

The Big Lie

*Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. (Gen. 3:1, 4-5)
And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. (Rev. 12:9)*

The first thing we are told about the devil is the last thing people are willing to believe: we are told that he is subtle! He is not obvious. He is the master deceiver, and man is the gullible goose! We are also told that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, that until then we are “the fool,” repeating in his hear, “No God!” “No God!” We are those who, professing ourselves wise, become fools, attach the glory of the incorruptible God, dragging Him down to the level of a man, then a beast, then a creeping thing, loving and worshipping the creature more than the Creator (Rev. 1:22-25). In the emptiness of our minds our understanding is darkened, alienated from the life of God through the blindness of our hearts, giving ourselves over to beastly greed, lasciviousness and uncleanness (Eph. 4:17-19).

Most of us are quite willing to believe that the devil is a master deceiver, and that he does, indeed, deceive many people, maybe even most people; but that we are not deceived. We are clever enough to recognize something bad, something evil when we see it. But when we think in those terms we forget two things: First, the devil is subtle. The evil, the bad, does not appear so. Indeed, he makes evil to appear good and good to appear evil. Most of what he is doing, therefore, is not what is obviously evil, but what appears to the world as good. The second thing we forget is that he deceives the whole world. It all lies in darkness under his evil powers. Even we who are not God-fearing believers once “walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience” (Eph. 2:2). We had to be “delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of (God’s) dear Son” (Col. 1:13).

Adolph Hitler, the Austrian paper-hanger, was an ordinary man of only average intelligence, utterly undistinguished in accomplishments of public life, until he gave himself over to an “inner voice,” from which he received profound guidance, enabling him to become, not only a military genius, but a master manipulator of the masses of people. There can be no doubt whatsoever that this “inner voice” was that old serpent, the deceiver of the whole world. The arts he was taught were the arts of deception. Hitler was no misguided reformer. He knew quite well what he was doing. He had no love, compassion or respect for people. He was an admitted deceiver and exploiter of humanity. In his one literary work, “*Mein Kampf*” (My Struggle), he reveals some of the deceptive tactics he learned from the devil. The most effective was his principle of the big lie:

The doctrine is wholly correct, that the very greatness of the lie is a factor in getting it believed . . . With the primitive simplicity of the masses a great lie is more effective than a small one, because they often lie in small matters, but would be too ashamed to tell a great big lie. Hence it will never occur to the broad mass to suspect so large a lie, and the mass will be quite unable to believe that anyone could possibly have the infernal impudence to pervert the truth to such an extent. [The bigger the lie, the more credibility it bears to the general public.]

Consider some of the BIG lies inspired by the prince of this world and almost unanimously swallowed. Some are from the eras of the “New Deal” and the “Great Society.”

- A people suffering under a depressed economy may spend and squander its way into prosperity. The more goods and products they waste and destroy, the more they buy, the better business is, and the richer everyone becomes. (The public still lives by this with increasing vigor.)
- Poverty may be (and must be) eliminated by confiscating the earnings of working people and giving it to people who do not work. (That one is beginning to wear a little thin.)
- The government, for a miniscule payroll tax, can insure every citizen that he will never suffer financial distress from disability or old age. He will never be socially insecure.
- Every person has a right to unlimited health care at the cost of someone else.

- The whole concept of insurance is a BIG, BIG lie. Through abuse, encouraged irresponsibility, fraud, lawsuits and greed, it is the biggest financial burden borne by business, government and people today.
- The lie that cities and states, whose only source of support must come from the productivity of the peoples, may increase their revenues by encouraging them to gamble their earnings away.
- There is absolutely no difference between men and women except the plumbing. One is as equally suited to either fight wars or raise children as the other.
- The universe willed itself into being out of nothing, and accidentally evolved into the intelligent order it now has without any design, intelligence or guiding power.

But the Big Liar really shines in the religious arena:

- The original one in which we are told that God is holding out the good stuff from us, and that we need to break out from under His oppressive rule and be gods unto ourselves. All we need to implement this autonomy is knowledge. Education is the key that will not only unlock the door to every goody, but also make us all good.
- In order for the church to be triumphant, it must have the power of the State and coerce society into religious and moral conformity by power of the sword. The church and society are, therefore, one. (This is Rome's leaven. It was embraced by the Reformers and the Puritans, survives intact in Reformed churches, and is unwittingly being taken up by non-Catholic, non-Protestant churches today.)
- Confessions and creeds are equal to the word of God because they are logical conclusions based upon the Bible, and they are more useful than the Bible, because they are clearer than God's words.
- God does not sovereignly rule. He has not power to prevent "natural disasters," human sufferings, and injustices of wicked men. In fact, He doesn't even know every thing." (If so, He could foresee some of these things and do something about them.)
- Grace effectively nullifies repentance, which must be counted as works, and offers salvation to rebels unwilling to bow to Christ in His Lordship.
- Billions of people go to hell for want of better preachers, missionaries and more generous church members.
- The best way to build a great church is to take a survey of sinners to find out what they like, then develop a message and a ministry that suits them.

Hitler augments this big lie tactic with the big crowd gimmick, which he, with devilish insight, calls "an empty-headed herd of sheep":

... the gigantic mass demonstrations, these parades of hundreds of thousands of men, which burned into the small, wretched individual the proud conviction that, paltry worm as he was, he was nevertheless a part of a great dragon, beneath whose burning breath the hated bourgeois world would some day go up in fire and flame, and the proletarian dictatorship would celebrate its ultimate final victory.

We cannot read this without thinking of the "Million Man March," of football stadiums crowded with "Promise Keepers" (men before whose eyes there is no fear of God, who nevertheless propose to be disciplined by the fear of man). We are also reminded of the euphoria and mania of the mammoth Gothard Seminars, and the thousands pouring into the mega-churches. The psychology that utilizes this irrational enthusiasm which is generated solely out of ever-increasing crowds is not a new one. It has been plied by politicians, commerce, false religions and cults for thousands of years. Its fraud should be discerned very quickly for the thinking observer. It can only survive as long as it is growing. As soon as it ceases to grow, it immediately loses heart and quickly collapses. So churchmen who use this lie must have the demographics and gimmicks to keep the balloon inflated.

The wonder of all the above is not the power of this deception, but how any of us have escaped this insanity. How can it be, that we, who were once every bit as deceived as others, should now have our right minds? Surely there is no explanation for it other than through "*the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power*" (Eph. 1:19). God's elect people never have been, nor ever will be, any more than a remnant, a small scrap of all society, whose hearts have been captured by **truth** in the revelation of Jesus Christ in His incomparable glory. Yes, there will be a great innumerable multitude harvested from all ages. But at any point in time they are proportionally comparable to the widely scattered seven thousand of Elijah's day. They will not be dismayed when the numbers are unimpressive. **Christ is among them!** The Good Shepherd has their ear, and they will not be

seduced by strangers or lured away from Him by demonic lies. And they will be content to persevere in small gatherings, if necessary, until God is pleased to rise, scatter His enemies, and banish all this darkness with His light.

- C. M.