

1 Peter Series

Lesson #092

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Dean Bible Ministries

www.deanbibleministries.org

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GIVING AN ANSWER – PART 10

NEW TESTAMENT CONFRONTATIONS:

DIFFERENT AUDIENCES,

DIFFERENT APPROACHES

1 PETER 3:15; ACTS 2, 3, 14, 17

A photograph of a church steeple silhouetted against a vibrant sunset sky with orange and red clouds. The text '1st PETER' is overlaid in a large, white, serif font.

1ST PETER

**LIVING IN LIGHT
OF ETERNITY**

Introduction to Apologetics

- 1. What is *Apologetics*?**
- 2. Why should we learn about apologetics?**
- 3. Why do some people object to apologetics?**
- 4. The Bible doesn't use apologetics, why should we?**

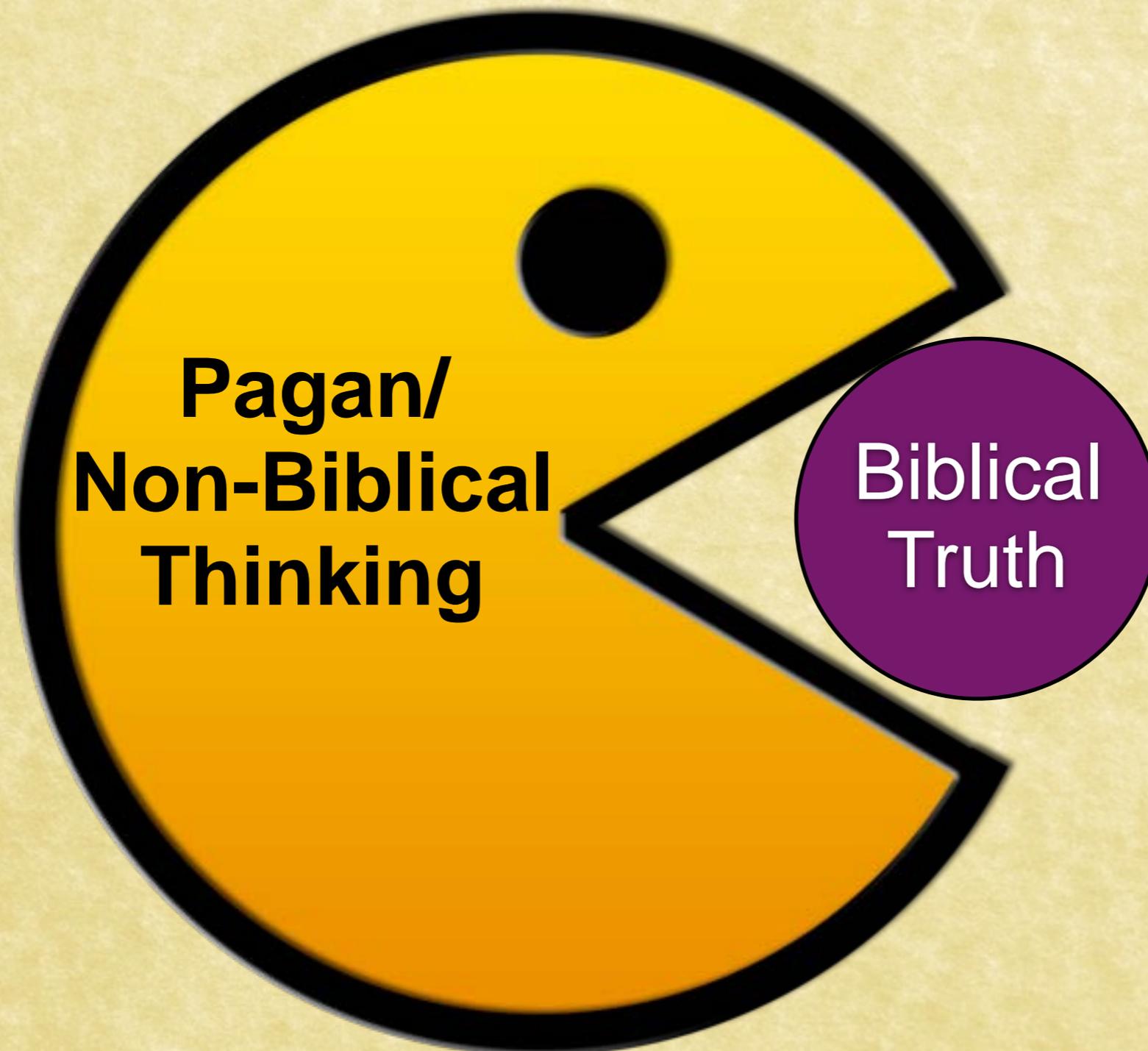
- 1. The people have a religious system demonstrating the truth of Rom. 1:18–23, but they are truth suppressors.**
- 2. They are not spiritually neutral.**
- 3. The purpose of the confrontation is to change their mind about God.**
- 4. Elijah asks a question to expose their unbelief and to challenge them to obey.**
- 5. They were able to evaluate the evidence despite a prior commitment to suppress truth.**
- 6. The evidence was not treated as neutral.**
- 7. God used historic facts and evidence to expose their sin and rebellion.**
- 8. The reaction may be quite hostile.**

