

MODERN MADNESS

By

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The setting for the world's problems is found in the third chapter of Genesis in the sentence which God pronounced after the sin of Adam and Eve. Robert L. Whitelaw, professor at the University of Virginia, has suggested a nine-point division of that sentence.

“And Jehovah God said unto the serpent, because you have done this,

- 1) you (Satan) are cursed...and dust shall you eat...
- 2) I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed.
- 3) he (her seed) shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel...

And unto the woman he said,

- 4) I will greatly multiply your sorrow, and your conception...
- 5) Thy desire shall be to your husband, and he shall rule over you.

And unto Adam He said,

- 6) ...Cursed is the ground for your sake, thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to you...
- 7) in the sweat of your face shall you eat bread,
- 8) until you return unto the ground...for dust you are and unto dust shall you return.
- 9) Therefore Jehovah God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken...and He placed at the garden of Eden Cherubim and a flaming Sword to keep the way of the tree of life.” (Gen. 3:14–24)

As history speeds onward to its consummation at the judgment bar of God on resurrection day (John 5:28–29, Rom. 2:8, Acts 17:31, Rev. 20:11–15) a reaction to this sentence is in progress, a phenomenon never seen before except with regard to individual cities and nations, but now easily seen on a world-wide scale.

This phenomenon may be called “Dementia Praecritica”—madness before judgment. It was demonstrated in Pharaoh before the Exodus, when he abandoned all reason in his effort to defeat God's purpose to deliver the Hebrews from Egypt. It was seen in the fourth year of Jehoiakim when the nation was surrounded by Nebuchadnezzar's army and the king ceremoniously burned the word of the Lord as it was read. It was demonstrated in Belshazzar's drunken feast the night he saw the handwriting on the wall just before Darius the Mede captured the city. Perhaps the best example is that of the rulers of Jerusalem when they were besieged by Titus in 70 AD. Josephus, the historian who lived through that siege, described how the Jews tortured one another in the process of getting either gold or food and how mothers roasted and ate their own children. It is no wonder that Jesus spoke of this as the greatest tribulation the world was ever to know.

In each of these cases the madness, described fully in Jeremiah 25, infected only one doomed nation. Yet each case foreshadowed a final day when the whole world will be united in one last Satanic fling, in rebellion, against God.

This is exactly what we see taking place today on a world-wide scale and especially in the Western World which in times past has been so abundantly blessed by the Gospel. When we analyze the modern forms of this rebellion and delusion we find that they include every one of the nine points of God's sentence upon Adam, Eve and Satan in Eden, as listed above.

1) **The curse of Satan:** Instead of recognizing Satan as one cursed by God, modern civilization takes great pride in its tolerance of pluralism by recognizing and accepting religions which have their basis in Satan worship and in the occult.

Honor is paid to Lucifer through the lodge, through witchcraft, and through astrology which is extremely popular. Famous celebrities and political leaders have been identified with witchcraft. Instead of being horrified at this revelation the public is indifferent. Men bless that which God has cursed.

2) **Enmity between Satan and humanity:** Even Christians often fail to take Satan seriously; in fact, his very existence is scoffed at in many churches. One of the best ways to be a popular preacher today is to deny that there is any actual sin or any ultimate penalty of death for the sinner and offer instead a religion of self-improvement, positive thinking and ego-building. Although Jesus lived a constant conflict with those whom He claimed were children of the Devil, anyone involved in such open conflict in our day is likely to be cast out of the church as too radical.

3) **The final judgment:** Since man has come to terms with Satan, it follows that he would not be looking to a day when Christ, the seed of the woman, would crush Satan in judgment. Such judgment must include all those who follow Satan. To escape the judgment idea is one of the strong reasons for accepting the faith of evolution. Peter describes the evolutionists as last day "mockers" who say "Where is the promise of His coming? For from the day that the fathers fell asleep all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation" (II Peter 3:4). One of the main efforts of the humanists is the promotion of "value clarification" in the schools to abolish any concept of judgment and accountability to God for one's actions.

