

“Deliberative orator” structure	John’s structure
<p><u>Preface</u> – introduction to the deliberation</p>	<p>1:1-4 Prologue—call to sharing eternal life with God through the apostles 1:5-2:11 Preamble—daily interacting with the Triune God</p>
<p><u>Thesis</u> – central proposal of the speaker</p>	<p>2:12-27 Purpose—to exhort believers to maintain the fellowship of eternal life while in a hostile environment</p>
<p><u>Supporting material</u> – a sequence of headings that group various arguments to support the thesis</p>	<p>2:28-5:17 Arguments—how to attain ultimate confidence and avoid shame before God through sharing eternal life with fellow believers “under fire”</p>
<p><u>Epilogue</u> – a review of the argument and closing motivation for audience</p>	<p>5:18-21 Review—three foundational truths that underlie successful experience of eternal life</p>

Biblical View of LIFE

Creator/creature distinction

- man & nature are derivative & dependent
- forms are revelatory by intention (top-down)
- man **ALONE** in God's image so that he can "think God's thoughts after him"

- ultimate moment-by-moment responsibility

Pagan View of LIFE

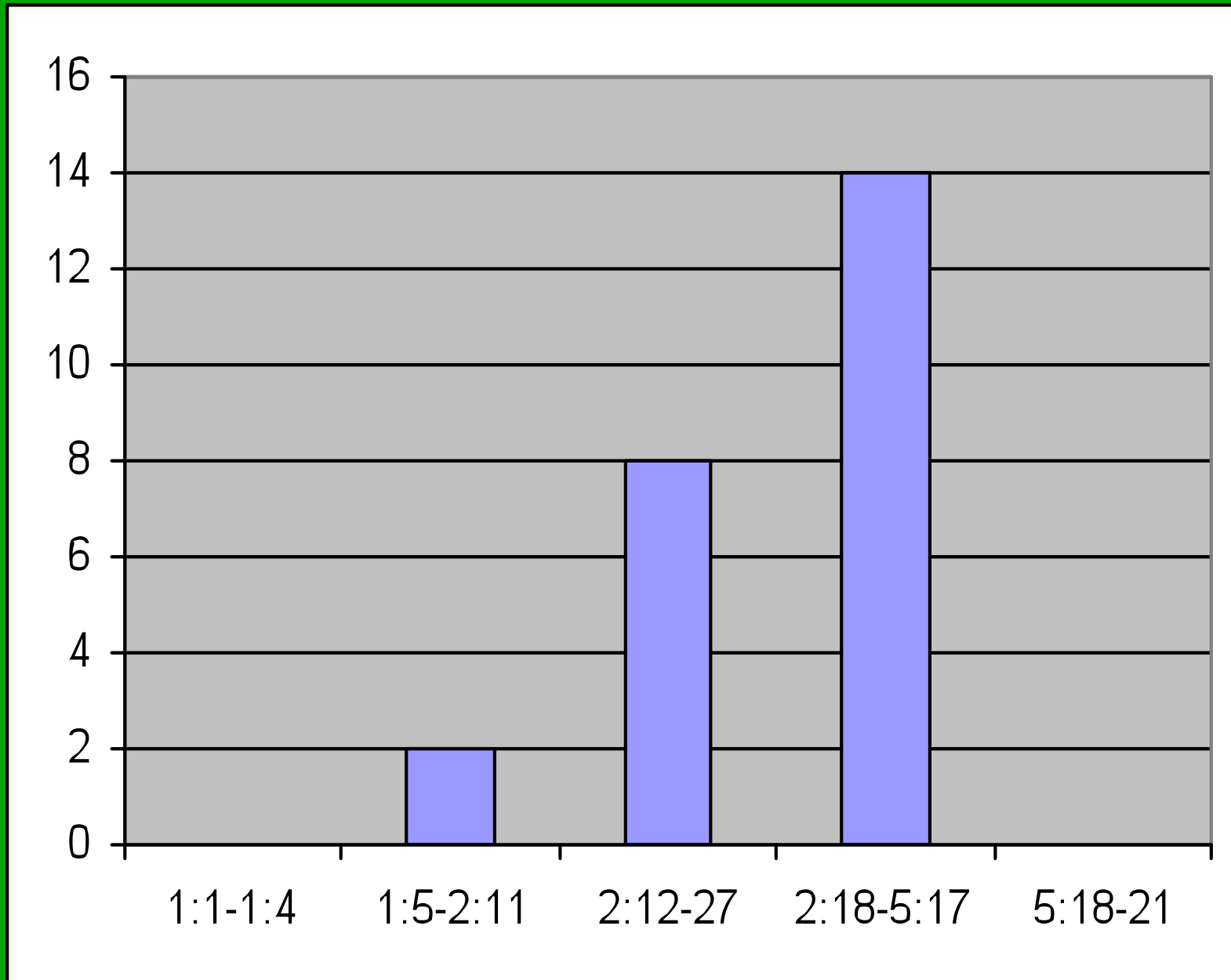
Continuity of Being

- nature is all there is & independent ("Mother")
- [modern] forms merely casual, chance-selection (bottom-up)
- man just a "naked ape" (hatred for man in environmentalism)

