

The Mayan civilization

- The British archaeologist Gordon Childe worked out a theory explaining how a culture transforms into a civilization.



Gordon Childe



- Gordon Childe wrote that a civilization is characterized by the invention of writing, mathematics, monumental architecture, long-distance trade, wheeled carts irrigation technology and some other features.



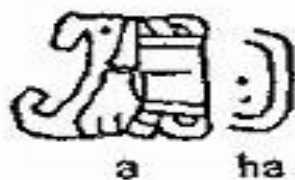
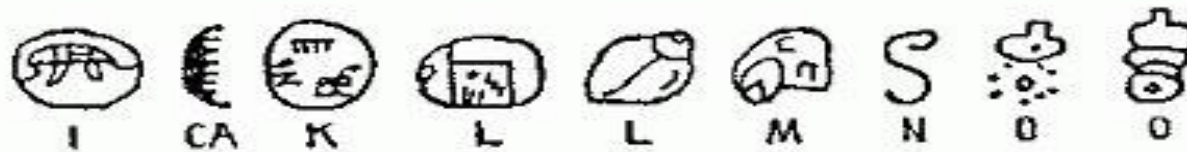
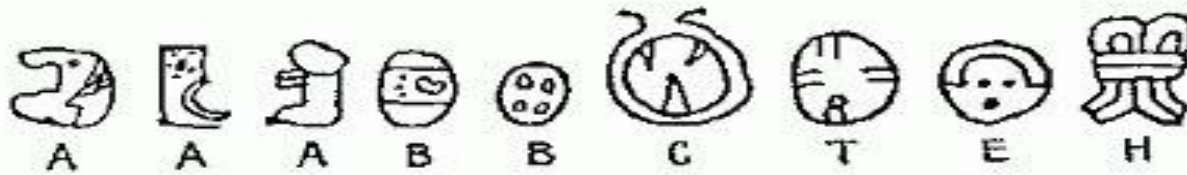
- Like ancient Egypt in Africa, the Mayan civilization in Central America deserves a special mention. There is no other country that has so many wonders.



- The Mayan civilization was formed in 2000 B.C. and existed up to 250 A.D. it is known due to its writing, mathematics and astronomy.



