North Stonington Bible Church

Labor Day Conference

September 2016

"That Man is the product of causes which had no prevision of the end they were achieving; that his origin, his growth, his hope and fears, his loves and beliefs, are but the outcome of accidental collocations of atoms; that no fire, no heroism, no intensity of thought and feeling, can preserve an individual life beyond the grave; that all the labours of the ages, all the devotion, all the inspiration, all the noonday brightness of human genius are destined to extinction in the vast death of the solar system, and that the whole temple of Man's achievement must inevitably be buried beneath the debris of a universe in ruin—all these things, if not quite beyond dispute, are yet so nearly certain, that no philosophy that rejects them can hope to stand. Only within the scaffolding of these truths, <u>only on the firm foundation of unyielding despair, can the soul's habitation henceforth be safely built."</u>

Bertrand Russell, "A Free Man's Religion" (1903) essay in <u>Mysticism and Logic</u> (1917) pg. 45-46

Molds of Culture Since 1600—Part 1

Reformation: faith alone in Christ alone [1600s]

Enlightenment: reason alone in Man alone [1700s]

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Today's University Students

"Our culture has replaced self-discovery with self-construction. Everybody is expected to create and manage his or her own identity. Personal achievement thus becomes the main means of justifying one's existence. The pressure that this mindset creates is devastating. . . . Most students . . . are desperate to find a purpose beyond their own meager hopes and wishes."
RZIM Team Member, University of Massachusetts, 2016

Today's Successful Christian Students

1. "Know what they believe, and they know why they believe. Their worldview is big enough for the world. . . .

2. They choose their community based on others who have a biblical worldview. They surround themselves with people who have a common coherent vision for life in the world. . . ."

Steven Garber, *The Fabric of Faithfulness*

From Whence the Framework Approach?

1. **Unfamiliarity with the flow of biblical revelation in history**

2. **Piecemeal use of Bible doctrine**

3. **Bifurcation of reason and historical experience**

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)

John Dewey on Christianity & Democracy

"I cannot understand how any realization of the democratic ideal as a vital moral and spiritual ideal in human affairs is possible without the surrender of the conception of the basic division to which supernatural Christianity is committed." [*A Common Faith*, pg. 84)

