

SLB-04 | 1-21-07

The Rest of Regeneration - Lesson 7

2 Peter 1:3-8, "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

The Rest of Regeneration

- "Come unto me, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; and you shall find rest to your souls -Mt.11:28-29
- Hebrews 3:10 "for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his."
- Ephesians 2:10 (YLT) "for of Him we are workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to good works, which God did before prepare, that in them we may walk."

God is in Our Genes

- Rest, ceasing from our own works, is the Key element of the Christian's Spiritual Life.
- Without it we re-enter into the Realm of Human Resources - the Realm of our Genetic Potential in Adam, as evidenced in part by this article:
- **God Is In Our Genes**
- We are our genes. In a new book, Dr John Avise, a genetics professor at the University of Georgia, suggests that these molecular agents influence our bodily features, our behaviors and even our predisposition to spirituality. They affect how we love, how we live, and even how and when we die.

God is in Our Genes

- Published by Harvard University Press *The Genetic Gods: Evolution and Belief in Human Affairs* brings together the most recent discoveries in evolutionary and molecular genetics and uses them to show a vital link between all aspects of human life -- including religion.
- "Genes and evolutionary processes have a pervasive influence over human affairs," said Dr. John Avise, one of UGA's most respected researchers and teachers and a member of both the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

God is in Our Genes

- The Human Attainment Motivators of the Inherited Genetic Human Nature from Adam (IGHNA) include:
 - a. Sexual
 - b. Chemical
 - c. Religious
 - d. Approbation
 - e. Power
 - f. Materialism

Scrap 'm

God is in Our Genes

- "They even extend into realms traditionally reserved for supernatural processes. This book is not intended to be adversarial but rather an attempt to understand the human condition from a mechanistic genetics perspective."
- Though Avise worked hard to avoid dogma in writing the book, he freely admits that it is "sure to be controversial," especially among those who are "inherently opposed to scientific methods." Nevertheless, he says the volume grew both from his own scientific inquiries into the "genetic gods" and an exposure early in life to Christian Science.

God is in Our Genes

- The book marks a departure for Avise, whose earlier work in evolutionary genetics has made him an internationally recognised scholar.
- As Avise notes in the book's preface, the sciences of evolutionary biology and genetics have blossomed in recent decades. Indeed, the entire history of those disciplines is barely a century old. In recent years new genetic discoveries have begun to provide mechanistic explanations of human conditions that until recently "had been within the exclusive purview of mythology, theology and religion."

God is in Our Genes

- "Most people remain blissfully ignorant of these discoveries or openly hostile to their implications," said Avise. "As a practicing evolutionary biologist, I live in two worlds. I work in a university setting surrounded by the astonishing pieces of laboratory equipment and biochemical tools of molecular genetics.
- Yet when I return home to read the newspaper, I find editorials lashing out against evolutionary biology in the name of religion and reports of school boards mandating equal time for creationism in the science classroom."

God is in Our Genes

- Despite those worries, Avise, in *The Genetic Gods*, set out not to drive a wedge between belief and science but to find common ground. He admits that a central issue in his own life is how to reconcile the intellectual demands and pleasures of critical scientific thought with the sense of purpose and fulfilment that a rich spiritual life can provide. As he clearly notes, however, the book champions science as the preferred path of rational inquiry, though it makes no definitive claims regarding either the ethical or pragmatic value of rational objectivity itself.

God is in Our Genes

- The book is divided into a series of studies that use cutting-edge genetic discoveries to exam topics such as the doctrines of biological science, genetic illnesses, the sovereignty of genes in our daily lives and the ethical implications of technological advances in genetic screening and engineering. He concludes with a chapter on meaning.
- Avise defends calling genes "gods" by saying that genes have special powers over human lives and affairs.

God is in Our Genes

- "The genetic material in organisms alive today traces back generation by generation through an unbroken chain of descent [with modification] from ancestral molecules that have copied and replaced themselves ever since the origin of life on earth, about 4 billion years ago."
- In recent years, the knowledge of genes has even led to their manipulation in complex ways. When researchers cloned a sheep from the genes of an adult ewe, there was an explosion of interest and concern around the globe. Almost immediately, a number of countries, including the United States, threw up roadblocks to similar procedures using human beings, and most people -- both scientists and the lay public -- followed the controversy closely.

