

DECEPTION ON THE PROWL

Introduction

Over the past one hundred years religious institutions and churches have progressively de-emphasized the Scriptures.¹ This has resulted in a growing interest by their leaders in psychology, sociology and mysticism – elevating “getting along,” “dialogue,” “feelings” and “tapping powers within.” Under a religious guise, sensory forms of worship, social activism, “spiritual” exercises and the aggrandizement of “self,” have stepped into the “God” arena. This has blinded the sensitivity of most to a pending “eschatological end.”

- At another “end” (two millennia ago) a cry of doom came from the lips of Christ regarding Jewish unpreparedness that still reverberates today:
- *“As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, ‘If you, even you, had only known of this day what would bring you peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes.’”* (Luke 19:41-42 – NIV).

A violent doom awaited that people. Jesus penetrated and voiced its cause – they didn’t “know” the “time” (Luke 11:44) nor the prophetic reality exploding in their midst. Tradition and erroneous views of the Torah led to national deception.

- Paul also struggled with specious teachings in the early Christian churches.
- Of special note were those in Thessalonica.
 1. He had told them that Christ would return and would come suddenly when that era arrived.
 2. They misunderstood that message. It appears as though they assumed that it was so imminent it bruised many hopes.² Confusion about the future loomed with those new believers.

Paul chose to address this concern by giving an eschatological sign – the rise and work of the antichrist must be anticipated first. Then the Messiah would return.

Note how he began: *“Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way”* (II Thessalonians 2:3 – NIV).

- Beware of defective teaching. Truth was available! Don’t be fooled. They must have a “knowledge base” to recognize error.
- Jesus, in His apocalyptic Olivet discourse, began the same way: *“Watch out that no one deceives you.”* (Matthew 24:4 – NIV).

The Apostle continues: *“That day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all*

¹ Beale, G. K.; *Thessalonians* (IVP Academic, Downers Grove, IL), p. 198.

² Bruce, F. F.; *Word Biblical Commentary, 1 & 2 Thessalonians* (Thomas Nelson Inc., 1984), vol. 45, p. 164.

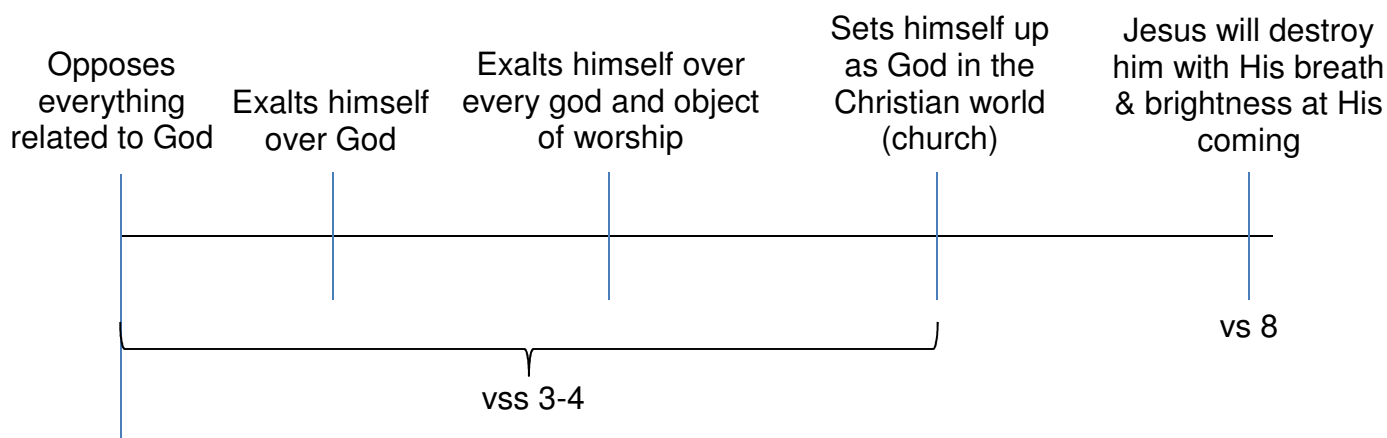
that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God” (II Thessalonians 2:3-4).