- no ultimate responsibility (its just "genes")

- Contact with **God (the Father)** = coming to terms as sinners with His holiness (His integrity) by responding to His prodding and provisions
- *[w/o blameshifting, rationalizing, inventing diversionary false guilt, anesthetizing a violated conscience, and tell-all-pseudo-confessions]*
- Contact with **God the Son** = coming to terms with the authority of His deity by responding to His commandments
- Contact with **God the Holy Spirit** = coming to terms with His work in our midst by responding to the needs of those He has regenerated and is sanctifying, i.e., our fellow believers

abide, continue, remain (Gk: *meno*)



Step #1 to Resistance (2:12-14)

Meet diversionary maneuvers that distract. . .

as <u>little children</u>	<i>recall your exercise of your priesthood freedom with protocols of 1:6-10</i>
as <u>fathers</u>	<i>refocus on your understanding of the Word of God in every area of life (framework of strength)</i>
as <u>young men</u> (of warrior age)	<i>remember your defiance of “cosmos diabolicus” every time you trusted in the Lord (Faith-Rest drill)</i>

Iwo Jima & Strategic Envelopment

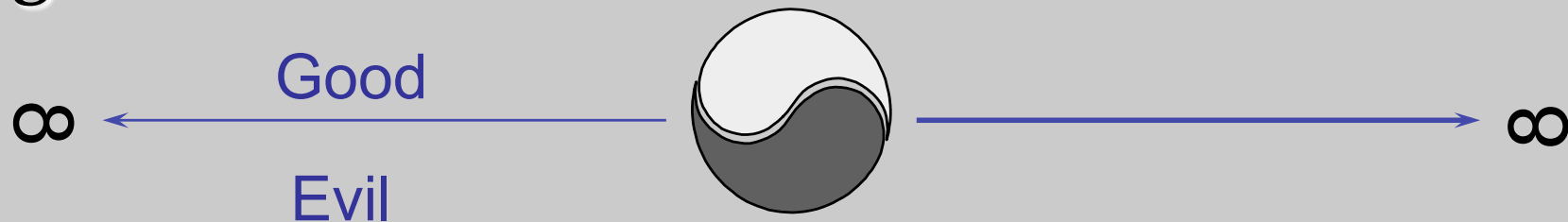


Who Has the REAL “Evil Problem”?

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



Pagan: Good/Evil Mix is Forever “Normal”



Step #2 to Resistance (2:15-17)

Maintain Situational Awareness of the Fall

Civilization lies passively within the domain of Satan complete with “human good”

Satan’s conspiracy of evil is for losers, eternal losers, since Christ has taken the “high ground”

We shape our eternal destiny by what we are allowed to carry into the Kingdom of God by way of allegiance

Step #3 to Resistance (2:18-27)

Beware of “revisionists” who “update” Scripture

Realize that the authority of biblical revelation you already have trumps all other teaching authority

Develop sensitive discrimination between biblical and pagan beliefs based upon coherence or conflict with the Bible

“Bait-and-Switch”

Senator Obama also laid down principles for how to discuss faith in a pluralistic society, including *the need for religious people to translate their concerns into universal, rather than religion-specific, values during public debate*

[2006 address to Christian evangelicals—now on White House website]

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as the same Anointing teaches
(pres tense) you of all things

just as it has taught (aorist tense)
you

you will abide in Him

TRUTH is coherent (present same as past)

Resisting “cosmos diabolicus”

1	Counter “diversions” from your previous experiences with God: <i>your priesthood, framework knowledge, faith choices</i>
2	Maintain “situational awareness”: <i>civilization is passive to Satanic manipulation, God’s plan strategically envelops evil--making it for losers, believers’ quality-of-life in eternity shaped now.</i>
3	Beware of “revisionists” that “update” Scripture: <i>Bible authority trumps all other authority, develop discrimination based upon coherence with Scripture</i>