

ChalcedonReport

MINISTRY NEWS FROM THE CHALCEDON FOUNDATION APRIL 2018

The Waters of Abundance

by Martin G. Selbrede



The tenth verse of Psalm 73 is heavily disputed. It follows a detailed description of the prosperity—the worldly success—of those who oppose God (Psalm 73:3-9). For important technical reasons, we would argue that the correct meaning of that verse is this: “Therefore His people turn to the wicked [the men mentioned earlier who hold power, who prosper, and whose words are broadcast throughout the whole earth] and waters of abundance are wrung out to them.” Abundance can also be rendered *fullness*, and the term is often translated a *full cup*. God’s people turn toward the powerful and prosperous and are rewarded for this with an abundance of water being sent their way.

Waters of abundance were due to be wrung out to Moses, but he chose not to drink from the full cup that Egypt offered him.

By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. (Heb. 11:24-27)

It is significant that Moses chose *greater riches* than were offered in the

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treasures of Egypt. He chose not to drink from the waters of abundance *for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward*. He chose to drink water from an entirely different spring, and was not seduced by the waters of abundance that Egypt—the first great empire to oppose God’s Kingdom—had to offer him.

The fault that God here indicts in His people begins with their being seduced to drink the wrong waters, *the waters of abundance*.

For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. (Jer. 2:13)

And humanism offers so many different flavors from its overflowing reservoirs! **Humanists will wring out to you an abundance of “free” schools, an abundance of entitlements, an abundance of social services, etc.** The list is endless, and the cultural promotion of these inducements is as widespread and aggressive as ever because “their tongue walketh through the earth” (Ps. 73:9). The media, the schools,

and compromised churches—these all promote the abundance of waters being squeezed out to those willing to turn toward its purveyors.

When Dr. R. J. Rushdoony founded the Chalcedon Foundation, he spoke in earnest of “sponsoring a counter-measure to the *prevailing trend*.” The concern of Psalm 73:10 is that the prevailing trend can pull God’s people into alignment with it. This tragedy compounded the psalmist’s anguish at the temporal success of the wicked: “When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me” (Ps. 73:16).

Verse 17 is the pivotal *transition* text for the psalmist: his consternation persisted “until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.” Seeing the false promise hiding behind the abundance of waters offered by the wicked prompts a new orientation. The psalmist indicts himself for walking by sight (verses 21 and 22) for he had forgotten what really mattered.

We’re finally seeing more Christians refusing the waters of abundance. They are saying No to public schools in greater numbers. They are learning to reject the many other cups filled with water that humanistic statism keeps offering them. They are learning to rely solely on the living waters from the one true Fountain.

The truth is, such metaphorical “waters” are never a neutral matter. Once before in the *Chalcedon Report* we discussed Isaiah 8:6: “Forasmuch as this people refuseth the waters of Shiloah that go softly, and rejoice in Rezin and

Remaliah's son." Instead of God's gentle, decentralized government under His law, the people preferred the power state and its glories: they preferred *false water in abundance*. The folly of this becomes evident in Isaiah 8:7-8—those waters overflow their banks and channels and soon reach up to the necks of His people. So too now, humanism's waters reach to the necks of His people.

The counter-measure needed today is the same counter-measure proposed by Dr. Rushdoony in 1965. God's people must be taught to refuse the abundance of waters, which amount to "the treasures of wickedness" (Micah 6:10), and to turn back to the living waters our Redeemer so freely offers us. Like Moses, we must no longer "fear the wrath of the king" (Heb. 11:27) but must rather become living sacrifices for the King of Kings.

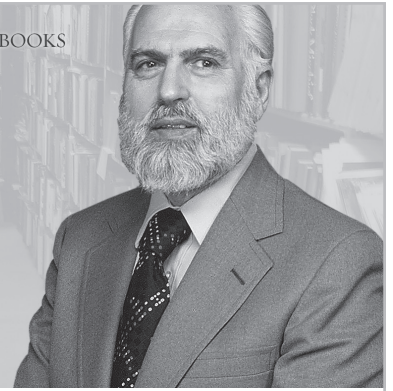
Chalcedon's counter-measure isn't as simple as *Just Say No* to the abundance of waters being seductively offered to us. We start with a firm No, of course, because Christians have indeed "slurped up" those waters (Lexham translation) for too long, but we must never fight something with nothing. **We must raise the foundations of many generations (Isa. 58:12) and faithfully proclaim His Word in its fullness, so that His people might turn back to the One Who alone offers living waters in their purity.**

God adds no sorrows to His blessings (Prov. 10:22) but the blessings offered by humanism *always* have sorrowful strings attached—strings that parasitically sap the strength of His people. Chalcedon's counter-measure remains two-fold: (1) to help God's people see that drinking from humanism's Big Gulp water cup leads to "hands that hang down and feeble knees" (Heb. 12:12) and (2) to equip His people with the galvanizing message repeated twice by Zechariah: "Let your hands be strong!"

