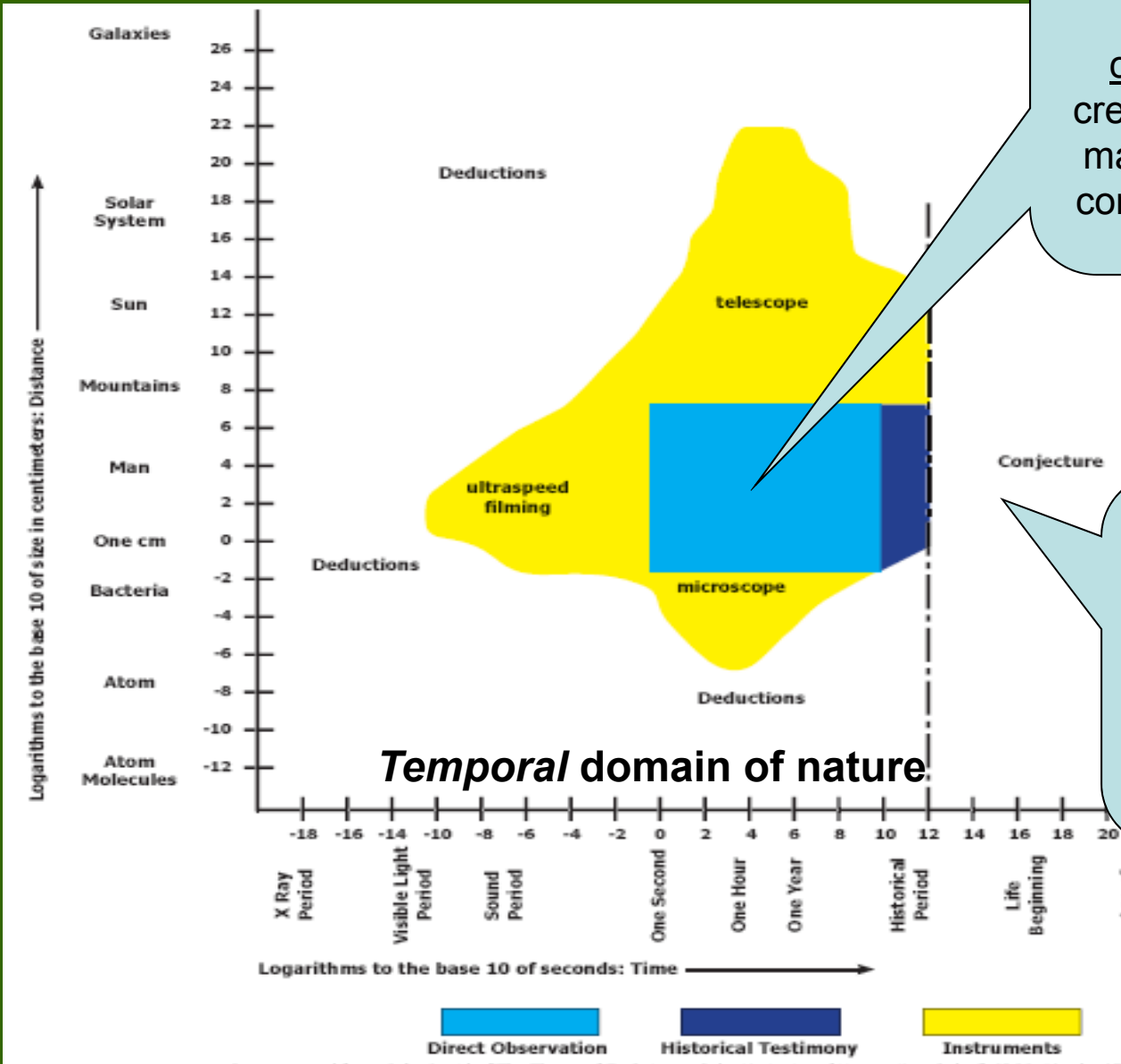


Limitations of Observation-based, Empirical Knowledge

Spatial domain of nature



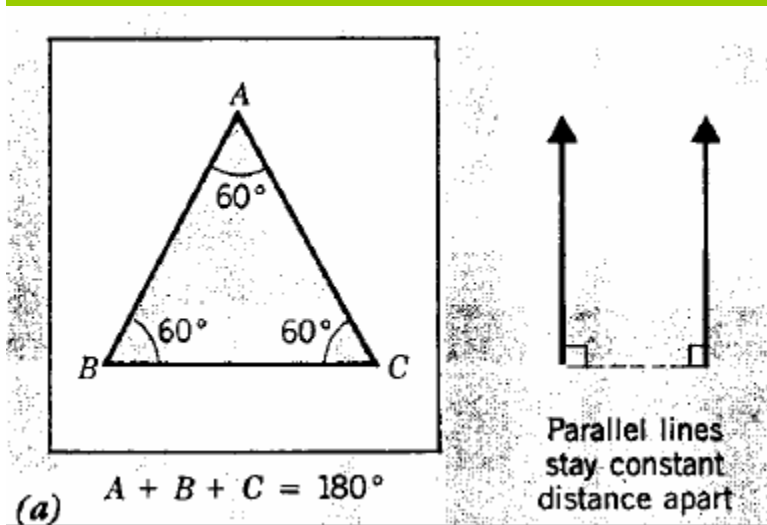
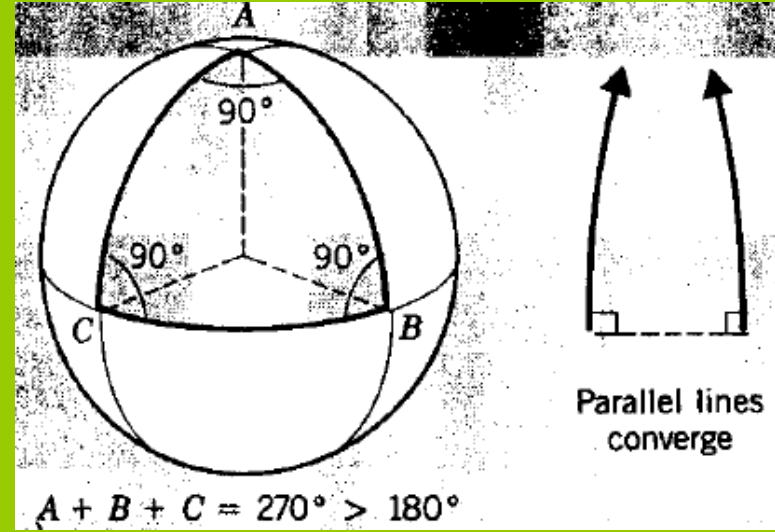
Man created to have dominion over nature starting with the correspondence God created between many of man's empirically-based conceptions and nature's design

