

# STRAIGHTWAY

*And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him [Mark 1:18].*

## CHRISTIAN PURITIES FELLOWSHIP

The Witness Outreach of Foundations Bible College  
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### **The Powers of an Age Resting Upon Contemporary Humanity: The Babel Experience**

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At three critical moments in history, God intervened and radically changed humanity or delayed its intended aspirations.

The first intervention was at the fall of man (Genesis 3). God came down in the cool of the day in the Garden of Eden and met the hiding Adam. He ultimately barred Adam from the Garden lest he should partake of the Tree of Life. This tree had the power to impart imperishable physical life: "Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his

hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever" (Gen. 3:22). Perhaps we must understand the conceptual power of this tree. No tree of itself can possess such virtue or inherent natural qualities; we must view this power through the Word of God, Who was pleased to ordain that such should be the effect of partaking of the fruit of this tree. This separation was an important restraint; man in his fallen and sin-torn, sin-defaced body would have been a grievous creature had he lived forever on the earth. He would never have been able to

*This edition includes two more articles*

**The Powers of an Age Resting upon Contemporary Humanity:  
The New Atheism – Part 2  
Postmodernism – Part 3**

get rid of the powerful effects of sin upon himself.

The second intervention came during the days of Noah (Genesis 6–8), when the imagination of the thoughts of man was only evil continually. God saw the violent and fleshly manifestation of the sins of the flesh. He looked upon the earth and discerned the end of all flesh before Him. It is evident in Genesis that man had gone the gamut in his knowledge of the flesh in the principle of sin. Through the Flood, God brought an end to that world-system.

### **The Beginnings of the City of Babel**

The third intervention of God (Genesis 11) was at the city of Babel approximately 110 years after the Flood. How did this spirit of rebellion arise after the Flood? It arose in the heart of the man

Nimrod, and perhaps his father Cush (or Bel). Over a process of time within this family, a mood or spirit rose to dominate their living. Through Nimrod's logic and words, he convinced a number of relatives of the family of Noah to leave the patriarch and the others of the family in order to begin a new life away from the Lord. Rising from the heart of an *individual*, a *collective* spirit arose within a group of people. This spirit created an environment or an atmosphere that became an influential, controlling factor of all who lived in that environment away from God. This collection of thoughts, words, and deeds was embellished and cultivated to such a proportion that it became the controlling spirit of a people. Oh, how this has been seen over and over again in history: one man able to control a people's thinking and mood, to eventually build an empire with a unique, identifiable spirit.

One day this group of people made a decision to leave Noah and his family. Genesis 10:25 records that the land was divided in the days of Peleg. Is this statement referring to the separation of the land into continents, or was this the announcement that Nimrod and his followers left Noah and traveled to the land of Shinar? Although this division could refer to both possibilities; it may more specifically reference the crucial division that took place in Genesis 11:1, 2.

## **STRAIGHTWAY**

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Following the Flood, Noah pronounced blessings upon his sons Shem and Japheth, but curses upon Canaan. As a result, surely there was a growing spirit of rebellion against the LORD God of the Noahic religion. It seems that this curse upon Canaan contributed to the division of the lands and peoples that occurred in the century leading up to the city and tower of Babel.

This move recorded in Genesis 11:1, 2 should not to be viewed as a spur-of-the-moment decision. No doubt their rebellion in heart had been in a progressive stage for quite a length of time. Finally, their minds and hands conspired against the Lord and Noah. Rebellion is always led by a man or men rising up among men. (Such was the action of Lucifer in Revelation 12, drawing one-third of the angels with him in rebellion against God.) Nimrod was the man who became the mighty one; he set the mood and the spirit for other individuals who already were in a spirit of rebellion within their hearts.

Genesis 11:2 states, “And it came to pass.” *Time* is a crucial key for the spirit of a man and men to be revealed: the crisis revealing their rebellion “came to pass.” A large group from the family of Noah was convinced by Nimrod to leave the rest of the family and move to the land of Shinar, a geography that would eventually be called Babel. We read in these early verses of Genesis 11 the plural pronouns, “they,” “we,”

and “us,” which declared a unity or union, a oneness of spirit. A few of these unions should be noted. There was the *union of speech*—their talking back and forth to one another, “They said one to another” (11:3); the *union of labor*, “Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly” (11:3); the *union of politic*, “Let us build us a city” (11:4); the *union of purpose*, “and a tower” (11:4b); and the *union of religion*, “Let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth” (11:4c).

Finally these people wanted “a name.” The Hebrew word for *name* is the word *shem*. They were seeking a *shem* in confrontation with *Hashem*, “the Name” whom Noah worshipped. This union of language, industry, government, and purpose collectively came together to achieve a union of religious worship. They collectively wanted to make a name for themselves in contrast and in opposition to the Name of the Lord.

### God Came Down to Babel

Out of the abundance of rebellious thoughts, the men of Shinar purposed to build a city and a tower:

*And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may*

*not understand one another's speech*  
(Gen. 11:5-7).

Here at Shinar the imagination of men had gone beyond the vileness of sin and its violence of the flesh depicted in Genesis 6 before the Flood. These men believed they could be as God in the earth.

Nevertheless, God intervened that day by confounding their language and scattering the people into geographies that ultimately created the ethnic groups listed in Genesis 10. Up until this time in history (as is so often in the affairs of the children of men), God simply allowed things to take their course. But at Babel He manifestly intervened to hinder man's own course of self-destruction. In the Genesis account here, the LORD notes that they had only begun their project: "this they begin to do, and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do" (11:6). These words suggest that following their enterprise to build a city and tower, they had more planned in their rebellion against God.

My father, Dr. O. Talmadge Spence, wrote back in 1977 the following words:

We live in a time now when great stress is being placed upon the unions of life; there is the United Nations, Labor Unions, the Ecumenical Movement in Christendom, etc. There is a great difference between union and unity. There is no guarantee of

unity unless a people agree to walk by the very principles of the Word of God (Amos 3:3). In these days, just prior to the Rapture and the Tribulation Period, we need to pray much, warn soberly, speak honestly, and watch scripturally, that we be not entangled in the yoke that will ultimately be placed upon man by the Antichrist. There is always an educational process for a people before the full manifestation of the power and person that leads them. Our contemporary lies in that educational period; a propaganda and brainwashing performed by so much of the modern forces of politic, religion, and morals. A great religious integration is taking place in our time; we need a spiritual separation.

