



# *The* Wonder Springs Chronicle

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## The Wonder Springs Chronicle

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## *Materialism's Evil Glory*

"Holy Cow! Are you saved?"

"Well, if you mean what I am saved from, I suppose I am saved from becoming committed to becoming part of a Quarter Pounder with cheese, or even a filet mignon. Other than that, compared to other cows I have it pretty good, I just walk around all day eating and defecating where ever I want. People just get out of the way and tell me what a Holy Cow I am. Is this heaven on earth or what? Isn't that what all people seek as divine? I mean after all people covet my dry dung and use it for fuel to cook their meals. That's a gift I haven't fully developed yet.

"Well Holy Cow, I think you are right, by your definition this is heaven on earth, and divinity is what most of the world seeks, divinity in your own eyes. But your worldview seems to not answer any of the basic questions of humanity, you seem to be just a captive of this time and place

and your own sin.

"Sin, what is sin? I'm a holy cow by definition. True, I am just more blessed than the other cows of the world, but that is just because where I was born, I have pity on those free range cows in Brazil and their destiny to become the substance of the cheeseburger, but that is not my problem. By the way have you purchased my latest DVD, 'Becoming a Holy Cow, Seven Easy Steps to Peace and Prosperity?' It's only 29.95. Payable by credit card or PayPal.

We could go on and post a few more hours of our conversation with Holy Cow, but from this short clip, in a poll to determine which worldview would best be described by Holy Cow's appraisal of himself, most people would probably respond that Holy Cow describes Christians in general and evangelical Protestants in particular. Most evangelicals



however, would not see themselves in this light. This divergent evidence points to the fact that a Great Evangelical Diaspora as described in last week's article may be in America's future.

However, Holy Cow seems to pretty much exemplify the lifestyle of the modern saint of any religion. He promotes positional ethics from a personal relativistic position, but seems to completely neglect the diversity of the rest of the world, therefore suggesting we should all become, or can become Holy Cows.

This last weekend the United States celebrated Memorial Day. My grandmother always called it Decoration Day. This day began as a way to honor the fallen Union soldiers of our great Civil War, but over the years in reality and tradition this day specifically honors the dead soldiers who gave their life so that this country could maintain it's role of freedom's beacon in the world. Today it has become a day mostly for the season's first serious festival of grilled cows, pigs, and beer.

I don't know if it has happened previously, but this year I noticed among conservative programming a number of remembrances of Ronald Reagan as the leader who against heavy odds and strong opposition gave the West victory in the Cold War with the former Soviet Union. What I found interesting in these tributes was the strong parallel between the actions of President Reagan and now President Bush. It was almost like George had memorized all the Reagan material and tried to implement it precisely in this time with equally positive results.

This week we will look briefly at the similarities between the Reagan Bush mind set and how in the one sense, it seems to have accomplished victory over our foes, and the other, which at least at this time, seems to have deteriorated into a quagmire in the desert and at home.

The 20th century was the bloodiest century in the human history of the world. Among all the wars and repressive governmental regimes killing its own people, it is said that well over 100 million people met an untimely death. What is never told however, is the parallel that

this bloody century also saw the rise, of not a new religion, but the rise to worldwide prominence of the religion of materialism.

Materialism takes two forms, but both are strongly tied to the same underlying paradigm of naturalism, or that everything has a natural explanation. That is not that God is dead, but God never existed, and as a consequence man, in the form of the enlightened, powerful, or just plain evil, can and does control the destiny of the planet.

In the west, in the Cold War sense, this materialism took root in materialistic goods and evolutionary dogma. In the former Soviet Union and under other despots such as Hitler and a long list of others, this materialism manifested itself in less humanitarian ways, such as the mass extermination of anyone who did not fit the ruling elite's concept of whatever they felt important.

