

Are You Hoping for a Jonah Moment?

by Jeremy James



There is a dramatic passage in the Book of Daniel where the prophet is called to interpret, if he could, the alarming message written on the wall of the great hall where Belshazzar and his royal retinue were feasting.

Daniel did not immediately explain the words, “**Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin**” but first gave the king a short lecture. It began with an account of a remarkable episode in the life of his grandfather, Nebuchadnezzar. When his heart was lifted up and his mind hardened with pride, he was deposed and lived for seven years among the wild asses, eating grass. He only regained his throne and his human faculties when, in true humility, he conceded that the Most High ruled in the kingdom of men and that he owed his royal position and his immense political stature to nothing but divine providence and the sovereign will of God.

Having sketched this scene from Belshazzar’s recent family history, Daniel made this singular statement:

**“And thou his [grand]son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this”
(Daniel 5:23)**

He might have said, “Have you learned nothing? You knew all this and *still* you behaved with the same pride and arrogance as your grandfather. *He* learned a hard lesson, but you learned nothing! You *knew* all this and *still* you behaved like a fool!”

Perhaps this is why the message from heaven was so concise. *Numbered, numbered, weighed, divided.* The judgment was exact, sudden and final. Within hours the entire royal family was executed and sovereignty over the kingdom of Babylon passed to the Medes and the Persians.

God had given them an immensely instructive message through Nebuchadnezzar’s humiliation. Once he was restored to the throne he even issued a general proclamation in which he shared details of his seven-year experience with the *whole world*. It began as follows:

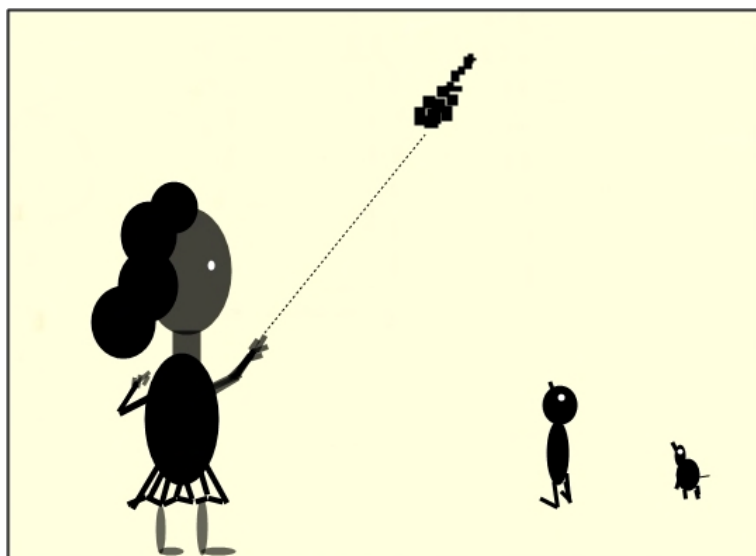
“Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth...” (Daniel 4:1)

What a remarkable, and truly unique, historical event! Every living soul was given the opportunity to hear how the most powerful man on earth was humbled by God, how he was taught an essential spiritual lesson, and how the Most High, the creator of heaven and earth, had restored him to his former glory.

Message from heaven

This ought to speak to us today. The *whole world* got a similar message on 9/11. The Wicked had intended to destroy three towers with three planes, but only two planes arrived. This meant a massive building collapsed into a pile of dust in just 10 seconds even though it had not been struck by a plane. It should have been obvious to everyone that the official account was absurd and that the building was brought down by a carefully planned demolition.

However, more than twenty years after the event, most professing Christians across the world, including their pastors and preachers, are still unable to see through the illusion. It would mean recognizing that the US government had committed an outrageous act of treason and was implicated in a cover-up of astounding proportions.



The evidence that God gave us through the absence of a third plane was enough – more than enough! – to show the world that the government was lying. Had they used the common sense that God has given us, they could have explored this further and realized that there was an undeniable connection between the criminal plan that these people were following and the End Time prophecies given in the Bible.

