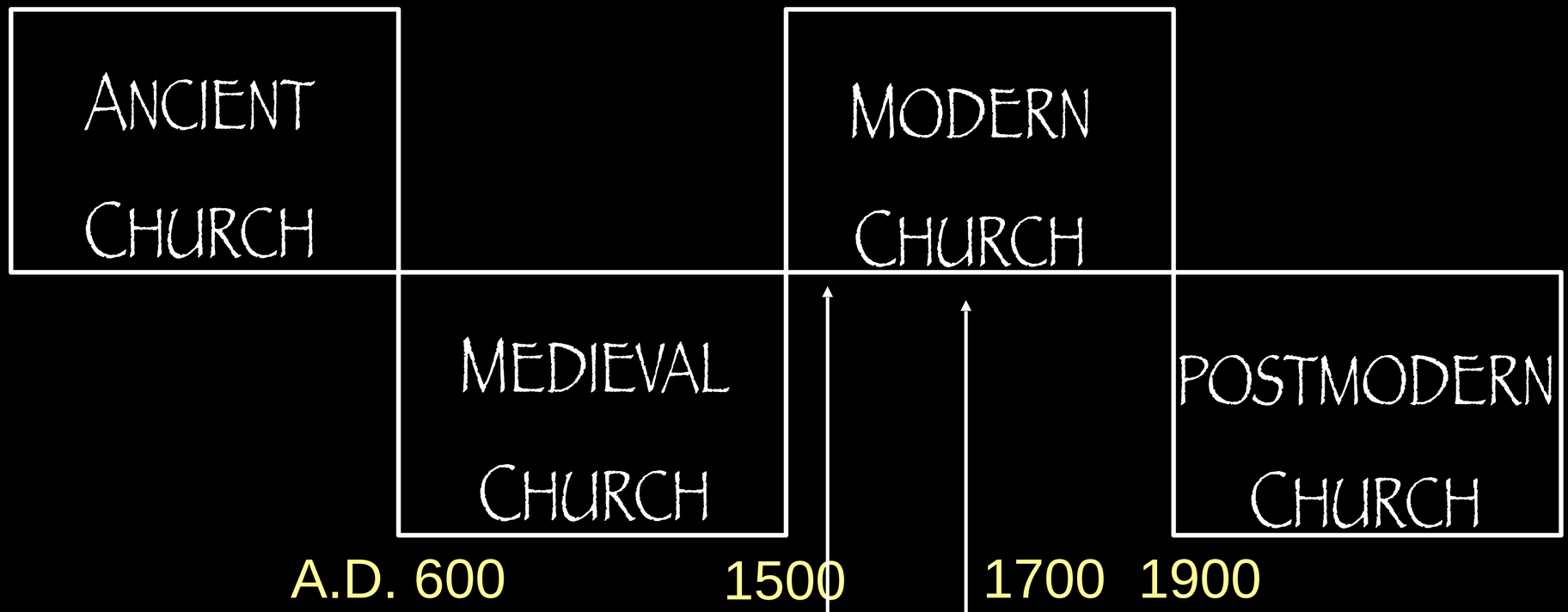
HT 503 History of Doctrine
Instructor

Dr. Robby Dean

Spring 2023

Week #3

Divisions of Church History



The Response of the Ancient Church to Heresy

Doctrine of Apostolic Succession

Development of the Roman Creed

Development of the New Testament Canon

