

by David Canfield

LAWLESSNESS,

THE LEFT, &

THE

*How Satan is preparing
America and the world for
his ultimate leader, and
God's response*

ANTICHRIST

Preface and Introduction

2 Thessalonians 2:7

*“For the
mystery of lawlessness
is already at work...”*

The Left's innate hostility to the moral system presented in the Bible becomes only more apparent each passing day.

This study is intended to help both Christians and others understand the spiritual, ideological, and historical roots of this hostility, as well as its final result: the outburst of lawlessness that will consummate in the rise of the Antichrist and so bring in the end of this age.

From the Introduction

The Left in America today traces its origins, not to the American Revolution, but to the French Revolution... In particular, its worldview is based upon the rejection of the Bible as the revealed word of God, and of the Biblical norms for guiding society, that was promulgated during the French Enlightenment. The result of such a rejection is, necessarily, lawlessness, and so the wide acceptance in America of such an ideology in our time has produced much of the chaos we currently see erupting around us....

Yet, while we can see the forces of the Left working to undermine the social order, we must realize that behind these forces is a much deeper, hidden power urging them on in their evil work. As Christians we must be aware of this power if we are to have a clear view of the current situation, and of how to stand for God and for His kingdom in these dark times.

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ANTICHRIST

Second Edition

This is the PDF version of
the opening pages of
*Lawlessness, the Left,
& the Antichrist.*

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this document is optimized
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*The wise men are ashamed,
They are dismayed and taken.
Behold, they have rejected the word of the Lord;
So what wisdom do they have?
— Jeremiah 8:9*

*France..., by the revolution of 1789, began to spread
the principles of that anarchy out of which Antichrist
will arise.
— G.H. Pember, 1887*

*Progress, success, the long continuance of a new
development of human nature—this is the language of
those who mock at the Lord's coming; and yet, beneath
it all, what fears for the future are at the same time
possessing and weighing down the heart!
— J.N. Darby, circa 1875*

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*You who love the LORD,
Hate evil!
— Psalm 97:10*

PREFACE

As believers in Christ our time on earth is an “apprenticeship,” as one author has said,¹ to prepare us to rule with the Lord in His Kingdom. A key part of this apprenticeship is learning to see through the world’s false appearance, and in America today an important aspect of this false appearance is that of Leftism, that is, of the radical, even revolutionary, Left, in both its social and political forms

I do not use the term “Progressivism” to describe this movement, because it is not making progress, except in relation to the destruction of our country. Nor do I use the term “Liberalism,” because, as anyone with even the least acquaintance with it knows, it is anything but liberal in the classical sense of that term, that is, open-minded, generous, and tolerant of other viewpoints. So, it is most accurately denoted by the term, “Leftism.”

Committed, Bible-believing Christians have always tended to be conservative in their social and political views, realizing Leftism’s innate hostility to the moral system presented in the Bible, and to the Biblical faith itself. Hopefully this study will help them, and others as well, understand in a more solid way the inherent antagonism between Leftism and the Christian faith.

Yet, more recently Leftism has attracted younger Christians by appealing to their idealism, as it claims to seek the benefit of all mankind rather than that of a particular nation, professes to care for the marginalized

of society, and stresses environmental concerns. Moreover, today young people in this country pass through what is, for the most part, not an education system, but an indoctrination system for imparting a Leftist worldview and Leftist values to its students, often in direct opposition to what their parents believe.

This attraction is despite the movement's innate and often unconcealed hostility to genuine faith in God, to God's word as contained in the Bible, to all the norms of human sexuality the Bible sets forth, and to God's people, whether Jews or Christians.

These evidences should warn us that this movement, whatever it claims for itself, is involved with the forces of spiritual darkness, and no Christian should have anything to do with that. May this book warn God's people in this regard.

Yet, the purpose of this study is not to promote a conservative political program. The Lord's interest in the world today is not in the political realm, *but in bringing His Kingdom to the earth*. And if we truly are His followers, that must be our interest as well.

Our citizenship is in the heavens (Phil. 3:20); on the earth today we are merely pilgrims and strangers (1 Pet. 2:11). So may we, as followers of Christ, hasten His coming Kingdom and thus help to bring an end to this present evil age (2 Pet. 3:11-12, Gal. 1:4). Amen; come, Lord Jesus!

