

# OLD TESTAMENT



## GOD'S SAVING PLAN

GA-S2

# EARLY WORLD

RETURN

Esther

Malachi

Ezra

The GREAT  
ADVENTURE

A Journey Through the Bible

Egypt

Code of Hammurabi, 1760 BC

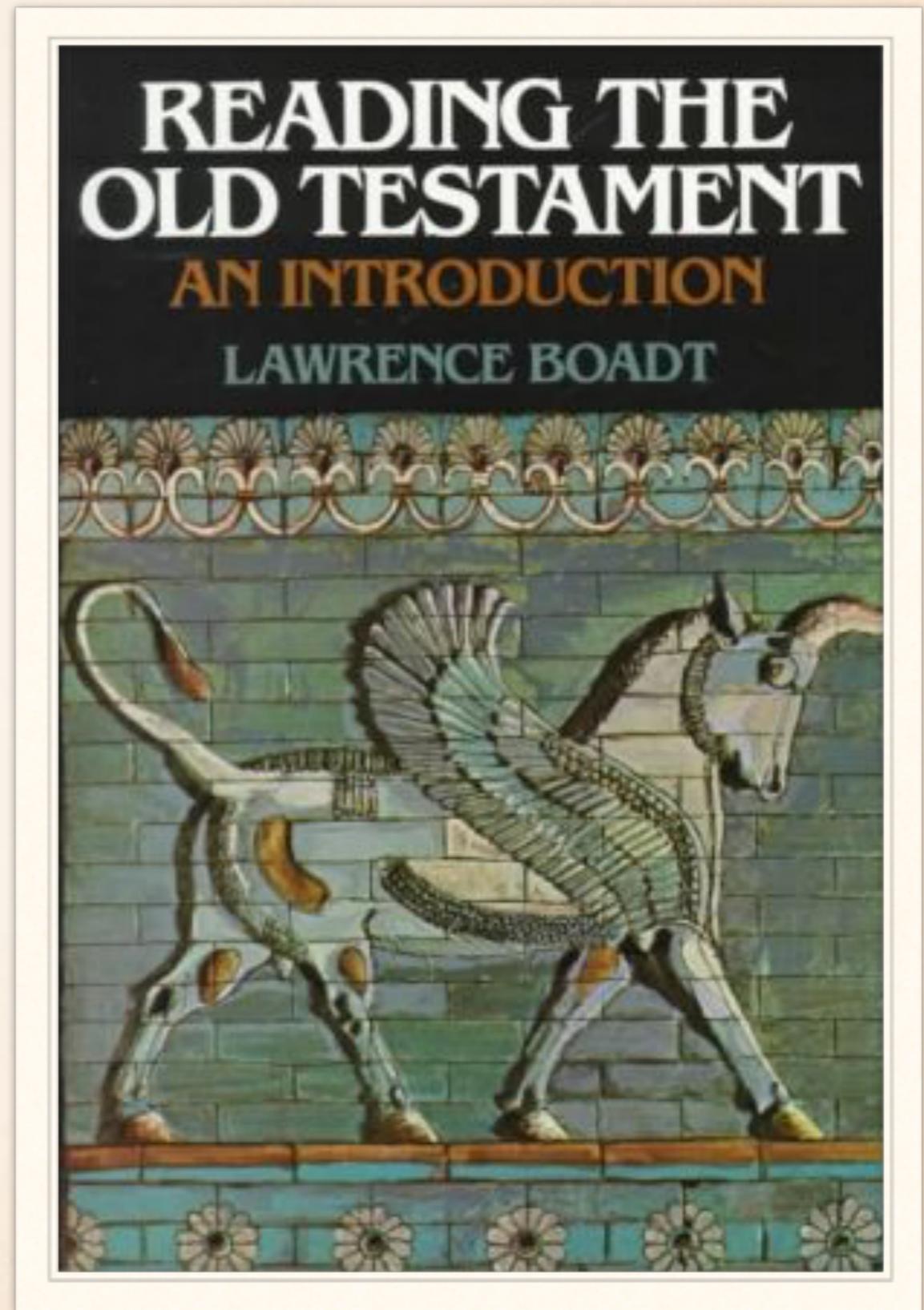
1800

1700

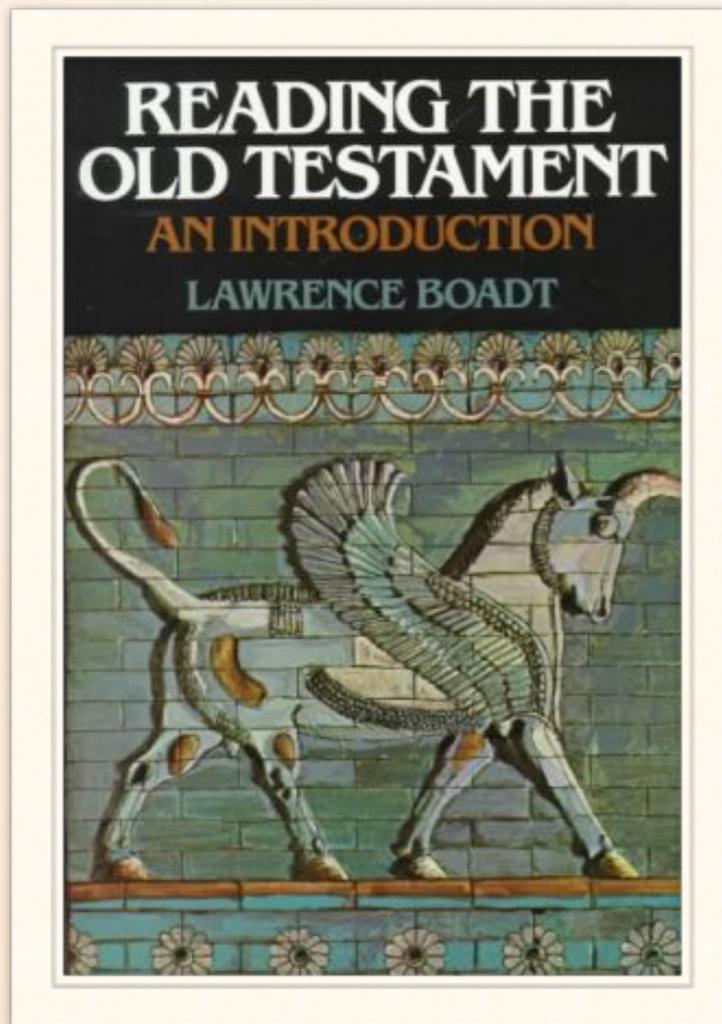
MYTH  
OR  
HISTORY

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TRYING TO UNDERSTAND  
HOW GOD TEACHES

