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# ORTHODOX EVANGELIST



“Do the work of an evangelist” - 2 Tim 4:5

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## Exposing the Mystery of Iniquity

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The main object of this article is to examine how Satan had caused upheaval and destruction in the past to gain positions of world power. We will also see that there are **repeating themes throughout history in which we may gain an effective perspective on how the enemy has worked in this regard.** In having a good understanding of the historical past, we will have better insight in

recognizing “the devices of the enemy” so we may not be caught unaware.

After Pentecost Day, Satan tried to creep into the Church to distort its fundamental beliefs. As St. John the Apostle wrote: “*There are many antichrists among us*” and that those “*deny that Christ came in the flesh*”. During the early period of Christianity the Gnostic movement was infiltrating the Church with heresies. During that time an uneasy suspicion of Christians existed in Rome and eventually led to the outright persecution of the Church. Nero and Caligula had shown brutality to the Christian community, yet, they would look tame compared to what was about to arise in the Roman Empire. It would culminate with the murderous reign of Diocletian who attempted to completely eradicate Christianity.

### The Revived Roman Empire

“*There are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he comes, he must continue a short space*” (Rev. 17:10). This prophetic scripture describes the rise and fall of the major empires which play a crucial role in leading up to the eventual rise of the Antichrist. Just as the Prophet Daniel, St. John was also given a glimpse into the future regarding this sign. From Babylon,

Egypt, the Medes, Persia, and Greece, these five empires had their rise, and just as when one empire falls, another fills its place. The one king which has been described as ruling during the time of St. John is, Rome. “*And the other is yet to come*”. This describes a new phase of the Roman Empire. Just as described in the Book of Daniel regarding King Nebuchednezzar's vision of the great statue of empires, the Roman Empire had been split into two, representing the two separate legs of the statue, Eastern and Western Empires. In the year 312 Christianity had been accepted by Constantine, the first Christian Emperor. During the 700's and 800's, while Rome's power was in decline due to repeated barbarian invasions, the Eastern part prospered. The West, desperate for help, turned to Charlemagne for assistance. From the year 742 A.D. to 814 A.D. Charlemagne ruled with a fierce resolve with forced conversions under direction of the Pope with threat of the sword. However, this would only be a precursor of what was to follow.

### The Mystery Continues: The Middle Ages

An important era in history existed which is mostly unknown to people. During the Middle Ages, there was a period of time in which the Byzantine Empire, parts of Spain and the

Kingdom Sicily were experiencing a “golden age” in society. However, through a series of tragic events, the most open and advanced societies would come crumbling down. Political and religious power plays would plague these lands until the corruption became too great to overcome. The leaders of some of these feudal city states would vie for power to the point that there were even periods in which two popes would be reigning simultaneously.

In the 11<sup>th</sup> Century the Byzantines had come to such a state of decline that they began relying more and more on foreign powers to come to their aid. This was not only due to the rise of the Seljuk Turks which were eating away territory which had been a part of the Byzantine Empire for hundreds of years, but also to a series of disastrous internal policies which rotted the Empire from within. Fellow Christian armies from Italy, Bulgaria, Serbia and France would also gain territory by force and military incursions.

From the time of the Heraclian period of the Empire, military services, both for the army and navy were raised by the landowners and farms. As the overall size of the empire had decreased, there were less and less populations to fill the ranks of the military. This was followed up by some destructive policies implemented by emperors during the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries in which the emperors tried to save money by the hiring of mercenary forces in whose loyalty was often questionable. “*The use of mercenaries only managed to substitute a shortage of money for a shortage of men*” (Armies of Pestilence, Pg. 58). This, along with the inner corruption of government officials, had ended up drawing disdain from their own citizens

and civil strife, including wars. The once great armies and famous navy of the Byzantine Empire were only an empty shell, and the reliance of western forces meant that the Byzantines were at the mercy of the Pope. The navies of Venice and Genoa became wealthy by replacing the Greek ships for trade routes and military hire to the point that in 1204 the city of Constantinople had been suddenly sacked and occupied by these forces during the 4<sup>th</sup> Crusade. The remaining wealth of Byzantium had been plundered and even though the Greeks would eventually take back the city of Constantinople, it would never fully recover from this terrible event. The distrust of the Western Roman Empire had cemented.

