Water World Parable

Cruise or Battleship

Imagine a Pangean planet, with a single continent surrounded by an endless ocean. And a time when, for a variety of reasons, after millennia of generations on land, humanity was forced to forever flee aboard a vast array of ships.

Seeking refuge, peoples great and small, from all nations and walks of life banded together into two great fleets. Secular and Religious. Within both were massive convoys divided by variations of hopes and dreams, frustrations and fears. Some great in scale and supply, others less so. As different as they were similar, individuals and groups continually interacted, passing between fleets and convoys. Sometimes temporarily, sometimes permanently.

The Religious Fleet, while decreasing in popularity, was still far greater in scope, accounting for 90% of Water World's population. Of which, 30% identified as Christian, 25% as Muslim, 15% as Hindu and 5% as Buddhist. The remaining 25% comprised of lessor sects. Each major religion had its own history and traditions, beliefs and practices. Influenced for better and worse by their sacred texts.

The Secular Fleet, though far smaller in size, controlled an astounding percentage of wealth and power; often directly and indirectly influencing, if not undermining, their religious counterpart.

Christendom's billions were split into hundreds of factions of various sizes and means; their adherence to Biblical doctrine and devotion, perspective and lifestyle landing them into basically one of two flotillas; Cruise or Battleships.

For a while both great fleets sailed somewhat confidently together into the future. Frequently interacting with those within and without as opportunity and necessity arose. Unfortunately, over time evidence of control and corruption from certain factions became apparent. Soon, over 70% of humanity had been manipulated into surrendering at least some form of their societal and bodily autonomy to the same diabolical strategies that had forced their evacuation from land.

Making matters worse, along with the Times, the Seasons were changing. Dark clouds gathered, eclipsing the entire horizon from end to end; indications of a massive global hurricane, the likes of which the planet had never seen, or would see again.

The two fleets, and the groups within them, divined the portents differently. Seizing the opportunity, theories of man-made climate change were used to weaponized science itself, masterfully manipulated narratives by an emerging Iron Triangle of government, media and global corporations; a means through which controlling elites seized ever greater authority and wealth.

The same men exercised their power and privilege to create controversy and strife; exploiting this time of crisis by pitting whole sectors of society against each other, tearing at and down tradition and reason, in ways both apparent and hidden, successfully promoting obvious lies as truth, and evil as good.

Distracted and deceived, few were fully prepared for the darkening days of endless night ahead. Even as seas swelled and lashing winds began beating and even capsizing ships, most continued sailing as if merrily down the stream.

Within Christendom it was the same. Even as dire prophecy became reality, most clung to their pleasant doctrine and way of life, for many reasons. Few serious studied the sacred Scripture. Fewer still understood the meta themes of the Bible correctly. Of these, only a small percentage applied the full Word of God appropriately. And in most cases, they were taught only passages that supported their worldly perspective.

So, when the long prophesied time came for the outbreak of Heaven's Angelic War, signaling the onset of mankind's final test, Modern Christianity was vastly unprepared; so much so, less than 1% sailed aboard naval worthy vessels. Of these, less than 1% were fit for light-duty and a vastly smaller percentage were battle-hardened and ready.

The small percentage of Prophetic Christians who had given much wrestling against the degenerating Times and Seasons, had by practice grown accustomed to the hardships of war. Prepared and presently seeking only a soldiers rations and joy, rather than being overcome, they shone in the faded light. Inspiring confidence, in

themselves and others, of a heroes welcome on a distant yet far greater shore, if they, their families and brothers-in-arms would "endure until the end."

Long before the onset of the apocalyptic hurricane, they had sensed the cold winds of change. They had learned to "listen to the Wind Words, the Spirit blowing through the churches." They had given first some, and then more, most and then all their time and energy, wisdom and wealth, in pursuit of Biblical truth and repentance, discipleship and holiness. At Scripture's strict command and gracious invitation, they exchanged their all for God's.

