

*AN APOLOGETICS PRIMER:*  
SCIENCE, WORLD  
VIEWS & CREATION

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Calvary Chapel Düsseldorf – November 2014

# Course Overview

## AN APOLOGETICS PRIMER

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- **Defining the terms**
  - Apologetics: A must for disciples
  - World views: Christian versus materialist
- **Examining the evidence**
  - Mathematics: Formal systems
  - Physics: Quantum mechanics
  - Cosmology: Big bang and anthropic universe
  - Biology: Abiogenesis and speciation
- **Conclusions: creation vs. evolution**
  - Science restored: The heavens declare God's glory

# 1. Definitions

## KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE WORLD – GOD'S VIEW

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- **Romans 1:18-21**
- For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hinder the truth in unrighteousness; because that which is known of God is manifest to them; for God manifested it unto them. For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, [even] his everlasting power and divinity; that they may be without excuse: because that, knowing God, they glorified him not as God, neither gave thanks; but became vain in their reasonings, and their senseless heart was darkened.

# 1. Definitions

KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE WORLD – GOD'S VIEW

**CHOICE:**  
WORLD VIEW  
FRAMEWORK

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Choice – not ignorance  
or absence of evidence

# 1. Definitions

## APOLOGETICS

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### a·pol·o·get·ics

- The branch of theology concerned with defending or proving the truth of Christian doctrines.
- Formal argumentation in defence of something, such as a position or system.
- That branch of theology which defends the Holy Scriptures, and sets forth the evidence of their divine authority.

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UNDERSTANDING  
AND DEFENDING  
OUR WORLD  
VIEW CHOICE!

# 1. Definitions

## APOLOGETICS - THE SCRIPTURAL IMPERATIVE

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### 1 Peter 3:15

- But sanctify (*hagiazō*) the Lord God (*kurios theos*) in your hearts (*kardia*):
  - and be ready (*hetoimos*) always (*aei*)
  - to give an answer (*apologia*)
- *hagiazō*: aorist imperative, condition for future action = sanctify, by withdrawing from fellowship with the world by first gaining fellowship with God
  - *kardia* = metonym for mind in general, including: the will, understanding, memory, conscience, intention-desire-affection
  - *hetoimos* = fit, adjusted, prepared
  - *aei* = continuing duration, regularly, earnestly
  - *apologia* = legal plea in defence of one's position

# 1. Definitions

## APOLOGETICS - THE SCRIPTURAL IMPERATIVE

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### 1 Peter 3:15

- to every man that asketh (*aiteo*) you
  - a reason (*logos*) of that hope (*elpis*) that is in you
  - with meekness (*prautes*) and fear (*phobos*)
- *aiteo*: present participle = *continued, repeated asking*
  - *logos* = *spoken topic, subject of discourse, including the thought*
  - *elpis* = *desire of a good with expectation of receiving it*
  - *prautes* = *gentleness, not in weakness but in power*
  - *phobos* = *godly fear, reverence, respect*

# 1. Definitions

## APOLOGETICS - SUMMARY

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### Preconditions

- Sanctified in fellowship with God, having the mind of Christ
- Not in fellowship with the world!
- Always earnestly ready and fit

**KOSMOS:** Satan's world order and view!

### Object

- Everyone who asks with genuine and persistent interest

### Subject

- The hope of our faith

### Manner

- A structured and reasoned explanation and defence
- In the power of gentleness and Godly reverence
- Obtained by revelation (God's Word)

# 1. Definitions

## APOLOGETICS - IMPLICATIONS

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### Preconditions: Christ's Mind

- And be not fashioned according to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, and ye may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God (Rom 12:2)
- ...that ye put away, as concerning your former manner of life, the old man, that waxeth corrupt after the lusts of deceit; and that ye be renewed in the spirit of your mind (Eph 4:22-23)

**QUESTION:**  
WORLD VIEW  
FRAMEWORK?

# 1. Definitions

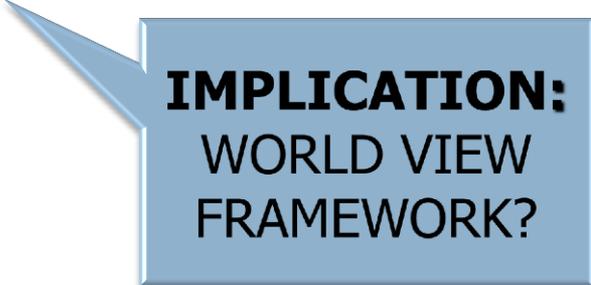
## APOLOGETICS - IMPLICATIONS

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### Subject: Hope of our Faith

- Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy begat us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, unto an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are guarded through faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

(1 Peter 1:3-5)



**IMPLICATION:**  
WORLD VIEW  
FRAMEWORK?

# 1. Definitions

APOLOGETICS - IMPLICATIONS

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**KEY:**  
WORLD VIEW  
FRAMEWORK

## Subject: Hope of our Faith

- Now **faith** is assurance of [things] **hoped** for, a conviction of things not seen  
(Heb 11:1)
- By **faith** we understand that the worlds have been framed by the word of God, so that what is seen hath not been made out of things which appear  
(Heb 11:3)
- And without **faith** it is impossible to be well-pleasing [unto him]; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and [that] he is a rewarder of them that seek after him  
(Heb 11:6)

CREATIO EX  
NIHILO

**CONFLICT? 'FAITH' VS. 'SCIENCE'**

# 1. Definitions

## SCIENCE

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### sci·ence

- The observation, identification, description, experimental investigation, and theoretical explanation of phenomena.
- Such activities restricted to a class of natural phenomena.
- Such activities applied to an object of inquiry or study.
- Methodological activity, discipline, or study: *I've got packing a suitcase down to a science.*
- An activity that appears to require study and method: *the science of purchasing.*
- Knowledge, especially that gained through experience.

# 1. Definitions

## SCIENCE

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**QUESTION:**  
WORLD VIEW  
FRAMEWORK?

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# 1. Definitions

SCIENCE – SUMMARY

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**QUESTION:  
VERSUS  
APOLOGETICS?**

## Preconditions

- Restriction to natural phenomena

## Object

- Student

## Subject

- Knowledge
  - ▣ *i.e. identification, description, theoretical explanation*

## Manner

- Requires study and method
  - ▣ *i.e. observation, experimental investigation*
- Gained through experience

# 1. Definitions

SCIENCE – SUMMARY

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**QUESTION:**  
WORLD VIEW  
FRAMEWORK?

## Preconditions

- **Restriction to natural phenomena**

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- Requires study and method
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# 1. Definitions

## IMPLICATIONS

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### **Science (current)**

- General vs. restricted definition?
- Restriction to natural phenomena and experiential methods
- Only things directly accessible to human experience real in science!?