During the fall of Constantinople on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May, 1453, both the Byzantine and Ottoman military forces had witnessed a large cloud rising and leaving from the great church of Hagia Sophia. Writers of the day (some of which may be found in Dr. Paul Alexander's book, *"The Byzantine Apocalyptic Tradition"*), believed that the Byzantine Empire was the restraining force which was holding back evil from falling upon the face of the earth.

Now that the Byzantine Empire had been taken out of the way the Ottomans went on a destructive rampage. For almost 500 years they killed and enslaved millions of people. In the year 1480, the Ottomans invaded Italy, but were thwarted. The citizens of the occupied city of Otranto, refusing to convert to Islam were beheaded by fleeing Ottoman forces under Gen. Gedik Ahmed Pasha. The Ottoman expansion at sea would be halted by a coalition of forces known as the "Holy League" at the Battle of Lepanto. The Ottoman Caliphate would reach the zenith of its expansion on Sept. 11, 1683 at the 2nd siege of Vienna, Austria, The

very next day they were soundly defeated by the combined forces of the Habsburgs, Germans, and Polish. Eventually, the extent of corruption in the Ottoman Empire became so overwhelming that it nearly collapsed the entire system. In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century they went on a rampage, massacring millions of Armenian, Assyrian, Yezidi and Greek Christians. When the Ottomans lost their empire after WW1, remnants of Ottoman officials under the new radical organization known as the "Young Turks" removed the entire population of Greeks in 1922, Killing over 300,000 and pushing 2 million more into the Mediterranean. **Just think, that the 7 Churches of Revelation existed all the way up to only 100 years ago, when they were utterly destroyed during the "Asia Minor Catastrophe"**. This includes the Greek community who lived there from before the time of Alexander the Great.

Yet another great civilization, the Kingdom of Sicily had also established a unique society to the Middle Ages. As in Byzantium, the Kingdom of Sicily had an open society. King Roger II would forge the Assizes of Ariano, which was a document written about 75 years before the Magna Carta. It gave equal protections to all the peoples of Sicily without fear of persecution. Catholics, Greek Orthodox, Jews and Muslims lived in peace and retained freedom of worship. Leaders of these groups would serve in the court of the king to represent their own people's communities. They would even fight together side by side. Some of the great Norman, Byzantine and Arab architecture would be exemplified in the construction of Catholic churches which incorporated Norman designs, Greek Orthodox icons and Arab tile-work in the same church edifice. Such unity was unheard of, especially during

the Medieval Period. King Roger's son, and grandson, would continue this system of government. As in Byzantium, they flourished in trade-goods and spices from ships arriving from the Silk Road. The most accurate maps of the day were produced along with state of the art hospitals and advancements of science and the arts.

Yet, within only a few generations, these superpowers of the time would diminish to states of disaster! How did this happen? The city state of Lombardy which was loyal to the Pope and often an enemy of Sicily, would send in settlers and sow discord among the different peoples of the regions to the point of causing riots. To add to this, after repeated wars waged by the Popes, hired mercenary forces from France had won a sudden victory at the battle of Benevento in 1266. One of the main objectives of the new conquerors was to populate the land with fresh arrivals from France, to change the demographics. Things came to a head when Sicily finally revolted and made an alliance with the Kingdom of Aragon, Spain, who were also often at odds against the Popes. What can be described as a "World War" broke out. Alliances of different Kingdoms throughout Europe fought one another during this conflict known as the "War of the Sicilian Vespers". Though the Sicilians were eventually successful in pushing out the French forces, a turn of events would quickly occur in which things would never be the same again.

A new group of rulers would arise in Spain. This occurred along with King Philip IV of France amassing a huge amount of debt due to continued wars. King Philip would make a secret pact with Pope Clement V to completely disband the military order known as the Templar Knights. Though the Templars were under the

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direct command of the Pope, they had become unruly at times to the Pope's increasing power. They amassed treasures from their banking system, and escort protection service to and from the Holy Land. Thus, they had become too independently powerful. In one day, the combined forces of France and of the Pope had killed most of the Templar leaders and increased the scope of the Inquisition to root them out. The Inquisitions under the authorization of the Popes would end up persecuting tens of thousands of Christians and non-Christians alike. Because of Sicily's alliance with Spain, the Spanish would end up taking over and ruling the entire Kingdom with brutality, and eventually the peoples of the New World, America.

