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“Now the rest of the acts of Hezekiah—all his might, and how he made a pool and a tunnel and brought water into the city—are they not written in the book of the Chronicles of the kings of Judah?”

—II Kings 20:20

## HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

□ “This same Hezekiah also stopped the water outlet of Upper Gihon, and brought the water by tunnel to the west side of the City of David.”

—II Chronicles 32:30

□ “An ancient inscription memorializing Jerusalem’s salvation from Assyrian invaders 2,700 years ago is to be returned to the Holy Land from Turkey for study and public display.

“Israel has been trying for about 20 years to recover the artifact, which marks one of the most important turning points in Hebrew history.

“Assyrian forces under King Sennacherib controlled most of the Middle East in the early eighth century B.C. and were about to march on Jerusalem, where a defiant King Hezekiah ruled.

“Anticipating a prolonged siege, Hezekiah ordered the construction of a tunnel connecting the city to the Gihon Spring outside its walls, ensuring a source of drinking water. The water collected inside the Judean capital at the Pool of Siloam, where centuries later Jesus is said in the Gospel of John to have cured a man who had been blind since birth.

“An inscription inside the tunnel described the dramatic moment when stonecutters working from either end converged in the middle.

“In 1880, a Jewish boy discovered the so-called Hezekiah Inscription, also known as the Siloam Inscription, engraved in ancient Hebrew letters in the tunnel’s limestone wall.

“A segment of the tunnel wall’s surface had been flattened and smoothed so that the inscription could be carved into the limestone,” said Gabriel Barkay, a senior archaeology lecturer at the Bar-Ilan University.

“Mr. Barkay said Conrad Schick, a German national who had been living in Jerusalem since 1846, publicized the find. He made a papier-mache likeness known as a gypsum plate copy and photographed the inscription.

“The date of the inscription was determined on the basis of its contents and historical context.

“A Greek antiquities dealer tried to remove it from the tunnel wall, but succeeded only in breaking it into several pieces.

“Ottoman Turkish authorities who ruled Palestine at the time appropriated the inscription and shipped it to Constantinople—now Istanbul—for safe-keeping. The artifact has been kept since then in the Museum of the Ancient East near the Topkapi Palace.

“Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek made the first attempt to retrieve the inscription for contemporary Israel two decades ago. Last month, Mayor Uri Lupolianski asked for it again at a meeting with Turkish Ambassador Namik Tan. The Ambassador said it would be returned in accordance with international law as a loan rather than a restitution.

“A member of the Turkish Embassy’s staff in Tel Aviv said the inscription could be deposited in Jerusalem ‘on a long-term basis’ if some kind of reciprocity was made. Otherwise, it may stay at the Israel Museum for as little as three months.

“Mr. Barkay suggested that the diplomat was hoping for a loan of items dating from the Ottoman Empire’s 400-year-long rule over Palestine. Most of this material is stored in Israel’s state archive,

he said.

“The inscription’s text is dramatic and vivid. According to one translation, it states: ‘While the excavators were still lifting up their picks, each toward his fellow, and while there were yet three cubits to excavate, there was heard the voice of one calling to another, for there was a crevice in the rock, on the right hand. And on the day they completed the boring, the stonecutters struck pick against pick, one against the other, and the water flowed from the spring to the pool.’

“The tunnel through solid rock—1,750 feet long, 15 feet high and 29 feet wide—took four years to cut, Mr. Barkay said.

“He said the Hezekiah Inscription ‘is corroborated perfectly’ by Sennacherib’s written account of his campaign to subjugate Judea and conquer Jerusalem.

“Several original copies of Sennacherib’s cuneiform text are displayed at the British Museum in London, the Museum of Chicago’s Oriental Institute and the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. His text contains a colorful comment about his dealings with King Hezekiah.

“‘Fear of my greatness terrified Hezekiah,’ it states. ‘He sent to me tribute: 30 talents of silver, precious stones, ivory and all sorts of gifts including women from his palace.’

“By then, Sennacherib had subjugated 46 other Judean cities and compelled them to pay him tribute. He said he ‘enclosed Hezekiah in his capital of Judea like a bird in a cage.’

