

Judges Series

Lesson #40

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Dean Bible Ministries

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**The Importance of
Understanding Something
About Monism**
Judges 4–5; Romans 1:18–31

JUDGES

2021

When Chaos Was King

Bible or Babel?
Jerusalem or Babylon?
Biblical Worldview or Satan's?

Outline of “Judges” (Chieftains, Tribal Rulers, Leaders)

1:1–3:6

Introduction

**How Israel went from
spiritual victory
to being worse than
the Canaanites**

Incomplete obedience

Compromise

Failure

Cycles of discipline

3:7–16:31

Paganization of the Leadership

Othniel (the best)

Ehud

Shamgar

Deborah

Gideon

Tola, Jair

Jephthah

Ibzan, Elon, Abdon

Samson (the worst)

17:1–21:25

Paganization of the Priests

Chap. 17–18

and the

People

Chap. 19–21

1. We are in a war ... a spiritual war, yes, but it manifests in culture wars, thought wars, battles of ideology.

Eph. 6:12, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

2. This spiritual war, the extension of the angelic rebellion into human history, is fought according to the mandates of Scripture in a way consistent with the character of God.

2 Cor. 10:3, “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh [Sin Nature—the standards of sinful humanity].”

**στρατεύω *strateuō*
1 plur pres mid indic
to serve as a soldier; to
wage war**

2. This spiritual war, the extension of the angelic rebellion into human history, is fought according to the mandates of Scripture in a way consistent with the character of God.

2 Cor. 10:4, “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal [of the flesh] but powerful by God for destroying fortifications,” ~RD

3. The primary location of the battle is between our ears, in our thinking, the way we think, how we think, what we think.

2 Cor. 10:4, “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal [of the flesh] but powerful by God for the destruction of [mental] fortifications, ~RD

2 Cor. 10:5, “by casting down arguments and every high thing raised up against the knowledge about God, by bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,”

Rom. 1:20, “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Rom. 1:21, “because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in [*en*] their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.” ~NKJV

Rom. 1:22, “Professing to be wise, they became fools,

Rom. 1:23, “and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

Rom. 1:24, “Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

Rom. 1:25, “who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.” ~NKJV

Rom. 1:26, “For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.”

Rom. 1:27, “Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.”

