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The *Papacy* in Bible Prophecy...

## **‘Mother Rome’ and Her ‘Daughters’!**

Some in God’s Church—as well as many non-members in the English-speaking nations—are *oblivious* to the *Satanic plot* being hatched against the peoples and nations of *modern “Israel.”*

by Raymond F. McNair

The elaborate ceremonies surrounding the death of the late John Paul II, and the election of a *new German pope, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (POPE BENEDICT XVI)* attracted the attention of *billions* around the world! Bible prophecy reveals that the *Papacy* and the *Church of Rome* are destined to capture the attention of ever-increasing millions as end-time events catapult the nations toward the *final “Armageddon”* and the *climactic battle at Jerusalem* (Zech. 14; Rev. 19). God says, both the *political* Head of the “BEAST,” and the religious *leader* of the modern religion—whom God calls “**Babylon the Great**”—will fight against Jesus Christ at His Second Coming.

## **The “Harlot” of Revelation**

The Apostle John says, “And the *ten horns* are *ten kings* [who will] receive their *power* and *authority* for one hour as kings with the BEAST. These are of one mind, and they will *give* their power and authority [in a “federal” system] to the BEAST.... The *waters* which you saw, where the HARLOT sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and tongues. And the *ten horns* which you saw on the BEAST, these will [eventually] *hate the HARLOT*, make her *desolate* and *naked*, eat her flesh and *burn her with fire*. For GOD has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of *one mind*, and to give their kingdom to the BEAST, until the words of God are fulfilled. And the WOMAN whom you saw is that GREAT CITY [Rome]” (Rev. 17:12-18).

What will happen to the Head of this *religious* organization, a “UNIVERSAL CHURCH”? And what will happen to the *political* LEADER, the “man,” who will be the Head of the *political organization*, which is also called the “BEAST”? John tells us that the “ten kings” will give their power and authority unto this MAN (the “BEAST”), and that their “armies” will war against Christ at His Coming (Rev. 19:11-19). “And the BEAST was captured, and with him the FALSE PROPHET who worked signs [“miracles” KJV] in his presence.... These *two* were cast alive into the *lake of fire* burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the [“white”] horse” (vv. 20-21). The outcome of that battle is described in much greater detail in Zechariah 14:1-15!

Biblical prophecy reveals that the global power of the “LITTLE HORN” (the *Papacy*, Daniel 7), will be exercised by the *Head* of the Universal Church, the

“WOMAN” of Revelation 17, who will sit astride the “BEAST” controlling the wild Beast she is riding, the *seventh head* of the revived *Roman Empire*. That Beast will make its final bid to rule the entire world! All of this will bring about World War III, which will devastate many nations, and will culminate in the destruction of the power of the English-speaking nations and the democracies of Northwest Europe.

## The Origin of the Papacy

What is the “Papacy,” and *when* and *how* did it originate? The “PAPACY [is] the SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT of the Roman Catholic Church of which the POPE is the SUPREME HEAD” (*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dict*, 11th ed., “papacy”). That system of government began developing in the “church” during the early centuries after Christ’s birth, but did not become fully established as a “PAPACY” until hundreds of years later!

The *Catholic Encyclopedia*, various Catholic *catechisms*, *dictionaries*, etc., all purport to explain the *origin* of the Papacy as follows: Catholics believe that Christ chose the *Apostle Peter* to be the keeper of the “keys of heaven,” and that Peter was the first “pope,” and each of the following popes was Peter’s direct successor. (Each pope also serves as “*Bishop of Rome*.”) Catholics base their claim on a serious *misinterpretation* of Christ’s words to Peter: “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah [“Simon Peter,” v. 16].... **And I also say to you that you are Peter** [Gk. *petros*, a *small stone*], **and on this ROCK** [Gk. *PETRA*, a *massive rock*] **I will build MY CHURCH, and the gates of Hades [the grave] shall not prevail against it**” (Matt. 16:17-18).

“The Roman Catholic Church dates its beginning from the moment of Christ’s selection of the APOSTLE PETER as *guardian of the keys of heaven* and earth and as *chief of the apostles*, and it claims this fisherman as its *first pope*” (*Handbook of Denominations*, F. S. Mead, New Fifth Edition).

Catholics, and others, *misunderstand* what Jesus Christ was really saying. He told Peter that he (Peter) would serve as one of the TWELVE *small stones* in the Church’s foundation (Eph. 2:20); but that He Himself, Jesus Christ, would be the **PETRA**, the *massive ROCK*, in that foundation. In fact, Jesus Christ is Himself called the “*spiritual Rock* that followed [the Israelites in the desert] and **that Rock** was Christ” (1 Cor. 10:3). Paul told the saints in the Church at Ephesus that they were “fellow citizens with the saints and members of the HOUSEHOLD OF GOD, having been built on the **FOUNDATION** of the **APOSTLES** and **PROPHETS**, Jesus Christ Himself being the **CHIEF CORNERSTONE**” (Eph. 2: 19-20).

## The “Keys of the Kingdom”

Catholics also wrongly believe that Christ only gave the “keys of the kingdom of heaven” to Peter—and *not* to the other apostles. Jesus told Peter, “And I will give you the **KEYS** of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven” (Matt. 16:19). Notice what Christ said to His *twelve* disciples: “At that time the *disciples* came to Jesus, saying, ‘Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’” (18:1). Christ then told *His disciples*, “Assuredly, I say to **you** [the *TWELVE*], whatever you [apostles] bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you lose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again I say to **you** [disciples] that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven” (vv. 18-19).

God’s Word clearly reveals that *all* of Christ’s twelve apostles would be given

“keys to the kingdom of heaven,” and would be authorized by Christ to “bind and loose” important church-related *spiritual matters*. So the claim that *only Peter* would be given the “keys to the kingdom,” and only *he* would have power to “bind and loose” contradicts the Truth found in the Bible. Jesus Christ gave that same power to *all twelve* of His apostles. This is not to deny that Peter was given a leading role in overseeing the preaching of the gospel to the “circumcision” (Gal. 2:7-9).

