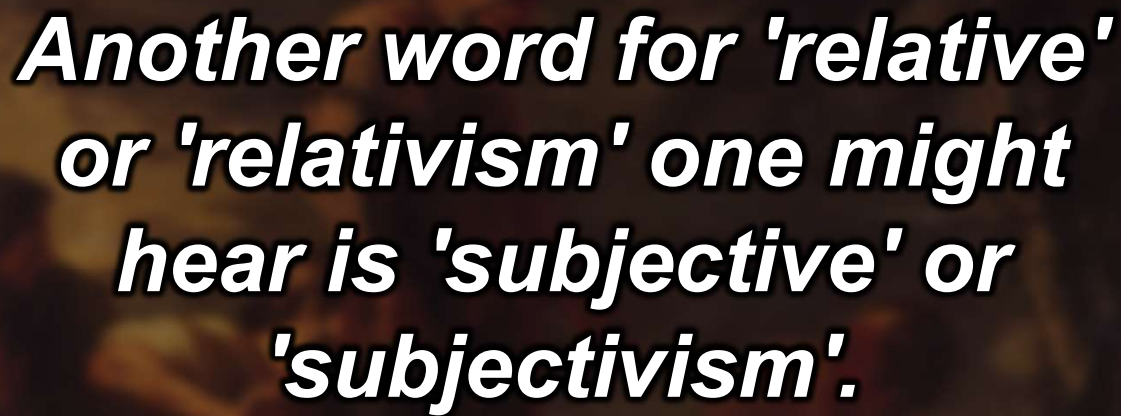


Relativism about "X" means that "X" or our knowledge of "X" is different for (i.e., relative to) different people.



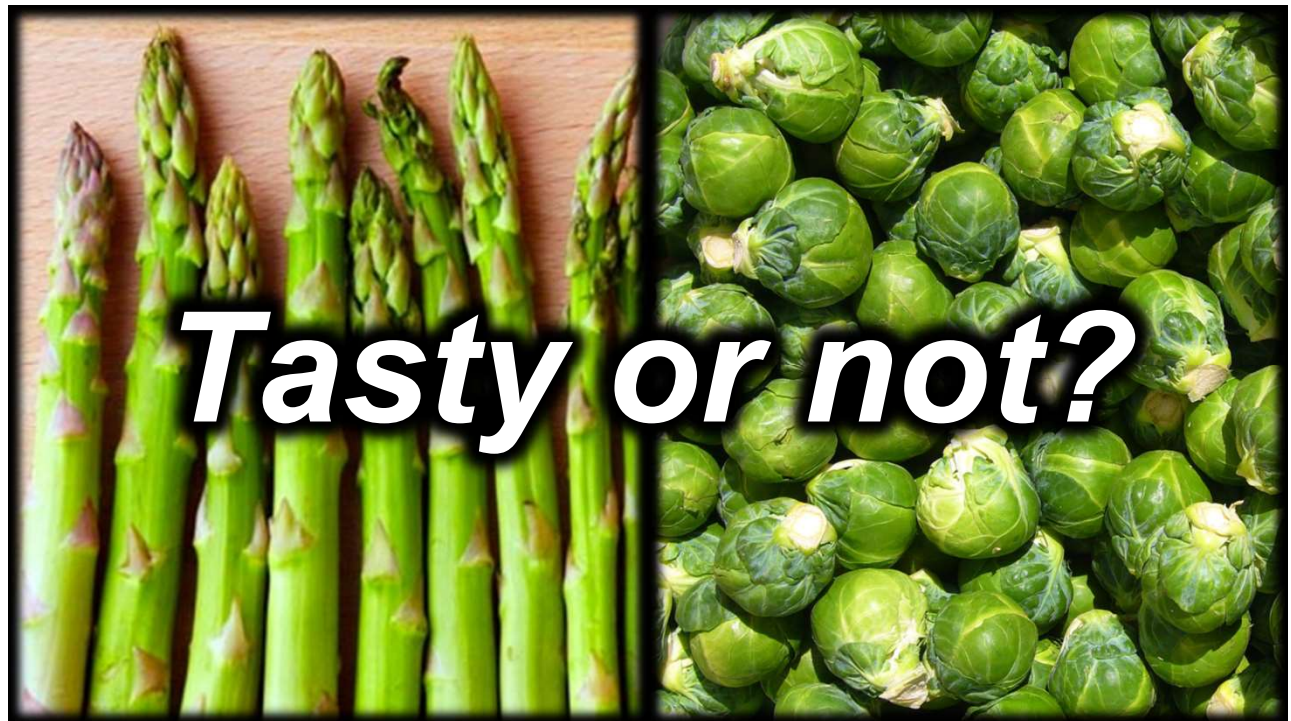
Another word for 'relative' or 'relativism' one might hear is 'subjective' or 'subjectivism'.



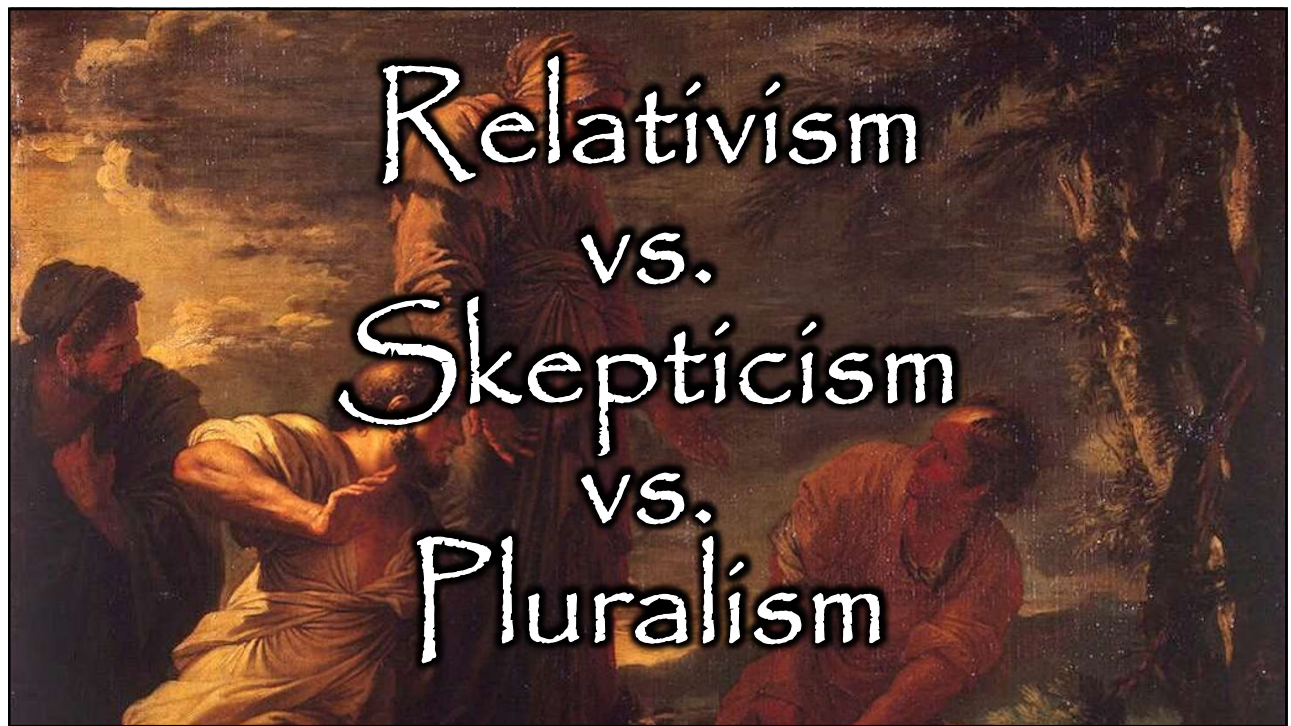
The opposite of subjective is objective.

For something to be objective means that it is the same for everyone.

***Not all relativism or
subjectivism is bad. Some
relativism is completely
normal.***







∞ Relativism ∞

The relativism about which we are concerned illicitly regards an objective "X" as if it were merely a relative "X."

∞ Skepticism ∞

grants that there may be objective truth about "X," but we cannot know what that truth is.

∞ Pluralism ∞

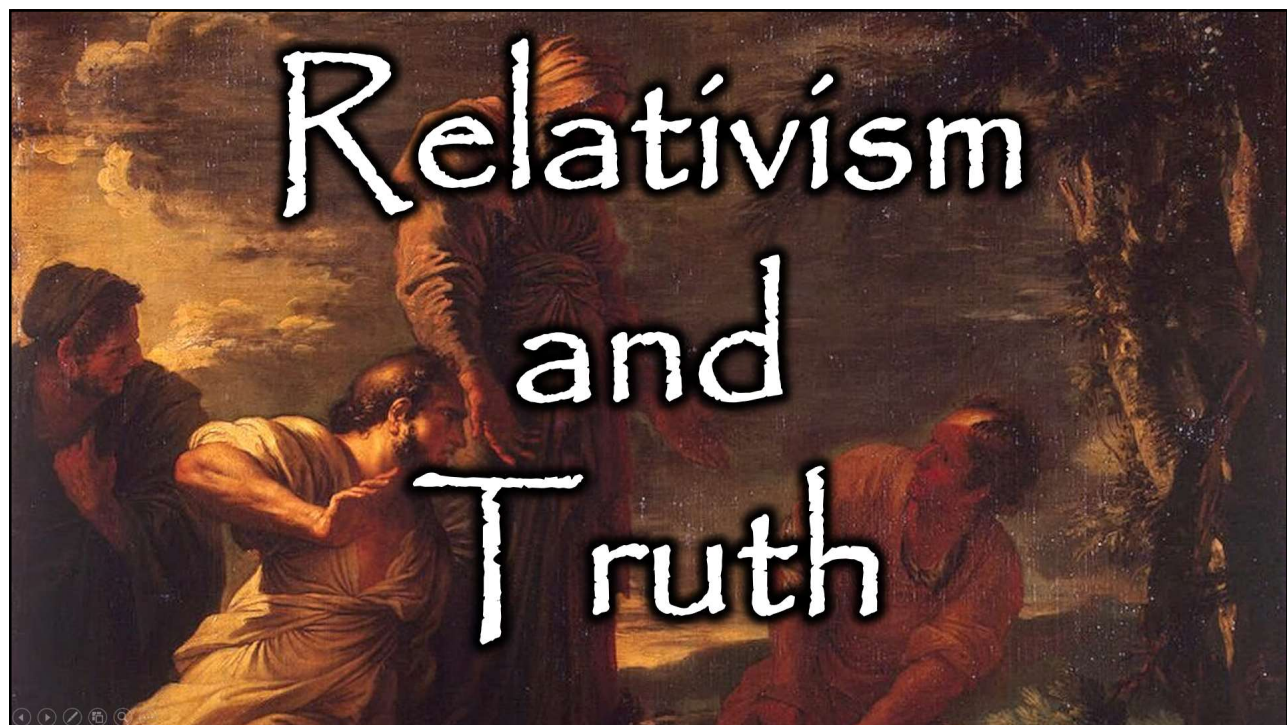
- *usually in reference to religious beliefs*
- *comes in two types*

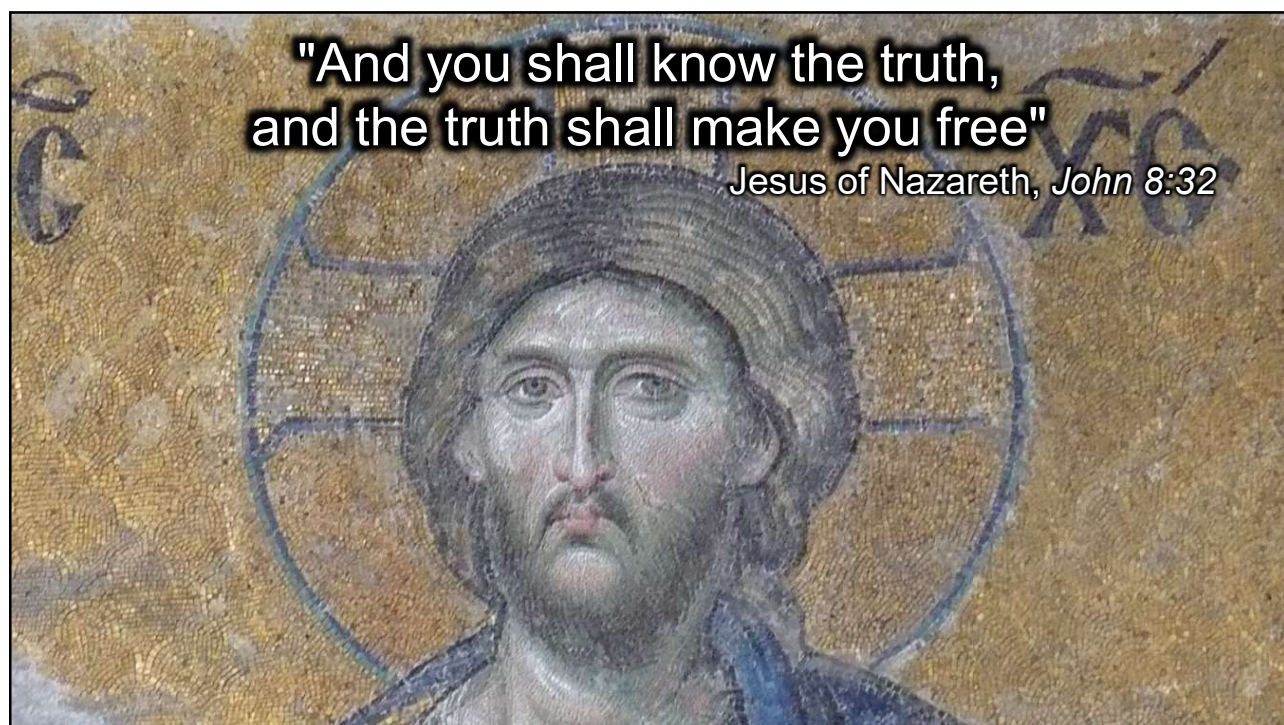
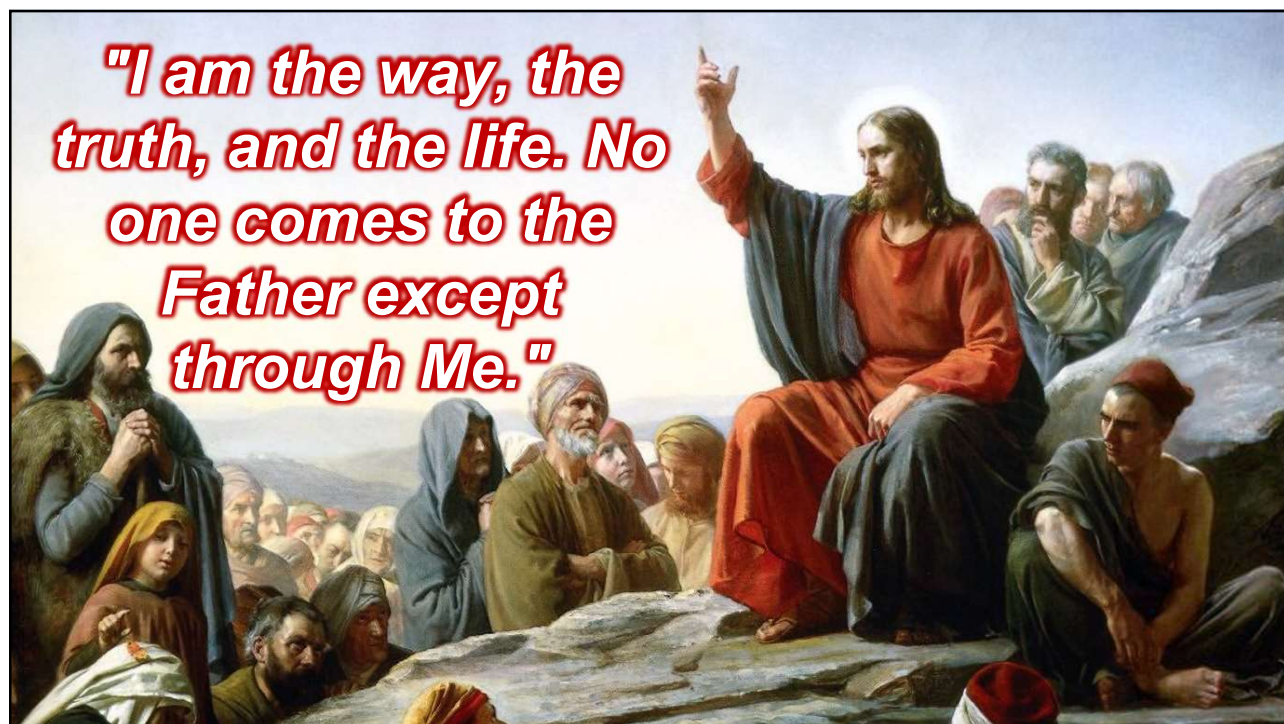
∞ Pluralism ∞

