

Judges Series

Lesson #73

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Dean Bible Ministries

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The Creator/creature Distinction
Judges 10:6–18

JUDGES
2021

When Chaos Was King

Review

10:1–5 Depicts two “minor” Judges: Tola, Jair
The emphasis is on the normal period, a time of relative prosperity, no foreign threats.

Review

- 10:1–5** Depicts two “minor” Judges: Tola, Jair
The emphasis is on the normal period, a time of relative prosperity, no foreign threats.
- 10:6–9** The intensification of Israel’s apostasy; rejection and abandonment of God, and turning completely to the false religions as a source of prosperity and happiness.

Review

Judg. 10:6, “Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, and enslaved themselves to the Baals and the Ashtoreths: the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they abandoned the Lord and did not serve/worship Him.” ~RD

Judg. 3:7, “And the sons of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and forgot the LORD their God, and served the Baals and the Asheroth.”

Judg. 3:12, “Now the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD. So the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD.”

Judg. 4:1, “Then the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died.”

Judg. 6:1, “Then the sons of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD gave them into the hands of Midian seven years.”

Judg. 10:6, “Then the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, the gods of Aram, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the sons of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; thus they forsook the LORD and did not serve Him.”

Judg. 13:1, “Now the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, so that the LORD gave them into the hands of the Philistines forty years.”

Why was this so bad?

- 1. They were not learning their lesson, they continued to rebel and there is no sign of repentance.**
- 2. They were abusing the grace of the God.**
- 3. By continuing to be involved with the fertility religions of the ancient world they were destroying their own culture, society, and eradicating the freedoms that God had provided them.**
- 4. The worst for last: they are rejecting the Creator/creature distinction.**

5. This becomes clear when we understand what is going on with the gods.

The gods of Aram, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the sons of Ammon, the gods of the Philistines

Judg. 2:12, “and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger.”

1. At root, this is a rejection of the Creator/creation distinction.

**Rom. 1:22, “Professing to be wise, they became fools,
Rom. 1:23, “and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.**

Rom. 1:24, “Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

Rom. 1:25, “who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

2. These other gods are documented in other passages:

2 Kings 17:17, “Then they made their sons and their daughters pass through the fire, and practiced divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him.”

Judg. 16:23, “Now the lords of the Philistines gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and to rejoice. And they said: ‘Our god has delivered into our hands Samson our enemy!’ ”

1 Kings 11:5, “For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.”

1 Kings 11:7, “Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon.”

**Deut. 32:16, “They made Him jealous with strange gods;
With abominations they provoked Him to anger.**

**Deut. 32:17, “They sacrificed to demons who were not God,
to gods whom they have not known, new gods who came
lately, whom your fathers did not dread.”**

Psa. 96:5, “For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.”

1 Cor. 10:20, “No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons.

1 Cor. 10:21, “You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.”

Outline of “Judges” (Chieftains, Tribal Rulers, Leaders)

1:1–3:6

Introduction

**How Israel went from
spiritual victory
to being worse than
the Canaanites**

Incomplete obedience

Compromise

Failure

Cycles of discipline

3:7–16:31

Paganization of the Leadership

Othniel (the best)

Ehud

Shamgar

Deborah

Gideon

Tola, Jair

Jephthah

Ibzan, Elon, Abdon

Samson (the worst)

