



# *The* Wonder Springs Chronicle

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## The Wonder Springs Chronicle

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## *Stupendous Change Leadership Series: Death in the City*

**Breaking News: Sin, not global warming, not terrorism, is the greatest and very eminent threat to a worldwide economic catastrophe! Lengthy report follows.**

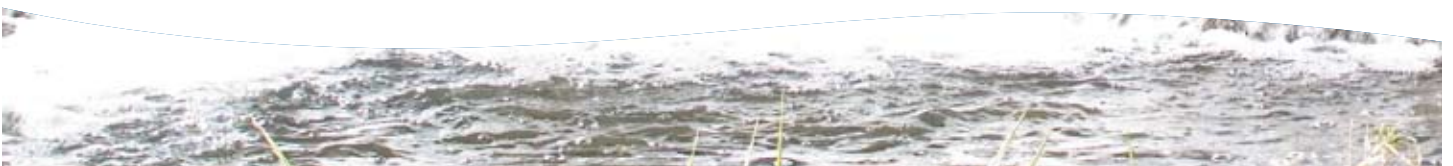
Actually and truthfully, Sin is really not breaking news, it is the oldest news in human culture. However, after reading all the internet Breaking News Headlines this morning, it seemed that a little reality check was in order for our increasingly chaotic world. Therefore, we should begin at the beginning.

It is inevitable when you are writing a series on stupendous change that the topic of the theoretical science of chaos theory appears out of nowhere. A couple of times last week, that random happening sort of appeared. For those unfamiliar with the concept, chaos theory states that even in the background chaotic random noise of the cosmos their appears at certain places a perception of order. Furthermore, for those who truly understand

the mathematics at this level, we should be able to write a mathematical equation s to describe these phenomena.

Of course a more simple explanation is found in the Bible in Genesis 1:1, when in the beginning God created perfect chaos. In street metaphysics that is like stating, "Can God create a rock he can't lift?" Put more in the context of the chaos theory, "Can a perfect God create perfect random chaos, with out leaving a sign of His handiwork in some type of order?"

Moving into the field of theology, the answer to those questions is simply. Yes, He can create perfect randomness or a creation without any trace of His existence, however he has chosen not to do so. This is described succinctly in Romans 1:18 23:



*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man and birds and four footed animals and creeping things.*

That describes the reality of the worldly understanding of chaos, however for those who have been redeemed from the world of sin and death by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and interested in such chaotic things, the “Westminster Shorter Catechism” begins in Question 1 with the answer to this profound tension. Question: What is the chief end of man? Answer: Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and enjoy him forever. The references offered for man’s chief end are found in 1 Corinthians 10:31, Romans 11:36. The answers to enjoying Him forever are found in Psalm 73:24-26, and John 17:22,24.

So as you peacefully sit in the shade of your own fig tree in that eternal state, you can discuss the operational science of the reality of chaos, not the theory of chaos, with genuine friends over a glass of lemonade, from a lemon tree, not from a can. That is I suppose pretty cool, if you are into such things.

Tying this to this Stupendous Change Leadership Series. is probably Francis Schaeffer’s least enticing book, “Death in the City.” In this book Schaeffer begins with the Romans context above and then moves to both the book of the prophet Jeremiah and his Lamentations. If you want to lose sleep at night, this makes watching Al Gore’s inconvenient truth, or studying pandemic consequences, sound like joyous relief.

Written in 1969, Schaeffer draws a striking parallel between the Jerusalem of the Jewish diaspora, and the culture of the west. In the

context of Augustine’s twin cities, Schaeffer points out that both the city of God and the city of man are in for judgment, just as they were judged in Jeremiah’s day. Pretty sobering stuff.

One of Schaeffer’s referenced passages that truly interested me was the context of how Jeremiah truly desired to escape from the city and venture into the desert, or wilderness. What is truly significant in the two Jeremiah accounts are a couple of things, first and foremost is the concept that Jeremiah knows that the destruction is forecast for the city of Jerusalem as the center of the corruption, and though he doesn’t have the resources or the freedom to leave, if he could it looks like he would like to take some of the people who would leave the city with him. But it seems, no one is at all interested.

This Biblical concept is furthermore born out in the destruction of the world in Noah’s day, and the annihilation of Sodom and Gomorra in the time of Abraham and Lot. In those occurrences only God’s chosen as righteous were saved. They were not those, who thought that they were God’s chosen, but God’s chosen born out of the truth of recorded history. Throughout that history, few indeed have asked you sinners to rely on foreign righteousness to save you from yourself. Most, including most Christians, want to convert you to their form of belief, thereby elevating themselves toward a higher class of sainthood, even if that religion be atheism or being agnostic.

In the case of Jeremiah, while he was not taken to Babylon, against his will he was taken to Egypt, another type of biblical Godless place. In all cases, it seems clear if there were any truly repentant within the cities at the time of destruction, they would have been saved by the actions of their feet. However, all of the people chose not to leave and their precious city life perished died .

