

# CATEGORIES & PRINCIPLES

S2

## I. KEY THOUGHTS

S3

### **WARNING: Your head is going to swim!!!**

#### 1. Science & Religion Warfare

S4

Cartoons are commentaries on our culture

S5

EG Non Sequitur

Common messages:

- Forced to choose between only TWO positions: EITHER Science  
OR Religion
- Science explains away Religion

#### 2. PROBLEM behind Science & Religion Warfare

S6

##### Categories

DEF: the foundational concepts that direct the way we:

1. look at the world
2. think about the world

Note the two verbs. Categories are like:

1. Glasses → give a **view of the world**
2. Software → process information through a program or **worldview**

##### Common Categories (general public & churches)

S7

trap the mind & force people to think in:

##### Dichotomies

DEF: division of an issue into only two simple positions  
thinking in 'black-and-white' & 'either/or'

EG: science vs. religion

☛ But this is a **False Dichotomy**

##### Conflations

S8

DEF: careless collapsing & co-mingling of distinct ideas into ONE undifferentiated  
concept

EG: science & all-encompassing capital "T" Truth  
science & atheism

religion & strict literal reading of the biblical creation accounts

S9

religion & anti-evolutionism

NOTE:

we all begin our intellectual voyage in dichotomies & conflations

#### 3. SOLUTION toward a Peaceful Relationship between Science & Religion

S10

Introduce Academic Categories

##### Major Theme of this course:

challenge common categories & replace with academic categories

#### 4. RESULT

S11

- Offer YOU a wide spectrum of possible relationships between Science & Religion

- Allow YOU to make informed decisions & develop:

YOUR worldview

YOUR personal beliefs

S12

**II. THEOLOGY: GENERAL CATEGORIES**

**Etymology** of the word “Theology”

Greek: θεος (*theos*): God λογος (*logos*): word

If theology is the study of God’s Words, then we need to be aware of the languages in the Word of God (Bible)

**GREEK ALPHABET** (see supplementary episode)

Why bother with languages?

sometimes ideas are “lost in the translation”

☛ YOUR ownership of the original meaning of words and concepts

COMMENTS:

- always be cautious with the term “God”

has a very wide range of meanings & nuances:

from a personal spiritual being (Jews, Christians, Muslims)

to only beauty & harmony in physical world (Einstein)

- ALL the definitions given below are the MOST BASIC & CENTRIST

**Theism** Greek θεος (*theos*): God

DEF: BELIEF in a personal God

Supreme Being who is all-loving, all-powerful, and all-knowing

EG:

God of Jews, Christians, Muslims

40% of US scientists are theists

**Deism** Latin *Deus*: God

DEF: BELIEF in an impersonal God

Supreme Being who creates the world and then has nothing to do with it

began in the 18<sup>th</sup> century (1700s) during the Enlightenment

aka “God-of-the-philosophers”

this God winds the clock of the universe & leaves it run down on its own

EG:

God of Charles Darwin for most of his adult life

**Atheism** Greek α (*a*): a prefix that negates (called ‘alpha privative’)

DEF: BELIEF that God does not exist.

EG:

Richard Dawkins

1. “The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, **nothing but** blind, pitiless indifference.”

Richard Dawkins, *River Out of Eden: A Darwinian View of Life*  
(New York, NY: Basic Books, 1995), 133.

KEY WORDS:

“nothing but” → often used by atheists

**Agnosticism** Greek α (*a*): prefix of negation γνωσις (*gnōsis*): knowledge

DEF: BELIEF that there is no knowledge regarding the existence or non-existence of God

coined by Thomas Henry Huxley in 1869

EG:

Charles Darwin late in life

**III. CHRISTIANITY: GENERAL CATEGORIES**

**Christianity**

- defined by HISTORY & 3 main branches (divisions): S2  
 1. Roman Catholicism (325)  
 2. Eastern Orthodoxy (1054)  
 3. Protestantism (1517) S4 H1

- defined by CREEDS (major statements of belief): S5  
 2. **Apostles' Creed** (150 AD/CE)

I BELIEVE in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I BELIEVE in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, S6

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I BELIEVE in the Holy Spirit, S7

the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Catechism of the Catholic Church* (Ottawa, ON: Canadian Bishops Publication, 1994), 50.

COMMENT: S8

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit = Holy Trinity. One God in Three Persons

**Conservative Christianity** S9

CONSERVES the beliefs of the Apostles' Creed

- Jesus = fully God & fully human
- Resurrection of Jesus' physical body
- Bible Inspired (capital "I" inspired) by Holy Spirit

**Liberal Christianity** S10

REJECTS the beliefs of the Apostles' Creed

- Jesus = merely an enlightened man
- Resurrection of Jesus' teaching only
- Bible inspiring (small "i") literature written by humans only

S11 H1

NOTE: Science a contributing factor in development of Liberal Christianity in the 19<sup>th</sup> century

It arose after the birth of:

modern science in the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Galileo, *Dialogue* 1632)

evolutionary science in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Darwin, *Origin of Species*, 1859)

☛ **SCIENCE IMPACTS RELIGION!!!**

**Fundamentalism** S12

reaction to Liberal Christianity

modern science viewed as an enemy of religion

appears during the 1920s in North America, especially the United States S13 H1

- strict biblical literalism
- anti-evolutionism
- Science & Religion Warfare

**Catholic & Evangelical**

S2 H1

TIP: distinguish the adjectives from the nouns

Cat/holic:

Greek *κατα* (*kata*): with respect to *όλος* (*holos*): whole

Ev/angelical:

Greek *ευ* (*eu*): good *αγγελος* (*angelos*): messenger

S3 H1

**LAMOUREUX’S RELIGIOUS BELIEFS:**

S4

- Pre-Protestant Reformation Christian

Catholic → I embrace the whole church

Evangelical → I focus on Good News, the Gospel

- Theological Education: Masters at Regent College (Evangelical Protestant)

