

Faith Bible Church

“Problem” of Evil: 1, Introduction

1 John 4:9-10 God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

Matthew 22:36-39 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And He said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸ "This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹ "The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

Any Questions?

These slides are available
at <http://www.fbcweb.org/sermons.html>

Philosophical/Theological/Doctrinal & Spiritual Foundations

Bible Doctrines

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

Broad and deep understanding of BD

The nature and importance of maturity (τέλειος, teleios).

Maturity is always related to Bible doctrine/divine viewpoint working under the salubrious ministry of God the Holy Spirit (enlightening and empowering).

Maturity is not just how you handle problems. We need BD working in tandem with fellowship with God.

Logos Philosophy
 ○ Logic (32)
 ○ Truth (9)
 ○ Metaphysics

John 8:32 you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Enough BD to be overcomer

1 John 2:14, "you are strong, and the word of God abides in you"

Lacks BD, DV

Eph 4:14, "tossed here and there by waves, & carried about by every wind of *doctrine.*"

Mature Believer – Level 3- Metaphysical Maturity

- High abstract thinking with enormous capacity for synthesis of BD and spiritual realities.
- Great capacity for BD and PLG.
- Deep and well developed worldview that he can defend.
- Developed view of Esse-True nature of God

Young adult – Level 2- Doctrinal conceptualization

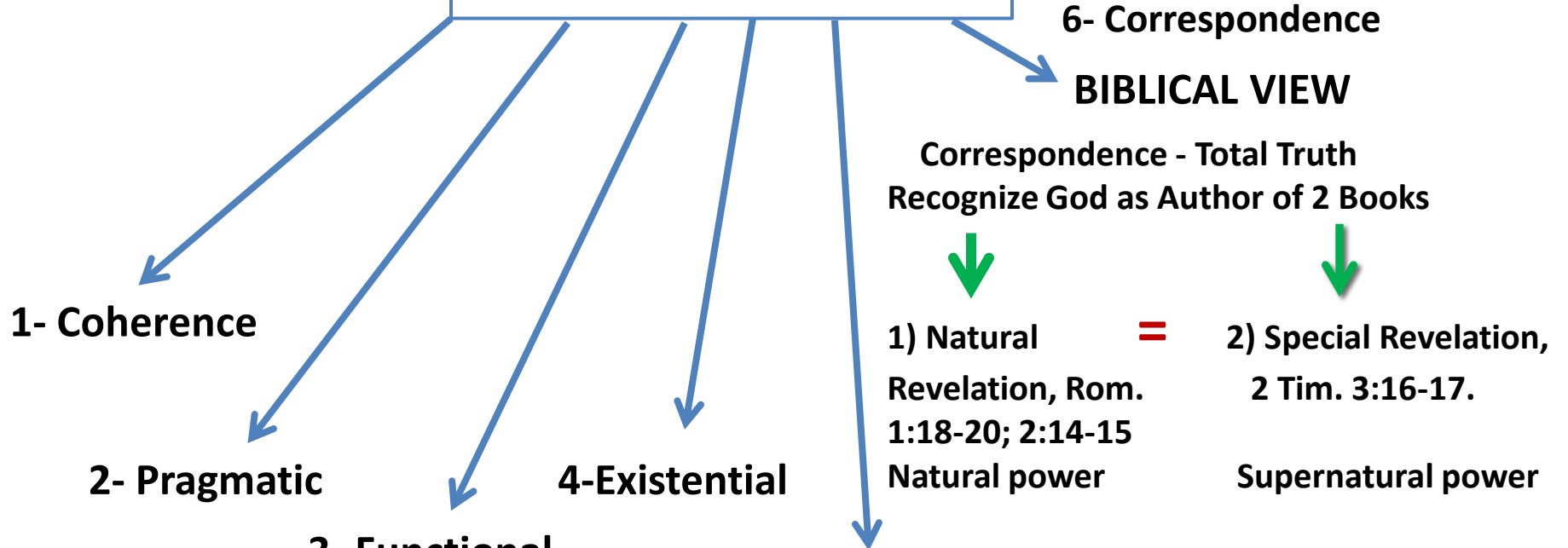
- Synthesizes truth
- Doctrinally oriented
- Aware of anthropopathisms.

Baby – Level 1 = basic Bible verses

- Dependent on others
- Basic conceptualization
- Limited to basic apprehension
- Unable to defend concepts because lack of synthesis of truths
- Limited to isolated Bible verses
- Empirically oriented
- Tend to anthropopathize God.

