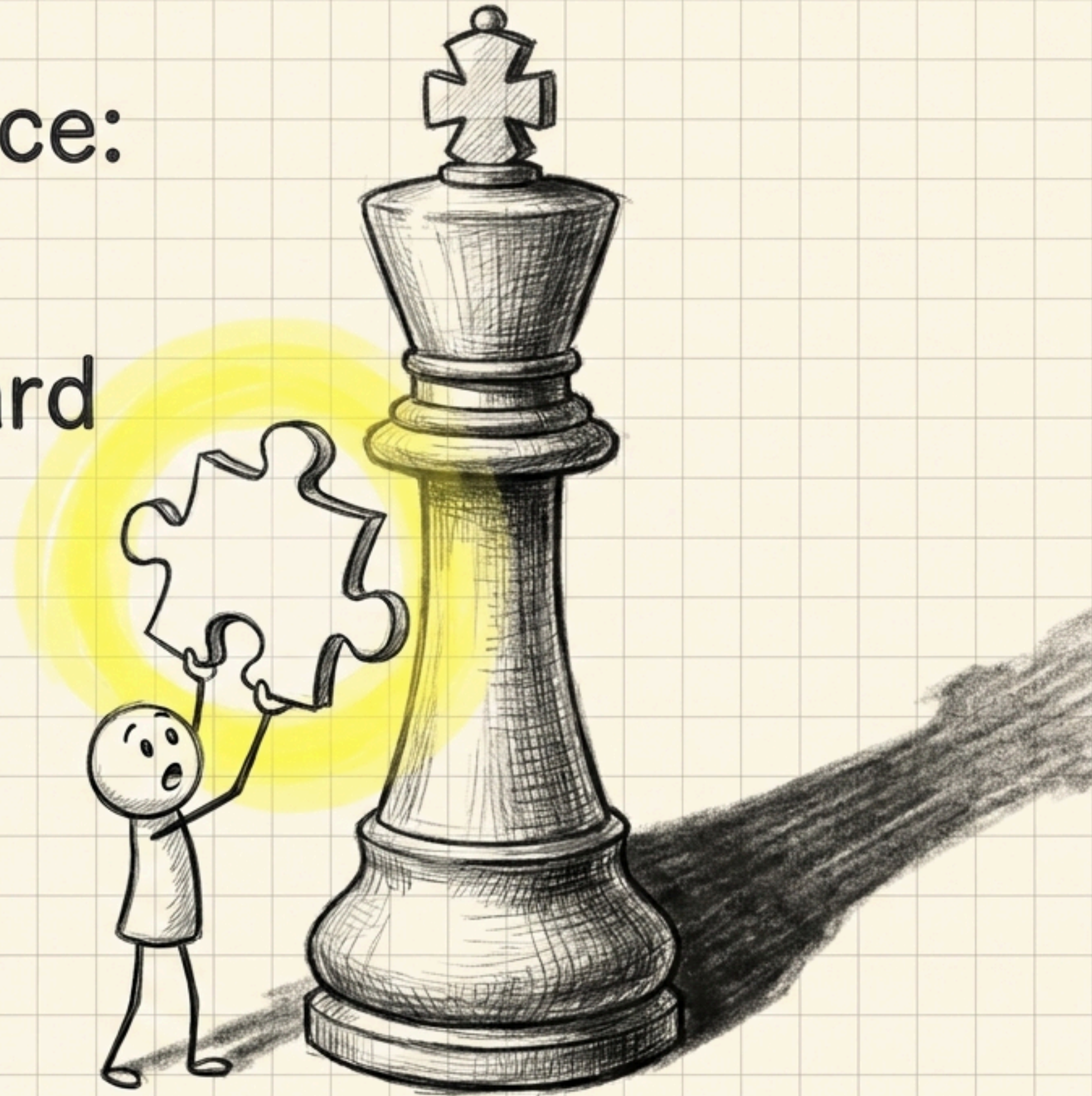


The Missing Puzzle Piece: Middle Knowledge & The Grandmaster's Board

Does God control everything,
or are your choices truly free?
Deconstructing the theology
of Molinism.



