

Pressure from Paganism & Syncretism ($R_{nv}^p + R_v$)

Systematic Theology ($R_v + R_{nv}$ from philosophy and history of theology)

Biblical Theology ($R_v + R_{nv}$ from exegesis)

Exegesis ($R_v + R_{nv}$ from OTI/NTI, genre, semantics, grammar, personal experience)

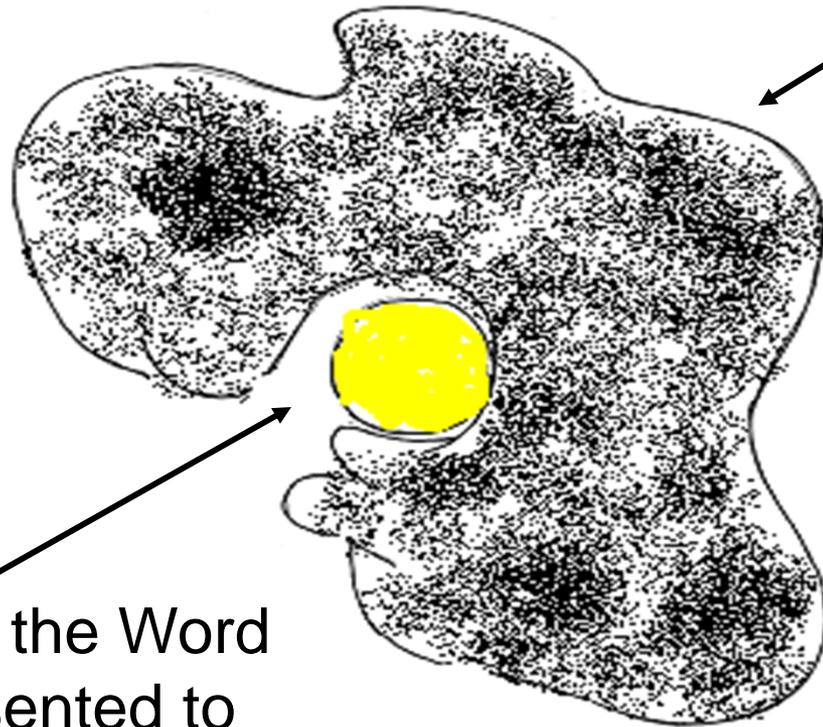
Framework Approach

**Ministry:
Evangelism & Christian Life**



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UNBELIEF SWALLOWING UP A BIT OF THE WORD OF GOD



A portion of the Word of God presented to unbelief

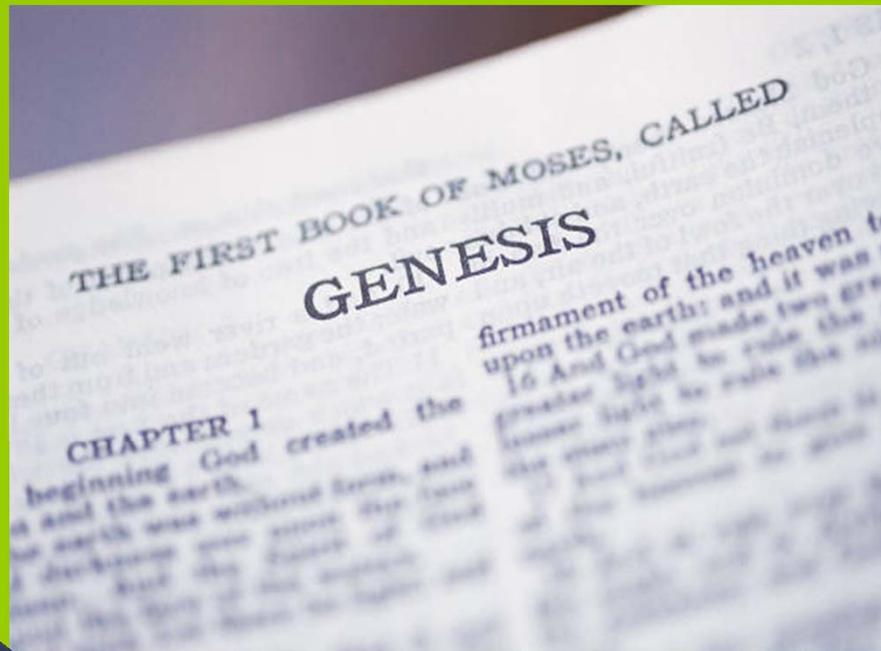
Unbelief reinterpreting the Word of God within its own categories

