

The Socialist Worldview

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For Discussion: Socialism And Bible Prophecy: Training Societies To Surrender Freedom To The State

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Is socialism an economic system, or is it a worldview?

Most consider socialism to just be an economic system but there are indications that it is much more which is what this Deep Dive considers.

Will the Antichrist will be a socialist?

Revelation does describe a future where political authority, religious allegiance, and economic participation become interconnected. And also:

Daniel 11:24 – *he shall disperse among them the plunder, spoil, and riches*

Spreading the wealth around is what socialists do.

What should socialism's growing popularity tell us?

Prophecy watchers should pay attention when societies become increasingly comfortable with increased governmental power, economic dependence, technological surveillance, and centralized control.

What Is Socialism?

Historically, socialism has generally advocated greater public or governmental ownership, administration, or control of economic resources, coupled with policies intended to redistribute wealth and reduce economic inequality.

Doesn't Acts 2:45 reveal that socialism is biblical?

No, the passage describes voluntary, Spirit-led sharing in the early church, not a government-enforced system of compulsory redistribution.

- This was a temporary pattern in the early church; the communal sharing of Acts 2–5 later faded.
- Private ownership of property is a biblical concept (the reason stealing and coveting are condemned).

How are today's socialists different from times past?

Modern democratic socialists may not advocate Soviet-style communism or the abolition of all private property—yet—but many citizens seem to be more comfortable with

government-provided healthcare, education, housing assistance, social programs, higher taxation of wealthy individuals, and greater regulation of private enterprise.

- There is a big difference between government having a legitimate role in society and government becoming the instrument on which society depends for nearly everything.

What is the biblical role of government?

Scripture recognizes government as a legitimate institution. Romans 13 describes governing authorities as having responsibility for restraining evil.

When does government overstep its bounds?

The danger comes when government moves from being the protector to becoming the controller of human life. When government becomes the source of our livelihood, healthcare, housing, education, money, identity, information, and ability to participate in commerce, it possesses extraordinary leverage over the individual.

When did socialism begin?

Long before the word socialism existed, philosophers wrestled with communal ownership.

- Plato, writing more than three centuries before Christ, proposed communal arrangements for the guardian class in *The Republic*.

When did modern socialism emerge?

During the Industrial Revolution which produced a time of enormous wealth.

- That period also produced terrible working conditions including child labor, dangerous factories, extremely long working hours, and enormous disparities between owners and laborers.

Then came Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. In 1848, they published *The Communist Manifesto*.

- Marx argued that history was driven by conflict between economic classes and that capitalism inherently produced exploitation.
- Marx envisioned the eventual abolition of private property and the emergence of a classless society.

When did Marxism get applied?

The Russian Revolution of 1917 provided one of history's great experiments in revolutionary Marxism.

- Vladimir Lenin led the Bolshevik revolution and industries were nationalized, private enterprise was restricted, land and agriculture came under state direction, and political power was concentrated within a one-party system.
- Under Joseph Stalin, conditions became even more severe. Food was controlled. Political opposition was crushed. Millions suffered or died through famine, imprisonment, forced labor, executions, and deportations.
- Mao Zedong and the Chinese Communist Party came to power in 1949, and the government made sweeping programs of control. The result was catastrophic famine, enormous persecution, and social upheaval.
- Cuba, North Korea, Vietnam, Eastern Europe, Ethiopia under the Derg, and Nicaragua under the Sandinistas also implemented socialism.

There are enough historical records to prove that socialism does not work and only produces bondage.

What role did socialism play during the time of Joseph, son of Jacob?

In Genesis 47, during the great famine in Egypt, the people first spent their money obtaining food.

- When their money was gone, they exchanged their livestock.
- When their livestock was gone, they surrendered their land.
- Eventually, they offered their labor.
- By the end of the crisis, Pharaoh controlled virtually the entire agricultural economy of Egypt.

What timeless principle was revealed in Egypt's response to the great famine?

A crisis can produce dependence, and dependence can produce centralized power.

- People who are desperate will surrender things they would never surrender during prosperous times... Property. Economic independence. Privacy. Freedom. Even allegiance.

How did Babylon overstep its governmental bounds during the time of the Prophet Daniel?

Nebuchadnezzar did not merely want taxes; he wanted allegiance. Daniel 3 describes the construction of the enormous golden image on the plain of Dura where the people were commanded to bow before it.

- The demand was universal: conform or suffer the consequences.
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused.

- Suddenly, government authority had crossed a line: It was no longer administering civil society but was demanding what belonged exclusively to God.

How is this same pattern seen in the book of Revelation?

Political power will eventually become religious power. Meaning the government is worshiped, not God.

Why is the younger generation attracted to socialism?

Millennials and Generation Z experienced the 2008 financial crisis where major institutions received enormous government bailouts.

- They experienced the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - They now face high housing costs.
 - Many entered adulthood carrying student debt.
 - Inflation increased the cost of everyday necessities.
 - Homeownership has become increasingly difficult.
- When they ask: why can't I afford a home? Why does college cost so much? Why am I drowning in debt? Why are large corporations prospering while I struggle?
- In response to those questions, government intervention sounds attractive, even if you disagree with the proposed solution.

