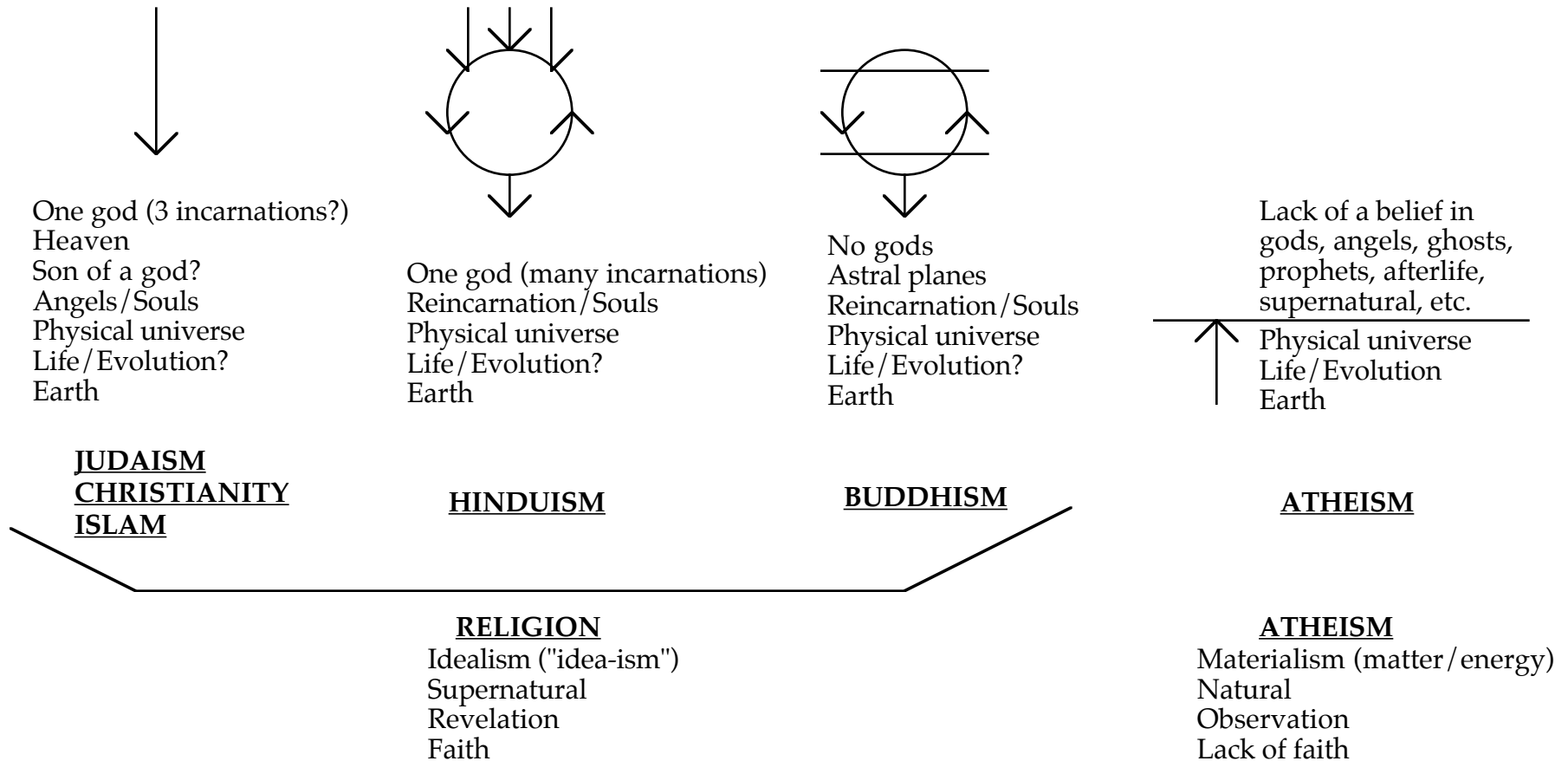


WORLDVIEWS: RELIGION VS. ATHEISM

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Religious people view existence from the "top down." They believe a supernatural world precedes and supersedes the natural world. This supernatural world is "revealed" to humans and is a matter of faith.

Atheists view existence from the "bottom up." They start with what is detectable in the natural world and add conclusions that seem reasonable. Atheists lack a belief in a supernatural world because they see no evidence or reason for its existence. Atheists are unwilling to make a "leap of faith," but are willing to be persuaded by evidence or reason.



Religion is often used to explain the unknown in nature (the "god of the gaps"). Supernatural claims have never been verified by the scientific method. Some supernatural claims have been proven false.

Atheists do not assume a supernatural explanation for what is unknown in nature.