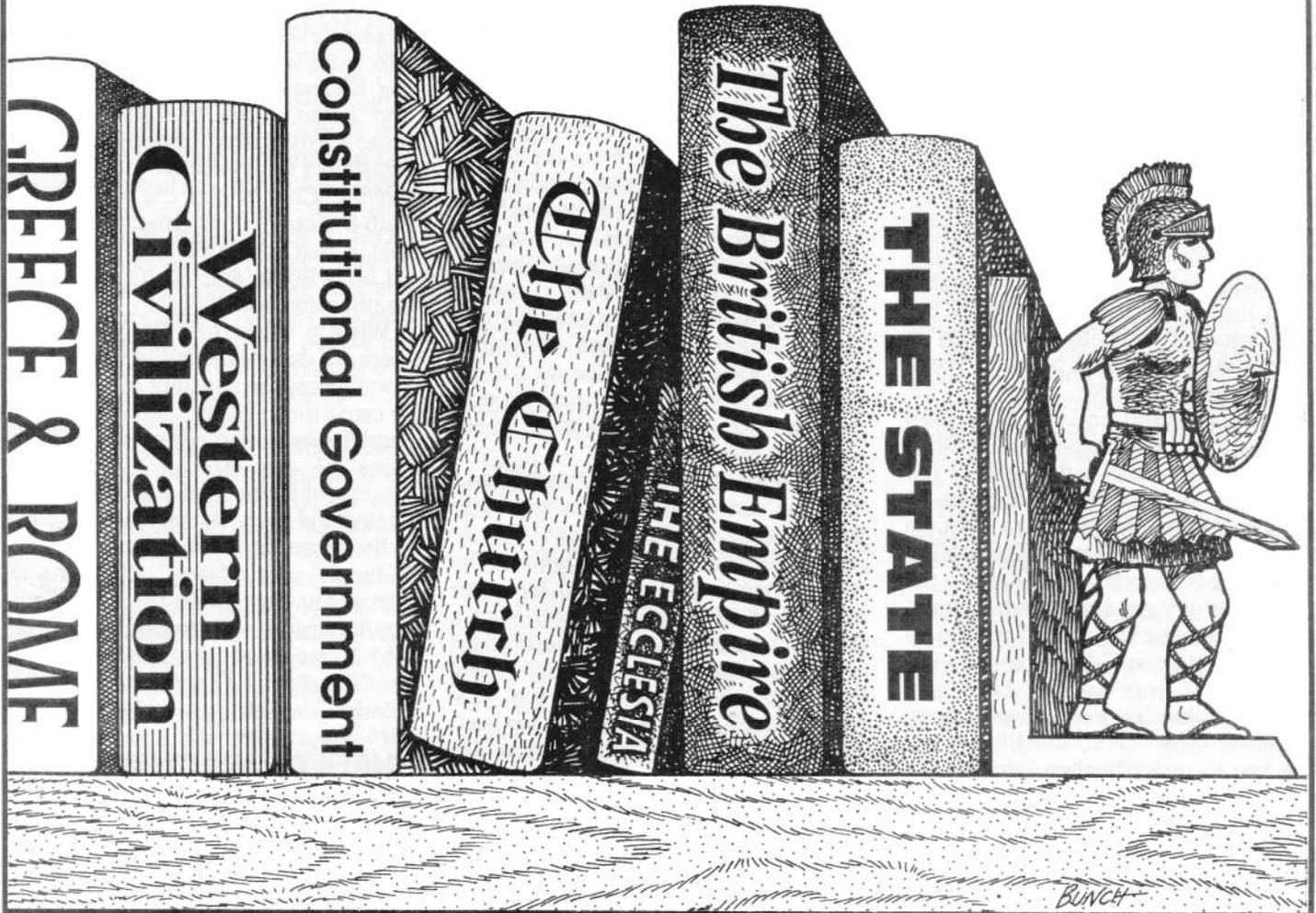


**THE UNDISCOVERED HISTORY
OF THE ECCLESIA**



THE UNDISCOVERED HISTORY OF THE ECCLESIA

The Romans or The Barbarians – Which Were The Savages?

by Paul Bunch & Ben Williams

Never assume that history books are correct. Very few are. Rarely do they tell their stories accurately. And often they leave out vital sections of history. So it is left to us, the individual readers, to prove what we read. It is the only way to keep from being deceived.

Written histories are important, but they reflect the prejudices of the authors. A written history is the expressed opinion of one man ... about a few selected events which seem important to him for reasons that are his own. Historians don't record real history. They can't. Far more occurs in real time than historians could ever know or record. Instead, historians record opinions about a few elements of history.

