

## Opening Passages

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

**Isaiah 46:9-10** "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';

**1 John 1:1** What (ὅ) was from the beginning, what (ὅ) we have heard, what (ὅ) we have seen with our eyes, what (ὅ) we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of Life-- 2 and the life was manifested, and we have seen and bear witness and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us-- 3 what (ὅ) we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, that you also may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

The "Problem" of Evil and Suffering in the Presence of an All-knowing, All-good, All-loving, and All-powerful God (70):

Job 38: God & Creation-16 (Immutability and Prayer)

<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

This chart is my attempt to correct my failures for the past 20 years in two key areas.

Illustration with 1 John 1 (from 1995 to 2012)

It is not OK for doctrinal believers not to be somewhat conversant on all of these doctrines?

There is a critical need to change the thinking of church age believers, even doctrinal ones, even if it is just one person at a time before it is too late.

### P.R. - 32

- Hermeneutics
- Linguistics
- Epistemology
- Metaphysics -10
- History-5
- Reality -Logic 32, Truth 32

A word about the perspicuity of Scripture.

Stage 3 -

Stage 2

Stage 1-

### Stage 3 - Christian metaphysician.

- The believer who becomes a Christian metaphysician has a totally new mindset with regard to the nature of 'Ehyeh/Esse and all of reality.
- Only in metaphysics can a believer really understand the attributes of God.

### Stage 2 - Overcomer.

- Through BD, this believer has gained a great deal of divine viewpoint in his soul regarding God and the spiritual life.
- However, he continues to have some pagan views about God's *nature*.
- He is stable but needs to move to the next level to understand what he is really talking about.

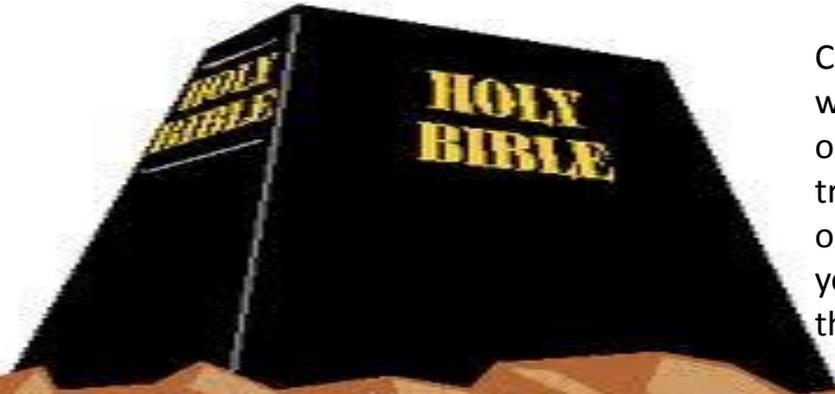
### Stage 1 - Pagan view of God and the church

- All baby believers have a great deal of pagan views of God.
- All baby believers are tossed here and there by the kosmos, Eph 4:14.
- For baby believers, church is not for edification – rather, for self-image or to gain *emotional* connection with God.
- God is not really seen as the Ultimate Solution to problems, not really.

# Philosophical Foundations for Biblical Objectivity

Since all Christians come from different backgrounds with unique philosophical influences, how can one truly gain true biblical objectivity?

Consider the tremendous blessings we have gained by following the objectivity map in the areas of logic, truth, and metaphysics—and we have only just begun. I am confident that you are now conversant on most of these issues (except metaphysics).