Christ named him “first” among the Twelve (Matt. 10:1-8). The early chapters of the book of Acts reveal that Peter took a leading role among the twelve apostles, but he was never given *autocratic powers* over the other apostles, as Acts 15 and other scriptures reveal. He was *not* to be a “pope” or a “Moses,” but was given the task of serving as “overseer.” Christ expressly forbade His disciples ever acting as “lords over God’s heritage” (1 Pet. 5:1-8; Matt. 20:20-28).

Roman Catholic leaders also claim that Peter was one of *two apostles* who went to Rome to build the church in the capital of the Roman Empire. But God chose the *Apostle Paul* to be the “apostle to the Gentiles” and authorized Him to oversee the preaching of God’s Word to the Gentiles (Gal. 2:7-9). We also know that Paul was taken as a prisoner to Rome, where he did much to establish the fledgling community of true Christians which were in that city prior to his arrival in Rome. He had written to the Christians in Rome, saying: “*Paul*, a servant of Jesus Christ.... To all who are in Rome, beloved of God called to be *saints*” (Rom. 1:1, 7). After his arrival in Rome, he preached the gospel unfettered by any man: “Then Paul dwelt *two whole years* in his own rented house, and received *all* who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, *no one forbidding him*” (Rom. 28:30-31).

Thus we see that Rome was in Paul’s sphere of influence, not Peter’s. And there is not one shred of evidence in either *biblical* or *secular* history to prove that *Simon Peter* ever went to Rome!

## Why Simon Magus Went to Rome!

There is clear historical evidence that *Simon Magus* (Simon the *magician*), did go to Rome, where he performed *great miracles* by which he dazzled the pagan Romans, and was worshipped by them as a “god.” He also taught a *false Gospel*, and appears to have even “preached Jesus,” as many others did *insincerely*: “Some indeed preach Christ even from *envy* and *strife*, and some also from good will. The *former* [like Simon Magus] preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely...but the *latter* [preach Christ] out of LOVE...” (Phil. 1:15-16). The early church historian *Justin Martyr* mentions that Simon Magus went to Rome and did much evil.

The book of Acts gives us an account of this man *Simon Magus*. Philip preached the gospel and worked many miracles, which got Simon Magus’ attention. “But when a certain man called Simon, who previously *practiced sorcery* in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was SOMEONE GREAT, to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, ‘This man is the **great power of God**’” (Acts 8:9-10).

When Simon heard Philip’s preaching of the “kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ.... Then Simon himself also *believed*; and when *he was baptized* he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the *miracles and signs* which were done” (v. 13). Nevertheless, Simon had *not* repented before being baptized. However, he was fascinated by the mighty miracles which he had seen Philip perform.

So when the Apostles Peter and John went to Samaria to *lay hands* on the Samaritans who were recently baptized, *Simon Magus* was impressed with their gift of conferring God's Spirit: "Now when **Simon** saw that through the *laying on of the apostles' hands* the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, 'Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I *lay hands* may receive the Holy Spirit.' But Peter said to him, 'Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! You have neither part nor portion in this matter [the ministry], for *your heart is not right* in the sight of God. *Repent* therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are **poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity**" (vv. 18-24). Satan would later use him as a tool to help spread *apostasy* in the early New Testament Church of God at Rome and elsewhere.

Nothing in God's Word reveals that Simon Magus ever repented. Apparently his stern *rebuke* by Peter left him in "bitterness" and prompted him to go to Rome (with an accompanying *woman* called "Helen") and then began to perform his great miracles there. He had already professed to *believe in Christ*, after hearing Philip preaching Jesus Christ, so after arriving in Rome, Simon perverted Christ's Gospel message—all for the sake of fame and material gain! The people of Rome, like the Gentile Samaritans, were *deeply impressed* by his miracles, and later made a statue of Simon Magus. He began proclaiming a "*gospel*" of a *licentious type of grace*, which was later picked up by nominal "*Christians*" in Rome, and from that murky *origin* came the **great apostasy**, which resulted in some of the "*Bishops of Rome*" following a false teacher, **Simon Magus**, rather than Christ. Many commentaries and reference books mention Simon Magus's evil doings in Rome in the first century A.D.

A book titled *The Papacy*, makes these interesting comments: "When he [the Apostle Peter] reached Rome, there was already a small group of Christians, but there is no evidence that any kind of a *hierarchy* had been set up.... [Then the author mistakenly says] A mass of literary and archaeological evidence makes it clear that *Peter* went to Rome, where he and Paul suffered martyrdom between 64 and 68 [A.D., under Nero Caesar], and was buried at the foot of the Vatican hill" (*The Papacy*, page 23, pub. in 1964, edited by Christopher Hollis, The Macmillan Co., N. Y.).

Another interesting comment in this same book says, "The same must be said of other localities in Rome traditionally associated with St. Peter: the *Quo Vadis*, **the spot in the Roman Forum where SIMON MAGUS is said to have fallen**, the chains of St Peter in Fetters, the place on the Janiculum where Peter is said to have been crucified" (p. 23).

It is a fact that there is no authentic history (in the *Bible* or in *secular history*) by which anyone can prove that the Apostle Peter ever went to Rome. This is pure fiction, totally unsubstantiated by any eye-witness of Peter's arrival or sojourn in Rome! Many believe this fictional account of Peter in Rome was *invented* by the Catholics to buttress their claim that Peter was first "Bishop of Rome," therefore they claim that he was the *first pope* of the Catholic Church!

But, as we have seen, Christ's Church was not founded on "Peter" but was solidly founded on Christ and all of His twelve apostles. Thus we see that Jesus Christ is the **MASSIVE STONE (PETRA)** upon which His Church rests, but that Peter and the other "apostles" are all *lesser stones* in the FOUNDATION of the Church of God which Jesus built! Also note what God says of the New Jerusalem: "Now the wall of the city had TWELVE FOUNDATIONS, and on them were the names of the TWELVE APOSTLES of the Lamb" (Rev. 21:14). [The city of PETRA in Jordan was a city which had been carved out of the MASSIVE ROCK FORMATIONS of that area of western Jordan.]

