

Axis of Evil

2 characters

Hey Stephen, have you heard about the 'Axis of Evil'?

Which one?

Which one? I've only heard about one.

Ok, what's the one you've heard about?

Well, the western world talks about Iran, Russia, China, North Korea as being an 'axis of evil' that threatens western democracy and western freedoms.

Aah, that axis of evil. I have another one for you. Israel talks about Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen, the Shia militias in Iraq, and the govt of Iran as being an 'axis of evil' that's trying to destroy Israel.

I hadn't heard that one.

What about this one. All those who hold to a woke ideology say that western colonialism, patriarchal systems, and privileged white males are an 'axis of evil', that evilly oppress women and multiple other people groups and cultures.

Wow. Well, you and I are seemingly privileged white males. Do you think our wives Wendy and Donna would see us as being part of an axis of evil?

Nah, but I reckon sometimes they might shake their heads and roll their eyes at the things we say and do. Specially you Geoff.

I reckon I can come up with another axis of evil. Some vegans would see meat eaters, meat producers and govts who support meat production as an axis of evil.

Yes, good one. People can have all sorts of ideas about what forms an axis of evil in the world, and there's no doubt that what some people will call good, others will call evil. Like, for example, many people see Israel as being oppressed by an axis of evil, whereas many others say that Israel is part of an axis of evil oppressing the Palestinians.

Lord help us!

Actually, the Bible, as far as I can tell, presents us with 2 axes of evil, and as you would expect, it gets to the real heart and truth of evil.

Please tell me I am not part of any deep level axis of evil!

Well, you are and you aren't. Revelation 13 presents us with an ungodly trinity – the dragon, the 1st beast, and the second beast. Now that is an axis of evil at its deepest level.

I know who the dragon is, that's the devil who comes to thief, kill and destroy.

Yes, and he does his evil work by sending the first beast into the world, and the first beast is all the false saviours, all of the alternatives to Jesus. He is the ungodly trinity's version of Jesus.

You mean things like money, or possessions, or sex, or power, or food, or alcohol, or popularity, or holidays, or family, or health, or comfort?

Yes, you've got it, so many possible alternative saviours out there. The list is endless. The 1st beast floods us with them.

Ok, so who is the 2nd beast?

The second beast is the false prophet. He's the ungodly trinity's version of the Holy Spirit. Just as the Holy Spirit points us to and promotes Jesus as saviour, so the 2nd beast promotes all of the false saviours of the 1st beast. So the false prophet speaks through media, through advertising, through people, through corporations and agencies, through dimensions of cultures. He's always saying: 'Food will save you; financial security will save you; popularity will give you life', and so on.

What an axis of evil coming against us – the dragon and the 2 beasts – false saviours and false prophets. ... So, what about the 2nd axis of evil you mentioned was in the Bible? I can't imagine anything worse than the axis of evil you just mentioned.

The 2nd axis of evil in the Bible, is much like the first one. It just adds one extra element.

I don't like the sound of this.

In this axis of evil there is the devil again.

Yes?...

There is also the world, which contains the 1st and the 2nd Beasts.

Yes, and?...

The flesh.

I knew it! I knew you were going to drag me into this deep level axis of evil. My flesh is part of it.

Not just you Geoff. The sinful flesh of all of us. You, me, everyone in the whole world. We all need to face the fact that our flesh is part of THE axis of evil. The devil, the world with its beasts, and our sinful flesh. It's very humbling and challenging. Our flesh is evil. It hates God. It rebels against God. It is selfish. It wants to be its own master. It happily listens to the false prophets and chases after the false saviours.

God help us!

God has helped us, and he will continue to help us by his Spirit within to resist the devil and his beasts, and subdue the flesh. Our flesh is part of the axis of evil, but as a new creation by the grace of God, we are a part of THE axis of good; THE axis of righteousness; THE axis of holiness.

God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; the angels; the people of God!

Yes, you got it.

... I'm feeling a bit sheepish.

Why's that?

Before speaking to you I had decided that the axis of evil coming against me was snagged fishing lines, flat beer, and stretched elastic in my undies.

Well, it sounds like you have just had your view on life greatly expanded.