



JAN-FEB 2010

STRAIGHT TALK

"...to turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers ..." – Mal. 4:6

REAL SOCIAL SECURITY

PREPARE THE WAY

God made Israel a people bound together not only by genetics but also by social ties. He accomplished this, in part, through covenants that tied them together and to their God. His purpose was to showcase a people (Israel) to demonstrate to the world the blessings that were possible when a people followed God's principles. Those blessings, in no small part, revealed the "synergy" created by spiritual and social connection via family and community. "Synergy" is the effect created when two or more people cooperate so that the result equals more than the sum of its parts. In other words, two people cooperating, under Christ, accomplish more than twice what they could individually.

19. *Again I say to you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.*
20. *For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*

Mtt. 18:20

John the Baptist was sent "in the spirit and power of Elijah" to "make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (Lk. 1:17). This was in fulfillment of the promise given 400 years earlier in Malachi 4:

1. *For behold, the day comes that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that comes shall burn them up, says Yahweh of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.*
2. *But to you that fear my name shall the light of righteousness arise with healing in its rays, and you shall go forth as calves of the stall.*
4. *Remember the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, with statutes and judgments.*
5. *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of Yahweh:*
6. *And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the*

children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse.

Today the curse is upon us: the remnants of Israel ... for it is obvious that the hearts of the fathers and of the children are turned away from each other. He foresaw a time when **FAMILY AND COMMUNITY WOULD BE BROKEN DOWN**. Fathers, children and communities today have few if any common interests. Social ties between family and community today are very loose, and often non-existent.

So what happened to traditional social ties? Why did they lose their appeal? Why is brotherhood and fellowship a lost tradition? Why do people no longer need it? There was a time in the past when it was greatly valued.

The answer is basic and inescapable. God designed society in the form of family, community and tribes ... for our good. In his patriarchal style of society God Himself was Lawgiver, Judge and King (Is. 33:22). Society was based upon HIM ... not like today where society is based upon the moods and whims of men. God instructed us to be families and tribes ... and as long as our Israel ancestors did as He instructed them, they were prosperous and happy.

There was an option, however. That option was to adopt the "Serpent's" system (called "The Beast System") in opposition to God's system. We see first evidence of it in Genesis 3 ... propounded by a "serpent" (a politician/priest). In essence, it is the belief that man is best served by becoming his own god and living by his own principles (thus, he is his own lawgiver, his own judge and his own king).

Under God's system we, as a people, are rooted and strong because we stick together and look to God as our King ... and to each other for trust and fellowship.

However, under the Beast System we are taught to look to the Beast (man's government/religion) for all our needs, rather than to God, family, friends and community. This separates us into units of ONE and thus easily manipulated and defeated. For instance, today women have no need of men or family for protection and honor. Likewise, children have no need for parents. The reason they don't need men or parents is that they have Big Brother (church & state) that

promises to do for them all the things for which they formerly depended upon husbands and parents. Of course, the Beast's promises are false. Women and children who depend upon in the Beast System always get hurt, but by the time they realize they've been hurt the damage has already been done to them, to the family, and to society. Now you can understand why 40 years ago the Beast System initiated the "Feminist Movement" and convinced silly women to abandon their tradition ties as moms and wives. The smart ones resisted the propaganda.

The Beast System UPROOTS those over whom it rules. It doesn't just uproot women, it uproots ALL by creating an unnatural and unhealthy relationship where the state replaces the rolls of natural family and community.

CAN IT BE THAT SIMPLE?

Why haven't we seen this before? Does God's salvation for man include instructions about the company we keep? In Luke 3:6 we read that "*the salvation of God*" as prophesied in Isaiah chapter 40 would be seen (realized) by ALL FLESH. That means it is pretty basic.

5. And the glory of Yahweh shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it...

Yes, all flesh has seen God's salvation through his Son. However, NOT all are accepting that salvation. In other words, not all men will accept Jesus as King and Lord. In fact, it appears that very few are willing to do this. Most prefer to have the state as their savior.