### **Apologetics (Christian)**

- Reality includes parts not directly accessible to human experience
- God, the source of visible reality, resides in inaccessible reality
- The existence of inaccessible reality is essential to understanding the Christian hope!

# 1. Definitions

## IMPLICATIONS

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**THE KEY:  
WORLD VIEW  
FRAMEWORK!**

### Science (current)

- General vs. restricted definition?
- Restriction to natural phenomena and experiential methods
- Only things directly accessible to human experience real in science!?

### Apologetics (Christian)

- Reality includes parts not directly accessible to human experience (i.e. only by revelation)
- God, the source of visible reality, resides in inaccessible reality (knowable only by revelation)
- The existence of inaccessible reality is essential to understanding the Christian hope!

# 1. Definitions

## WORLD VIEW PREMISES

Choice – not ignorance  
or absence of evidence



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## Apologetics & science: world view central

- Christian apologetics: inaccessible reality...
  - ▣ *Is essential and knowable (by revelation)*
  - ▣ *Supplies origin/explanation of accessible reality*
- Original science: reality unrestricted...
  - ▣ *All truth in all of reality*
  - ▣ *All verifiable methods*
- Today's science: reality restricted...
  - ▣ *Natural phenomena*
  - ▣ *Experiential methods*

**ORIGIN OF  
RESTRICTION:  
WORLD VIEW  
FRAMEWORK!**

# 2. World View Essentials

## THEORETICAL DEMANDS

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**KEY:** DEALING  
WITH REALITY!

### **There is objective reality**

- Ontology

### **Reality is knowable**

- Epistemology

### **Views not accepting these conditions...**

- Untenable, not practically useful

### **Two basic world views...**

- Naturalism (reality defined by the directly experientially accessible)
- Holism (reality is more than the directly experientially accessible)

# 2. World View Essentials

## PRACTICAL DEMANDS

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### True and real

- *i.e. practically testable (Popper: falsifiable)*
- Experimentally conforms to reality
- Cave: practical vs. theoretical testability

### Logical

- *i.e. internally consistent*
- Cave: definition/meta vs. object plane= separated

### Complete

- *i.e. explains all of reality in space and time*
- Matter-energy (properties of matter)
- Information (meaning, purpose, definition)
- Relation (relating, interactions, causality)

# 2. World View Essentials

## PRACTICAL DEMANDS

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### True and real

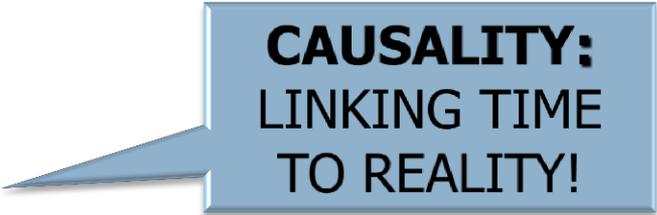
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**CAUSALITY:  
LINKING TIME  
TO REALITY!**

# 2. World View Essentials

## DEFINITION: REALITY

**Theoretical demands:**  
KEY = DEALING WITH REALITY!

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## re·al·ity

- The quality or state of being actual or true.
- The totality of all things possessing actuality, existence, or essence.
- That which exists objectively and in fact: “Your observations do not seem to be about reality”
- The quality or state of being real
- A real event, entity, or state of affairs “his dream became a reality”
- The totality of real things and events “trying to escape from reality”
- Something that is neither derivative nor dependent but exists necessarily

Source: Compact Oxford English Dictionary; Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

# 2. World View Essentials

## DEFINITION: CAUSALITY

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**Practical  
demands:**  
KEY = DEAL WITH  
CAUSALITY!

## cau·sal·i·ty

- The principle of/relationship between cause and effect.
- A causal agency, force, or quality.
- The agency of a cause; the action or power of a cause in producing its effect.
- The faculty of tracing effects to their causes.

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Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary, © 1996, 1998 MICRA, Inc.

# 2. World View Essentials

## WORLD VIEW CONFLICT

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**THE "MODERN"  
WORLD VIEW!**

### **NATURALISM**

- Materialism; positivism
- Matter-energy (material plane) is all that exists; it explains all of reality
- No separate definitional plane; restricted view of causality

### **HOLISM**

- Metaphysics; transcendence
- Reality is more than the material plane; reality needs higher plane than material to explain it
- Separate definitional plane; ultimate, last causality exists

**THE "JUDAEO-  
CHRISTIAN"  
WORLD VIEW!**

*Cf. Bible: Two World Systems (Mt 13:24-30)*

# 2. World View Essentials

## DEFINING NATURALISM

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RESTRICTION  
OF REALITY AND  
CAUSALITY

### nat·u·ral·ism

- n.: (*Philosophy*) The system of thought holding that all phenomena can be explained in terms of natural causes and laws.
- (*Theology*) The doctrine that all religious truths are derived from nature and natural causes and not from revelation.
- Conduct or thought prompted by natural desires or instincts.

Source: The Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition. Copyright © 2000 by Houghton Mifflin Co.

**CAVE: PHILOSOPHY AND  
SYSTEM OF THOUGHT  
DEFINE WORLD VIEW**

# 2. World View Essentials

## DEFINING NATURALISM

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RESTRICTION  
OF REALITY AND  
CAUSALITY

### ma·te·ri·al·ism

- n.: (*Philosophy*) The theory that physical matter is the only reality and that everything, including thought, feeling, mind, and will, can be explained in terms of matter and physical phenomena.
- The theory or attitude that physical well-being and worldly possessions constitute the greatest good and highest value in life.
- A great or excessive regard for worldly concerns.

# 2. World View Essentials

## DEFINING NATURALISM

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EXTREME  
RESTRICTION  
OF REALITY!

### pos·i·tiv·ism

- n.: (*Philosophy*) A doctrine contending that sense perceptions are the only admissible basis of human knowledge and precise thought.
- The application of this doctrine in logic, epistemology, and ethics.
- The system of Auguste Comte designed to supersede theology and metaphysics and depending on a hierarchy of the sciences, beginning with mathematics and culminating in sociology.

# 2. World View Essentials

## DEFINING NATURALISM

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### pos·i·tiv·ism

- n.: A system of philosophy originated by M. Auguste Comte, which deals only with positives. It excludes from philosophy everything but the natural phenomena or properties of knowable things, together with their invariable relations of coexistence and succession, as occurring in time and space. Such relations are denominated laws, which are to be discovered by observation, experiment, and comparison.

This philosophy holds all inquiry into causes, both efficient and final, to be useless and unprofitable.

EXTREME  
RESTRICTION  
OF REALITY!



ABOLITION OF  
CAUSALITY!

