

Hebraic vs Western Thinking – A Comparison [Bron](#): Brian Knowles

Western Approach	Hebraic Approach
Life analyzed in precise categories.	Everything blurs into everything else.
A split between natural & supernatural	Supernatural affects everything.
Linear logic	Contextual or "block" logic
"Rugged Individualism"	Importance of being part of group
Equality of persons	Value comes from place in hierarchies
Freedom orientation	Security orientation
Competition is good	Competition is evil (cooperation better)
Man-centered universe	God/tribe/family-centered universe
Worth of person based on money/material possessions/power	Worth derived from family relationships
Biological life sacred	Social life supremely important
Chance + cause & effect limit what can happen	God causes everything in his universe
Man rules nature through understanding and applying laws of science	God rules everything, so relationship with God determines how things turn out.
Power over others achieved through business, politics and human organizations.	Power over others is structured by social patterns ordained by God.
All that exists is the material	The universe is filled with powerful spirit beings

Linear time divided into neat segments. Each event is new.	Cyclical or spiraling time. Similar events constantly reoccur.
History is recording facts objectively and chronologically.	History is an attempt to preserve significant truths in meaningful or memorable ways whether or not details are objective facts.
Oriented to the near future	Oriented to lessons of history
Change is good = progress	Change is bad = destruction of traditions
Universe evolved by chance	Universe created by God
Universe dominated and controlled by science and technology	God gave man stewardship over his earthly creation. Accountability to God.
Material goods = measure of personal achievement	Material goods = measure of God's blessing
Blind faith	Knowledge-based faith
Time as points on straight line ("at this point in time...")	Time determined by content ("In the day that the Lord did...")