



THE 1970S WAS a decade in which large segments of western populations became so self-absorbed and focused on personal needs and desires with disregard for others, that American author Tom Wolfe was inspired to label it the “Me’ Decade.” The term first appeared in an essay titled “The ‘Me’ Decade and the Third Great Awakening,” first published as the cover story for the August 23, 1976, issue of *New York* magazine. Wolfe’s term described a self-serving attitude in contrast to the social norms of prior decades.

With the prosperity that developed in the West following World War II, the materialistic nature of the West’s citizens came to full bloom during the ensuing decades, gradually culminating in a sense of entitlement. This was largely the result of an increasing lack of discipline on the part of parents who wanted their children to have all the advantages that an industrialized society provides but without instilling the necessary moral and ethical foundation needed to handle it properly. This was exacerbated by popular parenting instructions foisted upon society by the likes of pediatrician Dr. Benjamin Spock, who we addressed in a previous chapter. Spock’s instructions on permissiveness had been gaining ever-growing acceptance since the publication in 1946 of his infamous book, *Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care*. The decade of the ’60s began to see the results of his satanic advice with the rebelliousness of youth on the rise.

1968 is generally regarded by historians as the highpoint of the protest wave that swept the West. The years 1974-1976 marked its end. This was largely because governments (particularly the United States) began to become more passive by scaling back military encounters and downsizing national law enforcement agencies which appeased the radical leftist anarchists. But that was only a temporary lull. Although the 1970s were less violent overall than the 1960s, the

rebelliousness merely took a more benign direction, expressing itself in the music venues of the time rather than out in the streets. Disco, Hip Hop, Crip Walk, and Punk dancing arose, the latter three forms leading to even more violence in the following decades.

As we look at the influence of anti-Christ in the world during the 1970s, we will perceive an even greater departure from the biblical ethic that guided Western Civilization for almost 2000 years, and a return to the barbarianism that characterized the entire world prior to the spreading of the Gospel.

ENTERTAINMENT

The music industry has always been on the cutting-edge of societal change. A nation’s mores can be solidly linked to the popular musical messages that come out of the multi-billion dollar music industry. Some of the most anti-social forms of music were spawned during the 1970s, including Hip Hop (including Rap), Crip Walk, and Punk.

Hip Hop

There is no specific starting point for hip hop; it evolved when block parties in New York City became popular among Black youths, particularly in the Bronx. Disc Jockeys played percussive breaks of popular songs by utilizing two turntables in order to extend the breaks. A subgenre to come out of hip hop is gangsta rap which focuses on violence, misogyny, and the impoverished lives of inner-city youths, incorporating political and social commentary. Various forms of hip hop have developed over time, but its roots in Black American inner-city gang culture remains evident.

Crip Walk

Also known as the C-Walk, Crip Walk originated among the Crip gang members of South Central Los Angeles. It emerged out of the rivalry between the Crips and Bloods

when that rivalry was capitalized upon by rappers on the West Coast of the United States who gave it the name Crip Walk. The unique Crip Walk dance steps to hip hop “music” were used by Crip gang members at parties as a testament to their affiliation. It was also used as a “Crip signature” after a gang member killed someone.

Although originally a strictly Crip symbolic dance, it has spread to become a popular hip hop dance for youth around the world.

Punk Rock

This genre of “music” is rooted in the 1960s garage band phenomenon whereby youths often uneducated in the science and art of music utilized guitars, drums, and other percussive instruments to make noise while pretending to be musicians. It was a phenomenon that developed primarily in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia. The term “punk” was applied by critics to describe garage bands and their followers.

Out of this genre emerged a punk subculture that expresses youthful rebellion characterized by distinctive clothing that includes deliberately offensive, vulgar, and profane T-shirts, spiked arm- and neck-bands, spiked jewelry, and bondage and S&M clothes. Punk is especially popular among anarchists and other anti-authoritarian miscreants.

Disco

Although Disco is not among the anti-authoritarian, violence-prone genres addressed above, it nevertheless has an anti-social element to it. A combination of funk, pop, and salsa, disco appeals to sensuality with popular dances that are sexually suggestive. For this reason disco clubs became associated with promiscuity. They were popularized in movies such as *Saturday Night Fever*, *Thank God It's Friday*, *Car Wash*, and others with sexually-charged themes. There also developed among discotheque-goers a strong drug subculture.



