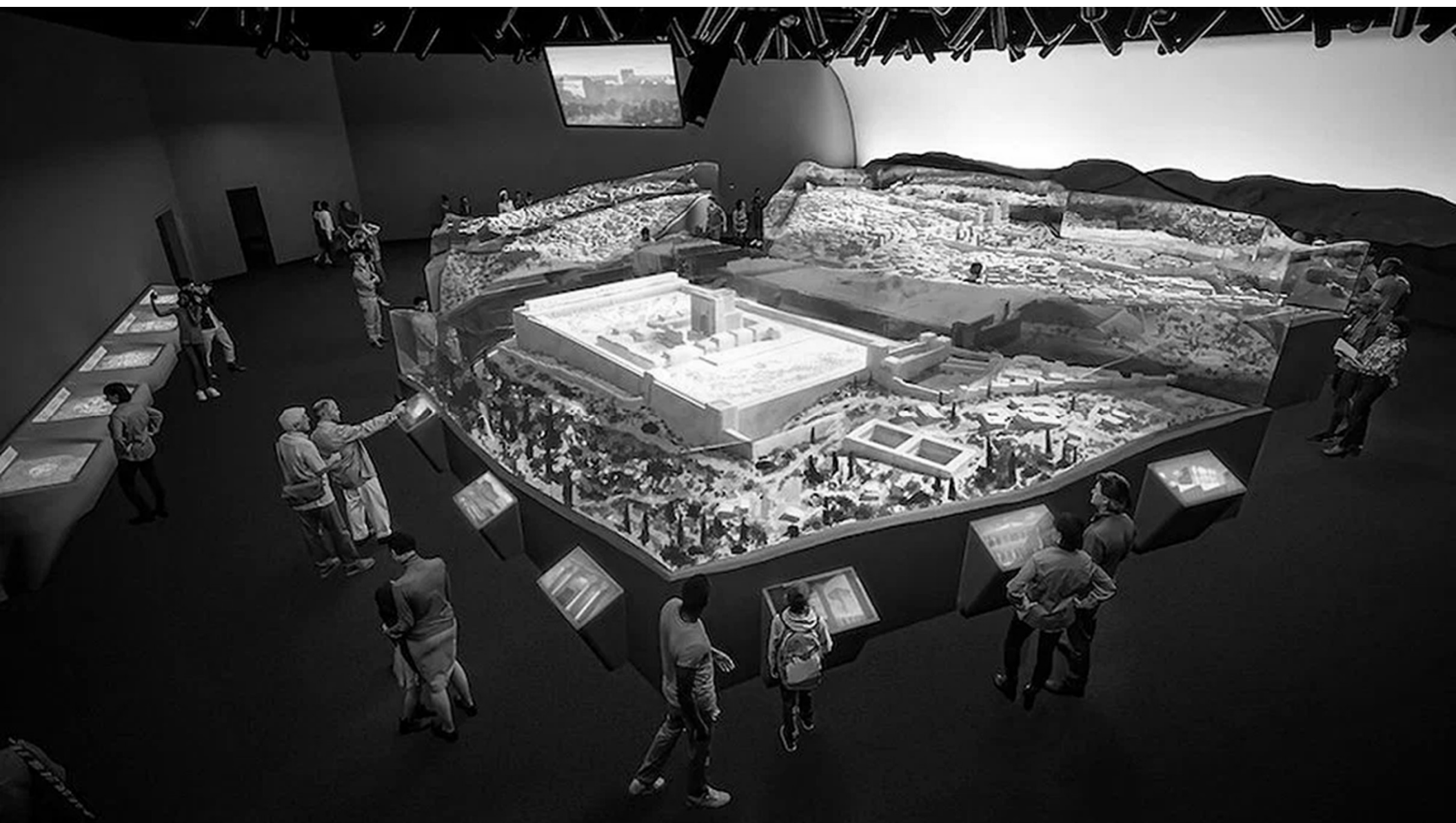


Improving Our Understanding of Scripture with Biblical Theology

Tim Chaffey, Th.M., D.Min.
Risen Ministries









What We Will Cover

- Define terms
- Four subjects relevant to the biblical creation model where biblical theology can enhance our understanding and defense of these passages
- Practical implications

Systematic Theology

- Find all available data on a given topic
 - Bible
 - History
 - Science
 - Philosophy
- Build cohesive teaching from this data

Systematic Theology

- Prolegomena (Introductory Matters)
- Bibliology (Bible)
- Theology Proper (God)
- Angelology (Angels)
- Protology (Creation)
- Hamartiology (Sin)
- Soteriology (Salvation)
- Ecclesiology (Church)
- Israelology (Israel)
- Eschatology (Last Things)

Systematic Theology

- Categorizes data into subjects
- Strengths
 - Considers all that Scripture says on a topic
 - *Helps avoid contradictory interpretations*
 - *Helps resolve difficult doctrines (Trinity, Jesus as both God and Man)*
 - Consistent with the way left-brained people think
 - *Helpful for teaching*

Systematic Theology

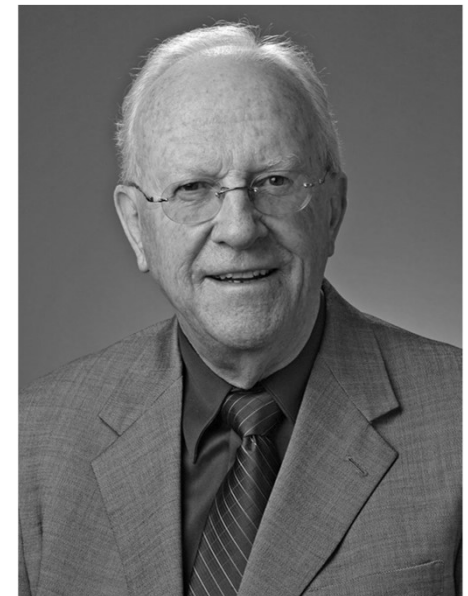
- Categorizes data into subjects
- Weaknesses
 - Potential to assume meaning and pull verses from context
 - Not the way the Bible was written – God gave us narrative instead of categories