Yes, dear reader, our world is ripe for the global union of mankind. There is a mood and a spirit through the powers of the media (via publications, productions, and the internet) that has established a powerful collective influence on mankind. The past seven years in America's leadership has brought us to the precipice of utter chaos in morals, education, economy, character, and even language (such as in the ambiguity of political correctness and redefining of traditional terminology). Our nation is being forced into atheism; this godlessness is manifested in government, law, education, science, and medicine. There is a mood, yea, a spirit of atheism that has been

unleashed throughout mankind to such a proportion that God is giving the world over to what it seeks. However, He will only let mankind proceed in his rebellion to a certain point.

At Babel when God came down to thwart man's imagination at its beginning stage, He brought confusion within their language so that men were not able to understand one another's speech. As a result, they left off building the city and tower.

The term *Babel* comes straight from the Word of God. In the Aramaic this name carries the meaning "the Gate of God"; later Assyrian inscriptions confirm this interpretation. However, in the Hebrew the word Babel comes from the root word meaning "confusion (by mixing)." Thus, there arose a play of meanings regarding the word Babel: "man's gate to God ended in confusion." We live in parallel days to the spirit of Babel. That which the world calls a "gate to God" is "confusion" to the true Christian. God sent the diversity of languages due to men's conspiring union against Him. Four thousand years have passed since this unique, momentous intervention of God occurred, stopping man in his diabolical scheme. Our imaginations only could fathom what they would have contributed toward the early destruction of humanity. As a mercy, God's power touched the communication, the language of man.

And man was scattered throughout the earth.

### **The Present Prelude of Babel**

Over these thousands of years since the scattering of Babel, mankind has come to its greatest diversity ever. We should carefully note some diversities that have been in the past and have led up to the present.

The world's population has shockingly abounded in the twentieth century. After four thousand years, the world's population reached 1.65 billion in 1900. By 1927 it reached 2 billion; 1960, 3 billion; 1974, 4 billion; 1987, 5 billion; and 1999, 6 billion. In 2015 the world's population is estimated at 7.3 billion!

Coming from the five major Postdiluvian ethnic groups, continued intermarriage over the millennia has created a massive diversity of ethnic groups. Conservative demographic listings suggest anywhere between 16,000 to 27,000 different ethnic groups. No other time in history has known such ethnic diversity.

Today the United Nations acknowledges a total of 195 distinct nations. However, when one includes the other countries or ethnic groups which the United Nations does not recognize, the total reaches 207. Interestingly, the World Cup of Football (soccer), representing the world's most popular sport, acknowledges 209 nations; and the ISO (International Organization for

Standardization) for international coding acknowledges 249 nations. Thus, between 195 and 249 nations exist today, depending on how one defines a country.

Throughout these nations, roughly 6,500 languages are spoken. However, about 2,000 of those languages have fewer than 1,000 speakers. The most popular language in the world (by population) is Mandarin Chinese; well over one billion people speak Mandarin.

Throughout these nations, there are roughly 4,200 religions practiced today. The top five religions today are Christianity (both Protestant and Roman Catholic), Islam, Secularism (nonreligious, agnostics, atheists, New Age), Hinduism, and Buddhism. Under these there are several thousands of subdivisions. As one pursues his study of these major belief systems and their views of God, he finds tremendous diversity. Hindus acknowledge millions of gods and goddesses; Buddhists say there is no deity; New Age followers believe they are God; Muslims believe in a powerful but unknowable God; and, professing Christians believe in a personal, loving, and approachable God. All of these religions have divisions and subdivisions in their belief concepts. Even in Christianity the diversity is overwhelming. According to the World Christian Encyclopedia the number of denominations rose from 21,000 in 1982 to 33,000 in 2001.

A denomination is defined as “an organized Christian group within a country.” The number of Christian denominations has truly exploded from 1,600 in 1900 to 43,000 today, according to the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Within this expanding religious population throughout the earth, their sacred writings are equally diverse. Though Christianity has professed only one sacred book, the Bible, debate concerning various manuscripts has produced questions and doubtings that have led to a multitude of English versions of the Bible. Many of these versions are as different as night and day. Of all the religions in the world, Christianity is the most diversified within its religious camp. It truly is part of the clear evidence that Christianity has entered deeply into global apostasy.

Amidst the diversity of nations, languages, religions, and religious books, there is the internet which vies for a prominent written and spoken voice around the world. In 2013 alone, the World Wide Web grew by more than one third; at the beginning of the year there were about 630 million websites, and at the end of the year there were over 850 million websites. By September of 2014 the total number of websites exceeded one billion! In 2000, only 6.7% of the world’s population accessed the internet, but by 2014, 40.4% of the world’s population accessed

the internet! Between 2012 and 2014, half a billion new users were connected to the internet, an increase of 20%, bringing the total number of web surfers to 3 billion worldwide. When we stop and ponder over the many voices clamoring for the mind and the soul of humanity, it is overwhelming.

### **The World Is Waiting for the Man**

Amidst all of this diversification in the multiplicity of compartments of humanity, a small group of leaders (especially over the past 150 years) has been bridging the gaps between these diversities. They have been attempting to unify diverse mankind with the hopes of making a new “name” in the earth to overthrow the name of God. As technology and global communication successfully unify the growing epistemology of mankind, a certain man with the right credentials and global approval is being sought who can harness all of it with an authoritative power and spirit. Satan has had his unique men throughout history whom he chose to catapult to leadership at crucial times.

This archenemy of God said to Jesus in Luke 4:6, “All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.” We have witnessed in history the authority and glory Satan has given to men who equally desired such diabolical authority and glory.

Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses; Korah was called a man of renown (a man of “a name”). Other men include Rabshakeh, the Assyrian; the notorious Antiochus Epiphanes; and the Caesars of Rome. All these men were given the power and spirit of the Dragon, the Devil.