“Unbelief controls my interpretation of the situation”

The “Enlightenment’s Contribution” to Truth

Universal categories reign over God, the Bible, man, and nature

Universe produced by so-called “natural” processes over long time periods



All conceptual knowledge begins in man’s brain

Language developed as man developed in different societies

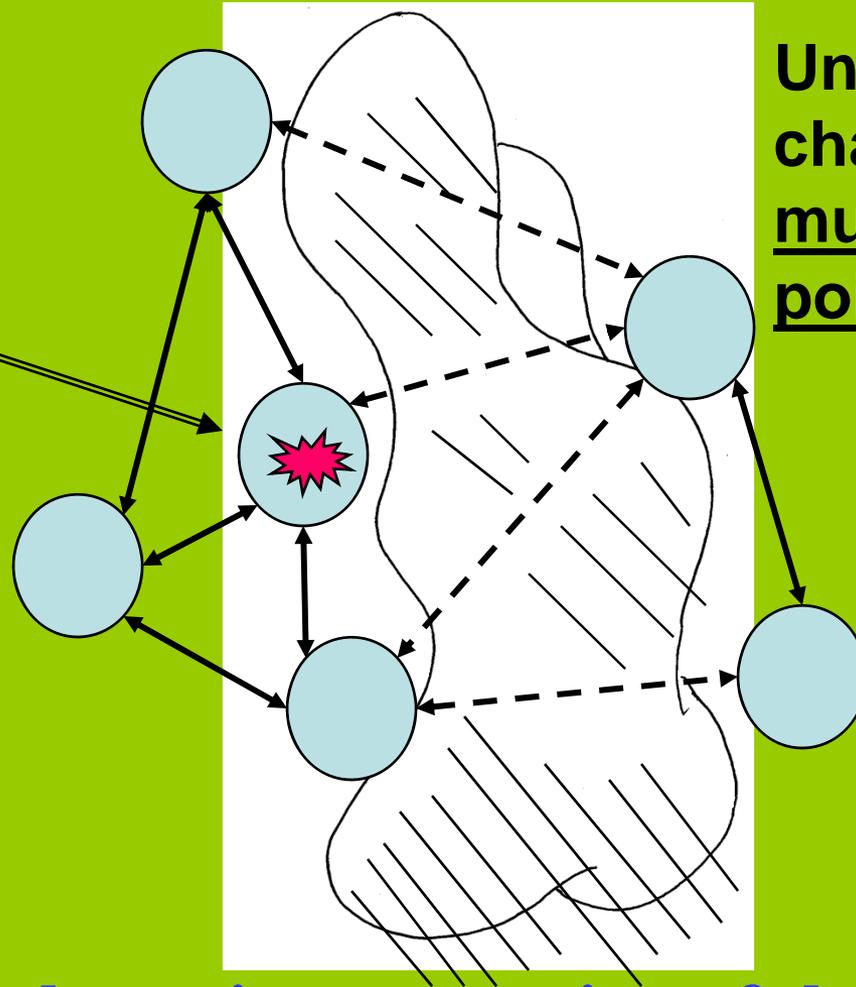
Man has a mystical component that underlies his conscious mind

