

The Biblical World View

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Introduction

As people try to make sense of the madness evident in the current world, they often fall foul of various ideologies, dogmas and philosophies that claim to explain the origins of key issues, such as: the creation of man, the origin of evil, the provenance of the rulers of this world, the roots of occultism, and so on. Some of these explanations have become fashionable in the truthing or freedom community, which seeks to get to the truth of what is going on. Unfortunately, these explanations are but more deception from the enemy with the inevitable confusion that follows. Instead of explaining origins, these narratives create more layers of obfuscation.

Without evaluating all these theories (often claimed as facts) and exposing them all as false,¹ in this paper I will lay out the world view of the Bible and show why it is a superior explanation of all that is going on and why.

¹ I have done that elsewhere.

Authority and sources

Why we can trust the Bible: authenticity and authority

This is not a paper on apologetics so I will be brief here.

Authenticity

The Bible is entirely trustworthy as a historical document, more than any other extant historical manuscript. The OT was written in Hebrew; the NT was written in *Koine* ('common') Greek.

- There are more manuscripts (mss.) supporting the Bible than any other historical document.
- There are over 9,000 NT Greek mss. containing either all of the NT, all of certain letters and Gospels or parts of these.
- The OT mss. were subject to intense protection and scrutiny by Hebrew scribes. One serious copying mistake and the scroll was destroyed. Rigorous inspection ensured that all retained copies were exact.
- NT mss. that were fading with age were destroyed to avoid mistaken interpretations, and new copies commissioned (this is why there are few ancient extant mss.).
- Many ancient secular works have few or even only one source ms. and no one questions these.
- The Biblical mss. have been subjected to vigorous scrutiny over many centuries.
- Sceptics have attacked the character of the Bible for centuries but no one has succeeded in proving that it is not authentic.
- Though there are minor discrepancies of detail in the NT mss. (e.g. word spelling, word order, minor omissions etc.) here and there, no Biblical doctrine is affected by this. There is overwhelming unity of thought and, in the main, unity of detail.
- Quotes of the Bible in the writings of early theologians confirm the text.
- Other ancient Bible versions in languages other than Hebrew and Greek (e.g. Syriac) confirm the text.
- Bible quotes in early church liturgies confirm the text.

Authority

Supernatural characteristics: fulfilled prophecy regarding Israel

There are hundreds of examples but it will mention just a few.

- The sojourn in Egypt to last 400 years (Gen 15:13-16).
- Israel would be unfaithful, taken captive and dispersed (Deut 28:20-66; Lev 26:14-39).
- The Northern Kingdom warned 65 years in advance that they would be despoiled by Assyria (Ezra 7:8-20).
- That Judah would be deported to Babylon for 70 years (Jer 25:11, 29:10).
- Jerusalem and the temple would be destroyed after the rejection of the Messiah (Dan 9:25-26; Matt 24:1-2, 34).
- An emperor called Cyrus would authorise the return of the Jewish exiles from Babylon (Isa 44:28, 45:1). Cyrus was king of the Medes and Persians, being the son of the Persian Cambyses. He began his reign about 550 BC so this prophecy was delivered nearly hundred and fifty years before he ascended the throne.

Supernatural characteristics: Messianic prophecy

There are scores of these; I will mention a few.

- Birth in Bethlehem (Micah 5:1).
- The flight to Egypt (Hos 11:1).
- The massacre of the innocents (Jer 31:15).
- Childhood in Galilee (Isa 8:23, 9:1).
- John the Baptist as forerunner (Isa 40:3).
- The healing of the sick (Isa 53:4).
- The time of the appearance of the Messiah (Dan 9).
- Teaching by parables (Ps 78:2).
- The entry into Jerusalem riding upon a donkey (Zech 9:9).
- Betrayal by Judas (Ps 41:9).
- Casting lots for his garments (Ps 22:14-18).
- The crucifixion, piercing of feet and hands (Ps 22:16).
- Burial in the tomb of a rich man (Isa 53:9).

Supernatural characteristics: fulfilled prophecy on other nations

- The destruction of Nineveh (Zeph 2:13-15).
- The fall of Babylon (Isa 13, 21:1-10).
- The collapse of Egypt (Ezek 29).
- The rise and fall of the Persian, Greek and Roman empires (Dan 2:7-8).
- The taking of Edom, Moab, the Ammonites, Tyre, and Sidon by Nebuchadnezzar (Jer 27:1-11; Ezek 26).
- Destruction of Tyre by Alexander the Great (Jer 27:1-11).

Witnesses

- When the NT was written, many eyewitnesses of Jesus were still alive who could have contradicted it if it were false; instead many became Christians.
- The witness of Christ: Jesus testified to the truth of the OT (Lk 24:27; Mk 12:26; Matt 5:17).
- The witness of the apostles: They authenticated the OT (Jn 4:22; Acts 3:24-25; Rm 3:21; Heb 3:7+). Peter treated Paul's letters as scripture (2 Pt 3:16). They claimed that their writings were from God (1 Thess 4:15, 1 Tim 4:1; Rev 1:19; Jn 20:31).
- The witness of the prophets: The OT writers claimed divine inspiration (Gen 1:3; Ex 24:4; Jos 8:31; Ps 19:7-11; Mic 6:1).

Accuracy of historical statements

- Archaeological discoveries continually prove Biblical statements.
- Originally, archaeology scholars tried to prove the Bible wrong and ignored it as a help; now they treat it seriously and study it carefully before they dig.
- One example is the Hittites. The Bible mentions them, but originally no one knew anything about them and claimed that the Bible was wrong. Scholars later dug up finds proving that the Hittites existed.
- Several ancient historians back up the Gospel and early church stories, like Josephus (he even says that Jesus was the Messiah), Tacitus, Suetonius, Juvenal, Pliny.

The preservation of the scriptures

- The amazing providence of God over centuries despite the efforts of men to destroy them.

Internal Evidence

- **Morality of the Bible:** If men wrote the Bible they would not condemn sin. Heathen sacred books water down sin, or even condone it. The Bible repeatedly denounces sin and demands holiness. Failures of Bible characters are not ignored (e.g: Abraham, David, Peter).
- John Flavel wrote that demons and sinful men could not have written the Bible because it everywhere condemns them. Good men or angels could not have written it because it says that it was inspired by God and that would make them liars, not good. Therefore, only God could have inspired it.
- The effect, in history, of the Bible has been to change the lives of those who believed it to be true. Just look at the Reformation, the first century church, the Great Awakening etc. Whole nations were affected, for the better, when many turned to the God of the Bible. The great social movements throughout history were led by Bible believing people e.g: the origin of schools, orphanages, prison welfare, abolition of polygamy, abolition of slavery etc.
- **Unity of theology:** despite forty different writers, from various backgrounds, over 1600 hundred years, the Bible is in total harmony with itself. As well as being consistent in history, geography, social customs etc., the Bible is consistent theologically. What one writer says about God or salvation, agrees with what is written elsewhere. The Bible never contradicts itself. There are, however, some difficult passages to explain, but they can all be harmonised logically. What one man writes today on a subject will be very different from what he writes on it in 20 years time. Just look at Communism. It only began a 150 years ago with the writings of Karl Marx, yet today there are hundreds of variations of Communistic thought and practice.
- **The dignity, majesty, simplicity and power of the Bible:** all testify to its divine origin. It has been compared to nature in that it possesses lofty peaks of wisdom and also low valleys of simple sweetness. There are subjects that stretch the mind of scholars and truths that the simplest person can easily understand. No book has ever had the influence of the Bible. No words can strike a human heart with such power as even a few words from the Bible can.

Scientific

- No scientific discovery has ever contradicted the Bible. In fact some of the greatest scientists were Christians trying to understand God's world.
- The Bible is in complete harmony with science, but it is not a technical manual; it is a book about salvation.
- It is the only ancient book to state that the world is round (Isa 40:22) and hangs on nothing (Job 26:7).
- It is 100% medically accurate and is the oldest book to advocate quarantine.

Discrepancies

- All the passages which seem to contradict others, or contain a serious difficulty, have been faced by someone over the years and explained. None have continued unexplained.

- Often background information helps resolve the problem e.g. John's Gospel uses the Roman method of counting time (midnight to Noon) whilst the other Gospels use the Jewish method (sunrise to sunset). This resolves many difficulties between them.
- Sometimes, just careful study sorts out apparent difficulties (e.g: the different accounts of the resurrection).
- Remember that if the Bible was written by men alone, they would have made sure that such simple differences would have been avoided.

Conclusion

The Bible is true. It was inspired by God and was transmitted throughout history in accurate copies.

Being the manifestation of the mind of God, the Bible gives us a true account of everything we need to know.² It establishes the absolute truth³ that forms the foundation of social life, politics, governance and all human behaviour.

To understand what is going on today we must look to the Bible for answers and not human philosophy.⁴

For more information

- Rene Pache, The inspiration and authority of Scripture.
- BB Warfield, The inspiration and authority of the Bible.
- EJ Young, Thy word is truth.
- J Harold Greenlee, Introduction to New Testament Textual criticism.
- GT Manley, The New Bible Handbook.
- Joseph Angus, The Bible Handbook.
- Josh McDowell, Evidence that demands a verdict.
- Paul Fahy, The Authority and Authenticity of the Bible
- Paul Fahy, Why the Bible is trustworthy: Answering alleged discrepancies and errors in Scripture

Authority of the Bible to formulate truth

Apart from what we have already considered demonstrating authenticity and authority we should note the following.

The revelation of God's law

God gave man his law to govern all human behaviour. This was the manifestation of the divine will for the created human; no animal was given such a law.

The moral law was given to Adam orally by God to guide him in the development of the first civilisation. This oral law became understood as natural law and its principles have

² 2 Tim 3:15-17, 'All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work'.

³ Ps 119:160, 'The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments *endures* forever'.

⁴ Col 2:8, 'Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ'.

continued down the centuries. After the flood, Noah passed on the principles of divine law and natural universal law developed alongside it.

The divinely planted conscience also bears witness to the work of the law (Rm 2:15). This ensures that natural law has an internal witness. All men know what is right behaviour and what is evil.

With the beginning of the nation of Israel, God miraculously gave Moses the Mosaic Law from heaven, which expanded on various issues to assist the developing nation in being separate from other nations. This contained the principles of moral law known from the beginning, civil laws to ensure a stable society and ceremonial laws to regulate the Hebrew worship system. The moral and civil laws were fundamental to the development of the British legal system, which began with Alfred the Great when he was king of Wessex.

The moral law was summarised in two tablets of stone containing the Ten Commandments. This became the basis of all Western legal systems. An even simpler summary of the duty of man is found in the Mosaic Law: 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength' (Deut 6:5); 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself' (Lev 19:18). How do you live a righteous life? Simple. Love God fervently and love your neighbour. The historic Golden Rule for a law-abiding society is to do unto others what you would do unto yourself.

Jesus also affirmed this:

Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind'. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself'. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. Matt 22:37-40

In even simpler terms, love fulfils the law:

Love does no harm to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilment of the law. Rm 13:10

Jesus brought in the New Covenant based upon grace but this did not cancel the principles of moral law because they are universal and preceded the Mosaic Law; Jesus subsumed them into the law of Christ (Gal 6:2). The details of the civil and ceremonial laws pertaining to Israel were rescinded (Heb 8:13). The Mosaic Law contained the shadow of Christ (Col 2:16-17; Heb 8:4-5) but Jesus manifested the full light. Thus the shadows of the Levitical priesthood and offerings were no longer necessary when Christ, the Great High Priest, had come.

We have the law of God and know in our hearts that it is true. Thus the law of God arbitrates in the affairs of men. If we want to understand a matter, we apply the law of God and not human ideas or philosophies.

The manifestation of Jesus

The law is the revelation of the mind of God regarding human behaviour; it is the clarification of what is truth. Truth has its absolute in God.

The full manifestation of divine truth in the world, in the most perfect form, was the life of Jesus Christ. As the fulness of God (Col 1:19, 2:9) in human form he was the truth made flesh (Jn 1:14, 17, 14:6).

The truth is in Jesus.

To live properly our lives must be based upon truth; absolute truth. If we fail to measure ourselves by truth we become corrupt and believe anything, and then behave improperly. Therefore, everything we meet in life must be measured by the truth or we will be deceived and then become a pawn of the Devil.

So the question that we must continually ask ourselves regarding the exigencies of life must be: 'Is this true?'

Now liars and deceivers will bring some rogue dogma into society and declare that this is true. The wise person accepts nothing at face value but tests it against the Lord Jesus Christ. No matter how many thousands of people, be they academics or philosophers, say something is true, if it fails the test then it must be rejected no matter what the cost.

For example: Jesus affirms the normality of marriage between a man and a woman in order to bring up godly children and ensure a stable society. Not only did Jesus state this himself but all the Scriptures (which are revelations of Christ) state the same thing.

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. Gen 2:24

For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate. Matt 19:5-6

For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. Eph 5:31

This truth means that the following **are lies**:

- Adultery is normal.
- Divorce is normal.
- Fornication and immorality are normal.
- Prostitution is normal.
- Homosexuality is normal.
- Transgenderism is normal.
- Queer theory is normal.
- Bestiality is normal.
- Incest is normal.

Consequently, corruption of marriage and sexuality, in whatever form, is specifically stated to be wrong (Lev 18:22, 20:13-16; Deut 23:17, 27:21; Rm 1:26, 27; 1 Cor 6:9, 15-16; Gal 5:19; Eph 5:5; 1 Tim 1:10; Heb 13:4; Rev 21:8, 22:15).

This shows that any modern perversion can be fundamentally judged by the truth of Scripture, the manifestation of Jesus. At the end of time in the Final Judgment it is the truth of Jesus that will bring the prosecution case against all evildoers. Everyone failing that test will be sentenced to Hell.

Agreement with the human conscience

I have already explained that the conscience witnesses to the work of the law. Every person knows in their heart what is right and what is wrong.

Yet the conscience needs to be developed from its nascent form. Children have less of an understanding until they are taught. The renewing of the mind to develop the conscience is a lifelong matter. The conscience should continually be taught, as we learn more about God, what is true.

But the opposite is also true. The conscience can become seared (1 Tim 4:2); that is, so burned and damaged that it no longer functions. The more you ignore your conscience and sin, the weaker it becomes.

A child's explanation of this was that the conscience is triangular. When it spins in response to a sinful act, it causes pain warning you of the danger. However, if you ignore this pain and continue to sin, the points of the triangle wear down and no longer cause pain. The person is then free to commit terrible acts of evil without any remorse or pangs of conscience.

So the conscience should be nurtured with truth and allowed to be very sensitive. As the person reacts quickly to the conscience, so they are directed to walk wisely and righteously.

If your conscience is trained properly, it will direct your mind in what is true.

The divine counsel

The overriding purpose of life on Earth

Sensible people come to a point in life when they ask, 'Why am I here?' 'What is the purpose of life?' I will ignore the various suggestions of philosophers and heathen religious leaders and focus on what the Bible teaches.

The perfections of God's attributes

God is the summation of perfection and holiness.

Who *is* like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who *is* like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? Exod 15:11

He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He. Deut 32:4

As for God, His way is perfect. 2 Sam 22:31

It is impossible to put into words the magnificence of the divine attributes. Just a few would include that God is infinitely and fully good. He is infinite love. God is infinitely holy. God is infinitely, eternally and unchangeably: omniscient; omnipotent, omnipresent, just, perfect, merciful, righteous, wise and glorious. God is the only being in eternity and space that has life in himself; everything else is derived life (angels, man and the natural order are created life). God is the beginning and end of all things.

The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth. Exod 34:6

Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is* good! For His mercy *endures* forever. 1 Chron 16:34

Good and upright *is* the LORD. Ps 25:8

He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD. Ps 33:5

The heavens will praise Your wonders, O LORD; Your faithfulness also. Ps 89:5

Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yes, our God is merciful. Ps 116:5

The LORD *is* righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works. Ps 145:17

Great *is* our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding *is* infinite. Ps 147:5

Holy, holy, holy *is* the LORD of hosts; the whole earth *is* full of His glory!
Isa 6:3

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come! Rev
4:8

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and
the Last. Rev 22:13

God is one;⁵ there are not many gods.⁶ Yet the Godhead is a Trinity of three Persons: the Father who initiates; the Son who achieves and the Holy Spirit who applies the divine purpose. These Persons are not modes of one being but are individuals who are all equally God.⁷ The Trinity is a community of love. The highest form of loving relationships in the universe is the loving community of the Godhead. This is the origin of loving communities on Earth, such as the family.

God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. 1
Jn 4:16

God is spirit; a spiritual being. God decided to manifest his divine perfections in a material way to express his goodness. This would produce a material expression of the beauties of the divine perfections. Thus the universe was created to be a manifestation of the divine attributes. The centre of this cosmos is Earth. The centre of Earth is man.

Man: created to be the vehicle perfectly reflecting the glory of God

In man, God more fully made a vehicle to reflect his divine personality. Aspects of God's wisdom can be seen in trees, fish, mammals, the stars, or mountains; however, the living expression of the variegated wisdom of God is only found in human form. Man was therefore made in the likeness of God; the crown of God's creation.

Animals live by instinct and plants by necessary processes (like transpiration); they do God's will in a pre-ordained way with no self-determination. Man has a superlative intelligence, critical thinking and independent free will to walk like God. He is capable of growth of wisdom and rational decision making, able to change the environment for the good of all as well as technological development using tools. Only man is gifted with the abilities to reflect the glory of God in a variety of ways.

Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness'. Gen 1:26

Come and see the works of God; *He is awesome in His* doing toward the sons of men. Ps 66:5

⁵ Deut 6:4, 'Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!'

⁶ When the Bible mentions other gods (e.g. Gen 35:2; Exod 12:12; Deut 4:28) it does so in reference and accommodation to the errors of men who worship demons as gods through idols. It is not accepting that these idols are really gods.

⁷ Phil 2:5-6, 'Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God'.

But now, O LORD, You *are* our Father; we *are* the clay, and You our potter; and all we *are* the work of Your hand. Isa 64:8

Men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Jm 3:9

The likeness of God is not just rationality (something animals do not have) but the propensity for holy love. Man can form communities of love that represent the divine loving community. Man is meant to be a holy creature; walking in righteousness.

Thus the purpose of life is to know, worship and love God and fully represent him on Earth in perfect love and holiness.

Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. Hos 6:3

Know that the LORD, He *is* God; *It is* He *who* has made us, and not we ourselves; *we are* His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, *and* into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name. For the LORD *is* good; His mercy *is* everlasting, and His truth *endures* to all generations. Ps 100:3-5

Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. Matt 5:48

It is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy'. 1 Pt 1:16

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 1 Jn 4:7

So the purpose of life is to know and worship God and commune with God forming loving communities (family, church, village, nation) that reflect the glory of God, living in love, peace and harmony.

The perfection of this is in the redeemed community; the church. Only the Lord's people, the redeemed elect, can overcome the effects of the Fall (see next) and reflect the character of God in spiritual terms. In natural man the spirit is dead in sins; only in regenerated people is the spirit alive to God.⁸

⁸ Eph 2:1, 'And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins'. Eph 2:4-6, 'But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Jn 10:10, 'I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly'. Col 2:13, 'And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses'.

To the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him. Eph 3:10-12

He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth -- in Him. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. Eph 1:4-12

We speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory. 1 Cor 2:7

The body of Christ is a witness and testimony to the heavenly host of the character of God manifested in redeemed people.

The Fall

In the wisdom of God, and as part of his decreed plan, man was allowed to fall and lose this likeness through sin becoming the likeness of the Devil.⁹ Salvation is the means whereby God rescues a part of the human race to be the manifestation of God for eternity (see later).

So, since the Fall, man must first find the salvation of God, which all are called to,¹⁰ and after being converted then fulfil the purpose of God. Sadly, no one chooses salvation,

⁹ Jn 8:44, 'You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do'. Matt 13:38, 'The tares are the sons of the wicked *one*'. Acts 13:10, 'you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness'. 1 Jn 3:10, 'He who sins is of the devil'.

¹⁰ Rev 22:17, 'And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely'. Jn 7:37, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink'. Matt 7:7, 'Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you'.

preferring to follow their own desires;¹¹ this is why God draws a portion of the human race to salvation in Jesus Christ.¹²

The warfare

Man is now the object in a spiritual battle between God and the Devil (see next). Satan seeks to deceive, corrupt and destroy man, meant to be the apple of God's eye (Ps 17:8; Zech 2:8), and to pervert all creation so that it is the reverse of all that God intended. Thus human society is the target of an unprecedented and prolonged attack to fully pervert and invert it into a manifestation of iniquity. Thus the Devil does all he can to tempt men into evil deeds and prevent them from finding the salvation of God and freedom from his domination.

Sadly, most men follow the purpose of Satan rather than the plan of God. This is why the world is an evil place.

Understanding the decree of God, the overriding plan and purpose of God in creation, providence and salvation, is the key to understanding what is going on in the world today. The outward chaos, disorder, ugliness, irrationality, brutality and iniquity is the external, earthly, manifestation of the spiritual war between God and the Devil.

The victory

Many people in the freedom or truth movement (the opposition to the Elite cabal controlling nations) believe that mankind will fully awaken and remove the evil powers that be and bring peace and harmony to the world in the next few years. This is sadly mistaken. I have explained the Biblical prophetic statements that indicate how the Devil brings in a totalitarian world evil government and slaughters the saints (Christians) in a parallel to what happened in the early church under the ten Roman persecutions which sought to destroy the church. The book of Revelation explains this in detailed terms.

The victory is not achieved by men.

Only Christ brings the victory over the new world empire, fully conquering Satan with the mere breath of his mouth. God allows the end-time totalitarian fascist empire to prevail for a time to show the fulness of man's sin in the world. When evil has come to fulness, then the world is harvested for condemnation and wrath in divine judgment.

Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. 2 Thess 2:8

Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND

¹¹ Rm 3:12-19, 'There is none who does good, no, not one. ... There is no fear of God before their eyes.' Isa 64:6, 'we are all like an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags; we all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away'.

¹² Jn 6:44, 65, 'No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day'. ... and He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.

LORD OF LORDS. Rev 19:15-16

The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast¹³ and the false prophet¹⁴ are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Rev 20:10

But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. Isa 11:4

Christ returns in heavenly glory, appearing in the clouds of heaven with his angels and saints to bring in the destruction of the earth to be restored in the fulness of beauty and harmony with God. The saints (church) dwell on this purified earth forever in fellowship with God. Heaven and earth meet.

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 1 Thess 4:16-17

For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. Matt 16:27

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. Matt 24:30

The Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. 2 Thess 1:7-9

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look

¹³ The end-time evil world political system submitted to Satan.

¹⁴ The end-time false world religion that worships Satan.

for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 2 Pt
3:10-13

Thus the decree is fulfilled perfectly. God has a pure world filled with holy saints perfectly manifesting the glory of God.

The decree to allow evil to arise and man to fall

The plan of salvation in the decree

God sovereignly predestines

It is important to understand that God is in full control over all world events; he is sovereign. Thus God predestines and determines all that happens. History is His –story.

God determines the days of our life

My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, *and* skilfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when *as yet there were* none of them. Ps 139:15-16

God determines the rise and fall of nations

And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings. Acts 17:26

God elects saints (the church) in eternity

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. Rm 8:29-30

He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will. Eph 1:4-5

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father. 1 Pt 1:2

You *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light. 1 Pt 2:9

Thus anything that occurs has a purpose that is centred in the will of God from eternity. This includes the fall of mankind.

The decree is one

The decree, as the counsel, purpose and plan of God, is a single unit. There is one decree. This is the decree to fulfil the divine purpose of creating a perfect manifestation of the divine character in a material universe. Overall, it comprises creation, providence and salvation (see later).

However, from our perspective in time, the decree can be broken down into a series of items which, in turn, enable the fulfilment of the divine will. Thus the one decree is often spoken as 'the decrees of God'. It is helpful to analyse the decrees to better understand the divine purpose regarding predestination.

The order of decrees

Since God predetermines everything, the plan of salvation is ordered according to the will of God. It is not determined by men or angels and neither is it a reaction to a problem (the Fall). The end is planned from the beginning.

Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,' Isa 46:9-10

I know that whatever God does, It shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, and nothing taken from it. God does *it*, that men should fear before Him. That which is has already been, and what is to be has already been; and God requires an account of what is past. Eccles 3:14-15

The starting point of election¹⁵ and predestination¹⁶ is called supralapsarianism¹⁷ by theologians; that is, God's decree to save the elect comes before the Fall or creation. Many are offended by this because it detracts from man's free will. Even Reformed theologians opposed to Arminian free will prefer infralapsarianism (God's decree to save comes after the decree to allow the Fall). Yet Scripture is very clear; God's sovereign will is supreme and the decree to save the elect comes before the decree to allow the Fall. This is not a chronological matter, it is a logical construction, a rational order, in the mind of God.