The 1970s saw a continuation of anti-Christ’s use of music to mesmerize and seduce youth to an even greater extent than the preceding popularity of rock ‘n’ roll. With the exception of disco, the other named genres sacrificed even more musicality to appeal to the baser instincts of ungodly people. Sadly, even many Christians have succumbed to that appeal. These genres can be found in churches and Christian musical venues, only “Christianized” with words that, though often unintelligible, are said to “glorify God.”



Movies

1977 saw the release of *Star Wars*—the first in a long series of science-fiction/fantasy movies based on a single narrative. To date, the *Star Wars* enterprise, including prequels and sequels, has totaled \$3.376+ billion, not including re-releases. The special effects and compelling plot line of *Star Wars* combined to offer a unique entertainment experience for its time. Even Christians were enthralled with the movie to the point they were not only willing to overlook its occult theme centered on The Force, but some Christian leaders even tried to equate The Force with God and the theme of “good vs. evil” with the Gospel.

All of the *Star Wars* stories reinforce the idea of The Force—a mysterious, impersonal entity that permeates all things and holds the universe together. The spectacular special effects keep people’s (including Christians’) minds numbed to the obvious eastern mysticism that grips their consciousness as they proclaim, one to another, “May The Force be with you.”

To believers in Christ who understand eastern mysticism, it is apparent that The Force is not God, but an energy field latent within everyone. Through the practice of meditation it is said one can release it to bring one to one’s full human potential. In short, The Force is the power of witchcraft. In *Star Wars* the story is of white witchcraft versus black witchcraft—the light side vs. the dark side of the same Force.

For some time after the initial *Star Wars* was released, there could be seen books and bumper stickers that naively claimed “Jesus is The Force.” But Jesus is not The Force, nor is The Force Jesus. He is the Word of God who has existed throughout eternity. Whereas The Force is said to be “created by all living things,” Jesus was not created. Rather, He is the creator of all living things—in truth, of the entire physical universe (John 1).

Nor is there any dark side to Jesus as there is in The Force. In 1 John 1:5 we are told, “God is light, and there is no darkness at all in Him.”

Paul the apostle further reveals this truth in 2 Corinthians 6:14 when he asks, “What communion has light with darkness?”

For Christians to rationalize the identity of The Force and claim it is Jesus is a dangerous step toward synthesizing paganism with biblical truth—a problem that has plagued Christianity for almost two millennia.

Through even a cursory examination it can be found that The Force is nothing more than the eastern religious concept of a universal life force that is alleged to reside within all things. This life force is at once “god” and creature. Hence it is to be worshiped on the one hand and kept under control on the other. It is the same “god” worshipped by the Nazis.

Consider this statement by Martin Bormann, head of the Nazi Party Organization, as reported in the February 21, 1942, edition of the *London Daily Telegraph*:

If we National Socialists [Nazis] speak about “faith in God” we do not mean the same God as the naïve Christians....The natural Force which maintains these innumerable planets in the universe we call the Almighty or God.¹

Is this not identical to Obi Wan Kenobi’s definition of The Force?

Dr. Robert Ley, head of the Nazi labor front, left a message for future Germany before committing suicide in his prison cell:

We have forsaken God, and therefore we were forsaken by God. We put our human volition in place of His Godly grace.

Anti-Christ has used the dark philosophy of The Force to draw Christians away from their roots in the Gospel to a New Age gospel of human potential—a potential that may be realized for those who succumb to the deception of The Force. (See our special report, *The Force Behind The Force*.)

POLITICS

Women’s Rights

The battle for equal rights for women progressed through the decades since suffrage was granted to women in the late 19th century. On August 26, 1970, a more aggressive move toward an Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was spawned when the National Organization for Women (NOW) organized the first Strike for Equality Parade in New York City. The strike was primarily concerned with equal opportunity in the workplace, political rights for women, social equality in marriage and other relationships (lesbianism), abortion, and “free” childcare.

The protest included chanting and speeches by prominent feminists such as Betty Friedan, author of *The Feminine Mystique*, who had originally proposed the strike to NOW.

¹ G.H. Lang, *World Chaos: Its Root and Remedy* (London: The Paternoster Press, 1948), p. 16.

Although the protests were met with opposition by the mainstream media at the time (how times have changed), and by conservative women’s groups, it did have an impact on the political scene, and would lead to a groundswell of support for the Equal Rights Amendment that would pass the Senate and be proposed to the states in 1972.