The “Grand Canyon” Separation Between Biblical Truth and Pagan Error



UNBELIEF FORCED INTO A CONTRAST IN MANY AREAS SIMULTANEOUSLY

A portion of the Word of God presented to unbelief as part of a network



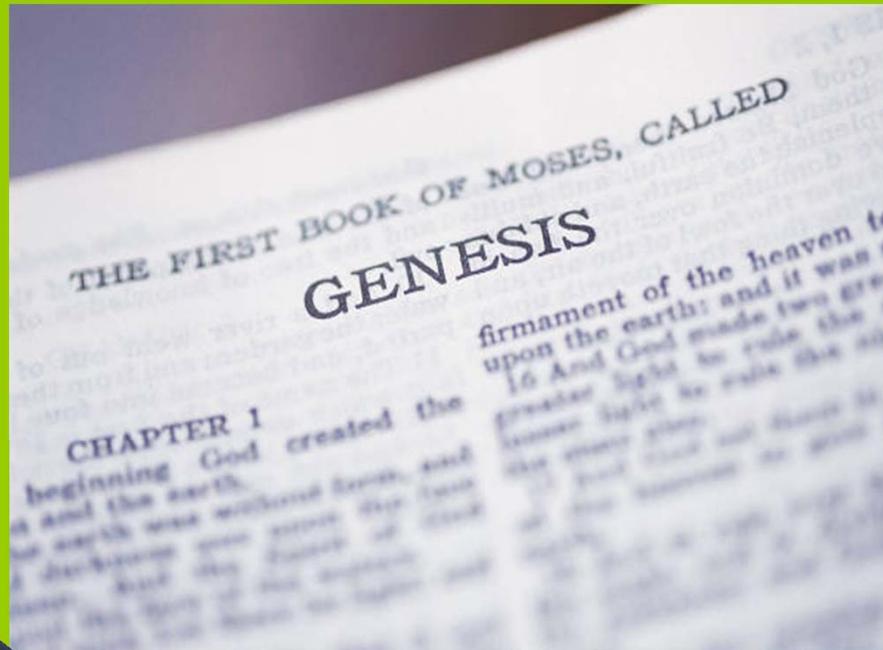
Unbelief challenged at multiple points

“Word of God controls my interpretation of the situation”

