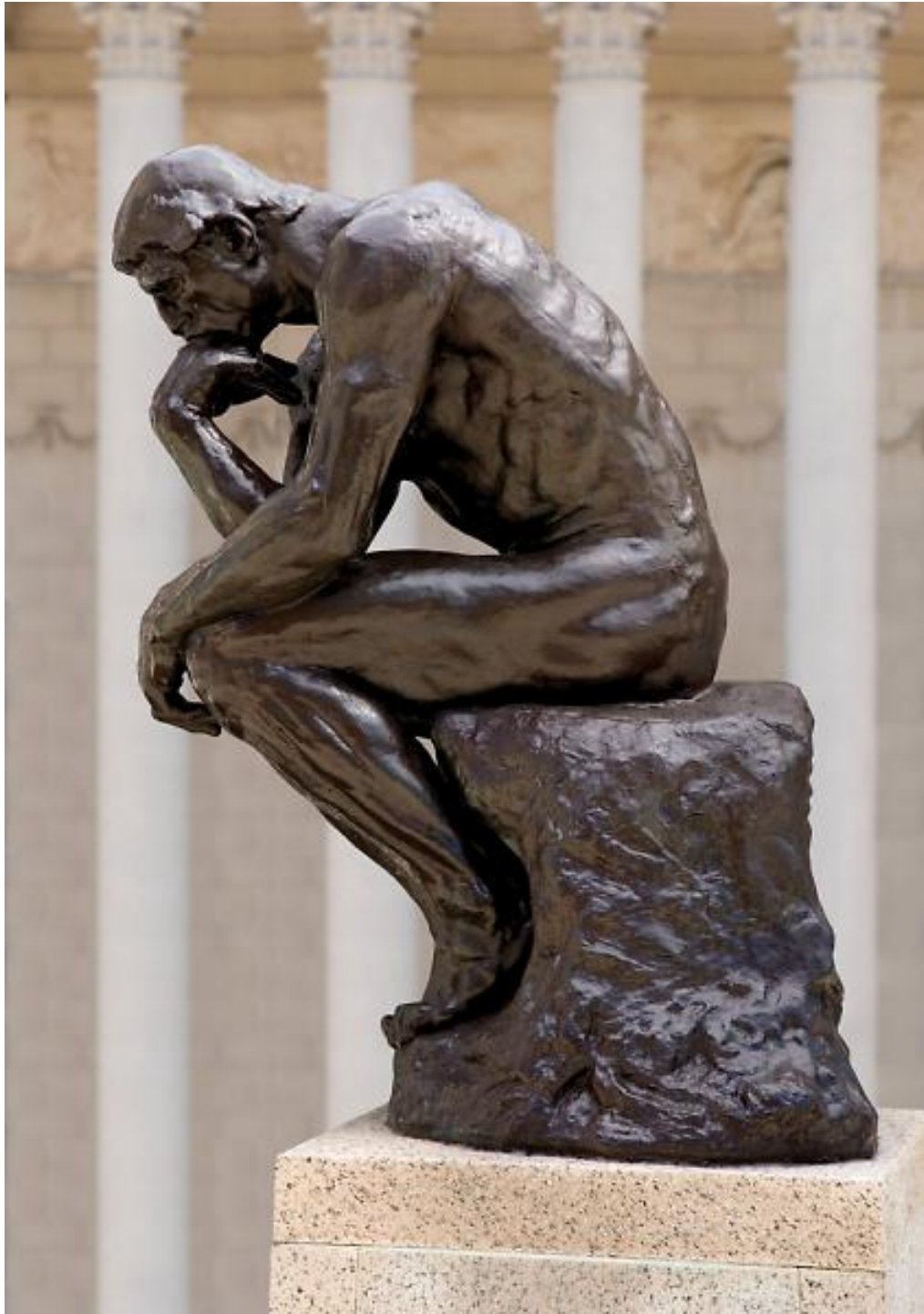
[http://www.rembrandtpainting.net/prodigal\\_son\\_large.html](http://www.rembrandtpainting.net/prodigal_son_large.html)





Picasso:





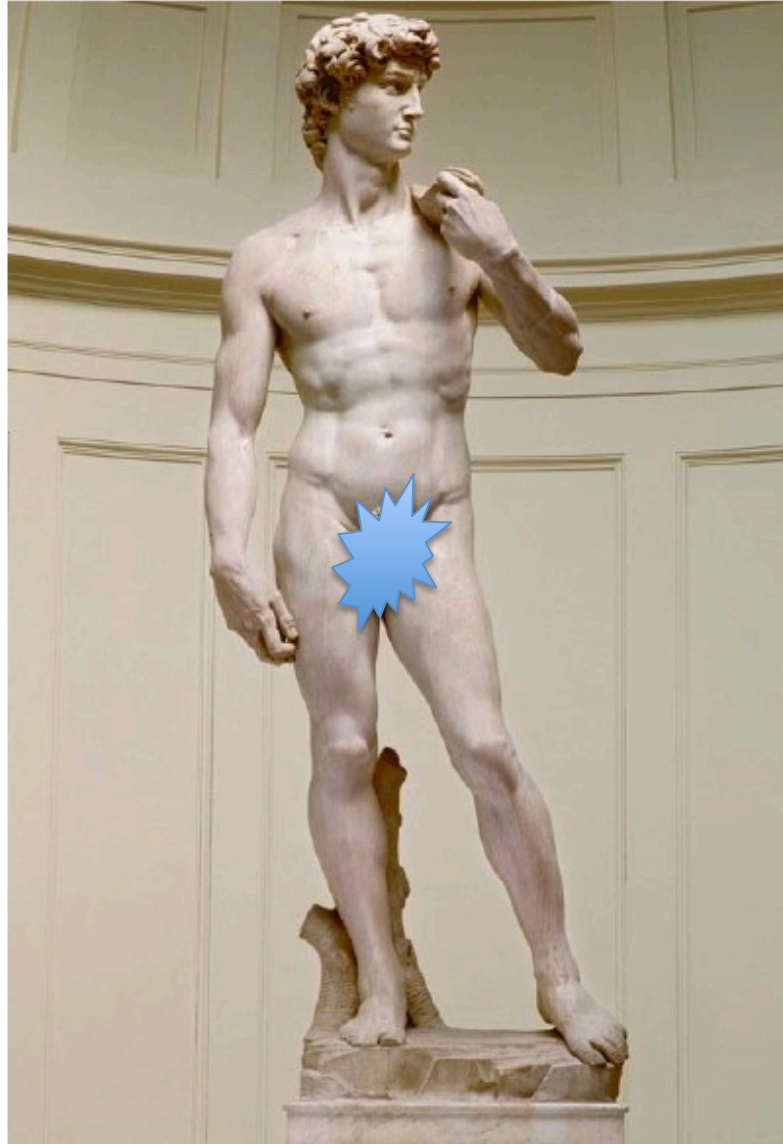


Jean Arp



# Music

- Handel: Hallelujah Chorus
- Coltrane and Monk: Epistrophy
- U2: Vertigo
- Flatt and Scruggs: Let the Church Roll on (1:25)
- Phish: Big Black Furry Creature from Mars













# Next week

- Read
  - Chapter 5: God (16 pages)
  - Chapter 6: Israel (20 pages)
  - I'll post some notes I took while reading the book on the BLOG ([simplychristian.eklund.io](http://simplychristian.eklund.io))
- Listen to you inner self for the echoes that we talked about. Bring an example to class.