17:1–21:25

Paganization of the Priests

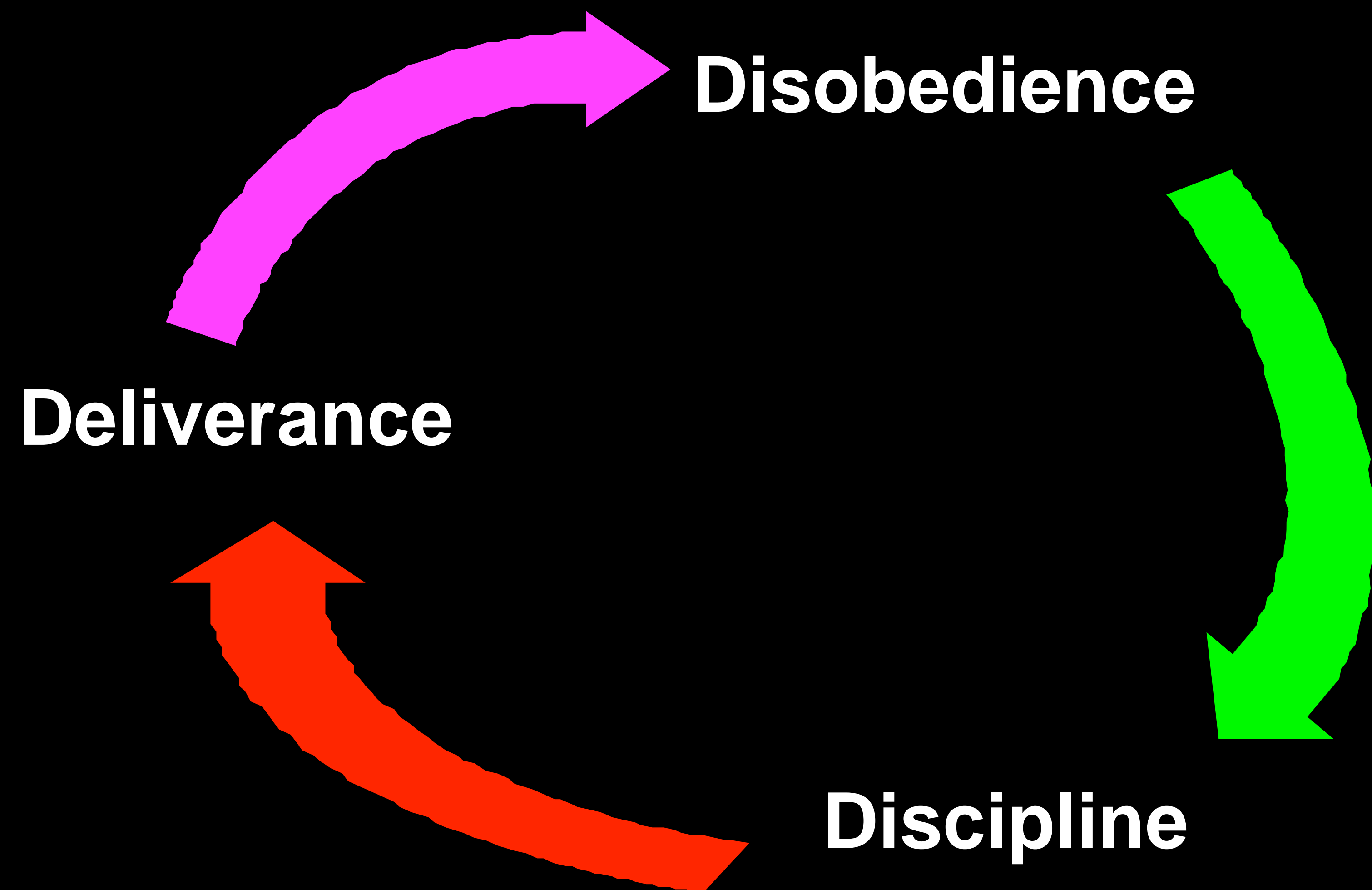
Chap. 17–18

and the

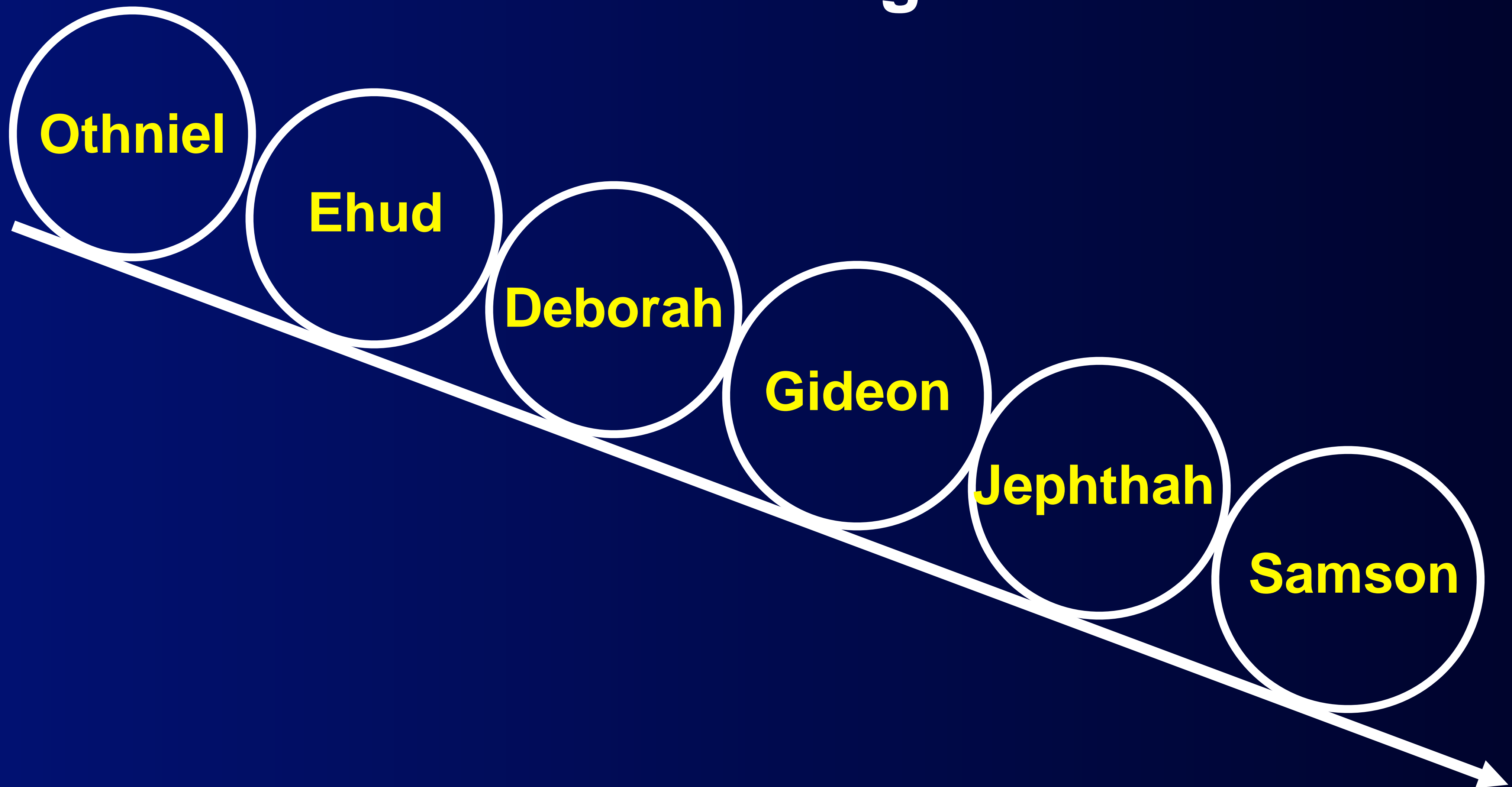
People

Chap. 19–21

The Cycles of the Judges



Deterioration of Positive Volition in the Judges



Judg. 10:6, “Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook the Lord and did not serve Him. ~NKJV

Judg. 10:7, “And the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines, and into the hands of the sons of Ammon.”

