



God: The Eternal One

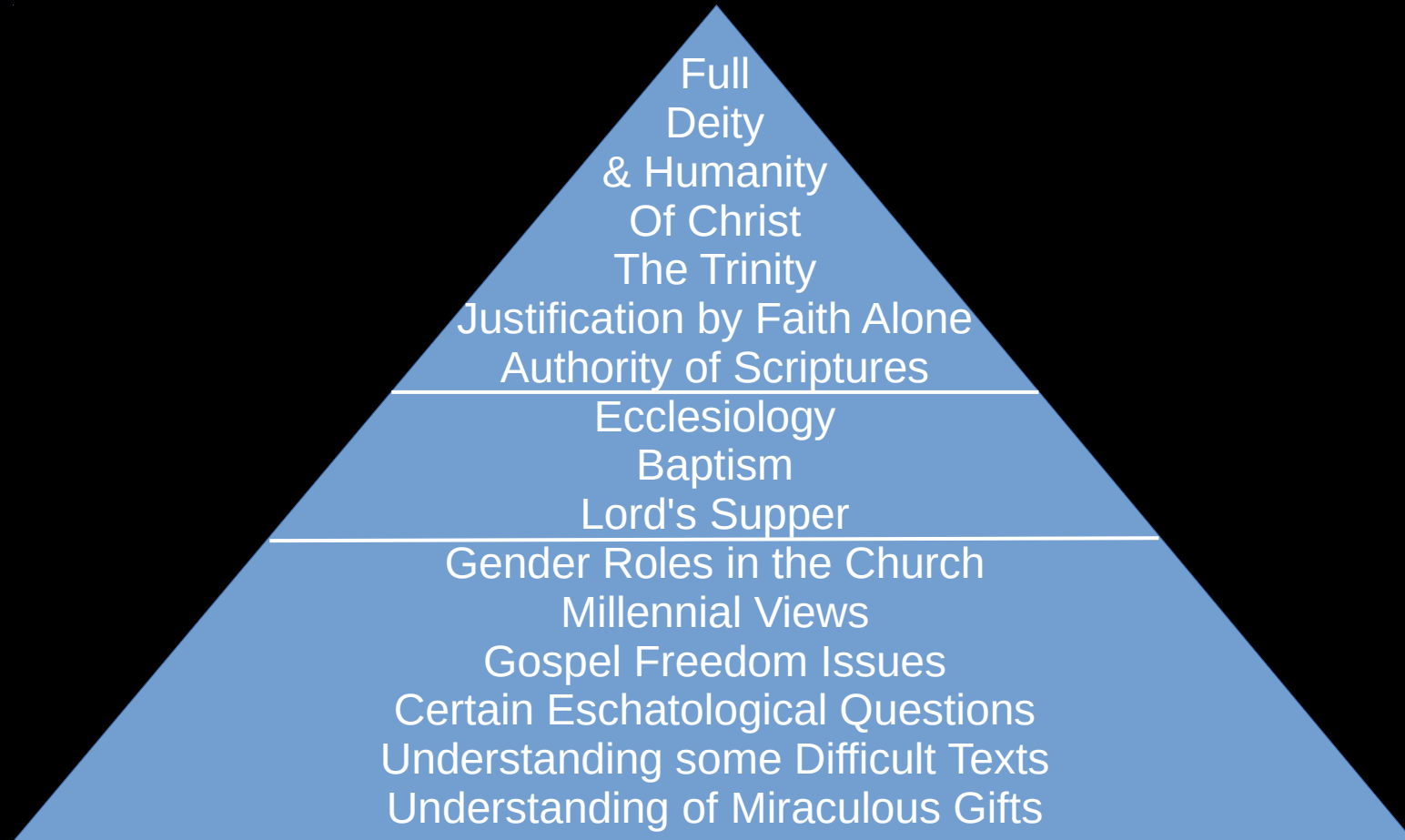
God: The Eternal One



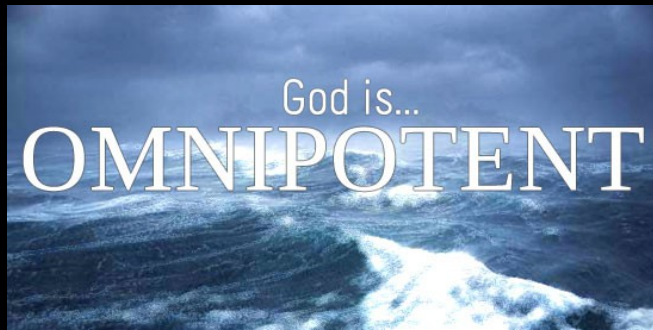
SOUND DOCTRINE

NO ONE SAID THIS WAS GOING TO BE EASY

God: The Eternal One



God: The Eternal One



The Attributes of God

God's Knowledge & Control of the Future

God: The Eternal One

*Even before the mountains came into existence,
or you brought the world into being, you were the
eternal God. [Psalm 90:2 NET]*

God: The Eternal One

“Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man clearly attested to you by God with powerful deeds, wonders, and miraculous signs that God performed among you through him, just as you yourselves know—this man, who was handed over by the predetermined plan (orizo boule) and foreknowledge (prognosis) of God, you executed by nailing him to a cross at the hands of Gentiles...“For indeed both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, assembled together in this city against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, to do as much as your power and your plan had decided (proorizo) beforehand would happen. [Acts 2:23, 4:27-28 NET]

God: The Eternal One

And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose, because those whom he foreknew (proginosko) he also predestined (proorizo) to be conformed to the image of his Son, that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined (proorizo), he also called; and those he called, he also justified; and those he justified, he also glorified. [Romans 8:28-30 NET]

God: The Eternal One

For he chose (eklegomai) us in Christ before the foundation of the world that we may be holy and unblemished in his sight in love. He did this by predestining (proorizo) us to adoption as his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the pleasure of his will...In Christ we too have been claimed as God's own possession, since we were predestined (proorizo) according to the one purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to the counsel of his will

[Ephesians 1:4-5,11 NET]

The Attributes of God

προγινώσκω

Proginosko
[before-know]
“foreknow”

προορίζω

Proorizo
[before-plan]
“foreordain” or
“predestine”

Are these the same?

God: The Eternal One

	GOD EXHAUSTIVELY KNOWS THE FUTURE	TO KNOW THE FUTURE IS TO DETERMINE THE FUTURE	GOD DETERMINES EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS
CALVINIST/REFORMED	✓	✓	✓
OPEN THEISM	x	✓	x
ARMINIANISM	✓	x	x

God: The Eternal One

Calvinism

- 1) God meticulously decrees what will happen in the world that he intends to create.
- 2) God creates.

Arminianism

- 1) God decides to create.
- 2) God has exhaustive foreknowledge about everything that is going to happen.

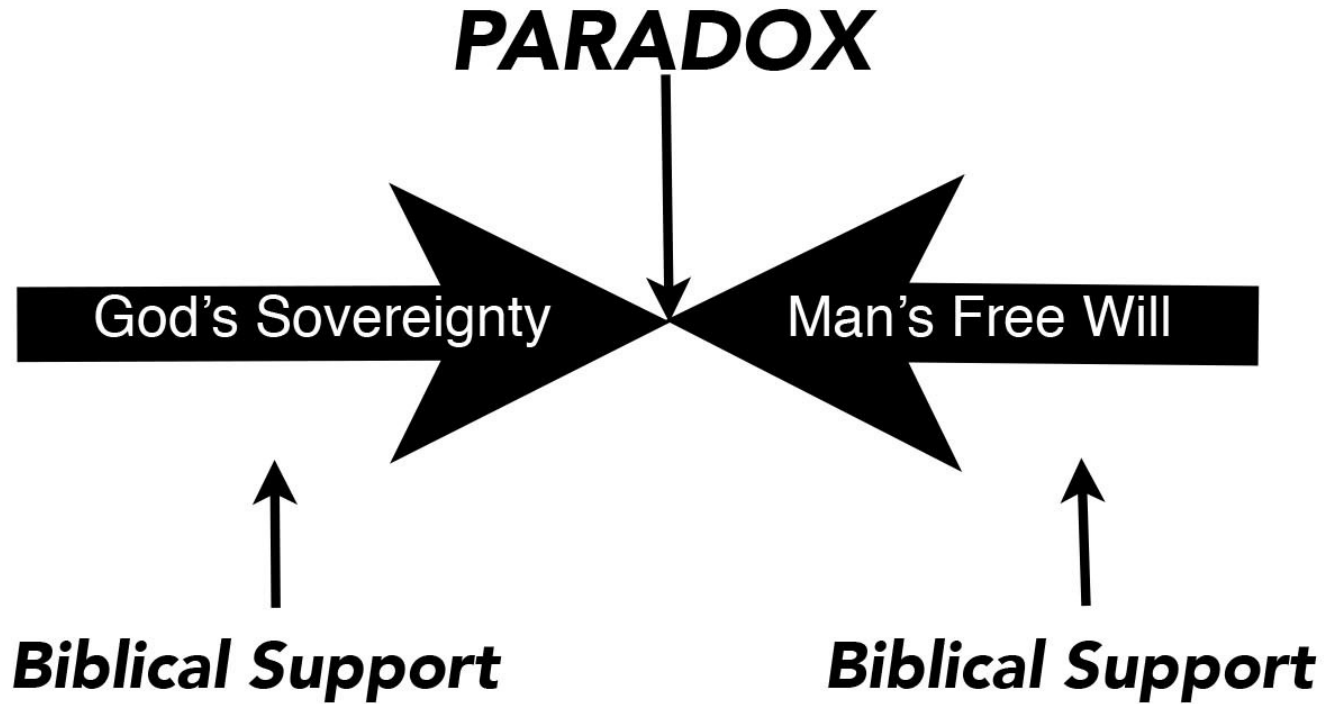
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Do We Have Free Will?

