

GOD AND CREATION-1

**The “Problem” of Evil and Suffering in the Presence of an
All-knowing, All-good, All-loving, and All-powerful God (55):
Job 38:1-11: God and Creation-1 (God-talk and divine simplicity)**

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

Philosophical/Theological/Doctrinal & Spiritual Edification

Bible Doctrines

Eschatology
Thanatology
Ecclesiology
Israelology
Dispensationalism
Doxology
Hodology
Soteriology
Hamartiology
Natural Law
Anthropology
Angelology
Pneumatology
Christology
Paterology
Trinitarianism
Cosmology
Theology Proper
Bibliology

Active fellowship with God must be the sine qua non of our lives (Gen. 17:1; John 15:4). Genuine fellowship with God:

- Requires walking in the Truth (1 John 1:7).
- Requires confession of sins (1 John 1:9) when we reject His truth.
- Requires growing in Truth and knowledge of God, 2 Pet 3:16-18—actualizing more God-given potentialities as a human being and as a Christian.
- Keeps the believer under the filling of the Holy Spirit.
- Keeps the believer from moving into arrogance as he learns more about God and becomes aware of the horrible ignorance around him, especially among modern Christians.

Prolegomena:

P.R. - 32

Hermeneutics

Linguistics

Epistemology

Metaphysics

Reality -Logic 32,
Truth 32

Stage 3 -
Metaphysical
understanding
of Reality
conveyed by
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 God's Word, 'Ehyeh, Esse, Exod. 3:14; Acts 17:28; Matt. 6; Col. 1:17.
- Believer sees God on a totally new level. God truly is awe-inspiring in who and what He is on the metaphysical level.
- Temptation to become arrogant about the vast ignorance and incoherent statements made even by doctrinal believers.
- Thus, fellowship with God is crucial!

Doctrinal Maturing Believer- Level 2:

- Systematic/organized understanding of biblical passages.
- Consider John 3:16 at this level. Understands a lot of propositions, but to a great extent does not know what he is talking about.
- Temptation to become doctrinally arrogant.

Baby Bible believer - Level 1 -

- Limited to isolated Bible verses.
- Very important to understand individual passages before advancing.
- Consider John 3:16.
- The temptation to become arrogant about the ignorance of the world to God's love, His Son, and His grace.

Foundations: Philosophical Realism (32)



5- Hermeneutics – how do we understand that which is?

4- Linguistics – how is that which is communicated?

3- Epistemology – how do I know that which is?

2- Metaphysics – what is that which is?

1- Reality – that which is



Foundations: Philosophical Realism (32)

1. The Word of God teaches that some things in the Bible are more difficult to understand (δυσνόητος) than others, 2 Pet. 3:16. The problem is not due to lack of ministry of the Holy Spirit. Peter had just as much of the Holy Spirit as Paul.

2 Peter 3:15 and regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the **wisdom** (σοφίαν) given him, wrote to you, 16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things **hard to understand** (δυσνόητά), which the **untaught** (ἀμαθεῖς) and **unstable** (ἀστήρικτοι) distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

Foundations: Philosophical Realism (32)

2. The Holy Spirit is designed to enable us to enter into the reality of truth and its application to our lives. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to make God's Word more significant to us on a personal level. He encourages us and enables us to see the answers to our problems.

Foundations: Philosophical Realism (32)

3. There is no shortcut to wisdom.
 - There is no easy five-step program to gaining wisdom.
 - It is working through the difficult concepts that we come to wisdom (Proverbs 1). It is struggling to understand concepts of God, Truth, Reality, that gives us true understanding. It is that struggle that changes us by taking us out of superficiality into true wisdom. Sometimes things are difficult on purpose so the believer will struggle with God and Scripture and really learn.
 - To find wisdom is to find life extremely exciting and interesting. The more you pursue God and wisdom, the more of God you are able to see and more activity of God within you.

Foundations: Philosophical Realism (32)

4. The PT is not only to teach the Truth, he is also to inculcate into believers the nature of truth, reality, and true interpretation (P.R.I.C.E.). He is to ground his congregation into understanding reality. It is his responsibility to train them metaphysically so they can actually make sense of such things as God, His essence, and His attributes. Most believers, including many doctrinal believers' views of God are bankrupt. The PT is held to a very high standard because he has enormous power to enlighten and to corrupt.

James 3:1 Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment.

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1. Job 38:1-11, 41. This passage, as well as most of the rest of Job, is filled with very deep metaphysical truths that are incredibly rich and rewarding. However, before the believer can truly appreciate what seems nonsensical, he must understand the nature of God, creation, and reality as such. E.g, do you have any trouble understanding God loving all creation? Consider the fact that this was the solution given to Job.
 - If God is in *all* creation in the sense of sustaining all of creation, how is it that He is only in the body of the believer, which is the Temple of the Holy Spirit? 1 Cor 6:19.
 - What does the Bible mean when it says Christ is in us, the hope of glory? Col 1:27.
 - Was God more present in the Tabernacle, than He was at Canaanite child-sacrificial sites or at Golden Calf? What about Heaven and Hell? Is God at any one place more than any other? Or is He equally everywhere?

