

# ***What is the never-ending Divine Curriculum and how does it work?***

**Edward Price, Speaker**

**Online Presentation**

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**10AM Central / 11AM Eastern**





# Greetings!

I am Edward Price, from Wilmette, IL

My talk today will be on

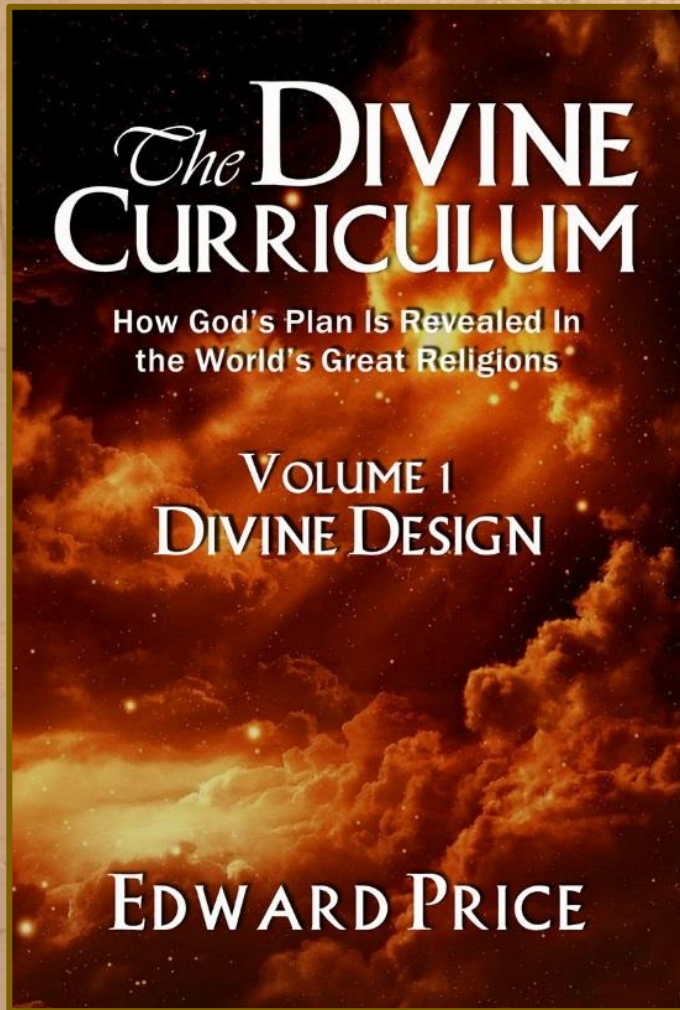
*What is the never-ending Divine Curriculum and how does it work?*



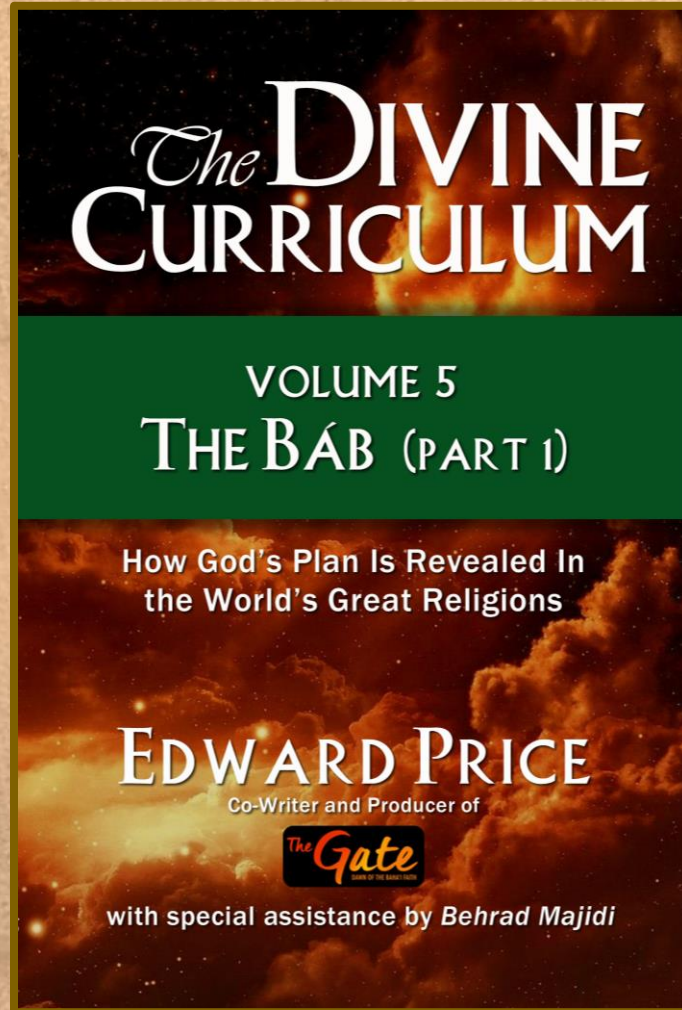




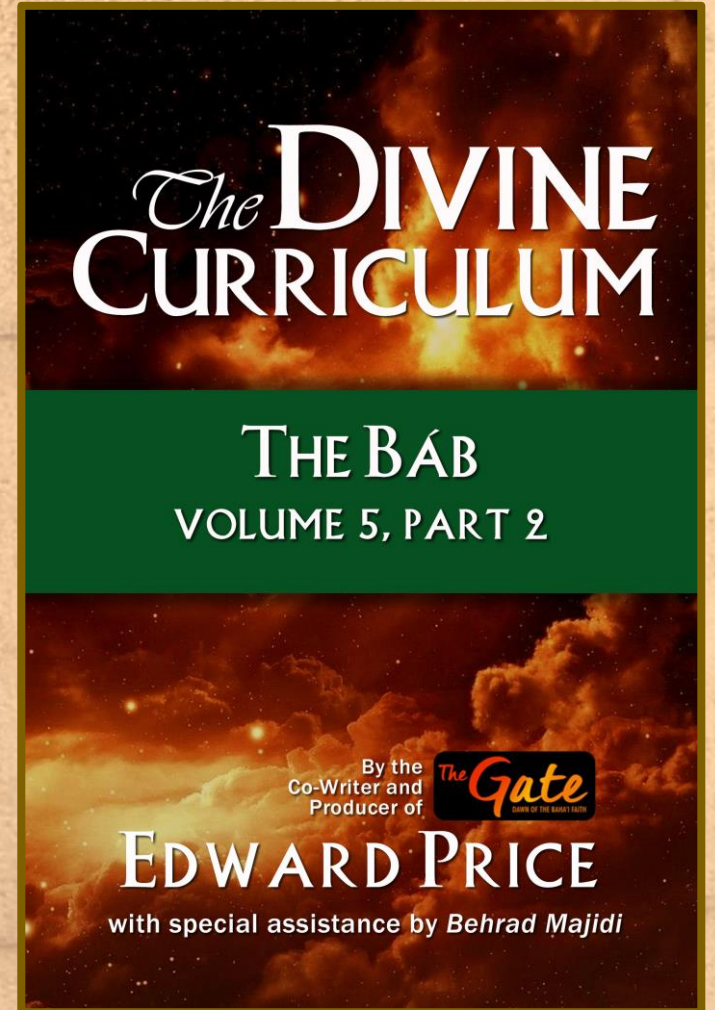




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I am the author of *The Divine Curriculum* series of books. These are the ones published so far.

Available on Amazon:

<https://www.calumetedititions.com/divcurr/>

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I am also the Co-Writer/Producer of the first-ever,  
documentary film on the life of the Báb.

*The Gate: Dawn of the Bahá'í Faith* (released 2018)



© 2018

Link to *The Gate* on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPKExSXhtgw>



# **Why I write about the Divine Curriculum....**



A time in my life came when I began to think our generation could do a better job teaching the Faith.

As I reflected on this question, I was inspired by a number of quotes in the Writings.

Here is one example from ‘Abdu’l-Bahá....





*“When delivering the glad tidings, **speak out and say:** the Promised One of all the world’s peoples hath now been made manifest. **For each and every people, and every religion, await a Promised One, and Bahá’u’lláh is that One Who is awaited by all; and therefore the Cause of Bahá’u’lláh will bring about the oneness of mankind, and the tabernacle of unity will be upraised on the heights of the world, and the banners of the universality of all humankind will be unfurled on the peaks of the earth. When thou dost loose thy tongue to deliver this great good news, this will become the means of teaching the people.”*** (‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Selections from the Writings of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, p. 101)



Based on quotes such as this one, I wanted to focus on:

- The Person of Bahá'u'lláh and
- The Mission of Bahá'u'lláh

But when I started to research this, I faced a sudden realization.



This quote from ‘Abdu’l-Bahá showed me it wasn’t wise, really, to just focus on the mission of only one Divine Educator, Bahá’u’lláh:

*“It is evident, therefore, that the Holy Manifestations Who founded the religious systems are united and agreed; there is **no differentiation possible in Their mission and teachings**; all are reflectors of reality, and all are promulgators of the religion of God.”* (‘Abdu’l-Bahá, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 198)

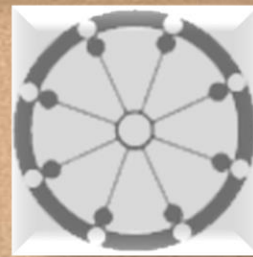




So, I realized that, due to the God-given continuity of Their Divine Revelations, I would have to **discuss ALL of the Divine Educators**.

When I thought about this task, it was all too clear to me that my own expertise only goes so far. So, I self-limited my writing to the Abrahamic lineage, which includes Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Muhammad, the Báb, and Bahá'u'lláh.

That said, I honor ALL of the Divine Educators, even though I won't be going into detail about all of Them.





Moreover, I had to do it **without showing ANY favoritism or partiality** towards any of Them!

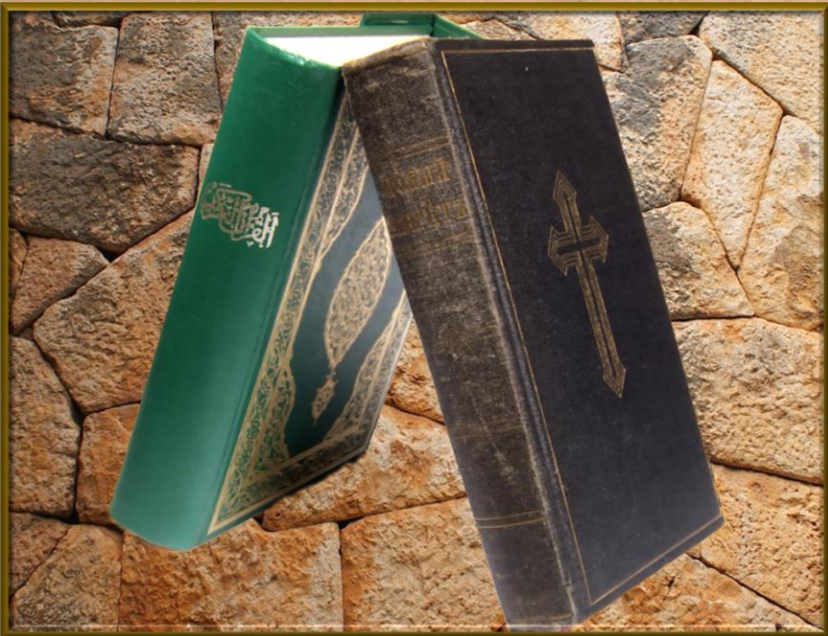
*“...thou hadst inquired which of the Prophets of God should be regarded as superior to others... Know thou assuredly that the essence of all the Prophets of God is one and the same. Their unity is absolute... **To prefer one in honor to another, to exalt certain ones above the rest, is in no wise to be permitted.** Every true Prophet hath regarded His Message as fundamentally the same as the Revelation of every other Prophet gone before Him.”* (Bahá'u'lláh, Gleanings, p. 78-79)



