



Spickard on

....Cognitive Dissonance

" Because you have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol we are in agreement...For you have made lies your refuge, and falsehood you have hidden yourselves." - Isaiah 28:15, NKJV.

" And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." - 2 Thessalonians 2:11, 1769 KJV.

" There is nothing so powerful as truth, -- and often nothing so strange." -Dan'l Webster.

" Truth lives a wretched existence, but it always outlasts a lie." - Anonymous.

" Cognitive Dissonance is the uncomfortable tension from holding two conflicting perceptions at the same time. It compels the mind to invent new thoughts, beliefs, or to modify existing beliefs to reduce such conflicts and tensions." -Wikipedia, web



< JESUS IN NAZARETH addressing the hearers in the Synagogue at the onset of his ministry. He opened his address from Isaiah 61. He said these words were being fulfilled in "real-time Prophecy." He then declared that he would be rejected by them as no Prophet is accepted in his own nation.

This discourse was so foreign to them that they were in extreme conflict over Christ's words in which they were forced to entertain ideas that threatened their self-image and security. Those who are involuntarily exposed to viewpoints that increase such discomfort or dissonance, go into deep denial. In this case, "they were filled with wrath,..that they might throw him from a cliff."

Cognitive Dissonance :

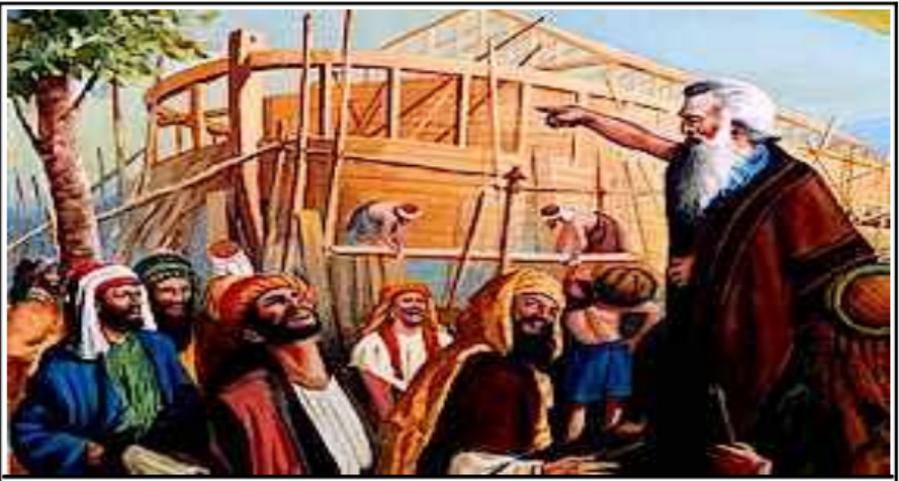
Sophisticated Unbelief?

The Bible throughout its content everywhere says that faith is a necessary virtue to please God. The opposite of faith is called unbelief. Faith is simple enough in most cases to understand...it is an abiding trust in God...which is a gift from God...and given to those who obey His Word through a covenant relationship with Him. The quality of unbelief is difficult to assess as there are so many motives for it in the human heart. Simple unbelief is given by the example of the Rich Young Ruler as told in the account of the Gospel of Luke (18:18-23).



< CHRIST and the Rich Young Ruler: He went away sorrowfully as he could not give up his riches to gain the Kingdom of God. Putting any object before God...is an example of simple unbelief. In this story, the ruler lacks faith in God to supply his needs, choosing to trust in himself and his riches which he considers a sure thing.

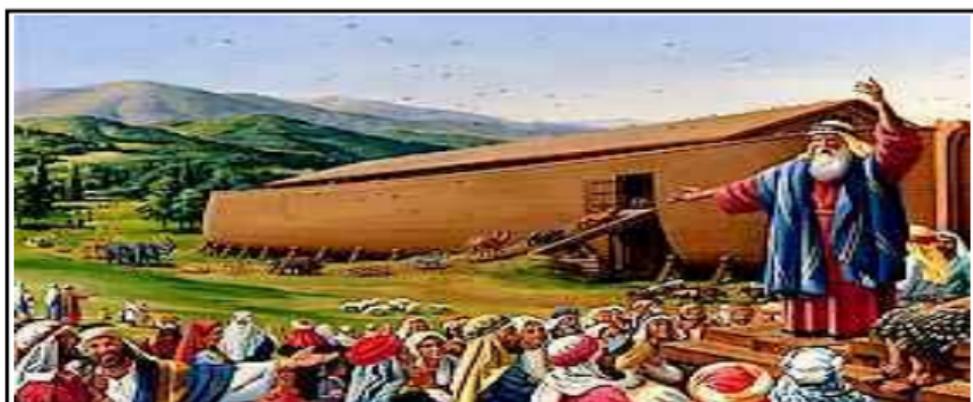
More sophisticated examples of unbelief are given throughout the scriptures too numerous to cite. The kind of unbelief that appears to most damning however, is a kind of willful and deliberate unbelief. There appears to be a type of entrenched unbelief that becomes a delusion in which whole classes of peoples are condemned. A good example of this in the Antedeluvian, or Pre-Flood, World. Despite the preaching of the Patriarch and Prophet Noah, the inhabitants were entrenched in an unbelief and rebellion so great that no amount of remonstrating, warning and pleading could persuade the mindsets of those of that World. They were so hardened in