“His father and predecessor, Sargon II, conquered the northern Kingdom of Israel and expelled the 10 tribes that inhabited it. One

## — UPCOMING EVENTS —

### SPRING ADULT CONFERENCE

Mark your calendar for Summit’s one week worldview crash course at Glen Eyrie Conference Center. This conference, to be held February 17-22, 2008, is one you won’t want to miss.

### DR. NOEBEL’S TRAVEL INCLUDES

Worldview Weekend, Rockford, IL, November 16-17  
Summit Australia, Melbourne, January 13-19, 2008  
West Houston Bible Church Worldview Conference, March 10-12, 2008  
Iowa Prayer Breakfast, Clive, IA, March 19-20, 2008

### TEACHER TRAINING

Teacher training is available for those using Summit curricula. This is a valuable tool for those teaching *Understanding the Times*, *Lightbearers* and *Building on the Rock*. For more information about any of these programs or for teacher training, contact [amanda@summit.org](mailto:amanda@summit.org).

### SUMMER PROGRAM

It’s time to start thinking about loved ones you would like to send to the Summit. Our two week program makes a perfect gift for your graduating senior. Check our web site for locations and dates. Watch this column for more details.

of the underlying causes of Sennacherib's invasion of Judea, Mr. Barkay said, was Hezekiah's formation of an anti-Assyrian coalition that included Egypt.

"The prophet Isaiah opposed this policy vigorously and eloquently, speaking against tenuous alliances with unpredictable neighbors.

"His condemnation is expressed in Isaiah 31:1: 'Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because [they are] many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the Lord!'

"The Bible says the king then prayed to God that Jerusalem be spared from Assyrian attack. Sennacherib withdrew his forces shortly afterward.

"Hezekiah's water-diversion project is cited in the Old Testament's II Chronicles 32:30 'It was Hezekiah who stopped up the spring of water of upper Gihon leading it downward west of the City of David,' Jerusalem's ancient core."

—*The Washington Times*, September 5, 2007, p. A13

□ "Archaeology is a special kind of science. Physicists and chemists can do all kinds of experiments to recreate the processes they study and watch them over and over again. Archaeologists cannot. They have only the evidence left from the one and only time that civilization lived. They study past singularities, not present regularities. Because they can't recreate the societies that they study, their conclusions can't be tested as can other sciences. Archaeology tries to find plausible and probable explanations for the evidence it finds. It cannot make laws as can physics. For this reason, all conclusions must be subject to revision. The best interpretation is the one that best explains all the evidence.

"The archaeological evidence is fragmentary. It comprises only a tiny fraction of all that occurred. Hence, the discovery of more evidence can change the picture considerably. This is especially true when conclusions have been based on silence—a lack of existing evidence. Many critical views about the Bible have subsequently been overturned by archaeological discoveries. For example, it was long believed that the Bible was in error when it spoke about Hittites (Gen. 23:10). But since the discovery of the Hittite library in Turkey (1906) this is no longer the case."

—Norman L. Geisler, *Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*, p. 49

□ "There is great pleasure to be had from the study of archeology and of ancient texts, and great instruction, too. And it brings us ever nearer to some approximation of the truth."

—Christopher Hitchens, *god is not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything*, p. 103

□ For Christopher Hitchens, the well-pronounced atheist, who considers the God of the Bible a "wrathful tyrant" (p. 107), and the Old Testament in particular primarily myth and legend (p. 97 f), it is nice to know that he thinks archaeology of some value. Perhaps the Hezekiah Inscription, which is back in the news, will wet our interest again in the science of archeology and alert us to the historicity of the Bible. For reasons known only to Hitchens he never takes on Ken Kitchen and his important work *On the Reliability of the Old*

*Testament*. Perhaps he knows that the Bible could be "right after all" and we would be better people if we listened in once in a while. Hitchens does note, however, that the Bible contains many "fine verse[s]" (p. 107), but his atheism continues to get in the way of all "the God-talk" found therein. The solution for this problem might be a long talk with Antony Flew and his decision to leave his atheism for something that better explains all this design in nature.