The Equal Rights Amendment failed to garner enough states for a super majority as required by the Constitution, largely because of the efforts of Phyllis Schlafly, founder and chairman of Eagle Forum, who mobilized large protests by Christian women and others who saw the amendment as a threat to the already protected status of women, particularly in the home. Yet in spite of the amendment’s failure to pass, many of its provisions have been incorporated into law through judicial and governmental bureaucratic fiat, as well as congressional law. Some of these provisions include unfettered access to abortion (*Roe v. Wade*), affirmative action in employment, particularly in government jobs (Equal Employment Opportunities Commission), affirmative action in education (Title IX of the Education Amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1965), even as other provisions continue to be promoted by feminist organizations. These protections for women were later broadened to prohibit discrimination due to sexual orientation and now, sexual identity (Barack Obama’s executive orders).

Ever since Eve was seduced by anti-Christ in the Garden, women have struggled to overcome the role assigned to them by Yahweh while they remain in their mortal condition during this present age. For millennia women used their feminine charms and wiles to get their way with men. Not content that in many ways they possess greater control than men over many aspects of life, ungodly women have sought to assert themselves as equal to men in roles granted exclusively to men by Yahweh.

This mirrors Satan’s desire to make himself equal to Yahweh.

It isn’t that women are inferior to men except in overall physical strength that our Father has assigned to them the position of helper to men, but because the woman was deceived (1 Timothy 2:13-14), and because the man was created before the woman:

For a man indeed ought not to cover his head inasmuch as he is the image and glory of God, and the woman is the glory of the man.

For the man is not [originally] from the woman; but the woman from the man. Neither was the man created for the woman, but the woman for the man. For this reason the woman ought to have mastery over her head because of the angels.

Nevertheless, neither is the man without the woman, nor the woman without the man, in the Lord.

For as the woman is from the man, even so is the man also [born] by the woman, but all things by God. (1 Corinthians 11:7-12)

It is only in the Lord (that is, for those who are redeemed and born again by the Spirit of God) that there is equality in the eyes of Yahweh.

There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither bond nor free; there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)

Yet even then, in this age the woman is to be under the headship of the man. This can only be accomplished to any consistent degree within the Body of Christ, provided both men and women understand the reason and purpose for this. The only way it can work in the world is among men and women who, although not born again, are influenced by the Gospel through the biblical ethic that has influenced much of the world since the first century AD.

Anti-Christ is fully aware of this, and is fomenting discord between men and women in the world as he works to draw them further away from that biblical ethic. His control of the world system leads to the promotion of “women’s rights” that in truth will enslave women to their base nature as fallen creatures.

Roe v. Wade

The most nefarious of these special “rights” granted to women by the state is the right to abortion. This is not among the rights granted to mankind by our Creator as delineated in the U.S. Declaration of Independence; it is in truth nothing but a privilege granted to women by the state. It falls into the category of “civil rights,” an invention of the left gleaned from the 1936 Constitution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). The idea of civil rights, granted not by God but by the state, was later adopted by the United Nations as stated in its Charter, primarily authored by American communist aide to Franklin D. Roosevelt, Alger Hiss. Although there were Civil Rights Acts in 19th-century America, these were to assure that black people were not denied the same political and social rights enjoyed by whites. There were no broad attempts to adopt civil rights as granted by the state until the Soviet Union Constitution enumerated them, even as the state often violated them. Civil rights then made its way into U.S. politics as a further attempt to right certain wrongs experienced by blacks in America into the 1960s and ’70s. In all cases, there were never attempts to define abortion as a civil right until Planned Parenthood came on the scene early in the 20th century and proposed abortion and birth control as a way to commit genocide on Blacks and other non-white people. Planned Parenthood’s nefarious plot was given legal status through the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling declaring abortion a civil right in its Roe v. Wade decision on January 22, 1973. With that

decision, all state laws limiting access to abortion to the first trimester of pregnancy were abrogated for the entire United States of America. This legislation by fiat has stood against attempts by religious and other right-thinking groups to curtail the easy access to abortion.

It is a fact that Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood, crusaded for abortion and birth control as a means to cut down the non-white population of America and other western nations. But anti-Christ has used those strategies to cut down the population of whites as well, especially Christians, many of whom seem to believe that a woman has the right to kill her baby, even up to the moment of birth.

Since Roe v. Wade, easy access to abortion has spread to other nations also, including during this decade to Italy (1977).

TECHNOLOGY

Bar Codes

In 1970, the National Association of Food Chains (NAFC) established the Ad-Hoc Committee for U.S. Supermarkets on a Uniform Grocery-Product Code. The purpose was to set guidelines for barcode development. There came from this a standardized 11-digit code to identify products through a barcode system using scanners. Several companies were approached to come up with the best system. Ultimately, IBM’s process was adopted and, in time, was implemented for grocery chains.

