

Law, Grace & Citizenship

North Stonington Bible Church
1-3 Sept 2012

SECULAR *LEGAL* HOSTILITY TO BIBLICAL FAITH

“This essay explores the choice many traditionalist Christian parents (both fundamentalist and evangelical) make to leave public schools in order to teach their children at home, thus in most instances escaping meaningful oversight. . . .Society need not and should not tolerate the inculcation of absolutist views that undermine toleration of difference. . . .If a parent subscribes to *an absolutist belief system premised on the notion that it was handed down by a creator, that it (like the Ten Commandments) is etched in stone and that all other systems are wrong, the essential lessons of a civic education. . . .often seem deeply challenging and suspect. . . .Such ‘private truths’ have no place in the public arena, including the public schools.*”

Catherine Ross, “Fundamentalist Challenges to Core Democratic Values: Exit and Homeschooling”, *William and Mary Bill of Rights Journal* 18 (May 2010) (She is professor at George Washington Law School)

SECULAR *LEGAL* HOSTILITY TO BIBLICAL FAITH

[There must be legal and constitutional limits on the ability of homeschooling parents “to teach their children idiosyncratic and illiberal beliefs and values” . . .

[Government control must be exercised against] “parents [who] want to teach against the enlightenment. . . .

Parental control over children’s basic education flows from the state (rather than visa versa). States delegate power over children’s basic education to parents. . . .”

Kimberly A. Yurako, “Education Off the Grid...” , *California Law Review* 96 (February 2008) (She is a professor at the Northwestern University School of Law)

