

Shall I Bow To My Creator?

- **YES!**

- ancient monotheism
- ancient Israel
- Bible
- Fundamentalism

- **CREATOR/creature**

- God || man | nature
- everlasting distinctions

- **PERSONAL SOVEREIGN**

- ultimate responsibility

- **NO!**

- ancient myths
- eastern religions
- western philosophy
- modern theology

- **Continuity of Being**

- nature > gods > man
- transmutation / evolution

- **IMPERSONAL FATE / CHANCE**

- ultimate victimization

“You can’t say anything about anything without saying something about everything.”

Non-Biblical Answers to: “Who are you to tell me how to live?”

1. Subjectivism (moral relativism): *“Ethical judgments merely express an individual’s emotions or attitudes toward an action.”*

Arguments for:

Circumstances & generation differ from person to person

Intolerant to impose one’s values on others

Two persons’ conflicting judgments can both be true because they both accurately reflect the individual attitudes

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Problems with:

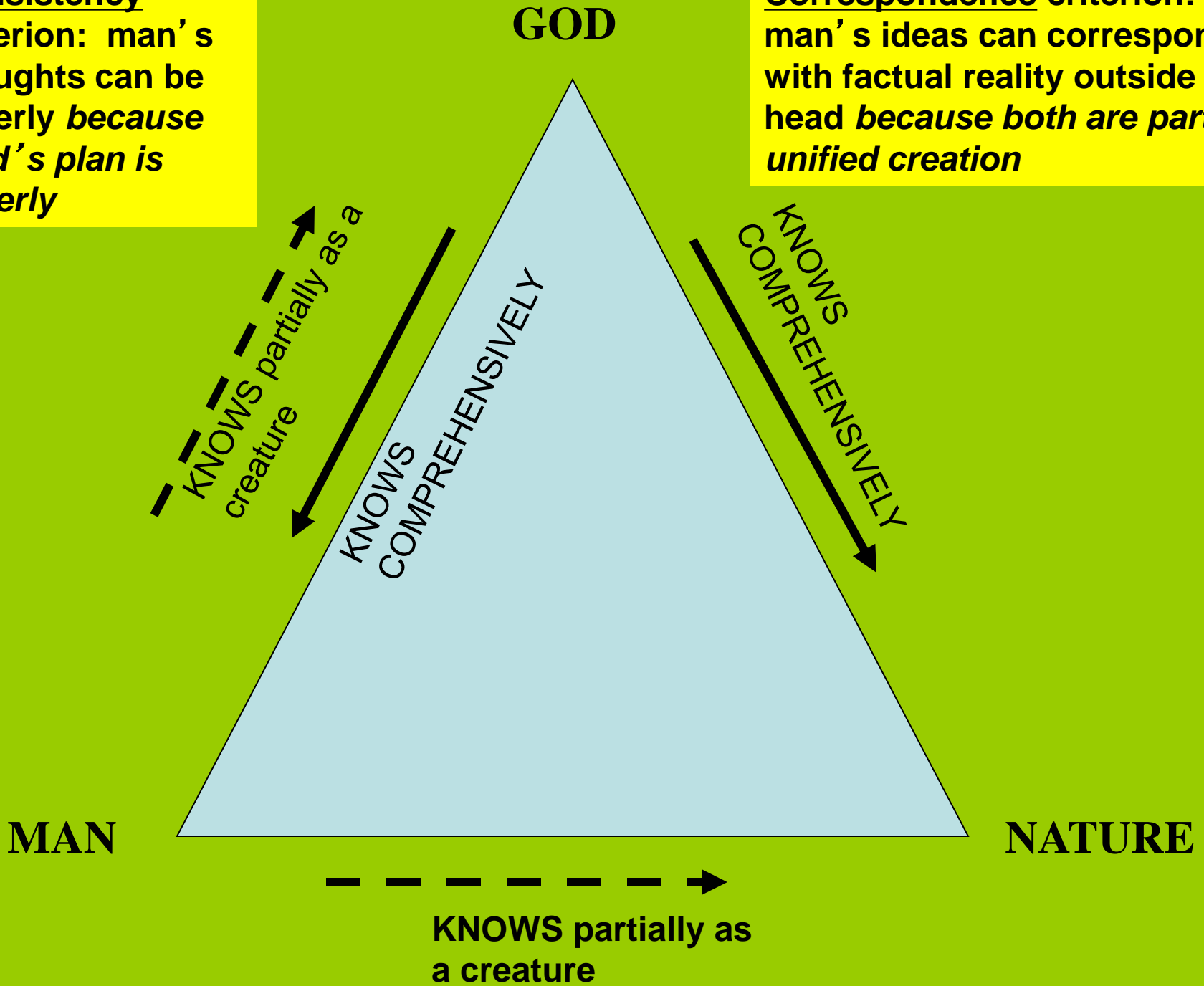
Says nothing about actions themselves, only autobiographical expressions lacking basis for moral outrage over evil actions

