

The **Areopagus**

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

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The Areopagus

Seminars and Forums in

- Biblical studies
- Christian history
 - Apologetics
- Contemporary cultural issues
 - Christian spirituality
- Science and the Christian faith
 - Literature and the arts



A History of Christianity in America

Pilgrims, Plymouth, & Thanksgiving

PART 1



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PART 1

The English Colonial Vision

English Exceptionalism.

- John Foxe: England as “peculiar nation” chosen by Providence for a unique mission.



John Foxe

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PART 1

Motives for English Colonization

1. Personal.
2. National / Economic.
3. Political.
4. Adventure.
5. Religious
 - Richard Hakluyt, *A Discourse Concerning Western Planting* (1584).

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PART 1

Motives for English Colonization

The Colonial Potpourri.

- Dissidents.
- Debtors.
- Criminals.
- Middle-class professionals, farmers, artisans and craftsmen.
- Devout Christians.

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PART 1

Religious Diversity in Colonial America

1. Mainline Protestant.

- Anglicans
- Puritans.
 - Calvinistic Anglican reformers.
- Presbyterians.
- Lutherans.
- Methodists.

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Religious Diversity in Colonial America

2. Roman Catholic.

- Maryland's Act of Toleration (1649).

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PART 1

Religious Diversity in Colonial America

3. “Free Church” (“Nonconformist”) Tradition.

- Baptists.
 - Reformed (“Regular,” “Particular,” or “Primitive”) Baptists.
 - Arminian (“General” or “Free-will”) Baptists.
 - Roger Williams (1603-83).
- Quakers (Society of Friends).
 - George Fox (1624-91).
 - William Penn (1644-1718).

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PART 1

Religious Diversity in Colonial America

3. “Free Church” (“Nonconformist”) Tradition.

- Anabaptists.
 - Mennonites.
 - Amish.

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PART 1

Religious Diversity in Colonial America

3. “Free Church” (“Nonconformist”) Tradition.

- Separatists.
- Robert Browne (1555-1633).
 - “Reformation Without Tarrying for Any” (1582).
 - Religious liberty and separation of church and state.
- The Religion Act of 1592.
- John Robinson (1576-1625).



Robert Browne

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PART 1

Religious Diversity in Colonial America

Postscript: The Free Church Legacy.

- The Free Church emphasis on religious liberty and separation of church and state.
- Franklin Littell: “The American system, as it came to be expressed in the provisions of the Virginia Bill of Rights (1778), represented the triumph of the Free Church principles in the New World.”

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Religious Diversity in Colonial America

Postscript: The Free Church Legacy.

- Earl Radmacher: “The ecclesiology of [the Free Churches] has had the most notable influence on the growth and development of the church in America.”

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PART 2



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PART 2

Plymouth Colony (est. 1620)

The Separatists.

- Radical nonconformists.
- John Robinson (1576-1625).
- William Brewster
- William Bradford



John Robinson

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PART 2

Plymouth Colony (est. 1620)

Persecution and Exile.

- Queen Elizabeth (r. 1558-1603).
- King James I (1603-25).
- The Separatist immigration to Holland in 1607.
- Why the Separatists left Holland in 1619.



King James I

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PART 2

Plymouth Colony (est. 1620)

Settlement in America.

- The *Mayflower*.
 - “Farewell, Babylon!”
- Arduous journey.
- Mayflower Compact.



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PART 2

Plymouth Colony (est. 1620)

Struggle for Survival.

- Samoset.
- Squanto:
 - “A special instrument sent of God for our good.”
- Massasoit and the Wampanoags.

Gov. William Bradford



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PART 2

Plymouth Colony (est. 1620)

Happy Thanksgiving! (1621)



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PART 2

Plymouth Colony (est. 1620)

Subsequent Threats.

- Death of Squanto.
- Massasoit's illness.
- Capt. Myles Standish and the raid on hostile natives.



Capt. Myles Standish

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PART 2

Plymouth Colony (est. 1620)

Plymouth Christianity.

- The Separatist influence on American history.
- Separatists and sacralism.

Civil Government.

Social Economics.

- Plymouth communalism.
- Independent responsibility.
- Institution of private property.

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Plymouth Colony (est. 1620)

William Bradford, *Of Plimouth Plantation*.

- Lost... and found.



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PART 3



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PART 3

The Origins of America's Culture War

The Forgotten Motive for Colonization.

- Libertine hedonism.

The Founding of Mount Wollaston (1524).

- Thomas Morton (1576-1647).

