

# Understanding the Times and Ages

## Wrath and Worldly Philosophies

*“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.” - Romans 1:18*

*“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.”*

– Ephesians 2:1-3

*“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.” – John 3:36*

*“Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.” – Romans 5:9*

*“...wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.” – 1 Thessalonians 1:10*

*“For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:9*

*“Why is your apparel red, and your garments like his who treads in the winepress?*

*“I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me;*

*I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath;*

*their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel.*

*For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and my year of redemption had come.*

*I looked, but there was no one to help; I was appalled, but there was no one to uphold;*

*so my own arm brought me salvation, and my wrath upheld me.*

*I trampled down the peoples in my anger; I made them drunk in my wrath, and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth.” - Isaiah 63:2-6*

*“But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation. Thus shall you say to them: “The gods who did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens.”*

– Jeremiah 10:10-11

*“Pour out your **wrath** on the **nations** that know you not, and on the peoples that call not on your name.” – Jeremiah 10:25*

*“Thus the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: “Take from my hand this cup of the wine of **wrath**, and make all the **nations** to whom I send you drink it. They shall drink and stagger and be crazed because of the sword that I am sending among them.” So I took the cup from the LORD’s hand, and made all the **nations** to whom the LORD sent me drink it.”* – Jeremiah 25:15-17

*“And in anger and **wrath** I will execute vengeance on the **nations** that did not obey.”* – Micah 5:15

*“The **nations** raged, but your **wrath** came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.”* – Revelation 11:18

*“The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the **nations** fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his **wrath**.”* – Revelation 16:19

*“From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the **nations**, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the **wrath** of God the Almighty.”*  
– Revelation 19:15

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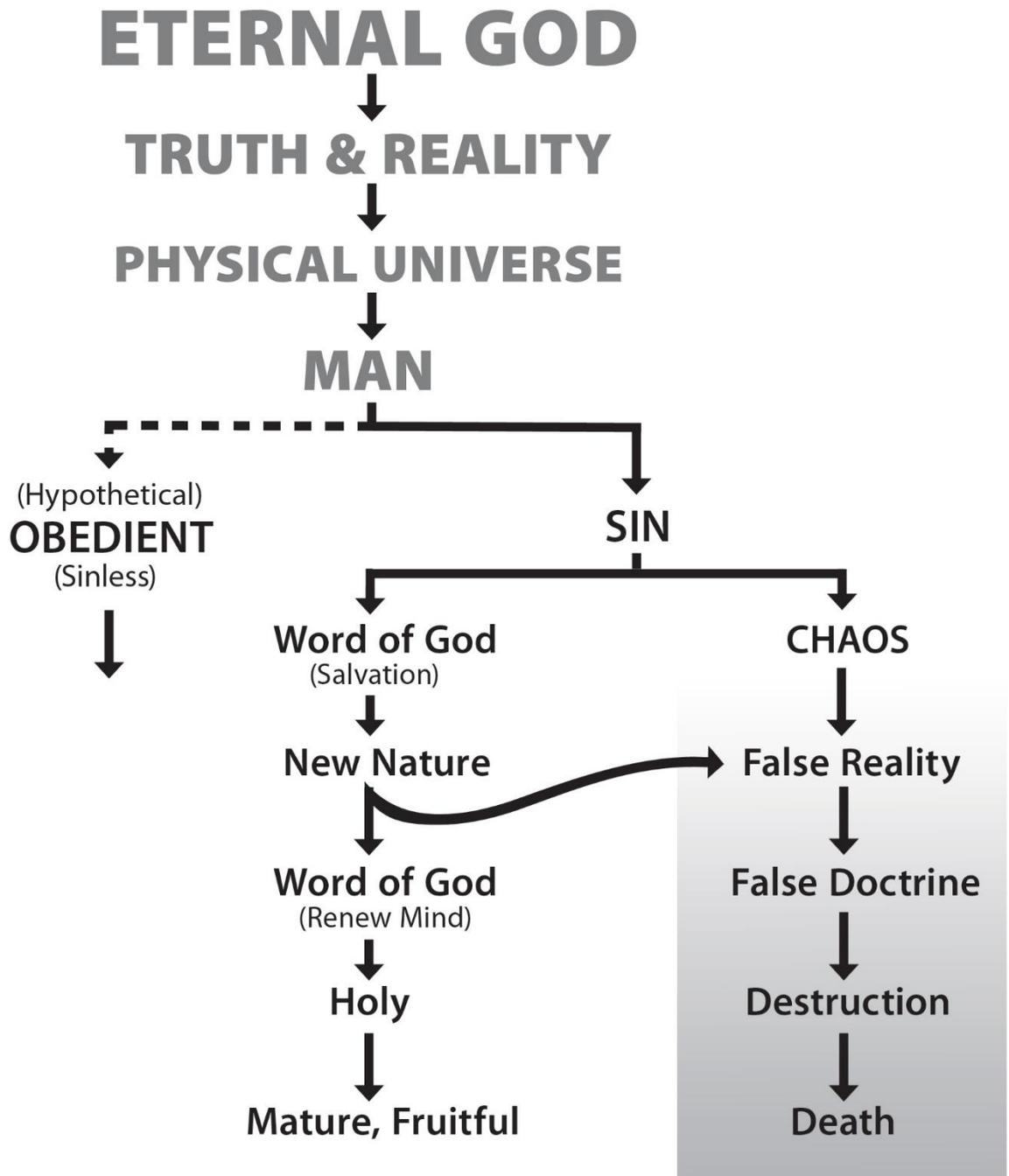
## **Philosophy -**

