

THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY

A Timeline of “Anti-Church” History By Pastor Michael Veach

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day [the day of Christ, the rapture of the church] shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition ... For the mystery of iniquity doth already work.” - 2Thessalonians 2:3, 7a

I. THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY DEFINED:

1. The **slow** and **subtle mixture** of bad doctrine into the purity of NT Christianity.
2. The gradual **corruption** of the Word of God.
3. The rise of a **false Christianity**, having a form of godliness but denying the power of the Gospel.
4. The **revealing of the man of sin** who will rule over the earth and receive worship from the world.

II. THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY FORESEEN:

Paul’s warnings (in addition to 2Thess. 2:1-8):

Acts 20:28-31 *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, ...For I know this, that after my departing shall **grievous wolves** enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall **men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.***

2Corinthians 11:3-4, 13 *But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth **another Jesus**, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive **another spirit**, which ye have not received, or **another gospel**, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him. ... For such are **false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.***

Ephesians 4:14 *...be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with **every wind of doctrine**, by **the sleight of men**, and **cunning craftiness**, whereby **they lie in wait to deceive**;*

Colossians 2:8 *Beware lest any man spoil you through **philosophy and vain deceit**, after **the tradition of men**, after **the rudiments of the world**, and not after Christ.*

1Timothy 4:1 *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that **in the latter times some shall depart from the faith**, giving heed to **seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils**;*

2Timothy 4:2-4 *... For the time will come when **they will not endure sound doctrine**; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves **teachers**, having itching ears; And **they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.***

Peter's warning:

2Peter 2:1-3 *There shall be **false teachers** among you, **who privily shall bring in damnable heresies**, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*

Jude's warning:

Jude 1:3-4 *...it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. 4 **For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.***

Jesus' warnings:

Matthew 13:24-33 The **parables of the "kingdom of heaven"** all have a dark side related to the mystery of iniquity. They foretell the corruption, compromise and "mixture" that would take place during the church age: **tares** in the wheat, **birds** (devils) in the branches of a great "tree", **leaven** in the "meal" (bread dough, type of the church), a net cast into the sea and then pulled out full of "**good**" and "**bad**".







Mark 7:6-9, 13 [To the elders of Israel] *This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, **teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.** For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the **tradition** of men, ...Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition...**Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition**, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.*

Matthew 16:11-12 *...**beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.** Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the **doctrine** of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.*

III. THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY TRACED THROUGH HISTORY:

For the purpose of this study, church history is divided into **seven periods** corresponding to the seven churches described in Revelation chapters two and three. These seven churches in turn correspond to the seven parables of the kingdom in Matthew chapter thirteen.

The following **symbols** will be used in this study to trace the history of particular evils, each of which will be summarized at the end. (The dates given in the timeline are approximate.)

1.  **Satan's attack on the Bible: the attempted destruction & corruption of the true text.**
2.  **Mariolatry: the rise of the "cult" of Mary worship.**
3.  **Nicolaitanism: the development of church hierarchy with the Pope as its head.**
4.  **The persecution and murder of Christians and Jews () by Papal Rome.**
5.  **The changing of the truth of the "Lord's Supper" into the idolatrous "mass".**

1

33 - 100 AD \ CHURCH OF EPHEBUS \ The apostolic church of the first century

Revelation 2:1-7

While the apostles were still alive the churches were generally sound in their doctrine and faithful in their witness. The church of Ephesus, at the turn of the first century, was typical of this period: it was an evangelistic, hard working, godly church full of the power of God. *“Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; ...I know **thy works**, and **thy labour**, and **thy patience**, and how thou **canst not bear them which are evil**: ...And **hast borne**, and **hast patience**, and **for my name's sake hast laboured**, and **hast not fainted**.”* (Rev. 2:1-3) But Paul had warned Timothy (the pastor at Ephesus) that trouble was coming (2Tim. 4:1-4). By the time of John’s letter to the church of Ephesus they were already **“cooling off”** in their love for Jesus Christ and his Word! (Rev. 2:4)

The parable of the sower and the seed, (Matthew 13:1-23) corresponds to the “Ephesus” church period. The **sower** (Jesus Christ) sowed the **seed** (the Word of God) everywhere in a **field** (the world). The “Ephesus” church period was a time of great evangelism, as the apostles went out to fulfill the Lord’s command to *“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”* (Mark 16:15) The Word of God was being sown everywhere in the world (Col. 1:6; Rom. 16:26) and the churches were multiplying rapidly throughout the Roman Empire but all was not well.

There were **false brethren** in the churches (2Cor. 11:26; Galatians 2:4). Even the church of Ephesus had its **Hymenaeus, Philetus** and **Alexander**, of whom Paul warned Timothy to beware! (2Tim. 2:17-18; 2Tim. 4:14-15; 1Timothy 1:18-20) There were also **false apostles**, claiming divine authority for their messages, spreading their lies among the churches. Paul had warned that Satan would try this tactic. (Acts 20:29-30; 2Cor. 11:12-15) This satanic masquerade was unsuccessful at first, as we can gather from the Lord’s words to the church at Ephesus in Revelation 2:2, *“I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and **thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars.**”* (Revelation 2:2)

2

100 - 325 AD \ CHURCH OF SMYRNA \ The suffering church under Roman persecutions.

Revelation 2:8-11

During this period (from the death of John the Apostle until the rise of Constantine the Great) there were relentless and bloody persecutions of Christians, as Satan attempted to halt the spread of the Gospel. The Lord Jesus said to the saints of Smyrna, *“Ye shall have **tribulation ten days**: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.”* (Rev. 2:10)

As Imperial Rome continued its persecutions of the church, Satan was busy sowing **“tares”** among the wheat. Matthew 13:24-30 relates a parable that corresponds to this period in church history: *“The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: **But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way...** Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.”*

During this period **false teachers** were creeping into the churches: *“**Certain men crept in unawares** ...ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (Jude 1:3) *“For of this sort are they which **creep into houses** [house churches, as in Acts 8:3; Romans 16:5; 1Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15; Philemon 1:2] ...**Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth** ...so do these also **resist the truth**: men of corrupt minds, **reprobate concerning the faith.**”* (2Timothy 3:6-8)

During this period **false epistles** were circulating among the churches, as we see from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians: "*Now we beseech you, brethren ...that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means...*" (2Thess. 2:1-3) Probably for that reason Paul gave assurance of the authenticity of his epistles by writing his salutations with his own hand: "*The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write.*" (2Thess. 3:17; see also: 1Cor. 16:21; Col. 4:18)

During this period **false doctrine** was being introduced into Christianity in such a slow, subtle process that it was almost imperceptible. ALL of it came from WITHIN, from respected leaders who are known today as "CHURCH FATHERS". These were the theologians of the early church. Many of these men loved the Lord and died for their faith, but most of them held unscriptural ideas about certain doctrines. MANY were just full-fledged card-carrying HERETICS and FALSE TEACHERS. All of them, when they departed from the truth, did so because they relied on PHILOSOPHY, their own LOGIC and the OPINIONS of other "church fathers" more than they did on the Bible! NONE of the so-called "Church Fathers" (Martin Luther said they should be called the church babies!) was right 100% of the time. And none of their writings should ever be placed above the Word of God as Rome does today.

100AD



Gnosticism. The Gnostics were a sect of philosophers who pretended they were the only men with true knowledge of the Christian faith. They developed a system of theology based on a combination of Greek philosophy, Jewish mysticism and the teachings of Zoroaster, a Persian mystic from 500 BC. The source of Gnosticism – as with so many other evils that affected the early church – was ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT. Gnosticism relied on visions and revelations from "spirits" - much like the "new age" religions of our day that place personal "spiritual" experiences over the clear Word of God. Gnostics claimed to possess "secret wisdom" not found in the Bible. Gnosticism infected many of the "theologians" of the period. The Gnostics said Jesus was A "Christ" (a higher spiritual being than man), but not THE Christ (Almighty God). They considered the Bible a book of great wisdom but not the infallible Word of God.

Gnostic "scriptures", written in the first few centuries of the church age, contradicted the most basic doctrines of the faith and contained endless falsehoods. Some of these Gnostic "scriptures" (the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Mary Magdalene, etc.), rejected by the early churches, were "discovered" in the 20th century and are still eagerly promoted by modern theologians.



During this time Gnosticism begins to pervert Christian ideas about Mary. Long before the birth of Christ, the Gnostics in Egypt worshipped a Holy Virgin goddess, the Queen of Heaven, (Called Isis at Alexandria. See Jeremiah 7:18). **Gnostic influence is evident in the writings of many of the "church fathers", especially the bishops of Alexandria, who helped move the church toward the near deification of the Virgin Mary!**

130



Justin Martyr, one of the "Church Fathers", helps corrupt the doctrine of the early churches. Like the other "Fathers", Justin was a prolific writer but, as a theologian, he relied more on philosophy and human reason than on the final authority of God's Word. Among other things, he taught that the Lord's Supper is an **actual sacrifice**; that it is the "pure offering" foretold by Malachi (1:11); that Christ is literally present in the bread and wine. He said: "*We do not receive these as common bread or common drink. But just as our Savior Jesus Christ was made flesh through the Word of God and had both flesh and blood for our salvation, so also we have been taught that the food that has been eucharistized by the word of prayer from Him ...is the flesh and blood of the incarnate Jesus.*" (First Apology, 66:2)



Justin Martyr also helps corrupt the doctrine of the early churches by elevating Mary to an unscriptural position as “the new Eve”. He taught that man fell through a **disobedient** “virgin” (?) but was saved through an **obedient** one (Mary)!

177



Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons (France), another “**Church Father**”, helps corrupt the doctrine of the early churches. He elevated the Church of Rome to preeminence over the other churches, calling it: “...*the greatest and most ancient Church known to all, founded and organized at Rome by the two most glorious Apostles, Peter and Paul, that Church which has the tradition and the faith which comes down to us after having been announced to men by the Apostles. For with this Church, because of its superior origin, all Churches must agree, that is, all the faithful in the whole world; and it is in her that the faithful everywhere have maintained the Apostolic tradition.*” (Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*)

200



CORRUPTION of the true Biblical manuscripts is well under way by this time, thanks to the work of three men: Philo, Clement and Origen, successive “scholars” and headmasters at the first “Christian” university in Alexandria, Egypt. The deliberate contamination of the true Greek and Hebrew texts can be traced to these three men and their famous school! Greek culture permeated the city of Alexandria and Greek philosophy permeated the entire educational process of the Alexandrian school. **Origen (184-254)** was the most famous Alexandrian scholar. He was also the most subtle and effective at undermining the true Scriptures. He wrote more than **2,000 books on religious subjects!** Yet he believed that much of the Bible was allegorical and **freely altered it to what he thought it should have said!** He is rightly called the “**father of textual criticism**”. His most famous work was called the “**Hexapla**”, a six-columned “inter-linear” that contained conflicting translations of the Old Testament side-by-side, three of which were translations done by heretics, along with his own Greek translation of the OT that occupied the fifth-column. **Origen’s infamous “fifth column”** became the basis for the corrupt Eusebeo-Constantine Bible (see 331 AD) and found its way into two very old (4th century) manuscripts known as **Vaticanus** and **Sinaiticus**. These two manuscripts have been called, “...*the most corrupt of all. They are the depositories of the largest amount of fabricated and intentional perversions of truth which are discoverable in any copies of the word of God. They exhibit a fabricated text... [and are] shamefully mutilated.*” (Dean Burgon, *The Revision Revised*, pp. 76, 520, 318)

NOTE: 1400 years after Origen, the King James Bible translators rejected Vaticanus and other manuscripts like it because they knew those manuscripts were corrupted. They used instead the pure NT text known today as the “Textus Receptus” (the Received Text) and the pure Hebrew Masoretic text of the OT to produce **a perfect translation** (not of the will of man, but of God). But Satan could never let that stand. In the late 1800’s two Cambridge scholars named Westcott and Hort, who highly esteemed Vaticanus and Sinaiticus and hated the King James Bible and its underlying text, determined to replace it with their own translation. They used Vaticanus and Sinaiticus to **secretly** create their own text and supplied that corrupted text to an English “revision” committee that produced a new English translation, the **Revised Version (RV) of 1881**. **Every modern “Bible” since 1881 can be traced back to the text of Westcott and Hort and the two manuscripts they loved! And it all goes back to Origen and Alexandria, Egypt!**

250

Cyprian, bishop of Carthage, (another early “church father”) promotes the idea that **God intended there to be one unified, visible “Catholic Church”**. Cyprian frequently used the term “Catholic Church” in his many writings to describe the **VISIBLE** unity that he believed there must be among all the churches. He saw no salvation outside of this “Catholic Church”. And any bishops, like Novatian, who fought against the growing doctrinal impurities in the “Catholic Church”, were held by Cyprian to be unsaved apostates whose ordinations were invalid.


THINGS RAPIDLY DECLINED IN THE FOURTH CENTURY! WATCH CONSTANTINE!

312 **Constantine, a sun-god-worshipping pagan, becomes Emperor** following seven years of bloody civil war in the Roman Empire. He was supposedly “converted” to Christianity after seeing a vision of a cross in the sky and a voice that told him, “**In this sign, conquer**”. Constantine did so, and won a decisive military victory at the battle of Milvan Bridge.



Constantine

313 **Constantine signs the Edict of Milan** establishing a policy of toleration for Christians in the Empire that included protection and the immediate restoration of all their lands and property. **The effect of this decree was dramatic.** Almost overnight, Christians went from being despised to being highly honored. Constantine gave state support to the churches and a secure, lifetime position to the “clergy” - free from taxes and military service. There followed such a flood of men “joining up” that city officials complained to the Emperor who then put restrictions on who could enter the “ministry”!

314  **Donatists** (followers of Donatus, a bishop in Carthage, North Africa) **are condemned as heretics at the Council of Arles, convened by Constantine.** The Donatists opposed the growing power of the Church of Rome and its unscriptural doctrines. They split from “Catholicism” and spread their beliefs throughout North Africa, Italy and Spain. They were another in a long line of dissenting anti-Catholic groups who, like the **Montanists** (2nd century) and the **Novatians** (3rd century), were singled out for condemnation and persecution.

318 **Constantine declares December 25th to be the birth date of Jesus Christ!** This date was formerly the feast day dedicated to the birth of the Persian sun god, Mithras, the patron god of the Roman Empire since 274 AD. This was an obvious effort to make Christianity more palatable to pagan Romans by adopting their feast days. **This “holy day” was celebrated with a high mass, the “Christ mass”**

321 **Constantine declares “the venerable day of the Sun” (Sunday) to be a compulsory day of worship throughout the Empire.** Here was an early indication of Constantine’s plan to blend his pagan beliefs with those of Christianity. German historian H. G. Heggtveit described these events as follows: *“Constantine laboured at this time, untiringly, to unite the worshippers of the old and new faith, into one religion. All his laws and contrivances were aimed at promoting this amalgamation of religions.”*

324 **Constantine begins construction of St. Peter’s Basilica,** the first of **six major churches** he built in Rome. It was completed after his death in 337 AD. **Before the time of Constantine, Christians did not erect grand “church buildings”.** It was their custom to meet in homes, and usually in secret. Constantine changed all that. He built magnificent edifices, richly decorated, on prominent sites around the city. St. Peter’s Basilica was built on Vatican Hill, the very spot where formerly an annual spring festival was held in honor of the Goddess Cybele. At that pagan festival a pine tree, the phallic symbol of Cybele’s lover, Attis, was placed outside her temple entrance. Take one look at the present day Vatican with the giant obelisk outside its entrance, and one can see the continued idolatry in the Church of Rome! **Constantine’s basilica stood for 1,300 years** until the present-day St. Peter’s Basilica replaced it in the 1600’s.


3

325 AD - 600 AD \ CHURCH OF PERGAMOS \ The church “married” to the state.
Revelation 2:12-17

During the “Pergamos” period the church and state are joined together and become dependent on each other. This marks the beginning of the Roman Catholic “church”. The foundations were laid by Emperor Constantine (politically) and by St. Augustine (theologically). Constantine declared himself “The Protector of Christianity” and bestowed numerous benefits on the churches and their leaders. A religious hierarchy soon developed with the “clergy” becoming a professional class with lordship over the flock. According to one historian (E. H. Broadbent in “The Pilgrim Church”), “*The history of the centuries which followed Constantine unfolds the growth in worldliness and ambition of the clergy, both of the Eastern and Western Catholic churches, until they claimed entire dominion over the possessions and consciences of mankind, enforcing these claims with a violence and guile that knew no limits.*” Satan is building his own “Christian” church, one “**having the form of godliness** [outwardly righteous] **but denying the power thereof** [inwardly corrupt and void of the true gospel]. (2Tim. 3:5) It grew to dominate the world, exert its power over kings, persecute and kill those who disagree with it, corrupt the Word of God, bring the worship of devils into the churches and subvert the faith of millions of believers!

Matthew 13:31-32 relates a parable that corresponds to the Pergamos period: “*The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.*” Thus, Christianity (more correctly, “Christendom”) would experience amazing and UNNATURAL growth and become the habitation of all kinds of evil spirits!

To the Church of Pergamos the Lord Jesus Christ said, “*I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan’s seat is.*” (Rev. 2:13) In the Pergamos period Satan gives the Bishop of Rome greater and greater power and finally a THRONE from which to rule like a LORD over God’s heritage! (1Peter 5:3) Jesus also said to Pergamos, “*Thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.*” (Rev. 2:14) Balaam lured Israel away from God by seducing them to join in the “sacrifices of the dead” (Psalm 106:28). Israel succumbed to the seduction and was soon worshipping devils (Deut. 32:17). In the Pergamos period, the churches were lured away from the Lord through the false doctrines of the popes and “church fathers” and taught to eat things sacrificed unto idols (the mass) and commit fornication (intimacy with devils).

325  **Council of Nicaea** is convened by Constantine and presided over by him as “Pontifex Maximus”, his pagan title as the former “highest priest” of Mithraism. (This title was adopted later by the Popes). The original purpose of the Council of Nicaea was to settle a theological controversy among the churches concerning the deity of Christ. Constantine’s letters to the bishops at the time made it clear that he expected them to come to an agreement! However, his reason for this was more political than spiritual. He demanded unity among the bishops on this issue **because it was essential to governing the empire!** As a result, the “Nicean Creed” adopted at this council has this “unifying” statement: “*We believe in ...one holy catholic and apostolic church.*” **The Council of Nicaea marks the unofficial beginning of Roman Catholicism!**



Emperor Constantine presiding over
The Council of Nicaea

325



The Council of Nicea forbids bishops to converse with or have fellowship with Jews! This was an early manifestation of Catholicism's hatred of the Jews. It would manifest itself time and time again over the coming centuries.

