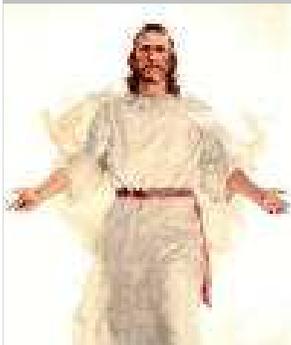




The importance of Christian Bible-Old Testament in the way we built our relationship with other environmental components



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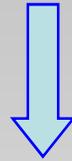
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The *need of species survival*

as an **argument** and a **motivation**



to implement a **sustainable development strategy**



in urban areas

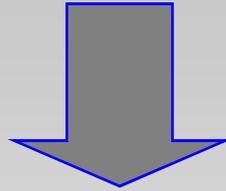
cannot be easily sustained because

it collides with a **range of expectations**



associated with **high "quality of life" standards**

The concept of "quality" is very **relative** and **relational**



the "degree" and the minimum "quantity"

with which the full satisfaction is achieved



to a product or function.



is determined by the culture of an era



In an urban area what is the meaning of

Quality of life ?

Well being ?

Happiness ?

various **collision routes**

between

the "sustainability of the natural environment"

and

the "life quality" expectations of of citizens

(!especially in the cities!)

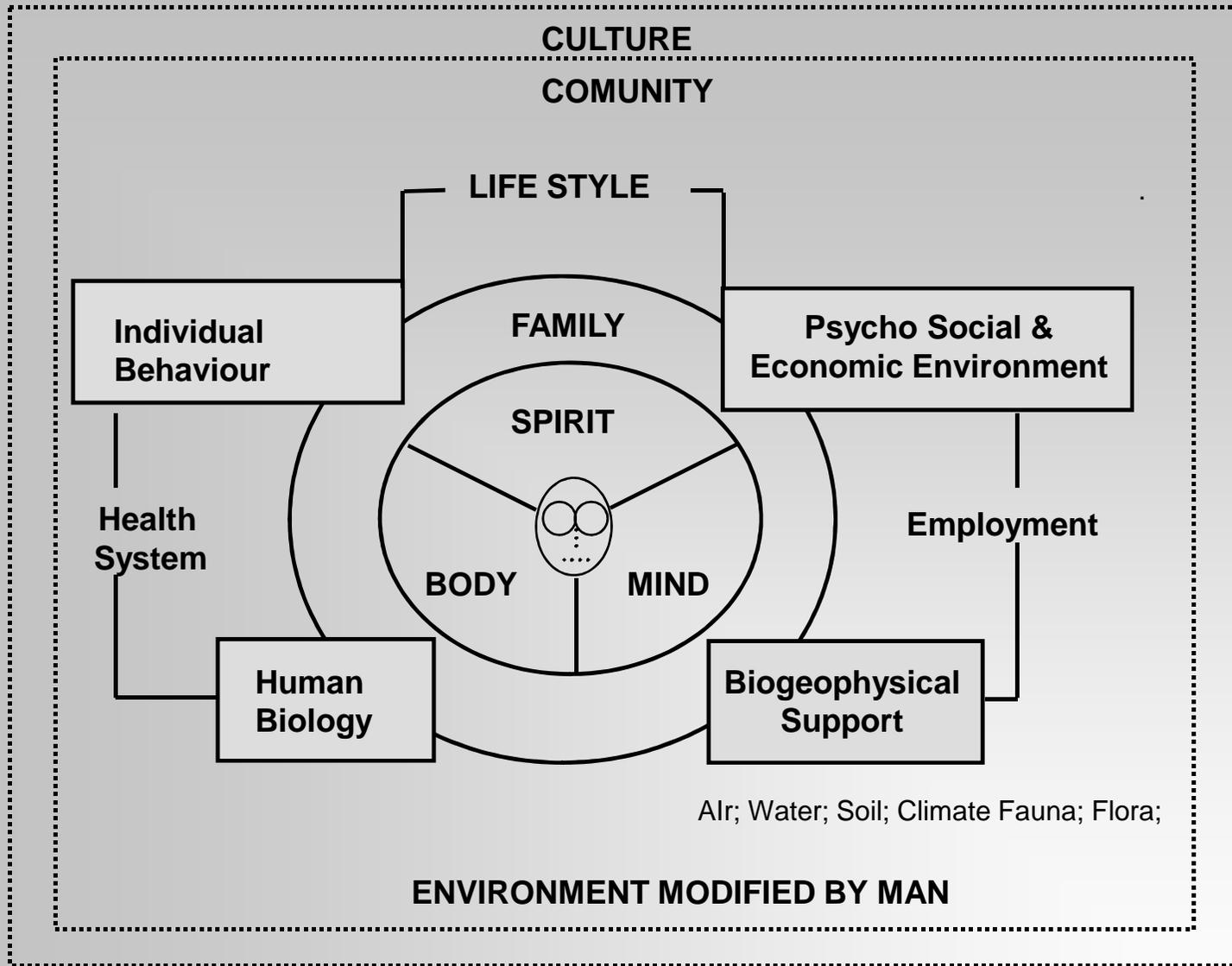
The "life quality" expectations of each citizen