~NKJV

Rom. 1:28, “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

Rom. 1:29, “being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,” ~NKJV

Rom. 12:2,

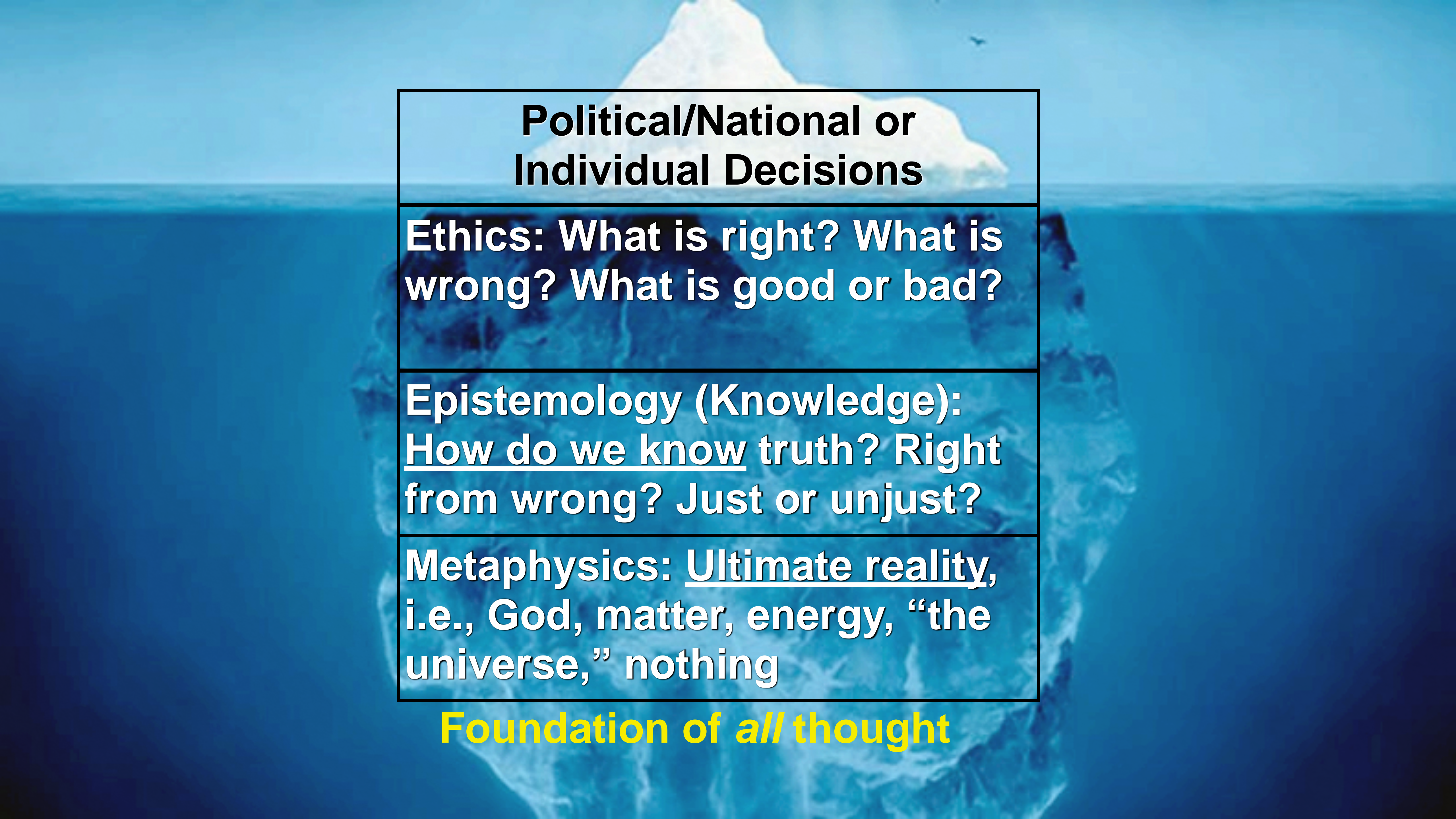
“And do not be conformed to the spirit of the age [*aion*],

but

**be transformed [*metamorphoo*]
(How?)**

by the renewing of your mind [*noos*],

**(Why?) that you may prove what is that good and
acceptable and perfect will of God.”**

An iceberg floating in a vast blue ocean under a clear sky. The iceberg's tip is visible above the water, while its much larger, jagged base is submerged. The water is a deep, clear blue, and the sky is a lighter, pale blue.

Political/National or Individual Decisions

Ethics: What is right? What is wrong? What is good or bad?

Epistemology (Knowledge): How do we know truth? Right from wrong? Just or unjust?

Metaphysics: Ultimate reality, i.e., God, matter, energy, “the universe,” nothing