330

Constantine builds a new capitol more than 1,000 miles from Rome and named it Constantinople (present-day Istanbul). By moving the imperial government out of Rome, Constantine created a vacuum of power that sets the stage for the rise of the papacy! The bishop of Rome soon begin to exploit this situation to enhance his already considerable prestige. As for Constantine, at the dedication of his new capitol, he held elaborate ceremonies honoring both the sun god and Christ! (So much for Constantine's "conversion")

331



Constantine creates a new "Bible". Constantine commissioned Eusebius, a religious historian and devoted student of **Origen**, to produce an "official" Bible for the churches of the Eastern Empire. Eusebius used Origen's **corrupt** Greek translation (the Hexapla's "fifth column") which he claimed was **the purest text** available! Fifty expensive copies of this new "Bible" were made and distributed throughout the land. It became the standard text for the next fifty years until it was replaced by Jerome's Latin Vulgate of 383 AD. Vaticanus and Sinaiticus, (mentioned earlier) the two manuscripts that have caused so much damage to the work of the Lord, are believed to be remnants of Eusebius' Bible.

375

"Veneration" of angels and dead saints begins. Veneration is a term that the Catholic Church uses to avoid the obvious charge of idolatry. They claim they do not "worship" angels, saints or Mary but only "honor" (venerate) them. But when the OBJECT of one's veneration is a spirit being – or a dead saint – and when communion with that being is part of ones "veneration", then it is clearly "worship". "Veneration" is just a new, subtle name for idolatry.

380



Catholicism is declared the sole religion of the Roman Empire by Emperor Theodosius I. While Constantine had favored and supported Christianity (for political reasons) Theodosius went further and made Christianity (Catholicism) **compulsory**. His law proscribed punishment for those who would not submit to "Catholicism": *"We authorize the followers of this law to assume the title **Catholic Christians**; but as for the others, since in our judgment they are foolish madmen, we decree that they shall be branded with the ignominious name of heretics, and shall not presume to give their conventicles the name of churches. They will suffer in the first place the chastisement of divine condemnation, and second, the punishment that our authority, in accordance with the will of heaven, shall decide to inflict."* [Theodosian Code XVI.1.2]


The Theodosian law, enforced throughout the Eastern Roman Empire, marks the beginning of the dark ages. Pagan temples were closed and property confiscated. **Jews were expelled from many eastern cities** and every pastor and church that did not adhere to this new "orthodoxy" was persecuted. In 382 AD the western Emperor, Gratian, applied the Theodosian decree to the Western Roman Empire and made "apostasy" a crime punishable by the government! This sets the stage for the Roman Catholic Inquisitions and Crusades of the future.


383





THE LATIN "VULGATE" - The Catholic Church creates its own Bible, a translation made by **St. Jerome** based on the corrupt **Eusebio-Constantine Greek text** (found today in the Alexandrian manuscripts of "Vaticanus" and Sinaiticus"). The Latin Vulgate was **the official Roman Catholic Bible** for the next 1,200 years! It was revised six times but remained in use until the time of the Reformation when it was translated into English and became the Douay-Rheims Version.

386 St. Augustine becomes bishop of Hippo, in North Africa. He plays a very important role in the formation of Roman Catholicism, second only to Constantine! He is called “**The Father of Roman Catholic Theology.**” His voluminous writings are the basis for many of the doctrines of Rome. His beliefs included: infant baptism, limbo for un-baptized infants, purgatory for purification after death, the “sacraments” as a means of grace, Mary as the “Mother of God” and death to heretics. Concerning the Scriptures, he was a “textual critic” like Origen. He mixed Greek philosophy (Neo-Platonism) with Christian doctrine (See Col. 2:8). He believed that much of the Bible was allegorical, including the story of creation and the resurrection of the saints. He was an “amillennialist”, meaning he did not believe that the millennium (Rev. 20:1-6) would begin with the return of Christ, but that the Catholic Church was already in the millennium and would eventually bring in a righteous, eternal kingdom on the earth - by force, if necessary. One of his famous books was “The City of God” which likened Catholic Rome to the New Jerusalem!
The man was a heretic!

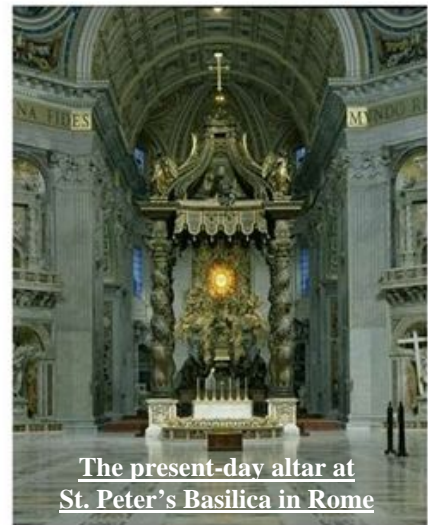
394  **The Lord’s Supper is slowly being transformed into a “sacrifice”.** By this time, certain “church fathers” (Ignatius of Antioch, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus of Lyons, etc) were already claiming that the elements (bread and “wine”) were not just symbols but actually the body and blood of the Lord and that they imparted saving grace (eternal life) to those who received them! On the other hand, there were still many bishops who strongly **disagreed** (including Tertullian, Augustine, Origen and Eusebius of Caesarea!).

401  **Innocent I became Bishop of Rome** and claimed that he should have jurisdiction over all the churches. By this time **Nicolaitanism** was becoming firmly rooted in the churches! Nicolaitanism is the unbiblical hierarchy of **bishops, archbishops, cardinals, metropolitans** (archbishops who ruled over large cities), and **patriarchs** (archbishops who ruled over Rome, Constantinople, Jerusalem, Antioch and Alexandria).

431  **MARIOLOTRY - Council of Ephesus declares Mary “the Mother of God”!** Prior to this date, Christians gave no special place of honor to Mary but at this council she was given the pagan title, “**Mother of God**”. Ephesus was famous in ancient times for its worship of **the goddess, Diana** (Acts 19:24-35), who bore the title, “Mother of All.” In time, many of Diana’s titles were transferred to Mary, including "Queen of Heaven" and "Divine Virgin". The first church dedicated to “Mary the Virgin” was built in Ephesus around this time. **The spirit of Jezebel** (Rev. 2:18-22) was seductively working her way into the churches!

440  **An “ALTAR” is placed in St. Peter’s Basilica** by Sixtus III, bishop of Rome, for the consecration of the bread and wine. This was the beginning of a subtle change: the Lord’s **Table** was gradually replaced by an **altar** and the **memorial** of the Lord’s Supper was gradually replaced by a **sacrifice**; the **truth** was gradually turned into a **lie**!

The New Testament says nothing about an altar in the meeting places of the believers! Jesus Christ gave to his church a “TABLE” (in the upper room) NOT an “ALTAR”. And on that table a “SUPPER” (of bread and wine) NOT a “SACRIFICE” of flesh and blood! “*This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you. But, behold, the hand of him that betrayeth me is with me on **the table.***” (Luke 22:20-21).



The present-day altar at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome

NOTE: In the Old Testament tabernacle the brazen altar was on the outside and the table of shewbread was on the inside! On the brazen altar (outside), the sacrifices were offered for the whole world to see! On the “table of shewbread” (inside), the twelve cakes of unleavened bread were placed to “shew” forth God’s continual care and provision for the twelve tribes of Israel. The shewbread was seen and eaten only by the priests, the sons of Aaron. (Lev. 24:5-9) The bread was not a sacrifice and the table was not an altar.



SATAN'S ALTAR

In the New Testament church, at the heart of our most intimate fellowship, there is supposed to be a **table!** On that table is the Lord’s Supper, a continual **remembrance** of God’s care and provision for every believer through the sacrifice of Christ: a remembrance meant to be seen and eaten only by the “believer-priests” of the New Testament, the sons of God. The Lord’s **table** was never meant to be an **altar**. The altar of sacrifice is not WITHIN the church but WITHOUT: it was on **the cross of Calvary** where the Lamb was slain for our sins; “*without the gate.*” (Heb. 13:12).

445



THE PAPACY BEGINS. Pope Leo I, bishop of Rome, who, in letters to other bishops throughout the Empire, long boasted of his supposed preeminence, urged Emperor Valentinian III to officially recognize his authority. The Emperor then issued a decree that all the bishops of the Roman Empire were to be under the jurisdiction of the bishop of Rome and that any opposition to his rulings, which had the force of law, would be treated as treason.

The papacy is a human invention, and does not go all the way back to Peter! During the first three centuries of Christianity there was no such thing as a supreme bishop ruling over other bishops. **The bishops in Rome sometimes sought this honor for themselves** (Stephen II, for example, in 220 AD) **but most of the early “Church Fathers” opposed such an idea on scriptural grounds!** In fact, Cyprian, the bishop of Carthage, North Africa, strongly reprovved Stephen II with these words: “*For neither does any of us set himself up as a bishop of bishops, nor by tyrannical terror does any compel his colleague to the necessity of obedience; since every bishop, according to the allowance of his liberty and power, has his own proper right of judgment, and can no more be judged by another than he himself can judge another. But let us all wait for the judgment of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only one that has the power both of preferring us in the government of His Church, and of judging us in our conduct there.*” (Cyprian, Opening comments at the Council of Carthage. 256 AD)

451



Council of Calcedon - 600 bishops meeting in Asia Minor declare that Mary is the mother of God (!) and that the bishop of Constantinople should have sole authority over the Eastern bishops. (**Pope Leo I** rejected the Council’s decision on that last point.)

476



THE ROMAN EMPIRE COLLAPSES! Following the invasion of Italy by the Goths (452), the sacking of Rome by the Vandals (455) and the overthrow of the armies of the western Empire by the Barbarians (476), the western Emperor, Romulus Augustulus, was deposed. When the invading armies eventually withdrew, it left the Roman Catholic Church as the only strong governing authority in the West. This greatly increased the power of the Church and helped transform the Popes into the new Caesars! **Three critical factors made this possible:** (1) the turmoil of the times, (2) the departure of the imperial government from Rome (330 AD) and (3) the preeminence given lately to the bishop of Rome (445 AD). Satan exploited these three circumstances in order to establish a new seat of power for himself on the earth! (Rev. 2:13)

4






500 AD - 1000 AD \ CHURCH OF THYATIRA \ The church “leavened” with Satanic doctrine and worldly philosophy. The DARK AGES!


Revelation 2:18-29


During the Thyatira period the power of Roman Catholicism became greater and greater. In this period **the temporal reign of the popes** began. The influence of **the cult of Mary** came to permeate the churches and **the idolatry of the mass** became an official dogma of the Catholic Church.


In Matthew 13:33 is a parable that describes the Thyatira period: “*The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.” It speaks of a WOMAN (the whore, the spirit of Jezebel) who HID (secretly introduced) LEAVEN (bad doctrine - Matt. 16:11-12; Luke 12:1) into three measures of meal (the body of Christ) until the WHOLE was permeated by the leaven. Notice how this relates to the Lord’s warning to the church of Thyatira:*


Jesus said to the church of Thyatira, “...*I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death ...But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.” (Rev. 2:20-24)*

- 500  **Bishops begin to wear special garments to elevate themselves above the “laity”.** Their “vestments” became more and more elaborate as the years went by. This was Nicolaitanism, men beginning to rule as “lords over God’s heritage”! (1Peter 5:1-3)
- 530  **The “altar” in St. Peter’s is elevated by Felix IV as a holy place to be used exclusively for blessing the Eucharist elements.**
- 590  **Gregory I, bishop of Rome (590-604), makes sweeping changes in the church, increasing the power and prestige of the papacy. He established the doctrine of PURGATORY!** He also ordered that LATIN be the only language of prayer and worship in the Western Church. This served to further separate Rome from the influence of the Eastern (Greek) church and ended the subordination of the bishops of Rome to Eastern emperors.
- 600  **Prayers begin to be directed to Mary and other dead saints.** The Bible teaches that we should pray to God alone. (Matthew 11:28; Luke 1:46; Acts 10:25-26; 14:14-18)
- 610  **The title “Pope” or “Universal Bishop” is taken by Boniface III, bishop of Rome.** Emperor Phocas had conferred this upon Boniface to spite Bishop Ciriacus of Constantinople, who had excommunicated Phocas for having assassinated his predecessor, Emperor Mauritius. Gregory I, the previous bishop of Rome under Emperor Mauritius, had also been offered the title, but refused it, saying, “*I confidently affirm that whoso calls himself, or desires to be called Universal Priest, (Pontifex Maximus), in his pride goes before anti-Christ.*” Gregory called the title “*profane, superstitious, haughty, and invented by the first apostate.*” Jesus did not appoint Peter to reign over the apostles and forbade any such notion. (Luke 22:24-26; Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18)



680  **The Roman Pope is pronounced the head of all Christianity** at the Sixth Ecumenical Council in Constantinople.

709  **The practice of kissing the Pope's feet begins.** It was an ancient pagan custom to kiss the feet of emperors. The Bible forbids such practices. (Acts 10:25-26; Rev. 19:10; 22:9). The popes continued to require this for hundreds of years as a sign of submission to the Papacy.

754  **THE FRAUDULENT “DONATION OF CONSTANTINE” IS “DISCOVERED” BY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND IS USED TO SUPPORT THE POPE’S GROWING POWER.** This document, purportedly written in the fourth century by Constantine to Sylvester, then the Bishop of Rome, claimed to give to Sylvester all of the emperor’s authority, his palace, his lands and even the city of Rome itself! Catholic Popes used this document for almost 800 years (from Pope Stephen II onward) to justify their grab for power! **The Catholic Church now acknowledges that this document was a forgery!** The following excerpt shows the audacity of the forger, speaking for Constantine: *“We attribute to the See of Peter all the dignity, all the glory, all the authority of the imperial power. Furthermore, we give to Sylvester and to his successors our palace of the Lateran, which is incontestably the finest palace on the earth; we give him our crown, our miter, our diadem, and all our imperial vestments; we transfer to him the imperial dignity. We bestow on the holy Pontiff in free gift the city of Rome, and all the western cities of Italy. To cede precedence to him, we divest ourselves of our authority over all those provinces, and we withdraw from Rome, transferring the seat of our empire to Byzantium; inasmuch as it is not proper that an earthly emperor should preserve the least authority, where God hath established the head of his religion.”*

756  **THE TEMPORAL POWER OF THE POPE BEGINS.** Using the fraudulent “Donation of Constantine” as an excuse, the popes began to rule like kings. Several factors made this possible. Emperor Justinian’s armies had defeated the **Vandals** and the **Ostrogoths** and removed them from the regions around Rome. Then, Pepin III, usurper to the throne of France, had come to Rome at the urging of Pope Stephen II to war against the **Lombards**. Using the “Donation of Constantine”, the Pope convinced the illiterate Pepin that it was his duty to defend the city and protect the Pope! Pepin came to the rescue, drove out the Lombards and then made his own “Donation” to the Pope: giving him the city of Rome and the surrounding territory! This created the first **PAPAL STATE** and made **Pope Stephen II the first papal monarch**. In exchange for his help the Pope validated Pepin III as the king of France and proclaimed him and his two sons “Protectors of the Romans”! In **774 AD** Pepin’s son, Charlemagne, the new king of France and future Emperor of the “Holy Roman Empire”, visited Rome and gave the Pope even more territory. As their power grew, the Popes acted more and more like earthly monarchs, *“arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls”* (Rev. 17:4), sitting on a **throne** and wearing a **crown!** The **triple tiara** (below) symbolizes the Pope’s threefold victory over the Vandals, Ostrogoths and Lombards and the establishment of the Papal States. Jesus expressly forbade such a monstrous thing to his disciples and He himself refused a premature worldly kingship. (Matt. 4:8-9; 20:25-26; John 18:38).



- 787 **Worship of the cross, images and relics is authorized** by the 2nd Council of Nicea. This is nothing but IDOLATRY and the Bible condemns it. (Exodus 20:4; 3:17; Deut. 27:15; Psalm 115)
- 800 **Charlemagne is crowned Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire by Pope Leo III at Rome.** Rome's power over the kings of the earth was growing! *"And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth."* (Rev. 17:18)
- 831  Paschasius Radbertus writes a tract called *"Of the Body and Blood of the Lord"* setting forth the first detailed argument for what later came to be called **"transubstantiation"**. In his tract, he claimed that after the priestly consecration the elements are mysteriously changed into the very flesh and blood of Jesus Christ until *"there is nothing else in the Eucharist but the flesh and blood of Christ,"* although *"the figure of bread and wine remain."* (Philip Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, vol. IV, page 547). **His arguments became the accepted belief for the Catholic Church from that time on!**
- 845  **THE FALSIFIED "DECRETALS OF ISIDORE" ARE USED BY ROME TO INCREASE THE POWER OF THE PAPACY.** This collection of documents, most of which are now acknowledged by the Catholic Church to be forgeries (like the so-called "Donation of Constantine"), were invaluable for hundreds of years to justify the increasing authority of the popes. According to one historian, *"[The Decretals of Isadore] professed to be a collection of the letters and bulls of the early pastors of the Church of Rome. ...The writer, who professed to be living in the first century, painted the Church of Rome in the magnificence which she attained only in the ninth, and made the pastors of the first age speak in the pompous words of the Popes of the Middle Ages. Abounding in absurdities, contradictions, and anachronisms, it affords a measure of the intelligence of the age that accepted it as authentic....It became the foundation of canon law, and continues to be so, although there is not now a Popish writer who does not acknowledge it to be a piece of imposture."* (J. A. Wylie, "The History of Protestantism", Vol. I, p. 29-30)
- 850 **The use of "Holy Water" is authorized:** This is another example of how Catholicism was becoming the "synagogue of Satan" (Rev. 2:9; 3:9) by mixing the Jewish rituals of Old Testament Law (the use of holy water - Numbers 19:2-21) into the doctrines of Christianity.
- 995 **First canonization of dead saints,** by Pope John XV. In the Bible EVERY believer and follower of Christ is called a saint. (Rom. 1:7; 1Cor. 1:2).
- 998 **Fasting imposed on Fridays and during Lent.** This was first ordered by popes who were said to be interested in the commerce of fish. (A papal "Bull" was, at first, a permit to eat meat). Imposed fasting is against the plain teaching of the Bible (Matt. 15:10; 1Cor. 10:25) and is evidence of the activity of evil spirits! *"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."* (1Timothy 4:1-3)

5

1000 AD - 1500 AD \ CHURCH OF SARDIS \ the DEAD church.

Revelation 3:1-6

By this point in history the Mystery of Iniquity had so thoroughly infected “Christendom” that God speaks of it as **DEAD!** “*I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art **dead.***” (Rev. 3:1)

The spiritual deadness of the Sardis period is clearly seen through: **1)** the most corrupt and depraved Popes in history; **2)** numerous bloody persecutions by the Catholic Church; **3)** wars between rival Popes; **4)** the **Crusades**, in which hundreds of thousands of Jews, Muslims and even Christians were slaughtered to satisfy the ambitions of the Popes - all in the name of Jesus Christ; **5)** the **DEAD** theological apostasy of medieval “**scholasticism**” (See Thomas Aquinas, 1273AD) and **6)** the beginning of the worst crime ever committed against humanity: THE INQUISITION!

