

GENESIS–Eden, Man, Woman

Fellowship Chapel

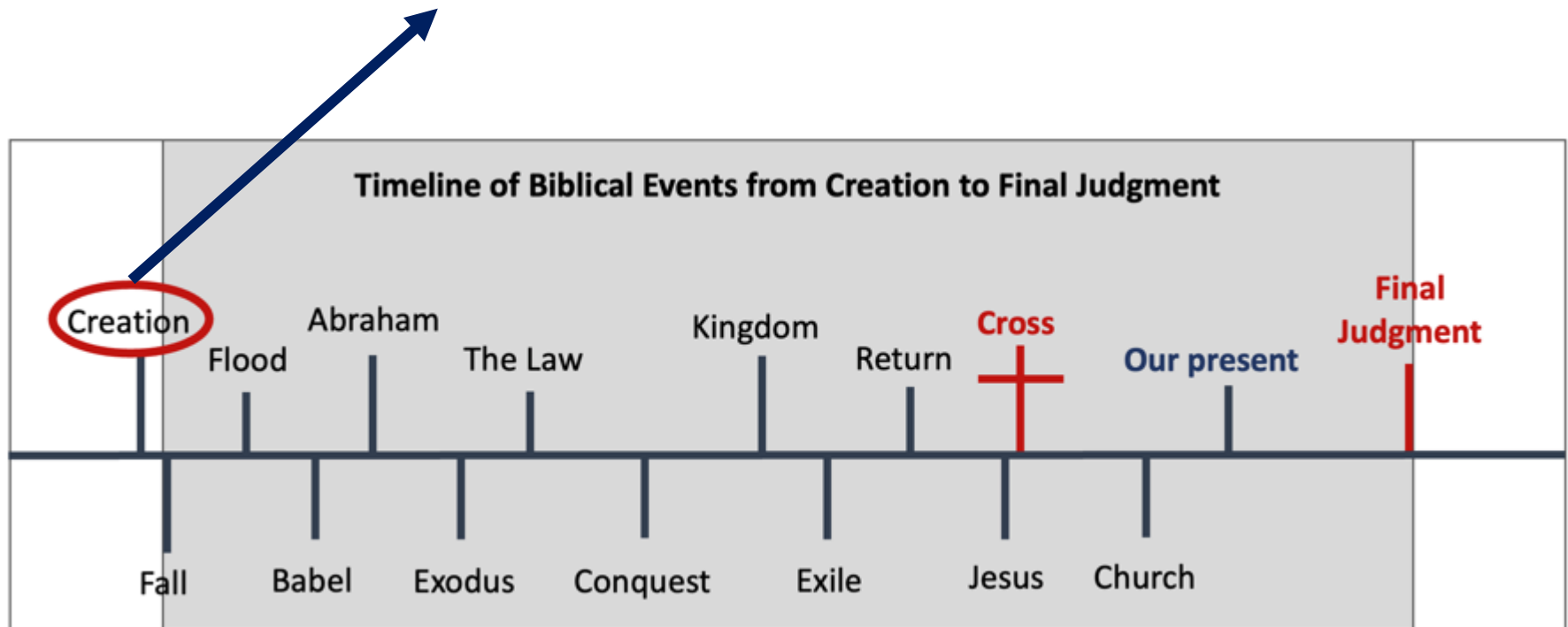
23 January 2022

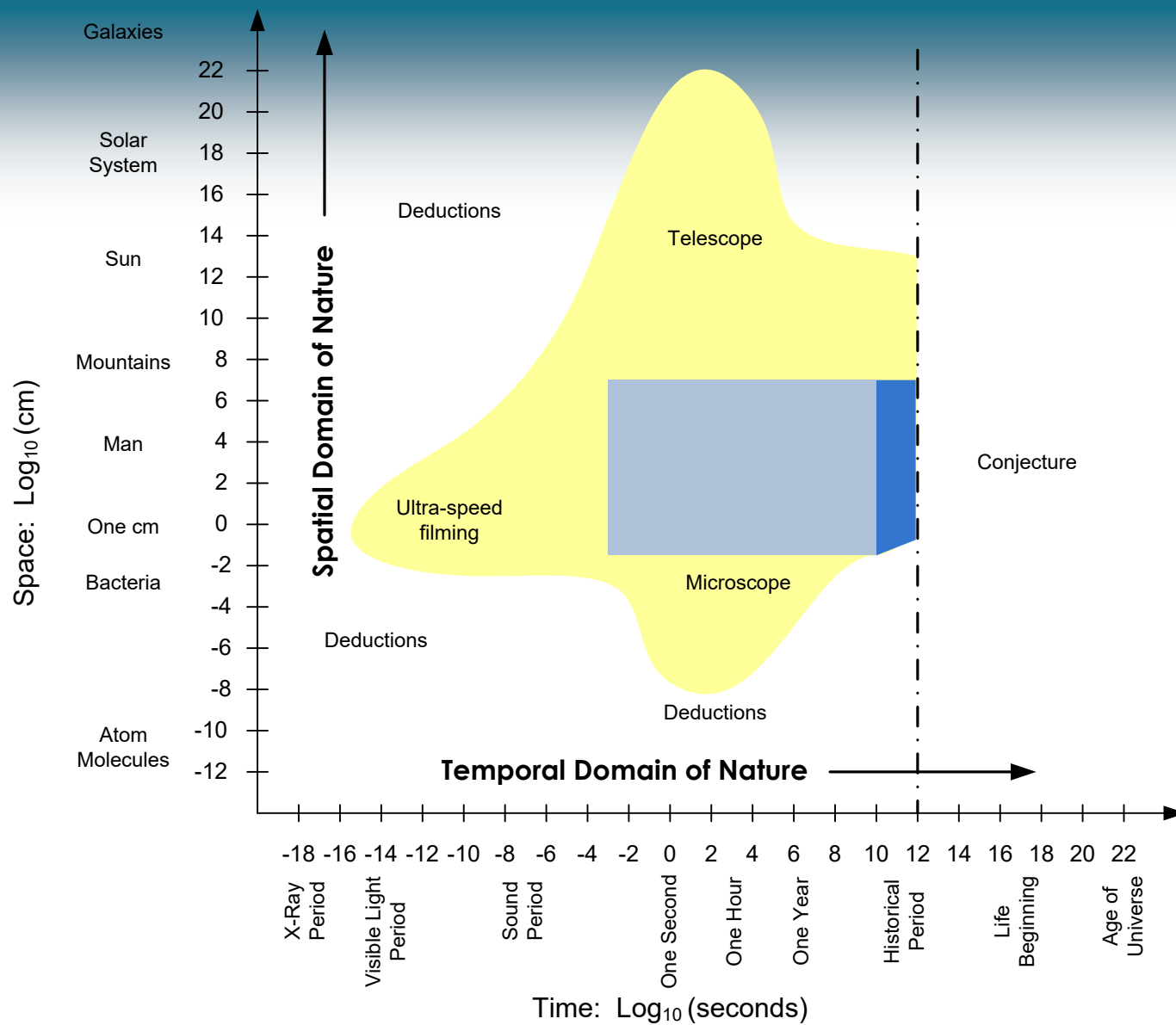
Truth Events Clash with Pagan Culture

Age of the Earth not determinable by operational science

Creator/creature two existences not just one (Nature)

Everyone has a sense-of-deity so no excuse for unbelief





Job 38:3–8

“Prepare yourself like a strong man; I will question you, and you will answer Me. Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? To what were its foundations fastened? Or Who laid its cornerstone? When the morning stars sang together. And all the sons of God shouted for joy.”

Shall I Bow to My Creator?

- **YES!**

- ancient monotheism
- ancient Israel
- Bible
- fundamentalism

- **CREATOR/creature**

- God || divine counsel & angels
- man | nature
- everlasting distinctions

- **PERSONAL SOVEREIGN**

- ultimate responsibility

- **NO!**

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

- **Continuity of Being**

- eternal cycles
- nature > gods > man
- transmutation / evolution

- **IMPERSONAL FATE & CHANCE**

- ultimate victimization

Universal “Sense of Deity”

Romans 1:19–20

“What can be known of God is manifest in them for God has shown it to them.

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes (GK: *aoratos*) are clearly seen (GK: *kathorao*), being understood from the things that are made, even His eternal power and divine nature, so they are without excuse.”

