

# God of the Real World



[ThinkingAboutTheBible.com](http://ThinkingAboutTheBible.com)

**What is  
reality?**

**(what's the  
universe like?)**



**Does it  
matter if I  
get it right?**



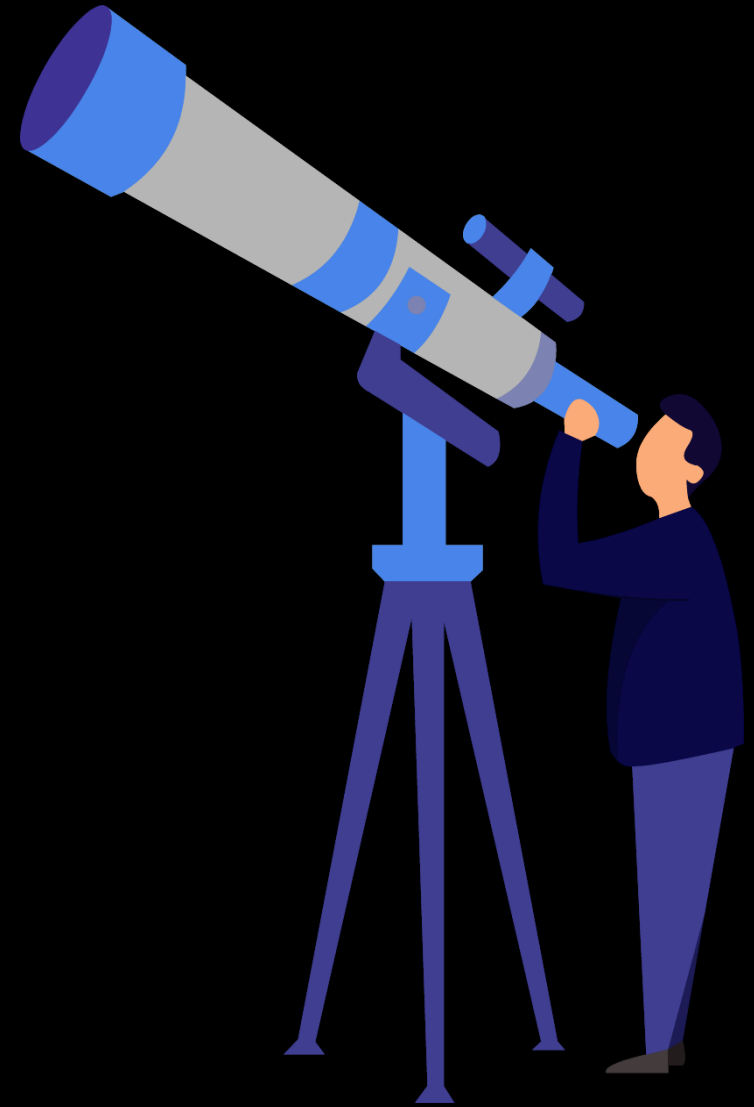
**Worldview =**

“mindset”

“philosophy of life”