Defining Biblical Theology

- Not just theology from the Bible
- Contrasted with systematic theology

Biblical Theology

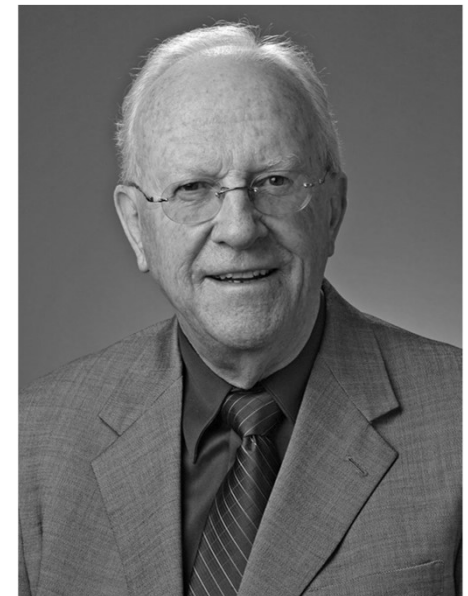
“The biblical theologian must work his way through the biblical text, inductively and progressively discovering its theological truth. In the process he may or may not discern patterns and paradigms, but he must make the effort to extract principles that provide the hard data for synthesis.”



Eugene Merrill, “Introduction” in Roy B. Zuck, ed., *A Biblical Theology of the Old Testament* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1991), p. 3.

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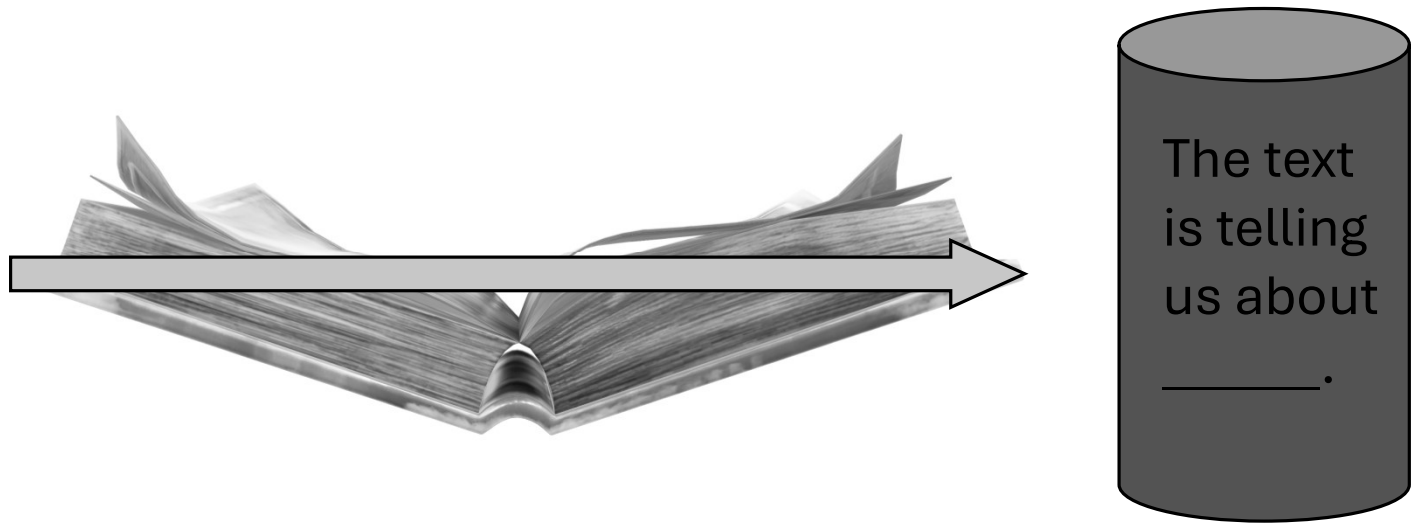
Inductive Approach

- Progressive Revelation
 - God gradually revealed himself and his plan over centuries
- The Bible was not written *to* us, but it was written *for* us.
 - Pentateuch – Israelites leaving Egypt, entering promised land

Inductive Approach

- What could/should they know?
 - Not “What did they know?”
- How and when could they know it?
 - Example – Noah novels
- Let the text establish the topics, themes, etc.

Biblical Theology



Biblical Theology

- Alternative view
 - Redemptive, NT priority
 - Common approach in covenant theology

Redemptive/NT Priority

“Biblical theology is a way of analyzing and synthesizing the Bible that makes organic, salvation-historical connections with the whole canon on its own terms, especially regarding how the Old and New Testaments progress, integrate, and climax in Christ.”

Jason DeRouchie, Oren Martin, and Andrew Naselli, *40 Questions about Biblical Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic, 2020), p. 20.

