

The Perfect Storm

7 Threats In Our Times

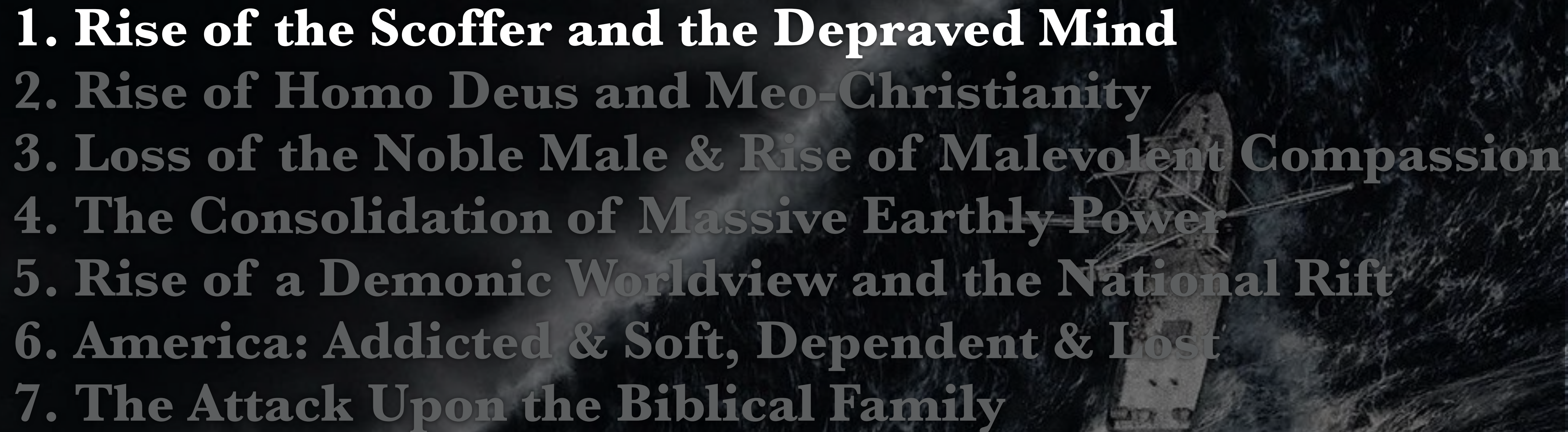
—All converging upon Western Culture



7 Threats In Our Times

- 1. Rise of the Scoffer and the Depraved Mind**
- 2. Rise of Homo Deus and Meo-Christianity**
- 3. Loss of the Noble Male & Rise of Malevolent Compassion**
- 4. The Consolidation of Massive Earthly Power**
- 5. Rise of a Demonic Worldview and the National Rift**
- 6. America: Addicted & Soft, Dependent & Lost**
- 7. The Attack Upon the Biblical Family**

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How Then Shall the Remnant Live?

Psalm 92

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,
to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.

For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

Psalm 92

How great are your works, O Lord! Your thoughts are very deep!

The *stupid* man cannot know; the *fool* cannot understand this:
that though the *wicked* sprout like grass and all *evildoers* flourish,
they are doomed to destruction forever;
but you, O Lord, are on high forever.
For behold, your enemies, O Lord,
for behold, your enemies shall perish;
all evildoers shall be scattered.

Psalm 92

But you have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox;
you have poured over me fresh oil.

My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies;
my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.

Psalm 92

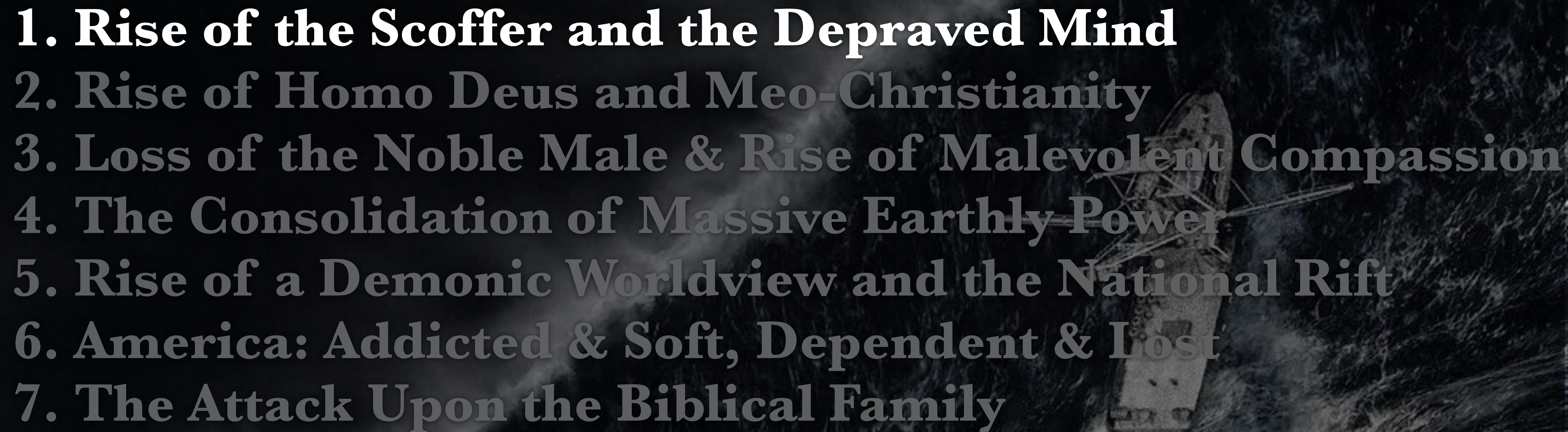
The righteous flourish like the palm tree
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
They are planted in the house of the Lord;
they flourish in the courts of our God.
They still bear fruit in old age;
they are ever full of sap and green,
to declare that the Lord is upright;
he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