The “Enlightenment’s Contribution” to Truth

Universal categories reign over God, the Bible, man, and nature

Universe produced by so-called “natural” processes over long time periods

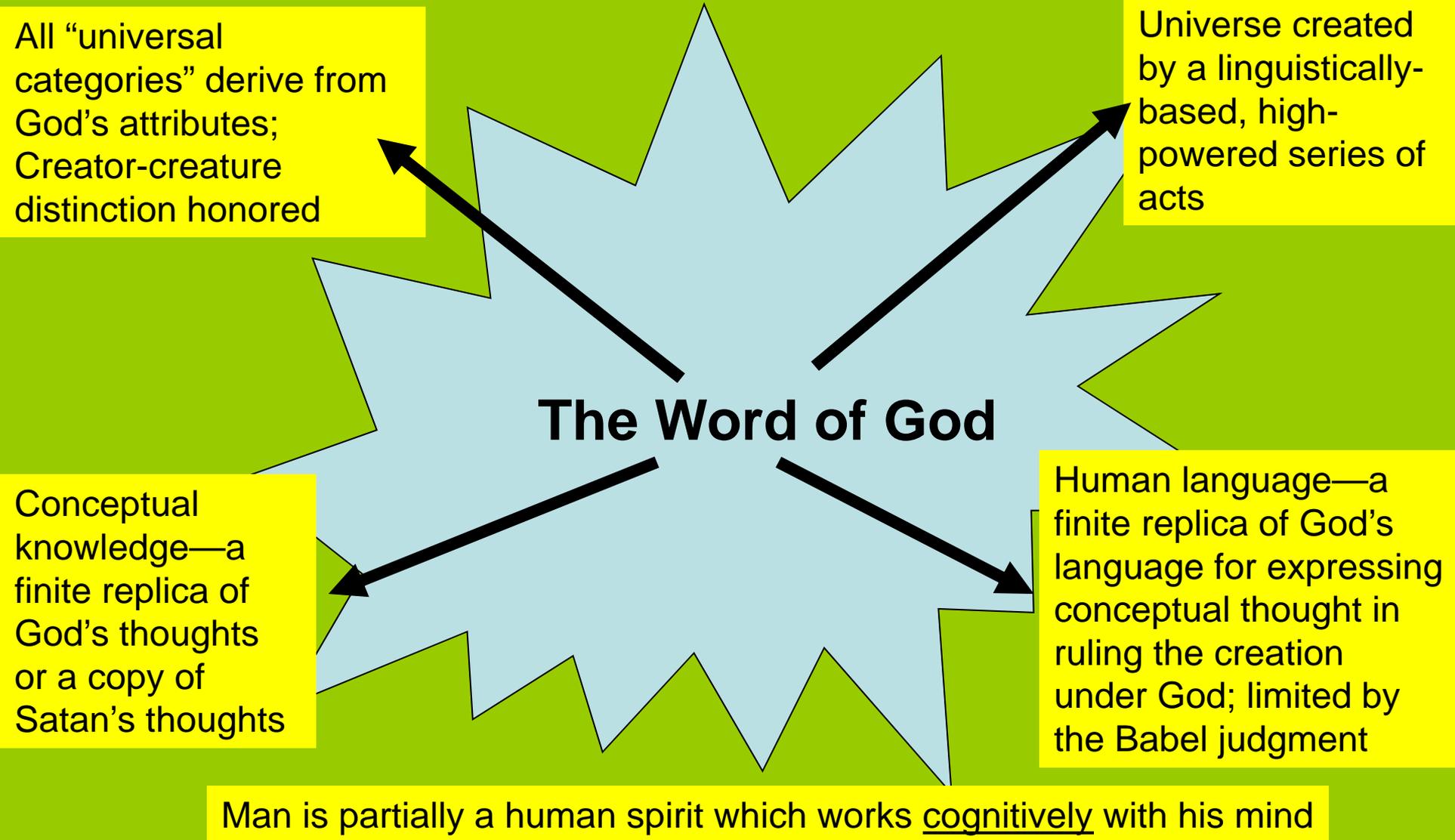


All conceptual knowledge begins in man’s brain

Language developed as man developed in different societies

Man has a mystical component that underlies his conscious mind

Full Deployment of the Word of God in a Strategy of Strength



