

***GOD, Man, Nature, Evil, Judgment/Salvation***

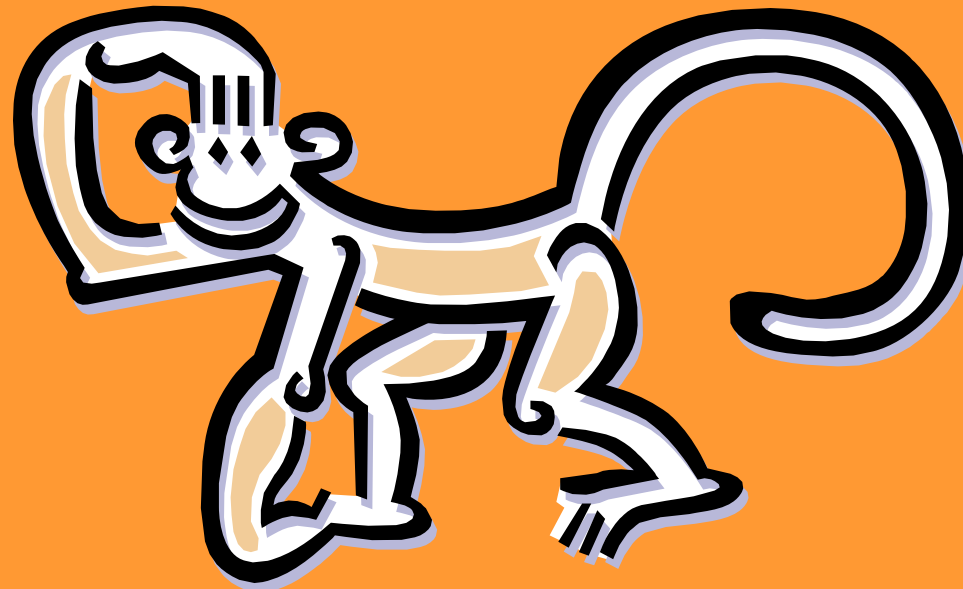
**Metaphysic -- Epistemology -- Ethics**

# **Evolution vs Intelligent Design**

**or**

# **Science vs Non-Science**

**By: Joe D'Eufemia**



# Definition of Theory

## Scientific

**“body of interconnected concepts, supported by scientific reasoning and experimental evidence that explains the facts in some area of study” or “that of which we are most certain” (Raven, 2004)**

