

## 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';

**Philippians 2:6-8** Who, although He existed in the *morphe* (μορφῆ) of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the *morphe* (μορφῆν) of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

The "Problem" of Evil and Suffering in the Presence of an  
All-knowing, All-good, All-loving, and All-powerful God (72):  
Job 38: God & Creation-18 [rg/sermons.html](http://rg/sermons.html)

# Philosophical/Theological/Doctrinal/Spiritual Framework

## Bible Doctrines

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

P.R. - 32

Hermeneutics

Linguistics

Epistemology

Metaphysics -10  
 History-6

Reality -Logic 32,  
 Truth 32

**My great love for the doctrinal movement and attempt to stop its disintegration into fideism, anti-intellectualism, mysticism, and pragmatism.**

**Unless you understand metaphysics you most certainly do not really understand the nature of God, reality, man, or Bible doctrine. This is not to deny the *basic* perspicuity of Scripture.**



5 skeleton keys to Biblical objectivity

**Stage 3**

**Stage 2**

Are You In The  
**Danger Zone?**

**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 – Christian

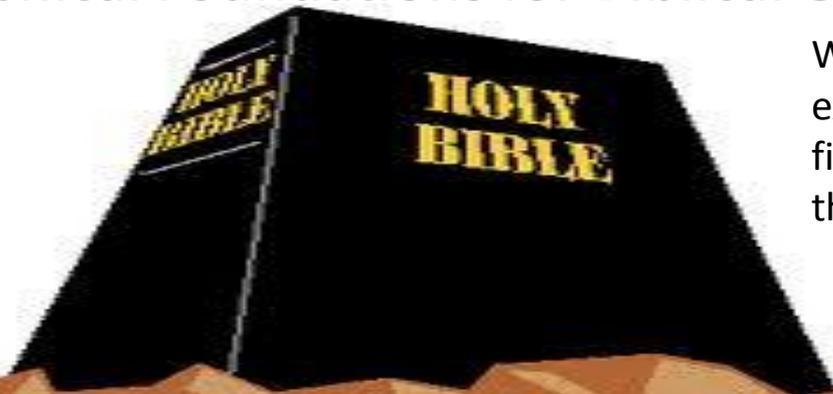
- Through BD, this believer has gained a great deal of divine viewpoint in his soul regarding God and the spiritual life.
- However, he continues to have some pagan views about God's *nature* due to lack of metaphysical development.
- Stable, but still very dependent on others for ultimate reality.

### Stage 1 – Christian baby

- All baby believers have a great deal of pagan views of God due to **the problem of pagan horizon of meaning.**
- All baby believers are tossed here and there by the kosmos, Eph 4:14.
- For baby believers it is all about if it works on a practical level. If it works, they think it must be true.

# Philosophical Foundations for Biblical Objectivity

Lack of understanding of metaphysics is the greatest source of false views of God among Christians and cults.



We all come with different experiences, only through these five skeleton keys can we unlock the doors of objectivity.

**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 6, Science of Metaphysics 10)**

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

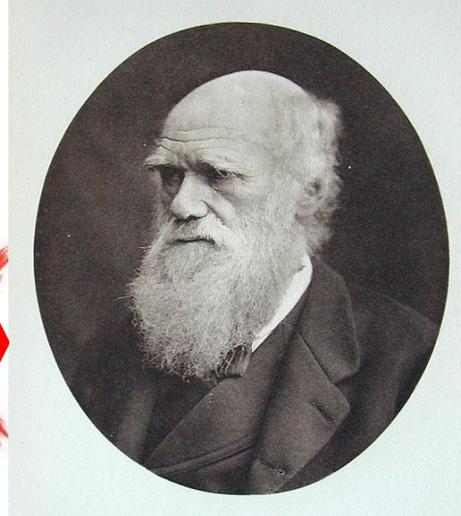
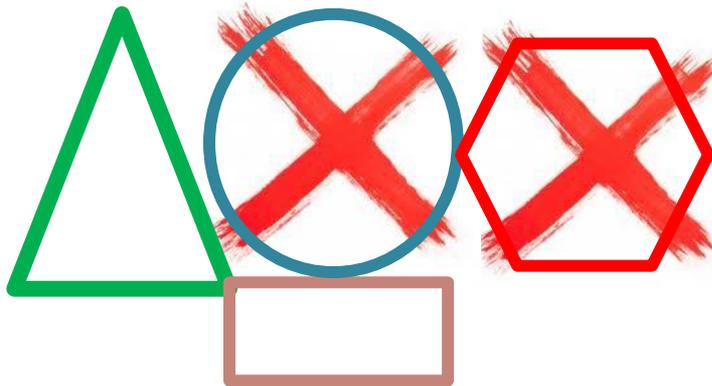
Goal is to have a universal framework which guarantees Truth for all people for all time.

