



ARRIVING ON THE heels of the 1929 Stock Market crash, the third decade of the century began with turmoil. Many wealthy people, not just in America but around the world, became impoverished overnight when they found themselves leveraged too deeply in stocks that had risen sharply during the '20s. Unable to meet margin calls, or finding the stocks they owned suddenly worthless, some even took their lives rather than face ruin.

ECONOMICS

The Great Depression

The collapse of the Stock Market propelled the world into the greatest economic recession in history, called the Great Depression. From 1929 to 1932 worldwide Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell by 15%. Unemployment in the United States rose to 25%; some countries saw an unemployment rate as high as 33%. With the loss of jobs, tax revenue fell, profits for commerce and industry followed suit, and international trade suffered a drop of 50%.

Satan had a heyday with the manipulation of Mammon that would send the world into a downward spiral of poverty and despair. But his minions that could buy and sell souls with the great wealth they controlled through the central banks of the nations were made all the richer for it. For the rest of the world's population there was only despair.

The Great Depression gave socialists like President Franklin Delano Roosevelt the opportunity to drastically alter the economic policies of the U.S. toward big-government policies that would change the attitudes of the people from self-sufficiency to dependency on government welfare.

Utilizing the economic theories of British socialist John Maynard Keynes, Roosevelt embarked on a policy of deficit spending that would send the United States into never-ending debt that plagues the nation today, and is projected to reach \$20 trillion by the end of Barack Obama's second term.

Keynes posited in his *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money* that the decline in income and employment is due to low aggregate expenditures (the value of all finished goods and services in the economy). Keynes declared that government must run deficits when the economy is slowing because investment in the private sector would not be sufficient to keep production at the normal level to avoid a recession. Thus, the government must pick up the slack by increasing government spending and/or cutting taxes. One means to increase government spending would be through the creation of government jobs, particularly bureaucratic positions that would give further control of the economy and the people to the government.

Following Keynes's socialist approach, Roosevelt's response to the Great Depression was to announce his "New Deal" in 1933, and to embark on government programs such as public works and farm subsidies to keep employment up. But according to Keynesian economists Roosevelt didn't spend enough to bring the nation out of the Great Depression. It would take a war of Roosevelt's making (at least partially) to end the Great Depression. But for the entire 1930s the people paid a high price for the government's experimentation.

The most prosperous industries other than the international banks were illicit gang-related operations that pushed drugs, alcohol, prostitution, gambling, sex trafficking, and other vices. This was an added benefit to anti-Christ's efforts to demoralize and debauch society, driving people further from Christ.

RELIGION

Cristo Redentor

In 1931, further south in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, high on a hill overlooking the city, a statue called *Cristo Redentor* (Portuguese for Christ the Redeemer), begun in 1922, was

completed. Built in the Art Deco style popular during that time, the statue stands 98 feet tall, not including its 26-foot high pedestal. Its arms stretch 92 feet wide. Considered one of the New Seven Wonders of the World, it is located on the 2,300-foot high Corcovado Mountain in the Tijuca Forest National Park. The large edifice dominates the Rio de Janeiro landscape as a protest to the “Godlessness” of the city at the time. Throughout its history the statue has been struck by lightning and damaged several times. Additionally, it has had to undergo periodic restoration not only from lightning strikes, but from fungi and other microorganisms that, along with weather, contribute to its erosion.



One might think anti-Christ would be responsible for attacking an image of Christ, but it appears as if it may be the Lord Himself who is displeased with images that purport to represent Him. God’s Word condemns such images as idolatrous. No image formed by the imagination of man can replicate what Christ (or the “saints”) look like. One can make any representation and call it “Christ,” “Mary,” “Peter,” or whomever. In fact, there are as many different images of these people as there are artists who make them. But iconography has always been profitable for religions of every stripe, including various forms of Christianity. It’s this latter form that pleases anti-Christ as he persuades people to worship before icons rather than in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24).

In the meantime, the godlessness of Rio de Janeiro has increased over the decades, and “Christ” is forced to overlook that godlessness in stony silence.

Still, were it in the United States, it would have been torn down by now.

SCIENCE

The Splitting of the Atom

In 1932, nuclear physics reached a milestone when British physicist John Cockcroft teamed with Ernest Walton of Ireland to split the atom with protons accelerated to high speed. This would lead to the discovery of nuclear fission in 1938 at the Kaiser Wilhelm Society for Chemistry in Berlin, Germany. Enrico Fermi proposed that when an

atom splits it releases other neutrons, and that under the right conditions those neutrons could continue on to split other atoms in what would be called a “chain reaction.” If each splitting atom caused one released neutron to split one other atom, the chain reaction would become “critical” and would create a steady release of energy. If each fission event released two or more neutrons that went on to split other atoms, the chain reaction was called “supercritical,” and would rapidly generate an almost instantaneous and massive release of energy. This would lead to the development of the atom bomb—one of anti-Christ’s most destructive weapons against mankind.