Judg. 10:6, “Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths —the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook the Lord and did not serve Him.”

יָסַף *yasaf*

hif wawConsec impf

3 masc plur

to add, do again

רָע *ra' lit hara'*

masc sing abs

bad, evil

**Mostly defined in context
as idolatry**

Judg. 10:6, “Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, and enslaved themselves the Baals and the Ashtoreths—the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they abandoned the Lord and did not serve/worship Him.” ~RD

עבד *avad*
qal wawConsec 3
masc plur
to work, serve,
the work of a slave

עזב-1 *azav-1* qal
infinitiveConst
to forsake,
leave, abandon

Judg. 10:6, “Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths —the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook the Lord and did not serve Him.”

יָסַף *yasaf*

hif wawConsec impf

3 masc plur

to add, do again

רָעָה *rā'āh* bad, evil, usually followed by the worship of idols. Evil begins by abandoning God and turning to alternatives which are always one of Satan's snares.

“Amorite” derives from a term for “westerners.”

One of many ethnic groups described as Canaanites, because of where they lived.

Also known as the “Amurrus.”

Chief deity was Dagon. As well as the Hurrian god Teshub, also known as Martu, related later to Marduk.



“Amorite” derives from a term for “westerners.”

The god Amurru, was a storm god, like Ba’al.

The lived northeast of the Sea of Galilee in Bashan, and further in what is today part of Syria and part of Iraq.



***Milcom*, the detestable idol of the Ammonites. From the root word meaning “king.” National god of the Ammonites. His name is related to “Molech.”**

**Solomon built a high place for the worship of Milcom,
1 Kings 11:5.**

Continually a problem for Israel.

Josiah finally destroyed the high places, on the Mount of Corruption (Olives), 2 Kings 23:13.

Chemosh

The destroyer, subduer, or fish god, the god of the Moabites (Num. 21:29; Jer. 48:7, 13, 46).

Also introduced by Solomon, 1 Kings 11:7; and abolished by Josiah, 2 Kings 23:13.

Referenced in the Moabite stone.

Child sacrifice to this god.

***Molech* the god of the Moabites**

Both Molech and Chemosh were worshipped by human sacrifices here.

Each of these religions is a national religion, inspired by Satan, to destroy God's people Israel.

2 Kings 17:17, “Then they made their sons and their daughters pass through the fire, and practiced divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him.”

Judg. 10:10, “And the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, saying, ‘We have sinned against You, because we have both forsaken our God and served the Baals!’ ”

