

## Study for the Month of June 2016

By Nathaniel Fajardo  
Whole Gospel Ministries  
PO Box 1764 Loma Linda, CA 92354  
Tel (951) 685-1956 (leave a message) email: [natfajardo777@yahoo.com](mailto:natfajardo777@yahoo.com)  
Web: [www.wholegospelministries.org](http://www.wholegospelministries.org)

---

### The 'Man of Sin' of Bible Prophecy and his activities and career - Part XIV

## ***THE THREE BABYLONS: Ancient Babylon, the Church of Rome and its Daughters, and the Final Global Babylon the Great***

### Quote for this Issue:

*From the rise and fall of nations as made plain the books of Daniel and the Revelation, we need to learn how worthless is mere outward and worldly glory. Babylon, with all its power and magnificence, the like of which our world our world has never since beheld, -- power and magnificence which to the people of that day seemed so stable and enduring,--how completely has it passed away! As 'the flower of the grass' [James 1:10], it has perished. So perished the Medo-Persian kingdom, and the kingdom of Grecia and Rome. And so perishes all that has not God for its foundation. Only that which is bound up with His purpose, and expresses His character, can endure.*

*A careful study of the working out of God's purpose in the history of nations and in the revelation of things to come, will help us to estimate at their true value things seen and things unseen, and to learn what is the true aim of life. Thus, viewing the things of time in the light of eternity, we may, like Daniel and his fellows, live for that which is true and noble and enduring. And learning in this life the principles of the kingdom of our Lord and Savior, that blessed kingdom which is to endure forever and ever, we may be prepared at His coming to enter with Him into its possession."*

--Ellen G. White, *Prophets & Kings*, p. 548.

### **I. Ancient Babylon**

Last month, citing from Alexander Hislop's *Two Babylons*, we highlighted some of the most prominent pagan practices and beliefs of ancient Babylon's religion that were adopted and "Christianized" by spiritual Babylon whom Hislop, along with many of the godly Reformers, unanimously concluded to be none other than the Church of Rome—the Papacy. Secular history alone will tell anyone what Rome and the iron Roman Empire was and represents—everything that Christ's kingdom is the exact opposite of. It is the carefully-crafted and deliberate mixing of the two distinctly different churches as pointed out in the Scriptures, particularly the prophecies, for centuries that has confused and deceived the multitudes of both the religious and secular worlds. This is what feeds and energizes the "alternatives" of agnosticism and atheism. Thus the title, Church of Rome, not the Church of Christ, is plain and accurate. As always, it is best to refer to this Church as the *Roman Catholic Church*, actually the "Roman Universal

Church, not just “Church.” Secular and religious history alike testify for posterity eternity that it was the Roman government—the *secular* power, in collusion with the Sanhedrin, the highest *religious* power of the Jewish nation, that condemned Jesus Christ, God Creator in the flesh, the very Messiah the latter was expecting to come as “the Promised Seed,” to die the horrible and shameful death of public crucifixion for crimes and sins He was totally not guilty of —affirmed by Pilate’s own final public testimony and confession: “I find no fault in Him.”

Bible prophecy regarding the relevant history of nations is presented in *outline form* in the book of Daniel. As depicted in the strange image shown in a night-vision to Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel chapter 2), which the king couldn’t remember when he woke up, saying to the Chaldeans, “the thing is gone from me.” Dan. 2: 5. “Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.” Dan. 2: 19. All of the monarch’s “wise men”— the handsomely-paid, highly-privileged and revered “magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and Chaldeans—the scientists and highest-level consultants and experts at that early time of earth’s history, miserably failed to do what they were supposed to. In blind rage Nebuchadnezzar ordered their bodies to be dismembered, “cut in pieces,” and their houses be made a dunghill” (Dan. 2: 5), meaning “ruins,” “refuse heaps,” or “public privies.” The terrible sentence was about to be carried out had not God, in His mercy, wisdom, and plan for the nations, through Daniel, intervened, eventually resulting in the exaltation of the truth and the glorification of God—even by Nebuchadnezzar himself.

Lesson for the wise men living in these last days: “The historic events related in the king’s dream were of consequences to him; but the dream was taken from him, that *the wise men by their claimed understanding of mysteries, should not place upon it false interpretations.* The lessons taught in it were given by God for those who live in our day. *The inability of the wise men to tell the dream, is a representation of the wise men of the present day, who have not discernment or learning and knowledge of the Most High, and therefore are unable to understand the prophecies.* The most learned in the world’s lore, who are not watching to hear what God says in His word, and opening their hearts to receive that word and give it to others, *are not representative of His.* It is not the great and learned men of the earth, kings and nobles, who will receive the truth unto eternal life, though it will be brought to them....