This is sometimes called 'double predestination'; God elects the saints and decrees the reprobation of the rest.

So we have this supralapsarian order of salvation.

- The glory of God.
- The election of Christ as covenant head, creator and redeemer.
- The decree to elect the saints in Christ and reprobate the wicked.
- The decree to allow the Fall.
- The decree to create.

[Infralapsarianism is: The decree to create. The decree to allow the Fall. The decree to elect the saints in Christ and the passing by of the wicked. Christ as Mediator to redeem the elect. Arminianism, which does not focus on the decree, would be: The decree to create. The decree to allow the Fall. The atonement of Christ. The opportunity for all to be saved if they will to believe the Gospel.]

¹⁵ The choosing of the saints in eternity.

¹⁶ The divine pre-determining of all things. The tension between human free will and divine predestination is a centuries old debate that man cannot fully comprehend. Philosophical answers have been wanting.

¹⁷ Supra – 'above', 'prior'. Lapsa = 'the fall'.

The Biblical focus is upon the glory of God in Christ and the physical manifestation of the divine glory in the elect on Earth. In this the sovereignty of God is foremost.

Regarding reprobation

The LORD has made all for Himself, yes, even the wicked for the day of doom. Prov 16:4

What if God, wanting to show *His* wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction. Rm 9:22

They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed. 1 Pt 2:8

By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber. 2 Pt 2:3

For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ. Jude 1:4

Many are offended by this clear Biblical doctrine and claim that it makes God the author of sin. This is false; God cannot be the originator of sin because he is holy.

Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Jm 1:13-15

- Men choose to sin; they need no encouragement.
- Even when faced with the Gospel, most men refuse to be interested, preferring to continue in sin.
- When mankind fell in Adam (see later) they were lost in sins and spiritually dead awaiting judgment. God would have been righteous and just to eradicate all mankind.
- Instead, knowing that no man will seek salvation on his own, God chose to save a portion of mankind despite man's rebellion and sin.
- He did this by regenerating them giving them faith and repentance.
- By choosing a portion of mankind there was automatically the non-choosing of the rest. These are the reprobate. They were not forced to sin but were not chosen to life. God must have a testimony of justice and wrath against sin committed. The sin cannot be ignored but must be condemned.

The origin of evil and opposition to God

To understand the evil in the world today we must first understand how evil entered the world and why. By understanding the origin of evil we can better understand the character of evil people controlling the world.

War in heaven

And war broke out in heaven: Michael¹⁸ and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out [‘out’ is not in the Greek], that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Rev 12:7-9

And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. Rev 12:3-4

Creation of angels

The beginning of creation was the creation of angels in heaven to minister to God. Angels were disembodied personalities in the spiritual realm that had various tasks. There were ranks of these, with princes over them (see later). We know the names of two angels: Michael (a chief prince) and Gabriel.

War arose in heaven

There was a rebellion of some angels, which led to a heavenly war. The insurrection was led by an angel called Satan who controlled a third of the angelic host. There is little said about this rebellion in Scripture except that it occurred.

After the rebellion of some angels there were two distinct groups: 1) the elect angels¹⁹ that did not fall (two thirds of the angels); 2) the fallen angels submitting to Satan.²⁰

Demons placed in chains

Fallen angels (demons) were placed in chains in the aerial realms of the Earth and restrictions placed on their activities.

And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day. Jude 1:6

God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and

¹⁸ Michael: Greek word of Hebrew origin = ‘who is like God’. The first of the chief princes or archangels, Jude 1:9. Watched over the ancient Israelites: Dan 10:13, 21, 12:1.

¹⁹ 1 Tim 5:21, ‘I charge *you* before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels’.

²⁰ Rev 12:3-4, ‘A great, fiery red dragon ... His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth’. ‘Stars’ is here symbolic for angels.

delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment. 2 Pt 2:4 [See later.]

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, [the Gospel Age] and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished [the period before the end]. But after these things he must be released for a little while. Rev 20:1-3

The timing of this casting out

This is a difficult question due to a lack of clarity.

There are essentially two options: 1) at the beginning of creation of the Earth; 2) at the cross of Christ.

Revelation 12:3-4, 12:7-9, 20:1-3 suggest that the casting out was immediately after the war in heaven. 2 Pt 2:4 affirms that demons were cast out of heaven when they sinned.

And He said to them, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven'. Lk 10:18
The past tense ['I was beholding', indicative, imperfect, active] would imply that the casting out was in the past, before the cross. However, Jesus was a prophet and so this could refer to a vision of the future.

Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. Jn 12:31

This would refer to the casting being after the cross.

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment ... of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. Jn 16:7-11

This implies the casting is a result of the cross.

How can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house. Matt 12:29

When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armour in which he trusted, and divides his spoils. Lk 11:21-22

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil. Heb 2:14

He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 1 Jn 3:8

Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. Col 2:14-15

These passages imply that the casting out was after the cross.

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. And the LORD said to Satan, 'From where do you come?' So Satan answered the LORD and said, 'From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it'. Job 1:6-7

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. And the LORD said to Satan, 'From where do you come?' So Satan answered the LORD and said, 'From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.' Job 2:1-2

These passages imply that Satan still had access to heaven and the presence of God long after the war in heaven.

The best way to understand this problem is to suggest that Satan and his demons were cast from heaven down to Earth after the heavenly insurrection. However, Satan still had some creation privileges to enter heaven when summoned and had a hold over men through sin and death (Heb 2:14). These powers were removed by the atonement of Christ with the sentence of destruction suspended until the Second Coming. Satan was left with no power and no heavenly access, except to deceive wicked men.

So there was a casting down and a casting out.

CASTING DOWN AFTER THE HEAVENLY INSURRECTION

Condemnation for sin committed in heaven (leaving his moral estate, pride, violence, iniquity, disobedience to God, fomenting rebellion, and leading an insurrection). Sentence: banishment from formal duties in heaven, imprisoned in chains on Earth.

- Cast *them* down. 2 Pt 2:4
- Cast him into the bottomless pit. Rev 20:1-3
- Cast to the earth. Rev 12:7-9
- Threw them to the earth. Rev 12:3-4

CASTING OUT AFTER THE CROSS

Condemnation for sins on Earth (deceit, temptation to sin, inciting disobedience to God in man, fomenting rebellion on Earth; fomenting death). Sentence: destruction in the Lake of Fire (suspended until the end).

- Cast out. Jn 12:31
- The ruler of this world is judged. Jn 16:11
- The Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 1 Jn 3:8
- Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. Col 2:14-15
- Through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil. Heb 2:14

Satan's pride

The fallen angels were those that followed Satan who rebelled against God and wanted to be God. Some prophecies regarding proud kings have an oblique reference to Satan's iniquity and rebellion, such as:

Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone *was* your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. You *were* the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You *were* perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendour; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you. You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you. All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And *shall*

be no more forever.” Ezek 28:11-19

This is more than a veiled reference to Satan and seems to be a denunciation of Satan through his pawn the king of Tyre.²¹

This implies that Satan was a chief of angels but was filled with pride, especially in his beauty. He had wisdom and power but became filled with violence and iniquity and then rebelled against God, seeking to be God.

How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *How* you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit. Those who see you will gaze at you.' Isa 14:12-16

This denunciation of the King of Babylon is similar in that it appears to refer to Satan, the master of the king. Babylon's king was not fallen from heaven.

This confirms the rebellion of Satan was based in wanting to be God, ruling all the angels.

Satan's names

These names demonstrate his character.

- Satan = 'adversary', i.e. the adversary of God and his people.
- *Apollyon* (Rev 9:11) = 'the destroyer'.
- *Diabolus* (Greek), Devil = 'the accuser'.
- *Beelzebub* (Matt 12:24) = Lord of flies or house.
- The dragon (Rev 12:9, 20:2).
- The old serpent (Rev 12:9, 20:2).
- The prince of this world (Jn 12:31 14:30).
- The prince of the power of the air (Eph 2:2).
- The god of this world (2 Cor 4:4).
- The spirit that now works in the children of disobedience (Eph 2:2).

The origin of demons

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Eph 6:12

Demons (Matt 17:18, 'Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him') are fallen angels, evil spirits (Acts 19:16, 'Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on

²¹ Satan specifically possesses kings as wielders of power in the Earth – unless they are submitted to God (such as Edward VI or Wenceslas).

them'), and unclean spirits (Mk 1:23, 'Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit'). They have ranks like the elect angels.

Demons are ruled by Satan: 'But the Pharisees said, 'He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons'. Matt 9:34.

Some demons are denominated by the problems they cause men:

There was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. Lk 13:11

Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more! Mk 9:25

A certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination. Acts 16:16

It must be emphasised that they are disembodied, immaterial, spirit beings with no fleshly powers. They have to work through humans, which they achieve by deception.

The spiritual warfare of Christians is the continuation of the demonic war against God. We fight against the temptations and deceit of fallen angels.

Satan is the origin of sin

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, 'Has God indeed said, "You shall not eat of every tree of the garden"?' And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, God has said, "You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die."' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die'. Gen 3:1-4

You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and *does not* stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it. Jn 8:44

But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 2 Cor 11:3

He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 1 Jn 3:8

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Rev 12:9

The key sin of Satan was rebellion against God; this then developed into multiple other sins such as violence, pride, lust etc. This sinfulness contaminated the Earth through the temptation of Adam and Eve, which led to sin entering the world. Mankind was subsequently controlled by Satan through sin, thus Satan was said to be: 'ruler of this world' (Jn 12:31), 'the god of this age' (2 Cor 4:4), 'the prince of the power of the air' (Eph 2:2). God owns the world (Ps 24:1) but Satan controls the evil within it.

Demons tempt men to sin and control them

Demons use deception to tempt people into sin and away from the purposes of God. The battle is in the mind.

The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 2 Thess 2:9-10

This deception often involves masquerading as someone righteous in order to transmit lies and errors.

For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works. 2 Cor 11:14-15

In extreme cases some people become possessed by evil spirits.

For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralysed and lame were healed. Acts 8:7

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. Acts 16:16

Possession by demons is usually caused by: giving in to extreme sin continually, addictions, submitting to extreme melancholy following some trauma, delving into occultism or mysticism. Genuine Christians cannot be possessed because they have the Spirit of God indwelling them.

Demons attack saints

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 2 Cor 12:7 ['Buffet': to strike with the fist, give one a blow with the fist, to maltreat, treat with violence.]

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against

the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints. Eph 6:10-18

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. 1 Pt 5:8-9

Demons dwell in the atmosphere above the Earth

And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. Eph 2:1-3

Spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Eph 6:12 [‘Heavenly’ here refers to the atmosphere, the first heaven.²²]

The Devil and his legions dwell in the atmosphere around the Earth from where they deceive men and work through them.

If God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment. 2 Pt 2:4

‘Hell’ is a wrong translation. The word is *tartaroo* (Strong’s 5020) from *Tartaros* (the deepest abyss of Hades) the name of the subterranean region, doleful and dark, regarded by the ancient Greeks (Tartarus) as the abode of the wicked dead, where they suffer punishment for their evil deeds; cf. Hebrew *Gehenna*. The casting down is from heaven to Earth. Tartarus was in the Earth. Peter is emphasising that the casting down was an

²² The second heaven is space; the third heaven is the abode of God, 2 Cor 12:2.

imprisonment in chains like the inhabitants of the underworld were imprisoned in the earth.

A great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. Rev 12:3-4

The rebellious angels were cast to the earth.

Demons are sentenced to everlasting punishment in Hell

The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Rev 20:10

Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels'.
Matt 25:41

Summary

- Angels were created to minister to God.
- Satan was a chief of angels, filled with beauty, wisdom, power and honour to serve God.
- Satan, filled with pride and iniquity, rebelled against God and led an insurrection in heaven.
- Archangel Michael attacked him and threw him out of heaven with his hordes.
- Satan and his demons were banished to Earth to roam the air above the Earth. Limits were set on their activities, described as chains.
- Demons tempt men to sin.
- Demons can cause mental afflictions.
- Men committed to unreserved sin find themselves possessed by demons.
- Demons attack saints, causing oppression and stirring men against them.
- Chief among their limitations was preventing Satan from forming a worldwide empire (see later). Before the end, this limit is rescinded and Satan is allowed to form this global kingdom (see later).
- Satan hates God and his people. He is continually striving to completely control the world using proxies which he wants to turn into his kingdom, filled with iniquity.
- The war in heaven explains the fundamentals of the war against people today by the global Elite cabal who are submitted to Satan. This is why they are striving for world domination.

Origins on Earth

Preface

Satan and his demons had rebelled against God. He then sought ways to undermine God within the newly established creation of the world.

Creation

The creation of all natural things was designed as a testimony to God's moral character. Everything in creation reflects the glory of God and points to his wisdom.

Satan seeks to despoil the world and pervert its character to reflect moral corruption. This perversion brings creation into bondage:

For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. Rm 8:19-23

The corruption of the natural world was achieved by engineering the Fall of man, who is the divinely appointed steward of the world.

Eden was real

The Garden in the east of Eden is often declared to be an illustration, an allegory or just a fable. This is usually stated in order to avoid the judgment of our behaviour. If Eden is real than what happened is real and our life must be judged accordingly.

When Moses wrote about Eden he did not give any indication that the story was merely allegorical, symbolic, typology or a fable; the story is treated as real and the place really existed.

Eden means 'delight' and the garden there was a delight to God since it was perfect.

Moses tells us exactly where it was:

Now a river went out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it parted and became four riverheads. The name of the first *is* Pishon; it *is* the one which skirts the whole land of Havilah, where *there is* gold. And the gold of that land *is* good. Bdellium and the onyx stone *are* there. The name of the second river *is* Gihon; it *is* the one which goes around the whole land of Cush. The name of the third river *is* Hiddekel; it *is* the one which goes toward the east of Assyria. The fourth river *is* the Euphrates. Gen 2:10-14

However, after the flood the Earth was in upheaval and the topography significantly changed including river courses. This means that it is impossible to state where Eden would be today. That is deliberate.

In general terms all we can say is that Eden may well have been sited in the region west of the Caspian Sea. It has been placed in Armenia, in Media, near Damascus, in Palestine, in Southern Arabia, and in Babylonia. But the site must be somewhere along the course of the Tigris and the Euphrates of Western Asia, in 'the land of Shinar' or Babylonia, which is a very rich and fertile tract. In this region streams abound, which divide and re-unite. Alone in Mesopotamia can be found a single river parting into four arms, each of which has been a river of consequence.

The legends of heathens (e.g. Greek myths) about a golden age of innocence where life was free of labour and sorrow, with old age being unknown, as was any trace of evil, with all sorts of fruit to eat is clearly derived from knowledge about the Garden of Eden. This would have been taught by Noah to his children and then disseminated amongst the nations after the flood.

By the way, the origin of the Atlantis myth that there was a golden age of wise, technically accomplished people that died in a deluge of water and vanished is the flood narrative. Myths have a starting point in history and then get embellished and encrusted with fiction. The destruction of the world that existed before the flood was still steeped in human consciousness by the people's that lived after the flood. The facts would have been explained by Noah and his three sons to their offspring. The tower of Babel was a result of this fear of flood.

The pre-deluvian people were the most advanced in world history because their genetics were much purer than today. This is why men lived for hundreds of years. Over time the genetic line was corrupted and life-spans diminished. Thus people were far more intellectually advanced than is usual today and this explains the mysteries about pre-deluvian structures, such as the pyramid of Khufu (Cheops) or precisely cut stone structures.

Adam and Eve were real

Just as Eden was a real place, so Adam and Eve really existed, being directly created by God and placed in the garden.

Moses records that God spoke to them as real people and fellowshiped with them in a genuine relationship. If you deny the existence of Adam and Eve, then you must call God a liar.

Lineage

The Hebrews traced their actual lineage back to Adam (1 Chron 1:1). Various genealogies take it for granted that Adam was real and list him as an ancestor; this includes the genealogy of Jesus (Lk 3:38).

Witnesses

Multiple Bible writers refer to Adam as a genuine living being that existed in Eden. These include Job (Job 31:33), Moses (Deut 32:8), Paul (Rm 5:14) or Jude (Jude 1:14).

Eve is also mentioned separately as a real person in history (2 Cor 11:3; 1 Tim 2:13).

Conclusion

In short, if you declare that Adam and Eve were not real people but only symbols then you have to deny the whole Bible.

Repercussions for today

- God is our creator, therefore we all have responsibility to him, to give him his due in reverence and obedience.
- Creation is not an accident or random.
- Evolutionary theory is a lie.
- Uniformitarianism is a lie.
- Pantheism is a lie.

- Deism is a lie.
- Atheism is a lie.
- All races come from the same stock. All people are essentially the same.
- Any claim that a certain group of people are special above all others (e.g. Talmudic Jews) is false.

The Fall

Understanding the Fall and its repercussions is incredibly important to understand human nature, the prevalence of sin, the need for a plan of salvation and the way the world is today.

The tempter

One of the chief reasons why sceptics treat this passage as allegory is because the tempter is a snake. Now it is clear from the whole gist of the Bible that the serpent was the personification of Satan; the snake was inhabited by Satan. It was Satan tempting Eve through the snake. The tempter is identified with Satan – the Devil (Matt 4:1. 3; 1 Thess 3:5; Rev 12:9).

A speaking snake is difficult to grasp but in the realm of the supernatural this is nothing exceptional. Even in later history a donkey spoke (Num 22:22ff.). Before the curse everything was different; even vegetation grew without any rain (Gen 2:5). There were no thorns and briars, no carnivores, and all the animals came to Adam to be named. In this holy environment it is not impossible that a beast could speak.

The temptation

Adam and Eve were placed in probation in the garden. They had free will but were told to obey the commandments of God, then all would be well.

They were created perfect and holy; God declared that their creation was very good (Gen 1:31).

The test of faithfulness to God was that one fruit tree (not identified) was prohibited
 Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die. Gen 2:16-17

The Fall was caused by rebellion against God based upon deception by a tempter. Here is the process (which continues to this day):

- The tempter planted doubt in the mind about God's word. 'Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, Has God indeed said, "You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"' (Gen 3:1).
- The tempter lied about the repercussions of rebellion. 'Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die"' (Gen 3:4).
- The tempter made a false promise. 'For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil' (Gen 3:5).
- Eve was completely deceived and sinned. 'So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one

wise, she took of its fruit and ate' (Gen 3:6). 'The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate"' (Gen 3:13). 'And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression' (1 Tim 2:14).

- Adam succumbed to the influence of his wife. 'She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate' (Gen 3:6). 'Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate"' (Gen 3:12). Adam wasn't deceived by the tempter but chose to sin on the recommendation of his wife.

This sin resulted in the depravity of the entire human race. Anything spawned by Adam and Eve would no longer be holy but would be inherently sinful, coming from sinful parents.

The proof of this is that all people die physically. Man was not created to die but to live forever and this will be remedied in the salvation of Christ after his glorious return. Death is the result of sin (see later). Man dies because he is in sin.

Origin of sin is rebellion based on deception

Sin is real. Sin is lawlessness against God's law. It is rebellion against God's will. It is missing the mark of what God commands us to do.

Sin arises from temptation to do something wrong, which is an act against God but an act that puts a person into debt to Satan. The temptation is based in deception; that is how the Devil functions, he uses deceit to capture people and pull them away from the true path. Deception is a falling aside from the truth.

While their conscience is active, people know when they are committing sin. Those that deny that sin exists (often due to following various occult ideas) first have to sear their conscience and accept deceptions about themselves. Very often these people also deny that death exists – until they die, or that sickness exists – until they get ill.²³

Death the result of sin

Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam,
Rm 5:14

As in Adam all die. 1 Cor 15:22

God promised Adam that the day he ate of the forbidden fruit he would die (Gen 2:16-17). Clearly that was not a reference to physical death; Adam died hundreds of years later: 'So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died' (Gen 5:5).

Adam died in his spirit. From that point all mankind would be dead towards God; dead in spirit. 'And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the

²³ The classic example was Mary Baker Eddy founder of Christian Science.

power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience' (Eph 2:1-2). Sin results in death of the spirit and ultimately to physical death.

This means that only Christians are alive in their spirit; only Christians have a functioning spirit. Non-Christians do not have a spirit that is alive but their spirit is sunk into their soul. What they think are spiritual actions are really hyperventilated soulish actions.

So all religions and cults that claim to activate the human spirit are lies. In the same way that all mysticism that claims to commune with God by a series of degrees of self-effacement and denial are really just elevated emotionalism (souliness).

The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Cor 2:14

The natural man, unregenerate man, cannot receive spiritual things because his spirit is dead. Non-believers have no spiritual discernment.

Aside: what is man?

The Bible explains that the nature of man can be divided into compartments with separate functions.

- The spirit (*pneuma*): God consciousness. This is dead in sinners. It contains intuition of divine things, communion with God and the renewed conscience.
- The soul (*psuche*): self-consciousness. The executive faculty of man. It comprises the volition (will), emotions and intellect (mind). The soul directs the body to act. In sinners the conscience has sunk into the soul.
- The body: world consciousness. Flesh, blood and bone.

There is also the heart, the centre of man's being. Part of this is in the soul (the higher mind, the *nous*) and part in the spirit (the conscience). Thus the heart is the gateway from a divinely controlled spirit to the soul and thence holy actions. Thus it is the root of life.

Keep [guard] your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life. Prov 4:23

For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. Matt 12:34-35

Often the Bible uses 'heart' to imply 'mind'.

In sinners the heart cannot be trusted, 'The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?' (Jer 17:9). This is because sin has corrupted the heart.

Total depravity

Another result of the Fall is total depravity. The Bible teaches that all people are depraved in every area of their personality. This does not mean that they are manifesting full depravity all the time, it means that there is no area of their life that is not tainted with sin. This may be hidden and not outwardly expressed for a long time, but it is still there.

One of the reasons for this is because men have no spiritual function and thus cannot commune with God.

Both Jews and Greeks [i.e. all mankind] ... are all under sin. As it is written: 'There is none righteous, no, not one. There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.' 'Their throat *is* an open tomb; with their tongues they have practiced deceit'; 'the poison of asps *is* under their lips'; 'whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness.' 'Their feet *are* swift to shed blood; destruction and misery *are* in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known.' 'There is no fear of God before their eyes.' Rm 3:9-18

You can see total depravity being worked out in young children. Without anyone teaching them evil ways, they will attack other children, be spiteful, manifest selfishness, and do mischievous things. Children in a school playground are not holy.

The curse

As a result of the Fall God proclaimed the curse.

- The curse on the serpent: 'So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life"' (Gen 3:14). This curse played out on snakes.
- The curse on Satan the power behind the serpent: 'And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel' (Gen 3:15). This is the first Messianic prophecy that Christ (the seed) will bruise Satan's head (despoil his kingdom) but be attacked in the process (the cross).
- The curse on the woman: 'To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you"' (Gen 3:16).
- The curse on Adam: 'Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return"' (Gen 3:17-19).
- The curse on nature: 'cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field' (Gen 3:17).
- Adam and Eve were banished from the garden. Man had no access to eternal life.

No sex with Satan

Multiple sects, and commonly today amongst New Ageism and occultism, claim that the base of the temptation was really that Eve had sex with Satan producing a cursed progeny. It was nothing to do with sin and rebellion but admixture of human beings with evil demonic forces.

There is not a shred of evidence for this in the Bible; it is preposterous. Apart from that, it is impossible (see later). Eve could not have had sex with a snake, or with a disembodied fallen angel.

Cain and Abel: two pattern men.

Adam and Eve had two initial children (more of them afterwards). These were Cain and Abel. Cain was the firstborn and was a husbandman (tiller of the ground). Abel was a shepherd.

Through the law that God had given Adam, the boys knew that they must give a thanksgiving blood offering to the Lord for fruitfulness. Abel brought a lamb for an offering, 'Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering' (Gen 4:4). However, Cain ignored the law that he had been taught and brought produce as an offering, 'Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD' (Gen 4:3). This was both rebellion against God's law but also pride of what he had accomplished by work. One sacrifice represented the gift of God, the other represented the strength of man's labour.

God did not respect Cain's offering which made Cain angry. God warned Cain to be careful that sin was at the door but he should overcome it and do well. Cain is already demonstrating rebellion and pride but he then added murder to his failings by killing his brother in a fit of rage and jealousy and burying him. When God asked where Abel was (testing Cain – he obviously knows all things) Cain added lies to his list of sins by saying that he did not know.

So God cursed Cain: 'So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth' (Gen 4:11-12).

This begins a theme in Scripture of two contrasting men, such as Saul and David. In the NT this would equate to the old nature and the new nature.

Abel is a type of Christ, an innocent slain for pleasing God. Cain is a type of unregenerate man full of sin, pride and rebellion who does not please God. Abel is redeemed by a blood sacrifice and accepted by God. Cain represents men who strive in their own strength to be accepted but cannot please God by human endeavour.

Abel trusts God's ways and obeys his law. Cain trusted in himself and ignored God's law. Abel represents elect Christians; Cain represents those who follow Satan. Mankind is divided into these lines.