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
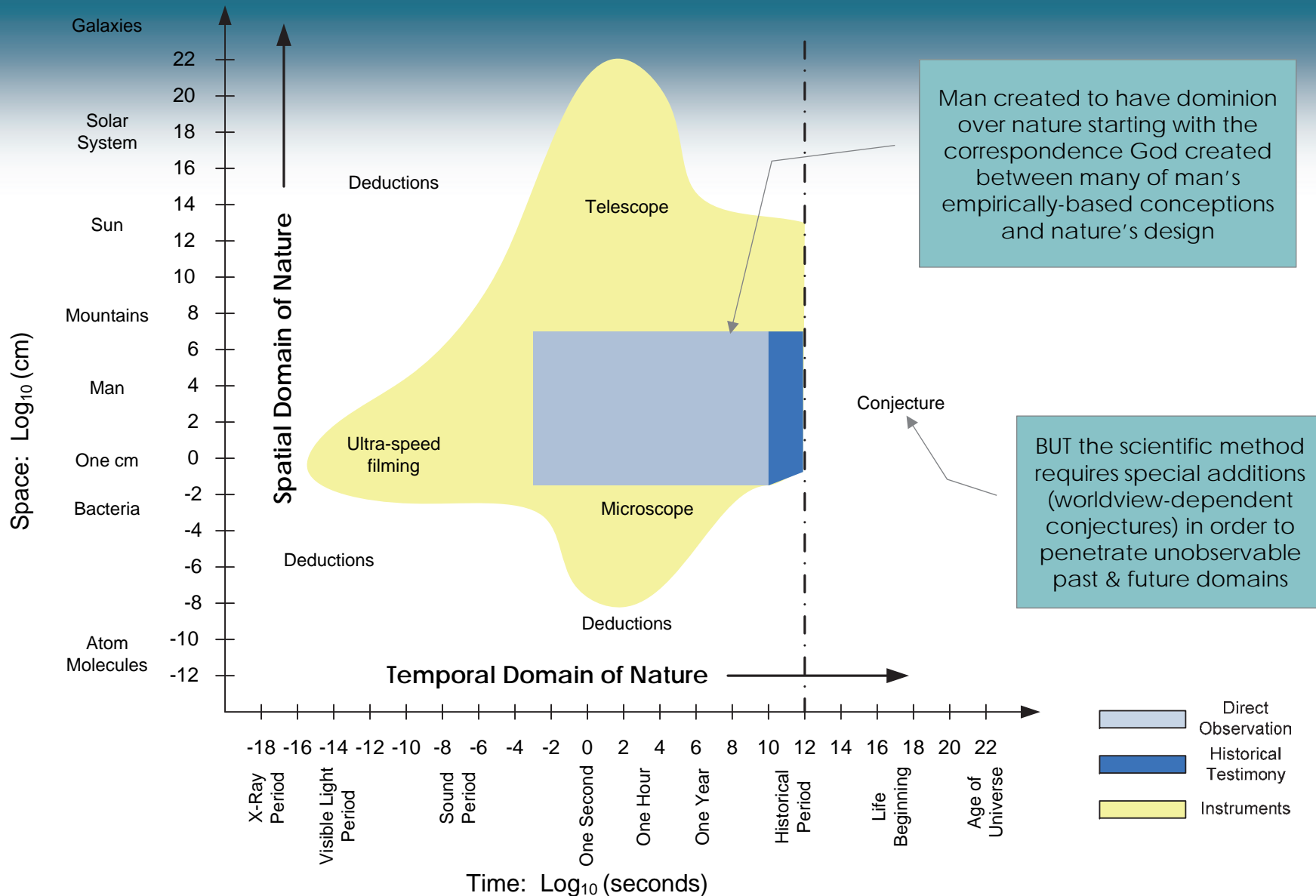 - western philosophy
  - modern theology
- **Continuity of Being**
  - nature > gods > man
  - transmutation / evolution
- **IMPERSONAL FATE & CHANCE**
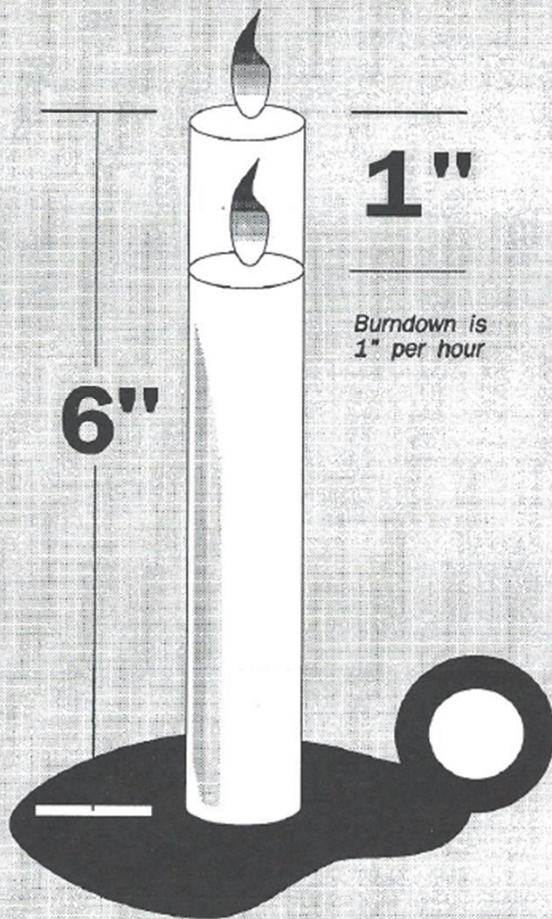 - ultimate victimization

Limits of Empirical Knowledge

Space: Log₁₀ (cm) — Galaxies, Solar System, Sun, Mountains, Man, One cm, Bacteria, Atom Molecules

Spatial Domain of Nature

Deductions

Telescope

Ultra-speed filming

Microscope

Deductions

Deductions

Temporal Domain of Nature

Conjecture

Man created to have dominion over nature starting with the correspondence God created between many of man's empirically-based conceptions and nature's design

BUT the scientific method requires special additions (worldview-dependent conjectures) in order to penetrate unobservable past & future domains

Time: Log₁₀ (seconds)

X-Ray Period, Visible Light Period, Sound Period, One Second, One Hour, One Year, Historical Period, Life Beginning, Age of Universe

Direct Observation
Historical Testimony
Instruments

THE BURNING CANDLE

When was the candle lit?

1"

Burndown is 1" per hour

6"

Starting length (in)

Burn rate (in/hr)

Burn duration (hr)

Measured length now (in)

$$L_o - [L/t] * T = L_m$$

Solving for burn duration. . .

$$\frac{[L_o - L_m]}{[L/t]} = T$$

Since, when we look out into the cosmos, we are looking back in time, due to the finite speed of light, we are then looking at the events of Day 4 as they are actually happening. . . . We are seeing the after-effects of [the expansion of the universe]. . . . The very rapid acceleration of the cosmos during Day 4 of Creation Week caused Earth clocks to run very slowly compared to cosmic clocks. This, then, provides the massive time dilation needed to allow light to travel the vast distances of the universe, even billions of light-years *in a matter of days*—as measured by Earth clocks.
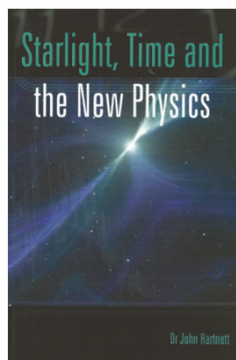
John Hartnett, *Starlight, Time and the New Physics* (Creation Ministries International, 2007)

