

Lecture 4: The Fact-Value Split and the Need for Revelation

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Francis Schaeffer, *Escape from Reason*

Claim: Modern thought is characterized by a dichotomous form:



Claim: The fact-value split can trace its roots back to Thomas Aquinas, who gave the intellect some autonomy.

Objections: Schaeffer is too popular for college reading? For details, see Schaeffer, *The God Who Is There*.

Schaeffer mischaracterizes Thomas Aquinas? The intellect *is* fallen, but not *blind* (*Contra Gentiles*).

Greg Thornbury – Schaeffer lacks technical expertise, but his insight is valid: It starts with Aquinas. cf. Joseph Ratzinger [Pope Benedict XVI], “Faith, Philosophy and Theology” (1993)

J. P. Moreland – Three Worldviews: Modernism – scientific naturalism } Fact-Value Split
Postmodernism – social constructivism }
Christianity – revealed realism }

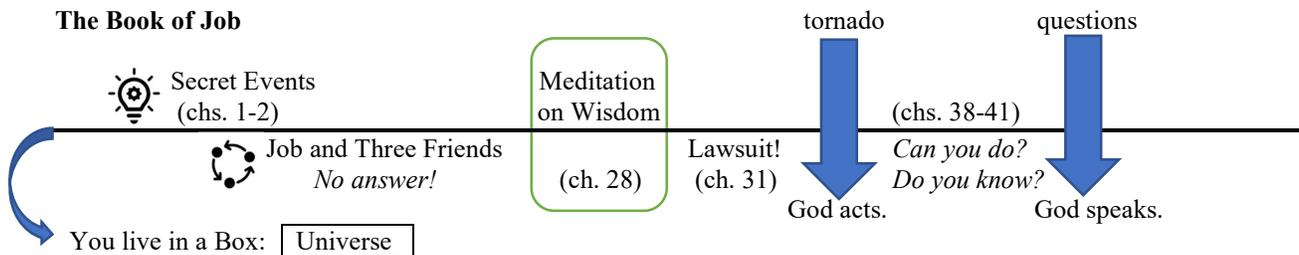
Two Ladders – Reason and Faith

Quantitative Lack – climb the ladder of reason to some knowledge, but more requires the ladder of faith

Qualitative Lack – whatever was gained on the ladder of reason is skewed and untrustworthy

Therefore, start over with the ladder of faith: *the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom* (Pr. 9:10).

The Book of Job



Can we know if there is anything or anyone outside of the Box? How permeable is the membrane of this Box?

Transparent? Translucent? Opaque? Semi-permeable? One way? Sound only? Three-foot thick lead?

Immanuel Kant – the fact-value split between the phenomenal and the noumenal

Implications

Our Science – God affirms scientific discovery (Job 28)

Man tunnels – both into the infinite universe and into the infinitesimal cell and atom

Illus. Hubble Telescope – deep-field image (1995)

Illus. The Human Genome Project (1990-2003)

Science vs. Wisdom – the what vs. the why (the “reason” for things) – unknown to man, known only to God!

God alone knows everything—the context for meaning.

Illus. Grandma missing the flight—bad? good? known?

Our Limits – Science affirms the limits of science (Job 38-41)

Questions: Science – *Can you know?* Technology – *Can you do?*

No scientific theory is final: Thomas Kuhn – paradigm shifts (e.g. physics).

Our Need – Revelation

If science cannot give the Big Picture through rationalism or empiricism, should we despair?

Yes, of ourselves and return to revelation—man was never made to live without God and His revelation.

Illus. From Gregory of Nazianzus, “Second Theological Oration” to Ghost Ships, “Where Were You?”

Illus. Don Bierle, *Surprised by Faith* (2003) – “Don, who do you think you are anyway?” (116).

The Book of Job teaches...

Personal Revelation – God answered one man.

Propositional Revelation – God answered one man in words.

Progressive Revelation – God reveals more and more of Himself over time (Job 42:5).