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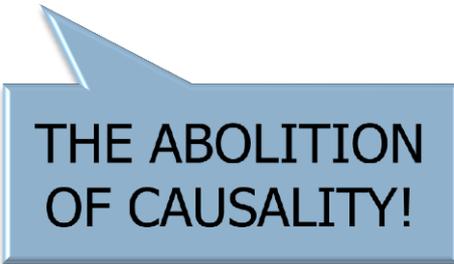
## DEFINING NATURALISM

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### Bertrand Russell – 1913

*On the Notion of Cause, p. 1*

- “The law of causality, I believe, like much that passes muster among philosophers, is a relic of a bygone age, surviving, like the monarchy, only because it is erroneously supposed to do no harm.”



THE ABOLITION  
OF CAUSALITY!

# 2. World View Essentials

## DEFINING HOLISM

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ACCESSIBLE  
REALITY!

### im·ma·nence

- n.: the state of being within or not going beyond a given domain
- n.: the condition or quality of being immanent; inherence; an indwelling.

Source: WordNet ® 1.6, © 1997 Princeton University; Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary, © 1996, 1998 MICRA, Inc.

### trans·cend·ence

- n.: 1: a state of being or existence above and beyond the limits of material experience 2: the state of excelling or surpassing or going beyond usual limits

Source: WordNet ® 1.6, © 1997 Princeton University

INACCESSIBLE  
REALITY!

# 2. World View Essentials

## DEFINING HOLISM

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ACCESSIBLE  
REALITY!

### **im·ma·nent**

- adj.: Existing or remaining within; inherent: “believed in a God immanent in humans”. Restricted entirely to the mind; subjective.
- adj.: Remaining within; inherent; indwelling; abiding; intrinsic; internal or subjective; hence, limited in activity, agency, or effect, to the subject or associated acts.

Source: The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Copyright © 2000 by Houghton Mifflin Company.

Fourth Edition Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary, © 1996, 1998 MICRA, Inc.

# 2. World View Essentials

## DEFINING HOLISM

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INACCESSIBLE  
REALITY!

### trans·cen·dent

- adj.: Surpassing others; pre-eminent or supreme. Lying beyond the ordinary range of perception.
- (*Philosophy*) Transcending the Aristotelian categories. In Kant's theory of knowledge, being beyond the limits of experience and hence unknowable. Being above and independent of the material universe. Used of the Deity.
- adj.: beyond and outside the ordinary range of human experience or understanding.

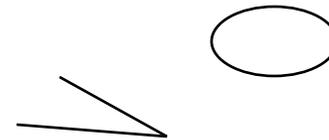
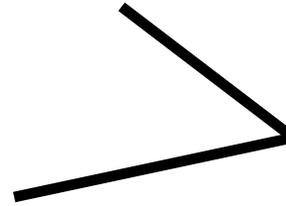
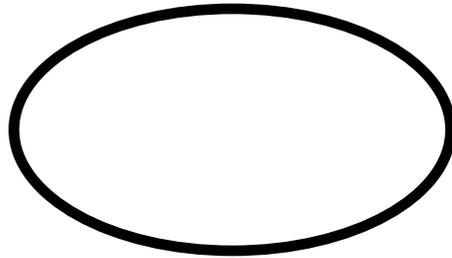
NATURALISTIC  
PREMISE!

# 2. World View Essentials

## DEFINING HOLISM

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### 3D-Land vs. 2D-Land (Flatland)



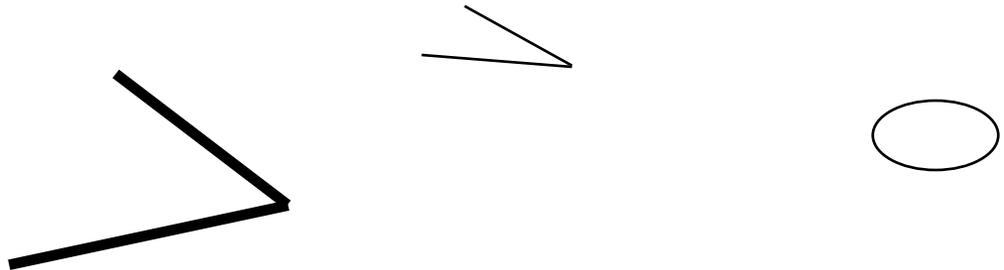
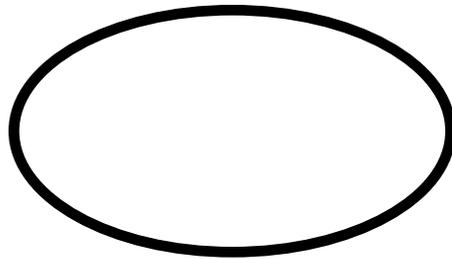
Edwin A. Abbott, 1884

# 2. World View Essentials

## DEFINING HOLISM

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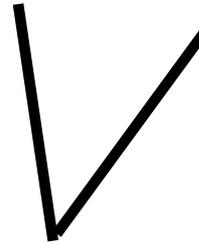
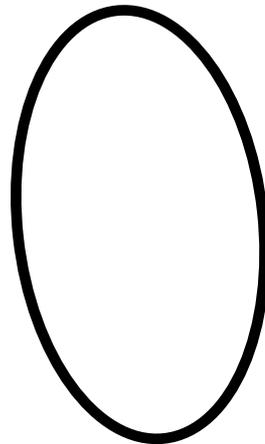
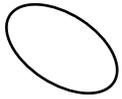


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## DEFINING HOLISM

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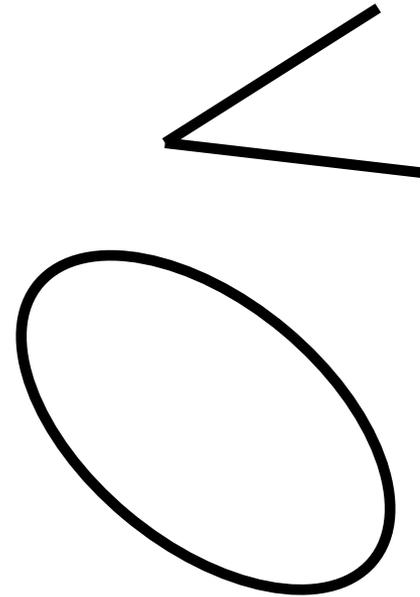
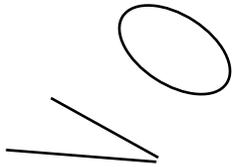


