

The background of the slide is a blue-toned image. It features a pair of large, feathered wings, likely belonging to an angel, with hands visible between them. The wings are set against a bright blue sky with soft, white clouds. The overall aesthetic is ethereal and spiritual.

# ANGELS

## AND THE LOVE OF GOD

### Job 38:4-7

**The “Problem” of Evil and Suffering in the Presence of an All-knowing, All-good, All-loving, and All-powerful God (52):**

**Job 38:4-7: Angels and the Love of God**

<http://www.fbcweb.org/sermons.html>

# Philosophical/Theological/Doctrinal & Spiritual Edification

## Bible Doctrines

Eschatology	Importance of knowing the true nature of God.
Thanatology	
Ecclesiology	
Israelology	It is OK, to start with language of accommodation as a baby believer.
Dispensationalism	
Doxology	
Hodology	
Soteriology	However, the believer will run into problems as he grows if he does not develop metaphysical understanding (cf. omnipresence of God).
Hamartiology	
Natural Law	
Anthropology	
Angelology	
Pneumatology	
Christology	
Paterology	
Trinitarianism	
Cosmology	
Theology Proper	This is a major crisis in Christianity today regarding metaphysical understanding of God, and thus understanding the true nature of God.
Bibliology	

## Prolegomena:

### P.R. - 29

Hermeneutics

Linguistics

Epistemology

Metaphysics

Reality -Logic 32,  
Truth 32

Omniscience of God: God cannot be captured by space or time. He is immanent and transcendent. He is closer to us than anything or anyone else, yet He transcends all things.

Stage 3 -  
Metaphysical  
understanding  
of Reality  
underneath the  
Bible verses.

Stage 2-  
Systematic  
understanding  
of Bible verses

Stage 1-  
Isolated  
understanding  
of Bible verses

## Metaphysical (Refined) Christian-Level 3:

- True understanding of Ultimate Reality in God's Word, 'Ehyeh, Esse, Exod. 3:14; Acts 17:28; Matt. 6; Col. 1:17.
- Incoherence problems are resolved, yet thresholds are acknowledged.
- Moves into transformative understanding of all reality ; awe of God, Esse.
- Able to defend all doctrines and engage in apologetics and defend Christianity against *all* attacks.

## Doctrinal Maturing Believer- Level 2:

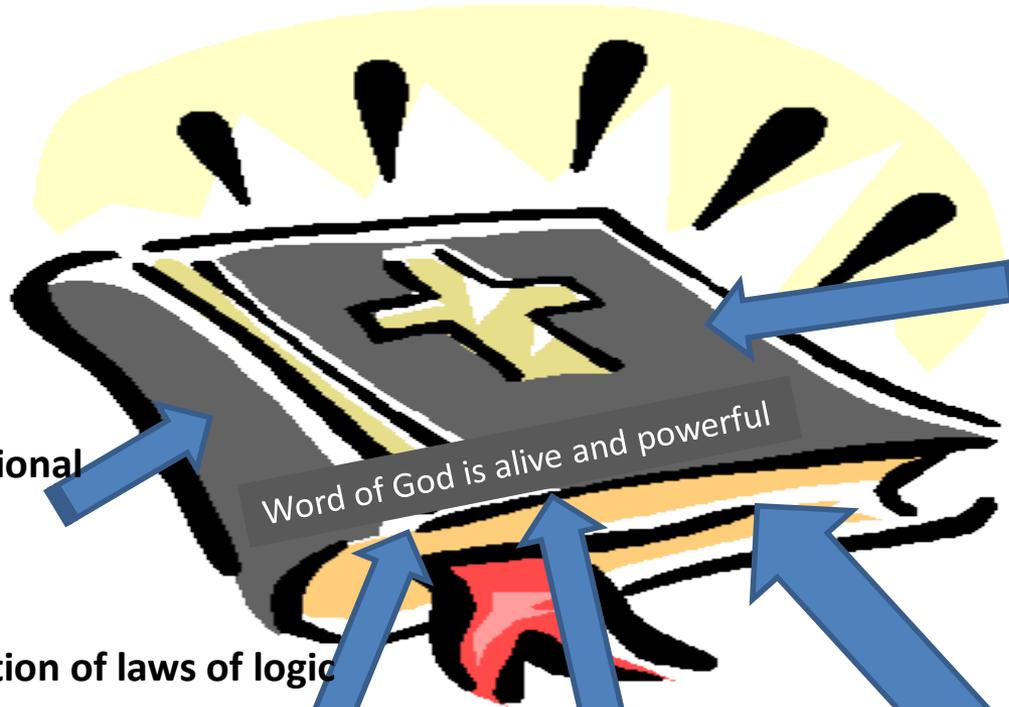
- Systematic/organized understanding of biblical passages., 1 Cor. 6:19 and Psalm 139, Matt. 6.
- Continuing transformation of worldview, becomes aware of incoherent problems. Now what? Anti-intellectual or move forward?

