

## Opening Passages

Psalm 139:7-10 Where can I go from Thy Spirit? Or where can I flee from Thy presence? 8 If I ascend to heaven, Thou art there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, Thou art there. 9 If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, 10 Even there Thy hand will lead me, And Thy right hand will lay hold of me.

Acts 17:28 For in Him we live, and move, and have our being;

**The “Problem” of Evil and Suffering in the Presence of an All-knowing, All-good, All-loving, and All-powerful God (66):  
Job 38: God & Creation-12 (‘Ehyeh & Metaphysics 9 - Omnipresence)**

<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

Acts 17:28 - "for in Him we live and move and have our being (ἐσμεν)."

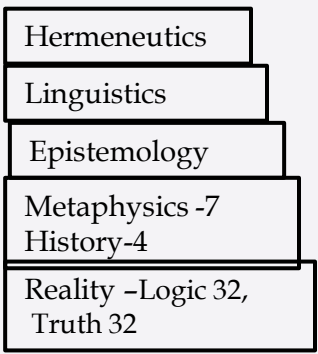
This is the most profound statement in the Word of God about metaphysics, ultimate reality.

Yet Paul is quoting Epimenides. How do you feel about that?

We have three issues in all of philosophical, scientific, and metaphysical history:

- Existence
- Motion
- Essence

**P.R. - 32**



Stage 3 -  
Metaphysical,  
profound  
understanding  
of God and  
Reality.

Stage 3 - Metaphysics

- Advanced understanding of metaphysics.
- Lives a life of awe and worship of *Esse* as the one who gives existence to all things.
- This believer is able to have the most profound awe and adoration of God.
- Has removed all pagan concepts of God.

Stage 2- Basic  
grasp of  
metaphysics.

Stage 2 - Metaphysics

- Grasps the fundamentals of metaphysics and how God causally operates in all things. Begins to grasp omnipresence of God.

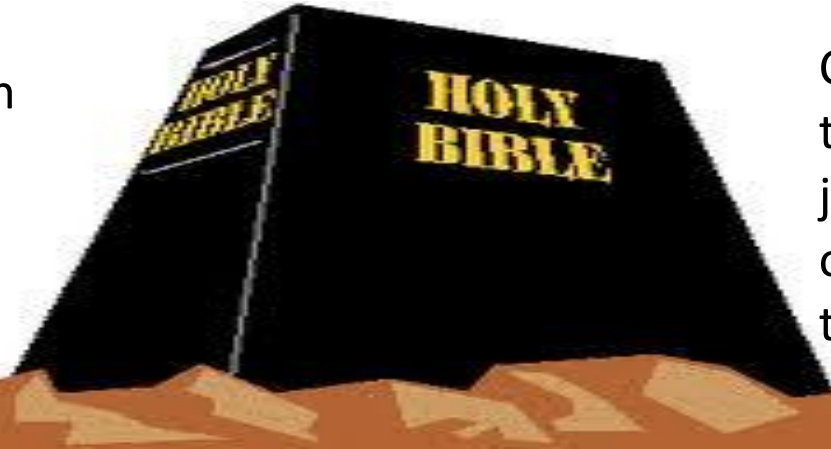
Stage 1-  
Unaware of  
metaphysics

Stage 1 - Metaphysics

- Blind to metaphysical realities.
- Even professors of sound conservative theological seminaries continue to make pagan statements about God: e.g., "God cannot be in certain people or places because of sin."

# Philosophical Foundations for Biblical Objectivity

Nearly every Christian today attempts to understand God through a pagan deistic worldview.



Correspondence truth takes one on a wonderful journey of discovery of objective Truth of God and the POG