Chicago
15 September 2022

AN INTRODUCTION

The mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.

— 2 Thessalonians 2:7

A Breakdown in the Moral Order

Day by day it becomes more apparent that the Left in America directly opposes every God-ordained norm presented in the Bible for the maintenance of a healthy society. Most obvious is its open hostility to all the Biblical norms of human sexuality: that God created mankind “male and female” (Gen. 1:26-27); that marriage is between one man and one woman (Matt. 19:4-6); that the use and enjoyment of sex should be within the confines of such a monogamous marriage; and that the natural family is the basis of society.

But the Left’s hostility to God’s laws goes further still. Leftists mock at the idea that God created the universe and all life on earth; deny that mankind is unique among all of God’s creatures, having been created in the image and likeness of God; repudiate the authority and responsibility of government to uphold law and order; and more. In brief, whatever the Bible shows us to be the principles God has established for maintaining a healthy society on the earth, that the Left opposes.

This is no coincidence. Rather, it is the direct result of the Left's ideological lineage. That is, the Left in America today traces its origins, not to the American Revolution, but to the French Revolution, and to the French Enlightenment that was the catalyst for that epochal event. In particular, its worldview is based upon the rejection of the Bible as the revealed word of God, and of the Biblical norms for guiding society, that was promulgated during the French Enlightenment. The result of such a rejection is, necessarily, lawlessness, and so the wide acceptance in America of such an ideology in our time has produced much of the chaos we currently see erupting around us.

That the Left in America is the child of the French, and not the American, Revolution, is seen in its inherent hostility to genuine Christians and to Biblical Christianity, as well as in its manifest intention to completely secularize every level of our government; these were hallmarks of the French Revolution, but the antithesis of what was seen in this country. And as we shall see later in this book, the current political struggle in this country should really be viewed as a struggle between the forces of these two revolutions.

The Basic Laws

In this study we shall refer to the principles God has established for a healthy social order as the "Basic Laws"; these are found at the very beginning of the Bible, and it is really these Basic Laws that the Left is seeking to overthrow and replace with a rationalistic version of morality. It is impossible to violate these laws, however, without suffering the consequence of a breakdown in the moral order of a society. The prophet

Isaiah warned us long ago in this regard, speaking of the penalty for what he refers to as “transgressing the laws,” “changing the ordinance,” and “breaking the everlasting covenant”:

*The earth mourns and fades away...
The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants,
Because they have transgressed the laws,
Changed the ordinance,
Broken the everlasting covenant.
Therefore the curse has devoured the earth,
And those who dwell in it are desolate.
Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned,
And few men are left.
— Isaiah 24:4-6*

A Hidden and Evil Work

Yet, while we can see the forces of the Left working to undermine the social order, we must realize that behind these forces is a much deeper, hidden power urging them on in their evil work. As Christians we must be aware of this power if we are to have a clear view of the current situation and of how to stand for God and for His kingdom in these dark times.

Satan today carries on his work to turn mankind away from God not openly, but in a hidden, mysterious way. As the Apostle Paul tells us:

*The mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.
— 2 Thessalonians 2:7*

This “mystery of lawlessness” is working in an unseen way to promote the open lawlessness we now see in our society. Its goal is to prepare the way for the Antichrist by inciting mankind’s final apostasy from God and from His law (2 Thess. 2:3). As the verse above says, for the time being there is a “restraint” on how far this mystery may progress, but eventually that restraint will be removed. And then, as the next verse tells us,

...the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

— 2 Thessalonians 2:8

In brief, according to the Bible, this mystery of lawlessness is the satanic force that is preparing the way for the coming of Satan’s ultimate world-ruler—the Antichrist, “the lawless one.”

And today it is the social and political Left that Satan is using to advance his lawlessness in this country. The Leftists are, no doubt, unaware of this, but as the modern heirs of the French Enlightenment and Revolution, their inherently atheistic ideology opens the door for them to be used in such a way.

A Voice from the Past

In this book we will be quoting extensively from the writings of G.H. Pember, the 19th century student of biblical prophecy, because they have recently been such a great help to me in my own understanding of this situation. (The first two volumes of his *Great Prophecies* series have been especially helpful in this regard.)

