



EQUIPPED

Sharing your faith in a complex world

A background image of a stained glass window with various colored panes (red, yellow, orange, blue, purple) and a bright light source in the upper left corner, creating a warm, glowing atmosphere.

***To Know God
and Make
Him Known***



God

Jesus

Salvation

Eternity

A LITTLE BACKGROUND

Siddhartha Gautama (563-483 B.C.)

Northern India (Modern Nepal)

Prince in India prophesied to be a great ruler or a great prophet

Father sheltered him from old age, disease, death, and religious renunciation

On a chariot ride at the age of 30, Hindu gods manifested themselves as the 4 banished influences.

Shortly thereafter began a life of searching for enlightenment through Hindu study and then asceticism



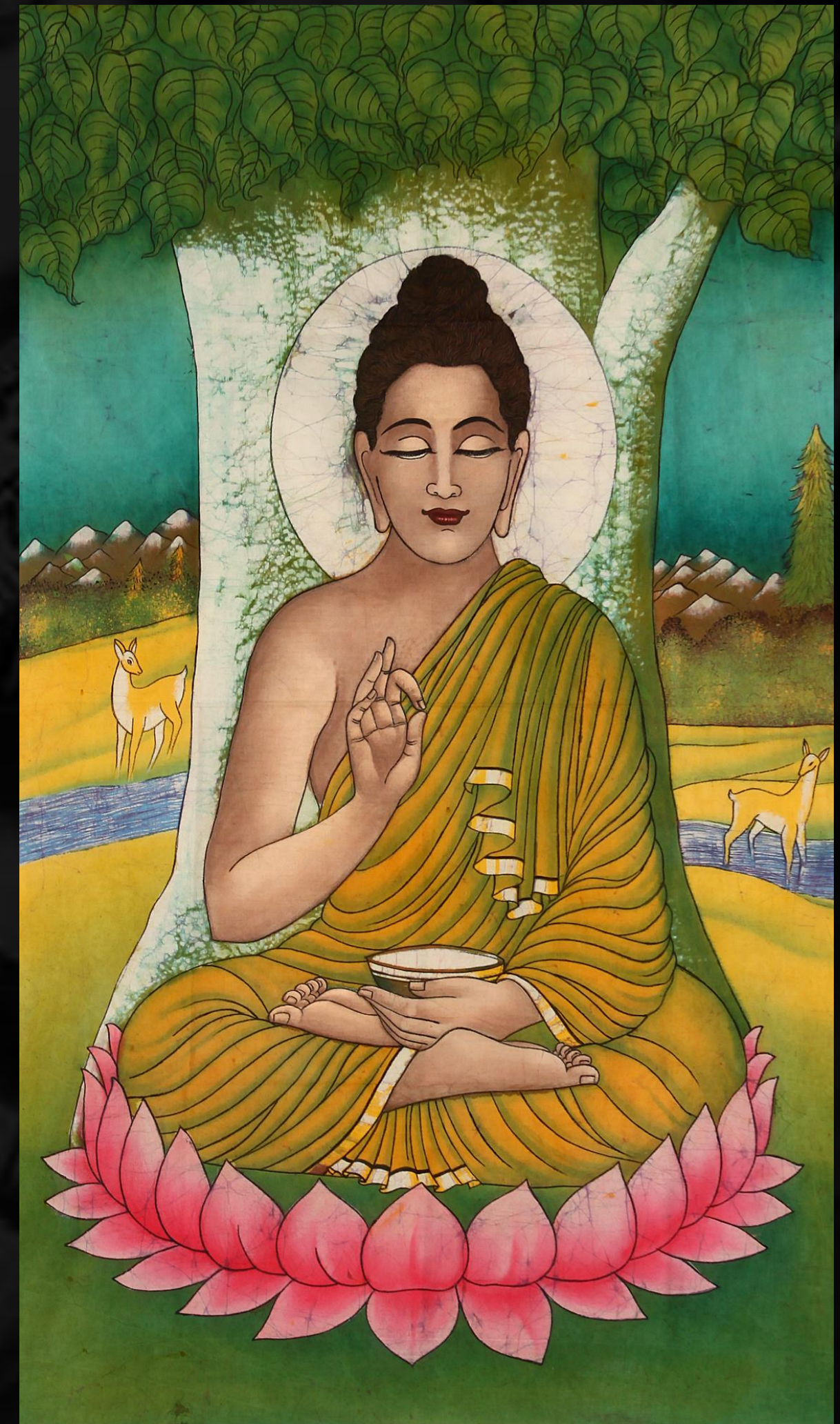
A LITTLE BACKGROUND

7 years later...

Achieved enlightenment
while after meditating under
a fig tree for 40 days.

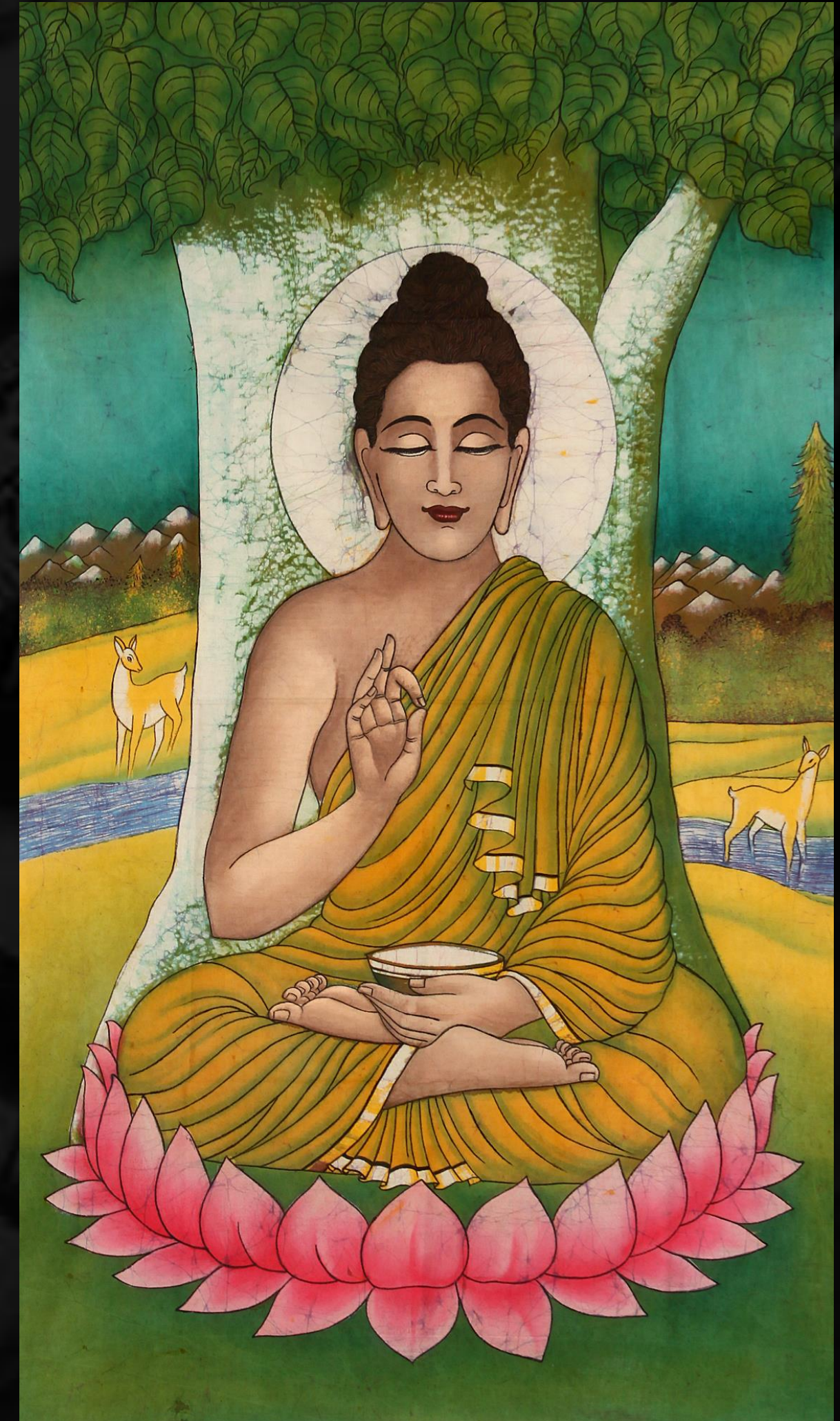
Buddha –
“enlightened/awakened one”