**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?**

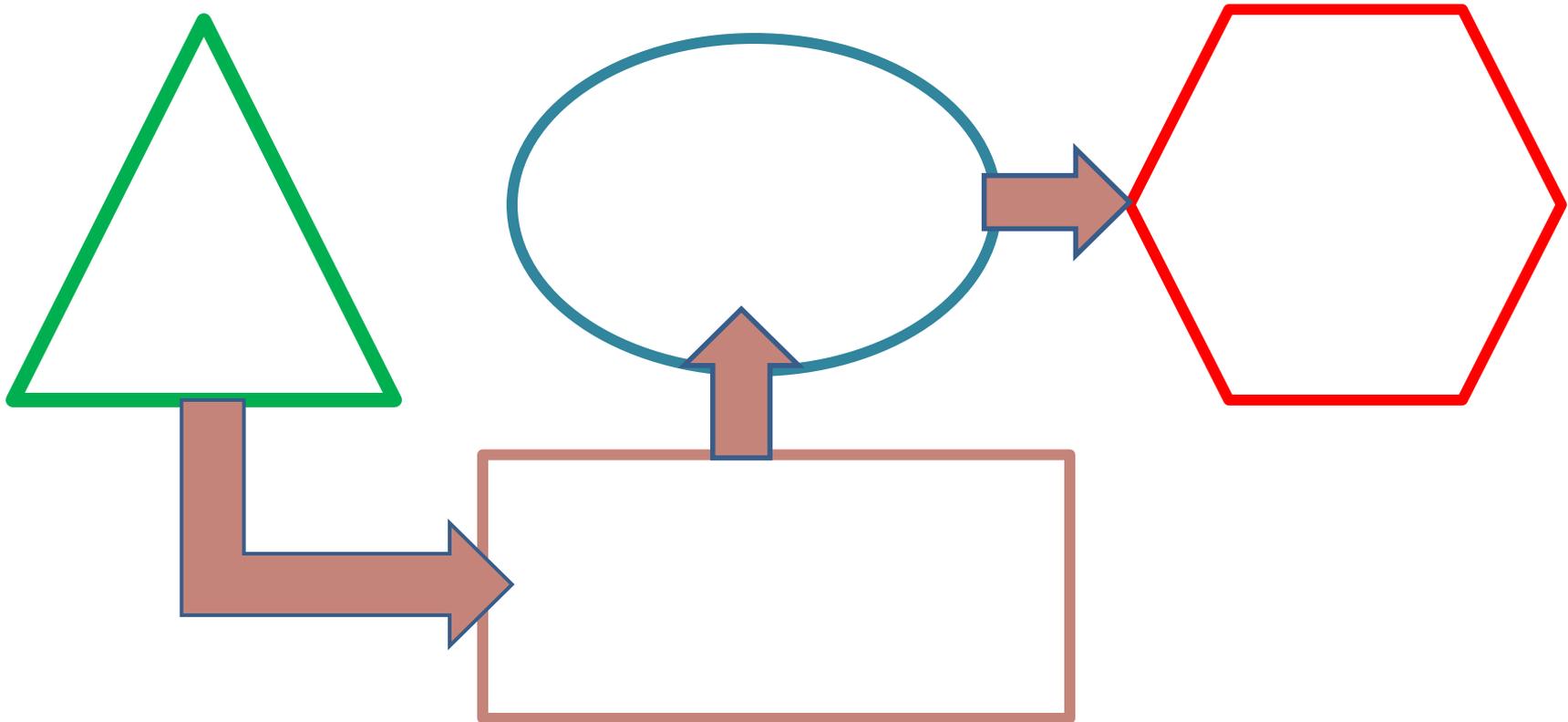
**(History of Metaphysics 5, Science of Metaphysics 10)**

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

PR 32

## Foundations: Metaphysics (Metaphysics-10)

Philosophy of nature: The complex metaphysical structure of the natural world has dramatic implications regarding God, Esse, morality, science, scientism, and the militant New Atheists. The believer who grasps the metaphysical implications of this can defeat any atheist at the most fundamental level.



## Bacon



1561-1626

## Foundations: Metaphysics (Metaphysics-10)

Major attacks on formal and final causation began with Francis Bacon and Rene Descartes—two men who heavily influence everyone today.

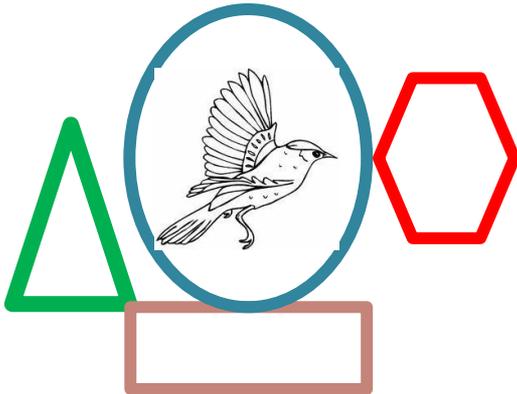
## Descartes



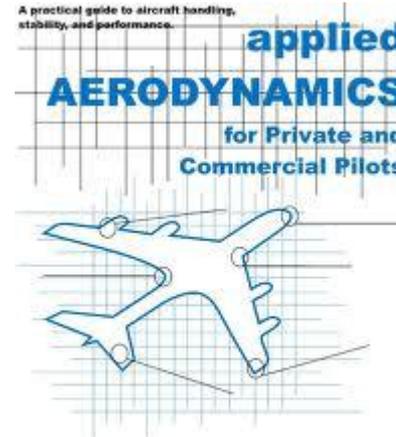
1596-1650

- Since formal causes are not strictly science (they are in philosophy of nature), they were rejected when mechanical causation came on the scene.
- Natural science neither destroys nor establishes formal/final causation.
- There is no incompatibility between formal and mechanical causation.