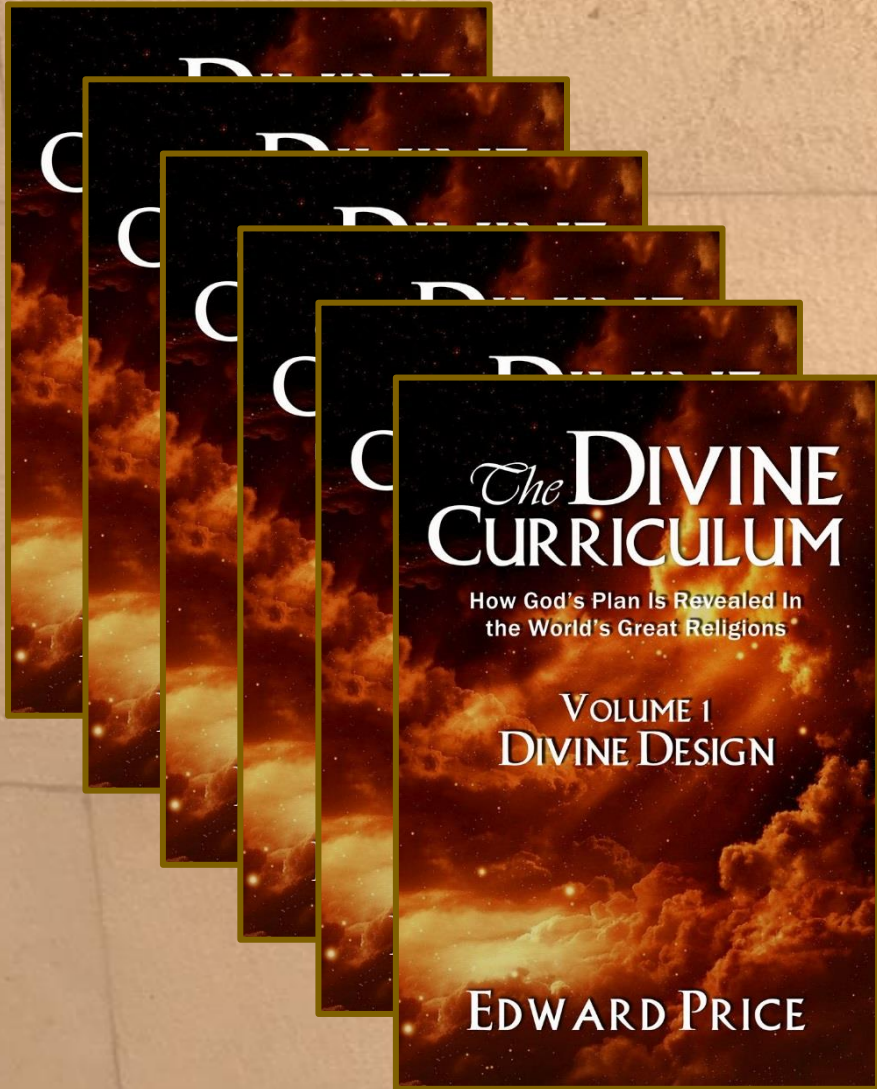


## The Divine Curriculum approach...

- Is initially inspired by the teachings of the Bahá'í Faith
- And also draws from the Scriptures of the major world religions; all of whom speak with one inspired prophetic Voice.







## The concept of the Divine Curriculum....

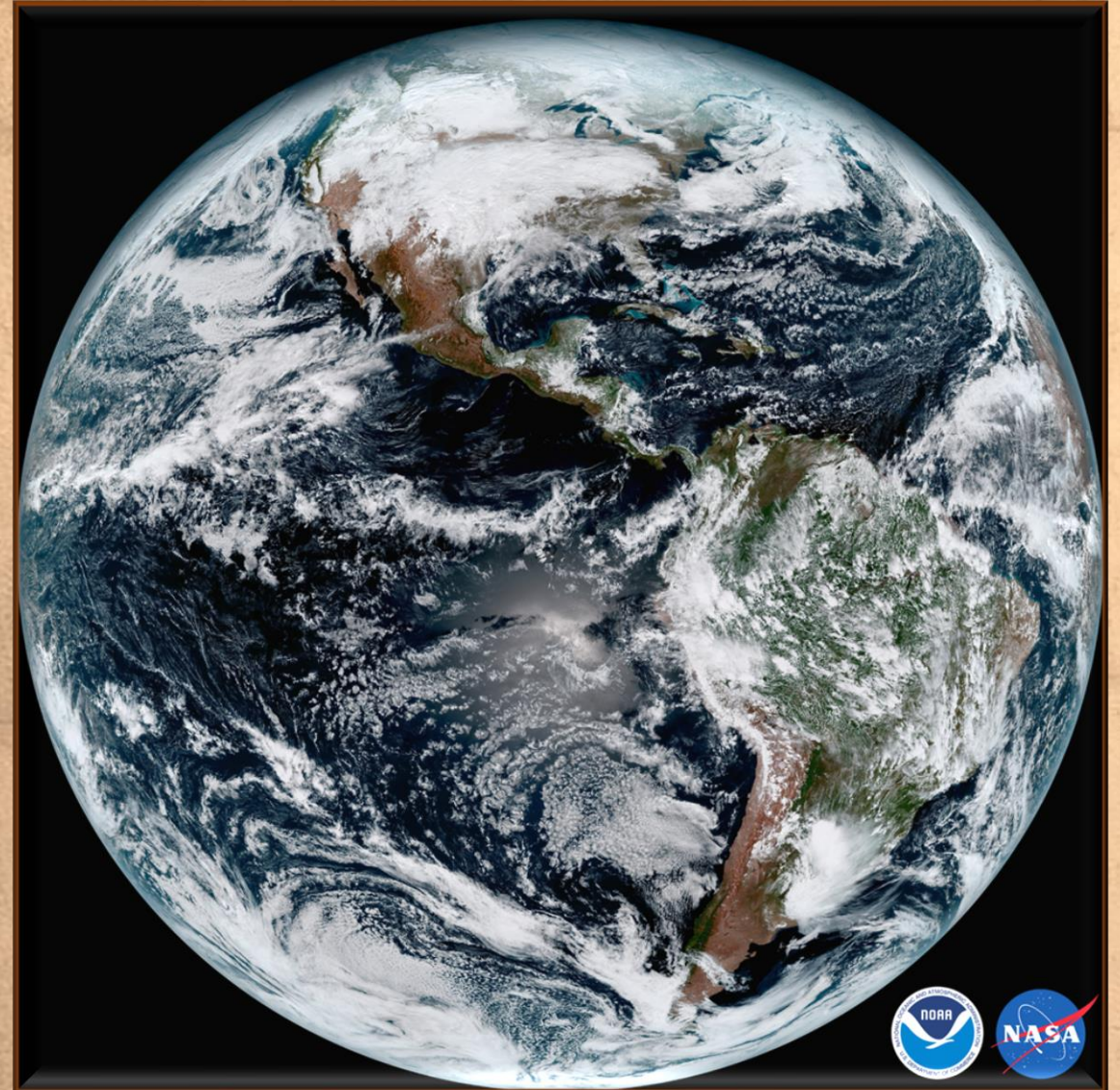


**The first premise of the Divine Curriculum is...  
the Oneness and Infinity of God**



## The Divine Curriculum approach...

- Agrees with the monotheistic religions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Bahá'í) that there is but
  - **one infinite God** and
  - **one humanity**





# The earlier Scriptures affirm the oneness of God.

*“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD...” (King James Bible, Deuteronomy 6: 4)*

*“I am the LORD, and there is none else, **there is no God beside me...** I am the LORD, and there is none else.” (King James Bible, Isaiah 45: 5-6; see also 44:6)*

*“But to us **there is but one God**, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him...” (King James Bible, 1 Corinthians 8: 6)*

*“**One God** and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all...” (King James Bible, Ephesians 4: 6)*

*“**Your God is One God**; there is no God save Him, the Beneficent, the Merciful.” (The Qur’án, 2:163, translated by Pickthall)*



The Writings urge us not to compromise regarding the oneness of God.

*“He is a true believer in Divine unity who, far from confusing duality with oneness, **refuseth to allow any notion of multiplicity to becloud his conception of the singleness of God**, who will regard the Divine Being as One Who, **by His very nature, transcendeth** the limitations of numbers.”* (Bahá'u'lláh, *Gleanings*, p. 166-167)

*“My tongue, and My heart, and My inner and My outer being testify that **there is no God but Him**, that all others have been created by His behest, and been fashioned through the operation of His Will. There is none other God but Him, the Creator...”* (Bahá'u'lláh, *Gleanings*, p. 227)



The Writings affirm that God is immeasurably exalted.  
Unknowable in His Essence.

*“All that the sages and mystics have said or written have never exceeded, nor can they ever hope to exceed, **the limitations to which man's finite mind hath been strictly subjected...** The meditations of the profoundest thinker, the devotions of the holiest of saints, the highest expressions of praise from either human pen or tongue, are but a reflection of that which hath been created within themselves... **Immeasurably exalted is He** above the strivings of human mind to grasp His Essence, or of human tongue to describe His mystery. **No tie of direct intercourse can ever bind Him to the things He hath created...** He is and hath ever been veiled in the ancient eternity of His own exalted and indivisible Essence, and will everlastingly continue to remain concealed in His inaccessible majesty and glory...”*  
(Bahá'u'lláh, *Gleanings*, p. 317-318)



The Writings affirm that God is beyond all conceptions of time and space as we know it.

*“...God, the unknowable Essence, the divine Being, is immensely **exalted beyond every human attribute**, such as corporeal existence, ascent and descent, egress and regress. Far be it from His glory that human tongue should adequately recount His praise, or that human heart comprehend His fathomless mystery. He is and hath ever been veiled in the ancient eternity of His Essence...”* (Baha'u'llah, *The Kitab-i-Iqan*, p. 97)

*“...the one true God, alone and single, is established upon His Throne, a Throne which is **beyond the reaches of time and space...**”* (Baha'u'llah, *The Summons of the Lord of Hosts*, p. 110-111)

*“**Time and space** are physical things, God, the Creator is not in a 'place' as we conceive of place in physical terms. God is the Infinite Essence, the Creator. **We cannot picture Him or His state...**”* (From a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi, October 9, 1947, *Lights of Guidance*, p. 504)



God's infinity and oneness should steer humanity away from anthropomorphism (casting God in man's image)

- Setting aside man-made constructs and concepts of God
- Realizing that fighting about man-made constructs is pointless



# **The reasons for creation**



If God is so infinite, why does He *need* to create anything at all? He doesn't!

*"He, verily, can afford to dispense with all creatures."* (Baha'u'llah, *Gleanings*, p. 85)

But the Creator *chooses* to create anyway? Why?

*"O SON OF MAN! Veiled in My immemorial being and in the ancient eternity of My essence, I **knew My love for thee; therefore I created thee**, have engraved on thee Mine image and revealed to thee My beauty."* (Baha'u'llah, *The Arabic Hidden Words*, #3)

*"O SON OF MAN! I **loved thy creation, hence I created thee**. Wherefore, do thou love Me, that I may name thy name and fill thy soul with the spirit of life."* (Baha'u'llah, *The Arabic Hidden Words*, #4)



So...it was really simple. He creates us out of love.

Alright then, given the loving decision to create, *to what end* does He create?

