

MORE THAN DATES AND DEAD PEOPLE

“Recovering a Christian View of History” – by Stephen Mansfield

I. **The Evolutionary Bias:**

Life is... Rom. 1:25, 12:2, 1 Cor. 1:19, 2:14, 2 Cor. 3:14, 4:4, 1 Pet. 3:15

1. Random, accidental, uncertain (no design, meaning, purpose or pattern)
2. Evolving, progressing = getting better (simple, old, out dates vs. complex, new & improved)

II. **The 4 Pillars:**

A Christian View of History is “G-R-E-E-K” to me.

1. LORDSHIP = “God rules”... Sovereignty = Cosmos vs. chaos
Dan. 2:21, 4:25, 34-35, Acts 17:26, Is. 45:6-7, Eph. 1:11, Col. 1:16, Heb. 11:3
2. DESTINY = “Ending”... the destination, “telos”, purpose was 1st and gives meaning.
Is. 46:10; Jer. 1:5, Ps. 139:16, Phil. 3:12
3. LEGACY = “Eternity”... the time tube vs. eternal perspective.
Ps. 93:2, Is. 57:15, Eccl. 3:11, 2 Pet. 3:8, Rev. 1:4
4. The FIGHT of FAITH = “Kingdom strife”... conflict & spiritual warfare.
Eph. 6:11-12, 1 Tim. 1:18, 6:12, 2 Tim. 2:3, 26, 4:7, Josh. 5:14

III. **The 7 Ways History Changes our Lives:**

1. Seeing God – “HIS-story”, natural revelation +
2. Revealing Heritage – Dt. 32:7, Ex. 12:24, Ps. 145... “Stephen in 1400’s”
3. Seeing the Future – Eccl. 1:9-10, 3:15 = consistent character of God & humans
4. Escaping the “Kingdom of Now” – Me (reading & travel), quotes of Newton, Foster, G.K.C., Lord Acton
5. Cleansing the Land – 2 Sam. 21:1 Gibeonites = “Generational Wakest”
6. Cloud of Witnesses – Heb. 12:1 = inspiration, integrity, participation (baton)
7. RESTORATION – Ps. 11:3, 77:10, 88:12, Is. 43:22, 61:4
“remembrance & readiness; Identity & possibility = power (ability to do work)”

IV. **Tools/Insights for Interpreting History:**

1. Religion = “ultimate concerns”
2. Culture = “religion externalized”, embraced & expressed in norms & values
3. Law = “religion codified”
4. Education = “religion transferred”
5. Art = “religion symbolized”