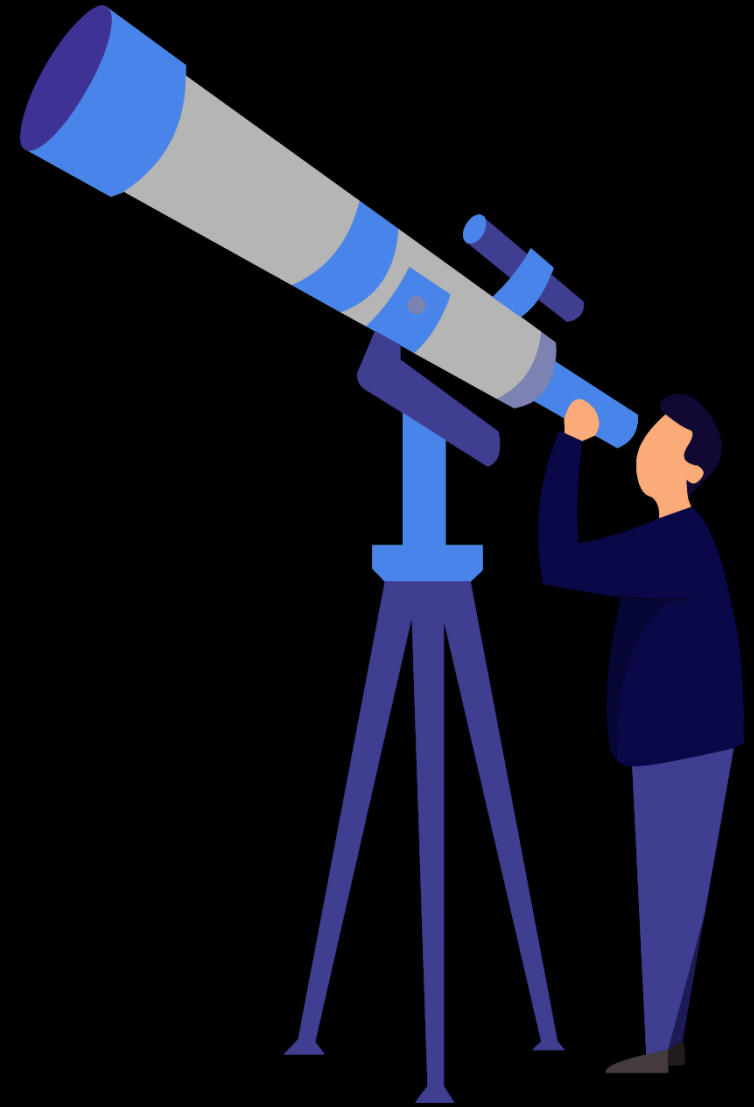
“point-of-view”

