



Chronicles of Diversity

Sasquatches & Polar Bears

10 November 2004; Volume 6, Issue 39

For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? 1 Peter. 4:17

That, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, pastors and proponents of spin, sasquatches and polar bears, is not the lead you will read elsewhere in articles, as the dust continues to settle after the celebration anointing the second term of George W. Bush.

For those questioning my reference to sasquatches and polar bears, while we know little about the habits of sasquatches, there is some data available that suggest they, along with polar bears, are the only animals that do not fear man.

Who, or what do you fear? Sasquatches and polar bears, other men, God! Is this just fear, or what would be required to make you terrified?

This fear or terror is truly, what the election of George W. Bush represents to this world. A line of demarcation, not only for those practicing the religions of Babel and Babylon, but also a religious (Christian) establishment which is very comfortable living in the ease and protection of the wealth of Sodom and Gomorra.

The people who practice the religions of this world are terrified because, whether they understand it or not, they see and impending judgment or persecution coming upon their lifestyle, their power, and ultimately their sinfulness.

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Babylonians see more traditionally religious people as monkeys, Neanderthals, and in other condescending terms of religious shysterism. While the liberal elite knows some of the seeds of eternal truth, for even if they reject the premise they were created in the image of God, that does not alter that truth. Still, they clearly see the radical Christian right does not offer the freedom from judgment they seek, just more bondage. So when the Daily Mirror in Britain has on its post election cover, "How can 59,054,087 people be so DUMB? that is exactly what they mean.

Instead of waking up to the headlines, many Christian leaders are instead revamping their Power-Point presentations, God willing to allow them to lead us into the promised land of American spiritual truth. This vision of heaven on earth was one of the religious paradigms that led many pilgrims and Puritans to the New World. And throughout our history it has provided a weak but positive tension with pagan depravity.

So is God willing to share His glory, with glory seeking men?

The answer to that is found in the specific revelation of God, the Bible, but the truth of that revelation is also in complete harmony with natural law and common grace. Well meaning men and women of God, are in for some hard times if they think, all their learning, power and prestige, can in some way override the God imposed natural limits readily discernible to all humanity. That is true for anyone who bothers to look, but self absorption, especially in religion, has all the answers. Thus Peter tells us judgment begins in church, not in Babylon.

Evolution's religion is based upon a misapplication of the law of Natural Selection. In essence that law states, adapt to a changing world or be removed from the gene pool. Evolution teaches that this natural adaptive process can provide quantum leaps in organizational structure. The lie is in the naturalism of the quantum leap, which commonly and specifically (induced and learned) comes from God's design revealed in space, time and matter.

Adapt or perish, or a better description, get with God's program, or you are in a deep swamp dude, defines natural selection.

Open your Bible software and do a word search for terror. Some of the modern paraphrases use terms like "shake with fear" but just see what you find. If you don't have a Bible software program, on the net <http://www.biblegateway.com> will give you access to almost any version you might like to try, in almost any language.

Notice how the context of most of the references have to do with terror of the LORD, or the fear of God.

Everyone has the inherit tendency to try to overcome their fears, with the application of their religious laws to others. That is true whether it is the religion of the liberal elite, Christians, Jews, Moslems, atheists, or even agnostics. We will pull law from almost any source if it helps us justify our stand and quench our fears. The rule of law is what makes us feel secure, which includes all our civil and religious laws.

I was able to get a copy of the movie presentation of "Inherit the Wind," which was made in 1960. and stars Spencer Tracy and Fredric March. For a movie, it is supposed to quite accurately mimic the original Scopes trial held in 1925 in Dayton, Tennessee.

What I found interesting in the movie (and the trial) is the emphasis on the literal days of creation found in the Bible. Even today, most Christians cannot answer this question with any degree of certainty, even if a number of Creation Science ministries have dealt quite well with the issue.

Furthermore, no one seems to know that a statistical analysis of various degradation products found in the earth's crust, allow for the possibility of Bishop Usher's creation in 4004 BC, but make an earth age of 4 billion years utterly impossible.

This problem really is not a difficulty you can blame on the people sitting in church pews however, it is a failure of church leadership. Pastors and other leaders are intimidated by their own lack of knowledge and the mistaken fact that man's reason is somehow scientific, and man's religion always must be a leap of faith. However, all man's religions are really an attempt to codify religious mores (of God?) as a standard of morality. A morality that can be attained.

"How did Cain get his wife?" is never put in the context of "Where did the Big Bang come from?" or "How do evolutionary advancements overcome the laws of Thermodynamics?"

Law can only get us so far, then something else must provide a deeper illumination that the law cannot answer.

The Old Testament passage from which “Inherit the Wind” is based comes from Proverbs 11:29: *He who troubles his own house will inherit the wind, And the fool will be servant to the wise of heart.*

Much of evangelicalism teaches that the Bible is made up of Law and Gospel. The Law is the Old Testament and the Gospel is the New Testament. But if that is so, why do we find both Law and Gospel in this Old Testament verse. In fact, historic Christian theology dating from at least the Reformation finds both law and gospel completely intermixed throughout the pages of scripture.

In the Bible, the Law is there to point us to our need for God’s grace. Likewise in creation, natural law is there to point us to our need for common grace. The real difference in the two, is perhaps natural law is a more in your face reality, making common grace a necessity of life.

Specific law and grace leads you to the grace found alone in Jesus Christ. Natural law shows you there is a God, and common grace emphasizes that you are not Him.

