
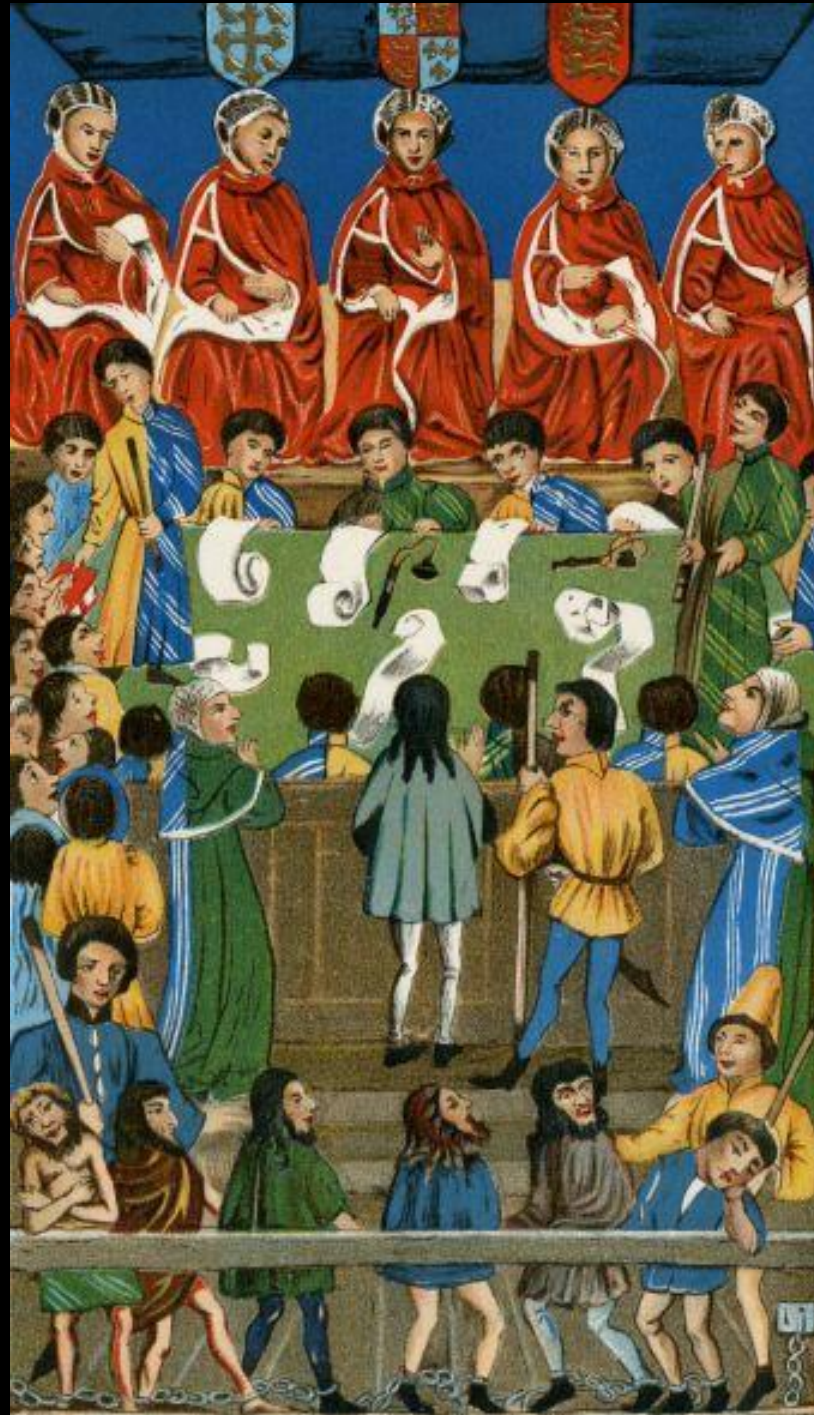


WEIGHT OF THE WORLD

A graphic of the Earth, showing the Americas, is positioned in the center. Below the Earth, a small, dark silhouette of a person is shown in a crouched position, with their arms raised and hands supporting the bottom of the Earth. The person appears to be struggling under the weight of the globe.