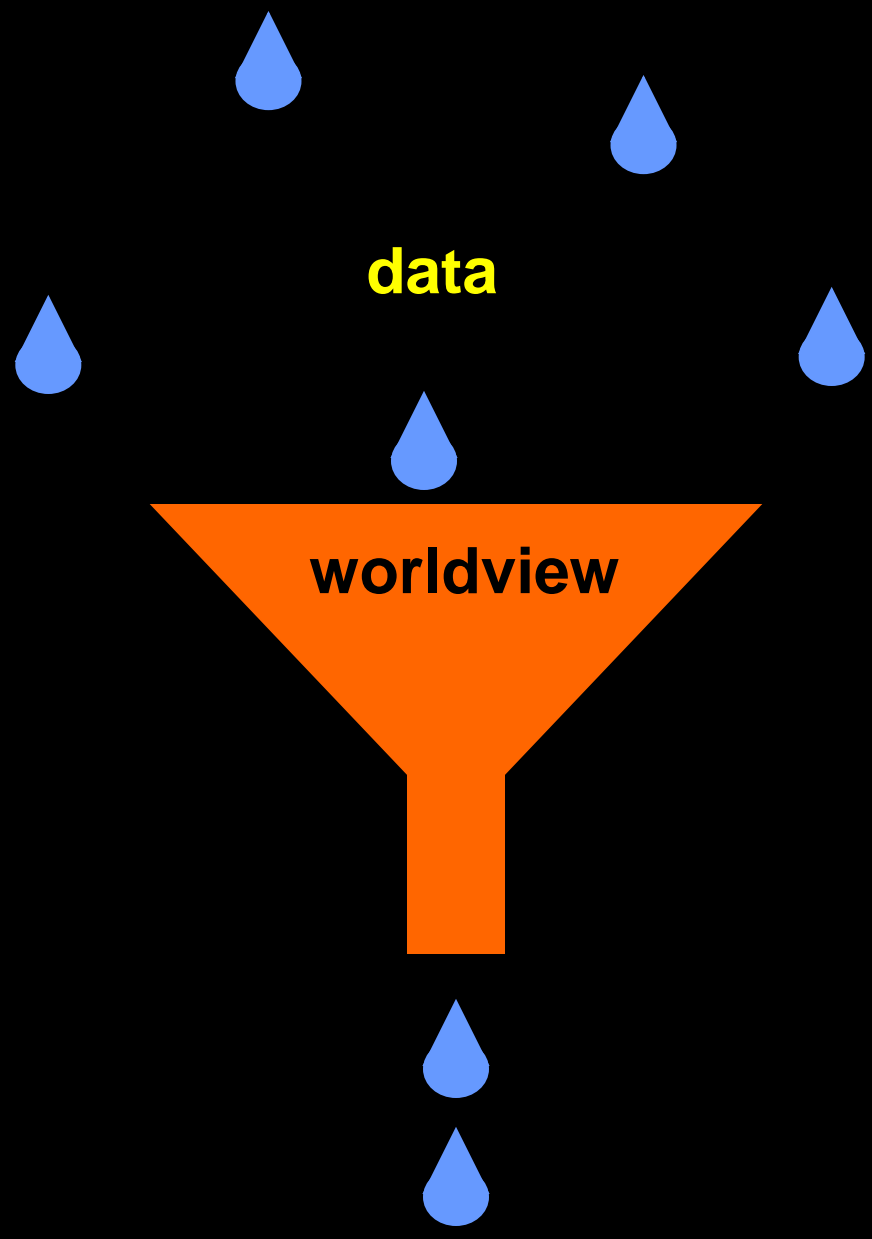
“way of looking at things”



