

EPOCH

We have seen the fall of the Christian West. . . Kevin Swanson has written a marvelous book called *Epoch*. Highly recommend it.

PASTOR JOHN MACARTHUR

Pastor, Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, CA, (Sermon, June 19 2022)

Epoch is a stunning achievement. It is extremely well-researched and is so accessibly written that it easily stands with the finest secular texts. But what makes *Epoch* stand out is the intelligent way the material is selected, presented, and understood from within a thoroughly Christian worldview. I am so excited about this book, and I highly recommend it.

DR. J.P. MORELAND

Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, Talbot School of Theology, Biola University

Here is a thoughtful, well-documented and researched analysis of the rise and fall of Western culture from the first Century to the present, and the crucial place of the Christian faith in those events and epochs. Presently faced with Western civilization lying in ashes as it turns away from God, the author challenges believers not to lose heart but, surrounded by ashes, to offer to King Jesus and to the world around us a full-orbed reformation of education, science and technology, media, culture, family life, business, and church life, a reformation which God will bless in His good time according to His sovereign plan for human history.

REV. DR. PETER JONES

*Professor Emeritus, Westminster Theological Seminary,
Author, "Gnostic Empire Strikes Back," "Spirit Wars"*

In times of crisis, we desperately need those who raise the prophetic alarms as well as those who mobilize us for the hard work ahead. In this powerfully incisive book, Kevin Swanson undertakes both roles. He alerts us to the full dimensions of this present darkness, but he also penetrates that darkness with the light of truth so that we may journey onward toward a hope-filled future. This is essential worldview training for the days in which we now live.

GEORGE GRANT

Pastor, Parish Presbyterian Church, Franklin, Tennessee

This book views history through the lens of Scripture, showing that blessing comes through obedience, and judgment comes through disobedience. This survey reminds us that if we don't learn from history we will be doomed to repeat it!

DR. ERWIN LUTZER

Pastor Emeritus, The Moody Church, Chicago

No one will ever fault *Epoch* for being too milquetoast. Some will attempt to dismiss Kevin's magnum opus as too severe. Compromisers with the world in the Old Covenant said the same about Jeremiah and the prophets. Either way, *Epoch* is a history of redemption to be reckoned with.

DOUGLAS BOND

Author, Numerous Books on Christian History

Suppose someone gave you the task of writing the history of Western civilization, detailing its rise and decline, and outlining a strategy of where to go from here. Would that feel daunting? The word "epic" might come to mind. Well, Kevin Swanson has done just that in *Epoch*, a new history course that helps us to understand how we got here and how we should then live; all through the lens of a Biblical worldview. Get the 30,000-foot view of history from the Cross to contemporary culture in this "Epoch" curriculum for adults and their students. I am truly amazed at the size and scope of this undertaking!

ISRAEL WAYNE

Author, Founder of Family Renewal Ministries

I just finished reading Kevin Swanson's new book, *Epoch*. I highly recommend this book. It has become my favorite history of Western civilization. Kevin Swanson acts as a tour guide through the complicated twists and turns of church history, showing key points which had lasting influence for good or evil. But this book is far more than a history. Kevin Swanson has masterfully woven together history, theology, worldview, cultural critique, apologetics, philosophy, presuppositional analysis, futurology, and practical theology into a powerful call to the church to repent for its failure to ground every area of life in the Bible. There is no other book like it.

Though this is a sobering book, I also found it encouraging. Unlike the ten spies of Numbers 14 who accurately described the giants in the land but did so in a way that killed everyone's faith, Kevin Swanson's book showcases giant-slaying heroes of the past who point the way for us to live by faith and not by sight. This book avoids the extremes of false optimism and faith-killing pessimism. It is one of the best interpretations of history that I have read in my lifetime. I recommend it.

