One of life's certainties is the absoluteness of Scripture, the Bible. *There is within Scripture*, for all its linguistic anomalies, a Babylonian skewing of translations, even missing parts. But there is also *an innate Holiness*, a spiritual Essence, a Presence hidden within its words that transcends any weaknesses or perceived inaccuracies. As it is written, His Spirit inspired its writing, and quickens what He wants you to know. The Word (logos) was made flesh; Jesus is the Logos. Jesus said all that the Father has is mine. Therefore, the Spirit of Scripture IS God Almighty, the Most High. One will not find this Holiness, this Presence, merely by reading its pages carelessly and passively. However, when one begins to gnaw and chew its internal meanings, and in one's heart of hearts seek its spiritual meanings, one will encounter the Living God.

Since the Word is its own witness, Psalms 91 reveals an incredible truth; those of His people that dwell (live) in the shelter of the Almighty, and abide in the shadow of the Most High will be protected and delivered from entrapment, pestilence, and the sword. Those who love Him and know His name will be delivered, set on high, and honored. To those who know His Name He will answer, He will deliver, grant long life and He will show His salvation.

The following describes what I have observed over the years that agrees with the Word. For thirty-five years there has been a hunger for what the Word says; more importantly, what the Word means. As it is written in Daniel 9:2, "I have understood by the books...the word of the Lord." There is an incredible parallel between all that the Word says and what we can experience today. Daniel had only a few of the Prophets, and perhaps one or two parts of the Law, but the Most High gave him an insight available to any of us, if we would only search for it.

As Proverbs 1:20-33 says, "Wisdom cries in the streets...."

Some close to me have said these writings are my version of my Psalms; others have said they are written to myself, still others written to God. At times there seems to be no one at all that desires to hear or that some even have receptors capable of hearing. The words herein are anathema to the majority of the religious institutions that have arisen out of men's minds. As such, the words or thoughts expressed are a direct slap in the face to most that is accepted today as sound religious practice.

Yet, yet, yet! –I know that I have heard from above. Perhaps not as clearly as some would want, but I have heard nonetheless.

Recently a young couple, devout believers, buried their three-year old son. He had been diagnosed with a cancer on his brainstem, and died a violent and horrible death. As I understand the situation, the father, a large and very strong man, pinned the doctor after the death of the boy, demanding the truth. The doctor confessed the source of the cancer was the vaccines administered to the boy as a newborn. The day-to-day testimony of the mother would break your heart.

The point of this narrative is to illustrate the evil behind the scenes of the "normal" American way of life. Secondly, it illustrates poignantly the Catch 22 nature of trying to shine a light on this or any other evil.

If one were to have warned the couple of the dangers of modern-day vaccines to newborns, and the diabolical purposes therein, one would encounter various degrees of scoffing, some polite, some not so polite. The majority would be in a state of denial, innocent, completely devoid of any awareness of evil.

I have found that if you do warn, the warning is not heeded, and the warning comes true, then those warned are mad, embarrassed and resentful you warned them and they did not act upon that warning. Either way, the one issuing the warning catches their ire. Kill the watchman!

If one were to hold his peace regarding the dangers, then the blood of the ones to have been warned would be on his hands.

I have found what others have found, namely what the elders often know, but keep silent, for reasons given above. The young do not know, and become victims. As my wise and oldest son says, "You aren't alert until you have experienced pain and loss."

The young are the most innocent and thus gullible. They are also the prime target of evildoers.

Most do not want to be warned, nor reproved, nor admonished in any way. In particular, the old fall into this category. These "old" are those basically over 35 years of age, essentially old wineskins, hardened and brittle mentally as to anything outside their comfort range of thinking. Basically, they do not want to hear, much less obey, anything counter to the way they were reared or to the way their reasoning was formed in their early years.

Essentially, Satan has his way because the majority do not want to be told nor warned of anything. Hence, ruin, pain and loss await the fool.

It cannot be emphasized strongly enough that success in every form (personal, corporate, family, and spiritual) is predicated upon the Fear of God being the most basic attribute of man.

Equally, the two things that invoke the judgment of the LORD are first, forgetting Him and then secondly, putting His Word behind our backs. All of the Divine judgments and their effects arise out of these truths. Discipline and chastening are included as parts of those judgments, but not the totality.

Parenthetically, it has occurred to me how much the so-called people of God who regularly attend "Church" in the USA (however that is expressed) are for the most part, good and upstanding people. However, so were the children of Israel in the land of Goshen after the death of Joseph, and before the enslavement under the new Pharaoh. They simply stayed there until the noose of slavery encompassed them. In Solzhenitsyn's *Gulag Archipelago*, the same phenomenon occurred. As he puts it, "We were as rabbits; any of us could have screamed out when they came to take us in the middle of the night, but we did not." Solzhenitsyn even showed his captors how to get to the prison in which he was to be held, they were that stupid; brutal, but stupid.¹

Surely there were those among the Israelites who smelled the coffee early and left Goshen, heading for parts east in Moab and Edom. Some record such a move.

My point is the sheep-like attitude held by most that set in the pew Sunday after Sunday. They never seem to question what is missing, nor do they examining their behavior by the light of the Word, or even by history's facts. If they are in the wrong place, by virtue of tradition, a spell or worse, what does the "wrong place" hold for them in the Day of Judgment? It scares me to think of how ignorant I am this day, compared to where I know I should be. Can it be that Jesus was right in saying "New wine cannot be placed into old wineskins?" Are the "old wineskins" the institutions? It seems so.

