

Education: The Battle Field between the two Kingdoms



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Our homes, churches and schools are battlefield

- We live in a day when there is a great war going on in the society in which we live. There are many battlefronts and aspects to the war, but the primary war in our day is between Christianity and secular humanism.
- Secular humanism is a religion and a philosophy of life which views man as the supreme being of the universe. It rejects the existence of God and the supernatural. It sees moral values as relative and changing and varying from person to person.

We need to be wisdom and spirit of discernment

- It is important for every Christian to know the subtle ways that secular humanism is manifesting itself all around us.
- It is important for us to make decisions on a daily basis that demonstrate that we have not been captured, to any degree, by this intoxicating and persuasive philosophy and religion. The following chart is in no way comprehensive. But it may help us recognize some of the most significant differences. We must make good choices!
- ***"See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ." (Colossians 2:8)***

The problem

Let us look at the enemy's style of service

Humanist manifesto II

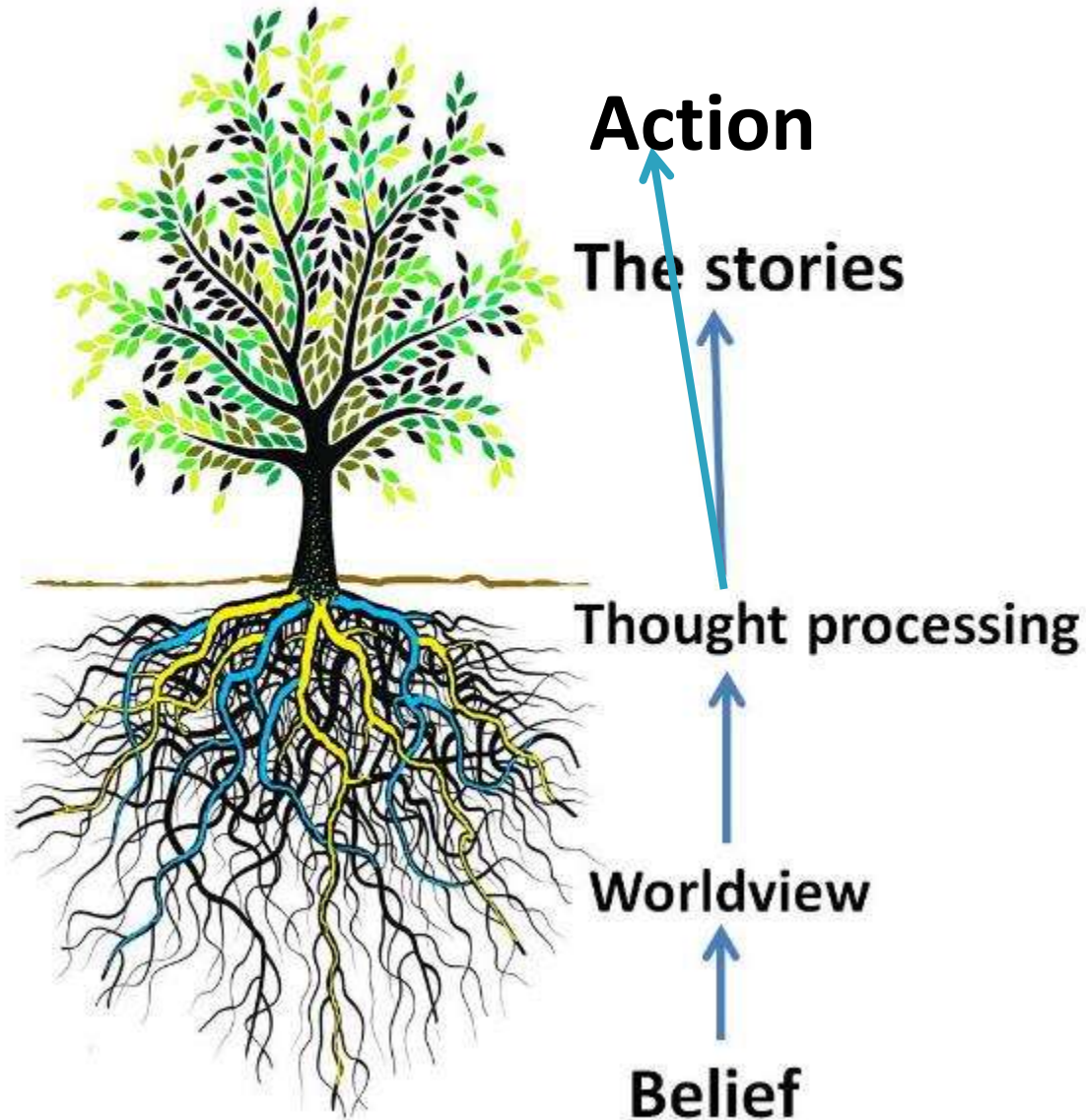
The questions

The questions we must ask ourselves as Christ's followers are:

1. What is our view of God?
2. What is our view of man?
3. What is our view of creation?
4. What is your view of self

Our answers to these four questions shapes our belief system, worldview thinking and everything we do.

