

WHEN KINGDOMS COLLIDE #2

“Exposing the Spirit of Antichrist”

I. Introduction

1 John 4:1-3

4 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

Matthew Henry

It was foreknown by God that antichrists would arise, and antichristian spirits would oppose his Spirit and his truth; it was foreknown also that one eminent antichrist would arise, and make war against Christ and His kingdom and that this great antichrist would have his way prepared, and his rise facilitated, by other less antichrists, the spirit of error working and disposing men's minds for him: this spirit of antichrist began even in the apostles' days.

Albert Barnes

John here refers not to an individual who should be known as antichrist, but to a class of persons.

The Apostle John confirms this....

1 John 2:18

Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

Notice:

The Antichrist is coming—but the spirit of antichrist has been here for 2000 years!

Matthew Henry

“John speaks the sign of this last time: Even now there are many antichrists, many that oppose the person, doctrine, and kingdom of Christ. It is a mysterious portion of providence that antichrists should be permitted; but, when they have come, it is good and safe that the disciples should be informed of them; ministers should be watchmen to the house of Israel.”

God will hold His ministers accountable to be ‘watchmen’ for His people. And one way have failed is in too much attention to the Antichrist who is to come and the ‘spirit of antichrist’ which is already here!

Testimony

Over my 50 years of walking with the Lord, one thing that has characterized the Christian church, especially the Church in America, has been the fascination with the end times and the coming of the ‘man of sin’, the person the Bible calls the “Antichrist”.

In the 70’s book “The Late Great Planet Earth”, Hal Lindsey suggested Henry Kissinger might be the Antichrist. 5 years ago, some Republicans thought President Obama was the Antichrist. Today some think Democrats think Donald Trump is the Antichrist!

Here is the problem with all that:

The Christian church in America continues to look for the Antichrist who is still to come instead of learning how to recognize the spirit of antichrist that is already here-- and actively at work in our government.

When will we wake up?

But before we can expose the spirit of antichrist we need to know what it is.

Derek Prince

“We need to know the real meaning of ‘antichrist’. ‘Anti’ is a Greek preposition that has two meanings and both of them apply. First of all, it means ‘against’, so the first operation is ‘against Christ’. The second meaning is ‘in place of’. The ultimate purpose is to put a false Messiah in place of the true Messiah. So the total operation is in two phases; ‘against’ Christ and ‘in place of’ Christ.”

In other words, the spirit of antichrist can be at work in a government that is clearly “against” Christ like Russia or China; but many miss this...

The spirit of antichrist can be at work in a government that puts itself ‘in place of Christ’; and that is what we will show you is happening here in the United States!

The dark force at work in America is the spirit of antichrist operating through those who are operating under the banner of National Socialism or “Democratic Socialism”.

“National socialism is the spirit of antichrist manifested politically. Any political system of government that poses as the savior of the people is energized by the spirit of antichrist.”

God’s people need to be awakened to the operation of the spirit of antichrist that is taking place in America in...

II. The Rise of National Socialism

A. Foundations

1. The spirit of Antichrist is the energizing power behind the political/economic system known as socialism.

“Socialism”

The economic and political philosophy that wealth should be fairly distributed through a society.

a. Socialism is closely connected with Communism.

Karl Marx

(1818-1883)

German philosopher, author of “The Communist Manifesto”.

- **Human societies develop and advance through class warfare**
- **Capitalism produces tension between the working and elite classes**
- **Capitalism thus will self-destruct and be replaced by a new system known as socialism**

b. Marx saw socialism as the bridge between capitalism and socialism.

Karl Marx

“Socialism is a transitional social state between the overthrow of capitalism and the realization of Communism.”

c. Socialists are really communists who have not yet quite come out of the closet.

Ayn Rand

“There is no difference between communism and socialism, except in the means of achieving the same ultimate end: Communism proposes to enslave men by force, socialism seeks to enslave men by vote. It is merely the difference between murder and suicide.”

(Either way you die!)

2. The spirit of antichrist comes in different packages and behind many names.

- Marxist Socialism in Russia-Also called ‘communism’
- Nationalist Socialism-of Germany’s Adolf Hitler
- Today in America we have those who call themselves “Democratic Socialists”.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

“Being a Democrat socialist is just who I am.”

