

# Kingdom Report

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## **Katechon: Russia, The Third Rome Prophecy and the War on Antichrist**

The Russian State and the Russian Orthodox Church have a unique Christian eschatology. They have renewed an ancient partnership as the Third Rome to fight the rise of Antichrist. An interesting eschatology the evangelical church of the West is largely unaware of. Here is my analysis of their “end times” vision.

The prophecy preachers and teachers of the evangelical church in the west proclaim Pres. Putin and Russia as “Gog and Magog, tools of the Antichrist to invade and destroy Israel, enemies of God and the Kingdom of God. It is interesting to see things from the viewpoint of the Russian State and the Russian Orthodox Church.

They believe they have the prophetic destiny to fight for the Kingdom of God by preventing the rise of the Antichrist to fill the earth with the kingdom of darkness.

Yes really, a “Holy War” destined by their interpretation of Biblical prophecy. And the prophecy they use comes from Thessalonians 2 . But they have a different interpretation.

You will know the scripture but let me quote it.....

2Th 2:3-8 let no man beguile you in any wise: for *it will not be*, except the falling away come first, and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition, he that opposeth and exalteth himself against all that is called God or that is worshipped; so that he sitteth in the temple of God, setting himself forth as God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know that which restraineth, to the end that he may be revealed in his own season. For the mystery of lawlessness doth already work: only *there is* one that restraineth now, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall be revealed the lawless one, whom the Lord Jesus shall slay with the breath of his mouth, and bring to nought by the manifestation of his coming;

What we are dealing with is a different view of the “end times”. The Russian Orthodox Church has their own interpretation of the “end times” and the coming of the Antichrist. And their view is the Antichrist needs to be “restrained” from his work of evil in the world

Specifically who or what is that which “restrains” preventing the appearance of the “man of sin, son of perdition” or what we call ‘the Antichrist’ as Paul declares in this scripture?

In the Greek the word for “restrain” is “katechon”.

Who or what is that which restrains the appearance of Antichrist?

We think there are two main interpretations of who or what the “katechon is. There is the Reformed interpretation of the Reformation and then there is the Dispensational viewpoint of current “end times’ eschatology.

For the Dispensationalists the Antichrist comes during the Great Tribulation. What “restrains” the appearance of the Antichrist is the Holy Spirit and the Church. But when the Rapture takes both the Church and the Holy Spirit from the earth then the “restrainer” is removed and the Antichrist can appear.

For the Reformation preachers like Wesley, Calvin, Martin Luther, the Papacy and the Roman Catholic church were the Antichrist and the Antichrist system. The one sitting in the temple of God is the Pope proclaiming himself as Vicar of Christ...Vicar in Latin meaning “in the place of Christ” which in Greek is “anti-Christ”. The great falling away is the apostasy of the church under the papacy. The “restrainer” that prevented the rise of the papal Catholic church was the Roman Empire but when the Roman Empire fell it was morphed into the Holy Roman Empire and the Roman Catholic Church.

I by the way hold to the traditional Reformation view of the Papacy as the prophesied Antichrist. In my books and writings I go in greater detail which I will not do here.

The Orthodox Church broke away from the Catholic Church in 1054 AD because of the apostasy of the Popes and the papal system having greatly departed from the ‘faith once delivered to the saints.

For the Russian Orthodox Church Rome represents a state power that prevents the rise of the power of darkness and the kingdom of Antichrist from spreading in the earth. When Rome fell and the restrainer gone then the Pope and the Catholic church rose as an Antichrist spirit in the earth. However they see that another “Rome” is needed to act as the “restrainer” the “katechon” from Antichrist spreading to fill the earth.