Repercussions of the Fall

Sin expands

As more children are born to Adam and his descendants men began to call upon the name of the Lord (Gen 4:26); that is, through Adams' teaching his expanded family worships God in purity and respects his law. This is particularly noticeable after the birth of Seth (Gen 4:25). Thus Seth initiates the godly line.

Seth means 'a substitute' which Eve chose to represent a substitute for Cain that had gone astray and was banished. However, as the leader of the godly line of pre-deluvian men is it not possible that this has a deeper meaning? The coming Messiah was to be a suffering substitute, but this was only made clear with the writing of the prophet Isaiah centuries later. Could the idea of a coming godly substitute have been implied in the person of Seth?

Gen 6:5

Two lines of people begin to emerge over time following the Cain / Abel pattern. The godly line following Seth and the sinful rebellious line following Cain. One descendant of Cain, Lamech, even boasted about killing a young man (Gen 4:23).

Over time the number of sinful people greatly expands. So sin covered the Earth leading God to say:

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Gen 6:5

This would result in a global judgment on the Earth.

No demonic sex

This nonsense is claimed by multiple people, even some wayward Christians following rogue teachers. It is a pet theory of many modern commentators regarding the source of evil and the global Elite.

The claim is that demons found women attractive and had sex with them producing evil offspring and giants. This offspring resulted in the global Elite who are not human.

Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose. And the LORD said, 'My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh; yet his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.' There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. Gen 6:1-4

I have explained this many times so a long treatise is not required here. In essence the points are as follows:

- This is before the flood. All the evil people (all the Earth's population bar 8 people) died. Not one of these people survived to the current day through their offspring.
- There is no mention of demons here whatsoever.

- ‘Sons of God’ is not a term for demons, whom God hates.
- ‘Sons of God’ is not even referring to good angels here but to the godly line of Seth.
- This is referring to the corruption of the godly line as a result of mixed marriages.
- Demons cannot mate with humans because they are immaterial spirit beings, fallen angels. Note that angels do not have sex or reproduce (Matt 22:30; Mk 12:25).
- The comment about giants is just a statement of fact that has nothing to do with anything. There were also giants after the flood from various tribes such as the Nephilim, the Anakim, the Rephaim, the Zuzim and Emim etc. These were not descended from the pre-flood giants, who died out. The clause, ‘There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them’ is mentioned to indicate the time period, not a direct connection.
- The word ‘giants’ is nephilim, meaning ‘violent’. They refer to violent tyrants.
- The corruption that set in the world led God to give a time limit to judgment of 120 years.

So the whole commentary about a race of evil giants being produced by the mating of demons with human women is a pack of falsities with no foundation whatsoever. Even less that this has anything to do with the modern global Elite.

Flood judgment

As a result of the world manifesting gross evil all the time, apart from a few godly people, God determined to judge mankind and destroy all sinful people in a global flood.

However, Noah (lit. ‘rest’) found favour with God being righteous along with his family. God spared Noah’s family (eight people) and samples of all animals that could not survive a flood. This is also not an allegory but fact. The Ark was huge and animals did not have to be mature and large but juvenile and small. Many modern breeds came from an original pair. Thus all modern dogs were bred from two wolves that were in the Ark. It is entirely feasible.

The new post-deluvian world

After the flood the three sons of Noah: Shem, Ham and Japheth re-populated the Earth. All tribes and nations came from that original group.

This table of nations (Gen 10) is fully explained in Scripture so that people can identify where they came from.

In general terms:

Shem

Literally, ‘name’. Semitic people including Israel.

The region between the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea, the Mediterranean, the Euxine,²⁴ the Caspian, and the mountains beyond the Tigris. Lydia, Palestine, Syria (Aram), Chaldaea (Arphaxad), Assyria (Asshur), Persia (Elam), northern and central Arabia (Joktan - who took over the south).

²⁴ The Greek name for the Black Sea.

Until the coming of Christ (who universalised salvation) the knowledge of God was chiefly held by Semites. Note the election of Abraham and Israel.

Ham

The Hebrew word means 'warm', 'hot' and also 'south'. It does not mean 'black'. There is an Egyptian word 'Ham' which means 'black' but the text is Hebrew. The idea that Ham was Black but his brothers were olive or White makes no sense. The proposal to make Black people the subject of God's curse is racist, In fact, many African people are Christian.

The curse on Ham for his sin against Noah was properly against his son Canaan (Gen 9:22-25), not because he was Black. This led to the judgment against the Canaanites. Note that Nimrod was Ham's grandson.

South Arabia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Canaan, Babylonia, Libya, Mongolia, Japan, China (descendants of the 8th son of Canaan, Sinim).²⁵

Japheth

'Enlargement', also related to the word 'fair'.

Japheth was blessed by Noah along with Shem (Gen 9:26-27) but Japheth would be enlarged above Shem. Japheth dwelling in the tents of Shem is exemplified by the Medo-Persian, Greek, Roman, and modern European and American empires.

Aryans (European, Indian, Asian excepting Semitic people), Celts, Scythians, Italians, Greeks, Teutons, Medes, Slavs, Americans, Australians. Note '*the metaphysics of the Hindus, the philosophy of the Greeks, the military prowess of the Romans, and the modern science and civilisation of the world, are due to the race of Japheth*' (Albert Barnes).

Repercussions for today

- Sin is real; it cannot be ignored or explained away.
- Sin is actively diverging from the will of God in thought, word and deed or passively by omission.
- Sin resulted in death. First of the spirit then later of the body.
- All human behaviour will be made accountable to God.²⁶
- All mankind needs salvation from sin.
- The Devil is a real personality.
- The Devil (Satan) is at war with God and tempts mankind to evil.
- Demons (fallen angels, evil spirits) are real and tempt to sin or oppress people. However, they are not material and cannot engage in the material creation.

Babel and repercussions

Rebellion

It did not take long, after the flood, for total depravity to express itself in widespread rebellion once more.

²⁵ The Arabians and Asiatics called China Sin, or Tchín; the Chinese had no special name for themselves, but either adopted that of the reigning dynasty or some high-sounding titles.

²⁶ Matt 12:26, 'for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment'.

At this point the world was unified in speech and national character. As people of purer genetics than today,²⁷ they were capable of great things, 'And the LORD said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them"' (Gen 11:6).

This technical ability was used in a great expression of vanity and rebellion – the Tower of Babel. Fearing another flood event (though God had promised Noah he would never flood the Earth again) they sought to build a tower that would be high enough to escape the floodwater. To make it impermeable they used bitumen for mortar. The tower was also to reach towards heaven so that idolatrous sacrifices could be as close to heaven as possible. It was, additionally, an expression of hubris; kings reigning from on high over all they surveyed.

And they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth'. Gen 11:4

The pride and rebellion is seen in the expression, 'let us make a name for ourselves'. No humility here. Also the desire was for a city – the concentration of imperial power gathering tribes together in one concentrated place. Towns, villages and clans were not enough; they wanted a city. Thus we see centralisation of imperial power, rebellion against God and the formal establishment of idolatrous, occult religion.

Judgment: Confusion and Scattering

The very thing these people feared was meted out in judgement – being scattered abroad.

'Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.' So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth. Gen 11:7-9

This is what led to the development of nations with separate languages. Language comes from God.

After the speech of all was separated there was great confusion. People stumbled about looking for others who understood them. Over time, groups of same languages gathered together and set off to start their own nation elsewhere. Thus began the great migration that established all the original nations. Some groups contained many people of great talents and abilities and these formed great cities. Other groups had less ability and these became hunter-gatherers living in caves. In the same way as today that some tribes live a stone-age life now while others develop highly technological cities.

The idea that all mankind evolved from a hunter-gather community to higher orders of existence is false. Only some disadvantaged tribes lived primitively. There was no stone-

²⁷ After each generation there is a loss of genetic information making the next generation weaker intellectually and physically.

age; just as there was no bronze age and iron age; they arose simultaneously early in human history (Gen 4:22, 'And as for Zillah, she also bore Tubal-Cain, an instructor of every craftsman in bronze and iron').

The first world empire: Nimrod

The scattering produced the first empire, that of Hamite Nimrod.

Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, 'Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD'. And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah. Gen 10:8-11

The Hebrew implies that Nimrod was a hunter of men, a man of violence. His original kingdom equated to Old Babylonia / Sumer being centred in Babel (Babylon), Erech (Uruk), Accad (Akkad), and Calneh in the land of Shinar (Chaldea, Southern Mesopotamia, Sumer).

This later developed into various empires such as the Akkadian Empire. The area was occupied by Turanian tribes, then tribes of Semites, then an Elamite invasion followed by Khammurabi, the son of Amarpel (Amraphel, king of Shinar, Gen 14:1) conquering the area who became the founder of the new empire of Chaldea (i.e. the first dynasty of Babylonia; 19th-16th centuries BC).

From an archaeological perspective we have the following events.²⁸

- The Flood.
- After the Flood, various city-states and their dynasties of kings temporarily gained power over the others. The first king to unite the separate city-states was Etana, ruler of Kish (c. 2800 BC).
- Thereafter, Kish, Erech, Ur, and Lagash vied for ascendancy for hundreds of years, rendering Sumer vulnerable to external conquerors.
- First the Elamites (c. 2530-2450 BC).
- Later the Akkadians, led by their king Sargon (reigned 2334-2279 BC). Although Sargon's dynasty lasted only about 100 years, it united the city-states and created a model of government that influenced all of Middle Eastern civilisation.
- After Sargon's dynasty ended, and Sumer recovered from a devastating invasion by the semi-barbaric Gutians, the city-states once again became independent. The high point of this final era of Sumerian civilisation was the reign of the 3rd dynasty of Ur, whose first king, Ur-Nammu, published the earliest law code yet discovered in Mesopotamia.
- After 1900 BC, when the Amorites conquered all of Mesopotamia, the Sumerians lost their separate identity, but they bequeathed their culture to their Semitic successors, and they left the world a number of technological and cultural contributions, including the first wheeled vehicles and potter's wheels; the first system of writing, cuneiform; the first codes of law; and the first city-states.

²⁸ Adapted from Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Nimrod's kingdom was a prototype

The great deception of Satan that plagued the world was centred upon forming a global empire so that he could control the world through human proxies in opposition to God. Nimrod's empire was the first attempt. The objective was to reverse all the characteristics of God in the world: beauty, honour, love, righteousness, and replace them with expressions of his own demonic iniquity: hate, evil, lust, violence blasphemy etc.

God halted each attempt to build a world empire (Rev 20:1-3) but allowed empires to survive for a period in order to further his own plans. Thus the Bible prophesied (Dan 7) and explained the characteristics of certain empires (Babylonia [lion with eagle's wings], Medo-Persian [bear], Greek [leopard], and Roman [iron teeth]).

However, at the end, God releases Satan to build a world empire (Rev 20:3) in his image through an evil political system (the beast from the sea; Rev 13:1) with a world religion (controlled by the beast from the earth, the false prophet; Rev 13:11-12; 2 Thess 2:4) centred in a blasphemous, iniquitous, immoral society (Babylon the Great; Rev 17:5, 18:2).

It is likely that we are in the beginning of this build up of the society controlled by the man of sin, of lawlessness (2 Thess 2:3, 9) centred in the Elite cabal.

The beginning of post-deluvian idolatry and occultism

The importance of Nimrod's kingdom, which spread beyond Sumer, is the occultism that he developed as the prototype of heathen and occult religion. Sumer was the root of all occultism and idolatry.

Nimrod established the first post-deluvian idolatrous system based upon a pantheon of gods and occult rituals. He set the pattern of self-deification, becoming the sun god while his wife Semiramis became the moon goddess. These became the foundation of many subsequent pantheons.

Sumer / Babylon thus became the source material for the heathen religions that built up later. This developed as a series of gods and goddesses ruling various aspects of creation (e.g. storm god) or agricultural seasons (e.g. fertility gods).

Alongside the gods came the cultus; thus the fertility god demanded certain fertility rites to ensure a good harvest.

With this development were the beginnings of occultism as practised by the Babylonian priests. Thus the earliest principles of astrology, magic, divination, spiritualism etc. arose with their symbolism, sacrifices, sigils and rituals. This is the origin of many Satanic deceptions that plague the world.

The Molech / Baal cult that was centred in the Fertile Crescent, with some variations, featured the sacrifice of children, even the children of princes and kings. This featured a bronze statue of a minotaur with an outstretched hand over a burning furnace. Babies were placed to be roasted alive on this hand over the fire. To quench the screams, loud rituals, music and dancing would accompany the sacrifice.

This abomination was adopted by certain Israelite kings enticed by foreign gods, often through foreign wives. The Bible denounces it in the strongest terms.

There are claims that the Luciferian global Elite still practice this abomination in secret places.²⁹ I cannot confirm that with evidence. However, the ritual sacrifice of children practised throughout history (for which there is evidence) stems from its origins in Babylonian occultism.

Repercussions for today

- All forms of occultism are evil and originate from the rebellious, satanic idolatry established by Nimrod in the first empire. Occultism includes the subsets: magic (incantations, spells, witchcraft), divination (astrology, numerology, I-Ching, augury, Tarot cards etc.) and spiritualism ('spiritism' USA – communing with evil spirits / demons).³⁰
- All historic sects / cults that derive from occultism are evil (e.g. Hermetism, Kabbalism, Voodoo, Alchemy, Freemasonry³¹).
- All modern sects / cults that are based in occultism are evil (e.g. Theosophy, Rosicrucianism, Luciferianism, Kabbalism, New Ageism, Santeria, Wicca).
- All syncretistic 'Christian' sects are occult and evil (e.g. New Thought, Unity, Christian Science).
- All heathen religions that sprang from their origins in Babylonian idolatry are evil.
- The root of many aspects of Roman Catholicism that derive from Sumerian idolatry are occult. E.g. the Madonna and child trope: = Semiramis and Ninus [Nimrod];³² = Dutter and Tammuz; = Rhea and Bacchus [Dionysius]; = Isis and Osiris; = Parvati and Iswara.³³ E.g. the festivals of Christmas and Easter. E.g. the sacrifice of the Mass. E.g. relic worship. E.g. idols. E.g. the rosary and much more.

²⁹ The focus of this is usually on harvesting adrenochrome, a derivative of adrenaline, to gain longevity.

³⁰ In spiritualism there is no communication with dead people but only demons masquerading as dead people.

³¹ Freemasonry is Satanic but this truth is denied the lower orders (up to the 3rd degree). Masonic leader Albert Pike openly stated this as did Manly P Hall.

³² This confusion of the son equalling the husband is common in this type of mythology.

³³ For more information see Alexander Hislop, 'The Two Babylons'.

Illustration of a called-out body 1: the Patriarchs

God's Covenant with Abraham

The strategy of the Devil was being worked out in the lawlessness of men and the development of city-states and empires. Mankind had already filled the world with lust and unrighteousness – only to be deluged and destroyed by a flood. After repopulation, the world is again bent on rebellion and idolatry centred in the Tower of Babel, which is judged by confusion and separation of languages followed by a scattering. Then the empire of Nimrod solidifies rebellion against God with the formulation of centralised power and occult religion. God's testimony was isolated and in the minority.

God steps in to form a people chosen for himself as a testimony to the world.

Abram's calling

The beginning of the kingdom of God was the calling of Abram ('exalted father') out of Ur in the Chaldees (Mesopotamia). Ur was a large, thriving, important city with many advanced features. It was a centre of comfort and luxury.

At this point Abram was an uncircumcised heathen (Rm 4:10-12). His calling to be elect was unconditional.

Abram's faithfulness is seen in leaving his comfortable homeland without knowing where he was going (Heb 11:8). He was gradually directed to Canaan, living in tents (Heb 11:9), which was promised to him as an inheritance, despite being filled with various Canaanite tribes and Hittites. However, Abram had the foresight and faith that a better homeland was really the issue and Canaan was only a foretaste in this world (Heb 11:10). Christians hold this view to this day (Heb 13:14; Phil 3:20; Rev 21:2).

Through various tests, Abram, renamed Abraham ('father of a multitude'), proved to be a man of faith in God. This was followed by an important covenant with God; that is, a compact of friendship from a more important party with a weaker party.

Lot was not called

Lot was Abram's nephew (Gen 11:27) and travelled with him to Canaan (Gen 12:5); however he was never called. Initially Abram's father Terah was also in the party but he died in Haran.

God blessed and protected Lot, despite his foolishness by living in Sodom (Gen 13:5-13), which vexed his soul, but he gave rise to two of Israel's enemies through sin, Moab and Ammon.

The covenant promise

The importance of the Abrahamic covenant is nothing to do with the land of Canaan (Palestine), though this aspect gets much attention for political reasons. The covenant is about the people of God and Paul makes it very clear that these people are chosen through faith, just as Abraham was justified by faith. So, Abraham is the father of the faithful, the root of those with faith.

Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the

promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all (as it is written, 'I have made you a father of many nations') in the presence of Him whom he believed. Rm 4:16-17

Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, 'In you all the nations shall be blessed'. So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. Gal 3:7-9

The blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. Gal 3:14

The divine promise is not centred in material things like a certain race of people or a land on Earth; it is a divine promise with heavenly implications. It regards the people of God from every nation, those promised to Abraham as the father of a multitude.

The fulness of the Abrahamic Covenant is in Christ Jesus

Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, 'And to seeds', as of many, but as of one, 'And to your Seed', who is Christ. Gal 3:16

For as many of you as were baptised into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Gal 3:27-29

The Seed of Abraham is the Lord Jesus Christ, but also those who are in Christ by faith. The sons of God, after the cross, are those who are in Christ, the elect church.

The promise of the land was not limited to Canaan but to the whole Earth after the destruction of this world and the renovation by God to a new creation. This is the heavenly city sought by Abraham by faith; the new Jerusalem.

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

The covenant line continues through election. Initially this was centred in Abram's son Isaac (mother Sarah) and grandson Jacob (mother Rebekah). Abraham's son Ishmael (mother Hager) was not in the covenant; neither was his grandson Esau (mother Rebekah). Esau's progeny was the Edomites (Idumeans to the Romans) while Ishmael was the ancestor of the Arabs.

The origin of the 12 tribes

Election continued in the 12 tribes of Israel (Jacob). The 12 tribes of the Hebrews were the children of Jacob and Joseph, being:

Gen 29, order of birth

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin.

The Genesis 46 list

Now these *were* the names of the children of Israel, Jacob and his sons, who went to Egypt: **Reuben** *was* Jacob's firstborn ... **Simeon** ... **Levi** ... **Judah** ... **Issachar** ... **Zebulun** ... **Gad** ... **Asher** ... **Joseph** and **Benjamin**. And to Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim ... **Dan** ... **Naphtali**. Gen 46:8-26

The Genesis 49 list: the prophecy of Jacob

And Jacob called his sons and said, 'Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days: Gather together and hear, you sons of Jacob, And listen to Israel your father. Reuben, you are my firstborn, My might and the beginning of my strength, The excellency of dignity and the excellency of power. Unstable as water, you shall not excel, Because you went up to your father's bed; Then you defiled *it* -- *He* went up to my couch. Simeon and Levi *are* brothers; Instruments of cruelty *are in* their dwelling place. Let not my soul enter their council; Let not my honour be united to their assembly; For in their anger they slew a man, And in their self-will they hamstrung an ox. Cursed *be* their anger, for *it is* fierce; And their wrath, for it is cruel! I will divide them in Jacob And scatter them in Israel. Judah, you *are he* whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand *shall be* on the neck of your enemies; Your father's children shall bow down before you. Judah *is* a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him? The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him *shall be* the obedience of the people. Binding his donkey to the vine, And his donkey's colt to the choice vine, He washed his garments in wine, And his clothes in the blood of grapes. His eyes *are* darker than wine, And his teeth whiter than milk. Zebulun shall dwell by the haven of the sea; He *shall become* a haven for ships, And his border shall adjoin Sidon. Issachar is a strong donkey, Lying down between two burdens; He saw that rest *was* good, And that the land *was* pleasant; He bowed his shoulder to bear *a burden*, And became a band of slaves. Dan shall judge his people As one of the tribes of Israel. Dan shall be a serpent by the way, A viper by the path, That bites the horse's heels So that its rider

shall fall backward. I have waited for your salvation, O LORD! Gad, a troop shall tramp upon him, But he shall triumph at last. Bread from **Asher** *shall be* rich, And he shall yield royal dainties. Naphtali *is* a deer let loose; He uses beautiful words. Joseph *is* a fruitful bough, A fruitful bough by a well; His branches run over the wall. The archers have bitterly grieved him, Shot *at him* and hated him. But his bow remained in strength, And the arms of his hands were made strong By the hands of the Mighty *God* of Jacob (From there *is* the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel), By the God of your father who will help you, And by the Almighty who will bless you *With* blessings of heaven above, Blessings of the deep that lies beneath, Blessings of the breasts and of the womb. The blessings of your father Have excelled the blessings of my ancestors, Up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. They shall be on the head of Joseph, And on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers. Benjamin is a ravenous wolf; In the morning he shall devour the prey, And at night he shall divide the spoil.' All these *are* the twelve tribes of Israel, and this *is* what their father spoke to them. And he blessed them; he blessed each one according to his own blessing. Gen 49: 1-28

Reuben loses the honour of the birthright, replaced by Joseph.

The census of Numbers 1

'Take a census of all the congregation of the children of Israel, by their families, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, every male individually, from twenty years old and above -- all who *are able to* go to war in Israel. You and Aaron shall number them by their armies. And with you there shall be a man from every tribe, each one the head of his father's house. These are the names of the men who shall stand with you: from **Reuben**, Elizur the son of Shedeur; from **Simeon**, Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai; from **Judah**, Nahshon the son of Amminadab; from **Issachar**, Nethanel the son of Zuar; from **Zebulun**, Eliab the son of Helon; from the sons of **Joseph**: from **Ephraim**, Elishama the son of Ammihud; from **Manasseh**, Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur; from **Benjamin**, Abidan the son of Gideoni; from **Dan**, Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai; from **Asher**, Pagiel the son of Ocran; from **Gad**, Eliasaph the son of Deuel; from **Naphtali**, Ahira the son of Enan.' These *were* chosen from the congregation, leaders of their fathers' tribes, heads of the divisions in Israel. Num 1:1-16

Levi is missing because it ministered to the Lord in the Tabernacle. Joseph has his children included due to his special privilege.

The census of Numbers 26

- Reuben

- Simeon
- Gad
- Judah
- Issachar
- Zebulun
- Joseph, Manasseh and Ephraim
- Benjamin
- Dan
- Asher
- Naphtali

Note that Levi is omitted. This is according to Jacob's blessing (Gen 49:7) he was to be scattered abroad in Israel and lost his individuality as a tribe. The Simeonites just received a number of towns within the territory of Judah (Josh 19:2-9).

The blessing of Moses, Deut 33

- Reuben
- Judah
- Levi
- Benjamin
- Joseph
- Manasseh
- Ephraim
- Zebulun
- Issachar
- Gad
- Dan
- Naphtali
- Asher

Note that Simeon is omitted to make way for the two sons of Joseph.

1 Chron 4–8

The names of Zebulun and Dan are both omitted.

The Ezekiel 48 lists

Ezek 48:1-7: referring to the division of the country, where Levi, who had no heritage in land, is omitted, and Ephraim and Manasseh are counted as two tribes.

Ezek 48:31-34: Levi is reckoned as one, and Joseph as only one.

The Revelation list: Rev 7:5-8

- Judah
- Reuben
- Gad
- Asher
- Naphtali
- Manasseh
- Simeon

- Levi
- Issachar
- Zebulun
- Joseph
- Benjamin

Ephraim is omitted. This may be that 'Joseph' refers to it (see later) or that, like Dan, it early succumbed to idolatry.

Note that Dan is missing, replaced by Manasseh. No one knows for certain why this is. It is speculated to be because Dan, in the north, first succumbed to foreign idolatry which continued to the exile (Judg 18:30). Seeking territorial expansion the Danite men of war marched to the foot of Hermon, and fought against Leshem, taking it from the Sidonians, and changing the name to Dan (Josh 19:47); the new northern limit of Palestine. However, they succumbed to the local evil influences around them and sank into semi-heathenism from which they never emerged.

Supposed reasons that I exclude due to lack of evidence:

- The tribe of Dan was extinct at the time when Revelation was written - a fact which also existed in regard to all the ten tribes. [E.g. Grotius.]
- Dan is omitted because Antichrist was to spring from that tribe. [E.g. Andreas.]