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Redemptive/NT Priority

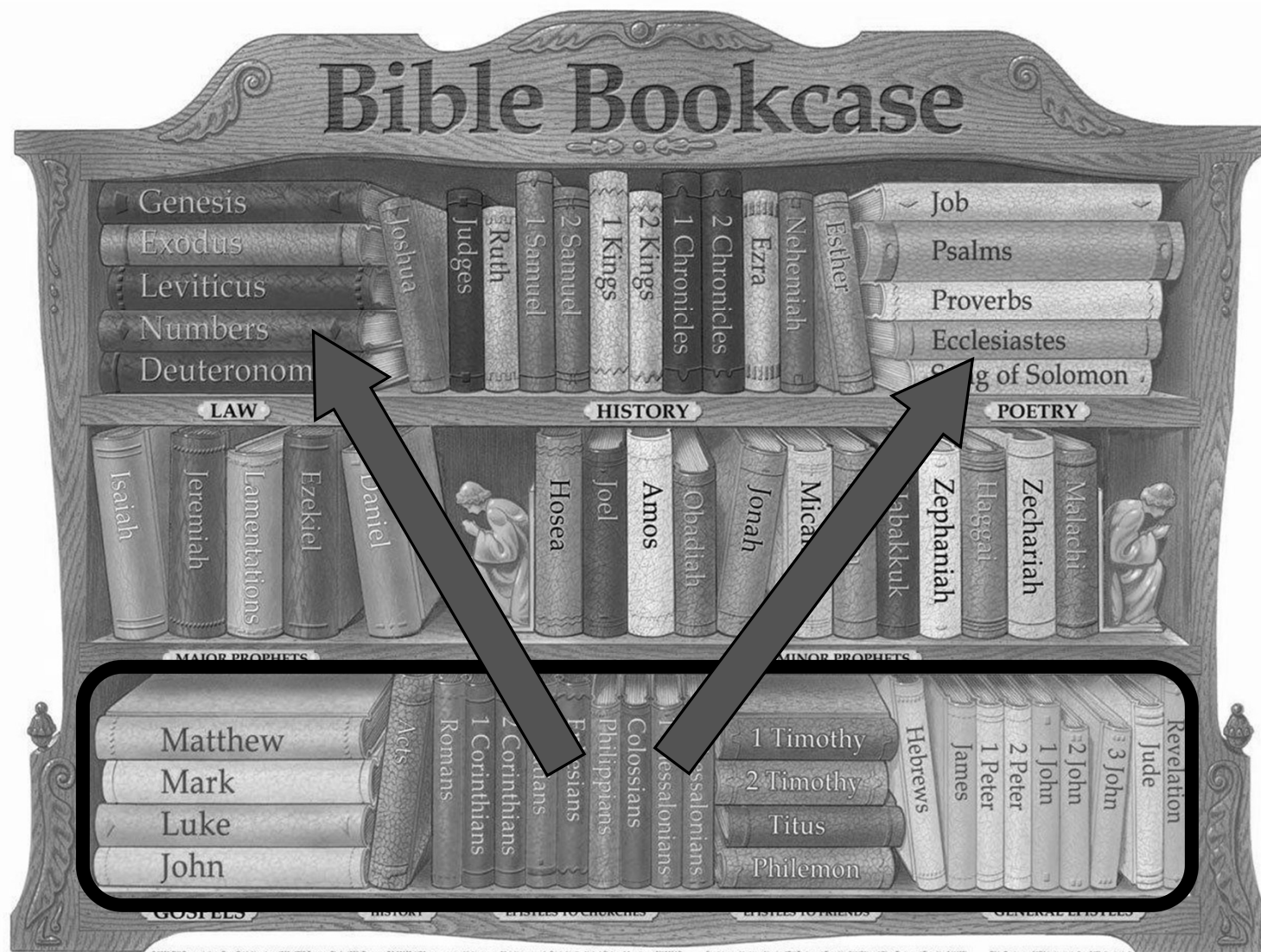
- Emphasis on human salvation through Christ
- NT used to (re)interpret OT
 - Often retcons meaning of OT passages to make them about Jesus/redemption
- Non-inductive – conclusion is already decided before beginning study

them. They get all the fruit of having fought the battle themselves.

This is a fundamentally different meaning than the one that arises from the non-Christocentric reading. There is, in the end, only two ways to read the Bible: is it basically about me or basically about Jesus? In other words, is it basically about what I must do, or basically about what he has done? If I read David and Goliath as basically giving me an example, then the story is really about me. I must summons up the faith and courage to fight the giants in my life. But if I read David and Goliath as basically showing me salvation through Jesus, then the story is really about him. Until I see that Jesus fought the real giants (sin, law, death) for me, I will never have the courage to be able to fight ordinary giants in life (suffering, disappointment, failure, criticism, hardship). For example how can I ever fight the “giant” of failure, unless I have a deep security that God will not abandon me? If I see David as my example, the story will never help me fight the failure/giant. But if I see David/Jesus as my substitute, whose victory is imputed to me, then I can stand before the failure/giant. As another example, how can I ever fight the “giant” of persecution or criticism? Unless I can see him forgiving me on the cross, I

Tim Keller, “Moralism vs. Christ-Centered Exposition”

www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/onsite/moralismkeller.html



Clarification

- New Testament can clarify, enhance, and inform our understanding of the Old Testament
- It cannot *change* the meaning of the original message
 - No biblical support for an “apostolic hermeneutic” that gave the apostles (or us) freedom to change the meaning of OT passages

How Can Biblical Theology Deepen Our Understanding of Creationist Positions?

The Days of Creation

- Creation movement has been led mostly by scientists/science educators – left-brained folks
- Relies heavily on systematic theology
 - We look at everything the Bible teaches on the topic and build our arguments from there.
 - These are good and legitimate arguments.

