

Romans Series

Lesson #17

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Dean Bible Ministries

www.deanbible.org

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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

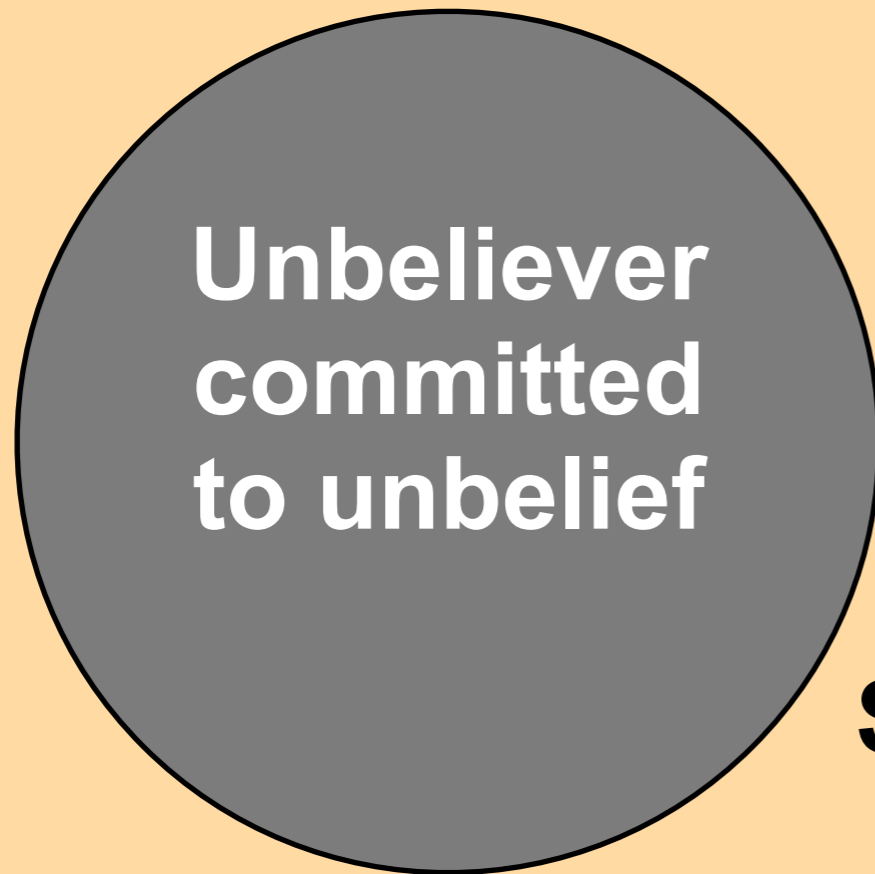
- 4. That the ultimate issue in life was neither intellectual nor education, nor IQ, nor experience, but a moral decision to reject the knowledge of God.**
- 5. There are some people who have already understood the Creator God, so the issue in communication with them is different.**

Common Ground

Reason

Experience

Intuition



SCRIPTURE



THRACE

Black Sea

PONTUS

MACEDONIA

Amphipolis
Philippi
Neapolis

Egnatian Way

BITHYNIA

Berea
Thessalonica
Apollonia

SAMOTHRACE

MYSIA

Antioch
in Pisidia

GALATIA

CAPPADOCIA

EPIRUS

Troas

ASIA

Thyatira

PHRYGIA

Ikonium

(starting point)