**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?**

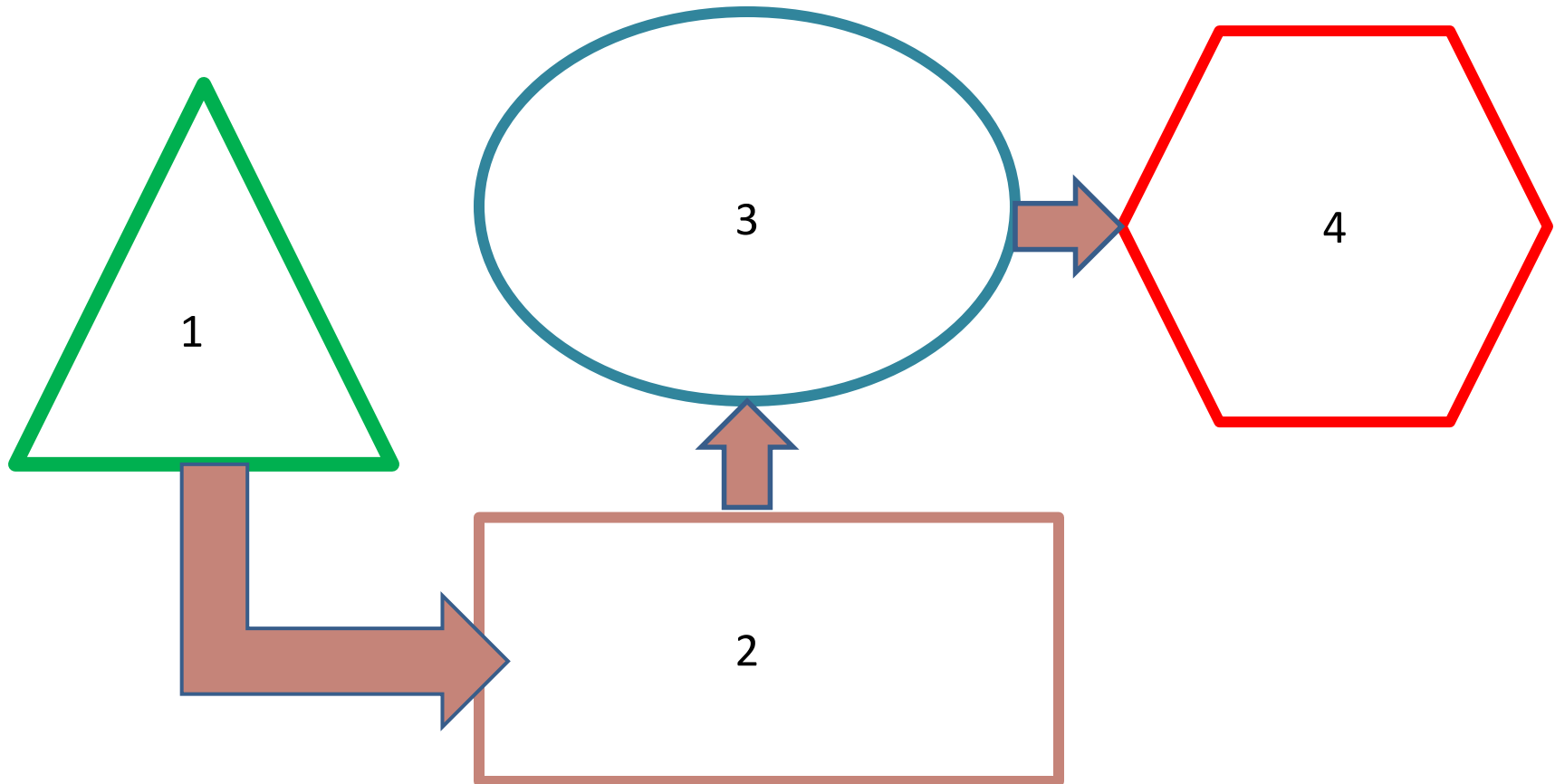
**(History of Metaphysics 4, Metaphysics 7)**

**1- Reality – that which is (Logic 32, Truth 32)**

PR 32

# Foundations: Metaphysics (History-4)

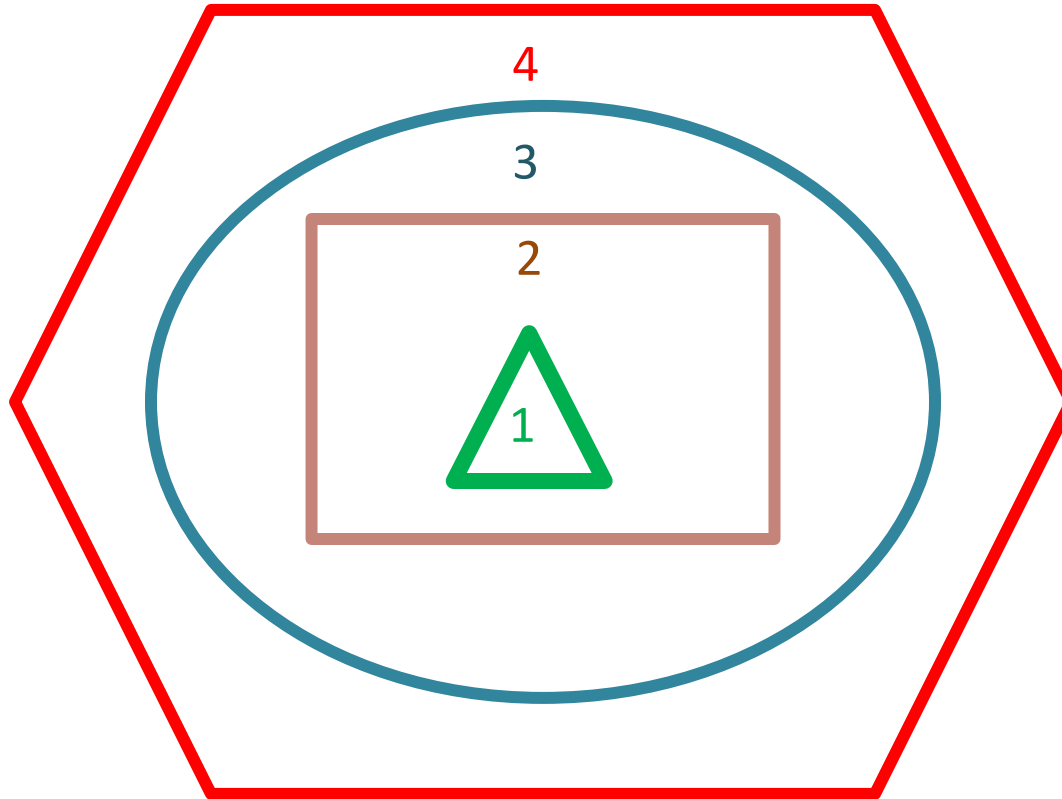
Review of the four causes of knowing what a thing is (philosophy of nature).



