



THE 2ND MILLENNIUM AD actually began on January 1, 2001, and is exceptional in the marked increase in sustained worldwide terrorism, the vast majority at the hands of Islamist militants. There have been so many, in fact, that it's impossible to enumerate all of them here. The most impactful event to date, of course, was the September 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center in New York City. Aside from all the speculation and conspiracy theories (some asking reasonable questions), the fact remains that regardless of who initiated the attack, Islamic militants were a major part of it.

The remarkable increase in violence since the year 2000 has consumed a large portion of news reporting. Not all of it has been rooted in Islam, as we will see.

The continuing siege against Israel by Hamas in Gaza to the south and Hezbollah in Lebanon to the north has continued unabated, with occasional lulls as the United States and other nations have sought a means to lasting peace.

Sexual deviancy continues to proliferate, gaining official recognition among governments of more and more nations.

Human history is not a pretty picture, despite the efforts of well-meaning people to find ways to alter the nature of human behavior. For the most part, those efforts are grounded in humanistic means based primarily on psychological theories. The only true means of human transformation, the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, is ignored, even by Christians, including many pastors and leaders within the churches. They, too, often opt for psychological methods, sometimes blending them with biblical admonitions.

As we look at the decade of the 2000s, we'll find that the human condition has become no better, and, in fact, has

reached a point where, increasingly, evil is called "good," and good is called "evil."

SEXUAL DEVIANCY

The influence of sexual deviants upon governments in the West continued to increase. Anti-Christ's agenda of confusion proliferated at the turn of the century and its acceptance as "normal" by more and more citizens begs God's judgment.

On June 21, 2000, the Scottish Parliament repealed Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988, a law preventing the promotion of homosexuality. The law stated that a local authority "shall not intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality" or "promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship." The repeal in Scotland by the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. Act 2000 led eventually to the repeal in the rest of the United Kingdom via section 122 of the Local Government Act 2003. The repeals reflected the changing moral values of the UK, while at the same time a more tolerant attitude toward Muslim migration into the UK was beginning to take effect. The Qur'an's pronouncement of the death penalty for sexual deviancy is at odds with the UK's liberality toward it. This bespeaks a brewing conflict in the future when the Muslim populations in the West begin to assert their insistence upon sharia for the western nations.

The Netherlands faces the same conflict. On April 1, 2001, the Act on the Opening up of Marriage went into effect, allowing same-sex couples to legally marry for the first time in the world since the reign of Nero in ancient Rome.

Even South Africa's parliament passed a law legalizing same-sex marriage on November 18, 2003.

Although still largely Roman Catholic, Spain legalized same-sex marriage on June 30, 2005, the same date as did Belgium.

Although the United States is currently facing a major conflict between the Trump administration and the sexual deviancy elements, during the 2000s, some states acted to accept same-sex marriages as legal. This move toward legitimizing this element of sexual deviancy was given great impetus by Barack Obama when, during his second term, he expressed approval for same-sex marriage. Until he was re-elected, he deceived the American people by stating that he was against same-sex marriages. After his 2012 re-election he revealed his true rainbow colors via lights on the White House.

On April 25, 2000, the State of Vermont passed HB847, legalizing same-sex marriage. On November 18, 2003, The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that anti-same-sex-marriage laws in the state were unconstitutional. On May 15, 2008, the California Supreme Court also ruled that bans on same-sex marriage are unconstitutional.

The battle continues, and it appears as if anti-Christ is on the winning side. But the war won't be over until our Commander in Chief from on high has His final say.

ENTERTAINMENT

Video games greatly increased in sophistication and realism, with many focusing on violence and occultism. On March 4, 2000, Sony released the PlayStation 2 system in Japan. On the first weekend alone, one million units were sold.

People's fascination with the occult was satisfied to a large degree with the release of the Warner Bros.' movie, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. The total world gross ticket sales were \$975 million, just short of one billion dollars. It was followed in order by *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* (2002); *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (2004); *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* (2005); *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* (2007); *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (2009). All except *Azkaban* are among the 50 highest-grossing movies of all time. It is the second-highest grossing series of all time, behind only the *Star Wars* series, also highly occultic.