Genchreae

Ephesus

Lystra

Derbe

Tarsus

ACHAIA

Athens

RHODES

LYCIA

CILICIA

Antioch

SYRIA

CRETE

Gortyna

CYPRUS

Mediterranean Sea

Damascus

CYRENE

Cyrene

Caesarea

PALESTINE

Jerusalem

0 100 200 mi

Alexandria

EGYPT

The Great Chain of Being

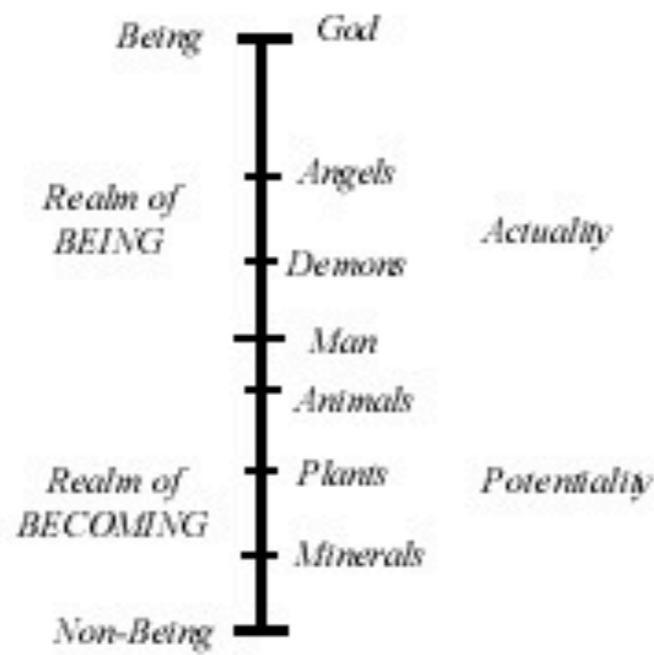


Fig. 1

The Great Chain of Being

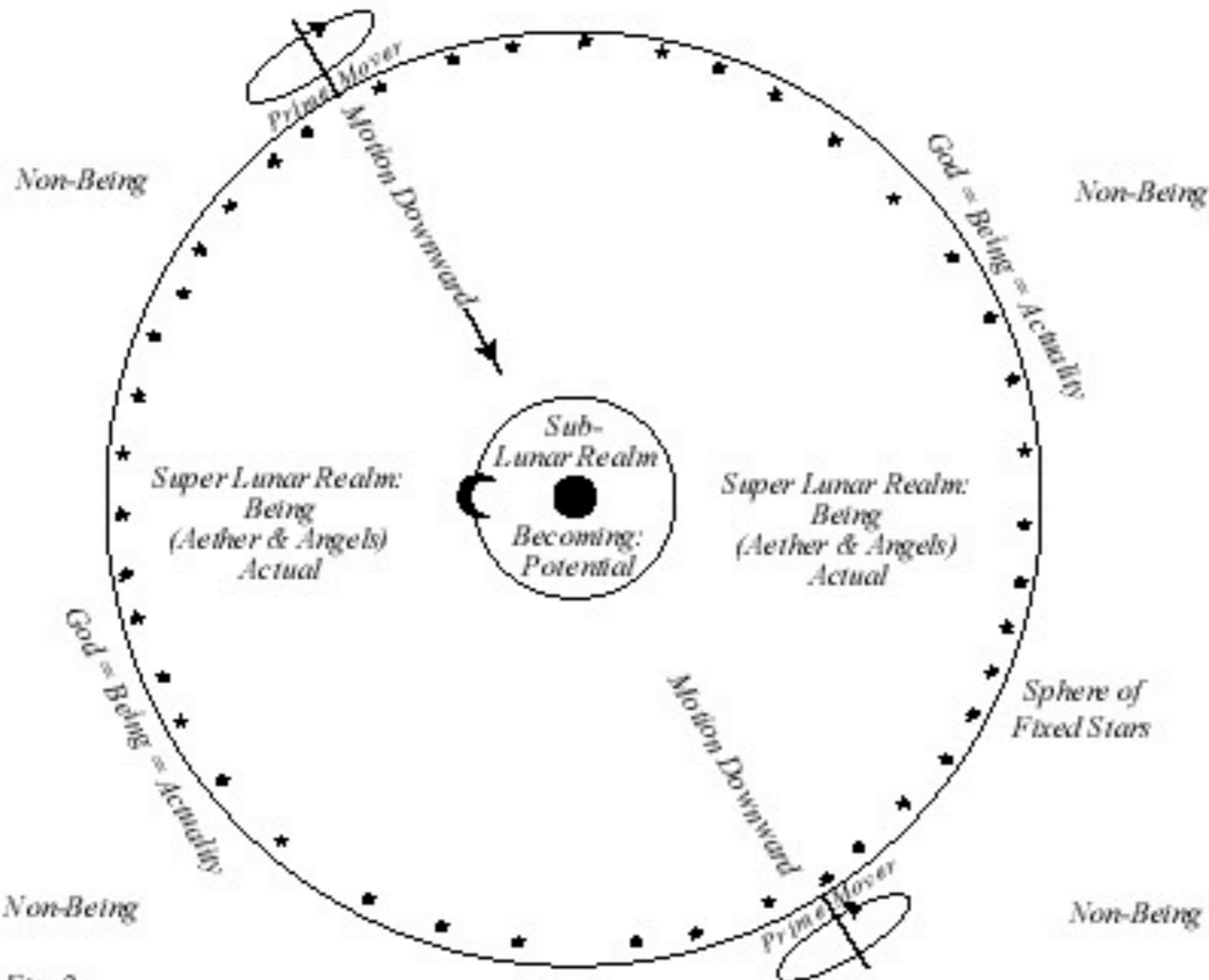


Fig. 2

Aristotle's Hierarchically ordered Cosmos

**Chain of Being
emanating
from “god”**

“god”

