

## Bible and Science, Tape 5

By John Mark Reynolds

Just so that, you know, I'm not making all this up without going into any great detail. What did William of Ockham come up with? If you've heard of him, it's because of something called Ockham's Razor, which is absolutely fundamental to science. And Ockham invented Ockham's Razor as a proof for the existence of God. Strangely enough, though, it's usually taken to by people who don't understand it to mean that God doesn't exist or that we don't need God. Ockham's Razor says simple explanations are the best. Don't complicated theory. If you don't have to, let me help you with that. If things look designed, are they according to Ockham's Razor? Yes. Why pretend they're not designed and develop elaborate theories to explain the fact that they're not really designed? Just look that way. If you can simply postulate a designer, Ockham's Razor is fundamental to scientific progress. Because you can save almost any theory if you'll make it more and more complicated.

You could still. I am told by mathematicians mathematically believed that the earth is the center of the universe. If you're willing to develop a complex enough mathematical account about how the universe works, why then did we abandon Jesus' centrism? There are simpler theories that are more elegant and explain more things. Although William of Ockham then geo centrism. You can save anything if you're willing to make it complicated enough. Oh, there's a unicorn in here. Anybody see the unicorn?

All that's because he's invisible. Well, why doesn't he make any noise? He's perfectly silent.

Well, why don't we see droppings? He doesn't eat. I can't keep making the unicorn hypothesis more and more complicated until eventually you want to believe in the unicorn. You could.

There'd be no evidence against them. But William of Ockham said, oh, that's really stupid. The simple answer is there's no you're not. Corn and Rome.

That's thanks to us. This idea came along and the good old middle evils, people didn't do magic in the Middle Ages. They thought it was silly or evil, one or the other. They didn't wear armor that came later after it was no longer practical, but it looked good. Feudalism only existed in some places, not most places. It never really existed in its full form in England, for example. And the Swiss wouldn't have known what you were talking about, who had a proto democracy right from the start.

The Middle Ages weren't a good time to live, but if you consider where they had come from this tour, horrible time, a barbarian invasions, they made long, slow, gradual progress that led to directly the scientific revolution. On the way to get there came the Black Death, the bubonic plague, which killed one third to one half the people in Europe and destroyed a good chunk of the cultural memory, Christianity, medieval Christianity never recovered from the black death. Actually, Byzantium never recovered in some measure from the black death. Trouble resulted.

Now, let me stop there. That's a lot. We've gone through half the history of the world in a half an hour and a half. But let me stop and get questions. If you have them up to this point, because I think up to this point, we stay broad enough to be comprehensible. And I hope you get why this matters. Why does this matter?

You see any war between religion and science and all this? No. What you see is Christianity gradually putting together the pieces to make science possible. First, we got a creator who can make sense out of the cosmos. Now, actually, they didn't need us to do that. We have to be honest. The Greeks had done that on their own. What we did was provide purpose and meaning behind the creation to make people want to study it.

That was our contribution. The incarnation. We were then barraged by barbarian tribes. Christianity hardly survived in the West. Almost did not survive. We owe it to the Bishop of Rome that any form of Christianity did survive. That's how the papacy became so powerful because people appreciated what the bishop of Rome had done. They called him Father pop up as a result. In Byzantium, the Christian church was luckier and avoided these barbarian invasions. To a great extent survived and kept an active university system which began to lay the groundwork for modern science in terms of some of these ideas.

When Byzantium fell to Islam, the Christian scholars from Byzantium fled to the West, infused the West with some of this knowledge. Combined it with what the West had produced. And out of this came modern science. After we went through the horrors of the Black Death, which caused some of this to be forgotten, only to be recovered only in very modern times. Now, what does this mean when your kids say to you, why do Christians and scientists not get along?

The answer is, of course we get along. There are children. We we born them. All right. They're ours. They couldn't exist without us. We don't always get along like families. But you can't have science without Christian theism. It's where it comes from. And if you get rid of Christian theism, here's where you go, kiddies. You go here literally to sort of a hell on earth. That's what I've tried to suggest to you today.