DR. PHILLIP KAYSER

President, Biblical Blueprints

Friends, I simply cannot recommend this work enough. In fact, I have an ongoing practice of referring families who are passionate about passing on a biblical worldview to their children to the Generations website. By God's grace, Kevin Swanson and his team have been raised up by God for such a time as this. The work they are doing is exceptional. *Epoch* is no different. Not only is this work an excellent resource for 12th graders, but it is needful for churches as well! Buy this book. Use it. Pass it on. If the LORD tarries, we must "strengthen the things which remain!" (Rev 3:2) Solus Christus!

CARLTON C. MCLEOD

Senior Pastor, Calvary Reformation Church, Chesapeake, VA

Every civilization rests on a creed, a confession of faith. Every civilization rests on a concept of life and law and represents a religion in action. Culture, or the way people live, expresses that people's religion. Any attack on civilization is an attack on its religion. The life of a civilization is its creed. Any civilization with a dying creed is ripe for subversion and destruction. Every creed, even the healthiest, is under continual attack. The civilization which does not defend and further its creedal base is exposing its heart to the enemy's attack. Western civilization is facing death in a life and death struggle with humanism.

When a civilization begins to crumble, it is because its faith, its creed, has been undermined. Conservatives attempt to retain the political forms of the Christian West with no belief in Biblical Christianity. Ultimately, they cannot defend their position. Subversion succeeds by attacking the creed and replacing it with a new creed. When a new creed is accepted, the civilization follows. Western civilization cannot be restored except on the foundation of the Christian faith which God has revealed in the Bible.

ARCHIBALD A. ALLISON

Pastor, Emmaus Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Fort Collins, Colorado

As the Church goes, so goes society. Ideas have their consequences, and the impact on all aspects of society is significant when the Church succumbs to humanistic ideas. While tracing the epistemologies of thought since the ascension of Christ that spawned various ideas, the author identifies their resulting historical consequences throughout the world, showing not only the rise of the West through the power of the gospel, but also its decline and fall as a result of problems within the Church. One of the strengths of this book is not merely explaining *what* the problems are, but *how* we got here and *why*. Swanson provides many cited examples and facts that support his thesis well. This work is valuable to awaken the Church to the vast infiltration of humanism in its many forms and to drive us back to the power of the Gospel and all-encompassing God-centered way of life.

MARION LOVETT

Pastor, Heritage Church, Centerville, Tennessee

EPOCH

*The Rise and Fall
of the West*

KEVIN SWANSON



Generations
PASSING ON THE FAITH

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FOREWORD

E*poch* is epic! This is a masterful and majestic history of the fall of western society. I have never read 700 pages faster. I could not put it down! Exceptionally clear, compelling, and moving. It has always been my nature and my calling to understand, to analyze, to comprehend, to unpack, to discern, to grasp the truth and the lies in the world around me—to see the trends, to hear the voices, to read the ideas—to understand the signs of the times, certainly to avoid the failure of the Jewish leaders who were indicted by our Lord for their ignorance of the realities that defined their times which left them incapable of bringing light in the darkness.

If the church is the pillar and ground of the truth, it is because its leaders have biblical wisdom and knowledge of Scripture so as to protect it from lies and deception and build strong doctrinal churches where the Word from heaven produces men and women who can be trusted and who are able to proclaim the truth that is not normally available.

Kevin Swanson has produced a master work of insight into the reality of the apostate world that has replaced the Christian worldview.

He gets it, and with a scalpel-like precision before the corpse is buried, he does an autopsy on the remains of Christian culture, discerning the factors and causes of its demise. This book is a complete education and should be required reading in every Christian school, for every pastor and Christian leader.

If we are to be the people of the truth, we must know the story well—the how and why. We are obviously under divine judgment. This apostate world is anti-Christian as if Christ had never come. We are Rome before the incarnation, only more guilty because of what has been rejected.

