

Interlocked Series

Lesson #02.2

July 25, 2023

Dean Bible Ministries

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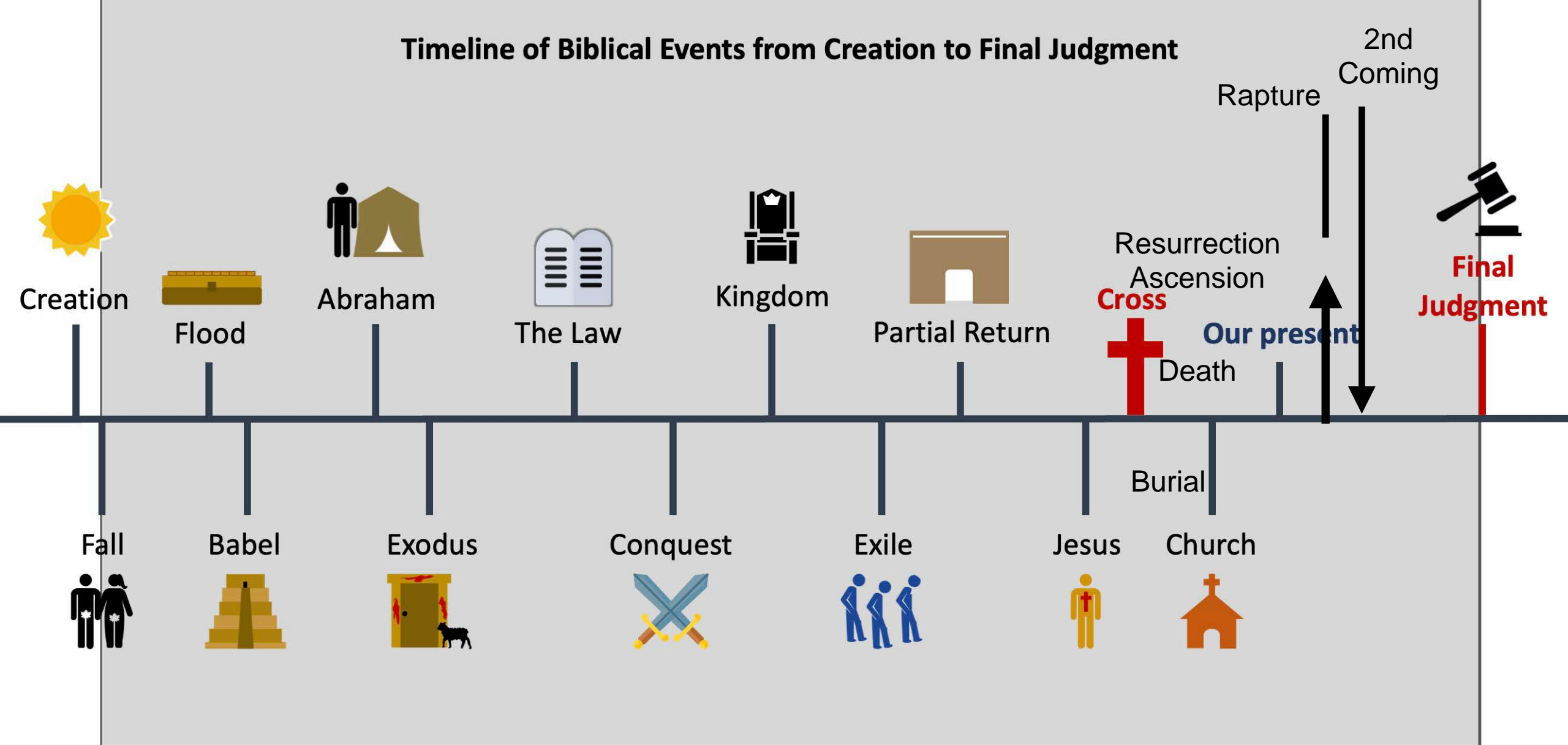
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INTERLOCKED

Lesson 2 Part 2 Pagan Views of Origins

Lesson 2:
Pagan View of Origins

Timeline of Biblical Events from Creation to Final Judgment



Old Testament



Creation Flood Abraham Law Kingdom
Fall Babel Exodus Conquest Exile Partial
Return

New Testament



Jesus's Birth Death Burial Resurrection Church Age Rapture 2nd Coming Messianic Kingdom