“So we see that the highest line of earthly education may be obtained, and yet the men possessing it may be *ignorant of the first principles* which would make them subjects of the kingdom of God. Human learning cannot qualify for that kingdom. The subjects of Christ’s kingdom are not made thus by forms and ceremonies, by a large study of books. ‘This is life eternal that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou has sent.’ [John 17: 3]. The members of Christ’s kingdom are members of His body, of which Himself is the Head. They are the elects sons of God, ‘a royal priesthood, and holy nation, a peculiar people, that they should shew forth the praises of Him who has called them out of darkness into His marvelous light.’ [1 Pet. 2: 9].” - E. G. White, *Fundamentals of Education*, pp. 412-413.

“Magicians”- Hebrew *chartummin*, an Egyptian loan word. (see on ch. 1: 20)

“Astrologers”- Hebrew *hashshaphim*, and Akkadian loan word. (see on ch. 1: 20).

“Sorcerers”- Hebrew *mekashsheshephim*, from a root meaning “to use enchantments.” The Babylonians called them by the cognate word *kashshapu*. The *mekashsheshephim* professed to be able to produce magic spells (see Exo. 7: 11). The Mosaic law pronounced the death penalty upon those who practiced this black magic (Lev. 20: 27; cf. 1 Sam. 28: 9).

“Chaldeans,” – Hebrew *Kasdim* (see on ch. 1: 4). “God had pleaded with Judah not to provoke Him to anger, but they had hearkened not. Finally sentence was pronounced against them. They were to be led away as captives to Babylon. *The Chaldeans* were to be used as the instrument by which God would chastise His disobedient people. The sufferings of the men of Judah were to be in proportion to the light they had had and the warnings they had despised and rejected. Long had God delayed His judgments, but now He would visit His displeasure upon them as a last effort to check them in their evil course.” – Ibid, *Prophets & Kings*, p. 425.

Daniel chapter 2 is world history, clearly showing that there are only *four world empires*, the fifth being the eternal kingdom of God that is finally installed *after*, not before the end of the Biblical millennium referred to in Revelation as “a thousand years.” Diligent students of the Bible and of ancient and modern world and church history will agree that most if not all of the most prominent pagan religious practices, deities, feasts, doctrines, etc., of the successive empires starting with ancient Babylon (described in detail below), Medo-Persian, Greece, and pagan Rome were merely adopted by “modern Babylon,” which John in the Revelation describes, echoed by Hislop in his “*The Two Babylons*,” is the apostate “Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and of the Abominations of the Earth.” Rev. 17: 5. Together with the godly early Protestant reformers these concluded by the study of the Scriptures, particularly the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation, supported by abundant and eloquent testimony of religious and secular history, unquestionably points to the Church of Rome—the church originally founded by Christ and His twelve disciples *that fell away and apostatize to become the antichristian papal church*—the beast of prophecy who will exist till the close of time.

-----  
The following is quoted entirely from the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary (Complete with Atlas), Commentary References Series, Vol. 8* by Siegfried H. Horn, PhD., Professor of Archeology and History of Antiquity, Andrews University, published by Review & Herald Publishing Association, Washington D.C. 1960, arts. “Babel,” “Babylon,” and “Babylonia,” pp. 103-109:

“**Babel** (ba’bel). [Heb. *Babel*. According to Gen. 11: 9 the name means “confusion,” based evidently, on the fact that the Hebrew verb *balal* means “to confuse.” The Babylonians, however, explained the name of their city, which they called *Babilu*, to mean “the gate of god, or *Babi-ilani*, “gate of the gods,” (*RLA* 1: 333). Possibly the name was originally derived from the Babylonian verb *babalu*, “to scatter,” or “to disappear”; but the Babylonians may not have been proud of the original meaning of their city, hence their explanation of it as a compound of

the names *babu*, “gate,” and *ilu*, “god.”] A city deating from the earliest inhabitants of Mesopotamia, the beginning of Nimrod’s kingdom, being probably the seat of his power (Gen. 10: 10). Outside of Gen. 10:10, 11: 9 the city of Babel is always called Babylon in the Bible. See Babylon.

