

## SEEDS of ANGUISH AND RUIN The Sixth Level of Decay

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To The Young Men Who Would Be His Sons:

The third chapter of the Letter to the Hebrews (believers) has been particularly troubling to me of late. In that chapter it reads, “Take heed (weigh carefully) brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil unbelieving (grievous, derelict) heart, leading you to fall away (withdrawing, removed) from the living God. But exhort (warn, implore, admonish, alarm) one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (an offence, to miss or wander from the right path).

The word ‘exhort’ here means any or all of a number of types of benevolent actions from one person to another. Roget’s Thesaurus expands ‘admonish’ to mean a prediction, a hand-writing on the wall, a siren, storm clouds brewing, to sound the alarm, to apprise of something ominous or threatening. I believe the word implies all of the above, arising out of a motive of alerting someone from a perspective of caring about them. There is a strong undercurrent of imploring, pleading, even begging. Nowhere in the Lexicon of the N.T. nor the Thesaurus is there even the slightest indication of a judgmental or critical attitude. To alert is my motive.

In the current regnum of our world there are immutable laws governing each and every facet of life. The overriding principle is one of decay and disorder, no matter what the arena, ranging from cell structure to our family to the sun and Universe. A coastal field will deteriorate unless it is sprayed for weeds, the house will get filthy unless the mother cleans it periodically. A large piece of equipment will break down unless it is greased and serviced regularly. Disease will follow filth just as surely as night follows day. All things will decay unless maintenance is performed. It is just as true concerning humans and human behavior.

Little of the Ancient Way remains intact, acutely so in the domain of so-called Christendom. Screaming to the contrary does not alter the facts, and those facts coldly pronounce we are in a state of advanced decay. Thus pervasive laughter and good times ring hollow to the culture around us. Inappropriate is an understatement.

I am most optimistic along certain lines, enjoying humor, positive talk, family, food and fun as much as the next guy, but the hinges are falling off the doors. Darkness is rushing into the gaping hole. Many are beginning to ask, “What of the night?”, to which the answer is, “The morning comes, and also the night; if you want to know more, come back later.”

So admit we must, not only the universal principle of decay, but the surreptitious eroding presence of Evil in and around us. Moreover, like it or not, accept it or not, that evil presence continually is trying to destroy the Seed of God, the Children of Light, the Sons and Daughters of Saints. This is the underlying principle behind the passage in Hebrews, “Warn one another **every day**.”

The rub comes when we either accept or reject by indifference the Word of God as it applies to this on-going destruction of our kids. What He said (and meant) is either met with active belief or with deadly neglect and emotion-laden lip service.

Such was the situation with the Hebrews; what God said (emphasized by what He **did**) was not met with active faith. They simply could not overcome their erroneous belief system acquired as a child in slave-torn Egypt. This erroneous belief system led to disbelief, thence disobedience of mind, thence rebellion of heart. Ruin was the ultimate result, requiring 10-50 years to materialize. The times of our ignorance He overlooks<sup>1</sup>, but only for a season. As it was then, so it will be with us.

As is the case with most of you, my wife and I were benignly ignorant of much when we were rearing our kids. From time to time the LORD would allow to surface the area in which we were ignorant. The times of His “allowing” things were, and continue to be Fatherly corrections designed to educate us. Most of the time we recognized these and obeyed. If not, the Fatherly discipline increased ten-fold.

But just as the Hebrews’ rearing as children (bondage in Egypt) imprinted on them what was to become ruinous disbelief, so it is with the generation following the traumatic WW II. A very large percentage of the young men who became fathers following WWII, especially those who fought, erroneously associated any form of discipline of their kids with the war violence just experienced. This attitude was aggravated by any who were reared by their mothers, who in turn had matriarchal spirits, common in that era. Fatherly discipline was missing, much like the Hebrews in their slavery knew not a Father.

Thus in large measure the fathers of the demographic bulge known as the Baby Boomers eliminated an entire generation of discipline. Instead, they succumbed to a ready life of ease present during the 50s and 60s. The Boomers grew up with new grade schools, new high schools, and new college dorms, into an expanding economy. Happy Days. Fun and Games. Woods and Creeks. Good ol’ Rock and Roll. Life was good.