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Worshipping Nature in NYC

Why Greens Hate Christianity – Part 1

"Many modern greens loathe the Judeo-Christian worldview and the western cultural superstructure built on its foundations. . . . [They] believe the biblical command to subdue and fill the earth is the primary reason why the present day planet lies in ecological ruin. . . ."
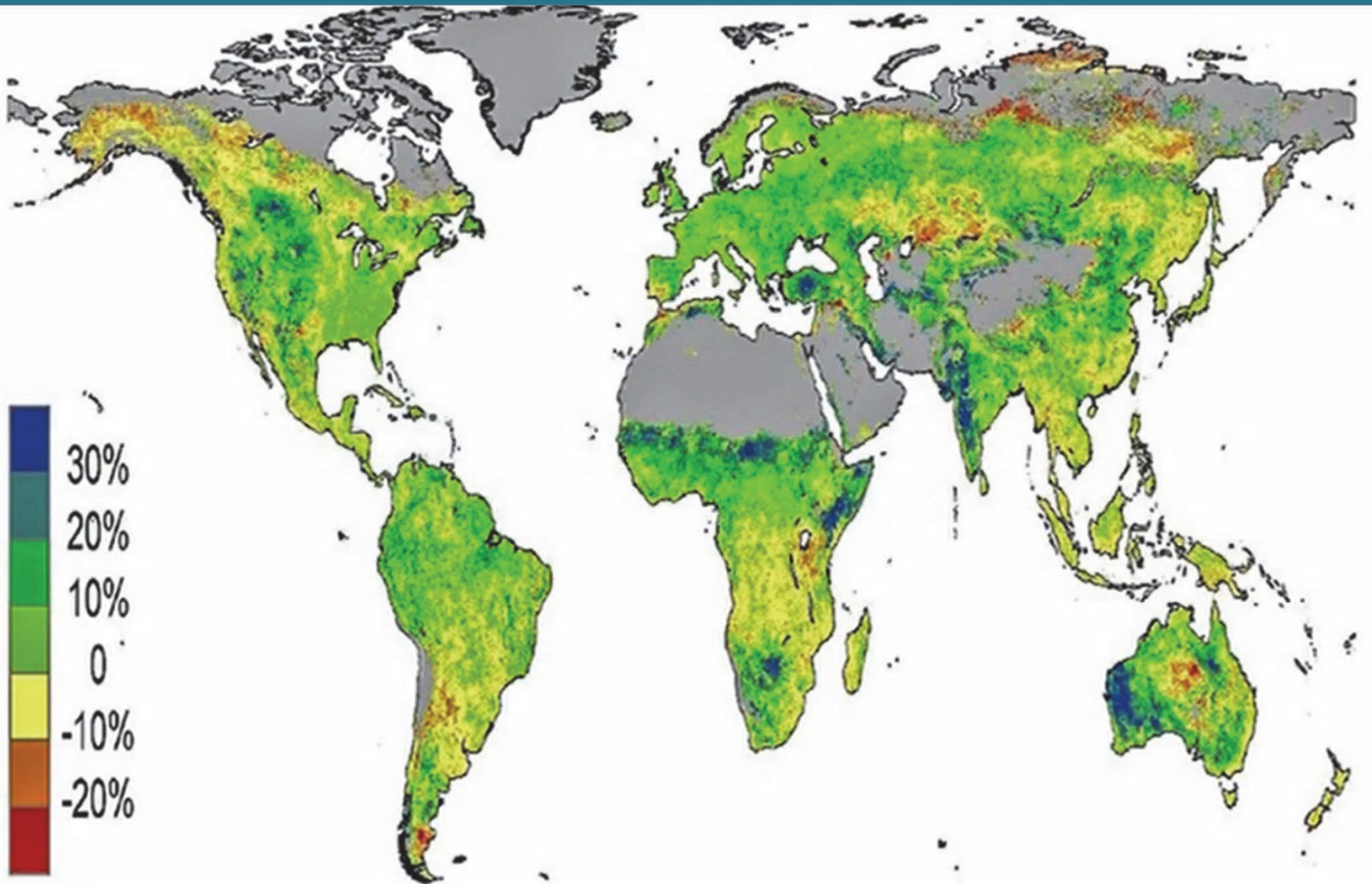
Mark Musser, *Nazi Oaks*, 16

Why Greens Hate Christianity – Part 2

"Christianity, in absolute contrast to ancient paganism and Asia's religions, not only established a dualism of man and nature but also insisted that it is God's will that man exploit nature for his proper ends."

Lynn White, *Science*, March 10, 1967, 1205

More CO$_2$ for a Greener Planet!

Otto Edenhofer, UN IPCC

"One must say clearly that we redistribute de facto the world's wealth by climate policy. . . . One has to free oneself from the illusion that international climate policy is environmental policy. This has almost nothing to do with environmental policy anymore."

