



Son of Man, Sent by God



A SERIES FOR ADVENT

The Son of God became...

A Child.

A Newborn.

An Infant.



What Child
is this?



kind of
What ^ Child
is this?



We believe that Jesus, at His
birth, was fully divine —
& fully human.



Son of God

Son of Man



Jesus made it crystal clear that He was God. The Messiah. Son of God.



But He always referred to Himself
as the Son of Man. (80 times!)

Why?



He wanted us to know
that He was human!





Hope Through Humanity

SON OF MAN, SENT BY GOD





His

Hope Through Humanity

SON OF MAN, SENT BY GOD





Our hope is rooted in
the humanity of Jesus.





This Advent, we are going to take a closer look at why it is so important to know that Jesus is fully human...and what that means for us.



During His 33 years on earth,
everyone who knew or met Jesus
believed that He was fully human.



Matthew spent several years in

Jesus' inner circle.

He said this about a trip

Jesus took to Nazareth...



“When Jesus had finished these parables, He moved on from there. Coming to his hometown, He began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed.

‘Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?’ they asked. ‘Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t His mother’s name Mary, and aren’t His brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? Aren’t all His sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?’ And they took offense at Him.”

Matthew 13:53-57



The Apostle John referred to
himself as "the beloved."
He was Jesus' closest friend.
He began his 1st Epistle this way...



“That which was from the beginning,
which we have heard, which we have
seen with our eyes, which we have
looked at and our hands have
touched—this we proclaim
concerning the Word of life.”

1 John 1:1



Jesus got hungry. He got thirsty.

He got tired. He struggled.

He was tempted. He cried.

He laughed. He felt pain



As far as we know, no one
questioned His humanity
during His life on earth.
What they couldn't believe
is that He was God.



Jesus' closest disciples,
who knew how human He was,
worshiped Him as God.



But the first generation of Christians
started from a different place.
They began with Jesus as God—
& they struggled with His humanness.



In fact...the very first heresy
(false teaching) that the early
church faced was that
Jesus wasn't fully human.



The Apostle John wanted to make
it crystal clear that Jesus was
fully human. He was God in the flesh.



“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

...The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:1,14



“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.”

1 John 4:1-2



"I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist."

2 John v. 7



**Anyone who denies Jesus'
humanity is a deceiver!**

(That's a pretty big deal)

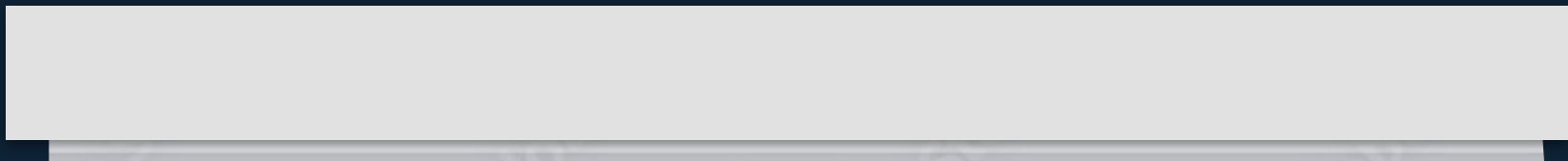


**Within 50 years of His ascension,
followers of Jesus began
fighting over His true nature.**



Do any of you have an
interest in church history?