Those who accept Jesus are blessed ... as they are touched by the rays of the "*light of righteousness*" (Lk. 1:17). And those who reject Jesus' plan for society are "*curse*" as in Malachi 4:6. Like the sun, this simple truth shines upon ALL FLESH, but not all will accept it.

Thus ALL FLESH (all mankind) finds itself on trial by the unquenchable light of Jesus. He (Jesus) is the shining light ... the refiner's fire of judgment that exposes the dark corners and burns the wicked as stubble.

The witness of Jesus most assuredly changed the world. He cast a light in dark places and revealed sin and error there. He offered healing light to ALL. Truth, like sunlight, shined out from Him and through his apostles. Truth and salvation was, and is, available to ALL FLESH as sunlight is available to all living things.

However, some living things prefer the dark. Some people hate the light ... because it reveals things they prefer to keep hidden ... or had rather not know about.

4. In Him is life; and the life is the light of men.

5. And the light shines in darkness; and the darkness overpowers it not.

19. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil.

20. For every one that does evil hates the light, neither comes to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

21. But he that does truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought of God.

Jn. 3:19-21

THE CURSE

The "*curse*" (the judgment) is the alienation/dislocation we see all around us today ... where people have NO ROOTS, no connection and no identity. No affinity with brethren or with God. Here is the effect that differentiates between those blessed of God in contrast to those cursed of God. The key is obvious once you see it.

I came upon this recently while I was researching the causes of "heart disease." God puts answers before us, and then He waits to see what we will do. Clues and pointers are always there ... but we usually ignore them.

This particular key pointed me to a truth that I had known in part for some time ... but with a twist. It just so happens that one proven risk factor for heart disease is BEING SOCIALLY DISLOCATED or "UPROOTED." There are actual case studies on this showing that people's cardiovascular health deteriorates when they get moved out of their natural environment. This caught my attention. Then it really hit home when I read Malachi 4 where we see that God turns "*the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers.*" In other words, God's idea of a good, healthy society is one in which there is genuine and deep social connection and unity.

I'll explain. And while you think on this, here's a word to add to your vocabulary:

DERACINATION: *an uprooting; a cutting off; being moved out of your natural environment; cultural/social dislocation.*

In God's law, the worst punishment a man can receive is not death. The worst punishment is being "cut off" ... as in Lev. 18:29: "*For whosoever shall commit any of these abominations, even the souls that commit them shall be cut off from among their people.*" In the New Testament it is called giving them over to the adversary (I Cor 5:4-5) or to their own reprobate mind (Rm. 1:28). In other words, they get cut off from God's nurturing environment.

HOW TO DESTROY A CULTURE

Students of history know that one common strategy practiced in warfare from time immemorial is that the winning side uproots and deports (relocates) the losers. Israelites called it "going into captivity," and it happened to them in the dislocation forced upon them by Assyria and Babylon. For the past 50 years the Israelis have worked this formula upon millions of uprooted Palestinians.

The Irish have suffered historic dislocation and cultural confusion due to oppression from Britain, as well as mass migration to countries foreign to them.

The wars waged by Britain, and later America, usually ended with their defeated enemies being deported and/or dispossessed, with new borders drawn, new national names and new governments forced upon them. The people were

socially scattered and dispossessed.

In recent decades the US military did the same to the Vietnamese, and then invaded them. They are trying again now in Iraq and Afghanistan ... and failing. In deed, failure has lately become an expected outcome for US wars. The Beast's war machine may be losing traction internationally.

HOW TO DESTROY HEALTH

As it turns out, our health (particularly our hearts' health) is affected by the same principle that affects our mental health. Being UPROOTED hurts us both socially and biologically. "DERACINATION" is a formidable means of hurting people. Being "cut off" from your own people and your social norms makes you unhealthy and unhappy.

The Irish have one of the highest rates of cardiovascular disease in the developed world ... nearly twice that of the European Union. This, no doubt, is due largely to their oppression, migration, and loss of social connection.

On the flip-side of that coin we can look at Roseto, Pennsylvania. Here we see an anomaly labeled the "Roseto Paradox." It has piqued the interest of researchers of heart disease. Here's the story.

