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"... let Facts be submitted to a candid world."



**REALITY &
SUCCESS**
*The Paradigm
Factor*

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The Paradigm Factor

by Ben Williams

“... unless one is born from above he is incapable of seeing God's Kingship.” (Jn. 3:3)

“... truth will set you free.” (Jn. 8:32)

MAN seldom finds truth on his own. He is usually wrong to some degree – usually somewhere between correct and dead wrong.

“Correct” is another word for “righteous.” “Wrong” is another word for “sin.”

Man is seldom righteous except by God's grace.

God's law sets forth the definition of righteousness. It is an absolute standard. Man is expected to aim his life toward that standard. He is not expected to perfectly achieve it, but he is expected to keep it as his standard for “right.” This standard keeps man sane. It keeps him from losing sight of reality. It keeps him square with respect to his, and the world's, true status. It keeps him reasonable.

However, men are often less than sane and reasonable. That is not to say they are necessarily mean and evil. They are just unreasonable and incapable of solving natural problems.

In most cases, when a society suffers from insanity and inability to reason, the problem was precipitated by faulty paradigms. Man does not set out to be wrong. He wants to be right. But, faulty paradigms can leave him with mental tools that don't work properly, and may obscure reality.

Consider the following statements:

1. “A super demon named Satan has vast powers over the Earth. Therefore, God does not expect us to be successful in this life. Failure in this life leads to success in the next.”
2. “In this world we obey God out of duty ... even though it gives a financial and political advantage to

the wicked of the Earth. The wicked ignore God and thus are not handicapped or restricted by rules and laws. The wicked have freedom, success and comfort in this life, but the righteous receive their rewards in a future life.”

3. “God wants us subject to central government.”

4. “Violence is immoral.”

How do these statements strike you? Would you agree with them, or reject them? Can you find a pattern in them that relates to a class of people today?

Think about these statements as you continue to read. We'll address them more fully before we are through. But, first, let us discuss “the paradigm factor.”

THE PARADIGM FACTOR

The pattern in these statements is typically American. This pattern may be called THE CHURCH/STATE PARADIGM. It epitomizes the typical American who finds expression in church membership and in the government's voting booths, and by parroting popular but misunderstood expressions like, ‘The U.S. Constitution guarantees our rights and freedoms.’

“None are more hopelessly enslaved than those who falsely believe they are free.”

—Goethe

A “paradigm” [pronounced *para-dime*] is a pattern or model. It is a prototype; a rule of thumb. Patterns of thinking (ways of perceiving things) are paradigms. They are the patterns of

thought of a society. They serve as mental dies or molds which cast the shapes of our reasoning. Those shapes determine the parameters or boundaries of our thoughts.

The use of common thought patterns (i.e., paradigms) speeds up our thought processes by giving us mental shortcuts to solutions. However, those shortcuts are not without cost. In solving problems, paradigmatic reasoning can gain us some speed, but at the cost of creating blind spots which could possibly block a person's view of reality.

A paradigm is like a trail blazed through the snow. The trail blazer sets the paradigm and subsequent travelers follow the trail because it is easier than blazing a new trail. Furthermore, they follow the already-blazed trail because they assume that it goes the right direction. As more and more people frequent the trail, it takes on the status of “the accepted route.” Mental paradigms are established much the same way.

Once settled into a prevailing paradigm, society tends to resist change and reject new paradigms. New paradigms are often invisible to them and go unnoticed. Sometimes they are even viewed as a threat.

Change is the nature of life itself. Moving, growing, learning (i.e., *changing*) are the qualities that distinguish the living from the dead. Change creates paradigms. Natural change precipitates new paradigms in a developing society. Those who reject all change are electing to be willfully blind to reality. This leads to failure.

INVENTORS

Inventors are paradigm trekkers. They seek new paradigms as “the undiscovered country.” By developing a discipline of looking at things from new

perspectives, inventors discover new and better ways to do things. They force their thoughts to venture out to the edges of their mental paradigms. From there, on the fringe, they look across and attempt to refocus

their views through new lenses, and thus they sometimes are able to see new things. The great inventions have always required new-paradigm thinking.

The Wright Brothers ventured to the edge of the field of transportation to see it from a different paradigm's perspective. This enabled them to graduate into a new phase of technology where they conceived and built the impossible: a heavier-than-air flying machine.

Copernicus had the audacity to step outside the prevailing science paradigms of his day. From there he learned revolutionary new information about the solar system.

Alternating current (AC) electricity was invented by Nikola Tesla. It required a conceptual quantum leap from the then-prevailing technological paradigms. His invention changed the quality of life for mankind.

Henry Ford developed an automotive industry and pioneered the theory of mass-production. His advantage over his competition was his ability to consider new paradigms.

More recently, Apple Computer Corporation pioneered a whole new paradigm in computer ware which was so successful it changed the personal computer market and revolutionized the publishing industry. Over night it caused a whole paradigm of typesetting technology and equipment to become obsolete.