Began teaching a philosophy
of the “Middle Way” in 525
BC

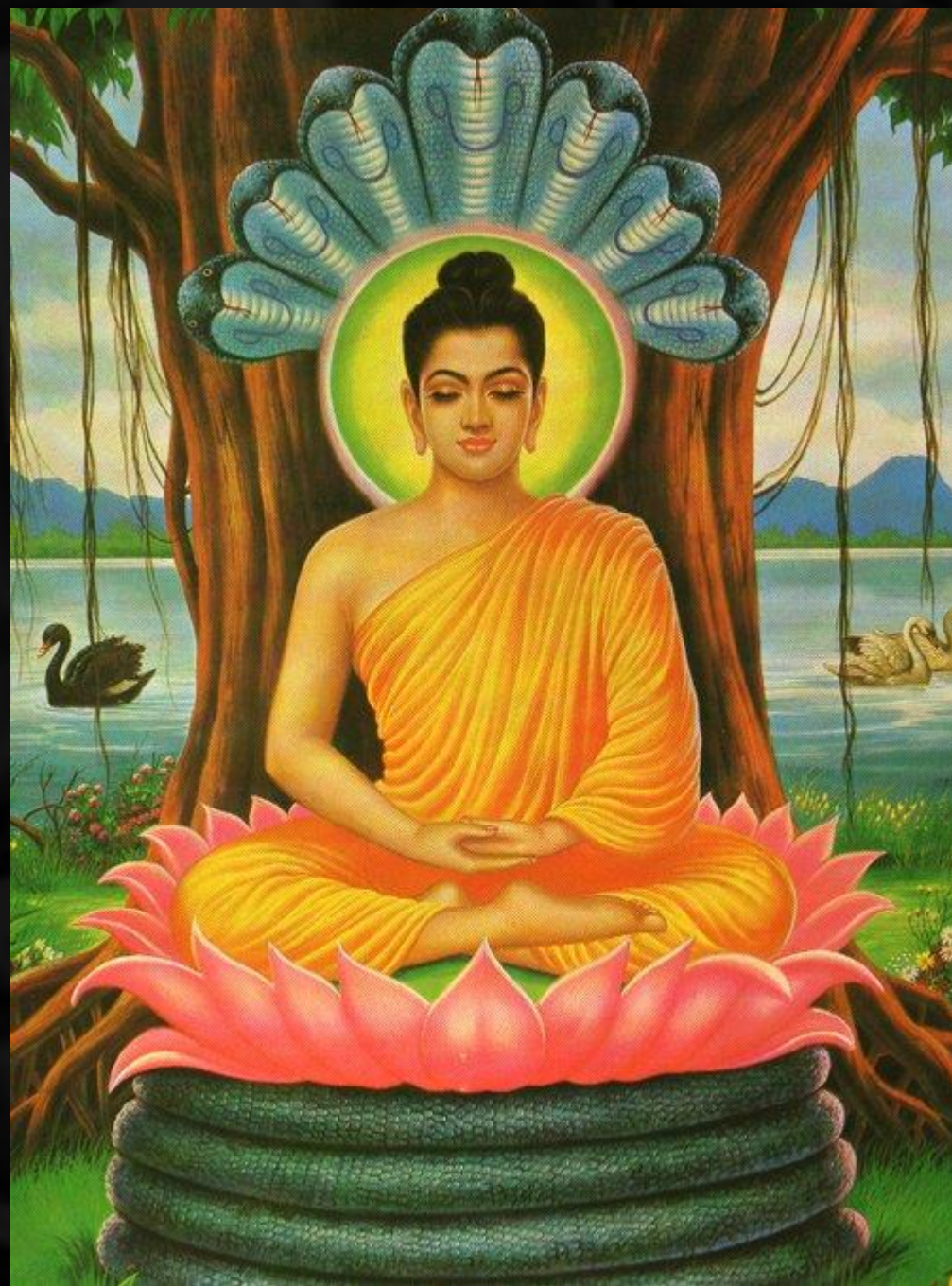


What Buddha taught (The Four Noble Truths):

- To Live is to Suffer
- Suffering is Caused by Desire
- One can Eliminate Suffering by Eliminating Desire
- Desire is Eliminated by means of the “Middle Way”, or Noble Eightfold Path



