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# Bruce L. Shelley: The Gospel and the American Dream: Study Guide

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# BRUCE L. SHELLEY: THE GOSPEL AND THE AMERICAN DREAM: STUDY GUIDE, 1990-1999

Steven Alan Samson

## CHAPTER THREE: DREAMS IN THE MAKING

### Study Questions

1. Identify the four major cultural traditions or visions of the American Dream.
2. What ideas and factors contributed to the Puritans' zeal? Discuss the "holy commonwealth" they sought? How has the Puritan ideal continued to influence us?
3. What was the "spirit of the Enlightenment?" Identify the key assumptions of republicanism. How did the character of American Christianity change during the transition from the first to the second tradition?
4. How did revivals and voluntary societies help transform American society and spur evangelical activity?

## CHAPTER FOUR: NIGHTMARES IN THE SECULAR CITY

### Study Questions

1. Why does the Scopes trial of 1925 mark an important turning point in American life?
2. How has enthusiasm for material progress been reflected in our economic tradition? How have industry, immigration, and pragmatism changed the American way of life? How has American Christianity been influenced both by the success ideology and theological liberalism?
3. How has the "pursuit of happiness" transformed American culture and affected Christian practice?

### Review

Abraham Lincoln  
Puritans  
John Foxe  
Alexis de Tocqueville  
Enlightenment  
plural ideal  
Woodrow Wilson  
Clarence Darrow  
Horatio Alger  
progressivism  
Carl Rogers

manifest destiny  
holy commonwealth  
Cotton Mather  
George Whitefield  
Thomas Jefferson  
Lyman Beecher  
John Scopes  
Benjamin Franklin  
Walter Rauschenbusch  
higher criticism  
Roe v. Wade

John Winthrop  
"covenant of grace"  
Jonathan Edwards  
Great Awakening  
custodial ideal  
Righteous Empire"  
William Jennings Bryan  
Charles Darwin  
social gospel  
therapy  
moral pluralism