Historians interpret noted points of history. A few selected events get attention, and a writer's own values and prejudices about those events get labeled "history." Written histories record what historians, and/or the rulers, want people to remember.

Historians usually write about banking debacles and wars ... as described from the victors' perspectives. Written history, and its writers, should always be held in suspicion. An accurate grasp of history requires that we take the time to research and make our own assessments based upon data gathered from the best resources available – keeping in mind the political and religious prejudices of each writer.

The history of our people, and that of Western society, have also been shaped by religion ... mostly big churches like the Catholic Church. Conventional wisdom today has been shaped by our ancestors' view of religious concepts. In sorting out the history of our race we are tethered closely to religion ... and to religion's interpretation of The Bible. If we take this into consideration we can more accurately put the pieces of the history puzzle together.

Actual history can be understood only by interpreting it from God's point

of view rather than from published historians' points of view, or from governments' points of view. Thus, the Bible holds the key to understanding our past, as well as our present.

By interpreting historical accounts from a Biblical perspective, taking into account the Ecclesia, and comparing that with the traditional church viewpoint, we see a striking contrast. There is another world, so to speak, if one cares to look for it. We can also begin to see a historical trail of evidences and signs of ecclesian life throughout world history ... even though it is remembered under different labels.

History can clarify your life, or confuse it, depending upon whose version you read. With the correct grasp, using the correct paradigm, history becomes meaningful because it puts you back in touch with that common strand, that ribbon of continuity that runs back through time, identifying you and connecting you to reality.

BARBARIANS OR ROMANS: WHICH WERE SAVAGES?

Most people associate the word "barbarian" with thoughts of primitive, disorderly, uncouth savages often connected to old European tribes from the Roman era. They were called Vandals, Goths, Visigoths, Celts, Franks, Teutons and Lombards. They lived outside of "civilization" (i.e., outside of Roman society).

These tribes were called "uncivilized." But, this epithet carried little weight since "civilized" only meant to be "under Roman Civil Law." Thus, the term "uncivilized" would have applied to any nation or tribe that was outside Roman Civil jurisdiction. Outside Rome being a "barbarian" could have been a compliment – and rightly so. Thus, people today typically use the terms "civilized" and "uncivilized" without realizing the true intent. So, in this essay we'll be careful how we use these terms.

But, let's take a look at these European tribes ... who just happen to be descended from the original migrat-

ing tribes of ancient Israel. In our analysis, we'll be using the criteria of three Biblical points which describe an ecclesia. This should illuminate our history from a new perspective, and we'll discover a more correct definition of "Civilization," and "Christendom." We'll also find that we can track forgotten signs of the New Testament Ecclesia that lived on after the apostles.

Also, our study will show a contrast between a biblical ecclesia and what came to be called "church." Unlike Christ's Ecclesia, the structure of modern church was born in 4th-century Rome at the time of Constantine and grew out of the Roman Empire.

Through misleading written histories of the church – especially of the middle ages – people have had their minds trained to think of Church instead of Ecclesia. The structure of the Ecclesia (the Kingship of God) has existed since Old Testament times. Historians, theologians, and translators have misled us into thinking the biblical Ecclesia is the same as modern Church. But it isn't!

In similar fashion, they have told us that the Barbarians, who rejected both Rome and her Church, were backward and savage. Well, what we'll find is ... if they had a less-than-ideal culture it was not due to their differences with Rome. In fact, we may find that their differences with Rome were of benefit to them.

While it is true that Barbarian tribes were generally not models of Christianity, nonetheless compared to Rome the structure of their society was not nearly as offensive to God. The structures of the Roman Empire, the Church of Rome, and even its arm that became The Church of England, were Babylonish ... and God had harsh things to say about Babylonish culture!

By focusing upon "Church" and "State" historians lost track of the Ecclesia. Its history went mostly unnoticed, and it was called by other

names like “Tribes,” “Clans,” and “Barbarians,” etc.

THREE CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ECCLESIA

In order to define an ecclesia, let’s analyze what kind of society existed in Israel before King Saul (i.e., before the debacle recorded in I Samuel 8 when Israel abandoned Godly culture). In the first ten books of the Bible – before Israel rejected Yahweh and adopted man’s government and religion – we see that the Ecclesia exhibited three major characteristics. These aren’t the only characteristics, but they are keys that point to where and when ecclesias existed down through history:

The Biblical Ecclesia...