are constructed
upon a **miscellany of records/memories**

proceeding from the community and prevailing culture

These external signs are gradually memorised by the individual

and are assimilated in doses
(according to the individual personality)



Although, in many cases....

the characteristics of the individual personality predominate

over

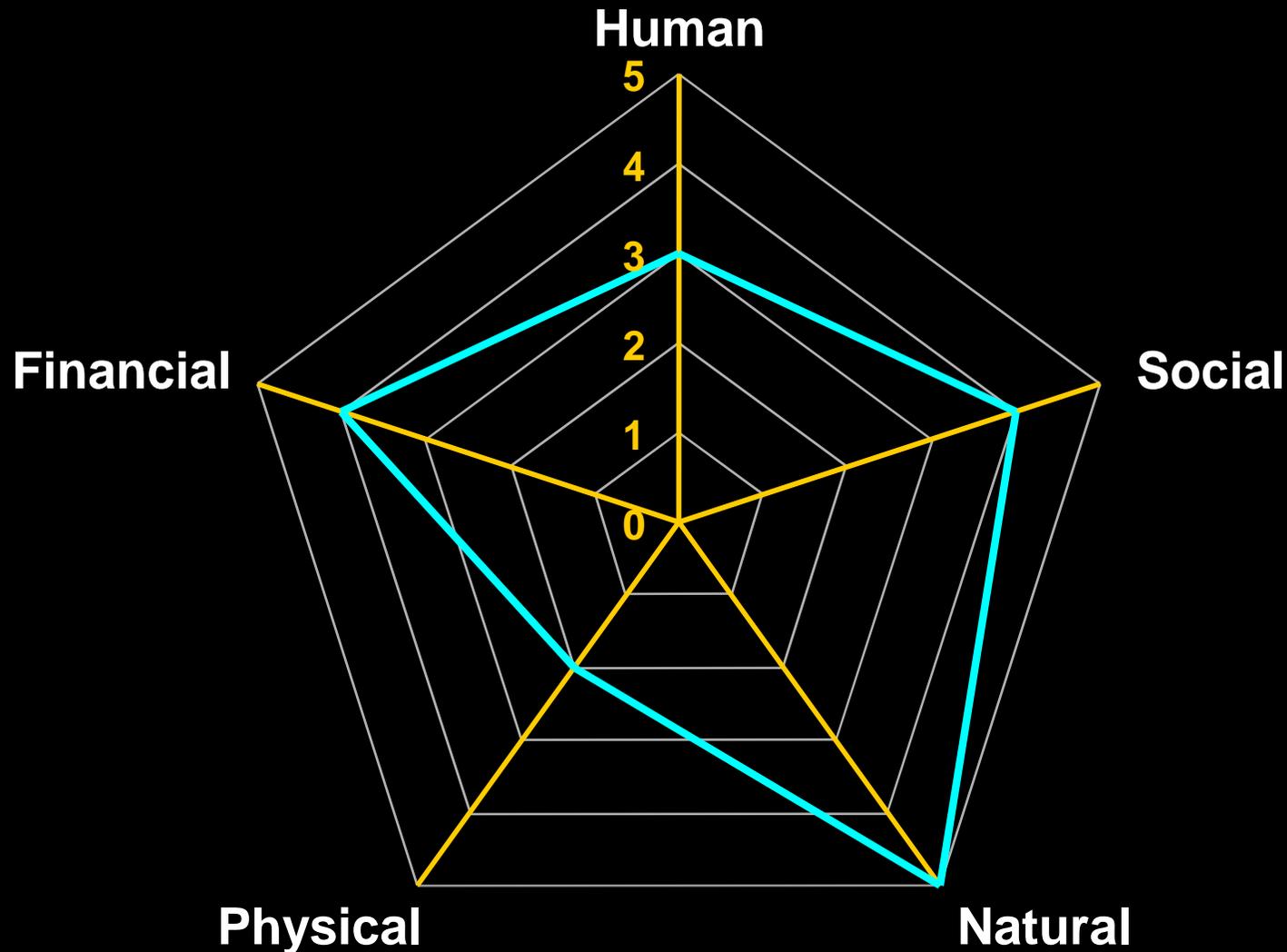
influence of behavioural patterns

life-style

type of economic and psycho-social environment

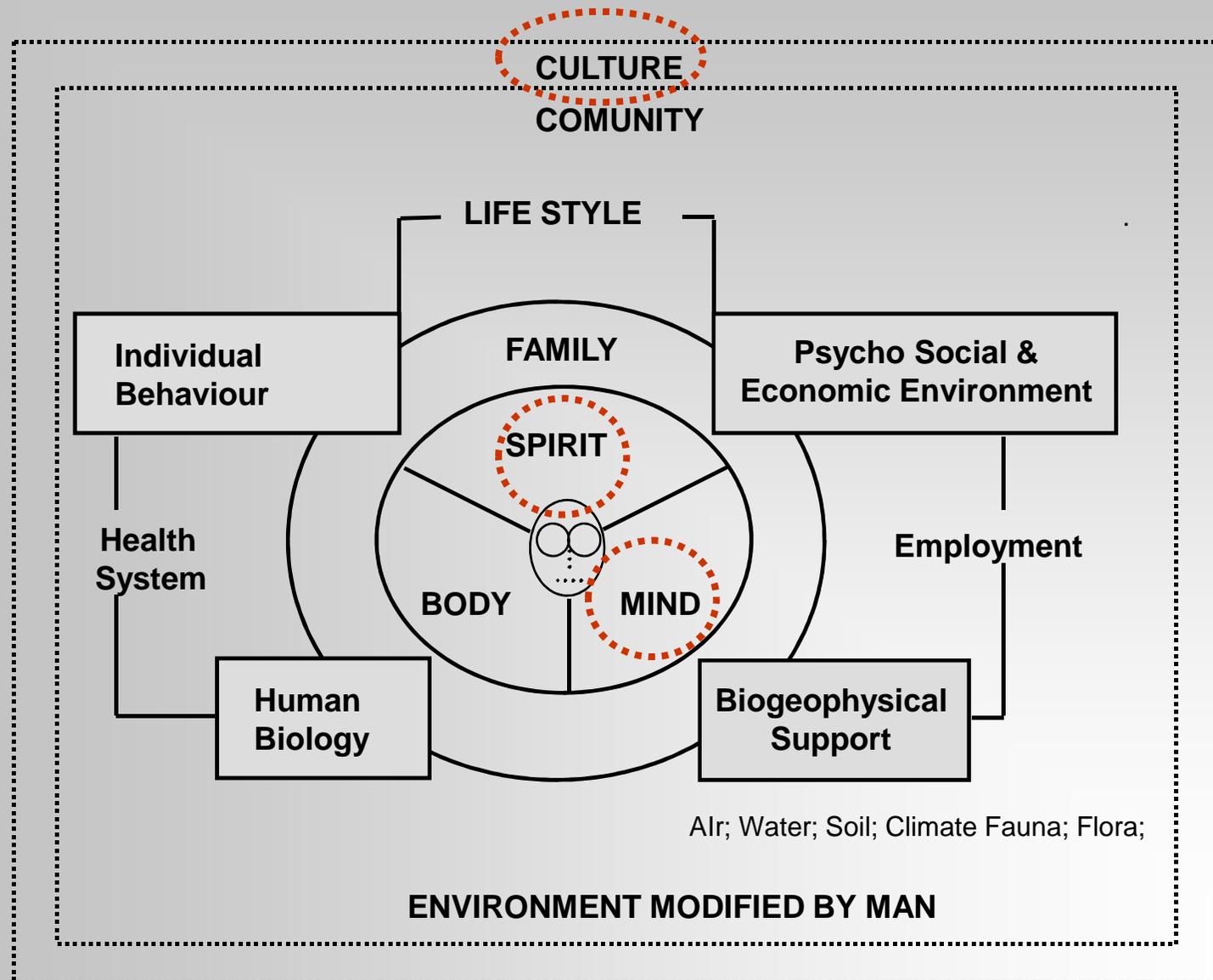
citizens are not totally immune to them.

