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Kingdom of God or Pagan Empire?

WHY CHRISTIANS ARE ON THE SIDELINES OF A DIVIDED NATION

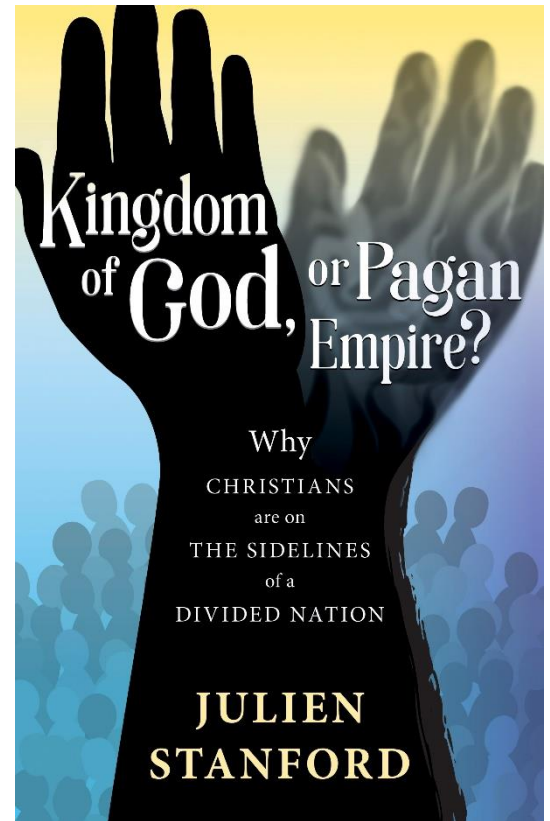
JULIEN STANFORD

A great political divide exists today, but can we truly grasp the significance of that divide?

It is very complex and carries such deep implications that explaining the nature of the divide is not possible without reaching far back into history to trace its development. An informed context provides needed clarity.

Kingdom of God or Pagan Empire demonstrates that the Christian position is the only one that can squarely address the phenomena of the whole human experience without violating the principle of non-contradiction. More importantly, Christianity continues to be the sole hope for individual *and* cultural redemption.

In order to truly appreciate—or even begin to understand—something as complex as Christianity, one must first be acquainted with the backdrop against which it emerged. In this pertinent and timely work by Julien Stanford, the reader will be acquainted with this nuanced, contextual understanding among other tools to guide them in engaging with the current cultural divide.



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About the Author

JULIEN STANFORD



Julien Stanford attended Louisiana State University and is a graduate of T.H. Harris Technical School. For the past 29 years, Julien has been involved in Quality Control/Oversight in the nuclear industry. His hobbies include woodcarving, songwriting, politics, history, and long meditative walks. In the past he has served as an ordained elder. He and his wife, Sylvia, currently reside in Crowley, LA and regularly attend Our Savior's Church in Lafayette. Julien is the father of five children, grandfather of sixteen, and great-grandfather of one.

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B O O K S

What Others Are Saying About

Kingdom of God or Pagan Empire?

Julien Stanford gets right to the point and managed to capture my attention right in the Preface! Kingdom of God Or Pagan Empire is an eye-opening, comprehensive treatise on how we arrived 'here'--the point of insanity and mass chaos in America--and makes it clear that unless we understand the past, we will never understand how to get back to a healthy, functional society. He charts disastrous ideas along our national journey, complete with their Red Sea, then parts it with fresh Godly insight.

Get ready for a jam-packed, factual and well-researched book of truth with such rich prose and imagery that helps the 'medicine' go down much easier! This book is incredibly timely and needed! A must-read for all pastors, intercessors, and anyone concerned about the future of humanity, the church, and justice.

— **Theresa Griffith, President, Someone Believes in You. Camarillo, CA**

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Suggested Interview Questions

For Julien Stanford, author of

Kingdom of God or Pagan Empire?