Self-refuting since every person inevitably judges others’ actions (especially toward himself or herself)

Resulting anarchy leads to totalitarian imposition of the judgments of the stronger against the weaker to avoid social chaos

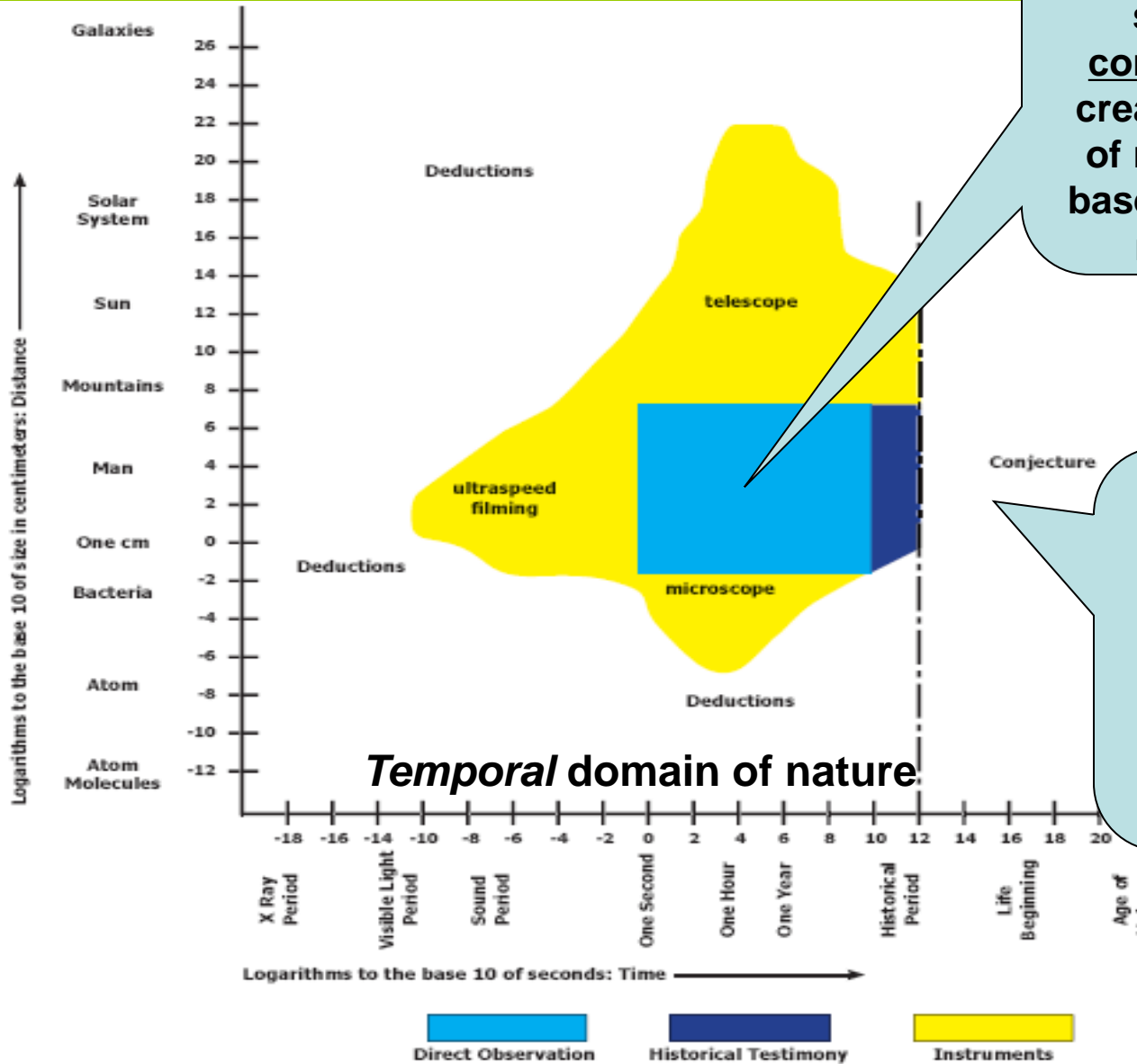
Consistency
criterion: man's thoughts can be orderly because *God's plan is orderly*

Correspondence criterion:
man's ideas can correspond with factual reality outside his head because *both are part of a unified creation*