BUT the scientific method requires special additions (*worldview dependent conjectures*) in order to penetrate unobservable past & future domains

Reconstructed from: Julio Garrido, "The Theory of Evolution and the Limitation of Human Knowledge", CRSQ, March 1970, Vol 6, pp 185-187.

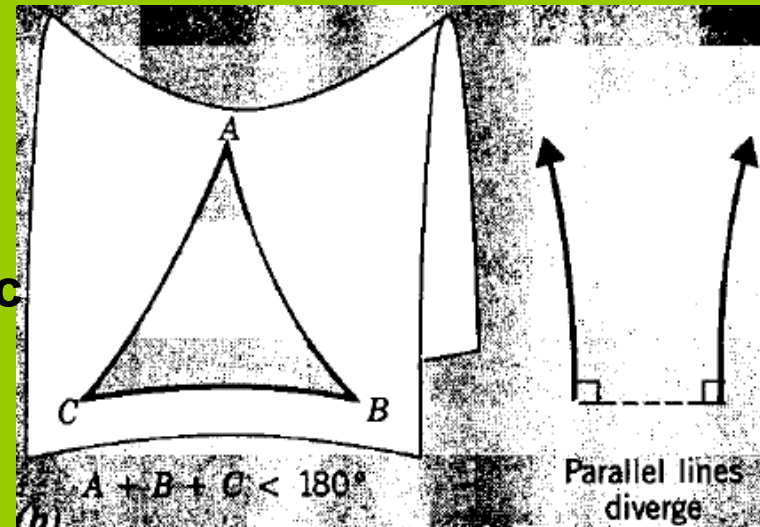
Space: which geometry?

