

# The Supernatural History of America

## Session 1

Does God intervene in the affairs of men?

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# God Influences Behavior

Judges 9:22-23

Abimelech was king over Israel for three years. Then the one True God sent an evil spirit to stir up dissension between Abimelech and the leaders of Shechem. Consequently the leaders of Shechem acted with treachery against Abimelech;

# God Destroys a City

“Therefore thus says the Lord GOD :  
Behold, I am against you, O Tyre, and will  
bring up many nations against you, as the  
sea brings up its waves. They shall  
destroy the walls of Tyre and break down  
her towers, and I will scrape her soil from  
her and make her a bare rock”

(Ezek. 26:3–4).

# The Destruction of Tyre

- Nebuchadnezzar destroyed mainland Tyre in 573 BC
- Alexander the Great destroyed the island fortress in 332 BC
- Modern Tyre is a depressed city of ruins whose stones are quarried for other places along the coast



Cyprian fleet

North (Sidonian) harbour

**Tyre**

Alexander's dam

700-800 m

South harbour

Phoenician fleet

**Old Tyre**

**Siege of Tyre**  
July, 332 B.C.

# Tyre Today



# Scripture Records God's Interventions

- The Exodus from Egypt
- The delivery of Daniel from the lions
- The preservation of Jonah in a fish
- The Judges who rose to free Israel
- The return to Jerusalem under Cyrus

# American Founders Believed God Intervenes

- Squanto and the Pilgrims
- Harvard University

# Squanto “Sant of God”

- Born in 1585 and kidnapped in 1605
- Returned to America in 1619, to find his entire Patuxet tribe dead from smallpox
- Went to live with the nearby Wampanoags
- When Squanto met the pilgrims in 1621, he spoke fluent English learned as a slave in Europe

# Squanto “Sent of God”

- Squanto became a guide and interpreter for the colony, teaching the pilgrims everything they needed to know to survive in New England. William Bradford later referred to Squanto in his journal as
- “a special instrument sent of God for their good beyond their expectation.”

# Harvard Founded 1636

- To give you the flavor of the original Harvard, here's a snippet from its Rules and Precepts of 1642:
- Let every Student be plainly instructed, and earnestly pressed to consider well, the maine end of his life and studies is, to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life, John 17:3 and therefore to lay Christ in the bottome, as the only foundation of all sound knowledge and Learning. And seeing the Lord only giveth wisdom, Let every one seriously set himself by prayer in secret to seeke it of him Prov. 2, 3. 12

# What Happened?

- Massachusetts in 2004 became first state to legalize gay marriage
- Harvard since 1805 has become Unitarian
- Transcendentalist
- Secular

# Personal Interventions

- A telegram to unknown address is delivered
- Traffic fatalities averted by invisible hands
- A day off of work saves a man from electrocution
- A boy scout rescues a motorcyclist crashed in the desert

# Does God Intervene in the Affairs of Men?

We don't know completely how God intervenes in the affairs of men, but we see a great deal of evidence for it.

# Intervention is Prophesied

Jehovah has predicted the history of His earthly people. “Though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee” (Jer. 30:11).

# The Greatest Intervention in History

God created a universe out of nothing. Then He made exceptions to the properties and natural laws of His creation with miraculous interventions such as the parting of the Red Sea, Daniel's deliverance in the lions' den, and Jonah's preservation in the stomach of the fish. These miracles were nothing, though, compared to the virgin birth of God's Son, Jesus Christ, to a young Hebrew girl. The most awesome work in all of history occurred when God became man.

# God's Purpose for America

- Spread the Gospel
- Return the Jews to Israel
- Prove that man is not perfectible

# Christian America Now

- Decline of Christian America is connected with a rejection of Genesis
- Genesis is the foundation of all major Christian doctrines
- The gospel begins in Genesis
- The culture war is a debate over origins

# The Attack on Genesis

- The children are under attack
- Christians have become semi-creationists
- Judgment begins at the House of God

# What can we do?

- Daily prayer and study of the Bible
- Know what you believe and why
- Be ready to converse with seekers
- Count the cost

# The Greatest Miracle

Today, people are hungry for miracles. They follow anyone who performs wonders for them, yet overlook the most significant miracle of all: the miracle of spiritual new birth.

Awesome Lord, whether or not I see Your miraculous intervention in my circumstances, help me remember You have already given me the greatest miracle of all: new life in You.

# What About You?

- For what miracle have you been praying?
- Will you trust God today for the outcome, even if He does not intervene as you ask?