God is in Our Genes

- That we feel so differently about cloning when humans might be involved goes to the heart of many arguments about these "genetic gods."
- "If genes were merely passive backdrops to human existence, why should we care about the prospects of human cloning?" asked Avise. "But most of us do care. We understand, if only at an impressionistic level, the concept of genetic individuality, and of the hereditary influences that make you, you and me, me."

God is in Our Genes

- Avise does not shy away from difficult questions in the book. Indeed, he engages them in a quiet, insistent way. He makes clear that the book does not take sides in the old "nature versus nurture argument," however. Rather, it speaks to issue of the natural versus the metaphysical.

God is in Our Genes

- "I realize that many people may not want to call genes `genetic gods`, " said Avise. "But it is becoming clearer each year that genes do exert a kind of deist influence over human affairs. My intent in this book has been to discuss the relevance of these findings to issues of ultimate concern traditionally reserved for mythology, theology and religious faith."

Infiltration Has Begun

- There are 2 Prongs to the attack of Islam against the USA; the Fundamentalist Jihad attack, and the “moderate” gradual peaceful takeover ploy.
- Keith Ellison made history Thursday, becoming the first Muslim member of Congress and punctuating the occasion by taking a ceremonial oath with a Quran once owned by Thomas Jefferson.
- "Look at that. That's something else," Ellison, D-Minn., said as officials from the Library of Congress showed him the two-volume Quran, which was published in London in 1764.
- A few minutes later, Ellison took the ceremonial oath with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., at his side.

Infiltration Has Begun

- Speaking in Dearborn, Mich., late Sunday night, the first Muslim elected to Congress told a cheering crowd of Muslims they should remain steadfast in their faith and push for justice.
- "You can't back down, you can't chicken out, you can't be afraid, you got to have faith in Allah, and you got to stand up and be a real Muslim," Detroit native Keith Ellison said to loud applause.
- "Allahu akbar" — God is great — was the reply of many in the crowd....

Infiltration Has Begun

- Ellison said in Dearborn that Muslims can help teach America about justice and equal protection, suggesting that Muslim activists may be part of God's plan. He spoke at the annual convention of two Muslim groups, the Muslim American Society and the Islamic Circle of North America....

Infiltration Has Begun

- A Special Forces veteran and commentator says new Muslim Congressman Keith Ellison (Hakim-Mohammad) of Minnesota was absolutely right when he said Thomas Jefferson gleaned knowledge from the Quran – only it was knowledge about his enemies that Jefferson likely gleaned.
- A report in the [FreePress](#) reported Ellison said the fact that Jefferson owned the book confirmed that it was "definitely an important historical document in our national history" and he said it "demonstrates that Jefferson was a broad visionary thinker who not only possessed a Quran, but read it."

Infiltration Has Begun

- "It would have been something that contributed to his own thinking," Ellison was quoted as saying.
- In an interview with USINFO, Ellison spokesman Rick Jauert went further, saying the choice of Jefferson's Quran was significant because it "dates religious tolerance back to the time of our founding fathers."
- "Jefferson was ... one of the more profound thinkers of the time, who recognized even then that there was nothing to fear, and in fact there was strength in recognizing religious tolerance," he said.

Infiltration Has Begun

- Ted Sampley, the publisher of [U.S. Veteran Dispatch](#), agreed with Ellison, who used the Library of Congress Quran that Jefferson once owned for his ceremonial swearing-in to Congress, that Jefferson used the Quran for his own thinking, but not with the same result.
- "There is no doubt Ellison was right about Jefferson believing wisdom could be 'gleaned' from the Muslim Quran," Sampley writes. "At the time Jefferson owned the book, he needed to know everything possible about Muslims because he was about to advocate war against the Islamic 'Barbary' states of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Tripoli."

Infiltration Has Begun

- He noted that over 10 centuries, Muslim pirates had cruised the African and Mediterranean coastline, pillaging villages and abducting slaves, mostly by making pre-dawn raids that left high casualty rates.
- "It was typical of Muslim raiders to kill off as many of the 'non-Muslim' older men and women as possible so the preferred 'booty' of only young women could be collected," he said. The women were sought for their value as concubines in Islamic markets.
- "Boys, as young as 9 or 10 years old, were often mutilated to create eunuchs who would bring higher prices in the slave markets of the Middle East," Sampley wrote.