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

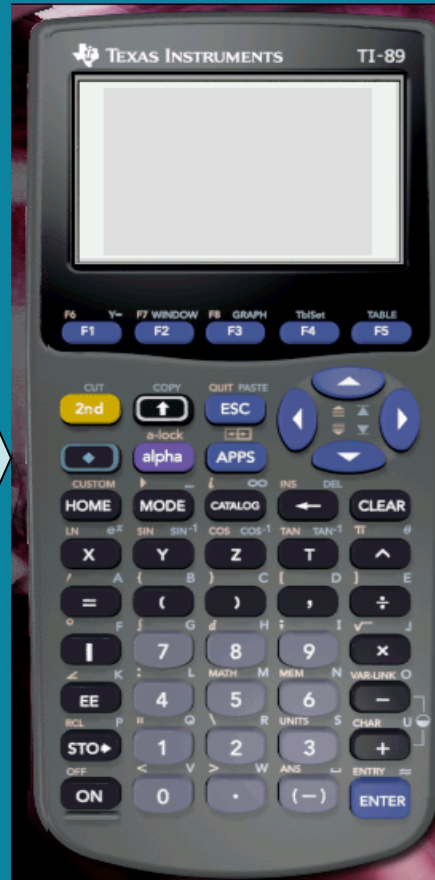
- **IMPERSONAL FATE / CHANCE**

- ultimate victimization

THE NATURE OF REASONING

Propositions

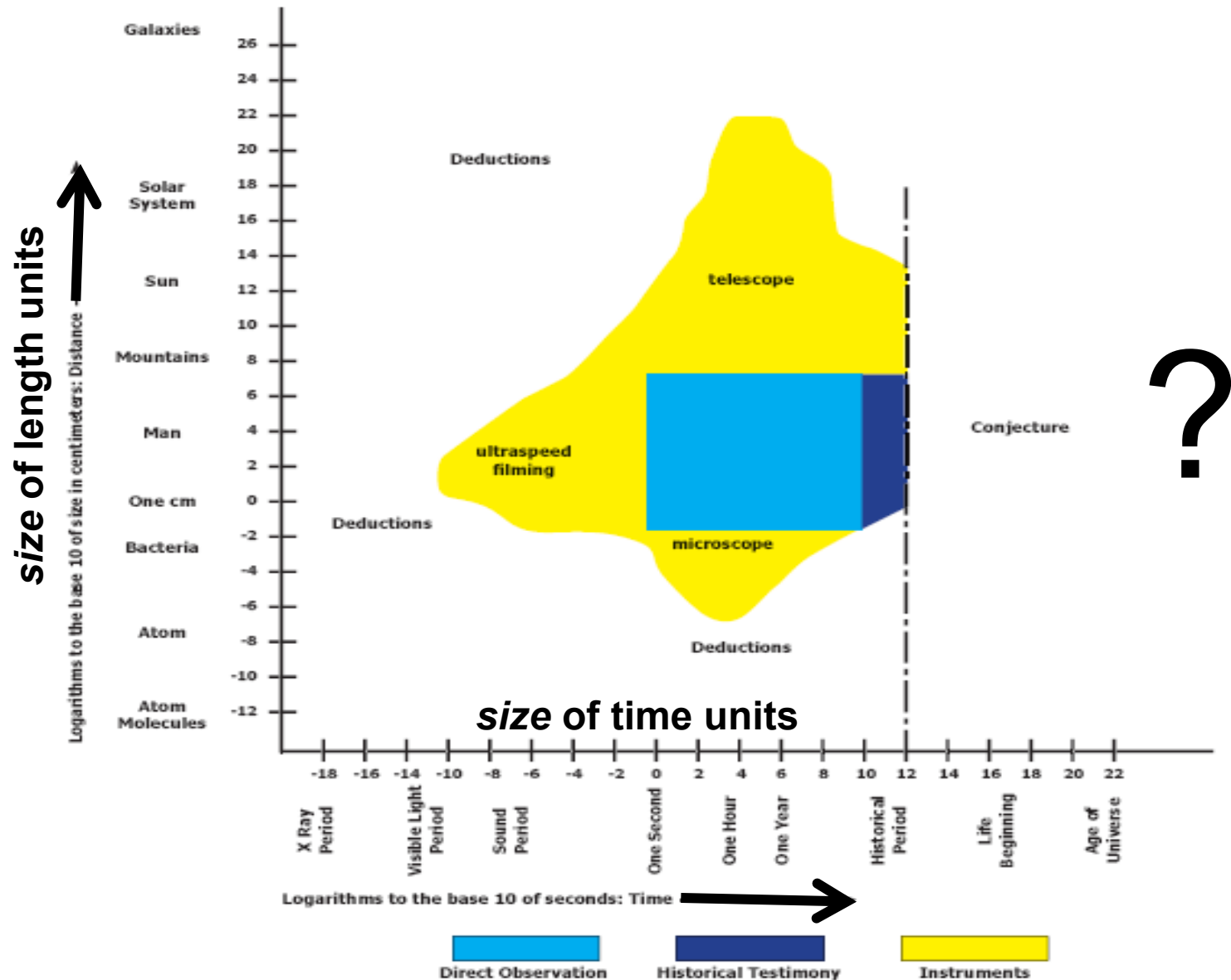
Categories



Conclusions

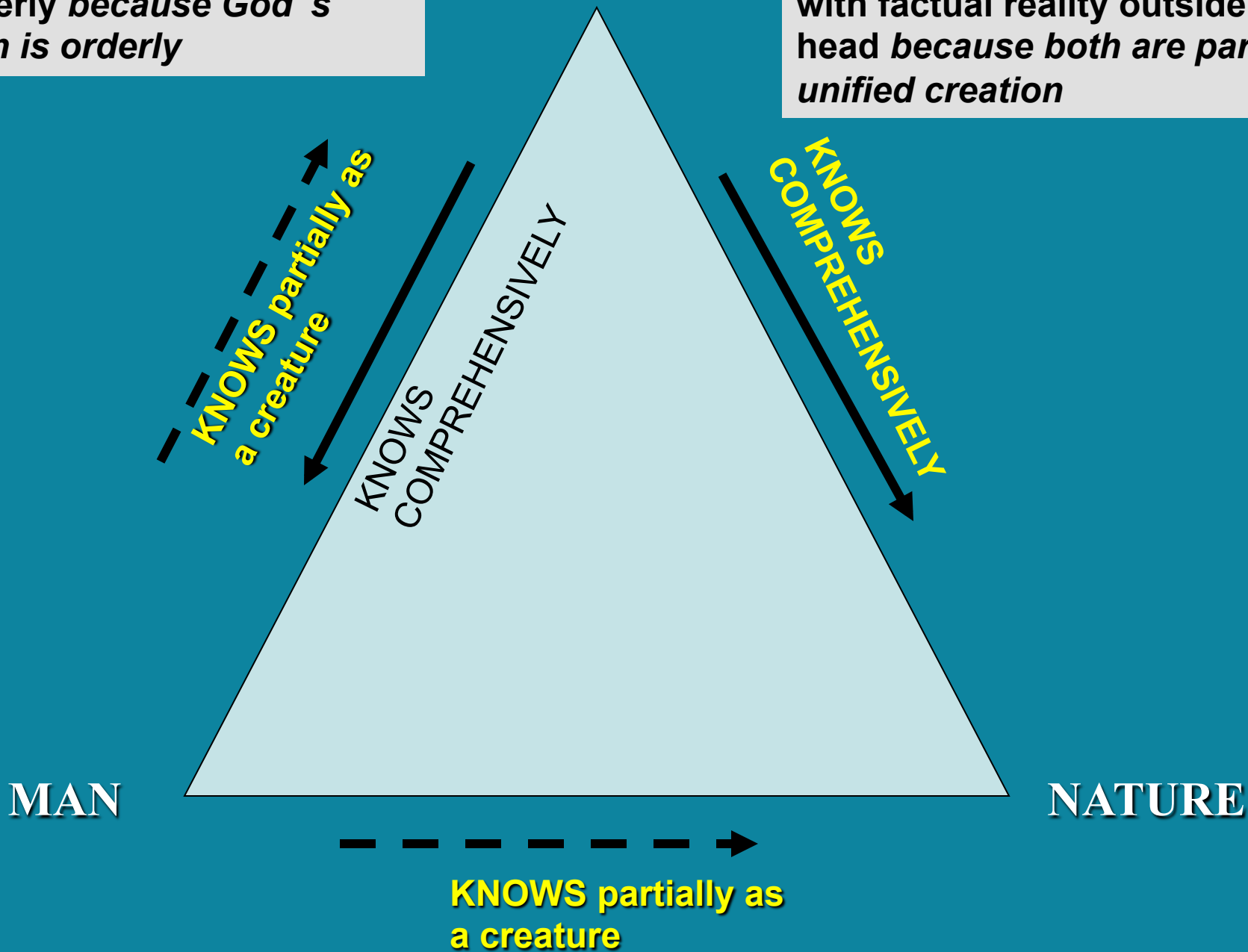
Logical Rules

Limitations of Observation-based (empirical) Knowledge



Consistency criterion:
man's thoughts can be orderly *because God's plan is orderly*

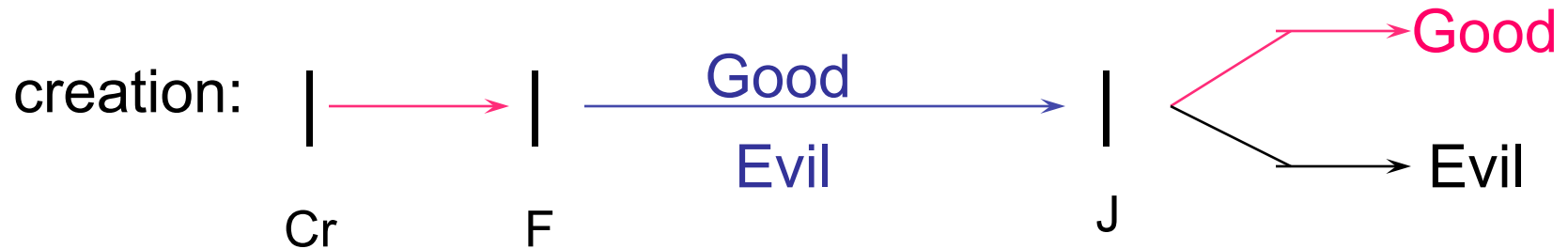
Correspondence criterion:
man's ideas can correspond with factual reality outside his head *because both are part of a unified creation*



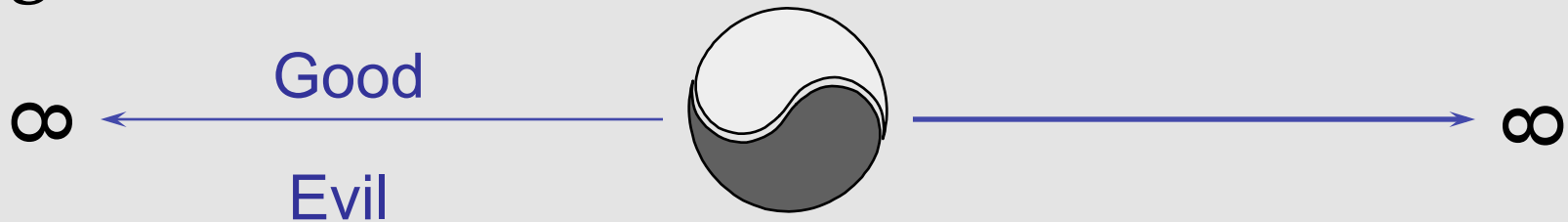
Who Has the REAL “Evil Problem”?

Christian: Good/Evil Mix is “Abnormal” & Temporary

Creator: ∞  ∞



Pagan: Good/Evil Mix is Forever “Normal”



As mortals, we remain in various kinds of trouble; and salvation strikes us as an all-consuming, universal concern. Yet the angels of heaven have never been saved; the demons cannot be saved; and the redeemed in heaven have nothing from which to be saved. If life in the resurrected state has a purpose, goals must exist beyond salvation. . .