Old Testament



Creation → Flood → Abraham → Babel → Exodus → Law → Conquest → Kingdom → Exile → Partial Return

New Testament



Jesus's Birth → Death → Burial → Resurrection → Church Age → Rapture → 2nd Coming → Messianic Kingdom

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The Spirit Beings: Job 38:4–7

The Shining Star: Isa. 14:12–14;
Ezekiel 12–17a

Pagan View of Origins

A. Definitions

B. Where did this pagan worldview
come from? When did it start?

Gen. 3:1–8

C. What this pagan worldview looks like
today? P. 11

CHILDREN'S

The Spirit Beings: Job 38:4-7

**The Problem with the Shining Star: he
wanted to level up to be the Creator**
Isa. 14:12–14; Ezekiel 12–17a

Big Trouble in the Garden of Eden

Satan the Serpent

Satan the Deceiver

You won't die

You will be like God

Adam and Eve believed Satan's lies

Ooops, it's not my fault

- 1. The focus of Lesson 1, broken into three sessions is on God's Creation, but especially in relation to the human race, i.e., in the social structures which God created: The Divine Institutions**
- 2. Lesson 2 focuses on wrong views of Creation**
 - Spirit Beings**
 - Shining Star's fall**
 - The Angelic Rebellion**
 - The Deception of Adam and Eve**
- 3. The second part of Lesson 2 helps to understand that why there are so many wrong views of where they came from.**

Old Testament

Creator-creature

Divine Institutions

Flood

Abraham

Law

Kingdom

Partial
Return

Fall

Babel

Exodus

Conquest

Exile

Spirit Beings: Angelic Revolt

New Testament

Jesus's
Birth

Death

Burial

Resurrection

Church Age

Rapture

2nd
Coming

Messianic
Kingdom

The First Three Divine Institutions

3rd Institution:

Family

2nd Institution:

Marriage

1st Institution:

Responsible Choice

MAN

Biblical Creation: Creator-Creature Difference

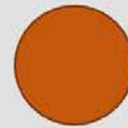
1st level

INFINITE PERSONAL CREATOR-GOD

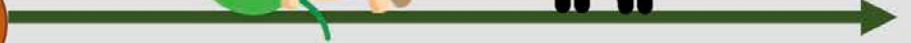


2nd level

Creation event



nature, man



Divine Institutions

1. Responsible choice
2. Marriage: one man and one woman
3. The family



Review

- 1. God looked over it all and took pleasure in it, and now He expected Adam to exercise that same creativity and to take pleasure in it.**
- 2. As an image bearer, mankind was to imitate what God the Creator had done.**
- 3. Man in the perfect, unflawed, image of God was sinless. But this was only at the beginning.**

Review

- 4. God, as part of responsible choice, gave man volition, the ability to make choices. God did not want man to be a robot, or simply a programmed being to do what God said.**
- 5. Each person is accountable to God for our choices. Responsible choice means that there are both positive and negative consequences for what choices we make.**
- 6. Our lives are the result of the choices we make.**

Summary of the Biblical Worldview

1. Creator-Creature Distinction

One God | Man | Nature (separate from each other)

2. Personal Sovereign God

3. Ultimate Authority: God

The Spirit Beings

Job 38:4, “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you know so much.

Job 38:5, “Who determined its dimensions and stretched out the surveying line?”

Job 38:6, “What supports its foundations, and who laid its cornerstone

Job 38:7, “as the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?”

1. Time is not measured until we have light and dark, morning and evening. But we do have progression of events, one event preceding or following another.



Spirit Beings Created



Creation Event



2. When did God create the spirit beings?

From Job 38:4–7 we know that this was BEFORE the “laying of the foundation” of the earth, a phrase which indicates the beginnings of some building project.

3. There are differing kinds of spirit beings:

a. Seraph (sg), seraphs (pl) or seraphim (Heb. plural)

Isa. 6:2, “Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.”

3. There are differing kinds of spirit beings:

b. Cherub (sg), cherubs (pl), or cherubim (Heb. plural)

Four faces, all facing forward—human, lion, eagle, ox in Ezek. 1:10; but in Ezek. 10:8, they have the face of a cherub, a man, a lion, and an eagle.

They have wings with a human hand under them.