Alphabet



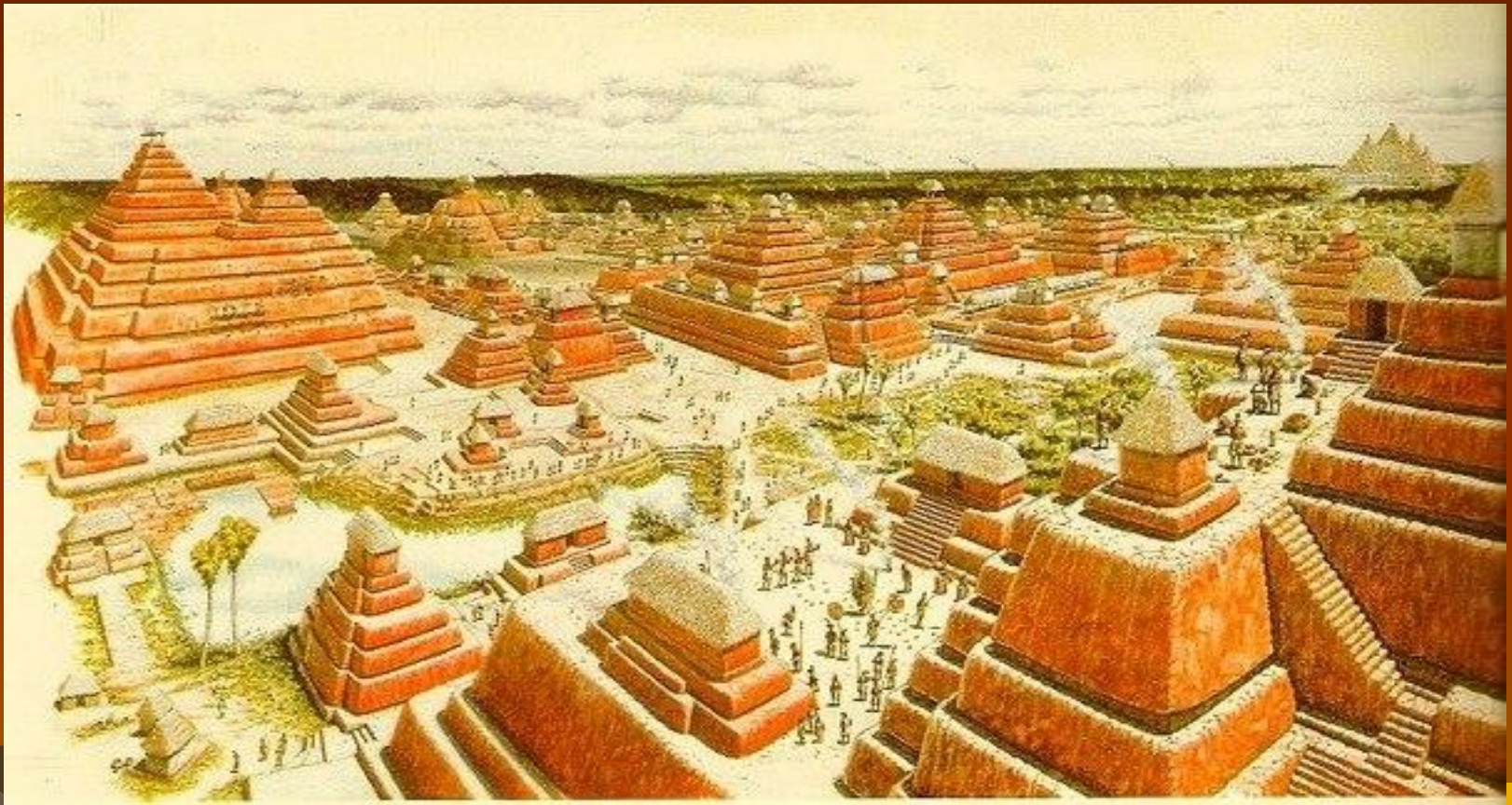
Mathematics



Astronomy



- The Mayans built stone cities with grand pyramid temples which were densely populated.





- They made a complicated system of basins and reservoirs to collect water.



Their calendars can be used even nowadays.



- They were hunters, gatherers and farmers. The main crops were cereals, vegetables and fruit. They used the cotton plant to make clothing. Mayans also kept cows, pigs, goats and sheep.



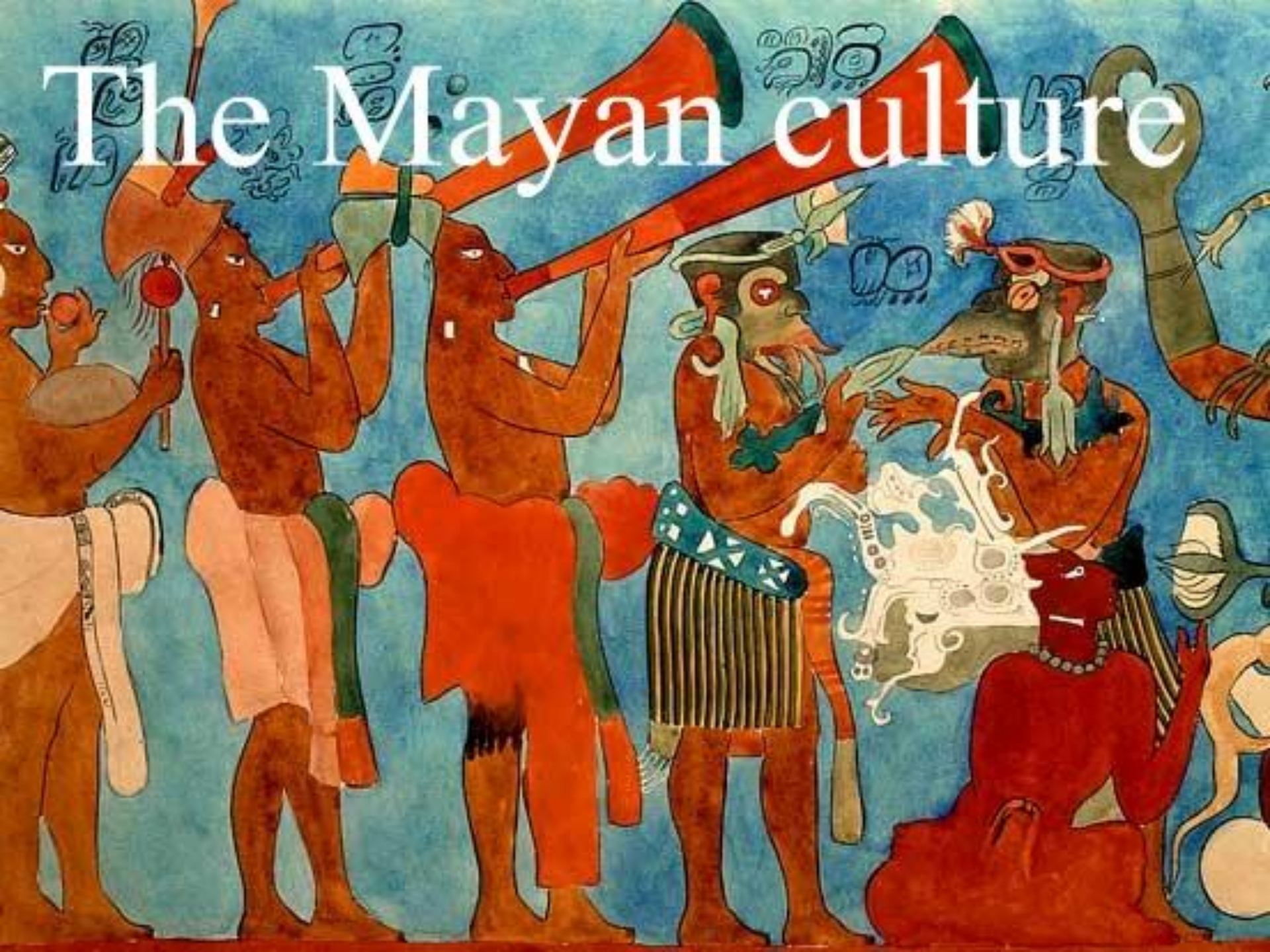
Hunting and fishing allowed them to make their diet more varied.