The old adage, “What the parents do in moderation, the children will do in excess”, has come home to roost. Absence of discipline has as its excessive expression a pattern of incredible indulgence in the children of the Boomers. This same phenomenon occurred after the Civil War and following WWI. The post-Civil War indulgences led to the Gay 90s, which in turn led to WWI. In similar fashion the adult English leaders, 60-year-old products of post-Civil War indulgences, (Neville Chamberlain and George Baldwin) failed to deal (read abdication) with Hitler, leading to WWII. The horrors of WWII attest to this lack of backbone.

There are four stories of families with whom I am profoundly familiar, three of which I am familiar from beginning to end, “end” being anguish and ruin. For over 60 years now I have experienced and witnessed deep anguish and ruin in their final throes. I have seen their beginnings. I know what the Seeds of Anguish look like. I would like to pass them on to you.

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<sup>1</sup> Acts 17:30

The first date is when the seeds were planted; **bold type** is when they came up.

DATELINE: 40s; **early 70s**.

PLACE: Rural KY.

SETTING: Grampa and Grandma lived across the road from family of four. Father struck down by encephalomyelitis and Parkinson's disease, dysfunctional as a father. Mother went to work to feed family. Grandma partial to older good-looking grandson, coddled and indulged him until high school, even spoon-fed him whiskey. Father and Grampa both abdicated, did nothing. Younger son stayed in woods. Twenty-odd years later older son is lying in a casket. It'll rip your heart out to walk your mother past her son's casket. Anguish and ruin are immutable.

DATELINE: 60s; **early 2000s**

PLACE: St. Petersburg, FL

SETTING: Wealthy, affluent, educated, Alpha-male, Marine father and stately mother barren of children, adopt one boy, one girl. Mother forbids father to discipline son. Winsome son matures, learns to manipulate his mother, getting what he wants. Father abdicates, does not override wife, son continues to live with them until he is 42. Daughter marries early. Father tries many things to train and equip son. He will not leave. Due to father's continued success, even at 76, 42 year-old son blows his father's brains out in their prestigious living room. We left the casket closed; a .45 makes a mess of one's skull, you know. Now mother has neither husband nor son. He's doing life without parole. Anguish and ruin are immutable.

DATELINE: 70s; **mid-90s**.

PLACE: Houston, TX

SETTING: Educated, middle-class couple have two children, one boy, one girl. Younger son is incredibly good-looking, winsome, personable. Mother will not allow father to discipline son, father abdicates; son is indulged and coddled, doted and praised because of his attributes. Daughter marries, does fine. The son waxes effeminate early on, to the delight of his mother. Son wanders off. At 28 they bury their son, dead of AIDS. Anguish and ruin are immutable.

DATELINE: 40s; **00s**

PLACE: TX

SETTING: Educated, middle-class couple have several children after barren period. Father tall, good looking, polished, self-serving, doted as a young boy. Eventually succumbs to seductress; tolerates, then refuses pleading, exhorting, admonishing, stern warnings; divorces wife who nearly goes under, but healed after 10 years. Children damaged, angry; husband now 70 with utterly horrible terminal brain disease, dead within 2 two months. The seeds of the father yet to appear in the children. Anguish and ruin are immutable.

To imply in any sense of the word that no one saw any of the above coming is absurd. Denying this level of experience exists is to deny God Himself. The problem is our rejecting the ability of God to communicate in multiple forms; He indeed does warn, persistently so<sup>2</sup>. To say otherwise is to impugn His character and His written Word. He does have His servants who act as His mouth. The problem is us, and our refusal to either listen to anyone trying to save our skins, even less ask what we might be missing. Heaven forbid we should admit error! Heaven forbid we should admit we are responsible for cooking a witch's brew which will eventually bring us anguish.