The Power of Stories



STORY is our creation of reality; indeed, our lifestyle is based on what

you were **told**,
accept,
believe



oh gosh



almost furgot to be ebil today

Since the fall wherever man is placed by God, is always longing to worship

1. **Animism** is the belief that spirits inhabit animate (living) things. (**worship of spirits**)
2. **Pantheism** is the belief that nature is identical with divinity or that everything composes an all-encompassing, immanent God (**worship of God's creation**)
3. **Secular Humanism**, as Julian Huxley has said, is a religion without revelation. Its source is man; its values and ideals are man-centered. (**worship of man**)

We are all worshipers: Who do you serve?



We are all worshipers

“Human beings by their very nature are worshipers.

Worship is not something we do; it defines who we are. You cannot divide human beings into those who worship and those who don't. Everybody worships; it's just a matter of what, or whom, we serve.”



The Bible is
one unfolding story
of God's promise fulfilled in
the first and second coming of Jesus



Listen to a challenge from a Hindu Scholar

“I find in your Bible a unique interpretation of universal history, the history of the whole of creation and the history of the human race. And therefore a unique interpretation of the human person as a responsible actor in history. That is unique. There is nothing else in the whole religious literature of the world to put alongside it.”

Badrinath (Hindu scholar)

“I can only answer the question “What am I to do?” if I can answer the prior question “Of what story do I find myself a part?”

Alasdair MacIntyre

“The way we understand human life depends on what perception we have of the human story. What is the real story of which my life story is a part?”

Lesslie Newbigin

God's Grand story is the true story of the world

If we play this story as drama, it will have seven Acts:

Act 1. God establish the Kingdom: Creation

Act 2. Rebellion in the Kingdom : Interruption (Fall)

Act 3. The Promise

Act 4. The Fulfillment in Jesus,

Act 5. The Ecclesia: the new community

Act 6. The Day of the Lord, and

Act 7. The New Creation.

These Acts proceed gradually and build up a much larger story enables readers to hear the powerful symphony of Scripture.

Act One: Creation (Gen. 1; 2),

- The creation story constitutes a “preamble” to the grand story.
- It tells about the good creation God had made, one with no hint of evil or deficiency (Gen. 1:31).
- All was harmonious; the Sabbath rest of God and His creation is the expression of this harmony.

Act Two: The fall of humanity

- Then the narrative enters into a new stage, when the serpent deceived humanity by lying to them about God and their dependency upon Him (Gen. 3).
- Something went horribly wrong. As a result of the Fall of humanity is exiled excluded from participating in the Creator's presence (vv. 22–24).

Act Three: Promise

- But then in the middle of the Fall story, a promise is given to Adam and Eve (v. 15) to undo the serpent's lies.
- This promise will be fulfilled through the woman Seed.(Jesus Christ)
- With the appearance of Abraham (the first sub stage of), the story narrows down.
- We can now see how God through His grace advances the promise specifically through the family of Abraham (Gen. 12; 15; 17).

The promise continue

- When the nation of Israel enters onto the scene in the book of Exodus, it is the collective seed of Abraham.
- Faithful to the covenant promise, God hears their cries and redeems them from slavery and all oppression (Exod. 3:20).
- With the appearance of David and his kingdom, the narrative narrows down once more.
- David receives an extraordinary promise, which sits firmly on all the previous promises, but also sets out a new agenda for the kingdom theme (2 Sam. 7; cf. Gen. 17:6, 16).

Act Four: The coming of King Jesus Christ

- Then the grand narrative enters into its central stage in the New Testament Gospels.
- Jesus is immediately presented as the promised Descendant of Abraham and David (Matt. 1:1).
- His life, ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension are all part of the “great exodus” from the continuing exile in which humanity has been ever since the Fall (Luke 9:31; John 8:33–36).
- He deals with more than one nation’s problems; He addresses the problems of all humanity.