*“Having created the world and all that liveth and moveth therein, He, through the direct operation of His unconstrained and sovereign Will, chose to **confer upon man the unique distinction and capacity to know Him and to love Him** -- a capacity that must needs be regarded as **the generating impulse and the primary purpose underlying the whole of creation....**”* (Baha'u'llah, *Gleanings*, p. 64)



Notice Baha'u'llah said this was the goal and aim of all of creation. So... *WHAT does God create* to fulfill this purpose?

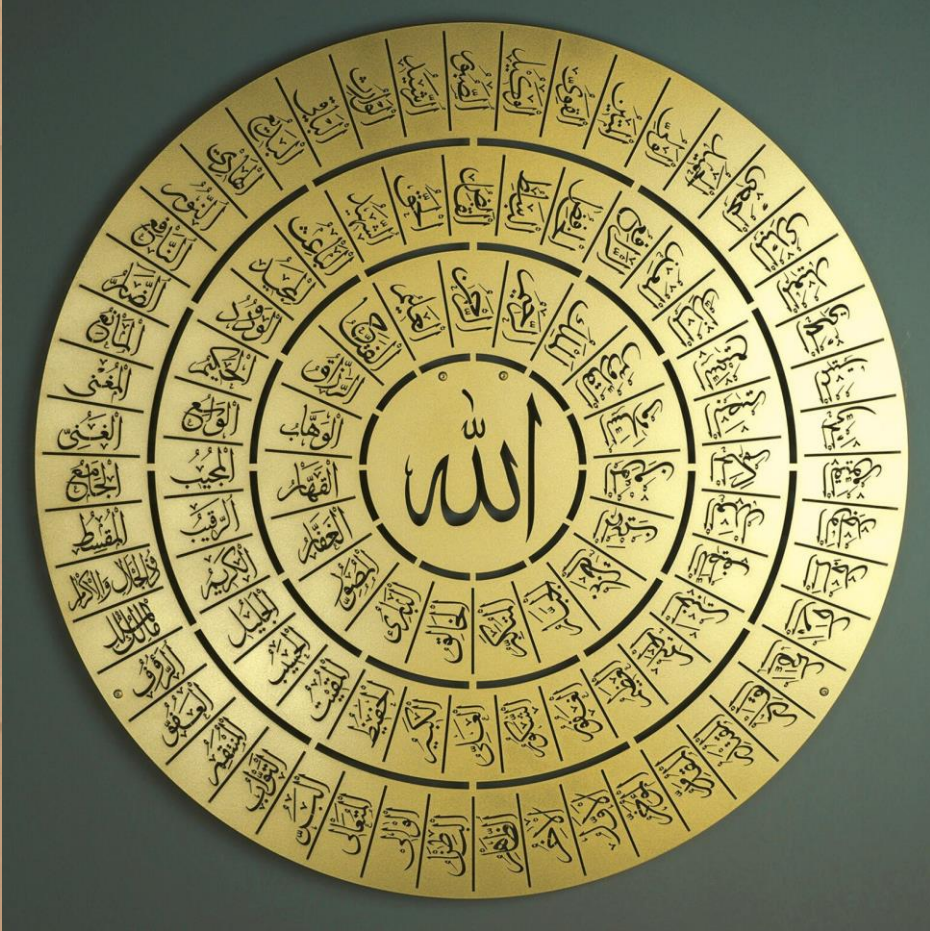
Simplifying our answer, *He created us!* Human beings, with fantastic cognitive and spiritual abilities, giving us the capacity to know Him and love Him.

*"...Upon the inmost reality of each and every created thing He hath shed the light of one of His names, and made it a recipient of the glory of one of His attributes. **Upon the reality of man, however, He hath focused the radiance of all of His names and attributes**, and made it a mirror of His own Self. **Alone of all created things** man hath been singled out for so great a favor, so enduring a bounty..."* (Baha'u'llah, *Gleanings*, p. 64)



**What are these Divine attributes?**





Plaque of the 99 Names of God in Islam

## Here are some of the attributes of God:

- All-Knowing, All-Wise
- All-Loving, the Kind
- All-Bountiful, the Gracious
- Most Generous, the Giving
- All-Merciful, the Forgiving
- All-Powerful, the Almighty
- All-Glorious
- The Just, the Self-sufficient, the Educator, the Revealer, the Eternal, the Truthful, etc.



**Grace meets need!**



Humans have the potential to reflect God's attributes; we also have the potential to be very bad.

**We need a Divine Educator** to guide us to conquer “self” and lead us towards our angelic nature, our virtuous side.





God doesn't need us, but He loves us.

We NEED Him. We're created to know Him and love Him.

But He's unknowable. What shall we do?

*His grace meets our need!*



The Báb's taught stated the following:.

*“Therefore, it is necessary, according to true wisdom, that the Pre-existent God describe Himself to His creatures, that they may recognize their Creator and that, **out of the grace of the Pre-existent**, the contingent beings may attain their supreme End.”* (The Báb, provisional translation, cited by Nader Saiedi, Gate of the Heart, p. 251. From the Báb, Tafsir-i-Hadith-i-Haqiqat, INBA 53:33)



*“The door of the knowledge of the Ancient of Days being thus closed in the face of all beings, the Source of **infinite grace**, according to His saying, “**His grace hath transcended all things; My grace hath encompassed them all**,” hath caused those luminous Gems of Holiness to appear out of the realm of the spirit, in the noble form of the human temple, and be made manifest unto all men... These sanctified Mirrors, these Day Springs of ancient glory, are, one and all, the Exponents on earth of Him Who is the central Orb of the universe, its Essence and ultimate Purpose... They are the Treasuries of Divine knowledge, and the Repositories of celestial wisdom. **Through them is transmitted a grace that is infinite**, and by them is revealed the Light that can never fade.... These Tabernacles of Holiness, **these Primal Mirrors** which reflect the light of unfading glory, are but expressions of Him Who is the Invisible of the Invisibles. By the revelation of these Gems of Divine virtue all the names and attributes of God, such as knowledge and power, sovereignty and dominion, mercy and wisdom, glory, bounty, and grace, are made manifest.”* (Baha'u'llah, Gleanings, p. 46-48)



This is WHY God sends His Divine Educators!  
Our need is met by His infinite grace!

We also call them Manifestations of God and Messengers of God, and many other terms as well.



**All of creation is a classroom!**



# Elements of the Divine Curriculum

**“All of creation is a classroom”**

Religion	School analogy
God →	School Owner / Director
All creation →	The school, the classroom
All human beings →	The students
Divine Educators →	The teachers
Scriptures (e.g. Bible, Qur’án) →	The textbooks
Teachings →	The curriculum



As mentioned, a major premise of  
the Divine Curriculum is that...  
*All of creation is a classroom*

*“...Were it not for the coming of these holy Manifestations of God **all mankind would be found on the plane of the animal**. They would remain darkened and ignorant **like those who have been denied schooling** and who never had a **teacher or trainer...**”* (‘Abdu’l-Bahá, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 466)



*“O true companions! **All humankind are as children in a school, and the Dawning-Points of Light, the Sources of divine revelation, are the teachers, wondrous and without peer...**”* (‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Selections from the Writings of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, p. 128)

“What is the mission of the Prophet... There is no doubt that the purpose of a divine law is the education of the human race, the training of humanity. **All mankind may be considered as pupils or children who are in need of a divine Educator, a real Teacher.**” (‘Abdu’l-Bahá, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 411-415)



*“O thou true friend! Read, **in the school of God**, the lessons of the spirit, and learn from love's Teacher the innermost truths. Seek out the secrets of Heaven, and tell of the overflowing grace and favour of God...”* (‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Selections from the Writings of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, p. 110)

*“...the holy Manifestations of God, the divine Prophets, are **the first Teachers** of the human race. They are **universal Educators...**”* (‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, p. 84-86)

*“The sending of Prophets has ever been for **the training** of humanity. They are **the first Educators and Trainers.**”* (‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, p. 343-348)



## Who are the Teachers?

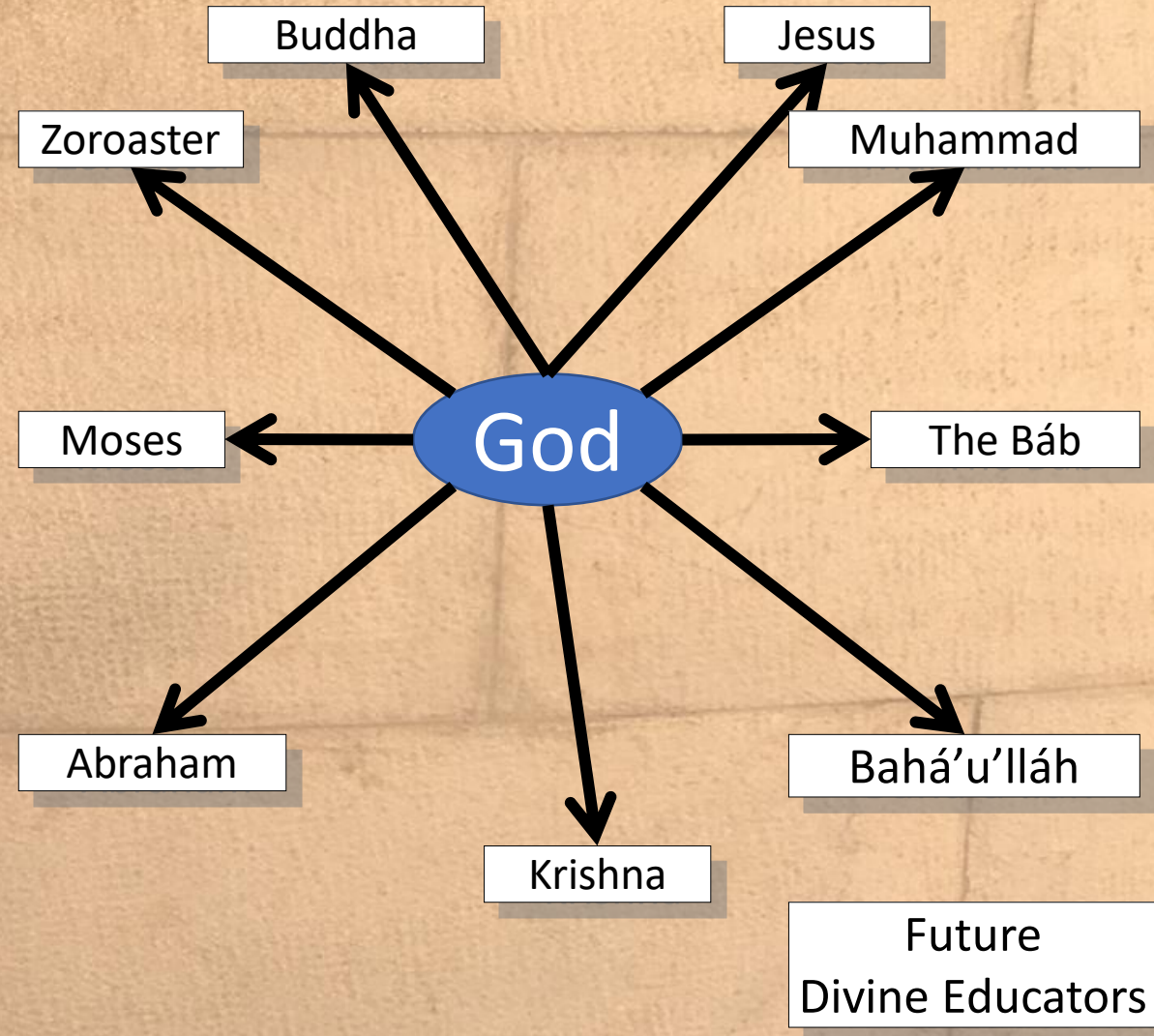
Krishna	Jesus
Abraham	Muhammad
Moses	The Báb
Zoroaster	Bahá'u'lláh
Buddha	Future Divine Educators



