



ELIJAH AND ELISHA

MESSENGERS IN WORD AND DEED

God Cares

- God cares about even our smallest needs and concerns
- 2 Kings 6:1-7
- Scripture tells us this event happened with one of the prophetic schools Elisha mentored, but it doesn't specify which one.

God Cares

- The ESV Bible translation says, “the place where we dwell under your charge” while other translations just say, “the place you meet with us.”
- The Hebrew is “the place we dwell with you.”
- Dwell means more than just a meeting place; it means “live,” “abide,” or “stay.”

God Cares

- Though some prophets had their own homes with their families, scholars believe many of these prophets lived in the schools, especially those who were young and single.
- We know Elisha didn't live there all the time but visited them regularly. He had a house in Samaria (5:9), but he often stayed on Mount Carmel and with the Shunammite woman and her husband.

God Cares

- The prophets thought their building was too small and wanted to build something bigger.
- The Jordan Valley, which was heavily forested, would have been a natural place to find the wood.
- They asked Elisha to come with them, and he agreed.

God Cares

- This shows Elisha's humility and sense of community.
- He didn't think he was too important to join them in manual labor.
- God could have done a miracle and made a new building appear, but He honored their commitment to hard work, and the miracle involved rescuing a tool they were using.

God Cares

- When one prophet's axe head fell into the water, he panicked because the axe was borrowed.
- This point in history was well into the Iron Age (almost 350 years), but iron was still expensive and valuable.
- Elisha threw a stick into the Jordan and made the iron axe head float.

God Cares

- It may seem somewhat insignificant for Elisha to take the time and energy to perform a miracle to solve this problem.
- This wasn't a war, a national emergency, or a life-and-death situation.
- But it shows us God cares about the little things of our everyday lives, too.

God Cares

- Though it may seem like a small thing to us, iron was expensive.
- Replacing it would have been costly, and these prophets were not wealthy; that's why it was borrowed in the first place.
- It wasn't a huge thing, but it wasn't a tiny thing either. This story shows us no concern is too small to bring to God.

God Cares

- It wasn't just about the cost or the inconvenience. It was about his sense of obligation to the person he had borrowed it from.
- God cares about honesty, stewardship, and doing right by others, even in seemingly small matters.
- This small miracle happened right before a huge war, famine and siege against the capital city (6:8–7:20).

God Cares

- This miracle didn't happen in a big public way. It was small and simple and occurred in front of just a few of God's prophets.
- Elisha used very simple means, nothing flashy.
- This reminds us that God also works through small acts of obedience, not only dramatic displays.

God Cares

- God can speak in both thunder and a still, small voice, He can work in a big public display of His power and a small, private, quiet moment. What may seem small to us isn't small to God.
- If you have a concern, no matter how insignificant you think it is, bring it before the God who loves you, cares for you, and knows every hair on your head and every concern in your heart.

Battles Belong to the Lord

- Our battles belong to the Lord; He will fight for us
- 2 Kings 6:8-17
- The accounts in 2 Kings 6:8–7:16 are about Israel's ongoing battles with Syria.
- We will cover more about these battles next week.

Battles Belong to the Lord

- The Arameans, under King Ben-Hadad II, laid siege to Samaria cutting off all supplies to the city.
- This led to a severe famine in the city. This was the beginning of ongoing conflicts between Syria and Israel.
- King Jehoram did not worship Baal and removed those altars, but he still worshipped the golden calves at Dan and Bethel that Jeroboam had built.

Battles Belong to the Lord

- The king of Syria had attacked Samaria earlier during Ahab's reign.
- An unnamed prophet of the Lord came to Ahab and told him the Lord would give him victory, even though Ahab was the most idolatrous king Israel had ever had, because the Arameans thought Yahweh was just a god of the hills, not of the valleys (1 Kings 20:23-28).

Battles Belong to the Lord

- In this attack, Elisha sent word to Jehoram to warn him exactly where the Arameans were.
- “Time and time again” Elisha warned him so he was able to defend himself in every place Aram tried to attack.
- Ben-Hadad was furious and accused his officers of being traitors and telling Jehoram their plans.

Battles Belong to the Lord

- The officers told him it was Elisha, so Ben-Hadad sent horses and chariots to capture him.
- Elisha's servant panicked, but Elisha assured him that he had not cause to worry because "those who are with us are more than those who are with them."
- Then Elisha prayed and his servant's eyes were opened to see the hills full of horses and chariots of fire around them.

