

**Romans 1 and
the Worldview of
Fallen Man**

Myth

A worldview-forming narrative

Concerns origins, the world, and man

Myths are a window into the soul

Primitive vs. Modern?

“The Genesis story is firmly rooted in the worldview of its time... The opening chapters of Genesis participate in a worldview that the earliest Israelites shared with their Mesopotamian neighbors... the stories of Genesis had a context within which they were first understood. And that context was not a modern scientific one but an ancient mythic one.”

Peter Enns, *Inspiration and Incarnation: Evangelicals and the Problem of the Old Testament*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2005), 27, 55;
quoted by John D. Currid, *Against the Gods: The Polemical Theology of the Old Testament*, (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013), 34.

Primitive vs. Modern?

“They thought about the cosmos in much the same way that anyone in the ancient world thought, and not at all like anyone thinks today.”

John H. Walton, *The Lost World of Genesis 1: Ancient Cosmology and the Origins Debate* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009), 16;

quoted by John D. Currid, *Against the Gods: The Polemical Theology of the Old Testament*, (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013), 34.

Hogwash

Primitive vs. Modern?

Primitive
Ignorant
Superstitious Faith



Modern
Enlightened
Science / Reason

or...

Pagan / Fallen into Sin
Deifying Nature
Worshipping the Creature

vs.

Redeemed / Covenant of Grace
God fearing / God honoring
Worshipping the Creator

Romans 1

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise they became fools and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man – and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. Romans 1:18-25

