

Bible and Science 3, Part 2

By John Mark Reynolds

If order springs from disorder and returns back to disorder again, why should any particular thing coming out of disorder be privileged over any other thing? There's nothing back behind it all to check yourself against. There's only chaos. You can't begin with chaos and ever be sure you're right because you're just part of the chaotic system. It may seem right to us now both physical laws that seem to be an operation now may be true. But out of chaos, new order may spring. Some whimsical God may be planting fossils for fun in the record, just to amuse himself and fool lots of clever Berkeley scientists is perfectly possible.

If Darwinism is true, why can't they consider it? Because it would make a hash out of the whole project. The problem is you can close your mind to the implications of your theory to keep it working for a long time. But eventually somebody in the back row raises their hand and says, How do we know? And if you don't have an answer to that, most basic of questions, pretty soon you've lost your control. You've lost your grip on the ideas of the culture. Now that's getting ahead of ourselves. So let's step back.

You just realize how much this is. Do you realize, if this is true, that telling a lie may be wrong? See, you're so used to having friends and neighbors who are so happy to be told. Oh, you think

lying is wrong? I don't think lying is wrong. To each his own. And somehow we view that as liberating. The ancients would have said. My God, what are you doing? Don't send us back to that. We know what that looks like when the gods could say anything they wanted because they had the power. Because you see, if this is the case, what matters in the final analysis is simply power. If you've got the power, you make the rules. If you don't have the power, you don't make the rules.

So that if theism is true, you have to be deathly afraid of the gods, because if they want to kill you, who's going to stop them? And if they want to torture you for no reason, who's going to stop them? You see, if all of this is true, then lying. Is it wrong? It may be wrong to you. Does anybody really want to live in a universe where any being powerful enough to do it can tell lies? Can have any person he wants? Any way he wants can do anything he wants. Unless someone more powerful checks him. This is an open invitation to perpetual warfare without end in the heavens and on the earth and between the heavens and the earth. It just goes on and on and on. And the strong make the rules. And that's how the world was, folks, prior to Christian Christianity.

The ancients at least said maybe we can find some natural morality if this is true. Let's start to look looking for it. The problem is that human reason all by itself was unable to come to agreement about exactly what this was. And so finally, Plato and book tour the Republic said with frustration, look here's what we need. We need for some divine son of a God. This good

kind of guide coming out of Cosmo's who gets it, to come to Earth and not just seem to be just but BE just to demonstrate to us what justice is. But then 400 years before the birth of Jesus, Plato, Socrates said "that wouldn't do us any good, Glaucon, if such a man came to human society as it is presently constituted, we would simply crucify him and never learn anything from what he had to say." And that is a direct quote.

You see, human reason could see what the cosmos would have to be like for goodness and truth and beauty to exist. And since they seem to exist, human reason could get you to the point of knowing that they existed. Of knowing that the cosmos was a reflection of them. But it couldn't get you to the point of knowing enough to know. How should we then live so we can study the cosmos and hope it is true. But science without the personal motivation isn't going anywhere.

You see, if life is meaningless on an ethical and personal level, you know it has meaning up here. But you can never find it than simply studying this more and more and more. It's fruitless. My brother used to say when he was little futile, you know, you just go it just so it's like Froot Loops. You know, it just goes round and round forever. So you study this. But why? Why, why? There's meaning, but we don't know what the meaning is.

This is where John Chapter one turn the world upside down because it doesn't end with in the beginning was the word the ancients knew that. The smart ones, though, to these people still trapped over here. That was good news. Enough to warrant the gospel being called the gospel. But to a Platonist or an Aristotelian in every intelligent person in the ancient world, Greece in Rome was one of the other or some variation that came later. So so what we know all that we've heard that it was this.

The word became flesh to walk to mind us. We'd be held whose glory glory is the only begotten son of God, full of grace, truth. The good news was that God loved us. The ancients were afraid of that. It was that he was good and he had become man to show us what love and goodness were in human flesh. We beheld his glory and we did crucify her and we did spit it out and we didn't lock him up. But on the third day, he rose, ascended to the Father, where he judges both quick and the dead. That was the good news. That was the great Christian idea. That was the idea that no religion, no philosophy, nothing before it had ever dreamed possible. The incarnation.

