



A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE END TIMES

Week 24: Understanding the Rise of the Antichrist, Part 6

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Review:

- A. We are presently studying a section of lessons called “Understanding the Rise of the Antichrist.”
 1. The Bible says clearly that Christians won’t be around to see him debut on the world stage, and so we cannot identify him. OK to speculate....
 2. However, we are told a good deal about him and the various circumstances around his arrival.
 3. One of those key issues is the post-Rapture onset of a false one-world religious system which, in its earlier phases, depends in some way upon the antichrist for its rise.
 4. The antichrist also has some sort of co-dependent relationship with this false global religious system for a well-defined period of time.
 5. This false global religious system will wield great power and influence in the timeframe leading up to the signing of the covenant between the antichrist and Israel.
 6. Perhaps chiefly, this false one-world religious system will be known for the way it kills and persecutes many people who do not conform to it.
 7. I believe there will be multiple dangers and problems in the world at that time as a direct result of this false religion.
 8. That will concern Israel’s leadership greatly, and it’s something they want to address as they attend to the covenant terms.
- B. We learned in **Revelation Ch. 17** that this false global religious system will be occultic and ancient in its origins.
- C. As **Ecclesiastes 1:9** says, there is “nothing new under the sun.” This future world deception is not significantly different than a redo of false belief systems that go way back.
- D. I believe we are given a pretty good shot at connecting some of the dots here. I’ve presented the case that this future false world religion is an extension of the Roman Empire from old.
- E. We did the necessary history lesson to support that assumption. That initial Roman Empire became the Holy Roman Empire. That eventually became the Roman Catholic Church which is now simply called the Catholic Church.
- F. We looked at an overview of the history of the Catholic Church, and two elements were given some focus:
 1. How the Catholic Church has always sought to control what the masses know and understand from the Bible. (At the height of the Catholic Church’s control, we had what we known as the “Dark Ages.”)

2. We also looked at how the Catholic Church has a long history of persecuting and killing those who believe that salvation is by “grace alone” through faith alone in Christ alone.
- G. We’ve looked at the statements of and the globalist mindset of the current leadership of the Catholic Church, and we understand from all the evidence that is out there that it is promoting three primary positions:
1. **The effort to unify all religions** – The effort to unify all religions is a big objective with the leadership of the Catholic Church. We even looked at their own statements in support of this.
 2. **The search for extra-terrestrial life** – Strange as it may seem, this is a big deal with the Catholic Church leadership, and it has been for some time. Within their own investments and internal politics, the Catholic Church is signaling that they are already planning for our world to be visited by “aliens.”
 3. **The push for the global warming agenda** – It’s no secret that the Pope is doing everything he can to advance the deceptive climate change agenda. This issue amounts to nothing less than concerted efforts to control all of the globe’s population and economies.

I. RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM OUR LAST LESSON:

- A. It’s clear to me that some of you are uncomfortable with my comments about ‘climate change.’
1. For various reasons, some of you choose to believe in climate change, to differing degrees.
 2. Some of you have told me that you’re inclined to believe in limiting SUVs, in promoting carbon credits, and in ridding fossil fuels.
 3. Some of you have challenged my comments that ‘climate change’ is a farce and is a key part of the globalist agenda.
 4. Though I’ve learned that, “a man persuaded against his mind will generally remain of the same opinion,” I feel I need to touch on this matter a little bit more before moving on.
- B. The climate change frenzy that we see today pivots around a single all-important truth: Global warming is at its core, a false belief system.
1. There is a HUGE difference between ‘science’ and ‘political science.’ We do not have the science nearly as much as we have an agenda.
 - a. Part of the reason I provided several examples of ‘scientists’ and media warning us up through the late 70’s that the world was headed into a new ice age was to show you how baseless and unscientific the premise of climate change really is.
 - b. It is a globalist agenda to bring down strong nations and to deliberately weaken their economies.
 2. The climate change hysteria is “eco-fundamentalism,” which is a militant and rabid rejection of God.

3. It is characterized by a passionate worship of a false “mother earth” instead of a true “Heavenly Father.”
4. The bigger issue I’m driving at here is, we’re just now seeing the very beginning of what is to come.
5. It’s possible, even very likely, that this future false one-world religious system will heavily emphasize the need to protect the earth and its climate.
6. As we’ve seen, this is ALREADY part of the message that occultic leaders are receiving from dark spiritual forces: that the “aliens” (AKA, fallen angels) will physically return to help us restore a planet that has been badly damaged.

