A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE END TIMES

Week 27: Understanding the Rise of the Antichrist, Part 9
October 30, 2022
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Review:

- We've spent the last several weeks gradually developing our understanding of the antichrist's rise, how he comes onto the world scene, and those circumstances in the world that accompany his debut
- We studied the onset of the false global religion that will dominate in the wake of The Rapture. We also looked intently at the antichrist's religious heritage and affections.
- The question was asked, "What sort of god or religious system will the antichrist support?" The answer is simple, "None!"
- As though to make this case as watertight as possible, ***Daniel 11:36-37*** list every possible angle from which to view this matter and make this conclusion.
- What we also learned was the antichrist will honor a god that various translations call "strange, foreign, and unknown."
- It is a completely different religious system. We considered this "strange" or "foreign" god (small g), we made doubly sure it was none of the options that were ruled out already in the Biblical text.
- We find out in ***Daniel 11:38 and the first part of vs. 39*** that whoever / whatever this "strange" god is, it is something that is able to receive honor that is given to it, it is able to physically help the antichrist tear down systems of power and influence, and it is able to understand the value of wealth and resources given to it.

NOTE: I've given you my personal opinion on this answer, and I told you I feel the 'strange' or 'foreign' entity that the antichrist will honor as god (small g) are aliens. (See below) In quick bullet fashion, here are a few elements we've unpacked the last couple of weeks as we evaluated this position:

1. First of all, they are not really 'aliens,' but fallen angels.
    - The unsaved world will believe them to be aliens from another galaxy or whatever, but this is part of the deception.
    - They are fallen angels taking on a form that the unregenerate world will become convinced by.

2. Secondly, this is a position supported by Scripture. We looked at multiple passages which declare the return of the Nephilim in the very last days. We even evaluated Jesus' own words that it will "be as it was in the days of Noah" just before His Second Coming.
    - Over and over in the Bible, we see the pattern of fallen angels and the Nephilim waging war against God's plan of redemption.
    - It's an ancient battle that has never gone away, and that conflict is only going to escalate as the very end of time draws near.

3. Third, there are many events we see around us today that are lining up to prepare mankind for the physical return of fallen angels into the sphere of human experience:
    - There is the way our government is now stating on prime time news that these are technologies that are "not from this earth,"
        - After years of cover up, it's now being openly declared that we're dealing with something nobody understands
    - The way the movie and entertainment industry has been conditioning the masses for decades now concerning the arrival of superheroes (and hybrid entities that are part human and part supernatural) to save our planet and to rescue mankind
    - Then, there is the consideration of what so many New Age Leaders are saying: The message from these so-called spirit guides is one that closely parallels the Biblical Rapture, the onset of the Tribulation, and the rise of the antichrist.
    - However, the spin put on these occultic revelations shows it is all a deception. Every element of Biblical truth is twisted to have an alternate meaning.
    - I have shared with you my reasons for believing this is all part of the "powerful delusion" and "THE lie" that we read about, and that we know is coming AFTER the Rapture in ***2 Thessalonians 2:11***

In summation, in my opinion, as I believe the Bible is teaching the matter, and as I see events in the world aligning, I believe that almost immediately AFTER the Rapture, the fallen angels will appear.

4. They will interact physically, personally, and face-to-face with those who are left behind.
    - They will seek to explain away the Rapture as being something other than what really happened.
    - They will reassure those who are left on earth that they are the good guys and are the lucky ones. They are the ones who will evolve into the next higher level of humanity.
    - I personally believe that the Christians who God takes out of here will be disparaged endlessly.
    - We are the sticks in the mud, the ones who refuse to live in harmony with others, the ones who could not support globalism, the ones who wouldn't embrace the need to heal mother earth, and so on and so on. ALL these things are being said now about us already, so this is not difficult to see happen.
    - It's part of the reason the antichrist in ***Revelation 13:6*** slanders those who "live in heaven." There will be massive misinformation campaigns to distract from Biblical truth.

NOTE: The second half of this verse opens a new consideration about the antichrist. It spotlights how the antichrist will govern with a socialist philosophy.

A number of years ago I raised this issue in an article that was published. I was one of the first to do so, and I took some heat for saying the things I did - since it positioned today's progressive-socialists as a prototype of the antichrist's supporters.

But now more and more prophecy students and scholars are saying the same thing: **"The economic system of the antichrist will be the most socialist system the world has ever seen, and those who support socialism-globalism in our world today are actively paving the way for the antichrist's arrival."**

I. **HOW THE PRINCIPLES AND HISTORY OF SOCIALISM SERVE THE PURPOSES OF THE ANTICHRIST.** In this lesson I want to look at the ways the antichrist is the world's ultimate socialist leader, how his system of socialism builds on dynamics we see trending in our times today, and the way the Bible regards all of this.