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The "Mold's" Suppression of Worship of God

Personal Creator	Nature is all there is
Eternality	Deep time
Omnipresence	Impersonal universe
Omnipotence	All-powerful Nature
Sovereignty	Fatalism & hyper-regulatory state
Love	Sentimental deity & total dependency upon other people's love

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- **IMPERSONAL FATE & CHANCE**
  - ultimate victimization

Environmentalists' Hatred for Man as Special Creation

Ingrid Newkirk, <u>President of PETA</u>: **"A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy."**

Peter Singer, <u>Ethics Professor at Princeton</u>: **"The Judeo-Christian religious tradition is our foe."**

Prince Phillip of England, <u>President Emeritus of the World Wide Fund for Nature</u>: **"In the event I'm reincarnated, I would like to return as a deadly virus, in order to contribute something to solve overpopulation."**

Environmentalists' Hatred for the Whole of Judeo-Christianity

"To the modern environmentalist, the Judeo-Christian worldview is an anti-natural religion. It's emphasis upon transcendentalism over holism, freedom of private property over collective ownership, shepherding and farm life over wilderness romanticism, domesticated animals over wild animals, and sacrificial lambs over animal rights, is all directly counter to modern environmentalism's romantic ideals."

Mark Musser, *Nazi Oaks*, p 94.

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Sigmund Freud 1856–1939
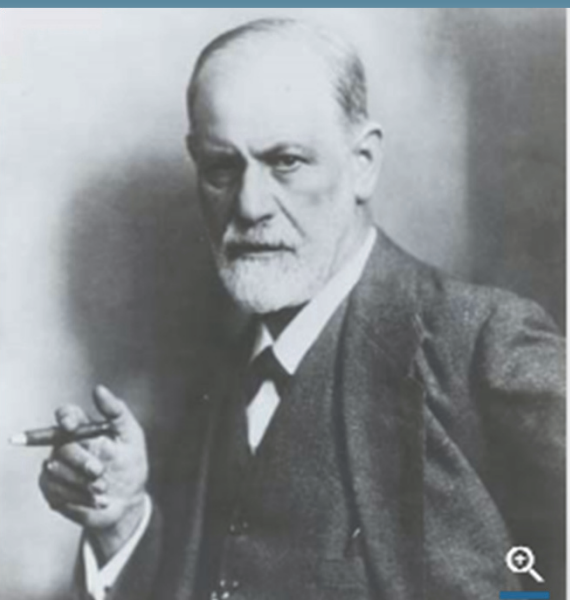
The concept of sexual orientation was first used by Freud, and its effect, if not intent, was to radically resituate sexuality from its biblical/creational context to something completely new: the foundational drive that *determines and defines human identity*. . . . By defining humanity according to sexual desires and segregating it according to its gendered object, Freud was—intentionally or not—suppressing the biblical category of being made in God's image, male and female, and replacing it with the psychoanalytic category of sexual identity.