“*The Tower of Babel*. A term not found in the Old Testament, but it is the name generally given to the structure that the early inhabitants of Shinar began to build, the progress of which was halted by divine intervention bringing confusion of tongues (gen. 11: 1-8). The builders used bricks, because their country was completely void of stones. “Slime” or asphalt, as mortar has been found in many Babylonian public buildings (see fig. 388). It was obtained from open pitch wells at *Hit*, 120 miles north of Babylon (see Map III. C-5). Of the Biblical tower nothing remains, but the idea of erecting towers was popular among the early Mesopotamians. Practically every city of importance had at least one. These towers were called *ziggurats*, and were usually built in progressively, smaller stages, and had on the top a shrine dedicated to the principal god of the city or of the land. The ruins of some of the ziggurats are still standing; and the best preserved are those of Ur in southern Iraq and of *Choga Zambil* near Susa in Iran, but even the remains of the ziggurats at *Nimrud*, *Qul’a Sherqat*, *‘Aqarquf*, *Birs Nimrud*, and *Warka* (see Map XXI, B/C-5), are impressive ruins.

“The temple tower of Babylon, mentioned in historical records from the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium B.C., which was the highest and largest of all such structures which stood in historical times in Mesopotamia, has completely vanished. Excavators found no more of it than its foundations and a few steps of its stairway. However, an ancient cuneiform tablet describes this tower, and Herodotus mentions it; hence it is possible to get a fairly accurate picture of this famous structure. We know that it was about 300 feet square at its base, and more than 300 feet high, and that it was built in 7 stages, having on top of the 7<sup>th</sup> stage a shrine dedicated to the god *Marduk*.

“The tower was repaired from time to time, the last time by Nebuchadnezzar, who said that he received a command from his god Marduk to build it so that ‘it top might rival heaven.’ He called his temple tower, which stood in the sacred compound of the Marduk temple, *Etemenanki*, meaning ‘the foundation stone of heaven and earth.’ It was destroyed by Xerxes [same as Artaxerxes of the book of Esther]. Alexander the Great planned to rebuild it; in fact, he had most of the debris removed, preparatory to its reconstruction, when death took him. Since practically nothing of the old temple tower remained above ground, men of later generations questioned its existence. A tradition also arose that connected the ruined but impressive tower at Borsippa, now *Birs Nimrud*, with the tower of Babel. However, excavations have now proved this tradition erroneous.

“When Assyriology was at its infancy, a badly broken cuneiform tablet in the British Museum was interpreted to refer the story of the Tower of Babel. More careful reading has shown this view to be erroneous. See L. W. King, *The Seven Tablets of Creation* (London, 1902), vol. 1, pp. 219, 220.



**“Babylon.** (bab’i-lon). [Heb. and Aramaic *Babel* (see Babel): Greek *Babulon*.] A city in the Mesopotamian valley (see Map III, C-5; also fig. 47), one of the first cities founded (see Babel). Little of its history and features from the pre-empire period are known, since excavations have uncovered only the highest levels, which include that of the Neo-Babylonian kingdom. Since the water table is higher now than in ancient times, the remains of earlier cities on this site lie below the water level. The city experienced its first rise to importance as the capital of the 1<sup>st</sup> dynasty of Babylon (called the Amorite dynasty), to which the famous Hammurabi belonged. This political importance was lost after the fall of that dynasty, but Babylon continued to be highly respected as *a cultural and religious center* of the ancient world. During the time of the Assyrian Empire, it became a vassal kingdom of that empire but frequently rebelled against the yoke of its overlords. Sennacherib became so incensed at these frequent rebellions that he systematically and thoroughly destroyed the city in 869 B.C., intending that it should not be rebuilt. However, public opinion even in his homeland was against so rash a deed, and a rebuilding of the city began immediately after Sennacherib’s death.

“When in 626 B.C. Nabopolassar [Nebuchadnezzar’s grandfather] founded the independent Babylonian kingdom, Babylon became the capital of the new monarchy and soon that of a widespread empire. It is the Babylon of this period that R. Koldewey from 1899 to 1917 excavated for the German Orient Society. These excavations showed that the old, or inner, city, that is, the original portion of the city, lay on the east bank of the Euphrates and had a size of about one square mile. In its northwestern corner lay the royal palace, and south of that the sacred precinct of *Esagila*, in which area stood *Etemenanki*, the 300-foot temple tower (see fig. 46 for its probable appearance), and the famous temple of Marduk.