Acts 14:8, “And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother’s womb, who had never walked.

Acts 14:9, “This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed,

Acts 14:10, “said with a loud voice, ‘Stand up straight on your feet!’ And he leaped and walked.”

**Operation “Truth Suppression” Immediately re-
defines, reshapes, and transforms TRUTH
according to its own framework.**



Acts 14:14, “But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out”

Acts 14:15, “and saying, ‘Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them,’ ”

Acts 14:15, “and saying, ‘Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them,’ ”

**ὁμοιοπαθῆς *homoiopathēs*
nom masc plur
similar; of the same nature**

**εὐαγγελίζω *euaggelizō*
pres mid part masc plur nom
to proclaim good news**

Acts 14:15, “and saying, ‘Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them,’ ”

**ἐπιστρέφω *epistrephō*
pres act infin
“to turn back, return,
turn” a synonym for
metanoëo, “to repent”**

Acts 14:16, “who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways.

Acts 14:17, “Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.”

Acts 14:18, “And with these sayings they could scarcely restrain the multitudes from sacrificing to them.”

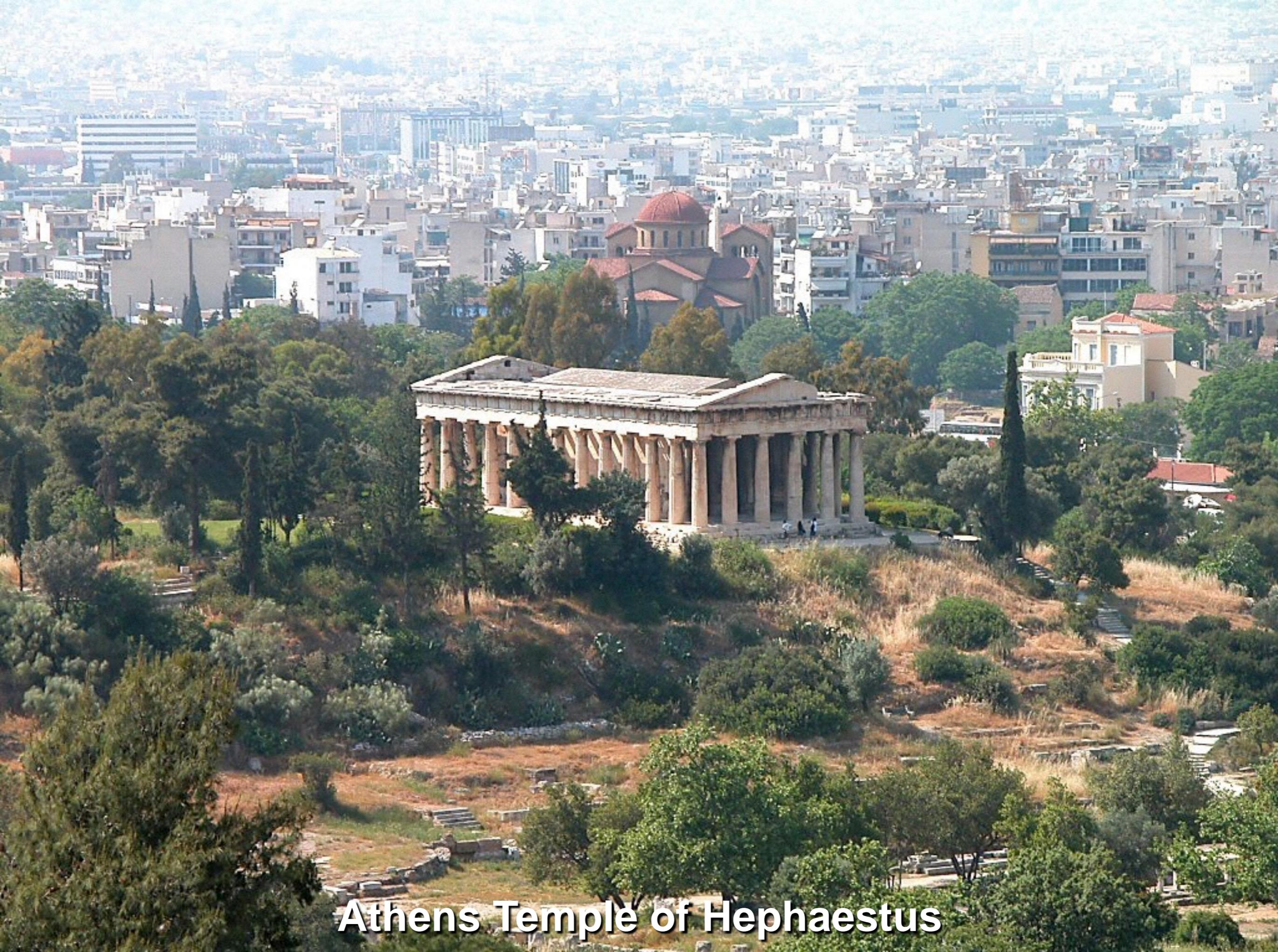
Acts 14:19, “Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.”

Acts 17:16, “Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols.”

παροξύνω *paroxuno*

imperf pass indic 3 sing

**to provoke; be upset, stirred up,
angry**



Athens Temple of Hephaestus



Athens Temple of Themis From Above



Athens Theater of Dionysus



Athens Temple of Zeus from Acropolis

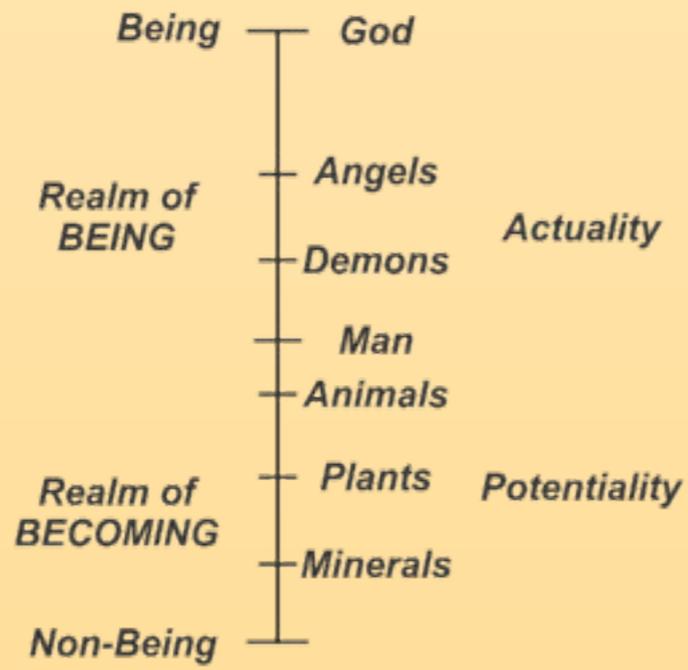


Acts 17:18, “Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, ‘What does this babbler want to say?’ Others said, ‘He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods,’ because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection.”