Yet, in spite of the “deadness” of the Sardis period, the true gospel continued to be preached by a “remnant”: the persecuted brethren of the pilgrim churches, who were still earnestly contending for “*the faith once delivered to the saints*” (Jude 1:3). These brethren were **hidden** away throughout Europe, primarily in mountainous areas. They were like a great **treasure** to the Lord. “*Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.*” (Rev. 3:4) We ought to be humbled - and probably a little ashamed - when we consider how great a sacrifice our brethren made to defend the gospel and preserve the scriptures. “*And they overcame him [the Devil] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.*” (Rev. 12:11) May the Lord help us to live up to their example.

The parable in Matthew 13:44 corresponds to this period and describes a treasure that remains hidden: “*The kingdom of heaven is like unto **treasure hid** in a **field**; the which when a man hath **found**, he **hideth**, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and **buyeth** that field.*”

1054



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH DIVIDES! Due to numerous controversies, especially the Pope’s claim to be the supreme ruler over all of Christendom, the Pope and the Patriarch of Constantinople excommunicated each other! **With this, the eastern “Church” (Greek) formally and permanently separated from the western “Church” (Catholic).** This allowed the Catholic Church to grow stronger in Europe without interference from the East.

1061



MARIAN APPARITION in Walsingham, England. A Catholic widow, the Lady Richeldis de Faverches, claimed she was taken “in spirit” to Nazareth where she was shown the house in which Mary received the news that she would bear the Lord Jesus. The apparition told Lady Faverches to build a replica of the house in Walsingham as a perpetual memorial to the Annunciation! Mary promised: “*Let all who are in any way distressed or in need seek me there in that small house that you maintain for me at Walsingham. To all that seek me there shall be given succor.*” When the carpenters hired to build the house were hindered in finishing the work, the Catholic fairy tale states that angels took over and completed the construction! Later, a Catholic church was built around the house. In the Middle Ages the shrine at Walsingham became one of the greatest pilgrimage sites in all of Europe. Even though the church and house were destroyed during the Reformation, “Our Lady of Walsingham” is now revered by both Catholics and Anglicans; **the first ecumenical delusion!** As the Mystery of Iniquity developed, apparitions of Mary occurred with greater frequency. At the END they will lure the world into the arms of Rome.

1073



THE RISE OF A PAPAL “THEOCRACY” - Gregory VII (Hildebrand), one of the most politically ambitious Popes in history, called for a “theocracy” in Europe, in which the kings of the earth were to be subservient to the Church of Rome. He made princes kiss his feet. Among his many outrageous decrees: *“The Pope sits in the place of God on earth with authority to depose political rulers and release their subjects from allegiance to them.”* He also said, *“The Church has never erred and never will for all eternity.”* In one famous incident, following a dispute with the king of Germany (Henry IV), Gregory excommunicated the king, who was then pressured to come to Italy to seek the Pope’s forgiveness. Henry IV was kept standing barefoot outdoors in the snow for three days before the Pope absolved him, and then only after the king promised to obey the Pope’s future dictates!

1073

Celibacy of the priesthood is enforced. Pope Gregory VII excommunicated married priests – while openly maintaining his own mistress! One of his successors (Pope Urban II, 1088-1099) made “celibacy” official, outlawing married priests - while imposing a “sex tax” on priests who wanted to keep concubines! Celibacy is still the root cause of fornication among Catholic “clergy”. Jesus Christ imposed no such rule, nor did any of the apostles. Peter was married, and Paul said that every bishop was to have a wife and children. (Matt. 8:14-15; 1Tim. 3:2, 5, 12).

1090

The Rosary is introduced by Peter the Hermit. These are prayer beads that promote “vain repetition”. Counting of prayers was condemned by Christ. (Matt. 6:5-13).







1096





FIRST CRUSADE BEGINS (lasting until 1099). A “holy” army was sent out by the Pope to aid Byzantine Christians against Muslim invaders. Crusaders fought their way to Jerusalem, sacking the city and killing 30,000! It is amazing that the Catholic Church still attempts to justify the bloodshed it has caused for the last 1,000 years. The Lord Jesus Christ *“was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.”* (Isaiah 53:7) The Bible makes it clear that we are not to “strike back” against our enemies but to yield everything to the Lord (1Peter 2:19-23). Jesus Christ said, *“Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”* (Matthew 5:44) **As they made their way toward Jerusalem in 1099, the crusaders, led by Peter the Hermit, massacred thousands of Jews. In Germany, the Jewish populations of some towns (Mainz, Speyer, Worms, Cologne, Rouen, etc.) were swiped out!**



The First Crusaders conquer Jerusalem showing no mercy for the inhabitants. An eyewitness account: *“Among those who entered the city first were Tancred and the Duke of Lorraine, and the amount of blood that they shed on that day is incredible. All ascended after them, and the Saracens now began to suffer. ...But now that our men had possession of the walls and towers, wonderful sights were to be seen. Some of our men (and this was more merciful) cut off the heads of their enemies; others shot them with arrows, so that they fell from the towers; others tortured them longer by casting them into the flames. Piles of heads, hands, and feet were to be seen in the streets of the city. It was necessary to pick one’s way over the bodies of men and horses. But these were small matters compared to what happened at the Temple of Solomon, a place where religious services are ordinarily chanted. What happened there? If I tell the truth, it will exceed your powers of belief. So let it suffice to say this much, at least, that in the Temple and porch of Solomon, men rode in blood up to their knees and bridle reins. Indeed, it was a just and splendid judgment of God that this place should be filled with the blood of the unbelievers, since it had suffered so long from their blasphemies. The city was filled with corpses and blood.”* – (*The First Crusade: Accounts of Eyewitnesses & Participants*, August C. Krey, Princeton: 1921, pp. 257-62, from: www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/cde-jlem.html)


- 1163**  **Albigenses are condemned at the Council of Tours.** The Albigenses (also called the Cathari) lived in Southern France and were vigorously opposed to the corruptions of the Catholic clergy. They were labeled as “heretics” and the Council of Tours decreed that they should be imprisoned and their property confiscated!
- 1179**  **Albigenses and Waldenses are condemned by the Third Lateran Council.** The Albigenses and the Waldenses (also called the Vaudois) lived a poor but godly lifestyle and preached the gospel throughout Europe. They were outspoken against the errors of Rome. The Waldenses proclaimed that a true Christian would renounce the Catholic Church, declare the Mass idolatry, the Eucharist an abomination, the Church of Rome the whore of Babylon, and the Pope the Antichrist. Following this Council’s decree, in spite of persecutions and some defections in their ranks, the Waldensians and their doctrine spread from Southern France into Austria, Bohemia, Moravia, Hungary, Poland, Spain and Northern Italy. Pope Alexander III decreed that Catholics were to “...*oppose this scourge with all their might and **by arms** protect the Christian people against them. Their goods are to be confiscated and princes free to subject them to slavery.*”
- 1184**  **Punishment of “heretics” is approved at the Council of Verona.** Pope Lucius III commanded that all rulers take an oath before their bishops to enforce Church laws against heresy and to punish the Church’s enemies. Failure to do so would result in excommunication and loss of rank! The following is a quote from the Catholic Encyclopedia: “*In 1192 Bishop Otto of Toul ordered all Waldenses to be put in chains and delivered up to the episcopal tribunal. [In 1194] King Alphonso II of Aragon banished them from his dominions and forbade anyone to furnish them with shelter or food. These provisions were renewed by Pedro II at the Council of Gerona (1197), and **death by burning was decreed against the heretics.***”
- 1190** **The SALE of “INDULGENCES” begins.** Indulgences were commonly regarded as the purchase of forgiveness and a permit to indulge in sin. They could be used to shorten one’s time in “purgatory”. Revelation 17:1-6 describes “*the great **whore** that sitteth upon many waters*”, a false church that offers her supposed “spiritual blessings” for a PRICE. Indulgences were a rich source of income for the Papacy and the practice became more widespread whenever money was needed for building a cathedral or equipping another army for the Crusades. All such traffic is condemned in the strongest terms in God’s Word. **(It was Luther’s protest against the blatant sale of indulgences that helped to spark the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century.)**
- 1190**  **The Third Crusade, led by Richard the Lion Heart of England, incites violence against the Jews.** In York, Catholic priests and crusaders attacked the Jewish population, burning homes and forcing them to flee to the castle, where they were besieged for six days. When offered the choice of conversion or death, 150 Jews, led by their rabbi, committed mass suicide. The few survivors were slain by the crusaders.
- 1200**  **The POWER of the Papacy reaches its PEAK under Innocent III (1198-1216).** He claimed to have been given the whole earth to rule over by God. Innocent III succeeded in acquiring as “fiefs” all the lands of Portugal, Hungary and England! In the year 1209 Innocent III even excommunicated the Holy Roman emperor, Otto IV, and the king of England!
- 1202**  **The Fourth Crusade is launched by Pope Innocent III.** Sent originally to liberate Jerusalem from Muslim occupiers, **the crusaders instead attacked Constantinople**, which was Rome’s rival to the East. The city suffered the worst devastation in its history. **The Pope’s domination of the Eastern Church began here.** Innocent III installed his man as patriarch of Constantinople. Roman rule over the Eastern Orthodox Church lasted until 1261AD.


1208  **A crusade against the Albigenses in southern France is launched by Pope Innocent III.** His hatred of this group knew no bounds. In **1209**, in Beziers, 20,000 Albigenses were massacred! In **1229**, in Toulouse, 32,000 were killed and their property stolen with the approval of the Council of Toulouse. By **1250 AD** hundreds of thousands had been killed, all because of their opposition to the Pope and his so-called Church.


1208  **MARIAN APPARITION in Prouille, France to Domingo de Guzman (St. Dominic).** Dominic, a Spanish monk, founder of the Dominican Order, had been sent to southern France to help “convert” (eradicate) the Albigenses. While praying in a chapel, he claimed to have been visited by the Virgin, who appeared with a **ROSARY** (prayer beads) in her hands and said that if he would spread the use of the Rosary throughout the world (thus teaching Catholics to direct their prayers to HER instead of Jesus Christ) she would give him victory over the Albigenses. The Albigenses were ultimately wiped out and the Dominicans became the official Inquisitors of the Catholic Church.


Even though “prayer beads” are pagan in origin (Hindus, Buddhists and even Muslims use them!), the Rosary became firmly rooted among Catholics, helped along by later Marian apparitions and papal decrees! On October 7, 1573, Pope Pius V instituted the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary; Clement XI made the feast universal in 1716; Leo XIII set aside the whole month of October for special devotion to the Rosary. **Praying the Rosary is wicked!** “Mary” is honored and not the Lord Jesus Christ! The “Salva Regina”, a prayer traditionally included in the Rosary, exalts Mary not Christ: *“Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy! Our life, our sweetness and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping, in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.”*





1215  **Transubstantiation is decreed by Pope Innocent III** at the Fourth Lateran Council. By this doctrine the priest claims to perform a miracle in changing a wafer into the body of Christ and then proceeds to eat Him alive. The Bible condemns such absurdities! The Lord’s Supper is a **memorial** of the sacrifice of Christ. (Luke 22:19-20; John 6:35; 1Cor. 11:26)


1215  **Confession of one’s sins to a priest at least once a year is instituted by Pope Innocent III** at the Fourth Lateran Council (Rome). The Bible commands us to confess our sins directly to God. (Psalm 51:1-10; Luke 7:48; 15:21; 1John 1:8-9).

1215  **Pope Innocent III, at the Fourth Lateran Council, decrees that all Jews are to wear the “mark of shame” in public.** Later popes: Gregory IX, Innocent IV and Alexander IV, confirmed this law and ordered secular rulers to enforce it. For the next 600 years it became a common sight throughout Europe to see the Jews humiliated in this way.


1215  **Pope Innocent III decrees the extermination of heretics and threatens state rulers who refuse to carry out his orders:** *“Convicted heretics shall be handed over for due punishment to their secular superiors or the latter’s agents... If a temporal Lord neglects to fulfill **the demand of the Church** that he shall purge his land of the contamination of heresy, he shall be **excommunicated**... If he fails to make amends within a year, it shall be reported to the Supreme Pontiff, who shall pronounce his vassals absolved from fealty to him and offer his land to Catholics. The latter shall **exterminate the heretics**, possess the land without dispute and preserve it in the true faith.”*


1220  **Adoration of the wafer** (the “host”) is decreed by **Pope Ionorius**. (See also 1264 AD)
This nonsense of worshipping a piece of bread is the result of wresting the scriptures and it reveals that Catholicism’s “god” is one made by the hands of the priest. (John 4:24)

1229  **The Bible is placed on the Index of Forbidden Books by the Council of Valencia!**
The Latin Vulgate was the official Catholic Bible but few people spoke or read Latin. The Scriptures in the common tongue of the people were forbidden to laymen. The Bible should be read by all. (John 5:39; 1Tim. 3:15-17)

1233  **THE INQUISITION BEGINS, established by Pope Gregory IX to find and punish “heretics”.** The first inquisition was directed at southern France to eradicate the **Albigenses**. Over the next **600 YEARS**, in countries where Catholicism was strong, millions of Christians and Jews were maimed or killed by the Inquisition, a crime for which Rome has never repented. (Notwithstanding the feeble and vague apology given by Pope John Paul II on March 12, 2000 for “*violence in the service of truth*”, of which apology NBC News rightly said, “*The Church ...is not admitting guilt – the sweeping apology is for human sins by the Church's sons and daughters, not by the Church itself.*”)


The Catholic Church continues to deny responsibility for the Inquisition by claiming that it was not the “CHURCH” (the Inquisitors and accusers of the brethren) that tortured and killed the heretics but the “STATE” (the government flunkies in Catholic countries coerced into doing the Pope’s bidding because of fear of excommunication or hopes of rich rewards)! Only the Devil himself could inspire something as evil as the Inquisition! The use of force to spread Christianity or the use of punishment to maintain the purity of doctrine is so foreign to the spirit of Christ - and so characteristic of the spirit of Jezebel (1Kings 18:4, 13; 2Kings 9:7) that the Inquisition should be proof enough that the Church of Rome is ANTICHRIST!


1246  **Massacre of the Jews in Berlitz (Germany) for “desecrating the host”.** Following Pope Innocent III’s decree (1215AD) claiming that the consecrated bread becomes the body of Christ, it wasn’t long before the church began to accuse Jews of abusing, torturing and even killing Christ by their supposed mistreatment of the “host”. This accusation was made first in Berlitz, where the entire Jewish population was subsequently wiped out.


1251  **MARIAN APPARITION in Cambridge, England.** On July 16th, 1251, the spirit masquerading as “Mary” appeared to Simon Stock, founder of the Carmelite order, and gave him a Brown Scapular made of two pieces of cloth held together by strings and worn over the shoulders. On one piece of cloth was an image of the baby Jesus (!) and on the other a promise that the wearer would not suffer long in Purgatory! The apparition’s words to Simon Stock were supposedly, “*Take, beloved son, this scapular of thy order as a badge of my confraternity and for thee and all Carmelites a special sign of grace; whoever dies in this garment, will not suffer everlasting fire. It is the sign of salvation, a safeguard in dangers, a pledge of peace and of the covenant.*”



Pope John XXII claimed that the “Blessed Virgin” came to him in Rome in the year **1322**, confirming to him the scapular promise made to Simon Stock and **adding** the “**Sabbatine Privilege**” in which she promised to personally descend into purgatory every Saturday and free those who had died wearing her scapular. This was an official church doctrine until **the year 1613**. At that time Pope Paul V modified the Sabbatine Privilege, saying that Mary did not necessarily **free** the souls in purgatory on Saturday but only aided them and eased their suffering. Over the years many other religious “Orders” adopted their own special-colored scapulars, some of them claiming that they were doing so because Mary had appeared to one of their members.

1252  **TORTURE is authorized for religious disobedience.** Innocent IV decreed in *Ad Exstirpanda* that heretics and others who would not bow to the authority of the Catholic Church could be justly made to suffer cruelly before being put to death. His decree calling for torture was confirmed by Pope Alexander IV in 1259 AD and by Pope Clement IV in 1265. Future popes, Urban IV and Clement V, issued similar decrees **expanding** the use of torture. Pope Alexander IV also authorized the Inquisitors to absolve one another of any “irregularities” that occurred during the pursuit of their duties. Pope Urban IV reissued that authorization in 1262. This was, in effect, a license to continue the torture! Truly, the “Church” was becoming a violent whore, “*drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.*” (Revelation 17:6)

1289  **The Council of Vienna decrees that all Jews must wear the “mark of shame”.** This was usually a round yellow patch on their clothing. Vienna was only one of many church councils that made anti-Jewish decrees in the 13th century: the council of Narbonne, 1227; Arles, 1234; Beziers, 1246; Albi, 1254; Nimes 1284 and Vienna 1289. Persecution of the Jews escalated every year!

1264  **“ADORATION” OF THE EUCHARIST.** Pope Urban IV instituted the Feast of Corpus Christi (The Body of Christ), in which the “Holy Eucharist” is carried in a solemn procession so the people can view and adore their wafer god. Urban also had hymns composed to honor the Eucharist. Eventually a custom arose of keeping the “Blessed Sacrament” continually exposed to view in the churches. The wafer is held in a special container called a **monstrance**, before which the people bow and worship and pray.

The Bishop of Avignon, to celebrate the extermination of the Albigenses in southern France (1233 AD), placed the “Blessed Sacrament” on perpetual view in his church where it remained day and night until 1792! The Council of Trent (1545-1563) declared, “*The only begotten Son of God is to be **adored** in The Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist with the **worship** of (Latria), including external worship. The Sacrament, therefore, is to be honored with extraordinary festive celebrations (and) solemnly carried from place to place in processions according to the praiseworthy universal rites and customs of the Holy Church. The Sacrament is to be publicly exposed for the people’s adoration.*” **Only the blind cannot see the idolatry in all this!**



1273 “*Summa Theologica*”, a major work written by Thomas Aquinas, a Dominican monk and theologian, “proves” all the major doctrines of Catholicism and defends every one of Rome’s false teachings. In the 12th and 13th centuries, the writings of Aristotle were being rediscovered in Europe and were being eagerly studied in new institutions of learning called Universities that had been founded in Paris, Oxford and Bologna. Out of these Universities came the medieval system of education called “SCHOLASTICISM” (now discredited), which was based on Aristotelian philosophy. Thomas Aquinas, a product of the University of Paris, was completely devoted to Aristotle and gave him a place of honor in *Summa Theologica*, quoting him often and referring to him simply as “**the Philosopher**”.

