

Biblical Framework Part 1

Review of Genesis Chapters 1-9

This Framework Series is meant to develop the rationale for walking by faith because that's what we're called to, not to compromise, not to accommodate the world system. To do this, we need to see where the Word of God and the worldview collide. So let's try to summarize in this lesson what we've covered in the last 10 weeks.

Let me start with an address that Charles Clough gave at a Pastors Conference in 2006.

“On many fronts we Bible-teaching, Bible-believing Christians are being strategically out-manuevered because we lack an overall framework for thinking God's thoughts after Him. The spiritual environment in which we all minister the Word of God has a powerful darkness to it. Since this darkness appears to be increasing today, we'd better learn how to see through it. It's a darkness that deceives the most well-intentioned persons. It tries to envelop and pervert every message of light. It is a darkness that is deeply insidious because it easily takes root in our own fallen nature. And where do we go to obtain light in such darkness? David told us over three millennia ago, “in thy light shall we see light” (Psa. 36:9). In that light we see the darkness for what it is, that which lacks substance, or, as the Bible calls it, “vanity” (Eccl. 1:2). In the Scripture we discover the aim point for our teaching and evangelizing.”

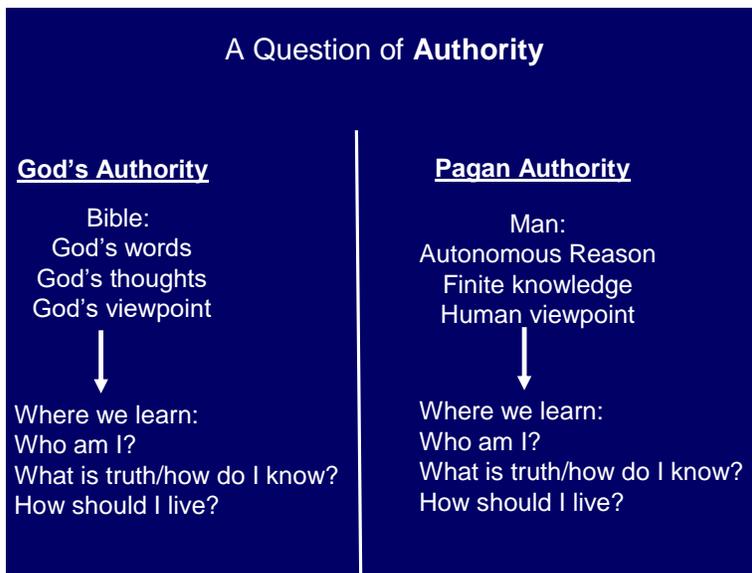
Class 10 begins

From our human perspective, we know that we were born, that our parents provided shelter, clothing, and meals for us as we struggled to get the day when they would have no more authority over us and we were “free” to do what we wanted. And then worldly reality set in – we would have to get a job to provide those things that Mom and Dad provided. We learned that in order to get a job, we had to bathe, comb our hair, dress presentably, and be respectful to those interviewing us. No longer could we just pick up the phone and arrange a day with our friends at the swimming pool, or go “cruising” in some parent's car. We were rudely introduced to “responsibility”.

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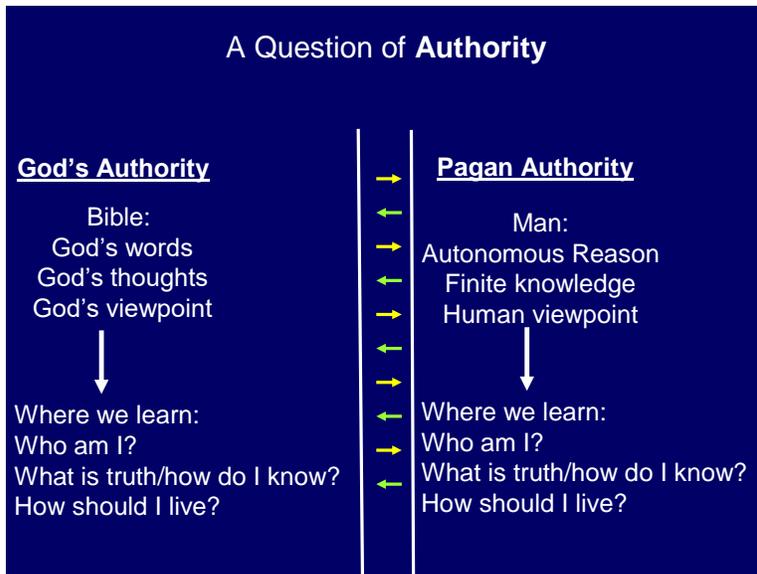
If our parents took us to a church, and we stayed awake, we learned about “God”, “commandments”, “right and wrong”, and maybe we remembered song lyrics to some hymns. All in all, the days of easy living were over. Now what? In the 12 years of public schooling, ideas had been imprinted on our minds by authority figures; that man is basically good, being “right” (having the correct answers) is important, and to succeed, you’d better not buck the system. So, the years pass as you struggle to attain a higher education, or learn a trade, in order to “fit” into society. Our minds, meanwhile, are bombarded by politically correct slogans, and we are “sensitized” to the plight of the down trodden women striving to become the best they can be, and the homosexual who cannot help being who he or she is. We are taught to get along with people, not to confront, and conform to the situation; diversity is good – division is bad.

Meantime, amongst all this frantic activity, we are wondering and searching where our perfect mate is. The world says, “try before you buy” and the TV programs and movies model this for us. But somewhere along the way, we begin to ask some very fundamental questions: Who am I? Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going? What’s the purpose of life? How am I supposed to live?



