

## "An Enchanted Land"

*Enchanted (Pt. 2)*

*January 14, 2018*

**Recap: Life is Like a Land more than merely a Time that we travel through.**

**...The Current 'Times' are not the earlier times of our lives!**

*"In about 25 years' time, we've seen the most concentrated, high-velocity social change that human beings have ever experienced. ...Pastor, you're not wrong when you think that the whole world has changed—it has!"* **Al Mohler** on Thom Rainer Podcast, Oct 2016

*"It is the emergence of an "exclusive humanism" — a radically new option in the marketplace of beliefs, a vision of life in which anything beyond the immanent is eclipsed. ...For the first time in history a purely self-sufficient humanism came to be a widely available option. ... Of no previous society was this true"* **Smith, James K. A.** *How (Not) to Be Secular: Reading Charles Taylor* (pp. 22-23). Kindle Edition.

*"...there arises in the Western societies a generalized culture of expressive individualism, in which people are encouraged to find their own way, discover their own fulfillment, 'do their own thing'. [This] originates in the Romantic period but it has utterly penetrated popular culture in recent decades, in the time since the Second World War, if not even closer to the present"* **Charles Taylor**, "A Secular Age", p. 299

*"...the concept of the immanent frame—a certain way of looking at the world of daily experience. It interprets all phenomena we encounter in the world as explainable by mechanistic natural causes. ...Today, everyone sees the world through the immanent frame. ..."Why did it take so long for the immanent frame to emerge, and why did civilization on earth resist it for so long?"* **Greg Forster**, "Our Secular Age", p. 102-104

...The Terrain of 2018—the Kairos of our Time is Unusual!!

...The Map of 2018 is an Enchanted Land! ...It has non-obvious, unadvertised, unseen forces operating in it! ... 2018 is filled with invisible, under-our-skin influence that will have an enormous impact on How You Feel about your life ...about yourself ...your spouse ...your relationships ...your job ...your church ...your spiritual experience! ...It is like a fairytale story that includes spells that fall upon people and begin to produce unexpected effects.

**Deut 6:1-14** ...Lessons in Map Reading from the Plains of Moab

v. 10-12 ...**BEWARE—the Land can have a STRANGE AFFECT on You!** ...It can  
“seep under your skin”

## **“Enchantment” in Deut 6**

... the PRIMARY Reason for the content presented by Moses in Moab ...is to make the people aware that the land you are entering has an “Enchanting Power”!! ...You will face the danger of entering the ‘Fog of Forgetfulness’

**Enchanted** (def) = to fill (someone) with great delight; charm. To put someone or something under a spell. Synonym: captivate, charm, delight, enrapture, entrance, enthrall, beguile, bewitch, spellbind, fascinate, hypnotize, mesmerize, rivet, grip transfix

**NOTE: God is concerned about this (in Deut 6)!!** ...It would be strange if WE are not concerned about this!

- What’s NOT in this Passage is the “Extremes of Modern Christianity” (
  - **At One Extreme — TABOOING** ...the shunning or despising or discouraging of pleasures... particularly pleasures that have the potential of being corrupted!
  - **At the Other Extreme — PROMOTING PROSPERITY** ...Inviting people into pleasures with few warnings attached; Ignorantly pulling down the blessings and abundance of the ‘Future Land of Heaven’ into this ‘Still Corrupted Map’ of ours today!

**Be Wise and BEWARE ...You are Entering an Enchanted Land! There are forces at work in the land and there are forces that remain at work in you that can ‘Team Up & Go Rogue’ ...That can get you under a Spell that you Won’t Be Conscious of!!**

## **“Enchanted by the Immanent”**

*Enchanted by the Immanent—(captivated, charmed, delighted, spellbound, hypnotized, mesmerized, gripped) by the Immanent Only!*

- Immanent (def) – existing or operating within; inherent; remaining within
  - Immanence has 2 dimensions to it (Space & Time): Right Here ...&... Right Now ... Which means we become de-motivated by things that are not right here in my immediacy, and right now in my future
  - CONTRASTED w/ TRANSCENDENCE ...Transcendent (def) – beyond or above the range of normal or merely physical human experience.
    - *Life is Lived with an awareness of BOTH the "HERE...and the 'Over There' ...the 'NOW' ...and the 'Coming Day!' ...The 'PHYSICAL' and the 'SPIRITUAL'*