## Colloquial

**implies a lack of knowledge or a guess  
(Raven, 2004)**

**Propositions**

*Categories*

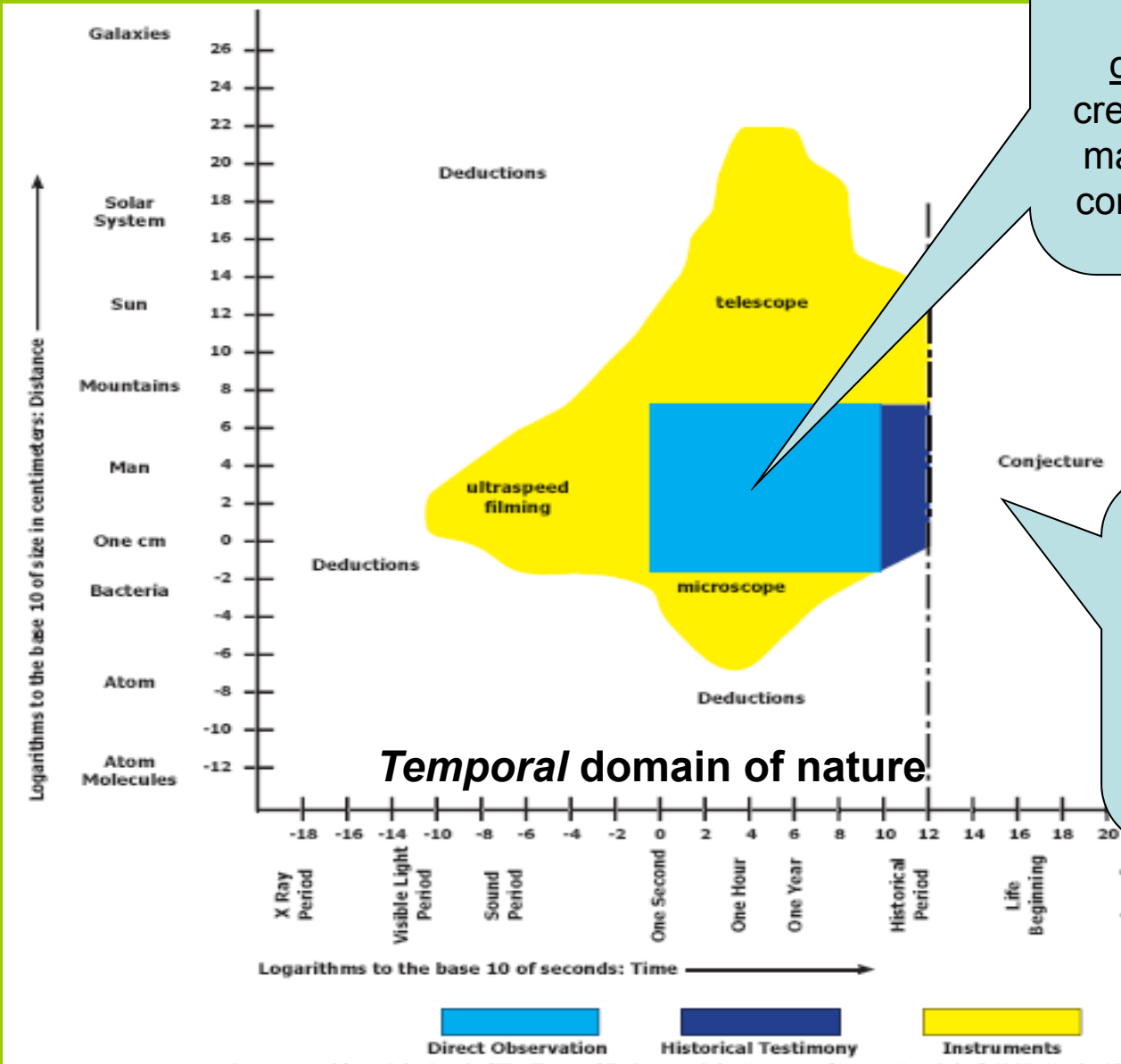


**Conclusions**

**Logical Rules**

# 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.

# Criteria for Scientific Theory

As articulated by US Supreme Court (Daubert vs Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, 1993)

- ... the methods must yield testable predictions by means of which the theory could be falsified (scientific method).
- The methods should preferably be published in a peer-reviewed journal.
- There should be a known rate of error that can be used in evaluating the results.
- The methods should be generally accepted within the scientific community.

(Wikipedia, 2005)

