

# 1 John Series

## Lesson 1

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# Shall I Bow to My Creator?

- **YES!**

- ancient monotheism
- ancient Israel
- Bible
- fundamentalism

- **CREATOR/creature**

- God || man | nature
- everlasting distinctions

- **PERSONAL SOVEREIGN**

- ultimate responsibility

- **NO!**

- ancient myths
- eastern religions
- western philosophy
- modern theology

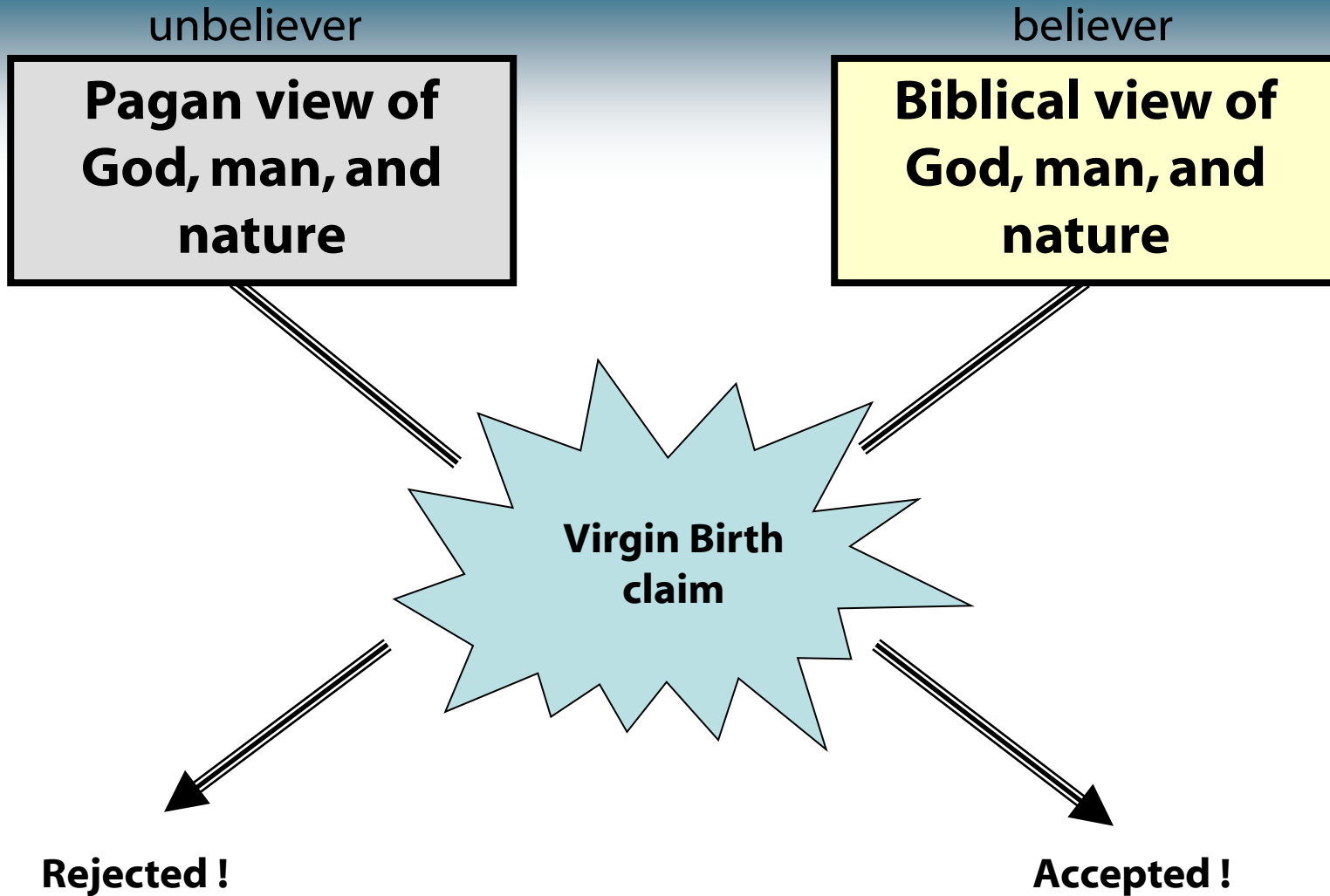
- **Continuity of Being**

- nature > gods > man
- transmutation / evolution

- **IMPERSONAL FATE & CHANCE**

- ultimate victimization

# The Virgin Birth



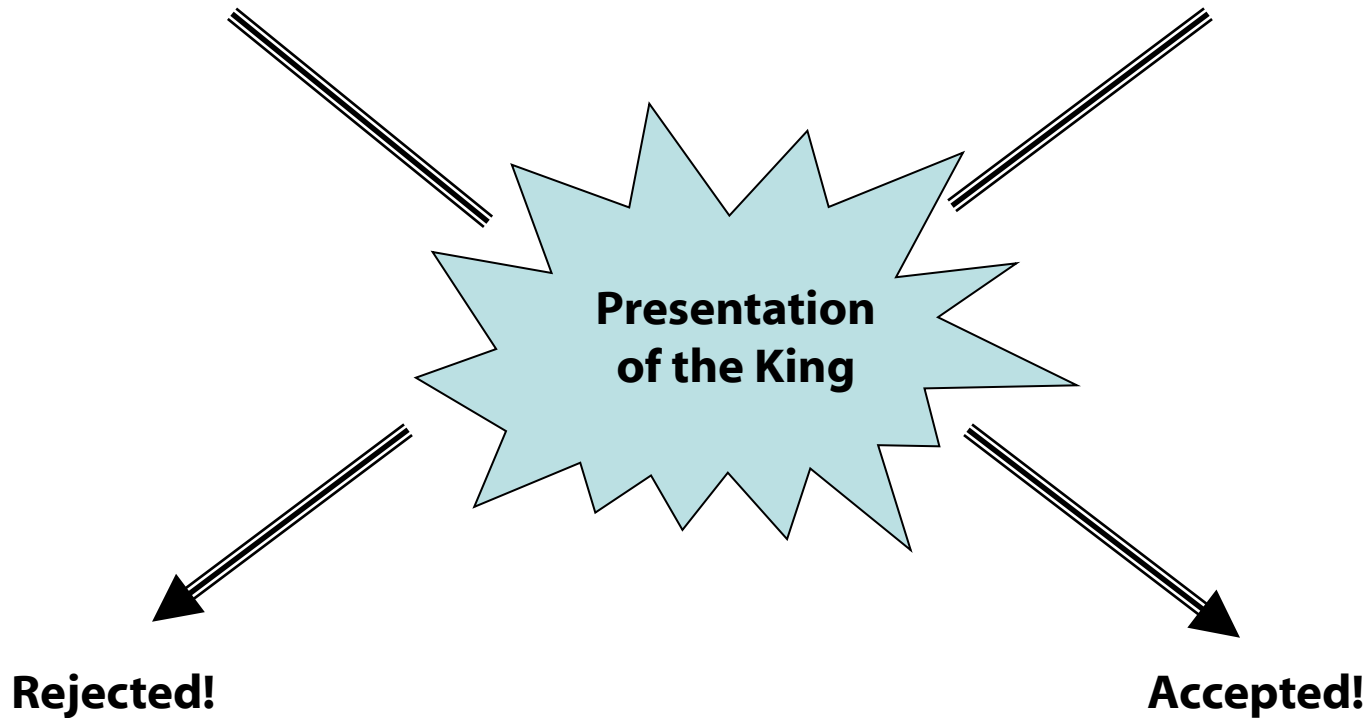
# Presentation of the King

unbeliever

**Pagan view of  
revelation**

believer

**Biblical view of  
revelation**