□ "Mary Matalin, wife of Democrat strategist James Carville, has denounced religious critics of sodomy as 'the Leviticus crowd.' She is a leader in both the Republican Unity Coalition, a sodomite group, and the Log Cabin Republicans, for which she has raised funds and made speeches. She hosted a reception for the D.C. Log Cabin affiliate in the new restaurant she and Carville own.

"Mary was co-host of CNN's 'Crossfire.' She was supposed to be the 'conservative.' Mary quit CNN to become a top aide to George Bush and counselor to Dick Cheney. She explained that she has always spoken out on homosexuality, 'but never had a megaphone until George W. Bush reached out last spring to gays and lesbians.' Of course she was talking about his meeting with the Austin Twelve.

"At a Philadelphia reception for Republican homosexuals, speaker Mary Matalin said, 'We are here to honor gay and lesbian Republicans. To be a real conservative is to be pro-gay.' Please reread the last sentence a couple of times. Top Bush aide Mary Matalin says you must be pro-homosexual to be a real conservative. And conversely: If you are not pro-homosexual, you are presumably not a real conservative.

"At the same event, Log Cabin Executive Director Richard Tafel jokingly compared pro-family conservatives who spoke at the 1992 GOP convention to Nazis. And the speakers were better in the original German, he said."

—Alan Stang, *Not Holier Than Thou*, p. 73, 74

□ For the "enlightenment" of our readership, evangelical Christians who are not ashamed of their heterosexuality and who define family as the union of a man and a women are lovingly referred to by the Republican powers-that-be as "wackos," "the nuts," "ridiculous," "out of control," and "goofy" (Ibid., 176, 177). If that's true of the Republican leadership, one can only imagine what the Democrat leadership says about us.

□ "In 2000, while George Bush was convincing congregations

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# From the President's Desk

Dr. David A. Noebel

This is Thanksgiving season and a time for all of us to rejoice in the Lord and be glad therein. I want to again express my personal thanks to our Summit friends and supporters for all your thoughtfulness toward this ministry and me personally. The letters of encouragement continue to flow, and for that I am thankful. Your financial support continues to flow, and for that I am thankful. My wife still loves me, and for that I am doubly thankful! (We just celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary.)

The fact that God has seen fit to bless this ministry for the past 45 years is a tribute to His graciousness and sense of humor. How He can use each of us (little bits of clay and water) boggles my mind, but He does, and for that I am grateful.

So thank you for standing with us in this adventure to see our sons and daughters built up on the most holy faith and prepared to withstand all the darts of the evil one.

Because I know you enjoy reading the comments from our students and their parents, here are a few to digest.

"It's been three days since I returned from The Summit session 6 in Colorado Springs. The words and powerful message of Dr. Noebel, Mark Cahill, John Stonestreet, Jeff Myers, and the other speakers are still ringing in my ears. For the first time in my life, I was not only emotionally touched and inspired by their messages, but I felt confident about defending my Christian faith. The speakers there knew so much about every aspect of the society and human nature and shared it with us. Listening to their messages, I expanded my horizons and truly felt the omnipresence and omnipotence of our Lord. Defending our worldview in the world today is so vital that it cannot be stressed enough. It is hard to resist the temptations of the modern world and to disengage ourselves from sin. Just to know that the Lord is on our side and encouraging us is such an inspiration. Taking in all the words of the speakers, I was overwhelmed with the condition of our society and what happens when a nation rejects Jesus Christ. Jesus told us that we are the light of the world. My experience at The Summit has motivated me to stop hiding this light and instead, to shine like a beacon as He commanded us to do. Ms. Lee, thank you so much for providing me with this great opportunity!" —Songmin H.

Editor's Note: Mrs. WookJa Lee continues to raise the funds to send Korean students to the Summit each year. She is a real encouragement to us and to her students as well. May her tribe increase!

