

# Judaic-Christian God and Science

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## 1. Introduction:

In last August, I gave a lecture on "*A compatible coexistence between Christian faith and Science*". As a sequel, I have scheduled two more lectures. Today we will look at the Old Testament and Science. The next lecture will mainly be on the New Testament and the Science. My goal is to discuss Christian Faith and Science from my perspective.

Our approach is to divide human knowledge into two parts,

- **The Physical Knowledge ("PK")**, which concerns the physical world. It is essentially science.
- **The Spiritual Knowledge ("SK")**, which concerns "spiritual issues", to be defined next.

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## How is "Spiritual", or SK defined?

We begin with a quote: *"All of us have been born and entering this world with three basic needs:*

*Security-survival (SS); Power-control (PC); Affection-esteem (AE).*

*Without adequate fulfillment of these basic needs, we probably would not survive infancy". [Ref. "The Human Condition", by Thomas Keatings.]*

SK is, the knowledge of the **relationships** between oneself and nature, (for a believer, also between oneself and God), and between oneself and one's fellow mankind. It is SK which will enable us to meet our basic needs, and to enable us live a fulfilled life.

PK, as in physics, may be discussed in terms of "**forces**" and the associated "**interactions**".

In an analogous manner, SK may be discussed in terms of the forces of "**basic needs**" and the associated "**relationships**".

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## 2. Judaic-Christian's world view:

( Based on Old Testament of the Bible, or Hebrew Scripture to the Jews).

In Judaic-Christian perspective, there is one God. The same divinity is referred to by different names. The chapter 7 of the book by Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis, titled "*For Those Who Cannot Believe*", is on **Two Faces of God**. It is comparable to our division of PK and SK.

**Elohim** (God of Nature) Elohim refers to the God of creation. Or God of nature, the ground of natural law. Elohim governs the world independent of man. Nature pursues its own course.

**Adonai**(The Lord of compassion) The name of Adonai first appears when the human being was introduced in Genesis. It is when the relationship between man and divinity begins.

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**Elohim** calls for **the principle of acceptance**, accepting the natural event as it is; while **Adonai** calls for the **principle of transformation**. **Adonai**, inspires man to take the event from as it is to the level as it ought to be.

**When a calamity strikes...**

**Elohim** counsels us to accept it as  
“an act of God”

**Adonai** urges us to respond the calamity  
by exercising our **divinely given intelligence**, &  
by facing it with **courage, faith and hope**.

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## Personal relationships with God:

**Leap of faith.** Biblical stories describes the personal relations of the Patriarchs with God:  
e.g. Abraham, Jacob, Joseph

### Psalm 23 Adonai (the Lord)

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.  
He makes me to lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.  
He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me...

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### 3. Two creation stories & Lesson

**Genesis 1:27** Description of the simultaneous creation of man and woman.  
*“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”*

**Genesis chapter 2**, the story was retold in a more detail way. In Genesis 2:7, we read something quite different. *“The Lord God formed dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul”*. It is only after Adam had done some chores, he fell asleep. Then Eve was created.

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**My thought:** Perhaps the two conflicting stories included at the beginning of Genesis, may serve as a reminder that the creation story not intended to be a natural history. Instead, **to believers, the story is a “spiritual” history of God creation.**

It is remarkable that Genesis story bears crude resemblance of the present day big-bang cosmology. Still we need to keep in mind that the **Bible is a spiritual book (a manual for believer's way of life) not a scientific book**. The spiritual message is could have a lasting significance on the believers.

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