That day, the “Day of Christ” (vs 2) is equivalent to “Christ’s final coming” or *parousia* (G).³ Paul had written to them about the necessity of being prepared for this event (I Thessalonians 4:14-17, 5:1-11). The whole issue of the Second Advent needed review.

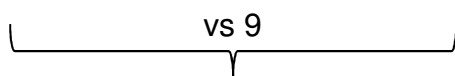
Paul now focuses on that apostate leader – a deceiver – who will be unmasked before that Messianic event. It would be a signal that the end was near.

- It is imperative that Christians now know, have a precise knowledge base of, who this leader is and at what point he will appear.
- We have arrived at that time.

The sequence of events for this “man of sin[’s]” debut (II Thessalonians 2):



Man of sin comes with miracles/signs/wonders/evil. However, he is doomed to be destroyed.



Deceives those who refuse to love truth and be saved.
They believe lies and delight in wickedness.
(vs 10)

God reinforces this illusion because they resisted truth.
The deceiver’s identity is revealed **“at the proper time”!**
(vs 6 – NIV)

Paul said something else interesting: A “falling away” (apostasy) would come even before this “man”:

Apostasy → Antichrist → Second Coming

³ *Ibid.*, p. 201.

Detailing this Man and Apostasy (II Thessalonians)

This first event, the “falling away” or *apostasia* (G), is a religious crisis most important to discern (using Greek Old Testament – Joshua 22:22, II Chronicles 29:19, Jeremiah 2:19 and New Testament Acts 21:21, I Timothy 4:1, Hebrews 3:12).⁴

- “*Falling away*” assumes that it was previously within God’s will or fold.
- *Apostasia* means rebellion within God’s church.
- Something deceptive, out of character, occurs within the Christian community to make it fall with such force! It comes from the wine of fornication of this apostate leader (Revelation 14:8). His church shares an “abomination” with the world that is mixed with this wine (Revelation 17:4). False belief becomes globally pervasive.

The second event, then, that must precede the eschaton is a revelation of who this “man of sin” (the “lawless one” or the antichrist) is (II Thessalonians 2:8). God is the ultimate power restraining a full disclosure of him until the ***proper time*** (vs 6)⁵

- Since Paul’s discourse in II Thessalonians 2 is describing a crucial ***fulfillment*** of prophecy, the “who” and “when” must be found elsewhere.
- Jesus pointedly advised His apocalyptic students to go to Daniel for the “rest of the story” (Matthew 24:15) in the area describing that apostasy, which He called an “abomination” and said would lead to desolation.

The imagery of this eschatological “man of sin” is detailed in Daniel 8:9-13, 11:30-45; cf. 9:27, 12:11).⁶ He forces a ***transgression*** that God calls an ***abomination*** on the world.

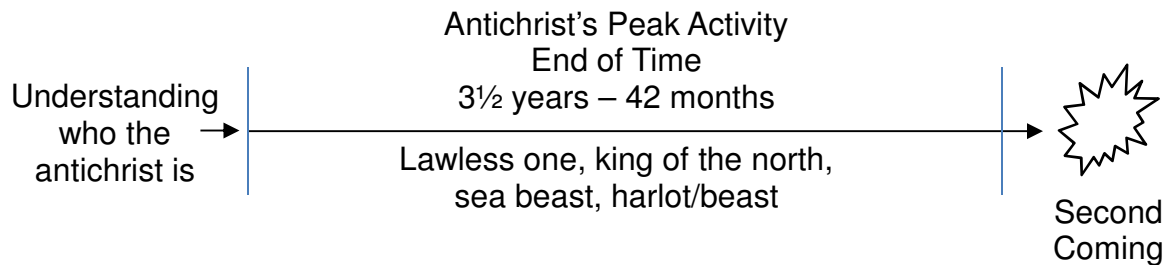
- That little horn is a king also: “*And an host was given him against the daily [sacrifice] by reason of **transgression**, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practiced, and prospered*” (Daniel 8:12).
- “... a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people” (Daniel 8:23b-24).
- “*And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done*” (Daniel 11:36).
- “*And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the **abomination that maketh desolate set up**, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days*” (Daniel 12:11).

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 203.