S5

PhD at U of St. Michael’s College (Roman Catholic)

**WARNING ON PARADIGMS:**

S6

paradigms are teaching tools to help organize information

**Divine Revelation**

S7

DEF: BELIEF that God communicates with humanity

**(1) Special Revelation**

S8

DEF: BELIEF that God communicates **SPECIFIC** information to humanity

- **Incarnation** Latin *in*: in *carnis*: flesh

S9 H2

God became a man and revealed himself through Jesus

“The Word [Jesus] was God . . . and became flesh” Jn 1:1-3, 14

Greatest act of revelation: God in the Flesh → Jesus

- **Biblical Revelation**

S10 H2

God inspired the writers of the Bible to reveal himself

“All Scripture is God-breathed” 2 Tim 3:16

The Old Testament has the “very words of God” Rom 3:2

- **Personal Revelation**

S11 H2

answered prayer, dreams, visions, signs & wonders

EG 40% of US scientists believe God answers prayer

**(2) General Revelation**

S12

DEF: BELIEF that God communicates **GENERAL** information to all of humanity

- **Natural Revelation**

S13 H2

nature reflects God & some of his general attributes

“The heavens declare the Glory of God and the skies proclaim the work of his hands”

Ps 19:1

“God’s invisible qualities ... clearly seen and understood from what has been made”

Rom 1:19-20

☛ Intelligent Design → HUGE topic in Science & Religion

S14 H2

- **Moral Revelation**

S15 H2

Human conscience & sense of morality

“The law written on the human heart” Rom 2:14-15

aka “moral compass” within us

**Supplementary Quotes 1-6** S16 H2

**The Two Divine Books**

S2

DEF: BELIEF that God communicates (reveals) to humanity through two “books”

- ☛ time-honoured way for relating Science & Religion  
EG Sir Francis Bacon

**(1) Book of God’s Words** Bible S3 H2

VERBAL Latin *verbum*: word  
uses words → offers specific information

**(2) Book of God’s Works** Nature S4 H2

NON-VERBAL  
does **NOT** use words → offers only general information  
EG it is like music. A symphony does not use words, but certainly communicates

Summary S5-6

**The Bible**

S7

- it’s like an ANTHOLOGY  
written by roughly 50 authors over roughly 1500 years  
has different types of literature (ie literary genres)
  - gives the impression of being a historical record S8 H3  
some events align with archeological evidence & ancient historical records
  - CENTRAL QUESTION in Science-Religion dialogue: S9 H3  
What is the literary genre of Genesis 1-11?  
History? Allegory? Fairy Tale?
- SUGGESTION: read Genesis 1-11 & outline your provisional interpretation

**Divine Action**

S10

DEF: BELIEF that God acts in the world

**Two Basic Concepts:**

S11

(1) CONTEXT of Divine Action

- Personal  
DEF: divine acts with **people**
- Cosmological Greek *κοσμος* (*kosmos*): cosmos, entire universe  
DEF: divine acts in **nature** (i) origins  
(ii) operations

(2) MODE of Divine Action

S12

- Interventionism  
DEF: **dramatic** divine acts  
God breaks into the regular routines of people or nature
- Providentialism  
DEF: **subtle** divine acts  
God works through the regular routines of people or nature

**Six Basic Categories of Divine Action:**

For examples of each category see H3

1. Personal Interventionism S13 H3
2. Personal Providentialism S14 H3
3. Cosmological Interventionism in Origins S15 H3
4. Cosmological Interventionism in Operations S16-17 H3
5. Cosmological Providentialism in Origins S18 H3
6. Cosmological Providentialism in Operations S19 H3

**How to Determine the Category of Divine Action:** S2

1<sup>st</sup> determine CONTEXT

Does it deal with people **OR** is it with the origins/operations in the cosmos?

2<sup>nd</sup> determine MODE

Is it dramatic (interventionism) **OR** is it subtle (providentialism)?

**TIP:** Personal Trumps Cosmological S3  
EG

3. Joshua & the miracle of the sun stopping S4

Joshua said to the Lord in the presence of Israel: 'O sun, stand still' ...

The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day.

Josh 10:12-13

QUESTION: What category of divine action?

**Sin** S5

DEF: BELIEF that certain acts are wrong/evil because they break God's intention for **joyous** and **peaceful** human living.

☛ God is NOT a cosmic kill-joy!!!

• Conservative Christian Position on Sin: S6

real & humans are accountable before God

determined by God → 10 Commandments

S7 H4

2 Great Commandments of Jesus

S8-9 H4

• Secular (at times Liberal Christian) Position on Sin: S10

ONLY a cultural artifact, social convention & ultimately relative

ONLY determined by humans

LAMOUREUX'S POSITION ON SIN: S11

• Biblical: from the opening pages to last pages

• Historical: major doctrine throughout Church history

• Experiential (life experience): have a look around the planet!

look inside YOURSELF

Was the Holocaust **nothing but** the clash of relative socio-cultural conventions?

**OR**

Was the Holocaust truly wrong, truly evil, and truly sinful? YOU decide.

