

WHY CHRISTIANS MUST SEE THROUGH POLITICAL LIES

A Modern Catechism

Introduction

Those of us who write about political issues and current affairs, criticising unrighteous political leaders, are often castigated by believers who feel we should not be doing this. Further, they maintain that we must always be submissive to the elected leaders of our democracy and that criticism goes against God's command to support and pray for them.¹ A moment's thought will show that this would mean that mass murderers like Idi Amin, Pol Pot or Stalin should have been tolerated, never criticised, and supported as God's agents. This is clearly foolish.

Leaders are to be supported, taxes paid and prayers for them lifted up so that the church can live in peace and the Gospel be promoted. While they administer justice they are to be honoured, however, when they act unlawfully, repressively, despotically, in unrighteousness, they are to be condemned. This does not give excuse for rebellion and Christians under evil regimes should flee² or suffer in righteousness;³ but the evil of the leaders must never be ignored or hidden and must be condemned.

In the Old Testament God raised up prophets specifically to condemn unrighteous political leaders and systems. Some prophets did little but utter judgments to wicked rulers. Jesus himself condemned evil leaders of all sorts (political and religious) exposing their hypocrisy, lies and covetousness. He silently submitted to an evil judgment by the rulers like a sheep being led to slaughter, but he did not fail to criticise leaders in his ministry. John the Baptist, the greatest prophet under the old dispensation, confronted the king to his face for his sins and publicly denounced him.

Evil policies committed by unrighteous political leaders must be exposed and condemned. Indeed God will do the same on the Day of Judgment.

Can a throne of destruction be allied with thee; one which devises mischief by decree? (Ps 94:20 NASB).

God's word clearly teaches that believers must be aware of the political situation and not support evil policies:

- **RULERS ARE COMMANDED BY GOD TO JUDGE IN RIGHTEOUSNESS:** *It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness. (Prov 16:12-13). Shall the throne of iniquity, which devises evil by law, have fellowship with you? (Ps 94:20). See also: Prov 16:10, 28:16, 29:2; Ps 2:10-11; Isa 10:1-2, 59:14-15; Amos 5:11ff; Hab 1:4.*⁴
- **LEADERS WHO ACT UNJUSTLY WILL SUFFER GOD'S WRATH:** *Woe to those who decree unrighteous decrees, who write misfortune, which they have prescribed to rob the needy of justice. (Isa 10:1-2) Shall the throne of iniquity, which devises evil by law,*

¹ **Rm 13:1-5; 1 Tim 2:1-2.**

² **Matt 10:23; Lk 21:12.**

³ **Matt 10:17ff, 23:34.**

⁴ Quotes are from the New King James Bible.

have fellowship with You? (Ps 94:20) When they [the poor] are diminished and brought low through oppression, affliction and sorrow, he pours contempt on princes, and causes them to wander in the wilderness where there is no way. (Ps 107:39-40)

- **THE SIN OF RULERS HARMS THE NATION:** *The LORD brought Judah low because of Ahaz king of Israel, for he had encouraged moral decline in Judah. (2 Chron 28:19) See also: Prov 29:2; 2 Sam 24:10ff; Mic 3:1-4, 3:9-12.*
- **WE MUST EXPOSE EVIL:** *Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. (Eph 5:11)*

Having said this, Christians must also be aware of the times we live in, which are rapidly moving into the times of deception and global capitulation to Satan's aspirations mentioned in Rev 13 & 17, 2 Thess 2; and Matt 24. While believers may be able to condemn overtly evil nations which rule by totalitarianism and repression, few are prepared to castigate western democracies which they feel maintain some kind of 'Christian' foundation. This paper is a primer to expose the weakness in this view. It is written in the style of a catechism, an ancient method of providing Christian instruction via questions and answers.

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Q. Is Satan striving to establish a world-wide throne on the earth?

A. Certainly, this has always been his plan but it has been frustrated by the Lord according to his purposes - particularly in the provision of the Messiah and the proclamation of the Gospel.

