

Seven Treatises

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1. Origins of Destiny (PSAs for KWBF)

A Brief Socioeconomic and Political Treatise on the Bible

I. A Tale of Two Cultures

By S. G. Smith

On several occasions I have briefly referred to *two overarching worldviews*. My presentation generally emphasizes three primary features reflecting the nature of God, man, and the universe. Of course, these worldviews are actually religious philosophies. I contend that people, who have arrived at living *beyond* mere fundamental survival are, aggressively or inadvertently, moving toward one of these philosophic positions.

The first promotes the central organizing principle governing the whole of reality is the existence and continual operation of an *infinite, personal Creator*. The alternative, diametric to the first, is what I refer to as *evolutionary, humanistic pantheism*. We shall briefly examine each contrasting feature and some of the obvious consequences.

Evolution versus Creation

Prior to the 19th century the vast majority of peoples believed that the origin for all of reality and all of life rested firmly in the hands of a transcendent God, or gods. To be sure, there were, no doubt, religious philosophies that deviated or opposed such ideas; but these were clearly in a minority. Despite how this theism or polytheism was modified during the history of mankind, it was clear that by the 19th century the notion of a transcendent, supernatural Creator was being replaced by blind, naturalistic processes. Of course, the origin of any cosmic material for processing itself had to be eventually accounted for. Therefore, such supporting theories (i.e., Natural Selection, Big Bang Theory, etc.), were incorporated into an overall *so-called* “scientific worldview”, which we generally refer to as *evolution*.

Finite Man versus an Infinite Creator

As people began to learn more through the centuries, they became to rely on *their knowledge*, or *science* (Lat. scio, scire), and *their* sophisticated understanding of how the world operated. As theism was essentially replaced by deism, and deism progressively replaced by naturalism, our humanistic hubris seemed inevitable in its development. This, of course, was not *logically* necessary in the historical flow of such ideas, but the fallen nature of man apparently predisposes us to such arrogance. Indeed, other ancient cultures possessed a variety of scientific, philosophic and religious mixtures, which tempered the development of a complete humanistic worldview. Yet by the time of the European Enlightenment, the new mantra of “*man as the measure of all things*” became the cry of the Renaissance, which has progressively led us toward the humanistic idolatry we experience today.

Sadly, whether we speak with regard to the knowledge content....from merely two people.....or two *million* people, our knowledge base is always *finite*. Therefore, we may still find ourselves insufficiently informed *and wrong* despite the number of finite human contributions made to our store of knowledge. Revelation provided from an infinite, personal Creator suffers

from no such philosophic restrictions.

The Personal and the Impersonal

A logical extension of an evolutionary worldview would suggest that if there was no *personal* God which designed, created, or maintains the universe, then the *universe must somehow essentially exist as its own god*, so to speak. A self-contained universe, which somehow became manifested as the current material cosmos, is able to continually transform itself throughout time and, somehow, even randomly produce *what we know as life*. We have been told, that all we sense and experience is presumably the result of impersonal forces within the fabric of an impersonal universe. This is **pantheism**,.....where ***all***, or ***everything which exists, is god***. The primary danger is that if there is no moral accountability (no *personal* absolute right or wrong) then we would be free of any *personal* judgment from some infinite, personal Creator. How liberating! It's open season for everything,.....***even evil***.

Analysis and Comparisons

The Bible clearly presents the eternal reality of an infinite, personal Creator. Man was made in (or modeled after) the image of God and assigned to serve and honor God while subduing the earth. It was evident to early natural philosophers of Europe, during their initial scientific stirrings, that a *rational* God had created a *rational* universe which *could be understood* by a *rational* creature such as man. This principle was foundational for the scientific revolution. Even Islamic science and society, well before the European enlightenment, was being moved in the direction of cultural sophistication as long as its primary focus was in honoring an infinite Creator.

Consequently evolution, humanism, and pantheism merely represent half truths at best. Even Alfred Russell Wallace *differed* from Charles Darwin in any power of natural selection to account for *every* feature of organic life. Humanism, at least, recognizes the profundity of a humanity consistent with man's Biblical origins. However, in its idolatrous exaltation of *man as the measure of all things*, it fails to grasp the significance and meaning regarding the fact that in our current state, man *dies*. Finally, although pantheism suggests a universe governed by amoral or impersonal forces, what kind of principles or forces account for the obvious existence of *personality* or moral preferences. These certainly seem to be beyond the laws of physics or chemistry. Perhaps this is why we actually have a word for such phenomena: **metaphysics**. Oh my, and that just happens to be what most religions are all about!

II. The Divine Institutions

There is a great deal of history that precedes the *personal* histories of either Moses or national Israel. This would be called the book of Genesis. In fact, if you consider the history of mankind to be on the order of about 6000 years, what is recorded in Genesis would represent approximately 40% of human history. This is why Genesis is such a powerful, controversial, and highly contested account, since it authoritatively demands our attention concerning the divine intentions associated with our social organizations. The elements of these mandates or covenants, along with examples of associated corruptions, are listed as follows:

Divine Institutions vs. Godless Alternatives

I. Work, Labor, Capital
(Gen. 1:26, 28; 2:15)

II. Marriage
(Gen. 1:28; 2:22-24)

III. Family
(Gen. 1:26-28)

I. Sloth, Slavery, Usury
(Gen. 3:6 →)

II. Divorce, Sodomy, Polygamy
(Gen.4:19 →)

III. Murder, Abortion, Racism
(Gen. 4:8, 23 →)

-----AFTER THE NOAHIC FLOOD-----

IV. Government
(Gen. 9:6)

V. Nationalism
(Gen. 11:7-9)

VI. Israel/Church
(Gen.12:1-8→)

IV. Anarchy, Tyranny, Statism
(Gen. 4 & 6 →)

V. Internationalism
(Gen. 11:1-6 →)

VI. Antichristianity, Antisemitism
(Gen.11→)

Work (or Service), Marriage and Family are summarized in Gen. 1:26-28 from the beginning, before the Fall of Man. These were clearly God's creative foundation for human development. Following the Fall, these first three mandates, or institutions, began to unravel in Genesis 4 with the murder of Cain, the rise of urbanization, and the introduction of polygamy. As this contamination developed, the judgment of the Noahic Flood was deemed necessary and the original creation mandates were ultimately altered and amended. Our relationship with animals was impacted and universal human government was established to initiate capital punishment for murder. As the human population expanded, an unfortunate cultural idolatry began to develop on the plain of Shinar. God deemed it necessary to fragment humanity into different language groups resulting in national distinctives. Following this judgement, God elects a man named Abram, renamed Abraham, to fulfill His creative plan as opposed to the misguided plan at Babel.

Our lives revolve around these creation mandates, or divine institutions, despite who we think we are, or regardless of our national origin. This list establishes the universal framework for all the nations of the earth since the call of Abraham. The seminal foundation for human government, since Noah, was established for *perpetual* generations, which was modified and ultimately applied to separate nationalities since Babel. Abraham was called out to be representative of God's divine example among men and nations. Israel was the first *national* manifestation of this covenant, but eventually the Church of Jesus Christ would provide an *international* testimony of God's redemptive will towards all mankind. As this story unfolds through the Bible, the perfect plan of God is being progressively revealed throughout history.

III. Abraham, the Origin of Israel and the Church

From the book of Genesis, prior to the election of Abram (or Abraham), the world had come together as a unified people with one language. From the urbanization scheme of Cain to this tower of Babel program, an idolatrous, humanistic plan of social organization had been progressively developing. Even after the flood, God reaffirmed that he wanted mankind to spread across the face of the earth in order to fill it. Instead, this people of one language discovered a plain in the *land of Shinar*, where they would work to build their own self-assured *blessing*.....a great city and tower reaching into heaven. Finally, instead of calling upon the *name of the Lord*, these men and women

desired to make a ***name for themselves***.....the crowning achievement of their new humanistic religion. God comes down and disrupts their communications creating a linguistic separation among the people to stop the development of their social idolatry. Their pristine language is broken and the people divide into their respective language groups (providing for national distinctives) and begin to spread across the earth as God originally intended.

Sometime, after this event, God chose Abraham to be the wellspring for the development of a unique *nation* and unique *plan*. It seems ironic that the same elements at Babel crop up in this Abrahamic Covenant. God will direct Abraham to a special ***land***, called *Canaan*. God will use Abraham to be a ***blessing to all the families of the earth***; and God will make Abraham's ***name great***. These programs emphasized *a land, a blessing, and an exalted name*, but the plan at Babel under Nimrod was rejected. The will of God would be achieved through a man, and his family line, who we know as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the forebears of Israel. Despite a rather colorful and complicated history, Israel has *returned as a nation to this same land today* after almost 2000 years. Just think about that.....

IV. Moses and National Israel

As history unfolds beyond the age of the Patriarchs, the nation Israel was intended to stand in sharp contrast to the socio-economic and political organization of Gentile nations. The following examples provide a glimpse into the mind of God as He establishes a nation, which even calls us to remembrance of His original creative plan in the first chapter of Genesis.

<u>Israel</u>	<u>Gentile</u>
1. Divine Law (system of law) Ex 20+ Deut 5+	1. Systems of Men
2. Agrarian Emphasis Num 26; 33:54 Josh 13-22	2. Urban Emphasis
3. Private Property Josh 13-22 I Kings 21	3. Collective Property
4. Emphasis on Family Num 26 Josh 13-21	4. Emphasis on State
5. Family Inheritance Num 16-36 Josh 13-24	5. State (Public) Domain
6. Civilian Execution/Militia Lev 20,24	6. Professional Military
7. Fixed Tax (Tithe) Lev 27; Num 18; Deut. 12,14	7. Arbitrary Taxation

As tabulated above, I will simply note few significant distinctions between the original plan for national Israel versus the general operation of Gentile nations. Perhaps, as it is often cited, the original "system of law versus a system of men" really alluded to the *system of Divine Law under God* versus any *secular, humanistic system of men*. For Israel, there was an obvious agrarian emphasis, associated with *private, family property* and *inheritance*. This was in opposition to any growing urban development program with its emphasis on the state, or collective, or property controlled by central government management. The Judges of Israel, who were in effect prime

ministers, called to people to engage as citizen soldiers when any national threat to the security of Israel arose. This naturally followed since the people were already disposed to participate in the public execution of any member who violated the Law of God deserving capital punishment. Finally, a fixed tax, or tithe (dependent on actual production) was to adequately provide for the operation of the Judge and priesthood as well as welfare for fatherless widows and perhaps even sojourners. *Think* about that in contrast to today's inflationary tax structure....well, *don't think* about it too long....lest you become embittered.

Under the Judges of Israel this plan stood for a few hundred years in stark contrast to the Gentile nations, whose kings tended to mimic God in their administrative details. Despite the serious inconsistencies and rebellious episodes of Israel during the time of the Judges, the nation persisted under this divinely established system of government. Sadly, when the nation Israel desired to have a ***king like all the other nations***, the integrity of their culture of *freedom under God's Law* began to suffer from the *idolatrous tyranny of men*. Our early American forefathers well understood this history and its political implications. Today, without the Bible in our schools, *we have forgotten this*.

V. Israel's Defection from God

From the wilderness wanderings under Moses to the conquest of Canaan under Joshua, Israel finally became established in the land which God promised to Abraham and his descendants. Conflicts would still arise and the book of Judges does not exactly reflect that utopian peace one might hope for. Nevertheless, Israel was firmly established as God's nation, bearing God's laws, in order to honor God as a unique nation distinct from the Gentiles.

Israel, ruled by God as king, under God's Law, was to be governed by divinely appointed prime ministers referred to as Judges (Moses being the first). The land of Canaan, occupied by Israel, was subdivided according to families or tribes. Wealth was already distributed amongst the tribes, and the family elders provided a more personal regulatory structure without the need of professional political bureaucracies.

Tragically, in the process of time, the people became progressively discontent with this system as well as Samuel's sons. The people could have simply appealed to Samuel to ask God to appoint another *judge*. However, that was *not* what transpired. The people wanted ***a king like all the other nations***. Suffice it to say, God was exceedingly angry with Israel. This attitude with respect to preferring a fallen, human king would plague Israel for the remainder of its history. Even before Pontius Pilate,.....during the trial of Jesus the true king and Messiah,.....after centuries under the Gentile imperialism, the people cried out "We have no king but Caesar." Would they ever learn?

Have Gentiles done any better than Israel as we systematically look to the governance of fallen men to solve all of our problems? Are the nations of the world drawing closer to God these days, or are we being progressively led toward an international system run by a consortium of central elites attempting to replace the infinite, personal Creator. Is this not ***global*** idolatry? You be the judge....or perhaps I should really ask, "***Who is your king?***"

VI. David & the Solomonic Empire

Although Israel was firmly established as God's nation, under the administration of a central

Judge with the associated priesthood, Israel.....in a period of spiritual weakness,.... came *to desire a king like all the other nations*. Fortunately, our merciful God accommodated this deviation and used it to ultimately fulfill His will. Although the *appointment* of Saul proved to be a major *disappointment*, king David was a man after God's own heart. Although David unfortunately exposed his own set of moral failures, he was awarded with an *eternal* dynasty. His seed would rule over the nation of Israel forever.

Solomon, the first son of David, began his legendary reign with that humble appeal to God for wisdom. God bountifully granted his request, and Solomon eventually enjoyed an unparalleled international influence with all the other kings of the earth because of his great wisdom and superior socio-economic and political administration. He was truly the philosophical King of kings of the ancient world, and the wisdom of God's Word was no doubt flowing from Israel to all parts of the earth. Sadly, Solomon apparently adopted the political convention of intermarriage with other cultures by receiving a multitude of wives and concubines (which was contrary to God's word concerning Israel). This compromise tragically opened the door to an array of idolatrous practices and the eventual political division under his son Rehoboam.

Fortunately, another son of David would arise, who would be the last in the Davidic line to ultimately reign over Israel and the whole earth. King Solomon exerted great influence over the world, but in Ecclesiastes he affirms the vanity of his efforts because of the reality of Death. Solomon, the first son of David, *mourned* the reality of death,but Jesus Christ, the last son of David, *conquered* death. Therefore, Christ will reign as King of kings and Lord of lords *forever!*

VII. Daniel's Four Empires **and the Legacy of Solomon**

Since the time of what has been referred to as the Babylonian Captivity, Israel became subjected to four great Gentile empires which have historically impacted the socio-economic and political development of future nations. From the time that Israel desired a *king like all the other nations*, the dispersion of the people among these Gentile powers, no doubt, gave them a deeper appreciation for their freedoms under the Mosaic Law. Their idolatrous affection for fallen human kings would finally start to break.