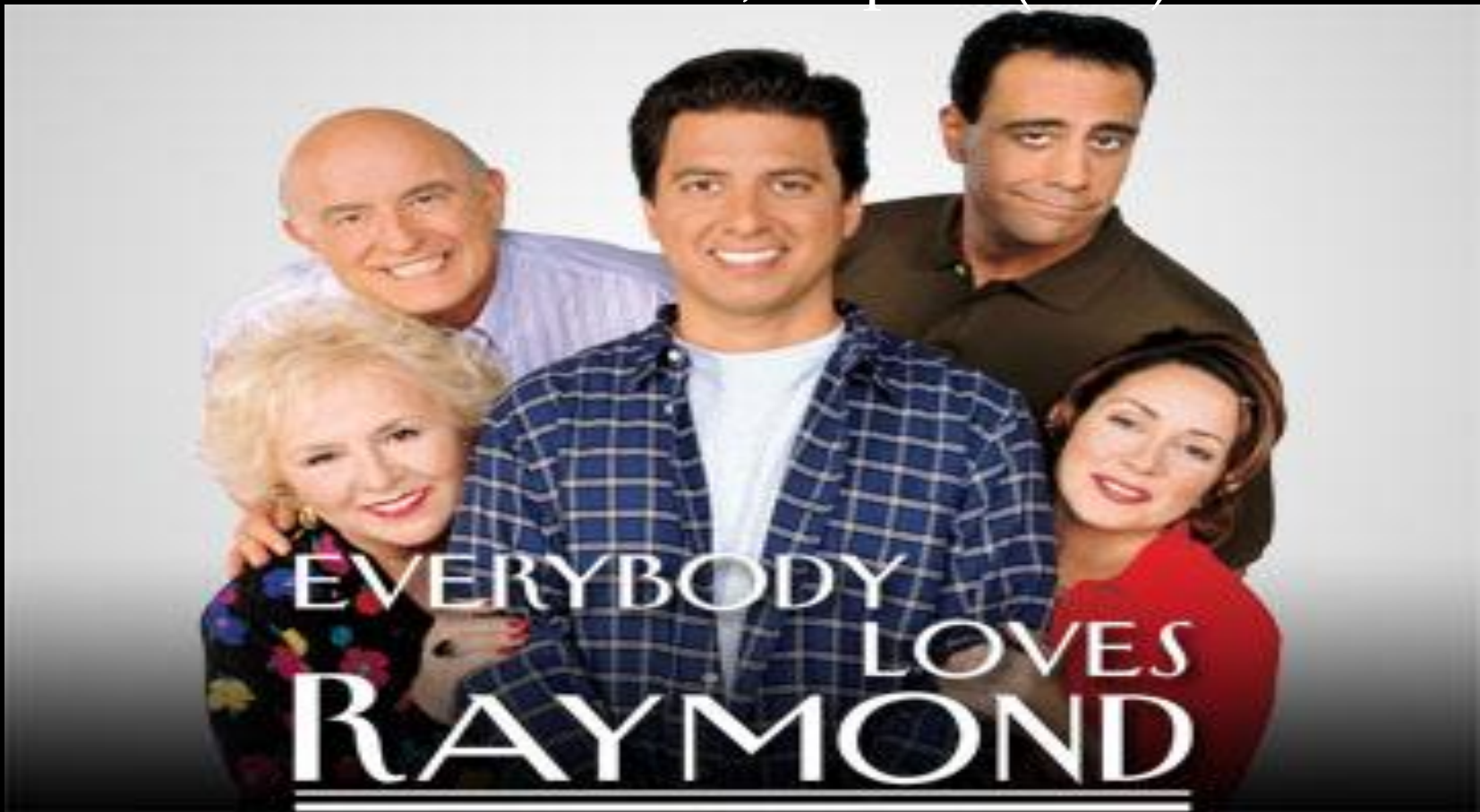
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2. Most Christians do not have a proper view of, God and it is the responsibility of the PT to train them in metaphysics so they can understand who and what God is (cf. the omnipresence and goodness of God). No healthy believer wants to be confused, incoherent and blasphemous about God, even if he understand mechanics of SL.
 - When the believer understands the nature of God, then he can understand for himself many vast things about God and doctrine like His sovereignty and man's free will.
 - Consider the mass of confusion and possible heresies because metaphysics is not taught to Christians.
 - To be able to understand correct answers to many questions, requires understanding the nature of God.