Angelic beings

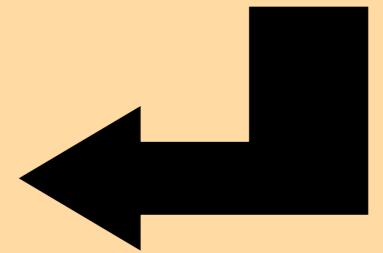
Human beings

Animals

Vegetation

Rocks, dirt, water

**Being or
raw
existence
itself**



GOD

Personal–Infinite

FINITE UNIVERSE

angels
man
animals
vegetation
matter/energy

**INFINITE-
IMPERSONAL
Universe**

god
angels
man
animals
nature

GOD

Personal-Infinite

FINITE UNIVERSE

angels
man
animals
vegetation
matter/energy

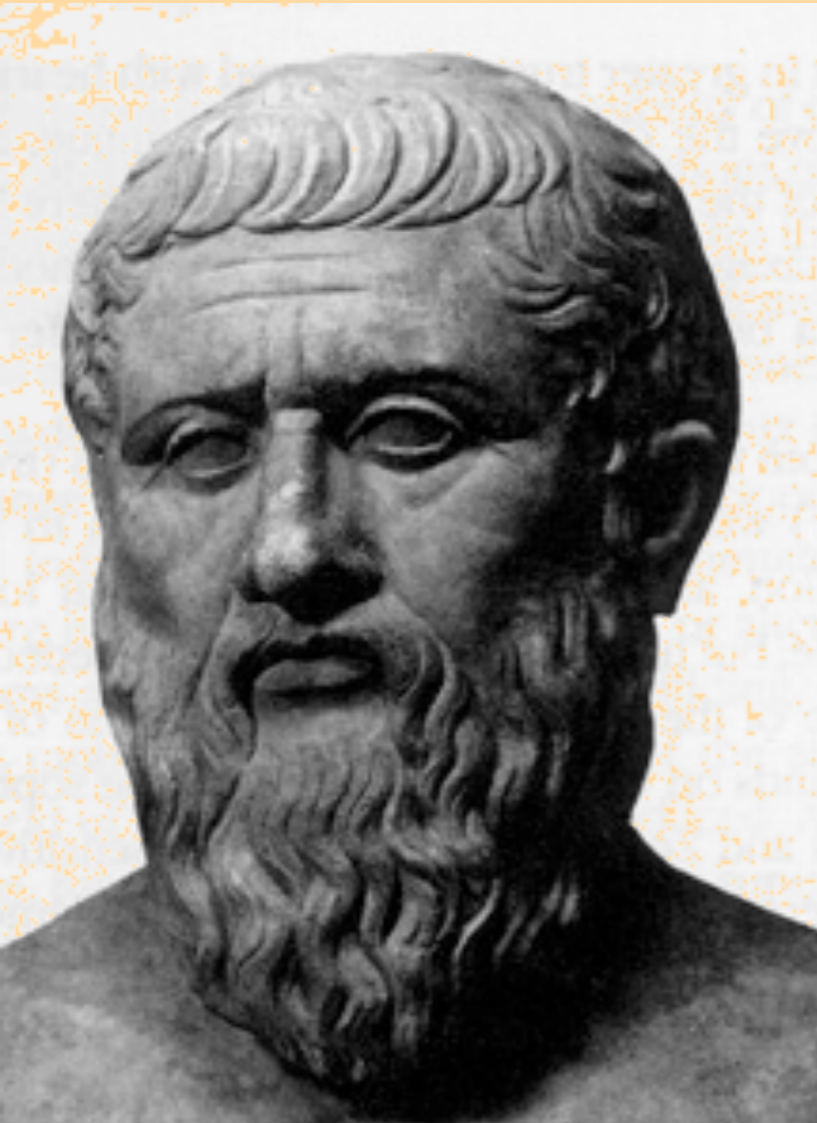
**INFINITE-
IMPERSONAL
Universe**







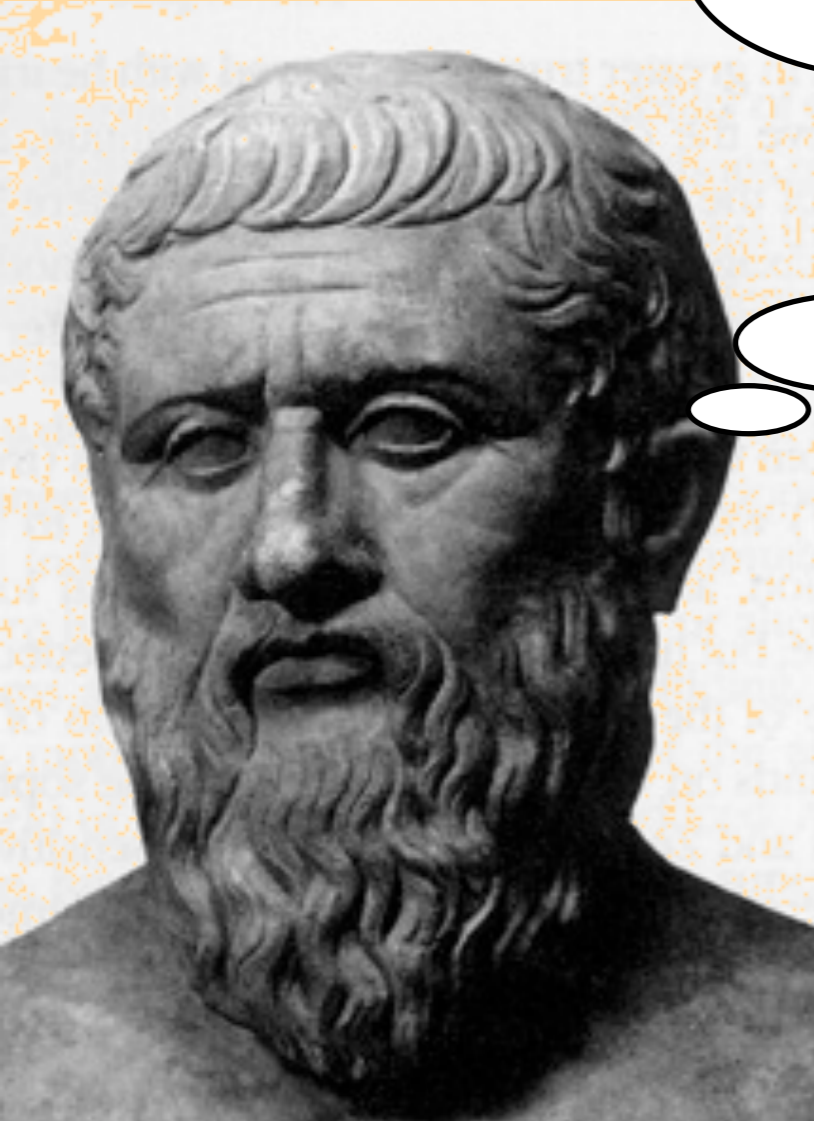
Plato (427?–347 BC)



Plato (427?–347?)

IDEAS

(Forms, absolutes, universals,
Other, Absolute Good,
Summum Bonum)