So, what specifically did Israel experience during approximately 600 years of Gentile imperialism? From the following diagram, the Mesopotamian empire of Babylon was known for its unique deficit financing, foundational for modern banking. Additionally, every woman young or old was required to participate in temple prostitution once in her life for the economic prosperity of the nation. Medo-Persia was governed by an extensive political bureaucracy regulating, licensing, or permitting a variety of activities throughout their multicultural expanse from India into North Africa and adjacent to Europe. Greece was known for its philosophic rationalism in interpreting the world as well as affairs of state. Rome provided the crowning impact of military statism; the state became supreme and the emperor essentially ruled as a god. Israel finally got more than they bargained for. They eventually became subjected to the *oppressive kings* of Gentile nations.

Does any of this sound familiar to you? Are you perhaps burdened with debt, frustrated with bureaucratic hurdles, or finding our so-called humanistic rationalism has become somewhat *irrational* as of late? I think this should sound currently familiar to many.

More importantly though, what do YOU think? Are you looking forward to a new and improved humanistic global government offered by the UN and the WEF.....or will such an agenda of global governance ultimately prove to be a *global tyranny* conceived in *global idolatry*? You be the judge!

Mystery of Iniquity
(The Empires of Daniel)

Babylon	-	Economic Manipulation
Regulation of economic behavior through debt and usury (foundation of modern banking); Temple prostitution was mandated for females for economic reasons. As debt increases private property (and private initiative) is lost.		
Medo/Persia	-	Bureaucratic Regulation
Extensive multicultural empire leading to greater divisions in political management; Relied on bureaucratic licensing, permitting, fee structures, etc. over daily activities to control various cultures.		
Greece	-	Humanistic Philosophy
Cultural shift toward a more secular view of life and socio-political interaction based on reason. Reason is valuable but it should be based on divine propositions, not finite human knowledge.		
Rome	-	Military Statism
All glory and authority rests on the power of the state; the state, or imperial agent, becomes God. Force is the operative principle: Might makes Right.		

In light of these ancient observations, consider the progression of this influence in recent 20th century America:

Babylonian phase	1913	Federal Reserve System and Income Tax (16th amendment)
Medo-Persian phase	1933	New Deal Political Bureaucracy
Greek phase	1962-3	Secular Humanism replaces prayer and the Bible in schools
Roman phase	2001	911 and the subsequent Patriot Act

Note how well these seem to correlate with the cultural features of Daniel’s ancient empires. Have other countries in the West undergone similar transformations in their social order with central banking, extensive bureaucracies, and the like? Similar to Prof. Carroll Quigley’s pattern of economic transformations discussed in *Tragedy and Hope*, we can see much deeper socio-economic and political transitions, from Babel to Babylon to Rome, impacting our modern *global* culture in a variety of ways.

Now apart from the political situations occurring throughout this period, there is an interesting development with respect to religions, or religious philosophies. In the chart below notice the approximate dates for this set of ancient world religions. These may vary somewhat today, but they were selected from “pre-internet” encyclopedias.

Zoroastrianism*	~ 600 BC
Jainism	~ 600-530 BC
Confucianism	~ 550-500 BC
Buddhism	~ 550-500 BC
Shinto	~ 500 BC
Taoism	~ 500-300 BC

*some scholars suggest Zoroaster lived much earlier, but his religious ideas perhaps only gained preeminence during the time of the Persian empire.

Although exact dates are generally never historically certain, it is apparent something of significance was perhaps going on from about 600-500BC. Like the Cambrian explosion in geology, which was originally considered a refutation of Darwinian gradualism and a confirmation of Flood Geology, something as catastrophic as Noah's flood occurred somewhere in the timeframe around 600BC or so. Could this signal event have been the final judgment and dispersion of the nation of Israel around 586 BC?

The light of the world, which was *glimpsed* during the inception of the Solomonic empire and the ancient wisdom of God's Word flowing freely throughout the nations, was extinguished. In the wake of this tragedy, Gentile sages were groping in darkness to recover the fading wisdom once transmitted through Solomon to all the kings of the earth. Even secular scholars, or anyone casually familiar with the Analects of Confucius, the Tao of Lao Tzu, or the life of Siddhartha, cannot escape the apparent similarities to numerous wisdom observations recorded in Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. Some might add that the philosophic stirrings of the pre-scientific era in Greece was stimulated by a fearful loss of such accumulated ancient wisdom. Therefore, in spite of many inconsistencies and distortions, the hope of the Gentiles to find a *guiding light* that would restore the preeminence of the imperial wisdom from the Solomonic era remained. That hope continued until some very wise men, known as Magi, discerned that the time of restoration had finally come.

VIII. The Revelation of Christ

The prophetic puzzle pieces from the Old Testament are put together within the New Testament record concerning the revelation of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. If you recall the Divine Institutions from Genesis, it is Christ alone who perfectly fulfills the will of the Father for each of these divine mandates or covenants.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| I. Work/Service | Jesus became the only perfect, responsible servant of the Father |
| II. Marriage | Jesus became the head of the Church, known as the bride of Christ |
| III. Family | Jesus, our first-born brother, made us children of God |
| IV. Government | As stated in Isaiah, the government <i>will</i> be upon His shoulders |
| V. Nationalism | Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords over all the nations |
| VI. Abraham | Christ is a direct descendent of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David;
He is the Messiah of Israel as well as head of the Church |

VII. Jesus Christ is the All in All, the Alpha and Omega, the Everlasting Father.

He will rule from Israel, as the Son of David, and blesses all the families of the Gentile nations. He is *THE Prophet, High Priest, and King* over the entire universe.

It cannot be emphasized enough that Jesus Christ fulfilled His Messianic duty as a man. He made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant and came in the likeness of men. From Biblical history, the weakness of fallen humanity is clearly represented in both Jew and Gentile alike. Jesus Christ alone perfectly satisfied the will of the father in His own humanitya humanity made like sinful men *yet without sin*. He alone has reversed the destiny of our depraved humanity through His perfect *human* obedience. He paid the price in His own human blood to satisfy the judicial curse born by all of Adamic humanity, so that we might be born again into a new humanity having everlasting life. This is the gift and the gospel of God. Cry out to Him in your need; He is waiting.

2. From the Axial Age to American Exceptionalism

From Solomon to the Enlightenment

I. The Divine Mandates

The Universal Covenants or Institutions

The covenant foundations of Biblical History are anchored in what has been referred to as the Divine Institutions, or Genesis Mandates, listed as follows:

1. Work Gen. 1:28; 2:15
2. Marriage..... Gen. 1.28, 2:18
3. Family..... Gen. 1: 28

The Fall ----- The Flood

4. Government..... Gen. 9:6
5. Nationalism..... Gen. 11:7-8
6. Israel/Church..... Gen. 12:1-3

The first three provide the elements of the Adamic Covenant. Following the Noahic Flood, the fourth institution was the inauguration of universal human government. The fifth served as a preservative, or *social modification* of this governance under the Noahic Covenant, which divided humanity into separate linguistic groups resulting in the development of nations. Finally, in contrast to the corruption which was occurring at Babel, God selects Abram (Abraham) to be the foundation for both the eventual nation of Israel and its international commonwealth known as the Church.

Universal Corruption

Although regarded by some sort of parabolic myth, the first twelve chapters of Genesis set the stage for the triumph, turmoil, and treachery associated with humanity since the beginning. Listed below are a few of the corruptions which transpired in association with what God intended for good for the sake of the overall human community

1. Work..... 1. Sloth, Debt, Slavery
2. Marriage 2. Divorce, Adultery, Sodomy
3. Family.....3. Murder, Abortion, Genocide
4. Government.....4. Anarchy, Tyranny, Statism
5. Nationalism.....5. Globalism, Communism
6. Israel/Church.....6. Anti-Semitism, Antichristianity

By Genesis 12, God has selected a man, Abraham, to establish two examples for the other nations and provide redemption for the entire family of man. The first example occurs through the protracted rise and unfortunate fall of national Israel. The final example occurs with the revelation of His Divine Son as the seed of Abraham to bless all the families of the earth. We must now examine and compare the distinction between what was intended on the plain of Shinar with Abraham and the promise land of Caanan.

II. Israel vs Babylon

Abraham vs Nimrod

While the ancient post diluvian people were still one (being of one language), they found a land in the plain of Shinar, desired to make a name for themselves, and under the leadership of Nimrod, sought to become their own blessing through building a city and a tower which would reach into the heavens. They were not seeking any blessing through calling upon the name of the Lord; rather they would craft their own idolatrous civilization through their own human strength. The reader has no doubt heard that God elected to halt their program through confusing their language and dividing the people into separate groups so they would spread throughout the earth which God had originally intended.

Following this historical episode, God elects a man named Abram (eventually Abraham) and says a) He will show him a land, (b) God will make his name great, and (c) he will become a blessing to all the families of the earth. The first installment of this promise is realized centuries later, through Moses and others, in the establishment of Israel as a nation in the land of Caanan.

Israel under Judges

The initial intention of God in the establishment of a social order for Israel may be seen in the following table. The Judge served as prime minister who bore the civic responsibilities in executing God's will. The people in their families *actually owned* the nation.

<u>Israel</u>	<u>Gentiles</u>
1. Divine Law (system of law) Ex 20+ Deut 5+	1. Systems of Men
2. Agrarian Emphasis Num 26; 33:54 Josh 13-22	2. Urban Emphasis
3. Private Property Josh 13-22 I Kings 21	3. Collective Property
4. Emphasis on Family Num 26 Josh 13-21	4. Emphasis on State
5. Family Inheritance Num 16-36 Josh 13-24	5. State (Public) Domain
6. Civilian Execution/Militia Lev 20,24	6. Professional Military
7. Fixed Tax (Tithe) Lev 27; Num 18; Deut 12,14	7. Arbitrary Taxation

It is easy to see that the Family, as in the Garden of Eden, was the preeminent institution through which service and wealth was to be realized. Unlike what was transpiring in other city states in the ancient world, Israel was to be a *unique example* of how God was working to provide for fallen humanity despite the hardships resulting from the Fall.

For whatever reason, eventually the people of Israel grew weary of this divine plan, and their respective responsibilities, and requested Samuel to “*make us a king like all the other nations*”.

This was a grave sin on Israel’s part and it has had its impact on the rest of human history.

Israel under Kings

In briefest summary, suffice it to say that Israel suffered as much, if not more, than it ever was being blessed through the antics, misadventures, or spiritual rebellion of its kings. The appointment of Saul proved to be a disappointment, David eventually exposed his own moral failures, and despite the international achievement of Israel’s imperial status under Solomon, Israel continually suffered under the weight of its idolatrous affections (like all the other nations).

Nevertheless, the true King of the Universe has always been able to accommodate the failure of fallen humanity to serve His purpose. Ultimately, His promise of a Davidic dynasty would serve His greater purposes, through Solomon (the first son of David to rule as king) and the last son of David who would one day become the King of Israel and ruler of the entire world.

III. The Legacy of Solomon and Daniel

The Solomonic Empire and the Axial Age

Although I do not generally hear it expressed in many pulpits, Israel essentially achieved *international, imperial status* under king Solomon. I Kings 4 and 2 Chr 9 states that *all the kings of the earth came to hear the wisdom of Solomon*. Much tribute flowed into the kingdom of Solomon from foreign civilizations. There should be little doubt that this situation resulted in a tremendous influence of global proportions.

It is clear enough in the Bible that following the death of Solomon, and the fragmentation and decline of Israel, that Gentile empires would eventually dominate the nation of Israel and much of world history beginning with the Babylonian Captivity. Generally speaking, most Christians often think of this as the Time of the Gentiles. However, recently I was introduced to a more secular orientation for this overall ancient transition known as “The Axial Age” (~ 800-200BC), an expression coined by existentialist philosopher Karl Jaspers. It was a period when personal consciousness and the individual “self” became emphasized. After a brief look into of the historical characterization of this age, I have yet to find anyone who has concluded that this so-called Axial Age *was actually triggered by Solomon’s global influence*. On the contrary, a number of scholars seem pleased to simply view this as an amazing *transformation*, or *mutation*, associated with some kind of evolutionary shift in the development of human consciousness, as *logos* replaced *mythos*.

I have seen this Axial Age as being represented to have been between 900 or 800BC to around 300 or 200BC. Aside from the rise of the Gentile empires recorded in Daniel, many ancient religious philosophies/traditions developed toward the center of this period. Although exact dates are rather uncertain, here is a suggestive list of religious philosophies and their associated dates:

Zoroastrianism*	600 BC
Jainism	600-530 BC
Confucianism	550-500 BC
Buddhism	550-500 BC
Shinto	500 BC
Taoism	500-300 BC

* Some scholars suggest Zoroaster lived much earlier, but his religious ideas perhaps only gained preeminence during the time of the Medo-Persian empire.

What is of particular interest is that around 600-500BC something happened which perhaps was the *real axis* associated with the overall Axial Age. What historic event was prominent at this time in history? Was it not the final conquest and dispersion of the Jewish nation known as the Babylonian Captivity (usually dated around 585 BC)? I personally believe that the development of these religious traditions or philosophies expressed a *spiritual groping* throughout the Gentile world *in reaction* to the loss of international glory that once flowed from the preeminence of the Solomonic empire and the wisdom of God's Word prior to this period in history.

Daniel and the Time of the Gentiles

The continued rebelliousness and idolatrous affections of both Israel and Judah resulted in what has been referred to as the Babylonian Captivity. Short of any absolute annihilation of any society (think Sodom and Gomorrah), the final judgement of God upon a nation is to disperse its citizens, who are either destined to die or to be absorbed within a foreign power under a different culture. Such was the case of Daniel and his friends who were apparently raised as young teens within the system of Babylonian knowledge and culture. Fortunately, they had already learned and retained enough divine wisdom to resist the syncretism encouraged by their Babylonian captors.

Daniel and his friends ultimately become significant leaders and opinion shapers within the Babylonian and Medo-Persian empires. They provided the light from the Torah and Solomonic wisdom which served as a witness and a preservative influence for these Gentile civilizations.

VI. The Revelation of Jesus the Messiah

I have great confidence that that the reader has most likely heard about the person of Jesus Christ in human history. Despite what *you* may think, permit me to focus on what transpired around two thousand years ago when the final son of David had come to establish His rule in Israel at that time. Although many of the people recognized Him as Messiah, they missed the spiritual significance of His coming. Roman bondage may have seemed as humiliating as slavery in Egypt, but Jesus came to resolve a more fundamental problem. The people were looking for a Messianic strong man who would deliver them from Roman oppression. They failed to see the more fundamental importance of a Savior who sought to deliver them from *sin and death*. Although tragic, Egypt and Rome in their respective eras were just temporary problems at their worst. Death is an eternal problem.

Christ or Caesar

Unfortunately, as was mentioned earlier, Israel again made a tragic declaration. As the people under Samuel had wanted a king like all the other nations, they openly denied their Messiah and declared to Pilot, "We have no king but Caesar". After centuries of being subjected to the rule of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome, the core tendency toward some form of political idolatry was apparently still embedded within the hearts and minds of many Israelites.