PARADIGM SHIFTS

It is a fact that when there is a paradigm shift in any particular field nearly everything in the old paradigm becomes obsolete. What also happens in a paradigm shift is that people with "paradigm prejudice" fail to recognize what they are seeing. The new paradigm is not in line with their old thought patterns so they reject the new data ... and with it the reality of what is happening around them. They are

left behind clinging to an outdated concept.

Are all paradigm shifts good? No! Some can be very bad. A look around our culture today reveals many paradigm shifts that have contributed to the downfall of our society. A new paradigm may be breakthrough, or it may be a colossal mistake. However, the solution to bad paradigms is NOT to take shelter in old paradigms. The solution is merely to reject the bad paradigm, but keep on growing. In fact, the failure to grow and develop is the main reason society becomes vulnerable to bad paradigms. People who refuse to grow in good ways leave a vacuum that gets filled by bad ways.

24. *Whenever the unclean spirit comes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking a resting place; and finding none, it says, I will return to my house from where I came out.'*

25. *And on arriving, it finds it swept clean and adorned.*

26. *Then it goes its way and takes along seven different spirits more wicked than itself. And having entered they dwell there; and the last state of the man is worse than the first.*

Lk. 11:24-26

Do paradigm shifts mean we must discard old ethics and moralities? No! Methods and technologies become obsolete – not the ethics and moralities.

In this list of classic breaks with prevailing paradigms we cannot leave out the most important one – namely, the ability to see the world from the perspective of the Reign of Christ. This "new birth" paradigm gave us a new model: a new approach to life.

Good paradigms facilitate greater options and successes. Flawed paradigms lead to mental myopia and failure – because they support flawed views of reality. Success requires an accurate view of reality. Paradigms are like filters (protocols) for screening data coming into our minds. Data that agrees with our paradigm prototype has an easy pathway to recognition. Data that doesn't match the expectations cre-

ated by our paradigm prototype is rejected, or remains unnoticed (invisible) to us.

CLOSED MIND = FAILURE

"Paradigm prejudice" can shackle us to a static position. That can be dangerous in a moving world. The static person, or the person who just goes with the flow, gets left behind. His industry falls vulnerable to outsiders who can come in and take over with new inventions and progress. Paradigm prejudice is a blindness that seems to affect mostly those who are the deepest rooted in an old paradigm. History has shown that people who pioneer new paradigms are usually not connected with the prevailing establishment.

This is the case not only with technology, but also with the information/education field: the arena of my work. In theology, paradigm prejudice is rampant. The old serpent paradigm of church/state is compelling – *more subtle than other beasts of the field (i.e., other political systems)*. Few men find their way out of the serpent government paradigm of church and state. The escape requires great incentive and motivation.

Necessity, however, is the mother of invention. This is a true statement. But, why? What is there about necessity that precipitates inventiveness? Simply this. Men prefer to remain in the center of the prevailing paradigms – where the going is least challenging. Need, however, can force men to the edge of their old paradigms. It is there, at the fringe of an old paradigm, that they gain glimpses of a new paradigm – a new way of seeing a predicament, and a new and better approach to solving a problem.

I am reminded of a tale I once heard about a frog who had fallen into a tire rut on a old dirt road. The rut was several inches deep, and the frog – assuming that there was no way out – was trying to adjust to his new surroundings.

About mid-morning, a rabbit hopped by and saw the frog in the rut. He stopped and asked, "How are you this fine day?"

“Not too well,” said the frog. “It’s cold and dark down here in this rut.”

The rabbit replied, “You should hop out of the rut and enjoy the warm sunshine with me.”

But, the frog said, “You don’t understand. This rut is too deep, and I cannot get out. I’m stuck here, and that is that.”

So, the bunny hopped on down the road and went his way.

Later that day the rabbit happened to be coming back along the same road, and passed the place where he had seen the frog. He noticed that the frog was no longer in the rut. Then he noticed the frog sitting beside the road several feet away.

“I thought you said you couldn’t get

out of the nit,” the rabbit said. “How did you do it?”

The frog replied, “A car came along and I had to.”

Thus, when incentive grew to a sufficient level the way out of the rut (out of a bad paradigm) suddenly appeared. Necessity demanded it. False, self-imposed limits were discarded. Reality took over. A “new truth” was discovered! The frog was NOT really stuck in the rut – he only thought he was.

Truth sets us free. But, truth is not new – just newly recognized.

It was once commonly-believed that the Earth was flat ... and that it was the center of the universe. That was accepted as “truth.” It could have been called “the geocentric flat-Earth paradigm.” That paradigm influenced and handicapped the thinking of scientists. It injected a basic fatal error into geography, cartography, astronomy, theology, sea navigation, etc. It affected life in ways too numerous to mention. It was a major error, but it was reinforced by the scientists of that day who, through their flawed paradigm, supported it with their erroneous but impressive beliefs.

Galileo had broader horizons. He took his thoughts beyond the edge of the geocentric flat-earth paradigm to see what lay beyond. His telescope saw into the heavens to disprove the therefore theological guesses as to their operations. What he saw opened up

his mind for more truth – an act which brought persecution upon him from the established science and church community.