Why Christians are on the Sidelines of a Divided Nation

Q: You have attempted to connect many complex subjects in your book. Do you have a degree or consider yourself an expert in any of these fields? If not, then how do you feel qualified to write on these topics?

A: I have roughly the equivalent of an Associate degree but not any of the subjects discussed in the book. As to my qualifications, I am a concerned American citizen exercising First Amendment rights, possessing reasonable intelligence and living in (to Washington elites) all but forgotten fly-over country. I write on behalf of the common man.

One of the most important concepts in this country is the jury trial. As we all know, the stakes in such cases can sometimes literally involve life or death. Yet there are no requirements that jurors possess a law degree or show previous experience in jurisprudence. Jurors are chosen from a cross-section of the population and are expected to show they are capable of giving fair consideration to the arguments and evidence of each side, and then arriving at an impartial verdict. I have simply used this time-honored concept as my working model. I have attempted to break down relevant complex subjects into their most basic, simplified forms. In the process, I have examined the best ideas, evidence, and arguments of two major worldviews in conflict, and presented the results.

Q: It seems that there is a difference in your analogy; you are coming from a definite point of view. Wouldn't that compromise impartiality?

A: That's true. I do not cite the jury concept as a perfect analogy but to show that establishing "expertise" is not deemed necessary when pursuing truth, even when the stakes couldn't be higher. I recognize and admit my bias. But because I have

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spent so many hours researching, investigating, and piecing this together, I have a powerful motive for checking that bias. I know that any information I present, any conclusions I reach, to whatever extent I have not treated the subject matter even-handedly or am guilty of over-reaching, my entire work loses credibility.

Q: Your book portrays a conflict between good and evil, “Kingdom of God or Pagan Empire” as the title suggests. How have you chosen to describe that conflict?

A: There are probably few Americans today who are not aware that a deep divide exists in the country. Most recognize the divide as having a political origin yet do not seem to understand that politics *always* descend from religious assumptions. I have attempted to reach far back into history to trace the true origins of our current divide. As my book moves through history to the present, I show these two primary worldviews directly set against each other, giving birth to key players, ideas, movements, and definite consequences along the way.

Q: Who is your target audience?

A: First, I hope to awaken my fellow Christians to the battle raging all around us for the soul of America. There is an attitude that pervades the current American Church that, to my understanding, has not existed in history until about the last 150 years or so, when we first began to withdraw from the public square. Today, we seem to be aware of that raging battle but have somehow become seduced by the idea that “acceptance” is now the true measure of Christ’s love. Thus, if we speak out against sinful lifestyles we are acting “judgmentally” and promoting hate. Christianity must assume a position of neutrality when approaching the political arena. My premise: it is impossible to be followers of Christ if we retreat from the battle lines where He has commissioned us to take our stand.

Second, I am writing to skeptics who are sincerely seeking but have been confused by Leftist arguments that twist the facts of history and misrepresent the message of Christianity, and who are equally confused by Christians’ own present

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misunderstanding of what is happening, why, and what should be the proper Christ-like response. To that end I have addressed most major and many minor arguments directed at the credibility/authenticity of the Bible. I have demonstrated that to every gift God has brought to the world, Satan has countered with his own inverted (or perverted) version which has, in *every* case, resulted in unimaginable widespread human misery and destruction.

Q: You seem to have cast the Enlightenment period as the “laboratory” from which Satan first began concocting his modern counterfeit to God’s kingdom. No doubt you are aware that many on your side regard that period as contributing a great deal of good to the world. How do you get around this?

A: I do indeed believe this is where Satan planted the seeds of his counter-offer to God’s magnanimous gift (Christ foundationally, and then the American experiment). And yes, I do understand that the Enlightenment is generally viewed favorably. To be sure, this does make my challenge formidable. First of all, the Enlightenment is multi-faceted and highly complex, and a great deal depends upon the strands one is tracing when looking back to that time. I do not discount that certain positive contributions came from that period, especially its earliest stages. I contend that one of the key factors that makes this period so complex is that it is a time of *transition*. Competing forces were obviously present; some that very much recognized the underlying order Christian theism had brought to the world and the necessity of incorporating that into any social effort to improve the human condition, cast against those who identified religious themes with superstitious, primitive man.

