

Divine Institutions

Paul Miles

Divine Institutions

- How Worldviews Work
- Some Alternative Models
- Developing a Biblical Model

Post-Fascism

- Doctrinal Considerations
- Some Historical Development
- Evaluating Post-Fascism

Divine institutions are social structures for the benefit of humanity, of which God designed all people to be members by default.
The divine institutions are: the individual, the family, and the country.



How
Worldviews
Work



Some
Alternative
Models



Divine
Institution
Model

Socio-Political
Philosophy

Ethics

Metaphysics

Epistemology

The way things
ought to be



Socio-Political
Philosophy

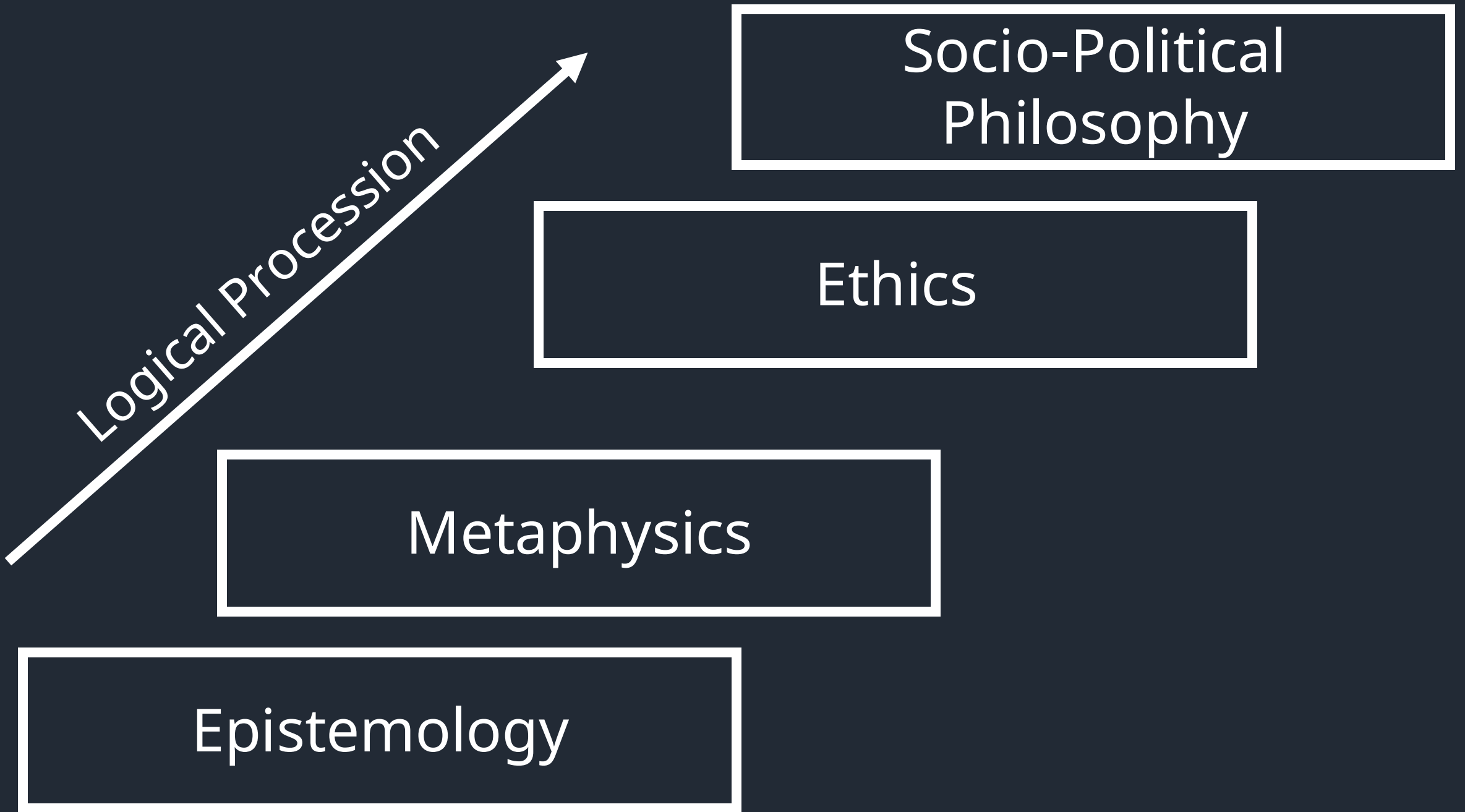
Ethics

The way things
are



Metaphysics

Epistemology

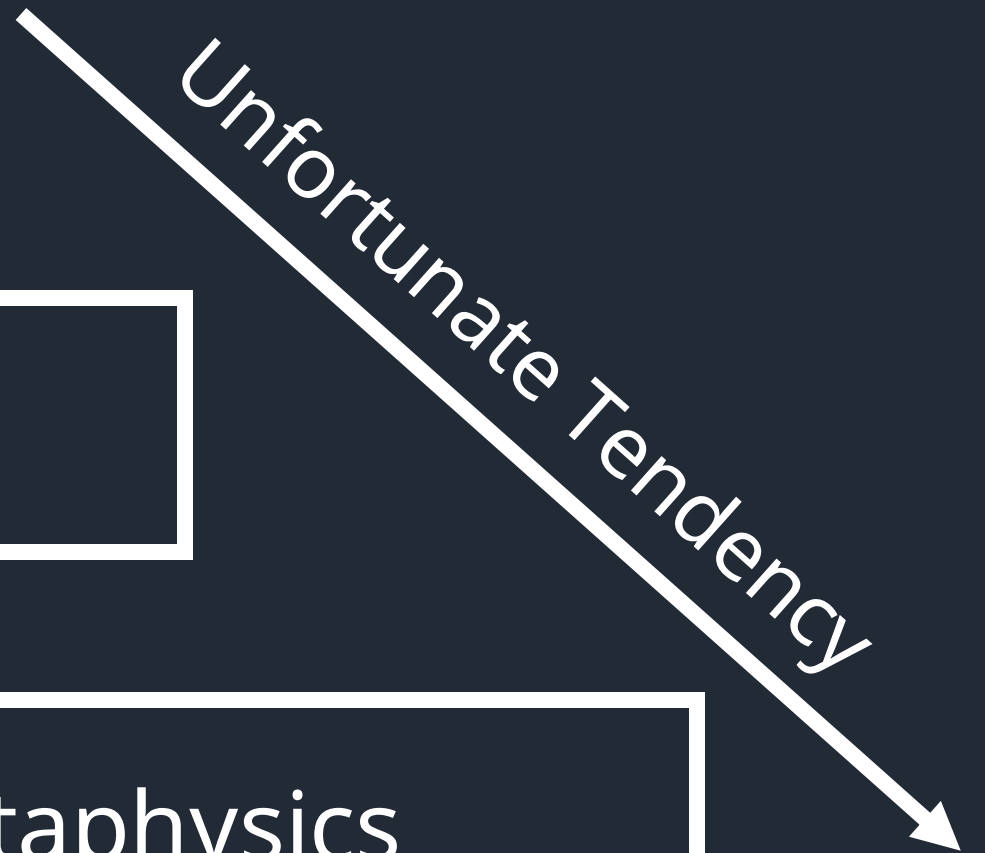


Socio-Political
Philosophy

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How
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Divine
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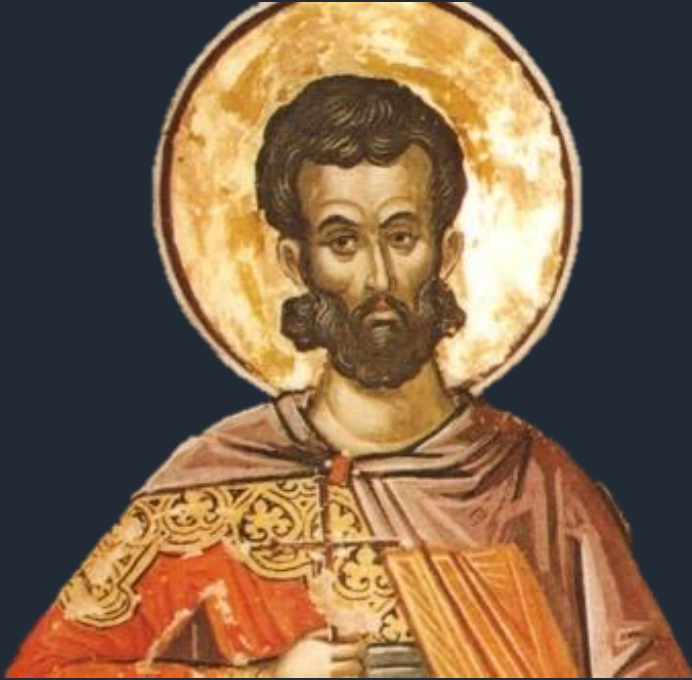
How
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Some
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Divine
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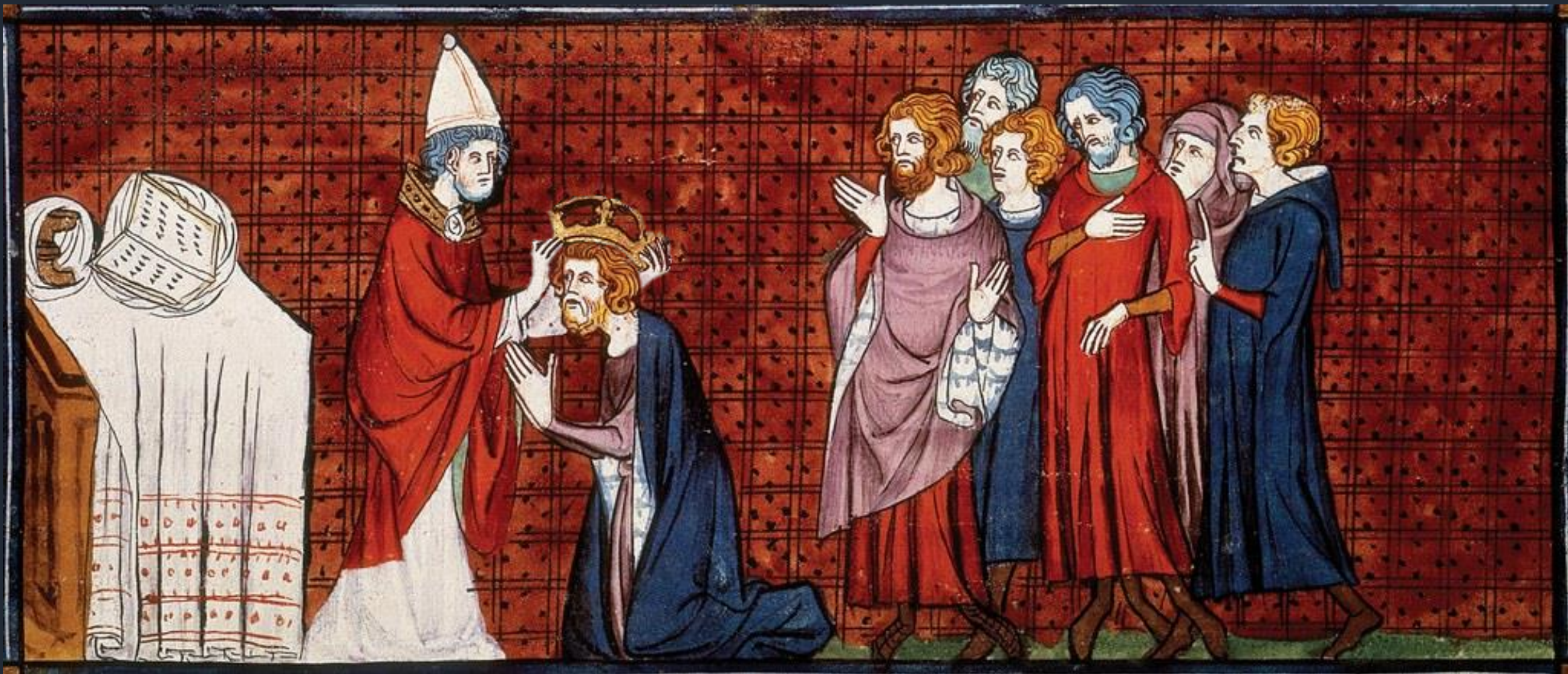
Justin Martyr
c. 100–c. 165



Tertullian
c. 155–c. 220



Lactantius
c. 250–c. 325



Charlemagne crowned emperor by Pope Leo III in 800 AD
Chroniques de France ou de Saint Denis (late 14th c.)

