

Ruminant Covenant - The Sin and Son Kingdoms

Messianic Advent Messages - 1999

or

Slouching toward sheephood - Sin the social disease

15 December 1999

This message builds upon the graphs presented in the Chronicles "Abundant Life" message dated September 8, 1999. It is available on the web site or we will email you another copy if you wish.

I received a message on my voice mail this week that seems to fit very well as a lead for this message. That quotation from Socrates as follows:

I learn nothing from fields and from trees, but I do from people in a city.

Obviously, he was not much influenced by Hebrew literature he learned in cities or at least Psalm 19. He and his fellow Greek or Hellenistic philosophers influence of western culture and also the western church has been immense. Rediscovery of Greek physiology by Thomas Aquinas and others greatly influenced the medieval church and in many ways eventually lead to the Reformation. The writings of the great reformers many times quoted these philosophers's writings in their own works.

If we look at the attributes of the God of the Hebrews and the church, we must believe that this influence was preordained by God, for His glory. If not, He would have sent the Apostle Paul to India and China instead of to Greece and to Rome. Roman domination of Israel at that time, being the eastern boundary of the Roman Empire. We can only conclude that the gospel message in the west, would take hold and multiply in this culture, where as its influence would die out in these other lands.

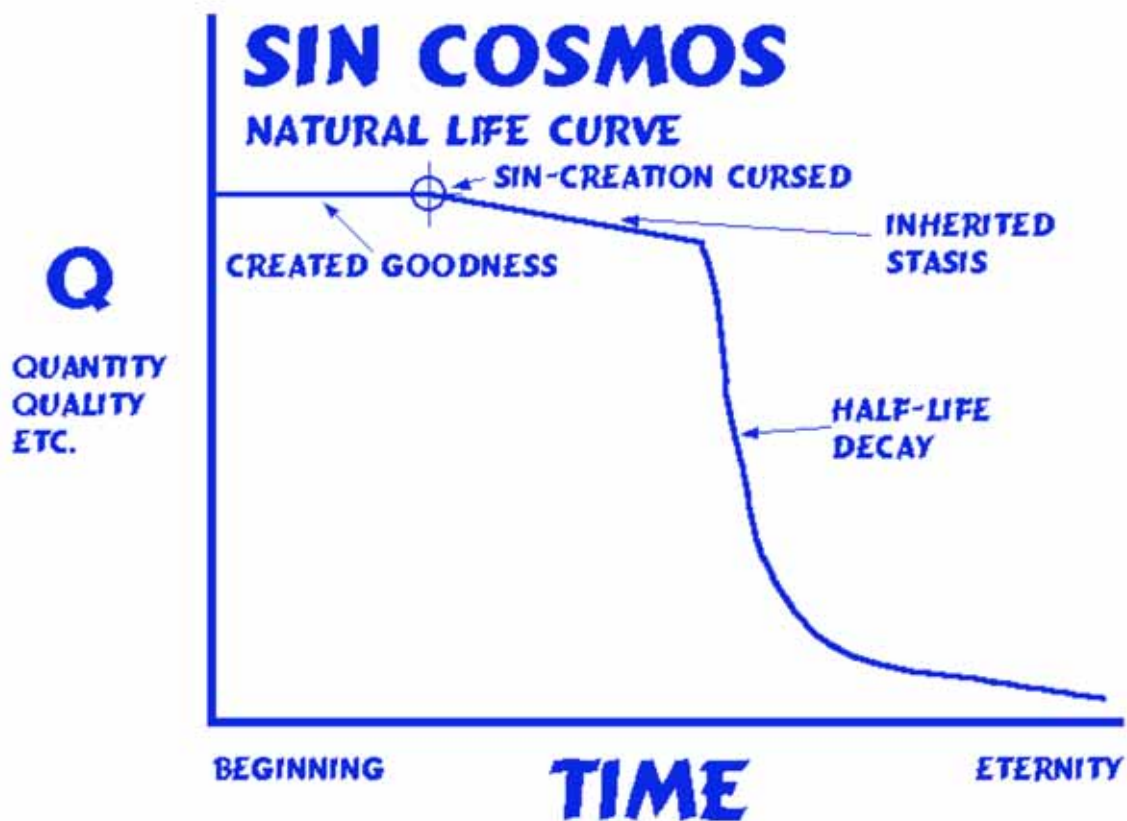
I have been reading recently the "Biography of James Hudson Taylor" the founder of "China Inland Mission". One of the questions he was ask by many Chinese in his early days was, "How long have you known about the message of Jesus and why did it take you so long to come to us?" The ultimate answer must be that western culture and its people in some way have the "grit" to stick out the suffering required to bring the Good News to all nations. Either leading or following but always in conjunction with western exploration of the world, so goes the missionary, bringing the Word of God to peoples who have never heard, to the elect of every nation, that there is hope for forgiveness of sin and eternal life.