What Buddha taught (The Noble Eightfold Path):



Right View – of existence

Right Intention

Right Speech – saying all that is,
and only what is, required

Right Action – doing all that is,
and only what is, required

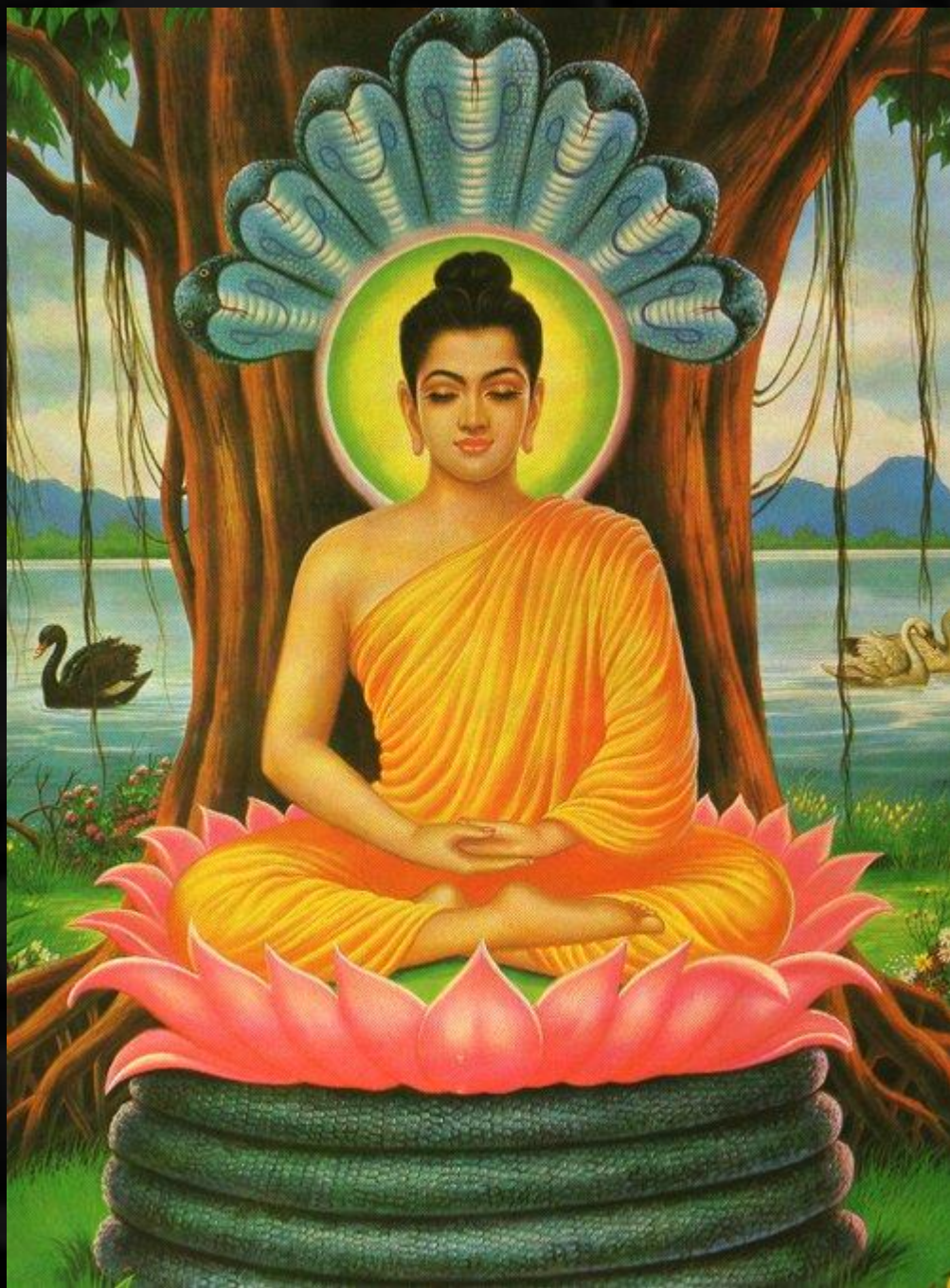
What Buddha taught (The Noble Eightfold Path):