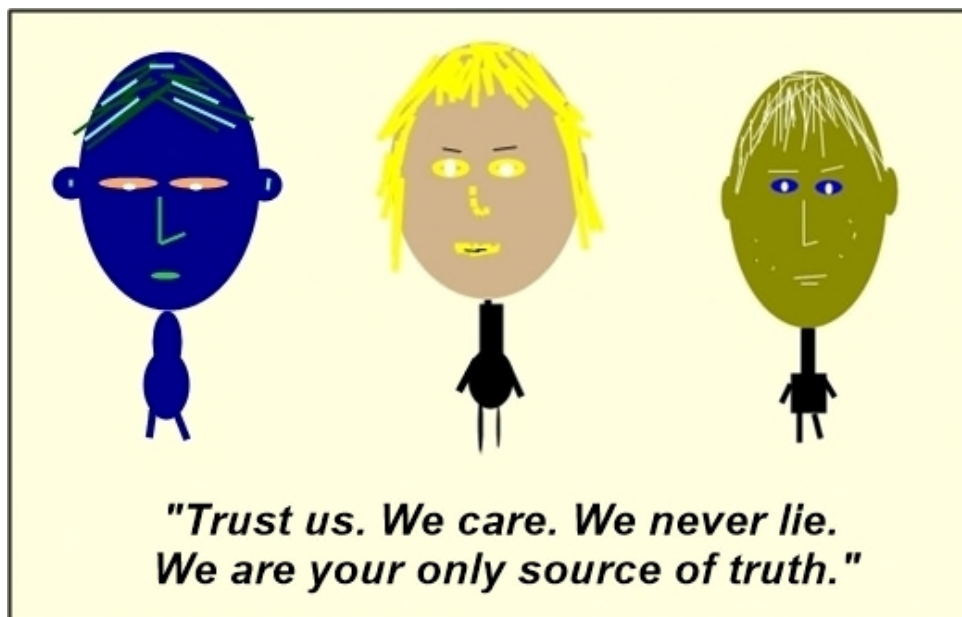
They knew the facts and had every opportunity to weigh their spiritual significance, but they chose not to. Just like Belshazzar.

Several decades passed before Belshazzar received a powerful message to say his hour of judgment had come. There was nothing he could do about it. He had allowed the time for reform and repentance to run out.

Never in history has a powerful kingdom changed hands as completely and as suddenly as Babylon.

The world got what ought to be regarded as a loud and clear warning from God on 9/11: *There is evil in your midst!* But America did not listen. Neither did the rest of the world. Two decades have passed and the time allowed for reform and repentance has almost run out. We can only guess how much time is left, but the outlook is bleak.

Will America change hands as completely and as suddenly as Babylon?



A frequently asked question

We often receive emails from readers asking why, in our opinion, so many Christians are either blind or indifferent to the highly organized evil in the world, in particular the ongoing attempt to create a 'New World Order' and replace traditional Biblical values with a pagan morality.

The same question was asked by a gifted scholar and theologian during the Third Reich. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor, was a staunch and very outspoken critic of the Nazis. He opened his mouth when very few of his kind dared to do so. His courageous stance led eventually to his imprisonment in April 1943. Before his death by hanging two years later, he wrote a number of letters which sympathetic guards smuggled to his contacts outside the prison.

One of these examined the role of “stupidity” in the mass indoctrination of the German people. How was it possible that so many cultured, intelligent and well-educated men and women could swallow Nazi propaganda in such a craven and submissive way? He settled on the word “stupidity,” not because the Germans were stupid – they weren’t – but because the outcome seemed like it could only have been due to stupidity. How else could a modern industrial nation allow itself to be led by a strange band of men who were steeped in radical ideology, pagan mythology, Teutonic supremacy, and a political mindset which did not hesitate to bludgeon and kill those who opposed them?

Bonhoeffer’s answer

Bonhoeffer began thinking outside the box. He reasoned that they must have fallen prey to some kind of stupidity, but a selective kind where the performance of normal daily activities was unaffected. He believed that “under certain circumstances, people are made stupid or that they allow this to happen to them... it becomes apparent that every strong upsurge of power in the public sphere, be it of a political or of a religious nature, infects a large part of humankind with stupidity.”