The twentieth century has had its list of men who wanted such a covenant with the Devil to take control of the world. The apostle Paul prophesied that the mystery of iniquity would produce such men from the Devil, and in the End Time such evil men would wax worse and worse. Today we witness the internationally-known news commentators who influence the world with their “opinions” and ideologies; fiction writers like J. K. Rowling and her Harry Potter books who have in knowledge and spirit influenced a whole generation of youth; and financiers such as the Rothschilds, the Rockefellers, the Morgans, and the Gates who have controlled the massive flow and redistribution of wealth. The internet has brought to the forefront educators, philosophers, film writers, musicians, and political leaders who all have risen to powerfully contribute to the spirit and mood of the contemporary world-age. Such men and women have proved to have the intellectual and financial capacity to lead not only a nation but also an entire world through the “anointing” or “de-anointing” of the Dragon



against God for the conquest of mankind.

All of these pursuits will climax with the Man of Sin, who will know this satanic power in its greatest influence. All of these men have been “leviathan” in spirit and heart—the word meaning “to join” the dragon (Isa. 27:1). Chapter 41 of Job gives a detailed description of the leviathan in the natural, and in the last verse (34) we are told, “He beholdeth all high things: he is a king over all the children of pride.” In the next two articles of this *Straightway* issue, we will present moods and spirits that are endeavoring to bring about another city and tower of Babel that is the manifestation of rebellious man’s imagination against God. Thankfully, at the appointed time God will intervene and bring to naught all of man’s vain imaginations.

### Conclusion

Throughout history God has had his men upon which the Spirit of the Lord has rested. Yet, in our day and time these are few and far between. The Christian apostasy has destroyed spirituality publicly; only a few men are truly seeking God and therefore know the anointing of His Spirit. Christian colleges and universities are being consumed by the world and the subtle substitute of a “social gospel” for the communities. Such schools have come to believe that what God’s men of the past called “confusion” should now be viewed as “the Gate to

God.” Yes, we have come to another division in the earth: it is between the godly and the ungodly, the Neo-Christianity and the Remnant.

Our day now gives evidence that the world has intensified its oppressive evolutionary belief of the beginning of humanity, separating epistemology from any origin and allegiance to a Personal God. According to predominant voices of influence in the earth, there is no God, there is no revelation from God, and there is no accountability to a Sovereign God at the end of life. Every public forum of epistemology today screams this belief, and if one does not adhere to this worldview, he is ostracized from humanity and counted among the insane.

Dear reader, it will be a miracle now if anyone comes to believe in a Creator and the one personal God of the universe, to acknowledge that we are born depraved, alienated from this God, and that only through God’s Son, Who died and rose for us, can we be reconciled to this God. Along with these fundamentals, it will be a miracle if anyone believes that this God has given this planet through history an infallible revelation in written form, the only written revelation ever given to man, the Bible. This revelation was God-breathed, was God-inspired, and has been God-preserved throughout the centuries. It rises above all the voices of human epistemology; it transcends in power, in scope, and in truth all of



the thoughts and communications of any generation. We must not simply *read* and *memorize* the Bible; we must even go deeper than simple accrual of knowledge. This Word must come into the inner sanctum of our human existence and dwell there *controlling* our moment-by-moment living.

May the Lord grant us discernment for these days in which we live. And may we be found, not having our own righteousness, but found “within” the righteousness of Christ Jesus, our precious and worthy Lord!



## FOUNDATIONS MINISTRIES

# Sixteenth Annual Ladies' Prayer Fellowship

**August 7-8, 2015**

12:00 noon Friday to 12:00 noon Saturday



Dr. and Mrs. H. T. Spence will each be speaking twice along with seasons of prayer, testimonies, and fellowship.

Lodging provided on campus for out-of-town guests.

The meetings and provisions are free of charge.

**Registration can be made through the mail or by calling 800-849-8761.**

Please register by August 3.

# The Powers of an Age Resting Upon Contemporary Humanity: The New Atheism

Dr. H. T. Spence

The End Time of the last days is where we believe our present history finds us. The Bible prophetically characterizes this time as a global delusion sent by God whereby He gives the world over to the culminating powers of satanic deception, yet for a season. In the light of the intensifying depravity of mankind, such a season will give witness to the lowest ebb of human history, resulting from the long and persistent investment of Satan's ploys in his quest to control mankind. The End Time is the prelude to Satan's greatest and most mature hour. It will mark his collaboration with the leadership of humanity to bring about what he believes to be the overthrow of God on the planet Earth. It will culminate with his ultimate covenant with the Man of Sin, the Antichrist.

In this prelude season, what are the present powers that rest upon contemporary humanity? Two such powers for candid observation and consideration await us in this issue of *Straightway*. Although they may seem to be contradictory at a glance, from a closer vantage point they are working together toward the same goal. These two powers or forces are *New Atheism* and *Postmodernism*. In this article we will examine New Atheism.

## The Powers of the Age

In the study of the biblical terms for *power* in both the Old Testament (Hebrew) and the New Testament (Greek), there are basically four contexts: (1) "inherent power" for enabling in a task; (2) an "operative power," or a power especially in exercise, as an energy that enables; (3) an "authoritative power" in its liberty of action to do whatever it wants; and, (4) a power of "physical strength," or an endowment to be expended in living. This fourfold concept of power has not only *come upon* this generation but also may be said to *rest* upon it. This resting influence in our generation produces the very moral and mental atmosphere that we breathe. It is quite amazing how this godless environment has become the very fabric that surrounds every aspect of the world, including religion.

The nineteenth-century Greek scholar R. C. Trench gives a classic understanding of the Greek word *aion* ("world-age"):

It is all that floating mass of thoughts, opinions, maxims, speculations, hopes, impulses, aims, aspirations at any time current in the world, which it may be impossible to seize and accurately define, being the moral, and or immoral atmosphere which

at every moment we inhale, again inevitably to exhale.