*“Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.”* – Romans 1:22-23

*“See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.”*  
– Colossians 2:8

	<b>Premodern</b>	<b>Modern</b>	<b>Postmodern</b>
<b>Defined</b>	Divine revelation is the source of Truth. Find and establish Truth through revelation.	Human reason is the source of Truth. Find and establish truth through human reason and science.	Postmodernism believes it is impossible to correctly describe reality. Truth may exist, but we cannot know it. We cannot recognize, find or judge Truth.
<b>Years</b>	10,000 BC - 1500 AD (several millennia)	1500 - 1945 (several centuries)	1945 - present (several decades)
<b>Events</b>	4000 BC - Sumer in Mesopotamia 3150 BC - Egypt's First Dynasty 900 BC - Assyrian Empire Rises 605 BC - Fall of Assyrian Empire; Rise of Babylonian Empire 539 BC - Cyrus and Persian Empire 400 BC - Plato 350 BC - Aristotle 334 BC - Alexander the Great, Greeks 100 BC - Rise of Roman Empire 30 AD - Jesus begins Church 313 - Constantine's Edict of Milan 430 - Augustine 622 - Muhammad begins Islam 732 - Charles Martel stops Muslim advance in France at Battle of Tours 846 - Muslims sack Rome and Vatican 1054 - Greek and Latin Church Splits 1096 - Crusades begin 1274 - Thomas Aquinas 1453 AD - Muslims take Constantinople from Byzantine Christians	1456 - Johan Gutenberg's printing press 1517 - Martin Luther's 95 Theses 1543 - Copernicus' "On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres" 1626 - Francis Bacon 1632 - Galileo 1650's - Scientific Revolution 1700's - Age of Enlightenment (1620-1780) 1727 - Isaac Newton 1776 - United States 1789 - French Revolution 1799 - Napoleon 1800 - Industrial Revolution 1800-1850 - Romanticism 1838 - Darwin 1865 - Mendel's laws of heredity 1905 - Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity 1914 - World War I 1945 - WWII ends with atomic bomb dropped on Japan by USA	1948 - Israel becomes a nation 1950's - Television enters homes 1962 - Cuban missile crisis 1964 - Berkeley Free Speech Movement 1975 - Reyerabend's "Against Method" 1980's - Personal computers mass market
<b>Philosophy</b>	text	Rejection of mysticism in favor of materialism. Enlightenment (1620's-1780's) - from Kant, produced French Revolution Romanticism, an opposing intellectual movement, followed the Age of Enlightenment and the French Revolution	All truth is limited, approximate, evolving. No theory can ever be proven true. We can only prove a theory to be false. Physical reality is not deterministic. Scientific concepts are mental constructs. It is extreme skepticism.
<b>Proponents</b>	text	Francis Bacon (1562-1626) Rene Descartes (1596-1650) John Locke 1632-1704) Baruch Spinoza (1632-1677) Voltaire (1694-1778) David Hume (1711-1776) Isaac Newton (1642-1727)	Friedrich Nietzsche Ludwig Wittgenstein Thomas Kuhn Taborsky Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) Kierkegaard
<b>Values</b>	text	New ideas Tolerance Multiple Religions Science Literacy Knowledge	text
<b>Quotes</b>	"Finally, if nothing can be truly asserted, even the following claim would be false, the claim that there is no true assertion." - Aristotle	"Dare to know! Have courage to use your own reason!" - Immanuel Kant (1784)	"The only absolute truth is that there are no absolute truths" -Feyerabend
<b>Pros</b>	Premodern believed in God and a spiritual reality was embraced in daily life.	Modernism supports the concept of absolute truth. It works in God's arena of logic and reason.	Postmodern is open to spiritual reality, recognizes humans are flawed, understands the authentic need for relationships and the power of a community.
<b>Cons</b>	A premodern world void of correct understanding of God's natural revelation would embrace pantheism, polytheism, animism and superstitions that were mere speculation of mysticism, but always destructive.	Modernism developed into a hyper-belief in human ability to accomplish anything. It has to reject the concept of God because God cannot fit into their limited box of human logic and understanding.	Postmodern's downfall is its rejection of absolute truth and its skepticism of anyone or any institution committed to a portion of God's absolute reality.