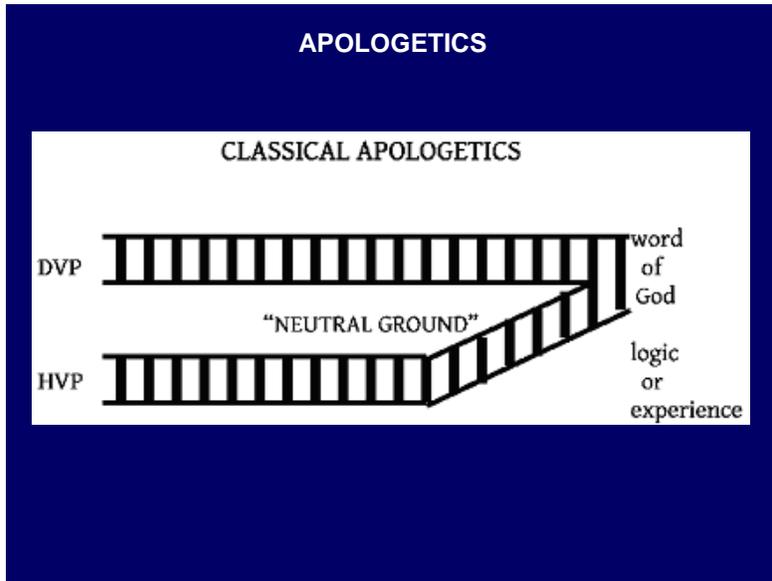
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It is at this point, that the world collides with the Word of God. For many, this is not a difficult choice, because they've never known the God of the Bible, just the god of their church, and whatever meager fare was served by way of a "sermon". So they buy into whatever society has said is OK and away they go.



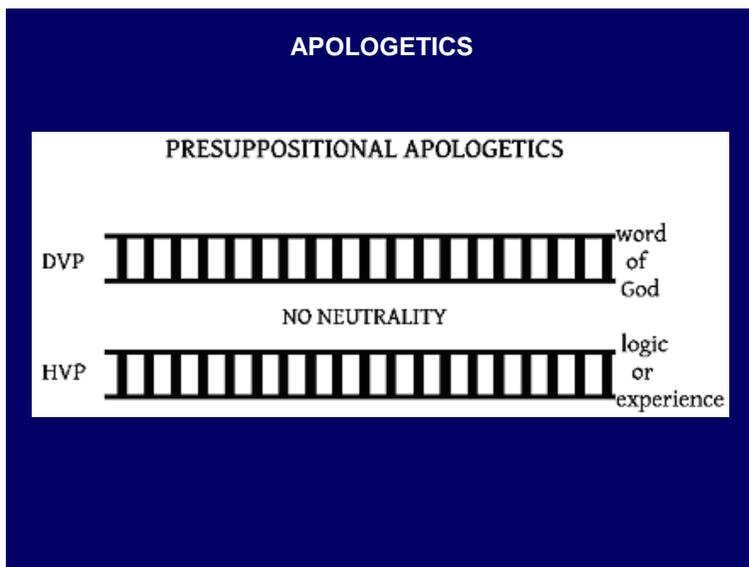
For others, religious "neutrality" is a comfortable place to be. That way they can get along with everybody. But, as we have seen in this Framework Series, religious neutrality is a myth! Remember the railroad track illustration when we talked about Classical Apologetics?

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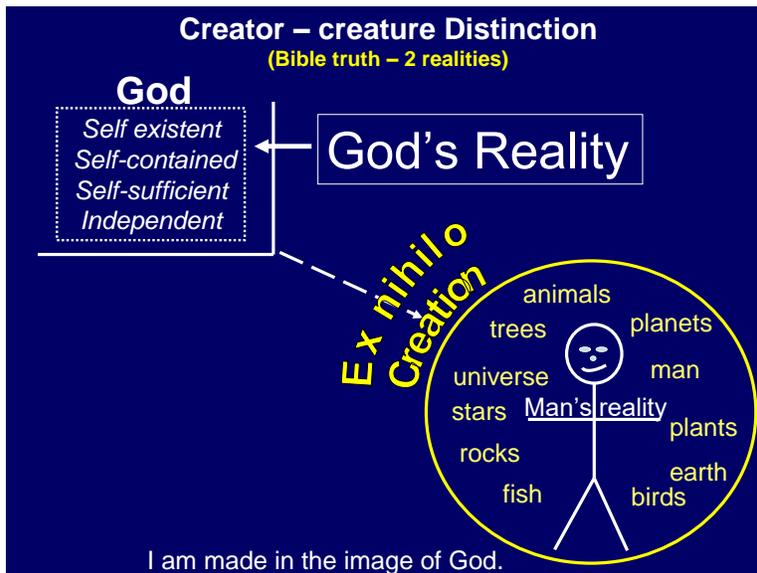
That's how the Liberal theologians of the early 20th century displaced the conservative faculty at Princeton University. They believed that they could mix human logic or experience with the Word of God and the two together would reveal "truth".

And when the Bible believing conservative theologians started a new theological seminary, they had come to realize what the liberal theologians had done and developed an apologetic called Presuppositional Apologetics that looked like this:



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where there is no neutrality between the Word of God and human reason or experience. There can be no “mixing”. The Word of God is the word of GOD and human creatures must bow in reverential submission! This sets the world viewpoint and Divine viewpoint in clear relief and it is here that we must make a choice. These are two different tracks, and in order for the human to get on the Word of God track there must be a dismantling of the “human reason and experience” position and a learning of the Word of God. Why is that? Because of the recognition of the Creator-creature distinction – God is the Creator and man is the created of God – made in His Image.