Right Livelihood – monk

Right Mindfulness – meditation

Right Concentration –
maintaining continuous focus

Right Effort – directing one's
energy properly (to alleviate
hurts)



Died eating spoiled pork that had been presented to him as an offering.

Entered nirvana while his followers watched him.



God

Philosophical Atheism

Sunyata (“The Void”) -

Nothing, Love, Compassion

God

Is Buddha god?

No.....and yes



God

Buddhas are enlightened humans who are still only part of the ultimate reality (nothingness, love, etc.)



God

Some branches of
Buddhism worship a
buddha as a deity



God

Bodhisattvas are savior
type demi-gods or gods
who help others
achieve salvation



Jesus

No place at all in traditional
teachings

Teacher, Buddha in waiting
(bodhisattva)

Salvation

“To live is to suffer...”

Life and its desires/attachments keep us from becoming one with the ultimate non-reality (sunyata)

Salvation

Reincarnation
(samsara) is a negative
concept, a repeat of
life that equals
continued suffering



samsara

Salvation is...

Release

(nirvana –literally “blowing
out the flame of desire”)

from the cycle of
reincarnation via karma

Salvation

karma - the sum of a person's actions in this and previous states of existence, viewed as deciding their fate in future existences.

Salvation

good karma is earned by...

The Eightfold Path

Works, Monasticism

Worship of a deity, buddha,
book

Eternity

Ultimate goal is to lose individuality and find release from samsara by joining again with ultimate non-reality (nothing, force, love, compassion)

Eternity

Like a drop of water in the
ocean





So What?



