

# 1 John Series

## Lesson 7

Charles Clough

October 20, 2013

[www.bibleframework.org](http://www.bibleframework.org)

# 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**

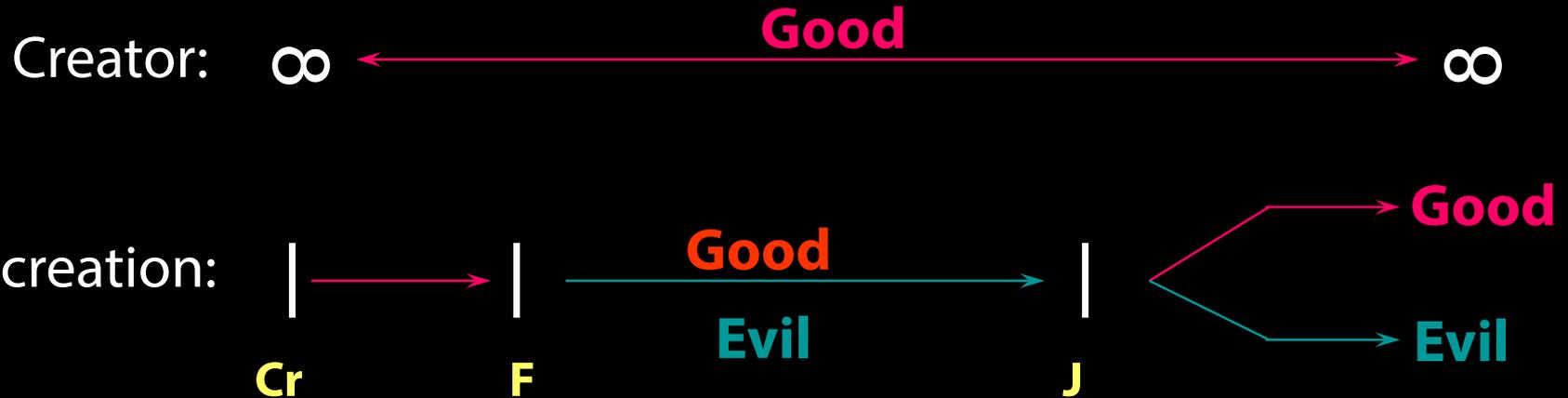
- ultimate victimization

# Fundamentally Different Answers

Question	Theocratic Answer	Pagan Answer
Metaphysical	<b>Creator/creature distinction</b>	Continuity of Being
Epistemological	<b>God's revelation necessary</b>	Man's speculation necessary but vulnerable to demonic deceptions
Ethical	<b>God's holiness</b>	Subjective like/dislike

# Who Has the REAL “Evil Problem”?

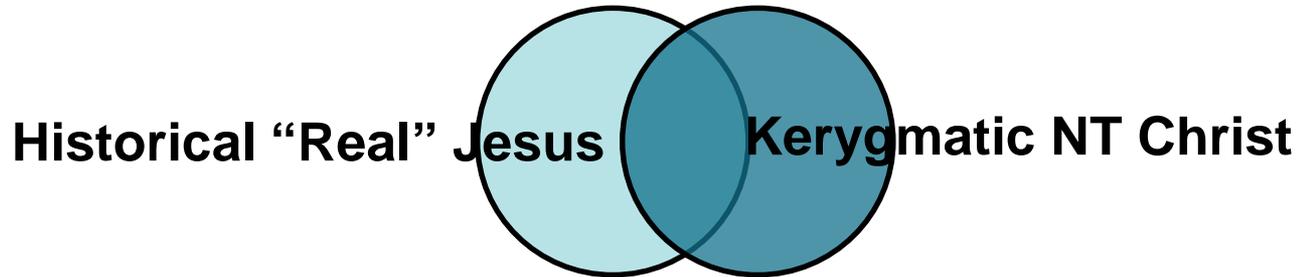
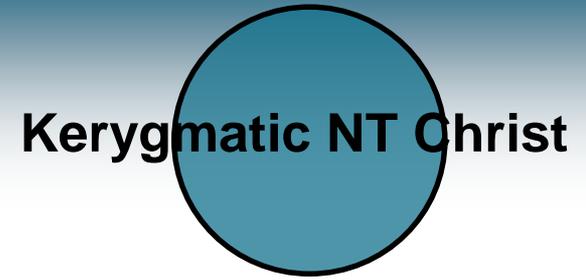
## Christian:



## Pagan:



# Views of Christ



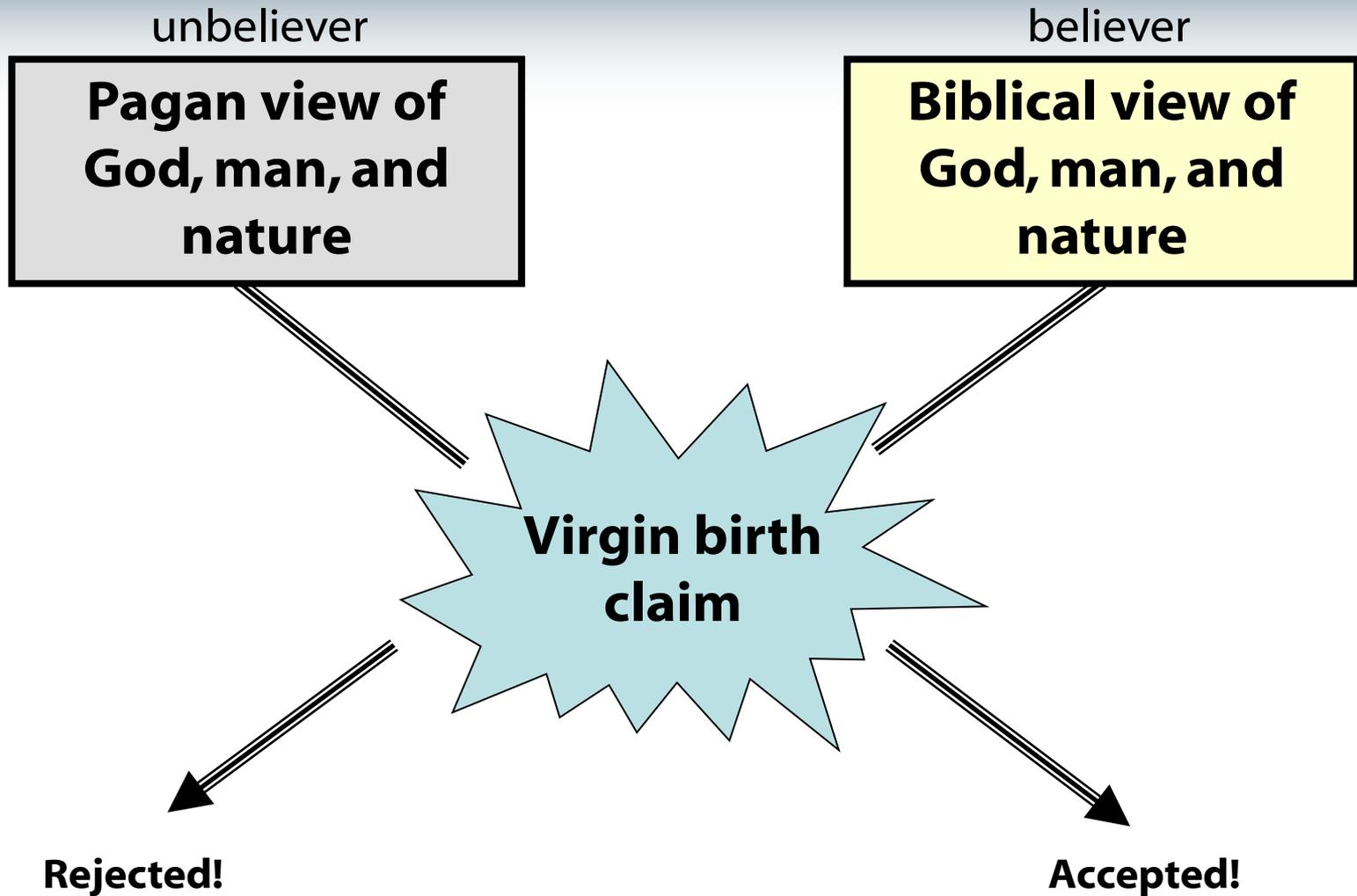
## 1 John 1:1–2

1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—1:2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

