

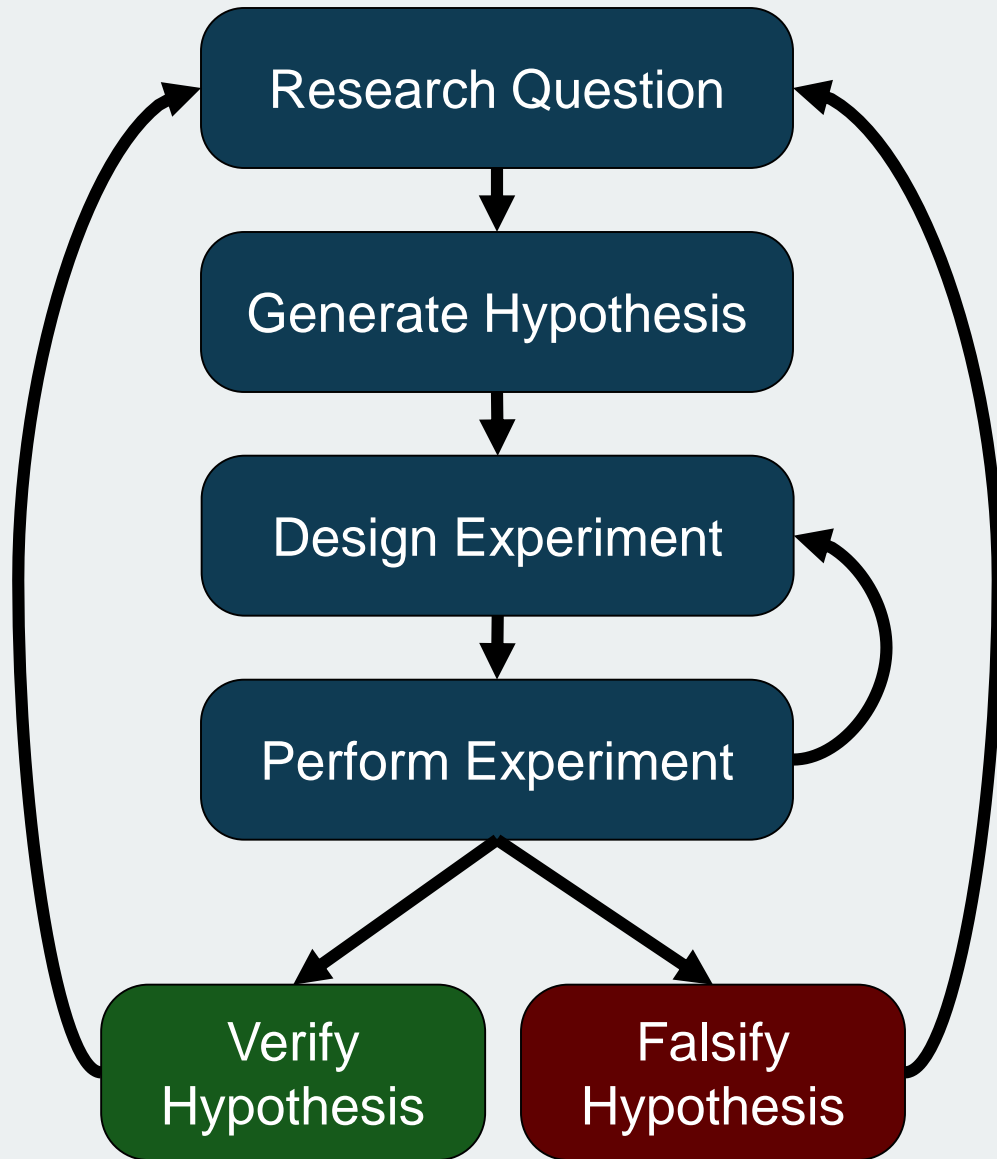
Christianity and Science Part Two: Creation, Providence, and Revelation

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PROCLAMATION
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The Scientific Method: Philosophical Assumptions



Nature is ordered and uniform

- ◆ Natural laws apply in all places
- ◆ Natural laws apply at all times
- ◆ Nature has a rational order

Nature exists and is real

- ◆ What we experience has true existence

Nature is discoverable

- ◆ Human senses are reliable
- ◆ The human mind can comprehend nature

Christian theism provides the only foundation for these assumptions by asserting that God created rational man in his image with the faculties to understand his creation that he upholds and governs

Creation of All Things

Maker of Heaven and Earth

- Gen 1:1 In the beginning, **God created the heavens and the earth.**
- 2 Kings 19:15 ...you are the God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; **you have made heaven and earth.**
- 2 Chron 2:12 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, **who made heaven and earth**
- Neh 9:6 You are the Lord, you alone. **You have made heaven**, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, **the earth** and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them
- Psalms 115:15 May you be blessed by the Lord, **who made heaven and earth!**
- Psalms 121:2 My help comes from the Lord, **who made heaven and earth.**
- Psalms 124:8 Our help is in the name of the Lord, **who made heaven and earth.**
- Psalms 134:3 May the Lord bless you from Zion, **he who made heaven and earth!**
- Psalms 146:6 ...**who made heaven and earth**, the sea, and all that is in them,



Creation of All Things: Applications

Applications for the Natural Sciences

- ◆ The physical creation is real, yet is not all that is real
- ◆ The physical creation is good
- ◆ The physical creation is rational and orderly
- ◆ The physical creation is finished
- ◆ The physical creation was made freely

Natural science investigates God's creation

Creation of Man

Maker of Man

Genesis 1:26-31

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make **man in our image**, after our likeness. And **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and **over all the earth** and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created **man in his own image**,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and **subdue it**, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” ... ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, **it was very good**. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.