Egyptian Cosmology

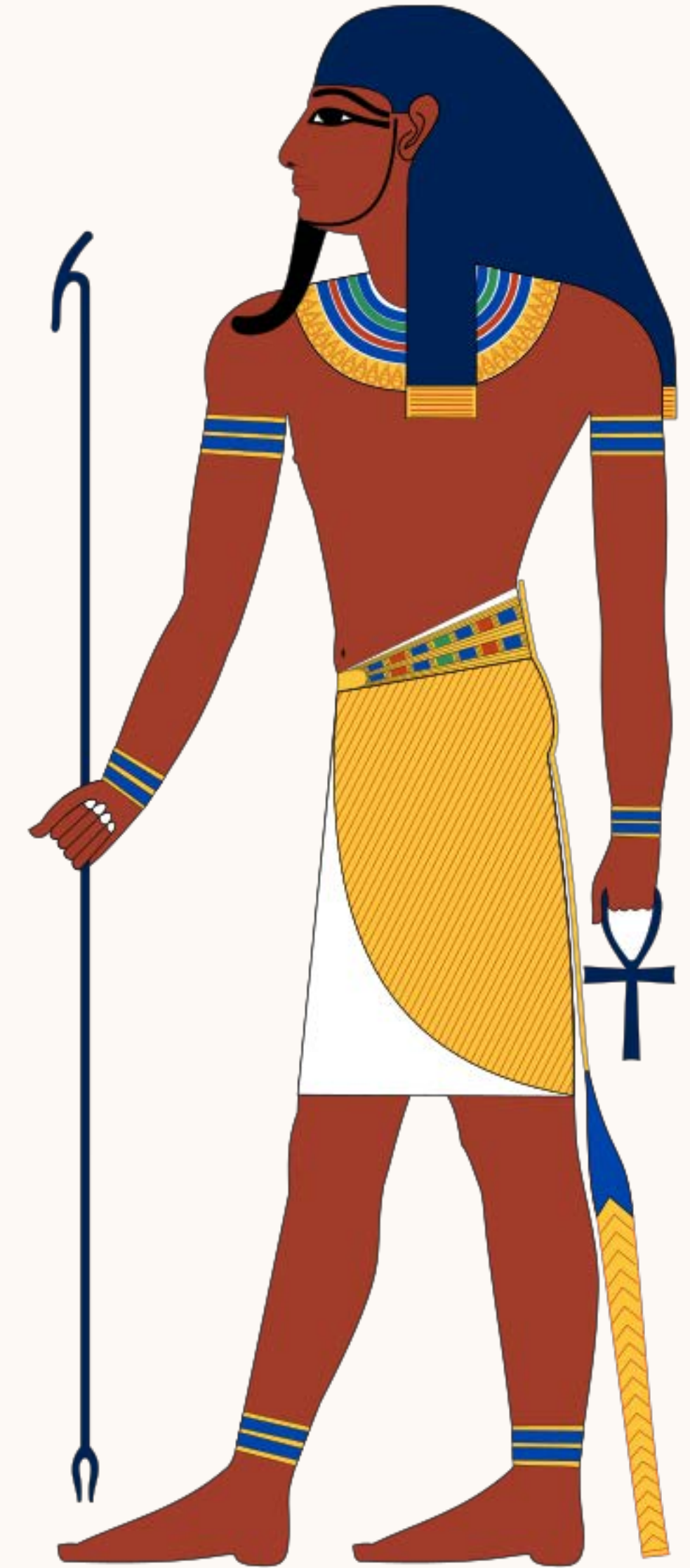


Egyptian cosmology (concerning the structure of the world) is based on the idea that everything in the world, both human and divine, developed from one primordial substance, symbolized by the watery chaos called Nun.

~Lexham Bible Dictionary

The creator god Atum evolved out of this primordial abyss and then gave birth to the eight other high gods. He created Nut (sky) and Geb (earth) to separate the world from Nun (the abyss; from the Book of Nut, written in the first half of the second millennium BC). Under Nut's arching form, he created Shu (atmosphere) to hold up the sky. Atum himself turned into Re (the sun-god) and then created Maat (order) to serve as his companion and assistant in maintaining the structure and integrity of the world.

~Lexham Bible Dictionary

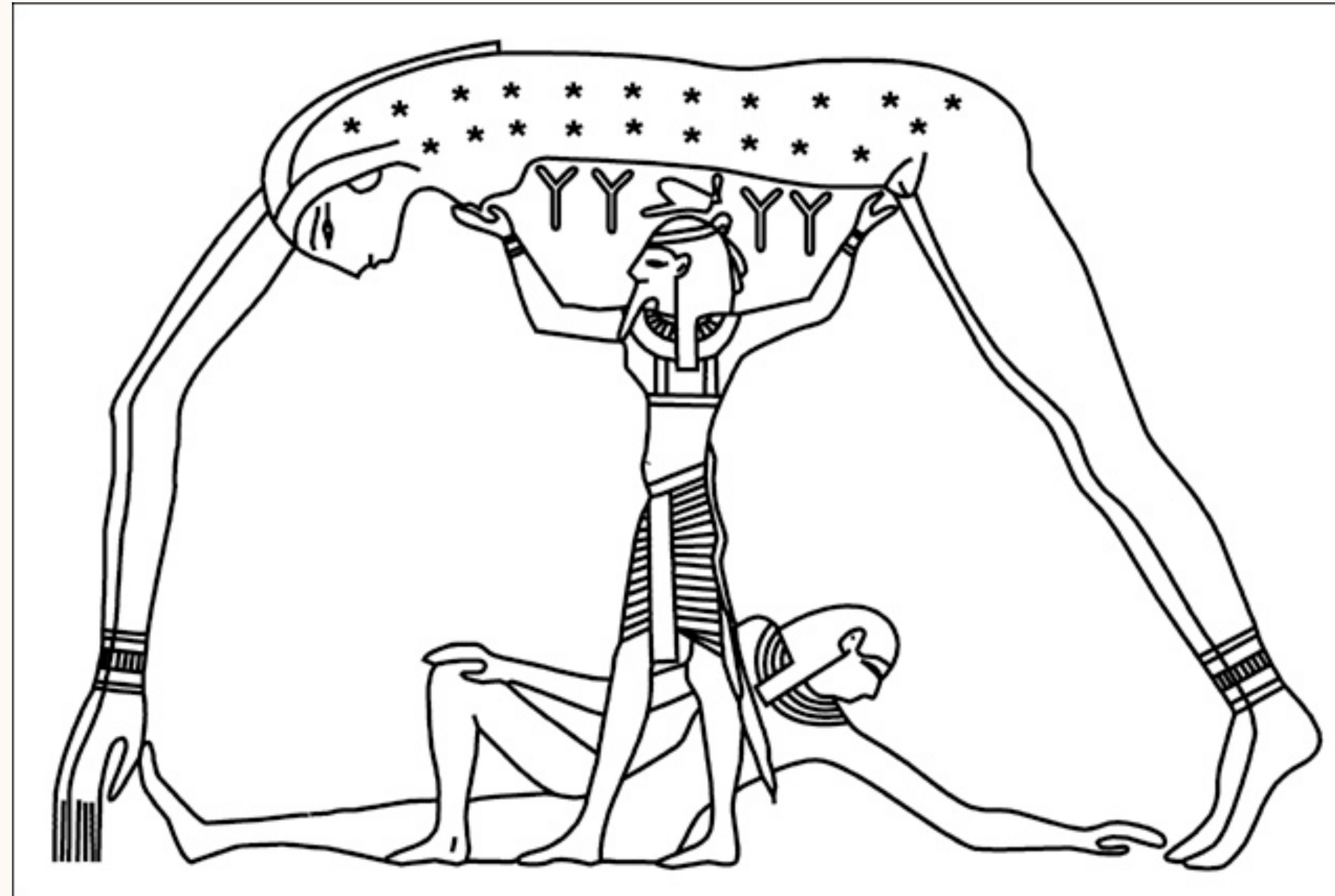


Creator god Atum

“I am he who came into being in the form of the god *Khepera*, and I was the creator of that which came into being . . . Neber-tcher, a form of the Sun god Ra”

~The Book of Knowing the Evolutions [kheperu] of Ra, and of Overthrowing Apepi

“I came into being from **primordial matter**, and I appeared under the form of multitudes of things from the beginning. Nothing existed at that time, and it was I who made whatsoever was made. I made all the forms under which I appeared by means of the god-soul which I raised up out of Nu (the primeval inactive abyss of water).”