**IV. PHILOSOPHY: GENERAL CATEGORIES** S12

Term "Philosophy" is made up of:

Greek φιλος (*philos*): beloved, friend

σοφια (*sophia*): wisdom, understanding

**Worldview (Personal Philosophy)** S13

DEF: BELIEFS concerning: (1) ULTIMATE character of the world

(2) our place in the world

(3) how to live in the world

☛ everyone has a worldview or personal philosophy

A goal of this course:

to become aware of YOUR worldview and to develop it further

**Metaphysics**

S2

Greek **μετα** (*meta*): behind, beyond, after

**φύσις** (*phusis*): nature → etymology of English words “physics” & “physical”

DEF: Ultimate Beliefs

- beliefs about the Ultimate Reality behind and beyond nature
- religious & philosophical beliefs
- ☛ *everyone has a metaphysics*

**Intelligent Design**

S3

DEF: BELIEF that the beauty, complexity, and functionality in nature reflect rationality and the creative work of an Intelligent Designer

**Teleology** Greek **τελος** (*telos*): plan, purpose, goal, final end

S4

DEF: BELIEF that the universe & life have an ultimate plan and ultimate purpose and that the world is moving toward an ultimate goal or final end

- teleology is based in some Ultimate Being or Power
- Intelligent Design → REAL

**Dysteleology** German: *dysteleologie* *dys*: to lack *teleologie*: teleology

S5

DEF: BELIEF that the universe & life have **NO** ultimate plan, **NO** ultimate purpose, **NO** ultimate goal, and **NO** ultimate final end

- universe & life arose through **nothing but** blind chance
- Intelligent Design → ILLUSION

EG

**Richard Dawkins**

S6

4. “The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is at bottom **no design, no purpose**, no evil and no good, **nothing but blind**, pitiless indifference.”

R Dawkins, *River Out of Eden* (NY: Basic Books, 1995), 133

5. “The complexity of living organisms is matched by the elegant efficiency of the **apparent design**.”

R Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker* (London: Penguin, 1986), xiii

**METAPHYSICS-PHYSICS PRINCIPLE**

S8

1<sup>st</sup> Major Principle in this course

foundational to Science-Religion scholarship

**(1) STRUCTURE**

S9 H5

- Upper Compartment of **METAPHYSICS** (Religion & Philosophy)  
deals with Ultimate Beliefs  
Scientific instruments do not work in the realm of metaphysical beliefs  
EG cannot put God, sin, or teleology/dysteleology in a test tube

- Lower Compartment of **PHYSICS** (Science)

S10 H5

deals with Physical Facts  
Scientific instruments work extremely well in the natural world  
EG nature can be placed in a test tube

**(2) COMPLEMENTARY RELATIONSHIP**

S2 H5

- Latin *complere*: to fill, complete  
In a complementary relationship, two parties add something that is lacking in the other so that they complete each other → enhance & enrich
- Two-way exchange between: Metaphysics (Religion & Philosophy) S3 H5  
Physics (Science)
- Rooted in reciprocal STEPS OF FAITH (or intellectual leaps)  
informed by Intuition & Reason  
no mathematical formula to move between upper & lower compartments  
☛ *everyone takes these Steps of Faith whether they are aware of it or not*

**UPWARD STEP OF FAITH**

S4 H5

Science offers PHYSICAL FACTS to Religion &amp; Philosophy

EG: Facts of an average cell:

1/1000<sup>th</sup> inch

2 yards of DNA

Storage Capacity = 1.5GB (2 CDs) = 6500 Books (300 pages each)

S5 H5

QUESTION:

Does this scientific evidence reflect intelligent design?

**DOWNWARD STEP OF FAITH**

S6 H5

Religion &amp; Philosophy offer metaphysical BELIEFS to Science

NB: this is often overlooked &amp; rarely acknowledged

These beliefs function like a “**Metaphysical Filter**” through which we:

- (1) observe nature
- (2) interpret nature

QUESTIONS:

S7 H5

- Do atheists view nature through “Dysteleological Eyes?”  
Does their Metaphysical Filter force them to believe design is an illusion?
- Do Christians view nature through “Teleological Eyes?” S8 H5  
Does their Metaphysical Filter force them to believe design is real?

**TIP: SEPARATE DON'T CONFLATE**

S9 H5

Common error of atheists & agnostics is that they often conflate their Metaphysics & science, and they assume their worldview is purely scientific

☛ But atheists &amp; agnostics have ULTIMATE BELIEFS!

PROVOCATIVE QUESTIONS:

S10 H5

- Is there a **Personal Factor** influencing the reciprocal Steps of Faith?  
Does our relationship with God (or lack of a relationship) impact the intellectual leap?
- If so, could there be a Commandment #1 issue with those who reject intelligent design?  
☛ **Does sin have an impact on our thinking?**

Leads to next section:

**Epistemological Categories**

the ‘mental machinery’ or ‘intellectual tools’ that direct our thinking and allow us to build our worldview

**V. PHILOSOPHY: EPISTEMOLOGICAL CATEGORIES**

S2

**Epistemology** Greek επιστημη (*epistēmē*): knowledge

S3

DEF: rules of knowing  
theory of knowledge

STUDENTS CONFUSE THIS!!!

NOT knowledge itself. NOT information

BUT how we know we know → “Mental Tools”

“Mental Software” & “Mental Hardware” that allows us to know & understand

☛ *everyone has an epistemology*

FOUNDATIONAL EPISTEMOLOGICAL CATEGORIES

S4 H6

**1. Correspondence**

knowledge matches external reality

**2. Coherence**

knowledge internally consistent & without contradictions

**3. Consilience**

knowledge interconnects & fits tightly into one encompassing theory

YOU have these categories otherwise you would never have made it to university

RELIGIOUS EPISTEMOLOGICAL CATEGORIES

S5 H6

**1. Divine Foundation of Knowledge**

S6 H6

DEF: knowledge is ultimately rooted in God

**6. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.** Prov 1:7

S7

COMMENT:

issue with word ‘fear.’ 17<sup>th</sup> English expression (KJV)

**Fear** Hebrew: *yare’*

be afraid → our definition

awe

marvel

revere

respect

**Knowledge** Hebrew: *da’at*

facts → our definition

practical skills

personal experience

wisdom, discernment

morals

Biblical Notion of Knowledge:

S8 H6

- rooted in God & relational to God
- personal
- wide & holistic
- NOT just facts

QUESTION:

S9 H6

What is the foundation of **YOUR** knowledge?