# Overview of Scientific Method

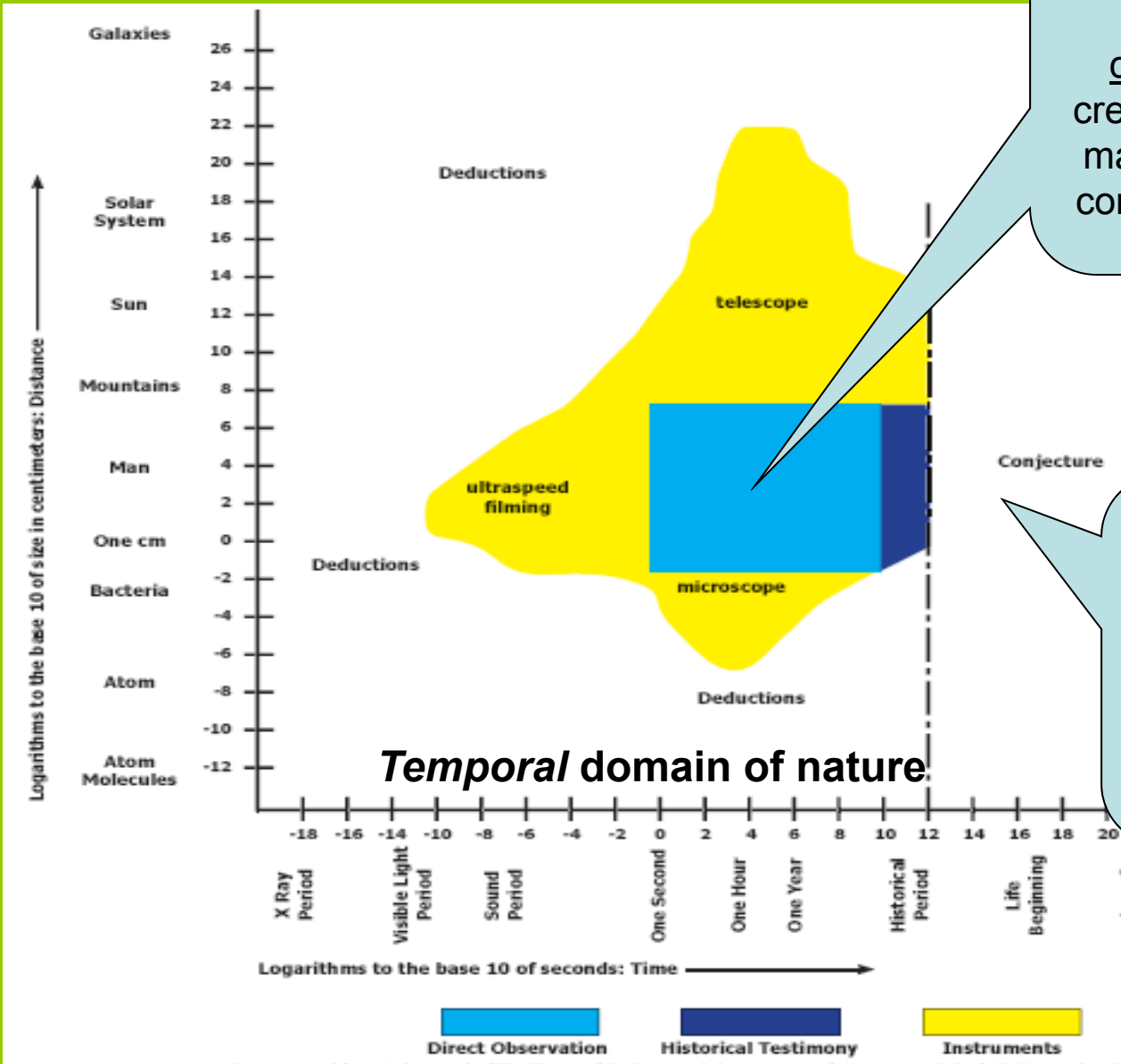
**“ever since the birth of science as we know it, a cardinal rule for theists and non-theists alike has been to limit scientific explanations to natural causes” ...Ron Numbers, Science Historian, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison (Roach, 2005)**

**“The scientific method is based on a methodological assumption of philosophical naturalism to study and explain the natural world, without assuming the existence or nonexistence of the supernatural”**