# Pretentious Titles Used by Popes

What is the pope's *full title*? “**The Bishop of Rome, Vicar of Jesus Christ, Successor of the Prince of the Apostles, Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church, Patriarch of the West, Primate of Italy, Archbishop and Metropolitan of the Roman Province, and Sovereign of the State of Vatican City.**” Dozens of other *exalted titles* have been appropriated by the popes, titles which in some cases appear to be both *presumptuous* and blasphemous. All popes expect people to address them as, “**Your Holiness.**”

What exactly is the *Papacy*? It is a “civil government” that rules over Vatican City, which is an independent state with its own *ambassadors* to other nations. Vatican city is comprised of about 110 acres, or one-fifth of a square mile, within which live about 1000 people, mostly clergymen and employees of the Church. Vatican City is a “state” within the Italian state, and a “city” within the city of Rome! Through the Papacy, the Pope rules Vatican City and the Roman Catholic Church.

The *World Book Encyclopedia* says this: “**The Papacy.** The *system of government* of the Roman Catholic Church with the pope as the SUPREME HEAD is called THE PAPACY. The word papacy also refers to *the office of the pope*. The congregations, tribunals, and offices in Rome through which the pope governs the church make up the *Curia*. The pope's seat of authority is in Rome. It is called *the Apostolic See* or *Holy See*. The pope lives in the Vatican palace, located in the INDEPENDENT STATE of Vatican City. Vatican city lies within the city of Rome” (vol. 15, pp. 112-113).

**Spiritual powers of popes.** Catholics and their popes believe all popes are “*infallible*” in matters of faith and cannot commit error when they speak *ex cathedra*, or by virtue of the pope's office. A pope has absolute authority, and is considered the highest teacher, judge and governing power of the Church. He can “canonize saints,” absolve persons from sins and inflict punishment on the disobedient, by *excommunication* or other means. He appoints cardinals, ordains or deposes bishops, and can make *new laws* for the entire church. And in past years, the popes crowned many emperors, kings, and other civil rulers. They sometimes deposed those *secular rulers* who would not obey their commands.

## Pope Gregory Deposes Emperor Henry IV

The Church versus State issue came to a head in Europe in the 11th century when the Pope excommunicated Germany's Holy Roman Emperor, Henry IV: “The struggle convulsed the heart of Europe for nearly *fifty years*.... **Henry deposed the Pope. The Pope [Gregory VII] deposed and excommunicated Henry.** The German princes turned against their king and in 1077 Henry decided to *yield*.... **In winter when the snow lay deep, he crossed the Alps and made his way to the Castle of *Canossa* in northern Italy. Kneeling *barefoot* before Gregory,** Henry humbly confessed his errors and craved absolution” (*The Living World of History*, by G. H. Browning, p. 44). Numerous popes were *secular rulers*, ruling over the “Papal States” in central Italy, until the papacy was divested of those “states” by Garibaldi in the late 1800s. But in 1084 Henry IV captured Rome and replaced Pope Gregory with a pope of Henry's choosing. Gregory died in Exile. Popes thought they could command human leaders, as well as *angels*!

**“Pope Clement VI commanded *the angels* to admit into Paradise, without the alleged pains of purgatory, *certain souls*....** The Pope has been called, **‘Our Lord God the Pope’** (A *Commentary...on the Old and New Testaments*, by Jamieson, Fausset and Brown, vol. 4, p. 474). And in 1493, after Columbus’ discovery of America, **Pope Alexander VI** divided up South America between Spain and Portugal.

**Temporal powers of popes.** The popes are the rulers of Vatican City, which has its own flag, telephone and broadcasting systems, coins, stamps, public works, etc. The Vatican has its own ambassadors, envoys and *nuncio*, which represent the Catholic Church outside Rome. **“Vatican City** (.2 square miles, population 900) **is the seat of the world’s biggest Christian denomination** and thus enjoys enough clout with the Italian government to govern itself” (*The U.S. of Europe*, T. R. Reid, p. 271).

## The Amazing “Little Horn”

One of the most amazing prophecies in the Bible clearly refers to the PAPACY. For nearly five hundred years *many* reformers, like Martin Luther, John Knox, etc. looked upon the Papacy as “Babylon the Great,” mentioned in Revelation 17 and Isaiah 47. Many Protestants, Independents and other Christian churches have also looked upon the Papacy as a fulfillment of Daniel’s prophecy regarding a “LITTLE HORN” who would rise up and wield great power.

Daniel saw four great beasts, the *fourth beast*, was a ferocious, non-descript beast having *ten horns* on its head, representing ten future kings that would arise in the Roman Empire. The fourth beast would devour and rule over the whole civilized world. But Daniel also saw a **“little horn,”** a religious power (symbolizing the *Papacy*), growing up *within* the Roman Empire and wielding great power and influence over the world.

Daniel said, “I was considering the [four horns], and there was **another HORN, a LITTLE ONE**, coming up among them, before whom *three* of the first horns were *plucked out* by the roots. And there, in this HORN, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking POMPOUS WORDS.... I watched then because of the sound of the POMPOUS WORDS which the [little] HORN was speaking; I watched till the BEAST [Roman Empire] was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the *burning flame*.... [see Rev. 19]. Then I would know the truth about the *fourth beast*...and about the *ten horns*... on its head, and about the other [little] HORN which came up, before which three fell, namely, that HORN which had eyes and a mouth which spoke POMPOUS WORDS, whose appearance was greater than his fellows. I was watching; and the same [little] HORN was making war against [persecuting] the saints, and prevailing against them....

“The *ten horns* are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. And another [“**little horn**”] shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, and shall *subdue three kings* [*kingdoms* of the *Vandals, Heruli and Ostrogoths*]. He [the **“little horn”**] shall speak **POMPOUS WORDS** against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, **and shall intend to CHANGE TIMES and LAW**. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time [three and a half years]” (Dan. 7: 8, 11, 19-25).