	Premodern	Modern	Postmodern
Buzz Words	text		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mystery • journey • non-judgmental</li> <li>• tolerance • ambiguity • conversation</li> </ul>
Interaction with Scripture	<p><i>"See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways...if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed.. For the LORD is your life."</i> (Deuteronomy 30:15-20)</p>	<p>Modernism denies the divine authority of Scripture. It leaves no middle ground for the Bible. The Bible is either inspired by a divine source (which is an impossible position for Modernism) or the Bible is stories, legends and myths mixed with a loose historical account written by men.</p>	<p>The Bible is not clear or understandable as it is. Postmodernism inside the church does not deny the Bible, but it adamantly denies the clarity of Scripture. Postmodernism denies our ability to know what the Bible means. We must access other sources to find meaning and clarity. Even if God is the author, we still do not understand the text without a mystical insight and a more complete understanding through conversations with others (even non-believers).</p>
Produced Results	<p>Premodernism produced cultures dominated by religion, witchcraft, superstition and corrupt spiritual leaders. Eventually the corrupt, unbiblical church led society into the Dark Ages.</p>	<p>Conclusion – Modernism does not work. Modernism produced the autocratic leaders (Hitler killing 6 million; Stalin killing 50 million; etc.) in the 1900's. The absolutes of science and its natural laws developed in the Modern Age failed to adequately explain reality, origins, humanity, truth and morality. This was proven in the 1900's when authoritative governments and dictators defended their views with the "absolutes" of the Modern Age to justify mass killing, world wars and atomic weapons.</p>	<p>Postmodernism is a depressing philosophy. It is difficult to discuss, indirect in its approach and impossible to articulate. In its reaction against the overconfidence of science in the Modern Age when science attempted to explain reality, origins, truth and morals, Postmodernism has deconstructed logic, reality to a useless, directionless level. Postmodernism has delivered society from the hands of absolute scientific tyranny to a freefall into a bottomless pit of chaos.</p>
Decline		<p>The seeds of destruction produced the fruit of destruction.</p>	<p>Postmodernism cannot sustain a democracy.</p> <p>The only philosophical virtue left is tolerance which is like a medical doctor diagnosing every infection, bacteria, cancer and mental disorder as "normal" and prescribing an aspirin until the patient gets acclimated to their "normal condition."</p>
Scriptural Response	<p><i>"They say to the seers, 'See no more visions!' and to the prophets, 'Give us no more visions of what is right! Tell us pleasant things, prophesy illusions... This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: 'In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.'"</i> (Isaiah 30:10-15)</p>	<p><i>"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.. their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools..."</i> (Romans 1:18-23)</p>	<p>As to Postmodernism's rejection of absolute truth and light, Jesus' words apply:</p> <p><i>"This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed."</i> (John 3:19-20)</p>