Act Five: Ecclesia (Church): The community of believers

- However, the narrative does not end with Jesus' death, resurrection, or even ascension. Immediately after His ascension, a new stage opens.
- The people of God are once again reestablished , and now with a new disposition of hearts towards God—is relaunched as a new community (Acts 2–4, 10; Rom. 3:28, 29; 9–11).
- People become part of the new Israel, not through national or blood connections with the seed of Abraham anymore, but through the faith connection with the Seed.
- Jesus is now the promised Davidic King and in charge of humanity (Rev. 5).

Act Six: The Day of the Lord

- The Day of the Lord effectuates the final great exodus of all humanity.
- Now the big questions are answered.
- Questions regarding God's character and His dealing with evil are of interest to the whole universe and must be dealt with and answered on the basis of the evidence.
- Stage six it addresses the evil by unmasking the lies of the serpent, his character, and consequently justifies God's reign and His people (Rev. 12–20).

Act Seven: The New Creation

- Only after this, the narrative finally arrives at the last stage, the New Creation phase (Rev. 21; 22).
- This is where the curse ends, where sin, death, and all evil are no more.
- Everything is created anew. With the curse of the Fall reversed, humanity continues its eternal journey with God.
- But the earlier stages are not forgotten either; they are immortalized through the names of the 12 tribes of Israel written on the gates and 12 apostles written on the foundations of the New Jerusalem as an everlasting reminder of God's infinite faithfulness to His creation.

“The whole point of Christianity and Christian education is to tell, teach and learn God’s grand story which is the story of the whole world.

To let the world know that the Bible story is a public truth.

(N.T. Wright)

Problem!

- Many Christians read the Bible in a fragmented style, not as one dynamic narrative.
- If our christian teachers do not read the Bible, they will struggle understand that “all good instructions start on the basis of faith. »
- Faith and learning cannot be integrated as they were never separated.
- When we separate them we deny that the Bible is about God’s Grand story of life

All of human life is shaped by some story...

“...If the Bible is fragmented into little bits...

...then it will be absorbed into our cultural story...

...Our whole lives will be shaped by our idolatrous cultural story rather than the story of scripture! (We are conformed to this world.)” Bartholomew and Goheen

Christian educators need to understand that teaching is to tell and live the story of our Kingdom

- Our story is about our **King Jesus** and **His Kingdom**
- We are ambassadors of God's Kingdom on earth
- The questions are :
 - Are we telling the story?
 - Are we really living the story of God's Kingdom?



Our task as God 's children

- Our task not just to tell but to live out the story and model God's self-giving love in creation through our life, and our vocation.
- Our story of Christian education need to point at the reality that is best described in the biblical language that God created the Universe, their are sustained, redeemed and to be renewed by the living God.

We need to understand that:

both Christian and secular education systems are designed with the purpose of answering the following question.

1. How did humans and everything else come into existence?
2. What is Human?
3. This is the major cross road of secular and Christian education

Unfortunately, the only explanation you will find in different governments curricular and university textbooks is the theory of evolution.

Yet, no scientific, provable evidence supporting the theory of evolution has emerged since Charles Darwin popularized it in 1859.

Through out the globe education is used as an instrument to advance evolution theory

The education of the day is unable to answer the following questions:

1. Theological Questions (Questions about God, His creation and humanity)

Theology ask question of ultimate reality and meaning that transcend humanity and creations e.g questions on the ultimate origin of life.

- How did humans (and everything else) come into existence?
- Who am I?
- Where am I coming from?
- Where am I going?

(Gilkey Langdon: The maker of haven and earth)

2. Philosophical Questions

Philosophy and Metaphysics ask mundane question of reality - questions of meaning of purpose that lies behind the two realities humanity and creation.

- What is real?
- What is true?
- What is good?

Scientific questions

Science ask questions of causal relationships that constituent parts of creation.

It deals with cause and effects. it also deals with laws of creation

Good scientific question can be tested and provide with provable evidence.

- ❖ What is the universe made of?
- ❖ What atomic elements make up stars?
- ❖ What causes grass to turn brown during the summer?

Science always deals with law of creation

The sphere of domain

Theology depends so much on the being of human

Philosophy depends so much upon human reason,

while science depends so much upon the human senses and

The great school curriculum shift

- ❖ Historically, the school curriculum was based on four foundations, but as time goes on the secular world intentionally removed Biblical/Theology out of school curriculum foundation and the emphases slowly shifted from four to ordinary three foundations.
- ❖ The Theological foundation is theocentric base of our existence, was moved to a human centre base which is always shaky and unstable.