C. Consider the following:

1. Many of the earth’s inhabitants will have disappeared in the Rapture. That reduces a big part of the world’s population which is presently a MAJOR goal of the climate change folks.
2. There is also an ecological theme which courses its way through the Tribulation judgements and those judgements leading up to it.
3. We’ll study these judgements in more detail later, but for now, I’ll try to give you the big picture:
 - a. A total of 21 judgments are directed against humanity, and these are arranged within three groups: the seal judgments, the trumpet judgments, and the bowl judgments.
 - b. As I’ve already shared, it’s my belief that at least the first five seal judgments occur before the formal onset of the Tribulation.
 - c. Think about this, half of these judgments directly impact the earth and its environment. Between them, they....
 -change the geography of the planet (**Revelation 6:14**);
 -they burn up much of its vegetation (**Revelation 8:7**);
 -they dim the sun, moon, and stars (**Revelation 8:12**);
 -they render most of the world’s water lethal to life (**Revelation 8:8-11; 16:3-7**);
 -they plunge the world into darkness (**Revelation 8:12-13; 16:10**);
 -they completely dry up great rivers (**Revelation 16:12**);
 -they scorch the earth with intense heat (**Revelation 16:8-9**),
 -and.... they pound the planet with 100-pound hailstones (**Revelation 16:21**).
4. I’m no atmospheric scientist – but that’s real climate change!
5. It is also a pretty good clue that the climate change hysteria swirling around right now is a front for the larger ambitions of deception.
6. As God’s judgments destroy the planet and its environment, they also fulfill His divine plan to hold accountable everyone who persists in their unbelief.

7. God will show mankind once and for all that He's in charge of everything that happens with this world. It's He who designed plate tectonics, and it's He who'll decide when they slip and slide (**Revelation 16:18**).
 8. He flawlessly suspended the spinning earth from nothing (**Job 26:7**), so only He can make it stagger about like a drunken person (**Isaiah 24:20**).
 9. God said "Let there be light" (**Genesis 1:3**), so only God is capable of taking that light away (**Revelation 16:10**).
- D. One of the pre-eminent indications of humanity's sinful arrogance is expressed in its belief that it can manipulate the globe and its climate conditions.
1. It's my belief that this arrogance, which is CORE to all socialist-globalist agendas taking shape right now, will become a key point of this future false one-world religious system.
 2. Allow me ask a rhetorical question:
 - a. "If the climate change folks are the same ones who are passionate about killing unborn babies...
 - b.who are all about depopulating the earth by any deceptive means possible...
 - c. ...who actively promote the fallacy of many gender types....
 - d. and if the climate change folks are demonstrating so many tendencies NOW that will find full expression in the depravities of the Tribulation - -
 - e. THEN WHY WOULD ANYONE WHO CALLS THEMSELVES A BELIEVER IN JESUS CHRIST WANT TO IDENTIFY WITH THESE CORE BELIEFS?
- E. Another subject of discomfort or questions, concerns the case I have been developing that the Catholic Church. Specifically, how it will, in one way or another, morph into this future false global religious system. That it will take over the world in the wake of the Rapture, and that it will persecute and destroy the saints of God.

It's why I have taken time and care to present the history of the Roman Empire and how it all lines up with what Scripture says. I have presented the case that I think makes best sense - and where I am able to, I have supported this premise with what I believe the Bible teaches.

All that said, each of you must come to your own conclusion.

- If you feel the Hara Krishnas will join with the Hindus and Buddhists and take over the world while they beat drums, eat carrots, hand out flyers, and burn incense, that's fine!
- I only urge you to support your position by going to God's Word and seeking out what is said there.
- The same is true if you feel Islam will be the global false religious system we've been talking about.
- Seek out the Scriptures. Line up your convictions with what the Bible says to see if they are one and the same.

1. I firmly believe, if you take God's Word at face value, you will find that the case for the Roman Catholic Church emerges as the strongest and most consistent position.
 - a. It lines up best with the proper principles of Biblical interpretation,
 - b. It conforms most easily to the prophetic Word of God, and....
 - c. It is the most viable position when one considers history and current events.
2. So, all that said, I want to take today's lesson and explore one more element on these issues.
 - a. I believe this element is also a matter of prophetic concern concerning the Roman Empire.
 - b. It is one more element we need to consider as we look into this future period of time that follows the Rapture – and then “goes into” The Tribulation.