Summary

- The list and the order of listing vary under different circumstances.
- In the list of the sons of Jacob, Levi is listed but Joseph's sons are not.
- In the census for warriors of Israel, Levi is not listed because Levites served God in the Tabernacle.
- In the territory lists, Levi is omitted because it had no inheritance of land, being committed to the Tabernacle service.
- In lists of blessing Joseph's sons are included due to his special status.
- Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh (Gen 48:1.), gave name to two territorial tribes. There was no actual tribe of the name of 'Joseph' in Israel (though it appears in some lists).
- In the idealised list in Revelation Dan is omitted, Joseph and Manasseh are listed but not Ephraim. Reasons for this are debated.
- Ephraim and Joseph are mentioned as two tribes, Num 13:8, 13:11. In Num 13:11 the writer states expressly that by the tribe Joseph he meant Manasseh. From this it would seem that, as Manasseh was the oldest Gen 48:14, the name Joseph was sometimes given to that tribe.
- As Ephraim became the largest tribe, and as Jacob in blessing the two sons of Joseph (Gen 48:14) laid his right hand on Ephraim, and pronounced a special blessing on him Gen 48:19-20, it would seem that the name 'Joseph' was sometimes given to that tribe.

Conclusion

Abraham is called out of the world but does not inherit the promised land in fulness, which was occupied by Canaanites and Hittites. He continued to seek a heavenly dwelling.

Isaac rests in the fulness of wealth of his father and little is said of him. He is a type of Christ receiving the fulness of his Father.

Much is said of Jacob who is a grasper and deceiver. Through much work, loss and suffering he finally learns to submit to God after a direct confrontation with him. From that point he becomes Israel and a blessing to people instead of a threat. He is a picture of the elect people who struggle in this life but have a vision of heaven, ascending upon Christ.

Joseph is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ as a means of blessing to all around him.

The tribes spawned by Jacob are left in Egypt under bondage and suffering awaiting a deliverer.

The testimony of God rose to its height in Joseph as vizier of Egypt but descended to its low in the slavery of the 12 tribes.

Illustration of a called-out body 2: Israel

The kingdom of Israel

Essentially Israel serves as an example and warning to the New Covenant believers.

Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. 1 Cor 10:6

Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 1 Cor 10:11

Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. Heb 4:11

Moses

Moses is the height of typology to Christ. He is the only man of God that is effectively prophet, priest and king. He is a priest since he is of a priestly family, a Levite, who offered sacrifice to God and was the greatest mediator to God. He was the greatest prophet in the OT who performed the greatest miracles that shocked and scared the surrounding nations for generations. But as leader of the Israelites he also acted effectively as a king. Thus Moses especially is a type of Christ as prophet, priest and king. Not even David could do this being a prophet and king alone.

Under Moses God delivers the enslaved children of Jacob out of Egypt and establishes them as the nation of Israel.

Israel should have inherited and fulfilled the Abrahamic covenant but signally failed to do so.

Israel's calling

Indeed for this *purpose* I have raised you up, that I may show My power *in* you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth. Exod 9:16

Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. 1 Chron 16:24

'For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name *shall be* great among the Gentiles; in every place incense *shall be* offered to My name, and a pure offering; for My name shall be great among the nations,' says the LORD of hosts. Mal 1:11

Israel was to be the illustration of God's calling of a body to represent him on Earth. Israel's purpose was to declare God's name to the Gentiles and be a light to them.

Israel's failure

The narrative of Israel is one of failure on the part of the people but long-suffering on the part of God. God suffered disobedience and adultery from the very beginning with the Golden Calf episode. There were moments of grace and glory in certain men for a short time, such as the judges, Joshua, David, Samuel and the early life of Solomon, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, Josiah and a few others. Apart from these moments of brightness, overwhelmingly Israel apostatised from God and went after foreign idols, committing grave sins, such as ritual child murder.

Israel's judgment

For these reasons God gave them up to exile. The ten tribes of Israel were effectively lost en masse through deportations into Assyria, apart from some families that lived in Judah. The tribes of Judah were also exiled in Babylon for the same sins.

After 70 years, God intervened and a portion of the Judaic exiles (about 300,000) returned to the ruins of Jerusalem to rebuild the city and temple (the second temple period). The basis of the temple was rebuilt under the ministry of prophets like Haggai and Zechariah.

There followed 400 years of Biblical silence. In this period there was the ruinous rule of Antiochus IV Epiphanes³⁴ (a type of the man of sin) and the rebellion of the Maccabees. This was followed by the acceptance of Roman rule. Which brings us to the time of Jesus.

Remnant of faith

Unless the LORD of hosts had left to us a very small remnant, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been made like Gomorrah. Isa 1:9

The important factor in the history of Israel is the concept of the remnant.

God's covenant with Israel as a nation was conditional upon obedience. The nation failed. However, God's covenant continued with the faithful remnant that survived during every period of Israel's tumultuous history.

God ensured that at every point there was a faithful remnant which received his love and protection. When Elijah thought he was alone, God informed him that 7,000 did not bow the knee to Baal (1 Kg 19:18).

The purpose of God was continued in the remnant, not in the nation as a whole. This is important. The covenant is based upon faith, just as Abraham had faith and it was accounted to him as righteousness. The blessing of God is not based upon the flesh, but upon faith. This principle is taken up by Paul in Galatians and Romans showing how the Abrahamic covenant is focused upon Christ, not upon fleshly Israel. Christ is the true Seed (singular) of Abraham.

Desolation

The final desolation of Israel occurs with the rejection of the Messiah. I explain this later.

³⁴ A Greek king, ruler of the Seleucid Empire from 175 BC. This empire was one of the kingdoms following the death of Alexander the Great.

Conclusion

Israel should have been a corporate testimony to God on Earth; instead she followed other gods and disobedience. Israel represents failure to be the testimony.

The outworking of salvation

Historical background

After the end of the OT and the 400 years of silence, the land of Israel is under Roman occupation; though the Jews have considerable self-determination – as long as they obey Roman rule and pay taxes. They have full religious freedom. The land of Israel is known as ‘Judaea’ (the ten tribes of Israel were dispersed and absorbed and virtually lost)³⁵ and the people as ‘Jews’. Later, the Romans renamed the area ‘Palestine’ (after the Philistines, Israel’s enemy) as a punishment for rebellion.

The Romans brought peace, the *Pax Romana*, enabling safe travel and stable government and even good communications.³⁶ The Greek Empire had brought a common vernacular language to all the Mediterranean.³⁷ These conditions were perfect for the dissemination of the Gospel and were no accident.

The time was perfect for the appearing of the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Jesus was born, as predicted, in Bethlehem during a census ordered by Augustus Caesar,³⁸ and grew up in Nazareth in Galilee. When he was about 30 he began his ministry proclaiming the Gospel (‘good news’) in tours of the country. He proved his mission from God by performing many miracles.

After widespread acceptance by the common people, the religious leaders plotted against him because he threatened their authority and proved their unrighteousness. While in Jerusalem for the Passover, they kidnapped him, tried him illegally and abused him. They passed him to the Roman procurator (sort of governor) who eventually gave in to their demands and committed Jesus to be executed by crucifixion after scourging.

Jesus died rather quickly,³⁹ due to his severe torture and the weight of the world’s sin on his shoulders. He was hastily buried during a religious festival period awaiting proper anointing later. However, on the third day his followers found the tomb empty; Jesus had been raised from the dead. After appearing to many disciples over several weeks, giving instructions, he ascended into heaven.

The death of Jesus, far from being a tragedy, was the victory over sin, death and the Devil. The cross was the means of salvation planned by God in eternity.

³⁵ Only those that lived in Judah kept their lineage, until they too were killed or dispersed.

³⁶ A civil letter could get from Rome to Egypt in 24 hours. This is quicker than today.

³⁷ The OT commonly used by Jews was a Greek translation (the Septuagint).

³⁸ Luke 2:1 ‘And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered’.

³⁹ A crucifixion victim could take three days to die – that was the purpose of it.

The plan of salvation in eternity

The fundamental basis of salvation is election in eternity; God chose those who would be saved before the world was made.⁴⁰ This removes all boasting or pride regarding salvation; it is not reliant upon the strength of man. Salvation is not dependent upon the will of man but the will of God.

This means that salvation is based upon the sovereignty of God and the grace of God: in short, sovereign grace.

False systems

Salvation can be described as monergism: it is the work of God alone, the human will is incapable of co-operation.⁴¹ Heretical Gospels are synergistic, claiming that it is the work of God and man in co-operation. Worse still Semi-Pelagian systems like Arminianism propose that man must initiate salvation.

There are yet worse theological systems, such as Pelagianism, that propose that man can fulfil the law of God on his own and requires no divine grace or supernatural assistance. Universalists believe that everyone finally gets to heaven anyway and there is no Hell.

These errors fail to understand Total Depravity and the need of a divine Saviour. If man is dead in sins (Eph 2:1) then there is nothing he can do to resurrect himself; he needs a Saviour.

God's purpose in salvation: the decree

Since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead. Rm 1:20

God willed to create a universe with man as the crown of creation in order to manifest his divine glory within that universe. Since God is full perfection, creating a universe to express God's fulness is itself perfection.

The decree of God is the working out of this divine counsel or plan. It required the creation of the universe followed by divine providence to maintain everything in balance. Allowing the fall of mankind, since man had free will, it also required a salvation planned in eternity to redeem mankind and fulfil the divine purpose of a universe filled with glory with man in fellowship with God (see earlier).

So, the decree (the divine counsel, the plan of God) is:

- Creation. 'The creation of God' (Mk 3:14).
- Providence. 'He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust' (Matt 5:45).
- Salvation. 'Salvation and glory and honour and power belong to the Lord our God!' (Rev 19:1).

⁴⁰ 2 Thess 2:13-14, 'we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ'.

⁴¹ Greek *monos* single, *ergon* work.

The mercy of God is seen in providing salvation for a rebellious race created out of dust. When man fell into sin, instead of annihilating all mankind God decided to save a portion of the human race. He could justly have destroyed everyone and kept his perfection of holiness, but instead he chose to rescue a portion of mankind to glorify himself. Those saved testify to God's love and mercy; those condemned testify to God's holiness, justice and wrath against sin.

Men do not want salvation, they choose to sin; they love their sins and see no need to obey anyone, being full of selfishness and arrogance. God does not force them to sin. By nature, men desire to please themselves and serve no one. Enjoying their lusts, they certainly do not want to be holy. Thus God chose some people from eternity for salvation and changed their hearts to repent and believe in time. God even chose men like Saul of Tarsus who had persecuted his people from church to church, turning him into an indefatigable apostle.

The work of salvation required a suffering, substitute Messiah and a sacrifice. God provided such a Saviour at great personal cost – for a rebellious creation.

The person of Christ

Jesus Christ is this suffering Messiah. However, the depth of his suffering work is unfathomable by man.

First we must understand, as much as we can, his Person.

Jesus is God manifested

Jesus is the Second Person of the Trinity; the Creator. As such he is equal with God and is God.⁴² He is the eternally generated Son;⁴³ God's representative to men.

For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell. Col 1:19

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. Col 2:9-10

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. Jn 1:14

He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ... the true Light which gives light to every

⁴² Jn 1:1-, 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it'. Col 2:9, 'For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily'. Phil 2:6, 'Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God.'

⁴³ This has nothing to do with creation or sonhood like human generation. Jesus is God, but his place in the Trinity is as the Son.

man coming into the world. Jn 1:2-4, 9

And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. Jn 17:5

Jesus is the Son of God. 1 Jn 5:5

The Godhead is the Trinity; a divine community of mutual love and commitment. The Godhead is one, but it is also a trinity comprising of God the Father who initiates salvation; God the Son who achieves salvation; and God the Holy Spirit who applies and preserves salvation to the elect.

Jesus is the suffering Saviour

The Covenant of Grace is that agreement in eternity whereby Jesus the Son agreed to become a man upon the Earth, to suffer and to die for the sins of mankind and to be raised from the dead to satisfy divine justice. For this he would ascend to heaven as a God-Man being crowned Lord of the Universe at God's right hand.

Thus in time Jesus was born of a virgin by the power of the Holy Spirit and grew up as a human being. He did not lose his glory or remove it, but it was veiled by the flesh.⁴⁴ He 'laid his glory by'.⁴⁵

Jesus is God and man

Jesus is the God-Man. He is fully God in human form but without sin. The Messiah had to be divine and human to remit sins. Human in nature, in order to suffer in the flesh and die for sins. No angel or divine person could do that, it had to be a man. Divine in his Person in order for that sacrifice to have the value of an infinite number of people. One perfect man can only die for another one man; it requires an infinite divine person to die for millions of people. Jesus' person was divine and infinite but his human nature was really human.

Thus the amazing story of God putting on flesh and stooping to our level in order, out of love for the elect, to suffer and die for rebels. This is a Wonderful Saviour.

The work of Christ

The saving work of Christ is twofold.

First, there is the active obedience to God in living as a man on Earth walking in perfect obedience to the law of God, fulfilling everything in the law perfectly as no man ever could. This established a cache of perfect righteousness in the eyes of God. As a perfect man, Jesus suffered every day in what is called his humiliation.⁴⁶

⁴⁴ Heb 10:19-20, 'Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh.'

⁴⁵ Phil 2:7-8, '[He] made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.'

⁴⁶ Good people suffer when they see and experience evil; cf. Job in Sodom. In the person of Jesus (being perfect and divine) this would have been greatly magnified.

Secondly, there was the passive obedience to God, as a perfect substitute and penal sacrifice, suffering and dying for the sins of the elect.

Jesus' cross-work involves many aspects, all worthy of deep theological analysis.

- Atonement. Not reconciliation but covering sin. Essentially it refers to the satisfaction of God by a sacrifice for sin.
- Propitiation. The value of Christ's sacrifice to turn away God's anger at sin.
- Imputation. The accounting of our sin to Christ. The accounting of Christ's righteousness to us.
- Reconciliation. Reconciling man back to God.
- Redemption. Buying back the slaves of sin; paying the cost to satisfy God's justice.
- Ransom. The cost of redemption (Christ's life given up in death).
- Deliverance. Taking the elect out of the kingdom of Satan and bringing them into the kingdom of God.

This was necessary to establish justification. This is where our sins are placed on Christ and he dies for them instead of us, taking the full condemnation of God in our place. But it also transfers the righteousness of Christ that he earned as obedience to God as a man. In this great transfer, Christ takes our sins but we are given his righteousness. This enables us to legally stand in heaven spotless before God.

The suffering of Jesus was unimaginable. First there was the obvious, objective pains of being repeatedly beaten, tortured, and scourged, (which often killed people alone) and finally crucified on a cross; being starved and thirsty. Then there was the subjective infinite pains of divine wrath when the sin of mankind was placed in his soul, for which he suffered and died. His speeches on the cross express the agony of this. Even the anticipation of this pain in the Garden of Gethsemane reduced Jesus to sweating blood.

The resurrection was proof that the sacrifice of Jesus was fully accepted and the atonement for sin had been accomplished. Those believing in Christ could now be redeemed from their sins.

After proving to his disciples that he was truly raised from the dead, over many days and even to 500 people at once, Jesus ascended to heaven to be crowned king at God's right hand. Sin, death and the Devil were defeated by the victory of Christ.

The blessings of salvation

Without going into a long theological analysis of salvation I will simply list the key blessings.

- Unconditional election. God's choosing of the elect in eternity for salvation based upon his will alone.
- Grace. The free giving of the gift of salvation and preservation to the elect.
- The indwelling Holy Spirit. The permanent residing of the Holy Spirit in the regenerate believer.
- Peace with God. The ability of redeemed people to commune with God with no threatening conditions.
- Sonship. The gift of making the elect sons of God.
- Adoption. The making of the elect into heirs with Christ; giving them Christ's inheritance.

- Justification. The changing of the elect to make them stand before God as legally righteous with no condemnation.
- Sanctification (past, present and future). Making the elect holy and without blame in spirit, soul and body.
- Redemption. Buying back the elect from being slaves to sin.
- Atonement. Satisfying the justice of God by an offering for sin.
- Reconciliation. Bringing elect sinners back into the family of God and enabling fellowship with God.
- Communion. The spiritual fellowship of believers with God in their spirit.
- Intuition. The ability to discern the will of God in the spirit.
- Identification. The identification of the believer with Christ as a result of the cross. Union with Christ after dying to sin and being raised with Christ.
- Regeneration. The regeneration of the human spirit by the cross. Being born again.
- Renovation. The renewing of the mind as a result of the cross. Putting on the new nature.
- Preservation. The preserving (perseverance) of the saints until the end so that they cannot fall away.
- Glory. The partaking of the glory of Christ as sons of God. This does not make them God because they are finite; it is sharing in the glory.

The end of salvation

God achieves what he set out to achieve: a paradise on a resurrected Earth where God and holy people fellowship face to face. Heaven and Earth meet. God dwells with man. The holy community of the elect with God manifest the fulness of God's attributes in the world.

This is the beginning of glory, not the end. The whole universe is to be filled with a material manifestation of the attributes of God.

The called out Body of Christ: the Church

The crucial purpose of God in salvation is not just a material testimony of his mercy but also the creation of a society of people united to God through resurrection to bear witness to the glory of God on the Earth. God now dwells with mankind.

Thus the elect, called from eternity, have been regenerated, filled with the Spirit, justified and sanctified to be one with God; partakers of the divine nature.

Christians are no longer mere human beings; they are united with Christ; new creatures in Christ (2 Cor 5:17). They are spiritual beings, filled with glory, that commune with the Godhead through Christ. Thus God calls them, 'the church which is his body'. Christ is the head of the church; the church is the body of Christ.

And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Eph 1:22-23

He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the

firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the pre-eminence.
Col 1:18

For the sake of His body, which is the church. Col 1:24

In the church, God now has the body that manifests his glory in the universe. The divine purpose is fulfilled.

A potted history of the church

The apostolic age: the early church and the spread of the Gospel

To the apostles was committed the task of understanding the work of Christ, processing this into a message of hope and proclaiming the victory of Christ to the world.

Jesus had promised that the Holy Spirit would accompany and enlighten them in this task and the beginning of this communion was at Pentecost.

At the time of the coronation of Christ in heaven Jesus poured out the Spirit upon the church, which then was a small group gathered in Jerusalem waiting according to Jesus' command. They received the Spirit and were changed people.⁴⁷

The power of the Spirit was infused into converts as the Spirit indwelt them permanently. The work of the Spirit brought converts into unity with Christ (1 Cor 12:13); Christ was in them and they were in Christ. This unity was based upon dying to sin and self and being raised in Christ so that converts became a new creation. Christians are a new order of being based upon spiritual power.

Immediately the apostles began preaching the Gospel to outsiders, having massive success as thousands were converted at once.

The church grew in grace and knowledge and newly planted house churches spread all over Palestine, Antioch, and thence around the Mediterranean, such as Ephesus and Laodicea. Even Rome was affected as the church exploded in major Gentile cities like Corinth or Philippi.

The post apostolic age

The sub-apostolic fathers

After the death of the apostles, around the end of the first century, the truth was committed to various disciples of the apostles who varied in quality. Some, such as Polycarp (bishop of Smyrna), attained a near-miraculous stature.⁴⁸ Some, like Irenaeus, were focused on fighting heresies. Unfortunately, many became quite legalistic in their approach, such as Ignatius.

The early church fathers

Initially there were disputes over key areas of theology; chiefly the Trinity and the Person of Christ. These continued for hundreds of years until finally settled in church councils such as that at the first council of Nicea in 325. Multiple errors were spawned in this time such as Modalism, Arianism, Eutychianism, Nestorianism, Monarchianism, Monothelism, Monophysitism and so on. Each of these had to be fought and then

⁴⁷ The immediate speaking in tongues was not the main issue and glossolalia eventually died out. It was a gift to initially authenticate the Gospel as a divine matter. It was not gibberish but speaking the languages of people without having learned them in order to praise God. This shocked people and brought them to trust the Gospel as true.

⁴⁸ He was burned at the stake and stabbed but the fire refused to consume his body.

authoritatively settled in a gathering of church leaders at a council. Some great theologians emerged striving for the truth against all odds, such as Athanasius [c.296-373] who challenged Arianism.

After this the doctrine of salvation was disputed in a long series of controversies centred in Pelagianism. The Celtic monk Pelagius taught that since man is responsible, then he must be able and thus can live a holy life without divine intervention. Man can fulfil God's law by his own obedience. This denies the crucial doctrine of total depravity, that man is dead in sins and spiritually unable. The champion of truth in this era was Augustine of Hippo who settled the truth of the doctrine of sovereign grace and election; God initiates salvation in regenerating the elect giving faith and repentance.

The development of the organised institutional church

Another problem that began to emerge in the second century and onwards was the control of the churches by men.

Churches started in the apostolic era as a family in home churches led by a plurality of equal elders and were independent bodies, usually quite small. Within 100 years of the death of the apostles church bishops (i.e. elder or overseer) began to accrue authority over more than one church in a diocese and then a city. Thus one man lorded it over multiple churches – something completely foreign to God's plan. In time monarchical bishops arose having authority over many churches and some lesser leaders. Cyprian [c.210-258] was one bishop developing this. Certain metropolis cities also began to have authority over entire schools of dogma and geographic regions, such as Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem, with the centre of authority being a famous (sometimes questionable) theologian, such as Origen.

Thus the church lost its way becoming dominated by diocesan bishops and people above bishops (later patriarchs, archbishops and a pope). Thus the following errors in church structure arose:

- Formal meetings based around a written liturgy.
- Separation of the congregation into a clergy and laity ('people').
- Leadership of the church by a single person instead of a college of elders.
- Leadership of several churches in a area by a bishop, now an authoritarian leader not a local overseer.
- Leadership of a national church by an archbishop or pope.
- Erection of dedicated church buildings to house larger congregations.

For two centuries the early church was hammered by ten persecutions perpetrated by Imperial Rome under emperors such as Decius or Diocletian. During this period the church expanded and was relatively pure, compared to later.

Church wedded to the state

This changed when Constantine [c.272-337] became emperor and proclaimed himself a Christian. Christians were decriminalised by the Edict of Milan [313]. From this point the church and state were united. It became fashionable for elevated people in society to attend church to gain favour with the emperor. New large churches were built based on the

design of basilicas, municipal buildings,⁴⁹ giving rise to the design of churches in the West. He also initiated the Chi Rho insignia to point to Christ (the Greek letters stand for 'Christ the king').

From this point churches were seen as buildings that looked like a basilica. The church was wedded to the state instead of being separated. Church meetings involved big congregations in a large dedicated building presided over by a hierarchy of leadership figures wearing vestments like an OT high priest. All sorts of adjuncts were added to the formalised liturgy (bells, smells, crucifixes, staves, altars, choirs, organs etc.) to give the impression of grandeur. Apart from responsive singing and responses to prayer, the congregation did not participate (which is the whole point of gathering together). Multiple errors were perpetrated including: sacerdotalism, sacramentalism, legalism, dead formality, authoritarianism and so on.

The development of the Roman Catholic Church was even worse. This represented a syncretism of Babylonian occultism with Christianity. By the time of the Reformation this included: worship of Mary, virtual infallibility of the pope (it formally came later), authoritarianism, sacramentalism, sacerdotalism, false doctrines (purgatory, veneration of saints, etc.) relics, the rosary, auricular confession, paedobaptism, and so on. This led to an age of superstition in medieval times.

The Dark Ages

As the papacy grew in power over all the other churches, so spiritual darkness came over the Western world. The power of the Roman Church, wedded to the state, dominated kingdoms because the pope claimed to have the power of salvation over men through the threat of excommunication. On one occasion a pope forced the Holy Roman Emperor to kneel in the snow in repentance for three days.

Common people were denied access to a Bible. Usually there was one copy chained to a church pulpit, and this was the Vulgate Version written in Latin which ordinary people couldn't read anyway. In the sub-apostolic age there were many versions of the Bible written in national languages, such as Coptic, Syriac, Greek, Gothic etc.

People also became superstitious and folk-lore abounded as the truth of Scripture disappeared. Priests taught legalism and false papal doctrines, such as baptismal regeneration and purgatory. Priests claimed the power to forgive sins through confession.

Areas where local churches had arisen during the Roman Empire and afterwards were clamped down upon. The thriving Celtic church had prospered in England, Wales and Ireland and had even sent out missionaries across Europe as far as the Alps. But the pope's emissary, Augustine of Canterbury, made alliances with kings and at the Synod of Whitby [663] ensured that Britain would be Catholic and not Celtic. Canterbury dominated the church instead of Lindisfarne, Iona, Chad Valley and many other centres of church activity.

Later some kings were genuine Christians who tried to improve the nation, such as Alfred the Great or Edward the Confessor. Even the Vikings became Christians after the baptism of Gudrun.

⁴⁹ Basilicas were used to house courts and official functions.

Britain was overcome by the Normans after 1066 and the effects of the Renaissance were felt in the land. The scholastics arose and Thomas Aquinas tried to marry Aristotelianism with the Bible. Various philosophers tried to reason their way through theological problems and usually ended up teaching legalism, pedantry and obscurantism. It was said that they would argue as to how many angels could dance on the head of a pin.