Foundation of *all* thought

Rom. 1:25, “who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.” ~NKJV

GOD

Personal-Infinite

CREATOR

FINITE UNIVERSE

Man

Animals

Vegetation

Matter/Energy

INFINITE-
IMPERSONAL
Universe

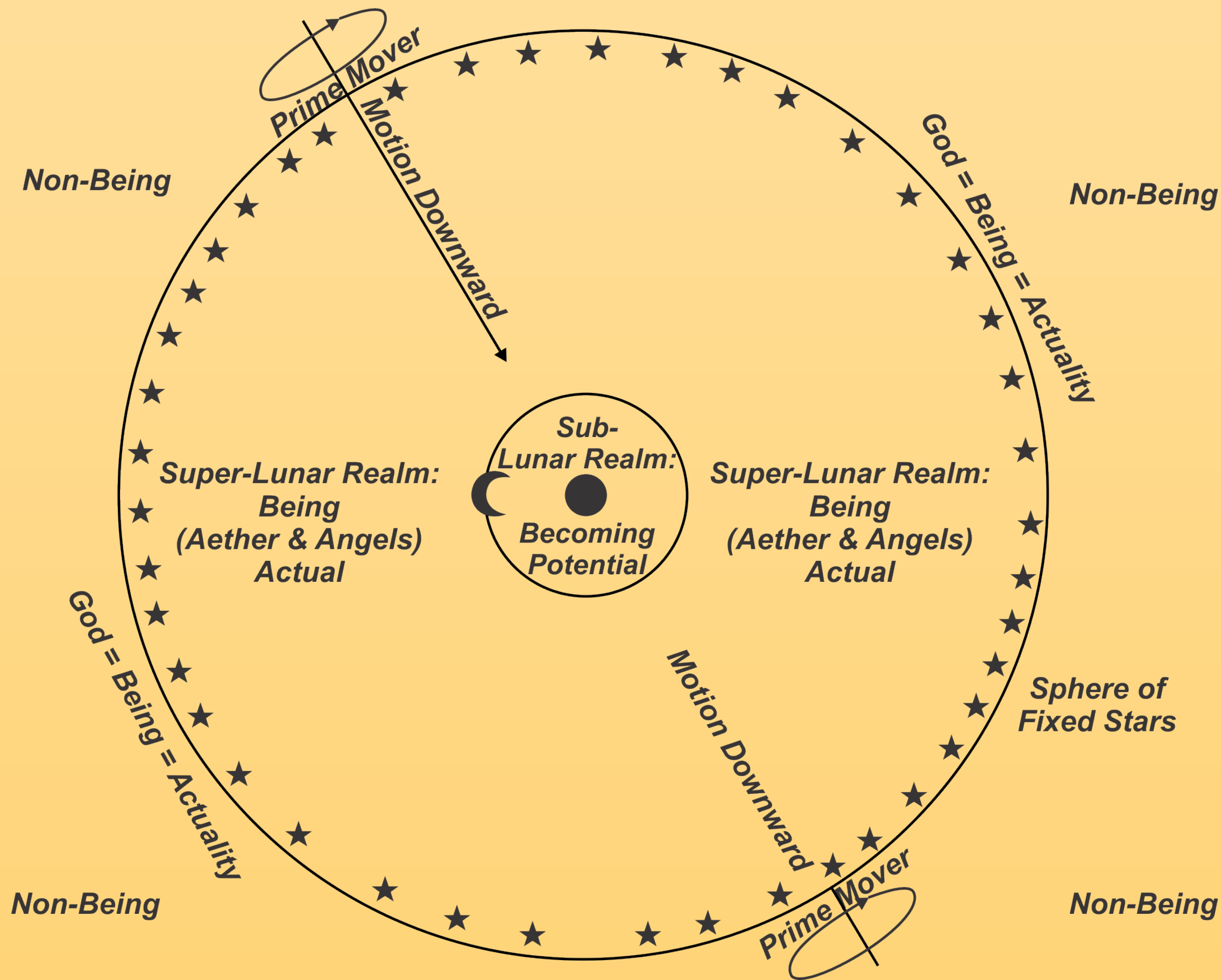


God
Man
Nature

The Great Chain of Being



The Great Chain of Being in History



What IS the Chain of Being?

Continuity of Being, *Scalae naturae echelle de etres*, or the 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.

ALL SHARE IN THE ONENESS 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

“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.’ ”