Now, we haven't yet seen why Christianity and science got divorced, to put it in a nutshell. People forgot you needed Christianity. They started taking Christian ideas for granted. Ever knew an atheist was sometimes the most honest person on your block? They live good lives. They have clean ones. They don't lie. They don't cheat on their spouse. They're good people. Why? Because they were raised that way and they don't know better. The children do what they want and their grandchildren go a little further still because what is there to restrain them?

Nothing. Nothing. That's why Bill Clinton still goes to church. But Chelsea won't. See Chelsea go off to Stanford and then I'll be the last day, I will predict to you that her shadow darkens the Southern Baptist church door. Because Bill, to give him credit, is conflicted. He's the little boy from Hope, Arkansas, with a lot of good Bible believing sermons pounded into his head. But a drunken daddy who pounded other things into his head, who went off to Georgetown and Oxford and got too smart for his roots.

But at the same time, like every child never forgot his roots. And so it comes to abortion, his first pro-life and he's pro-choice. And then he's he doesn't. He vetoes the partial birth abortion ban, but he wishes he didn't have to. And he I really think he he doesn't like it. All he does it, but he didn't like it. Chelsea will like it because she's never heard a good Southern Baptist sermon at a bike building. And see, that's what happens to a culture that culture. Forget where the rules came from. And so they decide, oh, Christianity, we don't need that. We'll just use human reason. This is called the Enlightenment. And human reason by itself will be enough. Let's get rid of the superstitions of religion. Let's take Christianity without Christ. So Jefferson went through his Bible and cut out all the miracles. We'll have a Jesus without a Christ.

And we'll have morality without God, because everybody knows murder is wrong and everybody knows not to tell lies. Well, it turns out that Christianity without a Christ ain't good enough, folks. And the culture for the last 200 years, American culture has always been conflicted between the Jeffersonian. You can have Christianity without Christ and be perfectly reasonable

and run the government without Christians. Jefferson coined separation of church and state and the more traditional Puritan view that we were a nation that could only be governed by Christian principles.

And so for our two hundred years of history, for most of the time that John Adams. I'm sorry, not John Adams. John Quincy Adams. George Washington. Christian Christianity should be dominant view prevailed and the Jeffersonian view mostly lurked under the blankets. Now the situation has been reversed for just being true to our conflict soiled story. The Puritans get rid of slavery. The Jeffersonians slavery is natural. Let's go sleep with my slaves. It's the old story. When Jefferson was elected president the Puritans went and buried their Bibles for fear that he'd take them away and burn them. A lot of them thought Jefferson was the Antichrist. So this kind of conflict in American society is nothing new. It's just that usually the Christian theist won.

All right. Questions about this. Where all this comes from shouldn't shock you. You should have been taught this in school. How many of you were? Probably none of you. But it's all all true nonetheless. Yes [inaudible audience comment]. Yes, that's right... Yes, that's correct. In other words, this sounds really bizarre, but the devil isn't all bad. He can't be. What is fundamentally true about the world is that it is good because God created it. It has been perverted and made bad by sinful human beings and by our arch enemy, Satan.

But after all, marijuana is good. God created it in some ultimate sense. What is its purpose? Who knows? Maybe medical science will discover it. Why did God create it? Why is it there? It isn't so that people can smoke it, get in cars and kill people or smoke it and become addicted to harder drugs and destroy their lives and their families. Sin always perverts. I'll say something very hard.

Ever wonder why people in after death experiences see beautiful light when they're not Christians? It is because if Satan were to appear before you, you would think that he was God unless you really knew God because he would be more beautiful than anything you have ever seen, because he was a created being who stood in the presence of God. And evil is the corruption of the good and only gains its strength and power by corrupting good. And the more evil of being is, the less powerful it is. Who is the most dangerous person? It is not the person who utterly dedicates himself to evil.

Such person drinks themselves, sexes themselves into impotent oblivion before they're 20 and they may kill one or two people. The person to fear is the person who has almost like a monk, many Christian virtues. Who doesn't smoke, doesn't drink, doesn't stay up late at night. Dedicates himself with a religious fervor to the great cause. But the great cause turns out not to be the cross of Jesus Christ. We call those people Adolf Hitler, who didn't smoke, who didn't drink, who is a vegetarian, who didn't really care about money and who didn't care about power except in so far

as it advanced him towards his great goal. Those are the people to fear. It is only the people capable of great good who can do great evil.