# Foundations: Metaphysics (History-4)

The four causes are all integrated.

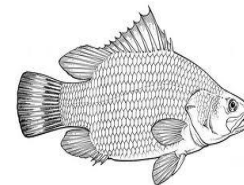
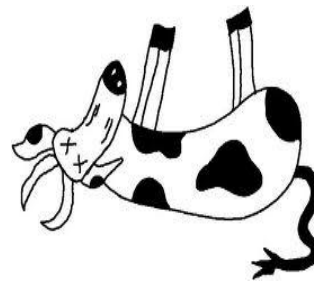
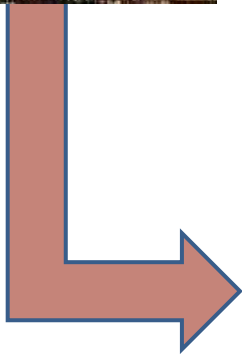
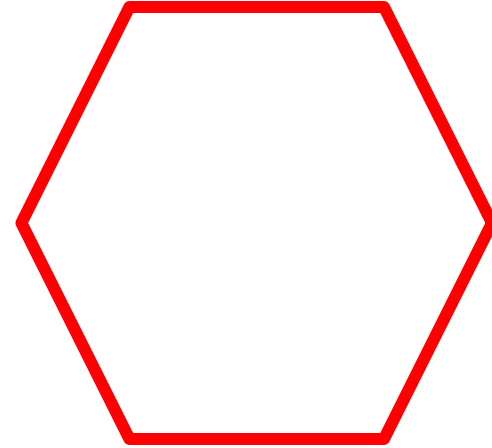
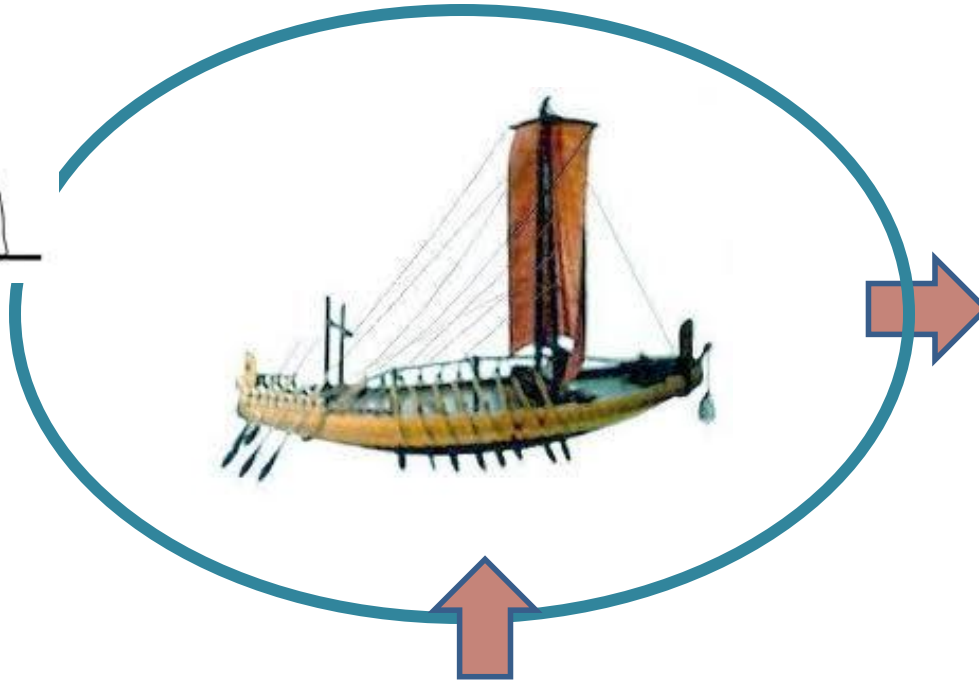
- 1- Agent
- 2-Matter
- 3-Form
- 4-End



1 works on 2  
to make 3 for  
4.

