

1 Peter Series

Lesson #086

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Dean Bible Ministries

[www.deanbibleministries.org](http://www.deanbibleministries.org)

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# GIVING AN ANSWER – PART 4

**OLD TESTAMENT**

**BIBLICAL EXAMPLES**

**1 PETER 3:15**



**1<sup>ST</sup> PETER**

**LIVING IN LIGHT  
OF ETERNITY**

# Introduction to Apologetics

- 1. What is *Apologetics*?**
- 2. Why should we learn about apologetics?**
- 3. Why do some people object to apologetics?**
- 4. The Bible doesn't use apologetics, why should we?**
- 5. What is the difference between Apologetics and Christian Evidences?**
- 6. On what basis do we defend, support, argue, that Christianity is the one and only TRUTH?**

# 1. What is *Apologetics*?

*ἀπολογία apologia*

- ① a speech of defense, *defense, reply*
- ② the act of making a defense, *defense; as in court, or an eager activity to defend oneself, 2 Cor. 7:11*
- ③ claim of extenuating circumstance

*excuse,*

**BAGD**

“17× the noun or verb appears in the New Testament with the sense of either vindication or defense in every use.

*(Boa, Faith has its Reasons)*

**“*Apologia* describes a carefully reasoned defense in response to a line of questioning or wrongful accusation by recognized authorities. The word may also refer to a more informal defense outside of the courtroom against personal questioning or accusation (1 Cor. 9:3; 2 Cor. 7:11; 1 Pet. 3:15). The intent of an *apologia* is to win over the person being addressed, to change his mind about what is true.”**

**~Clough, *Theology and Apologetics***

# Introduction to Apologetics

1. What is *Apologetics*?
2. Why should we learn about apologetics?

## **2. Why should we learn about apologetics?**

**a. Because it is commanded in Scripture!**

**Titus 1:9, “holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.”**

## **2. Why should we learn about apologetics?**

**b. Because it strengthens our own understanding of what we believe and builds our confidence in God, the gospel, the Scripture, and Jesus.**



## **2. Why should we learn about apologetics?**

**c. It advances us spiritually.**

**2 Cor. 10:4, “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,**

**2 Cor. 10:5, “casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,”**

# Introduction to Apologetics

1. **What is *Apologetics*?**
2. **Why should we learn about apologetics?**
3. **Why do some people object to apologetics?**

**Some do not find it in the Bible.**

# **Four Basic Issues in Apologetics**

- 1. How do we know anything? Do we know things as they are or only as we perceive them? Is truth knowable absolutely or only probabilities, or only perceptions?**
- 2. Do the theistic proofs actually prove anything?**
- 3. What is the role of evidences in apologetics?**
- 4. Is there a common ground between Christian thought (DVP) and non-Christian thought (HVP)? If so, what is it?**

# The Basis of Knowledge

	SYSTEM	STARTING POINT	METHOD
Autonomous Systems of Perception	<b>RATIONALISM</b> Classic Apologetics- Logic and reason	Innate ideas Faith in human ability.	Independent use of logic & reason
	<b>EMPIRICISM</b> Evidentialism- Facts, history, science	Sense perceptions External experience; Scientific method; Faith in human ability	Independent use of logic & reason
	<b>MYSTICISM</b> Fideism-just believe, apart from reason or evidence	Inner, private experience; intuition Faith in human ability	Independent, nonlogical, nonrational, nonverifiable
Divine Viewpoint	<b>REVELATION</b> Presuppositionalism- Presupposes the truth of Scripture	Objective revelation of God	Dependent use of logic & reason

# **Revelational**

**Common ground: Infallible General and Special Revelation; convicting work of the Holy Spirit.**

**Rational and empirical approaches give too much credit to unaided human ability.**

**Focus should be on exposing inadequate presuppositions and that only the Bible provides a valid basis for reason, history, fact, and truth.**

**Key people: John Calvin, Abraham Kuyper, Cornelius Van Til, and Francis Schaeffer to some degree.**

# Revelational

What is their common ground?



Christian  
Missionary

Infallible Truth of  
Special Revelation

The unbeliever is in  
the image of God and  
knows God exists, and  
that he is a sinner.