	CHRISTIAN	ISLAM	SECULAR HUMANISM	MARXISM-LENINISM	COSMIC HUMANISM	POST-MODERNISM
<b>THEOLOGY</b>	God exits, is intelligent, powerful, loving, just. Died for sins.	Allah, one God, creator, master of universe	No God. Scientific process made God obsolete. Only matter. Man is matter.	Marx was atheist. Combat Religion. Atheism needs to overthrows existing social conditions.	All things are divine. God is within us and things. We discover this.	Not atheists like sec. hum. Like Nietzsche: "God is dead" or unbelievable
<b>PHILOSOPHY</b>	2 Co. 10:5; Col. 2:8; Non-Christian worldviews are vain and deceitful. Christian view is reasonable	Also, a "revealed" religion and is assumed to be reasonable	Only matter exists. Know only through scientific process and senses.	Materialism. THESIS is the way it is. ANTITHESIS is the opposite of the way it is. SYNTHESIS is the way it becomes as a result of the struggle.	God is in everything. Everything is spiritual. When this is realized the physical will not exist. Enlightened mind controls matter.	Objective reality is rejected. Reality is constructed by what a human thinks or believes. No universal truth or absolutes.
<b>ETHICS</b>	God is absolute & unchanging. He hates evil and loves good. God revealed his character.	Qur'an and Muhammad are foundational	Humans decide standards and values	Whatever advances communism is good and whatever stands in the way is evil. Thus, kill the opposition.	Follow inner universal god-consciousness to determine your right or wrong. Only evil is to say there is moral absolutes.	Local community determines moral truth. No "grand narrative" so each community of people identify ethics.
<b>BIOLOGY</b>	Only the creationist perspective can account for design, laws, order. Science tells us about God's universe.	Universe created by Allah, but Genesis is corrupted	Natural selection. Mutations provide variations. Evolution slow. If evolution is false there is no Secular Humanism	Depend on evolution and spontaneous generation. THESIS + ANTITHESIS=SYNTHESIS	Man evolving from disharmony to harmony. Evolution guides man from material world to spiritual beings, godhood	Rejects order and design of history so patterned evolution is replaced with chance and random leaps
<b>PSYCHOLOGY</b>	Emphasize spiritual. Understand fallen, sinful nature. Recognize need for salvation. Face guilt and repent.	Man is not fallen. Adam forgiven and left no trace of sin in man	Monism (only body). Man is good. Achieve mental health by meeting physical and material needs. Behaviorism.	Everything a man does is: 1-from physical makeup 2-influence of environment Man is limited to this, but Marx expects man to revolt?	Society, environment stifles the god within us. Man must realize he is perfect, his impulses and intuitive urges are good.	We are many selves created from language, geography, family, education so we are a social construction.
<b>LAW</b>	The individual & the social order are important to God: Marriage, family, state	Family, religion, state are not distinguished	Civilization, culture are evil and make man evil. Family is the worst. Government education is most desirable method for abolishing old institutions	Everyone is both the laborer and the owner of production. No need for government, church or family since empowered men are responsible to act right	Evil in man is due to traditional society (especially in the West). Rebel against traditional values: fathers, families, state, free enterprise,	Even playing field by focusing on the cultural fringe: poor, oppressed, homosexual. Demonize privileged like white males, businesses.
<b>POLITICS</b>	Natural and revealed. Based on God's character. Government controls sinful man. All have unalienable rights, made in God's image	Law based not in God's character but on God's determined law	State has sovereign power to determine law since they are highest power. Crime is fault of social order not criminal. "Truth" is merely legal.	Sovereignty is taken from state and given to the working class. Law originate with property owners. Get rid of property and there will be no need for law.	Each person decides what is right. Need for law will fade away as we grow into god-consciousness.	Western understanding & justice is the root of problem. Get rid of white male view. Less objectivity, focus on subjectivity, minorities
<b>ECONOMICS</b>	God ordained the state, but it is limited, never totalitarian. Never removes freedom, religion or family.	Global Islamic theocracy set up under rule of Allah's laws	World government is next in evolution's process. This is the road to utopia. Goal: World Peace	Working class rises up to seize production & politics to form a world rule by working class until the state is no longer needed	Government exists because some are unaware of god in them. One world government will lead to spiritual unity	Empower women, minorities, homosexual. Get rid of white males and Western culture
<b>HISTORY</b>	System must check mans injustice and make man responsible to produce. Free Enterprise	Based on unity, care of poor, free will, responsibility	Man capable of planning perfect economy. Strict central control of world economy. Interventionist.	Economics determine all institutions. Society based on production. Improved slavery to feudalism to capitalism to socialism to abolish private property for a communistic world order. All needs met.	Traditional economic models stress material, so hinders enlightenment. Spiritual harmony will cause material needs to flow towards you.	Goal is to alleviate all human suffering through government's economic intervention
	Movement through history from creation, fall, redemption, restoration	Allah oversees & leads history to ultimately express his will	No supernatural influence or purpose. Without design history moves from simple to complex	History is THESIS+ ANTITHESIS=SYNTHESIS at work. History is a result of biological & economic evolution	Moving toward god-consciousness into unified enlightenment. Christians, etc. hinder this process	Facts are inaccessible since writers of history record their views. We re-write it w/ our own 'truth'