On the other side of the world, the armies of the East would gather the largest land takeover in history. The "Golden Hoards" of Mongolia had defeated every army it faced. Their kingdom stretched from China to Poland and even briefly captured the city of Jerusalem. When they hit a road block trying to take a fortified city along the Black Sea, they resorted to biological warfare by catapulting diseased corpses over the walls of the fortifications. The pestilence soon became uncontrollable and spread from fleeing ships into different ports of Europe, first of which was Messina, Sicily. The pestilence became known as the Bubonic Plague. Cities throughout Europe would lose anywhere from one third to half of their populations. A recent document from China was discovered by U.S. and Australian military officials. They found in 2015, that Scientists in the Chinese military discussed that through weaponized virus or "gain of function" the SARS virus could be used to win a 3<sup>rd</sup> World War. The document highlights how biological warfare "could cause the enemy's medical system to collapse", among other things (Daily Wire, May 07/21). News articles have arisen which state that the Corona 19 virus indeed began in the Wuhan Lab, ("The Wuhan Whitewash" Wall Street Journal, March 30/21), (Forbes, May, 23/21), (Vanity

Fair, June, 03/21).

To make matters even worse, during that point in time, (mid 1300's) a climactic drop in temperature would hit the planet in what geologists call "*The Little Ice Age.*" The temperature dropped anywhere from 3 to 7 degrees at times and would not only cause crop failures in Northern Europe, but mass migrations to escape starvations. However, the Middle East and North Africa would not be as hard hit by these catastrophes. As in the cases of such events as the Justinian and Bubonic plagues: "*the plague free Arabs broke upon a plague-depressed population. As the plague established itself all affected areas disallowed any great enterprises as the manpower was not available. As settled peoples contracted the plague, the relatively plague-free nomads and barbarians moved in to settle the lands*" (*Armies of Pestilence*, Pg. 47).

Internal corruption, sowing discord among ethnic communities, political greed and power, religious persecution, climactic shifts and plague. Do these things sound familiar? They should, because **we are witnessing them right now!** Societies which once flourished and lived together in relative peace ended up being completely wiped out. **These events collapsed the superpowers of the day, and are being repeated today!**

### **The World Falls into Madness**

In the year 1789, the once great nation of France had exploded into all-out anarchy. An uncontrollable national debt from major wars, along with periodic food shortages from unstable weather patterns were part of a synergy of events which would transform a stable and Christian society into madness on a level never witnessed before in Europe.

In the book, *History of England*, 19<sup>th</sup> Century historian Edward Hartpole wrote: "*Before the close of the Century in which evangelical revival appeared, a spirit had begun to circulate in Europe threatening the very foundations of society and belief. The revolt of supernatural theory of Christianity, which had been conducted by Voltaire*

*etc.... Had produced in France a revolutionary spirit, which in its intensity was unequalled since the days of the Reformation. It was felt in many lands. Millions of fierce and ardent natures were intoxicated by dreams of an impossible equality and of a complete social and political reorganization. Many old excuses perished, but a tone of thought and feeling was introduced into European life which could only lead to Anarchy, and at length to despotism, and was beyond all others fatal to that measured and ordered freedom which can only endure. Its chief characteristics were, a hatred of all constituted authority, an insatiable appetite for change, a habit of regarding rebellion as the normal as well as the noblest form of political self-sacrifice, a disdain for all compromise, a contempt for all tradition, a desire to level all ranks and subvert all establishments, a determination to seek progress, not by slow and cautious amelioration of existing institutions, but of sudden, violent, and revolutionary change. Religion, property, civil authority, and domestic life, were all assailed and doctrines incompatible with the very existence of government were embraced by multitudes with the fervor of religion"* (*The Conflict of the Ages*, Pg. 140).

This insanity would plunge France into an outright lawless society. Godless anarchists such as Robespierre thrived on such power to the point that even original leaders of the revolution, such as Georges Danton were beheaded by the guillotine. In just a few years, almost 40 thousand more heads would roll. It is remarkable that the same method of execution will be used by the future Antichrist, "*And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony of Jesus and for the word of God*" (Rev. 20:4). In revolutionary France, the 7 day week was replaced by a 10 days which excluded Sunday. The Antichrist will also: "*think to change times and laws*" (*Danial 7:25*). Through the past



several years, academic institutions have substituted the ages B.C. and A.D. to B.C.E. and C.E., "Before Common Era and Common Era. Just look at how they are trying change the Holidays of Christmas and Easter!

