

THIS IS THE GREATEST



Philip de Rivaz, M.A.

FIND OUT
WHAT IS
"THE GREATEST"
IN UNDER
60 MINUTES



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This book is dedicated to the many globally, who have supported me during my theology studies since 2020 and now writing career. From making unsolicited and generous donations, to dropping off numerous delicious home-made meals during my studying and lifting me up in prayer, as well as in other ways, I am extremely thankful to each and every one of you - Proverbs 4:18.

Introduction

Many are seeking for something, other than those who have found each rainbow had no end. Examining the lives of the “greatest” people who have ever lived, along with greatest events and accomplishments, these are compared against the life of Jesus in the final chapter, for “How?” He has the greatest meaning and ultimate value.

In terms of the people and events chosen, these are merely to be used as a comparison with Jesus. No definite claim is being made that they *are* definitely “the ultimate greatest” in their fields and historical importance and that decision can be left up to others.

The book is divided into 6 chapters: Who? What? Why? When? Where? How? and can be read in under 60 minutes. Where found available, their religious beliefs and the sources of the quotes for each person giving their religious viewpoints are provided. For others the accuracy of the quotes is inferred, although ultimately could potentially lack historicity.

Please note that for each person **a number is given in brackets** referencing why they might be “the greatest”, in relation to the corresponding different pages in the last chapter, of why Jesus is instead.

Philip de Rivaz, 10th November, 2024



Author Profile

Philip de Rivaz is a UK theologian, who holds a Postgraduate Diploma and also an MA in theology from Newbold College and is presently studying a full-time theology PhD from Anglia Ruskin University. In addition, he holds a Major in English literature, with a Minor in creative writing degree from the University of East Anglia.

He is the co-editor of “Newbold Church Testimonials 3”, is currently writing a longer book, developing an Adventist course and makes videos:
www.PhilipdeRivaz.com.

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Bible Abbreviations:

2 Tim. – 2 Timothy

Eccles. – Ecclesiastes

Matt. – Matthew

Prov. – Proverbs

Rev. – Revelation

Who is the greatest?

Is being a hugely powerful and rich emperor the greatest? Or how about starting a global religion? Maybe being a great scientist, or biologist? Perhaps starting a famous philosophy in the East, West, or Ancient Greece? Maybe being a great American politician, or a romantic? Or what about being a great explorer? None are the greatest...

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:”

(Eccles. 1:2)



1. Who was the greatest military leader?



Originally known as Napoleone Buonaparte, Napoleon I Emperor of France was born in Corsica in 1769 and many have said he was one of the greatest military leaders. He had numerous exceptional battle victories, including a return after escaping from the Island of Elba. Despite his genius, he was soundly defeated and exiled to St. Helena, dying of cancer in 1821 aged 51. Did *Napoleon* have the greatest power (#51)?

“When it is a question of money, everybody is of the same religion.” (*Napoleon in His Own Words*, Jules Bertaut, p. 13)

2. Who was the greatest religious leader?



Mediation

Prince Siddhartha, Buddhism's founder, is presumed to have been born within the borders of present-day Nepal, in 563 B.C.. Despite being born into luxury, he was profoundly dissatisfied and pursued a spiritual path including meditation. At the age of thirty-five, he felt that he had become "enlightened", spreading his message for the rest of his life until 483 B.C.. He denied that there is a soul or self. Is the *Buddha* the greatest teacher (#58)?

"The Noble Truth of the Path Leading to the Cessation of suffering is this;" (*The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*, p. 565)

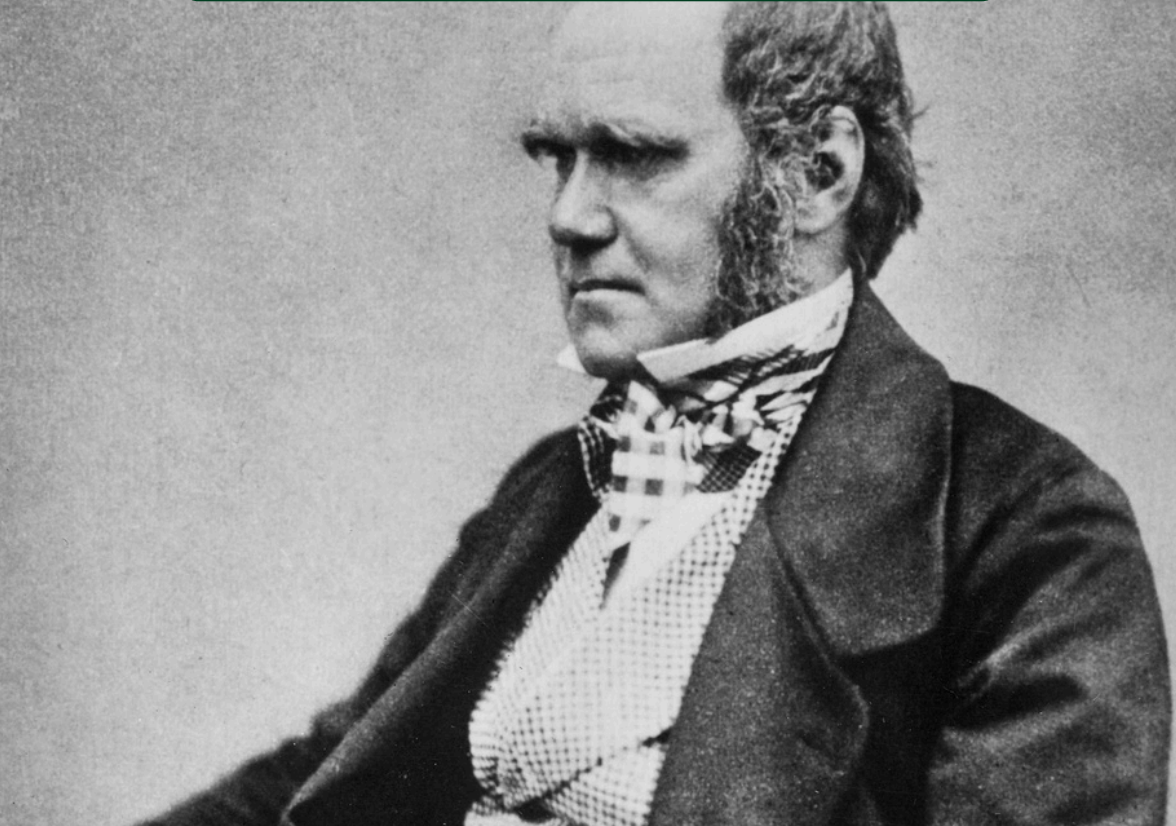
3. Who was the greatest scientist?

$$E = mc^2$$

He was best known for his theory of relativity: “ $E = mc^2$ ”. His biggest regret was assisting in the development of the atomic bomb for America. Contrary to belief, whilst he did not believe in a personal God, he was also not an atheist (see quote). Is *Albert Einstein’s nuclear weapon* the greatest regrettable event (#54)?

“I am not an atheist... We see a universe marvellously arranged, obeying certain laws, but we understand the laws only dimly. Our limited minds cannot grasp the mysterious force that sways the constellations.”
(interview with Albert Einstein, *Glimpses of the Great*, George Sylvester Viereck, p. 372)

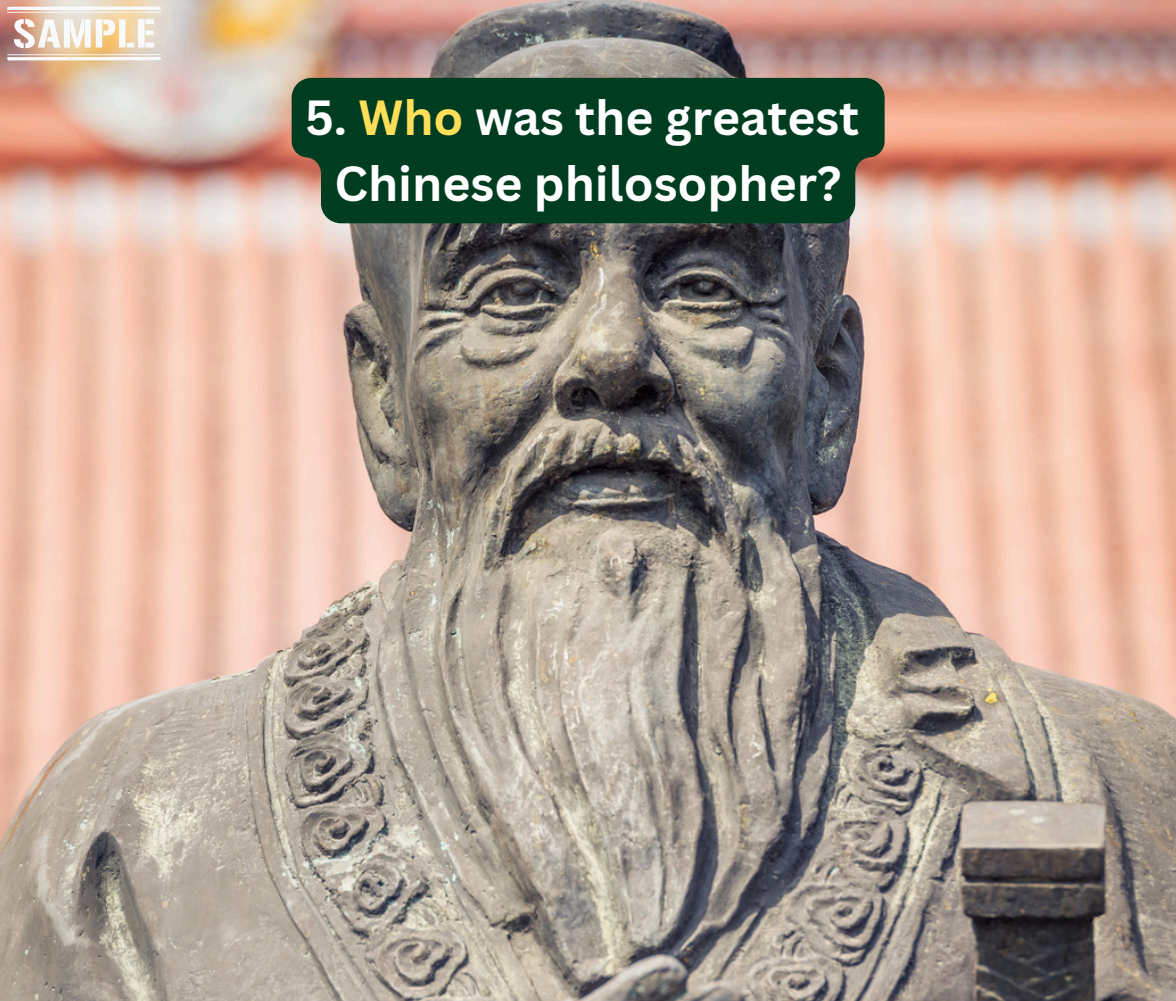
4. Who was the greatest biologist?



Born in England in 1809, during 1831 he set sail on the *Beagle*, working as its naturalist. *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*, was published in 1859; he was not an atheist (see quote). Did *Charles Darwin* have the greatest wisdom (#53)?

“In my most extreme fluctuations I have never been an atheist in the sense of denying the existence of a God. — I think that generally (& more and more so as I grow older) but not always, that an agnostic would be the most correct description of my state of mind.” (*Letter to John Fordyce, 7 May 1879*)

5. Who was the greatest Chinese philosopher?



Born in about 551 B.C. in northeastern China, he was essentially a secular philosopher, who was interested in both personal and political morality and conduct. Confucianism stressed obligations of individuals, rather than rights and he had much less to say about the afterlife and Heaven. Is *Confucius* the greatest teacher (#58)?

"Heaven means to be one with God." (Confucius)

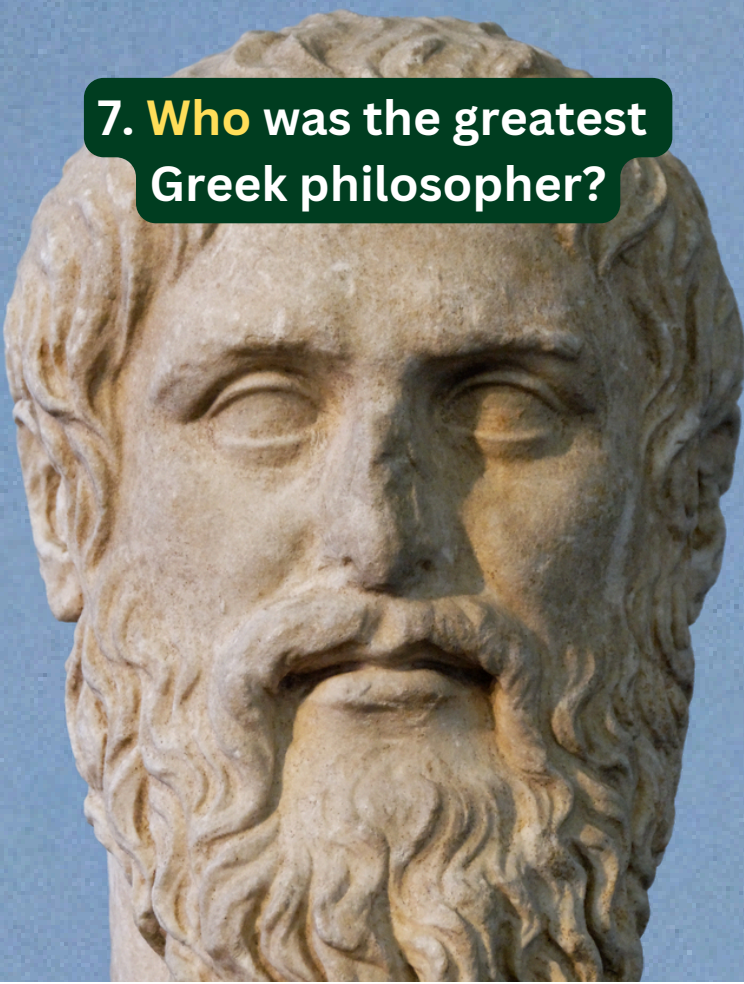
6. Who was the greatest French philosopher?