The Founders of the major religions were **sent from the same God.**

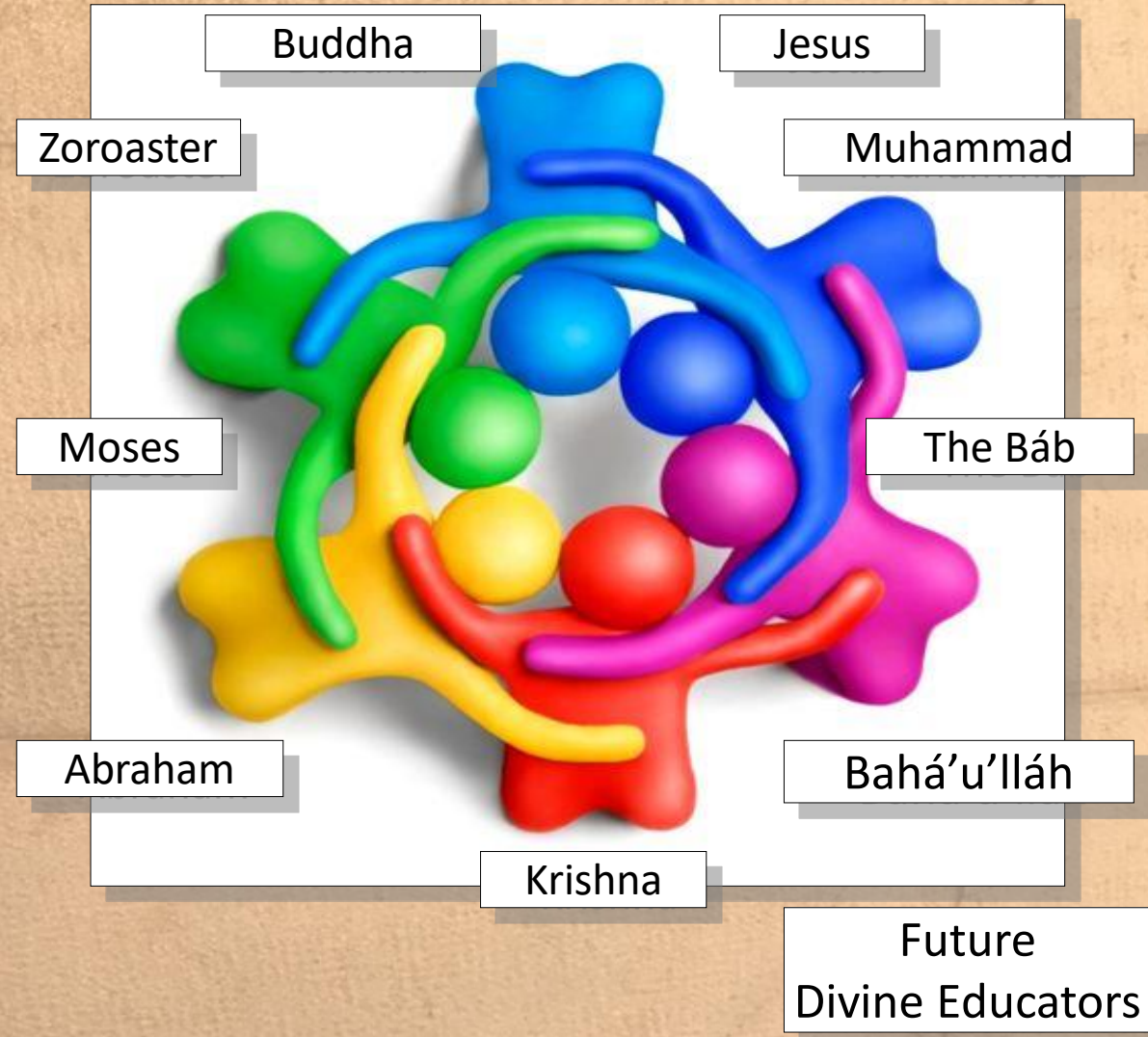
Religions are sequential grades of one underlying revelation through the ages

- Men, not God, have caused the divisions and distortions in religion





The Divine Educators are  
cooperating members of one  
school faculty





## The Divine Curriculum approach...

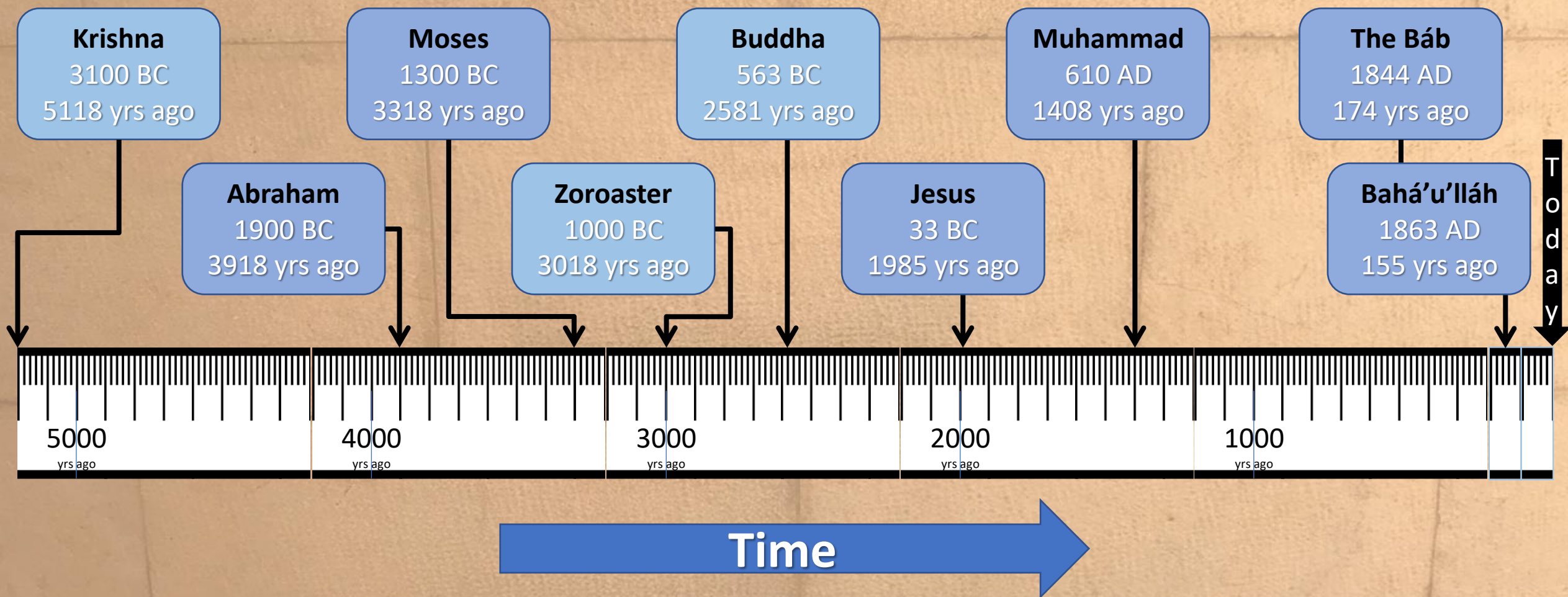
- Views the Divine Educators in Their lived historical contexts
- Views Them on **the timeline of human history**
- NOTE: God put them on the timeline, not us. So we're just acknowledging what He already did. Not raising any Divine Educator above, not putting any down.



## Views of the timeline...

- The Divine Educators appear in history approximately every 500 to 1,000 years
- There have been many of Them
- Here are some that are known to history....





Note: This is drawn to scale. Each mark = 100 years.



# The Divine Educators

Name	Approx. period of Mission	Religion associated with His Name	Scripture associated with His revelation	Part of the world where He originated	Part of the world where His influence is mostly felt (today)
Krishna	Approx. 3100 BC	Hinduism	The Bhagavad-Gita	India	India
<b>Abraham*</b>	Approx. 1900 BC	Judaism	The Old Testament	The Persian Gulf	Israel, Europe, USA
<b>Moses*</b>	Approx. 1400 BC	Judaism	The Old Testament	Egypt	Israel, Europe, USA
Zoroaster	Approx. 1000 BC	Zoroastrianism	The Zend-Avesta	Persia	Persia, India
Buddha	Approx. 580 BC	Buddhism	Various texts	Northern India	India, China and East Asia
<b>Jesus*</b>	30–33 AD	Christianity	The New Testament	Israel	Europe, Asia, the Americas
<b>Muhammad*</b>	610–622 AD	Islam	The Qur'án	Arabia	Africa, Arabia, Asia Minor, SE Asia
<b>The Báb*</b>	1844–1850 AD	The Bábí Faith	The Bábí Sacred Writings, esp. the Bayán	Persia	About 99% of Bábís became Bahá'í**
<b>Bahá'u'lláh*</b>	1852–1892 AD	The Bahá'í Faith	The Bahá'í Sacred Writings	Persia	Iran, India, USA, world-wide



*“In the time of*

- *the First Manifestation **the Primal Will appeared** in Adam;*
- *in the day of Noah It became known in Noah;*
- *in the day of Abraham in Him; and so*
- *in the day of Moses;*
- *the day of Jesus;*
- *the day of Muhammad...;*
- *the day of the 'Point of the Bayan' [the Báb];*
- *the day of Him Whom God shall make manifest [Bahá'u'lláh]; and*
- *the day of the One Who will appear after Him...*

*[What] **shineth resplendent in each one of Them** hath been and will ever remain the **one and the same sun.**”* (The Báb, Selections from the Writings of the Bab, p. 126. Bullets added.)



*“There is no paradise more wondrous for any soul than to be exposed to God's Manifestation **in His Day**, to hear His verses and believe in them...”* (The Báb, SWB, p. 77)

*“True knowledge, therefore, is the knowledge of God, and this is none other than the recognition of His Manifestation **in each Dispensation**.”* (The Báb, SWB, p. 89)



Baha'u'llah, in the Book of  
Certitude, emphasizes that  
the Manifestations of God  
have **a dual station:**

**Unity**  
and  
**Distinction**



## The station of unity

*“...Every one of them is a **mirror of God, reflecting naught else but His Self, His Beauty, His Might and Glory, if ye will understand...**”* (Bahá'u'lláh, Gleanings, p. 74)

*“...Even as He hath revealed: ‘**No distinction do We make between any of His Messengers!**’”* (Bahá'u'lláh, The Kitáb-i-Iqán, p. 152; Gleanings, p. 50-51)







### The station of distinction:

*“... Each Manifestation of God hath a distinct individuality, a **definitely prescribed mission**, a predestined Revelation ... is **characterized by a special attribute, fulfills a definite Mission, and is entrusted with a particular Revelation...**”* (Bahá'u'lláh, The Kitáb-i-Iqán, p. 176)





- ← Bahá'u'lláh
- ← The Báb
- ← Muhammad
- ← Jesus
- ← Moses
- ← Abraham

The Divine curriculum recognizes both similarities and differences, unity and distinction.

*“In every Dispensation the light of Divine Guidance has been focused upon one central theme...”* (‘Abdu’l-Bahá, cited by Shoghi Effendi, The Promised Day is Come, p. 119)

Over time, an entire curriculum is taught.