As the history of ancient Israel comes to a close by 70 AD after rejecting their Messiah (who indeed had come in the name of the Lord), let us now examine how the Gentiles have received the Savior of the World and the wisdom of the Bible. Have the Gentiles done any better, or do we manifest the same idolatrous tendencies as was seen in the nation of Israel?

V. The Decline of Rome and the Dark Ages

Cultural Fragmentation and the Corporatization of the Church

The loss of Israel was a unique cultural decline spiritually, but the birth of the Church and the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit was a new beginning for mankind in world history. Although Rome was still the preeminent world power it would become divided into East and West factions. How was this new force of Christianity to be understood *politically* in a world that was becoming more unstable? Although Israel essentially came to an abrupt end with the destruction of the Jewish temple, Rome sputtered along for a few centuries longer until the Church of Christ was absorbed into Roman culture as the new state religion. After an extensive period of Roman persecution, emperor Constantine essentially adopted the Christian Church which became the central organizing *political* framework for Roman society. Although this could be seen as a great blessing due to the end of centuries long persecution, a more complex cultural problem of the Church/State relationship was born. This somewhat confusing shift in distinction for determining the respective roles of these two divine institutions is still with us today.

With the freedom from persecution enjoyed by the Church under Constantine, there was a significant degree of growth and improvement. Although many may not agree, the Council of Nicaea and the establishment of a New Testament canon were advancements in theological unity for Christians. Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit and the mission of the Church was to save and redeem *individual people*. The cultural fallout from such activity should, no doubt, result in a positive impact upon society. However, the redeeming work of the Spirit cannot be *institutionalized* merely to satisfy some politically humanistic social order, any more than the Law of Moses was able to spiritually regenerate fallen humanity. European Christendom, which attempted to unify Church and State, somewhat analogous to an Islamic Caliphate, ultimately depreciated the unique spiritual effectiveness of both. Church and State are *divine institutions* established by God *for their respective roles* in serving *His* will. Since the death and resurrection of Christ, these institutions were to mutually coexist in any empire or national concern in order to serve *God's purposes* within human history among those who personally turned to Him. Of course, when *humility before God* is diminished within a culture (for whatever reasons) then both Church and State, as well as the people, will understandably suffer.

The Darkness of the Dark Ages

Some humanist scholars may attribute the so-called Dark Ages to a weakness or deficiency of Christian faith and its mythical worldview. Others such as the late Francis Schaeffer have worked to show that the so-called Dark Ages of Europe were not as intellectually bereft as we are often led to believe. Although European culture had lost much from the fall of the Roman empire, other forces were already at work prior to the dawn of medieval Europe (i.e. moral debauchery of Roman society, intrusion of foreign barbarians, decline of economic and educational resources from the classical world) which were adversely impacting the cultural integrity of the former empire. It is more likely that the Church, despite many severe inconsistencies, was actually a force that dimly preserved learning and culture, within monasteries or other remote Christian communities, which would survive to eventually flower and contribute to a *second axial age* centered in the West. Much had been lost culturally speaking, but a technological innovation would soon catapult the Word of God throughout Europe.

VI. Transmission of Classical Wisdom and the Gutenberg Bible

The Role of Human Technology

Anyone today who would attempt to deny that industrial or technological advancement has any significant impact on culture or society would immediately be seen as either a liar or a fool. In fact, many people are reeling from the rapidity of our current technological innovations, and may wonder if these should necessarily be considered to be an improvement for our human condition.

Despite various opinions as to how one might feel about it, everything from the printing press to the internet has made tremendous cultural impacts worldwide. In simply focusing on the printing press during, this single advancement was the technological engine which enabled the light of learning to shine once again in the so-called darkness of medieval Europe. Additionally, the light of the gospel from the Word of God directly would be made available all across the continent.

Setting the Stage for a New Axial Age

Similar to the seminal power of Solomonic wisdom, which perhaps helped initiate the first axial age, the proliferation of the Bible, as we know it, would provide a more direct form of divine wisdom which would again change culture and society. The spiritual power of God's truth in the hands of so-called common people led to the uncommon, and unexpected, transformation of Europe which would move well beyond its border. For better or worse (depending on your preferred perspective), European powers would dominate subsequent centuries of human culture across the globe. The light of God's Word was again moving throughout the world.

VII. The Renaissance, Reformation, Enlightenment and Modernity

The Secular and The Sacred (Renaissance and Reformation)

The glory of humanist man is forever flaunted due the Italian Renaissance. Indeed, Man, who was made after the image of God, began to expose and develop his privileged position within God's creation. Slowly but surely, as in earlier centuries, social and economic advancements, accompanied by architectural and technological innovations, began to stir and the so-called darkness of the Dark Ages was dispelled as Europe was becoming "*born again*" as Renaissance implies.

Although a bit later, the Reformation in Germany, following the reprinting of Guttenberg's Bible accelerated the stirrings of the Renaissance and placed the Word of God in the hands of many more people. The further translation and transmission of the Bible in the common languages of national cultures served to unify Europe and ultimately impacted the rest of the world. Any scientific revolution would now have a firm foundation in the fact that a *rational* God had created a *rational* universe to be overseen by a *rational* creature made after the image of God.

The Enlightenment

Following the developments from the Renaissance and Reformation, an age referred to as the Enlightenment arose which inherited the success of the previous periods. It is often viewed as an age representing the autonomous success of humanist man, who no longer had a need for any metaphysical crutch from either mysticism or religion. These were replaced by logic and a philosophies guided by human reason. The scientific revolution, perhaps the crowning achievement

of the enlightenment, accelerated human knowledge from the 17th to 20th century. Additionally, the subsequent industrial revolution during the 19th century also presented much of mankind with enhanced material blessings.

Nevertheless, in the advancement of human knowledge measured in terms of our *material* progress, was something being lost *spiritually*? This question is still being asked today and the side effects of our so-called progress remains a central concern.

American Exceptionalism

Since 2020, many Americans have demonstrated that they are confused about the heritage of our nation. Should we look to 1607 or imagine that the 1619 project is really central to the meaning of America. Some might suggest that our revolution of 1776 was the beginning of our turning point of our exceptionalism, while others would point to 1789 with our constitution as the firmer foundation. Some, like myself, would suspect that the Great Awakening of 1730s was even more foundational in our cultural transition than these last two events mentioned. Some might look to a secular view of the scientific revolution as the primary ground which would provide the rational basis for our cultural advancement. However, I would suggest that the earlier spiritual and philosophic foundations in Europe and America, resulted in the broader cultural commitment to the reality that a rational God had created a rational universe. Rational humanity has learned how to exploit this rational order to obtain various blessings for ourselves and our posterity. The scientific revolution *flowed* from this worldview; it didn't *produce* it. Sadly, however, this advancement was often associated with those who would use such wisdom (pregnant with the knowledge of good and evil) to exploit, dominate and oppress their fellow man in their idolatrous ambition to play god.

Despite the multitude of opinions in this matter, I would suggest that any so-called American Exceptionalism (or scientific revolution in the West) was necessarily anchored in the wisdom of God being exposed within a *second* axial age following the so-called European Dark Ages. Whether we consider the transformation of a single individual or a nation, it is always *the spiritual light of Heaven invading our intellectual darkness* that paves the way for true enlightenment and cultural progress. However, we will never eliminate or solve the problem of sin and death though cultural advancement or scientific progress. The answer to this metaphysical problem must alone be found in our Creator, who was pleased to become our Savior.

It is the unique privilege of man (as modelled after the image of God) to learn about and utilize the principles of God's creation in order to serve our Creator as well as ourselves. I am reminded of the riveting words of the late President John F. Kennedy: "Some men look upon the world and wonder why....I look upon the world and wonder 'why not' ". One should recognize the simultaneous glory and danger in suggesting such a statement. I must respectfully respond to the profundity of this proposition and say that perhaps we should have a *firm grasp of the divinity* behind the "why" before we venture toward any potential disaster which might arise from any unrestrained 'why not'.

We hear the cry of fellow citizens to *make America great again*. I am asking, what was it that ever made America great in first place? I suggest that America *will never be great again*, until we rediscover the *greatness of God* and His wisdom. We do indeed need absolute truth to advance any form of productive civilization. However, to have *absolute truth*, we must have an *absolute source*.

VIII. The Future Hope of Christ

The New World Order

With the influence from Babel (Babylon 1.0) to Rome, under Nimrod to Caesar; we have passed through several cycles of Gentile imperialism in contrast to what was intended from the Garden of Eden to the establishment of Israel. Am I now hearing music (?).....where have all the *imperial* flowers gone (?).....have they not gone to graveyards *every one*! Yet, sadly in this instance, I also hear: “If at first you don’t succeed...then try, try again!”. Will the endless cycle of vain attempts to craft socialist empires ever be broken?

I think it was Albert Einstein who suggested that insanity was doing the same thing over and over again while expecting different results. So, what is the distinction between *godly perseverance* and insanity? Perhaps it lies in the understanding of the “whys” and the “why nots”, which I previously referred to with respect to JFK. I, therefore, think it ultimately rests in the distinction between the will of God versus the idolatry of man.

We clearly live in a *global* age, where the World Bank, the World Court, the World Health Organization, and the World Economic Forum have emerged and have become associated with the United Nations in order to fulfill their ideological dream of *a more perfect union.....a global union...a new, and final, world order*. Will people really be able to *own nothing and be happy* ? Maybe you will, perhaps, be as happy *as an ant*. Remember that when you’re eating other insects.

The TRUE World Order

The promise of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ *alone* provides the future hope for any dimly imagined utopia of heaven on earth. Only God has the power to recreate man and restore what has been lost for millennia. Our best efforts, apart from God, eventually fail time and time again. Although it seems that there is a new young generation which is again looking toward some socialist hope in the future, it will also be doomed to failure if it is not anchored in the Person and Work of God.

During the Regan years I recall being challenged by some with the charge that the “Christian Right” was just interested in establishing a *theocracy* in America. That may, in fact, have been the orientation of *some* people (much like a number of those who currently represent so-called *Christian Nationalism, falsely so-called*). Although a theocracy *will* be the ultimate form of human government, it will only come about when *God chooses* to return and implement *His program*. Until then, astute Christians are called to honor their respective national distinctives (which God originally established) and shun any efforts which would advance some idolatrous global unification apart from the plans and purposes of our Creator.

3. Creation and Evolution:

By S. G. Smith

I. What Darwin got *Right*....and what he got *Wrong*!

The record of mankind pondering its origins is, of course, as old as mankind itself. Yet, just how old is that? Since the general acceptance of the Darwinian evolution, that age has seemingly outgrown the Biblical account which is only on the order of around 6000 years. So, what gave rise to this shift in perspective?

Darwin, and other with other scientists, were wrestling with the problem of biological diversity. Although luminaries from Aristotle to Linnaeus had setup their own taxonomical categories for the variety of different organisms, individual creatures, or species, were subject to change. Darwin noted that those who bred dogs, as well as other domestic animals, were able to influence the traits of these animal offspring through selective breeding. This became referred to as *Artificial Selection*.

Darwin correctly inferred that it was possible for changing conditions in local environments could effectively influence the generational traits of animals which were born with characteristics features enabling them to better survive the shift in their natural environmental circumstances. This naturally occurring selective pressure became known as *Natural Selection*. This was a great insight, and it did help account for variation in species characteristics. However, there was one important fact that needs to be remembered. The dogs and cattle under artificial selection, as well as finches, pigeons or moths under natural selection *still remain* as dogs, cattle, finches, pigeons or moths. We may find the variation of characteristics within a single *species*, or more so within a taxonomical *family*, to be amazing. Nevertheless, the same basic *kind* (a Biblical term) is preserved within any breeding family of organism.

Darwin, unrestrained by any understanding of Mendel's genetics, imagined an *extensive expansion* of diverse characteristics for organisms and species through an *unrestrained extrapolation* of his mechanism of natural selection. He proposed this to be the case for every creature in the animal kingdom, eventually even including man himself. This grand proposal *has never been observed*, which should cause one to question its scientific validity.

It is often said that it would take *too much time* to observe any *direct empirical evidence* for these phylogenetic shifts in animal development. Should we accept this excuse concerning time in the *absence of evidence*? Well, we'll have to spend more time, next time, when we discuss the issue of time and the age of the earth.

II. Age of the Earth

.....And now a word about time and history. During his voyage on the Beagle, Charles Darwin was reportedly reading Charles Lyell's book, *Principles of Geology*. In this

work Lyell was preaching a new “*uniformitarian*” *gospel*, very different from the Biblical account since creation. Even in the subtitle, *An Attempt to Explain the **Former Changes** of the Earth's Surface, by Reference to **Causes Now in Operation***, he is depending on his *rational inferences* from a uniformitarian perspective to expose a geological record of history due to *unobserved processes* which have shaped the world which we see today.

With those comments, I can't help but be reminded of the excellent field work and presentation by Dr. Steve Austin, and his team, in his book and videos regarding the catastrophes associated with Mt St. Helens, over the span of about a decade after the initial 1980 event. Although Dr. Austin was not actually standing in the midst of any pyroclastic flow taking measurements, there is ample evidence.....*empirical* evidence.....that the catastrophic events he reports took place. Therefore, it is delightfully interesting to hear Dr. Austin comment on how he *might have interpreted* the post eruption data in terms of his former uniformitarian/evolutionary training in geology in contrast to *what actually happened* at this volcano since 1980.

Now, returning to Lyell, Darwin went for those long uniformitarian ages proposed by Lyell and coupled this history to his natural selection thesis. This has resulted in a rather significant contamination within scientific thought, with an even more devastating impact sociologically since it redefines man and the human condition.

Well, in my judgement *from a purely empirical standpoint* I would have to say Austin *trumps* Lyell. Oh no, did I just use a *word* that would have me charged with *political bias*. Actually, I quit concerning myself about that such charges years ago..... after all we have become so irrational since 2020 that even *math is now racist*.

III. Natural Selection, Mutation, etcetera, etcetera

As previously observed, natural selection was a significant insight and central to Darwin's contribution regarding variations of inherited characteristics. The problem is that it is *not* a mechanism for the evolution of all life forms from any singular ancestral form as Darwin proposed. Natural Selection has been referred to as a *conservative mechanism* which serves to preserve various species which are naturally subjected to environmental stress.

Eventually this limitation was recognized and the search for other biological processes ensued. Mutation has been the most popular mechanism proposed to date, but the level of an actual mutation became open to debate. Although our current understanding of genetics was unknown to Darwin, we now understand that some changes in organisms are indeed to gene altering mutations which may deliver a permanent change within a specific organism. *Micromutation, combined* with natural selection, eventually became a more popular representation of Darwinian gradualism for any species that might slowly transform into a different organism. Alternatively, some have advocated the role of *macromutation* in rapidly transforming organisms into different kinds within a very few generations...so few in fact, it is said this would probably *not* be observed in the fossil record. A bigger problem, however, exists in the fact that mutations themselves do not really improve organisms making them more fit for survival in the real world. So, I think the evolutionists still have a

problem.