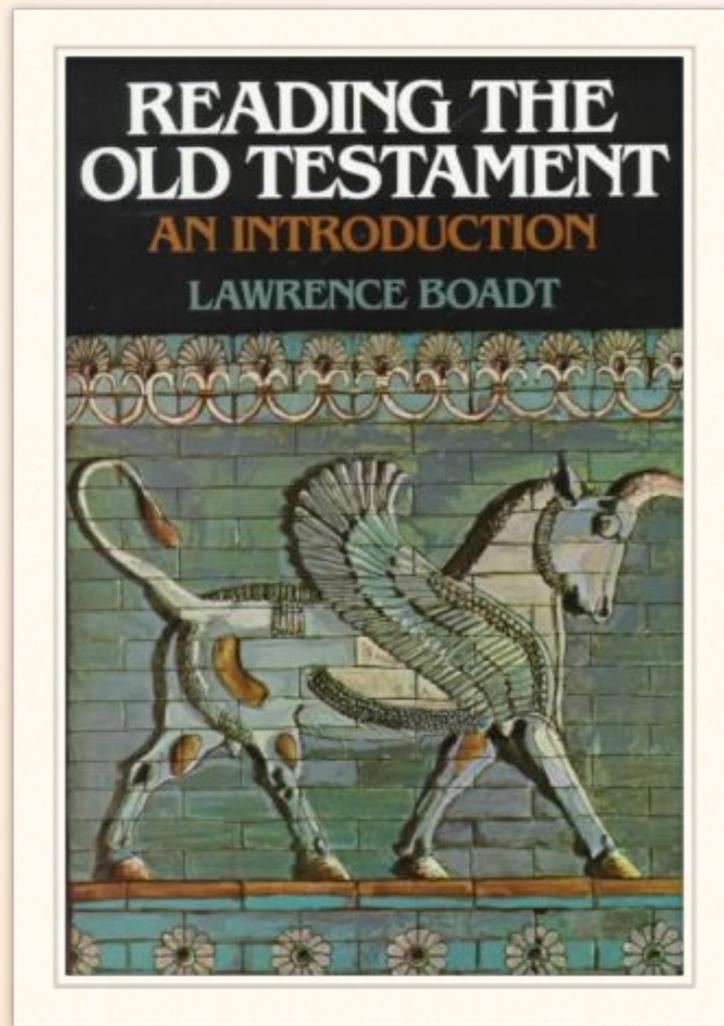


# BOADT AS A RESOURCE



- ❖ Relies heavily on the **Historical Critical Method**, which properly used can provide great insights.
  - ❖ **Fr. Boadt's book will challenge you.**
- ❖ Boadt believed for the best understanding of the OT as a Christian, one must study of Judaism, its writings and traditions.
- ❖ Don't forget, it is One person's view. (Paulist Press).

# BOADT AS A RESOURCE



- ❖ Recommendation:
- ❖ Chapters **2, 4** *and perhaps chapter 6*
- ❖ Pages 92-93 (J E P D)
- ❖ Today we will summarize pages 130-132 - Myth or History as it relates particularly to Gen 1-11.

# MYTH OR HISTORY

- ❖ Gen I-II can disturb the modern Christian historian.
- ❖ None of its “facts” can be located to a particular moment.
- ❖ If taken literally none of its “dates” can be independently reconciled with the findings of geology.
- ❖ The “lifespans” of the people can not be reconciled with the human remains studies by anthropologists.

# MYTH OR HISTORY

- ❖ Gen 1-11 models stories of how things *should* have been
- ❖ They resemble stories of other ancient peoples
  - ❖ ex: The *Babylonian* story of Gilgamesh - flood, which also parallels the 2000BC Sumerian version centered in Mesopotamia (land between two rivers Tigris & Euphrates)
- ❖ Israel's versions affirm an unchanging, faithful, and just God - unlike the Pagan moody gods who are generally annoyed and see humans as disturbing their peace.

# MYTH OR HISTORY

- ❖ Gen I-II is based on “historical myths”
- ❖ These myths are historical in that they describe how present realities came to be. Yet, they are not history.
- ❖ In story form they explain traditions and customs, focused on the relationship between God and Man.
- ❖ Understanding past interactions, allowed for an *explainable* expectation of current divine acts.