# Foundations: Metaphysics (History-4)

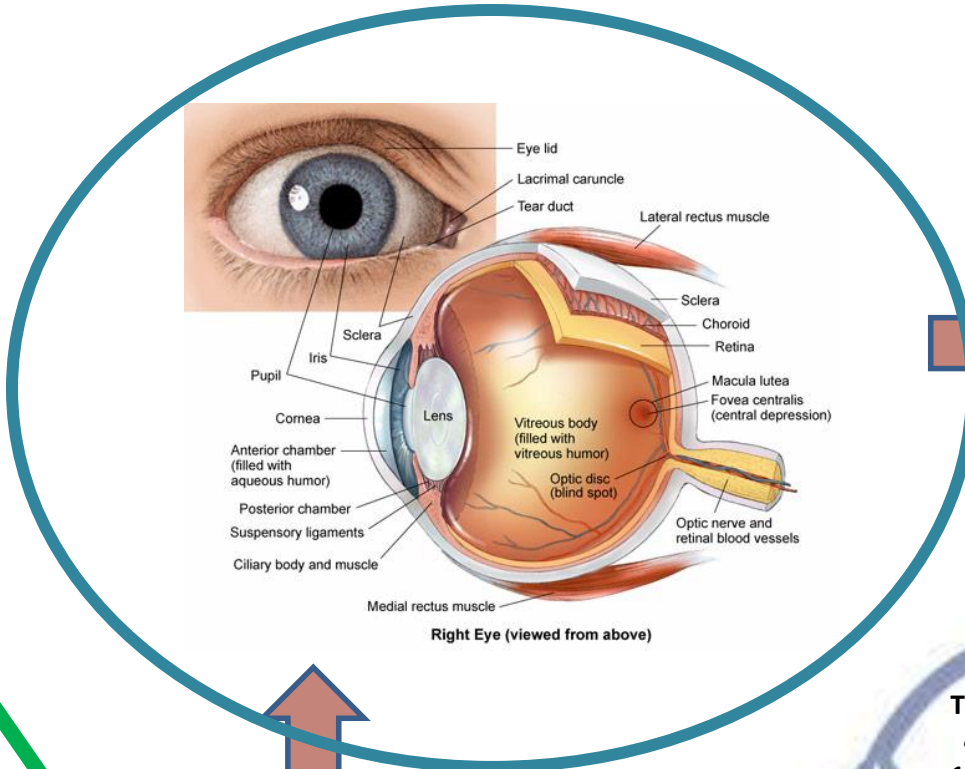
Form = structure



# Foundations: Metaphysics (History-4)

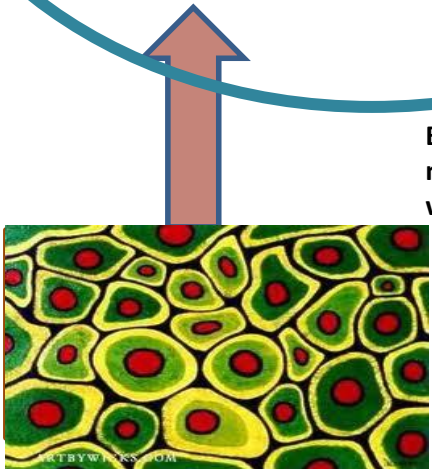
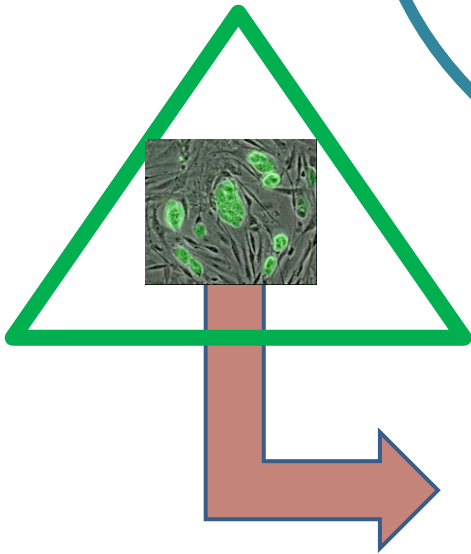
Modernity rejects formal and final causation. Note the exquisite *form* of the eye:

Eye picks up electro-magnetic radiation wave- lengths 360-760 millimicrons (thousandths of a millionth of a meter): from cornea to lens to retina (part of nervous system) to transducers to electrical language.

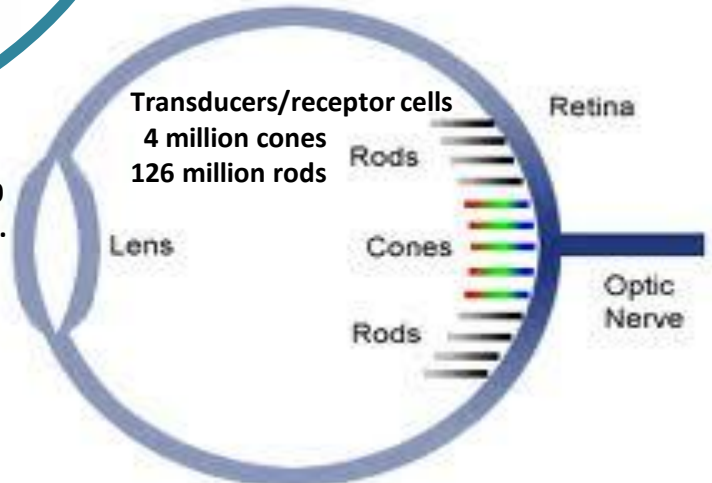


## Sight

- Converts stimuli to electrical language
- Able to distinguish about 200 colors and hues.



Exquisite design of 130 million rods and cones. with 1 million optic nerve fibers.



## Foundations: Metaphysics (History-4)

The damage Satan has wrought on the modern human mind—in unbelievers and believers—is truly staggering.

- It is extremely difficult to be hyperbolic regarding the damage in the thinking of nearly every person: from the man on the street to famous Bible teachers who lead Bible conferences.
- Practically speaking, almost every modern Christian is deistic when it comes to reality as such.