Church History

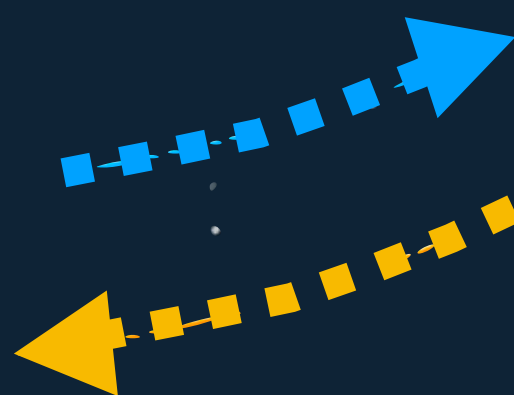
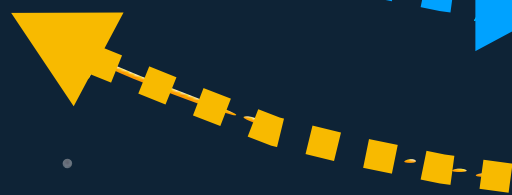
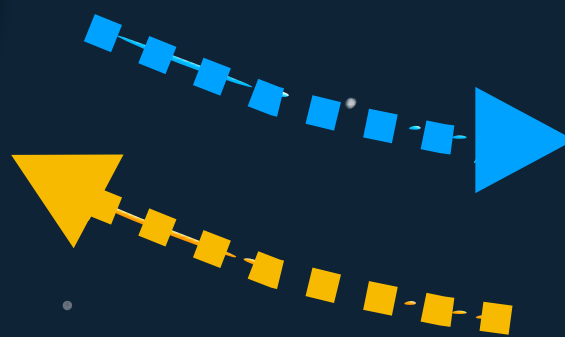