It is well known among cardiovascular researchers that Italy and France both have low rates of cardiovascular disease. The diets of the Italians and French provide no meaningful answers as to why they have less heart disease. They consume fats and pastries just like Brits and Americans, but they have much less heart disease.

The answer, as it turns out, was already beginning to be suspected by some researchers even before Roseto, PA became an issue. The answer is in their strong family and social connections ... the same as in Roseto..

Until about 1965, the people of Roseto, a small town in eastern Pennsylvania, seemed all but immune to heart disease. They smoked as much as the folks in nearby Bangor. They ate similar food, and they relied on the same doctors and hospitals. Yet their death rate from heart attacks was significantly lower. Why? Roseto's most striking distinction was its tight-knit social life. Founded in 1882 by immigrants from southern Italy, Roseto was full of three-generation households with strong commitments to community and family. But when those traditions eroded, so did Roseto's health. Younger Rosetans traded their traditional culture for America's culture ... to "get ahead." They abandoned the ways of the "old people." Soon they were stressed and unsettled ... and the "Roseto effect" vanished.

In 1971, the first heart attack death of a person younger than forty-five years old occurred in Roseto. And things got worse. In spite of new efforts by townspeople to cut down on smoking and fat consumption, coronary heart disease more than doubled through the 1970s, hypertension tripled, and there was a substantial increase in strokes. By the end of the decade, the number of fatal heart attacks in the town had risen to the national average.

Was social change the culprit? There are many reasons to think so. The quality of our relationships can have profound effects on our health. Mounting evidence shows that people without close, durable ties to family and friends

are at high risk for everything from cancer and heart disease to ulcers and infections. Social connections are at the root of what makes us sick and what makes us well. No other factor in medicine – not diet, not smoking, not exercise – has a greater impact.

How could something as mushy as "social support" affect the growth of a tumor or the function of a coronary artery? For starters, it helps regulate our behavior. People with commitments to honor are less likely to abuse themselves. They drink less, eat better and avoid needless risks. Companionship also lets us share feelings that would otherwise fester. When people regularly talk or even write about things that are upsetting them, their immune systems perk up and they require less medical care.

Besides changing our behavior, social support can modulate our physiological responses to stress. Stress tests taken by lone patients increase heart rate and blood pressure twice as much as when accompanied by a friend.

When you consider what chronic stress can do to us, the long-term benefits of friendship are not hard to fathom. The stress hormones (adrenaline, noradrenaline and cortisol) switch the entire body into emergency mode. Anything not involved in fighting or fleeing – digestion, immune function, bone production, sexual function – goes on hold. That's exactly what you want in a "fight or flight" situation. Three minutes, no big deal. But if every day is an emergency, you pay a price. People who lack social support tend to stew in stress hormones constantly. Studies confirm the health effects. When researchers at Carnegie Mellon University exposed volunteers to a cold virus, the most isolated got sick at four times the rate of those with the most social ties. (Source: *Time Magazine*)

Roseto was and remains, a dynamic example of the health dangers involved in the fracturing of cultural ties ... i.e., DERACINATION (uprooting).

It hurts to be alienated or culturally dislocated. We all know this deep inside, but we may not have realized just how damaging it really is both to our physical health and to our mental health.

NORMAN COUSINS

Another example stands out in recorded medical phenomena – that of Norman Cousins. He was the editor and well-known political analyst for the *Saturday Review*. In the 1970s he authored a highly unusual paper that was published in the prestigious *New England Journal of Medicine*. The paper was called "*Anatomy of an Illness (as Perceived by the Patient)*," and it was an autobiographical account of a radical experiment in self-healing that Cousins had undertaken in the 1960s. Diagnosed by his doctors with a degenerative disorder called ankylosing spondylitis (which causes the breakdown of collagen, the fibrous tissue that binds together the body's cells) and given a grim prognosis (a 1-in-500 chance of recovery), Cousins decided he had nothing to lose by jettisoning the procedures of conventional medicine and taking control of his own treatment.