François-Marie Arouet, known by his pen name, was the French Enlightenment's leading figure. He was a great believer in the importance of freedom of speech and the press. During his life, he was a prolific writer, amassing more than 30,000 pages of writing. He was also a deist. Did *Voltaire* have the greatest eloquence (#57)?

"He wanted to know how they prayed to God in El Dorado. "We do not pray to him at all," said the reverend sage. "We have nothing to ask of him. He has given us all we want, and we give him thanks continually." (*Candide*, Voltaire, p. 49)

7. Who was the greatest Greek philosopher?



This ancient Greek philosopher was born in 427 B.C.. He wrote thirty-six books, which are mostly about ethical and political questions, as well as metaphysics and theology. His influence has endured for more than two millennia. He was not monotheistic, although believed in a "supreme being". Is *Plato* the greatest teacher (#58)?

"I call upon God, and beg him to be our savior out of a strange and unwanted enquiry, and to bring us to the heaven of probability." (*Encyclopaedia Britannica – Great Books of the Western World (Volume 7)*, p. 456)

8. **Who** was the greatest American politician?



Born in 1732 in Virginia, in the now U.S., he was a successful military leader during the American War of Independence and first president of the United States. He felt that religion was important for social stability (see quote) and equitably set a precedent for peacefully relinquishing power. Is *George Washington* the greatest leader (#55)?

“Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.”
(*Elements of Useful Knowledge*, Noah Webster, p. 217)

9. Who was the greatest romantic?



Giacomo Girolamo Casanova was born in about 1774, living to the age of 74. He is infamous for his numerous affairs, as well as being a scam artist and during his life spent time in prison. Needless to say his hedonistic sense of morality was relative. Is *Casanova* the greatest (#59)?

“God ceases to be God only for those who can admit the possibility of His non-existence, and that conception is in itself the most severe punishment they can suffer.” (*The Memoirs of Jacques Casanova de Seingalt: Complete* (2013), Giacomo Casanova, p.25)

10. Who was the greatest explorer?



He was born in Genoa, Italy, in 1481. Trying to find a westward route to the Orient, he unintentionally discovered the Americas. Whilst a famous explorer, he was also greedy and taught the Indians he found harshly, although was also religious (see quote). Is *Christopher Columbus* the greatest leader (#55)?

“I am a most noteworthy sinner, but I have cried out to the Lord for grace and mercy, and they have covered me completely. I have found the sweetest consolation since I made it my whole purpose to enjoy His marvellous Presence.” (*Christopher Columbus*)

What is the greatest?

Is attempting Mount Everest the greatest thing to do? Or how about being an illusionist? Is art the greatest, or music, being a dictator or owning a car company? Or how about a famous shipwreck, being famous on Instagram, or writing poems?

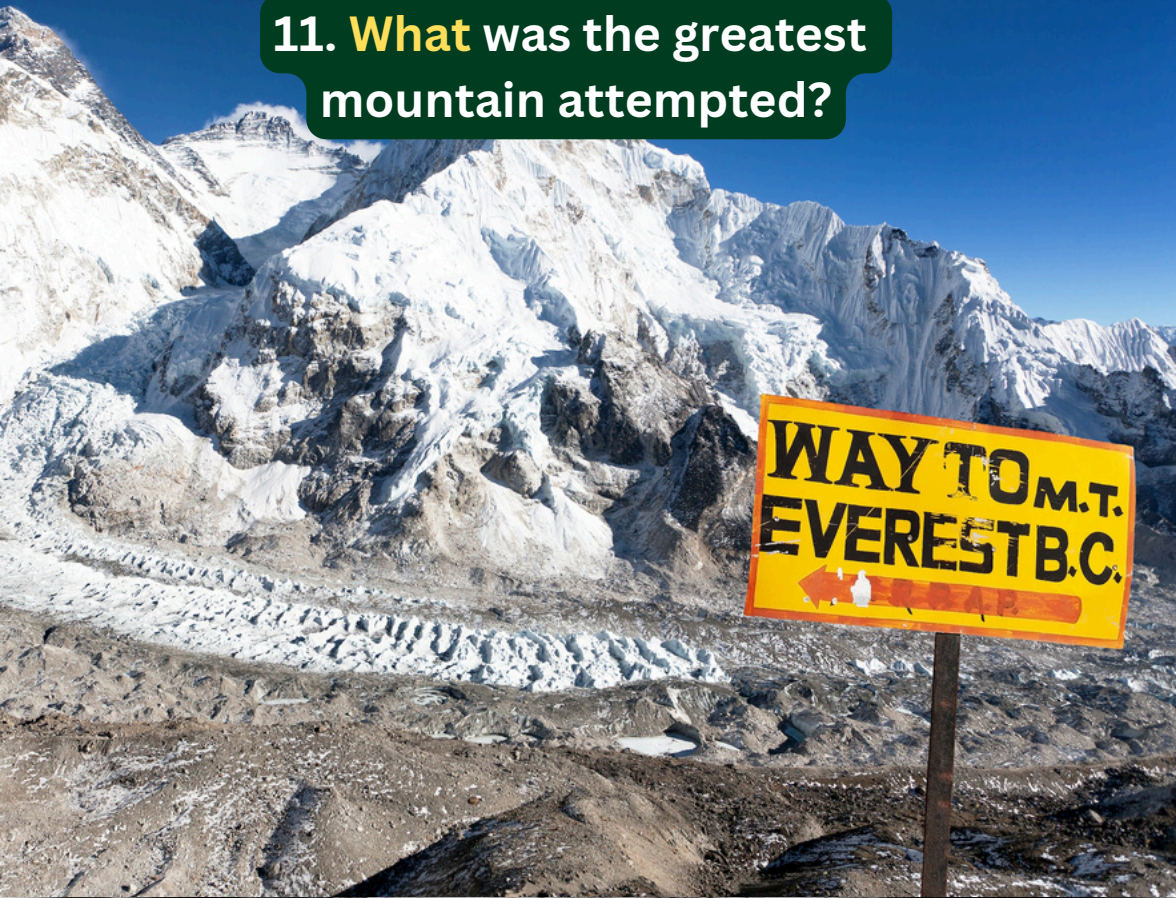
None are the greatest...

“Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.”

(Eccles. 1:2)



11. What was the greatest mountain attempted?



Attempting the highest mountain in 1924, with inferior clothing and equipment both climbers were lost on it. It was not decisively proved that they were ever successful. One climber who was a Christian, was found in 1999. His motivation to climb the mountain was “because it is there”. The second climber’s partial body was found in 2024. Are *George Mallory* (found first) and *Andrew Irvine*’s Everest attempt the greatest (#55)?

“The highest of the world's mountains, it seems, has to make but a single gesture of magnificence to be the lord of all, vast in unchallenged and isolated supremacy.” (George Mallory)

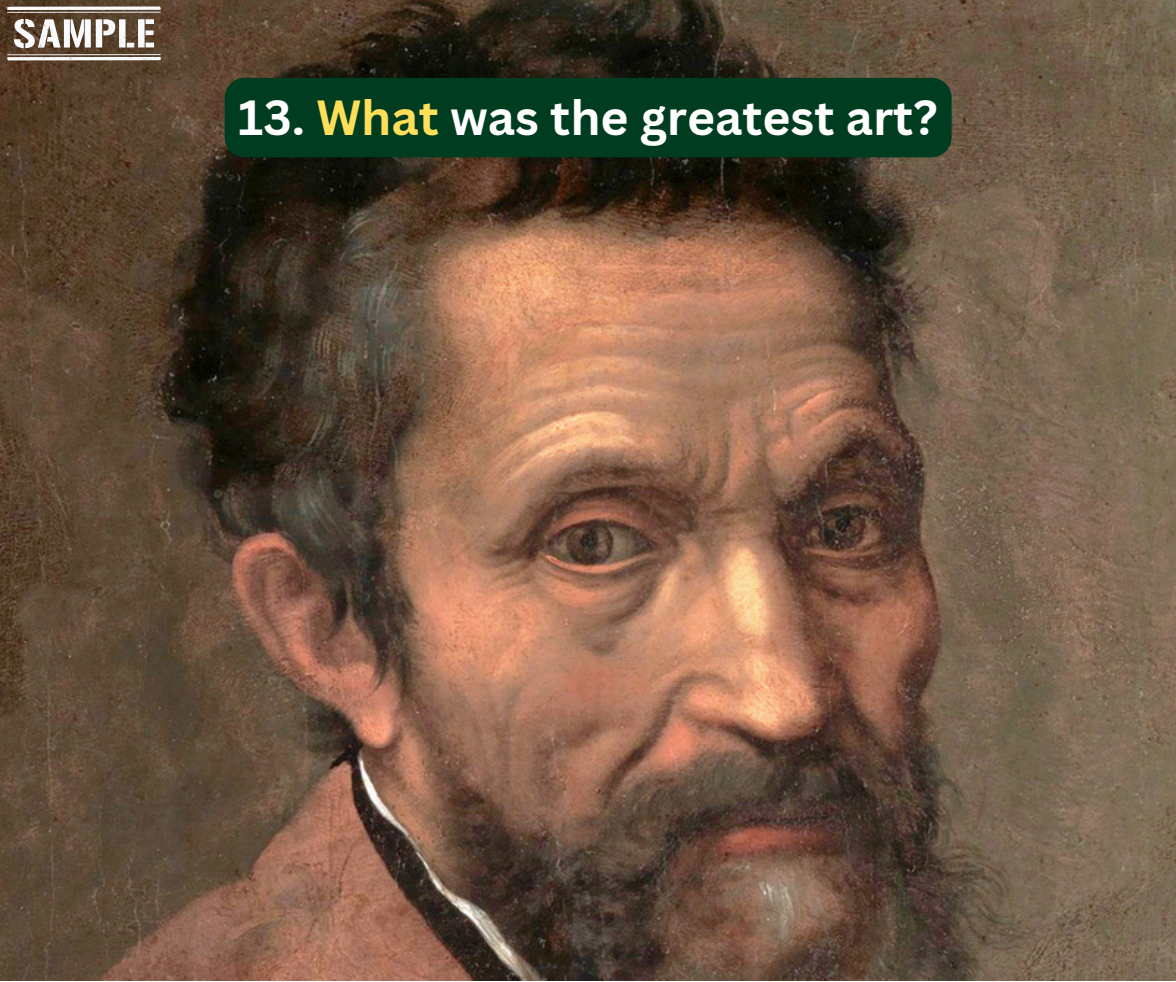
12. What was the greatest illusion performance?



Originally known as Erik Weisz, he was born on 24th March, 1874, living to the age of 52. He was the son of a Jewish rabbi. Famous during his lifetime for innovative stunts, including baffling the police after they secured him, he died at the age of 52 from peritonitis (swelling of the abdomen). Is *Harry Houdini's* illusion the greatest (#54)?

“Magic is the sole science not accepted by scientists, because they can't understand it.” (Harry Houdini)

13. What was the greatest art?



Living from 1475 to 1564, he was considered as one of the world's greatest artists. He was a devout Catholic and was born in Italy, near Florence. His works of art included enormous frescoes on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome. He was also a highly capable architect. Is *Michelangelo* the greatest creator (#51)?

“In spite of my old age, I do not want to give it up; I work out of love for God and I put all my hope in Him.”
(Michaelangelo)

14. What is the greatest number of American Music Awards (AMAs) won?



Hugely famous, by 20th November, 2022, she had received 40 AMA awards. By contrast, Michael Jackson is the men's most successful artist and had received 26 awards. She asserts that she is Christian. Is *Taylor Swift* the greatest creator (#51)?