The multiple dimensions of wellbeing



(Carney 1998 modified)

Let's look at the importance of Christian principles....



Let's look at the Old Bible....

First, God created the natural environment and, then, Man.
(Holy Bible)



(i) "... In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. The earth was empty and tells. The darkness covered the abyss, and the spirit of God moved on the surface of water. ... God called the days light and dark night ... "

(ii) "... God said: "Let the land produce green, with grass seed, trees that give fruit on earth, according to their species, and containing seeds. "

(iii) "... God said:" Let the land produce living creatures according to their species, pets, reptiles and savage animals, according to their species. "

(iv) "... God, then said:" Let us make the man in our image, our likeness, to dominate the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock and over all the reptiles that creep on the earth. ...(..).. God said to them: "Grow and multiply you, and fill the earth. Dominate on fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens and on all animals that move on earth."



(v) "... God, seeing all his work, found it was very good..."

(vi) "... The Lord God made the earth full of flowering species of trees all very pleasant to look and producing tasty fruit to eat ..."

(vii) "... So, I will start a huge flood that will eliminate under heaven any animal with a breath of life..."

(viii) "... The sun stands on the earth when Lot entered into Çoar. So the Lord make fall from heaven on Sodom and Gomorrah sulphur and fire rain, sent by the Lord. This destroyed these cities, across the plains and all the inhabitants of cities and the vegetation of the earth... "

(ix) "... Lord says: to make you know that I am the Lord, I will hurt the waters of the river with a rod and they will become in blood. The fish of the river will die, the waters of the river will be polluted, and the Egyptians will be reluctant to drink the river water..."

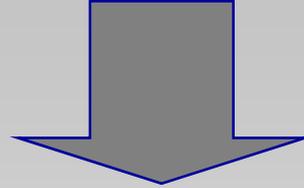


(x) "... The people then began to mutter against Moses, saying: " What should we drink?". Moses cried to the Lord. The Lord showed him a tree. He threw it to the water and it has become drinking water ... "

(xi) "... The Lord said to Moses: " I will send a rain of bread from the sky. The people will come daily to collect the needed amount in order to believe by the evidence and see whether they should or not obey to my orders..."

First, God created the natural environment and, then, Man.