I have gone back to *Epoch* many times. It is a resource with spiritual wisdom and historical understanding that I keep close by. Not to understand the comprehensive insights in this book is self-inflicted ignorance and unwilling devaluing of the treasure of discernment

—John MacArthur

Pastor, Grace Community Church, Sun Valley, California
Chancellor, The Master's University and Seminary

INTRODUCTION

The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us. There is no remembrance of former things; neither shall there be any remembrance of things that are to come with those that shall come after...Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. (Ecclesiastes 1:9-11; 12:13-14)

Augustine's classic work *City of God*, issued in AD 426, was a Christian apologetic intended to absolve Christ and His people of the charge that Christianity was responsible for Rome's fall. The treatise set forth a Christian understanding of history, and it would serve as a blueprint for Christian civilization during the fall of a civilization. At the close of an era, after the collapse of the city of humanist man, the wise would take heed and take a moment to consider what happened. What

were the virtues which brought God's blessings upon a civilization at first? And why did it fall? What precipitated this monumental decline and fall? The fall of Rome was blamed on the Christians, but actually came by suicidal paganism. Once again, the fall of the West cannot be blamed on Christians, for the ideology that brought it about was anti-Christian, post-Christian, and apostate Christian. There is hardly any need for a Christian "apology." Beyond any doubt whatsoever, the fall of Western civilization came by "enlightened" humanist philosophy and suicidal social and cultural revolutions. This great epoch in human history resoundingly confirms the blessing of Jesus Christ upon the whole world, as well as the bad fruit produced by the anti-Christian, apostate worldview of the secular atheists and materialists. Here is a grand story of the spectacular rise of a Christian civilization, and the breakdown of that civilization at the hands of those who turned against the faith.

There is yet another reason for looking at historical cataclysms. In Luke's Gospel, chapter 13, the Lord Himself provides us with an interpretive device with which to consider the disaster or the destruction which might visit a human society. The message is the same for all of us—another call for repentance, sackcloth and ashes, here and now.

There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answering said unto them, "Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:1-5)

HOW TO READ HISTORY

And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do. (1 Chronicles 12:32)

Where are we? That is a relevant question, especially for every Christian who wishes to know what to do. Of course, all of us would like to know what we ought to do today, tomorrow, and next year. How might we best deny ourselves, take up the cross, and follow Christ today? What shall we do next? Where shall we invest our money? How shall we minister? The men of Issachar knew what they should do because they were able to discern the times. That is a major objective for this study: to discern the times, so that we should know what to do.

Think of an amnesiac who jerks awake in a business meeting and finds himself surrounded by 25 department heads. All heads are looking to him, and he quickly realizes he is in charge of a company. But he knows nothing of the history of the company. He doesn't know what challenges were faced previously, or those to address in the present. How does he lead? What is the next thing to do? His position is completely untenable. He is doomed to failure. The question therefore is relevant: Where are we in history? And, what are the lessons to be learned?

When considering the human experience, there are highly significant, determinative events, actions, and persons which establish trajectories for the rise and fall of world civilizations. Some events or developments may be considered a thousand times more significant, both in their causal influence and historical interpretive import. There are trends to analyze which better illustrate effects of worldview shifts among the nations. Some sins are more heinous and more aggravating in the sight of God than others, evincing the true state of the heart for all to see. History has its “Waterloos” and “Rubicons”—direction-

setting moments of the highest importance.

Picking and choosing the newsworthy or history-worthy reports is what every journalist and historian does every day. (The news is merely the chronicling of more recent history, taking place over the previous 24-hour period). It would be practically impossible to record every human event, taking place over a certain period of time, while including every particular detail of that event to an infinite level of precision. Such comprehensive coverage would require millions of pages, and the historian and the reader would still be left with the task of separating gnats and camels—the significant from the insignificant. All historical knowledge requires interpretative work. Yet, the task of separating between the gnats and camels is not easy. First, one must apply the right worldview filter to the historical data. Without applying a biblical worldview rooted in divine revelation, how could anyone determine with any degree of certainty the truth value, the ethical value, the meaningfulness, the purpose, and the significance of any historical data? How could any historian weigh the historicity of the data itself without applying a worldview filter known to be absolutely, infallibly, and impeccably trustworthy for its fundamental truth value? This survey begins with the assumption that “Thy [God’s] Word is truth” (John 17:17).