The final stages of Enlightenment thought found those wishing to retain the positive Christian influence, unfortunately, equally willing to make concessions to the “unaided reason master” of the age, agreeing to place the Judeo/Christian God in tight confinement. It is that compromised strand which would emerge from the Enlightenment that would go on to wreak such unimaginable havoc.

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Q: What “evil” are you specifically attributing to the Enlightenment and how does this impact us today?

A: Specifically, Enlightenment ideals and thinking gave us four 19th century gentlemen, Marx, Darwin, Nietzsche, and Freud; who in turn spawned the totalitarian regimes of Stalin, Hitler, Mao, and the vapid gurgle coming out of universities today (via something called the Frankfurt School). My book traces a substantive connection from “Enlightenment” to the present vacuous, irrational, divisive, delusional, and destructive world of far Left “Progressivism”.

Q: You mentioned Darwin. There are probably many who, if not for casting aspersions on his contribution, could stick with you. But here they would draw the line; protesting that you are now maligning the hallowed institution of *science*. How would you respond to these folks?

A: It is not my intent to malign science or Mr. Darwin. I have spent most of my life working in a technical field where everything I do is impacted by science. I have always been fascinated by science and was a pre-med major when I was in college. As to Darwin, I think anyone who reads my chapter on this man will see that I have treated his character and motives with respect. In some cases, though, I believe he was blind to the serious problems inherent to his methodology and the destructive nature of that which he sought to put in place.

I have given greater attention to the subject of Darwinism because, simply, it is no less the cornerstone of Satan’s inverted utopia than Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of Christianity. Because it has been pounded into so many for so long, it seems incomprehensible evolution could be false. That is why I have taken this subject on in its many facets; not just its paucity of evidence or *anti-science* methodology, but in-depth the shocking implications and irrational conclusions this inevitably leads to.

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Q: In your book you singled out two gentlemen, Timothy Freke and Peter Gandy, authors of *The Laughing Jesus*, to be your, well, punching bag at various intervals along the way. Was it your intention to feature them as the comic relief?

A: I suppose I must plead guilty. I did have a little fun with Mr. Freke and Mr. Gandy. But if you were to look into the title you just mentioned, you will see my responses are very mild next to the malicious slander these two gentlemen routinely hurl at Bible-believing Christians. My intent in responding to these fellows is about more than comic relief. Freke and Gandy represent the lowest rung of criticism currently directed at Christianity's credibility. But because of the particular time in which we live, so obviously deficient in critical thinking, the ideas of these two are all that many young skeptics have ever been exposed to, and so their arguments take on an aura of plausibility. Thus, I felt it necessary to shine a light on the absurdity of their premises while, yes, engaging in a little good-natured ribbing.

Q: Is it your contention then that the two major political parties represent the two sides in this great conflict you write about; the democrats the bad guys and the republicans the good?

A: Oh, if only that were so. That would make things so much simpler. Unfortunately, both are seriously infected with the enlightenment virus. Yet I do make a distinction. Where the Democrat Party seems to have sold its soul completely to Pagan Empire, the Republican still maintains an almost imperceptible hint of a Judeo/Christian conscience but only because a small minority of genuine Conservatives are dispersed within the party. But, and I wish to stress this point, my book is written from a very hopeful, optimistic perspective. I believe the startling emergence of Donald Trump against utterly insurmountable odds signals a window of opportunity God, in His incredible mercy, is extending to this nation right now. Of course, it remains to be seen whether we, the Church, will embrace this opportunity or squander it. But fighting this all-important battle first requires carefully and *precisely* showing where the battle lines are drawn. And *that* is the culmination of this book.

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