Authority and the Early Church

1. Authority: begins to be defined.

2. Canon: NT almost finalized
   OT Apocrypha debated

3. Inspiration: Breathed by God; divine origin

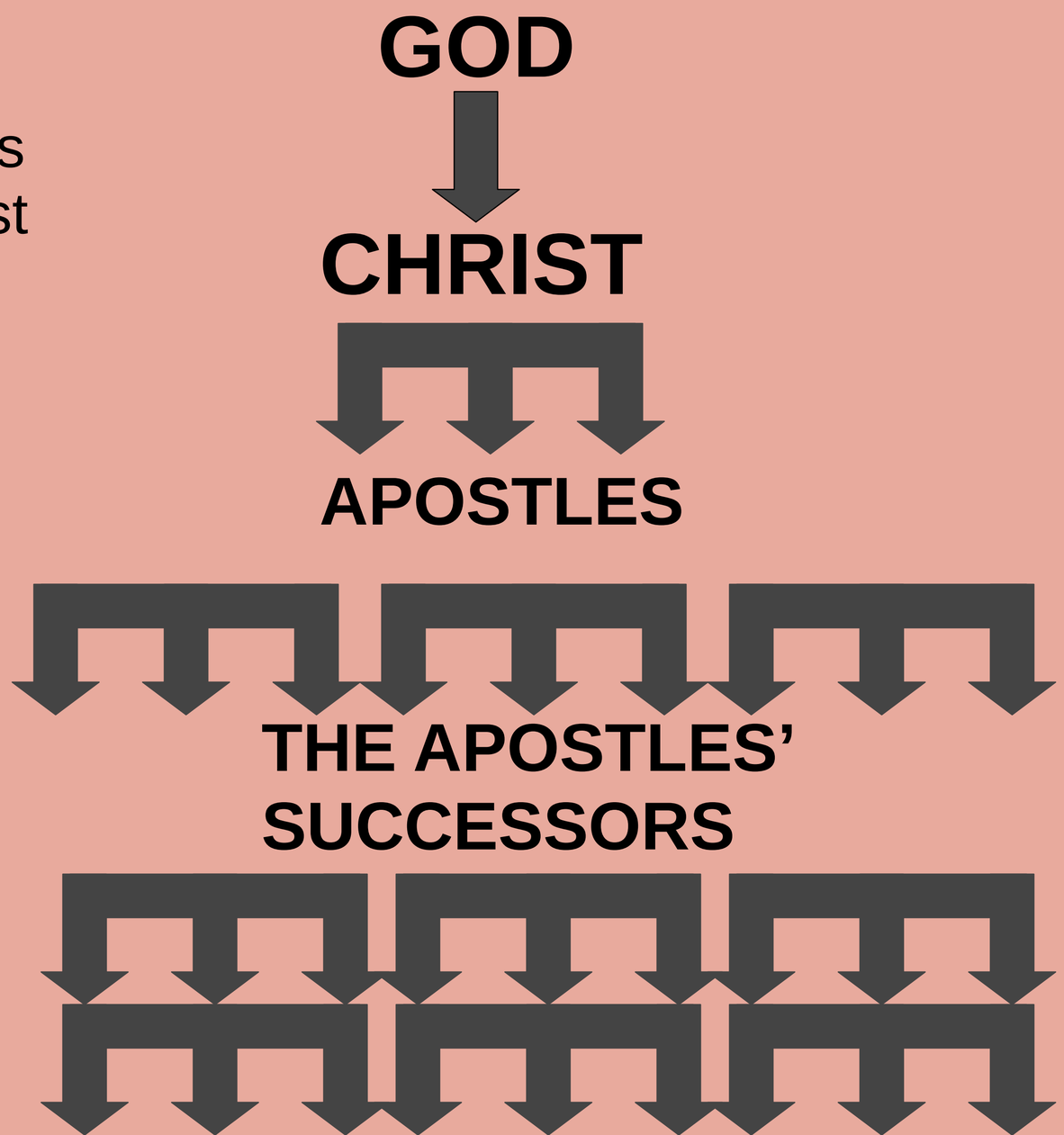
4. Interpretation: Literal + allegory moves to allegory