Formal Cause = what and why



Mechanical cause = how



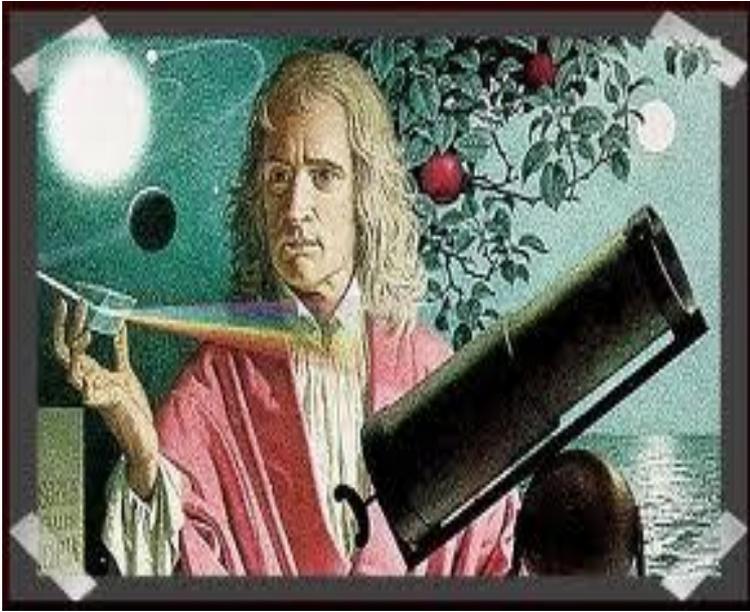
$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{u} = -\frac{\nabla p}{\rho} + \nu \nabla^2 \mathbf{u},$$

Algebra, trigonometry, and calculus of aeronautics

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u} = 0,$$

$$u b d = u s$$

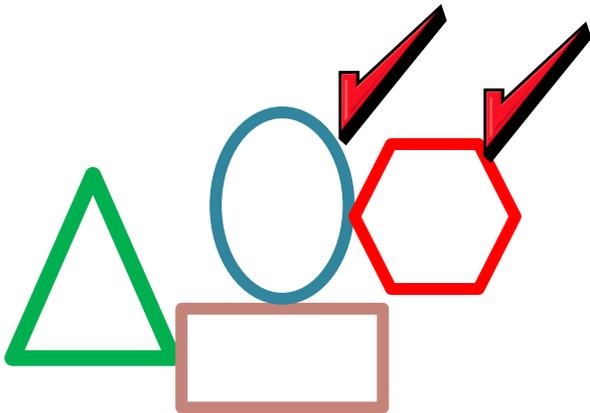
## Foundations: Metaphysics (Metaphysics-10)



Isaac Newton  
1642-1727

Newton, a brighter and more prudent head (than Descartes, Bacon, and everyone else) recognized that mechanical causation need not exclude formal and final causation:

“Whence is it that nature does nothing in vain; and whence arises all that order and beauty which we see in the world? How came the bodies of animals to be contrived with so much art, and for what ends were their several parts? Was the eye contrived without skill in Optics, and the ear without knowledge of sounds? How do the motions of the body follow from the will, and where is the instinct of animals?”



# The Curse of the Modern Mindset & its Ramifications

Ockham's razor: cuts too much, you should not cut away what you cannot explain.

Ockham's toiletries☺

Faith/Bible

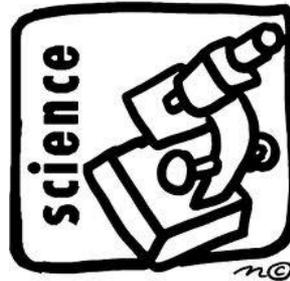
A



Experience/Empiricism

B cannot get to A because effect in world cannot tell us about cause

B



Logic/Philosophy

Philosophy makes very little contributions to knowledge of God or the world

C



Philosophy

Consider the comments of DTS professor when asked about the metaphysical implications of God and His name in Exodus 3:14: *"there aren't any ontological or metaphysical statements . . . This is a biblical statement. You are trying to impose philosophy on the biblical text."*

Great evils as a result of rejection of philosophy by Christians: irrationality (leading to mental illness), superstition, and loss of the true understanding of nature of Ehyeh, esse/reality, God's continuous sustaining power of creation, et al.