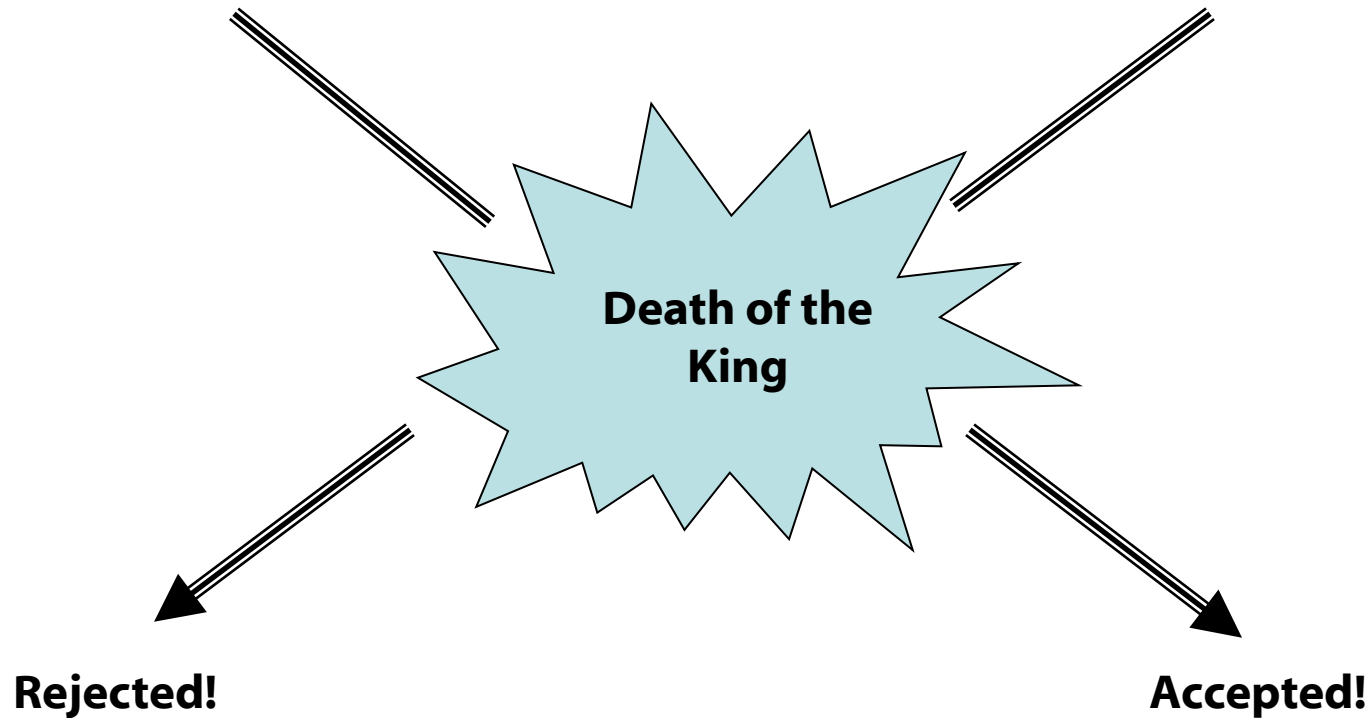
# Death of the King

unbeliever

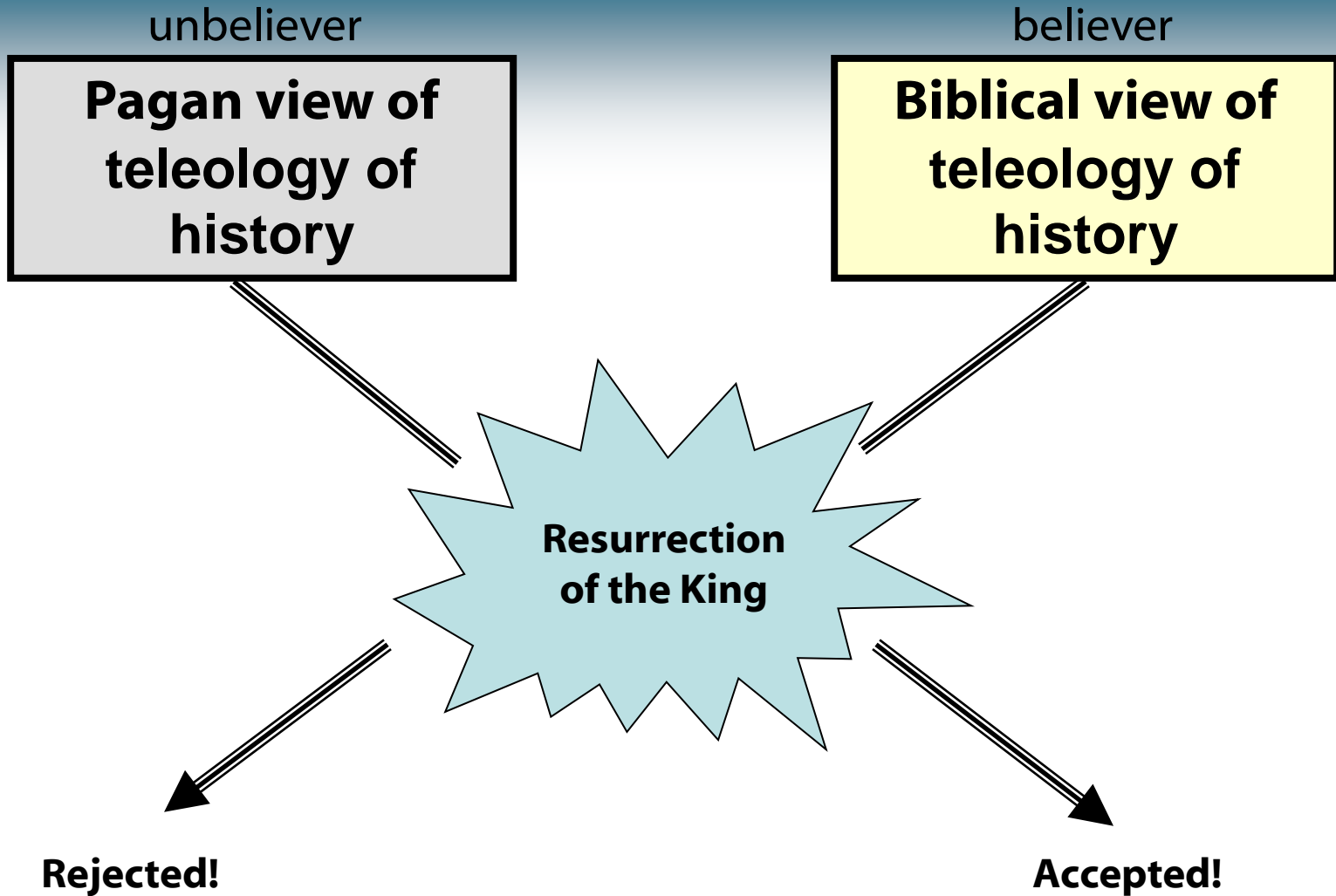
**Pagan view of  
Justice**

believer

**Biblical view of  
Justice**



# Resurrection of the King



# Either Verbal Revelation from the Creator or This

“That Man is the product of *causes which had no prevision* of the end they were achieving; that his origin, his growth, his hope and fears, his loves and beliefs, are but the *outcome of accidental collocations of atoms*; that no fire, no heroism, no intensity of thought and feeling, can *preserve an individual life beyond the grave*; that all the labours of the ages, all the devotion, all the inspiration, all the noonday brightness of human genius are *destined to extinction in the vast death of the solar