

GENESIS

Why The Beginning Matters

*STUDY 1
IN THE BEGINNING GOD*





IDENTITY

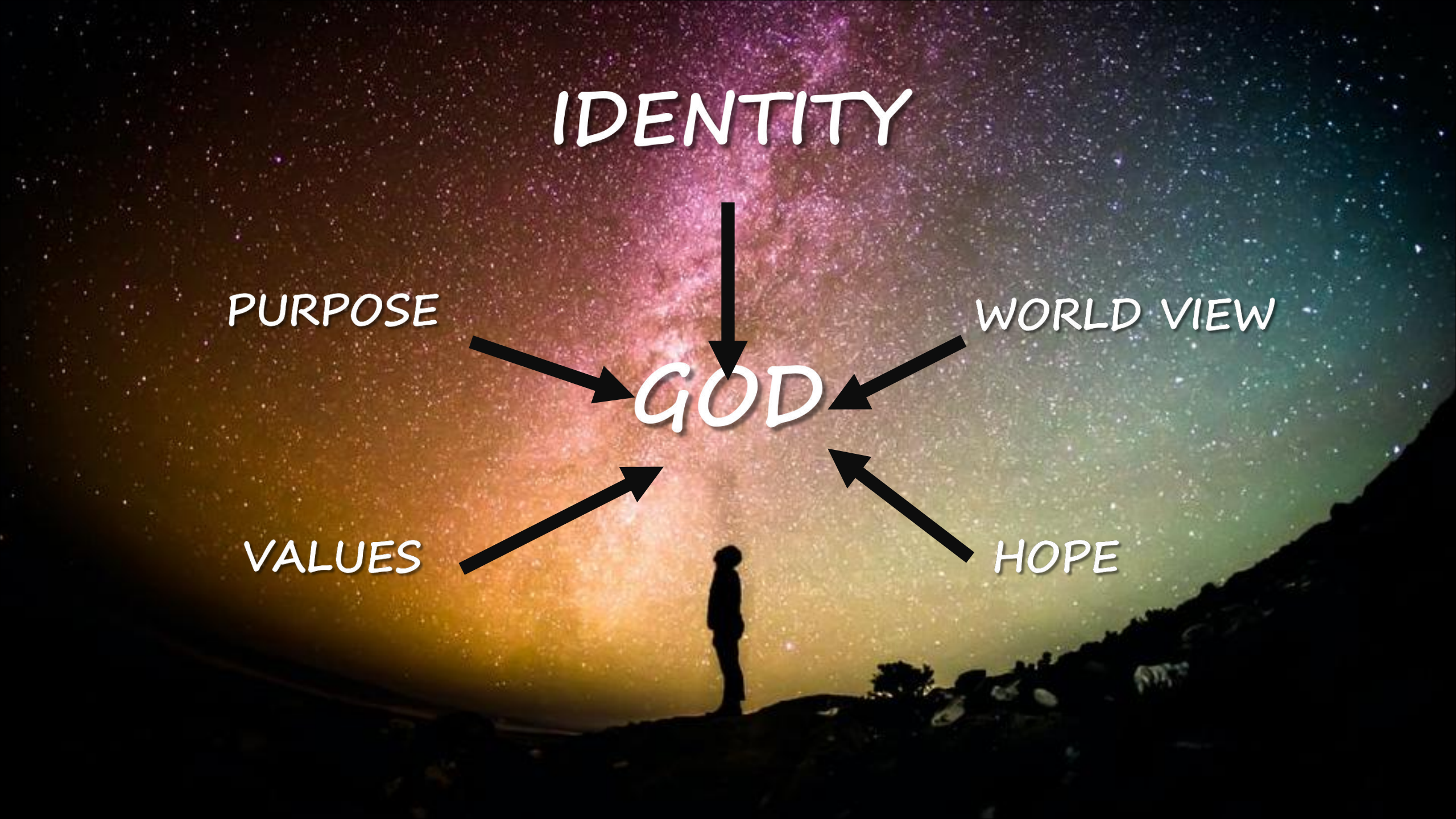
PURPOSE

WORLD VIEW

GOD

VALUES

HOPE



HUMAN BEHAVIORAL MODIFIERS



Human Rights



	Scientific view Philosophical Naturalism	Young Earth Creationism	Old Earth Creationism	Theistic Evolution
Creator	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
View of Man	Just another animal	Pinnacle of Creation	Pinnacle of Creation	Pinnacle of Creation
Timing	Billions years	6 days	Billions years	Billions years
Mechanism	Unguided	Special	Billions	God



ARCHBISHOP USSHUR

- Adam was born at 9
am Tues 5 Oct 4000
BC
- I am sorry I
cannot give the
more details than
this

Free | Live Answers in Genesis Conference

with Ken Ham

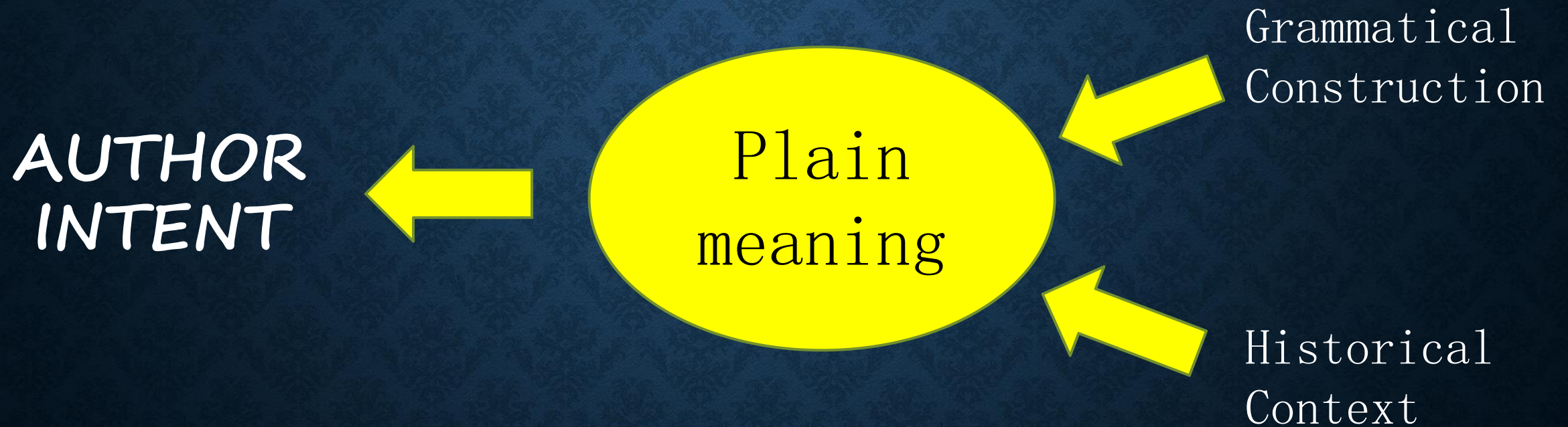
September 26-27, 2021
Calvary San Jose



A close-up photograph of a person's hand pointing to a specific line of text in an open Bible. The Bible is held at an angle, and the text is clearly visible. The words "LITERAL MEANING" are superimposed in a large, white, sans-serif font with a slight drop shadow over the center of the image. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue.