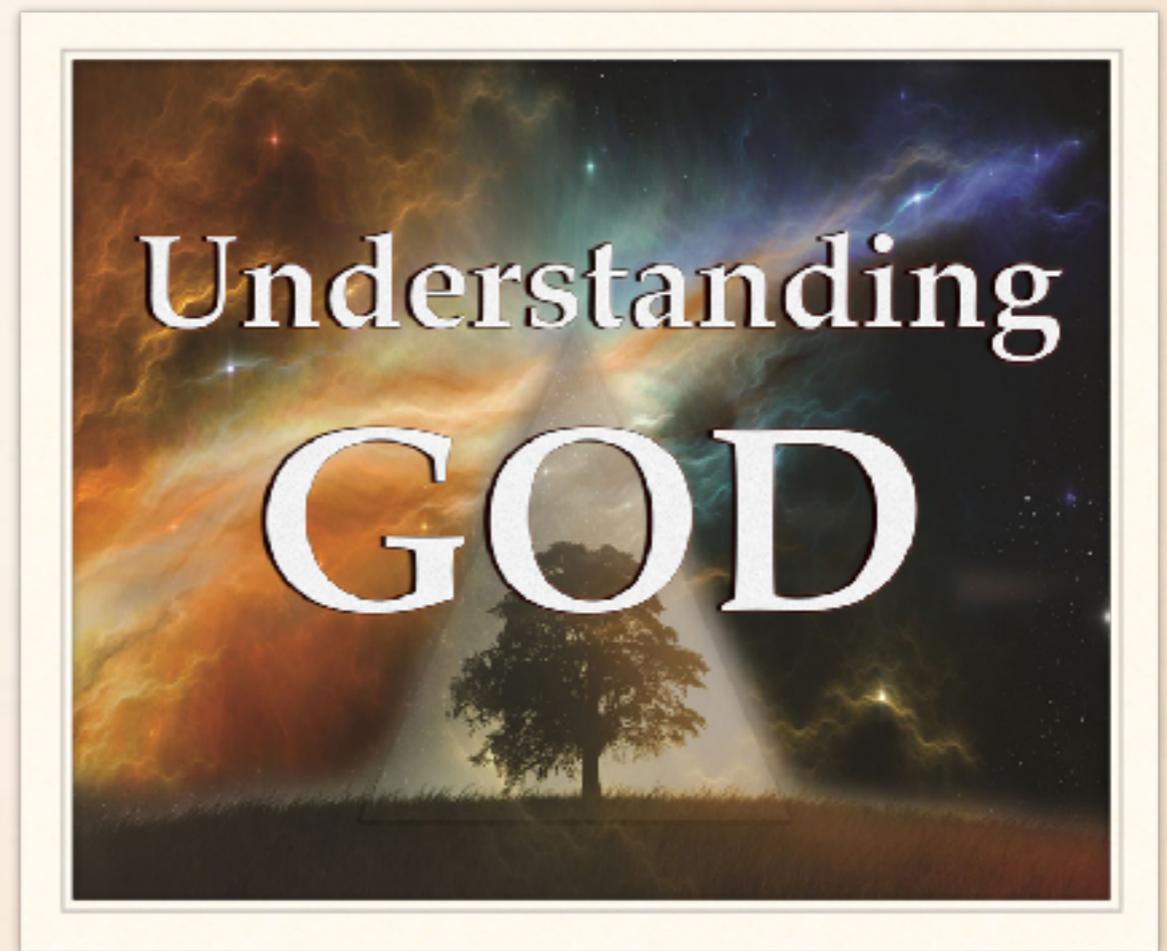
# MYTH OR HISTORY

- ❖ Gen 1-11 gives Israel its unique identity.
- ❖ the “chaos” of Genesis 1:1 is replaced by order. The author of order is the God of Israel, and as such nothing is without His purpose and nothing is a random event.
- ❖ For the Israelite, God’s *most* special revelation was one of Father - and covenant was how He created a family - in His image and likeness and that family focused on us, His human creation. (Hos 11:1)

# ANTHROPOMORPHISM

A DEVICE TO BETTER UNDERSTAND GOD.

- ❖ **Anthropomorphism** is the attribution of human traits, emotions, and intentions to non-human entities and is considered to be an innate tendency of human psychology.
- ❖ Webster's Dictionary: (man) *anthropos* - (form) *morphe*



# ANTHROPOMORPHISM

- ❖ Human Actions:
- ❖ **Gen. 2:2** - And by the seventh day God completed His work which He had done; and He rested on the seventh day ...
- ❖ **Gen. 9:16** - When the bow is in the cloud, then I will look upon it, to remember the everlasting covenant ...
- ❖ **Exodus 32:14** - So the LORD relented [changed His mind] in the punishment ...

# ANTHROPOMORPHISM

- ❖ Human Emotions:
- ❖ **Gen. 6:6** - And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.
- ❖ **Ex 20:5** - You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, ...
- ❖ **Judges 2:18** - ...for the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed and afflicted them.

# ANTHROPOMORPHISM

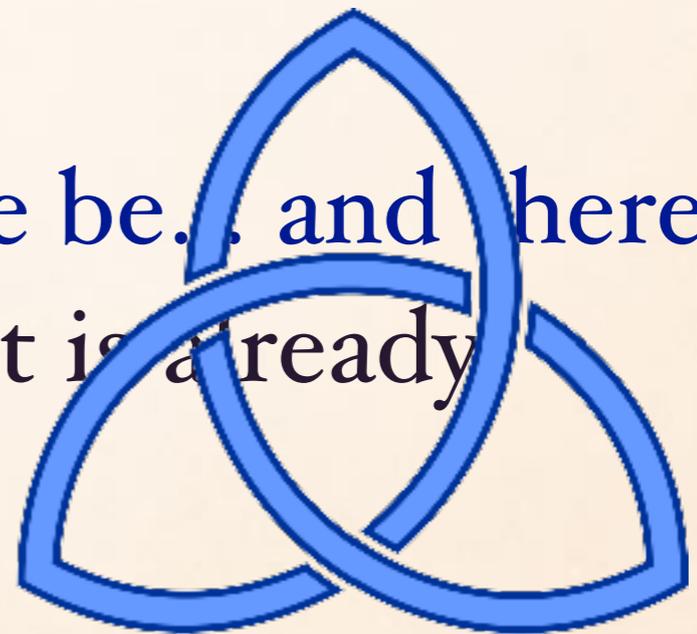
- ❖ Human Body:
- ❖ **Gen 2:7** - God formed man out of the clay ... and blew into his nostrils the breath of life.
- ❖ Ps 33:6 - By the LORD's word the heavens were made, by the breath of his mouth all their host.
- ❖ **Ps 34:16** - The LORD has eyes for the just, and ears for their cry.

# ANTHROPOMORPHISM

- ❖ Gen 1: 1-3\* through the eyes of Ps 33:6\*
- ❖ Gen 1:2 - *wə·rū·aḥ 'ě·lō·hîm* (wind) over the waters
- ❖ Gen 1:3 - God said, “Let there be... and there *was*. (word spoken and result is already described in the past tense)
  - ❖ What do we see here in primitive form?

# ANTHROPOMORPHISM

- ◆ Gen 1: 1-3\* through the eyes of Ps 33:6\*
- ◆ Gen 1:2 - *wə·rū·aḥ 'ě·lō·hîm* (wind) over the waters
- ◆ Gen 1:3 - God said, “Let there be *light*, and there *was*. (word spoken and result is already described in the past tense)
- ◆ What do we see here in primitive form?