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PART 3

The Origins of America's Culture War

The Maypole of Merrymount.

- Preemptive action.



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The Origins of America's Culture War

Morton's Revenge.

- Revocation of the Massachusetts Bay charter
- Publication of *The New English Canaan* (1637).

The Rest of the Story.

- MountWollaston/Braintree/
Quincy.



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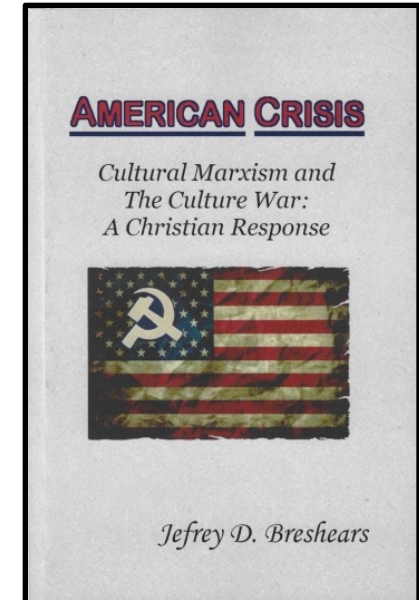
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PART 3

The Summa

The Evolution of America's Culture War.

- The times, they have a-changed.
- The two Americas.
 - (1) Natural law principles.
 - (2) Secular/humanistic principles.



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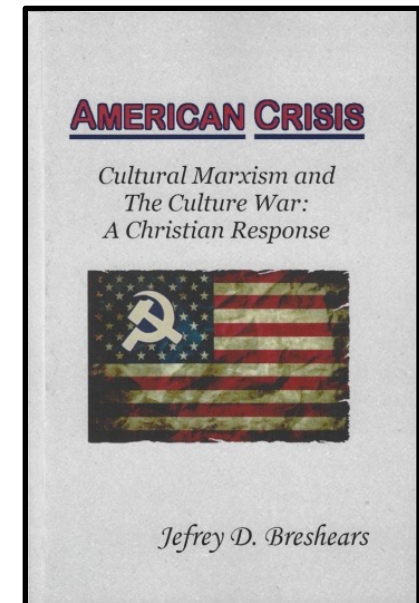
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The Summa

America's Contemporary Culture War.

- Idealism doesn't alter reality.
- The reality of the culture war.
- The failure of many Christians to get informed and engaged in the great moral and spiritual issues of our day.



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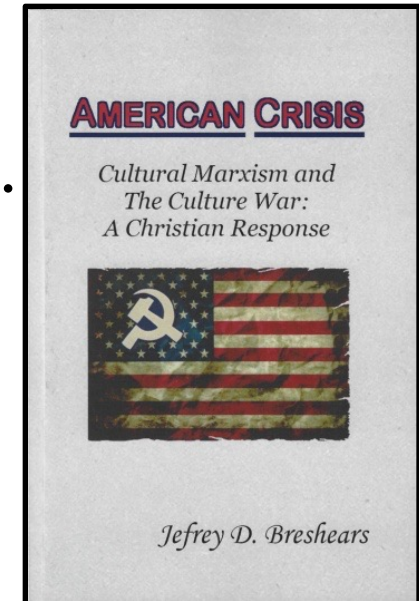
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The Summa

America's Contemporary Culture War.

- The results: A culture that is rapidly decaying and disintegrating.
- America's culture war is not an illusion.
 - Those who refuse to acknowledge it are either spiritually and morally blind, egregiously apathetic, or too timid to engage it.



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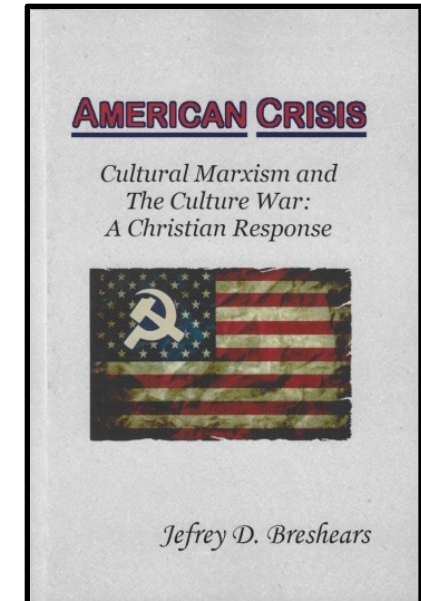
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The Summa

America's Contemporary Culture War.