Not as lucrative, but very popular, has been *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, based on the fantasy writings of J.R.R. Tolkien. The first movie in the series was *The Fellowship of the Ring* (December 19, 2001), followed by *The Two Towers* (December 18, 2002), and *The Return of the King* (December 17, 2003). The total world gross in ticket sales for all three films to date is just under \$3 billion.

The Lord of the Rings trilogy has been popular among Christians because of the Roman Catholic Tolkien's close friendship with C.S. Lewis. Like Lewis's fantasy writings, Christians want to see biblical parallels in both authors' works. This has been no less with *The Lord of the Rings*. What most fail to perceive is that both Lewis's and Tolkien's writings are occult in nature, pitting white magic against black

magic. They are no different than the Walt Disney fantasies, all of which are based on magic and occultism.

Anti-Christ must take great delight in seeing Christians duped into cheering for at least one side of his deception; white magic is what is attempted by modern pagans (Wiccans, Satanists, etc.), who claim to use the powers of nature for "good."

SCIENCE

Anti-Christ is adept at using scientists to confuse nature as God created it. The field of robotics, and particularly artificial intelligence (AI), is one in which he is making great strides toward melding humans and computers to achieve a quantum leap in human evolution. An important step in that area was achieved when Kevin Warwick, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at Coventry University in the United Kingdom, carried out the first direct experiment in electronic communication between the nervous systems of two humans. Warwick, who has been given the nickname "Captain Cyborg," had a neural interface array connected to an external "gauntlet" that housed supporting electronics. It was interfaced directly into Warwick's nervous system. Later, a simpler array was implanted into the arm of Warwick's wife with the ultimate aim of creating a form of telepathy using the Internet to communicate from afar. On June 10, 2002, the experiment was deemed successful.

Among the more bizarre means by which anti-Christ seeks to confuse nature has been cloning. Not long after the groundbreaking research that resulted in Dolly the Sheep as the first cloned mammal, Dewey, the first cloned deer, was born on May 23, 2003, at Texas A&M University. Five days later, Prometea, the first horse cloned by Italian scientists, was born.

But anti-Christ doesn't want to stop at animals. On February 13, 2004, South Korean scientists announced the cloning of 30 human embryos. The embryos were then grown to produce stem cells that can be used for any tissue in the human body. The purpose was altruistic, with the hope of treating patients with problems such as Alzheimer's disease, yet there is no telling where future research into human cloning may lead. The prospects are chilling.

Following his ungodly instincts, Barack Obama on March 9, 2009, signed an executive order lifting restrictions on federal funding for research on embryonic stem cells. Some scientists had left the United States to continue their research because of the prior ban. Many returned after funding became more readily available from the U.S. government.

Also under Obama's watch, on April 23, 2009, the morning-after contraceptive pill was cleared for use by seventeen-year-olds by the Food and Drug Administration. The previous minimum age was eighteen. Under the guise of preventing teen pregnancies, the pill has been used to provide for more illicit sex at younger ages.

POLITICS

The United States took a significant turn from its philosophical roots in the biblical ethic that guided it from its beginning when, on November 4, 2008, Barack Hussein Obama defeated Republican candidate Senator John McCain to become the 44th President of the United States of America. Obama's victory came amidst, and in spite of, questions about his being a natural-born citizen of the US. Unable, or unwilling, to provide an official birth certificate during the campaign to prove his qualification to run for the office, his personal education history shrouded in secrecy, even to this day, he left his detractors feeling justified in questioning his viability as a candidate. Additionally, his personal history as recorded in his book, *Dreams From My Father*, as well as exposure of close communist affiliations by reliable sources, gave every indication that he is a Marxist. Add that he had never held a productive job in his life, but had been merely a "community activist" before being elected as Senator of Illinois, and there was good reason for alarm among conservatives. Yet in spite of all these "red flags" (no pun intended), he achieved a landslide victory with 365 out of 538 electoral votes and almost 53% of the popular vote.

According to a Gallup poll, McCain won among regular churchgoers and non-Hispanic white males. Women voted overwhelmingly for Obama, as did youth, 18 to 29 years old.

Obama's acceptance speech included overtures toward Republicans to work together to solve the nation's problems, and promises of "change."