Wedding of False Dmitri and Marina Mniszech in Moscow on May 8, 1606



MARIA MNISZCHOWNA
GEORGII DE MAGNA RUSCIE MNISZ
ACH PALATINI SENDOMIRIENSIS FILIA
VXOR VERO DEMETRII IMPERATORIS
MOSCHOVIAE, CORONATA VR IN IMPERATRICE
MOSCHOVIAE PER ARCHIEPISCOPUM RI TVS
CRECI IN VRBE MOSCVA METROPOLITAN
PERI MOSCHOVITICI IN PRESENTIA REGAL
REGIS POLONIAE NICOLAI OLESNICKI
ANNO DOMINI 1605,



Jean Calvin
1509-1564



Jan Łaski
1499-1560



Abraham
Kuyper
1837-1920

Young Abraham Kuyper

- Raised Dutch Reformed
- Disillusioned with orthodoxy
- Modernist education
- Unitarian
- Dissertation on Jean Calvin and Jan Łaski
- Rejected immortality, atonement
- Rejected revelation; preferred encountering God

Old Abraham Kuyper

- Converted to Calvinist orthodoxy
- Joined the Dutch Anti-Revolutionary Movement
- No background in conservative exegesis
- Continued rejecting verbal-plenary inspiration
- Invented sphere sovereignty
- Became Prime Minister



Abraham
Kuyper
1837-1920

Individual

Family

Agriculture

Industry

Commerce

Art

Church

Science

Industry

Works of
mercy

And so on

And so
forth

Politics

Ethics

Metaphysics

Epistemology

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mercy

And so on

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forth





George Harinck
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

I stick to my thesis that Abraham Kuyper's ontological notion of sphere sovereignty was not so much the cumulative result of his knowledge of the intellectual history, mainly that of Calvinism, but **to a large extent his own invention**—he did this **by looking out of his window**. As such, this conclusion substantiates the impression of philosopher J. D. Dengerink that **Kuyper developed his notion of sphere sovereignty intuitively**.

Politics

Ethics

Metaphysics

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Individual

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Church

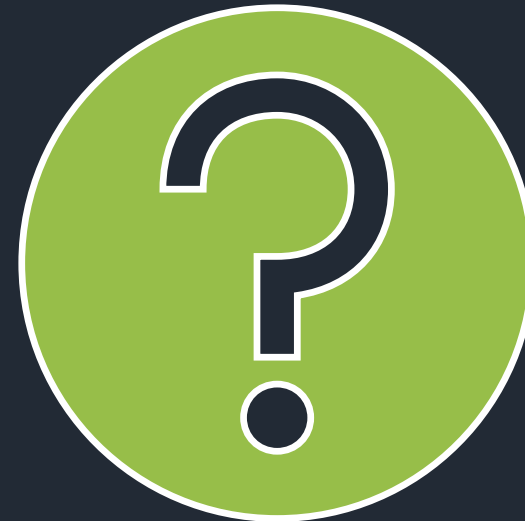
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And so on

And so
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Abraham
Kuyper
1837-1920



Hendrik Verwoerd
1901-1966



Allan Boesak
1946-



R. J. Rushdoony
1916–2001



Paula White
1966–

Socio-Political
Philosophy

Ethics

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Epistemology



Socio-Political
Philosophy

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Inaugurated
Eschatology

The text 'Inaugurated Eschatology' is centered in white. On either side of the text is a white icon of a castle with three towers, sitting on a cloud.

Socio-Political
Philosophy

Ethics

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Epistemology



Inaugurated
Eschatology



Socio-Political
Philosophy

Ethics

Metaphysics



Inaugurated
Eschatology

Epistemology

Socio-Political
Philosophy

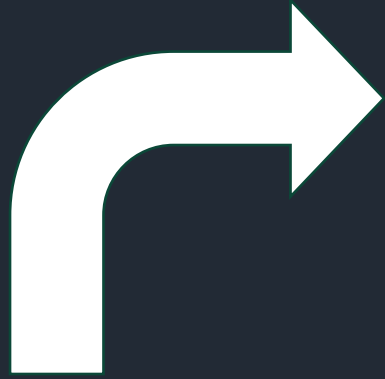
Ethics



Metaphysics

Epistemology





Socio-Political Philosophy

Ethics

Metaphysics

Epistemology





How
Worldviews
Work



Some
Alternative
Models



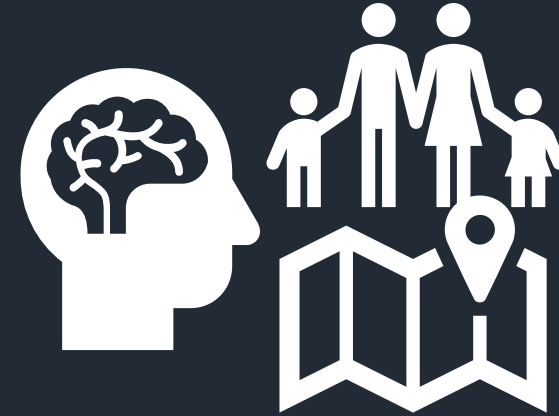
Divine
Institution
Model



How
Worldviews
Work



Some
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Models



Divine
Institution
Model



The
Individual



The
Family



The
Country

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The
Individual



The
Family



The
Country



The
Individual



The
Family



The
Country



The Doctrine of **Anthropology**



The Doctrine of **Anthropology**

Socio-Political Philosophy

Ethics

Metaphysics

Epistemology



The Doctrine of **Anthropology**



Socio-Political Philosophy

Ethics

Metaphysics

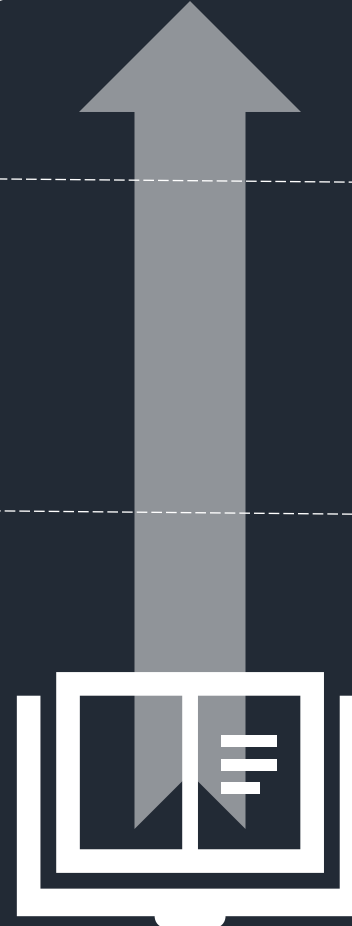
Epistemology



The Doctrine of Anthropology

Metaethics

Ontology



Socio-Political Philosophy

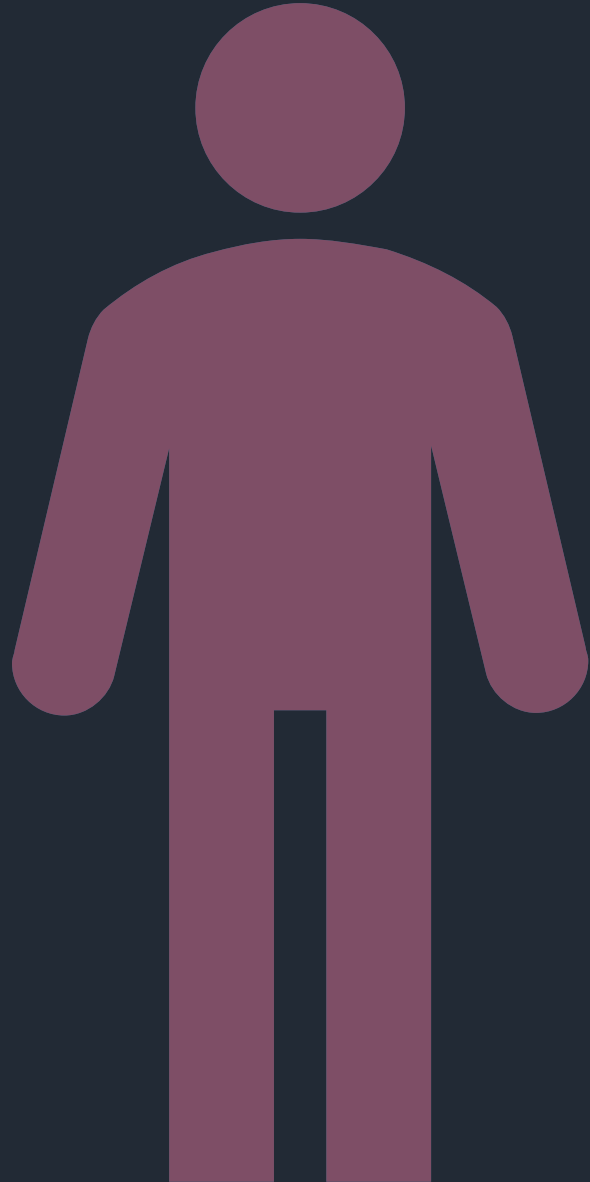
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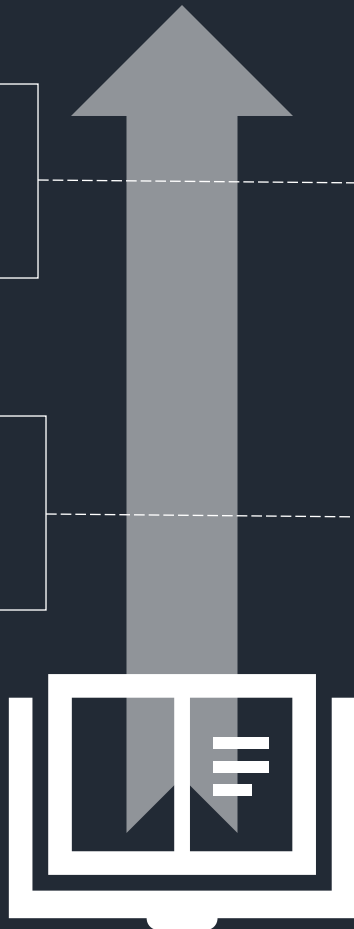


