



AS TIME WINDS down, we see an increase in anti-Christ’s attempts to destroy the Gospel and to bring mankind into greater subjection to pain and suffering, as well as the substitution of false religions and philosophies that promise, but cannot deliver, relief from that pain and suffering. Yet in the midst of anti-Christ’s onslaught against humanity and God’s Word, some glimmers of truth have managed to peek through the darkness. This isn’t as bleak as it may seem. We must remember that God is working His plan of redemption in the midst of that darkness, even as this world remains for the time being under Satan’s dominion. As we look at various aspects of humanity’s sojourn on this planet, we will understand how anti-Christ’s hand has been a guiding factor.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The 19th century brought into vivid focus biblical prophecy concerning the end of this age according to Daniel’s vision:

But you, O Daniel, close up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. (Daniel 12:4)

Man’s international and intercontinental travel to and fro increased in earnest during the 19th century with the invention of steam locomotion on both land and sea. His knowledge was greatly increased as evidenced by the virtual explosion of advances in science and technology which would lead to even more incredible advances during the 20th century. Many of these advances have been beneficial, but not all have been pure science.

The most ungodly product of “science falsely called” appeared with the publication in 1859 of Charles Darwin’s *Origin of Species* which became the foundation for the theory of the evolution of man from lower life forms. Today, evolution is presented matter-of-factly by virtually all institutions of learning, from pre-school to university, as well as in the mass media, despite the fact that it is an unproven theory. It has been one of anti-Christ’s greatest weapons against the truth of God’s Word.

WARFARE

We saw in previous installments how warfare in particular has been used by anti-Christ to bring men into subjection to the dark forces under his command. Christian nations (or more properly, nations whose populations have largely declared themselves Christians) have engaged in bloody conflicts contrary to the commands of our Lord. Even the United States of America was born out of rebellion, although we give God the glory for the wonderful, most benevolent society ever developed by mankind, primarily because of the biblical ethic upon which the founding fathers based their concept of government.

The 19th century also brought into vivid focus the Lord’s prophecy concerning the time prior to His coming again:

And as He sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of this age?”

And Jesus answered and said to them, “Be careful that no man deceives you, for many will come in My name, saying that I am Christ, and shall deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for all these things must come to pass.

“But the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in diverse places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. (Matthew 24:3-8)

The 19th century not only saw many wars and rumors of wars, but much of what took place during that century set the stage for even greater wars to come in the 20th century.

In our previous installment we saw how the War of Secession (misnamed “the Civil War”) was fought between Christians over human issues, resulting in the greatest number of casualties among American military forces than in all the nation’s wars combined. The 19th century was the bloodiest in the

history of mankind up to its time. Perhaps the greatest battles were those that resulted in the diminishing of the Ottoman Empire, which would also set the stage for future wars to come.

In 1853, Tsar Nicholas I of Russia went to war against the Ottoman Turks in defense of Orthodox Christians in Turkey and in Jerusalem (which was occupied by the Ottoman Empire at that time). But this gave rise to fears in Britain and France, which saw the Tsar's campaign as part of a greater Russian expansion of power which threatened those and other Western European nations' economic interests worldwide. When, using exploding artillery shells for the first time, the Russian navy destroyed a Turkish fleet at a Turkish port on the Black Sea, the British reacted with a declaration of war in 1854. Queen Victoria wrote of "the great sinfulness" of Russia in bringing about what would become the Crimean War (1854-1856), fought between major European powers for control of territories held by the declining Ottoman Empire.

The Crimean War ended in 1856 with the Paris Peace Treaty which obligated the Ottoman Empire to grant to Christians equal rights with Muslims. The Edict of Gülhane, issued by the Ottoman Empire, gave a semblance of equality to Christians, abolishing the *jizya* (tax levied against certain non-Muslim males), and allowing them to serve in the Ottoman army. But in many areas, particularly having to do with legal matters, Muslims enjoyed immunity for offenses against Christians, and Christians could not testify against Muslims in court. Christians were generally subjugated in other ways as well.

But the Tsar's conflict with the Ottomans had already been active since 1839 when the Russians sought influence in Afghanistan, hoping for a "trustworthy ally" on India's western border. Fearing Russian expansion into India via Afghanistan, the British sent a force of 12,000 British and Indian troops, with a contingent that included families, prostitutes, and sellers of opium, rum and tobacco for the troops.

If this seems shocking, it's only because of sanitized historical accounts in the West that have championed the "Christian" virtues of Europe. We must not be so naïve to think that anti-Christ has not largely had his way with "Christian" nations. Corruption of those nations' military is easily realized, as anyone who has been in the military would attest.