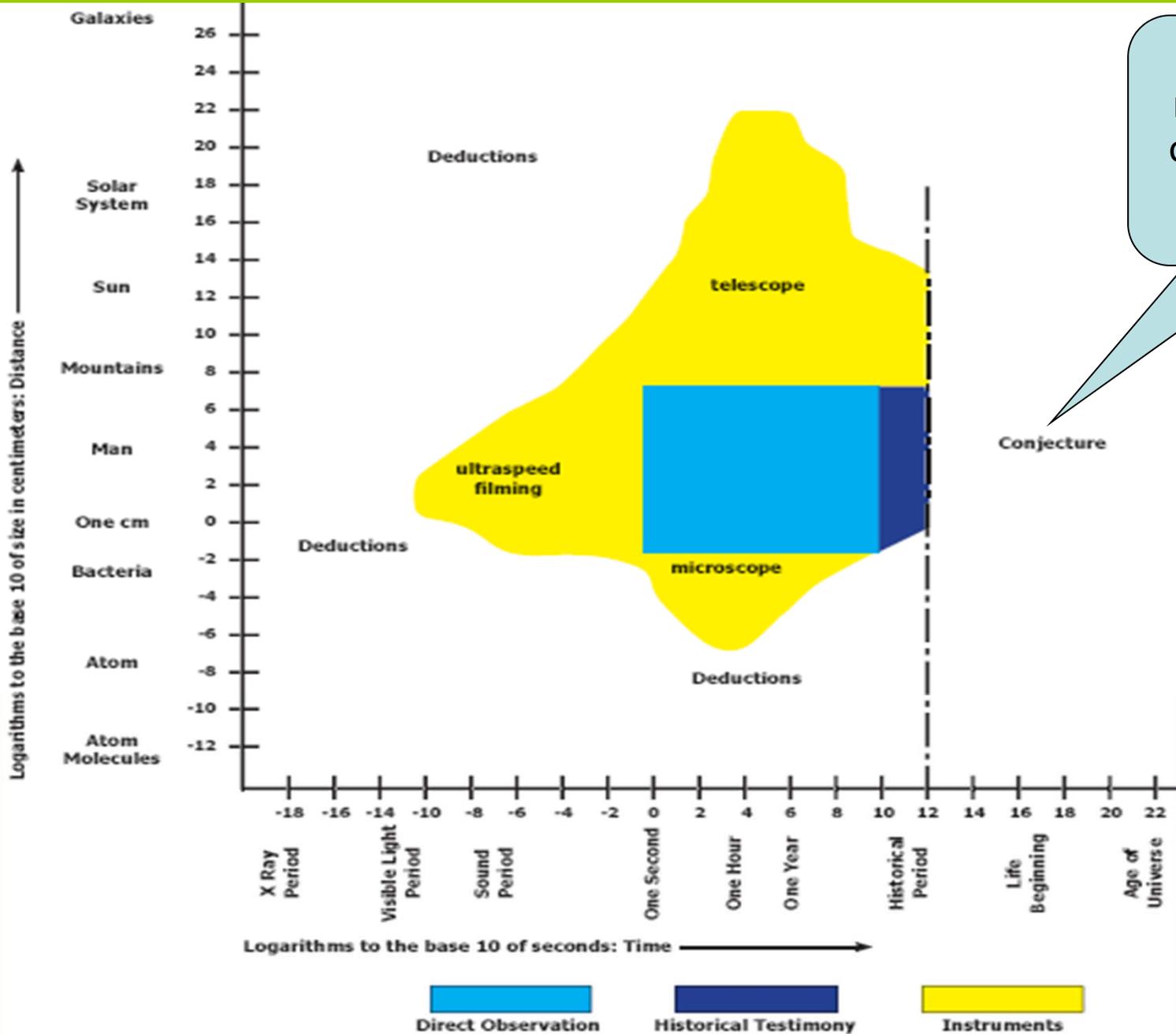
Non-biblical View: Truth Originates Within Man's Mind

“Is then mathematics a collection of diamonds hidden in the depths of the universe and gradually unearthed one by one or is it a collection of synthetic stones manufactured by man but nevertheless so brilliant that it bedazzles those mathematicians who are already partially blinded by pride in their own creation? Several considerations incline us to the latter point of view.”