But how does this “floating mass” of influence reach a *global* proportion? This definition indicates that an age is the outworking of mankind’s heart disseminated through forms of communication. The one-world system (Gr., *kosmos*) is ever flowing throughout history, linked with the past, residing in the present, and producing the future. Because sin is ever mutating in man, every generation is a new breed of a philosophical product that is ever deepening in the world system. The biblical concept of an *age* takes the developed worldview of a previous age and mixes it with the formation of its current thinking. Each age, therefore, mutates deeper and deeper into a finality of philosophical thought to what will be the “golden age of man.” The synthesized human thought of one generation is transmitted to the next generation, which continues to synthesize current and past human thought as it presses on. Ultimately, this matured world system of human endeavor (away from God) will birth the Man of Sin.

Trench’s detailed definition suggests that an *age* is a mood, a spirit, a shroud, or a massive tent pitched over humanity; it is an encompassing dwelling place of a generation. The End-time age is a *global* tabernacle of mood that pervades mankind. It is a spirit, a mindset, a moral philosophy in which humanity dwells.

Everything of human existence is found in this dwelling place: the ideological air that man breathes and the very sight of the tent fabric in all directions. As man rejects God, this closed tent of human thought becomes the only world that men know; it is their singular, existing reality.

The powers of this tent of human thought forge and weave the mindset of mankind through education, government, music, business, science, medicine, and even religion: it is humanity’s world. It completely encompasses every concept, every presupposition, every perspective of reality that rests upon mankind. It literally is the tabernacle in which mankind dwells.

More than any time in the history of mankind, this globally-connected generation has begun to think the same way, to respond the same way, and to hope and aspire to the same goals. Our generation now breathes, eats, and even sleeps the same mood and spirit across the globe. The global confidence of man beneath this resting or “tabernacling” power now defines human moral and ethical concepts.

This “age-power” that now rests globally upon humanity can be more clearly defined by two philosophical and authoritative powers of our generation. The first, *New Atheism*, is endeavoring to maintain an allegiance to human

reason while defying God through reason. Seemingly contradictory, the second, *Postmodernism*, seeks to deny all absolutes and force humanity to live without reason.

### **The Coming New Humanity**

From one perspective, in this tabernacle of humanity's present dwelling is the obsessive belief of secularism which at its core is the denial of God. Its present appearance in history is the mutation of a mighty force that has steadily risen in the earth, especially in the past 275 years; it is dedicated to the powers of man's intellect, his "reasoning." Emerging from the Enlightenment period in European history was its prodigy child Immanuel Kant. Kant stated in the latter part of the 1700s that man had now come "to age." This acknowledgment by Kant was the belief that man no longer needed religion and the concept of God in order to exist. Man had come to that fourfold power of (1) the inward enabling, (2) the outward ability, (3) the power of authority, and (4) the living performance to do anything he wanted to do. Truly, he believed that man was the measure of all things and that his hour of boast and power had come to maturity.

The world today has accelerated on its information highway to such an overwhelming, staggering proportion that it is believed mankind must not simply be looking for a future, but he must literally create a "new

humanity." This new humanity will demand a new global social change for mankind.

In the sciences there has been an explosion of knowledge in the fields of nanotechnology, biotechnology, info-technology, cognitive technology, genetic technology, and robotic technology. A whole new world of unknown discoveries has now made its debut. With these sciences has been increased interest in the artificial interfacing of technology with humanity, such as finding ways to transfer human personality into an artificial carrier. This is now the aspiration, the hope, and the goal of those controlling governments, the global economy, and many world corporations.

World leadership collectively believes that the "old" mankind must be replaced with a totally new concept of humanity emerging out of the accelerating wonder of multi-technology. Those in power in the world believe that all of this exploding epistemology in technology and science will demand a new global philosophy, new ideology, new ethic, new culture, new psychology, and new concept of metaphysics. The old must go in order to make way for the new. These secularists are looking for a new man, a new birth of man, a new concept of man, and a new reality for this future man to exist. They have convinced mankind to believe that he needs to begin mapping out his own evolutionary

path and direction of goals rather than the randomness and “chance” of man’s evolutionary past they once espoused. This new worldview believes it can stop the power of death upon humanity and then soar beyond the solar systems and stars to conquer the universe—mankind becoming God.

In 2012 and 2013, some of secularism’s greatest minds were summoned to meet in Russia with the expressed purpose to help bring about the radical change of human existence. Coming out of these meetings was the development of the *2045 Initiative*. An agenda was set forth and goals implemented to involve the best minds from around the world to achieve these goals by 2045. One of its major goals is to build artificial bodies with both a human appearance and thought process; this is often called an *avatar* (originally a Hindu term denoting the “descent” of a deity into an earthly form). These avatar bodies would contain the transplanted thought processes and personality of a human brain as well as the semblance of man’s five senses. These secularists even speculate and anticipate that the conceptual thinking of a human brain can be reversed in order to conform thinking to the new humanity. Along with these hopes and aspirations, there is the race in time for immortality and the control of a perfect world. Many secularists from the world have committed

themselves to bring this about. One such man is the atheist Ray Kurzweil, a key engineer with Google, who has been a forerunner in the historic hope to transfer the human brain and personality into an avatar.

## New Atheism

With such hopes by mankind, a new breed of atheism has emerged from the philosophical think tanks of the world. This *New Atheism* movement swept through Europe and now has arisen here in the United States as both a social and political movement. This movement strongly promotes secularism and atheism through a selected band of atheist writers who believe that “Religion should not simply be tolerated but should be countered, criticized, and exposed by rational argument wherever its influence arises.”

The Christian is not against the term *secular*, for anything not sacred falls in this category. But *secularism* is a clear declaration of an intentional rejection of God in acknowledgment, even to the point of being anti-theistic in its identification.

One of the landmark writings that brought in the new era of atheism was *The End of Faith: Religion, Terror, and the Future of Reason* (2004) by the young atheist Samuel Harris. This book, motivated by the events of September 11, 2001, commenced a series of popular bestsellers written by the new breed of atheists. In his book Harris directly attacked the

religion of Islam for the calamity and also criticized the two religions of Christianity and Judaism. This publication was followed by *Letter to a Christian Nation* (2006) attacking Christianity. In 2006 Harris gave a television documentary entitled *The Root of All Evil*. During this same period, another atheist Richard Dawkins stepped forward with his book *The God Delusion* (2006).