Also very interesting is the rendering of two of our modern Bibles of Jeremiah 9:2:

*Oh, that I had in the wilderness*

*A lodging place for travelers;*

*That I might leave my people,*

*And go from them!*

*For they are all adulterers,*

*An assembly of treacherous men. NKJV*

*At times I wish I had a wilderness but,  
a backwoods cabin,  
Where I could get away from my people  
and never see them again.*

*They're a faithless, feckless bunch,  
a congregation of degenerates. The Message*

I do not consider myself a prophet, nor am I the son of a prophet. I am basically, a teacher, a coach, and an administrator, as was my father before me. If someone would have told me in my youth I would be teaching coming judgment, I would have surely questioned their sanity. Consequently, I see no reason to stay in the city and prophesy judgment upon unrighteousness. First and primarily because it as already been done by those given the job in God's specific revelation the Bible.

As I teach the Bible, as did both Luther and Calvin, it is in total divided into law and gospel throughout the Old and New Testaments, all pointing to the central proposition, the cross of Christ. This is what Schaeffer did in "Death in the City." In this case he used Jeremiah while prophesying to Jerusalem, to prophesy today to both of Augustine's City of man and City of God.

Furthermore, in these two desert passages we see not the indicative of what can not be changed as absolute, but the imperative of Jeremiah to flee from the judgment and to take others with him. If that were not the case, most of the passages in true Bible translations would not render his statements as does the New King James. The only difference between them all is the use of either desert or wilderness, because in the Holy Land context they are both the same. Those of us in the Northwest have a problem with the desert wilderness, but no problem with the concept of a rain forest wilderness.

Our modern American definition of wilderness is a place that man does not live but only passes through. In our mother earth concept of reality, implied within the concept, is that man should not ever live in the wilderness. If that is true then we should all go back to whence we came from and North and South America would not be inhabited at all, except by

all sorts of wild animals, for humans, no matter how you count time, are quite recent in arriving on the American scene.

Coming back to "The Message" rendering of the passage we see a quite different construct however. The focus is not on a lodging place for travelers, or a retreat center, but a personal, individual hut or cabin. There is no concept of really any community involvement at all. This concept speaks to the perceived sufficiency of one lone man against the forces of nature doing his own survival thing. This really is the dream part of America. Sure we can read stories about mountain men who lived alone never seeing another human soul for years at a time, but for the most part they are only stories told about these men.

The real stories of North America however, is about human communities moving into the land with the intended purpose of living and dying in this wilderness of plenty. That is true for Canadian First Nations, American Native Americans and all the first settlers of the Americas clear down to the tip of Cape Horn. The subsequent invasion by Europeans brought the same systematic movement patterns, just a little more reliance upon technology.

In the spirit of the mountain man living in harmony with nature, we find a similar myth concerning the first peoples, and it carries right down to today. If Native Americans truly were the environmentalists that many claim them to be, they would have turned down both the gun and the horse as foreboding demons of future environmental destruction.

Likewise, in the modern context we would have turned down the concept of huge SUV's and large screen TV's as culprits of the catastrophe of global warming. But thankfully, we have made a significant first step in saving the earth by moving our bottles and cans from one landfill to another, and then step two cutting down water consumption in our toilets from 3 4 gallons per flush to 1.6 gallons. Now after saving the ozone layer by changing the formula of freon, we shall again save the world by altering the earth's natural climate, to promote a totally inconsistent environmental green lifestyle.

What this all shows is that we don't have the will power either as individuals or as communities to really do much about anything except to promote

our own arrogance, and demean everyone else. Thus we become as Jeremiah and Schaeffer, subject to God's judgment. Clearly as the passage in Romans indicates we do this by personal choice, no matter how enlightened our worldview paradigms, either in the eyes of humanity or religion.

Contrary to the wishes of Jeremiah in either case of the passages above, I do have a wilderness hut or backwoods cabin. If you would like to see a picture of it, you can go to the website and look at the Christmas Card last year, it is at the bottom of the Oikos Thoughts category on the side bar. I have resources stashed there and elsewhere, should real stupendous change begin, I can go there or other places and live like a mountain man, only much more comfortably.

However, like Jeremiah, perhaps more so, I have the desire to provide wilderness lodging places for travelers. Like Jeremiah, I do not have the resources to purchase such establishments, basically because I feel that no one thinks that they are really needed. I stay in the city not so much by choice, or as a prophet, but because the reality of our modern world, it is only in the city that there is money to begin to build and finance such traveling places.

As part of that travelers places concept, last week I had the opportunity to focus again upon that preliminary list of such places, for I would like them available within reach of pretty much everyone. That list came out to be a cost of 8 million with about an additional 2 million to put the pieces together in a form that will pretty much pay for themselves should this world's current business model continue to function. If not, they would be really the only place that you can invest for your retirement that might maintain some value at all. That would be an upgraded wilderness hut or backwoods cabin where you might live in community with others.