Why did early liberal Christianity begin with the virgin birth? Ever wonder that? Because almost more than the cross, the virgin birth is the pivot point of history. You see very God, a very God, very man. A very man. That's Jesus Christ. That's why every heresy messes with that. What is the Spirit of Antichrist? First, John says he who denies what Jesus Christ, Christ, the Messiah God came in the flesh. You see, what Plato and Co. realized is that we were in the cosmos and God was here. But Aristotle's God, the unmoved mover, simply thought thought itself and was

inaccessible. He was so great and awesome that he was inaccessible to the human mind. What went on in such a being? The Ancients said. How will we ever know? You could even worship him because you didn't even know what you were worshipping. But you see this God came down and became one of us.

Now, it isn't enough that he became like one of us. Because then he would have been play-acting and we could never have been sure if what he did was possible for us. He couldn't be the first born of many brethren unless he was a brother. And yet he couldn't communicate to us, at least partially, an image of who God was unless he was God, because being next to God isn't being God. And the gap between any thing and God is infinite. You can't be almost omnipotent and be good enough. You can't have been almost omniscient and understand what it is to be omniscient, to know everything. And and you can't know the rules unless you're the rule maker. You may make mistakes otherwise.

And so in the incarnation in Mary's virgin womb, a real man, in essence with a human will came into a synergistic relationship with the real God. And so the two existed not as one fused being, but as a very man and a very God in a perfect dance in one man. Jesus Christ. Any deviation from that and Jesus could not have saved you could not have even provided the information that Aristotle and Plato so desperately needed. We didn't need a prophet. We had those. We didn't need a God. Those were a dime a dozen. We needed a God-man to tell us what this wanted us to

know and do to give us the fundamental purpose for living that could motivate every other human endeavor.

And he could [unclear]. He came! To a stable in a little town and kings worshiped him. And men sought him. And the world was never the same again. There's no going back. You see, that's the great frustrate frustration of the evil one. It's no longer possible to go back to this fully because the great idea has burst on human history. And there isn't a single thing that humans have done for the good. That isn't motivated by this. The universe has purpose. We know what it is. Life is worth living. It's God's creation that can be studied. There's a reason for doing it because we're thinking the thoughts of a good God. After him, said Isaac Newton D. Do you see that? Do you see the motivation to do this? The ancients, the Greeks could have done it, but they never did because they had no reason to do it.

But when we discovered that the maker of heaven and earth was good, then this study, what he made was to glory in that goodness. And we had a reason and a motive for science. It is no accident that modern science was only developed in the Christian West because only the Christian West combined a belief in an orderly universe with a powerful motivation to study that universe beyond mere technology. You see people right now. Science seems to be going on its own steam because we want more stuff to make our life better. But the kind of bedrock research that produces the technology that produces the more stuff to make life better is often totally esoteric.

And to the average person, looks like a total waste of time. Why become a physicist? Why become a first level biologist? It seems like you waste your life studying minutia. You see, the materials had an answer to that. The minutia was made by God. And even if nothing, you never discover anything that makes life better. Studying what God did has value because God did it. You see that. But if anybody here is involved in original first level research, what do you know what's happening to support for such things in universities and from government?

See societies that lose this bridge, lose their motive for doing anything beyond the. Now, why study Calford? What a silly waste of time and money. Well, the answer is as silly as it may seem. That's the way God made the world. And so if somebody wants to spend their time doing it, God bless them. May they profit by it. And may we all eventually learn something from it to our profit. It's not what I want to do. But if you want to do it, it's worthy of your interest. More and more, however, we see people being told we'll do the practical thing, do the thing that will produce personal peace and affluence. That's this religion, science. Every facet of our culture. More and more seeks to avoid pain, discomfort, chaos and create for oneself a little bubble of meaning, a little cocoon in which you can live immune from the outside world for the little brief span of your existence.

Don't bother me. Don't get in my way. Don't ask for sacrifice. Don't ask me to die for my country. Don't ask me to suffer for my country. Don't ask me to suffer for science. Don't ask me to spend 80 hours in a lab every week. Don't ask me to do anything because nothing is worth doing. Because from chaos, I came into chaos. I will go. I have to spend the maybe 70 years. I have good years.

