

THE ORTHODOX SURVIVAL COURSE

Lecture Nine: Maran-atha

“The Apocalypse Is Now”

- “It is truly later than we think; the Apocalypse is now.” -Fr Seraphim Rose
- It is the unveiling, uncovering, the revelation. It is unfolding before us.
- The book of the Apocalypse (Revelation)
 - Subject to a lot of interpretation, particularly after the World Wars. Some attempts have been more and others less successful.
- We must be watchful and know the times and how they are unfolding
 - “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near” Luke 21:29-31
- **The signs:**
 - Return to idolatry
 - Consolidation of power
 - Rise of a universal religion
- **The Tactic: Boiling the Frog:**
 - St Paisios says: “The secular spirit deceives us into making small concessions at first, until it gradually gets hold of us. Evil walks in small steps. If it were to come all at once, we would not be deceived. You see, if you want to scald a frog, you must do it gradually, by first pouring water on it that is just a little bit warm. If you pour boiling water right away, it jumps up and leaps away. It escapes the danger. But if you pour warm water slowly, little by little, the frog will first shake it off but then it will except it. If you pour a little more, it will continue shaking it off but without jumping away. In this way it will sit there and slowly be scalded without realizing how. Even if you say to it, “hey Mr. Frog, get up and leave, I am pouring scalding water on you,” it still wouldn’t leave. It would stay beneath the streaming water which gradually becomes hotter and hotter until it is totally scalded. Well, this is exactly how the devil operates. He works on us gradually, until we end up scorched without even realizing it!”¹
 - “In our age of apostasy preceding the manifestation of Antichrist, the devil has been loosed for a time (Apoc. 20:7) to work the false miracles which he could not work during the “thousand years” of Grace in the Church of Christ (Apoc. 20:3), and to gather in the hellish harvest of souls who “received not the love of the truth” (II Thess. 2:10). We can tell that the time of Antichrist is truly near by the very fact that the satanic harvest is now being ripened not merely among the pagan peoples, who have not heard of Christ, but even more among “Christians” who

¹ With Pain and Love for Contemporary Man, p. 74.

have lost the savor of Christianity. It is of the very nature of Antichrist to present the kingdom of the devil *as if it were of Christ.*”ⁱⁱ - Fr. Seraphim Rose

Who Is The Antichrist?

- Many antichrists
 - The work of the spirit of the antichrist has been active since the first coming of Christ, and arguably since the foundation of the world. The Fathers say that Cain was the first antichrist.
 - “Therefore it is not exceedingly important if the actual Antichrist comes next year, this year, after fifty years, or after five hundred years. What is important is to realize that many antichrists have come into the world, as Holy Scripture tells us, and we need to be watchful” (1 John 2:18). -Archimandrite Athanasios Mitilinaios.
- What are the signs that he will come?
 - He will be preceded by the False Prophet (the mocking of St John the Baptist) who will bring peace and perform miracles “even making fire come down from heaven” (Rev. 13)
 - Directly connected to the coming of Christ therefore, the time is unknown.
 - “Before Christ the Antichrist comes, immediately before the coming of Christ.”- St John Chrysostom
- What will the Antichrist be?
 - He will be a man, but the worst fruit since the time of Adam.
 - St Augustine says he will be the “monkey of Christ.”
 - The Antichrist will be a man, but pretend to perform the miracles of Christ and take the place of Christ
 - He will falsify that he was born of a virgin, but in reality will be born through Satan’s influence.
 - St Andrew of Caesarea says that he will be a Jew from the tribe of Dan, pointing to St John’s excluding the tribe (Rev. 7:5-8) and as foretold in the prophecy of Jacob in Genesis.
 - He will come out of nowhere, originating from the land of Galilee
 - He will deceive the nations with miracles and charm so that they will want him to be their king.
 - He will rule from Israel and become a world leader, and his evil will culminate in the self-proclamation of his “divinity”
 - He will surpass Roman emperors in his evil because he will tolerate no other religion.
 - He will rebuild the Temple of Solomon to reveal his antithesis to Jesus Christ.
 - He will declare a “new age” and deceive the elect.

ⁱⁱ (*Orthodox and the Religion of the Future* p. 224-225)

- While he destroys others, he will destroy himself, and think he will rule earth eternally not knowing he is the *son of perdition* (2 Thess 2:3).
- He will be totally destroyed by the Second Coming of Christ, and will be immediately cast into hell with the False Prophet.

What is the Mark of the Beast?

- It is the *seal* of the antichrist
 - Worship of him will be demanded and economic authority will be demanded.
 - It is the seal of a slave or military officer. A brand that bears allegiance.
 - It will be the numerical value of his name: 666
 - The name has never been revealed and it is of a spiritual nature. Perhaps St John knew it, but was given the command: *These things you will not write down* (Rev. 10:4).
 - For the Jews the number 666 is a symbol of economy. As mentioned in the Old Testament, the Israelites imposed a specific tax upon the people they conquered through various wars. The annual amount of the tax was 666 talents of gold (cf. Kg 10:14; 1 Chr 9:13).
 - “It is safer and less dangerous to await the fulfillment of the prophecy than to attempt to conjecture and decode the possible names, especially since many names correspond to the afore-said number.” -St Andrew of Caesarea
- It will *fulfill the scripture*
 - People will become servants whether they understand or not.
- Those who do not receive it will suffer an economic embargo and will be persecuted.
 - “In America, marked dogs transmit a signal and can be located in no time at all where ever they may be. So that they know where each dog is at. Dogs that do not have an identifying mark, and dogs found without an owner are euthanized. Later, they’ll start killing people too...” -St Paisios (+1994)
- How will it be administered?
 - Medical advancement as a gateway:
 - “Tons of fish have been marked and are being observed through satellites to study their migration patterns. And now a vaccine has been developed to combat a new disease, which will be obligatory and those taking it will be marked...”-St Paisios
 - “They are warning us – to expect a very impactful flu. They are cautioning the world about a coming flue. How would they know this?! It is obvious they know, because they will release the flu! They will create viruses! This will not be naturally occurring – ordinary type of pandemical flu, but one, in which they will create themselves.

A manufactured virus from the United States of America. What will cause this new flu – will be something that resembles that of a flu. In medical terms, it may be caused by a form of mycoplasma (a bacteria known for being naturally resistant to antibiotics). Which will be transferred via the means of a supposed “anti-viral” vaccine.

We need to put our attention on this point here! People will be rushing to get an anti-viral (flu-fighting) vaccine. And little do they know that this vaccine will contain the virus in and of itself” Elder Savvas Achilleos (+2016)

- Technology as a Gateway
 - Implants in the name of technology and convenience

What do we do?

- Hold fast.
 - *Watch and pray that you do not enter into temptation* (Matt 26:41) [PG 341-42]
 - Listen to the Saints!
- Build the Ark
 - The date of the flood was not known and preparation for it was a 120 year sermon of repentance.