The Doctrine of **Anthropology**



Metaethics: Responsible Labor

Ontology: Facets of Man





Anthropology

Ontology: Facets of Man



Material



Immaterial



Anthropology

Ontology: Facets of Man



Material



Immaterial

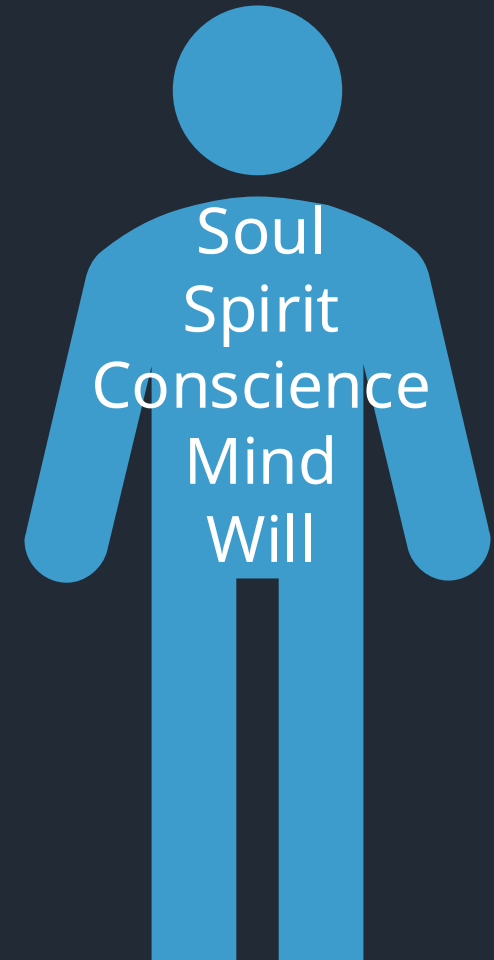


Anthropology

Ontology: Facets of Man



Material



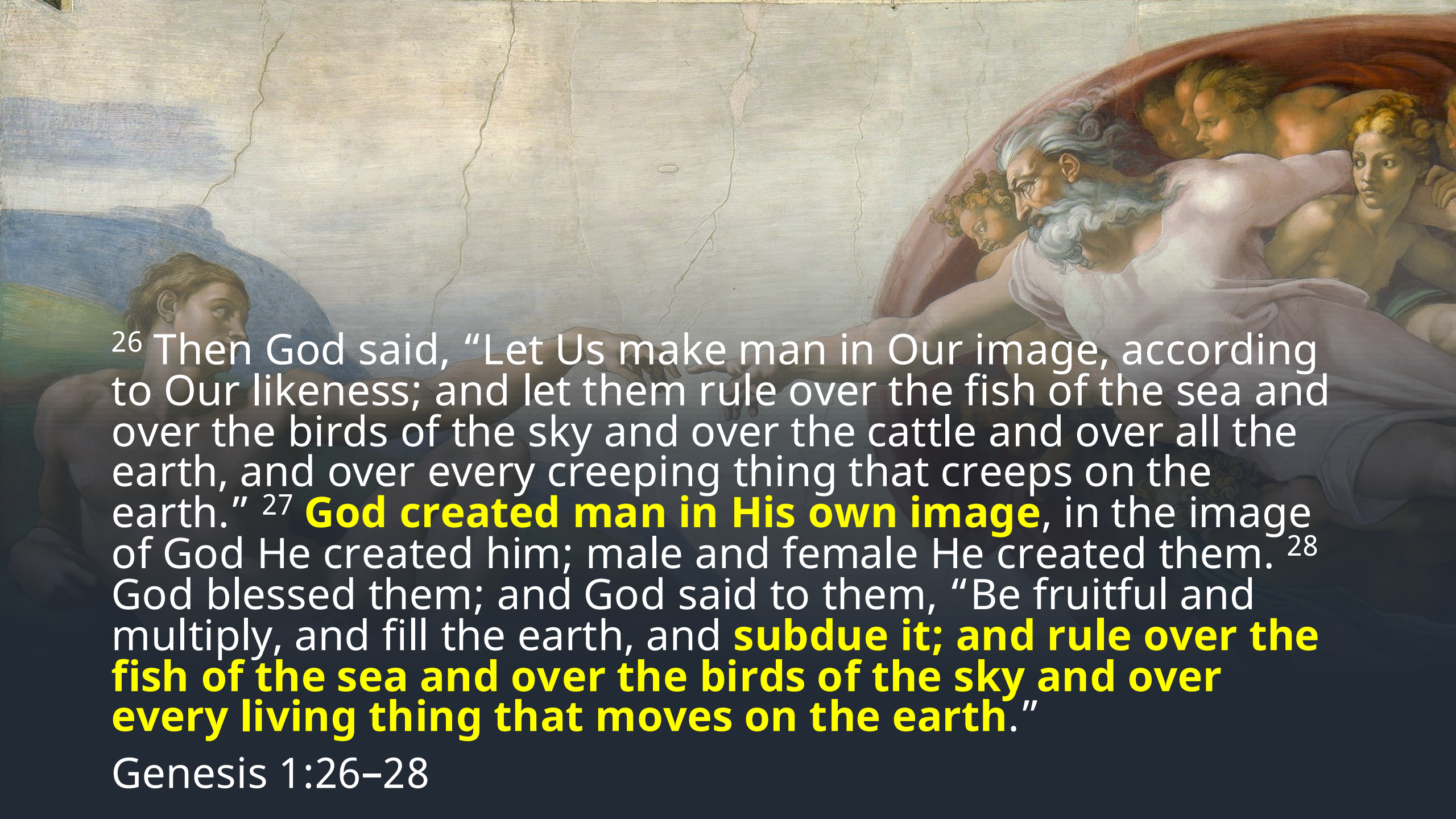
Immaterial



Anthropology

Ontology: Facets of Man





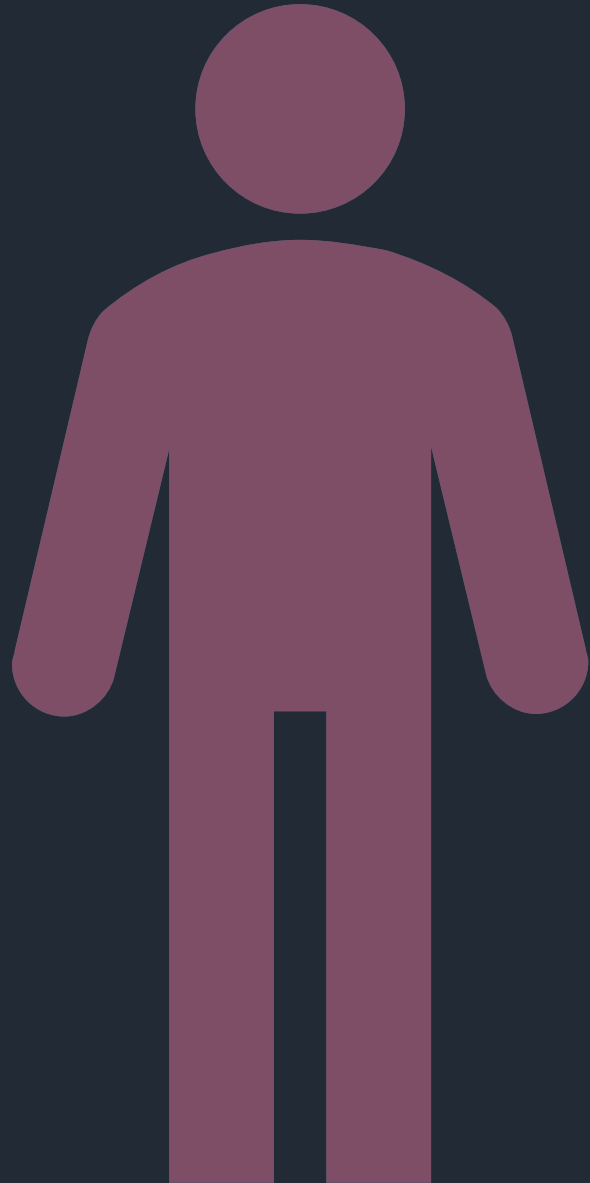
²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ **God created man in His own image**, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and **subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.**"