HUMANITY

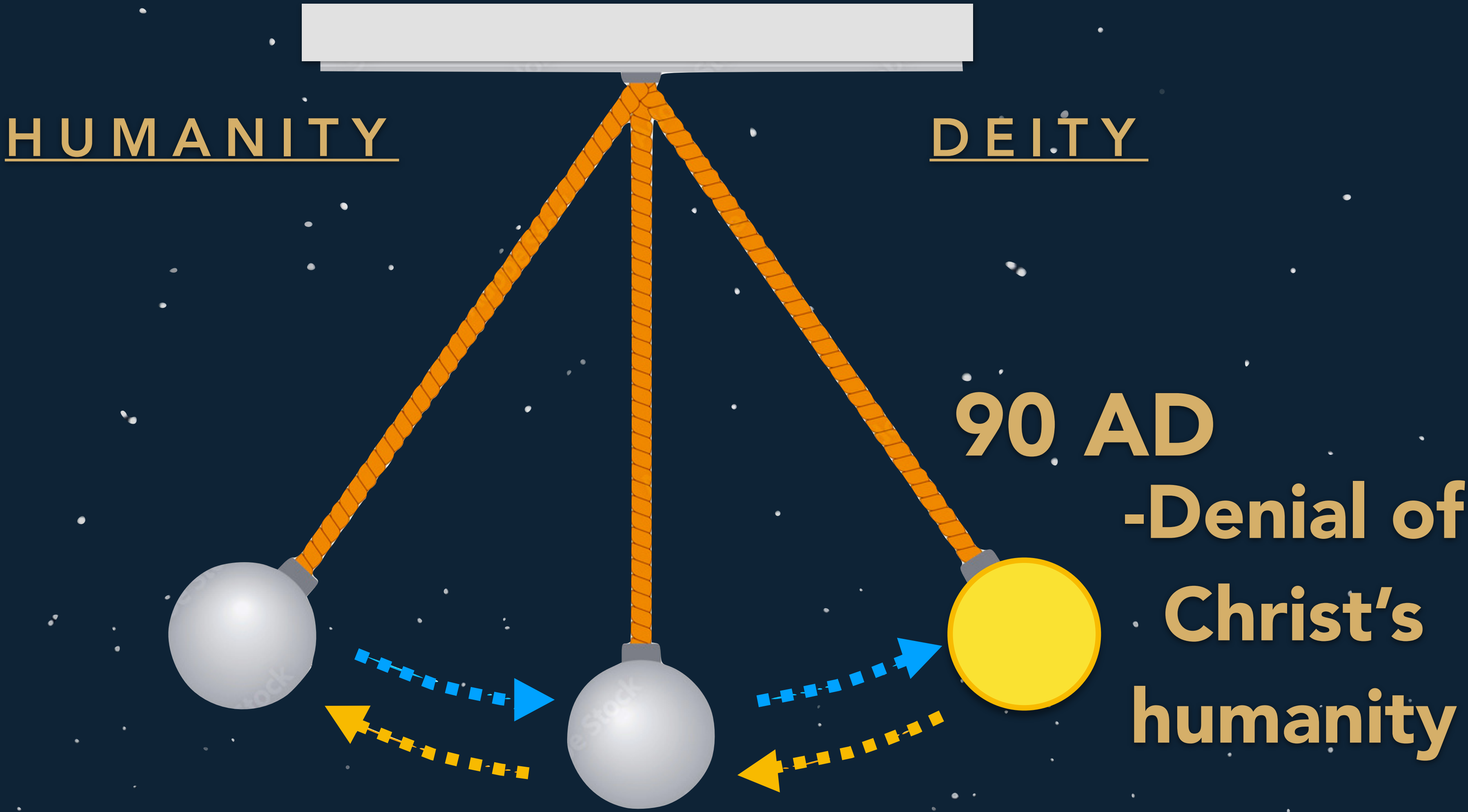
DEITY

30 AD

**- "Isn't this the
carpenters son
from
Nazareth?"**

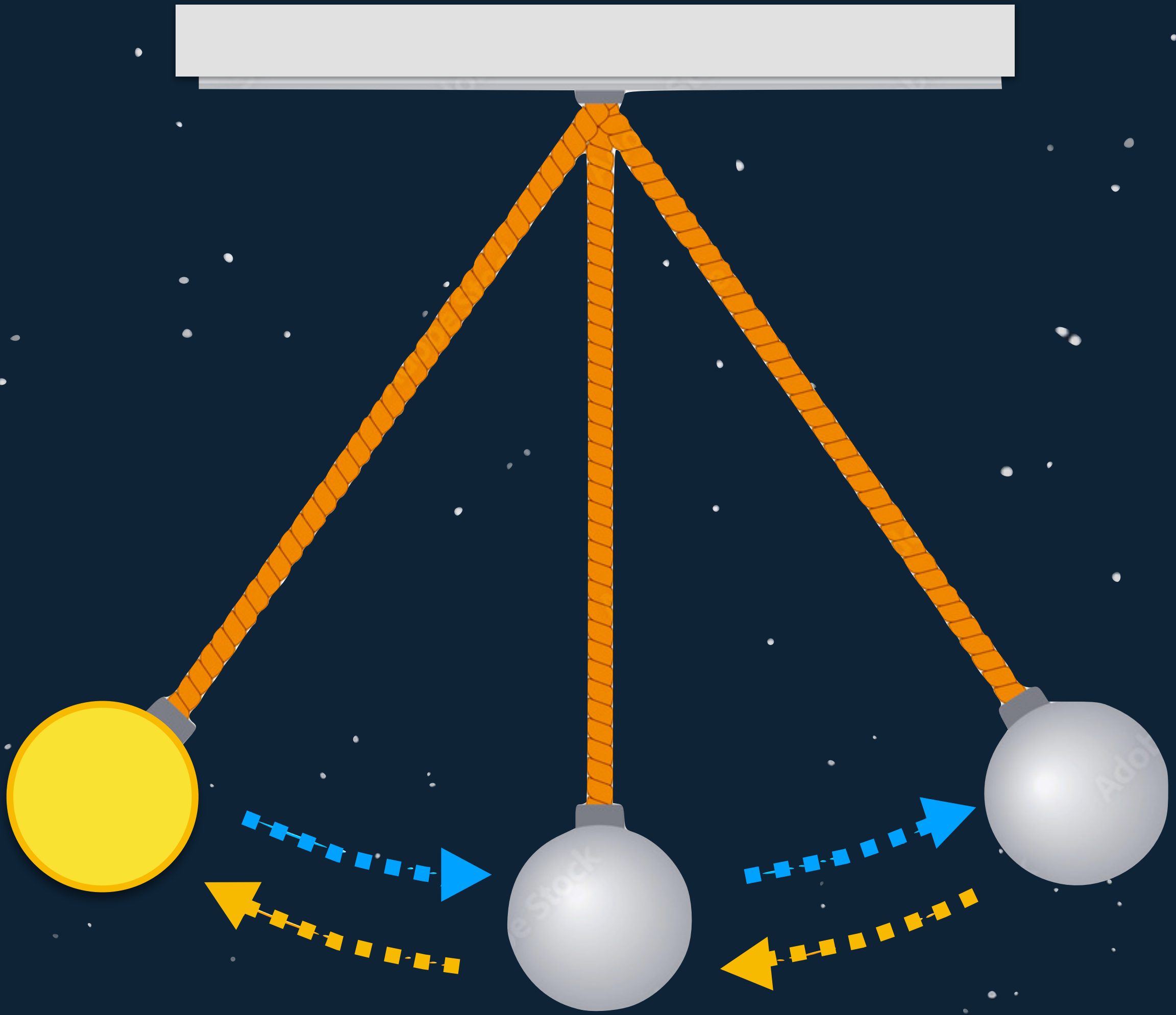


Church History



Church History

300 AD
-Denial of Christ's divinity



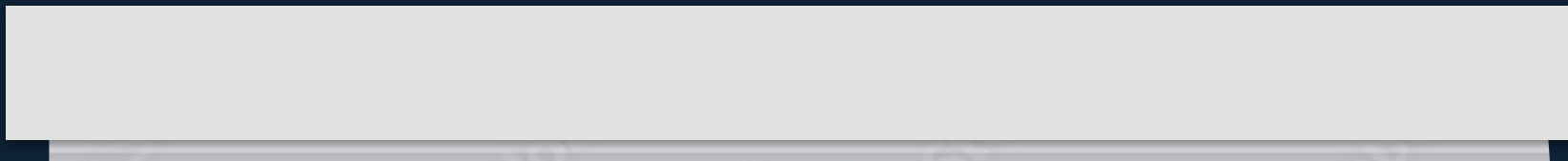
Church History

- A priest named Arius, from Alexandria, Egypt, began teaching that Jesus was only a created being with some divine attributes. Jesus was not eternal, and He is not divine.