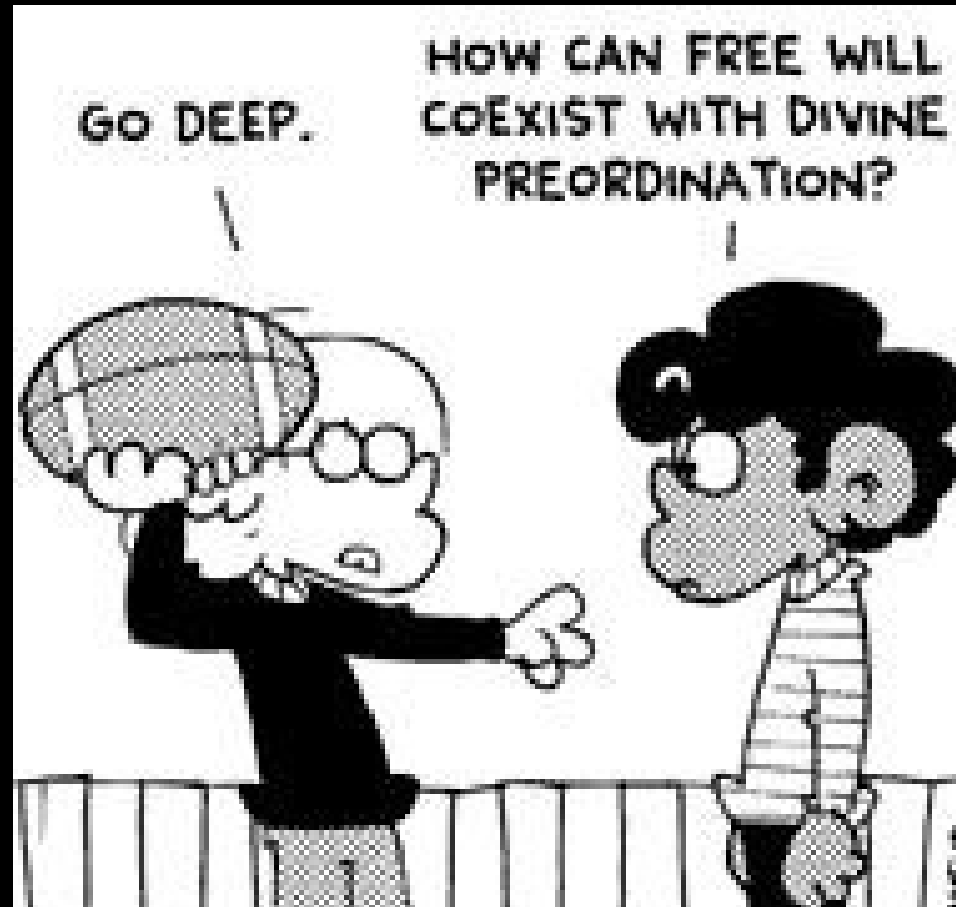
The Attributes of God

Question #1: Does God Control Us?

God: The Eternal One



God: The Eternal One



The Attributes of God

Answer #1a: God Controls Us
[Calvinism]

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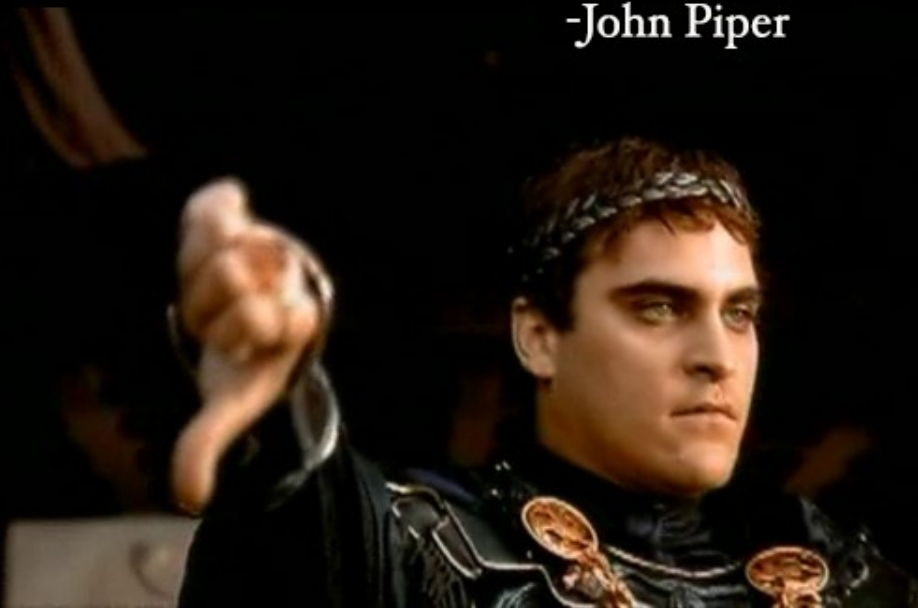
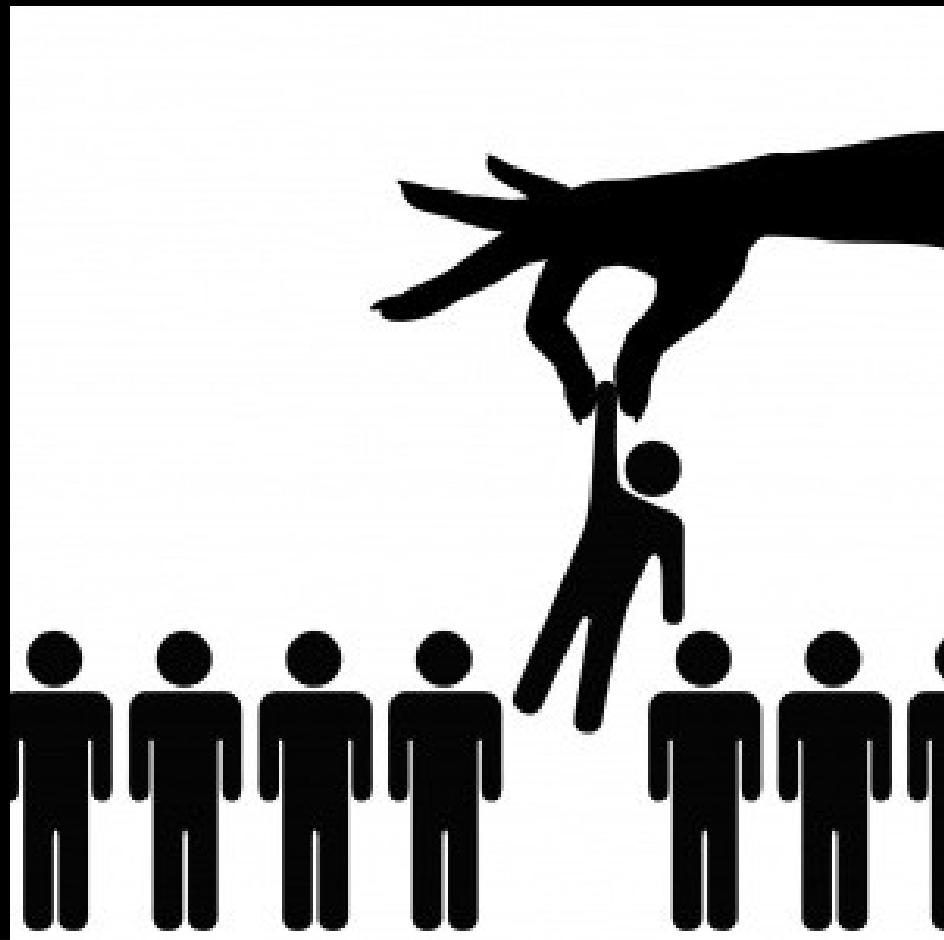
“Nothing happens other than what God decrees”

[John Calvin]

God: The Eternal One

“Before you were born or had done anything good or bad God decided whether to save you or not.”