1. Is not religious, but is a common sense community based on God’s law;
2. Has Tribal or Family Systems, not Central Rulers;
3. has law and order without stealing the people’s freedoms;
4. has intelligent, thoughtful people, not backward, brainwashed pawns.

Of course, the Church and State have always maintained that any society that isn’t centralized (point number two) is fraught with disorder and weakness, and can produce only primitive and backward people.

Likewise, point number three is thought to be impossible from the point of view of Roman-type Centralism. Most anyone who believes in the Roman style of government (or church) will tell you that law and order is not possible until you first sacrifice a certain amount of freedom and accept a certain amount of slavery. I suppose it is accurate to say that slavery establishes a kind of law and order ... but it is not the kind of law and order that God wants for us. Not all forms of “law and order” are good.

Even though churches and central governments have a form of law and order, theirs is an alien form with tyranny under man-made laws rather than Yahweh’s Laws of liberty. It is a mistake to think that a centralized police state somehow promotes free-

dom and higher development. In fact, the reverse is true. People who accept a police state have lost part of their ability for higher thinking.

The “law and order” that emanates from a people who have taken God’s law into their hearts (Rm. 2:15, Jms. 1:25) fosters free inquiry, truth, and freedom, whereas the Roman form of “law and order” fosters deceit, fear, helplessness, and dullness of mind. Under God’s law people are punished for hurting or damaging others, not as it is in man’s system where we are punished for exercising freedom.

The churches during the Middle ages did not reflect intelligence and progress, nor did the central governments. In studying Rome’s government and church we see corruption and oppression rather than cultural progress. Today’s government is no better. With U.S. politics building a reputation for dishonesty, crime, war, murdering of unborn babies, robbing from its own citizens, it is evident that modern central government is about as intelligent and blessed as were Babylon, Sodom, and Rome.

ECCLESIAS BASED ON THE CLAN OR TRIBAL SYSTEM

Abraham sent his eldest servant outside the land of Canaan to find a wife for his son Isaac. He told his servant:

3. *“... you shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell.*
4. *But you shall go to my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife for my son Isaac.”*

Genesis 24:3-4

Abraham was concerned about family quality and integrity. That tradition was Israel’s blessing. By having their sons and daughters marry within their own tribal bounds not only did they maintain the integrity of the family genetics, they also prevented the destructive customs and religions of the heathen from creeping into their families. Strange customs and religious practices could cause Abraham’s family to stray from Yahweh’s Law, making them weak and corrupt.

As evidence of how important clan integrity was, not only were the Israelites not to intermarry with foreigners, but notice how each of the twelve tribes of Israel kept boundaries of separation between themselves. When they settled in the promised land of Canaan, they were instructed to not mix across tribal lines which would have confused the tribal inheritances of land and property. Instead, the land and properties were divided into twelve separate parcels, one for each clan or family of the twelve sons of Jacob ... and they were told to keep their inheritances distinct and separate ... which precluded marrying across tribal lines. This is the ecclesian way.

Churches and Central Governments, by contrast, encourage intermarriage and discourage separation from contrasting races and cultures. By amalgamating the customs of different people, through systematic evangelization, displacement, and re-orientation, they conquered nations and cultures. By breaking down the sanctity of family and cultural demarcations – through wars, displacement, debt, and uprooting whole races – they weaken their victims and keep them unable to sustain themselves.

Today, churches promote racial intermarriage, amalgamation of cultures and races under a guise of unity. Separatism and individualism are condemned as “discrimination” which they claim divides and weakens us. Through intermixture and confusion of their history, races become more easily controlled. Laws, customs, doctrines, genetics and histories are blended into an indistinct pool of confusion and eventually lost altogether.

THE BARBARIAN PATRIARCHAL SYSTEM

38. *This is he (Moses) that was in the ecclesia in the wilderness with the messenger who spoke of our fathers to him in the Mount Sinai, and who received living words to give to us.”*

Acts 7:38

Just as the ecclesia of Moses’ day was based on tribes or clans led by patriarchs, likewise, some of the European tribes were based on tribal culture as well. Some of their culture and

traditions were reminiscent of older Biblical traditions. The family was the cornerstone of their society:

It [ancient law] is full, in all its provinces, of the clearest indications that society in primitive times was not what it is assumed to be at present, a collection of INDIVIDUALS. In fact, and in the view of the men who composed it, it was an AGGREGATION OF FAMILIES. . . The contrast may be most forcibly expressed by saying that the unit of an ancient society was the Family, [whereas the unit] of a modern society [is] the Individual.

— ANCIENT LAW,
Sir Henry Sumner Maine, 1861

The family unit shaped tribal society. Their social structure developed out of ecclesian-type ideas composed of immediate, as well as extended, family members living near one another and often holding land in common.