Some scholars believe Paul’s second letter to the Thessalonians also points to Daniel’s “little horn,” the Papacy, when it mentions the **“man of sin...the son of perdition**, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is *called God* or that is worshiped, so that he sits *as God* in the temple of God showing himself that *he is God*” (2 Thess. 2:3-4).

The prophecies concerning the “LITTLE HORN” are remarkable in their fulfillment by the Papacy which, after the Fall of the Roman Empire in 476 A. D., began to gain great power in Italy and in the West. After the *restoration* of the Roman Empire in the West by Justinian in 554, the Popes became powerful enough to totally “uproot” the first *three foreign kings* (**Vandals**, **Heruli**, and **Ostrogoths**) who had conquered Italy and occupied Rome.

## From Sabbath to Sunday

Note also that this “**Little Horn**” would speak “**pompous words**,” even claiming he had power to *change* “times and law” as given by God. Both Emperor Constantine and the popes had a hand in changing the times, seasons and laws that God had given. There have been scores of instances in which the Papacy changed from God’s laws to Satan’s way. It is no secret that Catholics have often admitted that the Roman Catholic Church and its popes changed the day of worship from the **Sabbath** to **Sunday**, and changed from the **Feasts of God** to the **pagan festivals**.

Here is one example of a Catholic/Papal change of the law of God: The Church told Catholics they should *not* observe the **Sabbath** command, but should replace it by keeping Sunday holy, and Catholic popes also changed the Sabbath commandment from the *fourth* to the *third*: “In the *Old Law* the Jews kept holy the seventh day of the week, *Saturday*. The vital principle of the Third Commandment [fourth command in most Bibles] was not the specific day, but that one day out of seven should be devoted to the worship of God the Creator.... In the *New Law*, Catholics keep holy the *first day* of the week, **Sunday**. It is called ‘The Lord’s Day’.... In the *New Law*, Christ delegated His authority to the *Church*. It remained then for the *Church* to indicate the ceremonial day to be kept holy.... The *Church* commands us to worship God on **SUNDAY** by assisting at the...Sacrifice of the Mass” (*My Catholic Faith*, Louis L. Morrow, S.T. D., pp. 212-213).

Commenting on the “little horn” in the book of Daniel, Adam Clark says, “Among the *Protestant writers* this [*little horn*] is considered to be the **POPEDOM**” (*Clarke’s Commentary*, IV, comment on Dan. 8:7).

Notice F.C. Cook’s comment regarding the meaning of the “little horn” *wearing out* (“grinding down”) the saints, and the changing of “times and laws” by his *assumed* authority: “The word correctly translated ‘think’...involves a confident expectation or hope that that thought would be realized. The next words [“times and laws”] have been usually referred to the **GREAT FESTIVALS** of the *Jewish year* and **SABBATHS** and to the *laws* regulating the due observance of such **FESTIVALS**” (*The Bible Commentary*, by C.F. cook, Vol. VI, comments on Daniel 7).

Anyone who really knows the Word of God will easily see how many of the *customs* and *practices* of the Roman Catholic Church and her “daughter” churches are *pagan* to the core. Here is a list of some of their **erroneous doctrines**: **Mariolatry** (deification of Mary, called the “Mother of God”), worship of *saints*, religious *images* and *icons* along with idol processions, the clothing and crowning of images, use of the *rosary*, the *doctrine of heaven and hell* as the abode of those saved or lost, observance of **Christmas**, **Easter**, the **Nativity of St. John**, the **Feast of the Assumption**, **All-Saints Day**, baptism by sprinkling or pouring, the **Sacrifice of the Mass** and the doctrine of **transubstantiation**, **Extreme Unction**, **Purgatory**, **Limbo** and **prayers for the dead**, use of the cross as an object of reverence, virtual *worship of the pope* (as some surely do), celibacy of Roman clerics, penance, burning of candles and endless church rituals and ceremonies that are deeply rooted in *paganism*, rather than the *Bible*.

# How Has Satan Deceived the Whole World?

What does God mean when He states that the Old Serpent, Satan the Devil, has deceived the “whole world” (Rev. 12:9)? This earth now supports over **six billion** inhabitants. How has Satan deceived *all mankind*? Would he try to get everyone to become *atheists* or *agnostics*? Or, would he use a Babylon of “religions”—all of whom would profess to *believe in God*—deceiving them into accepting the name of Jesus Christ as Savior, all the while believing a spurious “gospel” which is light-years from the True Gospel that Jesus preached (Gal. 1:6-7; 2 Cor. 11:13-15)?

About *four billion people* on this planet don’t even believe in Jesus Christ as Savior, neither do they possess the Word of God. Instead they are floundering around in a number of *false religions*. Satan is quite happy to let them slumber in *blindness* and *superstition*. But would Satan find a clever way to deceive most of those who believe in the one true Creator God? That is precisely what the great Deceiver has done. In about 58 A.D. the Apostle Paul said that a great “MYSTERY OF INIQUITY” was already at work (2 Thes. 2:1-12). [Many Protestants and Independents think this “Man of Sin” points to the *Roman Papacy*.] Paul also warned the Corinthian saints that some of them had received “another Jesus...a different spirit...a DIFFERENT GOSPEL...” (2 Cor. 11:4). He then warned them, saying there were already “**FALSE APOSTLES**, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into **APOSTLES OF CHRIST**.... For Satan...transforms himself into an **ANGEL OF LIGHT**. Therefore it is no great thing if **HIS MINISTERS** also transform themselves into **ministers of righteousness**...” (vv.13-15).

Is it possible that those who accept “Christianity” as the “true religion” have themselves been deceived into accepting many false, pagan, anti-God beliefs? Has the Devil somehow managed to deceive “**CHRISTENDOM**” with a spurious, *Satanic counterfeit* that prevents them knowing the real truth of the true Gospel which Jesus Christ proclaimed to the world 2,000 years ago?

