

Judges Series


Lesson #74

October 11, 2022

Dean Bible Ministries

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**The Chain of Being
Judges 10:6–18**

JUDGES

2021

When Chaos Was King

Review

Judg. 10:6, “Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, and enslaved themselves to the Baals and the Ashtoreths: the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they abandoned the Lord and did not serve/worship Him.” ~RD

Why was this so bad?

- 1. They were not learning their lesson, they continued to rebel and there is no sign of repentance.**
- 2. They were abusing the grace of the God.**
- 3. By continuing to be involved with the fertility religions of the ancient world they were destroying their own culture, society, and eradicating the freedoms that God had provided them.**
- 4. The worst for last: they are rejecting the Creator/ creature distinction.**

5. This becomes clear when we understand what is going on with the gods.

The gods of Aram, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the sons of Ammon, the gods of the Philistines

Judg. 2:12, “and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger.”

1. At root, this is a rejection of the Creator/creation distinction.

**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.”

2. These other gods are documented in other passages:

2 Kings 17:17, “Then they made their sons and their daughters pass through the fire, and practiced divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him.”

Judg. 16:23, “Now the lords of the Philistines gathered together to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god, and to rejoice. And they said: ‘Our god has delivered into our hands Samson our enemy!’ ”

1 Kings 11:5, “For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites.”

1 Kings 11:7, “Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon.”

Deut. 32:16, “They made Him jealous with **strange things** [*elohim* is not in the passage]; With abhorrent [things] they provoked Him to anger. ~RD

Deut. 32:17, “They sacrificed to **demons** not to God [*eloah*], to gods [*elohim*] whom they have not known, new [things] who came lately, whom your fathers did not dread.

Deut. 32:18, “Of the Rock who begot you, you are unmindful, and have forgotten the **God [E]** who fathered you.

Deut. 32:19, “And when the **LORD** saw it, He spurned them, because of the provocation of His sons and His daughters.”

Deut. 32:20, “And He [the Lord] said: ‘I will hide My face from them, I will see what their end will be, for they are a perverse generation, children in whom is no faith.

Deut. 32:21, “They have provoked Me to jealousy by what is not **God [E]; They have moved Me to anger by their foolish idols. But I will provoke them to jealousy by those who are not a nation; I will move them to anger by a foolish nation.”**

Psa. 96:5, “For all the gods [*‘elohim*] of the peoples are idols, but the **LORD made the heavens.”**

1 Cor. 10:20, “No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons, and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons.

1 Cor. 10:21, “You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.”

Judg. 10:6, “Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, and enslaved themselves to the Baals and the Ashtoreths—the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they abandoned the Lord and did not serve/worship Him. ~RD

Judg. 10:7, “And the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines, and into the hands of the sons of Ammon.”

Judg. 10:6, “Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths —the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook the Lord and did not serve Him.” ~NKJV

יָסַף *yasaf*

hif wawConsec impf

3 masc plur

to add, do again

רָע *ra' lit hara'*

masc sing abs

bad, evil

**Mostly defined in context
as idolatry**

Judg. 10:6, “Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, and enslaved themselves to the Baals and the Ashtoreths—the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they abandoned the Lord and did not serve/worship Him.” ~RD

עבד *avad*

qal wawConsec 3
masc plur
to work, serve,
the work of a slave

עזב-1 *azav-1* qal
infinitiveConst
to forsake,
leave, abandon

***Milcom*, the detestable idol of the Ammonites. From the root word meaning “king.” National god of the Ammonites. His name is related to “Molech.”**

**Solomon built a high place for the worship of Milcom,
1 Kings 11:5.**

Continually a problem for Israel.

Josiah finally destroyed the high places, on the Mount of Corruption (Olives), 2 Kings 23:13.

Chemosh

The destroyer, subduer, or fish god, the god of the Moabites (Num. 21:29; Jer. 48:7, 13, 46).

Also introduced by Solomon, 1 Kings 11:7; and abolished by Josiah, 2 Kings 23:13.

