

Daily Meditation 09-30-24 MAGA-Trump Book Finally Landing, and An Invitation

Good morning.

Today we're reflecting on my new book, which is finally going to be available to those of you who've ordered a physical copy. It's been available for a couple weeks for the audio version, and for the ebook. But there's been this delay for which we're very sorry, but finally it's arrived. Dennis will be shipping these books out immediately,

The one issue that comes up in this book, and in our times, because this book is oriented very much toward the decision that we call elections, happening within the next 40 days. But one issue that comes up for me, is to ask a question that probably not everyone in the country is asking. And that question is, "What Would Hildegard Do?"

What would Hildegard do, this recently declared Saint and Doctor of the church, because she was very political and very spiritual. Of course, she was a great healer and a leader in her own community, as an abbess. She put on plays, and wrote the script as well as the music. So actually, she put on operas, the oldest operas in the West by 300 years. She was a scientist who wrote 10 books, many of them on science, thoroughly curious, constantly curious. And of course, she was a genius in music, and so many other things.

But she also took on popes, emperors, bishops, archbishops, abbots: criticizing them for what they were failing to do very often, and what they could be doing with their power, for the common good.

But I devote a whole chapter to her in this book, because she painted an amazing picture of the Antichrist, and she has her own commentary on it. And what's clear in the commentary is that she is furious. She is raging. She is morally outraged. And here are a few of her words. This is Chapter 8, "Hildegard of Bingen: The Anti-christ as Patriarchy."

Because this comes true and very explicit in her painting of the Antichrist. And her painting is based on the Apocalypse, and the Book of Apocalypse. She has obviously read it thoroughly. But of course, she translates it, if you will, into her own time, and into her own images and into her own story around these images. But it very much draws on the stories of the Book of Apocalypse, as well as the stories of Jesus, because she does put Jesus in the picture as an antidote, as medicine, in opposition to the Antichrist.

But she talks about warlike men, and those who put luxury living in their own selfish pleasure before the performance of worthwhile acts, and rulers who create sadness and uncleanness in

themselves, in their subjects, and those who rob others and defraud them and lie. And she talks about the darkness that stretches out many injustices. And that the Antichrist is chewing on this rope, that is unraveling the order in society itself.

Christ is a young man. She calls “the Son of Man, who is the beginning of justice, watches over the strength of the union of mere knowledge and human work.” Mere knowledge is awareness that we are sons and daughters of God. We are images of God, and we are capable of choosing. And it is a choice. It is an election, choosing to be Godlike, insofar as we choose justice and we choose compassion.

She paints prophets who, she says, “carry the banner of the justice of God and put the devil to flight.” And that Christ is “a very strong warrior,” who will break the head of injustice. And justice and beauty will ultimately triumph.

So are we carrying out our prophetic task, to put the devil to flight, to be very strong warriors?

She says, “the Antichrist is the son of injustice, the cursed one of the cursed ones. He rushes into institutions such as the church, and destroys them from the inside.” And she talks in the second person to the Antichrist:

Oh, you cave of injustice. Your works seek the pit of hell. You will live absorbed in your gluttony there, and that hellish place will vomit forth stink. The world will recognize in this stench the bitterness of death, in the destroyer of destructions.

And she paints a picture of this stink, which is a picture of feces flying with a wicked mouth and wicked eyes. “This monster is the worst of beasts, and it joins up with kings and dukes and leaders and those with money and prestige, with power.” With power-people, all these people that are showing up at election time. “This devil has no power in good things, but only in evil things and eternal death,” she says.

Now let me just point out one concrete example of the work of the Antichrist in MAGA SCOTUS, the Supreme Court of our time. No question the Supreme Court, two thirds of it is MAGA. And one of the first laws that was passed and was before Trump was, of course, that of campaign financing: that corporations, we're told, are people, therefore with all the rights of persons. Therefore they can flood election time with cash, if they want, with very few restrictions.

So that Supreme Court decision was made before Trump. And what do we have today? Already billionaires have spent \$88 million in the seven most competitive Senate races in America. And 88% of that is supporting right-wing candidates.

So the Citizens United decision of the Supreme Court, which is MAGA — under Chief Justice Roberts, become more and more MAGA — this is affecting profoundly our choices, senators and of course, congresspeople, and of course, President. I don't know any other country in the world that claims to be democratic, but has this open gate where billionaires are allowed to flood their cash to determine that the elected ones represent their interests. The interests of a few, those who are super-rich, versus the interests of the common good.

So this is just one very concrete example of what I mean, by saying it's not just Trump, it's MAGA, and MAGA includes SCOTUS, and it includes much more. I have 18 named sources in one chapter in this book. But just to point out, and that's not to talk about what the Supreme Court has done recently, in effect, granting presidents to do whatever crimes they want, while they're president. A complete free green light to do that. Many, many decisions of SCOTUS are wrapped in MAGA, which is wrapped in what Hildegard and others for 2000 years have called antichrist.

Thank you. We'll see you next week.