LITERAL MEANING

LITERAL INTERPRETATION



LITERAL

VS

LITERALISTIC

Grammar

Syntax

Genre,

Literary context

Historical context of author

Social

Direct meaning

No symbolism or

metaphors

LITERAL

VS

LITERALISTIC

John 10:7 Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of t

John 10:9 (ESV) I am the
Jesus is the means
door. If anyone enters
of salvation
by me, he will be saved
and will go in and out
and find pasture.



LITERAL

VS

LITERALISTIC

John 15:1 (ESV) I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

John 15:5 (ESV) I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.





AUTHOR INTENT
ORIGINAL READER UNDERSTANDING

MOSES AND ISRAEL



Atoms
Neutrons
Strong forces



A woman in traditional headscarf and patterned dress stands in a field, holding a bundle of harvested wheat. In the background, other people are visible, some bent over working in the field. The landscape is a vast, open field under a clear sky.

Work in day. 6am to 6pm

Rest at night 6pm to 6 am

And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

THE 7 DAY WORK WEEK (6 CREATIONAL)

Authors choose particular literary genres for their medium of communication that best fit their purposes and audience.

Genesis 1

Exalted Prose



Historical Narrative Stylised Elements

Introduction


Genesis 2-3

Historical Narrative
Recapitulation
Details on the main
focus

POETRY

NARRATIVE





Emotion
Stylised phrases

I Miss You Poems

for Girlfriend

LITERARY STRUCTURE EXODUS

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Exodus 14

SONG

Exodus 15

NARRATIVE

Judges 4:15 (ESV) And the LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and all his army before Barak by the edge of the sword. And Sisera got down from his chariot and fled away on foot.



SONG

Judges 5:19–21 (ESV) The kings came, they fought; then fought the kings of Canaan,

at Taanach, by the waters of Megiddo; they got no spoils of silver. 20 From heaven the stars fought, from their courses they fought against Sisera.



LITERARY STRUCTURE JUDGES

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Judges 4

SONG

Judges 5

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Judges 4:21 (ESV) But Jael the wife of Heber took a tent peg, and took a hammer in her hand. Then she went softly to him and drove the peg into his temple until it went down into the ground while he was lying fast asleep from weariness. So he died.



SONG

Judges 5:26–27 (ESV) She sent her hand
to the tent peg
and her right hand to the workmen's
mallet;
she struck Sisera;
she crushed his head;
she shattered and pierced his temple.

27 Between her feet

he sank, he fell, he lay still;

between her feet

he sank, he fell;

where he sank,

there he fell—dead.

LITERARY STRUCTURE GENESIS

Exalted Prose

Genesis 1

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Genesis 2-50

REPETITIONS

- “God said/commanded” for each day and each of the ten stages, as well as the closing formula (“evening and morning” for each day)
- And God saw that it was good.

PARALLELISM

- Genesis 1:27
- So God created man in his own image,
- in the image of God he created him;.

PARALLELISM

Genesis 1:6–7 And God said,

Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters,

and let it separate the waters from the waters.”

7 And God made

the expanse and separated

the waters that were under the expanse

from the waters that were above the expanse.

POETIC GENRE CAN CONTAIN
HISTORICAL REFERENCES.

PROBLEM OF LITERALISTIC INTERPRETATION



Genesis 1:5 b And there was evening and there was morning, the first day

Genesis 1:16 (ESV) And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars... And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

THE USE OF ANALOGOUS IMAGERY

Taking something which is within the realm of our experience
to convey truths about spiritual realities beyond our current
experience

THE IMAGERY OF TEMPLE





HUMAN REALITY

SPIRITUAL REALITY



Sacrifice as
atonement for sin

Dependance on
Jesus for
growth

JESUS IS ...

SPIRITUAL REALITY



SNAKE EATS DUST

SPIRITUAL REALITY

Defeat

DANIEL 7 THE FOUR BEASTS



KINGDOMS

Principalities and powers

SPIRITUAL REALITY

THE PROBLEM WITH LITERALISTIC INTERPRETATION IS THAT IT IGNORES

- Literary style of the chapter
- Makes claims to the truth where the Bible does not make

A woman in a white headscarf and blue dress stands in a field of golden wheat, holding a bundle of harvested wheat. In the background, other people are visible working in the field. The scene is set in a vast, open landscape under a clear sky.

Work in day. 6am to 6pm

Rest at night 6pm to 6 am

And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

THE 7 DAY WORK WEEK (6 CREATIONAL)

Authors choose particular literary genres for their medium of communication that best fit their purposes and audience.

LESSER IMPORTANT SCIENTIFIC REASONS

- Age of the Earth
- Age of the Universe
13.7 billion years

GENESIS 1

God v1-2

World v3-26

Mankind v 27-31

IN THE BEGINNING

Genesis 1:1-2 In the beginning, God
created the heavens and the earth. 2
The earth was without form and void,
and darkness was over the face of the
deep. And the Spirit of God was
hovering over the face of the waters.

THE GREAT EXCHANGE

Romans 1:23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

A romantic couple is shown from behind, embracing each other on a beach. The man is on the left, and the woman is on the right. They are both wearing light-colored clothing. The background is a soft-focus view of the ocean with gentle waves. The overall mood is peaceful and intimate.