-John Piper



God: The Eternal One

For this is the way God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. [John 3:16 NET]

The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some regard slowness, but is being patient toward you, because he does not wish for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. [2 Peter 3:9 NET]

God: The Eternal One

Challenges

- God knows the future, so I don't have free will
- God controls everything, so I don't have free will
- God controls everything, so I am not responsible for my sinning
- God chooses who to save, so I am not responsible for my damnation
- God has already planned everything, so praying is useless

The Attributes of God

Answer #1b: God Doesn't Control Us
[Arminianism]

God: The Eternal One

“God is in charge but not in control”

[Roger E. Olson]

God: The Eternal One

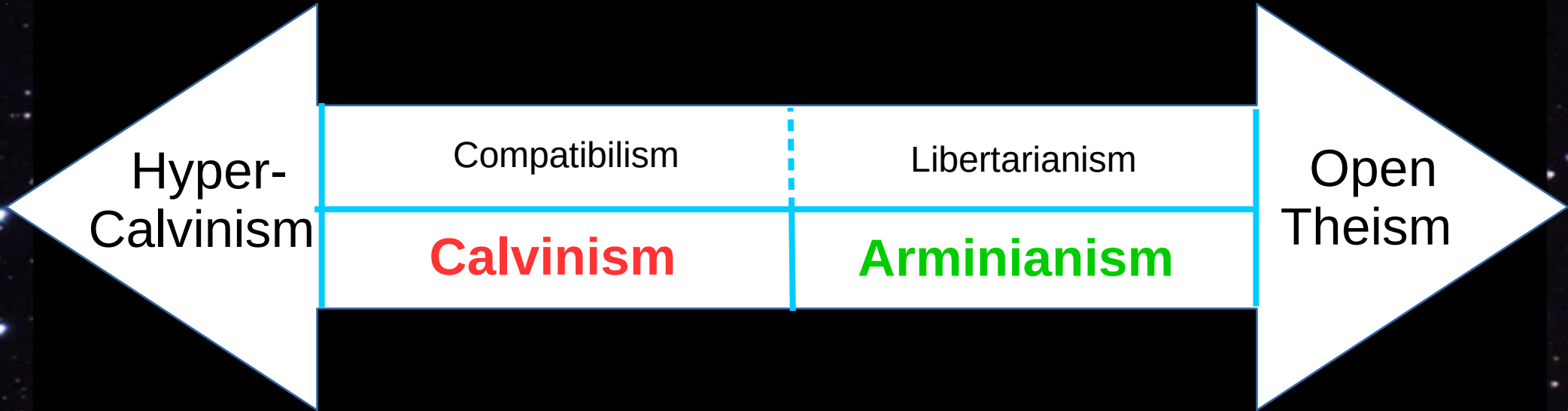
Challenges

- How does God implement His plan of history and salvation if He cannot overrule human free will?
- How does God guarantee the inspiration of biblical writers if He cannot influence human free will?
- Does God depend on 'luck' to accomplish His will with humanity?

The Attributes of God

The Two Sides

God: The Eternal One



God's Sovereignty vs Human Free Will Spectrum

God: The Eternal One



God: The Eternal One

Possible Solution: Middle Knowledge

God: The Eternal One



God: The Eternal One



MIDDLE KNOWLEDGE

God knows all possibilities of what might happen in different scenarios

God: The Eternal One



Luis de Molina [1535-1600 AD]

- Spanish Jesuit priest
- A contemporary of both John Calvin and Jacobus Arminius
- Devised a doctrine that would eventually be called “Media Scientia” (Middle Knowledge)
- Reaction to the strong determinism of Luther and Calvin

God: The Eternal One

Does God know 'Counterfactuals' (CF)?

Does God know 'Subjunctive Conditionals' (SC)?

Does God have 'Middle Knowledge' (MK)?

God: The Eternal One

When Pharaoh released the people, God did not lead them by the way to the land of the Philistines, although that was nearby, for God said, “Lest the people change their minds and return to Egypt when they experience war.” So God brought the people around by the way of the desert to the Red Sea, and the Israelites went up from the land of Egypt prepared for battle. [Exodus 13:17-18 NET]

God: The Eternal One

Then David said, “O Lord God of Israel, your servant has clearly heard that Saul is planning to come to Keilah to destroy the city because of me. Will the leaders of Keilah deliver me into his hand? Will Saul come down as your servant has heard? O Lord God of Israel, please inform your servant!” Then the Lord said, “He will come down.” David asked, “Will the leaders of Keilah deliver me and my men into Saul’s hand?” The Lord said, “They will deliver you over.” [1 Samuel 23:10-12 NET]

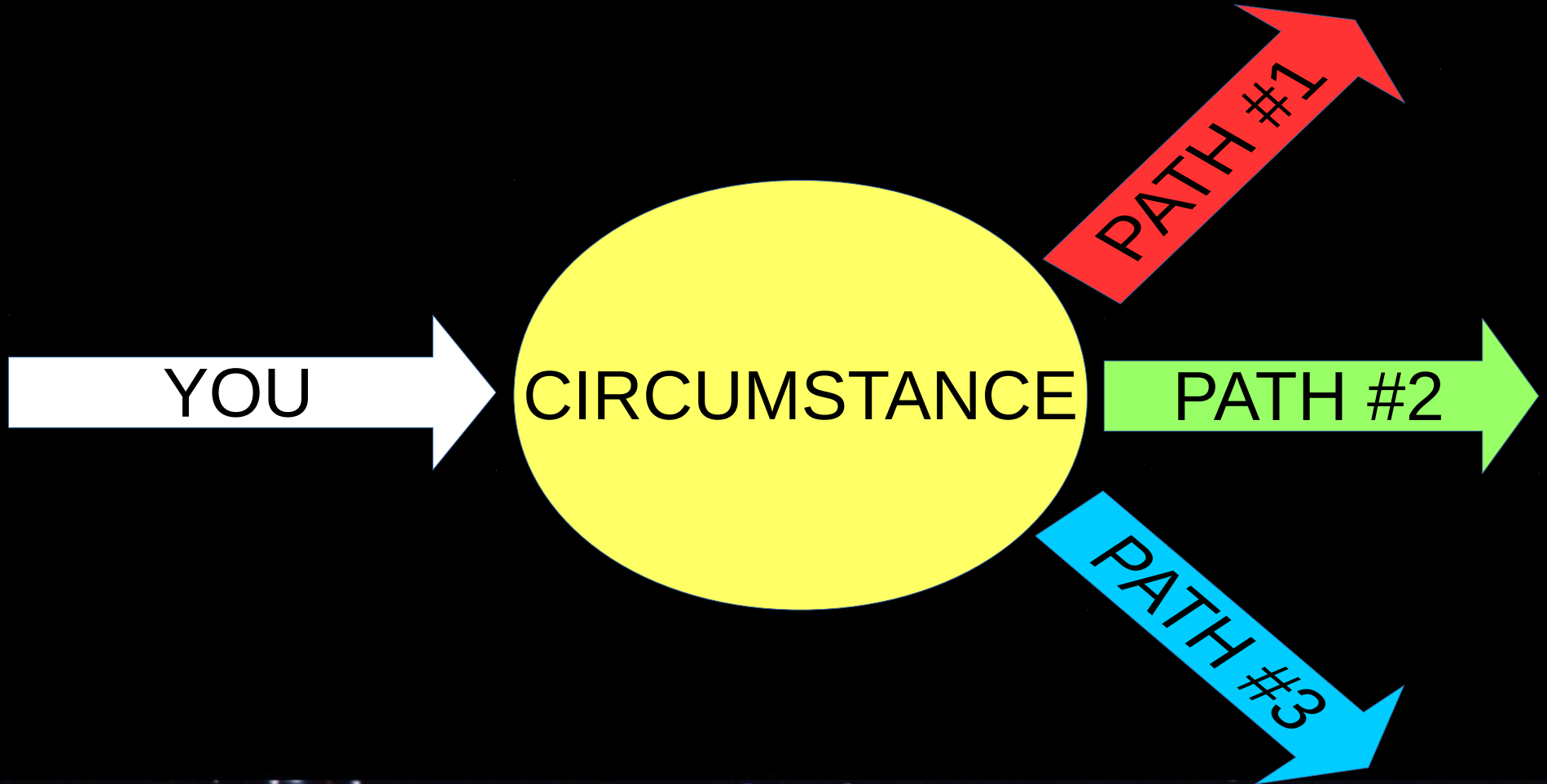
God: The Eternal One

Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, “The Lord, the God who rules over all, the God of Israel, says, ‘You must surrender to the officers of the king of Babylon. If you do, your life will be spared and this city will not be burned down. Indeed, you and your whole family will be spared. But if you do not surrender to the officers of the king of Babylon, this city will be handed over to the Babylonians and they will burn it down. You yourself will not escape from them.’” [Jeremiah 38:17-18 NET]

God: The Eternal One

Now we do speak wisdom among the mature, but not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are perishing. Instead we speak the wisdom of God, hidden in a mystery, that God determined before (proorizo) the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood it. If they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. [1 Corinthians 2:6-8 NET]

