

Boy, Are We Dumb

After reading the essay, that one line in the first paragraph stuck in my brain, “the author implies that Christians are not very intelligent.” I could only guess that such an opinion would come from an academic to make such a blanket statement that Christians are otherwise, for a want of better terms, dumb. Which simply means a lack of intelligence. Why? Because we believe in an invisible God?

Isaiah 5:21- “Woe unto *them that are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!”

Keeping God’s true Sabbath and Holy Days is not for the faint hearted. Non-believers, sometimes even our own family and friends can mock us and our beliefs. We can wear the labels of “cults” and “whack-o’s” and “off the deep end.” Well, the deep end is where we want to go as we just read. True, we believe in a God and a Savior we have never physically seen, but we do not need to behold them with our eyes to know they are there. We know them in our hearts, our minds, and our spirits.

Romans 1:20- “For the invisible things of Him are perceived from *the* creation of *the* world, being understood by the things that were made—both His eternal power and Godhead—so that they are without excuse;”

If we know God, we can see Him in all of His creation. We look for Him. He is revealed to us by His Holy Spirit within us that we receive at baptism.

By today’s standard, I would call into question, what would constitute intelligence? Based on our current society and by comparison, who is really dumb? Nowadays this criticism is certainly laughable as it comes from a nation and generation who seem to boast and profess stupidity as being a virtue. They cannot tell a man from a woman and are uncertain which bathroom to use. God only made two genders no matter how many ludicrous “trans” applications they come up with.

Genesis 1:26-27- “And God created man in His *own* image, in the image of God He created him. He created them male and female.”

Mark 10:6- “But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female.”

They refuse to identify gender at birth and would rather leave that up to the infant, and they think drag queen shows should be permissible in elementary schools. There really are “enlightened” people out there dumb enough to support this.

Romans 1:22- “While professing themselves to be *the* wise ones, they became fools.”

We have a president who cannot walk up *or* down stairs, ride a bike, and who flies a gay pride flag in between two American flags from the White House in support of the alphabet pervert month. But as senile as he is, he probably thinks it is a coloring page from one of his coloring books. Sorry, this is just to illustrate a point. Are they just lost or are they that dumb?

Deuteronomy 32:28-29- “For they *are* a nation without wisdom; neither is there any understanding in them. If they were wise, they would understand this; they would consider their latter end!”

I am sure we are not the first to be ridiculed or laughed at throughout the ages. I can imagine we are in some pretty good company. But what *of* the scoffers and mockers? There are numerous examples throughout God’s word

of those who laughed at, mocked and ridiculed God's servants before meeting timely judgment. Did they always get away with it as they seem to do now? God certainly has a way of turning the table on them and us. Justice is always His way and in His time.

Deuteronomy 32:35- "Vengeance and retribution *belong* to Me. Their foot shall slide in time, for the day of their calamity *is* at hand, and the things that shall come on them make haste."

Romans 12:19- "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves; rather, leave *this* to God's wrath; for it is written," "Vengeance is Mine! I will recompense," *says the Lord.*"

Imagine the smirk on the faces of Egyptian charioteers with their spears, waiting to run down the fleeing Nation of Israel. The pillar of fire and smoke has dissipated and they are fleeing down into a parted Red Sea. After witnessing all of the plagues of Genesis, these soldiers for some reason ignored the fact that a body of water had been split in half by no visible means, allowing a couple of million people to pass through it. This is not a lake, it is the Red Sea.

That observation in itself might cause one to question the sanity of anyone pursuing anyone or anything down into it, especially after being slowed down by a pillar of smoke and a pillar of fire. Okay maybe they were dumb too. We know the Egyptians could not breathe water either...

Exodus 15:19- "For Pharaoh's horses went in with his chariots and with his horsemen into the sea, and the LORD turned back the waters of the sea upon them. But the children of Israel went on dry land through the middle of the sea."

Those pounding on the door of Noah's Ark probably had the same expressions as those on the chariots when the Red Sea closed up.

Even through all of these trials and eyewitness accounts did the Nation of Israel learn anything? Perhaps for a short time, but like so many, they went right back to murmuring the instant things went sour for them. Human nature? Ungrateful? Or maybe they were that dumb too.

Another character that probably had an attitude adjustment was Goliath. Goliath stood six cubits and a span (1 Samuel 17:4). By today's standards, he could have played for any NBA team and stood taller than all of them at over 9 feet tall. How cocky do you think he was when a scrawny shepherd boy

came out to face him in battle? This kid David has got to be dumb. David was hardly mentally challenged, but had the faith the size of a mustard seed... (Matthew 17:20).

1 Samuel 17:42- “And the Philistine looked and saw David, and despised him, for he was *only* a youth, and ruddy with a handsome appearance.” Goliath did not laugh at David for long and neither did the Philistines.

1 Samuel 17:48-49- “And it came to pass when the Philistine rose and went and drew near to meet David, David hurried and ran toward the ranks to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand into his bag and took a stone from there, and slung *it* and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead. And he fell upon his face to the earth.”

