

THE UNSHAKABLE KINGDOM #13

Exposing the Spirit of Antichrist

Part 6

I. Introduction

A. A Very Different 'Father's Day' Message

1. I want to take for a text something Jesus said...

Matthew 23:9

Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.

2. This verse raises a very obvious question:

Why did Jesus say, "Do not call anyone on earth 'your Father'?"

- The Bible has hundreds of verses referring to human 'fathers'
 - The Prodigal son came home to his 'Father'
 - Paul referred to himself as a spiritual 'father'

3. So if Jesus did not mean that it's always wrong to literally call someone on earth our 'Father'... What did He mean?

4. I want to share the answer and show you how it applies to us today in these turbulent times. This is the answer the Lord gave me many years ago through...

B. The Power of a Good Book

1. Back in the 1980's, God put a book in my hands written by Christian historian Herbert Schlossberg, "Idols for Destruction".

a. The book's title is taken from the prophet Hosea; a warning to God's people about the sin of idolatry...

Hosea 8:4 (NIV)

The people have appointed *kings* without my consent, and *princes* without my knowledge. By *making idols* for themselves from their silver and gold, *they have brought about their own destruction.*

2. Take a close look at this verse:

- a. The nation's destruction was *political*; it was who they elected as their 'kings' and 'princes'.
- b. The political issue was really a *spiritual* issue: they "made idols for themselves"; they believed in salvation by politics.
- c. The issue was also *economic*: it was about 'silver and gold', or provision.
- d. In the book's introduction...

Judge Robert Bork

"The trouble with silver and gold idols is not that they are made of silver and gold, but that they are things men put in place of God."

3. Notice what he says: Nations are destroyed when they 'make idols for themselves'; meaning when they put things in place of God, specifically when it comes to provision (silver and gold).

4. Look at the verse again: **Hosea 8:4**

- Israel appointed 'kings' and 'princes' without God's approval
- Then the nation made 'idols' of the 'kings' and 'princes' in the matter of 'silver and gold'
- And in doing this, they brought about their own destruction!

II. What Jesus Really Meant

Matthew 23:9

Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.

A. The Father is the Provider

1. Remember that Jesus was speaking to a Jewish audience. In the Jewish mind, the father is not only the ‘head of the house’, he is the ‘provider’ for the house.

Herbert Schlossberg, Idols for Destruction

**“The Father is the symbol not only of authority, but also of provision. ‘Our Father who art in heaven...Give us this day our daily bread’.
(So) looking to the State for sustenance is an act of cultic worship.”**

a. Look again at what Jesus said in these 2 verses in the light of the father as *PROVIDER*:

Matthew 6:9,11

Our Father, who art in heaven...give us this day our daily bread.

Matthew 23:9

Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.

**“Looking to the State for sustenance is an act of cultic worship.”
Herbert Schlossberg**

2. Jesus is not saying it’s wrong to have ‘Father’s Day’; He is warning us against trusting our provision to come from some other source than God; and that would include any government or political system that would take the place of God in the matter of our provision!

3. This is why God is calling us to ‘expose the spirit of antichrist’ that is operating through those who want to transform America into a socialist nation.

a. Socialism is a system that replaces God as our Father/Provider; it offers salvation by the State, as set forth by the German philosopher....

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (1770-1831)

“The State is the Divine Idea as it exists on earth. We must therefore worship the State as the manifestation of the Divine on earth...the State is the march of God through the world.”

b. This belief was updated in the 1950’s by an American historian...

Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.

“It is only the actions of the State that can solve our spiritual problem and lead us to the ‘Promised Land’.”

c. This is the “gospel” of socialistic salvation.

Herbert Schlossberg

“For them the state is the only savior we can expect on earth. Salvation is only to be found in *the messianic state*, or it is to be found nowhere. Therefore the only human endeavor that can save us is politics.”

