

ELIJAH
and
THE PRIESTS OF
BA'AL



CREATOR
vs.
creation
worship
(idolatry in
your soul)

**he [Ba'al] will give abundance of rain,
abundance of moisture with snow,
he will utter his voice in the clouds
and his flashings and lightnings on
the earth.**

Ras Shamra texts

**for Baal's rain on the earth
and the rain of the Most High on the
fields;
pleasant is Baal's rain on the earth,
and on the field the rain of the Most
High.**

Keret texts







1 Kings

18:21, "And Elijah came to all the people, and said, 'How long will you falter [jump back and forth] between two opinions [hvp vs DVP]? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.' But the people answered him not a word."



1 Kings
18:38, “Then
the fire of the
LORD fell
and
consumed
the burnt
sacrifice, and
the wood and
the stones
and the dust,
and it licked
up the water
that was in
the trench.”



Elements of a Religion, Philosophy, Worldview or Approach to Life

- 1. Everyone has a philosophy of life: some are conscious, rational, and internally consistent, most are not.**
- 2. Every worldview/religion contains universals, indicated by “should,” “ought,” “right,” and “wrong.”**
- 3. Entry point then to a worldview is often through values or ethics.**
- 4. Ethical principles are based on prior assumptions about the nature of truth or knowledge and the ultimate nature of the universe.**

Elements of a Religion, Philosophy, Worldview or Approach to Life



Man

CREATION
(nature)

There will always be a battle between the Bible and human viewpoint.

How does the challenge of Mt. Carmel enable us to think biblically about our relationship to God, man, and creation (nature)?

What forms has the *human viewpoint* system shaped the thinking of our culture?

And how much of that is in your soul?

