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SUNDAY SERMON

Scientists: Climate Change Is The Least Of Our Worries

Rising sea levels and increased temperatures are nothing compared to this



Clem Samson · [Follow](#)

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What keeps you up at night? Nuclear armageddon?

“Each of these probabilities, by itself, is small. But taken together over a year’s time, they add up to a cumulative probability which is no longer small ... Taken together over a century, they make nuclear war virtually inevitable.”

That’s from a US government assessment a few years ago. Probably still valid.

What about climate change?

Not that anybody should listen to him, but bonny Prince Charles recently announced that “we’ve only got 10 years to save the planet” in a speech he gave on plastic pollution and other threats to the environment

Yes, that sounds bleak. But there is an underlying problem that is bleaker even than these assessments — and it almost certainly means doom for the human race.

Belief will destroy the world

It was fundamentalist religion that inspired the global terrorism that has lead to trillions of dollars to be spent in twenty years of war.

It was fundamentalist religion that led to the US electing a populist fool who almost ended democracy as we know it.

Those same Americans who were fighting “the war on terror” were falling prey to a “belief” in Trump.

It was “belief” that led men to become kama kazi pilots in WWII. Belief in Nazism that led to WWII itself. Belief in communism that killed millions

under the regimes of Stalin, Mao, Pol Pot and others.

It will be BELIEF that will inevitably lead some martyr or maniac to end the world with nuclear terror.

Or biological terror.

Chemical terror.

Belief in some religious idea?

Belief in some nationalist fantasy?

Belief in some communist ideal.

Marx said religion was the opiate of the masses. He was wrong.

Belief is the opiate. Belief in religion, belief in Marxism. Belief in anything, because by definition belief is not rational. It is irrational. Post-rational. It is, in fact, fantastical.

I believe in fairies!

Beliefs when challenged by facts become EVEN STRONGER!!!

Science has shown why. There is a flaw in our brains.

“MDA receptor is involved in thinking and in the development of beliefs. These beliefs are subjected to challenge. A belief that is subjected to more challenges becomes stronger. When a new stimulus comes, it creates

distress in the brain with already existing patterns. The distress results in the release of dopamine (neurotransmitter) to transmit the signal.”

What this means in layman’s terms is that the brain rejects factual challenges to its beliefs by flooding them out with dopamine. I know, it’s so counterintuitive, but I’ve seen it on a person’s face when I challenge their belief and expect them to be angry. Instead, they smile, seem happy, or suddenly self-satisfied. It is the dopamine that I triggered with my presentation of the facts.

When I first started this series, some people accused me of being a Debby Downer. On the contrary, my challenges to traditional belief systems are actually an UPPER, not a downer, to someone who espouses those beliefs. The more they read me, the more dopamine their brain will release. By the end of reading the seven or eight installments published so far, my opposition should make them feel like they are in a state of nirvana. Debby Downer indeed! Science redeems me.

BELIEF CANNOT BE STOPPED

It can only be ignored and yawned at.

This is the only possibility of freedom.

In 2003 May 21, 2003: Radical Saudi cleric Nasir al-Fahd wrote a fatwa justifying the use of WMD. Another radical cleric, Ali al-Khudair, endorsed it. Many times, Bin Laden claimed to his intimates that he already had suitcase nuclear weapons capable of dirty bomb attacks.

In its own way, the US, Russia, China, have all issued their own versions of that fatwa, however, justifying in their own way the use of weapons of mass destruction.

Many people on planet earth BELIEVE that nuclear war is some kind of viable option, and BELIEVE very strongly that climate change is a hoax.

Because of belief, then, either nuclear disaster or climate disaster seems pretty much a done deal.

Imagine no belief

It's almost impossible. Sure, John Lennon imagined no religion, no countries. no possessions, but he stopped short of imagining no belief, because he presented a very strong belief in place of these discarded faiths: the belief that we could live life in peace.

That's nonsense.