Battles Belong to the Lord

- In the New Testament, John used similar language to talk about our spiritual victory in Christ: “He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4).
- The Church is fighting spiritual battles against the “cosmic powers over this present darkness” and the “spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:10–18).

Battles Belong to the Lord

- We can trust that God is stronger and that we have an even bigger army of angels behind us, even if we can't physically see them.
- Even more, we have the power of God inside us, not just in a heavenly army around us.
- The Holy Spirit dwells within us and is with us all the time.

Battles Belong to the Lord

- Ephesians 6 tells us when we are facing spiritual battles, to put on the full armor of God – faith, righteousness, truth, the Gospel of peace, salvation, and the Word of God – and to pray at all times in the Spirit.
- Prayer is a powerful tool of spiritual warfare.
- When Elisha prayed, the eyes of his servant were opened to see the army around them.

God Protects His People

- God protects His people and shows grace to His enemies
- 2 Kings 6:18-23
- Elisha and Angelic Army – Bible Hidden
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Ah7iUYWzy0&t=3s>

God Protects His People

- God had just shown Elisha's servant the great heavenly army that was behind them.
- Now we will see how that army can work to fight for God's people.
- Elisha prayed again, asking God to strike the opposing army with blindness.

God Protects His People

- The same God who opened the eyes of Elisha's servant now closed the eyes of the opposing army.
- The army was searching for Elisha because he had been telling the king of Israel where they camped.
- They wanted to capture and, likely, kill him. But Elisha was not afraid.

God Protects His People

- He knew God was in control, and God's army was stronger than the Aramean army.
- The heavenly army of angels, not the human army of Israel, was protecting God's prophet.
- God struck the army with blindness and Elisha led them into Samaria.

God Protects His People

- When God opened their eyes, they saw they were trapped inside the walls of their enemy's city.
- The king of Israel wanted to kill them, but Elisha said to feed them and send them home.
- And not just a bit of bread and some water, but he prepared a great feast for them.

God Protects His People

- The presence of God's heavenly army led to mercy and peace, not to slaughter.
- Jehoram could have easily destroyed them, and by ancient standards of war.
- He would have been completely justified in doing so, especially if he thought the Lord had delivered them into his hands.

God Protects His People

- And many ancient kings would have done just that. But the man of God chose to show them grace.
- This is the heart of God. The text tells us the result was that the Arameans stopped raiding Israel's territory.
- God achieved victory and peace without violence or bloodshed.

God Protects His People

- There is a profound theological contrast here. The king of Israel, who did not know God, saw power as the ability to kill his enemies.
- Elisha, the man of God, revealed that true power is the ability to spare them. In a time when God's people had forgotten His covenant and the prophets had been sent to remind them, Elisha reflected God's character.

God Protects His People

- God described Himself to Moses from the beginning, and repeated often throughout the Old Testament.
- He is “a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty” (Exodus 34:6–7).

