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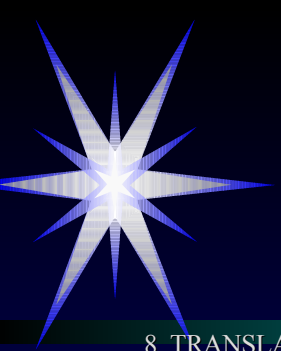
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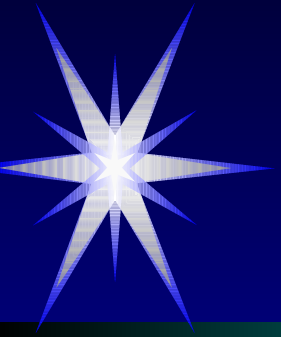
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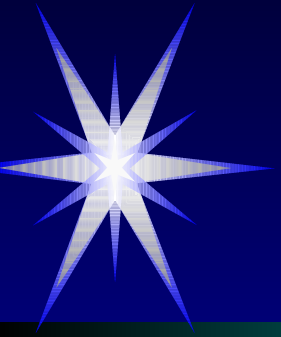






Christ in Science

Vern S. Poythress, Ph.D., Th.D.
Westminster Theological Seminary



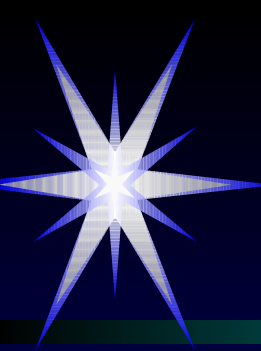
I. Scientific Law



God's Rule (seasons)

God's promise to Noah:

While the earth remains, seedtime and
harvest, cold and heat, summer and
winter, day and night, shall not cease.
--Genesis 8:22

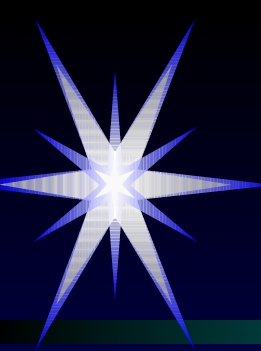


God's Rule (weather)

He hurls down his crystals of ice
like crumbs;
who can stand before his cold?

He sends out his words, and melts them;
he makes his wind blow
and the waters flow.

--Psalm 147:17-18



God's Rule (darkness; grass)

You make darkness, and it is night,
when all the beasts of the forest creep about.

--Psalm 104:20

You cause grass to grow for the livestock
and plants for man to cultivate, ...

--Psalm 104:14



Regularity

regular



regula
(Latin)

= rule

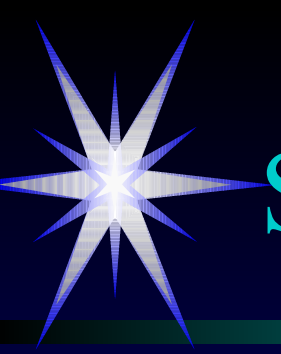


“ordered according to
some established rule,
law, principle, or type”
(Webster’s Dictionary)



Scientific Laws

- Newton's laws
- Dalton's law
- Kirchhoff's laws



Sameness of Law

all places



omnipresent

all times



eternal

not changing

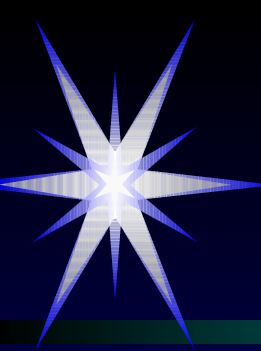


immutable



Attributes

- Immaterial
- Invisible
- Omnipotent
- Truthful
- Transcendent
- Immanent



Problems with Miracle?

Miracles

impossible?



attested in
the Bible

breaking law?



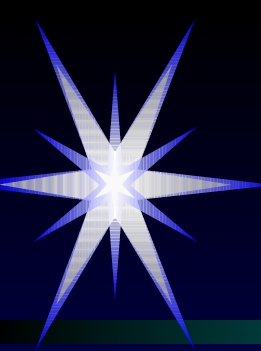
awkward

God's word not
broken

outside law?



God's rule is
comprehensive



Miracle in a Biblical Framework

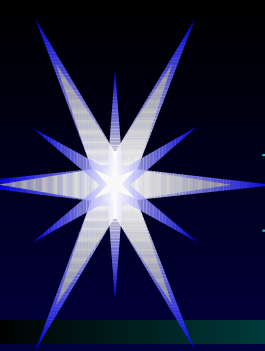
surprising us

contradicting
our guess
about law



harmony
with Biblical
teaching

conforming to
God's plan



Is the Law Personal?