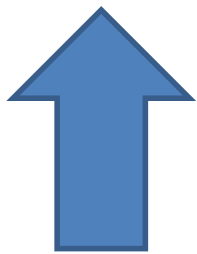
## Foundations: Metaphysics (History-4)

- Hardly anyone has a robust understanding of metaphysics and side with Kant instead of Paul and Romans 1:20.
- We are attempting to fix this malady by two interconnected studies.
  - ✓ History of metaphysics.
  - ✓ The discipline of metaphysics.

## History of Metaphysics 32

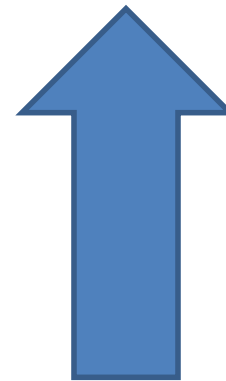
## The Discipline of Metaphysics 32

(Metaphysics is more about thinking tools and skills than just data and categories. It provides totally new way of thinking about God, the Bible, and Reality as such)



- 4- Anaximenes & Anaximander
- 3-Thales – 1<sup>st</sup> philosopher
- 2-Kant's Wall
- 1-Overview

History of Metaphysics 4



- 7-Satan's attack on metaphysics
- 6-Integration of 4 causes
- 5-Act of existence = "to be"
- 4-Act and Potency/potential
- 3- Four causes
- 2-Being *qua* being
- 1-Introduction

Metaphysics 7

# Foundations: Metaphysics (History-4)

## Ancient

## Medieval Scholastics

## Modern

### Descent of the Moderns

## Contemporary Period Aristotle's Revenge

Pre-Socratics

Thales  
Anaximenes  
Anaximander  
Heraclitus  
Parmenides

Socrates  
Plato  
Aristotle

Augustine

Aquinas  
1225-1274

Dominated by rejection of formal and final causation for mechanical view: All that really exists are primary qualities of size, shape, motion, mass, and number

Rejection of formal and final causes

Copernicus  
Galileo  
Bacon  
Hobbs  
Descartes  
Spinoza  
Leibniz  
Newton  
Locke  
Berkely  
Hume  
Kant  
Hegel  
Marx  
Kierkegaard  
Nietzsche  
Comte, Bentham, Mill

With rejection of form and *telos* modern science is filled with absurdities about ultimate reality. Modern mechanistic science is both irrational and immoral.

Living in Kant's Shadow

Practically every Christian

Charles Peirce  
William James  
John Dewey  
Bertrand Russell  
Ludwig Wittgenstein  
John Austin  
Edmund Husserl  
Martin Heidegger  
Jean-Paul Sartre  
Quine  
Thomas Kuhn  
Foucault  
Derrida  
Richard Rorty

4 causes – final causality



## Foundations: Metaphysics (History-4)

Anaximenes (B.C. 585-525).

1. Anaximenes
  - Challenged Thales and substituted “air” for water as the ultimate substance of ultimate reality.
  - Air is hylozoistic and all living things need air to survive.
2. Following this, other Greek philosophers came along with other ideas of what was ultimate reality (earth, wind, water, and fire).
  - Pluralists ended up with diversity without unity (Democrates).
  - Monists ended up with unity without diversity (Thales, Anaximenes)