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## DEFINING HOLISM

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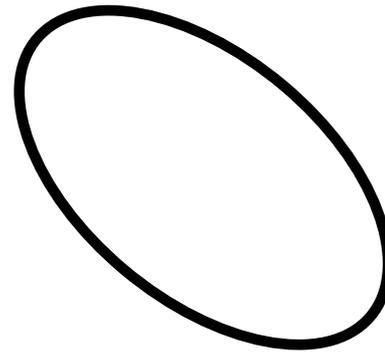
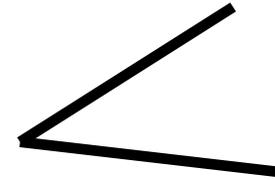
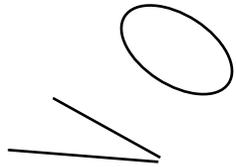


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## DEFINING HOLISM

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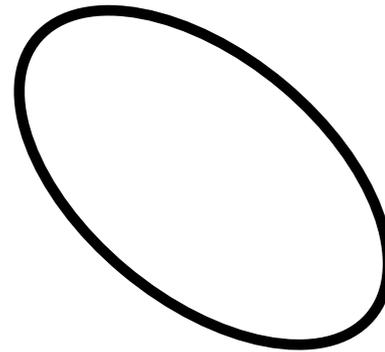
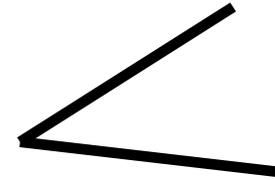
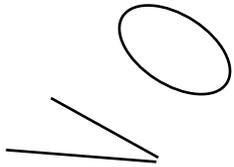


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## DEFINING HOLISM

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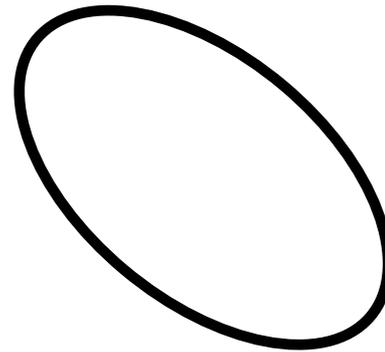
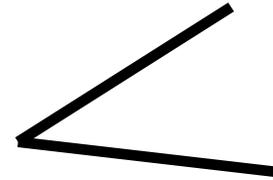
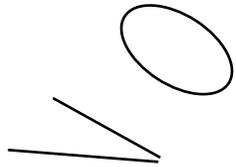


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## DEFINING HOLISM

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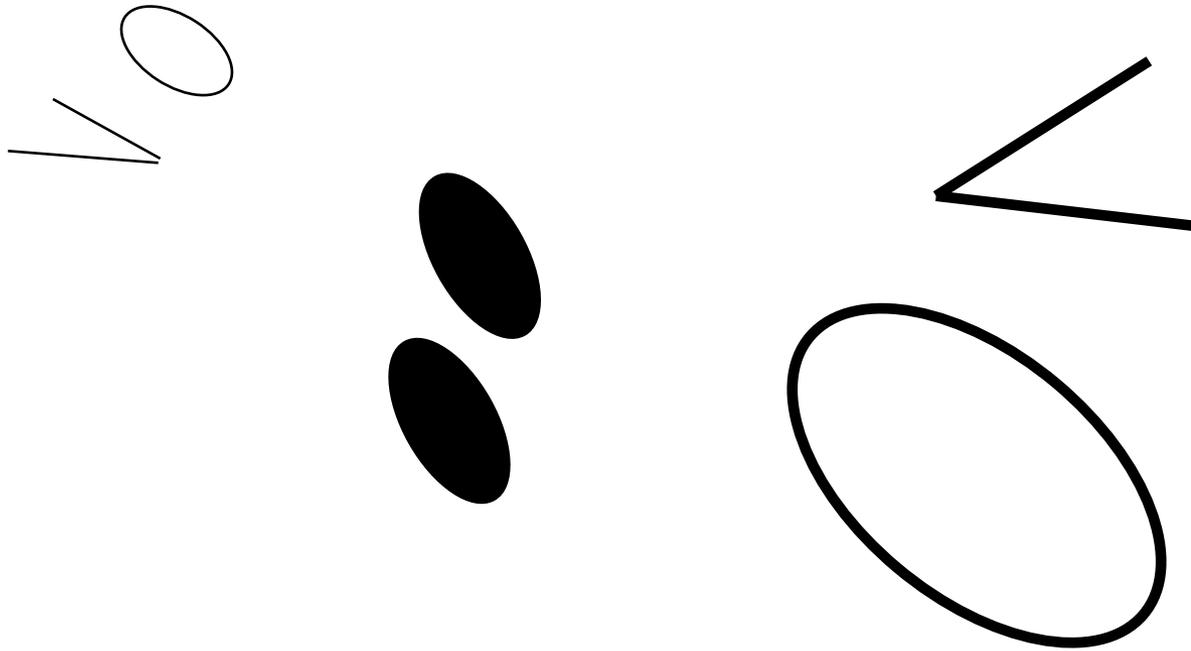


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## DEFINING HOLISM

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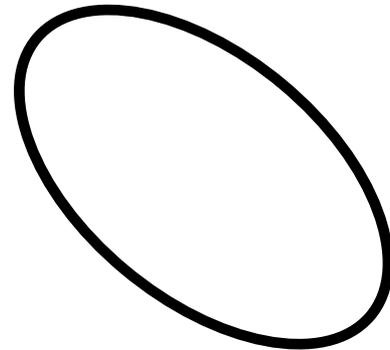
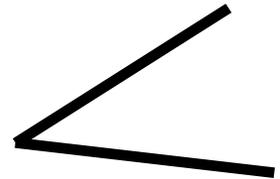
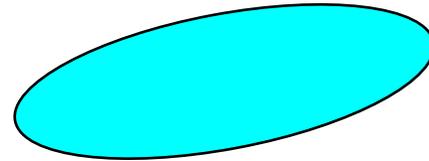
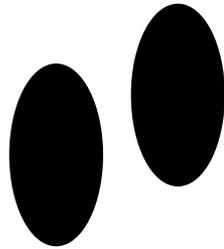
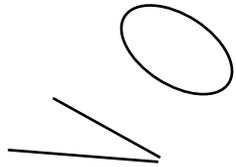