- But still they couldn't fight against nature, so one of the reasons that caused their collapse was the intense drought.

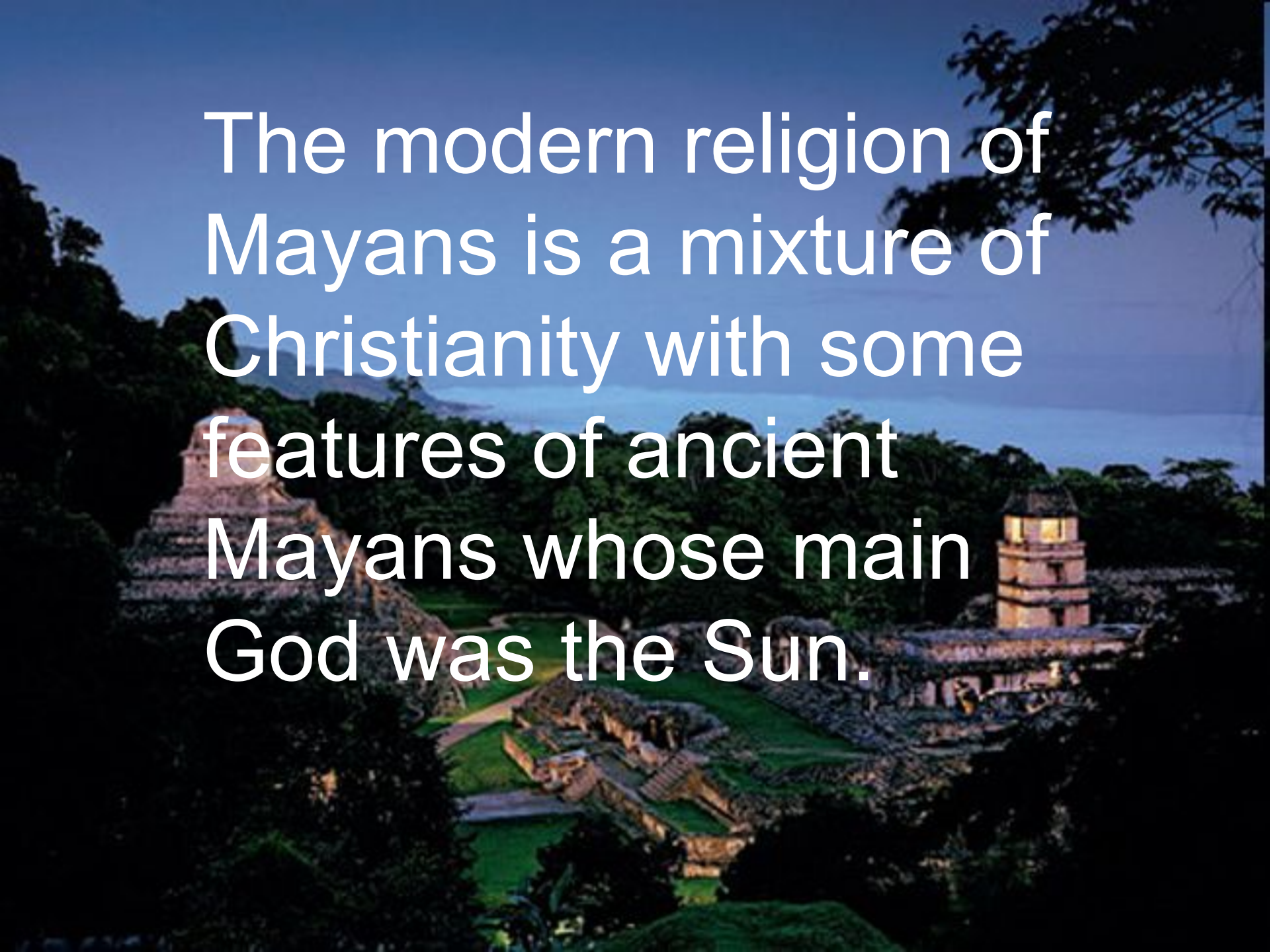


The Mayan culture



- The Mayan culture played a great role in the history of mankind. Even nowadays we can see the sight of its culture. First of all, the descendants of ancient Mayans are not only Mayans who preserved their language and some traditions but some Spanish speaking people of Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras, their calendar-system is very exact though complicated and their writing-system is unique.

The modern religion of Mayans is a mixture of Christianity with some features of ancient Mayans whose main God was the Sun.



The Sun God