Remember, this man was imprisoned for opposing the Nazi regime, for striving tirelessly over many years to convince his disbelieving countrymen that their leaders were insanely dangerous. As he sat in his cell, fully aware that his life could be cruelly extinguished at any time, he tried to find a satisfactory answer: How could so many people be blind and deaf to all the evidence which proved beyond doubt that the Nazis would destroy Germany?

He wrestled with his “stupidity” theory and tried to identify its mysterious modus operandi. Eventually he concluded that “against stupidity we are defenseless. Neither protests nor the use of force accomplish anything here; reasons fall on deaf ears; facts that contradict one’s prejudgment simply need not be believed – in such moments the stupid person even becomes critical – and when facts are irrefutable they are just pushed aside as inconsequential, as incidental.”

Once he reached this point in his analysis he came to realize that the “stupid person” was actually a threat to society, a weapon in the hands of unscrupulous politicians and cunning leaders who knew how to manipulate the pliable mind of *homo doofus*, override his intellect, and make him do unspeakable things:

“In conversation with him, one virtually feels that one is dealing not at all with a person, but with slogans, catchwords and the like that have taken possession of him. He is under a spell, blinded, misused, and abused in his very being. Having thus become a mindless tool, the stupid person will also be capable of any evil and at the same time incapable of seeing that it is evil. This is where the danger of diabolical misuse lurks, for it is this that can once and for all destroy human beings.”

All quotations from ‘After Ten Years’ in *Letters and Papers from Prison* (Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works/English, vol.8) Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2010.



This is not the view of a college professor or an ambitious academic or journalist, but a man who had seen the process firsthand and watched it unfold step by step. He didn’t want to arrive at this conclusion but, having weighed the facts very carefully and reviewed again and again on the screen of his exceptional mind the shocking way the psyche of his nation had been infiltrated and dismantled, he had no choice.

He knew also that he wasn't just looking at Germany under the Nazis, but at all humanity. If a nation, any nation, allowed itself to be "blinded, misused, and abused" in this way, its destruction was assured.

He could see that, when this "spell" hung over it, a large proportion of the population believed whatever the government was telling them. Facts that contradicted one's preconceived notions were simply brushed aside.



A trial run for the chaos ahead

Nazi Germany was a trial run for the mayhem that lies ahead. Many of the propaganda tools and modes of intimidation that were used then are still being used today, albeit in a more insidious and sophisticated way. They get results because the "stupidity" described by Bonhoeffer is an indelible feature of our fallen human condition.

The Word of God never refers to this as stupidity but it does use a word which carries much the same sense. If we consider what it says about the fool, we will find many similarities. For example, "**The way of a fool is right in his own eyes.**" (Proverbs 12:15) There is no point in using facts and evidence to teach him something that he finds unpalatable. He simply won't listen. And above all don't lose patience and reprove him: "**A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.**" (Proverbs 17:10)

The fool is usually wise in his own conceit: "**...the fool rageth, and is confident.**" (Proverbs 14:16) When he wants to add to his wisdom, he looks to the far ends of the earth instead of the Bible: "**Wisdom is before him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth.**" (Proverbs 17:24)

What is most striking about the fool is his secret refusal to acknowledge and honor God: **“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.”** (Psalm 14:1 and 53:1). He can look at the amazing works of creation and fail to see therein the hand of his Creator: **“O LORD, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep. A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this.”** (Psalm 92:5-6)

No fear of God

Broadly speaking the fool has no fear of God. As tiny, fragile and vulnerable as he is, he steadfastly refuses to bow down before his Maker and say, “Thy will be done.” To the extent that he claims to fear God – as many do – their fear is based on what they have learned from man. It has no foundation in personal experience and the Word of God:

“Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:” (Isaiah 29:13)

Godly preachers can help us to understand what it means to fear God, but we need the guidance of the Holy Spirit to obtain it in an authentic way. And for this we must ask!

In our fallen condition we have no fear of God. None whatsoever. Even after we are born again, we need to be ever watchful lest our pride well up and deprive us of this blessed attribute.