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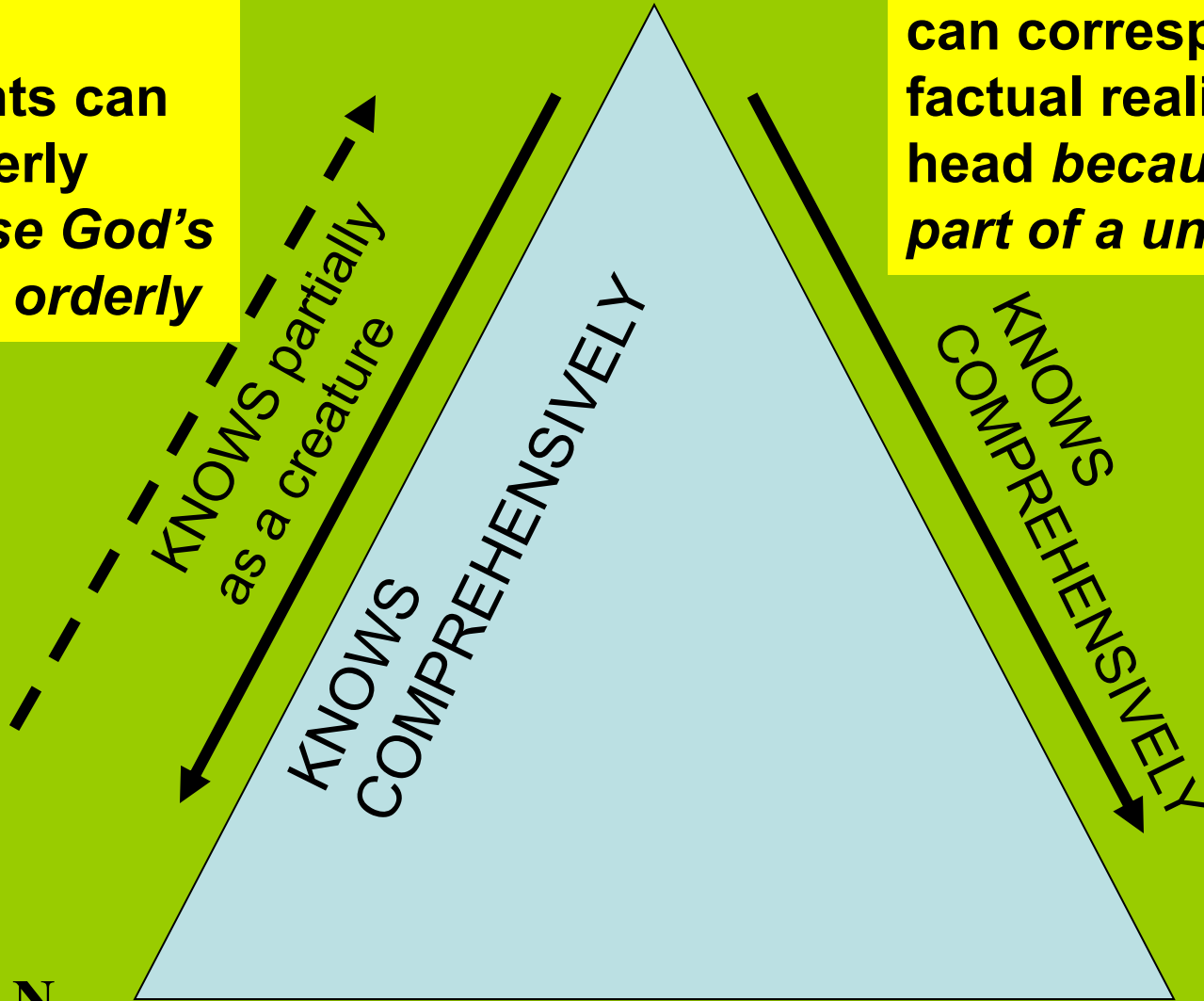
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**Consistency**  
criterion:  
man's  
thoughts can  
be orderly  
*because God's  
plan is orderly*

**Correspondence**  
criterion: 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**

# Methodological Naturalism

AFFIRMS	the existence of a type of rationality in nature that can be understood by man
AFFIRMS	that all religion is a product of man's reflection upon his experience
DENIES	the existence of historical (empirical, special) revelation
DENIES	that rationality can be maintained if divine intervention is allowed in nature