The Ancient Paradox

How do we hold both of these scriptural truths together?

Meticulous Sovereignty



"In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will."
(Ephesians 1:11)

Genuine Human Choice



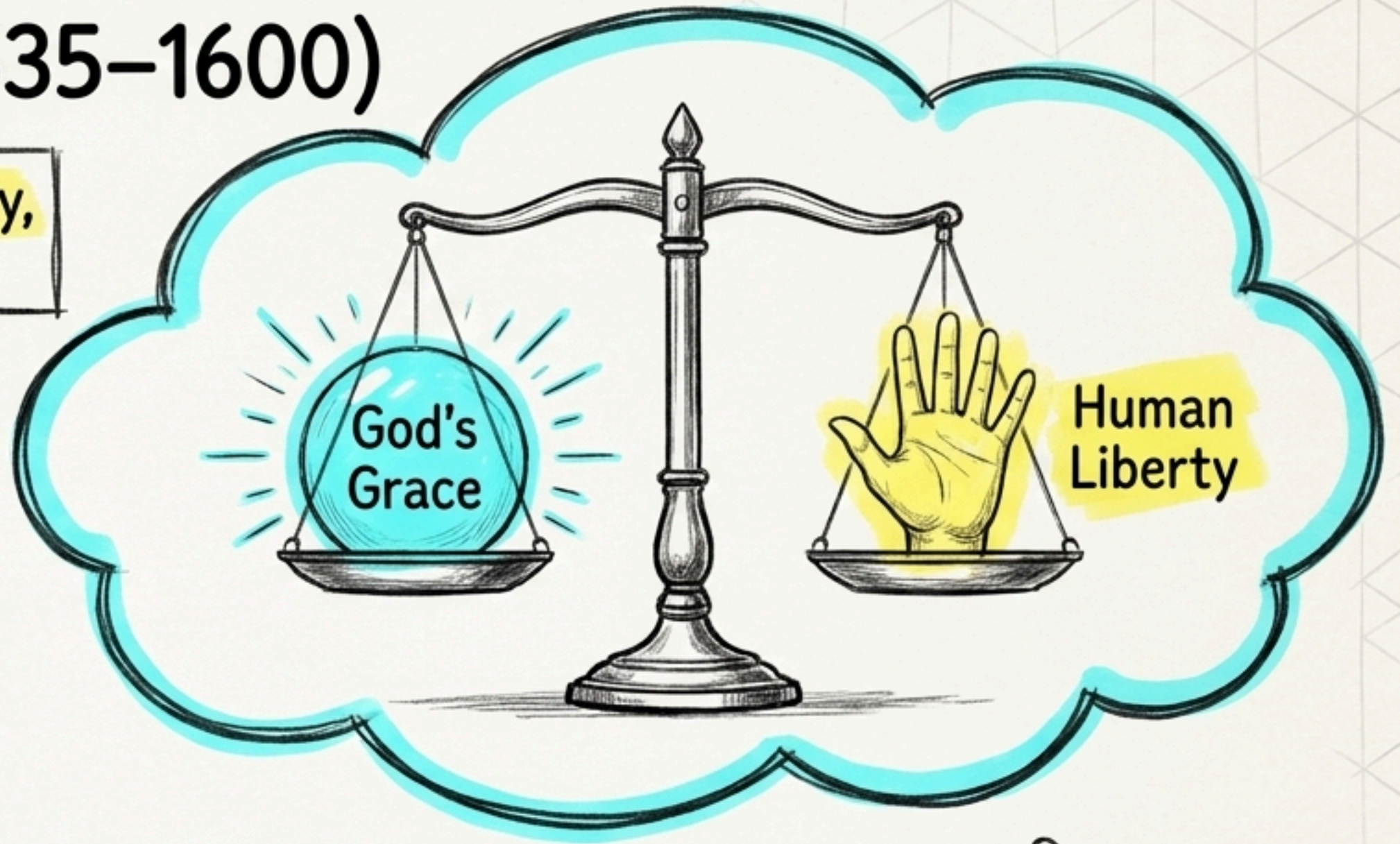
"...I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life..."
(Deuteronomy 3:19)