At several points in his writings Mr. Pember touches on how Satan uses the Left. In considering these statements, however, it is important to keep in mind that he is speaking as a student of Biblical prophecy, rather than as one who had any political agenda. We have already referred to the French Revolution. In 1887 Pember said of that event:

*France..., by the revolution of 1789, began to spread the principles of that anarchy out of which Antichrist will arise.*²

Regarding the rise of Socialism and its evil effects on society he stated:

*The rapid spread of Socialistic principles among all the nations of Christendom, and the numerous secret leagues organized for their propagation, are giving statesmen grave cause to apprehend a revolutionary outburst which may shatter the whole framework of society.*³

In speaking of the final struggle between the apostate Roman Church, on the one hand, and the forces of Secularism, on the other, that will take place in the future, at the start of the Great Tribulation, he refers to the latter as

*...the daily increasing forces of Socialists, Communists, Nihilists, Positivists, Agnostics, and Freethinkers of all kinds.*⁴

In 1909, before any of the great cataclysms of the 20th century, he wrote these words, which were so tragically fulfilled in the following decades:

Armed millions are standing ready for war, a hurricane of Socialistic blasts is causing society to tremble, revolution is in the air, and grave changes seem to be imminent—changes of the end of which those who are almost frenzied in their eagerness to bring them about seem to have little or no conception, and, apparently, little or no care.

The flood of “modern thought” is spreading in every direction, and, in its wild career, is carrying off old landmarks, sweeping away settled opinions which have made for the peace of the world, and submerging all the lessons of past history.⁵

He again refers to the French Revolution, and how it opened the door for the rise of Leftism, when he states:

It was not till the period of the French Revolution that the democratic element came irresistibly to the front. And from that time we have seen it continually increasing in strength, in all countries, and under many names, bearing much the same significance as our own ominously changing terms, Liberalism, Radicalism, Socialism, Anarchism.⁶

Mr. Pember’s most well-known book is *Earth’s Earliest Ages*, which was first published in 1875. In it he makes another, and truly remarkable, statement in this regard. He is speaking of the advances of Spiritualism in England at that time and briefly comments on “a recent catalogue of the Psychological Press Association,” which owned a shop in London “for the dissemination of Spiritualistic books.” He states that it contained a number of “vigorous attacks upon the Christian faith from almost every conceivable quarter.” He then says:

*Politics—but only those of the party to which all communicating spirits appear to be attached—are also admitted; for the descriptive title of the catalog includes “Liberal and Reform Subjects.”*⁷

He is saying here that in his time the “communicating spirits,” as he calls them—the fallen spirits working to influence men and society—*were all attached to the party of the Left*, which at that time in England was the Liberal party. This word, from such a student of the Bible as Mr. Pember, must be taken very seriously. It indicates that these “communicating spirits,” both then and now, actively focus on the parties of the Left as the means for furthering their evil work.

A False Christ

After Christ fed the five thousand by the Sea of Galilee, the people sought to make Him their king (John 6:1-15). They expressed no remorse over their sins or for God’s broken law, nor any heart to repent and truly turn back to God; they only wanted Christ to reign over them so that He would provide for their needs. In just the same way, many believers today seek to make Christ into a social reformer, while setting aside the matters of God’s holiness, righteousness, and judgment, which require our repentance before we can seek His blessing.

Such believers are falling into a trap, for without realizing it they are turning away from the true Christ to a false one; to a Christ who is absolutely for God’s righteous ruling on the earth to one who only cares to meet our needs. As Pember states:

They begin to see [Christ] more and more as a mere Socialistic leader, anxious only to reform the abuses and alleviate the suffering of the present world, and to distribute its good things to the many. But this is just what the Antichrist will profess to be.⁸

Indeed, it is striking to note how the Apostle Paul warns us that, during the End Times, just before the coming of God's judgment, the people will cry out for "Peace and safety," values the Left so strongly promotes today:

*For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.
— 1 Thessalonians 5:3*

This false christ, with such a false, deceiving appearance, has already proven a snare to many younger Christians, and to others as well (cf. 2 Cor. 11:13-15).