God: The Eternal One

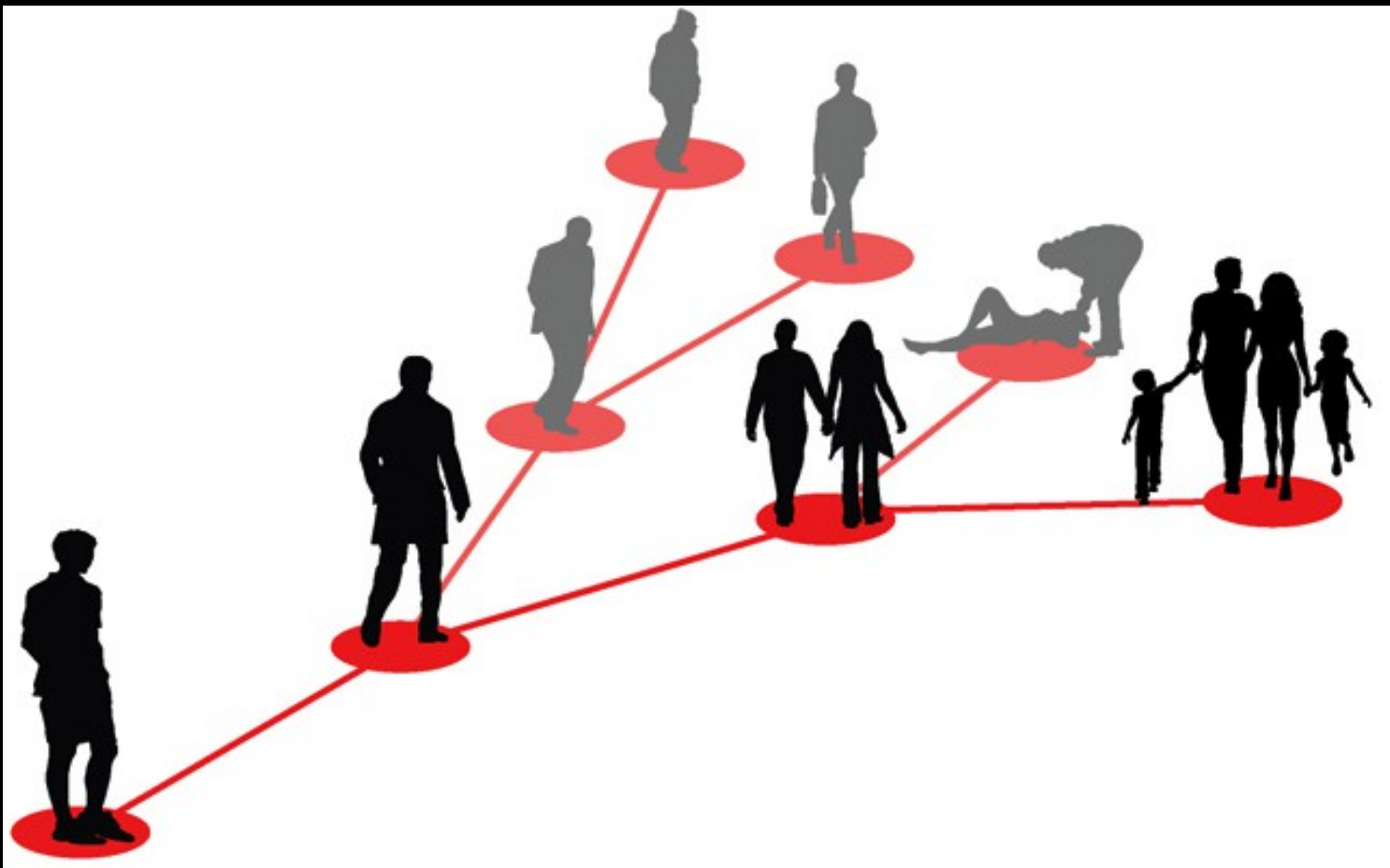


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Human Free Will = Zillions of Possible Worlds

God: The Eternal One

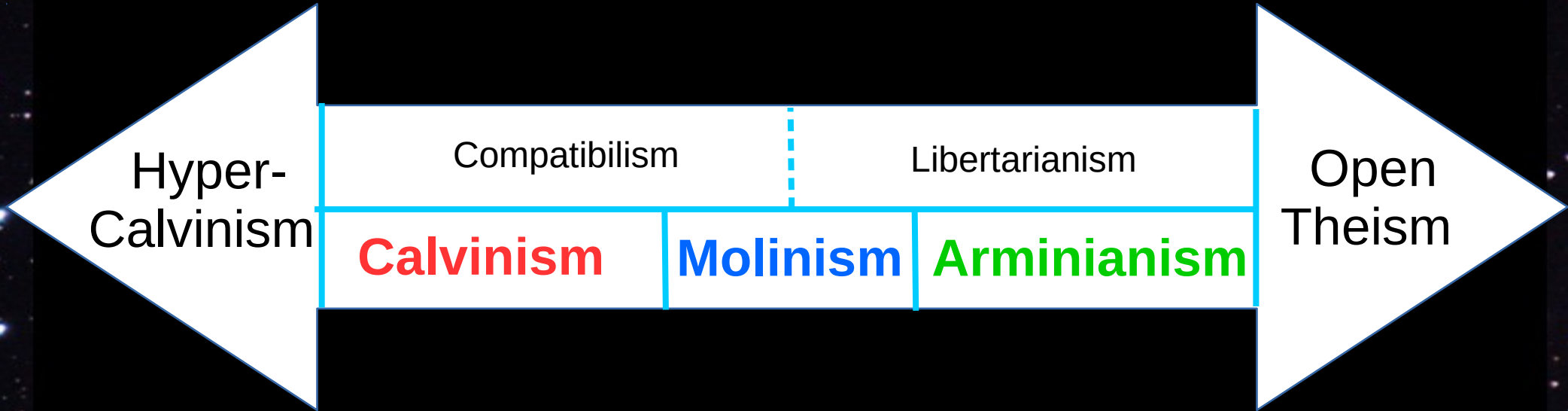


God: The Eternal One

“Since [a God with middle knowledge] knows what any free creature would do in any situation, he can, by creating the appropriate situations, bring it about that creatures will achieve his ends and purposes and that they will do so freely ...In his infinite intelligence, God is able to plan a world in which his designs are achieved by creatures acting freely.”

[William Lane Craig, "The Only Wise God"]

God: The Eternal One



God's Sovereignty vs Human Free Will Spectrum

God: The Eternal One

GOD'S KNOWLEDGE IN ETERNITY PAST

Natural Knowledge	All things that CAN happen (all <i>possible</i> worlds)
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-> God's Perfect Will and Creative Command <-

Free Knowledge	All things that WILL happen once God has willed it (<i>our</i> world)
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God: The Eternal One

GOD'S KNOWLEDGE IN ETERNITY PAST

Natural Knowledge	All things that CAN happen (all <u>possible</u> worlds)
Middle Knowledge	All things that WOULD happen with human free will (all <u>feasible</u> worlds)

-> God's Perfect Will and Creative Command <-

Free Knowledge	All things that WILL happen once God has willed it (<u>our</u> world)
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God: The Eternal One

From one man he made every nation of the human race to inhabit the entire earth, determining their set times and the fixed limits of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope around for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. [Acts 17:26-27 NET]

God: The Eternal One

**CALVINISTS SAY I'M JUST A
SOPHISTICATED ARMINIAN**

**ARMINIANS SAY I'M JUST A
COMPLICATED CALVINIST**

God: The Eternal One

Serious Questions & Implications

God: The Eternal One

Interesting Questions

- What criteria does God use to decide which world to actualize?
- Why doesn't God actualize a world in which everyone is saved?
- What part does prayer make in God's world actualizing?

God: The Eternal One

Dare's Molinism Page!



<http://darethehair.duckdns.org/dmenns/molinism.html>

God: The Eternal One

Thank you!



God: The Eternal One

Bonus Section

God: The Eternal One

Some Answers Using Molinism

God: The Eternal One

Foreknowing = *God knows every decision that you will make in your life without affecting your free will*

Foreordaining/Predestining = *God actualizes a world for you to exercise your free will in, knowing what you will decide to do*

God: The Eternal One

Challenges: Answered!

- God knows the future, so I don't have free will – *Him knowing has nothing to do with causing*
- God controls everything, so I don't have free will – *He controls everything except that you have free will*
- God controls everything, so I am not responsible for my sinning – *He doesn't interfere with your free will*
- God chooses who to save, so I am not responsible for my damnation – *He doesn't choose; you choose*

God: The Eternal One

Challenges: Answered!

- How does God implement His plan of history and salvation if He cannot overrule human free will? *He picks a guaranteed completely-known world*
- How does God guarantee the inspiration of biblical writers if He cannot influence human free will? *He picks a world with the best people in the best situations*
- Does God depend on 'luck' to accomplish His will with humanity? *He knows all without depending on luck*

God: The Eternal One

December 22, 1971

God: The Eternal One

January Edition

PEMBINA VALLEY NEWS-ADVERTISER

January 5, 1971

Morden Flyer And Son Escape Wreckage of Plane Crash

One of Morden's flying businessmen, Jake Enns, and his nine-year-old son, Darren, had a narrow escape last Wednesday evening when his plane crashed not far from Morden, about one-and-one-half miles north of the Braun's Custom Homes site on Number 3 Highway.

They managed to extricate themselves from the wreckage and Darren, who suffered severe head lacerations, walked to the administration trailer on the Stanley Flying Field and phoned his grandfather. Mr. Enns also managed to make it to the field, in spite of a broken ankle, a broken collar bone and fractures to both the upper and lower jaw. They were both taken to the Morden District General Hospital, but Mr. Enns was immediately sent to Winnipeg, where he is reported to be getting along as well as can be expected. Darren is also progressing satisfactorily.