"Desperate people find faith, so now I pray to Jesus too." (Taylor Swift from the song *Soon You'll Get Better*)

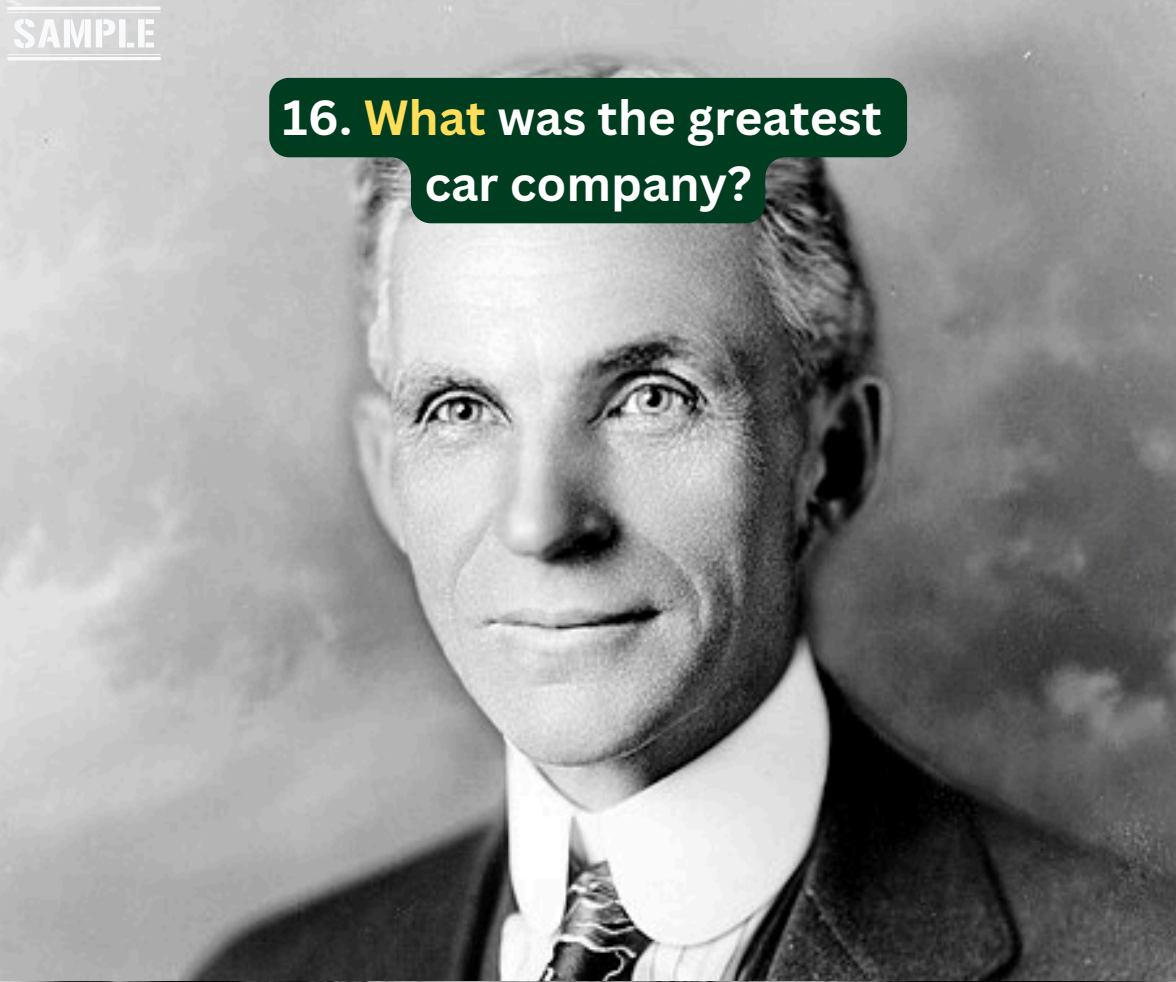
15. What was the greatest dictatorship?



Originally known as Iosif Vissarionovich Dzhugashvili, he was born in 1879 in Georgia. From his early life he endured poverty and brutal beatings from his father. Despite his exposure to Christianity as a youth, he went on to identify as an atheist. Gradually increasing in power, by the 1930s he was the Soviet Union's sole dictator. Unflinchingly ruthless he purged huge numbers, or sent them to labour camps. Did *Stalin* have the greatest power (#52)?

"You know, they are fooling us, there is no God."
(Joseph Stalin quoted in *Landmarks in the Life of Stalin*, Yemelyan Yaroslavsky, p. 90)

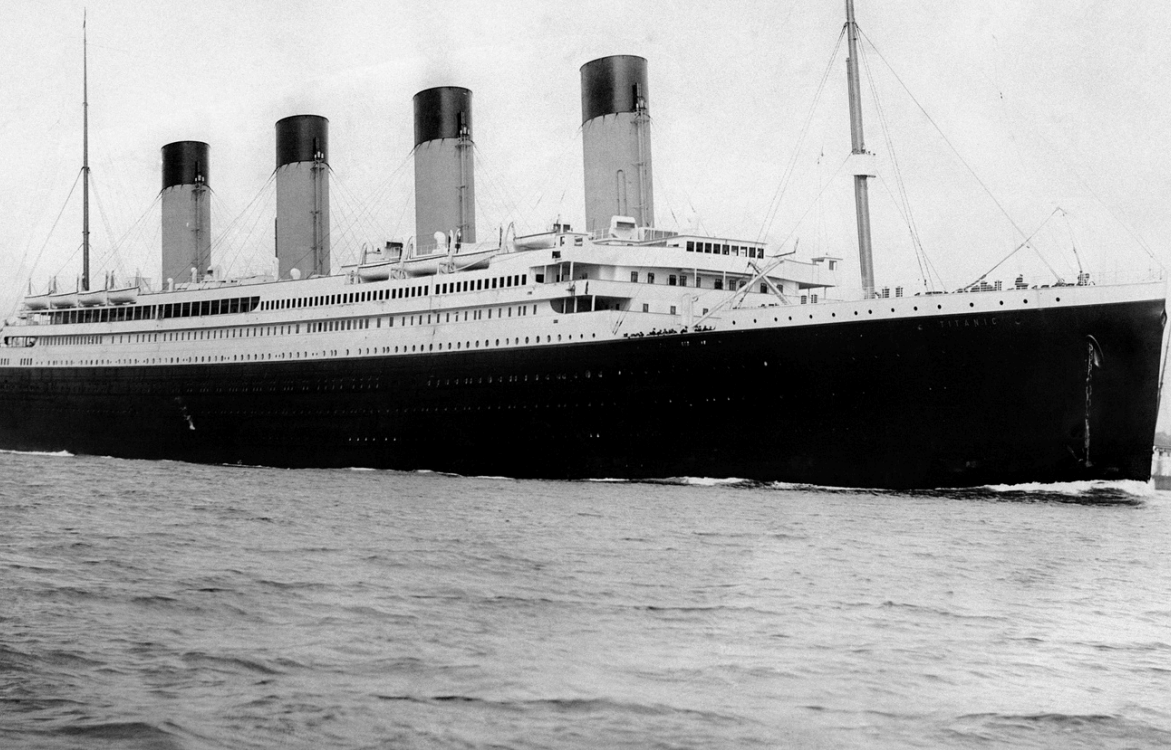
16. What was the greatest car company?



Born in 1863 and never having attended high school, he became interested in “horseless carriages”. His first two business ventures ended in failure, with the third being the Ford Motor Company. A Christian (see quote), he became the world’s wealthiest person and undertook various philanthropic work, including starting the Ford Foundation. Is *Henry Ford* the greatest humanitarian (#59)?

“With God in charge, I believe everything will work out for the best in the end. So what is there to worry about.” (Henry Ford)

17. What was the greatest iceberg collision?



An estimated 1,157 perished after it hit an iceberg in the North Atlantic, on 14th April, 1912. It was the maiden voyage from the UK to America and along with the ship's captain, various powerful and wealthy individuals sank with it. The ship was located in 1985. Is *Captain Smith's Titanic* the greatest event (#54)?

“Not even God can sink the Titanic.” (purported to have been said to a reporter).

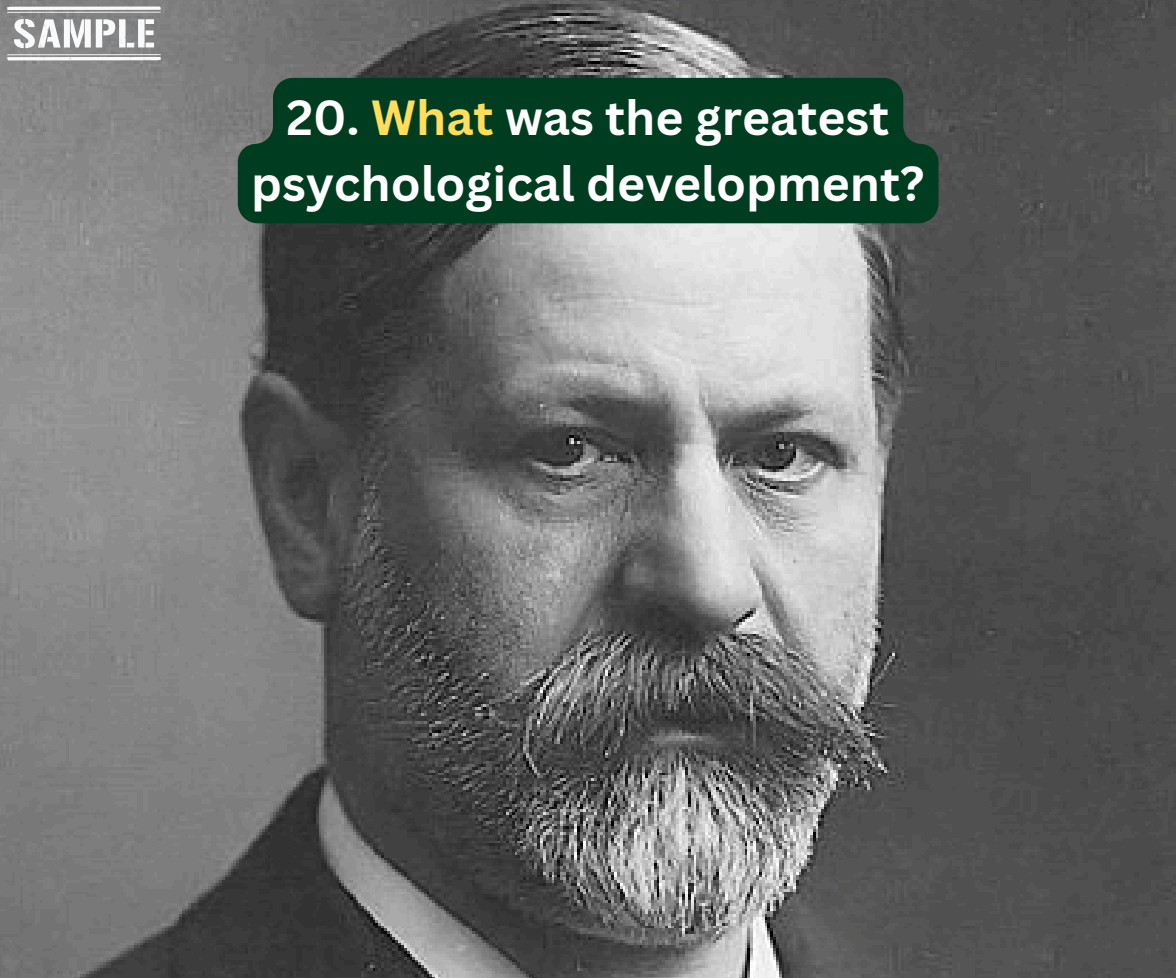
18. **What** is the greatest number of Instagram followers?



Born in Portugal in 1985, he grew up in poverty before achieving huge success. With well over 600 million Instagram followers, they are also an extremely famous international football player. A Catholic, he also is a generous philanthropist. Is *Cristiano Ronaldo* the greatest humanitarian (#59)?

“My father always taught me that when you help other people, then God will give you double.” (Cristiano Ronaldo)

20. **What** was the greatest psychological development?



Born to Jewish parents, he was a famous Austrian neurologist and the founder of psychoanalysis. He was an atheist, describing religion as a comforting illusion. Is *Sigmund Freud* the greatest humanitarian through his work (#59)?

“It would be very nice if there were a God who created the world and was a benevolent providence, and if there were a moral order in the universe and an after-life; but it is a very striking fact that all this is exactly as we are bound to wish it to be.” (*The Future of an Illusion*, Sigmund Freud, p. 33)

Why is it the greatest?

Are playing golf, tennis or basketball the greatest? Or how about sprinting? Perhaps being great inventors, or the first person on the moon? Maybe being a great monarch, president, or living for a long time? None are the greatest...

“For what shall it profit a man,
if he shall gain the whole
world, and lose his own soul?”

(Mark 8:36)



21. Why are they the greatest golf player?



Widely regarded as one of the most successful golf players of all time. Despite his worldly success, he has had a challenging personal life. Raised as a Buddhist, he found that seeking for success could not make him happy enough (see quote). Is *Tiger Woods'* fame the greatest (#57)?