## Baby Bible believer - Level 1 -

- Limited to handful of isolated Bible verses, 1 Cor 6:19; Rom. 8:19.
- Fragmented view of truth. A little knowledge can dangerous.
- However, the more passages and principles he learns the more he is transformed from secularism into theism.

# Foundations: Philosophical Realism (29)

## THE 5 FOUNDATIONS FOR BIBLICAL OBJECTIVITY



### 1-Reality

Rational or Irrational  
view of God?

Logic or Violation of laws of logic

Logic 32 If it is irrational, it is false!  
Truth 32

Reason is the guide, but this is not to be  
confused with rationalism

### 2- Metaphysics

Natural or Metaphysical?  
Spatiotemporal or Esse?

### 3-Epistemology

Rational or Fideistic?

### 4-Linguistics

Objective or Arbitrary?

### 5-Hermeneutics

Rational or Existential?

N.B. Even if one does not  
remember all of these rational  
disciplines, often more gets  
through than one is aware of, and  
there is enormous benefit of  
regular exposure to standards of  
objective truth and rationality.

# Foundations: Philosophical Realism (29)

## 5 Powerful Destructive Tendencies We Must Avoid in Biblical Interpretation (cf. controversies with others)

1- Emotions; prejudices

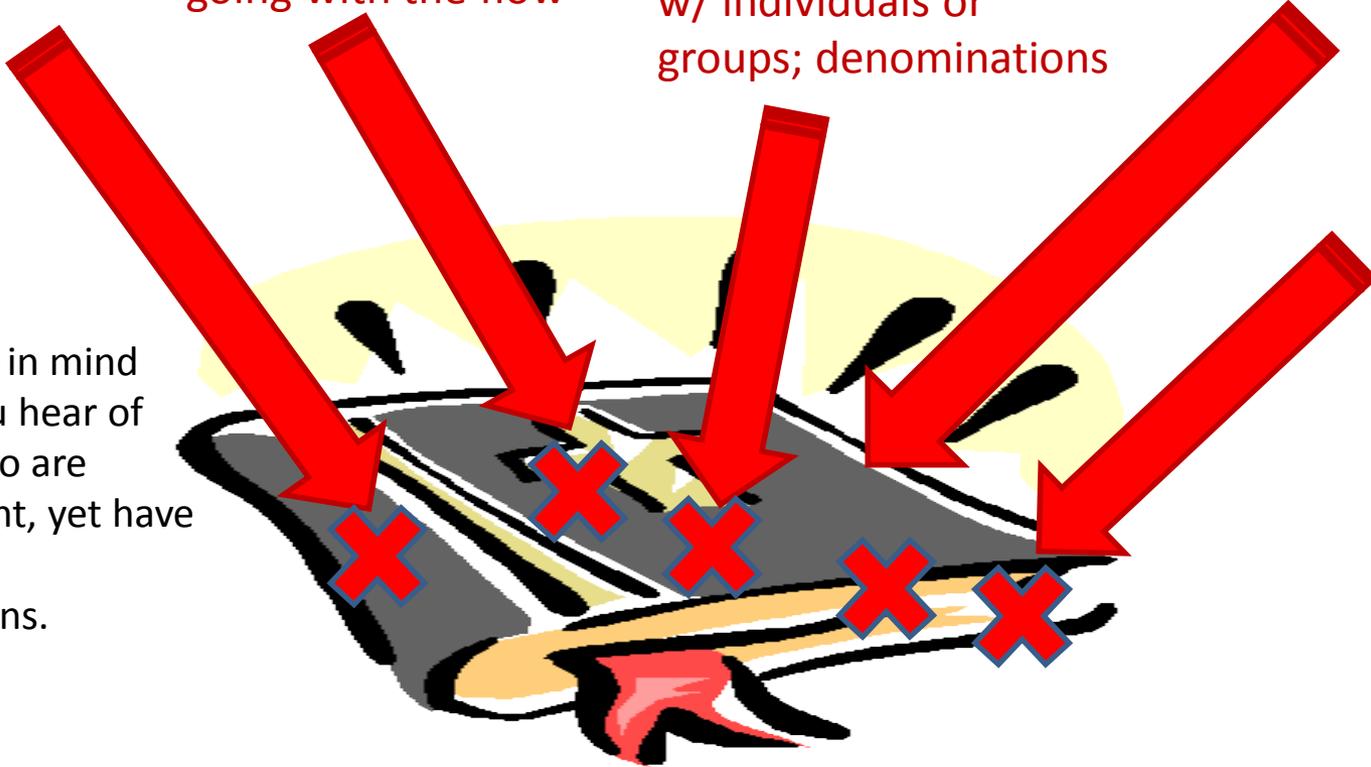
2- Conformity; going with the flow

3- Personal affinity; affective involvement w/ individuals or groups; denominations

4- Wishful thinking

5- Accepting irrational view of God or Bible due to confusion (which I only reveal). Irrationality and gibberish never honors God.

Keep this in mind when you hear of those who are competent, yet have different conclusions.



## Foundations: Philosophical Realism (29)

1. Contemporary Christianity is in a crisis as far as understanding the nature of God (e.g., omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience, attributes, accidents, Esse). We live in a neo-paganistic age of Christianity that has departed from Classical theism.
2. Most Christian have no idea of what they are talking about in regard to God or much of the Bible because of rejection of the importance of logic, CT, and TT, and metaphysics. How many churches even mention these critical disciplines? Why is that the case?

## Foundations: Philosophical Realism (29)

3. This anti-intellectualism is destroying the true nature of Christianity before very eyes. Christianity is being reduced to a religion, a neo-paganism with Christian vocabulary. The average Christian, though he is saved forever, has many pagan concepts of God. The essence of paganism is ignorance of the true nature of God. Consider how the world views religion in terms of practice rather than doctrine.

## Foundations: Philosophical Realism (29)

4. The neo-paganism in contemporary Christianity is staggering and very frightening. Consider the results of a survey a churches across this country regarding spiritual issues (Bible doctrine) and philosophical realism (logic, CT, TT, classical attributes of God, or the original languages). How did we get to such a mess?