**4 SIGNS THE UNIVERSE
WANTS YOU TO BE WITH
SOMEONE**

Abundancenolimits.com

THE NATURE OF REALITY

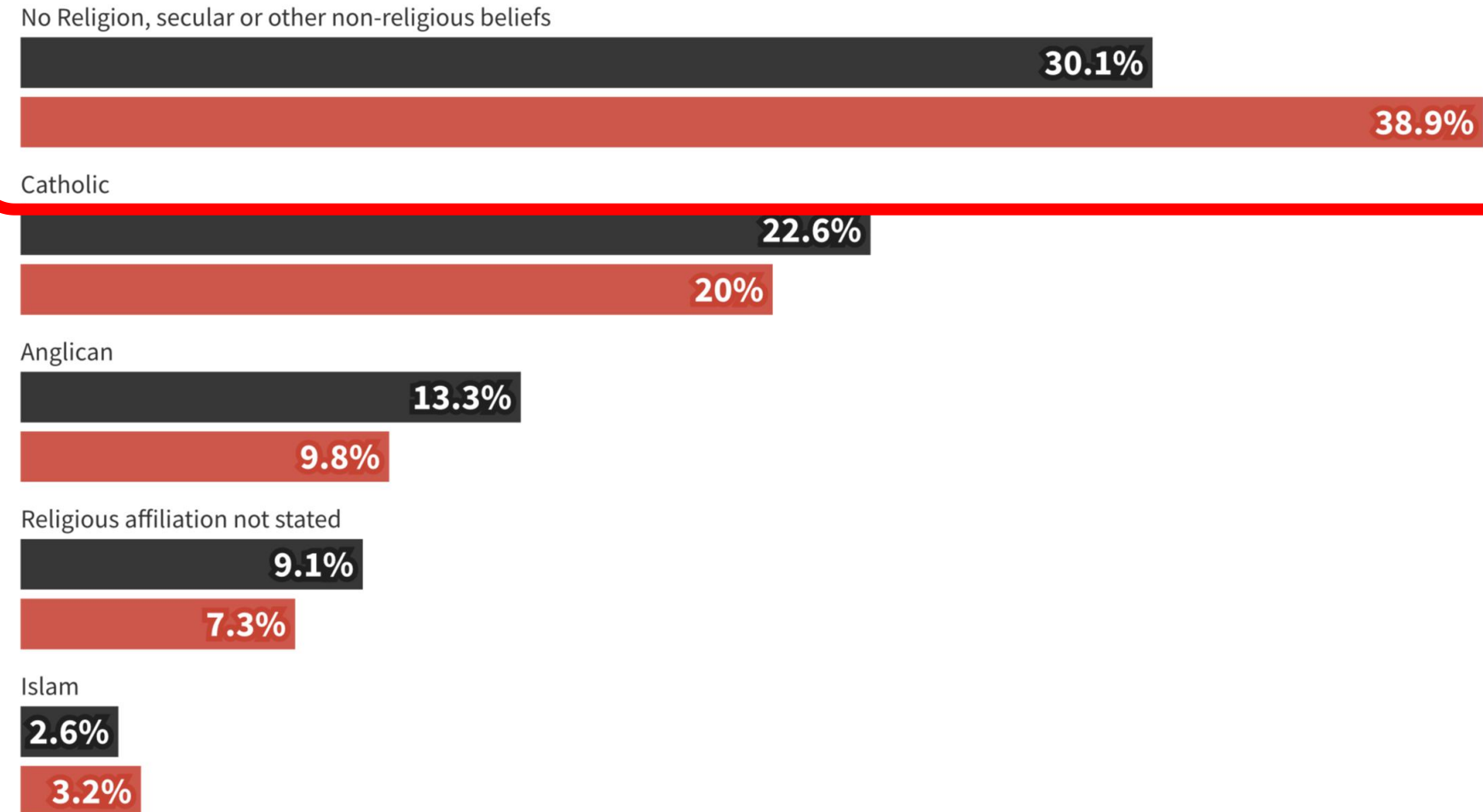
Eternal
Universe

Universe
with a
Beginning

More Australians identify as having "no religion" than any other religious category

Top 5 religious affiliation responses (including "no religion"), Australia, 2021.

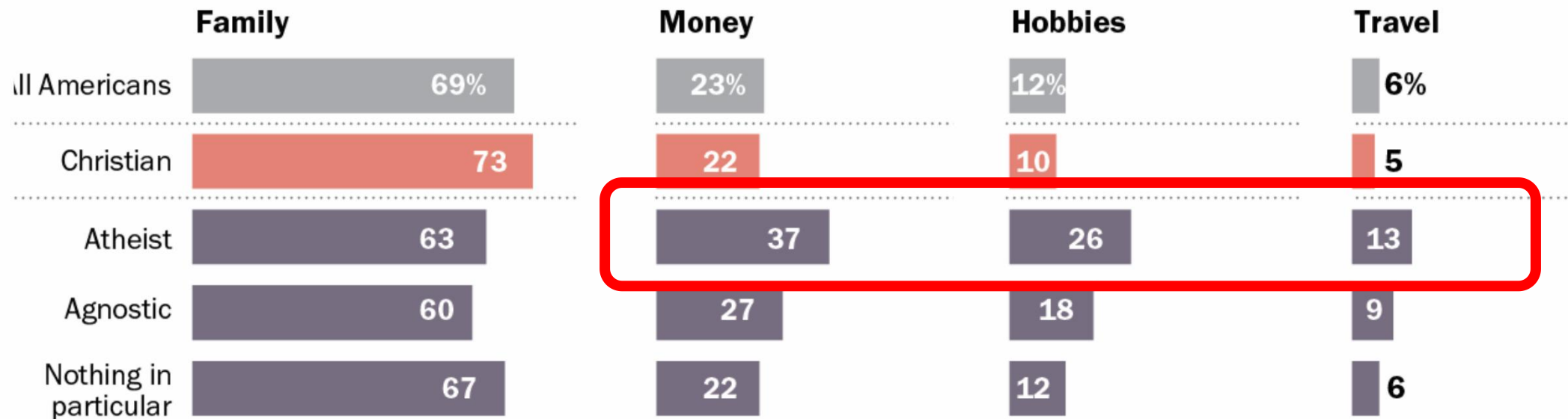
2016 2021



Source: [ABS](#)

Atheists more likely than Americans overall to find meaning in finances, hobbies

In an open-ended question, % of U.S. adults who mention ____ when describing what provides them with a sense of meaning



Source: Survey conducted Sept. 14-28, 2017, among U.S. adults.

Where Americans Find Meaning in Life”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