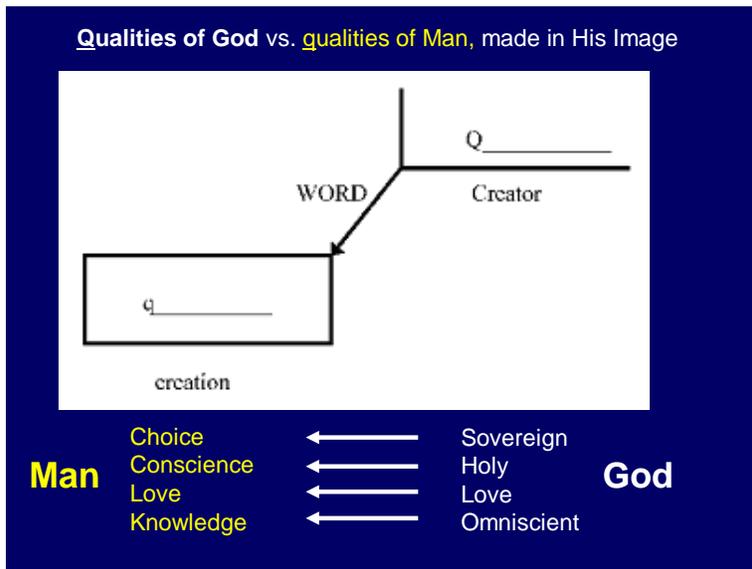
Creation

We looked at Creation and the Aseity of God (being self-sufficient, needing nothing) and saw that there are two (2) realities, God's Reality and man's reality; that creation was an “ex nihilo” creation. One moment there was nothing, the next moment there was something created. There was nothing that God needed to start with. God is the Creator. When we look at Creation we are looking at a historical event that was observed by God and reported as history in Scripture. Even today, in practically every continent where missionaries go, they find little remnants and pieces of the truth of Genesis.

So we come to some basic conclusions:

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We don't dictate the rules, God does! There are only two viewpoints of this world – Biblical viewpoint and pagan viewpoint. Only two! And, in order for us to know what God's viewpoint is, we have to get on His "train track", we can't be on both! This is a hard saying, because most Christians want to have it both ways. We want to please both man and God, and we don't know the Word of God well enough to give a defense or apologetic for the biblical doctrines we believe.



We looked at some of the attributes of God (SRJLOOOIE), and studied four of the (q)ualities man has because he was created in the image of God – man is theomorphic.

Because God has the (Q)ualities of Sovereignty, Holiness, Love, and Omniscience, we have (q)ualities of: Choice, conscience, love, and knowledge. These are similar to, but not identical to God's (Q)ualities.

We studied the three Divine Institutes: Responsible Dominion (labor), Marriage, and Family and discussed how the pagan mind views these as "conventions" which need to be updated, revised, and re-interpreted as the majority of a nation dictates. Few take pride in their work anymore, marriage is tenuous at best, as "individual rights" and the

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feminine power surge continues. The family, along with marriage has been torn asunder by the “gay rights” movement and the power plays they instigate, the continued emasculation of men by a matriarchal society, along with men failing in their leadership role and deserting their families.

We desperately need the Word of God taught properly.

God’s Reality is not man’s reality, and we live and move in apostate environment that pressures us to accept:

“evolutionary theory”,

“many ways to God”,

“diversity is good”

“nobody can know all truth”,

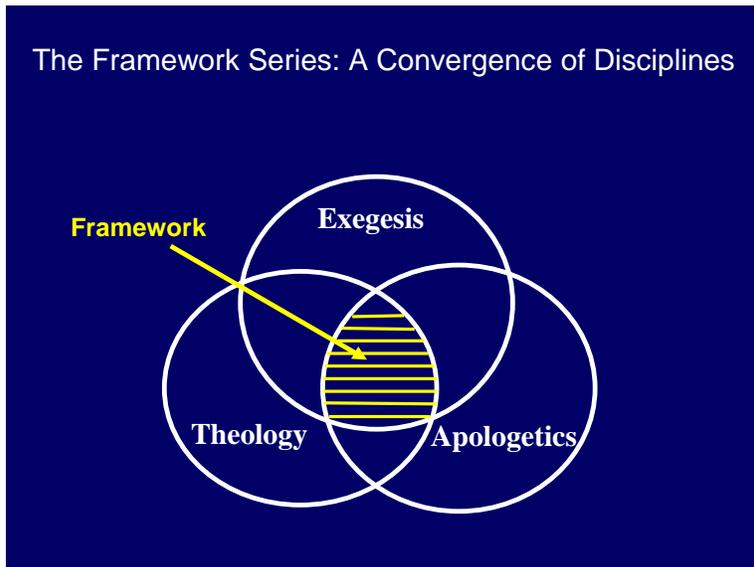
“truth is relative”,

“ethics are situational”,

“religion is for the weak”, and

“man is autonomous”.

This, to me, is where the Framework Series is so helpful.



From the convergence of the three disciplines of Exegesis, Apologetics, and Theology, it helps us realize the absolute distinction between the thoughts of God and the autonomy of fallen man. From Creation, the

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Fall, the Flood, the New World Covenant, it helps us understand the workings of our Creator, the doctrines that fall out of each of these events, and the sinfulness of mankind.

It shows us how the world system “envelops” us by compartmentalization and the use of our time:



Time for “religion” is OK for Sunday morning, but don’t let it get in the way of the rest of your week. You have work, family, hobbies, finances, social obligations, continuing education for that “promotion” or just to keep your job, and, of course, play time. We can get so splintered that we lose our focus of what is really important – the Word of God – God’s viewpoint! What are the important things from His point of view? After all, He’s the Creator. He has the Big Picture.

We’re like ants crawling around the ant hill, thinking that we’re doing what we’re “supposed” to be doing. Two completely different views!

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We saw the importance of language:

THE IMPORTANCE OF LANGUAGE

You cannot talk about any subject,
you cannot discuss that subject,
you cannot think about that subject or
you cannot act on the basis of your thoughts about it,

unless you have already established a basic view of:

1. the universe,
2. view of yourself,
3. view of truth, and
4. view of language.