“Buddhism teaches that a craving for things outside ourselves causes an unhappy and pointless search for security. It teaches me to stop following every impulse and to learn restraint. Obviously, I lost track of what I was taught.” (Tiger Woods statement on 19th February, 2010, in Florida)

22. **Why** are they the greatest sprinter?



From Jamaica, he is an eight-time Olympian, who is widely thought to have been the greatest sprinter of all time. He grew up in a Christian household and has continued believing into adulthood. Is *Usain Bolt's* fame the greatest (#56)?

“I want to thank GOD for everything he as done for me cause without him none of this wouldn't be possible.”
(Usain Bolt)

23. Why were they the greatest astronaut?



He was the first man to land and walk on the moon. Born in 1930 to a devoutly Christian mother, he went on to become a deist. The spacecraft commander of Apollo 11's famous quote when walking on the moon was: "That's one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind." Is *Neil Armstrong's* landing the greatest event (#54)?

"It's a great thing for a man to walk on the moon. But it's a greater thing for God to walk on the earth." (Neil Armstrong)

24. Why are they the greatest modern inventor?



A widely successful entrepreneur, he has developed the companies PayPal, SpaceX and Tesla. More recently, he became a major shareholder in X (formerly Twitter). He has described himself as a “cultural Christian”. Is *Elon Musk* the greatest creator (#51)?

“Thank you for the blessing, but I’m ok with going to hell, if that is indeed my destination, since the vast majority of all humans ever born will be there.” (Elon Musk, post on X, 9th May, 2022)

25. Why are these words the greatest spoken by phone?



He was born in Scotland in 1847 and is credited with having patented the first "practical telephone". His first words on a phone were to his assistant Mr. Watson in another room: "Mr. Watson, come here. I want to see you." Despite going to church as a youth, he became an agnostic. Are *Alexander Graham Bell's* words the greatest eloquent ones spoken (#57)?

"On matters unknowable I don't profess to know. I have always considered myself as an Agnostic." (Alexander Graham Bell)

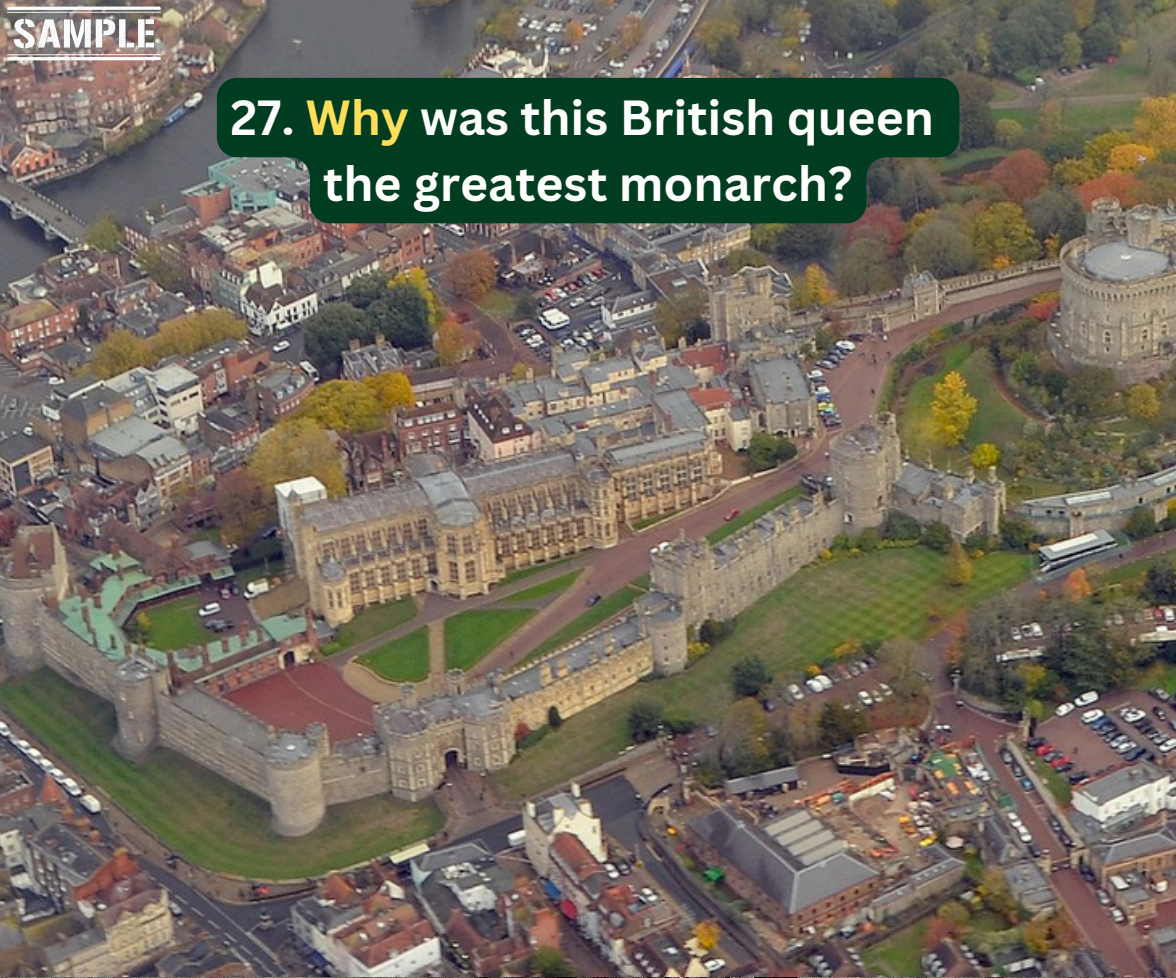
26. **Why** are they the greatest female tennis player?



A former American tennis player, she ranked number 1 for singles and also had great doubles success bringing a very large income. Coached by her parents from an early age along with her sister Venus, they dedicated their time towards tennis success. She and her sister are Jehovah's Witnesses. Is *Serena Williams* the greatest (#60)?

"If winning is God's reward, then losing is how he teaches us." (Serena Williams)

27. Why was this British queen the greatest monarch?



She reigned for over 70 years, which was the longest for any British monarch. Despite numerous challenges, she continued to be popular overall. Additionally, she had a strong Christian faith. Is *Queen Elizabeth II's* power the greatest (#52)?

“Although we are capable of great acts of kindness, history teaches us that we sometimes need saving from ourselves – from our recklessness or our greed. God sent into the world a unique person – neither a philosopher nor a general (important though they are) – but a Saviour, with the power to forgive.” (Queen Elizabeth II's 2011 Christmas message)

28. Why was this the greatest American Civil War leader?



He was the 16th president of the United States and had grown up in a deeply religious Baptist family. This leader was remembered for guiding the nation through the Civil War and also facilitating the end of slavery. He was assassinated on 14th April, 1865 by John Wilkes Booth, who believed that he was a tyrant. Is *Abraham Lincoln* the greatest leader (#55)?

“Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right.” (Lincoln's purported response during the Civil War)

29. Why was this the greatest recent age of a woman?



Living from 4th March, 1907 to 17 January, 2023, she was the oldest recent living female person. Born in San Francisco, California, she returned to Spain in 1915. She did not smoke or drink, as well as avoided “fad diets”. Is *Maria Branyas Morera* the greatest (#60)?

“Life is not eternal for anyone, At my age, a new year is a gift, a humble celebration, a beautiful journey, a moment of happiness.” (Maria Branyas Morera on X, 1st January, 2023)

30. **Why** is this the greatest NBA Basketball scorer?



Born on 30th December, 1984, he was raised in a Christian home and currently plays for the Los Angeles Lakers. He first played basketball professionally in 2003, has won NBA titles on three different teams and is also the league's all-time leading scorer. Is *LeBron James*' fame the greatest (#56)?

"I'm going to use all my tools, my God-given ability, and make the best life I can with it." (LeBron James)

When is the greatest?

Is being a computer designer the greatest? Or gaining independence? Maybe discovering about germs, or electromagnetic induction? Perhaps writing plays, or inventing the radio? How about developing fascism? Or perhaps making the iPhone or being famous for music? None are the greatest...

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

(Matt. 6:33)



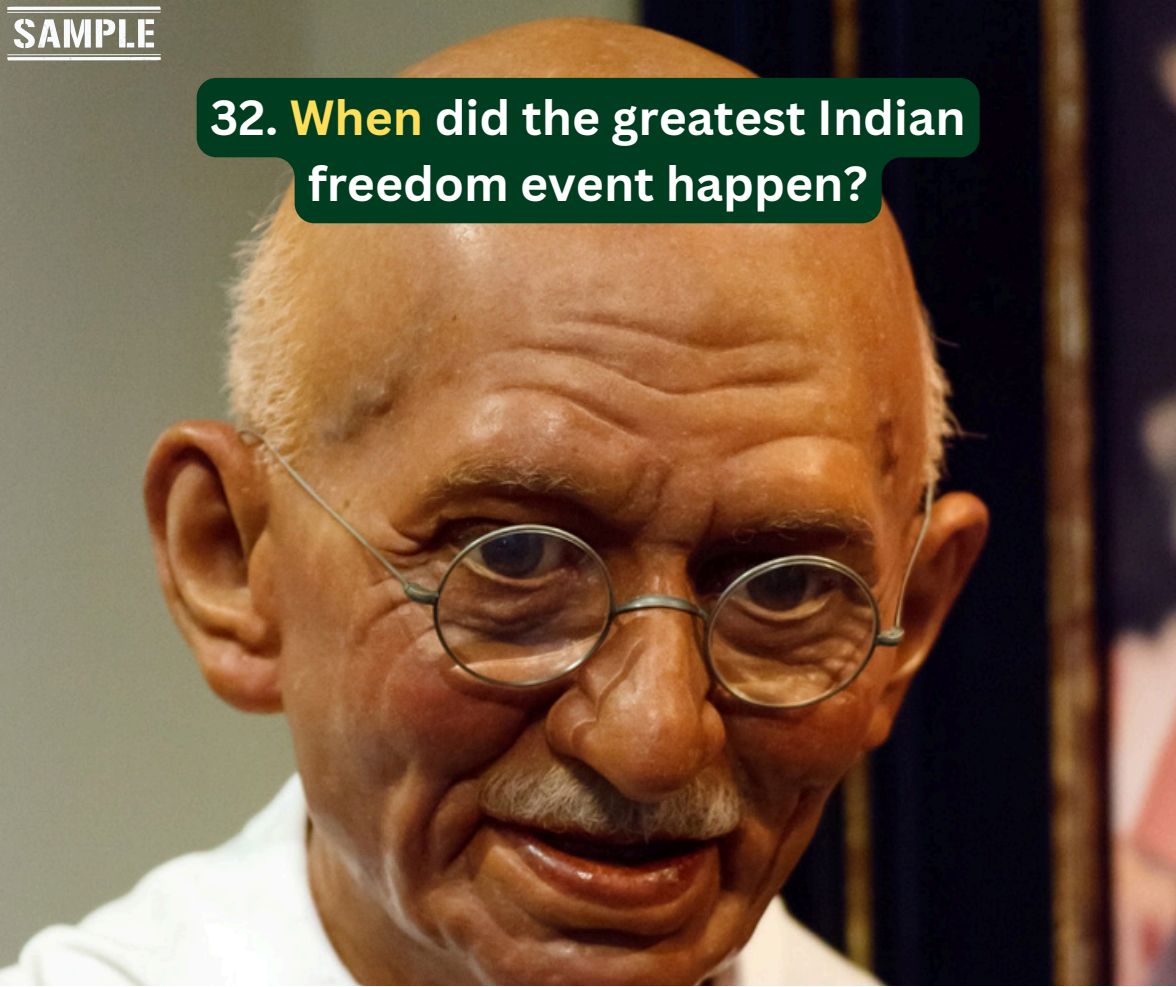
31. When were the greatest computer discoveries made?



Born in 1792 and a Christian (see quote), he identified the principles regarding the general purpose digital computer. He designed a device called the "analytical engine", that in principle was capable of doing many functions of more recent calculators. Is *Charles Babbage's* wisdom the greatest (#53)?