Genesis 1:26–28



Anthropology

Ontology: Facets of Man





Anthropology

Ontology: Facets of Man



Material



Immaterial



Anthropology

Ontology: Facets of Man



...the body without the spirit is dead...
James 2:26



Material

Immaterial



Anthropology

Ontology: Facets of Man



Material



Immaterial



Anthropology

Ontology: Facets of Man



Material



Immaterial



Anthropology

Ontology: Facets of Man



Tongue
Lips
Teeth

Material



Mind
Will
Image
of God



Immaterial



Anthropology

Ontology: Facets of Man



Tongue
Lips
Teeth

Material

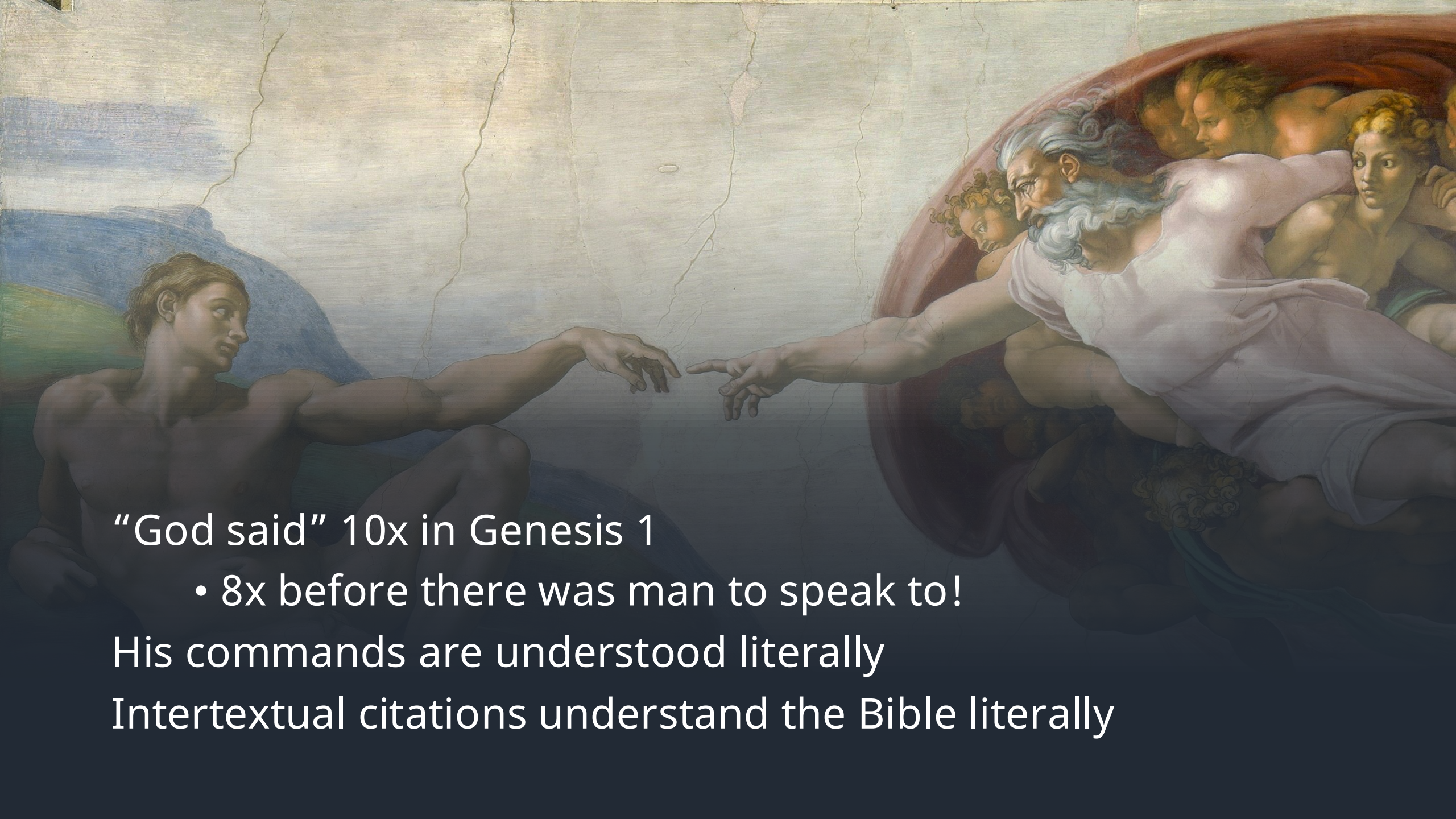


Capacity
For
Language



Mind
Will
Image
of God

Immaterial



“God said” 10x in Genesis 1

- 8x before there was man to speak to!