Origin of the Nations, (Master Book Publishers, 1984) 279-80

CIVIL GOVERNMENT

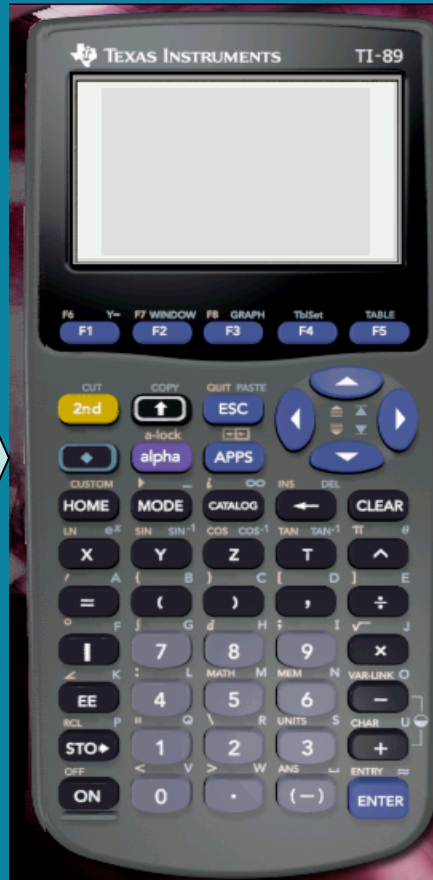


“Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood will be shed; for in the image of God He made man” Gen. 9:6

THE NATURE OF REASONING

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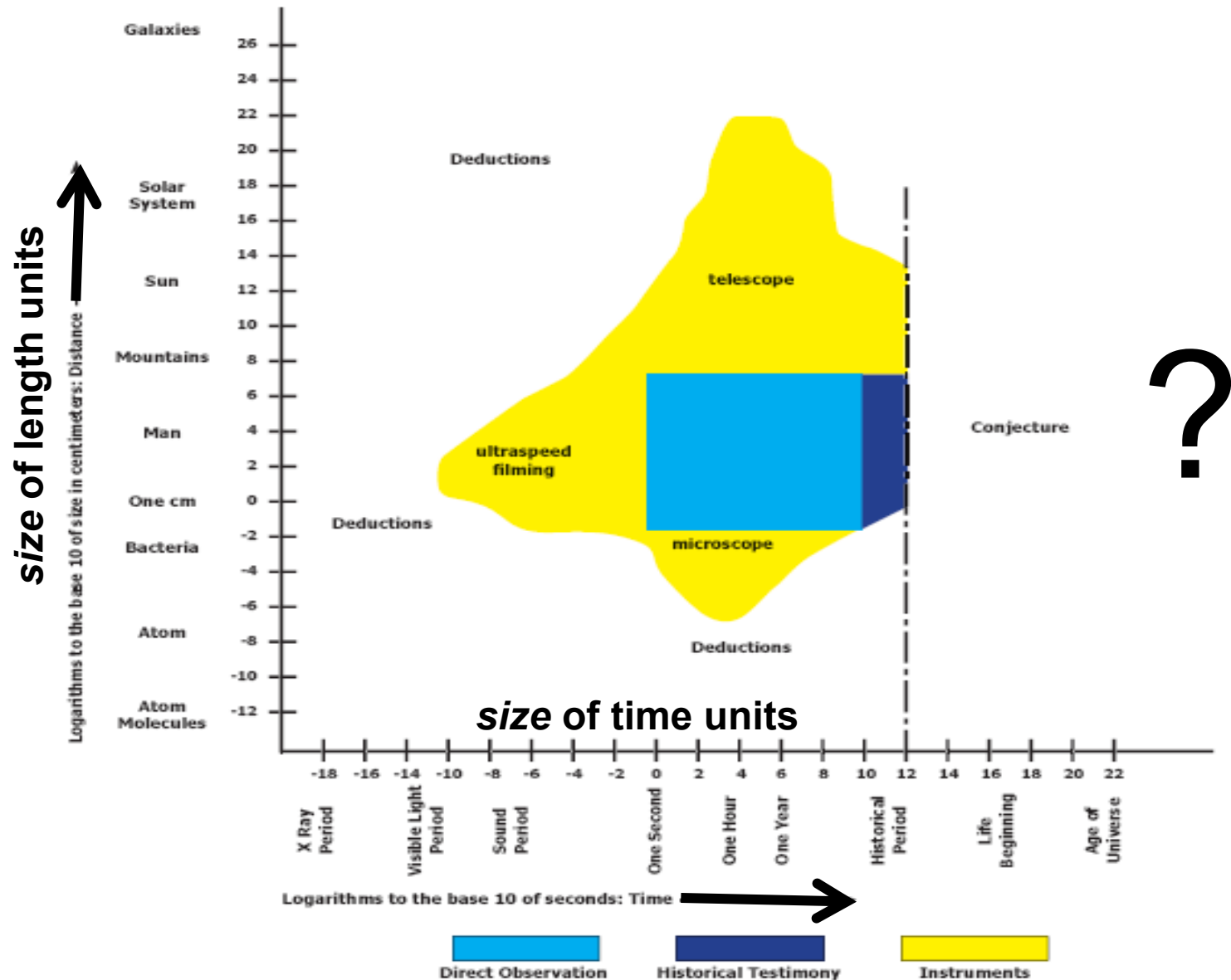
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Conclusions