Of course, it is questionable whether the *gradual stages of microevolution* are ever clearly seen in the fossil record. Although various fossil forms are periodically held up as *missing links* between organisms, eventually many come to doubt these representations and agree that so-called missing links *are still missing*.

Although such things as *quantum jumps* or perhaps some *chaos theory* mechanism might get thrown in the midst of these kinds of discussions, I'm still waiting for a *clear empirical demonstration* that any natural mechanism can cause these hoped for biological transitions. To suggest this would take millions of years, sounds like an **excuse** in the *absence of evidence*.

Of course, now that we have learned techniques involving genetic engineering, we might interfere with genetic structure and perhaps **design** a very different organism. Is that still a process involving *natural* evolution? Furthermore, some of us are very apprehensive (and for good reasons) about the outcome of modern genetic engineering research. Will we always get improved organisms, or perhaps create genetic monsters?

IV. Difference in Degree or Difference in Kind?

As we have considered the roll of *biological* mechanisms occurring in the natural world, let us consider for the moment how science, in general, *interprets* differences which we observe throughout nature. Since we are talking about any observable **changes**, are these changes *different in degree* or *different in kind*?

In the physical sciences for example, we observe changes in temperature. Such changes may be considerable in our experience concerning things which are hot or cold, example. We have come to recognize that a *hot* cup of coffee compared to a *cold* cup of coffee is quite a difference in degree.....measure in fact in literal degrees. On the other hand, if I melt sand to form glass I have altered the structure of this substance to produce something with very different *physical* properties.

In chemistry, furthermore, we can site the distinction between a mixture and a compound. A mixture is a blend of properties which may change in degree, such as sugar in tea. It may be made more or less sweet in degree. A compound composed of different elements may become something very different in kind (fixed in proportion), or perhaps even manifesting a very violent reaction.

In this matter of evolution, we can see a similar situation. As we gaze upon the world of biological diversity, the dedicated evolutionist must assume he is observing the variety of plants and animals *to be different in degree* since they are supposed to have evolved from a single, *chance* organism. A creationist, like myself, notes chemical or genetic similarities within these organic life forms, but since *they do not interbreed*, and are therefore judged to be different in kind. Again, the fundamental scientific distinction between evolutionists versus creationists is that one views the entire biological world as having a **common ancestor**

(some single celled amoeba from a little warm pond), while the other views the diverse life forms of nature as having been designed by a *common Creator*.

It should be realized that this is not a question of *empirical science*; it is rather a difference of *philosophic perspective*. Discussion concerning one's philosophy of science is as relevant as the scientific data itself. Sadly, in my experience, the world of so-called accepted, orthodox science has become *philosophically deficient* and seeks to establish *scientific conformity* in place of ensuring *scientific confirmation*. I wonder....is that sort of thing happening in other areas of our society? Hhhmmmm?

V. Thermodynamics

Now we come to a very powerful testimony which pertains to the laws of thermodynamics. Specifically, ideas such as *entropy* and the so-called *heat death*, following the second law of thermodynamics, have a bearing on the evolutionary debate concerning life as well as the continuation of the cosmos. Without confusing you with the mathematics, suffice it to say that the natural and continual increase of entropy suggests an increase in the disorder of thermodynamics systems, even the universe when taken as a whole. Overall, this means that any existing reservoir of energy is constantly becoming less available to do work, even the *natural* work to sustain organisms or the cosmos. This law stands in direct opposition to the evolutionary notion that the organizing impact of available energy could *generate* higher orders in the transformation of either living organisms or galactic structures. What we *actually observe* in nature is death, dissolution, and disintegration and not the increasing order philosophically suggested by any scheme of evolution.

I recall back in the 1970's when I was working in Salt Lake City, that I saw an interesting movie presentation of Isaac Asimov's *The Last Question* at the Old Hansen Planetarium. In briefest terms, it was a science fiction tale about mankind, his advancing computer technology (well before the expression AI was *widely* popular), and the understanding that the universe would one ultimately end due to an entropic heat death. The big concern was how this entropic process *could be reversed* in order to sustain life and the universe. At the conclusion of this movie, spanning millions of years, of course, all life is dead with only this mega computer left.....which presumably has finally solved this problem. It supposedly states "*Let there be Light*" and the universe is recreated. In other words, not suggested by Asimov, it took a miracle to recreate the universe. Perhaps it actually took a miracle to create it in the first place.

One of the texts I had at my university was *Fundamentals of Classical Thermodynamics* by Van Wylen and Sonntag, 1968. At the close of the chapter on entropy these professors commented on a few of the *philosophical notions* to be considered in light of the second law of thermodynamics, the implication of entropic decay and the continuation of the natural world, and the universe in general. They seemed to ponder these matters and said this and that, but in closing they proclaimed:

"Quite obviously it is impossible to give conclusive answers to these questions on the basis of the second law of thermodynamics *alone*. However, the authors see the second law of thermodynamics as man's

description of *the prior and continuing work of a Creator*, who also holds the answer to the future destiny of man and the universe.”

Wow!...a secular college engineering textbook...what more can I say....I now tend to agree!

VI. Embryology, Homology, and Philosophy

Two words which might be good for most people to understand are phylogeny (a term associated with biological taxonomy) and ontogeny (a philosophic and theological term referring to the origin or nature of being). Should you have ever taken a biology class you may have heard of Ernst Haeckel’s notable phrase *ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny*. What is being essentially suggested is that the embryo of a particular organism reflects or retraces various features associated with its ancestral *evolutionary* development during *fetal* development. For many this embryonic similarity seen among embryos was presumed to be evidence for evolutionary kinship among different phyla.

Additionally in the area of homology, it is empirically observed that body parts, particularly vertebrate forelimbs, possess a similar structural pattern. Whale fins, bird wings, and human hands do in fact manifest a five-fold phalange design. Joint and muscle patterns also show interesting similarities. This *commonality* is also asserted by many to be evidence for an evolutionary ancestry.

Nevertheless, within embryology or homology *various differences* are equally telling which would suggest to some, like myself, that these do **not** point to *common ancestry*, but rather *common designer* where similar characteristics from a foundational plan were altered or modified for *different* environments for very *different* purposes.

Are these similarities, therefore, the result of a *common evolutionary ancestry*, or are they the result of *common design features* employed by an intelligent Creator. As we have already stated before, the conclusion of various observers is rooted in their *philosophic presuppositions* in *interpreting* biological phenomena. In place of the expression *philosophic presupposition*, I could just simply use the word *faith*. What do you have faith in?

VII. That Glorious Fossil Record

Although Darwin had some grand, if not disturbing ideas, he realized that if there was ever going to be any *real* evidence for his evolutionary gradualism it would have to be found in the fossil record. From that point on, many believed that glorious fossil record would undoubtedly provide the confirming evidence and testimony of an evolutionary history *written in rocks*.

Well, despite what you might think, many have become convinced that the fossil record does **not** present any kind of smooth, seamless record of evolutionary transitions. The notion of *missing links* arose testifying to the fact that there were no seamless continuities; the fossil record tending to manifest abrupt discontinuities. In fact, others theories such as *punctuated equilibrium*, were developed in an effort to explain why virtually **no transitional**

forms could be found in the fossil record (that sounds like *an excuse in the absence of evidence* to me). You will find, if you care to look, that the few examples proposed as transitional forms in the animal kingdom are generally contested or eventually dismissed as being adequately conclusive.

The record of so-called *human* evolution is even worse. Time, and perhaps scientific discretion, prevent me from discussing Piltdown Man, Java Man, Peking Man, and a host of others (such a Lucy....apparently, *not a man*), which were later dismissed by many as *too fragmentary to be conclusive* or were found to result from *outright fraud and deception*.

Finally, I think one of the more telling *fossil record events* involved what has been referred to as the Cambrian Explosion. Here we have anything **but** Darwinian gradualism. There is a reason they use the word explosion, because in the rock strata beneath the so-called Cambrian layer there are no fossils (or perhaps virtually none). The record of the Cambrian exposes a literal *explosion* of life forms during this so-called evolutionary period. This might actually suggest a catastrophe, perhaps even something like the Noahic Flood. Hhhmmm!

If you happen to delight yourself in such scientific controversies (or you are a serious student attempting to discern scientific fact from fantasy), you will have no doubt noticed over the decades that those who advocate an evolutionary worldview continually *dance around the obvious* and develop new theories, suggest new interpretations, and perpetually invent **new excuses in the absence of evidence**. The more you honestly investigate the testimony of the fossil record, I think you will find that the one thing it does not do is such Darwinian gradualism. If you don't agree, then I'll have to ask you, "What's your excuse?"

VIII. The Cultural Impact of Evolution in Human Society

Although many people are not familiar with the scientific arguments exposing the doubtfulness of evolution which have previously discussed, it doesn't take long to see how *devastating* the philosophy of evolution can be when it is seriously applied to the social management within human societies. Evolution, couched within a framework of secular materialism, can be (and has been) used to excuse any and every example of human brutality within social interaction. If an individual, or group, is *bigger.... and stronger.... and genetically superior* to all other potential competitors, then *might makes right, because* I am (or my group is) more *fit to survive*.

In the absence of any silly archaic notion that somehow *man was created (or modeled) after the image of God*, materialistic evolution mandates that humanity is nothing more than an accident via time and chance. Anyone who has evolved, and received, the genetic superiority to become a *leader, head* of a clan, or a *king....* could essentially become sufficiently unrestrained and rule **as a god!**

I may be *curious* as an individual, but that doesn't mean I evolved from *Curious George*. Don't get me wrong, I think little George is rather cute. However, I think I'll pass on having a chimpanzee as a pet. *Real* chimpanzees can be extremely vicious and violent.

Oh wait, did I just suggest *common characteristics* shared between chimps and man? Is that proof of evolution, or the fact that we occupy a *common, fallen reality*? I think little George can relax, because that *fallen state* is clearly the *fault* of mankind. Furthermore, although man demonstrates a level of genius far beyond any other creature in the animal world, I must confess that humans have demonstrated *a level of viciousness and violence* which could potentially destroy the earth. Personally, I think this might be evidence exposing *our need for repentance*.

4. Global Warming / Climate Change

Controversy

I. CO₂ is not a Pollutant

The Natural and Political Climates of America

When we consider climate change, I sometimes wonder if we are really talking about our *natural atmospheric climate* concerns or the *political climate* of the United Nations and Washington DC. Although it should be properly recognized that real environmental stewardship should always be a matter of concern, it is *not* the central organizing principle of human government as some have suggested. Therefore, an important concern for the general public is how to distinguish between authentic environmental stewardship (consistent with traditional, conservationist activities) versus a politicized propaganda advancing a social agenda which has been disguised as a wolf in sheepish environmental clothing.

One of the means to achieve such an end *is* to distort, or corrupt, well established scientific knowledge. I believe that the most seminal corruption in the entire climate change controversy is *the attempt to represent carbon dioxide as a pollutant*. As all of us really know, carbon dioxide is one of the central compounds in the overall cycle of life. If one actually accepts carbon dioxide as a pollutant, then there could really be no objection to also classifying another greenhouse gas such as water vapor as a pollutant.....and where would we be without water???.....probably dead!

Additionally, a third example here would be salt (sodium chloride, NaCl). Drinking sea water, which is primarily salt water, will result in a rather uncomfortable death. However, salt (used in appropriate concentration) was so valuable for life in our human history it was even used as money during the Roman empire. Nevertheless, at no time in the past were any of these substances ever classified as evil, villainous pollutants;.....*but not so today!* Today, carbon dioxide is the villain of villains, soon to be allied with methane and perhaps *even nitrogen* (currently in Europe, *but coming to a country near you!*) I have come to suspect that current environmentalist attitudes are driven more by political or religious fervor as opposed to rationally sound science.

Consider this, if the “powers that be” can convince the public that we should have a special tax on carbon, they would probably be happy to mandate a special tax on water, salt, etc. *if and when it becomes politically expedient*.

II. Temperature is not a function of CO₂ Concentration

Cause and Effect

During the last two decades we have constantly heard that the rise in average global

temperature is due to the ever increasing carbon dioxide levels which are generated by human industrial activity. Although the current levels of CO₂ have been undoubtedly impacted by global industry, this does not necessarily prove any cause and effect correlation between industrial CO₂ emissions and global temperature. In fact, as will be demonstrated in a moment, a close examination of the data indicates that changes in temperature drives the change in carbon dioxide concentration. In other words, temperature change is not a function of CO₂ concentration; changes in CO₂ concentration are a function of temperature change. The climate alarmists are putting the cart before the horse.

As has been often mentioned, water is a far more powerful greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide would ever hope to be. We are terrified at hearing about carbon dioxide arriving at levels of around 400 ppm; and yet we are indifferent about the varying concentration of atmospheric water vapor which may conveniently reach levels of around 40,000 ppm. I recall climate scientists in the 1980's having trouble in their computer modeling as they attempted to ignore water vapor in their evaluation of just temperature vs carbon dioxide.

Well perhaps ice core data (where water is frozen out) would simply leave bubbles containing CO₂ and other temperature indicators.

Now Al Gore, one of the inventors of the internet, discusses the ice core data in his award winning movie, *An Inconvenient Truth*. However, he doesn't really *closely* examine the actual correlation between CO₂ and temperature in the diagram he proudly displays in his film. A correlation is obvious, and he states the temperature change is following CO₂ concentration. Unfortunately, he failed to mention that upon close examination it is the clearly CO₂ concentration which lags behind the temperature changes in this diagram. This relationship, clearly demonstrated in another documentary, BBC's *The Great Global Warming Swindle*, turns the advertised temperature CO₂ on its head. This might make one suspect that atmospheric carbon dioxide changes might be more related to outgassing from oceans as they warm over time....*sort of like your soda pop*. Of course, saying things like this might get me villainized as a climate change denier or skeptic. The truth is that I don't deny *climate change*..... I'm just skeptical of the *climate change agenda*.

III. Mann Hockey Stick Discredited

And the Climate Bands play on

One of the major center pieces of the global warming/climate change agenda has been the published Mann, Bradley and Hughes (MBH 98) temperature data, quickly adopted by the United Nations, which has lovingly become known as the "Hockey Stick" diagram. Basically, this graph indicates that changes in average global temperature had been falling (gradually sloping downward) for several decades, but began to rise sharply upward from around 1900.....hence the so called hockey stick appearance.

