

## 23V01 the Colony

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me today for an @ the PUNLA coffee table.

I'm going to do something a little different today. I would like to share with you a book review of *the Chronicles of Adonai: the Colony*. Now let me explain. Part of my seminary class requires me to read and review some Christian books. I have decided this is a potential resource that at least some of you might be interested in. So, I am going to share my book review and summaries with you.

**Let's pray. Heavenly Father please guide our discussion today. Help me to stay out of the way, so you can use me. If I say anything wrong, please don't let them remember my errand words but remember what you want them to hear regardless of my words. We trust you and we know you have promised the wisdom we need to understand your word in the Bible. Help us to let the Holy Spirit lead us and guide us. Bless our time together and I pray all these things in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.**

Okay the book is called "*The Chronicles of Adonai: The Colony*" written by Dr. Braxton Hunter who is currently the President of Trinity Seminary and Bible College in Indiana. The Colony is the first of a three part series titled the Chronicles of the Adonai. The three books are "*the Colony*", "*the Mountain*", and "*the Island*". These are fantasy fiction with a underlying Christian theme.

### **Abstract**

*The Chronicles of the Adonai: the Colony* by Dr. Braxton Hunter gives us a glimpse of what a society void of God might look like. The proverbial Atheist Utopia. In the story this quickly devolves into the one central argument, without God how do you define good or bad. The purpose of this book appears to be two-fold, 1) provide an illustration of the consequences of our worldview and 2) appeal to readers who would not traditionally read Christian literature.

In providing a review of the book, I will break my comments down into three sections. In the first section, I will review Dr. Hunter's central argument as told in the book. This section will deal with the content of the book itself. In the second section, I will address the effectiveness both strengths and weakness of Dr. Hunter's approach to this argument. In the final section, I share my personal perspective on how this book can be used effectively to reach the audience Dr. Hunter is trying to reach.

Please note that I am a reluctant reader due to severe dyslexia. I have never read a book for pleasure spare one, the Bible. Therefore, my views are those of a non-reader who is mildly antagonistic toward the practice of leisure reading.

### **The Story**

The book begins by placing us in a post-apocalyptic setting. Some eighteen years have passed since the "*Great Darkness*" which destroyed the civilized world. Now only a

remnant, “*the Colony*”, live in a sort of Atheist Utopia. The “*Colony*” is located at an abandoned sky resort somewhere in the remote wilderness of British Columbia Canada. Their creed is “*Freedom to think, Freedom to live. Hope to seek. Hope to give.*”

The story follows Justin, the son of the founding leader or what they call an “*Adon.*” The first problem faced in the story is someone has run away from the colony in what they refer to as “*Departure.*” This is a grievous offense, and anyone committing “*Departure*” must be found and returned to the colony for punishment. Over the course of the first half of the book, that fair-tale begins to unravel for Justin and his small group of friends, as they begin to ask some fundamental questions about how and why they exist. In one scene one of the people they are searching for mentions God. This peaks Justin’s curiosity to find out more about this God. However, Justin discovers that every reference to “*God*” has been systematically and intentionally removed for all resources in their library. Eventually, Justin and his friends discover a big secret, anyone who tries to leave the colony or even disagrees with the Adonai is killed and buried on a mountain peak above the colony. This revelation leads Justin to see God as the only plausible explanation to his questions. A little later in the story, Justin learns he has a sister living in Chicago and by the way billions of people are still living in the real world. Yes, the “*Great Darkness*” is nothing but a lie. The colony is a great social experiment gone wrong. The Adonai wanted to show that society without God is possible and better but instead violence and immorality reigns. “*Freedom to think,*” really means only as long as you think the way the leaders want you to think. “*Freedom to live,*” really means only as long as you live the way the leaders want you to live. “*Hope to seek,*” really means no hope at all, and “*Hope to give*” is only a lie since the only thing the Adonai can give is fear and pain. The story suddenly shifts to the sister in Chicago. Now the story is from the sister Julie’s perspective until at long last Julie rediscovers the colony and reunites with brother Justin. The story comes to a climax as Justin and his friends expose the truth to all members of the “*Colony*” and escape back to the real world by helicopter. Then the book ends with many open questions. Justin and his sister Julie return to the “*Colony*” with law enforcement only to find everyone gone without a trace. The final section of the book is a letter written by Justin to his sister Julie, telling her he is now searching for the other “*Southern Colony*” somewhere near Australia.