God and Creation-1

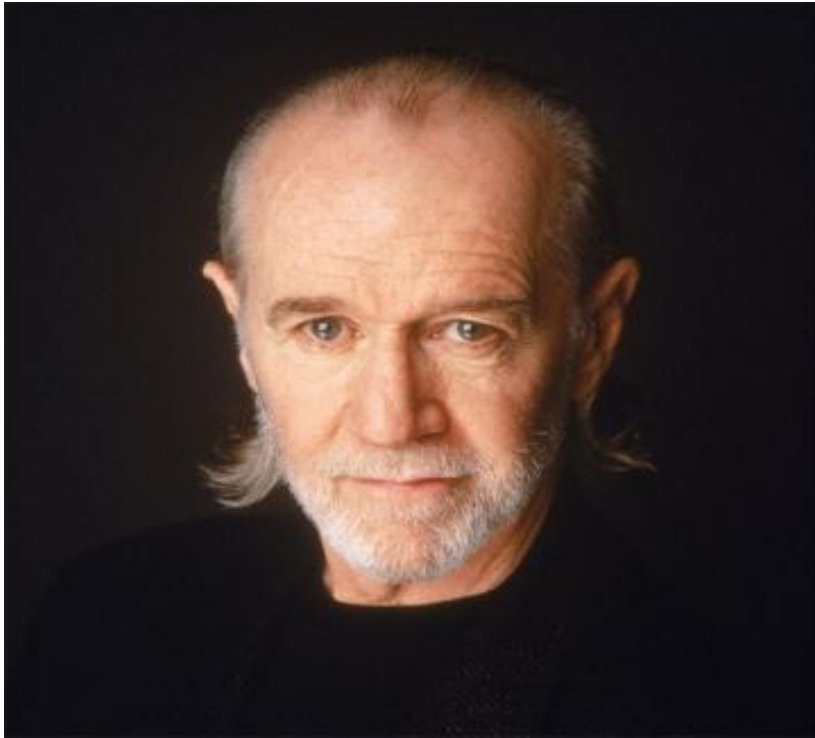
3. Before a believer can even begin to understand God, he must understand God-talk. Most believers have a very small view of God as He is in Himself. Consider contemporary examples of God-talk in the following clips. How would you respond if you were there? Would you be emotional or rational?

God-talk, Clip #1 (3:17)



- What is going on in this first level?
- Facts, opinions, anything thought out?
- Why are they all so confused ?

God-talk, Clip #2 (7:28): George Carlin on Bill Maher



- Second level of conversation. More refined than Raymond's. Not as confused as first? Is it all coming from top of head? Confident?
- Is he is stupid, low IQ? Does it matter if he is angry or nihilistic ?
- This would disturb many Christians, some would probably lose their faith.
- Why does he sound convincing to certain believers? Does he have a philosophy?
- Could believers on "Raymond level" handle him? Where did he get his ideas?
- How would you respond to Carlin? What level?

God-talk, clip #3 (4:24) – William Lane Craig



- ✓ Difference between Craig and the other two?
 - ✓ He is advancing a logical case.
 - ✓ There is no entertainment nor incoherency.
 - ✓ Every believer should be able to think on the 3rd level.
 - ✓ He would decimate Carlin and Maher, but with gentleness and humility.
 - ✓ To be confused is to be miserable.
 - ✓ We need to show the world that Christians can think on this level.

God-talk, clip #4: An exchange between Craig and Atkins



Craig,
“Why doesn’t that
commit the genetic
fallacy?”



First Speaker (Atkins)

Atkins, ‘ . . . there is no
God because people
desperately need to
believe in God.’



Buckley, “ Put that in
your pipe and smoke it”





God-talk, clip #5 (3:14): "Imagine" by John Lennon



Broken
Cross



- ✓ How do musicians engage in God-talk and life? For one, they emote.
- ✓ Music is the most powerful form of communication to the non-thinker.

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4. Review of the three options on “God-talk.”
 - a. #1, univocal God-talk. This means that there is a precise one-to-one correspondence between two people on the meaning of the language.
 - Why is this impossible with God?
 - Consider the trouble a believer could get into without understanding this, even if he knew the original languages.
 - How many think their understanding of love is the same as God’s.

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(there are three options on “God-talk”)

- b. #2, equivocal language. This means there is equivocation between the use of words between two people. The words are different.
 - Illustration: “I will meet you at the bank.”
 - Fallacy of equivocation: cat with 9 tails.

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(there are three options on “God-talk”)

- c. #3, analogical language. This is the only possibility of understanding language with reference to God. It enables us to speak correctly but not comprehensively about God.
 - All language of God is analogical.
 - The meaning of a word changes proportionally according to its being. Analogy of beings illustrated with goodness, perfection, act and potency, fully actualized.
 - No material things are perfect.

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Divine simplicity and attributes

1. The doctrine of the simplicity (biggest oxymoron of all time and most difficult, yet most important concept of God) of God maintains that there are no separate parts of God, physically or among His attributes. This means that God's love cannot be separated from His knowledge, power, and sovereignty. They cannot be pitted against each other. God's love is part of all of His attributes and actions, yet there are no separate attributes in Him (God's "hate" is part of language of accommodation taken from action seen from vantage point of man).