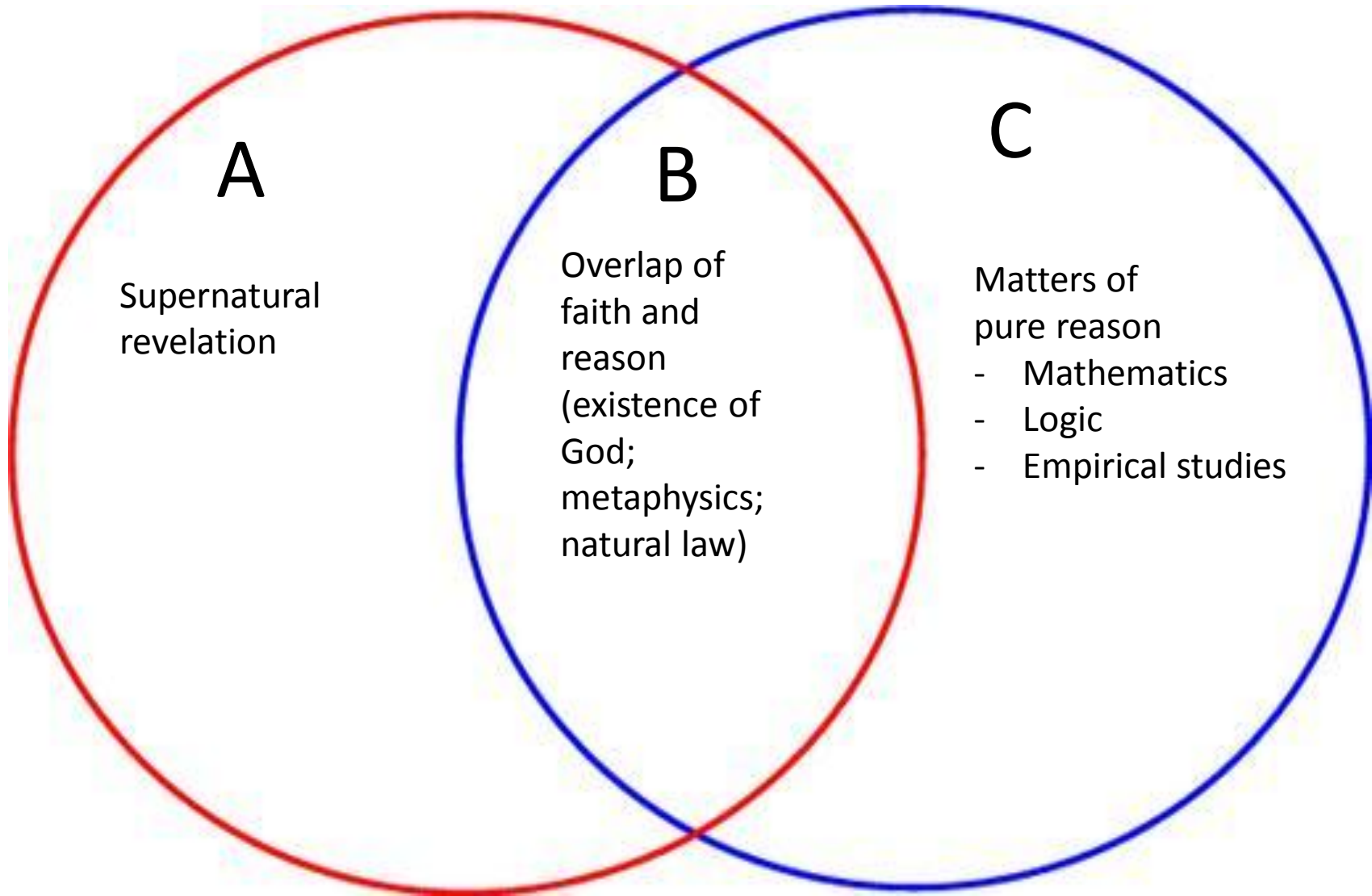


## Foundations: Metaphysics (History-4)

Anaximander  
B.C. 610-546

3. After there was discussion of four elements making up ultimate reality, Anaximander came up with quintessential (5<sup>th</sup>) concept of the *Apeiron*:
  - ✓ The boundless and ageless that was above and beyond all time.
  - ✓ It was the eternal and infinite source of unity.
  - ✓ This is as close as the Greeks get to the nature of God.
  - ✓ But consider the differences between the abstract concept of the Greeks and personal concept revealed to Moses and John. The Hebrews knew that this Eternal that was a Who.

# Scholastic Metaphysics (Aquinas) – Nature of reality



Modern Decline in metaphysics began with William of Ockham (1288-1348)



- Nominalist
- Ockham's Razor

Faith

A

Experience/Empiricism

B

Logic/Philosophy

C

Ockham sealed off faith from experience and logic in an attempt to keep theology from being corrupted by philosophy. This separation frees theology from philosophy, but at the same time it seals off revelation from logic and experience. This unwittingly lays the groundwork for science and philosophy being autonomous disciplines. Up to this point all of the philosophers had been theologians as well.

# 'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-9 (Omnipresence)

1. 'Ehyeh, Exodus 3:7-15.
  - a. The distinction between knowing the nature of God versus knowing what He has done and will do for you.
  - b. Believers who does not care for learning about the nature of God or Reality will end up being losers like the Israelites. They will be dominated by their problems and sins like the Israelites instead of living in understanding, awe, and worship of 'Ehyeh. They will end up being religious instead of growing in relationship.



## 'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-9 (Omnipresence)

- c. Most believers have inadequate and heretical views of God (consider the Israelites and Golden Calf). Knowing that He loves you is not the same as knowing His nature.
- d. There is nothing you can do about someone else's volition. Either someone wants to learn about *Esse* or they do not.
- e. How full is your view of God? How can a person love and admire someone for who and what he is, if he does not know who and what he is? What would you think of a human being who only loved someone for what that person did for him?