POLITICS

The Rise of Nazism

1933 saw the rise of another destructive force in the person of Adolf Hitler when he was appointed chancellor of Germany. His appointment by President Paul von Hindenberg was made in the hope of keeping Hitler and his National Socialist Party (Nazis) in check. Hitler had run against the incumbent Hindenberg in the 1932 election for president, receiving 30% of the vote. Hindenberg won with 39%. Because neither received a majority of the votes, a run-off election was conducted in April, 1932. Hitler gained over two million votes in the run-off (36%), but Hindenberg’s one-million-vote increase gave him 53%—enough for him to be elected to another term as president.

Although he opposed Hitler, Hindenberg was swayed by the overwhelming popularity of the man and his Nazi Party. Due to the increasing political instability of the Weimar Republic, Hindenberg dissolved the parliament twice in 1932. As the government slid further into instability, and amidst the rumor that the recently resigned chancellor, Kurt von Schleicher, was plotting to overthrow him, Hindenberg decided that the only way to remove that threat was to appoint Hitler chancellor, which he did in January, 1933.

The next month, Hindenberg issued the Reichstag Fire Decree, in response to the fire that destroyed the Reichstag (Germany’s parliament building) under suspicious, but unclear circumstances on February 27, 1933—six days before the next parliamentary election.

Hitler and his party quickly took advantage of the fire by blaming it on the opposition communists. Thus the Nazis stirred up fear among millions of Germans at the threat of communist terror.

At the same time, Hitler began his pogrom against the Jewish citizens of Germany by proclaiming a one-day boycott against Jewish-owned businesses. Kosher butchering was outlawed and Jewish children began to experience discrimination in Germany’s public schools.

Earlier in life, Hitler was ambivalent toward Jews, not holding any particular hatred of them. It was during and after his imprisonment that he formulated his Aryan purity philosophy. Writing *Mein Kampf* (*My Struggle*) while in

prison, he reflected on Germany's humiliation resulting from restrictions upon the nation suffered under the Versailles Treaty following World War I. He began to view Jews as vermin that were polluting the Aryan blood pool through intermarriage with Germans, and decided that the only solution for lifting Germany to the level of its former glory was to separate the Jews from the rest of German society.

Upon Hindenberg's death on August 2, 1934, Hitler declared himself Führer ("Leader"), bringing an end to the German Republic. Over the course of the next two years, Hitler would greatly increase his power over the German government and military.

On September 15, 1935, Germany enacted the Nuremberg Laws designed to establish racial policy within the Third Reich in an attempt to establish Aryan purity. These laws would "regulate the problems of marriage between 'Aryans' and 'non-Aryans,'" especially targeting Jews by depriving them of their German citizenship and cutting off the Jewish ghettos from the rest of society.

On October 27, over 15,000 Jews, originally from Poland, were expelled from Germany without warning. Forced into boxcars, they were sent by train and dumped at the Polish border. One Jewish family named Grynspan were among the deportees. In retaliation for his parents' poor treatment, 17-year-old Herschel Grynspan shot and killed a member of the German Embassy staff. This event provided Hitler with the perfect propaganda opportunity to incite Germans to "rise in bloody vengeance against the Jews."

On the night of November 9, 1938, a night which would be called *Kristallnacht* ("Broken Glass," referring to broken Jewish shop windows), a coordinated attack on Jews throughout the German Reich began when Nazi storm troopers, members of the *Schutzstaffel* ("Protection Squad"), also known as the SS, with the Hitler Youth, wreaked havoc against Jewish homes, beat and killed Jews and brutalized Jewish women and children. As many as 25,000 men were taken prisoner and sent to concentration camps to be beaten, some being put to death at random.

Realizing the effectiveness of propaganda, Hitler established the Reich Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda, placing Joseph Goebbels at its head. The objective was to ensure that the Nazi message of racial purity and the German destiny to rule the world would be communicated to the German citizenry through art, theater, music, radio, films, education, and the press, not dissimilar to how the Marxist message is communicated to the masses in the West today. Nazi propaganda films such as *Der Ewige Jude* (*The Eternal Jew*) (1940), contrasted the Nazi view of Jews as subhuman with the Nazi ideal of vigorous, handsome Germans.