Breaking the Gridlock: The Theological Spectrum

	Calvinism	Arminianism	Molinism
Primary Emphasis	God's Sovereign Decree	Libertarian Free Will	Sovereign Orchestration
God's Control	Ordains whatsoever comes to pass	Works with human choices	Achieves exact outcomes via circumstances
Human Freedom	Compatibilist (Choice aligns with nature)	Libertarian (Ability to choose otherwise)	Libertarian (Ability to choose otherwise)
Mechanism	Divine Decree	Foreknowledge	Middle Knowledge

Enter Luis de Molina (1535–1600)

A Spanish Jesuit priest seeking harmony, not a theological revolution.



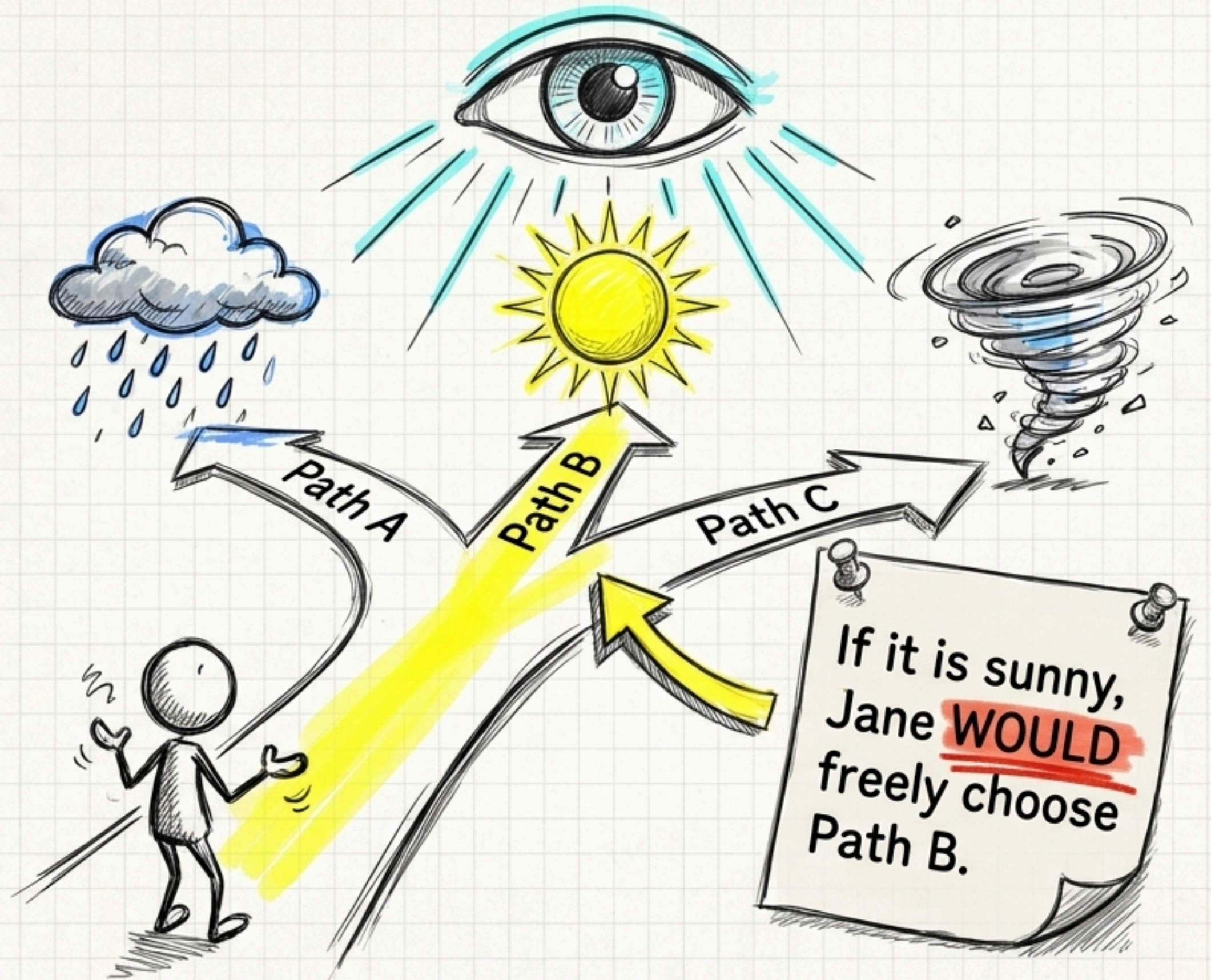
The Publication:
Concordia (1588)
- The harmony of free will with the gifts of grace.