*Kairos 2018 is a Land that is Enchanted by the Immanent and Disenchanted with the Transcendent—it is captivated by the “Here & Now” and Uninterested and Unmotivated by that which is 'beyond' the “Here & Now”*

*This is a 'Natural Minded', 'Temporal', mindset that devotes attention, energy, and urgency only to that which is right here and right now! ...It is unmotivated by and uninfluenced by the unseen realities, by distant/non-personal activities, and by distant, future time frames!*

*"It is the emergence of “the secular” in this sense that makes possible the emergence of an “exclusive humanism” — a radically new option in the marketplace of beliefs, a vision of life in which anything beyond the immanent is eclipsed. ...For the first time in history a purely self-sufficient humanism came to be a widely available option. I mean by this a humanism accepting no final goals beyond human flourishing, nor any allegiance to anything else beyond this flourishing. Of no previous society was this true.” **Smith, James K. A.**.. *How (Not) to Be Secular: Reading Charles Taylor* (pp. 22-23). Kindle Ed.*

*Central to Taylor’s book is the concept of the immanent frame—a certain way of looking at the world of daily experience. It interprets all phenomena we encounter in the world as*

*explainable by mechanistic natural causes. ...Today, everyone—the Christian, the Muslim, the Hindu, the atheist and the wish-washy Spiritual-but-not-religionist sees the world through the immanent frame. ...It drains the ordinary world of its deepest moral and spiritual significance, consigning not only atheists but also Christians and everyone else to struggle to find real meaning and purpose in their everyday lives. Worldliness becomes easier...* Greg Forster, "Our Secular Age", p. 102-104

**Don't underestimate the power of the "Immanent Frame"! ...It is what's behind our lack of desperation for God and His intervention—because we start believing that most of what's happening in our world is simply the result of natural forces and human will!**

**...it is what's behind the decline and disappearance of the Prayer Meeting!**—Looking to God for His input and involvement isn't the default setting of the "Immanent Frame

**—we don't come, because we don't think we NEED TO!!! ...We have lost sight of our Need for Transcendent Things to Invade our Immanent Little World!!**

*"...there is something else very strong going for this anthropocentrism [man-centeredness]: a sense of invulnerability. Living in a disenchanted world, the buffered self is no longer open, vulnerable to a world of spirits and forces which cross the boundary of the mind. ...if in addition to disenchanting the world, we have also taken the anthropocentric turn, and no longer even draw on the power of God." Charles Taylor, "A Secular Age", p. 300*

**— It wasn't too long ago, that in the church world, "Everything was a Devil!"**

*"Where earlier people spoke of possession by evil spirits, we think of mental illness. Or again, the rich symbolism of the enchanted world is located by Freud in the depths of the psyche; and we all find this move very natural and convincing..." Charles Taylor, "A Secular Age", p. 540*

*"To see the world as something to be manipulated and controlled by us (ie the immanent frame) requires a 'buffered self' that conceives of 'the world' and 'us' as*

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*radically separate things. This was simply not how the ancient mind understood itself.” Greg Forster, “Our Secular Age”, p. 104*

*...It drains the ordinary world of its deepest moral and spiritual significance, consigning not only atheists but also Christians and everyone else to struggle to find real meaning and purpose in their everyday lives. Worldliness becomes easier...”  
**Greg Forster, “Our Secular Age”, p. 102-104***

“...Worldliness becomes easier...”

## **The Unforeseen Impact on How We FEEL about Our Lives...**

...When one loses the place of Transcendent Realities in life—all that's left is 'Immanent Things' (Here & Now Things) ...and when you Set the Weight of Life on these things—it CRUSHES Them!! ...It Creates Expectations for them that can Never Be Met

- It crushes relationships—Friendships ...Marriages ...Parent/Child
- It crushes institutions—Family ...Church ...Employment
- It crushes a sense of “Reward” ...Life just never seems to be good enough or satisfying!