Spherical

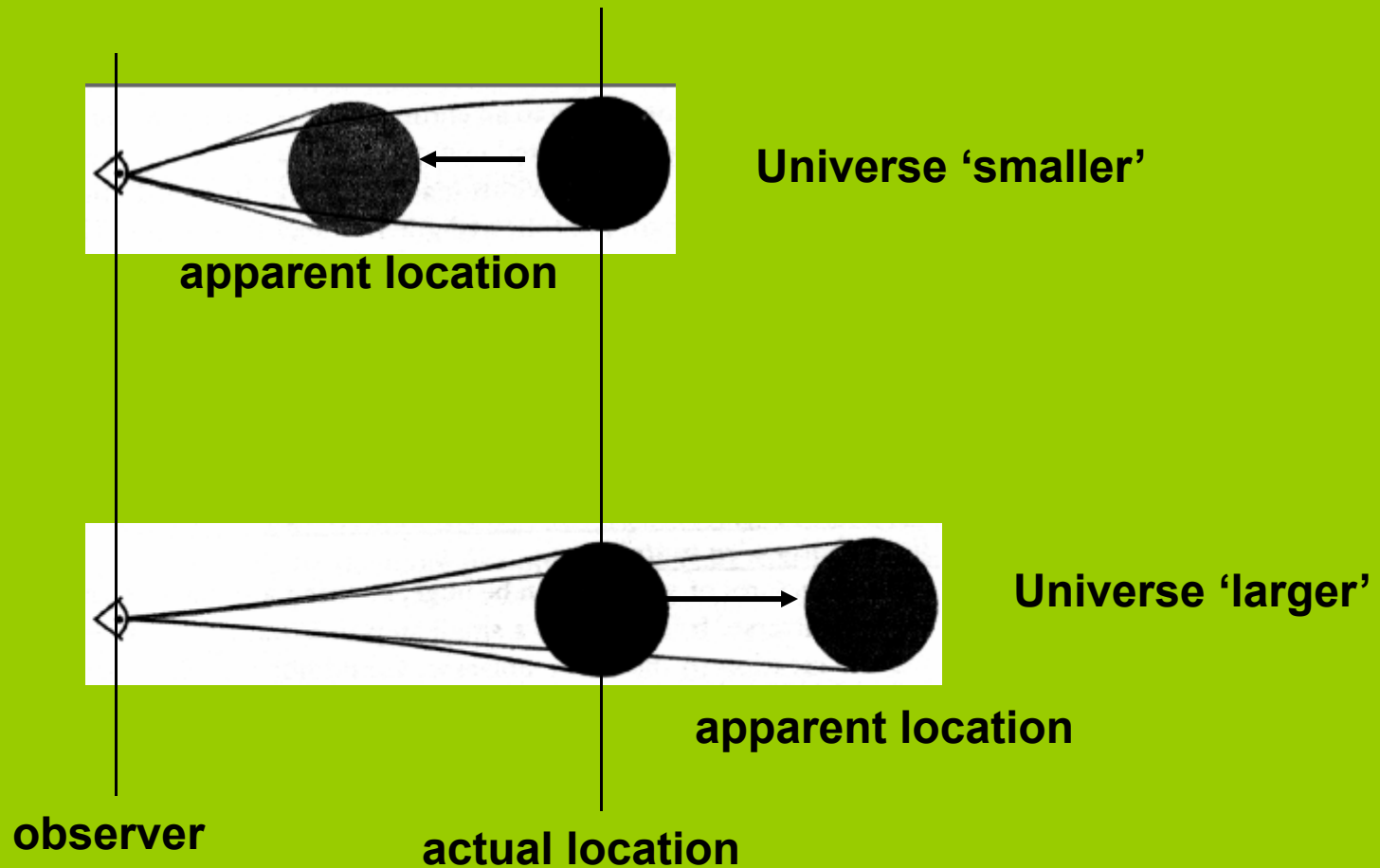


Euclidean

Hyperbolic



Hypothesized Geometry determines “distances”!!