**Worldview =**

**The set of presuppositions  
by which I interpret my  
world.**





# *4 dominant views of reality today...*



# ***4 dominant views of reality today...***

## **#1 Biblical Truth**

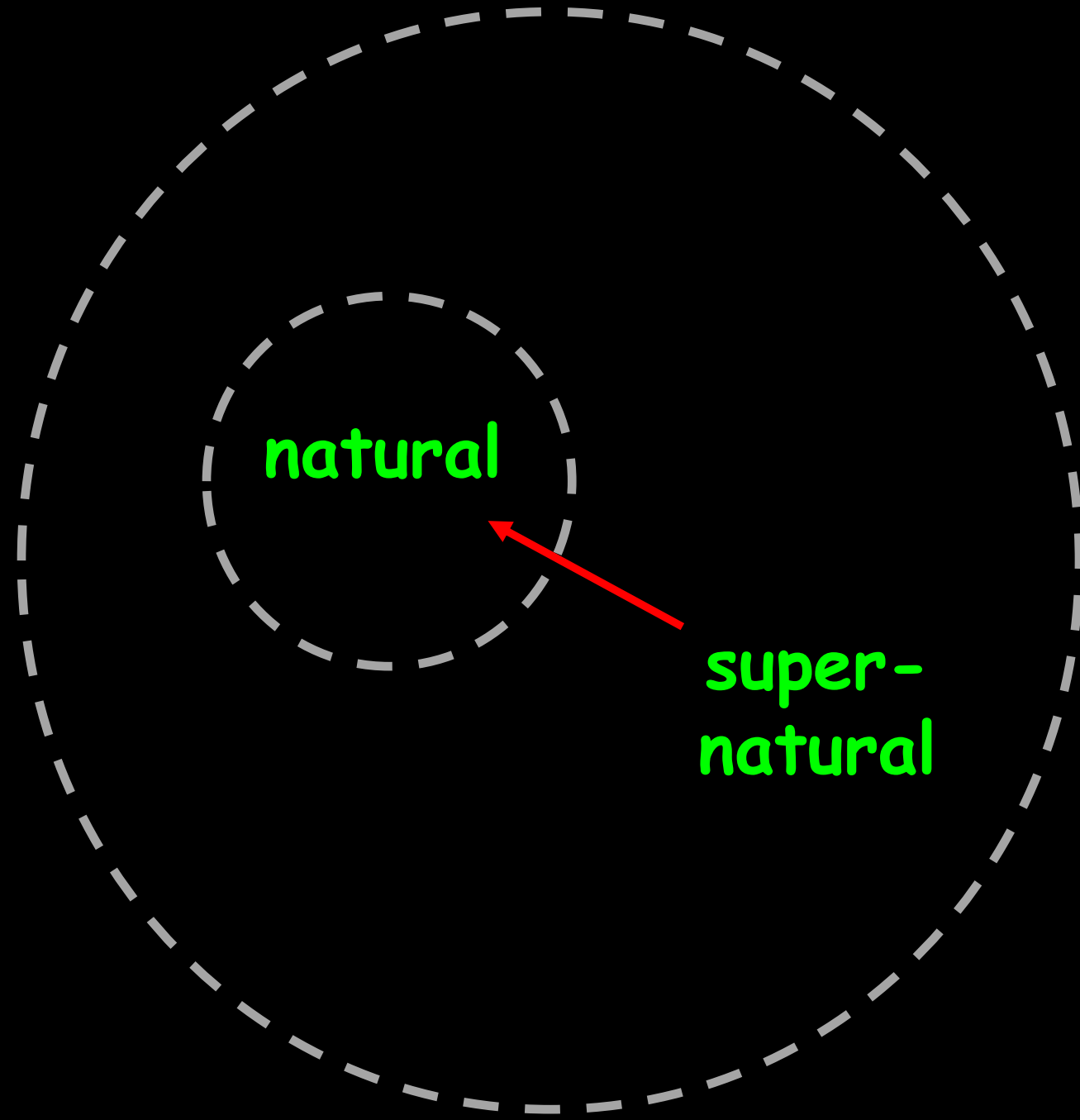
**God has placed us in a “natural” section of his “supernatural” creation.**