Referenced in the Moabite stone.

Child sacrifice to this god.

***Molech* the god of the Moabites**

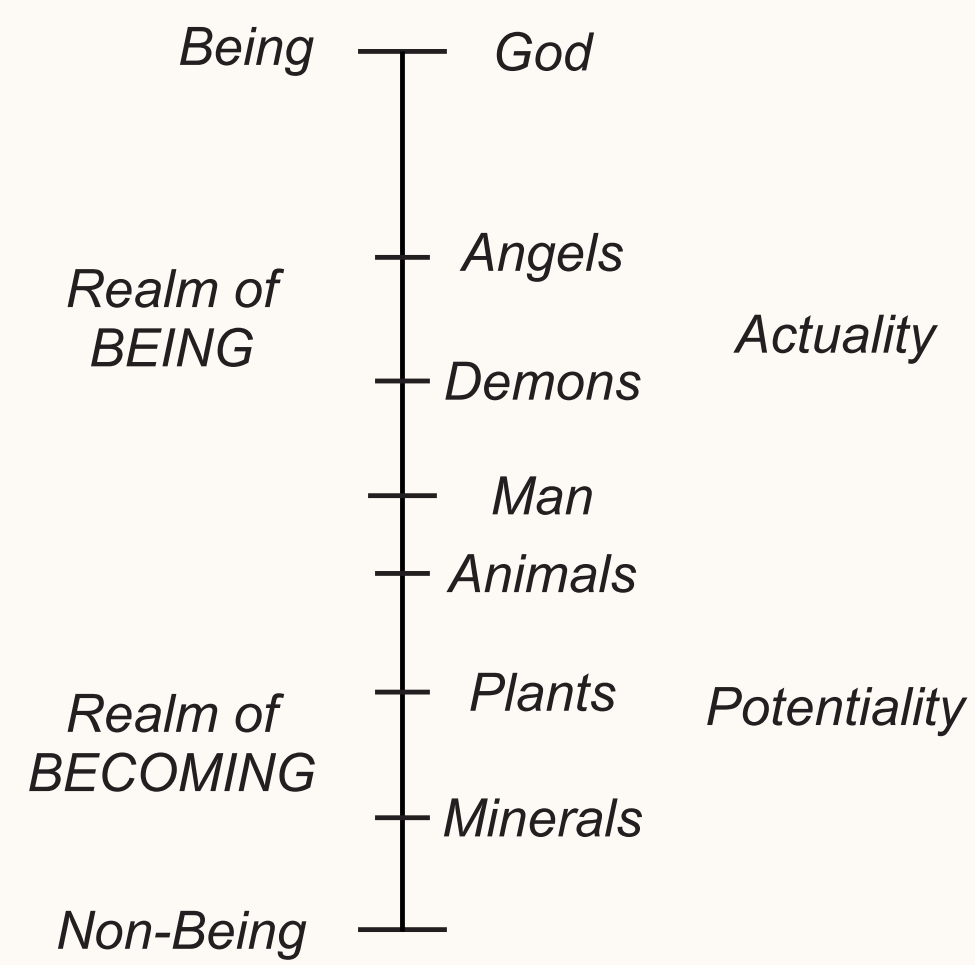
Both Molech and Chemosh were worshipped by human sacrifices here.

Each of these religions is a national religion, inspired by Satan, to destroy God's people Israel.