God HS convincing  
them of the truth



Pagan  
aborigines;  
Your neighbor

**Application**

**Political/National or Individual Decisions**

**This is where we talk and argue.**

**Ethics: What is right? What is wrong? What is good or bad?**

**Epistemology: How do we know truth? Right from wrong? Just or unjust?**

**Metaphysics: Ultimate reality, i.e., God, matter, energy, nothing**

**Logical Sequence**

**Pressures of Life**

**These are the real issues, usually ignored.**

**Foundation of *all* thought**

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# DVP vs. HVP

**Common  
Ground**

**Triune  
GOD**

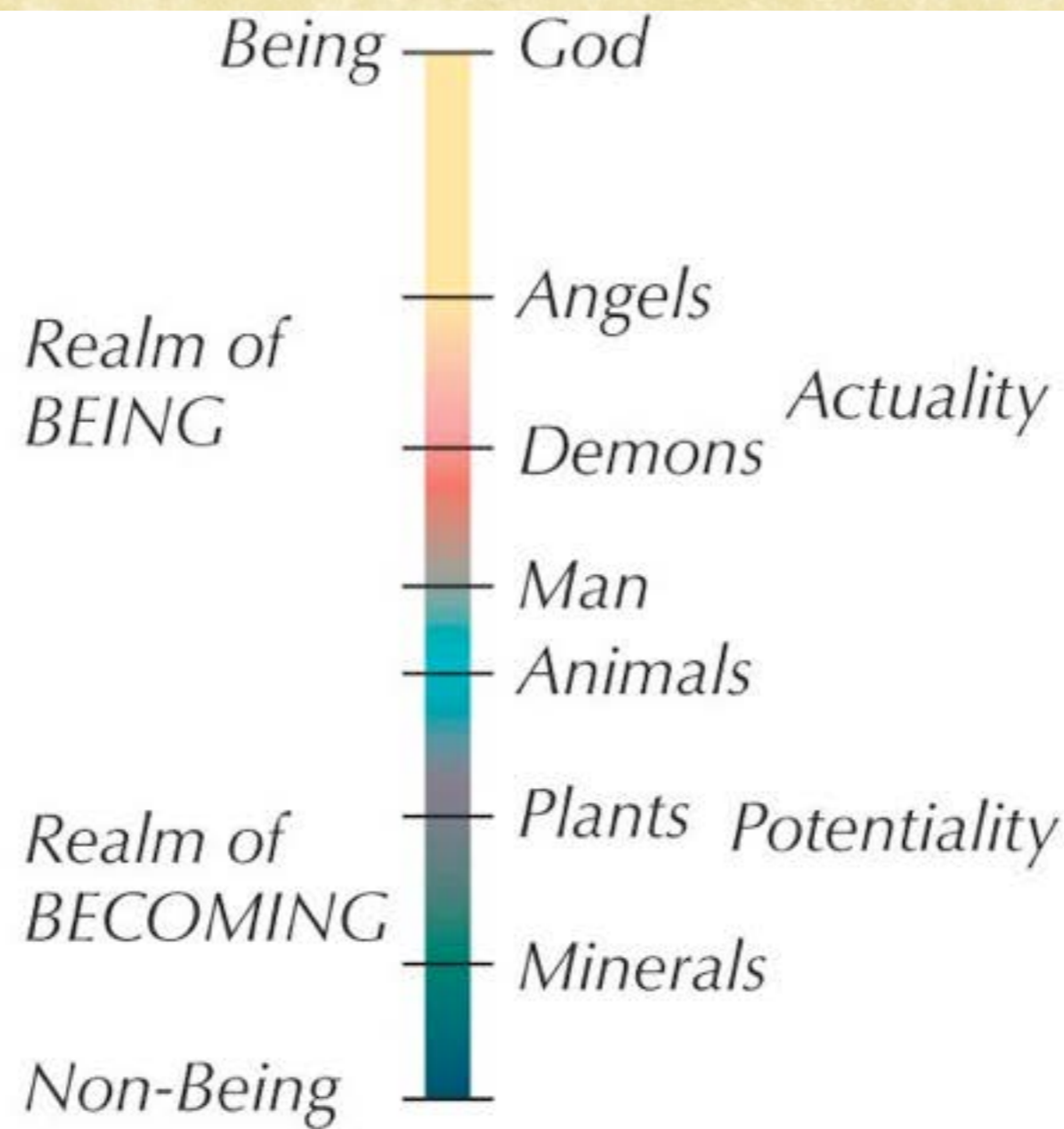


**Is the common ground  
apart from God or is it the  
Creator–God who made  
man in His image?**

**Ancient humans  
Adam and Eve**

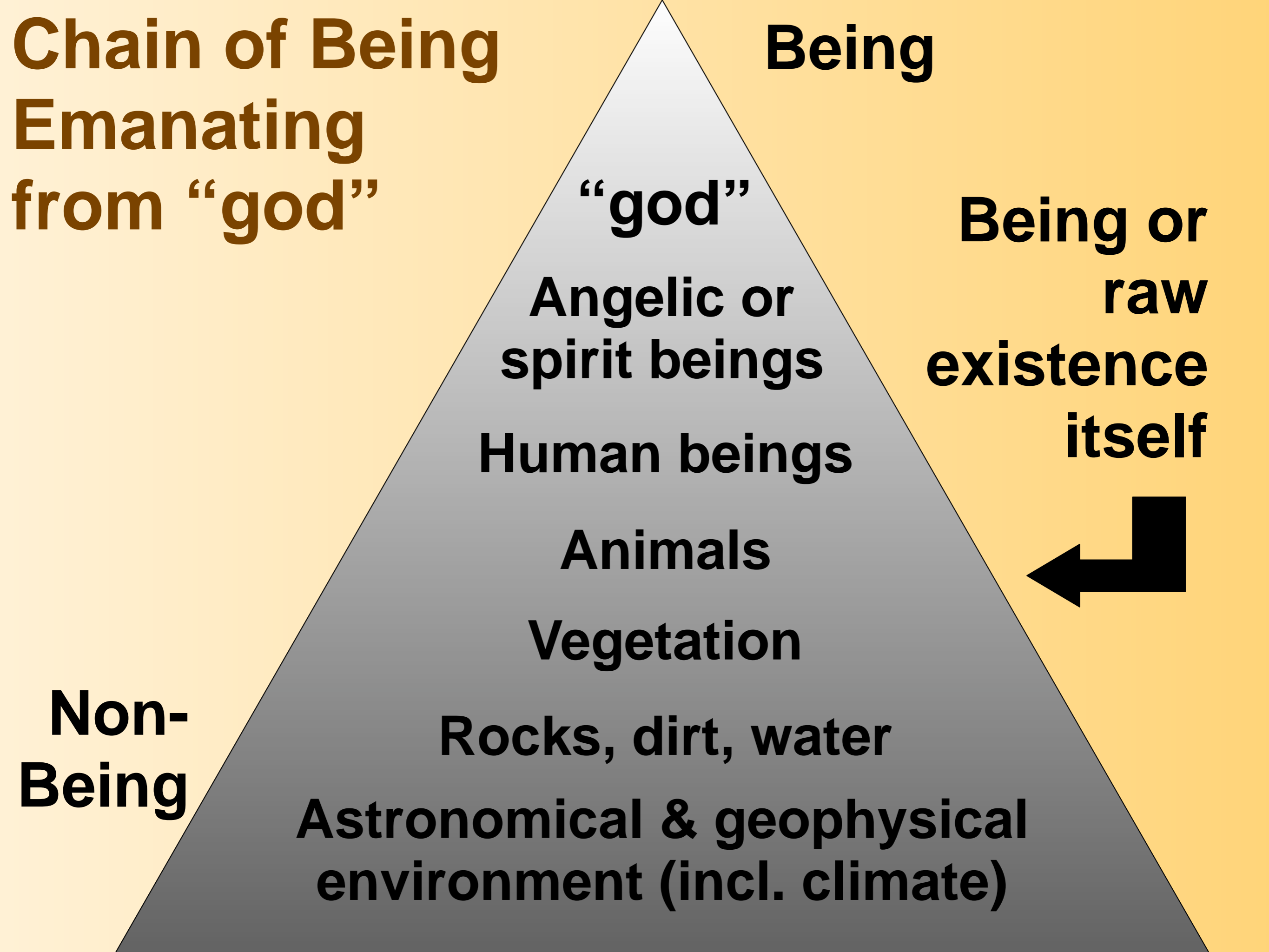
## **Examples:**

**Gen. 1:1–2:4: The Creation account directly challenges all HVP ideas of origins.**



**FIGURE 1.3.** Medieval version of the Great Chain of Being based on Aristotle's ideas.

1.3, redrawn from [http:// web.clas.ufl.edu/users/rhatch/images/greatChain.gif](http://web.clas.ufl.edu/users/rhatch/images/greatChain.gif), credited to Robert A. Hatch



# GOD

Personal-Infinite

## FINITE UNIVERSE

*Man*  
*Animals*  
*Vegetation*  
*Matter/Energy*

## Pagan (HVP) Ideas



**Jesus and the apostles accepted the historicity of the Genesis narrative.**

**Matt. 19:4; 5 quotes from Gen. 1, then Gen 2.  
Noah: Matt. 24:37–38; Heb. 11:7; 1 Pet. 3:20;  
2 Pet. 2:5.**

**Rom. 5:14ff; Death reigned from Adam to Moses.**

**1 Cor. 11:9; the woman created for the man.**

**1 Cor. 15:22; in Adam all die.**

**1 Tim. 2:13–14; Adam was formed first, then Eve.**

**Jude 14; Enoch the seventh from Adam.**

**Rev. 4:11; You created all things.**