

# Project ISSACHAR

Training in  
Apologetics and  
Biblical Worldview

“Those who had  
understanding of the  
times, to know what Israel  
ought to do...”

1 Chronicles 12:32



Outlines and other  
resources...

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

## SESSION 2

# Can I Know God?

**“What comes into our minds  
when we think about God is  
the most important thing  
about us.”**



**A.W. Tozer**

A collage of various images. At the top center is a close-up of a person's face with dark hair. To the left is a blue textured surface. To the right is a close-up of a white flower. At the bottom is a painting of hands holding a white cloth, signed 'WALTER SULLMAN 1940'.

**A correct image of  
God is crucial!**

**“We’ve made you in our  
image, so our faith’s idolatry”**

**Michael Card**



**“You shall not make for yourself... any likeness of anything that is in heaven above...”**

**Exodus 20:4**



# Part 1 – “Can I know God?”

# General Revelation

**“For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made, so they are without excuse.”**

**Romans 1:20**

**“For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.”**

## **General Revelation can tell us...**

- A supreme being exists**
- It is intelligent**
- It is creative**
- It values beauty and order**
- It merits my “seeking”**



**God chose to reveal Himself to us  
through His Word...**



**“Special Revelation”**

**GOD**



**MAN**

# Propositions about God...

**Attributes – Things He has revealed as being true about Himself.**

# Propositions about God...

## Holy

- **Set apart from all else**
- **Not like anything else**

**1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 2:2**

**Propositions about God...**

**Eternal**

**No beginning, no end.**

**Hebrews 13:8**

## Propositions about God...

# Self-existent, Self-sufficient

- He has no needs.
- He depends on nothing outside Himself.

Ephesian 3:20

## Propositions about God...

# Sovereign

- **He acts from His own will.**
- **No outside factors affect His actions.**

**Daniel 4:35**

## Propositions about God...

### **All-knowing** (omniscient)

- **He knows all that is.**
- **He knows all that could or couldn't be.**

**Isaiah 46:9-10**



## Propositions about God...

### **All-powerful** (omnipotent)

- **He can do anything that can be done.**
- **Nothing can stop His action.**

**Jeremiah 32:17**

## Propositions about God...

### **Unbounded** (omnipresent)

- **Everywhere at once.**
- **Yet He can “be present” in a special way, also.**

**Psalm 139:7-12**

## Propositions about God...

# Unchanging (immutable)

- **Being perfect He can't be "more."**
- **Being righteous and holy, He can't be "less."**

**Malachi 3:6**



Angry Old Testament God



Merciful New Testament Jesus

**Propositions about God...**

**Just/Good**

**God is perfectly fair in all His  
workings.**

**Psalm 34:8**

# Propositions about God...

## Triune

**God exists as 3 Persons with  
1 essence.**

**Philippians 1:2, Titus 2:13, Acts 5:3–4**

~~“Like water, ice, vapor...”~~

~~“Like I can be a son, father,  
and brother...”~~

“The Trinity isn’t like  
anything else.”

**Propositions about God...**

**Righteous**

**There is nothing evil or  
imperfect in Him.**

**Psalms 71:19**



## Propositions about God...

# Loving

- **God is perfectly devoted to the well-being of others.**
- **The Trinity have been in a loving relationship for all eternity.**

**1 John 4:7-8**

## Propositions about God...

# Personal

- **God is sentient with will, intellect, and emotions.**
- **God is not a “force.”**
- **God is relational.**

**Exodus 3:14**

**Does God have limitations?**

**“Limitation” isn’t  
necessarily equated with  
“lack”...**

**“Can God create a rock so big that He can’t lift it?”**



**“...meaningless combinations of words do not suddenly acquire meaning simply because we prefix to them the two other words, ‘God can.’ It remains true that all things are possible with God: the intrinsic impossibilities are not things but nonentities... nonsense remains nonsense even when we talk it about God.”**



**C.S. Lewis**

# God can't...

**Lie**

**Change**

**Be anything outside of His character**

**Be equal to any of His creations**

# Part 2 - Can we prove God exists?

**“My thoughts are not your thoughts  
neither are your ways my ways,  
declares the Lord.” Is. 55:8**

**“Can we provide  
*reasonable evidence*  
of God’s existence?”**

**The “hiddenness of God...**

**“Why doesn’t God just come down and prove He exists?”**



**“There is enough light for those who desire to see, and enough obscurity for those who have a contrary disposition.”**



**Pascal**

**Evidence for the existence of Yahweh God...**

**Natural Revelation...**

**Creation demands a Creator.**

**Design demands a Designer.**

**Purpose & order demand a Mind.**

Evidence for the existence of Yahweh God...

