The Atonement Of Whittaker Chambers.

In his own words Whittaker Chambers (February 9th Post) begins the story of his re- 
retreat from communism, attempting thereby to make sincere atonement for his betrayal 
at the same time to render an account of his stewardship. He speaks directly to 
his two children, indirectly to the world.

Mr. Chambers' soul-searching effort will be to make clear the true nature of commu- 
nism and the source of its power. What he has to reveal, how men's souls are lured 
and trapped by communism's "vision", will not be the scoop the Post predicts. For 
Communism has long been condemned by the Vicars of Christ--officially by the late 
Pius XI.

Be that as it may, what Mr. Chambers has to say about communism, terrible as it may be, 
tragic in its effect upon the souls of men, may serve to alert other minds and other 
wills to this mortal danger.

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Decision.

"For in this country," says Chambers, "within the next decades, will be decided for 
generations whether all mankind is to become communist, whether the whole world is 
to become free, or whether, in the struggle, civilization, as we know it, is to be 
completely changed... It is popular to call it a social crisis. It is in fact a 
total crisis--religious, moral, intellectual, social, political, economic... I see 
in communism the focus of the concentrated evil of our times..." (Diabolic?)

What Is This Evil Power?

"Communism makes some profound appeal to the human mind. You will not find out what 
it is by calling communism names. That will not help much to explain why communism, 
whose horrors on a scale unparalleled in history are now public knowledge, still re- 
cruits its thousands and holds its millions--among them some of the best minds alive."

Mr. Chambers goes on to explain what the simple communist conviction is, from which 
arises all its deadly and horrible seriousness: IT IS NECESSARY NOW TO CHANGE THE 
WORLD. "Communist power, whose nature baffles the rest of the world, because in a 
large measure the rest of the world has lost that power, is the power to hold con- 
victions and to act upon them. Communists are that part of mankind which has recovered 
the power to live or die--to bear witness--for its faith."

"Man Without God."

"Like all powerful faiths, its (communism's) force derives from a simple vision. ... 
the vision of Man without God. It is the vision of man's mind displacing God as the 
creative intelligence of the world. It is the vision of man's liberated mind, by the 
sole force of its rational intelligence, redirecting man's destiny and reorganizing 
man's life and the world... It is the vision of materialism..."

This vision is intensely practical, continues Chambers, and the tools to turn it into 
reality are at hand--science and technology, "whose traditional method, the rigorous 
exclusion of all supernatural factors in solving problems, has contributed to the 
intellectual climate in which the vision flourishes... For the vision is shared by 
millions who are not communists and they are part of communism's secret strength. 
Hence the Communist Party is quite justified in calling itself the most revolutionary 
party in history. It has posed in practical form the most revolutionary question 
in history: GOD OR MAN?"

There are serious minds who hold that an evil power has been "unleashed" upon the world. 
The Apocalypse suggests that it would - Satan would be this terrible evil.