Please turn to **Revelation 2:18-29**. This is the letter to the church at Thyatira. It is one of the seven letters to seven churches that are found in **Revelation Chapters 2 and 3**.

- II. SOME HIGH-ALTITUDE COMMENTS ABOUT THE SEVEN LETTERS TO SEVEN CHURCHES:**
- A. The seven churches described here are seven literal churches at the time that John wrote Revelation.
 1. They were actual churches in a actual location. They were not all of the Christian churches of that time; only seven were selected out of the many that existed.
 2. That's why one letter is to the church at Smyrna, another to the church at Ephesus, and so on.
 3. These were real cities in that time, and they had real congregations of believers in those municipalities.
 4. One intent of these letters was to communicate with these literal churches and address their personal issues.
 - B. There is also a spiritual significance for all churches and believers today within these letters.
 1. This comprises a second purpose for these letters.
 2. This purpose is to reveal seven different types and conditions of churches throughout history, and to instruct them to receive God's truth as it relates to what they are each individually dealing with.
 3. Therefore, they follow a pattern, and they are divinely placed into the book of **Revelation** to represent the Church Age, from its start and up to **Ch. 4** where John is taken up to heaven in a picture of the Rapture.
 - C. If I was to briefly summarize the main message written to each of these seven churches, it would be something like this:
 1. Ephesus - the church that had forsaken its first love.
 2. Smyrna - the church that would suffer persecution.

3. Pergamum - the church that needed to repent.
4. Thyatira - the church that had a false prophetess and a foundation in Satanic rituals.
5. Sardis - the church that had fallen asleep.
6. Philadelphia - the church that had endured patiently and would be preserved from wrath that would come upon 'the whole world.'
7. Laodicea - the church that didn't see itself accurately. It thought it was doing well, however it had a lukewarm faith that God detested (NOTE: Laodicea represents the church of today.)

D. So let's get back to the church at Thyatira.

1. This is the fourth church on the list. A key point about this church was it had a false prophetess. (I want you to specifically note that "female" element that is mentioned there).
2. There is a compelling case to be made here that the letter to the church at Thyatira appears to have some association with Roman Catholicism > especially if we consider this alongside the greater counsel of God's Word as it relates to these matters.

Bill Salus is one of the best minds and scholars in prophecy these days. I lean on his expertise a good deal for what I will share with you today. This is a specific issue that he has researched and unpacked very well, and following a couple conversations I have had with him, I will summarize for you the things I feel he makes a good case for.

E. First, let's focus on **Revelation 2:20-23**.

F. I will read them to you first, without a certain emphasis, then again WITH a certain emphasis.

G. On the second read, try to let your eyes flow over the text while your ears take in other things we have already learned.

*Nevertheless, I have this against you (**Roman Catholicism**): You tolerate that woman Jezebel (**the blessed mother**), who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants (**those who follow the Catholic faith**) into sexual immorality (**the many sexual perversions that have always plagued Catholicism**) and the eating of food (**sacraments which is a form of idolatry**) sacrificed to idols. ²¹I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. ²²So I will cast her (**the Harlot World Religion of Revelation Ch. 17**) on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her ("**have committed adultery with her, and the inhabitants of the earth who were intoxicated with the wine of her adulteries**") to suffer great tribulation (**in the second half of the Tribulation**), unless they repent of her ways. ²³I will kill her children with death ("**...bring her to ruin and leave her naked; and they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire**"). Then all the churches will know that I am he*

who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

- H. Note: I read that as I inserted various phrases from Scripture from other places, and as I included elements from the history of Roman Catholicism.
1. I'm not trying to adjust Scripture in any way - - I am merely trying to make a point.
- I. I realize this is something you may have not considered before, and so I want to go back and emphasize one particular point that is made in this text:
1. God says He "WILL KILL HER CHILDREN WITH DEATH?" Let's pause and take into account what is happening here. This passage says God will kill the children of one of the seven churches.
 - a. This is the **only one** of the seven churches that is facing this sort of prescriptive event.
 - b. God further says He will do this during a time known as "great tribulation."
 - c. This seems to place these killings during the second half of the Tribulation-period.
 - That lines up, with what we have already studied.
 - It will be at the midpoint of the Tribulation that the antichrist will utterly destroy the false one world religious system. He eats her flesh, burns her with fire, etc. **(Cf. Revelation 17:16)**
 - As I've said already, it will be a violent overthrow. Nothing pretty or political about it.
 2. Many of you are familiar with John Gill and his work on Bible commentaries. John Gill lived from 1697-1771, and he writes of **Revelation 17:16** all the way back then:

"And I will kill her children with death,.... Her popes, cardinals, priests, Jesuits, monks, friars, and all that join in the Romish apostasy, they shall be killed with death; there shall be an utter extirpation of them in God's own time;..."
 3. Here, "God's own time" is a similar concept as "Day of the Lord" or "day of my wrath" – AKA, "The Great Tribulation," the second half of those seven years.....
 4. I would suggest that "her children" here are more than just the leaders. It's likely a situation that is much like "the children of Israel". That is a reference to the Jewish people in general.
 5. I think it's the same concept here: It is the followers of this false one-world religious system which finds its origin in the apostasies of Roman Catholicism.
- J. Let's pause for a second and take a deep breath. Let's evaluate **the main points** of what we are considering here from scholars like John Gill (from the 1700's), Bill Salus (from our own time) and others, by the way, they are not alone in their view...

1. First, the implication here is that, the institution and influence of Roman Catholicism, pictured in **Revelation Ch. 2** as Thyatira, will still exist on the earth after the Rapture.
 - a. This is supported by the statement that her children will be “*suffer great tribulation.*”
 - b. It is also supported by a study of **Revelation Ch. 17** (which we have looked at ourselves) where we find the one world religion thriving up to the midpoint of The Tribulation, after which it is utterly burned and destroyed.

2. Secondly, and this is IMPORTANT. The idea of suggesting that one church institution WILL go through the Tribulation is counter-balanced by another church being told it WON'T go through the Tribulation.
 - a. The Church of Philadelphia, another one of these seven churches, seems to be gone after the Rapture (**Cf. Revelation 3:10**).
 - b. In this verse, Philadelphia is kept from experiencing the seven-year upon the whole world.”
 - c. In other words, God's Word says that true Christians will not go through the Tribulation.
 - d. So, we should not throw up premature resistance to the notion that the Bible is suggesting that Thyatira will go THROUGH the Tribulation when it's conventionally accepted to suggest that Philadelphia WON'T.
 - e. The Bible is saying there is a difference between those who have real faith and those who do not.

3. Here's another main point to consider:
 - a. There is the phrase “*I will kill her children with death....*” from **Revelation 2:23**. It seems a redundant statement, but there is an interesting wrinkle just under the surface here.
 - b. The Greek word for “kill” here is “apokteino,” and the one used for “death” here is “thanatos.”
 - c. The most direct translation here is “to kill or slay someone to the point of their physical death.”
 - d. It's VERY interesting to note that these two Greek words are the same two words used in **Revelation 6:8**.
 - e. **Revelation 6:8** is the passage about the Fourth Seal Judgment which we spent some time learning about. This is the judgment that sees Death and Hades personified as riders, and who have *authority over a fourth of the earth*. To do what? To KILL.
 - f. The very same Greek words are used here. It says that Death (“thanatos,”) and Hades have authority over a fourth of the earth to kill, (“apokteino).”
 - g. Who do they kill? We've asked ourselves this question already, and the answer is: the Fifth Seal martyred Saints of **Revelation 6:9-11**.

- h. This lines up perfectly with what we read about this false one-world religion in **Revelation 17:6** where it says the Harlot is “...*drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus.*” (NOTE: It is EXACTLY the way the martyred saints of the 5th Seal Judgment are described).
- i. In other words, and as we have mentioned before in previous lessons, the Catholic inquisitions of the past are going to return once more. Maybe that’s why hundreds of guillotines are already being staged around the world right now.
- j. Again, their focus will be on those who stay true to REAL SAVING faith.
- k. Once again, I remind you of what **Ecclesiastes** says, “there is nothing new under the sun.”

K. Now, let’s take another and different look at this letter to the church in Thyatira, but now let’s look at **Revelation 2:24**. Something very poignant is said here:

“Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden.

1. BIG QUESTION HERE: “What are “the depths of Satan?” This is obviously not a good thing to have said about your church. You don’t want someone to ask you, “What are you guys studying at your church?” - - - and you answer, “Oh, we are learning things based on the depths of Satan.”