Just like with a old earth paradigm, multi millions of dollars is very difficult to visualize or to handle when you start with nothing. It is not hard for God, but we may need milestones along the way. In that respect, as in the young earth scenario, we need thousands to begin the organization, promotion, and teaching aspects

of your move to the travelers lodges in Wonder Springs. From my perspective the more thousands the better, because not only is that process organized and prioritized, the more thousands speeds up everything, and hence the probability we will have the facilities available quicker so that they become a true resource for everyone, before that day someone may need them.

Well, The Rapture can occur at any minute and we will forever be with Jesus. That's true, I for one sure hope it is true, because I don't like real catastrophes, disasters, pandemics, terrorist attacks, earthquakes, tornados, fires, and what I left out, well I shall just lump into stupendous change events. Furthermore, for all the history of the church most Christians have believed that Jesus could return at any time at the second coming, just because he is God and this present age is over. Personally, I could really get into the personal fig tree thing right now, I've really had enough of all this. Finally, just think, your own travelers rest would be a refuge to those left behind, complete with a placard explaining your forethought. What a testimony that would be.

However, after having looked at travelers lodging places from Montana to the Pacific Coast and from the Columbia River border with Oregon through Washington, British Columbia to Alaska, there are a lot of those places. That 10 million price tag is just for the coolest, most adaptable to our current paradigm of consumptive comfort, with the potential to be within that comfort ecosystem, somewhat self sustaining with little irrigation liquidity from city finances.

The real question, in the context of Schaeffer's "Death in the City" is why Christians are so heavily invested into worldly security, when pretty much according to all Biblical contexts the world's history is very short, and the world's human civilizations are continually subject to stupendous change events, either through what may be considered judgments of God, or natural acts of God in the insurance sense? The belief that natural worldly insurance or the return of Jesus will be my fall back position really has no basis in real reality, but only in presumption and God's choice, not ours.

Our determinism not only attempts to bring God down to the level of human understanding, but it also relegates mankind to the level of evolved

protoplasm through monkeys. Neither of which have any relevance to the values of true community based upon the absolutes of the specific revelation of the Bible or the common revelation discussed in Romans Chapter One.

I am not a prophet, or the son of a prophet, I am a teacher, coach, and administrator and the son thereof. I can teach you from the specific revelation of the Bible that God judges quickly and righteously those who don't obey His statutes, not because He is cruel, but so that His grace may abound.

I can do the same thing from the common revelation of creation, again so that the beauty of nature can be seen through the impossible weather and other changes that occur rapidly on this planet. These events happen because of what the Bible calls sin. That creation based teaching method began about the same time I started looking for travelers lodging places. At the time I called it Business Ecology. Perhaps in this time of worldly sustainability and greenness it is time to bring back the concept in that form.

I can produce teaching DVD's to watch on your big screen TV, or on the DVD player in your SUV, but that is really not reality. To experience real reality, you must adventure to a travelers place and unwind from the stress of the death sentence of our cities. Temporal and eternal death is what the Bible teaches about this present world.

The world culture has it right, though they see it only through the natural parable of global warming, that the earth is not going to allow unrighteousness to continue, natural law says that is true. At the same time, within the church it is almost impossible to find the absolute truth of the gospel in any form other than a prescription for worldly success.

Schaeffer in "Death in the City" is right about Paul's preaching on Mars Hill in Greece in the book of Acts. In "How Should We then Live." he speaks as should be our cry as watchmen of all cities as found in Ezekiel 33, again like Jeremiah in the city of Jerusalem. "God's people should not live as the world lives!"

If we would like a modern picture of reality, really all we need to do is to look now as did those Biblical prophets, at the city of peace, Jerusalem. Jeremiah wept for his city. Jesus also spoke from the cross about weeping death in the city in Luke 23:28-31, referencing Hosea 10:8, :

*But Jesus, turning to them, said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, "Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!" Then they will begin "to say to the mountains, Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!"' For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?"*

One question seldom asked is, "Why as Christians should we not just ignore the Old Testament, for the grace of God was poured out as an offering for the sins of man on the cross?" But that misses the truth that we are really no different than those Old Testament peoples, and they are really no different than us. Stupendous change has always been used by God to get people to take their focus off themselves and to look to Him as the source of all truth and all that will continue beyond this world. The times have been short, only thousands of years, because it doesn't take all that long for the sins of man to completely lose sight of God's truth.

While the concept, "Use it, or lose it!" is not in the Bible, it still speaks about reality apart from God's path and we will be accountable to Him one day for all our investments.

As like the kitsch saying that is placated on the walls of many Christian homes: "But for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." Joshua 24:15b It is too bad, for most it is only a decorative piece of kitsch.