300 AD

**-Denial of
Christ's
divinity**

Church History

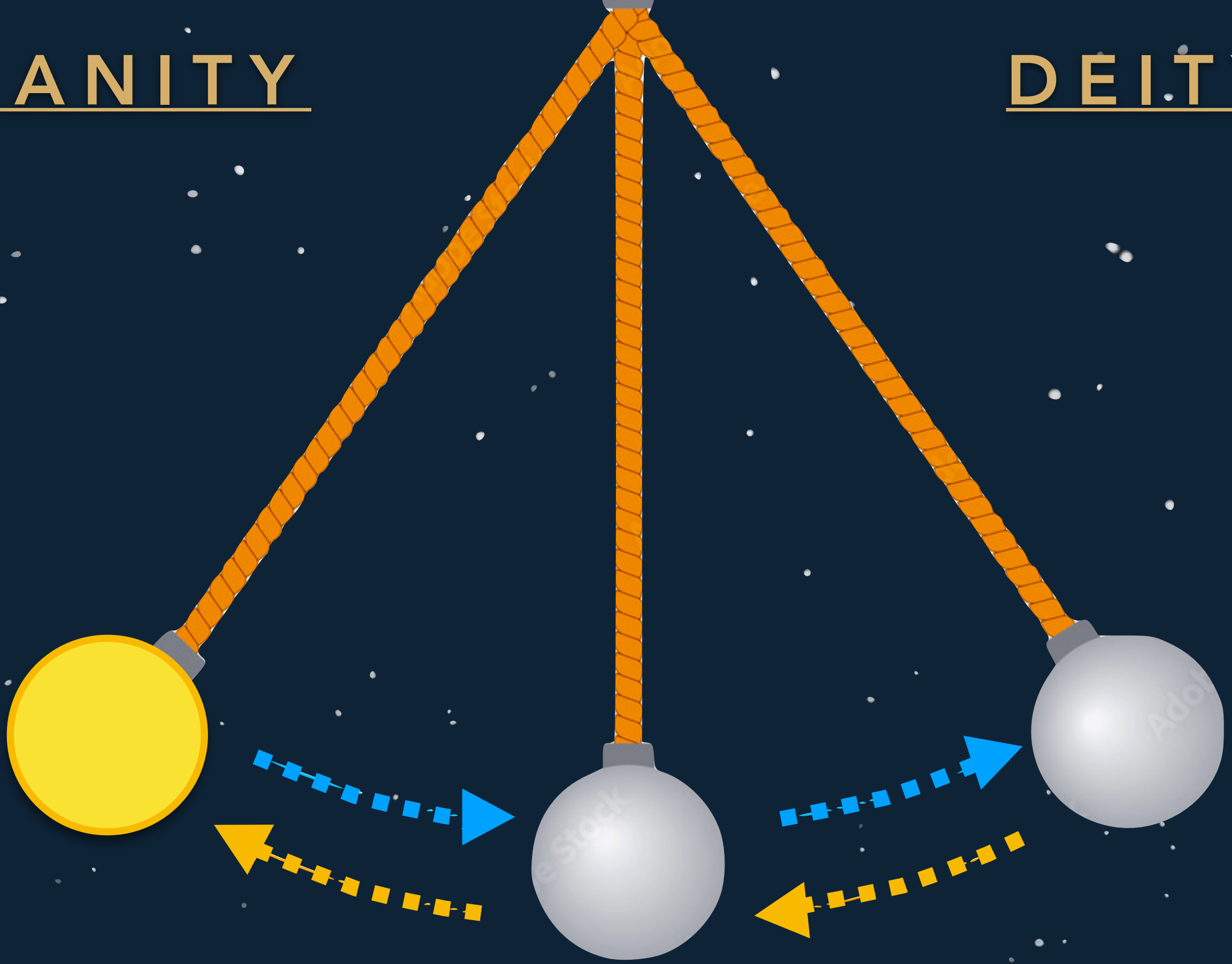


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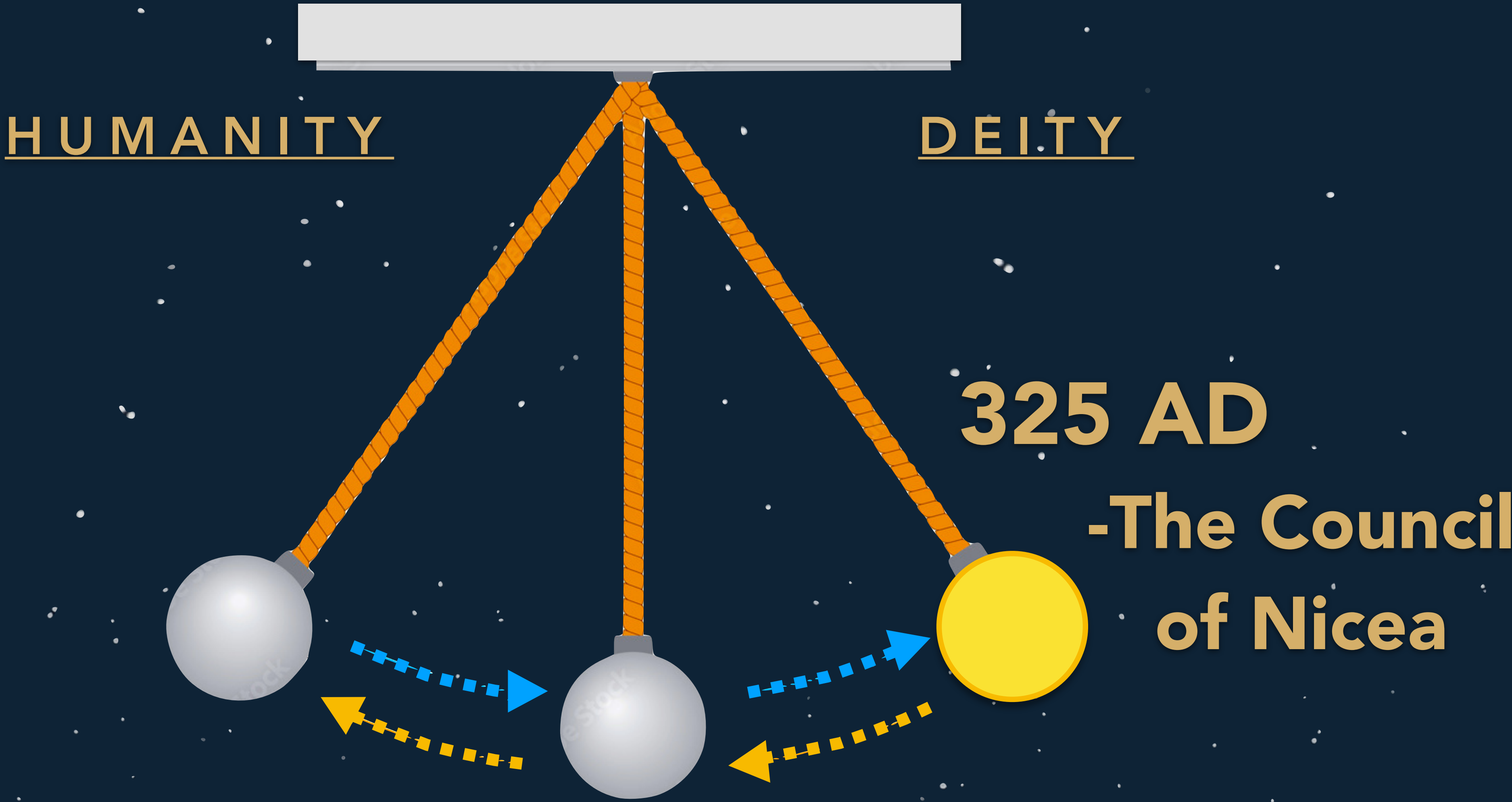
DEITY