Babylonian Mythological Cosmology

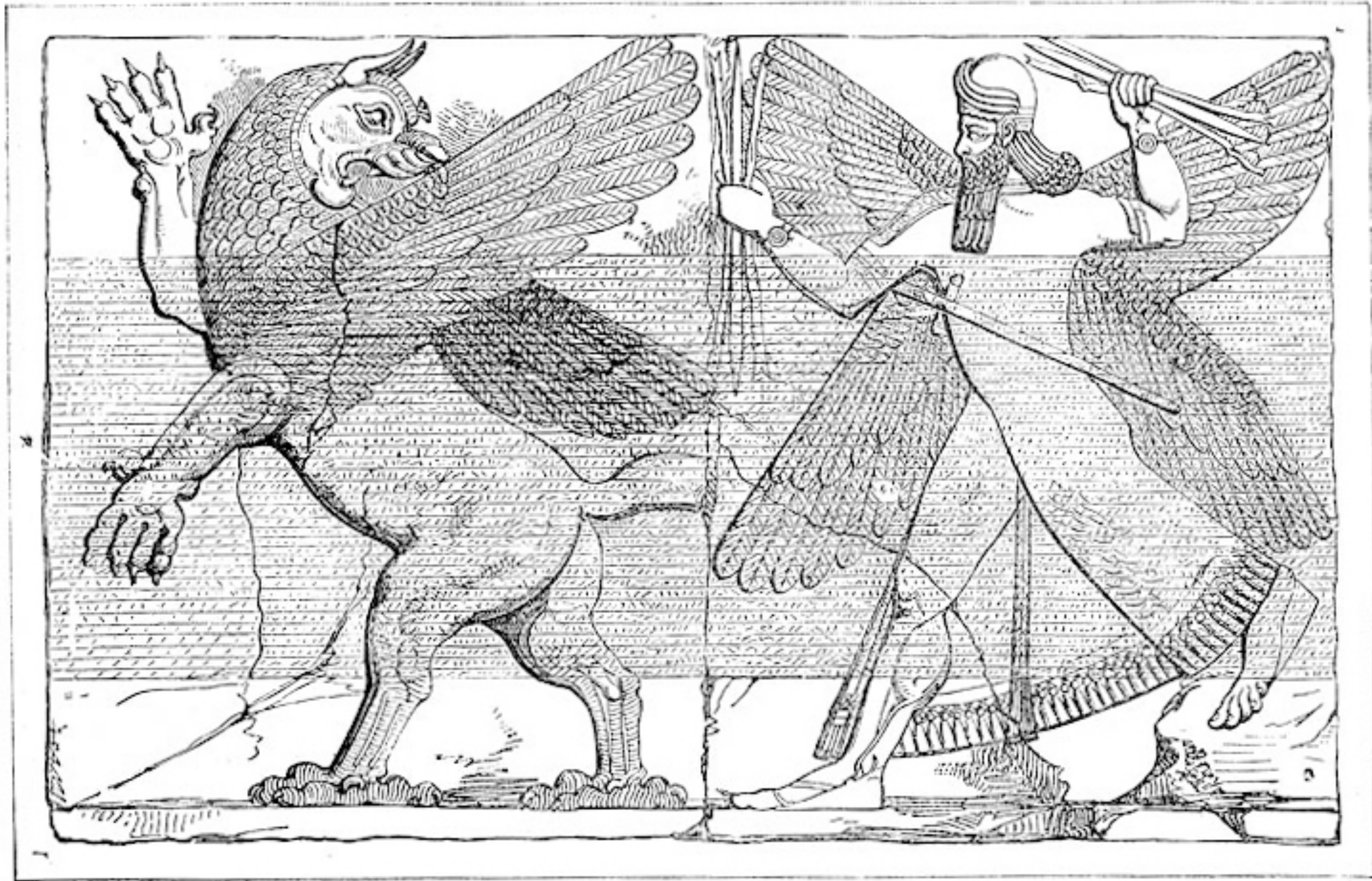


ENUMA ELISH

Mesopotamian Creation



Babylonian Mythological Cosmology



**“When above [*Enuma Elish*] the heaven had not (yet) been named,
(And) below the earth had not (yet) been called by a name,
(When) Apsu primeval, their begetter,
Mummu, (and) Tiamat, she who gave birth to them all,
(Still) mingled their waters together,
And no pasture land had been formed (and) not (even) a reed marsh
was to be seen;**

**When none of the (other) gods had been brought into being, (When)
they had not (yet) been called by (their) name(s, and their) destinies
had not yet been fixed,**

(At that time) were the gods created within them. . . .

They lived many days, adding years (to days). . . .

The divine brothers gathered together.

**They disturbed Tiamat and assaulted(?) their keeper,
Yea, they disturbed the inner parts of Tiamat,**

Moving (and) running about in the divine abode(?). . . .

**[Marduk] took from [Kingu] the tablet of destinies, which
was not his rightful possession. . . .**

After he had vanquished (and) subdued his enemies. . . .

**Strengthened his hold upon the captive gods;
And then he returned to Tiamat, whom he had subdued.
The lord trod upon the hinder part of Tiamat,
And with his unsparing club he split her skull.
He cut the arteries of her blood,
And caused the north wind to carry (it) to out-of-the-way
places.**

**[Marduk] split [Tiamat] open like a mussel into two
(parts):
Half of her he set in place and formed the sky (therewith)
as a roof.
He fixed the crossbar (and) posted guards,
He commanded them not to let her waters escape.**

**And a great structure, its counterpart, he established,
(namely) Esharra [earth], . . .**

**He created stations for the great gods;
The stars their likeness(es), the signs of the zodiac, he
set up.
He determined the year, defined the divisions. . . .**

Punishment they inflicted upon [Kingu] by cutting (the arteries of) his blood.