Among some ancient cultures men perceived the world from a paradigm of Spiritism (i.e., the world and all in it was influenced and driven by spirit beings ... both evil and good). This could be labeled “the Spiritism paradigm.” In such an age, a person with dysentery would have been treated by witch doctors and exorcists. The actual biological problem would not have been considered. The “Spiritism paradigm” blinded them to reality. Exorcists cannot cure dysentery!

Another long-living paradigm, still with us today, is “the central-government paradigm.” This paradigm handicaps and incapacitates men. It causes men to lose their ability to address problems, or to solve them. All problems are submitted to public officials for central government to solve. Men



DEPENDING UPON YOUR POINT OF VIEW, YOU MAY SEE A PRETTY WOMAN OR AN UGLY WITCH IN THIS FRAME.

slavishly follow this paradigm without bothering to consider alternatives. They just follow patterns.

When you think about paradigms, and how they affect our lives, you can begin to see the pattern shared by the four opening statements listed at the beginning of this article. This basic paradigm is programmed into American minds at an early age. The prescribed trails are blazed and etched into

the minds of the young ... by TV, schools, and churches. Subsequent experiences and observations of life are then viewed and recorded in pre-conditioned minds that accept only the data that matches the familiar patterns to which they were programmed. All else is discarded ... or missed altogether.

Social programmers and controllers stay ahead of the masses by observing this phenomenon. By recognizing the mental trails traveled by the people, controllers are able to predict, direct, and redirect the responses of society. Of course, social programmers know the thought trails of the people very well ... because in most cases these programmers are the ones who blazed them and mapped them for the people in the first place.

People locked into faulty paradigms become handicapped. They can’t find solutions because their observations are limited to only what is visible from their blazed thought trails. The rest of reality goes undiscovered.

KINGSHIP AWARENESS IS A STATE OF MIND

Now, we come to the problem at hand – namely, how to free people from their paradigm prisons.

You see, when the moral-minded people (the ones who care and want to do what’s right) are held captive by mental paradigms which neutralize them, they can never adequately address the real problems in life. They may have good motives, but their faulty tools handicap them. The faulty paradigms block large pieces of reality from their view.

Furthermore, when others of us seek for solutions to replace the faulty solutions that have failed us for years, we are met with resistance. We may work our way out to the fringe of a paradigm and find important pieces of information from another paradigm. However, when those pieces of information are brought back and presented to people who are still paralyzed in the old paradigm, that information goes right over their heads.

Solutions derived from newly surveyed trails make no sense to people

who are happily stuck in the old paradigms. This is manifested widely in those who prefer to be ruled by church and state. Old wine skins cannot hold new wine (Matt. 9:17). People who cling to their old church/state paradigm are at a loss when it comes to processing data we have retrieved from the paradigm of Christ's Kingdom.

Thus, we find ourselves waiting. We are waiting for God to initiate something big to push people to the edge of their paradigm ... to drive down their road, as it were, and force them out of their ruts.

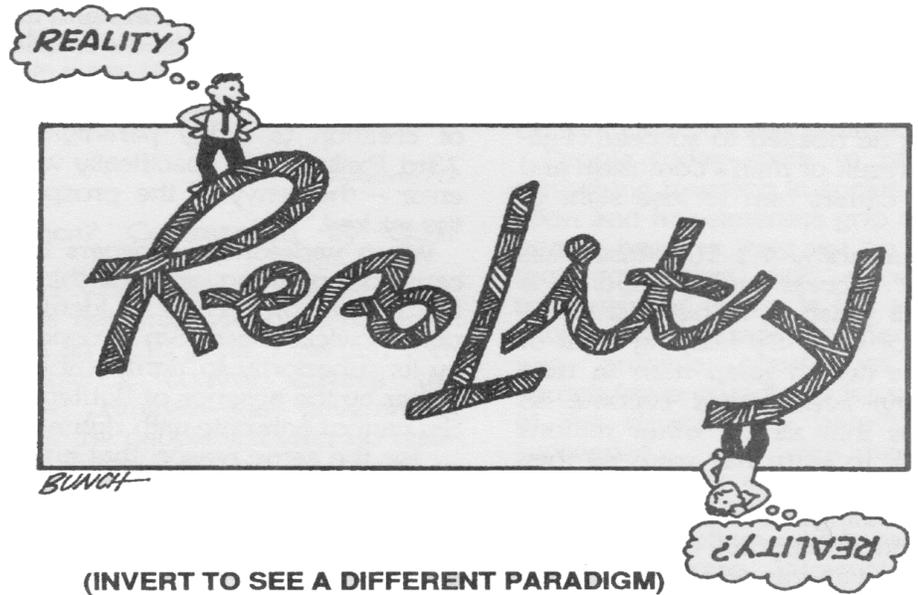
Will this happen ... en masse? Perhaps. But, in the mean time we cannot afford to sit idle. Those of us who have caught a glimpse of the vision must follow it. We must envision the world outside the paradigms that have led our people to where they are today. We must read the Bible from a different perspective. We must view government from a different basis.