And so that great created being created to Him, the thrice holy God, holy, holy, holy, whose very wings covered the face of God - whatever that means - is the being most capable of doing evil. Now he is utterly, utterly foul and he is the father of lies. But I went to you to see what that means. There cannot be a lie without the truth. And Satan knows the truth. He lies because he can do nothing else. If you cut yourself off from God, you can only become what the medieval is called Satan, the ape of God. And that's why in the final time, Satan will ape the incarnation by creating a man without a soul that he can fully possess and have an antiChrist to the Christ so that there will be in that last and final day, a father, unholy father, and an unholy son and an unholy spirit abroad on the face of the earth.

And human beings will worship that because to many people it will appear as if it were the good, the true and the beautiful, because it is a warping of the good, the true and the beautiful. And if you haven't seen the real thing, it will appear to be the real thing. You see, goodness always begins painfully begins with a cross and ends with the resurrection. You have a baby. It begins with pain and then ends with suckling. With that warmth. That high that my wife says is utterly indescribable. Take her word for it. And the mothers here.

She says goodness always begins with cost and then leads to glory. Whereas sinfulness begins with an apple and ends in death. See, it begins there. So for some people, hell would be beautiful until they got inside. And so after death experiences, if we could see the infernal court and you didn't know Jesus your first thought in the second before mercy snatches you back again is that I have seen God, which is precisely what satan wants you to believe. So that he can, for some brief, perverted moment, have the glory that is due to God alone. And that's all he can have. Because were you to stand in the infernal court, what you would discover is that the most foul kind of beauty. Is the rotting maggot-ridden corpse so covered with makeup that it appears on first blush to be the face of the woman you love. That's the way the world works.

And that's why for a little while, science can continue because the infernal trinity seems momentarily capable of providing this. But it can't because it has only chaos, only nothing. Does it make sense? The long answer. Short question. Yeah.

[inaudible audience comment] You have God and then God broods over the face of the waters over stuff, undifferentiated, I guess stuff. And then out of that stuff creates the orderly universe we see. But he's before this stuff. No, there is God and then there is stuff which I suppose is in a sense chaotic. But out of that chaos, he brings order. But always there is order because always and forever there is God God may in a sense, create the clay out of which he creates the man.

But there was always God never just clay. So there is never just chaos any more than the fact that if Potter throws the clay on the wheel means that all look for a moment. There's chaos. No, there's something going on. See what it is. The process is always orderly. Now, listen, if I could whoas some of these to walk around over here, if I could pound this into your head, you make motion, I would.

Can somebody flip the switch? It must have a motion sensor. I really would. Because this I want you to see that this matter's morality, the culture wars. Everything depends on this. If first stuff, then there's no right or wrong, no order, no meaning. Religion is in your head. If and science will go down the tubes. That's just the truth. What we worship will always destroy us, and some humans came to worship science and what they will discover is they're getting less and less of it in return. Now, we can't see that yet. I want you to see that this nun apparent to us yet because what we worship will be the last thing to go. We'll keep it going as long as we can. Like people who are being destroyed, keep their idols safe as the water comes in to sweep them away. They stand at their God shelf and keep their God safe. So as our culture has decayed within and more and more of it is moved over here.

We've had a little little priestly class that's kept science going and even expanded it and said, look, we don't need you guys. But what are they going to do when they're the last day, years sober here and everybody else is over here rely on us to save them? They've mocked us and ridiculed us and marginalized us to the point where we couldn't if we wanted to. And most Christians are inclined not to. Sadly, if you get nothing else out of this class, I hope that you're encouraged to save science when no one else will.

Whoa. Hurray for Hollywood. Then we can dance and sing because in the end, the atheists will have to turn to us for help because we're the last people who will care what they do. And that's strange. But I want you to see why I can say this. So when I say we live at the fall of the West, it's for this reason, having rejected the God of Christian theism, the West can at best only turn to something like Platonism, an Aristotelianism.