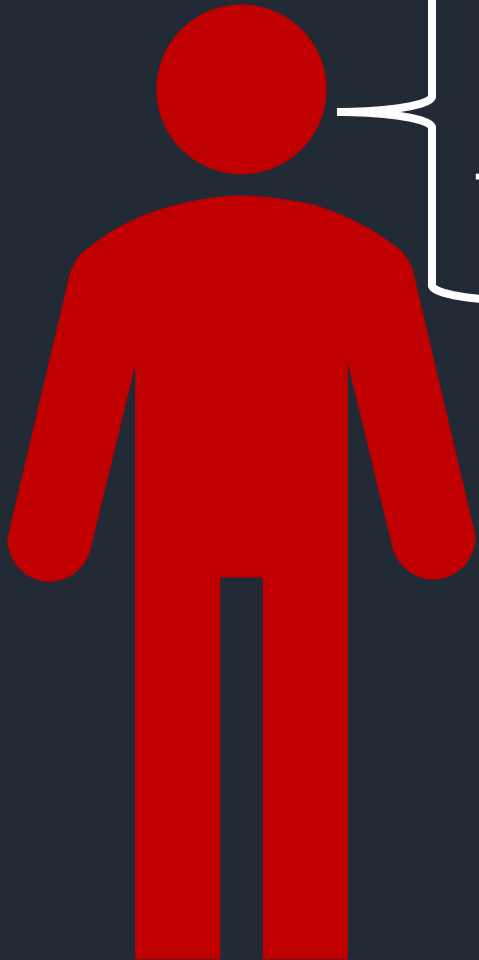
His commands are understood literally

Intertextual citations understand the Bible literally



Anthropology

Ontology: Facets of Man



Tongue
Lips
Teeth

Material



Capacity
For
Language



Mind
Will
Image
of God

Immaterial



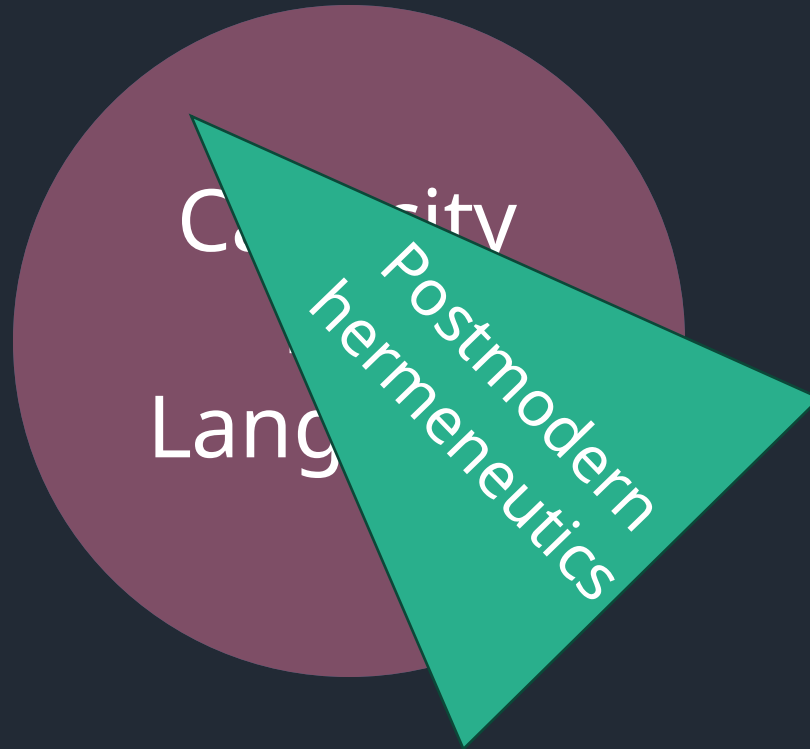
Anthropology

Ontology: Facets of Man



Tongue
Lips
Teeth

Material



Mind
Will
Image
of God

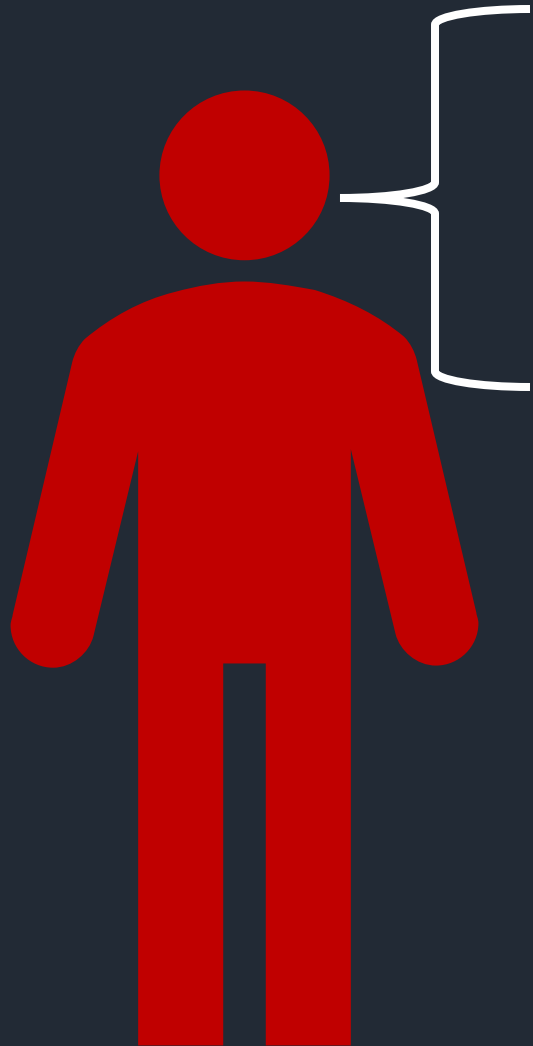


Immaterial



Anthropology

Ontology: Facets of Man



Material



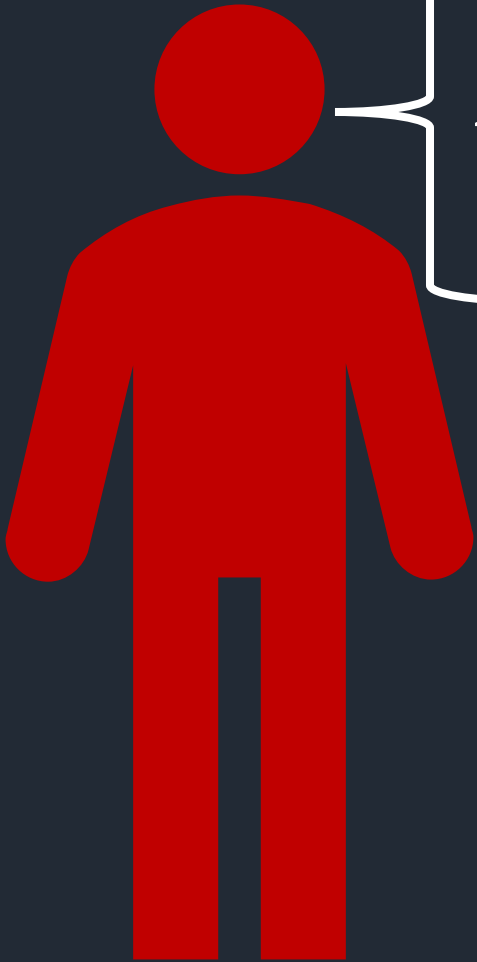
Immaterial



Anthropology

Ontology: Facets of Man

Physical
traits



Material

Self
awareness



Immaterial

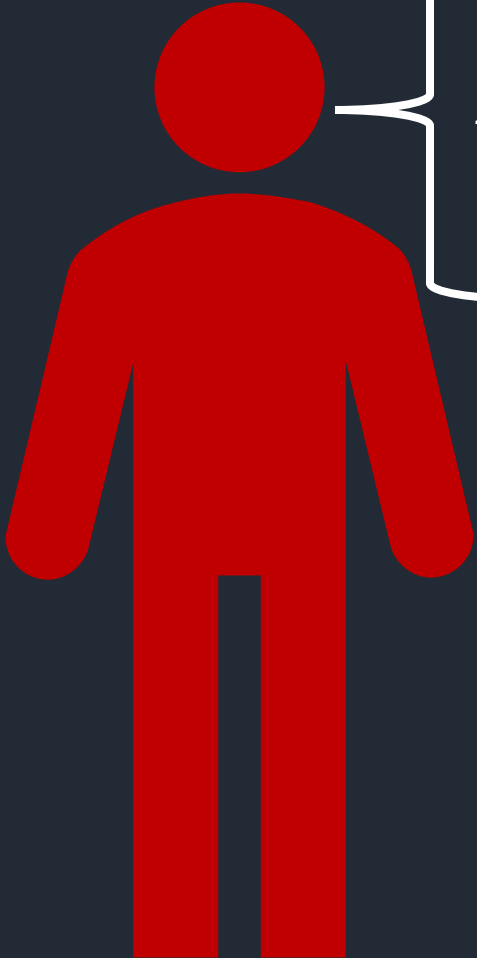




Anthropology

Ontology: Facets of Man

Physical
traits



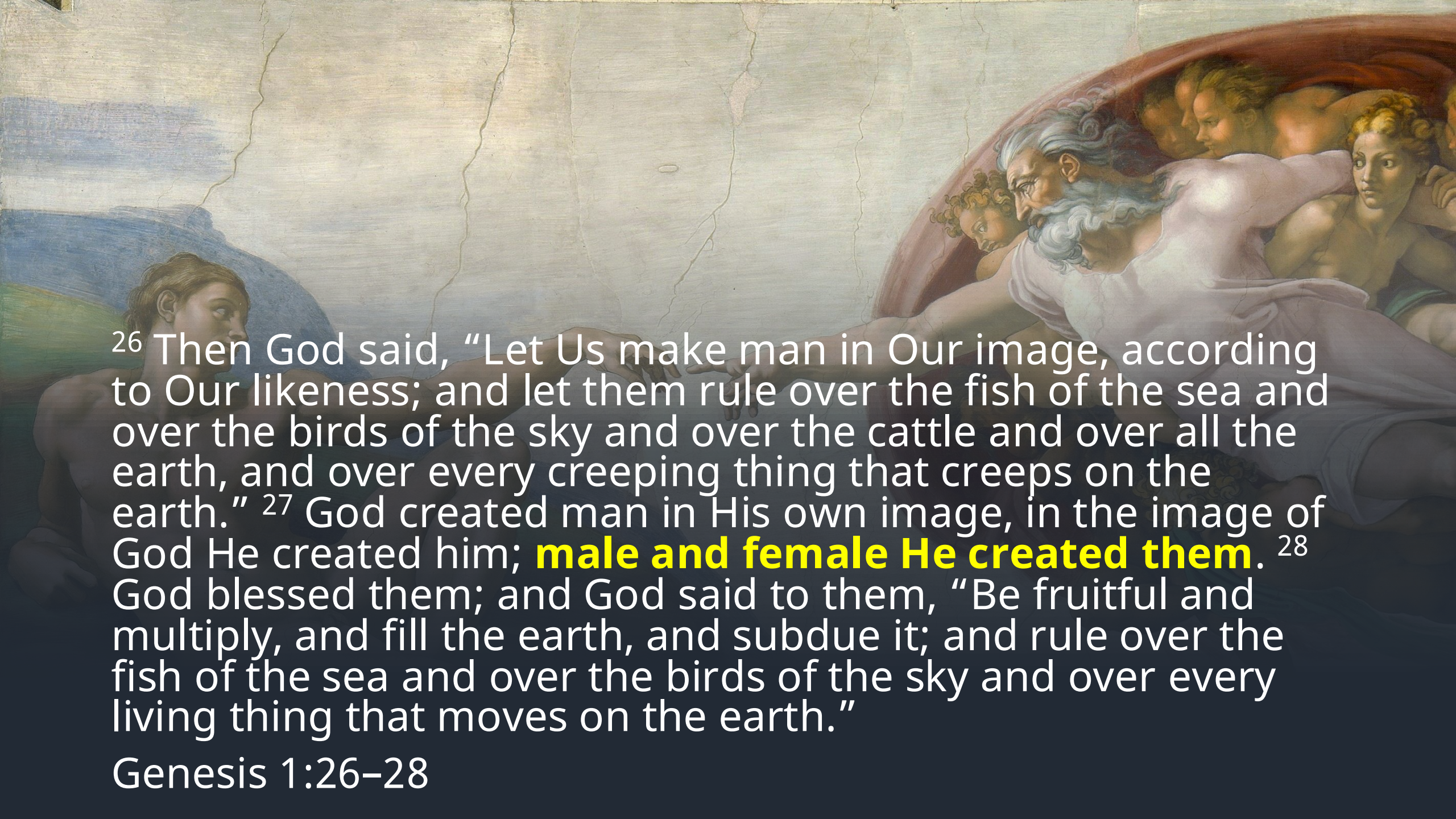
Material

Self
awareness



Immaterial

Gender
Identity



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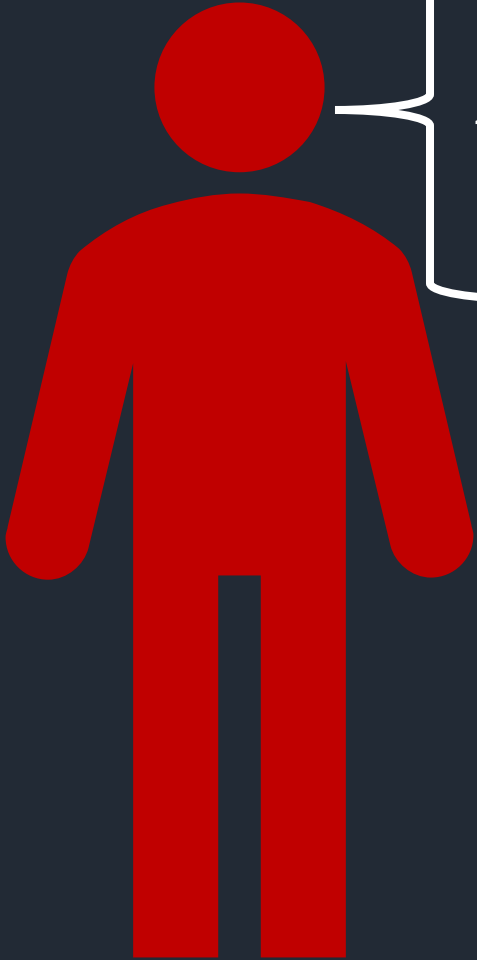
Genesis 1:26–28



Anthropology

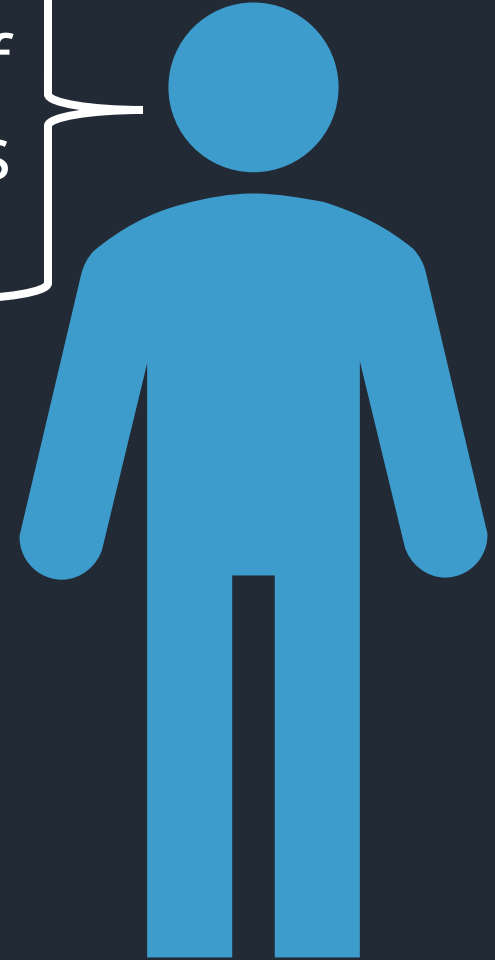
Ontology: Facets of Man

Physical
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Gender
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Anthropology

Ontology: Facets of Man

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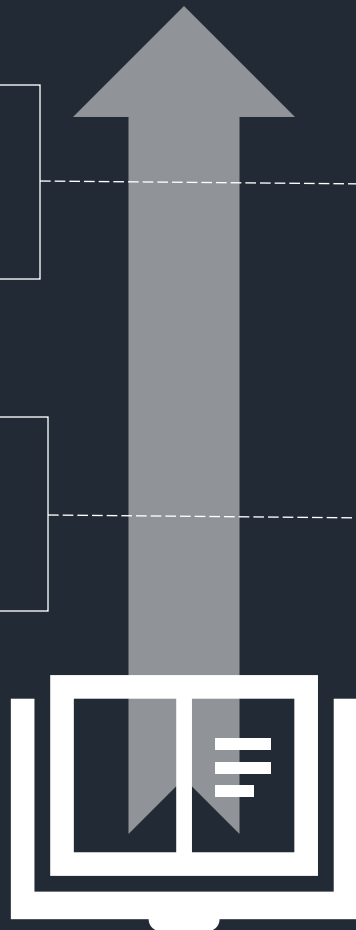


The Doctrine of **Anthropology**



Metaethics: Responsible Labor

Ontology: Facets of Man





Anthropology

Metaethics: Responsible Labor





¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden **to tend and keep it.** ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, **for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**"

Genesis 2:15-17

The background of the image is a reproduction of Michelangelo's famous fresco, "The Creation of Adam." It depicts Adam on the left, lying on a rock and reaching out with his right hand towards God on the right. God is shown reclining on a red cushion, surrounded by other figures, with his right hand extended towards Adam's hand. The two hands are just inches apart, creating a sense of tension and divine spark. The background of the fresco is a light, cracked stone surface.

¹⁷ Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it';

Cursed is the ground because of you;
In toil you will eat of it
All the days of your life.

**¹⁸ "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you;
And you will eat the plants of the field;**

**¹⁹ By the sweat of your face
You will eat bread,**

Till you return to the ground,
Because from it you were taken;
For you are dust,
And to dust you shall return."

Genesis 3:17-19



Anthropology

Metaethics: Responsible Labor

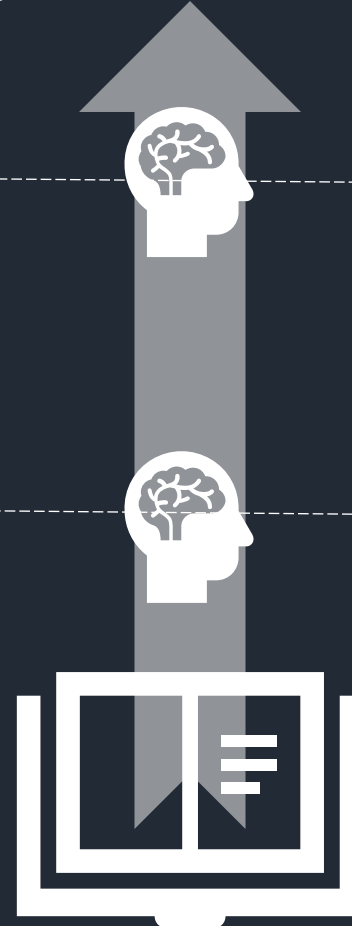




The Doctrine of Anthropology

Metaethics

Ontology



Socio-Political Philosophy

Ethics

Metaphysics

Epistemology



The
Individual



The
Family



The
Country



The
Individual



The
Family



The
Country



The Family

²¹ And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. ²² Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

²³ And Adam said:

“This is now bone of my bones
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man.”