There were signs of hope in reforms and teaching made by pioneers such as John Wycliffe in England, Jerome of Prague and Jan Hus of Bohemia, but persecution and deaths stopped these movements. The power of the papacy continued to damage the Lord's people with lies and meaningless rituals, such as indulgences (paying money to get people saved). By 1517 the rise of humanism, demands for reform and published Greek NT manuscripts showing the truth of doctrine, broke the camel's back.

The Reformation

The Reformation was a huge change representing a divinely inspired revival of truth, beginning with Martin Luther in 1517 (originally a protest against indulgences). The key issue was the translation of the Bible from the original languages into vernacular tongues printed cheaply in books by the new printing press invention of Gutenberg; thus ending the monopoly the priests had who alone were able to read a single copy of the Bible handwritten in Latin. But the fervent preaching of the Gospel by many champions of the truth also had a galvanising effect on Europe freeing people from superstition and legalism. The doctrine of justification by faith alone was liberating enough in the absence of everything else. The key Reformation issues could be summarised in the solas:

- Sola Gratia Grace alone
- Sola Fide Faith alone
- Solus Christus Christ alone
- Sola scriptura Scripture alone
- Soli Deo gloria Glory to God alone

Salvation is by grace, through faith, is in Christ alone, is based upon the word of God and is to the glory of God alone.

The Western world was changed by this revival, especially through the Protestant Work Ethic and the fight for truth and freedom. It led to the rise of the scientific method, the development of technology and the rise of constitutional democratic government.

Thus the modern world developed out of a religious revival. The truth set people free.

The Jews post crucifixion of Christ

70 AD and aftermath

The Jewish rejection of their own Messiah

The most important factor in world history was the manifestation of Jesus Christ as the Messiah sent from God in love to redeem sinful man.

Part of the preparation of this was the foreshadowing (Heb 10:1) of salvation in the calling of Israel from amongst the nations as God's special treasure (Lev 19:15); though this was always conditional ('if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then ...'). Typifying the elect, the various aspects of Israel's worship system and culture represented the work and ministry of the coming Messiah. Thus the blood offerings typified aspects of Christ's propitiation; the High Priestly garments typified aspects of Christ's character; the Tabernacle typified details of Christ as the dwelling place of God on Earth, and so on. The Israelites were not special in themselves (in fact they were the least of all nations; Deut 7:7) but they were custodians of God's grace as exemplars to the world.

The grace given to the Israelite Hebrews in the OT was so that they would become missionaries of God's word to the nations (Ps 98:2; Isa 2:2-3, **42:6**, 12, **49:6**, 56:7, **60:3**, 61:11, 66:19; Mic 4:2; Mal 1:11). Instead, they became filled with hubris that they were a special people above all else because of their physical lineage, whether obedient or not. This was the beginning of their sin which continued to blossom into idolatry and rebellion based upon this hubris.

Each generation went astray from the beginning:

For forty years I was grieved with *that* generation, and said, 'It is a people who go astray in their hearts, and they do not know My ways.' So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.' Ps 95:10-11

The ox knows its owner and the donkey its master's crib; but Israel does not know, My people do not consider. Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a brood of evildoers, children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked to anger The Holy One of Israel, they have turned away backward. Isa 1:3-4

For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns -- broken cisterns that can hold no water. Jer 2:13

'Your dwelling place *is* in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know Me', says the LORD. Jer 9:6

Consequently, arrogance repeatedly led to the Jews persecuting and killing their own prophets.

They were disobedient and rebelled against You, cast Your law behind

their backs and killed Your prophets, who testified against them to turn them to Yourself; and they worked great provocations. Neh 9:26

Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. In fact, you bear witness that you approve the deeds of your fathers; for they indeed killed them, and you build their tombs. Therefore the wisdom of God also said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and persecute,' that the blood of all the prophets which was shed from the foundation of the world may be required of this generation. Lk 11:47-50

Jesus fully explained this in the parable of the unjust tenants.

Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' So they took him and cast *him* out of the vineyard and killed *him*. Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers? They said to Him, 'He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease *his* vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons#.'
Matt 21:33-41

When the Messiah came to his own people this iniquity increased. The religious leaders of all stripes⁵⁰ rejected their own Messiah who had come to provide deliverance from sin, death and the Devil. Jesus had to repeatedly denounce their actions, words and even thoughts. This only increased their hatred of the Son of God (which they understood by the way) and they determined to kill him.

Thus they set Jesus up, kidnapped him, established a kangaroo court to falsely try him, found him guilty and tortured him before handing him over to the Romans demanding his crucifixion.

After more hearings, eventually the Procurator⁵¹ was forced to hand him over to execution but washed his hands to supposedly avoid guilt, knowing that Jesus was being set up and was innocent. The Jews however, chanted for his execution and stated that Jesus' blood be upon themselves and their children.

⁵⁰ Sadducees, Pharisees, scribes, and priests.

⁵¹ Matt 27:2, chief person, similar to a governor; an officer administering a province. The procurator of Judaea was subordinate to the Roman governor of Syria.

When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, 'I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it'. And all the people answered and said, 'His blood be on us and on our children'. Matt 27:24-25

Claims by Messianic Christians that the Romans bore the guilt of Jesus' death are false. Pilate had his own guilt but the responsibility, by their own declaration, is on the Jews as a people. The religious leaders stirred up the crowd who joined in to condemn Jesus to death (despite his recent triumphal entry into Jerusalem). In any case, it was the Jews that initiated the case against Jesus by their arrest of him and handing him over to the Romans for sentencing.

God clearly establishes the guilt of the Jews by testifying thus in the Scriptures repeatedly.

Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know -- Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death. Acts 2:22-23

Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified. Acts 4:10

The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Acts 5:30

You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers. Acts 7:51-52

And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. Acts 10:39

And though they found no cause for death *in Him*, they asked Pilate that He should be put to death. Acts 13:28

The Judeans, who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men. 1 Thess 2:15

This is the greatest sin in the history of the world and the condemnation was severe, as Jesus prophesied it would be. The kingdom of God would be removed and given to the Gentiles. The Judaeans would be crushed into powder, their lineage left desolate,

Jerusalem would be destroyed and the temple smashed into small pieces. Those remaining outside Judaea would become hated and despised in the world.

Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. Matt 21:43

'Whoever falls on this stone [Christ] will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.' Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them. Matt 21:44-45

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate. Matt 23:37-38

Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, 'Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.' Matt 24:1-2

The Judeans, who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men, forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up *the measure of* their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost. 1 Thess 2:15-16

The testimony of Josephus

Flavius Josephus (his Latinised name) was a Jewish historian that defected to the Romans to save his life during the Jewish revolt. He wrote a history of the Jews and a history of the Jewish War for his Roman superiors. These have become important historical documents regarding this period of history.

Despite not being a Christian Josephus testified to Jesus' Messiahship:

Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man; for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day; as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.⁵²

⁵² Flavius Josephus, Wars of the Jews, 3.3.

The probation period

From 33 AD (crucifixion) until 70 AD there was a period of probation when the Gospel was proclaimed far and wide. This gave all the Jews everywhere the opportunity to repent of their sins and submit to Christ, the true Messiah.

A large number did, including many Pharisees. However, the vast majority refused.

The judgment of the Jews

The Roman War

After the rebellion of Judea against Roman occupation, the new emperor, Vespasian, sent his son Titus to finish the war against the Jews that he started as a general. This war was truly appalling. The siege of Jerusalem (which the Jews believed to be impregnable) was perhaps the worst in history. The conditions became so appalling that women roasted and ate their own children or sandals. Jesus warned that this event would be terrible and told people to flee when they saw the Roman army approaching. Only the Christians did, fleeing to Pella in Jordan

Eventually the Romans took the city in 70 AD which ran with blood. Everything was destroyed but the temple especially was ransacked, dishonoured and completely destroyed as Jesus prophesied it would be. The remaining wall (the 'wailing wall') was not part of the temple but part of the praetorian guard barracks; not sacred at all.

Those not slain by troops were either sold into slavery or crucified. There were so many crucifixions lining the roads that the forests of Judaea were denuded of trees.

This was the awful judgment of God against the Jews for their rejection and murder of their own Messiah; the Son of God. Everything Jesus prophesied occurred. The temple was destroyed, every stone being taken down;⁵³ the city was destroyed, the people were ground into powder (eradicated)⁵⁴ and the land left desolate.⁵⁵ The original Israelite people left (principally the tribe of Judah) were virtually destroyed or certainly were in later revolts. A few survived in isolated pockets of Judah.

Traces of the original Jewish people in the Diaspora across the Mediterranean were pretty much all that was left and these intermarried to prosper. The original pure line of Jews evaporated.

To all intents and purposes, the original Israelites – the ten tribes (bar some traces in Judah) were obliterated after the Assyrian deportations and conquest in 721 BC. Many of Jews in the Babylonian deportations, after the 586 BC conquest, stayed in Babylonia; only about 300,000 returned with Ezra. The Jews in the Roman period were mostly wiped out in the Roman War and the two subsequent rebellions, finalised by the Bar Kokhba revolt in 132-136 AD.⁵⁶

⁵³ Mk 13:1-2, "Then as He went out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, "Teacher, see what manner of stones and what buildings *are here!*" And Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not *one* stone shall be left upon another, that shall not be thrown down".

⁵⁴ Matt 21:44-45, "And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder." Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them'.

⁵⁵ Matt 23:38, 'See! Your house is left to you desolate'.

⁵⁶ Proselyte Jews moved in to occupy the land after 70 AD, repopulating it.

Roman historian Cassius Dio writes regarding the Bar Kokhba revolt:

50 of their most important outposts and 985 of their most famous villages were razed to the ground. 580,000 men were slain in the various raids and battles, and the number of those that perished by famine, disease and fire was past finding out. Thus nearly the whole of Judaea was made desolate.

Cassius Dio, History of Rome, 69.14.1-2.

Thus Jesus' prophecy was fulfilled.

It is important to understand that the original Israelite people of the OT was wiped out and their lineage left desolate. Only impure lines and proselytes remained after 136 AD.

History of the later Jews

It is important to understand that the Jewish people alive today are not connected by blood to the ancient Israelites and Judeans; they are different. Even their religion is different. Jewishness is today decided by submission to Judaism; in the main this is submission to the Talmud. Secular Jews are Jews by tradition descending from forbears that subscribed to Judaism as a religion.

Essentially, the Talmudic Jews of today are the continuation of the Pharisees that persecuted Jesus. The Talmud is the written collection of the oral laws that directed the Pharisees. They are still worthy of Paul's condemnation:

The Judeans ... do not please God and are contrary to all men ... so as always to fill up *the measure of* their sins. 1 Thess 2:15-16

The Sephardim

After Judaea was vacated, Idumeans settled the land; this is affirmed by Jewish Encyclopaedias. The Idumeans had converted to Judaism long before and were the original Edomites, the lineage of Esau whom the Romans called Idumeans. One must remember that the line of Edom was cursed by God.

These were not included in the Abrahamic covenant because they did not stem from Jacob. They are not covenant people of God.

Over time many of these migrated to Spain due to pressing circumstances (mostly Islamic conquests); hence the title 'Sephardim' (Spanish Jews). Today these represent the minority of the global Jewish population.

The Ashkenazi

The debate

There is debate about the origin of the Ashkenazi. Ron Unz (a Jew) has made a case that they stem from the Phoenicians;⁵⁷ but this is an extreme minority view. Many suggest that they were just Middle Eastern Jews that migrated to Russia and Germany, but evidence is lacking. However, multiple rabbis, philosopher-poets,⁵⁸ historians,⁵⁹ linguists⁶⁰ and even

⁵⁷ See The Unz Review.

⁵⁸ E.g. Judah Halevi.

⁵⁹ E.g. Shlomo Sand, Arthur Koestler and Abraham ibn Daud.

⁶⁰ Paul Wexler.

some genetic researchers⁶¹ have agreed that the Khazarian hypothesis is true. However, a few Israeli historians oppose this theory.⁶²

The hypothesis posits that the historical fact regarding the nation-wide conversion of the Khazars to Judaism in the 8th century AD (sometime between 740 and 920) is the origin of the Ashkenazi. The generally accepted date for this is 740 AD (e.g. rabbi Judah Halevi). The ruling classes, led by King Bulan, initially converted leading to a gradual acceptance by the general population. This is the best explanation of the presence of large numbers of Jews in Russia, Eastern Europe and Germany from medieval times. Some linguists (e.g. Wexler) claim that Yiddish arose from a Khazar substrate.

There is no doubt that the Khazar nation converted to Judaism and even inscribed extant coins to celebrate this fact. It is also a fact that these proselytes were conquered by the Rus (see later) and were scattered abroad. Are we to suppose that they just disappeared in their hundreds of thousands? Or is it more likely that they migrated to East Europe, Germany and France where they gradually became known as the Ashkenazi (Russian Jews)?

Other historic support for the theory comes from ibn Rustah (Persian scholar); Christian of Stavelot (c860-870s); inscriptions on coins; Eldad ha-Dani (traveller); the letter of King Joseph (10th century); ibn al-Faqih (Persian historian); ibn Fadian; Yakub Qirqisani (937); Karl Neumann (German Orientalist); Albert Harkavi (1869); Ernest Renan (1883); Joseph Jacobs (1886); Anatole Leroy-Beaulieu (1893); Maksymilian Ernest Gumpłowicz; Samuel Weissenberg (1909); Hugo von Kutschera; Maurice Fishberg (1911); Yitzhak Schipper (1918); Israel Bartal; Rolan B Dixon (1923); HG Wells (1920); Samuel Kraus (1932); Abraham N Polak (1942); Leon Poliakov (1955); Salo Wittmayer Baron; Ben-Zion Dinur; Raphael Patai; Boris Altschuler (1994). Ironically Wikipedia affirms that most scholars deny this theory but gives almost no listed evidence for this. It is also forced to admit that Sephardi organisations used polemical pamphlets to oppose the Khazaro-Ashkenazim proposition. It is noticeable that many supporters of the hypothesis are Jews.

Influential works

- Rabbi Yehuda Halevi, Book of the Khazari (1075-1141).
- Arthur Koestler, The Thirteenth Tribe (1976).
- Ernest Renan, Judaism as a race and as religion (1883).
- Samuel Weissenberg, Die Sudrussischen Juden (1895).
- Hugo von Kutschera, Die Chasaren; historische studie [Those Khazars; historical study] (1909).
- Leon Poliakov, The history of Anti-Semitism: from the time of Christ to the court Jews (2005).
- Shlomo Sand, The invention of the Jewish People (2010); The invention of the Land of Israel: From Holy Land to homeland (2012).
- Paul Wexler, Yiddish evidence for the Khazar component in the Ashkenazic ethnologies (2007).
- Abraham N Polak, The Khazars' conversion to Judaism (1943 / 1951).
- E Elhaik, The missing link of Jewish European ancestry: contrasting the Rhineland and the Khazarian hypotheses (2013).
- HG Wells, The outline of history (1920).

⁶¹ Eran Elhaik.

⁶² Moshe Gil (2011) and Shaul Stampfer (2013).

Background

The Khazar Empire existed from the 6th to the 11th centuries, which converted to Judaism in the 8th century AD. This was a medieval state in the Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and southern Russia areas, formed from the break-up of the Western Turkic Khaganate. It was a major trading centre between Europe and Asia. After being defeated by the Varangians (the Kievan Rus) they were then dispersed throughout Europe, becoming the Ashkenazi Jews. These Jews never lived in Palestine and have no claim to it.

The Khazars were a violent, aggressive, pagan idolatrous nation that indulged in phallus and serpent worship. Their warlike tendencies led to them hiring their warriors as mercenaries. Their wickedness caused so much trouble to their neighbouring countries that pressure was put upon them to convert away from paganism; they chose Judaism and converted en masse. However, the strife continued and they were eventually conquered and dispersed.

Other factions

There are multiple minor schismatic groups within Judaism: Orthodox Jews (also subdivided), secular Jews, liberal Jews, Zionists and so forth. Only the Karaites exclusively follow the Torah (Pentateuch) and not the Talmud. Messianic Christians include people that identify as Jews but also include Gentile Christians. Messianic Christianity (Christian Zionism) is a satanic syncretism. At the very least it is mixing the old and new covenant producing legalism. The NT clearly teaches that following Jewish traditions (circumcision, festivals, fasts, liturgies) is to be avoided; in fact it leads to bondage and bewitching (Gal 2:4, 3:1, 4:9-11, 5:1, 6, 6:15; Col 2:16-17).

Conclusion regarding Jewish groups

None of the modern Jewish types (not races or ethnic divisions)⁶³ are included in the Abrahamic Covenant. Therefore none have any claim to the land of Israel (but note that the real spiritual purpose of the covenant was not to the physical land but to Christ). The promises in the OT do not apply to modern Jews.

The claims of modern Israel to own the land of Palestine are false. The claims of modern Jews to demand the loyalty of Christians are also false.

The above-mentioned claims are a satanic deception used as a means of control over gullible Christians to support iniquitous geo-political strategies. Thus Israel today is the pivot on which geo-politics rests and it is a satanic construction.

The authority

The Talmud

The chief authority of modern Orthodox Jews is the Babylonian Talmud; this is asserted in Jewish encyclopaedias and by most rabbis: *'[The Talmud] is still the supreme authority in religion.'*⁶⁴ The Talmud itself asserts this: *'Be more careful in the observance of the words of the Scribes than in the words of the Torah.'*⁶⁵

⁶³ Jewishness is not a race or an ethnic group. Jews come from all sorts of races: Yemeni, Ethiopian, Russian, Spanish etc. The Hebrew language also stems from Akkadian.

⁶⁴ The Jewish Encyclopaedia, Vol 12, p26.

⁶⁵ Erubin, 21b.

The Babylonian Talmud was written by Pharisee rabbis dwelling in Babylon where they imbibed various occult ideas over centuries (many had lived there since the exile). It was supposedly a collection of the oral laws kept safe by Pharisaical scribes since Sinai. In reality it is the sayings of men that are often the very reverse of laws in the Torah (Five Books of Moses).

Thus the words of God in the Torah are derided by Talmudic Judaism and the words of wicked men in the Talmud are authoritative. So the words of people that Jesus said were liars and of the Devil (Jn 8:44) are the chief authority of modern Jews.

The Talmud is the most evil, blasphemous debased religious collection of books in the world. It includes the vilest blasphemies against the Lord Jesus Christ ever written. It encourages Jews to: lie to, defraud, despoil, rape, attack and kill Gentiles. The basis is the claim that Jews are the people of God, a special type of super human while Gentiles are sub-human animals like cattle or dogs.⁶⁶

Our race is the master race. We are divine gods on this planet. We are as different from the inferior races as they are from insects. In fact, compared to our race, other races are beasts and animals, cattle at best. Other races are considered as human excrement, Our destiny is to rule over the inferior races. Our earthly kingdom will be ruled by our leader with a rod of iron. The masses will lick our feet and serve us as our slaves.

Former Israeli Prime Minister (1977-1983) and terrorist Menachem Begin. [http://antimatrix.org/Convert/Books/ZioNazi_Quotes/Zionism.html]

The Kabbalah

The Kabbalah (variously spelled) is the occult and mystical side of Judaism. For many Jews it is almost as authoritative as the Talmud and arises from it, therefore, it also reverses the Torah.

The Kabbalah contains much information about divination (fortune-telling) using the sciences of Gematria⁶⁷ and *Temurah*⁶⁸ and composed 'Notary Art' (*notarikon*) which includes tarot signs. The divination described in Kabbalism originates from Babylonian occultism where the Pharisees learned magic. This occult paganism forms the mystical system of Judaism.

Sabbateanism

Followers of Sabbatai Zevi [1626-1676]. He was a Sephardic ordained rabbi and Kabbalist who claimed to be the messiah. He married a prostitute and began to teach licentiousness. The influential Nathan of Gaza began to support him and he was publicly declared to be the messiah. A millennial messianic movement developed far and wide, extending to the Netherlands with Zevi gaining a million followers.

Essentially Sabbateanism is Satanism being summarised as, '*praised be he who permits the forbidden*'; in other words Satanism's '*do what thou wilt*'. Sin is a virtue and obeying the Torah is a sin. Doing good only slows down the appearance of the messiah, who will come when chaos reigns.

⁶⁶ On the house of the Goy [Gentile] one looks as on the fold of cattle. Talmud, Erubin VIII.

⁶⁷ Where letters have a symbolic number.

⁶⁸ Changing letters in certain words to create esoteric meanings.

His followers formed the Sabbatean division of Judaism, which many in the global elite belong to.

Sabbateanism was revitalised by Zevi's follower Jacob Frank [1726-1791] who continued the movement, claimed to be the embodiment of Zevi and this later spawned the Illuminati, being called 'Sabbatean-Frankism'. When Weishaupt's Illuminati was established by Rothschild set Frank up in Frankfurt as the new head.

Modern Sabbateans believe that the full messianic age will only come when evil fills the world and so devotees are encouraged to practice as much evil as possible to hasten this Jewish millennium, corporate Jewry ruling the world.

It is important to understand Rabbi Zevi and Sabbateanism since so many Jews in positions of power and influence today are followers of his wicked theology. For example, Sigmund Freud was a Sabbatean Kabbalistic Jew who used his fabricated psychoanalysis method to make money, calling his patients 'suckers'.

Zionism

Zionism is another level. This is a political faction developed in the 19th century that was / is a crusade to gain all Palestine (and more)⁶⁹ as the homeland of the people called Jews. To achieve this it did, and still does, utilise cruelty and barbarism to gain its ends. It uses terrorism, war, apartheid, deceit, lies, torture, false flags, imprisonment, murder, harassment, persecution and genocide.

The history of Jews in Palestine, from before 1948 until this day, is one of atrocities. Jews wiped out entire Palestinian villages, killing every man, women and child, to gain more land. At this time it is genociding Gaza to eradicate Palestinians and annex both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed (mostly children still under rubble) as residential areas, hospitals, schools, aid centres, highways, relief centres and water supplies are bombed. Meanwhile, the Jewish-owned media claims that there is no genocide and casualties are low.

Zionism is a criminal, corrupt, ruthless organisation using satanic methods against the whole world.⁷⁰ Its current goal is to establish Greater Israel but its long-term goal is world domination.

⁶⁹ The Yinon Plan aims to create 'Greater Israel' stretching from the Euphrates to the Nile. The aim is to use America and the West to wage war with multiple countries, starting with Iraq, to Balkanise the Middle East and form new territory for Israel.

⁷⁰ E.g. Mossad was clearly the main perpetrator of the 9/11 tragedy. Israel bombed and strafed the USS Liberty. Israel has killed foreign ambassadors and bombed hotels.

The Jewish people as a whole will be its own messiah. It will attain world domination by the dissolution of other races, by the abolition of frontiers, the annihilation of monarchy, and by the establishment of a world republic in which the Jew will everywhere exercise the privilege of citizenship. In this new world order the children of Israel will furnish all the leaders without countering opposition. The governments of the different peoples forming the world republic will fall without difficulty into the hands of the Jews. It will then be possible for Jewish rulers to abolish private property, and everywhere to make use of the resources of the state. Thus will the promise of the Talmud be fulfilled, in which it is said that when the messianic time is come, the Jews will have all the property of the whole world in their hands.

Baruch Levy, Letter to Karl Marx, 1879, *La Revue de Paris*, 1 June 1928, p574.

The global Elite cabal

The top-tier servants of Satan

The operating centre of the Satanic opposition to God today is focused in what I call 'the global Elite'. This is a cabal of super-rich, psychopathic people empowered by Satan who are intent on creating a new world empire whereby they rule over a depopulated world of serfs.

Luciferian proxies of Satan

The satanic warfare against God is now conducted upon the Earth since Satan was thrust out of heaven. On earth he rages like a lion against mankind (1 Pt 5:8).

In order to dominate the world fully (he already dominates men individually through sin) he must use human proxies to gain control of the political systems of the world. He does this through various temptations and enabling, thrusting a certain person into positions of great power.

Thus satanic-controlled people become heads of banks, heads of corporations, heads of governments and so on. These group together in various institutions in order to plot to create world government.

Various methods of grouping the Elite ranks

The ancient bloodlines

Powerful historic families worth trillions of dollars who control governments and corporations. Most royal bloodlines are subsidiary to these.

There are three tiers according to Eustace Mullins: 1) the Black Nobility (originally known for their darker skin); the ancient and most important power group. The House of Windsor has been a part of this since the 14th century. This group includes certain Jewish families, such as the Ashkenazi Rothschilds that held monetary power over certain monarchies. 2) Rich families (often Jewish) with great power that serve the first tier. This includes the Sephardi Rockefellers, the Harrimans, the Morgans etc. 3) Lower rank families with political, financial or corporate power such as the Bush family, the Clintons, George Soros, Klaus Schwab etc. that serve the second tier. Below these are lackeys with political power and influence, such as Tony Blair.

The various religious secret societies

Jesuits (controlling the Vatican), Talmudic Jews, Kabbalistic Jews, Sabbatean Jews, Luciferians, Freemasons, and Gnostics.