PR 32

# Foundations: Metaphysics (History 6)

## A few remarks about Darwin and Darwinism:

1. Darwin and modern science adamantly rejects forms and *telos* only to return to them by necessity to explain anything about their area subject matter, e.g., Darwin's rejection and use of "species."
2. There is no conflict between science and the Bible, the conflict is between metaphysical views.
3. The believer who does not understand metaphysics (at least with respect to form, matter, and existence) does not understand what is going on here. He will necessarily default to fear, agnosticism, and fideism.



**Charles Darwin**  
**1809-1882**

- ✓ Today there continues the fusion of sense between Darwinism and evolution (began in 1878 in EB)
- ✓ Darwin's theory of natural selection is wrongly supposed to be identical with the theory of organic evolution.
- ✓ The term "evolution" today serves the purpose of hiding the absence of an idea—they cannot explain their mechanical view of nature; it is an empty philosophical concept.

# Foundations: Metaphysics (History 6)

## History of Metaphysics 32

Why were the Greeks the first to attain the highest levels of abstract thought regarding ultimate Being.

The quest to answer the question of “Ultimate Being”



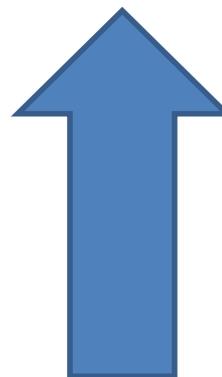
- 6- Monists vs. Pluralists – one & the many
- 5- Parmenides (515-450 BC) – all is being  
Heraclitus (540-480 BC) – all is flux
- 4- Anaximander (610-545 BC) - *apeiron*  
Anaximenes (580-500 BC) - air
- 3- Thales – (624-545 BC) - water
- 2- Kant’s Wall
- 1- Overview

## History of Metaphysics 6

## The Science of Metaphysics 32

Why is that that modern Christians often have very little development in the area of ultimate Being—even though they have special revelation, the Truth?

Modern Existentialists = man has no nature



- 8-10 Being-Becoming
- 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

## Foundations: Metaphysics (History 6)

1. Metaphysics is all about understanding the *nature* of Ultimate Reality, being as being. It is not the study of quantity, quality, or part of beings, but the nature of being in itself.

## Foundations: Metaphysics (History 6)

2. Ultimate Reality is not about essence, but existence. Rather than characterizing reality as a what (essence), the proper concept is of an act of existing. Both philosophy (moderate realism) and the Bible teaches that God is Ultimate Reality as an act of existence, Pure Act, 'Ehyeh, *Esse*.

## Foundations: Metaphysics (History 6)

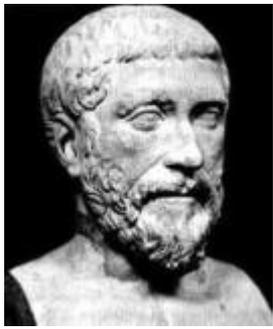
3. In the history of metaphysics, we have been noting the ancient Greek philosophers who were looking for the **ἀρχή** (*arche*), the ultimate reality that would explain everything else. Between Thales (water) and Socrates there were a series of significant Pre-Socratic philosophers.
- They all debated the question of *being*: e.g., Anaximenes took on Thales and said air makes more sense because every living thing needs air, and it is hylozoistic.
  - Others would come along and add other substances: earth, air, wind, fire, and then ἄπειρον (*apeiron*).
  - This sparked conversations about the many and the one. If there are many, what about the one—diversity without unity? They knew that there must be something behind the elements that gives purpose and order and harmony and unity for primary elements.