Today, barcodes are used extensively to identify not only groceries, but virtually every product sold, as well as pets, employees, hospital patients, prisoners, and you name it.

The creation of the barcode has given rise to concerns among many Christians that it may one day be used as an identifying mark of the anti-Christ. Some therefore consider the use of barcodes an evil in itself.

Be that as it may, even if the barcode were never invented, God’s Word is sure. The man, Anti-Christ, will come to power one day, and barcode or not, he will hold sway over a significant portion of mankind.

TERRORISM

Highjackings

In July, 1970, Israel, Jordan, and Egypt agreed to a cease-fire to end the Six-Day War. This sparked outrage among many Muslim anti-Israel factions, among them the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) whose leader George Habash had vowed, “If a settlement is made with Israel, we will turn the Middle East into a hell.” Habash and his lieutenant, Wadi Haddad, planned a series of airplane hijackings by which they issued a series of formal demands that called for the release of some 3,000 Palestinian and Arab prisoners held in Israeli and European jails.

On September 6, 1970, the PFLP almost simultaneously hijacked three jetliners shortly after they had taken off from

European airports en route to the United States. The hijackers on one of the airplanes were foiled, so others seized a fourth jet, diverting it to Cairo, Egypt. The other two were flown to Dawson Field in Jordan. Yet another jet was hijacked three days later.

Over time, all the hostages were released as were many Palestinian and Arab prisoners.

These high-profile hijackings were four of 29 attempted or carried out by Palestinian factions between 1968 and 1977, and they triggered the Jordanian civil war. The PFLP and PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization) sought to depose King Hussein of Jordan. When they failed in their coup, the hostage crisis came to an end with the release by the PFLP of the last six hostages in exchange for the release of several Palestinian and Arab prisoners.

Munich Olympics

At 4:30 AM on September 5, 1972, eight members of the Black September faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization climbed a two meter chain-link fence into the Olympic Village that housed athletes from all the competing nations. They were assisted by other, unsuspecting athletes (it's not clear if they were Americans or Canadians). Once inside, they used stolen keys to enter the two apartments housing the Israeli team. There they met resistance, and after a struggle in which two Israelis and two terrorists were killed, the intruders managed to capture nine hostages, and demanded the release of 234 Palestinians and non-Arabs jailed in Israel. But Israel's policy is never to negotiate with terrorists. Two botched attempts by German police to rescue the hostages resulted in the Palestinians killing the hostages. All but three of the terrorists died from police gunfire; those three were captured.

The Islamic terrorism that sparked these hijackings and kidnappings is at its root anti-Christ. Ever since the establishment of the state of Israel, Islamic terrorism has held the world hostage even while Islam continues to wage war against Christians and Jews. Anti-Christ has used terrorism to contrast with and hide his even more nefarious design to subvert the West through immigration and procreation, further destroying the biblical ethic that has guided the West for centuries.

Toward the end of the '70s terrorism gained a foothold among nation states in the Middle East.

Iran

On January 16, 1979, the deposed, cancer-ridden, dying Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza, boarded a plane to take him out of Iran to exile in Egypt. His departure brought to power the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini who would institute a strong Islamic religious state. Mohammad Reza's abdication marked the end of over 2,500 years of continuous Iranian monarchy since the founding of the Persian Empire by Cyrus the Great. During his reign, the Shah oversaw a secular

government with ties to Israel. With his departure came a religious tyranny and a nation bent on Israel's destruction. To this day, Iran remains Israel's greatest enemy and an enemy of the United States, giving anti-Christ considerable clout in his design to turn the world against Israel and her allies, which we see coming to fruition more every day.

WAR

Yom Kippur War

Having never recovered from their humiliating defeat in the Six-day War of 1967, Egyptian and Syrian forces chose Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish year, to launch a coordinated surprise attack against Israel. The date was October 6, 1973, and as Egyptian troops moved deep into the Sinai Peninsula, Syrian troops tried desperately to throw Israeli troops out of the Golan Heights. Iraqi and Jordanian forces joined the siege shortly after.

Israel's counterattack overthrew the Syrians and recaptured the Golan Heights. This new attempt by anti-Christ to remove Israel's buffer of protection met with such resistance that his armies had to settle for a cease-fire on October 25, just three weeks later. Israel suffered tremendous losses, having been unprepared with many of its soldiers on leave for the holiday. Although Egypt again suffered defeat at the hands of Israel, in 1974, Egypt's Premier Anwar Sadat was able to negotiate the first of two Egyptian-Israeli disengagement agreements which provided for the return of portions of the Sinai to Egypt. A 1979 peace treaty between Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin allowed for the return of the last segment of the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt. This was realized in 1982.