History is vitally important to us. Christ comes in history, for our redemption. But, historical reporting as well as news reports are infamous for creating diversions. When a smoke bomb goes off in the post office, the wise police officer refuses to investigate the post office. Instead, he immediately attends to the bank, where the robbery is happening. Much of history and news reporting then is diversionary—directing the reader to the post office to consider more smoke bombs, while the bank is robbed over and over again. Godly, thoughtful, and wise teachers will apply a biblical ethic and theology to history so as to identify the data that matters most.

INTRODUCTION

Given that the worldview applied to the historical record of events will always determine their significance, will the Supreme Court *Obergefell* decision prove more devastating than *Marbury* or *Dred Scott*? Could the removal of J. Gresham Machen from the Presbyterian Church have been of greater import than the formation of the League of Nations? Do the scandalous sins that came to mark the leadership of so many Christian denominations between 1980 and 2020 signify anything at all in the flow of ecclesiastical history? Does the selling of doves and the exchange of money in the temple mean anything in the scheme of things? In the final analysis, there is only one question that matters when recording the history of the actions of men; and that is, “What does God think of this?” For a review of the rise and fall of the West all attempts will be made for a self-consciously biblical and consistent interpretation of events. Would that we could all think as God thinks, love as God loves, and hate as Christ hates!

There are historical landmarks more significant than others along the way—some appearing as small hills on the landscape, and others towering like Mount Everest. The seismographs of Western culture hit 9.0 on the Richter scale with such things as the loss of Harvard College to the Latitudinarians, the French Revolution, the publication of *The Origin of Species*, Friedrich Nietzsche’s insanity, J. Gresham Machen’s defrocking, the publication of the *Humanist Manifesto* (1933), the eugenics of Adolf Hitler (1930s), the publication of *Playboy* magazine (1953), FDA approval of the abortifacient conception control pill (1960), *Engel v. Vitale* (1962), The Beatles “invasion” (1964), the California no-fault divorce law signed by Ronald Reagan (1969), *Roe v. Wade* (1973), Kurt Cobain’s suicide (1994), the ordination of Gene Robinson (2003), the election of Barack Obama (2008), *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2011), the homosexualization and transgendering of schools in California (2011), the CCCU Utah Compromise (2019), and the worldwide Coronavirus crisis (2020). Not all registered significant as

a cause or fundamental force in the decline, but such occurrences are highly revelatory and symptomatic of the Western apostate cultural demise. These represented a marked shift, a sharp angling downwards, and a decided move in the wrong direction—all part of the ongoing saga of a revolution against God.

HISTORY—ESSENTIAL, COMPULSORY, CORE FOR CHRISTIANS

Psalm 78 instructs the people of God to tell their children of the “wonderful works that He has done.” Christian parents should teach their children the Word of God and the works of God in history, beginning with the work of Christ in redemption. Failure to do so, Asaph says, produces a generational apostasy—a people who forget God’s works, who turn back in the day of battle, and refuse to walk in His law (Ps. 78:8-11). Thus, nobody takes history more seriously than the Christian, because it is a record of true reality—God’s reality. It is a record of His salvation visiting this world. These are the outworking of God’s providence. More than this, the Christian cannot help but be encouraged by a study of history. For all of history testifies to the truths of Scripture, the sovereign hand of God, the judgment of God, the mercies of God, and the inevitable success of the church.

Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:

INTRODUCTION

That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God. (Psalm 78:1-8)

THE FALL

The crown is fallen from our head: woe unto us, that we have sinned!
For this our heart is faint; for these things our eyes are dim.
Because of the mountain of Zion, which is desolate,
The foxes walk upon it.
Thou, O Lord, remainest for ever;
Thy throne from generation to generation.
Wherefore dost thou forget us for ever, and forsake us so long time?
Turn thou us unto thee, O Lord, and we shall be turned;
Renew our days as of old.
But thou hast utterly rejected us; thou art very wroth against us.
(Lamentations 5:16-22)

The lamentations of Jeremiah were appropriate for the fall of Jerusalem and the impending judgment facing the people of God. But should we apply such lamentations to the present condition of the Western Church and associated nations? Those who have witnessed the Fall firsthand and its effects upon friends, family, churches, schools, cities, villages, and cultures resonate to these words. Grieving and

lamenting, pining for the days of visitation, and crying out for spiritual revitalization is the everyday position of the remnant. The plaintive cry goes up, “Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?” (Ps. 85:6). Surely we would not wish to emulate the Old Testament prophet Jonah—watching dispassionately from the outside for the judgment of God upon Nineveh, more concerned about the worm in his gourd. When the body suffers, “all the members suffer with it” (1 Cor. 12:26). These are our people. These were our churches. With the Apostle, it is quite right to feel “great sorrow and continual grief” in our hearts for the tragic loss. (Rom. 9:2).

Since the West was blessed with the very best heritage of Christian faith and ready access to the oracles of God (Rom. 3:2), could Jesus’s warning given in Matthew 11 apply? Will it be more tolerable for Sodom and Tyre in the day of judgement than for America?

Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you. (Matthew 11:21-24)

Central to the thesis of this book is the proposition that the decline of the Western Christian church (both Catholic and Protestant) contributed to a much-reduced Christian influence in every aspect of the macro culture. The Christian worldview underpinnings of the culture were eventually replaced by a predominately anti-Christian worldview. These corrupted footers in the foundation were too flimsy to hold up the superstructure leading to the decline and fall of Western civilization.

At the present, only slight disagreement remains over the extent of the Fall of the West, but no serious historian would question the Fall itself. The easiest and most obvious metric is economic. Until the year 2000, Europe and North America produced over half of the Gross World Product, peaking out at 66% in 1960, while these nations constituted only 10% of the world population. This economic index collapsed to 37% in 2015, and continued to contract in following years.¹ Definitively, the West has fallen—first realized by the loss of a position of worldwide economic supremacy. The implications were manifold. The East was on the rise, economically and militarily. And, the whole world was on notice that two-thirds of the entire globe's socio-economic systems were shrinking fast. The economic dominoes were stacked closer in the international markets, and this would most certainly have a profound impact on the whole world for at least a century. The entire world's political power structures were shifting.

THE FALL OF A CHRISTIAN CIVILIZATION

The coronation of King Charles III on May 6, 2023 was the end—yet one more symbolic coup de grâce in this extended saga of the death of the West. A thousand-plus years of Christian rule was over. Elizabeth II was dead. The moral compass lay mangled and crushed under the feet of that apostate Christian, Modernity. Ichabod was written over the archways of Westminster Abbey. The Glory had departed. The common grace of God, which had sustained some semblance of a Christian moral order since AD 900, was disappearing.

Charles' oath-taking to "maintain the Laws of God and the true profession of the Gospel" came across as a farcical playact to anyone familiar with the laws of God. Honest Christians could hardly watch the spectacle of an unrepentant adulterer appointed head of the Church and the dead and dying "Christian" kingdom of Alfred and Athelstan.

Previous Christian kings in the island kingdom were not without moral failure, but none were quite so bold-faced and out front about their adultery and divorce as this king. When Elizabeth's uncle, Edward VIII adultery and marriage to an American divorcee in preference to the honor of the crown, he was forced to abdicate on December 11, 1936. A more pious and humble, George VI took his place on the throne. Elizabeth ascended the throne on June 2, 1953, and not long afterwards she refused royal assent for her sister's marriage to a divorced military officer. By the 21st century, these moral strictures had been entirely obliterated from the national conscience. Standing before the Archbishop of Canterbury on May 6, 2023, were not one, but two divorced individuals, both guilty of adultery, and neither repentant of it. Yet, nobody seemed to notice, or care enough to make an issue of it.