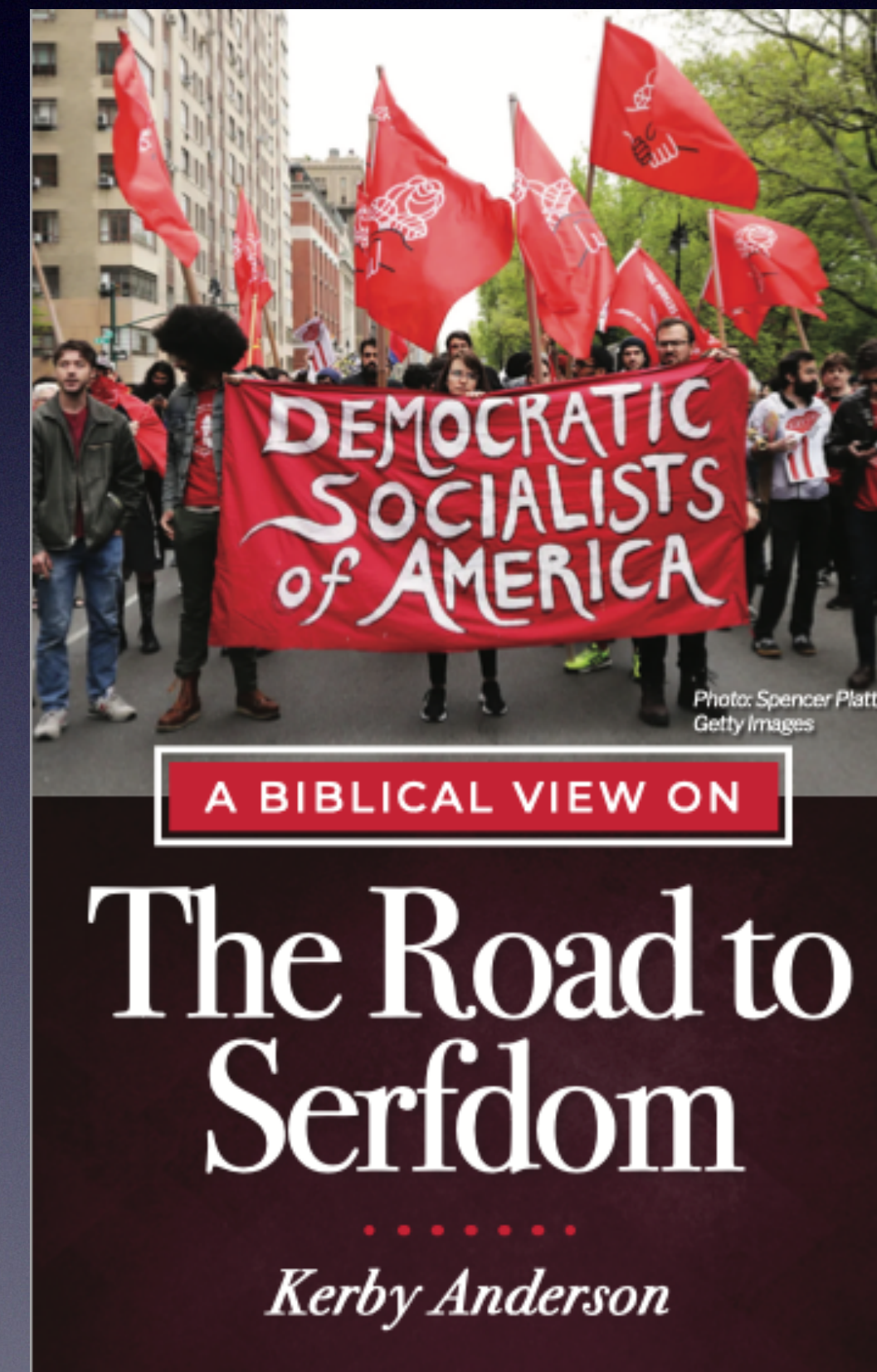