### **The Third Rome Vision**

The concept of Moscow as the "Third Rome" originated in the late 15th and early 16th centuries as a theological and political doctrine asserting Moscow's role as the successor to Rome and Constantinople. The idea was first articulated by Metropolitan Zosimus of Moscow in 1492 and later elaborated by the monk Philotheus of Pskov. Philotheus wrote to Tsar Vasili III, declaring that "two Romes have fallen, the third stands, and there will be no fourth," suggesting that Moscow was the final bastion of true Christianity and that it had a divine mission to preserve and lead the Orthodox Christian world

The fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Turks in 1453 played a crucial role in shaping this concept. With the Byzantine Empire, the "Second Rome," no longer a center of Orthodox Christianity, Russian leaders and clerics saw an opportunity to position Moscow as the new center of the Orthodox world. This was further supported by the marriage of Ivan III to Sophia Palaiologina, the niece of the last Byzantine emperor, which provided a symbolic link to the Byzantine legacy. The "Third Rome" doctrine encompassed three interrelated fields:

1. **Theology:** Justifying the unity and primacy of the Eastern Orthodox Church under Moscow.
2. **Social Policy:** Promoting the unity of East Slavic territories through shared Orthodox faith and Slavic culture.
3. **State Doctrine:** Positioning the Moscow Prince as the supreme ruler and defender of Orthodox Christianity

In summary, the fall of Constantinople catalyzed the rise of Moscow as the "Third Rome" by transferring religious authority, enabling political alliances, and fostering a cultural and ideological shift that positioned Moscow as the new center of Orthodox Christianity and the heir to the Byzantine legacy. Their goal....

## **Preservation of True Orthodoxy**

The fall of Constantinople in 1453 was interpreted by Russian clerics as divine punishment for the Byzantine Empire's union with the Roman Catholic Church, which they viewed as heretical. Moscow was seen as the new center of true Orthodox Christianity, untainted by such heresies. This belief was strongly expressed by the monk Philotheus of Pskov, who declared that "two Romes have fallen, the third stands, and there will be no fourth"

## **Eschatological Significance**

Philotheus and other clerics believed that Moscow had a divine mission to uphold and protect the Orthodox faith until the end of times. The idea was that the first Rome fell due to heresy, and the second Rome (Constantinople) fell due to sin. Moscow, as the third Rome, was to stand as the final bastion of true Christianity, with no fourth Rome to follow. This eschatological view was rooted in biblical prophecy and the belief that Moscow was the last earthly kingdom before the apocalypse .

## **Unity of the Eastern Orthodox Church**

The theological justification also included the necessity and inevitability of the unity of the Eastern Orthodox Church under Moscow's leadership. This unity was seen as essential for preserving the purity and integrity of the Orthodox faith. The fall of Constantinople and the perceived corruption of the Greek Orthodox Church reinforced the belief that Moscow was now the rightful leader of the Orthodox world .

