

The Christian Worldview as demonstrated through **The Vision of the Anointed**, and **A Clash of Visions** by Thomas Sowell. Two book reports.

Thomas Sowell has written many masterful works regarding a wide variety of economic and social issues. These two books elucidate the root difference between those on the left and the realistic, rational thinkers of the world. Sowell does not describe himself as a Conservative but rather, as an objective observer of human nature much like Adam Smith, F.A. Hayek, and Ludwig von Mises, which gives him license to constructively criticize those of any political persuasion.

His thesis is that there are two radically different mindsets in academia, politics, and even in the public square: One believes in the inherent perfectibility of mankind and that humanitarian intentions are more important than results. The other side understands humanity as fatally flawed, self-centered, and incapable of knowing the future results of their actions. For example, the “anointed” view the “War on Poverty” to be a success despite the facts that government meddling has led to generational poverty, dependence on redistribution of tax monies, the destruction of the two-parent family, especially in minority communities, and degradation of the entire middle class. Those with the “tragic” (or Christian Worldview) view, on the other hand, resoundingly predicted these terrible results as well as the failure of present day efforts to “fix” the welfare system that never succeed.

The self-anointed elite, the experts, who congratulate themselves that they are not ignorant and deplorable like the common man reject this kind of thinking – and there are some in “republican” ranks who fall into this group – believe that man is god, and that he can create “heaven on earth” with enlightened “solutions”. Their thinking frequently follows a pattern (paraphrased from the books):

1. They make “Assertions of a great danger to the whole society, a danger to which the masses of people are oblivious.” (e.g., Global warming, COVID)
2. Propose “An urgent need for action to avert impending catastrophe.”
3. They declare “A need for government to drastically curtail the dangerous behavior of the many, in response to the prescient conclusions of the few.”
4. If challenged there is “A disdainful dismissal of arguments to the contrary as either uninformed, irresponsible, or motivated by unworthy purposes.” (censorship, de-platforming, and media attacks)”.

Professor Sowell does not quote Scripture or publicly describe himself as a Christian, but his analyses affirm the Christian Worldview, summarized as:

- I. God created all there is to the physical world in a state of “shalom” i.e., perfect balance and harmony among all of the elements
- II. Sin entered the world through the rebellion of Adam and Eve resulting in the corruption of everything – relationships, physical properties of all elements of creation, deterioration (the Law of Entropy), death, frustration, futility, and worst of all, separation from God. Shalom no longer exists, and man could do nothing to undo his fall from this perfect state with God.

- III. But God... in His mercy chose to send a Savior, God in the flesh, to provide the means to regain fellowship with Him. God manifested his victory over sin and death by raising Jesus to life eternal. Chaos continues to exist in this world as long as sin and unrepentant humanity remain. But...
- IV. The Restoration of Shalom – the future final and eternal phase of God’s will for man. Judgement is coming, but for those whose faith is in the Lordship of Jesus the Christ it will be eternity with God.

These two views, or visions are literally worlds apart. Is this not demonstrated in the daily news? The behavior of the Left?, of the Congress?, of the media?, of social media? The vision of the anointed also shows an “*extraordinary ability to defy evidence.*” They create a “Crisis”, propose a “Solution”, predictable adverse consequences occur... yet the elites even reject the facts and try to “spin” them in their favor. For example:

- The “War on Poverty” already mentioned
- “Sex Education” → overt promiscuity and deviance
- “Criminal Justice” → criminals have more “rights” than the victims
- Infant Mortality and Prenatal Care → distorted truth
- Intergroup Demographic Disparities → lack of personal responsibility
- Public Education “Reforms” → devolving into indoctrination mills
- “Mortgage Discrimination” leading to the housing bubble disaster
- “The Population Bomb” → a complete lie
- “You’re Not to Blame” movement vs Personal Responsibility
- “The marital status of a mother confers neither benefits nor burdens...” per CDC *ca 2000*
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and the like.

Thomas Sowell blows apart all of these and many more. His wisdom is so relevant and yet downplayed or ignored by those who believe themselves to be “progressive”. The consummate value in these books and the Christian Worldview is the ability to see the schemes of the opposition and, with wisdom, to counter them with strategies that outmaneuver them.

Human capability is, in fact, inherently limited. There are no permanent “solutions” only trade-offs. Social problems are inevitable, not deliberate. ***Liberty is the freedom from the arbitrary choice of another person or group.*** In any policy cost considerations are crucial. Untested social theories are never superior to traditional beliefs honed over time. Remember, the French Revolution was based on the vision of the anointed, the American Revolution on Biblical principles.

“Civilization is not inherited; it has to be learned and earned by each generation anew; if the transmission should be interrupted for one century, civilization would die, and we should be savages again.” Will & Ariel Durant 1967