"The foundation of all religion is the belief in a God, and that He exists in certain relation with His creatures."
(*Passages from the Life of a Philosopher*, Charles Babbage, p. 403)

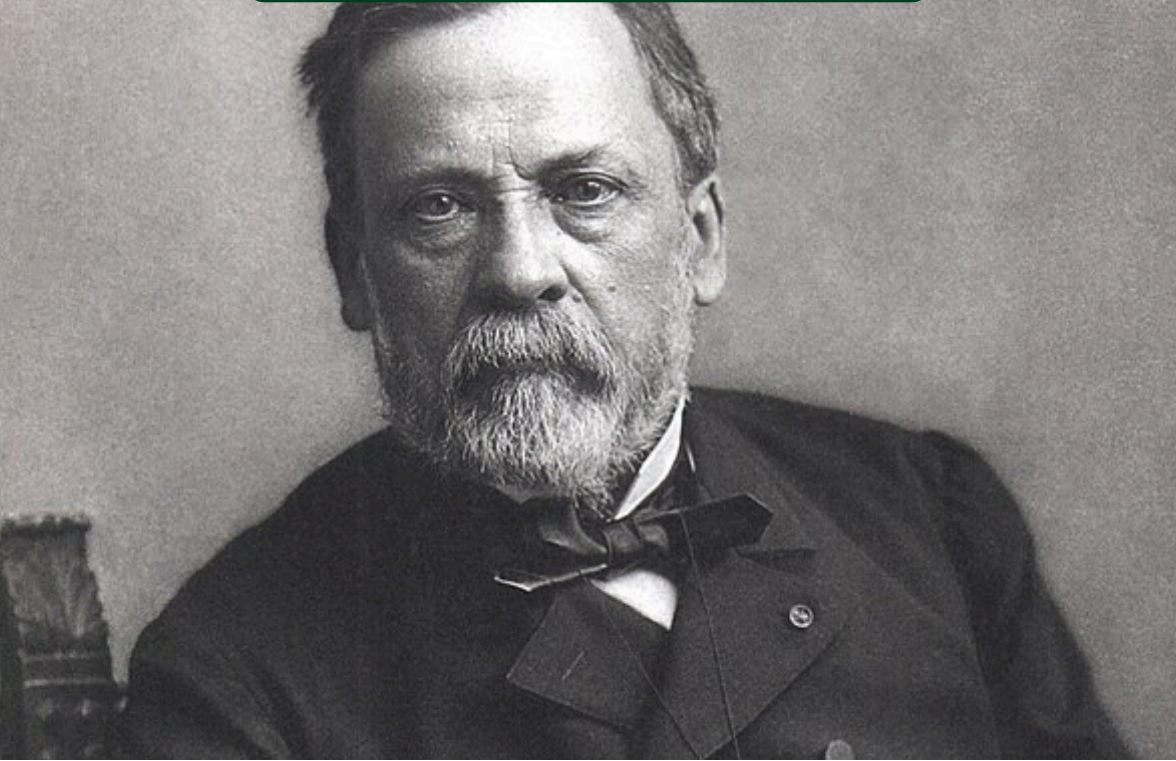
32. When did the greatest Indian freedom event happen?



Whilst Indian independence may have come soon in any case, this activist was pivotal for its rapid occurrence. A Hindu, he advocated non-violent resistance and was killed by a religious fanatic. During his lifetime, he also worked on humanitarian activities, such as women's rights. Is *Mahatma Gandhi* the greatest humanitarian (#59)?

"I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ." (Mahatma Gandhi)

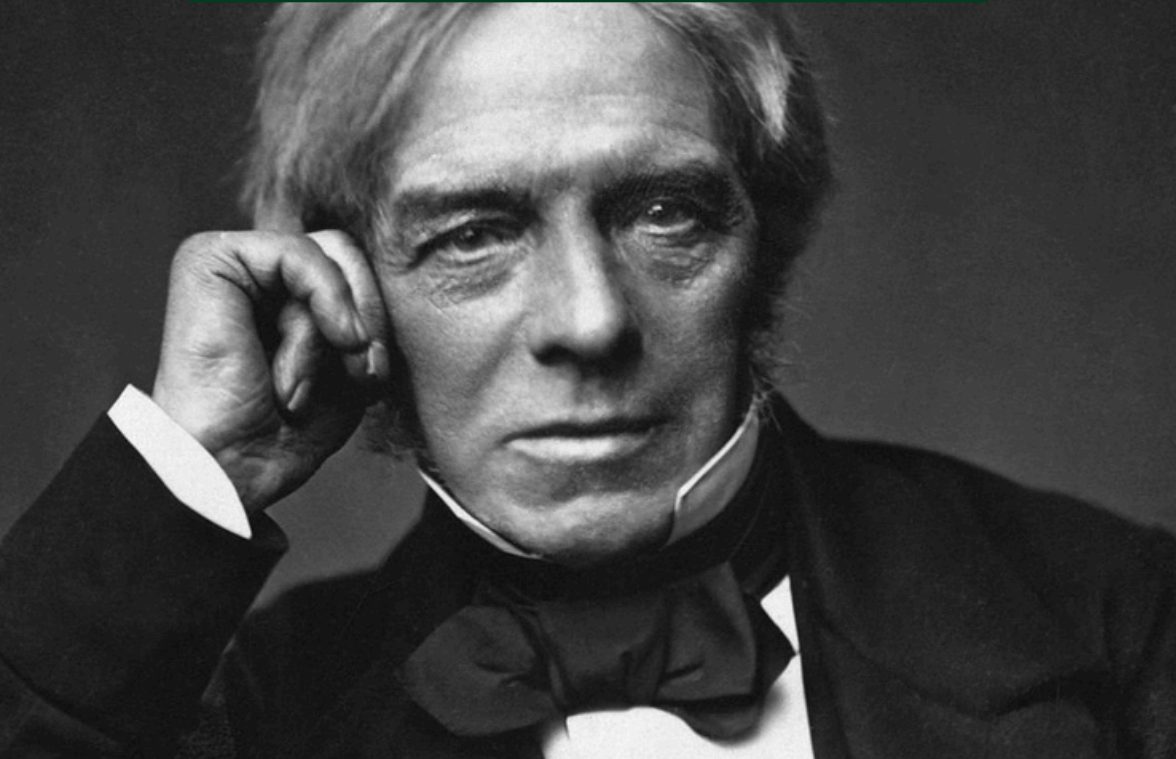
33. **When** was the greatest discovery of “germ theory”?



Born in France in 1822 into a Catholic family, he is felt to be the most important person in medicine. Although the “germ theory” concept had been proposed before, this chemist and biologist championing and demonstrating it convinced the scientific community of its veracity. Is *Louis Pasteur* the greatest humanitarian (#59)?

“The idea of God is a form of the idea of the Infinite. As long as the mystery of the infinite weighs on human thought, temples will be erected for the worship of the Infinite, whether God is called Brahma, Allah, Jehovah, or Jesus;” (Louis Pasteur quoted in *The Idea of God*, Kenneth A. Dobbs, p. 343)

34. **When** was the greatest discovery about electromagnetic induction?



Born in 1791 and a Christian, this British scientist discovered the “induction” of electricity in a wire through the electromagnetic effect of current within another wire. He also made contributions within the field of chemistry. Is *Michael Faraday’s wisdom* the greatest (#53)?

“Since peace is alone the gift of God, and as it is He who gives it, why should we be afraid? His unspeakable gift in His beloved Son is the ground of no doubtful hope.” (Michael Faraday)

35. When were the greatest plays written?



Born in the sixteenth century to Catholic parents, he is thought to be the most famous writer in the English language. Some of his well-known plays include *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Is *William Shakespeare's eloquence* the greatest (#57)?

"I commend my soul into the hands of God, my Creator, hoping and assuredly believing, through the only merits of Jesus Christ, my Saviour, to be made partaker of life everlasting." (Shakespeare's last will and testament, *Myriad-minded Shakespeare*, E. A. J. Honigmann, p. 222)

36. **When** was the greatest radio discovery?



Born in Italy in 1874 and raised as a Christian, at the age of 20 he read about Heinrich Hertz's experiments. These demonstrated the existence of invisible electronic waves. In 1895 after one year's work, he had managed to produce a working radio device. Is *Guglielmo Marconi's* wisdom the greatest (#53)?

"I am proud to be a Christian. I believe not only as a Christian, but as a scientist as well. A wireless device can deliver a message through the wilderness. In prayer the human spirit can send invisible waves to eternity, waves that achieve their goal in front of God."
(Guglielmo Marconi)

37. When was the greatest political European dictatorship?



A name in modern history that will live in the utmost infamy, he was born in Austria in 1889. The precursor to the Nazi party began in 1919 and by the early 1920s, it had been renamed to the Nazi Socialist German Workers' Party, or the "Nazi Party" for short. He met his end by suicide in 1945, with the Russians close to his bunker and the Third Reich in complete ruins (see photo). Is *Adolf Hitler's* power the greatest (#52)?

"We do not want any other god than Germany itself. It is essential to have fanatical faith and hope and love in and for Germany." (Adolf Hitler quoted in *A History of National Socialism*, Konrad Heiden, p. 100)

38. **When** was the greatest mobile phone made?



Born in 1956 in San Francisco and a later practitioner of Buddhism, he co-founded the global company Apple. During an eventful career, that involved creating the iPhone in 2007, he passed away at the age of 56 from cancer. Is *Steve Jobs* the greatest creator (#51)?

“Sometimes I believe in God, sometimes I don't. I think it's 50/50, maybe. But ever since I've had cancer, I've been thinking about it more, and I find myself believing a bit more, maybe it's because I want to believe in an afterlife, that when you die, it doesn't just all disappear.” (Steve Jobs quoted by Walter Issacson)

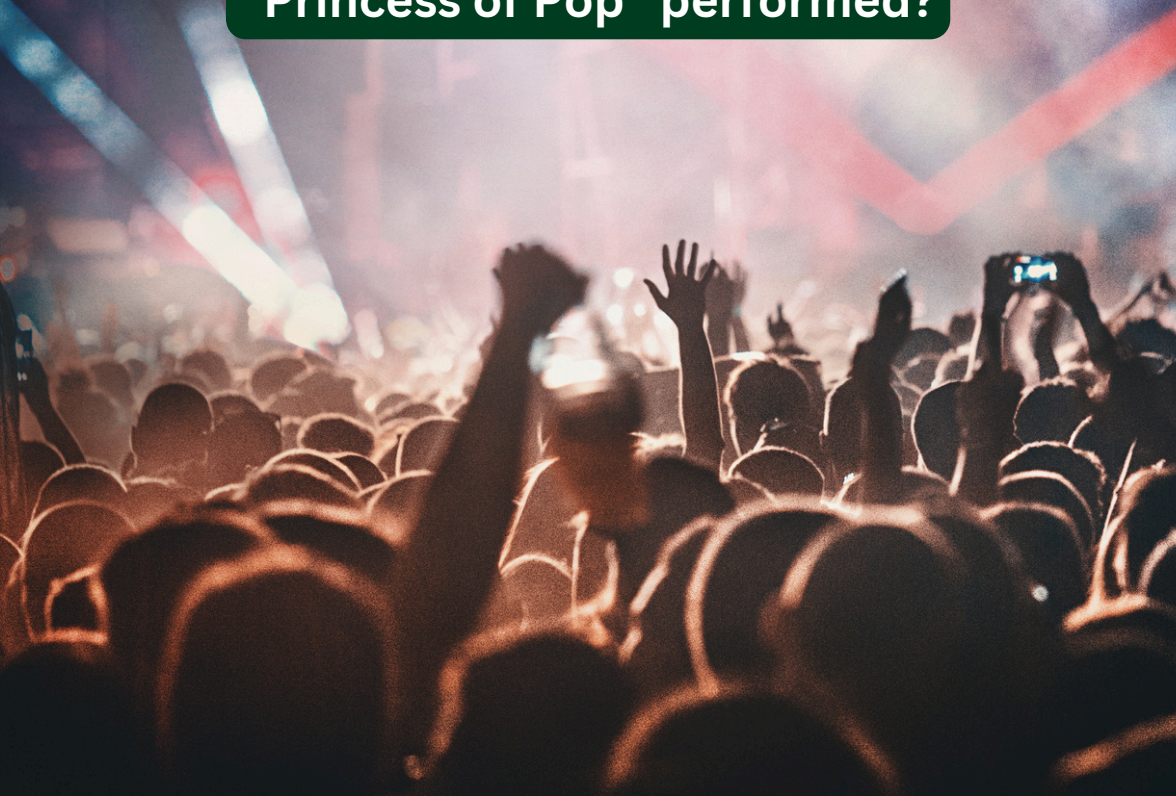
39. **When** did the greatest
“King of Rock and Roll” live?



This famous singer of the twentieth century was born in 1935, in Mississippi in the USA and purported to be a Christian. As well as singing, he also appeared in various films. Ultimately, he died prematurely at the age of 42 in poor health. Is *Elvis Presley* the greatest (#60)?

“I ain't no saint, but I've tried never to do anything that would hurt my family or offend God.” (Elvis Presley to a reporter in the 1950s)

40. **When** has the greatest “Princess of Pop” performed?



Born in 1981, she converted to Catholicism in 2021, before later claiming she was an atheist. The famous singer debuted in the charts in November 1998. With a tumultuous personal life, she has still continued to have musical success. Is *Britney Spears*' fame the greatest (#56)?

