

Demonism (part 34: the Jews, the Holocaust, the plan of Satan, and the plan of God-5)

Ten ways Satan is effectively paving the way for the Antichrist.

#1, Globalism, One-World Order.

#2, Occultism.

#3, Apostasy.

#4, Worldwide Web.

#5, Animosity towards Israel.

#6, Buildup of the kings of the east, Asian power.

#7, Buildup of the king of the north, Russian power.

#8, Buildup of Europe (the European Common Market), the Revived Roman Empire.

#9, Preparation of the Jews to accept the False Prophet.

#10, Destruction of the United States as we presently know it.

#5, Animosity towards Israel (cont.)

(cont.) We have been examining the Jewish views regarding the Holocaust. These attitudes can be summarized into three main camps.

1. **The Traditional Perspective.** Many within the traditional camp state that there are no implications of the Holocaust on Judaic theology—none that were not present before 1933. “Tradition” continues. These Jews continue to think of God primarily in terms of His saving acts centered on the Exodus, the Temple, and a coming Messiah. These Jews believe God’s silence during the Holocaust is but a mystery that will one day be revealed. It is all part of His providence. The Holocaust was just one of the many tribulations for God’s elect. They must continue to trust in Yahweh, and celebrate their martyrs who gave up their lives for Yahweh. There is no felt need to readjust attitudes toward Jesus Christ in light of the Holocaust. All of their sufferings are viewed as part of God’s work of sanctifying them. In fact, many of them teach that Isaiah 53 prophesied of the Jews being God’s suffering servant: “The Suffering Servant in Isaiah 53 sounds like a passage out of Holocaust literature” (Greenberg).

2. **The Radical Perspective.** Jews in this camp generally speak of the impotence of God's omnipotence. Although God created the universe, they believe He no longer involves Himself in it. Some even think that the Holocaust killed God. He died in the Holocaust—He can no longer be believed, or at least, the traditional God of the fathers died and not longer remains a viable object for one's faith. The traditional God of Judaism is viewed as being buried.
3. **The Moderate Perspective.** Many in this camp believe that God suffered with the Jews in the Holocaust. They sense God's overwhelming presence in the suffering of their beloved people. These Jews tend to be very existential.

A few thoughts:

1. There are many powerful and pressing lessons for every person—unbeliever and believer. One of the most staggering is how blind man can be toward the true God of the Bible. Over the last several DDRs, we have noted responses from all walks of life: the young and the old, the philosopher and the rabbi, the layman and the theologian, the skeptic and the faithful, the simple and the complex, the introverted and the extroverted, the survivor and the observer, the atheist and the theist, and so on.
2. The Jews suffered many pains and scars, but note that there were *no adequate answers within Judaism* to account for the terrible sufferings of the Holocaust. The responses, at best, only represent fragmentary solutions to the Holocaust. Judaism offers no universal authoritative answers to the Holocaust that will account for all of the data. The different presuppositions merely lead to different *suppositions*. The biblical data seen in the context of philosophical realism is woefully lacking. When the Bible is used, it is only used to validate one's preferred point of view.
3. In the next DDR we will examine the universal and authoritative perspective in the Word of God, beginning with the biblical covenants.
4. How man can be so blind to the true God as revealed in the Bible and in creation is staggering, but it is not surprising given the biblical testimony and man's proclivity for self-deception and suppression of truth.
5. Any person who cannot *clearly* see God in creation or grasp the Word of God is suppressing truth and has a very dark heart (cognitive abilities have been blunted) and stands without excuse (Romans 1:20).

Matthew 13:15 For the heart of this people has become dull, And with their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes Lest they should see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart and return, And I should heal them.'

6. The most important thing in your life as a believer is your *daily* walk with the Lord through His Spirit in accordance with the Word of God. If you are not diligent about your fellowship with God and pursuit of Truth, you will regret it sooner or later. The worst that could happen is not some major catastrophe; rather, it is the daily hardening of your heart which leaves you deaf to the Word of God and blind to the Lord and His beauty.
7. There are at least two factors involved in being blind and deaf to the Word of God and the spiritual life: one is carnality and the other is having a modern mindset. Either of these will render the believer incapable of seeing God and living in the confident reality of the true God of the Bible. The modern mental framework is one that has been shaped by an unbalanced empirical or rationalistic framework (instead of a framework of philosophical realism which alone is truly livable). As long as the believer has an unbalanced empirical orientation—which can never deliver absolute certainty (cf., John Locke, David Hume), he will always be skeptical and be precluded from seeing proofs of God as offered through philosophical realism (which uses both empiricism and rationalism in balance). As long as the believer daily puts off fellowship and Bible doctrine, he will continue to harden his heart and be precluded from living in His reality and beauty. Inability to see and love the beauty of the Word of God translates into inability to see the grandeur of the Lord.
8. What concerns me the most as a pastor teacher is to see Christians who have been philosophically brainwashed by the modernity. Many are faithful in taking in doctrine, but because of their mental framework, they are beset with many intractable problems. The issue for every believer must be truth, truth, truth. The only philosophical system that can deliver truth as such is philosophical realism inextricably linked to Bible doctrine. Philosophical realism is all about what is true both in the Word of God and in reality. The reason believers have so much trouble grasping philosophical realism speaks volumes about how much the kosmos has messed up their minds.
9. It is philosophical realism coupled with Bible doctrine that enables us to move into Total Truth. Philosophical realism is the other part of truth that I have been looking for since my salvation. It opens up the Bible as it opens up reality. I appreciate many of the comments from believers of Faith Bible Church as I plough through this material. Consider what philosophical realism has given us thus far as far in the nature of God (*Esse*) and creation (*esse*). Consider what we are now learning: the transcendentals of the true-good-beautiful. For the next few months, philosophical realism will open up topics many believers may never have even thought about: *objective* beauty in creation, art, music, literature, and truth. The foundation for all of these are in the Bible, but only through philosophical realism can we really develop them and see their objectivity.
10. Truth matters! Total Truth! This is very different than simply using truth to solve a problem or two. Even Christ-rejecting Jews of the Holocaust did that!

In 'Ehyeh,
Pastor Don