

Shall I Bow To My Creator?

- **YES!**

- ancient monotheism
- ancient Israel
- Bible
- Fundamentalism

- **CREATOR/creature**

- God || man | nature
- everlasting distinctions

- **PERSONAL SOVEREIGN**

- ultimate responsibility

- **NO!**

- ancient myths
- eastern religions
- western philosophy
- modern theology

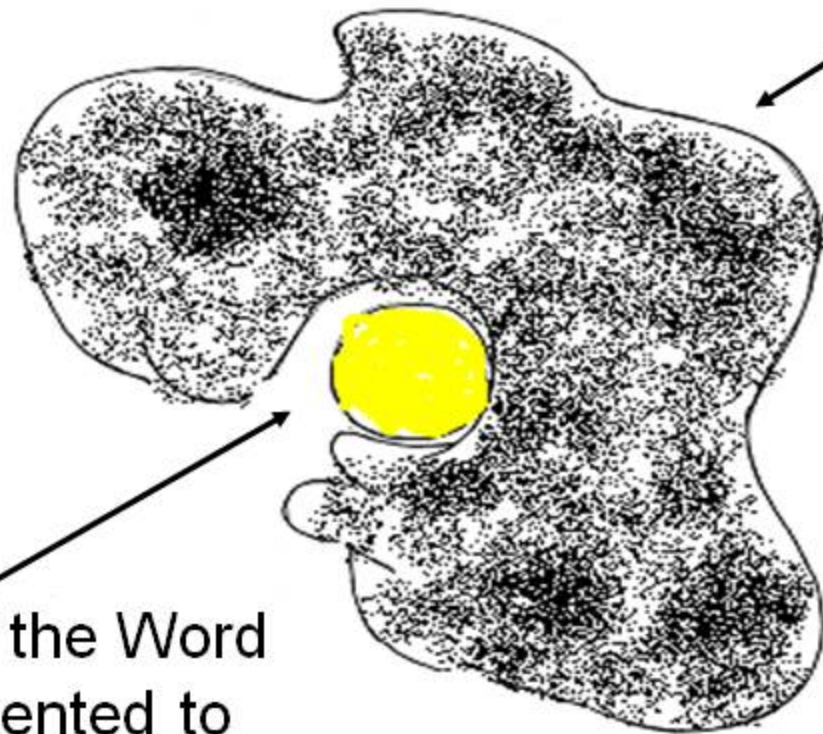
- **Continuity of Being**

- nature > gods > man
- transmutation / evolution

- **IMPERSONAL FATE / CHANCE**

- ultimate victimization

UNBELIEF SWALLOWING UP A BIT OF THE WORD OF GOD



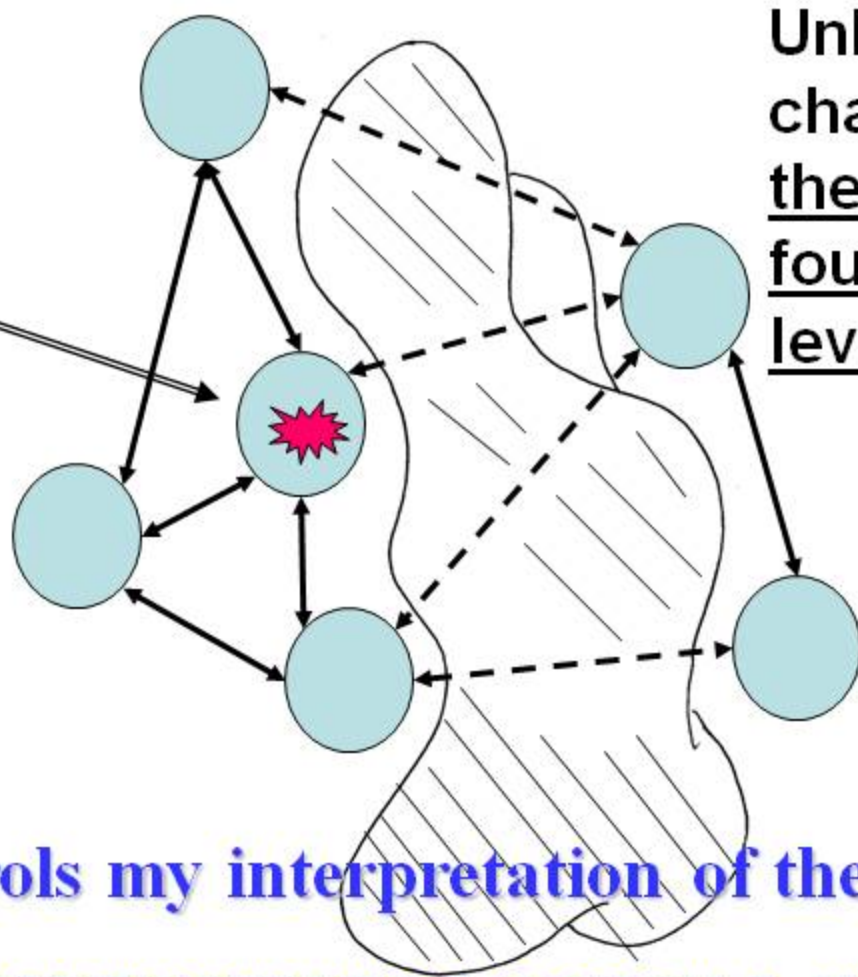
Unbelief
reinterpreting the
Word of God
within its own
categories