Rosaria Champagne Butterfield, *Openness Unhindered*, p 94f

The Conflict Over **Creation** Revelation

Authoritative Doctrine of God, Man, Nature

God's essence

The Natural environment

Man's rightful relation to the environment under God

The elitist "mold" of this era

deep time

low-power processes

impersonal cosmos

adaptation enlarged

Man – a product & servant of Nature

The Conflict Over Fall & Flood Revelation

Authoritative Doctrine of Sin & Judgment upon Man & Nature

Sin → consequences for man & nature under him

Both man & nature now abnormal

The elitist "mold" of this era

'good' & 'evil' are normal

Bible is bad for nature

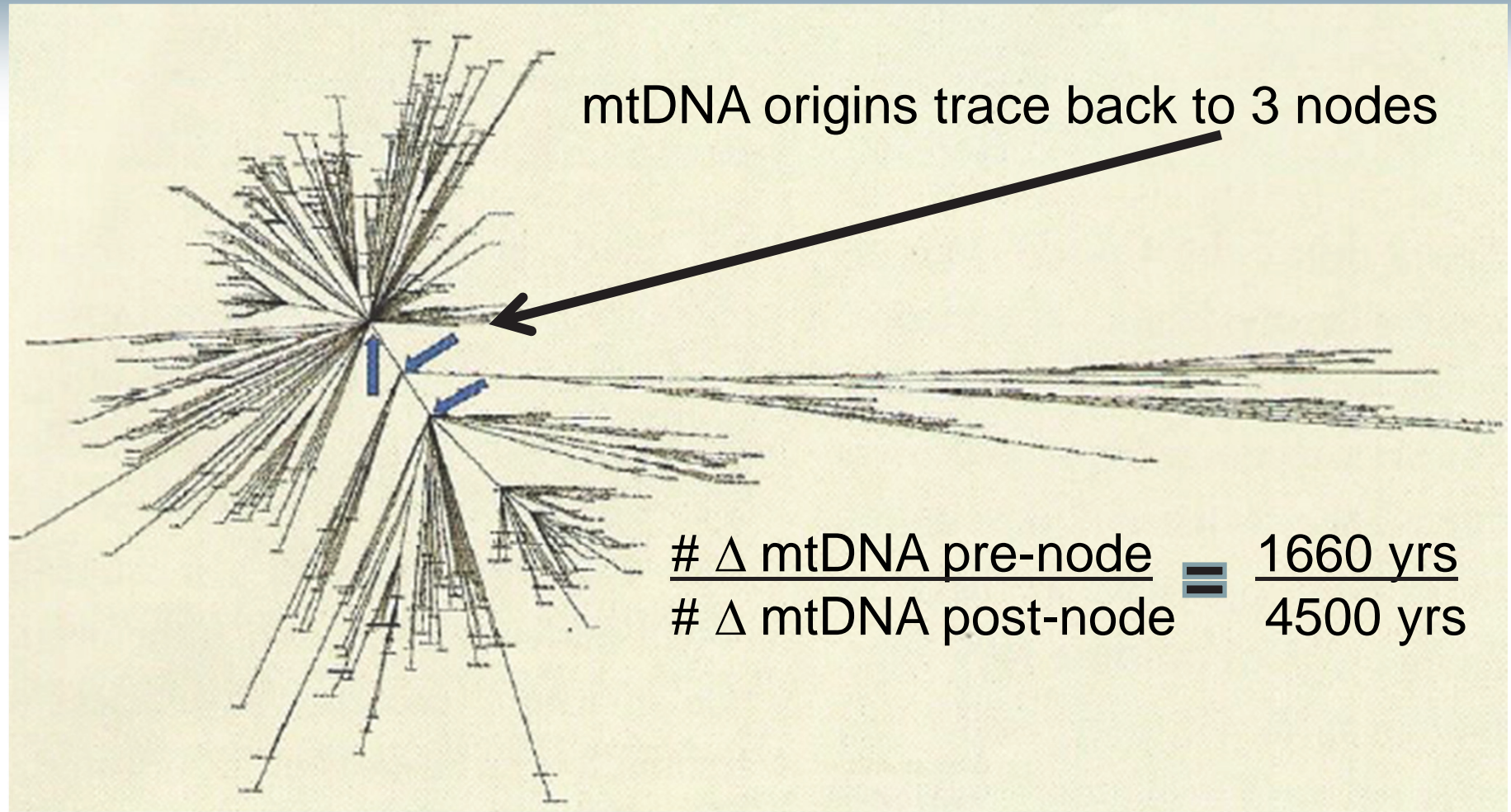*Identity correctly inferred from feelings*

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Justice	The notion of "justice" springs from human feelings of anger over what is sensed as real wrongs (!)
Omniscience	Sexual and other feelings tell us our identity
Immutability	Chaotic transformations

Human Mitchondrial DNA Sequence Nodes

mtDNA origins trace back to 3 nodes

$$\frac{\text{\# } \Delta \text{ mtDNA pre-node}}{\text{\# } \Delta \text{ mtDNA post-node}} = \frac{1660 \text{ yrs}}{4500 \text{ yrs}}$$

1563 Painting of the Tower of Babel (by Peter Broughel)

1999 EU Parliament (Louise Weiss) Building

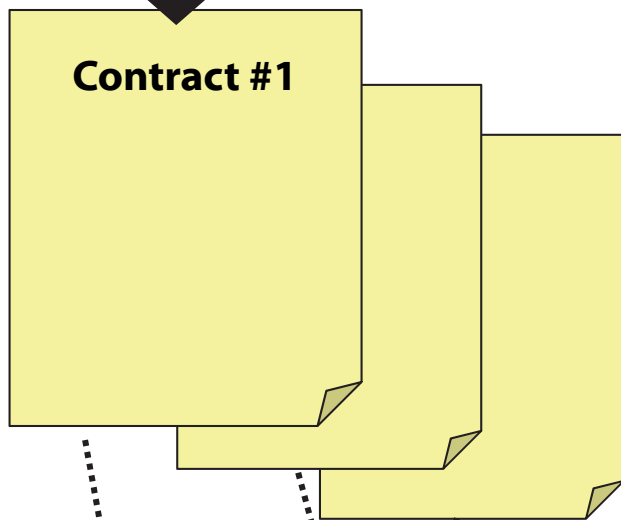# EU Statue of Goddess Europa (Schuman Square, Brussels)