The accident took place between six and eight o'clock on Wednesday evening, Dec. 22nd. The exact time has not been ascertained, as no one reported seeing the plane come down. The R.C.M.F. were not advised of the crash until Thursday morning. They cordoned off the site until Department of Transport officials arrived to investigate the cause of the accident. No further reports have been received by the local detachment, and it seems likely that Mr. Enns is the only person in possession of information as to the time or the causes of the mishap.

Flying conditions were poor that evening, with the fog and freezing rain, icing conditions could have been a factor.

No one was at the Stanley airport at the time of the accident. Although the field is licenced for night flying lighted runways and a beacon are the only facilities offered for emergency landings.

By chance Mr. Enns was fortunate enough to be wearing part of his snowmobile outfit, including his helmet. This, with the

seat belts which are worn at all times in small planes, probably accounted for his fortunate escape from even more serious injuries.

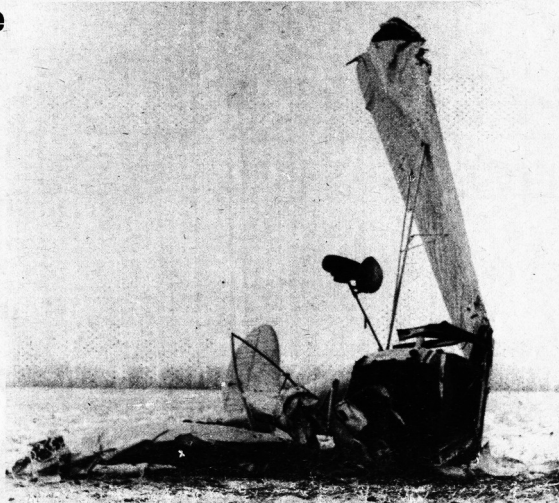
Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation Staff Join Ass'n.

An agreement was signed, Dec. 16th, between the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation and the Manitoba Government Employee's Association.

Signing on behalf of the Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation, were Mr. J.O. Dutton, General Manager, and Mr. R.D. Blackburn, Assistant General Manager. Mr. John Howden, President, and Mr. Garth Metcalfe, Executive Director signed the agreement, both representing the Manitoba Government Employee's Association.

This agreement influences 170 employees of the corporation. It does not apply to those in management positions and certain supervisory capacities.

The Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation employees who form the executive of the M.P.I.C. Unite of the Manitoba Government Employee's Association are: Fred Selles, President; Barry Dunn, Vice-President; Leona Tanchak, Secretary; Bill Brimson, Treasurer; Councilors: John Waldie, Peter and Ray Nicholson; Membership Committee; John Waldie; Bob Stephens and Maria Berez; Negotiating Committee; Fred Selles; Joel Reid; John Waldie, Peter McIntyre, Madeline Meyer, and Will Arndt.



Jake Enns and his young son, Darren were fortunate to escape from this wrecked plane, after crashing last Wednesday night.

In spite of extensive injuries they managed to get across country to the Stanley Flying Field administration trailer and tele-

phone for help. The plane came down in a field about a mile and a half north of the mile corner east of Morden.

Committee Says Choice Of Reservoir More Than Rumor

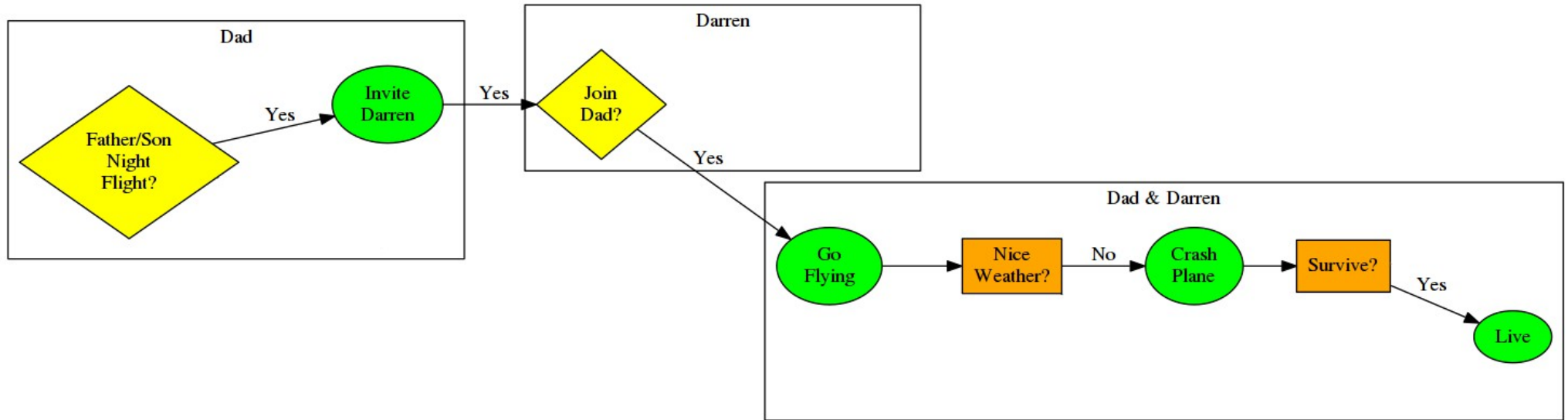
PLAN TO BUILD \$16 MILLION DAM NEAR WALHALLA
The Pembina River Basin Planning Committee selected a reservoir dam, similar in construction to that recommended to both the Canadian and American governments by the International Joint Commission six years ago, at a meeting held in Grand Forks two weeks ago. This action followed the prior meeting at which flood control measures in the border area were narrowed to three -- a dry dam, a floodway

said, but no commercial development of recreational resources will be permitted.
Mr. Trenbeath named a sub-committee to further define the term "wilderness" and to make further recommendations on conservation practices. The appointment include the members of the ecology sub-committee responsible for the guide lines laid down on the amount of land to be cleared and the conservation practices to be observed, as well as representatives of the local parks

at the area which was studied by

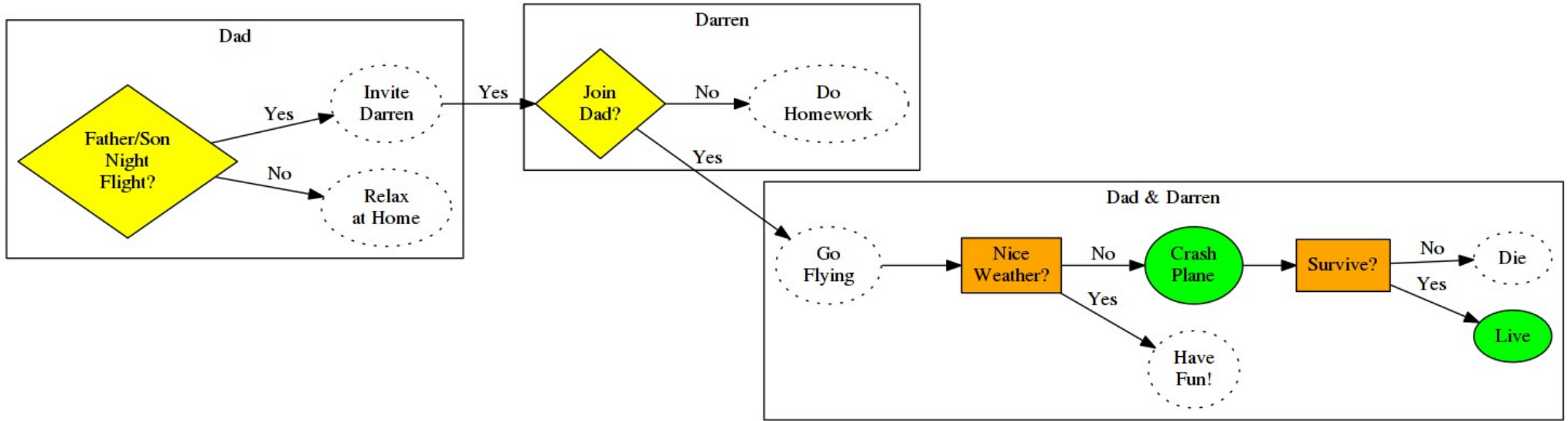


God: The Eternal One



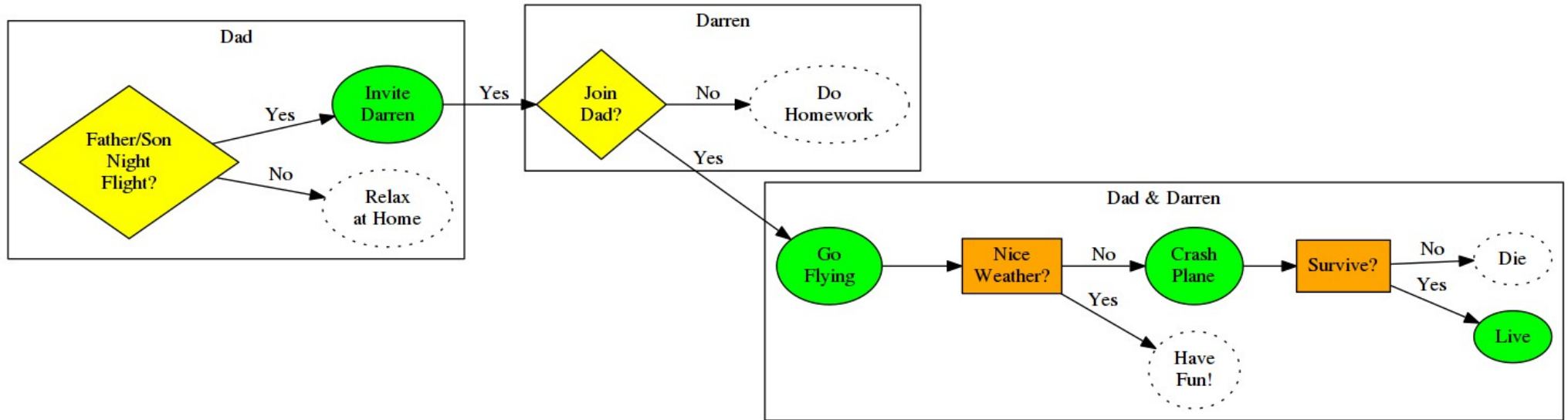
Calvinist Compatibilist Foreordained Future

