

Lesson #7

The Axiom of History

There was once a farmer who acquired a colt as payment from a debtor. The horse grew up and the man tried to use the horse to work the farm, pulling plows and wagons. But the horse was only mediocre at the task. As a result the horse ended up spending most of its time in the pasture as a pet to the children.

One day the colt's previous owner saw the farmer at the General Store and was curious how it was doing. "How is that colt doing?" the man asked.

"Oh, he is doing just fine." replied the farmer. "He's not much good for farm work but the kids enjoy him."

"I'm glad your kids like him, but I'm not surprised that he didn't make a good farm horse." That is when the man told the farmer about the colt's bloodline. "That horse is from racing stock. If you take him out of the field and put him on a race track, you might be surprised."

After that conversation, the farmer researched the horse's pedigree, and learned that the colt was directly descended from a champion race horse! He promptly hired a professional trainer, a jockey, and began racing the horse. The farmer became wealthy from the winnings.

The fictional story above illustrates how discovering a horse's history gave it new direction and purpose. The same is true of us. As we discover our history, we begin to understand our purpose, the future comes into focus, and the path to our destiny becomes clear. As we study *Where We Came From*, keep this thought in mind: **Our history reveals our identity and guides us toward the destiny God created us for.**

The Problem of Revisionist History

In Part I of this study, saw that there is intense spiritual warfare aimed at distorting the future. But there is an equal, if not greater, battle aimed at disconnecting us from our roots by distorting and rewriting history. This is called Revisionist History and it has become a very serious problem.

Take, for example, the history of the United States of America. The excerpts below, from an article by David Barton, provide a few examples of how history has been revised. He gives four basic ways that revisionists operate.

Patent Untruth:

Numerous history texts make claims such as: our “national government was secular from top to bottom,” or that the Founders “reared a national government on a secular basis.” Those who have studied the American Founding know that this is a patent untruth — proven by numbers of Founders, including John Adams, who declared: “The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were the general principles of Christianity.” (Even the text of the Declaration of Independence refutes any charges of government secularism.)¹

Exceptions as the Rule:

Revisionists also often present exceptions as if they were the rule. For example,

... texts often name Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Paine as proof of the lack of religiosity among the Founders yet fail to mention the rest of the almost 200 Founding Fathers — including the dozens of Founders who not only received their education in schools specializing in the training of ministers of the Gospel but who also were active in Christian ministry and organizations (e.g., John Hancock, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Benjamin Rush, Roger Sherman, etc.).²

Omission:

Omission of certain facts through selective editing is another way our history is revised. Below are examples of how quotes were presented in certain works on American History.

We whose names are under-written . . . do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God, and one of another, covenant and combine our selves together into a civil body politick.

- MAYFLOWER COMPACT, 1620

Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? ... I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!

PATRICK HENRY, 1775 ³

Yet, upon examining more complete examples of the quotes, we see that important Christian parts were omitted (*in italic*).

We whose names are under-written having undertaken *for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith and honor of our king and country, a voyage to plant the first colonie in the Northern parts of Virginia* do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God, and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politick..

¹ Barton, *Revisionism: How to Identify it in Your Child's Textbooks*, www.wallbuilders.com

² Barton, *Revisionism: How to Identify it in Your Child's Textbooks*, www.wallbuilders.com

³ Barton, *Revisionism: How to Identify it in Your Child's Textbooks*, www.wallbuilders.com

Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery?
Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me
liberty or give me death! ⁴

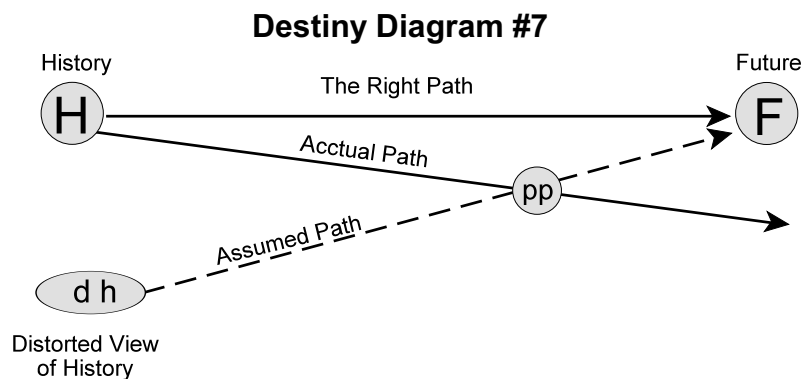
Lack of Primary Sources.