Is knowledge ultimately rooted in God (or some teleological factor)?

**OR**

A brain built for & shaped by a dysteleological evolutionary process?

S10 H6

A brain produced by **nothing but** 4Fs:

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_

IMPLICATIONS: S2

IF we have a dysteleological brain that was produced by **nothing but** 4Fs:

Why should we trust our brains?

Why should we trust our knowledge?

NOTE: 4Fs argument in **Alvin Plantinga** "Is Naturalism Irrational?" *Warrant & Proper Function*  
(Oxford, UK: University Press, 1993), 216-237.

**2. Mystery** S3

DEF: knowledge that is beyond the human ability to know  
ideas that the human mind will **NEVER** grasp

EG Religious:

Where did God come from?

Secular:

Where did energy & matter come from?

Albert Einstein:

S4

7. "The eternal mystery of the world is its comprehensibility."

Albert Einstein, "Physics and Reality," *Journal of the Franklin Institute*,  
translator Jean Piccard, 221:3 (March 1936), 351.

COMMENTS: S5

- not small 'm' mystery. EG medical mysteries
- but capital 'M' mystery → concepts humans will never understand
- reflects the (creaturely) limits of human mind
- word 'mystery' appears 30+ times in Bible

S6

8. Can you fathom the **mysteries** of God? Can you probe the **limits** of the Almighty?  
Job 11:7

9. Now we see but a poor reflection; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in  
part; then I shall know fully. 1 Cor 13:12

Other verses on mystery: **SQ 16-18**

**3. Impact of Sin** S7

DEF: knowledge is influenced by the spiritual state of a person

Does our relationship with God (**or lack of**) affect our ability to know?

EG: does being a God-hater affect a person's ability to think clearly & rationally?

See Richard Dawkins' view on God in **SQ 19**

S8

The Bible on Sin & Epistemology: S9

10. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks  
to him, but **their thinking became futile** and their **foolish** hearts were darkened.  
Although they claimed to be wise, they became **fools** and exchanged the glory of  
the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals  
and reptiles.

Rom 1:21-23

COMMENTS: S10

- in the Bible:  
words 'fool' & 'foolish' do not mean intellectually stupid  
a fool is someone missing out on the best part of life → GOD
- Reject Commandment #1 (God is #1), then break Com. #2 (Idolatry)

QUESTION: S11

IF there is a Commandment #1 Problem,  
THEN is there also a Knowledge Problem?

**Does Sin Impact OUR Epistemology?**

☛ YOU DECIDE

EXAMPLE: S2

**Alvin Plantinga**, *Warranted Christian Belief* (Oxford University Press, 2000)

Chapter 7: Sin and Its Cognitive Consequences

IV. The Noetic Effects of Sin Greek  $\nu\omicron\sigma$  (*nous*): mind

B. Sin and Knowledge

**SIN & METAPHYSICS-PHYSICS PRINCIPLE** S3 H5

QUESTIONS:

(1) IF sin is real,

IF the greatest sin is breaking Commandment #1 (God is #1),

THEN will sin impact the Upward & Downward Steps of Faith?

(2) BUT IF someone believes in God,

THEN will this belief impact the Upward & Downward Steps of Faith?

S4 H5

BE AWARE:

**Our Metaphysical Beliefs IMPACT Our Epistemological Tools**

S5

**Positivism**

S6

DEF: a theory of knowledge that claims Truth is only determined by: (1) logic & (2) science

“MATH & TEST TUBE EPISTEMOLOGY”

- if you can't analyse it logically or put it in a test tube, then it is MEANINGLESS

Therefore → God & spiritual realm are “meaningless”

- reality can be REDUCED into “NOTHING BUT” molecules

Therefore → humans are “nothing but” a collection of molecules

LAMOUREUX'S VIEW ON POSITIVISM:

S7

I love logic & I love science BUT . . .

Problems:

- Epistemological Loading of the Dice

IF there is a spiritual realm, then positivists will never know it because **by definition**

their theory of knowledge rules it out

- Experientially Suspect (life experience)

S8

EG love is reduced to nothing but molecules in your brain

BUT

can you say to someone that you love:

“I love you, but realize that love is **nothing but** an illusion concocted by molecules in our brain, and it is ultimately & utterly **meaningless.**”

☛ Can you say this to your mom?

**Scientism**

S9

DEF: conflation of science & secular worldview

common understanding of science

Secular worldview features: positivism

dysteleology

humanist ethics → humans decide morals & values, not God

**Modernity (1600-1950)**

S2

DEF: a period in intellectual history marked by the eventual emergence of positivism as the dominant epistemology

HISTORY:

- Begins with birth of Modern Science (1600s) → Theism
- Develops during the Enlightenment (1700s) → Deism
- Culminates with Scientism (1900s) → Agnosticism & Atheism

**Post-Modernity (1950+)**

S3

DEF: a period in intellectual history marked by an epistemological crisis & breakdown of Modernity

Features:

- truth is more than math & test tubes → challenges Positivism
- “humanization” of knowing. It is more: (1) Personal  
(2) Social

Good News:

S4

- opens the door for religious people & other teleologists:
  - truth is not limited to just math & test-tubes
- removes the attitude that “Science is King” & “Science Rules”

Bad News:

S5

- no such thing as Truth (capital “T”)
- all sorts & lots of “truths” (small “t”)
- everyone has a “truth”
- leads to excessive relativism

**VI. HERMENEUTICAL CATEGORIES**

S6

**Hermeneutics**

S7

DEF: rules of interpretation for reading a book

- *everyone has hermeneutics*

DRAWING EXERCISE:

S8-10

- 11.** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. Gen 1:1-2

NB: The Bible has a **3 Tier Universe**

S11 H6

- The best example appears in the Kenotic Hymn (Phil 2:6-11) S12
- Greek *κενωω* (*kenoō*): “to empty, pour out”
- One of the most important passages in Bible
- God emptied himself & became man in the person of Jesus → Incarnation
- Written by the Apostle Paul

- 12.** <sup>10</sup>At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, S13

- [1] in heaven and,
- [2] on earth and,
- [3] UNDER THE EARTH,

<sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father. Phil 2:10-11

COMMENTS: S2

- English translation “UNDER THE EARTH” is not the actual Greek word!