# Necessity of Constants

$$y = ax + b$$

# Logical Fallacy of Scientific Induction

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

=

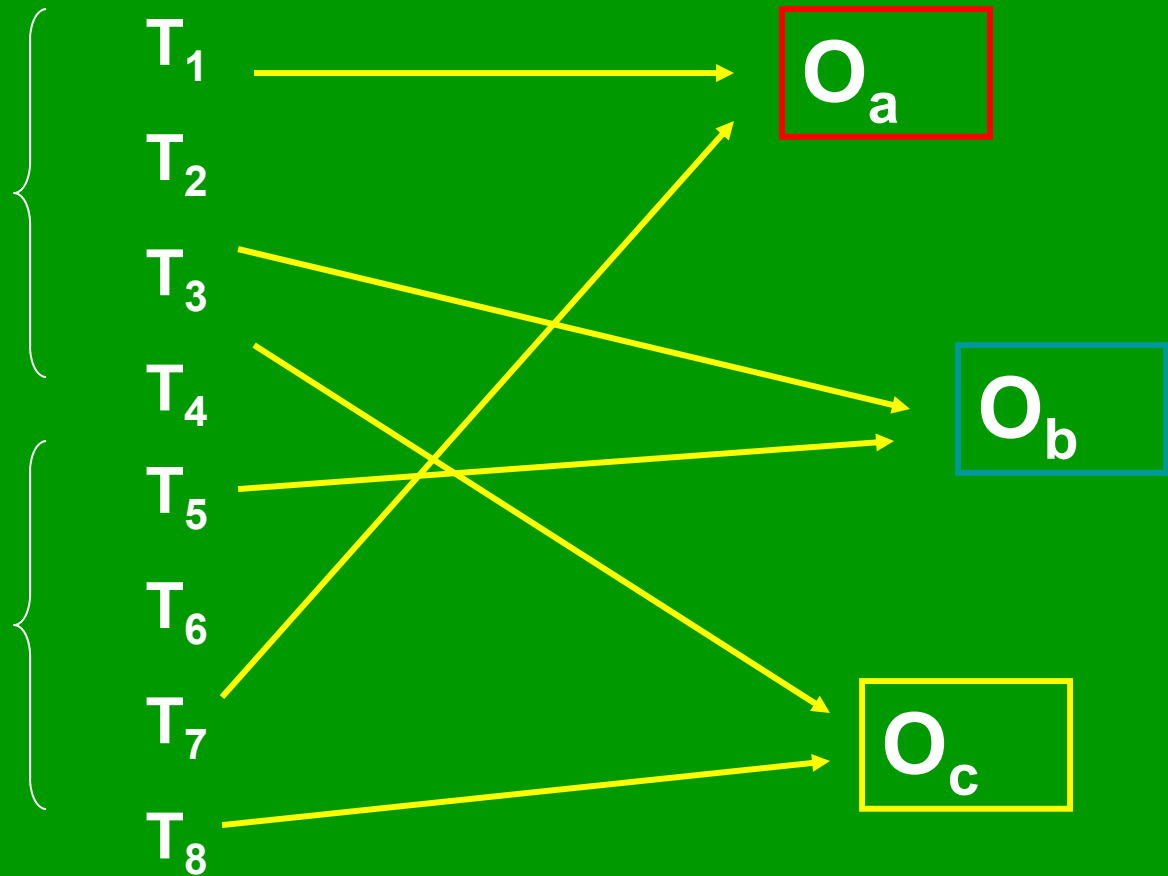
- **If** [millions of years of sedimentation], **then** [sedimentary rock layers]
- [Sedimentary rock layers] **exist**
- **Therefore** [millions of years of sedimentation]