The Committee of 300

The chief administrative structure.

The banking sector

Centred in the Bank for International Settlements. Central banks and many small banks. The Federal Reserve; the Bank of England. The World Bank, the ECB, the IMF etc.

Financiers

Wall Street, those based in Vanguard, BlackRock, State Street etc.

Corporatists

Big Pharma, Big Aggro, the media, the Military Industrial Complex etc.

Leaders of NGOs

The UN, the WHO, the WTO, the WEF etc.

Leaders of secret societies and think tanks

The Bilderbergers, the Club of Rome, the Skull and Bones society (membership of which is necessary to serve in high levels of political power in the West; certainly in the USA), the Council on Foreign Relations, Chatham House, Tavistock etc.

Members of royal clubs

The Club of the Isles, the Knights of Malta, the Templars etc.

Certain powerful families and individuals are involved in all these groups. E.g. the Rothschilds are in the Black Nobility group as an adjunct, not an ancient family, but appear to have power over King Charles III.⁷¹ They are Sabbatean Jews and Luciferians; they control much of Freemasonry. They are part of the Committee of 300. They control central banks which began with the Bank of England and they have shares in the Federal Reserve. They have shares in BlackRock. They control many trading commodities such as diamonds, gold and silver. They are a controlling power in many corporations. They control NGOs. They control many secret societies and royal clubs.

The three world centres of power*The City of London*

(The 'Square Mile'): centre of financial, banking and trade power. This is a separate, sovereign state within England and even within Greater London. The City of London is different to Metropolitan London with its own tax systems, laws and mayor. It is dominated by the Rothschilds.

The Vatican

Centre of religious power.

Washington DC

Centre of political power.

How many leading people involved?

Probably in the low thousands, say 6,000.

Remember

The key issue is that these are all servants of, and proxies for, Satan to serve his interests in producing the final world empire.

Characteristics of the final world empire in Revelation**The political system**

Described as 'the beast from the sea'.

Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast [kingdom;

⁷¹ There is a photograph of Jacob Rothschild looking angry and prodding a frightened Charles with his finger.

unstoppable power] rising up out of the sea, [uncivilised human populations] having seven heads and ten horns [fulness of human national power], and on his horns ten crowns [ruling authority], and on his heads [character] a blasphemous name. ... So they worshiped the dragon [Satan] who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, 'Who *is* like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?' And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, [dwelling] and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to make war with the saints [church] and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life [the decree re: the elect] of the Lamb [Christ] slain from the foundation of the world. Rev 13:1-8

The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. Rev 17:12-13

Here we see fulness of administrative power which all the nations of the world submit to; global power; a world empire. It is blasphemous and the nations worship it, thus worshipping Satan. This kingdom wages war against the church and nearly destroys it. The world thinks that the church is finished.

The world religion

Led by 'the beast from the Earth'.

Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth ['land'; civilised nations], and he had two horns [power] like a lamb [like Jesus] and spoke like a dragon [Satan]. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast [antichrist] in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. Rev 13:11-12

He deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. Rev 13:14

There is another authoritative power acting as a religious world leader. This pretends to be Jesus but speaks for Satan. This world church worships the Devil through the first beast (the political empire). The power of this religion is deception.

The healed wound is the revival of paganism after long being considered (since the Reformation and the Enlightenment) to be dead.

The empire's society

Described as 'Babylon the Great'.

And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast [sacerdotal kingdom] *which was* full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns [fulness of power]. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet [symbols of royal power], and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead [symbolising the mind] a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. Rev 17:1-5

Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication. Rev 14:8

I saw a woman [Babylon] sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy. Rev 17:3

The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name *was* written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. Rev 17:4-5

Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury. And I heard another voice from heaven saying, 'Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities'. Rev 18:2-5

This is the character of world society ruled by the beast system.

- Blasphemous.
- Idolatrous.
- Rich.
- Luxurious.
- Hedonistic.
- Filled with abominations.
- Fornication (licentiousness).

- A Satanic proxy (the mystery).
- Filled with wrath.
- Rules over a sacerdotal kingdom.
- Filled with foul spirits (demons).
- A mercantile system (merchants).
- Full of sin and iniquity.

A blasphemous trinity

These manifestations of Satan form an iniquitous parody of the divine Trinity. We have: 1) the beast political power system; 2) the beast religious system and 3) the Babylon evil societal immoral system.

These primarily wage war against Christ and the church

And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse [Jesus] and against His army [the church]. Rev 19:19

And I will give *power* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. ... When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. Rev 11:3, 7-10 [The prophets represent the church as the faithful expression of the word of God. Two is the number of testimony.]

And the dragon [Satan] was enraged with the woman [OT church], and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, [New Covenant church] who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. Rev 12:17

It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. Rev 13:7

I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marvelled with great amazement. Rev 17:6

The constant war on people

The principal strategy

Despotic world governance

This is the totalitarian world kingdom ruled by Satan through human proxies; an Elite cabal.

The political system that rules over this is symbolised in Revelation as the Beast from the sea.

The manifestation of Satan in the world

The root issue is that the Elite cabal members are proxies of Satan, who is committed to reversing everything of God on the planet. Every good principle is to be reversed into its opposite: good into evil, beauty into ugliness, harmony into discord, righteousness into immorality etc. Everything normal in society is to be turned upside down. The basis of society becomes blasphemy and iniquity.

This is symbolised in Revelation as Babylon the Great, the Harlot, the Great City.

New global satanic religion

After all current religions are destroyed (bar Talmudism and Luciferianism) there will arise a new world religion that serves the totalitarian political system which worships Satan.

This is symbolised in Revelation as the Beast from the earth, the second beast, the false prophet.

Various methodologies serving this cause of reversal

Practical goals

DESTROY SOCIETY AND CULTURE

- Subvert institutions from within by inserting chosen agents.
- Destroy the family.
- Cause societal schisms. Turn sub-groups against one another.
- Blame victims of crime; turn justice upside down.
- Make art and architecture ugly.
- Destroy genuine creativity; celebrate the banal.

CONTROL HOW PEOPLE THINK

- Control all forms of the media.
- Promote widespread propaganda.
- Censor all alternative views.
- Utilise behavioural psychology to alter thinking.

CONTROL GOVERNMENTS

- Control leaders through bribery, boosting egos or blackmail. Make them puppets.
- Control Masonic lodges – the source of leadership.
- Keep nations in debt through bank loans.
- Make governments take bad decisions.

CONTROL PEOPLE

- Abolish freedom and human rights.

- Dumb-down the people with distractions and entertainment.
- Keep the people poor, in debt and working long hours.
- Restrict mobility.
- Take children away from parental control.
- Eugenics.
- Depopulation.

CONTROL RELIGION

- Abolish established religion.
- Abolish genuine spirituality and the concept of a sovereign, personal God.
- Promote paganism.
- Promote occultism.
- Spread licentiousness.

CONTROL LEARNING

- Control education through placemen.
- Destroy critical thinking.
- Spread deception.
- Re-write and corrupt history.

CONTROL WEALTH

- Steal all wealth and property.
- Introduce multiple taxes.
- Manipulate the stock markets.
- Create national debt. Make governments rely upon central banks.

These principles can be found in numerous Elite initiatives, such as: Illuminati goals, Jacobin goals, Marxist goals, Masonic goals, the Protocols of the Elders of Zion,⁷² Talmudic goals and so on.

Cultural Marxism

This is to pervert society from within societal institutions to create the Babylon fundamental structure.⁷³ Every UK societal institution is now fully corrupted and beyond reform. This includes the education system; the NHS; the care system; the police force; the judiciary; the magistracy; the government; the civil service; the media; the secret services etc.

The media

This is to pervert human morals and create Babylon within people.

Every aspect of the media is focused upon corruption of the mind. This includes movies, television, news, the press, journals, drama, modern theatre, modern music, modern art, modern architecture, social media, video games etc.

⁷² Arguments about this being a forgery are pointless. The fact is that all the protocols have emerged in history as real facts. This was a template for later history.

⁷³ For details see my paper, 'The origins of Cultural Marxism'.

For example take an Elite programme, such as Transgenderism, and every from of media starts to crusade for it to flood the minds of the population. Before long, Transgenderism is an axiomatic social norm.

The United Nations

This is to corrupt global political power and create the Beast.

The Elite intends for the UN to rule the world in the very near future (2025) and all nation states capitulating to its hegemony. This has been long established from Elite documents such as ‘The Iron Mountain document’⁷⁴.

The UN is already wielding power down to local council level by-passing national government. One example is the appalling explicit sexual education of young children in the foulest graphic terms. This stems from the UN and the WHO (part of the UN) but no parliament ever assented to it. For example, children under the age of 10 are being told to practise anal sex to avoid pregnancy or that it is acceptable to touch each other sexually.

New Ageism, mysticism, Freemasonry, Roman Catholicism, Neo-Gnosticism, Talmudism, Kabbalism, Sabbateanism

These are part of many strategies to create the new global satanic religion led by the false prophet.

They are all opposed to the Creator God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ and his law.

Essential goals of satanic destruction of society

These are represented in numerous conspiracies against human society throughout history such as: Marxism, Sabbateanism, Talmudism, the Illuminati, the Jacobins, the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, Freemasonry and so on.

These have all been Jewish in origin because Talmudism teaches that Jews are the inheritors of the world, because they are divine beings. Gentiles are sub-human beasts akin to cattle or dogs. Every Jew in the Messianic Age (where Jews rule the world) is to have hundreds of Gentile slaves.

These strategies are based upon the reversal of divine principles.

Divine principle	Satanic objective
Nation's boundaries established by God.	Total world domination. One world government.
God is to be worshipped and obeyed.	Elimination of God by destroying all religions.
Man: the image of God	Destruction of humanity; creation of human 2.0 (a cyborg).
Private ownership of goods.	Eradicate the private property of all people.

⁷⁴ An Elite programme summarised in a US federal consultation document from the early 1960s made available by a whistleblower but hidden from the public by President LB Johnson. It explains the transfer from war being the glue that maintains nations to new catalysts in a time of peace (after WWII, e.g. climate alarmism).

The rule of law to protect society.	Elimination of potential threats to the state (to prevent revolts). Martial law.
God established the family unit as the basis for human society.	Eradication of the family.
Immorality condemned.	Encourage perverse lifestyles.
Free market capitalism developed as the best means of establishing the prosperity of society. Based on the divine principle that people work to live and trade their surplus..	Collectivism. Planned economy.

Total world domination

- Destroy all nation states and replace with Socialist internationalism (globalism). All nations subdued to the elite control.
- Totalitarian global government. Authoritarian rule of the state. A world run by a fascist, despotic cabal. This government is a blend of nationalism and corporatism (i.e. Fascist).
- Discourage patriotism and encourage a universal brotherhood.
- The quite small Elite will rule as lords over a population of slaves and drones like a hive.
- Much labour will be performed by robots, algorithms and AI.
- The world is depopulated to less than 500 million; everyone else is useless.
- This requires world governance; world tax, a global army; global justice and laws etc.

Elimination of God

- Destroy Christianity and all religions except Talmudism and Luciferianism.
- Destruction of existing religions to be replaced by a new world religion that worships Satan through worshipping the state.

Destruction of humanity

- Destruction of humanity as God created it.
- Transhumanism: insertion of nano-digital technology into the bloodstream via Graphene oxide in vaccines.
- Genetic manipulation by mRNA / DNA vaccines. Re-programming the genome.
- Eugenics.
- Historical ideologies did not list this since the technology was not then available.

Eradicate the private property of all people

- Everything owned by the state.
- Everything in nature commodified and valued, owned by the state. Serfs taxed to use it, e.g. air, water.
- WEF: ‘You will own nothing and be happy’.

Elimination of potential threats to the state (to prevent revolts)

- In the USA this first requires getting rid of private guns.
- Elimination of the intelligentsia.

- Denial of human rights.
- Dumb-down society through conditioning in schools and universities.
- Brainwash populations through media.
- Medicate populations to hinder activism through toxic food, water and air plus EMF radiation.
- Transhumanism. This enables control over individuals through nano-digital technology within the body including mood and IQ.

Eradication of the family

- State control of children.
- Children used by the state for sexual abuse and ritual murder.
- Heterosexual marriage destroyed.
- Hatred for children.

Encourage perverse lifestyles

- Paedophilia.
- Incest.
- Fornication.
- Homosexuality.
- Transgenderism.
- Bestiality.

Collectivism

- Planned economy.
- Capitalism and individualism destroyed.
- Technocracy. Domination of technology.

Example from today 1: persecution of children by a wicked social agenda

- Introduce the Transgender agenda through mass conditioning by media, education, dramas, books etc.
- Pass laws protecting this agenda and criminalising dissent.
- Teachers then harm children who accepted the mentally damaged child's chosen pronoun.
- Parents harm children by taking the child to their doctor fully accepting the trans issues.
- Doctors then harmed the children by referring them to a psychiatrist or prescribing hormone blockers and breast binders.
- Surgeons then harmed the children (at great profit) who removed girl's breasts, or boy's genitals.
- All these harmed the children while telling them that it was for their own good.

Example from today 2: climate alarmism and net-zero programmes

- This emanates from the UN, especially from the IPCC.
- It feeds false information deemed to be axiomatic and censors opposing true data.

- It consolidates strategies at the grass roots level by ordering / brainwashing⁷⁵ UK councils to enact strategies based on lies. For example, councils have everywhere declared a 'climate emergency' but the government has not.
- This emergency is then used as a foundation to enact policies that include: 15-minute cities (social control and reduction of mobility); LTNs (social control and reduction of mobility); ULEZ schemes (social control and reduction of mobility); road closures, low speed limits and cycles lanes (reduction of mobility); provision of E-cycles (hazardous false narrative); increased car-parking charges (reduction of mobility).

Biblical principles opposed to current strategies

Transgenderism

A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so *are* an abomination to the LORD your God. Deut 22:5

From the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female'. Mk 10:6

For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. Eph 5:31

Homosexuality

You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It *is* an abomination. Lev 18:22

If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood *shall be* upon them. Lev 20:13

For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. Rm 12:26-27

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 1 Cor 6:9-10

Feminism

Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to

⁷⁵ E.g. through the charity Common Purpose.

their own husbands in everything. Eph 5:24

Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. Eph 5:33

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Col 3:18

The women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works. 1 Tim 2:9-10

Let a woman learn in silence with all submission. And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self-control. 1 Tim 2:11-15

Admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. Titus 2:4-5

Schisms in society

You shall not go about *as* a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbour: I *am* the LORD. Lev 19:16

You shall love your neighbour as yourself. Lev 19:18

You shall not oppress one another. Lev 25:14

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. Deut 5:20

Eating insects

Whatever crawls on its belly, whatever goes on all fours, or whatever has many feet among all creeping things that creep on the earth -- these you shall not eat, for they are an abomination. You shall not make yourselves abominable with any creeping thing that creeps; nor shall you make yourselves unclean with them, lest you be defiled by them. Lev 11:42-43

The great accountability

Summary

God allows the Devil to form and run the final wicked global empire to demonstrate the fulness of sin in mankind. But its time is short.

At the appointed time, when the world believes that there is peace and security, the Lord Jesus Christ returns to the Earth in the fulness of heavenly glory as king and conqueror with his angels and dead saints. The living saints are changed and raised up to meet them in the air. He destroys all the works of the Devil with the breath of his mouth.

All men die and the world is burned up by fire so that all traces of evil are eradicated.

All men and fallen angels are raised to have a spiritual body to face judgment and withstand eternal condemnation. Every person stands before God to give account for their sins. Every thought, word and deed is evaluated. The wicked face the sentence of Hell. The punishment of Hell is everlasting and conscious and full of torment.

The Earth is restored to the fulness of beauty and harmony. The saints are raised in a new spiritual yet material body to dwell on Earth forever with God. Heaven and Earth meet.

The divine plan is now fulfilled. The glorified saints on the new Earth fully manifest the glory of God.

The end of the world

Behold, the day of the LORD comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be darkened in its going forth, and the moon will not cause its light to shine. I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. I will make a mortal more rare than fine gold, A man more than the golden wedge of Ophir. Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth will move out of her place, In the wrath of the LORD of hosts and in the day of His fierce anger. Isa 13:9-13

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or

thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. Matt 25:31-46

For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world *that* then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth *which* are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 2 Pt 3:5-12

The return of Christ in glory

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 1 Thess 4:16-17

To *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking

vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed. 2 Thess 1:7-10

Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you ... And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. 2 Thess 2:1, 8

I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom. 2 Tim 4:1

Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. Rev 1:7

The changing and gathering of the saints with Christ

And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. Matt 24:31

We shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 1 Cor 15:51-52

When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Col 3:4

Who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. Phil 3:21

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 1 Thess 4:16-17

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only

but also to all who have loved His appearing. 2 Tim 4:8

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 1 Jn 3:2

The Final Judgment

For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have spoken in the ear in inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops. Lk 12:2-3

He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. Acts 17:31

But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who 'will render to each one according to his deeds'. Rm 2:5-6

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 2 Cor 5:10

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment. Heb 9:27

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.. Rev 20:11-15

Hell

The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing

of teeth. Matt 13:41-42

If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched -- where 'Their worm does not die, And the fire is not quenched'. Mk 9:43-44

Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh. Rev 19:20-21

And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. Rev 20:15

Objections and questions

Conceptions about God

I have explained the Biblical concept of God and how his will in the decree is carried out. The Bible does not try to make an apologetic for the existence of God, it simply presumes that sane people see the proof of a divine creator all around them and believe that God is a real, personal, sovereign, omnipotent Being. The Bible then explains the personality and will of this supreme Being and his full manifestation in the Person of Jesus.

However, philosophers have not all subscribed to the Biblical view and various propositions regarding the being of God are constantly put forward. I will summarise a few of the most common.

Deism

This was popular a couple of centuries ago. It basically claimed that there was a god who created the world but was not actively involved in it so that there is no accountability for sin. God does not care about man.

The illustration of this was like a man making a watch and winding it up then leaving it alone to gradually wind down. God made the universe and set it up with the laws of physics and then deserted it.

This is a very nihilistic, negative view that serves no purpose. It tries to accept that God exists but then negates the concept of an active God in the current universe.

Pantheism

Pantheism is very common in multiple religions, such as Hinduism, and various sects and cults, such as New Ageism.

Pantheism claims that God is identified with the universe; there is no personal God; the cosmos is God. This is associated with Monism – everything is one.

If there is no personal God then there is no hope. There is no accountability for sin, no love of God for humanity, no direct intervention of God into human affairs to save mankind through Christ, and so on. This is a poor system.

Atheism

This philosophy claims that there is no God at all.

Various ideologies and philosophies have a fundamental underlying atheism, such as: humanism, Nihilism, mechanism, Existentialism, evolutionary theory, rationalism, Marxism etc. Usually atheism elevates man; it makes man the arbiter of everything.

It is interesting that die-hard atheists, when facing severe crises in their lives, suddenly become Theists. This was noticeable in the trenches in WWI and many other wars. At root, everyone seeks a higher power than themselves to make sense of the world.

The reality is that the marvels of creation are so vast and imponderable that it is impossible to ignore the presence of an intelligent creator. Only by actively ignoring reality through

hubris can the wonders of nature fail to point to an intelligent designer. The natural world screams that there is a God.

On top of this, everyone knows in their heart the difference between good and evil; people feel guilty for a reason. God put the work of the law in the heart of everyone. Only the most wicked, ruthless people can ignore their conscience and deny essential morality.

So atheism is actually irrational. The facts around us testify that there is a God.

Theism

Theists believe that there is a God but provide no exposition about his character or purpose. This may or may not include a belief in a special revelation.

Polytheism

Some religions, especially ancient religions, had a pantheon of many gods usually associated with the natural order. Thus there was a god of the sun, a goddess of the moon, a god of storms, a god of war, a goddess of love and fertility etc. Ancient polytheistic pantheons include: Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Indian, Norse, Canaanite, Babylonian, Assyrian etc. Often there were parallel gods copied from the Babylonian root.

Polytheism is less common today in the West, though Hinduism has a pantheon of 3 million gods. Freemasonry has Jahbulon and Baphomet. Witchcraft has many gods.

These gods and goddesses are usually indwelling carved and painted physical idols made of wood, metal or stone. The Bible ridicules such idols as having ears that cannot hear and eyes that cannot see (Ps 115:6-7, 135:17). They are merely the work of men's hands and the stuff of men's imagination.

Elementalism

This is my term for those religions that worship impersonal elements.

Classic amongst these is fire worship as practised by Zoroastrians (though these still held polytheistic ideas). Zoroastrians can pray before any clean fire but there are also sacred fire temples where the flame is kept constantly alive.

Monotheism

There are some monotheistic religions that are separate from Christianity.

Islam

Islam is monotheistic but its sole god Allah was derived from an ancient Arabic moon god. Muhammad built up a new religion based upon influences from Christianity, Judaism, paganism and Zoroastrianism that he had gained in his trading travels. This led to a completely new religion based on laws derived from the Qur'an (recitations not formally written down and collated in Muhammad's lifetime) and the collected sayings and precedents of Muhammad.

Judaism

Judaism is claimed to be monotheistic but this is open to question. Torah (Five Books of Moses) Jews are few in number. The authoritative sacred scripture for most Jews, and all Ashkenazi Jews, is the Babylonian Talmud. This contradicts the Torah completely.

The Torah is monotheistic, centred on the Christian God of the OT, Yahweh, but the Talmud is varied. It sometimes refers to the one God but also to demons and other gods. It also includes magic and other forms of occultism, let alone blatant evil. Combined with the other sacred Jewish text, the Kabbalah, there is also serpent worship and phallus worship. The Messianic Age is not the return of a divine saviour but the rule of the Jewish people on the Earth over Gentiles.

Sikhism

The root of Sikhism is monotheistic, going back before Guru Nanak to the Sant tradition in North India. The ministry of Brahmans was rejected, along with Avatars, statues (idols), rituals, asceticism, moral pollution, and pilgrimages, while personal spiritual experience was emphasised. This is why Sikhism is normally considered to be a reform movement out of Hinduism.

Baha'ism

Baha'i is a 19th century variant emerging from Islam; a form of Babism [founder: the Bab, 1819-50]. It was a messianic sect of Shia Islam developing in Iran and Iraq in 1844. Its founder was Baha'Allah. The unity of God is central, with the Bab and Baha'Allah being incarnations.

Conclusion

There are gods many and philosophical teachings many. These cannot all be equal and they all have contradictory doctrines on vital subjects. There is no sane unifying process for these religions and ideas.

This means that a choice must be made.

It is my contention that the clear viable option is the God described in the Bible. The God whose attributes are clearly defined and explained. A God whose purposes and plans are laid out for all to see. A God of mercy, love, compassion and goodness.⁷⁶

Resources

- Paul Fahy, 'Comparison of religions'.
- Paul Fahy, 'Why all religions do not lead to God: The various religions of the world contradict each other in every way'.
- Paul Fahy, 'Why witchcraft is wrong'.

Epistemology: what is truth?

The key issue today, as in every age, is 'what is truth?' Unless we know what constitutes the truth of anything we are lost to mere conjecture and open to deception.

Today is an age of relativism; there is no final truth. Everybody has their own truth and that is inviolable. This is a planned result of Cultural Marxism via Post Modernism and Political Correctness. But this is what is destabilising people everywhere; they have no

⁷⁶ The Biblical sections revealing God's just wrath on wicked nations must be interpreted in historical context. All nations were given chances to repent and get right (see for example the Assyrians under the ministry of the prophet Jonah). Their refusal led to deeper works of darkness (such as ritual child sacrifice) and finally God's condemnation.

rock, no foundation, to their lives because there is no truth. Thus people fight others for the 'truth' of their Transgenderism (for example) only to collapse into depression, anxiety and suicidal hopelessness within a few years because they believed a lie.

Most of what is going on in society today is rooted in satanic deception.

So, it is more necessary than ever before to know what is the basis of truth. What is the source of absolute truth?

The Bible answers this question. God is the source of truth and this truth is found in the Person of Christ and explained in the Word of God, the Bible. This is mediated by the Holy Spirit, who is truth.

Your law is truth. Ps 119:142

All Your commandments are truth. Ps 119:151

The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever. Ps 119:160

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. Jn 1:14

Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. Jn 1:17

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, 'If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free'. Jn 8:31-32

Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life'. Jn 14:6

Your word is truth. Jn 17:17

The truth is in Jesus. Eph 4:21

This is He who came by water and blood -- Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. 1 Jn 5:6

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. 1 Jn 5:20

History is filled with examples of people that were making a mess of their lives, believing all sorts of nonsense and getting nowhere fast. At some point, by divine intervention, they became a Christian and suddenly had access to the truth. Gradually they taught themselves the truth of God's word and their lives were completely changed. They had answers to questions. They understood the purpose of God. They knew what their lives were for. These people became testimonies to sound character as the truth of God entered their bones.