It is also true that while all mankind shows the results of the fatal disease of sin, we in the west have made our own self interest into a high art form. This is especially true in this century. The relative nature of "me" seems to be growing beyond any understanding of our educated minds. Perhaps we have gotten too dumb to control our own destiny and we are "Slouching toward sheephood." The recent events in Seattle related to the WTO meetings lend further empirical evidence to this Sin infection.

For a brief update, just encase you do not get any Seattle news: The Seattle Police Chief has resigned. The Mayor apologized in a news conference to the innocent citizens that may have been injured by non-lethal means by the police during the events of the WTO protests. The King County Sheriff (which is now an elected office) got in an argument with the Seattle Mayor in public. Words were exchanged in which the Mayor said something to the effect that he (the Mayor) would take care of him (the Sheriff politically?). The Sheriff held a news conference stating that hundreds of Seattle police officers were wanting to transfer

to the County Sheriff office. Later news reports set that number at around 200. Upset and related citizens met for hours one evening complaining on how they had been abused, mistreated or in some way suffered some indignity during WTO. The FBI also issued a brief statement stating something to the effect, "We told you so! But you chose not to listen!" So on it goes, well beyond even what I could have anticipated. In the light of last weeks concert report, perhaps it is time for some influential group to sing "Get on with it!" or "I'm willing to die for a cause, but I am not willing to die of boredom."

Back to Socrates, the person who left the message and I have been discussing some of the attributes of urban life in the "City of Man" that I do not consider in the best interests of human development. The root of the problem is man's creation of a sin culture, in which the individual is not accountable, or there is no moral absolutes to anything greater than there own self interest thus affecting and infecting all our works. The point being, to redirect Socrates, you will quickly learn alone amongst the field and the trees, that you are not God and as such you also learn that reality exists outside your perception of it. But now we are beginning to wallow in that very Hellenistic philosophy itself. I will also point out, that if you do not know the God who created it all, from His Word, and His Son, Jesus Christ, we will quickly deify those animals, mountains and trees we find in the field. For such understanding we need one another, the community of believers, or Augustine's the "City of God." Now focus for a moment on the following graph of the "Sin Cosmos" The "Sin Cosmos" does not exist in the western Sin culture because it requires a belief in a realty outside natural man's understanding.



"Isn't that a wonderful graph. Even though I created it myself out of my own experiences and nothing else however, I really don't believe its true in my heart of hearts. I know in my heart of hearts, that I'm OK, not a sinner. You, I'm not too sure about, but I do know that if you believed it in your heart of hearts, I would be seeing it in your weekly letter. Hey isn't it great we both agree, it really doesn't fit into either of our concepts of reality. After all a tree falling in the Socrates' forest really didn't make a sound, because neither one of us was there to hear it and we both know that if we didn't experience it we know it is not real. I think

therefore I know I'm real, and you just said you didn't think you came up with this graph, while that does show diminished cognitive skills, you too did admit that you thought, therefore I again must conclude that you must be real too. Unless of course you are a creation of my own virtual imagination. Ah shucks, since I created this stupid graph, it must be real also. So let us briefly examine its attributes, then together we can make a judgment as to its truth. If it is not true, we can then erase it from our video screens and from our minds and then we will never be held accountable for having seen it. I wonder what would happen if where it says "Q" for quantity, we would substitute IQ for intelligence. We sure are smart.

"That Created Goodness garbage, is just some fancy idea I got from reading the Bible. Something like God created it and said it was good. Just a myth of those Jews, they sure are rich and they sure have great imaginations too. Can you imagine coming up with a book like the Bible all by themselves.

"What really disturbs me about their book however, is this Sin concept . All those animal sacrifices. What kind of a God would invent some sacrificial system to take care of eating an apple from the wrong tree and then expecting me to have inherited sin from those Adam and Eve characters. After all we evolved from apes over millions of years, the first woman was named Lucy, I believe.