⁵ Gaebelin, Frank, general editor; *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary* (Zondervan; Grand Rapids, MI 49530; 1981), Thomas, Robert L.; Div. *II Thessalonians*.

⁶ Beale, *op. cit.*

That “*vile person*” or “*contemptible person*” (cf. Daniel 11:21), later known as the “king of the north” (cf. 11:28) is the same individual as this “lawless person” described by Paul. The imagery also parallels that of the sea beast (Revelation 13). In Daniel 12 and Revelation 13 the peak activity of this antichrist is over a three-and-a-half-year period (Daniel 12:7, Revelation 13:5) (note EGW 19MR 282).



Paul identifies this man as:

1. Lawless – he is the epitome of opposition to the laws of God. He has no compunction about breaking God’s righteous directives.
2. He is doomed to destruction (and all his followers – implied). He is so closely identified with this destiny that the term “son of perdition” is used (cf. John 17:12).
3. He exalts and opposes everything that is called God.⁷

This echoes what Daniel said about the little horn:

- “*And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time*” (Daniel 7:25).
- He presides over that religious apostasy.
- He will be a rival to the Messiah at the time of the end.⁸

This antichrist will “enthroned himself” in the spirit of the king of Babylon (Isaiah 14:13-14; cf. Ezekiel 28:2).

He will not be some abstract power or concept, but is an eschatological person.⁹

“Babylon is fallen” Message

This “cry” means that the apostasy – the “falling away” – has consummated and advanced.

The cry that “*Babylon is fallen*” (Revelation 14:8, 18:2-5) “*come out of her,*” is given during those three and a half years. John tells us that the harlot is named Babylon and that she rides and controls a “nation” (Revelation 17:5). A church and a state are represented.

⁷ Thomas, *op. cit.*, p. 322.

⁸ Bruce, *op. cit.*, p. 167.

⁹ Hendriksen, William and Simon J. Kistemaker; *New Testament Commentary, Exposition of Thessalonians, the Pastorals, and Hebrews* (Baker Academic; Grand Rapids, MI; 1955), p. 171.

- When do we affirm and legitimize who this is?
- Before the three and a half years! Right now! This is that “proper time.”

The only church/state unit recognized by the United Nations and 180 countries is Roman Catholicism and the Vatican City State (united as a church–state in 1929).

“Preparatory” prophecies in Daniel for our time are unique and worthy of note:

1. We are to echo the intense devotion to God like Daniel and his companions before Babylon fell.
2. The spirit we are to have toward government leaders, through many illustrations in Daniel’s life, shows respect and kindness, and is exemplary.
3. Before Belshazzar, the king at the time of Babylon’s fall, Daniel pointedly explained the “prophecy” and called out the rebellion that was the immediate cause for Babylon’s demise (a model to follow during the three and a half years).
4. Daniel exemplifies how to anticipate and prepare for persecution in the face of blasphemous boldness against God’s laws, clocks and authority.
5. The timing of the end, called an “appointed time,” and its several preceding months, is a clear period in Daniel and Revelation when Babylon falls – similar to when Daniel knew, when he entered that great banquet hall that night, that the Empire would fall and deliverance of God’s people would come!
6. Who the papal heads will be as we approach that “time of the end;” and its probable final pope associated with a coalition of ten world leaders, is noted in Revelation 17.
7. Deliverance comes to God’s people, represented by Cyrus and the Medo-Persian Empire, bringing the downfall of Babylon; a Deliverer rescues His loyalists (Isaiah 44–45).

These areas are clearly discussed in prophecy as enlightened issues for the final generation just before that last three-and-a-half-year period! Evidence mounts that this is what Paul alluded to in the Thessalonica church.

- “Let no man deceive you” (II Thessalonians 2:3).
- “A falling away” or apostasy within Christianity occurs. A clear Biblical understanding of the “man of sin” – the antichrist – will be possible, distinctly before the “Day of Christ.”
- For God’s witnesses – the 144,000 – the “white horse” people – these matters, issues, prophecies are open to study!

Wrong’s Deceptive Mission

Apostasy and its leaders are to be unveiled by God’s people.

Recall God’s words to Ezekiel: *“And if the prophet be deceived when he hath spoken a thing, ... I will stretch out my hand upon him, and will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel.... That the house of Israel may go no more astray from me”* (Ezekiel 14:9, 11a).