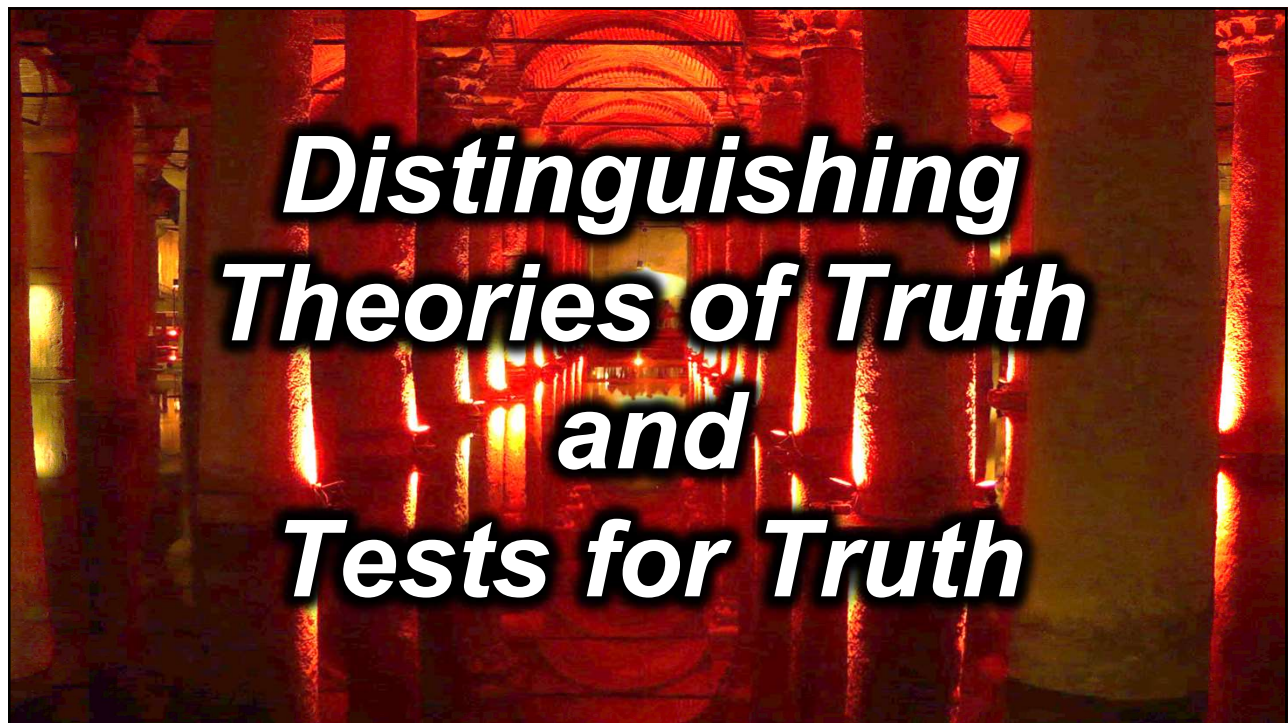
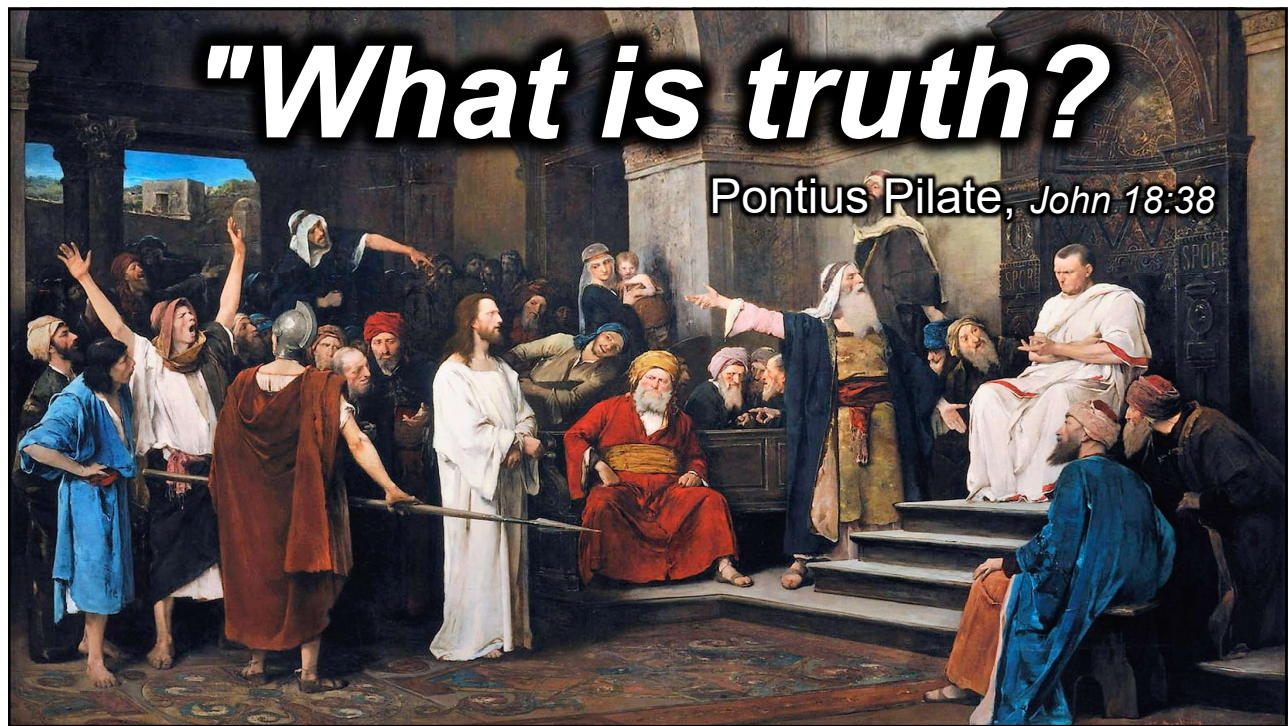
- *Sociologically, pluralism is the recognition that, within a given context, there is a variety of religious beliefs.*

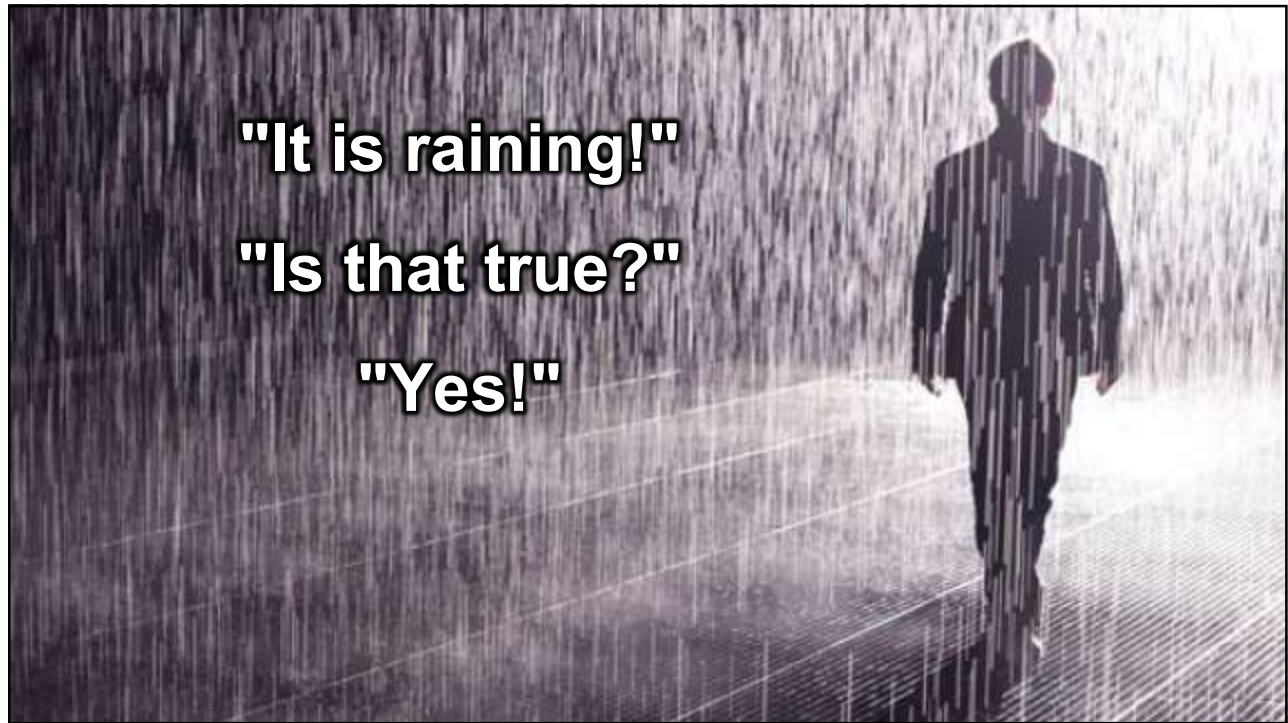
∞ Pluralism ∞

- *Philosophically, pluralism is the claim that no particular religious believe is any more or less legitimate than any other.*









Whatever you are saying
about the statement
'It is raining'
when you say that
it is true is your
theory of truth.



How you know whether it
is raining is your
test for truth.



∞Theory of Truth∞

*how one **defines** the terms 'true' and 'truth' when saying that a statement is true*

∞Test for Truth∞

*how one **discovers** whether a statement is true, regardless of one's theory of truth*



Theories of Truth

Correspondence

Coherence

Functional

Pragmatic

Power



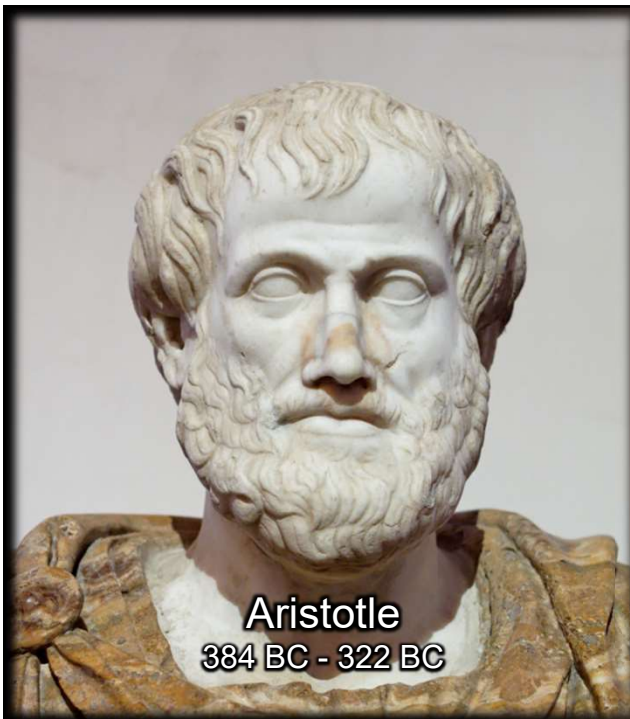
Correspondence



Correspondence

Truth is correspondence to reality.

- This says that a statement is true in as much as it corresponds to reality.
- Thus, the statement 'It is raining.'
 - ✓ would be a true statement if it is in fact raining in reality.
 - ✓ would be a false statement if it is in fact not raining in reality.

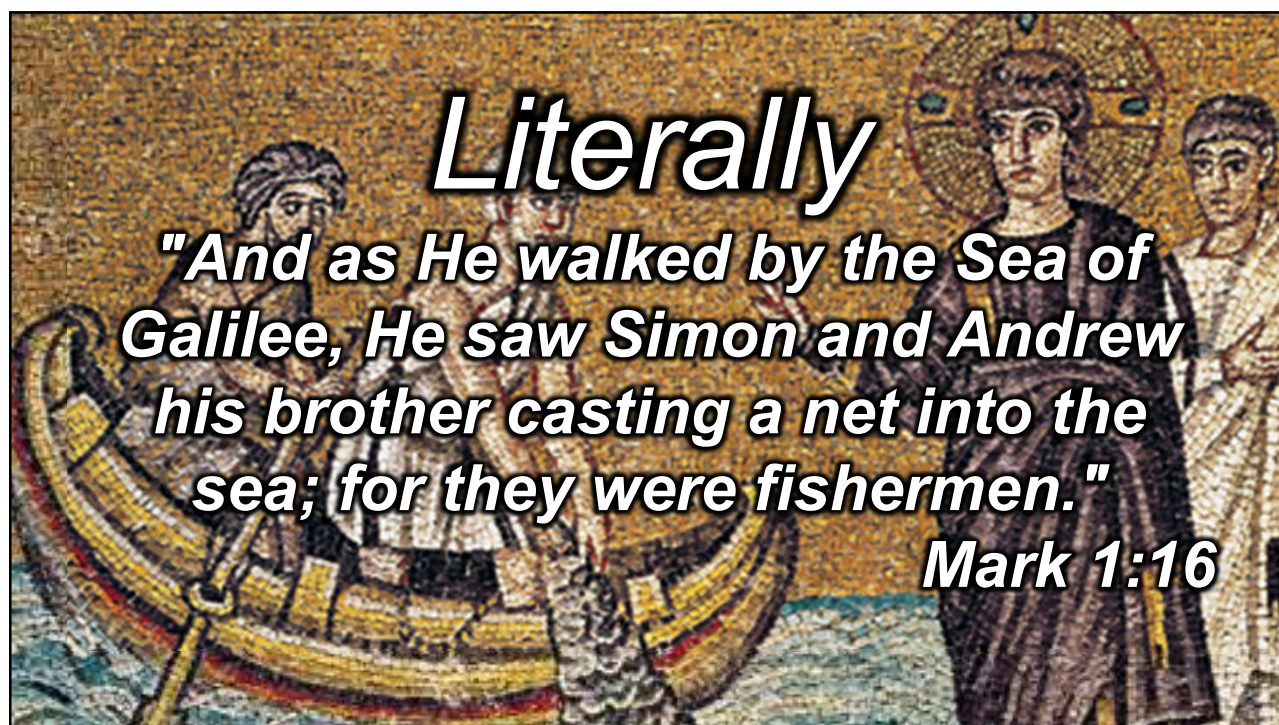


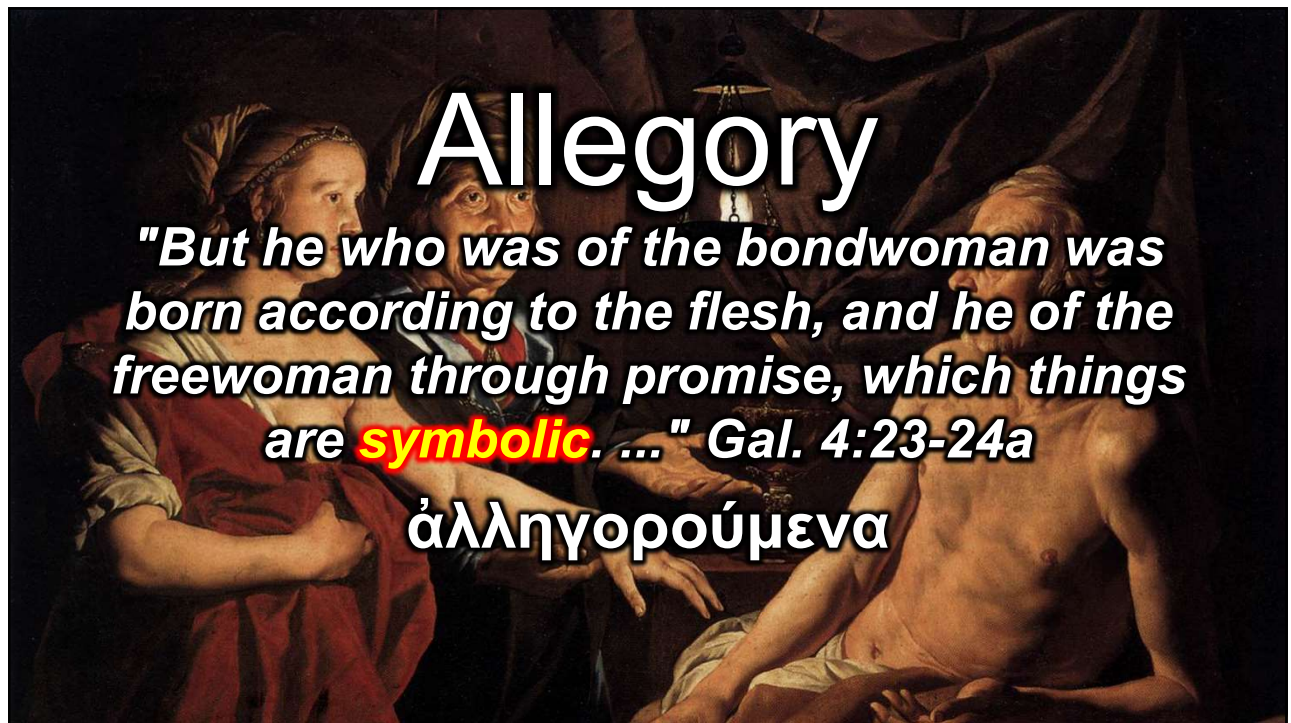
Aristotle
384 BC - 322 BC

***"To say of what is,
that it is not, or of
what is not, that it is,
is false, while to say
of what is, that it is
and of what is not,
that it is not, is true."***

Metaphysics, IV, 7, 1011^b26-29 Translation by W. D. Ross in Richard McKeon, *The Basic Works of Aristotle* (New York: Random House, 1941).