## 'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-9 (Omnipresence)

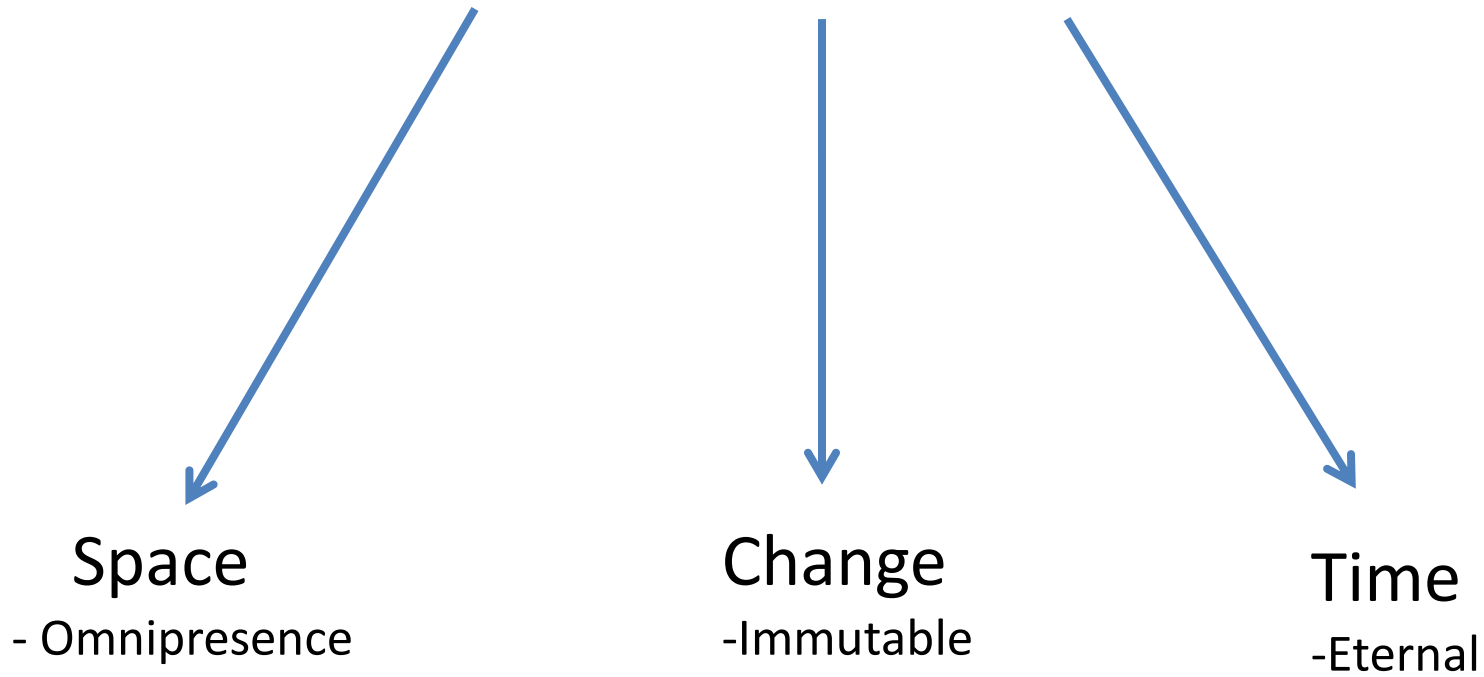
2. Overview of attributes of 'Ehyeh that we will be examining, which are almost always ignored and thus grossly misunderstood in contemporary Christianity.

Simplicity  
Infinite

- ✓ Omnipresent (Psa. 139)
- ✓ Omnipotent; God is His omnipotence
- ✓ Omniscient; God is His omniscience
- ✓ Immutable (James 1:17)
- ✓ Holy (Isa. 6:3; 1 Chron. 13:7-11)
- ✓ Timeless (2 Pet. 3:8; Isa. 46:10)
- ✓ Impassible (Mal. 3:6)
- ✓ Just (Gen. 18:25; Isa 30:18; Rom. 3:21-26)
- ✓ Love (1 John 4:8; Rom. 5:8)

## 'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-9 (Omnipresence)

# Infinity of God



## 'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-9 (Omnipresence)

3. The Bible testifies to the omnipresence of God, Deut. 10:14; 1 Kings 8:27; Jer. 23:23; Psa 139:1-12; Acts 17:27.

## 'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-9 (Omnipresence)

4. God's presence and Hell. If God's presence is not in Hell, then Hell cannot exist. Unbelievers will not be able to even get away from God's presence in Hell. The idea that Hell is the absence of God is false. His presence is there but not as a source of blessing. Rather, a source of condemnation. Like the presence of a government that incarcerates an individual, God's justice keeps unbelievers there. God's justice will be before them forever. Those who say they do not want to be close to God and so they would rather be in Hell are in for a big surprise.

## **'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-9 (Omnipresence)**

5. Without the presence of God, all things would collapse into non-being (Acts 17:28; John 1:3; Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3).

## **'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-9 (Omnipresence)**

6. Because God is infinite, He is in everything and everyplace but He is not identical to everything (pantheism). God is always distinct from the world. He gives formal structure to the universe, but unlike pantheism He is not the material cause of the universe.

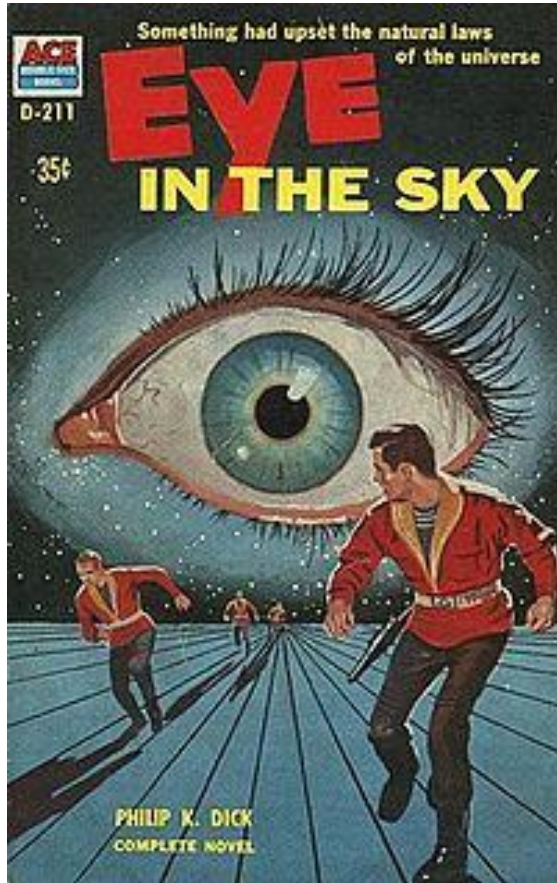
## **'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-9 (Omnipresence)**

7. In God's omnipresence, He is immanent because He is the efficient cause of all things in the universe. He is causally related to the universe.