The vision is The Kingdom. The message is the good news. But, neither the vision, nor the message, is clear to those who refuse to move off top dead center in the church/state paradigm. Seeds imported from the Kingdom paradigm and planted in the church/state paradigm are in rocky, thorny soil. They can't grow. My work is made difficult by this factor. How people interpret my work is often quite different from what I actually say. 1 heir perception depends upon their paradigm.

The message of the Bible is thus misperceived. Paul says, in Hebrews 10:25, that we should not forsake the gathering together of ourselves. By this he meant we should cooperate together as an ecclesian community. But, the church/state paradigm interprets Paul as saying, "Don't stop attending church."

In Romans 6:14, Paul says, "You are in debt not to the law, but to grace." By this he meant that grace, rather than law, is responsible for our forgiveness. But, the church/state paradigm interprets this to say that Jesus did away with God's law and put grace in its place.

In Revelation 1:1, John states clearly that the things disclosed in this



book "... *must shortly come to pass;*" By this, he obviously meant that his "revelations" were explanations of the events of the present. But, the church/state paradigm interprets this to mean that the events depicted in the book refer to times in the distant future.

There are innumerable examples that prove the case. But, these three suffice to make the point. People in faulty paradigms do not hear what is actually stated. Rather, they hear what they expect to hear. This error is the greatest factor in man's failure to deal with reality.

I read recently about a man who witnessed a paradigm's power over reality. The scene he witnessed was in a village of primitive natives.

Upon entering their village one day, he saw a man kneeling upon the ground while other natives were hitting him with sticks, rocks, etc. The man clearly wanted to escape from his tormentors, but for some reason he seemed fixed in place - unable to get away. Further investigation revealed that a small circle had been drawn in the dirt around the spot where the man knelt. The explanation that followed revealed that the man was being punished for an offense of some kind. A priest or holy man had drawn the circle in the dirt. The man was then unable to leave the circle because he believed it would cause him to be attacked by evil spirits. He was held captive in the

circle drawn in the dirt. What held him there? His religious belief created by his paradigm. In reality, he was unfettered and free to run. But his paradigm (thought pattern) was stronger than reality.

By the same token, young Americans are being saddled with the church/state paradigm daily. They eventually come to accept and believe that it is morally incumbent upon them to venerate the Institutions of church and state. To think otherwise would seem immoral. This error they hold above their own common sense and observation. They see that churches fill no purpose except to keep men subservient to the state - and the state is a blatant evil beyond compare. But, in spite of the simple truth of their observation, they continue to interpret what they see through the lenses of a church/state paradigm. They can only parrot the sickening statements, "We have the best government in the world"; "Central government is necessary to prevent anarchy"; "The system is good. It is just the men in it who are bad"; "We need the church to provide the moral anchor for society"; "Christ instituted the church." Their paradigm is stronger than reality.

Now, with our insight into paradigms, let us return to the four statements given at the beginning. These statements represent a paradigm of

thought that has led our people to failure and the brink of destruction. They express the false, self-imposed limits which church and state have programmed into our thinking. They represent the FAILURE we see today in America. Americans are failing because the church/state paradigm has them locked into a pattern of failure – blind to reality.

Taking the statements one-at-a-time we can illustrate America's paradigmatic departure from reality and truth.

• **Statement #1:** "A super demon named Satan has vast powers over the Earth. Therefore, Yahweh does not expect us to be successful in this life. Failure in this life leads to success in the next."

Answer: This statement reflects a paradigm which starts man in life with no hope ... compelling him to live his life expecting to be a failure. When you expect to fail you certainly will not succeed. Church doctrine funnels millions of Americans into this paradigm.

But, this is not from the Bible. The Scripture tells it differently. When Yahweh created the Earth and all that is in it, He pronounced it "GOOD" (Gen. 1:31). His creation was NOT a failure. It was a success! The doctrine of an evil super demon – "Satan" – is a heathen teaching which came not from the Bible but from strange ungodly cultures. In truth there is no such creature! And, when man fails it is the fault of man – no one else. God created the Earth to be successful, and gave man everything he needed to succeed. Failure is the result of man's confusion and sin which causes him to lose sight of reality.

In Deuteronomy 4:1–10, Moses tells Israel that success and prosperity is within their grasp ... if they will follow the ways of God. By keeping sight of God's laws (which keep men in tune with reality) Israel could become so prosperous that all the other nations would seek to learn her ways so they too could prosper.

God's blessings are associated with success and prosperity. On the other hand, His judgments and curses are associated with poverty and fail-

ure. God expects us to seek His blessings, and to work toward success.

In Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Yahweh reiterates to Moses how to succeed in life, and NOT fail. The answer is to keep and observe the law ... for that is what keeps man sane and square with creation and reality.

Paradigms which block out reality lead to failure. Failure in this present kingdom certainly does NOT recommend a man to the next kingdom. Small failures only portend greater failures.

10. The person faithful in the small things is also faithful in the great; and the person unrighteous in the small things is unrighteous also in the great.