***What does it mean to
correspond to reality?***







Metaphorically



Metaphor

"For you shall go out with joy, and
be led out with peace ... and **all the
trees of the field shall
clap *their* hands."**

Isa 55:12



Similarly

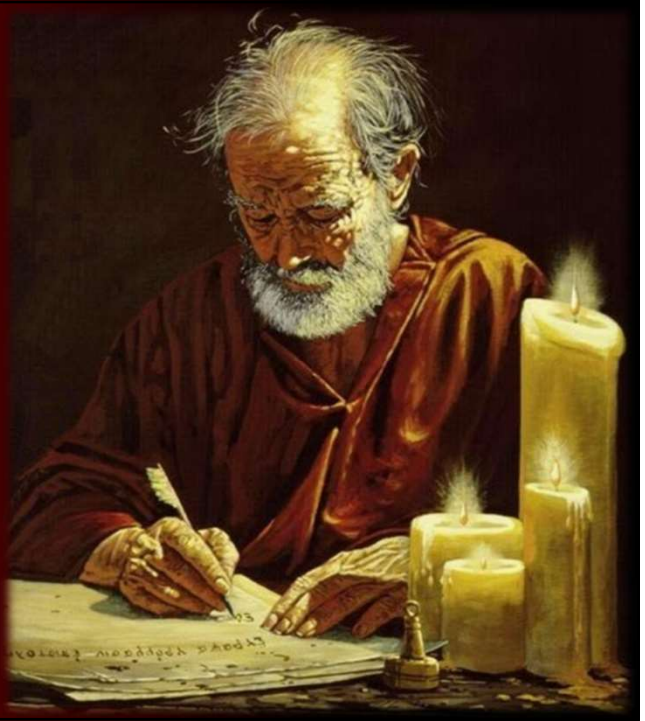


Simile

***"So his heart and the heart of
his people were moved as
the trees of the woods are
moved with the wind."***

Isa 7:2

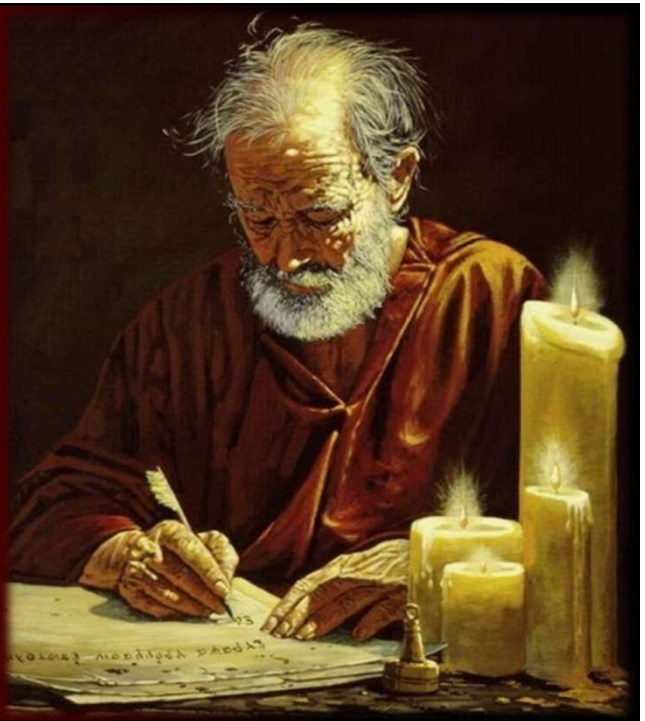
Analogically



Analogy

**"For we walk by
faith, not by
sight."**

2 Cor. 5:7





Symbolically



Symbol

*"... the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing. It was **symbolic** for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience—" Heb. 9:7-9*

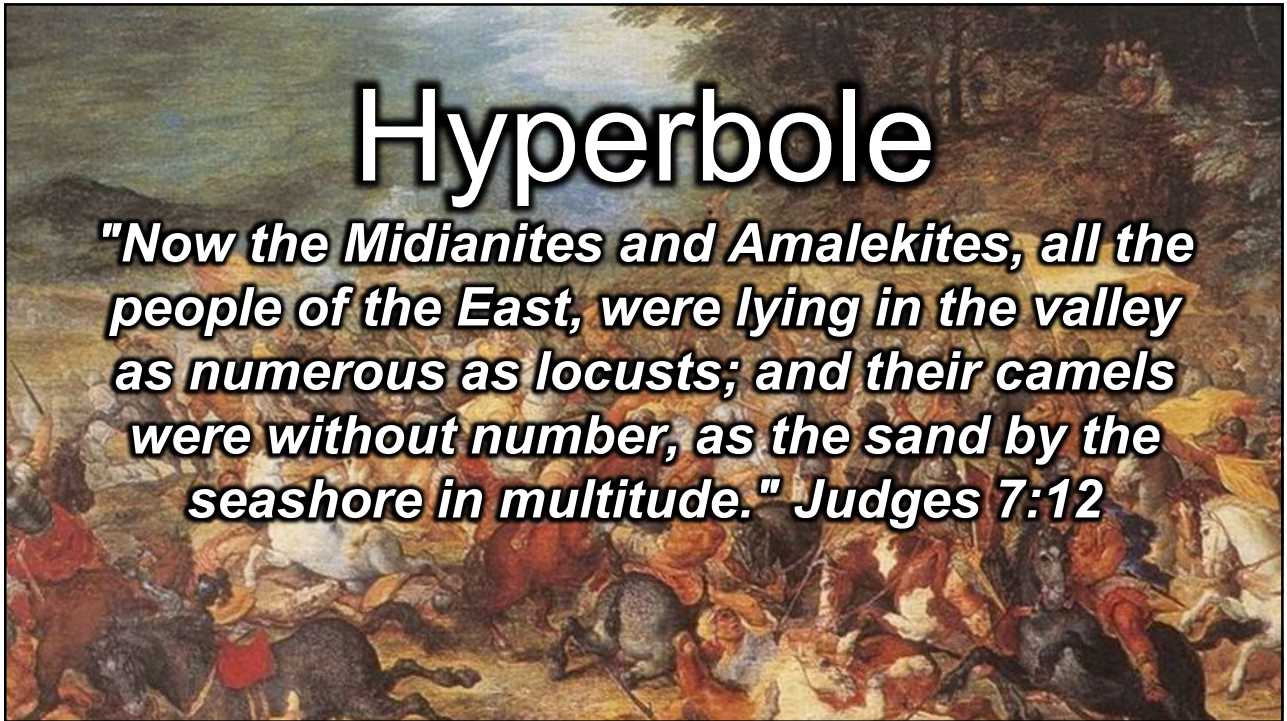
παραβολή

Hyperbolically



Hyperbole

"Now the Midianites and Amalekites, all the people of the East, were lying in the valley as numerous as locusts; and their camels were without number, as the sand by the seashore in multitude." Judges 7:12



A photograph of a bright sun rising over a calm body of water, with silhouettes of trees and land in the foreground. The sky is a warm orange-red color.

Phenomenologically

*"... for He makes His sun
rise on the evil and on the
good, ..."Matt. 5:45*

A photograph of a large, reddish-orange moon against a dark, black sky, representing a blood moon.

Phenomenologically

*"The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon
into blood, Before the coming of the great and
awesome day of the LORD." Joel 2:31*

A painting depicting Moses, dressed in a red and gold robe, pointing his right hand towards a vast, dense crowd of people in a desert landscape. The crowd is composed of many small figures, mostly men, looking towards the speaker. The background shows a hazy, mountainous horizon under a warm, orange-toned sky.

Informally

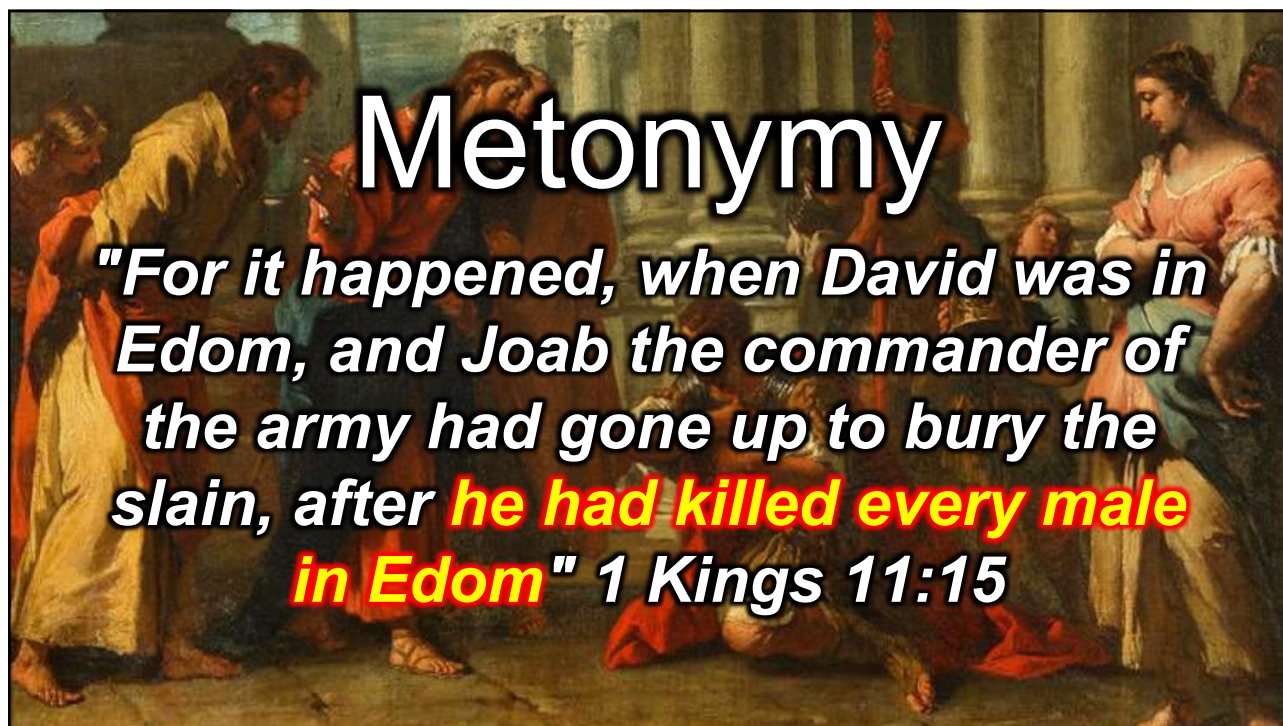
"... All who were numbered according to their armies of the forces were six hundred and three thousand five hundred and fifty." Num. 2:32

"And Moses said, 'The people whom I am among are six hundred thousand men on foot; ...'" Num. 11:21

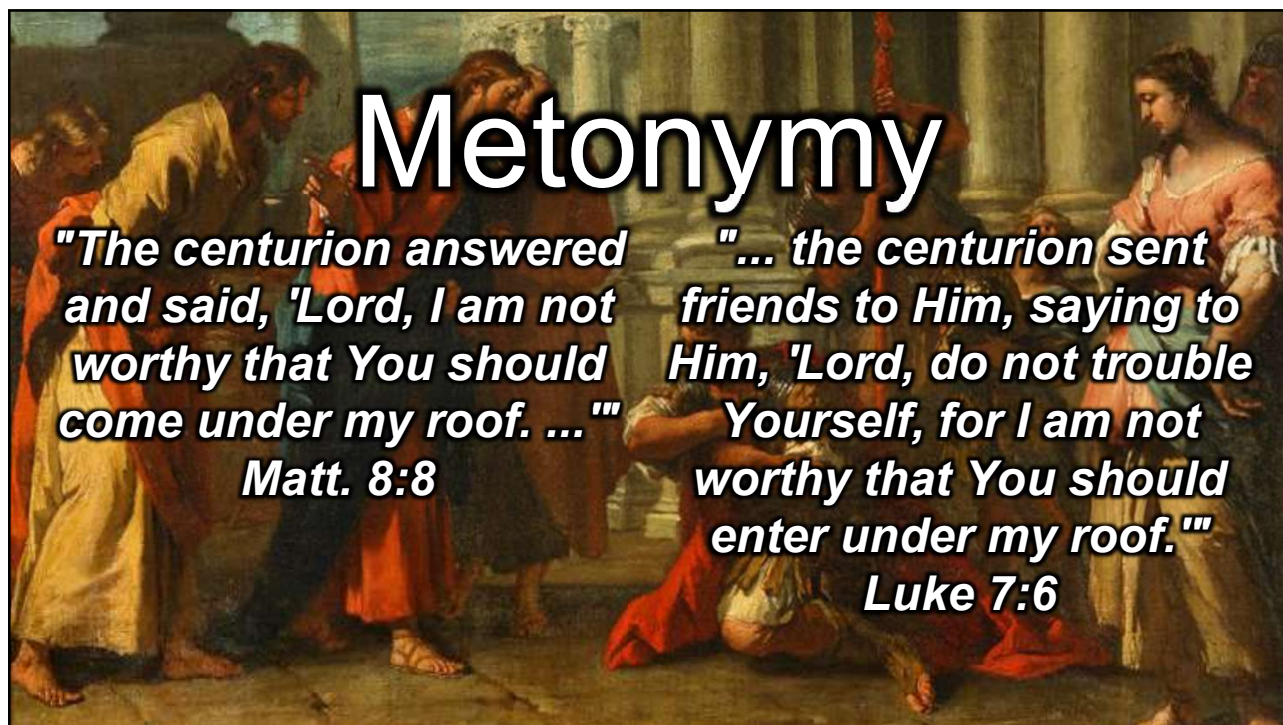
A detailed religious painting showing Jesus Christ, with a halo and wearing a red robe over a blue garment, standing centrally. He is surrounded by a large, diverse crowd of people in various poses of devotion, including kneeling, prostrate, and reaching out. The scene is set outdoors with trees and a cloudy sky in the background.

