

EPOCH

*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.

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 to 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.

PHILLIP KAYSER, PHD

*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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# PREFACE

**T**his is a simple story and one that needs to be told. It will stand out in history as stark as the Fall of Jerusalem or the Fall of Rome. The lesson is a simple one. It is one more example of Proverbs 16:18: “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” It is hardly worth arguing for such a truism by historical example. Such a law, a divinely-ordained law, is as true and obvious as the force of gravity. The Apostle Paul issued the warning to the early European church in no uncertain terms as he spoke of the spiritual downfall of his fellow Jews in Romans 11:18-20: “Do not boast against the branches...Do not be haughty, but fear.”

But in the course of history, these Westerners boasted. They were high-minded, and they did not fear God. That is the story of the Christian West, and there isn't much more to add to it.

It is a tragedy of biblical proportions. Such stories must yield “sorrow and continual grief” (Rom. 9:2), or there would be no heart left in us. The tragic nature of what happened is beyond anyone's powers of description. The consequences are severe—a prominent example of the severity of God (Rom. 11:22). It is appropriate to feel the heart

of the Apostle Paul conveyed to us in Romans 9-11. Mourning and sorrow is an indication of spiritual feeling still left in the heart. Yet, still another response is called for as the remnant grapples with the sadness and horror of it. God still shows mercy on all (Rom. 11:32), and with Paul we exalt in the perfection of His wisdom and purpose in all things. “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!” (Rom. 11:33)

The severity of this book reflects the severity of God. Of course, the proud heart would reject the message out of hand. “Too pessimistic! Too severe! Too depressing!,” comes the charge. The other set of prophets are always crying, “Peace, peace!” when there is no peace (Jer. 6:14). To pretend the fall didn’t happen or to manufacture an eschatology which would distort the picture is of no benefit to the people of God. Humility, confession, and faith are the right responses. The purpose of this survey of the rise and fall of the West is simply this—to encourage the remnant to humility. The goal is more humility. Be humble. Humble yourself before the mighty hand of God (1 Pet. 5:6).

Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. (James 4:9-10)

Yet we must not conclude that the word of God has failed to take effect (Rom. 9:6). Certainly, the purposes of God will not be thwarted (Rom. 11:31-36). By the fall of the West, the riches of the kingdom have fallen upon the whole world (Rom. 11:12). The last two hundred years have seen the largest expansion of the Christian faith in the history of the church. Christianity has grown greatly in the Global South: Africa, Asia, and Latin America. All praise be to God!

It is a story worth telling because these things are examples, “for

our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come” (1 Cor. 10:11). Should our Lord’s return delay for a thousand years or a hundred years, here is a story for Africans, Asians, South Americans, and all other Christians. These things are written for their admonition.

To be clear from the outset, real people are to blame for the fall of the West. Real mistakes were made and real sins were committed. The human agents in the decline have real names. While not denying powerful spiritual influences working, there is no denying the existence of Judas Iscariot, Simon the Sorcerer, Alexander the Coppersmith, and Demas. The villains are people with real faces in the dismantling of the West, and these men and their various organizations must take responsibility for the part they played in the fall. History has her heroes and villains, and these should be remembered. As this survey of the rise and the fall of the West will bear out, the list of principal defectors, at key moments along the way, must include Paschasius Radbertus, Hincmar of Reims, Peter Abelard, Innocent III, Faustus Sozzini, Christian Wolff, Immanuel Kant, John Goodwin, Benjamin Whichcote, Charles II of England, William Brattle, and John Leverett. Outside of the Christian church, the self-described apostates and criminal provocateurs, such as Rousseau, Marx, Bentham, Keynes, Dewey, and Sartre, must take their due culpa for the enormous contributions they made to the destruction of Western civilization. Less conspicuous, but included in the list of those who surrendered important ground in the battle for the faith, are Peter Lombard, Thomas Aquinas, Rene Descartes, John Locke, Thomas Hobbes, and George Berkeley.

We are all aware of the many prophetic voices from the last century who warned of the fall in rather severe apocalyptic tones. These provided ample analysis of the putrefying corpse of Western thought. It is not our primary intention to perform more extensive autopsies of the stinking rot of death produced by a thousand post-Christian philosophers. We will perform a brief postmortem examination

to certify the cause of death, but that's all. Our goal is to edify the reader and to "strengthen the things which remain." Whenever the dead and dying Sardis is encountered in the course of kingdom history, the remnant would do well to apply all energies to heeding the Lord's admonition:

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. (Revelation 3:2-3)



# 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)

**A**ugustine'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—here are more reasons to repent in 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 to every person, especially to 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 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 faced previously or those to address in the present. How does he lead? What is the next thing to do? His position at the lead 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? The men of Issachar are commended in 1 Chronicles 12:32 because they understood the times, and therefore they knew "what Israel ought to do."

There are highly significant events, persons, and images worth more than a million words in human experience and world history. Some events or developments have a thousand times more weight in significance than others. There are trends that illustrate effects of worldview shifts. Some sins are more heinous and more aggravating in the sight of God than others. History has its "Waterloos" and

“Rubicons”—direction setting moments of high importance.

However, the task of separating between the gnats and camels and identifying the matters of highest significance 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 would we ever determine 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 beginning with a worldview filter known to have absolute, infallible, and impeccable trustworthiness for its truth value? This survey begins with the assumption: “Thy Word is truth” (John 17:17).

Both historical accounts and news reports (shorter term histories) are infamous for creating diversions. When a smoke bomb goes off in the post office, the wise officer refuses to investigate the post office. He runs over to the bank, because he knows somebody must be robbing the bank. Thus, a great deal of history and news reporting directs us to the post office to witness the latest smoke bombs. Meanwhile, the bank is robbed over and over again, and nobody really notices. It is for godly, thoughtful, and wise teachers to apply a biblical view of history (and the news, which is merely the chronicling of more recent history) and identify those stories which matter the most.

Therefore, the worldview applied to the historical record of events will always determine their significance. Is the Supreme Court Obergefell decision more instructive 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

## INTRODUCTION

when recording the history of the actions of men; and that is, “What does God think of this?”

This review of the rise and fall of the West attempts to be self-consciously biblical in its interpretation of events. Would that we could all think as God thinks, love as God loves, and hate as Christ hates (Revelation 2:6-8)!

There are landmarks more significant than others along the way. Some events represent tiny hills on the landscape, and others tower like Mount Everest over the scenery of history. The register on 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), *Engle v. Vitale* (1962), The Beatles “invasion” (1964), California no-fault divorce law signed by Ronald Reagan (1969), *Roe v. Wade* (1973), Curt 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). These happenings were not always significant as a cause or fundamental force in the decline, but they were highly revelatory and symptomatic of the Western apostate cultural demise. These were the readings to be taken on the patient as Western civilization sickened. All of these things at least represented a marked shift, a sharp angling downwards, and a decided move in the wrong direction. Each event represented another segment in 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.” The Christian parent teaches His 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.

## 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)

**T**he 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. Some grief,

lament, pining for the days of visitation, and crying out for spiritual revitalization is the everyday position of the remnant, “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 Ninevah, 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 have “great sorrow and continual grief” in our hearts (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. (Matt. 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. And that is what produced 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.<sup>1</sup> 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 was shrinking fast. The world is on notice. The economic dominoes are stacked closer in the international markets, and this will most certainly have a profound impact on the whole world in the next century. The entire world's political power structures are shifting.