And you see that amongst some physicists, that's things like the god hypothesis will turn the world into a God who worships something. We had to find something to worship. But having rejected the Christian God, we move to irrationality which in every area of the university. But science has already won comic books and Madonna instead of Bach and Shakespeare. I'm not making this stuff up, folks. Go get a university catalog and read it. The last place they're doing real thinking is in philosophy departments and the science department.

Everything else has gone to the very devil. So that unless you're careful, you can graduate from a very fine school in the state of California and never have done any serious thinking about anything. And you don't have to go to Christians to discover that the people in the last departments that are hanging in there and holding up standards will come and cry in their beer with you over the very same thing. Talbot all the time has secular, atheistic philosophers. We fly them in to hear what they have to say and when we'll take them out for dinner.

We don't buy them beer and they'll they'll tell us how pitiful it's gotten to be had like five of us reasonable people left who still are upholding standards at Oxford. Oh, we envy you guys. At least you guys know what you believe and still can do the academic project. Let me tell you something. I'll say a wild thing. If Biola will stay true to its heritage, and I don't know that we will we'll be the Harvard of the 21st century or we'll be gone.

They'll either destroy us because they'll fear us or we'll take over because Harvard's forgotten what the heck they're doing and the only thing that keeps them going is their endowment and their reputation, which buys them talent when they need it. But they're clueless. Think of this stuff you hear coming out of contemporary fine universities. Now the sciences are still holding the fort. You've got to do good work and work hard. And if you get an engineering degree, got by gosh, you know what you're doing still.

But it's getting harder and harder to find young people who want to suck it up and do that when you can always just go to law school, learn how to sue people and get rich. In other words, being clever is better than being smart in a pagan society. That's why we have more and more lawyers and fewer and fewer engineers. Eventually you're going to have enough engineers to invent stuff for the lawyers to sue over, and that's when we're in trouble.

I'm not be I'm a little facetious, right? Little humorous, exaggerating a little bit. But I mean, it is truth. There are other questions. Yes. Ockham's Razor, just like his last name, Orazio, are shaved with Ockham's Razor. It simplifies your face, right. No more shaggy stuff. Oldest philosophy joke in the universe. Except for don't put the cart before. Well, we'll get into that. It's very bad. I mean, philosophers are a humorless nerdish bunch in our humor, our humor. Just follow suit. Other questions. Yeah.

[Inaudible audience comment] That's right. There are Christians there to save the day and be salt and light there, but precious few. And this situation really isn't getting any better. The reason people think the situation is getting better is because of postmodernism. See, what happened was used to have Christianity is false. We hate Christians. Let's just go stamp them out like cockroaches stuff people like that around. They run the ACLU and places like that. But they're

declining powers, as they themselves would admit, because rationalism is declining and good old fashioned, virulent Atheism of the sort.

There is no God in the Bible's full of contradictions. He's a dying thing. If you go to atheist meetings, they're all over 60. It's the truth and it's the saddest thing. Yeah, I would revivify them if I could. They at least respected reason and you could argue with them. Ever tried to argue with somebody on a modern university campus? Hey, that's what you believe. That's just not what I believe. Well, if I believe it and you believe the other one of us must be wrong or both of us are wrong.

But we can't both be right. Oh, yeah. You're we're both right. See, at least when I used to argue with my atheistic logic teacher at the University of Rochester, we agreed on the rules. We agreed on what the facts were. We just didn't agree on the outcome. We had more in common than we had an uncommon. And that's because he was the child of Catholic parents and he was just a Christian without a God. And that's about what Atheism looks like.

And we're running out of those kids. They're dying off. That generation is going away. Gone. The good old atheists you could rely on to hate communism and stand by your side against the fight against irrationalism. They're almost all gone. And it's sad. I feel bad about it. I do

something about it if I could. But I can't because they're hopeless. There's no salvation in it. What they need are more Christians to produce more atheists. Really, you cannot get atheists without Christians. What you get are nuts. If there's no Christianity, you get the Hale. Bopp called. You don't get Bertrand Russell. Why? I'm not a Christian God wish we would get more of them because those people at least ran universities and did some things because they were raised by sane parents in a sane world. But those people are almost all gone. The last generation, the generation born in the 50s before and they're not old.