Synecdochically



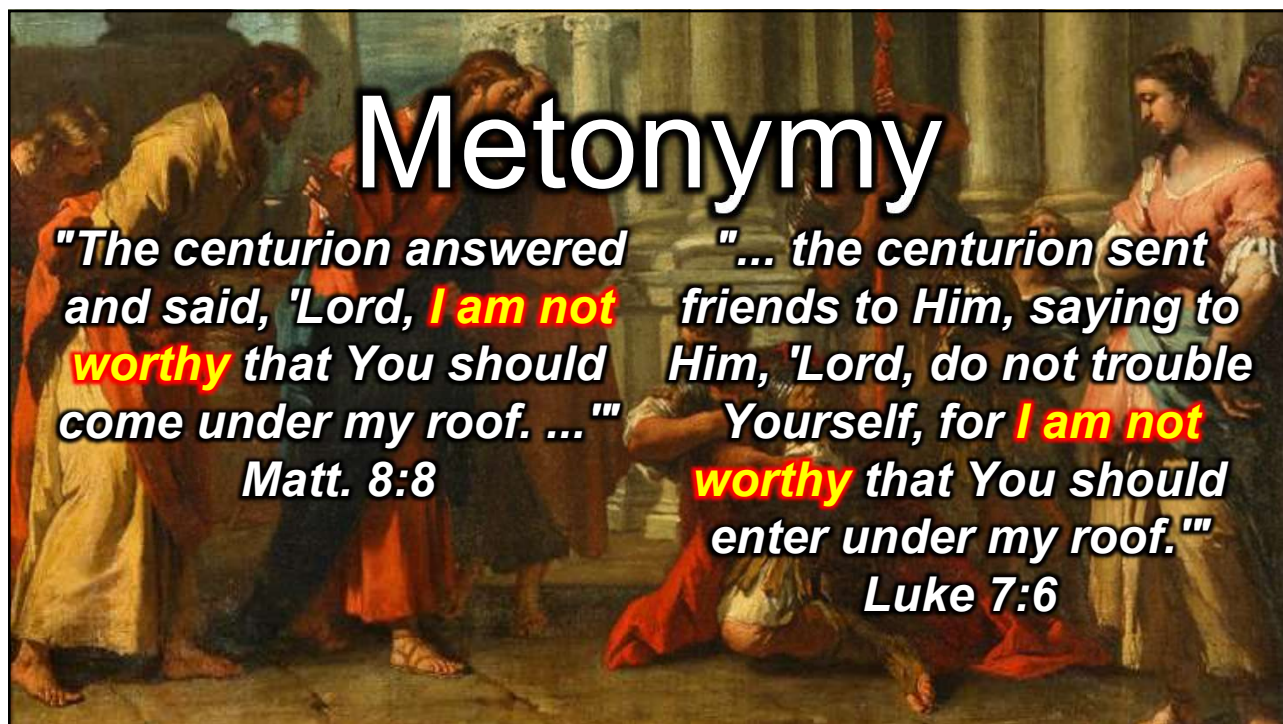


"For it happened, when David was in Edom, and Joab the commander of the army had gone up to bury the slain, after **he had killed every male in Edom**" 1 Kings 11:15



"The centurion answered and said, 'Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. ...'"
Matt. 8:8

"... the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, 'Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof.'"
Luke 7:6

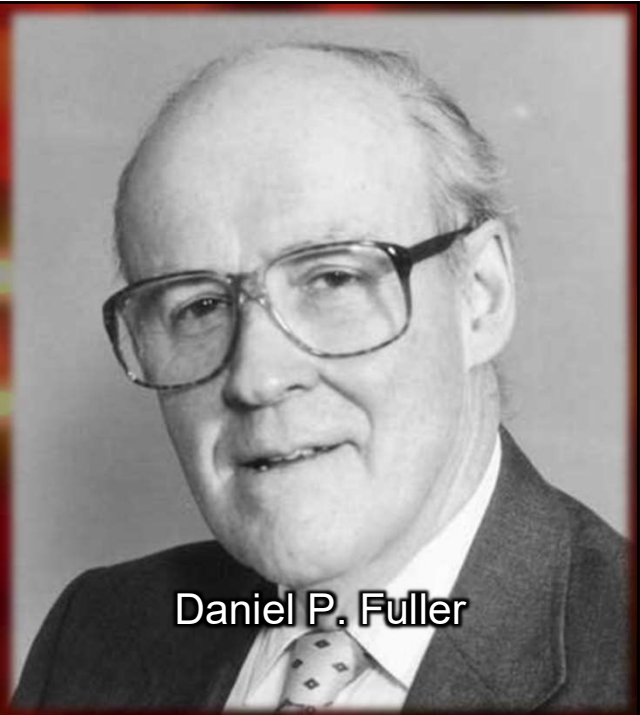


What about the other theories of truth?

Functional

- **Definition:** A statement is true in as much as it fulfills its intended purpose.
- It is sometimes known as the intentional theory of truth.

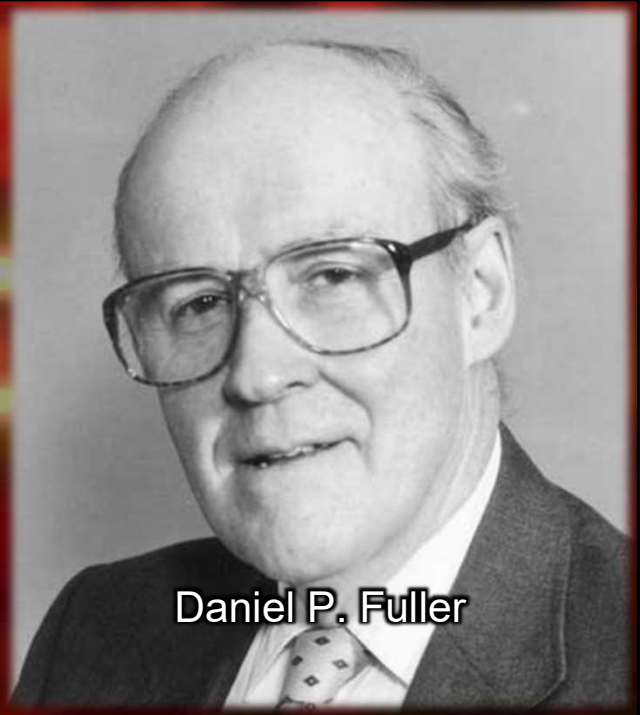
*"Although the mustard seed
(see Matt. 13:32) is not the
smallest of all seeds, yet
Jesus referred to it as such"
because . . .*



Daniel P. Fuller

"to have gone contrary to their mind on what was the smallest seed would have so diverted their attention from the knowledge that would bring salvation to their souls that they might well have failed to hear these all-important revelational truths."

Daniel P. Fuller, "Benjamin B. Warfield's View of Faith and History," *Bulletin of the Evangelical Theological Society* 11 (Spring 1968): 81-82, quoted in Norman L. Geisler, "The Concept of Truth in the Inerrancy Debate," *Bibliotheca Sacra* (October-December 1980): 336-337.



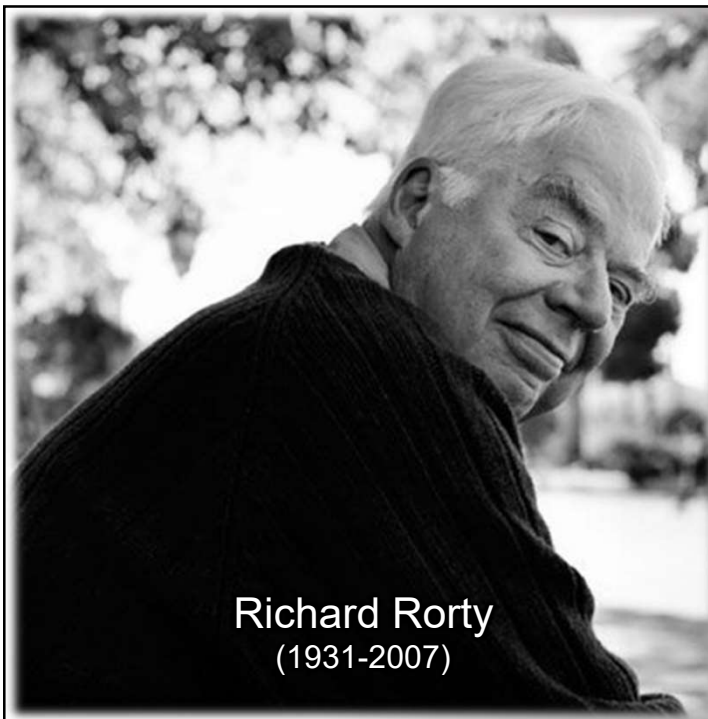
Daniel P. Fuller

Functional

- **Definition: A statement is true in as much as it fulfills its intended purpose.**
- **It is sometimes known as the intentional theory of truth.**
- **Truth cannot be merely function because it needs the correspondence theory to define itself.**

Pragmatic

➤ **Definition: A statement is true in as much as it works or is practical.**



Richard Rorty
(1931-2007)

"Philosophy is "edifying discourse" the purpose of which is "finding new, better, more interesting, more fruitful ways of speaking" and "to keep the conversation going rather than to find objective truth."

[Richard Rorty, *Philosophy and the Mirror of Nature* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1979), 360, 377, as cited in William F. Lawhead, *The Voyage of Discovery: An Historical Introduction to Philosophy*, 2nd ed., (Belmont, Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2002), 563]

"For pragmatists, the desire for objectivity is not the desire to escape the limitations of one's community, but simply the desire for **as much intersubjective agreement as possible**, the desire to **extend the reference of 'us'** as far as we can."

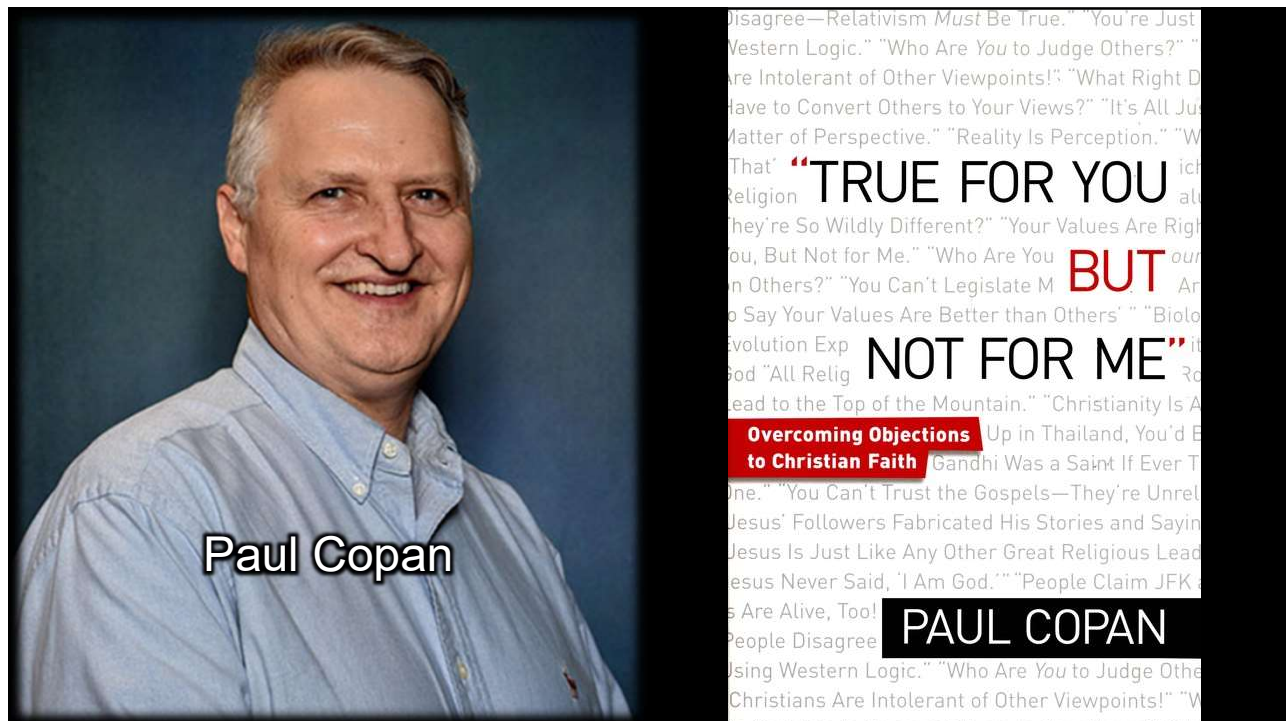
[Richard Rorty, "Solidarity or Objectivity," in *Objectivity, Relativism, and Truth: Philosophical Papers Vol. 1*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991), as cited in Lawhead, *The Voyage of Discovery*, 563-564]

Richard Rorty
(1931-2007)



Pragmatic

- **Definition: A statement is true in as much as it works or is practical.**
- **The pragmatic theory gives rise to the notion that something can be "true for you but not true for me."**



❧ Jeremiah 44:17-18 ❧

"But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our own mouth, to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem."



❧ Jeremiah 44:17-18 ❧

"For then we had plenty of food, were well-off, and saw no trouble. But since we stopped burning incense to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have been consumed by the sword and by famine."



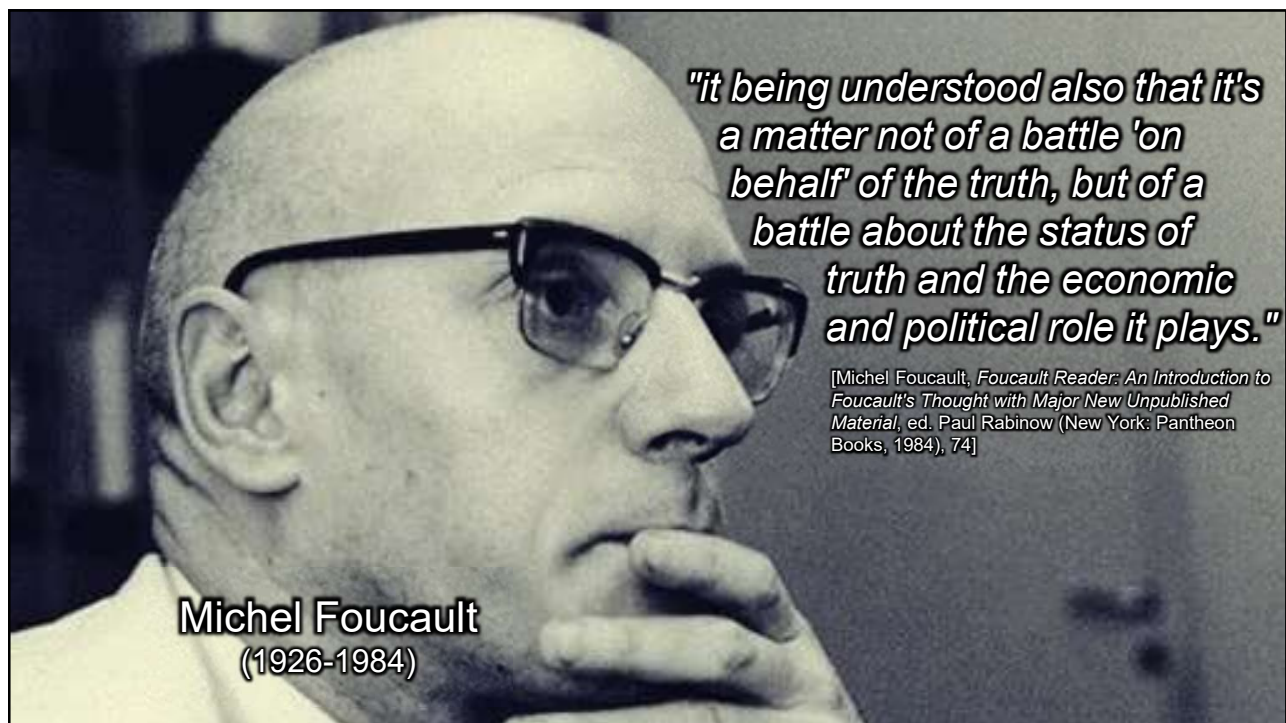
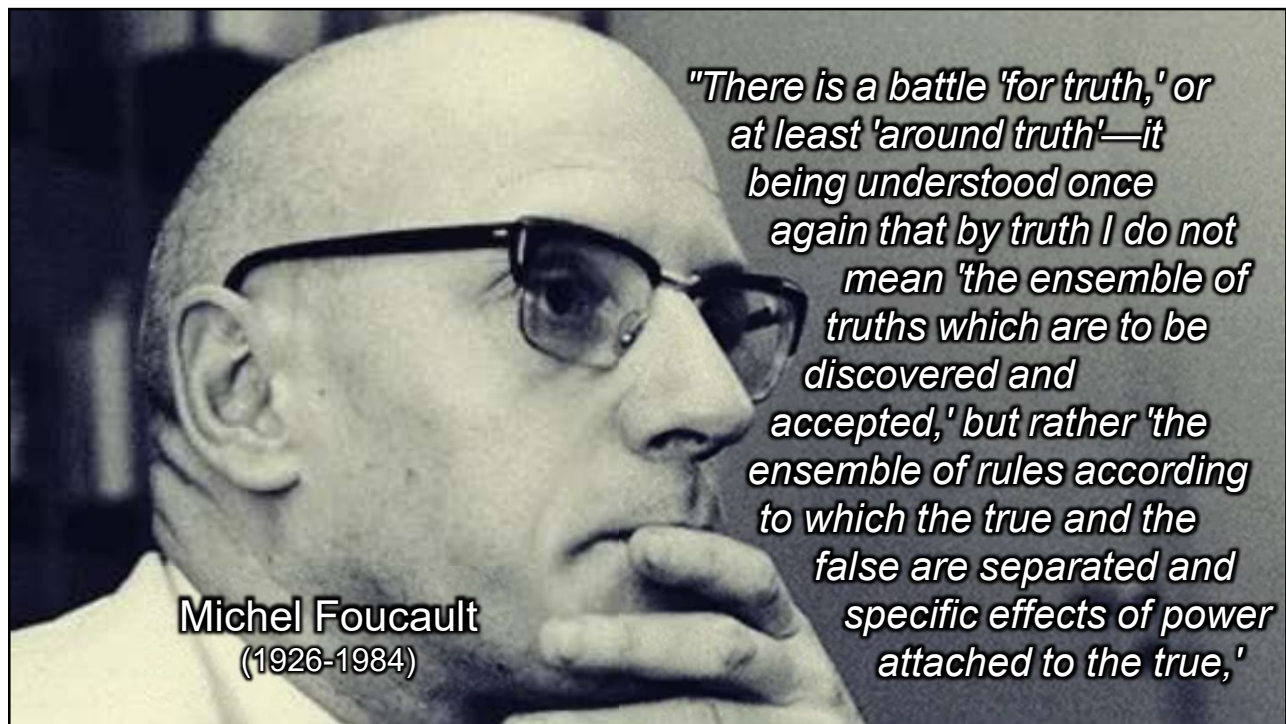