Morris Kline in Mathematics for the Nonmathematician

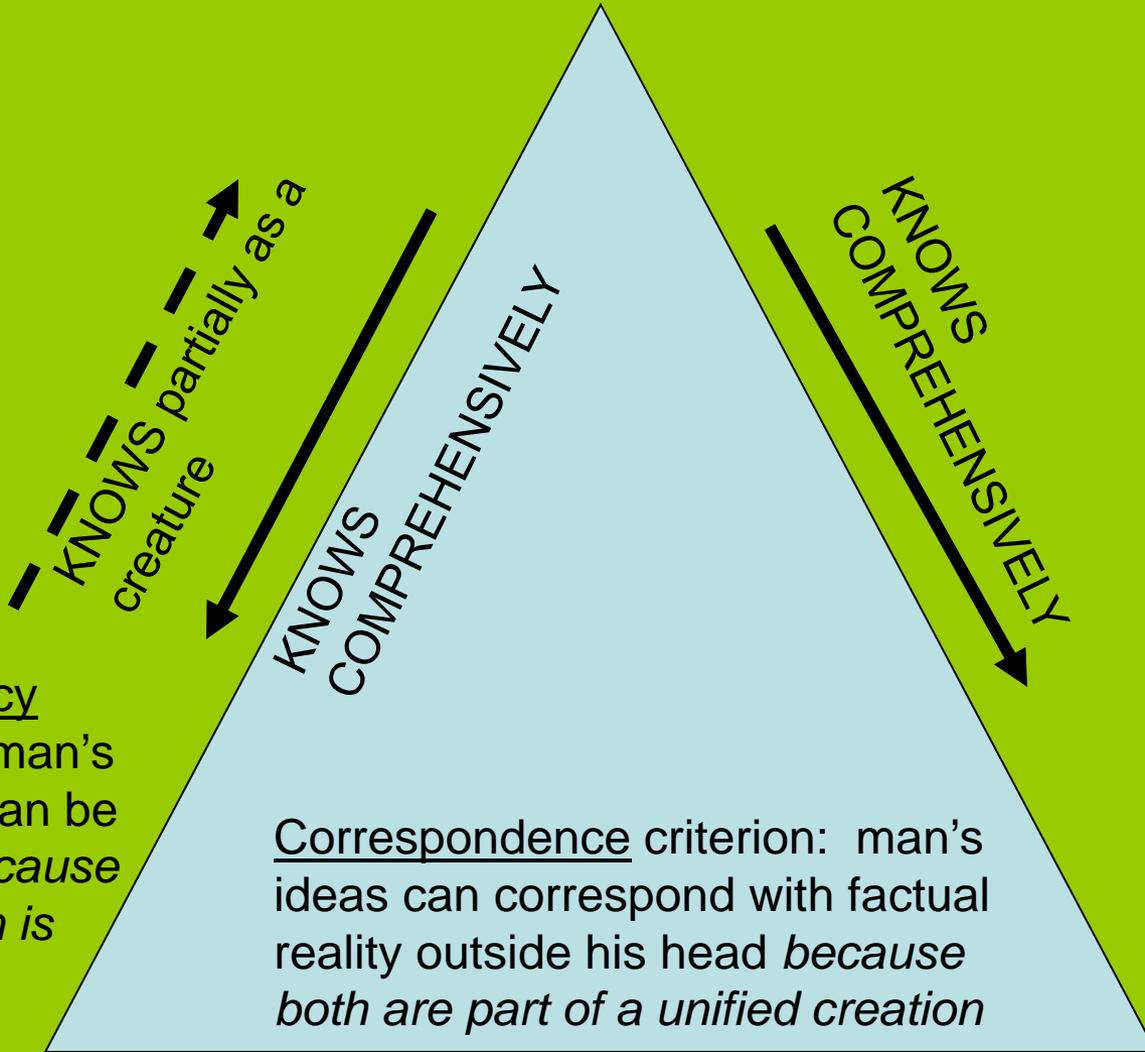
“the philosophically minded mathematician will avoid as much as possible reference to mathematical existence independent of human thought.”

Willem Kurk in Philosophia Reformata



No human measurements or observations available

GOD



Consistency

critterion: man's thoughts can be orderly *because God's plan is orderly*

Correspondence

critterion: man's ideas can correspond with factual reality outside his head *because both are part of a unified creation*