# IMAGO DEI

**WE ARE CREATED IN THE  
IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD**

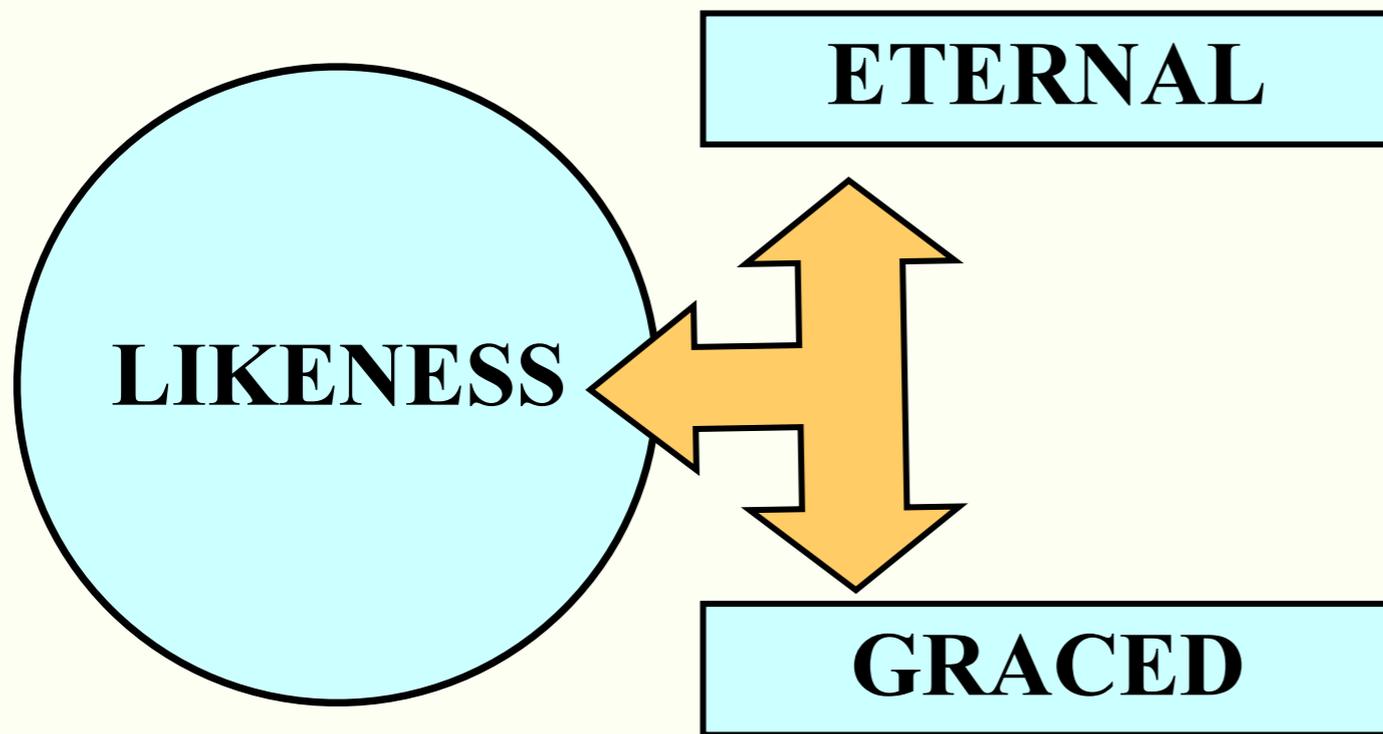
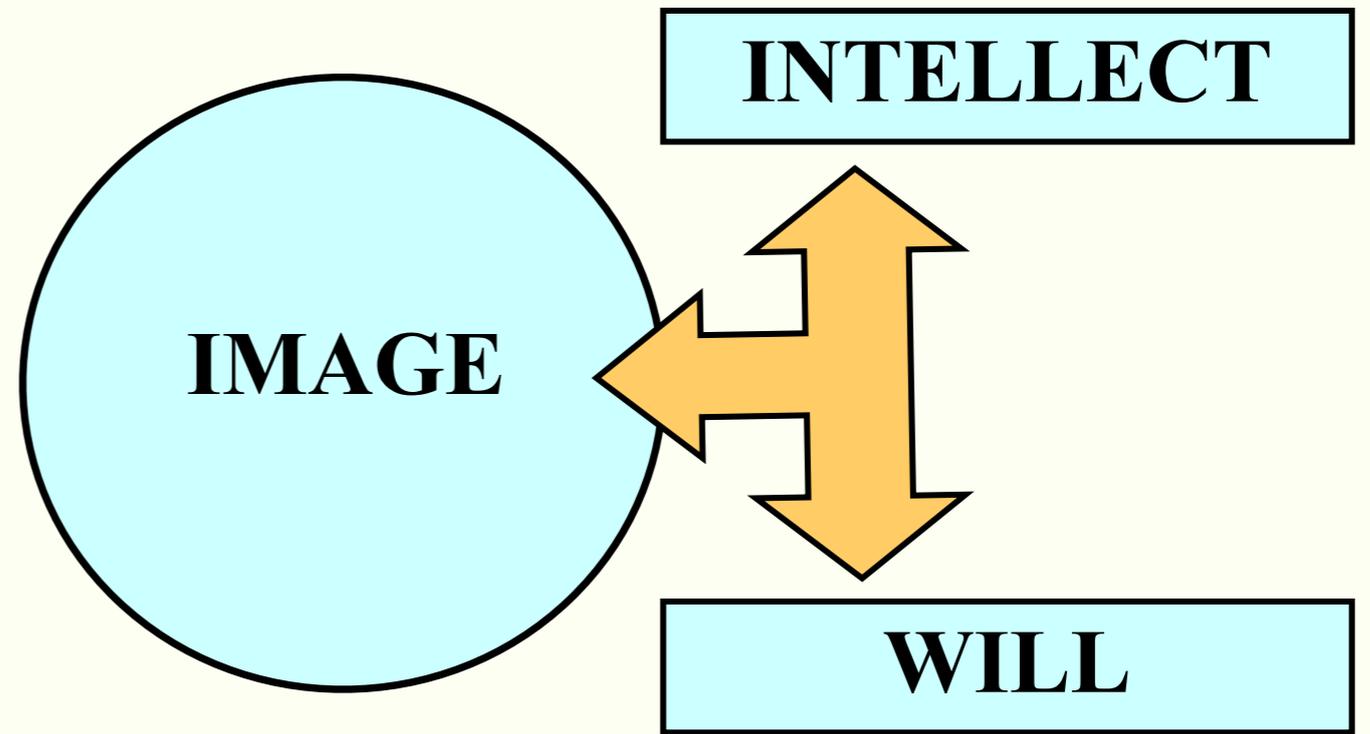
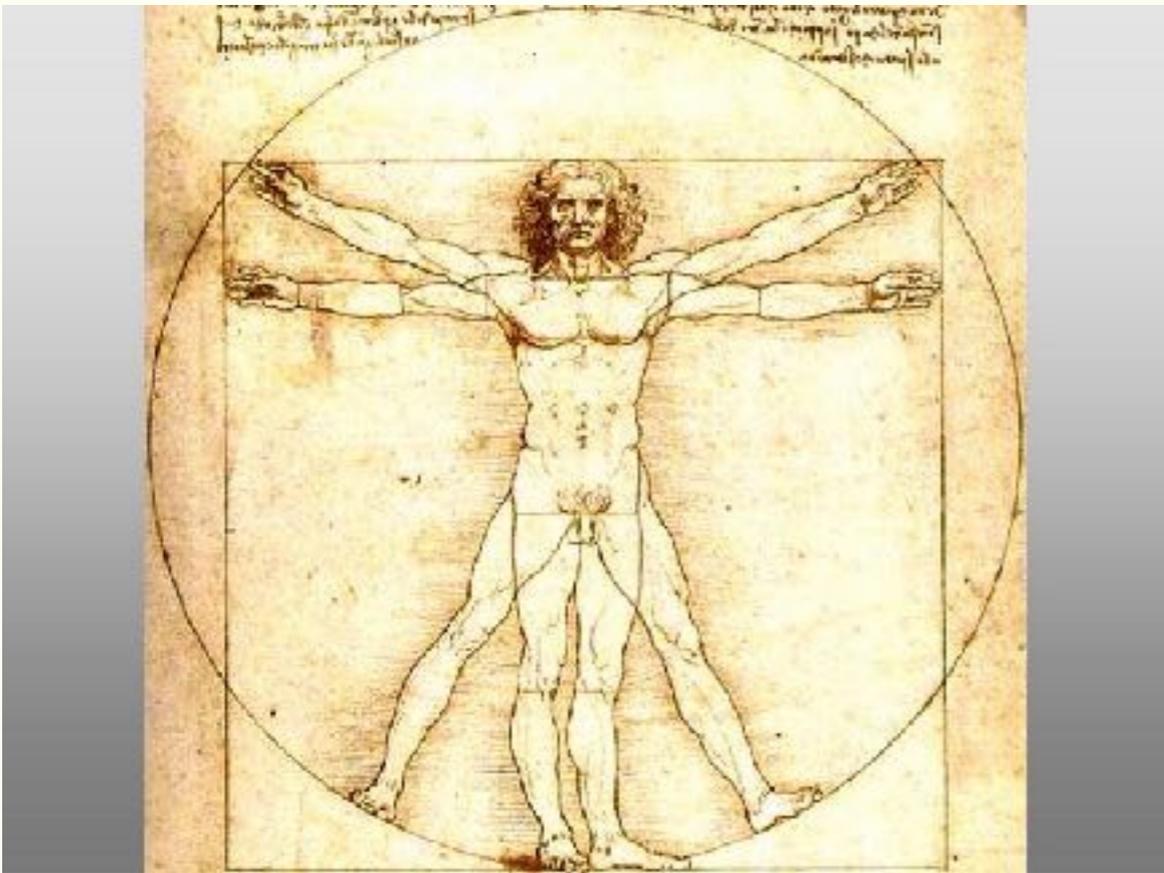