300 AD

**-Denial of
Christ's
divinity**

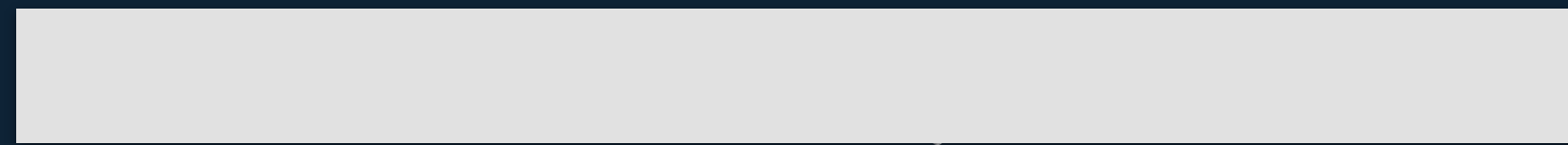


Church History



“The Council of Nicea took place in AD 325 by order of the Roman Emperor Constantine. A group of church bishops and other leaders gathered to define the nature of God for all of Christianity and eliminate confusion, controversy, and contention [Arianism] within the church. The Council of Nicea overwhelmingly affirmed the deity and eternality of Jesus Christ and defined the relationship between the Father and the Son as “of one substance.” It also affirmed the Trinity—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were listed as three co-equal and co-eternal Persons.”

