

***Your message burns in my heart and bones, and I cannot keep silent.*** (Jeremiah 20:9)

***The testimony of JESUS is the spirit of the prophecy.*** (Revelation 19:10c)

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### ***Fear — An Ancient Tactic***

In March, 2019, I posted an article on *Hell — Reality or Pagan Imagery?* In this, I challenge the Christian narrative of hell (which is not the gospel; using Paul's term, it is "another" gospel!) held by so many in our day as something that came out of paganism that was designed to keep the masses in line with the governing authorities. Simply, **they kept the masses in line through fear of an invisible world of punishment and torture.** Under the heading of ***Power and Control Over the Masses***, I wrote:

So, what is the explanation? It is discovered in the words ***power*** and ***control***. History is ripe with proof that leaders use fear and superstition, as their preferred weapon, to control the masses. In the case of hell, corrupt leaders fed the masses lies about an afterlife where they would be tortured if they did not live a certain way. If you don't believe this is possible, then read history and look around you today and **ask yourself if there is not a move afoot to corral people into thinking certain ways based on fear.** It is particularly abhorrent in our day, especially through the internet, agenda-driven media, politicization of nearly everything public, advertising, **hyped-up medical pandemics**, and the list goes on. Why? It is for power and control and, let us not forget the most nefarious of all—the love of money, the root of all evil. **Corrupt and immoral leaders know that if the masses truly understand what is going on around them, they will revolt. How best to control them but to feed them lies? Today, people call it *fake news!***

In case you might doubt what you just read, consider these quotes from some ancients.

"Since the multitude is ever fickle, full of lawless desires, irrational passions and violence, **there is no other way to keep them in order but by fear and terror of the invisible world**; on which account our ancestors seem to me to have acted judiciously, when they contrived to bring into the popular belief these notions of the gods, and of the infernal regions." Polybius (205-125 BC)

"**The multitudes are restrained** from vice by the punishments the gods are said to inflict upon offenders, and **by those terrors and threats which certain dreadful words and monstrous forms imprint upon their minds** ... For it is impossible to govern the crowd of women, and all common rabble, by philosophical reasonings, and lead them to piety, holiness and virtue — but **this must be done by superstition**, or the fear of the gods, by means of fables and wonders; for the thunder, the aegis, the trident, the torches (of the Furies), the dragons, &c., are all fables, as is also all the ancient theology. **These things the legislators used as scarecrows to terrify the childish multitude.**" Strabo (64 BC-24 AD)

"This seems to have been done on no other account, but as it was the business of princes, out of their wisdom and civil prudence, **to deceive the people in their religion**; princes under the name of religion, persuaded the people to believe those things true, which they themselves **knew to be idle fables**; by this means, **for their own ease in government**, tying them the more closely to civil society." Augustine (354-430 AD) in *City of God*

Instilling fear in the masses is an age-old tactic by those in a position to do so, either to ensure the maximum amount of power and control over the masses, or to solidify and maintain what they already had, or to achieve some new end (good or bad). Throughout the centuries, the unsuspecting masses, often viewed as ignorant, uninformed, and superstitious, were easily controlled by fear, as long as they could be convinced that there was some grave, unseen danger. Unseen enemies were the best ones.

Now, I was quite surprised when I read what I wrote back in early 2019. Why I included ***hyped-up medical pandemics*** as one of the tools for instilling fear is a mystery to me, since it was not really on my radar. But then again, nothing is a mystery to the spirit of the Lord. I believe it was (is) a prophetic word describing the so-called *covid pandemic* that has been hyped-up to instill fear in the masses in order to get all to do as they are told (through executive orders). **Fear motivates!** Add to this **the latest tactic of guilt: *Do what we tell you, not only for your sake but for the sake of your loved ones, your neighbors, and the common good.*** And they claim that their actions are all based on **science and data**, which are their **new gods**.

Obviously, I hold a certain narrative of the current situation, but stepping back from it: **Are we witnessing a modern-day version of power and control over the masses? If so, is it simply to save people from death (after all, people don't know what's best for them), or is there something else driving it (ideological agenda), or is this a further sign of the crumbling of man's structures? Is fear being purposely (intentionally) driven, or is it simply an unintended consequence of dealing with a serious situation?**

The answer to these questions rests in what voices people listen to through whatever media. There is a ***mainline narrative*** that comes through what could be called the ***establishment*** (however one wants to define it), and another that could be called the ***alternate, independent narrative*** that comes through the vast array of voices outside the establishment (many of which challenge the mainline narrative). In listening to others, it doesn't take long to realize which narrative they find the most acceptable. Personally, I try to scan as much of both narratives as I can to get a broad perspective of what is being said out there. The challenge is searching for the truth in what seems more like **a boiling pot of confusion**. It reminds me of Pilate who replied to Jesus: ***What is truth?*** Of course, the answer is Jesus! As a reminder; we have His anointing within us because we have His spirit within us, which is **the spirit of truth**. In this day, we need more than man's narrative; we need to embrace what could be called the ***spirit, God-dependent narrative***.

We are living in very dangerous times with fear as a driving force. Consider the last twenty years: fear of ***terrorist attacks*** (2001), ***financial crises*** (2008), ***climate change*** (2009), ***Trump*** (2015), and now ***pandemics*** (2020). In part, these define the **21-year cycle** that has been in play since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Are we being driven by evil, global elitists into a **diabolical new world order** (claimed by some *alternate narrative*), or is God driving humanity toward **the glory of His kingdom** (promised by the *spirit narrative*)? We can be absolutely sure of the latter, but there seems to be growing evidence that the former has been in play, as well. The good news is that we know who has the upper hand and will ultimately prevail—the one who so loves the world that He has only good intentions for it. Evil can only go as far as God the Father allows. Good ultimately wins over evil! Better yet—**LOVE WINS!**

Be encouraged; do not fear; know that our protector and defender is King Jesus, who is our life.

May God our Father and His Son, our Lord Jesus, reveal their love to the masses during this hour!

**LOVE HAS NO FEAR!**