

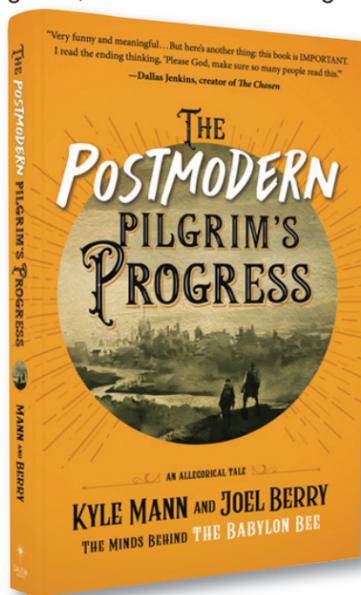
Chicken Little?

You may remember the story of Chicken Little, aka Henny Penny or Chicken Licken, from your childhood fairy tales.

The young chicken was walking around the barnyard when an acorn fell on her head. She couldn't find whatever it was that might have fallen, so she panicked and ran all over to the other animals, like Ducky Lucky, or Turkey Lurkey (and no, that was NOT Linda Gobble!), and others, creating panic in them also. They decided that they had to go warn the king that the sky was falling, but when they met Foxy Loxy, well, there are two versions of what Foxy Loxy might have done to them – the original version and the 2022 sanitized version. We'll leave it at that.

As a result, the phrase "Chicken Little" has become a standard part of our lexicon, referring to someone who panics without sufficient reason or without a basis in reality, and then tries to recruit others to share in the panic. Just like the boy who cried "Wolf!", Chicken Littles lose credibility and everyone ignores them so that when there is a real danger threatening them, they turn away in disbelief.

That old fairy tale came to my mind as our little morning group of five were reading together, "The Postmodern Pilgrim's Progress".



So far, we have read only the first couple of chapters, but we find it compelling and relevant. Modelled after John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress", but with many twists and turns, this one tells the story of Ryan Fleming of the San Fernando Valley, who finds himself thrust into a different universe after being hit on the head with a 10 lb screen projector from 20 feet up. He must go on a pilgrimage to the Golden City, after surviving the annihilation of the City of Destruction by large flaming meteors.

Upon his arrival in the City of Destruction (located in the Dying Lands), he finds a Book that was left for him specifically, warning of the coming calamity, and also providing wisdom and advice. He tries to warn the citizens of the City of this calamity, even as he can actually see the meteor about to hit. The town's citizens are busy reveling at a town fair, laughing and having a good time. As Ryan warns them of the meteor, pointing to it about to hit them on the head, they laugh and carry on, having blinded themselves to Reality and Truth.

Ryan himself barely escapes as he is waylaid at the banquet of the town's specialty, the most delicious bread and cheese. It's the kind that once you eat of it, you want more and you find yourself sucked into the pleasure of the bread and cheese and blind to anything else. But Ryan is awakened from his bread and cheese stupor just in time to run and escape the destruction.



In the case of Chicken Little, the warning of the sky falling was meaningless, but all of them were so busy laughing at her that they missed the real danger of Foxy Loxy. In the case of Ryan Fleming of San Fernando Valley, the danger was very real, but the response to his warning was similar to Chicken Licken's – disbelief and ridicule when the threat was visibly real.

The parallel between the City of Destruction to our situation today is unmistakable. Many of us see the meteorites falling from the sky, destroying our country, Western civilization, and even World civilization. In Ryan's world, he watched as the falling rocks burnt down the entire city and its residents with it. In the case of our world, we watch as fiery meteorites fall from the sky and destroy the world while most people dance and sing, laugh and play, at the world's carnival, blind to the coming catastrophe.

A partial list of the meteorites:

- The attack on carbon-based energy
- Elimination of guns for the common citizens
- Dumbing down of students via leftist indoctrination
- Massive inflation potentially leading to worldwide economic collapse
- Food shortages coming upon us, plus the burning down of many food processing plants
- Broken supply chain – truckers, packaging materials, inability to hire adequate help
- Pre-planned pandemic followed by deadly "vaccine" and "vaccine" mandates
- Mass surveillance of everyone, and digital tracking of each and everyone of us
- Widespread sexual immorality, both hetero- and homosexual varieties, including the transgender segment
- Treason at the highest levels of the U.S. government with no consequence
- Unpunished crime, violence, property destruction
- Homelessness ruining city streets and livability
- Unvetted millions pouring into the U.S. through the southern border

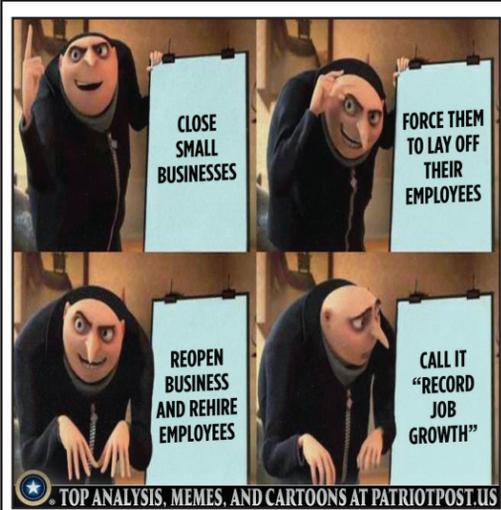
I'm sure I missed a few. Do we laugh at and ridicule those of us who warn of the coming destruction, as Chicken Little's "friends" did? Are we blind to the threat because we don't want to give up our delicious bread and cheese, so please shut up and leave us alone to live our lives the way we want?