1877-1878 saw the Russo-Turkish War between the Ottoman Empire and the Eastern Orthodox coalition led by the Russian Empire. Russia was victorious in seizing a number of provinces in the Caucasus, giving Romania, Serbia, Bulgaria and Montenegro formal independence from the Ottomans.

In 1878, European powers of the United Kingdom, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany and Italy gathered in Berlin with Russia and the Ottomans to settle the outcome of the Russo-Turkish War. The Habsburg monarchy in Vienna was given Bosnia and Herzegovina. Vienna's army, carrying symbols of Roman Catholicism crushed Orthodox Serb resistance.

In 1889, a baby was born in the small town of Braunau am Inn, Austria-Hungary. This infant, Adolph Hitler, would grow to become one of the greatest anti-Christ in history.

More warfare between "Christian" nations would erupt in 1895 when Jose Marti and some fellow exiles to Cuba started

another war for independence from Spain. Although Marti is killed and his guerrilla fighters are outnumbered five to one by Spain's forces, they prevail, attaining limited autonomy. During the war, the battleship U.S.S. Maine embarked on a visit to Havana to protect U.S. interests in Cuba. On February 15, 1898, she exploded without warning, with the loss of one-third of her crew. Although the cause has never been determined, popular opinion at the time was that Spain was responsible, thus leading to the Spanish American War one year later. And again, "Christian" nations went to war.

RELIGION

Much also happened on the religious front, which was also guided by anti-Christ. Elements of the Spanish Inquisition did not die easily, even after the 1820 Revolution that saw King Ferdinand VII deposed for a time. With his return in 1826, the Inquisition was revived to some degree. Anti-Christ's hatred of Jews and Christians was again inflamed with the burning at the stake of a Jew, as well as a Quaker schoolmaster who replaced the Catholic "Hail Mary" with another prayer, "Praise be to God," in his classroom. That is said to have been the last of the executions under the Inquisition.

In 1830, Joseph Smith, Jr., of New York, organized the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which came to be called Mormonism. It isn't necessary to go into all the ungodly doctrines of this institution. Suffice it to say that history has proven it one of the most deceptive opponents of the true Gospel, giving anti-Christ considerable leverage for the minds of people everywhere.

Anti-Christ doesn't always manifest an opposition to Christianity; he also uses Christianity to discredit itself with hare-brained schemes that on the surface seem to be for the "good" of people. In 1844, in Australia, the "Protection of Children Act" allowed Christian missionaries to kidnap aboriginal children in order to "civilize" them—a policy that lasted for almost 80 years, until the 1960s.

Anti-Christ also knows how to corrupt what begins as a faithful service to God. In 1844, George Williams, a merchant in cloth founded the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in London. His purpose was to provide a better option to taverns and brothels for "the improving of the spiritual condition of young men engaged in the drapery, embroidery, and other trades," who were flocking to the major cities in response to labor demands that increased with the Industrial Revolution. Within the short span of seven years, YMCAs had sprung up in the United Kingdom, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States. 1855 saw the beginning of the World Alliance of YMCAs, whose motto, taken from the Bible, was, "That they may be one."

Merely ten years later, the Fourth World Conference of YMCAs, held in Germany, stressed the developing of the whole individual in body, mind and spirit. This concept came to be known as "muscular Christianity"—a Victorian era movement that stressed an energetic Christian evangelism combined with vigorous masculinity. English author Thomas Hughes used the term "muscular Christianity" in his novel, *Tom Brown at Oxford*,

with the statement that it is “a good thing to have strong and well-exercised bodies.”

Wrote Hughes, “The least of the muscular Christians has hold of the old chivalrous and Christian belief, that a man’s body is given him to be trained and brought into subjection, and then used for the protection of the weak, the advancement of all righteous causes, and the subduing of the earth which God has given to the children of men.”

As noble an ideal as it was that resulted in the founding of the YMCA, history again has shown that man’s attempts to institutionalize faith in Christ inevitably succumb to the onslaught of anti-Christ. As such institutions grow they find the need for administrative talent increases. Their leaders then tend to look outside the faith, or at least outside the pure expression of the faith, toward more carnally-minded, administratively talented people to run the organization. Today the YMCA is Christian in name only. In fact, it isn’t even that; it has dropped the formal name and has adopted merely “The Y” as its preferred name. Sadly, it even succumbed to the reputation of being a haven of homosexuality through the popular song, Y.M.C.A., by the Village People in 1978.

The YMCA initially threatened to sue the band over trademark infringement, as well as concerns over the homosexual-themed lyrics. But when the organization experienced a surge in membership as a result of the popularity of the song, it dropped the lawsuit. Again, anti-Christ had won the battle (but not the war, eventually), because a “Christian” organization valued monetary success over the purity of the faith.