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

# Multiple Theories & Worldviews

Materialism

Theism



**Pressure from Paganism & Syncretism ( $R_{nv}^p + R_v$ )**

**Systematic Theology ( $R_v + R_{nv}$  from philosophy)**

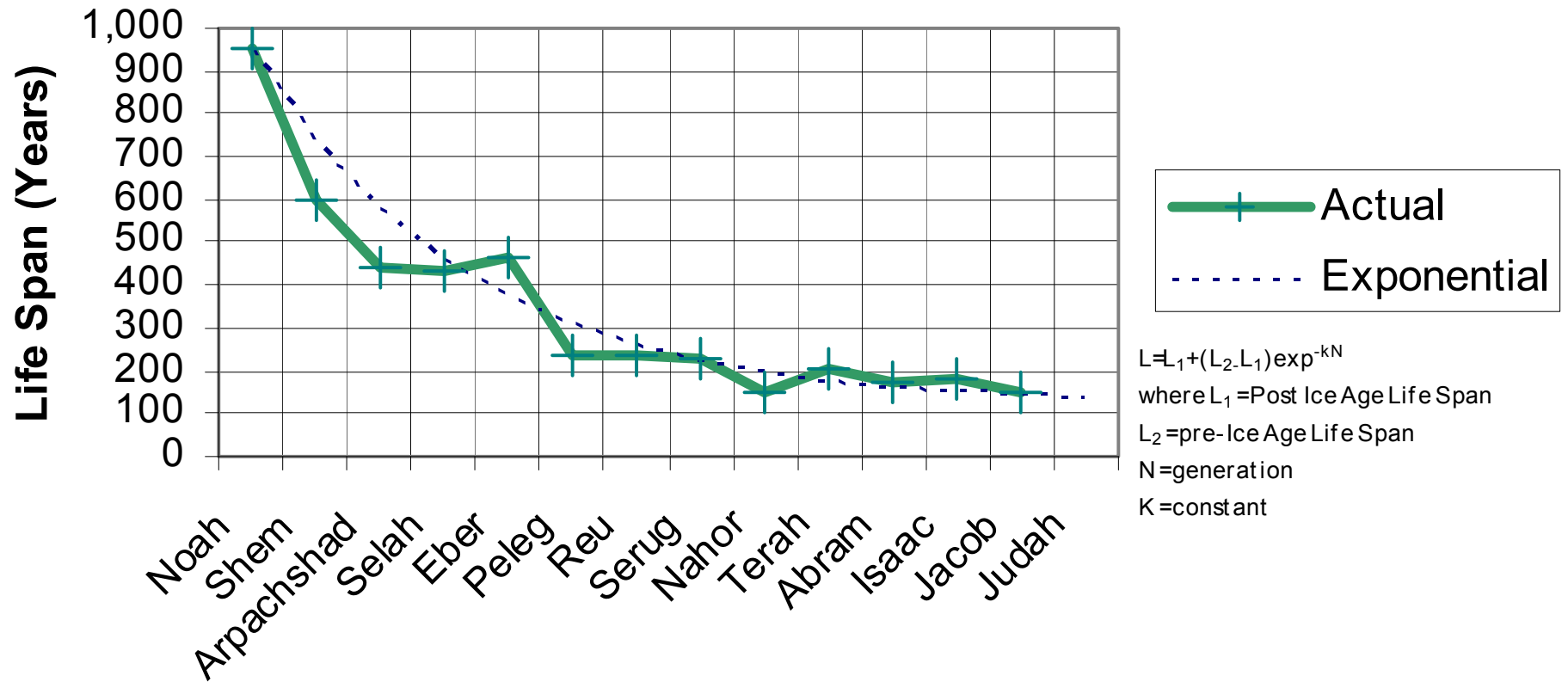
**Biblical Theology ( $R_v + R_{nv}$  from exegesis)**

