

# Seven Threats of Our Time

## #4 The Consolidation of Massive Earthly Power

[Del Tackett 7 Threats Series with Video link](#)

[Del Tackett Threat #4 Article](#)

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We are continuing with Part 2 of the fourth session of the *Seven Threats of Our Time*, webinar series, by Dr. Del Tackett, author of The Truth Project and The Engagement Project. tonight, called, *The Consolidation of Massive Earthly Power*.

Del Tackett — September 28, 2021 (modified with livestream added)

### In Part One we talked about

#### God's *Modus Operandi* background

**God** is **the one** who has not only created man both male and female in the image of God. But He then created an entire universe as well as human beings and living creatures **in systems**. For human beings we call those [systems] **Social Order** or **social systems**.

So all of this social order that God has designed is important for us to understand, because it is that design that we need to continually move towards. That's the benchmark for how we [should] live our lives.

Well, in each of those social **spheres**, those social systems, carry the notion of **Authority**, **submission**, and **roles** associated with who you are in that social order. But there are **limits** upon that authority, that submission as well those roles according to God's word.

So, Del believes there are **six social institutions** that God has created for man, yea seven, the last *[institution]* is about **the prime social system** and **that is God Himself**. He is the God who is socially complex. He is the triune, [three in one], God. And it should not surprise us, therefore, that the triune God, who is socially complex, **created a universe of systems**. Of **diverse pieces and parts that all work together** for some higher good.

And so, in studying the scripture, these are **the six** that, I believe, God has instituted: The **Family**, **State**, **Church**, *(the sphere of) Labor* (*,we would understand as business*), *(the social order of) God & Man* (*[which is] our relationship to God, and there are clear biblical expressions of the authority in that social system. The submission and roles that we play*), *(and then the final one is the sphere of) Community* (*, that is, how we are supposed to be engaging our neighbor*).

So this leads us up to

## **God's *Modus Operandi*,**

[in] that it appears that God has **created, equipped, empowered** and then He **delegates authority and responsibilities** to His creatures to operate within those social systems so that even the smallest creature might flourish and bear fruit. And that fruit brings glory to God.

## **In Contrasting God's nature and Satan's purposes we find:**

### **God delegates authority**

down to the lowest level so that the smallest creature might flourish and bring Him glory;

### **Satan's *Modus Operandi* is the opposite.**

Satan consolidates power at the top, increasingly enslaving people, making them dependent and destroying their desire and incentives to be fruitful.

God creates His creatures, He then equips them, empowers them and then He delegates authority to them down to the smallest creature, so that the smallest creature might flourish and bring forth fruit. And that fruit brings glory to God.

Satan consolidates power at the top making them dependent and destroying their fruitfulness. Satan hates the glory of God and this is one of the prime ways in which he attempts to destroy the glory of God **by destroying the fruitfulness of creatures**. And he has done that often times through *the consolidation of power*.

## **Let's now talk about this [Modus Operandi of God & Satan],**

from the stand point of what happens when we are obedient to that, when we reject that, and the consequences associated with that. So, in order to do that we'll look at

### **the State, as an example and talk about God's design.**

But very clearly in the scriptures when God talks about the State, God, Himself, is a member of that system. And He delegates authority to the king, but **the king is in submission to God**. The **citizens** have a dual submission, they are to **submit to the king** but they are **also to submit to God** in such a way that if the king requires them to do that which is disobedient towards God, **we are to obey God first**.

So the first example, [of the State exceeding its authority], was

### **Nebuchadnezzar,**

who became puffed up and began proclaiming how **he** is the one that has put all of Babylon and everything [in] the empire together by his might and by his power. Well, God immediately taught Nebuchadnezzar a lesson. And [Nebuchadnezzar] found himself out in the pasture eating grass like a cow, without his senses. And the scripture says he remained there until he came to his senses. And then he acknowledged that God is the one who is sovereign over all the nations. And [God] gives power to whomever He wishes.

## Let's continue now with Part 2

Well, the other two examples,

### **Saul and Uzziah,**

require us to then talk about the design for the church. So, God has designed the church, if we look at the new covenant, where Christ is head of the church, there are leaders, we read about this in Ephesians 4 and other places in the scripture that talk about how this institution is designed. The saints are to be submissive to the leaders, but they are to be submissive to Christ, the leaders are submissive to Christ. And this leads us then, [to] the term, "sphere sovereignty." This is a term that was coined by *Abraham Kuyper*, but it is a good term for us, because I believe the scripture does, indeed, teach that when God created these institutions, he created them with a great deal of sovereignty. Not a sovereignty over God, but a sovereignty associated with the role and purposes that God made for them.

**So that the church was not to superimpose its authority over the State and the State was not to superimpose its authority over the church.** They were to operate properly, under God's design, under the sovereign delegation of authority that God had given to them.