The Middle Way vs. The Way



George
Lucas

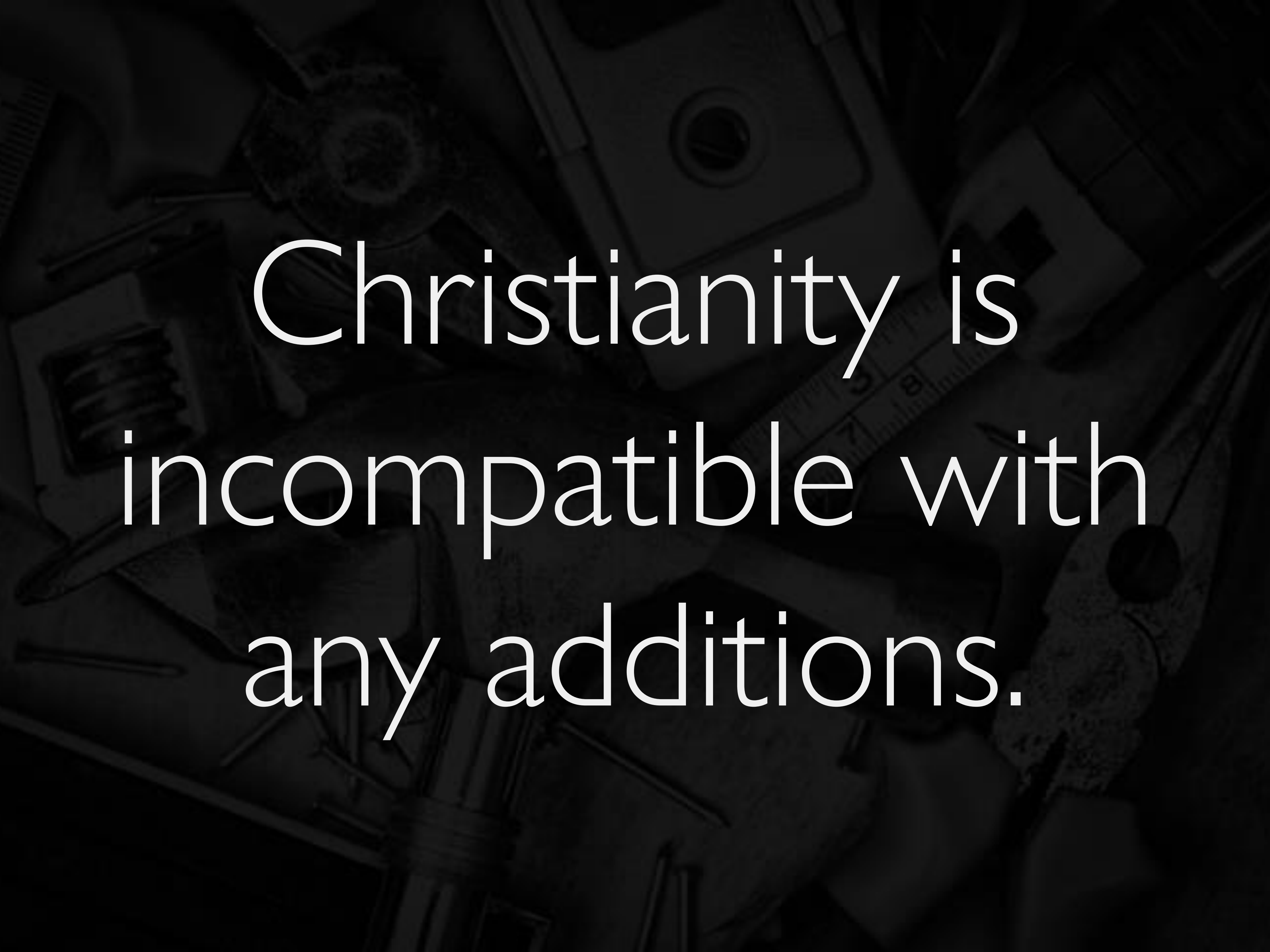
Methodist
Buddhist

“Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

(John 14:6, CSB)

“I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.”

(John 15:5, CSB)

The background of the image is a dark, textured surface featuring faint, light-colored outlines of various tools. These tools include a hammer, a wrench, a screwdriver, and a pair of pliers, arranged in a somewhat chaotic but recognizable pattern. The overall aesthetic is industrial and technical.

Christianity is
incompatible with
any additions.

To Live does
include suffering....
but we have a
greater hope

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us.”

(Romans 8:18, CSB)

“For we too were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved by various passions and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, detesting one another. But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit. He poured out his Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior so that, having been justified by his grace, we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life.”