### **New Atheism's Four Horsemen**

Rising out of the growing number of atheists in the past fifteen years, four of them have become known as “The Four Horsemen of the Non-Apocalypse.” These men believe that there must be the orchestrated destruction of religion and that humanity’s world-to-come must be an atheistic world with man as his own God. These four reputed champions in the earth for secularism, reason, and atheism are Daniel Dennett, Sam Harris, Christopher Hitchens, and Richard Dawkins.

1. Daniel Dennett (1942– ) is noted as an American philosopher and cognitive scientist. He is a prolific writer and much sought-after speaker. His writings include *Darwin’s Dangerous Idea* (1995) and *Breaking the Spell* (2006). He has been a strong supporter of The Clergy Project, an organization providing support for clergy in the USA who no longer believe in God. Dennett believes, along with others, there must be the global destruction of religion and the

existence of God; only afterwards can man’s intellect control everything without the consciousness of God.

2. Christopher Hitchens (1949–2011) was a self-avowed homosexual/bisexual. He was named by *Foreign Policy* and *Prospect* magazines as being among the “Top 100 Public Intellectuals.” His famous book is *God Is Not Great* (2007). This book helped to bring the New Atheism movement its international fame. His debauched life was given to drunkenness and smoking and the vices of destructive sin. He died of esophageal cancer in 2011. His last words were, “Capitalism, downfall.”

3. Richard Dawkins (1941– ) is a British evolutionary biologist at the University of Oxford. He is the author of the book *The God Delusion* (2006) as well as the founder of the “Richard Dawkins Foundation for Reason and Science.” He is a strong critic of creationism and intelligent design.

4. Samuel Harris (1967– ), a neuroscientist and philosopher, is the chief executive and co-founder of “Project Reason” (2007), which promotes science and secularism. Along with *The End of Faith*, his other bestselling books are *Letter to a Christian Nation* (2006) and *The Moral Landscape: How Science Can Determine Human Values* (2010).

It is interesting to note that after the death of Christopher Hitchens in 2011, a woman named Ayaan

Hirsi Ali arose to be known as the “fourth horse-woman” of the Non-Apocalypse. This Somali-born Dutch-American fled from Somalia to the Netherlands in 1992, and eventually to the United States. She is a prolific writer and a strong critic of Islam and the treatment of women in the Islamic world.

Other proponents of the New Atheism include Lawrence M. Krauss, Jerry Coyne, Greta Christina, Victor J. Stinger, Michael Shermer, Steven Pinker, and David Silverman, president of the American Atheists.

### Conclusion

The New Atheism movement is dedicated to the promotion of the powers of reason found within man, believing that he is no longer to be held captive to the concept of God. This movement believes that science and technology will bring man to his own powers of creation to be his own God. Their hope of the *2045 Initiative* is to “create” a “new man” with an enduring body and to place within this artificial “life” a transplanted human thought-life, including its personality and human senses. It is the belief that this artificial life will take the place of the present human body and that the ruling government of the world will be able to select what brains and personalities will be perpetuated in these artificial life forms. With such a “creation” of a new humanity, the population of the earth could

drastically diminish. The created avatars would become the servants and workers for mankind. It will be a world of a “new man” without a soul, without accountability to an invisible Supreme Being, and living for “his master,” man himself.

But according to the rising powers of atheism, this will not come about without a “theothanatology,” a death of God in the thinking of man. Though Christianity is the most hated of all the religions by atheists, they are strong in the belief that all religions must be destroyed because all religions believe in some concept of “God.” This neo-humanity must be delivered completely from all concepts of morality, of right and wrong, of ethics, and of predetermined absolutes. Again, to them, only the death of religion can bring this about.

Daniel Dennett has already observed that religion is actually in its death throes. As a result, he believes religion will end up in one of three possibilities: (1) As the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul began as a church, then became a mosque, and now is a museum, so this will be true of all religions. The Vatican, as well as Mecca and its Black Stone of Islam, will become simply a museum of a past religion. Or (2) religions may continue but become creedless teams, simply promoting self-helps. The world is still looking for some way to remove guilt, and because of this, it continues to be drawn to the



supernatural. Thus religions may simply become humanitarian in their existence, being a source of hope, love, beauty, joy, moral teamwork, and supporting justice and freedom for everyone. Or (3) religions may become “homes” for the homeless and comfort for the afflicted. But all religions, he believes, will soon lay aside their belief in God or gods and exist solely for the assistance of mankind without morals or absoluteness of doctrines.

It is evident that atheism is becoming more and more prominent in the world. It has taken over the governments, the public educational systems, the voice of science, the approach to medicine and suffering, and has caused the denial of definitive morality. America, a nation that was founded upon the belief of God

and His Word, has now become the leading nation in attacking God and in following the destructive powers of sin in sodomy and in atheism. Oh, what America could have been today in providential blessings in many ways if we had continued to honor God! But God has given us over to a mood, a spirit, and a mindset that are swiftly creating the tabernacle of evil resting upon us. The very philosophical air we breathe is fathered by the “prince power of the air,” the Devil.

How will America finally fall? Will it be through Islam? An implosion of debauchery and lust? A civil war? An assimilation by other nations? No matter how and when it comes, God’s hand will be upon it, and we will deserve whatever His appointment of judgment will be. [S]

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# The Powers of an Age Resting Upon Contemporary Humanity: Postmodernism

Dr. H. T. Spence

While this world continues its collision course with God and His appointed Tribulation Period, there are two dominant powers that control today's world system. The first power is New Atheism, as addressed in the previous article. The second power, Postmodernism, has become the philosophical heartbeat of the world today.