England wasn't alone in the fall. The United States elected its first divorced president in 1980, and another candidate with multiple divorces in his background was elected in 2016. Both were reputedly conservative Republicans, much supported by the Christian population in the elections. The symbolism was hard to miss.

PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE FOR THE FALL

The last two worldwide recessions were the worst—first with the 2008 banking crisis, spurred on by greedy sub-prime lending, followed by the 2020s recession. America celebrated the recovery from the 2008 recession by almost doubling its debt-to-GDP ratio. By 2020, the United States made up 52% of the gross world government debt while contributing only 25% of the gross world product. The United States' federal government debt-to-GDP ratio was trailing not far behind the world's most volatile and debt-ridden economies—Japan, Greece, Portugal, Lebanon, and Italy.² Of 200 countries, these have been labeled as the worst economies in the world. By another metric, the

International Monetary Fund put the United States as the fourth worst nation in the world for its debt-to-GDP ratio, behind Japan, Greece, and Italy.³ By the metric of Net Lending/Borrowing, the United States was the third worst nation in the world, following the crippled nations of Oman and Sudan.⁴ The index registered in the negative, meaning that America was now the biggest borrower in the world. *Between 1980 and 2020, the United States became the largest and most unstable domino in the train of stacked dominoes representing the world economy.* Although touted as the largest, richest economy in the world, in truth the United States was at the bottom—the tail (in the words of Deuteronomy 28).

The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low. He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail. Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee: And they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed for ever. Because thou servedst not the Lord thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things. (Deuteronomy 28:43-47)

Nothing portrays the Western worldview shift and its destructive effects better (on a societal level) than debt and birth rates. This shift in worldview is evident by the following chart:

Year	Total US Debt to GDP ⁵	US Birth Rate (per woman)
1950 - 1980	140% - 160%	3.0 - 1.8
1980 - 2021	160% - 417%	1.8 - 1.5 est.

While the US total public and private debt moved from 140% to 417% of the GDP, the UK and the Eurozone increased their total debt

about the same amount.⁶ Between 1970 and 2020, the fertility rate for European Union nations dropped from 2.7 to 1.5 children per woman, and closer to 1.4 for non-immigrant women.⁷ Trend charts following birth rates show all twenty-one Western European nations sinking below the replacement level of 2.1 between 1970 and 1993.

Meanwhile, the world fertility rate dropped from 4.6 to 2.4 between 1950 and 2020, largely due to the influence of Margaret Sanger and the conception control/abortion revolution. The only continents maintaining a reproducible social system by the 2020s were Africa and Oceania. North America and Europe came up last for reproductive strength.

The above table reveals the bankruptcy of a dying Western culture, and the worldview shift bringing it about. Ideas have consequences, and the consequences are clearly visualized on the trendcharts. Why then did the West implode its birth rates, consume all the capital of previous generations, and mortgage the future of its grandchildren by unprecedented debt between 1970 and 2020? This generation was living out the hopeless and hapless ideas of the existentialist Jean-Paul Sartre and the homosexual economist, John Maynard Keynes. This data speaks to a loss of the will to continue a civilization. This was the point at which the self-centered, myopic existentialists crossed over the line of despair, and the toxic, corrupting worldview had gone mainstream in the West by AD 1980.

THE FALL

Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more:
the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of
the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds,
and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither
bound up, neither mollified with ointment. Your country is desolate,
your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in

your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers. And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city. Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah. (Isaiah 1:5-9)