Again, anti-Christ had sought to destroy Israel, but God's Word is sure. Israel will remain, and Jerusalem will be inhabited by the Jews at the time the Lord Jesus returns to establish His millennial Kingdom.

ENVIRONMENTALISM

Earth Day

In October, 1969, John McConnell, the son of an itinerant Pentecostal preacher, addressed the National UNESCO Conference in San Francisco with



the proposal for a global holiday to celebrate the earth's life and beauty, and to advance the cause of peace on earth. His desire was to alert mankind to the need for preserving the ecological balances of nature. His proposal garnered strong support and led to an Earth Day Proclamation by the City of San Francisco. The first celebration of Earth Day took place on March 21, 1970, in conjunction with the spring equinox. It has been celebrated around the world every year since then on the day of the spring equinox.

In June, 1970, McConnell created the Earth Day Proclamation for worldwide use and awareness. It was signed by 36 world leaders, including UN Secretary General U Thant.

The next year one of the largest environmental groups in the world was founded. Greenpeace has been a mixed bag of good and bad activism for environmental concern. But many of its tactics have been illegal and dangerous.

Due to the sometimes radical left's efforts to "save the earth," Congress in 1973 passed the Endangered Species Act which, on occasion, has been misused to place the welfare of animals and even insects above the welfare of humans.

There is certainly nothing wrong with caring for the earth. In truth, that is what our Father expects of His children. True believers in Jesus do not purposely create conditions that will damage the environment (Genesis 1:26). However, Earth Day has become more of a pagan celebration of "Mother Earth," drawing people's attention to bacchanalian festivals and orgies in the wildernesses of the world. Anti-Christ has demonstrated his proclivity for turning a commendable if not godly expression of concern for nature into a celebration of the earth as a goddess (Romans 1:22-25).

SCIENCE

Genetic Engineering

As mankind's audacity led him to ever-increasing attempts to manipulate God's natural order, experiments in eugenics were given a boost with the first successful freezing of mouse embryos in 1972. This was a significant step in the process of developing Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART). This culminated in the birth of the first "test tube baby," Louise Brown, on July 25, 1978.

There is no doubt that *in vitro* fertilization has been a boon to many women who could not otherwise bear children. Yet whenever man tampers with nature, there remains a de facto affront to the role of God in determining the outcome. Also, there are no moral guidelines to the use of *in vitro* that would ensure that only married couples (men and women) would have access to the process.

Anti-Christ has always been on the attack against marriage and the family as designed by God. Eugenics and its results have been one of his greatest tools.

In 1976 the first artificial gene was created, leading to genetic engineering breakthroughs that have commonplace applications today. This is most notable in Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's) utilized in the agriculture industry. Where genetic engineering will take mankind—should the Lord not return anytime soon—can only be imagined. Genetic engineering is being considered for animal and plant breeding, and is closely related to cloning and stem cell research.

When one specie's genetic material is added to a host specie, a new transgenic organism may be created.

There are no set international standards to regulate genetic engineering involving humans and other animals, and some technocrats surmise the possibility of creating a "master race" that would be superior to naturally born humans.

This is exactly what Hitler envisioned, but today the science is almost to the point of realizing his dream. And what greater anti-Christ was there than Adolf Hitler for his time?

When man is inspired by anti-Christ to tamper with nature, he is waving his fist at his Creator, daring Him to do something about man's inordinate desire to be like God.

Wait until God's fist returns the salute.

TECHNOLOGY

Home Computers

In 1975, Altair, the first home computer, was marketed, providing new technology for the home. At first, the computer was useful for educational purposes and for various means of personal financial and home management. It wasn't long before it became a primary source of entertainment, not all of it wholesome. The home computer has opened the door for sexual content and contact that has allowed anti-Christ's attack on marriage and the family stupendous success.

Need I say more?

Not only is illicit sex pervasive on home computers, video games have captured the minds of millions of adults and children. Although the first commercially successful video game, Pong, mesmerized people with its simple "tennis game" approach, technological advances in gaming have given free rein to human imagination which, according to God's Word, is only evil continually (Genesis 6:5). Young children are, if not carefully monitored by godly parents (who are few today), exposed to sexual and violent content that can sear their consciences (1 Timothy 4:1-2). Not to mention chat rooms, social media, and other dangerous, anti-Christ content.