Obama's election was greeted abroad with great cheer. A Saudi journalist claimed, "the US has won the war on terror," and "people here are starting to believe in the US again." President Sarkozy of France told Obama, "At a time when we must face huge challenges together, your election has raised enormous hope in France, in Europe, and beyond." Yet among Israelis and Palestinians there remained doubts as to how Obama would solve the problems between them.

Almost immediately upon taking office on January 20, 2009, Obama moved to restore funding for family planning clinics abroad, repealing a policy that was begun by President Ronald Reagan in 1984, rescinded by President Bill Clinton in 1993, and reinstated by President George W. Bush in 2001. The policy prohibited nongovernmental organizations that receive federal funds from performing abortions or referring abortion services by others. On January 25, 2009, the Vatican condemned Obama's move toward restoring abortion rights.

On April 21, 2009, at the Latin American summit conference in Trinidad, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, a fellow Marxist, gave Obama a book titled, *Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent*. Doing so before TV cameras as Obama spoke from the podium created a large demand for the book, causing it to catapult to second place in Amazon's book sales.

Chavez's Marxist policies have devastated Venezuela to the point where, today, it has collapsed into anarchy and bloodshed. Yet that doesn't stop Marxists in the U.S., including Obama, from touting their ungodly political philosophy all the more. Obama's Marxist economics prompted the Heritage Foundation on the following May 8 to state, "[T]he debt-based Obama economic stimulus plan is about to become a major drag on the recovery, just as expected....There are two critical consequences to the economy stabilizing. The first is that the massive liquidity injected into credit markets by the Federal Reserve and central banks around the world transforms from economic medicine to inflationary heroin....The second dangerous consequence is that President Obama is on course to double the national debt in just four years."

That prognostication missed the mark by a few years, but eventually came true. When Obama took office the national debt hovered around \$10.6 trillion. By the time he left after his second term it was some \$20 trillion.

Of great concern to many was Obama's overture to Muslims. During the G20 summit in London on April, 2009, Obama met King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia by bowing down before him. The White House denied that Obama had bowed to Abdullah, an Obama aid telling Politico.com, "It wasn't a bow. He grasped his hand with two hands, and he's taller than King Abdullah."

Abdullah is 5'-11", Obama is 6'-1". The difference of two inches doesn't make it necessary to bow at all, let alone to the degree that Obama did, deeply bending his knee.

Lies, lies. That was the modus operandi for the Obama administration for all of its eight years.

Obama's consistent denigrating of America for its sins (as all nations possess), particularly before Muslim dignitaries at various speaking engagements, was a pattern that displayed his lack of love for the nation he was privileged to live in. As well, his smug touting of the (somewhat) truth that America is "no longer a Christian nation, at least not just," but also "a Jewish nation, a Muslim nation, and a Buddhist nation, and a Hindu nation, and a nation of non-believers," revealed a lack of love for the faith he claims to have converted to from Islam. This is further revealed in his expressing to Nicholas Kristof of *The New York Times*, that the Muslim call to prayer is "one of the prettiest sounds on Earth at sunset."

What true believer in Jesus would say that? Once a person turns from a false religion to true faith in Christ that person will abhor the darkness from which he had escaped.

After less than nine months in office, on October 9, 2009, Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Yet the decision to confer the prize upon Obama took place just twelve days after he took office. It was given for "extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples."

During Obama's first tenure in the Oval Office, anti-Christ accomplished much in the way of empowering Islam in America and around the world, increasing the acceptance of sexual deviancy, denigrating Christianity, and moving the nation further from its biblical ethic than under any other administration.

One thing that right-thinking people need to know—especially believers in Christ Jesus—is that Marxists lie as a matter of course to promote their agenda. So, too, do Muslims who are taught to lie for the benefit of the Islamist goal of world conquest through jihad, either violent or peaceful, the latter through immigration and procreation.

Obama's lying, obfuscation of truth, pandering to sexual deviants, promoting the killing of innocent babies, and treasonous policies toward America's enemies left the nation in a moral and ethical quagmire from which it may never recover. Because of Obama's second term, the next decade will see even more of the same, some to a greater degree.