Necessity of Constants

$$y = ax + b$$

Logical Fallacy of Scientific Induction

- If “p”, then “q”
- “q” is true
- Therefore “p” is true

=

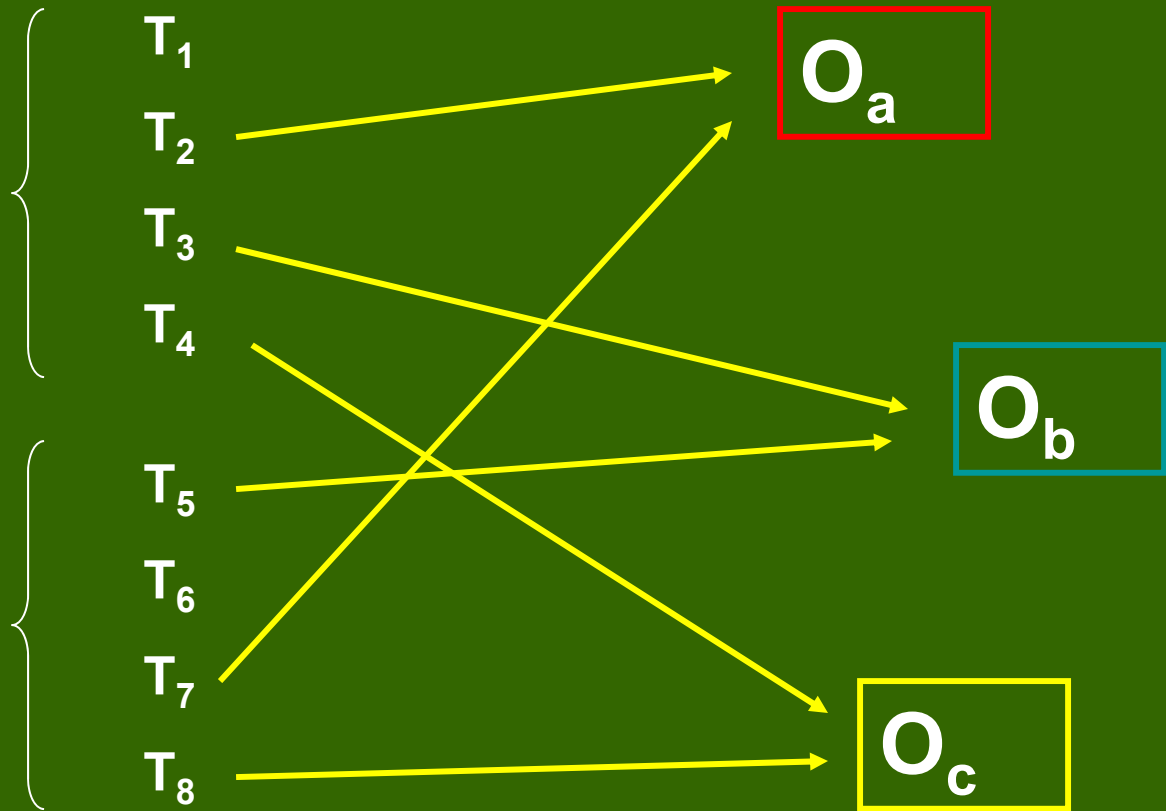
- If [millions of years of sedimentation], then [**sedimentary rock layers**]
- [**Sedimentary rock layers**] exist
- Therefore [millions of years of sedimentation]

*“assertion of the consequent” or
“the generalization fallacy”*

Multiple Theories & Worldviews

Materialism

Theism



Observation or Measurement	Interpretation(s)
Night sky is dark and roughly homogeneous in all directions	Universe must be finite with the earth at the center; Universe must be finite & closed with homogeneity throughout.
Red-shift in light from more distant stars (ignoring some exceptions)	Universe expanding (Doppler Shift) with no explanation for the exceptions and with a violation of the conservation of energy; Universe static (“tired light”) Universe static (“changing constants”)
Massive rock structure around the globe	Earth’s surface results from low-power processes occasionally punctuated with local high-power processes over millions of years; Earth’s surface results primarily from high-power global processes over thousands of years.
Fossil record with systematic gaps	Dead animals over millions of years’ events showing an incomplete evolutionary progression; Dead animals over thousands of years showing ecological trapping of a global flood..

POST—KANTIAN VIEW OF KNOWLEDGE

“Noumenal”:

*God, soul,
immortality, value*

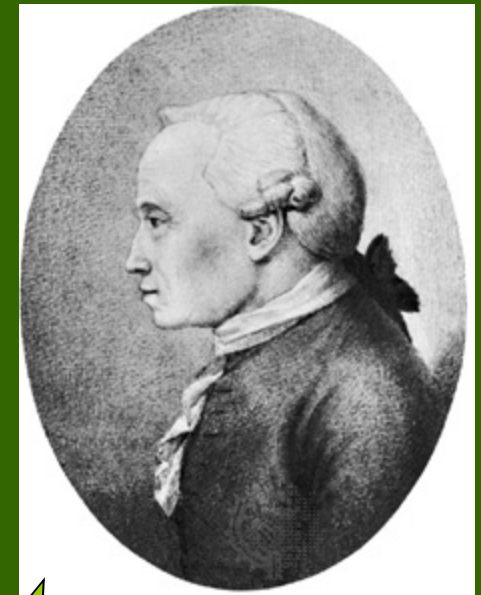
[religious area]

“Phenomenal”:

*Categorizing
incoming sensations*

[science area]

Immanuel Kant



1724-1804

Things ??