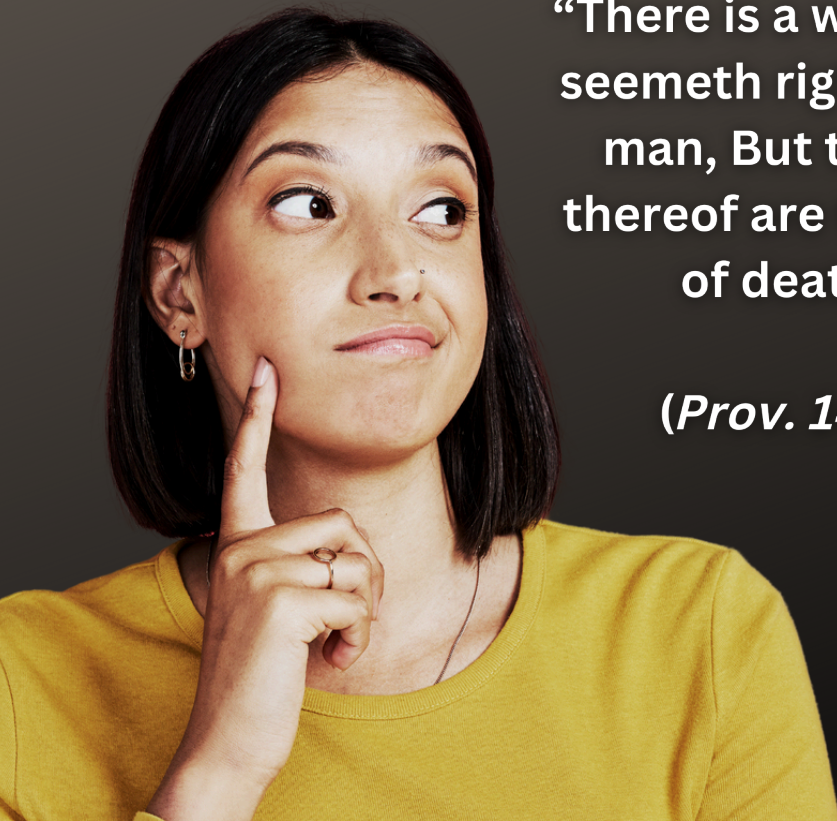
“I never had strict ideas about religion, I just knew there was something bigger than me.” (Britney Spears)

Where is the greatest?

Is leading a class struggle the greatest, or being a great ancient military leader? Perhaps being a Cold War American leader, or composing classical music? Maybe incredible gardens, or being a silent movie actor? How about a famous painting, or American Civil Rights activist? Or how about invading Britain, or discovering planetary motion? None are the greatest...

“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, But the end thereof are the ways of death.”

(Prov. 14:12)



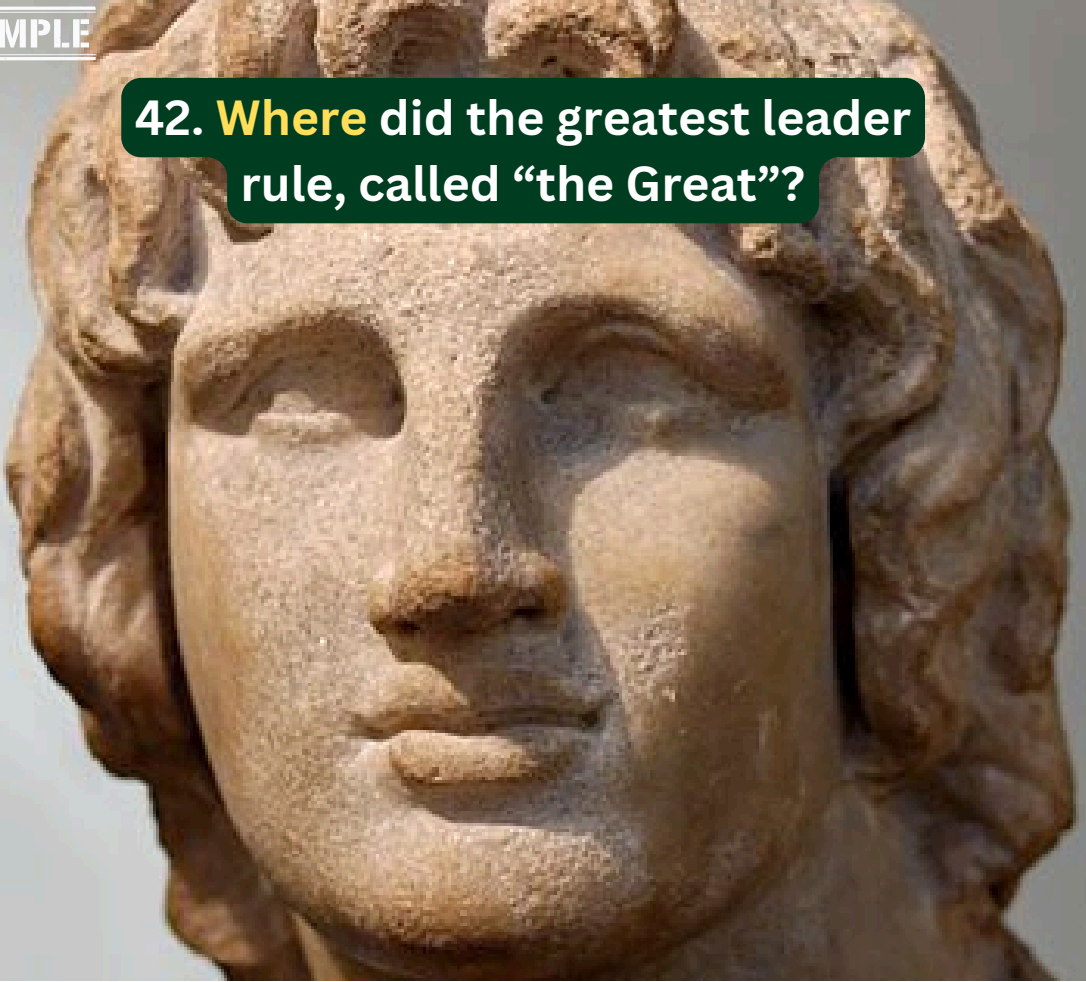
41. **Where** did the greatest Russian class struggle start from?



Born in the Kingdom of Prussia in 1818 to a Christian family, he, along with Friedrich Engels' works, covered political and economic theories that developed Marxism. His first volume of his most important work *Das Kapital* was published in 1867. Was *Karl Marx* the greatest teacher (#58)?

“Man makes religion, religion does not make man. Religion is indeed man's self-consciousness and self-awareness as long as he has not found his feet in the universe.” (*Selected Works of Karl Marx*, p. 2)

42. **Where** did the greatest leader rule, called “the Great”?



Born in 356 B.C. in the capital city of Macedonia, his tutor had been Aristotle and he participated in Hellenic polytheism. His father was King Philip II of Macedon and he succeeded him at the age of 20 after his assassination. Despite great victories, he died at the age of 32 and his empire descended into civil war. Was *Alexander the Great's* power the greatest (#52)?

“A tomb now suffices him for whom the world was not sufficient.” (purported epitaph on the tomb of Alexander the Great)

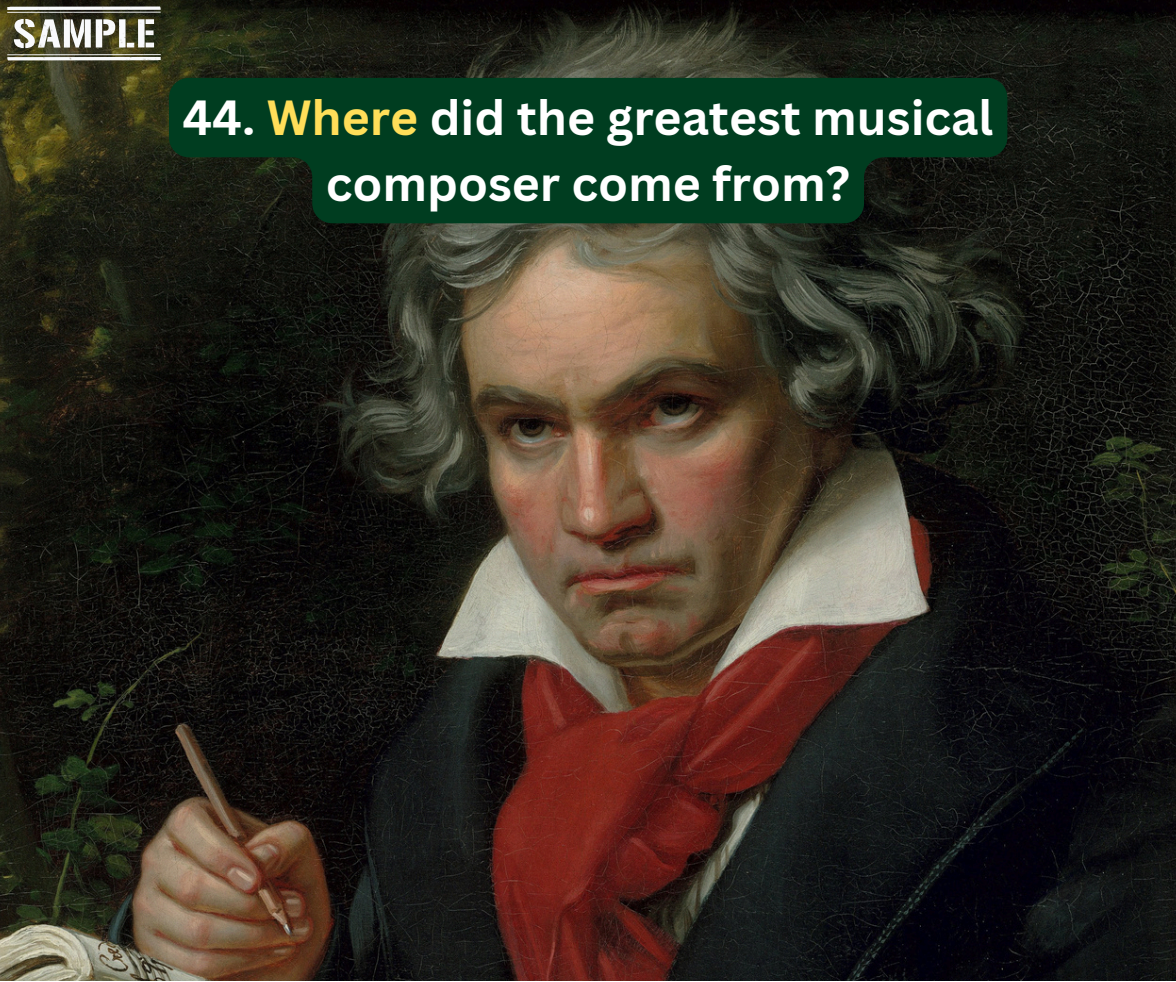
43. **Where** did the greatest “Cold War” take place?



Following the Second World War, this was the restricted rivalry between the United States, Soviet Union and their respective allies. It was primarily waged politically and economically. The thirty-fifth American president and a Catholic, he had to deal with many challenges, including the threat of nuclear war. Is *John F. Kenney's* eloquence the greatest (#57)?

"Let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking His blessing and His help, but knowing that here on earth God's work must truly be our own." (inaugural address by John F. Kennedy)

44. **Where** did the greatest musical composer come from?



Born in Bonn, Germany in 1770 and brought up in a Catholic family, this famous composer went on to become completely deaf by 1819. Nevertheless, during his life he produced numerous works such as the 1804 "Eroica" Symphony", which hold him in musical pre-eminence unto this day. Was *Ludwig van Beethoven* the greatest creator (#51)?

"Then let us all do what is right, strive with all our might toward the unattainable, develop as fully as we can the gifts God has given us, and never stop learning."
(Ludwig van Beethoven)

45. **Where** were the greatest “Hanging Gardens”?

These gardens are theorised to have been perhaps made by a famous king in now modern-day Iraq. He reigned from about 605–561 B.C. and the gardens were a huge complex, with elevated terraces. They were considered one of the “Seven Wonders of the World”. Are *King Nebuchadnezzar’s* Hanging Gardens of Babylon the greatest (#60)?