My Worldview

Social order (politics)

Justice (ethics)

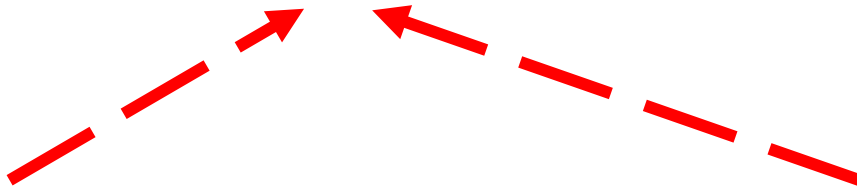
**What we
OUGHT to ...**



Truth (epistemology)

Reality (metaphysics)

**How we see
truth & reality**



**Biblical
revelation**

OR

**Individual or society
imagination**

Why Two Different Names for God Between Gen. 1 and Gen. 2—Different Sources?

“The relationship of a general summary-outline plus a more detailed account of one (or more) major aspect(s)—with differing styles for the two accounts—is commonplace enough in Ancient Oriental texts. ... What is absurd when applied to monumental Near Eastern texts that had *no* prehistory of hands and redactors should not be imposed on Genesis 1 and 2, as is done by uncritical perpetuation of a nineteenth-century system of speculations by eighteenth-century dilettantes lacking, as they did, all knowledge of the forms and usages of Ancient Oriental literature.”

~K. A. Kitchen, *Ancient Orient and Old Testament* (Inter-Varsity Press: Chicago IL, 1966) 117.

Genesis 2:4–6

“This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, ...before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.”

Genesis 2:7–9

“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being. And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden and there He put the man He had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

Genesis 2:10–14

“Now a river of water went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. ... Pishon ... around Havilah where there is gold and onyx ... Gihon ... around Cush ... Hiddekel ... east of Assyria, ... Euphrates.”

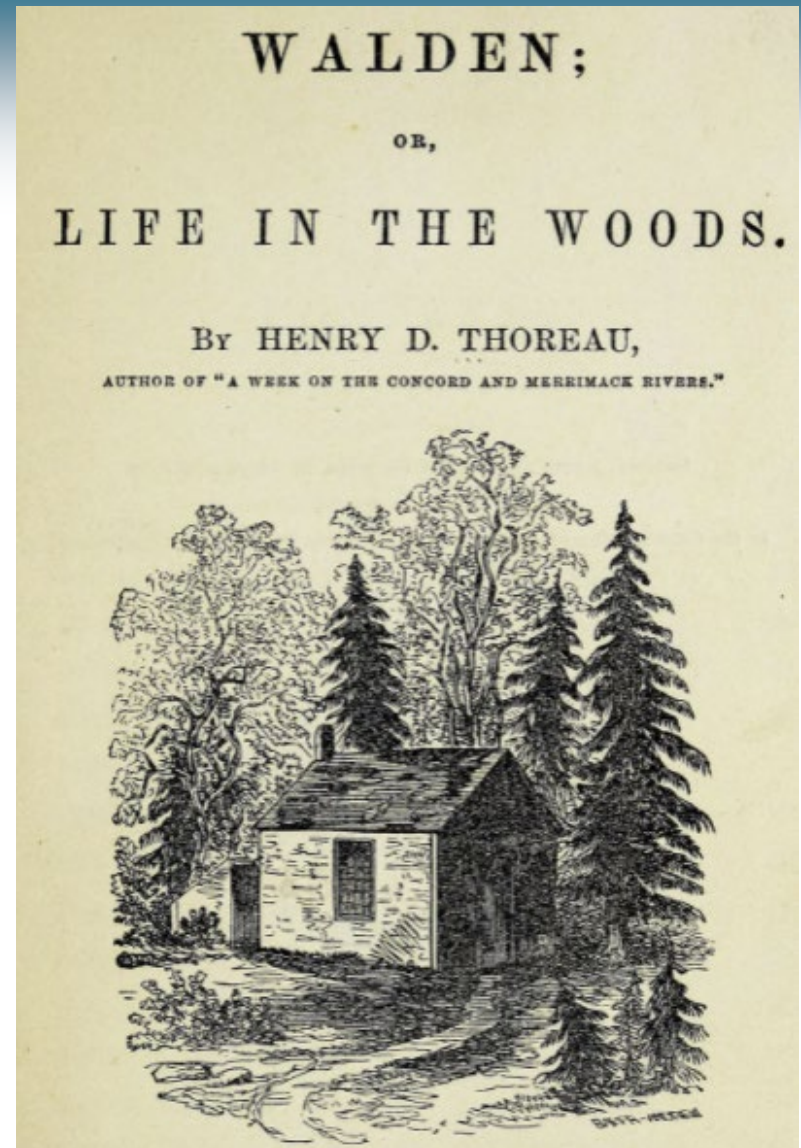
5 Cosmologies in World History

Cosmology	Period of History
Original Heaven & Earth	From Creation to the Fall
Antediluvian Heaven & Earth	From the Fall to the Flood
Postdiluvian Heaven & Earth	From the Flood to Day of the Lord
Millennial Heaven & Earth	From the Day of the Lord to the Eternal State
Eternal Heavens & Earth	Eternal State

Henry David Thoreau (1817–1862)

“Men should tread gently through nature. Let us religiously burn stumps and worship in groves while Christian vandals lay waste the forest temples to build miles of meeting houses and horse sheds and feed their box stoves.”