## Foundations: Philosophical Realism (29)

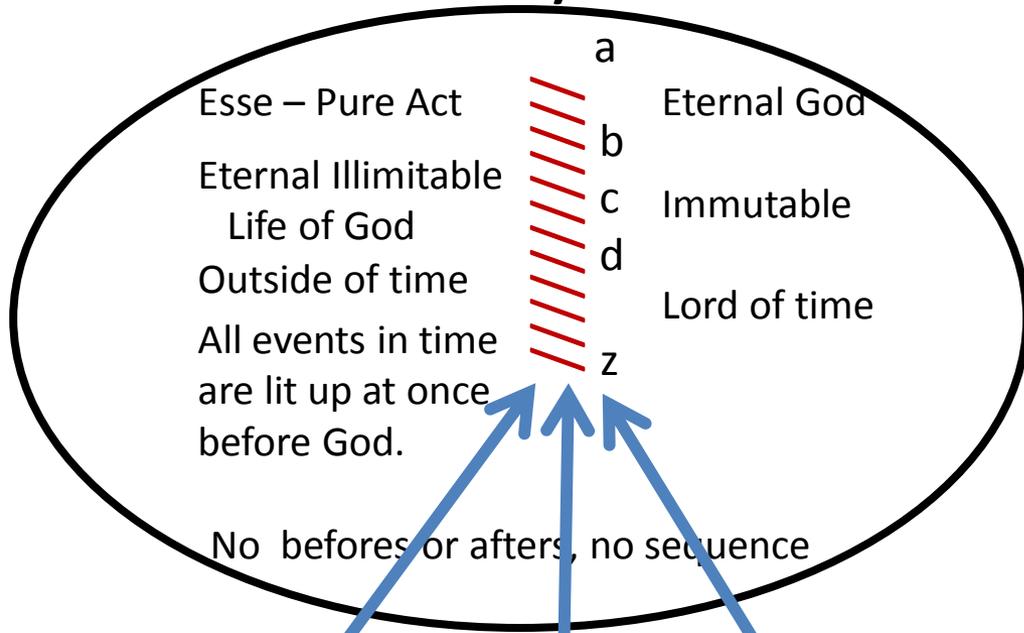
5. The lion's share share of blame for the pathology in contemporary Christianity (from fideism in denominations to satanism in Word of Faith movement) belongs to seminaries and pastors (who for the most part just teach what they were taught at seminary or what their pastor taught). The pastor's view becomes the view of believers, missionaries, youth pastors, counselors. Could you imagine getting counseling from an Open Theist—someone who does not even understand the nature of God and who is limited to biblical language of accommodation and so is essence a tritheist with a relatable god?

## Foundations: Philosophical Realism (29)

6. It is important for the PT to both teach and preach, to address the mind and the will, to build rational foundation and preach the Word of God without apology. The advantage of smaller groups is that he can take believers deeper into understanding the nature of God and the spiritual life. Furthermore, believer's questions can be addressed. The healthy Christian is always interested in the nature of God and how to live the spiritual life. This is not true of the religious believer.

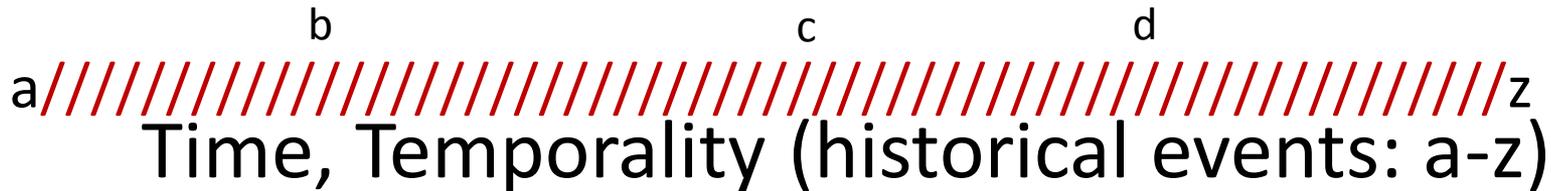
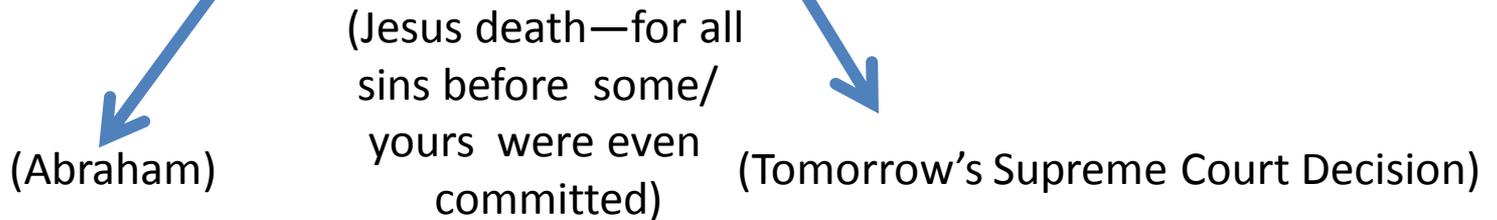
# Eternality of God

God is atemporal, immutable, exalted, unbound by time, and knows all things at once (Classical theism).



Modern view of God is that He is in time and thus reduced to being mutable, measurable, and finite—the result is the loss of classical attributes.