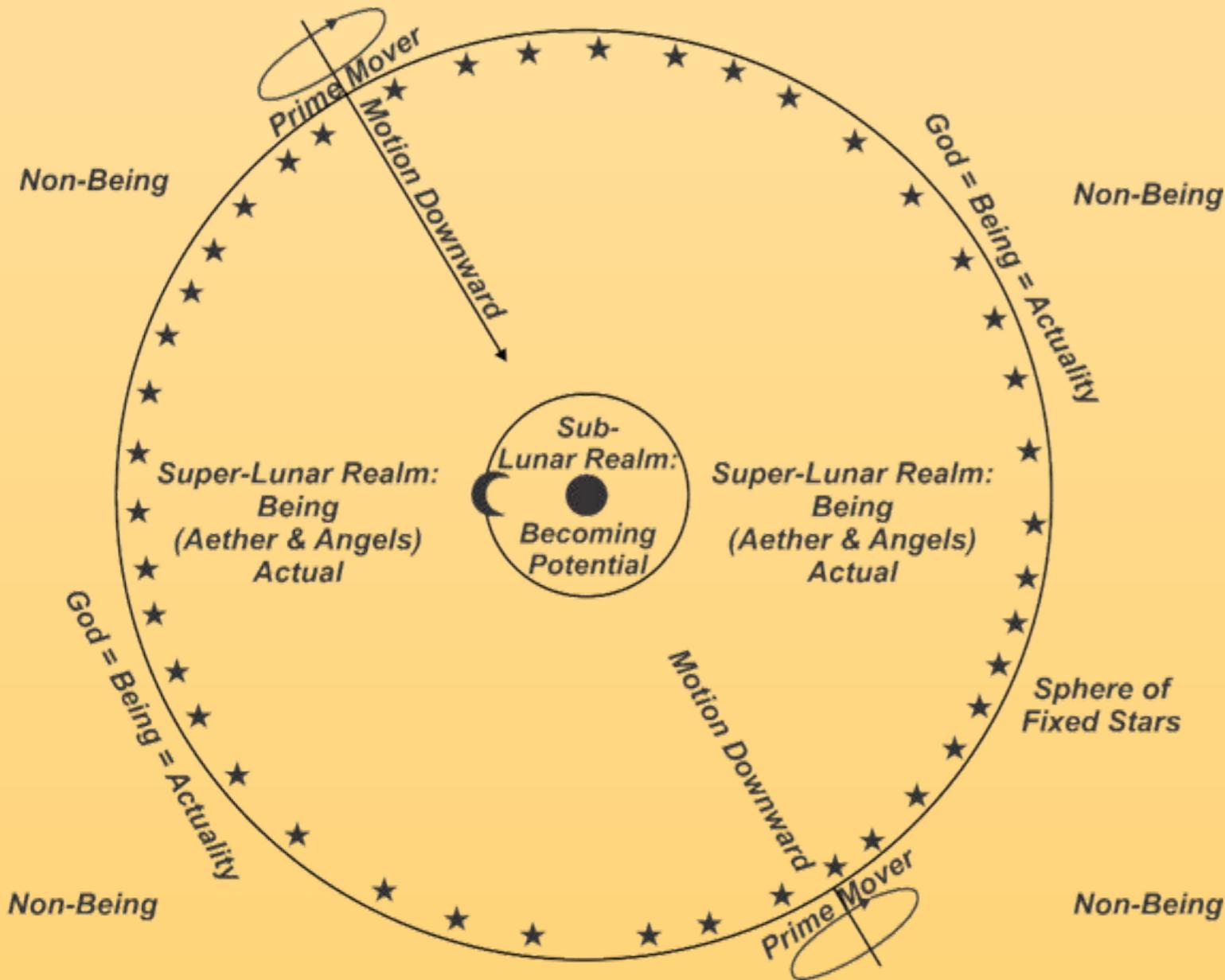
“Basic to all the thinking of the Greeks was the assumption that all being is at bottom one, that all change comes by way of some form of emanation from that one being and is therefore ultimate as the One, and that somehow all the ultimate multiplicity that exists as due to ultimate change again ultimately returns to the One. They were therefore all of them monists; they spoke of the reality as a whole without making the distinction between the Creator and the creature.”

