

UPWARD THOUGHT

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Explaining the prophecies and the scriptures to all who desire to hear them. (Mosiah 27:35-36)

Stop relying on the rationality of man

By Rob • June 07, 2020

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estern culture (as it is incorrectly
called) is the result of thousands of

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years of reason. It has made possible a system of previously unknown prosperity, even for those we call poor, who are much richer than most people on the planet today and almost everyone in history. Everyone in the United States--every single person--enjoys a standard of living multiples higher than they would if they lived on 10 acres and had nothing but primitive tools to work the land. Not only that, but our culture has produced so much bounty that we have a population several times what could be sustained by the alternative, low-tech, reap-what-you-sow system. Most places where people live today--almost all places, in fact--could not support life in a primitive system.

Everything we have now stems from and is dependent on reason. Reason, in a nutshell, is

Labels

destruction of USA

what happens when a human turns away from the emotive animal tendencies to consistent decision making based on intentional rational thought.

So much of what we do today in the first world relies on people being rational. Rationality is a gift from God. When people obey God, they receive more rational capacity. When they turn away from God, their ability to reason fades.

Reasoning is a gift from God. It is what his light empowers us to do. God's light reveals to us things as they really are to a greater extent, and then we use our agency to carve a course through reality that leads to the best outcomes.

Today we are witnessing a wholesale abandonment of reason. Common people have

long-since lost the willingness to reason, having preferred mindlessly living check to check and burning up their nights and weekends on the hamster wheel activities we all know and love [1]. The stalwarts who in times past have been the pillars holding everything up have also abandoned reason. Scientists can be some of the most foolish people you'll ever meet (I should know--I am one and I work with many). The media is completely corrupted. Almost every writer you hear about would serve society more if they had never lived. CEOs and founders are not so focused on innovation as they are getting onto the Federal Reserve cheap money teat, either through bonds-for-buybacks or government bailouts.

The virtuous cycle of prosperity is over with.

Every civilization comes to the point where the cost of sustainment exceeds the pace of innovation, and most would agree our apex occurred sometime in the 1970s. Like every civilization before us, we are now a dead branch waiting for a spark to burn the remaining skeleton of what once was. Unlike every civilization before us, ours has built up to an unprecedented degree through the one time boon of fossil fuels. But I digress.

Whether a spark ends with smoke, or just a small flame (like a burning match), realize that it is only a matter of time before the whole thing engulfs. Complex systems do not immediately collapse. Think of a pile of sand. You can reliably drop grain after grain onto the heap without any noticeable result to the structural integrity of

the pile. Then, out of nowhere, one grain will cause a small cascade down the pile. Then the next few grains have no response. You never know whether the next grain will cause no response, a small but outsized response, or half the pile to come down all at once. This is the way complex systems like our society work.

God's hand is no longer supporting this nation. His arm is being revealed in judgment. That judgment is not a single or series of arbitrary things. It is merely natural consequence stemming from the poor actions of people. And it isn't all at once. There are point events, but there are also gradual processes, ebbs and flows. The destruction of the United States is more like a tsunami (a high tide that comes in gradually but just keeps building on itself) than a light

switch turning off.

I know that many of you are underestimating how this will all play out. You are expecting one big light switch turning out, and when that doesn't happen, you think "see? It's not that bad."

The reason I am writing this post this morning is to warn you. In not very much time, if you've been paying attention, you've seen many surprising actions by people that no one would have believed if you had told them the future one, two, or ten years ago. You are seeing little slides on the sandpile from a few grains of sand. At the root of every single one of these things is the waning of reasoning because of the loss of God's light.

I had a tree by a house I once lived in that was massive. It was probably 100 years old. It was maybe 100 feet high and 4 feet thick. My neighbor, after we moved in, told me about how one of the big branches had fallen off and landed on their house. I didn't assume that the branch falling was evidence that no other branch would ever fall. That would have been foolish. Instead, I interpreted that as a suggestion that it was more likely to happen again. I figured the branch falling wasn't a problem with the branch, but the tree, and that since the tree was still there, more bad things would happen. I set about to cut down the tree, and in doing so discovered that half its center was completely rotted out. Not only were more branches on their way to falling off, but the whole tree could have fallen on

either one of our houses.