Authority in the Early Church

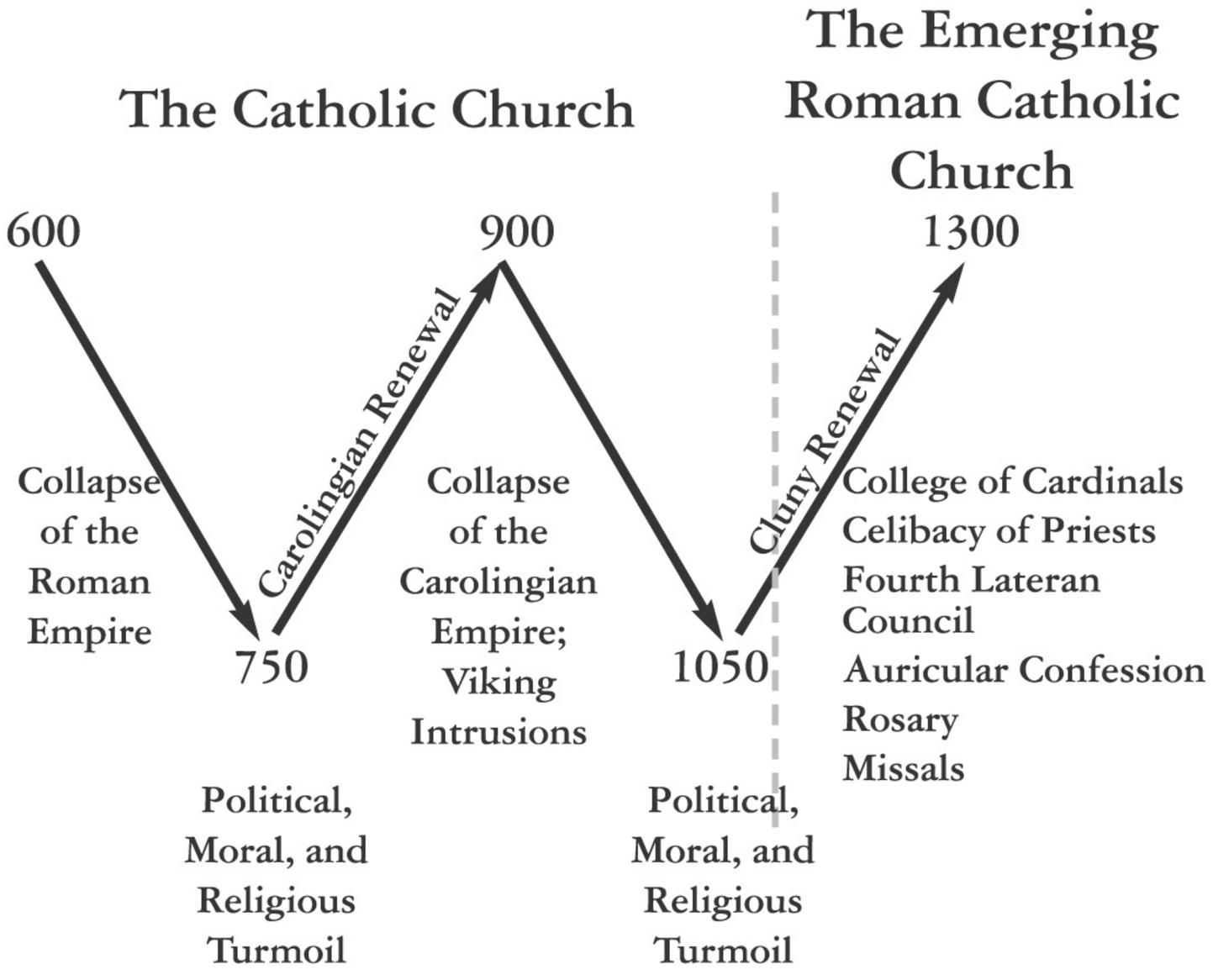
A succession of bishops from God through Christ in the churches.

A single apostolic successor in each church (a bishop).

