



**Your God is too Small.**

**Part 1 of 2**







The main categories that the wolves will be attacking:

- God the Father
- God the Son
- The written word of God
- Can't trust what it says
- Reinterpret what it says
- The Bad News and/or the Good News







**Your God is too Small.**

John Bertram Phillips

*A Guide for  
Believers and Skeptics Alike*

# YOUR GOD IS TOO SMALL

*J. B. Phillips*



## Part One – Destructive

Resident Policeman  
Parental Hangover  
Grand Old Man  
Meek-and-Mild  
Absolute Perfection  
Heavenly Bosom  
God-in-a-Box  
Managing Director  
Second-Hand God  
Perennial Grievance  
Pale Galilean  
Projected Image  
Assorted

## Part Two – Constructive

God Unfocused  
A Clue to Reality  
Further Clues to Reality  
Is There a Focused God?  
Has A Arrived?  
Life's Basic Principles  
Further Basic Questions  
Christ and the Question of Sin  
Satisfactory Reconciliation  
Demonstration with the Enemy  
The Abolition of Death  
Theory into Practice  
Summary



You step outside of your front door  
on a sunny, summer day.



The clouds part. The shade disappears.

You feel the warmth on your arms...  
your face...

And then. . .





Given the fact that you can't  
look directly at a star that  
93 million miles away,  
what will happen  
when you behold  
the Creator of that sun?

*How Majestic Is Your Name*

To The Choirmaster: According To The <sup>P</sup>Gittith. <sup>1</sup>A Psalm Of David.

**8** O LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your <sup>q</sup>name in all the earth!

You have set your <sup>r</sup>glory above the heavens.

<sup>2</sup> <sup>s</sup>Out of the mouth of babies and infants,  
you have established <sup>t</sup>strength because of your foes,  
to still <sup>u</sup>the enemy and the avenger.

<sup>3</sup> When I <sup>v</sup>look at your heavens, the work of your <sup>w</sup>fingers,  
the moon and the stars, <sup>x</sup>which you have set in place,

<sup>4</sup> <sup>y</sup>what is man that you are <sup>z</sup>mindful of him,  
and <sup>a</sup>the son of man that you <sup>b</sup>care for him?

<sup>5</sup> Yet you have made him a little lower than <sup>c</sup>the heavenly beings<sup>2</sup>  
and crowned him with <sup>d</sup>glory and honor.

<sup>6</sup> You have given him <sup>e</sup>dominion over the works of your hands;  
<sup>f</sup>you have put all things under his feet,

<sup>7</sup> all sheep and oxen,  
and also the beasts of the field,

<sup>8</sup> the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,  
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

<sup>9</sup> O LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!





I see no god up here.

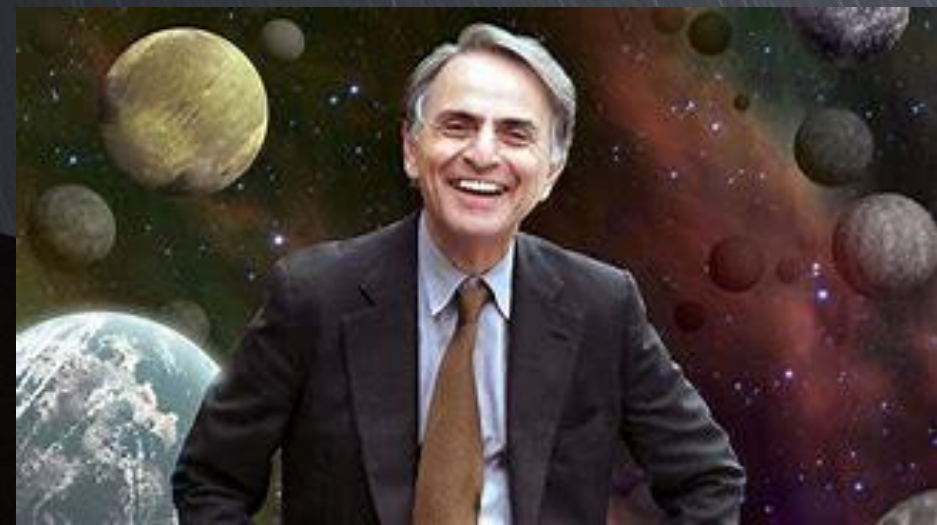
-Yuri Gagarin (first human in space, 1961)