Unfortunately, there are just a few minor (or perhaps major) problems with this model. It essentially overthrows what was previously accepted as the general pattern of past climate history

as derived from other sources (which affirmed the so-called Medieval Warm Period), and apparently ****it doesn't seem to correlate well with what is indicated from modern balloon and satellite data****. Finally, investigators Stephen McIntyre and Ross McKittrick have weighed in to discredit Mann's tree ring data due to their methodology in handling data. Even a pro-climate change scientist, Hans van Storch is less than enthusiastic about East Anglia's operation. Feel free to check out the sources mentioned; we certainly can't finish this war on today's broadcast.

One final note.....I have often heard it said regarding climate change that the *science is settled*. Well, I guess all I can say is that climate science doesn't really seem to be as *settled* as advertised. So, I suppose you'll just have to be your own judge in this matter.

VI. Warmer is Better then Colder

Would you prefer the Caribbean or Antarctica?

I can't speak for anyone else, but the older I get the more I prefer warm weather over cold weather. Actually, I do love snow in the mountains, but now I would rather enjoy watching younger skiers navigate the slopes from the warm comfort of a ski lodge with a cup of hot chocolate. All in all, I would choose working in hot weather rather than in ice cold conditions.

I remember in the 1970's working in both Dallas and Lubbock as an air conditioning service man. Temperatures, at some point, during those mid 70's reached from 110-115 degrees during the summer. I was told that a number of customers were calling in saying they had infirm senior citizens at their residences, which required ASAP attention and begged AC service companies to give them priority in servicing their AC units. Whether or not customers were always being honest, I certainly agree that experiencing extended heat can lead to health problems. The funny thing was that sometime during the 70's, scientists had been talking about global cooling which threatened to eventually freeze us to death. Perhaps this was when some of my skepticism began regarding various authorities in different matters.

Well in the winter of 2021, I survived "The Little Texas Ice Age" out here in West Texas. Again, I have been told that we live at a time when the average global temperature is increasing. Well, I have solar cells, electric heaters, kerosene lanterns, propane burners, and even a wood burning stove. As a former physics professor, I am really into energy.

Yes, I know the difference between climate and weather, and I even have some familiarity with nonlinear dynamics, a.k.a. chaos theory. It still isn't any fun to work in the cold. In 2021, I escaped with no broken pipes or dead animals. Unfortunately, other fellow Texans weren't so fortunate. I appreciate, and am interested in, the overall scientific research emphasis in alternative forms of energy. However, I'll be hanging on to some of those petroleum products until they are thoroughly replaced with adequate energy sources.

V. Carbon Credit Schemes

Carbon Credit Banking

When I first heard of the idea of “carbon credits”, I started to wonder what did these have to do with an actual chemical reduction of carbon dioxide globally. The notion that one country, or company, could actually deal with others in terms of carbon credits, swaps, or trades actually sounds more like some form of international banking than any form of pollution reduction. Indeed, it appears that this is just an effort to turn carbon into money, while erecting a pretense that anything is being substantially done to eliminate pollution. If I’m not mistaken this seems like a method to just *spread the carbon* in a way perhaps similar to how socialists want to *spread the wealth*.

My limited understanding of socialism leads me to believe that such a system is ultimately more about political and economic control of national citizens than it is about individual prosperity for the downtrodden. Replacing money with carbon for a variety of industries would result in the allowance or restriction of carbon- based production as intended. However, like any banking system, those invested with the authority to moderate such a system will become the new economic kings.

Banking, since the days of Babylon, has had a long history of exploiting the poor through foreclosure and repossession of assets. The more I suspect that this proposed carbon credit scheme is little more than a *carbon bank*, I am suspicious that the ultimate end of this plan is to produce another system where the rich get richer while the poor get poorer. I guess we will find out soon enough.

VI. Global Warming or Global Governance

Environmentalism or Exploitation?

Years ago, Michael Coffman moderated a documentary entitled Global Warming or Global Governance. At that time the general mention of some system of global government would have been designated and dismissed as somebody’s conspiracy theory*but not today!* Today we have a larger host of worldwide citizens that are apparently looking forward to this new system,this new normal,this *New World Order*.

Environmentalism appears to really fill the bill for such economic control, since so much of our industrial technology is based on combustion producing loads of carbon dioxide. Furthermore, people, after all, are merely *carbon dioxide machines* just waiting to be directed, evaluated, and regulated. One would have to stop breathing to remove themselves from such a category. Aside from the United Nations, groups like the World Economic Forum (WEF) are ready and willing to take over the international reigns of mankind when the opportunity presents itself. This planned tyranny has been preparing for decades, and it will perhaps achieve the global dictatorship that many have anticipated.

I think we have all heard their slogan : “You’ll own nothing.....*and you’ll be happy!*“ Well, I am fairly confident that the first part of their slogan will come true as the WEF begins to impoverish the world. Would that make YOU happy?

VII. Is Climate Change Altering Our Humanity ?

Behold, the Power of Climate!

From the Greenhouse Effect to Global Warming and now Climate Change, few things have been as ridiculous as the suggestion that the climate change phenomenon is directly altering our attitudes, temperaments, and personalities. Now, none of us would be inclined to deny that a nice warm sunny day might make us feel a little happier than a colder overcast day. However, those of us who live in the plains of West Texas or the mountains of Colorado or Utah might sometimes look at clouds hoping for rain or snow.

Nevertheless, there are those among us who are so set in their religious fervor for climate action (or perhaps political control) that they will blurt out the most absurd notions regarding the impact of climate change on socio-economic or political concerns.....past and present.

The Washington Post declared that climate change is *fueling hate speech*. Of course, as a senior citizen, I well remember signs of hate speech during the civil rights era before the 70’s, when we were apparently in a cooling trend. I think Dr. King was right as he viewed this as a *spiritual* problem, rather than an atmospheric one.

It has also been strongly suggested that climate change *killed the dinosaurs*. Although a change in climate was probably associated with some global catastrophe, an asteroid (or two) with Noah’s Flood is probably a far better candidate for the ultimate cause of such an extinction event. I doubt the cars driven by Fred Flintstone had much impact on our antediluvian atmosphere.

Of course, I’m just really waiting to hear that climate change causes Americans *to vote for people like Donald Trump*. If that were to catch on, I’m sure the January 6 committee will soon leave the stage with signs declaring “End Climate Change NOW!”

VIII. Fire and Water

The Role of the Sun and Water Vapor in Climate Science

From the beginning of this series we briefly examined the role of CO₂ as the evil pollutant inevitably driving us towards an ultimate climate disaster. As we also mentioned, water vapor was a far more significant “greenhouse gas” by leaps and bounds. However, neither of these compounds can be considered as the *source of energy* that drives the dynamics of either weather or climate. That source would be the sun.

Our Global Thermodynamic Steam Engine

Now, without invoking the laws of thermodynamics and all that *racist* mathematics, let us

pause a moment to consider our unsophisticated (yet empirical) experiences as we have walked through life. I get up in the morning, walk outside my house, and notice the cool morning at daybreak. Within a short while as the sun rises (relative to our earth frame of reference), we might experience a noticeable rise in temperature perhaps even more than a dreaded increase of over 2 or 3 degrees. Depending on the season and the particular conditions, the temperature might change as much as 40 or 50 degrees throughout the day.....more than twenty times larger than any catastrophic expectation of any dreaded average temperature increase. This is likely to happen within approximately 12 hours (far shorter than 12 years), and tomorrow the temperature range could swing more or less depending primarily on the sun.

The energy from the sun drives weather and climate; it alters our environment and contributes in determining whether or not a particular location is appropriately habitable for people. Long range carbon dioxide levels, like oxygen and nitrogen, tend to remain constant. With the extensive daily variation in weather associated within regional climate patterns over the earth, plus considering the surface albedo of different geographical locations, the sun is still king in driving weather and climate. If the Earth were located near the *planet* Pluto (apologies to Dr. Tyson) relative to the sun, we would not be having any discussion regarding global warming.....in spite of how much CO₂ was in the atmosphere.

Footnote:

The Global Warming, or Climate Change, agenda is merely one avenue through which the global elites are using to transform human society. Whether we look at medicine, space exploration, or environmental concerns, such *supernational* concerns are being advanced to depreciate the God ordained system of sovereign nations in favor of some kind of one-world global idolatry (shades of the old *Iron Mountain Report*). The *true* world order, along with any hope of presumed utopian aspirations, will **only** be recognized when Christ returns to take up the mantle of global domination.

5. Health and Wellness – Biblical Naturopathy

I. Human Origins and Diet

By S. G. Smith

Although diet and nutrition have always been a universal concern for mankind, there seems to have been a resurgence in the emphasis of *food as medicine* as originally emphasized by Hippocrates. Since food, after all, is simply a sophisticated combination of rather complex chemicals, then food has always been a preferred form of chemotherapy with respect to maintaining health.

From the beginning God gave us the green herb of the field to be food for humans *and animals as well*. He placed man in a garden to keep and to till it. Furthermore, man was free to eat any of the fruits or vegetables produced from his agricultural efforts with the exception of *only one particular tree*. Without dwelling on that painful history, let's focus on the fact that even today many of our pharmaceutical agents have resulted from plants that were historically used as folk remedies. Ethnobiologists scan the globe in search of primitive people who currently use native plants as medicinal agents, which are unknown in the West.

Although the insertion of meat in our diets was introduced *after the Noahic flood*, the complexity of botanical compounds fits well with our own biochemistry. The plant world is already a treasure trove of nutritional and medicinal agents. It would seem to me that, from past to present, a more reasonable medical approach for patients would begin with nutritional therapy, well before a number of severe or risky procedures were employed by modern healthcare practitioners, *particularly in the area of chronic disease*. Well, here's to your health!

II. Plant Nutrition

As was briefly explored previously, the Bible originally represented plants as being the exclusive source of food for both man and animals. Quite different from today, there is no indication that man, or any other animal, was *originally* intended to operate as either carnivores (meat eaters) or omnivores (plant and meat eaters). Although consumption of meat was later authorized at the beginning of our postdiluvian era (*which we will visit later*), it is clear that the green herbs, or vegetation in general, was *the singular food prepared for all of life by design*.

Without entering into a debate regarding extreme vegetarian (or vegan) diets, let's examine the more fundamental wellness needs exclusively provided by plant food since the beginning. During my personal studies in naturopathy, it became evident that the medical community had progressively drifted away from the direction of *diet as primary* for health and wellness. Rather than an advancement, the current emphasis on nutrition is simply a *rediscovery* of knowledge understood since the times of Hippocrates and other medical sages. It seems clear that the proverbial adage, "Let food be your medicine, and medicine your food", is with us more than ever

as many medical experts have been revisiting the importance of nutrition.

Plants, as God created them, provided the comprehensive foundation for every aspect of animal and human nutrition. Carbohydrates, fats, and protein (which provide fundamental building blocks for cells and the provision of energy).....vitamins, minerals and digestive enzymes (for their catalytic action and assistance in biochemical function)....fiber and probiotics (so important in regulating digestion and supporting immune function).....as well as phytochemicals, polyphenols and other complex organic compounds, are all *necessary* for the maintenance of good health; ***and these are all found in plants***.....and even, dare I say, *apart from modern pharmaceutical drugs or supplements*. Now, I certainly appreciate certain discoveries and advances in pharmaceutical science, but in fact, much of modern medicine has been *dependent* on adapting, concentrating or modifying the ethnobiological discoveries of native plants throughout the world, that were traditionally used in “folk” medicine for centuries.

Well, I have to hand it those Greeks; I think Hippocrates was really onto something, and it appears to essentially be consistent with the Bible.

III. Meat as Food

Although there are those who subscribe to an exclusive vegan diet, it is clear that God authorized animal flesh for human consumption. In fact, in Genesis 9, it is clear that God is speaking about every living thing, even every creeping thing, would now be a *potential* source of food for man since the earth had been ***cursed*** from the Noahic Flood. As animals were *apparently* already being categorized as *clean* and *unclean* during our antediluvian era, we eventually see the Divine Law under Moses restricting, or further refining, animal choices for food for the benefit of Israel. For Israel, it was made clear in the Torah that compliance with nutritional, hygienic, and sanitary regulations would *contribute* to them in having *none of the diseases that the Egyptians had*. Yes, there are good and sufficient reasons why we ***cook meat***.

Now I am not an expert on everyday Egyptian culture and without entering into a debate regarding vegetarian diets, let's simply examine some fundamental wellness needs God perhaps had in mind in modifying human diet to include animal flesh. Two features immediately come to mind: 1) vitamin B complex, particularly B12 (for enzymatic or other biochemical activity) and, 2) collagen (especially for skin, and other tissue support). Although vegans can find vegetable sources for B12 and other essential nutrients, *it is not all that easy*.....*especially* if you are living at a time where nations are distracted by social upheaval, inflation, with wars or rumors of wars. Simply put, meat, from a variety of animals, is just easier to get hold of (and contains a denser concentration of many vital nutrients) perhaps giving you enough B12, collagen, et.al. that you'll need during any periods of *war and peace*.

From this discussion of plant and animal food, found in Genesis and refined in Leviticus, the clear principle is before us: **plant food is fundamental; meat is supplemental**. This is my first rule for health and wellness. Unfortunately, we tend to have this somewhat backward in many Western cultures at mealtime.

Now, I would generally be inclined to suggest to friends or family that when they are sick, *and I mean really sick*, then meat should be *off* the table. However, one thing could serve as an exception. Now....I don't know if **chicken soup** actually made it in the *Levitical Physicians' Desk Reference*, or if it is really all that good for the *soul*. However, when your Granny added some *chicken* in her *bone broth* with a number of nutritious "veggies", well,it starts to sound like good old fashion medicine to me.

IV. Probiotics

I could never speak with any real authority concerning the environmental conditions *associated with paradise*, or even the antediluvian civilization, *apart* from Biblical revelation. However, I *assume* that the normal processes of decay (of plant matter) were in evidence, perhaps even in the Garden of Eden. Even if I am in error on this point concerning the past, such decay processes are clearly in operation today.

The natural processes that I am thinking about involve the microbial action in recycling or reconditioning agricultural refuse along with animal and human waste. Another process I have in mind is called *fermentation*. The spectrum of our biochemical processes involved in digestion, breathing, and enzymatic regulation of cellular and organ metabolism are known to be rather complicated. It turns out that healthy people actually harbor a variety of "good" bacteria in our tissues, particularly in our gut (or intestines). These good bacteria, known in terms of *probiotics*, are workhorses that aid in enzymatic breakdown of our food and often provide additional nutritional benefit by transforming what we eat.

By now, most of you will have heard of common probiotic forms such as Lactobacillus, Bifidobacterium, or others which may be involved in fermented foods such as yogurt or kefir (which many of us Texans call "key..fur"). Despite how you care to pronounce it, one should remember that when we use *antibiotics* in the treatment of some disease, we will most likely diminish the level of good bacteria in our digestive tract. It is a good thing to keep in mind that the addition of probiotics, following a successful course of antibiotics, might be very helpful in your overall recovery. Be sure to ask your doctor concerning the therapeutic use of *probiotics*, as well as antibiotics, during your next office visit.