### *PRIMA FACIE* EVIDENCE FOR THE FALL

The last two worldwide recessions were the worst. First in 2008 with a banking crisis, spurred on by greedy sub-prime lending, and in 2020 by Coronavirus lockdowns. 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.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> By the metric of Net Lending/Borrowing, the United States is the third worst nation in the world, following the crippled nations of

Oman and Sudan.<sup>4</sup> The index registers in the negative, meaning that America is 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 dominos, representing the world economy.* Although touted as the largest, richest economy in the world, in truth the United States is 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. (Deut. 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 <sup>5</sup>	US Birth Rate (per woman)
1950 - 1980	140% - 160%	3.0 - 1.8
1980 - 2010	160% - 380%	1.8 - 1.7

While the US total public and private debt moved from 140% to 380% of the GDP, the UK and the Eurozone increased their total debt about the same amount.<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup> All twenty-one Western European nations have now fallen below the replacement level of 2.1.

## THE FALL

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 demonstrates the bankruptcy of a dying Western culture, and the worldview shift. Ideas have consequences, and the consequences can be witnessed on graphs. Why would the West implode its birth rates, consume all the capital of previous generations, and mortgage the future of their grandchildren by unprecedented debt? These are the hopeless and hapless ideas of the existentialist Jean-Paul Sartre and the homosexual economist, John Maynard Keynes in action. This data points to a loss of the will to continue a civilization. This is the point at which the self-centered, myopic existentialists have crossed over the line of despair—and the toxic worldview has gone mainstream in the West since AD 1980.

## THE FALL

But what is the essence of this “fall of the West?” The symptoms are difficult to miss, but what is the root of it? The problem manifests itself in a myriad of forms. The metastasis of the corruption is both external and internal. Externally, the fall is easily represented by the socio-economic indexes. Almost every social and economic index is ten times worse than it was 50-100 years ago, when the warning sirens sounded. But how is the fall to be defined?

The thesis of this book is simple: 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 wide scale.

The effects are obvious in the socio-economic sphere. But the prevalent, public sins contributing to the decline are also unmistakable. Throughout history, primitive tribes and pagan nations have always disintegrated and disappeared as they have countenanced the breakdown of 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, Aztecs, the Calusa tribe, etc. Inevitably, this demise is brought about by the idealization of man, the pride of man, the decadence of man, 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."

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. (Rom. 6:23)

The wages of sin is death—bodily death, spiritual death, and

eternal death for those who are not found in Christ. But this death is manifested in multiple forms in this life—most visibly in disease and physical death. As man’s institutions in the West gave up all faith in the resurrection of Christ, this death became increasingly apparent in the death of hope, despair deaths, suicides, the death of institutions, and the death-loving society represented by an apostate people.

The death of the West can be demonstrated most obviously by the increase in suicides in the US—what is currently termed despair deaths. Although pessimism and optimism remained in tension in the humanist faith for a long time, pessimism finally prevailed. On February 10, 2011, *Time Magazine* featured a frontpage article headlined: “2045: The Year Man Becomes Immortal.” Ironically, it was the same timeframe that longevity peaked in America and began to decline. Life expectancy dropped largely because of the increase in despair deaths brought about by alcohol, drugs, and suicide. 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 60%, and the rate of alcoholic poisoning deaths 400%. Between 1965 and 2018, drug overdose deaths increased from 1 per 100,000 to 20 per 100,000—a 20-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 76,000,000 legal prescriptions per year to 259,000,000,

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.<sup>8</sup> Neither were children exempted from the sad demise of the American psyche. Psychotropic drugs administered to children increased sixty-fold between the 1980s and 2020.<sup>9</sup>

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

More often, this death revealed itself in ever increasingly levels of disconnection from reality and isolation. It was the death of personality and the death of human relationship. It was the 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 is painful and depressing.

Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldst 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 upon a society as described in Deuteronomy 28 appears when women consume their own children. Nothing manifests a civilization's commitment to death more than the killing of infants and 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 horror and devastation was visited upon the West by this cursed plague, beginning in the 1960s and 1970s!

The complete deception of the nations as political, educational, and medical institutions was finally completed when New Zealand officially legalized the killing 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 mass of pagan tribes could never compete with the Western world in its mass production of death. Never to be forgotten or minimized, *between two and four billion* babies were killed over seventy years, spanning the turn of the 3rd millennium. This holocaust 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 has 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. The egregiousness of this modern evil was heightened by the helplessness and innocence of the victims, the abdication of natural maternal love, and the absence of all natural feeling.

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

The mass production 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. It was the mass production 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. Developed 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, eighty million baby boomers would require more medical and economic support from the younger generation. However, 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).

But what about the character of the younger generation? Would the few young people left be prepared to support the heavy load of elderly retirees and a bankrupt social security system? Alas, the timing could not have been worse for this either. The character of the nation



was in free fall. Over 50% of Americans were supported by state and federal governments, mostly by welfare programs. And, over 50% of children born to millennials were born out of wedlock—an increase from 5% in 1960.<sup>10</sup> If young men were disinterested in fathering their own children, why would they care for the elderly?

Not surprisingly, *Time Magazine* concluded that the millennial generation was the laziest, the unluckiest, and the most narcissistic generation ever.<sup>11</sup> This younger generation, on average, started out with less capital than any previous generation, and they were saddled with three hundred times more debt than the Generation Xers carried in the 1970s and 1980s. Meanwhile, the baby boomers retired with far more debt than the Silent Generation and very little if any inheritance to pass along to future generations. *What was the lesson the baby boomer generation passed on to their progeny when they aborted 80 million of their siblings? What will the most narcissistic generation do to the 80 million baby boomers who aborted 80 million children between 1970 and 2010—in the year 2040? Mass euthanasia appeared to be the only possible answer to the question given the socio-economic situation and the moral conditions dominant in Western nations. Parricide would be the inevitable consequence of the mass infanticide committed by the previous generation.*

### THE “END OF MEN” & THE “DEMISE OF GUYS”

As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths. (Isa. 3:12)

Books and articles poured out of publishing houses through the opening decades of the 21st century announcing the “end of men” and the “demise of guys.” The first indication of social disintegration was that men went AWOL, “absent without leave.”

The 20th century novelist, John Steinbeck could not help but

signal the real problem with a society given up to despair in his award-winning classic, *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939). Although the author would have rather blamed the hopeless conditions on the dust bowl and environmental causes, the root of despair is found in the human heart. When the going got tough for the family, the men would disappear, walk down the river—never to be seen again. The last painful scene perfectly portrays the death of manhood and modern society as Joad absconds with the child's last few drops milk from its mother's breast.

In the year 2000, the suicide rate for men was 4.5 times that of women.<sup>12</sup> The number of nations in the world led by a female increased from two to seventy between 1950 and 2020, thirty-five before the year 2000 and another thirty-five between 2000 and 2020. Nations capitulating to female leadership included most of Europe, most of South America, Canada, South Africa, and Australia.<sup>13</sup> The United States increased its female leadership from 2% to 21% between 1960 and 2020.<sup>14</sup> Between 1950 and 2020, women delayed having children and then sent their children into professional daycare. This offered them the “freedom” to enter the workforce and thereby maintain something of a national economy. The women's share of the national workforce increased from 28% to 47% during those years, while the men's share dropped from 72% to 53%.<sup>15</sup> Fatherhood was disappearing quickly. By 2018, 71% of children born to women under 24 years of age were born out of wedlock. Only one third of the country lived in a household with two parents.<sup>16</sup> As men disappeared, the nuclear family declined.

The death of nations followed. Seven Western nations boasting the highest levels of male abdication in leadership, with over 50% of legislative or cabinet-level female involvement averaged 23% of on GDP/Capita between 2010 and 2020. Nations with greater than 80% male involvement witnessed an average increase of 39% on GDP/Capita over the same timeframe.<sup>17</sup>

## THE DEATH OF TRUTH & REALITY

But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble. (Prov. 4:18-19)

Well into the 21st century, the millennial generation and others were busy playing computer games while empires burned to the ground (a pattern seen in the fall of Rome in the 4th and 5th centuries). Video gaming, a \$40 billion industry at the turn of the century, ballooned into a \$160 billion industry by 2020, surpassing the music and movie industries by 15-fold (and the entire sports industry by more than double).