~Lovejoy

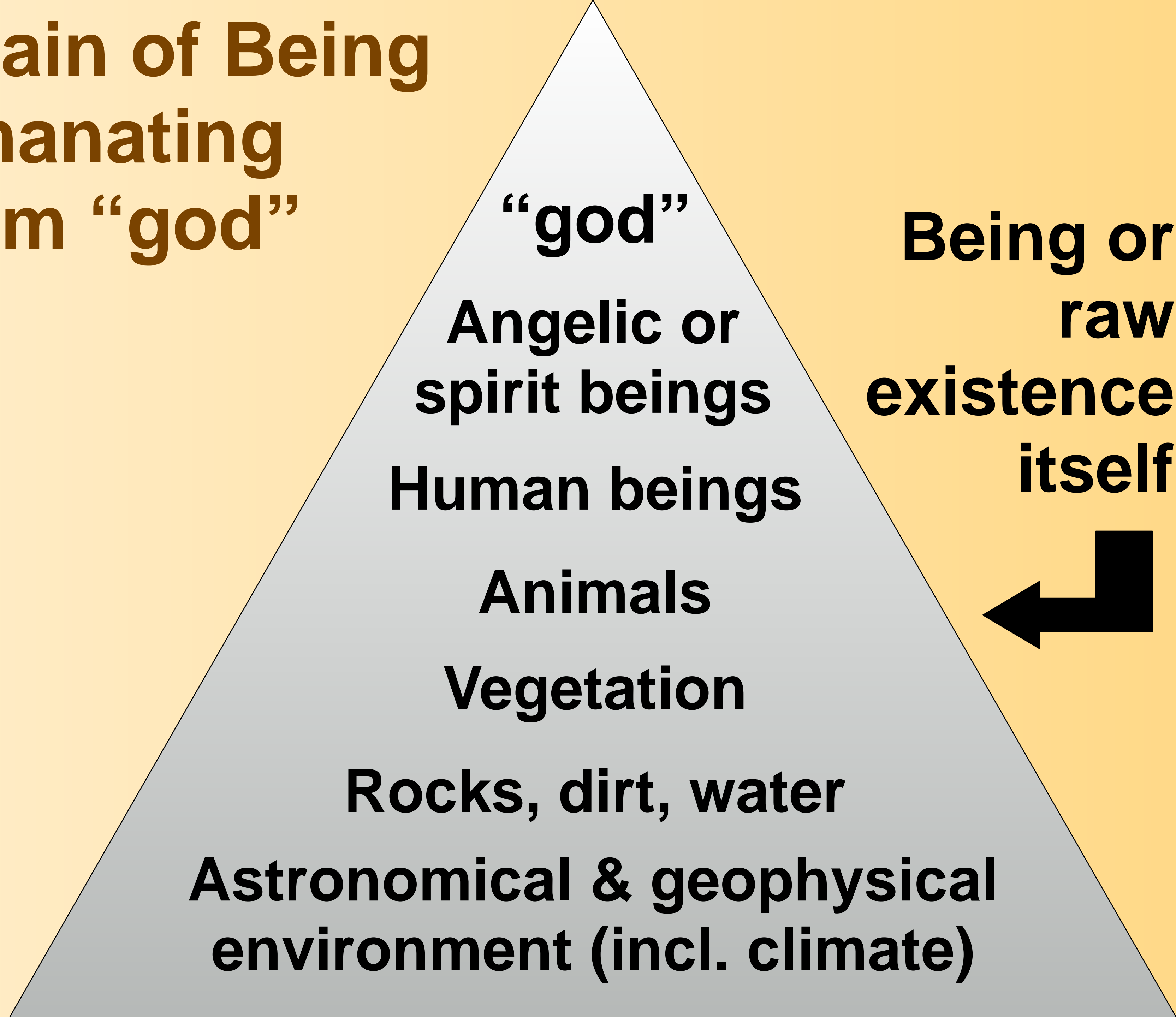
“The scale of being was thus an important social concept that was used to justify many types of social inequality.”