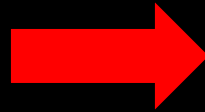
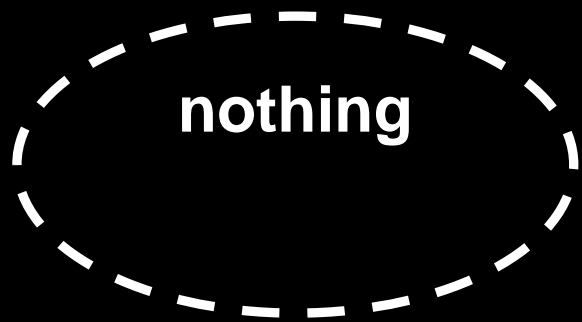
Philosophical coherence...

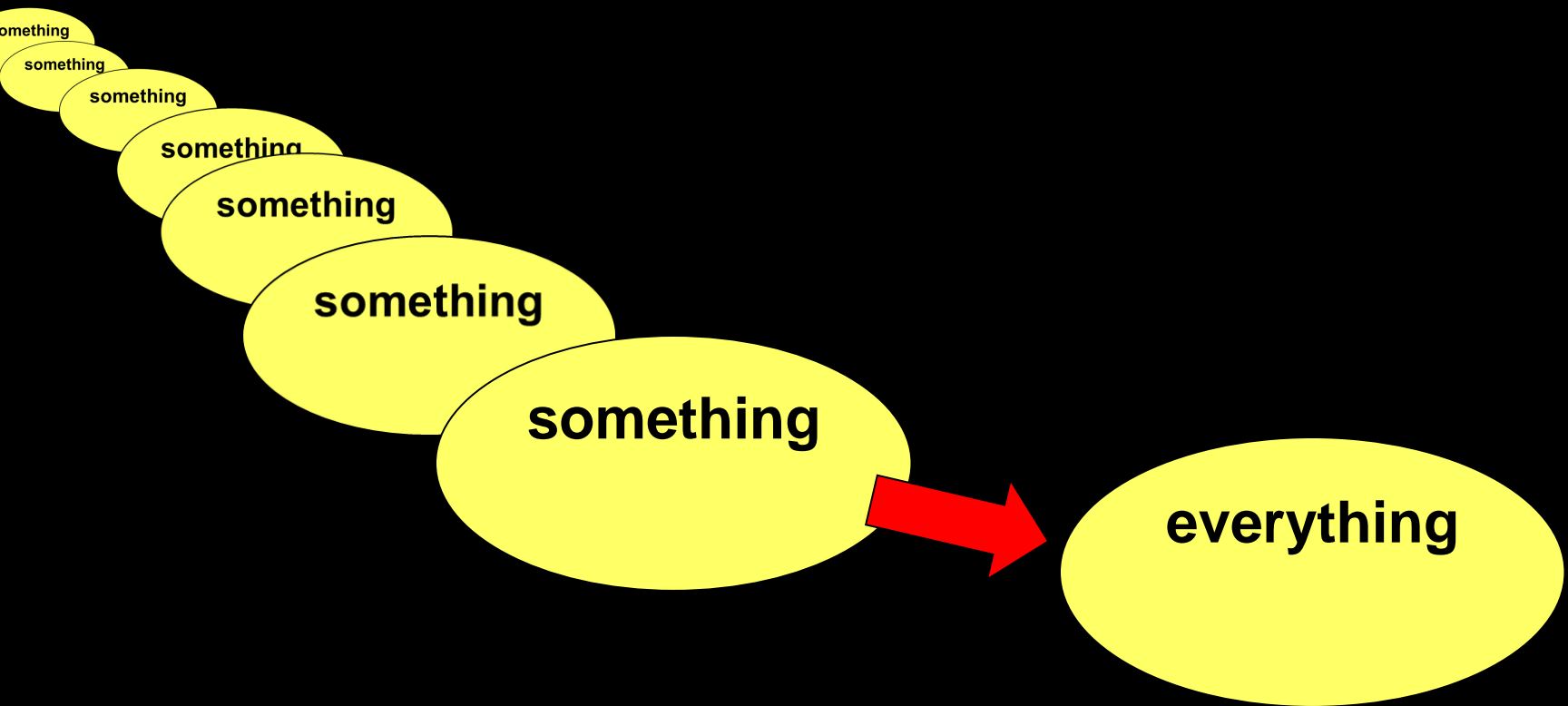
***“ex nihilo nihil fit”***

Nothing comes from nothing.