- Again, Jesus warned in His Olivet discourse: “**And he said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in my name, saying, I am [Christ]; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them.**” (Luke 21:8)
- Paul has already warned us: **Let no man deceive you by any means** (II Thessalonians 2:3).
- Paul warned Timothy: “**But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived**” (II Timothy 3:13).

It should not be misunderstood that God anticipated willful ignorance infiltrating the church. God pointedly noted that the antichrist and his accomplices will deceive at the end of time. Babylon presents herself as a “mystery” (Revelation 17:6), fully present, fully misunderstood and filled with **deception**. Those claiming to be God’s people are at risk.

Has the Roman Catholic Church elevated deception and evil to an “art”?

Yes, through “evasion,” “equivocation,” “casuistry,” “probabilism” and “mental reservation.”¹⁰ Anything “is lawful if the end is lawful or if the intention is good.”

- This has created justification not only to deceive but to even take a person’s life.¹¹
- The Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church (Can 252, 3) states that the works of Thomas Aquinas are official dogma, especially his many volumes of *Summa Theologica*.
- Aquinas’ position regarding heretics:
 “I answer that, With regard to heretics two points must be observed: one, on their own side; the other, on the side of the Church. On their own side there is the sin, whereby **they deserve not only to be separated from the Church by excommunication, but also to be severed from the world by death.**”¹²

In his Encyclical of August 4, 1879, Pope Leo XIII stated that Aquinas’ theology was a definitive exposition of Catholic doctrine.¹³ He remains a saint, and his writings are revered.¹⁴

Later, Pope Pius IX called for Vatican I in 1868. The first session was December 8, 1869.

- He obtained official church acceptance of his work deceptively worded *Syllabus of Errors*, written in 1864.
- It too is definitive Catholic dogma.¹⁵ Some of its deceptive and coercive positions:

¹⁰ Bull, Peter; *The Microanalysis of Political Communication: Claptrap and Ambiguity*; <http://searchworks.stanford.edu/view/5434518>

¹¹ Stuart, P. D.; *Codeword Barbelon*, book 1 (Lux-Verbi Books, Enfield. London, United Kingdom; 2009).

¹² Aquinas, Thomas; SMT SS I[11] A[3] Body Para. ½ [cf. Aquin.: SMT SS Q[11] A[3] Body Para. 2/2]; <http://www.aloha.net/~mikesch/aquinas.htm>; *The Art of Evil: “The Moral Theology of the Jesuits,”* chpr V, pp. 59-72.

¹³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Aquinas.

¹⁴ <http://www.stpeterslist.com/3354/vatican-ii-did-away-with-aquinas-4-references-that-prove-otherwise/>

¹⁵ <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/14368b.htm>

1. (#15) No man is free to embrace and profess any religion which he believes to be true.
2. (#17) Eternal salvation is not even to be hoped for outside of the Catholic Church.
3. (#18) Protestantism is condemned and heretical.
4. (#24) The Church has the moral right to employ force against temporal powers.
5. (#55) Separation of church and state is condemned.
6. (#57) Civil laws must bend to divine and ecclesiastical authority.
7. (#79) Free speech is condemned.

Most intriguing, much of the geopolitical redactions of the Obama administration came from Jon Favreau, Obama's Chief speechwriter until recently.

- He was Jesuit trained at the College of the Holy Cross, graduating as valedictorian.¹⁶
- Duplicid words infiltrated those presidential speeches.

The artifices and cunning messages that currently come out of Rome are epitomized in an article, ***The Pope's True Agenda***, by William Doyno Jr.¹⁷ Doyno is a contributor to *Inside the Vatican* magazine and author of the sinister book on Pius XII, *The Pius War: Responses to the Critics of Pius XII*, which attempts a revision of history relative to that pope's role in the holocaust. Rising geopolitical control is in view by Rome.