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## DEFINING HOLISM

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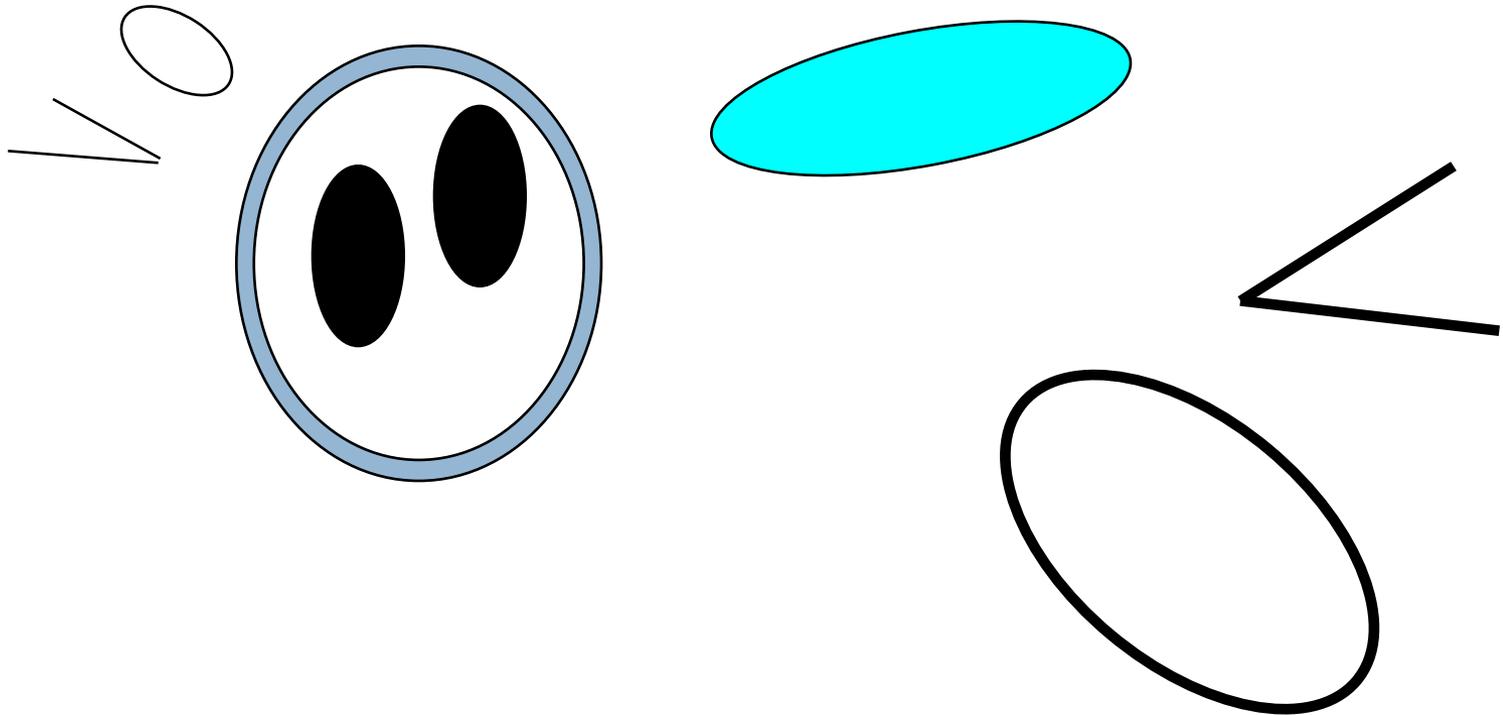


# 2. World View Essentials

## DEFINING HOLISM

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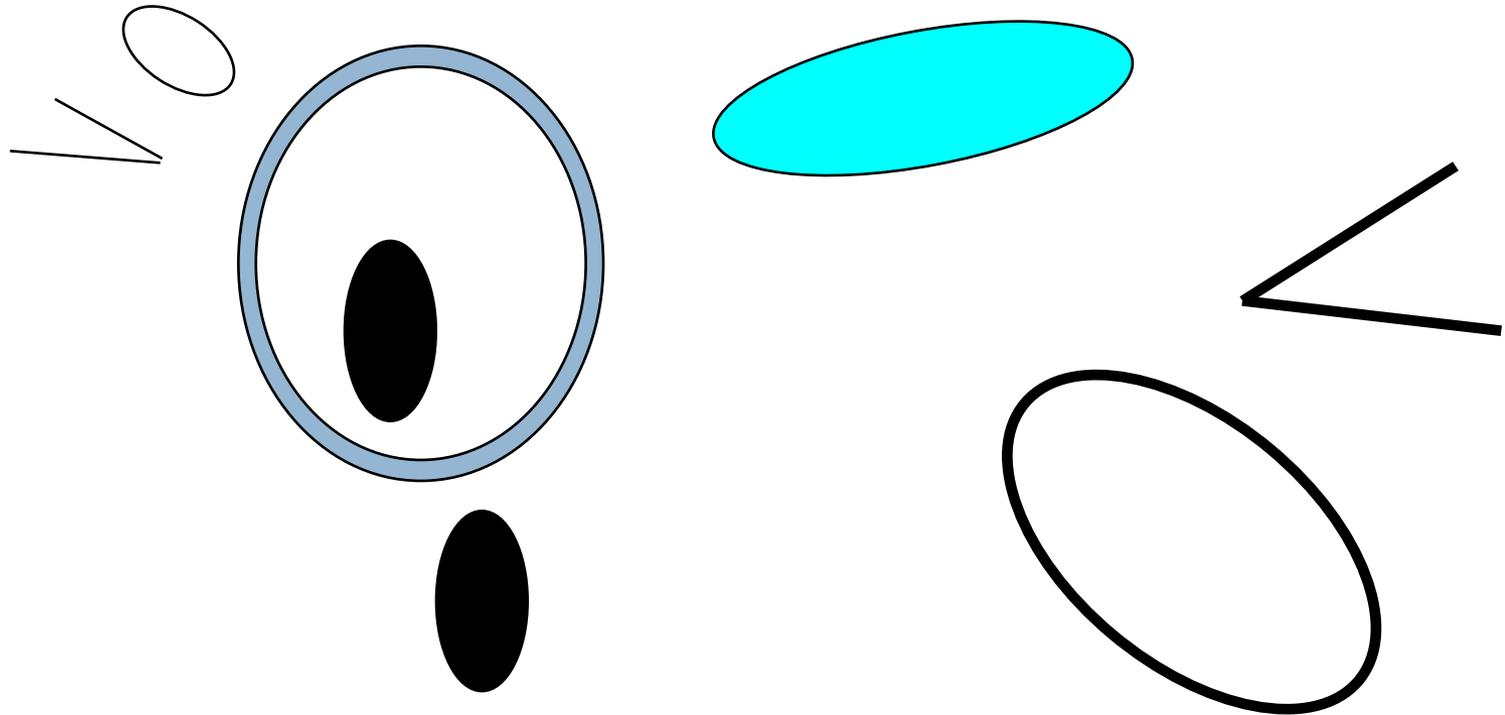