## 'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-9 (Omnipresence)

8. The common and false view of God's omnipresence and omniscience is that God is out there watching autonomous creation and sometimes poking at creation, but not really actively involved in creation.



## 'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-9 (Omnipresence)

9. Three aspects of the omnipresence of God.
  - a. #1, God is present in all things by His power. He is in everything and in every place. He fills creation.
  - b. #2, God knows all things and moving all things along His divine plan. God's whole presence is entirely present to everything and to every place. His whole presence is in everything.
  - c. #3, God is creator, preserver, and sustainer.

## **'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-9 (Omnipresence)**

10. God is omnipresent because He is the sustaining cause of the continual existence of all of creation.
11. Although God is not spatial, we say He is here or there in the sense of Him doing something over here or there. Literally, He is not to my right or left or up or down.

## 'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-9 (Omnipresence)

12. We say He is in things due to the fact that He is causally related to all things. He must be in all things because He is the sustaining cause of all things in creation. God is present to all things as the Agent is present to the action and effect in which it produces.



## **'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-9 (Omnipresence)**

13. One reason a lot of people have a hard time grasping this is because their view of causality is influenced by David Hume. His model of causality is taken as the standard where they are viewed as two separate events: that one kind of thing follows another.

## **'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-9 (Omnipresence)**

14. However, with God His efficient causality produces an effect or a change on or in another being. The cause is in the effect. Causality is not in the cause, rather it is in the effect in the becoming. The metaphysical status of causality itself is in the thing being changed.

## **'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-9 (Omnipresence)**

15. For example, heat from a stove is the cause of water boiling. The causality is found in the heat of the water as a result of the heat from the stove. But the heat in the water is not the stove's heat. The heat from the stove is bringing about causality in the water. Causality is the communication of actuality through the effect. The action of the cause is in the effect. Causality is not a cause if it does not bring about an effect in something.

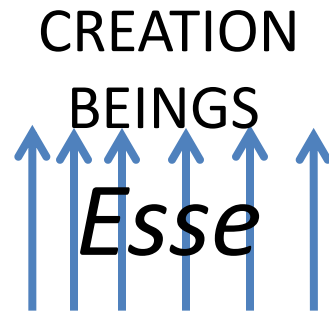
## **'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-9 (Omnipresence)**

16. God is the sustainer of motion, existence, time. God is present to it all; He is not something along side of it. He is not next to it. He is not the eye in the sky. He is everywhere in change, motion, and existence; God sustains all things.



## 'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-9 (Omnipresence)

17. God is the cause of the actuality of all creatures. He preserves their actuality. Finite creatures could never be the source of their actuality. At every moment of existence God, has to sustain them or they are non-being. Creation can never give itself being or existence. It is always a parasite for existence. Existence penetrates all of your being, from your face to your tiny blood vessels. He is sustaining every cell of your being. Every part of your being requires God. So He is in all things. But He is not in there as a physical being. He is not there locally, He does not take up space.



## 'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-9 (Omnipresence)

18. God is in all things but not *spatially*. He is the immanent and transcendent causal ground of the continued being and existence of all things. He is not part of things, but He is the cause of the existence of all things. Analogously, when the Bible teaches that God the Holy Spirit is inside all Church Age believers, it is speaking of Him being the causal ground for the being/existence/dynamics of the spiritual power needed for the spiritual life.

## **'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-9 (Omnipresence)**

19. When God is present to something, His entire being is present to that something. We can be partially present. But because He is simple, His presence is undivided and complete. All of God is in each cell, all of your blood, in all of your body, all of God is in the space-time continuum.

## 'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-9 (Omnipresence)

20. God is the causal Agent wholly present in everything and to every place. Everything means just that. He is present as the causal agent as the stove is to the hot water. The best illustration would be your souls relationship to your body. Your soul is the formal cause of your body.

## 'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-9 (Omnipresence)

21. The spatial language of God being here or there comes from us. He is causing physical and spatial things, but He is not located there. He does not get wet in water or burn in fire.
22. God is not in us like a genie in the bottle. He is active in us and producing different things in us. There is no more of God in you than an unbeliever (or behind the Veil versus with Canaanites). You are indwelt with the Holy Spirit because He is causally producing things in your life whereas the pagan rejects God's grace and power for them. God is causally in the ocean of Job 38 as well as in the believer.

## **'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-9 (Omnipresence)**

23. God is the cause of the existence of your soul and the existence to all of your thoughts. He sustains every thought you would ever have (cf., Acts 2:22-23). There is nothing apart from God. This grants maximum freedom to the human race which God uses for His glory.

## **'Ehyeh and Metaphysics-9 (Omnipresence)**

24. There is not more of God in one place than another. Although there certainly can be more activity of God in one place than another, which is a source of great motivation. Through fellowship and Bible doctrine, we can have a lot more activity of God in us.