Facing Deception

What is now sinister and of deep concern are the growing moves to deceive individuals through ***blocking descent*** by Rome and Washington. An agenda, creating a "world order," falsely assumed to bring peace, is on the horizon. The media is facilitating this deception through under reporting and inaccurate facts. A few current examples:

1. The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) was billed as giving President Obama more fast track authority to negotiate trade agreements. But Senator Jeff Sessions reported that it creates an international legal body that would have vast powers to change U.S. law outside of the control of Congress.
 - a. Intriguingly, most of the United States legislators were virtually barred from studying the bill.
 - b. The Republican and Democratic House leadership forced its members to vote for this (both Roman Catholic Speaker of the House John Boehner and Minority Leader Nanci Pelosi led the charge).
 - c. Those that dissented were met with "mafia-like moves" stripping them of committee leadership.¹⁸

Many conservative observers have noted these tactics have never occurred before in American history!¹⁹ That bill is filled with deception that will shortly change America. (Senator Sessions had been able to study its contents.)

¹⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jon_Favreau_%28speechwriter%29

¹⁷ <http://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2014/12/the-popes-true-agenda>

¹⁸ <http://www.wnd.com/2015/06/gop-civil-war-intense-crackdown-on-conservatives/>

¹⁹ Kant, Garth; World Net Daily Exclusive, "GOP civil war: Intense crackdown on conservatives," June 22, 2015.

2. The Vatican notified all Catholics that they cannot dissent from the environmental teachings of Pope Francis in his just-released encyclical *Laudato Si'*.²⁰ It must be accepted as truth – though filled with false science. Intriguingly, secular “environmentalists” with an agenda guided the Vatican in its development.²¹
3. Ban ki-Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations, is pushing a geopolitical agenda using “global warming” as its justification. On December 8, 2009, 166 professors, scientist and climate experts wrote a letter to ki-Moon warning him that this issue was not settled or clear.²²

That important communique’ was ignored by Secretary Ban ki-Moon. Intriguingly, he flew to the Vatican on April 28, 2015, to co-host, with Pope Frances, a meeting on global warming and the environment. Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, spoke: Not dealing with this planet’s degradation was “a crime against the natural world [and] is a sin.”²³ This whole “movement” is based on falsehood.

4. Few have reported on the American delusion that is occurring under the direction of **social psychologists**. Virtually all such specialists in the United States belong to one party. During Obama’s two presidential campaigns he had many of these specialists advising him how to change mass thinking. The recent demonstrations at Ferguson, Baltimore and against the RFRA in Indiana, causing major legislative changes within 48 hours, were all on cue. The opinions and values of Americans are changing, now dubbed the “Great Unraveling” of America’s moral base.²⁴

This control of social thinking has led to “softening” attitudes towards homosexuality, gay marriages and transgenderism. It has ambushed the traditional “Christian mores” of society. More and more citizens are accepting this anti-Biblical behavior as normal. Under the guise of “equality” there is mass pressure to conform to a nebulous Catholic philosophy called the “common good.” **Stifling dissent is a growing tool to regiment the masses.** Punishing resistance is already bringing isolation and denunciation.²⁵ Will religious directives under the guise of “common good” be shortly seen?

Stifling Truth

In a speech at Georgetown University, President Obama openly showed contempt for the conservative media. He said that “we’re going to have to change how our body politic thinks, which means we’re going to have to change how the media reports on ... issues.”²⁶

- This is out of the Marxist playbook, as are the writings of Pope Francis since assuming that office! Free speech is to be controlled – capitalism destroyed.²⁷

²⁰ Reported by Franciscan Ashley Beck, <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/commentandblogs/2015/06/19/no-catholic-is-free-to-dissent-from-the-teaching-of-laudato-si/>

²¹ <https://blog.heartland.org/2015/07/how-the-power-elite-prejudiced-the-popes-climate-change-encyclical/>

²² <https://web.archive.org/web/20141111004933/http://www.copenhagenclimatechallenge.org/>

²³ http://www.slate.com/articles/health_and_science/science/2015/05/pope_francois_ban_ki_moon_climate_change_talks_renewed_faith_from_vatican.html

²⁴ Morabito, Stella; <http://thefederalist.com/2015/06/08/how-to-escape-the-age-of-mass-delusion/>

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ Barber, Matt; Barber, Matt; Townhall.com, “You Must be Made to Obey,” May 17, 2015.

²⁷ http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/comment/ambroseevans_pritchard/10559802/Liberation-Theology-is-back-as-Pope-Francis-holds-capitalism-to-account.html

- Control the thinking by controlling the media. Punish any resistance. This is laying the groundwork for the beasts of Revelation 13.