Scriptural implications for timelessness of God (Gen. 15:6; Isa 53; John 1:29; Eph. 1:4; 2 Pet. 3:8; 1 John 2:1; Heb. 2:9). Consider the implications for your life with its various tests.





# ANGELS

## and the Love of God

Job 38:4-7 "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding 7 When the morning stars sang together (יַחַד), And all the sons of God shouted (Hiphil of רוּעַ, *rua*) for joy?"

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

1. In Job 38:4-9, God vividly illustrates how His unimaginable power, and sovereignty operate with His great love and care in creation. God is the author of it all—from the fashioning of the earth to source of all mothering love, vs. 9.

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

2. The “sons of God” (בְּנֵי אֱלֹהִים) include all angelic beings, including Lucifer before the angelic revolt. God is their Creator-Father who provides them with opportunities for song and joy. What a sound and sight that must have been, to behold and hear zillions of angels express their love and joy. There was no hint of division or rebellion, no pride, no one trying to outdo anyone else. They *all* rejoiced together over God’s fashioning of the earth.

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

3. The sons of God (בְּנֵי אֱלֹהִים) love and worship God. This tells us a lot about their character.

Revelation 5:11-12 And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."

# DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

## 4. The angels' love for God.

- a. These angels had a perfect love for God. Their love for God fulfilled everything found in the command for man to love God with all of his heart, soul, and mind.
- b. There are two components to all love: natural and volitional. One is a natural result of seeing God and the other is a love of the will. Angelic perception and will are far stronger than man's.

# DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

## 4. The angels' love for God.

- c. Natural/personal love. Natural love of God is a natural and rational result of true knowledge of Him. The angels had the highest and purest knowledge of the Trinity. They all had a perfect, natural, and very personal love of God. They “stood” in awe of Him and His activity, an awe that brought forth praise, honor, and joy. These angels loved God more than they loved themselves. This love was not discursive.

# DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

## 4. The angels' love for God.

- d. Volitional love. Because these angels were endowed with free will, they had a volitional love, a choice love. It is a choice, it can be rational or irrational (negative volition).

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

5. Angelic creatures are far superior to man in every way (e.g., being, intellect, humility, capacity for worship).

Hebrews 2:7 "Thou hast made him for a little while lower than the angels; Thou hast crowned him with glory and honor, And hast appointed him over the works of Thy hands;

Hebrews 2:9 But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

# DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

6. The image of God in angels and man.

- a. The terms image (דְּלֶמַת) and likeness (דְּמִוּת) of God convey the idea of something in God that is copied into others. The idea is of imitation or similarity.

# DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

(6. The image of God in angels and man.)

b. There are different images in the Bible.

1) Children are in the image of their parents, Gen. 5:3.

2) Fallen man is in image of God, Gen. 9:6.

3) Recreated/regenerated man is in the image of God, Col. 3:10.

Colossians 3:10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him

4) Sanctification is in image of God, 2 Cor. 3:18.

5) Christ is in the image of God, Col. 1:15.

# DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

(6. The image of God in angels and man.)

- c. In many respects, angels are closer images to God than man. They are closer to Him: in intellect (not limited by brain matter); they grasp things instantly and without error (because of no error in grasping accidents), they understand morality more clearly (less deceived); they are sinless, and they have far greater capacity to love and worship God for who and what He is.

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

- d. At the top of the chain between creation and God was Lucifer, who was created with more of God's glorious image than any other created being, Ezekiel 28:12-15a. He was prophet, priest and king. He brought the Word to the angels, led worship among the angels, and was a ruler of the angels in activity and praise. One can only wonder what is going through Satan's mind as reflects on the former days when he sang with joy with all of the other angels as recorded in Job.

## DOCTRINAL PRINCIPLES

- e. Satan's fall and judgment. However, Lucifer became Satan when he became so impressed with his own beauty, brilliance, intelligence, power, and position that he began to desire for himself the honor and glory that belonged to God alone, Ezek. 28:15b-19; Isa 14:12-15.
  - ❖ Pride is the single most dangerous thought pattern. Every believer needs to check and deal with his ingrained pride on a daily basis, 1 Tim. 3:6; 2 Tim. 3:4.