That's most of you. Some of you. But after that generation is gone, what's left were left with the people raised by the people who nearly destroyed the country in the 60s. And then after that, we get their children and you get memories of memories with memories and you're in deep doo doo. And eventually the science departments are gonna pay because they can't keep living off a little to do have Christian culture that's left forever. Eventually, people are going to say the engineering departments full of white patriarchal males who wear black nerdish pants.

Let's close them down and it'll be just about that silly when it happens. After all, we don't read Shakespeare anymore because he's a white male. As absurd as that may say be, at least Bertrand Russell thought Shakespeare was great. We had that in common. Bertrand Russell is the great atheist philosopher of the fifties who won the Nobel Prize in first rate intellect, third rate politician. He thought the Soviet Union was a great place and was going to win the world. It shows you that smart people can have dumb ideas. OK, any other questions? Yes. Oh, yeah.

[inaudible audience question] The sad truth is that girding your loins up to fight with atheists is just pretty much a big waste of time. I mean, you can meet them. There are young atheists out there, but they're most always the children of Southern Baptist preachers. In fact, I have never met. Atheist under the age of 60 who wasn't a Southern Baptist, preachers good in that weird. That is really it's a strange phenomenon in my life. But the reason for it is that it takes a family that believes something to produce somebody with enough rationalism to not believe it.

If you were right, you know, I don't quote me on this Friday. I'm on tape, but I'm in trouble. I wish the secular humanist ran California public schools. I have good friends who are secular humanist. I often beg them to take over the schools because if the secular humanist ran the schools, everyone would be clever and there would be an evil philosophy against which I could then watch a counter attack. It would be us against them.

They think they're right and I think they're wrong. And we have rules to argue by and somebody should win. What's the problem now? There is no philosophy in California schools. Most Christian schools. What you have is a cafeteria. Which my Buddhist teacher this morning and my sort of Christian teacher this this afternoon in my sort of this the next day and my evangelical

Christian. And so you end up with cafeteria brains. You have people with like five or six contrary ideas chasing around in their head simultaneously.

They can be enormously clever. They can have S.A.T. scores of sixteen hundred, but they have no world view. So you say I'm an evangelical Christian. I think that you've said, oh, that's nice. That's good for you. You can't get a good argument anymore unless it's an argument about how dogmatic you are and how nobody should be dogmatic. But that goes nowhere. Are you dogmatic about being dogmatic? Yes. And then they just leave. Now, again, I'm not harshing statistically, five of you work in public schools.

And I'm not harshing on you. God knows we need more and more people to do that, to go be salt mine in the system, because when the system collapses, you guys can take over. That's a good thing. And I'm not saying that lots of good is done and that there aren't schools that are aberrations. I'm telling you what the world view is in most Christian schools are no better. There is deeply permeated with this loser approach to the world anyway.

You know, this cafeteria approach to thinking so most kids would be better off being educated by atheists than being educated by sort of a little bit of everything. Most of my Christian students, you have to spend a long time to convince them that something is false. Isn't that strike

you as strange? But that's the hardest part of my job. If I can convince them that anything is false, they're OK. But most of them don't think two plus two always equals four.

I'm talking about Christian students. There's nothing weird about that or abnormal. Almost everybody believes that if they're under the age of 30, there's two plus two always equals four. If you do a poll of people under the age of 30, I my guess is half of them would say no. The other half would feel kind of bad about saying yes. And I'd be the only thing they'd say was true for sure. Now, what's the hope here is the hope. Everybody's figuring this out. And as everybody figures it out, what are the options?

There are three options. You can return to Greek rationalism reason without God, which gets you nowhere. You can go back to paganism, which is really, really ugly and usually involves killing children, old people, the aged, the infirm, the weak, and some sort of eugenics movement where only the fit can survive and where democracy is impossible because the strong rule there, you can go that way or you can return to biblical Christianity if anyone has any other options. I'd love to hear them because as far as I know, we've tried all the rest.