They trained daily, seeking and serving the Lord with the diligence of first athletes, then famers, and finally soldiers, continually crying out to God to fill them with the genuine and miraculous Fruit and Gifts of the HOLY Sprit, individually and collectively they prayed over and targeted crucial, yet continually minimized passages from their Military Manual:

"Cause us to judge with righteous judgment. To believe that You are and that You're a rewarder of those who diligently seek You. To number our days and enter Your rest. To fully embrace the wisdom from above and reject the wisdom from below which is earthly, sensuous and demonic. To have godliness and contentment, which is great gain. With food and clothing to be content. To rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ concerning you.

"That we would find faith, hope and love displacing fear, anger and sorrow. Particularly for those who've learned that godly fear is the beginning wisdom. Though quantumly not necessarily its end. For he that fears is not perfected in love. For fear has torment. And perfect love casts out fear.

"That we would count it all joy when we fall into diverse temptations knowing that the trial of our faith works patience. That we would let patience have it's perfect work that we might be entire lacking nothing. That we would make no provision for the flesh and redeem the time for the days are evil. That we would present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable, which is our reasonable form of spiritual worship. That we would not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of our minds. That we would approve and prove what is the good and acceptable will of God.

"That we might even enjoy buffeting our bodies as extreme spiritual athletes, for profit both in this life and the life to come. That we would be crucified with Christ, nevertheless live, yet not us but Christ living in us. That the life that we now live, we'd live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved us and gave Himself up for us. That we would be risen with Christ. Seated with Christ in heavenly places. And our lives would be hid with Christ in God."

In response, God gave them "eyes to see, ears to hear and hearts to understand." They recognized and refuted many of the doctrinal and lifestyle lies sown like weeds among the wheat by the Enemy, including the recent and false teaching and misguided hope in a pre-tribulation rapture.

They understood that Jesus, Paul and John all clearly stated, in no uncertain terms, that they would be delivered by Christ's return only after the War in Heaven and the expulsion of Satan and his fallen angel army; an unprecedented cosmic event proceeding the rise and reign of the Antichrist and False Prophet, Mark and Image of the Beast, by which the whole world would be coerced and/or deceived, through which the Devil would "make war against and overcome the saints," who in turn would overcome him, but only by "the blood of the Lamb and the bold word of their witness. They weren't in love with themselves; they were willing to die for Christ."

Among the largest convoys within Christendom's fleet was Modern Christianity. Leaders among the Cruise Ship sect. They excelled at certain aspects of ministry and inappropriately intimate worship, rightly extolling the Cross of Christ while all but ignoring their own. They gloried in the promises of God while marginalizing the Bible's more numerous conditions, when not refuting them altogether. Their members largely unable to quote more than a handful of Scriptures in a row, if that, rarely stopped to pray even ten minutes a day.

They knew nothing of a soldier's commitment or training. Enjoying the world, or at least many of its finer things, they convinced themselves they could have their cake and eat it too; that the poverty and humility of Christ, and that of His apostles, as well as of persecuted disciples throughout history, were costs *others* bore, providing *them* their one way all expense paid passage aboard Christian luxury liners, rather than a draft summons to follow the teaching and example of Jesus and all the authors of the

New Testament. A call to renounce civilian affairs and to man their battle stations in the armada of the Kingdom of God.

And why would they? Was not the guarantee of salvation by the cross of Christ a marvelous and uncondtional free gift beyond compare? Had they had not devoted a substantial part of their lives to Jesus and the tenets of Modern Christianity? Had they not given of their minds, hearts and wills? Had they not converted much of their thoughts, words and lifestyles? Had they not redirected many of their aspirations, attitudes and actions? Had they not invested significant portions of their time, talent and treasure to fellowship, discipleship and evangelism? In some cases they had, and in return secured testimonies of the gospel's lift frequently blessing and even changing themselves, family and friends.

Like Revelation's seventh Church of Laodicea, they had indeed been transformed, but to what degree? About a third of the way. Neither hot or cold they remained lukewarm. Yet even a third of the Glorious Gospel can and sometimes did turn notorious sinners toward sainthood, hopeless addicts into hope-filled activists; Worshipers of self into worshipers of God.

