

Epilogue – “...and US”

Some of you, dear readers, may recall that the 'book' you've just waded through includes “...and US” in the subtitle, and be wondering what happened to the “US” part. I largely reserved comment on the similarities between America's culture war and the German Church War for this Epilogue so as not to distract from the flow of the story line of the latter events; and because there seemed no necessity of remarking on the obvious parallels between the two. Anyone who cannot draw the conclusion for himself that America is wandering along a pathway that leads to destruction just as Germany did is not likely to benefit from any comments of mine. But now that I come to this part, I am unable to write an after word - events are moving too rapidly, we are caught up in living the epilogue and how it will end I cannot foresee. But I will offer a few comments on the passing scene.

Early on in *War Comes*, I mentioned several books, movies, and radio broadcasts from 1942 that illustrated the contemporary understanding of World War II as a battle between Christian and anti-Christian cultures and world views. Tragically, even that superficial understanding of world events is being lost. The radio broadcasts included the germ of C. S. Lewis' later book *Mere Christianity*. Also germinating in Lewis' fertile mind was the third book of his adult science fiction space trilogy that culminated in 1945's *That Hideous Strength*. I care very little for them as literature. The story line seems contrived to serve another, and far more important purpose than entertainment - uncovering the spiritual war that underlies the conflict between Christian and anti-Christian cultures and world views. As a description, indeed as a prophecy of spiritual warfare in the modern world, *That Hideous Strength* is brilliant, perhaps even inspired; but, alas, largely ignored.

Modern man scoffs at the idea of spiritual war, even as the destruction it wreaks becomes everyday more apparent, even as Lewis's outlandish prophecies become reality - such things as the the revival of ancient pagan supernaturalism, the destruction of normal relations between the sexes, merging of man and machine, 'marriage' to robots, and children by unnatural means. Certainly the surrogate antagonist of the plot becomes daily more recognizable - a fusion of apostate religion, feckless government, and an industrial science establishment recklessly pursuing wealth and power through technology, euphemistically known as the N.I.C.E. As I learn more of some tech billionaires' misanthropic vision of the future, even Lewis's fictitious cabal nominally in control of that hideous strength is becoming more believable - a few men who have gained all the wealth, power, and honor the world has to offer, but who have lost their souls.

Of course, in Lewis's fiction, the narcissistic, would-be masters of the universe don't understand their spiritual bondage and are deluded into believing they are simply trafficking in knowledge with benevolent alien intelligences for the common goal of human "advancement". Satan is the ultimate antagonist of course, and his reign on earth is the ultimate goal. Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan were,

at the time of Lewis's writing, giving the world a small preview of the Kingdom of Hell on Earth. Unsurprisingly, Lewis's characters met much the same fate as the Nazi rulers. How I wish the lessons of history were properly learned.

I wrote the following near the beginning of **War Comes**, as you may recall:

That dark chapter in human history cannot be entirely explained by reference to political science, sociology, psychology, or psychiatry. It can be fully explained only in terms of Biblical revelation. This isn't a treatise on Theology, but we will be looking into some theological issues that played out very prominently in the Church War including the nature of God and man, of revelation, and the authority of scripture – worldview issues.

We will see clearly some Biblical truths that seem to be largely forgotten in today's world. In a half century of studying, I've never found better keys to understanding human history than that there is an enemy who roams up and down the land as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8); and that those who refuse the truth and have pleasure in wickedness will fall prey to strong and destructive delusions. (2 Thessalonians 2:11). Those two facts make a dangerous axis. If we examine the steps that led to the inferno consuming the Nazi regime we cannot but be struck with the realization, 'These are not the actions of rational men!' Yet, the German people by and large were well educated, according to secular standards of the day; and the worst of the Nazis, the SS, was composed of the brightest and best educated young men Germany had to offer.

It may well be that the most appropriate scripture to describe the Nazi era, and our own for that matter, is an obscure verse in Proverbs where the voice of Godly wisdom is calling out for men to find life and the blessings of God, but warning at the close, "all they that hate me love death" (Proverbs 8:36 KJV). To "love death" is an interesting concept. In fact, that's exactly how the great God hater Sigmund Freud described the deepest desire of human nature - the desire that inevitably overcomes the instinct for survival. We'll bear that in mind as we survey "mercy killings", the "final solution to the Jewish problem", and the war Hitler and his crowd brought upon their own people that was not only genocidal, but suicidal as well.