Herbert Schlossberg

“We should not make the mistake of thinking that the religious language is purely literary form. The state, for these devotees, is messianic in all its essentials, and their politics are directed toward religious ends. The state will provide for us whatever prosperity could not, because it has replaced God. In the hands of the theologians of political redemption, therefore, the state is an idol.” (An “antichrist”=’in place of Christ)

4. Socialists seek to establish a ‘Paternal State’ where the people depend upon the government instead of God for their provision. This is how they get elected!

Gary DeMar

“Politicians pick up on the desire for security and dependency and uses it for political gain.”

a. This is why they present themselves as being so loving, caring and compassionate; they actually see themselves as our ‘savior’.

Herbert Schlossberg

“The idol state uses the language of compassion because its intention is a messianic one. It sees the masses as harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd, needing a savior.”

b. But socialism is a wolf in sheep’s clothing....

Gary DeMar

“Power is most dangerous in the hands of people who believe what they are doing is for our well-being because they contend that their intentions to help the less fortunate are righteous and just. It’s the *intention* to do good things that matters, not the actual result.”

c. Socialists always assume a moral superiority to the rest of us:

Thomas Sowell

“The economic disasters of socialism and communism come from assuming a blanket moral superiority by those who want to run the whole economy.”

d. Socialists see themselves as our ‘saviors’; so it’s OK to tell a lie.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

**“I’m a Democrat Socialist. That’s just who I am.
It’s more important to be morally right than to be factually correct.”**

5. Socialists make socialism sound great by promising things they know they can’t pay for:

- Guaranteed income for everyone; whether you work or not
- Free college
- Free universal health care

a. You can’t confront a socialist with the facts because they have learned they can get elected by lying.

Thomas Sowell

“When you want to help people you tell them the truth. When you want to help yourself, you tell people what they want to hear.”

b. The surveys show that a growing number of Americans want impossible things like guaranteed income, universal health care and free college.

Thomas Sowell

“When people want the impossible, only liars will satisfy them.”

6. Christians need to know that the real agenda of the socialist system is a power grab; it’s designed to enslave us with an eternal dependency upon the paternal state instead of the Father God.

Gary DeMar

“The paternalism of the State is that of the bad parent who wants his children dependent on him forever. That is an evil impulse. The good parent prepares his children for independence, trains them to make responsible decisions; the good parent knows that he harms them by not helping them to break loose.”

a. The socialists offer to take care of us for whatever we need. But this eventually brings us to a condition of eternal slavery; meaning we must depend upon others for our welfare.

Herbert Schlossberg, “Idols for Destruction”

“The paternal state thrives on dependency. When the dependents free themselves, the state loses power. It is therefore parasitic upon the very persons whom it turns into parasites. Thus, the state and its dependents march symbiotically (in close union with one another) to destruction.”

b. Socialism is an evil parasite that gets its power from the very people it turns into parasites.

7. As a nation becomes more socialistic it becomes more willing to give up its freedom to comply with direction from the Government. The corona virus crisis is a perfect example of how deeply we now depend upon the government as the Federal, State, and Municipal governments stepped in to ‘save’ us:

a. It all began so innocently: wash your hands; avoid crowds. But then...

- They shut down our economy!

- They told us whose jobs were essential and whose jobs were not essential
- They told us where we could go
- They even shut down our churches

8. We lost more personal freedoms in 3 months than all previous Americans ever lost in 224 years of our history with hardly a whimper! The real reveal is the level of control we have given the government: how dependent we have become on the government!

a. The real problem is that once we give in to this level of governmental control it's hard to go back! The great C.S. Lewis once warned us of this...

C.S. Lewis, "God in the Dock"

"Once we sink to that level of dependency, there is no point telling state officials to mind their own business. Our whole lives are their business."

9. This why socialism has destroyed, (or is in the process of destroying), personal freedoms in every nation that has ever embraced it.

10. When it seeks to become our 'father', our 'provider', it replaces God and becomes an idol that leads to destruction.

Gary DeMar

"Where the Bible tells us that God is our Father, more often than not the people make the State their Father, because the State supposedly can provide us all the financial aid we need. Of course, in order to accomplish this miracle, the State must confiscate capital from the most productive members of society or create money out of thin air. Both actions are immoral, tyrannical, and self-defeating."

a. Now you know why the Socialists constantly call for demanding tax increases for the wealthy. They must be made to pay 'their fair share'. And they are the ones who will decide what's 'fair'!

b. This is also why socialists never talk about addressing the national debt; they can just print more money.