Even so, failure to proceed beyond a third of the Gospel, equated to only partial fullness of the Spirit, in light of Christ's command to cultivate all the Kingdom's Fruit and Gifts, such as dependably and miraculously healing the sick. Taken together, their oversight and neglect equated to two-thirds failure when compared with the glorious beings they were called and meant to be. Hence Jesus's lament, "Many are called, but few are chosen." Why? Because too few chose to fully answer His call.

Why did so few fail to do so? Because they naturally were inclined to judge themselves by those around them. Compared to their fellow Modern Christians, they were doing well. Compared to billions far more worldly and worse, they were doing great!

Yet compared to their full potential they were doing poorly. Without the fullness of the Spirit, they continually fell short of their mission parameters; an acceptable state aboard a cruise ship. A disastrous state aboard a battleship.

Without the fullness of the miraculous Fruit and Gifts of the Spirit, there was little to no Power Evangelism and Discipleship; the very foundation and hallmark of 1st Century Christians. Ordinary men and women who's costly and absolute dedication and complete transformation produced the glorious New Testament (2/3rds of which the Civilian Ships ignored) and brought the Roman Empire, then the world's greatest military, political and religious culture, to its knees.

Ignorance of all the above should have raised a singular question. What else were they missing? Continuing to misjudge themselves, they become the ultimate Laodiceans; a sad state of affairs, hidden by yet reflected in their doctrine and prayer, worship and lifestyle; a condition veiled by a variety of factors.

After all, Scripture identified Laodicea as a genuine Church, one of only seven recognized by the Resurrected and Glorified Christ, before Who's presence even His messenger the great Apostle John the Beloved, fell as dead.

They believed and were baptized in water and the Spirit. They had reason to rejoice in the grace they had been freely given. They took pride in how far they had come and gave thanks for their accomplishments; hence their reasonable belief they were, "rich, having become wealthy (spiritually and/or financially) and had need of nothing," yet compared to the glory and power of the Kingdom offered and demanded of them, Christ reveled an unthinkable truth, "you do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked."

Jesus forcefully continued, "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.

"Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."

Tragically, rather than accept Christ's discipline and warning, the Cruise Ship Fleet habitually neglected two-thirds of Scripture's offer of "so great a salvation." For all these reasons and more they refused recruitment into the military aspects of the

Kingdom, thus their incomplete conversion left them entangled in besetting sins and civilian affairs.

In a way, their sizable, yet partial obedience, conspired against them, providing grounds for Modern Christianity to refute such comparison. Devilishly deceived, they sailed on refusing to acknowledge any blindness and nakedness, much less miserable poverty and wretchedness; all of which the gathering Storm was designed and destined to reveal.

The battleship convoy was poised to fare better, as superior in fire power as they were smaller in number. Serving aboard a variety of ships, performing various duties, the sixty to a hundred-fold dedication of their sailors had prepared them for trial and tribulation. Many were already familiar and accustomed to life and death combat for the cause of Christ.

These were the final incarnation of Revelation's Church of Philadelphia. Like a negative photographic image, they were light were Laodicea was dark. Unlike the other six churches, against Philadelphia, there was no complaint. For them, Christ's overwhelming compliment held great reason to hope. Laodicea had receive none at all.

In this final church age, the battleship convoy took up the mantle of Philadelphia, and hence its commission and promise: "I see what you've done. Now see what I've done. I've opened a door before you that no one can slam shut. You don't have much strength, I know that; you used what you had to keep my Word. You didn't deny me when times were rough.

"And watch as I take those who call themselves true believers but are nothing of the kind, pretenders whose true membership is in the club of Satan—watch as I strip off their pretensions and they're forced to acknowledge it's you that I've loved.

"Because you kept my Word in passionate patience, I'll keep you safe in the time of testing that will be here soon, and all over the earth, every man, woman, and child put to the test.

"I'm on my way; I'll be there soon. Keep a tight grip on what you have so no one distracts you and steals your crown. "I'll make each conqueror a pillar in the sanctuary of my God, a permanent position of honor. Then I'll write names on you, the pillars: the Name of my God, the Name of God's City—the new Jerusalem coming down out of Heaven—and my new Name.

"Are your ears awake? Listen. Listen to the Wind Words, the Spirit blowing through the churches."