So, in the first case, you recall

#### **the story of [King] Saul.**

Saul was anointed as king, he wasn't anointed as priest, but as king. But you recall that Saul in [a] particular event became impatient for the priest to arrive, so he took on that role himself. Well, God condemned that and punished Saul as a result.

#### **Uzziah,**

another very, very graphic illustration for us. Uzziah was a wonderful king. Scripture talks at length of all that he had done and honored God and then the second part begins with these horrible words... it says that when Uzziah became powerful then he began to do that which was wrong. And so, Uzziah when he became powerful began to believe that he had the right to go into the temple and offer and burn incense. Well, God judged him for that and he had leprosy until the day that he died and was buried separately, not with the [other] kings.

So God is very serious about this notion, that we refer to as, **sphere sovereignty**, that the king is not supposed to assume he has authority in the other institutions that God has made.

**So this then leads us to talk about**

## **#4 The Consolidation of Massive Earthly Power.**

So one of the primary ways that we've seen in the past history, we see it today, is often termed, **Statism**. And that is when power is consolidated into an increasingly larger and larger State.

## So If we look at these institutions as God has designed them

We looked at the State and the Church. There is the sphere of the family. The sphere of labor, God & Man, and Community.

So here we have an example of what happens when the king, who is supposed to be subject to God and to rule in the way that God has caused him to rule and has given him authority to rule, he is to punish evil and to condone what is good. And that's **not**, evil in **what the king thinks** is evil, **not** good in what **the king thinks** is good, **because** the king can **begin to think** that what is good, is what's good for the king, rather than, goodness associated with the absolute truth of God.

And so, under that design, *[in an ideal world]*, things should work well. And each one of these spheres is really *(from Del's-perspective)* is built in order to ensure the fruitfulness of the members.

So **the Family** is there to raise children, to ensure so that they are raised as noble men and virtuous women and that they flourish in their life.

**The sphere of Labor** is to take the largess *[the generous gifts]* that God has given us and to enlarge the pie, to plant seeds and reap a hundred fold.

**The church**, the leaders job as you read in Ephesians four is to equip the saints for the work of ministry.

**The king** is to punish evil and to condone what is good so that citizens are free in their property rights, they are free to be able to flourish.

So all of these systems are to ensure the fruitfulness, the flourishing, of God's creatures.

### [But under] Statism...

What happens is the king begins to act, the government begins to act, as if God does not exist. Of course, God does exist, but if the king, the government, begins to act as if God is not there or if [God] is just given a little bit of acknowledgement, here on the side, and so forth. The king has to do that, he has to get rid of God in order for him to begin to usurp and grow the power beyond what God has given him.

And so, Statism is what occurs when the state then begins to pull each of these sovereign institutions underneath its authority and power and increasingly begins to reign over those institutions. To a large extent, unfortunately, this is what's happening in our culture. There is an increasingly powerful state, primarily at the Federal level, but also at the state level, that has assumed authority. Authority over labor, authority [over] the church, what he can't say, what he can say, that you can meet, that you can't meet. Authority over the family and so forth.

So, this is what happens when the state begins to assume more and more power and then goes beyond its bounds. And again, I wish that God would sometimes strike with leprosy or put people out in a pasture eating grass like a cow. But the dustbin of history is littered with nation-states that have gone this route and have eventually collapsed. Primarily, because the fruitfulness of the people has been destroyed. And as that fruit begins to wither, the state itself becomes more desperate to try and grab on to more and more of our declining resources and it becomes a death spiral. And so, it's tossed eventually into the dustbin of history as another failed nation-state.

That is why, of course, many people are warning, that what is happening here, in this culture is a result of that [Statism].

That brings to mind, again to me, having done a great deal of study on the founding era, how that founding generation were so wise.

## If we look at America,

They were good historians, by the way.

The Founders were deeply concerned with this propensity [towards Statism] and acted objectively to prevent it. They created a Constitution that gave limited power to the Federal Government declaring all other power was to be retained by the people and the states. They wrote a Bill of Rights to reinforce the Federal boundaries. Their intent was that the people and the states would be the balance of power that would keep it in check.

They knew history, they knew that history was littered with the tragedy associated with nation-states that have gone this route and so they did the best they could in creating a governmental system that had balance of powers to try and prevent this from happening.

One balance was the balance between the Federal government and the state, which has pretty much been done away with today. If you want to read more about that, if you look at the articles we linked, [Dell has] written before about the rise of the *Federal Beast* and the call for a *Balance of Powers Act* (which I wrote, that needs to be enacted) to reign in [the states] insatiable lust for ever more power and control and reverse what's happening in our culture, if it can be.

