**Whose Story is this?**

“Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do.”

*Isaiah 46:9-11*

**God’s Plan Unfolding**

But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

*Galatians 4:4-5 (NAS)*

**Galatians 4:4**

the plan of God unfolding...
the promise of God fulfilled...

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“Whether her book is true, I don’t care…”

Mayflower Compact, The (1620). November 11.

Mayflower Compact, The (1620). November 11.

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THE CONTEXT OF HISTORY

If I can change your historical context, I can change the way you view the present.

this is the power of historical revisionism.

THIS IS NOT NEW...

lies about history:

creation
Jesus' life
fall
Jesus' death
Jesus' resurrection

Matthew 28:11-15
1 Corinthians 15:14-19

LIES ABOUT HISTORY

Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened.

Matthew 28:11-16 (NKJV)

LIES ABOUT HISTORY

When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, saying, “Tell them, ‘His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.’”

Matthew 28:11-15 (NKJV)

LIES ABOUT HISTORY

And if this comes to the governor’s ears, we will appease him and make you secure.” So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

Matthew 28:11-16 (NKJV)
**Veracity of God's Word**

**do you believe** in Plato?

**Ancient works and their oldest manuscripts:**

- Homer's Iliad: 600 yrs
- Julius Caesar's Gallic Wars: 1,000 yrs
- Pliny's History: 750 yrs
- Thucydides' History: 1,300 yrs
- Herodotus' History: 1,300 yrs
- New Testament: 25 yrs

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**Veracity of God's Word**

**Number of early manuscripts:**

- Homer's Iliad: 643
- Julius Caesar's Gallic Wars: 10
- Pliny's History: 7
- Thucydides' History: 8
- Herodotus' History: 8
- New Testament: >24,000

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**Historical Power**

"He who controls the past, controls the future."

George Orwell

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**Historical Power**

"A people without a heritage are easily persuaded."

Karl Marx

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**God's Mandate to Remember**

**Memorial Stones**

Joshua 4:1-7

**How did they do?**

Judges 2:6-15

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God’s Mandate to Remember

Other Memorial Stones

Tassels
Numbers 15:38-39, Deuteronomy 22:12

Passover
Exodus 12:24-27, Deuteronomy 4:9,
Deuteronomy 6:4-12, & more...

remembering what we should forget

Our Problem
forgetting what we should remember

"Those who don’t know history have no sense of identity, and no sense of wisdom as they explore where they’re going to go.

Without History we’re lost."

Os Guiness

When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied...

Deuteronomy 8:10-20

...then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today...

Deuteronomy 8:10-20
If you ever forget the LORD your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed. Like the nations the LORD destroyed before you, so you will be destroyed for not obeying the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy 8:10-20

The Battle Against The Nature of God

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

2 Corinthians 10:3-4

The Battle Against The Nature of God

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:5

Providence at Work

The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

Psalm 33:10-11

Providence at Work

...for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

Acts 4:27-28 (ESV)

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1 Kings 22:28-34
Ahab & the Sovereignty of God

Antinomy & Paradox
- first - last
- weak - strong
- see - yet blind
- rich - yet poor
- alive - yet dead
- to live - must die

The Providential View of History
- God’s Sovereign Rule
- Fulfillment
- Today
- Birth of Christ
- Time
- Creation

Jean-Francois Lyotard
“Simplifying to the extreme, I define postmodern as incredulity towards metanarratives.”


A “metanarrative” is any “large story” that pretends to give an all-encompassing explanation of anything, especially an over-arching story of history and life in attempt to legitimize some version of truth.
The Pilgrim’s Providential View of History

“But these things did not dismay them (though they did sometimes trouble them) for their desires were set on the ways of God, and to enjoy His ordinances; but they rested on His Providence and knew whom they had believed.”

William Bradford, Of Plymouth Plantation


“Last and not least, they [the Pilgrims] cherished a great hope and inward zeal of laying good foundations, or at least of making some way towards it, for the propagation and advance of the gospel of the kingdom of Christ in the remote parts of the world, even though they should be but stepping stones to others in the performance of so great a work.”