After the flood Nimrod began building cities, establishing an empire in Sumeria (southern Mesopotamia on the Shinar plain)⁵ and the first corporate attempt at ungodly, idolatrous world-empire was at Babel. This plan was frustrated by God's judgment of the confusion of tongues.⁶ As tribal associations developed around common language, peoples were formed and dispersed to various lands. This led to a gradual assortment of Middle Eastern empires assuming control of certain lands: Proto Assyrian & Babylonian, Hittite, Egyptian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Medo-Persian, as well as Mediterranean empires such as Greek, Roman, Carthaginian. Each had its place in God's plan⁷ and each attempt of Satan to achieve lasting world dominion through evil men was frustrated.⁸

In modern history, Satan's efforts to create a world-empire and build global influence continued in political and religious systems like: the Hapsburg dynasty, the Napoleonic empire, Nazism, Communism, Islam, and Roman Catholicism. Christians were quick (too quick) to identify some of these as evil and brand the leaders as Antichrist. Sub-sets of these are amorphous movements that facilitate this globalism and oil the wheels for an emergent dominionism, such as: Freemasonry, liberalism, secularism, evolutionary theory, occultism, mysticism, cultic religion and New Ageism.

Under God's sovereignty, all Satan's efforts to achieve global control are frustrated by God, but only to a point; a time comes when God's restraint is removed and Satan is allowed to build his world system as a material counterpart to his demonic spiritual system.⁹ The end of the world is when Satan consummates his efforts for world dominion and God redeems the last elect person. Satan is then judged and cast into the lake of fire (Hell, the second death¹⁰), along with his demons and followers.¹¹

⁵ **Gen 10:10** And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

⁶ **Gen 11:9** *Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.*

⁷ For instance, the Greek (Hellenistic) empire provided a common language for the peoples around the Mediterranean while the Roman Empire provided stable government and good communication links; both of these things enabled the spread of the Gospel. Daniel 2 shows the development of empires leading to the revelation of God's kingdom in prophetic and figurative terms.

⁸ **2 Thess 2:6-8** *And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.*

⁹ **Rev 20:2-3, 7-8** *He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. ... Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations. The 'thousand years' here refers to the Gospel Age, the time when Satan is restrained and the Gospel is proclaimed world-wide [**Matt 24:14** - *And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.*]*

¹⁰ The first death is physical death, after which all sinners are raised to life in an immortal body to face judgment, and then are sentenced to an eternity in torment and separation from God.

¹¹ **Rev 19:20, 20:10-15, 21:8.**

Q. How does Satan work towards this goal of world dominion?

A. Satan works in men's hearts to tempt them to sin and follow his evil desires. If believers fall into such temptation they are rendered ineffective and must repent of specific sins; however, there is no need for them to fall as grace is given by God to resist all the temptations that they face. Furthermore there is ample grace given whereby sinners may be restored and forgiven. Wicked people are not so assisted. They willingly follow Satan in his lusts and thus grow worse and worse as these lusts are unrestrained. Evil people grow more evil.

However, the key method by which Satan works out his plans is by deception. Satan fools people into falling into his plans, this is why his schemes are called *snares*; it is just like birds being lured into a net and captured.¹² It must be emphasised that Satan works by deceit; he is the father of lies and one who fools people into believing he is altogether different.¹³ His co-workers often act by pretending to be godly leaders.¹⁴

Jesus repeatedly warned believers that as the world approached the end, deception would run riot.¹⁵ The key weapon in Satan's armoury is deception, and the main problem in the time of the end is delusion in believers and ordinary people. One of the strategies is that evil things are done in the name of Christ, under the impression that God is behind the unrighteous action. Leaders claim to be following Christ, prophesying in the name of Christ, following strategies given by Christ, and some will even claim to be Christ himself - all are deluded - and dangerous because they are following Satan. This problem is not just limited to the church; since the time of Constantine political leaders have claimed to be following Christ, as they realised it would help them run their kingdom. In this situation, genuine believers are often scandalised or persecuted, just as God's prophets were killed by His own people.¹⁶ History shows that, after Roman times, the true church has suffered the worst persecutions from those who believed they were following God.