The Goal: Defend traditional teachings on grace against strict determinism, proving God's grace doesn't irresistibly force human choice.

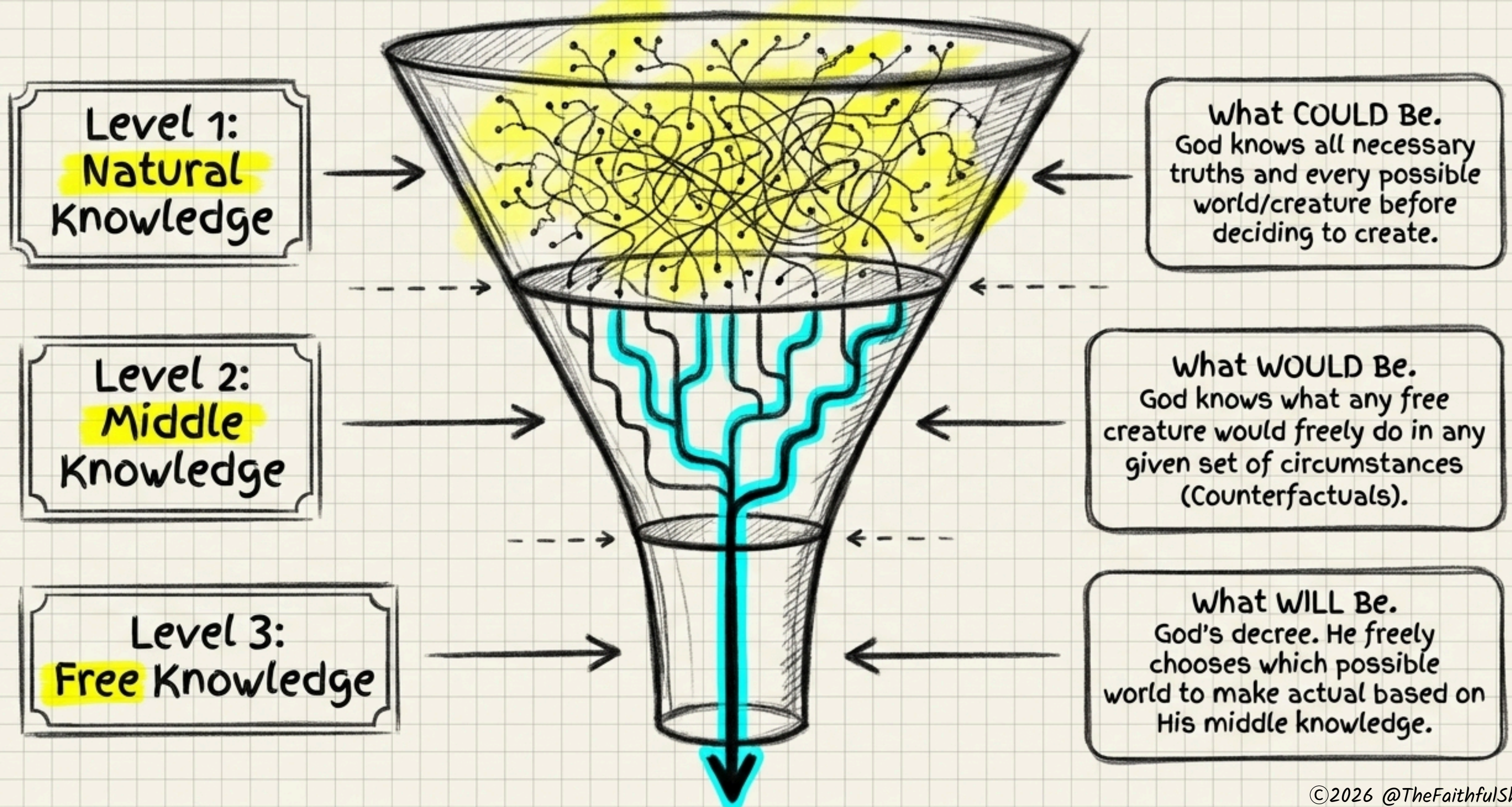
The Breakthrough: Counterfactuals of Creaturely Freedom