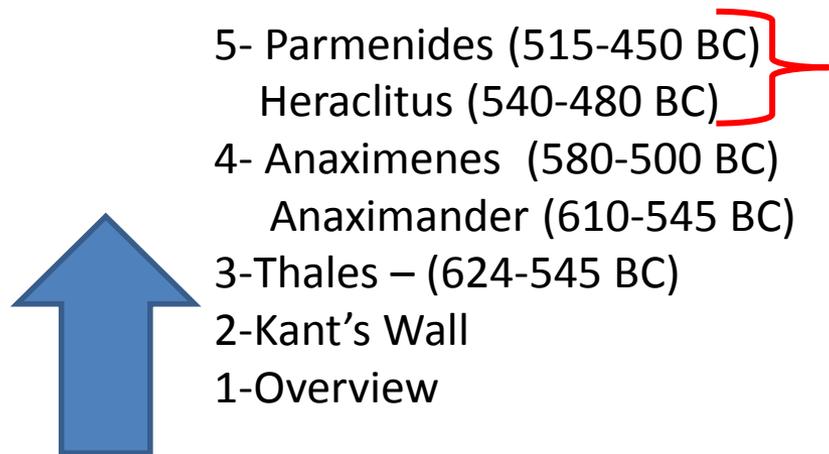
# Foundations: Metaphysics (Metaphysics-10)

## History of Metaphysics 32

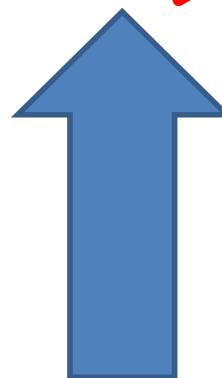
Average believer is far smarter than the clergy thinks. Christians need to be stretched beyond 8<sup>th</sup> grade level. Further, we need to get rid of Protestant “magisterium” complexes. Note that we managed to get through these philosophers without you breaking out in a rash or suffering a stroke. Yea! There is hope for modern Christianity!

## The Science of Metaphysics 32

We are 1/3 of the way through the science of metaphysics. One reason this is so difficult is because of the modern metaphysical mindset that we all possess, which comes between us and clear thinking about the Lord.



History of Metaphysics 5



- 8-10 Being-Becoming-change  
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 (still in progress)  
2-Being *qua* being  
1-Introduction

Science of Metaphysics 10

# God and Creation-16

Exodus 3:14  
"I AM"

אֶהְיֶה

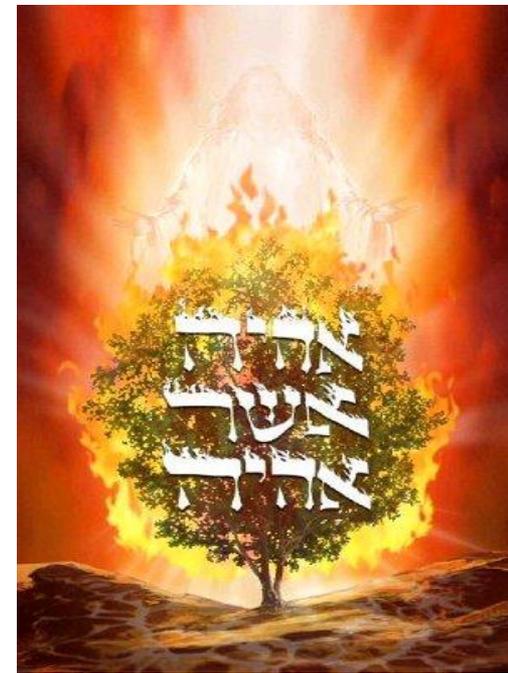
'Ehyeh

This is the key to understanding the nature of God, biblical descriptions of God, metaphysics, and reality as such.

The foundation for all of God's attributes: simplicity (non-composed), immutability, timelessness, omnipresence, omniscience, infinitude etc. This keeps pastors and believers from making God in their own image.

**Pure Act**

The ultimate constituency of the universe.



## God and Creation-16

1. The fundamental problem with God's people has always been in failure to understand the nature and thus the character of 'Ehyeh, Exod. 15:1-11; 32:1-24; Num. 13:27-14:3; Isa. 1:2-3; 1 Cor. 10:1-13; Heb. 3:7-19.

## God and Creation-16

2. There are two vital parts to true knowledge of and growth in the Lord.
  - a. First, the short term bottom-up approach. E.g., this would be coming to Bible class and learning something about the spiritual life and God that stabilizes the life and enables you to move into closer fellowship with Him. This is usually short-lived until you run out of gas again (like Israelites).The believer must continue to muster up faith week after week.
    - What are some long term implications of stressing mainly the bottom-up approach?

## God and Creation-16

- b. Secondly, the top-down approach. This is progressive and graduated growth in understanding God as such. The believer who takes advantage of this learning not only grows in trust in God, he gains clear and accurate thinking about the nature of God for its own sake.
- What are the long-term implications of this focus?
  - Consider how blind we can be to the true nature of God as per the omnipresence of God.
  - I am so glad that I did not go any further in Romans before really understanding the nature of God.