^ THE PREACHING OF NOAH failed to bring one extra person into the Ark of safety. Interestingly, God had not planned for that to be case, there was apparently only room enough for Noah and his family of seven plus the many species of animals which boarded the Ark by the administration of Angels. It is shown by this example that God's ultimate salvation, while open to all, remains inclusive to those people whom He has foreknown....

their sins that they could withstand the darts of the Almighty in the conviction of their sins and instead come out daily to mock and scoff at "mad" Noah and his "simple-minded" sons, while they were busy with constructing the Ark. Perhaps, they had good reason to dismiss Noah and his message of "gloom and doom." There had never been such a phenomenon known as rain. God had been ignored for quite some time, even the larger majority of the "sons of God," or children of Seth, had apostatized from the worship of Yahweh that Noah was still advocating. They could do as they pleased. There had never been any sort of climate change: the earth was covered with a swathing band of moisture that was a natural humidifier on the earth. There was no empirical proof that such a colossal event and disaster could be effected on the world's populace at the time. It was so preposterous an idea that there was no tension or discomfort at the strange perceptions and conditions that Noah was proposing. It did not even create the smallest amount of denial apparently except for the constant railing, mocking, and defamation that poured from their lips ridiculing such an absurd scenario that Noah presented.

Then one day, something incredible happened to shake the confidence of the mockers and the scoffers....the animals started to emerge, walking in a cadence that had never been seen before as if, they were in a parade order. Hundreds of them, thousands of them descended on the scene...then as they milled harmlessly about,



^ NOAH'S LAST MESSAGE was not well taken. The Antedelvians were getting upset. The phenomenon and appearance of the thousands of animals near the Ark was finally unsettling and uncomfortable to them. Some wanted Noah to deny such a Judgment was coming after all ! It was enough ! Others started to get violent as a result of the conflict of what they saw...and the conflict of what they denied...The crowd was no longer mocking, but instead became tense. God hurried Noah from their midst, and caused Noah to enter the Ark for safety, with God shutting the very door of the Ark himself, as Noah went in....

then they once again, in twos and sevens, depending on their status as "unclean and clean," walked in perfect cadence onto the Ark. This mystified the Antedeluvian audience. Such an event had never been before witnessed. Such an occasion went contrary to everything and anything that they had experienced before. Those emerging from this shock formed into a crowd as usual before Noah. This time, however, the mocking and the scoffing was at a minimum. Instead, there was an uncomfortable tension, and a kind of slow anger and denial that such a scene could be taking place before their very eyes. The conflict in them became apparent. Some wanted, violently, for Noah to deny their judgment was at hand. This time, Noah turned away...it was too late.



< **" THE END OF ALL FLESH is come before Me," said the Lord to Noah. It may be thought that the scene, lower left, could have occurred. But the neo-canonical Book of Jasher, left, tells a different narrative of the Flood account . It states in the seven days preceding the Flood there were pole shifts in the earth. Jasher records that as a result of the pole shifts that as many as 700,000 Antedeluvians tried to storm the Ark, but were blocked by thousands of extra animals that had not boarded the Ark, but remained outside of it, protecting Noah and his family from the panicked throng.**

The Antedeluvians suffered from cognitive dissonance. They could not tell the Signs of the Times. Indeed, they were like the Jews that Jesus spoke to in the Gospels (Matthew 16:2-3; Luke 12:54-56) who could discern the face of the sky and determine the weather. But they could not discern the Signs of the Times of their impending judgment. The Antedeluvians, as many of the Jews in Jesus' day, were so hardened in their sins that they could see nothing on the horizon that would change their willful and wicked ways. Jesus had warned his hearers that a Judgment of Fire would come within their generation. He told them that they would be turned into "Gehenna," symbolic of the Valley of Hinnom, southwest of Jerusalem, which was a refuse and garbage dump where incessant fires always burned...and if the refuse was not consumed by fire, then it was consumed by decay worms. When the Roman Army came to besiege Jerusalem, all the Messianic Jews had already left the city and escaped to Pella and regions beyond the Jordan River. Just as Jesus had told them to do. The 1.1 million inhabitants that stayed believed in themselves. They had cognitive dissonance. They could not believe that it was the end of the line for them. They could not believe that the Romans would destroy them. Instead, they invented new beliefs and modified existing ones : they believed

that God would finally send the Deliverer, the real Messiah, the real Christ, to deliver them and destroy the Roman Armies, the Abomination of Desolation that Jesus described. One false Christ came after another, but none were able to save them. In the end, Christ's words were fulfilled. Jerusalem was destroyed, and the Temple too, as it was razed to the ground. Nearly one million Jews lost their lives in the Roman siege.

Cognitive Dissonance = Strong Delusions...

It is evident that there are some things more to be feared than others. Some are afraid of everlasting punishments; others of divine disaster and retribution; most, however, do not fear God at all. This is unfortunate, but true. For such... the worse fear will come upon them! Strong delusions, or believing a lie. The lie that they can do what they wish without accountability to God. This is ingrained in them so, that they suffer from *cognitive dissonance*. They scoff and mock at anything that might undo their "good times" and security. They are "strongly deluded." This is the most *frightening* thing to come on a People. This is evident in the United States. Americans are ingrained to take for granted that the good times and prosperity will continue. They are told that they are the "apple of God's Eye," by their false hireling ministers. The complete opposite is true. *God is not an American... and there is no respect of persons with Him!* Are you in conflict or denial reading this? Do you have *cognitive dissonance*?

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the Times
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The U.S. Flag flying upside down denotes "distress!" Is this a portent of things to come? Americans have institutionalized divorce, abortion, feminism, and homosexuality... what's next?