Sports have always been something of a metaphor for real battles in real life. But, as the post-modern man painted his meta-narrative with new layers of pretend unrealities, an entire genre of sports competitions developed around sports video games. Incredibly, modern sports fans were left watching fake sports heroes playing fake sports games. National playoff and championship events were held in which “the world’s best Madden competitors face off for a piece of the \$220,000 prize purse and to claim the title of Madden NFL 20 Champion.”<sup>18</sup> Some three million viewers crowded in to watch the “games” on electronic devices, adding another layer to the pretend narrative.<sup>19</sup>

The movie industry abandoned itself to pure escapism in the early 21st century. By 2019, five of the top grossing blockbusters were of the Science Fiction/Fantasy genre: *Star Wars: Episode VII - The Force Awakens* (2015), *Avengers: Endgame* (2019), *Avatar* (2009), *Black Panther* (2018), and *Avengers: Infinity War* (2018). Previous generations preferred *Gone with the Wind*, *Titanic*, *The Sound of Music*, and *The Ten Commandments*. In 2019, nine out of the top thirteen highest-grossing motion pictures were from the Science Fiction/Fantasy genre. In 2008,

only three out of the thirteen highest-grossing films represented the Science Fiction/Fantasy genre, and two decades earlier, none of the top thirteen highest-grossing films could have been classified under the Science Fiction/Fantasy genre.

At this time, first world nations and those most influenced by Western culture, showed little interest in reality. Post-modern relativism moved from the rejection of absolute truth value to the abandonment of reality itself. That philosophy propounded by John Dewey, Jean-Paul Sartre, Friedrich Nietzsche, and G.W.F. Hegel was running in the mainstream. By nature, man runs from God and Western society had paved the highways for the escape route. The final escape must necessarily include the denial of all existence, which can only end with insanity and other forms of suicide. Symptomatic of this escape from reality was a wholesale rejection of sobriety and maturity at all levels of society. In the fading of human civilization, nobody really cares much about anything, at least for more than ten minutes at a time.

## THE DEATH OF PERSONALITY

The depersonalization of man made in the image of God was a sad element of the fall. Ever-increasing levels of isolation destroyed relationships as man wandered with Cain further east of Eden.

In the modern West, sexuality with relationship has become the norm, especially for young men. Tragically, depersonalization became normative, the ultimate expression of which is found in pornography. In 2007, Apple launched the iPhone and smartphones rapidly became widespread. Access to pornography also became widespread for children as well as adults. In 2019, 95% of teens 13 to 17 years of age had constant access to a smartphone (and pornography), and almost half of them admitted to “constantly” being on the internet.<sup>20</sup> Eighty percent of American men 18 to 30 years of age were addicted to pornography, admitting to at least monthly use.<sup>21</sup> Overall, Americans

had increased their participation in pornography from 20% to 65% between 1970 and 2019.<sup>22</sup>

## THE DEATH OF SEXUALITY, HUMANNESS, & GENDER IDENTITY

This was merely one more step in the dehumanization and destruction of human personality. Between the years 2000 and 2020, the whole world moved towards encouraging and approving all forms of perverted sexuality—and persecuting any who might disagree.

This wholesale embrace of sexual sin has introduced devastating effects upon the human body in the form of sexually-transmitted diseases. Between 2007 and 2018, incidents of chlamydia increased 149%, gonorrhea 126%, and syphilis 80%.<sup>23</sup> introduced devastating effects. The US Centers for Disease Control estimated more 110 million cases of STD's in the country, with an additional 20 million new cases occurring each year.<sup>24</sup> The worldwide AIDS epidemic—which is mainly transmitted sexually—killed more people than the Spanish flu in 1918-1920. By 2020, the Center for Disease Control set the death toll from HIV/AIDS related illnesses at 32 million.<sup>25</sup> In the providence of God, this has turned out to be the largest sexually-transmitted disease killer in history.

Considered the worst of the Roman emperors by pagan and Christian historian alike, Emperor Nero is the historical prototype for the present malaise. His agenda is represented by three crucial elements—the introduction of homosexual marriage, the initiation of major Christian persecution, and the incineration of Rome. At the turn of the 20th century, all three of these elements were replicated across the Western world. It was a return to the “Neronic agenda.”

In the final rejection of God's creation order, modern man attempted total self-definition and ultimate autonomy by surrendering his birth gender. Thereby he lost all remnants of identity and humanity

in his own mind. Gender dysphoria was institutionalized at the highest echelons of power. Public schools and other institutions were required by law to accommodate children and adults attempting to change their gender, and those refusing to participate in the insanity were persecuted. The suicidal nature of such desperate attempts to self-definition was manifest, in that 42% of those dissatisfied with their God-given gender would attempt suicide.<sup>26</sup>

## THE NATURE OF THE FALL

Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. (1 Corinthians 10:11-13)

Paul's words to the European Gentile world (Corinth) are very relevant to Christians in the present extremity. Something very dramatic and very awful has occurred here in the West. But what is this shift, basically? Some may wish to discount the influence of Christianity in the age of Constantine, or during the age of missions, or in the period of the Reformation, etc., but even the most cursory review of history would find such a position untenable. Through the many centuries, God has most certainly poured out His blessings upon the European Gentile world. The Lord Jesus Christ has made His mark on history, and the purpose of this book is to further substantiate this.

No question, a great fall has occurred—but a fall from what? This entire civilization must have fallen from somewhere to arrive at the current state of affairs. Clearly from a Christian perspective, the West has fallen from God's grace, from first Christian foundations laid down over a thousand years. Such a fall involves many complexities, but

Scripture provides more than adequate explanations, allowing for a clear understanding of the cause and nature of this demise.

Even when Christians do not make up the majority of a population, several mitigating factors attend a fallen world to prevent complete moral ruin, anarchy, tyranny, and self-destruction. The first of these is God's common mercy and grace, or that which is described in Matthew 5 and Acts 14.

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. (Matthew 5:44-45)

And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein: Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness. (Acts 14:15-17)

This speaks of God's common grace on the entire race of mankind. In Romans 2 the Apostle also points out that "Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law" (vs. 14). This is all due to the grace of God. But, when God withholds common grace, the immediate destructive influences of sin come upon these human societies.

For centuries, all the Western nations (unbelievers included), borrowed heavily from a Christian world and life view, and they enjoyed the fruits of Christian thinking in science, economics, and culture. Yet Paul warned of "perilous times" to come when "evil

men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived” (2 Tim. 3:1, 13). These times are now upon us. The zeitgeist bears a heightened “epistemological self-consciousness,” what Dr. Cornelius Van Til described as “God allow[ing] men to follow the path of their self-chosen rejection of Him more rapidly than ever.”<sup>27</sup> This is especially applicable to a civilization turned against its Christian roots. As descendants of a hundred generations of Christians, Reformers, Pilgrims, Covenanters, and Huguenots, the Western apostates hasten their end. The downgrade is steep, and as promised in 2 Peter 2:20, “the latter end will be worse with them than the beginning.”

### THE SALT LOSES ITS SAVOR

The other root cause for the present fall is explained by the Lord’s words in Luke 14.

So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. (Luke 14:33-35)

Christ referred to His followers as “the salt of the earth”—preserving and blessing their communities with spiritual, moral, and economic benefits. But when the salt loses its saltiness, it is good for nothing but “the dunghill.” This exactly describes what happened to the organized, mainline churches in Europe and North America beginning in AD 1700. Although church attendance in the United States remained consistent during the breakdown of faith and morality in the 20th century, the salt was steadily losing its enhancing and preserving qualities. The church had little to no influence on the wider culture during the social revolutions, the cultural and musical revolutions, and the sexual revolution, which brought the widespread increase of divorce and cohabitation, the abortion plague, and the normalization



of sexual perversion. Church attendance fell off after 2007, and the salt was discarded into the dunghill.