With his blood they created mankind;

[Ea] imposed the services of the gods (upon them) and set the gods free.

Specifically, *Enuma Elish* assumes that all things have evolved out of water. This description presents the earliest stage of the universe as one of watery chaos. The chaos consisted of three intermingled elements: Apsu, who represents the sweet water; Ti'amat, who represents the sea; and Mummu, who cannot as yet be identified with certainty but may represent cloud banks and mist. These three types of water were mingled in a large undefined mass. . . . Then, in the midst of this watery chaos, two gods came into existence—Lahau and Lahamu.

~Thorkild Jacobsen, “Enuma Elish—the Babylonian Genesis,” in Munitz, *Theories of the Universe*, 9.

Greek Mythical Cosmology

TIME existed first, no actual beginning—

TIME generated CHAOS, an enormous space containing NIGHT, MIST, and the upper regions of the air or AETHER.

TIME commanded and the MIST spun around with such speed that the mass congealed and solidified into the shape of a huge egg which broke in two halves which became heaven and earth. Isn't this Time plus random chance generates matter from which everything is generated.

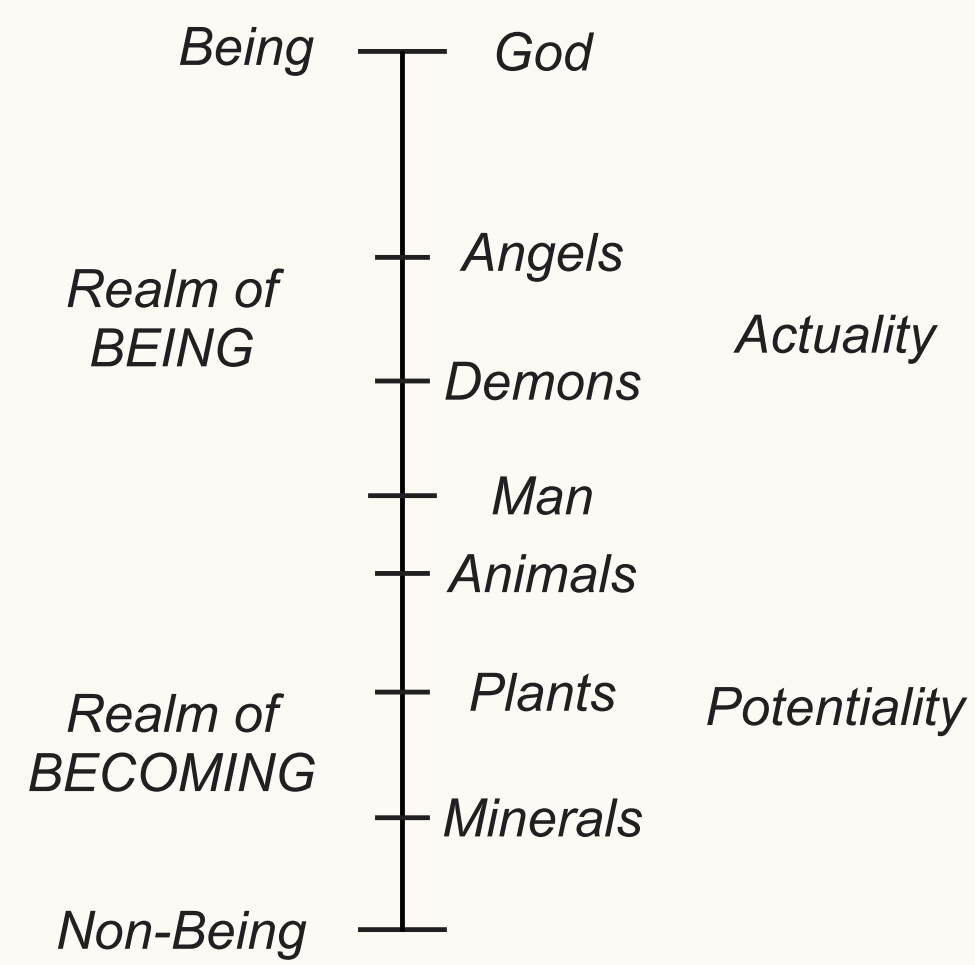


**Orpheus
Founder of the “Orphic”
Mysteries**

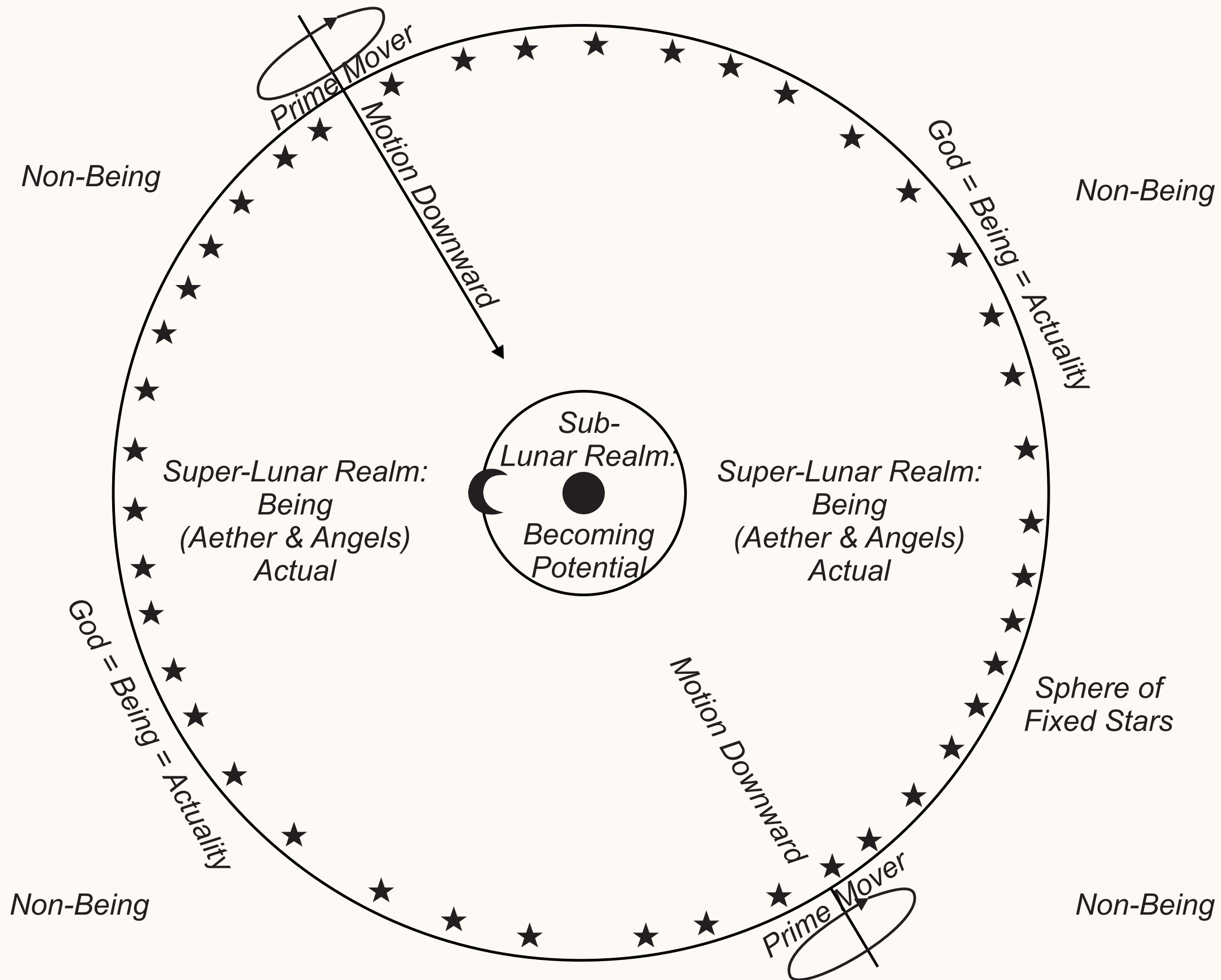
“The Titans had been formed by Father Heaven (*Ouranos*) and Mother Earth (*Gaiea*), which had existed before any of the gods, having emerged from the primordial *Chaos*, whose children, Darkness and Death, had given birth to Light and Love (for Night is the mother of Day), which made possible the appearance of Heaven and Earth.”

~Thomas Cahill, *Sailing the Wine-Dark Sea, Why the Greeks Matter*, 17

The Great Chain of Being



The Great Chain of Being



What IS the Chain of Being?

Also known as: “The Continuity of Being,” *Scalae naturae*
echelle de etres, or the “chain of being.”

What do we Mean by the Continuity of BEING?

Three Latin terms:

Ens being, in itself.

Esse to be, the act of existing. Two things are necessary in any individual thing, *essentia* or whatness, the essence of something, what it is; second, existence, the act of existence or being. Without actual existence or being something is just a thought or concept.