~Van Til, *Paul at Athens*

The Great Chain of Being



The Great Chain of Being



1. A hierarchy of static, unchanging forms, with God (Being, Unmoved Mover, the Good, the Absolute, etc.) at the top, then angels, humans, animals, plants, down to inanimate objects. Each had its place. The movement is from the top down and the forms are unchanging.

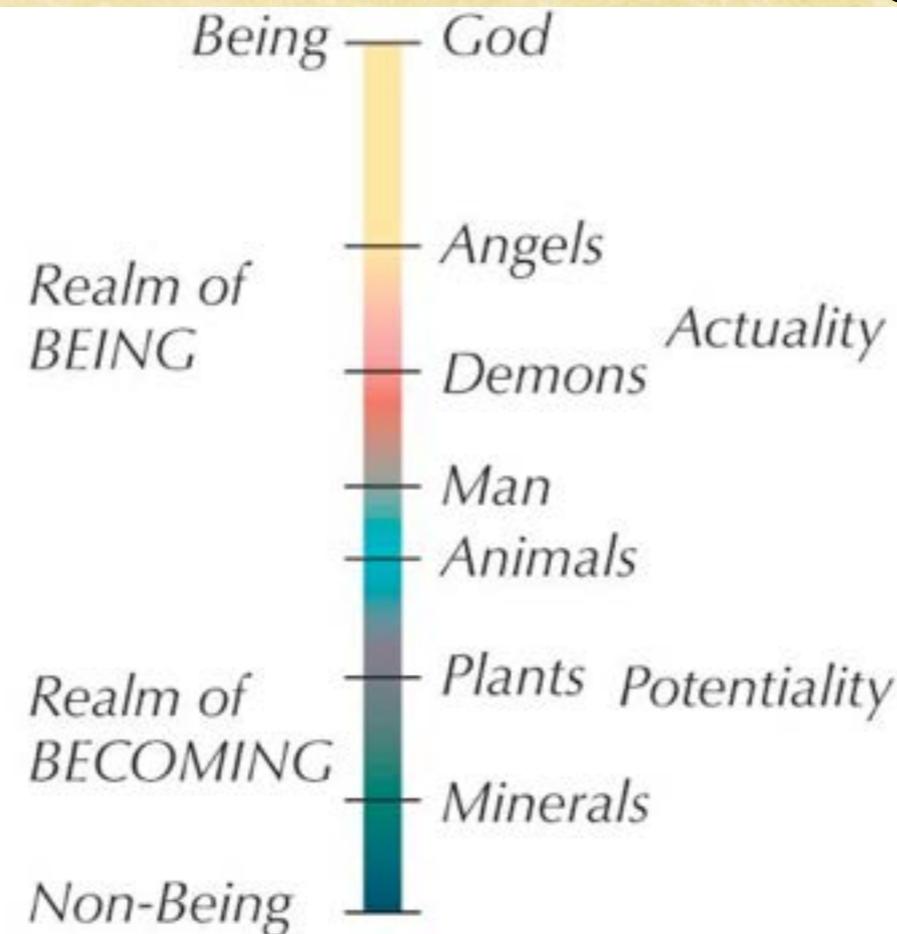
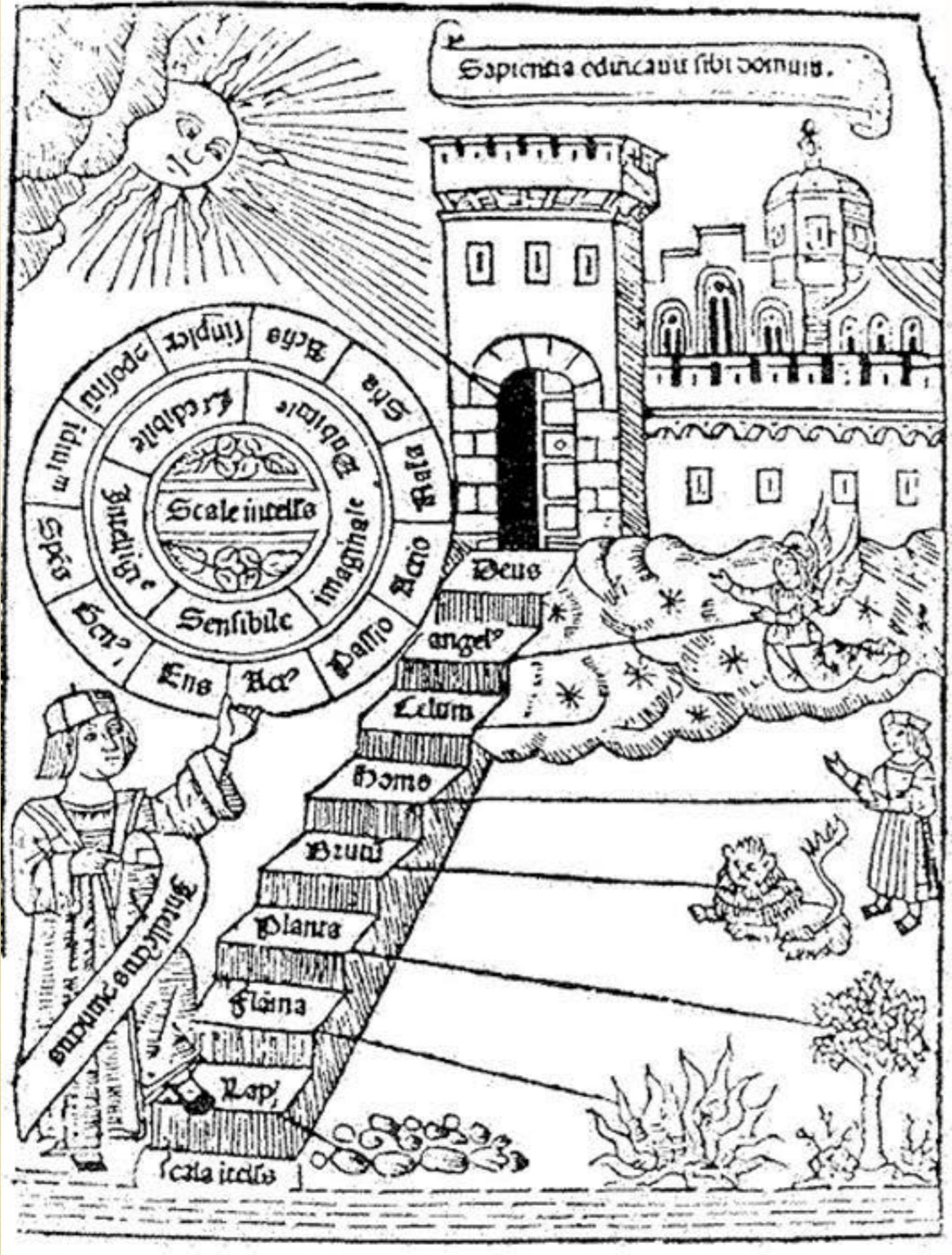


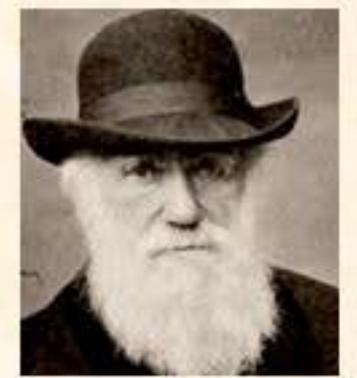
FIGURE 1.3. Medieval version of the Great Chain of Being based on Aristotle's ideas.