“How can the manipulation of symbols which we have invented, according to rules which we alone make. . . reveal that which lies beyond our senses? [This question] is one which is unlikely to receive a satisfactory answer.”

Sir Oliver Graham Sutton (cited in Nickel)

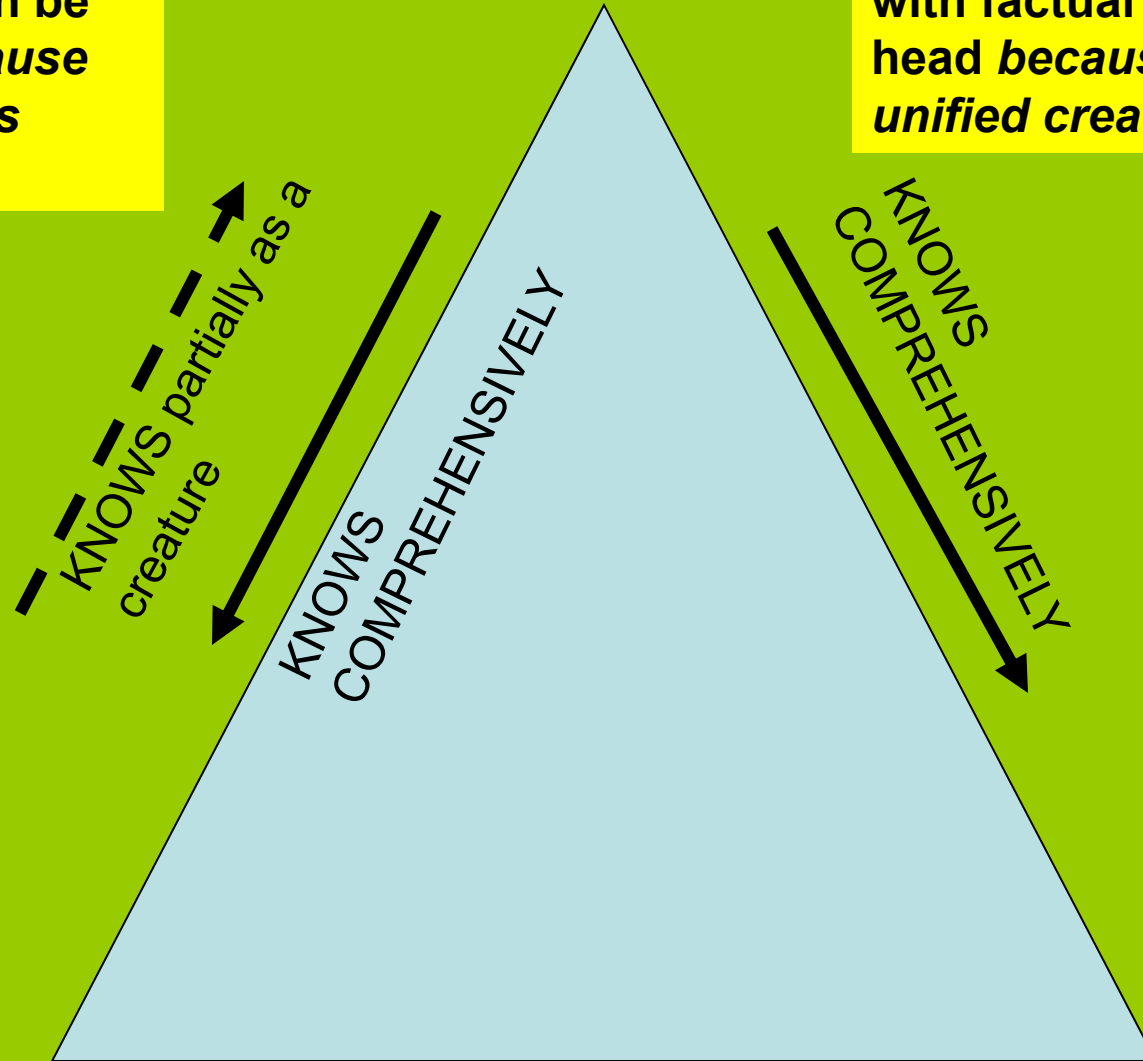
Consistency

critterion: man's thoughts can be orderly because God's plan is orderly

Correspondence critterion:

man's ideas can correspond with factual reality outside his head because both are part of a unified creation