Molina proposed a unique type of divine knowledge: understanding exactly how a free being would choose in any hypothetical scenario.

It is not just what you could do, but what you **WOULD** freely choose.



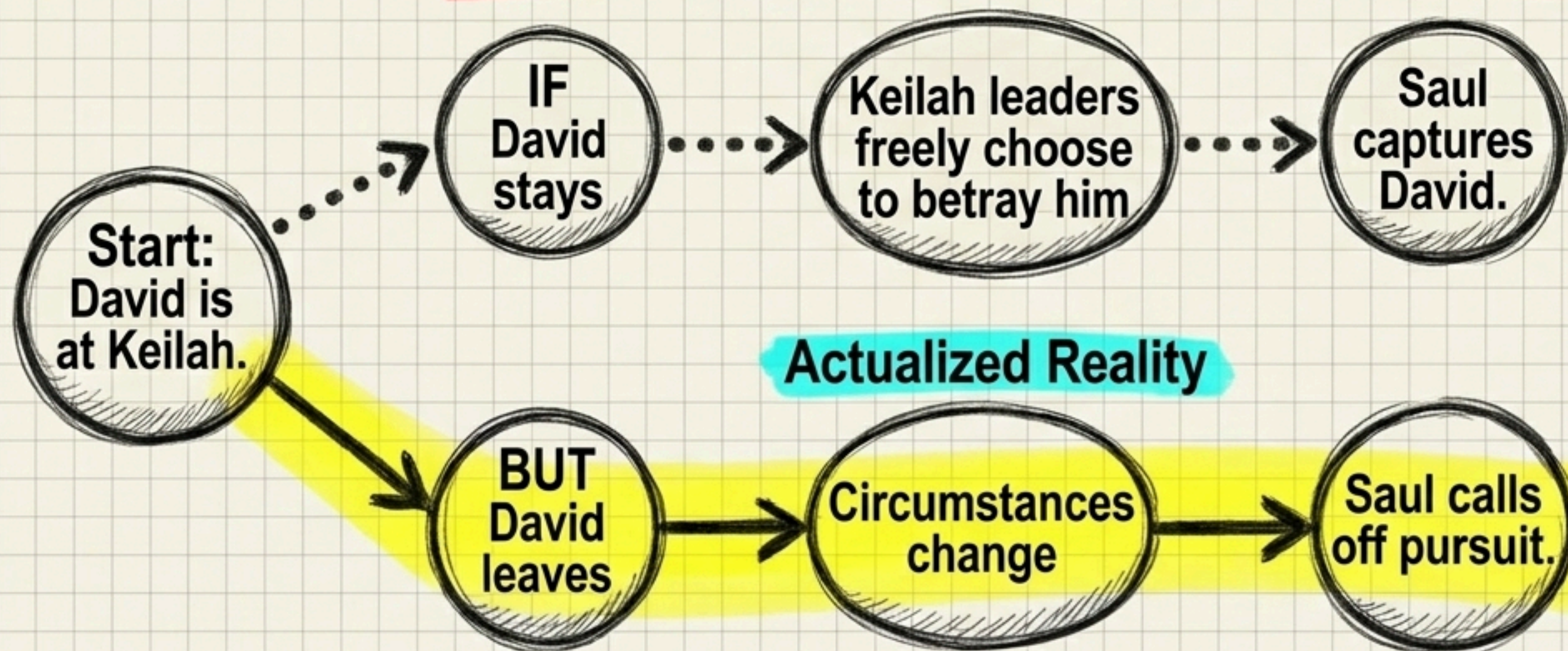
The Three Logical Stages of God's Knowledge