**(Both the spiritual and the natural realms were created by God and are both important. God may allow the two to interact at his discretion.)**



Basic View  
of Reality

Biblical  
View



natural

super-  
natural

# *4 dominant views of reality today...*

## **#1 Biblical Truth**

**Less than 25% of  
our country.**



# ***4 dominant views of reality today...***

## **#2 Naturalism**

**Matter and energy are all that exist.**

**“No spirit, soul, afterlife, God, angels, demons, magic, supernatural. Physical laws and evolution have produced everything.”**

**Basic View  
of Reality**

**Naturalist  
View**



**natural**

# *4 dominant views of reality today...*

## #2 Naturalism

**“The Cosmos is all that is, or was, or ever will be.”**

**Carl Sagan**



# ***4 dominant views of reality today...***

## **#3 Spiritualism**

**Only the spirit (the supernatural) is important. *You create your world.***

**(New Age, the occult, self, Oprah, Hinduism, Buddhism, many Christian sects and denominations.)**

**Basic View  
of Reality**

**Spiritualist  
View**

natural

supernatural



**NATURALISM**



**SPIRITUALISM**



**NATURALISM**



**MOSAIC**



**SPIRITUALISM**

**BIBLICAL  
TRUTH**

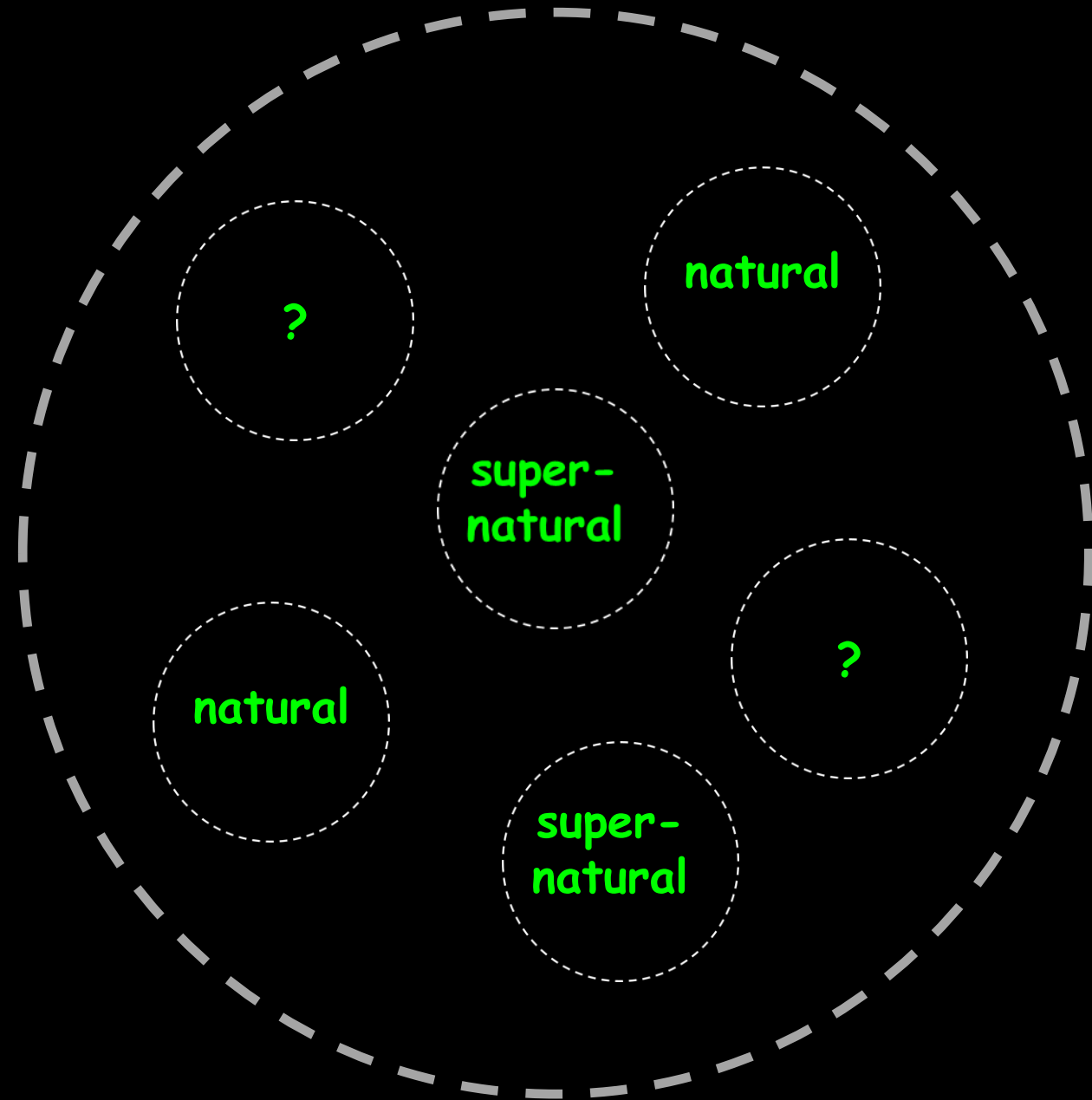
# ***4 dominant views of reality today...***

## **#4 Mosaics**

**A confusing mix of the other 3.**

**(Most of our mission field and our young people.)**

Basic View  
of Reality



Mosaic  
View

***Does my worldview work?***

# *Problems with... Naturalism*

**Futility, lack of purpose, no real good/bad/right/wrong.**



# *Problems with... Naturalism*

**No explanation for “the beginning.”**



# ***Problems with... Naturalism***

**No explanation for supernatural evidences.**

**(effectual prayer, miracles, fulfilled prophecy, design of nature.)**



# *Problems with... Naturalism*

The “nagging sense” that there is more than just the physical.





# *Problems with... Spiritualism*

The “nagging sense” that the physical world is real and important.