Victorious kingdom work requires strong hands trained to apply our faith to all of life. Help Chalcedon continue to equip and strengthen the Lord's people in that work as we move ever deeper into our second half-century of service to the King. 🏰

AN ONLINE READING CLUB OF RUSHDOONY'S BOOKS

THE CHALCEDON BOOK *of the* MONTH



Discover the Chalcedon Book of the Month Club

The first Monday of each month we host a FREE online event where we delve into one of Rushdoony's books. We began this in early 2017, and we're excited about our full schedule for 2018.

These online meetings are moderated by different friends of Chalcedon, and each meeting is hosted by our own Andrea Schwartz. Here's what coming up:

May 7th – *Chariots of Prophetic Fire* (Tim Yarbrough)

June 4th – *This Independent Republic* (Mark Rushdoony)

July 2nd – *The Atheism of the Early Church* (Charles Roberts)

August 6th – *The Mythology of Science* (Martin Selbrede)

September 10th – *The Nature of the American System* (Chris Zimmerman)

October 8th – *Intellectual Schizophrenia* (Peter Allison)

November 5th – *Freud* (Mark Rushdoony)

December 3rd – *The Foundations of Social Order* (Martin Selbrede)

Registering is easy! Just visit <http://chalcedon.edu/connect>

You can also listen to past Book of the Month discussions!

Have You Experienced Our Weekly LIVE Video Broadcasts?

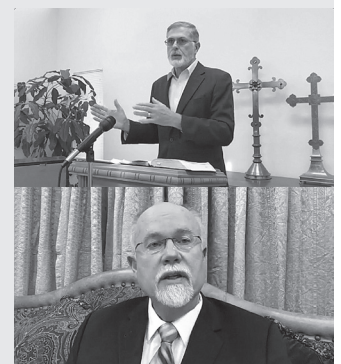
Now you can enjoy weekly live video streams of two Chalcedon broadcasts from the convenience of your own computer, television*, or mobile device.

Each Sunday at 2:10 pm (EDT), we broadcast our **Chalcedon Chapel Service** featuring expository preaching by Mark Rushdoony on our Chalcedon Facebook page as well as on our website.

Our second Sunday broadcast is a live **"Q&A with Chalcedon"** hosted by Chalcedon vice-president, Martin Selbrede in which he answers viewers' questions in real time at 3:00 pm (EDT). Martin does as many of these as his schedule will allow, so be sure to follow us on Facebook for the updated broadcast schedule or visit Chalcedon.edu/Connect.

*Live streaming services such as AppleTV feature a "Facebook LIVE" app by which you can watch the weekly Chalcedon broadcasts on your television. Check with your streaming provider for more information.

Watch at [Facebook.com/ChalcedonFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/ChalcedonFoundation) or Chalcedon.edu/Live



SAVE 15% on Orders of \$50 or More at ChalcedonStore.com

Advancing the Kingdom by Publishing Books

A Chalcedon Update

Did you know that nearly all of our print books are available online in a digital format to be read for free? As a publisher (Ross House Books), that might sound like shooting yourself in the foot, but as a ministry (Chalcedon) our greater concern is that the message gets out to as many people as possible. We were willing to take the risk because we believed you would financially support such a mission. We still do.

For the serious Christian, books are an important part of their personal development in terms of wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, and since 1965, Chalcedon has seen innumerable lives transformed by the power of the printed word. In fact, so many devout adherents to Christian Reconstruction were first inspired by a friend or family member passing along one of Rushdoony's books.

Reaching the World—Digitally!

In the new millennium, the world is changing rapidly and nearly every communication and media medium is being forced to adapt to the digital age. This is no less true of a small ministry like Chalcedon, but our supporters are not like subscribers to *The New York Times* or viewers of mainstream news networks. Our readers consume information for the purpose of knowing God and conforming to His image as well as applying their faith to every area of life.

Still, the digital age has changed things dramatically, and we believe it's important as a ministry to adopt new technologies for the sake of God's Kingdom. In other words, if a young overseas pastor of little means can easily and freely access our massive storehouse of online resources, then we feel this is an extremely positive step forward for Christian Reconstruction.

With literally thousands of books, periodicals, position papers, audio sermons, videos, and more freely available on our powerful new website



Emily Rouse, R. J. Rushdoony's granddaughter, and head of shipping and fulfillment. She's also a remarkably keen editor. We all multi-task!

we can reach the world in a way we never thought possible with only printed materials and postage stamps. This is a remarkable opportunity for Chalcedon and Christian Reconstruction.

Printed Books Are Here to Stay

However, nothing compares to the traditional printed book and the devoted reader whose foremost desire is to better understand his faith and expand his capacity for godly dominion. This is still the foundation to both Christian Reconstruction as a school of thought and the Chalcedon Foundation as its foremost institution. For this reason, we remain aggressive in our publishing of printed books.

Last year, we published the handsome, three volume hardbound set *An Informed Faith: The Position*

Papers of R. J. Rushdoony in which half the position papers were derived from the cumbersome *Roots of Reconstruction* and half not included in *Roots*. The goal was to make the large collection of Rushdoony's position papers more accessible and searchable. That's why we invested more time and money in creating the most extensive indexing system for *An Informed Faith* than any other book in our history.