**Exegesis ( $R_v + R_{nv}$  from OTI/NTI, genre, semantics, grammar, psychology)**

**Framework  
Approach**

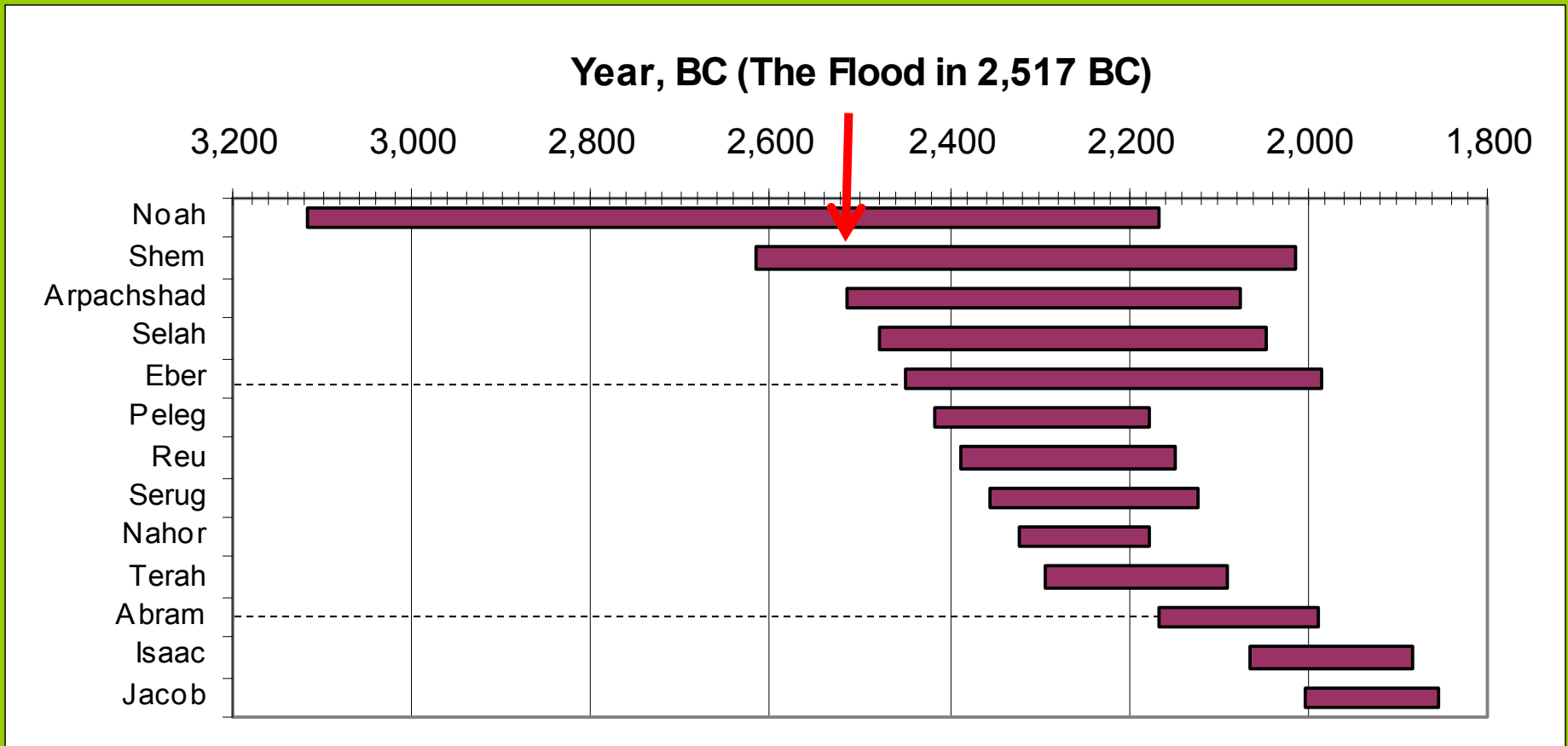
**Ministry:  
Evangelism &  
Christian Life**

# Longevity Decline after the Flood





# Simultaneity after the Flood



# The “Babel Temptation”

- 1. Lack of faith by people and leadership in God’s design & providence**
- 2. Rejection of transcendent ethical standards above the State**
- 3. Using coercive lethal power of civil authority to create a counterfeit Kingdom of God (State transformed from a preservative institution into a redemptive institution)**

**"Raised up by God to declare normative religion, it has been assailed from its beginning and repeatedly threatened with destruction and corruption, but God has graciously and miraculously preserved both the books of its content (the Old Testament) and the people as its bearer (Israel). Indeed the Old Testament is a missionary book and Israel a missionary people. . . .a channel, not a storehouse, of blessing"**

**G. W. Peters,  
*Biblical Theology of Missions* (?)**

# **The “Heathen Problem”**

- (1) NT says LJC is only way of salvation**
- (2) NT says “great commission”**
- (3) Vast numbers haven’t heard the NT gospel message**
- (4) Christianity is unjust to insist that no one can be saved who hasn’t heard the NT gospel message**

**“The appearance of Melchizedek at this precise point in Biblical history has significance dispensationally. The meeting of these two great figures, Abraham and Melchizedek, marks the end of an era and the beginning of a new order of things. As Westcott has said of the latter, ‘Before the fresh order is established we have a vision of the old in its superior majesty. . . .’”**

