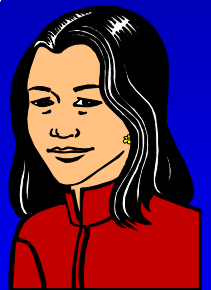


Language Revealing God

What powers does
language show?

For Lansdale Presbyterian Church
Vern Sheridan Poythress, Ph.D., Th.D.
Westminster Theological Seminary





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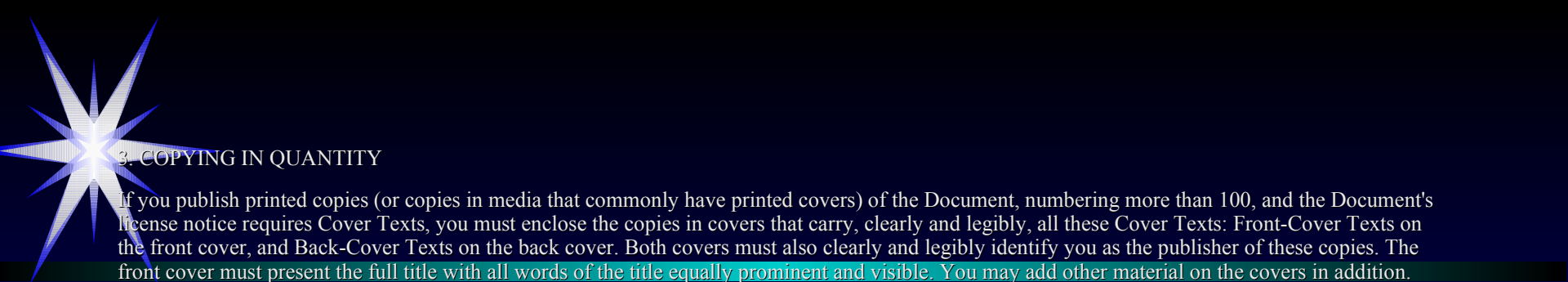
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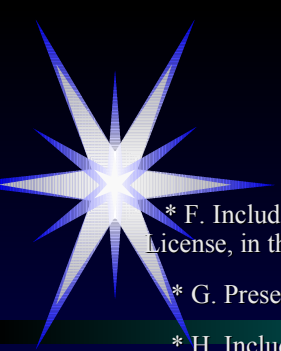
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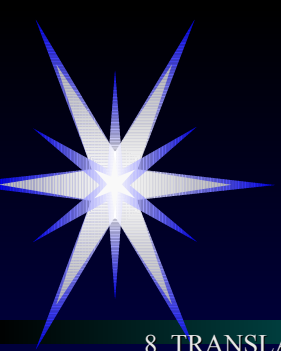
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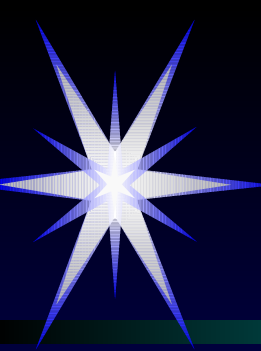
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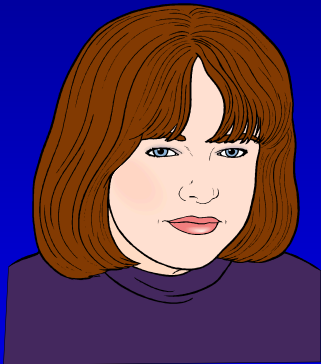
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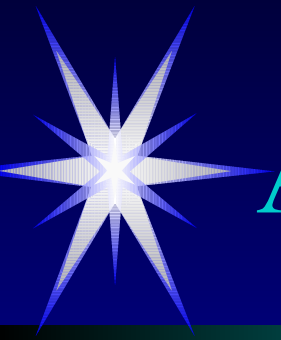
Challenge: Appreciating the Gift

So what does
language show me?



You are in God's
image.