Phaistos Disk



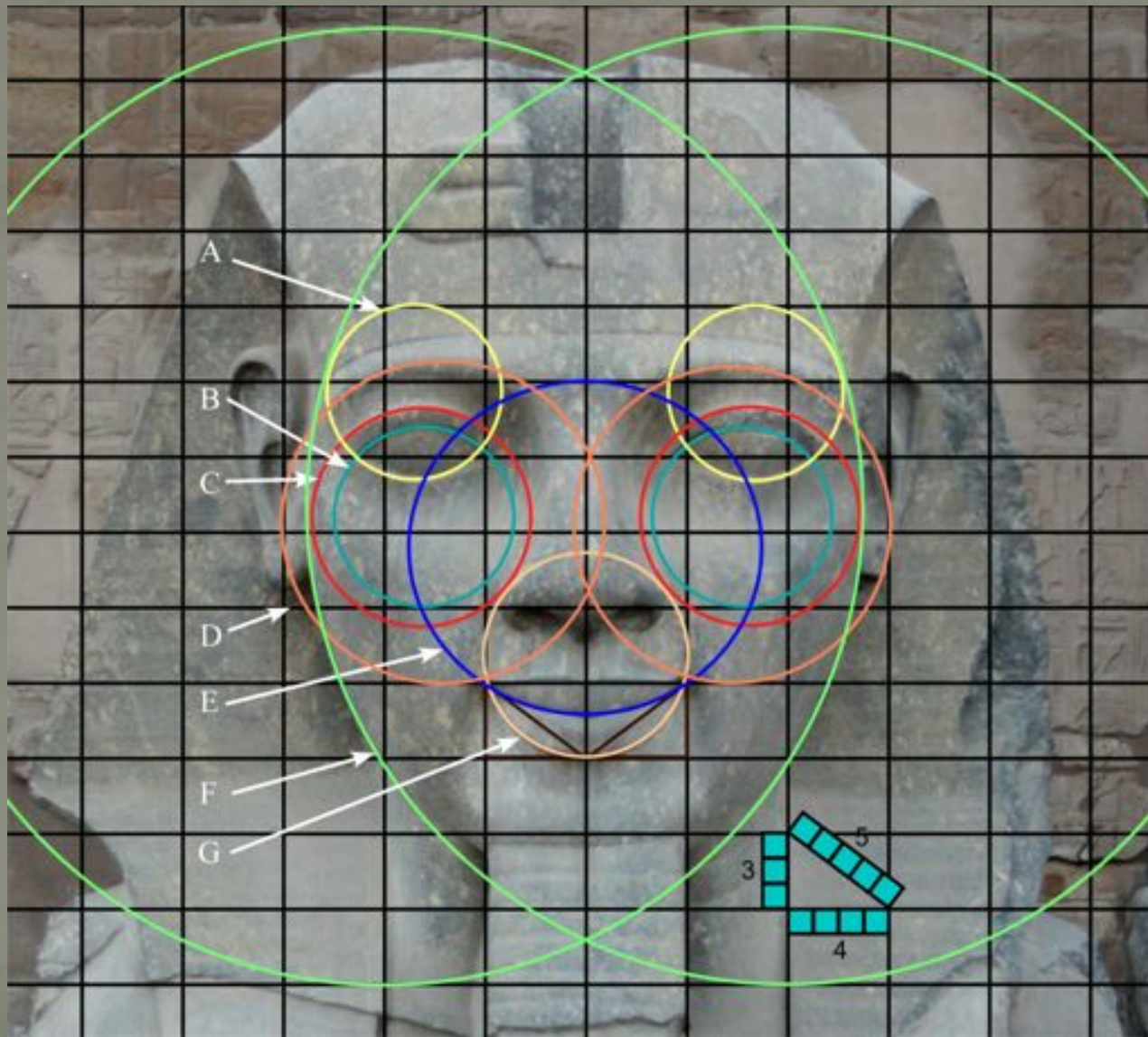
Phaistos Disk



Statue of Ramses



Statue of Ramses



Persian Aqueducts



Archimedes' Machines



Archimedes designed and built fantastic machines to defend Syracuse from the besieging Romans



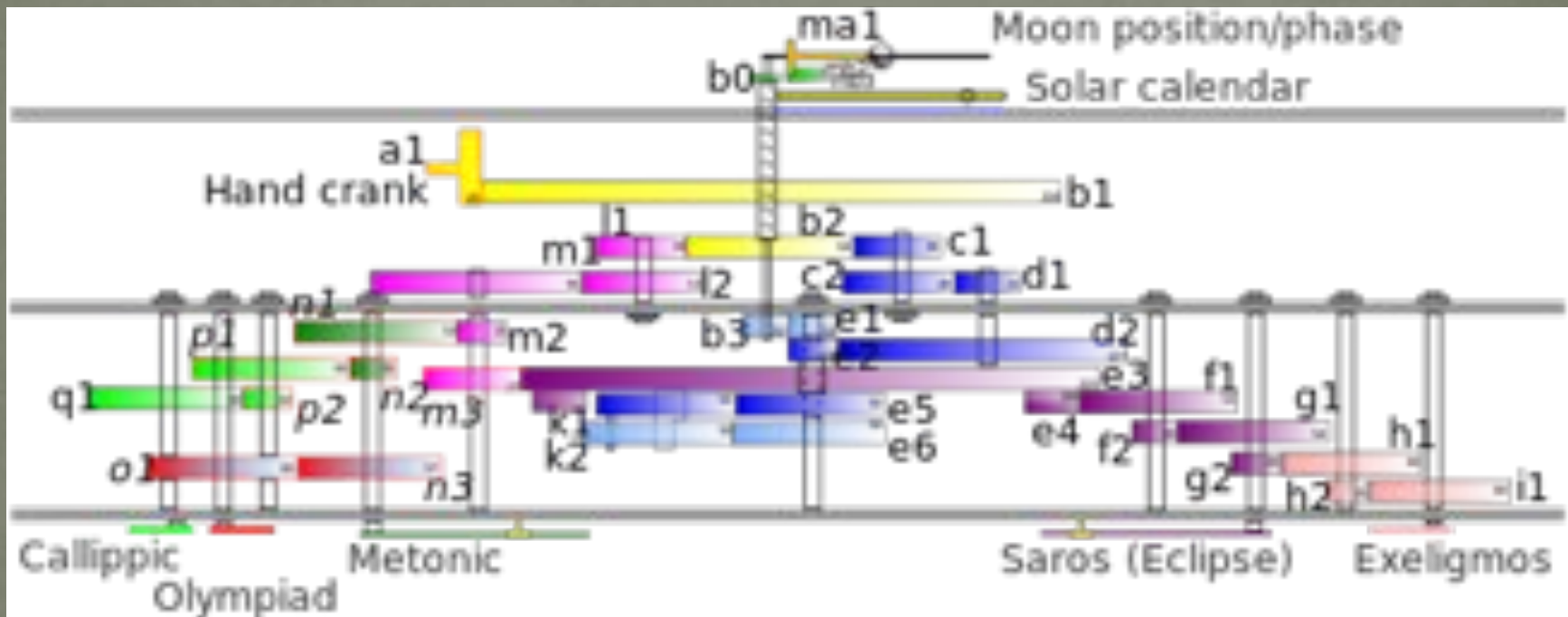
Antikythera Device



Recovered from an ancient shipwreck in 1900-1901
Dated to early 1st Century BC

Antikythera Device

Could calculate and predict the orbits and positions of sun, moon, moon phases, planets, and eclipses



Gear chain diagram for the known elements of the mechanism. Hypothetical gears in italics.