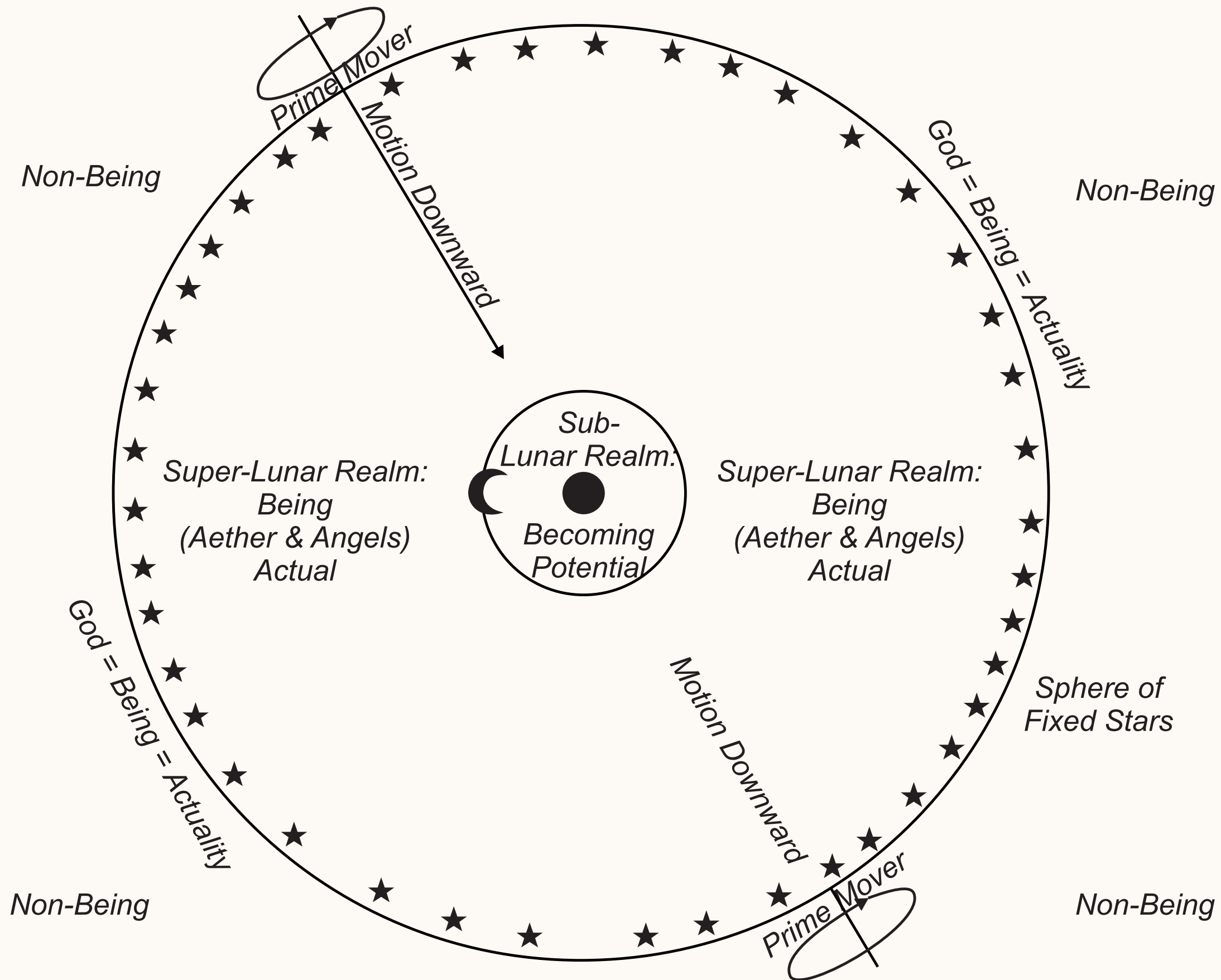
2 Kings 17:17, “Then they made their sons and their daughters pass through the fire, and practiced divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him.”

Judg. 10:10, “And the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, saying, ‘We have sinned against You, because we have both forsaken our God and served the Baals!’ ”

The Great Chain of Being



The Great Chain of Being



What IS the Chain of Being?

Also known as: “The Continuity of Being,” *Scalae naturae*
echelle de etres, or the “chain of being.”

What do we Mean by the Continuity of BEING?

Three Latin terms:

Ens being or existence, in itself.

Esse “to be, the act of existing.” Two things are necessary in any individual thing, *essentia* or whatness, the essence of something, what it is; second, existence, the act of existence or being. Without actual existence or being something is just a thought or concept.