Q. What is Antichrist?

A. This is the name given to the final ruler of the earth, the one who subjects the world to the tyranny of Satan. He is called: 'the lawless one', 'the son of perdition' and 'the man of sin' in 2 Thessalonians. In Revelation he is called 'the beast from the sea' [representing Antichrist as a political power] and 'the beast from the earth' (the false prophet), [representing Antichrist as a religious/spiritual power].¹⁷ He is one who utters blasphemies, makes war on the saints and subjugates the whole world. John uses the term in his letters explaining that there have been many antichrists, a name given to false teachers who were once in the church but deceived people and left.¹⁸ Thus the principle of Antichrist has been present in the church from the beginning, but at the end reaches its fullest expression.

¹² **Lk 21:35; 1 Tim 3:7, 6:9; 2 Tim 2:26.**

¹³ **Jn 8:44** *You are of your father the devil ... 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.* **2 Cor 11:14** *Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.*

¹⁴ **2 Cor 11:13** *such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.*

¹⁵ **Matt 24:5,11,24; Mk 13:6,22.**

¹⁶ **Lk 11:47ff; Acts 7:52.**

¹⁷ **Revelation 13, 17:1-18.**

¹⁸ **1 Jn 2:18-19.**

The essence of Antichrist is deception, for he is merely following his master, the devil.¹⁹ The word itself can mean ‘one who is opposed to Christ’, but rather means ‘one who usurps the role of Christ’, ‘one who sits in the place of Christ’ the ‘Counter-christ’. Thus the essence of Antichrist is deceit; he pretends to be as Christ but is in reality totally opposed to him. Much could be said on this subject which is outside of our present scope.

Q. What is the main element of Satan’s plan at the end?

A. Satan works by deception, he fools people into doing his will. His main follower in the end is Antichrist, the man of sin, who deludes people into believing he is a righteous Christian leader, or possibly even Christ himself, but then shows his trues blasphemous colours as the co-worker of the devil. The world is the subjugated to Satan’s authority through the rule of Antichrist. The key element in Satan’s final plan is thus deception.

[It has to be said here that a good case can be made for the Antichrist being a corporate entity; the principle of the Antichrist reigning in a religious-political system, rather than one man. We cannot discuss this at length here but 2 Thess 2:4 states that the lawless one takes his seat in God’s temple demanding worship. God’s temple is man; an individual cannot take his seat in this temple.²⁰ The Antichrist could refer to the establishment of a blasphemous religious system reigning in the earth whereby man was elevated as god.]

The key points are:

- Satan works by through deceit. His plan is not obvious at first.
- This plan involves a superficial pretence to be Christian.
- This plan will involve lies, deceptions and will tend towards blasphemy.
- It will elevate features pertaining to man - the dignity, gravity, sincerity and freedom of man.

Q. Can believers be fooled into following Satan’s deception?

A. Unfortunately yes.

- Just consider history and the huge numbers of believers who have followed heresies, initiated political intrigues and rebellion in lost hopes or fallen into gross public sin. Even if they later repented, they were fooled by lies spawned by the enemy in the first place.
- Then remember the failings of Old Testament saints who were lured into gross sins. For example David, a true man of God, sinned when *Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel* (1 Chron 21:1). David’s pride resulted in serious judgment.
- Then there are the failings of New Testament saints. When Peter resisted Jesus he was told that he was under the influence of Satan (Matt 16:23; Mk 8:33; Lk 4:8). Peter meant well but he was fooled into making an improper suggestion even while he was in close contact with the Lord himself.
- Jesus himself warns end-time believers that they are in danger of being deceived.²¹

¹⁹ **2 Jn 1:7.**

²⁰ All fancies that God is still interested in a Jewish building made with stones are farcical. God specifically denies this (1 Cor 3:16-17, 6:19; 2 Cor 6:16; Eph 2:21; Heb 9:11,24).