A portion of the Word
of God presented to
unbelief

“Unbelief controls my interpretation of the situation”

UNBELIEF FORCED INTO A CONTRAST IN MANY AREAS SIMULTANEOUSLY

A portion of the Word of God presented to unbelief as part of a network



“Word of God controls my interpretation of the situation”

EMPOWERED BY ESCHATOLOGICAL TRUTHS

S-V Treaty compared to Deuteronomy (part 1)

<u>Preamble</u> : identity of the “great king”	Exod 20:2a; Deut 1:1,5
<u>Historical Prologue</u> : motivation to obey from past benevolences	Exod 20:2b; Deut 1:6,9,19,26-28,34ff
<u>Stipulations</u> : obligations of the “vassal king”	Exod 20:3; Deut 5:1; 6:1-2

S-V Treaty compared to Deuteronomy (part 2)

<u>Provision for Deposit & Periodic Readings:</u> continuity, stability	Exod 25:16,21; Deut 10:2; 31:9-13,26
<u>Invocation of the gods as witnesses:</u> abiding standard of justice somewhere	Deut 32:1 cf. Isa. 1:2
<u>Cursings & blessings:</u> some sort of ethical rationality to existence	Lev 26: Deut 28
<u>Inaugural Ceremony:</u> public recognition	Exod 24; Josh 8:30-35; 24:1,14-15, 22-27.

Conclusions

Coherent exposition of the Yahweh-Israel personal relationship

Revelation of Israel's special place in history

Revelation of God's "condescension" to enter into a personal relationship with His creatures

Unilateral, not a parity, relationship →
"lord"/"servant" roles

Kingdom culture "constructed" by divine providence & revelation, not from random social dynamics

Example of how Word of God was taught

Contemporary pagan example: Rib-Addu to Pharaoh “to love Pharaoh is to serve him and to remain faithful to the status of vassal.”

Johannine examples: “If you love Me, keep my commandments” (14:15)

“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” (14:21)

“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and my Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words. . . .” (14:23)

“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love. . .” (15:10)

“By this we know that we [have come to] know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says I know Him, and does not keep His commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him.” (1 John 2:3-4)

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” (1 John 2:15)

Chiastic Structure

5:6-10 God alone is worthy of worship and service

5:11 Accuracy in language about God

5:12-15 Management of labor and property

5:16 Society depends upon functional
marriage & family

5:17 Life is to be respected &
preserved

5:18 Marriage is to be protected

5:19 Property is to be protected

5:20 Accuracy in language of judicial proceedings

5:21 Self is not worthy of worship and service

God's Design of Society

LIFE (<i>protected</i>)	LIFE (<i>jeopardized</i>)
MARRIAGE & FAMILY (strong & functioning)	MARRIAGE & FAMILY (weak & dysfunctional)
LABOR & PROPERTY (respected & productive)	LABOR & PROPERTY (demeaned & wasted)
INTEGRITY of COMMUNICATION (consistently states truth)	INTEGRITY of COMMUNICATION (deceitfully professes truth for agendas)
HEART ALLEGIANCE (to God)	HEART ALLEGIANCE (to self)