## Foundations: Metaphysics (History 6)

4. The Greeks were intellectually pursuing ultimate reality, “God.”
  - While the Greeks were able to come up with an *abstract* boundless, eternal, infinite one who creates all things and holds all things together, and who brings purpose to all things (*apeiron*). The Bible said it first (Exod. 3:14; John 1:1), and revealed that this timeless being as a who instead of a what.
  - To the Jew, the one who is infinite and eternal is the one WHO. It is who a personal living being. Not simply an abstract power or force, but rather has personality. This is radical in ancient theoretical thought.

## Foundations: Metaphysics (History 6)

5. There was tension over different ways to understand ultimate reality between monism and pluralism.
  - Those who believed that ultimate reality was a single substance were called monists. Monism teaches that all reality in the final analysis is one single substance with different manifestations.



## Foundations: Metaphysics (History 6)

- Pythagoras (570-495 B.C.) believed in the divinity of number, especially 1, 2, 3, 4. Why is math a popular candidate for the reality of the universe (e.g., Einstein, Hawking)? Why is it that mathematical equations match up to reality and explain everything, from distant galaxies, to the snowflakes, music, quarks, platyhelminthes, arachnids, and the shell of the conch? Why is pantheism attractive to scientists?
- Other philosophers taught that all things could not be reduced to a single substance; they were called pluralists (earth, wind, fire, water, seeds, atoms) or dualists (Rene Descartes).

## God and Creation-18

1. No believer can accurately understand the *nature* of God, reality, creation, humans, or even the Bible or Bible doctrine apart from metaphysics (the nature of reality: its what and its that; essence and existence). Virtually, all Christians today have pagan views mixed with Christianity and Bible doctrine. This is undeniable.



## God and Creation-18

2. Jesus expects even baby believers to understand the nature of God:
  - a. In relation to prayer, Matthew 6:8-13. Prayer is not a wish list; it is all about God's will (2 Cor 12:7-10; Philip. 4:6-7).
  - b. In relation to fellowship and attitudes regarding other members of the human race, Matt. 6:14-15.
  - c. In relation to being authentic, 6:16-18.
  - d. In relation to living a whole life of worship of God, 6:19-25.
  - e. In relation to God's activity throughout creation, 6:26-31.
  - f. In relation to not thinking and living like a pagan, 6:32-33.
  - g. In relation to the fact that God is in absolute control, 6:34. All orthodox theists believe that every single thing that happens is according to God's decree. A few passages on election and predestination: Mt 22:14 ; Luke 9:35; Rom. 8:33 ; Eph. 1:4-5; 1 Tim 5:21; 1 Peter 2:9; and free will: Matt. 11:28-30; 1 Tim. 2:1-4.

## God and Creation-18

3. To understand the true nature of God, we must begin with His revelation of the accurate ontological conception of God (Exod. 3:14). This is the only way to handle biblical metaphors (e.g., He does not change in Genesis 6 or learn something new in Genesis 22), and the problem of deism, and man making God in his own image. The ontological nature of God must be the governing principle!

## God and Creation-18

4. This means that the priority in interpretation of all of Scripture must be understood on the basis of 'Ehyeh of Exodus 3:14. It must define, direct, and guide all texts of Scripture that point us regarding the character of God. We must not be guided by our feelings and projections.

## God and Creation-18

5. The ontology of God must be the most important thing in all interpretation. To make God's love, patience, faithfulness, provision, or the practicality of it all is to end up with a distorted view of God. Most people think that God's love for them is the most important thing, this is patently false (cf. John 1 with 3:16 and 1 John 1:1-5 with 4:9-10).

## God and Creation-18

6. However, temporally it is often the case that bottom-up truths are more urgent. However, there must be a considered effort to get to the top-down truths otherwise doctrine will deteriorate to forms of mysticism, pragmatism, and superstition.