**Alva McClain,  
The Greatness of the Kingdom**

# Biblical Covenant Structure

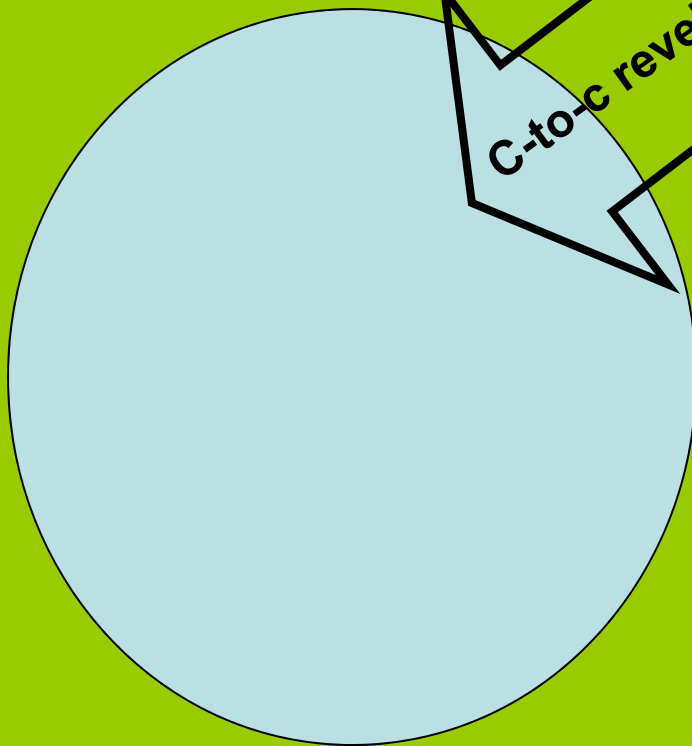
<b>Parties</b>	
<b>Terms</b>	
<b>Sign</b>	
<b>Inaugural sacrifice</b>	

**“To turn to Islam, the religion of all the prophets in its final form, is not to turn one’s back on the preceding prophets. It is an augmentation, rather than a conversion, because it does not involve changing one’s basic nature. In the Qur’an, pure human nature is a ‘Muslim nature,’ which knows its Lord and wishes to submit to Him. . .My substitute for the term ‘conversion’ is ‘reversion’ in the sense of a return to the pure monotheism in which we were all created.”**

**Jamal Badawi**

*God creates nature and man as nature's interpreter by language so that knowledge of God is the starting point for all predication*

**GOD Perfection of Q** (but He is “simple” = not made of “parts”; Q are modes of existence, not things)



**C-to-c revelation**

**God's attribute of Q can be known by analogy because all creation, including q, has been given revelatory significance according to biblical revelation**



**BEING**

**GOD Perfection of Q** (but He is “simple” = not made of “parts”; Q are modes of existence, not things)



Man imperfect form of Q (who knows only by abstracting intellectual concepts-forms-from experienced objects-matter & uses subject / predicate assertions)

***Thomas Aquinas’ doctrine of “analogy”***

The meaning of “Q” ascribed to God by the creature man who has only the experience of imperfect Q

“Univocal”: identical meaning

“Equivocal”: utterly different meaning

“Analogical”: similar meaning (but how can *any* concept/form be abstracted from God as they are from creature objects?)

## A Protestant Anti-Catholic Creed

"God, without any merit of mine, of mere grace, grants and imputes to me the perfect satisfaction, righteousness, and holiness of Christ, as if I had never had nor committed any sin, and myself had accomplished all the obedience which Christ rendered for me."

Heidelberg Catechism - 1563

## A Roman-Catholic Creed

**"If they were not born again in Christ, they would never be justified, since in that new birth there is bestowed upon them, through the merit of His passion, the grace whereby they are made just. . .justification is not only the bare remission of sins, but also sanctification and renewal of the inner man. . .The ban is placed on any who teach that man is justified through imputation of the righteousness of Christ. . .exclusive of the grace and love which is infused into the heart through the Holy Spirit."**

**Council of Trent 1545-1563**

## Faith = Assurance

"It is a firm and sure knowledge of divine favor toward us, founded on the truth of a free promise in Christ, and revealed to our minds, and sealed in our hearts, by the Holy Spirit. . . .When we so examine ourselves, however, it is not to see whether our holiness, our works, or the fruit of the Spirit in our lives warrant assurance of salvation.

Rather, it is to determine that such assurance rests on the proper foundation of God's mercy in Christ."

Calvin