Summa Theologica is written in a form of Aristotelian logic called **sylogism**. A syllogism is an argument consisting of two premises followed by one consequence or conclusion. For example:

Premise #1: Mary is the mother of Jesus;
Premise #2: Jesus is God;
Conclusion: Mary is the mother of God!

Obviously, neither the premises nor the conclusion must be factual for a syllogism to appear “logical” and reasonable! A syllogism, therefore, is no proof at all that something is TRUTHFUL! God warns us: “*Beware lest any man spoil you through **philosophy** and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after **the rudiments of the world**, and not after Christ.*” (Colossians 2:8) Using this Aristotelian method of reasoning, Aquinas was able to justify even the worst of Catholic dogma, including the Inquisition, the crusades, the enslavement of Jews and the torture of heretics. **Therefore, *Summa Theologica* represents the DEAD THEOLOGY of the Sardis period!** It was produced by a “learned” man trying by “logic” and “reason” to justify the doctrines of devils! L. H. Lehmann said this, “*The chief engineer of Roman Catholic philosophy was St. Thomas Aquinas ...it was he who fixed the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church in their syllogistic moulds as they are known and used to this day. ...His aim was not to find out the truth about the teachings of Christ as contained in the Bible and New Testament. His task was to find reasons (or excuses) for the beliefs and practices already existing in the Catholic Church and fix them forever as immutable.*” (“Out of the Labyrinth” L. H. Lehmann, pg. 205) Today, Aquinas is considered one of Catholicism’s greatest minds (second only to Augustine). **The Council of Trent placed *Summa Theologica* on the same level as the Bible!** In 1879 Pope Leo XIII (in *Aeterni Patris*) declared Aquinas’ theology to be the definitive exposition of Catholic doctrine and Aquinas’ methodology (proof from reason, rather than proof from Scripture) to be **the official Catholic philosophy!**

1296



Massacres of Jews in Germany and Austria. A Catholic knight named Rindfleish instigated a “blood libel” against the Jews in the town of Oberwesel. The Jews were accused of killing a Catholic in order to obtain his blood to bake into their matzos for Passover. “Blood libels” were a common occurrence throughout church history (beginning in 1144 AD, in Norwich, England) and the persecutions that followed took place with the implicit approval of the Catholic Church and were often directed by the clergy! In this instance, it resulted in the murder of forty Jews in Oberwesel and triggered three years of bloodshed, most of it attributed to Rindfleish and his mobs. By the time the violence subsided in 1298 AD, many thousands of Jews had been slaughtered and 146 Jewish communities in Germany and Austria had disappeared – all in the name of the Catholic religion and the “vicar of Christ”!

1302



Submission to the Pope is declared necessary for salvation. In response to a letter from King Philip IV of France, who had defied the Pope’s authority on some civil matter, Pope Boniface VIII issued Papal Bull *Unum Sanctum*, claiming supreme and final authority in all matters, both civil and spiritual! “*We declare, say, define, and pronounce that it is absolutely necessary for the salvation of every human creature to be subject to the Roman Pontiff*”

1303

The “Babylonian Captivity” (1303-1377) begins. Pope Boniface VIII was arrested by French King Philip IV after he threatened to depose Philip. (Philip must not have read the Bull!) Boniface died within a month. The new pope, a Frenchman, Clement V, moved the papal residence and the administrative offices of the Catholic Church to Avignon, France in order to escape the political turmoil raging in Italy. For the next 75 years the popes ruled from Avignon and not from Rome.

1347



The Black Plague (1347 – 1350) kills one third of the population of Europe and enflames anti-Semitic violence. The bubonic plague, a disease carried by rats that had traveled aboard ships from China, decimated Europe, killing an estimated 25 million people in the space of three years! The plague was so pervasive and its origin so mysterious that it took on a supernatural element in the minds of most Europeans: it had to be either a judgment from God or an act of hellish conspiracy. The people needed someone to blame. Suspicion fell on the Jews. In Chillon, Switzerland, the local Catholic clergy accused some Jews of poisoning the town well in order to kill Christians. Under torture they “confessed” and the Jews of Chillon were killed. The same accusation was made in Bern and Zurich with the same outcome: Jews were killed! During the next three years, as the Black Death spread through Europe, accusations of well poisonings and the subsequent “plague massacres” multiplied. Even though Pope Clement VI protested blaming the Jews (because the plague continued even in areas where the Jews had been wiped out), the anti-Semitism so deeply ingrained in the Catholic faith could hardly be subdued! Whole communities of Jews in Switzerland, Germany, Austria, France, Italy and Spain, were put to death, their property seized and their children forcibly “converted” to Catholicism!

1378

The "Great Schism" divides the papacy. Gregory XI, the last of the French popes, returned to Rome in 1377 ending the so-called Babylonian Captivity but died the next year. Demands for an Italian successor lead to the election of Urban VI, who was challenged by French cardinals. They in turn elected Clement VII to the same office. Clement VII became known as the "anti-pope" and resided in Avignon. Urban VI resided in Rome, excommunicated Clement and murdered five cardinals in Rome who had opposed his election. **For the next forty years there were RIVAL POPES, one in Rome and one in Avignon, who warred against each other.**

1380



John Wycliffe, a religious scholar at the University of Oxford begins his English translation of the Bible and was shortly thereafter expelled from Oxford. Wycliffe was an author, preacher and outspoken critic of the Roman Catholic Church. He rejected papal authority, calling the pope the antichrist. He rejected “transubstantiation” and declared that the Bible, not the Church, was the final authority for the believer’s faith and practice. Historians call him “The Morning Star of the Reformation.” **After his death in 1384** the Catholic Church condemned his English translation. In 1409 Pope Alexander V publicly burned 200 of Wycliffe’s writings and in 1415 the Council of Constance declared him a heretic and ordered all of his books to be burned. Wycliffe’s teachings produced a great following among the common people. His followers came to be called **Lollards** and were soon preaching in the streets of towns throughout Europe, winning people to Christ and starting churches.





Many of the Lollards were burned at the stake. The Pope was so infuriated by Wycliffe, his English Bible and his doctrine that, forty-four years after Wycliffe was dead, his bones were dug-up, burned, and the ashes scattered in the River Swift!

1391




Catholic anti-Semitism reaches a fever pitch in Spain. The Jews had lived in Spain since the days of the Romans but the year **1391 was a turning point for them.** Instigated by the anti-Semitic preaching of Ferrand Martinez in Seville, 4,000 Jews were slain in that town, 2,000 more in the surrounding towns and thousands more in Toledo, Valencia and Barcelona! Soon, anti-Jewish hatred spread to other parts of Spain where thousands of Jews were slaughtered or forced to “convert” (by baptism). After 1391, the Jews in Spain suffered nothing but public humiliations and burnings, constant expulsions, forced conversions, massacres and finally the Spanish Inquisition, which began in 1478 and was aimed primarily at punishing Jewish “converts” whom the Catholic Church suspected of secretly practicing “heresy” (Judaism) in their homes. In 1492, Spanish Catholic rulers and Inquisitors banished ALL the remaining Jews from the country! (Conservative estimates place the number of Jews that were removed at more than 235,000!) Spain never recovered from the economic and cultural loss to the nation.

1415  **John Hus dies as a martyr.** Hus was a preacher and scholar at the Czech university in Prague He was greatly influenced by the writings of Wycliffe and began to preach boldly against the false doctrines of Rome and the tyranny of the Pope. His influence was felt as far away as Poland, Hungary, Croatia, and Austria. He was summoned to the **Council of Constance in 1415** to defend himself and was promised safe passage. However, once he arrived, he was taken prisoner, condemned as a heretic and burned alive at the stake. His executioners lit the fire with the manuscripts of Wycliffe’s English translation of the Bible. The followers of Hus continued to preach the gospel throughout Eastern Europe for many years.


1415  **The communion cup is forbidden to the laity.** Communion of “one kind” (the claim that both the body and blood of Christ are present in the wafer; the cup is reserved only for the priest) was instituted at the **Council of Constance**. Jesus said to use both bread and the fruit of the vine. (Matt. 26:27; 1Cor. 11:26-29)

1439 **The Council of Florence proclaims the doctrine of Purgatory as a dogma of faith.** There is not one word in the Bible that would teach purgatory. The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from **all** sin. (1John 1:7-9; 2:1-2; John 5:24; Romans 8:1) **The Council of Florence also fixed the number of “sacraments” at seven:** The “sacraments” were declared to be channels of God’s grace to man! Jesus Christ instituted only TWO ORDINANCES: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, neither of which is a channel of grace to man. (Matt. 28:19-20; 26:26-28)

1441 **Unity with the Catholic Church is declared necessary for salvation!** Pope Eugene IV, at the Council of Florence, wrote in his Papal Bull *Cantate Domino*, “None of those existing outside the Catholic Church, not only pagans, but also Jews, and heretics, and schismatics, can ever be partakers of eternal life, but that they are to go into the eternal fire "which was prepared for the devil, and his angels," unless before death they are joined with Her; and that so important is the unity of this Ecclesiastical Body, that only those remaining within this unity can profit from the sacraments of the Church unto salvation ...**No one, ...even if he pour out his blood for the Name of Christ, can be saved unless they abide within the bosom and unity of the Catholic Church.**” This is obvious blasphemy to anyone who has ever read a Bible! There is no salvation through ANY church, but only through faith in the work of the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary!

1478  **SPANISH INQUISITION BEGINS,** established by King Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain, under orders from Pope Sixtus IV, to punish and persecute all of the "converted" Jews and Muslims who were suspected of still practicing their old religions in secret. This Inquisition got so far out of hand with its lust for blood (and riches) that the Pope tried to tone it down when he thought that good Catholics were being killed too. He issued a “bull” in 1482 setting restrictions on who could be tortured and allowing the accused to appeal to Rome - but when the good Catholic king Ferdinand defied the “bull”, the Pope never said another word. The death toll was staggering. The Grand Inquisitor, Dominican priest Tomas de Torquemada, is said to have burned more than 10,000 people to death during his tenure alone (1483-1498). Another **114,000*** are said to have died in Spain from the results of imprisonment or torture. Mass burnings were conducted at grand ceremonies attended by the King and members of the royal family. The Inquisition was later instituted in Portugal, Mexico, India and even the New World. The Spanish Inquisition did not end until 1826! {* *The Last Pope*, by John Hogue, p. 132}



 **The Spanish Inquisition was especially cruel to the Jews. By 1492 ALL the Jews in Spain had been killed or expelled from the country!**

6

1500 AD - 1881 AD \ CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA \ The church of the revived remnant. Revelation 3:7-13

The Philadelphia church period sees a GREAT SPIRITUAL AWAKENING spread around the world as a result of the pure Scriptures being translated into the common languages of people. (Spanish, German, French, English). The greatest of these was the King James Bible, a translation from the Hebrew Masoretic text and the Greek “Textus Receptus”. The King James Bible (see 1611 AD) became the catalyst for some of the greatest gospel endeavors of the church age! Yet, even as the light of God’s Word was beginning to bring nations out of the darkness of religious superstition and Catholic totalitarianism, Rome began to fight against that influence by reinforcing itself, inventing new doctrines, ascribing to itself new authority and greater glory, yet receding deeper into spiritual self-delusion, “*giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.*” (1Tim. 4:1)

There are three great evils prevalent in this period: (1) a growing hatred toward God’s preserved Word (the King James Bible) especially among theologians and Bible “scholars”; (2) a dramatic increase in **Marian apparitions**, and (3) the Catholic doctrine that the “Church” has REPLACED Israel spiritually and inherited her promises. **Replacement theology** takes the O.T. prophecies that speak of Israel’s future glory and applies them to the “Church”; claiming that Christians are now the true “Jews”; that the church, by its growing influence in the world, will bring in the millennial kingdom of peace on earth! This “blasphemy” (Rev. 2:9) was taught by certain “church fathers” as early as the third century. Of this the Lord wrote, “*Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie.*” (Rev. 3:9).

There are two great spiritual qualities prevalent in this period: (1) Faithfulness to the Word of God and (2) Faithfulness to the name of Jesus Christ. “*I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.*” (Rev. 3:8-11)

The sixth parable in Matthew 13 speaks about the precious value of a faithful church like the Philadelphia church: *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.* (Matt. 13:45-46)

1517 Desiderius Erasmus (1469 – 1536) publishes the first of five editions of his Greek text of the New Testament. Erasmus, the most learned man in Europe, was a Catholic scholar who opposed many of Rome’s doctrines and refused the Pope’s offer to become a cardinal. He had an intense desire to put the Word of God into the hands of the common man. **Less than 100 years later his Greek text would become the basis of the King James Bible!**

1517 THE “PROTESTANT REFORMATION” BEGINS. Martin Luther, a German Catholic priest, posted his “95 Theses”, an argument against Rome’s practice of selling indulgences, to the door of the Church of Wittenburg, Germany. This touched off a firestorm throughout Europe and led to Luther’s condemnation and excommunication. Although Luther later adopted doctrines and practices that a true Bible-believer could never agree with, his bold stand against the tyranny and false teachings of the Catholic Church was heroic! His preaching began to inspire many other religious leaders, kings and politicians in Europe to break away from Rome.

1529



The Pope declares Roman Catholicism the only religion permitted in the Holy Roman Empire. His declaration had no effect. Over the next fifty years the Reformation spread rapidly throughout Europe: the “Lutheran” church became firmly established in Germany, and then in the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. (For the next three hundred years, Rome continued to use the term “Lutheran” to designate ALL Protestants). In Switzerland, Reformation churches were established under Ulrich Zwingli and later in Geneva under John Calvin. England severed its ties to the Vatican when King Henry VIII established the Anglican Church. The reformation took hold in Scotland under the preaching of John Knox and in France many thousands were saved under the preaching of Jacques Lefevre. Rome responded to all this in the only way it knew how: with **force** (persecutions, wars and inquisitions) and with **intrigue** (the Jesuits were formed in 1534 to infiltrate Protestant areas and bring governments and universities back under the influence of the Pope)!

1531






MARIAN APPARITION at Guadalupe, Mexico. This apparition gave Catholicism a stranglehold on Mexico. The legend goes that on December 9, 1531 a very young, pregnant (?) and dark skinned “Mary” appeared to an Indian peasant named Juan Diego telling him that she wanted a great church built in her honor on a certain hill. To help Diego convince the skeptical local bishop that she was for real, “Mary” told him to pick some roses that would be growing on the hill where her church was to be built and take them, wrapped in his peasant cloak, to the bishop. Diego gathered the roses and took them to the priest but when he opened the cloak there was, impressed on the inside of the cloak, a picture of the “Virgin” (as at right) surrounded by bursting rays of the sun and standing upon the moon!



In Catholic literature “Mary” is quoted as saying to Juan Diego, what can only be the words of a seducing spirit spewing out its devilish doctrines, ***“Know for certain that I am the perfect and perpetual Virgin Mary, Mother of the True God . . . Here I will show and offer all my love, my compassion, my help and protection to the people. I am your merciful Mother, the Mother of all who love me, of those who cry to me, of those who have confidence in me. Here I will hear their weeping and their sorrows ...their necessities and misfortunes ...Listen and let it penetrate your heart ...Do not be troubled or weighed down with grief. Do not fear any illness or vexation, anxiety or pain. Am I not here who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not your fountain of life? Are you not in the folds of my mantle? In the crossing of my arms? Is there anything else you need?”***

The local bishop was suitably impressed and a cathedral was built to honor “Our Lady of Guadalupe”. Within four years more than eight million Aztecs were “converted”! The importance of the apparition to the Church is more than evident. In 1910, Pope Plus X proclaimed the Virgin of Guadalupe the “Empress of the Americas.”

NOTE: The “Basilica de Guadalupe” is the most popular of all Catholic shrines dedicated to Mary. It is located on the very hill that was previously sacred to the Aztec Indians for the worship of their mother-goddess Tonantzin, in fact, the basilica is built on the exact spot where the pyramid of Tonantzin once stood! Tonantzin’s symbol was the **moon** and she was called “Our Lady.” **Thus, the old Aztec goddess Tonantzin lives on and is worshipped as the “Virgin Mary”, the patron saint of Mexico!** It is the same idolatry with a new face and a new name!

- 1534 **The JESUITS (Society of Jesus), a religious order, is founded by Ignatius Loyola.** This highly disciplined group of priests became the Vatican's CIA. Its stated purpose was to **destroy the influence of the Protestant Reformation**, infiltrate the Protestant universities and the governments of Europe and bring the Protestants back under the authority of the Pope.
- 1536  **William Tyndale is burned at the stake.** This great Bible scholar was a leader in the Reformation in England. He was the first to translate the New Testament from the Greek manuscripts into the English language. In response to one of his critics he had said, "*I defy the pope and all his laws; if God spare my life, ere many years I will cause the boy that driveth the plough in England to know more of the Scriptures than thou doest.*" His translation was completed while he was in exile in Germany. Copies of Tyndale's New Testament were smuggled into England. Christians caught with a copy of Tyndale's Bible were persecuted, and many were killed. Tyndale himself sealed his service to Jesus Christ with his own blood. He was betrayed to the authorities by a false friend, imprisoned in Brussels, Belgium for 18 months and then strangled and burned. His last words were, "*Lord, open the King of England's eyes.*"
- 1536  **The Inquisition begins in Portugal, controlled by the Jesuits.** Almost 2,000 people were burned at the stake in Portugal and many more were imprisoned or forced to "convert". The main victims were Jews. The Portuguese Inquisition extended into Portugal's colonies. In one such colony, Goa, India, the Inquisition (1560 – 1812) was especially bloody and violent. As a result, Goa was decimated of Protestants, Jews, Hindus and Muslims, as attested to by this Portuguese historian. "*...The inquisition, this tribunal of fire, thrown on the surface of the globe for the scourge of humanity, this horrible institution, which will eternally cover with shame its authors, fixed its brutal domicile in the fertile plains of the Hindustan. On seeing the monster everyone fled and disappeared, Moguls, Arabs, Persians, Armenians, and Jews. The Indians even ...astounded to see the God of Christianity more cruel than that of Mohammed, deserted the territory of the Portuguese and went to the lands of the Muslims ...In this fashion the fields and cities became deserted...*" [Memoirs of Judges Magalhães and Lousada: (Vol 2, Annaes Marítimos e Coloniais, page 59, Nova Goa 1859), cited in "Memoirs of Goa" by Alfredo DeMello]
- 1542  **Pope Paul III establishes the Universal Inquisition in Rome.** The dreaded Inquisition was renewed as one more weapon against the Protestants. It was put into the hands of Dominican priests to try suspected "heretics" - who were never given the benefit of legal counsel. In 1588, Pope Sixtus V made the Office of the Inquisition permanent, naming it, "**The Sacred Congregation, the Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Inquisition.**" It continues to operate today but its name was changed in 1967 to something more innocent sounding: "The Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith." The current Pope, Benedict XVI (Joseph Ratzinger), was formerly the director of the Office of the Inquisition.