KNOWS partially as a creature

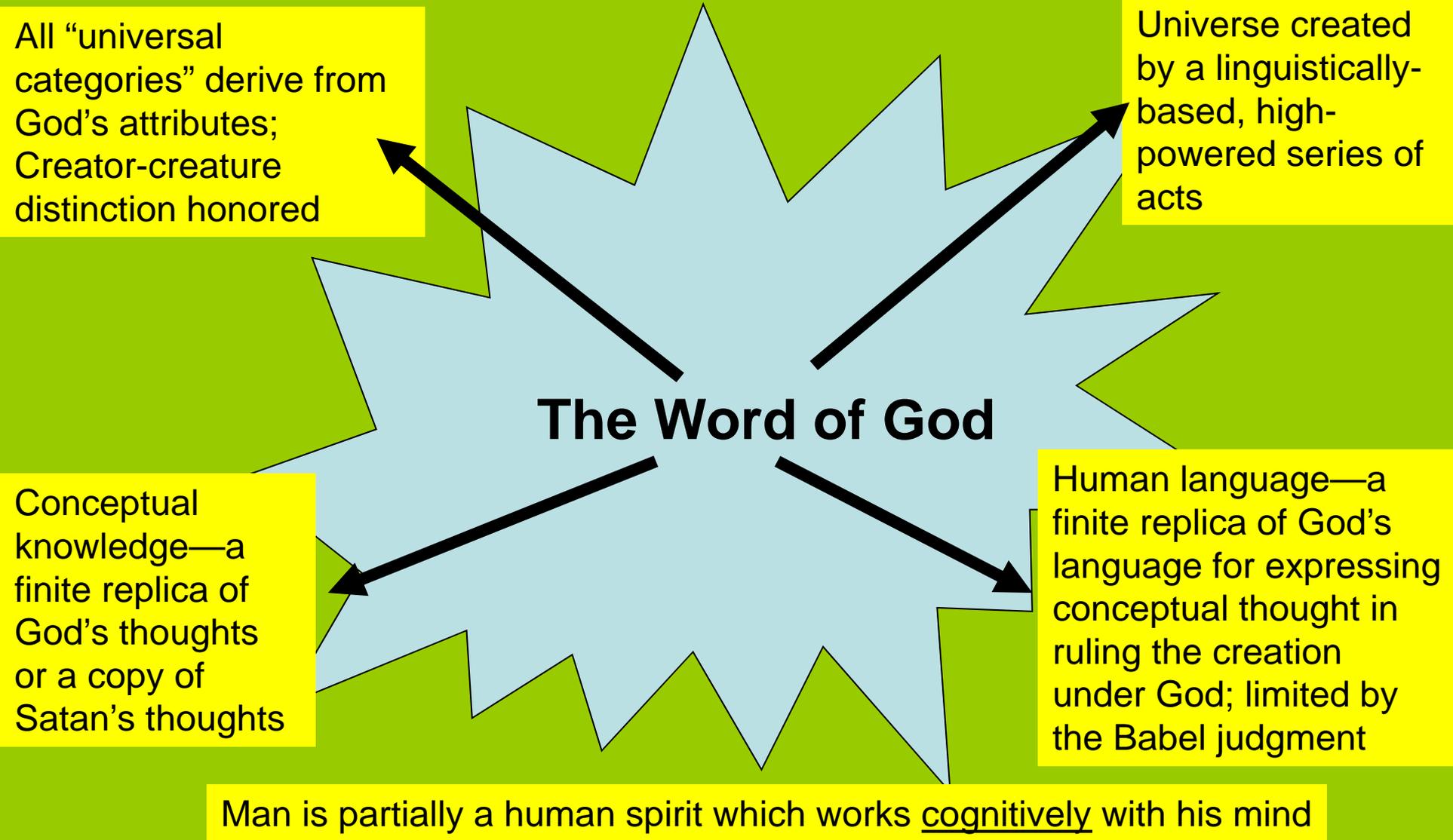
“Our willingness to accept scientific claims that are against common sense is the key to an understanding of the real struggle between science and the supernatural. We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism. It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.”

Richard Lewontin's review of Sagan's book in NY Review of Books

“I speak from experience, being strongly subject to this fear myself: I want atheism to be true and am made uneasy by the fact that some of the most intelligent and well-informed people I know are religious believers. It isn't just that I don't believe in God and, naturally, hope that I'm right in my belief. It's that I hope there is no God! I don't want there to be a God; I don't want the universe to be like that.”