## The Birth and Definition of Postmodernism

Over the many centuries since the first coming of Christ, a great number of godless and destructive philosophies have been birthed from the matriarchal womb of Humanism. By far, its worst offspring is the growing child of postmodernism, a philosophy that has arisen in the aftermath of modernism. Modernism is a philosophy based on *reason*; it claims everything believed must come through the rational, empirical powers of man. In the aftermath of modernism, man believes that enough time has been given for *reason* to prove itself. Postmodernism concludes that reason has utterly failed humanity. What is this belief that concludes reason has failed?

The latter part of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century brought many apparent hopes for humanity: psychology, progressive

education, modern science and medicine, communism, fascism, the League of Nations (later, the United Nations), atomic power, ecumenism, telecommunication, etc. Amidst these hopes and changes, some have believed that the *needed* changes within humanity have not come quickly enough. These people conclude that reason has thus failed humanity, that it has failed to make the world a better place to live. The disillusioned response to this despair is postmodernism.

Postmodernism seeks to correct humanity by first eliminating absolute truth and then making everything including religion and the empirical sciences relative to an individual's feelings and desires. After casting off the neuro-cloak of reason, mankind first entered the fluid, elastic, subjective philosophy of existentialism. Today this existentialism has been repackaged as postmodernism, or a thinking that followed the failure of modernism and reason.

Postmodernism denies the existence of any absolute truth, especially in the realm of theism and religion. When a postmodernist is confronted with the concept of *truth*, his viewpoint is: "That may be true for you, but not for me." Therefore, there is no absolute truth to be given about God, morals, lifestyles, or what is the true religion.

This viewpoint of opinion would be appropriate concerning favorite foods or preferences in honorable décor, but never for biblical absolute truth. The destructive dangers of postmodernism begin with the open and bold rejection of absolute truth and lead to a loss of distinctions in matters of God, morals, religion, and faith. It culminates in a philosophy of religious pluralism that says no belief or religion is objectively true, and therefore no one can claim his or her religion is true and another's false.

### **The Advancement of Postmodernism**

Such a secularistic philosophy did not come to mankind overnight. It has been the process of the unraveling of thinking for several generations. From Augustine to the Reformation, the intellectual scholarship of Western civilization was dominated by theologians. During the Renaissance (including thought from the fourteenth to seventeenth centuries), man began to elevate himself to the center of what was real. And if the Renaissance can be called modernism's grandmother, the Enlightenment (late seventeenth to the eighteenth centuries) was its mother. Men such as René Descartes personified the beginning of this era with such proclamations as "I think, therefore I am." For these men, man himself, not God, was the center of truth. The Enlightenment imposed the scientific model of rationality upon all aspects of truth. It declared that

only scientific information could be objectively understood, defined, and defended. It was in this philosophical hour that truth as it pertained to religion was discarded.

Men such as Immanuel Kant in *The Critique of Pure Reason* (1781) declared all truth as "relative." Kant argued that because true knowledge about God was impossible, all knowledge must be divided between *facts* and *faith*. It was here that spiritual matters were assigned to the realm of opinion, leaving only the empirical sciences as the voices of truth. Though these modernists believed in scientific absolutes, the written Word of God, the Bible, was evicted from the realm of truth and absolute certainty.

Ironically, from rational modernism came non-absolute postmodernism. Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) has been designated the patron saint of postmodernist philosophy. Nietzsche strongly supported the concept of *perspectivism*, which says that all knowledge (including science) is a matter of perspective and personal interpretation. Since his days, a number of postmodern philosophers have built upon his writings. Men such as Foucault, Roty, and Lyotard shared his rejection of God and religion in general. These men rejected all absolute truth, or as Lyotard stated, "a rejection of a metanarrative" (a truth that transcends all peoples and cultures).

This philosophical war in history

against truth has now come to maturity in postmodernism's full denial of all claims to absolute truth. One of the purposes of philosophical thinking in history has been the ability to discern distinctions, to have the capacity to distinguish *this* from *that* in any realm of knowledge. But if one denies objective and absolute truth, then everything becomes a matter of personal interpretation. Therefore, all books represent merely an author's experiential interpretation of truth. And then to the existential postmodernist it is the *reader* (not the author) who actually determines what the book means. Thus, in the realm of religion any significant distinctions are no more meaningful than the argument that chocolate tastes better than vanilla.

### **Postmodernism versus the Truth of Christianity**

Does the reader see the far-reaching powers in this global philosophy controlling the mindset of the world's common man? If absolute truth does not exist, and if there is no ability to make right or wrong distinctions, then all concepts of religious faith are viewed equally valid. Such thinking leads to philosophical pluralism where no religion has the right to declare itself true; to declare one religion true is to declare the other false and inferior. Such thinking also declares that there are no longer concepts like *error, heresy, apostasy, good and evil, right or wrong, holiness and sin, or God and the Devil*.

When Jesus told Pilate that He came to bear witness of the truth, Pilate asked the question, "What is truth?" and then walked away. This is the postmodernist's response. To them truth is relative and opinionated. The controlling powers of such a philosophy denounce the Bible and its claim to be the *only* infallible voice from God. They call the Christian faith a religion of "intolerance," "bigotry," "pride," and "arrogance." To the biblical Christian, truth is not a matter of attitude or preference. It is a matter of what "thus saith the Lord." The postmodernist does not see that he is dogmatic and absolute in his condemnation of whom or what he deems "dogmatic" and "absolute." Christ Jesus *is* the Son of God, He *did* die on the cross for our sins, He *did* rise bodily from the dead conquering death, He *will* judge humanity one day, all of mankind *are* sinners, and hell *is* the inevitable place of eternal damnation upon those who do not trust Jesus Christ as their Saviour. To the Christian, these are all absolute truths that cannot be denied; they are to be believed if one wants to go to heaven. To the postmodernist there is no sin, there is no lifestyle that is wrong, there is no judgment from God, and there is no truth about marriage, family, gender, race, and morality. They are all terms of neutrality and relativism.

### **Postmodernism and Its Beliefs**

What are the beliefs of this evil philosophy that has taken over

both the political world and the church world? How far-reaching has its spreading-tent powers covered contemporary mankind? Where is this philosophy found in everyday humanity? We must now carefully and honestly acknowledge postmodernism's powers as they fully control our society with evil force.