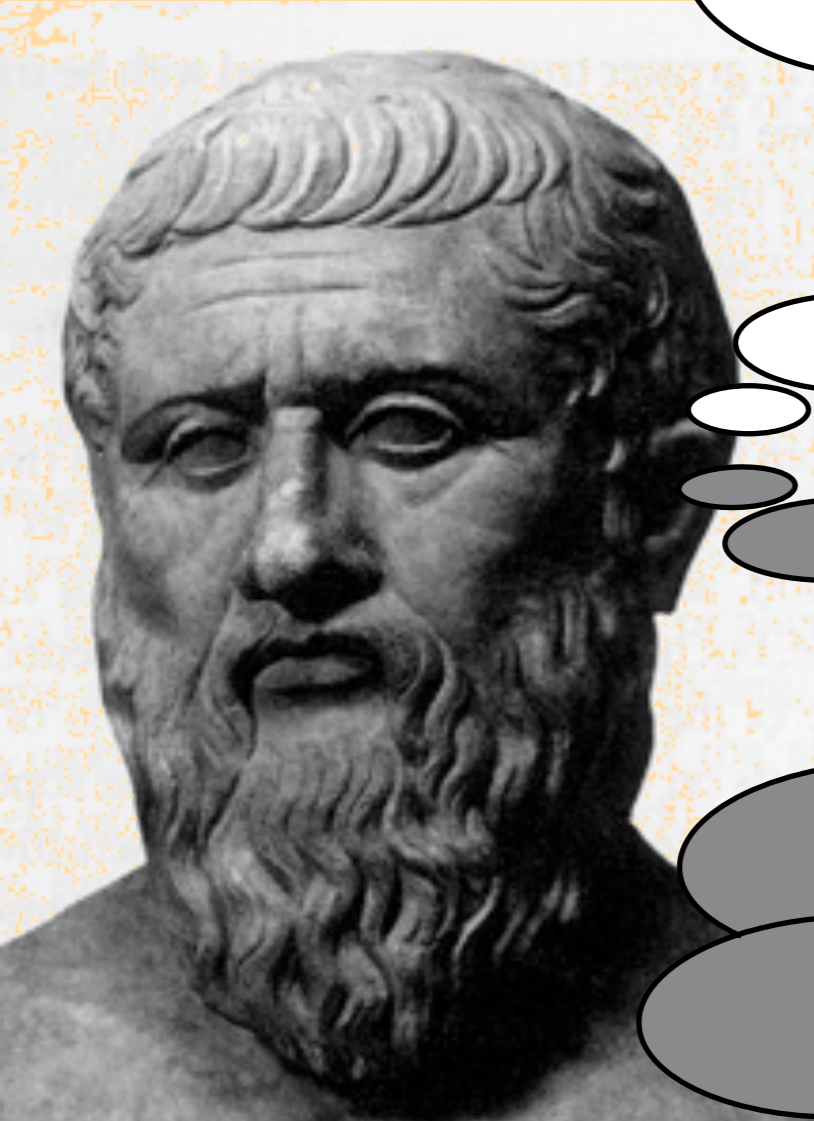


Plato (427?–347?)

IDEAS

(forms, absolutes, universals)