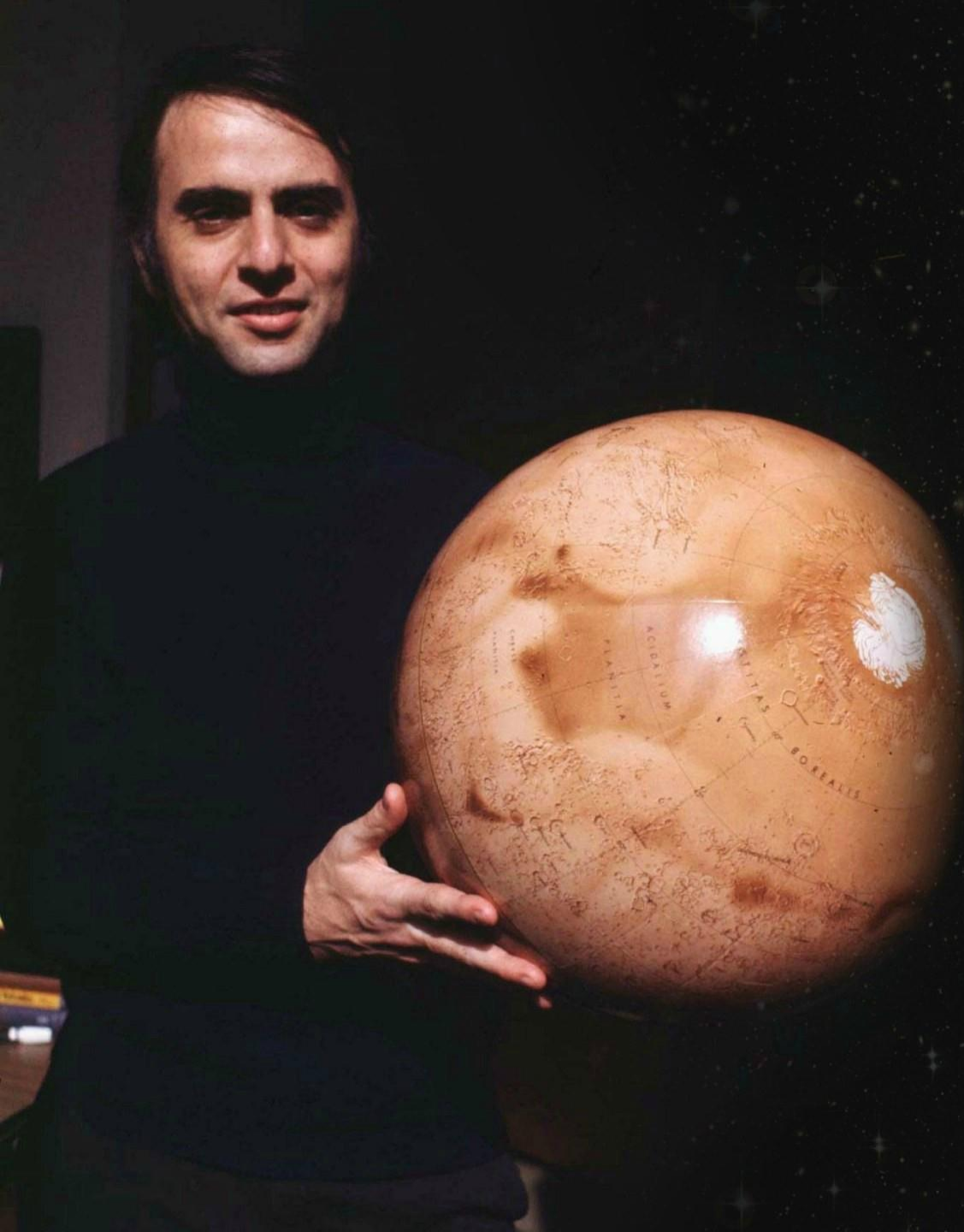


Your god is too small  
for my universe.

Carl Sagan

quote fancy





“How is it that hardly any major religion has looked at science and concluded, ‘This is better than we thought! The Universe is much bigger than our prophets said, grander, more subtle, more elegant’? Instead they say, ‘No, no, no! My god is a little god, and I want him to stay that way.’”

-Carl Sagan  
Shortly before his death

The bigger the canvas is,  
the bigger the Painter has to be

The more amazing the creation is,  
the more amazing the Creator needs to be.



# ISAIAH 66

Thus says the LORD:

**“Heaven is my throne,  
And the earth is my footstool;**

What is the house that you would build for  
me,  
and what is the place of my rest?  
All these things my hand has made. . .”

[Quoted by Stephen in Acts 7:49]

