



Answering a Fool According to His Folly By Eric Holmberg

I went to Amazon.com today to order another copy of Skousen's seminal work, "The 5000 Year Leap." Written almost 30 years ago and once out-of-print, Glenn Beck has almost single-handedly resurrected it and turned it into a best-seller. While there I took a moment to read some of the reviews that had been posted. I wasn't at all surprised to see a majority of five-stars sprinkled with a handful of one-stars. This is one of those love it – if you're a thoughtful Christian – or hate it – if you're a committed materialist/secularist – type of books. I took the time to read one of the one-star postings and found that old prophetic bile rising up in my throat and decided to take a moment and respond.

If you're interested:

Amazon Reviewer: "Like books of this type, don't waste your time on this. It's another one of those "Founding Fathers created a Christian Nation to glorify God" fantasies. Despite the well-documented facts that many of the founders were either agnostic or at most deists, the myth persists that somehow this was a Christian nation, blessed by God from the beginning. I'm as patriotic as anyone and a Marine vet and would still fight for this country I love, but I am sick of this myth.

The first people that came here were largely trying to escape state-religion, but then set about to create their own in each colony or settlement. I'm very big on religious freedom, freedom of thought and conscience, as well as speech, but am sick and tired of this same story. It's not much different than a Christian Taliban. I'm quite sure some of those that founded the nation did indeed think that they had been given this continent by God. That's why they had so little problem moving and removing the "savages" that were already here not to mention the various witch hunts.

The main message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to love one another as He loves us! Not just the others like you that are in the same church, but ALL of the others. All the rest is dogma, footnotes and the apostles' efforts to try and understand this while figuring out how to build a new church/faith.

My Response : Shut your eyes and repeat after me, "There is no place like home. There is no place like home." Except now you don't want to go back to Kansas (reality) but rather remain in Oz. Wishing that America wasn't overwhelmingly founded by Christians who intended this to be an explicitly God-fearing-and-obeying nation doesn't make it so. And cherry-picking from the handful of contrary evidence while ignoring the avalanche of facts that support the "Christian nation" premise is manifestly disingenuous. My favorite example of

this insanity – and proof that God has an interesting a sense of humor – is Thomas Jefferson's famous letter to the Danbury Baptists. This “founding document” (if you tilt your head and squint a little) is the source for the infamous phrase “wall of separation between church and state.” (By the way, the “separation of church and state” is a completely Christian notion when properly understood, something that statist/secularists are loathe to do.) Now without question this letter and phrase are the holy grail for the ACLU and their ilk. The irony? The letter was written on New Year's day, 1802 - a Friday. Just two days after penning it Jefferson attended Christian church services held -- drum-roll please -- in the Supreme Court chambers; at that time located in the Capitol building. H-m-m-m-m-m-m.

The simple fact is that there were only a handful of deists among the Founding Fathers - and maybe one or two agnostics. The vast majority were Christians. And even more to the point, the few deists - like Jefferson and Franklin - were heavily influenced by and respectful of Christian thought. It was Franklin, for example, who called the assembly to Christian prayer - invoking the words of Jesus - when the Constitutional convention threatened to blow apart.

Part of me wishes a wand could be waved and the world that this reviewer seems to want could be created – one where the Judeo-Christian worldview was locked out of the public square and every law, every economic and social policy was based on naked human reasoning divorced from all illumination from the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit. I promise you it would make George Bailey's "Bedford Falls" journey look like a walk in the park. Our tough Marine would be screaming for Christ's mercy and presence AS WELL as His presence through the Church and God-fearing civil magistrates within a microsecond of his immersion into hell on earth.