How has the meaning of socialism changed?

Older Americans remember the Cold War, the Soviet Union, the Berlin Wall, communist Eastern Europe, the Cuban Missile Crisis and repression behind the Iron Curtain.

- For younger Americans, these events are mere history lessons. And the word socialism often means something very different to them.
- It may mean affordable healthcare, free college, student-debt relief, housing assistance, and economic equality.

This means the cultural meaning of socialism has changed. Each generation becomes accustomed to a different level of government involvement in daily life.

Can freedom survive when personal responsibility is steadily transferred to the state?

Economic dependence make populations more willing to surrender liberty.

How does an increasing dependence on government change a person's view of socialism?

Imagine a society in which government can determine access to: Income. Healthcare. Housing. Education. Transportation. Banking. Digital identity. Communications. And eventually, money itself.

What happens when participation in society becomes dependent on being in good standing with the system?

- Freedom becomes conditional.
- And that brings us directly to Revelation 13...

How will the economy of the Antichrist result in total dependence on the government?

Revelation describes something unprecedented. The Beast will exercise extraordinary authority.

Revelation 13:17 – *no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*

The government of the Antichrist would have the ability to determine who can participate in commerce.

How is the Mark of the Beast possible today when it wouldn't have been for most of history?

A farmer could trade grain, a craftsman could barter, gold and silver could exchange hands privately, and cash could circulate anonymously.

- Technology is changing that.

How has today's technology established an infrastructure of control that the Antichrist will use?

Today's technologies can make economics more visible, traceable, programmable, and centralized than previous generations could have ever imagined.

- Digital identity systems can verify who you are.
- Artificial intelligence can analyze enormous quantities of behavioral data.
- Facial-recognition technology can identify individuals in crowds.
- Cashless payments can create electronic records of transactions.
- Large-scale surveillance systems can monitor populations.

None of these technologies is the mark of the beast.

- But they make up the infrastructure required for unprecedented control.

Will the Antichrist have to force people to be dependent on the government?

No, we are increasingly becoming accustomed to it.

- He will not need to convince people that this system is convenient. We are already doing that.
- He will not need to introduce digital money. We are already building it.
- He will not need to teach governments how to monitor populations. Technology already exists.
- And he will not need to convince humanity to surrender freedoms during crisis. We are already being programmed to do so.

This brings us back to our original question... Is socialism an economic system, or is it a worldview?

The new socialism represents a philosophy that government can solve an ever-growing number of life's problems.

- The greater the dependency, the greater the government's leverage.

The final world system will possess political authority and economic power. It will demand religious allegiance and enforce conformity.

How could the world ever accept the Antichrist's system of total control?

Crisis will be the catalyst... Scripture explains the final period of human history will be characterized by enormous instability. War. Economic upheaval. Deception. Political turmoil. Fear. Global disruption.

Why does it seem like the world is going from one crisis to the next?

The world's crises are mostly caused by the globalist elite to foist change on the people (Hegelian Dialectic).

- A state of "polycrisis" is needed to erode human freedoms to make the masses easier to control.
- As Rahm Emanuel said, "never let a good crisis go to waste." The global elite love crises.

What will cause people to trade freedom for security?

When societies become frightened enough, freedom can begin to look less valuable than security.

- Imagine a world experiencing simultaneous financial collapse, warfare, cyberattacks, shortages, political instability, and social unrest.
- Then imagine a charismatic leader appearing with solutions. He promises peace. Stability. Economic recovery. Security. Unity.
- The world will not view him initially as a dictator. The world will view him as a savior.

That is one of prophecy's greatest warnings.

- Tyranny does not arrive announcing itself as tyranny. It arrives promising to solve the crisis.

How will capitalism and democracy fail?

No economic or government system can save humanity.

Every human economic and government system can become corrupted because every system is administered by sinful human beings.

Jeremiah 17:9 – *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?*

The ultimate problem is not economic. It is spiritual.

Is there anything that can be done to derail the socialism train that is headed our way?

Human beings repeatedly attempt to construct systems capable of producing justice, prosperity, peace, and equality, things only the righteous reign of Christ can ultimately provide. Every human empire eventually discovers the same truth.

- Babylon falls. Persia falls. Greece falls. Rome falls. Modern empires will fall. And Revelation tells us that the antichrist's kingdom will also fall.
- The challenge for believers is to not fall into the trappings of the world... Our provider is not Washington or Wall Street or the United Nations. Our provider is God.

What is the prophetic significance of the emerging socialist worldview/ideology/religion?

The world is being conditioned...

- People accustomed to government assistance are more comfortable with government dependence.
- People accustomed to surveillance becomes less protective of privacy.
- People accustomed to digital payments becomes less attached to cash.
- People accustomed to digital identity will accept proving authorization before accessing services.
- People accustomed to emergencies are more willing to surrender freedoms during the next emergency.
- And a population accustomed to centralized solutions will someday welcome the most centralized solution humanity has ever seen.

What applications do we see from our discussion today?

- Today's socialism is more than an economic system; it is an ideology that replaces God with Government.
- Society has been conditioned to welcome the total centralized control of the Antichrist.
- The growing human-caused polycrises will soon be eclipsed by God's intervention: Rapture & Tribulation