11. Another sign of the advance of socialism is the recent breakdown of law and order in our land. Why? Because socialism abandons the true role of civil government established by God, which is to enforce the law and protects us from violence. (Romans 13)

B. The Breakdown of Law and Order

1. The socialistic state gains power by promising provision at the expense of providing justice.

a. Listen to these words written in 1983...

Herbert Schlossberg

“When the provision of paternal security replaces the provision of justice as the function of the state, the state stops providing justice. This artificial and inferior substitute parent ceases executing judgment against those who violate the law and the nation begins losing the benefits of justice.”

b. This has turned out to be a prophecy of what’s going on right now!

Gary DeMar

“The paternal state not only feeds its children, but nurtures, educates, comforts, and disciplines them, providing all they need for their security...but it is really a great crime because it transforms the state from being a gift of God, given to protect us against violence, into an idol. It supplies us with all blessings and we look to it for all our needs.”

Herbert Schlossberg, Idols for Destruction

Those who are concerned about the chaos into which the criminal justice system has fallen should consider what the state’s function has become. Because the state can only be a bad imitation of a father, as a dancing bear act is of a ballerina, the protection of this Leviathan of a father turns out to be a bear hug. “

c. The old saying is, **“With the shekels come the shackles”-** This is why, as a church, we turned down our share of the big bailout; there was a long list of how we could spend it.

2. Much has been written about how far the socialist party in America has swung hard to the left since President Obama left office; this current crop of socialist candidates are promising more freebies than ever. Why?

Gary DeMar

“Once the State gains power, its rulers work relentlessly to maintain power. Since the state gained power by promising the masses security, it must offer more security to maintain its power. So power replaces justice, which is the true role of civil government.”

3. Human nature never changes; look what happened when Jesus fed the multitude in John 6...

John 6:14-15

Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world." Therefore, when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.

a. Notice that when Jesus proved He could provide free food they were ready to elect Him President!

John Howard Yoder, “The Politics of Jesus”

“The distribution of bread moved the crowd to acclaim Jesus as the new Moses, the Provider, the Welfare King they had been waiting for.”

b. But Jesus refused! **John 6:26**

Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.

Herbert Schlossberg

“We rightly learn to expect food from parents but when we regard the State as the source of physical provision we render it to it the obeisance of idolatry. The crowds who had fed on the multiplied loaves and fishes were ready to receive Christ as their ruler, not because of who He was, but because of the provision He had given them.”

4. Jesus refused political office based on welfare; and so should we.

III. Close

A. **A Strong Word of Warning to the Christian Church**

1. **Socialism is antichrist. It offers salvation by the State.**

2. **Socialism is atheistic at its core.**

a. Some socialists claim to be Christian; some are lying; some are self-deceived; any honest study of socialism will reveal that only an atheist can fully support it.

Fyodor Dostoevsky

“Atheism is inconceivable without socialism, and socialism is inconceivable without atheism.”

b. Socialism targets young people with propaganda; they never tell them that buying into socialism is a step away from buying into atheism!

Leon Trotsky, Marxist Revolutionary

“We must approach the youth with the propaganda of atheism and socialism, for only this defines the place of man in the universe.

3. **Socialism is the political version of humanism.**

4. **In other words, Socialism is an idol for designed for our destruction.**

B. **It's Getting Late-But It's Not Too Late**

Isaiah 5:13

Therefore my people are gone into captivity for lack of knowledge.

Hosea 4:6

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.

1. Here is knowledge....

Theme

The spirit of antichrist, operating behind the mask of ‘Democratic Socialism’, gains power by increasing our dependency upon the State for our provision, in place of dependence upon the provision of our Father God.

5. Prayer of Repentance:

“Our Father, who art in heaven...Give us this day our daily bread”.