Antikythera Device

Computer-generated back panel:



Computer-generated front panel



Antikythera Device

Reconstruction of the
Antikythera
mechanism in the
National
Archaeological
Museum, Athens



Antikythera Device

“This device is just extraordinary, the only thing of its kind. The design is beautiful, the astronomy is exactly right.

The way the mechanics are designed just makes your jaw drop. Whoever has done this has done it extremely carefully ... in terms of historic and scarcity value, I have to regard this mechanism as being more valuable than the Mona Lisa.”

-Professor Michael Edmunds,
Cardiff University, Leader of a
2006 study of the mechanism



Front panel of a 2007 reproduction

Visby Lens

The Visby lens on display at the Museum of National Antiquities in Stockholm



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The Creation Account

What did ancient, intelligent, God-hating, nature-worshipping, pagan man of the Old Testament era do with the Creation narrative?

Source Material

Where did Moses get his source material?

Where did the pagans get their source material?

What similarities might we expect in their accounts?

What differences might we expect in their accounts?

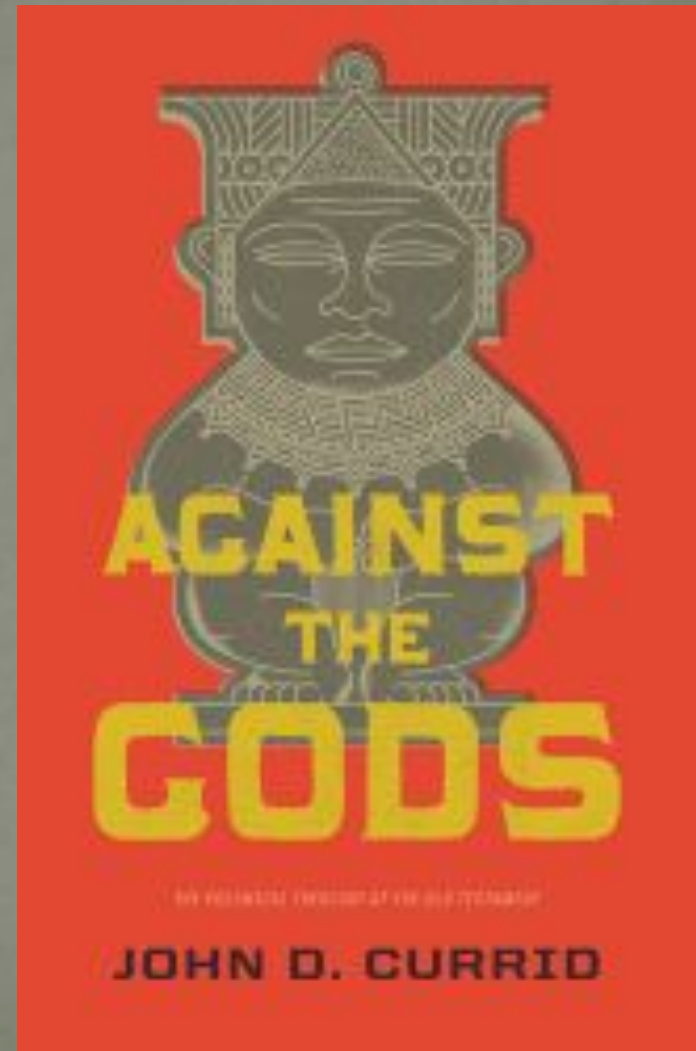
Moses' Creation Account as an Anti-Pagan Polemic

Against the Gods

Against the Gods: The Polemical Theology of the Old Testament

John D. Currid

Prof. of Old Testament,
Reformed Theological
Seminary, Charlotte NC
(Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013)



The Creation Account

Eternality, Self-existence

“In the beginning God created heaven and earth”

The earth was formless and void

Darkness on the face of the deep

The Spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters

Enumerated Days of Creation