Essentia the whatness of a being, that which distinguishes one then for another.

Being or existence is distinct from the whatness or the essence of a thing.

What do we Mean by the Continuity of BEING?

Everything from “god” to rocks or sub-atomic particles shares to one degree or another in the same existence or same principle of being. Thus all are part of the same being of the universe.

What do we Mean by the Continuity of BEING?

Ex. 3:14, “And God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ ”

What do we Mean by the Continuity of BEING?

Ex. 3:14, “And God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ ”

Neh. 9:6, “You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.”

What do we Mean by the Continuity of BEING?

Psa. 83:18, “That they may know that You, whose name alone is the LORD, are the Most High over all the earth.”

Psa. 86:10, “For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God.”

Isa. 37:16, “O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, the One who dwells between the cherubim, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.”

What do we Mean by the Continuity of BEING?

Isa. 44:24, “Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, and He who formed you from the womb: ‘I am the LORD, who makes all things, Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself;”

Eph. 4:25, “For this reason, because you have already put off the lie, let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.” ~RD

TRUTH = that which is derived from and is consistent with the teaching of God in the 66 Books of the Bible.

The LIE = The devil’s worldview.

- **Denies the Creator/creature distinction**
- **Autonomy or independence of the creature**
- **Antagonism toward God**

Biblical Creation: Creator-Creature Distinction

1st level CREATOR

2nd level Creature: what God created



The Shining Star
wanted to promote
himself to be God

What is THE LIE?

- 1. The Lie is grounded on a rejection of the Creator/creature or Creator/creation distinction.**

Isa. 14:13, “For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north;

Isa. 14:14, “ ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ ”

What is THE LIE?

- 1. The Lie is grounded on a rejection of the Creator/creature or Creator/creation distinction.**

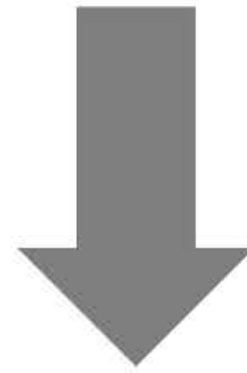
Ezek. 28:15, “You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.

Ezek. 28:16, “By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones.

Ezek. 28:17, “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you.”



True “king” of Babylon and Tyre: The Shining Star
The Shining Star motivates the human rulers for evil