1545 COUNCIL OF TRENT (1545 - 1563) is convened by Pope Paul III to counter the Protestant Reformation and prop up the authority of the papacy. It denounced every single doctrine proposed by the Reformers and anathematized (cursed to hell) anyone who believed even one of them. The Council was heavily influenced by the newly formed order of the **Jesuits**. For the first time Roman Catholic doctrine was clearly defined in written “Canons”. The council, which met sporadically for eighteen years, **declared the pope to be the “Vicar of Christ on Earth”** and made a number of decrees, including:



1545 - TRADITION is granted equal authority with the Bible. By tradition is meant the teachings of popes and church councils. Jesus said human tradition **nullifies** the commandments of God. (Mark 7:7-13; Col. 2:8; Rev. 22:18)



1546 - APOCRYPHAL BOOKS are confirmed as part of the Bible. These books were not recognized as part of the Bible by the early church and were never accepted as God’s Word by true believers down through the centuries. (Rev. 22:8,9)

1547 - SEVEN SACRAMENTS (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Extreme Unction, Holy Orders, and Matrimony) **are declared to be "absolutely necessary channels of divine salvation."**



1551 - THE EUCHARIST (the communion wafer blessed by a priest) is declared to be the body and blood of Christ literally and not figuratively. *“If any one denieth, that, in the sacrament of the most holy Eucharist, are contained truly, really, and substantially, the body and blood together with the soul and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, and consequently the whole Christ; but saith that He is only therein as in a sign, or in figure, or virtue; let him be anathema [condemned].”* (Canon I)



1562 - THE MASS is declared to be the actual killing of the Lord Jesus Christ! *“...that same Christ is contained and immolated [killed as a sacrifice] in an unbloody manner, who once offered Himself in a bloody manner on the altar of the cross. ...For the victim is one and the same, the same now offering by the ministry of priests, who then offered Himself on the cross.”* Session 22, chapter 2, page 153.

1563 - PRAYERS TO DEAD SAINTS are authorized. *“...the saints who **reign** [?] together with Christ offer up their own prayers to God for man. It is good and useful suppliantly to invoke them, and to have recourse to their prayers, aid, and help for obtaining benefits from God.”* - Session 25, page 234.



1563 - APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION is made an official dogma. This nonsensical idea, that there is an unbroken succession of “Popes” from Peter to the present, with each one inheriting absolute religious power over the earth, is based on Catholic Tradition and Rome’s own “private interpretation” (wresting) of the Scriptures. (Mark 7:8-9, 13; Col. 2:8; 2Peter 3:16)

1553



“Bloody Mary” comes to power in England. This fanatic Catholic queen made Catholicism the official religion and decreed that all Protestants who refused to convert were to be burned alive. Some 300 souls perished in the flames at Smithfield, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, Bishops Nicholas Ridley and Hugh Latimer. One of the first to die was John Rogers, who had helped Tyndale translate the Bible into English. Many hundreds more fled the country. She reigned for five years. Upon her death in 1558, she was succeeded by Queen Elizabeth I, who removed Catholicism forever as the official religion.

1555



Pope Paul IV orders the Jews in Rome into a ghetto: This was the first forced segregation. The Jews were made to build the walls and gates of their ghetto and then were kept as virtual prisoners in the cramped, squalid conditions. The Pope ordered the gates locked from sunrise to sunset and when the Jews left the ghetto they were made to wear yellow hats. Other Italian cities (Florence, Mantua, Padua) soon followed Rome's example.

1560



Extermination of the Waldensians in Italy begins. (The following is taken from *The History of the Waldenses* - by J. A. Wylie) In the early 1500's a colony of Waldensians was established in Calabria, Italy. By 1560 the colony had grown and prospered and through their missionary zeal the Waldensians were having an effect on the surrounding area. **Rome sent inquisitors and an army to extinguish the "heresy"**. In one town after another the Vaudois were offered the same choice: submit to Rome or perish. A massacre in Montalto ...was witnessed by a servant to one Ascanio Caraccioli, and described by him in a letter to his master:

"Most illustrious sir, I have now to inform you of the dreadful justice which began to be executed on these Lutherans [a term used by Rome to designate all Protestants] early this morning, being the 11th of June. And, to tell you the truth, I can compare it to nothing but the slaughter of so many sheep. They were all shut up in one house as in a sheep-fold. The executioner went, and bringing out one of them, covered his face with a napkin, led him out to a field near the house, and causing him to kneel down, cut his throat with a knife. Then, taking off the bloody napkin, he went and brought out another, whom he put to death after the same manner. In this way the whole number, amounting to eighty-eight men, were butchered. I leave you to figure to yourself the lamentable spectacle, for I can scarcely refrain from tears while I write; nor was there any person, after witnessing the execution of one, could stand to look on a second. The meekness and patience with which they went to martyrdom and death are incredible."

"Their bodies were quartered, and stuck up on pikes along the high road leading from Montalto to Chateau-Vilar, a distance of thirty-six miles. ...The Waldenses' pastor, Louis Paschale, was taken in chains to Rome and imprisoned. He was brought out of his prison on the 8th of September, 1560, conducted to the Convent della Minerva, and cited before the Papal tribunal. He confessed his Saviour, and, with a serenity to which the countenances of his judges were strangers, he listened to the sentence of death, which was carried into execution on the following day. The French historian Crespin gives this account:"

"Entering the court-yard of the old castle, an imposing sight meets the eye. What a confluence of ranks, dignities, and grandeurs! In the centre is a chair, the emblazonry of which tells us that it claims to rise in authority and dignity over the throne of kings. The Pontiff, Pius IV., has already taken his seat upon it, for he has determined to be present at the tragedy of to-day. Behind his chair, in scarlet robes, are his cardinals and counsellors, with many dignitaries besides in mitres and cowls, ranged in circles, according to their place in the Papal body. Behind the ecclesiastics are seated, row on row, the nobility and beauty of Rome. The vast sweep of the Court of St. Angelo is densely occupied. Its ample floor is covered from end to end with a closely-wedged mass of citizens, who have come to see the spectacle. In the centre of the throng, rising a little way over the sea of human heads, is seen a scaffold, with an iron stake, and beside it a bundle of sticks."

“A slight movement begins to be perceptible in the crowd beside the gate. Some one is entering. The next moment a storm of hissing and execration salutes the ear. It is plain that the person who has just made his entrance is the object of universal scorn. The clank of irons on the stone floor of the court, as he comes forward, tells how heavily his limbs are loaded with fetters. He is still young; but his face is pale and haggard with suffering. He lifts his eyes, and with countenance undismayed surveys the vast assembly, and the dismal apparatus that stands in the midst of it, awaiting its victim. “Good people,” says the martyr—and the whole assembly keep silence—“I am come here to die for confessing the doctrine of my Divine Master and Saviour, Jesus Christ.” Then, turning to Pius IV, he arraigned him as the enemy of Christ, the persecutor of his people, and the Anti-Christ of Scripture, and concluded by summoning him and all his cardinals to answer for their cruelties and murders before the throne of the Lamb. At his words the people were deeply moved, and the Pope and the cardinals gnashed their teeth.”

“The inquisitors hastily gave the signal. The executioners came round him and having strangled him, they kindled the sticks, and the flames blazing up speedily reduced his body to ashes. For once the Pope had performed his function. With his key of fire, he had opened the celestial doors, and had sent his poor prisoner from the dark dungeons of the Inquisition, to dwell in the palace of the sky.”

1564 **Index of Forbidden Books established by Pope Pius IV:** This ordered Catholics not to possess or publish any one of thousands of books that Rome deemed to be “heretical” - especially ANY books by Protestant authors. This was the end of the “free press” in every Catholic country. The Index, updated from time to time, remained in effect for more than 400 years (it was not abolished until 1966)

1572  **St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre in France.**


At the instigation of the Catholic Queen mother, Catherine de’ Medici, and the king’s Jesuit “spiritual advisors”, the King determined to exterminate all the Huguenots (Protestants) in France beginning in Paris on August 24th 1572. French soldiers and the Roman Catholic clergy fell upon the Huguenots in a bloodthirsty rampage that quickly spread to outlying villages. When the killing subsided three weeks later, **70,000 Huguenots were dead**. It is said that the rivers in that part of France were so filled with corpses that no fish could be eaten for months.



Catherine de’ Medici views the slaughter

Pope Gregory XIII received the news in Rome with such joy that the bells in all the cathedrals of Rome rang out for a day of thanksgiving! The Pope had a special medal struck in honor of his “victory” (right). He also commissioned an artist, Giorgio Vasari, to paint a mural of the massacre (which still hangs in the Vatican).



1588  **Spanish Armada Defeated.** Pope Sixtus V, in league with Philip II of Spain, attempted to overthrow England (and the Protestant Reformation) by sending the mightiest navy in the world against it. Spain’s fleet of 130 ships with 30,000 men was defeated by a much smaller English force (55 ships). As they escaped back to Spain, they sailed into a **hurricane!** 15,000 men perished and only 67 ships survived. Spain never regained her power on the high seas. Spain attempted to overthrow England twice more, sending fleets in 1596 and 1597. Both of them were dispersed and forced back by fierce Atlantic storms! (Certainly God was preserving England for the sake of His Word! Translation work on the King James Bible would begin in 1604, only seven years after Spain’s last attempt to overthrow England!)

1609



THE CATHOLIC DOUAY-RHEIMS BIBLE IS PUBLISHED.

Translated by the Jesuits from Jerome's corrupt Latin Vulgate, the Douay-Rheims was rushed to completion because of Rome's fear of the Protestant English Bibles. Among its many errors, the Douay-Rheims contained this blatantly false translation of Genesis 3:15: "I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed; **she shall crush thy head**, and thou shalt lie in wait for **her** heel." That has been used many times by Rome to support the idea that Mary is the new Eve: that **she** has power over Satan; that **she** will bruise his head and bring peace to the world. Catholic pictures of Mary often show her with her foot on the serpent.



1611



THE KING JAMES BIBLE IS PUBLISHED! This date marks the high point of the church age! God's Word, having survived countless attempts to destroy it, comes forth as gold - in a purified English translation! (Psalm 12:6-7) With England becoming a world power and English becoming the preeminent world language, it became clear that this was God's Book for the last days! The KJB became the most loved - and hated - Book on earth!

1618



The Thirty Years War Begins. (1618 to 1648) Roman Catholicism waged all-out war with Protestantism. There was much bloodshed on both sides and the loss of life was staggering! (Germany lost one **third** of its population during these years.) The two sides agreed to a **peace treaty in 1648**, after which time the independence of "Protestant" nations such as Holland, Switzerland and Germany was reluctantly recognized by the Catholic Church.

1641



Christians slaughtered by order of the Catholic Church in Ireland.

Urged on by messages sent from the Vatican, the Catholic priests of Ireland, led by the archbishop of Armagh (according to Foxe's Book of Martyrs) with help from the bishop of Clogher and Shan O'Neal, the chieftain of a powerful clan in the northern part of the island, secretly organized a massacre across the whole of Northern Ireland intended to drive the Protestants out of the country forever. Priests carried the message to all the villages that on the appointed day (Oct. 23, 1641) the Irish people were to attack their Protestant neighbors, drive them out of their towns and kill any that resisted. The priests warned that it was a mortal sin to give aid of any kind to the Protestants. Some of the most unimaginable cruelties were used against the unsuspecting Christians, who were either shot, drowned, disemboweled, and hanged, chopped to pieces, beheaded, burned or starved to death by their own neighbors. **50,000 Christians died**, killed directly by the hands of the Irish Catholics or, being left naked and deprived of shelter, succumbed to the bitterly cold winter of 1641.



1642



Worship of the "Two Hearts" begins.

A French priest named John Eudes popularized public devotion to the "Two Hearts": the "Sacred Heart of Jesus" and the "Immaculate Heart of Mary", claiming that "Jesus" told him in a vision: "I have given you the admirable Heart of My most worthy Mother which is identified with My own Heart that it may be your true heart as well; that My children may possess only one Heart with their Mother and My members the same Heart as their Head." John Eudes labored tirelessly, with Church approval, to promote this idolatry, claiming that through union with "the Heart of Mary" people could: "obtain the fulfillment of all Jesus' and Mary's promises."

1685



Waldensian Christians massacred in France: King Louis XIV, at the urging of his Jesuit confessor, decided to rid southern France of the Waldensians. He revoked the Edict of Nantes, which had guaranteed the safety of the Protestants since it was enacted in 1598. The Waldensians were ordered to embrace Romanism and turn their children over to the Catholic Church to be trained up as Catholics or else to leave the country within fifteen days, under threat of confiscation of their goods and pain of death. The Waldensians refused to submit. The massacre that followed left only 14,000 survivors. Those who then recanted their faith were dispersed throughout Italy. Two thousand others were sold into slavery and the rest were sent to prisons. When the Swiss government intervened in 1686 and offered to take the survivors into their country, there were only 2,700 Waldensians still alive. While being escorted through the Alps to Geneva, they were so weakened in body that another 250 perished along the way.

1700



Marian Devotion dramatically increased. The writings of Louis De Montfort ("*True Devotion to Mary*", "*The Secret of Mary*" and "*The Secret of the Rosary*") strengthened the cult of Mary. De Montfort wrote the following nonsense, "*The salvation of the world began through Mary and through her it must be accomplished.*" He devised a thirty-three-day ritual by which a Catholic could make a total surrender of himself ("*Totus Tuus*") to Mary!

(Pope John Paul II was heavily influenced by De Montfort's books and took as his motto, "*Totus Tuus*" ("*Totally Yours*"), to express his own offering of himself to Mary. In his last will and testament, Pope John Paul II declared, "*I do not know when the moment [of my death] will come, but like everything else, I place it too in the hands of the Mother of my Master: Totus Tuus. ...I too continually take this [the fact that he would be judged by God] into consideration, entrusting that decisive moment to the Mother of Christ and of the Church - to the Mother of my hope. ...In life and in death, **Totus Tuus in Mary Immaculate.**" This deluded and deceived false prophet damned his own soul to hell by his "devotion" to his false god, "Mary", instead of resting his faith completely in the Lord Jesus Christ!)*

1708



The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is declared a holy day of obligation by Pope Clement XI, ordered to be observed on December 8th. The Immaculate Conception is the Catholic belief that Mary was born without original sin and was preserved from all stain of sin for her whole life. This fanciful idea had been suggested more than once by Popes and church councils. Even though there is absolutely no support for it in the Bible, and even though many "church Fathers" opposed it, the doctrine slowly gained acceptance, being supported by the Council of Trent. The matter was settled once and for all in 1854 when the Immaculate Conception was declared an official dogma of the Church by Pope Pius IX. (See 1854 AD)

1750



"The Glories of Mary" by Alphonsus de Liguori, elevates Mary to a God-like position! While many of the "glories" Liguori attributed to Mary in his book are outrageous, the Catholic Church continues to revere this man! **He was declared a saint in 1839 and a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius IX in 1871!** The following quotes from "*The Glories of Mary*", drawn largely from other sources, prove that the only way Liguori can be taken seriously is if the reader is extremely gullible and totally ignorant of the scriptures!

"I am the Queen of heaven and the Mother of Mercy; I am the joy of the just and the door through which sinners are brought to God." - ("*The Glories of Mary*", Edited by Msgr. Charles Dollen, copyright 1990, by Alba House, New York, chapter 1, page 6, quoting St. Bridget's message to her from Mary)

"We may obtain mercy more quickly from Mary than from Jesus" Quoting St. Anselm, Liguori says: *"We often obtain more promptly what we ask by invoking Mary than by invoking Jesus."* ...*Many things are asked from God and are not granted; they are asked from Mary and are obtained.*" - (Ibid, chapter 4, page 48)

*"Not only is the most Blessed Virgin **Queen of heaven and of all the saints**, but she is also **Queen of hell and all evil spirits**: she overcame them valiantly by her virtue. From the very beginning **God foretold the victory and empire that our Queen would one day obtain over the serpent, when he announced that a woman should come into the world to conquer him: "I will put enmities between you and the woman..."** (Gen 3:15) Who could this woman be but Mary, who by her fair humility and holy life always conquered him and beat down his strength? ...The Septuagint says, "And he will crush your head," while the Vulgate version has it, **'she will crush your head.'** This is the sense known by St. Ambrose, St. Jerome, St. Augustine, and a great many others. However, it really does not matter, whether the Mother crushes the head of the serpent through her Son, or the Son overcomes Lucifer through His Mother who brought Him into the world to affect this. As St. Bernard remarks, **this proud spirit, in spite of himself, was beaten down and trampled under foot by this most Blessed Virgin.** As a slave conquered in war, **the devil is forced to obey the commands of this Queen.**" "The Glories of Mary" Edited and abridged by Msgr. Charles Dollen, 1990, published by Alba House, New York, pages 49-50.*

*"St. Germanus had written previously: **"No one is saved but through Mary."** ...St. Antonius expresses it this way: "Whoever asks and expects to obtain graces without the intercession of Mary endeavors to fly without wings." Blessed Raymond Jordan repeats the same thing: **"Our salvation is in her hands."** Cassian is even stronger, saying: **"The salvation of all depends on their being favored and protected by Mary."** And as we have access to the Eternal Father, says St. Bernard, **only through Jesus Christ, so have we have access to Jesus Christ only through Mary: "By you we have access to the Son, O blessed finder of grace, bearer of life, and mother of salvation, that we may receive Him from you, who through you was given to us."** (Ibid, chapter 5, page 61-62)*

*"There can be no doubt that by the merits of Jesus, **Mary was made the mediatrix of our salvation** - not, indeed, a mediatrix of justice, but of favor and intercession. St Bonaventure expressly calls her: **"Mary, the most faithful mediatrix of our salvation."** St. Lawrence Justinian asks: **"How can she be otherwise than full of grace, who has been made the ladder to paradise, the gate of heaven, the most true mediatrix between God and man?"**" - (Ibid, chapter 5, page 56)*

1798



The Papacy is given a deadly wound! In 1796, during the French revolution, Napoleon's army swept into Italy where Napoleon's generals took control of the Papal States. On February 15, 1798, Napoleon himself came to Rome. **Pope Pius VI refused to meet Napoleon or recognize the new government and was removed from his throne and carried off as a prisoner to France, where he died.** Although the Papacy was later restored to Rome, Napoleon had struck a blow against the temporal power of the Popes and the Vatican's control of the Papal States! **Seventy-two years later (1870)** the Italian army, in a war against the Vatican, conquered the Papal troops and unified the Italian nation, bringing an end once and for all to the Papal States and the Pope's civil authority. Even though the popes are still treated as "Heads of State" by the governments of the world, their "civil authority" extends no further than the Vatican. The Papal States have never been returned to their grasp!