Biblical Proof 1: The Road Not Taken

David asks God if the leaders of Keilah will hand him over. God says, "They will." (1 Samuel 23:12). But David leaves, and they never do. Did God get it wrong?

Counterfactual Truth (Accurate Middle Knowledge)



Takeaway: God accurately knew the free choice they **WOULD** make under specific circumstances, even though those circumstances never happened.

Biblical Proof 2: The "What If" Cities

"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes." – Matthew 11:21

Reality

Counterfactual



Chorazin & Bethsaida



Tyre and Sidon

Refuse to repent.



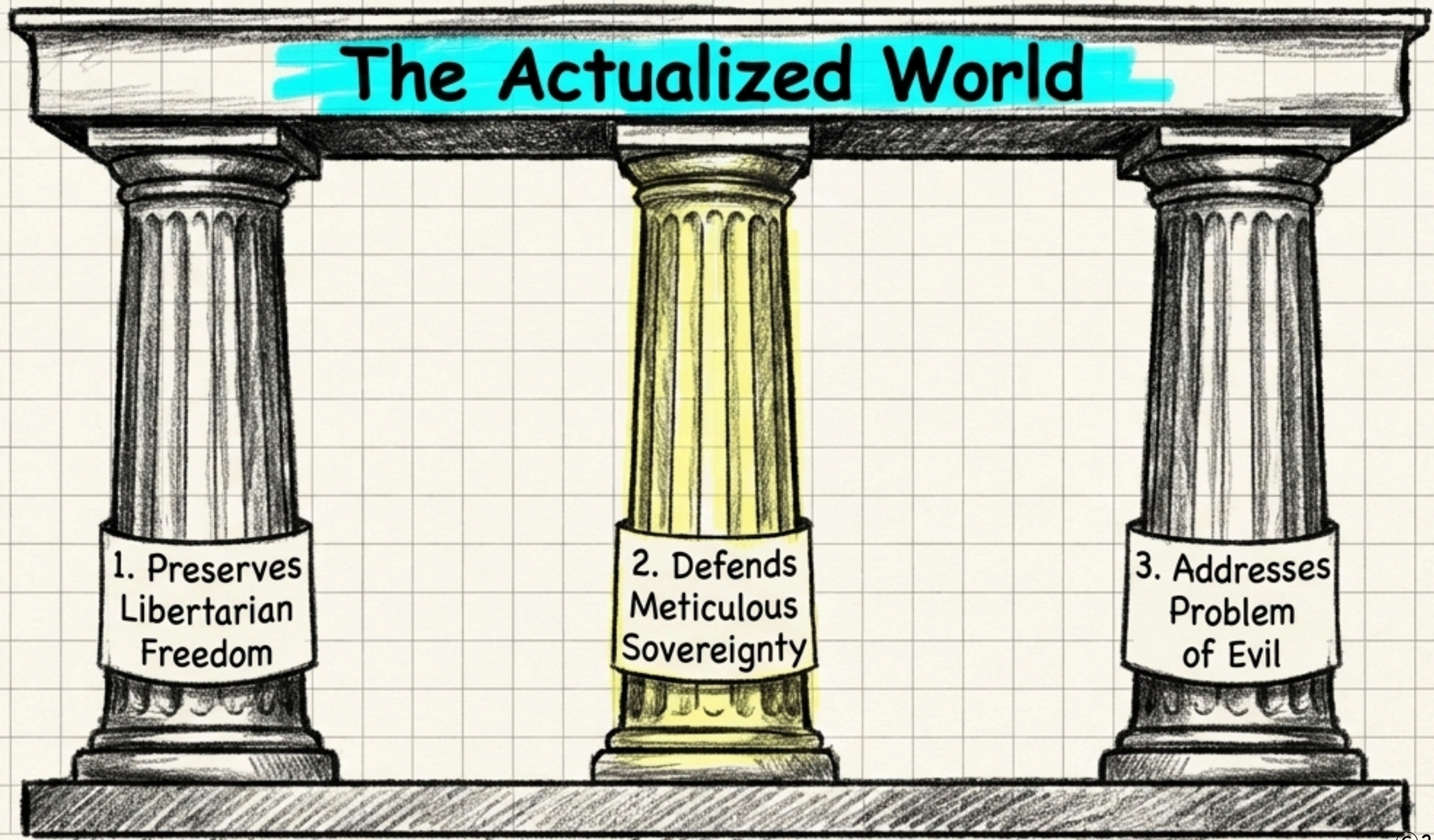
Jesus states a fact about how free individuals **WOULD** respond to different graces and situations.