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## DEFINING HOLISM

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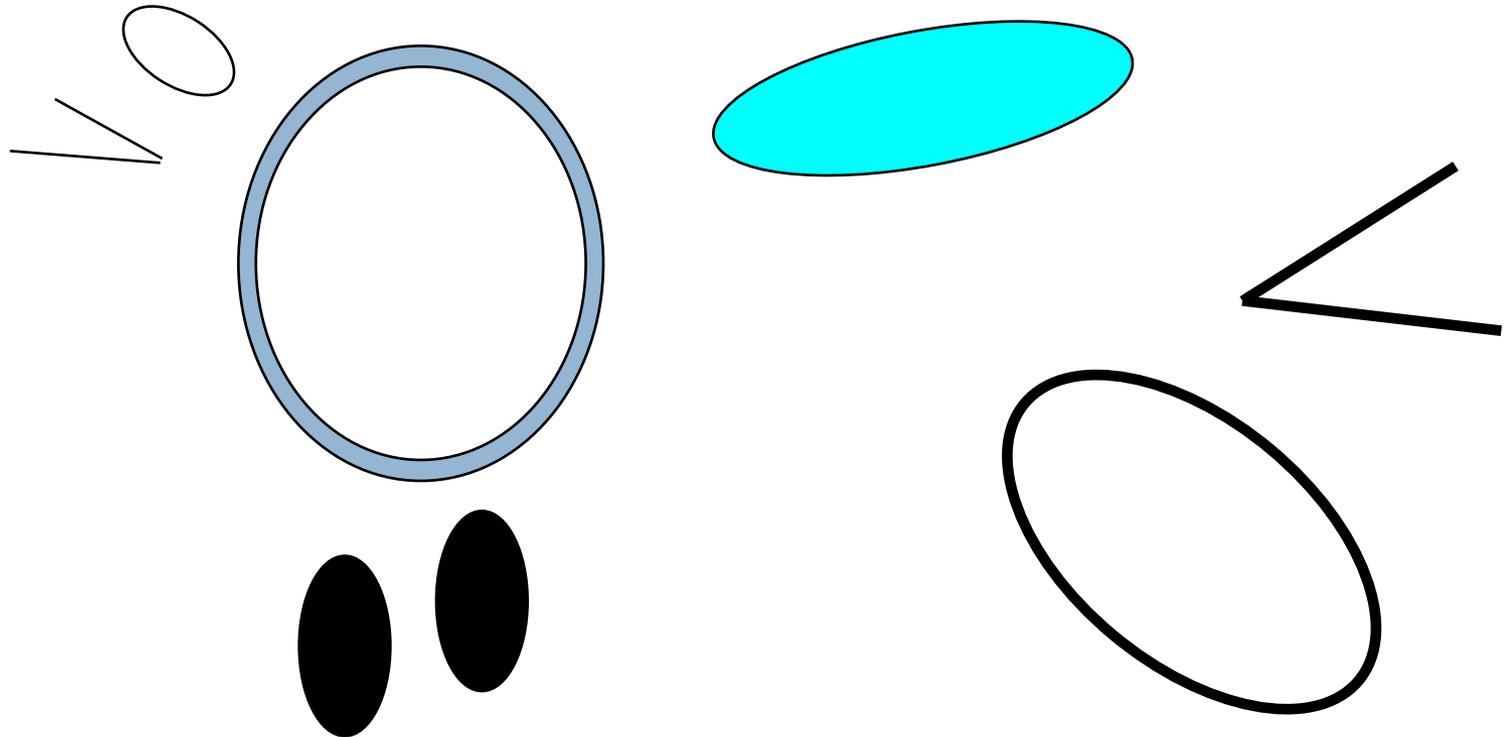


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## DEFINING HOLISM

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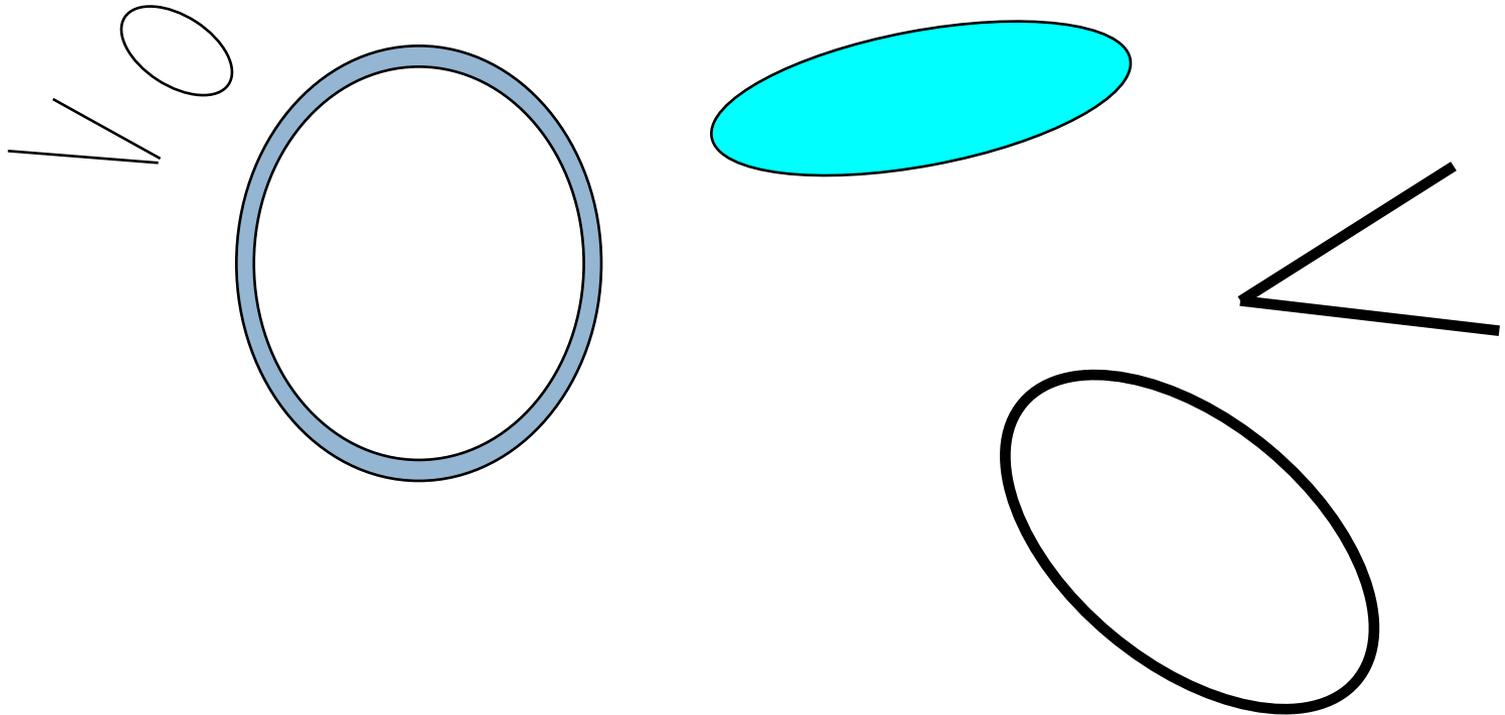