The defiance of the White House against Congress is unprecedented in American history. The U.S. Treasury Department has rebuffed a request by the House Ways and Means Chairman, Representative Paul Ryan, to explain how Obamacare insurers were given three billion dollars without Congressional approval, as one recent example.²⁸

The Federal Reserve chairwoman, Janet Yellen, resisted any effort to audit the Reserve and how it determines monetary policy. Its decisions are shrouded in deception and corruption behind closed doors.²⁹

Why is all this important? An “agenda” is moving forward that has knitted world leaders together with strange financial machinations. The Institute for Works of Religion, i.e., the Vatican Bank, has been the most “secret” bank in the world.³⁰ Repeated Papal announcements that it would be “cleaned of corruption” have never gone beyond “intentions.” Its ties to international banks through secret accounts and transactions are disturbing and seditious. Closely associated with this is the highly secret Bank of International Settlements (BIS). At its headquarters in Basel, Switzerland, are offices of the International Monetary Fund – and its Financial Stability Board. The IMF is headed by Catholic Christine Lagarde.³¹ The links with Rome are sinister.

- The IMF is hoping to soon become the world’s financial policy maker.³²
- Of the papacy – king of the north motif – it is said, “*he shall have power over the treasures of gold and silver and over all the precious things of Egypt.*” (Egypt in prophecy refers to the wicked world).³³ Something coercive is happening.

In a world where this news barely surfaces, an “agenda” moves forward that will soon affect every citizen.

“For the Good of the Planet”

The United Nations is launching a meeting called the Sustainable Development Summit to begin management of the entire globe through environmental issues this fall.

- It will be launched September 25-27, 2015, at the United Nations.
- Pope Francis will be the keynote speaker/person to begin the summit, after he addresses the General Assembly.³⁴

²⁸ Klein, Philip; worldnetdaily.com, “Treasury Won’t Explain Decision to Make \$3 Billion Obamacare Payments,” February 26, 2015.

²⁹ Shilling, Chelsea; worldnetdaily.com, Federal Reserve Chairwoman Yellen: “We are Extensively Audited,” February 24, 2015.

³⁰ <http://www.forbes.com/sites/realspin/2012/06/26/the-vatican-bank-the-most-secret-bank-in-the-world/>

³¹ Jasper, William F.; *New American*, “New IMF,” May 18, 2015.

³² Bloomberg News, “Federal Crises – Liquidity Function Reviewed for Potential use by IMF,” April 19, 2015.

³³ Fowler, Franklin S., Jr.; *The Coming Battle between Two Apostate Powers – Again!* (Daniel 11:36-45), p. 20.

³⁴ <http://agenda21news.com/2015/05/in-september-the-un-launches-a-major-sustainable-development-agenda-for-the-entire-planet/>

By people who are not elected through representation, the world is being transformed. A “Great Unraveling” has truly begun. Intriguingly, in major areas of change, resistance is being barred:

Ponder this:

Deception and control are encircling its tentacles on the citizens of America – and slowly the world. Recall these recent headlines:

1. You “must be made” to obey – President Obama – May 2015.³⁵ Made in speech to Georgetown University as part of his contempt for conservative media and especially Fox News.
2. “Prosecute Global Warming skeptics,” cried Democratic Senator of Rhode Island, Sheldon Whitehuss³⁶ in June of 2015.
3. Now that the Supreme Court’s 5 to 4 decision to make gay marriage a constitutional right, Mark Oppenheimer of the New York Times is calling for the tax exempt status of churches be stripped ***if there is resistance*** to such a marriage.³⁷

Do you see how deception and coercion are rising? A growing number of movements and laws will soon haunt those who remain indifferent and apathetic to this rapidly changing world!

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³⁵ Barber, Matt; World Net Daily, May 17, 2015.

³⁶ Hemingway, Mark: “Use Rico Laws to Prosecute Global Warming Skeptics,” The Blog; June 2, 2015.

³⁷ <http://www.breitbart.com/big-journalism/2015/06/28/new-york-times-columnist-time-to-end-tax-exemptions-for-religious-institutions/>