GOD



MAN

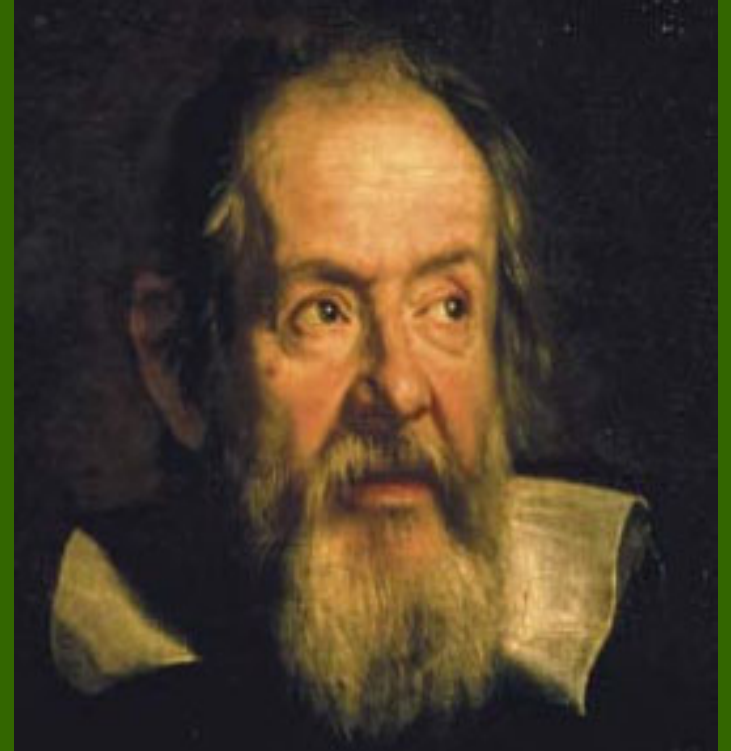
NATURE



KNOWS partially as a creature

The Galileo Controversy 1616

“These propositions uttered by the Holy Ghost were set down by sacred scribes in order to accommodate them to the capacities of the common people, who are rude and unlearned. . . . We must take heed. . . that we. . . avoid saying. . . anything which contradicts. . . the sciences. Since every truth is in agreement with all other truth, *the truth of Holy Writ cannot be contrary to the solid reasons and experiences of human knowledge.*”



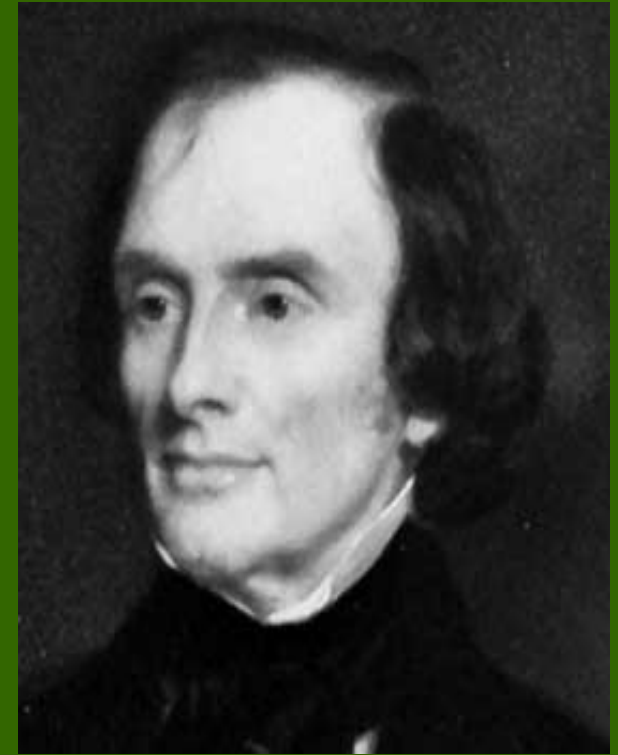
1564 - 1642

Discoveries and Opinions of Galileo, trans. Stillman Drake (NY: Doubleday Anchor, 1957), p. 182.

Philosophic Recognition of the Fallacy of “Absolute” Motion

“Before Copernicus, people thought that the earth stood still and that the heavens revolved about it once a day. Copernicus taught that ‘really’ the earth revolves once a day, and the daily rotation of sun and stars is only ‘apparent’But in modern theory the question . . .is merely one of convenience; all motion is relative. . .To say more for Copernicus is to assume absolute motion, which is a fiction. It is mere convention to take one body as at rest. All such conventions are equally legitimate, though not all are equally convenient.”

