

Origins of Destiny :

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)

IV. Government
(Gen. 9:6)

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

VI. Israel/Church
(Gen.12:1-8→)

I. Sloth, Slavery, Usury
(Gen. 3:6 →)

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

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

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

V. Internationalism
(Gen. 11:1-6 →)

VI. Antichristianity, Antisemitism
(Gen.11→)

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

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.

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|-----------------|--|
| 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 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.