“I am the prince, the favourite, the creature of thy hand.” (King Nebuchadnezzar II’s inscription to a pagan god)

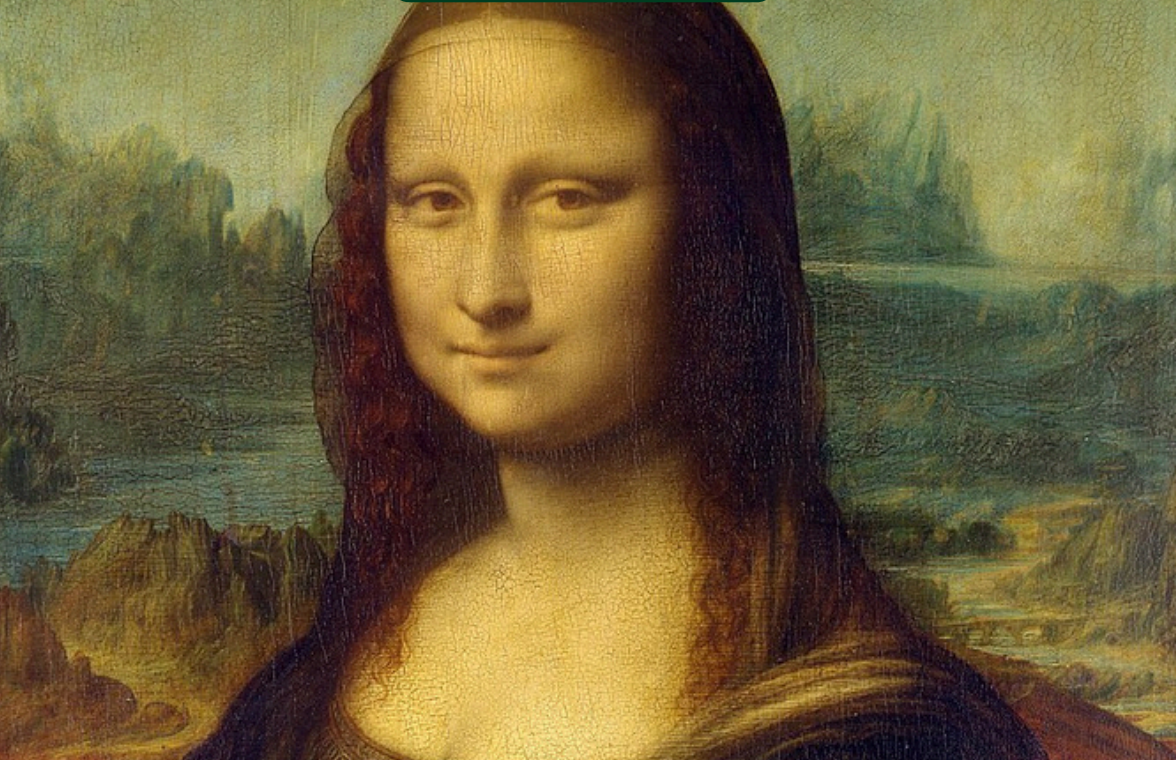
46. Where did the greatest silent movie actor come from?



He was born in London in 1889 to parents who were actors and was taken to church. However, he had an unstable home life and from an early age began a career on the stage. By 1910 he had travelled to America and went on to have a highly successful film career. Is *Charlie Chaplin's* fame the greatest (#56)?

"I'm definitely an agnostic. Some scientists say that if the world were to stop revolving we'd all disintegrate. But the world keeps on going. Something must be holding us all in place — some Supreme Force. But what it is I couldn't tell you." (*My Father Charlie Chaplin*, Charles Chaplain Jr., p. 239)

47. **Where** was the greatest painting made?



Born in 1452, he was an Italian artist, engineer, inventor and scientist. Some of his most famous paintings include *The Last Supper* and *Mona Lisa*. His ideas for inventions include a helicopter and a tank-like fighting vehicle. Was *Leonardo da Vinci* the greatest teacher of new concepts (#58)?

“To lie is so vile, that even if it were in speaking well of godly things it would take off something from God's grace; and Truth is so excellent, that if it praises but small things they become noble.” (Leonardo da Vinci)

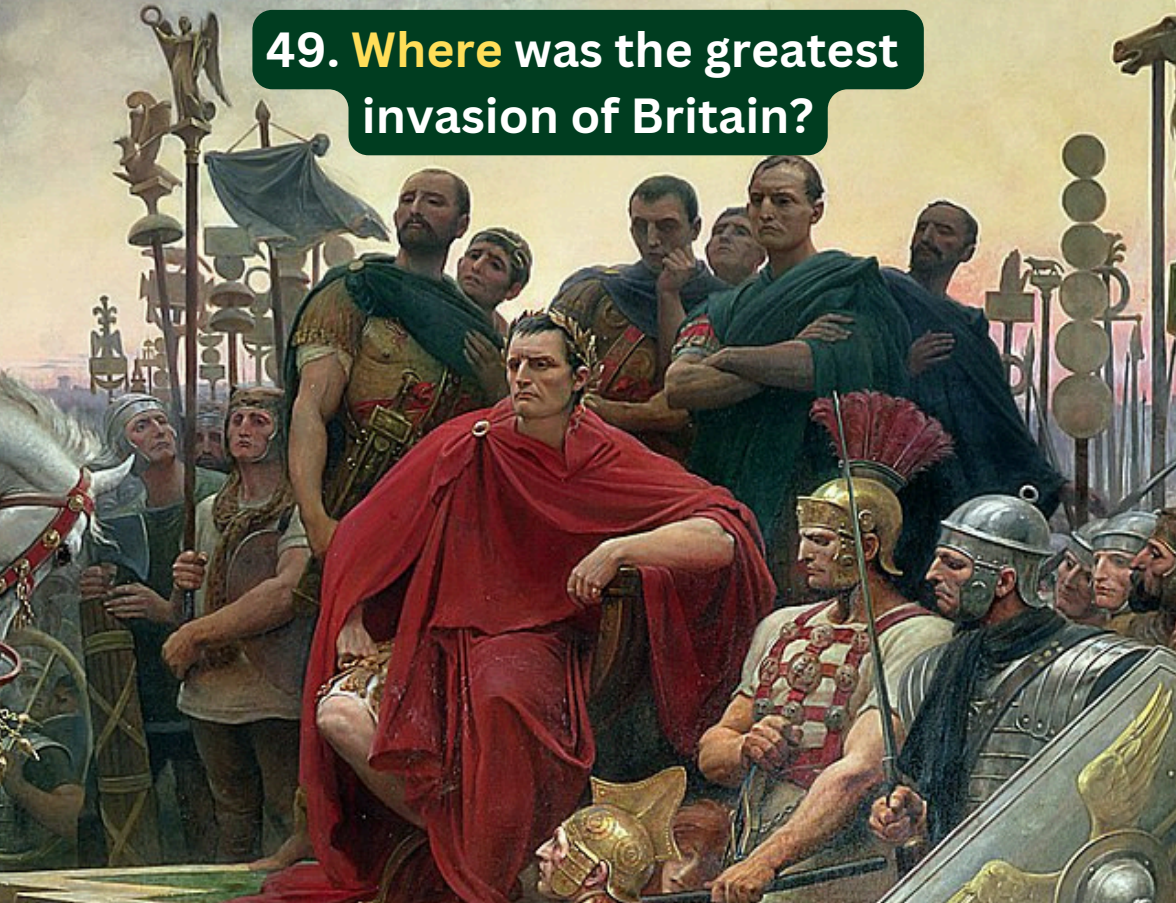
48. **Where** was the greatest infamous Civil Rights Movement bus arrest?



Born in 1913 and a Christian, Rosa Parks woman refused to give up her seat on a bus, which led to a famous bus boycott. This ended racial segregation on public transportation. Was *Rosa Parks*' leadership in the *Montgomery Bus Boycott* the greatest (#58)?

“I learned to put my trust in God and to see Him as my strength. Long ago I set my mind to be a free person and not to give in to fear.” (Rosa Parks)

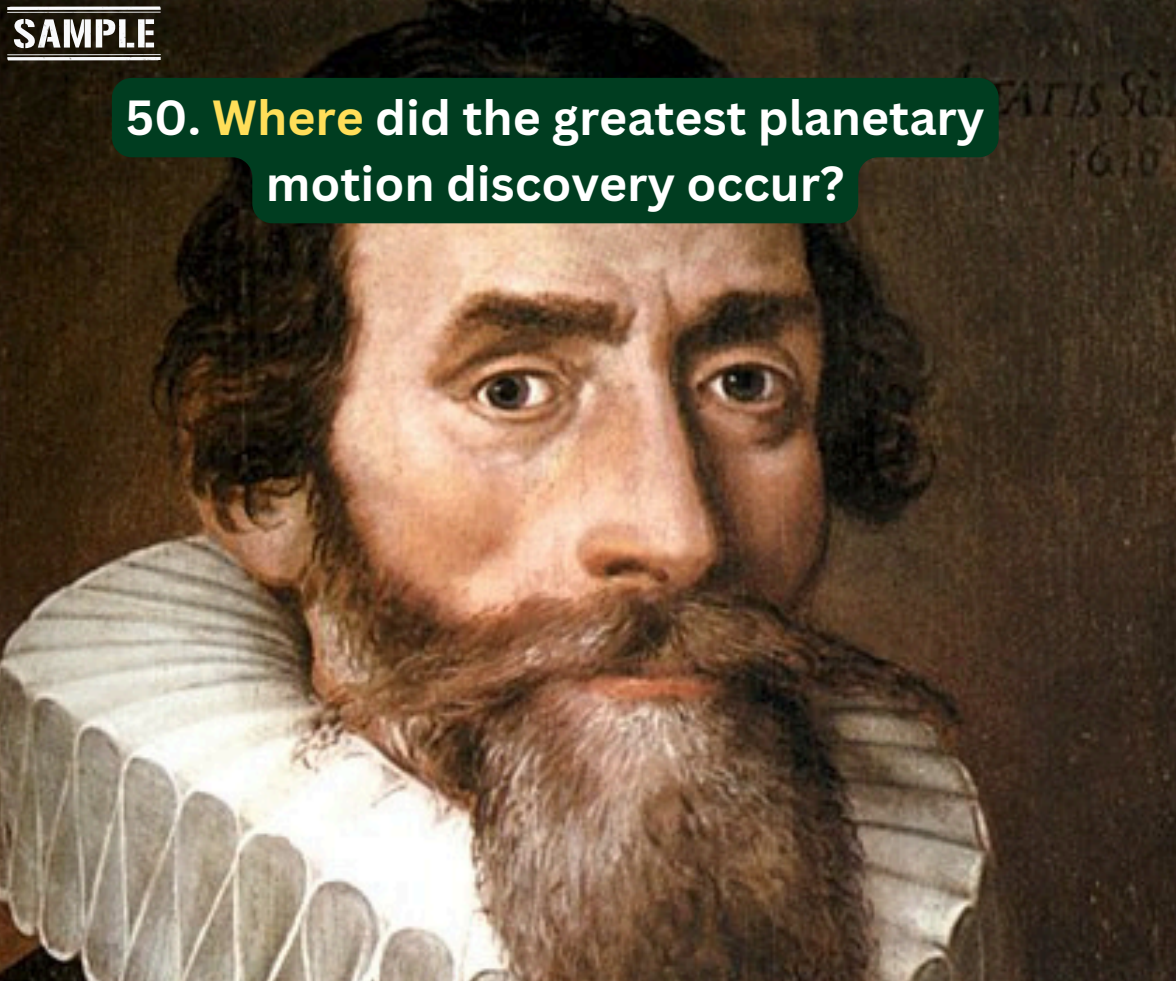
49. Where was the greatest invasion of Britain?



He invaded Britain twice, the first time being 55 B.C. and subsequently 54 B.C.. Despite further campaigns in later years, Scotland was never fully subdued. This leader was assassinated in 44 B.C. and was subsequently “recognised as a god”. Was *Julius Caesar’s* leadership the greatest (#55)?

“It was the wont [intention] of the immortal gods sometimes to grant prosperity and long impunity to men whose crimes they were minded to punish in order that a complete reverse of fortune might make them suffer more bitterly.” (Julius Caesar)

50. **Where** did the greatest planetary motion discovery occur?



Born in 1571, in Germany and a devout Protestant, they went on to discover the laws of planetary motion. He also made some other minor contributions to astronomy as well. Is *Johannes Kepler's* wisdom the greatest (#53)?

“The chief aim of all investigations of the external world should be to discover the rational order and harmony which has been imposed on it by God and which He revealed to us in the language of mathematics.”

(Johannes Kepler)

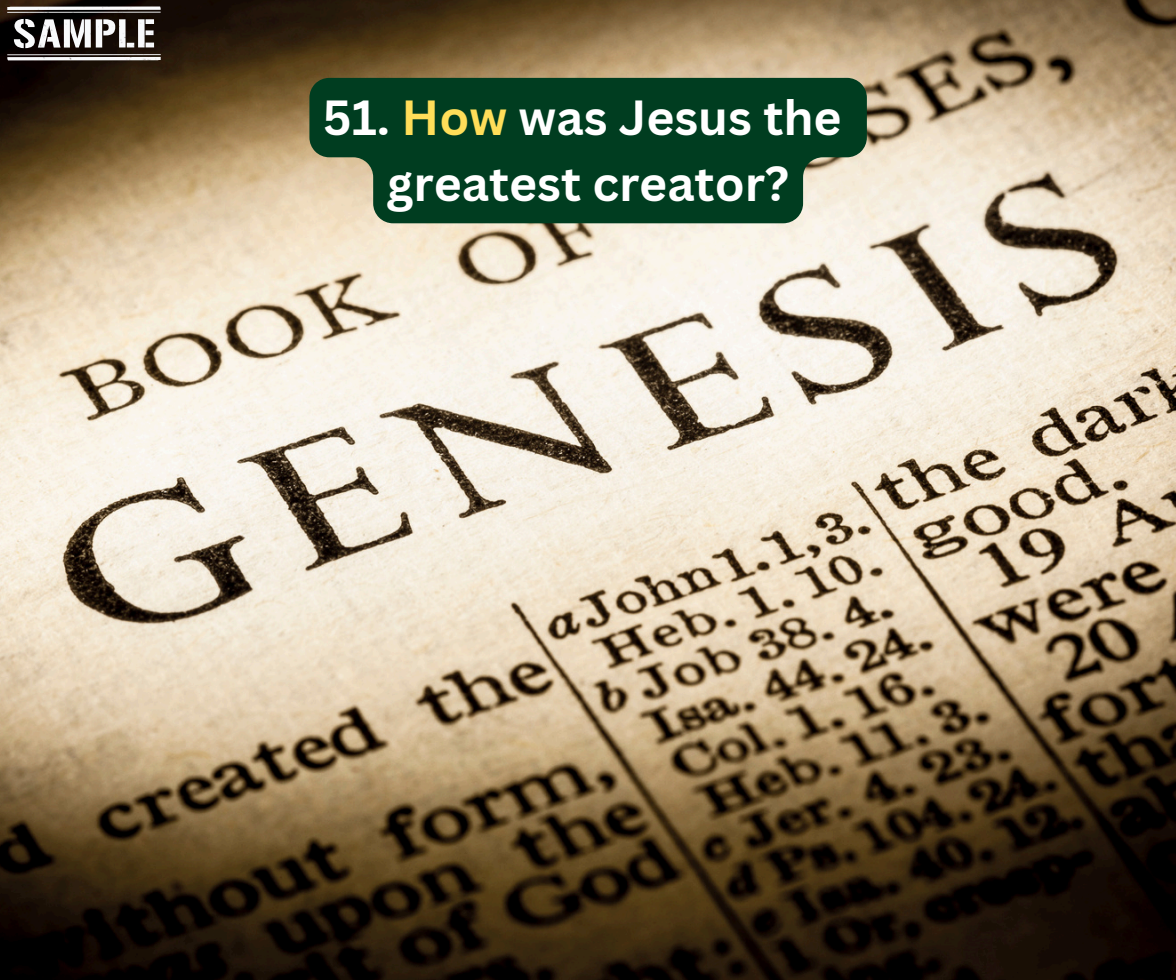
How is Jesus the greatest?

