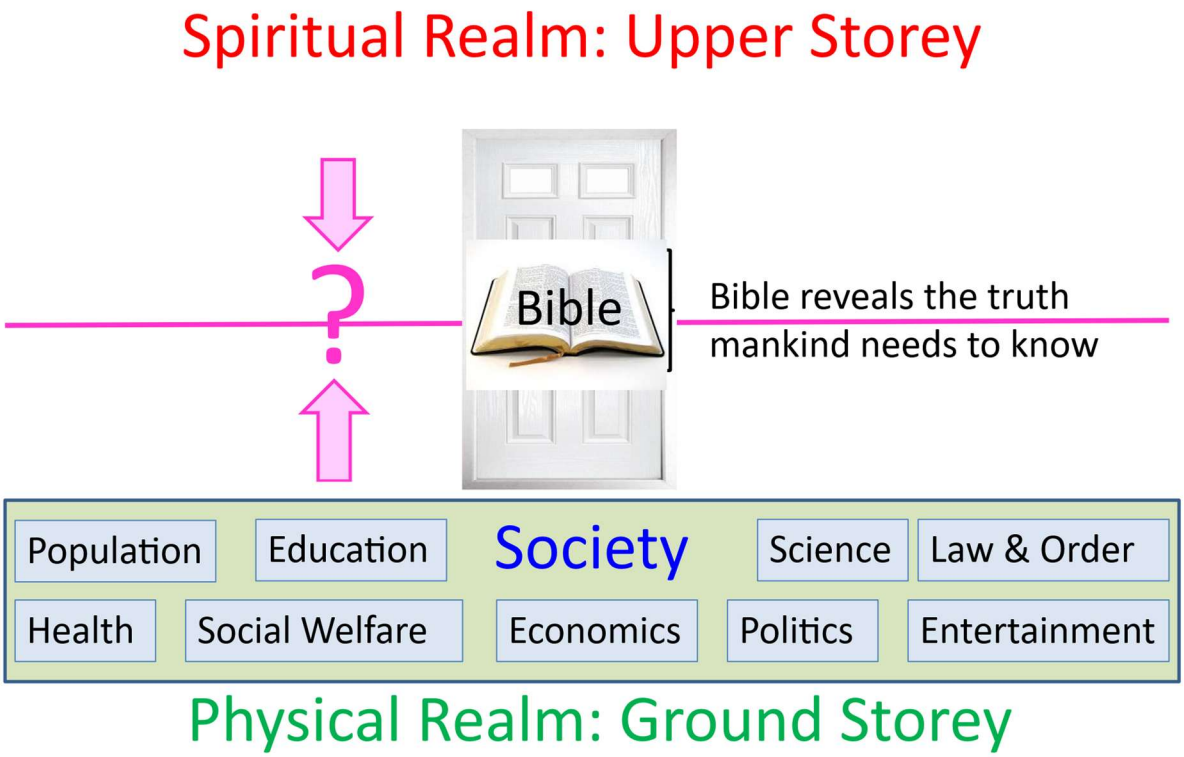
Who to Vote For this Election?

In our parliamentary democracy, those wishing to govern need to win support from voters, which they typically seek by offering incentives. Voting can become a "lolly scramble," or a popularity contest between party leaders, more shaped by "what is best for *me*," rather than "what is best for *the country*."

NZ is a diverse blend of races, creeds, languages etc., where individuals hold to a belief system (worldview) derived dominantly from one's upbringing but which is also significantly influenced by cultural trends. At present, these are pushing everyone in a *self-centred* direction e.g. "look after #1!"

In the 2023 census, the majority ticked "no" to the religious belief question, confirming that NZ is now a nonChristian country. Interestingly, 2026 marks the 150th anniversary of the first public performance of what became our National Anthem, "God Defend NZ," in 1876. How paradoxical that a prayer to God is the Anthem of a secular state! In our short history, cultural beliefs have "flip-flopped." We no longer believe that there is a *higher* throne above the physical realm. Influenced by secular thinking, most believe that the interaction of ground storey agencies determine our future.



The popular secular ideologies (naturalism, humanism, relativism etc) are presumed to be unchallengeable, self-evident, common-sense truisms but are they? If not, is it wise to vote solely based on such beliefs? After all, who best understands reality? Is it finite temporal human creatures or the infinite eternal Creator God who made us?