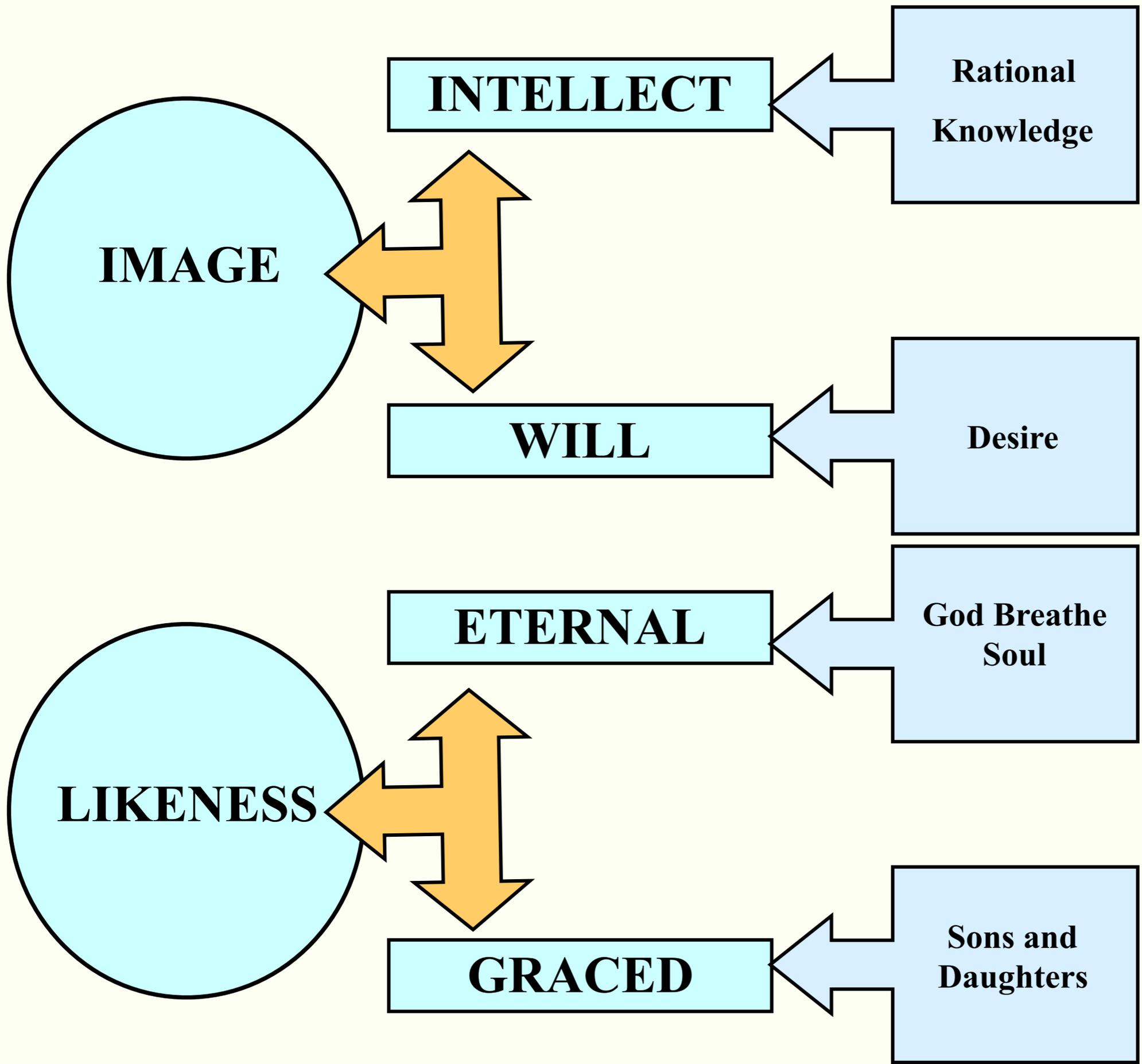
# A LITTLE - PHILOSOPHY

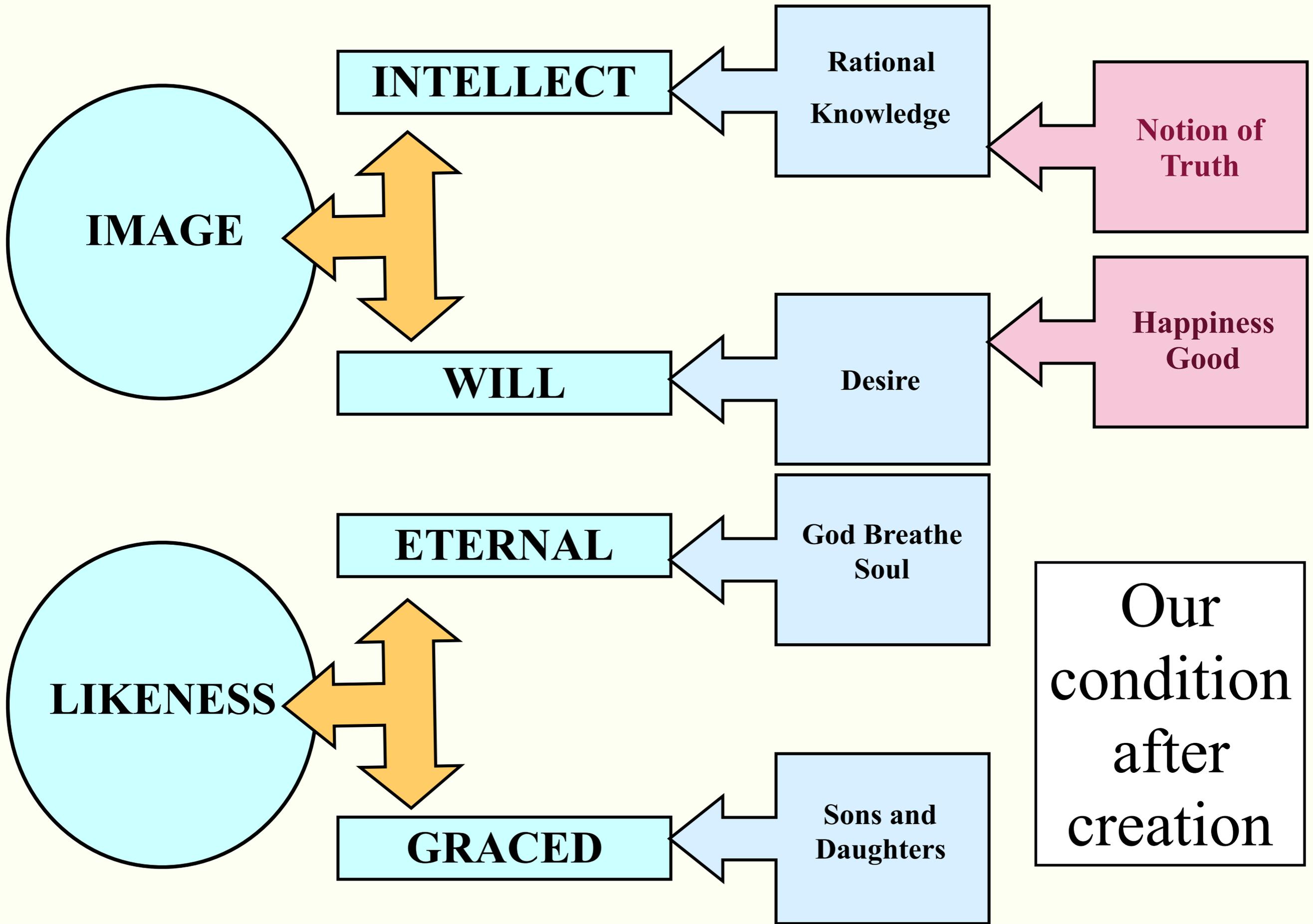
- ❖ **Thomas Aquinas** - (1225-1274)  
A Dominican Saint, Theologian and Philosopher. Aquinas was **convinced of the goodness of all creation and its participation in the goodness of God's own self.** Called "the angelic doctor" for his brilliant synthesis of **faith and reason**, he is among the greatest teachers of the whole church.
- ❖ His best known work, the **Summa Theologica** remains a must read for students of Theology.

(Feast - January 28)