Thomas Nagel, The Last Word (Oxford University Press)

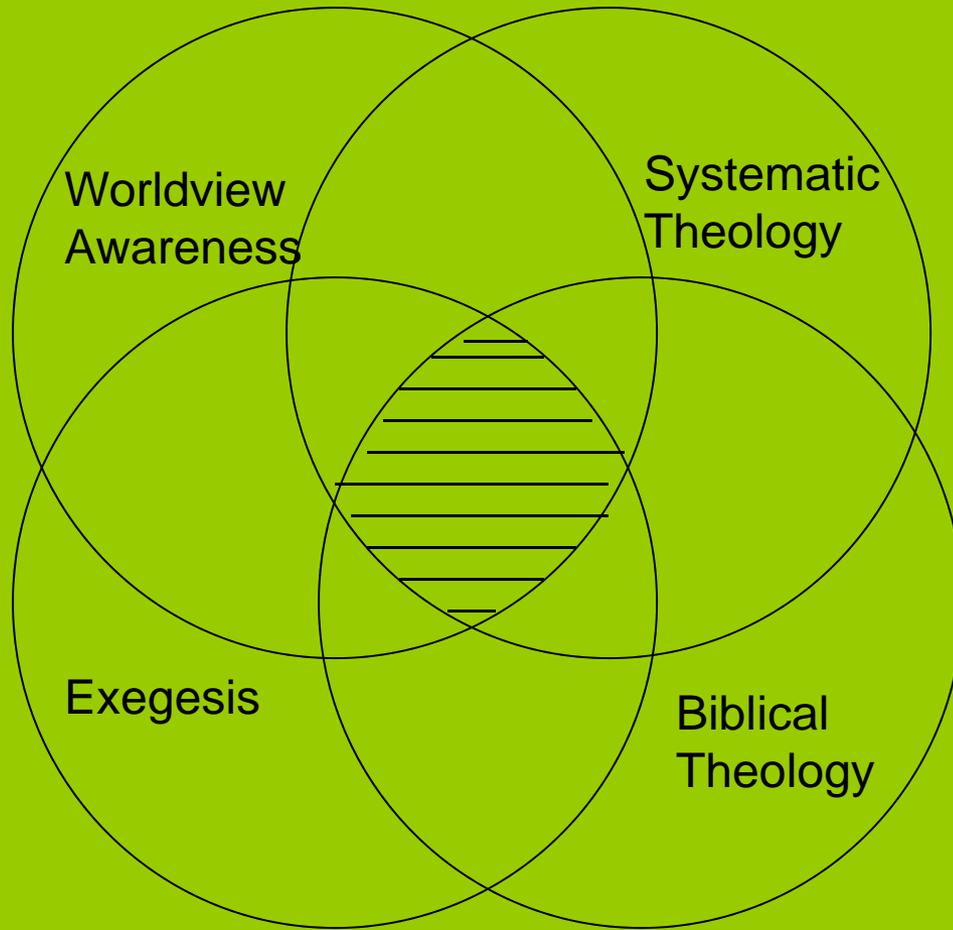
Full Deployment of the Word of God in a Strategy of Strength



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Framework Integration



Psalm 74

74:1-3 Address and Introductory Petition

terminology → place in historical revelation? nature of God and man and their mutual interaction?

74:4-11 Lament

complaint → real justice exists so real evil exists!

74:12-17 Confession of Trust

confidence → certainty of knowledge? framework events recited

74:18-23 Petition

terminology → interaction between God and man? existence of contractual relationship with Israel! anticipation of triumph of justice

Who Has the REAL “Evil Problem”?

Christian: Good/Evil Mix is “Abnormal” & Temporary



Pagan: Good/Evil Mix is Forever “Normal”



Full Deployment of the Word of God in a Strategy of Strength