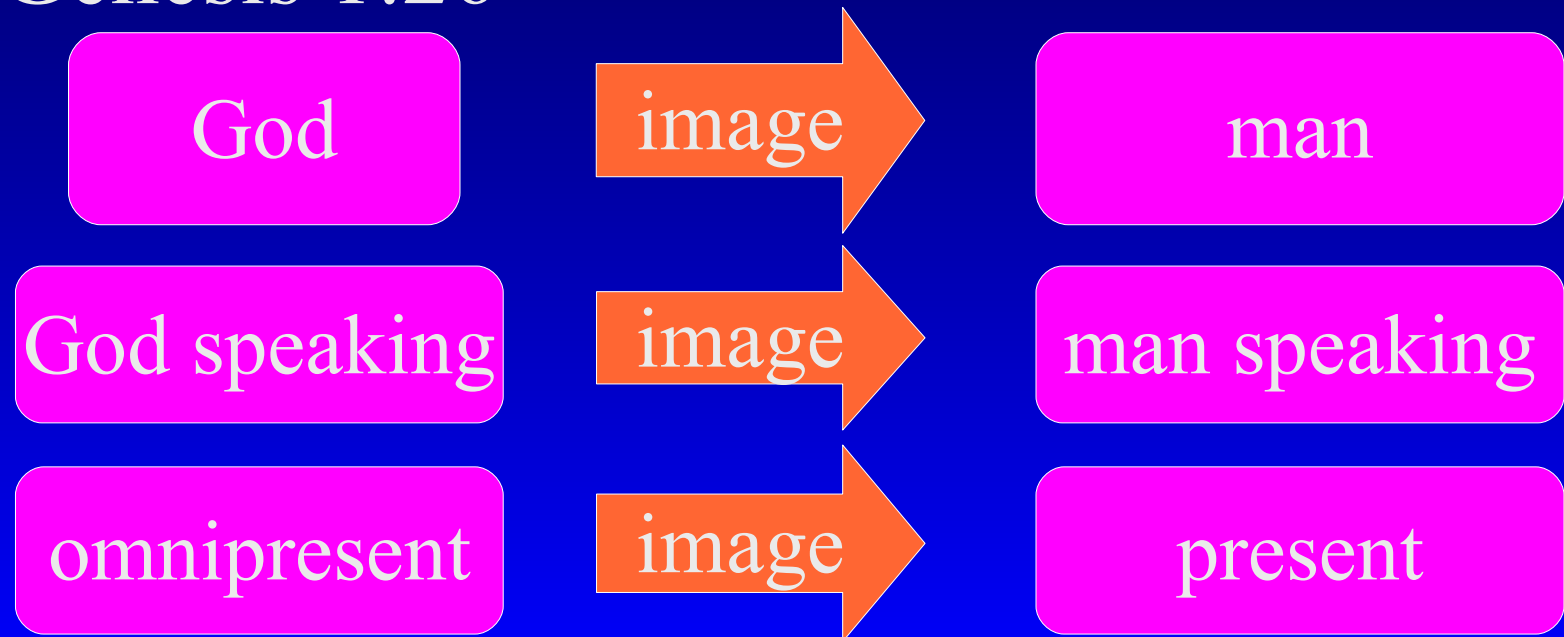
A. Presence of Language

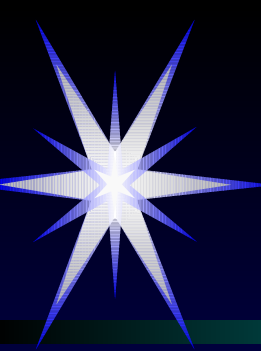


Imaging

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." --

Genesis 1:26

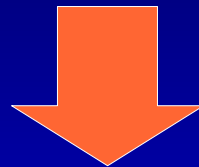
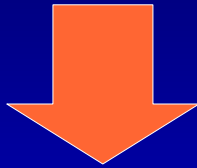




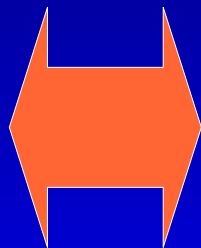
Extending Presence

omnipresent = "all present"

everywhere
present

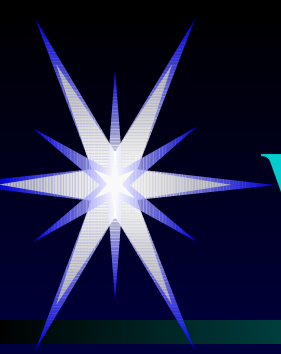


presence of
language
with you



world
with meaning

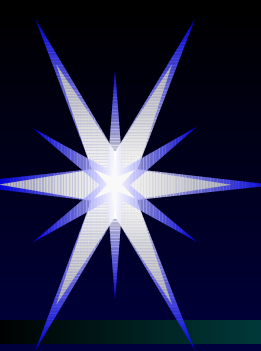
coherence



Where Is Language?