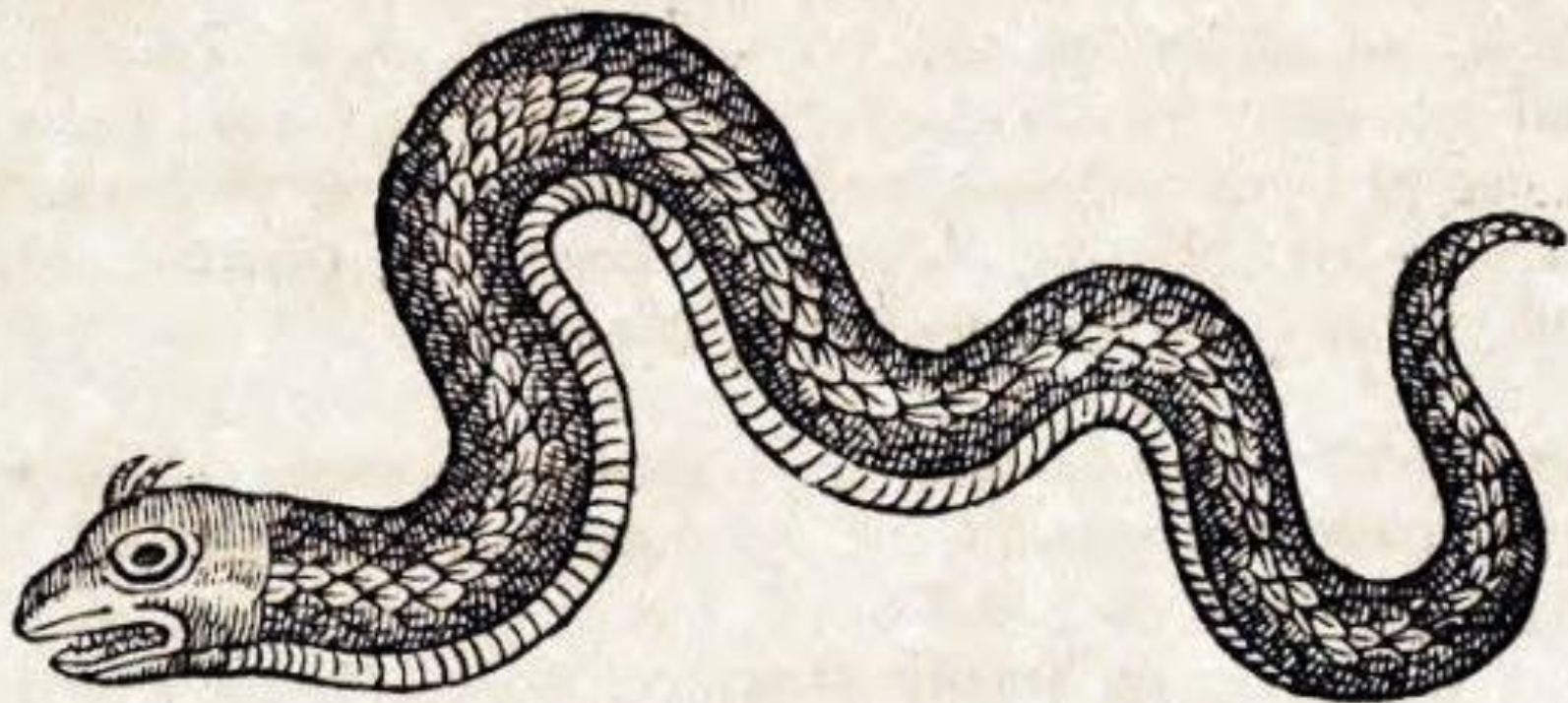
1 and 2 Peter * THE HEIGHTS FREE CHURCH





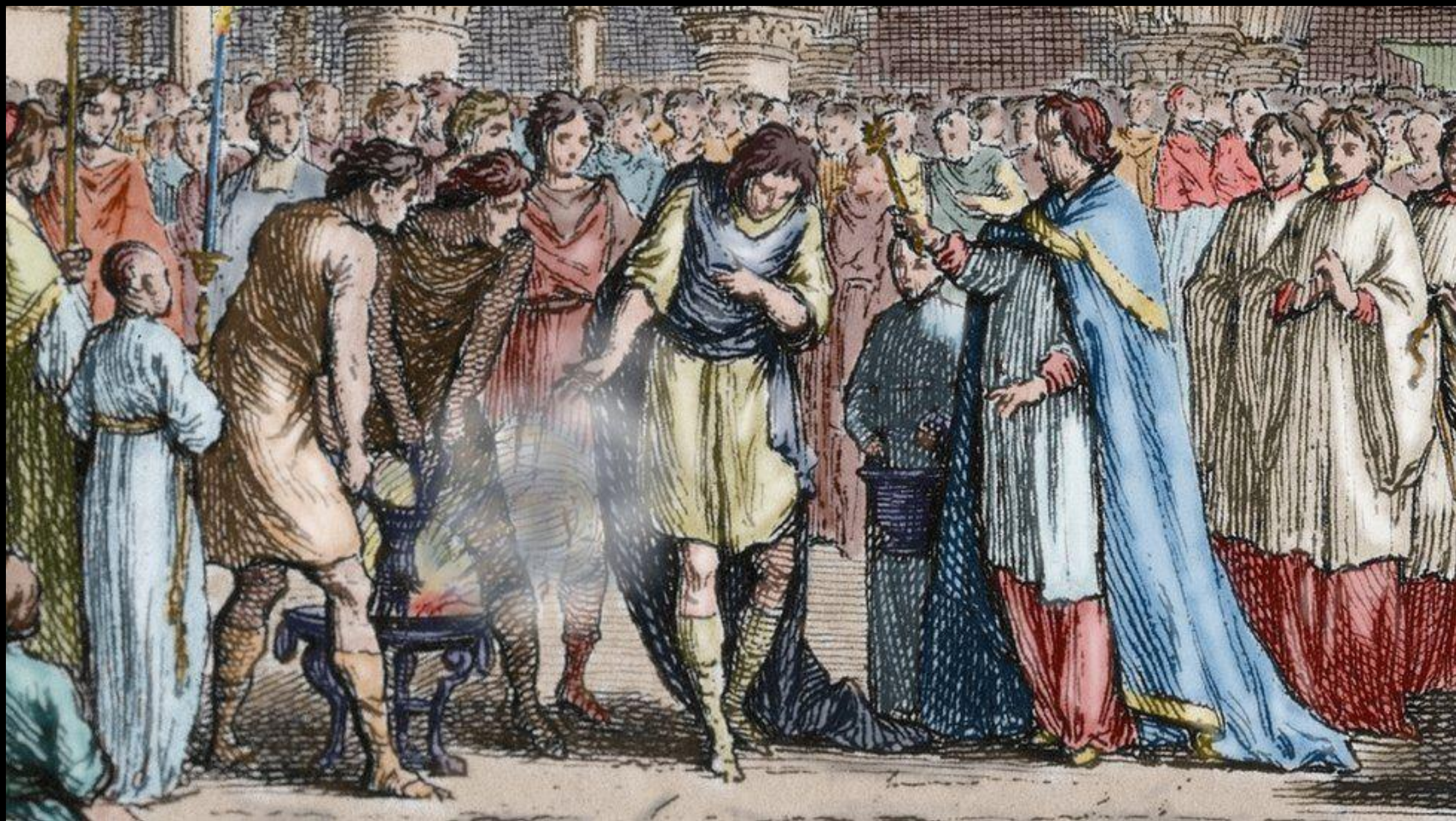













Trial by Ordeal

1 Peter 4

February 14, 2021



WEIGHT OF THE WORLD

A graphic of the Earth, showing the Americas, is positioned in the center. Below the Earth, a small black silhouette of a person is shown in a crouching position, with their arms raised, supporting the Earth from underneath. The text 'WEIGHT OF THE WORLD' is written in large, bold, brown capital letters with a slight shadow effect, surrounding the central graphic.