But what describes the very essence of the “Fall of the West?” The symptoms and effects of the breakdown of a civilization are hard to miss, but what is the root of it? Externally, the Fall is easily represented by every social and economic indexes—all of which appear to be ten times worse than they were 50-100 years ago when the warning sirens sounded. Isaiah 1 describes the heart of the spiritual condition: “The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint,” and “ye will revolt more and more.” The post-Christian condition is worse than the pre-Christian condition. The disposition is a vehement, self-conscious hatred towards Christ, and continual revolt against God and all that is good. As common grace that sustains pagan, pre-Christian nations through the centuries is withheld from the apostate civilization, imminent destruction must necessarily follow. The de-Christianization of Western culture has resulted in the breakdown of Western civilization itself; and the de-Christianization of culture is most evident in the widespread institutionalized acceptance of the worst forms of social sin and public immorality. A universal rejection of God and His law must inevitably result in the breakdown of civilization on a broad scale. The effects are obvious in the socio-economic sphere. But the prevalent, public sins contributing to the decline are also unmistakable. Repeatedly throughout history, primitive tribes and pagan empires have disintegrated and disappeared when they countenance the breakdown of the family, the widespread practice of infanticide, human sacrifice, and the open acceptance of sodomy. Such was the story of the demise of the Persians, Greeks, Romans, Mayas, Aztecs, the Calusa tribe, etc. Inevitably, this demise is brought about by the

idealization of man, the pride of man, moral decay, and the futility of a man-oriented philosophy. But the more rapid and severe demise of any civilization must occur upon Christian apostasy, as is discovered in the present milieu. “To whom much is given, much will be required” (Luke 12:48).

At this point, the sheer quantity of peoples in the West—both inside and outside the organized church—espousing and celebrating infanticide, moral perversions, and the breakdown of the family cannot be ignored. Faced with such a crisis, God’s people should respond with a rising, holy, moral sensitivity to the condition of the Western world and the Western Church. As always, the warnings of Christ apply:

And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man. (Luke 21:34-36)

REAL DEATH

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

Humanist man is caught in tension between an unrealistic optimism and pessimism in reference to himself. On the one hand, he attempts to displace God with self for determining his own ethics, truth, gender, etc. He would be as “god” determining good and evil. But then, on the other hand, he would insist that he is cosmic dust, alone in the universe with God, without a transcendent purpose and essential value. God or mere cosmic dust, neither is realistic. He makes a poor god and he cannot live as though he were cosmic dust. Gradually, optimism gives way to pessimism, and man crosses the line of despair.

On February 10, 2011, *Time Magazine* featured a front-page article headlined: “2045: The Year Man Becomes Immortal.” Still hoping technology would save him, modern man marked out the year of “singularity” in which computers would transform man’s reality. In what appeared a divine irony of ironies, 2011 also marked the year at which life expectancy peaked in America and started on the decline—largely due to the increase in despair deaths attributed to alcohol, drugs, and suicide.

The death of the West was realized most noticeably in the increase in despair deaths. The rate of drug-overdose deaths increased by 400% between 2000 and 2020. The suicide rate increased 38% over the same period. The rate of alcoholic liver disease deaths rose 40%, the rate of liver cancer deaths rose 60%, and the rate of alcoholic poisoning deaths increased 400%. Between 1965 and 2018, drug overdose deaths increased from 1 per 100,000 to 20 per 100,000—a twenty-fold increase. These were the social consequences of nihilist ideas, a world of pessimism. These statistics represented a people fully committed to escaping reality and repudiating life in the real world. Despair had gone mainstream. This is what the end of a civilization looks like.

And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient... (Romans 1:28)

Insanity turned into a mainstream phenomenon in the 2010s. Between 1991 and 2017, the medical administration of opioids increased from 76 million to 259 million legal prescriptions per year, amounting to almost two prescriptions for every adult in America. Per capita use of the legally-dispensed drugs increased fifty-fold between 1980 and 2020.⁸ Neither were children exempted from the sad demise of the American psyche, with Psychotropic drug prescriptions for children increasing sixty-fold between the 1980s and 2020.⁹

Whether the society would opt towards slow individual suicides or mass institutional suicide, it was all the consequence of postmodern thinking. Man was evermore self-consistent with his nihilism—the worldview of meaninglessness.