The Only Source of a Justifiable Plan of Historical Progression: The Bible!
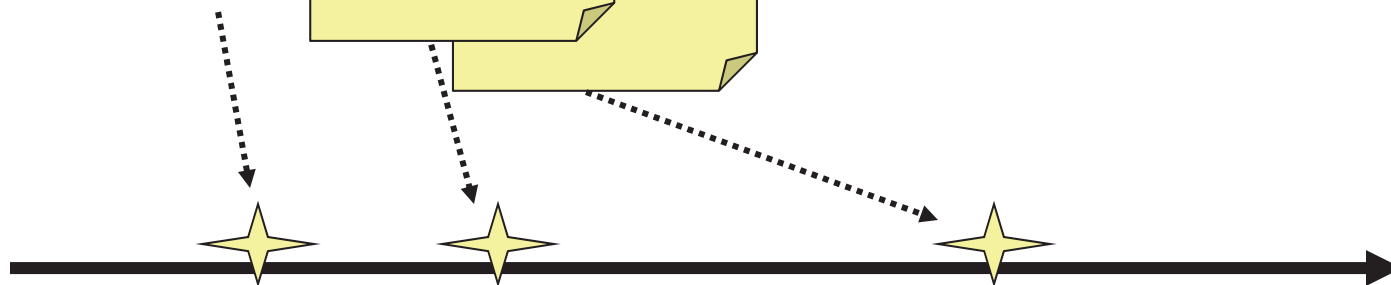
CREATOR &
REDEEMER

Contract #1

"Only the Hebrews, so far as we know, made covenants with their gods or God."
W.F. Albright, <u>Yahweh and the Gods of Canaan</u>.

Consistent contract stipulations throughout time

Israel's Unique Long Line of Prophets

"What makes the history of Israelite prophecy *sui generis* is the succession of apostles of God that come to the people through the ages. Such a line of apostle-prophets is unknown in paganism. . . . [The pagan prophet] incorporated a unique, self-contained divine power; there his 'mission' ended with him."

Yehezkel Kaufmann, *The Religion of Israel*, p. 212

Progressive "Borrowing" of the Millennial Hope

"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*, p. 88

The Kingdom of Man Vision Today

"**We are in the midst of the worldwide rise of a non-religious chiliastic movement, announcing global human renewal and predicting planetary catastrophe as it woeful alternative. . . . [This myth says] that it is possible now, amid present corruption and degradation to build a glorious New Rome.**"

Ernest Sternberg, "Purifying the World: What the New Radical Ideology Stands For," *Orbis* (Winter 2010)

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God's plan for social redemption	Man's plan for social redemption
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Man as His Ultimate Authority

His invisible attributes are clearly seen so they are without excuse!
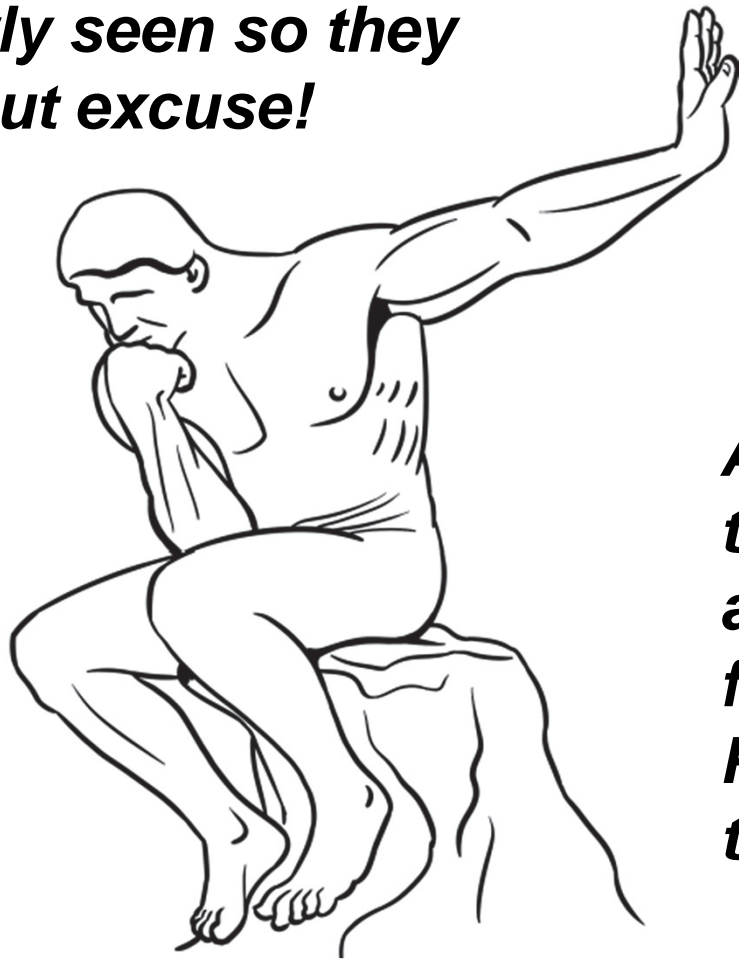
God's Verbal & Non-Verbal Revelation

Although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God ... But became futile in their thoughts ... Professing to be wise, they became fools!