With these beginnings, anti-Christ would use Hitler to foment the most destructive course in human history as he sought first to take Europe under his control, with the goal

of establishing a Thousand-Year Reich ("Realm") over the whole world.

Even before declaring himself Führer, Hitler had begun his pogrom to eliminate "undesirables" from German society. This was facilitated through the construction of concentration camps, the first being Dachau, established in March, 1933. In its first year, Dachau housed some 4,800 prisoners, and by 1937 they numbered over 13,000. Initially, the purpose was to hold political opponents of the Nazi regime—German Communists, Social Democrats, and others. In time, other groups of people were interned there such as Roma (Gypsies), Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, asocials (people who couldn't function well in society), and repeat criminals. These were imprisoned under an "emergency decree" proposed by Hitler and approved by Hindenberg. The "Decree for the Protection of the People and the State" suspended the civil rights of German civilians and prohibited the publishing of anti-government materials.

The horrors committed at Dachau and subsequent concentration camps throughout Hitler's reign would take volumes, of which many have been written. For our purposes, we will limit this portion to the design of anti-Christ to rid the earth of as many Jews and Christians as he could through this demi-anti-Christ Adolf Hitler.

A munitions factory during WW I, Dachau was located about 17 kilometers (10 miles) northwest of Munich. It wouldn't be for a number of years that Jews in large numbers would be interned at Dachau and other concentration camps and death camps that sprang up afterwards throughout Poland and other parts of Eastern Europe. Hitler's intention initially was not to kill Jews, but to have them deported to the east, especially Russia and Palestine (working with Zionists [whom he hated] to get around British restrictions on Jewish immigration).

When the logistics of that attempt proved too cumbersome, and at the behest of the Islamic mullahs that allied themselves with Hitler because of their shared hatred of Jews, America, Britain, and France (the nations principally responsible for the defeat of the Ottoman Empire during WWI), it was decided that the Jews must be put to work in concentration camps and, if unable to bear the work load, be put to death along with other undesirables. As a strong German ally, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin al-Husseini, convinced Hitler that a Jewish homeland in Palestine would be detrimental to the whole world and establish Jewish power. He stated that it would be better to send them to concentration camps than to Palestine. Later, after the war, the Grand Mufti would deny knowledge of the death camps and that Jews were being exterminated there. This was recently alluded to by Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, but he was roundly criticized by the world's leftist media.

Hitler was careful not to establish any such camps within Germany's borders so as not to alarm German citizens of the horror that he unleashed upon the "undesirables." By putting the camps in outlying German-occupied areas he was able to largely keep secret his murderous policy. Nazis and their sympathizers have been able to (almost) rightly state, "No Jews were ever put to death in Germany." They have also been able to say that six million Jews were never gassed by the Nazis. (The number of Jews who died under Nazi persecution is in question, but whatever number died as a result of that pogrom, not all were gassed; many died by other means).

The result of Hitler's murderous policies was not only the extermination of millions of Jews, but the resultant sympathy for Jews that for a short time allowed for the world's willingness to tolerate a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

What escapes the attention of historians is the equally large number of other victims besides Jews, who had no advocates such as the Jews had in well-funded Zionism.

Nor do the world's media point to many more victims who perished under the same policies against "undesirables" and political prisoners instigated by Josef Stalin and the Union of Socialist Republics (USSR).

Even as many Jews were killed by various means from accidents to murder under the Nazi machine, God used that horror to bring the Jews into a small portion of the land He promised to the natural descendants of Jacob. This was in line with His preparation for the Lord's return. Prophecies surrounding Jesus' Second Coming require the Jews to occupy Jerusalem at that time.

It is argued by some that the Jews have been abandoned by God for rejecting their Messiah; the "Church" has replaced Israel as the apple of God's eye, and will one day rule in place of Israel in the coming Kingdom of God on earth. This is called replacement theology and is promoted largely by the Reformed churches. The argument rests on the misconception that because Israel once occupied all the land in that promise but lost it in the Babylonian Captivity, there is no more such promise for natural Israel.

But Scripture cannot be broken. Even while Israel was in captivity in Babylon, the prophet Jeremiah wrote:

YHWH, God of Israel, speaks this, saying, "Write in a book all the words that I have spoken to you. For, look, the days come" says YHWH, "that I will bring again the captivity of My people Israel and Judah," says YHWH, "and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it." (Jeremiah 30:2-3)

Notice that Jeremiah speaks specifically of Israel and Judah; this cannot mean "the Church" which is made of both Jew and Gentile as one new man in Christ, often referred to as "spiritual Israel" but never "spiritual Judah" or "spiritual Israel and Judah."