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Preconditions For Knowledge And Meaning

The universe must be classifiable

The universe must be stable

Meaning comes from context

We looked at the preconditions for knowledge and meaning:

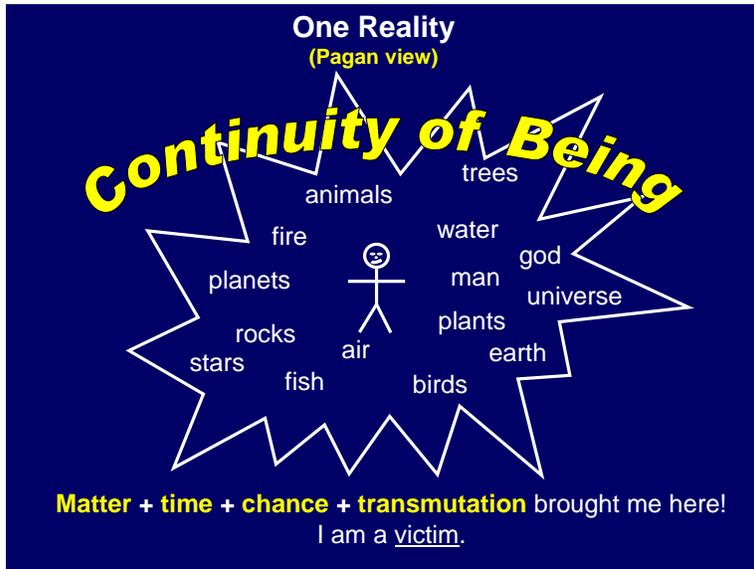
The universe must be classifiable and stable
and we saw that meaning comes from context.

From Romans 1:18-20, we saw that man indeed knows that there is a God, but suppresses that truth and does not acknowledge His existence because he (the creature) would then have to be responsible to the acknowledged Creator.

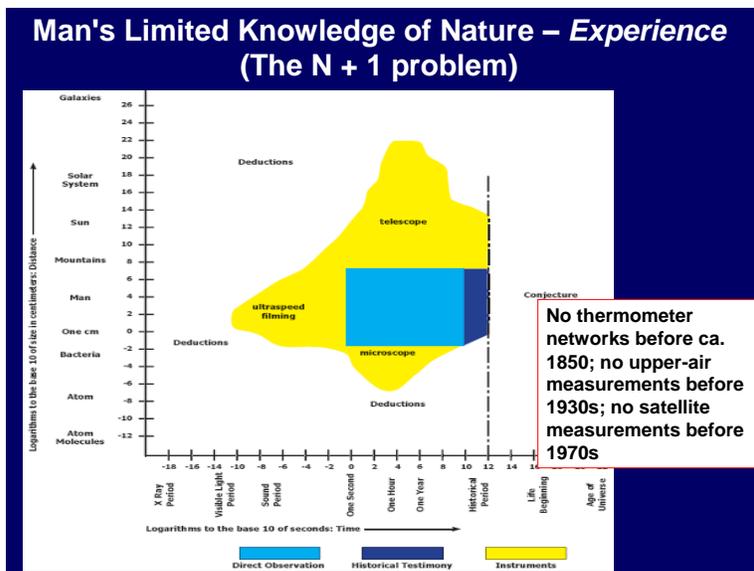
We also know that God has placed a sense of eternity in men's hearts.

We looked at the one reality of Continuity of Being:

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Continuity of Being begins with something called “spontaneous generation”: something from nothing. Then everything evolves from something, based on time, impersonal chance, and transmutation. This “closed system” of god, man, animals, plants, rocks, etc. differs only in degrees, not by “kind”, and we asked the question: **How, in a universe run by impersonal chance and “natural law”, do you get stability?**



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We considered man's limited knowledgebase, and found that all the information gathered by man is tenuous because the next piece of information found can change the foundation of what has already been gathered. This is the N + 1 problem.

The Basis of Knowledge			
	SYSTEM	STARTING POINT	METHOD
Autonomous Systems Perception	RATIONALISM	Innate ideas Faith in human ability.	Independent use of logic & reason
	EMPIRICISM	Sense perceptions Experiential experience; Scientific method Faith in human ability	Independent use of logic & reason
	MYSTICISM	Inner, private experience; intuition Faith in human ability	Independent, Nonlogical, nonrational, nonverifiable.
Divine Revelation	REVELATION	Objectively revealed revelation of God	Independent use of logic and reason

Human Viewpoint

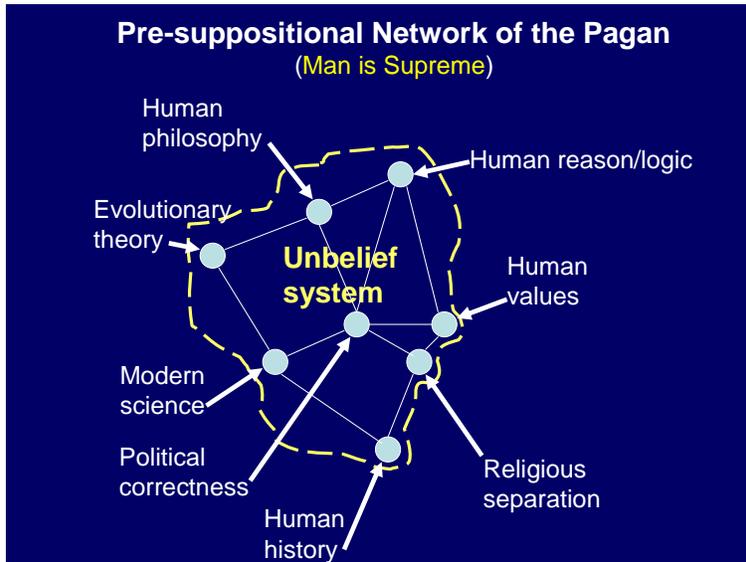
Divine Viewpoint

Robert Dean

We looked at how mankind attains knowledge through Rationalism, Empiricism, and Mysticism. These are the foundations of Human Viewpoint – logic, reason, or private experience – all human knowledge is based on faith in human ability.