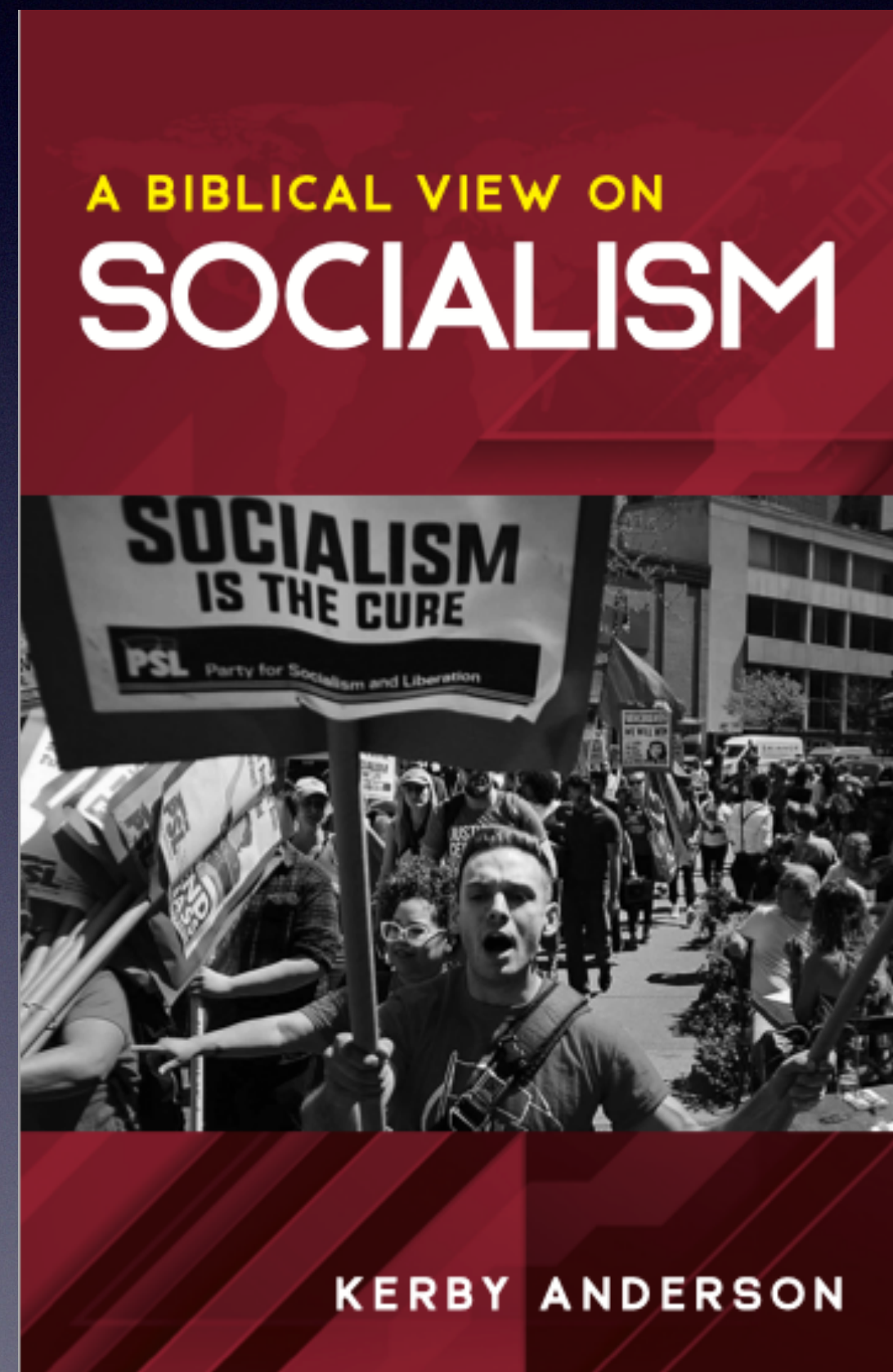
God Protects His People