Luke 16:10

• **Statement #2:** "In this world we obey God out of duty ... even though it gives a financial and political advantage to the wicked of the Earth. The wicked ignore God and thus are not handicapped or restricted by rules and laws. The wicked have freedom, success and comfort in this life, but the righteous receive their rewards in a future life."

Answer: Millions of churchgoers believe, and teach their children, that obedience to God puts them at a disadvantage in this life. Their explanation as to why wickedness prospers is that "it is not held back by the moral and ethical inhibitions which have held us back." In other words, they wrongly associate success with theft, immorality, and oppression. To them, success and materialism (concern with God's creation) is ungodly.

Such people have a perverted view of creation (a faulty paradigm). The 73rd Psalm deals specifically with this error – the "envy of the prosperity of the wicked."

When wickedness prospers it is because of one thing, and one thing only: the refusal of people to identify and punish wickedness. Sin prospers, not by its superiority to righteousness, but rather by the absence of righteousness. Sin cannot compete with righteousness ... for the same reason that error cannot compete with accuracy, and wrong cannot compete with right.

For sin to win, righteousness must be prevented from entering the race.

This is the reason sin prospers in America today.

But, someone will protest, "Why is it that the good people suffer while the bad people prosper today?" This is the dilemma of Christians today, isn't it? Why would God allow the good people to continue suffering while the wicked rule the Earth?

The answer to this dilemma may be hard to swallow – but it is the only answer possible. The so-called "good people" aren't good! They may be easygoing and nondestructive ... but that is NOT the same as "good." "Good" equals "righteous." "Righteous" equals "lawful." "Lawful" means "unwilling to rum God's creation over to the wicked."

How many so-called "good people" can you point to today who meet this definition?

We, here in America, suffer under wicked powers because we and our fathers have not been righteous enough to recognize wickedness, stand against it, and refuse to participate in it.

When man concludes that the unrighteous have an advantage over the righteous, he has wrongly defined "right."

• **Statement #3:** "God wants us subject to central government."

Answer: Yahweh gave man laws to keep him free. Yahweh's Son, Jesus, taught us principles to set us free. And, yet, churchgoers continue to fall for the lie that God wants us enslaved under wicked rulers. What nonsense!

How people can rely upon one or two misinterpreted scriptures and ignore the main body of teaching of the Bible is beyond me. Nothing could be clearer than the fact that God wants man to be FREE. From Genesis to Revelation the theme of freedom stands out – from Moses' demand upon Pharaoh, "Let my people go," to Jesus' statement, "Truth will set you free." From Paul's statement in Galatians 5:1, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has liberated

us, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage," to 2 Corinthians 3:17, "Where the spirit of the lord is, there is liberty." One would have to be blind to not see it. Government rulers have been the enemies of God, and the people, all through history. Central governments, called "beasts" in Scripture, have been behind every grievous crime against man. Government rulers crucified Jesus.

How in the name of common sense can anyone claim that God wants us subject to rulers in government? It is absurd! Yet, millions parrot this insanity.

Paradigms can be stronger than reality.

• Statement #4: "Violence is immoral."

Answer: America today is obsessed with avoiding and condemning violence. While sodomy and abortion was becoming acceptable to the rank and file, violence was becoming taboo. And, since sodomites and abortionists fear violence (i.e., justice), we see who has set the trend. But, interestingly, while the common folks agree that violence is never appropriate within their ranks, they readily agree that it IS appropriate within the ranks of government. Government is allowed to be violent at every turn. Government officials are justified, in the public eye, to arrest and beat our neighbor; to drop bombs on foreign cities, killing men, women and children. Destruction of families, their property, their future, is acceptable when it comes from government. Abortion is accepted. Even the death penalty is accepted when demanded by the courts.

The hypocrisy is apparent even though few have the guts to look at it.

But, we must ask again, "Is violence wrong? Has God condemned violence?"

It is obvious that unjust violence is wrong. But, then, so is unjust tolerance. We are not to befriend and willingly support the ungodly (2 Chron. 19:2b).

But, what about violence? Can violence be just?

13. And the Jews' Passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,

14. And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

15. And when he had made a scourge of whip) of small cords, He drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overthrew the tables (of records).

John 2; 13-15

6. Reward her (Babylon) even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she has filled fill to her double.

7. How much she has glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she says in her heart, I sit a queen and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.

8. Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judges her.

Revelation 18:6-8

36. Then He (Jesus) said to them, "But now, he that has a wallet, let him take it, and likewise his scrip (cash), and he that has no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one.

Luke 22:36

33. And you shall not pollute the land wherein you are: for blood defiles the land: and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it.

Numbers 35:33

6. Whoever sheds man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made He him.

Genesis 9:6

2. And when Yahweh your God shall deliver them before you, you shall smite them and utterly destroy them; you shall make no covenant with them, nor show mercy to them.

Violence? Commanded by God? Yes!

Anyone who condemns all uses of violence is not only wrong ... he probably has an ax to grind. Like gun control, violence control assures the organized criminals (i.e., government elite) that the people will offer no resistance to being robbed and enslaved.

