

## **THE SPIRIT OF AUTOCRACY – An End-Times Prophetic Fulfillment**

What is going on in our world? People in various nations are voluntarily abandoning democratic institutions in favor of an autocratic form of governance. In other words, they have arrived at a point in their lives where they prefer dictatorship over democracy; of having a nation where the government is under the control of one person who possesses absolute power and authority. But why? I am sure that political scientists have answers, but so does the Word of God.

The Bible teaches that human history, as we currently know it, will end with the implementation of a one-world government, under the rule and reign of one individual: Antichrist. He will be accompanied by an evil genius known as the false prophet. Both individuals are mentioned in detail in Revelation 13. The spirit of autocracy which is currently spreading throughout our world is setting the stage for this end-time world order. The foundational reason, on a strictly human level, will consist of a desire by our fallen humanity for peace and safety. And the reason is obvious. Our world in these last days has become anything but peaceful and safe. Jesus Himself warns us of such a tumultuous time in Matthew 24:4-8, confirmed by the apostle Paul in passages such as 1 Timothy 4:1-2 and 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

That desire for peace and safety will be satisfied by the Antichrist, who will make a covenant with the many for seven years, which will provide for the peace and safety our lost and fallen world longs for (Daniel 9:24-27). But that positive horizontal scenario will be interrupted by the judgment of God falling upon planet earth in a manner that will be absolutely unprecedented, as revealed by Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3, where we read the following –

**“Now as to the times and epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, ‘PEACE AND SAFETY!’ (emphasis added) then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.”**

Our Savior, in His Olivet Discourse, also indicates that this time of God’s judgement upon our world will intensify at the mid-point of the seven-year peace treaty (Matthew 24:15-22; cf. Daniel 9:27). This will be due to the fact that the Antichrist will become guilty of the Abomination of Desolation, in that he will no longer be content with his position as the world’s dictator, but one **“who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.”** (2 Thessalonians 2:4) At which point, worshipping this man who usurps the place of God will no longer be optional (Revelation 13:5-9). His bosom buddy, the false prophet, will see to that. He will require the imposition of a mark on the right hand or forehead of everyone, symbolizing one’s willingness to worship the Antichrist. The reception of the mark will provide the additional benefit of being able to buy and sell, which will be denied to everyone who refuses to receive the mark and refuses to worship this abominable man, who exalts himself as God (Revelation 13:11-18; 14:9-11).

No wonder the apostle John refers to these two men, in Revelation 13:4 and 13:11, as “BEASTS;” with the specific identity of this gruesome twosome remaining a subject for personal conjecture. But I for one, am convinced beyond the shadow of any doubt, that these two individuals are alive and well on planet earth, as adults, right now. And no mere mortals will be able to stop them.