Essentia the whatness of a being, that which distinguishes one then for another.

Being or *existence* is distinct from the whatness or the essence of a thing.

What do we mean by the Continuity of BEING?

Ex. 3:14, “And God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ ”

Eph. 4:25, “For this reason, because you have already put off the lie, let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.” ~RD

TRUTH = that which is derived from and is consistent with the teaching of God in the 66 Books of the Bible.

The LIE = The devil’s worldview.

- **Denies the Creator/creature distinction**
- **Autonomy or independence of the creature**
- **Antagonism toward God**

What is THE LIE?

- 1. The Lie is grounded on a rejection of the Creator/creature or Creator/creation distinction.**

Isa. 14:13, “For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north;

Isa. 14:14, “ ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ ”

What is THE LIE?

- 1. The Lie is grounded on a rejection of the Creator/creature or Creator/creation distinction.**

Ezek. 28:15, “You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.

Ezek. 28:16, “By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones.

Ezek. 28:17, “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you.”

What is THE LIE?

- 1. The Lie is grounded on a rejection of the Creator/creature or Creator/creation distinction.**

Gen. 3:1, “Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Has God indeed said, “You shall not eat of every tree of the garden”?’ ”

Gen. 3:4, “Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die.

Gen. 3:5, “ ‘For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ ”

What is THE LIE?

- 1. The Lie is grounded on a rejection of the Creator/creature or Creator/creation distinction.**
- 2. Rejects Divine authority in place of creaturely authority.**

Rom. 1:21, “because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Rom. 1:22, “Professing to be wise, they became fools,

Rom. 1:23, “and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.”

Rom. 1:25, “who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”

What is THE LIE?

