

PESTLE AND DROSS, SILVER AND FOOLS

There has been this nagging thought of late concerning the evolution (or devolution, I should say) of events on a mega-political scale. These are events passing before our eyes, as we speak, involving the Islamo-Fascist “war” as it were. The dominant players, essentially four in number and nature, are:

1. the core people possessing and trying to exhibit the basic tenets of God, which are correct and necessary for survival. At best these comprise 10% of the U.S. population.
2. the forces of evil trying to destroy all that is good, in whatever fashion available at the time.
3. the cabal of Power Mongers and Powers That Be which control them.
4. the naive, gullible, simple; in essence, the fools. These make up 90% of the U.S. population.

To clarify the point, I consider the First to be comprised of the Michael Savages, the Ron Pauls, the quiet Indiana corn farmer, the West Texas rancher, Lord Rees-Mogg, and others in the minority who understand the realities of life, and more succinctly, the nature and expression of evil. They have been trained by the hardships of life and realize what works and what does not.

The Second would be the demon-possessed, in particular the religious zealots of the world and other quasi-religious groups devoid of the Spirit of Jesus. The percentage worldwide exceeds 30%.

The Third would be the “princes” and “priests” of the various countries, in particular those who manipulate the masses with objectives to control and gain power. These include, but are not limited to, charismatic “church” leaders, various political party heads, the World Powers That Be, and all their minions. Power, population control, and indiscriminate destruction at whatever cost are their *modus operandi*.

The Fourth include members from all races reared and perpetuated in self-indulgence, with an irascible air of the classic definition of a fool. They are of two primary groups, the sensual and the cerebral. The first, the sensual, believe the daily papers, the choreographed bilge of the TV news, the placebo of the moment, the emotions of every silly idea put forth by the fools of the day. Food, sleep, and sensual pleasures from sports to pop culture are singularly pervasive in their daily activities. Mindlessly, it seems, the basis of their daily actions is derived from a synthesis of the current, and/or some aberration of the traditions of their fathers and mothers. Their driving force ranges from being simple, to having no core discipline at all, to having no ruling principle at all. They are driven by every wind that blows by their window. They are oblivious to the erroneous and deceptive patterns of their formative years.

The second group belongs to the cerebral, who count themselves above the common fray. They are involved in “higher” pursuits, mostly in the intellectual arena. Equally, there is a stunted awareness of danger, little concept of preparedness, and little sense of reality. The absence of reality in both of these is rooted in their rearing as a child, from whence they have been “protected” from as much difficulty as possible. To them, there is an artificiality to the nature of anything Godly or wise, in any form or fashion. If there is any attention given to scripture, it is the less offensive words that are espoused and implemented. The harsher, more realistic words of the complete nature and purposes of God are omitted in the name of “protecting” the child.

Because of this, the majority of Baby Boomers, their children and grand-children dominate those who are destined for the Sword, for they have no understanding or sense about God's balance of justice.

This *penchant* to cherry-pick elements pleasing to us, whether from the Bible, news broadcasts or life in general, is the root of our deception. It is what makes us gullible to the news headlines, the good-looking, charismatic, glib-tongued orator, the ever-positive, or the ever-encouraging Norman Vincent Peales of our lives.

God says repeatedly in His Word that He chastises us as a (good) father would chastise his sons, in order to make of them responsible, alert, protective men as adults. But alas, our North American mentality has engrained in us the sense we deserve all that is wonderful; forget the hard times and harsh words which "scare us," and make us "uncomfortable."

It is the reaction of our heart which decides the ultimate effect of any of life's difficulties. As Solomon warned in Proverbs 27:6, "Faithful are the wounds of a friend, and profuse are the kisses of an enemy." (RSV) If you live your life and make your decisions based on whatever is pleasing, mentally or physically, you are a fool. If you accept the hardships of life in contriteness, and search the Scriptures for the reason and purpose, you are wise. There are no "coincidences," nor "happenstances"; to say so is to diminish the Almighty God as almighty, less than all-powerful and less than in total and perfect control of all events, personal and national.

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December 19, 2006

In a conversation with my prescient son-in-law, a topic arose which has plagued me for a while now. There have been, and are currently, writers that more or less accurately deal with the behavior of the "early" Christians. In one fashion or another, they all portray them as prone to be less "worldly" than the society around them, i.e. the Roman or Jewish cultures. At that time, this stark difference in behavior resulted in severe persecution, more often than not martyrdom by the cruelest of forms. Again, the majority of the above writers depict them as more Christ-like, and our present-day Christianity as much less. While this conclusion is undoubtedly true, it begs a question; are we living under the same conditions as the Romans? Keep in mind the first-century Christians were in the midst of a Roman culture with all its physical cruelty and rule of law, by any and all means.

Now while I agree our present expression of Christianity is aberrant, there seems to be a dialectic leap here. ***We do not live in the first-century Roman culture***, though there are the same basic elements of sensuality, violent entertainment, self-aggrandizement, divorce, abortion, etc. While we as Americans are devolving into the same brutal, sensual, self-centered individuals, there is a distinctly different set of "rules" by and under which we live. The United States political and power structures are more "civilized"; (read more deceptive and cowardly). That power structure that began in 1492 has evolved into a distinctive set of rules which is both economic and academic. For 500 years we have played by these rules, and the masses have mastered them. Once the masses master a set of rules, the Powers That Be will change them. Count on that.

The rules under which we both express our “Christianity” and our daily lives are different than they were during the first century. By rearward extension, the first century Christians were different than the Israelites (also God’s People) pre-Christ.

My point is this: I have yet to read, see, or hear, that in 2006 true Christianity will look different than it did in 150 A.D. As one of my closest friends says, “All this early Christian stuff is looking backwards, not forwards. God never repeats Himself.” He’s essentially correct.

So *will* the true replicas of Jesus appear? Or will most just take the name while it is convenient and a good thing to do? Will we be running from the Sword of “Rome,” or be burned at the stake? Will we be thrown to the lions or crucified? Will we have our skins removed one slice at a time? I think not. But, I do believe all this horror, torture and physical deprivation is what the Enemy (human and spiritual) would have us direct our focus. Indeed, some of this physical stuff may come to pass; what is much more likely is the “torture” of our souls and deprivation of our spirits. We are much more likely to be deceived than detained, much more prone to be tricked than tortured.

Some write that this new behavior of Christians will be as the Sons of Zadok, or the Army of God, or the Tribe of Issachar. The *new* Charismatics blithely and arrogantly claim themselves to be included in this Remnant. These will be as Jesus was. While having read Gene Shepherd’s *Revolution*, Frank Viola’s *Pagan Christianity* and David Bercot’s *Real Heretics*, I still do not have a handle on my question. There is an element in all of these that rings somewhat true, but there is a nagging hole in all.

My gut tells me these are describing the tent, but not the interior contents. My sense tells me if a man can think it, God will show up in another form. This leaves us with little left than total dependence on His Spirit to guide us. This requires us to be connected with Him by means other than the physical and the soul. The deception, I believe, will be in most of this stuff that has appeared in writing lately. These fanciful portrayals will be tapes played as the compound door slams behind us. These portrayals are little more than the modern-day equivalent of the Nazis convincing the Jews they were giving them work, just to get them on the train. Too late by the time they arrived at the compound. So it will be under our modern set of rules. A lie is tuned to the day, and always is ahead of the capacity of the masses to deduce. Our deadly focus will be rooted in the soul rather than the Spirit. We will be looking rather than sensing, thinking rather than listening. Just as the rules are changed, the reactions are changed commensurately.

Peering Into the Distance

Ben Issachar

December 20, 2006