(Holy Bible)



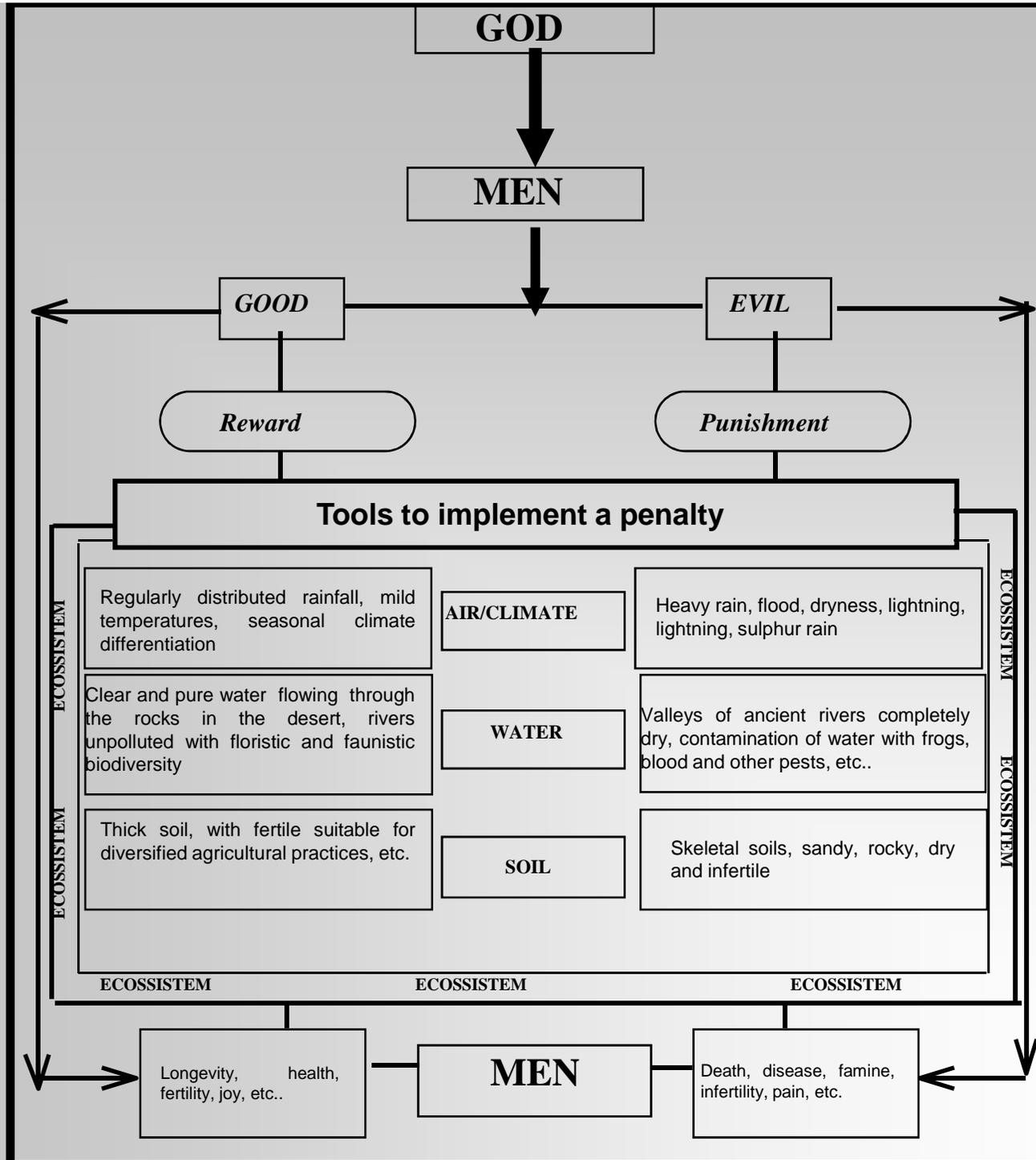
Man was created by God and was provided with power to dominate upon "... the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, on domestic animals and reptiles of all ..."