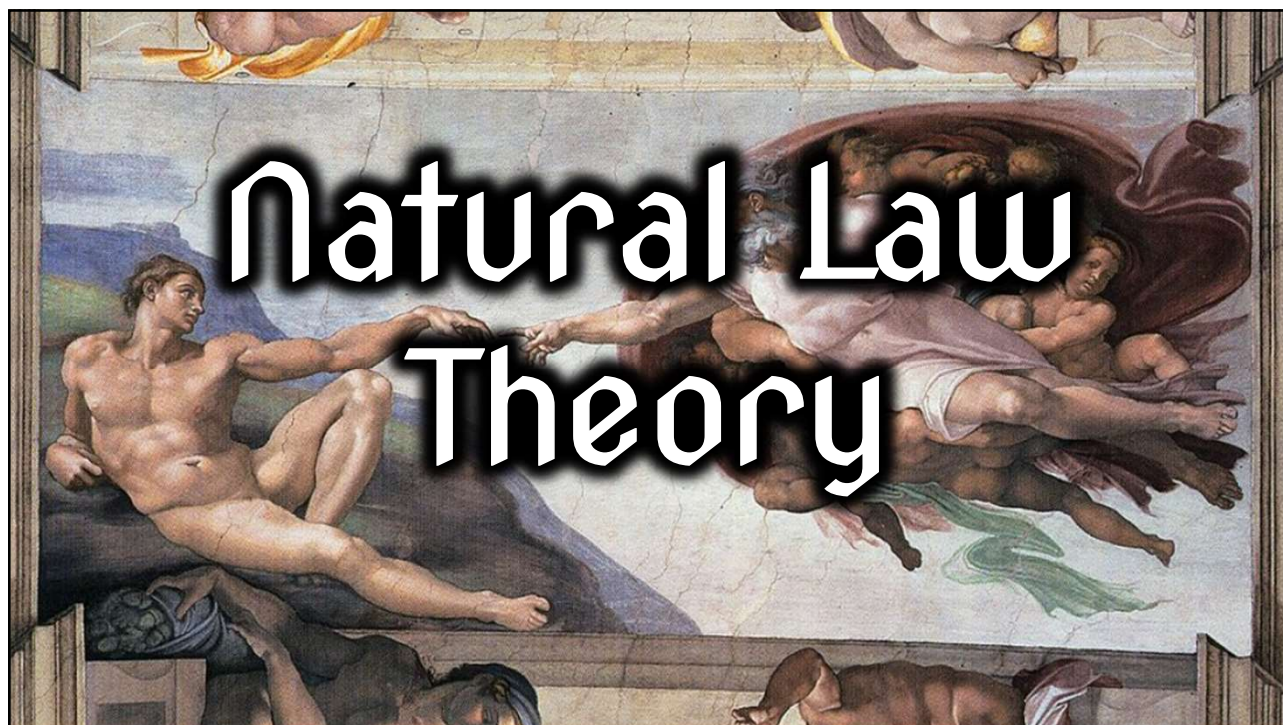
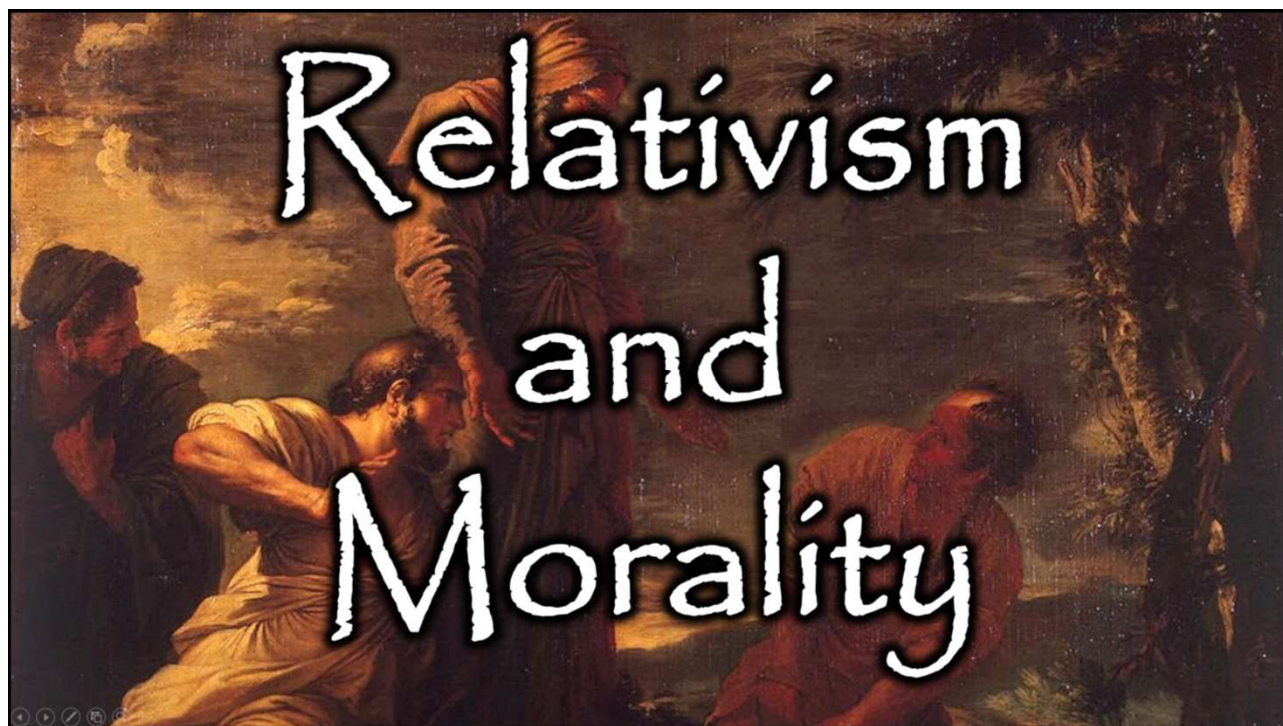
Pragmatic

- **Definition:** A statement is true in as much as it works or is practical.
- The pragmatic theory gives rise to the notion that something can be "true for you but not true for me."
- Every theory of truth, including pragmatic, requires the correspondence theory of truth to define itself.



Power







Hon. Clarence Thomas

Laurence H. Tribe

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The New York Times

Monday, December 15, 2008

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By LAURENCE H. TRIBE
Published: July 15, 1991

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Most conservatives criticize the judiciary for expanding its powers, "creating" rights rather than "interpreting" the Constitution. These critics talk of returning issues like abortion to democratically elected and politically accountable bodies.

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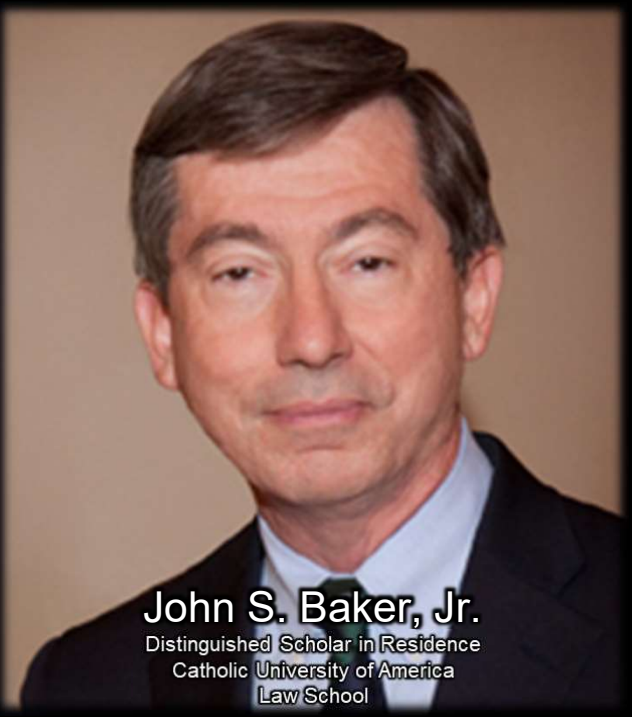
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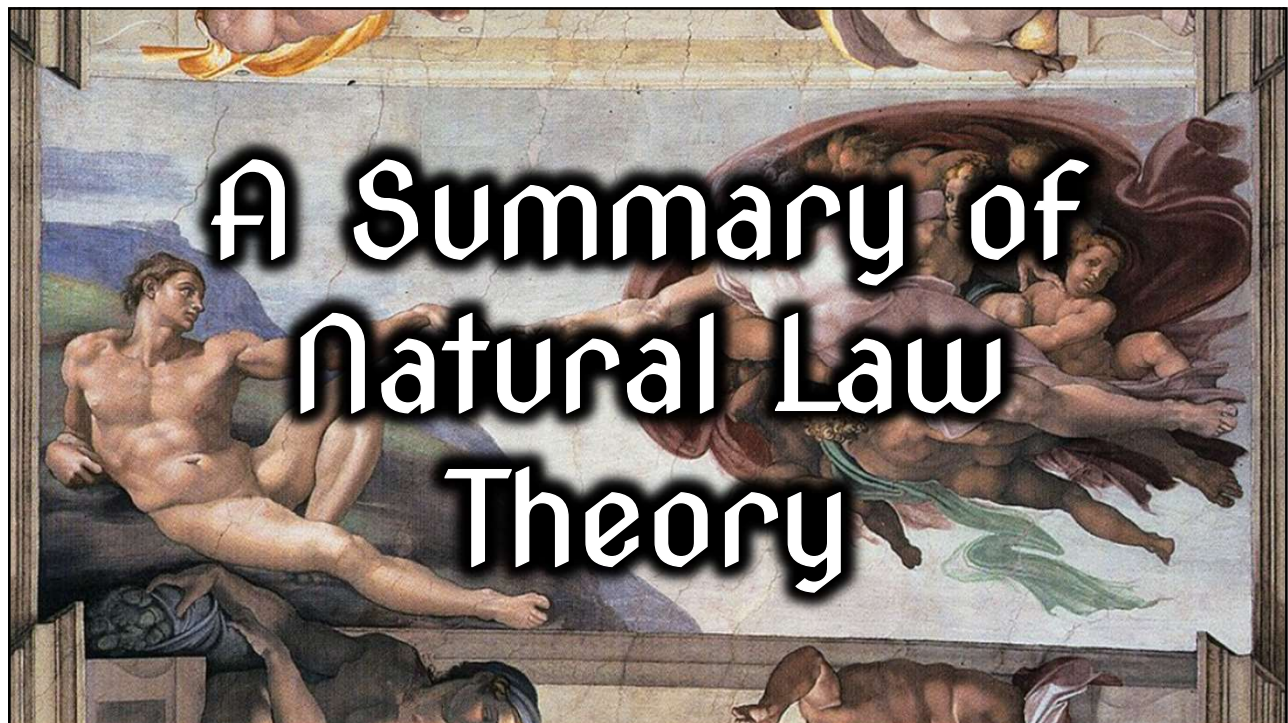
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"The anxious questions asked by the Senators about natural law and the nominee's disavowal that natural law would have any role in his decision of actual cases evidence a pervasive lack of understanding or acceptance of natural law."

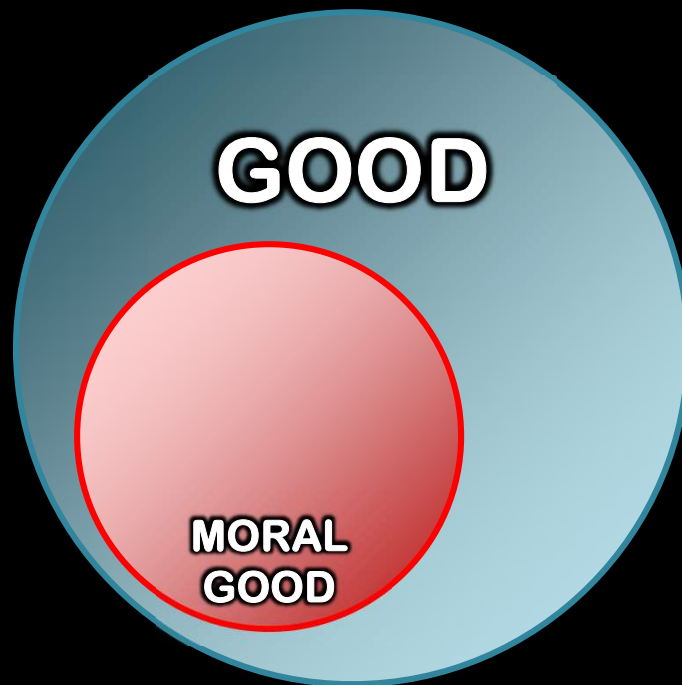
["Natural Law and Justice Thomas," *Regent University Law Review* (1999-2000): 471]



John S. Baker, Jr.
Distinguished Scholar in Residence
Catholic University of America
Law School

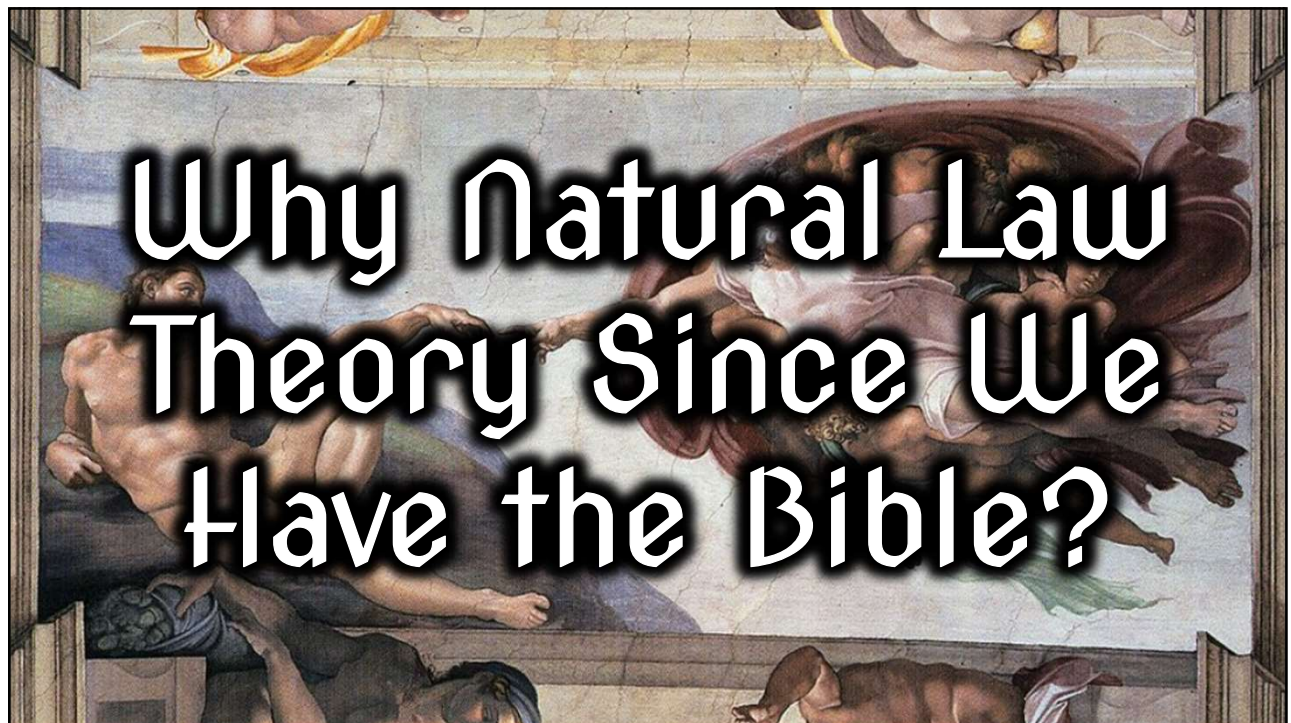
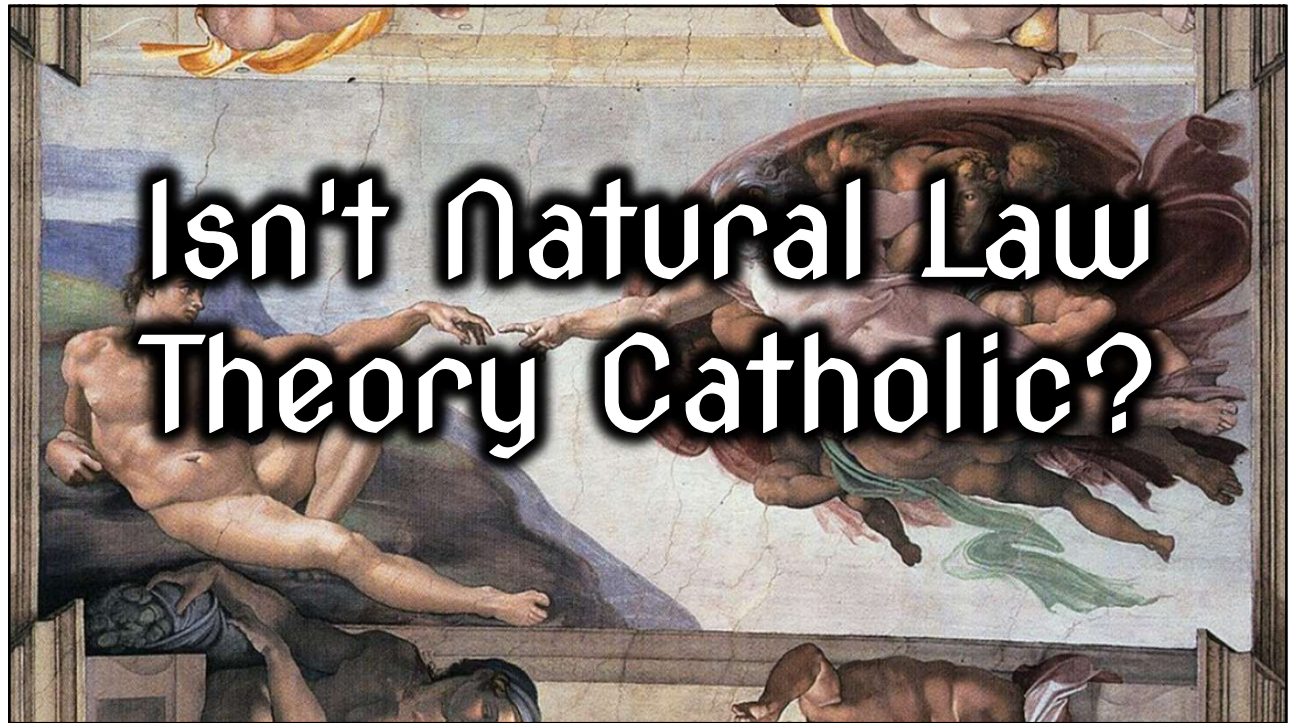


Natural Law Theory is a philosophical and theological view of the **good** and human **morality** based on the nature of humans and the nature of God.