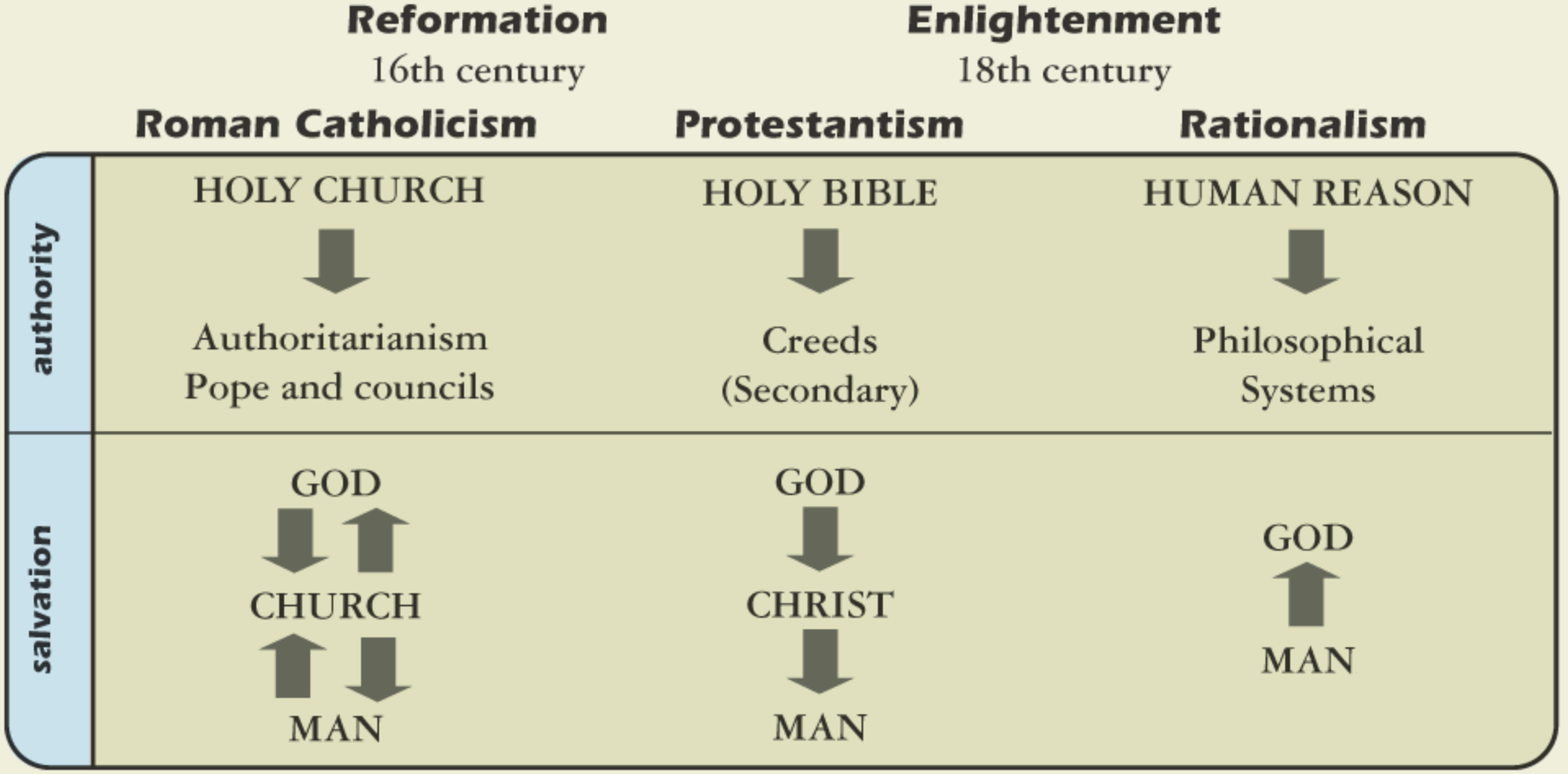
An emphasis on a linearly passed tradition of doctrine.