NOTE: But - - here we have a church that we find is marinated in Satanic doctrine.

L. To understand this better, we have to go back and look at what God’s main complaint about the church in Thyatira is. It’s “that woman, Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess.” (**back in vs. 20**)

1. As a church, Thyatira, has apparently permitted Satan to insert terrible false doctrines into their teachings.
2. One of the key hubs about these horrible doctrines is how they pivot around a female figure who, from God’s point of view, has similarities to Jezebel in the Old Testament. This narrows things down a lot.
3. The **only possible** female candidate who has endured throughout the Church Age is the one that is known by several names: “Queen of Heaven,” “the Blessed Mother,” “the Virgin Mary,” “Our Lady of Fatima,” and other names like these.
4. This is ALSO why this final false one-world religion is pictured as a female in **Revelation Ch. 17**, and why she is associated with “Babylon the Great” from ancient times.
5. It is all female-focused, occultic at its roots, and Satanically-inspired from the very beginning.

M. So now, in this same passage, we have a group of key words and phrases we need to consider collectively, as all talking about one main subject:

1. These are “Jezebel,” “great tribulation,” “kill her children with death” and “depths of Satan.”

2. Again, they are all facets of one gemstone if you will. They all are giving a piece of a larger picture.
3. There is another word study we should account for here as well. It is the Greek term: *“megas thlipsis.”* It’s two words, and together they state, “great tribulation.”
4. Here’s what’s VERY important to know about this term *“megas thlipsis.”*
 - a. The first use in the Bible of these two words together is where they are stated by Jesus in **Matthew 24:21**, and that verse reads as follows:

“For at that time there will be great tribulation, unmatched from the beginning of the world until now, and never to be seen again.” (Great Tribulation – megas thlipsis)

NOTE: Jesus uses this term to identify the timing of prophetic events that happen during the second half of Daniel’s 70th week, also known as, “The Great Tribulation.”

- b. This use of *“megas thlipsis”* emphasizes that Thyatira apparently is poised to enter into the 2nd half of the Tribulation, that part known as the Great Tribulation period.
 - c. Again, this is consistent with **Revelation 17:16**, because it’s at that point that the antichrist destroys this false one world religious system, persecutes and kills its followers, and sets up himself to be worshipped instead.
- N. I’m going to conclude here, and we’re going to move on from this point next week to other matters concerning the rise of the antichrist, but in closing, I want to point out the ways the things we have learned together these last few lessons line up perfectly:
1. First, there is the historical record we must consider:
 - a. Rome as an empire never went away, it went from the Roman Empire of Jesus’ time to the Holy Roman Empire, then to the Holy Roman Catholic Church, then to the Roman Catholic Church, and today we simply know it as, the Catholic Church.
 - b. It morphed, it changed, it relocated, and it took on new purposes, but it all can be traced back to the original empire
 - c. It remains headquartered in Rome as it once was back in Biblical times, the original city of seven hills.
 2. Second, the leadership of the Catholic Church is pushing those ideas and views which tie directly into end times themes:
 - a. Socialism, globalism, climate change, gender confusion, unifying all religions into one, and searching for, and believing in the return of, “alien” life.
 - b. The Pope is on record declaring that Jesus was not God, and even more recently there was news that he said Jesus did not rise from the dead.

- c. Whatever he is saying specifically, and WHY he is choosing to say these things, know that he is positioning people to doubt the veracity of God's Word.
3. Third, the full counsel of God's Word appears to suggest that this post-Rapture one-world false religious system will emerge from the teachings and presence of the Catholic church.
- a. That Catholic Church will be left behind after the Rapture according to the Bible
 - b. The false religious system will arise from the foundations of Catholicism will persecute and kill Christians, AND Jews, as it has demonstrated a pattern of doing before
 - c. That religious system will be steeped in occultism and supernatural displays
 - d. That religious system will be destroyed by the antichrist at the midpoint of the Tribulation
 - e. That religious system and its extreme genocidal passions will be what Israel will want to be INSULATED from as she seeks instead to have her own temple INSTITUTION established.
 - f. This desire on Israel's part becomes a key component of the covenant which is confirmed by the antichrist, and which he unilaterally breaks terms with 3 ½ years later.

It all fits together.