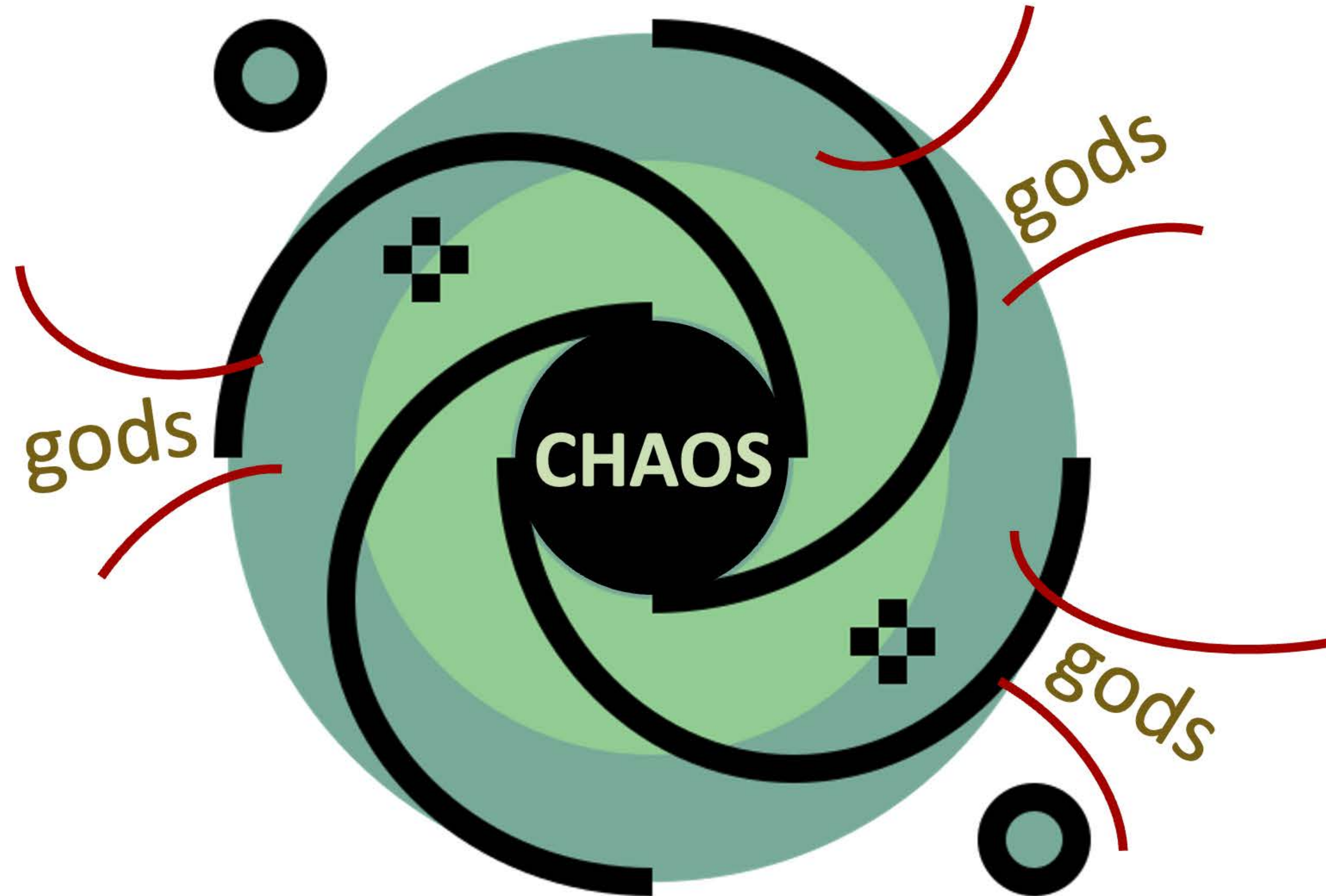


Human kings

Isaiah passage: addresses king of Babylon
Ezekiel passage: addresses king of Tyre

Both passages address:

- 1 the human kings and**
- 2 the spiritual power behind the human kings**



gods



man



nature



sliding up and down the scale of the continuity of being

What is THE LIE?

- 1. The Lie is grounded on a rejection of the Creator/creature or Creator/creation distinction.**

Gen. 3:1, “Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Has God indeed said, “You shall not eat of every tree of the garden”?’ ”

Gen. 3:4, “Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die.

Gen. 3:5, “ ‘For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ ”

What is THE LIE?

- 1. The Lie is grounded on a rejection of the Creator/creature or Creator/creation distinction.**
- 2. Rejects Divine authority in place of creaturely authority.**

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

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

What is THE LIE?

- 1. The Lie is grounded on a rejection of the Creator/creature or Creator/creation distinction.**
- 2. Rejects Divine authority in place of creaturely authority —autonomy, independence from God, arrogance.**
- 3. Hostility toward God.**

Contemporary forms of the LIE:

- **Luck**: Sometimes you're lucky and sometimes you're unlucky. There really isn't a real explanation of why things happen the way they do.
- **Karma**: If you do good, then good things will happen to you. If you are evil, then evil things will befall you.
- **The Universe**: The universe conspires to do me good.

*From *Interlocked*, lesson 2, interlocked.online

Contemporary forms of the LIE:

- **Positive Energy**: If you are surrounded by positive energy, good things happen to you; if you are surrounded by negative energy, bad things happen to you.
- **Horoscope**: Today, I might fail my exam because my horoscope said bad things will happen to me.
- **The Force**: In the *Star Wars* franchise of movies, “The Force” is in control of the universe. It is not a person but a mysterious nebulous something, based on Eastern religious mysticism.