US Christians touted a decreased surgical abortion rate between 1995 and 2020, but they continued to use abortifacient forms of conception control at roughly the same rates as the unbelieving world. The hypocrisy was breathtaking. Some claimed the abortion numbers had dropped to 1.2 million in America over the 2000s. However, the Stanford Study (“Mechanisms of action of intrauterine devices”) found that an average of 0.8 post-fertilization babies were lost per woman by the IUD per annum on five different IUDs tested.<sup>28</sup> That equates to 6,750,000 babies killed per year by the use of this single form of contraceptive—an increased rate from 960,000 babies in 2000. Surgical abortions are only a drop in the bucket compared to the number of children killed by the use of these abortifacients. Mainstream Christian opposition to these forms of conception control was non-existent during these years, except for a few obscure pastors here and there. Meanwhile, as of 2008, 32% of sexually-active evangelical women, 39% of women aligned with mainline denominations, and 36% of Catholic women employed highly effective forms of conception control, compared to the national average of 36%.<sup>30</sup> The salt had lost its savor.

Attempts at cultural influence through politics on the part of Christians during the decline of the West were mostly symbolic and superficial, especially in the United States. The fundamental problem was not to be found in politics or solved there. The problem was rooted deep in the culture, the schools, conception control, and the hearts of the people. The problem was the absence of faith and life in the evangelical church. Before addressing politics, the Christian church should first have busied itself with true faith and repentance, and the fulfillment of its own obedience.

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations,

and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled. (2 Cor. 10:4-6)

Between 2006 and 2017, the percentage of evangelical young people supportive of homosexual “marriage” increased from 16% to 47% while support from the general evangelical population moved from 10% to 35%.<sup>29</sup> This was the great “evangelical disaster” spoken of by that evangelical prophet of the 1960s, Francis Schaeffer. It was a house divided—salt without savor.

The Christian political efforts by the Moral Majority, the Christian Coalition, and other groups produced no lasting good, because the problem was in the pulpits and the pews. Women were using abortifacients, their children were in schools that rejected the fear of God, their media habits were the same as the world, and churches had rejected God’s laws. There was great need for a change of heart.

The raw humiliation of the dunghill was fully experienced by American evangelicals in December, 2019, when the National Association of Evangelicals adopted the “Fairness for All” compromise. This policy statement, first advocated by the Mormon church, targeted Christian businessmen with legal sanctions upon refusal to support homosexual “weddings” and other pagan practices. The “evangelical Christian” board endorsed legislation to add sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) to federal nondiscrimination laws. Member churches of the National Association of Evangelicals included the Evangelical Free Church, the Presbyterian Church of America, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, the Christian Reformed Churches of North America, Church of the Nazarene, Assemblies of God, Foursquare Church, the Vineyard, and others. The policy would have subjected Christian businessmen to fines and imprisonment for opposing homosexual sin, while preserving Christian churches from

similar persecution. By this time the salt was pretty well scattered over the dunghill.

This pathetic capitulation to the Neronic agenda by evangelical leadership and Christian Colleges signaled the cultural irrelevance of a dying church. The faith had lost its power. The salt had lost its savor. Proverbs 25:26 is relevant: “A righteous man who falters before the wicked is like a murky spring and a polluted well.”

### BEFORE THE FALL—PRIDE 2019

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.  
(Proverbs 16:18)

The Fall came in 2020. But pride came in 2019. Actually, pride was on the rise well before that. Beginning in 1969, various groups advocating open sexual perversion began to organize “pride marches” in the United States and elsewhere. On what some would call the 50th anniversary of such pride events in the summer of 2019, New York City’s pride event attracted five million participants. Record-breaking crowds also appeared in New Orleans, Denver, Madrid (Spain), Brussels (Belgium), Cologne (Germany), London (UK), Amsterdam (Netherlands), Tel-Aviv (Israel), Belgrade (Serbia), Singapore, Santiago (Chile), Montreal (Canada), Kiev (Ukraine), Tokyo (Japan), and Taipei (Taiwan). Tens of millions of people showed up for the largest international pride celebration in the history of the world. The goal of these marches was to flaunt sexual freedom and public opposition to God’s laws. They wanted to break His bonds in pieces and cast His cords away from them. But “He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure” (Ps. 2:4-5).

First, there was pride, then came the fall. The year 2020 followed “Pride 2019,” bringing with it a worldwide depression, disease, and

death (ie. destruction). Fear gripped the world. The highest deaths per capita came upon the Western states—Belgium, Spain, Italy, France, the UK, the Netherlands, and the United States. Over three hundred pride marches were cancelled in the summer of 2020.

### THE WORDS OF THE “PROPHETS”

Yet he sent prophets to them, to bring them again unto the LORD; and they testified against them: but they would not give ear. (2 Chronicles 24:19)

Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? (Acts 7:51-52a)

The fall of the West was expected, for at least a hundred years—two hundred years for those who were watching more closely. Nonetheless, God sent a sufficient supply of prophets and preachers to warn the West. Of course their words were never inspired and inerrant as in the case of the Scriptures. But all along they spoke the word in season. Usually disquieting, the word came pungent, timely, lucid, and unambiguous. Prominent minds, pens, and voices—both unbelievers and believers spoke to the demise. The violence with which the cultural, social, economic, and political suicide was happening was apparent to these prophets. What stood out in the prophetic statements was their vehemence, the horror, and the dead earnestness of their voices—as it were, the ghastly ardor characterizing the last gasps of a dying man.

Writing in 1940, the famous author George Orwell surmised that the soul of modern man had been hacked to pieces over the previous 200 years. The destroyers and the saboteurs, he said, were Gibbon, Voltaire, Rousseau, Shelley, Byron, Dickens, Stendhal, Samuel Butler, Ibsen, Zola, Flaubert, Shaw, and Joyce. Orwell drew the very unhappy conclusion, that, “There is no wisdom except in the fear of God; but

nobody fears God; therefore there is no wisdom. Man's history reduces itself to the rise and fall of material civilizations, one Tower of Babel after another.... and so downwards into abysses which are horrible to contemplate."<sup>31</sup> Between 1940 and 2020, this cultural and societal suicide was to worsen by orders of magnitude.

Another prophet of sorts, C.S. Lewis, was himself plucked like a brand from the fire. The most well-known Christian author of the 20th century reserved his most prophetic warnings for *The Abolition of Man*, first published in 1944. His concern was primarily education and the influx of relativism—the rejection of “the doctrine of objective value, the belief that certain attitudes are really true, and others really false, to the kind of thing the universe is, and the kind of things we are.”<sup>32</sup> Lewis warned that the acceptance of this worldview in education must result “in the destruction of the society that accepts it.”

That was 80 years ago. The warning was not well taken. C.S. Lewis was not the only thinker and writer who eyed modern secular education with deep mistrust and concern. Indeed, many Christian leaders could see that this field would act as the very soul of the dangerous zeitgeist and the juggernaut, which would bowl the whole Western world over in the 20th century.

Most remarkable of all was the prophetic voice of A. A. Hodge, principal of Princeton Theological Seminary (1878–1886). Here are words still resonating through the empty chambers of a hollowed-out civilization:

I am as sure as I am of Christ's reign that a comprehensive and centralized system of national education, separated from religion, as is now commonly proposed, will prove the most appalling enginery for the propagation of anti-Christian and atheistic unbelief, and of anti-social nihilistic ethics, individual, social and political, which this sin-rent world has ever seen.<sup>33</sup>

*Prophetic. Prescient. Amazing.*

These sage words were spoken 140 years ago. The world is now very far down the river and has just passed over the falls.