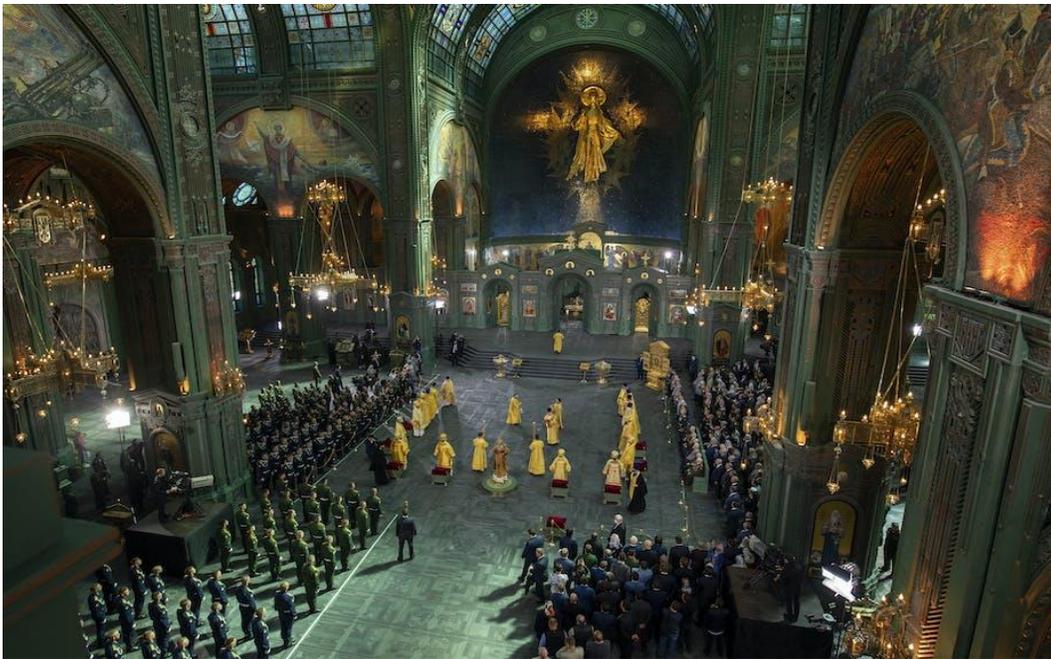
## **Divine Right and Responsibility**

The Russian rulers were seen as divinely appointed protectors of the Orthodox faith. This belief was encapsulated in the notion that the Moscow Prince should act as the supreme ruler and defender of the Christian Eastern Orthodox nations. The Church was expected to support the sovereign in this divine mission, further intertwining religious and political authority .

In summary, the theological justifications for Moscow becoming the "Third Rome" were deeply rooted in the preservation of true Orthodoxy, eschatological beliefs, the necessity of church unity, the divine right and responsibility of Russian rulers, and historical continuity with the Byzantine Empire. These justifications provided a powerful ideological foundation for Moscow's spiritual and political claims.

The church and state in Russia are on the same mission and support one another. This can be seen in the enormous investment Moscow has made in the Orthodox Church.

### **The Cathedral of the Armed Forces in Moscow**



Russian Orthodox Church Patriarch Kirill, center, attends a ceremony consecrating the Cathedral of Russian Armed Forces outside Moscow in 2022.

The Orthodox Church through the centuries has had a love, hate relations with their rulers be they Czars, Commissars or Presidents. The good ones they canonized as saints. The bad ones they endured. This has been a 1000 year historical relationship.

Today the Orthodox Church supports the Russian state and considers Vlad Putin a man sent by God to restore the nation from Communist rule and restore the traditions of culture, faith and family. And return the Church to its role of culture creator.

In a speech by Putin in November of 2023 he admonished the women of Russia...

"Many of our grandmothers and great great-grandmothers had seven or eight children. We should preserve and revive those wonderful traditions."

### **The War in Ukraine**

For Russia and the Orthodox Church the war in Ukraine is a matter of existential threat to the future of civilization. Christian Civilization. They consider this a war against NATO and not just the Ukrainian people. They see the nations of the NATO alliance as being the propagators of the Antichrist spirit of lawlessness, decadence, destruction of Christian values.

Before the war Russia's elite were being drawn into the European money and western values. They saw the destruction of traditional Christian values coming just as it had in Europe.

When the war broke out the western world declared major sanctions on Russia and their economy and financial system hoping to bankrupt the economy and destroy the Russian state and replace it with another regime as they did in Ukraine in 2014 Maidan revolution.

The opposite has happened. Russia is now basically debt free, its economy is thriving with full employment, rising wages and 5% annual growth. Russia has turned east with trade and diplomatic initiatives. It does not need anything from the west.

The degrading culture of the west to the Orthodox Church is the spirit of Antichrist. The Church and state are joined together to stop that influence and power from spreading into Russia,

They will win the war in Ukraine. The Slavic Russian people of western Ukraine will be reunited with Russia. These are traditional Russian lands. Odessa came from Catherine the Great.

Europe and the west are dying corrupt civilizations. Europe has abandoned their Christian roots and the civilization that come with that. Their economies will not survive the economic powers now rising in the east. Neither will the American economy.

The Russian army is now the most powerful in the world and Europe is deathly afraid of the consequences of their war on Russia. For Russia and their Church this is their war against the spirit of Antichrist. Building a Christian civilization to 'restrain' the power and influence and coming of Antichrist for another 1000 years is their goal.

It certainly is time for the evangelical church to reconsider their eschatology and return to the roots of the great Reformation and the civilization that spread from the Reformation. We are losing it to the spirit of Antichrist who has convinced and deluded the Church that we cannot restrain its power and influence and it is better we be raptured out of here to protect ourselves from that power.

And if you had any questions about the spirit of Antichrist in the west this mockery of the Christian church and the Lord Jesus Christ at the Olympic Games in Paris should clarify the matter.



What are we going to do about it?