Truth (9)

6 Views of Truth



1-4 are cosmic, relativistic, and very common in contemporary Christianity

1-true, "because I agree with it"

2-true, "because it is practical"

3-true, "because of its function"

4-true, "because it fulfills my needs"

1-4 = are all relativistic

5-Fundamentalist (Fragmented Religious Truth)

- Fideistic, no depth in *understanding* God
- Anti-logic, anti-philosophy, and anti-science
- Sensate, due to lack of development of mind
- Uses and makes "truth" religiously
- Generally "spiritually" narcissistic
- Bondage to denomination or person
- Never really grows mentally or spiritually

Common Postmodern Slogans Used Against Christians

“Mahatma Gandhi Was a Saint If Ever There was One”

Responses:

- ✓ If pluralists work from the ground up in their observations then why not start with the historical evidence for the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, or creation ex nihilo, or philosophical viability?
- ✓ If they grant spiritual transformation for others, then why the rejection of Christian transformation? Why pluralistic with others but not with Jesus Christ—especially when Christianity has a credible foundation.
- ✓ You should not confuse morality with spirituality. What about Mormonism and Jehovah Witnesses? All cannot be Truth. Moral fruitfulness cannot be the ultimate criterion.

Common Postmodern Slogans Used Against Christians

“You Can’t Trust the Gospels, They’re Unreliable”

Responses:

- ✓ New Testament boasts manuscript support vastly larger than any work of antiquity—close to 5,000 manuscripts and manuscript evidence.
- ✓ Only 1 percent is open to allegations of changes.
- ✓ Without assuming that the Gospels are “inerrant,” they have proved over and over to be reliable for historical purposes.
- ✓ You might ask them why they reject the reliability of the gospels in order to expose their hidden presuppositions.

Resurrection Special #67: A Walkthrough from
the Lord's Supper to the Tomb: "Esse" – the Transcendent One

Resurrection &
the Spiritual Life
in the Epistles

A Walkthrough of the
Resurrection Narratives

A Walkthrough  **from the Lord's Supper to the Tomb**

  6 Ways of Falsifying Naturalism

 The Failure of All Alternate Theories

 Bedrock Facts: Death of JC & Multiple Appearances

 Historiography: Establishing Historical Proof
for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Matthew 26:36-56
Garden of Gethsemane

1. Pride in Gethsemane.

2. Kenosis of Christ

- 'Ehyeh, Esse, Ex 3:14

- Esse and "problem"

Christ in the Midst of Evil

- ✓ **Matthew 26:42-55.** We will move from the blessed world to a world of horrendous evil.
- ✓ **Luke 22:53** "While I was with you daily in the temple, you did not lay hands on Me; but this hour and the power of darkness are yours."
- ✓ **John 13:18** "I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but *it is* that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats My bread has lifted up his heel against Me.'
- ✓ **Acts 4:27** "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Thy holy servant Jesus, whom Thou didst anoint, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever Thy hand and Thy purpose predestined to occur.

The Crucial Importance of Understanding God ('Ehyeh, Esse)

1. Only “Ehyeh” (Esse & Classical theism) gives us an accurate understanding of God as well as solves the “problem” of evil. We will be examining both in this study.
2. Esse (and metaphysics) gives us a true and robust understanding of God, it also takes care of the increasing attrition of the attributes of God and the growing “problem” of the problem of evil in contemporary Christianity.

The Crucial Importance of Understanding God ('Ehyeh, Esse)

3. Understanding 'Ehyeh (Esse) is the key to understanding God's *true* nature. Because of Esse, we are able to make our way through and accurately adjudicate on the various anthropomorphisms and anthropopathisms of God in the Bible. We now have a foundation to build an accurate understanding of the biblical God.
4. Contemporary Protestantism has all but forsaken Classical theism and in favor of an anthropomorphized and anthropopathized God. One by one the classical attributes of God have been suffering from attrition due to lack of doctrinal and philosophical development and the felt "need" to "empiricize" God to keep Him relatable.

The Crucial Importance of Understanding God ('Ehyeh, Esse)

5. The nature of God is inextricably tethered to Esse, esses, and the “problem of evil.” Apart from getting ‘Ehyeh right, a believer runs into all kinds of problems not only with God and “problem of evil” but with our relationship with Him.
6. ‘Ehyeh-Esse grounds us in the aseity and simplicity of God.

The Crucial Importance of Understanding God ('Ehyeh, Esse)

7. God's *aseity* (*a se*, "from or by Himself;" *aseite*, "of oneself") is the most fundamental attribute from which all other attributes are derived. God is Self-existence and needs no other—none! Although God has an everlasting love for us, He really does not *need* us for sustenance or happiness. Divine aseity emphasizes the fact that God is independent, self-existent, and fully self-sufficient. He does not need anything outside of Himself to exist, to be satisfied, or be fulfilled. He does not need creation or man. He is fully self-sufficient!

The Crucial Importance of Understanding God ('Ehyeh, Esse)

8. God's simplicity has even taken a bigger beating by Protestants than God's aseity—practically if not theologically. All of the “liberal professional” objections come from rejection of the identity of essence and existence, the Esse of God, as revealed in Exodus 3:14.