I have creating a little bit of meaning and a little bit of pleasure and a little bit of comfort. And in the end, that will destroy science. You see, we tried to make of science a God to replace this God. And so for a long while, science has been able to go on without a God. But it's beginning to catch up with them. As the average person who's unable to understand the average scientific God retreats further and further away from this old view into this old view.

More and more you hear squeals of scientists who destroy the rational Christian God with your infidelity and their unbelief, saying, Why is everyone calling psychic hotlines late at night? Why are horoscopes in newspapers? Why doesn't anyone care about the high particle physics we're doing? Why don't people understand science? Why aren't more people flocking to this? Look at what we're doing to them. Why won't they follow us? And the answer is the answer that Plato could have given.

Because the God they worship is accessible only to the bright few and most people are unable to worship such a God. The great thing about the Christian God was he came to us at a level so deep and so profound that the wisest persons that ever lived could exhaust themselves trying to understand the riches of sacred scripture and trying to understand his revelation. And yet he expressed it so simply that the mentally handicapped person sitting next to in church could understand the rudiments of the gospel.

And so P.H., physicist and mentally handicapped person, they could together pursue the good, the true and the beautiful in their own different way, maybe not equally able to understand the details of the system, but heading in exactly the same directions for fundamentally the same reasons. But all that's left in our culture are the shattered Remnants of the Christian consensus, which a few intellectuals keep trying to patch together with some new bridge while the rest of the culture, unable to understand the horrors that lie before them, retreat further and further from Christian rationalism into the irrationalism of the New Age and Eastern religions and cults.

Hardheads are no defense against an empty heart. And what modernity has done is terror. The brain of the universe, away from the heart of the universe and the cross of Jesus Christ had united the two. And so what we're seeing is that the passionate people are drifting away with their passions. Whereas the rational people have no way to communicate with the passionate

people. And if you don't see this, go to a modern university and find out how much the artists talk to the scientists.

They despise each other. They hate each other. They're not doing the same project. The scientists think they have a lock on the truth. The artists think they have a lock on the truth. English people are pursuing truth in their own way. Listen, I want you to hear this is so important. Want you to hear the word. It was invented by Christians. We have UNI-versities. Why? Because there's one truth. One God, one universe, one course of study. We're all studying the same thing. The university does not exist in modern America outside the Christian church.

What you have is a multiversity with each discipline playing by their own rules, talking to themselves in their own journals so that even in science, the biologists no longer can understand the physicists who think that everybody except themselves are out to lunch and the chemists think it all comes down to chemistry. We live in a multiverse, in a multiversity. And do you see why that happened in? The frustrating thing about it is it's all in Plato. You don't even have to be a Christian to see what will happen when this is rejected. You'll have an intellectual class that buys this and everybody else will be over here.

That's called ancient Greece, folks. We've been there and done that. And it was an ugly site. As pedophilia and homosexuality and every sexual perversion known to man went rampant across the face of the Earth, spread by low grade Hellenism like a fever, and children were exposed and aborted and destroyed. And only the fit were allowed to survive. You see, rationalism without God is like a head without a heart or a heart without a head, which is better. Our culture keeps swinging back and forth. Right. Let the heads run the culture. Oh, no. Let the hearts run the culture. Worse and worse. Who's going to run the culture? Those are your two options, folks. And that's why we just alternate between one bad to another.

And there are no answers because the only answer. The only hope for modern science comes in a return to what I have called the mediæval synthesis, the Christian synthesis. You see, Christianity came and brought religion and reason together. Then they said, yes, there's mystery. Yes, the human heart is the first thing to be touched. But then, said Augustine, we have a faith seeking understanding more in the words of another Christian thinker. I believe in order to understand, you understand that now why these were such important statements.

You see it combine the two things belief and understanding in Christianity. They always came together in separate boy faith, understanding, understanding, faith, fact. Some of the main evils reverse this and said, look, we understand. So we have faith or I understand. And so I believe and do a mean evil that made perfect sense because the two, just like Jesus was the God man and two

wills operated within him, imperfect, synergistic harmony. So understanding and faith, head and heart in in the Christian world view that came to be function together.

Now, in the Roman Empire, which in its history had a Latin half, Latin was the dominant language in a Greek, have this view, this Christian synthesis spread unevenly. Most of our ancestors in this room. No, not all. Many of them came from Western Europe, Western Europe. Christianity was less successful in penetrating the culture in the society. The church was less developed and less powerful in the east, where, after all, Christianity was born and where Paul did most of his major missionary effort.