*From *Interlocked*, lesson 2, interlocked.online

Contemporary forms of the LIE:

Other phrases or things we hear that are never part of truth:

- **Listen to your heart**
- **Be true to yourself**
- **Trust your gut**
- **Feel good about who you are**
- **Happiness is the goal of life**
- **Just be a good person**

Summary of the Pagan (Non-Biblical) Worldview

1. Continuity of Being (A scale)

gods ————— man ————— nature

2. Impersonal Fate and Chance

3. Ultimate Authority: Self

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.

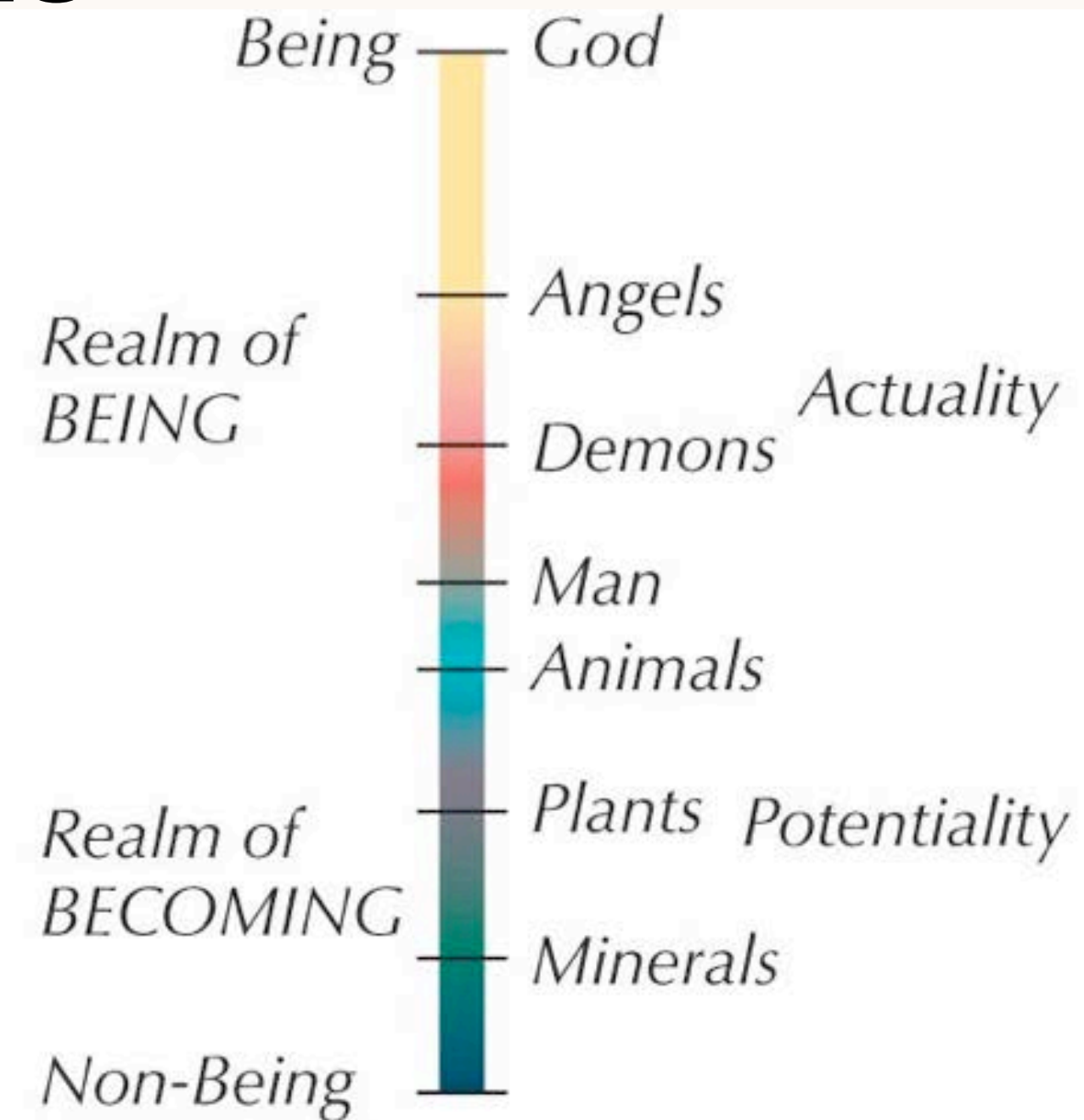


FIGURE 1.3. Medieval version of the Great Chain of Being based on Aristotle's ideas.

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

“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*

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

~Lovejoy

gods



man



nature



sliding up and down the scale of the continuity of being

“The result was the conception of the plan and structure of the world which, through the Middle Ages and down to the late eighteenth century, many philosophers, most men of science, and, indeed, most educated men, were to