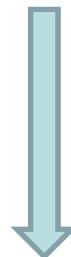# Framework Scheme – Gen. 1–11

God, Man, Nature

⬆

CREATION   **FALL**   **FLOOD**   **COVENANT**

⬇   ⬇   ⬇

Evil, Sin

*Judgment
Salvation*

*Social &
Environmental
Preservation*

Framework Scheme – Gen. 12 to Ex. 20

Election, Justification

Ethics, Justice

CALL of ABRAHAM   **EXODUS**   **MT. SINAI**

Judgment Salvation
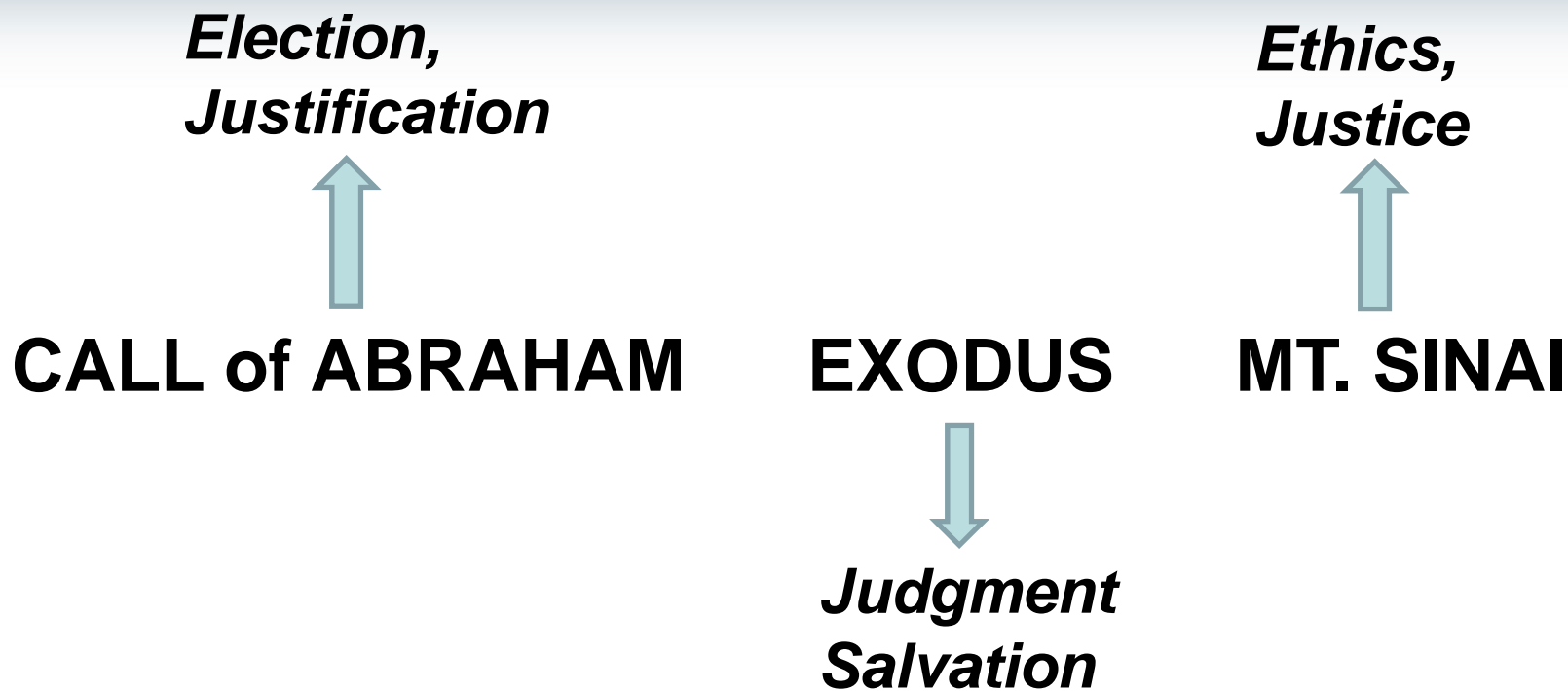
Clash of God's counter-culture with the paganized Noahic culture

From Whence the Framework Approach?

1. Unfamiliarity with the flow of biblical revelation in history

2. Piecemeal use of Bible doctrine

3. Bifurcation of reason and historical experience

The Pagan State

"[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."

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

The Pagan State

"**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. <u>The state becomes the saving power and the source of law.</u> . . . [It] becomes god walking on earth. . . ."**

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

Lady FAITH holds a Bible in her left hand and points to heaven with her right hand

Man LAW pointing to a tablet held in his left hand as the source of law

Lady EDUCATION pointing to a Bible held in her left hand

Chiastic Structure (X)

5:6–10 God alone is worthy of <u>worship and service</u>

  5:11 Accuracy in <u>language</u> about God

    5:12–15 Management of labor and <u>property</u>

      5:16 Society depends upon functional <u>marriage</u> & family

        5:17 <u>Life</u> is to be respected & preserved

      5:18 <u>Marriage</u> is to be protected

    5:19 <u>Property</u> is to be protected

  5:20 Accuracy in <u>language</u> of judicial proceedings

5:21 Self is not worthy of <u>worship and service</u>

God's Design of Society

LIFE *(protected)*	LIFE *(jeopardized)*
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)

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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.

