Americas Providential History

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how providential history the conviction that god is an active agent in human history has shaped the american historical imagination in 1847 protestant missionary marcus whitman was killed after a disastrous eleven year effort to evangelize the indigenous peoples of the pacific northwest by 1897 whitman was a national hero celebrated in textbooks monuments and historical scholarship as the savior of oregon but his fame was based on a tall tale one that was about to be exposed sarah koenig traces the rise and fall of protestant missionary marcus whitman s legend revealing two patterns in the development of american history on the one hand is providential history marked by the conviction that god is an active agent in human history and that historical work can reveal patterns of divine will on the other hand is objective history which arose from the efforts of catholics and other racial and religious outsiders to resist providentialists pejorative descriptions of non protestants and nonwhites koenig examines how these competing visions continue to shape understandings of the american past and the nature of historical truth

in america s providential history we examine the history of america from a christian perspective since god is the author of history and he is carrying out his plan in the earth through history any view of the history of america or any country that ignores god is not true history this is a providential view of history and was held by the vast majority of those people who founded this nation while we do not look at all the events in america s birth and growth we do highlight the providence and purposes of god and the faith of our founders understanding this will provide a proper framework in which other historical information can be properly placed introduction

it has long been established that the crisis of 1066 generated a florescence of historical writing in the first half of the twelfth century emily a winkler presents a new perspective on previously unqueried matters investigating how historians individual motivations and assumptions produced changes in the kind of history written across the conquest she argues that responses to the danish conquest of 1016 and the norman conquest of 1066 changed dramatically within two generations of the latter conquest repeated conquest could signal repeated failures and sin across the orders of society yet early twelfth century historians in england not only extract english kings and people from a history of failure but also establish english kingship as a worthy office on a european scale royal responsibility in anglo norman historical writing illuminates the consistent historical agendas of four historians william of malmesbury henry of huntingdon john of worcester and geffrei gaimar in their narratives of england s eleventh century history these twelfth century historians expanded their approach to historical explanation to include individual responsibility and accountability within a framework of providential history in this regard they made substantial departures from their sources these historians share a view of royal responsibility independent both of their sources primarily the anglo saxon chronicle and of any political agenda that placed english and norman allegiances in opposition although the accounts diverge widely in the interpretation of character all four are concerned more with the effectiveness of england s kings than with the legitimacy of their origins their new shared view of royal

responsibility represents a distinct phenomenon in england s twelfth century historiography

discover why many historians consider the bible america s founding document learn how god s presence was evident at our nation s founding in the men who fought for independence and shaped the constitution beginning with ancient history the book presents a providential view of significant events leading to the establishment of america examines the reformation the pilgrims the role of the clergy and church the christian foundations of education and economics and the development of liberty cites primary source documents that show our nation grew from christian principles and reveals how to bring them back into the nation today numerous illustrations portraits and visual aids make this book a valuable resource the conservative book club says this volume seems destined to become one of the best selling christian books of our time this revised and expanded edition contains two new chapters and much additional information not in the original version

a christian perspective on the major epochs issues and events in the history of western civilization in this groundbreaking work prominent historian ronald a wells integrates christian faith with a historical view of western civilization by clearly outlining the cultures of the ancient greeks and hebrews the middle ages the renaissance and the modern world wells illuminates our present situation and explores the major debates among historians today the author invites the reader to apply the study of history to what he or she already knows that the kingdom of god and the kingdom of the world are not the same while we dwell in both for a time we know which one is coming and which one we should seek first this comprehensive study one of a series cosponsored by the council for christian colleges universities addresses questions faced by christian students as they explore the history of western civilization

higton draws on unpublished material in the frei archives to present an original interpretation of frei s theology he places frei s well known work on biblical hermeneutics firmly in the context of his theological wrestling with barth and of the dominant traditions of western protestant theology he portrays frei as a theologian fundamentally concerned with the ability of theology to speak about and to the public world and to regard that world as providentially ordered in jesus christ without diminishing its concrete contingency and freedom frei emerges as not just a powerful historian of theology but also as a persuasive and hitherto largely unrecognized theologian of history

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