The main religions of the world have taught men to spurn the present, spurn the physical creation, and spurn violence. Saddled with these handicaps



YOU MAY SEE BLACK PATCHES, OR YOU MAY SEE A FACE IN THIS FRAME - IT DEPENDS UPON YOUR POINT OF VIEW.

the people are prevented from getting within reach of success (true righteousness).

CONCLUSION

Based upon the church/state paradigm, man's existence is based upon patterns of thought that set him up to, 1. expect failure, 2. misunderstand the creation, and reality, 3. enslave himself under central governments, and 4. reject the instructions of God as to the correct remedy of dealing with the wicked and those who hate and break God's laws – namely violence.

On the other hand, paradigm prisoners who escape into the light find that, 1. God wants us to succeed and prosper. In fact, He expects it since He has provided us with all the tools to achieve it. 2. God's laws show us how to succeed. Being "right" is an advantage ... not a disadvantage. 3. God wants us to be subject to Him ... not to men and their governments. And finally, 4. Violence is wrong

ONLY when used wrongly. Violence is used by God, condoned by God, and COMMANDED by God in certain situations.

People today seem to realize that something is wrong in society. Desperation and hopelessness grip our young people because they see no future for their generation. And, since the current state of affairs is the product of church/state paradigms, there are only two possible conclusions: a) the church/state paradigms have failed, or b) the church/state paradigms have succeeded and were meant, from the beginning, to destroy us. Yet, today's Christian seems locked into the paradigm which has led him into his di-

lemma. Information (truths) processed through faulty theological paradigms only continue to produce faulty solutions. It is a vicious circle.

The only escape from this paradigm prison is to accept the fact that Christians have been using faulty reasoning in the past... and this is why success has evaded them. The faulty reasoning was the result of faulty paradigms.

The solution is to interpret Scripture through a different paradigm – a different protocol. Scripture and reality must become compatible. Discard old paradigms that have proven to be failures. Test new paradigms for better, more accurate ways to process the

truth of Scripture and reality. How much of the Gospel of the Kingdom (i.e., reality) are you missing because you keep refusing to let go of the faulty church/state paradigm?

He who is born from above can see the kingdom. Truth sets you free to understand and accept reality. Jesus has given you eyes to see the kingdom and ears to hear the truth. Don't take this gift for granted. Don't follow the herd to destruction by remaining on the same old path to failure.

You are born from above. Open your eyes and see!

12. For whoever has, more will be given him in abundance; but whoever has not, even that which he has will also be taken from him.

Matthew 13:12

SEEING THE KINGDOM

by Paul Bunch

Like nineteenth-century sailor's wives waiting for their husbands to return from the sea, most Christians spend their time longingly gazing off to the future, waiting for Christ to return so He can eventually "set up" his Kingdom. They wish they could SEE the kingdom.

They don't realize that the natural flow of history HAS BEEN the history of the Kingdom – first with Yahweh as King and now with His Son, Jesus Christ, as King. But while things are currently happening in this Kingdom, the futurist Christians are missing it because they are standing at the end of their widow's walk atop the roof of their house, staring out to sea.

What follows is an exercise in actually seeing the kingdom ... but seeing it as it exists in reality RIGHT NOW AND IN THE PAST instead of imagining what it might be like in a fantasy world of the future.

If we can suspend our stereotypical image of the "pearly gates," "paradise," "the cleansed kingdom," "Utopia" or whatever term you want to use to describe a return to how most people perceive the Garden of Eden, then maybe we can begin to actually

SEE the PRESENT Kingdom. It would be much like a person who stares intently at a two-dimensional poster with an abstract pattern and, after a few seconds, his eyes refocus and allow him to suddenly see a separate three-dimensional image hidden within the abstract partem.

As wishful as this might sound, it isn't. As we will see later, the Bible clearly describes a PRESENT kingdom by constantly stating it in the PRESENT TENSE – erroneous translations notwithstanding.

The kingdom has existed, in spite of church and state, since the creation. It has gone largely undetected, however, because church and state receive more publicity. Over the centuries clergymen have heavily dosed the public with their concept that the church equals Christianity, and politicians have brainwashed people into believing that the latest central government was either inspired by God or is simply the best system on earth, and there would be nothing but anarchy without it. Religion has effectively manipulated people into following man's government by making them believe that God's government is inadequate or

forever off in the future.

As a result, most people can look directly at God's present kingdom and not see anything except what they have been indoctrinated by church and state to see. Through their hypnotized eyes they see God's current kingdom as a "barbaric," "primitive" way of life that spawns "anarchy." They have not learned how to refocus their spiritual eyes and see beyond the abstract camouflaged picture that central government has painted for them. God's kingdom, also known as "The Way of Life" or "The Ecclesia System," leads a somewhat undiscovered life because of the lies told about it by the church and state.