accept without question—the conception of the universe as a “Great Chain of Being,” composed of an immense or by the strict, but seldom rigorously applied logic of the principle of continuity—of an infinite, number of links ranging in hierarchical order from the meagerest kind of existents, which barely escapes nonexistence, through every possible grade up to the *ens perfectissimum* i.e., the Absolute Being,”

~Lovejoy, Arthur; *The Great Chain of Being*, 59.

“What the Schoolmen [medieval scholastic theologians] 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, Arthur, *The Great Chain of Being*, 59.



**The Great Chain of Being.
From Didacus Valades,
Rhetorica Christiana
(1579).**

“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**

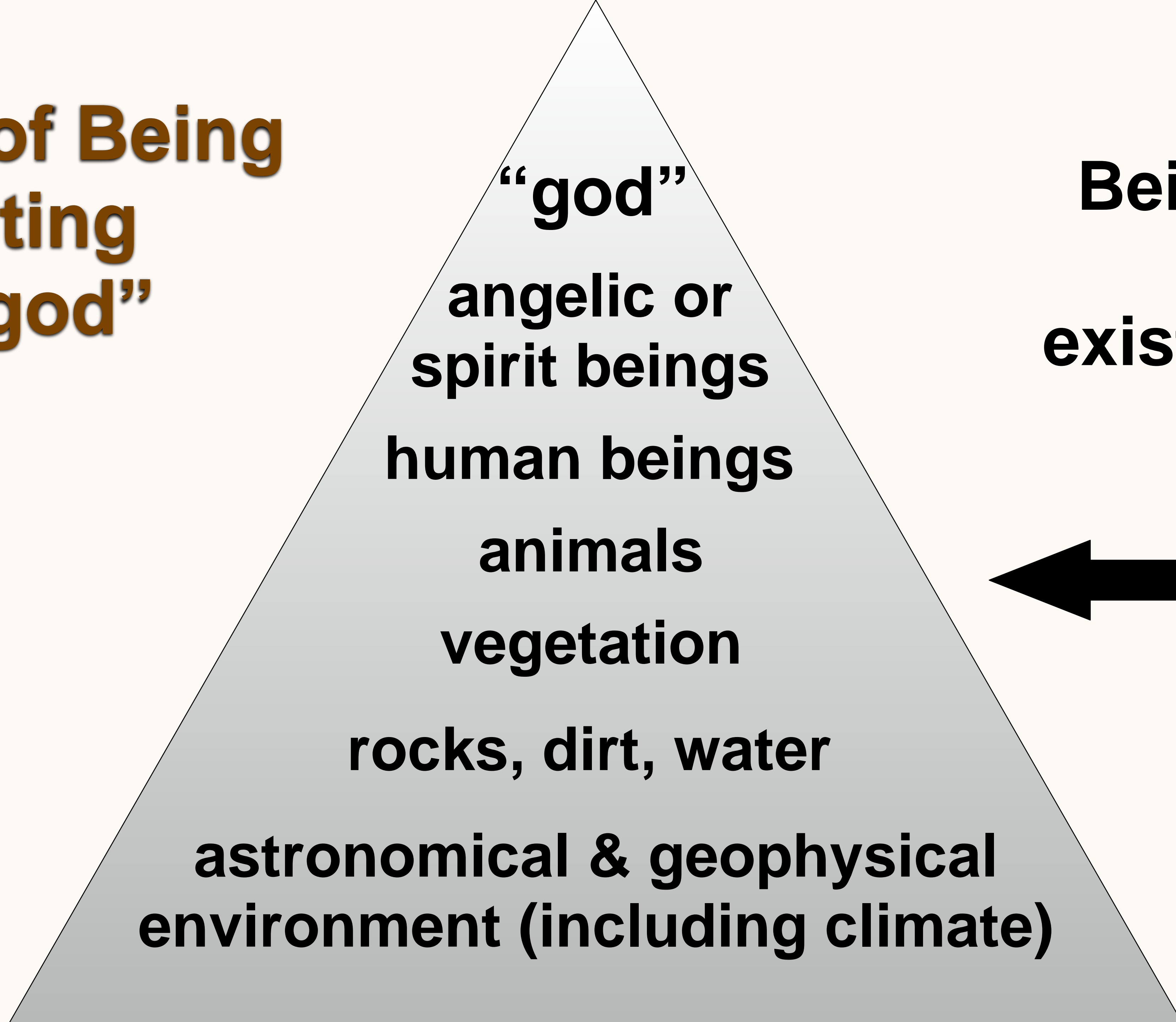
“At some future period, not very distant as measured by centuries, the civilized races of man will almost certainly exterminate and replace the savage races throughout the world. At the same time the anthropomorphous apes . . . will no doubt be exterminated. The break between man and his nearest allies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