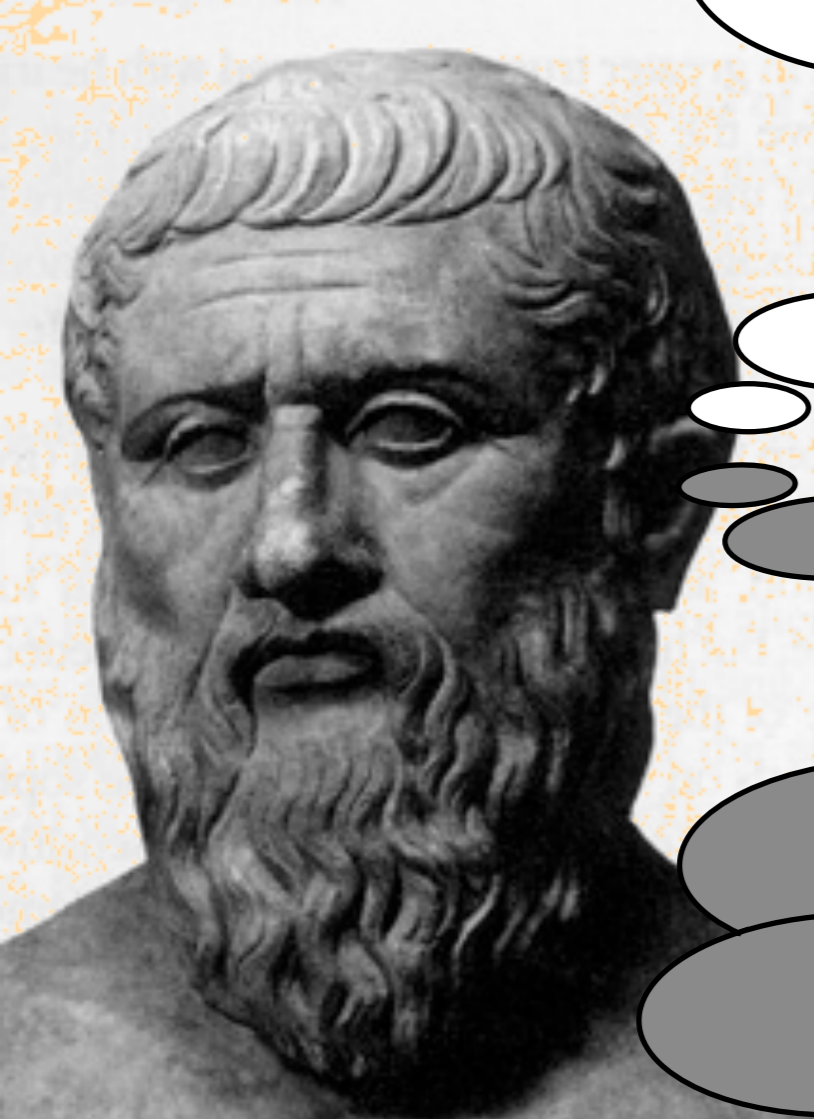
BEING ITSELF



**Matter,
individual things, bodies
becoming (flux, change)**

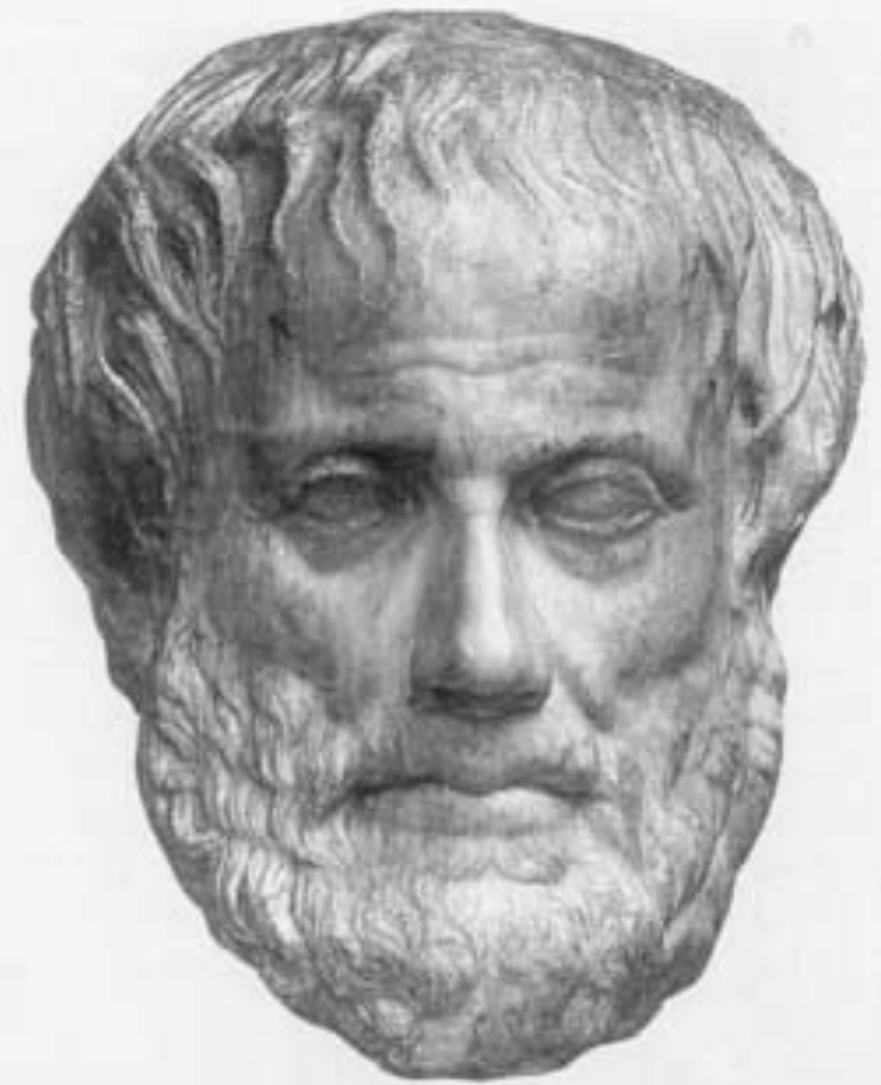
Plato (427?–347?)