J. Gresham Machen studied first at Princeton University, and for a while was thrown into confusion in his studies at the University of Marburg in Germany under the liberal Lutheran theologian, Professor Wilhelm Herrmann. However, Machen returned to a reformed Christian orthodoxy, and later wrote extensively on the extreme danger of secular education, very much on the rise in the 1920s. His essays are filled with warnings such as this one:

Place the lives of children in their formative years, despite the convictions of their parents, under the intimate control of experts appointed by the state, ...where the mind is filled with the materialism of the day, and it is difficult to see how even the remnants of liberty can subsist. Such a tyranny, supported as it is by a perverse technique used as the instrument in destroying human souls, is certainly far more dangerous than the crude tyrannies of the past.<sup>34</sup>

These severe words of warning were left for us almost a century ago. Another well-known Christian writer, Dr. Gordon Clark, speaking on the topic of education in 1935, told Christian families:

In public schools, children receive pagan education.... Any Christian should have sense enough to see that subjection to pagan influences works an injustice to the child.... Just because a young man survives pagan instruction is no reason for subjecting him to it.... Only if they reject the godless view of the world, will our Christian families be prepared to face the ensuing dark ages.<sup>35</sup>

Such severe admonitions were issued almost 90 years ago, yet many Christian leaders are far less concerned about pagan instruction that is a hundred times worse now than it was then. Anti-social nihilistic ethics have become the order of the day.

Peter Marshall (1902-1949), serving as chaplain of the US Senate,

preached a sermon on March 11, 1944 while America faced the tragedy of a World War. Unmistakably obvious, the prophetic tone reappeared:

There are evil forces plotting within the nation as well...Our moral standards have been lowered. Our national moral standards—and no nation makes progress in a downward direction...Illustrations could be multiplied, both of the decay of morals and of the activity of evil forces in our midst. The old time evangelists used to express the tragedy of men and women individually going to hell. But we don't hear much about that nowadays. Because they say people don't believe in hell. But I notice that they talk a lot about it in their conversations...We must decide and decide quickly who is chief—whom we will serve. Millions of people in America live in moral fog. The issues are not clear to them. They cannot face the light that makes them black or white. They want grays and neutral picks. They move in sort of a spiritual twilight. Modified morality on the basis of cleverness guides millions of people. Modified dishonesty within the letter of the law is the practice of millions more. Surely the time has come—because the hour is late—when we must decide. The choice before us is plain: Jehovah or Baal? Christ or chaos? Conviction or compromise? Discipline or disintegration? I have not stated the matter too strongly. You may agree mildly or you may disagree violently, but the time has come to face the duties and obligations of our citizenship and be willing to assume the disciplines imposed by the things we believe in before we are forced to accept the disciplines of tyranny.<sup>36</sup>

An evangelical prophet of the post-Christian age, Francis Schaeffer, poured tears over his last book, *The Great Evangelical Disaster* (issued in 1984). The zeitgeist, he said, has crushed “all that we cherish in its path,” and announced:

The Christian influence upon the whole of culture has been lost... Do not take this lightly! It is a horrible thing for a man like myself to look back and see my country and my culture go down the drain in my lifetime.<sup>38</sup>

Schaeffer recorded the decline of the church in the United States as occurring between 1900 and 1936. “It was this drift which laid the base for the cultural, social, moral, legal, and governmental changes from that time to the present.”<sup>39</sup> The complete cultural shift then occurred in less than forty years’ time, and was complete by 1969. “In four decades,” Schaeffer says, “the change came in *every portion* and in *every part* of life.”<sup>40</sup> He described the worldview which replaced the Christian outlook in the West as “the idea that the final reality is impersonal matter or energy shaped into its present form by impersonal chance.”<sup>41</sup> This new worldview must inevitably produce either chaos or slavery to the state—or both.

Schaeffer concluded that the sixty years from 1924 to 1984 gave birth to a “moral disaster,” and the evangelical response of the churches was likewise another catastrophe. The problem for the church, he said, was “accommodation” and a refusal to confront the world with the Word. There was, in his words, “no clear voice speaking to the crucial issues of the day with instinctively biblical, Christian answers.” With tears smearing his words on the page, Schaeffer wrote that “a large segment of the evangelical world has become seduced by the world spirit of this present age.... For the evangelical accommodation to the world of our age represented the removal of the last barrier opposing the breakdown of our culture.”<sup>42</sup>

That was forty years ago.

The breakdown of Western civilization had far more fundamental causes lodged in the foundations of Western thought. Schaeffer identified the epistemological root of the collapse in the philosophy of Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (1770-1831). When this Western philosopher gave up on the possibility of distinguishing between truth and untruth, he stepped over what Schaeffer called “the line of despair.” Hegel capitulated to an inevitable irrationalism. This is what sets the direction for the destruction of everything—rationality



at all levels, education, wise governance, culture, science, the family, and economics. “What is this despair? It arises from the abandonment of any hope of a unified answer for knowledge and life.”<sup>43</sup> It takes a long time for the hopelessness of the philosopher class to make its way down into the masses of the common people. This hopeless philosophy worked its way out through the popular existentialism of Jean-Paul Sartre and the pragmatism of John Dewey. By 1970, Schaeffer referred to his generation as “The generation of anti-philosophy people caught in an uncertainty of knowing.”<sup>44</sup> Cynicism reigned.

Fifty years later, the problem was a hundred times worse and the despair was thoroughly in the mainstream.

Holding to the same basic assessments as Schaeffer, Christian thinker and writer, R.J. Rushdoony concluded that “the modern age gives every evidence that it is approaching death.”<sup>45</sup> He called this the “end of an era,” and, without apologies, called the Western world “a society that deserves to die.”<sup>46</sup> Shortly before his death in 2001, the “prophet” issued a last warning: “The problem now is more serious. A powerful element in the modern world has no intention of defending its civilization, because, while murderous towards Christianity, it is suicidal with regard to itself.”<sup>47</sup>

About the same time, Jacques Ellul (1912-1994) reminded us that we have entered the post-Christian era in the sense that “Christianity no longer supplies a set of shared values, a norm of judgment, and a frame of reference to which men spontaneously relate all their thoughts and actions.”<sup>48</sup> Atheistic humanism replaced this worldview, resting on and legitimizing “unlimited growth of power, technology, and the economy.”<sup>49</sup> A voice crying in the middle of the Sahara desert, Ellul pointed to technology as replacing culture. Technology enabled diversion and destroyed all reflection. This breakdown of culture itself must “rupture.” His concluding words in his final writings declared: “Even without nuclear war or an exceptional crisis, we may thus

expect enormous global disorder which will be the expression of all the contradictions and disarray.”<sup>50</sup>

Another refugee from the materialist, atheist camp during the modern age, Malcolm Muggeridge (1903-1990), left us with a warning...and hope:

Let us then as Christians rejoice that we see around us on every hand the decay of the institutions and instruments of power, see intimations of empires falling to pieces, money in total disarray, dictators and parliamentarians alike nonplussed by the confusion and conflicts which encompass them. For it is precisely when every earthly hope has been explored and found wanting, when every possibility of help from earthly sources has been sought and is not forthcoming, when every recourse this world offers, moral as well as material, has been explored to no effect, when in the shivering cold the last twig has been thrown onto the fire and in the gathering darkness every glimmer of light has finally flickered out; it is then that Christ's hand reaches out sure and firm.<sup>51</sup>

The prophets wandered in from various ecclesiastical traditions. Eugene David Rose represented the Eastern Orthodox when he wrote *Nihilism: The Root of the Revolution of the Modern Age* prior to his death in 1982. Here he defined the prevailing spirit of the age as “Nihilism.”