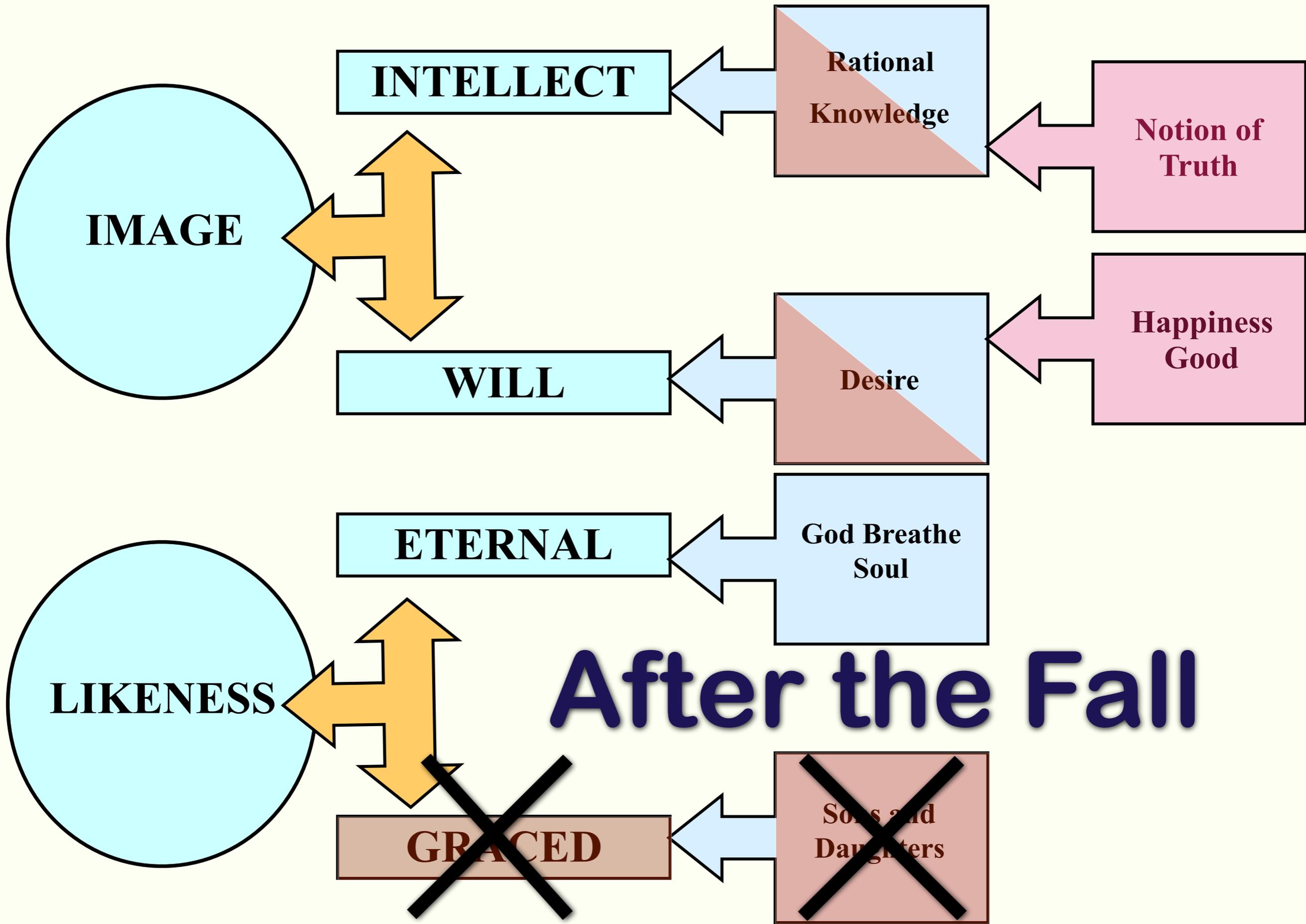


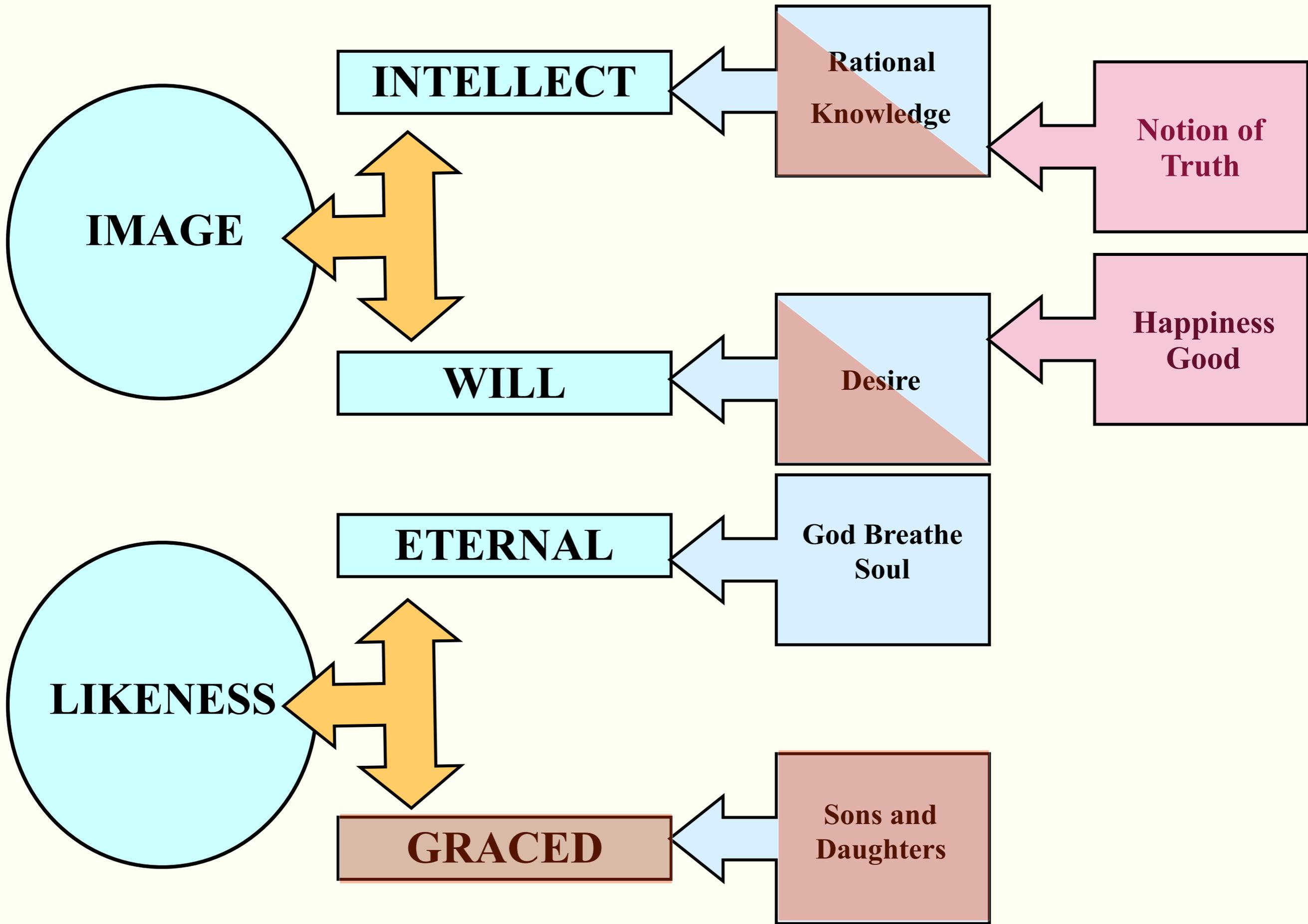


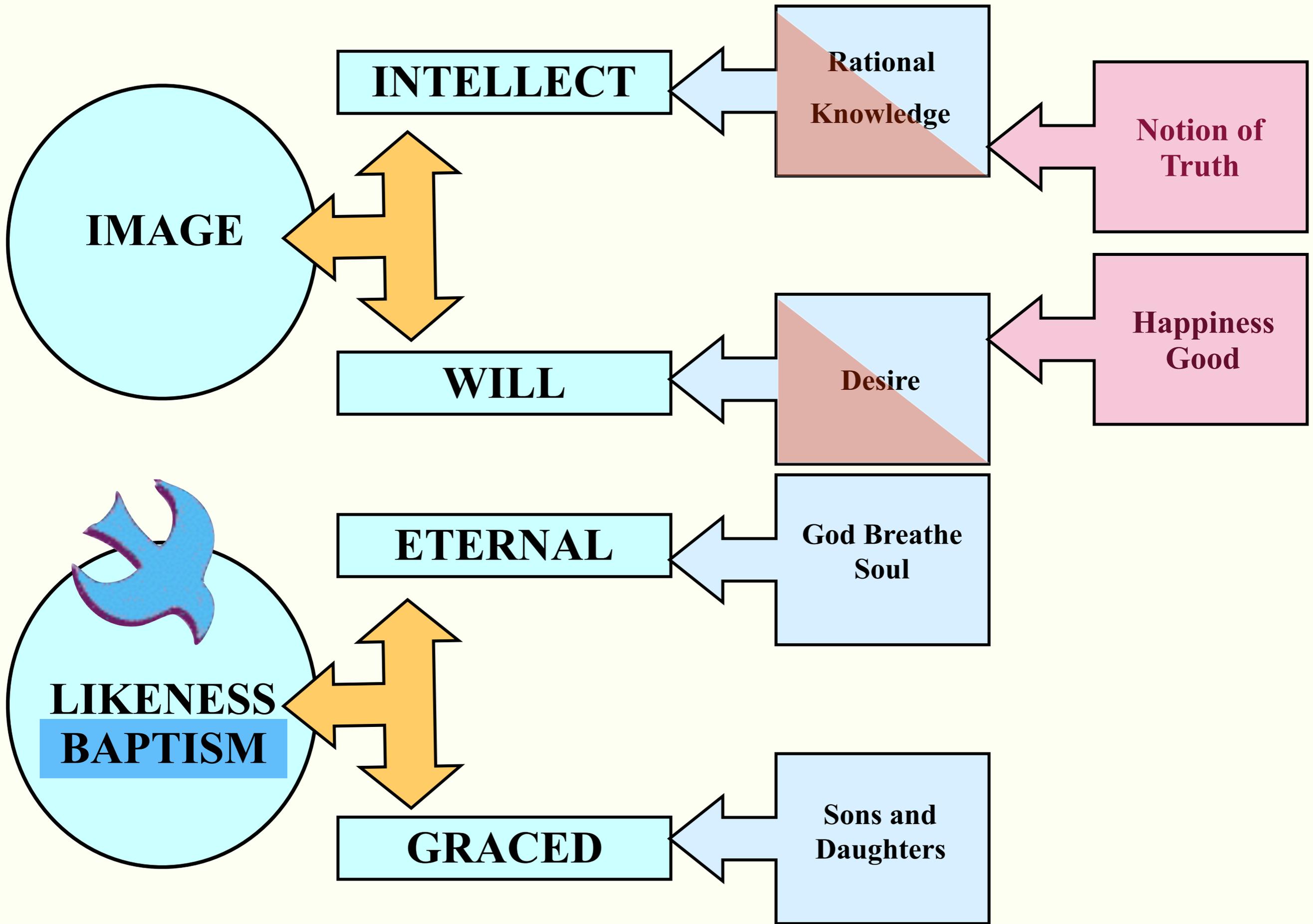