This information was studied and reorganized from Summit Ministries at <http://www.summit.org> by Generation Word at <http://www.generationword.com>

1. False Teaching and false philosophy in the first century church (See page 20-29 in “Titanic Faith” or at <http://www.titanicfaith.org/section2.html> for more details and Bible verses.)

The New Testament Apostles Faced False Teachers in the First Century. Early in the New Testament, Jesus and the apostles warned that there would be false teachers who would appear and mislead the Church. Throughout the New Testament letters, we read about the apostles countering and confronting these false teachers. Finally, at the end of the New Testament period, we are shocked to realize that the false teachers had actually secured victory and established themselves within the Churches founded by the Apostles. We see three phases concerning false teachers:

- a. The warning that false teachers are coming (28-57 AD)
- b. The battle within the Church against the false teachers (49-64 AD)
- c. The “victory” of the false teachers over the apostles in the Churches (64-96)

<b>Three Stages of Interaction with False Teachers in the New Testament Church of the First Century</b>		
<b>Warning of Coming False Teachers</b>	<b>Confrontation of Apostle's with False Teachers</b>	<b>Churches Lost to the False Teachers</b>
28-57 AD	49-64 AD	64-96 AD
Matthew 7:15, 21-22 John 10; Mark 13:5 Acts 20:29-30	Galatians 1:6-7, 10 Galatians 5:7-8, 10 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2 2 Corinthians 11:4-5 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 Ephesians 4:14 Philipians 3:1-3 Colossians 2:4 Colossians 2:8 1 Timothy 1:3-4 1 Timothy 6:3-5, 9-10 Titus 1:10-11 Titus 1:13-14	2 Peter 2:1, 17-19 2 Peter 3:16 Jude 3-4 Jude 12-13 2 Timothy 1:15, 17-18 2 Timothy 4:10, 16 1 John 4:1-6 2 John 7, 9-11 3 John 9-10 Revelation 2:2-3, 6, 9, 14-16 Revelation 2: 20, 24-25 Revelation 3:1-2, 8-9, 17, 20