

Was Notre Dame Burning an Omen?

My wife Cindy and I have been guests at several of Dennis and Sue Prager's Shabbat dinners. Of course, the Pragers are Jewish. Dennis wrote an insightful article concerning the problems facing Europe and Western civilization. It is titled "Notre Dame: An Omen" and is reprinted in its entirety below.

To the challenge how to put a halt to the secularization of America, 1 Chronicles indicates it ought to be done by "those who had understanding of the times" (1 Chron. 12:32b, NKJV). What is needed for the spiritual renewal of the nation are Issacharian leaders with know-how and mastery who can recognize and implement Solomon's directive that "By me kings reign, and rulers decree justice."

Dr. Bruce K. Waltke pointed to the virtues begotten in those who have with awareness and perception "sought Wisdom, [and] submitted themselves to her teachings, and so attained the personal, spiritual, and moral knowledge" the contemplation of Scripture gives rise to. Wisdom's virtues, such as "shrewdness, discretion, counsel, resourcefulness, and heroic strength," says Waltke, "enable kings to reign and rulers to decree justice."

The all-pervading confusion about gender that holds sway over the Millennial and Gen Z generations has its origins in the apostasy that started in the late 19th century and continues unabated to this day. As a case in point, the latest media miracle-man, Millennial South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg, is running for president on the Democratic ticket. Latterly, Buttigieg pontificated about what he called the way for "developing a closer relationship with God."

"And yes, Mr. Vice President," he said in affirmation of his

marriage to another man, "it has moved me closer to God."

Let's be clear: Mayor Buttigieg is as hard left as any of the other Democrat presidential candidates, most notably Bernie Sanders. His only chance to come through in the Midwest and the South will be to rewrite the Bible so as to vindicate his lifestyle. Hence, his undue focus on the vice president.

What is now taking place in America did not happen overnight. The current savagery and ramping up of the Philistine vulgarity of the culture is on full display as the outgrowth of a nation moving away from God. The political, cultural and personal war being waged in the public square is spiritual, against the living biblical God Jehovah. As per the Tytler cycle in history, each generation, as sin compounds, becomes more worldly and carnal. And then "carries to the third and fourth generations."

Unless broken by Christ's intervention.

State-sponsored immorality codified into law, as exemplified by the Obergefell vs. Hodges decision in 2015, compounds the disconsolate outcome of America's apostasy over the last century. At long last, Christians will either have to return to the model that Jesus said He would build, of which "the gates of Hades will not prevail against it," or lose their freedom.

Praise be to God for the good news that Gideons and Rahabs are beginning to stand.

Without further ado, here is Prager's article:

Notre Dame: An Omen

by Dennis Prager

The symbolism of the burning of Notre Dame Cathedral, the most renowned building in Western civilization, the iconic symbol of Western Christendom, is hard to miss.

It is as if God Himself wanted to warn us in the most unmistakable way that Western Christianity is burning—and with it, Western civilization.

Every major Western (and one major non-Western) social and intellectual force has conspired to rid Europe of Christianity and the civilization it produced.

Within the Western world, the French Enlightenment—the intellectual basis of the French Revolution and the modern West—sought to replace Christianity, and religion in general, with secularism rooted in reason. No God, Bible or Ten Commandments is necessary for morality or meaning: reason (and science) will replace them.

The two final deathblows to Christianity in Europe were the world wars. World War I ended most Westerners' belief in the nation-state and the West. Christianity, already weakened by the Enlightenment, was further weakened by World War I. German Christians were killing millions of French and English Christians, and French and English Christians were killing millions of German Christians. So the argument and sentiment against Christianity went. Then World War II saw even more death on the Christian continent as well as the failure of Catholic and Protestant churches in Nazi Germany to offer even minimal noncompliance with the Nazis' Jew-hatred.

With the end of World War II, every internal Western intellectual doctrine was secular. God, the Bible and religion were regarded at best as innocuous nonsense and at worst as noxious nonsense.

Meanwhile, Europeans brought a non-European ideology into Europe, an ideology that, for more than a thousand years, sought to replace Christianity as the world's dominant religion. The Europeans, believing in nothing distinctly Christian or Western and believing in the moral and intellectual nonsense known as "multiculturalism"—a doctrine

that asserts that all cultures are morally equivalent—saw nothing problematic in bringing millions of Muslims into Europe. They had no idea that most of these people actually wanted to replace Christianity with their religion. They had no idea because, in their ignorance and arrogance, they assumed that because they were secular multiculturalists, everybody else was, too—or would be, once they lived in Europe.

They were wrong, of course. And as a result, the two dominant forces in Europe – secular leftism and Islamism—sought the end of Christianity and the West. (The left believes that protecting Western civilization is equivalent to protecting white supremacy.)

This is not producing a pretty picture. Generally speaking, Islam has not been nearly as kind, tolerant, open, medically or scientifically innovative or intellectually curious as Western civilization (and yes, Nazism and communism were born in the West, but they were anti-Western).

Even without tens of millions of Muslims, post-Christian Europe has not produced a pretty picture. This was predicted in 1834, 100 years before Hitler's rise, by the great German poet Heinrich Heine, a secular Jew (who later converted to Protestantism, "the ticket of admission into European culture"):

"Christianity—and that is its greatest merit—has somewhat mitigated that brutal German love of war, but it could not destroy it. Should that subduing talisman, the cross, be shattered, the frenzied madness of the ancient warriors, that insane Berserk rage of which Nordic bards have spoken and sung so often, will once more burst into flame. This talisman (the cross) is fragile, and the day will come when it will collapse miserably. Then ... a play will be performed in Germany that will make the French Revolution look like an innocent idyll."

European Christians persecuted European Jews, often brutally. But it took a post-Christian ideology, secular Nazism, to produce Auschwitz—just as it took post-Christian communism to produce the Gulag, the Chinese Cultural Revolution and the Ukrainian and Cambodian genocides.

Moreover, Nazism and communism aside, the left's belief that secular reason can replace God and the Bible turns out to be completely wrong. The alleged citadels of secular reason—the universities—are the most irrational and morally confused institutions in the West.

I don't know if a worker accident or a radical Muslim set fire to Notre Dame Cathedral [as they have scores of other churches around Europe]. In terms of what the fire represented, it doesn't much matter. What matters is the omen: Europe is burning, just as Notre Dame was.