“Nebuchadnezzar rebuilt and extended the palace, adding among other things a vaulted structure with a roof garden on it, called the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, known in the ancient world as one of the Seven Wonders of the World. He also added a New City on the western bank of the river and connected it by means of a permanent bridge with the old city (later called the Inner City). A mile and a half to the north of the city he erected a new palace, the so-called Summer Palace, and built a double wall that included this palace and the suburbs within its confines. He also surrounded the New City with a double wall and a moat that met the wall and moat that protected the Inner City. See fig. 47. With a total circumference of about 10 miles, Babylon was probably the largest city of antiquity, with the possible exception of Egyptian Thebes.

“The city was built of bricks, since the alluvial soil of that area contains no stone. Ordinarily bricks were unbaked, but the public buildings were faced with baked or glazed wall bricks in different colors, which gave to this metropolis a beauty that was hardly equaled by any other city of comparable size. The bricks of the outer walls of the city were yellow, the gates blue, the palaces rose-red, and the temples white. Furthermore, city gates had decorations of bulls in relief alternating with dragon-like figures in various colors. The walls of the Procession Street, which led from the north to the Marduk temple, showed varicolored lions

in glazed brick reliefs (see figs. 49, 137 for these decorations). No wonder that the builder of this marvelous city became proud and overbearing. This fact is testified to not only by the book of Daniel (ch. 4: 30) but also by the building inscriptions that Nebuchadnezzar left for posterity, to proclaim his name and fame.

### **Prophecies Against Ancient and Spiritual Babylon**

“A number of prophecies were directed against Babylon, predicting that the city would be destroyed and become an uninhabited place (Isa. 13; 14: 1-23; Jer. 50; 51). This prophecy has gradually been fulfilled. When Cyrus the Great took the city in 539 B.C. it suffered no violence and was taken over intact by the Persians, who made it one the capitals of the new empire. However, several rebellions against Persian rule under Darius I and Xerxes led to the latter the latter king to punish the rebellious city by destroying its palaces, temples, and walls c. 480 B.C. He also abolished the title ‘king of Babylon,’ which he with his precursors had borne up to that time, and made Babylon a mere province. A century and a half later, Alexander the Great planned to make Babylon the capital of his empire, but he died even before he could even begin to carry out his ambitious plans. None of his successors chose Babylon as a capital. Seleucus I Nicator in 312 B.C. built Seleucia as his new capital on the banks of the Tigris (Map XIII, C-5), using much building material from old Babylon. From that time on until modern times the city has served as a *quarry* of bricks. The river dam of Hindiya was built with the ancient bricks of Babylon. So was the city of Hilla, lying 3 ½ miles to the south of Babylon, and many of the villages surrounding the ancient city ruins. The great metropolis of former times is thus completely forsaken.

“Tremendous hills of debris mark the former sections of Babylon. In the north is *Tel Babil*, covering up the miserable remains of Nebuchadnezzar’s magnificent Summer Palace; farther to the south is the *Kasr*, under which lie the confusing foundations and ruined walls of the main city palace area, largely excavated now. To the south of the *Kasr* are the mounds of Amran, the site of the sacred Marduk, with its temple of *Esagila* buried under many feet of debris and sand. The foundations of the temple tower Etemenanki are now covered by water in the excavation pit. The old city walls can be traced in most places and are clearly visible as low parallel running mounds, which in shape and height hardly differ from the banks of ancient canals.

“Babylon is also mentioned in the New Testament. Peter sent greetings from the church in ‘Babylon’ (1 Pet. 5: 13), by which, commentators generally agree, he meant Rome, not the unimportant village that was all that remained of literal Babylon. In the Revelation, Babylon stands as symbol of opposition against Christ and His followers (Rev. 14: 8; 16: 19; 17: 18).

“**Babylonia** (baba ‘i-lonia). [Heb. *Babel*. For etymology see *Babel*. *Babel* is rendered Babylonia 8 times in the Revised Standard Version (Ezra 1: 11; 2: 1, etc).] A name usually given to southern Mesopotamia from the Persian Gulf to about latitude 34 (see Map XII, D-7/8). This whole country is formed of alluvial deposits and was extremely fertile, but since the region lacked rainfall, irrigation

was required. In ancient times a whole network of canals brought water to all parts of that area and made the whole region a virtual garden of God. Early inscriptions refer to this country as Sumer and Akkad. Sumer being the southern section from the Persian Gulf to about latitude 32, and Akkad the section north of it. Both sections were dotted with numerous cities both large and small. The most important of these in Sumer were Ur [where Abraham hailed from], Uruk (Biblical Erech), Eridu, Nippur, Lagash, Larsa, and Isin, and in Akkad: Babylon, Kish, Cuthah, Borsippa, and Sippar (see Map III, XI C-5/6). Akkad is called Shinar in certain Bible texts (Gen. 10: 10; 11: 2; Isa. 11:11), and the land of the Chaldeans in others (Jer. 24: 4; 25: 12; Eze. 12: 13).