The Great Chain of Being



Fig. 1

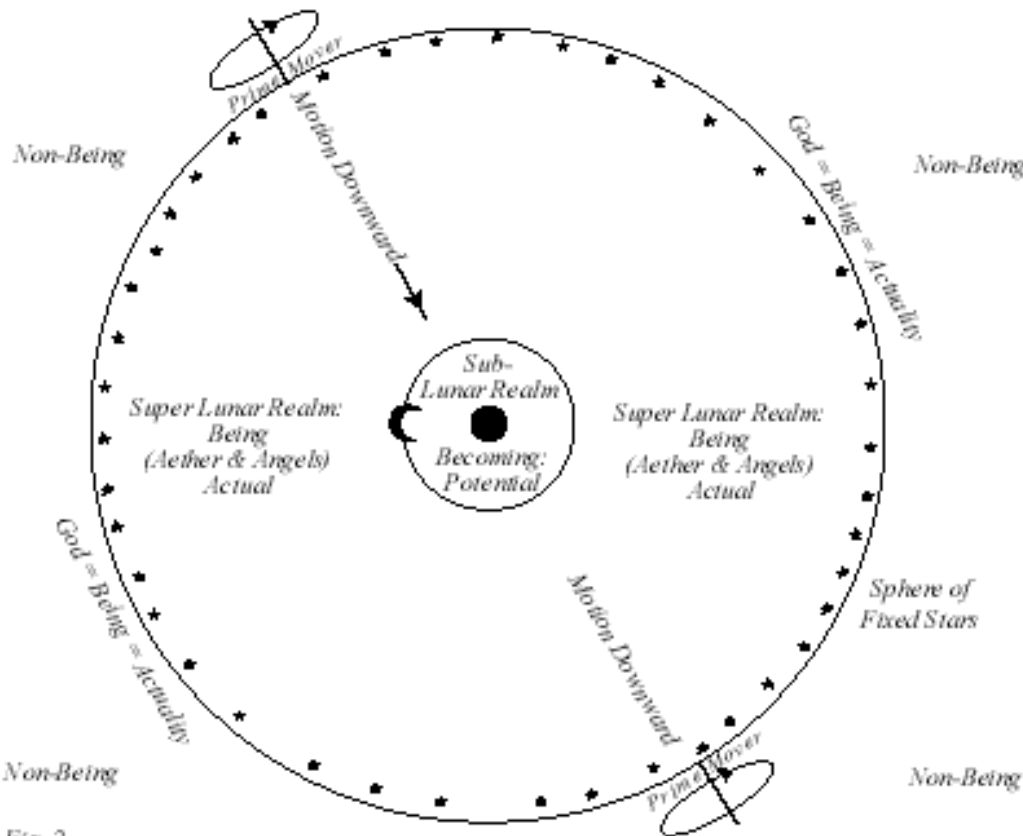


Fig. 2

Aristotle's Hierarchically ordered Cosmos

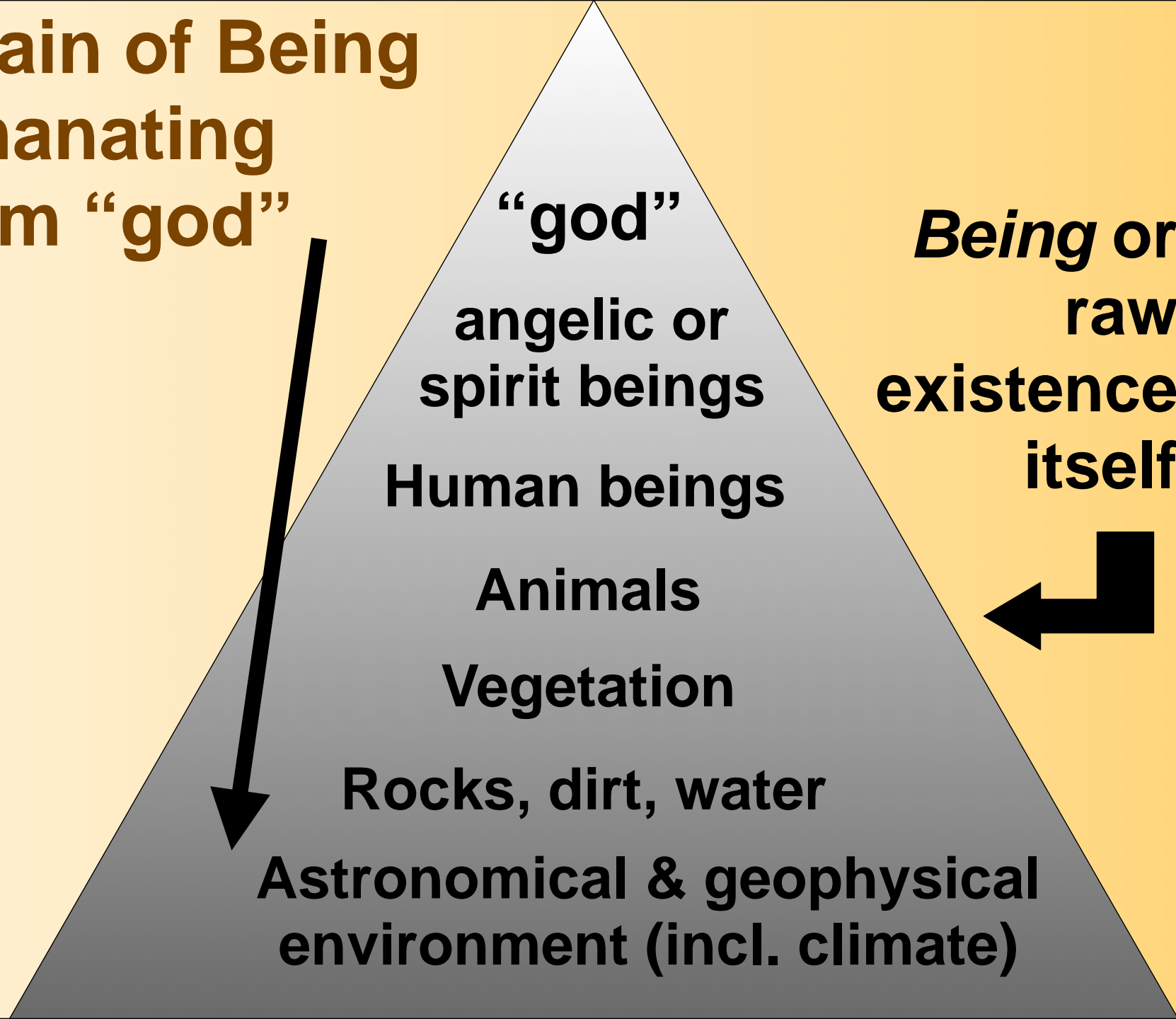
The Great “Chain of Being” or Scalae Natura

What IS the Chain of Being?