# ***Problems with... Spiritualism***

**No unifying purpose.  
Contradictions among  
“spirits.”**



# ***Problems with... Mosaic views***

All of the previous problems...

...plus added complexity, confusion, and lack of consistency.



**THE BIG QUESTION:**

***What really matters?***

***(Does reality have foundation truths?)***



## ***Foundation truths within the Biblical View...***

**#1 An eternal, self-sufficient, perfect, personal, communicating, loving creator God.**

**“In the beginning, God...”**

# *Opposing views...*

## **Naturalism**

- **No God(s).**

## **Spiritualism**

- **Impersonal god(s).**
- **You are god.**

# ***Foundation truths within the Biblical View...***

**#2 Truth exists and can be known.  
It is absolute, originating in God.**

**“I am the way, the truth,  
and the life...”**

**Jesus**

# *Opposing views...*

## **Naturalism**

- **No absolute truth.**
- **Majority rules.**
- **Whatever works is true.**

## **Spiritualism**

- **No absolute truth.**
- **Each person makes own truth.**
- **Different, contradicting truths can exist.**



How do we  
“know”  
truth?







# Ways of knowing truth...



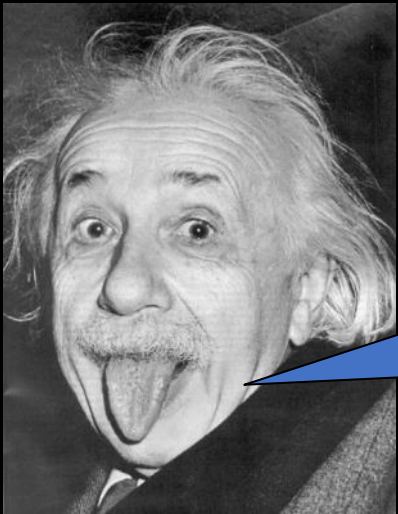
**communication**



# Ways of knowing truth...

communication

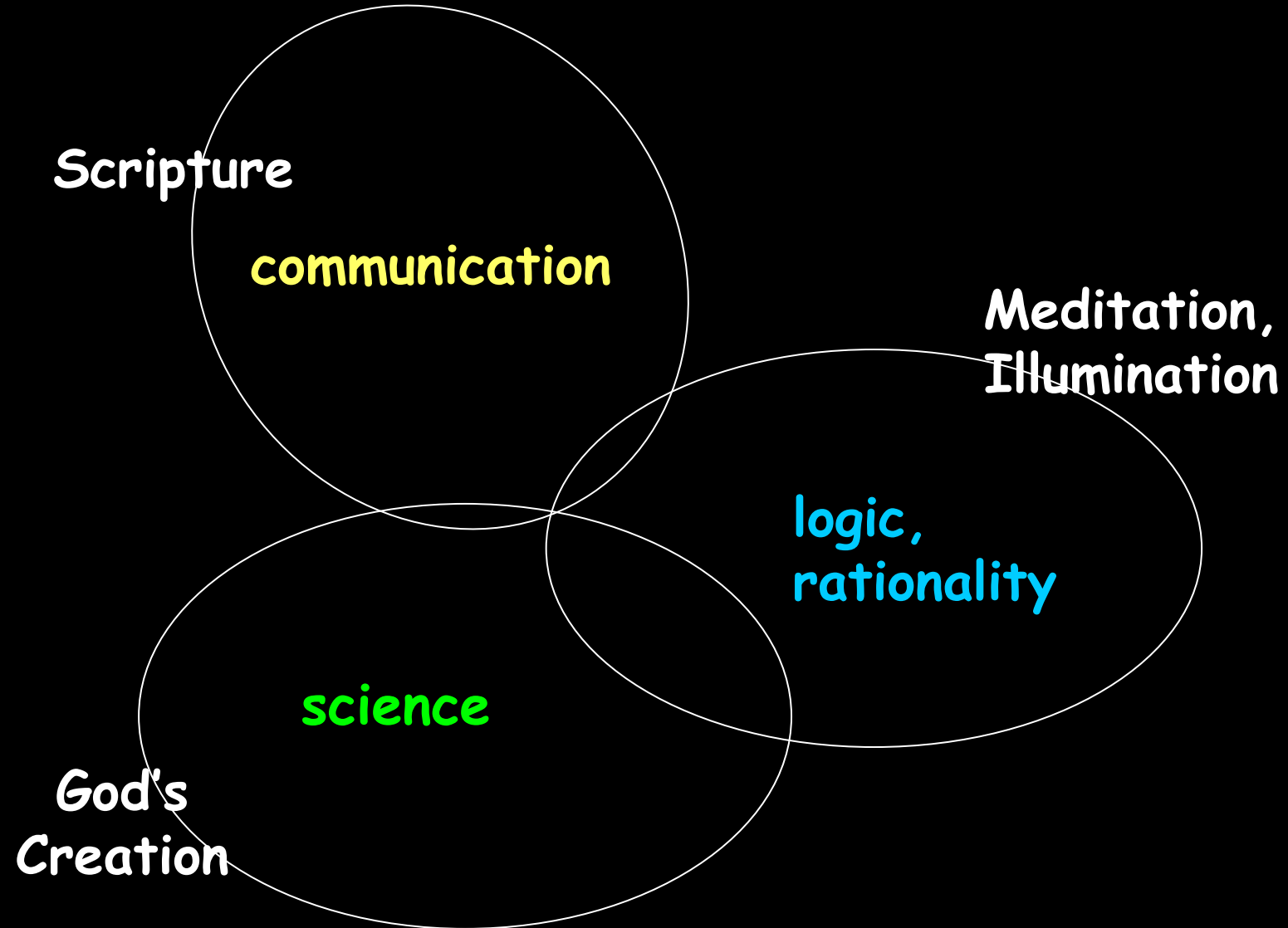
logic,  
rationality



I didn't learn  
it through  
science



# Ways of knowing truth...





***Foundation truths within the Biblical View...***

**#3 Humans are born with sin natures and we  
commit sins.**

**Only God, through Jesus, can fix this.**

# *Opposing views...*

## **Naturalism**

- **Humans are what they are—evolved animals.**
- **Education, laws, and environment can fix us.**

## **Spiritualism**

- **Humans are divine “deep down.”**