The leaders of the clans were the patriarchs or elders: those who by reason of age and experience could better oversee the business and actions of the family or clan. There were also high patriarchs, recognized as “chieftains” (leaders – not rulers) over communities of several families or clans.

There are many names for the clan: “kin,” “brothers,” “family,” “tribe,” “band.” Whatever term was used, their structure was based upon the prototype of THE FAMILY UNIT, often generating from one original stock or progenitor – just as it was in Old Testament times during the time of the judges. Barbarians placed great importance on blood relationship.

For example, in old England the mixing of tribes, clans, or kindreds was thought to be a breach of morality ... thus The Statutes of Kilkenny were established to prevent it. The Statutes forbade the English to intermarry with the Irish, to speak Irish, or to adopt Irish customs, and the penalty for disobedience was torture or forfeiture of the Englishman’s titles. For 200 years these statutes preserved the ways and awareness of two separate clans: English stock and Irish stock.

Why was the concept of family relationship so important to the Barbarians? Was it because these early

people were prejudiced, ignorant and full of hate? No! It was because they believed, in a very basic way, that family dissipation undermined security, law and order, and freedom in their society. They enjoyed the natural strengths and protections that God had built into the family/tribe model.

Because European clans were founded on the family model, their ties were extremely strong. Barbarians knew that as long as their clan ties remained strong, they had a better chance of preserving their freedom. It was very difficult for an enemy to divide and conquer a clan.

And the enemy was often some form of centralized military power under a tyrant or a feudal lord. In regions where the tradition of the clan and blood kinship was strong it was more difficult for a wealthy lord or a church to take a townsman’s or peasant’s lands and freedoms from him. The cohesive kin would rally round a threatened member to protect, support, and assist him. Each “kinship” policed the conduct of its members and banded together to fight common enemies.

Where loyalty in the clan disappeared, the liberty of the individual members suffered equally. If a small landowner isolated himself from his kin, he was considerably weakened and vulnerable to attack by SEIGNORS or feudal lords who owned and/or controlled manors or territories. These lords had what was known in central government as “seignorial rights” under the rule of a tyrant. You could always tell where clan solidarity was strong, for there you would see fewer territorial lords and fewer seignorial privileges, and freer peasant proprietors.

We can illustrate this strength of the clan system by studying the contrast in how the word, “friend” was used in feudal times as opposed to how it is used now. “Friend” was applied to mothers, brothers, sisters and other blood relatives, or relatives by marriage. Clans had a general assumption that there were few real friendships except between relatives. This definition of a friend was a natural protection and made the clan almost impregnable to outside pressures and infiltration.

4. ... do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be friend to the world makes himself an enemy to God.”

James 4:4

It would be inaccurate to think that these race-conscious people were prejudiced and ignorant. “Prejudice” means “pre-judged” ... resulting in unjust preference of one thing over another. However, the strength of the clan protected freedom, and Barbarians shared it through diligent attention to law and reason. Logically, this encouraged them to continue the practice of keeping a separation between themselves and outsiders – not because of hate or prejudice, but because of preservation and sustainability. It was an intelligent, well-considered (unprejudiced) thing to do.

In America today, family consciousness does not usually exist. Family members are programmed to think of themselves as “individuals” rather than members of a family or clan. There are also those families who adopt babies from other races and then wear it as a badge or halo, to designate that they are good global citizens. Sadly, this weakens and confuses family foundations. The basic unit for strength in a nation has been destroyed by propaganda from government and from church. There is no strength because there is no sense of cohesiveness, racially, spiritually or otherwise between brothers, sisters, parents, grandparents, cousins, second cousins, etc. Family strength and honor is rare today because love and loyalty is now called “discrimination,” “hate” and “bigotry.”

As the household economy worsens, both the father and the mother get jobs, forcing their children into daycare nurseries and government schools. Children are indoctrinated with such things as government dependence, herd behavior, and isolation from adults. They are programmed to socialize only with other children ... many of whom are from Godless homes and other races and cultures. This is very confusing to children. Worship of central government is taught in schools and churches. This weakens family ties.

To put it another way, children are

taught everything that is against independent development, family consciousness, strength, and freedom. And today, just as in the day of the Barbarians and the feudal lords, individuals without strong family ties are more tractable and more vulnerable to enemy propaganda.

In an ecclesia setting children would be with their own kind, interacting with family-oriented folks of various ages, including mother and father and older brothers, sisters and cousins as well as grandparents. This fosters respect for elders, family, and heritage. Local, private schooling would be common.