V. Vitamin C & other Vitamins & Minerals

Having briefly touched on vitamins, minerals and other elements of nutritional support, I would like to specifically focus on vitamins, particularly on Vitamin C. Although Vitamin A (for our skin and eyes), Vitamin D (from the sun) as well as the Vitamin B complex previously discussed, Vitamin C (or perhaps a Vitamin C complex) has been alleged to be an unexpected miracle in curing diseases.

In his book, *Curing the Incurable*, Dr. Thomas Levy discusses the pioneering work of Dr. Frederick Klenner. Not only did Klenner demonstrate the effectiveness this vitamin in treating a variety of diseases well beyond scurvy, but his intravenous Vitamin C therapy was essentially in competition with the Salk and Sabin vaccines for polio in the mid twentieth century. Levy

continues his opus in even suggesting the possibility of using such therapy in devastating diseases such as cancer, *or even rabies*. By the end of his book, one wonders if Vitamin C is not a panacea for everything that ails us, with the exception of death, of course.

To support a number of these claims, a variety of alternative health practitioners have praised the use of Vitamin C. Additionally, similar in application to chelation therapy, it appears many orthodox medical doctors have already been employing intravenous Vitamin C therapy for some time. One might wonder why the medical application of Vitamin C has not been frequently voiced aloud in the media for decades. Well, *perhaps they have their reasons*. (Yes, Sheldon Cooper, that was sarcasm)

It is to be noted that a host of men from Weston Price to Linus Pauling were active in pioneering work advancing nutritional and/or vitamin therapies, as well as the need for other mineral nutrients. Nevertheless, the orthodox medical establishment and Big Pharma just didn't always seem to jump up and down and be on board with regard to such medical discoveries. In the case of Vitamin C, however, the British seemed to have caught on quick by supplying their navy with citrus fruits for sailors concerning their debilitating problem with scurvy. They don't call them "limeys" for nothing.

Now, I have also heard that vitamin C, along with Vitamin D and zinc, (with a little quercetin or other zinc ionophore thrown in) might be just the thing for COVID-19. But, of course, that might somewhat upset those in the medical establishment and pharmaceutical industry who are hoping to profit from their so-called vaccines. You think? I don't know.... why don't you go ask some people like Drs. David Malone, Marty Makary or Peter McCollough. Perhaps, they might know a thing or two about vaccines.

VI. Movement and Exercise

The body was made to move! Although many may not care for exercising, or intense forms of athletic activity, our bodies were still designed for *action*. We intuitively know this to be true, particularly when we suffer from any acute or chronic condition that prevents the free operation of our arms, legs, back or neck. In the same way that a car needs to be driven on a regular basis, any vehicle that just *sits up* (so to speak) for an extended time will probably have to undergo some TLC and reconditioning before it is again roadworthy.

It is hard for me to know just where to start here, but somewhat like your car, you need to *keep your fluids flowing*. Of course, we all realize that we need ***rest*** to recharge and recover from our daily, and perhaps intense, activities. Yet, *extended inactivity* will make us sluggish, run down, and leave us in a state that is really less than optimal for good health.

I well understand that when you do not feel well, or you suffer from a chronic condition of aches and pains, ***you do not want to move***. Nevertheless, motion itself may be *required* for the healing process. Joints need to move for the synovial fluid to lubricate those joints. Muscles need to be flexed in order to maintain strength throughout the natural cycle of breakdown and growth. Also, walking, or jumping in place, assists our passive lymph flow, important for our immunity. In

certain cases, surgery may be required to resolve mechanical impairments, yet physical motion will still be required as part of the overall healing process.....which is why we have RMT's and physical therapists, when we are having some trouble moving around.

So, get out there and live.....and to do that you're going to have to... MOVE !

VII. Inflammation

During my studies in alternative medicine, I remember one textbook discussing the various historical medical perspectives regarding alternative therapies. Even in the 19th century, alternative practitioners were discussing *inflammation* as a root cause associated with many ailments. This was not mentioned as a passing phenomenon which certainly accompanied some trauma event. *Chronic inflammation* due to some lifestyle problem or nutritional deficiency seemed to be at the heart of the disease condition itself. At the time, this seemed rather odd and unusual to me. Nevertheless, after another decade, I would begin to hear about inflammation everywhere in the media and public conversations related to health and wellness.

Today, discussions regarding inflammation, along with *chemokine* or *cytokine storms*, are no longer uncommon in medical literature or television interviews with medical practitioners. Although inflammation is our body's natural response to trauma (which is a good thing), *chronic* inflammation is an unfortunate situation which needs correction.

Inflammation, itself, is generally a crisis condition where the elements of our immune system, (i.e., antibodies, T cells, or other chemical agents) are called to action in an emergency response, usually to trauma. This situation should be relatively *temporary* until other biological agents of repair arrive to begin the process of healing. Unfortunately, sometimes, an inflamed condition which arises may persist and *depreciate* the natural healing process. Think of the police or military arriving at a crisis scene, but *they never leave*. In this way there may well be a relationship between inflammation states with what has come to be known as *autoimmunity*, which, sadly, has become all too common in healthcare discussions today.

The good news is that there are a number of substances contained in foods, as well as certain traditional pharmaceuticals, which are *anti-inflammatory*. Such chemicals tend to moderate or calm natural inflammatory responses before unfortunate adverse impacts are experienced in our bodies. You would be well advised to spend some time investigating the inflammatory nature of some of the foods you consume in order to assist your overall health.

VIII. Fasting

Diet and nutrition have proved central in health and wellness, yet one feature, often overlooked by most of the public, is equal in significance.....and this is *fasting*. Although various forms of fasting have recently become popular, dietary restriction of any form just seems contrary to our modern consumerism. Nevertheless, the health benefits from fasting are undeniable.

Aside from the fundamental notion of consuming no food for a period of time, there are actually a number of strategies under the umbrella of fasting. For example, some people learn that they should “fast” from certain foods due to allergies. Similar to this, others have learned they should refrain from consuming foods rich in gluten or lactose due to personal intolerances. Some people find it valuable to do what is referred to as *juice fasting*. Intermittent fasting where daily food consumption is compressed into only 6 to 8 hours Has become very popular, while the OMAD (one meal a day) plan is another variation of restrictive consumption.

Apart from foods that might prove disagreeable to our personal digestion, fasting is really nothing less than a plan to enhance toxic elimination. Even if we were to consume *perfect* food, the digestive byproducts of our metabolism will always manifest some degree of toxicity, which is why they are eliminated by the body. **Anything** that facilitates or enhances such elimination will prove to be an asset to our health.

As Americans, we tend to be packing down food all the time. For the sake of self-control, and extending the time for necessary elimination, fasting could prove to be the health breakthrough you have been looking for.

6. Poverty: The Road to Owning Nothing

I. Land, Labor and Service

In the beginning, man was placed in a garden to keep and to till it. He was accompanied with a host of animals in paradise, and given a wife to personally assist and intimately accompany him in this service. This was paradise, but with the expectation of service to God. In time, it was expected that the first couple would have children which would presumably expand this paradise over the face of the entire earth.

It is difficult, of course, to speculate on how this expansion would have played out in detail. In fact, it is difficult to understand a number of things about the antediluvian world or the situation prior to the Fall of Man. What is revealed to us is that we began in paradise, but somehow things have turned out very differently.

Therefore, in the truest sense, man had exclusive stewardship and lordship (aka *ownership* under God) of the entire earth, including the lordship over every creature occupying the earth. Practically speaking, man essentially *owned* something, and the *nature and character of his stewardship* determined his temporal joy and fulfillment. Nevertheless, after the Fall, the work or labor of man was cursed, and *hardship* was added to *stewardship*, to be an ever-present reminder concerning the consequences regarding disobedience to God.

Sadly, as time marched on, some men discovered ways to influence, cajole or coerce others to bear a greater burden in their workload, relieving such men from the arduous pain or monotony often associated with various forms of labor. So, in the coming sessions, as we move across a gradient of wealth to poverty, and the human circumstances from voluntary servitude to slavery, keep in mind one paramount principle in every aspect of economic exchange: *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you*. How much easier might we resolve the variety of labor/management disputes if such a principle was held as fundamental and exalted in our human interactions, as opposed to going to war with one another.

II. Division of Labor

As we consider more sophisticated efforts in human labor, we naturally concern ourselves with the *efficiency* of accomplishing or completing some task. Mechanical efficiency became mathematically defined as a significant concept during 19th century industrialization. Additionally, when work requires a group effort, the concept of *division of labor* naturally follows. As Adam Smith would suggest, a greater efficiency in production would be achieved if the accomplishment of some great task is broken down into component “parts”, so to speak, allowing individual workers to become *specialized* and experienced in their respective performance. Such a division of labor was already implied in God’s making woman to help the man. A sharper distinction is seen when such a choice, *however determined*, between Cain and Abel was decided: Cain would till the ground producing food like his father, and Abel became a shepherd (raising animals which were sacrificed to provide clothing). The roles of both farmer and rancher were now important for survival.

As we have moved through the centuries the natural hierarchy within work, or labor, has become more sophisticated and complex. The central function of *production* must be attended (or overseen) by various levels of managerial effort in order to plan, direct, improve, regulate or modify the business activity *that impacts every member of a labor group*. One analogy that comes to mind is the team effort that is put forth from some ball club in entertaining the public. Every player is to know his particular role in fulfilling the collective effort of his team in winning a game. However, every player should also *understand the value and importance of each and every other player* on the field. In business, or any operation connected with community living, the principle is the same.

So how well does management understand the difficulties and needs of its labor force? How well do unskilled laborers understand the necessity, and perhaps tedium, of managerial responsibilities or mid-level skilled labor duties? Often, *perhaps as might occur in a marriage*, the routine of life distracts us from seeing the bigger picture. Personal problems, *or ambitions*, may cause us to become detached or discontent, which may open a door to becoming embittered. Unfulfilled (and/or unrealistic) expectations may cause people in either management or labor to become angry....perhaps with one another. This will result in a *division of purpose* and a *fragmentation* of team effort as opposed to a harmonious *division of labor* in support of any team effort. Companies, like marriages, often fail. We should pay attention and ask, “Why?”

Irreconcilable differences will inevitably occur in life. Can we maintain a respectable civility when this happens? Generally speaking, it is better to depart in peace than to die fighting. However, if and when the day comes when one must fight, I suggest you choose your battles carefully.

III. Origins of Slavery

As alluded to in a previous segment, mankind was created to *serve*, specifically to serve God. Furthermore, since the Fall, our service has become more burdensome. This discomfort becomes all too obvious as we move toward adulthood. Our responsibilities increase and it is expected that we must all individually shoulder our burden and appropriately deal with the complexity of life. The growing discomfort associated with this burden and complexity moves us to find ways to ease and simplify our circumstances,*perhaps* to the point of *avoiding them* altogether. Short of something as drastic as suicide, people are more likely to seek ways and means *to shift their burdens and difficulties upon the shoulders of others*. This human exchange at the center of economics exposes our personal limitations, just as childhood naturally exposed our frailty as individual creatures.

The historical rollout of humanity since Adam and Eve abounds with the progressive development of so-called socioeconomic “*solutions*” in confronting the issues of stewardship and hardship common to mankind. As will be discussed in other segments, urbanization, industrialization, and the development of money have all played a part in social development well beyond our agrarian roots. The successful coordination of these phenomena general tell the story of what we call civilization. However, when any so-called social solution *requires* impelling individuals or groups to operate under a system of *involuntary servitude apart from their consent*, then just how civil is that civilization. This *is* a slave state.

I have heard it said periodically that the Bible ***advocates slavery***. *This is a lie*. The Bible ***advocates service***, specifically to God. The Bible, being the unique book that it is, ***recognizes and exposes*** the reality of slavery, oppression, theft, murder, and a host of other atrocities. Furthermore, it does reveal that slavery, involuntary servitude or bitter bondage, may be the result of foolishness, or even divine judgment. Nevertheless, when any social system *by design...requires a slave class* for its normal operation....is it, in fact, fulfilling that Golden Rule: “*Do unto others as you would have them do unto you*”? I’ll let *you* think about it.

IV. Urbanization and Industrialization

In Genesis Chapter 4, following Cain’s murder of his brother, we find him departing from the presence of God to begin building a city. In the wake of this urban program, we observe the industrial stirrings associated with metal artificing, as well as musical entertainment. However, it is to be noted that something is significantly changing regarding the original intent God expressed in the Adamic covenant.

God did NOT direct Cain to begin any urban project. It was apparently expected that men would natural continue operating according to the basic agrarian framework. Cain was constrained to chose this solution since his ability to successfully farm was reduced.

I admit that the urban and industrial capacity of humanity illustrates the genius of man as made in the image of God. However, that genius gets lost in the “push and shove”, “survival of the fittest” mentality that many have adopted and most have accommodated. There is something rather humbling about country living. In the burden and complexity of life that is inherent in our experiences, there is something less stressful and simpler,...even *sabbatical*....when we visit, *or even imagine*, the open fields or majestic mountain ranges which perhaps pricks our suppressed or buried memory of an Edenic past.

As we are trained to socially or politically ***think*** in terms of right and left, liberal or conservative, libertarianism versus socialism, I believe the conflict behind most of these partisan positions can often be found in our *management*, or rather *mismanagement*, of our *urban or industrial environments*. Like a farmer, or rancher, who must manage, and maintain, the *natural balances* associated with his property, so city management is a much more delicate and complex balancing act attempting to satisfy the needs of the many from the limited perspectives of a few. God created a garden paradise in less than six days. Christ has been preparing a celestial city for around two thousand years. Perhaps, city planning is ultimately best left to God. I’m looking forward to being part of His city.

Some people, no doubt, view country living as more humiliating than humbling; yet, I find it liberating even with my enhanced and burdensome responsibilities. I am grieved by such a shortsighted view of some when considering the universe as a whole. As someone who lives well outside the city, I can look up and see many of the stars in the sky at night. I might even notice my sheep and goats contentedly ruminating, although the chickens have all moved into their coop awaiting the next day. I have ***never*** had, or really desired, a six-figure income; but *I am rich* (not like Job or King Solomon, and certainly not like Elon Musk or Bill Gates)....but *I am wealthy*....and the wealth of the universe stands before me to enjoy!

V. Money vs Wealth (with all kinds of evil)

Finally, we have arrived at the point of discussing the concept and reality of *money*. Wealth, as we all should know, is the *reality* of meaningful and tangible goods. Money on the other hand is an *abstract representation* of real wealth and *generally* has little or no tangible value in and of itself. The natural flexibility of money (far beyond barter), as a commodity for exchange, quickly finds its way to representing the *real value* of land, general labor and real capital along with a multitude of produced goods and special services. This *culturally accepted use* of money therefore makes it something to be desired, or even *coveted*, along with other things.