IDEAS
(forms, absolutes, universals)
BEING ITSELF

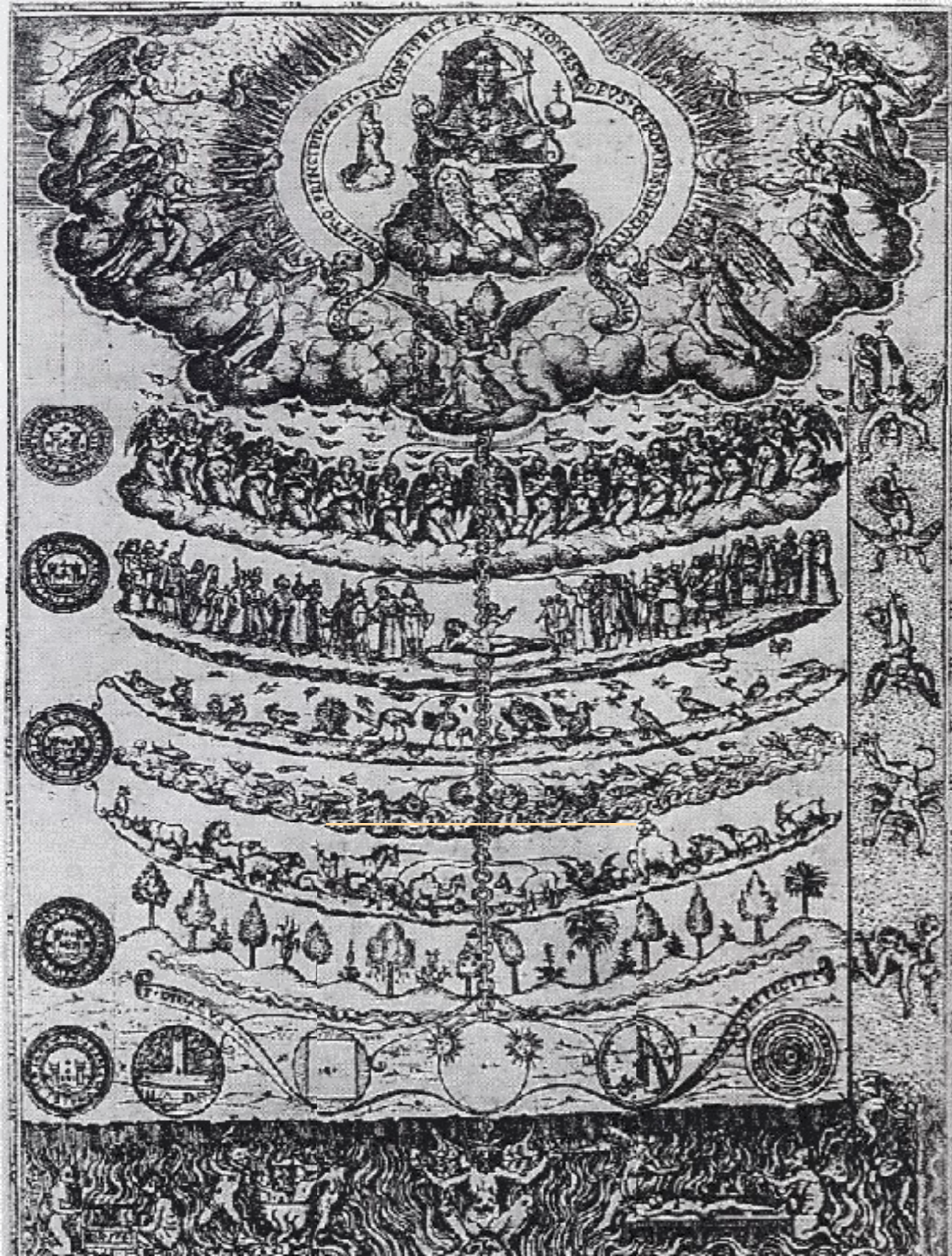


Out of its *perfect fullness* it
necessarily creates
all possible things
with all possible *transitions*

Matter



Aristotle
(384–322 BC)