1830



MARIAN APPARITION - “Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal” appeared at Paris, France. Catherine Laboure, a 24 year old nun who claimed to have already had visitations from Jesus and St. Vincent, asked St. Vincent that she might see the Virgin Mary. Soon after, she said she was awakened by a young child, about five years old, dressed in white who said: "*Catherine, Catherine, wake up. Come to the chapel; the Blessed Virgin is waiting for you.*" There she said she saw a beautiful young woman surrounded by a blaze of white light and with a serpent beneath her feet. This was no small detail! It was an obvious attempt to picture Mary – not Jesus Christ - as the one who would bruise Satan’s head. This very thing had been claimed by the Latin Vulgate’s corrupt translation of Genesis 3:15, as seen in the English version of the Latin Vulgate, the Catholic Douay-Rheims Version: “*I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel.*” This obviously robs the Lord Jesus Christ of his glorious victory over Satan. (Luke 11:21-22; Col. 2:15; John 12:31; Heb. 2:14) The image of “Mary” was surrounded by the words: “*Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us, who have recourse to you.*” Satan was laying the groundwork for another horrid doctrine of devils – the “immaculate conception” that would be promulgated later by Pope Pius IX.

The Miraculous Medal: Catherine Laboure also claimed that she was told by Mary, "*Have a medal struck after this model. Those who wear it will receive great graces; abundant graces will be given to those who have confidence.*" The front of the medal had Mary’s image with the serpent beneath her feet and words surrounding her that proclaimed her immaculate conception. The back of the medal had a letter "M," surmounted by a cross, with the “hearts” of Jesus and Mary side by side. Within a short time there were numerous reported cures and spiritual conversions attributed to the medal, so much so that it came to be called “The Miraculous Medal”. By the time of Catherine’s death, there were millions of these medals being sold all over the world. The apparition and the medal also fueled the growing demand to have the Immaculate Conception declared an official dogma. (See 1854 AD) The medal is still very popular today.



1832



Pope Gregory XVI denies freedom of conscience, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, etc. In his encyclical “*Liberalism and Religious Indifferentism*” (August 15th, 1832), which was a response to the growth of democratic ideas in the world, Gregory XVI revealed once more that popery has always been an enemy of true freedom. He wrote, “*This shameful font of indifferentism [the idea that salvation and truth could be found equally in other faiths outside of the Catholic Church] gives rise to that absurd and erroneous proposition which claims that liberty of conscience must be maintained for everyone. ...Experience shows, even from earliest times, that cities renowned for wealth, dominion, and glory perished as a result of this single evil, namely immoderate freedom of opinion, license of free speech, ...we must include that harmful and never sufficiently denounced freedom to publish any writings whatever and disseminate them to the people, ...Nor can We predict happier times for religion and government from the plans of those who desire vehemently to separate the Church from the state, and to break the mutual concord between temporal authority and the priesthood. It is certain that that concord which always was favorable and beneficial for the sacred and the civil order is feared by the shameless lovers of liberty.* (See also: 1864)

Our country's founding fathers had some words of warning concerning Catholicism:


Samuel Adams: *"In regard to religion, mutual toleration in the different professions thereof is what all good and candid minds in all ages have ever practised, and, both by precept and example, inculcated on mankind. ...such toleration ought to be extended to all whose doctrines are not subversive of society. The only sects ...which by all wise laws are excluded from such toleration, are those who teach doctrines subversive of the civil government under which they live. The Roman Catholics or Papists are excluded by reason of such doctrines as these, that princes excommunicated may be deposed, and those that they call heretics may be destroyed without mercy; besides their recognizing the Pope in so absolute a manner, in subversion of government, by introducing, as far as possible into the states under whose protection they enjoy life, liberty, and property, that solecism [def.: "impropriety, absurdity, unfitness"] in politics, imperium in imperio [def.: "A government independent of the authorized government"], leading directly to the worst anarchy and confusion, civil discord, war, and bloodshed."* ("The Rights of the Colonists, Report of the Committee of Correspondence to the Boston Town Meeting", Samuel Adams, Nov. 20th, 1772; from <http://history.hanover.edu/texts/adamss.html>)


Alexander Hamilton: *"Remember civil and religious liberty always go together: if the foundation of the one be sapped, the other will fall of course. ...The affair of Canada, [referring to the Quebec Act of 1774, which helped establish Catholicism and French law in Canada] if possible, is still worse. The English laws have been superseded by the French laws. The Romish faith is made the established religion of the land ...and the free exercise of the Protestant faith depends upon the pleasure of the Governor and Council. The Parliament was not contented with introducing arbitrary power and Popery in Canada, with its former limits; but they have annexed to it the vast tracts of land that surround all the colonies. ...Does not your blood run cold, to think that an English Parliament should pass an act for the establishment of arbitrary power and Popery in such an extensive country? If they had any regard to the freedom and happiness of mankind, they would never have done it. If they had been friends to the Protestant cause, they would never have provided such a nursery for its great enemy; they would not have given such encouragement to Popery. Beware of trusting yourselves to men who are capable of such an action! They may as well establish Popery in New York, and the other colonies, as they did in Canada. They had no more right to do it there than here."* ("Full Vindication of the Measures of Congress", by Alexander Hamilton, December 15th, 1774; from "The Works of Alexander Hamilton", ed. Henry Cabot Lodge (Federal Edition), New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1904, vol.1; from: Online Library of Liberty: <http://oll.libertyfund.org>)


John Adams: (Adams did not like religion of any kind, Christian or Catholic, but he correctly saw that Catholicism in particular was a danger to liberty.) *"Can a free government possibly exist with the Roman Catholic religion?"* (John Adams, from a letter to Thomas Jefferson, May 19, 1821)


"Numberless have been the systems of iniquity The most refined, sublime, extensive, and astonishing constitution of policy that ever was conceived by the mind of man was framed by the Romish clergy for the aggrandizement of their own Order. They even persuaded mankind to believe, faithfully and undoubtingly, that God Almighty had entrusted them with the keys of heaven, whose gates they might open and close at pleasure ...with authority to license all sorts of sins and crimes ...All these opinions they were enabled to spread and rivet among the people by reducing their minds to a state of sordid ignorance and staring timidity, and by infusing into them a religious horror of letters and knowledge. Thus was human nature chained fast for ages in a cruel, shameful, and deplorable servitude." (John Adams, from "A Dissertation on the Canon and the Feudal Law," printed in the *Boston Gazette*, August, 1765)

“I do not like the reappearance of the Jesuits.... Shall we not have regular swarms of them here, in as many disguises as only a king of the gypsies can assume, dressed as printers, publishers, writers and schoolmasters? If ever there was a body of men who merited damnation on earth and in Hell, it is this society of Loyola's. Nevertheless, we are compelled by our system of religious toleration to offer them an asylum.” (John Adams, from a letter to Thomas Jefferson, May 5, 1816)




1846  **MARIAN APPARITION at La Sallete, France.** Two young children (eleven and fourteen years old) said they saw a ball of light in which a lady appeared, dressed in white and gold, with a cap of roses on her head. She was weeping and she told the children of wars and horrible judgments that were coming on the earth. “Mary” also made this absurd claim, *“If my people refuse to submit, I will be forced to let go the arm of my son. It is so strong and so heavy; I can no longer hold it back. How long a time I have suffered for you! If I want my son not to abandon you, I am obliged to plead with him constantly.”* (That statement could only be the voice of a devil, to contradict the promises of Jesus Christ, who said, *“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.”* – John 6:37; *“For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”* - Hebrews 13:5)

1849  **Mary is declared to be essential to man’s salvation** - Pope Pius IX states, *“Our salvation is based upon the holy Virgin... so that if there is any hope and spiritual healing for us we receive it solely and uniquely from her.”*(Encyclical of February 2, 1849)

1854  **The “Immaculate Conception” of Mary is proclaimed as official dogma by Pope Pius IX.** According to him, Mary was *“preserved immune from all stain of original sin”*. The current *Catechism of the Catholic Church* adds this incredible statement: ***“By the grace of God Mary remained free of every personal sin her whole life long.”*** (Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1994, #493, p. 124) The Bible says everyone was born as a sinner, except for Christ. Mary herself stated she needed a Saviour. (Rom. 3:23; 5:12; Psalm 51:5; Luke 1:30, 46-47).

1858  **MARIAN APPARITION in Lourdes, France.** A fourteen-year-old girl, Bernadette Soubirous, claimed that while gathering wood she heard a loud noise like the sound of a storm coming from a nearby grotto. There she saw a woman who smiled at her and motioned for her to come closer. Bernadette claimed that she had eighteen other visits from the “Lady” before learning it was “Mary”. The apparition instructed Bernadette to dig a hole in the ground and drink from it and bathe in it. At first there was nothing but mud, but soon the hole became a spring of water which “Mary” promised would have healing power for all who came to use it. **In 1862 the Catholic Church declared the apparitions authentic and Lourdes rapidly became one of the world's major pilgrimage sites.** Thousands of cures have been claimed and millions of pilgrims come to Lourdes every year.



1862    **“St.” John Bosco’s vision!** This Catholic “prophet”, who founded the religious order of the Salesians in 1859, claimed he was given a prophetic vision directly from Mary concerning the future of the Catholic Church. In his vision he saw the Church as a great ship, struggling through a horrible storm and ready to be destroyed by enemy ships which rammed and shot at it violently. The captain of the ship (the pope) fell mortally wounded from one of the cannon shots but was immediately replaced by another, who then valiantly anchored the vessel between two great pillars that rose out of the sea and reached up to the sky! Bosco described the pillars:

“One [pillar] is surmounted by a statue of the **Immaculate Virgin**, at whose feet a large inscription reads “*Auxilium Christianorum*” (*Help of Christians*). The other, far loftier and sturdier, supports a **Host** ...and bears beneath it the inscription “*Salus credentium*” (*Salvation of believers*).” Bosco explained his prophecy, “*There will be an Ecumenical Council in the next century [the 20th], after which there will be chaos in the Church. **Tranquility will not return until the Pope succeeds in anchoring the boat of Peter between the twin pillars of Eucharistic Devotion and Devotion to Our Lady. This will come about one year before the end of the century.**” “St.” Bosco’s prophecy, which the Catholic Church accepts as valid, and considers to have been fulfilled, served to greatly exalt the importance of the **Pope** (the captain) as well as the saving power of the “**Immaculate Virgin**” and the **Eucharist**.*

1864



Pope Pius IX publishes his “Syllabus of Errors”: a list of eighty “important errors” of his day. The Syllabus was the Pope’s response to the great social upheavals that were then occurring all around him. Numerous Catholic countries were in a state of revolution (Sicily, Poland, France, Brazil and even Italy, to name a few.) Unrest was everywhere. Feudalism was coming violently to an end in Europe and the United States was still torn and bleeding from its civil war. But most disturbing to the pope was the fact that his **authority** was under attack everywhere. (Anti-clericalism was characteristic of those times. See **1870**.) In response to all this, true to the spirit of popery, Pius IX came down on the side of despotism, believing, like the popes before him, that he had a right to rule over all nations, and dictate to all mankind, even to the unsaved. (This same pope declared himself “infallible” only six years later.) The syllabus, while correctly attacking certain evils such as socialism, liberalism and rationalism, also condemned **democracy, free speech, freedom of religion, freedom of conscience and freedom of the press** along with nearly every other basic principle on which free societies were then being established.

The Syllabus declared, among other things, that: (#15) *[No man] is free to embrace and profess that religion which, guided by the light of reason, he shall consider true;* (#17) *[There is no good hope] ...of the eternal salvation of those who are not in the [Catholic Church];* (#24) *The Church has ...the power of using force;* (#47) *Schools ...and, generally, all public institutes ...for carrying on the education of youth, should [not] be freed from [church] authority, control and interference;* (#54) *Kings and princes are [under] the jurisdiction of the Church, [and are inferior] to the Church in deciding questions of jurisdiction;* (#55) *The Church ought [not] to be separated from the State, [nor] the State from the Church;* (#76) *The abolition of the temporal power of [the Pope] would [harm] in the greatest degree, the liberty and prosperity of the Church;* (#77) *The Catholic religion should be held as the only religion of the State, to the exclusion of all other forms of worship.*

1870



PAPAL INFALLIBILITY is proclaimed by Pope Pius IX at Vatican Council I. The Pope rigged the Council to get this new doctrine approved over the strong objections of some bishops who pointed out that many “infallible” Papal decrees had been reversed or set aside by later Popes and councils. In the end, after much intimidation, Pius IX won out.

The TIMING of the proclamation reveals the blatantly political nature of this new “doctrine”. Pope Pius IX had convened the council inside the Vatican during the midst of the Italian war of independence – in which Italians were fighting against the Vatican! Nine years earlier, in **1861**, Italy had become a united kingdom under King Victor Emmanuel II, who had removed the Papal States from the Pope’s control and incorporated them into the new Kingdom of Italy. But now the fighting had reached to the city of Rome and the Pope’s authority was in great jeopardy. This was the background for Vatican Council I.

When given the opportunity, the citizens of Rome voted to join the new united Italy and end centuries of Papal rule. But the Pope refused to acknowledge the vote and chose to resist! The Romans found themselves in an armed struggle for freedom against their own Pope! In the fighting that followed, the Papal army killed hundreds of Catholics and imprisoned more than 8,000 of them before it was all over! But on **September 20th, 1870**, the citizens of Rome overcame the Pope and declared a victory.

Pope Pius IX refused to recognize the new Italian state, but retreated into the Vatican where he remained secluded for the rest of his life! His successors also refused to leave the Vatican during their “reigns”. **This Papal pity party lasted almost sixty years** – until 1929, when Mussolini, the Italian dictator, signed an agreement with Pope Pius XII re-establishing the political power and diplomatic standing of the Catholic Church! Italian newspapers in 1929 proclaimed that the “wound” to the Vatican had been “healed”.

In 1878 the “infallible” Pope Pius IX died a hated man! During his funeral procession in Rome his coffin was attacked by his former subjects and was nearly torn from the hands of the pallbearers as the crowds tried to pull his body from the box and throw it in the river!



Pope Pius IX’s doctrine of “Papal Infallibility” is not only arrogant but absurd, given the many infidels, atheists, murderers and whoremongers that occupied the “Throne of Peter” while claiming to be “The Vicar of Christ”! **None** of the church “fathers” down through history supported such a doctrine and the Bible certainly condemns it! Even Peter, the supposed first “Pope”, was not infallible. He erred even after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. He was rebuked by Paul and was “blamed” for subverting the gospel! (Galatians 2:11-16) Peter also confessed that some of Paul’s writings were “hard to be understood”. (2Peter 3:16) So much for “infallibility”! That such a doctrine could be accepted now and defended by Catholics is a sure sign that the religious world is ready for the coming antichrist - who will cause the world to believe a lie! (2Thess. 2:2-12; Revelation 17:1-9; 13:5-8, 18)

7

1881 AD - until the rapture! \ CHURCH OF LAODICEA \ The lukewarm, spiritually sick church of the last days

Revelation 3:14-22

During the Laodicean period in which we live now, the enemy has worked more as an “angel of light” than as a “roaring lion”. Instead of brute force (crusades and Inquisitions) he has used **more subtle means**; all of it aimed at bringing the whole of “Christendom” under the total domination of Rome. This new subtlety has been especially evident in the **Ecumenical Movement** (see the new “icon” below). This is Satan’s effort to seduce Laodicean Christians into “unity” (spiritual fornication) with Rome. In the Laodicean period many Christian “denominations” and famous “Evangelical” leaders, such as Dr. Billy Graham and Dr. Bill Bright, established official ties with the Roman Catholic Church! Many of the victories achieved in the Reformation were gradually erased. Biblical truths that were once so boldly proclaimed were trampled under foot. The King James Bible was “revised” in this period and gradually replaced by other so-called “Bibles” based on the Roman Catholic text. In this final period of the church age the Mystery of Iniquity begins to take its final form, namely: “**MYSTERY BABYLON**”, the great harlot church, pictured in the Bible as a bloodthirsty woman that rides a scarlet colored beast (Rev. 17:1-18): an all-encompassing world church that the antichrist will first exploit and then destroy.

In this Laodicean church period, the spiritual character and holy boldness of the “Philadelphia church” is **GONE**. The “Laodicean church” is seen by God as sick and detestable (*wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked*). Jesus Christ is pictured standing **OUTSIDE** the door of his church, knocking on the hearts of men, looking for someone to have fellowship with Him! (Rev. 3:20) The saddest part of this picture is that the Laodicean Church is **UNAWARE OF ITS OWN LUKEWARM CONDITION!** *...I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and **knowest not** that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.* (Revelation 3:15-17)

The seventh parable in Matthew 13 also reveals something about the Laodicean period. It describes a “dragnet” that is pulled from the “sea” (a type of the world), having in it things both “good” and “bad” - things that will not get sorted out until the final judgment day! *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the **good** into vessels, but cast the **bad** away. So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.* (Matthew 13:47-50)

The prophet Hosea could almost have been describing the Laodicean church when he wrote about the lukewarm condition of Israel in its last days, which, like the Laodicean church, had no idea that its strength had been stolen by strangers: *Ephraim [one of the ten northern tribes, representative of the whole kingdom] hath **mixed himself among the people**; Ephraim is a **cake not turned** [half-baked, i.e., hot on one side and cold on the other]. **Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not**: yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet **he knoweth not**.* (Hosea 7:8-9)



Ecumenicism – something new to this timeline - is represented by the icon of a sailing vessel. A picture of a boat is often used by Ecumenical groups (such as in the logo of the World Council of Churches, at right) to represent religious **unity**: that is, diverse “faiths” all sailing happily together in one boat! The ship pictured at left happens to be a first-century **Alexandrian** ship, like the one that carried Paul (Acts 27:6; 28:11) toward Rome, toward imprisonment and death.



1881



THE FIRST “REVISION” OF THE KING JAMES BIBLE. The British Bible Society established a committee in 1871 to “update” the language of the KJV. Two Cambridge University scholars, Brook **Westcott** and Fenton **Hort**, became members of that committee. From their correspondence it is known that Westcott and Hort rejected the infallibility of the Scriptures and especially hated the “Textus Receptus”, the Greek text from which the King James Bible had been translated, calling it “that vile text”. They had **secretly** produced their own Greek text of the New Testament using four of the most corrupt Greek manuscripts in existence (**Vaticanus, Sinaiticus, Alexandrinus and Codex “C”**). They then **secretly** supplied their text to the Revision Committee, cautioning each other in their personal letters to keep their true purpose quiet, and requiring of the committee members a pledge of secrecy until the work was done! It was their corrupt text that was used to “revise” the King James Bible. The result was no revision but a new translation, a piece of garbage called the **Revised (English) Version of 1881**. (Some of its more glaring errors were Isaiah 7:14, attacking the virgin birth; Psalm 12:6-7, attacking the preservation of God’s words; 1Timothy 3:16, Micah 5:2, Luke 2:33 and Daniel 3:25, attacking the deity of Christ; etc.)