We'll do the same for the next three volume series, *Faith & Action: The Collected Articles of R. J. Rushdoony from the Chalcedon Report, 1965-2001*, because these articles and papers are still relevant to our changing times. Rushdoony brought his theology—as well as his social critiques—from the vantage point of God's unchanging Word, so we feel even more confident about our aggressive publishing efforts because we know these books will continue to speak poignantly to our world.

Good Morning, Friends

We've also just received shipment of Volume 2 of *Good Morning, Friends: A Collection of Weekly Radio Messages by R. J. Rushdoony*. The reviews for Volume 1 blessed us as readers saw this series as one of the most pastoral writings by Rushdoony yet. These are not devotionals. They are more like practical, doctrinal readings on the application and implications of Reformed theology. You could teach classes and small groups with these, which make them a great book to purchase in bulk!

This highlights an important aspect of the early days of Christian Reconstruction when so much was accomplished by way of small reading groups. If you're looking to help spread the message and help build others up, you might consider starting a reading group using books like *Good Morning, Friends*. This is a simple but effective strategy. We should be releasing Volume 3 of *Good Morning, Friends* later this year. That will complete the set.

SAVE 15% on Orders of \$50 or More at ChalcedonStore.com

More Commentaries!

We have more new titles forthcoming such as Rushdoony's *Sermons on First and Second Corinthians*—now in technical edits—as well as his commentary on the minor prophets entitled *Sermons in Zephaniah, Haggai, and Zechariah*.

In addition, after taking over the rights to *Institutes of Biblical Law* Volume 1, we are excited to announce that we'll be releasing a newly typeset version of this classic book. As you may or may not know, *Institutes* Volume 1 was originally published by Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing who graciously turned the rights over to Chalcedon.

eBooks

Lastly, the demand is increasing for digital versions of our books that can be read on popular reading applications like Kindle.

Our very own Jill Rouse has been diligently working on this massive project, and as of this date, there are 69 titles available in an ebook format including large volumes such as Rushdoony's commentaries, short volumes such as his *A Word in Season* collection, as well as Lee Duigou's *Bell Mountain* series.

It's amazing to consider that 17 years after R. J. Rushdoony went home to be



Jill Rouse, R. J. Rushdoony's granddaughter and head of ordering, is diligently creating dozens of digital versions of our printed books. She's completed 69 titles which are presently available on our online store with many more to come!

with his Lord that he is still keeping all of us quite busy!

As you can see, publishing remains a central part of this ministry whether it's printed or digital. We took a risk by having so much of our material available online for anyone to read, but we believe that getting the message out to those who can't afford it is too important, and we believe that you will help support us.

Here's what you can do. Consider donating to Chalcedon today, or take some time to shop our online store and take advantage of our latest sale. Remember, buying great books is a great way to support Chalcedon by investing in you! 🙌

No Shortage of Dominion Opportunities

Andrea Schwartz

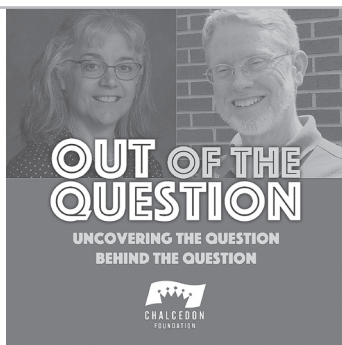


I once thought that life after homeschooling might be boring and without much to do.

God disabused me of that idea once I read the profile of a Titus 2 woman. Rather than having little to do, the harvest was more than I could deal with myself. So, I began the Chalcedon Teacher Training Institute (CTTI) to share what I have learned in the 28+ years I homeschooled and in the general experience of being a wife and mother for decades. My efforts were intended to equip the women I interacted with so that they wouldn't need me anymore and could do for others what I had been privileged to do for them.

Today, years later, I have conducted several *Institutes of Biblical Law* classes with graduates heartily applying what they learned from Dr. Rushdoony, me, and other women in the group discussions. I always hoped that we'd spread like a virus—"infecting" every sphere of our lives with the truth of God's Word.

God has blessed this effort, and Chalcedon's active support allows me to offer my services for free and this has been a key factor in the program's success. My model is the one that Dr. Rushdoony and his wife Dorothy did for me: help me understand God's Word with the intent and purpose to further the Kingdom of God. They did this freely and my husband and I knew that Chalcedon and its work deserved our tithes and offerings.



NEW Podcast... "Out of the Question: Uncovering the Question Behind the Question."

Listen in to this informative podcast hosted by Pastor Charles Roberts and Chalcedon's Andrea Schwartz.

For more information visit:
chalcedon.edu/connect/podcasts



Mark Rushdoony will be speaking at the upcoming Pacific Northwest Reconstruction Meeting on "A Christian Reconstruction of Family Business"

June 8-10th in Leavenworth, WA

Other dynamic speakers are included.

For more information visit
ReconstructionLife.com/June2018