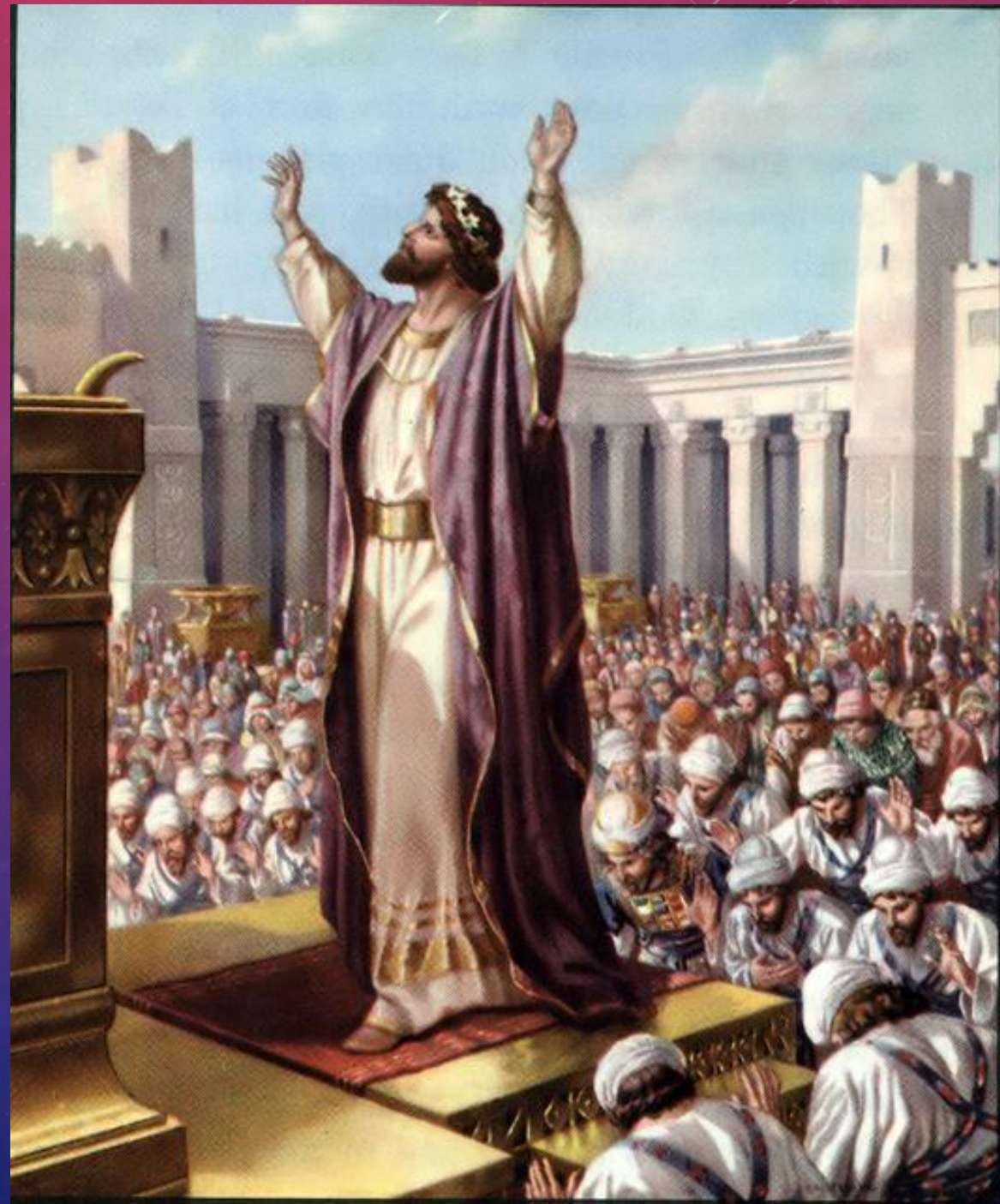


LOOKING FOR GOD  
INSIDE OF HIS THRONE??



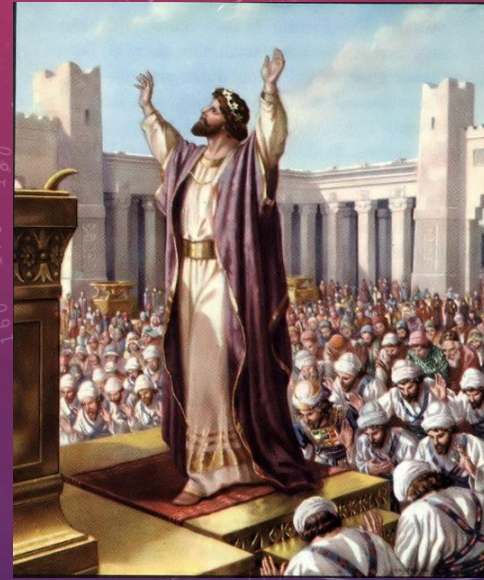
## 1 KINGS 8


But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built!



# 1 KINGS 8

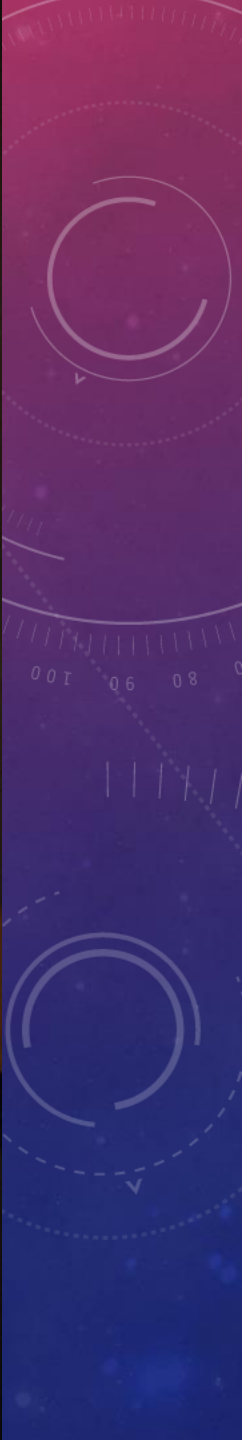
... Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O LORD my God, and **listen** to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before You today: that Your **eyes** may be open toward this temple night and day, toward the place of which You said, 'My name shall be there,' that You may **hear** the prayer which Your servant makes toward this place. And may You **hear** the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. **Hear in heaven Your dwelling place**; and when You **hear**, forgive.