Cherubs are frequently presented as associated closely with the presence of God's throne.

3. There are differing kinds of spirit beings:

c. Living creatures

Full of eyes—one was like a lion, one like a calf, the third like a man, and the fourth like an eagle.

Each had six wings.

3. There are differing kinds of spirit beings:

d. Only one archangel is known: Michael

e. Only one other name is given: Gabriel

4. The number of angels is enormous.

Rev. 5:11, “Then I looked again, and I heard the voices of myriads and myriads and thousands of angels around the throne and of the living beings and the elders.” [RD]

5. The name angel means a “messenger.” Angels were created to serve God.

Heb. 1:14, “Therefore, angels are only servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation.”

The “Shining Star”

Isa. 14:12, “How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world.

Isa. 14:13, “For you said to yourself, ‘I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God’s stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north.

Isa. 14:14, “ ‘I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.’ ”

Biblical Creation: Creator-Creature Distinction

1st level CREATOR

2nd level Creature: what God created



The Shining Star
wanted to promote
himself to be God

“Shining Star, Son of the morning”

helel ben shahar

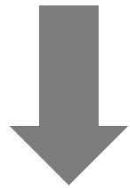
In the Latin Bible the morning star, Venus, was called Lucifer, from the word “*lux*” for light.

Shining Star was a cherub, Ezek. 28:14.

Ezek. 28:14, “You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.”



True “king” of Babylon and Tyre: The Shining Star
The Shining Star motivates the human rulers for evil



Human kings

Isaiah passage: addresses king of Babylon
Ezekiel passage: addresses king of Tyre

Both passages address:

- 1 the human kings and**
- 2 the spiritual power behind the human kings**

Rev. 12:10, “Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.’ ”



Original Name

- Shining Star
- Morning Star
(Translated as “Lucifer” in Latin)

Shining Star Falls



Now known as:

- Satan or Devil (which means accuser and adversary)
- Ruler
- Prince of demons



TIME ----->

Spirit Beings Created

Creation Event

Shining Star Falls

Adam & Eve Tempted

Pagan View of Origins

Pagan View of Origins

- 1. Everyone has some way of understanding reality. This is often learned from the culture around them: family, friends, school.**
- 2. One way they understand the world is to understand how it began.**
- 3. Basically this means one of two ways: Either it was created out of nothing by an all-powerful, all-knowing, perfectly righteous God; or something always existed and by chance some things morphed out of the something, or some powerful but not all-powerful being made some things out of what already existed.**
- 4. But only the all-powerful, all-knowing God ultimately made all things out of nothing.**

4. This way of thinking about everything is called a worldview. All worldviews have some explanation of

- How the universe and world came into existence;**
- What existed before the present universe;**
- How we learn things and know things;**
- The beginnings of humanity;**
- The purpose of humanity;**
- What is right and what is wrong.**