The Medieval Church:
Social Disintegration and Religious Renewal



Approaches to Authority and the Enlightenment



From Revelation to Reason

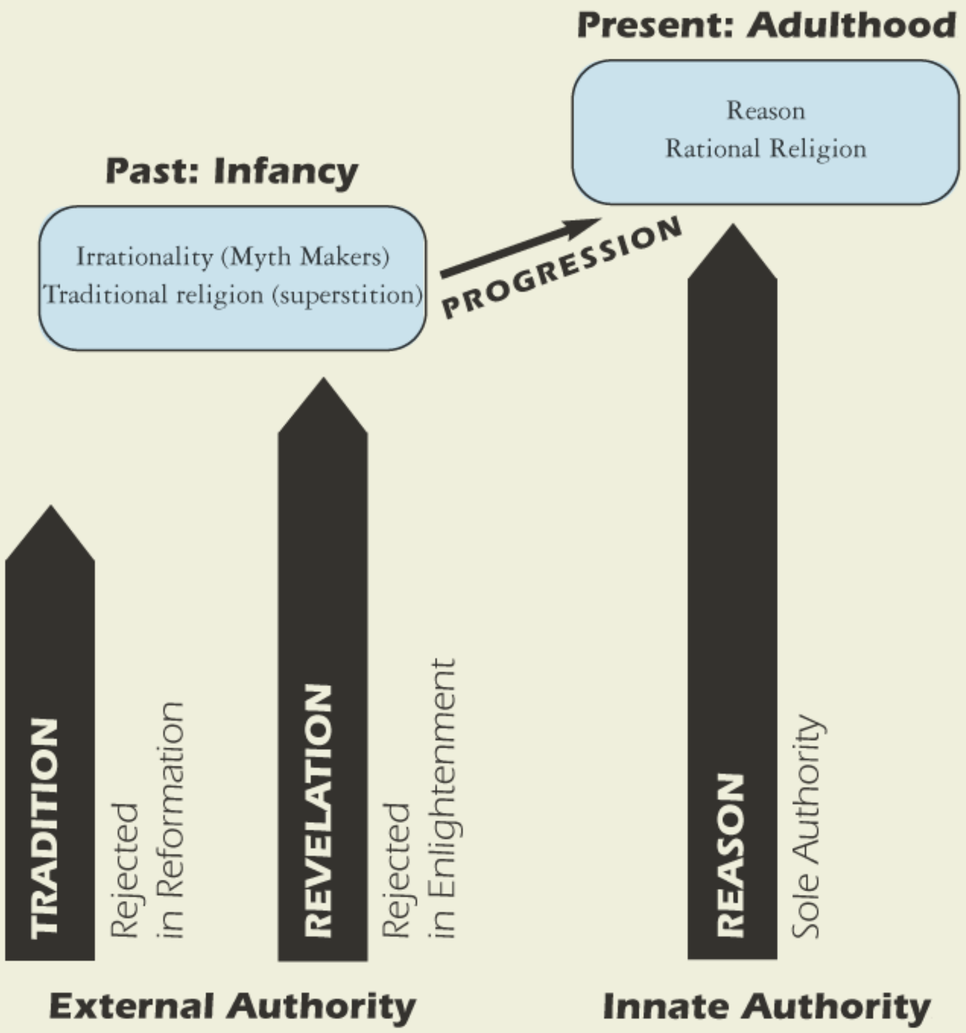


Chart 42

The Basis of Knowledge

	SYSTEM	STARTING POINT	METHOD
Autonomous Systems of Perception	RATIONALISM	Innate ideas; Faith in human ability	Independent use of logic & reason
	EMPIRICISM	Sense perceptions; External experience; Scientific method; Faith in human ability	Independent use of logic & reason
	MYSTICISM	Inner, private experience; Intuition; Faith in human ability	Independent; Nonlogical; nonrational; nonverifiable
	TRADITION	Combination of above; Institutional, creaturely authority	Historical validation
Divine Viewpoint	REVELATION	Objective revelation of God	Dependent use of logic and reason