"Dear John [Stonestreet]: I met you when you came to Tallahassee earlier this year. I am a friend of Pat W. We talked at lunch time about a group of teenagers that have attached themselves to me and my husband. They are all Christians but very worldly (most having attended public school). You suggested that I purchase the UTT Home School Curriculum. It is phenomenal! It has made a real difference in some of the kids. I skipped around and went to the Sociology part because some of the kids had formed boyfriend/girlfriend relationships. We just finished up a Bible Study on husband/wife roles and dating. It was hard hitting. After that, I had them listen to your talk 'Guarding Your Heart in a world of Distractions.'" I am looking forward to seeing the fruit of these discussions.

"I am so thankful that God brought Summit into my life when He did. I never would have thought in a million years that this would have been the direction I would be taking. But the information and skills I am learning and then imparting to these kids are life-changing! I am hoping to be able to come to Tennessee next summer for the leader training.

"In Him," —Tracy B.

"Dear John: Our daughter attended one of Summit's conferences. I knew that she needed it desperately because you had come to Tallahassee recently to talk about Christian Worldview and I listened to your tapes. She had attended a secular prep school and while she excelled in academics and sports I could see the slow erosion of her faith

"Our daughter tells us that it was the BEST two weeks of her life!!! She learned that she must be a reader to be a leader! Witnessing is a command!! She feels that she has the tools to defend her faith and other views such as abortion, evolution, etc. Her eyes are now completely open to the spiritual battle in this world. She has friends on face book to keep her accountable and to share their experiences. She has committed to read the Bible through in a year with a friend she met at Summit.

"We left her at Furman 5 days ago and were happy for her to start college ready to defend the faith on all fronts.

"Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for what your ministry is doing. We are telling all our friends so expect a constant stream from Tallahassee.

"Sincerely," —Maryanne & Logan B.

*continued from Page 3*

he was a staunch Christian, a friend of his named Charles Francis formed the Republican Unity Coalition, to squelch Republican opposition to homosexuality. It is important to understand that RUC is not some fringe group. Francis routinely advises 'Bush brain' Karl Rove on the subject. Senior White House aide Mary Matalin is a supporter. A picture of her on the RUC web site identifies her as 'Our Lady.' Does that sobriquet convey some religious significance? Or is Mary the only lady they have? Our Lady contemptuously calls Christian critics of belligerent homosexuality 'gay bashers' and 'the Leviticus crowd.'

"The Advisory Board of RUC included David Rockefeller and President Gerald Ford. Does that tell you how important it is? The RUC Bush/Cheney Inaugural Breakfast Host Committee lists Rudy Giuliani as a member. The honorary chairman is former U.S. Senator Alan Simpson of Wyoming.

"In an article in the homosexual *Washington Blade*, May 4th, 2001, Peter Freiberg writes that Simpson is now emerging as a major advocate for acceptance of Gays into the Republican Party."

—Alan Stang, *Not Holier Than Thou*, p. 63

□ "Had the citizens of Greeley, Colo., been friendlier to the introverted Egyptian student Sayyid Qutb during his studies there from 1948 to 1950, he might not have become the Muslim Brotherhood's signature ideologue. But the lonesome Qutb resented everything America had to offer, especially individual freedom, capitalism, jazz and women's 'open' sexuality.

"Shortly after returning to Egypt, Qutb joined the Muslim Brothers (or Muslim Brotherhood) and committed to paper the dogma of the organization's founder, Hassan al-Banna, calling on all Muslims to resist modernization and live only according to the Islamic law, a theme Qutb expanded to include the 'liberation' of Palestine, in subsequent writings of his own. The seeds of hatred for everything Western, which Qutb sowed half a century ago, have spread around the globe and are now growing like kudzu throughout America and the West.

"Using the motto 'God is our purpose, the Prophet our leader, the Qur'an our constitution, jihad our way and dying for God our supreme objective,' and armed with al-Banna's master plan to expand Islamic fundamentalism, the Muslim Brothers began their jihad against the West.

