

This morning I might entitle what I am speaking about

"Two Challenges and One Dream". One challenge is given by the Lord and the other is a challenge to the Lord. Both are based upon one passage of the Scripture.

Now this morning I am going to read sometimes from the KJV and sometimes from the NASB. Both of them were made by godly Christian men and both express the truth as they understood the Scripture. Neither of them gives an exact translation of the original, because an exact translation of anything from one language to another is impossible. But both being made by good Christians and talented scholars it will not matter particularly which I read from. So I'm going to read now from the NASB from Isaiah 41 where the Lord gives a challenge to the gods of the heathen. We begin in v. 21. "Present your case. Bring forward your strong arguments. Let them come and declare to us what is going to take place. And for the former events declare what they were that we may consider them and know their outcome, or announce to us what is coming. Declare the things that are going to come hereafter that we may know that you are gods. Indeed doo good or evil that we may anxiously look about us and fear together. Behold you are of no account and your work amounts to nothing. He who chooses you ~~is an abomination~~ is an abomination.

About 10 years ago I came across a very interesting book. It was not on my ordinary line of study and = but it was to me an interesting diversion. The man's name was Murphy (I won't be able to tell you his first name (it's Robert)) but he was a career diplomat. His book was called Diplomat Among Warriors. In it he told of his experience during many years in which he had served the U.S. in many different countries, sometimes in positions of considerable importance. Mr. Murphy recounted how in 1923 he was American representative connected with the consular office in the city of Munich, Germany. In that year -- those of you who know much about European history know that in that year, a veteran of WWI named Adolph Hitler gathered some others around him and tried to start a revolution and take over the German government in line with his ideas. They marched out -- these armed men - and declared they were going to take over the country. But they completely failed and they were imprisoned for a period of time and then released. It so happened that Mr. Murphy, being a good Roman Catholic, had become a friend of the papal representative in Munich, a man named ~~Meiello~~ Pachelli. He and Pachelli stood together on the street corner and saw Hitler and his group march up and saw the regular army men call upon them to stop or they would be shot, and a few shots were fired into the air and Hitler immediately dropped to the ground and Leudendorf the Field Marshal marched over and surrendered to the forces. And Eugenio Patchelli turned to Robert Murphy and he said, This will never amount to much. That man Hitler will never accomplish anything."

Hitler went on after that date. Eventually as conditions and economic conditions grew worse and worse he gathered about him a larger and larger group of men and formed the National Socialist Party and eventually took over control of Germany. Eventually conquered most of Europe and if the U.S. had not intervened probably he would have taken over the whole of the world. But in 1939 Eugenio Patchelli was elected Pope and took the title of Pius XXI. A little after that Robert Murphy