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Non-Biblical Answers to:
"Who Are You to Tell Me How to Live?"

1. Subjectivism (moral relativism): *"Ethical judgments merely express an individual's emotions or attitudes toward an action."*

<u>Arguments for:</u>

Circumstances & generation differ from person to person

Intolerant to impose one's values on others

Two persons' conflicting judgments can both be true because they both accurately reflect the individual attitudes

Non-Biblical Answers to:
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Problems with:

Says nothing about actions themselves, only autobiographical expressions lacking basis for moral outrage over evil actions

Self-refuting since every person inevitably judges others' actions (especially toward himself or herself)

Resulting anarchy leads to totalitarian imposition of the judgments of the stronger against the weaker to avoid social chaos

The Nuremberg Dilemma – 1946

"As an International Military Tribunal, it rises above the <u>provincial</u> and <u>transient</u> and seeks guidance not only from international law but also from the basic principles of jurisprudence which are assumptions of civilization and which long have found embodiment in the codes of all nations."

Summation for Prosecution, Robert Jackson, July 26, 1946

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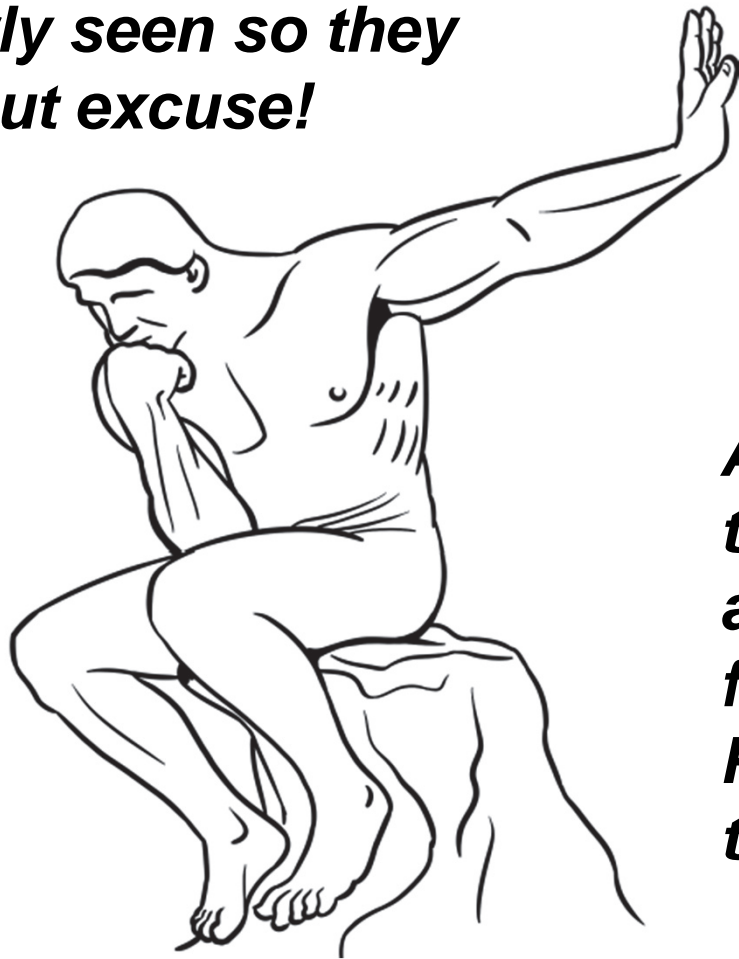
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66

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Our Moment-by-Moment Choice!

As **S**oon **A**s **P**ossible

Or

Always **S**top **A**nd **P**ray??

"That Man is the product of causes which had no prevision of the end they were achieving; that his origin, his growth, his hope and fears, his loves and beliefs, are but the outcome of accidental collocations of atoms; that no fire, no heroism, no intensity of thought and feeling, can preserve an individual life beyond the grave; that all the labours of the ages, all the devotion, all the inspiration, all the noonday brightness of human genius are destined to extinction in the vast death of the solar system, and that the whole temple of Man's achievement must inevitably be buried beneath the debris of a universe in ruin—all these things, if not quite beyond dispute, are yet so nearly certain, that no philosophy that rejects them can hope to stand. Only within the scaffolding of these truths, <u>only on the firm foundation of unyielding despair, can the soul's habitation henceforth be safely built</u>."

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Interconnecting "Nodes" in the Framework

Life of the King: revelation, infallibility

Specific prophecies of the Ideal Leader/ Messiah

Birth of the King:

Hypostatic union

Call of Abraham: Revealed contract

Sinai: revealed contract

Prophets' contract follow-up

History of Jews from 2000 BC to 586 BC

Creation: God, man, nature

geology, dating, archeology