The Use of *Yom*

- Hebrew *Yom* = Day
 - When used with a number in historical narrative = 24-hour day
 - When used with evening/morning = 24-hour day
 - When used with night = 24-hour day

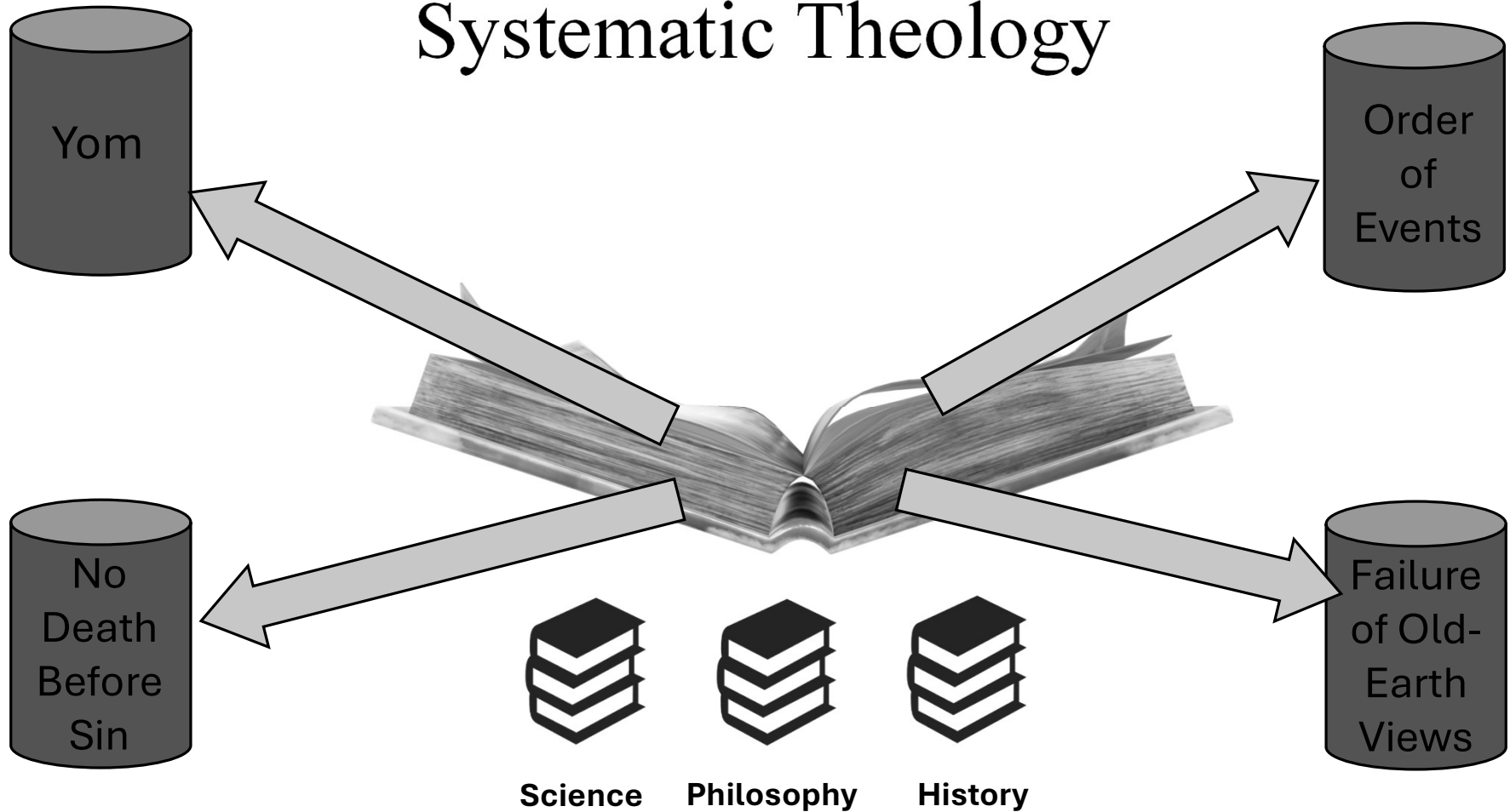
Logic of the Passage

- Plants on day 3, sun on day 4
 - If days were millions of years each, how could plants survive for millions of years?
 - Symbiotic relationships (plants and insects, plants and hummingbirds)

No Death Before Sin

- Death, suffering, diseases, thorns in fossil record
 - If the fossil record is millions of years old, then all of these were around when God said everything was “very good” (Genesis 1:31)
 - If physical death is not from Adam’s sin, then why is the solution to sin the death and resurrection of the Son of God?

Systematic Theology



Old-Earth Reinterpretations

- Attempts to harmonize with billions of years and/or evolution
 - Gap Theory
 - Day-Age Theory (Progressive Creation)
 - Framework Hypothesis
 - Cosmic Temple
 - Theistic Evolution

Old-Earth Reinterpretations Fail

- Systematic theology
 - Old-earth views contradict other passages of Scripture

TIM CHAFFEY & JASON LISLE

OLD-EARTH CREATIONISM ON TRIAL

THE VERDICT IS IN



Old-Earth Reinterpretations Fail

- Biblical theology
 - Original audience would never have come up with these views
 - And they never did