If you think the human race is capable of living life in peace, you are sorely deluding yourself.

As much as zookeepers love the chimpanzees, they know enough to keep their distance. They don't believe for one second that a primate is capable of peace. Witness the poor woman whose face was ripped off by a chimp.

I feel the same way about the human race. Peace is not an option because of the biological makeup of homo sapiens. We are a violent predator, not a peace-loving hippy.

Lennon does have another song, however, where he goes further than he does in “Imagine.” His song is called “God.”

God is a concept,

By which we measure

Our pain.

I'll say it again.

God is a concept,

By which we measure

Our pain.

I don't believe in magic

I don't believe in I-Ching

I don't believe in Bible

I don't believe in Tarot

I don't believe in Hitler

I don't believe in Jesus

I don't believe in Kennedy

I don't believe in Buddha

I don't believe in Mantra

I don't believe in Gita

I don't believe in Yoga

I don't believe in Kings

I don't believe in Elvis

I don't believe in Zimmerman

I don't believe in Beatles

I just believe in me

Yoko and me

And that's reality.

The dream is over,

What can I say?

The dream is over
Yesterday
I was the dreamweaver,
But now I'm reborn.
I was the walrus,
But now I'm John.
And so dear friends,
You just have to carry on
The dream is over.

I don't believe in belief

But my brain does. It is the way the human brain works. There's nothing that is going to change that.

Every day my brain presents me with all kinds of myths and fairy tales that it is sure that I need to take very seriously.

I don't.

For instance, my brain tells me "Wake up, it's important to have self-discipline and get work done if you want to achieve things."

I say "Are you absolutely sure about that, brain?"

My brain shuts up. It's not absolutely sure about anything, of course.

This doesn't mean that I don't ever get out of bed and I don't ever work hard. For instance, I've worked hard on this piece for almost a week. It's a very

difficult piece to write, but I took it on as a challenge, because the challenge excited me and it was an enjoyable way to pass the time.

I never get out of bed and go to work because of that fairy tale about discipline and achievement.

There is nothing to achieve, people. Nothing.

Self-driving cars, a man on Mars, a better iPhone. Holograms?

Yawn....

I don't even want to achieve a society of DISBELIEF. I dream about one, but I have no illusions about it being possible with the human race.

Perhaps the robot race that is replacing us will be able to manage it. Not us.

But I believe in my family!

Good luck with that. Every member of your family is going to be separated from you for all eternity. To act otherwise is to be completely insane. The Buddhist saint Mila Repa meditated on the bones of his dead mother. His sister came and told him he had gone insane. He replied, "No, you are the insane one, not comprehending transience."

Then you believe in Buddhism!

No, true Buddhists don't even believe in Buddhism. That's in the Diamond Sutra, written two thousand years ago, in which the Buddha informs his disciples that his "law" is best described in the simile of a raft, which can

take you to the other side (nirvana) but then is no longer needed and must be abandoned.

There are certain tools, like Buddhist philosophy, science, and so on, that can take us to the other side of belief. But we must abandon them as soon as we reach the other shore, lest we fall prey to further belief and drown.

Here's the optimistic takeaway, folks!

Through cheerful pessimism, you will be more aligned with the Real. Your life in fact, will be real, not illusionary. I know, I know, some people just want to go back into the Matrix and have a great life.

Not me.

I want to stay here in reality. I only have so much time in this reality. I want to get to know it. I want to understand what it really is.

I want to somehow overcome the limitations of my own understanding.

And understand beyond belief, beyond self-delusion, what exactly is happening here on planet earth.

That's why I wrote this article and this series.

And it really does make me happy to be free from beliefs. You too can be happy. Any time your brain presents you with some irrational, traditional, psychotic, nonsensical instruction, just say to it:

“Are you absolutely sure about that, brain?”

It works. And now pause. That taste. That taste that you taste immediately after you say that to your brain, that is the taste of freedom.

Don't it taste great?

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