This also brings to mind what we see happening in Eastern Europe today where the king becomes so powerful that it is not sufficient for him to simply rule over the institutions within his borders, but then to reach out and to attempt to try and take. And of course when we talk about what has happened today, because when you go back and look at, what has been called, Statism, this is a horrific situation for people. As we are seeing today in Ukraine as we've seen in the history of many nation-states, the mass graves, the millions of people that have been slaughtered, the result of this can be horrific. And this is the typical thing that has happened in the past, [that] power usually was consolidated with the king rather than following the biblical role that he is subject to God. And he has limited authority and limited power.

## But what we're facing today is something unique.

And this is what I'm trying to represent here. And again, I tremble a bit by talking about seven horns. But **I'm doing that because of what I believe is the harlot** that's riding this beast that has arisen. It's a beast that is different from any beast that we've ever seen in the history of man. And that is primarily a result of the technology that is available to us today.

So, the state in the situation that we talked about now, this massive beast and the power, that consolidation of earthly power, **the state is only ONE partner** in this power. Only one horn [of seven], we would say, in this beast that has arisen.

## On [one end] is the sphere of Labor.

And I'll be honest with you, twenty years ago I would never believed that the sphere of Labor would have arisen to be a **horn of power**, but it has. And most of you are probably familiar with what is happening. If you look simply at things like social media and other kinds of internet platforms. Many people's businesses are now tied directly to that technology and other technologies. Well, what has happened is, that those major technological businesses, corporations, multinational corporations, have begun to assume **a new worldview**. We're going to talk about that next time, the next threat (***The Rise of a Demonic Worldview***). And I wondered whether I should do that first or second, but this is the right way, I think. So there is a new worldview that has assumed [authority] within our culture, at the elite level. And so, what has happened is, we find these major large technological multinational corporations are now **imposing** that worldview in such a way that you have probably heard, that if you do not walk according to that worldview then you are going to be hindered in your online presence. We've felt that here, I've felt that, we've seen that as we have been denied services as a result of our stand, which has not been (thoroughly) a stand that has been dramatic, but it's sufficient enough for us to be labeled as hostile and to be limited in what we can do.

So the sphere of Labor has become an extremely powerful horn in this beast that we've never really seen in the past. There have been sometimes in early America where there have been the railroad barons and those things where you see part of that begin to arise. But nothing like [what] we see today. And that is because of the ubiquitousness (***present, appearing, or found everywhere***) of the technology and how that technology has now become increasingly necessary for people to do business. So the sphere of Labor is now **exercising extreme authority** and with a **contrary worldview** that can mean that people can be canceled. They can be shut down and so forth and you've heard of those things.

So these five horns that [*are*] in the middle... (***Entertainment, Science, Media, Medicine, Academia***) are technically, from my perspective, a part of this sphere of Labor. In other words, they operate under the design and the scripture for a sphere of Labor. But they've become so powerful in our culture today that I wanted to call them out. Because each of them, in its own way, is a horn of increasing power.

[*On the end of the five, you have*] **Academia**, my guess is that most of you understand how powerful Academia has become in our culture today. If you do not understand this then I'm sorry to say you are ignorant about what is coming out of our schools. Even grade school, up through high school and our universities. This new worldview is being taught with a vengeance, and the product that comes out of those academic institutions in many, many cases is carrying that worldview. Academia holds a huge sway within our culture.

On the other side [*is*] **Entertainment**. No one in the history of man, I think, could ever have even begun to think of how a song could become so powerful. Or a movie could become so powerful. Of course, we didn't know what movies were. Entertainment was done, maybe, once a year when the traveling troupes came through town and you went to watch somebody perform a play or something like that. Now, entertainment is THE ubiquitous thing and the stats are that teenagers spend nine hours a day in screen time. Primarily that screen time is entertainment. It is watching videos, it's all kinds of sports and all kinds of things. And it's not just through phones, it's TV, all of those ways that we entertain ourselves. In fact, we will, in one of the threats, we will talk about how we have become addicted to entertainment. That entertainment today carries this new worldview.

You will not see a biblical worldview portrayed, well, in any way positive through the entertainment that comes to us through every quarter of our lives today.

The three in the middle, **(Science, Media, Medicine)**, we'll talk first about the **Media**. The media, of course, is also ubiquitous today because of technology. The news that you hear and read about, your understanding of what's really going on, is going to be basically formed and molded by what the media tells you and me. No one could have ever have guessed that anything like this [that the media would become so powerful] would have ever happened. There was a time where the most ubiquitous media was the newspaper. The newspaper that was printed locally, you could go down and talk to the newspaper folk(s). If you didn't agree with what they were doing [you could] talk about it, chat about it, and so forth. It was primarily the local newspaper. Before that it was just maybe a courier or messenger that would arrive by horseback or so forth. And now media is delivered to us instantaneously. We can all watch an event together or there are millions of people that are listening to a commentator who is telling you what's happening. It is an extremely powerful, powerful horn in our culture today and it can sway people.