It is recorded that an anarchist group of the Illuminati from Bavaria had infiltrated the ranks of the French revolutionaries, (Robison, "Conspiracy of World Revolution" 1793). The aims of the group were centered upon 6 points: "*The abolition of monarchy and all other governments, abolition of private property, abolition of inheritance, abolition of patriotism, abolition of family life, marriage and communal education of children, and abolition of all religion*" (The Conflict of the Ages, Pg. 72). These points would come to fruition in Russia after the 1917 Revolution, and are once again on the agendas of many of today's anarchist groups.

Things in France became so unstable that a desperate people were crying out for a savior, but what first appeared as a savior would turn out to be an antichrist! Not being content with title of king, Napoleon ruled as Emperor. In 1802, for the first time during a coronation, Napoleon broke tradition by snatching the crown out of the Pope's hands and crowned himself! The centuries old symbol of France went from the fleur de les to the Imperial Eagle of Rome. The structure of a Roman arch, the *Arch de Triumph* was built in Paris to march his imperial soldiers through as they went out to conquer the world. Napoleon's armies marched from Egypt to the outskirts of Jerusalem. His ambitions of conquest took him into the very center of Moscow. However, Running short of supplies, and the Russian armies, who refused to surrender, as well as an early winter which set in, Napoleon made the decision to retreat. The Little Ice Age would freeze his troops in weather which reached 30 below zero before wind-chill. The leaders of Europe would join forces and give Napoleon a fatal blow at Leipzig, known as the

"*Battle of the Nations.*" What was Napoleon's ultimate goal? "*I wish to found a European system, code of law and judiciary, there would be but one people of Europe*". He partially achieved this with his conquests as well as his confederation of Germany. And speaking of Germany, another antichrist would arise which would make Napoleon pale in comparison!

Once again, the World had been plunged into a war, but this time it was an official World War. It would be sparked by a disgruntled anarchist who shot the Archduke of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire and would end with the devastating Spanish flu which would wipe out millions of people around the world. Germany, which ended up owing a tremendous amount of debt, would witness its economy spin out of control with an ever decreasing currency. The economy suffered from Inflation to hyperinflation.

Again, a desperate people looked for someone who could save them from their pain and suffering. Adolf Hitler, whose new party held a small section of power, would quickly gain traction. This would happen suddenly with the burning of the Reichstag government building. To this day, historians are skeptical of who exactly began the fire. Warnings of arsonists had been spread just a few days before this event took place. Can this be mere coincidence? Whatever the case may be, the fire was blamed on a mostly blind Communist anarchist. The very next day the "*Reichstag Fire Decree*" was enacted which did away with Habeas Corpus, Freedom of the Press, Freedom of Expression, Right of Free Association and Freedom of Public Assembly. Hitler quickly gained emergency powers and eventually full control.

Hitler would call his Empire the Third Reich, or **Third Reign of the Roman Empire!** The Imperial Roman Eagle would once again don the top of banners, the old Roman salute of an extended arm would once again be seen, with the Roman shouts of "Hail!" Well over 16,000 people who were branded as traitors to the new Reich were

beheaded by the guillotine. The only problem for Hitler was that this process was too slow. Once again, the nations of the world united to defeat an evil dictator.

We have seen in our lifetime a United European Federation of states. **However, for the first time, it was not done through military conquest.** European nations have willingly surrendered their national independence. Beheadings are on the rise in the Middle East just as populations from this area are on mass migrations into Europe, while fleeing from persecution and war. Some Bible scholars suggest that the coming Antichrist may add this Middle Eastern form of capital punishment to the European system of law. Whatever the case, **history has demonstrated that whenever tremendous upheaval has taken place, that rulers have often gained unprecedented powers.** At first they bring in stability, such as Hitler's employment programs for workers or Mussolini's economic programs. As in the past, calamities, rebellion and war may precede the rise of the Antichrist and provide the political climate for his succession. The Bible describes the Antichrist as being "blasphemous against God" and waging war against the Jewish people and Christians (Rev. 13:5-7). He is also described as worshiping a "foreign god", different from Judaism or Christianity and "have no desire for women" (Dan. 11:37-38). The increasing sightings of UFOs may actually bring contact with disguised fallen angels as in the "*Days of Noah*", which in turn, may help usher in a new world religion.

Our generation is facing new challenges and change at unprecedented levels. This article was designed to alert us of how the future Antichrist may arrive on the world scene from observing past events. Whenever a crisis breaks out, we need to call upon the Lord for our deliverance. "**Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved**" (Rom. 10:13).