This power over the natural environment is not, however, absolute.

God always exercises **control** over this relationship
deciding the quantity, the diversity and the quality of natural resources

offering a **reward** or **punishment**



In Biblical stories

are common the examples in which

God uses the extreme events of nature, using them as instruments of reward or punishment for behaviour and attitudes of stakeholders.

Man is rewarded with better health, greater longevity, fertility and joy when practicing the **good**.

Sicken, suffer, go hungry and die when acting **evil**.

The divine authority, and severe punisher, **do not impose their sentences directly** on the individuals targeted.

Implement them indirectly **through a variety of scenarios** that he will create.

To praise the good, God offers to men: light, pleasant tree in sight, tasty fruits, grasses, pets, reptiles and savage animals, drinking water, rain in its time, etc.

To punish evil, God plagues men with: flood, rain of sulphur and fire, thunder, lightning, snow, hail, frost, plagues of flies and poisonous locusts etc.

The conceptual architecture of the organization of the Planet
and
all the retroactivity mechanisms
in the Judaic-Christian thinking
based on the ***absolute power of God***



He
provides opportunities for "welfare" and "quality of life" to humans
(according to their ethical/moral procedures)

The ecosystem' components (air, water and soil),
are no more than **mere instruments** of
implementation of punishment
inflicted by a higher authority- God -to Man

(according to their behaviour)



The ecosystem is understood as a set of elements and we are outside it



The vital interrelationships
in this theoretical framework
is between **God and Man.**

All other components of the ecosystem react
under the influence of exclusive arbitrary will of God.

According to Christian thought....

it is difficult to relate the **environmental impacts** (positive and negative) with the types of human attitudes and actions taken.

the intensity and the proportion of evil (natural disaster) or the good (equilibrium and biodiversity)

is not in any way related with the severity or the success of human action, carried out on any natural resources.

it has been easy for those who grew up in this frame of reference believing in the inevitability of the "suffering".

People learned to **"accept"** natural disasters

(droughts, floods, air pollution, soil contamination, etc.)