The other two horns are **(Science & Medicine)**, there are some other horns that possible we could put here, but I thought I'd put these here to talk about maybe something that's even more current for us to understand. I guarantee you that nobody five years ago would have said that medicine is a very powerful force in our culture today. But it is! It's extremely powerful, as we have seen over the last few years [with the influence it's had on policies throughout the pandemic]. That is also coupled with the notion of science. There are major worldwide policies that are being enacted as a result of science, I'm fighting for the right word to say without causing a lot of people to be upset, scientific theories and hypotheses, we'll put it that way, that have been bought, such that, major, major policies are being enacted as a result of these things. And we've also seen that referred to, in terms of medicine & science, in terms of what we've just been through as well.

So these are the seven horns that in our day and in our time have arisen, have aligned themselves together. Each one of these has a powerful influence over the people in our culture today. And we as believers need to understand that not only, so that we can act with wisdom toward outsiders and others, but also for us to be wise to recognize and understand that these things [these horns] can mold us into the world's form [ie their view].

And we have been warned about that, have we not? In Romans chapter 12, do NOT be CONFORMED, do not be squeezed into the world's mold. Well, let me tell you, here are seven squeezers that are attempting to squeeze us into its mold and to have a power and control and sway over our lives.

Ok, so then, let me move to this next [idea — actually a slide] and superimpose what we were talking about last time [, malevolent compassion]. But this to me is a very interesting thing to ponder and to think about, that as we see in the imagery in Revelation, it's a strange imagery and it's hard to really understand, but the scripture talks about a harlot. A feminine imagery that's riding on top of this beast with seven horns. Well, in our day, the way I am looking at this today, is that we have here today, and this is what we talked about the last time, **this is not, again, a dissing thing about the women**, about their femininity. God designed them to be feminine, to lead with **grace and compassion**, but He also designed them for that grace and compassion **to be bridled truth and wisdom and righteousness**. When that is unbridled, we talked about earlier [tonight], we end up with a malevolent compassion. And in my mind [today], right or wrong, I'll pass it on to you, that this has become the prime ethic in our culture today. The prime ethic.

Everything is weighted against this malevolent compassion. And I would [say to you, that virtually] all the policies that are passed, the governor of Colorado just passed yesterday (2022) one of the most onerous abortion bills ever passed in this culture, and some even think that this bill is going to allow for infanticide, but if you read about it and you read the way that it was presented and those that are promoting it and so forth, it was constantly **promoted under the guise of compassion**.

All of the policies that we, I wrote about this in terms of what was happening, for example in California, the rise of crime, we talked about what was causing the rise of crime and the policies that are being passed, for example, to exempt anything under \$1,000 dollars as a misdemeanor. And so, therefore, people can walk in, ride a bike in to a Walgreens and start pulling off expensive drugs and ride out with a security guard watching them. Because it's simply a misdemeanor. So this drives almost everything that we've seen happening today. It's behind everything you see about trying to implement a different worldview around human sexuality. Everything, listen to it, watch it, everything is under the appeal to this prime ethic of compassion, but it's a malevolent compassion. In my mind as I borrow the imageries from the book of Revelation, this is the harlot that sits on top of each one of these [seven horns]. So that malevolent compassion, that notion of compassion driving everything, you'll see it in everyone of these horns of power. It drives everyone of these horns. All you have to do is think about it and watch for it and you will see it.

Ok, so this is the point at which we drop back and say... "Listen, listen"

## "Dear Remnant..."

Let not your heart be troubled. This is not a time to cower, it's not a time for us to have a melting heart or to wring our hands, to faint with fear or to become hopeless. I know it's hard, it's hard when we see all these things happening around us. Read the scriptures, just read the scriptures. Read the Psalms. And the Psalms will tell us over and over again that, yes, it appears that the evil flourish, but they only do so for a short time. God is still sovereign, He is in control and true justice will be brought eventually.

This is a time for us to **remember that we're here for a reason**. God has placed us here for a reason. We need to return to our first love and to engage with that kind of true agape love and build those significant relationships with those who providentially live near us. To pray for them with diligence. That's the way we're going to break through the depraved mind. That's the way we're going to break through the sceptic. That's the way we're going to break through the walls that are built and increasingly they are built between those who hold a biblical worldview and the rest of the world.

And we do this, why? —“in the hope that God will grant them repentance and they will come to their senses and escape the trap of the devil who has taken them captive to do his will.” [2 Timothy 2:24-26]

So, may God give us the grace and the wisdom and the strength of character to live in an increasingly hostile world. Yet it is a world in which we find ourselves as God's people. So, therefore, God has a plan for us in our day.

<https://www.deltackett.com/resources/35468/7-threats-in-our-times-4-the-consolidation-of-earthly-power>