God: The Eternal One



Arminian Libertarian Simple Foreknowledge Future

God: The Eternal One



Molinist Libertarian Middle Knowledge Future

God: The Eternal One

More Quotes Favoring Molinism

God: The Eternal One

“It is up to God whether I find myself in a world in which I am predestined; but it is up to me whether I am predestined in the world in which I find myself.”

[French Molinist]

God: The Eternal One

“Let me introduce a philosophical term here that can be very useful: the difference between strong actualization and weak actualization. We can say that God, or someone, strongly actualizes a state of affairs when he causally brings it about. He causes it to happen. But, if God has middle knowledge, he can weakly actualize states of affairs not by causing them to happen but by placing people in circumstances where he knew how they would freely react.”

[William Lane Craig, Doctrine of Creation (Part 11)]

God: The Eternal One

“Divine foreknowledge is based on God’s middle knowledge of what every creature would freely do under any circumstances and on his knowledge of the divine decree to create certain sets of circumstances and to place certain creatures in them. Given middle knowledge and the divine decree, foreknowledge follows automatically as a result...Knowing all the possible circumstances, persons and permutations of these circumstances and persons, God decreed to create just those circumstances and just those people who would freely do what God willed to happen.”

[William Lane Craig, "Divine Foreknowledge: Four Views"]

God: The Eternal One

More Quotes Against Simple Foreknowledge

God: The Eternal One

“The conclusion follows that the God of classical Arminianism, empowered with simple foreknowledge, is just as helpless and dependent on luck as the God of open theism when it comes to bringing about that the Bible contain the exact words that He would like it to communicate.”

[Guillaume Bignon, <http://theologui.blogspot.ca>]

God: The Eternal One

“God must, in order to create sovereignly and omnisciently, have counterfactual knowledge; specifically, he must have middle knowledge.” [Randy Everist, <http://www.randyeverist.com>]

“I actually now think that a simple foreknowledge view combined with libertarian free will (Arminianism) can't account for sovereignty and providence...Divine providence only works with libertarian free will if you throw middle knowledge into the mix, which is Molinism.” [Evan Minton, <http://cerebralfaitth.blogspot.ca>]

“...the philosophical point is that without middle knowledge – without knowledge of how creatures would behave under various circumstances – God cannot know, prior to his creative decree of a world, anything that would happen except what he, himself, determined. So there would be no providential planning at all in such a world.” [William Lane Craig, <http://www.reasonablefaith.org>]

God: The Eternal One

“We can imagine God looking into the future and saying, “Oh! What a break! Herod and Pilate and all those people in Jerusalem did just the right thing in crucifying Christ so that atonement can be made for the world. They just all behaved perfectly.” In fact, the situation is really much worse than that because God wouldn’t have any idea whether there would even be a Roman Empire or whether any of these people would exist.”

[William Lane Craig, Doctrine of Creation (Part 11)]

God: The Eternal One

“Imagine God creates the world, and he only knows the actual future, but he doesn't know counterfactuals of creaturely freedom. What if Judas, Pilate, or Caiphas didn't make the choices required for crucifying Jesus? What if Judas freely chose not to betray Jesus? Or what if Pilate didn't bow to the pressure of the crowd to crucify him? Sure, God would be able to foresee their free choice, but He wouldn't be able to do anything about it without violating their freedom. And in this case, no atonement would be made because Jesus wouldn't be crucified. So much for receiving atonement for our sins. On Arminianism, it seems God is just lucky that these events went the way that He wanted them to.”

[Evan Minton, <http://cerebralfaitth.blogspot.ca>]

God: The Eternal One

More Calvinist Quotes

God: The Eternal One

“The tension that exists between sovereignty and responsibility exists by God’s design. The truth is that Scripture clearly and explicitly reveals that Adam was responsible for his decision to rebel against God and that God sovereignly decreed that he would do so. How those two revealed truths cohere is a profound mystery to the finite mind. However, this mystery is one we should appreciate instead of solve.”

[Ed Dingess, Reformed Reasons]

God: The Eternal One

'The Reformed position...differs from Molina's position in that the Reformed deny the middle of those three alleged bases of God's knowledge regarding the future. We acknowledge only Natural and Free knowledge, not "middle knowledge."

[TurretinFan, <http://www.aomin.org>]

God: The Eternal One

More Arminian Quotes

God: The Eternal One

“If God has merely two logical moments of knowledge (natural and free) then logically prior to God’s decree of creation he did not know what the world would be like. He could know all possible worlds prior to the decree but he would not know the actual world until logically-post his creative decree (via simple foreknowledge).”

[Max Andrews, <http://sententias.org>]

God: The Eternal One

More Tricky Questions

God: The Eternal One

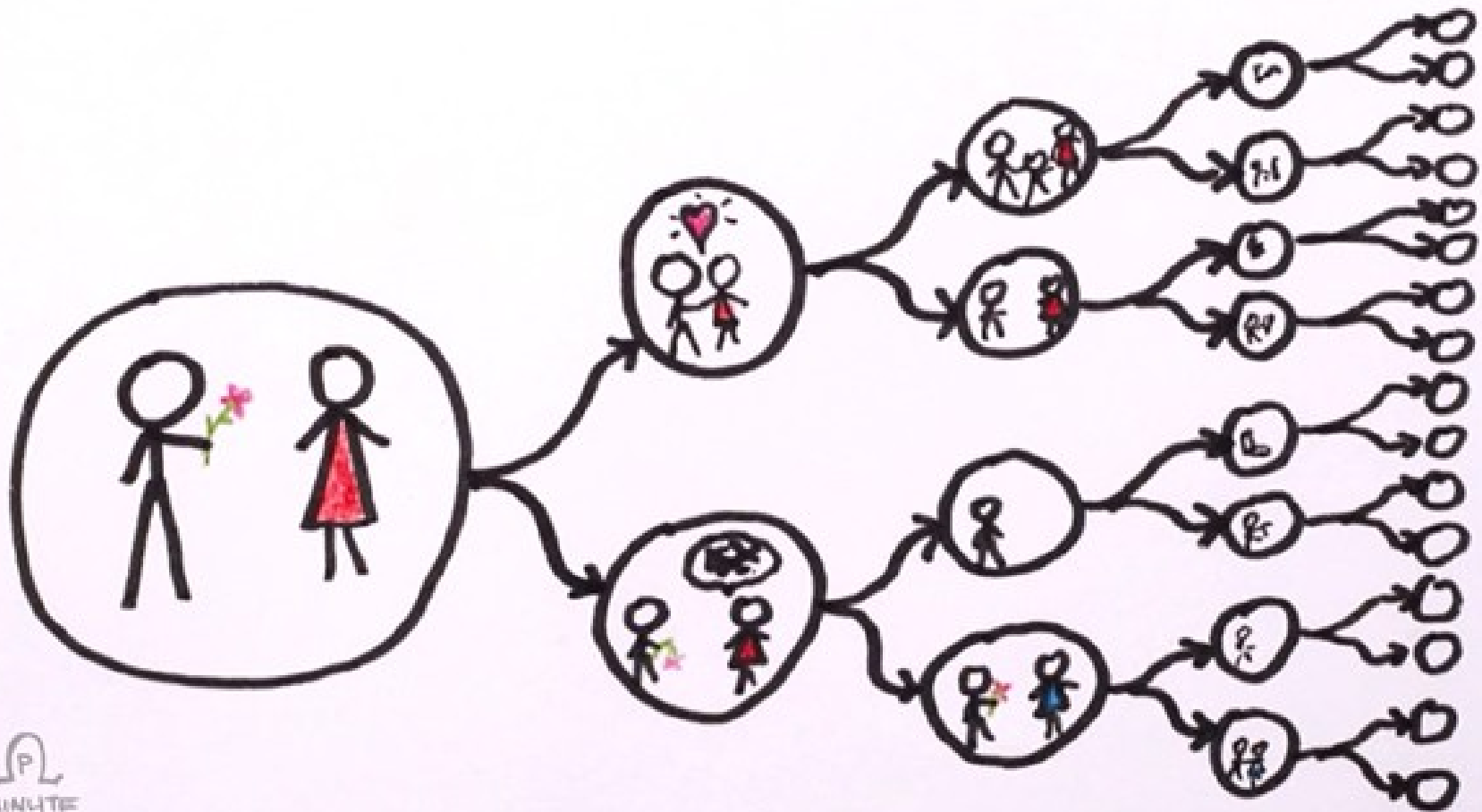
If God knew that Adam and Eve were going to transgress his law, why didn't he change the circumstances so that they would have made a different choice?