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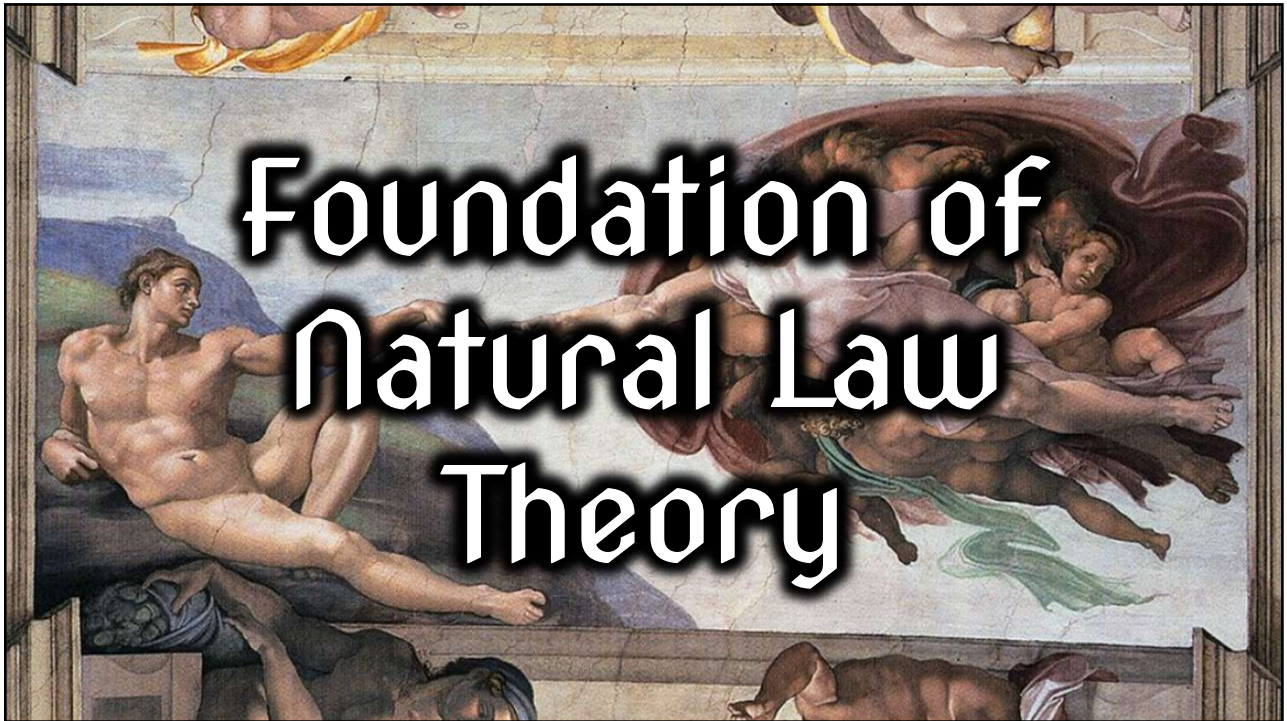
Natural Law Theory is a philosophical and theological view of the **good** and human **morality** based on the **nature of humans** and the **nature of God**.



Biblical Morality or Morality?



Foundation of Natural Law Theory



***There are two great
philosophical traditions
in Western thought that
have endured since the
ancient Greeks.***

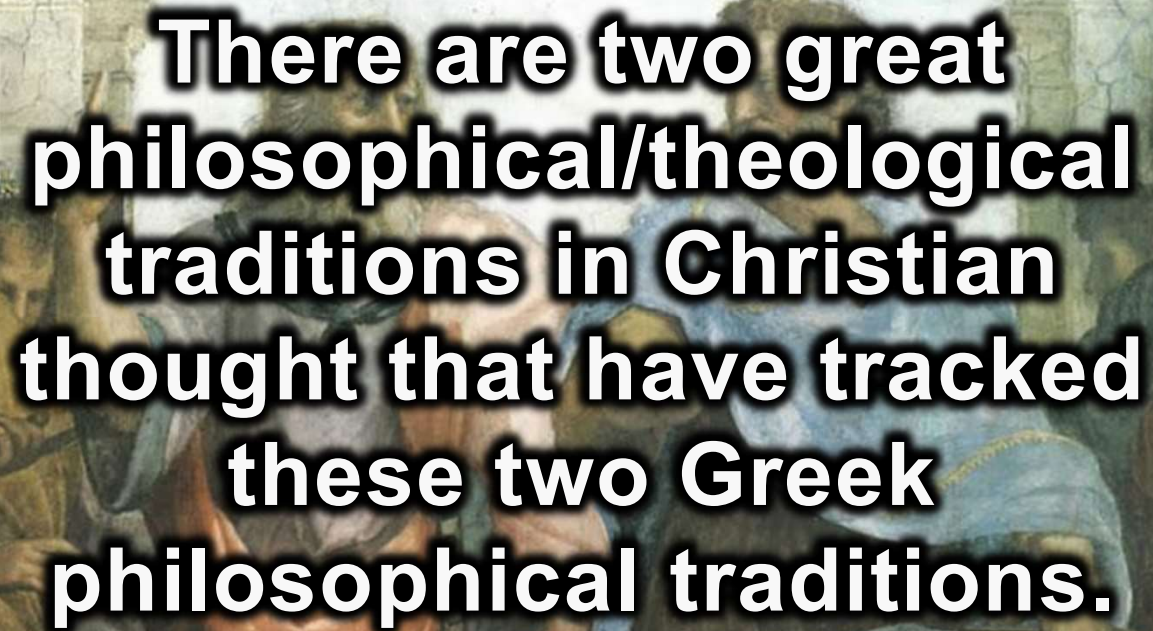


Plato

(428-348 BC)

Aristotle

(384-322 BC)

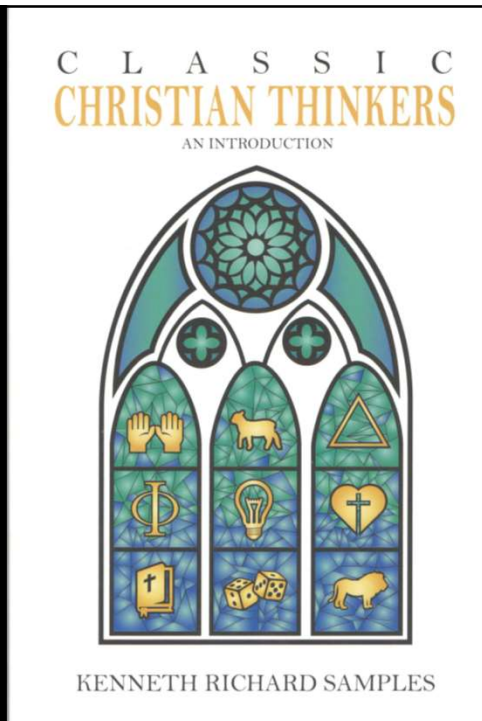


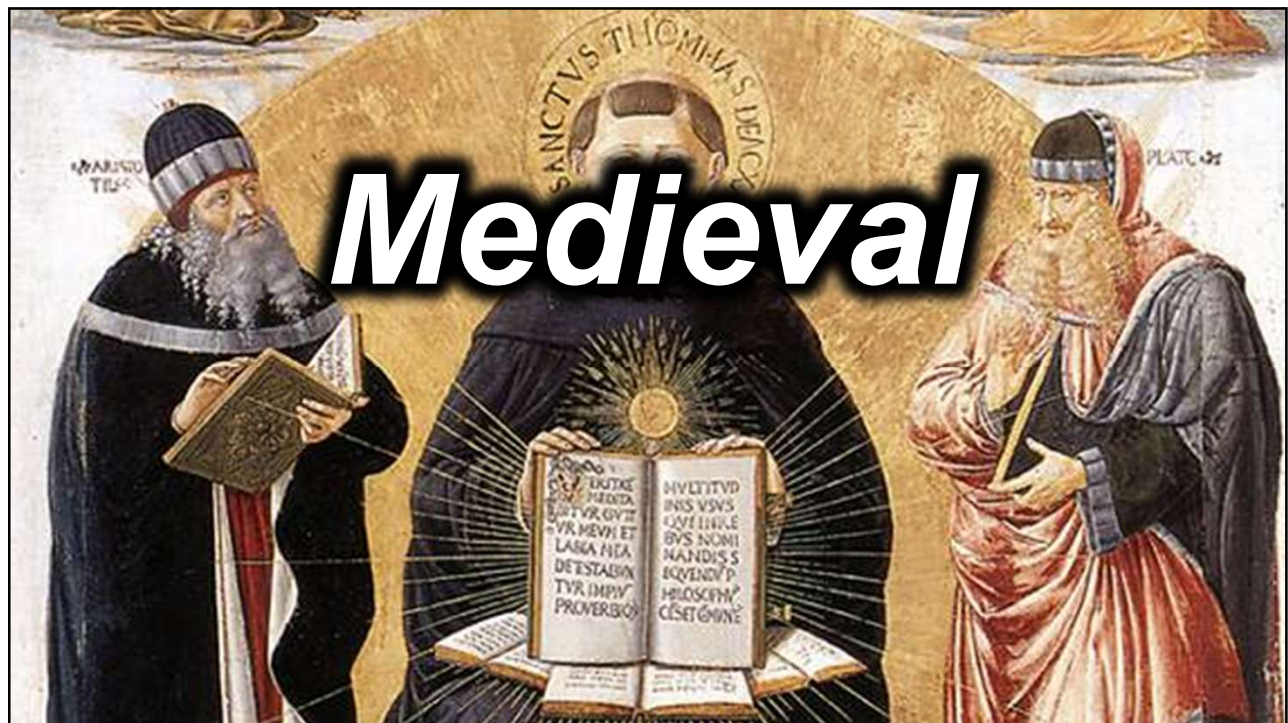
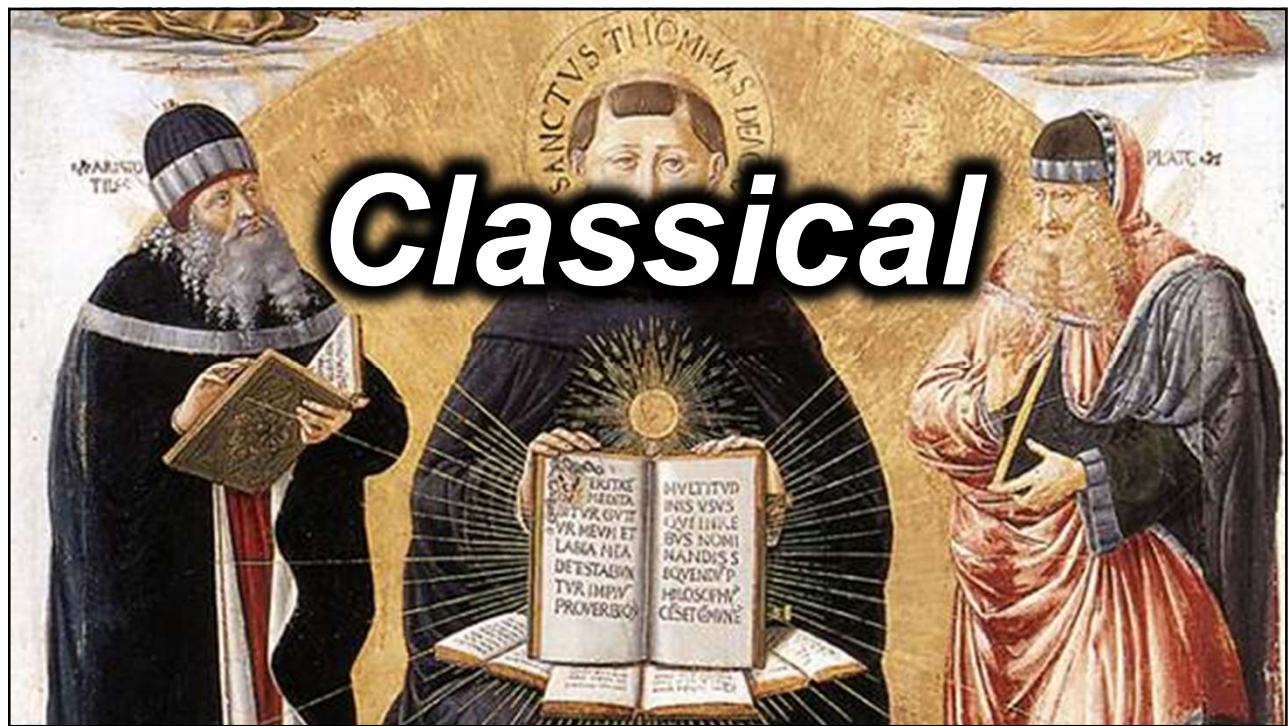
**There are two great
philosophical/theological
traditions in Christian
thought that have tracked
these two Greek
philosophical traditions.**