CHURCH & STATE ARE USURPERS

To uncover the truth hidden by the central-government version of history, you first have to understand the difference between a church and a Christian community (ecclesia). The following Bible verse will introduce you to the answer:

38. This is he (Moses), that was in the

ECCLESIA in the wilderness with the angel which spoke to him in the mount Sinai, and with our fathers: who received the living words to give unto us:

Acts 7:38

This verse stimulates several deductions. First, an “ecclesia” is not just a New Testament thing; there was an “ecclesia” in the wilderness in the Old Testament. Secondly, any Bible student who thinks carefully for a few moments, will see at once that there is a big difference between how the Bible defines an “ecclesia” in the wilderness and the traditional (and current) concept of a church. This, in itself, should arouse your suspicions.

Then, there is the translational hoax that many have been unaware of: the King James version and most other Bible versions use the wrong English word “church” instead of “ecclesia” in this verse. The Oxford English Dictionary says that the right Greek word for “church” is KURIAKOS. But, if you use a Strong’s concordance to look up the Greek word in the verse, you will discover it is “ECCLESIA.” “ECCLESIA” is a Greek word that was handed down to several languages - including English. It means “independent community or body politic,” NOT “church.” Someone, therefore, has translated the Greek word incorrectly.

With the Greek word accurately translated, Acts 7:38 definitely establishes that there was a COMMUNITY (ECCLESIA) in the wilderness in Old Testament times – not a CHURCH (KURIAKOS)!

Somewhere along the way the geopolitical term, “community,” was replaced with the religious term, “church.” Thus Christianity came to be equated with churches instead of communities. And notice that this translational hoax is present in a central government version of the Bible – the King James Version! This should come as no surprise if you are aware that churches are extensions of central governments. The King James central government and church were usurping the position of the ecclesia in the minds of the people. “Church” replacing “Ecclesia” was the first basic

lie instigated by central government against the ecclesia in order to subjugate and control people.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT VERSION OF HISTORY

3. *Jesus answered and said unto him, Truly, I say to you, unless one is born from above, he is unable to see the kingdom of God.*

John 3:3

13. *But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you are shutting up the kingdom of heaven against men: for you are not entering, nor are you allowing them that are entering to go in.*

Matthew 23:13

Notice how these verses use the PRESENT TENSE: “is unable to see” and “are entering.” If John had meant a future utopian kingdom, then the verse might have read:

“... unless one is born from above, he WILL be unable to see the kingdom of God when it comes.”

And if Matthew 23:13 had been about a future kingdom, then it might have read:

“...you will shut up the kingdom ... nor will you allow them that will be entering to go in.”

But these verses are not written in the future tense. They were written in PRESENT tense about a kingdom that was not being seen by all people. The writers were telling how men COULD see it – right then – and that there were certain people (scribes and Pharisees) who were trying to keep people from seeing the present kingdom of God.

So who are these Scribes and Pharisees? A scribe was a professional writer acting as a clerk or secretary to the king. He was a representative of central government. For example in 2 Samuel 8:17 we see that Seraiah the scribe was the secretary to king David.

A central government officer who enrolled or kept the rolls of the army was also known as a scribe.

A scribe was also a writer and a

doctor of the law (a lawyer):

6. *This Ezra went up from Babylon; and he was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the LORD God of Israel had given...*

Ezra 7:6

Remember, however, that the scribes mentioned in Matthew 23:13 were writers and doctors of Jewish law – not God’s law. They were representatives of man’s government – not God’s government.

The Pharisees were the representatives of central-government religion; they were the churchmen of their day. Therefore in Matthew 23:13 we see Jesus condemning the government and its churches (synagogues) of that day for “shutting up the kingdom” (re-defining it) so the people couldn’t enter in. Through their deceitfulness, they were able to prevent many people from seeing God’s Kingdom which existed right there before their eyes. But this is the way it has always been. The central-government version of history has always hidden the truth.

Today, we can see how modern “Pharisees” or churchmen (Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, Identity, etc.) shut up the kingdom to the people by teaching that God’s kingdom is always off in the future. Just as Matthew 13:23 says, they neither go into the kingdom themselves nor do they allow the people to go in.

GOD’S KINGDOM IS NO “UTOPIA”

7. *And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:*

2. *And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of Yahweh thy God.*

3. *Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.*

4. *Blessed shall be the fruit of thy*

body, and the fruit of thy ground,
and the fruit of thy cattle, the
increase of thy kine, and the flocks
of thy sheep.

15. *But it shall come to pass, if thou
wilt not hearken unto the voice of
the LORD thy God, to observe to
do all his commandments and his
statutes which I command thee this
day; that all these curses shall
come upon thee, and overtake
thee:*

16. *Cursed shalt thou be in the city,
and cursed shalt thou be in the
field.*

17. *Cursed shall be thy basket and
thy store.*

18. *Cursed shall be the fruit of thy
body, and the fruit of thy land, the
increase of thy kine, and the flocks
of thy sheep.*

And for 49 more verses, all the way to the end of the chapter, Yahweh reviews the harsh realities of disobeying His Laws ... as when men adopt central governments.