# 2. World View Essentials

## DEFINING HOLISM

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### 3D-Land vs. 2D-Land (Flatland)

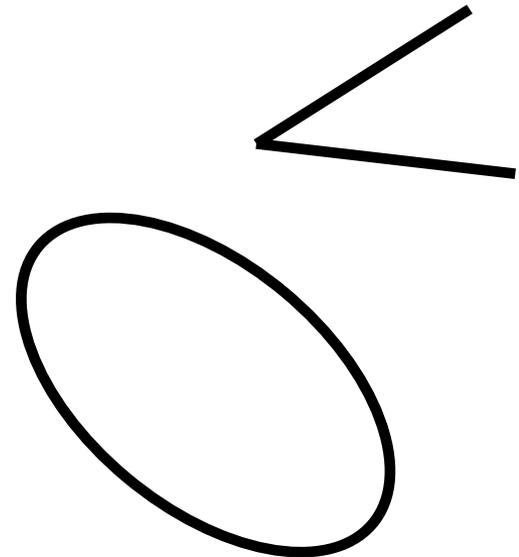
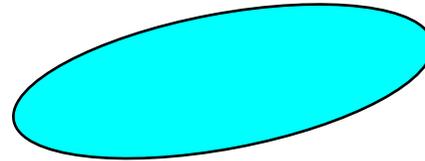
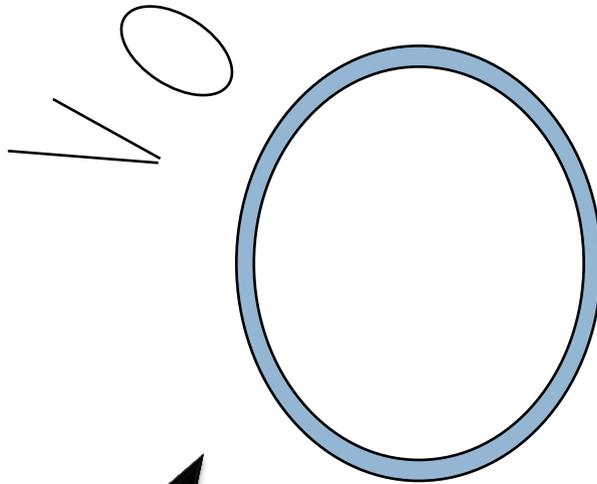


# 2. World View Essentials

## DEFINING HOLISM

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### 3D-Land vs. 2D-Land (Flatland)



Flatland =  
immanent

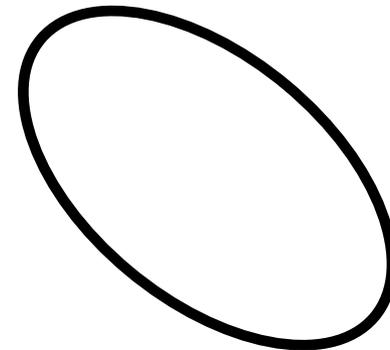
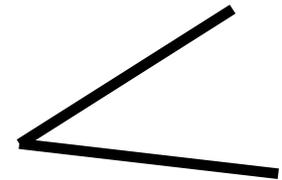
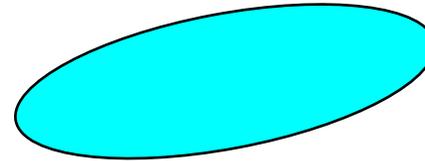
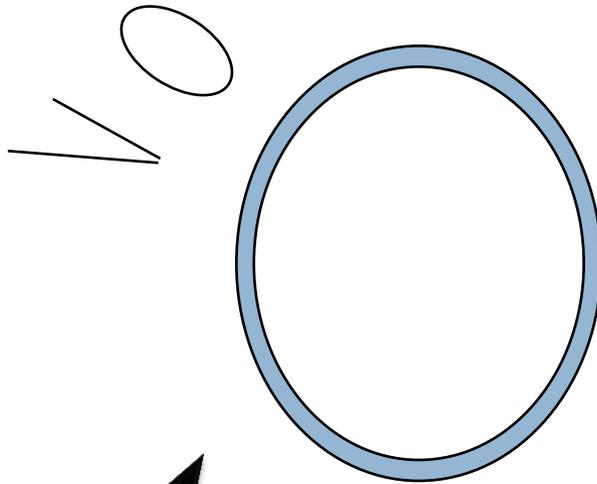
# 2. World View Essentials

## DEFINING HOLISM

47

3D-Land vs. 2D-Land (Flatland)

Height is transcendent in Flatland!



Flatland =  
immanent

# 2. World View Essentials

## DEFINING HOLISM

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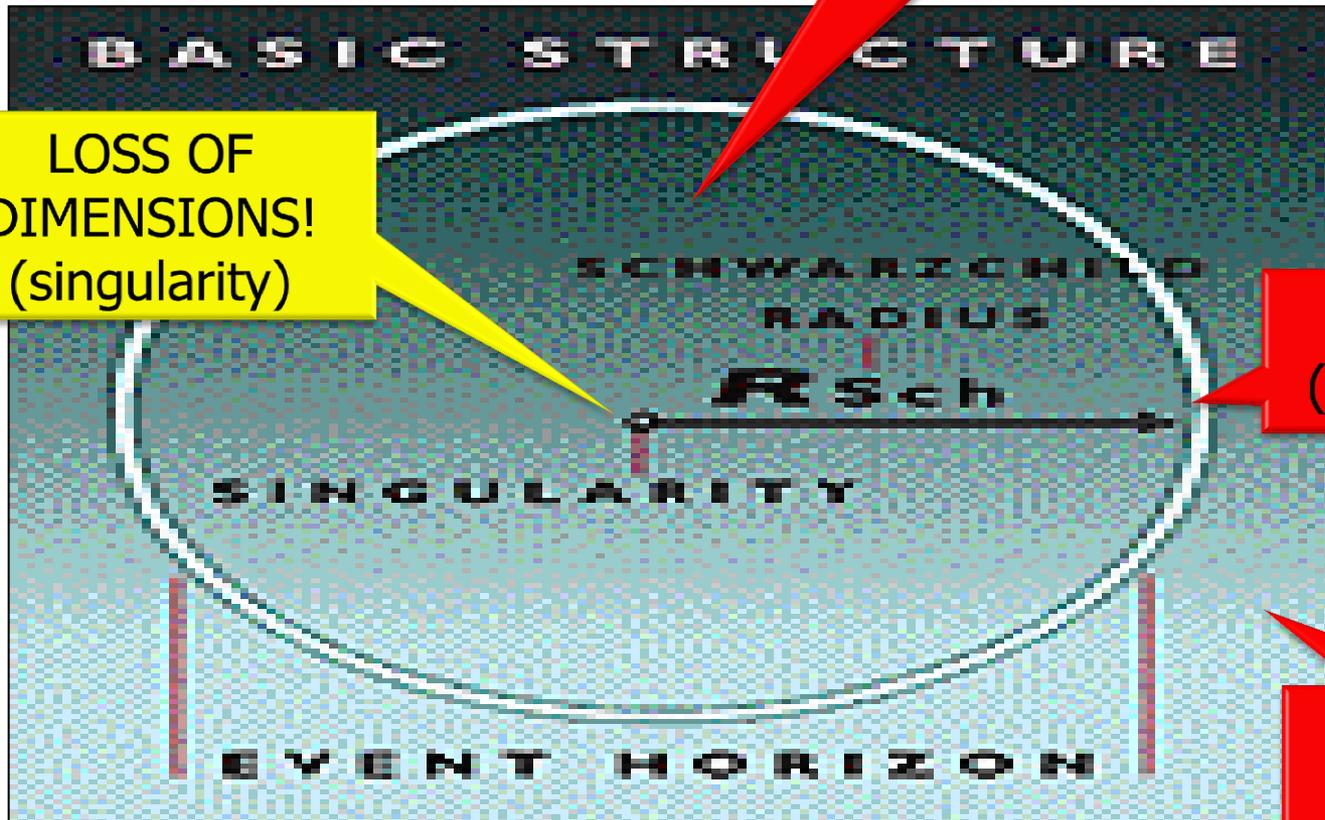
Black Holes