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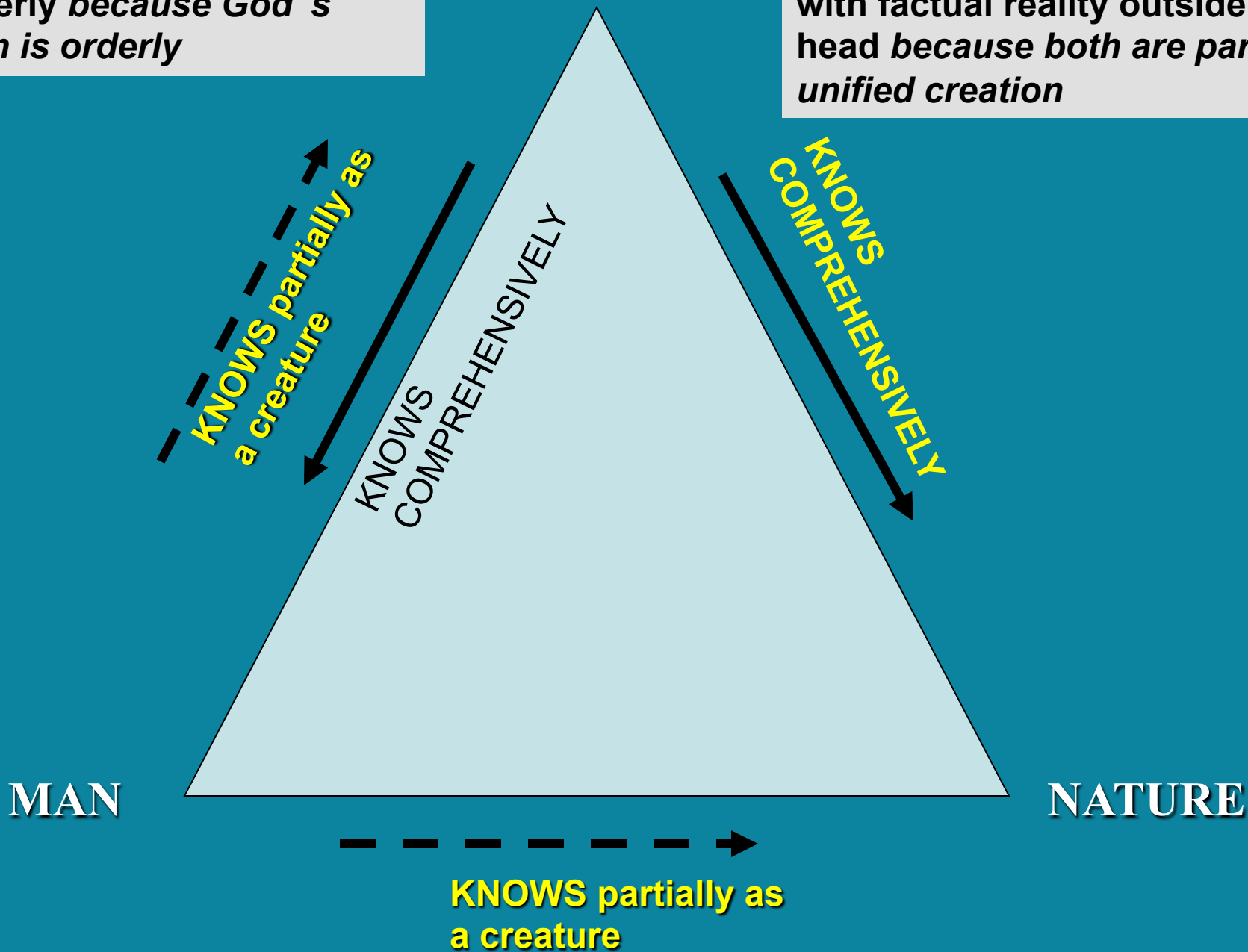
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Reconstructed from: Julio Garrido, "The Theory of Evolution and the Limitation of Human Knowledge", CRSQ, March 1970, Vol 6, pp 185-187.

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“The rebellious people are tired of being named, of being the recipient of a name. They want to name themselves. . . This means becoming independent. . . It is the desire to exclude God from his creation. And it is this solidarity in a name, this unity in separation from God, which was to keep men from ever again being separated on earth. . . .”

Jacques Ellul, *The Meaning of the City* (Eerdmans Pub Co., 1970) 15-16

"Just as polytheism continued in an underground form through the Middle Ages and lives on today in modern cults of witchcraft and Satanism, *the imagination of Western man was never fully Christianized.* . . .The modern idolatrous imagination still refuses to believe that the promises of the living God are sure and that his grace is sufficient for all our needs. *It still looks to other powers and other authorities for support and guidance, transferring to them what belongs to the Creator alone.*"

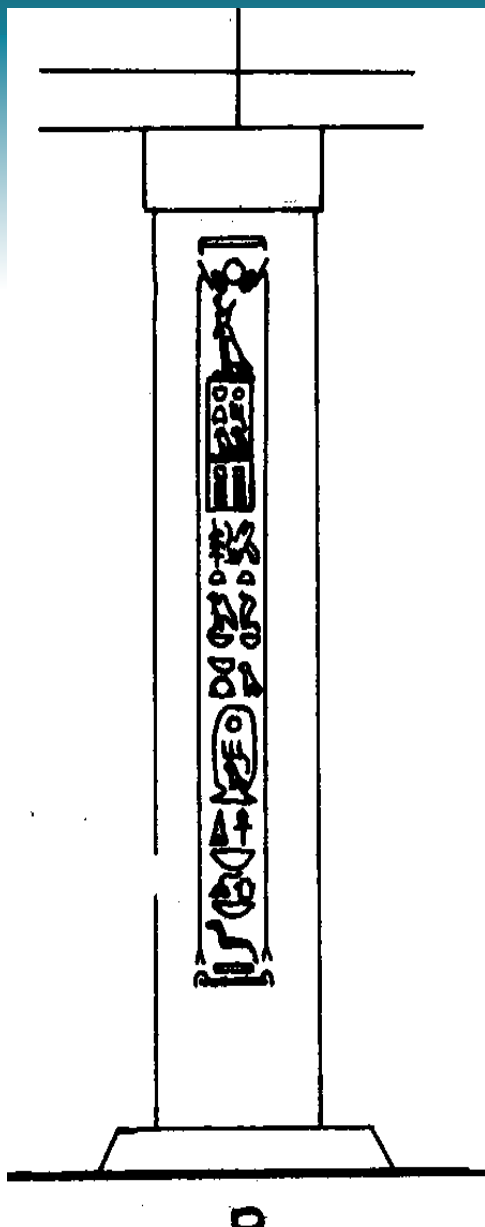
Kenneth Hamilton, *To Turn From Idols* (Eerdmans Pub Co., 1973) 40-41

The Anti-Exclusivity “Argument”

1. All knowledge is derived from empirically-sensed reality
2. Religious ideas concern extra-sensory reality (God's existence).
3. Therefore all religious ideas are mere private speculations
4. Therefore no religious idea can claim to be true knowledge.
5. Therefore no religious idea can claim superiority over all other religious ideas

"[Pharaoh] was the fountainhead of all authority, all power, and all wealth. The famous saying of Louis XIV, *l'etat c'est moi*, was levity and presumption when it was uttered, but could have been offered by Pharaoh as a statement of fact in which his subjects concurred. It would have summed up adequately [Egyptian] political philosophy."

Henri Frankfort, *Ancient Egyptian Religion* (Harper & Roe Publishers, 1948) 31



“Wherever a society has a naturalistic religion, grounded on the concept of continuity, man faces the total power of the state. . . .Where there is no transcendental law and power in a separate and omnipotent being, then power has a wholly immanent and immediate source in a state, group, or person, and it is beyond appeal. The state becomes the saving power and the source of law. . . .[It] becomes god walking on earth. . . .”

Rousas Rushdoony, *The One and the Many* (Craig Press, 1971) 60-61



“In the politics of guilt. . .man will progressively demand of the state a redemptive role. What he cannot do personally, i.e., to save himself, he demands that the state do for him, so that the state, as man enlarged, becomes the human savior of man. . . .The politics of guilt cultivates the slave mind in order to enslave men, and to have the people themselves demand an end to liberty. Slaves, true slaves, want to be rescued from freedom; their greatest fear is liberty. . . . As a result, the slave mind clings to statist or state slavery, cradle-to-grave welfare care, as a fearful child clings to its mother. The advantage of slavery is precisely this, security in the master or in the state.”