~Lovejoy

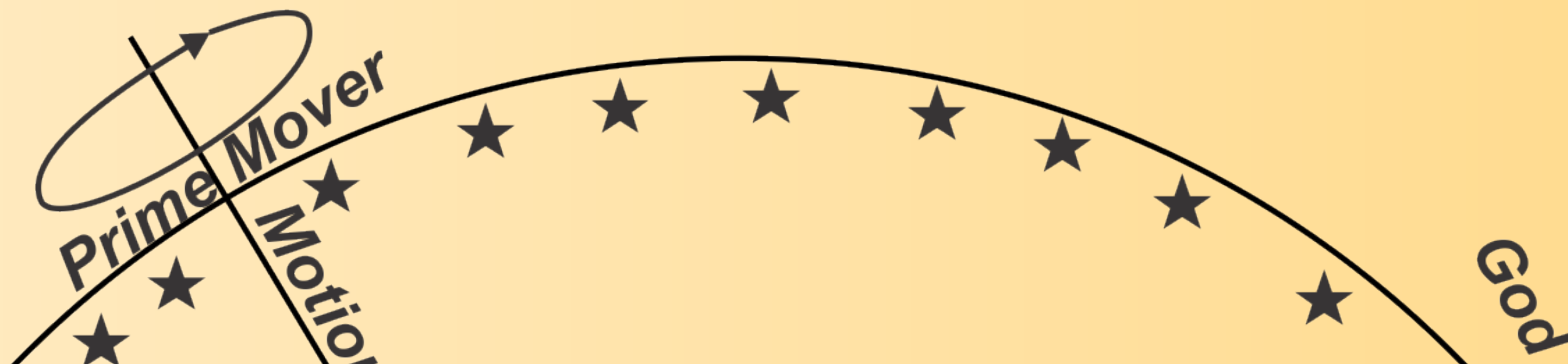
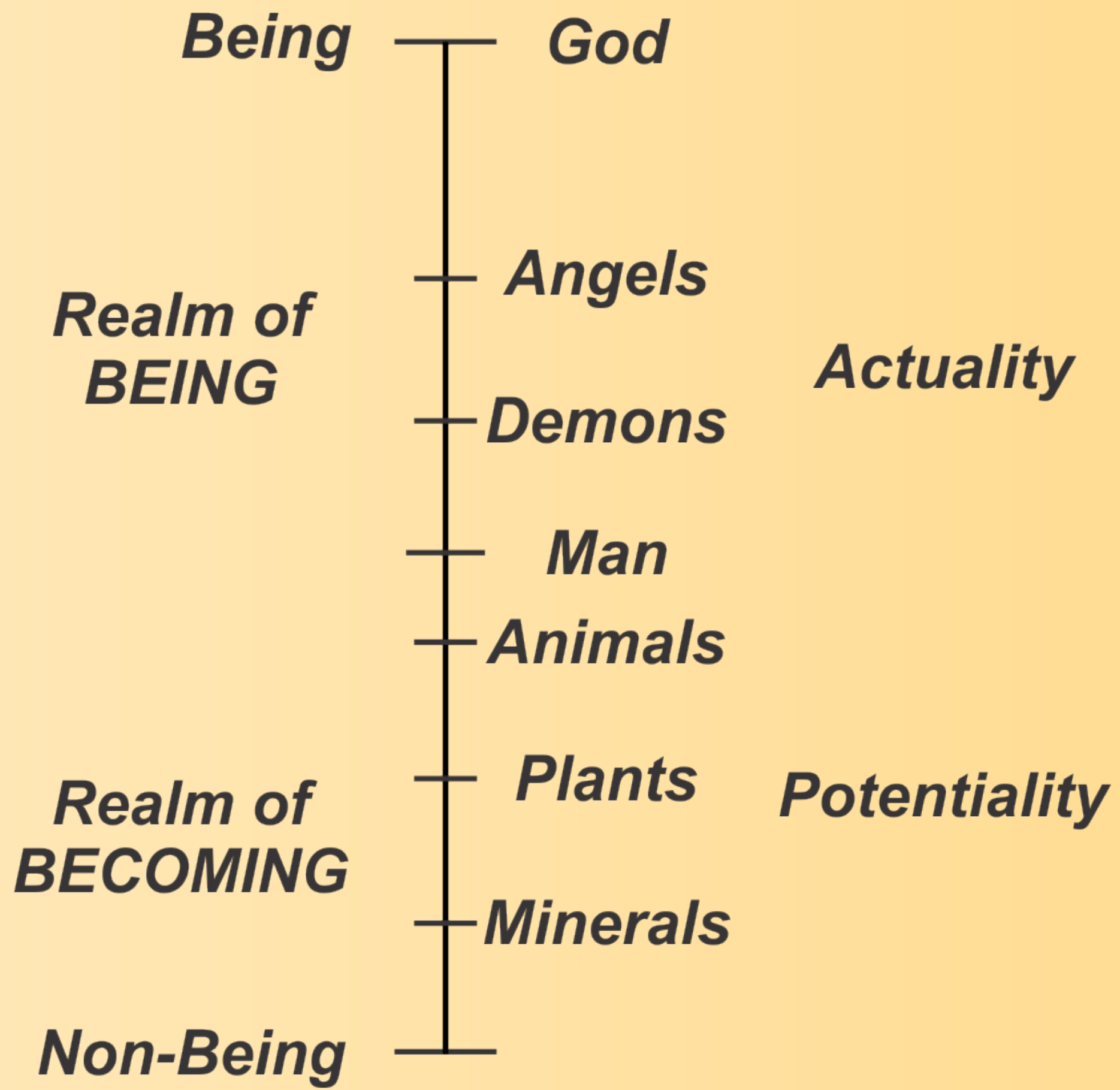
“At some future period, not very distant as measured by centuries, the civilized races of man will almost certainly exterminate and replace the savage races throughout the world. At the same time the anthropomorphous apes . . . will no doubt be exterminated. The break between man and his nearest allies 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*

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



The Great Chain of Being



In monism, all reality shares the same essence or essential nature or “being” to one degree or another.

