

Romans Series

Lesson #14

April 7, 2011

Dean Bible Ministries

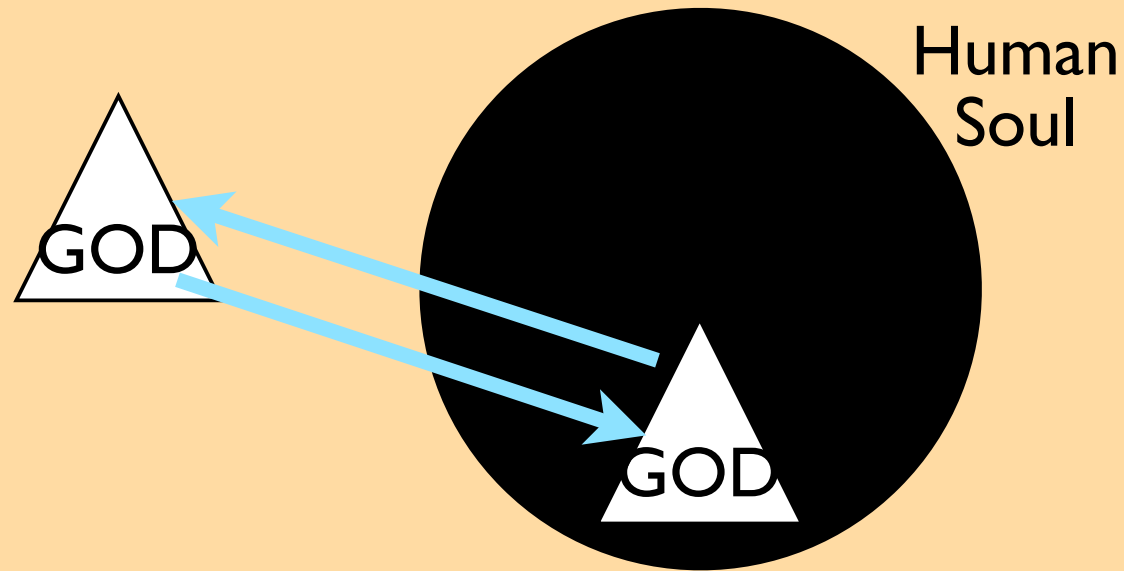
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Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.

# The Epistle to the ROMANS



**Rom. 1:18, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,  
Rom. 1:19, “because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.”**



**Rom. 1:20, “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,”**

# Basic Issues of Life

Is there someone or something greater than us?  
Why do we exist? Why does anything exist?

**Metaphysics**

(the existence of God, origin of the universe)

How are we to know the right thing to do: **epistemology**  
(truth claims, accountability and responsibility, i.e., authority response)

How are we to behave: **ethics**  
(marriage, family, law, politics, economics)

**General Revelation ≠ Natural Revelation**

# Two Categories of Revelation

# Revelation

**General Revelation: The nonverbal disclosure from God as contained in His works of creation and providence, i.e., the universe, a molecule, a flower, the design of a giraffe's brain.**

**Special Revelation: The direct, verbal self-disclosure of God to His creatures, i.e., a theophany, the Scriptures, non-recorded verbal communication to mankind.**



**Jer. 17:9, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”**

**Eccl. 9:3, “This is an evil in all that is done under the sun: that one thing happens to all. Truly the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil; madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead.”**

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present middle indicative  
“to see or perceive  
thoroughly”

νοέω (*noeō*),  
present middle participle,  
“apprehend, perceive,  
understand, gain insight into”

**Rom. 1:21, “because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”**

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**know, come to know,**

**understand, comprehend,**

**perceive, recognize**

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reasoning, consideration,  
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In philosophy, the rational  
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**γινώσκω (*ginōskō*),**

**α ἀσύνετος (*asynetos*),**

**κ senseless, foolish**

**understand, comprehend,  
perceive, recognize**

**ματαιόω (*mataioō*),**

**aor pass indicative 3p**

**“render futile; make  
worthless”**

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**In philosophy, the rational  
foundation of logical  
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Rom. 1:22, “Professing to be wise, they became fools,

**μωραίνω** (*mōrainō*),  
make foolish, pass. be foolish

**σοφός** (*sophos*) **wise**

Rom. 1:23, “and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.”