IN THE BEGINNING

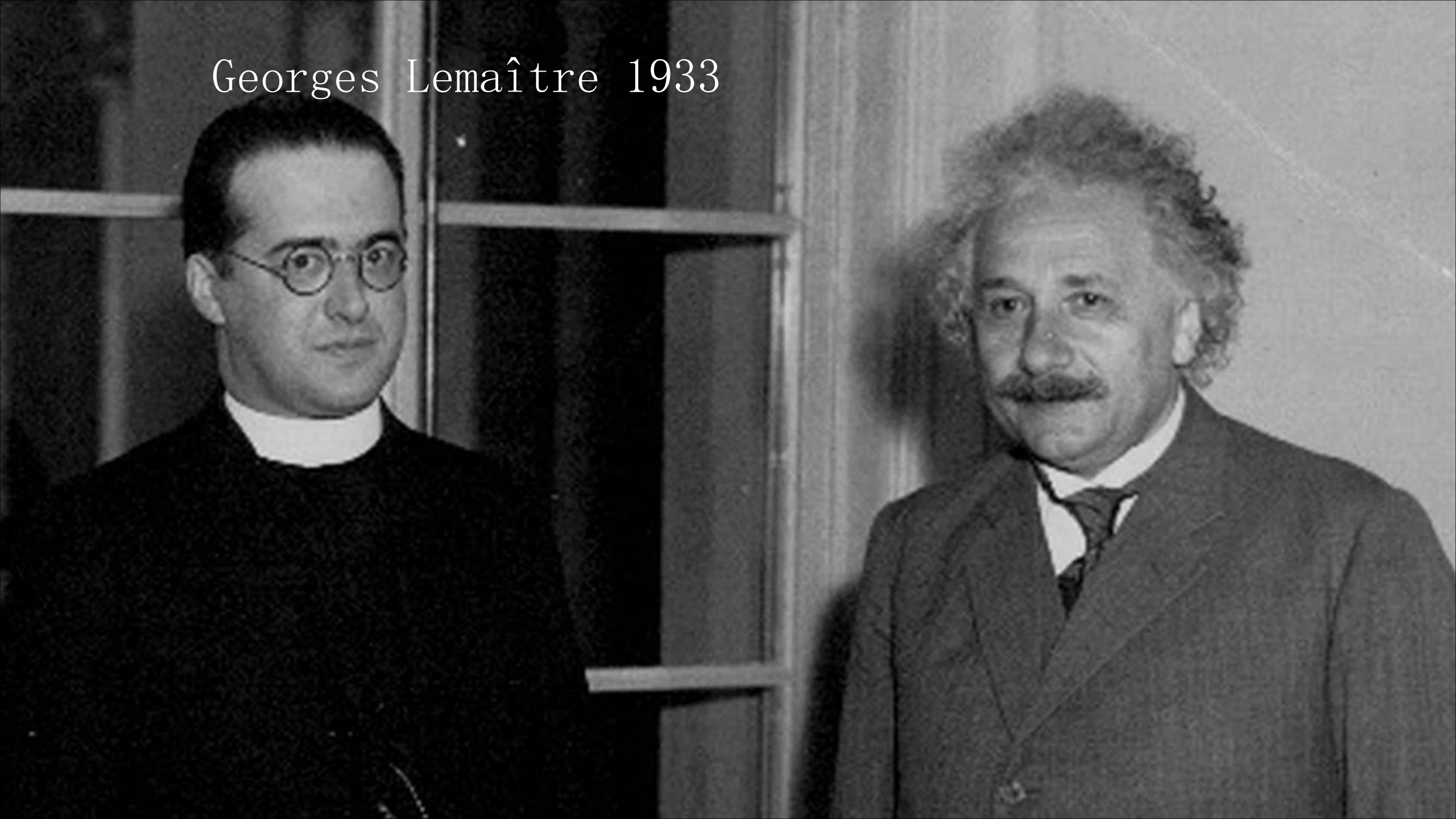
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created the heavens and the earth. 2
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hovering over the face of the waters.

NATURAL REVELATION

Psalms 19:1-2 (ESV) The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

2 Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.

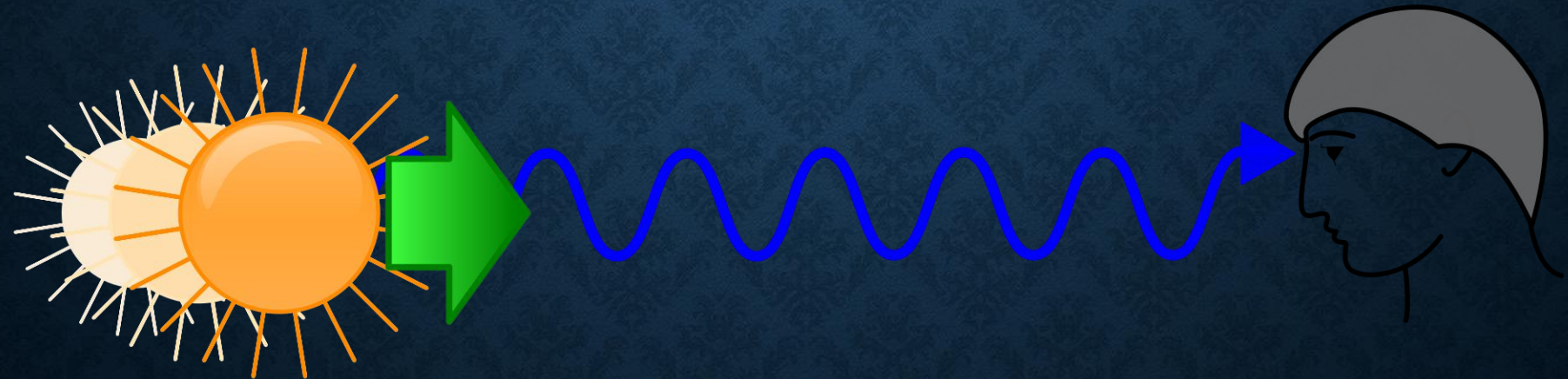
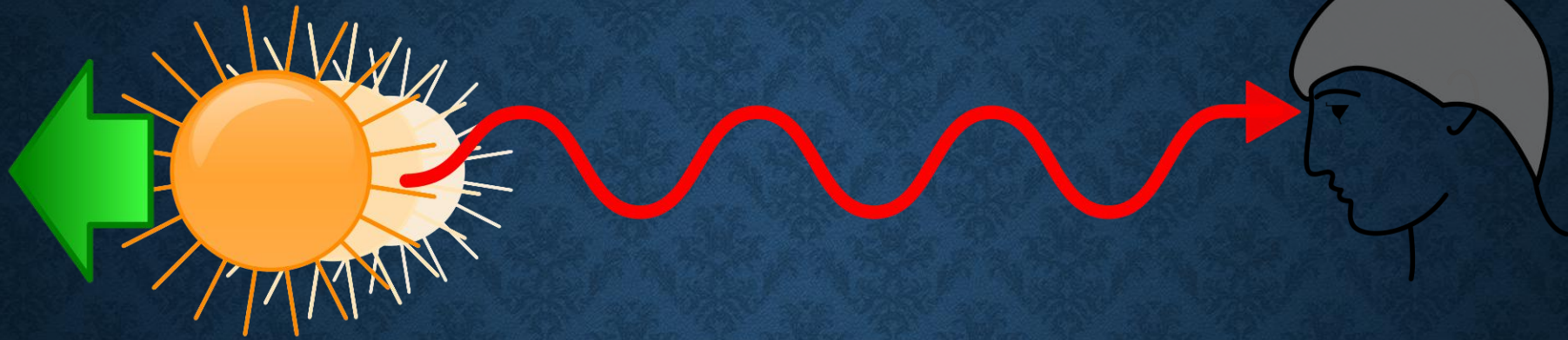
Georges Lemaître 1933