Rousas J Rushdoony, *The Politics of Guilt and Pity* (Craig Press, 1970) 9, 28, 29-30



Chiastic Structure (X)

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

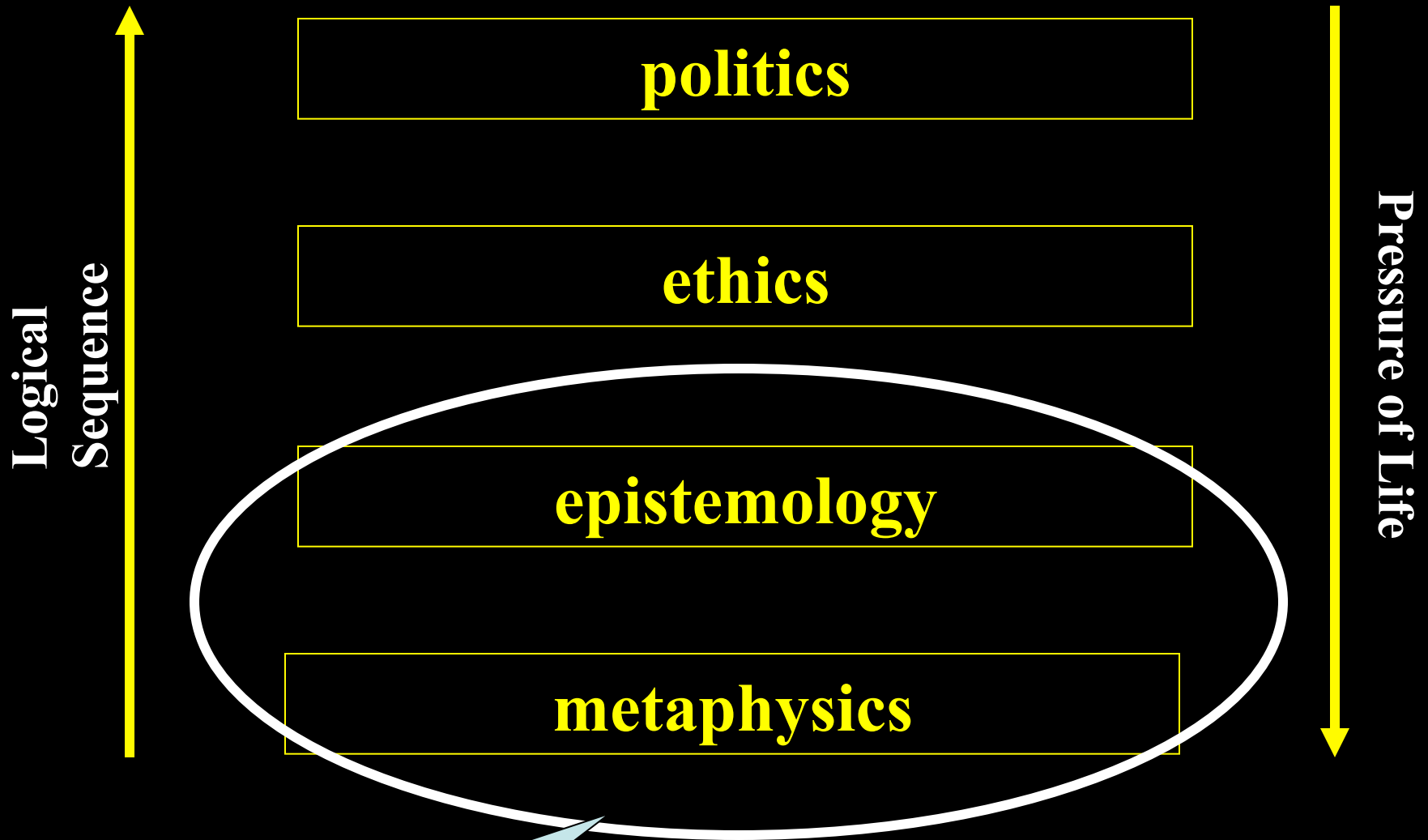
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God's Design of Society

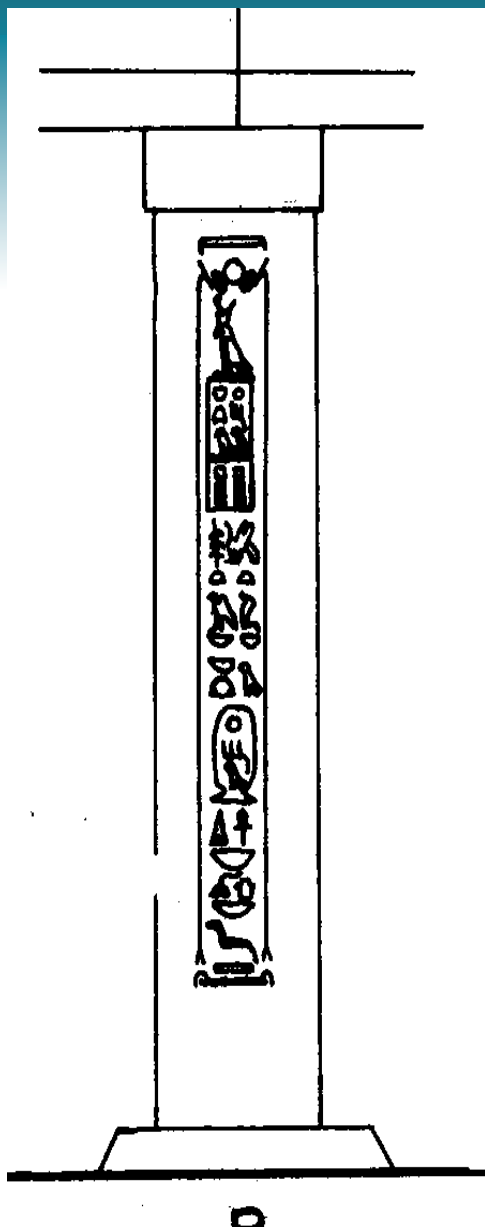
LIFE (<i>protected</i>)	LIFE (<i>jeopardized</i>)
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Inter-weaving of the commandments

Example	Command Violated	Rationale
False prophet	1,2,5	Violates God's Word, prophet's authority
Misuse of animals	3,7,9	Violates their life-giving purpose, unique design, value
Perpetual labor & debt	4,8,9	Violates faith in God's provision, demeans designed freedom from debt-forced labor
Taking property of another	7,8,9	Violates God's ownership boundary, God's grant, honor of the owner
Modern socialism	8,9,10	Ditto



Yahweh or an idol?



