WHAT A FOOL BELIEVES

"But what a fool believes he sees

No wise man has the power to reason away

What seems to be

Is always better than nothing"

—The Doobie Brothers

"Let me control the media and I will turn any nation into a herd of pigs." —Joseph Goebbels

Believe it or not, Joseph Goebbels was a sensible man and not the monster history tells of him. As the Minister of Propaganda in Nazi Germany, he was a brilliant marketer and he knew what of he spoke. And he spoke the absolute truth in that statement—the proof of which is now more than evident in our own American case study.

For the record, he was not saying in that statement that he had turned *his nation* into a herd of pigs, but that it could be done.

This meme, by the way, of a 'herd of pigs' keeps appearing in my search for a synthesis—for the Grand Unified Theory of "What Gives". I wonder if Christ's gesture of sending those disembodied spirits into such a herd carried a much deeper meaning than we know.

Fools believe all sorts of things. Most men live an unexamined life, more so now in our present age. This is of course by design, since a great many more Goebbels, having gained nearly a century of compounded experience, now sit and direct the show. A propagandist's first thesis is that lies sell much more product than truth, and *fortunes* have been made in catering to the foolish and the ignorant. That, and the propagandists have long since co-opted all formal (State-sponsored) education, which have produced now whole generations of un-thinkers who literally cannot discern their own tail pipe from a small cave entrance.

I believe there have always been predators among the human flocks who've had and wielded superior knowledge and power. The people are more or less aware of them in their midst but it's always been easier to believe the odds are in their favor and *they* will be spared while their neighbor is sacrificed—and anyway, standing up against the evil is *hard*. But more than that, they exist in a realm of perpetual make believe, in which they've conflated opinion with fact. This has led to our most unfortunate situation where the masses now believe that they are *entitled* to their own facts and their own reality... It is a very precarious place to be, where God has historically crushed whole societies without warning (<u>Pompeii</u>, preserved as a witness for us is one example).

In the beginning, Yahweh plainly described things *as they were* and not as we wished them to be. The way of man versus the Way of God was made known to us and we were free to choose our path. Witness Cain, the firstborn man:

But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. (Genesis 4)

But Cain was obstinate. And he chose his own way, forging a path of blood, retribution, and usurpation for most of mankind down through the millennia. His denial to his Maker of his deed and the subsequent refusal to take responsibility for his rebellion has plagued us to this very day. Darkness and ignorance have been his legacy to the "Many", and DENIAL of the truth became its own curse, as it is now.

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse (Rom 1:20)

And yet, most don't need any excuse for their ignorance, or care for one. It seems they pride themselves, even, in what they call "enlightenment," but is only rebellion. Outside of a very few Christians today, even among the learned and honorable, most are no better off than the companions of Job.

But as for you all, do ye return, and come now: for I cannot find one wise man among you. (Job 17:10)

When our Creator God told us the Truth, and His Son came to us as the *living embodiment of it*, even so, most ignored it and **chose their own "truth"**, leaving them vulnerable to their enemies, the psychopaths, who know well how to control them. He <u>warned us</u> about those too.

So this is well established. But I've wondered, is it a permanent condition for the lost and for nations as a whole? I can't answer that. I think, however, we can learn to anticipate when it's time to "shake the dust from our feet", to walk away from the debate, and to leave them to their own devices...even, at times, when it is our own family members.

All of that was to say this...

To contemplate our wasted efforts is not pleasant, but it's necessary and we can't ignore aspects of our world that we simply don't like. In the most excellent and lovely third chapter of Ecclesiastes, we find Solomon thinking on these very matters..." There's a time to speak, and a time to keep silence". We have to learn to recognize when the time comes to leave off speaking—especially with the adamant unbelieving. Eventually, the time for talk is over. As our days continually shorten, we are forced to economize our resources, so that we don't end in despair with the Preacher, who finally asked:

"What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?" (Ecc.3:9)

And so we must reserve the bulk of our efforts—the finest wine—for those who have ears to hear. And we must pray for discernment as to whose ears are they. We must come to grips with the following...

In His wisdom, Yahweh chose to create mankind as a herd creature. He in fact has called His own people *sheep*. Some He has made stronger, some weaker—some smarter, some dumber—but the herd mind of mass-man is easily led, confused, frightened, and deceived by the wolves and dogs (Bible terms) which prey on them. Mass-man, in general, is led by a common denominator which is the germ of their condition, and that is their conscious rejection of their Creator as Law-giver and King. It appears then, that ignorance is a choice.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

Without it there is only the fear of man, and the people are human livestock. Though "it seemeth right" unto them, the choice of ignorance <u>always ends in death</u>.