Without an awareness of family one cannot develop an awareness of enemies. Today, people indiscriminately call anyone their friend – including cultural outsiders and even government agents who embrace anti-family philosophies. Children are not taught that there is a great difference between acquaintances and friends ... again, robbing children of the ability to discriminate between friends and enemies. These so-called “friends” are sometimes enemies to the family, and consequently it is now easier for modern-day “seignors” to penetrate the defenses of the family.

But, the Barbarians and other similar European tribes had an awareness of family that went beyond just the immediate family. They had groups of families bound together, separate from other cultures with different beliefs and customs. Inside tribes/clans were communities of several related households sharing the same hearth, the same fields, the same values, and the same theological beliefs. These were “households” that were passed down to heirs. Protection and integrity of family and customs were their goals. And they accomplished this goal by maintaining the strength of the clan or patriarchal system.

This made it difficult for enemies to invade them. But, today’s government school students are mistaught that the European tribes in Medieval times were undesirable, uncouth, primitive savages who were obsessed with fighting and thieving. Concern about family and clan is viewed as primitive, “barbaric,” or “racist.” And children grow up being taught that

they are all part of a national or global melting pot of mixed races, cultures, and religions.

ECCLESIAS HAVE LAW AND ORDER

- 1. And if you will listen carefully to the voice of Yahweh your God, being careful to do all his commandments which I command you this day, Yahweh your God will set you on high above all nations of the earth:*
- 2. And all these blessings shall come on you, and overtake you, if you will listen to the voice of Yahweh your God.*
- 15. But it shall be, if you will not listen to the voice of Yahweh your God, to be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command you this day, that all these curses shall come upon you, and overtake you:*

Deut. 28:1,2,15

Notice, that if Israel kept God’s Law, there would be blessings (order, clarity, freedom) as listed in verses one through fourteen. If Israel did not keep God’s Law, then there were curses (disorder, confusion, slavery) as listed in verses 15-68. If you study all the statutes and judgments listed in the first five books of the Bible (books written before Israel opted for central government) along with the details of the blessings and curses in the 28th chapter of Deuteronomy, you will see a sense of law and order in Israel – AND NO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT!

The following areas of life are all covered under God’s Law: Social Rank and Authority, Natives and Aliens, Taxation and Welfare, Defense, Courts and Justice Procedures, Family Life, Death, Sexual Morality, Property and Economics.

Remember, this law and order existed without the “benefit” of Central government ... and without Roman “Civilization” so-called. Many Christians today know of the existence of God’s Law, yet they have been brainwashed to think that there would be chaos without man’s law ... when in fact the opposite is true. God’s law is adequate and complete. Yahweh is a God of law and order. His laws cause

the universe to function. His order puts us in harmony with those laws and the universe itself. Many people unthinkingly imply that Yahweh is a God of disorder and anarchy when they claim that Jesus discarded Law. Furthermore, they imply that Yahweh didn’t have enough foresight to create laws that would work and last. However, the fact is man needs God’s Law to have peace and order in society!

BARBARIAN LAW & ORDER

The average person, indoctrinated by the establishment’s versions of history, would likely conclude that there was no law or order in Barbarian society. He would probably think these supposed savages just did anything they felt led to do at the moment, inventing their own capricious standards as they went, living like wild savages. That sounds pretty “barbaric” and uncouth doesn’t it? But when you think about it, this more closely describes the methods of Washington D.C. rather than historic tribal society. The fact is, the Barbarians did have a system of law and order in their society. Again, much depends upon one’s viewpoint.

If you thought that the Barbarians were the savages and the Romans were the ones with law and order, you should look again to see which law system we are warned against by God’s word, and which system more closely resembled Yahweh’s system. We should always ask, “Whose law, and whose order?”

Roman law consisted of myriad specific man-made statutes that were carefully recorded in law libraries and rigidly established. This is the style of law American central government uses today. It is a very complex system of law that creates injustice and endless loopholes that clever lawyers can work around to achieve any purpose. Politicians create laws that facilitate legislative thievery, and protect themselves from public reprisal. That, in a nutshell, is the essence of judicial politics.

On the other hand, medieval Barbarian-style law consisted of tribal law that was handed down to each succeeding generation by heritage and word of mouth. Codes were not in-

vented and recorded in ways to provide loopholes for shyster lawyers. Instead, there were broad general principles of RIGHT and WRONG (like the Ten Commandments). In court, everything depended on the personal testimony of witnesses. Records on paper – such as a deed or contract – weren't the last word. And because Barbarian law consisted of oral tradition, it was rooted in the family unit. The family laws of peasants generally followed the same rules as the surrounding region in which they lived. Justice was more important than playing the game of cover-up and loopholes.