Asia Minor, what we call Turkey today, Egypt and Palestine. Christianity rapidly became the dominant religion of both the upper, middle and lower classes. I want to point something out to you that is simply historical fact. The Western Roman Empire, which persecuted Christianity until it died, died around 450. The Eastern Roman Empire, which in the three hundred embraced Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire, lasted until almost the time of the core of Columbus, the fourteen hundreds.

And until 1917, there was on the earth a Roman Caesar. He was the tsar of Russia, the direct linear heir of the last Christian Byzantium emperor, until the Communists blew him away in

1917. And that's why they had to kill him, by the way. It wasn't because he was a monarch. That's not why you kill five little girls in the basement, folks with bayonets. It was because he represented for them wholly Russia the Christian syntheses, however imperfectly, it had been expressed.

And it was expressed very imperfectly by this time between faith and reason. And the atheistic butchers had to do away with all of them, not just the political figure, Nicolas. The girls had to go to because from the communist point of view, they were just as bad. So in the East, this synthesis endured until the time of Columbus, which should be interesting for those of us living in America. Just about the time Columbus came to the New World and the seeds for the great American Rome, as the founding fathers like to think of themselves, the new Rome were being sown at that very time.

The last Roman emperor in Constantinople was murdered by the Turks, the Islamic Turks. Why have Russia and the US as fates been so tightly interlinked? One might view the United States as, in a sense, the heir to the western Roman Empire. Certainly our founding fathers thought of themselves that way. Look on both sides of House Speaker Newt Gingrich, you'll see the Roman fascist stuff, the bundle of sticks with the ax down the middle, which was the symbol of the Roman Republic.

Look at our basic buildings built in the Roman style. Our Congress, our federal buildings. They saw themselves not as a new secular Rome, but as a new Christian. Rome continuing the synthesis. The good synthesis of the best of classical civilization with Christianity. At the same time, Russia in the East saw itself as the eastern version of the same protector of the Christian faith. And whatever you think of how both expressions turned out and they went in different directions, the West towards democracy because of its Protestantism, the east towards autocracy and monarchy, because of its religious heritage, the two countries viewed themselves as equivalently protectors of Christian civilization.

And it's no accident that the 20th century has seen the destruction of both the two pillars of Christian civilization. The United States to materialistic decadence and holy Russia to communism and atheistic naturalism, from which it's unclear that she will ever recover. This is the classical world which began in the destruction of the Roman Empire by barbarian invasions. The Christians managed to save the East, which went on for a thousand years. They have an active university system to make great cultural strides to create the world's largest church.

At the time, Orgo Sofia, which the Muslims have turned into a mosque, by the way, ever seen mosques and think, wow, those are really beautiful. The reason you think they're really beautiful is that they're ancient BISHAN teen churches ported over for Islamic use at a minaret. And you've

got a mosque, Vokes. That's how it happened. What's called Islamic architecture is simply Christian architecture borrowed by Islamic conquerors. So the great glories that were Byzantium continued for a thousand years.

Whereas in the West, after a 200 to 300 year period where barbarian tribe after barbarian tribe swept over the church, the church would time and again stagger to its feet and reach civilize the barbarian tribes, preserving in its monastic movement, whatever one thinks of it. What it could of a dying culture blaming the medieval church for the decline in Western civilization is like but blaming the person on the lifeboat for the fact that a thousand people died on the Titanic.

The Western Church, beset by pagan barbarians who wanted to return the world. My ancestors, the angles, the Saxons, the Jutes, the Germans to this kind of system again and again would be overwhelmed by it, retain losing a little bit what it could of classical knowledge. Re evangelize those people with a whole new generation of martyrs, only to have to do the whole thing all over again as they were set on by another sea of invaders. And this went on for hundreds of years.

This is why in some of our cultural memories, you have Arthur, the last Christian king of Roman Britain, Britain was Christianized by around the two hundreds. But as the Roman Empire collapsed in the West, refusing politically to embrace Christian theism, Christian truths work,

folks. You don't embrace them. You die as a culture. As Rome collapsed. She withdrew her troops from Britain. And evidently there was one last Christian monarch, Arturo's Arthur, who in seven major battles held the barbarians at bay and for his lifetime kept England Christian.