Clearly, God promised to restore all the land to Israel and Judah that they possessed prior to their captivity. That includes all the land as one possession because before Solomon died Israel and Judah were one nation. Therefore, the restoration will include the city of Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 30:2-3 is a *new* promise, made during Judah's captivity in Babylonia to *restore* the natural descendants of Israel and Judah to their entire land. The new possession will be larger than the previous one, but it will encompass the borders occupied by Israel and Judah before their captivities.

This later promise has never been fulfilled. The kingdom of Judah has not existed since the beginning of the Babylonian Captivity, and Israel has never in this age returned to possess all the land promised to their fathers. Nor will they, until the Lord returns to call them back.

Reform theologians fail to recognize that God's plan of redemption foresaw that Israel would reject her Messiah. Did God not know of it from the beginning? Of course He did. Yet He made these promises of a new Israelite kingdom anyway. God is not double-minded.¹

Christian Palestinian sympathizers must recognize this. Although rightly expressing sympathy for the Palestinians (who are victims of the Arab nations even more so than of Israel), they should not rail against what God is doing through the currently anti-Christ Jewish nation.

Christian Zionists must recognize that the modern state of Israel is not the kingdom of Israel; that kingdom will be restored only after Jesus returns. The Christian Zionist penchant to withhold the Gospel from the Jews is anti-Christ. Their attitude of "Israel, right or wrong," is ungodly.

Israel is blinded in part until the time for the Gentiles to be melded into the Kingdom of God comes to an end. They are still largely a rebellious, stiff-necked people—much as are their enemies among the Arab nations, and the anti-Christ minions that control the world system. We, as Christ's disciples, must love both Jews and Arabs, and seek their spiritual welfare through the ministry of the Gospel.

The Great Terror

At the same time Hitler was embarking on his plan of removing undesirables from Germany, Josef Stalin and the Communist Party was conducting a similar pogrom in Russia. The collectivization programs instituted in 1930 resulted in the famine of 1932-33, which led to uncontrolled migration into the cities by peasants seeking survival. Fearing the "social disorder" caused by that scenario, and with the threat of war hanging over Russia, Stalin's perception of threats from within the marginalized population and political enemies was heightened. He began his elimination of opposition within his own Communist Party, many members of which saw his dictatorial stance as detrimental to their cause and to the nation. In 1933 the Party expelled

¹ Albert James Dager, *The Day of Yahweh* (Redmond, WA: Sword Publishers, 2013), pp. 89-90.

some 400,000 members in a purge that at first was benign, but expanded to include arrest, imprisonment, and often execution. Soon the purge was extended to all suspected individuals and groups that did not find favor with Stalin and the Party. Even former Soviet heroes became the target for elimination as even the slightest dissent brought down the wrath of Stalin.

In 1934, Sergei Kirov, a prominent Bolshevik leader who rose to become the head of the Communist Party in Leningrad, was shot and killed by a gunman while in his office. Stalin used the assassination to foment what came to be called the Great Purge, during which some one million people died. The *Narodnyy Komissariat Vnutrennikh Del* (People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs; KNVD) went into full purge mode and charged former oppositionists (and an ever-growing list of suspected oppositionists) with a list of offenses including treason, terrorism, sabotage, and espionage. Nobody was safe from the purge. Thus, the purge of the Party became a purge against the entire Soviet society, prompting its name: "The Great Terror."

Under Stalin, Jews would become a target for relocation to parts of Siberia in keeping with Stalin's agreement with Nazi Germany's foreign minister, Joachim von Ribbentrop. In order to prove his worth to Hitler and secure a non-aggression pact with Germany, Stalin promised Ribbentrop that he would eliminate "Jewish domination," especially among the intelligentsia.

The Russian Revolution had been greatly aided by the Jewish intelligentsia, but not so much from among the Bolsheviks. There were two revolutionary factions: the Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks. The Bolsheviks comprised a large contingent of ethnic Russians with a minority of Jews, while the Mensheviks comprised a large number of Jews with Bundists, followed by Georgians and Ethnic Russians. The Mensheviks (Russian: "One of the Minority"), were members of the non-Leninist wing of the Russian Social-Democratic Workers' Party. The Mensheviks largely opposed Lenin's plan for a party restricted to professional revolutionaries. They were in favor of a party modeled after Western European democratic parties. They were part of the February Revolution (1917), but were not sufficiently united to maintain a strong position. After the Bolshevik Revolution in October, 1917, they were permanently suppressed, and many Mensheviks went into exile. Former Mensheviks remaining in the Soviet Union under Stalin became victims of The Great Terror.