Goliath probably only felt dumb for a millisecond as the rock sunk into his brain.

Like David, we can withstand ridicule as our faith will move us beyond any words people may hurl at us. Our God will deliver us from the storms that will come if we stay the course and remain in Him.

Psalm 34:17- “The righteous cry, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.”

Psalm 37:40- “And the LORD shall help them and deliver them; He shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them because they take refuge in Him.”

The liars are hard at work. Fabricating stories or evidence to be used against Christians is old news. It was old news when they used it against Jesus to bring Him to trial.

Remember Daniel and the Lion’s Den? To paraphrase Daniel 6, King Darius was going to give Daniel a promotion and those about him did not care for the idea, and set him up. Much like the fake news of today, they *falsely accused* Daniel, he was arrested and thrown into the lion’s den by King Darius.

Daniel 6:20-23- “And when he came near the den, he cried with a grieved voice to Daniel. The king spoke and said to Daniel, “O Daniel, servant of the living God, is your God Whom you serve continually able to deliver you from the lions?” Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever. My God has sent His angel, and has shut the lions’ mouths, and they have not hurt me

because before Him innocence was found in me. And also, before you, O king, I have done no harm.” Then the king was exceedingly glad for him and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So, Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of injury was found on him because he trusted in his God.”

Apparently, justice was swift back in those days as it did not fare well for the accusers not their families.

Daniel 6:24- “And the king commanded, and they brought those men who had accused Daniel, and they threw *them* into the lions’ den—they, their sons, and their wives. And the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces before they even came to the bottom of the den.”

What a fitting end for such conniving scoundrels. Can you imagine what it would be like if we held such practices today for lying politicians? My only concern would be getting the poor lions sick.

Christianity has been under attack since the eviction from the Garden of Eden. It even got worse after Jesus was crucified and Satan saw the stone rolled away from an empty tomb.

The disciples had their work cut out for them. Although they were scattered and frightened for a bit following the crucifixion, their resolve was set ablaze seeing our Savior resurrected and being gifted God's Holy Spirit.

They endured beatings, persecutions, jailings, and anything but what we would call a blissful existence but the joy and peace they must have experienced in the Master's service remained incomprehensible.

All save one, John, did not live out a natural life. They were executed, beheaded, and crucified. John, if you can call it a natural life, was imprisoned, boiled in oil, and exiled on the Isle of Patmos. Their faith in what they witnessed, what they felt and what knew to be the truth kept them going. They were charged and empowered to carry out a mission and they did.

There is a growth in the persecution of Christians in our own nation over the past decade. It may not be as wide spread or publicized as we suspect but it is on-going. Football coaches and other academics are being chastised and even fired for their Christian beliefs. One football coach's case was heard and supported by the U. S. Supreme Court and he was exonerated. It is pretty sad that a nation founded on the Bible has to go to such lengths to support the God given rights established at our nations beginning.

Job 32:9- “Great men are not *always* wise; neither do the aged understand justice.”

Speak out against a gay or abortion rights agenda and you will wind up in court.

A woman in the United Kingdom was arrested for saying a silent prayer outside of an abortion clinic. They labeled her act as a “thought crime.” Wow!

You cannot make this stuff up. It is not that bad here yet...well yea it is.

However, I think they are dumber in the UK, but when you are number two you try harder.

We can all agree the times that lie ahead will probably get worse as the moral decay continues to spiral out of control. The so-called “Christian” churches are so far off base they hardly resemble anything remotely associated with God or His Bible.

Proverbs 30:3- “I have not learned wisdom, nor the knowledge of the holy.”

It is so critical we remain in God’s word and stay separate from the things of this world. We have been called out from among them, to be separate, certainly not better, but wise in the sight of God.

1 Corinthians 3:18-20- “Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks *himself* to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, so that he may be wise *in God’s sight*. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God for it is written, “He entraps the wise in their own craftiness.” And again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.”

We believe God spoke the universe into existence, it was created by Divine design and not a big bang. We did not evolve from apes or primordial slime. We were created in God’s own image. We believe the Bible is God’s Spirit inspired written word, given through His prophets. We believe that God gave His only Son, Jesus Christ as a perfect sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins once and for all. We believe that God gave us the gift of His Holy Spirit we receive at baptism after repentance, it is not a third person part of a trinity. We believe that we will be part of the first resurrection at the return of Jesus Christ to reign with Him on the Earth, we do not float off to heaven where no one has ever gone.

If these beliefs make me less intelligent, well I guess I am dumb. But the peace I have I would not trade for all the intelligence in the world.

Isaiah 44:24-25- “Thus says the LORD your Redeemer, and He Who formed you from the womb, “I *am* the LORD Who makes all things; Who stretches out the heavens alone; Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself; Who brings to nothing the signs of the liars, and makes fools of diviners; Who turns the wise backward, and makes their knowledge foolish;” Amen.

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