A. We will look at four issues as we address this matter:
   1. **What exactly is socialism?**
   2. **Socialism in our nation**
   3. **Examples of the antichrist as a socialist**
   4. **Christian response to socialism**

B. First, what exactly is socialism?
   1. It's a political system and an economic system.
      a. It advocates that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the public or the community as a whole.
      b. Socialists believe that everything in society is made by the cooperative efforts of the people and citizens – that no one is actually responsible for their own individual success and no one can take credit for it. ("You didn't build that…..")
      c. Socialists further believe that anyone with resources should give what they have to others who don't have it….. ("redistribution" policies)
      d. (Painting with a broad brush here): Inherently, socialism supports the notion that nobody should have more than another.
      e. If you're a college age person who has made poor choices, who sports multiple studs, gauges, tattoos, and rainbow-colored hair – or if you are a high-school dropout with addictions who avoids hard work and personal responsibility, this whole idea that nobody should have any more than another sounds pretty good.

2. Countries that have adopted socialism:
    a. China (since 1949) – This has evolved to become more extreme: Marxism / Leninism (we now call it Communism, and it is now a system that imposes on people's religious, personal and political liberties).
        - We are rapidly seeing the socialist trends in our own nation giving way to this more repressive situation.
        - Our nation, under the extreme tyrannies of the progressives in leadership, has endured multiple infringements on religious, personal, and political liberties.
    b. Cuba is much the same (since 1959). It is not as repressive as China, but there have certainly been all the hallmarks of the same, especially depending on the leader.
    c. Vietnam and other Asian countries are also socialist, as is most of Europe and Canada.
    d. Some countries have tried socialism and have rejected it: Israel, India, and the United Kingdom all experimented with it following WW2, and ultimately rejected it for the most part. We see some of those same countries drifting back to it now in various ways.
    f. Inherent to the socialist philosophy is its core conviction that the government can make better decisions for the people than the people can make for themselves.
    g. The big takeaway is that socialism has ultimately been a failure in every country it has been attempted in. Venezuala and South Africa are great examples in our times.
        - They were once wealthy nations with law and order. They were once prosperous and respected.
        - Now they are poster children for crime, genocide, and absolute poverty and chaos.
    h. Socialism always follows a certain pattern. The few leaders at the top get incredibly wealthy, and they are a tight-knit group that watch out for one another.
    i. The masses who are suppressed below them become impoverished. They live under tyranny. It's just like the medieval "lords and serfs" system.
    j. That's the basics of socialism in a nutshell. More could be said, but that's the essence of it. I encourage you to study more of this on your own.

3. Socialism in our nation: NOTE: (I'm not trying to make political statements, please understand that. I'm just giving you the history and the plain facts here).
    a. Certainly, socialism is an obvious trend (Democratic Socialists of America: three of its more prominent figures include Bernie Sanders, Alexandra Ocasio Cortez, and Rashida Tlaib).
    b. However, it all began back in the late 19th Century. In the era of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the "New Deal" gave an emphasis to socialist ideals.

c. Socialism also got a massive push under the leadership of Barak Obama, and it has only gained steam since.
d. Colleges and universities across this nation are major indoctrination allies of socialism. It is even an agenda that is now reaching down into elementary schools.
e. It is the chief reason why so many college kids identify as socialists now. According to some studies, **70% of millennials now say they want to vote for socialism.**
f. Key to the Democratic Socialists of America's platform is the dissolution of capitalism, the push for what they call, "economic equality," the elimination of national borders, rationing of medical care, and dependence on government systems for such institutions as healthcare, education, and so on.
g. They consider their ideas superior to tried and true systems. Their leaders (think of the ones I have mentioned) are often very arrogant in their convictions, and they completely ignore the plain facts.
h. According to Statista Research, the popularity of socialism in the United States has been increasing among people who identify as Democrats, rising from 50 percent in 2010 to 65 percent in 2021. Over the same time period, support for socialism shrunk among Republicans from 19 percent to 10 percent.
i. Ardent supporters of socialism in this nation are BLM, Occupy Wall Street, Antifa, and The Muslim Brotherhood. That alone should speak volumes to us….

