



## The Fundamental Question

by Dale Fincher  
www.soulation.org

The most prevailing philosophical view on the landscape in Western Civilization today is secularism, which takes many forms, but has as its highest ideal the promotion of the civil duties and political realms apart from religious influence.

If you were to ask secularism what the cosmic story is, it would likely reply, "Time plus matter plus chance brought the world into existence. It is our duty to do the best we can to survive as a society." This is a noble end, if this is the right cosmic story.

Bertrand Russell, the famed British atheist, wrote in his essay, "A Free Man's Worship," "Only within the scaffolding of these truths [time + matter + chance], only on the firm foundation of unyielding despair, can the soul's habitation henceforth be safely built."

Do you hear what he is saying? Coupled with the cosmic story of secularism is the "firm foundation of unyielding despair." Any common sense notion of life would see this view as extremely unattractive, particularly in a world that sees a problem with despair. With this worldview is there really a safe shelter in which our souls can dwell? At the fundamental level, something has gone wrong, no matter how many social programs society may generate.

A similar indictment was made against the the King of Israel in II Kings 9. Joram, the son of Ahab and Jezebel, is king. He followed in the footsteps of his wicked parents as Baal worshipers.

But Jehu, the commander of the military, just after Elisha has him anointed as the new king, rides to Jezreel where Joram is recovering from battle wounds. When Joram sees Jehu approaching, he prepares his chariot and rides out to meet him. "Have you come in peace?" Joram asks. At this point, Jehu gives one short question that alarms Joram of the fundamental question, "How can there be peace as long as all

the idolatry and witchcraft of your mother Jezebel abound?"

What was Jehu saying? He was saying that at the most fundamental level, what you think about Yahweh determines what you think about everything else. If Baal is not real, then any ideas propagated from the temple of Baal do not ultimately correspond to the way the world is. If Baal is not real, then this knowledge will ultimately and incorrectly inform politics, society, family, and each individual person. To be devoid of the ultimate foundation is to build your house upon sandy ground.

Joram knows this and realizes that he is in trouble. He does not offer a rebuttal or try to apologize. He simply shouts, "Treachery!" and flees. Jehu pulls his bow and throws an arrow that pierces through Joram's heart.

While God's judgment may not be executed so exacting in this age, the consequences can be very much the same. If we do not seek to align our thoughts after the true God's thoughts, to order our behavior after the true God's character, and to engage the idols of our world with

appropriate outspokenness, we may find ourselves in unfortunate circumstances brought about by our own doing.

However, in Yahweh through Christ, we find a life built on a foundation, not of despair, but of hope. If we get the fundamental question of God right, we find that the true cosmic story is righteous and benevolent in a way that we can all find a safe habitation.

---

© 2005 Ravi Zacharias International Ministries. All Rights Reserved. Permission granted by RZIM where originally published. [www.rzim.org](http://www.rzim.org)