4) **Responsibility in child-bearing:** Who could possibly fail to see that one of the main purposes in the "woman's lib" movement is to give women complete freedom of sexual activity without the responsibility of child-bearing? Planned Parenthood and other groups in the feminist movement are trying to make unlimited contraception available to every female and then give her the right to feticide with impunity. According to their doctrine God is totally wrong in His laws concerning conception and child-bearing.

5) **Subordination to husbands:** In times past matriarchy was common only in the subcultures of the world, in countries which were considered uncivilized by the rest of the world. Western civilization, under the influence of the Bible, achieved high levels of accomplishment with distinctive roles accepted by husband and wives. Today these distinctions are being torn down with the resultant chaos clearly evident. Women have claimed the right of domination and the men have sheepishly relinquished it, not only in the home but in politics and society in general. This is a direct refutation of God's statement that the man should rule over the woman.

6) **Subjection of the Environment:** The earth was created for man's sake and wherever man is faithful to God, he is privileged to take the earth whatever is needful for his livelihood. He is dependent upon the ground and thus to God for food. The ground is under God's curse and will produce man's food only as long as God, in His sovereign power, enable it to do so, but modern man seeks to control and force the earth to meet his own terms apart from and in opposition to God.

7) **The necessity of labor:** The Bible endorses labor as the noble fulfillment of man's duty because of this just curse, but the ambition of modern man is to be abundantly supplied with food and comfort without labor. Many people expect to go straight from college into a position that requires a minimum of work for a maximum amount of pay so they can live the good life of fun and games and never know what it means: "in the sweat of your face you shall eat your bread." Efforts to stabilize the economy are thwarted by the millions who insist that it is their right to receive checks from the government and by the hordes of bureaucrats who profit from the set-up. This is Hedonism and economic madness.

8) **The sentence of death:** No where else is the rebellion so clear as it is here, where there is a universal rejection of the obvious. On the one hand there is a passionate love of killing and violence which confronts us every day with the morning news. On the other hand is the pretense that there is no death, supported by stories, opinions and superstitions designed to take away the fear of death. It was Satan who first came up with this idea when he said to Eve, "Thou shalt not surely die" (Gen. 3:4). Millenniums later Jesus said that Satan was the father of lies (John 8:44). Jesus never made any effort to deny death or to camouflage it. On the contrary he repeatedly warned that final death awaits those who reject Him. (John 3:16, 5:29, 8:24, Mt. 10 :28, 13:41-42, 25:41, etc.).

Jesus faced the reality of death by taking the believer's place and dying his death. He offers the only solution to death: resurrection from the dead at the day of judgment. Humanity including much of Christendom, joins in denying the death penalty God has imposed for sin, and thus misses the main point of the Gospel.

9) **Expulsion from the garden:** Man was cast out of the garden and away from the tree of life "lest he eat of the tree of life and live forever" in a state of sin (Gen. 3:22). God has barred the way to Paradise until the day he resurrects men and translates them into creatures like Himself (I John 3:2, I Cor. 15:51-54).

Paul wrote that the world will continue in "vanity" and "corruption" until the resurrection (Rom. 8:20-23), and Peter reveals that then there will be a NEW earth (II Peter 3:13).

In spite of this, the greatest movements of our day are based on the idea of establishing some kind of perfect world-order. The basic claim of Socialism is that it will establish a perfect society. The claim of Zionism and Premillennialism is that there must be 1,000 years of perfect order on this present earth. Both doctrines are contrary to the curse, which applies as long as the present earth stands. At judgment the earth will be destroyed and a new earth appear for the habitation of perfected saints. Then, and only then, "there shall be no curse any more" (Rev. 22:4).

In the meantime, we are given "all spiritual blessings" (Eph. 1:3) so that we can grow into God's image and be ready to meet the lord when He comes again. God's curse still stands. It is a sign of madness to deny it.

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