system*, and that the whole temple of Man’s achievement must inevitably be *buried beneath the debris of a universe in ruin* – all these things, if not quite beyond dispute, are yet so nearly certain, that no philosophy that rejects them can hope to stand. Only within the scaffolding of these truths, only on the firm foundation of unyielding despair, can the soul’s habitation henceforth be safely built.”

Bertrand Russell, “A Free Man’s Religion” (1903) essay in *Mysticism and Logic* (1917) pg. 45-46.

| Characteristic                  | Matthew, Mark, Luke                               | John   |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Repent                          | 16  | 0  |
| Believe                         | 34 (~11 per gospel)                               | 98   |
| Kingdom of God                  | 47+   | 3  |
| Contrast                        | Present/Future                                    | Darkness/Light   |
| Jesus' birth                    | Yes   | No   |
| Jesus' baptism                  | Yes   | Yes  |
| Jesus at Mt. of Transfiguration | Yes   | No   |
| Jesus' Olivet Discourse         | Yes   | No   |
| Eternal life                    | 9 (future attainment)                             | 16 (present offer)   |
| "Ego eimi" I AM                 | 12 (~4 per gospel) all 'normal speech'            | 24 (21 are titular)  |
| Style                           | Only Mt 11:25-30 appears like John-type discourse | John 3 may be the key: John picked up Jesus' oral style that he used on critical occasions |