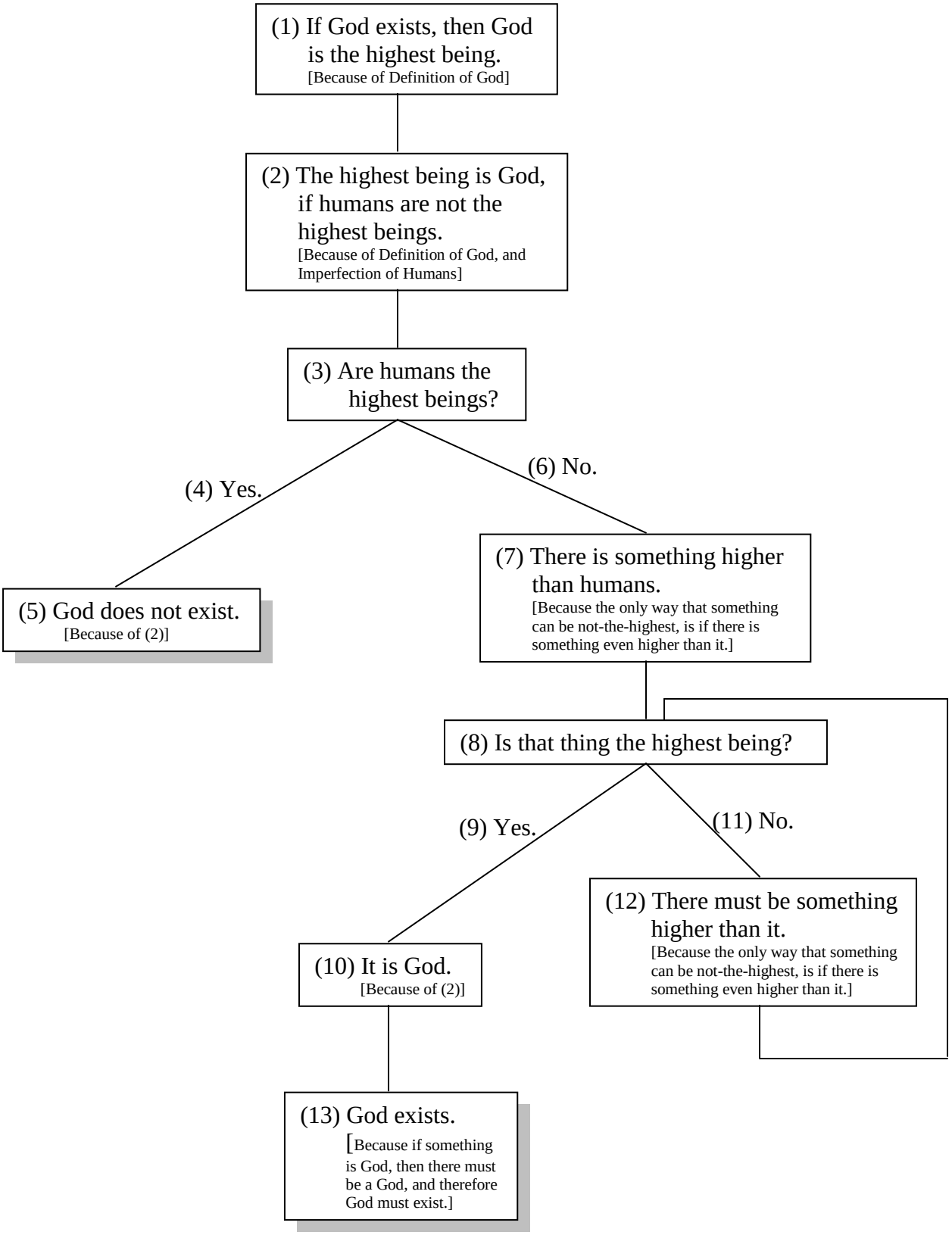
Augustine's Proof that God Exists
***On Free Choice of the Will*, Book II**

PART I



Note: This proof only works if we can prove (6) and/or (7).

Augustine's Proof that God Exists, Continued
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PART II

A. Prove that the truths about numbers are outside our minds

(14) The simplest explanation is probably the best. That is, the explanation which requires us to make the fewest assumptions is the one we usually should choose. (This is "Ockham's Razor.")

(15) We can all see the truths about numbers. For example, we can all see the truth that two plus two equals four.

(16) There are two possible explanations for the fact that we can all see this truth. Either (a) it is something outside our minds, that we all perceive with our minds, or (b) it is something inside our minds, and thus there is a different truth in each person's mind.

(17) Explanation "a" requires us to assume that there are 6,880,240,333 people on earth, and 1 truth that two plus two equals four. Explanation "b" requires us to assume that there are 6,880,240,333 people on earth, and 6,880,240,333 truths that two plus two equals four in those people's minds.

(18) Therefore, explanation "a" requires us to assume that there are 6,880,240,334 things, while explanation "b" requires us to assume that there are 13,760,480,666 things.

(19) Therefore, explanation "a" requires us to make fewer assumptions than explanation "b."

(20) Therefore, explanation "a" is the simpler explanation. [See 14, above.]

(21) Therefore, explanation "a" is probably the best. [See 14, above.]

(22) Therefore, the truths of number are probably outside our mind.

B. Prove that the truths of numbers are higher than our minds.

(23) Because the truths about numbers are outside our minds, they are not necessarily a part of us, and therefore not necessarily equal to us.

(24) Therefore, the truths about numbers are either lower than us, equal to us, or higher than us.

(25) If something is lower than us, then we can judge it (that is, we can declare it to be right or wrong, or we can decide it should be otherwise than it is).

(26) We cannot judge the truths about numbers. We can only accept them, and use them in making judgments about other things.

(27) Therefore, the truths about numbers are not lower than us. [Because of 25 and 26]

(28) If we are equal to the truths about number, then we and the truths about numbers would either both change, or both not change.

(29) We change, but the truths about numbers do not change.

(30) Therefore, the truths about numbers are not equal to us. [Because of 28 and 29]

(31) Therefore, the truths about numbers must be higher than us. [Because of 24, 27, and 30]

(32) Furthermore, if one thing does not change, and a second thing does change, and the first thing legitimately judges the second thing, then the first thing is higher than the second thing.

(33) The truths about numbers do not change, but our minds do change.

(34) The truths about numbers have power over us. They control what we can and cannot do. They, as it were, "judge" us, by telling us whether we are right or wrong when we are talking or thinking about (or using) numbers.

(35) Therefore, once again, the truths about numbers are higher than us. [Because of 32, 33, and 34]

C. Relate to Part I of the proof that God exists.

(36) Humans are not the highest beings. [Because of 35]

(37) Therefore, we should proceed from 3, through 6, to 7, in Part I of the proof.

(38) Therefore, God exists. [Because once we have proceeded from 3, through 6, to 7, the flow chart can only terminate in 13, which asserts that God exists.]