**What is man's basic problem?**

**Is it—**

**spiritual (ethical/righteous)  
intellectual  
social  
education**

**Eph. 4:17, “This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind,**

**Eph. 4:18, “having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;**

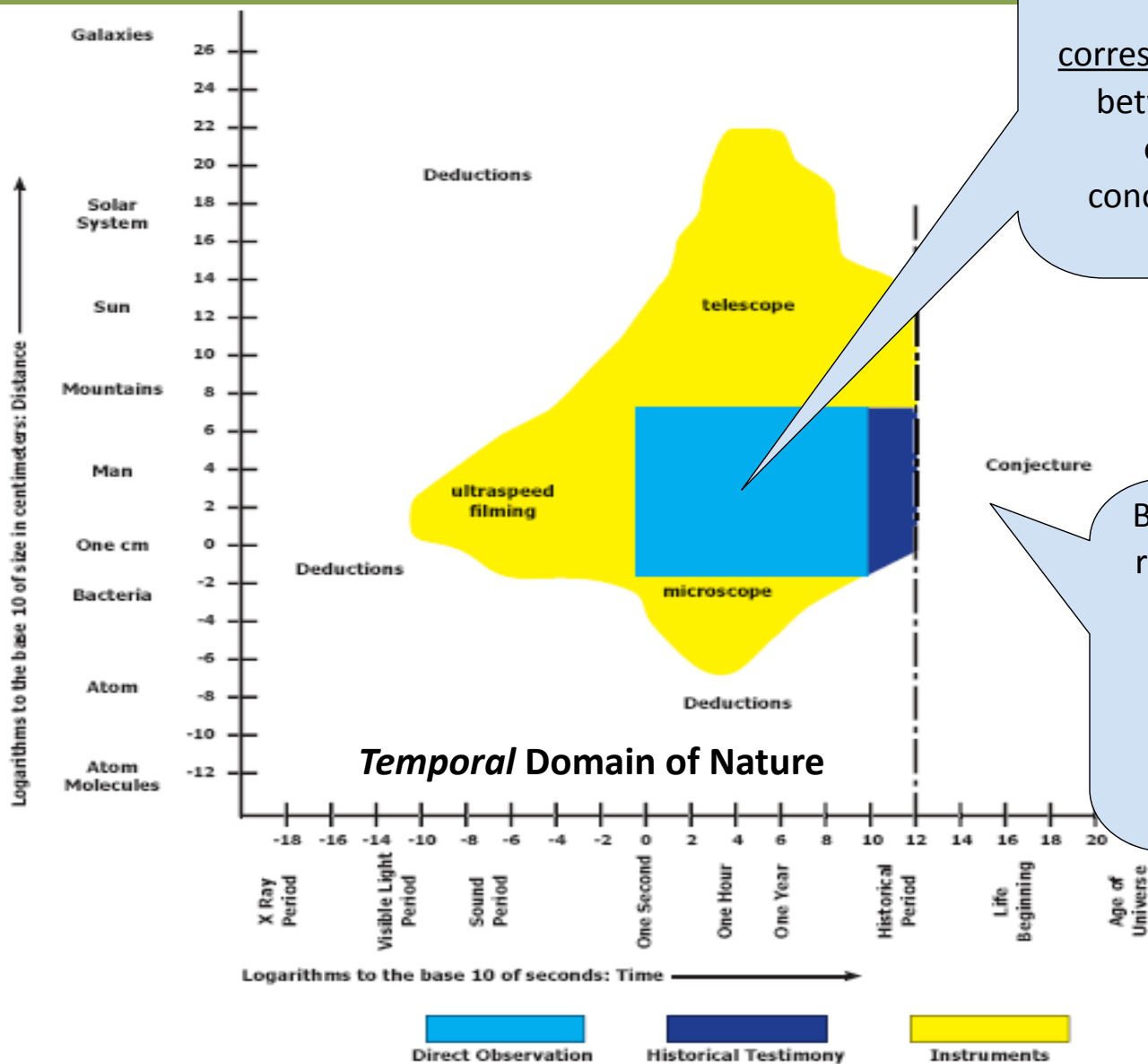
**Eph. 4:19, “who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.”**

# The Basis of Knowledge

<b>Autonomous Systems of Perception</b>  <b>Divine Viewpoint</b>	<b>SYSTEM</b>	<b>STARTING POINT</b>	<b>METHOD</b>
	<b>RATIONALISM</b>	<b>Innate ideas Faith in human ability.</b>	<b>Independent use of logic &amp; reason</b>
	<b>EMPIRICISM</b>	<b>Sense perceptions External experience; Scientific method; Faith in human ability</b>	<b>Independent use of logic &amp; reason</b>
	<b>MYSTICISM</b>	<b>Inner, private experience; intuition Faith in human ability</b>	<b>Independent, Nonlogical, nonrational, nonverifiable.</b>
	<b>REVELATION</b>	<b>Objective revelation of God</b>	<b>Dependent use of logic and reason</b>

# 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.

**Common Ground**

**Reason**

**Experience**

**Intuition**



# Arguments for the Existence of God

1. The *Cosmological* Argument: cause-effect

2. Presuppositions

- every effect has a cause
- the effect caused, depends on the cause for its existence
- nature cannot originate itself

3. If something now exists (the universe) then it either came from nothing or it came from something that must be eternal. The something eternal could either be the universe itself which would then have to be eternal, or chance as an eternal principle, or God, the eternal Creator who is Being itself.



# Arguments for the Existence of God

- (a) Some limited, changing being(s) exist. To deny this requires an affirmation from an existing being, so it is self-defeating.**
- (b) The present existence of every limited, changing being is caused by another. The potentiality for existence can only be actualized by some existence beyond it.**
- (c) There cannot be an infinite regress of causes of being.**
- (d) Therefore, there is a first Cause of the present existence of these beings.**
- (e) This first Cause must be infinite, necessary, eternal, simple, unchangeable, and one.**
- (f) By comparing the Being supported by this line of argumentation with the God of the Scriptures, we conclude they are identical.**

# **Arguments for the Existence of God**

- 1. An infinite number of moments cannot be traversed.**
- 2. If an infinite number of moments had to elapse before today, then today would never have come.**
- 3. But today has come.**
- 4. Therefore, an infinite number of moments have not elapsed before today (i.e., the universe had a beginning).**
- 5. But whatever has a beginning is caused by something else.**
- 6. Hence, there must be a Cause (Creator) of the universe.**