Infiltration Has Begun

- When American colonists rebelled against the English in 1776, merchant ships from what later would be the United States lost British navy protection, and they were attacked "and their Christian crews enslaved by Muslim pirates operating under the control of the 'Dey of Algiers' – an Islamist warlord ruling Algeria."
- The Continental Congress then met in 1784 to talk about treaties with leaders of the region, and John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin were appointed to oversee the work.

Infiltration Has Begun

- "Tribute" and "ransoms" first were paid to the Muslim slavers, and Adams argued that was the cheapest way to get commerce moving, Sampley wrote. But Jefferson was opposed, proposing a settlement of the issue "through the medium of war."
- Sampley writes that two years later, when Jefferson was ambassador to France, and Adams was ambassador to Britain, they met in London with Sidi Haji Abdul Rahman Adja, the ambassador to Britain from the "Dey of Algiers."

Infiltration Has Begun

- Seeking a peace treaty, based on Congress' vote to pay tribute, the two Americans asked Dey's ambassador why Muslims had so much hostility towards America. They later reported to Congress the ambassador told them Islam "was founded on the Laws of their Prophet, that it was written in their Quran, that all nations who should not have acknowledged their authority were sinners, that it was their right and duty to make war upon them wherever they could be found, and to make slaves of all they could take as Prisoners, and that every Musselman (Muslim) who should be slain in Battle was sure to go to Paradise."

Infiltration Has Begun

- Sampley notes that for years the American government paid Muslims millions of dollars for the safe passage of American ships or the return of American hostages, but not long after Jefferson's inauguration in 1801, he dispatched the USS Constitution, USS Constellation, USS Philadelphia, USS Chesapeake, USS Argus, USS Syren and USS Intrepid to the Mediterranean.
- Jefferson's first presidency coincided with what generally is called the Barbary Wars running from approximately 1801-1805.

Infiltration Has Begun

- That year the Marines marched from Egypt into Tripolitania, freeing Americans held there as slaves, he wrote.
- Gary DeMar, president of AmericanVision.org, added his endorsement of Sampley's interpretation of history.
- DeMar cites Joseph Wheelan's book, "Jefferson's War: America's First War on Terror," in noting Jefferson said, "Too long, for the honor of nations, have those Barbarians been [permitted] to trample on the sacred faith of treaties, on the rights and laws of human nature!"

Infiltration Has Begun

- DeMar notes that research treatise concludes that, "Jefferson's war pitted a modern republic with a free-trade, entrepreneurial creed against a medieval autocracy whose credo was piracy and terror. It matched an ostensibly Christian nation against an avowed Islamic one that professed to despise Christians."
- "Wheelan's historical assessment of the time is on target," DeMar noted. "Except for its Native American population and a small percentage of Jews, the United States was solidly Christian, while the North African regencies were just as solidly Muslim – openly hostile toward Christians."

Infiltration Has Begun

- "So what did Jefferson learn from the Quran? ...Unless a nation submitted to Islam, whether it was the aggressor or not, that nation was by definition at war with Islam. It's no wonder that Jefferson studied the Quran. He realized that if Americans ever capitulated, the Muslims would be singing 'From the Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of A-mer-i-ca,'" DeMar concluded.

Infiltration Has Begun

- As WND has reported Ellison has allowed his supporters to shout, "Allahu Akbar!," the same phrase allegedly used by the 9/11 suicide pilots, he's spoken to various Islamic groups, he's used that Quran to be sworn into office, but he hasn't responded to WND requests to confirm he will base his decisions on the laws of the U.S. on the Constitution, not the Quran.
- He has confirmed that "in terms of political agenda items, my faith informs these things."

Infiltration Has Begun

- Jauert confirmed to WND that the congressman does not believe there will be a conflict between his religious beliefs and his duty under the U.S. Constitution.
- But when asked which would take priority if there is a conflict, or to describe how the congressman will resolve the differing philosophies provided by the U.S. Constitution and the Quran, which calls for beheading "infidels," he said he could not answer immediately.

Infiltration Has Begun

- WND also has reported Ellison has been linked to a radical Islamic school of thought that requires loyalty to the Quran over the U.S. Constitution.
- A black convert to orthodox Sunni Islam, Ellison spoke to the North American Imams Federation, or NAIF, at the group's Nov. 19 conference in Minneapolis.
- His talk flowed into a breakout session listed on the agenda simply as "American Open University," according to the conference program. It turns out the university is a "distance-learning" center based in Alexandria, Va., and known to local law enforcement as "Wahhabi Online."