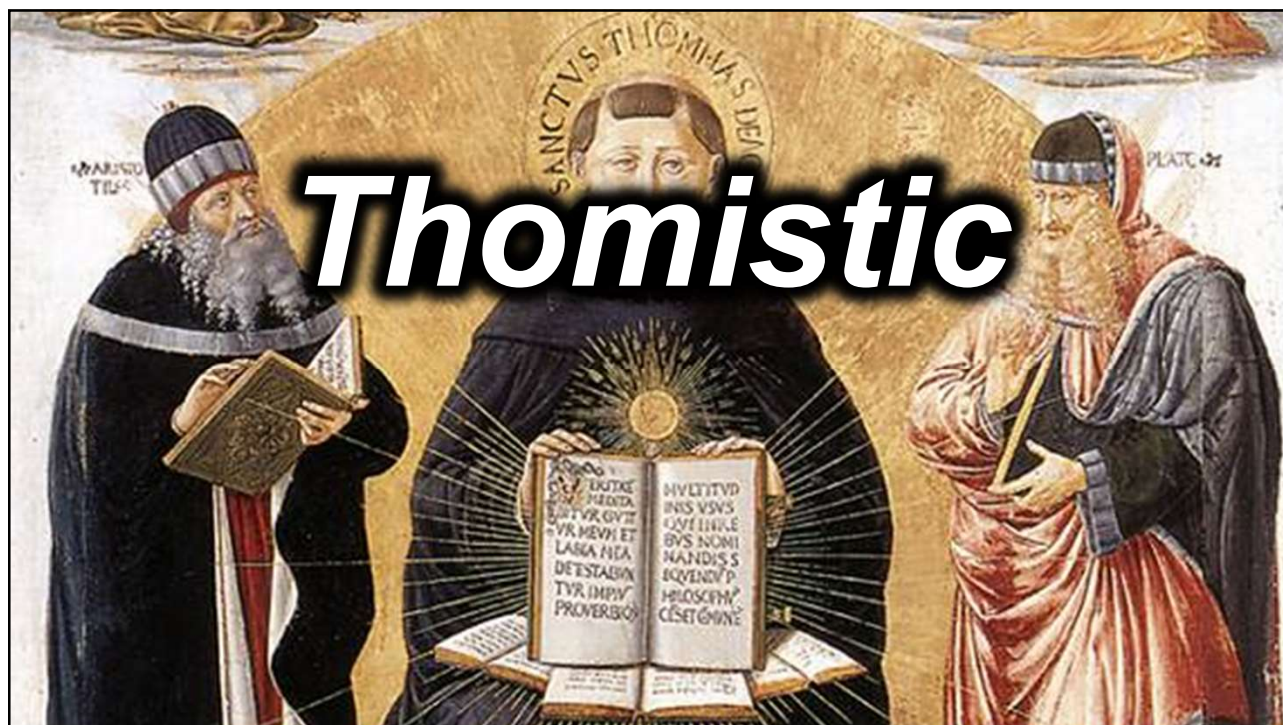
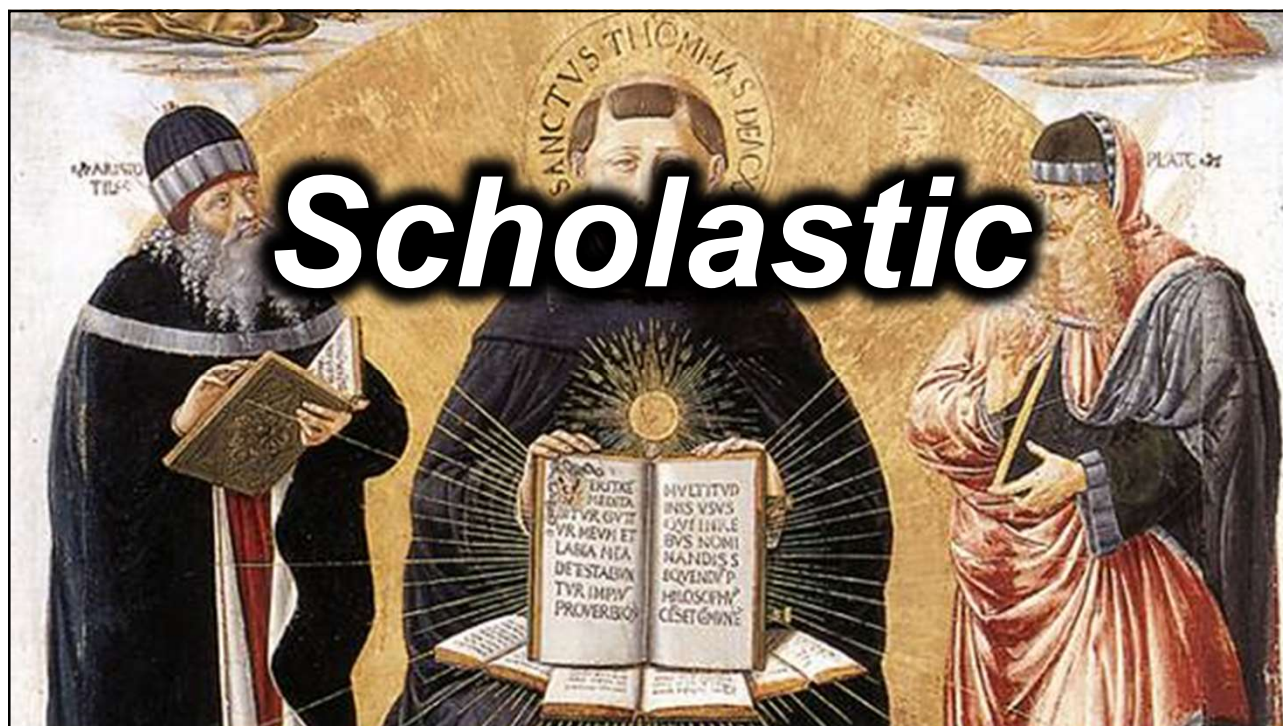


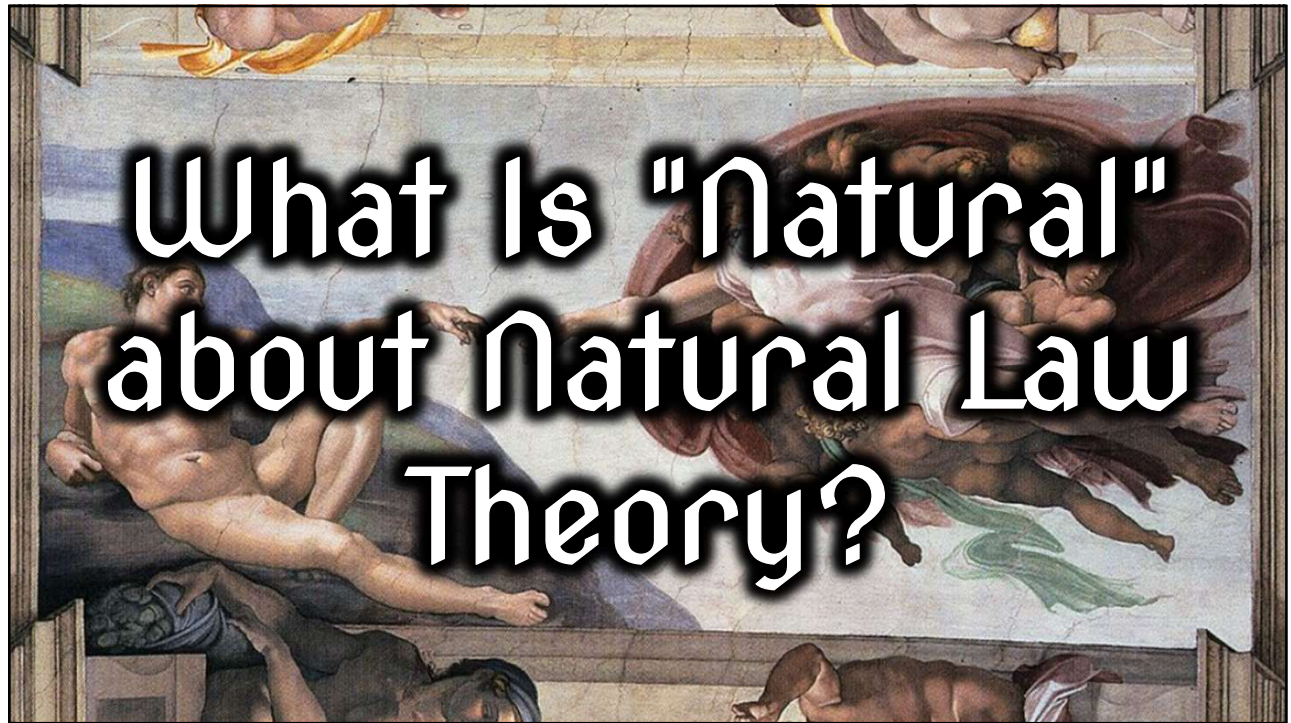


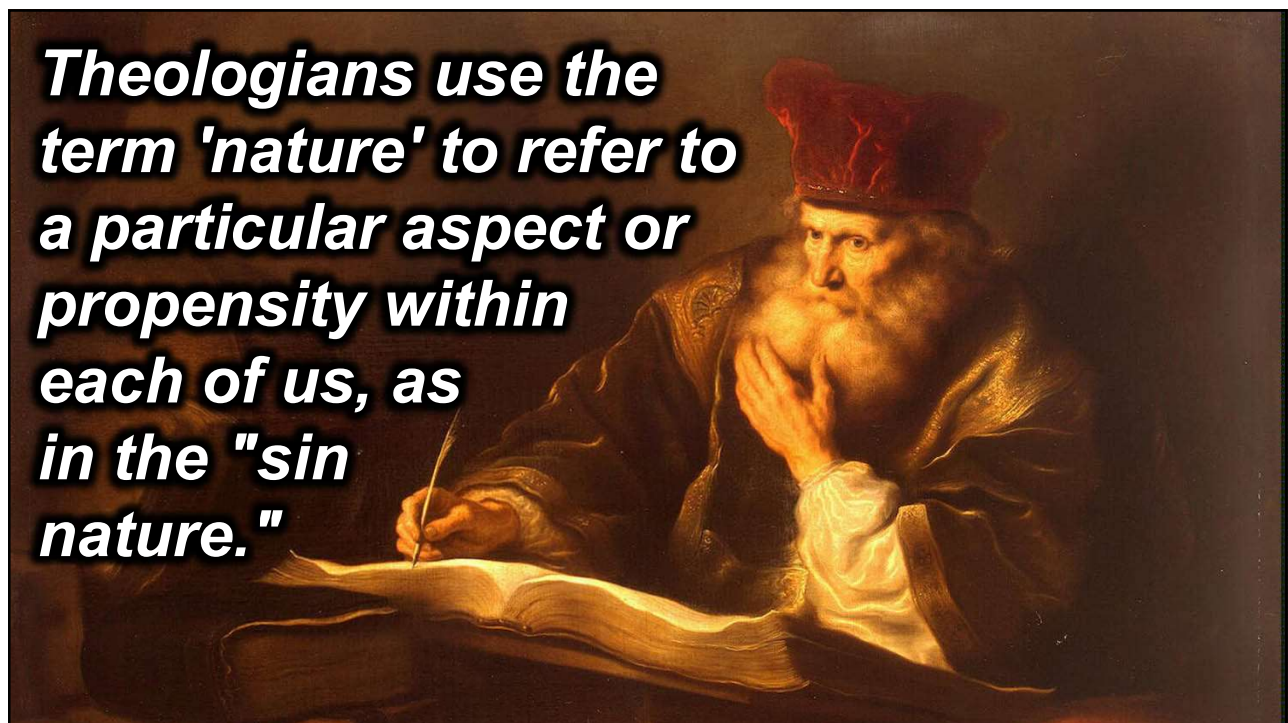
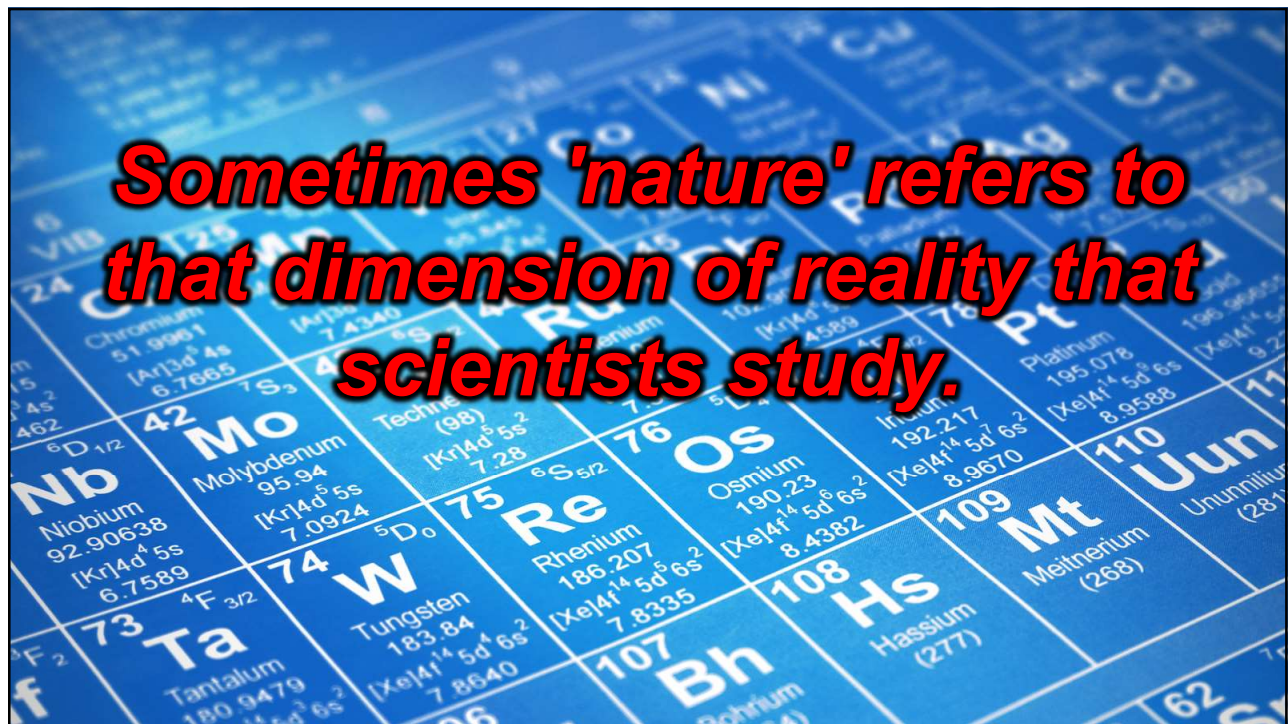
Kenneth Samples











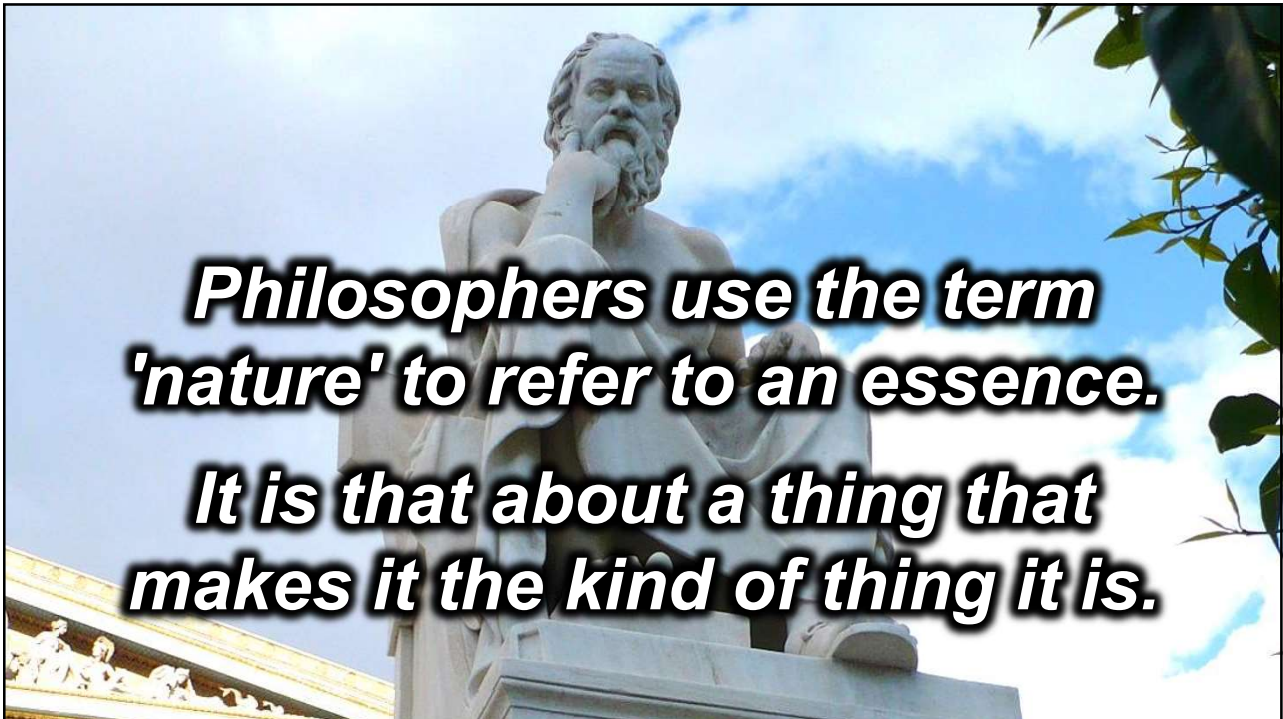
"In addition to the legal guilt that God imputes to us because of Adam's sin, we also inherit a sinful nature because of Adam's sin."