Men filled with the truth of God not only were themselves saved but also saved many others and brought stability to entire regions. People like Ulfilas, Alfred the Great, Martin Luther, David Livingstone, Hudson Taylor, Mary Slessor, WC Burns and many more.

Theodicy:⁷⁷ how do we explain suffering in the world if a good God created it?

It is common for people to blame God for all the evils and suffering in this world – yet ignore the fact that they themselves have caused suffering to many people in their own lives.

Natural disasters are blamed on God when, in many cases, these are caused by human intervention, often for greed or power. Thus famines, poverty, wildfires, floods, inflation, economic collapse, revolts and war atrocities are usually caused by men.

But some suffering is just inherent in the natural order that we see around us today, whether it affects people or animals. This is God's fault say the sceptics.

Except that it isn't.

When God created the world he created it very good. Everything God created was perfect.

Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. Gen 1:31

Everything in nature worked in perfect harmony. All animals were herbivores.

Then sin entered the world as a result of the actions of man – not God. The free will that God gave man was used to bring sin into the natural order and ruin it.

⁷⁷ The defence of God's goodness in view of the existence of evil and suffering in the world.

Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you. Gen 3:17-18

For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labours with birth pangs together until now. Rm 8:20-22

The main curse brought into the world by man's sin was death. There was no death until sin appeared.

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned. Rm 5:12

Thus animals did not kill to eat.

The entrance of sin into the world was a catastrophe to the natural order; everything changed. It was sin, man's sin, that caused the suffering now seen in nature. This upset all natural things, including the weather. There were no hurricanes, earthquakes or tsunamis before the Fall.

But God could change everything you may say, he could stop the suffering. Yes but at what price? It would mean the eradication of your free will. You would no longer be a free agent to do as you please but would be a robot under the control of God ensuring that you only did what was right. No one would agree to that.

The suffering in the world was not caused by God, either by commission or omission, but is the result of man's sin, directly and indirectly.

How do we understand Biblical typology and symbolism?

This is a huge subject, worthy of many volumes. Here I will simply give a concise summary of basic principles of symbolism and hermeneutics (interpretation).

General hermeneutics

- The main focus of the Bible is Christ. All things point to him in some way; 'beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself'. (Lk 24:27).
- Interpret Scripture by Scripture; that is, understand a difficult text on the basis of what the whole Bible teaches. Scripture will always help you to understand another Scripture.
- Understand the context. There is the context of a verse; the context of a chapter; the context of a book and the context of the whole Bible. Interpretations must not be out of context. An interpretation of a verse must not contradict what the Bible teaches elsewhere.
- Take into account the grammar of the language used (Hebrew in OT or Greek in NT).

- Understand word meanings.
- Take into account the historical context.
- Take into account the cultural context.
- Interpret brief statements by means of fuller ones.
- Observe the special rules that apply to poetry and psalms.
- Observe the special rules that apply to prophetic writings; such as, do not just interpret it literally unless that is the clear intention (note how the NT interprets it). Many prophecies have two or more phases of fulfilment.
- Observe the special rules that apply to apocalyptic literature.
- Interpret typology, numbers and symbols with caution and with reference to the rest of scripture.
- Note idiomatic expressions and figures of speech.
- Interpret parables in a simple way. Most parables make a single point by means of an illustration or story.
- Interpret allegories within the limits of the text.
- Important words can often be illuminated by studying the first mention in Scripture.
- Names often imply character.

For more information see my papers:

- *Bible Language Resources.*
- *Choosing commentaries.*
- *A basic list of important principles of interpretation.*
- *Bible study techniques.*
- *Principles of interpretation* (full edition).
- *Tools of Bible Study.*

Typology

Typology refers to a figure of speech whereby an object (type) metaphorically stands for the characteristics of a different object or person (antitype). A symbolic object or person foreshadowing a later object or person.

The grand focus of OT types is Christ first and foremost. They may also refer to the elect in a secondary manner.

Examples of OT types would include:

- The Tabernacle and temple: God dwelling in Christ on the Earth. Multiple features speak of different aspects of Christ's life and ministry. E.g. the silver sockets typify Christ's ransom.
- The blood offerings: the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Each offering signifies a different aspect of the cross e.g. dealing with sin, making peace with God, the giving up of a life by a voluntary sacrifice etc.
- The high priesthood: Christ as the mediator between man and God. Every feature of the vestments speaks about Christ.
- Prophets: Christ as the word of God to men.
- Festivals / feasts: aspects of Christ's ministry. E.g. the Passover testifies to Christ's cross-work through shed blood.

- Individual types of Christ: Moses (prophet / priest and virtual king); David (king and prophet; a man after God's heart), Solomon (wisdom and kingship), Joseph (innocent persecuted brother rising to sovereign power).

A suggested resource regarding this matter is Soltau's, 'The Tabernacle, Priesthood and Offerings'.

Symbolism

Symbolism is especially used in apocalyptic books, such as Revelation or Daniel. The Bible has specific meanings for symbols which may differ from interpretations found in other religions or ideologies. Here is a simple, short list of the main symbols used.

Numbers

- 1: God.
- 2: witness and testimony.
- 3: the Trinity.
- 4: the compass of the Earth.
- 5: grace; strength out of weakness.
- 6: the number of man.
- 7: divine perfection.
- 8: resurrection.
- 9: judgment.
- 10: divine completion, fulness.
- 11: imperfection; falling short.
- 12: Covenant; divine government.
- 13: apostasy.
- 40: probation.
- 144: the complete church (12 x 12).
- 666: Man seeking to be God.

Colours

- White: purity.
- Red: Earthly. / Death.
- Blue: heaven.
- Scarlet: Jewish royalty.
- Black: famine; judgment.
- Purple: Gentile royalty. In some places = Jesus as the God-Man (earth and heaven mixed).

Objects

- Horn: military or political power.
- Leaven (e.g. yeast or baking powder): sin but sometimes, fast growth.
- Seals: perfect government or decree.
- Crown: sovereignty.
- Winepress: judgment.
- Earthquake: end of the Earth and judgment.
- Sea: inhabitants of the world, uncivilised nations.
- Mountain: empire.

- Rainbow: covenant.
- White fine linen: purity, righteousness.
- Altar: the death of Christ; atonement.
- Incense: prayer.
- Lampstands: The grace and power of God manifested by the Spirit in the church.
- Golden altar / altar of incense / censer: The intercessory prayer of Christ.
- Olive trees: fruitfulness. Israel called by God.
- Fig trees: peace and prosperity.

Minerals

- Silver: redemption.
- Gold: what is of God; divine glory.
- Brass / bronze: judgment on the flesh.
- Iron: strength.

Animals

- Lamb: Jesus.
- Dragon, serpent: Satan.
- Leopard: speedy pursuit.
- Bear: fierceness, rage & strength.
- Sheep: the church.
- Scorpion: torment, torture.
- Locust: total destruction, especially as a judgment from God.
- Horse: strength, especially in battle.
- Lion: kingly power.

Caution:

- Great care must be taken when interpreting these symbols, however, Revelation cannot be understood without taking a view on them.
- Don't interpret something symbolically when it is clearly meant to be taken literally, or makes no sense, or contradicts a known truth.
- Some items are symbolic when similar items are not.
- Don't interpret a symbol in a widely different way to the way other scriptures use it.
- Always look for the main sense of the symbol, not every part has to be significant.

In history, the Bible has been made to mean almost anything by deceiving men. Taking a verse out of context can make it mean the reverse of its true meaning. This means that inexperienced Bible students need to be guided by good teachers. Fortunately, there are many good books written over centuries by good men faithful to God. Sound evangelical theologians and commentators, and sound confessions of faith and catechisms, will help the student get a grip on Bible understanding.

Resources

- Paul Fahy, 'A Key To Symbols Used In The Book Of Revelation'.
- Paul Fahy, 'Vital Books for the Serious Bible Student'.
- Robert Young, Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible, Introduction ('Illustrations and Bible idioms').

FOR UNDERSTANDING THE FAITH

- The Westminster Confession of Faith.
- The Westminster Shorter / Larger Catechism.
- The Belgic Confession of Faith.
- The Heidelberg Catechism.
- The Canons of the Synod of Dort.
- The 1689 Baptist Confession.

The pursuit of happiness

When considering the purpose of life many people believe that seeking happiness is the main point. Do what you can to be happy.

This is not the view of the Bible. In fact, many that seek happiness find it to be like searching for the pot of gold at the end of a rainbow.

Seeking happiness is, at root, selfish; it is putting yourself first. Life is more important than that. The worst advice you can give to a person is to do what you like that makes you happy. This is the ultimate self-centredness. What if a person finds happiness in evil? Some people are only happy when they do cruel things to others.

The purpose of life is doing good; doing what is right; doing the will of God. Within that framework we should learn to be content in all things. If life is tough, find contentment; if life is good, be content.

I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content. Phil 4:11

Happiness in the world often requires finding something, such as riches, lust, pleasure, addictions or whatever. These never fulfil the soul; happiness always demands more. Contentment, however, is satisfied with what you have; even if it is little.

Having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 1 Tim 6:8

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. Heb 13:5

The Christian finds that fellowship with God brings happiness, even in times of suffering. The Christian life is blessed (happy) because we are in Christ.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. Eph 1:3

In addition there are certain gifts of God that bring happiness to men:

Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects; therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty. Job 5:17

Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate. Ps 127:4-5

Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding. Prov 3:13

Happy is the man who is always reverent. Prov 28:14

Thus happiness comes to those that do not seek it or make it fundamental to their poise. Happiness comes from being right with God and doing that which he commands.

3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Matt 5:3-11

The problem of organised religion discussed

Earlier I explained how the true church gathers in small numbers meeting in a home led by at least two equal elders with no dominating single leader. This is the pattern laid out in the NT. It is a system that has almost universally been ignored throughout history.

The problem is that men become church leaders and then accrue power and authority and build systems to secure and boost that authority, copying the sinful world's hierarchical leadership systems (often a powerful dictator surrounded by 'yes-men'). In fact, this hierarchical leadership pattern is demonic; it is how Satan organises his legions. This pattern is copied by the world such as its military, its civil government, corporate management and so on.

The chief illustration for church government is the family and the family itself is a reflection of the loving community of the Godhead.

So instead of copying the divine pattern for the church, local churches follow a satanic model.

The local church is a family; a loving community; a flock of sheep following a shepherd. This is why church leaders were called ‘pastor’ (Eph 4:11), meaning ‘shepherd’ or ‘herdsman’. Middle Eastern shepherds led their sheep from the front and the sheep, known by name, would willingly follow them. Western shepherds drive their sheep from behind, often with dogs. The church should follow the eastern pattern.

Local churches should be independent, loving communities where people are committed to ‘one-anothering’ or mutual edification. The process of the church meeting is first to celebrate the Lord’s Supper, focused upon the Lord Jesus Christ in a act of worshipful fellowship (if possible, following a communal meal). The second part of the gathering is fellowship whereby everyone shares their gifts given by God for the benefit of everybody else. This is called ‘koinonia’ (‘fellowship’, ‘communion’). The elders do not dominate the meeting but ensure that God’s will is followed. There is no set pattern but the meeting should be led by the Spirit of God; yet it will include: Bible reading, prayers, intercession, worship, singing with no musical instruments, encouragement, exhortation, and didactic teaching.

Didactic teaching is an important function of the local church and elders must ensure that this is performed properly. It follows a fellowship pattern also, comprising of questions, answers, and discussion (Acts 20:7).⁷⁸ This is how Jesus taught the disciples. Yet the church has always followed a sermonic model which derives from Greek oratory, not the Bible. Preaching in the NT is a means of engaging outsiders when proclaiming the Gospel; it was a common feature in market places. In the gathered church, sermonic preaching has no place since it puffs up the speaker above the rest and stops discussion.

So modern institutional churches do not follow the Biblical pattern in many ways. Some errors include:

- Large congregations instead of small ones.
- Using dedicated buildings at great cost.
- Clergy / laity split.
- Silent congregations (the ‘frozen chosen’).
- No koinonia.
- Often, no Lord’s Supper.
- Focus upon an authoritarian, professional leader.
- Hierarchical leadership structure.
- A host of unbiblical leaders⁷⁹ and meetings⁸⁰.
- Focus upon money. [The Biblical pattern is to give money to the poor and needy as the individual feels directed by God. There are no leadership salaries but there are gifts. Elders do not need to be full-time; itinerant ministries (e.g. travelling teachers amongst the churches) should live by faith.]
- Following worldly meeting and administration patterns.
- Emotionalism and exuberance.
- Occultism.
- Mysticism.

⁷⁸ The KJV ‘preached’ is an error; the word is *dialegomai*, to discuss.

⁷⁹ Archbishop, pope, house-group leader, worship leader, apostle leading many churches (apostles are missionaries), cardinal, vicar, reader, moderator, priest, prophet, and so on.

⁸⁰ Gospel meeting, women’s meeting, men’s meeting, cell-groups, house groups, celebrations, healing meetings, revival meetings, crusade evangelism etc.

We could go on and on. The modern church bears little resemblance to God's directions and precedents.

So when people say that organised churches put them off Christianity, they were discouraged by something that is not actually Christian.

Also people complain that churches were filled with hypocrisy and this put them off. This is true; as a teenager I was put off by the hypocrisy I repeatedly saw when attending church regularly. Not only are modern churches not functioning like churches but most of the people in them are not Christians either. I suspect that in some church streams (e.g. Charismatic) only 5-10% of the congregation are really Christians. The figure would be higher in some traditional churches.

So what puts people off is not God and is not the genuine churches, but a modern caricature of it. They were right to be put off.

The fact that the counterfeit church is discouraging should not stop people searching the Bible for the truth of God. Seek the truth with humility and reach out for God; call upon him in prayer and ask for his mercy.

So large, formal, organised, authoritarian, institutional churches meeting in a big building are not Biblical. They are not following the direction of God. Do not be discouraged by them.

Claimed objectionable Christian trolling

Some truthing commentators have affirmed that their worst trolls⁸¹ have been people identifying as Christians. They complain that, while other critics have been rational and reasonable, Christians have been aggressive, nasty, authoritarian, and pedantic.

I must first say that I have also occasionally received such objectionable responses despite being supposedly on their side.

Let me give an assessment of this.

Firstly, it is sometimes necessary for Christian teachers to vehemently combat heretical statements that could damage the flock. While this must always be reasonable and never unrighteous it must sometimes be robust. With many people we can approach a disagreement with courtesy, kindness and with a view to peace, but sometimes something more is required when dealing with unrighteous, vehement, dyed in the wool opposers of God who yet claim to represent God.

Now dealing with non-Christians does not usually require such robust responses. We can usually either ignore the issue or question the issue with grace. The problem is with claimed Christian teachers and theologians that have credence in certain circles yet spout heresy. For the sake of the flock the deception must be attacked. The level of robustness depends upon the character of the heretic. Decent people can be combated peacefully but some false teachers require a strong response.

⁸¹ A person who posts deliberate offensive messages online or in real life.

The reformers were quite strident in the attack of false teaching; probably stronger than would be normal in academic circles today. This was part of the times they lived in and they took the defence of the Gospel seriously. Yet they were also humble and kind. Calvin vehemently attacked the heresies of Michael Servetus in writing yet when Servetus was in prison Calvin visited him, tried to get him to recant, offered him the use of his library for his defence and pleaded with the authorities not to issue the death penalty.

So, defenders of the faith must respond to false teaching in the church. They must try to do this peacefully and with grace whenever possible but sometimes the defence must be robust when dealing with wicked, recalcitrant heretics. Usually, when dealing with non-Christians, there is no need for a robust response; this is not a church issue. If we try to deal with lies in the world we would need several lifetimes as the sinful world is filled with deception with more coming every day.

Regarding 'Christian' trolls to commentators.

In the light of the above, I have to ask why supposed Christians are even bothering to do this at all. One truther complained that multiple Christians gave aggressive comments as a response to a podcast regarding the Tartaria hypothesis. Why would Christians even bother to comment on this at all? Let the dead bury their dead.

The real problem is that very many people that identify as Christian today are not Christian at all. I hesitate to say this even with modesty and humility, but it makes a point. Several people have told me that I was the first Christian that they had met who actually behaved as a Christian should.⁸² This is damning. The churches are filled with professing believers who have never been regenerated. These then gather into certain theological groupings and spend their lives attacking people that provoke their group.

I doubt that any of the objectionable critics referred to are Christian at all; sadly they tar everyone with their brush.

Christianity started all the wars

This is a false claim

This claim is often spouted; yet when I ask accusers to name even one war started by Christians I never get an answer. This accusation is a trope engendered by the Elite cabal to demean Christianity but also to cover up the fact that they started all the modern wars.

The Elite cabal drives war

Bankers and military supply corporations make huge profits from arms sales and sponsoring wars. Bankers have been behind virtually all the wars in the last 150 years. The only winners from the Iraq War were firms like Halliburton, which made billions and fattened the pockets of politicians like Dick Cheney that started the war.

To continue making money the Elite needs constant war; but this also serves several of their other objectives.

- To keep the nation in perpetual fear.
- To subdue populations through this fear.

⁸² My own view of myself is that I am a sinner saved by grace alone. I am nothing special. I deserve no honour.

- To enable toleration of draconian repressive laws if these are supposed to help national security.
- To forge a common enemy (whether real or manufactured) to direct anger.

The mother of banker Meyer Amschel Bauer (1744-1812; who later changed his name to Rothschild) is reputed to have said, '*No wars occur unless my sons deem it so*'. General Smedley D Butler⁸³ wrote a book called, 'War is a racket' and claimed that all wars are banker's wars. The Rothschilds frequently sponsored and funded both sides in given wars and funded the Bolshevik Revolution. Until the cabal's new world order arrives there will be constant war.

Religious wars

If we examine history for religious wars, certainly in Europe, we find that there are relatively few wars started as a result of religion, let alone Christianity.

Many historical scholars have argued that all wars termed as 'religious' were in fact based upon secular power, ethnic, social, political and economic reasons for conflict. Jeffrey Burton Russell is one example. Theologian William T Cavanaugh argued that all religious wars have secular (economic / political) causes ('Myth of Religious Violence', 2009).

When a Lutheran prince in Reformation Germany defended his nation using mercenaries against an invading Catholic army seeking to regain territory, that was self-defence not a Christian religious war. Only a Holy War, when conflict is legitimised by religion and religious goals with religious leaders (but may involve secular troops) could be said to be a religious war.

Many wars of succession were claimed to be religious wars simply because claimants to the throne represented opposing religious factions. Such wars were not Holy Wars. In fact even the definition of religion itself is problematic; especially outside Europe.

Definitions

There are problems of definition. What is a war? Can revolts, civil uprisings, internecine conflicts, and conflicts of succession be termed wars?

What is religion? The modern understanding of the word is recent. Eastern religions (e.g. Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Shinto, Jainism etc.) were only so designated in the 19th century. Original words which the West translates as 'religion' actually meant 'law' (e.g. the Sanskrit *Dharma* or the Arabic *deen*). The Japanese had no word for 'religion'. In the medieval world 'religion' (Latin *religio*) meant individual worship, not doctrine. The idea of describing religion by a specific creed or confession and cultural practice is modern (certainly post-17th century) and therefore cannot be applied to earlier historical wars. It is better to look at the idea of a Holy War. The Christian concept of a Holy War does not appear before the 11th century, provoked by military threats, but many theologians continued to deny its validity. However, Augustine had articulated the concept of a 'Just War' in the 5th century (I believe that he is wrong on this point).

The overriding example of religious-based Holy Wars emanates from Islamic military conflicts. Islam demands that Muslims conquer the world and subdue it for Allah by jihad.

⁸³ A US Marine Corps Major General and two-time Medal of Honour recipient.

The history of the Middle East, Western Asia and Eastern Europe after 700 AD is dominated by Muslim military expansion.

The Crusades are complex, though often cited as religious wars. Provoked by Islamic expansion, popes encouraged the invasion of Palestine. However, the real reason why kings and princes took troops to the Levant was nothing like piety. The reasons centred more on military honour, bloodthirsty vengeance, gaining territory and establishing a kingdom, stealing treasure by looting cities and so on. It should also be remembered that invading Muslim armies posed a real threat to Europe; at one point they threatened Vienna and they ravaged the Balkans for centuries. The Crusades were partly self-defence and they stopped Muslim expansion into central Europe.

The main example that stands out is the Thirty Years War. This appalling war ravaged Germany and central Europe as kingdoms fought to preserve their religious basis that developed in the Reformation. The Catholics sought to regain countries lost to Protestantism and Lutheranism. The German princes fought back. Political intrigue was still involved; Catholic France took the side of the Protestants for political reasons. Eventually, to restore order in the empire, it was decided that whatever a nation's religion was before the war started, that would be what would remain. Thus Protestantism was established.

The rebellion of the Low Countries ('The Dutch Revolt'; 1566-1648) could be described as religious. The Protestant Calvinist Northern Federated Netherlands (Belgica Foederata) rebelled against Hapsburg Catholic King Philip II of Spain.⁸⁴ However, this could also be simply viewed as a fight for self-determination against an external rule and taxation. They eventually secured their independence

You can make a case that the basis of the awful 1853-56 Crimean War (Russia vs. the Ottoman Empire, France, England and Sardinia-Piedmont) was religious (regarding the rights of Christian minorities in Palestine under Ottoman rule), but all sorts of geo-political strategies were the main foundation. War was easily avoidable as the churches came to an agreement with the Ottomans but the powers prepared for war anyway.

Some have claimed that the British Civil War was religious, Parliamentary Puritan Protestants fighting Roman Catholic monarchist Cavaliers; but that is not the case. The issue was the despotism of King Charles I versus the establishment of law under parliamentary representation. The king had behaved treasonably and threatened the very fabric of Britain; even allying with Britain's enemies to save his skin.

Some religious wars were simply Catholic persecution of minority sects, such as the Albigensian (Cathar) Crusade (1209-1229) to eliminate the Cathars from Languedoc.⁸⁵

The Troubles of Northern Ireland is portrayed as a religious conflict but the real cause of fighting was nationalistic and ethnic. Although the native Irish were mostly Catholic and the British immigrants were mostly Protestant the fundamentals were tribal not spiritual. In fact, most combatants were not religious at all.

⁸⁴ The Southern royal Netherlands (Belgica Regia) remained loyal.

⁸⁵ The Cathars (Cathari) originated from an anti-materialist reform movement in the Bogomil churches in the Balkans seeking to instil Biblical simplicity to the church. Their Catholic enemies accused them of Gnosticism.

Second Temple period Jewish Holy Wars include the Maccabean Revolt (167-160 BC), the First Jewish-Roman War (66-73 AD) and the Bar Kokhba revolt (132-136 AD). These were called *Milkhemet Mitzvah* (holy or commanded war). This has nothing to do with Christianity. In fact Christians were persecuted by the Jews after 33 AD.

In the Middle Ages there were some Holy Wars against heretical nations. King Clovis I of the Franks warred against European nations that followed Arianism, such as the Visigoths. Frankish King Charlemagne warred against the pagan Saxons (772-804). In some cases the military threat led to national conversions, such as that of the Avars in the 790s. Others, like the Frisians (Frisian-Frankish Wars, 7th and 8th century), held out against the Franks.

Certain 'Christian' military orders were mercenaries, such as the Knights Templar, the Knights Hospitaller and the Teutonic Knights. These were devoted to Holy War, especially against Muslims. The concepts of Biblical ethics seems to have eluded them.

The 16th century French Wars of Religion were really the merciless persecution of Protestant Huguenots for deserting Roman Catholicism. Eventually the Huguenots left the country to settle in England and the Netherlands where they prospered and benefited the welcoming nations.

The following are some scholarly assessments of the prevalence of Holy War.

- Kalevi Holsti, (1991), religious wars from 1648 to 1989: 1648-1714 – 14%; 1715-1814 – 11%; 1815-1914 – 10%; 1918-1989 – 0%.
- Charles Phillips and Alan Axelrod ('Encyclopaedia of Wars', 1997): of 1763 wars 121 were religious (6.8%).
- Gordon Martel ('The Encyclopaedia of War', 2012): 6% of wars listed were religious wars.

Christianity would present as a smaller proportion of these figures.

True Christianity versus the false

Even if a war was claimed to have been started by Christians this is just not possible. True Christians have no interest in securing empires in this world; their hope is heavenly not earthly.

There are very many people that claim to be Christian but are clearly not. No Christian could start a war because we are commanded to love even our enemies. The command of Christ is peace and love, not war. Examples of warmongers that claimed to be Christian include GW Bush Jnr and Tony Blair. Their actions prove that they cannot be Christians at all. In fact, they are both war criminals.

The cause of most wars: greed and power

Most wars are caused by geo-political intrigues, financial opportunity, and strategic cabal plans. The two world wars were completely unnecessary and were the result of a prior cabal strategy to achieve numerous goals (e.g. the eradication of certain royal dynasties, the destruction of Christian Russia, destruction of Lutheran Germany, preparation for the state of Israel in Palestine etc.).