In general money has its place and serves a valuable purpose in economic exchange so necessary for our survival and comfort. Sadly, like other things, it is easily *idolatrized as something to be served for its own sake* rather than simply serving the purposes of economic transaction. Money, as a burgeoning economic standard, is too often seen as monster to which *all other things become subservient*. Christ's exhortation regarding one's service respecting God or Mammon is *not* to be taken as one which *discourages* capital operation and exchange. Rather, like everything else, it is the corruption of our *fallen humanity* which becomes exposed through our avarice, lust, or economic ambition in association with the utility of money in connection with our idolatrous affection.

Rich and poor alike should take care in how they are being influenced, manipulated or coerced through the use of money. Real economic wealth is, and always will be, anchored in *production*, not *financial manipulation*. We have this backwards in our world today and the lust for money encourages usury and easily drives people to go into debt beyond any prudent understanding with what they are becoming involved in. The Scriptures have no praise for usury, and the Bible's reminder that "the borrower is servant to the lender" is largely ignored as we progressively replace our national republic for an international plutocracy. The *love* of money leads to the *lust* for money, leading to *indebtedness* for money, which is one path resulting in *slavery*. Well, of course, I guess you really could find a host of *all kinds of evil* somewhere along this path. I remember learning in my formative years about something referred to as *debtor's prison* in the past. I sometimes wonder what the future might hold in regard to our progressive financial instability?

How does all this ultimately end? I think the Bible, in Revelation, makes it clear enough. We are ever drifting toward a broad class of slaves under a global feudalism governed by the financial lords of international commerce. Most will become people who own nothing; will they *really* be happy?

VI. More on Slavery

A review of history would reveal that from Egypt to Babylon to Rome there had always essentially existed what might be referred to as a *slave class*. This in itself is not such a terrible thing *if..... if* one is only referring to some *group of simple unskilled workers* within a community. However, a *real social problem* exists when any such group is *targeted for oppression and/or disenfranchisement*. People within an open, economically fluid society are free to strive and enhance their economic posture while others remain content to abide in

relative simplicity. Yet *if* a certain group, for whatever reason, is *intentionally blocked* from access, or free utilization, of economic resources for their individual improvement, then the grievous understanding of what is meant by slavery and oppression is fully realized.

From human history, the ethnic distinction between Egyptians and Israelites would be one example that encouraged the development of slavery that some might say is *based on race*. However, an example of financial manipulation as seen in Amos chapter 8 seems to be *based on economic class* where the rich are essentially intent on enslaving the poor. What should we think when this form of disenfranchisement expands to the arena of political power between a people and their leaders, or even in the relationships between first and third world countries?

Of course, we must remember that any concern regarding inequity and poverty cannot be adequately answered through emotional responses driven by human sentimentality. We must thoughtfully confront the reality of human envy, laziness, bitterness and other corrupting attitudes which also contribute to the development of any so-called underclass, as well as from those who are actively working to take advantage of others.

In the final analysis, it seems clear to me that the principle, which we have previously discussed, on *doing unto others as we would have them do unto us* never falls short in directing the spirit of our relationships despite our respective socioeconomic or political backgrounds or situations. Furthermore, it appears to be that this same principle is the actual standard which God uses when he assesses our personal interactions, economic or otherwise.

VII. Israel and the Divine Intent regarding Land Labor and Service

So, when I think about the original covenant between God and mankind and what has happened over the last few thousand years, I tend to ponder about what life might have been like had we not experienced the Fall and our expulsion from paradise. Well, it seems that God has actually shown compassion toward man while we are learning the hard lessons associated with disobedience toward Him as we abide within a fallen creation. By this I am referring to the example He attempted to set up with the establishment of the nation of Israel under Moses around 3500 years ago.

Israel was to become the preeminent nation for an example of divine intervention to be witnessed by all the other developing nations. This initially began with the call of Abram (or Abraham) following the spiritual rebellion and failure which occurred at Babel. In the course of time, national Israel was eventually led into the promised land of Abraham with a new set of perfectly just *divine laws* and a *divine pattern* for national life with features that make me think of God's original intent for man from the beginning. In noting a few features, it is easy to see how the following elements listed below suggest an incorporation of features from the Adamic and Noahic covenants: a) Preeminence of God's sovereignty, b) an emphasis on land (or creation itself), and c) an emphasis on the family with private property and a perpetual inheritance. In expanding upon these features consider the following contrasts with respect to the typical experience of someone living in the ancient world in a developing Gentile nation.

Israel

1. Divine Law (system of law)
Ex 20+ Deut 5+
2. Agrarian Emphasis
Num 26; 33:54 Josh 13-22
3. Private Property
Josh 13-22 I Kings 21
4. Emphasis on Family
Num 26 Josh 13-21
5. Family Inheritance
Num 16-36 Josh 13-24
6. Civilian Execution/Militia
Lev 20,24
7. Fixed Tax (Tithe)
Lev 27; Num 18; Deut 12,14

Gentiles

1. Systems of Men
2. Urban Emphasis
3. Collective Property
4. Emphasis on State
5. State (Public) Domain
6. Professional Military
7. Arbitrary Taxation

Since I have been discussing issues concerning poverty as “the road to owning nothing” (which is the title for this radio series), I am reminded of one additional feature originally designed for national Israel. It was the establishment of the *Year of Jubilee*. In a nutshell, this program was to be implemented in order to ensure that succeeding generations would not be *saddled, hamstrung or impoverished* by the economic transgressions of any former generation. I wonder if we are ever looking at God’s intended design for ancient Israel, or are we unfortunately making choices which will result in our continued *loss of liberty*, both for ourselves and our posterity.

VIII. The Conclusion of the Matter

As we have *briefly* considered the socioeconomic and political problems within human culture, permit me to reflect upon what King Solomon would have to say. In Proverbs he sets forth many wisdom principles to help us live and avoid the foolishness of simplicity or rebellion. Sadly though, in Ecclesiastes he reflects on the goodness and transcendence of God as well as the depravity of man and the futility of life because it will end in death. If there is any hope to be found he can only point to our Creator who is the sovereign God of the universe.

If you ever happen to read some of the writings of Confucius (Confucianism), Lao Tzu (Taoism), Gautama (Buddhism) or perhaps other pre-Christian religious texts, I think you will find the echo of King Solomon replete in their observations. Solomon preceded many religious figures by something on the order of 500 to 1000 years. He was the *first son of David* to reign as king.

As I am writing this, it just so happens to be the Christmas season. I am therefore reminded about the Magi, so-called wise men, who organized a pilgrimage to Israel to *worship and honor the last son of David* who would reign forever. Obviously, these *very* wise men understood that this child Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah, the King of the Jews,

the Coming One, the Desire of Nations and by other names which were known throughout the ancient world. This Jesus *was to be worshipped*, for He would accomplish what no other king or commoner would, or could, ever do.

Somehow these sages had received and preserved the ancient wisdom of Solomon, and undoubtedly had learned about the prophecies of Daniel. When they saw the celestial witness of Jacob's star, *they acted* upon the divine wisdom which was converging at this period in history. They no doubt knew that Solomon had *mourned the reality of death*, but Jesus Christ *came and conquered Death itself*.

So where are you this Christmas season? As we transmit this final session on poverty, slavery, and the current road to *owning nothing*, have you considered the wisdom which was spoken by Christ around 2000 years ago? If you are currently preoccupied about your lack of money or wealth, your desire to get ahead, your social status, your acceptance or rejection within your local community (or region), have you considered the profundity of this question.....*What does it profit a man to gain the world and lose his soul?* You know, those words *profit, gain* and *lose* are all terms used in *economics*. So, I leave you with this question.....*How's your spiritual portfolio?*

7. A Treatise on Natural Philosophy

I. Motion

A Surprising Beginning

The late Oxford professor Herbert Butterfield in his book, *The Origins of Modern Science*, made the following quote, which I initially found rather staggering:

“Of all the intellectual hurdles which the human mind has confronted and has overcome in the last fifteen hundred years, the one that seems to me to have been the most amazing in character and the most stupendous in scope of its consequences is the one related to *the problem of motion* – the one which perhaps was hardly disposed of by Galileo, though it received a definite form of settlement shortly after his time in the full revised statement of what every schoolboy learns to call the law of inertia”. p. 15

Could the idea of motion really be the most stupendous idea during the last fifteen hundred years? As I have thought about this for decades, I have unwillingly come to agree. Furthermore, I recalled that Aristotle had regarded God as the *prime mover*, so the idea of motion itself apparently carried significant consideration in the past.

Further considerations caused me to wonder why God would be so concerned about motion. He could have just produced a cosmic sized fresco, painting, or better still a grand sculpture. However, these would merely be *static* representations of nature. Apparently, the Creator is far more energetic in His nature, and He therefore produced an extremely *dynamic* universe.

A Dynamic Living Universe

Unlike Butterfield, I might consider the understanding of *life*, as a concept, as being even more stupendous in scope than motion. Yet, with full respect to Butterfield, it seems that *life and motion are inextricably related*. Perhaps this incremental understanding contributes in part to overcoming any intellectual hurdles in understanding the nature of motion.

Nevertheless, I will begin with that “definite form of settlement” (as expressed by Butterfield) within classical physics that we generally refer to as Newtonian Mechanics. I confess that as I do this I am looking toward a *fourfold pattern* resident in the grandeur of the universe.

II. Mechanics

The Legacy of Sir Isacc Newton

Isaac Newton was a titan in the history of science. However, as characterized by John Maynard Keynes, Newton was perhaps not really the first modern scientist as much as he was the last of the magicians (or rather Magi). Although in recent years, some have seemed disturbed by his alchemical investigations as if he were operating in an occultic manner reminiscent of medieval practices.

However, Newton, along with other luminaries, had to work through the deficiencies of their

cultural heritage which was certainly less than scientifically systematic. Indeed, men such as Galileo, Bacon, Newton, Kepler and others became the founders of modern science and successfully worked through their moments in history to advance the frontiers of civilization. Yet, with his laws of motion, and especially his theory of gravity, Isaac Newton was said to have *intellectually* (i.e. mathematically) united heaven and earth.

The Four Laws of Motion

When an object of some mass (m) moves at some rate of velocity (v), we say it has momentum (P). By definition, $P = mv$. What Butterfield's schoolboy learned was that an object at rest ($v=0$) had no momentum. Furthermore, if this object were observed to be moving, possessing some momentum, its *natural tendency* was to *retain* or *manifest* that same momentum, *apart from any external influence(s)*. What is generally *not* understood by that young schoolboy is the *history* of medieval, or pre-Newtonian, mechanics which *required* any *moving object* to be *continually pushed* by some *outside agency* in order to keep on moving. This was the concept of pre-Newtonian inertia for any moving body since the time of Aristotle, over 1500 year earlier. To have removed these outside agents for being the cause of any constant rectilinear motion was a titanic intellectual shift in thought which opened the door to a new understanding of natural philosophy.

Accordingly, if the constant rectilinear motion (including rest, where $v=0$) of any object *were to change*, then some sort of *external force must* be recognized to account for this *accelerating* motion (+ or -, i.e. faster or slower). Furthermore, if such moving objects were to collide with one another, then the balance of the collective momentum would be preserved since *for every action there would be an equal yet opposite reaction*. One can almost catch a whiff of an aroma from a future equipartition principle for thermodynamics from this earlier Newtonian insight.

Finally, *another law* (which I have mischievously inserted) resulted from an intellectual contribution made by Libnitz, which eventually led to our modern concept of *kinetic* energy, or energy of *motion*. I playfully present a mathematization of these laws in a manner similar to Maxwell's equations, which will be discussed later. In terms of momentum, $P = mv$ (a body m in motion v), we may write these *four* laws of motion as:

- I. $P_o = K$
- II. $dP/dt = F_n$
- III. $\Sigma P_i = \Sigma P_i'$ (i spans from 1 to n ; n from 2 to ∞)
- IV. $\int Pdv = KE$

Even if one were to petition for more principles in the field of dynamics, I think you would have to agree, *historically speaking*, that these were foundational in providing the mathematical principles of natural philosophy, specifically in the area of mechanics.

III. Thermodynamics

Brief Historical Background

As man moved from his considerations about matter and motion, an examination of the phenomenon of *heat* (in association with matter) naturally arose. Beyond the earlier distractions of the phlogiston and caloric theories, the scientific and engineering communities finally arrived at the kinetic theory of matter. This interpreted the thermal characteristic (or temperature) of any material substance in terms of the dynamic motion of unseen particles.....hence the term *thermodynamics*. As objects which always *fell* to

earth, it appeared that thermal energy always moved (or was transferred) from a hotter object to a colder object or environment. An intense interest in work (W), along with energy [now being seen as *thermal* energy (Q)], began to develop. A *difference* between temperatures, like a *difference* in altitude with respect to gravity, conceptually expanded our appreciation of energy forcing us to realize that *energy must somehow be the ability to do work*.

Now apart from any empirical determination of what we refer to as the *Gas Laws* (from Boyle, Charles, and Guy Loussac), a desire for a deeper understanding of the association between pressure (P), volume (V), temperature (T) and thermal energy (Q) in order to accomplish work (W) became paramount in the nineteenth century as the steam engine was emerging. Though Hero's engine had been known from the time of the Greeks, there did not seem to be any *universal* application of steam power. Thermodynamics, along with our understanding of Newtonian Mechanics, began to transform human civilization during the nineteenth century in what has been called the industrial revolution. Machine power began to replace manual labor and animal power achieving a significant increase in the work that could be accomplished and therefore advance human dominion over the earth from a global perspective.

The Four Laws of Thermodynamics

The study of thermodynamics primarily focuses on the first and second laws. However, with the acknowledgement of the kinetic theory of matter (which defines temperature) and the continued advancements in cryogenics, the third law was born in recognition of a theoretical limit for atomic or molecular motion itself. If particles were perfectly still or *motionless*, then this would constitute a thermal state referred to as *absolute zero*. Furthermore, as an afterthought, it was realized that the notion of thermal equilibrium was perhaps more conceptually fundamental than the three laws already well established. Instead of doing a complete renumbering of these laws, this final law was dubbed the *Zeroth Law of Thermodynamics*. I have expressed it in terms which may sound like the transitive property for mathematics. These laws are listed below

0. If $T_A = T_B$ & $T_B = T_C$ then $T_A = T_C$
1. $U = Q - W$
2. $dS = dQ/T$; $dS \geq 0$
3. $dS = 0$ when $T = 0 \text{ K}^0$

With the advent of thermodynamics during the 19th century, the notion of *energy* was starting to become more central than either force or momentum as the overarching concept that would serve to unite the diverse areas within physics (rather natural philosophy). Within the field of thermodynamics, thermal *energy* (Q), and the internal *energy* (U) of an object or system, opened the door to a broader understanding of nature. A thermal *gradient* perhaps was just a few steps away from what would develop into full blown *field* theories, as our concern about the *energy of an object* would direct our thinking toward the *energy of, or within, space*.