THE BIG BANG

RED SHIFT

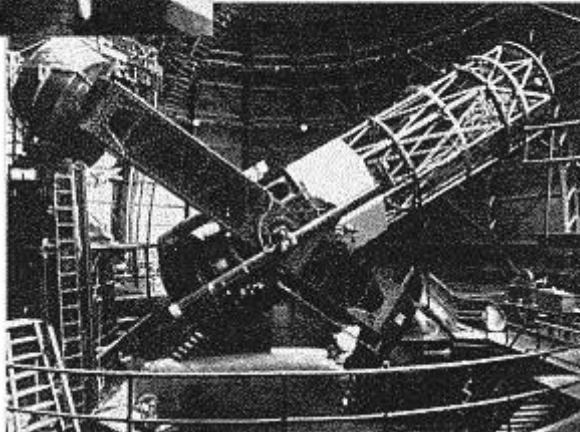
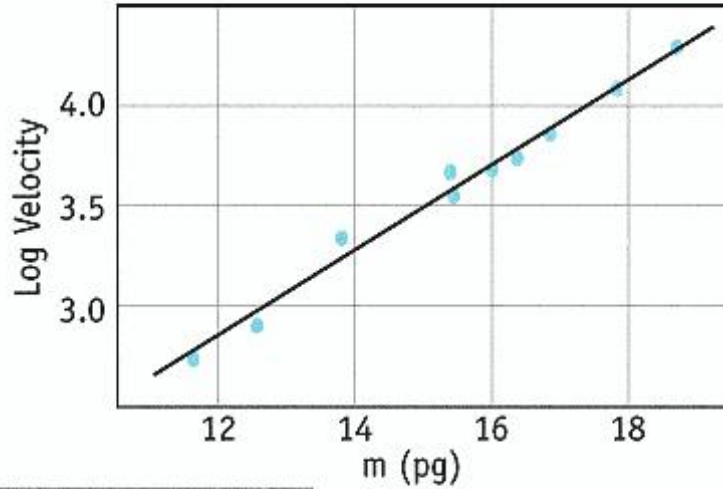


EDWIN HUBBLE

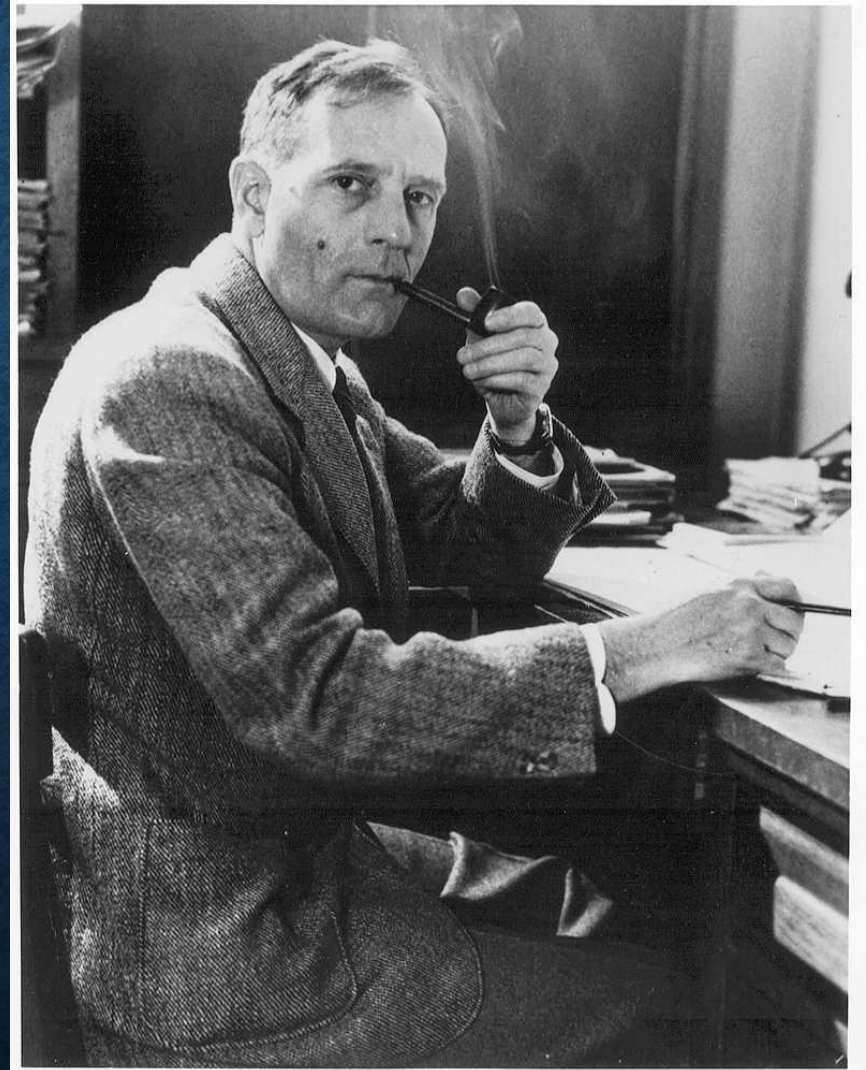
DISCOVERY OF EXPANDING UNIVERSE



Edwin Hubble



Mt. Wilson
100 Inch
Telescope



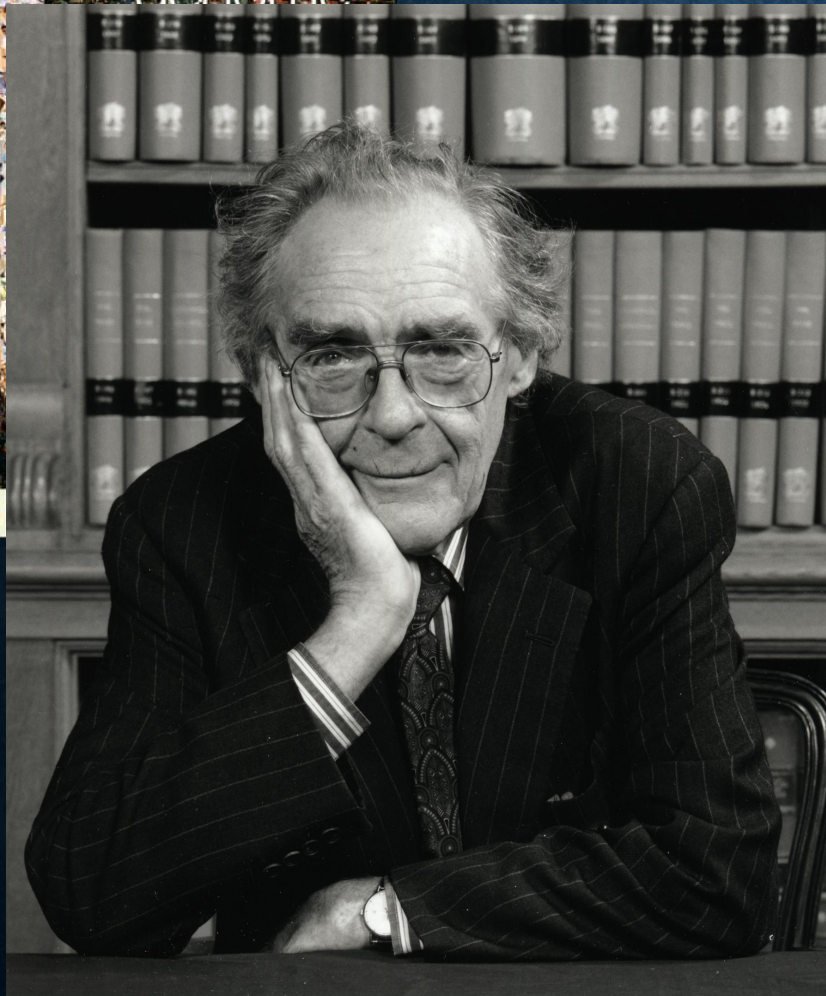
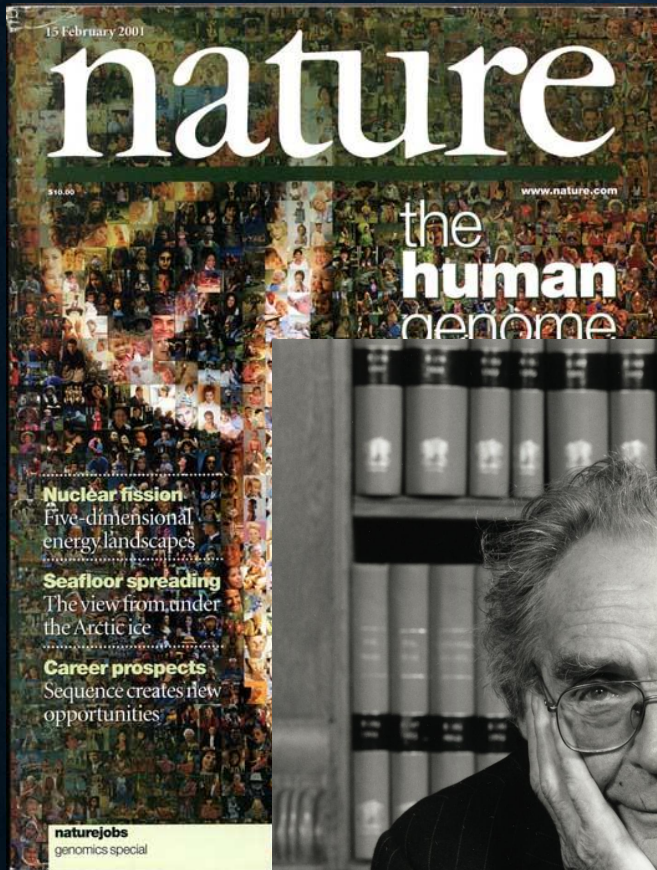