²⁴ **Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**

²⁵ And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Genesis 2:21–25



The Family



Marital



Parental

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.



The Family



Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.



The Family



Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.



The Family



Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.



The Family



Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.



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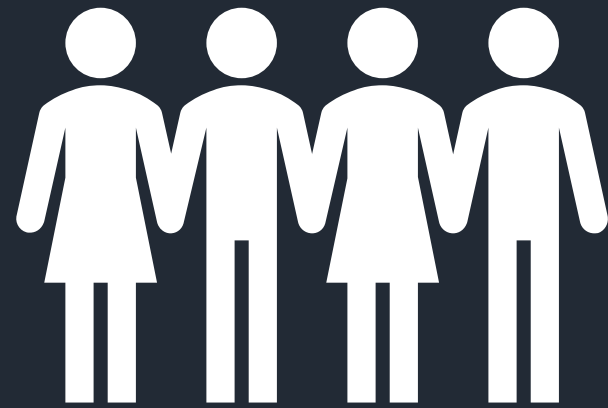
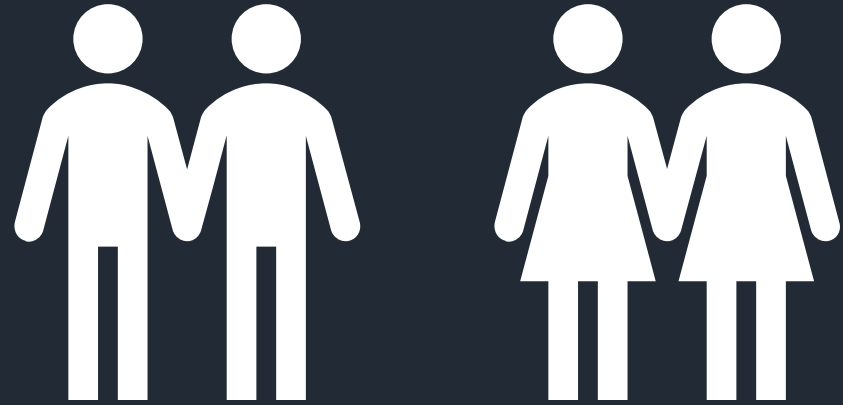


The Family



Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.









The Family



Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.



The
Individual



The
Family



The
Country



The
Individual



The
Family

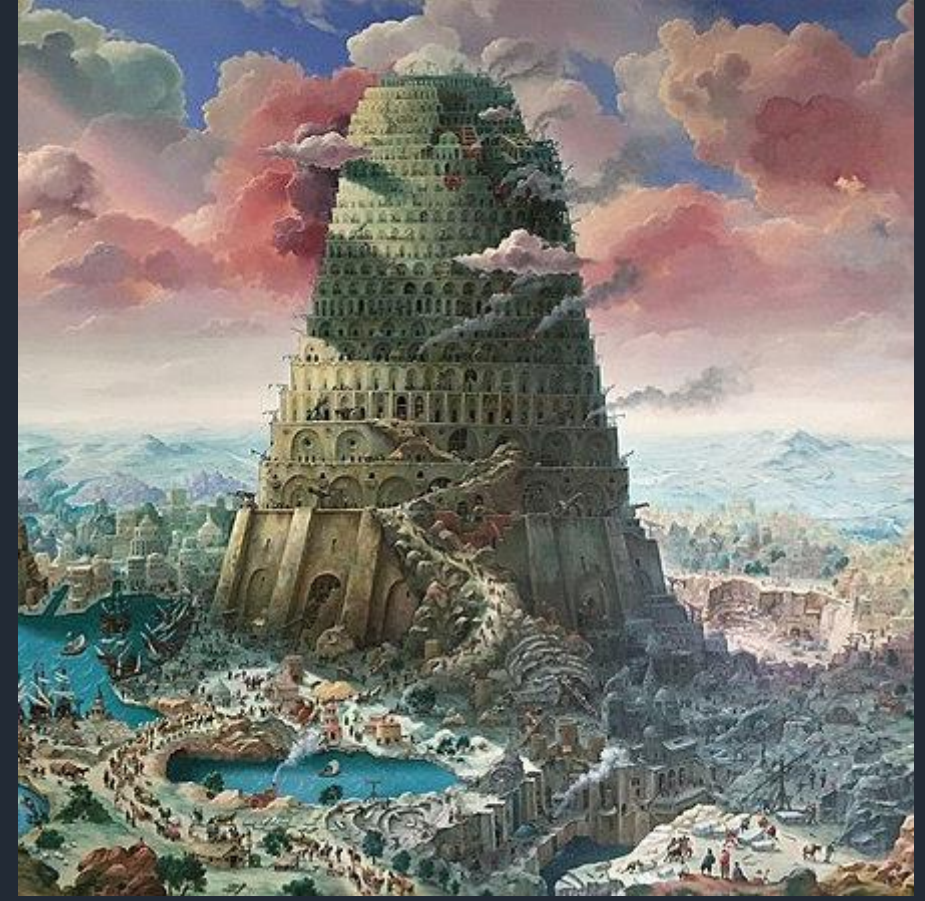


The
Country

The Country



The Noachic Covenant
Genesis 8:20–9:17



The Global Dispersion
Genesis 11:1–9

9 So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. 2 And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move *on* the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand. 3 Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs. 4 But you shall not eat flesh with its life, *that is*, its blood. 5 **Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man.**

6 **"Whoever sheds man's blood,
By man his blood shall be shed;**

For in the image of God
He made man.

7 And as for you, be fruitful and multiply;
Bring forth abundantly in the earth
And multiply in it."



Genesis 9:1-7



Genesis 11:1-9

11 Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. ² And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. ³ Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake *them* thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. ⁴ And they said, "**Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.**"



Genesis 11:1-9

⁵ But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. ⁶ And the LORD said, "Indeed the people *are* one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. ⁷ Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." ⁸ **So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth**, and they ceased building the city. ⁹ Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there **the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.**



Deuteronomy 32:7-9

7 "Remember the days of old,
Consider the years of many generations.
Ask your father, and he will show you;
Your elders, and they will tell you:

**8 When the Most High divided their inheritance
to the nations,**

**When He separated the sons of Adam,
He set the boundaries of the peoples**

**According to the number of the children of
Israel.**

9 For the LORD's portion is His people;
Jacob is the place of His inheritance.



The Himalayas



The Ouachita Mountains



The Himalayas



The Ouachita Mountains

Eon	Era	Period	Epoch	MYA	Life Forms	North American Events			
Phanerozoic	Cenozoic (CZ)	Quaternary (Q)	Holocene (H)	0.01	Age of Mammals	Extinction of large mammals and birds Modern humans	Ice age glaciations; glacial outburst floods		
			Pleistocene (PE)	2.6					
		Neogene (N)	Pliocene (PL)	2.6				Spread of grassy ecosystems	Columbia River Basalt eruptions (NW) Basin and Range extension (W)
			Miocene (MI)	5.3					
			Oligocene (OL)	23.0					
		Paleogene (PG)	Eocene (E)	33.9				Early primates	Laramide Orogeny ends (W)
	Paleocene (EP)		56.0						
			66.0						
	Mesozoic (MZ)	Cretaceous (K)			Age of Reptiles	Placental mammals	Laramide Orogeny (W) Western Interior Seaway (W)		
				145.0					
		Jurassic (J)		Dinosaurs diverse and abundant				Nevadan Orogeny (W) Elko Orogeny (W)	
			201.3						
	Triassic (TR)		Mass extinction First dinosaurs; first mammals Flying reptiles	Breakup of Pangaea begins					
		251.9							
Paleozoic (PZ)	Permian (P)			Age of Amphibians	Coal-forming swamps Sharks abundant First reptiles	Supercontinent Pangaea intact Ouachita Orogeny (S) Alleghany (Appalachian) Orogeny (E) Ancestral Rocky Mountains (W)			
			298.9						
			323.2						
	Pennsylvanian (PN)			Mass extinction First amphibians First forests (evergreens)	Antler Orogeny (W) Acadian Orogeny (E-NE)				
			358.9						
	Mississippian (M)			Fishes	First land plants Mass extinction Primitive fish Trilobite maximum Rise of corals	Taconic Orogeny (E-NE)			
			419.2						
			443.8						
Devonian (D)			Marine Invertebrates	Early shelled organisms	Extensive oceans cover most of proto-North America (Laurentia)				
		485.4							
Silurian (S)									
		485.4							
Ordovician (O)									
		485.4							
Cambrian (C)									
		541.0							
Proterozoic					Complex multicelled organisms	Supercontinent rifted apart Formation of early supercontinent Grenville Orogeny (E)			
								2500	Simple multicelled organisms
Archean					Early bacteria and algae (stromatolites)	Oldest known Earth rocks			
								4000	
Hadean					Origin of life	Formation of Earth's crust			
								4600	Formation of the Earth

~50 million years old

300-350 million years old



The Himalayas



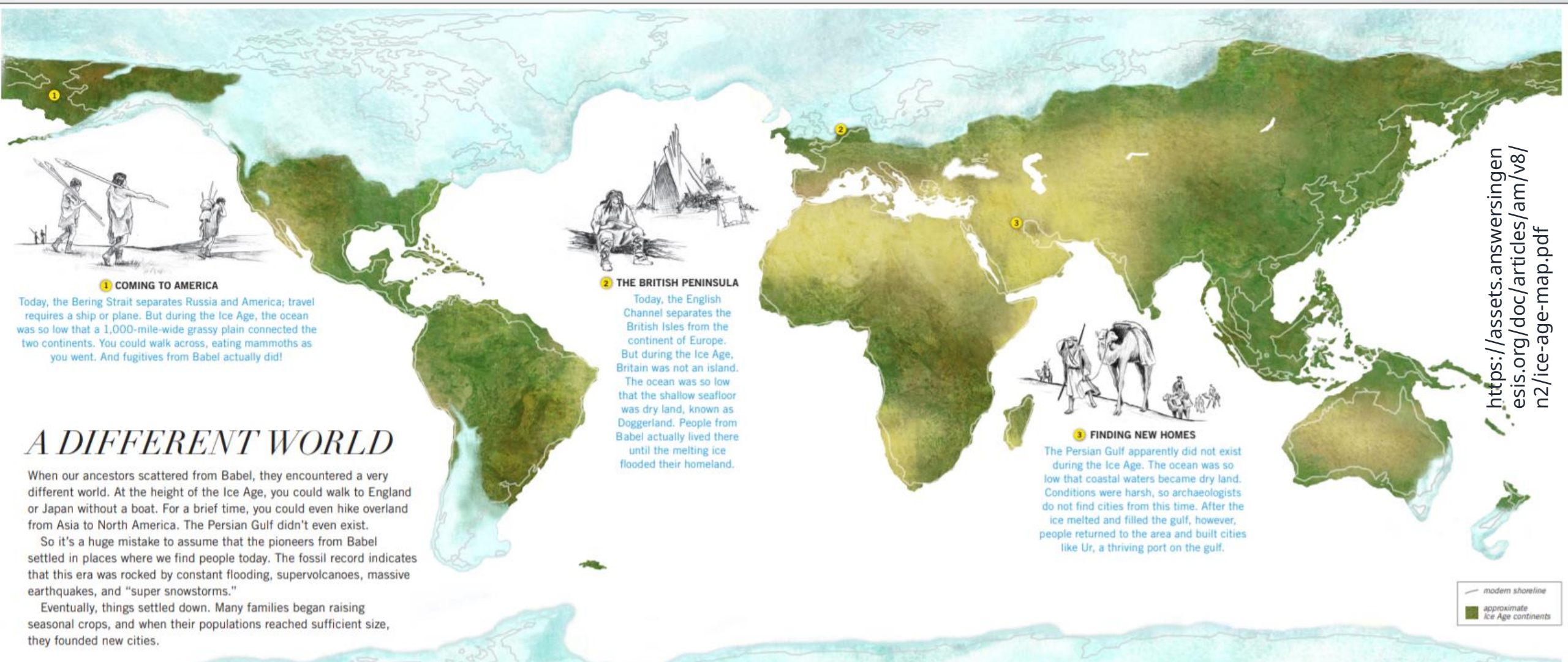
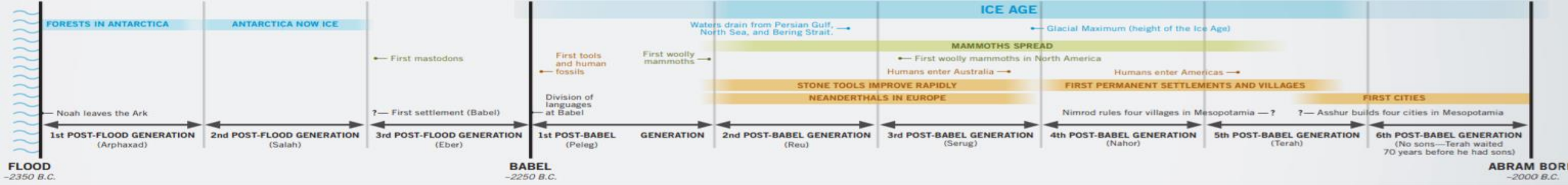
The Ouachita Mountains