“there is only one religion, though there are a hundred versions of it.”

~George Bernard Shaw

Gottfried Leibnitz, early Enlightenment Rationalist:

“The Perennial Philosophy”

What is it? “Belief in a divine Reality substantial to all things”

~Aldous Huxley, Darwin’s “Bulldog”

“... under and through each of the great traditions runs a stream ... a single stream that feeds each of these traditions from a single source ... the Perennial Philosophy.”

... a system that ‘seeks to break down duality (twoness) and return us to the unitive condition [monism], to see that we are already one.’ ”

~Peter Occhiogrosso, *The Joy of Sects*

“Why is it important that there is only one, not two?”

~Andrew Cohen, *The Significance of Non Duality: There is Only One, Not Two.*

“One and two also figure in discussions of the ‘Easternization’ of the West. In *American Veda*, Philip Goldberg reasons that America has become Hindu, pointing to a general acceptance of the ancient Sanskrit notion of ‘*Advaita*,’ which means ‘not two.’ *Advaita* affirms that *all is one*. The emphasis on oneness is essential to all Eastern religions that have found fertile soil in the West, including ancient ones like Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, and Taoism, as well as more recent additions like Sufism, Neoplatonism, Gnosticism, and Kabbalah.”

~Peter Jones

Monism breaks down all barriers, all is one.

... I am you, you are me, he is she, we are one.

~The Beatles

“There are, probably, ultimately only two possible answers to the question of origins, and they recur at different places in all ages: [either] that the universe is the result of creation by a free personal agency, or that in some way or other it creates itself. The two answers are not finally compatible, and require a choice, either between them or an attitude of agnostic refusal to decide.”

~Colin Gunton

“Between the creature and the Creator, a great gulf is fixed.”

~J. Gresham Machen

“Between the creature and the Creator, a great gulf is fixed.”

~J. Gresham Machen

“There were really only two answers possible: either in Hinduism or in Christianity. Everything else was either a preparation for, or else (in the French sense) a vulgarization of, these. Whatever you could find elsewhere you could find better in one of these.”

~C. S. Lewis

“From its founding until the 1960s, American culture was defined by patriarchal, heterosexual and Judeo-Christian presuppositions. In one generation, this worldview has been largely replaced by a radically egalitarian, omnigendered, pansexual, multi-religious (and One-ist) belief system that has turned our contemporary world upside down.”

~Peter Jones, *One or Two*

“Androgeny is the sacrament of Monism.”

~June Singer

“Sun, moon and stars do not alter their order; thus you should not alter the law of God by the disorder of your actions. The Pagans, because they wandered astray and forsook the Lord, have changed the order and devoted themselves to stones and sticks, patterning themselves after wandering spirits. But you, my children, shall not be like that: in the firmament, in the earth, and in the sea, in all the products of his workmanship discern the Lord who made all things, so that you do not become like Sodom, which changed the order of nature.”

~Testament of Naphtali

Paganism and Homosexuality

“What we have found actually surprised us; expecting to find ‘maybe something’ to explain our personal feeling that there must be a spiritual ‘meaning’ to our way of love and relating, we have found that not only are there such roots, but they are the most precious parts of virtually all of the ancient spiritualities of our species.”

~Website dedicated to homosexuality

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“ ‘The Link between Homosexuality and Paganism’ *Newsweek’s* non-judgmental article (July 2009) on ‘polyamory’ (the committed, loving relationship of three or more persons of any sex) notes that this relationship was created when some brave people questioned rules left over from their Judeo-Christian background and ‘ended up pagan.’ That is precisely Paul’s argument in Romans 1. If you get rid of theistic Two-ism, you ‘end up’ a pagan One-ist. Since the 1960s, a cultural metamorphosis has overturned the worldview of Christendom. At the heart of that movement is the Gay agenda, which is affecting not only the US, but the world. At a global level, The Earth Charter (a UN nature-worshiping document that intends one day to determine how we live on the planet), states the need to ‘eliminate discrimination in all its forms, ... including sexual orientation.’ ”

~Peter Jones, *One or Two*