1.3, redrawn from [http:// web.clas.ufl.edu/users/rhatch/images/greatChain.gif](http://web.clas.ufl.edu/users/rhatch/images/greatChain.gif), credit: Robert A. Hatch



Great Chain of Being

- God
- Angels
- Heaven
- Humans
- Beasts
- Plants
- Flame
- Rocks



“The essential and unbreakable links in the chain include the Divine Creator, the angelic heavenly, the human, the animal, the world of plants and vegetation, and the planet Earth itself with its minerals and waters.

“This image became the basis for calling anything and everything ‘sacred.’ ”

~Arthur Lovejoy, *The Chain of Being*

“Apart from biblically governed thought, the prevailing concept of *being* has been that being is one and continuous. God, or the gods, man, and the universe are all aspects of one continuous being; degrees of being may exist, so that a hierarchy of gods as well as a hierarchy of men can be described, but all consist of one, undivided and continuous being. The creation of any new aspect of being is thus not a creation out of nothing, but a creation out of *being*. . . .”

~R. J. Rushdoony

Both gods and men developed or evolved . . . out of the original chaos of being. . . . Chaos or darkness generates life; it is both the source of life and the enemy of life. . . . Chaos and life are thus in a necessary tension.”

~Rousas John Rushdoony, *The One and the Many* (Philadelphia: Craig Press, 1971), 36–37

“At some future period, not very distant as measured by centuries, the civilized races of man will almost certainly exterminate and replace the savage races throughout the world. At the same time the anthropomorphous apes ... will no doubt be exterminated. The break between man and his nearest allies will then be wider, for it will intervene between man in a more civilized state, as we may hope, even than the Caucasian, and some ape as low as a baboon, instead of as now between the negro, or Australian, and the gorilla.”

~Darwin, *The Ascent of Man*

“What the Schoolmen called the *ens perfectissimum*, the summit of the hierarchy of being, the ultimate and only completely satisfying object of contemplation and adoration, there can be little doubt that the Idea of the Good was the God of Plato; and there can be none that it became the God of Aristotle, and one of the elements or aspects of the God of most of the philosophic theologies of the Middle Ages, and of nearly all the modern Platonizing poets and philosophers.”

~Lovejoy

**Chain of Being
Emanating
from “god”**

“god”