We can develop and learn a profound system of laws. Civil, or religious laws might grow in size and complexity and our ability to quote them. However, we personally can only grow in grace or in depravity, according to the choices we make. In common grace that might be called aging with dignity. The Bible and Christianity has a specific revelation of this, one of which is found in 2 Peter 3:17,18.

You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Turning back to the recent election, look at the picture of the Red (Bush) and the Blue (Kerry) counties for the 2004 returns, such as from the map at USA Today: <http://www.usatoday.com/news/politicselections/vote2004/countymap.htm>

From the map you see that pretty much George Bush won the rural areas, John Kerry won the urban areas. Now, in the red areas, if you take the Indian reservations, which are historically heavily Democrat, and the isolated pockets of transplanted urban dwellers into resort and small urban areas, you will find almost a clean sweep for George Bush. This area is not only rural, but also an area in which virtually everyone must deal on a daily basis with natural law and common grace.

Likewise in the blue urban areas, pretty much the only people who voted for George were, evangelical Christians, Roman Catholics, and Jews who liked his support for Israel. Again, all of these groups in some way confess an understanding, this time of a specific or revealed grace of God.

So in other words, George got his mandate from the people who, either because of their revealed or common understanding of grace, believe that grace is superior to law.

Sad, many of those graceful voters, especially in the blue urban areas, believe that you can and should still promote law as the end of civil society, either through legislation or through the courts, especially at the federal level. They will point to the fact that the eleven anti-gay marriage issues on the ballots past by overwhelming majorities, even in liberal Oregon. What they miss is that most American’s believe that it is a states rights issue. In the order of natural law and common grace, as America’s founding fathers tried to codify in the Constitution, governmental grace must be applied at the level closest to the individual as possible.

What the blue evangelical Babylonian learning has failed to show them is that in natural law, males and females mate. If not the species dies out. No judge in Massachusetts is ever going to change that reality of natural law with a man centered interpretation.

There is no rocket science here, just the fact that if you mess with nature you will quickly learn the first hand application, “Why God will or will not let you into His heaven.” The church is to be the minister of God’s grace in this dispensation, not the heavy handed administrator of God’s, or any law for that matter.

One could argue that all of God’s specific revelation of the Bible is about the covenant of Grace, but that allows no room for self righteous piety. If you take all the grace out of that covenant, who knows, you could end up with John Wesley, or at least his mother being a heretic. But then you have substituted a our law of grace, for God’s covenant of grace.

Grace begins and ends in God, more specifically God's love. Law and legalism doesn't get you there, it just points to your total inadequacy and gives you fear, and in the extreme, terror.

So what is the most terrifying aspect of Christianity, that we have seen dynamically manifest in this election?

It is the love and grace of God, apparent and testifying in the lives of dumb, ignorant, unreasonable, close descendants of monkeys, one of which was just elected the President. Reason cannot even begin to understand this gross stupidity, not on the part of arrogant legalistic Christians, but on the part of God, if he might exist. If there is a God, not why is there evil, but how could you so bless these imbeciles.

If one was truly wise it should scare the hell out of you - - - but if you think that hell is just a figment of irrational religious superstition, you can have a really complex problem with no rational solution at all. We are really dealing with an attempt to rationalize the incomprehensible and that is not supposed to happen. Spock said all must be logical and rational, and I believe it, therefore it must be so.

Following his election, George Bush said he was going to spend his political capital on Social Security reform and Income Tax simplification. These are needs of civil secular society which have their merits and solutions in the application of natural law and common grace.

To the extent the church moves toward embracing God's grace, she will be empowered by God to preach that gospel to the world. To the extent she remains steadfast in the application of religious law to civil society, she will find a refining fire that will make judgment's terror seem a soft word.

We look at this map of the United States and see red and blue counties and political will. Christians should see this election as a great opportunity to demonstrate the love of God to the foolish commoners, by His grace, urban and rural. Something very difficult to see in left and right coast congregations, is the comprehension that the rural people have a head start.

This is not a head start in size, money, anything tangible, or rational, but a daily reliance on God's grace to get through the day. However, urban arrogance is such, even in church, to think its impossible that we could learn anything in the wilderness, especially if it isn't reported on Fox News or on World Net Daily.

Religious people, don't or can't live by grace alone. Jesus in His earthly ministry poured out his harshest condemnation on religious leaders. Throughout most of history, religious leaders have been able to maintain their status and power by making covenants with civil powers and by the mingling of religious and civil law. This desire will now be even more apparent as ministries and pastors give their pitches in person and on the airwaves.

Whether you like the concept or not, this election was about man's poor but still powerful reception of God's grace, specific and common. The red and blue maps demonstrates this truth. Only sasquatches and polar bears will not have some degree of fear of what the future holds, but the specific revelation of the Bible makes it clear who holds the future.

Choices have consequences, but choices based upon law do not allow anyone to overcome the requirements of the law, and rational decisions do not allow us to apprehend the deeper things of life. Many times it must be in art that we find the comprehension we find so difficult to rationally understand. Music is one of those art forms and the words to "How Great Thou Art" gives us an artistic glimpse into what I have been trying to say in this article.

How Great Thou Art

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder
Thy pow'r throu' out the universe displayed.*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou Art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou Art!*

*When thro' the woods, and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze.*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou Art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou Art!*

*And when I think that God His, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in.
That on that cross my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou Art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou Art!*

*When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow with humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou Art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou Art!*

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