"Petrodollars turned the once small Egyptian radical organization into a global jihadist movement, spawning every Islamic terrorist group operating today. These include al Qaeda, Hamas, Hezbollah and many other often nameless affiliated groups responsible for terrorist attacks like the latest at Glasgow's airport and London's foiled car bombings. Nevertheless the U.S. Department of State is well on its way to legitimizing the organization by accepting the Muslim Brotherhood's self portrayal as 'moderates' and 'reformists.' Indeed, this is how some U.S. officials described the MB representatives with whom they engage in Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Iraq....

"American and British leaders would better serve their nations if they understood that the disciples of Qutb and al-Banna take orders not only from Osama bin Laden, but also from the Muslim Brotherhood's Muhammad Mahdi Akef, who repeatedly claims, 'the devil Bush and his allies [are] ... sowing terror and

aggression worldwide.' He also promises: 'the jihad will lead to smashing Western civilization and replacing it with Islam which will dominate the world.'"

—Rachel Ehrenfeld, Alyssa A. Lappen, *The Washington Times*, July 6, 2007, p. A17

□ "'Is God Dead?' was the famous/infamous *Time* magazine cover Easter Sunday 1966 that triggered a nationwide firestorm of criticism. Murder threats were commonplace for the self-described 'apocalyptic theologian' Thomas Alrizer, a former Emory Professor of Religion, whose Death of God thesis posited God put himself completely into Jesus' body and died when Jesus was crucified.

"More recently, pundit Christopher Hitchens' *god is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything* unloaded both starboard and port broadside salvos that garnered more claps than boos from book reviewers. His smorgasbord of faiths—'Anglican, educated at a Methodist school, converted by marriage to Greek Orthodoxy...and remarried by a rabbi'—is discarded with fire-and-brimstone atheism. 'Papal bull for the nonbeliever,' wrote the *Guardian's* Mary Riddell.

"The early fathers of faith were living in a time of "human prehistory," when no one had any idea of what was going on and God provided as good a back-story as any,' Mr. Hitchens argues, but 'Now that Darwin has explained our origins and Einstein has charted the beginnings of the cosmos, the excuses for blind faith have evaporated.'

"The ranks of believers are still growing in the United States. But European stats make grim reading. Eurobarometer surveys since 1970 in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Italy show regular church attendance fell from about 40 percent of the population to half that figure. The *Prague Post* said only 19 percent of the Czech Republic's 10.3 million people believe God exists and that more believe in UFOs.

"In a similar vein, historian (20 books) Walter Laqueur's *The Last Days of Europe* writes the *Epitaph for an Old Continent*. European churches are empty, mosques are jammed and the blind liberal belief in multiculturalism is a leaky lifeboat in the realpolitik ocean. Islamist extremists, spurning multicultural stratagems for integration, were allowed to proselytize their violent creed with impunity under freedom of speech laws. Communist Party members did their thing in democratic countries, so why not Islamists?"

—Arnaud de Borchgrave, *The Washington Times*, July 3, 2007, p. A12

□ "The discovery of 'Dark Energy' is arguably the most important scientific breakthrough of the last 50 years."

—*Parade Magazine*, May 27, 2007, p. 4

□ "But first, we have to figure out what exactly Dark Energy is."

—*Ibid.*, p. 4

□ "So far, we know only that it causes the expansion of the universe to speed up."

—*Ibid.*, p. 4

□ "'Dark' is code for 'we have absolutely no clue what it is.'"

—*Ibid.*, p. 4, 5

❑ “Scientists have determined that Dark Energy makes up two-thirds of the universe. So, until we understand Dark Energy, we clearly cannot understand our universe.”

—*Ibid.*, p. 5

❑ Editor’s Note: If Dark Energy makes up two-thirds of the universe and we have no idea what it is, then how do Dawkins, Dennett, Hitchens, and the other “elite” atheists of our time know “scientifically” there is no God? It appears they are at least two-thirds in ignorance right at the start, and heading into one-third territory that reeks of design and intelligence. Come to think about it, we “do not yet really understand how any single gene from a higher life form really works—not in its entirety...a single gene has about 50,000 component parts” (John Sanford, *Genetic Entropy: The Mystery of the Genome*, p. 135). If we don’t know a fraction of 1% of the facts of the physical universe “scientifically,” one could conclude that the “elites” are skating on thin ice indeed!