## How Many *Christians* Are There Today?

Approximately **one third of this earth’s inhabitants (c. 2,100,000,000 people)** profess to be **CHRISTIANS**. Here are the *approximate* numbers of those who now worship in various Christian groups: **ROMAN CATHOLICS** comprise about **1,100,000,000**—slightly over half—of all Christians. Roughly **1,000,000,000** of those who profess to be Christians are **NON-CATHOLICS**. The following *approximate* figures are a break-down of the *non-Catholic* Christians: **PROTESTANTS**, 350,000,000; **INDEPENDENTS**, 400,000,000; **EASTERN ORTHODOX**, 220,000,000; **ANGLICANS**, 82,000,000. Yet, there is *great confusion* of doctrinal beliefs and practices among the hundreds of different churches who profess to be Christians.

## Are “God’s People” Asleep?

The end-time prophecies clearly reveal that another period of widespread *deception* and *martyrdom* will occur in the *near future*. Speaking of the time of the end, Jesus Christ warned that many “deceivers” would arise and would “deceive many.” He said, “And you will hear of wars and rumors of war.... For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences...earthquakes in various places” (Matt. 24:6).



“All these are the *beginning of sorrows*. Then they will deliver you up to *tribulation* and **kill you, and you** [true Christians] **will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake**. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another” (vv. 8-10).

The Apostle John also predicted a terrible *future martyrdom*: “When He opened the *fifth seal*, **I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain [a *past martyrdom*] for the WORD of God...** And they cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord...until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’ And a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that **they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would [yet] be killed [martyred] as they were, was completed**” (Rev. 6:9-11). Have we forgotten that over *50 million* were *martyred* during the religious persecutions by the Universal Church during the Dark and Middle Ages? The Word of God says a prophesied future *martyrdom* is yet to take place after the “*5th seal*” is opened, and immediately *before* terrifying *heavenly signs* herald the dreadful “Day of the Lord.” Those terrifying *signs in the heavens* will cause wicked men to run *screaming* into the caves of the mountains (vv. 12-17; Isa. 2:12-22).

Most of the *peoples of Israel*, as well as many in *God’s true Church* (*spiritual Israel* Gal. 6:16) are *oblivious* to what Bible prophecy says concerning a foreign power placing a grievous “**yoke**” of bondage upon the necks of the English-speaking peoples, as well as *martyring* many in God’s true Church in the soon-coming, prophesied Great Tribulation that will afflict much of our world (Isa. 47; Jer. 31; Matt. 24:21). However, Christ tells us, “Watch...and pray always that [we] may be counted **worthy to escape** all these things [terrible persecutions, wars, famines, earthquakes]” (Luke 21:36). God also solemnly promises that some of those in His Church at the end-time will be *protected* by God in a safe place during the *awful times* ahead (Rev. 12:13-17; Luke 21:36).

## The “Great Harlot” Identified

The Apostle John was given a prophecy which revealed that a “**great harlot**” **church** would arise, which would *corrupt* and *afflict* the whole earth with her *false teachings*, and her *cruel persecutions*. An angel told John, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the **GREAT HARLOT** who sits on [rules over] many *waters* [peoples], with whom the kings of the earth committed **fornication**, and the inhabitants of the earth were made **drunk** with the wine of her fornication” (Rev. 17:12). For over 1,500 years, kings, prime ministers, presidents and other leaders of this nations of this earth have courted this “harlot” by having an *illicit* affair with this *fallen woman*, which many Bible commentaries explain as the *Latin Church*.

John continues his prophecy, “So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a **WOMAN** sitting on a scarlet **BEAST** which was full of names of blasphemy, having *seven heads* and ten horns [representing the **Roman Empire**]. The **WOMAN** was arrayed in **purple and scarlet**, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a **GOLDEN CUP** full of *abominations* and the *filthiness* of her fornications. And on her *forehead* a name was written: **MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH**. And I saw the **WOMAN**, *drunk* with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the *martyrs* of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement” (Rev. 3-6).

[Note. The recent Requiem Mass for Pope John Paul II, and the ceremonies surrounding the selection and inauguration of the new Pope, Pope Benedict XVI, clearly

illustrated to the whole world the elaborate pomp, glitter, and ancient ceremonies which attend such Roman Catholic occasions. Could anyone not notice the SCARLET and PURPLE garments worn by clerics on those memorable occasions?]

The “woman” sitting on this “BEAST” assuredly can refer to no other church. The Roman Catholic Church herself identifies this same “*beast*” as the Roman Empire. The Catholic *Douay version* of the Bible has the following *footnote*, which describes this same “beast,” which is mentioned in 13th and 17th chapters of Revelation: “The picture of the *first beast* is based on the 7th chapter of Daniel.... **IMPERIAL ROME** represents this power” (*footnote* to Rev. 13:1).

Who can honestly deny that there is only *one church* which has often had an accommodating, cozy relationship with the *emperors* and *kings* of the *Roman Empire* ever since the early part of the fourth century A.D., when Emperor Constantine virtually made Catholicism the *State religion*?

As we have seen, this *gorgeously arrayed* “woman”—which rode the “**beast**” (that is, she *controlled* many emperors and kings) was “arrayed in purple and scarlet” and was decked out with “gold and precious stones and pearls, having a *golden cup* in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication” (v. 4).

How does Almighty God look upon this *fallen woman*? He sees on her forehead a name written: ‘MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE *MOTHER OF HARLOTS* and of the abominations of the earth.’ God also realizes that this “*woman*” was “*drunk with the blood of the saints* and with the blood of the *martyrs* of Jesus” (v. 5). Observe that she is a great, powerful, *persecuting church*, responsible for the deaths of *tens of millions!* *Foxe’s Christian Martyrs of the World*, relates the many *severe persecutions* of non-Catholic Christians by this great church—which, according to some estimates, resulted in the deaths of *over 50 million* (pp. 178-590).