Why would God create people he knew would be condemned for their original and actual sin?

God: The Eternal One

More Illustrations

God: The Eternal One



God: The Eternal One

August 10, 1972

God: The Eternal One

SECOND BIRTH

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

on the 10 day of August, 19 72

(Your name) Warren Enns

was born a ^{son} daughter of GOD

Signed Warren Enns your name

I was led to the Lord by Don Roebson Smiley

God: The Eternal One

Molinism & Prayer

God: The Eternal One

Let us call prayers such as Allison's prayer in the modified scenario 'past-directed impetratory prayers', or PIPs. Such prayers are 'past-directed' insofar as they are prayers aimed at bringing about a state of affairs that is already past for the one praying; they will be impetratory if they contribute to God bringing about the state of affairs petitioned for. Let us define PIPs as follows:

PIP =_{df} A petitionary prayer that meets the following four criteria:

- (i) the prayer is offered by an agent A at time t_2 ;*
- (ii) the prayer requests that God bring about some state of affairs S at time t_1 (where t_1 is prior to t_2);*
- (iii) the prayed-for state of affairs S is brought about by God, at least in part, as a result of A's prayer; that is, God's knowledge of A's prayer is one of the reasons He has for bringing S about; and*
- (iv) God desires to bring about S only if A prays for S, such that if A does not pray for S, then God will not bring it about.*

[Keven Timpe, "Prayers for the Past"]

God: The Eternal One

“In other words, if it is in fact true, as we have been assuming, that Allison prays in R, then God knows via His middle knowledge that she would so pray if in R. And if God has such knowledge, then assuming that He knows that Allison will be in R, He can use that knowledge of the true counterfactual expressed by (10) to bring about the safety of Allison’s father as a result of her future prayer.”

[Keven Timpe, “Prayers for the Past”]

God: The Eternal One

God in Eternity

God: The Eternal One



God: The Eternal One

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is an eternal God, the Creator of the whole earth. He does not get tired or weary; there is no limit to his wisdom. [Isaiah 40:28 NET]

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God—the one who is, and who was, and who is still to come—the All-Powerful! [Revelation 1:8 NET]

God: The Eternal One

Now to the one who is able to protect you from stumbling and make you to stand before his glory blameless with exultation, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority before all time (aion) and now and for all eternity (aion). Amen. [Jude 24-25 NET]

God: The Eternal One

Now to the one who is able to protect you from stumbling and make you to stand before his glory blameless with exultation, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority before all time (aion) and now and for all eternity (aion). Amen. [Jude 24-25 NET]

*All glory, majesty, power, and authority are his before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time!
[Jude 25 NLT]*

God: The Eternal One

What does it mean for God to be Eternal?

God: The Eternal One

What does it mean for God to be Eternal?

- God is without beginning or end
- God never began to exist and he will never cease to exist
- God is never forced to hurry or to rush
- God he has no deadlines
- God has all the time in the world to accomplish his purposes

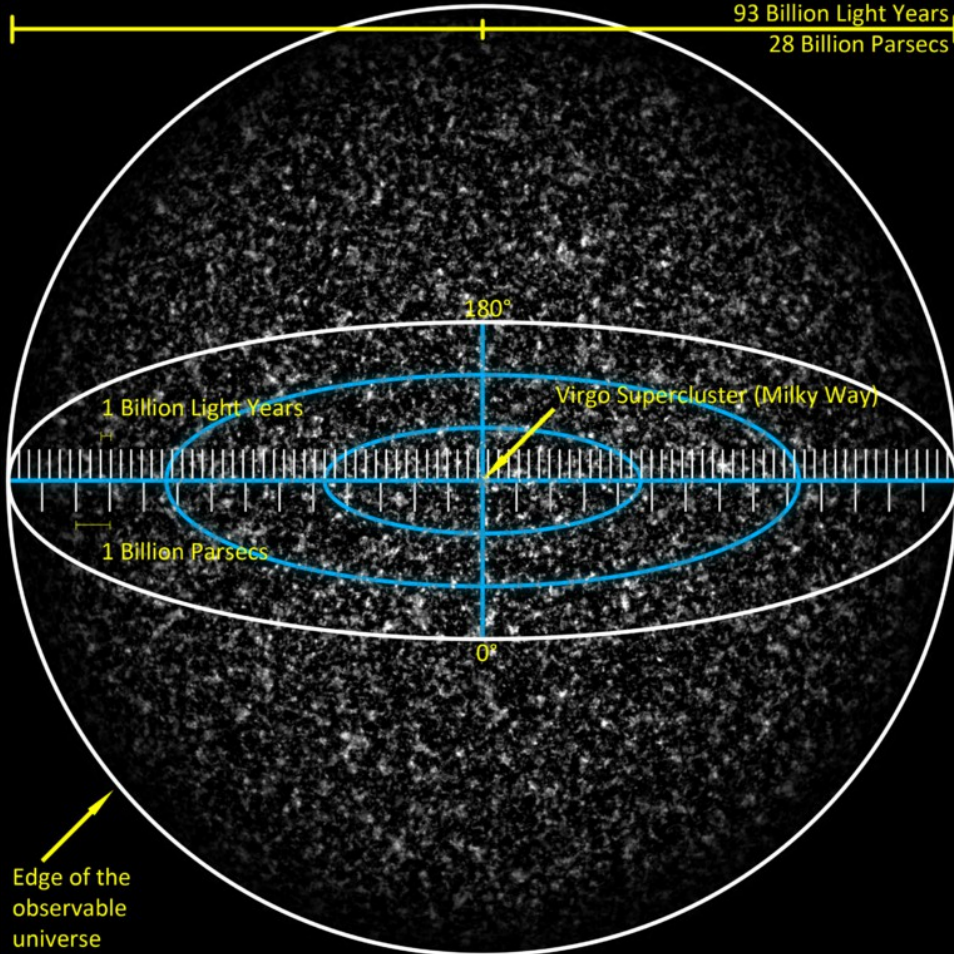
God: The Eternal One



Hubble eXtreme Deep Field (XDF)

- Photo by Hubble Telescope
- 23 days long-exposure
- Goes back 13.2 billion years
- Very tiny dark spot in the sky
- 5500 galaxies in photo
- So at least 170 billion galaxies in observable Universe

God: The Eternal One



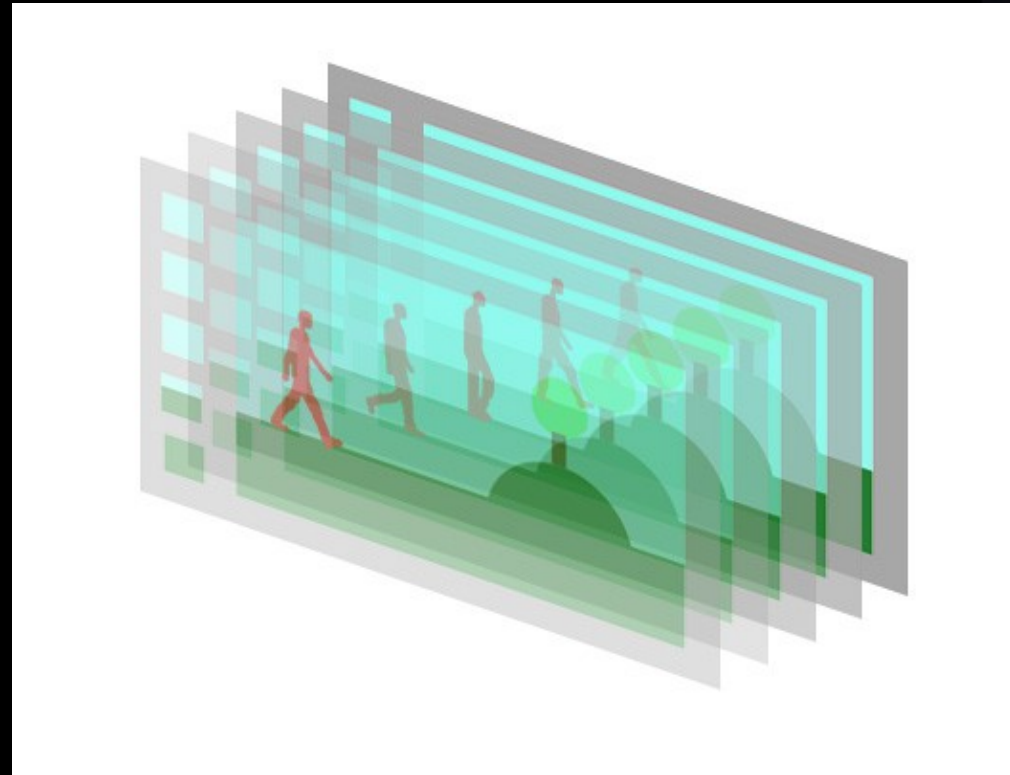
Our Universe

- 13.8 billion years old
- 200+ billion galaxies minimum
- 10+ trillion galaxies possible!
- 100 billion stars per galaxy

God: The Eternal One

God is Timeless?