1 and 2 Peter * THE HEIGHTS FREE CHURCH

Trial by Ordeal

1 Peter 4

February 14, 2021



2 Timothy 3:12 (ESV): “Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”



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1 Peter 4 (ESV): “Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, 2 so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. 3 For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry....”

Trial by Ordeal

“...4 With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; 5 but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. 6 For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does. 7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers...”

Trial by Ordeal

“...8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies – in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen....”

Trial by Ordeal

“...**12** Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. **13** But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. **14** If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. **15** But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler...”

Trial by Ordeal

“...**16** Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. **17** For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? **18** And ‘If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?’ **19** Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.”

Trial by Ordeal



Trial by Ordeal

Hebrews 10:32-34 (ESV): “But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, **33** sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. **34** For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.”

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“Traditionally, Christians have had a very broad view of what it means to suffer for Christ – broad enough to include everything from genuine martyrdom to mild ridicule by nonbelievers. Behind this is an essential part of the faith, which says that every Christian will be persecuted by the world: True believers will lose jobs, face exile, and suffer from violence....”

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“...The problem is that for most of U.S. history, Christians haven't been persecuted – at least not in comparison to early believers or even what Christians in places like Iraq face today....As evangelical morality increasingly comes into conflict with dominant cultural mores, evangelicals need to be even more careful about the debates we chose to engage in, the rights we chose to assert, and the hills we choose to die on....”

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“...Too much is at stake for evangelicals to waste our resources and credibility on frivolous and occasionally self-provoked ‘injustices.’ Imagined offenses drummed up by sensationalists and fear-mongers should be exposed and denied. At times, even legitimate offenses should be overlooked, when they are petty...”

Trial by Ordeal

“...By focusing attention on real and substantial incidences of persecution, evangelicals will be much more effective at educating their neighbors and fighting for truly important matters of religious liberty.”

(From Alan Noble's editorial *The Evangelical Persecution Complex* at theatlantic.com, August 4, 2014)



Trial by Ordeal

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1 Peter 4

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THE BEST
DEFENSE
IS GIVING NO
OFFENSE.

Main Point

1 Corinthians 10:32-33 (ESV): “Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, 33 just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved.”

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2 Corinthians 6:3 (NKJV): “We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.”

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1 Peter 3:15-16 (ESV): “But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, **16** having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.”

Trial by Ordeal

Titus 2:7-8 (ESV): “Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, 8 and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.”

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Matthew 10:16 (ESV): “In the same way,
let your light shine before others, so that
they may see your good works and give
glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Trial by Ordeal

Matthew 15:12 (ESV): “Then the disciples came and said to him, ‘Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?’”