God's ecclesia system is not a utopia which is a lopsided fantasy land where nothing ever goes wrong. There is good AND bad, and things go better in an ecclesia that follows God's Law than in one that strays outside those parameters.

By thinking of the particular characteristic of no utopia in relation to an ecclesia, we might also be able to get away from the fixation of a future utopian kingdom.

Even in Revelation 22, in the midst of what most people would think is a description of a future utopian kingdom, we see that negative elements still exist in the world:

14. *Blessed are they that do his
commandments, that they may
have right to the tree of life, and
may enter in through the gates into
the city.*

15. *For without are dogs, and sorcerers,
and whoremongers, and
murderers, and idolaters, and
whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.*

Revelation 22:14,15

Notice that it DOES NOT say,

Those obsessed with Utopiology support the theory that SOMEDAY God will have a government that works, but in the meantime we have to obey man's government – which they say is our only option in this age.

"There used to be dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, etc." Again, the PRESENT TENSE is used. In other words, the dogs, sorcerers, whoremongers, murderers, idolaters and liars exist right along with those people who are entering into Jesus Christ's kingdom. This is a reiteration of Matthew 23:13. Some people "enter in through the gates into the city" while others along with the dogs, sorcerers, whoremongers, etc. are left "outside the gates." The Kingdom is shut up to them. This situation is in effect now.

Some people today, even in the midst of this corrupt "New World Order," are "entering into the city (kingdom)" while some are still "outside the gates."

CONCLUSION

Those obsessed with Utopiology support the theory that SOMEDAY God will have a government that works, but in the meantime we have to obey man's government – which they say is the only present workable government. This is a put-down of Christ's Kingdom government and an insult to His Father, the Creator! Loyalty to man's Central Government is rebellion to Christ's Kingdom and its Law.

What we must remember is that people can take different viewpoints when observing history. Some people can see God's Kingdom whereas others are prevented from seeing it. It's just like the people staring at the poster with the abstract design, trying to see

the three dimensional subject hidden within. Some people can refocus their eyes quickly and see the hidden subject, while others can never penetrate the abstract pattern of colors and shapes.

Following this analogy, the Central Government viewpoint judges anything that is not part of central government as "barbaric" or "anarchist" in nature (the abstract pattern), whereas those Christians who have escaped the central-government mentality see beyond the abstract camouflage to perceive the righteous reign of Christ (the revealed three-dimensional subject).

The people who have bought the Central Government version of history have given up on this present world and anxiously await a future utopia (which means literally "no place"). Whether it's in the form of being "raptured" away from earth, "going to Heaven" after you "die," or the perpetual longing and waiting for Jesus to return from another galaxy, all these views boil down to one fact: these people don't really believe in the Jesus' of the Bible and his PRESENT reign.

In contrast, those who CAN see the kingdom and CAN "enter in" now are the ones who have taken hold of reality. Their world view is based upon Christ's Kingship rather than the kingdom of church and state.

MOM

My mom is not on my side.
I know which side she's on.
She's not concerned with big ideas -
Good and evil, right and wrong.
I have no doubt she loves me,
And I love her in return,
Never measuring how much love
Her love for me should earn.

My Mom's not anti-social.
She obeys a million laws.
Ask why she's so pliant
And she'll answer, 'Just because.'
There's no end of her submission
To man's disciplining rod.
But watch how fast she stiffens
When her orders come from God.

My Mom wears mental blinders
To keep her eyes from seeing.
She doesn't want to think of
What she's capable of being.
She rarely looks around her
Or wonders how or why,
But ambles through her numbered days
As if nothing meets her eye.

My Mom believes in government
With all her heart and soul.
She pays her taxes cheerfully
And lives her servile role.
She'd never point a finger
Nor register a doubt,
Much less offer interference
Or demand an account.

My Mom's plugged into TV;
She's watched since she was young.
Her mind's a thin, blank volume
Opened at page one.
She goes through stacks of novels,
Digesting one a day.
She picks them with attention
To what little they have to say.

I remember when she sat me down
And taught me what to do.
I loved her words but those precious times
Were long ago, and few.
I don't know how it happened,
But her head was turned around.
She lost a mother's confidence
When the system wore her down.

As I matured and chose my way
I tangled with that Beast.
And when it won and locked me up
My hatred just increased.
My Mom was broken up, she said
I'd shamed the family name.
But I looked beyond her faithlessness:
I knew who was to blame.

And now I need to sit her down
And help her find her way.
But I'm in here and she's out there,
But listening anyway.
My Mom has drifted far from me
In search of siren's song.
I hope she won't forget the way,
But it may have been too long.

My Mom reminds me of my Race -
A pack of fools, I know.
But they're the only ones I've got
And I love 'em, even so.
They're not doing very well right now;
You'd almost think they've died.
But I've got memories of both
That swell my heart with pride.

Now I'm the son of all of these,
With many ways to go.
But, thanks to God, decision time
Has come and gone, and so
I'm not done tangling with that Beast,
Though locked up I may be.
God knows the hell they're gonna pay
For stealing Mom from me.

– Randy Duey (prisoner), 1993