καταχθονίων (*katachthoniōn*):

κατα = down

χθονίος = subterranean world, chthonic realm, underworld

- More accurate translation reveals that Paul believed in a **3 Tier Universe**

[1] in heaven and, S3 H6

[2] on earth and,

[3] in the **UNDERWORLD**

**Eisegesis** Greek εις (*eis*): in, into ηγεομαι (*ēgeomai*): to guide S4

DEF: reading our views or agenda **INTO** a book

common error in reading of ancient texts like the Bible

EG: Reading OUR 21<sup>st</sup> century science (spherical earth) into the Bible

**Exegesis** Greek εκ (*ek*): out, out of ηγεομαι (*ēgeomai*): to guide S5

DEF: reading a book’s views or agenda **OUT** of it.

goal of reading any book, including the Bible

**Hermeneutical Horizons** S6

DEF: the conceptual worlds of the (1) Bible and (2) Modern Reader

EG flat earth & spherical earth

S7 H7

HUMAN REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY

S8 H7

**GREEK** σπέρμα (*sperma*): 1. seed that farmers sow in fields

S9 H7

2. seed that **ONLY** males release during sex

**One “Seed” Theory (Preformatism)** S10 H7

ancient reproductive biology

**ONLY** males have reproductive seed & females **DO NOT** have reproductive seed

assumed an entire miniature person inside the male “seed”

**Miraculous Birth of Isaac** (Gen 17 & 21) S11

Abraham (100 yrs old) & Sarah (90 yrs old), but God promises a child

**13.** By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—

was **enabled to become a father** [σπέρμα + καταβαλλω] because he

considered him [God] faithful who had made the promise. Heb 11:11

COMMENTS: S12

καταβαλλω: to thrown down

κατα (*kata*): down βαλλω (*ballō*): to throw

σπέρμα + καταβαλλω technical term = to ejaculate (only males)

**HEBREW** זֶרָא noun (*zera* ‘): 1. seed that farmers sow in fields S13

2. seed that **ONLY** males release during sex

“flow of seed [*zera* ‘]” = ejaculation of semen Lev 15:32

**HEBREW** זָרָא verb (*zāra* ‘): 1. to sow seed in fields S14-15 H7

2. to be made pregnant

“a woman shall be seeded [*zāra* ‘] with seed [*zera* ‘]”

Num 5:28

**HEBREW ALPHABET** (see supplementary episode) S16 H62

**Hermeneutical Gaps**

- DEF: conceptual differences between the Bible & Modern Reader S2
  - Historical S3
    - Egypt a world super power in 1500 BC/E
  - Cultural
    - Jesus washing the feet of his disciples before dinner John 13:3-17
  - Linguistic
    - word σπερμα in the context of human reproduction Heb 11:11
  - Philosophical S4
    - sin as an epistemological factor Rom 1:21-23
  - Scientific
    - shape of the earth in the Bible Phil 2:10-11
  - CHALLENGE: S5
    - Gaps WIDEN with time
    - Older the text, the stranger it will read
    - 21<sup>st</sup> century people steeped in 21<sup>st</sup> century science will find statements about nature in the Bible quite unusual and even bizarre
  - GOAL: S6
    - Bridge or close the gap
- ☛ THINK LIKE AN ANCIENT PERSON**

**Biblical Inerrancy**

- DEF: BELIEF the Bible is absolutely true & without error → it was inspired by God (Holy Spirit) S7
- Inerrancy based on the Bible S8
  - Old Testament:
    - 14. Every word of God proves true. Prov 30:5
    - 15. All your [God's] words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal. Ps 119:160
  - New Testament:
    - 16. The Jews have been entrusted with the very words of God. Rom 3:2
    - 17. All Scripture is God-breathed. 2 Tim 3:16-17
- Inerrancy rooted in God's character → God of Truth → **God does NOT lie!** S9
  - 18. God, who does not lie. Titus 1:2
  - 19. It is impossible for God to lie. Heb 6:18

**BUT**

S10

At the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
 [1] in heaven and,  
 [2] on earth and,  
 [3] in the UNDERWORLD,  
 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
 to the glory of God the Father. Phil 2:10-11

COMMENTS:

- IF the Christian God is the Creator of the world and the Author of the Bible, S11  
 THEN it is reasonable to expect an alignment between the Two Divine Books
- Did God make an error or mistake when he inspired the biblical author Paul?
- **DID GOD LIE IN THE BIBLE?**

**Categories of Biblical Statements**

All you need to know: 3 categories  
2 relationships  
1 date

S2-3

S4 H8

All the Bible verses in H8 **SQ 21-34**

**THREE CATEGORIES**

(1) Spiritual Statements S5 H8

DEF: God & spiritual reality

(2) Historical Statements S6-9 H8

DEF: human activities in the past

**ONE DATE:**

1<sup>st</sup> archeological evidence for the existence of Israel → 1200 BC/E (Merneptah Stele)

Israel appears **LATE** in the Ancient Near East (ANE)