~Quoted in Donald Worster, *Nature's Economy: A History of Ecological Ideas* (Cambridge University Press, 1985) 88.



Environmentalism vs. Genesis 1–2

“Romantics like Thoreau reserved a special hostility for Christianity. In their minds it was a rival worldview which had sharply disjointed man from the natural world. ... Troubling for the Romantics, a transcendent personal God created a natural world outside of Himself in the Genesis account. As such nature was distinct from God ... According to Mosaic law, nature cannot be worshipped for the simple reason that it is created by God. As such God and God alone is to be worshipped since He is the Creator. God and nature thus are absolutely distinct in the Bible. They cannot be confused with each other into a holistic one.”

~Mark Musser, *Nazi Ecology: The Oak Sacrifice of the Judeo-Christian Worldview in the Holocaust* (Mark Musser Ministries, 2018) 95-96

Environmentalism vs. Genesis 1–2

“As difficult as this may sound to modern evolutionary environmentalists, while the natural world is ultimately made for God’s own glory, it is also made for man. More insulting still, marriage is then instituted by God with a specific mandate to accomplish—subdue and fill the earth. This is precisely why Adam needed a helpmate in Eve. In short, man is created in God’s image, and then commanded to rule the natural world, and the direct means by which to accomplish this is to fill the world with population under the Divine institution of marriage.”

~Mark Musser, *Nazi Ecology: The Oak Sacrifice of the Judeo-Christian Worldview in the Holocaust* (Mark Musser Ministries, 2018) 97

Worshipping Nature in NYC



Genesis 2:15–17

“Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend (HEB: *abad*) and keep it (HEB: *shamar*). And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 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 2:18–20

“And the LORD God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone, I will make a helper comparable to him.’ Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. And Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.”

“Speech was always assumed to be instinctive. But the discovery from time to time of ‘wild’ or feral children without speech, showed clearly that speech results only where there has been social contact. Moreover such contact must be with speaking individuals. ... We have on record the case of two feral children, brought up entirely in the wilds, without any human companionship except that they were themselves companions in isolation, who never between them spoke a single word of any kind. Thus we find that even the presence of another human being, and the possession of a truly human brain, do not in themselves constitute the necessary framework within which speech must inevitably appear. ... We are still left with the problem as to who started the process, for the process must be started by someone. ... It is not until a child discovers what is the meaning of his sound to others, and then deliberately makes the sound with this meaning attached to it, that the child speaks.”

