

CULTURE IS DOWNSTREAM FROM RELIGION

Dag Jørgen Høgetveit; March 2024

This primarily to bring to attention a recorded conversation with Dr. Os Guinness published February 1, 2023, entitled The Magna Carta of Humanity. I'll come to it – (in bold below).

"A U.S. federal judge was fascinated by the testimony of the expert witness on the stand as he described the distortion of history in the state-approved textbooks. The judge had always been led to believe that students and their parents could trust their schoolbooks. Consequently, it was difficult for him to believe that the religious history of America had been systematically stolen from our nation's texts.

Dr. Paul C. Vitz, New York University psychology professor, had just finished a research project for the U.S. Department for Education on sixty of the most popular textbooks in our public schools. It is estimated that 87 percent for the nation's elementary school children use the books. "The most striking thing about these texts," stated Dr. Vitz in Judge Brevard Hand's court in Mobile, Alabama, "is the total absence of the Christian religion in them." He went on to point out that other beliefs were mentioned – the Jewish, Amish, Mormon, and Catholic faiths – but little or no mention was made of the evangelical Protestants who founded this nation." It's the beginning of first chapter in Tim LaHaye's Faith of Our Founding Fathers.

("The most striking thing about these texts is the total absence of any primary religious text about typical contemporary American religious life. In particular, there is not one text reference to characteristic American Protestant religious life in these books." (Vitz et al. 1985; p.12; <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED260017.pdf>))

("After the fall of Imperial Rome ... an international organisation which, standing erect in every country, was by far the most powerful, and indeed the only coherent surviving structure, and at the head of which the Bishop of Rome revived in a spiritual, or at least in an ecclesiastical form, the vanished authority of the Caesars." (Winston S. Churchill; A History of the English Speaking Peoples; Vol.I; p.65)

"Babel provided the opportunity for the centralization of power and the abuse of it. This is the lesson to be drawn from Genesis 10. Thus, the rise of the tyrannical state in the modern age may be traced to the centralizing impulse, beginning with the papacy.

Well before William Wallace appeared on the scene, the Synod of Whitby took place in AD 664. This church council held in Britain and officiated by King Oswy, addressed the minor differences between the Irish and the Roman churches. The debates centered on the supremacy of the Roman papacy and the Roman interpretation of Matthew 16:18. In the end, the Northumbrians (the Irish church in Scotland) were forced to submit to the Pope on the matters of debate. Even the Venerable Bede acknowledged that the Irish church better replicated the teachings of Christ than the Roman church, so there was no debate as to the legitimacy of this Christian work in Scotland and Ireland. Nonetheless, this power grab did not wrest complete control of the Scotch-Irish Culdean church. It wasn't until the twelfth century that the Pope had complete ascendancy over the Culdean churches. This paved the way for King Edward's political control over all of Scotland, although he did run into the "little" problem of Robert the Bruce. However, there would have been no Scottish War for Independence had it not been for the powerful machinations of the Roman Church employing the power principle centuries earlier."

"Martin Luther's major complaint before the Diet of Worms concerned ecclesiastical tyranny. His defense before the princes of Germany and Charles II, the Holy Roman Emperor could very well be viewed as the inception of the great Reformation of the Christian Church that would transform the world over successive generations. At the Diet, Luther explained, "For universal experience and world-wide grievances are witnesses to the fact that through the Pope's laws and through man-made

teachings the consciences of the faithful have been most pitifully ensnared, troubled, and racked in torment, and also that their goods and possessions have been devoured (especially amongst this famous German nation) by unbelievable tyranny if I recant... the only effect will be to add strength to such tyranny." Writes Kevin Swanson – Freedom; pp.30&22.

("Historians have calculated that 47.5 percent of all [Norwegian] property, understood as the owed value ["skyldverdi"] of the country's farms with associated home fields and outlying, was then [1537]owned by an ecclesiastical institution." (T. Sjødal) All that started with Cardinal Nicolaus Breakspear's visit 1152.)

