

The Origins of **Our Destiny**

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A World in Crisis

In the book, Right From Wrong, Josh McDowell and Bob Hoestetter document the unfortunate double-mindedness which exists among Christian youth. Young people, who attend church and profess Christ as their savior, are confused about fundamental truths in various areas of life and testify to believing many things contrary to the Bible. Is this due simply to ignorance or something else?

McDowell's book deals with youth; but, are Christian adults any better in their thinking? We adults profess to know Christ, but isn't our rate of adultery and divorce comparable to teenage attitudes and activities regarding pre-marital sex? Who is guilty of the greater sin ?

For decades evangelists have preached how to be *born again*; but perhaps Christians need to learn more about how to *live again*. There may even be a certain set of laws, rules, or principles that *all* people of *every* culture (Christian and pagan alike) must live by in order to enjoy common blessings or

even cultural sanity.

Now the moment I even mention the possibility of *law*, some might be tempted to brand me as a legalist or suggest I believe in salvation by works. Therefore, to avoid such charges, I will use the expression *divine institution* instead of law and restrict the discussion of such "laws" as they were ordained from the beginning in the book of Genesis.

The Divine Institutions

Within the first twelve chapters of Genesis, we see everything from the Creator forming His universe to the personal Savior in His election of Abraham. I personally believe that many of the problems in America, and the world, stem from a cultural ignorance, or indifference, regarding the historical significance of the very first book of the Bible. Even in many churches oftentimes, these "stories" are regarded more as allegories or myths rather than constitutional documentation serving as the epistemological foundation for mankind, *universally*. Consequently, Christians (and others) may come by these truths haphazardly due to the cultural fragmentation which is reflected in our American church today.

These covenants, Genesis ordinances, or divine institutions (as I will refer to them) are listed with appropriate scriptural citations:

1. Work Gen. 1:28; 2:15
2. Marriage..... Gen. 1.28, 2:18
3. Family Gen.1: 28
4. Government Gen. 9:6
5. Nationalism..... Gen. 11:7-8
6. Redemption..... Gen. 12:1-3

Each of these institutions is associated with Biblical "stories" through which these institutions are ordained by design or divine response to

historical situations. Work, marriage, and family were part of the creative plan before the Fall and are still with us today. Our personal origins and provision are first centered within the context of our families, where a husband and wife are working together to provide for their children. Through our wages, or "fruit" of our labor, economic provision is secured, even for the community at large. Through the loving relationship between a man and a woman, children may be born in order to build a loving family and hence fulfill God's will. One does not generally hear about marriage or family as being irrelevant since the "law" has passed away, been canceled, or blotted out.

Beyond the Fall, universal government was established after the Noahic Flood. After God condemned a contaminated and murderous world, he ordained capital punishment for murder as the major restraint against the arbitrary killing which had progressed far beyond Cain's first assault. It should be emphasized here that the killing of animals is *authorized*, whereas the arbitrary killing of man is *unauthorized*. Any unauthorized killing is murder. Therefore, God authorized capital punishment *by man* for the crime of murder because it is the only just payment which can be made for another human life.

Nationalism based upon linguistic differences, leading eventually to national divisions, was set in motion sometime during the rise of Babel, or Babylon. As fallen mankind exercised its collective drives apart from God, ungodly ambitions began to conflict with God's wishes. The Lord, therefore, graciously confused their language which sent them off in subgroups resulting in the culturally diverse societies we still see today.

In contrast to the Babylonian plan, God

selects a man named Abram to provide a different type of security. The first Babylonians wanted to make a name for themselves. However, God promised Abram that He would make his name great, and eventually use him to bring about universal blessing. The operation of these divine institutions and the fulfillment of this Abrahamic covenant, essentially comprise the organizational focus for the rest of the Bible. The reality of both the nation of Israel and the universal church are fulfilled elements of God's promise to Abraham. Furthermore, the notion of God's redemptive plan is clarified.

Once again I wish to stress that these six ordinances were established by God from the earliest periods of human history. They are universal, permanent and manifest today. They existed before the Mosaic Law and have been relevant since that time. Furthermore, each of these institutions is governed by principles which are further disclosed throughout the Holy Scriptures. Perhaps Christians should spend more time concentrating on the proper operations of these Biblical institutions when dealing with our sick and deteriorating culture.

Antichristianity

If the following divine institutions are permanent fixtures within creation prior to Abraham, then any contrary practices or efforts to distort or subvert these ordinances would constitute a platform of antichristianity. For instance, note the following contrasts with each institution:

1. Work.....1. Sloth, Debt, Slavery, Socialism
2. Marriage2. Divorce, Polygamy, Adultery
3. Family.....3. Murder, Abortion, Infanticide

4. Government ... 4. Anarchy, Tyranny, Statism
5. Nationalism.... 5. Globalism, Communism
6. Israel/Church.. 6. Anti-Semitism, Antichristianity

On this basis, it becomes easier to see why our world is in trouble in the way that it is. Once we understand that the principles which support these divine institutions are ingrained within the fabric of our created order (and not merely someone's religious or ethical viewpoints), then the cause and effect destruction of society becomes clear when these institutions are violated. Furthermore, those bent on subverting human societies might *systematically* encourage such wickedness in order to corrupt and weaken a nation making it ripe for conquest. Marxism is a good twentieth century example of such a systematic approach.

However, we did not need to wait for the twentieth century for the methodologies used in manipulating mankind. In the book of Daniel, God revealed four great Gentile empires which would rule over Israel and, eventually, most of civilization. These four empires (Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome) may be seen to illustrate a progressive, experimental program in subduing and encouraging mankind toward a humanistic internationalism which will ultimately result in a global antichristianity.

Although much could be said about the glories, achievements, and legacies of these cultures (or empires), some major features are listed which contributed to a progressive and comprehensive methodology which would be exercised by future antichrists.

Babylon - money, usury, and deficit financing

Medo-Persia - bureaucratic regulation and control

Greece - humanistic philosophy, rationalism

Rome - statism and legal oppression

When these features are combined with the goal of systematically undermining the divine institutions, then our nation and our world will succumb to the worst form of tyranny that has ever existed in the history of mankind. Worst of all, is that such tyranny will be wholly antichristian in nature.

As Christians, we are not merely obligated to preach the good news of salvation within a platonic pietism indifferent to God's created order. Our obligation extends to the transmission of the whole council of God - which is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness. Such training is necessary so that the man of God might be mature and thoroughly prepared for *every* good work. For men this would logically imply a mature operation as employees or employers, husbands and parents, as citizens, and as community or national leaders, as well as faithful stewards of the Word of God. As men of truth, Christians must stand against evil, *universally*, as well as proclaim the gospel, *universally*. Our failure to do so will result in personal compromise as well as a culture consumed by evil for ourselves and for our posterity.

This pamphlet is a summary of major points from *Origins of Destiny: The Heritage of Nations*. The summary booklet for this work may be found online at Tiny.cc/OriginsBooklet