## The Scriptures / Textbooks

Baghavat-Gita	New Testament
Hebrew Bible	The Qur'án
Hebrew Bible	The Bayán & more
Zend-Avesta	The Kitáb-i-Aqdás & more
Buddhist Writings*	Future Divine Educators



# What They taught



## The Teachings / Curriculum

Duty	The Kingdom of God, love
One God, human life is sacred	Submission to God's Will
Law of God	Next Manifestation / Reflection of God
Good & evil, free will	Oneness of humanity
Release from suffering	Future Divine Educators



- ❖ Adam Humanity: conscience, individuality, intellect, sin, soul, responsibility, accountability
- ❖ Noah More fundamental guidance re good vs. evil. Choosing good
- ❖ Abraham The oneness of God, the sacredness of human life, fighting idolatry, covenant relationship (ethical monotheism)
- ❖ Moses More on the oneness of God, more on covenant, fighting idolatry, the law of God
- ❖ Jesus The Kingdom of God, afterlife, salvation, quickening power of the Holy Spirit, love of God & man
- ❖ Muhammad Submission to the Will of God
- ❖ The Báb & Bahá'u'lláh The beauty of God reflected in “all things”, the perspective of unity, progressive revelation, spiritual perfection, the oneness of humanity, etc.



Let's also remember some of the other Divine Teachers:

- ❖ Krishna              Fulfilling one's duty to righteousness and humanity
- ❖ Buddha              Elimination of suffering; The Eightfold Path: Right view, Right resolve, Right speech, Right conduct, Right livelihood, Right effort, Right mindfulness, and Right union
- ❖ Zoroaster            The threefold path: Good thoughts, Good words, and Good deeds; also overcoming evil and free will

And let's not overlook...

- ❖ Bahá'u'lláh        The oneness of humanity, establishing the Most Great Peace, Divine civilization





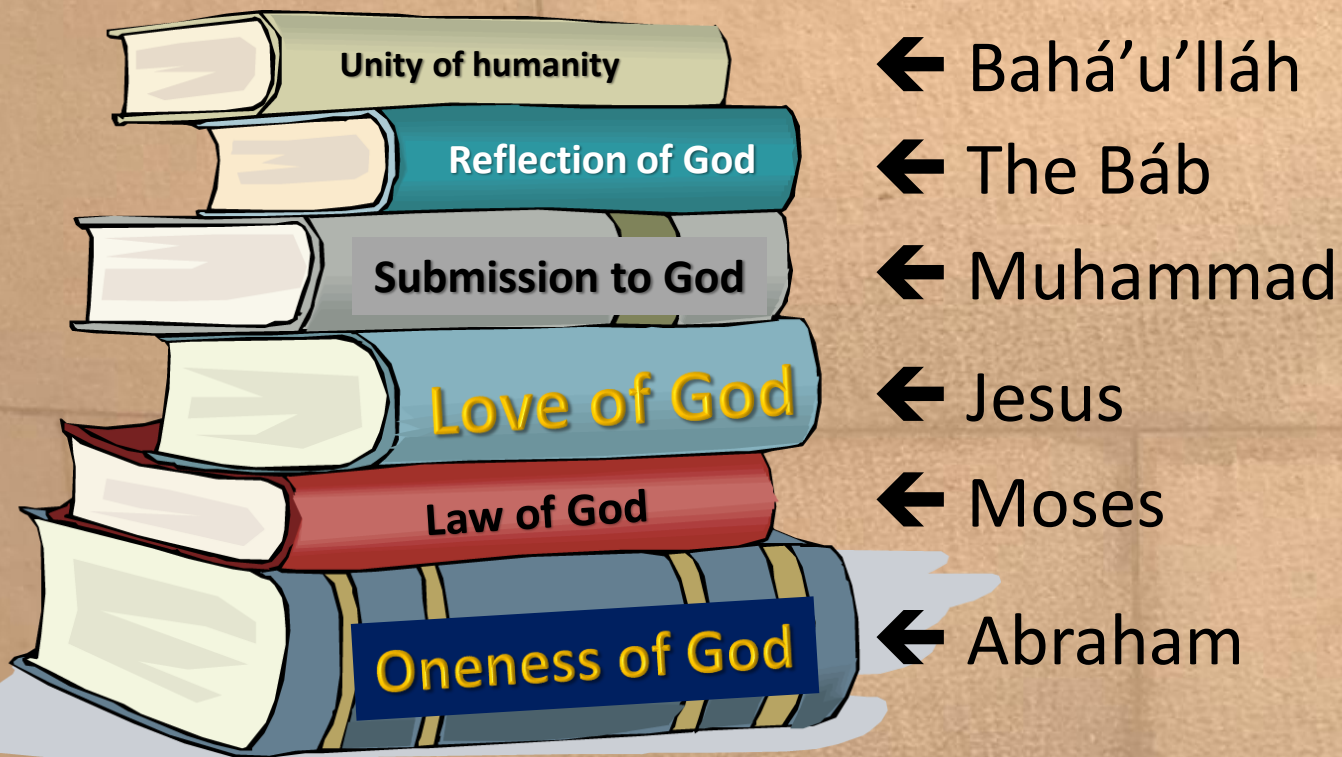
- ← Bahá'u'lláh
- ← The Báb
- ← Muhammad
- ← Jesus
- ← Moses
- ← Abraham

## The cumulative effect:

*“The mission of the Prophets of God has been to train the souls of humanity and free them from the thrall of natural instincts and physical tendencies.”*

(‘Abdu’l-Bahá, The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 310)





## The cumulative effect:

- *To edify and elevate the soul above self*
- *To conquer evil—the “insistent self”, the real source of evil*
- *To make human nature heavenly*



Doesn't this look like a fairly comprehensive curriculum to you?

If you learned to do all these things, wouldn't your material nature be under the control of your spiritual nature?

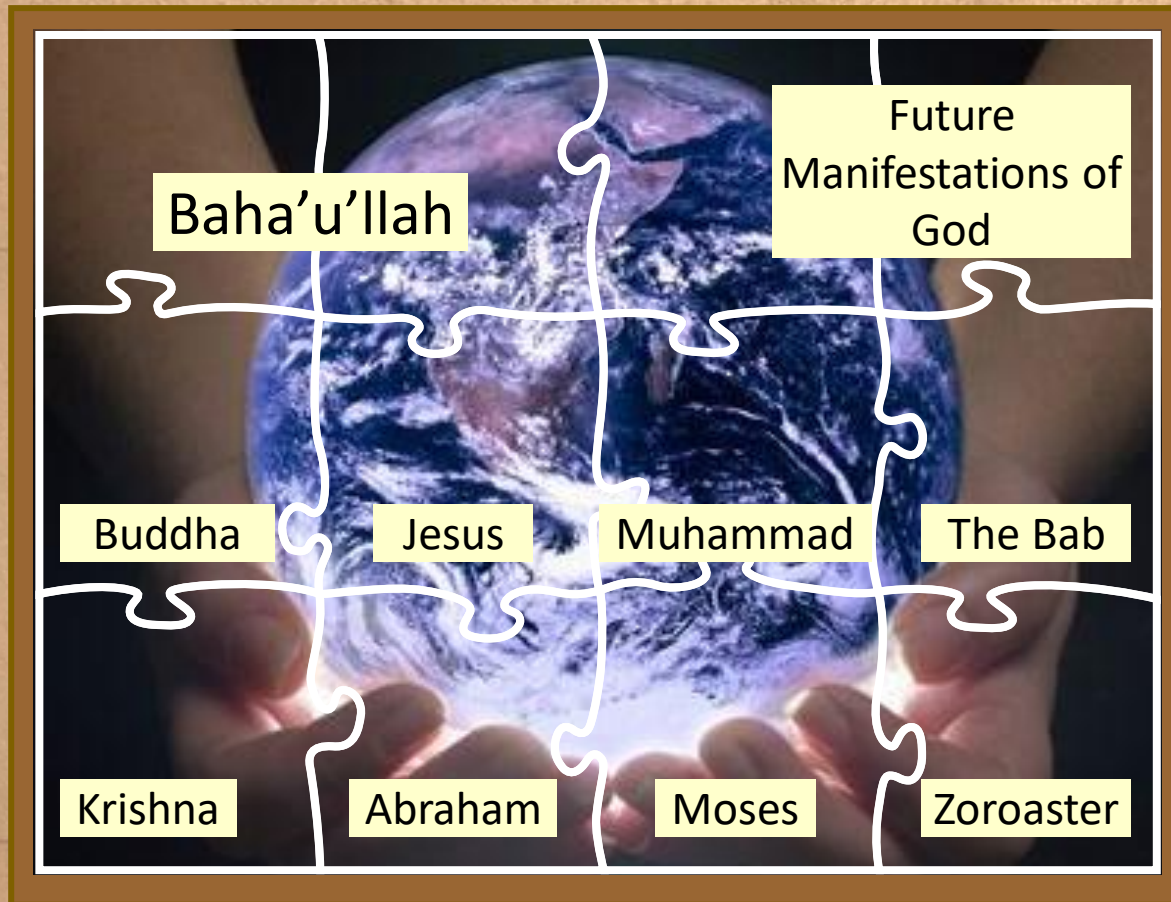
Age to age, the continuity of the Divine curriculum advances humanity's spiritual education.

*"In every Dispensation the light of Divine Guidance has been focused upon one central theme..."* ('Abdu'l-Bahá, cited by Shoghi Effendi, The Promised Day is Come, p. 119)

Over time, an entire curriculum is taught!







Pieces are **similar**

Pieces are **different**

Each reveals **part** of the picture

Every piece **sets the stage** for the ones to follow (continuity)

Every piece **builds** on what was revealed before (continuity)

Every piece is **essential** to the whole

***The Divine Educators...  
Gradually revealing the Divine Curriculum***



This approach is **entirely even-handed** in its treatment of every Divine Educator.

- Loyalties are maintained and expanded
- Founders' contributions acknowledged
- Unique traits appreciated, in historical context, based on trustworthy sources
- Founders praised, never belittled
- Knowledge shared, passed on



## The Divine Curriculum approach...

- **Distinguishes** between the “God-given truths” given by the Founders and the “priest-prompted superstitions” added on later
- It is often at odds with the doctrines of theologians and clerics
- But it is faithful to the Sacred Writings





# The Divine Curriculum approach...

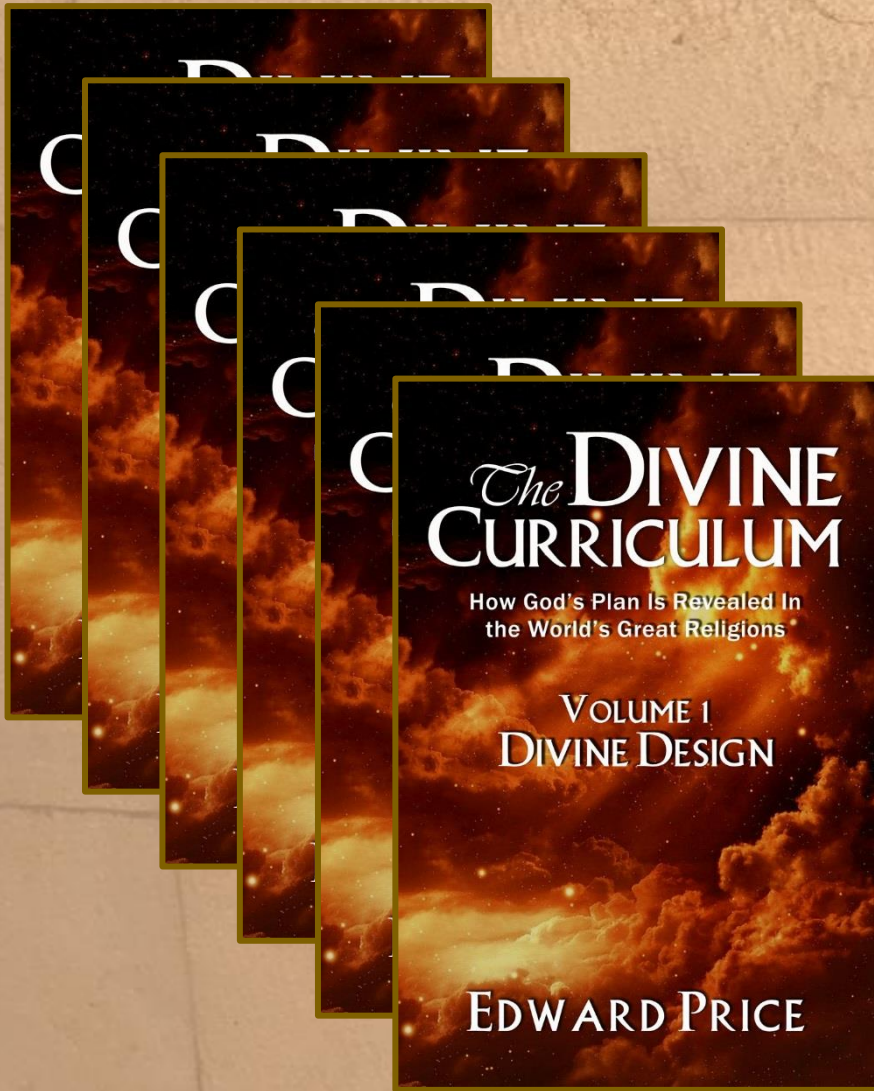
- Treats this distinction as a major methodological assumption

I also call this “the Divine side” of religion vs. “the human side”.