Parmenides

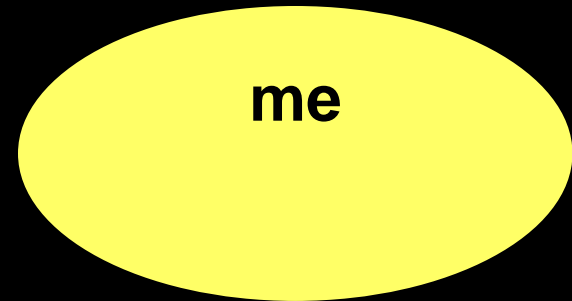
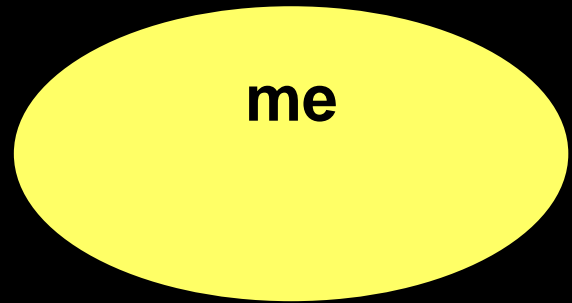
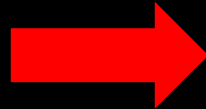
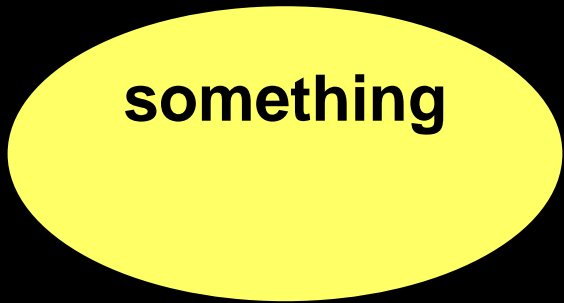
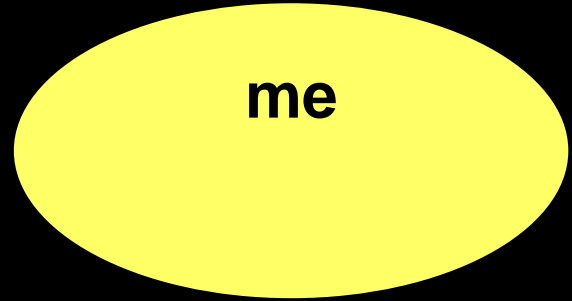
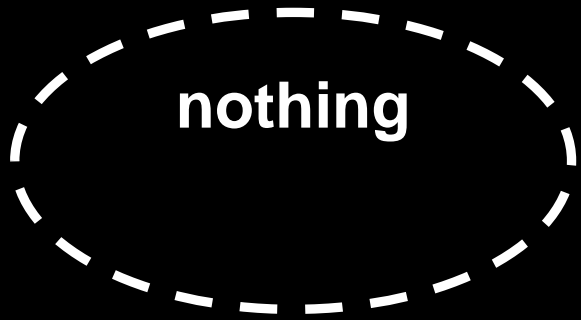




**Evidence for the existence of Yahweh God...**

**Philosophical coherence...**

**“A greater can’t come from a  
lesser.”**



**Evidence for the existence of Yahweh God...**

**More philosophical  
evidence...**

**See the “Kalam Principle”  
Williams Lane Craig**



**Evidence for the existence of Yahweh God...**

**The coherence and reliability  
of the Bible...**

**“Statistical probability of  
such a book is low”**

**Evidence for the existence of Yahweh God...**

**Miracles...**

**“Not simply statistical expectations, but low probability events within a context.”**

**Evidence for the existence of Yahweh God...**

**Intrinsic values...**

**Humans have strong internal  
senses of:**

**“right/wrong”**

**“good/bad”**

**Evidence for the existence of Yahweh God...**

**Fulfilled prophecy...**

**“All prophecies that could have been fulfilled to the present have been fulfilled.”**

**Evidence for the existence of Yahweh God...**

**Efficacy of God's principles...**

**“His laws work in the real world.”**

**Evidence for the existence of Yahweh God...**

**Answered prayer...**

**“Prayers are consistently answered within the context of good, wise, powerful, sovereign, loving, creative God.”**

**Evidence for the existence of Yahweh God...**

**Communication of the Holy  
Spirit...**

**Evidence for the existence of Yahweh God...**



**Preponderance of Evidence**