A person with a central-government mindset would see the Barbarian form of law as inefficient, chaotic and primitive because it couldn't be manipulated and twisted. To him Roman law would seem more advanced and noble.

Yet, the Barbarian oral law system was closer to the spirit of Yahweh's system. Not that the Barbarians had it all figured out. But in comparing Barbarian society with Roman society, the Roman system scores below the Barbarian system. This is one reason Rome fell and the Barbarian system didn't.

Oral law was the Barbarian's "common law." Common law was determined by their court decisions, and it consisted of the accepted ethics of their society. The judges relied on a few broad, fixed principles of justice which could be successfully applied to any number of different issues. Judges in the courts made oral decisions. It was a straight forward, uncomplicated moral code based on a few simple principles similar to the Ten Commandments.

In fact, this is how Israel administered law and order during the time of the judges. Up to that time cases were decided by judges in accordance with the broad principles of justice expressed in the Ten Commandments and the Old Covenant.

The benefit of living by principle law is that it prevents lawyer-style manipulation with its ever-increasing number of administrative regulations and judicial precedents that require specific performance and a more and more oppressive police state. But, if society is based on Christian principles

in its ethics, then its common law will align with Yahweh's Law.

Barbarians had law and order. Every tribe had its principles, and they had uncompromising loyalty to that law. The jurisdiction of each law was TRIBAL in nature. Every local court had to honor the birthright of each individual and try him under his own tribal law.

Law was so important to the German tribes that their laws survived centuries of oral transmission and were the basis for Medieval European law.

But the Beast System and its Roman Law grew, and it gradually encroached upon tribal systems. Roman law made more advances in European schools in the 12th century. At the time, many considered Roman law secular and pagan in nature. However, the mixing of Roman law with tribal brought further decline in the ecclesia tradition.

Under this mixed law system a judge referred to Roman law if the case was to be decided using Roman jurisdiction, but he used Germanic custom and the edicts of barbarian kingdoms also, depending on the tribal affiliation of the accused.

Over time the tribal laws lost strength in the courts until they ceased to be even translated or mentioned. This happened because of the influence of Roman Civil Law (recording of judicial precedents ... not unlike the Talmudic law which is a record of rabbinical decisions). Judges thought their decision were so important they recorded in writing all the judgments they made. They used judicial precedent with which to make future decisions, and this gave the a way to circumvent the use of ethics and broad principles of justice. By referring to a previously written decision of their choice they could arrange for whatever judgment they wanted.

The practice of writing down past judicial rulings was officially established as the Doctrine of Precedent, called "STARE DECISIS" (Latin for "let the decision stand"). Stare Decisis required "specific performance" of the courts much the same way that Roman Civil Law required "specific performance" of the citizens. Specific performance is positive law that demands performance, as contrasted to God's law which is negative law that

forbids certain acts. Positive law requires performance, whereas negative law only forbids a few simple things (don't murder, don't steal, don't lie, don't covet, don't worship other gods, etc.) ... leaving people free to do anything else that doesn't hurt or damage someone.

If a pending case was similar to another case decided earlier, protocol allowed the judge to decide the case the same way, even if the former decision was bad. It was no real judgment ... only protocol. Only legal form and court procedure.

As a result of Stare Decisis, "law and order" evolved into a rigid system where protocol, instead of justice, was the goal. The oral tradition of a few simple principles of justice faded away. Today the American central government system of law follows the Roman model with its Stare Decisis and myriad of rules and regulations that require specific performance in the courts. And just as in Medieval times, justice goes begging.

ECCLESIAS LIBERATE PEOPLE FOR BETTER LIVES

Ancient Israelite society has been portrayed as primitive by modern churches and historians. But the fact is their moral standards were more advanced than modern America's. SOCIAL AND ETHICAL QUALITY IS NOT MEASURED BY THE STATE OF TECHNOLOGY. Ancient Israelites placed more value on human life, honor and justice. The people were advanced, but with a different focus than modern society. People need God's law to keep them from demeaning themselves. Compared to Rome, European Tribal systems were closer to the common-sense laws of God.

God's Law took into account the poor. It directed the farmer to not completely reap the corners of his field or entirely gather every last grape from his vines. This was commanded so that if the poor could not raise their own food or buy it, they would at least be given a chance to survive on the "gleanings." This, of course, was a principle that covered more than grape harvest.

9. And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not wholly

reap the corners of your field, neither shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest.

