

Biblical Passages on Cosmic Deceit; Lack of Knowledge Leads to National Discipline, Hbs 4: 6; Parental Reversionism Influences Children, Jer 17: 1-2

17. The problem faced today is that there is little left of a collective biblical worldview among believers and therefore the Pivot has shrunk. William Butler Yeats perceived the harbingers of this condition in his 1921 poem, "The Second Coming," in which he prophesies disaster for our modern world:

Turning and turning in the widening gyre¹
 The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
 Things fall apart: the center cannot hold;
 Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
 The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
 The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
 The best lack all conviction, while the worst
 Are full of passionate intensity.²

18. The "best lack all conviction" because they have bought the lie and, without a biblical worldview, the "center cannot hold."
19. What has happened to the "center" — i.e., the Pivot — that it can no longer hold? Three reasons: (1) the loss of collective thought among those who had made the advance to spiritual maturity, (2) the failure of succeeding generations to grow in grace, and (3) the brain drain caused by those who have gone on to be with the Lord.
20. Reversionism is the cause of number 1 while divine sovereignty determines number 3. The explanation for number 2 is expressed in several ways in the verses just noted: (1) "some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, by means of the hypocrisy of liars" (1 Timothy 4:1-2); (2) some will be deceived with "empty words" (Ephesians 5:6), and (3) others "minds will be led astray" (2 Corinthians 11:3).

¹ Gyre \jī-(e)r\. A circular or spiral motion; a vortex.

² William Butler Yeats, "The Second Coming," in *The Literature of England: An Anthology and a History*, vol. 2, *From the Dawn of the Romantic Movement to the Present Day*, George B. Woods, Homer A. Watt, and George K. Anderson (Chicago: Scott, Foresman and Co., 1948), 1051.

21. “Doctrines of demons,” “destructive heresies,” and “empty words” have indeed “led believers astray.” And this catastrophe, nay, this crime, was committed from the pulpits of America and the lecterns of the government schools as pastors and pedagogues “deceived the hearts of the unsuspecting.”
22. These “deceitful workers” have sown the wind and we now reap the whirlwind. Pastors have not kept their sheep biblically informed – they are not “wise as serpents” – and consequently, the pedagogues become “roaring lions, seeking someone to devour.”
23. In Hosea 4:6 the Lord issues an indictment against Judah’s willful ignorance of truth and lust for idolatry, accusations that clearly apply to the United States some 28-hundred years later:

Hosea 4:6 - My people [Israel] are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you from being My priest [priest nation]. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children [the next generation].

23. Why would the Lord include the next generation? Because omniscience perceived that things would not get better but worse over time. Over two-hundred years separate the books of Hosea (c. 850 B.C.) and the book of Jeremiah (c. 625 B.C.). Yet in both books the priests failed to teach truth through ritual, therefore the children were involved in their parents’ idolatry, a problem Jeremiah addresses in:

Jeremiah 17:1 - The sin of Judah is being engraved [כָּתַב *kathav*: Qal passive participle: sin receives the action of being written in stone] with an iron chisel [עֵט *et*: a stylus] and inscribed [חָרַשׁ *charash*: to engrave metal] with a diamond [שָׁמִיר *shamir*: flint, emery, or adamant stone] tip on the tablets [לוּחַ *luach*: stone tablet] of their hearts and the horns [קֶרֶן *qeren*: brass projections on the corners of altars] of their altars [these actions imply volitional choice].

v. 2 - Their children [בֵּן *ben*: children in general] remember [זָכַר *zachar*: memory pertains to places & objects to which the one remembering clings (Jer 17:2)³] their altars and their sacred poles dedicated to the goddess Asherah [the Baal cult], set up beside the green trees on the high hills.

³ Ernst Jenni and Claus Westermann, “זָכַר *zkr* to remember,” in *Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament* trans. Mark E. Biddle (Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1997), 1:383.