Postmodernism begins with an obvious form of atheism—there is no God, no supernatural Creator, no divine moral Lawgiver, and no ultimate Judge of man's actions. All postmodernists are atheists; this is the theological foundation of not only secular humanism and Marxism but also of postmodernism. Such a philosophical movement is aggressively determined to destroy the memory of God in history and to declare the autonomous self of man. These men believe ecclesiastical institutions are dangerous and declare, "Religion is unobjectionable as long as it is privatized." Thus, all postmodernists are against the right of parents to teach their children religion, believing that parents should keep their beliefs to themselves. Such men believe that religions that go beyond personal preferences and convey objective truth (such as Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) cannot be tolerated in society.

When one begins to contemplate the far-reaching influence of such nebulous thinking, he discerns that postmodernism will absolutely destroy all compartments of true thought.

We are sowing to the wind and are already reaping a whirlwind. At one time our legal system was rooted in certain beliefs, including the structural integrity of law; but all of the foundational beliefs of law are rapidly disappearing. The minds of our litigators, our judges, even Supreme Court judges, have fragmented the laws of the land, making them purely subject to the personal whims. There is now a new approach to legal theory which denies linear logic and the concept of absoluteness of truth and law.

Postmodernists strongly believe that Western law grew out of Christianity and the Enlightenment period (when reason reigned); therefore, they claim that Western law has a "white-male bias." They condemn all concepts of reason that result in objective truth, and believe that there are more subjective ways of knowing. Such men and women are committed to eliminating religious roots and any absoluteness of truth from all present Western law. They press for fragmentation and subjectivity and a bold denial of objective morality that is based on Judeo-Christian traditions.

A rising power in contemporary law today in America is the Critical Legal Studies (CLS) movement. This movement demands progressive and even radical political changes based upon irrational rather than efficient government. It is based on *deconstructionism*, another principle of postmodernism. *Deconstructionism* is

the ability to dissect a law in order to discover its subjective meaning, which could be different in every court case or trial. Objective law is now meaningless. Invariably the focus is on race, gender, and sexual lifestyles. What becomes reality is socially constructed by those in power, who have the financial means to perpetuate their own power over the people (or *hegemony*). Such people have turned truth into the myth and the myth into truth; objective reality in their thinking is now the myth. All law in the courts today is subject to deconstruction and social reconstruction. This reconstruction ultimately comes down to politics. As one feminist responded when questioned about her decisions, "You believe in principle; I believe in politics."

Today law has simply become a tool for wielding political power. Contemporary rulers embrace Karl Marx's observation that "political power, properly so called, is merely the recognized power of one class for oppressing another." The men in power today manipulate the law in any way in order to forward their whims. Therefore, law is no longer an objective standard by which to judge and maintain an ordered society; it is now seen as a weapon to overthrow political opponents and submit them to opposing ideologies. It really comes down to who can evoke the greatest sympathy from a courtroom, regardless of any obvious innocence or criminal guilt.

This brings us to postmodernism as seen in present society. The political scientist and social psychologist Walter Truett Anderson (now in his 80s) gives a vivid perspective of where we are socially:

I have been putting words like "abnormal" and "deviant" in quotes because those categorizations are under fire now, the boundary between normal and abnormal is as questionable now as are all the other boundaries that once defined social reality.

This, dear reader, is where the powers of postmodernism are profoundly destroying the very foundation of society.

The foundational concept of society up to this day has always been based upon a "family" defined by father, mother, and children conceived from that union. With postmodernism this must now change. Postmodernists are committed to overthrowing the definitions of these social terms and redefining the social structure of Western civilization. In this process they do not include the church in their social restructuring of institutions. They believe that ecclesiastical institutions are dangerous to the mental health of any society. Even the concepts of "love," "sex," and "marriage" are now legitimized under "free love," even to eventually include pedophilia. While marriage as an *institution* may be abolished, society will welcome phrases such as "hooking up," "shacking up,"

and “living together” as the norm. As one postmodernist wrote, “For the sane [as the postmodernists call themselves], so-called relationships could never be subject to contract [such as a marriage license].” There is no “normal” anymore in the thinking of those in authority.

Today’s postmodernists are truly disciples of Marquis de Sade, a most abominable and evil man who embraced all forms of deep, dark, and perverted immorality. From him the postmodernists forward a vision of *sexual egalitarianism* whereby *all* sexual practices and lifestyles are equally valid and permissible. Yes, to these thinkers even rape, incest, and pedophilia must be included in this permissibility. Even following the Supreme Court’s recent ruling to legalize sodomite marriages, polygamists have attempted to gain marriage licenses using the Court’s postmodern logic. We are coming to a society that will know no restraints when it comes to what has been biblically identified as immorality.

Examples of postmodernism’s absurdity are found in males and females attempting to change their gender as well as whites and blacks attempting to change their race (e.g. Michael Jackson). Amidst these cosmetic and surgical changes, each individual’s DNA remains the same: the transgender is still his original gender, and the hopeful change of race is still tied up in God’s appointed DNA. How far will these “outward”

changes go? Recently Walter E. Williams, a conservative black writer expressed the following in his article “A Minority View.”

The bottom line is that modernity permits liberties previously unknown or unrecognized. Today we’re not held to reality. For example, one does not have to accept the limitations of biology. Say that one is born with XX sex chromosomes and is therefore female or that one is born with XY sex chromosomes and is therefore male. One doesn’t have to accept nature’s determination. An XXer can say that [s]he’s a male. Or a XYer can say he’s a she. One’s sex is seen as optional. Moreover, if a male claims to be a female, others are expected to acknowledge that. For example, Bruce Jenner, Olympic decathlon champion and reality show personality, has recently become Caitlyn Jenner. People now are required to address him as her.

