

SEEING THE WORLD FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

Apologetics

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יֵשֵׁב עַל-חֹוּג הָאָרֶץ
וַיִּשְׁבְּהָ פָּחַנְכִּים
הַנּוֹשְׂתָה כְּדֶק שְׂמִימִים
וַיִּמְתְּחֶם כְּאֹהֶל לְשֵׁבֶת

Isaiah 40:22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;

Heb 1:10 καὶ· σὺ κατ' ἀρχάς, κύριε, τὴν γῆν ἐθεμελίωσας, καὶ ἔργα τῶν χειρῶν σου εἰσιν οἱ οὐρανοί· ¹¹ αὐτοὶ ἀπολοῦνται, σὺ δὲ διαμένεις, καὶ πάντες ὡς ἱμάτιον παλαιωθήσονται, ¹² καὶ ὡσεὶ περιβόλαιον ἐλίξεις αὐτούς, ὡς ἱμάτιον καὶ ἀλλαγῆσονται· σὺ δὲ ὁ αὐτὸς εἶ καὶ τὰ ἔτη σου οὐκ ἐκλείψουσιν.

Heb 1:10 And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹ they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, ¹² like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end."

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4. TO REMEMBER**0. INTRODUCTION****0.1. CAN WE "VIEW THE WORLD?"**

- the problem of "God's eye" ("Everything that I have seen or heard gives me the conviction that no man has ever been far from the earth. Nothing in my picture of the world speaks in favour of the opposite.")¹
- "world-view" (*Weltanschauung*) replaced older truth-related word "philosophy" (DR. JAMES ORR (in his valuable lectures on the Christian view of God and the world, Edinb. 1897 p. 3)

¹ Ludwig Wittgenstein, *On Certainty*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1969, 14e-15e.

observes, the German technical term Weltanschauung has no precise equivalent in English. KUYPER *Calvinism*)

0.2. WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY?

- “rescue action” only?
- truth about the universe
- “Place for everything and everything in its place.” (Benjamin FRANKLIN(?))

1. GOD OVER THE WORLD AND GOD IN THE WORLD

- the world as ‘cosmos’ (κόσμος)
- the fallacy of “two books” idea (Galileo)

1.1. GOD IMMANENT

- **Rom 1:20** For his invisible attributes, namely, his (1) eternal power and (2) divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.
- Wisdom in creation → fine-tuned for life
- Power → expanding universe
- Personality in creation (“nature”) → “the self” of humans

1.2. GOD TRANSCENDENT

- Creator, → *ex nihilo* miracle
- Judge → author of moral laws →
- Known through his Word → the Scripture as the source of knowledge

1.3. GOD INCARNATE

- (1) the Trinity, (2) substitutionary sacrifice on the cross, (3) the resurrection, (4) Second Coming

[PELIKAN *Jesus Through the Centuries*, 1] Regardless of what anyone may personally think or believe about him, Jesus of Nazareth has been the dominant figure in the history of Western culture for almost twenty centuries. If it were possible, with some sort of supermagnet, to pull up out of that history every scrap of metal bearing at least a trace of his name, how much would be left? It is from his birth that most of the human race dates its calendars, it is by his name that millions curse and in his name that millions pray.

- **Mark 8:27-29** And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?”²⁸ And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.”²⁹ And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.”

[BARTH, CD IV/1: 16–17] ...all the concepts and ideas used in this report (God, man, world, eternity, time, even salvation, grace, transgression, atonement and any others) can derive their significance only from the bearer of this name and from His history...

- [Torrance *Space, Time and Incarnation*] the relation that bridges the separation between God and man
- [Torrance *Space, Time and Incarnation*] supplies the epistemological basis for all theological concepts...
- [Torrance *Space, Time and Incarnation*] It is in Christ that the objective reality of God is intelligibly linked with creaturely and physical forms of thought.

2. THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE IN GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

- the world as ‘aeon’ (αἰών)
- And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good (וַיַּרְא אֱלֹהִים כֹּל אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה וְהִנֵּה טוֹב מְאֹד).
- **1 John 5:19** the whole world lies in the power of the evil one (ὁ κόσμος ὅλος ἐν τῷ πονηρῷ κείται)

2.1. "I WANT IT NOW" PERSPECTIVE

- "I want it all I want it now" (Fabrizio Faniello; Queen...)
- Esau → **Gn 25:32** "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?"
- the rich fool → **Lk 12:20** But God said to him, 'Fool! ("Αφρον) This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?

2.2. LIVING IN THE PROMISES OF GOD

- Abraham, Moses **Heb 11:8-10** By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.
- history "gravity center": **eschatology** (the world to come) **Mark 10:29-30** Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.
- **Heb 6:18-19** we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. ¹⁹ We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,

3. THE MEANING OF THE MEANING OF LIFE

- help form semiotics;
- → questions of God; death; eternity; meaninglessness...
- What is to be human? identity
- selfishness, self-gratification...?

[CHANDLER, *Semiotics, The Basics*] Semiotics involves the study not only of what we refer to as 'signs' in everyday speech, but of anything which 'stands for' something else. In a semiotic sense, signs take the form of words, images, sounds, gestures and objects.

3.1. "MEANING" IMPLIES JUDGMENT BY A HIGHER ORDER

- meaning for the self - or meaning for God?
- **Col 1:16** For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities- all things were created through him and for him.

3.2. ATTRIBUTES OF REAL FULFILLMENT

"There are two ways of waking up in the morning. One is to say, "Good morning, God," and the other is to say, "Good God, morning!"²

- physical → health (**Pro 3:7-8** Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. ⁸ It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.)
- psychological health → truth, freedom, (**John 8:31-32** "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.")
- spiritual → worship, (**Rom 14:17** For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of (1) righteousness and (2) peace and (3) joy in the Holy Spirit)
- **Col 4:17** And say to Archippus, "See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord.

[KIERKEGAARD *Journals & Notebooks 1*, p. 19] What I really need is to be clear about what I am to do, not what I must know, except in the way knowledge must precede all action. It is a question of

² Fulton J. Sheen, *Your Life is Worth Living*. Schnecksville: St. Andrew's Press, 1.

understanding my own destiny, of seeing what the Deity really wants me to do; the thing is to find a truth which is truth for me, to find the idea for which I am willing to live and die.

- [Os GUINNESS *The Call*, p. 73] “A life lived listening to the decisive call of God is a life lived before one audience that trumps all others-the Audience of One.”

4. TO REMEMBER

- The real *world-view* is possible only for God’s eye.
- The revelation of true view of the world is in the Bible. Full access to it is only possible through salvation in Jesus Christ.
- Development and application of biblical worldview requires active life according to the personal call of God.