

# Modern Oracles

by [Walt Garlington](#) (May 2022)



*Joshua Commanding the Sun to Stand Still upon Gibeon*, John Martin, 1816

Mankind, in his yearning to know  
The will Divine, has devised many methods—  
The haruspex of the Romans  
Read the entrails of the birds;  
The Greeks hurried to Delphi to hear  
From the maiden on Apollo's chair;  
The Native American shamans  
Had their trances and spirit walks;  
The houses of the Zodiac  
Controlled the lives of sky-gazers.

Modern scientific man

Mocks the idea of the omnipotent God  
But then mocks himself when he turns  
To something as mundane as the weather.  
For what the meteorologist proclaims  
From the satellite gods on high  
Is received as an unchangeable decree,  
As fixed as Fate, to be endured  
With no hope for mitigation.

Have they not heard of Joshua,  
Who stopped the sun from setting?  
Of Moses, who dried up a great sea?  
Or Elijah, who banished  
The rain clouds for a three-year span,  
And then brought down a torrent  
Of fire from the heavens?

Man is not the plaything  
Of impersonal forces  
Or capricious gods.  
The Lamb slain before the foundation  
Of the world, the One Who offers  
And is offered, sacrificed Himself  
For us that we might  
Live and reign with Him  
In His Kingdom of light, peace, and joy,  
Not only in the Paradise to come  
But in the here-and-now.  
Only let us get the order right—  
First the suffering and the shame  
Outside the city walls  
And then the triumphant  
Glory of the Resurrection.

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Walt Garlington was born and raised in that part of Dixieland called Louisiana. A chemical engineer by training, he has spent the last several years writing full-time. He has written essays and poems for *The Hayride*, *The Tenth Amendment Center*, *The Abbeville Institute*, *Reckonin'*, *Katehon*, *Geopolitica*, and *USA Really*. He writes regularly at his own web site, [Confiteri: A Southern Perspective](#).

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