

factual claim that rules nothing out, rules nothing *in* either! Putting a fact-claim beyond evidence is thus not a claim to fact at all. That's why Harold asked what the difference is between the Pumpkin's being out there and the Pumpkin's not being out there. There *is no difference!* So your claim is empty, Linus. Or to put it another way, the 'vertical' has to be integrated with the 'horizontal.' The vertical is the mere presupposition along with its alleged status of being *certain* (as with Linus), *axiomatic* (as with Gordon Clark), or *analogical* (as with Van Til). The horizontal has to do with the noetic *accessibility* of the vertical—how we humans with our created epistemic endowments *may come to know* whatever it is that is being claimed."

[Much else was contributed—though not altogether on one track, so summarizing it all would be difficult. The primary point, however, which reached a near consensus, proved disquieting for both Charlie and Linus.

There is a profound sense in which a fact-claim—and this includes any religious fact-claim—must "risk" falsification in order to achieve verification. That means that both Pumpkin fact-claims and Christian fact-claims are vulnerable to standard evidential cross-examination. A good example of religious fact-claims that have not stood up to such cross-examination is the alleged ancient sites mentioned in The Book of Mormon. Archaeology has never corroborated Joseph Smith's imagined ancient America. By contrast the Old Testament world has been extensively corroborated by archaeology (e.g., the existence of the Hittite nation, the town of Jericho, the warfaring of the Assyrians and then the Babylonians against Israel, etc.).

*To repeat, "risking falsification" concerning public events means only that a claim that such and such an event occurred entails that the truth of the claim is open to cross-examination. One point that Harold made in this regard is worth repeating. The Apostle Paul tacitly invokes the logic of falsifiability in I Corinthians 15:1-9 when he lists the eyewitnesses of the **risen** Christ. In addition to appearances to the Apostles, Paul states*