And notice that the Great God calls this licentious “woman” a “**MOTHER,**” who has **DAUGHTERS** that God calls “**harlots.**” Many non-Catholic Bible commentaries clearly explain that this “woman” refers to the *Latin Church* (the *Roman Catholic Church*). Clearly, the Apostle John’s account of this *woman* very accurately describes this great *false Church*. Note these facts: this *woman* is called a “**great harlot.**” In Bible symbolism, a “woman” represents a “church.” The true Church of God is depicted as a pure, “**virgin**” woman (Eph. 5:25-33; Rev. 12:1-17; 19:1-9).

The Apostle Paul says, “Husbands, love your WIVES, just as Christ also loved the CHURCH.... Therefore, just as the CHURCH is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.... This is a *great mystery*, but I speak concerning Christ and the CHURCH...let each one of you in particular so love his own WIFE as himself, and let the WIFE see that she respects her husband” (Eph. 5:25-33).

## A Modern “Babylon the Great”

Notice what Adam Clarke’s commentary says about this “woman” (“Babylon”) mentioned in Revelation 17: “No doubt can now be entertained that this **WOMAN** is the **LATIN CHURCH**, for she sits upon the **BEAST** with seven heads and ten horns, which has been already proved to be the **LATIN EMPIRE** [which also *describes*] the **LATIN CHURCH** from the commencement of the 14th century to the time of the *Reformation*.... This *woman* is also called *Babylon the Great*; she is the exact antitype of the *ancient Babylon* in her *idolatry* and *cruelty*. [Bishop Newton says] ‘She affects the style and title of our **HOLY MOTHER**, the Church; but she is, in truth, the **MOTHER OF HARLOTS**

and abominations of the earth” (*Clarke’s Commentary*, vol. vi, comment on Rev. 17).

Clarke also comments on the woman sitting on “seven hills” in verse 9: “This verse has been almost universally considered to allude to the SEVEN HILLS upon which Rome originally stood...the generally received opinion among **PROTESTANTS**, [is] that **PAPAL ROME** is the city meant by the woman sitting upon seven mountains” (ibid.).

## Who is This “Lady of Kingdoms”?

Nearly 3,000 years ago the Prophet Isaiah gave an amazing prophecy, which few understand, concerning world-shaking events to occur at the end of this age—events which will soon dumbfound the world, leaving it awestruck in horror! Isaiah’s startling prophecy concerns a great *false church* that will be instrumental, along with a revived “Roman Empire” (the “Beast”), in treading under foot and destroying many lives and much property during the terrible time of the end, the *Great Tribulation* (Matt. 24:21; Dan. 12:1).

Isaiah 47 speaks of a “**LADY OF KINGDOMS**” (a great *false Church*), which, as we have seen, is also mentioned by the Apostle John in Revelation 17 and 18. Notice Isaiah’s prophecy: “Come down and sit in the dust, **O virgin daughter of Babylon**; sit on the ground *without a throne* [here referring to a “papal throne”] O **daughter** of the Chaldeans! For you shall no more be called tender and delicate.... Your *nakedness* shall be uncovered, yes, your *shame* will be seen; I will take vengeance, and I will not arbitrate with a man” (Isa. 47:1-3). This is a prophecy of a *false church*, which calls herself a “lady,” but is, in fact, a *fallen women*, who has *seduced* and *martyred* God’s people, as we see described in the 17th chapter of Revelation and the 7th chapter of Daniel.

Isaiah continues his prophecy by explaining to us that this church looks upon herself as a “*virgin daughter of Babylon*”: “Sit in silence, and go into darkness, **O daughter** of the Chaldeans, for you shall no longer be called “**THE LADY OF KINGDOMS**” (v. 5). This great “church” gets many of her beliefs, teachings, customs and practices directly from the abominable “mysteries” that have come out of **ancient “Babylon,”** as is clearly demonstrated in Alexander Hislop’s well-documented book titled, *The Two Babylons*.

Here is what Hislop says of Rome, the city of *seven hills*: “No other city in the world has ever been celebrated, as the city of Rome has, for its situation on SEVEN HILLS.... Pagan poets and orators...have alike characterized it as ‘the seven hilled city’” (*The Two Babylons*, page 2). Hislop then quotes several Roman poets and writers in which they often refer to the city of “seven hills” or speak of “a man from the *seven mountains*.” Clearly, the 17th chapter of Revelation reveals that the “*whore*” has her seat of authority in the “seven hilled city” of Rome.

The Bible warns God’s people of what this “*Lady of Kingdoms*” will do to His people, the descendants of the “Lost Ten Tribes of Israel,” and their kinsmen, the Jews, at the end-time: God says, “I was angry with **My people** [the people of “Israel”]; I have profaned My inheritance, and given **them** [the people of the end-time *Israelites*] into your hand. You showed them no mercy; on the *elderly* [“ancient” people, KJV] you laid *your YOKE* very heavily. And you said, ‘**I shall be a lady forever,**’ so that you did not take these things to heart, nor remember the *latter end* of them” (vv. 6-7).

Again God explains that this “lady” is a “great church” which exalts herself, saying, “*I am, and there is no one else besides me* [We are the ONE and only true Church]; I shall not sit as a *widow*, nor shall I know the *loss of children*; but these two

things shall come to you in a moment, in one day; the *loss of children*, and *widowhood*. They shall come upon you in their fullness because of the multitude of your *sorceries*, for the great abundance of your *enchancements*.... And you have said in your heart, ***'I am, and there is no one else besides me.'*** Therefore *evil* shall fall upon you; you will not be able to put it off... *desolation* shall come...suddenly, which you shall not know" (vv. 8-11).

God then challenges this "LADY" (this "great church") to seek out her "enchancements [and] sorceries, monthly prognosticators...and let [them] save you from these things that shall come upon you. Behold, they [the sorcerers, astrologers, etc.] shall be as stubble, ***the fire shall burn them***; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of *the flame*.... No one shall save you" (vv. 12-15)! This Babylon, this "Lady of Kingdoms," shall be utterly destroyed! Revelation 18 also says Babylon's destruction will come suddenly, in "one day."