The Crucial Importance of Understanding God ('Ehyeh, Esse)

9. Simplicity has to do with God's existence (Esse, Ultimate Reality)—God has no parts! The simplicity of Esse teaches us that God has no composition, no parts, no finiteness, no body, no composition of essence and existence, no composition of genus and difference, no composition of subject and accident, no composition with other things, no composition of form and matter, no composition of substance and person, no composition of act and potency. In other words, God is nowise composite, but altogether simple. God neither has material nor immaterial parts—physical or metaphysical.

The Crucial Importance of Understanding God ('Ehyeh, Esse)

10. God's simplicity means that God just is His own existence. This means there is no distinction between God's eternity, power, goodness, intellect, will, and so forth, in God Himself there is no distinction between any of the divine attributes. God's eternity is His power, which is His goodness, which is His intellect, which is His will, and so on. Indeed, God Himself just is His power, His goodness, and so on, just as He just is His existence, and just is His essence. God's power, God's goodness, and so forth are really just ways of talking or conceiving of one and the very same thing. *However, this does not mean that they are the same thing!* (e.g., morning star and evening star differ in sense while referring to the same thing). Though we distinguish them in thought, there is no distinction at all between them in reality. If there were a distinction then we could distinguish parts in God, but God has no parts.

The Crucial Importance of Understanding God ('Ehyeh, Esse)

11. Because God is simple, His attributes are not divided which means, among other things, that God is not capricious (as per Calvinism). God's will is not arbitrary (this also solves the Euthyphro dilemma) For if God just *is* perfect goodness which just is the divine will which just is immutable and necessary being, then there can be no question either of God willing in accordance with some standard of goodness independent of Him or His will being arbitrary. What is objectively good and what God wills for us as morally obligatory are just the same thing considered under different descriptions, and neither could have been other than they are.

The Crucial Importance of Understanding God ('Ehyeh, Esse)

12. Grasping 'Ehyeh and how He eternally loves us, has a precise plan for us, and is everywhere in all things in and around us, and has lavished us with grace is a fantastic source of blessings. With a robust understanding of God there is no need to live in stress. We need to understand the object of faith as much as the mechanics of the CWL—lest we live like agnostics.
- ✓ Matt. 6:25-34.
 - ✓ Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.

The Crucial Importance of Understanding God ('Ehyeh, Esse)

- ✓ Psalm 145:18 The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.
- ✓ Matthew 28:20 . . . lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
- ✓ Psalm 139:7 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

The Crucial Importance of Understanding God ('Ehyeh, Esse)

- ✓ **Psalm 139:13** For you acquired my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body (*golem* = fetus); all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. ¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸ Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand-- when I awake, I am still with you.

The Crucial Importance of Understanding God ('Ehyeh, Esse)

- ✓ Isaiah 45:11 Thus says the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker: "Ask Me about the things to come concerning My sons, And you shall commit to Me the work of My hands. ¹² "It is I who made the earth, and created man upon it. I stretched out the heavens with My hands, And I ordained all their host.
- ✓ Acts 17:26 and He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation, ²⁷ that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

The Crucial Importance of Understanding God ('Ehyeh, Esse)

- ✓ 2 Corinthians 13:11 *Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.*
- ✓ 1 John 4:8 *The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*
- ✓ John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

The Crucial Importance of Understanding God ('Ehyeh, Esse)

- ✓ Ephesians 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.
- ✓ Ephesians 2:7 in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
- ✓ 2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

The Crucial Importance of Understanding God ('Ehyeh, Esse)

- ✓ 1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- ✓ Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart.
- ✓ Matthew 6:33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.
- ✓ Deut. 31:6 "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you."
- ✓ Hebrews 13:5 Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,"

The Crucial Importance of Understanding God ('Ehyeh, Esse)

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ Just as it is written, "For Thy sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Crucial Importance of Understanding God ('Ehyeh, Esse)

13. The Encouragement beyond all other encouragements comes from the fact that 'Ehyeh is identified with the Lord Jesus Christ, John 8:58. It was not until He became incarnate that could He be acted upon, only when He assumed the human nature. This is the story of Being incarnate. Only in the incarnation can a member of the Trinity feel human pain and suffering. The second member of the Trinity is the only member of the Godhead that can really feel your emotions. 'Ehyeh, with all of the Esse that that entails took on a human nature to provide us with immeasurable grace.

The Crucial Importance of Understanding God ('Ehyeh, Esse)

14. However, in addition to all of these incomprehensible blessings, there is also a horrendous world of unspeakable evil that God is actively working through, a world in which the atheist is very aware. There is the blessed worldview of the believer in juxtaposition to the cursed worldview of the atheist. There is blessing and cursing in this world on an unimaginable scale. How can God be defended in light of such a world that He has complete control over? Or should He be defended at all?