School Curriculum foundations

1. Study of God and his creation

(Theology)

1. Study of learner and learning theories

(Psychology)

2. Study of life, people and culture

(Sociology)

4. Study of nature and value of
knowledge (Philosophy)

The shift removed the Christian story from school curriculum

- ❖ The church regarded it as normal and removed its self from teaching to preaching
- ❖ If our story is removed from our children's classrooms, what are they hearing?
- ❖ Remember , our story define our reality, our ambassadorial role as truth teller, who we are and our destiny.
- ❖ Remember our story tells our purpose of life, the truth and action
- ❖ Our Christian story is the blue print for the future of our children (Deuteronomy 6:4, Psalm 78)

Remember, the Biblical story is the main story of life it has no parallel

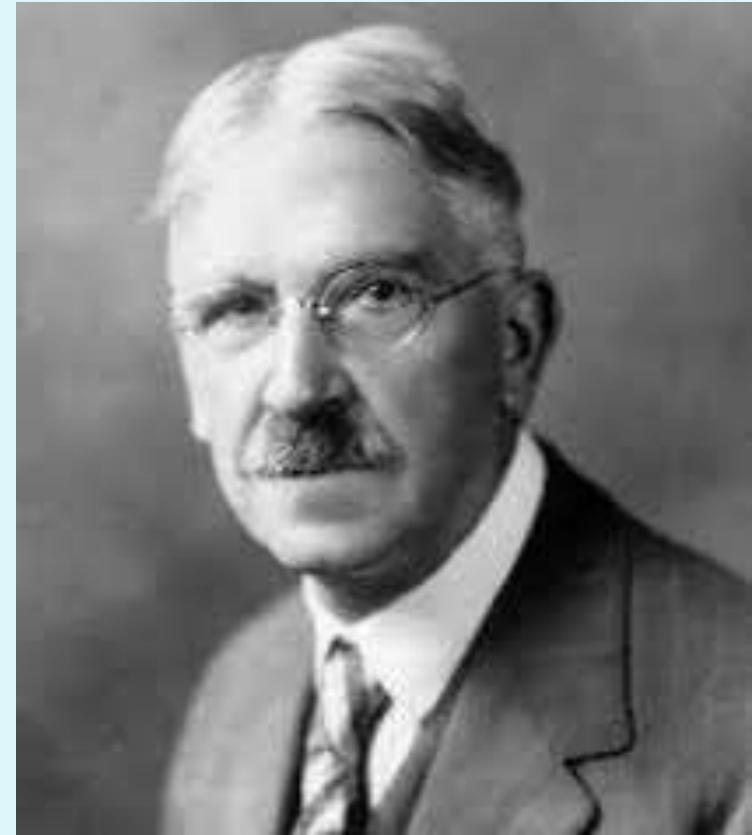
- ❖ Our Christian story is part of our very being.
- ❖ Humanists have stolen our opportunity, they are telling our children their own story.
- ❖ Remember, “Until the Story of the hunt is told by the lion, the tale of the hunt will always glorify the hunter.”
- ❖ There’s a saying in the Jewish tradition that if storytelling is a journey, sacred story telling is a pilgrimage—a pilgrimage to a place called **HOPE**.
Andy Fraenkel.

The Humanist agenda of moving Christianity out of education system

- On 12 September 1905, a group of Americans met and gave birth to an organization called Intercollegiate Socialist society, their plan was to design “education for a new social order”
- In 1921 the name change to “a league for Industrial democracy
- In 1933 They met at Manhattan in New York and develop their first **Humanist manifesto**
- In 1941 John Dewey became the league’s president.
- The league prepared the ground floor of Enlightenment, which eventually rejected revelation based faith.

Dewey, the most influential shaper of the public schools in America,

- ❖ Educational leaders like John Dewey saw the public schools, often called the "common" schools, as the mechanism for indoctrinating children into a new democratic faith.
- ❖ John Dewey, understood that the success of his effort would require children to be liberated from the prejudices and values of their parents.



The battle of mind

Secular Humanists

- Adolf Hitler claimed, “Your child belongs to us... give me control of education; give me the mind of the children and in one generation I will give you the fascist super-state”. His philosophy destroyed Germany.
- Joseph Stalin said, “Give me the mind of the children and in one generation I will create for you the ideal utopian dreams of Marx and Hegel.” This destroyed Russia. The state began to embrace and express ‘the philosophy which is contrary to scripture.

Muslims agenda is the CHILD



God gave them to us to prepare them for Him

- To achieve this goal will need our togetherness, our oneness, our unity.
- It will need our Churches, Universities, schools and business communities to work together.
- Unity is paramount! Unity will win the day! Thomas Manton (1620-1677)

Remember, their future is in our hands



The view of God:

Secular Humanists believe that nature is all that exists - the material world is all that exists. For them there is no God, no spiritual dimension, and no after life.