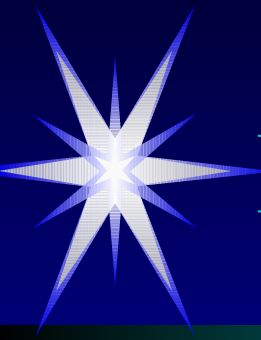
Language is present, is with you

- At home
- Shopping
- Work
- Vacation
- Sleep!



Biblical Principles on Revealing

For his invisible attributes, namely his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. --Romans 1:20



B. The Power of Language



Imaging

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." --

Genesis 1:26

God

image

man

God controlling

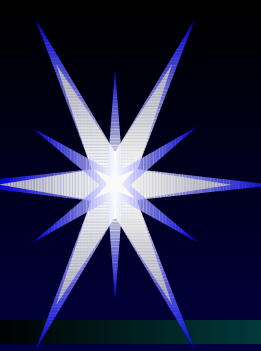
image

man controlling

omnipotent

image

potent



Biblical Principles on Power

And God blessed them and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." --Genesis 1:28



Naming

God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. --Genesis 1:5



Naming

The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. --Genesis 2:20

... he fathered a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. --Genesis 5:3



Power of Language

Language gives you power

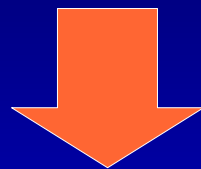
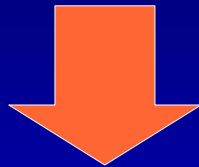
- To describe
- To learn
- To converse
- To give orders



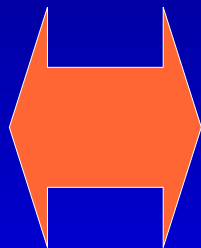
Extending Power

omnipotence = "all power"

all controlling

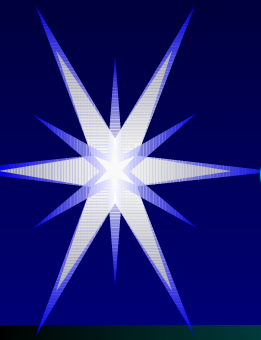


your power
of language



world
with meaning

coherence



C. Meaning in Language



Imaging

Then God said, "Let us make man in
our image, after our likeness." --
Genesis 1:26

God

image

man

God knowing

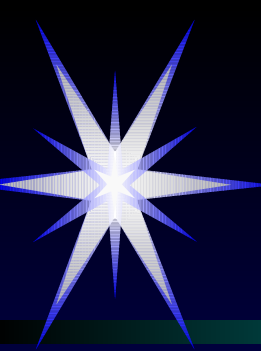
image

man knowing

omniscient

image

science



Biblical Principles on Meaning

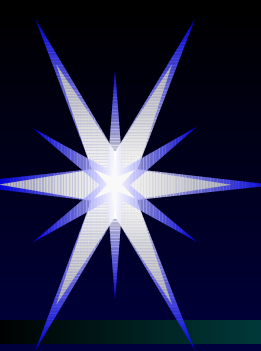
And God blessed said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food." --Genesis 1:29



Meaning in Language

Language gives you meanings and knowledge

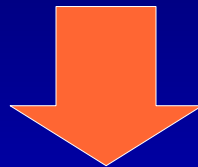
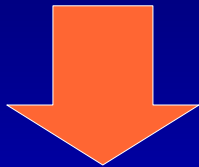
- To know plants and animals
- To know fellow human beings
- To know God