MODERNITY

Immanuel Kant: Subjectivism

RATIONALISM

EMPIRICISM

SKEPTICISM

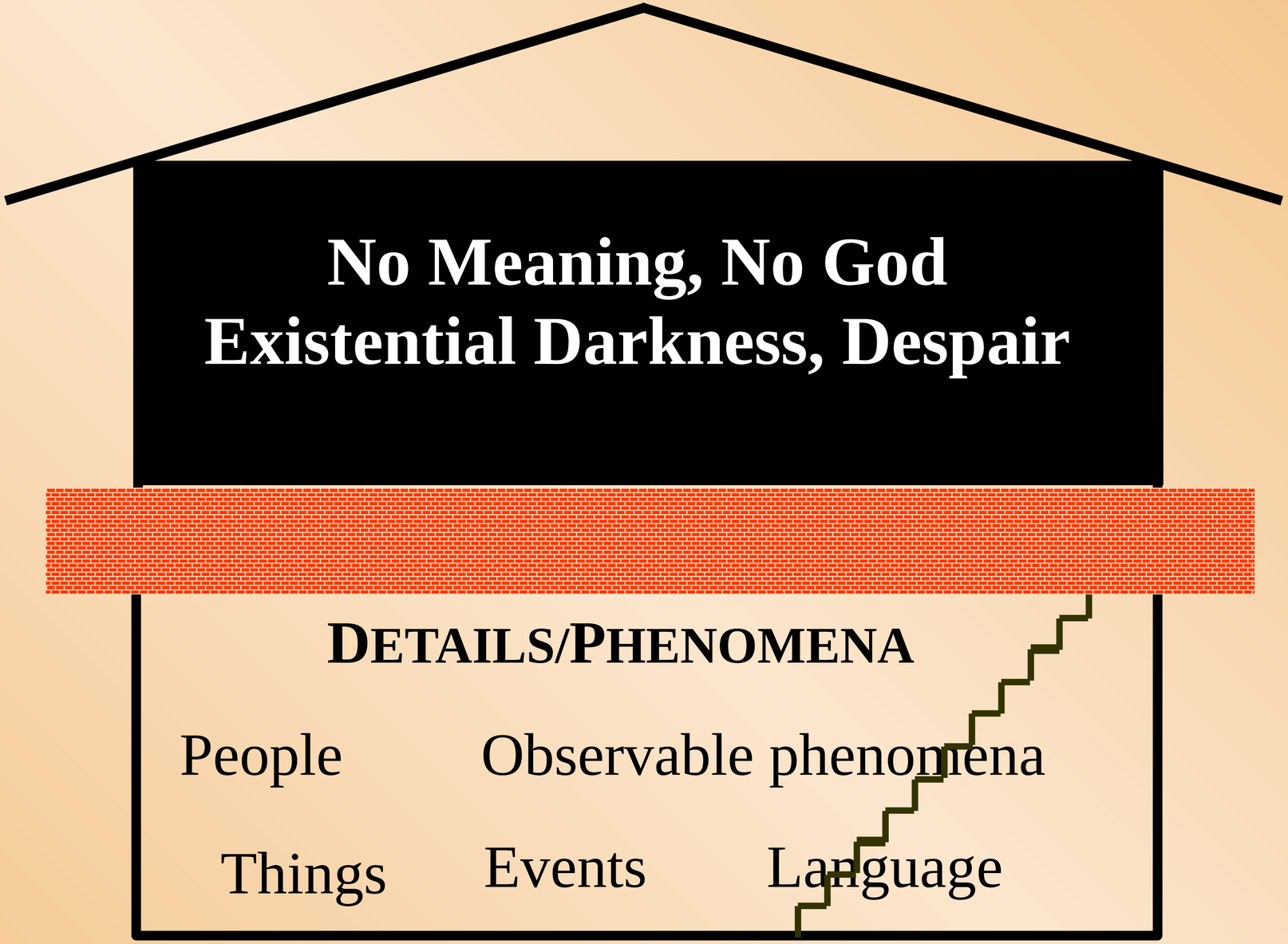
EXISTENTIALISM

19TH-20TH Centuries

Post-Modernism 1900-present

Descartes
Locke

The Enlightenment ca 1640-1780


No Meaning, No God
Existential Darkness, Despair
DETAILS/PHENOMENA
People
Observable phenomena
Things
Events
Language

The Enlightenment and Traditional Religion:

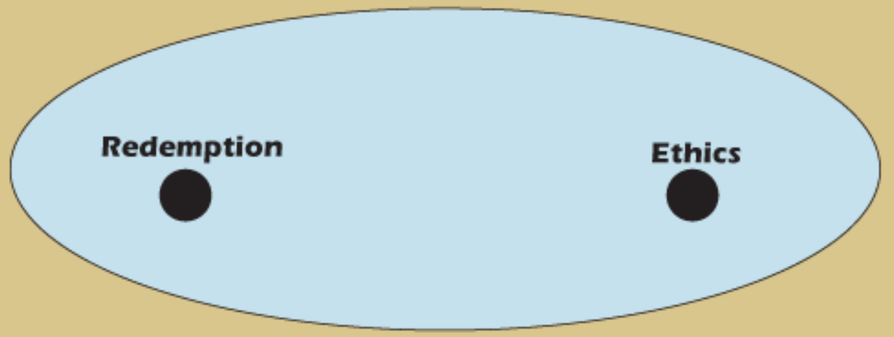
Schleiermacher's Attempt to Preserve True Religion

	Traditional Religion	SCHLEIERMACHER	Enlightenment
Focus of Religion	Revelation	Feeling	Reason
Revelation	From Without (God Speaking)	From Within (Man Emotionally Perceiving/Feeling)	From Within (Man Reasoning)
Christ	Divine/Human Revealer	Human Archetype of God Consciousness	Human Archetype of Morality

Albrecht Ritschl:

Liberalism and the Reduction of Christianity to Ethics

"Christianity, then, is the monotheistic, completely spiritual, and ethical religion, which, based on the life of its Author as Redeemer and as Founder of the Kingdom of God, consists in the freedom of children of God, involves the impulse to conduct from the motive of love, aims at the moral organization of mankind, and grounds blessedness on the relation of sonship to God, as well as on the Kingdom of God."

"Christianity . . . resembles not a circle described from a single center, but an ellipse which is determined by two foci."

—*The Christian Doctrine of Justification and Reconciliation*