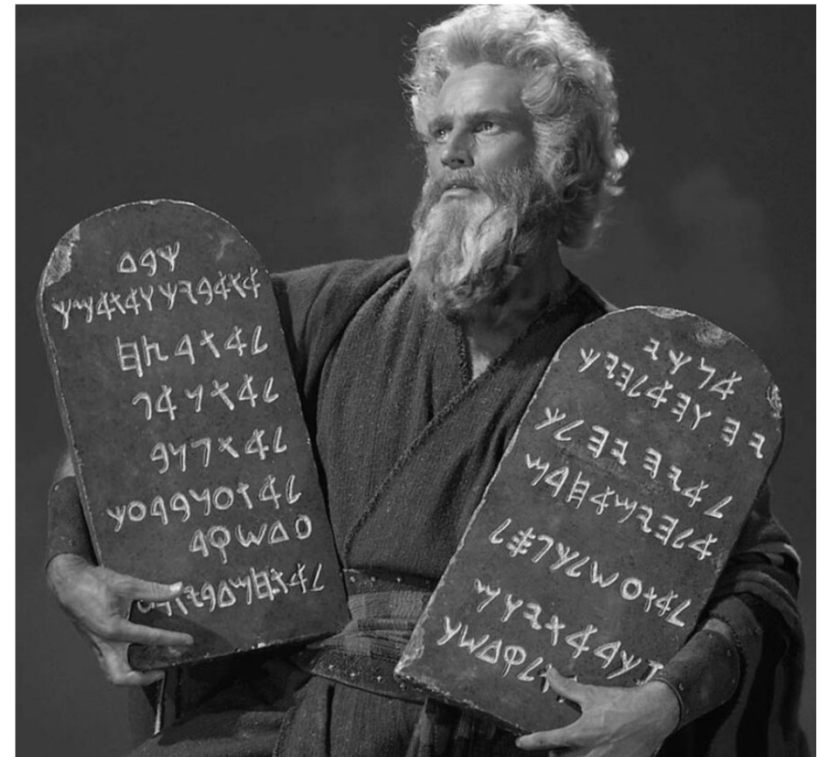
Biblical Theology Approach

- Author: Moses
- Original audience: Israelites at/after Mt. Sinai

Biblical Theology Approach

- Author: Moses
- Original audience: Israelites at/after Mt. Sinai
 - Oral history likely gave them some knowledge of the patriarchs and possibly some details about Genesis 1–11.

Which Came First?



Which Came First?

- Chronologically – Creation (obviously)
- Biblical Arrangement – Creation
- Revelatory Order –

Which Came First?

- Chronologically – Creation (obviously)
- Biblical Arrangement – Creation
- Revelatory Order – The Law
 - From the perspective of the Israelites at/after Sinai

Original Audience

- What could they know before receiving Genesis?
- Exodus 16:26 – Manna
 - “Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, which is a Sabbath, there will be none.”
- Exodus 20:8–11

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.

Exodus 20:8–11

For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

Exodus 20:8–11

Understanding Genesis 1

- How should the original audience have understood the days of Genesis 1?
 - They already knew Exodus 20:8–11, and they heard God speak these words at Sinai.
 - They already gathered food for six days and rested for one.

Understanding Genesis 1

- These were normal-length days, and there is no indication anywhere in the text that they would've considered them to be anything else.

120 Years

Countdown or Lifespan?

Then the Lord said, “My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.”

Genesis 6:3

Two Views

- Countdown view – God gave this warning 120 years before the flood, so mankind had 120 years to repent of their wicked ways.
- Lifespan view – God announced that man's lifespan was going to be greatly reduced (900+ → max. 120).

Countdown View

- Assumed by most creationists – why?
 - Often think systematically – this passage must be part of the flood narrative, so it's natural to link this wording to the flood.

Countdown View

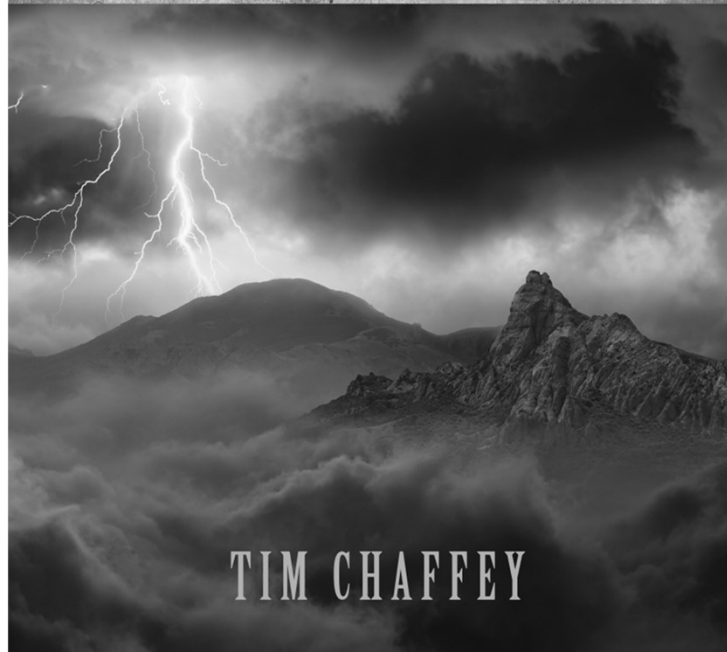
- Assumed by most creationists – why?
 - Lifespan view is presumably ruled out by the lifespans immediately following the flood.
Delayed judgment?
 - *Where does the text say that the limit would apply immediately?*
 - *The countdown is a delayed judgment of 120 years.*

Countdown Problems

- Genesis 6:3 does not mention the flood and is not part of the flood narrative.
 - It is part of the sons of God and the Nephilim narrative (6:1–4)

FALLEN

THE SONS OF GOD AND THE NEPHILIM



TIM CHAFFEY

Countdown Problems

- Who did God say these words to?
 - No addressee mentioned
 - *Genesis 1:3, 6, 9...26–27*
 - *Genesis 2:18; 2:22; 6:3, 7; 8:21; 11:6*

Countdown Problems

- Who did God say these words to?
 - Addressees mentioned
 - *Them (Adam and Eve) – Genesis 1:28*
 - *The woman – Genesis 3:13*
 - *The serpent – Genesis 3:14*
 - *Adam – Genesis 3:17*
 - *Cain – Genesis 4:6*
 - *Noah – Genesis 6:13*

Countdown Problems

- If no one heard God say this, how would anyone know they had 120 years?
 - The text never tells us how man responded to this specific statement.
 - Compare with Jonah's 40-day warning and the people's response.