**angelic or
spirit beings**

Human beings

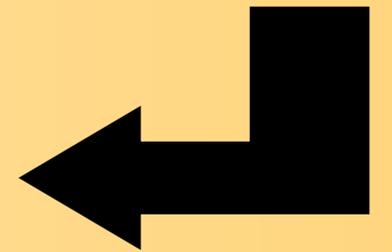
Animals

Vegetation

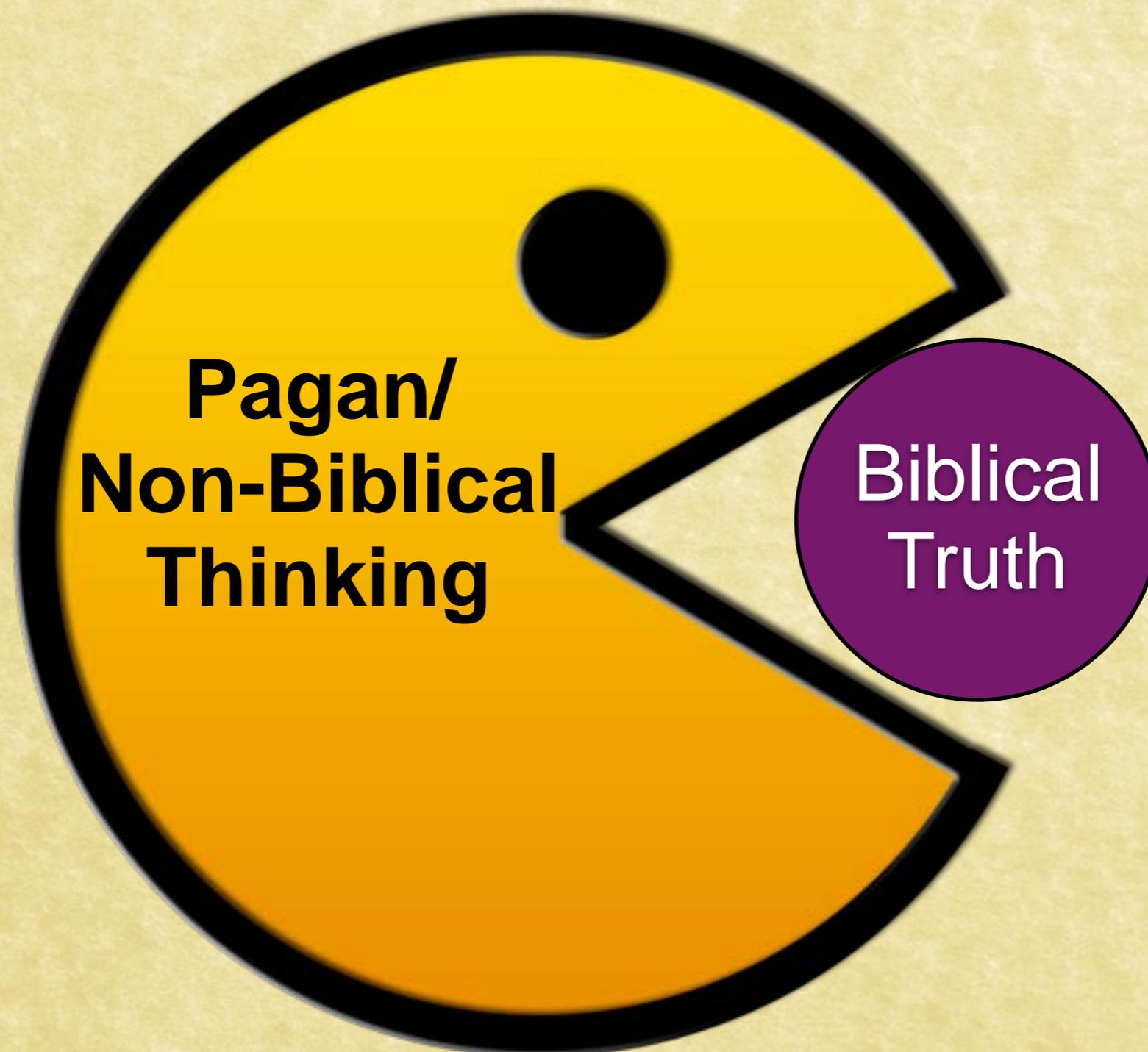
Rocks, dirt, water

**Astronomical & geophysical
environment (incl. climate)**

**Being or
raw
existence
itself**



**Operation “Truth Suppression” Immediately re-
defines, reshapes, and transforms TRUTH
according to its own framework.**



Acts 17:19, “And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, ‘May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak?’

Acts 17:20, “ ‘For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean.’

Acts 17:21, “For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.”



Mars' Hill
Height: Reaches 377 ft.

Stairway cut into
the rock (still in
use today).

Paul

Mars' Hill in Athens



At Mars' Hill, also known as the Areopagus, Paul used an inscription





Acts 17:22, “Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, ‘Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious;

Acts 17:23, “ ‘for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you:’ ”

δεισιδαίμων *deisidaimōn*

acc masc plur comp

religious; superstitious

Acts 17:24, “God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

Acts 17:24, “God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

Acts 17:25, “Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

Acts 17:26, “And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,”

Acts 17:27, “so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

Acts 17:28, “for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’

Acts 17:29, “Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man’s devising”

Acts 17:30, “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,”

Goal: Conversion, repentance

Acts 17:30, “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

Acts 17:31, “because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

- 1. Begin with questions**
- 2. Assume the Creator God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob exists.**
- 3. Sometimes, point out the inadequacies of other's worldview.**
- 4. All men know God exists, and are suppressing that in various ways, but they know, God the Holy Spirit is working, and our job is to clearly present the truth and answer questions.**