These two men, whom modern Bible “scholars” still hold in high esteem, were possibly unsaved (neither one of them made any reference in any of their voluminous writings to a personal experience of salvation) and were at the very least Roman Catholic sympathizers, even though they both taught in a “Protestant” university: Westcott believed in Mary-worship, while rejecting belief in a literal Heaven; Hort believed in the Catholic Eucharist, purgatory and baptismal regeneration, but rejected the Second Coming of Christ, the Genesis account of creation and a literal hell! Both men were also deeply involved in the occult and were founding members of several organizations devoted to communicating with the dead! (Hermes Club, 1845; Ghostly Guild, 1851; Eranus Club 1872)

Westcott and Hort are most famous (or infamous) for their theory of “TEXTUAL CRITICISM”, a method used by literary scholars to authenticate ancient texts, but adopted by them to cover up the glaring contradictions between the readings found in the MAJORITY (95%) of the manuscripts (the Textus Receptus) and the corrupted readings found in their favorite manuscripts, Vaticanus, Sinaiticus, Alexandrinus and Codex “C”. Westcott and Hort were hell-bent on turning Christianity away from the King James Bible, no matter what it took. Their Greek text is STILL the basis for EVERY perverted new “Bible” since 1881, including the NASV, the NIV and the New World Translation of the “Jehovah’s Witnesses”. **Therefore, 1881 is an appropriate date to use as the beginning of the Laodicean period!**

1894



Pope Leo XIII proclaims himself equal to God! How fitting that the Laodicean period begins with a delusional religious DICTATOR! Pope Leo XIII wrote: “*We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty.*” (Encyclical, “The Reunion of Christendom,” June 20, 1894) Earlier in his “reign” he said, “*The supreme teacher in the Church is the Roman Pontiff. Union of minds, therefore, requires, together with a perfect accord in the one faith, complete submission and obedience of will to the Church and to the Roman Pontiff, as to God Himself.*” (Encyclical, “On the Chief Duties of Christians as Citizens,” January 10, 1890)

1900



Catholic dictatorships multiply in the twentieth century. The early 1900’s are marked by world-wide unrest: economic depression, the rise of Communism, revolutions, two world wars and numerous Roman Catholic dictatorships. Consider the following list of 20th century dictators who were all loyal Roman Catholics: **Hitler** (Germany, 1933-1945); **Mussolini** (Italy, 1922-1943); **Franco** (Spain, 1936-1975); **Salazar** (Portugal, 1932-1968); **Dollfuss** and **Von Schuschnigg** (Austria, 1932-1934); **Peron** (Argentina, 1946-1955) and **Pavelic** (Croatia, 1941-1945). In fact, Nazism and Fascism came to power, in part, as a consequence of the Pope’s policies and his “concordats” (legal agreements) with Germany and Italy. (**See: 1933**)

1917



MARIAN APPARITION - Fatima, Portugal. On May 13, 1917, near the Portuguese village of Fatima, “a beautiful lady from Heaven”, shining like the sun, is said to have appeared to three children, ages seven to nine. The apparition spoke with the children for a few minutes, and asked them to meet her again on the thirteenth of each month until October.

“Mary” appeared at Fatima six times in all, with increasing numbers of spectators in attendance. On October 13th over **70,000 people** (pictured next page) were present when a so-called "miracle of the sun" took place. Eyewitnesses claimed that the sun fell from heaven toward the crowd and then returned to its normal position in the sky. One person supposedly saw it this way:

“Just when it seemed that the ball of fire would fall upon and destroy them, the miracle ceased and the sun resumed its normal place in the sky, shining forth as peacefully as ever. When the people arose from the ground, cries of astonishment were heard on all sides. Their clothes, which had been soaking wet and muddy, now were clean and dry. Many of the sick and crippled had been cured of their afflictions.” (“Our Lady of Fatima’s Peace Plan from Heaven”, Tan Books and Publishers, Inc., 1983, pp. 7-8.)



At Fatima "Mary" proclaimed herself the "**Immaculate Heart**". When the three children are given a vision of hell, "Mary" tells them: “*You have seen Hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world **the devotion to my Immaculate Heart**. If people do what I tell you, many souls will be saved and there will be peace.*”

On July 13, 1917, the apparition made this god-like demand: “*the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart and the communion of the first Sabbaths. ...If you carry out my **demands**, Russia will be converted and there will be peace. Otherwise the errors will be spread around the world, provoking war and persecution against the Church; many good people will become martyrs, the Holy Father will suffer much... **But in the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph**, the Holy Father will consecrate Russia for me, which will be converted and the world will be granted a period of peace. ...If humanity opposes me I shall be obliged to free the arm of My Son.*”

(The apparition at Fatima has been proclaimed "worthy of belief" by the Catholic Church!)

1917



The Code of Canon Law is imposed upon the Catholic Church. This new set of 2,414 laws went into effect under Pope Benedict XV. It consolidated and “codified” the Pope’s powers, giving him absolute dictatorial authority. According to Roman Catholic author, John Cornwell, “*At the turn of the century, [Cardinal] Pacelli [later Pope Pius XII]...collaborated in redrafting the Church’s laws in such a way as to grant future popes **unchallenged domination** from the Roman center. ...The code, distributed to Catholic clergy throughout the world, created the means of establishing, imposing, and sustaining a remarkable new ‘top-down’ power relationship.*” (“Hitler’s Pope: The Secret History of Pius XII”, Viking Press, New York, 1999, John Cornwell, p. 6)

1929



Pope Pius XI signs a Concordat with Mussolini. This validated Mussolini’s dictatorship. In exchange Mussolini gave the Catholic Church exclusive rights to educate the children of Italy, status as the official religion of Italy and restored the political power and diplomatic standing of the Pope! This ended the self-imposed **Papal seclusion**. (See 1870)

1931



Pope Pius XI affirms the dogma that Mary is “the Mother of God”, perpetuating the heresy first invented by the Council of Ephesus in the year 431. This doctrine is contrary to Mary’s own words. (Luke 1:46-49; John 2:1.5).

1933



Vatican guilty of complicity with Adolph Hitler. Cardinal Pacelli, who was the Papal nuncio in Germany and who would later become Pope Pius XII, engineered an agreement (the Reich Concordat) with Hitler that served the agenda of the Vatican and insured the rise to power of Hitler and the Nazis: *“In 1933 Pacelli found a successful negotiating partner for his Reich Concordat in the person of Adolf Hitler. Their treaty authorized the papacy to impose the new Church law [Code of Canon Law] on German Catholics and granted generous privileges to Catholic schools and the clergy. In exchange, the Catholic Church in Germany, its parliamentary political party, and its many hundreds of associations and newspapers ‘voluntarily’ withdrew, following Pacelli’s initiative, from social and political action. The abdication of German political Catholicism in 1933, negotiated and imposed from the Vatican by Pacelli with the agreement of Pope Pius XI, ensured that Nazism could rise unopposed by the most powerful Catholic community in the world.”* (“Hitler’s Pope: The Secret History of Pius XII”, Viking Press, New York, 1999, John Cornwell, p. 7)



(Left): The Catholic Church and the Nazis sign the Reich Concordat at a ceremony in Rome on July 20, 1933. Seated in the middle and signing for the Vatican is Cardinal Pacelli (later to become Pope Pius XII). Nazi Vice-Chancellor Franz von Papen (a devout Catholic and a “Knight of Malta”) sits at the left side. The concordat legitimized Adolf Hitler and the Nazi government in the eyes of Catholicism and the world.

(Below left): Catholic Bishops give the Nazi salute in honor of Adolf Hitler. (Below right): Roman Catholic priests give the Nazi salute at a Catholic youth rally in Berlin in August 1933.



1942



Pope Pius XII, along with Catholic bishops in Germany, Austria, Poland and Croatia, turn a blind eye to the sufferings of the Jews under Hitler: Six million Jews were slaughtered by Hitler without a word of protest from the Vatican or the Catholic Church in Germany. In 1942, when the U.S., Britain and other governments urged the Pope to speak out about Hitler’s treatment of the Jews, the Pope responded to the international pressure with a Christmas radio address - but did not mention the Jews. In 1943, at their annual meeting, the German Catholic bishops debated whether to speak out about the Holocaust and confront Hitler with a direct accusation. They decided not to do so. Cardinal Bertram, Archbishop of Breslau and head of the German Bishops' Conference, opposed all public protest against the deportation and massacre of the Jews.

Cardinal Bertram maintained a cordial relationship with Hitler throughout the war, and after Hitler committed suicide in May 1945 (which according to Catholic Law, would have meant that he went to hell) the Cardinal ordered requiem masses for Hitler throughout Breslau. After the war ended, Pope Pius XII addressed the College of Cardinals and honored the hundreds of priests that died in Nazi concentration camps – but the Pope made no mention of the six million Jews that were murdered. Hitler’s Catholic-inspired hatred of the Jews and the “Church’s” complicity in the persecution and deaths of so many innocent people is a crime that rivals the Inquisition!

But the Jews were not the only enemies that Pius XII hoped to eliminate. In Croatia, it is estimated that 750,000 Orthodox Serbs were massacred by the fascist Catholic Croat “Ustashi”. Cardinal Stepinac of Zagreb provided religious cover for the murders of both Jews and Orthodox and Franciscan friars ran the most notorious of the concentration camps. In the Medjugorje vicinity, fifty men, women and children were thrown from a cliff-top, and all the monks at a nearby Orthodox Monastery were buried alive. Interestingly, Medjugorje would later (1981) become the scene of famous Marian apparitions.

On March 12th, 2000, Pope John Paul II offered a weak “apology” and asked forgiveness for the past sins of the Catholic Church. No specific sins were actually mentioned but, instead, he apologized for: “*the use of violence in the service of truth*”. He said he was “*deeply saddened by the behavior of those who in the course of history have caused these children of yours (the Jews) to suffer.*” But Rome’s crimes were more than “violence” and bad behavior from a few individuals! It was centuries of persecution, forced conversions, anti-Semitic genocide, murder and Church-sanctioned torture by the Roman Catholic Church. In the Pope’s speech, there was no mention of the holocaust (or the Inquisition or the Crusades) and he avoided any mention of Pope Pius XII, whom he had actually defended in an earlier document in 1998!

1948



MARIAN APPARITION - Lipa City, Philippines. “Mary” revealed herself nineteen times in 1948 to Teresita Catillo, a novice in a convent of the Carmelite order. Teresita claimed the apparition stood in radiant beauty on a cloud with a golden Rosary clasped in her hands. “Mary” identified herself thus: “*I am the Mediatrix of All Grace*”.

The Bible certainly reveals her words to be a filthy lie! “*For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.*” (John 1:17); “*But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved...*” (Acts 15:11); “*...much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ.*” (Rom. 5:15); “*I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ.*” (1Cor. 1:4); “*For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.*” (2Cor. 8:9); “*I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel.*” (Gal. 1:6); “*Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.*” (Gal. 6:18) “*That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*” (Eph. 2:7); “*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*” (2Thess. 3:18); “*Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.*” (2Tim. 1:9); “*Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*” (2Tim. 2:1). THE BIBLE ENDS WITH THESE WORDS: “*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*” (Rev. 22:21)

The grace of God comes to us only through the mediation of ONE MAN, the man Christ Jesus! The lying spirit masquerading as Mary would boldly take the place of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church would gladly have it so.

1948



The World Council of Churches is formed: The WCC was established in Amsterdam with 147 protestant denominations (today there are more than 300). The organization's real goal is to return “Protestant” churches to unity (“convergence” is the new word) with the Roman Catholic Church. This was clearly stated at the Council’s inaugural meeting by General Secretary, W.A. Visser't Hooft: *"There can be and there is finally only one church of Christ on earth...we are aware of the situation, that we do not accept it passively, that we move forward towards the manifestation of the ONE HOLY CHURCH."*

1950



Pope Pius XII proclaims the doctrine of the ASSUMPTION of the Virgin Mary. “By the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and **by our own authority**, we pronounce, declare, and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was **assumed body and soul into heavenly glory**. ...It is forbidden to any man to change this, our declaration, pronouncement, and definition or, by rash attempt, to oppose and counter it. If any man should presume to make such an attempt, let him know that he will incur **the wrath of Almighty God and of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul**.” (Munificentissimus Deus)

“The Assumption of Mary” makes FOUR Marian dogmas that the Catholic person **must** believe! The other three are: (1) Mary as the “Mother of God”; (2) Mary’s perpetual virginity and (3) Mary’s Immaculate Conception! The next Marian dogma may be that Mary is proclaimed the **CO-REDEEMER** with Jesus Christ! Many Catholic authors and several Popes have already given her that title unofficially and recent “apparitions” are **demanding** that it be officially declared as a doctrine of the Church. Pope John Paul II received over four million signatures on petitions asking him to declare this doctrine “de fide” (*must be believed*). “Mary” says that only then will she be able to bring world peace!

1950



Billy Graham, the most famous protestant evangelist, begins an ecumenical love affair with Catholicism. Writing about his early days of holding city-wide “**crusades**”, Graham says, *"A number of Roman Catholic priests and Unitarian clergy, together with some of their parishioners, came to the meetings along with those from Evangelical churches. With my limited Evangelical background, this was a further expansion of my own ecumenical outlook. I now began to make friends among people from many different backgrounds and to develop a spiritual love for their clergy."* (Just As I Am, by Billy Graham, p. 167)

1952



Billy Graham approves sending his “converts” back to the Catholic Church: “Many of the people who reach a decision for Christ at our meetings have joined the Catholic church and we have received commendations from Catholic publications for the revived interest in their church following one of our campaigns.” (Pittsburg Sun Telegraph, Sep. 6, 1952) “Even if the **penitents** (?) are non-Protestant they are referred to the church of their choice. ...Anyone who makes a decision at our meeting is seen later and referred to a local clergyman--Protestant, Catholic or Jewish.” (San Francisco News, Nov. 11, 1957)

1961



Billy Graham approves infant baptism and baptismal regeneration: “I have some difficulty in accepting the indiscriminate baptism of infants without a careful regard as to whether the parents have any intention of fulfilling the promise they make. **But I do believe that something happens at the baptism of an infant**, particularly if the parents are Christians and teach their children Christian Truths from childhood. We cannot fully understand the miracles of God, but **I believe that a miracle can happen in these children so that they are regenerated, that is, made Christian, through infant baptism**. If you want to call that baptismal regeneration, that’s all right with me.” (Lutheran Standard, October 10, 1961)

1961



MARIAN APPARITION Garabandal, Spain – From 1961 through 1964 four young girls (who were ages 10 to 12 at the beginning) claimed to see more than 2,000 apparitions of Mary, the baby Jesus (who never spoke) and Michael the archangel (who appeared to them as a nine year old boy with red wings and swarthy skin!). As the girls' fame grew, they became a tourist attraction and were filmed and photographed in their trance-like state at each apparition. They gave various objects to Mary for her to "kiss" (rosaries, medals and crucifixes) and later, miracles were attributed to those objects! One of the girls, Conchita, said Mary told her about three important future events: **the great "warning"**, in which people all over the world would experience (all at the same time) a deep sorrow for their sins. This would prepare them for **the "great miracle"**: a visible "sign" in the skies at Garabandal that would be seen and photographed and which would result in the conversion of Russia to Catholicism! But if people would not make sacrifices and do penance after seeing the great "warning" and the great "miracle" then, according to "Mary", they would suffer **the great "punishment"**.

1962



VATICAN COUNCIL II – Although Vatican II made no changes to Catholicism's basic doctrines (in fact, it reaffirmed them all!) the decrees of this Council nevertheless brought sweeping and controversial changes within the Catholic Church. Vatican II was considered **radical** in its Ecumenicism. Even Pope Paul VI, who concluded Vatican Council II in 1965, said just before his death, *"Through Vatican II, we meant to open a window to let in some fresh air, but a gale blew in and now Satan is in the sanctuary."*

The stated purpose of Vatican Council II was to unify Christianity, to pull the *"separated brethren"* – that's what Protestant and Orthodox Christians were now called for the first time – back into the arms of Rome, not by force, as in the past, but by "dialogue" and compromise. Yet, in spite of Rome's new conciliatory tone, Vatican II made no apologies for any of Catholicism's past crimes and made no changes to any of Catholicism's false doctrines. In fact, the Vatican II documents state, *"This sacred council accepts loyally the venerable faith of our ancestors ...and it **proposes again** the decrees of the Second Council of Nicaea, of the Council of Florence, and of the Council of Trent."* (Vatican Council II, Austin Flannery, editor, Costello Publishing, 1984, Vol. 1, p. 412) Notice that Vatican Council II **"proposes again the decrees ...of the Council of Trent"**. The reader may remember that the Council of Trent, with its more than 100 "anathemas" (curses) against Protestants, strengthened the Pope's dictatorial authority and sought to destroy the Reformation. (See 1545AD)

Vatican Council II is the turning point in Rome's efforts to build a monolithic one-world church in the last days. From this point forward the writings of the bishops and Popes become more "evangelical" in tone, with a noticeable "charity" (Rom. 16:17-18; Col. 2:4) toward other "Christian faiths". But her aims are still the same: to smother all opposition within her embrace, as these statements make clear:

*"When the obstacles to perfect ecclesiastical communion have been gradually overcome, all Christians will at last, in a common celebration of the Eucharist, be gathered into **the one and only Church** in that unity which Christ bestowed on His Church from the beginning. We believe that this unity subsists in **the Catholic Church** as something she can **never lose**."* (Decree on Ecumenism, "Unitatis Redintegratio", Vatican Council II, Nov. 21st 1964)

"Ecumenical dialogue...serves to transform modes of thought and behavior and the daily life of those communities [separated churches]. In this way, it aims at preparing the way for their unity of faith in the bosom of a Church one and visible." ("Vatican Council II - The Conciliar and Post Conciliar Documents", Doc. No. 42, "Reflections and Suggestions Concerning Ecumenical Dialogue", Austin Flannery, ed., 1981, Northport, NY: Costello Pub. Co., 1975; p 540-541)

*“The Catholic Church, both in her praxis and in her solemn documents, holds that the communion of the particular Churches with the Church of Rome, and of their Bishops with the **Bishops of Rome** is, in God's plan, an essential requisite of full and visible communion.”* (*Ut Unum Sint*, "That They May Be One: On Commitment to Ecumenism", John Paul II Encyclical, May 25th, 1995)

*“It is now necessary to advance towards the **visible unity which is required** and sufficient and which is manifested in a real and concrete way, so that the Churches may truly become a sign of that **full communion in the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church** which will be expressed in the common celebration of the Eucharist.”* (Ibid.)