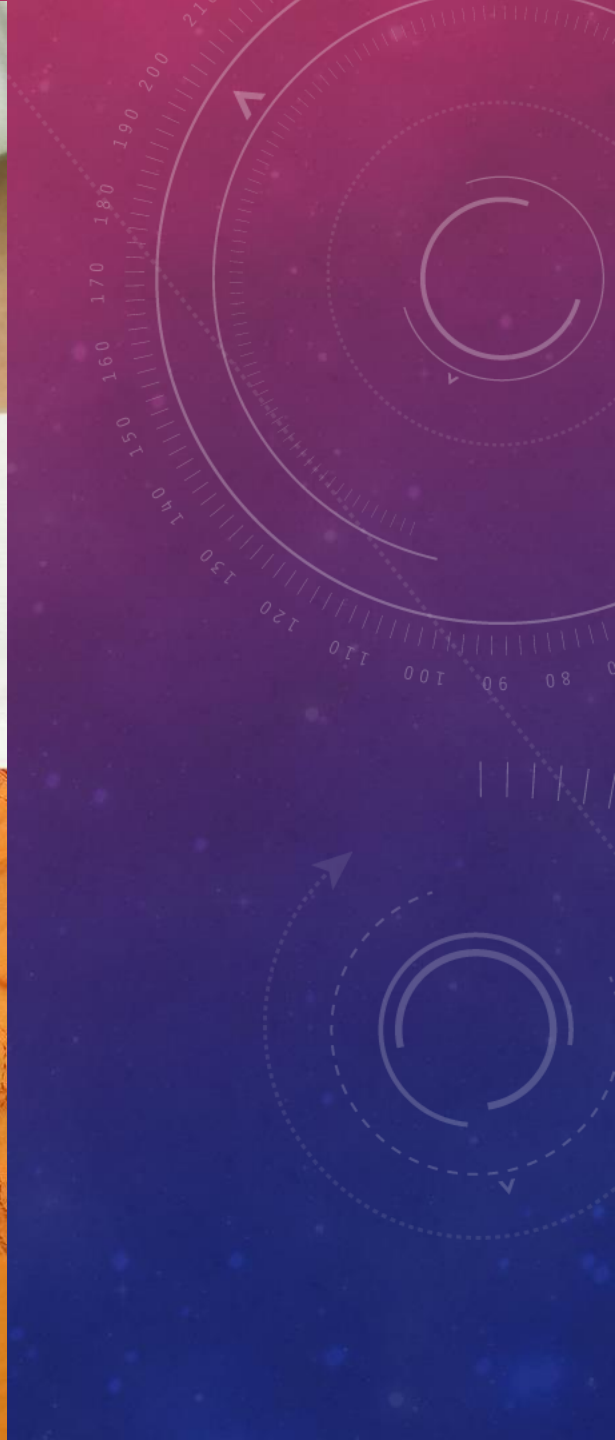




Transcendence  
Immanence  
Omnipresence







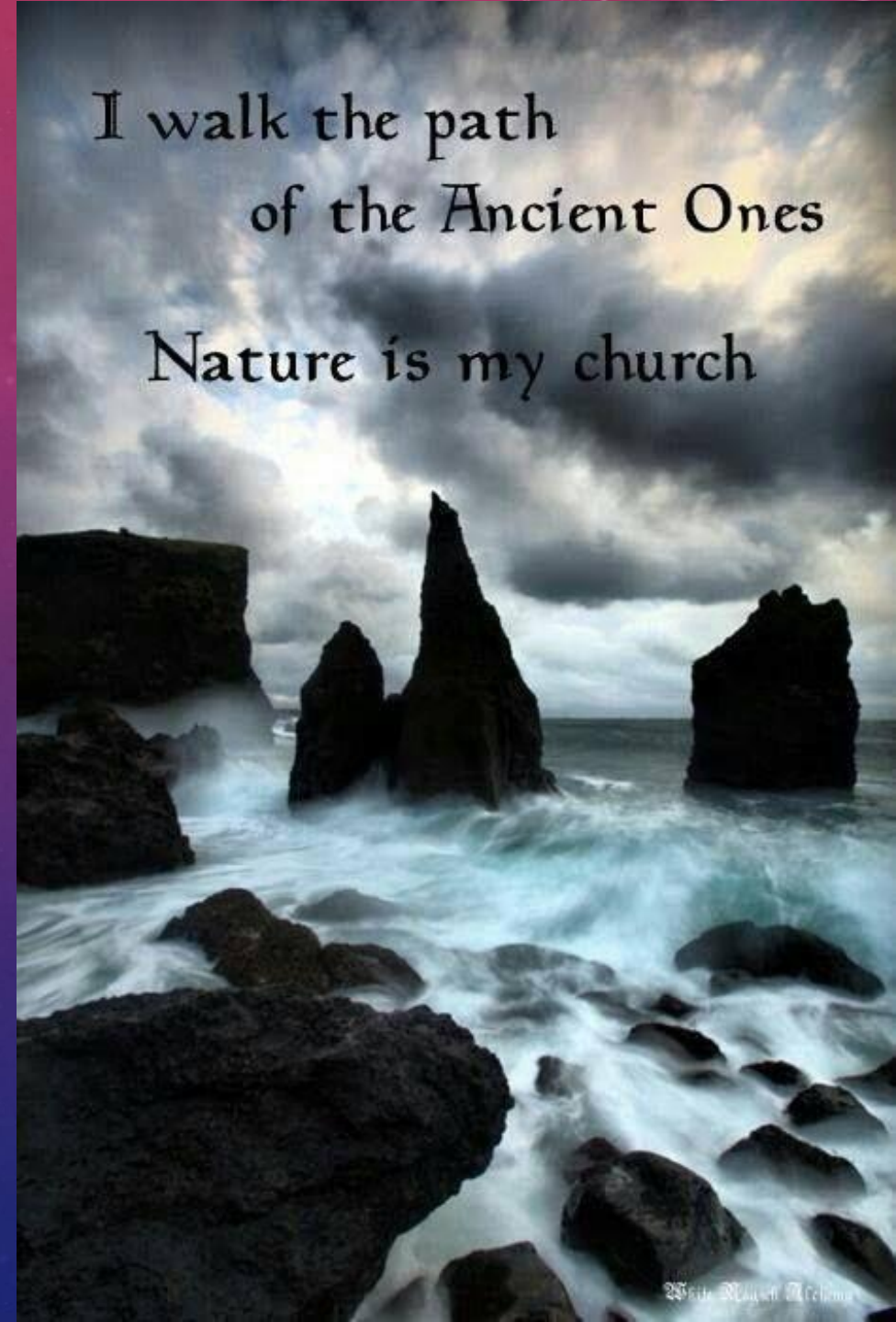


NEO-PAGANISM



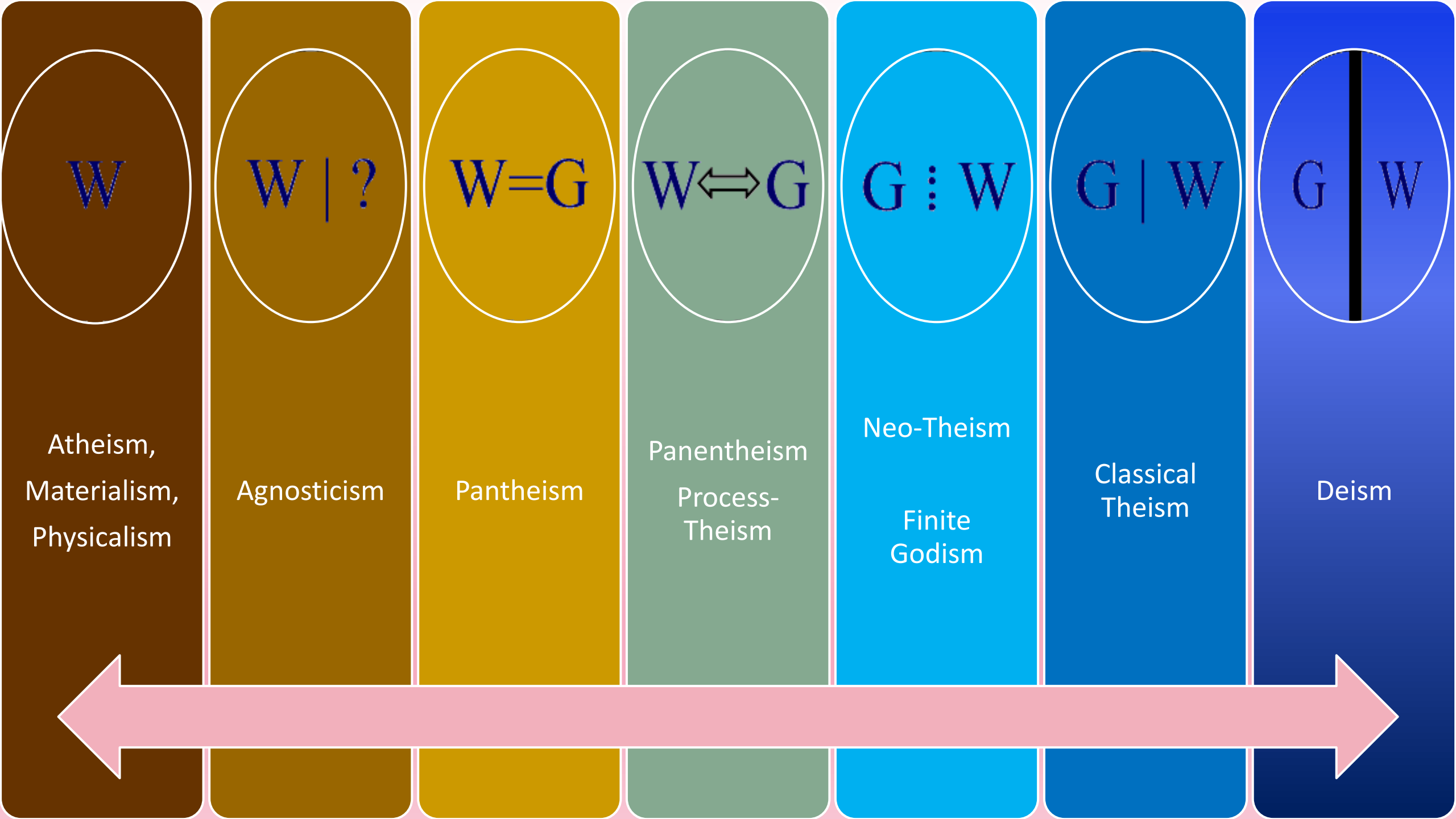
I walk the path  
of the Ancient Ones

Nature is my church









$W$

Atheism,  
Materialism,  
Physicalism

$W | ?$

Agnosticism

$W = G$

Pantheism

$W \leftrightarrow G$

Panentheism  
Process-  
Theism

$G : W$

Neo-Theism  
Finite  
Godism

$G | W$

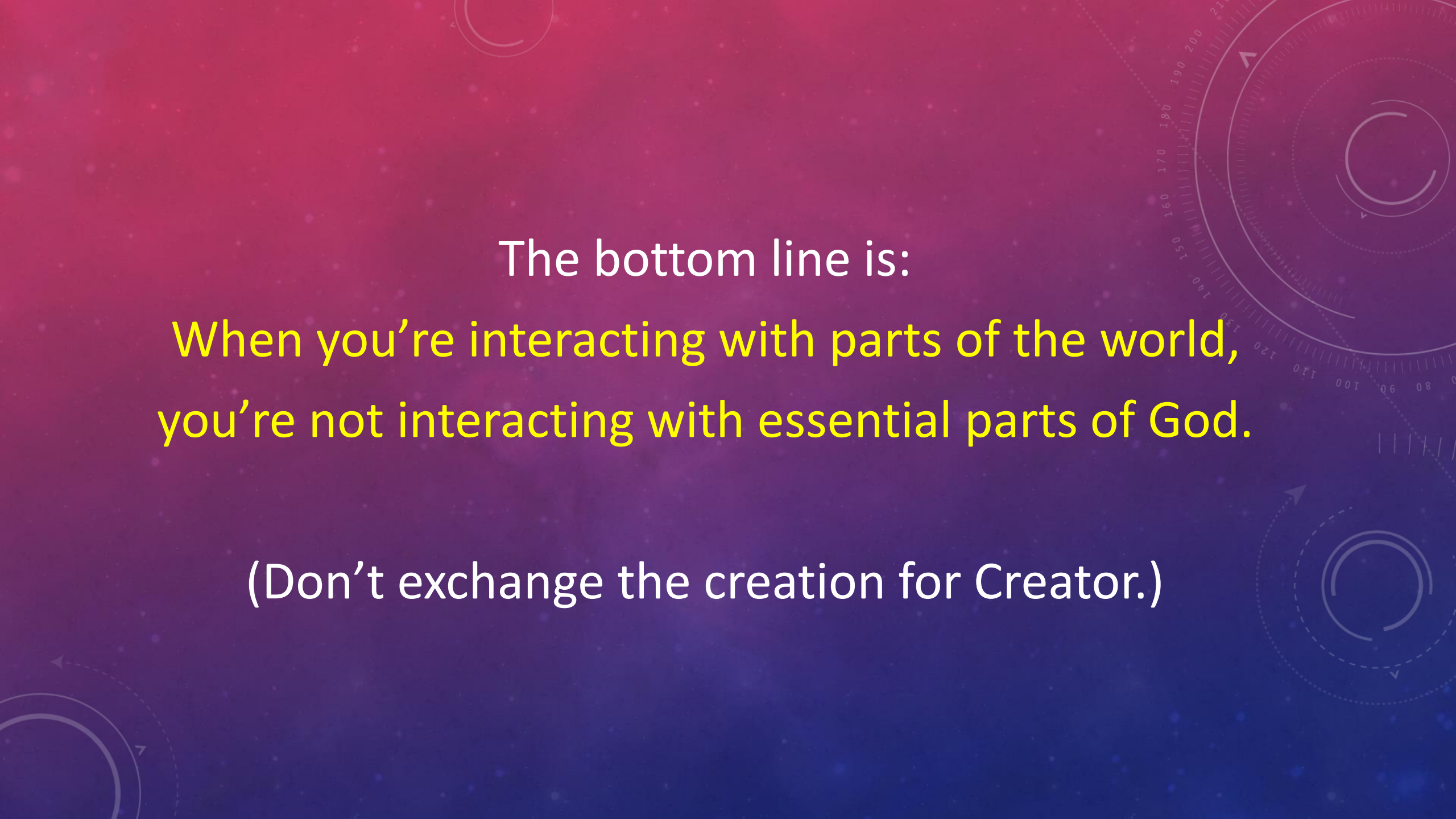
Classical  
Theism

$G | W$

Deism





The background features a gradient from red at the top to blue at the bottom, overlaid with a field of small white stars. On the right side, there are several technical diagrams: a large circular scale with numerical markings from 80 to 220, a smaller circular scale with markings from 100 to 200, and various dashed and solid lines representing paths or orbits. In the bottom left corner, there are faint circular arrows indicating a clockwise direction.

The bottom line is:  
When you're interacting with parts of the world,  
you're not interacting with essential parts of God.

(Don't exchange the creation for Creator.)

*The Law of the Lord Is Perfect*

To The Choirmaster. A Psalm Of David.