More often, this death revealed itself in ever-increasing levels of disconnection from reality and isolation. It was the death of personality and the death of human relationship. It was a slow, torturous death of addiction to drugs, internet/electronic games, pornography, social media, and all forms of electronic stimulation. To watch the process and to witness the mass of victims was itself a terrifying ordeal.

Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time? (Ecclesiastes 7:17)

ABORTION

And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the LORD thy God hath given thee, in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee. (Deuteronomy 28:53)

The final and ultimate horror and curse attending a society, as described in Deuteronomy 28, arrives when women consume their own children. Nothing manifests a civilization's commitment to death more than mothers killing their infants—the squelching of the natural instinct of maternal love. Humans descend lower than the animal kingdom when the natural love of a mother for her children disappears. What utter devastation was visited upon the West by this cursed plague, beginning in the 1960s and 1970s!

During the decline of faith and the rise of transcendentalism and unitarianism in the 1830s and 1840s, abortion appeared on the scene in America (especially in New York, Boston, Philadelphia,

and Newark). Mainly facilitated through the clandestine work of Madame Restell and her competitor Madame Costello, at an estimated rate of 0.5% of live births met the abortionist's knife and apothecary's abortifacient drug. This was virtually eliminated during the Christian revivals following the civil war. A century later, the rate of child killing had increased a thousand-fold. After a thousand years of the Christian era, infanticide or abortion had returned to the West with a vengeance.

The complete deception of the nations, as political, educational, and medical institutions, was finally completed when New Zealand officially legalized the killing of infants on March 19th, 2020. Northern Ireland followed suit on April 9th, as the last of the Western nations to do so. It was a fatal reversal of a thousand years of Christian influence in the West.

The whole aggregation of pagan tribes could never compete with the Western world with its mass production of death, aided by modern technology. Between 1950 and 2020, the West championed a holocaust resulting in the elimination of one-third to one-half of the world population—*between two and four billion* babies. This mass killing was at least thirty times worse than the devastation of World War II, and twenty times worse than the bloody work of the communists. The sheer quantities of children killed by abortion doctors and the abortifacient effects of the IUD and the conception control pill are beyond anything the world had ever seen. The destruction appeared less obtrusive than the torture chambers of the inquisitions, the Nazi death camps, and the cruel coliseums of Rome, but far exceeded all these atrocities in sheer quantity of lives lost. Moreover, the egregiousness of this modern evil was heightened by the helplessness and innocence of the victims, the dissolution of natural maternal love, and the hypocrisy of the “liberals” who advocated for the killing.

Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. (Ephesians 4:19)

The mass distribution of the death spirit came by extremely powerful, rich governments enabled by an advanced science and technology. This phenomenon was unlike anything human society had ever achieved in history—an unleashing of evil at levels never contemplated by the cruelest tyrants of the past.

But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death. (Proverbs 8:36)

EUTHANASIA

The death march continued. Between 1994 and 2019, ten US states adopted doctor-assisted suicide laws. Legal euthanasia or doctor-assisted suicide was introduced into the Netherlands, Belgium, Columbia, Luxembourg, Canada, Switzerland, and Germany around the same time.

The year 2011 was a highly symbolic year in the history of the West, as the year the US Social Security Fund dipped into the red for the first time and the Baby Boom generation entered retirement. First conceived as a sophisticated Ponzi Scheme at a time when Americans were still having babies, the system assumed a minimum birth replacement rate and a strong worker-to-retiree ratio. The timing for the bust of Social Security could not have been worse, because 2011 was also the year that the first of 80 million Baby Boomers entered their retirement years. For the following thirty-five years, these retirees would require more medical and economic support from the younger generation. But, this was the same generation that initiated an abortion holocaust which resulted in at least 80 million dead babies (by surgical abortion and various abortifacient conception control devices). Who would support the retirees in most of the developed countries around the world through the 2050s? Because of the imploding birth rate in 80 countries around the world, the worker-to-retiree ratio in 2030 would amount to one third of what it was in 1950 (when the social security systems were first implemented).