God

angels

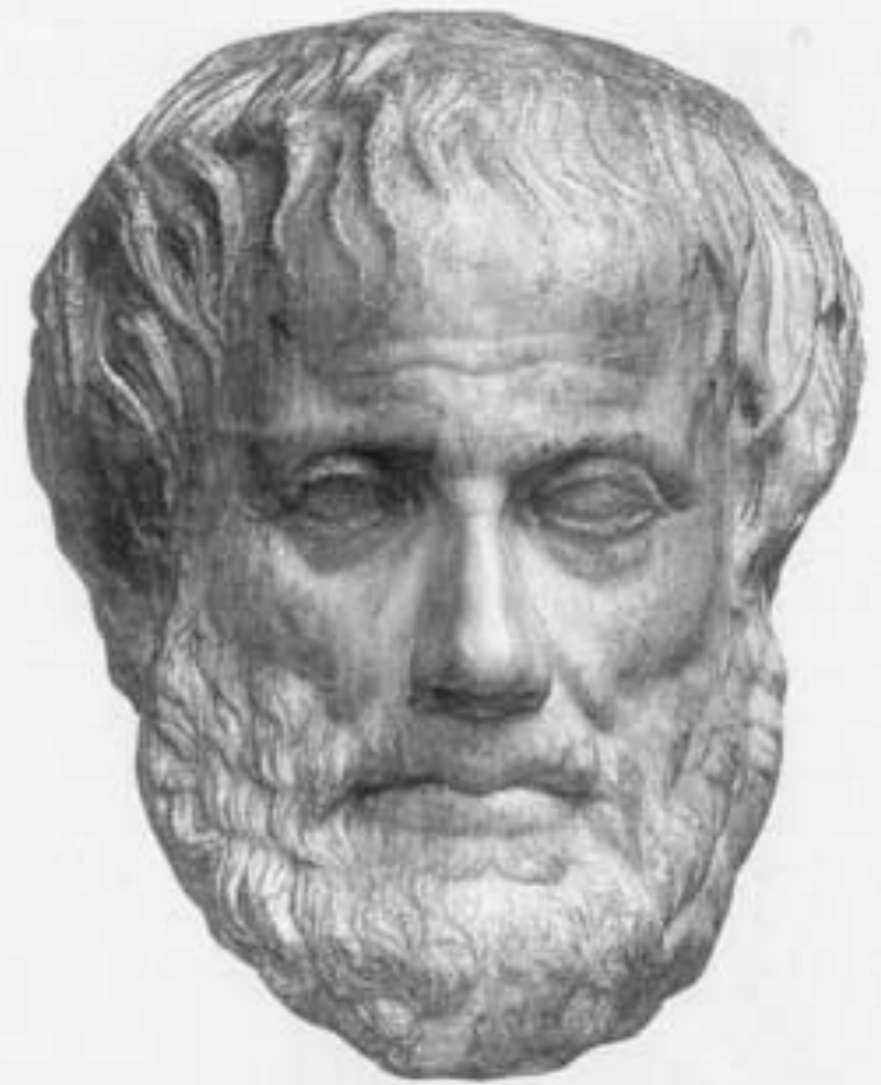
mankind

birds

animals

vegetation

“The universe resembles a large and well-regulated family, in which all the officers and servants, and even the domestic animals, are subservient to each other in a proper subordination; each enjoys the privileges and prerequisites peculiar to his place, and at the same time contributes, by that just subordination, to the magnificence and happiness of the whole.”



**Aristotle
(384–322 BC)**

Acts 17:16, “Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was being provoked within him as he was observing the city full of idols.”



Acts 17:17, “So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present.”

Acts 17:18, “And also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were conversing with him. Some were saying, ‘What would this idle babbler wish to say?’ Others, ‘He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,’—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.”



Stoicism

Materialists

All things come from the one element of fire and will return into one cosmic conflagration.

Cyclical view of cosmic history: one universe follows the destruction of the previous

Epicurus (342–270 BC)

The atheist materialists of the time

“Certainly the atoms did not post themselves purposefully in due order by an act of intelligence, nor did they stipulate what movements each should perform. As they have been rushing everlastingly throughout all space in their myriads, undergoing myriad changes under the disturbing impact of collisions, they have experienced every variety of movement and conjunction till they have fallen into the particular pattern by which this world of ours is constituted. This world has persisted many a long year, having once been set going in the appropriate motions. From these everything else follows.”

~Lucritius, *The Nature of the Universe*

**“Nature is free and uncontrolled by proud masters
and runs the universe by herself without the aid of
gods.”**

~Lucretius

“I have taught you that things cannot be created out of nothing nor, once born, be summoned back to nothing.”

~Lucretius

Acts 17:18, “And also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were conversing with him. Some were saying, ‘What would this idle babbler wish to say?’ Others, ‘He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,’—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection.”



Acts 17:19, “And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, ‘May we know what this new teaching is which you are proclaiming?’ ”



Acts 17:20, “For you are bringing some strange things to our ears; so we want to know what these things mean.”



Acts 17:21, “(Now all the Athenians and the strangers visiting there used to spend their time in nothing other than telling or hearing something new.)”



Acts 17:22, “So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, ‘Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects.’ ”

Acts 17:23, “For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.”

Acts 17:24, “The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;

Acts 17:25, “nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things;”

Isa. 42:5, “Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk on it:”

Psa. 50:9, “I will not take a bull from your house, nor goats out of your folds.

Psa. 50:10, “For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.

Psa. 50:11, “I know all the birds of the mountains, and the wild beasts of the field are Mine.

Psa. 50:12, “If I were hungry, I would not tell you; for the world is Mine, and all its fullness.”