**19** <sup>i</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky above <sup>l</sup>proclaims his handiwork.

<sup>2</sup> Day to day pours out speech,  
and night to night reveals knowledge.

<sup>3</sup> There is no **speech**, nor are there **words**,  
whose voice is not heard.

<sup>4</sup> <sup>j</sup>Their <sup>k</sup>**voice** <sup>2</sup>goes out through all the earth,  
and their **words** to the end of the world.

In them he has set a tent for <sup>l</sup>the sun,

<sup>5</sup> <sup>m</sup>which comes out like <sup>n</sup>a bridegroom leaving his chamber,  
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

<sup>6</sup> Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them,  
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

<sup>7</sup> <sup>o</sup>The law of the LORD is perfect, <sup>3</sup>

<sup>p</sup>reviving the soul;

<sup>q</sup>the testimony of the LORD is <sup>r</sup>sure,

<sup>s</sup>making wise <sup>t</sup>the simple;

<sup>8</sup> <sup>u</sup>the precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is <sup>v</sup>pure,

<sup>w</sup>enlightening the eyes;

<sup>9</sup> the fear of the LORD is clean,  
enduring forever;

the rules <sup>4</sup>of the LORD are <sup>x</sup>true,  
and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than <sup>y</sup>gold,  
even much <sup>z</sup>fine gold;

<sup>a</sup>sweeter also than honey

*God's Wrath on Unrighteousness*

<sup>18</sup> For <sup>k</sup>the wrath of God <sup>l</sup>is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup> For **what can be <sup>m</sup>known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.** <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, <sup>n</sup>have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, <sup>7</sup> in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they <sup>o</sup>became **futile in their thinking**, and their **foolish hearts were darkened.** <sup>22</sup> <sup>p</sup>Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and <sup>q</sup>**exchanged the glory** of <sup>r</sup>the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore <sup>s</sup>God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to <sup>t</sup>the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> because they **exchanged the truth about God for <sup>u</sup>a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator,** <sup>v</sup>who is blessed forever! Amen.