²¹ **Matt 24:24** *For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.* [Some consider that this implies believers cannot be fooled by false prophets; yet the

- Finally, Biblical teaching warns us not to give the devil a place in our lives (Eph 4:27) and to resist him (Jm 4:7). The warnings are necessary because we can fail to do this and become ensnared by Satan (1 Tim 3:7; 2 Tim 2:26).

Q. Can believers, therefore, be duped into following a government led by Satan?

A. Yes they can, for the reasons given above and history has many examples.

The usual example cited would be 1930s Germany as Hitler rose to near despotic power. Protestant German churches capitulated to increasing civil rights abuses of factions with hardly a word, with the exception of a very small minority; most famously Lutheran pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer who paid with his life for his resistance. However, we must recognise here that the vast majority of Germans supported Hitler's nationalism after years of suppression by European / American allies and would not have considered it satanic; in fact it championed traditional moral qualities. Neither was it hidden, secretive and based on deception - it was completely in the open and was mainly opposed to Communism.

Better examples would be western democracies that are ruled by secretive, covert, hidden elite figures, the 'deep state', the 'shadow government'. These work through proxies in supposedly democratic governments that often involves selecting officials that are easily subject to blackmail. This is why it is demonstrable that many establishment officials are paedophiles, embezzlers, perverted and thoroughly corrupt. The fruits of such 'democratic' governments can be seen to be truly satanic, such as their illegal foreign wars (e.g. Iraq), coups (e.g. Ukraine), regime changes (e.g. Gaddafi) and destabilisation of democracies (e.g. Syria); all of which lead to millions of deaths.

Another example would be the elite sponsored austerity measures that have done terrible damage to Britain's social infrastructure and wrecked Greece.

These western examples have huge support by supposed Christians who fail to see the satanic source of government policies.

Q. How is Satan subtly deceiving people today?

A. The schemes of Satan for world dominion are accelerating every year and his deception is permeating all areas of life. It is much easier for Satan to influence the masses than ever before.

The media plays a key role in foisting devilish principles upon unwary folk. First the media dumbs-down the entertainment required by folk for necessary enjoyment. Stimulating intellectual pursuits that require some effort (such as reading solid material) are replaced by dumbed-down superficial rubbish, resulting in a population that will ignore most things as long as they are entertained with minimal effort (shades of the free bread and games of the decadent Roman Empire). Having fashioned a 'global' entertainment format (such as soaps), storylines and dialogue are then introduced into these programmes to subtly alter the morality and thinking of those hooked.

NT shows that many were and that the apostles had to repeatedly warn against false teachers/prophets (2 Cor 11:13; 2 Pt 2:1; 1 Jn 4:1). The true elect cannot be finally and fully deceived since God will bring them back (Jn 10:2-29); but they can make serious mistakes for a time.] For further information, see my booklet *Deception - The deadly Virus*.

Notice, for instance, the errors that people believe about history merely because they have only ever watched a Hollywood movie about this or that. Few people check facts out anymore, fewer still check up on issues from sound sources. By causing intellectual laziness in the masses, Satan can get people to believe that William Wallace bedded the English king's French wife and tainted the English royal line with rebellious Scottish blood, courtesy of Mel Gibson.

Politicians tell lies and then use the media to either turn people's attention elsewhere or spin the lie into something that appears benign or even for the good of the nation. This has always been true, but today gross lies of urgent import are spun to engineer very serious national changes - such as to take a nation to war.

For example: Britain and America went to war in Iraq on the basis of documented lies. George Bush's platform was that regime change was necessary since Saddam Hussein was closely linked with al-Qae'da and posed a clear and present danger to the Middle East and American interests. There was a strong implication that he was behind the 9/11 attacks - though this wasn't articulated. The Congress commission investigating the war has declared that this premise was false and highlights government representatives who warned that it was false. Tony Blair declared that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear and chemical warheads, that threatened British interests within 45 minutes of deployment. The investigations into this matter have proved that this was false; furthermore the UN and British experts told Blair this before the war started. The Foreign Affairs Select Committee has found that Blair's actions have endangered the UK.