~A. Custance, *The Doorway Papers*, No. 1 “Who Taught Adam to Speak?”, 1-3

Genesis 2:21–24

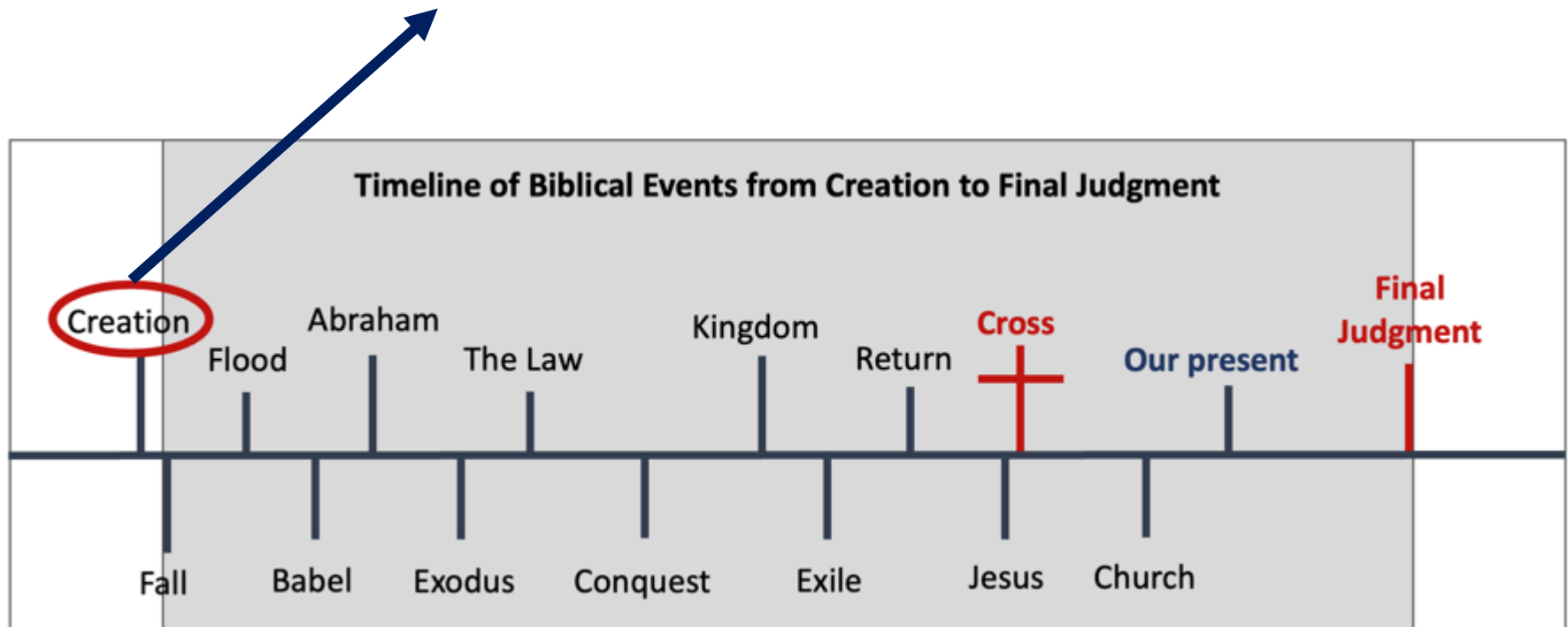
“And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept, and He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman and He brought her to the man. And Adam said, ‘This is now bone (HEB: *etsem*, substance) of my bones and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called woman (HEB: *ishshah*) because she was taken out of man (HEB: *ish*). 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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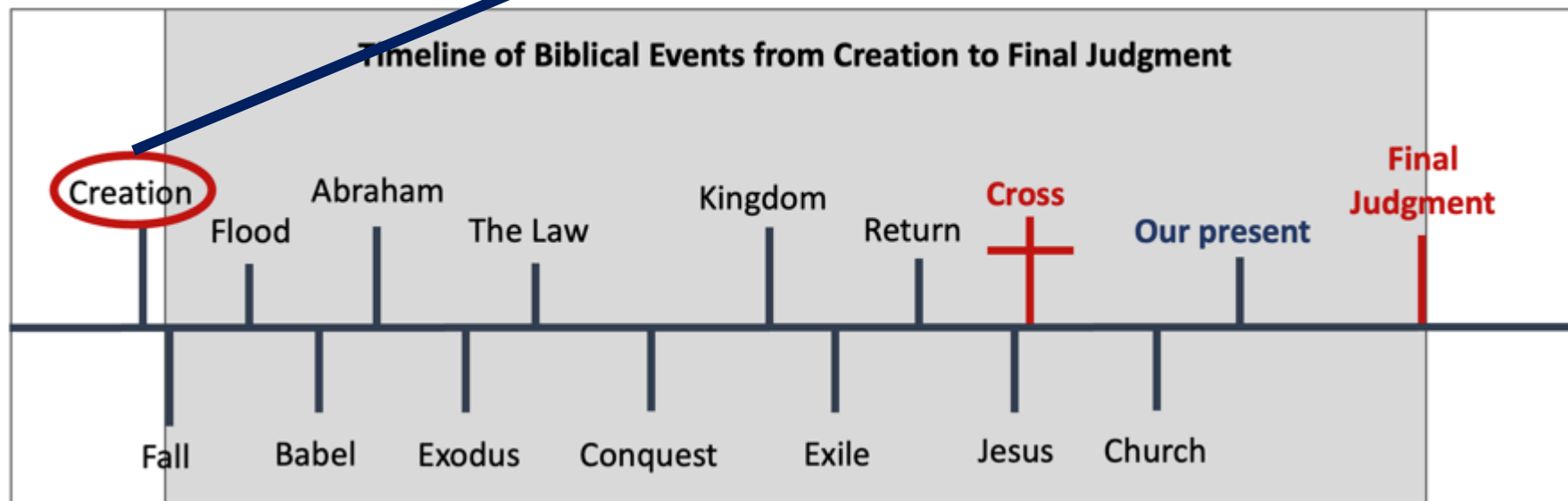