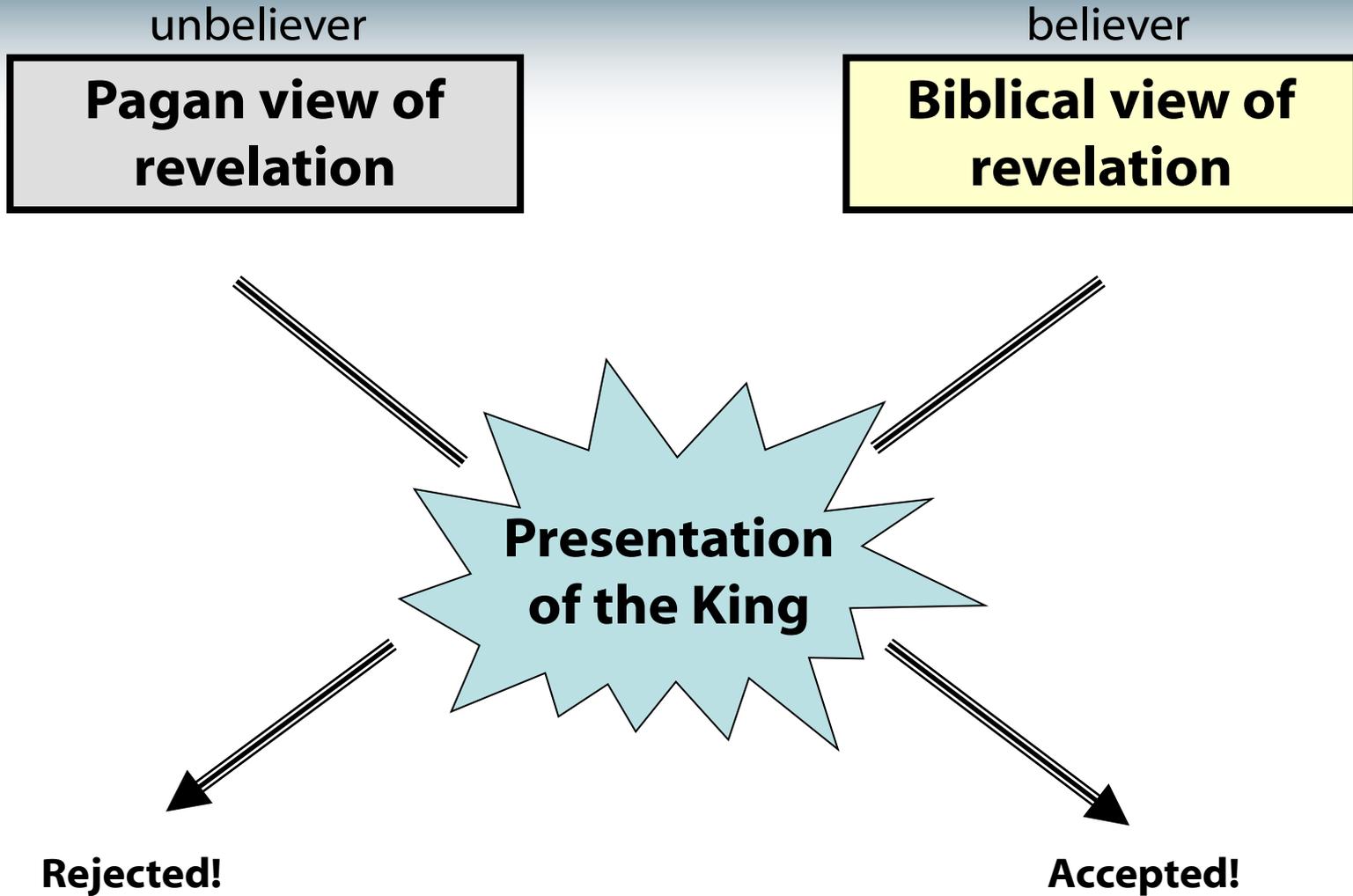
heard . . . seen . . . looked upon . . . our hands have touched  
 perf            perf            aorist                            aorist

Manifested . . . have seen . . . bear witness . . . declare  
 aorist                            perf                            pres                            pres

# The Virgin Birth



# Presentation of the King



# The Trinity (3)

Trinity	Nature, Person, and Personality
(1)	There are no more nor less than 3: back of the person a nature, merging into the lives of others a personality. One is not a personal being unless all three elements are present. ... each one of the three factors in man is so distinct that no one of the three can be either one of the others.
(2)	Each of the three factors is inevitable to the others. Without the person there is no nature or personality. Without the nature there is no person, no personality. And there is no person, no nature, without personality as a consequence. ... They are so much one that each is the whole man.
(3)	The three factors in personal human life ... are manifestly three things which man <i>is</i> ... not three things that he does. ... They are three modes of being.
(4)	<i>Nature is first</i> , the source of all that you are. <i>Person is second</i> , embodying the nature. <i>Personality is third</i> , proceeding from the nature through the person.
(5)	The person is begotten continually from the nature. ... The person sends out his personality. He sends out his personality ... from his inner nature.
(6)	The unseen nature reveals itself in the person. He who has really seen and known the person has seen the nature. The person is the visible embodiment of the whole being. The personality reveals the person and his nature.
(7)	There is the point of view of my essential, true nature. There is the simple, personal point of view—of me, the <i>person</i> . There is the point of view of me as <i>related to others</i> .

“What does this raving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him . . . though none can help since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words by God himself.”

Pascal, Pensees #425

## 1 John 1:3–4

1:3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you that you also may have fellowship with us (and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.  
1:4 And these things we write to you that [our] your joy may be full.

have seen . . . have heard = testimony

Declare . . . that [purpose] . . .  
fellowship with apostles . . . → . . . fellowship with the Trinity