

## Megatrends

We're so occupied with the daily nitty-gritty of life that we can't see what's gradually happening all around us. Trends occur all the time, for example, in the world of fashion, architecture, etc. Megatrends are only identified if, after a period of time, one steps back to see what changes have occurred, and why. What's going on in our land is not an irrational and incoherent sequence of events; to the contrary, it all can be understood by identifying the megatrends and where they are leading. Let's look at several.

1. Creeping, spreading **Marxism** is an easily missed megatrend. Missed, because most people don't know what Marxism is, so they can't see it in front of them. And because those who advance Marxism and the pundits who discuss policy refuse to use the term Marxism. Politicians conceal Marxism, pretending it's a compassionate filling of needs in the name of justice – if even *they* know what Marxism is and that's what they're serving. Elections and democratic processes are (cynically) being used to advance Marxism, so almost all Americans miss it. But unless one understands Marxism, what's happening in our nation today makes no sense. Understanding Marxism (and its more stealthy modifications introduced by Gramsci and a few others more recently) provides the framework by which to grasp *all* that's going on.

Marxism is spreading like a religion, yet it's also being imposed by certain power-mad elites and America's naïve, monomaniacal clerisy. They are planning, organizing and funding its spread. Its one fundamental goal is *destroy*. Destroy the middle class. Destroy capitalism and a free market economy. Destroy traditional morals. Destroy America. And especially, if not mainly: Destroy Christianity. Why destroy? So that out of the ashes may emerge a radically different society supremely and forever ruled by Satan. So, foreign policy, domestic policies, the culture wars, the sexual revolution and more, Marxist ideology explains everything. Climate change. Racism. Transgenderism. Gay marriage. Inflation. Vaccines for everyone. In one way or another, Marxism is behind it all. It's taking control of our nation.

"God won't allow this to happen," some maintain. But how does anyone know this, because not anywhere in the Bible does God promise to protect America. What *is* in the Bible is God's agenda, and America is not on it. Israel is. It's more likely that God is removing His blessings and protection and has given our nation over to Satan.

2. There's an exceedingly serious megatrend that almost no one has noticed. It's **the privatization of Christianity**. The "Christianity in the public square" and the Moral Majority movements of prior decades are now dead and forgotten. We've seen religion become a fiercely private and personal matter, so much so that almost no one anymore has any thought even of sharing their faith. (Most Christians in America, I suspect, would be horrified if asked to share the Gospel with someone; they probably wouldn't even know what the Gospel is.) Even the awareness of a responsibility to others doesn't exist. The mega-churches and the TV churches, with the complete anonymity they provide, have promoted this megatrend. People feel good about their own, personal spiritual state, and with that they're satisfied.

"I am a good, moral person, I don't murder or steal. I believe in Christ. I go to church. And I celebrate Christmas. If unbelievers want to know how being a Christian is, they can observe me. My goal in life is to be happy. This is the one life I have, so I'm going to live it how I want to. I don't need any 'biblical worldview'. God loves me, 'just I am'."

Knowing Bible or theology is irrelevant. We've all become narcissists, and we're perfectly content with ourselves that way. There's nothing dangerous about God; He's a God of love. The god of modern American Christianity is either asleep or is a fantasy-god, an idol of our imagination – certainly not the God of the Bible. But we're so lost in our own lives we can't tell the difference between our idol and the living God.

Embedded in this new, private religion is an element of self-righteousness, expressing itself to varying degrees. It results from being isolated and introverted. "I'm righteous because I go to church. I'm so righteous I can't help but be in love with myself. I'm correct in all that I believe and all that I do is right. I'm righteous but others aren't, so to hell with them. I'm righteous, so God has to accept me into heaven when I die." Church is to serve the vanity of those who attend; the money in the plate is to keep the service coming. What service? Mostly feed self-righteousness and provide assurance of a destiny in heaven. A totally personal Christianity means it necessarily will disappear from America.

Moreover, exactly what people mean when they say, "I believe in Jesus" is problematic; it may simply be they know He existed and they have a good opinion of Him. The problem isn't helped by our failure to understand precisely what the New Testament means by "believe." In John, "believe" may be an umbrella term for understanding all that Jesus is and all He did for us as well as what is expected of us. In James, believing is as believing *does*.

