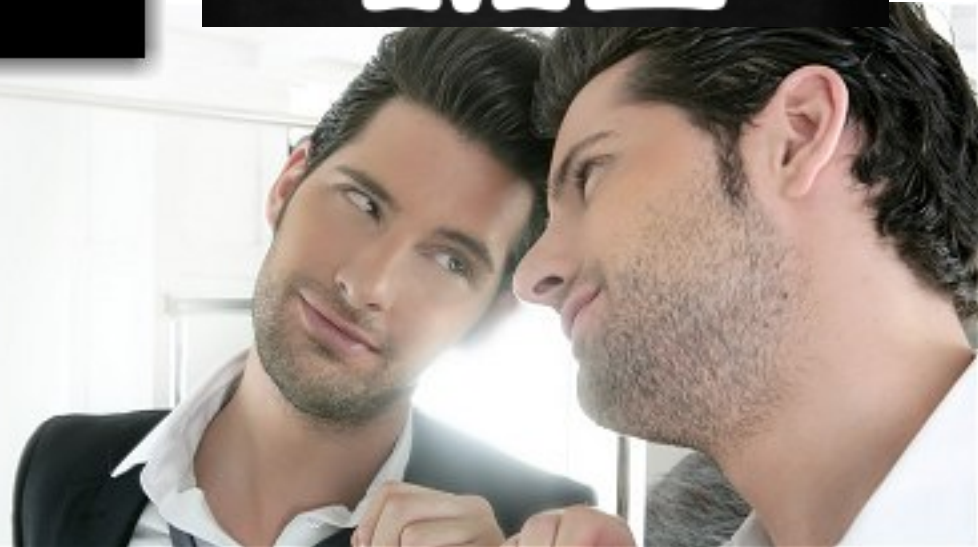
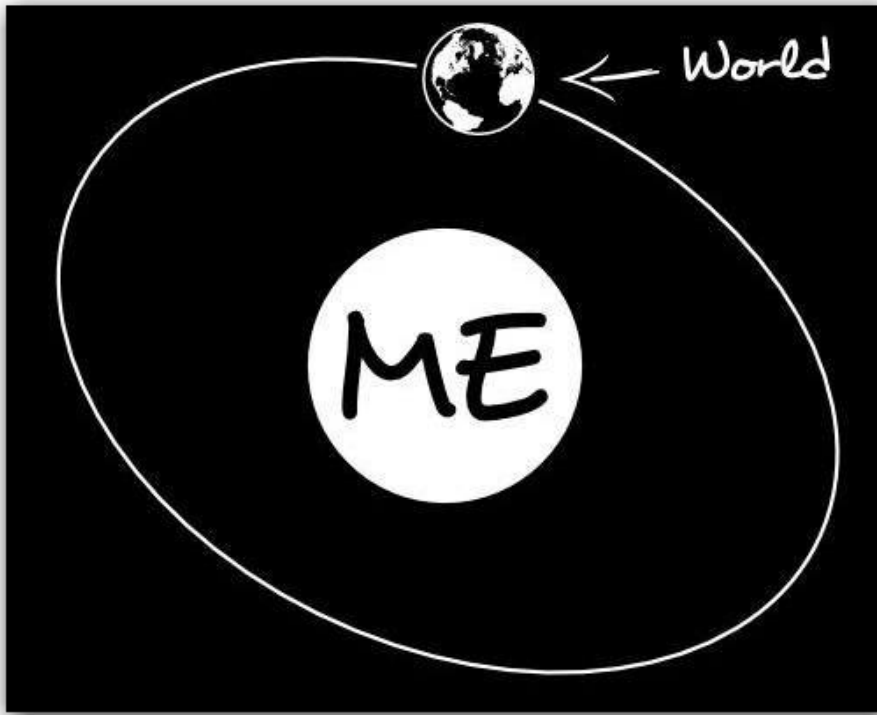


# Lakewood Church (Houston, TX)

- Contributions (annually)
  - \$45M from parishioners
  - \$32M sent in from outsiders
- 300 Employees
- 43,500 weekly attendance
- 7M weekly TV viewers in 100 countries
- 4M podcast downloads per month
- 1M daily requests for daily e-mailed inspirational message



# Health, Wealth, and Prosperity Gospel

*“God has already done everything He’s going to do. The ball is now in your court. If you want success, if you want wisdom, if you want to be prosperous and healthy, you’re going to have to do more than meditate and believe; you must boldly declare words of faith and victory over yourself and your family” – Joel Osteen*

# Devotion to Christ

2 Corinthians 11:3

But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

# John 1:29-41

- The Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. (Isaiah 53:7)
- Of higher rank than John the Baptist, because He existed first. (John 1:1-3)
- The one who baptizes in the Holy Spirit. (Isaiah 32:15-17, Joel 2:28,29)
- The Son of God (Isaiah 7:14, Psalm 2:7)
- The Messiah (Daniel 9:24-27, Isaiah 9:6,7)

# The Message of John the Baptist

Luke 16:16

The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John; since then the gospel of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it.

# The Kingdom of God

The Final Superpower

The Dreaming King and the Slave

## The Great Image in Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

The great image that God revealed to Nebuchadnezzar in a dream was interpreted by the prophet Daniel. Each section represents a world-ruling superpower. Each succeeding metal is less valuable, but each succeeding metal is stronger, as each empire was more powerful than the last.

### Gold—Head

This section represented the empire of Babylon, of which Nebuchadnezzar was king.

### Silver—Chest and Arms

The silver chest with two arms signified the empire of the Medes and Persians, which conquered and supplanted Babylon.

### Bronze—Belly and Thighs

This section represented the Greco-Macedonian Empire of Alexander the Great, which swallowed up Persia.

### Iron—Legs

The two legs of iron represented the Roman Empire. After Alexander's death, his Hellenistic empire continued in a divided form until its divisions were taken over by Rome. The two legs apparently signified the east-west division that characterized the Late Roman Empire.

### Iron & Clay—Feet and Toes

Extending from the legs are feet and toes of iron mixed with clay—a brittle and unstable mixture because it would not bond well. These represent the final phase of the Roman Empire, which will be made up of ten kings, some strong and some weak.



# Reign of the Messiah

Isaiah 9:6,7

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.



# The Messiah Brings Peace with God for All Who are in His Kingdom

Ezekiel 37:26-28

I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever. My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. And the nations will know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever.

# Faith Without Works is Dead

James 2:14-17

What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

# Jesus Forsaking Riches For You

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.