4. It's notable that most socialists believe the following:
   a. They are nearly all anti-Israel and antisemitic (more on this in a bit….)
   b. The BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) movement, which is against Israel, is officially endorsed by the Democratic Socialists of America.
   c. They want no economic competition.
      - This gets back to collective ownership.
      - Again, this is why socialists view capitalism as bad.
   d. They actively promote class warfare.
      - They have to try to paint certain classes of people as being above others and they have to advance racism and the stigma of inequality.
      - Bottom line is, they have to get people upset and angry.
      - To achieve their goals, they have to create chaos and unrest among classes and types of people.
   e. Socialists support expanded government as something "positive."
      - They do not see rules and regulations as being negative - - in fact 'deregulation' to help businesses is often viewed unfavorably.
   f. They do not believe in individual land ownership. In a recent Bloomberg article, the title said it all, "America Should Become a Nation of Renters."
   g. Here's an important conviction of socialists: Numerous studies / articles / historical records also show that socialists are anti-God.

- They do not believe in religion, most specifically, they do not support the Christian faith and its ideals.
- They do not believe in those laws and values which find their origin in God's Word.
- That's why many socialists today are the ones behind gender-bending, open borders, the defunding of police, and so on.
- The bottom line is most socialists have entirely rejected God. That's why they don't want God's laws, God's morals, God's people, and God's institutions.

h. In a 1972 interview, Dotson Rader told William F. Buckley about the strategy to implement socialism. He said the following:

"You've got to change people's sexual attitudes, people's attitude towards the church, people's attitude towards education, towards business and ownership." He admitted that drug use, "sexual promiscuity and sexual deviancy is a device," because they create "natural allies to aid a socialist revolutionary movement."

i. I'm jumping ahead here, but note the text of ***Revelation 9:21*** which follows the 6th Trumpet Judgment:

And they did not repent of their murders or their witchcraft or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

j. Make no mistake! One of the great symptoms of a nation that is careening out of control, and is falling prey to the clutches of socialism, is its support of sexual depravities of all sorts.
k. Further on this matter, one of the hallmarks of socialism is deception. Socialism CANNOT succeed without a foundation of lies.
l. Since their ideas don't work and their efforts to impose radical change are mostly unwelcome, socialists have to resort to lies and corruption.
m. A single, just ONE, great example of this deception are the revelations in Fauci's own emails lately: among those: hydroxychloroquine is highly effective as a treatment, and masks don't do anything to prevent the transmission of the C-19 virus.
n. Socialists are rabidly driven to control society. We have certainly seen much of that in the past couple of years.

5. Let's talk about some characteristics of the antichrist as a socialist.
6. Here in *Daniel 11:39,* we see two examples. First, *"….he will greatly honor those who acknowledge him."*
   a. The antichrist will deceptively raise up a political system which greatly favors those who support him, and which will suppress, ridicule, and persecute those who do not.

b. The antichrist's socialist system will put down anyone who takes any position against him. Conversely, he will honor, elevate, and give advantage to anyone who agrees with him.
c. This phrase even goes on to say he will give his supporters "*rule over many people."*
d. Basically, if you agree with the antichrist and openly support him, you will be given extraordinary benefits and influence.
e. We see these same trends in our own nation today and in the politics of our own leadership. Not hard to see at all….

7. The second thing we see about the antichrist in *Daniel 11:39* is that he will distribute the land at a price.

   a. This is nothing more than the redistribution policies we are hearing about today. Take from party A, and give to party B. Even if party B hasn't earned it, they "deserve" it according to this way of thinking….
   b. Things that once belonged to one person are now given to another.
   c. In ***Daniel 8:24,*** there is additional commentary about the antichrist on this very matter:*"….he will cause astounding devastation….he will destroy mighty men"*
   d. One of the hallmarks of socialism is it always goes after those with resources and influence; these are called in the Bible, "mighty men."
   e. Look at all the prominent socialist leaders and dictators. After coming to power, they destroyed, and often killed, the business owners, scientists, educators, doctors, lawyers, etc.
   f. They decimated those who were mighty and powerful. They cannot afford to have people with influence and means resist them.
   g. One of the most common things that has happened wherever socialism takes over is people with means and resources lose what they have gained.

8. The third thing we see is that socialists depend on deceit for their agenda, and the antichrist is a poster child for this attribute.
   a. In ***Daniel 8:25*** the antichrist causes "deceit to prosper," and in ***Daniel 8:12,*** the antichrist "throws truth to the ground." These two elements are first cousins to one another.
   b. One of the most prominent characteristics of socialism is it cannot tolerate truth. Truth is an antidote to deception and must therefore be suppressed.
   c. For socialism to succeed, deception must reign. There are two ways to do that:
      - The first thing is to give lies the advantage. You promote them and make sure the lies get the spotlight and are repeated over and over again.
      - Second is, you suppress and cover up the truth. You cannot allow the facts to have their say.
        - When the facts are made clear, you ridicule them and censor them.