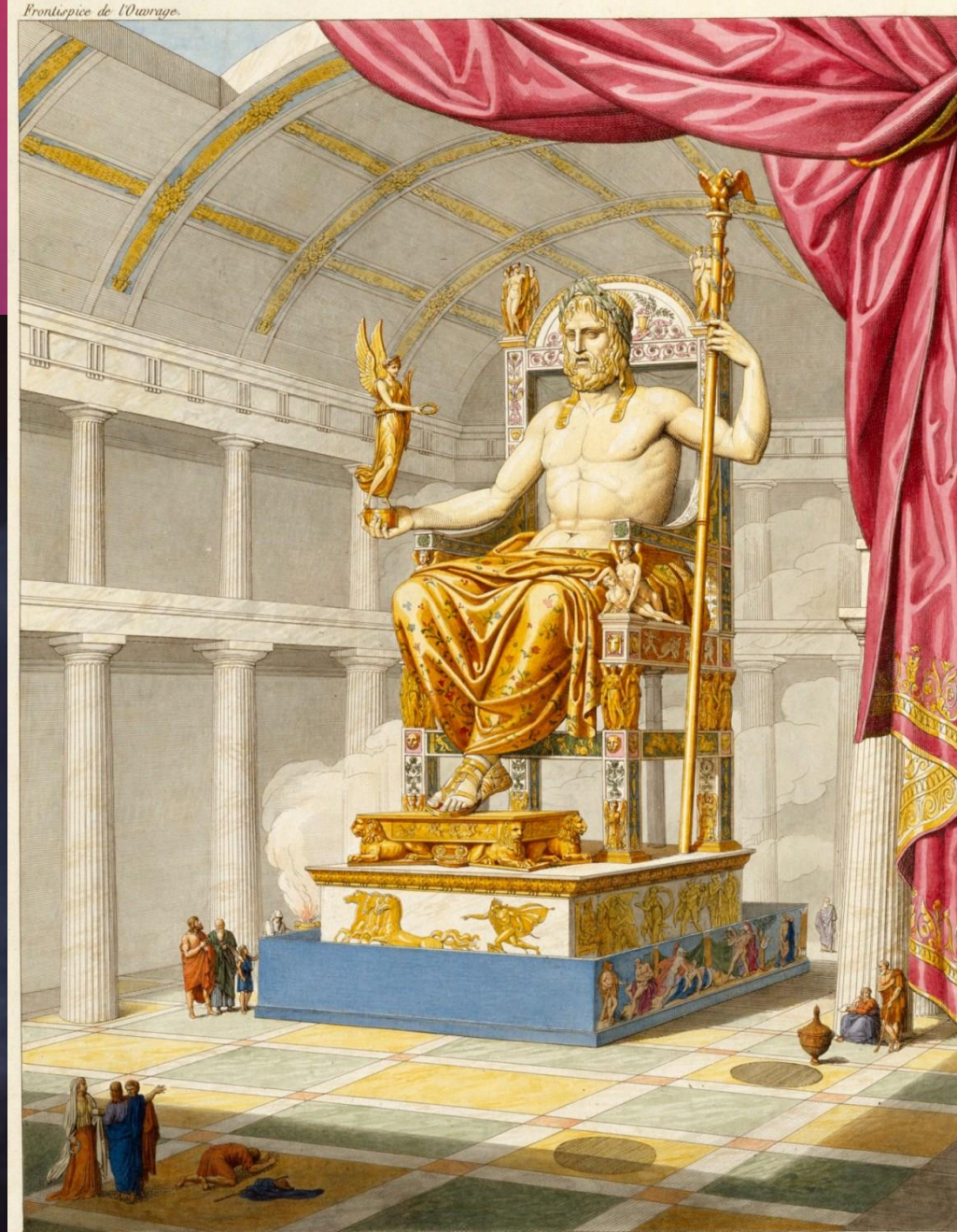
<sup>26</sup> For this reason <sup>w</sup>God gave them up to <sup>x</sup>dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; <sup>27</sup> and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, <sup>y</sup>men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error.

<sup>28</sup> And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, <sup>z</sup>**God gave them up to <sup>a</sup>a debased mind to do <sup>b</sup>what ought not to be done.** <sup>29</sup> They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, <sup>30</sup> slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. <sup>32</sup> Though they know <sup>c</sup>God's righteous decree that those who practice such things <sup>d</sup>deserve to die, they not only do them but <sup>e</sup>give approval to those who practice them.





# ZEUS / JUPITER HANGOVER?



LE JUPITER OLYMPIEN,  
VU DANS SON TRÔNE ET DANS L'INTERIEUR DE SON TEMPLE,

# MT. OLYMPUS



<sup>13</sup> Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” <sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” <sup>1</sup> And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” <sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘The LORD, <sup>2</sup> the <sup>s</sup> God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is <sup>t</sup> my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.”

<sup>16</sup> Go and <sup>u</sup> gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, “The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, <sup>v</sup> “I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt, <sup>17</sup> and I promise that <sup>w</sup> I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the

## EXODUS 3:14

- Self-existent one - always existed, always will exist
- Gives existence to everything else that exists
- “... But then, who created God?!?”
  - What created the uncreated Creator of creation?
  - Which existing thing brought Existence into existence?
- That’s who you are worshipping today!
- Not: “I am becoming what I am becoming.”

# IMMUTABILITY (UNCHANGINGNESS)



MALACHI 3:6

I the LORD do not change. . .

JAMES 1:17

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, **who does not change** like shifting shadows.

## NUMBERS 23

God is not man, that he should lie,  
or a son of man,  
that he should change his mind.

Has he said, and will he not do it?

Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?

Behold, I received a command to bless:

he has blessed, and I cannot revoke it.