- This passage reminds us of the power of prayer.
- We so often use prayer as a last resort – “I’ve tried everything else. All I can do now is pray.”
- But God wants us to use prayer as our first line of defense, not our last resort.

God Protects His People

- This story also shows us God's care for all people, including those we may see as enemies. Other human beings are not really our enemies; they are trapped in the snare of the Devil (2 Timothy 2:26).
- Thinking of our enemies as those in need of God's grace completely changes the way we interact with them. This is how we learn to overcome evil with good (Proverbs 25:21–22; Romans 12:21).

Socialism

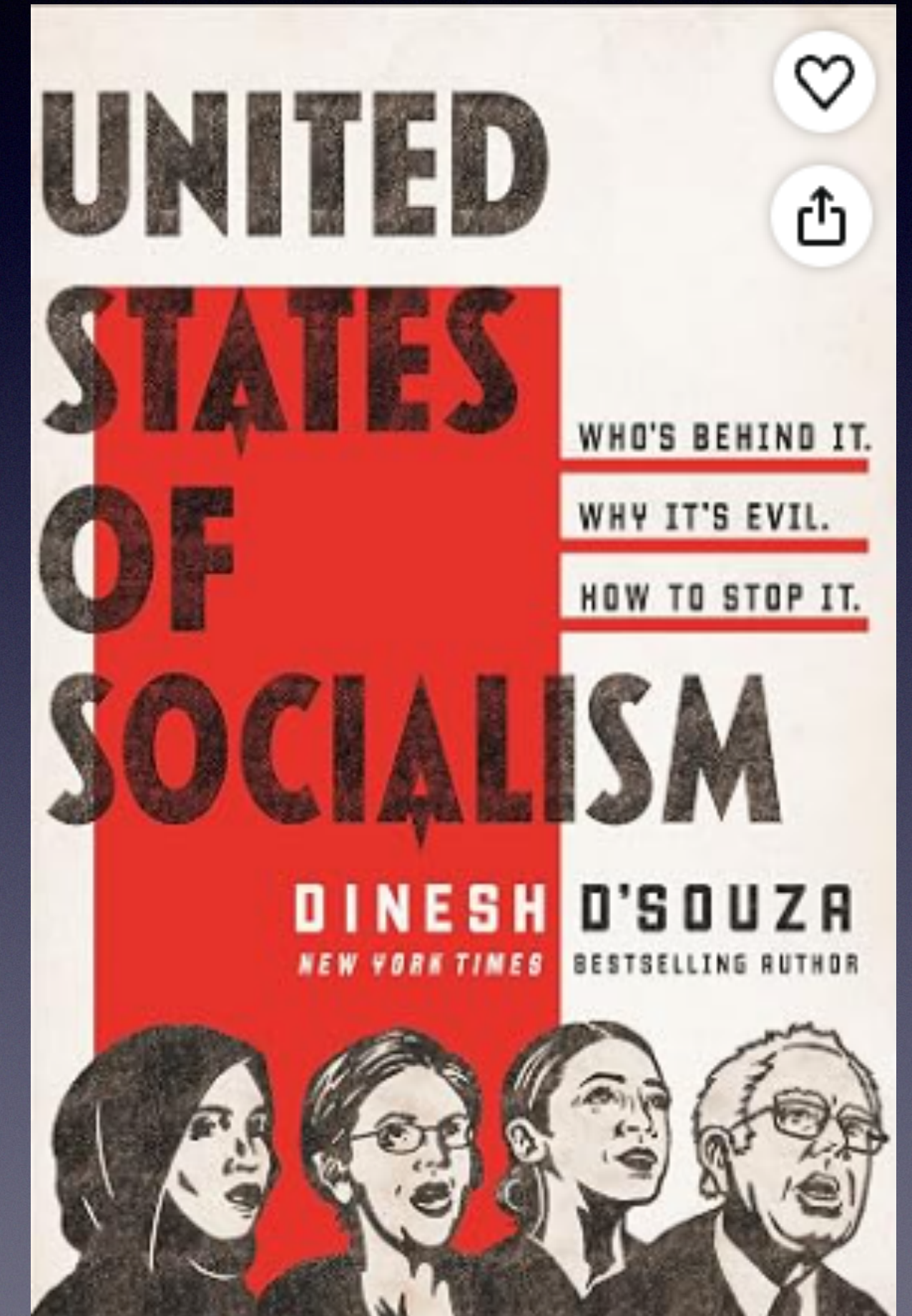


Socialism

- Young people are drawn to the siren song of Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.
- Part of the reason is that it appeals to their sense of fairness. Another reason is that it promises lots of free stuff.
- Democratic Socialist candidates are winning more primaries than any time in our nation's history.

Socialism

- Dinesh D'Souza reminds us at least 25 countries have tried socialism and failed.
- The first socialist experiment was the Soviet Union.
- Then came countries in eastern Europe, countries in Asia, countries in South America, and countries in Africa.



Socialism

- Proponents of socialism not only argue that it was not implemented correctly in the past but also argue that what they are proposing is “democratic socialism.”
- They usually point to the Scandinavian countries as examples.
- Anders Hagstrom and Johan Norberg both dismantle their arguments.

Socialism

- Doesn't the Bible Teach Socialism?
- In Acts 4, we find a statement that the believers in Jerusalem “had all things in common.”
- First, we need to realize that this practice was only done in Jerusalem. Second, this was a voluntary act by the believers in Jerusalem to give sacrificially to each other in the midst of persecution.

Socialism

- The next chapter clearly teaches they owned property.
- When Peter confronted Ananias, he clearly stated that “While it remained, was it not your own? After it was sold, was it not in your own control?”
- Owning property contradicts one of the fundamental principles of socialism. But the Ten Comandments assume private property.