IV. Electromagnetism

In the history of science, magnetism and electricity were seen as separate phenomena. The behavior of static electricity with amber and bits of paper had been known by the ancient Greeks. Magnetism, from loadstone, was known from ancient times resulting in an extensive treatise written by William Gilbert by 1600. Beyond mechanics (and its association with the mass(m) of objects), we were eventually confronted with the reality of the property of charge(q). Aside from *static* electricity, electrical *current* was originally thought of in terms of a *fluid(s)* model. Thompson and Milliken served to persuade us otherwise. This

tended to reinforce the prevailing atomic theory. Now matter was seen as being localized, possessing both mass *and charge*.

The Unity within the Four Laws of Maxwells Equation

The prophetic vision of Faraday combined with the mathematical genius of Maxwell gave us an engineering foundation for electrical engines, or motors, with a host of other insights and inventions. Maxwell had effectively unified electricity, magnetism and light. Furthermore, science moved into a deeper level of understanding into what is generally referred to as *field theory*. Now any “action at a distance” might be thought of in terms of particles, or waves, within some *medium or field*.

The subtleties of Maxwells equations are too complex to briefly summarize. However, largely due to the work of Oliver Heaviside, the broader set of Maxwell’s original formulation was reduced to four foundational equations essentially providing a comprehensive framework for electromagnetism and optics. The idea of a theoretically *unified theory of knowledge* of diverse phenomena was elegantly demonstrated, which combined the diverse contributions of others such as Gauss, Faraday, and Ampere. Some, at that time, would begin to wonder if gravity itself was somehow electromagnetic in nature (some, perhaps, still do 😊)

Maxwell’s equations, in differential form, are as follows: (*please forgive the delta symbol (Δ) in place of the Del operator – which is not on my computer*)

$$\begin{aligned}\text{I.} \quad \Delta \cdot \mathbf{E} &= \rho/\epsilon_0 \\ \text{II.} \quad \Delta \cdot \mathbf{B} &= 0 \\ \text{III.} \quad \Delta \times \mathbf{E} &= -\delta \mathbf{B}/\delta t \\ \text{IV.} \quad \Delta \times \mathbf{B} &= \mu_0 \mathbf{J} + \epsilon_0 \mu_0 \delta \mathbf{E}/\delta t \quad (\text{note : } \epsilon_0 \mu_0 = 1/c^2)\end{aligned}$$

Einstein was in love with Maxwell’s work. Allegedly, he and Minerva would skip classes and spend time in the park with perhaps wine and cheese and definitely with the theoretical considerations of James Clerk Maxwell. (...with those two I guess Maxwell could even be considered *sexy* !)

I can’t imagine how I could ever briefly summarize the succinct and marvelous complexity of electromagnetic theory in such a brief essay. Suffice it to say that the profundity and scientific appreciation of Maxwell’s comprehensive work, eventually presented in these four equations, has probably been best summarized on a T-shirt worn by many undergraduate physics or electrical engineering students. (Prepare to perhaps be startled as well as amused) On the front and back of this shirt are forms of Maxwell’s equations. At the top of this shirt it says, “And God said”; and below the equations are the words, “and there was *light*”. Well, with that being said, what more can I say?

V. Light and Optics

Waves

Although optics is logically connected to electromagnetism, we should pause for a moment in our philosophic examination before considering the significance of what has come to be known as *wave/particle duality*. I could have logically woven optics within electromagnetism (thanks to Faraday and Maxwell), but a special consideration needs to be given to the unique *classical* interpretation of light with respect to electrical particles, which were considered as separate things. Classical physics saw particles as particles and waves as waves, because after all a rose is a rose is a rose. Right?

Although Newton saw light as particles (or corpuscles), Huygens and Young would advance a wave

theory of light. Here again are four features which characterize the behavior of light as waves: a) reflection, b) refraction, c) diffraction and d) polarization. Although particles and waves share the *common behavior of reflection* (in linear transmission), light behaves more like sound in the act that it can “spread out” and even *emanate in all directions* from any point source. These features or laws for waves, specifically *light waves*, are listed below:

I.	$\theta_i = \theta_r$	Reflection
II.	$n_1 \sin\theta_1 = n_2 \sin\theta_2$	Refraction
III.	$\lambda = d \sin\theta / n$	Diffraction
IV.	$I_1 = I_0 \cos^2 \theta$ (Malus' Law)	Polarization

A Word on Light and Sound

Although light and sound are considered wave phenomena, sound is modeled as a *mechanical* wave, while light is an *electromagnetic* wave. It is the *wave nature* which causes them to be modelled differently from particles in assessing their behavior. At this point in classical history, it was accepted that only waves *resonate*.

Only light, as a *transverse* (2 dimensional) wave, experiences the aspect of polarization. Sound is regarded as a *compression* (1 dimensional) wave. Nevertheless, is light able to produce sound, or is sound able to produce light? (food for thought!)

VI. Chemistry

Particles

Chemistry was my childhood love. Since I have become a senior citizen, I enjoy telling friends that my senior preoccupation is with *biochemistry*.

My public education of long ago taught me that Democritus (Greece) and Lucretius (Rome) were early advocates of an atomic theory of matter. While Zeno pondered infinity (and infinite divisions), others were already advancing a primordial form of quantum theory, believing that matter was ultimately divided up into indivisible particles....hence the word *atom* (indivisible). Due to its protracted history, a systematic understanding of chemistry was a late comer in the scientific revolution. Alchemy tended to be mystical, or occultic, in contrast with anything we might call truly scientific today. After all, it is difficult to describe things precisely *which you can't see*. Despite this handicap, early chemists (or alchemists) made significant discoveries with their retorts and furnaces which kept the research interest going. Fortunately, this interest didn't die as the ability to turn lead into gold became less and less likely.

Four Foundational Laws for Chemistry

It seems a bit more difficult to reduce chemistry into *four basic laws* since the history of this obsession with the essence of matter (or substances) spans over such a long period. Now there was already a *fourfold witness* regarding matter in what the Greeks referred to as the *elements*, listed as: Earth, Water, Air, & Fire. Our modern perception is that these are better represented as *states* of matter which we now refer to as: Solid, Liquid, Gas, & Plasma.

Over the centuries a number of contributors here and there made infrequent strides for our understanding of matter. Although perspectives like the phlogiston and caloric theories tended to misdirect our understanding in chemical research early scientists forged ahead. By the time of John Dalton something similar to the Newtonian Laws of Motion could be said to have started to appear which would

eventually lead to our modern understanding. In deference to others who tend to cite the gas laws, etcetera, as foundational in chemistry, I have chosen to simply reduce these to simpler philosophic notions associated with the reality of chemical interaction.

1. **Conservation of Matter (or Mass)**
2. **Conservation of Energy (a developing contribution from Thermodynamics)**
3. **Law of Definite Composition**
4. **Law of Multiple Proportions**

The last two principles, of course, are Dalton's highly significant contribution foundational in our understanding with respect to chemical interactions. With regard to the first two it should be noted that matter and energy were seen as completely separate concepts. Additionally, Lavoisier even included heat and light (forms of energy) as material substances in his table of elements. So, despite what one chooses to believe concerning Einstein's later formulation regarding matter and energy, these two concepts, like particles and waves were historically seen as distinctly separate.

Atomic Models from associated Theories

Atomic models from Democritus or Dalton up to Thompson and Rutherford continued to teach us about the reality of these unseen atoms. Ironically, just when we thought we had a handle on all this, we began to discover these indivisible atoms were made up of *subatomic particles*.

Using public school classifications as an analog, I learned in elementary that atoms were little simple different-sized balls with even smaller letters on them like H, O, C, P, etcetera. These, of course, ran around bumping into one another making "new stuff" (kind of cool really). At the start of secondary school, I came to understand that Thompson demonstrated the reality of electrons leading to a different view of atoms, the plum pudding model (or more like chocolate chip cookie dough for American children). These chocolate chips, or electrons, could come and go either freeing themselves or getting stuck in the gooey cookie dough. Thus, we had a model for explaining the phenomenon of ionization. By the end of High School, I eventually came to understand the atom was nucleated with electrons orbiting a collection of particles called protons thanks to Rutherford. This helped in understanding nuclear decay and, along with Bohr, light spectra from different atoms. In college I was now being told that the complex matrix of the "orbiting" particles was more like an ambiguous cloud due the strange wave-particle duality of electrons.

So, there you have it.....from BBs to cookie dough, to solar systems or "paranormal" entities (joke!).....I guess, like Heisenberg, I was becoming a little *uncertain* about what I would ever *really* understand about the physics of chemistry. Thank God for Dalton!

VII. Quantum Physics (aka QM)

The Unity between Waves and Particles

Classically speaking, when we represent the motion of some phenomenon as a particle or a wave, the velocity of linear motion could be described as follows: a) as a discrete particle $v = d/t$, but b) as a continuous wave it would be expressed $v = f\lambda$. The units of the later certainly reduce to distance over time in any units being considered, yet how does one really perceive what is physically happening in wave motion. Particle motion is much easier to comprehend, but waves always seemed to require some medium in which to vibrate, or "wave in".

Although I may have entered into an arena where angels fear to tread, this is my take on the

fundamental ideas (or developments) for QM. I certainly suspect that others would undoubtedly characterize this somewhat differently than what I am doing here. It is not easy to simply reduce quantum physics into four comprehensive principles, yet these might serve as *foundational* at least in a *historical* sense (if not for the whole of QM):

- I. $E = h\nu$ (Planck – particle nature of light)
- II. $p = h/\lambda$ (de Broglie – wave nature of particles)
- III. Schrödinger's wave formulations (de Broglie relationship + wave equation)
- IV. Heisenberg's matrix mechanics (suggesting “probability” waves ???)

Multiple Views from Quantum Mechanics

The reason why it is so difficult to select a single set of four principles in QM is that there are a number of so-called “*universes*” that QM is said to suggest or *imply*. This “implication” almost becomes an operative principle due to that *uncertainty* that Heisenberg introduced. In Nick Herbert's book, *Quantum Reality*, several of these viewpoints are discussed which just makes you a little more uncertain about reality after the discussion of each one. Furthermore, I even saw a footnote in a college organic chemistry book that suggestive QM might even explain why humans have *free will* ! (I'll let you sleep on that one)

I am suspicious about the Bohr-Heisenberg emphasis on *probability* waves in representing the wave nature of matter. The scientific investigations concerning *resonance*, by people like Nicola Tesla, persuaded me to believe in *real* resonant wave properties and not just some probability distribution. Well, with all this pondering about free will or alternate universes, maybe QM is pointing toward something *beyond* physics, or *metaphysics*.

VIII. The Metaphysics of Jesus Christ

The Fourfold Testimony of Christ

In a manner similar to the various sets of fourfold principles, which I have presented governing areas of physical reality, the gospels of Christ have been said to emphasize four features of Jesus Christ within the historical narrative of His appearance. Of course, these allude to both the natural and supernatural characteristics of the one that many of us have become to know as Lord and Savior, as well as being the living God of the universe. These features are summarized below:

- | | | | | |
|------|---------|---|-------------------|---------|
| I. | Matthew | - | Christ as King | (Lion) |
| II. | Mark | - | Christ as Servant | (Bull) |
| III. | Luke | - | Christ as Human | (Man) |
| IV. | John | - | Christ as Divine | (Eagle) |

For several millennia, man has had the opportunity to come to grips with his privileged position within creation in understanding the laws of the nature and the purposes of nature's God. For some two thousand years now, the world has had the opportunity to respond to the witness of this messiah figure named Jesus Christ. There may even be more views that have been expressed about this one man than the number of perspectives on QM.

I sometimes marvel at the genius of mankind. Within a span on the order of about a hundred years we essentially went from traveling by horse and buggy to travelling to the moon. Despite your preferred view of origins, one might be inclined to ask, “*What took us so long?*” Certainly, one cannot say that from about 1850 to 1969 we experienced a global period of peace where mankind had evolved beyond any pettiness for selfish ambition.....*far from it!* Yet during this time there was indeed an explosion of

industrial and technological innovation anchored in the earlier understanding of natural law through what is generally referred to as the scientific revolution. I would further suggest that the majority of these so-called forefathers of this intellectual revolution possessed a worldview dedicated to the truth that a *rational* God created a *rational* universe and a *rational* creature to *move* throughout creation and glorify the Creator of heaven and earth. (There's another tidbit on *motion* for Dr. Butterfield 😊)

So again, what is it that is taking us so long in establishing some vision of utopia which has been prophesied by many, century after century? Is it not the fact that in many ways and for some reason we are flawed, deficient, contaminated or corrupted. Indeed, the sacred scriptures speak of *sin and death*. I recall that Erwin Schrödinger wrote the book *What is Life?*, which inspired Francis Crick. I could perhaps write a book entitled *Why do We Die?*, but I believe the Bible already adequately covers that subject, *from beginning to end*. We all die because we are all steeped in sin. Our real need of salvation is that we need to be *recreated* ! We can't do this. Solomon, in all his wisdom, *mourned the reality of death*, but Jesus Christ *conquered death* and has opened the door to *eternal life*.

I am not a big supporter of groups such as the Club of Rome, the UN, or WEF. They are free to meet and discuss the world's problems. They might even come to grips in resolving temporary issues or periodically finding better ways in accomplishing something. They may even be working on artificial intelligence (AI) models, or solving the problem of death, in their back rooms. However, their socioeconomic and political suggestions cannot solve the basic *spiritual* problems which haunt humanity. *Consciousness* and *intelligence* are *functions of spirit*. Love, joy, and peace are manifestations of spirit also.

A significant shift in the advancement of the scientific revolution took place with Newton and his publication of *The Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*. Well, if you give any heed to Keynes' remark about Newton, one might be inclined to review Newton's theological publication, *Observations upon the Prophecies of Daniel and the Apocalypse of St. John*. (1733). I don't think anyone who reads this work will find it to be lip service to the contemporary culture. That would be so unlike Sir Isaac.

Therefore, perhaps we would do well to give some serious consideration toward metaphysics in the manner in which we study physics. Furthermore, like Newton, we might find the laws of heaven are as binding as the laws which govern earth.

Personal Footnote:

Dr. Steven Weinberg may look to the *first three minutes* in the consideration of his preferred worldview of cosmic origins. On the other hand, I am more predisposed in meditating upon the *first three verses* of Genesis. Beyond this I find the *supernatural* philosophy concerning the person and work of Christ even more enriching than the wonders of the natural world, which are indeed marvelous.