Original Audience

- Israelites during wilderness wandering
- What did they just hear/read?
 - Genesis 5

Genesis 5

- Adam lived...930 years, and he died. (v. 5)
- Seth...912 years, and he died. (v. 8)
- Enosh..905 years, and he died. (v. 11)
- Kenan...910 years, and he died. (v. 14)
- Methuselah...969 year, and he died (v. 27)

Genesis 5

- Would you have a burning question while reading/hearing this chapter?
 - Same for first-time readers today
 - Why don't we live so long?
How could they live so long?

Lifespan View

- Lifetimes dropped regularly from Noah (950) to Moses (120).
 - How many people have surpassed 120 since Moses?
 - “But Jehoiada grew old and full of days, and died. He was 130 years old at his death.” (2 Chronicles 24:15)

Lifespan View

- Is Jeanne Calment an exception? (1875–1997?)
 - Jeanne (1875–1934)
 - Her daughter Yvonne (1898–1997) assumed her mother's identity in 1934, presumably to avoid high inheritance taxes in France.
 - *She made several slipups in interviews and ordered that all family pictures be burned when she became famous.*
- **Read 2018 paper by Nikolay Zak debunking Calment's alleged longevity.

What Did Ham Do?

Why Was Canaan Cursed?

Rated PG-13 (I'll use PG language)

The sons of Noah who went forth from the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the people of the whole earth were dispersed.

Noah began to be a man of the soil, and he planted a vineyard. He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent.

Genesis 9:18–21

And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside. Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned backward, and they did not see their father's nakedness. When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him,

Genesis 9:22–24

he said, “Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be to his brothers.”

He also said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem; and let Canaan be his servant. May God enlarge Japheth, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem, and let Canaan be his servant.”

Genesis 9:25–27

Four Views on Ham's Sin

- Ham saw Noah naked
- Ham emasculated Noah
- Paternal incest
- Maternal incest

View 1: Ham Saw Noah Naked

- Seems to be the straightforward reading of the text.
- The “safe” option.

View 1: Explanatory Power

- Why was Canaan cursed?
 - Canaan was cursed because “he, along with his older brothers [Cush, Mizraim, and Phut], has inherited the carnal and materialistic nature of his father Ham.”
 - Henry Morris, *The Genesis Record*, p. 237.
- No mention of Canaan’s brothers being cursed.

View 1: Problems

- Why did Ham tell his brothers?
 - Mocking Noah?
- Do the brothers' actions make sense?
 - Where does the Bible call it a sin for a man to see his father naked?
- Unsatisfactory explanation for Canaan being cursed

View 2: Ham Emasculated Noah

- The text gives no indication that Ham did this.
- Based on v. 24 – “what his youngest son had done to him” and a loose resemblance to a Greek myth.
 - As Ouranos prepared to lie with Gaia, their sons (the titans) seized him, and their youngest, Kronos castrated him.
 - *One of these titans is named Iapetos (Japheth).*

View 2: Explanatory Power

- Potential explanation for cursing of Canaan
 - Since Ham prevented Noah from having a fourth son, he cursed Ham's fourth son.

View 2: Problems

- Why did Ham tell his brothers?
 - What does he have to gain?
- Why did his brothers walk backward to cover their father's nakedness instead of trying to care for a significant wound?
- Weak explanation for Canaan being cursed

View 3: Paternal Incest

- Ham violated his father while he was passed out.
- Based on v. 24 – “what his youngest son had done to him”
- Gained more popularity in recent years.

View 3: Problems

- Why was Canaan cursed?
 - No explanation, other than perhaps the same as the first view.

View 3: Problems

- Why would Ham tell his brothers?
- Why would the author write it in such a cryptic way when he was willing to use a euphemism to explain what the men of Sodom wanted to do to Lot's angelic visitors?
 - Very thin argumentation

View 4: Maternal Incest

- Ham violated his mother.
- Leviticus reveals that seeing one's nakedness = uncovering one's nakedness = intercourse

If a man takes his sister, a daughter of his father or a daughter of his mother, and sees her nakedness, and she sees his nakedness, it is a disgrace, and they shall be cut off in the sight of the children of their people. He has uncovered his sister's nakedness, and he shall bear his iniquity.

Leviticus 20:17

If a man lies with his father's wife, he has uncovered his father's nakedness; both of them shall surely be put to death; their blood is upon them.

Leviticus 20:11

You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, which is the nakedness of your mother; she is your mother, you shall not uncover her nakedness.

Leviticus 18:7

Cursed be anyone who lies with his father's wife, because he has uncovered his father's nakedness.

Deuteronomy 27:20

View 4: Maternal Incest

- Ham violated his mother.
- Seeing one's nakedness = uncovering one's nakedness = intercourse

View 4: Explanatory Power

- This is how Ham became “the father of Canaan”
- Why was Canaan cursed?
 - He was the child of an illicit relationship
- Why would Ham tell his brothers?

Similar Cases

- Reuben with Jacob's concubine Bilhah (Genesis 35:22)
 - Lost his birthright as firstborn
- Absalom with ten of David's concubines (2 Samuel 16:22)
- Adonijah requested that Abishag be given as a wife (1 Kings 2:17)
- Apparently, this was a power move – he who has the harem controls the kingdom.