We, too, have our Book that tells us the truth and offers guidance as we find the path to the Golden City. Will we read it, take it with us, and follow the path to the Golden City?

Or will we die, happy with our bread and cheese until the meteorites hit us?

Linda Gommel

On The Lighter Side . . .
Contributed from the Web



OLD TURKISH PROVERB:



From Amir Tsarfati

Israeli Bible and Prophecy Teacher

In the New Testament age, when someone dies who has been made righteous in Christ through His death and resurrection, their spirit is immediately in the presence of the Lord because their sin-debt was paid in full. For we who are alive and remain until death or that twinkling of an eye experience that we are all waiting for, the fear of death has been conquered and captured by Jesus. Nothing can separate us from His love; no one can snatch us from His hand. We don't have to wait until we are dead or for Jesus to return for us to have these things. They are already ours!



Driven by the Need to Escape

Ray Bentley Ministries

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS
We honor Pastor Ray's life by continuing to share the daily devotions he prepared for you, his precious readers.

"Vanity of vanities, all is vanity."
Ecclesiastes 1:2

In a short story by James Joyce, a young boy embarks on a quest to the local bazaar to buy a gift for a girl he yearns to impress. When he finally arrived, the booths were closed and the hired help, in a hurry to count money and go home, ignored him.

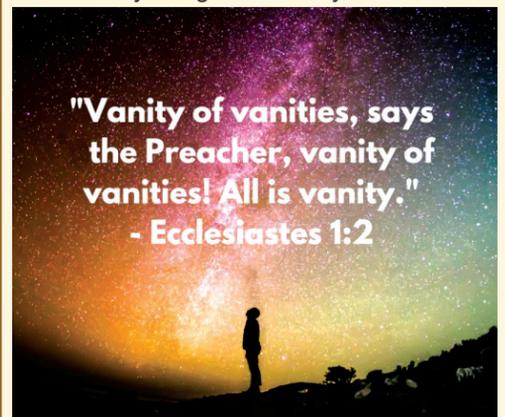
Cold, dark indifference shoved aside his mind's romantic images of the bazaar. Where was the fun? The romance? In the end, he suffers a shocking revelation: "Gazing up into the darkness I saw myself as a creature driven and derided by vanity; and my eyes burned with anguish and anger."

When all the fun we thought we were having becomes foolish and empty, the bazaar-like life we create threatens to end as all bazaars do. Lights out, tired workers, and nothing left but small coins to count and dirt to sweep. The rest—the glitter, the promise of romance and fast fun—it's all manufactured for a brief moment, until the vanity of it is revealed and we are sickened by our self-deception. We are a society driven by pleasure and the need to escape.

The same King Solomon who cried "All is vanity!" also wrote of his life, "Whatever my eyes desired, I did not keep from them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure" (Ecclesiastes 2:10).

Are we so different?

Our pleasure/entertainment-driven society provides endless means of escape. Movies, theater, restaurants unlimited, television with over 100 channels, the Internet; everything imaginable is available, with no reason to withhold any pleasure desired by our eyes. We could spend twenty-four hours a day living in a fantasy world.



Modern technology has turned the same old sins into more convenient ones. Nothing much has changed about human nature.

God gives us abundant life. He desires us to appreciate beauty, talent, and art. But He gives us a context for pleasure that has depth, meaning, and purpose for our lives. His pleasure is not empty. It is rich with love, joy, peace, and the fruits of His Spirit.

We have a choice.

We can drink the crystal clear waters of heavenly love—or we can settle for the murky waters of temporary joy, and lose our source of beauty, goodness, and truth—treasures the human soul longs to possess.

¹Joyce, James, "Araby, Dubliners" (New York, NY: The Modern Library, 1993), p. 35.

A man who was a bit too jovial was running for mayor and strode through a hall greeting everybody as a long-lost friend. He clapped one individual on the back with a hearty, "Surely, I've seen that face before."

"Very likely," agreed the voter. "I've been a guard at the county jail for the past thirty years!"
-Bennett Cerf

LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

Monday, August 1, 5 PM.
at the Moose Lodge

on Foothill Road, just west of Tradepost Road.

- Reports from our **County, State and Federal representatives.**
- Report from our **Schools.**
- Reports from the **Sheriff Department and CHP.** Status of pot grow busts in Lucerne Valley, and news about local meth and fentanyl issues.
- **Code Enforcement activity** – especially illegal food vendors that are competing with our restaurants.
- Status of **bills submitted** to the legislature – what passed and what didn't.
- Review list of proposed **Lucerne Valley road/safety projects** – our priorities and response so far from County and Caltrans.
- News about the **groundwater adjudication** in Lucerne Valley.
- Status of the **"Pulse's"** plans for publishing Lucerne Valley news.