The atheist Steven Hawking declares “We are each free to believe what we want and it is my view that the simplest explanation is there is no God.

No one created the universe and no one directs our fate.

This leads me to a profound realization.

There is probably no heaven, and no afterlife either.

We have this one life to appreciate the grand design of the universe, and for that, I am extremely grateful”.

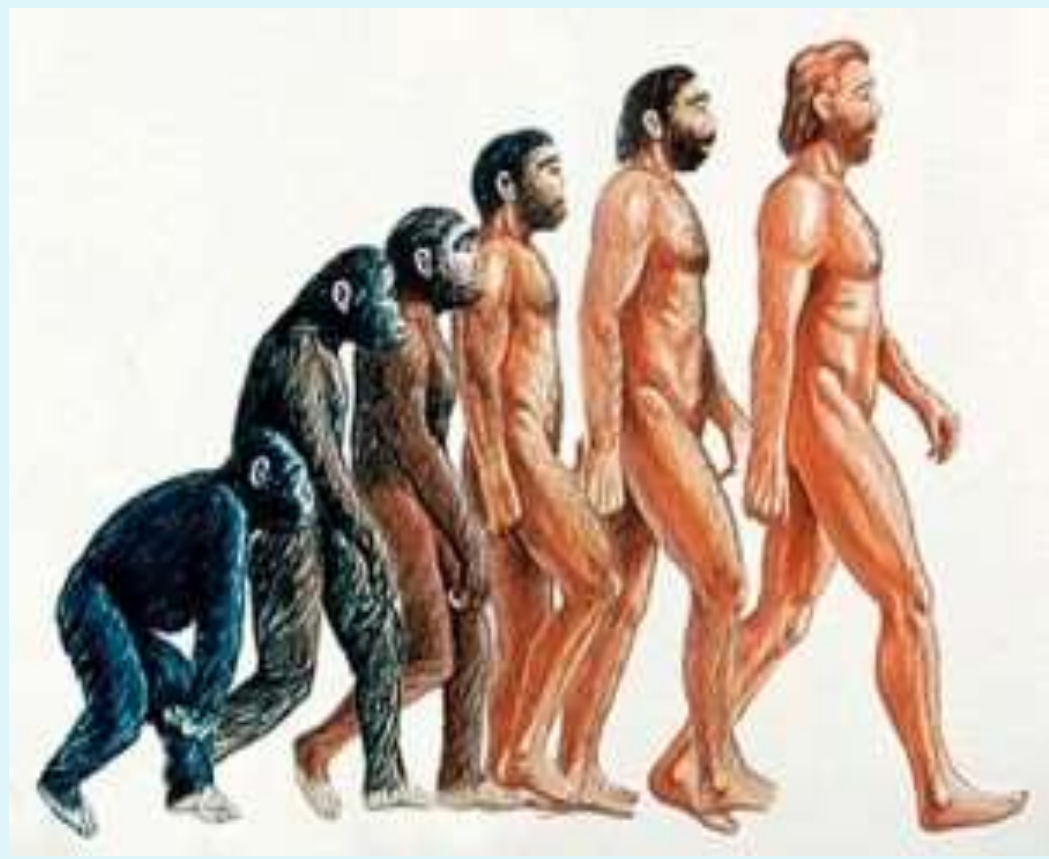




Evolution is a myth

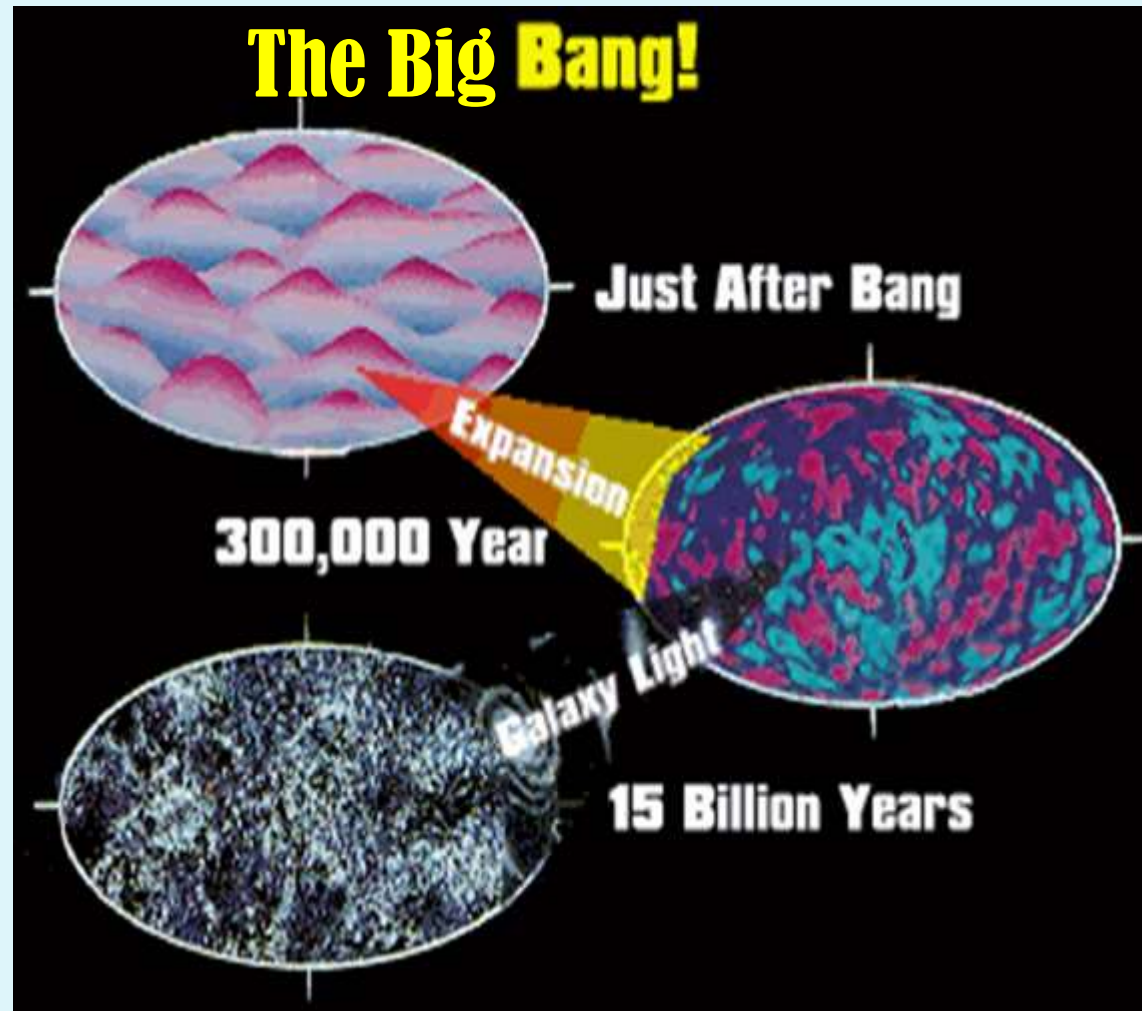
The view of man:

The humanists believe in *evolution*. Julian Huxley, for example, insists that "man ... his body, his mind and his soul were not supernaturally created but are all products of evolution."

