

Hays Mill church of Christ

21705 Hays Mill Road Elkmont, AL 35620 In Charles Colson's unsettling book Against the Night, he writes: "We sense that things are winding down, that somehow freedom, justice, and order are slipping away. Our great civilization may not yet lie in smoldering ruins, but the enemy is within the gates. The times seem to smell of sunset. Encroaching darkness casts long shadows across every institution in our land."

I try to convince myself that Colson is wrong, that we're not as bad off as he claims, but the evidence is too blatant to ignore. Of one thing I'm sure: the America I now live in is not the America I grew up in. Things once thought nailed down are coming loose. Our work ethic, innovative spirit, liberty, and decency are slipping away. And as Dr. Thomas Sowell observed, "Perhaps worst of all, much of the degeneracy of our times is not merely tolerated, but celebrated."

How did we get here? How have we moved so far-morally, spiritually, and politically-from where we once were as a nation? It didn't happen overnight, and for an answer, I would point to the explanation given bv the and jurist theologian John Warwick Montgomery who, in his book The Shaping of America, traces the problem back three centuries.

In the 18th century, the Bible was killed. "Deism," a popular philosophy of the time, didn't deny the existence of God but denied the Bible was the word of God. The deists claimed that man, simply by observing the world around him and by using his innate reason, could determine right and wrong and good and evil completely apart from the Bible. [Even some] of the founding fathers, such as Thomas Paine, Jefferson, Franklin, et al., were deists.

In the 19th century, God was killed. When philosophers looked at the world in the nineteenth century, they didn't see "nature's God" (of whom Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence), but "the survival of the fittest." They saw a situation in which might made right. It was in this century that Nietzsche coined the phrase, "God is dead." Having killed off the book that reveals God, man then killed off God Himself. And without God, man was free to formulate his own ethical and moral standards.

In the 20th century, man was killed. Listen, whenever morality and ethics are subjectively determined by man rather than God, it always happens that morality is determined by the strongest man around. Hitler, Stalin, Mao, et al. exemplified this. They believed they had the right to determine and impose their own moral standards and decide who should live and who should die. Consequently, there was greater destruction of man by his fellows in the twentieth century than in all of recorded history to that point.

And it doesn't seem to be getting any better. If the darkness is casting long shadows across our country, maybe it's because we've turned our back on the One who calls us to love and mercy and service.

Historical & Literal

By Cougan Collins

Those who attack the authenticity of what the Bible says about creation will say that Genesis 1-11 is mythology. In other words, they say it did not really happen and it is nothing more than a fairy tale. They understand if they can convince people that it is mythology, they can destroy the credibility of the Bible and promote their manmade teaching of evolution with its billions of years.

Let's see what the Bible says. In Matthew 19:4-6, Jesus quotes from Genesis 1 & 2 as being true. In John 8:44, Jesus called Satan the "father of lies" referring back to Genesis 3:4. In Matthew 23:35 Jesus spoke of Abel in Genesis 4:2-10 as a historical person. In Matthew 24:37-38, Jesus spoke of the Flood of Noah in Genesis 6-9 as a historical event. If Genesis 1-11 is a myth, then Jesus was mistaken in all of these instances.

In 1 Corinthians 11:8, 12, Paul states that man was created first, then woman just as Genesis 2:18-23 states. In 1 Timothy 2:13, Paul called Adam & Eve by name, and in Romans 5:14 he says, "Death reigned from Adam to Moses." In 1 Corinthians 15:45, Paul says, "The first man Adam became a living being." If Adam was only a mythological character, then everything Paul said is false. In 2 Corinthians 11:3, Paul says, "But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted." I am afraid many minds have been corrupted by believing that Genesis 1-11 is nothing but a fairy tale.

The New Testament shows that the first 11 chapters of Genesis are historical and literal. In fact, more than 100 references in the New Testament refer back to the first eleven chapters of Genesis. Besides this internal evidence, there is ample proof of the global flood as described by the Bible because over 100 cultures historically record a global flood. Also, the fossil record proves that every mountain on earth was covered by water. For example, marine fossils have been found high in the Himalayas, the world's tallest mountain range. When one begins to examine the internal and external evidence of Genesis 1–11. one will be overwhelmed with proof that the Bible is true and not mythology. 📖

» Remember in Prayer «

Our sister, **Bernice**, is back in the hospital, but I don't have more information... **Tim** apparently suffered a concussion last week after his wheelchair fell, but he is doing better now; **Stanley's** brother-in-law **Mark Horton** is doing much better after having suffered from blood clots; and Joyce Smith's daughter-inlaw is Kelly King is recovering from surgery. Please continue to pray for Lois Adams, Madelene Britnell, Carolyn Dennis, Tim and Dot Hice, and Polly McNatt...