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Two Economies

Interest Rate Component	Domestic (Israel)	Foreign (pagan nations)
risk of default	<i>lower due to personal integrity (Ps 37:21)</i>	<i>higher due to lack of integrity</i>
forfeiture of present use of money	<i>optimistic about the future (God's linear progress)</i>	<i>pessimistic about the future (pagan cyclic view of history)</i>
inflation premium	<i>Inflation forbidden by 8th and 9th commandments (Lev 19:35-36; Isa 1:22)</i>	<i>inflation ubiquitous in ancient pagan world (coin clipping, mixing base metals with silver and gold)</i>

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Structure of Chapters 6 & 21

Chapter 6	Chapter 21
6:1-9,20-25 The commands & the procedures of learning them well	21:1-9,22-23 Protocols of unsolved murder & execution
6:10-19 The (heart) relationship with Yahweh	21:10-21 Family relationships

“The State has become a pseudo-family, educating children according to its standards and presuppositions, funding health care, paying for men’s retirement, and so forth. To do this, the State must decapitalize the family through taxation. The State, unlike a biblically defined family, does not create wealth. It consumes wealth as it redistributes it from one group to another. . . . Voters do not recognize the cause-and-effect relationship between the State’s offer of support for the aged. They do not recognize the implicit legal claim which the State is making: reducing the ability of economically successful men to pass on wealth to their heirs. As voters transfer more and more responsibility to the State for the care of the aged, the State steadily becomes the substitute heir.” p 786 Gary

North, Deuteronomy commentary

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Progressive Use of Millennium Truth

“We need a restoration of the millennial hope which the Catholic church dropped out of eschatology. It was crude in its form but wholly right in its substance. . . .We hope for such an order for humanity as we hope for heaven for ourselves.”

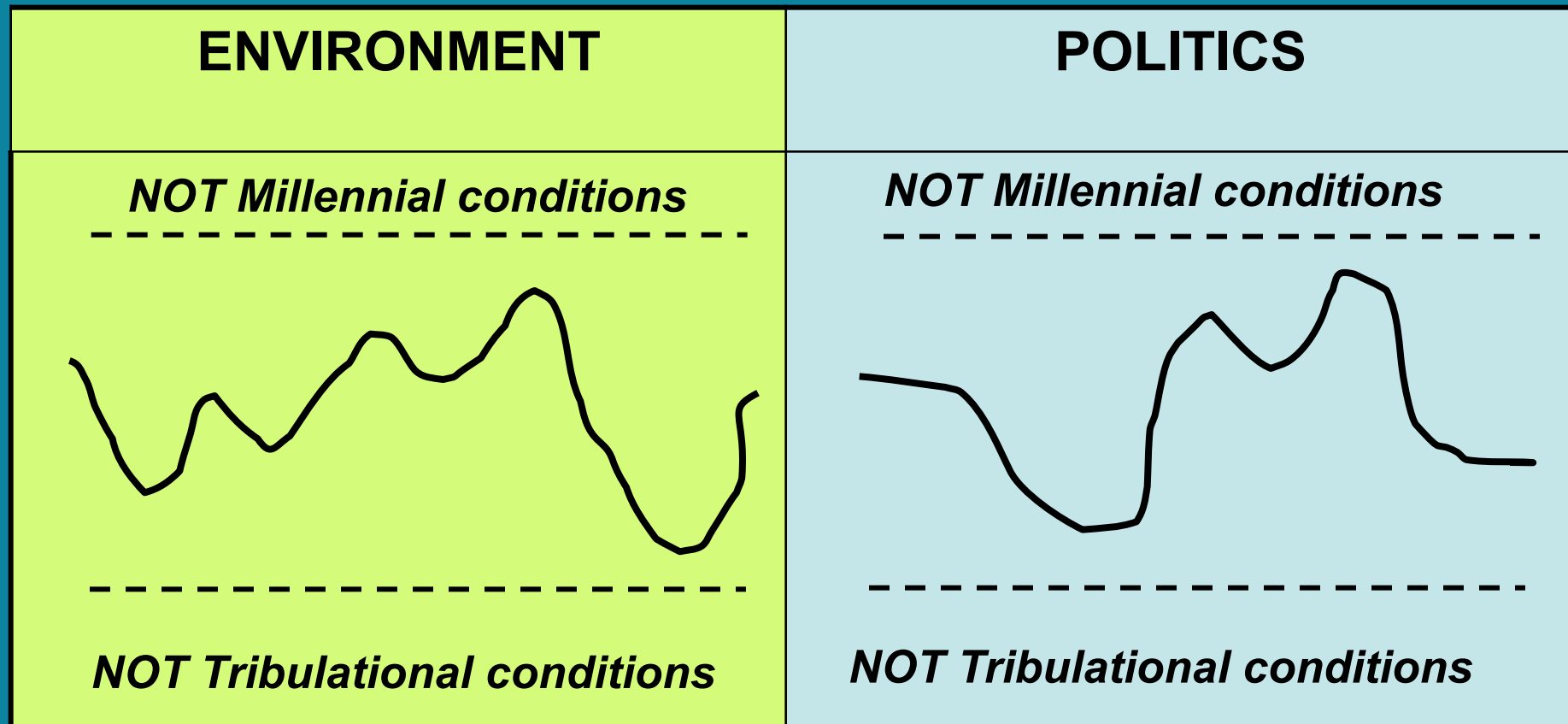
Walter Rauschenbusch, *A Theology for the Social Gospel* (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1922), 88

The Founders' Wisdom

“In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself.”

James Madison, "Federalist 51," *The US Constitution: A Reader*, ed. Hillsdale College Politics Faculty (Hillsdale, MI: Hillsdale College Press, 2012), 288.

IMPLICATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENT & POLITICS IN THE CHURCH AGE