View 4: Explanatory Power

- Who were Canaan's descendants?
 - The people the Israelites were getting ready to conquer/displace

View 4: Explanatory Power

- Compare with the origin of the Moabites and Ammonites
 - Genesis 19:36–38 – Lot and his daughters
- The people that would continue to be a thorn in Israel's side and lead them into idolatry had shameful origins and/or cursed lineages.
 - Genesis also tells us the origin of the Edomites.

Does Isaiah 14 Describe Satan's Fall?

Was He Ever Called Lucifer in the Bible?

Look how you have fallen from the sky, O shining one, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the ground, O conqueror of the nations!

Isaiah 14:12, NET

You said to yourself, “I will climb up to the sky. above the stars of El. I will set up my throne. I will rule on the mountain of assembly on the remote slopes of Zaphon.

Isaiah 14:13, NET

I will climb up to the tops of the clouds; I will
make myself like the Most High!”
But you were brought down to Sheol, to the
remote slopes of the pit.

Isaiah 14:14–15, NET

Context

- Announcement of judgment on the king of Babylon
 - Isaiah 14:3–23

Lucifer?

- “How art thou fallen from heaven, O *Lucifer*, son of the morning!” (v. 12, KJV)
 - Based on Latin – *lux* + *ferre* (“light bearer/bringer”)
- Hebrew – *helel ben shachar*
 - Morning star, son of the dawn
 - Venus or crescent moon

Biblical Theology

- What could people of Isaiah's time know about Satan?
 - He attacked Job.
- The serpent is not linked with Satan in the OT.
 - We learn this in 2 Cor. 11 and Rev. 12

Biblical Theology

- What could people of Isaiah's time know about Satan?
 - He attacked Job.
- 1 Chronicles 21 – should be “an adversary” led to David ordering a census
 - Not “the adversary” (i.e., Satan)

Biblical Theology

- What could people of Isaiah's time know about Satan?
 - He attacked Job.
- Zechariah 3 is after Isaiah.

Canaanite Mythology

- Isaiah written in late 8th century BC
- Israelites frequently fell into the pagan worship of Baal and Asherah

El called to Lady Asherah of the Sea:
“Listen, Lady Asherah of the Sea: Give me
one of your sons, so I may make him king.”
And Lady Asherah of the Sea replied:
“Why not make Yadi-Yalhan king?”

The Baal Cycle, Tablet 6, Column 1

Michael D. Coogan, Mark S. Smith, ed. and trans., *Stories from Ancient Canaan*, 2nd ed.

But El the Kind, the Compassionate, replied:
“He’s too weak to race; he can’t compete in
spear-throwing with Baal; compared with
Dagan’s son, he’d collapse.”

The Baal Cycle, Tablet 6, Column 1

Michael D. Coogan, Mark S. Smith, ed. and trans., *Stories from Ancient Canaan*, 2nd ed.

And Lady Asherah of the Sea replied:
“Why not make Athtar the Awesome king?
Let Athtar the Awesome be king!”

The Baal Cycle, Tablet 6, Column 1

Michael D. Coogan, Mark S. Smith, ed. and trans., *Stories from Ancient Canaan*, 2nd ed.

Then Athtar the Awesome went up to the heights of Zaphon; he sat on Baal the Conqueror's throne. His feet did not reach the footstool, his head did not reach the headrest.

The Baal Cycle, Tablet 6, Column 1

Michael D. Coogan, Mark S. Smith, ed. and trans., *Stories from Ancient Canaan*, 2nd ed.

And Athtar the Awesome spoke:
“I can’t be king on the heights of Zaphon.”
Athtar the Awesome descended, descended
from the throne of Baal the Conqueror...

The Baal Cycle, Tablet 6, Column 1

Michael D. Coogan, Mark S. Smith, ed. and trans., *Stories from Ancient Canaan*, 2nd ed.

Athtar

- He tried to ascend to the throne on Mt. Zaphon.
 - He didn't measure up and was humiliated and stepped down.
 - In South Arabian and NW Semitic cultures, Athtar is associated with Venus, the “morning star”

King of Babylon

- Isaiah compares the king's pride to the lesser Canaanite deity, Athtar.
- He sought to become the chief god, but he was humbled and brought low.

Satan's Fall?

- Not described in Isaiah 14
- Probably hinted at in Ezekiel 28
- Possibly described in Genesis 3
- Was it rooted in pride?

Objections

- Jesus implied that this passage is about Satan
 - The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!”
And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.”
 - *Luke 10:17–18*
- What’s the context?

Objections

- Doesn't Revelation 12 describe Satan's fall?
 - Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.
 - *Revelation 12:7–9*

Objections

- Doesn't Revelation 12 describe Satan's fall
 - Most likely a future event.
 - The context puts it after Jesus' ascension.
 - It describes a certain 3.5-year period, which many believe is part of a future tribulation period.

Biblical Theology

- Why would the disciples assume that Jesus referred to Isaiah 14, when their Scriptures had not made those connections yet?
 - The linking of Isaiah 14 with Satan developed around the 4th–5th century.

Some Other Topics We Could Have Covered

- The sons of God (Genesis 6:2, 4)
- The Nephilim (Genesis 6:4)
- Timing of Babel – was it during Peleg's day? (Genesis 10:10, 25)
- Has the church replaced/superseded Israel?

Looking Ahead

Why Do These Things Matter?

Approaching Scripture

- Models can change. Scripture does not.
 - Challenging traditional views is not necessarily the same as challenging Scripture.