Then, we had to bring in one more way that humans could attain knowledge – Divine Revelation, Scripture, the Bible, God's revealed word to mankind about the truth of who God is, who man is, what man's history looks like, man's creation, Fall, the promise of a Redeemer, and the working out of Israel's history that brings Christ Jesus; the Redemption, Propitiation, and Reconciliation, and the Resurrection of the God-Man providing the way of salvation offered to all of mankind. God telling us what He has freely provided for us. And most people don't want to hear!

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We looked at the pagan pre-suppositional network that sets man as the supreme authority, relying on his reasoning powers and logic, human philosophies, science, with its empirical “proofs”, and concluded that the theory of evolution is their only solution to the questions of: Who am I? Where did I come from? “Billions and billions of years” is the only answer they have, with one thing evolving or transmuting into something different. From nothing came “something”, which, by chance, became a living creature, which eventually evolved or transmuted into something else-by chance, until finally, man was able to stand on his own two feet, upright, and become what he is today – a rational, logical, self-determining being!

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We studied how the Bible believing community leaders dealt with these evolutionary theory ideas in three strategies:

Three Strategies For Interpreting Genesis

THE CAPITULATION STRATEGY

THE ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY

THE COUNTER-ATTACK STRATEGY

Capitulation: “Give into science, the Bible must be wrong”.

Accommodation: “Let’s see we can ‘fit’ the Bible to the scientific findings. What if we make each creation “day” an indeterminable amount of time (**Day Age theory**), or say there is an indefinite period of time between Genesis Chapter 1, verse 1, and verse 2 (**Gap theory**), or made the time between each creation day an indefinite period of time (**Day-Age-day theory**), so the Bible won’t be out of step with the scientific “proof” of evolution”?

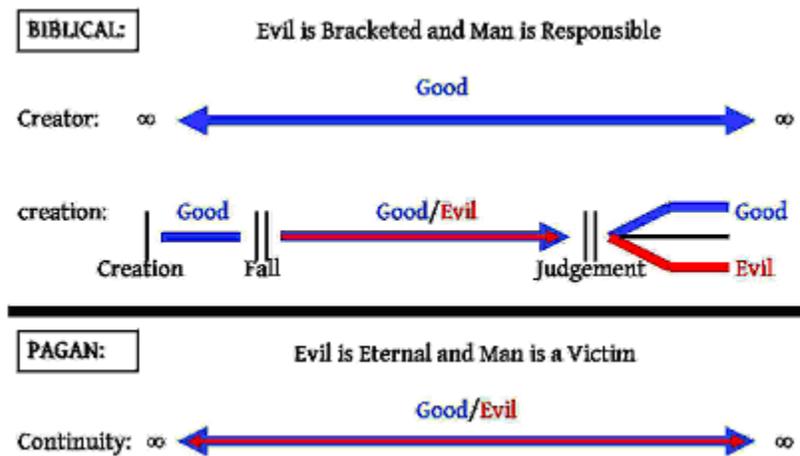
Counter-attack: If the Word of God is literally true, then there must be something wrong with the way Science is interpreting their data. The conclusion: the scientific interpretation had been contaminated by pagan belief systems (pagan presuppositions).

It seems that God used the Counter-attack strategy to get the Bible back into focus as the literal Word of God, and gave the Christian community the courage to re-consider God’s Word as being literally true.

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Fall

We saw how vexing evil and suffering are in our lives and how they affect us both from within ourselves and outside of us. We saw that in the beginning when creation left God's fingertips in Gen 2:3, which was the end of the creation narrative, God says He looked at His handiwork and His evaluation of the quality of His work was "very good." But, then, something terrible happened. Man disobeyed his Creator.



We learned that God did not create evil and suffering. Sin, evil, and suffering are the result of disobedience against an all holy God. Satan disobeyed and he and the one third of the angelic realm that followed him were cast out of heaven. Satan deceived Eve in the garden – suggesting she had the possibility of being like God, knowing good and evil; that God was holding something back from her that was good –and so she ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and Adam “listened to the voice of his wife” and ate, and it was only after Adam ate that their eyes were opened and they knew that they were naked and ashamed. This is the **beginning** of evil and suffering for mankind. When Adam was formed and brought to life, he was immortal. Now, judgment has occurred because of sin, and Adam and all his progeny will have to die after a length of life, and return to the dust from which Adam came.

We saw that sin damaged man's (q)ualities which are similar to our Creator: Choice, Conscience, Love, and Knowledge.

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Sin damaged the institutes established by God: Responsible Dominion (labor), Marriage, and Family.

Sin damaged nature: now we have natural evil: storms, earthquakes, plagues, and famine.

(As a side note: Satan and his followers will never be forgiven, but man is “savable” (Gen 3:15). God has a plan.)

From the two viewpoints shown in the slide – Biblical and Pagan, both have to deal with evil and suffering in their many forms, but only the Biblical view shows a “beginning” and an “end” to evil. They realize that Adam’s disobedience was the beginning; that man is responsible for “sin”, but that there will be a time when evil and suffering will be no more. Pagan viewpoint sees evil and suffering as “always was and always will be” - an ever present reality for them.

The coping strategies are quite distinct too. The pagan mind has no way out of this dilemma of the bombardment of evil and suffering, so they resort to the anesthetic of “eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die”, and live a desperate, depressive lifestyle.

The Biblical viewpoint, on the other hand, knows that evil and suffering are bounded or bracketed between the Fall of man and the future judgment where evil is separated from good – forever! The believer trusts God’s Sovereignty; that He has control of everything, and that He has a plan for each individual. This is what the believer wants to recall at times of distress. This is the Faith-Rest-Drill, and we need to use it in the direct and indirect suffering situations we find ourselves in.