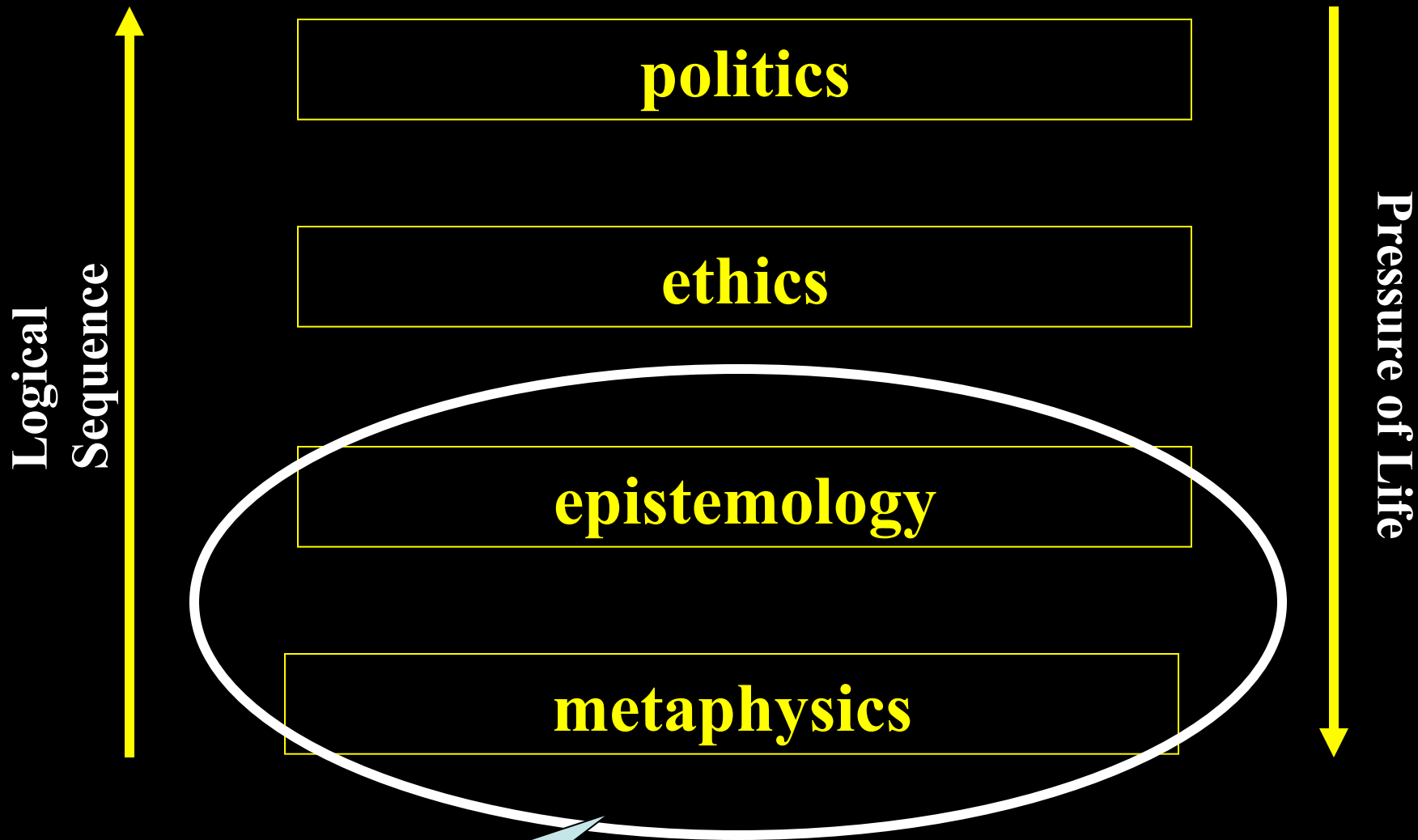


***“Dominion-friendliness”
of natural environment***

Cultural righteousness

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Yahweh or an idol?

Effective Military Strategy

"Effective results in war have rarely been attained unless the approach has had such indirectness as to ensure the opponent's unreadiness to meet it. The indirectness has usually been physical, and always psychological. In strategy, the longest way round is often the shortest way home. . . .The aim is to weaken resistance before attempting to overcome it; and the effect is best attained by drawing the other party out of his defences."

B. H. Liddell Hart, *Strategy*, 2nd ed., (New York: Frederick A. Praeger Publishers, 1967) 25,18

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ENVELOPMENTAL STRATEGY GROW THE CHURCH

NT CANON

CONTINUITY OF BEING

**TRINITY & PERSON
OF CHRIST**

IDEALISTIC LOGIC

**CROSS: SATISFACTION
OF DIVINE JUSTICE**

ARBITRARY JUSTICE

JUSTIFICATION: SOLA FIDE

HUMAN MERIT

**ECCLESIOLOGY &
ESCHATOLOGY**

DIVINE STATE-SAVIOR

UNIVERSAL HISTORY: CREATIONISM

"NATURAL" HISTORY

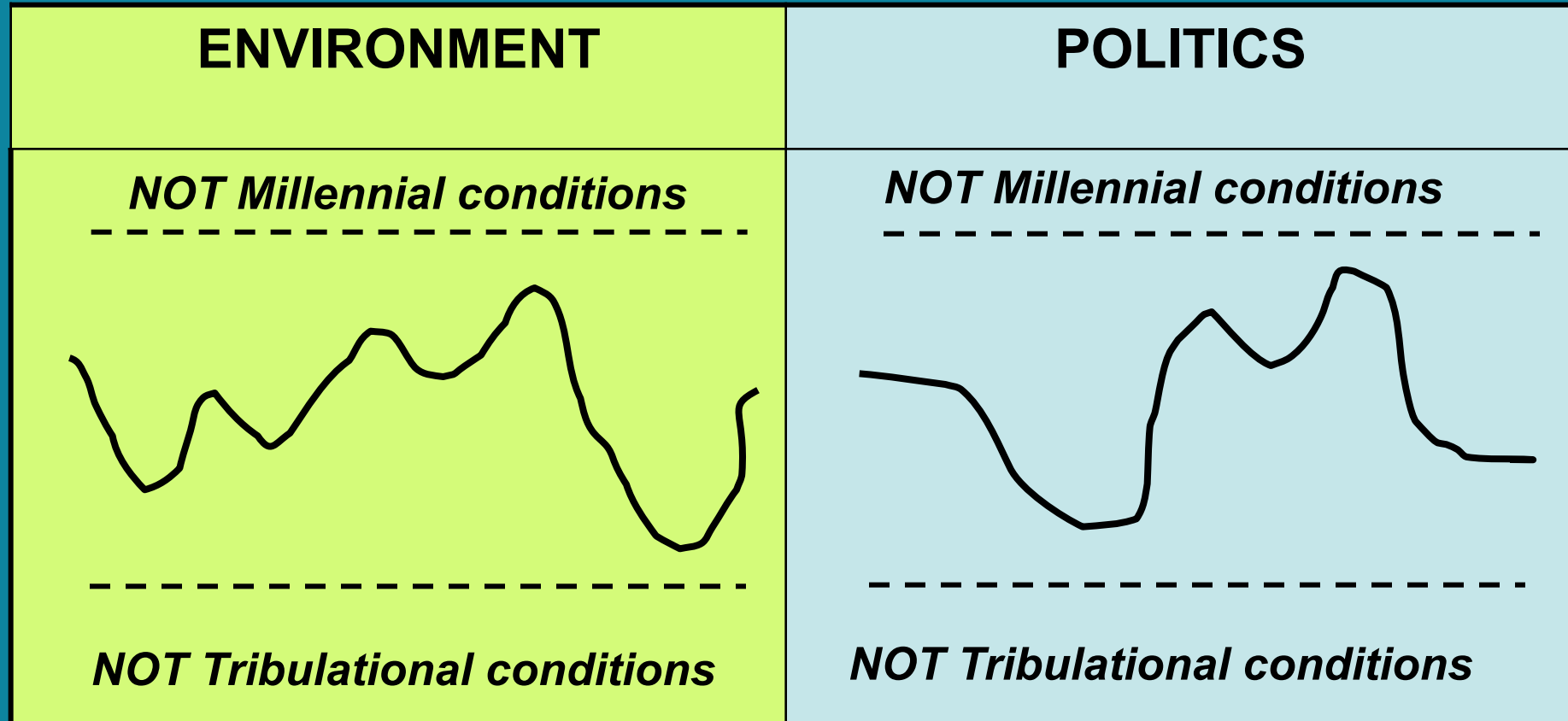
THE COMPLETED BODY OF CHRIST

Quantitatively--involves missionary activity by different parts of the body to acquire representation of all people groups;