We call these dictators evil, but we call the other form of stuff materialism, not evil but the desired evolution of mankind to a higher level of consciousness. It is not that hard to see that Holy Cow is just such a disciple of this westernized version of culture trying to set his own way, without any influence from God or other force. Sin and sinners are not real, in fact they are just vestiges of ancient superstitions that the enlightened no longer need to promote themselves. Human wisdom and enlightenment can be utilized to evangelize others to this same path, provided that they humbly follow, and do not try to lead.

However, if one would look carefully at this paradigm you find no reason for morality or civil order in any sense. Therefore, there are really only two options, either the creation or acceptance of a higher moral power, gods, or God, superior to human understanding, or civil chaos. At the present time the whole world has chosen the moral descent into chaos. Chance evolution truly follows the laws of thermodynamics, not the road to higher consciousness.

The Bible clearly states beginning in the creation account and implied throughout it's pages that God works counter to the laws of thermodynamics, that is from chaos to order. Stated in another way, if mankind would like to have or create a civil society in which people can live good lives in some sort of civil community, this must be based upon God's

principles. This chasm to Godly order, can not be spanned by all the best social engineering of Holy Cow, or holy cows.

Into that context let us look at the Reagan Bush operational plan, its execution, and how one now is perceived as a sweeping victory and the other a great disaster in both leadership and application.

The first thing you should notice about the Reagan Bush plan, is that the opposition to it's application, is really no plan at all, just a benign method of establishing a freedom from social chaos by a ruling elite. When that does not work, the rules just get more strident, until freedom is lost. The socialist democracies of Europe, as well as the liberal class in this country, still promote a program really not that much different in scope than promoted in the old Soviet Union or in China. These types of central planning can either give you unity through force and coercion or diversity of community through the same. They can not because of their very human created nature, provide both unity and diversity simultaneously.

Unity and diversity is the nature of the Christian Godhead, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is only through societies modeled on that Christian concept of the absolute source of all, can true unity exist within true diversity.

The two principles of the Reagan Revolution were a strong national defense and limited government achieved through targeted tax cuts to enhance the established business community and to stimulate consumer spending.

These were greatly successful based on one overriding concept, the inherit sinfulness of man, mankind, or humanity. At the time, the Reagan Revolution attacked centralized planning both in America and in that evil Soviet empire. Into that situation Reagan offered a simple plan of individual freedom without constraints. It worked because while the Cold War got pretty hot, it never became a shooting war, not because of the will of the Soviet leaders, it is that their central planning could not match the economic might of the so called free market place.

The limitations of the Reagan Revolution are not as widely touted however, because

while it did promote personal freedom, it did not provide any concept of the tension that should exist between individual freedom of self determination and that individuals responsibility to the greater community as a whole. In short, if you had access to some sort of capital, were somewhat fiscally and morally conservative, were reasonably well educated and somewhat intelligent, you could become wealthy beyond your families previous position in life. On the basis of wealth alone, your status was established and assured as long as you did your penitence.

It sounds really good until you have to pay for that self indulgence and the lack of community responsibility a couple of decades down the trail. As we have stated in some of our economic articles, trickle down economics does not work, because the liquidity has already trickled into the oceans of the capital pool of financial institutions. Within this ocean there is no concept of a way or a need to distribute that liquidity back to where economic growth really takes place, that is in risk capital.

So a couple of decades down the trail enter in George W. Bush, with a contemporary evangelical Christian concept of personal peace and affluence and the bible of Reagan's success. Then enter the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on New York's World Trade Center. Open up the Reagan legacy, first and foremost you must confront this evil, by not only words but actions.

While the Cold War was taxing in many ways, the concept of mutually assured destruction kept the troops in their garrisons and the nuclear arms in their bunkers. Sadaam Hussein, didn't have those destructive resources, but he must have been intent on getting them, and Iraq has the only remaining reserves of oil that are not now completely quantified.