...we shall characterize as “Nihilists” men of, as it seems, widely divergent views: humanists, skeptics, revolutionaries of all hues, artists and philosophers of various schools; but they are united in a common task. Whether in positivist “criticism” of Christian truths and institutions, revolutionary violence against the Old Order, apocalyptic visions of universal destruction and the advent of a paradise on earth, or objective scientific labors in the interests of a “better life” in this world—the tacit assumption being that there is no other world—their aim is the same: the annihilation of Divine Revelation and the preparation of a new order in which there shall be no trace of the

“old” view of things, in which Man shall be the only god there is.<sup>52</sup>

The editor for Rose’s book, a man named Hieromonk Damascene of the Saint Herman Monastery, added this comment in the same source: “It is obvious to any Orthodox Christian who is aware of what is going on around him today, that the world is coming to its end. The signs of the times are so obvious that one might say that the world is crashing to its end.”

After chronicling the nightmare of the Soviet communist experiment, that prophet of Russia, Aleksandr Isayevich Solzhenitsyn, gave the most succinct description of the root cause for the fall—and he could hardly find much difference between the east and the west. Both had imbibed deeply the 18th century enlightenment philosophies. Three times, the Nobel Prize laureate repeated his point in the famous Templeton Address given in 1983:

Over a half century ago, while I was still a child, I recall hearing a number of old people offer the following explanation for the great disasters that had befallen Russia: “*Men have forgotten God; that’s why all this has happened.*” Since then I have spent well-nigh 50 years working on the history of our revolution; in the process I have read hundreds of books, collected hundreds of personal testimonies, and have already contributed eight volumes of my own toward the effort of clearing away the rubble left by that upheaval. But if I were asked today to formulate as concisely as possible the main cause of the ruinous revolution that swallowed up some 60 million of our people, I could not put it more accurately than to repeat: “*Men have forgotten God; that’s why all this has happened.*” What is more, the events of the Russian Revolution can only be understood now, at the end of the century, against the background of what has since occurred in the rest of the world. What emerges here is a process of universal significance. And if I were called upon to identify briefly the principal trait of the *entire* 20th century, here too, I would be unable to find anything more

precise and pithy than to repeat once again: “*Men have forgotten God.*” The failings of human consciousness, deprived of its divine dimension, have been a determining factor in all the major crimes of this century.<sup>53</sup>

Solzhenitsyn left us with that epithet for the Western world almost forty years ago. His most prophetic assessment was chilling, to say the least: “Today’s world has reached a stage which, if it had been described to preceding centuries, would have called forth the cry: ‘This is the Apocalypse!’ Yet we have grown used to this kind of world; we even feel at home in it.”<sup>54</sup>

The Russian dissident spoke as a prophet to a wayward people on June 8, 1978, when he addressed Harvard University’s commencement service. Since the enlightenment of the 1700s, Solzhenitsyn said, “a total liberation occurred from the moral heritage of Christian centuries with their great reserves of mercy and sacrifice.” State systems were becoming increasingly and totally materialistic.<sup>55</sup> His conclusion held little hope or promise for the Western world:

Even if we are spared destruction by war, our lives will have to change if we want to save life from self-destruction.<sup>56</sup>

Thinkers and writers were continually warning of the depersonalization, dehumanization, and barrenness of modern life—a reality ten times worse today than it was in their own time.

G. K. Chesterton spoke prophetically of the onslaught of homosexuality, which he described as “the very powerful and very desolate philosophy of Oscar Wilde. It is the *carpe diem* religion, but the *carpe diem* religion is not the religion of happy people, but of very unhappy people.”<sup>57</sup> He often commented on the modern world, with insightful nuggets... “full of lawless little men and mad movements,”<sup>58</sup> “insincere about their sincerity,”<sup>59</sup> “a strange indifference,” and a “loneliness of millions in a crowd.”<sup>60</sup> Chesterton quickly recognized the insanity of a world that knew God and then forsook Him.

Conservatives of the Roman Catholic ecclesiastical tradition occasionally offered their prophetic assessments. Paul Johnson detected a shift “from utopianism to hedonism” following the wars. His summary of the great intellectuals of the 19th and 20th century warns that these madmen *en masse* “create climates of opinions and prevailing orthodoxies, which themselves often generate irrational destructive courses of action.”<sup>61</sup> And Benjamin Wiker wraps up his book on *10 Books that Screwed up the World (And 5 Others Didn't Help)*, gazing over “the smoking rubble of the twentieth century...[where] we see a strange sight: humanity devouring itself.”<sup>62</sup>

The nationally renown Pentecostal evangelist David Wilkerson was soundly rejected by the Christian population in 1974 when he issued his controversial book, *The Vision*.<sup>63</sup> Speaking as though he had grasshopper legs caught between his teeth, Wilkerson projected calamity on America because of her “rampant sin.” Especially far-fetched were his predictions concerning the easy accessibility of pornography via television for children to watch in their homes, and ordination of homosexuals in “Christian” churches, and that “Divorce and immorality will become more and more commonplace among ministers.”<sup>64</sup> In 1993, Wilkerson was speaking of the corruption and destruction of America more in the present tense: “What God is more concerned about—and what is bringing God’s judgment on America—is the growing number of homosexual defenders! They number in the millions! When Colorado voted against special rights for gays, the entire Hollywood establishment went into action, boycotting that state in defense of homosexual rights. God’s wrath is upon us because the majority of Americans have lost their values! There are masses of people who would not move an inch to defend America against an enemy aggressor—yet they would gladly lay down their lives to defend abortion rights. The last election showed that 40 million Americans defended the right to kill babies! America was once renowned as

a defender of truth and justice. Now, we have become defenders of baby killers, pornographers, and perversions...All are being withered and made dry! We are no longer the most productive—but instead have been helpless to stop the withering and decay of our once-great institutions and corporations. We have lost our influence. America is now the tail and not the head!...What lies ahead for America? A withering of all things! God's wind is now blowing, and He is doing what He said He would do—spoiling our treasures.<sup>65</sup>

David Wilkinson has gone now, and the presidential election he referenced happened thirty years ago.

Another evangelical revivalist of the 1960s and 1970s, Leonard Ravenhill, considered revival the only hope left for the West. For over forty years, Ravenhill spoke with great urgency, with a prophetic zeal unmatched by anyone else in his day. He seemed to see something others couldn't see. In his classic little book stuffed full of memorable memes, *Why Revival Tarries*, Ravenhill wrote,

America cannot fall—because she is already fallen! This goes for Britain, too. She cannot go into slavery—because her people are fettered at the moment in the chains of self-forged, self-chosen moral anarchy. Here are millions, diseased morally, with no longing for healing. Here are men paying for shadows the price of their immortal souls, men who not only reject the Substance, but who openly sneer at and caricature it. An unprecedented tidal wave of commandment-breaking, God-defying, soul-destroying iniquity sweeps the ocean of human affairs. Never before have men in the masses sold their souls to the devil at such bargain prices.... What hell-born mesmerism holds them? How does the spell bind? Who brainwashed them?<sup>66</sup>

And that was sixty years ago. A very great amount of water has flowed under the bridge since then.

After 15 years of persecution at the hands of the homosexual community in San Francisco, pastor and author, Chuck McIlheny,

summarized the matter in 1991 thusly: “The homosexual issue is a secondary issue. The real fundamental issue is a secular humanism which rejects Christ and the Scripture as the basis to society. And the ultimate end is always death—death to a society.”<sup>67</sup>

That was 30 years ago, well before Obergefell (2015) and Bostock (2020).

Among the litany of prophets who came and went, there were the poets and lyricists too. The 20th century poet T.S. Eliot (1888-1965) described modern life—or rather death—in “The Waste Land.” What better epithet was written for the 20th century?