The ABC of Relativity (London: Allen and Unwin, 1958), p. 13.



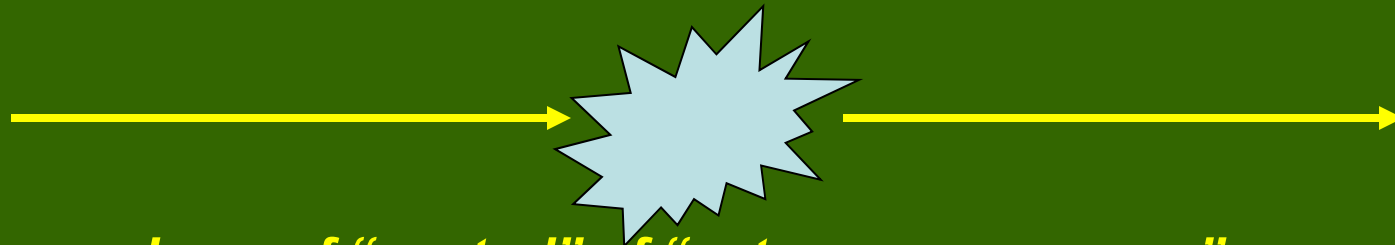
1872 - 1970

“Our willingness to accept scientific claims that are against common sense is the key to an understanding of the real struggle between science and the supernatural. We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories, because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism. It is not that the methods and institutions of science somehow compel us to accept a material explanation of the phenomenal world, but, on the contrary, that we are forced by our a priori adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.”

Richard Lewontin, NY Rev of Books, Vol. 44, No. 1 January 9, 1997

Lewontin (cont'd):

“The eminent Kant scholar Lewis Beck used to say that anyone who could believe in God could believe in anything. To appeal to an omnipotent deity is to allow that at any moment the regularities of nature may be ruptured, that miracles may happen.”



Loss of “control” of “autonomous reason”

THEOPHOBIA !

Cosmological Myth-making

Ancient man: a chaotic cosmos with magical powers that man can manipulate.

Post-enlightenment man: a mysterious universe void of the true God that man can model with his mind.

Yet there is still unavoidable “magic”:

- (1) “singularity” at its origin
- (2) “spontaneous generation” of life from non-life
- (3) “unobservable evolutionary process” that unites all existence

Environmentalism—Biblical vs. Pagan

Biblical	Pagan
Theocentric	Eco-centric
Man > nature (dominion)	Nature > man
“Post-fall” nature cursed	“Post-industrial revolution” nature vandalized
Natural resources to be developed	Natural resources “zero-summed”
Natural evil exists	Nature idyllic

Wilderness

Wilderness

**Garden &
Sacred
Space**

Wilderness

Wilderness

$$R_v^p = R_v - \{R_o\} + \{R_p\}$$

$R_v =$ Gen. 3:1

$R_o =$ Word of God carries self-authenticated authority to which I must submit

$R_p =$ God is a morally-flawed source of revelation

$R_v^p =$ *God's command doesn't correspond to reality*

$$R_{nv}^p = R_{nv} - \{R_o\} + \{R_p\}$$

R_{nv} = empirical perception of the tree of knowledge of good and evil + conscience aware of God and His character

R_o = tree and conscience interpreted by R_v are unavoidable

R_p = tree and testimony of conscience reinterpreted by R_v^p

R_{nv}^p = *God's command doesn't correspond to reality*

$$R_v^p = R_v - \{R_o\} + \{R_p\}$$

R_v = God speaks face-to-face

R_o = God will be angry with me since I am “dirty” inside and I’ve changed physically from how He created me

R_p = God is not omnipresent

R_v^p = *I can escape God’s*

Presence

$$R_{nv}^p = R_{nv} - \{R_o\} + \{R_p\}$$

R_{nv} = trees offer cover

R_o = I'm out in the open where God normally meets me (interpretation by R_v)

R_p = trees over cover from God
(interpreted by R_v^p)

R_{nv}^p = *God's command*

doesn't correspond to reality

“Noahic Bible” fragmented survival among the SE Asian Karen people

- **"Y'wa formed the world originally.**
- **He appointed food and drink.**
- **He gave them the 'fruit of trial'.**
- **He gave detailed orders.**
- **Mu-law-lee deceived two persons.**
- **He caused them to eat the fruit of the tree of trial.**
- **They obeyed not; they believed not Y'wa. . . .**
- **When they ate of the fruit of trial,**
- **They became subject to sickness, aging, and death.**
- **. .**

Enuma Elish

- "The divine brothers gathered together.
- They disturbed Tiamat and assaulted(?) their keeper;
- Yea, they disturbed the inner parts of Tiamat,
- Moving (and) running about in the divine abode(?).
- Apsu could not diminish their clamor,
- And Tiamat was silent in regard to their [behavior].
- Yet, their doing was painful [to them].
- Their way was not good."