❑ “The more I study science the more I am impressed with the thought that this world and universe have a definite *design*—and a design suggests a *designer*. It may be possible to have design without a designer, a picture without an artist, but *my* mind is unable to conceive of such a situation.

“Evidences of design are everywhere about us; the forces producing the design are the so-called ‘laws of nature,’ many of which science has disclosed to us and many of which still await discovery. The greatest aspect of design visible to us is in the ordered movement of the stars and planets in this solar system and in other solar systems extending on and on through space—a design almost incomprehensibly large. At the other extreme we find all matter composed of invisible atoms, each of which in turn is a solar system almost inconceivably small, with electrons swinging in orbits around the atomic nuclei somewhat as planets circle about the sun. And everywhere in between these extremes we find evidence of design. Atoms are arranged in definite patterns to form molecules. Molecules arrange themselves in perfect patterns to form crystals. While design is most regular and easily seen in the inorganic world, it is also apparent in living things. The outward patterning observable in the bodies of plants and animals is a reflection of the inner patterning of organs, tissues, and cells; and this patterning in turn is a reflection of the patterning of genes in chromosomes. And the genes are composed of complex but regular arrangements of atoms. And so it goes—everywhere there is design. Everything is conforming to definite forces acting upon it, is obeying natural laws applicable to its particular state. Whence come these natural laws? There we find the Creator.”

—Paul Amos Moody, *Introduction to Evolution*, p. 497, 498

❑ “Practically speaking, the argument for legalizing drugs is flawed on so many levels that a full accounting here is impossible. My experience is that drug legalization is generally favored either by people who do an excessive amount of drugs or those who have never touched the stuff. The latter are clueless as to why a syringe of heroin is totally different from a glass of Merlot.

“Drug legalization is backed by libertarians convinced there is no higher principle—note the word ‘principle,’ not ‘virtue’—than

100 percent consistency on ‘freedom,’ and who have concluded a ‘free society’ should have virtually no limits on freedom, save to protect life, liberty and property.

“The central error in libertarian thinking is the failure to distinguish between freedom and vice. Freedom is not about an individual’s right to engage in anything, no matter how destructive to the individual or larger society.

“This brings me to a defense of the conservative position against drug legalization. Libertarians like to accuse conservatives of hypocrisy because conservatives incessantly invoke freedom but apply it selectively. Quite the contrary, they misunderstand conservatism.

“One of the best definitions of conservatism comes from political scientists Kenneth Janda, Jeffrey Berry and Jerry Goldman. Conservatives, write the three professors, value freedom more than equality but would restrict freedom to preserve social order. Libertarians, they note, likewise value freedom more than equality, but value freedom over social order.

“These definitions nicely explain where the two sides stand on drug legalization. Conservatives believe it would be bad for social order to legalize drugs. They do not want a culture where Johnny or Suzie, at 18, can drive to the local smoke shop and casually light up a little reefer, or perhaps drop a couple hits of laboratory-approved LSD before catching a movie. Mom and dad might tell the teens this is a lousy choice, but who are they to say? After all, it would be legal.

“Conservatives do not like what this would do to society, from the moral repercussions to health-care costs.

“There are, however, much deeper roots to the conservative objection: The conservative philosophy is grounded in and guided by eternal truths; it does not separate itself from God. It moves toward God, and it understands freedom in the way God intended freedom to be exercised.

“A biblical verse that explains this is Paul’s Galatians 5:13-14: ‘For you were called for freedom, brothers. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love. For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”’

“Note the caveat, the ‘but’ that follows, ‘For you were called for freedom, brothers.’ This is not a hedonistic or uncontrolled freedom.

“The gamut of vices libertarians want to legalize, from drugs to prostitution, means wrongly exploiting ‘freedom’ as opportunities for the flesh. Doing so, even if the proponent of the freedoms does not partake of them, certainly does not serve Christ’s ultimate mandate that we serve our neighbor in a loving way.