April is the cruelest month, breeding  
 Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing  
 Memory and desire, stirring  
 Dull roots with spring rain.  
 Winter kept us warm, covering  
 Earth in forgetful snow, feeding  
 A little life with dried tubers....  
 What are the roots that clutch, what branches grow  
 Out of this stony rubbish? Son of man,  
 You cannot say, or guess, for you know only  
 A heap of broken images, where the sun beats,  
 And the dead tree gives no shelter, the cricket no relief,  
 And the dry stone no sound of water.<sup>68</sup>

Eliot suggested in “The Hollow Man” that the world would end not with a bang but “a whimper.” In Eliot’s view, the breakdown of Christianity would mean the breakdown of Western culture itself: “I do not believe that the culture of Europe could survive the complete disappearance of the Christian Faith.... If Christianity goes, the whole of our culture goes.”<sup>69</sup>

Among the “sons of the prophets” one could hardly find a word so equally succinct and precise as Rudyard Kipling’s final poetic word,

“The Gods of the Copybook Headings.” It was something of an epitaph for the British Empire. He could see it coming better than anyone. The copybook headings were Scriptural quotations and proverbs decorating the headings of children’s copybooks in the 19th century.

As I pass through my incarnations in every age and race,  
I make my proper prostrations to the Gods of the Market Place.  
Peering through reverent fingers I watch them flourish and fall,  
And the Gods of the Copybook Headings, I notice, outlast them all.

We were living in trees when they met us. They showed us each in turn  
That Water would certainly wet us, as Fire would certainly burn:  
But we found them lacking in Uplift, Vision and Breadth of Mind,  
So we left them to teach the Gorillas while we followed the March of Mankind.

We moved as the Spirit listed. They never altered their pace,  
Being neither cloud nor wind-borne like the Gods of the Market Place,  
But they always caught up with our progress, and presently word would come  
That a tribe had been wiped off its icefield, or the lights had gone out in Rome.

With the Hopes that our World is built on they were utterly out of touch,  
They denied that the Moon was Stilton; they denied she was even Dutch;  
They denied that Wishes were Horses; they denied that a Pig had Wings;  
So we worshipped the Gods of the Market who promised these beautiful  
things.

When the Cambrian measures were forming, they promised perpetual peace.  
They swore, if we gave them our weapons, that the wars of the tribes  
would cease.

But when we disarmed they sold us and delivered us bound to our foe,  
And the Gods of the Copybook Headings said: “Stick to the Devil you  
know.”

On the first Feminian Sandstones we were promised the Fuller Life  
(Which started by loving our neighbour and ended by loving his wife)



## THE FALL

Till our women had no more children and the men lost reason and faith,  
And the Gods of the Copybook Headings said: "The Wages of Sin is Death."

In the Carboniferous Epoch we were promised abundance for all,  
By robbing selected Peter to pay for collective Paul;  
But, though we had plenty of money, there was nothing our money could buy,  
And the Gods of the Copybook Headings said: "If you don't work you die."

Then the Gods of the Market tumbled, and their smooth-tongued wizards  
withdrew  
And the hearts of the meanest were humbled and began to believe it was true  
That All is not Gold that Glitters, and Two and Two make Four  
And the Gods of the Copybook Headings limped up to explain it once more.

As it will be in the future, it was at the birth of Man  
There are only four things certain since Social Progress began.  
That the Dog returns to his Vomit and the Sow returns to her Mire,  
And the burnt Fool's bandaged finger goes wobbling back to the Fire;

And that after this is accomplished, and the brave new world begins  
When all men are paid for existing and no man must pay for his sins,  
As surely as Water will wet us, as surely as Fire will burn,  
The Gods of the Copybook Headings with terror and slaughter return!<sup>70</sup>

As he approached the end of his life, Kipling's poems took on an increasingly foreboding feel, as in "The Storm Cone" from 1932: "This is the tempest long foretold—slow to make head but sure to hold.... Only the darkness hides the shape, of further peril to escape."<sup>71</sup>

Still another unconventional prophet stood at the very center of the cultural revolution, this time for the benefit of popular audience. Don McLean had a very unusual hit in 1971, securing the top position on the charts—"American Pie." Commenting later on the hit, McLean confessed he was only fiddling "while Rome burned."<sup>72</sup> He knew the country was "headed in the wrong direction" when he penned the

piece. He further lamented, “there is no poetry and very little romance anymore, so it is really like the last phrase of ‘American Pie.’”<sup>73</sup> By 2020, McLean said he had pretty much given up on all modern music. “The music doesn’t mean anything,” he said. “The music reflects the spiritual nature of the society. We have a kind of a nihilistic society now. No one believes in anything, no one likes anything, no one has any respect for anything much. The music shows that.”<sup>74</sup>

At the end of his magnum opus, the songwriter watches the “Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, [catch] the last train to the coast ...” singing “Bye, Bye American Pie.” In God’s providence, the song held first place on the charts for four weeks—long enough to let everyone know that “the music died.” That was, after all, the point of the song.

And that was fifty years ago.

Representing the folk minstrels of the American heartland, Merle Haggard wished “that a buck was still silver...back when the country was strong...when a man could still work and still would.” He kept asking, “Are we rolling downhill like a snowball headed for hell, with no kinda chance for the flag or the liberty bell?” and “Are the good times really over for good?”<sup>75</sup>

And, that was forty years ago.

The conservative politicians, hanging on for dear life to what used to be, warned us too. Pat Buchanan released his prophecy, *The Death of the West* in 2001. The old conservative bitterly kicked the tombstone over the grave: “To its acolytes the cultural revolution has been a glorious revolution. But to millions, they have replaced the good country we grew up in with a cultural wasteland and a moral sewer that are not worth living in and not worth fighting for—their country, not ours.”<sup>76</sup> It was the gods of the new cultural marketplace who had shouldered aside the God of the Old and New Testaments, he said. Buchanan advised the few who were still reading his stuff in

2001, “Societies organised to ensure the maximum pleasure, freedom, and happiness for all their members are at the same time, advancing the date of their own funerals...Americans who look on this cultural revolution as politics-as-usual do not understand it. It means to make an end of the country we love.”<sup>77</sup>

Sensible economists tried to figure out how to get out of the vicious, suicidal cycle instigated by John Maynard Keynes. Friedrich Hayek wrote 1981: “It should surprise no one that the lost generation of British economists who had succumbed to the teachings of Lord Keynes should form a panicky mob when a reversal of the policies they had inspired reveals the damage they have done. ... Following their advice has induced a structure of employment that can be maintained only by accelerating inflation but will collapse only when it becomes a gallop and destroys any possibility of a rational use of resources. Nobody has ever claimed that so long as it is necessary to reduce inflation to get out of this vicious circle the effect can be anything but to destroy the particular employments created by past inflation. Only after inflation has been brought to a full stop can the market be expected to guide workers to jobs which can be maintained without accelerating inflation. All those who plead for ‘mild’ inflation and oppose ‘too much’ inflation are merely preparing the ground for a later depression.”<sup>78</sup>

That was written a generation ago. Hayek is dead now. And, the depression is now.

In his classic work, *The Road to Serfdom*, Hayek spoke of the “impending dangers,” and complained of the willful ignorance and utter disregard of the warnings, “The number of dangerous mistakes we have made before and since the outbreak of the war because we do not understand the opponent with whom we are faced is appalling. It seems almost as if we did not want to understand the development which has produced totalitarianism because such an understanding

might destroy some of the dearest illusions to which we are determined to cling.”<sup>79</sup> His rebuke comes with much heightened relevance 75 years later.