- God is *outside* of time
- God is not 'now'
- Eternity is a 'block'
- “B-Theory of Time”
- Static/tenseless



God: The Eternal One



God is Everlasting?

- God is *in* time with us
- God is 'now'
- Only 'now' is real
- “A-Theory of Time”
- Dynamic/tensed

God: The Eternal One

God is Timeless?

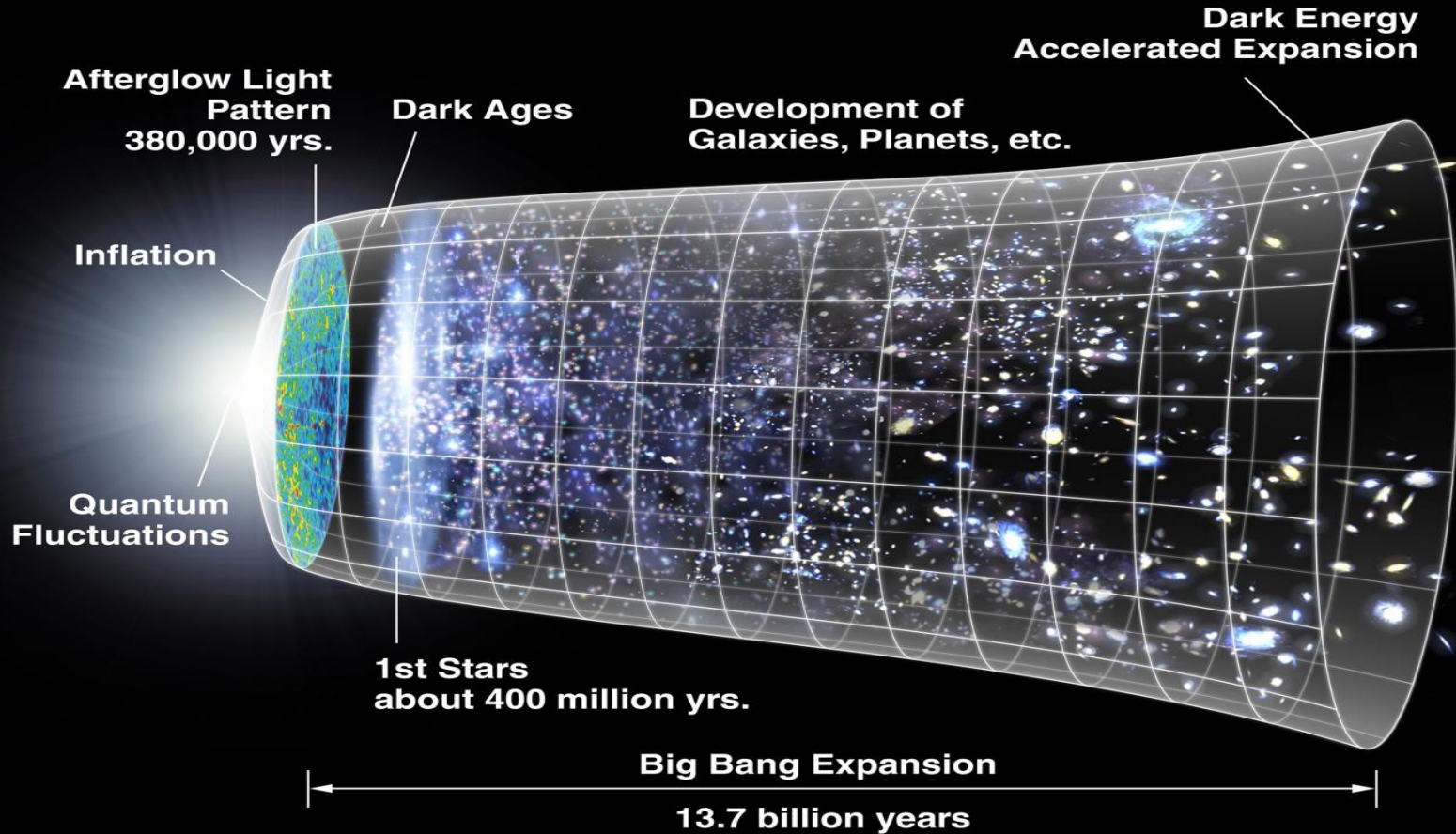
- God is *outside* of time
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- “B-Theory of Time”
- Static/tenseless

God is Everlasting?

- God is *in* time with us
- God is 'now'
- Only 'now' is real
- “A-Theory of Time”
- Dynamic/tensed

Which is true?

God: The Eternal One

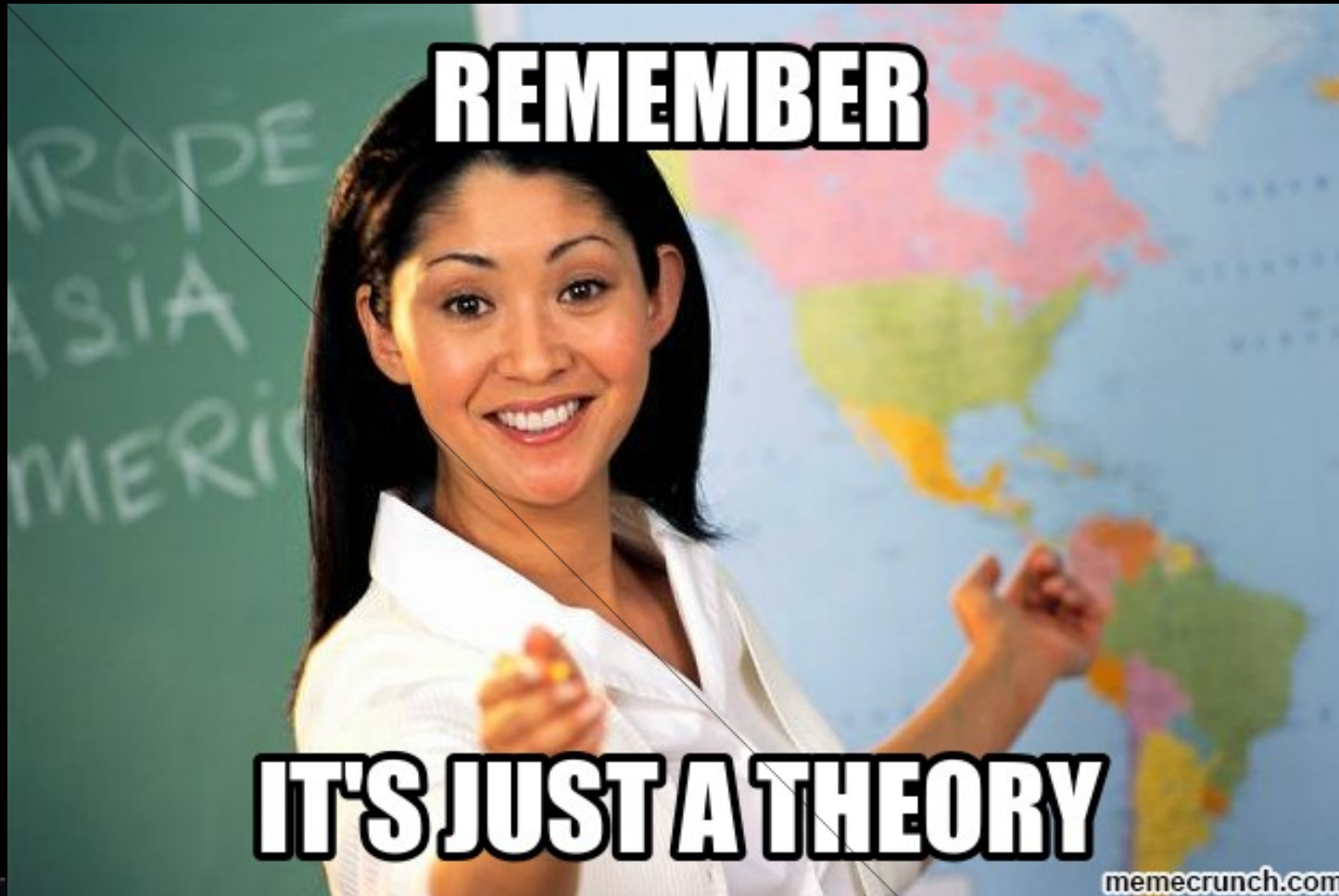


God: The Eternal One

“God is timeless without creation and he is in time subsequent to creation... Time begins at the moment of creation. At that moment, God enters into relationship with the temporal world and therefore enters into time. So the decision to create the universe on God’s part is a decision not only to create the world but also to enter into relationship with it and to enter into time. That would be my studied opinion of the issue...”

[William Lane Craig]

God: The Eternal One



REMEMBER

IT'S JUST A THEORY