## Identifying the "Mother Church"?

As the Apostle John reveals, this "lady" (the *Latin Church*) will eventually be *destroyed* by God because of her loathsome *abominations*. It is that "church" which boasts that she is the ***one true church***, and refuses to recognize the other "Christian" churches. In fact, Catholic officials and theologians chide the Protestant and Independent Christian Churches about their claim to be "*sister churches*" of "**Mother Rome**." They are not considered "sister churches," by Catholics, but are looked upon as "**daughter churches**." They *came out of her*, *protesting* against the *harlotries* and loathsome sins of their *spiritual Mother*. Nonetheless, they continued following the ways of Mother Rome in many of her major *doctrines* and *practices*, which God says are loathsome in His sight.

It is interesting to note that many of these Protestant and Independent Christian Churches call the Roman Catholic Church either "**Mother Rome**," or refer to her as the "**Mother Church**." Isaiah says that this "Lady of Kingdoms" thinks she will not suffer the "*loss of children*" (i.e. her *daughters*) but during past centuries, this "Lady of Kingdoms" has suffered the loss of children when various "daughter" churches—the **Orthodox** churches, as well as the **Protestant** and "**Independent**" churches—split with Rome, and formed their own *separate churches*. [Note. What are "**Independent**" Christians? "**Independent** [Christians are] members of churches and networks that regard themselves as *post-denominationalist* and *neo-apostolic* and thus independent of historic, organized, institutionalized *denominationalist* **CHRISTIANITY**" (*The World Almanac*, 2005, p. 612).

It is a fact of history, which no truly enlightened person can rightly deny, that, spiritually speaking, *most* of the *non-Catholic* "churches" are, **daughters** of the Roman Catholic Church. And, as we shall see, even *after* the majority of those "churches" "came out of Mother Rome," they continued holding fast to many of the *false doctrines* and pagan *practices* of their "Mother," the *Latin Church*. Isaiah 47 says, and history attests to the facts which surely prove that the Roman Catholic Church did suffer **alienation and the loss of the "daughters"** whom she had raised in the same old Babylonian **MYSTERIES** and abominable pagan *customs* and practices.

A few years ago, the *Los Angeles Times* printed an article in which a high Catholic official chided Protestants who claim to be "**sister churches**." The Catholics say, "No, the Protestant Churches are *not* our 'sisters'! They are **our 'daughters.'**" Truly, they are "daughters" of "Mother Rome"!

# “BAPTIZED PAGANISM”!

Alexander Hislop says, “It has been known all along that **POPERY** was *baptized paganism*; but God is now making manifest the elements, the very *paganism* which prevailed in the ancient literal *Babylon*, when Jehovah opened before Cyrus the two-leaved gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron.... The light [is] pouring in from all quarters [which] makes it more and more evident that **ROME** is in very deed the **BABYLON** of the *Apocalypse*; that the essential character of her *system*, the grand objects of her *worship*, her *festivals* [Christmas, Easter, etc.], her *doctrine* and discipline, her *rites* and *ceremonies*, her *priesthood* and their orders, have all been derived from **ANCIENT BABYLON** and, finally, that the Pope himself is truly and properly the lineal representative of Belshazzar.

“In the warfare that has been waged against the domineering *pretensions of Rome*, it has too often been counted enough merely to meet and set aside her presumptuous boast, that **she is the MOTHER and MISTRESS OF ALL CHURCHES**—the *one Catholic Church*, out of whose pale there is *no salvation*” (*The Two Babylons*, p. 3).

*The Two Babylons* also mentions: “The apocalyptic emblem of the *Harlot woman* with the *cup* in her hand was even embodied in the symbols of *idolatry* derived from *ancient Babylon*, as they were exhibited in *Greece*...and so [the] *Roman Church* has actually taken this very *symbol* as her own chosen *emblem*. In 1825, on the occasion of the Jubilee, Pope Leo XII, struck a medal, bearing on the one side his own image, and on the other, that of the *Church of Rome* symbolized as a ‘Woman,’ holding in her left hand a *cross*, and in her right a **CUP**, with the legend around her...‘**The whole world is her seat.**’” (ibid. p. 6).

It is a fact that most of the *Protestant* and *Independent* Christian churches hold to many of the same old *pagan doctrines* that they got from their Mother, the *Latin Church*. Here are a few of those doctrines which *many* of the “daughters” still hold: **Sunday observance** instead of keeping God’s *true Sabbath*; the **Pagan Holidays** instead of God’s Holy Days; a belief in the **immortality of the soul**; ignoring God’s laws concerning the “**unclean foods**” forbidden in Leviticus 11; rejection of the *true Gospel* of Christ by replacing it with a *spurious gospel* of going to Heaven when you die; embracing an unbiblical **doctrine of “grace”** (*license to sin*) as Jude 3 mentions; and praying to Mary and the saints.

Many modern-day Protestants believe that the making of, and **veneration of, images and idols** is permissible—meaning that they can brush aside the *1st, 2nd* and *3rd* commandments, since obedience to *all* of the **Ten Commandments**—including the “**Sabbath**” which God tells us to *remember* to hallow the *seventh day*—is no longer required by God. Most of these churches also *reject* the proper form of **Church Government**, and substitute various kinds of humanly-devised church government, which are totally different from those found in the New Testament.

And many have given up the biblical form of **water baptism by immersion**, in favor of either “sprinkling” or “pouring”—which are much easier to administer! A careful study of their doctrines reveals that all too many embrace numerous other *false teachings*; many of the ‘Protestant’ and ‘Independent’ Churches are quite similar to the many pagan doctrines held by their *real* Mother, the Roman Church!

The copious references found in *The Two Babylons* should enable **honest enquirers** to prove the validity of Dr. Hislop’s well-documented assertions which clearly establish the “*identity* between the systems of **ancient Babylon** and **Papal**

*Rome...*” (ibid. p. 13). The ancient Babylonians/Chaldeans, along with their pagan religious beliefs and practices, were transferred from *Babylon* to Europe—to Rome in particular. For nearly 2,000 years the chief center of the old “Babylonian Mysteries” has been located in Rome, the “Eternal City,” which a high-ranking Catholic official recently called the “capital of the world” (Rev. 18).