- 1. The Lie is grounded on a rejection of the Creator/creature or Creator/creation distinction.**
- 2. Rejects Divine authority in place of creaturely authority —autonomy, independence from God, arrogance.**
- 3. Hostility toward God.**

Contemporary forms of the LIE:

- **Luck**: Sometimes you're lucky and sometimes you're unlucky. There really isn't a real explanation of why things happen the way they do.
- **Karma**: If you do good, then good things will happen to you. If you are evil, then evil things will befall you.
- **The Universe**: The universe conspires to do me good.

*From *Interlocked*, lesson 2, interlocked.online

Contemporary forms of the LIE:

- **Positive Energy**: If you are surrounded by positive energy, good things happen to you; if you are surrounded by negative energy, bad things happen to you.
- **Horoscope**: Today, I might fail my exam because my horoscope said bad things will happen to me.
- **The Force**: In the *Star Wars* franchise of movies, “The Force” is in control of the universe. It is not a person but a mysterious nebulous something, based on Eastern religious mysticism.

*From *Interlocked*, lesson 2, interlocked.online

Contemporary forms of the LIE:

Other phrases or things we hear that are never part of truth:

- **Listen to your heart**
- **Be true to yourself**
- **Trust your gut**
- **Feel good about who you are**
- **Happiness is the goal of life**
- **Just be a good person**

1. A hierarchy of static, unchanging forms, with God (Being, Unmoved Mover, the Good, the Absolute, etc.) at the top, then angels, humans, animals, plants, down to inanimate objects. Each had its place. The movement is from the top down and the forms are unchanging.

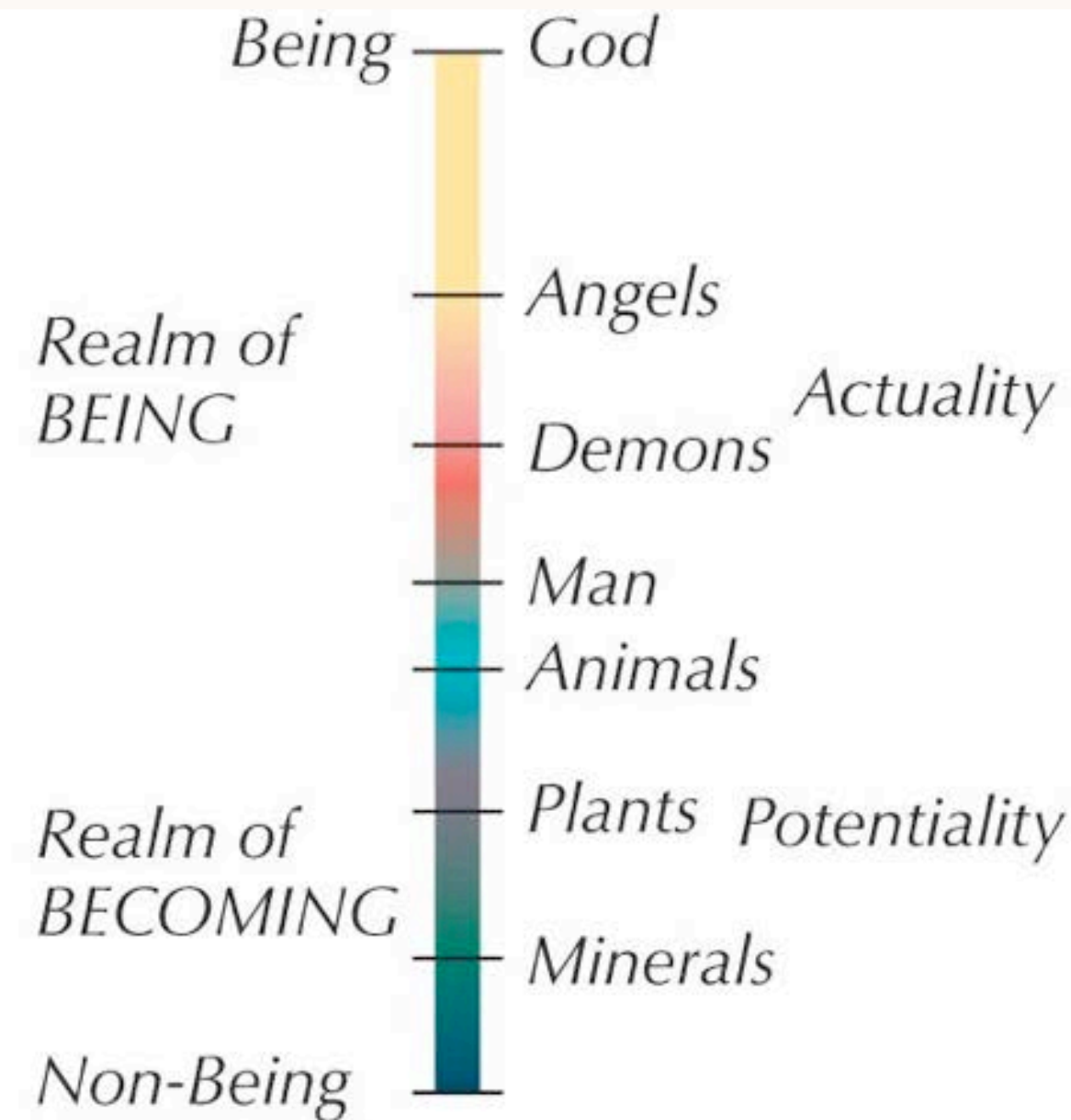


FIGURE 1.3. Medieval version of the Great Chain of Being based on Aristotle's ideas.

1.3, redrawn from [http:// web.clas.ufl.edu/users/rhatch/images/greatChain.gif](http://web.clas.ufl.edu/users/rhatch/images/greatChain.gif), credit: Robert A. Hatch