TERRORISM

The World Trade Center

The decade of the 2000s saw Islamic terrorism continue to plague Israel on an increasing scale, primarily from Hamas and Hezbollah. Terrorism is nothing new to Israel; the nation has had to deal with it from the day it was born in 1948. But now it has been exported to other nations, and the single greatest impact was felt on September 11, 2001, when the World Trade Center's Twin Towers were struck by two aircraft. It was the darkest day for the United States since the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, which gave then President Franklin D. Roosevelt his excuse to bring America into World War II as an ally with Great Britain and, infamously, with the Soviet Union under Josef Stalin.

In a way, the two events paralleled one another in that they both led to war. Roosevelt pointed to Pearl Harbor as an excuse to wage war with Japan and its ally Germany; George W. Bush pointed to 9/11 as an excuse to wage war against his father's thorn-in-the-flesh, Saddam Hussein's Iraq. Although no evidence of Iraq's participation in the 9/11 attack has ever been established, Bush at the time sounded the alarm of alleged weapons of mass destruction in the hands of Hussein. No such weapons were ever found, but that didn't stop Bush from mobilizing against Iraq.

The outcome was the destabilizing of the Middle East, paving the way for a new terrorist organization to rise from the ashes of Iraq—ISIS.

There is no doubt that Hussein was a ruthless dictator, imposing his own form of terror on his enemies. But he was a protector of Christians and Jews in his nation, recognizing that they were no threat to his regime. With his removal, anti-Christ had a clear path to persecution of Christians and Jews, not only in Iraq, but in other areas of the Middle East that fell into anarchy with Hussein's absence.

There is much that can be said, pro and con, about the Iraq War and its repercussions, but our subject is terrorism as waged by nongovernmental organizations, often with the sanctions of some governments; some at the expense of some governments. In all cases, terrorism serves anti-Christ by creating instability wherever it strikes. It is especially militant against Christians and Jews, persecuting many to death through horrible means. Whereas some Middle East governments do not risk the ire of the United States and Israel by officially conducting such persecution, they do little or nothing to intervene against terrorist organizations that conduct it. Some, like Iran and Syria, openly support terrorism around the world.

Most of the named terrorists involved in the 9/11 attacks were from Saudi Arabia, ostensibly one of the United States' strongest allies in the Middle East.

As reported by government and media investigations into those attacks, we are led to believe that they were conducted by rogue Islamic jihadists with no government's involvement. It all seemed cut-and-dried. But there have been legitimate questions about the attacks, not all of which involve lunatic conspiracy theories.

For example, many eye-witnesses close to the collapse of the towers have said they heard a series of explosions as the buildings pancaked to the ground. Grainy pictures purport to show puffs of smoke at various elevations as story upon story fell upon the ones below.

In the case of the Pentagon attack, questions remain whether an aircraft or a missile struck it. There are no photos definitively showing an aircraft striking the building. The only surveillance photos released are from a camera mounted at a parking entrance some distance from the point of impact. The photos are also grainy, and it is impossible to discern anything approaching the building just before the fireball engulfs the point of impact. This, despite the fact that there were at least three surveillance cameras on the roof facing the approach angle which would have given much better photographic evidence of what struck the Pentagon.

Scientific analyses of both attacks have ranged from "official" to "unofficial." In both cases, it's impossible for us to know who is telling the truth. So we must content ourselves with the "official" narrative of what happened simply because anecdotal "evidence" is not evidence. The important thing is to realize that terrorism has indeed come to our nation and has reared its ugly head several times since then, albeit on a much smaller scale.

Anti-Christ knows that one way to enslave a people is to cause them to live in fear, eventually coming to the mindset that safety is more important than personal freedom. More important, safety becomes more precious than one's own beliefs and convictions. Silence in the face of tyranny takes hold. How many will lose their faith rather than jeopardize their lives or wellbeing?