- The issues at stake are not trivial.
- The culture war is played out in churches and denominations.
- The primary battle ground.
- The differences that divide.



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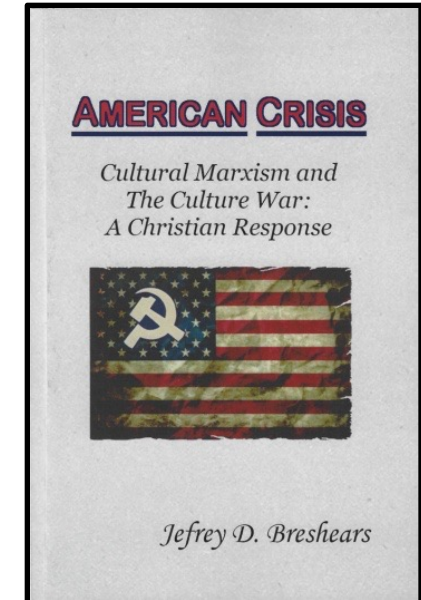
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The Summa

America's Contemporary Culture War.

- The failure to confront evil is faithless, cowardly and irresponsible.



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PART 3

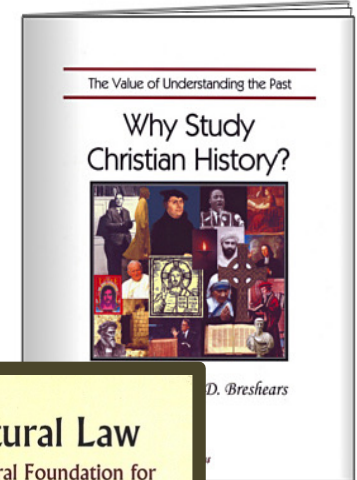
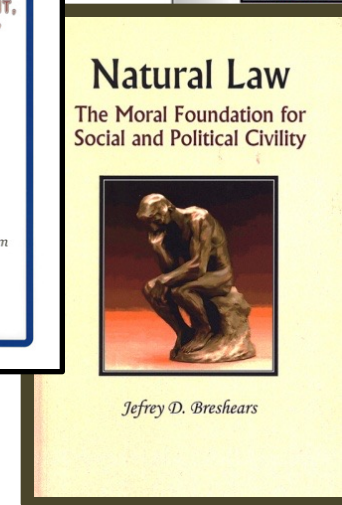
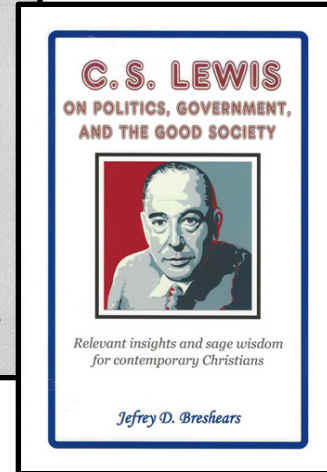
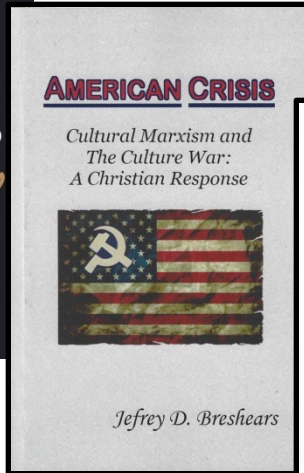
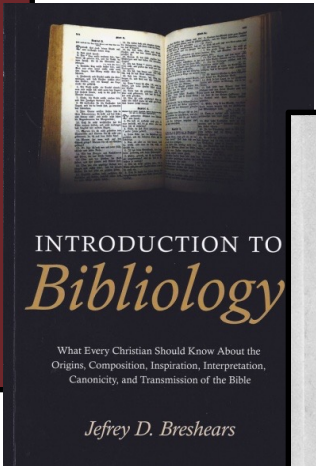
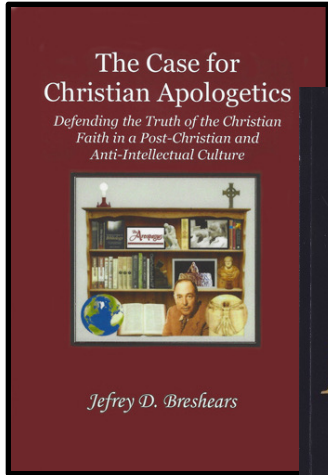
The Summa

Paul's Message at the Areopagus (Acts 17:16ff).

- “The God who made the world... made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and exact places where they should live....”



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