Bonhoeffer was analyzing the behavior of a nation which had no fear of God. It was the root and cause of their dreadful malaise. In his letter he rightly concluded that “the only genuine way to overcome stupidity” was to acquire a fear of God.

When a nation loses its fear of God, it becomes more and more stupid. Fools begin to proliferate like rabbits.

Look at America today, a nation in which it is alarmingly difficult to find a God-fearing man or a God-fearing woman in many communities across the land. They were plentiful at one time, but not anymore. As a result tens of millions of its citizens are blind to the treasonous schemes of their leaders, the deliberate infiltration and sabotage of their key institutions, the insanely destructive policies formulated at state and federal level, the downsizing and off-shoring of their industries, the debasement of their currency, the diabolical lies told by their corrupt media, and the deliberate use of debt proliferation and irresponsible federal spending to undermine their economy. The God-fearing man or woman can see this but the fool sees little or nothing: *After all, he reasons, if something bad was happening, the government would have told us.*

Neither are they sickened by the federally-funded murder of unborn children, estimated at over 900,000 per year, even though they KNOW it is an appalling offense in the eyes of God – “**...for the innocent blood that he [Manasseh] shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the LORD would not pardon.**” (2 Kings 24:4).

To this we must add their indifference to the plague of sexual exploitation, abuse, abduction, torture and rape of women and children. It is beyond our comprehension.



Fall of Jerusalem and the Babylonian captivity, 586 BC

No country in recent history has enjoyed such conspicuous prosperity. The abundance of its blessings has been breathtaking. The Word of God required in return a standard of fruitful obedience and self-discipline which, alas, has been conspicuously absent over the past half century: “**For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required:**” (Luke 12:48)

The Fools unknowingly serve the goals of the Wicked

The Wicked can do all that they do because the fools allow them. They pretend not to see the body of evidence that is plainly visible and they resolutely refuse to dig just a little lest they uncover a whole lot more. It is just as Bonhoeffer said, “when facts are irrefutable they are just pushed aside as inconsequential, as incidental.”

Foolishness accumulates in a society, producing mindless behavior such as that of climate change activists, the woke brigade, gender change sloganeers, insect-eaters, and those who tarnish their flesh with indelible tattoos: “Having thus become a mindless tool, the stupid person will also be capable of any evil and at the same time incapable of seeing that it is evil.”

As we noted earlier, **“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.” (Psalm 14:1 and 53:1).** He rarely says this out loud but “in his heart” only. Meanwhile those who retain a grudging knowledge of God are unable to accept that He sees and knows everything and that He will judge each and every one of them in strict accordance with His righteous standards. These are the ones **“...that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil.” (Zephaniah 1:12)**

Again, they say it “in their heart” only, taking care to hide their true spiritual condition from others. They even deny the possibility that judgment may strike before they leave this world:

“Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and tomorrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant.” (Isaiah 56:12)

Believers with a solid grounding in the Word of God will recoil at this attitude, this astonishing refusal to accept that God must judge sin. He may in His mercy delay the day of reckoning, but when that day comes He will overlook nothing.



This is where America is today. The hammer could fall at any moment. The Enemy is using his earthly servants, the children of wickedness, to lure the nation as a whole to their destruction. No matter how much proof they are given of this impending calamity, the fools will not listen. God in His mercy has provided copious evidence of the iniquities that offend Him, but like Belshazzar – **“though thou knewest all this”** – they heed little and have learned nothing.

CONCLUSION

Like many of my fellow believers, I want to imagine that great numbers of sleeping souls are finally waking up and casting off their foolishness. However, there is no sign that this is happening. The Word of God tells us that, when a nation goes this far, it generally implodes. Nineveh was a remarkable exception, but can we seriously expect America to have a Jonah moment? Given the many warnings it has already received and brazenly ignored, not to mention the depth of apostasy and pagan sentiment that now prevails across America as a whole, we need to prepare for the worst:

**“Though thou shouldst bray a fool in a mortar among wheat
with a pestle, yet will not his foolishness depart from him.”
(Proverbs 27:22)**

**Jeremy James
Ireland
September 8, 2023**

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