Israel

Although terrorism has struck many nations of late, the vast majority of incidents have occurred in Israel. Wm. Roberts Johnston, a research physicist in the field of space physics, has also researched many topics of importance, including abortion and terrorism. According to his "Summary of Terrorist Attacks in Israel," based on data from the Israeli foreign ministry and the list of 1,221 attacks in "Chronology of Terrorist Attacks in Israel," since the birth of the nation in 1948 through 1999 there have been a total of 484 terrorist attacks with 1,427 killed and 4,782 injured. For that 52-year period the average number of terrorist attacks per year were 9.31 with 27.45 killed and 91.97 injured. In the ensuing ten years from 2000 through 2009 there were 524 terrorist attacks with 1,178 killed and 8,022 injured. The averages for the decade are 52.40 terrorist attacks with 117.8 killed and 802.2 injured per year. There have been more attacks and almost the same number of deaths in the decade of the 2000s as there had been in the preceding 52 years! The number injured approached twice as many in the ten years as in the preceding 52 years.

As ungodly as the Zionist nation is, it exists by God's plan for the last days. Among the nations, it is anti-Christ's primary target, as it has been since it came into existence. Although I do not favor shedding American blood for Israel's sake, it is incumbent upon the United States to continue to support the wellbeing of that nation. It is my belief that this is why God raised Donald Trump over Hillary Clinton. It wasn't because Donald Trump is better for America (although he is that), but that it is not yet within the Father's plan, at this time, to abandon Israel to her coming judgment—the day of Jacob's Trouble—the last three-and-a-half years of Daniel's prophecy concerning Israel's (the people's) eventual redemption. Until then, anti-Christ is held back from being revealed (2 Thessalonians 2:6-12).

In preparation for the day that anti-Christ will be allowed to drive Israel out of Jerusalem, there will most likely be many overtures for peace between Israel and her enemies. Those overtures will include the Vatican, and, in fact, already have included the papacy. It began when, on March 21, 2000, Pope John Paul II conducted the first official visit by a Roman Catholic pontiff to Israel, seemingly acting contrary to almost 1,700 years of Roman Catholic anti-Semitism. The ecumenical efforts of the papacy since Vatican II have promoted spiritual unity with not only Judaism (another false religious system), but with all the religions of the world, including Islam—Christianity's and Judaism's sworn enemy.

RELIGION

As always, anti-Christ perverts religion to turn hearts away from God's truth. Warring factions between diverse religious groups, and between members of the same religious group, create the impression that religion is an evil that, if eliminated, would allow for peace in the world. The Beatles'

John Lennon wrote and recorded that sentiment in his 1971 hit song, *Imagine*, in which he sang:

Imagine there's no heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky

Imagine all the people
Living for today (ah ah ah)
Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do

Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion, too
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace

You may say that I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will be as one

Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man

Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world

You may say that I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will live as one

Imagine was the best-selling single of Lennon's solo career apart from the Beatles. What Lennon was pining for is the New Earth wherein will dwell only righteousness (Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1). The difference is that in the New Earth there will be only the one true religion, and the nations will still exist within their borders. In the meantime, during this present age and through the Millennial Kingdom, evil will continue to exist as false religions continue to challenge the rule of Christ.

Lennon's hope is unattainable in this world. We must face the truth that religion—even most of Christianity—is truly evil. Religion will continue to be at odds with God's truth.

The decade of the 2000s saw a continuing warfare among religions. On March 17, 2002, two men walked into the Protestant International Church—a nondenominational assembly—in Islamabad, Pakistan, and threw several grenades, killing five and wounding 40, many critically. The congregation had just finished singing, *This is Holy Ground*.

On April 18, 2004, another horrific attack occurred in the eastern Turkey city of Malatya when five young Islamist men invaded a Christian publishing house that distributes Bibles, and killed three employees. The three victims—a

German and two Turks—were bound by their legs and hands, and their throats were slit. The five suspects were caught, and one claimed, “We didn’t do this for ourselves, but for our religion. Our religion is being destroyed. Let this be a lesson to enemies of our religion.”

These are not the only attacks against Christians during the decade; there were too many to report here. But they were two of the more high profile incidents reported in international news.

What some may think of as a different kind of attack occurred on February 10, 2004, when the French National Assembly passed a law banning religious items and clothing from public schools. The law expanded the principles in then existing French law based on the requirement of *laïcité*: the separation of state and religious activities. It was considered by many to specifically target the wearing of head scarves (khimars), as part of the hijab worn by Muslim schoolgirls. Thus it became known as the French headscarf ban.