The Origins of Pain, Loss and Ruin are plural in a real sense, but they all come under a heading called disobedience or rebellion. These "origins" are but a plurality reflecting a singular root. There are three expressions of the singular root; the Prominence of Fools, the Perversion of Proper Headship, and the Ignoring/Violation of Cause to Effect.

THE PROMINENCE OF FOOLS

As societies in general and individuals in particular mature, there occurs a phenomenon that too often escapes us. What was once rare in a society's youth where discipline and order reigned, rebellion and license become commonplace in the latter stages and ages. That phenomenon includes the enlargement of a fool's prominence, with the result that his depraved behavior becomes manifest and contagious. What exacerbates the ruin is our politeness toward the fool and his fruit, and the granting to him of an audience.

Dake's Bible² (the Book of "lists") enumerates 46 characteristics of a fool mentioned in the Bible. A few that dovetail into today's vernacular come to mind.

A fool is ten times worse than a rebel; he causes much more direct than collateral damage. The more salient effects are:

- a false sense of security
- general unrest and loss of inner peace
- resentment, anger and discord
- useless, unfruitful, redundant waste of energy and manpower.
- the wooing of still more fools that follow the first fool with abandon

- ultimately, a fool's choices either: allow the windows of critical decision to pass, or ushers in uncontrollable emotions that foster ruin; war in turn results in escalating horror, death, generational hate and further ruin.

A fool is much like a barking dog on a moonlight night; bark, bark, bark at shadows and imagined boogie men. A fool talks, talks, often polished in oratory, and with a slick tongue.

A fool is trained as a child to be a fool, by a fool. Just because he grows up does not erase the inner bents of a fool.

The fool, as an adult, is often camouflaged by looks, stature and wealth. All these are dangerous to a wise man (to be defined later), but deadly to one who is a fool.

A fool basically has no sense of reality. His outlook is imaginary, rootless and without grounds that will stand the scrutiny of any light.

The lack of a sense of reality in a fool is the chief root of his choices. Those choices predominantly are the ones easiest to make, and which *sound* the best.

A fool's recommendations, particularly when he has been elevated to positions of power and influence, are those which resemble the habit of water; trending toward the path of least resistance.

Have I just described a liberal?

A fool's mind sees things in the shortest time frame possible; his foresight is indeed short, very short. His choices are short-ranged and very appealing to those who, through lack of discipline themselves, enjoy instant gratification, and welcome anything that smacks of peace, peace, peace. Put another way, anything that will avoid pain or confrontation.

Compare the above to those below who have dealt with reality, and whose effects were commensurate with their choices:

- 1. Jesus; who made the toughest choice of all time; that choice was to leave His Father's throne and position of glory, to come to earth for the salvation of *all mankind, for all eternity*.
- 2. Moses; who as a prototype of Jesus, voluntarily left the riches and glory of Egypt and the throne of Pharaoh to become the servant of the Most High that would lead the people of Israel out of bondage.
- 3. David Livingstone, who voluntarily left the pleasures and prestige of London's medical iconic places and became a servant to a downtrodden black peoples.

- 4. Jackie Pulinger, who left London's elite musical society and went to Hong Kong to be a servant to that city's prostitutes.
- 5. The refugees from Europe and other places who left hearth and home to come to America to build a new life for their seed.
- 6. Countless others who made tough choices so that posterity might be better.

THE PERVERSION OF GOD'S HEADSHIP

The Correct Headship

The Most High God, the God Almighty is supreme.

He has elevated His Word equal to His very Name.

His Son Jesus the Messiah was and is the Word made human.

The Most High has given His Son all authority and rule.

The word "head" in the physical is considered the center of the intellect, the mind, the brain. The head is the position of leadership, the greatest authority, or honor. It is a person to whom others are subordinate, a leader or chief.

In the New Testament, the word "head" is used metaphorically of:

The authority or direction of God in relation to Christ

Christ in relation to believing men

The husband in relation to the wife

Christ in relation to the church

Christ in relation to principalities and powers

Our head atop our shoulders illustrates that the head controls things. The members of our body are in perfect unity with our head, and for the most part, do the bidding of the head without complaint, question, or rebellion.

We are born in the physical sense to our parents, thus we are members of our family. As God designed things, the father is the head of the family, which implicitly means the protector, provider, and leader.

If we are born again in the spiritual sense, we become members of the spiritual family of God, specifically members of the Body of Christ.

To say we need to become a member of another spiritual family is to deny we are a member of the first. Once we are a member, we are a member. We cannot serve two masters, as it were.

It would be like one of our arms saying, "I want to become a member of Arnold Swartzeneggar's body; I like his body better than mine," or, we want to become a member of another physical family, from being a Jones to being a Smith. Still further, if we are a member of the Air Force, we cannot be a member of the Marines. In all three cases, we are either one or the other.

If we are indeed "born again" by the Spirit of God, then we, by virtue of being reborn by faith in His Son Jesus, are adopted and grafted in as a son/daughter into the family of God our Father. We are, therefore, members of the Body of Christ. How can we be members of any other body? By the same token, how can we have any Head, any director or leader, other than Christ?

How can we have two heads or two leaders? How can we be members of two bodies? How can there be victory over the people (Nicolaitans) when He is the one who has, and is, the entire victory?

Aleksandr I. Solzhenitzen, <u>The Gulag Archipelago 1918-1956</u>, translated from the Russian by Thomas P. Whitney, (Westview Press, Boulder, Colorado, 1998)

² Finis Dake, <u>Dake's Annotated Reference Bible</u>, (Dake Bible Sales, Lawrenceville, Georgia, 1961) p. 651, column 4.