There is a condition known as species dysphoria, similar to gender dysphoria. It is a condition in which people think they are animals trapped in human bodies. I’ve been giving this option some serious thought. I’ve been thinking of calling myself a springbok [a deer-like animal found in South Africa] trapped in a human body. Some people might argue that I would be in need of psychological treatment. I’d dismiss such a claim as being animalphobic. You might ask, ‘Williams, why in the world would you want to call



yourself a springbok?’ I would be doing it for personal gain, just as Rachel Dolezal and Elizabeth Warren benefited by pretending they were of another race. I’d be doing it for tax reasons. I’ve read a considerable amount of the Internal Revenue Code. It says nothing about wild animals having a federal tax obligation. Were government officials to demand that I, as a springbok, pay taxes, I’d report them to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

A point well taken.

Within America’s educational system, Common Core is only a small part of the plan for these End-time days. A further “dumbing down” of the students must include a new mindset that destroys all sexual restraints. The worldview of this country’s youth must be changed to the absurd, assimilating the myth of amorality. All secular colleges and universities must include classes bringing respect to the deviants of society who now rule the world. Nearly every Ivy League school offers more courses in Women’s Studies than in Economics. Stanford’s History Department offers a course entitled “Homosexuals, Heretics, Witches, and Werewolves: Deviants of Medieval Society.” The catalog describes the course as answering the following question: “Why were medieval heretics accused of deviant sexual practices?” The courses are numerous, and some titles cannot even be printed in this article.

Richard Roty, professor of Comparative Literature at Stanford, made the following potent observation from his postmodern perspective:

When we American college teachers encounter religious fundamentalists. . . . we do our best to convince these students of the benefits of secularization. . . . I think these students are lucky to find themselves under . . . people like me, and to have escaped the grip of their frightening, vicious, dangerous parents.

How could a true Christian young person ever choose to attend such secularistic colleges and universities today considering what he will be forced to assimilate in his thinking and living?

## Conclusion

We must remember that postmodernism is based on evolution, and evolution is *ateleological* (“with no purpose”). According to *ateleology*, the world of mankind has come to this point in history not by design, but by chance, and therefore it must be acknowledged that there is no purpose or destiny for man. This is why *history* to the postmodernist is meaningless. Living in a world without meaning or purpose brings man to the finality of nihilism. Postmodernism is only intensifying the grief of man—living without a goal or purpose of existence.

Postmodernists have also drunk deeply from the polluted political

wells of Marxism. Although Marxism focused on the proletariat (poor working class) rising against the bourgeoisie (the middle class), postmodernists have taken Marxism and metamorphosed and applied its principles to deviant people (such as the sodomites) rising up against race, gender, and socially identifiable groups in order to claim a dominant control. Perhaps this can be called a post-Marxist movement of the politically-proclaimed oppressed groups, which now have increased into the weirdest of the weird. Sodomites have now entered into a *secular sainthood* in society. Who will become the next sect of victims thrust to the forefront for acceptance through carefully orchestrated sympathies? Certainly the Christians will never be viewed as such although they have already become the “scum of the earth” in the rhetoric of national leadership.

Postmodernists hate true Christians because of their absoluteness of belief. The rising “powers that be” are longing for their genocide throughout the earth. Christian persecution is on an aggressive rise in most countries and has now found a haven of hatred in America. The Christian will become the scapegoat to release mankind from its “suppression” and its “guilt” about standards, principles, and morals. Such demonic powers are gathering momentum; only a Sovereign God will declare in His time, “It is enough!”

When it comes to the Christian’s

existence, even in this untoward generation, he is called upon by His Lord to be the “light” to the world and “salt” of the earth. We still must continue our witness and testimony even if it becomes viewed as “lawless” to the laws passed by man. These are days of insanity, of godlessness, of “the Lie,” and the myth. The Christian must not only be a product of God’s amazing grace but also of God’s revealed Truth. And when lawlessness abounds, we dare not permit our love for God and His Word to wax cold.

In our next issue we must candidly and with sobering reality appraise how these pervasive powers have now in a subtle fashion invaded the Evangelical world, yea, even Fundamentalism. As the former America is dead and a new country is rising from the debris and garbage of postmodernism, so historic Fundamentalism is dead and a new concept, claiming the name but in “neo” attire, has risen in victory and power over its churches and schools. May God have mercy on us as we see satanic powers ruling the earth and leaders singing “Amazing Grace” as the “strange flesh” of Sodom dances in the streets. [S]

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# The Power of Christ May Rest Upon Me

33rd Men's Prayer Conference, 2015

"That the power of Christ may rest upon me." 2 Cor. 2:9d

H. T. Spence

Robert Wilson

1. The pow - ers of dark - ness in - crease ev - ery day,  
 2. This age and its pow - ers now rest up - on men,  
 3. The moods of this age have now cap - tured men's hearts;  
 4. While dark pow - ers rest up - on child - ren of sin,

With god - ly men found in the threat of harm's way!  
 Con - trol - ling and call - ing them deep - er in sin!  
 Post - mo - dern their think - ing: God's Spir - it de - parts!  
 The pow - ers of Heav - en now rest on God's men.

The world breathes its ha - tred and an - ger for Truth:  
 But found in God's men is His Word rest - ing true!  
 But found in this End Time, God's men spir - it - filled;  
 The Word and the Spir - it, God's pow - ers for us!

Op - pres - sion, vex - a - tion all man - i - fest proof.  
 This Word giv - ing guid - ance in all that they do.  
 Christ's pow'r rest - ing on them, His king - dom to build.  
 And Christ's rest - ing pow - er in hope glo - ri - ous!

## The Power of Christ May Rest Upon Me

May Christ's bless - ed pow - er now rest up - on me,

The first system of the musical score features a treble and bass staff in G-flat major (two flats). The melody in the treble staff begins with a quarter rest, followed by a half note G-flat, and then a series of eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

As cov - 'ring of tent o - ver life glo - rious - ly!

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has a half note G-flat, followed by a half note A-flat, and then a series of eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff continues with its accompaniment.

Af - flic - tions and weak - ness— they all may be mine,

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has a half note G-flat, followed by a half note A-flat, and then a series of eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff continues with its accompaniment.

*ritard.*  
Yet rest - ing up - on me— Christ's pow - er di - vine!

The fourth system concludes the piece. It begins with the tempo marking *ritard.* The treble staff has a half note G-flat, followed by a half note A-flat, and then a series of eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff continues with its accompaniment.