Flood

The Bible insists that salvation must come through divine intervention. So, the whole issue of the Flood was an issue of whether or not God can intervene. The Flood was a cataclysm; the Flood was an example of judgment/salvation. So the Flood, as it’s used in the New Testament, becomes a type of all of God’s judgments, with particular attention to

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the second coming of Jesus Christ. Jesus said as in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of Man.

In the space of time between the Fall and Noah's day, the human race had fallen into such disbelief, idolatry, chaos, and sinfulness that Scripture says in Gen 6:6-7, "And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

And the LORD said, 'I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them.'"

We have much to thank Noah for when we see him. Noah was faithful and trusted in God. So, in verse 8 we read, "But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD." Just one man found favor with God in the midst of the hundreds of thousands or millions of people on the earth? Yes, and because of that God took mercy on the future of mankind and set Noah on the task of building the Ark.

For the next 100 years or so, Noah does just that. How foolish he must have looked to any and all that knew what he was up to.

But this was God's work, and Noah was faithful and obedient.

Much time and many words have been spent in the debate of whether this was a "global" flood or a local one.



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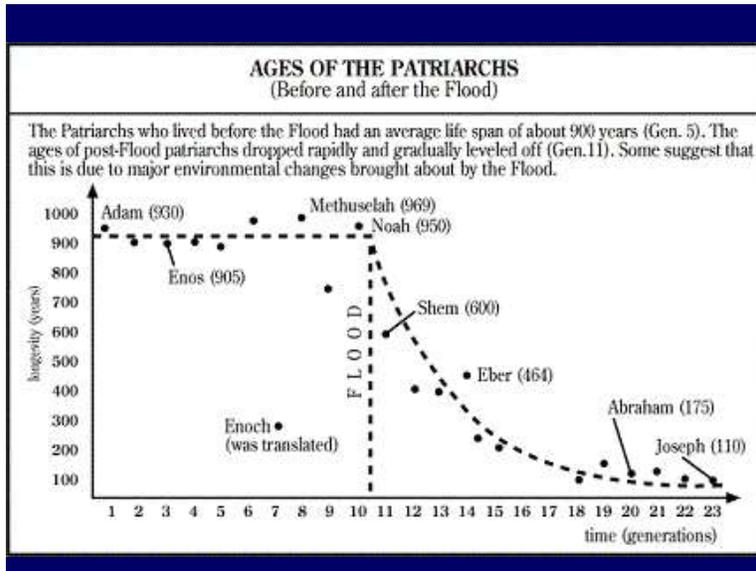
Local flood makes no sense according to the description given in Scripture, but the pagan mind cannot deal with the truth of Scripture, so they will continue to scoff and re-interpret where ever they can.

Four Distinctive Features of the Flood Event

1. The Depth -Time Distinctive.
2. The Ark's Distinctive Size, Design, and Purpose.
3. The Distinctive Commentary of Peter.
4. The Distinctive Features of the Antediluvian World.

Thanks to John Whitcomb and Henry Morris who wrote the highly controversial book, The Genesis Flood, a counter attack was started. These men looked at the Flood as Bible believing men who were scientists. They wrote about the Depth -Time issue (global or local), discussed in detail the adequacy of the Ark's size, design, and purpose, and included the commentary of Peter in the New Testament (2 Peter 3:4-7), where he makes a clear distinction between this present world ("the heavens and the earth which are now") from the pre-flood world ("the heavens were of old and the earth. . .").

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We saw the drop in the lifespan of those who were born after the Flood – a very drastic and distinct contrast, from men living 900 plus years to men eventually living less than 120 years, but this was from the mercy of God. In Gen 6:3 we read, *“Then the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.”*

Five Characteristics of Salvation (From the Flood event)

1. Grace before Judgment
2. Perfect Discrimination
3. One Way of Salvation
4. Replacement of the Whole World
5. Appropriation by Faith

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We looked at Five Characteristics of Salvation from the Flood event:

1. Grace before Judgment

God gave at least 100 years of grace before the Flood, and if people had responded, the Ark had plenty of room.

2. Perfect Discrimination

God's ability to discriminate perfectly between those to be saved

(8 persons) and those to be condemned.

3. One Way of Salvation

One Ark, one door, with God "closing and sealing the door" behind those safely on board (security).

4. Replacement of the Whole World

The "fountains of the great deep" broke open, earthquakes, volcanoes, and geysers of molten lava and scalding water were squeezed out of the earth's crust in a violent, explosive upheaval. The earth was literally churning underneath the waters for about five months! This was indeed a "new world" when Noah got off the Ark!

5. Appropriation by Faith

Recognizing the Creator-creature distinction – that God is "outside" our reality; recognizing that the creature originated evil in a fall that spread everywhere (that he is hopeless and helpless); recognizing that God's intervention involves His divine attributes at every point (that it is His work). . . then "faith" is the only means a creature has of appropriating God's saving work.

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New World Covenant

We understood a covenant to be a contract, so we looked at the four parts of a covenant, then applied them to the New World Covenant:

The Four Parts of a Covenant

1. The Parties
2. The Signing
3. The Legal Terms
4. The Founding Sacrifice

The Parties: God's covenant of Genesis 9 is made not only with Noah but with all of his descendants, the entire human race that came after him. This covenant was not made with only humankind; it was made with all animals, too.