"-Our country was [1944] at war with the enemy and they wanted to extinguish our way of life forever; it was a very bad time, but here at home Christians knew that victory depended not only on the force of American Arms but also on the *faith* in American hearts. And we've got to get more of that back in our in our country today, we really do – have to get more of it back." Says President Donald J. Trump to the NRB International Christian Media Convention, February 22, 2024.

"-I'm here today because I know that to achieve victory in this fight, just like in the battles of the past, we still need the hand of our Lord and the grace of almighty God; we have to have that. Our country is being destroyed by a radical left corrupt political class that has gone communist, Marxist and even fascist."

And "-Let me begin by saying congratulations on 80 incredible years of spreading the great Word of God – it's really great; what you do is very important." Says Donald Trump – he's not a Catholic.

The day after, February 23, "-One of the most devout traditional Catholic Bishops, or the most devout in this country," according to Stephen K. Bannon, Joseph Strickland, visits Conservative Political Action Conference & Bannon's Warroom: "-I'm here to represent the truth reviled to us by God [and note the following] – ultimately by his Son Jesus Christ; he is truth incarnate... As I was asked to come her to CPAC, I knew that my basic message is: We need to be one nation under God once again. To leave God out of the picture, which is being pushed in many ways, is not faithful to our foundations, and it's not faithful to our future. We got to return to being people of faith."

So – what faith? The Roman faith? Or the faith according to the Book which Strickland doesn't mention?

The Christian faith, the faith of a child of God, is a gift from God "who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1.Tim.2,4), it's worked by God's Word; "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth" (James 1,18); "the word of faith, which we [the Apostles] preach" (Rom.10,8); "born again... by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." (1.Pet.1,23)

The Christian faith, or 'the Protestant religion', is in essence – has its sole source in – Scripture alone. It's a faith the Vatican opposes.

And so – being 'faithful to our foundations'; a 'return to being people of faith'?

"... ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." (Jude 3) *The faith – that faith.*

"-The Founders ... spoke and used Biblical metaphors everywhere ... they were steeped in the Word of God, right; the Bible is the Word of God."

"-Get back to the basics, get back to God and God's creation and why you're here; and that's a personal relationship, right, only you can experience that; and so when you're celebrating this country, don't go halfway, ... look at what made the Founders great." (Dave Brat; <https://rumble.com/v1b4tcd-dave-brat-america-must-get-back-to-god.html>; July 4.)

"America cannot endure permanently half 1776 and half 1789. The compromises, contradictions, hypocrisies, inequities, and evil have built up unaddressed. The grapes of wrath have ripened again, and the choice before America is plain. Either America goes forward best by going back first, or America is about to reap a future in which the worst will once again be the corruption of the best." (Os Guinness; *The Magna Carta of Humanity – Sinai's Revolutionary Faith and the Future of Freedom*; p.27)

(Before we proceed; keep in mind in the following: A search through President Donald Trump's 1 ½ hour CPAC 2024 speech for 'Gods word', 'Lord', 'pray', 'fathers', 'constitution', 'declaration' – it gives nothing. No 'Bible' – but a whole lot of 'hell'; around thirty.)

Dr. Os Guinness – with Eric Metaxas – on **The Magna Carta of Humanity**; New York City on December 6, 2022; here: <https://youtu.be/n62m5Bf-QZY?t=1211>; i.e. from around twenty minutes, and then for fifteen minutes – or more.

*(Eric Metaxas: "Influenced by Hugh Ross, Metaxas assumes big bang cosmology and its timeline from the outset (pp. 6, 41, 319). However, that 'beginning is not in any sense the one taught in Genesis; neither is it friendly to Christianity as Metaxas believes"; "Metaxas appears to be entirely ignorant of secular problems with the big bang, let alone biblical problems." Writes Gavin Cox in a review of Metaxas' book *Is Atheism Dead?* (J. Creation 36(2)2022, <https://creation.com/review-is-atheism-dead-eric-metaxas>). Metaxas is quoted "...the case of Archbishop James Ussher ... who dated the beginning of the universe to the evening of October 22 in the year 4004 BC. Any serious Christian today finds this ridiculous and of course dismisses it for any number of reasons ... It is today unavoidably comical that Archbishop Ussher made his assertion".*

It is legitimate to discuss or dismiss Ussher's exact date, but not to dismiss the age of the universe according to the Bible – Metaxas "dismisses Genesis 1–11 as historical and openly mocks the YEC [Young Earth Creationism] position", and has thereby derailed himself In the beginning.