Summary of the Pagan (Non-Biblical) Worldview

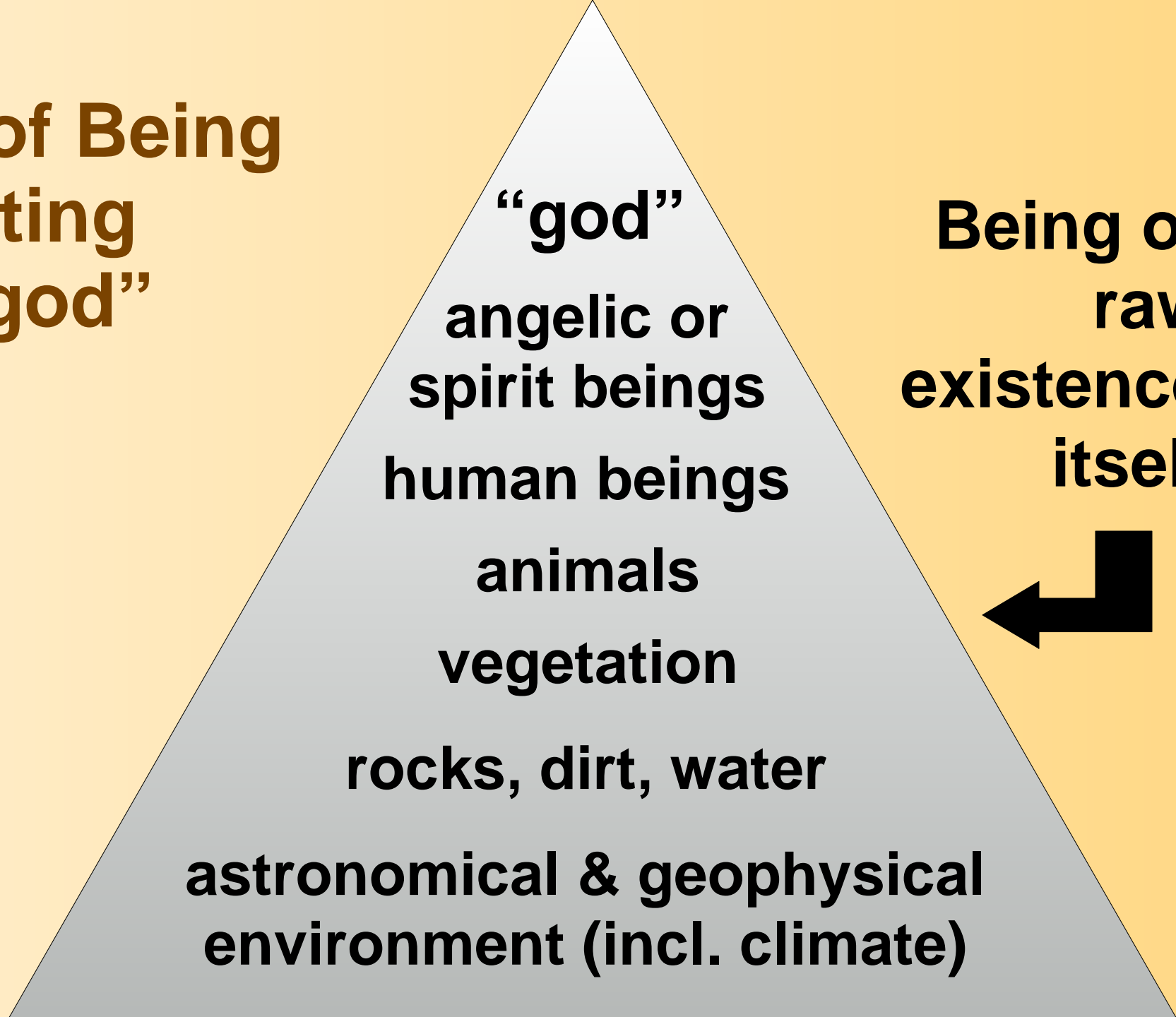
1. Continuity of Being (a sliding scale of the “same stuff”)

gods—angels—humans—animals—plants—rocks

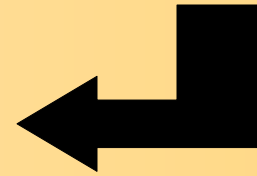
2. Ultimate reality: impersonal fate and random chance