Our inconsistency prevails; (several of these were from my own camp)

- we puff up and swoon over those with charm, good looks and stature, while ignoring the male's effeminate mannerisms and the female's sensual dalliances or matriarchal wiles.
- we admire and coddle up to a male because he is tall and good-looking and dismiss the fact his wife runs the show.
- we decry "patient's rights!!" while casting aside the tremendous price paid on the Cross for our healing.
- we lambaste a middle-aged lawyer for being a Momma's boy, not being responsible, while at the same time continue to wipe the butt of our seven year old son!! Where did the lawyer get his behavior, down at the local WalMart?!
- we wail and moan in self-pity over the curses on the work of our hands while our own rebellion violates God's precepts<sup>3</sup> and Due Order.<sup>4</sup>
- in our self-righteousness we blame Satan for our ruin while eating, socializing and even taking communion with nominal 'brothers' espousing abortion, doctrines of demons, blood oaths and false witness.
- we take offence at even the slightest suggestion of admonition, reproof or correction while griping over the lack of any real Men of God.
- with tears we pray for healing of our genital cancer while harboring white supremacy in our hearts.
- we wonder at our lack of fruit while mutilating our bodies, the Temple of the Holy Spirit. In fact, amongst our rolls of fat, we 'cast out demons'. Pass the Gummy Bears, will you?
- we blame our Dad for our own children's disrespect, and our mother for their lack of self-control.
- we rarely ask for the view of the Wise Man, even less request correction. Still more repulsive to our narcissism is the thought of inviting reproof. Somewhere in another solar system is the thought of pleading for chastening **at all costs** to prevent our being deceived.

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<sup>2</sup> Neh. 9:30; Jer. 7:25, 25:4, 44:4.

<sup>3</sup> Gen. 3:17-18

<sup>4</sup> Eph. 5:21-23

So when anguish overwhelms our souls in 20-30 years, we like dumb brutes will traipse by his casket, stop a moment, then walk silently to our cars. Ancestor's sins and curses ? abdication ?!?! -what are you talking about? -why didn't you warn me?!?

Back to the universal principle of decay; the design of the Most High incorporates scriptural fatherly correction in order to stem the tide of decay. Scriptural discipline by the father leads to education of the child, nullifying his natural tendencies towards folly.<sup>5</sup> Human behavior left unattended will of a truth result in decay. Folly is staved by incorporating the Word into a child, emphatically during the first five years.

In God's design, belief and obedience arising out of faith in doing what He said establishes the conditions under which God will rebuke the Devourer. Additionally, He will bless the obedient, as well as the Seed. Otherwise, His protection is removed and the 'normal' process of decay sets in. When this happens, we are as the Israelites, unbelieving, disobedient and rebellious. At the end of this paper are numerous scriptures that deal with discipline, how God says to get it done, and why He says do it. Time to put your Big Boy pants on.

There are two polar opposites of scriptural fatherly discipline; one is abuse in a brutish form, physical and/or mental. The other is abdication, failing to do what He said to do. The latter for a season seems pleasant and peaceful, but it is equally as destructive as the brutish version. Letting things slide under the putrid guise of marital harmony is as wicked as any active physical abuse. In fact, hearkening or heeding your wife's directions will bring curses upon you.<sup>6</sup>

If you react to this paper with anger, all the better; at least there is still a hope for your children, a chance for your repentance and obedience. Straight talk and truth are offensive to men unaccustomed to such, to those reared under ease and indulgence.

If these principles do not meet with faith unto obedience, the next stage is Stupor. If your reaction is ho-hum, you are already there. Call the undertaker, you will need him. As for me, I'm tired of burying kids whose fathers hated them<sup>7</sup>.

April 16, 2013  
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Passages on Warning and Admonition:

I Cor. 4:14; Col. 1:28, 3:16; I Thess. 5:12

Passages on Discipline:

**Hebrews 12:5-11**; Prov. 10:1, 13:24,19:18, 20:11, 22:6,15, 23:13-14,29:15-17.

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<sup>5</sup> Prov. 22:15

<sup>6</sup> Gen' 3:17-18,

<sup>7</sup> Prov. 13:24