RELIGION

First Female Priests

The '70s saw a breakthrough in feminism when the first female priests were ordained in the Episcopal Church in the United States. On July 29, 1974, four Episcopal bishops ordained eleven women as priests, although the ordinations lacked "recommendation from the standing committee," a canonical prerequisite for ordination. Known as the "Philadelphia Eleven," the women's ordination was initially opposed by the House of Bishops, but in 1976 the General Convention of the Episcopal Church granted its approval. Since then, several denominations have ordained women, and it has become commonplace within mainstream churches.

This breakthrough for feminism was possible because the mainstream Protestant churches involved had long before departed from the biblical expression of ministry in the

assembly. Having inherited the concept of priesthood from their former Roman Catholic roots, their clergy-laity foundation was anti-Christ. How could it not devolve further into a female dominant role?

Not to be outdone, even Pentecostal and charismatic as well as some fundamental churches have taken to ordaining not priests, but female pastors and teachers, also contrary to the Scriptures they claim are their sole source of doctrine and practice.

The subjective nature of the religious spirit serves anti-Christ by compromising God's Word with the rationale that, if the Holy Spirit leads, then the letter of the Word must yield. What the religious spirit fails to understand is that the Holy Spirit never leads contrary to the Word of God.

Pope John Paul II

The world was shocked in 1978 when the Roman Catholic College of Cardinals chose a non-Italian pope for the first time since 1503. Born Karol Jozef Wojtyla in the Polish town of Wądrowice, Pope John Paul II became an immediate sensation. His coronation sparked unheard of praise from world leaders and even many leaders within evangelical Christianity. I recall Pat Robertson gleefully exclaiming, "We have a new pope!"



My internal reaction was, "What do you mean 'we,' white eyes?"

The Catholic Church may have had a new pope, but where did an alleged leader within non-Catholic Christianity get off by claiming the pope for the rest of us?

Actually, I was not surprised by Wojtyla's election. When Pope Paul VI died on August 6, 1978, I recall telling my mother that I didn't believe the next pope would be Italian, but would come from a communist country, or have ties within communist circles. She was surprised, of course. There hadn't been a non-Italian pope since Giuliano della Rovere was elected as Julius II in 1503. What prompted my "prophecy" was my knowledge of world events coupled with my understanding of last-days prophecy.

I was surprised to be found wrong when the Italian Albino Luciani was elected John Paul I on August 26, 1978. In fact, I was pretty confused, and wondered if I didn't know what I knew.

When John Paul I died mysteriously just one month later on September 28, I again anticipated a non-Italian pope with the expected credentials.

Then came John Paul II, and the unprecedented joy and acclaim that accompanied his election not only among Catholics, but by the entire world. Surely, I believed, this man is special and there is a spiritual dimension to his election that is unique if not unprecedented.

History has shown how great an impact his papacy had on the world political scene, particularly with the downfall of the USSR through his efforts in conjunction with U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

John Paul II was a "progressive" pope, taking the influence of Roman Catholicism into world politics to formerly unheard of heights since the heyday of the Holy Roman Empire. His successors have built upon that influence, and have been even more "progressive" (i.e., leftist) than he.

Anti-Christ has used the papacy to foment intrigue and wars throughout history, as well as persecution of the saints. In these last days, the papacy is more supportive of "world peace" even at the expense of freedom. It moves in leftist circles and adopts leftist causes, even finding compromise with homosexuality and abortion, subjects that previous popes had always held a firm stance against.

It remains to be seen what role the papacy will play in the last-days anti-Christ's terrorism against all things righteous.

Charismatic Movement

The 1970s saw an explosion of activity within the Charismatic Movement, some not so bad, most terribly bad. The most positive elements centered around the Jesus Movement that began to stir in the late 1960s, coming to its peak in the 1970s. This was a major element that came out of the hippie counterculture to impact Protestantism. It began on the West Coast of the United States, primarily in the beach communities of Southern California. From there it spread rapidly throughout the U.S. to other parts of the world.

Calvary Chapel

Out of the Jesus Movement sprang a number of churches, some already in existence but dying out until the hippies began invading them looking for answers to their discontent that they couldn't find in drugs, sex, and rock 'n' roll. Responding to the Gospel in droves, they claimed that Jesus gave them the "high" they were looking for.