10. And you shall not glean your vineyard, neither shall you gather every grape of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and stranger: I am Yahweh your God.

Leviticus 19:9,10

It was against God's Law to afflict widows and orphans. God promised to inflict the death penalty on any who did so.

22. You shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child.

23. If you afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry;

24. And my wrath shall wax hot, and I will kill you with the sword; and your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.

Exodus 22:22-24

Other of God's laws saw to it that if anyone stole or damaged someone's property, they had to restore it. Fair payment of wages was demanded by these laws. The listing of laws that reflect compassion for the feelings and dignity of people is a long one.

Laws protecting women:

1. Prostitution and seduction forbidden: Ex. 22:16,17.

2. Restitution for rape: Deut. 22:25-29.

3. Restitution for injury of pregnant women and death of an unborn child: Ex. 29:22,23

Health laws:

1. Eating of unclean animals and scavengers defined: Lev. 11:2-31, Deut. 14:3-20.

2. Animals dying of disease or from injuries forbidden for food: Lev. 22:8, Lev. 17:15, Acts 15:20, 29.

4. Sanitation, cleanliness and quarantines: Lev. 12 through 15.

Laws for homicide

- Premeditated murder carries death penalty: Gen. 9:6, Ex. 20:13, Ex. 21:12, Lev. 4:17, Num. 35:16,21, Deut. 9:11,12.

Laws for assault and liability

1. Assaulting parents carries death penalty: Ex. 21:15.

2. Paying restitution for causing injuries to another: Ex. 21:18, 19.

3. Restitution for assaulting servants or maids: Ex. 21:20, 21, 26, 27.

4. Restitution for injuries and injured cattle resulting from cattle: Ex 21: 28-36.

5. Solution for accidental manslaughter: Num. 35:10-12, Num. 35:22-32, Deut.)9:4-6.

Laws upholding sexual morality

1. Prostitution forbidden: Ex. 22:16,17, Lev. 19:29, Lev. 21:9.

2. Adultery forbidden: Ex. 20:14, Lev. 20:10, Deut. 22:22.

3. Sodomy (homosexuality) forbidden: Lev. 20:13, 1 Cor. 6:9, Deut. 23:17, Rom 1:26,27.

Laws governing proper agricultural and ranching practices

1. Crossbreeding, hybridization forbidden: Lev. 19:19.

2. Land rest every seventh year (Sabbath year): Ex. 23:10, 11.

3. Sabbath rest for both man and beast: Gen. 2:3, Deut. 5:12-15.

4. Helpless or injured animals must be helped: Ex. 23:3,5, Deut. 22:3,6,7.

5. Working men and beasts must be fed well: Deut. 25:3, 1 Tim. 5:8.

These are examples which exhibit refinement and compassion towards all people.

BARBARIANS WERE NOT "BACKWARD" PEOPLE

The term "Barbarian" had a different meaning in past times. In Greece and Rome anyone who wasn't

a citizen was considered a Barbarian (Gk. -"Barbaros"). It didn't signify uncouth, dirty savages. It just meant non-Greek" or "non-Roman."

Romans designated non-Roman nations as "barbarian" because the foreigners were unacquainted with their language, their civil laws, and their customs. In later times a sense of reproach was attached to the term probably due to the arrogance of the Romans. A foreigner without Roman laws and customs just wasn't considered intelligent or "civilized" ("civilized" is a Roman term meaning "enfranchised under the Roman Civil Law").

Remember, the Pharisees thought much the same about Jesus:

14. Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught.

15. And the Jews marveled, saying, How can this man know letters (or learning), having never learned?

John 7:14, 15

In the Greek language of the New Testament, "barbarous" [bar-baros] meant: "one to whom a pure Greek dialect was not native; one who was not a proper Greek: a barbarian." The Greek word is used in the New Testament to refer to people outside the Roman and Judean systems.

The arrogant Pharisees were insinuating, "He can't be important because he never attended our schools or seminaries." They assumed that no one outside their establishment could amount to much.

America's academic and political establishment takes a similar view toward the home schooling movement of today. Yet, compared to government schools, home schooling is producing more intelligent young people with higher morals.

The principle to be learned here is that the terms "refinement" and "advancement" are defined by their users. Just because the Barbarians had a different form of education than the Romans, that didn't mean they were backward or brutish. To the Romans, Barbarians may have been "uncivilized." But, to the Barbarians the Romans were brutish and crude.