Continuity of Being, *Scalae naturae*
échelle de etres, or the chain of being.

1. A hierarchy of static, unchanging forms, with god (Being, Unmoved Mover, the Good, the Absolute, etc.) at the top, then angels, humans, animals, plants, down to inanimate objects. Each had its place. The movement is from the top down and the forms are unchanging.

Chain of Being Emanating from “god”



*Being or
raw
existence
itself*

Astronomical & geophysical
environment (incl. climate)

“Apart from biblically governed thought, the prevailing concept of *being* has been that being is one and continuous. God, or the gods, man, and the universe are all aspects of one continuous being; degrees of being may exist, so that a hierarchy of gods as well as a hierarchy of men can be described, but all consist of one, undivided and continuous being. The creation of any new aspect of being is thus not a creation out of nothing, but a creation out of *being*. . . .”

R. J. Rushdoony

“The essential and unbreakable links in the chain include the Divine Creator, the angelic heavenly, the human, the animal, the world of plants and vegetation, and the planet Earth itself with its minerals and waters.

“This image became the basis for calling anything and everything ‘sacred.’”

Arthur Lovejoy, *The Great Chain of Being*

“The scale of being was thus an important social concept that was used to justify many types of social inequality.”

Lovejoy

Vast chain of being, which from God began,
Nature's aetherial, human, angel, man,
 Beast, bird, fish, insect! what no eye can see,
No glass can reach! from Infinite to thee,
 Free thee to Nothing!—On superior pow'rs
Were we to press, inferior might on our:
 Or in the full creation leave a void,
where, one step broken, the great scale's destroy'd:
From Nature's chain, whatever link you strike,
Tenth or ten thousandth, breaks the chain alike.

Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man*

“We owe the animals not mercy but justice, and the debt often remains unpaid in Europe, the continent that is permeated with ‘stench of Judaism’ *Foeter Judaicus*... it is obviously high time in Europe that Jewish views on nature were brought to an end... the unconscionable treatment of the animal world must, on account of its immorality, be expelled from Europe.”

Arthur Schopenhauer (1788–1860)

“This view was dominate in Green Peace, Earth First, emphasizing everything not of human origin as having intrinsic value, nothing man contributes has value, apart from any human use for it, this perspective has become particularly strong in what is now known as deep ecology rooted in the philosophy of Norwegian philosopher Arne Naess which integrates the thinking of feminism, New Age and neo-pagan environmentalism. Deep ecology values and protects nature for its own sake, and shallow ecology protects nature for its use for man.”

Cal Beisner, *From the Garden to the Wilderness*

“At some future period, not very distant as measured by centuries, the civilized races of man will almost certainly exterminate and replace the savage races throughout the world. At the same time the anthropomorphous apes... will no doubt be exterminated. The break between man and his nearest allies will then be wider, for it will intervene between man in a more civilized state, as we may hope, even than the Caucasian, and some ape as low as a baboon, instead of as now between the negro, or Australian, and the gorilla.”

Darwin, *The Ascent of Man*

Romans 1:18, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,"

Romans 1:25, "who exchanged the truth
of God for the lie, and worshiped and
served the creature rather than the
Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen."

Divine Judgment on Creation Because of Human Sin

**Gen. 3:14, “So the LORD God said to the serpent:
‘Because you have done this, you are cursed more
than all cattle, and more than every beast of the
field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat
dust all the days of your life’.”**

Divine Judgment on Creation Because of Human Sin

Gen. 3:17, “Then to Adam He said, ‘Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, “You shall not eat of it”’: ‘Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life.

Gen. 3:18, “‘Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field.

Gen. 3:19, “‘In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return.’”

Is. 11:6, “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

Is. 11:7, “The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

Is. 11:8, “The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den.

Is. 11:9, “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.”

Rom. 8:19, “For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

Rom. 8:20, “For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;

Rom. 8:21, “because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Rom. 8:22, “For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.”

Rom. 8:23, “Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.”