Who Has the REAL “Evil Problem”?

Christian: Good/Evil Mix is “Abnormal” & Temporary



Pagan: Good/Evil Mix is Forever “Normal”



Coping Strategies--Pagan

Deny evil is real: "Sickness, sin, and death are . . . illusion; the mirage of error." Mary Baker Eddy (Christian Science founder)

" Deny sense of evil (conscience) is indicative of object violation of "oughtness": "Christian ethics are out of harmony with human nature and are secretly antagonistic to Nature's scheme of evolution." Sir Arthur Keith

Accept the "absurdity" of evil:
Existential paradox of life that is "just there" so get over it (somehow) →.

Coping Strategies—Pagan (cont'd)

Accept the “absurdity” of evil: *“Man can stand superhuman suffering if only he does not lack the conviction that it serves some purpose. Even less severe pain, on the other hand, may seem unbearable, or simply not worth enduring, if it is not redeemed by any meaning. . . . “It does not follow that the meaning must be given from above; . . .that nothing is worth while if the world is not governed by a purpose. . . .We are free to give our own life’s meaning and purpose, free to redeem our suffering by making something out of it. . . .The plain fact is that not all suffering serves a purpose; . . .and that if there is to be any meaning to it, it is we who must give it.”*

Walter Kaufmann, Faith of a Heretic

Coping Strategies--Biblical

Direct Suffering	Indirect Suffering
General existence of sickness & death (fall imputation)	Evangelistic "Wake-up Call"
"self-induced misery" (personal sin)	A "Nudge" to Spiritually Advance
judgment on sin in nations and families	Evidence for Evangelization of Unbelievers
Hell and Lake of Fire (ultimate quarantine of evil)	Evidence for Edification of Believers
Parental discipline in Mortal Life of Believers	Evidence in the Unseen Angelic Conflict
Denial of Rewards (Bema seat)	

“If God knows there is evil but cannot prevent it, he is not omnipotent. If God knows there is evil and can prevent it but desires not to, he is not omnibenevolent.”

George Smith, [Atheism: The Case Against God](#).

God is perfectly good

God is omnipotent

Evil exists

**God has a morally sufficient reason for
evil**

$$R_v^p = R_v - \{R_o\} + \{R_p\}$$

R_v = "Trust me"!

R_o = I cannot trust if I do not know that
Your reason is logical and ethical

R_p = If You do not submit to my demand,
You are not the kind of God I accept

R_v^p = *I can ignore God and His commands
since He will not submit to my authority*

Sin-damage in individual man

Body	UNnaturally mortalized (universal capital punishment)– discomfort felt looking at a corpse; metabolically abnormal; flesh “accommodates” to sin-patterns?
Spirit	Mind at enmity with God Energized by the spirit of this world Conscience “at war” Self-protection & approbation lusts

Damage to “Responsible Labor”

Qualitative	Perverted dominion; Autonomous imputation
Quantitative	Labor inefficient; Diminished energy

Sin-damage in social man

Marriage	Family
<p>Gender specific cursing (Gen. 3:16-19)</p> <p>Dysfunction → repudiation of institution entirely</p>	<p>Site of resistance to cultural transmission and cultural warfare</p> <p>Dysfunction → repudiation of institution and intrusion of the State as primary source of cultural transmission</p>

Prior to Fall	After the Fall
100% teleological	Mixed teleological and dysteleological

"To see evolutionary. . .morality being applied to the affairs of a great nation we must turn to Germany of 1942. We see Hitler devoutly convinced that evolution produces the only real basis for a national policy."

Sir Arthur Keith (a British anthropologist who had just survived Hitler's bombing of Britain)

"The growth of large business is merely survival of the fittest. . . .This is not an evil tendency in business."

John D. Rockefeller

"The thief and the murderer follow nature just as much as the philanthropist. Cosmic evolution. . .is incompetent to furnish any better reason why what we call good is preferable to what we call bad than we had before."

T. H. Huxley