3. Socialism today is out of the closet; but there was a time in America when these same people would not be so bold!

a. Norman Thomas was an American born Presbyterian minister who achieved fame as a socialist/pacifist. He was a six time presidential candidate for the Socialist Party of America. He was committed to bringing America into socialism but he called himself a liberal to avoid the term socialist.

Norman Thomas

(1884-1968)

“The American people will never knowingly adopt socialism. But under the name ‘liberalism’, they will adopt every fragment of the socialist program, until one day America will be a socialist nation without knowing how it happened.”

4. It should bother you that over half the country today is aligning themselves for the November election with those who espouse socialism! That means that Norman Thomas’ dream may come true; America will wake up next January as a socialist nation without even knowing how it happened!

5. The solution to all this is an awakened church; one that can discern the spirit of antichrist at work and defeat it at the ballot box. A church that can expose the spirit of antichrist. So how do we do that?

II. Exposing the Spirit of Antichrist

A. The Antichrist Spirit of Socialism is a Lying Spirit

1. The first and foremost expression of the spirit of antichrist is that it is a lying spirit.

John 8:44

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

a. The Devils is the ‘father’ of all who practice lying as means of gaining more power.

b. Jesus said He is a liar and a murderer!

The Biggest Mass Murderers in History Have Been Socialists

- **Mao of China-78 million**
- **Leopold of Belgium-15 million**
- **Joseph Stalin of Russia-23 million**
- **Adolf Hitler of Germany-17 million**

c. But some of you say America has never had that. Oh, really? What about the mass murder of abortion? **It was the socialists on the Supreme Court who made abortion legal in 1973; since then 50 million babies have been murdered!**

d. It is the socialists who want abortion rights expanded to the point of birth and beyond; socialists who voted \$560 million in Federal Funding for Planned Parenthood in 2017.

e. Not everyone who supports abortion is a socialist; but you will never meet a socialist who is not pro-abortion.

2. The Devil is a murderer; but foremost he is a liar and the father of lies.

Revelation 12:9

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

3. First on the list of lies: Socialism offers a salvation without a Savior; socialists believe that salvation comes from the State; they will tell you that the government will save you.

Charles Spurgeon

“The present cultured race of self-appointed superior beings thinks to regenerate the world by Democratic Socialism, and set up a kingdom for Christ without the new birth or the pardon of sin.

4. Socialists are driven by the lying spirit of Antichrist; they will promise you everything you want knowing they can't pay for it:

- Free health care for all
- Free college for all
- Already have college debt? We will pay it off.
- Guaranteed income for all whether you are working or not

a. All these promises are lies; they know they're lying. But half the voters keep voting them in.

5. Adolf Hitler brought the great nation of Germany into National Socialism in the 1930's. He knew the power of a lie; the bigger the better!

Adolf Hitler

“The great masses of the people will more easily fall victims to a big lie than to a small one.”

a. This makes me think of the devil and the biggest lie in human history; he told Adam and Eve, ‘eat this and you shall be as gods!’ That one lie brought down the human race! The spirit of antichrist still tells big lies today-and they work! Why? Listen to what Hitler's Minister of Propaganda said...

Joseph Goebbels

“In the big lie there is always a certain force of credibility; because the broad masses of a nation are always more easily corrupted in the deeper strata of their emotional nature than consciously or voluntarily.”

b. The big lie works when you tell people what they want to hear. The socialist will offer us the lie of “free everything” and knows it will work because it appeals to the emotions.

c. It also works because the socialist will keep repeating it.

Adolf Hitler

“Make the lie big, make it simple, keep saying it, and eventually they will believe it.”

- One example is climate change-it used to be ‘global warming’ until the nations were racked with record cold waves-so they changed the mantra to ‘climate change’. It is a hoax-but nearly 2/3 of Americans believe it’s true because the socialists keep saying it.
- **Another example is the promise of universal health care passed as the “Affordable Care Act” passed on March 23, 2010.** They knew it was not affordable. It was passed on the promise we could keep our doctor and our current health plan if we wanted. Another ‘big lie’.