At home in America, individual personal affluence is now really the religion of the land. Since Reagan, mergers and acquisitions have become the major way to shuffle the trickled down capital pool. This is especially true in the energy sector, because domestic production of oil has been declining before Reagan took office, and as a consequence there really is no incentive to invest in energy in this country, because all alternatives do not either give the returns required or are too risky to global corporations who's only operating principal is

financial remuneration of elite managers, cloaked in the guise of stockholder equity.

Reagan's leadership understood that he was fighting an enemy more materially evil than America, but he still engaged the American public in the concept of victory would require sacrifice on the part of all. The war with Iraq really was not to be a war at all, because it was assumed that no sacrifice would be required. What was really misunderstood by the Bush team is that the moral high ground that Reagan truly held, may have no longer been the case.

The mystical War on Terror, Iraq front, could be fought with off the books financing, with a professional military of peasants, and would be over in no time. Contrary to the Domino Theory that got us involved in Viet Nam, now the Democracy Theory would provide peace and stability to the Middle East and the world for generations to come.

So what really happened? Times have changed and Bush's leadership, based upon personal peace and affluence, may be the world of the Religious Right of his base, but it is still based upon a paradigm or a worldview that natural materialism is the truth of the land and of the world. Spun in all and any type of Christianese you would like, modern American evangelicalism does not require a Savior from the curse of sin and death. Modern evangelicalism requires just a good moral teacher, not all that different but slightly inferior to the role of Jesus in Islam.

In that similar light, most of the so called leaders of the western world believe that national sovereignty is just an evolutionary appendix to true global security. Non believers are classed in this religion as infidels. I suppose Bush II's allegiance to this concept flows somewhat from Bush I's ideal of globalism. However, the Bible clearly states that instead of leading to materialism's glory, it becomes at the end of the age the evil that is eventually destroyed. As we have stated in earlier weeks, the divorce of authority from the power stemming from the people below will not succeed over the long term. If you dare question that truth all you need to do is to look at the civil war in Iraq, the conflict in Afghanistan, and the ignored carnage in the

Sudan.

Closer to home, actually at home, the current conflict over immigration reform is just a prime example of this authoritarian elite trying to tell the peasants, serfs, and slaves, some of them who are illegal immigrants to the United States, that this deal is good for all. Part of that being true, because hard working Mexicans can't make a living with the US exported NAFTA job wages in Mexico.

So is there hope? The real hope is found not in materialism at all, but in the God that perfectly created a world which models the totally unique nature of Unity in Diversity, the nature of God Himself.

You can hear about the god of personal peace and affluence in so called evangelical Christianity. You can also hear about this type of empowerment in any number of secular sources. You heard about it briefly earlier in this article, in the words of Holy Cow. Holy Cow had a different savior than the historic Christian savior, because that Christian Savior does not elevate mankind to godliness, that God comes down to earth and redeems us just as we are, freely because God's true grace is too precious for us to receive any other way.

Last week we wrote about the Great Evangelical Diaspora. Just as with the many Old Testament diaspora, including the Jewish Diaspora, these events didn't need to happen, they happened because God's people gave up their birthright and exchanged it for temporal blessings of essentially personal peace and affluence. As a consequence God took away that peace and affluence and scattered them all over the world.

For a few more days I still live within a Sabbath day walk to three Jewish synagogues. What I have learned from them in my years in this neighborhood, is that in America they now have the same personal peace and affluence we all now share, but they now carry the understanding that their community strength still falls far short of God's promises and the birthright their ancestors betrayed, with some help from atheistic materialism's greatest disciples.

That Jewish fulfillment will one day come when they realize that a peasant Jewish carpenter from Galilee, truly was and is Messiah. God became flesh and dwelt among us and provides a way for God to

restore that eternal blessed state to a lost and dying world. Through the Cross of Christ, as God in human flesh, and his bodily resurrection from death, we have that witness. To not accept that witness as God's truth is nothing more than damnable evil glory, and will be eternally executed at the conclusion of this age, or maybe as you travel the path of the Great Evangelical Diaspora.