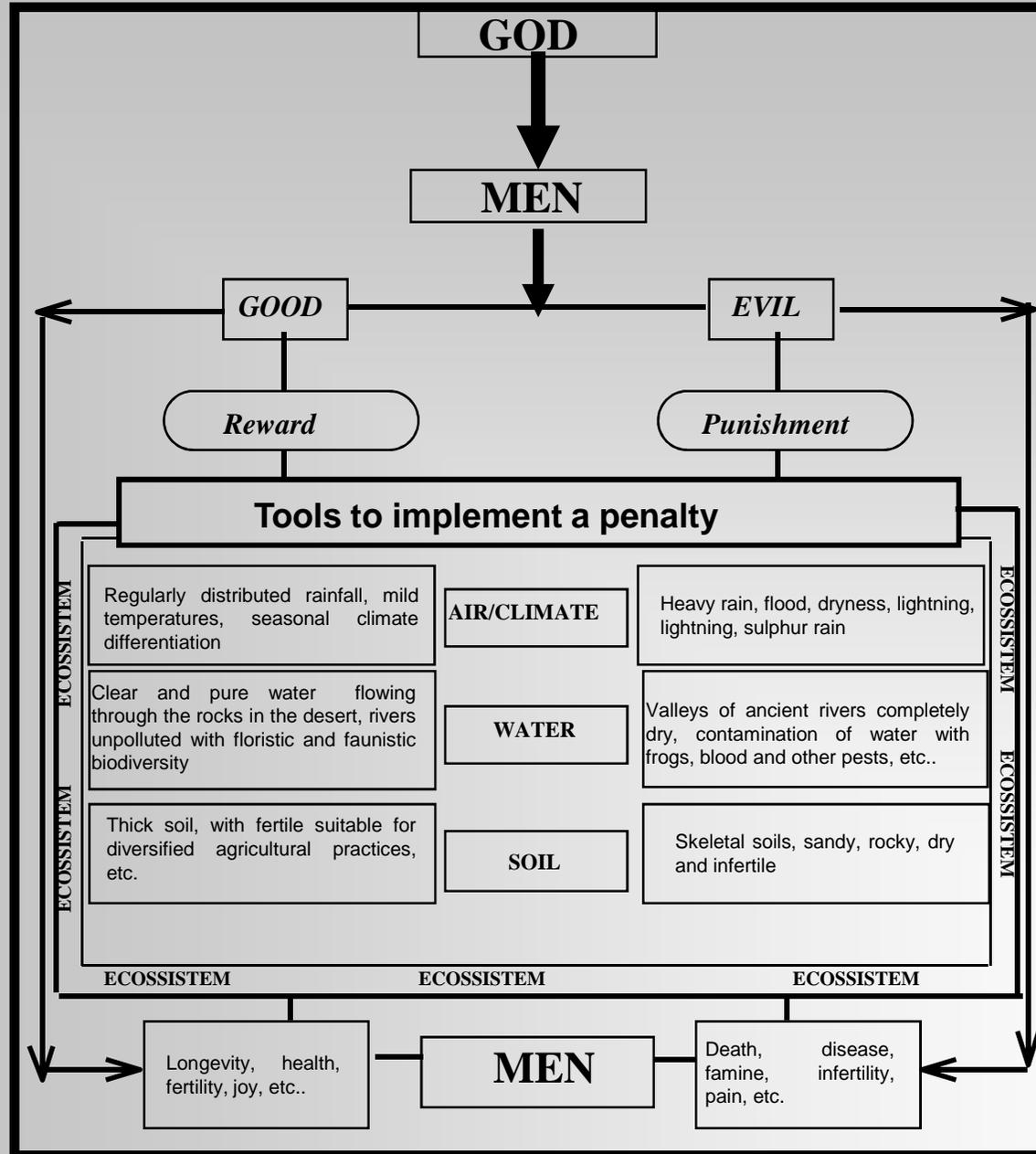


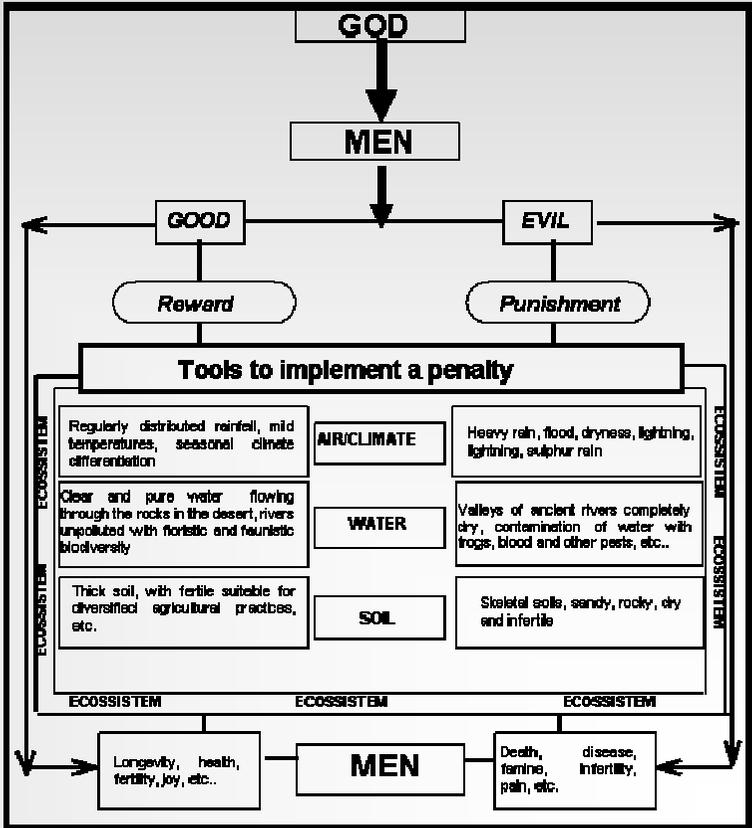
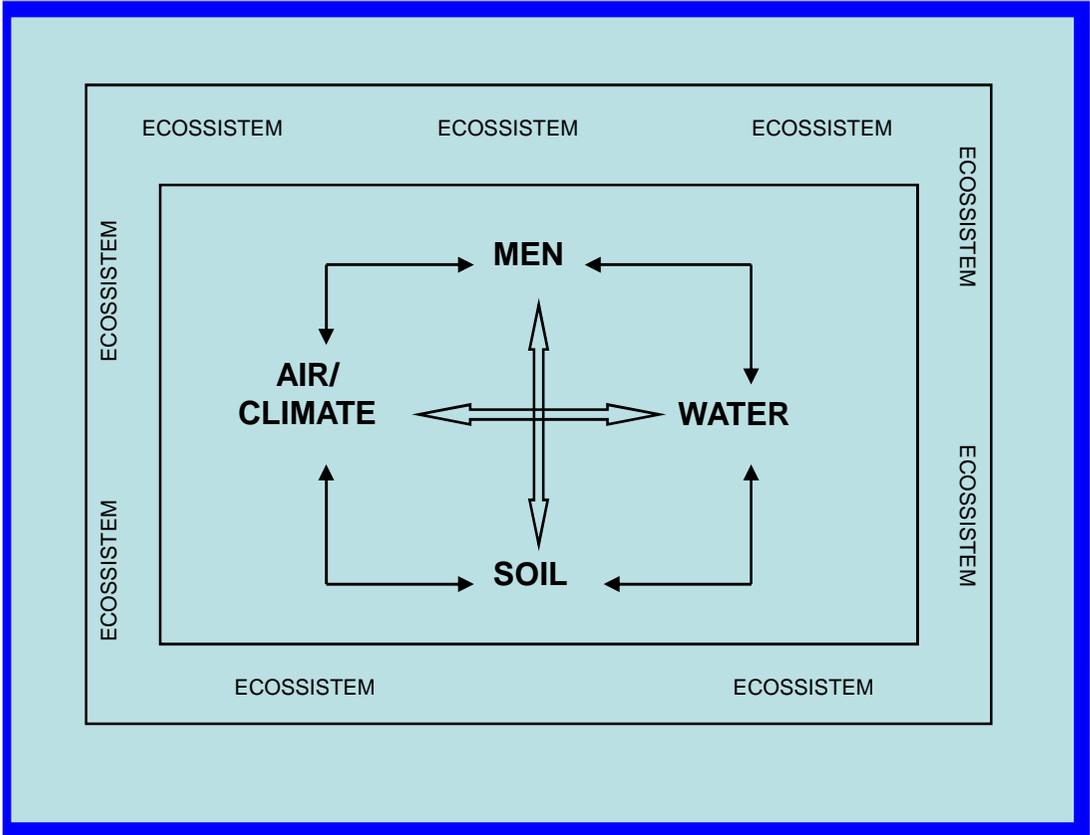
All penalties that happen, unexpectedly are not

dependent on the type of relationship we have with the other elements of the ecosystem

they depend on the way we relate, morally/ethically, to God.

alienation of Man relatively to the other components of the ecosystem???





Nowadays...

it is possible to explain

the contamination of river's waters of rivers

the global warming

the climate change caused by urbanization

the acid rain

etc..

without need to claim for the divine arguments of evil and good

But....

1. it is very difficult to implement successful preventive or mitigation measures

2. it is very difficult to fully understand some of the ecosystem's reaction

1. it is very difficult to implement successful preventive or mitigation measures

2. it is very difficult to fully understand some of the ecosystem's reaction

because

we still have

an excessive anthropocentric view of the ecosystem

due also to our Judaic Christian education?