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		Neogene (N)	Pliocene (PL)	2.6				Spread of grassy ecosystems	Cascade volcanoes (W) Linking of North and South America (Isthmus of Panama)
			Miocene (MI)	5.3					Columbia River Basalt eruptions (NW) Basin and Range extension (W)
	Paleogene (PG)	Tertiary (T)	Oligocene (OL)	23.0	Early primates	Laramide Orogeny ends (W)			
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			Jurassic (J)				201.3	Dinosaurs diverse and abundant	Nevadan Orogeny (W) Elko Orogeny (W)
Triassic (TR)		251.9	Age of Amphibians	Mass extinction	First dinosaurs; first mammals Flying reptiles	Breakup of Pangaea begins			
		251.9							
Permian (P)		298.9	Fishes	Mass extinction	Coal-forming swamps Sharks abundant First reptiles	Supercontinent Pangaea intact Ouachita Orogeny (S) Alleghany (Appalachian) Orogeny (E) Ancestral Rocky Mountains (W)			
		323.2							
Paleozoic (PZ)	358.9	Marine Invertebrates	Mass extinction	First amphibians First forests (evergreens)	Antler Orogeny (W) Acadian Orogeny (E-NE)				
	419.2								
	443.8					First land plants	Taconic Orogeny (E-NE)		
	485.4					Primitive fish Trilobite maximum Rise of corals		Extensive oceans cover most of proto-North America (Laurentia)	
Cambrian (C)	541.0	Early shelled organisms							
Proterozoic	Precambrian (PC, W, X, Y, Z)	541.0	Simple multicelled organisms	Complex multicelled organisms	Supercontinent rifted apart Formation of early supercontinent Grenville Orogeny (E)				
		2500				Abundant carbonate rocks			
Archean	Precambrian (PC, W, X, Y, Z)	4000	Early bacteria and algae (stromatolites)	Origin of life	Oldest known Earth rocks				
		4600							
Hadean	Precambrian (PC, W, X, Y, Z)	4600	Formation of the Earth	Formation of Earth's crust					

Post-Flood

Cretaceous-Paleogene boundary (K-Pg)

Pre-Flood



A DIFFERENT WORLD

When our ancestors scattered from Babel, they encountered a very different world. At the height of the Ice Age, you could walk to England or Japan without a boat. For a brief time, you could even hike overland from Asia to North America. The Persian Gulf didn't even exist.

So it's a huge mistake to assume that the pioneers from Babel settled in places where we find people today. The fossil record indicates that this era was rocked by constant flooding, supervolcanoes, massive earthquakes, and "super snowstorms."

Eventually, things settled down. Many families began raising seasonal crops, and when their populations reached sufficient size, they founded new cities.

<https://assets.answersingenesis.org/doc/articles/am/v8/n2/ice-age-map.pdf>

Climate and the rise and fall of the Neo-Assyrian Empire

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“No harvest was reaped”: demographic and climatic factors in the decline of the Neo-Assyrian Empire

Adam W. Schneider • Selim F. Adali

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SCIENCE ADVANCES | RESEARCH ARTICLE

ANTHROPOLOGY

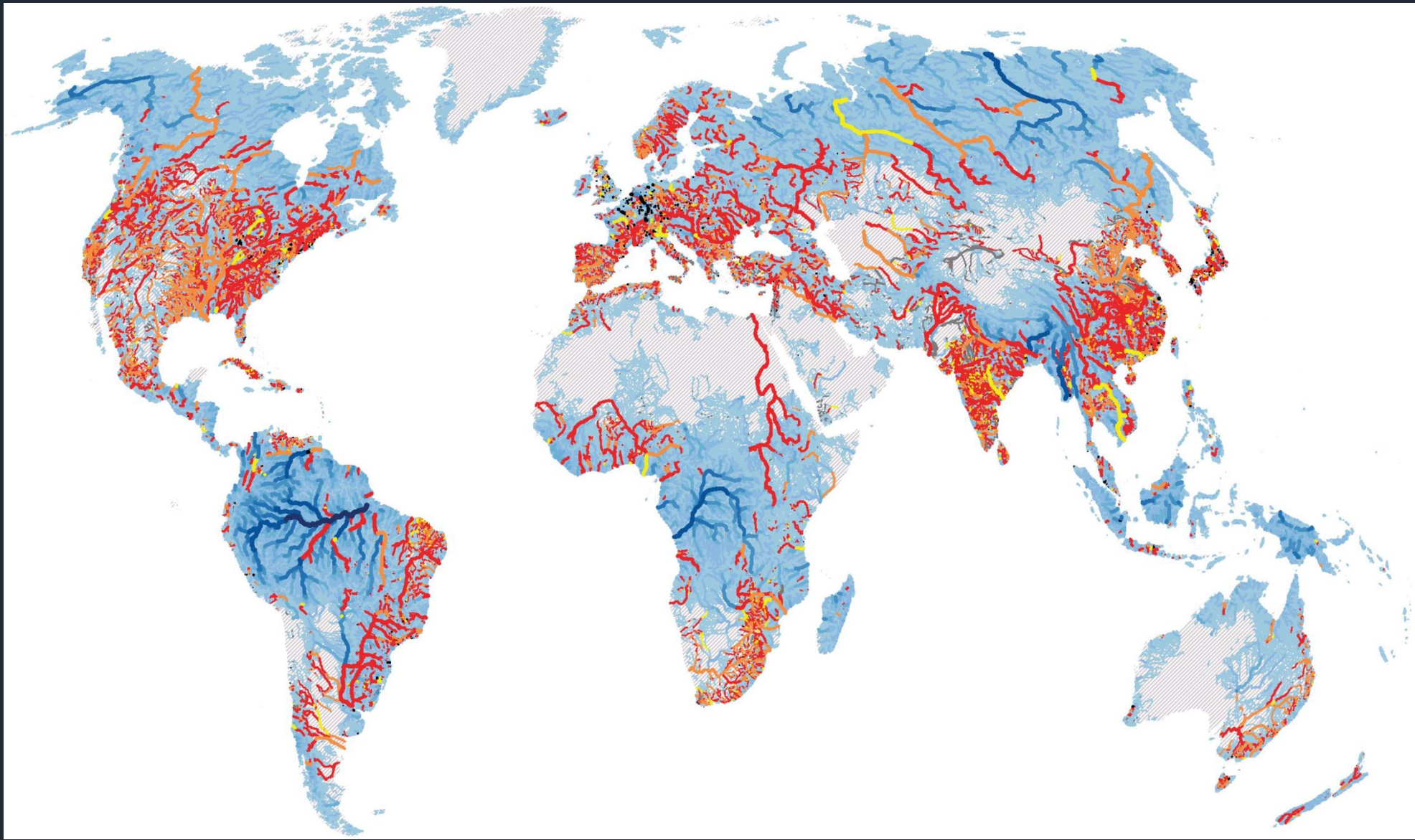
Role of climate in the rise and fall of the Neo-Assyrian Empire

Ashish Sinha^{1*}, Gayatri Kathayat^{2†*}, Harvey Weiss^{3,4†}, Hanying Li^{2†}, Hai Cheng^{2,5}, Justin Reuter⁶, Adam W. Schneider⁷, Max Berkelhammer⁸, Selim F. Adali⁹, Lowell D. Stott¹⁰, R. Lawrence Edwards⁵

Northern Iraq was the political and economic center of the Neo-Assyrian Empire (c. 912 to 609 BCE)—the largest and most powerful empire of its time. After more than two centuries of regional dominance, the Neo-Assyrian state plummeted from its zenith (c. 670 BCE) to complete political collapse (c. 615 to 609 BCE). Earlier explanations for the Assyrian collapse focused on the roles of internal politico-economic conflicts, territorial overextension, and military defeat. Here, we present a high-resolution and precisely dated speleothem record of climate change from the Kuna Ba cave in northern Iraq, which suggests that the empire’s rise occurred during a two-centuries-long interval of anomalously wet climate in the context of the past 4000 years, while megadroughts during the early-mid seventh century BCE, as severe as recent droughts in the region but lasting for decades, triggered a decline in Assyria’s agrarian productivity and thus contributed to its eventual political and economic collapse.

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<https://www.science.org/doi/epdf/10.1126/sciadv.aax6656>



Grill, G., et al. "Mapping the World's Free-Flowing Rivers." *Nature*, vol. 569, no. 7755, 2019, pp. 215-221,221A-221O. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-019-1111-9>.