When you see undesirable situations, you have to ask whether they are the problem, or whether they are merely the surface symptoms of a deeper problem.

Everything you see in the news and in your streets is just a symptom of the real problem. The problem is that people are turning away from reason.

You really ought to take some time--hopefully today--to prayerfully review your current way of life. You should ask God which parts of your life depend on the continued rationality of society. These are the areas where you should seek his guidance to find out what changes you can make

to become more resilient to society's rapid turning away from reason.

Here are some things to get you started in your pondering:

-How reliant are you on your current job? What can you do to make yourself more resilient to the economy breaking down and shifting? For example, many bartenders and waitstaff thought they were in the best job for their situation three months ago. In my analogy, the trunk looked just fine to everyone on the outside. What is true does not necessary mean what we see. So much of what we see is not the whole picture. You have to consider that things could be far different than you think.

-How reliant are you on the supply chain? How much of your day-to-day life relies on being able to get anything you desire by ordering it online or picking it up at Walmart? What changes can you make to rely less on the modern supply chain? Are there investments you can make to be able to make more of what you need at home?

-How reliant are you on the social contract? Do you live in a city or suburb? How much of your safety depends on your neighbors acting like reasonable people? Because they won't. If you wouldn't trust your neighbors with your life, it is time to move. I've frequently warned you to move. I have told you that the windows were closing, and that people would see themselves trapped because they didn't move soon enough.

Maybe you dismissed what I said. Now you see just one of very many potential sources of not being able to sell you house, not being able to travel, and not being able to get a new job in a new area. It may get better temporarily, but I promise you it will also get worse. There are many possibilities, and most are probably outside of what you are expecting. Imagine things like a city facing huge revenue losses implementing a house sale tax that zaps a percentage of your house sale. Imagine what that would do to house sale prospects. Race riots tend to last a long time these days, and white flight and crashing home values usually occur as a result.

-How reliant are you on the grocery store? How much of what you eat do you grow yourself? And

how much of that relies on things you buy each year to make it possible? Do you live in a place where you can grow what you eat? Do you have a system set up to make it possible? Have you figured out what thrives in your area? Do you have a support system (neighbors) who are trading with you? Can you store food in winter without electricity?

-More important than all of this: How much do you trust in God? Of course, if you trust in him, you will seek him *now* and avoid many of these situations *later*. In other words, don't you dare say "oh well I DO trust in God, so when things fall apart, I'll be fine. He will take care of me." Nope. That's not the way it works.

In conclusion, I recognize that many of you are in

a place where you really don't have the resources to significantly change your situation. It is up to each of us to be honest with God in what we can and can't do. We are responsible for what we can do, and typically what we can do is far beyond what we excuse ourselves for. That being said, I will repeat what I have said before: Don't think that any temporal preparations will be sufficient to save you from experiencing the tribulation that is upon us and will continue to be poured out. Perhaps the best basic preparation is to have a hiking pack and the necessities of survival (I've gone into this in detail before on this blog), because everyone will eventually be walking to some (hopefully) better place. It's going to be far worse than anything you can imagine. The time is now to repent of your sins and begin exercising great

trust in God.

[1] The other afternoon I took my household to the lake as a reward for working so hard in our large garden. As we were swimming in the frigid water, I observed a family who had clearly been there fishing all day. They weren't catching anything. Finally, they landed a fish, and promptly put it back in the water. Later as they left, I talked to them and found out that was all they had caught all day. I could not believe how much time and money (fishing gear is extraordinarily expensive) they had spent just to catch one fish. And they didn't even eat it. This isn't to say fishing is a waste of time, nor any of the other hamster wheel activities (camping, TV, sports, four wheeling etc. etc. etc.). It is about the why, not the what. When these things

become ends in themselves, or they are just used for distractions, they cost more than they provide.

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