INACCESSIBLE  
REALITY!  
(transcendent)

LOSS OF  
DIMENSIONS!  
(singularity)

BOUNDARY!  
(event horizon)

ACCESSIBLE  
REALITY  
(immanent)



# 2. World View Essentials

## HOLISM: TRANSCENDENCE & IMMANENCE

49

### Transcendence

- Physically not reachable or researchable from immanent
  - ▣ *i.e. physically/dimensionally censored, lies beyond “event horizon”*
- Quantitative and qualitative upward discontinuity
  - ▣ *i.e. characteristics cannot be extrapolated from immanence*

### Immanence

- Dimensionally restricted/bounded area within transcendent

# 2. World View Essentials

## HOLISM: TRANSCENDENCE VS. IMMANENCE

50

### Immanence

- The part of reality lying within the bounds of material experience
- Restricted to experience, i.e. what is explorable by human sense perceptions

### Transcendence

- Reality above and beyond the limits of material experience or human sense perception
- Knowable only via revelation, i.e. information transmitted by a transcendent observer

True transcendence: immanently unthinkable!!!

# 2. World View Essentials

## THE NECESSITY OF REVELATION

EXPERIENCE  
VS.  
REVELATION

51

### **Knowing: immanence vs. transcendence**

- transcendence censored from immanence  
(event horizon)
- transcendent cannot be explored from immanence  
(up)
- but transcendent can access immanence  
(down)
- revelation = communication from the transcendent to  
the immanent
- => revelation necessary if we are to know about the  
transcendent

# 2. World View Essentials

## DEFINING EXPERIENCE

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### ex·pe·ri·ence

- the process or fact of personally observing, encountering, or undergoing something: business experience.
- the observing, encountering, or undergoing of things generally as they occur in the course of time: to learn from experience; the range of human experience.
- knowledge or practical wisdom gained from what one has observed, encountered, or undergone: a man of experience.
- (*Philosophy*) the totality of the cognitions given by perception; all that is perceived, understood, and remembered.

# 2. World View Essentials

## DEFINING REVELATION

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### rev·e·la·tion

- n.: The act of revealing, disclosing, or discovering to others what was before unknown to them.
- (*Theol.*) (a) The act of revealing divine truth. (b) That which is revealed by God to man; esp., the Bible.
- The act of revealing or disclosing.
- Something revealed, especially a dramatic disclosure of something not previously known or realized.
- (*Theol*) A manifestation of divine will or truth.

# 2. World View Essentials

## REVELATION & BIBLE

54

### General Revelation

e.g. Rom 1:20, Acts 17:23-31 Eph 3:8-10

- concerns immanent  
(nature, history, preservation, conscience)
- proves that transcendent God exists!
- therefore we are responsible to seek God
- but: no information about salvation

### Special Revelation

e.g. Hebrews 1:1-2

- concerns transcendent
- major and prime goal is to inform about God's plan for salvation of mankind
- but: fundamental presupposition is that God exists

# 2. World View Essentials

## REVELATION & BIBLE

55

### General Revelation

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**The concept of God as described by theologians commonly includes:**

- omniscience  
(infinite knowledge)
- omnipotence  
(unlimited power)
- omnipresence  
(present everywhere)
- omnibenevolence  
(perfect goodness)
- divine simplicity  
(vs. composite)
- eternal and necessary existence

# 2. World View Essentials

## REVELATION & BIBLE

56

### General Revelation

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# 2. World View Essentials

## REVELATION & BIBLE

57

### Romans 1:20

- For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, [even] his everlasting power and divinity; that they may be without excuse

### Other useful Scriptures

- nature: Ps 19:1-6, Jer 40:12-14, Acts 14:14-17
- history: Dt 32:8-9, Job 38:22-23, Acts 17:26, Rom 8:26
- preservation: Acts 17:28, Col 1:17, Heb 1:3
- conscience: Rom 2:14-15

# 2. World View Essentials

## SUMMARY: WORLD VIEWS AND REALITY

58

### **Naturalism**

- There is no transcendent part of reality, only the immanent
- This immanent reality consists only of matter-energy

### **Holism**

- Reality consists of immanent and transcendent
- There is more to reality than matter-energy
- Information and relation are real and autonomous from matter-energy

# 2. World View Essentials

## SUMMARY: WORLD VIEWS AND CAUSALITY

59

### **Naturalism**

- Causality is denominative, i.e. pure naming of observation without explanation
- Researching causality is a pointless or meaningless activity

### **Holism**

- Causality can be logically and consistently explained and has mechanisms or process
- Researching causality is possible and provides useful or meaningful answers

# 2. World View Essentials

## SUMMARY: WORLD VIEWS AND REVELATION



60

### **Naturalism**

- There is no transcendent reality
- All knowledge obtained by experience
- => no revelation – and no need for it

### **Holism**

- Reality consists of immanent and transcendent
- Revelation necessary for complete knowledge; particularly to know about transcendent
- Revelation central to Judaeo-Christian world view!!!