



Trying Souls

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“Could this be the Antichrist?”

So [wondered out loud](#) today’s most popular conservative voice . . . about President Donald J. Trump.

That commentator, Tucker Carlson, then answered himself: “Well, who knows?”

Later, [speaking](#) to Lulu Garcia-Navarro with *The New York Times*, Mr. Carlson denied (thrice) ever verbalizing that eschatological question.

Of course, as Scott Jennings [points out](#), Tucker contextualized the matter by asserting that the president was “more of a hostage” to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in deciding to go to war against Iran. “Seems to me it has to be one or the other,” offered Jennings. “Are you a supernatural evil being or are you some weak hostage or slave to

other people?”

“These are the times that try men’s souls,” Tom Paine once [wrote](#); today, it’s more “fry their sensibilities.”

Consider the recent *NewsGuard/YouGov* survey that [found](#) 36 percent of Democrats believe the recent shooting at the White House Correspondents’ Dinner was staged, while a whopping 42 percent of Democrats fancy the failed Butler, Pennsylvania, assassination attempt against then-candidate Trump a false flag operation. Eerily, this dovetails with Hal Lindsey’s speculations, in his 1970 bestseller, *The Late, Great Planet Earth*, that the Antichrist would make his play for power after *appearing* to survive a mortal wound.

“There’s really not a lot of evidence that these social media users are citing or relying on,” explains Sofia Rubinson, *NewsGuard*’s senior editor. “It’s really just this belief and this distrust that the government is acting honestly and is giving us accurate information.”

Has distrust of our leaders and the media, both well earned, metastasized into a widespread belief that the End Times are here?

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.