

## I. The Presuppositions that form the basis of our conclusions

### A. The Two Models—Naturalistic & Biblical

Every historian does his work from a certain perspective of interpretation. It is inevitable that he interprets the facts he reports according to these presuppositions.

What is a presupposition? (Definition) A presupposition is the way in which one interprets all of reality, all the “facts” which one supposes to be real, with or without support.

There are two models of which we could use to form our interpretation of history—the naturalistic view which discounts God, and the supernatural or Biblical view which looks to God’s revealed Word as the main framework of history.

#### NATURALISTIC MODEL

1. Everything is natural.

2. There is no God or Creator.

The possibility of God is not a consideration.

3. All things are to be explained in a natural manner in all the sciences & in history. Everything happens by random chance.

4. Everything happens by chance, so history has no reason, meaning or purpose.

5. As to the origin of matter, there are two choices: i) Matter is eternal, or ii) Matter arose spontaneously for no reason at all

6. Change is very, very slow, gradual, without any meaning, by chance, cyclic, going on eternally

7. There is no final point to history. It is going nowhere.

8. Development or evolution from simple to complex

9. Very old age (millions and billions of years) for the universe, the earth, and humans

10. No moral absolutes

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#### SUPERNATURAL MODEL

1. Everything is basically supernatural. “Natural” laws are those that God has planned and given

2. God exists. He was active in Creation and is always active in history.

3. Natural reasoning can give partial answers because God created an orderly universe. However, these answers do not give truly sufficient reasons for what we see. Only supernatural revelation can do that.

4. History has meaning and is eternally significant.

5. Matter was created by God from nothing.

6. Change is influenced by the decisions of men and by the consequences of those decisions, sometimes also by the direct intervention of God, by angels and spirits and by catastrophic judgments. Change can be slow or gradual or at other times very rapid.

7. There is a final point to history in the Kingdom of God when Jesus will rule as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

8. Devolution from complex at creation to becoming more disordered because of the influence of sin

9. Relatively young age for the Creation (thousands of years)

10. Moral absolutes based on the revelation of God

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11. Prehistoric events: Can be known only by natural means—archaeology, scientific research, etc.

12. The Bible is a fallible book composed by humans, not a reliable record in matters of science and history.

11. Prehistoric events can be known both by scientific research and by the revelation God gave us of those events.

12. The Bible is the unique and inerrant revelation of God and is reliable on every subject on which it touches, including science and history.

Note: There are also various positions of compromise, because some who believe the Bible have been influenced toward the naturalistic and evolutionary position by their studies under the tutelage of those who hold these viewpoints.

In this study, we will mention from time to time the ideas of those holding the naturalistic position, but our own position, which will be the base of this study, is the supernatural and biblical model. We consider the Biblical record of historical events to be a true and accurate account of real events. We have researched numerous sources in compiling this history, but all must be reconciled with the Biblical record of events which forms the foundation of our knowledge.