But on his death, so all horribly was England sacked and pillaged and looted. That the very memory of Arthur is vague in history, and Christian Britain was utterly destroyed. It had to be re-evangelized under Augustine of Canterbury and some sections of Europe had to be evangelized again and again and again. And who can kill the martyrs? Who can count them? And it is this period when all that we have of Plato and Aristotle was saved by the Christian church in the east from anti intellectual Islamic rulers who burned every book from classical antiquity they could find.

Since you were only allowed to read the Koran or in the Christian West, where from pagan barbarian hordes, we saved what we could. It is that church which is blamed for the destruction of civilisation in the West End. It is claimed that they are the ones who brought on a dark age by their insistence on morality, and somehow they brought about the fall of the Roman Empire in the West. This is like blaming the rape victim for provoking her attacker.

It is exactly similar. Far from being ashamed of how we handle learning is imperfectly as we handled it. Every Christian should straighten their back and say we did what we could and we sometimes did it badly. And sometimes after generation after generation of reconverted pagans, paganism entered into the church and Christianity itself became less distinct and pure. So why you ended up with a Protestant Reformation as there was an attempt to get back to an earlier form of Christianity?

But for the love of God, don't blame those people. They did what they could. And I wouldn't have done nearly as well in the very ground of Germany was soaked with martyrs' blood for generations. The pope, who is not the Catholic pope, just the title for the bishop of Rome, would send missionaries to Germany who would go simply to die. They would preach the gospel, be murdered and die. Ever wonder why clergy in the Catholic Church is celibate?

Originally, it wasn't because of some sort of religious dogma. It was because to marry as a clergy person was irresponsible because you were likely dead inside of your lifetime. And so the clergy girded up their loins in a terrible time and said, we will serve. We will not form families. We will, like Paul in this troubled age, keep ourselves for Christ alone. And so generations after generation of good, noble fathers in the faith died to propagate the gospel.

Now you should get angry when your children are told the opposite and they are surely told the opposite. None of what we have talked about is probably taught in any public school in the state of California. I can say almost without fear of contradiction, there are exceptions. I'm sure this isn't. We make this up. This is in Christian history. This is what happened, folks. It's your heritage. Now, what came of it? The materials began to recover from the barbarian invasions, and they began slowly but surely with many, many errors and many, many mistakes to apply the Christian synthesis to the natural world.

And men like Roger Bacon, a priest, William Gross Test and William of Arko began to lay the foundation of the ideas that make modern science possible. You see, to get science, you have to begin with the right idea about the universe. And anyone who does science knows how science works. What are the hard discoveries? What are the hard ones? Yeah, the basic ones. The first ones. Things like gravity. How it works. The simple questions are always the hardest. Have you ever noticed that? Remember, there was a time in the world where only Isaac Newton and Liveness understood the calculus. Now most high school students who go on to college take more calculus than either Newton or Liden.

It's understood. Are these students smarter than Newton and liveness absurd? The first discoveries made possible discoveries by people like us of limited intelligence so that people like bacon and gross tests. And probably none of these names have you ever heard of in William of Ockham. And if you go back home and look in your high school students textbooks and find any

three of these names, I'll give you a dollar. All right. For each one you find. What you'll find is Francis Bacon, by the way, not Roger Bacon.

And there's a difference. Roger Bacon, who is a good Christian theas said everything that Francis Bacon said. He just said it badly. Francis Bacon said, As far as I can tell, nothing original. But he was very good at PR and he was very involved in sort of weird cult stuff. He was post mediæval during this period when Christian theism was on a decline. People began to trust their own minds. And what happened? What always does happen?

That he started playing around with the irrational. However, because he was a splendid writer and wrote books with such catchy titles as *The New Atlantes*. Francis Bacon became known as the last man to Know Everything, a title he coined for himself. By the way, he was a good PR guy. As far as I can tell, he accomplished nothing, did nothing, and science would have gone on just as famously without him. But if you talk to most people who think they understand the history of science, Francis Bacon is a major figure in their pantheon.

But honest to goodness, not a single thing he said wasn't in somebody else's books, particularly the unrelated monastic Roger Bacon.