***The Fall***

**... *a fall from  
grace***

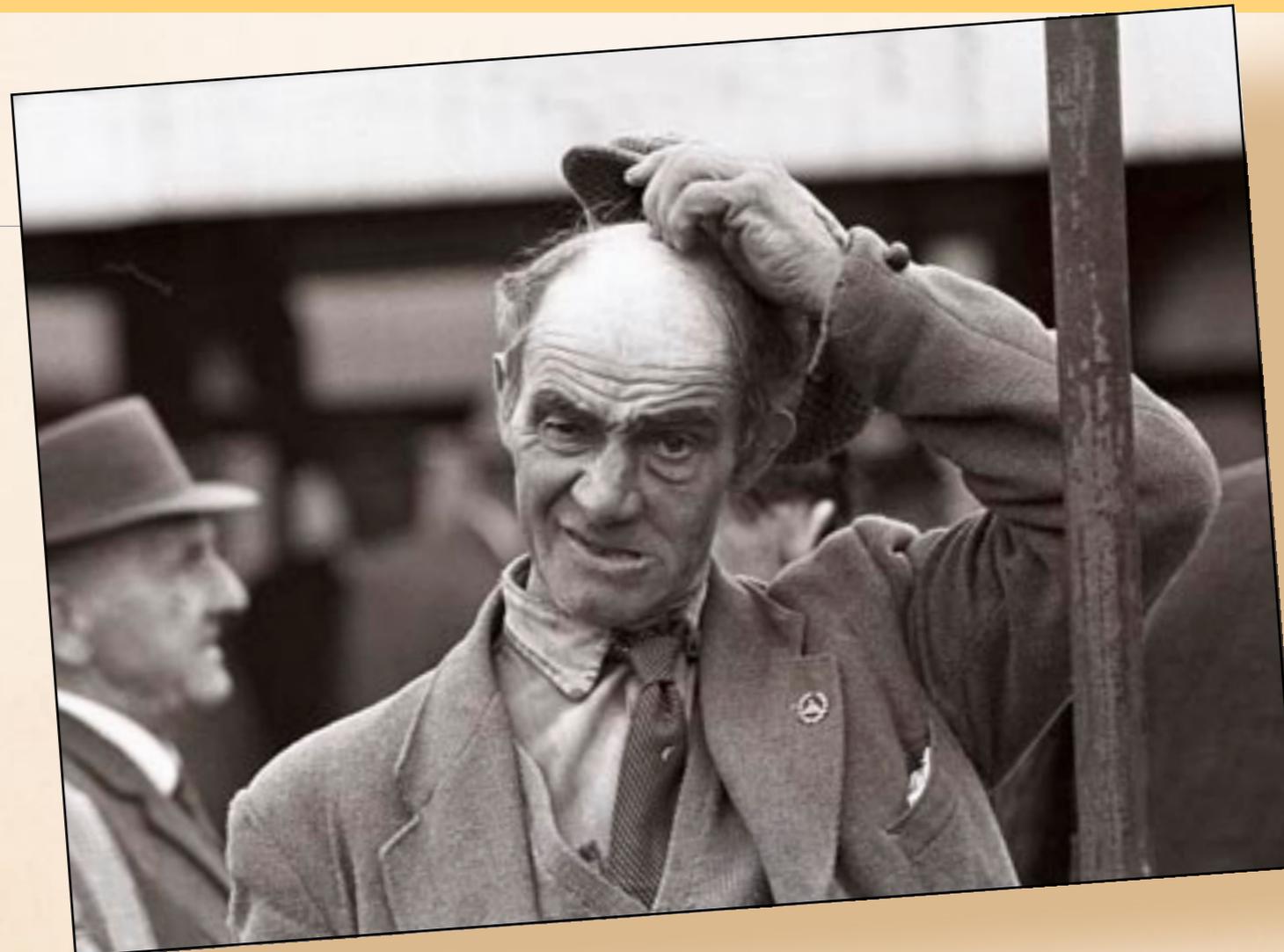








# QUESTIONS?



# OLD TESTAMENT



## GOD'S SAVING PLAN

GA-S<sub>2</sub>