## “Come Out of Her My People!”

*Time* magazine says, “On Aug. 6, 1492, as the *Nina*, the *Pinta* and the *Santa Maria* were headed for the Grand Canaries, a conclave was convened in Rome to elect a successor to Pope Innocent VI. The opening speech by Spain’s **Bernardino Cardinal Lopez de Carvaial** castigated the Roman Church as the ‘**Whore of Babylon**,’ an institution solely in need of spiritual renewal. After four rounds of voting, however, the cardinals elected...the Spanish-born Rodrigo Borgia, who had tried unsuccessfully to buy the papacy eight years earlier.... As Alexander VI, Borgia became the epitome of what many historians call the ‘bad Pope’—*licentious, scheming, corrupt*. The Papacy was transformed into a *secular kingdom*—a scandalous development in the eyes of many believers...”—all of which helped to promote anti-Catholic sentiment in Europe and led to the Protestant-led Reformation (*Time*, article, “Empires on the Wane,” Oct. 21, 1991).

As many well-respected Bible commentaries, dictionaries and reference works reveal, the “Lady of kingdoms” of Isaiah 47, and the “Great Whore” of Revelation 17 are one and the same; both refer to the Papacy and the Latin Church. Even though most *Protestants* and *Independents* are quick to point to the great “**WHORE**” and identify her with “**Mother Rome**,” nonetheless most of them somehow overlook the fact that the Bible also says this “Mother Church” has a number of “daughters,” which came out of her in PROTEST. Many of them are today called **PROTESTANTS** or **INDEPENDENTS**.

**How can a church know if it is a “daughter” of “Mother Rome”?** *If* any Christian-professing Church still embraces the pagan doctrines and practices of the **lewd “WOMAN,”** such as belief in observing Sunday as a holy day, instead of observing God’s commanded Sabbath, then *it* is one of Rome’s daughters. *If* a church still observes the **PAGAN HOLIDAYS (Sunday, Christmas, New Years Day, All-saints Day, etc.)** then that church is also a daughter of Rome. *If* any church **rejects Christ’s TRUE GOSPEL** (which proclaims Christ will rule with His saints here *on earth*) and accepts a *spurious gospel* (2 Cor. 11)—and teaches that the dead aren’t really dead, but that they immediately ascend to heaven at the time of their death—then they have bought into their Babylonian Mother’s lies regarding the after-life!

There has been so much *doctrinal pollution* and *corruption* in what has come to be called **CHRISTIANITY**—most of which is *not* “Christian”—so much departing from the *true Gospel of Christ* in modern **Christendom**, that it is past time for all Christians to learn the *truth* about the true identity of modern “Babylon”—which continues to *deceive* and *corrupt* so much of the world with her “*golden cup* full of **abominations** and the **filthiness** of her fornication” (Rev. 17:4)!

God’s people must *heed* His clarion call: “**COME OUT OF HER, MY PEOPLE, lest you share in her sins, and...receive of her plagues.** For her sins have reached to *heaven*, and God has remembered *her iniquities*” (Rev. 18:4-5). **We dare not ignore God’s command to His chosen people** to “come out of” modern Babylon!

A PERSONAL NOTE. Here is a brief note regarding my varied

experiences in the Work of God during the past 55 years. Most of you will have become familiar with my articles in various Church publications (the *Good News*, *Plain Truth*, *Tomorrow's World*, etc), and more recently in articles which were published in other "Church of God" publications. I have served for nearly 50 years as a *writer* and *editor*.

**My appointment to serve on the WCG Doctrinal Teams.** Mr. H.W. Armstrong appointed me to serve *under him* over the Headquarters Doctrinal Team in 1974, knowing that I would not introduce "liberal" doctrines into God's Church. After Mr. Armstrong's decease, the Pastor General who succeeded Mr. him appointed me to be over the Doctrinal Team in Pasadena; but shortly afterward, my wife and I were sent to the South Pacific to head the Work of God in New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga, etc. Since I would not endorse the *strange doctrines* then being seriously considered at our Pasadena Headquarters, my continued presence would have been a big obstacle in the eyes of those who planned to make sweeping doctrinal changes in the WCG.

**My ordination as an Evangelist in the WCG.** Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong ordained me as an Evangelist—over 51 years ago. During those 51 eventful years I served as the pastor of 14 churches in the U.S., Britain and New Zealand, and in 1954-1955, I founded the Chicago Church of God, the first WCG Church east of the Mississippi River. I also served as Director of the Work of God in Britain (1958-1973).

**Appointed Deputy Chancellor of Ambassador Colleges in England, and Pasadena, CA.** In 1960, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong appointed me Deputy Chancellor of Ambassador College, near London. Later, in 1978, Mr. Armstrong asked me to serve as Deputy Chancellor of Ambassador College in Pasadena, California—in order to help him put Ambassador College *back on track*. I continued serving God's Work in that position for nearly ten years—until 2 years after Mr. Armstrong's death in 1986. I was gratified to hear him say, before his decease, that **he was very pleased to see Ambassador College back on track**. I always counted it a great honor and a fantastic privilege to work with God's end-time Apostle for over 36 years, from the time I entered Ambassador College in 1948, until his death in 1986—approximately 36 years.

**I was privileged to conduct many baptismal tours while serving in the Worldwide Church of God.** In the summer of 1949, Mr. Armstrong sent Raymond Cole and me on the first student-led, nation-wide baptismal tour, during which time we baptized about 125 brethren. In the following years, I conducted *seven* more baptismal tours in the U.S. and Canada before being sent to London, England in 1958 to take charge of God's Work in Britain, where I continued to serve the Work of Jesus Christ during the next 15 years. After arriving in London, England, I conducted several baptismal tours in the British Isles, and was later sent to Southern Africa with another minister to baptize a number of people in Northern and Southern Rhodesia, and in South Africa.

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