3. Ultimate authority: self

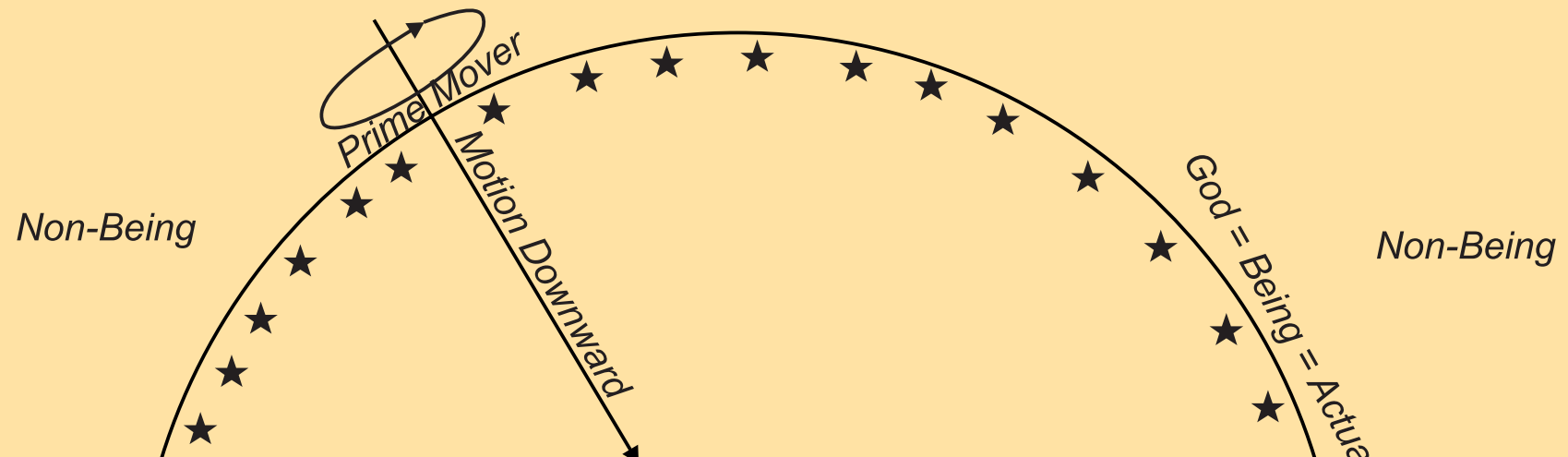
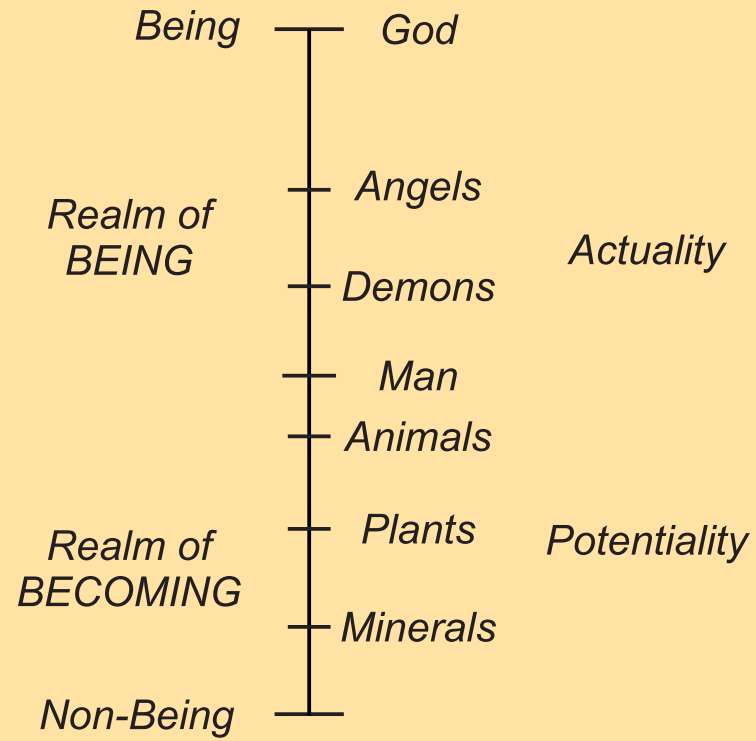
**Chain of Being
Emanating
from “god”**