Infiltration Has Begun

- Later that day, Ellison met with NAIF's president, Omar Ahmad Shahin, who lectures at the same American Open University. (He also met at the time with New York imam Siraj Wahhaj, an unindicted co-conspirator in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.) The radical Islamic school trains many of NAIF's more than 150 members, who control mosques across America.

Infiltration Has Begun

- American Open University supports Sharia, or Islamic law. And its founder and chairman, Jaafar Sheikh Idris, has denounced the U.S system of democracy as "the antithesis of Islam" and argued no man has the right to make laws outside Allah's laws expressed in the Quran.
- Ellison's campaign also was backed by the Washington-based lobby group Council on American-Islamic Relations, a partner organization to American Open University-affiliated NAIF. CAIR held fundraisers for Ellison, a civil-rights lawyer and one-time acolyte of Louis Farrakhan who admits to making anti-Semitic remarks in the past (under various alias including Keith Hakim, Keith Ellison-Muhammad and Keith X Ellison).

Infiltration Has Begun

- CAIR's founder has argued the Quran should replace the Constitution as the highest authority in the land. The group's director of communications, moreover, has expressed his desire to see the U.S. become an Islamic state.

Infiltration Has Begun

- One blogger was a little concerned over the situation:
- "During the victory celebration for the nation's first Muslim congressman (not that there's anything wrong with that... in principle), Congressman Keith Ellison's supporters scream 'Allahu Akbar!', the same phrase that the 9/11 hijackers screamed, the same phrase suicide bombers scream, the same phrase head choppers scream before slicing off the heads of hapless and bound victims. May God protect this country," the blogger wrote.

Rest

- Albert Mohler (The Scandal of Biblical Illiteracy: It's Our Problem)
- a. "Churches must recover the centrality and urgency of biblical teaching and preaching, and refuse to sideline the teaching ministry of the preacher. Pastors and churches too busy--or too distracted--to make biblical knowledge a central aim of ministry will produce believers who simply do not know enough to be faithful disciples."

Rest

- Albert Mohler (The Scandal of Biblical Illiteracy: It's Our Problem)
- b. "We will not believe more than we know, and we will not live higher than our beliefs. The many fronts of Christian compromise in this generation can be directly traced to biblical illiteracy in the pews and the absence of biblical preaching and teaching in our homes and churches."
- c. "This generation must get deadly serious about the problem of biblical illiteracy, or a frighteningly large number of Americans--Christians included--will go on thinking that Sodom and Gomorrah lived happily ever after."

Break Time

- HAVE YOU EVER BEEN GUILTY OF LOOKING AT OTHERS YOUR OWN AGE AND THINKING, "SURELY I CAN'T LOOK THAT OLD?" WELL... YOU'LL LOVE THIS ONE!
- I WAS SITTING IN THE WAITING ROOM FOR MY FIRST APPOINTMENT WITH A NEW DENTIST. I NOTICED HIS DDS DIPLOMA, WHICH BORE HIS FULL NAME.
- SUDDENLY, I REMEMBERED A TALL, HANDSOME, DARK-HAIRED BOY WITH THE SAME NAME HAD BEEN IN MY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS SOME 40-ODD YEARS AGO. COULD HE BE THE SAME GUY THAT I HAD A SECRET CRUSH ON, WAY BACK THEN??

Break Time

- UPON SEEING HIM, HOWEVER, I QUICKLY DISCARDED ANY SUCH THOUGHT. THIS BALDING, GRAY-HAIRED MAN WITH THE DEEPLY LINED FACE WAS WAY TOO OLD TO HAVE BEEN MY CLASSMATE. HMMM...OR COULD HE???
- AFTER HE EXAMINED MY TEETH, I ASKED HIM IF HE HAD ATTENDED MORGAN PARK HIGH SCHOOL. "YES. YES, I DID. I'M A MUSTANG," HE GLEAMED WITH PRIDE.
- "WHEN DID YOU GRADUATE?" I ASKED.
- HE ANSWERED, "IN 1967. WHY DO YOU ASK?"
- "YOU WERE IN MY CLASS!" I EXCLAIMED.

Break Time

- HE LOOKED AT ME CLOSELY.
- THEN, THAT UGLY, WRINKLED, OLD, IDIOT SAID, "REALLY, WHAT DID YOU TEACH ?"