How Then Shall the Remnant Live?

What are we to make of all this? We are not to be surprised when we find Christianity maligned and marginalized, when we hear of Christians being prosecuted and persecuted, or when we find ourselves being told we are extremists, haters, and bigots. For a few hundred years in the West we have been able to kid ourselves that the normal experience of God's people is to be considered respectable and honorable, to be able to voice our views in the public square and be welcomed, and to be able to speak to those in power and be listened to. It was not ever thus, and it is no longer thus. We are back to the normal experience of the church: facing opposition and being called to stand firm and undergo suffering for our faith."

Alistair Begg, *Brave by Faith*, p. 109

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The Rise of the Scoffer & the Depraved Mind

The regression in Proverbs

The regression in Romans

The Regression in Proverbs

- the *simple* - “I’m ok; you’re ok”
- the *fool* - there is no God: evil good; good evil
- the *scoffer* - the fool militant

“How long, O ***simple*** ones, will you love being *simple*?
How long will ***scoffers*** delight in their scoffing and
fools hate knowledge?”

Proverbs 1:22

the Scoffer

Scoffer is the name of the arrogant, haughty man who acts with arrogant pride. Proverbs 21:24

Drive out a scoffer, and strife will go out, and quarreling and abuse will cease. Proverbs 22:10

The devising of folly is sin, and the scoffer is an abomination to mankind. Proverbs 24:9

Scoffers set a city aflame, but the wise turn away wrath. Proverbs 29:8

the Scoffer

They said to you, “In the last time there will be scoffers,
following their own ungodly passions.” Jude 1:18

...knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last
days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. 2 Peter 3:3

For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong; they are robbed
of sleep unless they have made someone stumble. Proverbs 29:8

The Regression in Romans

God's wrath is revealed from heaven to those who:

- suppress the truth (though it is plain)
- do not glorify God, nor thank Him
- thinking becomes futile; hearts darkened; become fools

“Therefore God gave them over to”:

- sexual impurity
- shameful lusts
- *depraved* minds

the Scoffer and the Depraved Mind

“depraved” : *adokimon* (a-dok'-ee-mon)
“unqualified”

the mind in which there is no longer

- logic (sane)
- rationality (sane)

“When Nebuchanezer came to his senses...”

The Rise of the Irrational Scoffer

How Then Shall the Remnant Live?

Being Wise in the Day of the Irrational Scoffer

Preeminent Need for Wisdom

Sons of Issachar

“...understood the times in which they lived and knew what Israel should do

Conduct yourselves with **wisdom** toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you might know how to respond to each person.

Colossians 4:5-6

Preeminent Need for Wisdom

“I am certain that one of the main causes for the ill-state of the church today lies in the fact that the devil has been forgotten.” Martin-Lloyd Jones

Preeminent Need for Vision

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Being Wise in the Day of the Irrational Scoffer

- all of our apologetics are based upon the hearer having a rational mind
- we become frustrated because of the lack of “common sense” or “no one listens” or “people are crazy”
- we try to fit rational arguments into an irrational mind

how do we deal with the outsider today?!?!

begin with **wisdom**

“I Once Was Lost”

- ◆ Over 2,000 students interviewed that had come to Christ
- ◆ Each one progressed through five thresholds
- ◆ 1st: Entered into a trusted relationship with a Christian
- ◆ 2nd: Began to ask sincere questions

Wisdom Toward Outsiders

Conduct yourselves with **wisdom** toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you might know how to respond to each person.

Colossians 4:5-6

How Then Shall the Remnant Live?

we will engage with wisdom...

through trusted relationships in the context of diligent prayer

we will walk not as those without hope...

meditate on the nature of God and His works

remind yourself continually that the wicked will not prevail

we will stand firm for truth and righteousness

though the cost is great (Daniel and his friends)

we will still yield fruit in old age—my prayer for all of us