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THE ANTI-CHRISTIAN THREAT AND HOW TO CONFRONT IT

“Part III: The Antichrist in Solovyov’s Narrative”

Today and tomorrow, we’ll examine how the Antichrist is portrayed in the literature I’m familiar with.

He is primarily described as a political figure endowed with extraordinary charisma who offers solutions to pressing political and social problems.

This Antichrist, as I have encountered him in literature, is said to exude a powerful fascination that people find almost impossible to resist. Outwardly, he appears to be a spiritual person who seems endowed with virtues, possesses great foresight, and is open to religious questions.

Thus, a different image of the Antichrist is initially presented here—one that differs from the various anti-Christian figures we have come to know on the political stage throughout history as violent tyrants.

Today, I would like to begin by discussing what is perhaps the most important book on this subject: *A Short Tale of the Antichrist* by Vladimir Solovyov.

In 1900, as he faced his approaching death—as he writes in the preface to his work “*Three Conversations*”—this great Russian thinker felt compelled to include the “*A Short Tale of the Antichrist*” in that volume and have it published. It was, in fact, his last work, for he died on August 12, 1900, leaving it behind as his special legacy.

In this narrative, the Antichrist is portrayed as a figure who gains increasing political influence. His origins remain shrouded in mystery. His mother is said to have been of questionable moral character, though this received no further public attention. In the story, the Antichrist possesses great mental abilities, high intelligence, and powerful charisma.

He considers his exceptional talents to be a special privilege that sets him apart from others. He feels called to accomplish something extraordinary and awaits his vocation so that he can carry out his unique mission. Since nothing remarkable occurs, he begins

to grow restless as he approaches the age of Jesus. He starts to doubt whether Jesus might be the greater chosen one after all, even though he believes himself called to complete Jesus's work. This drives him to despair, and he throws himself off a cliff. Yet he is caught—not by the Son of God, but by an apparition easily identifiable as the Devil.

Through this apparition, Solovyov's figure of the Antichrist undergoes a kind of satanic initiation, in which the demon introduces himself as the Antichrist's father.

After this extraordinary experience, the Antichrist becomes particularly inspired, and his unstoppable rise begins. He hurriedly writes a book offering concrete proposals for solving political and social problems. The book is received with great enthusiasm everywhere. His fame grows, and he becomes so well known that he is unanimously elected president of Europe.

Eventually, he rises to become the ruler of the world. Having prevailed over all remaining enemies with an elite army, he becomes the absolute ruler of the entire world and has himself proclaimed emperor.

With political power in his hands, the Antichrist turns his attention to religious matters, seeking to win the hearts of the people.

Various denominations still exist within his empire. He convenes a council and offers each of the three major denominations something to demonstrate his love and goodwill toward them. In return, he asks them to recognize him as the "sole leader and protector." The Antichrist is accompanied by a false prophet who confuses people with miraculous signs.

However, not everyone accepts the Antichrist's invitation. Resistance arises within the three denominations. Finally, an Orthodox starets challenges the Antichrist to publicly profess Christ as the one and only Lord and Savior. In response, the Antichrist orders the starets' death at the hands of his false prophet. The Pope also recognizes that this is the Antichrist and publicly condemns him. He too is killed.

Consequently, the Antichrist demands that the Christians loyal to him recognize the false prophet as Pope, while the other Christians who do not submit to him are forced to flee.

We can regard Solovyov's short treatise as a prophetic work, especially since he himself testifies that he felt compelled to write it down and leave it to posterity. This does not mean, however, that everything will happen exactly as described. Rather, it identifies the basic features of an anti-Christian form of rule that deserve our close attention.

Let us therefore note the following:

- The Antichrist presents himself as someone who solves earthly problems and thus appears to bring peace to the world (peacemaker).
- He is installed as ruler with the consent of all nations (emperor, world ruler).
- He is regarded as a virtuous, even spiritual, person. (role model).
- He receives inspiration from Lucifer, who presents himself as a father (demonic inspiration—false light).
- He seeks to unite Christendom under his leadership (false ecumenism).
- The majority of Christians are deceived by him (the Antichrist's deception).

Tomorrow, we will examine another literary description of the Antichrist.

Reflection on the Gospel of the Day: <https://en.elijamission.net/how-do-you-deal-with-persecution-2/>