Freely repent in sackcloth.



Solving the Puzzle: The Architecture of Molinism

The system promises to uphold three massive theological pillars simultaneously.



Pillar 1: Preserving Libertarian Freedom

Foreknowledge \neq Causation



God **KNOWS** which one you will choose, but He does **not MAKE** you choose it. Moral responsibility remains entirely yours.

Your choices are **not** caused, coerced, or determined by God.

In any given moment, with your **exact** history and circumstances, you possess the **true** ability to **choose** A or B.



Choice A

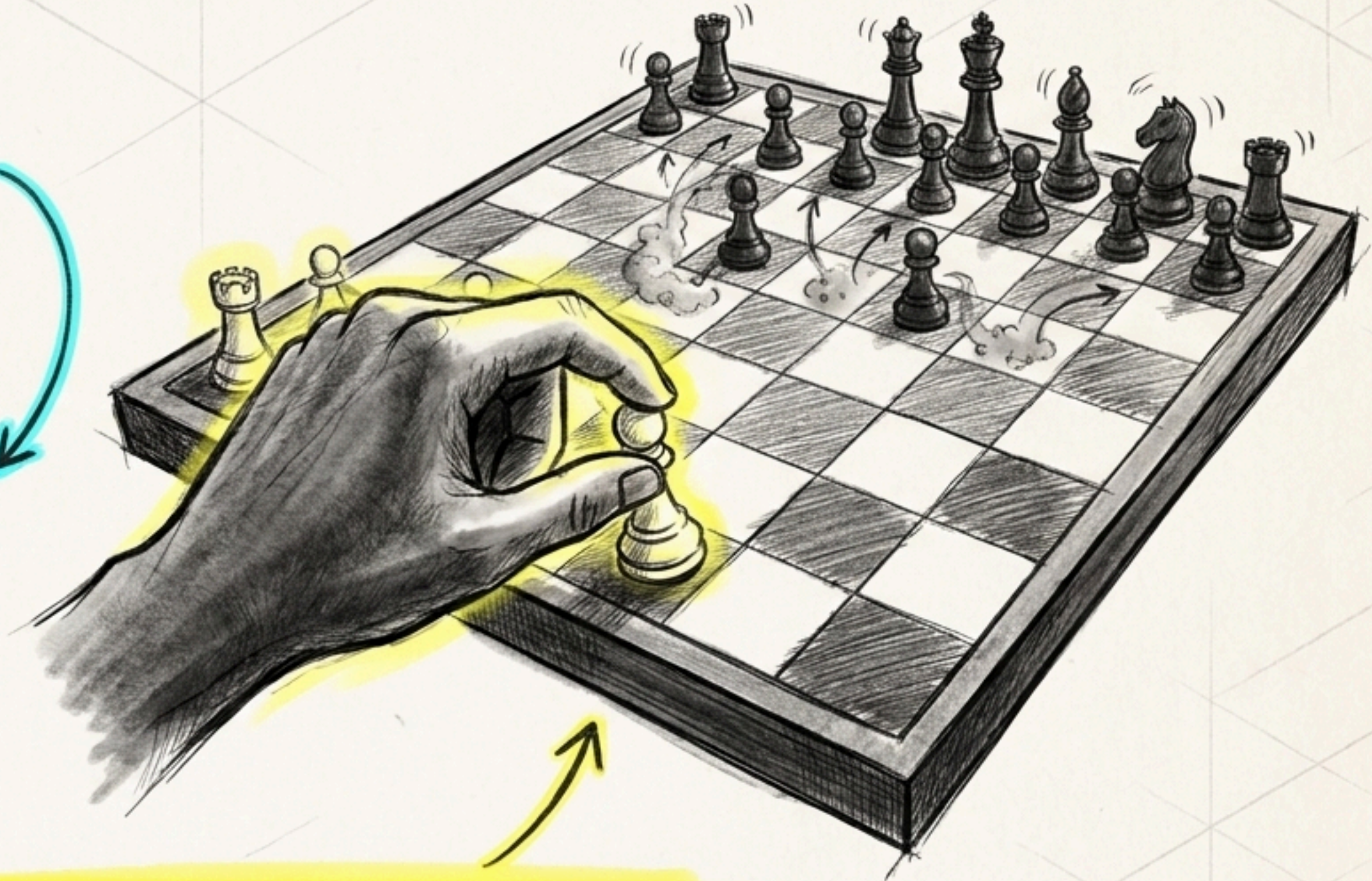


Choice B

Pillar 2: Defending Meticulous Sovereignty

God exercises providential control over **circumstances**, not internal coercion.

Example: God knows exactly which plagues and conversations will lead Pharaoh to freely harden his own heart, and places Pharaoh in those exact circumstances.



The Grandmaster doesn't touch the opponent's pieces. But knowing their tendencies perfectly, He guides the sequence of moves to inevitable checkmate.

Pillar 3: Addressing the Problem of Evil

Among infinite possible worlds, God chose to actualize the one that maximized His good purposes while allowing genuine human freedom.

Because freedom is real, it logically permits the possibility of evil.

Evil is permitted due to its connection to a free world, but it is never willed or caused by God.



The Reality Check: Objections & Criticisms

Molinism is an elegant system, but it faces serious philosophical and textual pushback.

The Grounding Objection



What grounds or makes a counterfactual true before a person even exists? (If Jane doesn't exist, how is it a "fact" what she would do?)



Molinist Reply: It is a "brute fact" about Jane, comprehended inherently by God's infinite nature.

Is it Biblical?



Opponents argue it is an overly complex, over-engineered philosophical framework read **INTO** the text (eisegesis) rather than drawn **FROM** it.

The Ultimate Takeaway: Your Story is Orchestrated

God's sovereignty is so profound it doesn't need to override your freedom to accomplish His will.

The challenges, opportunities, and moments of grace in your life are not random. You were placed in this specific life, in these specific circumstances, with immense purpose.

"And we know that all things work together for good, for those who love God... even your free choices."
(Romans 8:28)