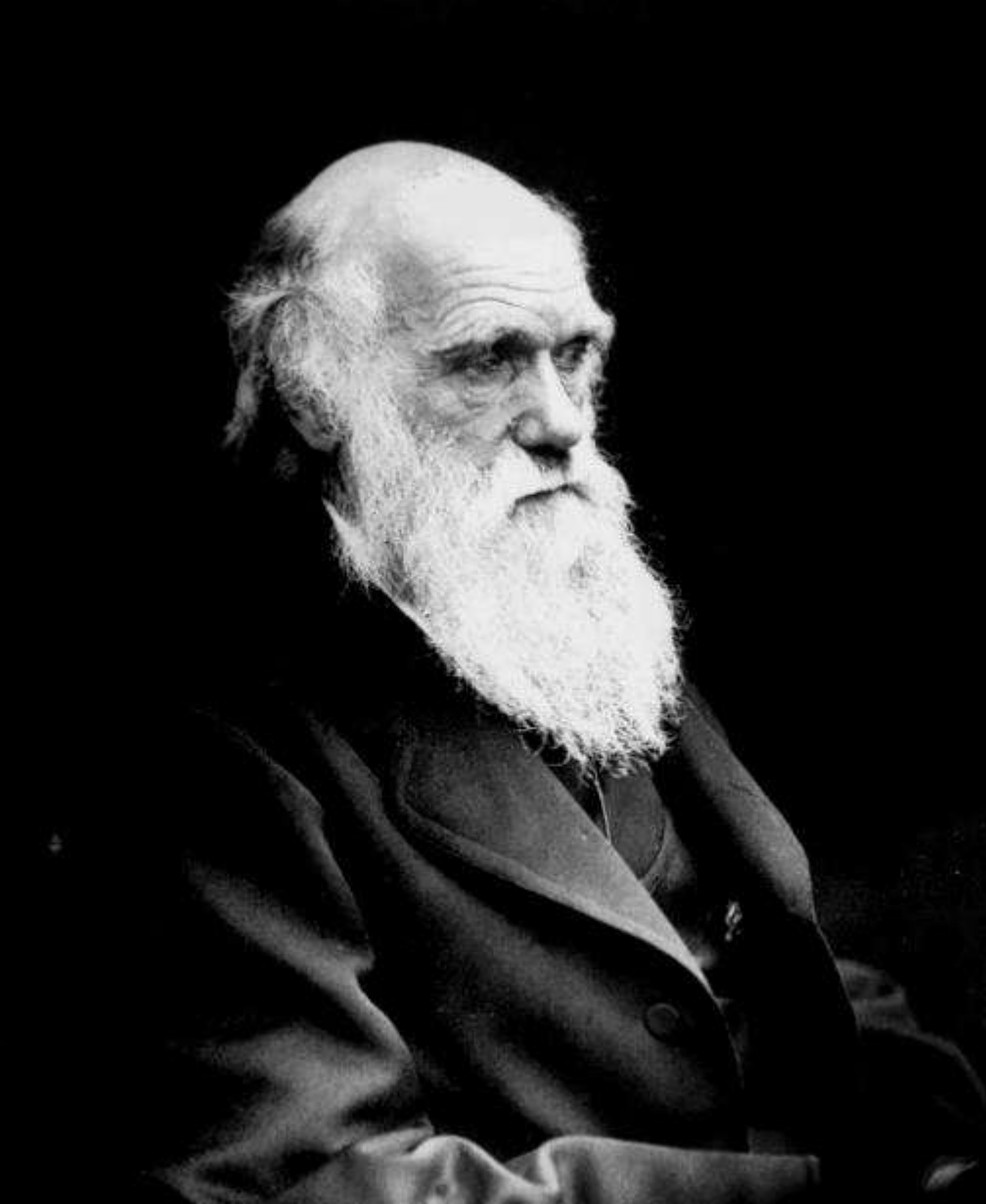


The view of creation:

When the scholar shifted from God centred to man centred theology, they started to believe that the universe formed from a “big bang” billions of years ago.



Charles Darwin the architect or of evolution



The popularity of Darwin does not come from his science, but his theology.

Darwin's dilemma

- Darwin's failure to resolve the tension between faith and science both personally and as theologian and a professional scientist has had a lasting effect upon scientific endeavour throughout the world.
- In 1879 he responded that he had never been an atheist in the sense of denying the existence of a God, and that generally "an Agnostic would be the more correct description of my state of mind."
- He went as far as saying that "Science has nothing to do with Christ.
- "As for a future life, every man must judge for himself between conflicting vague probabilities."

Three fatal flaws in evolutionists

Evolution is full of unsolved problems. Evolutionary scientists always seem to be on the brink of making major breakthroughs in evolution, but never quite get there.

1. There is no known scientific law that allows something to evolve from nothing.
2. No scientific law can account for non-living things' coming to life.
3. There is no known scientific law that would allow one kind of creature to turn naturally into a completely different kind.

The war is declared!

March on the soldiers of Christ



II Timothy:4:6-8



How do we put Biblical foundations back to its place in ?our schools?

Genuine knowledge is something created and upheld by God.

It is inevitably demand from human beings a response to the God who speaks to us in His creation.

True knowledge reveals itself, in the love of God, fellow human beings and his creation.

In other words “I discover my fellow human being through the love of God that I discover the created reality (Stuart Fowler).”

Education is a Spiritual Battle Between the two Kingdom

- ❖ To allow secular humanists to push God and His creation out of school curriculum was suicidal mistake on the side of the church.
- ❖ The church allowed the Humanists to call the theology old and outdated and to call secular humanism new and relevant.
- ❖ I am convinced that the battle for humankind's future must be waged and won in our Christian University lecture hall and Christian schools' classrooms.

The battle is not lost

This is a war we cannot afford to lose.