Church History

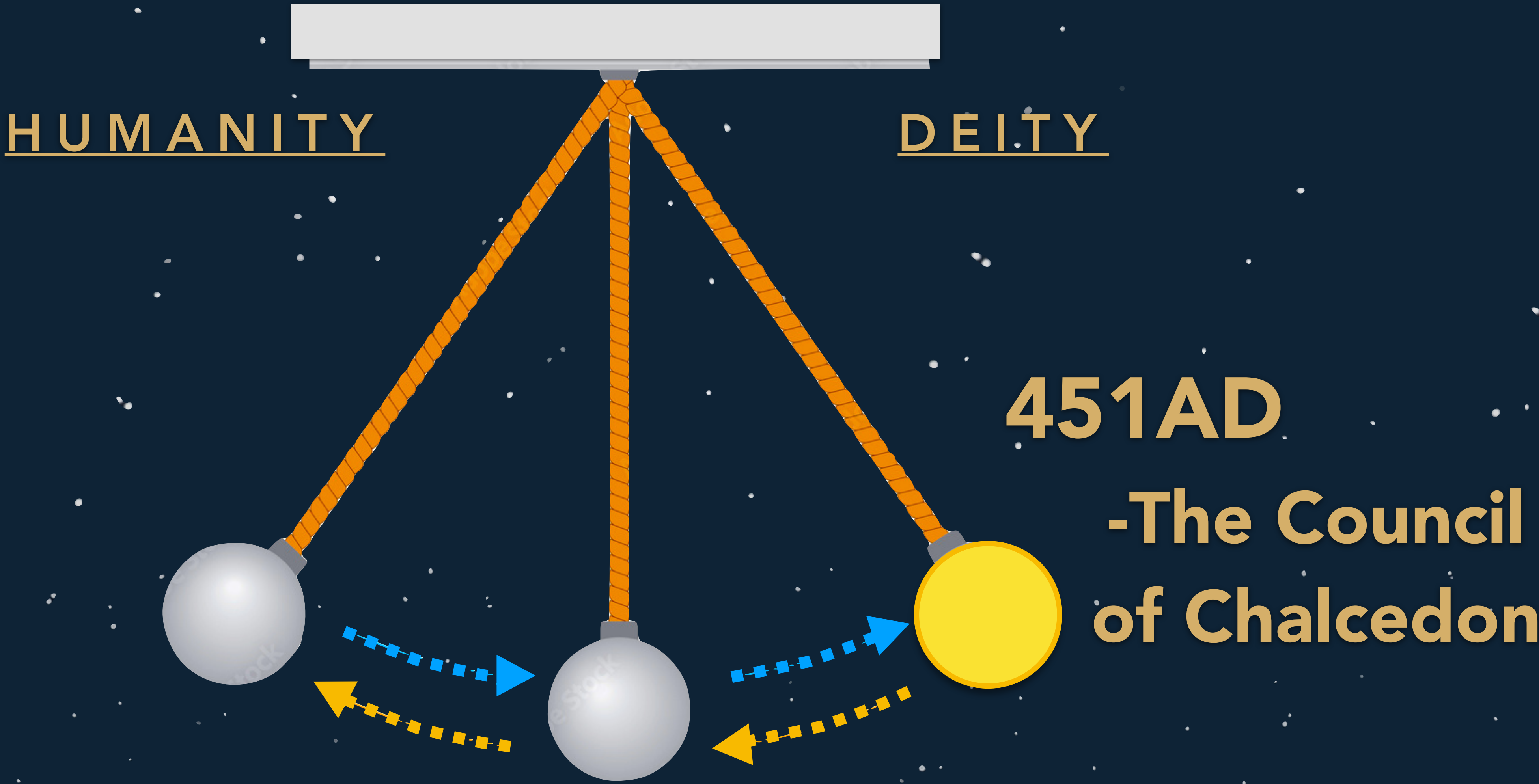


HUMANITY

DEITY

**But there was still
confusion!**

Church History



“The Council of Chalcedon cursed those who taught that Christ had only a single, divine nature—and those who taught a ‘mixture’ of His two natures. The Council produced the *Chalcedonian Definition*, which affirms that Christ is the same perfect in Godhead, and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man. He is one with the Father according to the Godhead, and one with us according to the Manhood. Jesus Christ is to be acknowledged in two natures, inconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably. The divine and human natures of Christ are distinct yet united in one Person. This co-existence of Christ’s two natures is called the hypostatic union.”

Jesus Christ is fully divine and,
at the same time, fully human.
He is both the Son of God and the
Son of Man. Jesus "took on flesh"
in order to save each one of us.



Why do I bore you with all of these details from church history?

Because what we believe about Jesus matters.

The incarnation is the bedrock of our faith.



Philippians 2:5-8

"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!"

Jesus became one of us
in order to die for all of us.
He gave His life (His fully human life)
as a substitute for ours.



Jesus "took on flesh" so that
His flesh would bear the
full wrath of God.
Not my flesh. Not yours. His.



Isaiah 53

The punishment that brought
us peace was on Him,
and by His wounds
we are healed.



Jesus is our living hope.

This is what Christmas
really means.