THE
UNCAUSED
CAUSE

GOD

THE KALAM COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

1. Whatever begins to exist has a cause of its existence,
2. The universe began to exist
3. Therefore, the universe has a cause of its existence.



SCIENTIFIC BIASNESS

“The idea of a beginning is thoroughly unacceptable because it implies ultimate origin of our world and it gives those who believe in the biblical doctrine of creation ample justification for their belief”

Sir John Maddox

MULTIVERSE

Ekpyrotic Universe

STRING THEORY



HAWKINGS DECLARES THERE IS NO GOD



"Because there is a law such as gravity, the universe can and will create itself from nothing," he writes. "Spontaneous creation is the reason there is something rather than nothing, why the universe exists, why we exist.

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PURPOSE

Significance :Why something matters

MEANING

A goal or a reason for something

VALUE

Good or evil , right or wrong

THE ABSENCE OF GOD

PURPOSE

Significance :Why something matters

Human illusions as there is just their

MEANING
appearance

with ~~not~~ ^{A goal or a reason} tangible value for something

VALUE

Good or evil ,
right or wrong



Life has no ultimate significance
and makes no difference to the
world's outcome.



Without God there is no broader
framework within which man's
life can be seen to matter.

“The fate of the sons of men and the fate of beasts is the same. As one dies so dies the other; indeed, they all have the same breath and there is no advantage for man over beast, for all is vanity. All go to the same place. All came from the dust and all return to the dust”

(Ecc1. 3:19 – 20 NASB).



SICKNESS DOES NOT MAKE SENSE

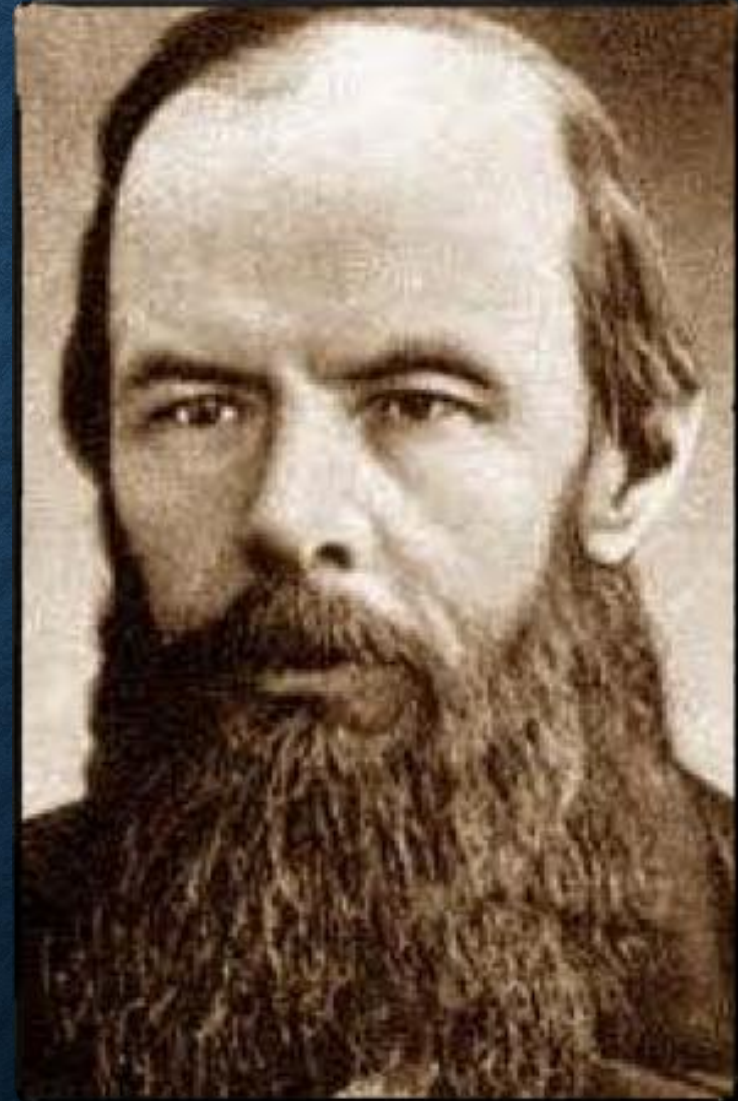
Job 3:11-13 Why did I not die at birth, come out from the womb and expire?