- You control and persecute the channels by which facts get told.
- You don't permit the messengers of truth to have a platform.
- We see these tactics in the antichrist's behavior and in his system.

d. Perhaps one of the greatest hallmarks of deception within a socialist system is the way in which their leaders rise to power in the first place.
   - It's never a legitimate affair. It violates law and proper process. It is always full of lies and fraud.
   - In the first part of ***Daniel 11,*** extensive information is given about Antiochus Epiphanes, perhaps the most detailed TYPE of the antichrist in all of Scripture.
   - Much of what was true about Antiochus Epiphanes in the past will be true about the antichrist in the future.
   - In ***Daniel 11:23,*** we read about Antiochus Epiphanes: *"….he will act deceitfully, and with only a few people he will rise to power."*
   - Let's put that in modern terms. If a legitimate vote had taken place in ancient times, Antiochus Epiphanes would NOT have gained power.
   - Instead, he gained power through the deceptive, lawless, and underhanded tactics of *"only a few people"*
   - Do I need to state the obvious? We have seen PRECISELY the same processes in our own time.
   - We've reached a point in America where a leader is legitimate **only** if the FBI is spying on him, the CIA is trying to unseat him, big tech is banning him, and the DOD refuses to obey his orders….
   - It is patently clear that we don't have legitimate leaders in place now, and that deception and fraud were pushed by a minority of people to bring about the present fiasco.
   - That deception is out in the open now…not just on a federal level anymore, but also on a state level.

9. We see the antichrist's socialist system will endorse and carry out strong religious persecution.
   a. There are multiple references for this.
      - ***Daniel 7:25 –*** *"the saints will be handed over to him for a time, times, and half a time."*
      - ***Daniel8:25 –*** *"he will destroy the holy people"*
      - ***Revelation 13:7 –*** *"He was given power to make war against the saints and conquer them…"*
      - ***Daniel 9:27 – "…****he will put an end to sacrifice and offering…"*
   b. Perhaps one of the most prominent points the Bible makes about the antichrist, the one which is consistent will ALL socialist regimes in our times is the one of religious persecution.
   c. It was one of the clearest and most abhorrent tactics of Antiochus Epiphanes as a type of the antichrist, and it will be present at the time of the end as well.

d. Even in our times: Canada has now jailed pastors, while governors in our nation permit riots, gambling, bars, and all kinds of events to take place. However, they limit churches and gatherings of worship.
e. Make no mistake. Our nation is careening in a socialist direction.

10. No borders – One World Government:
    a. The great cry of socialists today is to dissolve nationalism, patriotism, and anything and anybody that puts America first or wants to make it great again.
    b. We see it in our own nation today with certain political persuasions dissolving borders and permitting, even advocating, for illegal entry.
    c. Nations are an institution of God's design. Nations will still be the structure of God's design even within the Millenial Kingdom.
    d. Today, we see Europe crumbling under waves of immigrants. All efforts are made to limit any country's pride, strength, and national identity.
    e. And of course, we know the Bible declares the antichrist to be leading a one world government.
    f. ***Revelation 13:8*** reminds us that "all inhabitants of the earth" support the antichrist, and ***Revelation 13:3*** tells us "the whole earth follows him"
    g. Today, we have leaders in the world, most notably from the European Union, that are urging the world to get behind "one man" to lead us.
    h. Great Britain, once a beacon of law and order around the world has recently lost her queen, the last of an era. Now Great Britain has an avowed globalist King, (King Charles) and the country recently gained its first pagan Prime Minister, a devout Hindu, and one who is closely aligned with the World Economic Forum leadership.
    i. Any leader that stands for their people, their country, and their own nation is facing an extraordinary assault as the currents of socialism become greater and greater.

11. The matter of economic control: This is achieved two ways.
    a. The first way is the destruction of socioeconomic institutions of power, might, influence industries and things that cultures and societies have typically relied upon.
    b. We see this back in ***Daniel 11:24*** with the antichrist type of Antiochus Epiphanes that he "plotted the overthrow of fortresses." This was not nations as much as it was systems and institutions within his own kingdom.
    c. We saw the same thing with the antichrist in the last lesson in ***Daniel 11:39***, *"he will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god."*
    d. So, the first way to bring about socialism is to put down and destroy whatever makes a nation great (This has been the pattern with all dictators, and it's why nations like South Africa and Venezuela (and America now) have moved rapidly from prosperity to poverty.
    e. The second way to gain economic control is to impose new ways one is permitted to engage with the economics.

f. If you don't take the mark of the beast, you cannot buy or sell. (***Revelation 13: 16-17)***
g. We are even seeing in our time today, there is a huge push to get a vaccine passport. Without this passport you cannot travel or do certain things. All of this is the early stage of what will become the ultimate socialist control.