law



law-giver

rational



only persons
can reason

language-like

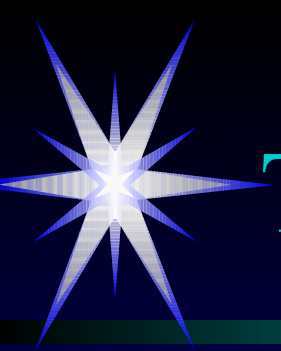


only persons
use language



Further Attributes

- Good
- Beautiful
- Righteous



The Father and the Son

Language involves:

speaker

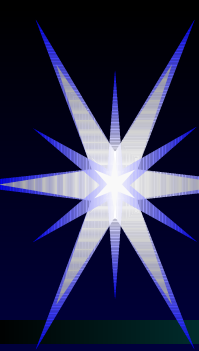
word

breath

power to send
out and effect

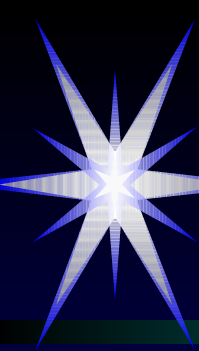
Father

Word



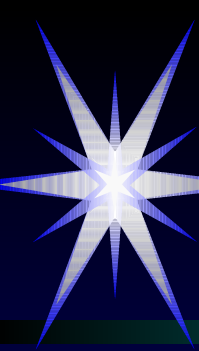
The Son as the Word

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:1-3)



The Son as Creator

For us there is one God, the Father,
from whom are all things and for whom
we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ,
through whom are all things and
through whom we exist. (1 Cor. 8:6)

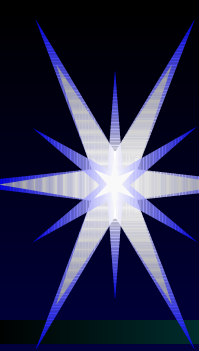


The Role of the Word

And God said, "Let there be light,"
and there was light. (Gen. 1:3)

God called the light Day, and the
darkness he called Night. (Gen. 1:5)

And God said, "Let the earth sprout
vegetation, ..." (Gen. 1:11)



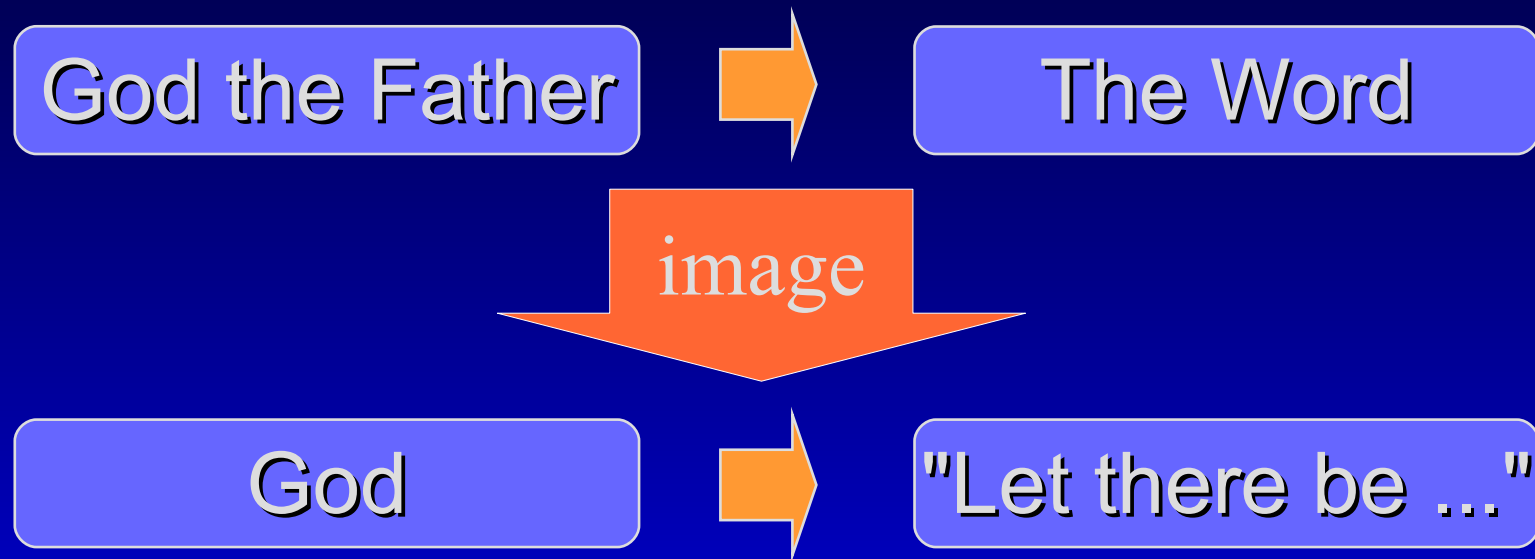
The Role of the Word, the Son

And God said, "Let there be light,"
and there was light. (Gen. 1:3)

In the beginning was the Word, ...
(John 1:1)



Trinitarian Creation





Trinitarian

Language involves:

speaker

word

breath

power to send
out and effect

Father

Word

Spirit



Spirit and Breath

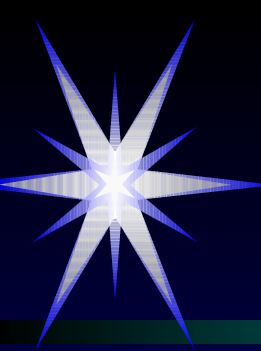
By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
and by the breath of his mouth all their host.
(Ps. 33:6)



Hebrew:
ruach



also, Spirit



God Showing Himself

- Romans 1:19-20
- Psalm 19:1-2
- Romans 1:21-23



Romans 1:19-20

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 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.



Psalm 19:1-2

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.



Romans 1:21-23

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