Qualitatively--

- victory over antichrist teachers within local churches (**1 John 2:19**)
- faithfulness to death (martyrdom) (**Rev 2:10**)
- accumulated victories by particular believers in particular circumstances at particular times that show awareness and appreciation of the Word of God (**Eph 1:15-23; 3:14-19**)
- Bema seat purging of work that can't stand up to forensic challenge (**1 Cor 3:12-15**)

IMPLICATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENT & POLITICS IN THE CHURCH AGE



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CITIZENSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

“There is not a single passage in the Bible which would lead the most devout believer in the inspiration and authority of the Scripture to refrain from performing all the duties required of a good citizen. . . The Christian patriot is interested vitally, always and everywhere in human welfare. . . . He will not permit the godless, the theological liberal, or the crafty politician to manifest more concern for his neighbor's welfare than he will manifest.”

James Edward Congdon, "Christian Patriotism," *Moody Institute Monthly*, November 1936, 112.

ROMAN LAW OR GOD'S LAW?

"Why do all the men with Paul--Timothy, Epaphras, Mark, Aristarchus, Demos, and Luke--protect a fugitive slave? By doing so, they have become complicit in his crime. Under Roman law of the first century after Christ, anyone who harbored a fugitive slave was not only liable for reimbursing the slave owner for all the income lost because of the slave's flight (what we would call civil damages) but was also subject to severe criminal penalties."

John W. Robbins, *Slavery and Christianity: Paul's Letter to Philemon* (Uncoi, TN: The Trinity Foundation, 2007), 33-34.

The Risk Costs of Violating God's Design Due to Valuation Errors & Bad Choices:

\$112 B / year

“Bail-outs” funded by tax-payers

A Report to the Nation
Benjamin Scafidi, Principal Investigator

The Taxpayer Costs of Divorce and Unwed Childbearing

First-Ever Estimates for the Nation
and All Fifty States

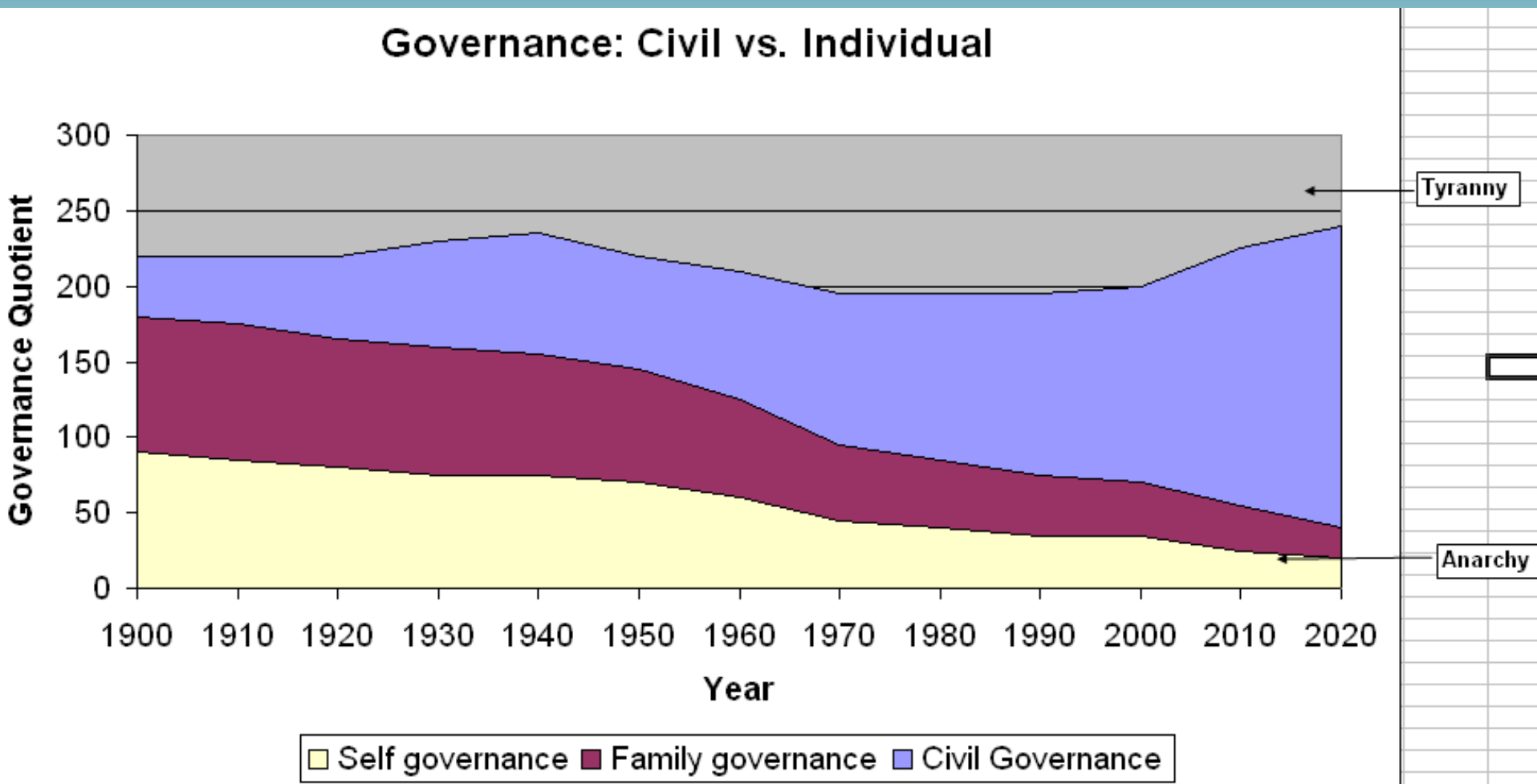


Institute for American Values
Institute for Marriage and Public Policy

Georgia Family Council
Families Northwest

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Self / Family / Civil Governance = Zero-Sum



Law, Grace & Citizenship

Handouts, Audio & Slides will be available at:
www.bibleframework.com