This distinction is the only way to discern the unity among religions amidst great amounts of disunity and disagreement







## An illustration:

The students in the classroom (human beings) have divergent, contradictory understandings of what the Teachers are teaching. Their notes will be messy!

The Teachers are not confused about Their own teachings (i.e. curriculum). Their notes will be clear, coherent, correct.

Relying on Their Textbooks (i.e. Scriptures), rather than the students' notes, is the only way to find the unity and continuity among them.

Thus I try to *rely on the Divine side* of religion, not so much on the human side.

I treat the Divine Educators with equal adoration. I cite from all Scriptures, so as to let Them speak with one Voice.

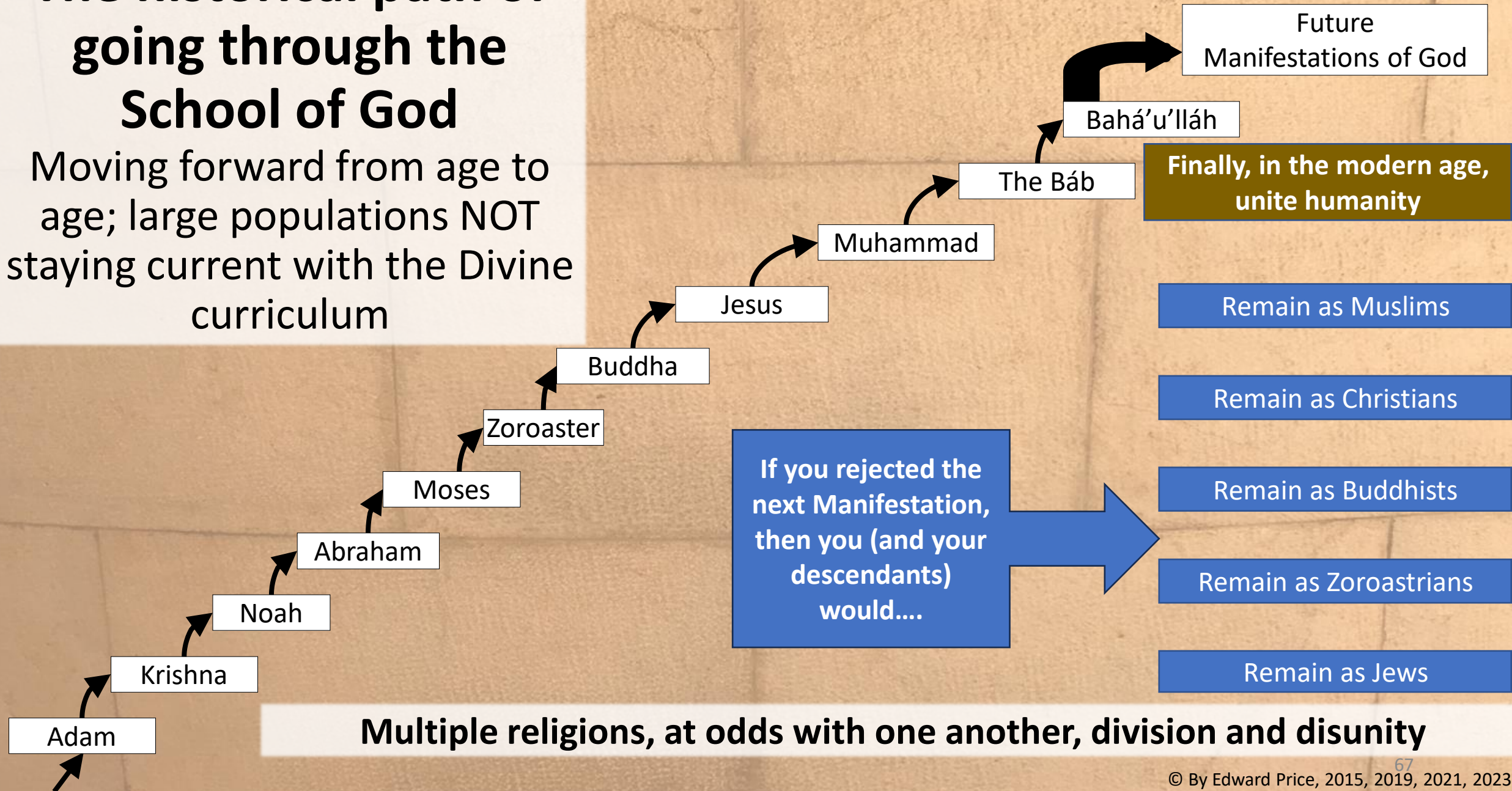


*“The Lord of the universe hath never raised up a prophet nor hath He sent down a Book unless He hath established His covenant with all men, **calling for their acceptance of the next Revelation** and of the next Book; inasmuch as the outpourings of His bounty are ceaseless and without limit.”* (The Báb, SWB, p. 86)



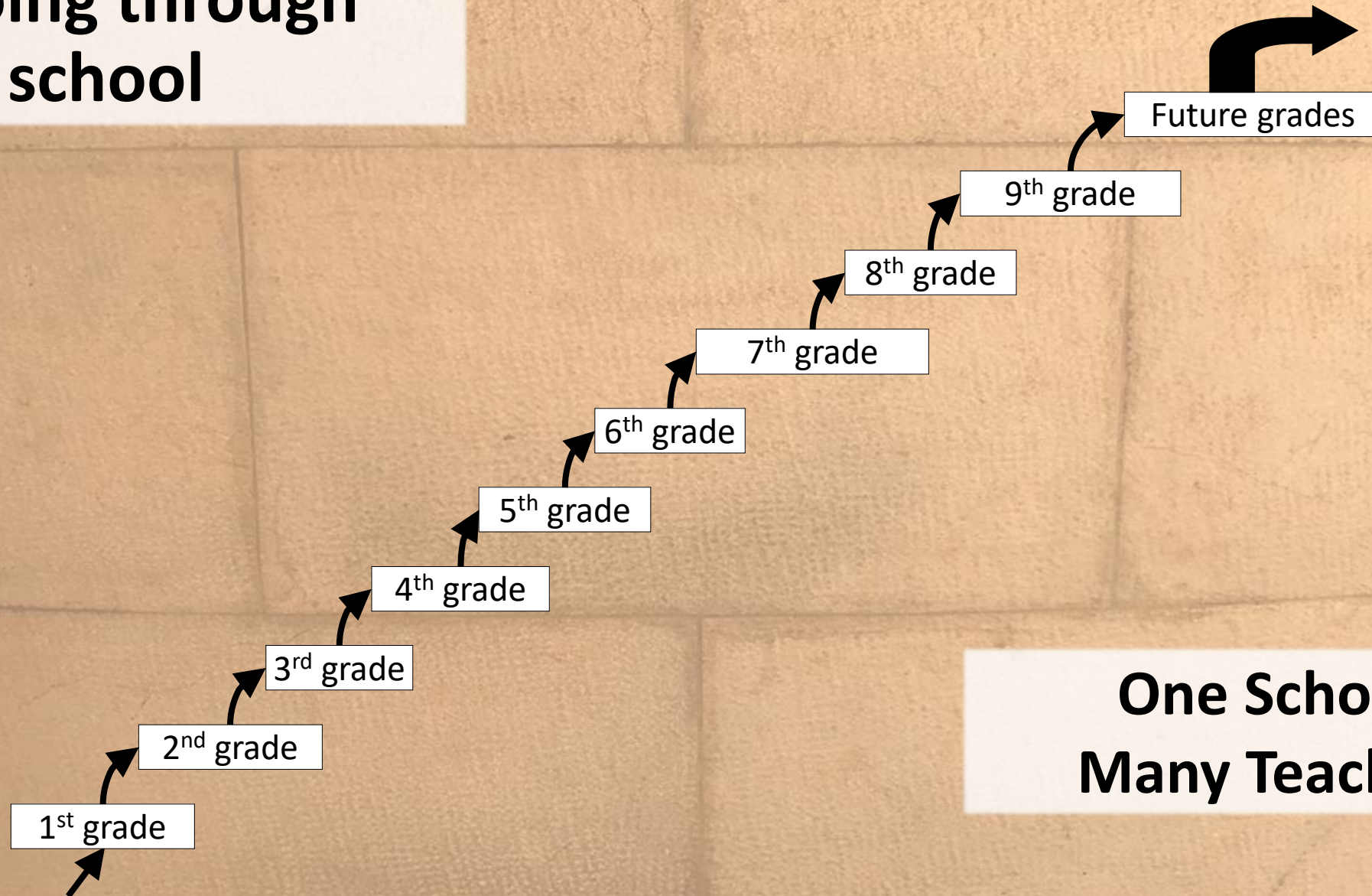
# The historical path of going through the School of God

Moving forward from age to age; large populations NOT staying current with the Divine curriculum