Suicide, if not the avowed goal, is certainly the general direction in which the formerly Christian western world is moving. It is interesting to see Freud, who despised the sacred scriptures of his own people, confirm them with his introspective "science". Man alienated from God has but one ultimate desire, a

futile hope in the 'quietness of non-being'. But Freud was wrong about the source of the desire. It is not from the depths of the human unconscious, but from outside it; from an implacable enemy whose existence is dedicated to the destruction of God's highest creation - mankind. To cut off oneself from God is to be under the influence of that Enemy and subject to his delusions. The Scriptural truth of the danger of strong delusion is well known even outside Divine Revelation. The ancient Greeks observed, as Longfellow put it into our tongue: "Whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad."

Germany abandoned the God of its fathers and made gods of reason, science, power and race. As in Moses' day when God set His face against the false gods of Egypt, God turned Germany's false gods against their worshipers to destroy them. Evil triumphed in Germany largely because of the spiritual weakness of the mass of professing Christians. Christians in Germany, both Catholic and Protestant, were highly secularized and put their focus on this world and their hopes on political messiahs. Mainline Protestant churches were locked into rationalism and liberalism. They ridiculed the Pietist ideals of a Spiritual Awakening, a personal relationship with Christ, answered prayer, and miracles. The "Born Again" experience in other words.

Because of that Spiritual weakness they were subject to the powerful delusions of Satan, only beginning with what Dietrich Bonhoeffer dubbed "the Doctrine of Cheap Grace". Because a Christianity of 'Cheap Grace' was meaningless, and everyone saw it, masses of German people turned away to heresies such as characterized the 'German Christians'; heresies that are attractive to many who have no depth of root in Holy Scripture. That eventuality is not surprising, it is foretold in the Bible, along with the penalty for those 'shepherds' who lead their flocks astray.

But what of "US"? Discerning Americans look in astonishment upon the cultural, political, social, economic, and military devastation that the past few years have wrought. They wonder how this could have happened; how did all our political and legal checks and balances fail, all our moral and social bulwarks melt away so easily and rapidly? And how can so many Americans seem not to notice or care, and even to welcome the onrushing calamity? The answer is that America is a nation under God's judgment. Rational argument has no power against the diabolical delusions that saturate our nation's psyche. Constitutional safeguards that our forefathers so laboriously built, with Divine help and inspiration, no longer offer us any protection. No political messiah can save America, although Americans have a duty to support righteous government. Neither will armed revolt prevail against God's instrument of judgment. There is only one hope for America, and that is repentance and a turning to the God of our fathers as there has never been in this nation before.

America has for generations now been abandoning the one true God, the God with whom our forefathers made covenants to serve and honor, and made gods of reason, science, wealth, pleasure, power, even freedom. Again, that God has turned our false gods against us – our reason has devolved into delusion, our science and technology is becoming the enemy of our very humanity, our freedom has decayed into a destructive moral libertinism increasingly coupled with social and political totalitarianism, our wealth has been turned into debt, our military power into an endless and futile drain of riches and lives, and those we have elected to serve us have become our masters.

Let me cite but a few examples of the strong, self-destructive delusion that seems to be controlling our destiny. The government whose official function is to protect and defend its citizens actively supports the destruction of our children through abortion. Thus our future is put in peril and Social Security and Medicare are rendered insolvent. Marriage and family, always recognized as the foundation of a healthy society, are targeted for destruction by that same supposed guardian of the people. The same government conspires to export American jobs, and at the same time conspires to import aliens to compete with our own people for the remaining jobs. Totalitarianism under the guise of protecting the public is developing at the same time criminal aliens and likely Jihadis are given sanctuary. Only days ago, as I write this, America agreed to fund Iran's development of nuclear weaponry and inter-continental ballistic missiles- Iran, a nation sworn to destroy us.

These are not the actions of rational people, but of people laboring under the strong delusion that comes upon those who reject God and find pleasure in unrighteousness. To call them "Liberals", or "Progressives" is to defame both terms. Their chief characteristic is their Godlessness, perfectly described in the first chapter of the Book of Romans. And we know from both reason and the lessons of history, as well as Scripture, what the future holds for them, and those they rule.

So, what are the chances of a great revival in America, one that would bring us back from the brink? I don't know, but believers should pray for it without ceasing. There is one sure comfort however - the building of God's Kingdom goes on apace whatever happens to America. The prophet Habakkuk was given word of the impending destruction of his nation because of their sins. He complained to God that the sins of the oncoming Babylonian hordes were worse than Judah's sins. God reminded him that whatever happened to the nation, "The just shall live by his faith".

That brings up a question, the only question really worthwhile: Faith in what, or whom? Perhaps next in importance is the question: What is faith? To inquire into those questions, let me recommend the Gospel of Jesus Christ.