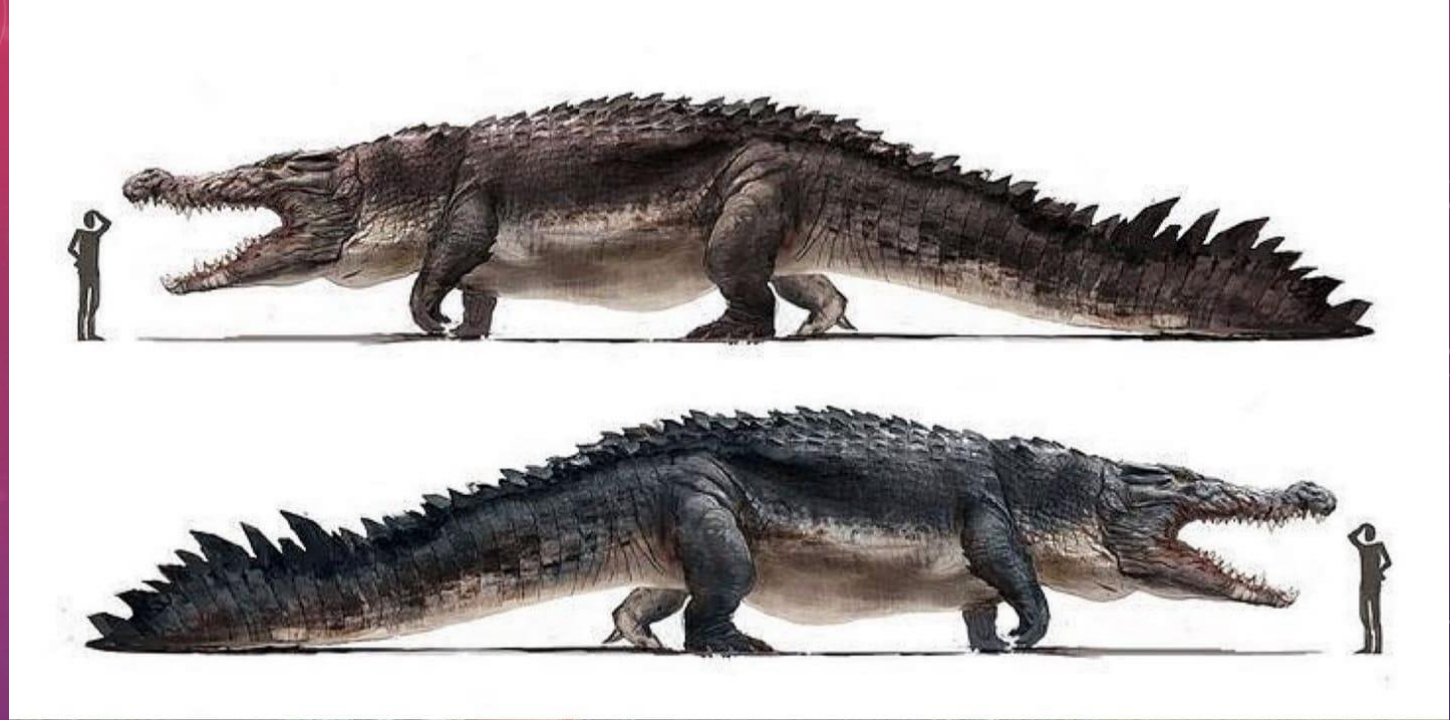
# IMMUTABILITY

- **In a changing world, God is changeless. Reassuring?**
- Unchanging is good. What if God changed his mind on your salvation, adoption, grace, faith, eternal life?
- **But “And God Changed His mind.” Contradiction?**
- Phenomenological language (like “The sun rose this morning.”)

# IMMUTABILITY

- The wind is against me! The wind is for me!  
Repentance. Going against/with God's will.
- If he is changing, what is the greater, unchanging backdrop against which change is measured?
- If anything is greater than that is behind God—any unchanging reality that is more fundamental than God—then that model of God is too small

# PURUSSAURUS



# HTTP://CTHAUN.TECH/NH

## New Horizons

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Various topics – Aug.-Sept. 2022

Aug. 3rd	What does the Bible say about Gold and Silver? (1 of 2)
	<a href="#">View PDF of Slide Show Presentation</a>
	<a href="#">View Video recording</a>
Sept. 4th	What does the Bible say about Gold and Silver? (2 of 2) [or] What does the Bible say is <i>better than</i> Gold and Silver?
	<a href="#">View PDF of Slide Show Presentation</a>
	<a href="#">View Video recording</a>

# REFERENCES & FURTHER READING

- Christopher Haun “Where in the World is God?” <http://cthaun.tech/papers>
- J.B. Phillips *Your God is Too Small*
- Norman Geisler *Systematic Theology: In One Volume* (BastionBooks.com)
- Geisler & House *The Battle for God*
- Norman Geisler *Creating God in the Image of Man?*
- Hugh Ross *Beyond the Cosmos*
- Hugh Ross *Why the Universe is the Way it Is*
- Ken Boa *Unraveling the Big Questions About God*

# PAUL TO PAGANS IN ACTS 14 & 17



## ACTS 14

We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things [idols] to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

## ACTS 17:24-29

**The God who made the world and everything in it**, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since **he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything**. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ... Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.







HERMÈS

HÉRA

ZÉUS

ATHÉNA

HADÈS

ARTÉMIS

POSCÉIDON

DÉMÉTER

HÉSTIA

APOLLON

ARÈS

HÉPHAÏSTOS

DIONYSOS

APHRODITE

# “PUNY GOD!” – THE HULK TO LOKI