A False Faith

Moreover, so many today are forsaking the faith of Christ, which emphasizes a holy God's redemptive love and man's need for repentance to receive the blessing of forgiveness and the hope of eternal life. Instead, they have chosen to follow a faith that seeks some kind of earthly blessing and salvation. But, this was already well under way in Pember's time; he wrote, in 1909:

We live in an age of abounding skepticism and waning faith, an age in which ceaseless infusions of Superstition, Paganism, and Humanitarianism, are altogether changing the color of Christianity. For, on the one hand, the Church, the Priesthood, and the

Sacraments, are substituted for the Lord Jesus; on the other, the good things of this world are set forth as the supreme objects of desire; and reform, and the alleviation of poverty, misery, and pain, in the present life, are declared to be the whole duty of man.⁹

In the Garden of Eden the serpent was able to deceive Eve because she failed to see through the false appearance of the Tree of Knowledge:

When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate.

— *Genesis 3:6*

It is my hope and prayer that the Lord may use this volume to help those who have been led away from Christ by Leftism. May they see through its false appearance and discern its true nature, so that they might return to following the Lord. And in doing so may it help all of us to realize more clearly how we should stand for God's kingdom on the earth in this time.

Liberalism versus Leftism

With all that has been said thus far regarding Leftism, as well as all that will yet be said in this book, we need to be clear before going on that we do not mean to indicate that every policy advocated by the Left is evil or wrong.

God surely does care about the suffering of the poor and other injustices in society, matters the Left stresses

much more than the Right. Yet, while He does care, He also knows that these sufferings are not the real problem. Rather, the fundamental problem today is man's alienation from God, due to the Fall, which has led to all the suffering we see in the world around us.

So, the work of Christ in His first coming was to deal with that alienation, through His death and resurrection, so that those who believe in Him as their Savior can be reconciled to God. In His second coming, when He appears to reign as King on the earth, He will deal with all the suffering and injustices in the world.

Here then is a basic principle: The Left, in the form of Liberalism, can play a useful role in society when it seeks to right wrongs, correct injustices, or otherwise seek to enact certain reforms within a society. It becomes destructive, and in fact becomes Leftism, when it seeks, not to *reform* certain aspects of society, but to use the power of government to *transform* society. That is to seek is a secular salvation, which is in direct opposition to the Biblical revelation that, due to man's fallen nature, such a transformation of society must await the Lord's return and the establishment of His government on the earth, and in the hearts of men.

The Lord's earthly ministry was a foretaste of what that time will be like. As the Apostle Peter said, He:

...“Went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”
— Acts 10:38

This not only showed His authority as the heavenly King, but also, what the effects of His reign will be, when mankind's rebellion against God is finally over:

*Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.
Then the lame shall leap like a deer,
And the tongue of the dumb sing.
For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness,
And streams in the desert....
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
And come to Zion with singing,
With everlasting joy on their heads.
They shall obtain joy and gladness,
And sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
— Isaiah 35:5-6,10*

Until then, any effort by Leftists to establish an earthly utopia by means of a social revolution can only end in untold suffering and misery, and even in the death of many millions of people, as it has so many times already. It is really the story of Cain's offering, repeated over and over again. While he brought an offering to God from the cursed ground to prove he was righteous, they seek to establish their righteousness by bringing utopia to the earth. Thus, God allows them to learn for themselves just how evil they really are, often to the point of murdering their fellow man, just as Cain did his own brother (Gen. 4:3-12).

While the Nations Rage

As we begin this study of a somewhat difficult topic, may we bear in mind the words of Psalm 2, which are so pertinent for today. Here David (Acts 4:25), himself an ancient king of Israel, reminds us so well that, even as "the nations rage," there is One who sits upon the throne in heaven, watching over it all, waiting for the right time to deal with the situation:

*Why do the nations rage,
And the people plot a vain thing?
The kings of the earth set themselves,
And the rulers take counsel together,
Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,
“Let us break Their bonds in pieces
And cast away Their cords from us.”
He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;
The Lord shall hold them in derision.
Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,
And distress them in His deep displeasure:
“Yet I have set My King
On My holy hill of Zion.”
— Psalm 2:1-6*

And may we keep in mind, as well, the Bible’s promise of the Lord’s ultimate victory, and of the coming of His wonderful government over all the earth:

*For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of His government and peace
There will be no end,
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice
From that time forward, even forever.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.
— Isaiah 9:6-7*

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