### **Strengths and Weaknesses**

As I mentioned in my note, I am not a reader but I can see value in this type of literature. Using a writing style that is entertaining in our culture, opens the opportunity for a non-Christian to possibly read this book and be compelled by its arguments. Additionally, a young Christian who likes books like this will enjoy the story and be encouraged. Dr. Hunter makes a very good argument that a society without God, has no basis for moral behavior. And as such, morals will be defined by the strongest and most influential. As Dr. Hunter shows us, this will typically result in the leader’s willingness to be violent in order to maintain their control. I especially appreciate the motto that Justin adopts “*Truth will Triumph*”. God is the only source of truth and without God there is no truth only opinion. I did, however, feel like this book has some obvious weaknesses. First, the early encounters Justin has with God are good but when the focus of these encounters turns to the resurrection of Christ, it seems to me to be a little

pressed to make the connection. I understand the importance the defense of the resurrection of Christ is to me as a Christian, but it seems untimely since this is not the primary argument most atheists seem to take objection to. Atheists want to deny the very existence of God, not just the argument about the deity of Jesus and the resurrection. The book begins well with the fundamental question of why and how we are here, but then deviates. I think the flow of the book would have been better if the argument for the resurrection Jesus was brought about later in the story. The story climax with Justin's speech in front of the "Colony" again focused on the resurrection of Jesus instead of focusing on the primary argument the story began with. The audience for this final speech are all Atheists who know nothing of God or vehemently deny God exists. I think the simpler more obvious question to address would have been the existence of God, rather than the resurrection of Jesus. It just appears to be answering a question that was not originally being asked in the story.

Additionally, the sudden change of first person perspectives from Justin at the colony to the sister in Chicago was confusing at first. This was made more confusing when the first person perspective drifted back and forth between Justin and Julie repeatedly during the final chapters of the book. I understand this is a common method, but I found it distracting.

### **Practical Applicability**

Dr. Hunter's book is not my personal genre and as such it is difficult for me to identify practical applicability. I do believe that more Christian writers should make attempts to produce literature in various genre, in an attempt to reach a broader audience. The underlying message that you can see God in the world, even if you did not know the concept of God is powerful and true. The story was creative with strong evidential support for the Biblical worldview. The book provides some very intriguing side stories which could lead readers to look deeper in search of more information. I would have liked it better however, if somehow a copy of the bible had been introduced into the story or at least some scriptures using the Chapel as a conduit.

### **Conclusion**

Dr. Hunter's book is well written for this genre. A book like this is very good at pointing out the flaws in the "Society without God" utopia so many Atheists wish for. Dr. Hunter shows us why we need a basis for our moral decisions, and more importantly why that basis can only be God. No other standard will work because only God is truth. I do believe there is a need to provide Biblical worldview literature in a genre like this, in order to appeal to the younger generation. However, I would probably not recommend this book to a non-believer. I found some of the situations difficult to follow and the theology being inserted was at times hard to see the relevance to the story.

Let's Pray

**Father God, thank you for giving us the resources and sources to answer these tough questions. We know you know all things. When we see how things fit perfectly in your plan. Wow. Only with God is this possible Thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit to guide us and help us. Help us to open the Bible and look**

**into history to answer our questions. I pray these things in your name Lord Jesus, Amen**

Okay. The Chronicle of Adonai: the Colony was enjoyable to read even with its distractions and miss placed theology statements. The concept was excellent. I would probably like to hear the stories in the other two books in this series but only if I had the option of an audio book.

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table today, I hope you'll join us again.

If you liked the message, please share the link with a friend. Send me comments, my email should be on the screen.

Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.