Deuteronomy 32:7-9

7 "Remember the days of old,
Consider the years of many generations.
Ask your father, and he will show you;
Your elders, and they will tell you:

**8 When the Most High divided their inheritance
to the nations,
When He separated the sons of Adam,
He set the boundaries of the peoples
According to the number of the children of
Israel.**

9 For the LORD's portion is His people;
Jacob is the place of His inheritance.

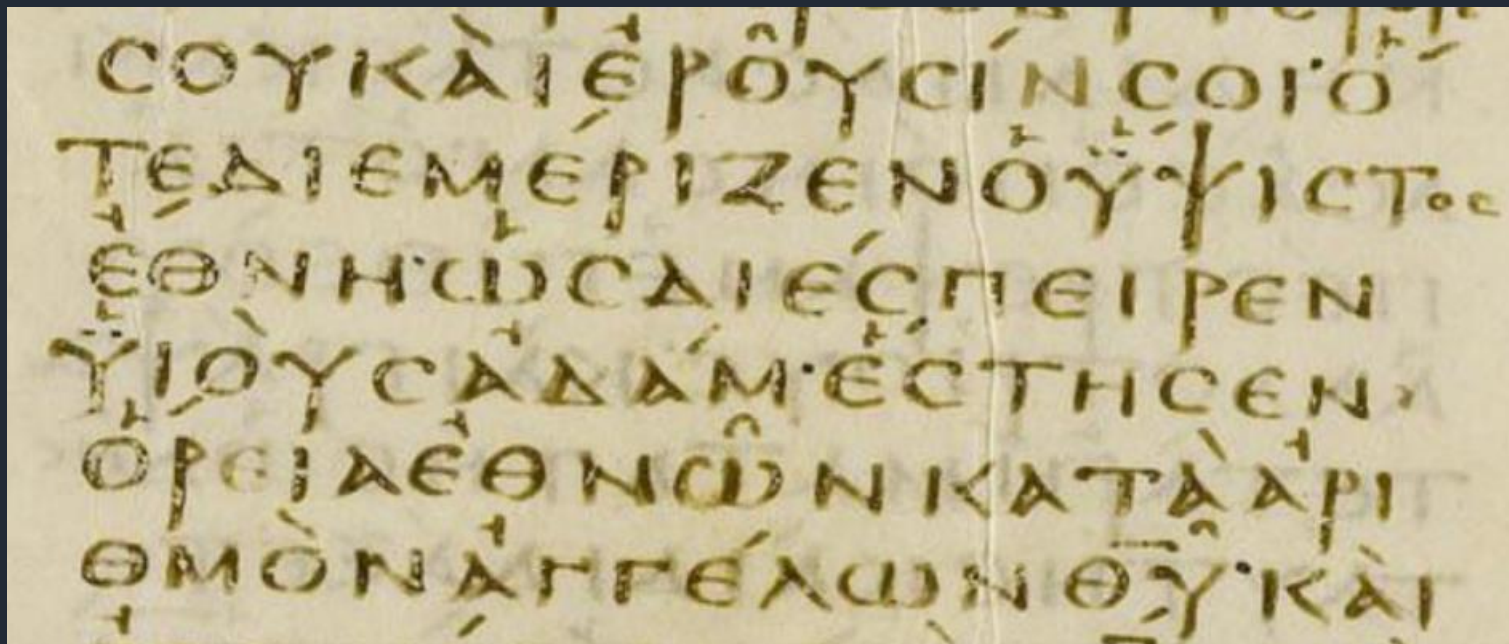
הלוא הוא אביך כקנך
זכר ומורת עוללם
שאל אל אביך ויגידך
בהנחל עליון גולם
יעבב גבלת עמלים
כי חלק ידודה עמו
למצארו בארץ מדבר
לסבבנהו לבונהו

הוא על מקד וילכך
בילנו שגורת דר ודר
זכר לך ויאמר יון לך
בהפר ידיו בלל אדם
למספר בלל ישרא
יעקב חבל נחל
וברתהו לאלה עם
למצארו בהם שון עינו
לאלה לאלה לאלה

[Salonika Torah](#)

“According to the number of the children of Israel.”

למספר בני ישראל



Codex Vaticanus

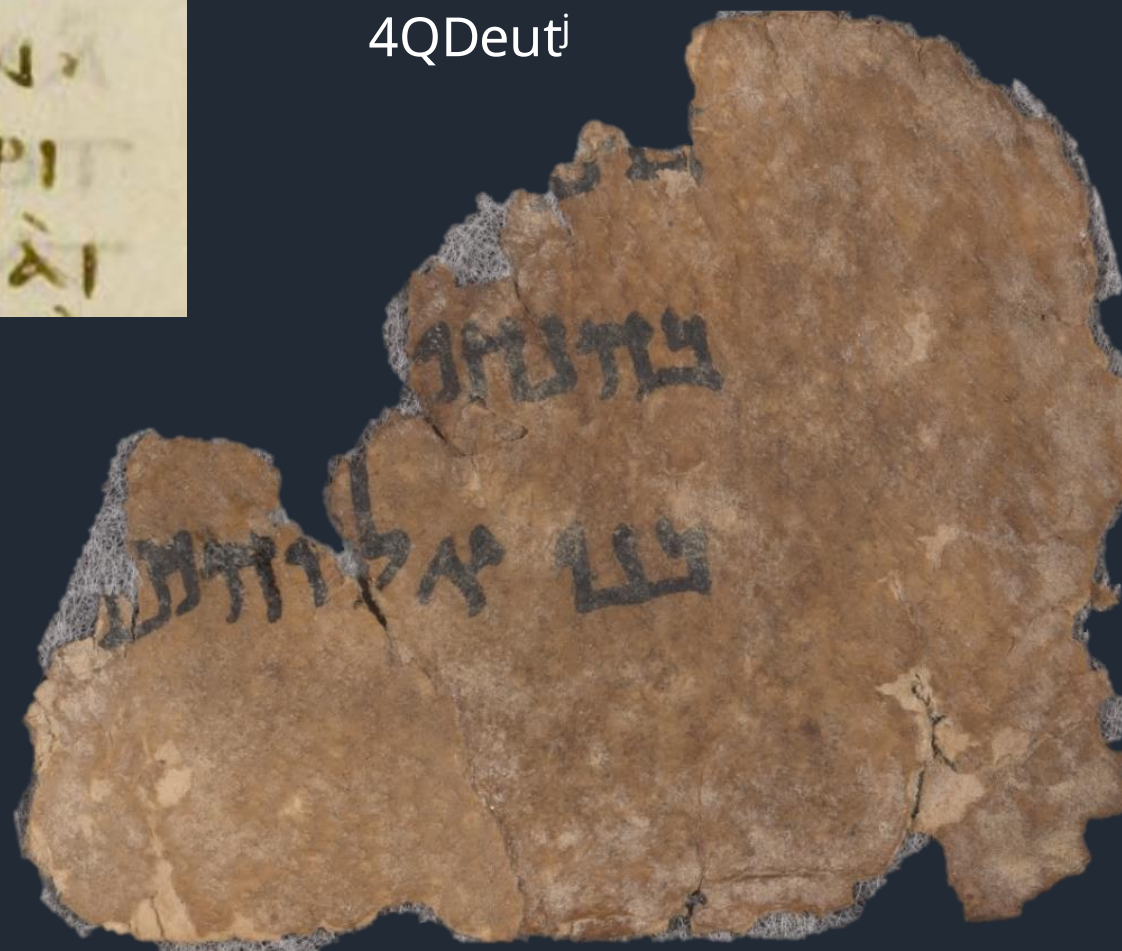
“According to the number of the angels of
God.”

κατὰ ἀριθμὸν ἀγγέλων θεοῦ

“[According to the number of] the sons of
God.”

[למספר] בני ישראל

4QDeutj



ORIGENIS HEXAPLORUM

QUAE SUPERSUNT;

SIVE

VETERUM INTERPRETUM GRAECORUM

IN TOTUM VETUS TESTAMENTUM

FRAGMENTA.

POST FLAMINIUM NOBILIUM, DRUSIUM, ET MONTEFALCONIUM,

ADHIBITA ETIAM VERSIONE SYRO-HEXAPLARI,

CONCINNAVIT, EMENDAVIT, ET MULTIS PARTIBUS AUXIT

FRIDERICUS FIELD, A.A.M.

COLLEGIÏ SS. TRIN. CANTAB. OLIM SOCIUS.

TOMUS I.

PROLEGOMENA.

GENESIS — ESTHER.

OXONII:

E TYPOGRAPHEO CLARENDONIANO.

M DCCC LXXV.

לְמִסְפַּר בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל. *Juxta numerum filiorum
Israelis. O'. κατὰ ἀριθμὸν ἀγγέλων θεοῦ.
'Α. εἰς ψῆφον υἱῶν Ἰσραήλ. Σ. Θ. καὶ τὸ
Σαμαρειτικόν· κατὰ ἀριθμὸν υἱῶν Ἰσραήλ.*¹²

manu 2^{da}: ἀνθρώπου.

¹² Hic multum variant testes.

Cod. X: 'Α. εἰς ψῆφον υἱῶν Ἰσραήλ. Σ. υἱοὺς Ἰσραήλ. Cod. 85: 'Α. εἰς ψῆφον υἱῶν θεοῦ (sic). υἱοὺς Ἰσραήλ. Cod. 58 in marg. sine nom.: εἰς ψῦφον (sic) υἱοὺς Ἰσραήλ. Nobil.: "Α. et S. κατὰ ἀριθμὸν υἱῶν Ἰσραήλ. Schol. αὐτῶ οἱ λοιποὶ ἐκδεδώκασιν ἐρμηνευταί· κατὰ ἀριθμὸν υἱῶν Ἰσραήλ." Anon. in Cat. Niceph. p. 1627: ἀντὶ τοῦ εἰπεῖν ἀγγέλους, 'Α. καὶ τὸ Σαμ. υἱοὺς Ἰσραήλ ἐξέδωκαν. Denique Masius ex Syro-hex.: "Aquilas et Theodotion verterunt ut in Hebraeo est."

12 Now the LORD had said to Abram:

“Get out of your country,
From your family
And from your father’s house,
To a land that I will show you.

²I will make you a great nation;
I will bless you
And make your name great;
And you shall be a blessing.

**³I will bless those who bless you,
And I will curse him who curses you;**
And in you all the families of the earth
shall be blessed.”



Genesis 12:1-3



Three Facets of a Country



A distinct territory



with a civil government



to protect the people in
the land



The
Individual



The
Family



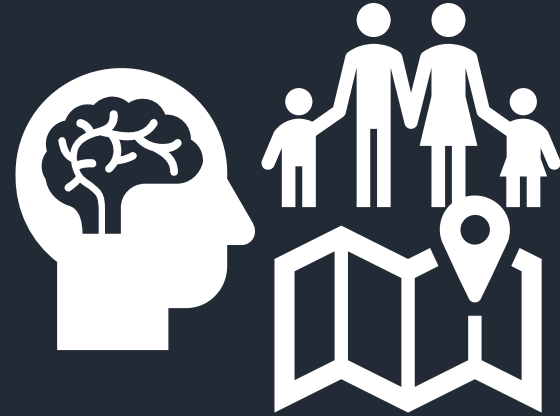
The
Country



How
Worldviews
Work



Some
Alternative
Models



Divine
Institution
Model

Divine Institutions

- How Worldviews Work
- Some Alternative Models
- Developing a Biblical Model

Post-Fascism

- Doctrinal Considerations
- Some Historical Development
- Evaluating Post-Fascism