"Now I really have a problem with that Inherited Stasis part. It shows that we might be getting "stupider" or is that "stupidor" over time. Could it be? We could be slouching toward being a stupid sheep? Bah! Bah! Bah! That would seem to verify the Second Law of Thermodynamics, but how in the world are we ever going to evolve into spiritual beings. Those gnostic gospels you told me about would just end up being fig leafs of our fallen nature. That would mean we are going to have to deal with fields and trees forever and not some spiritual "New Jerusalem."

"Half-life decay is just a farce, by far just too farfetched to hold any truth. Any form of decay doesn't exist in the real world, that I know anything about. It's just not real. It's all a contiguous circle controlled by a force, the force of our faith. Oh, No! Radio active elements don't behave that way do they? It can't be so. Don't talk to me about all that mathematics, its just Greek to me. By the way are those radioactive elements AM or FM, and will that radiation effect my cell phone reception. Look at that however, even though it shows we get really dumb eventually, it looks like we never really go away at all. Could it mean that we could be reincarnated as sheep, or rats or even ants? Well that would be better than spending eternity in hell.

In the concept of the ruminant covenant isn't it wonderful that this is just a conversation that can be created for illustration of something that is all so true, except for the grace of God alone, there speaks you or I. I really do not know for sure if all the attributes of this graph are true, but it sure gives me something to look at and think about, to ruminate upon. Especially during this Advent season. By the birth of Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem, a child is born a son is given. He is the redeemer of man from sin and eternal judgement, something that this graph points out in very graphic detail. By living a sinless life and becoming the perfect paschal lamb, he took away my sin by imputing His righteousness to me a sinner. That same propitiatory sacrifice makes my works, done in His Service, truly sanctified, again because of His imputed righteousness making them Holy just as he makes me personally Holy.

While the Old Testament sacrifices of the blood of goats and lambs served to cover the sin of the people, the Blood of Jesus, the Messiah, whose birth we celebrate this season, takes away my sin, and moves me from the Kingdom of Sin into the Kingdom of Son, from the City of Man to the City of God. The aroma of those Old Testament sacrifices were pleasing to God. Those sacrifices made under the New Covenant are righteous , because of Christ's righteousness and their aroma is holy incense burned in the throne room of God by our High Priest forever in the order of Melchizedek. Amen.

PRAYER PLANTS

I got the literature on the property near Pullman on Saturday. It is even more descriptive of what I was looking for than the ad first showed. As I researched its location and other details, I also discovered that it

fulfilled a couple of silent "fleeces" I had told no one about. With that in mind, Monday I emailed the real estate agent all the "where with all" I can muster. The opportunity that presents, is that God is left to supply the substance to those words in the way only He can plan and make provision. I am free to pursue the move under the grace of God knowing that he will make my many times crooked path straight and narrow.

I know of others I would like to accompany me over there but that will require provision directly from God or through this ministry, not only material, but also spiritual conformation. I learned my management skills in the Army and in the corporation. From that perspective, if there is one thing I have seen in the ministry is too many ministers trying to carry too much of the load themselves. God has given them their ministry and it is up to them not to fail. That goes against the whole restoration and reformation concept of by Grace alone, through Faith alone, because of Christ alone. It also speaks to the proverb that says, "The student can only attain the level of his teacher." In that respect, I defer that leadership to Jesus Christ and want to delegate that authority to His leading either through myself or through others. To put it another way, the "where with all" that I shall provide throughout this undertaking, as earnest as it might be, is just as inadequate for the task at hand as the "where with all" I provided Monday to the real estate agent.

*Hail to the Lord's Anointed, Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, To set the captive free,
To take away transgression, And rule in equity.*

*He comes with succor speedy To those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy, And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing; There darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying, Were precious in His sight.*

*Kings shall fall down before Him, And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him; His praise all people sing;
For He shall have dominion O'er river, sea and shore,
Far as the eagle's pinion Or doves light wing can soar.*

*For Him shall prayer unceasing And daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing, A kingdom without end.
The mountain dews shall nourish A seed in weakness sown,
Whose fruit shall spread and flourish And shake like Lebanon.*

*O'er every foe victorious, He on His throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious, All-blessing and all blest.
The tide of time shall never His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever; That name to us is love.*

J. Montgomery, 1821