How ready and willing are Protestant and evangelical churches to accept “visible unity” with Catholicism - which Rome says will be expressed through “*common celebration of the Eucharist*”? Jack Hayford, well known Charismatic pastor of “The Church on the Way” (California), writing on behalf of Promise Keepers, an ecumenical, charismatic, men’s ministry, said: “*Redeeming worship centers on the Lord's Table. Whether your tradition celebrates it as Communion, **Eucharist, the Mass, or the Lord's Supper, we are all called to this centerpiece of Christian worship.***” (Seven Promises of a Promise Keeper, p. 19)

1962



Billy Graham covers up the Roman Catholic Inquisition: In the early 60’s, Graham acquired the printing rights to Halley’s Bible Handbook, a widely used reference book for Christians, which, through twenty two editions from 1924 to 1959, had included a section - almost thirty pages long - on the **Roman Catholic Inquisition**. Beginning with the 23rd edition of 1962, those pages and any other references to the Inquisition were removed!

1964



Mary is proclaimed the “Mother of the Church”. Pope Paul VI, at the conclusion of the third session of the Second Vatican Council, stated, “*For the glory of the Blessed Virgin and our own consolation, we proclaim the Most Blessed Virgin Mary **Mother of the Church**, of the whole people of God, faithful and pastors, and we call her most loving Mother.*” He stated that he hoped that this new title for Mary, “Mother of the Church” would “*lead Christians to **honor Mary even more** and to call upon her with still greater confidence.*” (*Acta Apostolicae Sedis* 56, 1965, p. 1015)

1966



World Congress on Evangelism - funded and hosted by Billy Graham: Graham brought together, in Berlin, various religions including representatives from the Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches. Father John Sheerin, editor of the **Catholic World**, attended and later wrote: “*Only the Holy Spirit, working through Billy Graham as the human instrument, could have welded together so quickly so many men of different creeds. **The spirit of Pope John hovered over the council.** Billy Graham was physically, palpably and inescapably present at the Congress speaking admirably and **holding together forces that would unquestionably have exploded in all directions save for his presence.***”

1967



Billy Graham accepts an honorary degree from a Roman Catholic College. (November 21, 1967) During their “**Institute for Ecumenical Dialogue**”, the Catholic Belmont Abbey College, North Carolina conferred an honorary degree on Billy Graham. The local paper reported on Graham’s acceptance speech, saying: “He [Graham] noted the significance of the occasion, saying it was ‘*a time when Protestants and Catholics could meet together and greet each other as **brothers**, whereas 10 years ago they could not. ...The way of salvation has not changed. I know how the ending of the book will be. **The gospel that built this school and the gospel that brings me here tonight is still the way to salvation.***’” (The Gastonia Gazette, Nov. 22, 1967)

1968



MARIAN APPARITION, Zeitoun, Egypt.

One of the most amazing and most witnessed apparitions is also **the most ecumenical** of “Mary’s” visitations. It occurred in the air above St Mary’s Coptic Church at Zeitoun, Egypt where Muslims, Jews, Evangelicals, Egyptian Catholics, Greek Catholics and Coptic Christians, including Coptic bishops and the Coptic Patriarch's representative, were among millions of people who witnessed numerous apparitions over a period of three years, from 1968-1971. “Mary” appeared for hours at a time, always at night, never speaking, surrounded by strange luminous “doves”. The apparition moved around near the church dome, holding out her hands or bowing to the crowds, which sometimes were as large as 250,000 people.



Apparition of “Mary” photographed over St. Mary’s Coptic Church, Zeitoun, Egypt



Other Marian apparitions: 1969: Akita, Japan; **1970:** Vladimir Province, Ukraine; **1972:** Milan, Italy; **1974:** Putot-en-Auge, France; **1975:** Calabria, Italy and Binh Loi, Vietnam; **1976:** Betania, Venezuela.

1977



The Catholic Church gives full support to Graham’s ministry: In preparation for his 1977 “crusade” in Manila, Philippines, Graham said, “*We have received wondrous support from the Catholic Church.*” (Christianity Today, December 30, 1977) **Of course** the Catholic Church would give him wondrous support, it finds **nothing objectionable** in Graham’s message or his methods! “*Catholics have little reason to disagree with Dr. Graham as far as the theology of his crusade is concerned. He... avoids the more controversial issues of the sacraments and the church. Some fifty nuns served as counselors and sang regularly in the choir.*” (Archbishop John T. Byre, St. Louis Review, October, 1973; cited in “Billy Graham and Rome”, David Cloud, Way of Life Literature, 2006, page 64) Jesuit priest Charles Dullea, head of the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, made a study of Graham’s crusades in 1973 and wrote, “*The Catholic will hear no slighting of his Church’s teaching authority, nor of Papal or Episcopal Prerogatives, no word against the Mass or sacraments or Catholic practices. ...The Catholic, in my mind, will little, if anything, he cannot agree with.*” (“A Catholic Looks at Billy Graham”, Homiletic and Pastoral Review, January 1972)

1978



Billy Graham said, “My beliefs are essentially the same as those of orthodox Roman Catholics... We only differ on some matters of later church tradition.” (From an interview in McCall’s Magazine, January, 1978; cited in “Billy Graham and Rome”, David Cloud, Way of Life Literature, 2006, page 31)

1978



The Catholic Church in Poland opens its doors to the Graham crusade. Graham was welcomed at the airport in Warsaw by Bishop Wladyslaw Miziolek, chairman of the Committee on Ecumenicism of the Polish Catholic Church, who said, “*We are happy that you will preach in several cities in Catholic churches, where the overwhelming majority of listeners will be Catholics.*” (Chicago Sun-Times, October 1978) Indeed, four of his rallies in Poland were held in Catholic cathedrals, with masses conducted before and after each rally!

1980



Billy Graham proclaims the Pope one of the greatest Christians of the century! “*Pope John Paul II has emerged as ...one of the greatest moral and spiritual leaders of this century. The Pope has sought to speak to the spiritual hunger of our age in the same way Christians throughout the centuries have spoken to the spiritual yearning of every age – by pointing people to Christ.*” (Saturday Evening Post, Jan.-Feb. 1980)

1981



MARIAN APPARITION, Medjugorje, Croatia: On June 24th, 1981 six children claimed to have seen an apparition, a white female form with a child in its arms, but were too afraid to approach it. The next day when they saw the apparition again, they cried out, “*If you are Satan, go away!*” But it convinced them that it was “Mary” and since that time (more than 25 years ago!), one or more of them has been having weekly visitations! Even though, at present, the Vatican does not recognize the apparitions as “authentic”, they have captured the fascination of the Catholic world. Many tens of millions of pilgrims have visited Medjugorje. The events there have been aggressively promoted through radio and TV programs, lectures, printed material, international dial-a-numbers for those wishing to receive a monthly message from “Mary”, audio and video cassettes, and numerous books. Meanwhile, the “visionaries” have become religious celebrities; they have been interviewed endlessly and investigated by doctors and psychologists. All the while, they continue to report Mary’s latest urgent messages! And what does she have to say that is so urgent? The usual nonsense: “*I am suffering terribly because of your sins*”; “*Pray the Rosary more*”; “*Recite the creed every day followed by seven our Fathers*”; “*Fast on Wednesdays and Fridays*”; “*The end of the world is near*”; etc, etc. She announced that very soon she will make her very last appearance on earth at Medjugorje and then there will be a great sign in the sky that will amaze the world and cause all the atheists to convert to Catholicism! It sometimes seems that the devil “Mary” is just having too much fun! Sad, sad, sad, that the world is so desperate for something supernatural that they would fall for these falsehoods. **One Catholic author, Michael Davies, has called Medjugorje “the greatest hoax in history”!**

As in other apparitions, the Medjugorje “Mary” makes such unbiblical claims that anyone who would just read a Bible could see she is a deceiver! She claims that she and the Devil are locked in a battle for the souls of men but that soon she will crush the serpent’s head! She claims that the “Holy Father” (not meaning God, of course, but the Pope) will one day be a spiritual father to ALL people – not just to Catholics!



On an ecumenical note, “Mary” announced at Medjugorje that she had come to reconcile Catholics, Orthodox and Muslims! It’s no accident that these apparitions are taking place in a region (Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina) torn for many hundreds of years by religious hatred and bitter differences between Islam, Catholicism and Orthodoxy. It’s also no accident that all three religions hold Mary in very high esteem! Some people see the apparitions at Medjugorje as the key to peace in the region! A Bible-believing Christian would see them as part of a much wider deception to prepare the way for Satan’s universal world religion and the coming of the Anti-Christ!

1981



THE POPE’S VISION OF MARY: Pope John Paul II is nearly assassinated on **May 13, 1981 (the anniversary of the first apparition at Fatima)**. The assassin first aimed at the Pope’s head, but supposedly, when the Pope turned toward a young girl in the crowd who was wearing a picture of Our Lady of Fatima, the bullet went into the Pope’s abdomen. After being shot, the Pope was carried by ambulance to the hospital and enroute was heard to keep praying, “*Mary, my mother! Mary, my mother!*” The pope claims that Mary appeared to him and showed him two events. One was the 1917 “Miracle of the Sun” at Fatima, which he saw as if he had been there himself, and the other was an event that would occur in the future. One year after he was shot, the Pope made a pilgrimage to Fatima to thank the “Blessed Virgin” for saving his life and to **consecrate the human race to her**. In October, 2000, the Pope ordered the statue of Our Lady of Fatima brought to the Vatican where, on Sunday October 8th, with 1500 bishops, he entrusted humanity and the 3rd millennium to his cherished idol!

The answer to all of the tribulations the Pope saw in his visions was the consecration of Russia and the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Later, a question was posed to him concerning the fate of the Church in Fatima's apocalyptic scenario [the Third Secret]. The Pope's response: *"We have to be prepared to suffer, before long, great trials which will require of us the disposition to sacrifice even our life ... for Christ. Through your prayers and mine, it is still possible to diminish this trial, but it is no longer possible to avert it, because only in this manner can the Church be effectively renewed. How many times has the renewal of the Church been brought about in blood! It will not be different this time."*



Other Marian apparitions: 1982: Cankton, Louisiana; Eisenberg, Austria and Damascus, Syria; **1983:** San Nicolas, Argentina.

1983



Billy Graham denies the reality of hell! *"I think that hell essentially is separation from God forever. And that is the worst hell that I can think of. But I think people have a hard time believing God is going to allow people to burn in literal fire forever. I think the fire that is mentioned in the Bible is a **burning thirst for God that can never be quenched.**"* (Orlando, Florida Sentinel, April 10, 1983)



Other Marian apparitions: 1984: Guatemala; **1985:** Cleveland, Ohio; Najju, Korea; Oliveto Citra, Italy and Melleray, Ireland

1985



World Council of Churches questions basic Christian beliefs about Christ and promotes a one-world religion. The World Council of Churches, like the ecumenical movement that gave birth to it, is rooted in compromise and "non-judgment", the unscriptural philosophy that permeates end-time Christianity. It sounds right and proper to this present generation, but in reality it is rebellion against the Word of God. The Bible plainly tells us to *"prove [judge] all things"* (1Thess. 5:21) and to *"mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."* (Romans 16:17). See also: Acts 17:11; 1Corinthians 14:29; 1John 4:1; Jude 3; Rev. 2:2; Proverbs 14:15; Isaiah 8:20.

1986



ECUMENISM WITH THE EAST - Pope John Paul II meets with representatives of 12 major faiths (Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism, etc.) to pray for **WORLD PEACE AND UNITY** among Christians and non-Christians.



Other Marian apparitions: 1986: Michigan, New Mexico; Austria and Cameroon, Africa; **1987:** Conyers, Georgia; Terra Blanca, Mexico; El Ranchilo, Texas; Inchigella, Ireland; Bessbrook, N. Ireland; the Ukraine and Rome, Italy.

1987



The Catholic Church teaches that a worldwide vision of Mary will precede the second coming of Jesus Christ. One writer calls Mary, *"the great sign in the heavens which precedes the coming of her Son."* (Bishop Rudolph Graber, "Fatima - Hope of the World" Immaculata Magazine, Dec. 1977) Pope John Paul II, in his 1987 encyclical, "Redemptoris Mater", calls Mary the "morning star" and likens her appearances to the dawning which *"precedes the rising of the Sun of Justice"*.

This is not unusual coming from Pope John Paul II, whose favorite author, Louis De Montfort [see 1700 AD] said this concerning Mary's role in the second coming of Jesus Christ: *"If then, as is certain, the knowledge and the kingdom of Jesus Christ are to come in the world, they will be but a necessary consequence of the knowledge and the kingdom of the most holy Virgin Mary, who brought Him into the world for the first time, and will make His second advent full of splendor"* ("True Devotion to Mary")

In the same book, De Montfort said, "*The Second Coming of Christ will be brought through the mediation of Mary, by the love of the Father, who, through the Holy Spirit, will renew the earth so that Jesus may reign as the King of Peace.*"



Other Marian apparitions: 1988: Phoenix, Arizona; Lubbock, Texas; El Cajas, Ecuador; Scottsdale, Arizona; Gortnodreha, Ireland and Cachiche, Peru; **1989:** Marlboro, NJ; Germany; Ukraine and Ontario.

1989



WORLD INVOCATION DAY - Catholics, Unitarians, Buddhists, Hare Krishna, etc. prayed together. "THE GREAT INVOCATION" called upon Lord Maitreya and the Ascended Masters guiding the world's destiny to bring in the New Age.

1989



UNIVERSAL PAPACY - Anglican Archbishop Runcie (England) proposes that the Pope be accepted as **the symbolic head of ALL world religions.**

1990



SECOND PARLIAMENT OF WORLD RELIGIONS: The first Parliament (1893) brought Eastern religions to America. The second one, sponsored by Buddhists, Muslims and other minority faiths, called for a united world religion.



Other Marian apparitions: 1990: Hillside, Illinois; Santa Maria, California and Litmanova, Slovakia. **1991:** Lake Ridge, VA; Denver, CO.; **1992:** Steubenville, OH; New South Wales, Australia; Rome, Italy; and Emmitsburg, MD.

1992

"**The Secret of the Rosary**", Montfort's booklet promoting devotion to Mary, undergoes its 27th printing since it first appeared in English in 1965! **It sold four million copies in 1992 alone.**

1994



"Evangelicals and Catholics Together" (ECT) a document written by evangelical author Charles Colson and R.J. Neuhaus, a Catholic priest, calls for Protestant evangelicals to set aside their distinctive doctrines and find common ground with the Catholic Church. ECT was signed by numerous Protestant leaders including Bill Bright (Campus Crusade for Christ), Pat Robertson, the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Jack Van Impe (evangelist), Cardinal John O'Connor of New York, Archbishop Francis Stafford of Denver and Jesuit priest Avery Dulles of Fordham University. Some quotes:

"We (Catholics and Evangelicals) have differences, but on the ancient creeds and core beliefs of Christianity, we stand together." - Charles Colson

"I am eradicating the word 'protestant' from my vocabulary...it's time for Catholics and non-Catholics to come together as one." - Paul Crouch

"In all the Pope's writings he has hundreds and hundreds of Bible verses. If I dare to say there are not less than seven to ten thousand Bible verses in the new catechism, backing everything they say, I would not be exaggerating. And he makes a statement and backs it with the Word of God." - Jack Van Impe

"I do not for a moment deny the Christianity of any true Roman Catholic. Many Roman Catholics are certainly evangelical." - Kenneth Kantzer, former editor of Christianity today, when asked for his assessment of ECT. (Christianity Today, September 16, 1996, p. 35)

The Bible tells us clearly to: "mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." (Romans 16:17)

1996



“Two Hearts” idolatry is promoted by an apparition of “Jesus”, who said that Mary will prepare the way for His return: *“I desire that my people consecrate themselves to My Sacred Heart and to Mary’s Immaculate Heart. My people are living in the beginnings of the age of the Two Hearts. After the time of the purification is completed, this new era of the Church and the world will become firmly established. This era will be characterized by the triumph of the Immaculate Heart and the reign of My Sacred Heart. All those who consecrate themselves to My Heart and to My Mother’s Heart will help to establish this glorious new age...”* This is nothing but a new twisted kind of idolatry: the worship of the **“hearts”** of Mary and Jesus (not even their whole **“persons”**).



The apparition said that by doing **acts of consecration** to the “Two Hearts” Catholics will **prepare the way for the return of Jesus Christ!** The following “Prayer of Consecration” to Mary, published by the Missionary Servants of Holy Love, is one example of how to devote one’s soul to “Mary” (and thus, the devil): *“Immaculate Heart of Mary, humbly I ask that you take my heart into the Flame of Holy Love that is the spiritual refuge of all mankind ...and in so doing, give to you, dear mother, my every thought, word and action. Take me and use me according to your great pleasure. Allow me to be your instrument in the world, all for the greater glory of God and towards your victorious reign. Amen”* (<http://www.holylove.org/praybook.html>).

1999



The joint **Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission** (ARCIC) issues a statement, *“recognizing the Pope as the overall authority in the Christian World”* and describing him as *“a gift to be received by all Churches”*. In October of this same year, on “Reformation Day”, the Roman Catholic and Lutheran Churches sign a joint declaration announcing that their opposing views on justification have been reconciled. With this declaration the Lutherans move another step closer to “unity” with Rome.

2000



“The Week of Christian Unity”, held in Rome in January, 2000, brings religious leaders from the Eastern Orthodox Church, along with Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists and Pentecostals to join Pope John Paul II to celebrate the opening of the “Holy Door” at St. Paul’s (Catholic) Basilica. George Carey, head of the Anglican Church, and Metropolitan Athanasius, from the Orthodox Church, unexpectedly knelt on either side of the Pope before the opened door. As they did so, the Pope called out, *“Unity! Thank you!”*

TO BE CONTINUED:

This list was compiled from numerous Church History websites, as well as:

1. “Exploring Ancient World Cultures: The Complete Chronology”,
2. “List of Heresies and Human Traditions Adopted and Perpetrated by the Roman Catholic Church in the Course of 1600 Years”, by Stephen Testa, Scripture Truth Society Los Angeles, CA.;
3. “War of the Ages”, by Ed Tarkowski;
4. “The Reformers and Their Stepchildren”, by Leonard Verduin;
5. “The Dark Side of Catholicism”, by Armando Ang;
6. “Landmarks in Church History”, by Pastor Robert Sargent;
7. “History of the Waldenses”, by J. A. Wylie;
8. “The New Testament Church”, by Dr. Peter Ruckman;
9. “The Church of Rome at the Bar of History”, by William Webster
10. “A Woman Rides the Beast”, by Dave Hunt.