12 Why did the knees receive me?
Or why the breasts, that I should nurse?

13 For then I would have lain down and been quiet; I would have slept; then I would have been at rest,

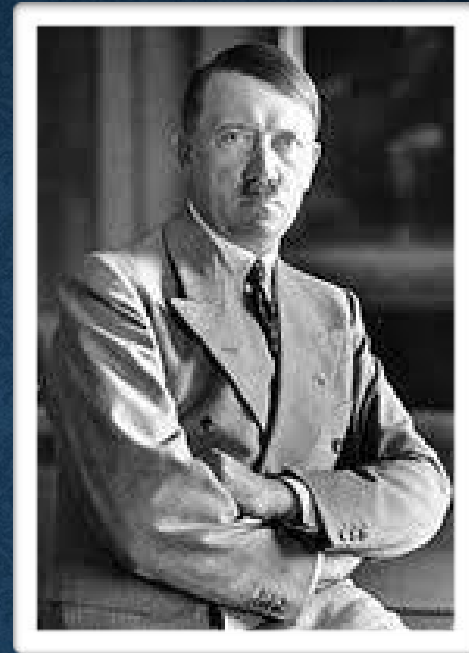
FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY

“If there is no immortality ...
then all things are permitted.”



Moral values are either just expressions of personal taste or the by-products of biological evolution and social conditioning.

DOES IT MATTER
HOW WE LIVE?



WHY ALL THE FUSS?

Los Angeles Times

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2004

U.S. troops posed with body parts of Afghan bombers

Soldier says he made photos public to draw attention to the safety risk of a breakdown in leadership, discipline.

BY DARRIN ZUCKERMAN

... After obtaining a few fingerprints, they posed next to the remains, again glancing and reaching for photographs.

Two soldiers posed holding a dead man's hand with the middle finger raised. A soldier leered over the bearded corpse while clutching the man's hand.

A SOLDIER ... a dead ... photos ...



DURATION DOES NOT
MATTER IF THERE IS NO
GOD



JEAN PAUL SARTRE

"several hours or
several years make
no difference once
you have lost
eternity."

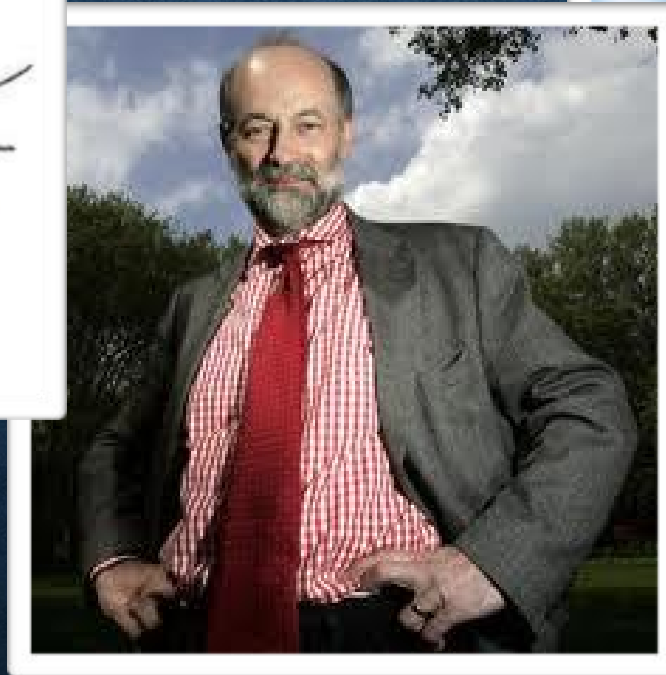


RICHARD DAWKINS

- “There is at bottom no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but pointless indifference. ... We are machines for propagating DNA. ... It is every living object’s sole reason for being”?



WHAT ULTIMATE DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?



BERTRAND RUSSEL

“we have no choice but
to build our lives upon
“the firm foundation of
unyielding despair.”



Bara= created out
of nothing

Genesis 1:1-2 In the beginning, God created the
heavens and the earth.

2 The earth was without form and void, and
darkness was over the face of the deep. And the
Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the
waters.

Genesis 1:1-2 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Lucifer falls into sin
God judges the earth
The Gap

2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God hovered over the waters.

Genesis 1:3-31

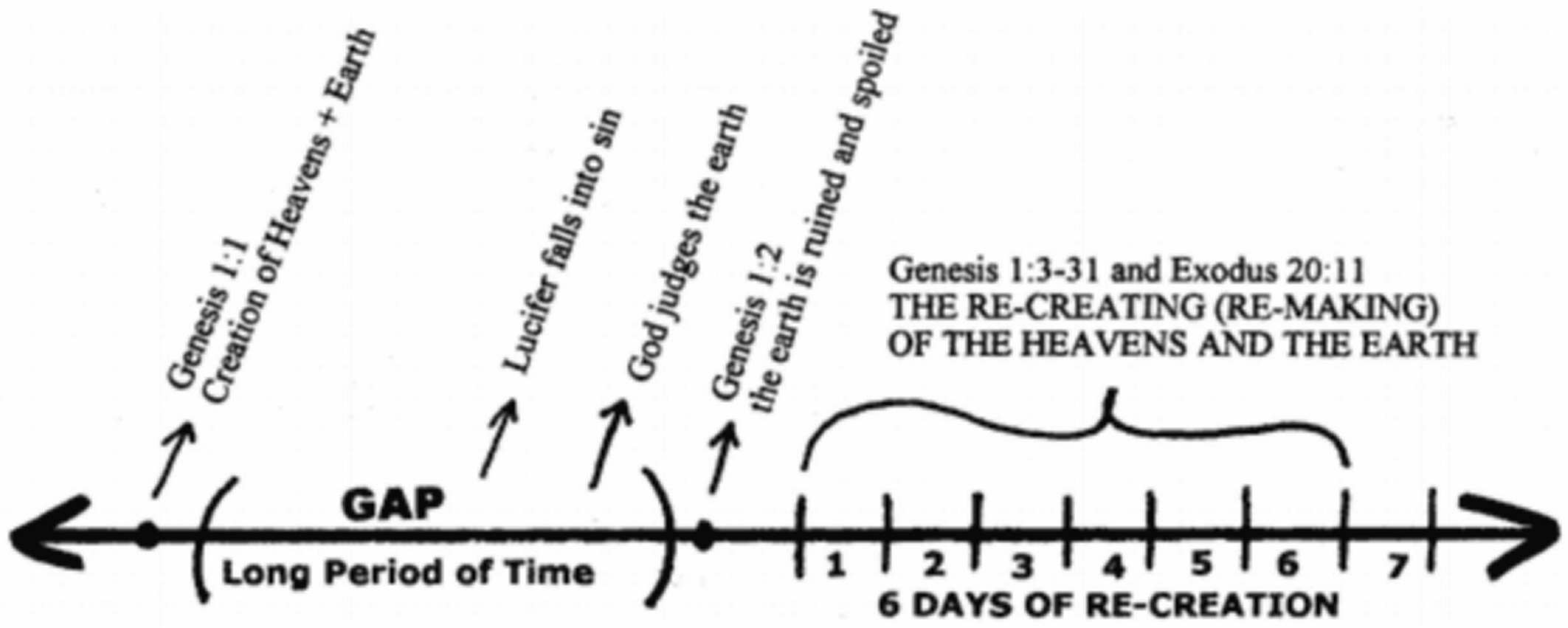
Creation =Re-Creation of Heavens and Earth