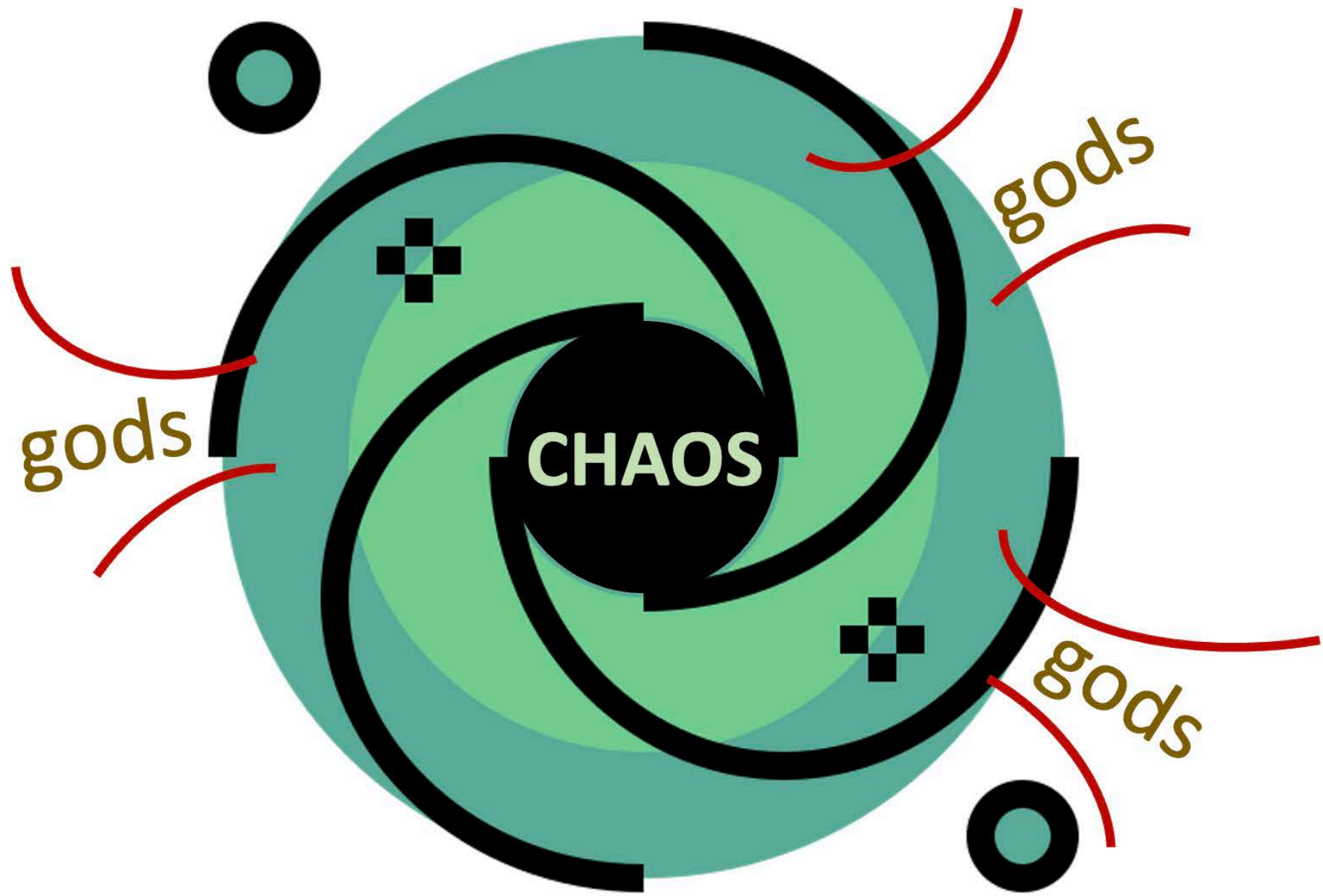


**Being or
raw
existence
itself**

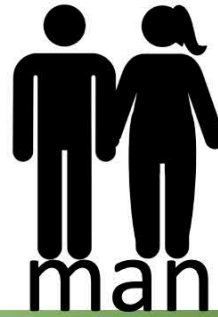


The Great Chain of Being





gods



man



nature



sliding up and down the scale of the continuity of being

Ultimate reality: there is no personal god or gods, only a never-ending time and pure random chance.

Many gods: always a power struggle, no certainty, no one knows the future. In ancient Rome and Greece this was called “fate.”



**Those who don't believe in a deity believe in "chance"—
everything can happen given enough time.**

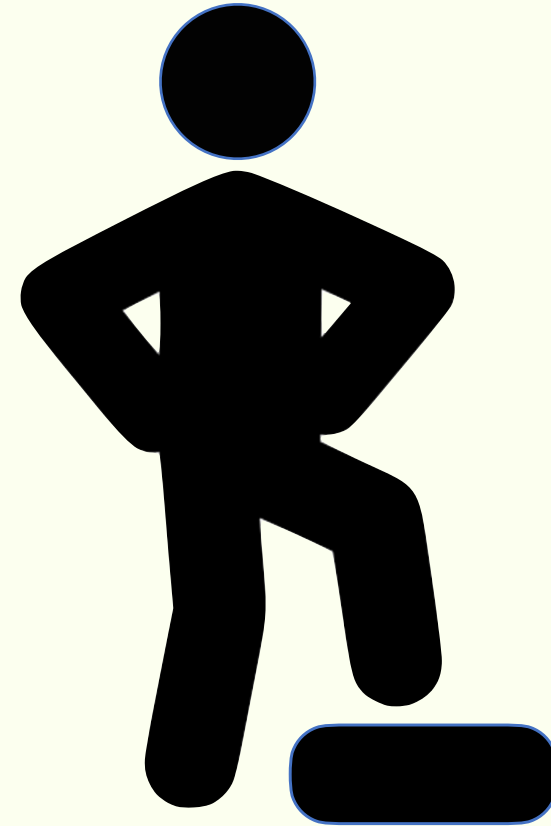
Chance is impersonal.