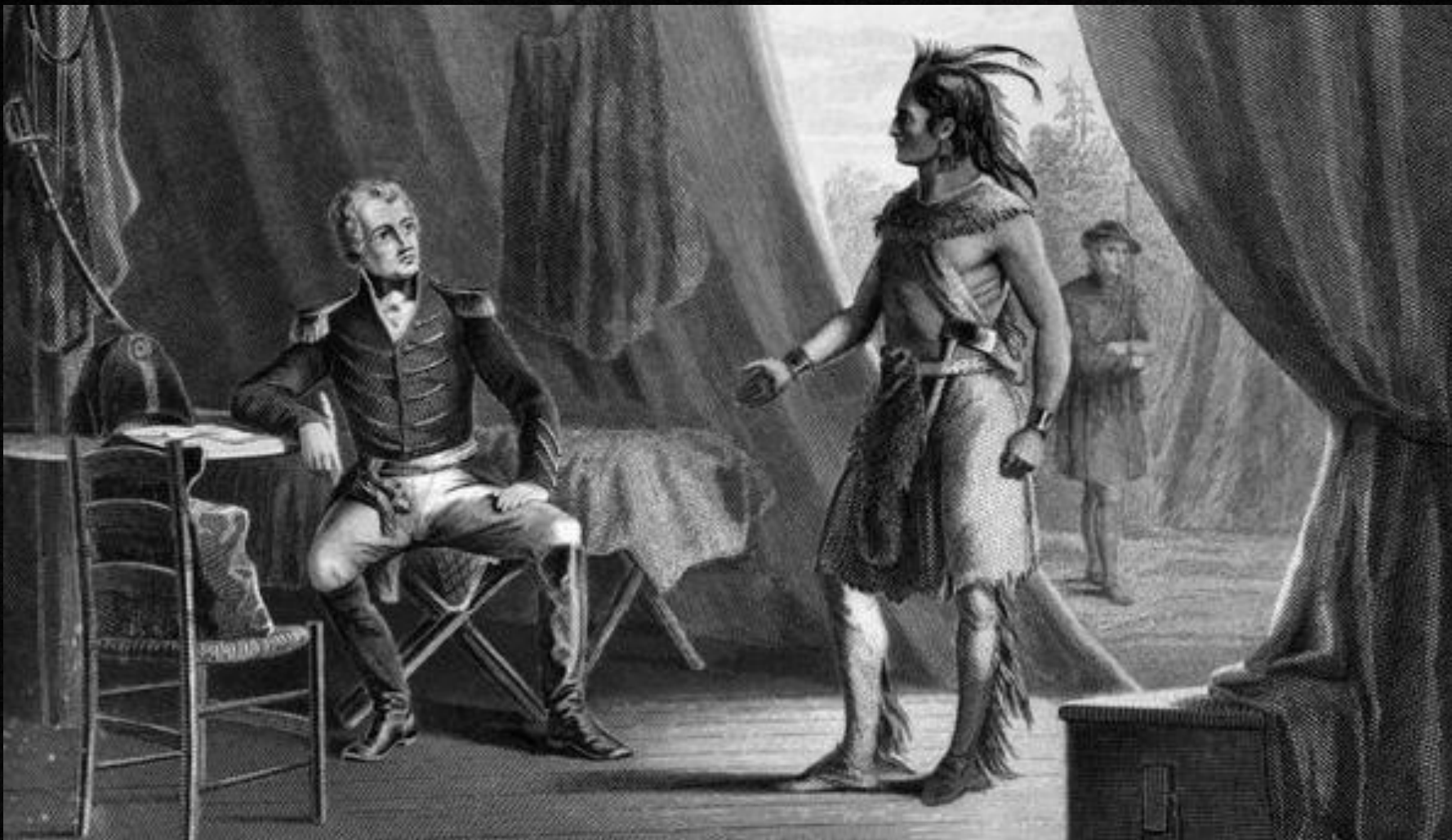
Trial by Ordeal

John 5:24 (ESV): “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”

Trial by Ordeal



Trial by Ordeal



Trial by Ordeal



Trial by Ordeal

James 2:16 (ESV): “If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?”

Trial by Ordeal



Trial by Ordeal

Matthew 5:10-12 (ESV): “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **11** Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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1 Peter 4:1 (NKJV): “Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind.”

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Trial by Ordeal

1 Peter 4

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WEAPONIZE YOUR CRANIUM.

Application

1 Peter 1:13 (NKJV): “Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

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Trial by Ordeal

1 Peter 4

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WEIGHT OF THE WORLD



Next Week: 1 Peter 5