- **Accepting our divinity can fix us.**
- **Or do we even need fixing?**
- **Peace, love, tolerance...**

## ***Foundation truths within the Biblical View...***

**#4 There are 2 very real realms—the natural and the supernatural. These are separate but may interact at God’s discretion.**

***“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”***

**Ephesians 6:12**

# The Ephesians Hypothesis

- There is an unseen realm beyond the one in which we live.
- Spirits from that unseen realm are able to interact with our world.
- Our primary struggle is with fallen spirits from this unseen realm.
- Fallen spirits are evil, scheming, and set on doing us harm.
- We can and should be prepared to recognize and withstand these fallen spirits.





[Elisha] said, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”

Then Elisha prayed and said, “O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see.”

2 Kings 6

So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha

2 Kings 6



# *Opposing views...*

## **Naturalism**

- **Only the natural (physical) realm.**
- **No spirits, heaven, hell.**

## **Spiritualism**

- **Natural and supernatural constantly mingling.**
- **Many different “flavors” of the supernatural.**
- **We should focus more on the supernatural than the natural.**

# *How do I confront non-biblical views?*

**KNOW God's truth.**





# *How do I confront non-biblical views?*

**TEACH God's truth.**



# ***How do I confront non-biblical views?***

**LIVE God's truth.**



# *How do I confront non-biblical views?*

**KNOW your  
mission field.**



# *How do I confront non-biblical views?*

“...always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect...”

1 Peter 3:15