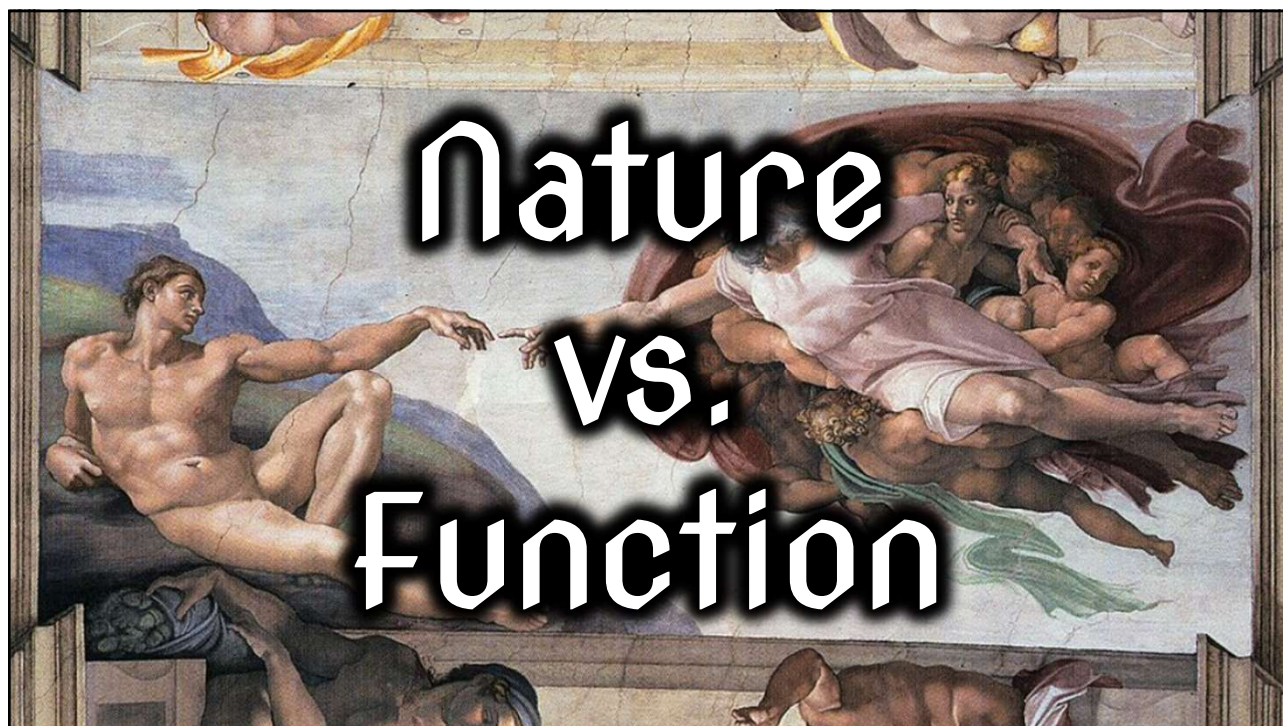
[Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994), 496]



Wayne Grudem

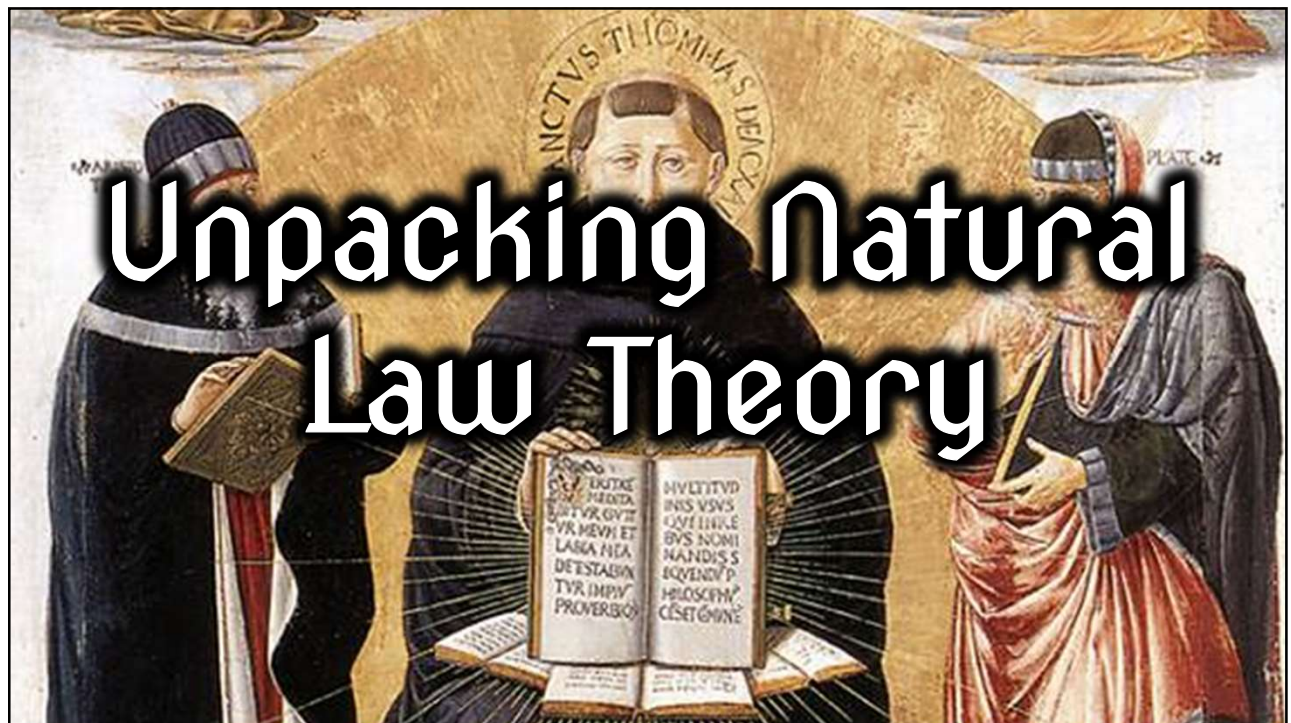
Philosophers use the term 'nature' to refer to an essence. It is that about a thing that makes it the kind of thing it is.








***The 'natural' in Natural Law
refers to the fact that human
beings are what we are because
we possess a human nature.***





Various Kinds of Law



ETERNAL LAW

*God's providential working
of the universe*

*The plan by which God
governs creation*



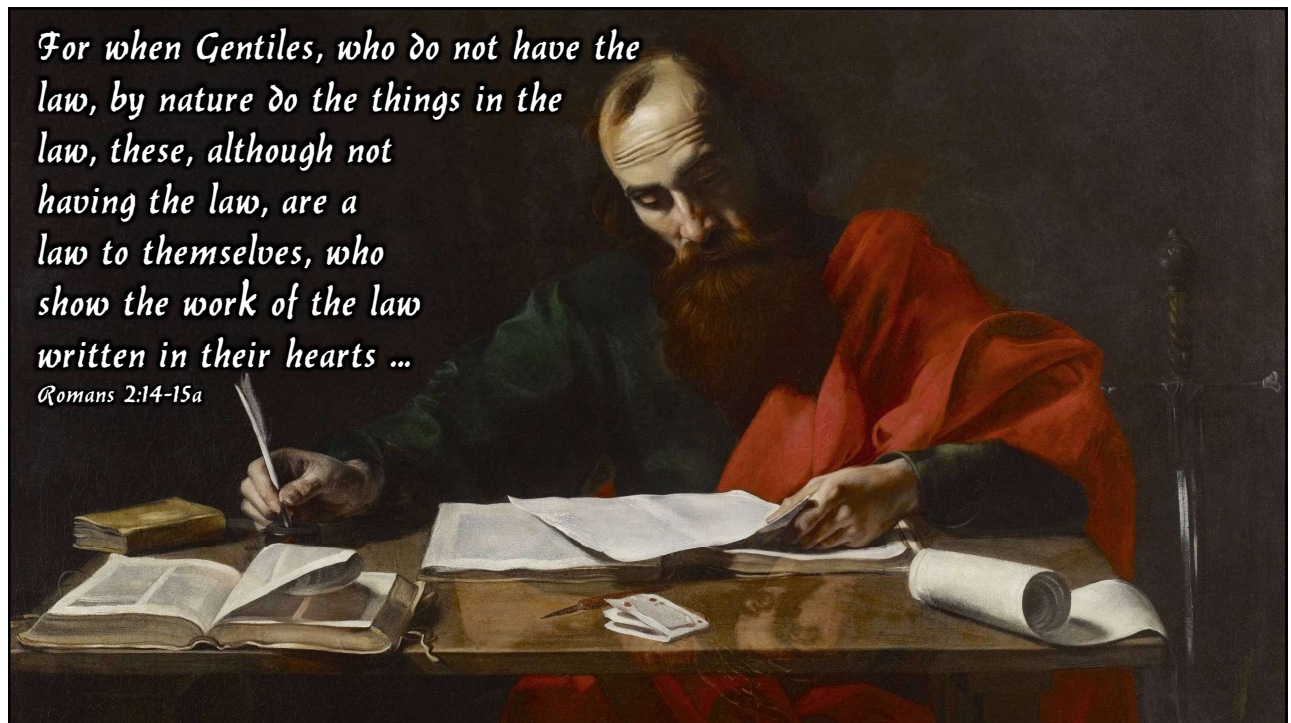
NATURAL LAW

*the participation in Eternal Law
by rational creatures by virtue
of being rational*



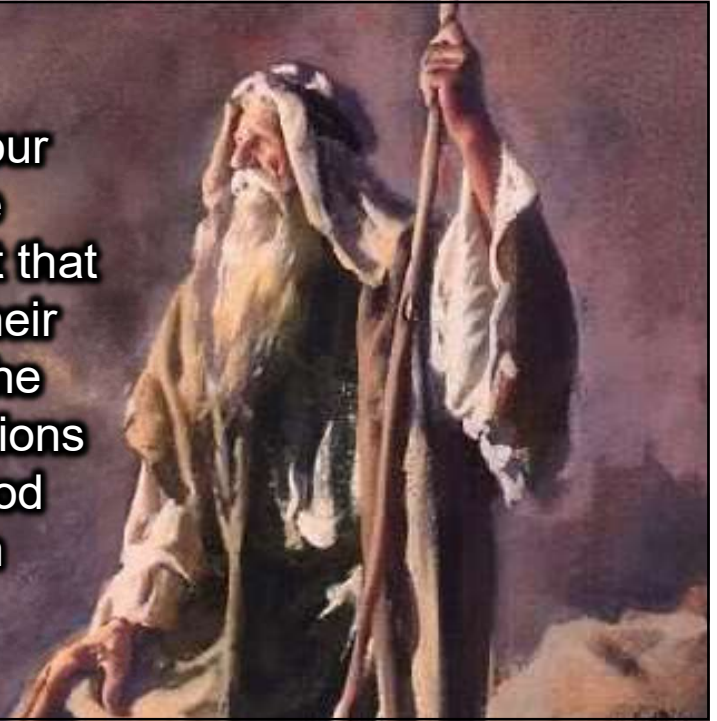
NATURAL LAW

*that aspect of the Eternal Law whereby
the Creator governs and guides the
moral actions of humans such that,
when obeyed, it leads humans to their
proper end in this world*



🌀 Deut. 9:5 🌀

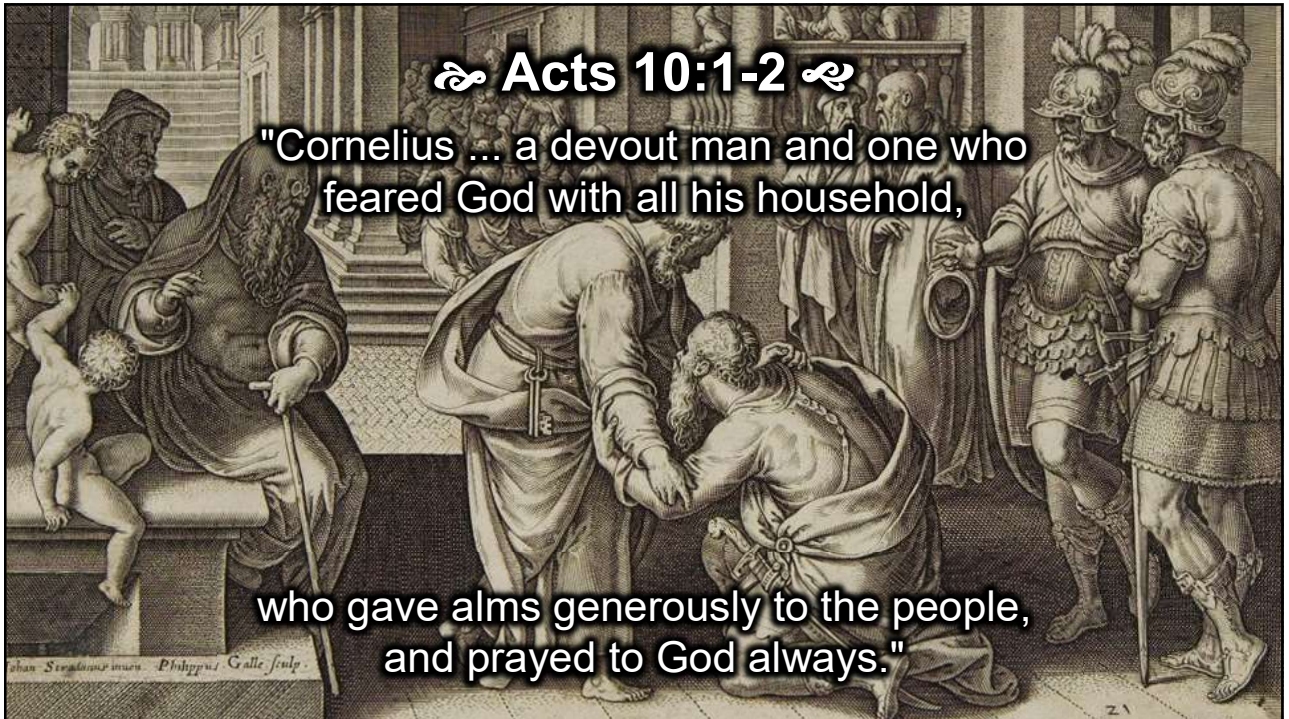
"It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD your God drives them out from before you."



🌀 Acts 10:1-2 🌀

"Cornelius ... a devout man and one who feared God with all his household,

who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always."



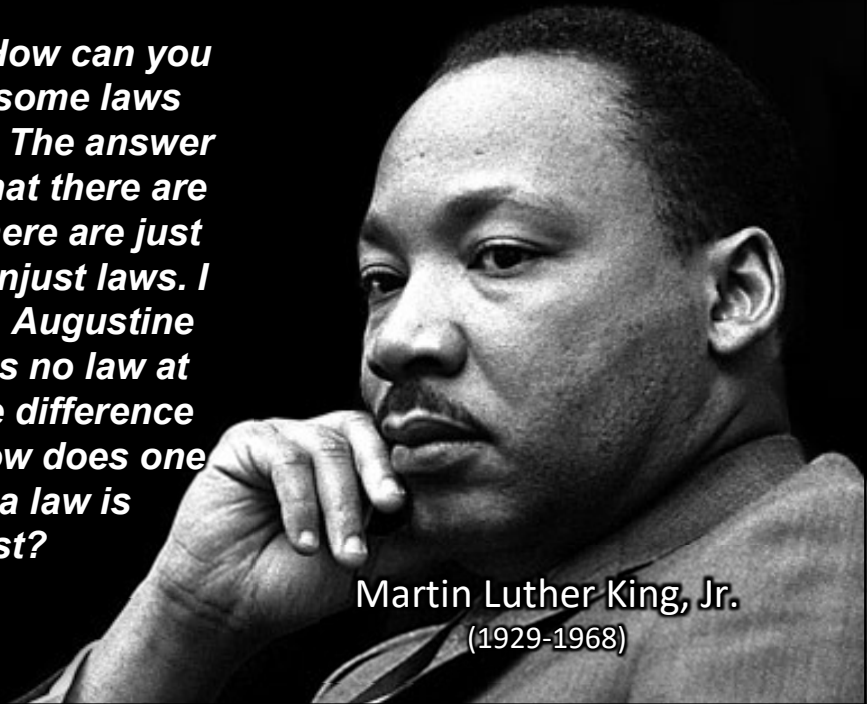
✎ Acts 14:17 ✎

"[God] did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."



"One may well ask, 'How can you advocate breaking some laws and obeying others?' The answer is found in the fact that there are two types of laws: there are just laws, and there are unjust laws. I would agree with St. Augustine that 'An unjust law is no law at all.' Now, what is the difference between the two? How does one determine when a law is just or unjust?"

Martin Luther King, Jr.
(1929-1968)



"A just law is a man-made code that squares with the moral law, or the law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law. To put it in the terms of St. Thomas Aquinas, an unjust law is a human law that is not rooted in eternal and natural law. Any law that uplifts human personality is just. Any law that degrades human personality is unjust."

[Martin Luther King, Jr. "Letters from Birmingham Jail," April 12, 1963]

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(1929-1968)

HUMAN LAW

*a particular application of
natural law to local communities
imperfect*