Socialism

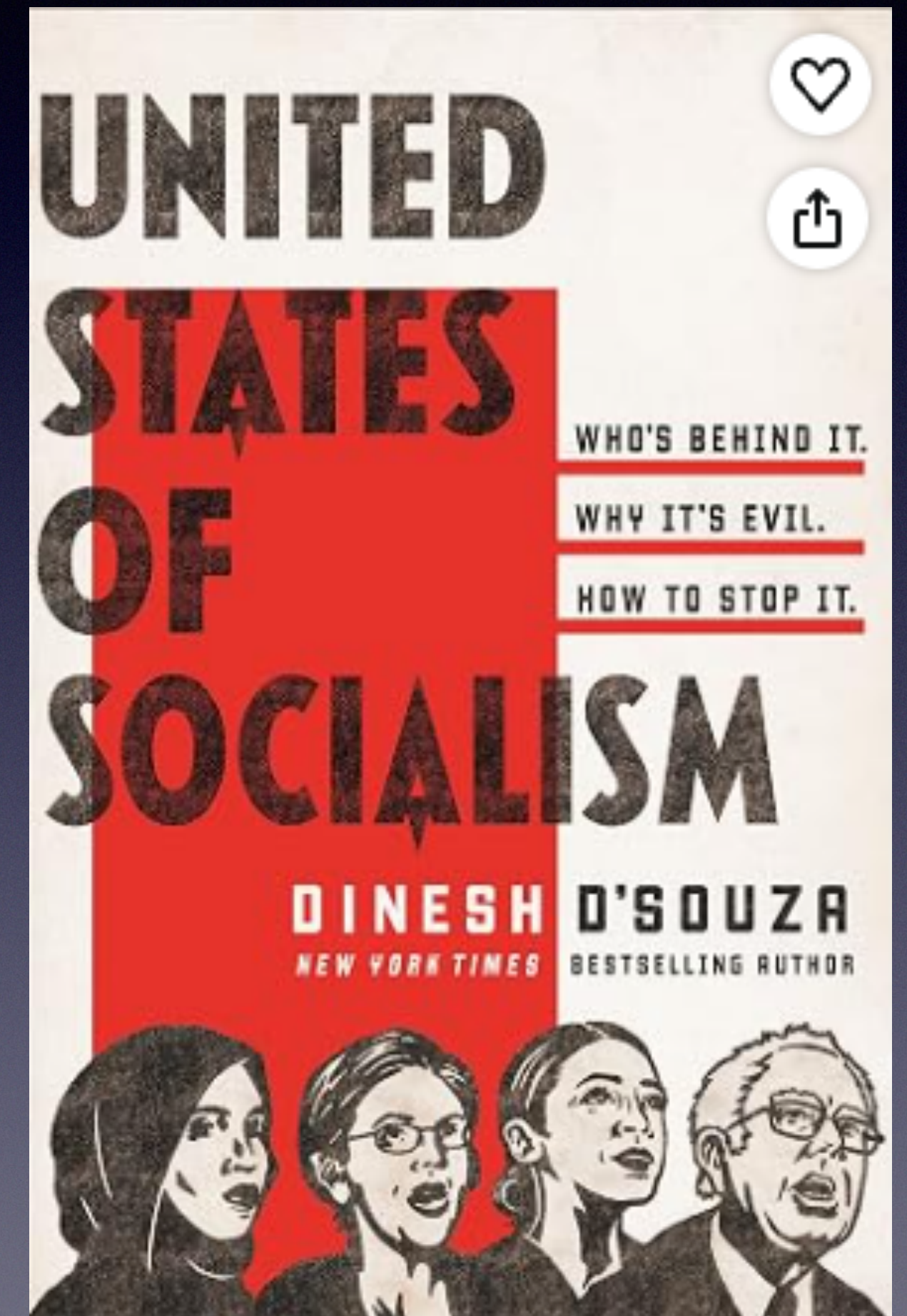
- Consider two test cases: Germany and Korea.
- After World War II, Germany was divided into two countries: West Germany was capitalist, while East Germany was socialist.
- There was a striking difference between the two countries (the GDP of East Germany was a third of the GDP of West Germany).

Socialism

- An even better example is North and South Korea, because it has lasted longer and continues to this day.
- South Korea is now more than 20 times richer than North Korea.
- Of course, people in South Korea are also freer than North Korea. They are also taller and live about 12 years longer than people in North Korea.

