

B. REDEEMED SOCIETY

1. Scriptural Warrant

Is there Biblical warrant to believe that the influences of redemption collectively in our world are evidence for the truth of Christianity?

Israel's history:

Isa 45:1-6; Ps 126: in redeeming Israel from captivity

Ps 147:19-20; Deut 4:5-8: in His word given to Israel

New Testament history:

John 20:30-31; Acts 10:37-38: Jesus' life an evidence

Church history:

John 17:20-21; 1 Thess 1:5-9: Churches are evidence

Modern history:

Matt 24:25,32-36: approach of end an evidence

2. Lines of Argumentation:

a. The phenomena of OT and NT history are best explained as the Bible itself explains them, as interventions of God into history for our redemption (vs., e.g., liberal plot theories; occult explanations; esp; ufo's; etc.).

b. The phenomena of history in general are consistent with Biblical principles, both ethical and redemptive (see discussion in H. Butterfield, Christianity and History)

This is also well stated in Halley, Bible Handbook (1962), 909:

"Hinduism has made India what it is. Confucianism and Buddhism [and now Communism] have made China what it is. Mohammedanism has made SW Asia and N Africa what they are. Roman Catholicism has made Italy, Spain and Latin America. Protestantism has made Britain, United States and Canada. THESE FACTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, and SPEAK LOUDLY."

See also Ramsay, Bearing of Recent Discovery, 125-6 re/ relative life-changing nature of evangelicalism and Roman Catholicism.

See Tenth (Oct 81): 32-34, re/ relative life-changing nature of Xy and socialism (secular humanism).

See Clarence W. Hall, "The Village That Lives by the Bible," Reader's Digest (Nov 60), 204-208, re/ contrast of biblical Xy with paganism.