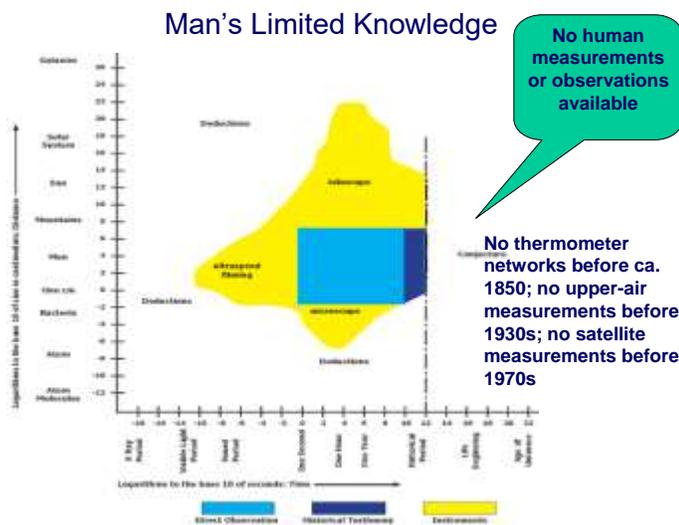
The Signing: In the Noahic covenant, God alone signed it, not the other parties. God bound Himself to be faithful to the terms. His "signature", is the rainbow, which is a manifestation of His glory throughout all the earth to every nation.

The Legal Terms: The legal content given was that neither the earth nor the animals nor man would ever again be judged by a global flood, including the implications for the physical universe (stability).

The Founding Sacrifice: Noah was instructed to take aboard the Ark seven of the clean animals for sacrifice. After the flood Noah built an altar for sacrifice (Gen. 8:20), and made a burnt offering to the Lord with these clean animals. Only after this event, does God establish His covenant.

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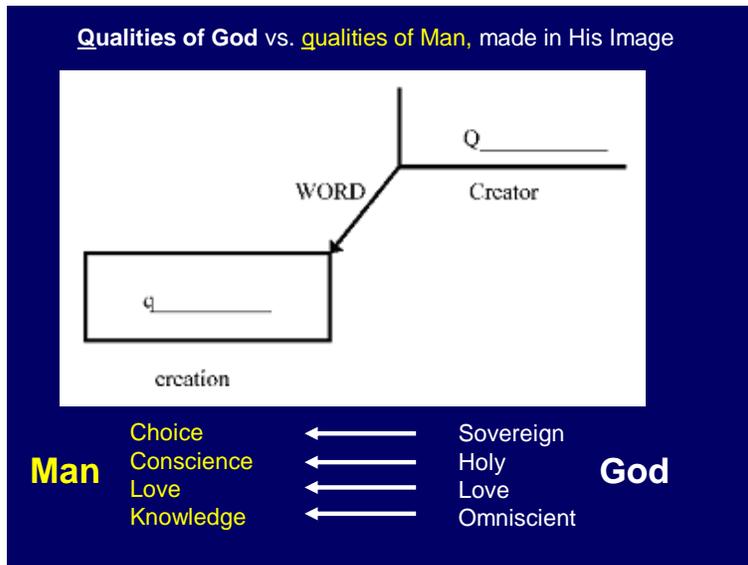
We then looked at implications of this covenant for nature. Nature is bounded by the Word of God. God's new world covenant promises that natural environmental processes will behave in certain ways and not other ways. The biblical view of nature differs radically from that of paganism's view because believers can see history from Scripture.



When paganism tries to construct history, they theorize that, “as things are now, they were always”. Therefore, by using the constants used now, i.e. basic physical laws, speed of light, logical rules, etc. they believe they can reconstruct a true history. But paganism can see only the Continuity of Being model. They don't see God's Personal Sovereign rule, so their presuppositions are wrong – “things were not always as they are now”.

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Then we looked at the implications of this covenant for man.



We recalled to memory that man alone among all other creatures is uniquely designed and theomorphic, i.e. he is an image of God in both body and spirit. Through his body man rules nature. Through his spirit he communes with God and other persons. His spirit possesses characteristics such as choice, conscience, love, and knowledge that are finite replicas of God's divine attributes.

We marveled how Noah and his sons oriented themselves to this strange new earth and not only mapping it, but developing societies and civilizations rapidly. Noah and his family carried over to this new world the extensive knowledgebase available just a year ago, which says a lot about what man was capable of before the flood. Such rapid development of society could only have occurred if there was genius leadership--architects, engineers, farmers, and political leaders--who spread out quickly into the earth to subdue it. This shows us how rich the DNA still was at that time.

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After the Flood, Man Becomes Carnivorous

Genesis 1:28-30

"Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Then God said, "Behold, I have given every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you."

Genesis 9:1-4

"Be fruitful and multiply and and fill the earth. And the fear of you shall be on every beast of the earth and on every bird of the sky; with everything that creeps on the ground, and all the fish of the sea, into your hand they are given.

Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you as I have the green plant.

Only you shall not eat the flesh with its life, that is its blood."

We compared Gen 1:28-30 with Gen 9:1-4.

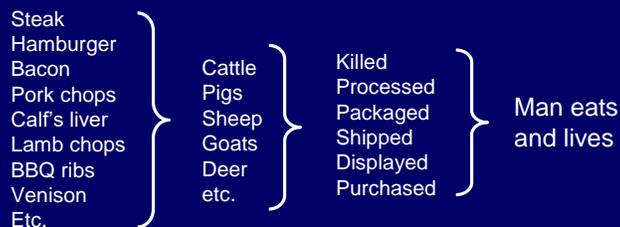
We saw that God re-instituted the three previous Creation institutions of Responsible Dominion (labor), Marriage, and Family.

However, God modified Responsible Dominion, in that he put the fear of man in the animals, birds, fish, and everything that creeps on the ground, because they were given over for our food.

Others must die that man might live!

The "Noahic new world order" is a carnivorous one, with one stipulation:

"Only you shall not eat the flesh with its life, that is its blood."



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Man became carnivorous, except he was told not eat the flesh with blood in it. Blood was its life and man was to respect that life. This would be significant as it will teach man that something must die in order for him to live, which will be a precursor for the idea of substitutionary sacrifice.

