

Two Realms:

The presupposition of Scripture is the existence of two realms, the Spiritual/Supernatural and the Physical/Natural. God is The Spirit who created both. While the realms are distinct, they are not mutually exclusive of one another. By this I mean that they overlap. One might say that from our point of view, the spiritual realm intersects with our physical/natural realm. Both are affirmed as literal realities across the entire breadth of Scripture. Something may be literally physical/natural or literally spiritual.

Two Audiences:

The Bible is an ancient book, written to and about an ancient people, living in a Near Eastern culture. Their culture differs greatly from our own. It is the story of these people. It is written about them, for them, and to them. It is written for us, but it is not about us, nor is it written to us. If we are to understand its meaning, we must understand it from their point of view, their “cultural river”. (John Walton) To extract it from their time and culture is to violate the chain of scriptural authority.

Two Ages:

Scripture speaks of two ages and only two ages. The phrase “This Age” is the age of Adam. It is the age of the people of the Bible. That age characterized by separation. By this I mean that, after Eden, they do not enjoy the continual presence of the Spirit of God. The other age is called “The Age To Come”. This is the age of Messiah. It is the age of union. By union, I mean the continual, uninterrupted presence of God with and in His people. The old age ends and the new is born. This is the kingdom!

One Story:

The story line of the scripture is Creation to New Creation. God created everything and said it was good, very good. Mankind was given all of this goodness to rule but Adam abdicated his role as ruler by choosing himself over God. The story of the Bible tells us how God set things right. The entire story drives toward God’s will, new creation, new life. In Scripture, separation equals death. New creation is Resurrection!