We know anti-Christ isn’t against religion; it is one of his most effective tools to deceive. And religious articles should mean nothing to true believers in Christ. They, too, can be idols even if they depict “Christian” symbols of faith. So I would not consider this event a victory for anti-Christ as much as an act of human engineering to avoid conflicts of religion. However, the following might be construed as a victory for him.

An attack against Christianity in schools took place when on June 29, 2007, the European Court of Human Rights (at Strasbourg) ruled that mandatory Christian education classes in Norway’s elementary schools were in violation of Article 2 of the European Human Rights Convention.

We are all familiar with the onslaught against every vestige of faith in Jesus Christ within the United States. That battle continues to rage today. Western Europe is also in the throes of a life-and-death spiritual struggle. And it appears as if anti-Christ is going to win on all fronts—until his time comes to an end with the return of Christ.

Scandals

Christianity has been plagued with scandals from its beginning. In recent times, the child sexual abuse scandals exposed among Roman Catholic clergy have left the world wondering about the dichotomy between what the Vatican says and what it has tolerated for centuries.

The scandals have not been found only in Romanism. There have been plenty among non-Catholic leaders as well, particularly in the Pentecostal and charismatic communities.

I generally do not deal with the personal sins of individuals; it’s enough to judge myself. I prefer to deal with their false teachings. But inasmuch as we’re addressing anti-Christ’s opportunities to turn people from the truth, such public scandals cannot be avoided. Even so, it gives me no pleasure to resurrect them for this installment of our series.

John Paulk

In September, 2000, John Paulk (no relation to Earl Paulk) caused consternation within Focus on the Family when, as a leader of that organization’s Love Won Out conference, Paulk was photographed at a Washington, D.C. bar that caters to homosexuals. Paulk was a former chairman of the board for Exodus International North America, whose mission was to convert homosexuals from their sin to a “straight” lifestyle in Christ. Despite photographic proof, Paulk denied being there. Later, he admitted to being in the bar but claimed he was there for other than sexual pursuits. Paulk remained on Exodus’s board, but was put on probation and did not run again for the position once his term expired.

Paulk confessed to having been overcome from the publicity and demands for speaking engagements after his famous conversion to Christianity, and he “wanted to escape.” He decided to go to a gay bar, and there he was found out. “Well,” he said, “of course, because God loves me He is not going to let me go out on a leash too long and I was discovered in there.”

We can’t speak for John Paulk’s heart, but the resulting national exposé brought a reproach against the Lord Jesus and cast a pall of controversy over the claim that homosexuals can be changed through the power of God.

Paul Crouch

As co-founder, chairman, and president of Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN), Paul Franklin Crouch, with his wife Jan, grew his enterprise into the United States’ largest Christian television network, boasting 47 satellite stations and 12,500 international affiliates. TBN’s programming reaches nearly 100 million households with Christian content, most of which is biblically questionable.

Paul Crouch’s reputation came under scrutiny when, in September 2004, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that in 1998 he had paid a former employee a settlement of \$425,000 in response to a sexual harassment lawsuit. The plaintiff, Enoch Lonnie Ford, alleged that he was forced into a homosexual encounter with Crouch under threat of losing his job.

TBN officials acknowledged the settlement but stated that there was no admission of guilt on Crouch’s part; the settlement was made “in order to avoid a lengthy and expensive lawsuit.”

Additionally, Crouch was sued for plagiarism by author Sylvia Fleener, who accused Crouch of taking from her novel *The Omega Syndrome* the plot for his own end-times novel and subsequent movie, *The Omega Code*. Crouch’s motion for summary judgment failed, and the case was settled out of court for an undisclosed amount.

There is no empirical evidence that Paul Crouch was guilty of either charge, but the fact that he settled for large sums of money with his adversaries casts suspicion on his character. Guilty or innocent, these circumstances gave anti-Christ additional ammunition for his weapons against the faith.