There is ample evidence – ignored by pro-central-government historians – to prove that the so-called “Barbarians” were educated and intelligent. For instance, around 635 A.D. The Anglo Saxon King Sigebert established a school for youth at Seaham or Dunwich in which literature, ecclesiastical poetry, astronomy and arithmetic were taught. Children started their education as early as 3 years old!

Then, approximately 780 A.D., Charlemagne, the man who ruled over most of Western Europe, received thorough instruction in logic, rhetoric and astronomy from an Anglo-Saxon named Alcuin. Alcuin was a Northumbrian who was educated at York. Alcuin wasn't the only scholar produced from pre-Roman England. There were many others, including Caedmon, who is considered the father of English poetry. The other, less famous scholars were known as “bards.” Bards were TEACHERS and not simply traveling musicians or singers as they are popularly portrayed today. All these scholars were produced by tribal systems considered to be “barbarians.”

Pre-Roman England had the largest library north of the Alps. This is not surprising since the Anglo-Saxons considered books precious objects. They were skilled penmen and artists, and spent much time producing illuminated manuscripts such as the Book of Kells and the Lindisfarne Gospels (circa 9th century).

“Barbarians,” otherwise known (or unknown to many) as the scattered descendants of the ancient tribes of Israel, were definitely not illiterate! Their degree of character was higher than the Romans, and they were less brutish.

Barbarians displayed more fidelity towards their wives and family than the Romans, and they adhered to ancient tribal loyalties of law and individual freedoms. The role of women centered around the home, and chastity was highly esteemed while adultery and debauchery, like the Roman Coliseum games and other society activities, were disdained.

Consequently, the honor of the Barbarians, in contrast to the political debauchery of the Romans, played a large part in the Barbarians' overthrowing the Roman Empire. 19th-

century scholars have revealed that the fortunes of wealthy Roman estates were already on the decline before the Barbarians came. By the fourth century, farming had declined. But under the Barbarian kings it started coming back, due, no doubt, to their advanced stock-breeding methods and their use of efficient water mills and heavy plows.

CONCLUSION

Which were the “rude” and “backward” ones – the Romans or the European tribes? Granted, the Romans were, in most cases, more advanced in technology and warfare. But remember, social quality cannot be measured by the military or the degree of technological advancement.

We could ask the same question. Who today is brutish and un-advanced – the powerful and technologically advanced Central Government System, or Christian “separatists” whose loyalties lie outside the system? Central Government condones the murder of millions of unborn babies every year, exploits drug abuse and immorality, and robs, kills, and oppresses the common folk. Christian separatists try to maintain a godly way of life in spite of government interference. Which will “history” record as the real “savages?”

Maybe those who think they are living in a noble society structured upon the American Constitutional Central Government should take a closer look. Compare the two systems. Which one is more respectable? 1) The powerful Romanish Constitutional Central Government, or 2) The Wav of “barbarous” Christian Separatists who view the government system with contempt and a feeling of alienation?

Suggested Reading:

Feudal Society, by Marc Brown, University of Chicago Press, 1961

Great Ages Of Man: Barbarian Europe by Gerald Simons, New York, 1968

Feudalism by F.I. Ganshof, 1961

The Story Of Ireland by Brian Inglis; Faber

& Faber, London; 1956

Everyday Life In Roman And Anglosaxon Times by Marjorie and C. H. B. Quennell, Putnam's, New York, 1959

Early Medieval Society edited by Sylvia L. Thrup, 1967

Encyclopedia Americana Vol. 12 p.583, 584, Grolier Incorporated, 1995

Ancient Law by Sir Henry Sumner Maine, 1986 Dorset Press, first published 1861.

HEREIN IS LOVE

A gentleman who was a professed Christian was taken seriously ill. He became troubled about the little love he felt in his heart for God and spoke of his experience to a friend. This is how the friend answered him:

“When I go home from here, I expect to take my baby on my knee, look into her sweet eyes, listen to her charming prattle, and tired as I am, her presence will rest me; for I love that child with unutterable tenderness. But she loves me little. If my heart were breaking it would not disturb her sleep. If my body were racked with pain, it would not interrupt her play. If I were dead, she would forget me in a few days. Besides this, she has never brought me a penny, but is a constant expense to me. I am not rich, but there is not money enough in the world to buy my baby.

How is it? Does she love me, or do I love her? Do I withhold my love until I know she loves me? Did I wait for her to do something worthy of my love before extending it?”

This practical illustration of the love of God for His children caused the tears to roll down the sick man's face. “Oh, I see,” he exclaimed, “it is not my love to God, but God's love for me, of which I should be thinking. And I do love Him now as I never loved Him before.”

“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us...”

— I John 4:10