When someone tells you that there's a war between religion and science, you tell them, you bet there is a war between religion and science, namely the religion, that humans can solve their own

problems without Christian ideas. There is science, epistemic knowledge, which includes the knowledge of the Christian God, and there's everything else. Which, if you want to call religion, is fine with us. But it's time for us to defend our culture. Don't you think to stand up and say this is our birthright? You can't have it anymore. You're ruining it. As there profaning Washington. And they've turned it into a hellhole of sin, depravity and vice where everything is for sale and morality is cheap. So they're turning science departments into bastions of irrationalism and they've already turned English departments into pits of comic books and porno flicks. And it's time for the culture that gave us Shakespeare.

The King James Bible and the glories of Handel's Messiah to say enough is enough. And if we have to build the Cathedral of Notre Dame brick by brick, it's time for us to start building cathedrals again and start building communities where we can protect what's left of Western civilization before it's all gone. And everybody's forgotten that it ever existed because either we're about to go into a long, dark night where it will be up to us again to save what's left of culture or in these churches like E free for ten lies.

The only hope of cultural renewal. And you don't have to be a Christian to see that. Go read Bob Books book Slouching Towards Gomorrah. Bob Bork is no Christian. And what he says is one day he was watching television with his friend at Harvard and they said, my God, we're watching the fall of Western civilization in Technicolor. And his secular friend pulled out his pipe, put tobacco in it, left it and said, but it'll last our time. And in the meantime, life is sweet.

Well, that's fine if you're Bob Borg's age. But as he looks around for his grandchildren, he says there's some hope that those evangelicals going to Promise Keepers rallies will restore Western civilization. But I doubt it. It'll last my time, but probably that it. So it's up to you. Everybody thinks it's up to you. If classical civilization is to be saved, you were it. You've got to turn your homes. You've got to listen to me into science laboratories. You've got to turn your homes into cultural centers. You get a value art and produce it. You've got to write music. Hollywood is going to do it, folks. The great thing about technology is they're giving you the tools to do it. Produce your own art. Produce your own music. And for the love of God. And I mean that without swearing, stop imitating what decadent crap the current culture is producing. Sticking a Christian label on it to make money.

If the monastics had done that, we'd all be wearing helmets with wings on the side. Speaking barbaric language is unable to write. The middle evil's converted pagans, we imitate them and put Jesus is Lord bumper stickers on the front. It's up to each individual Christian home and each individual Christian community to save Western civilization by the grace of God. I want to say something and I don't mean it because it's me. I am unworthy to do this. I mean this seriously.

But programs like the one you're sitting in are the future of education in the United States because the colleges and universities are in terminal decline. Almost. There's a revival in soon. The only place to know history and theology and real science. We'll be in little things like this. This little group may be the last generation for a hundred years to hear of William of Ockham, and it may be up to you to preserve the very memory of his name and your children and your grandchildren.

Now, unless you some of you think, wow, what an alarmist, what a jerk. It was true. Once before, some poor monk faithfully copying a manuscript of Plato's Republic enabled me to write my dissertation four years ago because he didn't know it, but he was copying the last one. Nobody told them. He must have wanted to do something else. But he kept at it in a world where nobody reading was vanishing as the barbarians came in and kept at it.

And St. Augustine sat and wrote a book this thick in Latin. While the barbarians got ready to sack his city. It's called The City of God. What faith in the future. Make music may make art. Make civilization. Stop imitating the decaying civilization around you. And you'll have a thousand backyard monasteries, a thousand families, preserving what's left of the culture and perhaps renewing the culture in our strength as the Holy Spirit inspires us. But if we lose, we've lost before.

And either Jesus will come with the glories of his angels. And if he does, I hope I'm charging the Antichrist. Full speed ahead. They can shoot me down on my horse as I go over the hill. And I'm not going to be hiding in some cave with preserved food waiting for him to pry me out. I hope the Antichrist knows just where I am. I hope he knows where Biola is. And I hope we're the first to go.

And as we go, I hope I'm yelling all the way. Jesus is Lord. Pray, repent. Go, man. Do it. If it's the end of the age. Go out with all your guns firing. They don't.