

Text: 1 Sam 15.23

I want to give one more message about Communism. I think the areas we've covered already are enough to show that communism isn't compatible with biblical Christianity. There is one more prong to the philosophy of communism that I want to cover before we are finished with the subject.

We had this quote from the Encyclopedia Britannica about Marx's communist theory:

"His theory has three main aspects: first, a materialist conception of history; second, a critique of capitalism and its inner workings; and third, an account of the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism and its eventual replacement by communism."¹

We talked about the anti-god philosophy of materialism.

We also talked about the unbiblical economics of socialism.

This last subject is "revolutionary overthrow of capitalism."

I don't know of any country that voluntarily became dominated by communism. Some have adopted socialism to one extent or another, but the only countries that moved to communism did so with the bullet rather than the ballot.

Revolution is a core concept for communism.

The Bible says this about revolution.

1 Sa 15.23 "For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from *being* king."

Here Samuel is rebuking Saul for rebellion. The KJV says:

For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry.

In my title, I called revolution "inherent nihilism."

¹ "Communism - Marxist Theory, Class Struggle, Revolution," Encyclopedia Britannica, August 9, 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/communism>.

The definition of *nihilism* falls into several categories:

Philosophy. The belief or theory that the world has no real existence; the rejection of all notions of reality.²

Total rejection of prevailing religious beliefs, moral principles, laws, etc., often from a sense of despair and the belief that life is devoid of meaning. Also more generally ...: negativity, destructiveness, hostility to accepted beliefs or established institutions.³

A Nihilist was:

A supporter of a revolutionary movement in 19th-cent. and early 20th-cent. Russia, which rejected all systems of government, sought the complete overthrow of the established order, and was willing to use terrorism to achieve this end. Also (in extended use): a terrorist, a revolutionary.⁴

Nihilism is destructive, angry, and produces violent attempts to overthrow any social order.

Proposition: At the heart of communism is revolution and rebellion; it is broken spiritually.

I. The rebellion of Saul destroyed his house and position

A. The breach was spiritual: Saul's action showed a break between him and God (this is the heart of rebellion)

1. Commanded to destroy the Amalekites (1-3)
2. Spared the king and the best of the livestock (9)
3. Excused his rebellion with pious protests (14-15, 20-21)

Note "the Lord *your* God"

² *Oxford English Dictionary*, s.v. "nihilism, n., sense 1.a", July 2023.

<<https://doi.org/10.1093/OED/2199827288>>

³ *Oxford English Dictionary*, s.v. "nihilism, n., sense 2", July 2023.

<<https://doi.org/10.1093/OED/7862287626>>

⁴ *Oxford English Dictionary*, s.v. "nihilist, n., sense 2", July 2023.

<<https://doi.org/10.1093/OED/8732186654>>

B. Rebellion rebuked (22-23)

1. Kingdom taken from Saul (28-29)
2. Samuel taken from Saul (34-35)

C. The rest of the story

1. God anointed David
2. Saul and Jonathan and other sons slain

God opposes rebellion very strongly.

II. The revolutionary history of communism

A. Wikipedia lists these as “successful” communist revolutions

1. Russia – 1917
2. Mongolia – 1921
3. Albania – 1944
4. Bulgaria – 1944
5. Czechoslovakia – 1948
6. China – 1949
7. Cuba – 1953-1959
8. South Yemen – 1969
9. Somali – 1969
10. Benin – 1972
11. Afghanistan – 1978
12. Grenada – 1979
13. Nicaragua – 1979
14. Volta [Burkina Faso] – 1983
15. Nepal – 1996-2006

B. In addition, 35 failed attempted revolutions in many countries around the world

All of these revolutions involved thousands, if not millions of deaths as a direct result of the revolutions

Rm 13.1-2 ¶ Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.² Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

III. The revolutionary destructiveness of nihilism

- A. God established order in the world – man rebelled against his order
- B. God ordained human government in the fallen world (Gen 9) – man’s rebellion produced mixed results
 1. When men submit to order, general peace and prosperity follow
 2. When men reject order, misery, death and destruction follow
 - a. Tyrants reject order for the rule of their own will
 - b. Citizens reject order for various reasons (sometimes against tyrants, usually because they want someone else to rule)
- C. Present day movements are antagonistic to civil order
 1. Everything from militant atheism to militant climate activists to militant sexual revolutionaries despise “the patriarchy” etc.
 2. Communism as a threat has mostly waned in the world, but the spirit of revolution remains
 3. Christians can become affected by the rebellious spirit of the times

That is why thinking about these things is relevant — we need to understand the violent attitudes of our world and see why we should oppose them:

- Especially personally: God didn’t call us to be revolutionaries
- And at times publicly: As we have opportunity, we need to influence others to solving problems by good order, not revolution

Conclusion:

Proposition: At the heart of communism is revolution and rebellion; it is broken spiritually.

I am concerned that even our Christian world is breaking down into political activism, relying on the “strong right arm” of political power.

I don’t believe this is the church’s mission — nowhere in the Bible are we called to this.

We are called to walk humbly before God, to win souls to Christ and disciple them in the Christian walk.

That should occupy all our time. Leave the revolution to the revolutionaries.