Then we saw that God instituted a fourth institution -

**God Reinstates the Institutes After the Flood
and Adds a Fourth One**

<u>Genesis 1:28-30</u>	-----	<u>Genesis 9:1-4</u>
1. Responsible work		1. Responsible work
2. Marriage		2. Marriage
3. Family		3. Family
		4. Civil Government

The source of civil authority is the responsibility to express the wrath of God over destruction of human life with capital punishment.

Genesis 9:5-6:

"And surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man. Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man."

God transferred to man the responsibility to exercise kingdom authority which today we call "civil government."

The source of civil authority is the responsibility to express the wrath of God over destruction of human life with capital punishment.

Whether an animal or another man took a human life, restitution of life for life had to be made. The new heavens and new earth were to be a place where God's image was to be honored. However, this has become a lightening rod for the modern minds that think man is "basically good" and a lifetime incarceration is sufficient punishment in place of

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capital punishment, because the person will have to “live with this on their conscience for the rest of their lives”. That’s not what God said. Capital punishment reveals the restitutionary nature of justice which will be another lesson God uses in human history to provide the framework for the Cross of Christ and the atonement for sin.

Conclusion

We will close this 10 lesson series by reminding ourselves once again:

Framework Series Basics

Either

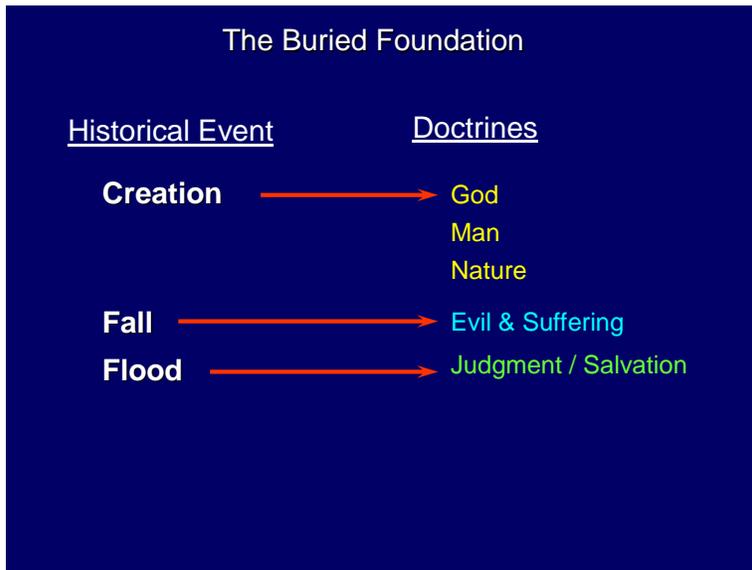
you will let the Word of God interpret the world around you,

or

you will let the world around you interpret the Word of God.

Biblical Framework Part 1

Throughout this series, we have been confronted with the idea that there are “buried” truths:

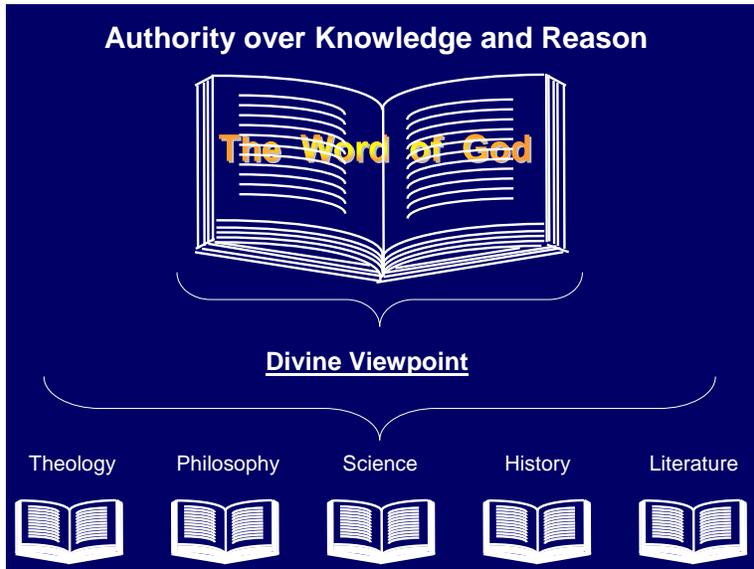


The buried truth of Creation, the buried truth of the Fall, the buried truth of the Flood, the buried truth of the New World Covenant.

We have been reminded that with fallen man, it doesn't take but a few generations and the “original truth” gets faded, partially forgotten, mixed with myth, and finally the myth takes truth's place.

The generations after Adam and Eve lost the truth, the generations after Noah (who had the truth) lost the truth. Even after the Reformation, when the Bible was declared the final authority and the truth of the doctrine of Justification by Faith alone was rediscovered, the truth faded away, and today Protestants are confused about it.

Biblical Framework Part 1



Instead of letting the powerful Word of God lose its force by being "absorbed" into the framework of unbelief, we ought to be able to "absorb" unbelief into the framework of the Word. Wherever we are, and whatever we are doing, let us be aware of the deceptions that surround us on all sides – in politics, education, entertainment, and sad to say, even in our churches.

Having learned the Divine Viewpoint of history, we must learn to "bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" (II Cor. 10:5).

This ends the *Abbreviated Framework Series – Part 1*, covering chapters 1 through 9 of Genesis.

I encourage you to go to the website www.fgbible.org and continue your study in *A Biblical Framework - Part 2* as it starts to deal with the environment immediately after the Flood, and dealing with the diversification, a fascinating story of how the human population went out into the continents, and the loss of truth and why you have tribes that sometimes remember Noah and sometimes forget him. All of that is leading up to the study of why God called Abraham, and why God called the nation of Israel into existence.

Thank you.