☛ the writing of the Bible (Gen 1-11) is **LATE**

(3) Scientific Statements S10 H8

DEF: structure, operation & origin of the physical world

**RELATIONSHIP #1**

S11 H8

The Problem between Biblical Inerrancy & Biblical Scientific Statements:

- God does NOT lie, BUT statements about nature (scientific) in the Bible DO NOT align with physical reality (EG Phil 2 & 3 Tier Universe)

- How do we deal with conflicts between the Bible & science? S12 H8

Different Approaches:

Ignore

Reject:

modern science (many Bible-believing Christians who reject evolution)

the Bible (many scientists & evolutionists who reject Christianity)

Respond:

1. common hermeneutics

2. academic hermeneutics

**1. Common Hermeneutical Responses**

S13

**Poetic Language Argument**

*Statements about nature in the Bible are often in poetic passages, and they use figurative language.*

*They have no basis in physical reality and are simply fanciful figures of speech.*

☛ *Therefore, do not take these statements literally.*

COMMENT: a little too simplistic

**Common Definition of Poetry:**

S14

poetry = figurative language & fanciful ideas

EG

Phil 2:10-11 is a in hymn & poetic

Therefore, write-off the 3-tier universe as “poetic” & not literal

BUT Phil 2:6-11 also affirms the Incarnation

Therefore, write-off the Incarnation as “poetic” & not literal

does any Christian want to do that?

**Academic Definition of Poetry:**

S15

poetry = structured writing

includes figurative & fanciful language

BUT it can also refer to physical reality

CATEGORIES OF POETIC LANGUAGE

- Fanciful Figures of Speech S2  
 “All the trees of the field will clap their hands.” Is 55:12  
 do trees have hands?
- References to Physical Reality S3  
 “God established the **sun** and **moon**, he set all the boundaries of the **earth**.” Ps 74:16-17  
 write-off the reality of the sun, moon & earth because these appear in poetry?
- Scientific Metaphors to Depict Physical Reality S4  
 “God stretches out the heavens like a **canopy** & spreads them out like a **tent** to live in.”  
 a tent depicts the ancient science of a 3-tier universe: Is 40: 22  
 domed canopy (heaven) & flat floor (earth) S5 H6  
 use of metaphors is part of science → EG magnetic field

CONCLUSION: S6  
 determine the type of poetic language being used by the author

**Phenomenological Perspective Argument** Greek φαινόμενον (*phainōmenon*): appearance S7  
*Statements about nature in the Bible are from the perspective of what they look like to the natural senses (eg. naked eye). They are only phenomenological and merely visual effects. For example, check any newspaper today and you will find the times for “sunrise” and “sunset.” But everyone knows that the sun does not literally rise or set.*  
 • Therefore, do not take these statements literally.

COMMENT:  
 a bit more sophisticated & closer to the truth

CRITICAL QUESTION: S8  
 when ancient people used the words ‘sunrise’ or ‘sunset,’ did they use these in the same way that we do today?

ANSWER:  
 NO  
 Proof → Galileo Affair  
 up to 1600s people believed: (1) sun literally moved across sky every day  
 (2) earth literally did not move

CATEGORIES OF PHENOMENOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE S9

**Ancient Phenomenological Perspective**  
 what ancient people saw, they believed was ACTUAL  
 sun actually moves across the sky  
 earth actually did not move

**Modern Phenomenological Perspective** S10  
 what we see, we understand to be only an APPEARANCE  
 so-called “movement” of sun an appearance → earth’s rotation  
 so-called “immovability” of earth an appearance → gravity

CONCLUSION: S11  
 IF you write-off statements in the Bible like the sun “rising/setting” as merely an appearance,  
 THEN you are reading YOUR modern phenomenological perspective INTO the Bible  
 • that is EISEGESIS

INSTEAD:  
 when reading an ancient text → **THINK LIKE AN ANCIENT PERSON**

**2. Academic Hermeneutical Response** S2

**Categories of Biblical Concordism & Correspondence** S3

DEF: alignment between the Bible and reality

(1) Spiritual Correspondence S4

DEF: spiritual statements in Bible align with spiritual reality

(2) Historical Concordism

DEF: historical statements in Bible align with human history

(3) Scientific Concordism

DEF: scientific statements in Bible align with physical reality

NB: term “concordism” is not use in the context of spirituality

**RELATIONSHIP #2** S5 H8

The Overlap Problem S6 H9

human origins deals with all the categories of correspondence & concordism

THE MOST CHALLENGING VERSE IN SCI-REL: S7

**20.** The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. Gen 2:7

Is this verse: S8 H9

Spiritual Statement?

reveals the actual method that God used to create the first human

Historical Statement?

reveals the actual beginning of human history

Scientific Statement?

reveals the actual origin of humans → human evolution is false

LAMOUREUX’S POSITION ON CONCORDISM & CORRESPONDENCE: S9 H9

- Accept spiritual correspondence 1<sup>st</sup> and foremost throughout the Bible
- Accept historical concordism roughly from Gen 12 onward in the Bible
- Reject historical concordism in Gen 1-11
- Reject scientific concordism throughout the Bible

**Scientific Concordism** S10

DEF: common assumption that the Bible aligns (or is supposed to align) with modern science

NB often referred to as simply ‘Concordism’ in Sci-Rel literature

• Reasonable Expectation: S11

God inspired the Bible ✓

God created the world ✓

Therefore → God’s Two Books should align

• Church History:

scientific concordism was part of academic hermeneutics up to the 20<sup>th</sup> century

common view today held by most evangelicals & fundamentalists

QUESTION: S12

Is scientific concordism true?