The largest church movement to grow as a result was Calvary Chapel in Costa Mesa, California, pastored by Chuck Smith, a former pastor within the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel founded by Aimee Semple McPherson. Based on claimed prophecy by Smith and others close to him, he was to become a world-renowned pastor and teacher. When former hippie John Higgins Jr. introduced Smith to "hippie evangelist" Lonnie Frisbee, Frisbee became the catalyst for the growth of Calvary Chapel, leading evangelistic outreaches to hippies in Southern California. Frisbee co-founded the House of Miracles commune with John Higgins, Sr.

Frisbee would later be disowned by Calvary Chapel because of his homosexuality which caused a scandal within the community. Eventually, Frisbee contracted AIDS and died as a result. He was interred in the late Robert Schuller's Crystal Cathedral Memorial Gardens.

But Frisbee's influence on Calvary Chapel remained, and Chuck Smith's laid-back style coupled with his fatherly image captured the hearts and minds of the disenfranchised and homeless hippies. Without coercion, many of them began to become conformed to the norms of society, casting off their hippie clothing and trappings and getting jobs, wearing ties (or at least more conventional clothing), and quitting drugs and alcohol.

Late in his life, Smith would depart from his anti-Catholic stance to become somewhat ecumenical, even embracing Rick Warren, with whom he had previously expressed displeasure over doctrine.

As a former attendee at Calvary Chapel, Costa Mesa, where Jean and I met, it saddens me to see the direction in which the Calvary Chapels have gone of late, many embracing ecumenism, the emergent church movement, and some forms of mysticism that characterizes many churches within the Vineyard Movement that was born out of Calvary Chapel when John



Chuck Smith

Wimber and Chuck Smith parted ways. (See our special report, *The Vineyard: History, Teachings, & Practices*.)

As flawed as Calvary Chapel was and is, having been touched by anti-Christ in numerous ways, it was probably the most positive element of the Charismatic Movement for its day. Just about everything else has been corrupt, if not at its beginning, certainly as it progressed.

Space doesn't allow for in-depth analysis of every aspect of the explosion of popularity within charismatism. But it is important that I touch some significant highlights of how anti-Christ worked within that movement.

Christian Television

The early 1970s saw the rise of Christian Television, primarily within the United States. The largest network to come into existence was Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) founded by Paul and Jan Crouch along with Jim and Tammy Bakker in 1973. TBN was unique in that, although there were many Christian programs broadcasting on other established networks, TBN built its own facilities and owned its own licenses to broadcast independently of others. The

Bakkers had previously been working with Pat Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN), helping it to grow.

Parting ways with TBN about one year later, the Bakkers founded their own network, The PTL Television Network, with their flagship program, *The PTL Club* airing on hundreds of stations.

Between TBN, PTL, and CBN, Christians were inundated with charismatic teachers who were little known, and even unknown prior. These include Latter-Rain proponents Earl Paulk and Larry Lea, shepherding founder Bob Mumford, church growth guru C. Peter Wagner, and flamboyant "fakirs" Benny Hinn and Rodney Howard-Browne, all of whom grew to prominence in the 1970s.

There is little within Christian television that can be regarded as even close to biblical; it is a virtual wasteland of false teaching and, at best, flaccid, lowest-common-denominator preaching. Christian television has been a great tool of anti-Christ to lead believers and non-believers alike away from the purity of God's Word into a morass of false teachings. Add to this the scandals that have made a laughing stock of the faith among non-believers, and it is evident that Christian television has served the enemy far more than it has served our Father in Heaven.

Even so, He has used Christian television on occasion to impart some truths, and to touch the lives of many who would not otherwise have had any access to those truths.

Shepherding-Discipleship Movement

The increasing subjectivity of the Charismatic Movement was bound to lead to serious error. As more and more Christians became disillusioned with their churches for various reasons (most legitimate), they found themselves foundering in a sea of confusion and uncertainty, looking for something or someone to give them spiritual direction.

Toward the late 1960s, two young Catholics, Steve Clark and Ralph Martin, who were on the secretariat of the Cursillo movement (a Roman Catholic advocacy group), became deeply involved in the Charismatic Renewal. These men formed The Word of God group which, by the mid-1970s had attained a membership of some 1,000. By 1990, through a subsidiary organization known as the Sword of the Spirit, they controlled an international network that affects the spiritual and social lives of millions of people.

In 1970, Clark and Martin began to introduce stringent structures within the Word of God group, creating coordinators and district subgroups called "subcommunities." They also began formal initiation into membership, requiring each member to make public commitments to the group through covenants.