**The greatest: creator,
power, wisdom, event,
leader, fame,
eloquence, teacher
and humanitarian.
Jesus is the greatest...**

**“Jesus saith unto
him, I am the way, the truth,
and the life: no man cometh
unto the Father, but by me.”**

(John 14:6)

51. How was Jesus the greatest creator?



The Bible says that Jesus is the creator of all things (see quote). That means that he made the whole world, which is far greater than any human architect. Jesus is greater than Michelangelo's paintings, Taylor Swifts' music, Elon Musk's SpaceX, Steve Jobs' iPhones, or Ludwig van Beethoven's music. They are not the greatest.

“All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.” (John 1:3)

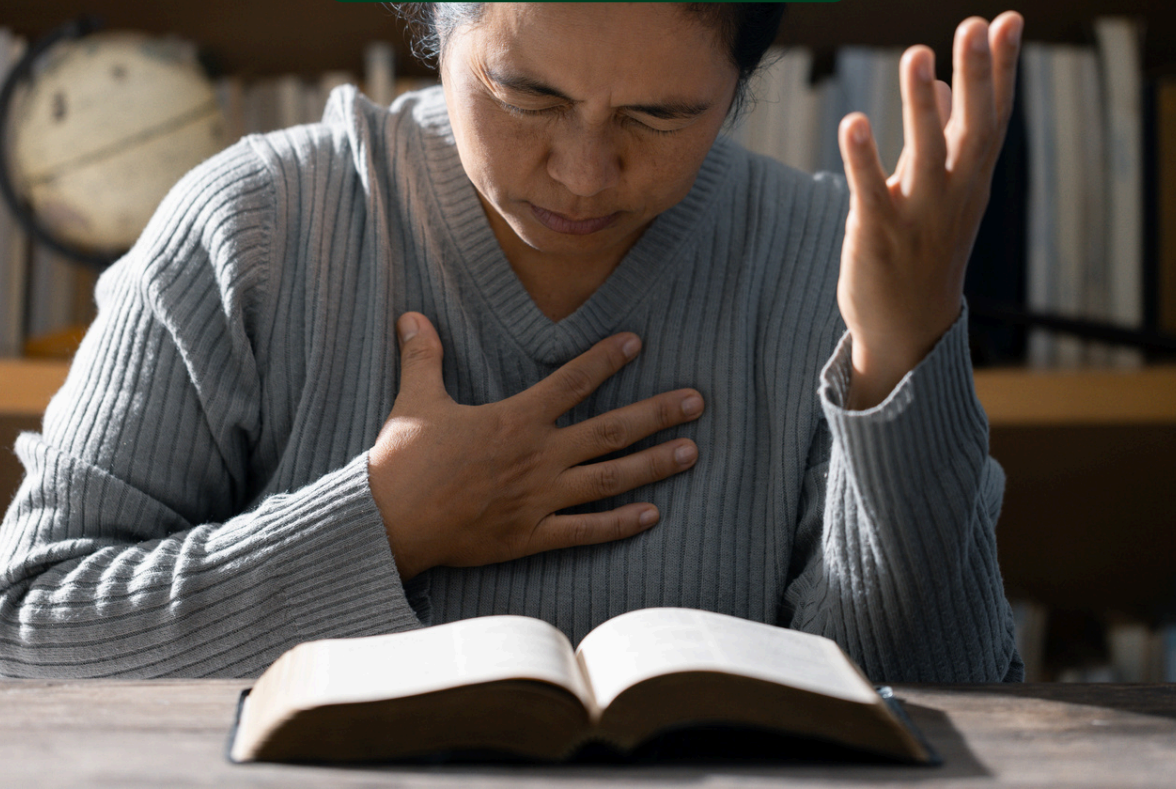
52. How was Jesus' power the greatest?



Whilst Jesus allowed his power to be laid down on earth, ultimately he is far more powerful than anyone, even being able to raise the dead. Napoleon's empire, Stalin's Russia, Queen Elizabeth II's realm, Adolf Hitler's dictatorship, or Alexander the Great's conquests have no comparison with him. They are not the greatest.

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” (Matt. 28:18)

53. How did Jesus have the greatest wisdom?



No one before or since has demonstrated the wisdom of Jesus and from teaching to love our enemies, or explaining prophecies, he is unsurpassed. Darwin's theory of evolution, Charles Babbage's computer design, Michael Faraday's study of electromagnetism, Guglielmo Marconi's design of the radio, or Johannes Kepler's astronomy were without importance. They are not the greatest.

"The officers answered, Never man spake like this man." (John 7:46)

54. How will Jesus' return be the greatest event?

Jesus will impress the whole world and even his enemies, with everyone seeing his glorious return (see quote). The atomic bomb Albert Einstein helped create, the attempted climb of Everest by George Mallory and Andrew Irvine, Harry Houdini's illusions, Captain Smith's infamous Titanic sinking, or Neil Armstrong walking on the moon have no comparison. They are not the greatest.

“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.” (Rev. 1:7)

55. How is Jesus the greatest leader?



Jesus is the ultimate leader: He has defeated the devil, death, sin and given eternal life to the world. George Washington's presidency, Christopher Columbus' exploration, Abraham Lincoln's Civil War guidance, Rosa Parks's inspiration or Julius Caesar bravery do not compare. They are not the greatest.

“And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (Matt. 4:19)

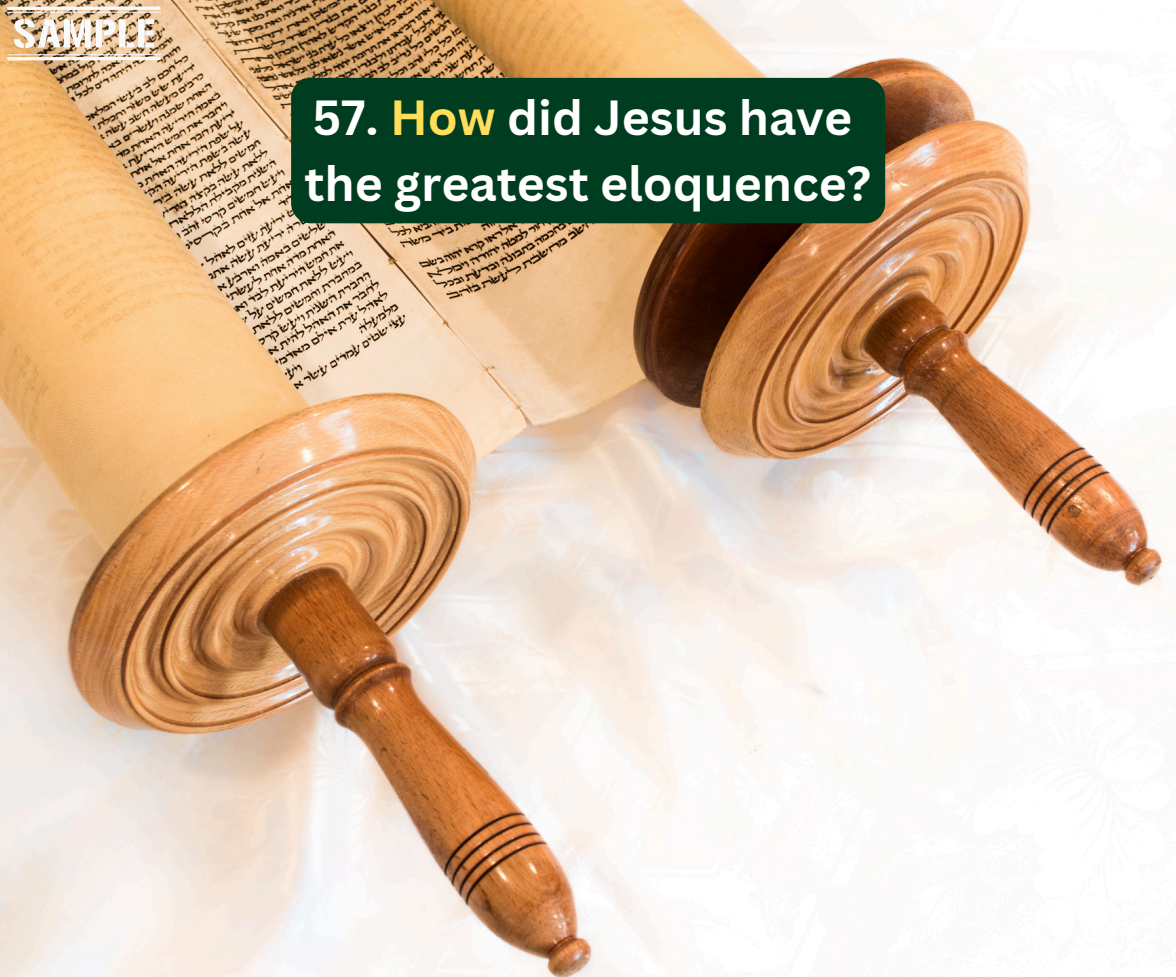
56. How is Jesus' fame the greatest?



No one in existence has been as famous as Jesus. From being the head of the world's largest religion and setting the AD and BC years, to being quoted by American presidents, he is the most well-known. Tiger Woods's golf, Usain Bolt's sprinting, LeBron James' basketball, Britney Spears' singing and Charlie Chaplin's acting have no comparison. They are not the greatest.

“And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.” (Luke 4:14)

57. How did Jesus have the greatest eloquence?



Despite being a humble carpenter from Nazareth, his remarkable words have entered into regular speech around the world. Voltaire's writings, Homer's poems, Alexander Graham Bell's first words on a phone, William Shakespeare's plays and John F. Kennedy's speech have no comparison. They are not the greatest.

“And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.” (Luke 4:32)

58. How is Jesus the greatest teacher?

FORGIVE

Jesus turned the world upside down in its thinking, including teaching about forgiveness and the way to Heaven through Him. Buddha's religion, Confucius' ideas, Plato's philosophies, Karl Marx's social struggles and Leonardo da Vinci's futuristic designs have no comparison to Him. They are not the greatest.

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6)

59. How is Jesus the greatest humanitarian?



Jesus went about doing good, healing, giving hope and even miraculously feeding people. Henry Ford's philanthropy, Ronaldo's outreach, Sigmund Freud's psychology, Mahatma Gandhi's good works and Louis Pasteur's medical work have no comparison to Jesus' life and His eternal help for humanity. They are not the greatest.

“But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.”
(Matt. 9:36)

60. How is Jesus the greatest?



The greatest creator, powerful, wise, spectacular future return, leader, famous, eloquent, teacher and humanitarian can only be named to one person in history. Casanova's adulterous romances, Serena Williams's tennis wins, Maria Branyas Morera's long life, Elvis Presley's success, or King Nebuchadnezzar's Hanging Gardens of Babylon have no comparison. Search for your nearest Seventh-day Adventist Church (www.adventist.org/find-a-church) and find that **Jesus is the greatest**.

"Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am." (John 8:58)

Acknowledgements – 1

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<https://www.biography.com/athletes/lebron-james>
- Neil Armstrong
<https://www.biography.com/scientists/neil-armstrong>
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Albert Einstein: p. 52, Alexander Graham Bell: p. 222, Alexander the Great: p174, Buddha: p. 22,
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*“We have nothing to fear for the future, except
as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us,
and His teaching in our past history.”*

(LS, p. 161)