“Conservatives believe responsible freedom is a guide to successful living in a successful society. Fallen humanity ought to strive for the holiness of Augustine’s City of God, not the selfish, fleshly indulgence of the City of Man. The first flawed interpretation of freedom took place in the Garden of Eden. The mistake has been repeated enough already.

“William F. Buckley Jr. alluded to this understanding when he declared, ‘I mean to live my life an obedient man, but obedient to God, subservient to the wisdom of my ancestors; never to the authority of political truths arrived at yesterday at the voting booth.’ Nor, one might add, to political truths toasted up at the bong bar of

the local Hash House.

“Our political ancestors understood. George Washington, the Father of Our Country, said self-governance by the individual is essential to self-governance by a democracy. This proper understanding of liberty is embedded in the fabric of this nation. Our earliest politicians, literally all the way to the current president, spoke of God as ‘Author of liberty.’ Listen to the words of one of our most cherished hymns: ‘Our father’s God to Thee, Author of liberty, To thee we sing / Long may our land be bright, With freedom’s holy light, Protect us by Thy might, Great God our King.’

“If you want to remove this from the marrow of this nation, then make your case and try to convince enough others to join you, but understand you would supplant, not affirm or enhance, the American republic as it was founded.

“Conservatism and libertarianism are not simple policy disagreements, but fundamentally divergent philosophies on the nature of freedom, religion and the republic itself. Genuine American freedom is not license. A nation hurts rather than helps itself by legalizing its vices—drugs included.

—Paul Kengor, *The Washington Times*, August 5, 2007, p. B5

□ “When I first read that Georgia state legislators had decreased the credits students need to graduate high school (to lower the drop-out rate), I laughed out loud. Do they really think that devalued diplomas help either graduates or society?

“Things were different in Grandpa’s day (1901). I know this because I have his high school textbook, *Milne’s High School Algebra* (Eclectic Press, Cincinnati, 1892). I began working its problems when Gramps was still around. An example from Page 164:

“Two fractions have the same denominator. If 1 be subtracted from the numerator of the smaller, its value will be  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the larger fraction; but if 1 be subtracted from the numerator of the larger, its value will be twice that of the smaller. The difference between the fractions is  $\frac{1}{3}$ . What are the fractions? (See if you can work it out.)

“That fairly trivial problem from Milne’s Simultaneous Equations chapter glazes the eyes of many modern high school students. Other Milne sections include Quadratic Equations, Progressions, Imaginary Quantities, and a lengthy chapter on the Binomial Theorem—a topic I studied in college math.

“Contrast this with Rain Forest Algebra—the moniker that author, college professor and parent Marianne M. Jennings hung on a textbook she found her daughter using. Here are excerpts from her article for the *Christian Science Monitor* of April 2, 1996.

“My teenage daughter is studying algebra using a book that includes Maya Angelou’s poetry, pictures of President Clinton, and lectures on what environmental sinners we are.

“It has photos of students with names such as Tatuk and Esteban, who offer...thoughts on life. It includes icons for fine arts, industry and science,...color pictures and graphics.

“Welcome to rain-forest math. My daughter is studying algebra under a newly adopted, districtwide curriculum that includes an integrative textbook and cooperative/group learning.

“What’s certain is they are not learning algebra.

“When I spoke to her teacher about the book and how class

time was being used, she responded: “We don’t plug and chug anymore. We’re teaching them to think.” ‘[But] ... students are never required to show their work on homework papers or tests. How do we know what they’re thinking if all we’re checking is answers,’ I asked. The teacher assured me that five years from now these kids would be great in math.’

“Mrs. Jennings researched an integrative, group-learning math experiment in California, then in its fifth year. When she found that its first graduates—now in college—couldn’t pass even remedial math, she and other parents took their concerns to the school. An engineer-parent questioned using application problems before teaching the basics. She was told she didn’t understand the education process or what was needed in the business world. A lawyer-parent heard the curriculum and textbook were university-approved.

“Mrs. Jennings asked school officials to give students a standard algebra test on areas ‘covered,’ promising to disappear if students do well. They huffily declined and sent her to central administration where she met with assistant superintendents for instruction, curriculum, and math. ‘My child and thousands of others are being sacrificed on the altar of theory. I am told of studies that confirm this instructional approach works, but no copies of the studies have been forthcoming.’