In 1850, a Chinese Christian in China came to believe he was the son of God commanded to save the world. Starting a socialist movement for sharing wealth and land distribution, as well as the Ten Commandments, he stressed chaste living, an end to foot-binding for women, and opposition to opium. He fomented what would become known as the Taiping Rebellion, which intended to divest the country of “Manchu demons” and other belief systems. This is another way in which anti-Christ uses good intentions and “religious” works to deceive.

In 1854 Pope Pius IX, with a huge majority of Catholic bishops, issued the papal bull *Ineffabilis Deus* (Latin for “Ineffable God”), in which he defined *ex cathedra* (from “Peter’s throne”) the dogma of Mary’s Immaculate Conception, which states:

We declare, pronounce and define that the doctrine which holds that the Blessed Virgin Mary, at the first instant of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace of the Omnipotent God, in virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of mankind, was preserved immaculate from all stain of original sin, has been revealed by God, and therefore should firmly and constantly be believed by all the faithful.

A dogma declared *ex cathedra* is imposed upon Catholics as essential to their faith, and can never be repealed, ostensibly having come directly through inspiration by the Holy Spirit. This dogma of Mary’s Immaculate Conception would be one of anti-Christ’s greatest deceptions, leading millions of Roman Catholics to transfer their primary veneration of Yahweh God

and His only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to a human agency. Thus, the practice of Mariology became further entrenched among unbiblical Roman Catholic beliefs and practices.

In 1872, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Charles Taze Russell started the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, which would become better known as the Jehovah’s Witnesses. Just as with Mormonism, history has proven this institution one of the most deceptive opponents of the true Gospel, giving anti-Christ even more leverage for the minds of people everywhere.

Anti-Christ’s peculiar hatred of the Jews was again inflamed when, in 1882, Russian Tsar Alexander III, proclaiming that the Jews killed Christ, instituted pogroms against Jews that spread across the Russian Empire, expelling them from Moscow, and causing many Jews to flee from Russia altogether.

In 1899 China, a group of terrorists known as Boxers took up the nationalistic chant, “Protect the country and destroy the foreigner.” Their Buddhist religious zeal coupled with fear of Christians and support from the government resulted in attacks and the killing of Christian missionaries and Chinese converts to Christianity. In 1900, the U.S., Japan, and European nations acted to put down what the West called the Boxer Rebellion. But in the process, they indiscriminately attacked innocent Chinese as well.

On December 23, 1873, having suffered under her first husband’s drunkenness until he passed away, Carrie Amelia Nation organized the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union in Hillsboro, Ohio. Within two years the WCTU became an international organization. The objective of the WCTU was a “sober and pure world” through the promotion of abstinence, purity and evangelical Christianity. The WCTU expanded its agenda to include prostitution, labor, public health, sanitation and international peace, as well as women’s suffrage. The WCTU’s original method was to gather outside saloons to pray and harass the customers. By 1900, Nation decided that violence was the better means of dealing with “demon liquor.” Believing she had a divine leading to promote temperance by destroying bars and taverns, she began a campaign of violence, smashing the liquor inventories. At first she used rocks, but graduated to a hatchet after her second husband jokingly suggested that she do so.

Carrie Nation presents an example of how anti-Christ can motivate Christians to engage in political action, including violence, for “good” causes. Nation failed to realize that liquor itself is not the problem; the problem is the sin nature that causes people to abuse liquor, much as they abuse anything that can be used for good. The Lord has not called His people to destroy the property of those we find repulsive. The only thing that can truly deliver a person from drunkenness is surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ. Human efforts such as Alcoholics Anonymous offer some relief for unbelievers, but without Christ, they merely produce “clean” sinners.

Satan’s greatest victories come through the efforts of Christians (deluded or merely nominal) who believe they are superior to other members of the human race. This has been the case wherever a particular ethnicity has dominated. In the “Christian” West, and particularly in the United States of America, the ugly monster of race war has been conducted by whites against non-whites. After the abolition of slavery in America,

conflict between white settlers migrating westward and the American Indians resulted in great injustices.

On May 28, 1830, the American Congress passed, and President Andrew Jackson signed, the Indian Removal Act, which forced eastern tribes from their homes and lands, and banished them to areas west of the Mississippi River. The five tribes most affected were considered the most civilized by European settlers during the colonial period. These were the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek and Seminole tribes. Yet Jackson's motivation was not evil; he honestly believed that relocation was the best means to ensure the survival of these tribes in view of the growing immigration of European settlers that threatened their existence. Already many tribes, particularly in the north, had been driven to extinction, and the Indian Removal Act was intended to prevent that for the tribes in the south. Still, the results were at times inhumane. American Indians that chose to stay and assimilate into American culture were made citizens of the United States. The rest were forced off their farms and out of their homes to relocate to Indian territories. The first tribe to be removed was the Choctaw in 1831. The Seminole fought two wars to remain, but were ultimately removed, with the exception of a small number that withdrew to the Florida Everglades, never to be defeated. The arduous trek of the Choctaw in particular resulted in what became known as the "Trail of Tears" during which an unclear number (from 2,500 to 6,000) perished.

