

# Come Out of the Cave

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# Intro

Last week we talked about how God invaded the earth in Jesus Christ and He did it requiring our response.

- John preached repentance, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.
- Jesus came and preached repentance, for the Kingdom of Heaven is here.
- With the Great Commission, He said go and take the Kingdom of Heaven there.
  
- And we must ask ourselves, how will we respond to that commission?
- Do you believe that the church as we currently know it, is the only response?

# The Cave

Imagine prisoners who have been chained since their childhood deep inside a cave: not only are their arms and legs unmovable because of chains; their heads are chained in one direction as well so that their gaze is fixed on a wall. Behind the prisoners is an enormous fire, and between the fire and the prisoners is a raised walkway, along which puppets of various animals, plants, and other things are moved along. The puppets cast shadows on the wall, and the prisoners watch these shadows. Behind this cave there is a well-used road, and upon this road people are walking and talking and generally making noise. The prisoners, then, believe that these noises are coming directly from the shadows they are watching pass by on the cave wall.

Next page...

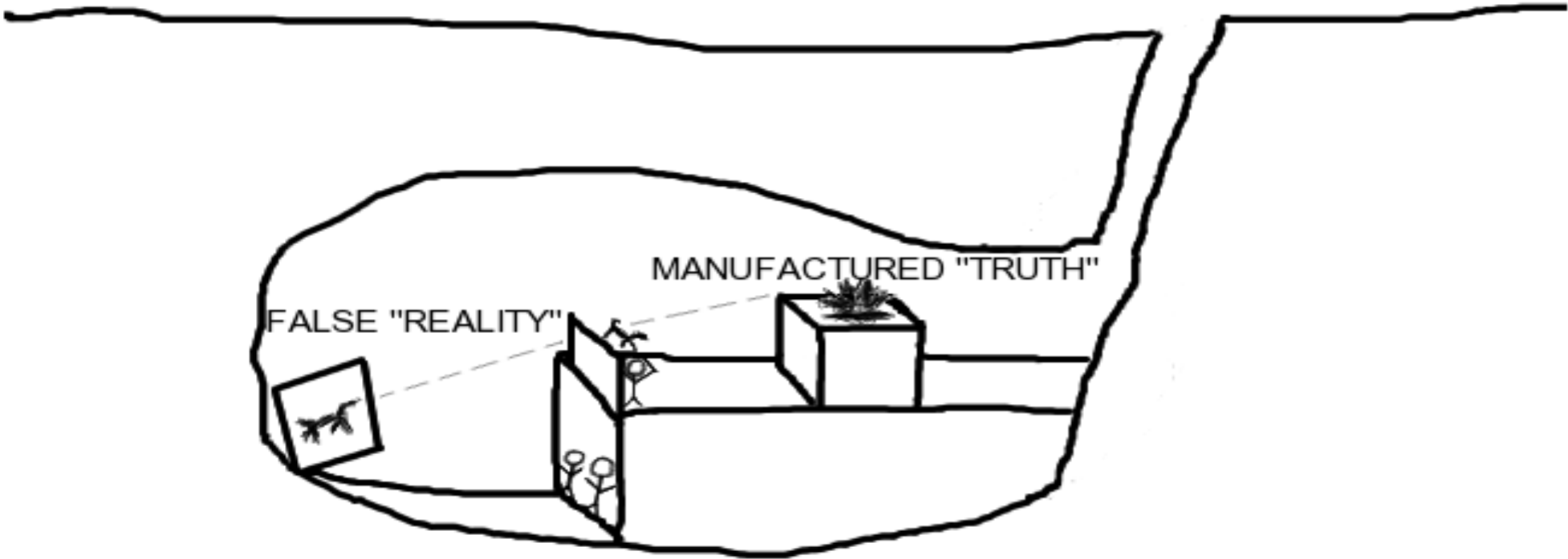
# The Cave (Cont.)

The prisoners engage in what appears to be a game : naming the shapes as they come by. This, however, is the only reality that they know, even though they are seeing merely shadows of objects. They are thus conditioned to judge the quality of one another by their skill in being able to quickly name the shapes and they dislike those who play poorly. Suppose a prisoner's chains break, and he is able to get up and walk about (a process which takes some time, as he has never done it before). Eventually he will be compelled to explore; he walks up and out of the cave, whereby he is instantly blinded by the sun. He turns then to the shadows on the floor, in the lakes, slowly working his way out of his deluded mind, and he is eventually able to glimpse the sun. In time, he would learn to see it as the object that provides the seasons and the courses of the year, as the thing that presides over all things in the visible region, and is in some way the cause of all these things that he has seen.

# The Cave (Ending)

Once enlightened, the freed prisoner would not want to return to the cave, but would be compelled to do so to free his fellow prisoners. Another problem lies in the other prisoners not wanting to be freed: descending back into the cave would require that the freed prisoner's eyes adjust again, and for a time, he would be one of the ones identifying shapes on the wall. His eyes would be swamped by the darkness, and would take time to become acclimated. He might stumble, and the prisoners would conclude that his "experience" had ruined him. He would not be able to identify the shapes on the wall as well as the other prisoners, making it seem as if his being taken to the surface (in the light) had completely ruined his eyesight.

ABSOLUTE TRUTH



The Picture Illustration of The Cave

# 1 Kings 18:17-39

- Baal - a god of the rain, thunder, fertility and agriculture
- Ashera - wife of Baal
- Mt. Carmel - where there people built sanctuaries to pagan weather gods
- Not only that, Jezebel was knowingly killing the prophets

# Matthew 22:23 - 46

- The Sadducees did not believe in Christ or what He taught.
- They also did not know the power of God
- He astonished them with His response
  
- Pharisees turn about the greatest commandment
- After His response to them, no one dared ask Him another question.

# Other Stories

- Peter and John before the sanhedrin
- Steven against the religious people
- 1 Corinthians 4:14-20
- Paul made sure that the Corinthian church was not moving over to the place of hearing the word only. They must know the true God and He comes with power.