Many of the recent wars formed part of the plan to build Greater Israel dominating the Middle East (the Yinon Plan). This includes the Gulf War, the Iraq War, the fomented civil war in Syria; bombing the prosperous state of Libya into the Middle Ages, air strikes on

Yemen and Somalia and so on. Secondary purposes were to steal oil fields, to establish illegal US military bases and to stop the establishment of independent national currencies thus avoiding central banks.

Historically, the War of 1812 was a banking war to secure financial control over the US. The War of Independence removed America from the British monarchy but not from the bankers.

The Afghanistan War was to secure the supply of heroin to the West (terminated by the Taliban) and keep the CIA drug trafficking operation afloat and also to secure oil/gas pipeline deals.

The various wars involving Israel were all about occupying more Palestinian land according to historic Zionist plans.

Colonial British wars were mostly about stealing national resources for big corporations. The Zulu Wars were deliberately provoked by Britain in order to steal gold and diamonds and occupy more territory. The Boer Wars were a land grab. The Battle of Plassey⁸⁶ was to secure British Empire interests in India and defend the East India Company.

There is no point going on and on. The point is made. Far from Christianity causing all wars, no genuine Christian ever caused any war.

The Anunnaki⁸⁷

The proposition

Aliens, sometimes identified as the Anunnaki, came to Earth in ancient history and built the huge monoliths and structures we see today.

This is due to the fact that man with modern technology cannot replicate the structural wonders of the past, such as the Great Pyramid or huge finely cut stone walls.

Response

This idea is completely false. The Anunnaki were simply Sumerian gods who mythically descended from the sky. Carvings of them do not have to be interpreted as extraterrestrial aliens.

Large ancient structures were built by the pre-deluvian people who had very high intelligence and technologies; even technology that does not now exist. The problem is the false narrative of history, which claims that ancient man was a primitive, cave dweller, hunter-gatherer living on roots, berries, and what he could kill with a wooden spear. The Bible teaches that pre-deluvian man was highly competent and the initial post-deluvian civilisation was able to build the Tower of Babel.

⁸⁶ Robert Clive's victory of the East India Company over the Nawab of Bengal and his French allies (June 1757). This helped to establish the British Raj.

⁸⁷ This word is variously spelled as 'Anunnaki' (e.g. Wikipedia) and 'Annunaki' (e.g. Int. Standard Bible Encyclopaedia). 'Anunnaki' is more common today.

There are no extra-terrestrial aliens

I have earlier explained that the universe was created to magnify the perfection of God in a material way, with man being the centre of that manifestation. The Earth, alone in the Cosmos, was created to house life where man would be a steward under God.

There is no life in outer space. The only place in the universe where life exists is the place where God said it exists – on Earth. The heavenly bodies were created to serve the Earth.

Then God said, 'Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth'; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that *it was* good. Gen 1:14-18

Sumer

The location of the earliest civilisation was situated in the southernmost part of Mesopotamia between the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers. This area later became Babylonia and is now southern Iraq from around Baghdad to the Persian Gulf. Sumeria is called 'the cradle of civilisation' where the earliest cities were located.

Sumer was first settled between 4500 and 4000 BC by a non-Semitic people who did not speak the Sumerian language. These people now are called proto-Euphrateans or Ubaidians, from the village Al-Ubaid, where their remains were first discovered. The Ubaidians were the first civilising force in Sumer, draining the marshes for agriculture, developing trade, and establishing industries. The people called Sumerians, whose language became the prevailing language of the territory, probably came from around Anatolia, arriving in Sumer about 3300 BC.

What are the Anunnaki?

These are gods featured in ancient Sumerian myths.

Some modern people aver that the term means, '*those who came from the heavens*'; usually in flying saucers of some kind.

'Anunnaki' does not mean 'alien' but 'princely seed', 'royal seed' or 'princely blood'. They were direct creations of the chief god Anu. The point in Sumerian religion is that the Anunnaki were creations of Anu (or An) and his consort Ki, conceived in the sky (the meeting of heaven and earth). No aliens; no flying space vehicles.

When the soul arrived among the dead he had to pass judgment before the judges of the dead, the Anunnaki, but little has been preserved concerning the manner of this judgment.

There is no concept in the mythology of extra-terrestrial aliens.

Modern proponents

One of the fathers of the modern Anunnaki aliens theory was Zecharia Sitchin who wrote many books about it in the 1970s when multiple cheap paperbacks ploughed this alien

gods idea.⁸⁸ Sitchen did not even understand the rules of basic Sumerian grammar and all his conclusions were based on a false semantic premise.

Sumerian images of winged solar discs are connected by some to the Anunnaki. In fact, these images are not connected by ancient Sumerians to the Anunnaki at all but to the sun and the sun god. The winged images have nothing to do with spacecraft.

Ancient images of winged 'genies' (like angels) are also published showing figures that appear to be in some kind of spacesuit, with wristwatches and boots. These are claimed to be Anunnaki. In fact they are not even Sumerian but Akkadian; these genies are thought to be in control of crop fertilisation. The 'watch' was a symbol for Ishtar, the goddess of fertility and appears on both hands and the forehead.

Some claim that the Anunnaki came from the hidden planet Nibiru beyond Pluto and came here to steal gold from the earth. There is no mention of this in Sumerian texts or reliefs.

Another claim is that when the Anunnaki aliens became tired of mining Sumerian gold, they created human beings as slave workers, called Adamou. In fact the texts speak about the gods being tired creating the world with its mountains and rivers and made man at that time out of clay. Then follows the flood story as mankind angered the gods.⁸⁹

The claim that the Sumerian flood epic was copied by Moses cannot stand up. There is no textual evidence for dependence of that sort. In fact, both appear to stem from an earlier common tradition, either a written source or knowledge of the event transmitted by oral tradition. Note that almost every culture on earth has its own variation of a global flood myth.

Nibiru

The identification of the Anunnaki with the unobserved planet Nibiru leads to multiple speculations about future cosmic events when Nibiru comes into plain view and heralds the end of the world (supposedly soon). This planet has never been identified by astronomers.

Background: Sumerian culture

Mesopotamia gave birth to many civilisations and empires, each having influence upon each other. It also birthed over 1,000 gods. The original culture was that of Sumeria, which deeply influenced the following empire the Akkadian (Semitic people) – designated by scholars as the first empire, but they ignore that of Nimrod in the same area earlier.

Sumeria developed the first writing, that of cuneiform script made by pressing a wedged stylus into clay. Along with bas reliefs, monoliths, tablets, statues and carvings we have the earliest extant mythology. Sumeria also gave us the earliest cities (started by Nimrod) with Uruk in Sumeria being the most prominent for archaeologists (the Erech of Nimrod). With the development of temples, civic centres and residential areas the religious life developed alongside city development. Hence the extensive Sumerian pantheon and legends, adapted by later civilisations.

⁸⁸ Such as 'Chariot of the Gods' by Von Daniken – which has been completely trashed.

⁸⁹ The *Epic of Gilgamesh*, one of the best-known works of ancient literature, was written in cuneiform on twelve clay tablets in c.2000 BC, and discovered among the ruins of Nineveh. The epic contains an account of a great flood that has close parallels with the Biblical story of Noah. Gilgamesh was a legendary king of the Sumerian city-state of Uruk in southern Mesopotamia.

In Uruk the ruler's special title was *en*. In later periods this word (etymology unknown), which is also found in divine names such as Enlil and Enki, has a predominantly religious connotation that is translated, as 'en-priest', 'en-priestess'. *En*, as the ruler's title, is encountered in the traditional epics of the Sumerians (Gilgamesh is the 'en of Kullab', a district of Uruk).

Among the older gods were Anu, the god of heaven, who was the oldest of the gods; Enki, later identified with the Akkadian god Ea, who was the god associated with water; and Enlil, the earth god who presided over the divine assembly. These deities were associated with particular cities: Anu with the city of Uruk, Enki with Eridu, and Enlil with Nippur.

Resources

- Paul Fahy, 'Nephilim, Anunnaki and other tall stories'.
- Paul Fahy, 'Did God Create Humanoid Life-Forms On Other Planets?'.

Is reincarnation and the world soul true?

Reincarnation is becoming more common since New Age sects borrowed the concept from Eastern mysticism.

These doctrines emanate from Hinduism and are found in religions that derived from it.

Reincarnation is part of the cycle of birth and death dominated by the law of Karma (cause and effect). People that die at the end of an imperfect life are forced to be reincarnated to try again to ascend the ladder of perfection. After endless reincarnations they may ascend to nirvana (bliss) and unification with the cosmic / world soul; or were the atman (self) merges with Brahman (the creative principle of life in the universe; the pantheistic absolute). There is no personal God but a cosmic consciousness, a world soul, that the perfect merge into. However, there are many variations within Hinduism and many sub-religions, some with a more personal god / avatar like Vishnu / Krishna.

Is reincarnation true? No; it is not.

The Bible teaches clearly that this life is a probation and there is no second chance at the test. After life, everyone dies to face God in judgement.

It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment. Heb 9:27

At the end of this life, sinful men die in the body. However, God raises them up in a new body to face everlasting condemnation. This is the torment of Hell. Sin must be accounted for.

Believers in Christ are raised up in a spiritual yet material body to live with Christ on a restored Earth in everlasting life.

Gnosticism

Gnosticism is historically linked to early Christianity in the east and is a form of mysticism that plagued the church for several hundred years until it died out. It has now been resurrected in Neo-Gnosticism and is becoming popular with New Age sects and occultists. Some verses in the NT indicate that its origins began in the first century (1 Jn 2:18; 1 Tim.

6:20; Col. 2:8). Church fathers that opposed Gnostics include: Irenaeus, Tertullian, Clemens Alexandrinus, Origen, and Epiphanius. The tenets of the ancient Gnostics were revived in Spain, in the fourth century, by a sect called the Priscillianists.

The essential feature of Gnosticism is the idea of a secret knowledge (Greek: *gnosis*) that is only taught to the initiates of the cult. A disciple must learn the knowledge from an adept. The source of the knowledge is transcendent knowledge from an angel or a mediator from the Supreme Being (not the creator). Despite focusing on knowledge, it had nothing substantial to offer as authoritative source material, claiming to be hidden truths delivered by Christ or new interpretations of the OT law.

There are many variations of Gnosticism with different disciplines and varying mythologies. One early Gnostic was Cerinthus of Asia Minor [c.100]. While much Gnosticism was a combination of Eastern mysticism with Greek thought and Christianity, Cerinthus taught a mixture of Ebionism (like Judaism) with Gnostic speculation. The world was not created by the supreme god but by an inferior angel or a being later called the Demiurge. Jesus was an ordinary man chosen by the supreme being to proclaim him to release the world from bondage. The Christ that had descended upon Jesus at baptism removed himself before the cross.

Valentinus was another who taught very esoteric variations of Christianity based on the Gospels, chiefly John and Matthew, according to the Nag Hammadi papyri. The heretic Marcion [2nd century] taught that the inferior OT god, the Demiurge, created the material world. For Marcion he was not evil but was not good like the God and Father of Jesus Christ. There was a strict dichotomy between the OT and the NT. Later Gnostics taught that the Demiurge was evil. Notable Gnostics include: the Valentinians, Simonians, Carpocratians, Nicolaitans, etc.

Typical emphases of Gnosticism.

- A secret knowledge known only to initiates.
- Aeons (angels or emanations) from the supreme being bring knowledge.
- Admixture of Greek philosophy (Plato, Pythagoras) with Christianity.
- Dualism (matter evil, spirit good).
- Docetism (the Christ was a phantom not a real human being since matter is evil).
- Asceticism and abstinence is common but not universal (material body is evil). Mortification of the body to purify the mind.
- Rejected marriage.
- Rejected the resurrection.
- Hedonism and licentiousness prevailed in some groups.
- Aids to mystical experiences were common: dancing, meditation, whirling, drugs, fasting etc.
- Mythologies about the origin of evil and creation.
- Demons rule in nature and provoke calamities. Adepts studied magic to overcome them.
- All nature is divided into the material; the psychic (animal) and pneumatic (spiritual).
- There are three types of men: the material are incapable of knowledge and inevitably perish, both soul and body. The psychic, or animal, were capable either of being saved or damned according to their good or evil actions. The third, such as the Gnostics claimed to be, were all certainly saved.

Historic Gnosticism was confused, contradictory, and meandering leading to multiple applications. It claimed much but delivered little. As such it gradually lost public interest. Modern Gnosticism focuses on esoteric knowledge delivered to initiates and is allied to Luciferianism (where Lucifer is the bringer of wisdom).

What's behind Green activism?

Green alarmism is one of the dominant strains behind current political agendas. A fake, threatened, impending climate catastrophe drives: Net-Zero policies; sustainability agendas; electric vehicles; 15-minute cities; ULEZ schemes; LTNs; threatened eradication of meat; planned eradication of gas central heating and cookers; planned eradication of petrol vehicles, shipping and air travel; Green levies on energy bills; and much more. Green activism is changing the world, enabling de-industrialisation and making the poor poorer. What could be behind this mass insanity?

There are three chief facets to this policy:

- Greed: the corporations making trillions from Green opportunities, such as building wind turbines that don't work, solar panels that hardly work, CO₂ credits, domestic policy manufacturing (e.g. heat pumps that don't work) etc.
- Gaia worship: the environmental idealists supporting Green agendas in ignorance are focused on saving the planet and returning to paganism.
- Control agendas: using manufactured Green alarmism ('there is a climate crisis') to steal the world's resources and control everyone on the planet.

These are compressed into the UN's Agenda 2030 sustainability goals.

You must understand that the UN is the creation of the Elite cabal, mainly the Rockefellers, as a Masonic, occult, global, control mechanism to dominate national governments. It is the basic sub-structure that will empower the final Satanic world empire. Therefore, all its strategies are focused upon that end, not the good of people.

The end is when Satan is allowed by God to bring about what he always desired, a world empire submitted to his will so that he can shape the globe in wickedness to reflect his evil nature. The very opposite of why God created the world.

The Green agenda is a key means of bringing the control needed to bring this about.

Corporate greed

The greed factor is obvious; companies are making untold millions from every aspect of it. Turbines attract millions in government subsidies alone (they would not get built otherwise as they are inefficient and unprofitable). Solar panels make millions and even take over farmland. [No one has solved the problem of what to do with terminated turbines and solar panels. They cannot be recycled or buried.] The EV industry was worth billions but its problems are now becoming obvious. Establishing city ULEZ schemes, car restrictions, cycle lanes, 15-minute cities and LTN schemes cost millions. For more information see my paper, 'Climate Change, Eugenics, Oil and Tyranny'.

Gaia worship

Gaia worship has been gaining ground, alongside New Ageism, since the 1960s. An illustration of this is the Scottish island of Summerisle in the original 1973 British movie

‘The Wicker Man’, where the local laird (landowner/governor) is a warlock governing a thoroughly pagan and occult population trusting in fertility gods to produce crops.

This is exemplified in reality in the Findhorn Foundation in Scotland. The influences upon this community include: Theosophy, Rosicrucianism, positive thinking, Sufism, New Ageism, nature spirits (devas) - in other words, occultism and mysticism. Its claims of growing large vegetables by spiritual methods have been dismissed by locals who attribute this to the unusual microclimate in Moray and the copious amounts of donated horse manure by a local landowner.

Nevertheless, Gaia (mother Earth) worship is on the increase capturing the more idealistic Green activists bringing them into a path of witchcraft.

Elite global control

The main purpose of Green alarmism is due to the control agenda of the Elite. This stems from a strategy developed in 1956 by the Rockefeller brothers to dominate the world. Using climate alarmism they planned to gain ownership of the world’s resources (including humans) , control the world’s population through oppressive government and depopulate the world through fake pandemics and bioweapon vaccines. These plans were codified in their creation, The Club of Rome, which became the basis of the UN’s 1992 Earth Summit at Rio where Agenda 2021 was agreed by all nations (later, Agenda 2030). This agenda is what is now dominating society. The UN’s sub-group, the IPCC, is the heart of Green alarmism propaganda pretending to be science.

Every facet of the climate alarmism is false and contradictory to known science. All its wild claims are fake: polar bears are thriving and need to be culled; Arctic sea ice is growing; Antarctic sea ice is growing; the Great Barrier Reef is thriving; damage from wildfires is down; threatened islands from sea rises are thriving (such as the Maldives); average world temperature stopped rising years ago and global climate is cooling; and so on.

Neither is there a climate alarmist consensus; this claim is a lie. The majority of true climatologists and related sciences oppose Green catastrophism. But claims of any scientific consensus are invalid anyway; science does not progress by consensus but by the scientific method, which ensures that the findings of science constantly change and grow. In history, a consensus of so-called scientists were often proved wrong by mavericks.

Conclusion

The point is that the Green agenda is a key part of the Satanic plan to gain more control over people and governments and help to bring about the final Satanic world government. Green alarmism is a key constituent in promoting the Satanic agenda for an evil despotic kingdom.

Is there power in positive thinking?

Many of the people in the truth movement, opposed to global Elite plans, are promoting versions of positive thinking. Sometimes this is allied with the idea of ‘raising one’s vibrations’. Perhaps because people feel vulnerable, due to being unable to change global policies such as Chemtrails or Green agendas, they choose to elevate the idea of positive thinking in the hope that this will be effective in doing some material good.

The idea of positive thinking to change the environment is as old as occult magic and superstition. However, its modern form was initiated by Norman Vincent Peale in his 1952 book, *The power of positive thinking: a practical guide to mastering the problems of everyday living* which became a best-seller. As usual with such things, its arguments were based upon unsourced anecdotes, circumstantial evidence and suppositions, not scientific method. It utilised affirmations and occult visualisation added to Biblical statements twisted out of context. E.g. get rid of negative energy and adopt positive energy (what does that really mean?). Its teachings were similar to self-hypnosis.

Vulnerable people adopted this wholeheartedly but little actually changed. In fact, many became disillusioned. Trying to maintain an upbeat approach in the light of contrary evidence only causes mental damage. Peale also emphasised the weakness of man facing a hostile world instead of encouraging him.

Medical professionals slammed the book and even suggested that it could end up damaging vulnerable people. Even religious leaders castigated its contents as it focused people on selfishness and unsupported idealism. Peale separated positive Biblical statements from communion with the living God, making man the active power; thus emphasising individualism.

In this evil world our only hope is God. Communion with God is the source of real human strength; in fact grace is God's power manifested in human weakness. We don't have to try to convert ourselves by positive affirmations, or visualise ourselves as something superior, we just have to be honest and come to God as we are, confessing our sins, and seeking his grace. The more we trust God after a genuine conversion, the more we will be able to confront an evil world with strength.

Positive thinking just seeks to lift people up emotionally by artificial means without evidence. It is a form of hypnotic self-help, individualism with no support. Ignoring reality will never do any good; what is necessary is seeing the truth of a situation and reacting accordingly, not trying to pretend a change in that reality by elevating one's emotions.

See my paper, 'Being positive / negative: is it a good thing?'.

Reality: frequency, vibrations or materialism?

That there is a spiritual reality is axiomatic according to the Bible. Believers commune with God through prayer, worship and intuition all the time. In unbelievers this faculty is dormant due to sin (the spirit is dead).⁹⁰ The human spirit (*pneuma*) is God consciousness.

That there is a soulish reality is also Biblical. This is the realm of the self, the executive of the inner man; lower than spirit but higher than the body. The soul (*psuche*) is self-consciousness.

But the Bible declares that man's body is a real material body (world consciousness). It was made from dust by the creation of God who breathed life into it. Therefore man is dust plus the breath of lives (Gen 2:7, 'life' is plural). Man is a genuine, material creation; just as the world is a material creation.

⁹⁰ The human spirit died at the Fall but in believers it is regenerated.

Yet it is becoming popular today to believe that all seeming reality is nothing of the sort but is a mirage. There are differing theories about this such as explaining that everything is photons seen by the eye but are not real substance; or that everything is a frequency and not real or that everything is a vibration. Thus the world is something like the Matrix film.

Now material things can have a frequency but are still physical reality. Minerals give off frequencies or vibrations that can be measured (e.g. by a Geiger counter), but they are still physical objects. Humans have electrical and magnetic systems but we are not composed of electricity.

The people proclaiming this new reality are either working against us deliberately to bring about deception or are confused sincere people prone to a vivid imagination.

It is exemplified in the common exhortation to, '*raise your vibration*'. Just what does that mean? Has anyone considered that this is irrational? How do you make your body vibrate more? I understand that it implies that one should be more spiritual, or more positive, or more moral, or more patient, but the phrase itself is meaningless. Why do people follow the herd without considering what they say?

If you are nothing but a vibration then you are not human and not accountable for your sin. This is a trick to convince people that they need not fear meeting God in condemnation. It is a deception to avoid accountability for actions.

This sort of teaching is metaphysical nonsense. You and I are real, material objects that will face God and give an account.

I don't know any practitioner of this sort of rubbish that would stand in front of a bullet and still maintain that they are not real but only a vibration or a frequency.

What do we eat?

Although this seems an odd topic in this work, it is one that crops up repeatedly in discussions about God, creation and reality. Should we all become Vegans?

Well the answer to this is simple – no!

The reasons for this can easily be demonstrated because a Vegan diet cannot give you all the nutrition that your body requires. 80% of Vegans give up on this diet after a few months because they get ill and weak. Very few people can continue eating this way for years.

Some vitamins and minerals just cannot be gained from vegetables, such as B12. This means that Vegans will be low in iron. Other vitamins cannot be processed by the body without saturated animal fat. Vegetable protein is not the same as animal protein. It does not have the same constituents and is not as easily digested.

Furthermore, much Vegan and vegetarian food is very highly processed using things such as mono-culture pea protein or soy (which is mostly GM) with preservatives, emulsifiers, stabilisers and so on. All processed food is bad for you. A processed Vegan hamburger or sausage is far less nutritious than the real beef alternative.

So for these and many other nutritional reasons, we should not be Vegan.

What does the Bible teach?

After the Fall animals were divided into herbivore, carnivore and omnivore. Humans are omnivores. The Bible clearly endorses eating of meat. The offerings, of which the offerer partook, include roast lamb, beef, roast goat but not pork. A number of animals are allowed to be eaten in the law while some are forbidden (such as insects, except locusts, and blood).⁹¹ In fact God is said to enjoy the aroma of the burnt offerings (Gen 8:21; Exod 29:18).

God clearly tells us that all food is acceptable (1 Tim 4:4; 2 Tim 4:3). Paul stated this to combat the Gnostic ascetics that denied meat.

The reality is that man should eat lots of meat and fat but few carbohydrates and vegetables. Eskimos (Inuits) have eaten little but meat, offal and blubber (mainly from seals) for generations and are some of the fittest people on Earth. Westerners that lived with them for some months became healthy.

Carbs turn into sugar and an excess can lead to diabetes 2.

Vegetables produce toxins in order to dispel predators. Fruit is sweet to encourage animals to eat it but spread the seeds, thus ensuring propagation. Vegetables do the opposite because the propagation is in the root or the seedpod. Thus vegetables produce things like oxalates, which are toxic. So-called superfoods are actually toxic to humans.⁹²

So the Bible endorses eating of meat according to ones' choice, with the exception of pork⁹³ and blood. The blood prohibition stems from the commandments in the Mosaic Law (Lev 7:26; Deut 12:16), the earlier Noahic Covenant (Gen 9:4) and is repeated in the New Covenant (Acts 15:20). This is because the life is in the blood (Deut 12:23; Lev 17:11). Thus this is a universal command applicable today.

Caveat

The problem today is the wickedness of the Elite cabal who are poisoning everything around us.

This means that fish should be eaten in moderation and preferably not big fish (e.g. tuna). This is because the sea is highly polluted, especially with heavy metals like Mercury, which are concentrated in larger fish. Avoid farmed salmon, which is filled with parasites and antibiotics; get wild Alaskan salmon.

Even organically farmed cattle are poisoned by the particulates sprayed in the air through geo-engineering (which affects vegetables as well). Analysis of blood from cows shows high levels of microplastics and other toxins. Consuming this causes brain damage.

Only organic vegetables should be eaten, the rest are filled with toxins like pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilisers. GM food is even worse, which is highly contaminated with glyphosate. But even organic crops are contaminated by chemicals sprayed in the air as well as toxic water.

⁹¹ The 'blood' in rare beef is not blood but myoglobin; a type of protein.

⁹² See Sally K Norton, 'Toxic Superfoods'.

⁹³ We can argue about pork since the New Covenant does not repeat the prohibition of it.

In short, we are under severe threat from deliberate poisoning. The safest food is that which you grow yourself under cover using filtered water.

Conclusion

I have tried to explain the Biblical worldview covering most of the questions being asked today in the truth movement. I contend that the Bible is the only true source of information regarding these questions and it has proved its authority over 2,000 years.

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