MY ANSWER:

NO

MY REASON:

Bible is NOT a book of science (EG, Pope John Paul II & Billy Graham)

☛ Bible uses the **science-of-the-day** → **ANCIENT SCIENCE** S13

**Major Theme in this course**

**MESSAGE-INCIDENT PRINCIPLE**

S2

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Major Principle in this course

foundational to the relationship between the Bible & science

NOTE: this principle is limited to statements about the natural world in the Bible

**(1) STRUCTURE**

S3 H5

- Upper Compartment: **The MESSAGE**

**Spiritual Truths**

INERRANT → absolutely true & without error

- Lower Compartment: **The INCIDENT**

S4 H5

**Ancient Science**

Science-of-the-day

Ancient Phenomenological Perspective of the natural world

**(2) INCIDENTAL RELATIONSHIP**

S5 H5

- DEF of Incidental:

to occur in connection with something important

that which helps

- Incidental ancient science is a vessel that helps deliver the more important Spiritual Truths

☛ though ancient science is incidental, it is essential in transporting the Message

S6

- During the process of inspiring the Bible, God accommodated & allowed the ancient authors to use the science-of-the-day

S7 H5

APPLICATION: Phil 2:10-11

S8 H5

Message: Jesus is Lord of the entire universe

Incident: 3-tiered universe

**TIP: SEPARATE DON'T CONFLATE**

S9 H5

common error of Christians is that they often conflate the Message & the ancient science

**VII. ORIGINS DEBATE: GENERAL CATEGORIES**

S10

In this debate, the distinction clearly emerges between:

1. Common (Church & Public) Categories
2. Academic Categories

**“Evolution” vs. “Creation” Debate**

S11

DEF: common view of the origins debate BOTH inside & outside the church leads to Science & Religion warfare

☛ But a **False Dichotomy**

**Creation**

DEF (Common): origin of universe & life in six 24-hour days 6000 yrs ago based on a strict literal reading of Gen 1

S12

CONFLATION:

Christianity & literal interpretation of Gen 1

DEF (Academic): RELIGIOUS BELIEF the world (creation) was made by a Creator

☛ **Physical How?** questions are not part of theology

**Evolution**

S2

DEF (Common): a natural process of molecules-to-humans through blind chance only

CONFLATION:  
atheism & evolution

DEF (Academic): SCIENTIFIC THEORY that describes the natural processes that produced the heavens, the earth, and all living organisms, including humans

ANIMALS:

molecules → single cells → soft-bodied marine → animals → marine animals  
with skeletons → jawless fishes → jawed fishes → amphibians → reptiles →  
mammals → primates → pre-humans → humans

PLANTS:

molecules → single cells → marine plants → land plants → seed bearing plants →  
flowering plants

☛ **Metaphysical Why?** questions are not part of science

**Darwinism**

S3

DEF (Common): atheistic evolution

CONFLATION:  
atheism & Darwin

NOTE:

S4

• Darwin never was an atheist!!!

**21.** “I have **never been an atheist** in the sense of denying  
the existence of a God.”

Darwin to Fordyce (7 May 1879)  
*Life & Letters of Darwin*, I:304

• Term “Darwinism” is not often used in biology  
computer search of biological abstracts (BIOSIS) between 2011-2015:  
Evolution (93,696) Darwinism (151) → 620 to 1

S5

SUGGESTION:

don’t use the term ‘Darwinism’  
it misrepresents Charles Darwin & it only causes confusion

**Re-Categorizing Origins**

S6-9 H5&9

QUESTIONS:

Is evolution teleological or dysteleological?

Is it possible to be both a creationist & an evolutionist?

TIP: **Embryology-Evolution Analogy** → God uses natural processes

**VIII. ORIGINS DEBATE: SPECIFIC CATEGORIES**

S10

**Evolutionary Sciences**

S11

Cosmological Evolution

13.8 billion yrs ago there was a massive explosion (termed “The Big Bang”) from which emerged space, time, and matter, and eventually led to the evolution of stars, planets, moons, galaxies, etc.

Geological Evolution:

4.5 billion yrs ago planet earth formed. Natural processes such as erosion, volcanic activity, and the movement of continents have caused the earth to evolve and change over time.

Evolutionary Biology

3.8 billion yrs ago inert molecules self-assembled into living cells from which evolved plants and animals, including humans

<b>Young Earth Creation</b>	S2
DEF: God created the universe & life in six 24-hour days, 6000 yrs ago Gen 1: strict literal interpretation common view of a “creationist” & <u>THE</u> Christian position	
<b>Progressive Creation</b>	S3
DEF: God created life intermittently (progressively) at different points over billions of yrs Gen 1: Creation Days = Geological Periods millions of yrs long	
<b>Evolutionary Creation</b>	S4
DEF: <u>Personal God</u> created universe & life through evolution Gen 1: reveals Spiritual Truths, not modern scientific facts has an ancient science → ancient understanding of origins  uses the academic definition of the term ‘creation’ ☛ <i>evolutionary creationists believe in a Creator &amp; the world is his creation</i>	
<b>Deistic Evolution</b>	S5
DEF: <u>Impersonal God</u> created universe & life through evolution Gen 1: rejects Biblical Revelation NB: Darwin’s view of evolution through most of his adult life	
<b>Theistic Evolution</b> Be Careful with this Term!	S6
DEF (Common): <u>Impersonal God</u> created through evolution → deistic evolution DEF (Academic): <u>Personal God</u> created through evolution → evolutionary creation	
<b>Evolution of Categories: Theistic Evolution &amp; Evolutionary Creation</b>	S7
the substantive (the noun) is the more important term in a category <u>Theistic Evolution:</u> “Evolution” is primary & “Theistic” (God) secondary older category → tends to be used today by Liberal Christians  <u>Evolutionary Creation:</u> “Creation” is primary & “Evolutionary” secondary newer category → tends to be used today by Conservative Christians	
<b>Dysteleological Evolution</b>	S8
DEF: universe & life evolved without any ultimate plan, purpose or final goal natural processes are run by nothing but blind chance Gen 1: rejects God & Biblical Revelation common view of an “evolutionist” & <u>THE</u> scientific position EG: Richard Dawkins	
<b>Summary: Origins &amp; Hermeneutics</b>	S9 H9
Note the relationship between scientific concordism & the origins positions	S10 H9
☛ anti-evolutionism is connected to scientific concordism	
QUESTION:	S11 H9
IF the Bible has an ancient science of origins, THEN is anti-evolutionism based on poor hermeneutics (scientific concordism)?	

