

Romans Series

Lesson #16

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The Epistle to the ROMANS



Conclusions from Rom 1:18ff

- 1. All men are inherently religious, that is they worship something, but what they worship is something in the creation: animals, idols, or intellectual systems.**
- 2. All men are in rebellion against the Creator God by virtue of sin and thus will generate some substitute god. All men know that they are in violation of God's standard.**
- 3. That God created all men with an internal knowledge of His existence and His external witness within creation was sufficient for humanity to know God exists.**

Conclusions from Rom 1:18ff

- 4. That the ultimate issue in life was neither intellectual nor education, nor IQ, nor experience, but a moral decision to reject the knowledge of God.**
- 5. There are some people who have already understood the Creator God, so the issue in communication with them is different.**

Common Ground

Reason

Experience

Intuition



SCRIPTURE



(starting point)



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Acts 14:8, “And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother’s womb, who had never walked.

Acts 14:9, “This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed,

Acts 14:10, “said with a loud voice, ‘Stand up straight on your feet!’ And he leaped and walked.”

Acts 14:11, “Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, ‘The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!’

Acts 14:12, “And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.”

Basic Issues of Life

Is there someone or something greater than us?
Why do we exist? Why does anything exist?

Metaphysics

(the existence of God, origin of the universe)

How are we to know the right thing to do: **epistemology**
(truth claims, accountability, and responsibility, i.e., authority response)

How are we to behave: **ethics**
(marriage, family, law, politics, economics)

The Great Chain of Being



Fig. 1

The Great Chain of Being

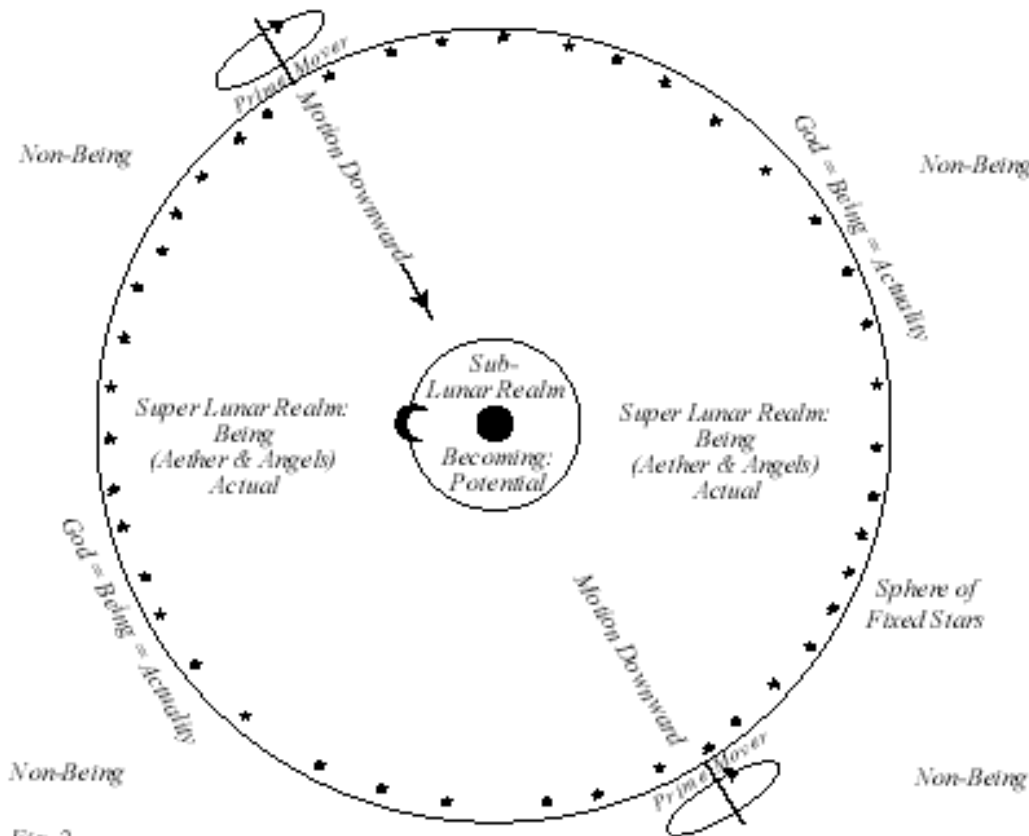


Fig. 2

Aristotle's Hierarchically ordered Cosmos

Acts 14:15, “and saying, ‘Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them,

Acts 14:16, “ ‘who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways.’ ”