(Titus 3:3–7, CSB)

There is
no “do
over”



Hebrews 9:27 (NET)

...people are appointed
to die once, and then
to face judgment,

It's not about being "right" or
defeating someone in an argument,

It's about eternity.

Memorize Romans 8:18

Share the Person and Gospel of Jesus as the only answer to the problem of pain and suffering in this life and in eternity

Pray for revival in the lives of your friends and show the Gospel through love and compassion

Romans 8:18 (NET)

For I consider that our present sufferings cannot even be compared to the glory that will be revealed to us.



Family

Chat





Financial Report



Education Wing Roof

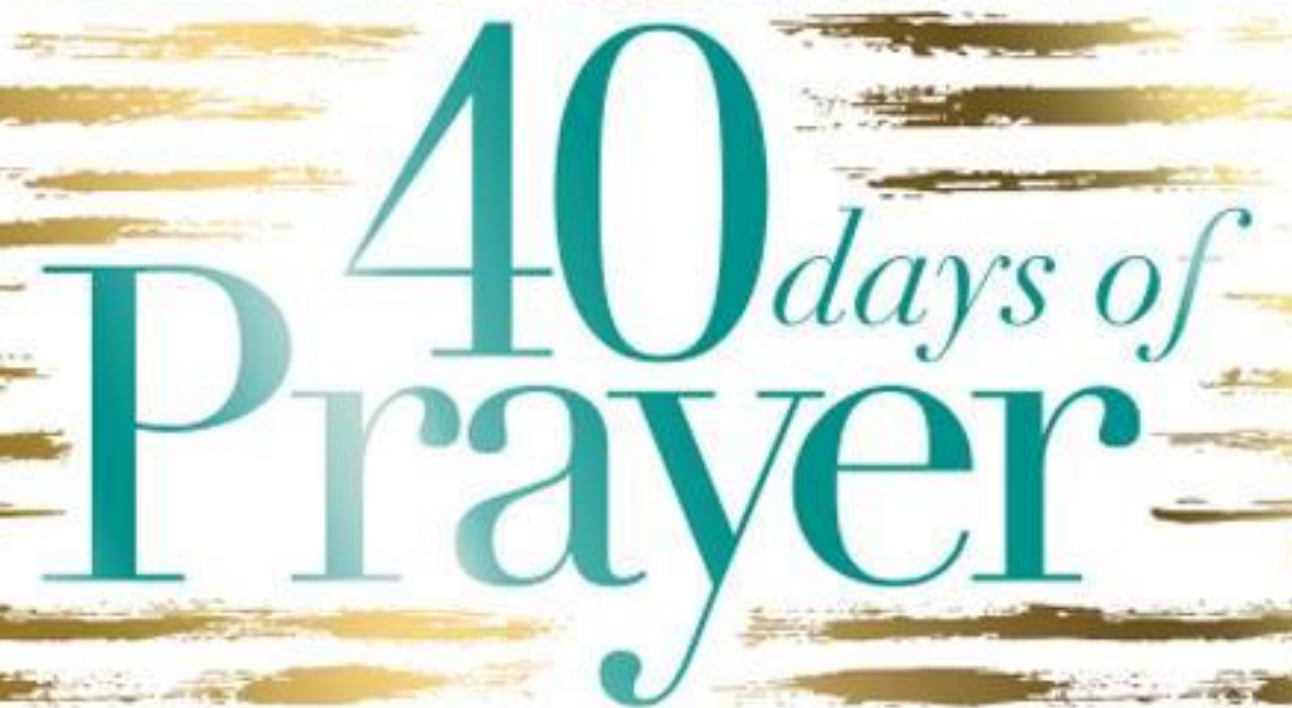
End of August

\$21,000

Fall-Kick Off – Sept. 26

40 Days of Prayer

- Small Group Hosts/Leaders
- Prayer/Study Guides
- INVITE!!!!



40 *days of*
Prayer