Sometime in the 1970s, Clark and Martin began to make contacts with the leaders of Christian Growth Ministries in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Christian Growth Ministries was formed in 1970 by four popular charismatic Bible teachers. Don Basham (Disciples of Christ), Bernard (Bob) Mumford (Assemblies of God), Derek Prince (philosopher turned Pentecostal), and Charles Simpson (former Southern Baptist), were frequent contributors to *New Wine* magazine published by the Holy Spirit Teaching Mission (HSTM) in Fort Lauderdale Florida.

Under these men's leadership, HSTM changed its name to Christian Growth Ministries (CGM), and *New Wine* became the most widely circulated charismatic publication.

The four men began developing teachings on authority, submission, pastoral care, and discipleship, disseminating their teachings through *New Wine* and CGM-sponsored seminars and conferences. Three of these conferences in particular, called "Shepherds Conferences," would catalyze the Shepherding Movement (aka Discipleship Movement or Shepherding-Discipleship Movement). The first was a conference held in Leesburg, Florida, in March, 1973, drawing 450 charismatic pastors and lay leaders. The second, held in June, 1974, at Montreat, North Carolina, drew over 1,700 pastors and leaders. It was at this conference that a Canadian Pentecostal, W.J.E. (Ern) Baxter, joined the four. Together they became famously (or infamously) known as "The Fort Lauderdale Five."

These five, together with Clark and Martin, along with John Poole, formed a secret group called "the Council." The purpose of the Council was to coordinate efforts between the Word of God and Christian Growth Ministries in a common cause to convert the world through ecumenical cooperation in a tightly controlled spiritual environment.

The method of operation for the Council was to offer support and advice to major charismatic leaders. For example, Derek Prince was authorized to produce a curriculum for Morris Cerullo and to work on the board of one of Cerullo's institutes.

The Council's collaboration with the Roman Catholic Church is significant. It was largely the Council's work that put together the historic Kansas City Conference in 1977 and, subsequently, the Washington for Jesus Conference in 1980. The purpose was to demonstrate unity in the Spirit in an ecumenical environment.

Shepherding-Discipleship's modus operandi is to wield virtually total control over the lives of Christians they are able to seduce into their web of deceit. Abuses abound, where people are not allowed to do so much as go shopping without their "shepherd's" permission. They are told whom to marry, with whom they may associate, and even wives are more subject to the shepherds than to their own husbands.

Shepherding-Discipleship is not merely an aberration that affects individual personal lives. It is a broad-based ecumenical outreach designed to conform the entire Body of Christ to an authoritarian structure with the purpose of achieving dominion over the temporal world system. (See

Vengeance is Ours: The Church in Dominion [Sword Publishers, 1990])

The ecumenical approach disregards sound doctrine in favor of "unity." The real purpose is not to bring people to Christ (although by God's grace that does happen) as much as it is to bring them to unification under a religious hierarchy.

Shepherding-Discipleship exemplifies the authoritarianism needed to implement and sustain any attempt at establishing a theocratic or theonomic state. Although it is believed that Shepherding-Discipleship has died out, it still flourishes among dominionist groups.

Bob Mumford made public apologies for the abuses incurred under the Shepherding-Discipleship movement, but his apologies went only so far as to say that the abuses were the result of overzealousness on the part of some shepherds. The concept, he said, was still viable.

The Shepherding-Discipleship movement continues as one of anti-Christ's most potent means to deceive and enslave Christians.

Jonestown Massacre

We can't leave off the subject of anti-Christ's influence in religion without reminding ourselves of Jim Jones and the self-induced massacre of his cult in Jonestown, Guyana, on November 18, 1978. So infamous was that gruesome event, and so shocking to the world, that it remains the largest such event in modern history. In all, 918 people, including 304 minors, drank poisoned Flavor Aid, a Kool-Aid type beverage.

We need not delve any further than this to recognize anti-Christ's trademark hatred of all things called "Christian," even if far removed from biblical faith. ❖

NEXT

THE 1980s

Robertson, Robison endorse *The Shack*

Pat Robertson and James Robison have come out with praise for *The Shack*, the recently released movie based on the best-selling book by William P. Young.

Space doesn't permit a long dissertation on the novel's heretical storyline. Truly discerning believers know its ungodly premise is not suitable even if it is designed to draw the "unchurched" to "God." Our concern is with the lack of discernment on the part of Christian leaders today.

Or is it lack of discernment? I will not judge, but anyone who is indwelt by the Holy Spirit should be able to see through such obvious unscriptural stories as that within *The Shack*.

It's amazing how some leaders can be so right on in some things, but so off base on the obvious. ❖