Several of the aging economist-prophets were still issuing their warnings as the end approached. After the 2020 elections, an 81-year-old Paul Craig Roberts, President Ronald Reagan’s Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Economic Policy, announced, “The West has thrown itself into the water basket of history,” and, “We can begin by writing the obituary.”<sup>80</sup> Reagan’s Director of Office of Management and Budget (1981-1985), David Stockman, was dubbed “the prophet of doom” when he said America was “doomed” in 2013—“The United States is broke—fiscally, morally, intellectually...”<sup>81</sup> As 2020 rolled around, Stockman figured the 30-year experiment in “Keynesian Central Banking...is over.”<sup>82</sup> We are, he said, “in a demographic and fiscal dead end. It’s a very dangerous prospect and one with no obvious answer on how to escape.”<sup>83</sup>

During the great revolutions in the West, the church had its prophets as well, men who spoke a word in season for the people of God. Dr. D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones kept a steadfast ministry going in the heart of the Western world at the center of London. This pastor described the 20th century as a century in which “God allowed man to have his own way.... Man has turned his back upon God ...God deliberately turns from man.... Now, you are seeing the world as it is without the restraints of God. God is no longer keeping evil in check.” Lloyd-Jones pointed out that, earlier in the 1800s, Western academics and cultural leaders worked hard to establish “the dignity of man,” the autonomy, and the “capability of man” without God. But now the modern world is the perfect example of Romans 1, where God has given man up to ultimately undignified “sexual perversions,” and the rest.<sup>84</sup>

Shortly before he died, Dr. Lloyd-Jones gave a heavy sermon at

a little church in which he defined the world in 1980: “It’s an age of vileness, an age of raging. It’s an age in which men and women are breaking every rule and every law, and the whole world is in a state of confusion.... I’m even weary with this.... things seem to be going from bad to worse...a break-down of the home, of marriage, and of all the sanctities of everything that is holy.”<sup>85</sup> “The state of the world is,” he said, “organized insanity.”<sup>86</sup>

He said that forty years ago.

The possibility of the self-immolation of a culture begins to sink in for those who read Neil Postman’s 1985 tome: *Amusing Ourselves to Death*. By nature man has an infatuation with distraction, but modern technology has put this infatuation on steroids. Postman (1931-2003) forecasted cultural death:

When a population becomes distracted by trivia, when cultural life is redefined as a perpetual round of entertainments, when serious public conversation becomes a form of baby-talk, when, in short, a people become an audience, and their public business a vaudeville act, then a nation finds itself at risk; culture-death is a clear possibility.<sup>87</sup>

That was thirty-five years ago—before all the inanities of the internet, iPhones, social media, texting, sophisticated computer gaming, and the omnipresent and perpetual accessibility of a thousand more diversions.

The last of the prophets, Herbert Schlossberg, issued his magnum opus in 1990, *Idols for Destruction*, prefaced by the failed Supreme Court Justice nominee Robert Bork. Schlossberg attacked the idols of History (revolutionary thinkers), Humanity (antinomians, autonomists, egalitarians), Mammon (John Maynard Keynes, Karl Marx, Greed, Corruption, Inflation, Debt), Nature (Naturalism, Charles Darwin), Power (the Leviathan State), and Religion (false Christian gods). Schlossberg ended his gloomier outlook with the prediction:

“Judgment that issues in catastrophe is the only way for good to come, inasmuch as it entails the erasure of evil.”<sup>88</sup> He noted that, by 1958, Aldous Huxley’s dystopian *Brave New World* was “already upon us,” as admitted by the author himself.<sup>89</sup> The judgment, said Schlossberg “[embraces] almost every branch of human affairs: economic, medical, military, psychological, domestic, political, religious.” He emphasized the Keynesian debt model, greed, consumption of capital, increase in strife and lawlessness, dehumanization, torture, and euthanasia as consequences that flow from a society that embraces idolatry and rejects the true and living God.

That was thirty years ago, and Schlossberg died in 2019.

Joel Belz, founder of *WORLD* magazine, produced an editorial on December 9, 2017 that harked back to an editorial he wrote on January 25, 1992. He warned of a “wobbly economy” back then, “vulnerabilities of our political structure and its attendant freedoms.”<sup>90</sup> Belz noted that he thought the dangers were imminent twenty-five years earlier, but he was only “wrong in my timing.” By the socio-economic indexes, the problem was five times worse in 2017, and the nations were far less concerned than they were in 1992 when Belz’s warning was first issued.

The prophets are dead now. Francis Schaffer died in 1984, Lloyd-Jones in 1981, C. S. Lewis in 1963, Ellul in 1994, Postman in 2003, Solzhenitsyn in 2008, and Herbert Schlossberg in 2019. Christian publishing houses once publishing the “hard stuff” now rarely consider such matters anymore. Nobody would listen to these authors, anyway. Their books wouldn’t sell. Besides, it’s all old news because what they said already happened, and it’s difficult to find anyone who really cares.

## WHERE IS THIS GOING?

Jerusalem fell. Rome fell. And now, the Western world is falling. A thousand-year Western ascendance in the world is ending. It will

be highly significant in the chronicles of world history for a thousand years hence, should God permit the world to continue that long.

But the long reign of European and Western culture is over. The Christian influence lasted for a thousand years, and waned. The post-Christian, apostate, materialistic, atheistic, utterly destructive philosophies exported by Western nations have corrupted the whole world for a hundred painful years. At the end of the West, one of the most astounding records is the list of economies with high debt and corresponding low birth rates—Italy, Greece, France, Spain, Portugal, the UK, and the United States. These were once great empires of the Western world. These nations once ruled the world—the Romans, the Greeks, the Spanish Empire, the French Empire, the British Empire, and the United States. Not anymore. As another prophet put it, the mills of God grind slowly but very fine.

How will the world recover from this? Would a world war be a suitable “restart” button? What would bring about a humbling for the nations (like what occurred during World War II)? What could possibly salvage a civilization so far gone? Is there anything that can revive and remotivate modern nations? Given that the nation is blessed whose God is the Lord, which nations in the world are most likely to acknowledge the true and living God? Considering that some degree of integrity, honesty, and Christian character is necessary to assemble the spiritual or moral capital to rebuild a culture, where will this happen? Either there must be revival in the West, or the Spirit will move elsewhere—Africa, South America, Asia, or anywhere not already perverted by the West.

## WORLDWIDE REPERCUSSIONS

Without question, the Christian worldview has disappeared as the primary cultural influence in the West. Western institutions have been working for over a hundred years to destroy every last remnant of

their Christian foundations. Biblical faith and the cultural implications of that faith have largely disappeared. However, more than the faith has been destroyed. Civilization itself—with its educational, cultural, political, social, and economic systems—is disintegrating.

In the waning years of Western influence, this author traveled to sixteen nations around the world, addressing certain political, economic, ecclesiastical, and educational leaders. To the end, much of the world was still dependent on the West for financial, educational, and political leadership. I would tell these national leaders that the United States was built on strong Christian foundations. However, for at least one hundred years, American academic and political leaders set themselves to destroying the underpinnings of Western civilization. Large wrecking balls were set to the footers of these great institutions. What will happen to this civilization? The answer is obvious.

Given the tightly-integrated world economy and the recent dominance of the Western world, it would be hard to believe that the rest of the nations of the world could exempt themselves from the social, economic, and cultural destruction of the West. Most developing nations and their governments are too closely intertwined with these destructive institutions by international funding, debt, and ideology. Their leaders were trained at Western universities.

Does all this mean that Christ is coming back or that some antichrist is about to arise? Such questions often surface when empires fall and civilizations collapse. Though some may be tempted to interpret the present events according to some preconceived eschatological view, such thinking has proved disastrous for believers in the past. God works His purposes in the world, and it isn't for us to know the time of Christ's return. Nonetheless, general Scripturally-oriented lessons may be drawn from world events, and a word in season is appropriate for the remnant who have the "ears to hear."

Let us be content to know that Christ is still on His throne, bringing



all of His enemies under His feet (1 Cor. 15:25). His kingdom must come. His will must be done on earth as it is in heaven. He is above all things for the church, His church will prevail, and the gates of hell cannot possibly prevail against it.

So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the Lord. As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the Lord; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the Lord, from henceforth and for ever. (Isaiah 59:19-21).