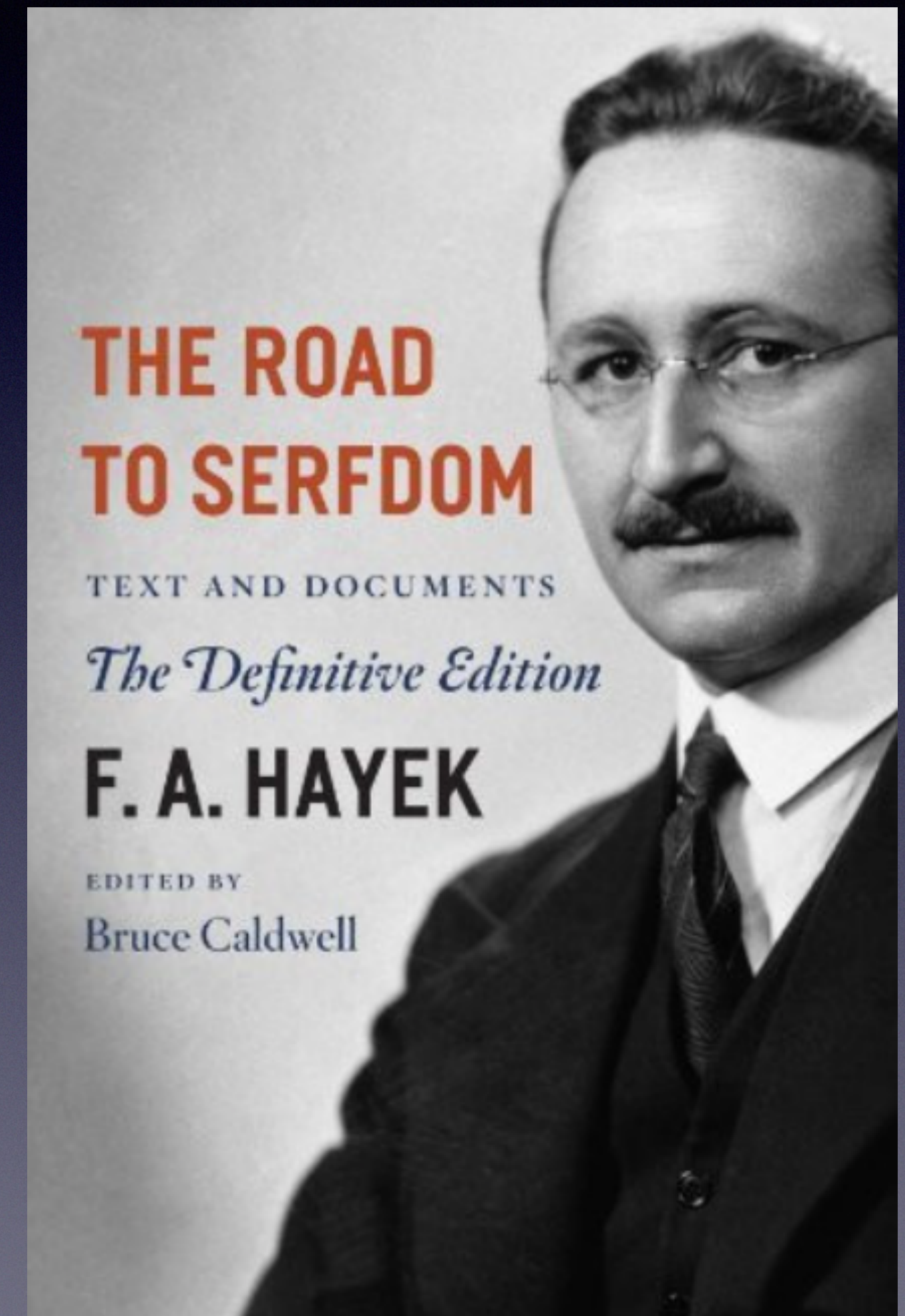
Socialism

- By contrast, capitalism provides every person a chance to influence the society.
- In his book, *United States of Socialism*, Dinesh D'Souza doesn't ignore the issue of justice but actually embraces it. Capitalism, he says, "far more than socialism, reflects the will of the people and expresses democratic consent."



Socialism

- A few years ago, if you said the name Friedrich Hayek to the average person in society, they wouldn't know his name.
- They might wrongly guess that he was the father of actress Salma Hayek. His name was unknown to non-economists.