Anti-Christ continued to use "Christians" to kill Jews, albeit as those Russian "Christians" were subject to the atheist-controlled Soviet government.

Nazi-Soviet Pact

In March, 1938, Hitler annexed Austria without a struggle. Secretly holding plans to expand his aggression against all of Europe, he did not want to repeat the mistake Germa-

ny made in World War I of fighting on two fronts. Thus, on August 23, 1939, Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union signed the Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact which guaranteed that the two countries would not attack each other. The Soviet Union was awarded land, including the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) and eastern Poland. Hitler's advantage with the Pact was to avoid confrontation with Russia when he invaded Poland. Thus, anti-Christ would use Hitler to bring about another worldwide conflagration of Christian nations at war with other Christian nations.

World War II Begins

After suffering so greatly during World War I, the world was weary and willing to do almost anything to prevent another such conflagration. The Sudetenland (the western regions of Czechoslovakia) was largely populated by German-speaking people, and Hitler decided that they should be under his rule. This did not sit well with the Czech army and fortifications were built in anticipation of a German invasion. This defense attempt was known as the Sudeten Crisis.

The threat of war prompted British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain to meet with Hitler in Berchtesgaden on September 15, 1938, and to cede the Sudetenland to Germany. Three days later, French Prime Minister Édouard Daladier did the same. No representatives from the Czech government were invited to the meetings. With no support from England and France, Czechoslovakia acceded to the terms and Hitler's troops were able to walk into the Sudetenland without firing a shot.

On September 22, 1938, Chamberlain again met with Hitler to confirm the agreements. Hitler, wanting a pretext for war, used the Sudeten Crisis to demand not only the annexation of the Sudetenland, but the immediate military occupation of the territories. The Czech army had no time to adapt their defenses to protect the new borders. At the request of Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, a conference of the major powers met in Munich on September 29. There, Chamberlain and Daladier met with Hitler and, on September 30, signed the Munich Agreement, agreeing to Mussolini's proposal (actually prepared by Hermann Göring) to allow Hitler to take immediate occupation of the Sudetenland. Again, the Czech government was not a party to the meeting, but fearing Germany's strength it submitted and promised to abide by the agreement.

The Sudetenland's military occupation by Germany was finalized on October 10, 1938 [my birthday, in fact].

On the same day the Munich Agreement was signed, Chamberlain and Hitler signed the Anglo-German Declaration—a nonaggression pact between Great Britain and Germany. This agreement granted Germany the right to build its navy (the *Kriegsmarine*) to a ratio of 35% of the total tonnage of the Royal Navy, which was beyond the limits set by the Treaty of Versailles. With this agreement, England

hoped to limit German expansionism. But Hitler regarded the treaty as the beginning of an alliance against France and the Soviet Union. Returning to England the same day of signing the Munich Agreement, Chamberlain stood outside 10 Downing Street and greeted the crowd of Brits with the following infamous declaration:

My good friends, for the second time in our history, a British Prime Minister has returned from Germany bringing peace with honour. I believe it is peace for our time. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Go home and get a nice quiet sleep.

Less than one year later, in March 1939, Hitler sent his troops to invade the Czech part of Czechoslovakia, annexing a portion, with the remainder turned into the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. The Slovak portion declared its independence from Czechoslovakia and became the Slovak Republic, a satellite state and ally of Nazi Germany. Other portions were annexed by Hungary.

On September 1, 1939, a week after signing the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, Germany's and Slovakia's armies invaded western Poland while the Soviet Union attacked eastern Poland. The Polish government went into exile in Paris, and later London, remaining there until the fall of the Soviet Union in 1990. The invasion of Poland was the "official" start of World War II.

Allies vs. Axis

Even before Hitler began his invasions of Eastern Europe, Japan had already been at war with China. In July 1937, Japan captured the imperial capital of Beijing, leading to the Japanese campaign to invade all of China. Soviet Russia quickly signed a nonaggression pact with China in order to lend materiel support. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's forces waged a strong battle to defend Shanghai, but the Japanese pushed his forces back, moving on to capture the then capital of Nanking in December 1937.

Eventually the intrigue surrounding several nations' international agreements resulted in a convergence of what would be called the "Axis" nations of Germany, Italy, and Japan at war with the "Allied" nations of Britain, France, Canada, and the United States of America and other primarily western nations that would wage World War II.

Anti-Christ would again succeed in causing "Christian" nations to fight one another. But what would come out of World War II would result in increasing ungodliness unveiling on the world stage.