Approaching Scripture

- Be humble.
 - You do not have all the facts.
 - We often interpret through the lenses of 2000 years of tradition.
 - We assume we already know what the text is about and/or what it means.

Approaching Scripture

- Carefully examine the grammar and syntax, and learn the cultural, historical, linguistic background.
- How could/should the original audience have understood it?
 - Read Genesis via the lens of wilderness-wandering Israelites.

Approaching Scripture

- NT sheds light on OT
 - It often enhances our understanding
 - Reveals fulfilment of many OT prophecies
 - It can correct our mistaken interpretations
- But it can never change the meaning.
 - If it did, then the OT was in error and insufficient, but both are inspired by the Holy Spirit

Consistent Narrative

- Apologists seek to answer questions, but the answers do not always fit into a cohesive narrative.
 - Example: Flood → Babel → Ice Age → Abraham
 - *MT* – ~300 years
 - *LXX* – ~ 1,070 years
- Don't just rush to find an answer to a question, seek to understand Scripture.

Biblical and Systematic

- Careful exegesis in light of background
- Consistent with rest of Scripture
- The Bible was not written *to* us, but it was written *for* us.

WATCH WHAT YOU WATCH

Understanding the Worldviews
and Philosophies in
Modern Movies

TIM CHAFFEY

WITH CASEY CHAFFEY AND BRYAN OSBORNE



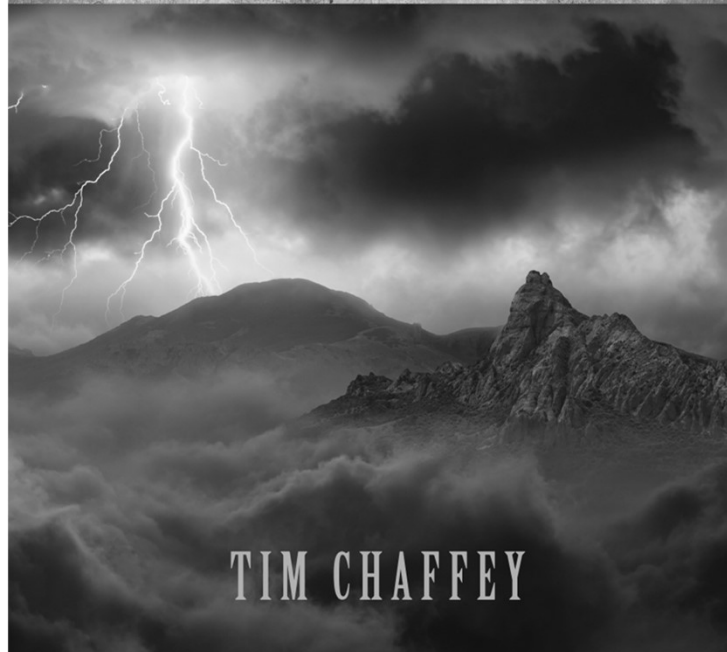
TILT SHIFT

Real Talk About Reel Ideas



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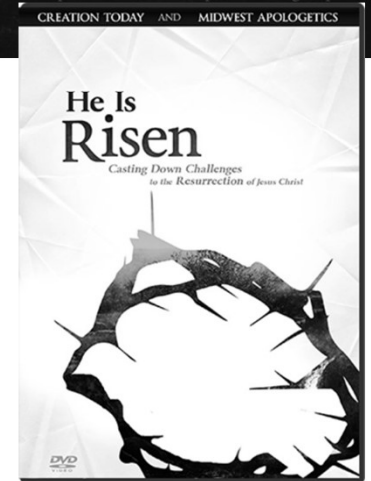
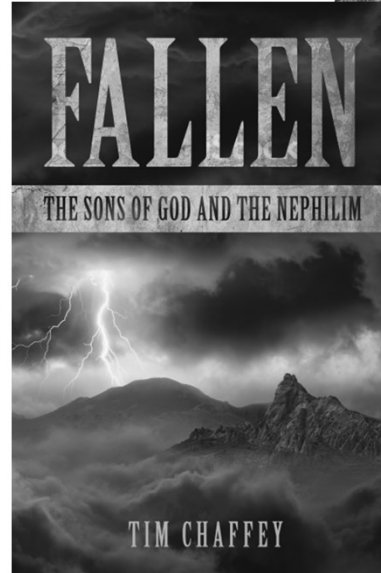
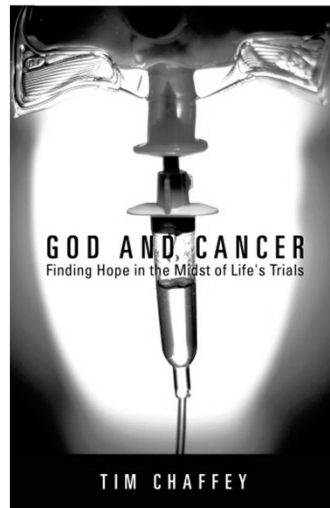
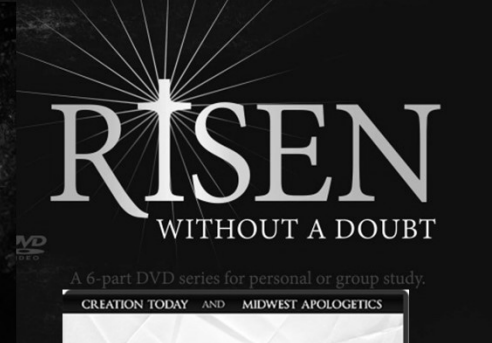
THE SONS OF GOD AND THE NEPHILIM



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