I am the ultimate authority.

**I determine right from wrong
(from one day to the next).**

I am the ruler of my future.

**Everything is ultimately about me,
being true to who I am.**





“Everyone did what was right in his own eyes”

The result was chaos in society;
no justice for anyone; women oppressed.

B. Where did this pagan worldview come from?

When and how did it begin?

When God created everything in the garden, He created it perfect. Perfect God can create nothing less than perfection.

Creation



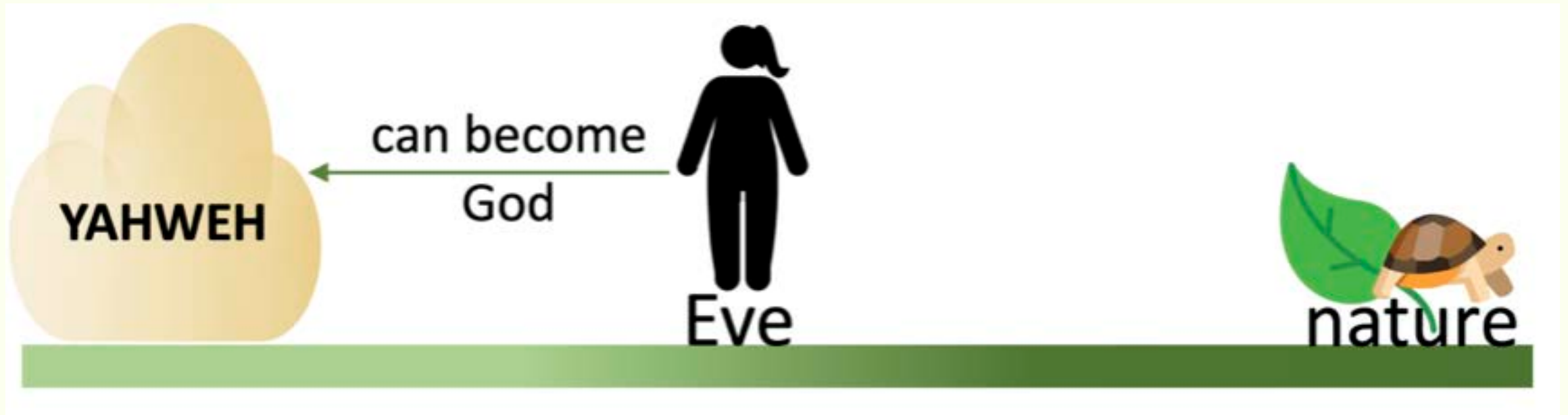
Gen. 3:1, “The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, ‘Did God [*Elohim*] really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?’

Gen. 3:2, “ ‘Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,’ the woman replied.

Gen. 3:3, “ ‘It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, “You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.” ’ ”

- 1. Satan was promising Eve she could be like God: she could go up the scale, level up from creature to Creator.**
- 2. The pagan worldview suggests man can move up the scale to be a god.**

Gen. 3:5, “God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”



Gen. 3:6, “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.”

Biblical Creation: Creator-Creature Distinction

1st level

CREATOR

2nd level

Creature

The Shining Star
wanted to promote
himself to be God

The Shining Star
enticed and deceived
mankind that they
could be God

FAILED

II. By using “*Elohim*” instead of *Yahweh*, Satan was subtly introducing the idea of impersonal fate and chance.

Example of how *Elohim* and *Yahweh* are distinguished in translations.

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

Psa. 77:13, “O God, your ways are holy. Is there any god as mighty as you?”

Psa. 82:6, “I say, ‘You are gods; you are all children of the Most High’.”

Psa. 86:8, “No *pagan* god is like you, O Lord. None can do what you do!”

Psa. 86:10, “For you are great and perform wonderful deeds. You alone are God.”

Psa. 96:5, “The gods of other nations are mere idols, but the LORD made the heavens!”

Satan was subtly moving *Yahweh* down the scale of being to an *elohim* like the angels.