There is an effort involved in learning the truth. I don't think God hands it out for free. There is a cost, and I believe it is *ease*. Some of us have well experienced both ends of the spectrum—of ease and hardship; of praise and scorn. We had to learn the *desire* to trade the former for the latter, and the *value* of the latter.

"Our soul is exceedingly filled with the scorning of those that are at ease, and with the contempt of the proud." (Psalm 123:4)

A biblical word study of the term, "ease" would edify. In general, God has made it a defect of humanity.

Therefore, let us follow this to its conclusion... People who despise the labor of comparing facts with fantasy; they do not seek after truth not so much because they prefer the Lie (although many indeed do), but rather they are simply too lazy to care. Their false reality suits them fine, thank you very much. Of those dwindling few with decent reading comprehension skills, most are yet aliterate. They prefer the passive and visual entertainments because they're simple and comforting... Like watching cartoons in your pajamas on Saturday morning. But what hope is there for them? How to download truth when a grown man won't listen or read?

Not all can be saved. This is the hardest pill to swallow for most. Discernment is a gift from God—and though knowing for certain *who* the "whosoever will" *are* may be impossible for us in the here and now, nevertheless, He must have given us a roadmap. The Son of God had to confront that same reality, and He modelled it for us. We should pay close attention to His example.

Here then is that black pill: Jesus had no patience for human puppets. He said, "Let the dead bury their dead"... Have you ever meditated on that statement? Have you ever heard a sermon by a preacher of churchianity on that saying of Jesus? I'd bet not. But, in fact, <u>Many</u> walked away from Christ for the "offense of the gospel"—and we keenly observe that He did not chase after them.

To discern between the real and the unreal takes both effort and courage. And it often leads to hardship. *Real* hardship. Ultimately, we must all "through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God". It's part of the price.

But some are *congenitally* disinterested. And at the far end of the human spectrum are those psychopathically afflicted—having a hatred of God inborn; they are *"estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies"* (Psalm 58). These are the wicked. Christ did not die for them. Neither should we. But "while we were yet sinners," Christ died for *His sheep*. It remains for us to seek them out, as He did.

I've shared all of this because I've had trouble in my life discerning who my real enemies are—and learning they had nothing to do with me; rather they are the enemies of Christ and His kingdom. We are instructed to love our personal enemies (<u>God's love</u>, not the love of the world), but to <u>give no succor</u> to those who despise the Lord. As the prophet Jehu asked the king of Judah, "Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the Lord? therefore is wrath upon thee from before the Lord."

Enough with the mollycoddling.

We cannot personally cleanse the earth, nor root out all the sinners therein. We can't convince every fool that "what seems to be" is often *worse* than knowing nothing at all. Even Noah, the great preacher of righteousness, only managed to (barely) save his own family of 8 souls in 120 years of preaching. And even afterwards, some of them immediately went astray.

But Noah in fact may be an ironic example for us. Preaching to dogs may have seemed a wasted effort, but maybe it's yet necessary in extremely wicked times. The fool believes what he wants to, but chastising him for it, with scourges if necessary, may be our calling. We don't have to know the purpose —I suppose Noah never understood why he was commissioned to warn the whole world, which ultimately was going to die unrepentant, each and every one...It may have only been for his own sake, and that of his progeny. I suspect that it was. For us, however, the waters have long since receded, the new heavens and earth have arrived, and we are commissioned to bring ALL of it into subjection to the King. The time of appeasing the wicked and the willfully ignorant for hope that Christian niceties will eventually prevail is about over. The disinterested—the dead—are free to live among the tombs for now. But for society to exist again, the sworn enemies of Christ must ultimately be put into subjection. That was our command, if you recall.

Here is the sum of the matter:

The Age of Reason which once established the West has failed; fools and liars are a plague upon us, and it certainly appears that the inmates have now taken over the asylum... all that remains is persuasion by uncompromising resistance and ultimately, force. We may permit the enemy their own delusions, and to live in them, so long as they do not vex our souls and jeopardize our national standing with God. *Granting* them their delusions, however, is altogether another matter. This being their demand, let us deliver the righteous consequences of their folly (Psalm 149).

To be blunt, our 'wasted efforts' must at last bring forth fruit or it's time to cut down the tree and burn it in the fire. Or as J.R.R. Tolkien put it:

"It is not our part to master all the tides of the world, but to do what is in us for the succor of those years wherein we are set, uprooting the evil in the fields that we know, so that those who live after may have clean earth to till. What weather they have is not ours to rule."

I won't submit to living in a herd of pigs, and neither should you.