“With emperor’s-new-clothes instruction and robotic administrators like that, is it any wonder that American students score near the bottom of the top twenty countries in the world (but feel best about their abilities)?”

—Woody Zimmerman, *The Washington Times*, August 26, 2007, p. B5

□ “You usually know that somebody is losing the argument when he loses his cool and resorts to bluster, abuse, caricature, and the invocation of authorities who agree with him. *The New York Times Book Review*, for reasons that surpass charitable explanation, gave Michael Behe’s most recent book, *The Edge of Evolution: The Search for the Limits of Darwinism*, to Richard Dawkins for review. Behe is a biochemist, author of *Darwin’s Black Box*, and a proponent of Intelligent Design. Dawkins is an atheist polemicist against religion, holds the ill-named Chair for the Public Understanding of Science at Oxford, and is author of *The God Delusion*. Dawkins begins by saying he feels ‘sorry’ for Behe, whom he describes as the ‘poster boy of creationists everywhere.’ Never mind that Behe is not a ‘creationist.’ No less than three times in the review Dawkins alludes to the fact that Behe’s colleagues in his university’s biology department have publicly distanced themselves from his position. The other biologists at Lehigh University disagree with Behe. It follows that he must be a nut. Further, ‘Behe is taking on Ronald Fisher, Sewall Wright, J.B.S. Haldane, Theodosius Dobzhansky, Richard Lewontin, John Maynard Smith, and hundreds of their talented coworkers and intellectual descendents.’ This is what is known as argument from authority. Just who does this Behe guy, ‘the disowned biochemist of Lehigh University,’ think he is to disagree with the scientific establishment? Doesn’t he know that science progresses by conformity to conventional opinion, as Nicolaus Copernicus, Isaac Newton, and Charles Darwin (!) have taught us. Dawkins’ clinching argument against Behe’s claims about the limits of natural mutation is that different kinds of dogs have descended from the wolf. Dawkins writes, ‘As I incredulously



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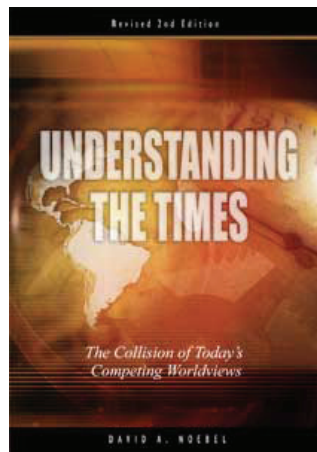
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close this book, I seem to hear mocking barks and deep baying howls of derision from 500 breeds of dogs.' What the reader hears is the mocking barks and baying howls of Richard Dawkins. He says that Behe thinks that God is somehow involved in the evolutionary process, and the author of *The God Delusion* knows that that is madness. All this raises interesting questions about the *Book Review*, which publicly claims to take care that a reviewer has no conflict of interest that would get in the way of a fair treatment of a book. For instance, is the author your brother-in-law?

"Apparently it doesn't matter if a prospective reviewer has publicly and repeatedly heaped contempt on an author and his arguments. This magazine has a different review policy. We will on occasion choose a reviewer who is known to disagree, and disagree strongly, with an author. The purpose is to engage the argument and explain why it is wrong, with the author having a chance to respond. As the editors of the *Book Review* must know, Dawkins cannot engage Behe's argument. It is not simply that he is not a biochemist. He is in principle disqualified because he is a militant atheist committed to a position of scientific materialism in which any reference to transcendent purpose or design is deemed to be delusional, meaning it is the product of a mental disorder. It is hard to know what purpose is served by the *Book Review* in having Dawkins review Behe, except, possibly, to ostracize anyone who presumes to raise questions about prevailing Darwinist orthodoxies and, perhaps, to pander to the smug prejudices of the presumed readership of the *Times*. That does not instill confidence in the Darwinist materialism that they are so desperately defending."

—*First Things*, October 2007, p. 77, 78

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