6. I could multiply examples-but just remember that the spirit of antichrist is a lying spirit that will always seek to suppress the truth.

Joseph Goebbels

Nazi Germany Minister of Propaganda

“The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield people from the consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the state.”

B. The Antichrist Spirit in Socialism is the Enemy of Religion

1. Socialism is inherently atheistic at its core. The great Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoevsky pointed this out...

Fyodor Dostoevsky

“Atheism is inconceivable without socialism, and socialism is inconceivable without atheism.”

2. Socialists may masquerade as Christians; before he came to power Adolf Hitler called himself a Christian. He said this in 1928:

Adolf Hitler

“We tolerate no one in our ranks who attacks the ideas of Christianity. Our movement is Christian.”

a. But after he came to power his atheism was exposed:

Adolf Hitler

“National socialism and religion cannot exist together.”

b. There are many socialists today who claim to be Christian:

Nancy Pelosi

Many in Congress claim to be Christian and yet continue to be champions for abortions. Jesus said, “By their fruits you shall know them”.

c. The antichrist spirit of anti-religion has come out of the closet; at **the 2012 Democratic Party’s national convention**, there was a vote to remove the name “God” from the party platform. After an outcry, 2 days later, the hall burst into chaos as Democrats voted to amend the party’s platform to include the word "God" and name Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Villaraigosa called the vote three times. The first two voice votes, which require a two-thirds majority to pass, were tied between "ayes" and "nos." On the third vote it was still hard to tell whether he "ayes" were audibly louder than the "nays" in the half-full arena.

d. On the other hand, the Republican platform mentions God 12 times. This is not an endorsement of the Republican Party; the spirit of antichrist can be found there as well.

For the sake of time we’ll only be able to look at one more way we can expose the spirit of antichrist...

C. The Antichrist Spirit in Socialism Will Always Seek to Control the Press

1. The antichrist spirit uses the press to propagandize the public.

Propaganda

Information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote or publicize a particular political cause or point of view.

2. A nation cannot become fully socialized until the socialist forces control the press.

a. Hitler appointed Joseph Goebbels as his “Minister of Propaganda”; he said this:

Joseph Goebbels

“Think of the press as a great keyboard upon which the government can play.”

b. The antichrist spirit of socialism controls almost all the mass media outlets today; all major networks, all major newspapers; and is working to take over control of social media.

c. If Socialism is the antichrist, the American mass media is his ‘false prophet’.

3. Christians need discernment; fake news is the order of the day.

4. All this begs the question: Where is the Church? Largely asleep!

D. What Happened in Germany?

Winston Churchill

“Those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.”

1. Adolf Hitler did not bring Germany into National Socialism overnight. It took years. **And he used the church to his advantage.**

- He posed in front of Christian churches
- Catholic Cardinals attended his war rallies
- An Archbishop hosted his annual birthday party

a. Hitler’s charisma overpowered the Church leaders:

Archbishop Stepinac

“God has given us Adolf Hitler.”

b. The nation's Pastors did not oppose him, they praised him.

Pastor Leutheuser

“Christ has come to us through Adolf Hitler.”

c. I'm sad to say this reminds of how American religious leaders of our own day have fawned over Socialist political leaders in Washington.

2. The point is the Church let Hitler happen! Only a few Pastors spoke out; one was the great German pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who spoke a warning the American church needs today:

“Silence in the face of evil is evil itself; God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.”

3. All the current national polls show that the socialist candidate for President is way ahead; we won't know if the polls are right until November. But if the Church is to speak, it better start speaking now!

I'll continue this message next week; but remember what we have said today:

- Stop looking for the Antichrist who is coming! Learn how recognize that spirit of antichrist that is already here!
- Learn how the antichrist spirit is working today through the advocates of socialism

1. Remember it is a lying spirit.

2. It is a spirit that hates religion; especially Christians and Jews

3. It will use the press as a mouthpiece

And finally, pray for the boldness to speak up and speak out; the time is now!

CLOSING PRAYER

Offering

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