- Gresham Machen warned, if the Church loses the intellectual battle in one generation, then evangelism would become immeasurably more difficult in the next generation.
- But if we do not preserve the truth of our own Christian heritage and doctrine, who will do it for us?
- If the *Church* does not treasure her own *Christian* truth, then it will be lost to her forever.
- Christian youth are intellectually assaulted by every manner of non-Christian philosophy conjoined with an overwhelming relativism

We are the church(the body Christ)

- “You also are living stone, are being build up as spiritual house ! Peter2:5
- The church has a legislative capacity, Ecclesia the governing body. Ephesians 2
- The Church exist to advance Kingdom Matthew 16: 18
- We have the full authority Matthew 16:19

We have the privilege to provide an alternative model for the world order

- What a privilege! What an honour!
- To be part of God's great move.
- To be called to be His ambassadors.
- To be part of the team that is preparing the coming of the King

PREPARING THE COMING OF THE KING

- Zechariah 9.
- We are living in a day when God is setting Hebrew philosophy, advocated by sons of Zion, the church, against Greek philosophy, advocated by sons of Greece- the world.
- Whether we like it or not we are caught up in this great conflict, and there is no middle road. We are either advocating or ready to die for God's philosophy and beliefs or we are merely joking.

We need to prepare for the coming of Zion's King

- Reading from verse 9 of chapter 9 of Zechariah we see the majestic ride of Zion's king into the streets of Jerusalem.
- This was fulfilled by Jesus Christ in his first advent and ministry. He has come, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey.
- Jesus has taken away trust in the natural and carnal means of defense and introduced the spiritual for His kingdom (Zechariah 9:10).
- He has proclaimed peace to the nations; His rule is extending from sea to sea to the ends of the earth.

We are equipped for this battle

- He is putting a new zeal for His house in their hearts.
- He is giving them a new holy anger against works of the enemy.
- He is anointing them with the oil of joy greater than before because they love righteous and hate iniquity!
- Man will not be centre-piece of history. God must become the centre-piece everywhere.
- He must be all-in-all. The sons of Zion are saying,
‘Down with humanism!’

Bend the Church, Bow the World!

- Zechariah then shows us something awesome. He shows us God at work, shaping His people symbolized by Judah and Ephraim.
- *“I will bend Judah as I bend my bow and fill it with Ephraim (as the arrow) I will rouse your sons, O Zion, against your sons, O Greece and make you like a warrior’s sword”(Zechariah 9 :13)*
- God bends His people the church, as a man bends a bow in preparation for war..
- Character flexibility speaks about our obedience to His commands and our willingness to walk in His will.
- The more obedient we are the more he bends us and uses us.

God is calling His people to unity

- God is now calling forth His people into a new phase of ministry.
- Brethren will not only dwell together but also work in unity (Ps.133).
- These are days of ‘bending’, ‘shaping’ and ‘breaking’ for the church.
- The Lord of the Church is at work. The Church is His only and final instrument in the earth.
- It must and indeed will be what he has purposed it to be.
- The greater the bending the greater the purity, fruitfulness and grace in the church.
- The greater the bending the more the anointing, effectiveness and strength in the Church

The two kingdoms

'I will rouse your sons, O Zion against your sons, O Greece and make you like a warrior's sword (Zechariah 9:13b)

- Zion symbolizes the church, Greece symbolizes the world.
- Here is a battle between two conflicting philosophies, God's philosophy (theism) and man's philosophy (humanism).
- We are aware that Greece in the New Testament days was the cradle and host of many humanistic philosophies, such as Epicureanism, Gnosticism and Stoicism.
- They advocated the supremacy of man and his ability to forge and shape his own destiny independent of God.

For this battle we need Christian education
that will prepare them to be real in real life

Martin Luther

Educate the people,
and above all,
develop their spirits!

Raise up a Christian people
permeated by the Gospel !

It is the only way that a nation
can be saved! »

The goal of Protestant schools :

Raise up captains and
generals in the war
against the enemy!



Christian Education is the Hope of our children's future

Van Der Kooy noted that “the purpose of Christian education is the whole of man's life. education is concerned with more than mere knowledge; the heart, too has its rights... the heart above all must be won for God and His service; the ultimate purpose in all education must be true worship, fellowship and service

Equip them, do not shelter them.

- ❖ As our children face the world, it won't be a question of how well protected they have been, but how well prepared and equipped they are.
- ❖ As we know, they will face the world. We need to produce students who have transformed character and are principled.

equip them, do not shelter them

- ❖ Not to protect them from the world but to prepare them for service in the world
- ❖ Not to Shelter them from life but to shape them to transform their societies
- ❖ Not to escape from the culture around them but to Engage the culture as light engages the darkness and salt engages the food.

Challenge

Inviting and equipping young people to engage in the unspeakable privilege of participating in God's redemptive work by living and spreading kingdom practices should be the ultimate goal of all we do in Christian education. If this is so, we need to grapple with . . .

- Elaine Brouwer

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy
and peace in believing, so that by the
power of the Holy Spirit you may
abound in hope.*

Romans 15:13