Limitations of Observation-based, Empirical Knowledge

Spatial domain of nature

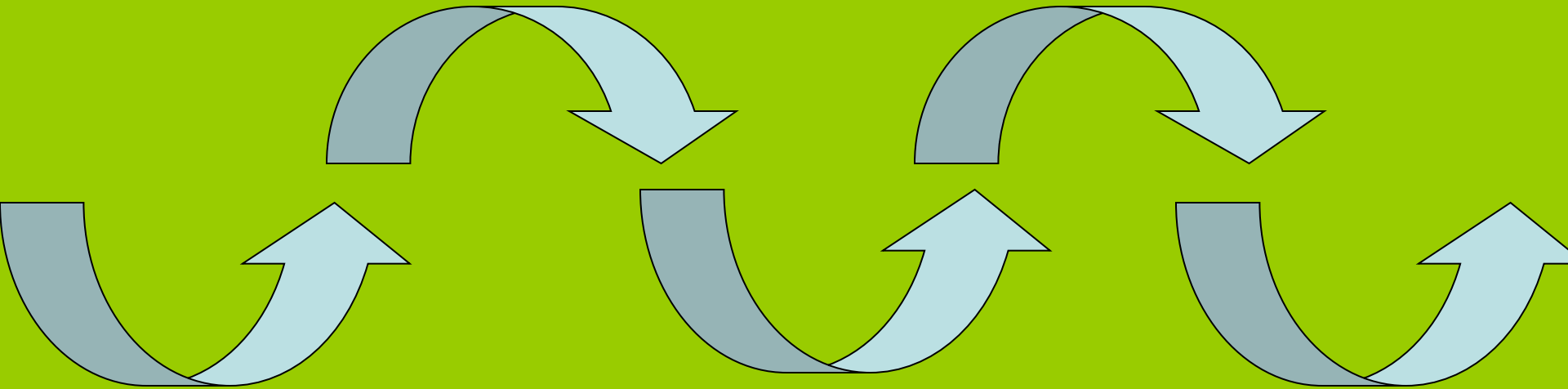


Man created to have dominion over nature starting with the correspondence God created between many of man's empirically-based conceptions and nature's design

BUT the scientific method requires special additions (*worldview dependent conjectures*) in order to penetrate unobservable past & future domains

Reconstructed from: Julio Garrido, "The Theory of Evolution and the Limitation of Human Knowledge", CRSQ, March 1970, Vol 6, pp 185-187.

Paganism's cyclical view of history



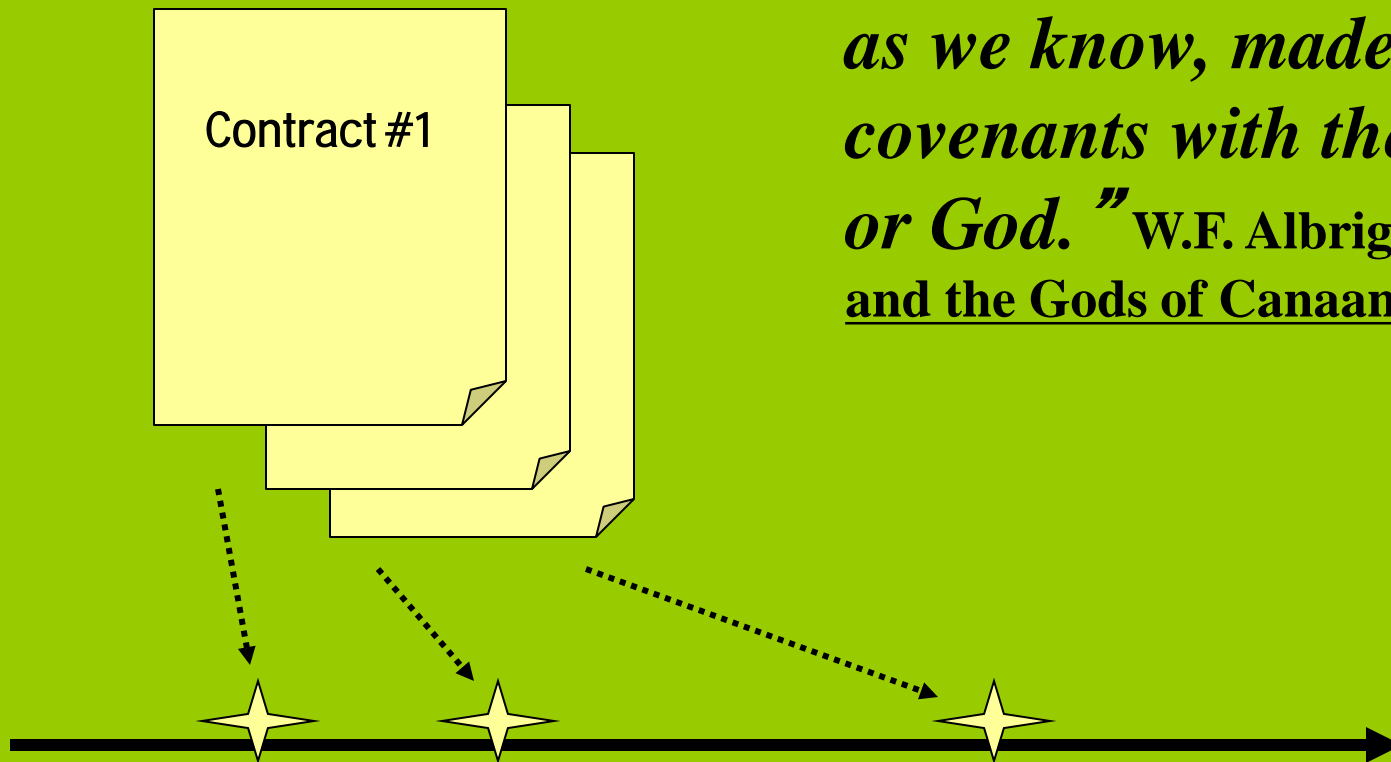
Endless repetition of seasons:

Cyclical, not Linear

THE ONLY SOURCE OF A JUSTIFIABLE PLAN OF HISTORICAL PROGRESSION: THE BIBLE !

CREATOR &
REDEEMER

*“Only the Hebrews, so far
as we know, made
covenants with their gods
or God.”* W.F. Albright, Yahweh
and the Gods of Canaan.



Chiastic Structure (X)

5:6-10 God alone is worthy of worship and service

5:11 Accuracy in language about God

5:12-15 Management of labor and property

5:16 Society depends upon functional
marriage & family

5:17 Life is to be respected & preserved

5:18 Marriage is to be protected

5:19 Property is to be protected

5:20 Accuracy in language of judicial proceedings

5:21 Self is not worthy of worship and service

Great ideas that raised Western Civilization out of underdeveloped status & poverty

- *A purposeful created existence controlled by **God's Providence***
- *Confidence in economic **cause-effect** and permanent (unchanging) **law***
- ***Optimism** concerning historical progress [Marx borrowed this]*
- ***Dignity** of labor*
- *Future hope for **savings** and investing the profits of labor*
- *Sanctity of **contracts** and **private property***

Logical
Sequence

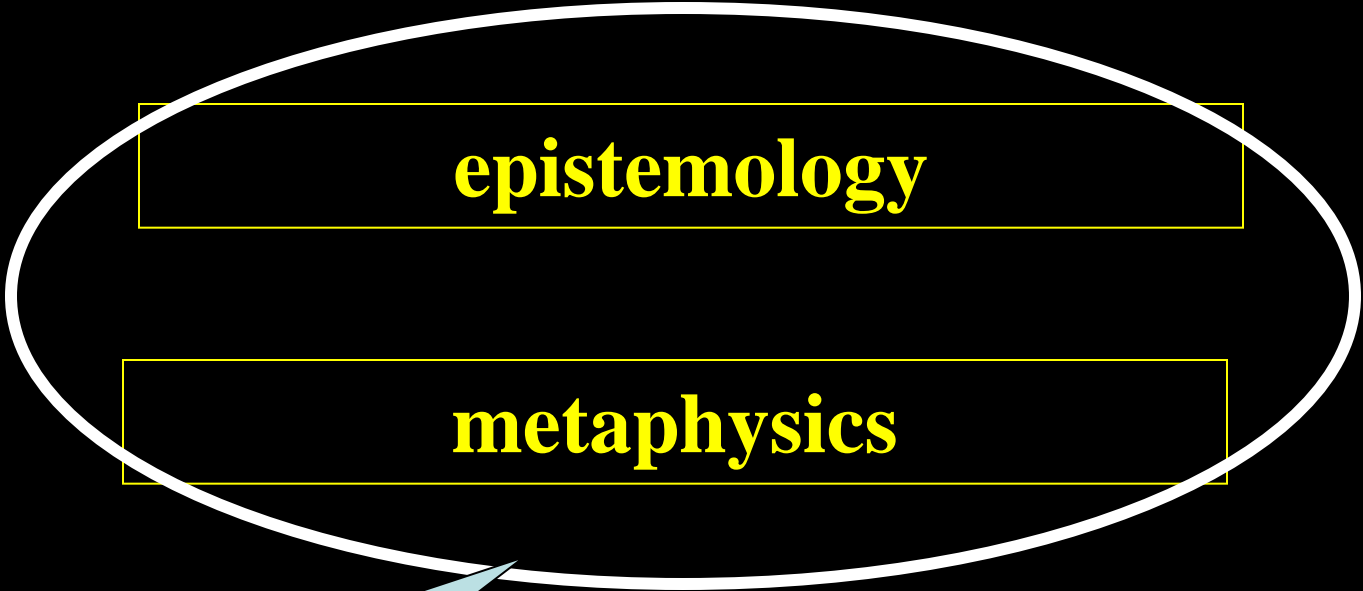


politics

ethics

epistemology

metaphysics



Pressure of Life



Yahweh or an idol?