# The Optimum Path of going through school

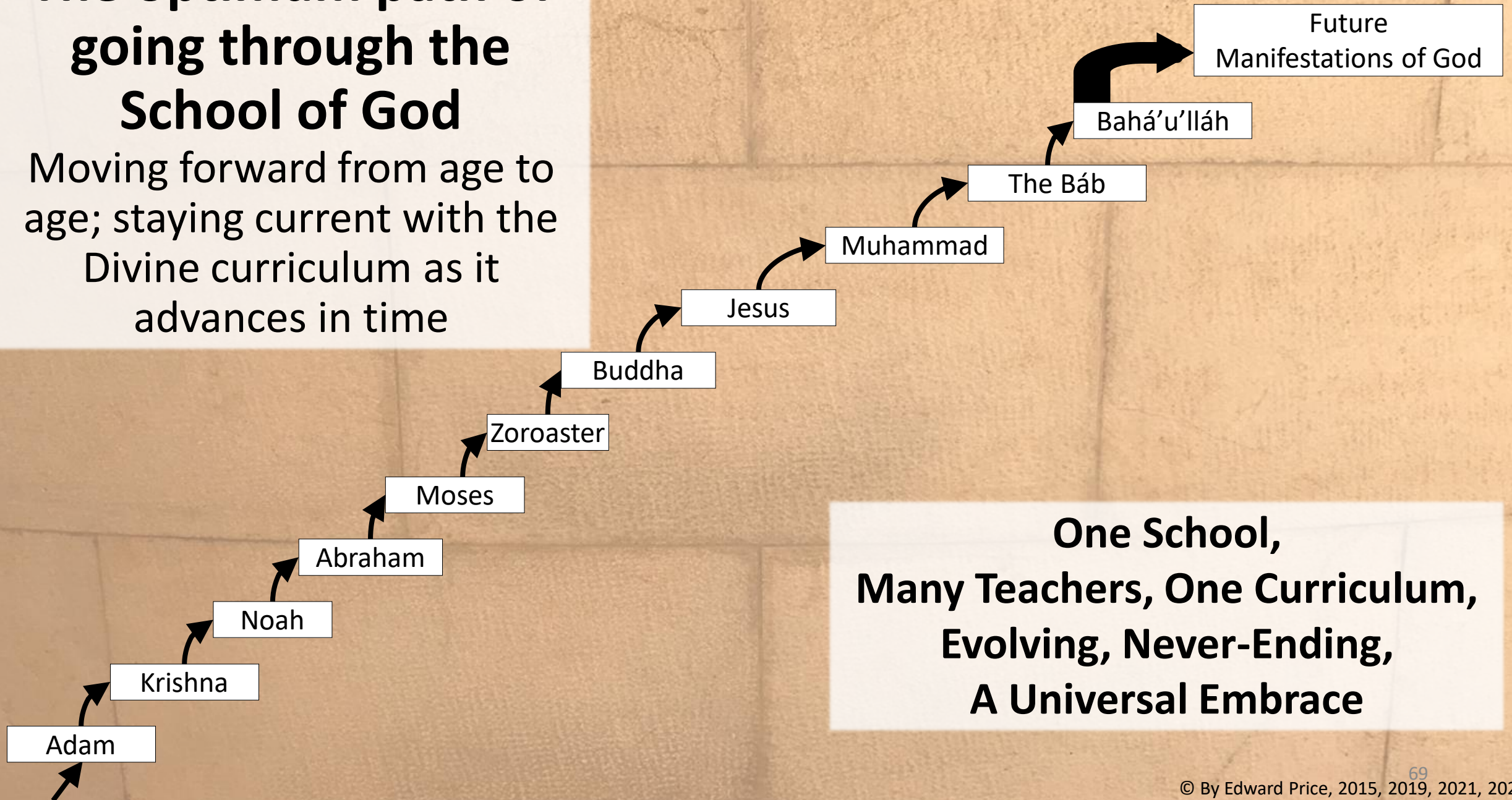


**One School,  
Many Teachers**



# The optimum path of going through the School of God

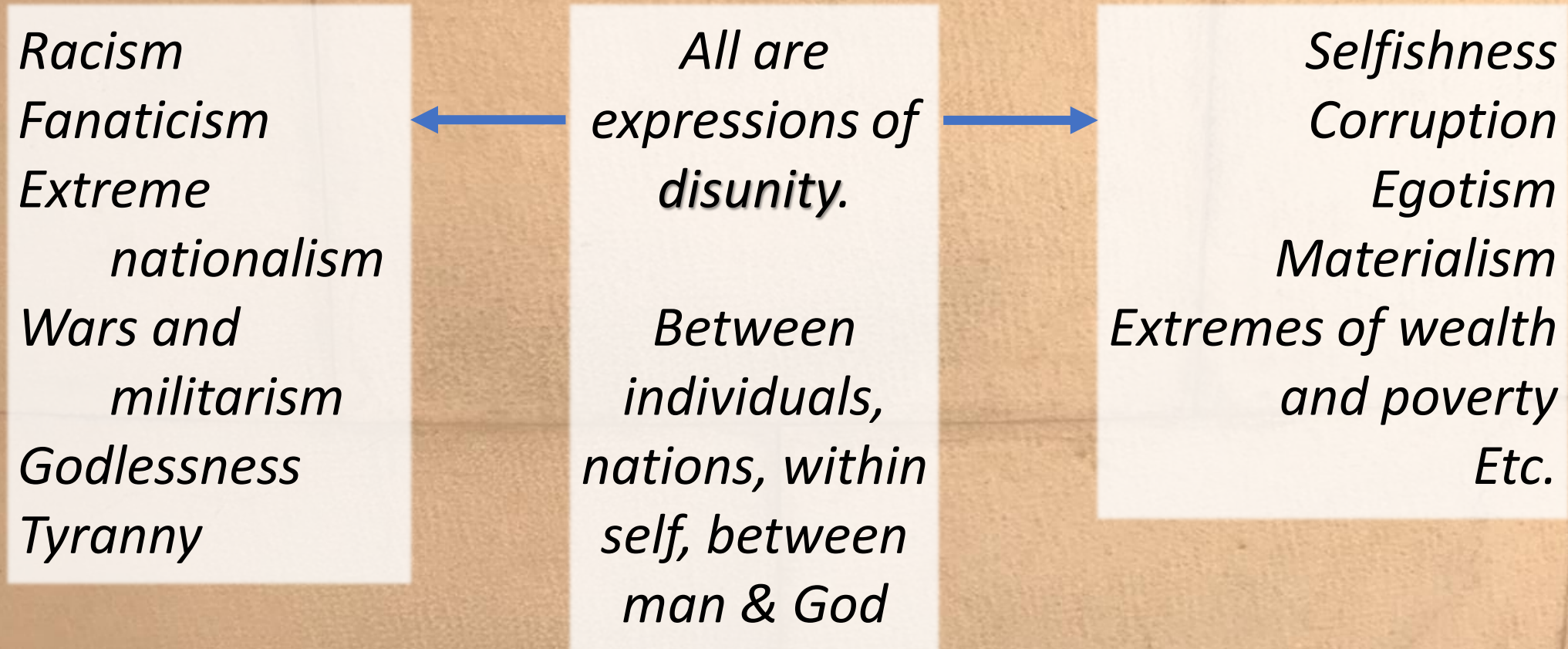
Moving forward from age to  
age; staying current with the  
Divine curriculum as it  
advances in time



**One School,  
Many Teachers, One Curriculum,  
Evolving, Never-Ending,  
A Universal Embrace**



- In the modern age, **disunity** is pervasive and causing humanity's ills, such as....





- **Disunity** is the underlying cause of humanity's ills...

*“...the first step essential for the peace and progress of mankind [is] its unification. As He says, **"The well-being of mankind, its peace and security are unattainable unless and until its unity is firmly established."** ... To this day, however, you will find most people take the opposite point of view: they look upon unity as an ultimate almost unattainable goal and concentrate first on remedying all the other ills of mankind. If they did but know it, **these other ills are but various symptoms and side effects of the basic disease -- disunity.**”* (The Universal House of Justice, 8 December 1967, Messages, p. 125)





According to the world's religions, all people and all things are reflections of the same Light of God because there is only one God, so naturally all "the Light" originates from the same Source.

**All things are united as recipients of His Light.**

The sun doesn't descend into the mirrors. From His exalted heights, God shines His Primal Light upon all and they reflect the signs of His revelation.

**Humanity is one because we are all "mirrors" reflecting the same Light from God.**

(Edward Price, The Divine Curriculum: The Báb, Volume 5, Part 1, ch.4, © 2019)



*“Become as true brethren in **the one and indivisible religion of God**, free from distinction, for verily God desireth that your hearts should **become mirrors** unto your brethren in the Faith, so that ye **find yourselves reflected in them, and they in you**. This is the true Path of God, the Almighty, and He is indeed watchful over your actions.”* (The Báb, SWB, p. 56)

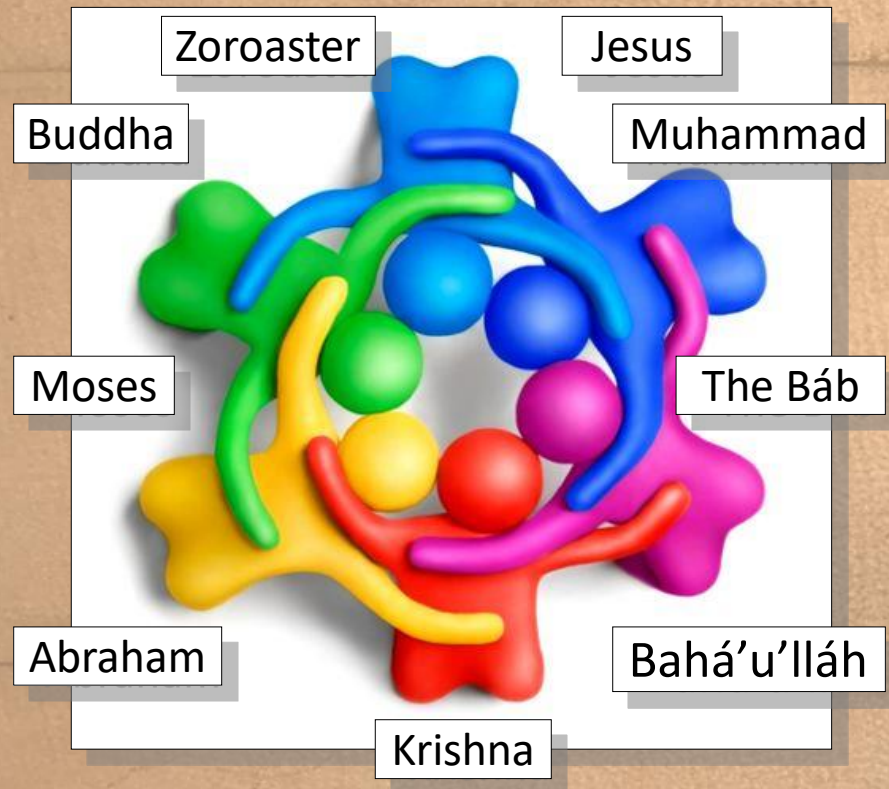




***“Every human being has a spiritual nature and also a material nature; his purpose is to subdue the material nature, which inclines him to evil, and, with the aid of Divine Teachings, to develop his spiritual nature so that he can manifest praiseworthy attributes... The Bahá'í Teachings inform us that there is **no independent force of evil in creation**, but terms such as "devil" or Satan" are used in sacred books as **symbols of the promptings of the lower nature of man.**”***

(The Universal House of Justice, 2 September 1992, letter to an individual)





## The purpose of the Divine Curriculum:

To know God

To love God

To choose God



*“The mission of the Prophets of God has been to **train the souls** of humanity and free them from the thralldom of natural instincts and physical tendencies.”* (‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *The Promulgation of Universal Peace*, p. 310)



- Know, love & choose God
- To elevate the soul above self
- To conquer the “insistent self”, which is the real source of evil
- To make human nature heavenly
- To prepare souls for the afterlife
- Establish God’s civilization on earth



The goal is to overcome “the insistent self”,  
i.e. the conquest of evil in man

*“...the concept of Satan or the Devil as an actual being opposed to God is rejected by the Bahá'í teachings but ... the term is understood by Bahá'ís to mean **the promptings of self and desire and the dark side of human nature.**”* (Universal House of Justice (13 February 1974, from the Universal House of Justice, cited in a letter dated 16 December 1998, on the topic of traditional practices in Africa)

*“O ye loved ones of God! In this, the Bahá'í dispensation, **God's Cause is spirit unalloyed...** Its only army is the love of God, its only joy the clear wine of His knowledge, its only battle the expounding of the Truth; **its one crusade is against the insistent self, the evil promptings of the human heart.** Its victory is to submit and yield, and to be selfless is its everlasting glory. In brief, it is spirit upon spirit...”* (‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Selections from the Writings of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá*, p. 256-257)



# Transforming the animal man into a human soul!

*“...Material civilization is like the body. No matter how infinitely graceful, elegant and beautiful it may be, it is dead. Divine civilization is like the spirit, and the body gets its life from the spirit, otherwise it becomes a corpse. It has thus been made evident that the world of mankind is in need of the breaths of the Holy Spirit. Without the spirit the world of mankind is lifeless, and without this light the world of mankind is in utter darkness. For **the world of nature is an animal world**. Until man is born again from the world of nature, that is to say, becomes detached from the world of nature, he is essentially an animal, and it is **the teachings of God which convert this animal into a human soul**.”* (‘Abdu’l-Bahá, Selections from the Writings of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá , p. 302-304)