IV. The Flood to Babel (8. 1-11. 9). V. From the call of Abram to the death of Joseph (11. 10-50. 26).

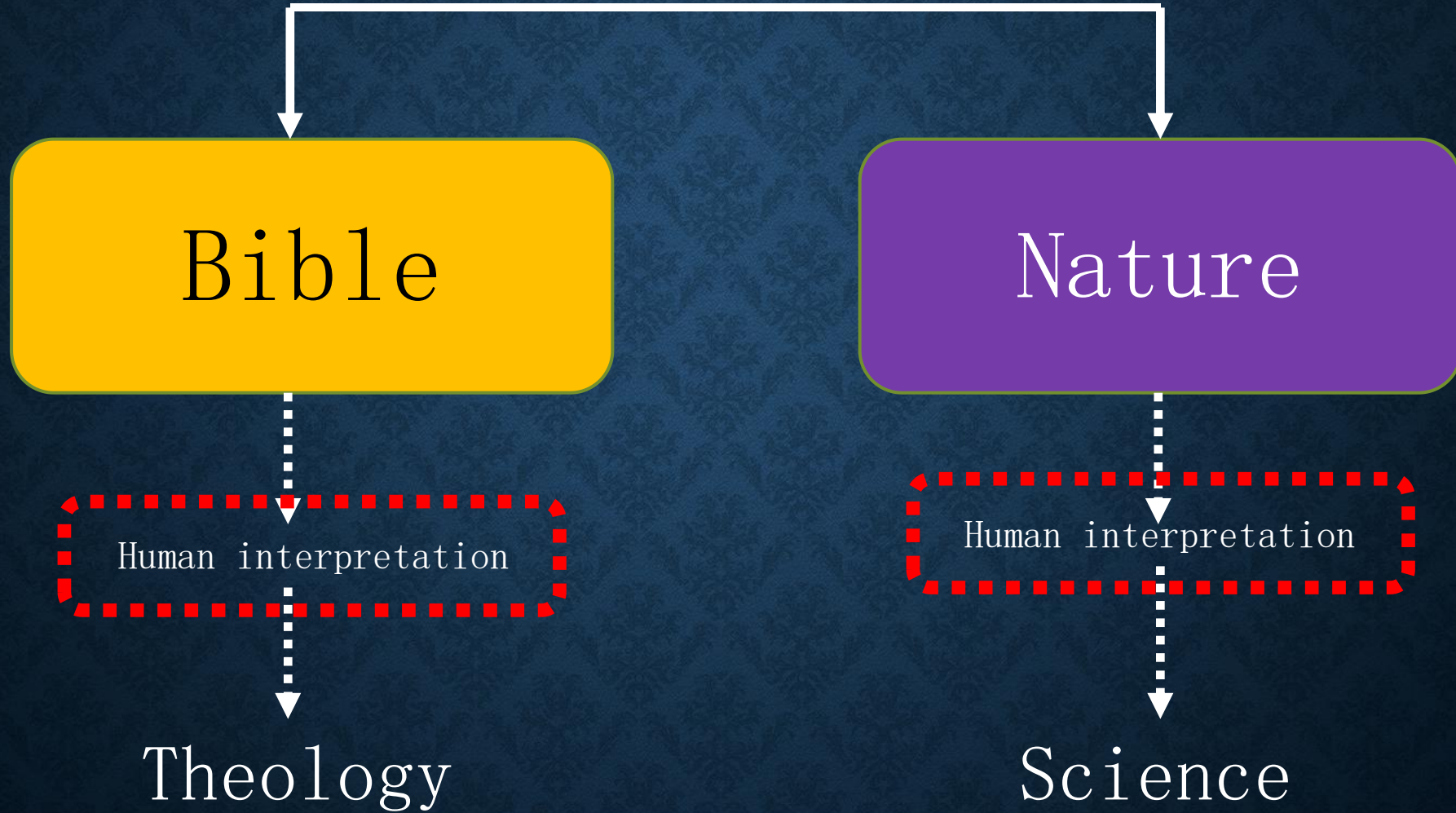
The events recorded in Genesis cover a period of 2,315 years (Ussher).

<p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER 1.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The original creation.</i></p> <p>IN the ^abeginning ^{1b}God ²created the heaven and the earth.</p> <p><i>Earth made waste and empty by judgment (Jer. 4. 23-26).</i></p> <p>² And the earth was ³without form, and void; and darkness was</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">B.C. 4004.</p> <p>^a John 1.1. ^b <i>Deity</i> (names of). Gen.2.4,7. (Gen.1.1; Mal.3.18.) ^c <i>Holy Spirit.</i> Gen.6.3. (Gen.1.2; Mal.2.15.) ^d Job 26.13. Psa.104.30.</p>	<p>upon the face of the deep. And ^cthe ^dSpirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The new beginning—the first day: light diffused.</i></p> <p>³ ✓ And <u>God</u> <u>said</u>, Let there be ⁴light: and there was light.</p> <p>⁴ And God saw the light, that <i>it</i></p>
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¹ *Elohim* (sometimes *El* or *Elah*), English form "God," the first of the three primary names of *Deity*, is a uni-plural noun formed from *El* = strength, or the strong one, and *Alah*, to swear, to bind oneself by an oath, so implying faithfulness. This uni-plurality implied in the name is directly asserted in Gen. 1. 26 (plurality), 27 (unity); see also Gen. 3. 22. Thus the Trinity is latent in *Elohim*. As meaning primarily the Strong One it is fitly used in the first chapter of Genesis. Used in the O. T. about 2500 times. See also Gen. 2. 4, *note*; 2. 7; 14. 18, *note*; 15. 2, *note*; 17. 1, *note*; 21. 33. *note*; 1 Sam. 1. 3. *note*.



GOD



Goal is to understand spiritual realities

Goal is to understand physical realities



BISHOP JAMES USSHER
ARCHBISHOP OF ARMARGH
IRELAND

- CREATION
- October 23, 4004 BC
- Day = 24hr

Millions and Millions of Years

B



GOD

Bible

Nature

Human interpretation

Human interpretation

Theology

Science Evolution

Adjust to
fit

Goal is to understand spiritual realities

Goal is to understand physical realities

Hebrews 11:3 (ESV) By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

SUMMARY OF STUDY 1

- Genesis is the basis of our world view and our world view is fundamental to the way we live
- Genesis needs to be read in its original context as Moses wrote it to Israel as a book about the origin and purpose of life. It is not a science book
- Genesis is exalted prose which is a historical narrative with poetic elements with use of imagery

SUMMARY OF STUDY 1

- Genesis is to be interpreted according to the “plain meaning” conveyed by its grammatical construction and historical context according to the author’s intent
- There was a beginning of the universe
- God is the cause of that beginning
- God is the one who gives purpose , meaning and value to our world
- There is no gap between verses 1 and 2