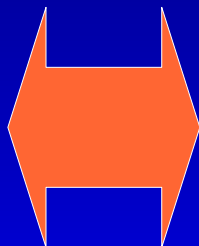
Extending Meaning

omniscience = "all knowledge"

all knowing

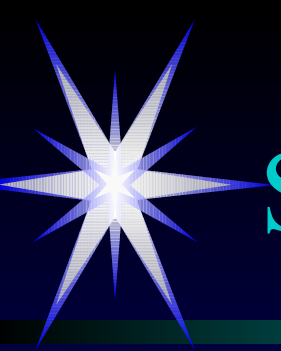


your knowledge
through language



world
with meaning

coherence



Summary on Human Imaging

God

image

man

everywhere present
(omnipresent)

image

present

all controlling
(omnipotent)

image

controlling

all knowing
(omniscient)

image

having meanings

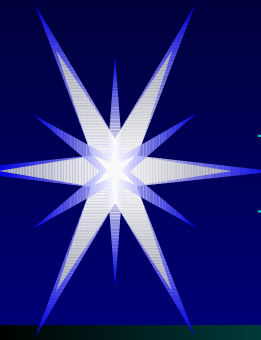


God's Wonders

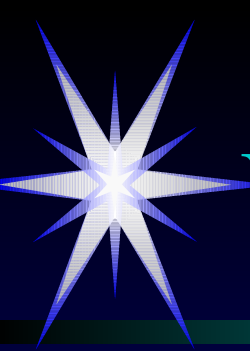
I praise you, for I am fearfully
and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.

--Psalm 139:14



D. Postmodern Doubts



What Is Postmodernism?

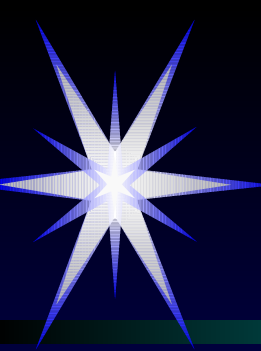
Modern "Enlightenment":

- Cast off God.
- Reject authority. (Good or bad?)
- Think for yourself.
- Doubt; question critically.

"Modernism"

Postmodern: continue.

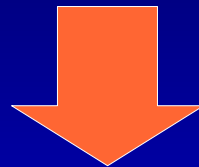
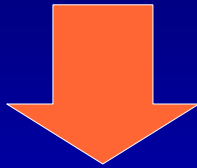
Doubt language and culture.



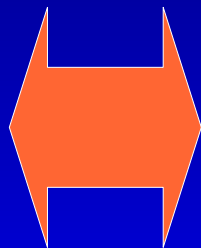
Extending Presence

omnipresent = "all present"

everywhere
present

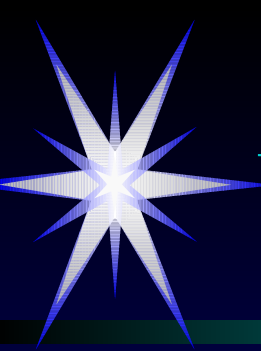


presence of
language
with you



world
with meaning

coherence



Not Trusting God

human
world

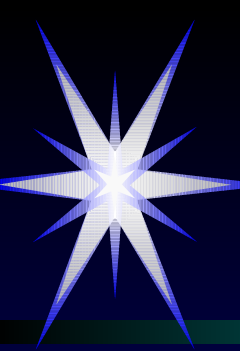
impersonal
world

presence of
language



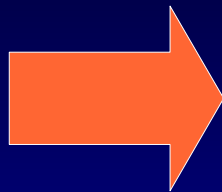
world
without meaning

incoherence



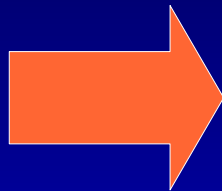
How Does Language Look?

presence



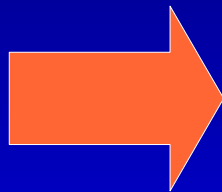
limit: a prison?

control

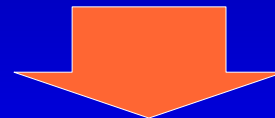


makes a world

meaning



relative to
human culture



relativism