**IX. PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS** S2

**Pedagogical Considerations** Greek παιδιον (*paidion*): child S3

DEF: educational issues

QUESTION:

What view of origins do we teach in schools?

**(1) Public Schools** S4

**22.** The diversity of life on earth is the outcome of evolution: an **unsupervised**, impersonal, **unpredictable** and natural process of temporal descent with genetic modification that is affected by natural selection, **chance**, **historical contingencies** and changing environments.

National Association of Biology Teachers, "Statement on Teaching Biology," *American Biology Teacher* 58 (1995), p. 61

QUESTIONS:

- What type of metaphysics? S5
- Is this acceptable in **public** education in the US & Canada?

*American Declaration of Independence* (1776) S6

refers to a Divine Being 4 times:

"Nature's God"

"men are endowed by their Creator"

"Supreme Judge of the World"

"divine Providence"

*Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* (1982) S7

begins with:

"Whereas Canada is founded upon principles that recognize the **supremacy of God** and the rule of law."

**(2) Christian Schools & Sunday Schools** (in Churches) S8

Most teach anti-evolutionary views → young earth creation & progressive creation

BUT IF God created through evolution,

THEN can you imagine the **STUMBLING BLOCK** anti-evolutionism has been to young people educated in Christian schools & Sunday Schools when they come to university and see the evidence for evolution firsthand?

**23.** Jesus: "It is inevitable that **stumbling blocks** should come, but woe to him S9  
through whom they come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung  
around his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should cause  
one of these **little ones to stumble**. Lk 17:1-2

COMMENT: S10

will young people indoctrinated with anti-evolutionism lose their faith?

☛ I lost my faith in 1<sup>st</sup> year university after a course on evolution

I've seen this happen too many times

BUT evolution is not a reason to reject religion

**Pastoral Considerations** S2

DEF: practical aspects of the Christian faith. Spiritual practices & traditions in the church

QUESTION:

how should Christians deal with origins in the church?

**Church Harmony** S3

is origins a reason for a DIVISION between Christians?

**OR**

is origins only a DIFFERENCE between Christians?

**Church & Evolution** S4

should the church withhold communion & baptism from evolutionists?

should evolutionists be stopped from teaching in churches & theology schools?

does one have to reject evolution in order to become a Christian?

**X. CONCLUSIONS** S5

**1. Categories are Absolutely Vital** S6

- BE AWARE of conflations & false dichotomies S7

COMMON CATEGORIES

trap us & chain us

conflations → false dichotomies → false choices → missed choices

ACADEMIC CATEGORIES

free us & open our mind

spectrum of choices → allows informed choices → **OWNERSHIP of your worldview** S9

- CONTROL the categories → control the debate S10

I don't like the "C" word, but that's the reality

- BEWARE of the categories of your professors → includes Lamoureux! S11

did I miss some categories in this section?

am I loading the categories to promote my position?

IF so, not malice on my part, but pure INCOMPETENCE

☛ CHALLENGE ME & CORRECT ME

**2. Categories & Critical Thinking**

- There is no such thing as PURE OBJECTIVITY S12

our categories are historically & culturally conditioned

everyone (1) looks at the world and (2) thinks about it through a CATEGORICAL FILTER

EG 21<sup>st</sup> century AD/CE North Americans:

religion is filtered thru Christianity & science thru modern science

21<sup>st</sup> century B/CE Egyptians:

religion is filtered thru polytheism (many gods) & science thru ancient science

- However, through critical thinking we can become MORE OBJECTIVE S13

(1) **Identify** your categories

(2) **Decide** which categories you accept or reject

(3) **Construct** your categorical filter

☛ this way you will not be controlled by historically & culturally conditioned categories that you have inherited and force you to think in only one way

3. Define YOUR:

S2

EPISTEMOLOGY

- Do you feel the tug of **positivism**?
- But is there a WIDER category set?  
 an epistemology not limited ONLY to correspondence-coherence-consilience?  
 maybe includes religious epistemological categories?

HERMENEUTICS

S3

- Do you feel the tug of **scientific concordism**?
- But is there a WIDER category set?  
 a view of revelation in which God used ancient science in the Bible  
 a view of Biblical Inerrancy that does not include statements about nature in the Bible?

4. Consider the Two Foundational Principles for Science & Religion:

S4

METAPHYSICS-PHYSICS PRINCIPLE

S5 H5

a philosophical concept

Common Problem:

Atheists & Agnostics tend to conflate science & their metaphysics

**TIP:**

**SEPARATE & DON'T CONFLATE**

Atheism & Agnosticism are Ultimate Beliefs and not science

MESSAGE-INCIDENT PRINCIPLE

S6 H5

a hermeneutical concept

Common Problem:

Christians tend to conflate the ancient science in the Bible & Message of Faith

**TIP:**

**SEPARATE & DON'T CONFLATE**

Ancient science is not a Spiritual Truth

5. Post-Modernity & the Personal

S7

- Post-modernity is a 'brave new epistemological world' that is beyond modernity & positivism  
 knowledge is much more social & personal  
 40% of US Scientists → believe in a personal God

KEY WORD: Personal

- Don't be embarrassed for personal aspects in your worldview, because after all you are a person!!!