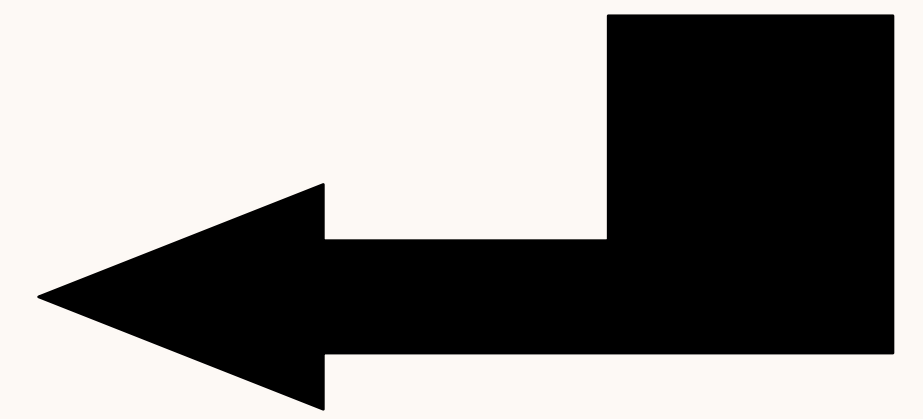
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~Darwin, *The Ascent of Man*

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



**Being or
raw
existence
itself**



**“Vast chain of being! which from God began,
Natures aetherial, human, angel, man,
Beast, bird, fish, insect! what no eye can see,
No glass can reach; from infinite to thee,
Free thee to nothing? On superior pow’rs
Were we to press, inferior might on ours:
Or in the full creation leave a void,
Where, one step broken, the great scale’s destroy’d:
From Nature’s chain whatever link you strike,
Tenth or ten thousandth, breaks the chain alike.”**

~Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man*

Romans 1:18, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,”

κατέχω *katechō*

pres act part masc plur gen

- 1. to prevent the doing of someth. or cause to be ineffective, prevent, hinder, restrain; hold down, to suppress someth.**
- 2. to adhere firmly to traditions, convictions, or beliefs, hold to, hold fast**
- 3. to keep in one’s possession, possess**
- 4. to keep within limits in a confining manner, confine**

Rom. 1:19, “because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.”

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 their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

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.”

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