Truth Events Clash with Pagan Culture

Man assigned dominion over nature, not to be joined with nature

Human sexuality shaped by marriage design, not by imagination

Final responsibility for education assigned to parents, not the state



My Worldview

Social order (politics)

Justice (ethics)

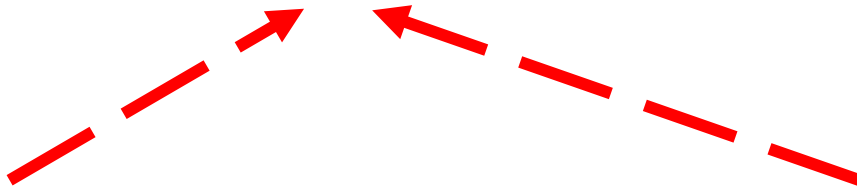
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Rosaria Butterfield

“The concept of sexual orientation was first used by Freud ...to resituate sexuality from its biblical/creationist context to ...the foundational drive that determines and defines human identity. ... Freud maintained that belief in the God of the Bible was a ‘universal obsessional neurosis’. The category of sexual orientation carries with it a cosmology of personhood that undervalues image bearers of a holy God. ...Sexual orientation ...creates fictional identities that rob people of their true one: male and female image bearers.”

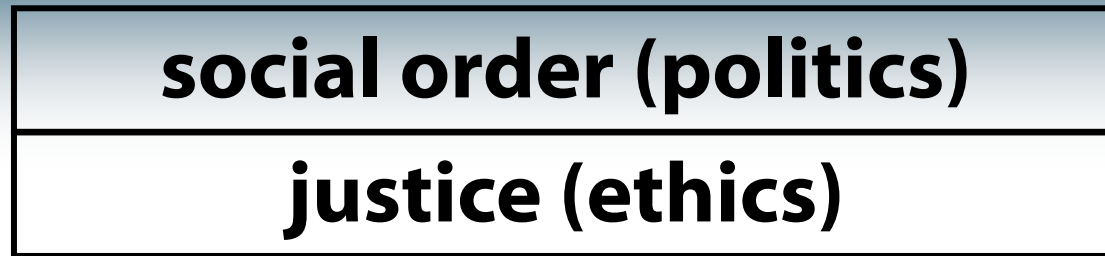
~Rosaria Champagne Butterfield, *Openness Unhindered: Further Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert* (Pittsburgh: Crown & Covenant Publishers, 2015), 94-96

The State as the Parent

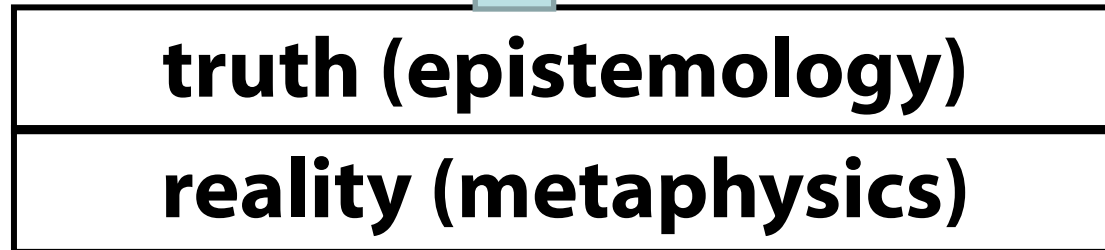
“This essay explores the choice many traditionalist Christian parents (both fundamentalist and evangelical) make to leave public schools in order to teach their children at home, thus in most instances escaping meaningful oversight. ... Society need not and should not tolerate the inculcation of absolutist 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)

My World View



**What We
OUGHT to..**



**How We See
Truth & Reality**

**Biblical
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Our Personal Identity:

Psalm 139:13–16 (NET Translation)

**“Certainly you made my mind and heart;
You wove me together in my mother’s womb,
I will give you thanks because your deeds are awesome
and amazing. ...**
**My bones were not hidden from you when I was made in
secret**
And sewed together in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw me when I was inside the womb
All the days ordained for me were recorded in your scroll
Before one of them came into existence.
How difficult it is for me to fathom your thoughts about
me, Oh God!”