"Needless to say, most Christian 'intellectuals' have rejected creationism, in part because they do not wish to be thought of as fools for Christ. But creationist ideas have been better received among the laity."

"Darwin may have built the temple walls, but the foundations were laid by geologists, and the cornerstone was the simple idea that rocks recorded billions of years of history before man appeared on the scene."

"... the early uniformitarians did an end run – they mumbled agreement with the rest of the Bible, but inserted a 'prehistory' before Adam and Eve walked in the garden. Thus, they did not have to deny the Bible; just muddy up the first three words ["In the beginning"].

Their stratagem worked. Theologians saw no great challenge to their turf, and gladly traded a small concession for membership in the 'smart' crowd. Soon, the idea of prehistory settled comfortably into the culture as generation after generation were taught in schools that prehistory was true, while simultaneously being taught not to worry about it in Sunday School.

But Genesis 1:1 is still there. It remained an irritant, which grew stronger as secularists began denying other parts of Scripture. Ex nihilo divine creation was always a Christian distinctive and remains so to this day. Naturalism assumes a period of billions of years before recorded history; the Bible explicitly refutes it. Evolutionary biology, big bang cosmology, and uniformitarian natural history all demand deep time, with humans appearing on the scene only at the last second. But the Bible links human history to "the beginning"; Jesus himself affirming that truth [Matt.19:4; Mark 10:6]. Although this seemingly simple logic escapes many seminary professors, it is plain enough to laymen.

*Secularists understand the conflict, and jealously guard prehistory. Don't think so? Then take a 'hysteria meter' to a university soirée. It will jump if God is mentioned. It will spike if polite doubts are expressed about Darwin. But if you want to see it peg the red line, just casually let drop that the Earth is only a few thousand years old." (John K. Reed; *Rocks aren't Clocks – A Critique of the Geological Timescale*; pp.181.53)*

Given the importance of Genesis-denial in tracking people off the Bible, belief in God & salvation, and what follows (it's valid both in Nazi-Germany & modern day West), Metaxas is not the man to write a Letter to the American Church. The late Henry M. Morris would be a better choice: http://www.nwcreation.net/audio/media/long_war_against_god.wav.)

*(For more reality orientation: Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones' sermon *The Christian and the World* (November 24, 1963); <https://www.mljtrust.org/sermons/book-of-john/the-christian-and-the-world/>; (download- button behind play-button), and Lloyd-Jones in interview by Joan Bakewell, December 1970: <https://youtu.be/-vbydx95tVQ>)*

But further: What seems absent from discussions on the enemy, is a traditional mover behind dirty politics: the Jesuit. Mr. J.M. Bergoglio, of course; but he's hardly alone.

John Adams to Thomas Jefferson, May 6, 1816 (<https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Adams/99-02-02-6595>):

"I do not like the late Resurrection of the Jesuits [August 1814 – the formally non-existing Jesuits are banned in the Norwegian Constitution of May 1814, and was so until 1956]. They have a General, now in Russia, in correspondence with the Jesuits in the U.S. who are more numerous than every body knows. Shall We not have Swarms of them here? as many Shapes and disguises as ever a King of the Gypsies, Bamfied More Carew himself, assumed? In the shape of Printers, Editors, Writers School masters &c. I have lately read Pascalls Letters over again, and four Volumes of the History of the Jesuits. If ever any Congregation of Men could merit, eternal Perdition on Earth and in Hell; according to these Historians though like Pascall true Catholicks, it is this Company of Loiola. Our System however of Religious Liberty must afford them an Assylum. But if they do not put Purity of our Elections to a Severe Tryal, it will be a Wonder."

"For *there* is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (1.Tim.2,3)
 "The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming." (Psalm 37,12-13)

& so, come what comes – we're on the 'winning team', we "which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1,13) You don't contribute to your own birth, but let no man tell you the Kingdom of Jesus is not for you.