Cousins had read the laboratory research of scientists such as endocrinologist Hans Selye and physiologist Walter

B. Cannon on *"the negative effects of the negative emotions on body chemistry."*

If negative emotions produce negative chemical changes in the body, wouldn't the positive emotions produce positive chemical changes? Is it possible that love, hope, faith, laughter, confidence and joy have therapeutic value?

He checked out of the hospital and into a hotel because hospital environment was not conducive to positive, happy emotions. He took himself off all pain medications and put himself instead on a diet of steady positive effect: good company, comedies, humorous literature, and induced, genuine and regular laughter.

He discovered that 10 minutes of genuine belly laughter had an anesthetic effect and would give him at least two hours of pain-free sleep. This was just the beginning. Over a period of mere weeks, a combination of "the laughter routine" with injections of vitamin C led to a rapid remission of virtually all of his debilitating symptoms.

The account he offered of his remarkable recovery ended with a description of himself – once nearly paralyzed – now standing in the surf in Puerto Rico, jogging on the beach, and then finally back at work at the *Saturday Review*.

The point of all this is that we are greatly influenced, both physically and mentally, by our emotions ... and our emotions are greatly determined by the company we keep and by our feelings of "belonging" to a family, a community, and a body of people with common roots. Deprive us of this (uproot us, cut us off) and we don't fare well.

ECCLESIA

As all my regular readers know, the two main themes that I have focused on for over two decades are 1. Man's Government (the Beast System), and 2. Christ's Ecclesia (God's Kingdom). For over 20 years I've argued AGAINST the Beast System, and FOR God's Ecclesia System.

My teachings have been aimed, not at the Beast System, but at the called-out; the Body of Christ. I don't direct my work toward the Beast System. Rather, I direct my efforts toward individuals whose eyes are being opened by Christ. For these individuals – those who are being awakened – the effect is GREAT in their personal lives. These powerful basic truths give new life to truth seekers. Many have expressed to me that since they learned these basics they can now, for the first time, make sense of the Bible and the world around them.

Based on this understanding I believe we can identify "THE CURSE" in Malachi 4 which is further alluded to in John 15:4-6. The "curse" is blindness, unawareness and disconnection. It infects people who put their faith in the Beast System (i.e., patriotism). This "curse" is upon individuals, families, communities and nations.

On the other hand, the BLESSING of God is the effect that occurs in the lives of people who rely not upon the Beast System, but upon God's system. They invest their faith and trust in the Ecclesia of Christ ... which is the only permanent community based upon unchanging principles that can provide unflinching security and emotional stability.

PLANTING -VS- UPROOTING

Being rooted and grounded in the garden of God not only gives us emotional security, it gives us a "sound mind" as well. Our intelligence and insight depend upon it.

1. *Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful.*
2. *But his delight is in the law of Yahweh; and in his law does he meditate day and night.*
3. *And he is like a tree **PLANTED** by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also is not withering; and whatsoever he is doing is made to prosper.*
4. *The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind drives away.*

Ps. 1

We are blessed and strengthened when we seek God's counsel in all the things we do. He provides us with everything needed for health and happiness. But if we get "uprooted" (either by our own choice, by deception, or by an enemy) we lose our healthy social connections, our strength, our blessing, our happiness and sanity.

7. *Blessed is the man that trusts in Yahweh,*
8. *For he is as a tree **PLANTED** by the waters, and spreads out her roots by the river,*

Jer. 17

13. *... Every plant, which my heavenly Father has not **PLANTED**, shall be **ROOTED UP**.*
14. *Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.*

Mtt. 15

Jude 1:12 refers to "beasts" among us who are "twice dead, **PLUCKED UP** by the roots."

These verses put a picture together. God plants us near water where our roots can stay healthy and strong, both physically and spiritually. His chosen "ground" for planting us is called "family" and "ecclesia" (or "New Jerusalem").

By contrast, if we are "uprooted" we wither, become unhealthy and die ... both physically and spiritually.

4. *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; neither can you, except you abide in me.*
5. *I am the vine, you are the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing.*
6. *If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*

Jn 15

For sound minds & hearts,