Creation of Man: Applications

Applications for the Natural Sciences

- ◆ Man is the crown of creation, yet is still a creature
- ◆ Man is a rational creature in God's image
- ◆ Man given dominion over all the earth

Providence

God the great Creator of all things doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things. (WCF 5.1)

- ◆ The focus of God's providence is typically on God's sovereignty over the actions of men, or more broadly to also include how God arranges circumstances to affect man
- ◆ God's providential control extends over all of his creation, even over things independent of man

No created thing is independent of God's providential control over his creation.

Providence of Nature on Display in Psalm 104

Psalm 104:10-30

¹⁰ You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills;

¹¹ they give drink to every beast of the field;
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

¹² Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell;
they sing among the branches.

¹³ From your lofty abode you water the mountains;
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your
work.

¹⁴ You cause the grass to grow for the livestock
and plants for man to cultivate,
that he may bring forth food from the earth

¹⁵ and wine to gladden the heart of man,
oil to make his face shine
and bread to strengthen man's heart.

¹⁶ The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

¹⁷ In them the birds build their nests;
the stork has her home in the fir trees.

¹⁸ The high mountains are for the wild goats;
the rocks are a refuge for the rock badgers.

¹⁹ He made the moon to mark the seasons;
the sun knows its time for setting.

²⁰ You make darkness, and it is night,
when all the beasts of the forest creep
about.

²¹ The young lions roar for their prey,
seeking their food from God.

²² When the sun rises, they steal away
and lie down in their dens.

²³ Man goes out to his work
and to his labor until the evening.

²⁴ O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom have you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵ Here is the sea, great and wide,
which teems with creatures
innumerable,
living things both small and great.

²⁶ There go the ships,
and Leviathan, which you formed
to play in it.

²⁷ These all look to you,
to give them their food in due season.

²⁸ When you give it to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled
with good things.

²⁹ When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.

³⁰ When you send forth your Spirit, they are
created,
and you renew the face of the ground.