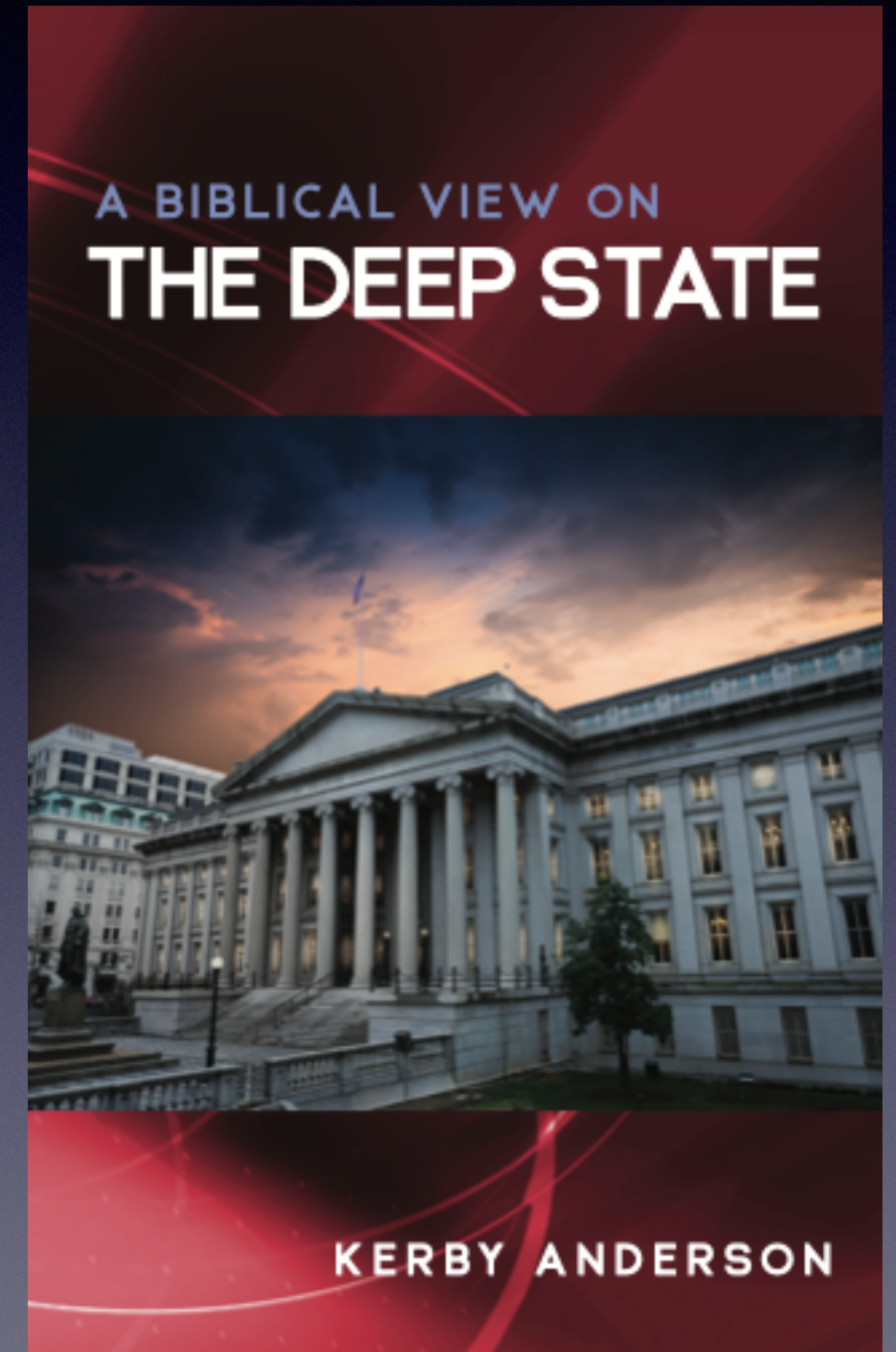


Socialism

- Hayek and his fellow Austrian School economists such as Ludwig Von Mises argued that the economy is much more complicated than the simple economic principles set forth by John Maynard Keynes.
- Hayek argued in his book that political freedom and economic freedom are connected and intertwined. The government in a centrally controlled economy controls more than just wages and prices.

Socialism

- Friedrich Hayek wrote The Road to Serfdom to warn us that sometimes the road can be paved with good intentions.
- People who enter into government and run powerful bureaucracies are often people who enjoy running not only the bureaucracy but also the lives of its citizens.



Socialism

- Hayek also warned about the danger of centralizing power in the hands of a few bureaucrats.
- He argued that “by uniting in the hands of a single body power formerly exercised independently by many, an amount of power is created infinitely greater than any that existed before, so much more far reaching as almost to be different in kind.”

A BIBLICAL VIEW ON
SOCIALISM



KERBY ANDERSON



A BIBLICAL VIEW ON

**The Road to
Serfdom**

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Kerby Anderson