This is our new American Christianity – or at least that’s what it’s still called. The reason the megatrend is missed is, Christianity has undergone this profound corrupting change, but we’ve retained the same name for it. Of course, there are still good churches here and there, and real believers. A megatrend is just that, it’s never total.

3. And another megatrend is what’s happening to Americans. We’re **a transformed people**. We don’t think about things anymore. We can’t understand complex issues, and we don’t even care about them. No one wants to challenge narratives that may be phony. People can change their sex? OK. Black lives matter? Sure. Open immigration is good for us? Why not. Big Bang? Whatever. Does God exist? Who cares. Marijuana? Yes, yes. Cocaine? Heroin? Nothin’s wrong with it. Abortion? Euthanasia? Ugly but necessary. Church? Nah. Do homework? What for. Cheat on exams? On taxes? So what. We’re satisfied to live with the propagandized newsfeeds. Most Americans simply won’t read, unless whatever it may be is only a few sentences long. We adopt pretended knowledge (“climate change” for example, or billions of years and evolution) and eschew seeking truth. Sustained thought and analysis of anything is thus impossible.

Our young people haven’t been socialized, preferring the estrangement that goes with social media. The social platforms are a refuge for people to hide in, and promote alienation. No wonder everyone is annoyed with or contemptuous of everyone else! We no longer remember our neighbor, to care about him or for him. How do Americans today pass their lives? According to one industry report, 227 million of play videogames. That’s 2/3 of all Americans! Narcissism reigns.

We repudiate risk. Our lives must be safe – or else we bring a lawsuit. We no longer believe in the dignity of work. Millions prefer to collect unemployment rather than work for a salary. One out of 7 renters refuse to pay their rent because the government says they don’t have to for now and can’t be evicted. Mothers of young kids prefer to place their children in day-care to be cared for by strangers so they can go to work doing something more “fulfilling.” Our military can’t find recruits because most young people either have a criminal record (drugs, mainly) or can’t pass the entrance exams. Church attendance is in free-fall (it was even before Covid-19 hit).

The pressure for young people to conform is intense; they fear not conforming more than anything. They have little interest in marriage, in part because they suspect it won’t work out (a self-fulfilling notion!), but mainly because they fear and eschew commitments of any kind, let alone one that’s life-long. If an Israelite from the Old Testament era were to come to America today, he’d think we’re all a bunch of perverts.

Most people have no or inadequate retirement plans, partly because they don’t or won’t think about, let alone plan for the future – as if there isn’t going to be one. Our neighbors scam retailers by buying online then alleging it never came or the wrong item came so they can get a refund and keep the item. This is just a sampling of the pathology we call modern American life. We have a deep and extensive *people* problem. This is not the America you and I grew up in.

4. Putting all this together, an even bigger although far more subtle megatrend emerges. It’s so big it’s invisible. It’s this: America is **an effete society**. It’s going down the drain. Sure, we still have a throbbing economy. We still have peace and prosperity. We still are – for the most part – a nation under law. And we still have our political liberties. The necessary structures of government, finance, education, business, transportation, communication, healthcare, etc, are still intact. So to allege we’re going downhill isn’t obvious at all. But the moral and spiritual underpinnings a people must have for their society to endure are gone, as evidenced by America’s hopelessly degenerate popular culture. God’s blessings are being removed right before our eyes. Powerful forces are already at work to cause our nation to be destroyed. It’s just a matter of time. And no one sees it coming.

Conclusion: History is in constant flux. Civilizations come and go. The Roman empire is no more, nor the Azteca, Inca, or Ottoman empires. The Victorian era came to an end. So did the Weimar Republic. The Ming dynasty, Romanov dynasty, and countless other dynasties all ended. These are the Times of the Gentiles, symbolized in the Bible by the surging, heaving, restless sea. America is no different. We’re just another of the many Gentile nations. Yes, for a time we experienced unique blessings and indeed our society was exceptional. But now it appears that God’s indignation and judgment is upon us. In this era between the Advents of Christ, even what God had wrought must end. He has an agenda and He’s pursuing it according to His holy will.

Must we just passively watch as these megatrends continue? If ever there was a time to do Gospel outreach, it’s right now. We either serve Christ in this, His revealed way, or we continue to serve ourselves. Surely, God has some souls right in our vicinity who are elect, and will respond to our testimony and be saved from hell. What a privilege it is to serve the living God this way, and rescue some of His beloved people from eternal condemnation. It’s our priestly duty.