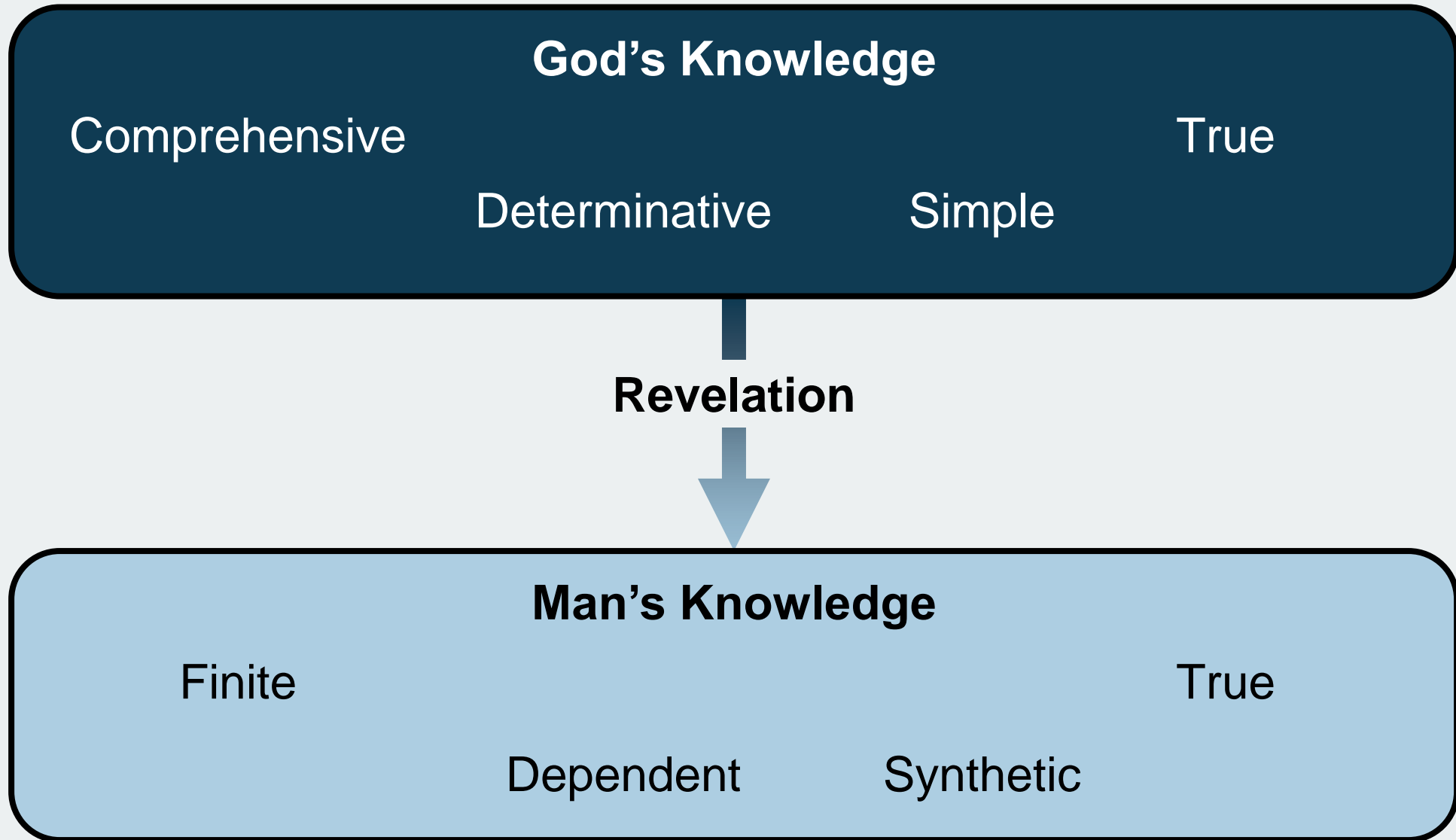


Use of Ordinary Means in Providence

- ◆ A primary divine cause behind all things does not rule out a secondary natural cause
- ◆ God works through ordinary means in his creation
- ◆ God's use of ordinary means in his providence of all things causes the uniformity of nature required for scientific investigation
- ◆ Fundamental natural causes exhibit divine attributes as evidence of God's word of providence

Natural science is primarily concerned with the ordinary means of God's providence, yet ought to not forget the divine primary cause behind all things.

God's and Man's Knowledge



God's Word in Nature

Psalm 29:3-9

- ³ The **voice of the LORD** is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over many waters.
- ⁴ The **voice of the LORD** is powerful;
the **voice of the LORD** is full of majesty.
- ⁵ The **voice of the LORD** breaks the cedars;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- ⁶ He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- ⁷ The **voice of the LORD** flashes forth flames of fire.
- ⁸ The **voice of the LORD** shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- ⁹ The **voice of the LORD** makes the deer give birth
and strips the forests bare,
and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

Psalm 33:6-9

- ⁶ By the **word of the LORD** the heavens were made,
and by the breath of his mouth all their host.
- ⁷ He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap;
he puts the deeps in storehouses.
- ⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD;
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!
- ⁹ For **he spoke**, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.

Psalm 147:15-18

- ¹⁵ He sends out **his command** to the earth;
his word runs swiftly.
- ¹⁶ He gives snow like wool;
he scatters frost like ashes.
- ¹⁷ He hurls down his crystals of ice like crumbs;
who can stand before his cold?
- ¹⁸ He sends out **his word**, and melts them;
he makes his wind blow and the waters flow.



God's Word in Nature and Science

- ◆ **God's word in nature accomplishes its purpose**
- ◆ **God's word in nature is known to man through its effects**
- ◆ **God's word in nature communicates**
 - Communicates the goodness, wisdom, and power of God
 - Communicates God's works of creation and providence

Science is concerned with the effects of God's word in nature and is only possible because God's word is revelatory

The Science of Agriculture Revealed by God

Isaiah 28:23-29

- ²³ Give ear, and hear my voice;
give attention, and hear my speech.
- ²⁴ Does he who plows for sowing plow continually?
Does he continually open and harrow his
ground?
- ²⁵ When he has leveled its surface,
does he not scatter dill, sow cumin,
and put in wheat in rows
and barley in its proper place,
and emmer as the border?
- ²⁶ **For he is rightly instructed;
his God teaches him.**

- ²⁷ Dill is not threshed with a threshing sledge,
nor is a cart wheel rolled over cumin,
but dill is beaten out with a stick,
and cumin with a rod.
- ²⁸ Does one crush grain for bread?
No, he does not thresh it forever;
when he drives his cart wheel over it
with his horses, he does not crush it.
- ²⁹ **This also comes from the LORD of hosts;
he is wonderful in counsel
and excellent in wisdom.**



Revelation, Science, and Scripture

God's Word in Nature

God's Word in Scripture

Accomplishes its purpose

Indirect, non-verbal

Direct, verbal

Authenticated by scripture

Self-authenticating

Natural and special revelation are interrelated and complementary facets of the whole unified revelation of God

The Scientist's Utter Dependence on God

God provides

Things necessary to do science

- ◆ Revelation of the natural world
- ◆ Material to investigate
- ◆ Order and rationality in nature
- ◆ Rational minds to understand nature
- ◆ Uniformity in nature

Things necessary to give science purpose

- ◆ Created world is good
- ◆ Created world is for man's benefit
- ◆ Man given dominion over creation

God provides science itself

Creation, Providence, and Revelation: Summary

- 1. The doctrines of creation and providence provide justification for the assumptions of the scientific method and enable scientific investigation**
- 2. Science relies on God's revelation through his words of creation and providence**
- 3. The scientist is utterly dependent on God in every part of his work**