Another way revision can subtly take place is by failing to use primary sources. Materials that lack primary source documentation can easily be used to provide cover for or enable the three forms of revision listed above. But if primary sources are available and used, it is very difficult get by with the use of lies, presenting exceptions as the rule, and omissions.

The avoidance of primary-source documents is characteristic in revisionism. For example, the authors of the widely-used text *The Godless Constitution* blatantly announce that they have “dispensed with the usual scholarly apparatus of footnotes” when discussing the documentation for their thesis that America’s government is built on a secular foundation. Similarly, the text *The Search for Christian America* purports to examine the Founding Era and finds a distinct lack of Christian influence. Yet 80 percent of the “historical sources” on which it relies to document its finding were published after 1950! That is, to determine what was occurring in the 1700s, they quote from works printed in the 1900s.⁵

Finding primary sources can be difficult, but when it comes to the study of history, it is essential that primary sources be traced before we form firm opinions. With the Internet, however, it is much easier than it used to be. Nevertheless, revisionism has caused a significant “dumbing down” of our educational system as it relates to history.

We used a simple diagram to illustrate how a distorted view of the future can cause us to miss our destiny. (See Destiny Diagram #2) Below is another diagram to illustrate how a distorted view of history can also cause us to miss our destiny. In this diagram, we see where we came from (H) and where are going (F). The line between these two points is the right path and is where our *present plans* (pp) should be placed. But if we have a *distorted* perspective of *history* (dh), we will naturally plot our course from “dh” to “F” which represents the assumed path to our destiny and we will place our present plans (pp) on that path. However, the reality of our history does not change just because we have a distorted view



⁴ Barton, *Revisionism: How to Identify it in Your Child’s Textbooks*, www.wallbuilders.com

⁵ Barton, *Revisionism: How to Identify it in Your Child’s Textbooks*, www.wallbuilders.com

of it. True history is still right where it always was. So, moving our present plans creates a new path that we are actually on. As you can see, this actual path misses our destiny (indicated by “F” for future). It is a path based on a lie or falsehood.

Using History to Fight the Fight of Faith

Of course, having a detailed knowledge of history is not a prerequisite for salvation or accomplishing something for God. If we know Him and are led by the Spirit, He will bring us to our destiny. However, the basic concept remains true, especially when we find ourselves in battles with doubt and are in need of encouragement. In these times, a knowledge of history is very helpful, if not essential, to fight the fight of faith and continue in the face of intense spiritual battles.

Without historical perspectives, we tend to think we are facing impossible situations. For example, consider the following description.

It is a time of spiritual bareness. The advancement of the faith and the establishment of new churches is virtually non-existent. Religion is a “fashion statement” instead of a practical way of life. Sermons in the churches are focused on happiness as the aim of the individual instead of the life sacrificed to Christ. The idea of the Holy Spirit actively working in the souls of men is commonly dismissed by preachers as a firsts century phenomenon to be unexpected in the present time.

This description of society is a good description of many cultures in the present. But it is actually a description of the culture in England in the early 1700s. This was just prior to a period of revivals known as The Great Awakening that transformed the population of England and colonial America to a Godfearing people, and paved the way for the establishment of a Christian Republic called the United States of America.

It can be quite discouraging when we look at the moral decline in our culture, humanism in our schools, abortion on demand, and a powerful media propaganda machine that seems to minimize and belittle all that is Christian. From our limited perspective, we can easily tend to think that these trends are irreversible lose hope for the future. But even a brief study of history shows that nations in poor spiritual condition were revived and revitalized when God sent the fires of revival and righteousness across the land. Such knowledge of history has definite affect on our perception of the future and thus our plans in the present. In other words, God has, can and will send revival to His people.

Therefore, we should remember another axiom of destiny called, **The Axiom of History**.

Our Path into the Future is determined by how we relate history to the present.