Both Bush and Blair used all the media technologies to their advantage. The press was whipped up into a storm (and now realises that it was duped in the case of *The New York Times*), television programmes and advertising was called upon; the Internet was used, even government bodies were led astray. Ponder this - two of the most powerful economies in the world were duped into a pre-emptive, illegal attack on a sovereign state by the use of widely publicised known lies resulting in the death of thousands of civilians! All the checks and balances of democracy went out of the window. What is ironic is that the result of this western crusade is that Iraq is in a much worse condition than it has ever been in; there is even the possibility that the very reverse of the original strategy (liberal democracy) will emerge in the near future (an Iraqi government led by the majority Sharia Muslims linked to Iran).

There are many more aspects to devilish deception than the political (such as duping people into following: cults, New Age mysticism, false religions, occultism, drugs, immorality, lawlessness etc.) but political deception turns nations, while the personal deception damages individuals.

Q. Will Satan's coming evil empire be obvious?

A. If Satan works by deception then it must fool most of the people into considering it benign or righteous before it can show it's true colours. An overtly evil, unrighteous, ungodly government does not fit this pattern. The world will hardly willingly submit to a ruler and nation that is clearly set on evil and has a demonstrably wicked track record. This could only be done by force and thus is hardly a strategy based on deceit. Furthermore, historic attempts using this method have failed as they ignited a backlash of 'righteous' anger resulting in an alliance of nations in opposition.

In addition, the coming 'lawless one' is someone who comes in the place of Christ, an Antichrist. He mounts on the back of Christian tradition claiming to be like Christ and working according to, at least superficial, Christian principles. It is, therefore, unlikely that the satanic world-empire will emerge from an Islamic base or an atheistic base such as Communism.²² [Unless a future Islamic or Communist ruler claimed to be as Christ or Christ's representative on earth. This is hardly likely, although the current pope (who claims to be Christ's vicar) has accepted that followers of Islam are in Christ's kingdom. A future Catholic pope could perhaps merge superficial Christianity with Islam - but this stretches credibility.]

So, this means that the likelihood is that the 'lawless one' will emerge from what is wrongly called a 'Christian nation'. A crusading, hard-line leader of a powerful, ostensibly 'Christian' country is most likely model for Antichrist. What will be his characteristics?

- He will adopt the pretence of being Christian.
- He will claim to work in the name of Christ and in pursuit of God's interests.
- He will be the leader of a 'Christian' country. This limits potential nations to Catholic and Protestant democracies that have strong economies and significant defence forces. France, unless it changes, is an avowed secular nation and is, therefore, not on the list.
- This country will have a powerful international base.
- National governments have little actual real power, the real power is centred in the hands of global, financial institutions. 'Money makes the world go around', the international corporations and financial institutions have the true power in the world today. Since this is the case, the country establishing the Antichrist will have a strong economy and huge resources to use as a springboard for his global ambitions.
- To subjugate the nations, the country of the 'lawless one' must have very powerful armed forces and weaponry.
- He will be prepared to use deceit, lies and obfuscation to pursue his strategies.
- He will be ruthless.

Q. So how does all this affect me?

A. From what has gone before, it is clear that the western believer is in a position that calls for the utmost care and consideration regarding politics. If western, 'Christian' democracies are the most likely breeding grounds for the Antichrist, there is the awful prospect that unthinking Christians can vote him into power and support the early stages of his rise to global power, without realising what they are doing.

For this reason, if not for many others, believers must take great care when they vote and must publicly condemn leaders that sin. If they fail to do this they will be smeared with the guilt of the politician they are supporting.

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²² The identification of people in the final society of Antichrist's kingdom as containing 'rich and poor, free and slave' (Rev 13:16) would appear to rule out that this realm is communist.