The Sioux Wars that raged from 1851 to 1890 resulted in another great American Indian tribe's eventual subjugation. The Sioux Wars began not long after the signing of the Ft. Laramie Treaty of 1851, which was to ensure safe passage of white settlers along the Oregon Trail. The first conflict began over a misunderstanding involving a cow that escaped from a Mormon party in 1854. The cow wandered into a Sioux camp, and was seen there by a Mormon search party that assumed it had been stolen. Rather than approach the Sioux whom they feared, they reported the "theft" to the army at Ft. Laramie. When an army contingent tried to arrest a suspected Sioux who claimed innocence, the man resisted. Cannons were fired on the Indian camp, killing the Sioux's Chief Conquering Bear, the spokesman for his tribe. The Sioux launched a counter-attack that wiped out the entire detachment of army troops. This resulted in retaliation by General William S. Harney whose 600 troops attacked a Sioux village at Blue Water, killing 85, and taking 70 women and children captive.

Other disputes arose between Sioux tribes and white settlers, resulting in bloodshed. The U.S. army was constantly called upon to protect the settlers, regardless of which side was primarily in the wrong of any particular dispute.

When, in 1875, prospectors discovered gold in the Black Hills of South Dakota, major fighting broke out between the Sioux, led by Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse, and federal troops led by General William T. Sherman. The Sioux gained major victories, but were ultimately subdued. During these wars, one of the most famous (or infamous) military campaigns resulted in disaster for a small troop of 200 men under the command of Col. George A. Custer at a site called the Little Big Horn.

As a result of Custer's defeat, outraged Americans demanded retribution, which caused the U.S. to redraw Indian reservation boundaries.

The Sioux Wars ended in 1890 with the disastrous end of what was to be a peaceful meeting between Colonel James Forsyth and Chief Big Foot. An accidental discharge of a rifle resulted in the army firing artillery into the Sioux camp, killing men, women and children trying to flee. One hundred-fifty people, including Big Foot, were killed. The Sioux would not survive as a viable tribe, losing their land and their way of life.

Many treaties were broken by the U.S. government, resulting in the Crow and Blackfoot Indians being ejected from their reservations, the Ute Indians in Colorado having their properties confiscated and opened to settlement, and whites invading Nez Perce territory that had been promised to the peaceful Nez Perce Indians. The U.S. Army defeated the Nez Perce to give their lands to the settlers.

Is it any wonder that the "white man's God" has been largely rejected by American Indians? At best, anti-Christ has seen to it that American Indian spirituality blends native religious practices into its "Christianity."

COMMUNISM

Satan's most audacious anti-Christ movement would be birthed in the 19th century. On June 2, 1847, in London, dozens of working class rebels, mostly from Germany, held a meeting at which they changed the name of their organization from "The League of the Just" to "The Communist League." They also changed their motto from "All Men Are Brothers" to "Working Men of All Countries, Unite!"

Following recent economic downturns in Europe, on February 21, 1848, Karl Marx collaborated with Friedrich Engels to write a theory of political development that promotes the idea of class struggle. Siding with the "proletariat" against the "capitalists," Marx theorized that capitalism will eventually decline and be overthrown. His little book was titled, *The Communist Manifesto*.

After Marx's death in 1883, Engels continued to promote Marxism, writing an introduction to Marx's *The Class Struggles in France*. Marx's writings would set the course for Bolshevism in Russia and International Communism's advance in the 20th century.

ZIONISM

The first wave of Zionist immigration into Palestine began in 1881. In 1897, Theodor Herzl, a Jewish journalist from Hungary disturbed by the anti-Semitism connected with the Dreyfus Affair, wanted to start a program to resettle Jews in Palestine. That year, Herzl convened the First Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, which inaugurated the Zionist Organization (ZO). The ZO would become the World Zionist Organization (WZO) in 1900. The goal of promoting Jewish immigration to Palestine would experience little progress until the Holocaust under the Third Reich of Adolph Hitler's Nazi Germany would create worldwide sympathy for the millions of displaced Jews.

Closing out the 19th century for this series, in 1900 the world's population was roughly 1.7 billion, up from about 1 billion in 1800.