Douglas Goodman

In May, 2004, one of Britain's leading evangelists and pastor of Victory Christian Centre in London, was found guilty of sexual assaults against women in his congregation and was sentenced to prison. Goodman had turned the modest evangelical mission into a large church of up to 3,000 congregants, boasting an annual income of £3.5 million. In addition, the government's Charity Commission found that Goodman and his wife had "exerted an improper influence over those people responsible for the management of the charity's affairs." The commission closed Victory Christian Centre, but Goodman's wife started a new church called Victory to Victory in Wembley. On his release, Douglas resumed pastoral ministry alongside his wife.

Sexual improprieties are bad enough, but the anti-Christ media look for opportunities to show how Christians are money-grubbing, self-absorbed people. What is truly scandalous is that the fallen world's system of justice operating under anti-Christ's jurisdiction, has often had to bring public correction to Christian individuals and institutions.

Etc.

Space doesn't allow for a full rundown on all the scandals within Christianity that took place during this decade, but a brief outline may be sufficient:

Ted Haggard, 2006: Pastor of New Life Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and president of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) from 2003 to 2006. Found to have been involved in illicit drugs and numerous homosexual encounters.

Paul Barnes, 2006: Senior minister of Grace Chapel in Douglas County, Colorado. Confessed to homosexual encounters and resigned on December 7.

Lonnie Latham, 2006: Senior pastor of South Tulsa Baptist Church and member of Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee: He was arrested for "offering to engage in an act of lewdness" with a male undercover policeman.

Earl Paulk, 2007: Founder and senior pastor of Chapel Hill Harvester Church in Decatur, Georgia. Several women from the congregation accused Paulk of sexual relations with them, many proven correct. A court-ordered DNA test in 2007 showed that Paulk's "nephew," Donnie Earl Paulk, was in fact Earl Paulk's son by his sister-in-law.

Richard Roberts, 2007: Son of the late Oral Roberts, and president of Oral Roberts University. Richard was forced to resign after being named in a lawsuit alleging improper use of university funds for political and personal purposes.

Coy Privette, 2007: A Baptist pastor and North Carolina political figure, Privette was also president of The Christian Action League and a moral crusader. He had to resign after being charged with six counts of aiding and abetting prostitution.

Todd Bentley, 2008: A prominent figure in the Lakeland Revival in Florida, Bentley made wild claims of healings. In August, 2008, he left the "revival" after separating from his wife, Shonnah. It was found that he had been in an extra-marital affair with Jessa Hasbrook, a member of his staff. He has since been "restored" to ministry.

Tony Alamo, 2008: Co-founder with his now late wife Susan Alamo of the Tony and Susan Alamo Christian Ministry in Hollywood, California. Previously convicted of tax evasion in the 1990s, Tony Alamo was convicted on ten counts of transporting minors across state lines for sexual purposes, sexual assault, and other crimes. On November 13, 2009, he was sentenced to the maximum punishment, and is currently serving a 175-year prison term.

Senate Probe

These are just a few of the scandals associated with high-living "televangelists" and pastors of megachurches. A 2007 U.S. Senate investigation probed into the finances of six "prosperity gospel" preachers, and reported that they all engage in lavish lifestyles. They were found to have fleets of expensive cars, palatial mansions, private jets, and other extensive luxuries paid for by followers who donate due to requests for tithes. The six under investigation were Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, Benny Hinn, Eddie L. Long, Creflo Dollar, Joyce Meyer, and Paula White.

Although the investigation had no power to bring charges for misconduct, the revelations demonstrate how money is an integral element to such preachers' enterprises. This, too, is a boon to anti-Christ's propaganda against the truths that may or may not be part of these charlatans' teachings.

Beside the reproach these scandals engender against the Lord's name before the world, there are the many disillusioned believers who are adversely affected. Loss of faith, confusion, distrust of God's Word—these are some of the adverse effects that faithless people in leadership have on the Body of Christ. At the heart of the problem is the penchant for good people to trust those who come in the name of Jesus, promising good things for those who follow their dictates. The only place we can truly place our trust is in our Lord and His Word. It is up to each believer to diligently study God's Word in order to rightly divide His truth (2 Timothy 2:15). Strong food belongs to those who by reason of use have exercised their senses to be able to discern both good and evil (Hebrews 5:14).

We must not allow the failings of others, no matter how highly credentialed, to lead us into error.