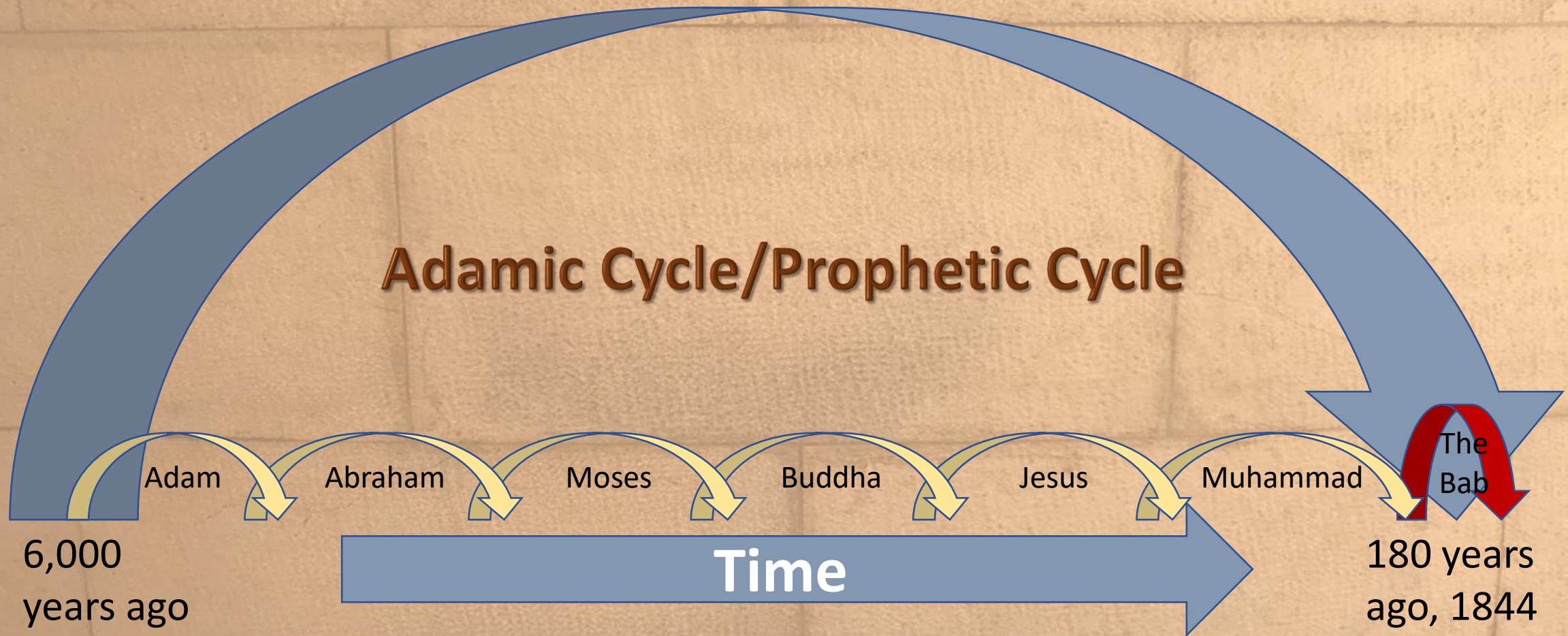


# **The roles of the Bab and Baha'u'llah in the Divine Curriculum**



# The Cycle of Prophecy

Childhood of humanity, a 6,000 yr cycle of preparation and maturation

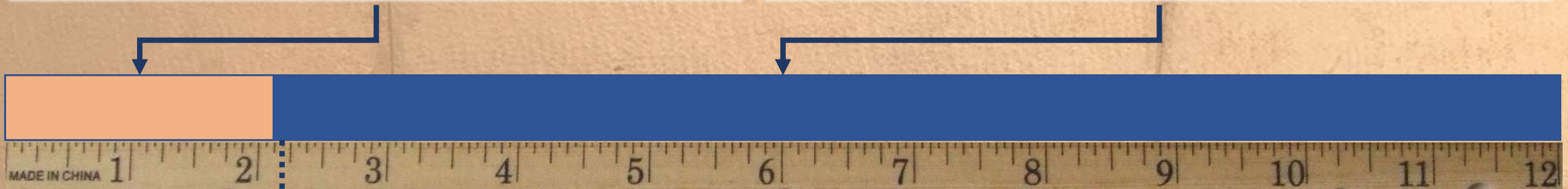




# The Dispensations of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh

**Bahá'u'lláh's Dispensation completed so far** (beginning 1844) = 180 years  
(2.16 inches, 18 percent)

**Remaining time in this Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh** = at least 820 years  
(9.84 inches, 82 percent)



We are here in history.

This comparison IS drawn to scale.  
173 years / est. 1,000 years = 17.3 percent



# The Dispensations of the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh

The goal of the Divine Curriculum in the present era is

- To achieve the oneness of humanity, to establish the Most Great Peace, Divine civilization
- To accomplish the full conversion of the animal man into the angelic human soul, the conquest of evil

The universal Peace will be established in these 1,000 years!

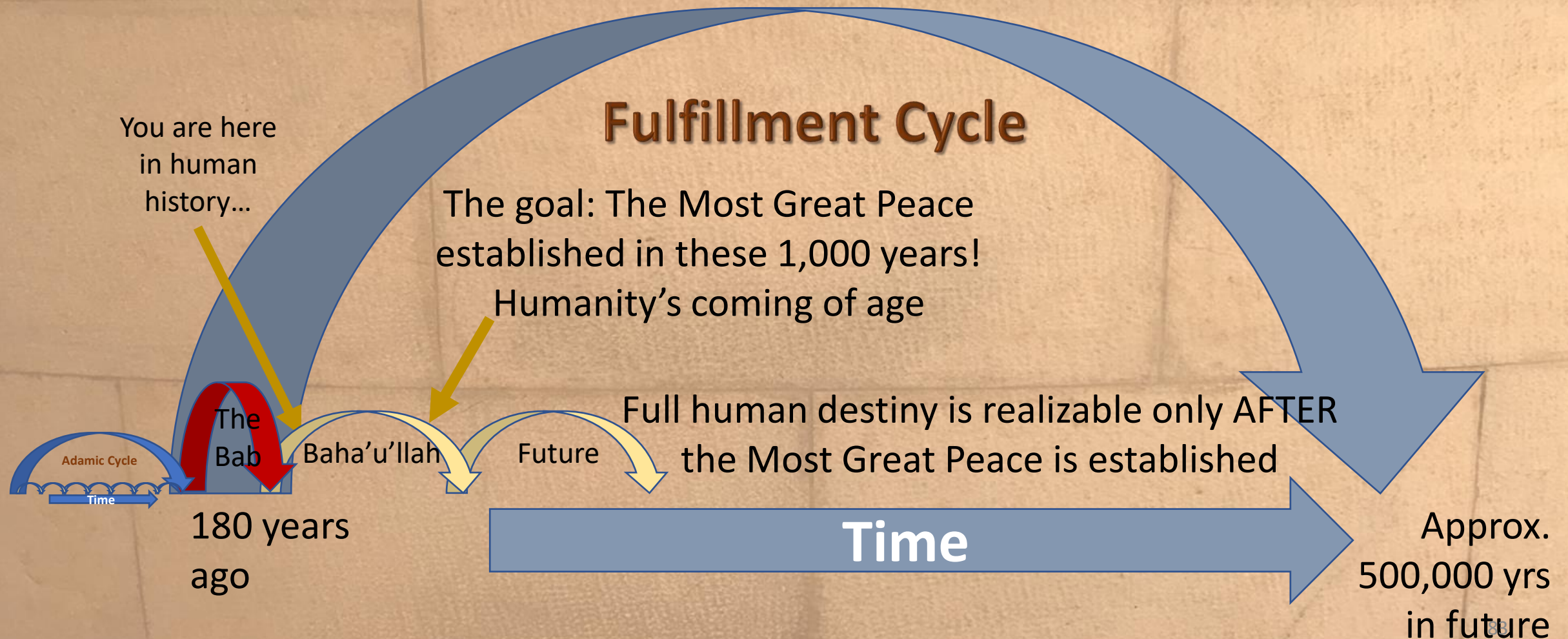
This represents humanity's coming of age

It WILL be done “on earth as it is in heaven”.



# The Cycle of Fulfillment

Adulthood of humanity, a vast cycle of human civilization, achievement and destiny



Dispensations not drawn to scale.

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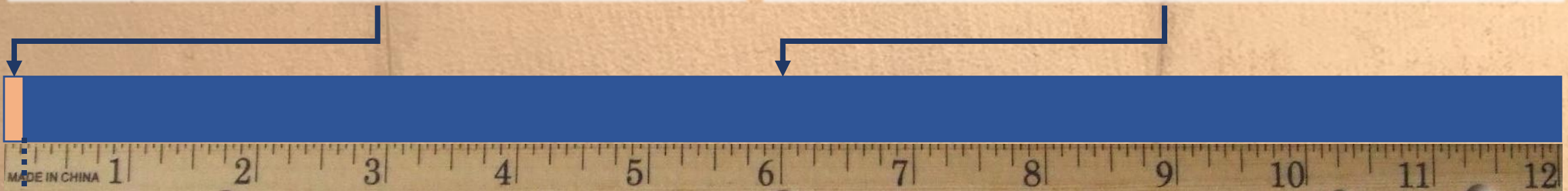


# The Cycle of Fulfillment

Adulthood of humanity, a vast cycle of  
human civilization, achievement and destiny

**Adamic Cycle** (6,000 yrs, **ALL** of recorded  
human history so far) = 0.15 inches

**Fulfillment Cycle** (500,000 yrs) = 12.0 inches



The Báb and Bahá'u'lláh  
are here in history.  
We are here as well.

This comparison IS drawn to scale.  
 $6,000 \text{ years} / 506,000 \text{ years} = 1.2 \text{ percent}$



# Humanity then BEGINS to fulfill its destiny!

*“Then will the planet, galvanized through the **universal belief of its dwellers in one God**, and their **allegiance to one common Revelation**,*

- mirror, within the limitations imposed upon it, the effulgent glories of the sovereignty of Bahá'u'lláh, shining in the plenitude of its splendour in the Abha Paradise, and be made the footstool of His Throne on high, and*
- acclaimed as the earthly heaven, **capable of fulfilling that ineffable destiny** fixed for it, from time immemorial, by the love and wisdom of its Creator.”*

(Shoghi Effendi, The Promised Day Is Come, 28 March 1941, p. 122-124)



## Some reflections...

- 6,000 years of human history (the Adamic cycle) has been getting us “ready”!
- The Dispensation of Muhammad was the last One of the Adamic Cycle; when it ended, the cycle ended too
- The **Dispensation of the Báb** terminated the Islamic Dispensation, and it also terminated the Adamic Cycle; it was, in my view, ***the end of the beginning*** (of human history)! It saw the first moments of the Age of Fulfillment.
- The **Dispensation of Baha’u’llah** marks ***the 1,000 year beginning the Age of Fulfillment***, during which universal peace and Divine civilization finally and fully emerges
- Mankind will at last be ready to attain the unimaginable destiny our loving God has in store for us!!!!



# *The* DIVINE CURRICULUM

How God's Plan Is Revealed In  
the World's Great Religions

VOLUME 1  
DIVINE DESIGN

EDWARD PRICE

**Thank you very much!**

**I welcome Q&A.**

**My email: [edprice99@yahoo.com](mailto:edprice99@yahoo.com)**

**Twitter: [@EdwardAPrice](https://twitter.com/EdwardAPrice)**

**Call me: [847-370-5378](tel:847-370-5378) (cell)**