And Satan wanted to be the *Elohim* of the *elohim*.

He is convincing Eve of the same.

- **Satan was trying to diminish the sovereign nature of *Yahweh*, to imply that He's nothing special, nothing great, nothing different from just a generic or common lord or master.**
- **By not using His name, Satan was also removing the personal, relational aspect of God. He was ignoring the fact that *Yahweh* was a person and He was Adam and Eve's friend. For example, it is very different to say, "Did *Yahweh* tell you ..." compared with saying, "Did that person tell you ..." Using the name of *Yahweh* is more personal and relational. Just calling someone "that person" downplays the person and his relevance.**

III. Satan tricked Eve into thinking she had ultimate authority over her own life, not God: the idea of self being the ultimate authority.

Gen. 3:1, “The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, ‘**Did God really say** you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?’ ”

Gen. 3:4, “ ‘You won’t die!’ the serpent replied to the woman.

Gen. 3:5, “ ‘God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.’ ”

Remember Divine Institution #1: Responsible Choice

God had given them real choice knowing that if they exercised it wrongly, irresponsibly, it would plunge the human race into sin and horrors.

**B. Where did this pagan worldview come from?
(slide 42)**

- 1. Satan is the source of the pagan worldview.**
- 2. Satan deceived Eve into thinking she, too, could change who she was as a creature.**
- 3. Satan planted the idea, but Eve, and then Adam, freely chose. They used their ability to choose, to choose wrongly.**

Gen. 3:6, “So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.”

“Adam and Eve,” says Van Til, “originally sinned by trying to start from a non-existent ‘neutral’ position in which God’s Word did not have inherent self-attesting authority. Faced with one proposition from God (‘in the day thou eatest thereof [from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil] thou shalt surely die’, Gen. 2:17) and an opposite proposition from Satan (‘Ye shall not surely die,’ Gen. 3:4), Adam and Eve chose an independent testing method to see whether God’s Word was true.”

“Adam saw Satan’s point. ‘You are right, Satan, I must first decide whether such a God as often speaks to us (1) knows what the “good” for us is, (2) controls history so that he can determine what will happen if we disobey him, and (3) has the right to demand obedience from us. After I decide these issues, and if the answer is “yes,” then I shall obey him. Certainly not before.’

“But by taking to himself the right to decide these issues, Adam had already decided them—in the negative. If God is such a one as knows the ‘good’ for us, controls whatsoever comes to pass, and has the right of unquestioned obedience, then man obeys his word because it is his word. Adam, in disobedience, became a ‘free’ man.”

Choice #1

Ask God

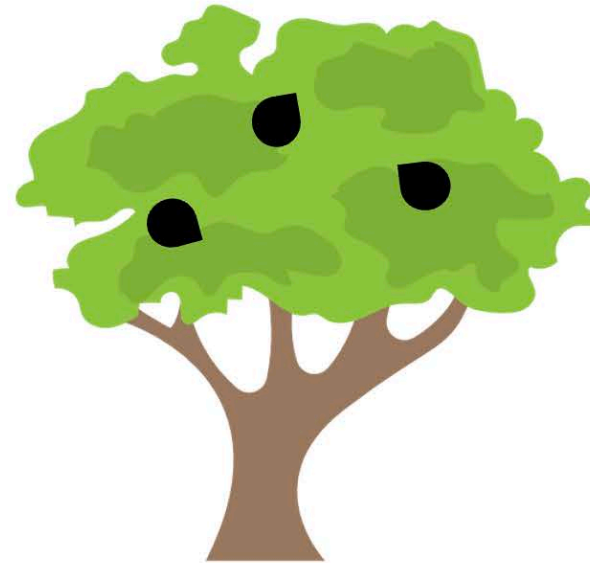


Yahweh

All-knowing
Creator-God

Choice #2

Find out for themselves
independent of God



Tree of
the knowledge of
good and evil

Biblical Worldview

1. Creator-Creature Distinction
One God | Man | Nature
2. Personal Sovereign God
3. Ultimate Authority: God

Pagan Worldview

1. Continuity of Being (A scale)
gods ——— man ——— nature
2. Impersonal Fate and Chance
3. Ultimate Authority: Self

What Does this Pagan Worldview Look Like Today?

1. Continuity of Being and Evolution