“The first recorded inhabitants of the southern part of this region were the Sumerians, who spoke a language that shows no affinities with any other known language, ancient or modern. The Sumerian developed a high form of civilization, invented the art of writing, and two systems of calculating the sexagesimal and decimal systems.

“They divided their country into many city-states. Their chief divinities were Anu, the sky-god; Enlil, god of the atmosphere; Dingirmah, goddess of the earth and fertility; and Ea, god of the waters. According to the so-called ‘low-chronology,’ the first Sumerian period was replaced by the dynasty of Akkad in the 24<sup>th</sup> century B.C., when Semitic rulers defeated the Sumerians and took over the whole country. The great king Sargon of Akkad created an empire that reached from the Persian Gulf to the interior of Asia Minor. After a rule of a century this dynasty was brought to an end by an invasion of mountain people, the Guti. They ruled over all of Mesopotamia, although some cities seem to have enjoyed a kind of autonomy, such as the prosperous Lagash (*Telloh*, Map XXI, C-6) under its able ruler Gudea.

“The Guti were driven out, after slightly more than a century of rule, by the Sumerians, who had experienced a renaissance of power. They established the strong 3<sup>rd</sup> dynasty of Ur, which ruled over Lower Mesopotamia from c. 2070 to c. 1960 B.C. The kings of this dynasty codified laws and built up a strong and prosperous economic empire. After the fall of Ur the power shifted to the two cities of Isin and Larsa, where it remained for more than a hundred years. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century B.C. the country was twice invaded, once by the Elamites from the eastern mountains, and once by the Amorites from the Syrian desert. The latter succeeded in founding the strong 1<sup>st</sup> dynasty of Babylon c. 1830 B.C., of which the 6<sup>th</sup> king was the famous Hammurabi (1728-1688 B.C.). He defeated the last king of Larsa and ruled over practically the whole Mesopotamian valley. During this period Babylon came into its own as the capital of the empire. Hammurabi is best known as a great law-giver (see fig. 291), but he was more than that. He was also a wise administrator and a sponsor of literature and art.

“His [Hammurabi’s] dynasty came to an end c. 1550 B.C. through a raid of the Hittites under Mursilis I. These invaders sacked Babylon, captured its king, and carried away the golden statue of its chief god, Marduk. During this same time the Kassites from the northeast overran the country and ruled over Lower

Mesopotamia for several centuries. Their capital was Dur Kurikalzu, now 'Aqarquf, a few miles west of Baghdad (Map III, C-5). The correspondence of one of the Kassite kings with the kings of Egypt has been preserved among the \*Amarna Letters.

"In the 13<sup>th</sup> century B.C. the Assyrians, then ruled by Tkulti-Ninurta I, invaded Babylonia. They, too, carried away the golden statue of Marduk. For 6 centuries Babylonia was more or less an Assyrian dependency. Rebellions against the foreign yoke were frequent; but regularly repressed. \*Tiglath-pileser III (745-727 B.C.), who introduced several military and political innovations, made himself king of Babylon. Esarhaddon rebuilt it, after which the city experienced its most flourishing period.

"In 626 B.C. Nabopolassar, a Chaldean official subject to the Assyrians, declared himself king of Babylon, as one of his tribal relatives, Marduk-appalidinna, the Biblical Merodach-baladan [Isa. 39; 1], had done a century earlier. Merodach-baladan's bid for independence lasted only 18 years, but the new kingdom became a success, and developed into an empire that soon succeeded that of the Assyrians. After Nabopolassar had fought against the Assyrians for several years with uneven success, he joined the Medes, and with their help after a siege of 3 months conquered **Nineveh** in 612 B.C. When the conquerors divided the Assyrian Empire, the Babylonian king inherited all of Mesopotamia, Syria, and Palestine. It was necessary for him to fight remnants of Assyrian resistance in Upper Mesopotamia for a few more years, and also the Egyptians, who had helped the Assyrians and who tried to become the masters of Syria and Palestine.

"In 605 B.C. **Nebuchadnezzar**, still crown prince, defeated Necho of Egypt, first at Charchemish and then at Hamath. Late in the same summer his father died and he succeeded to the throne. Annual campaigns in Syria and Palestine followed. **Jerusalem** was taken several times, and after its **third capture in 586 B.C.** the rebellious city was destroyed and its population deported to Babylonia.

"Nebuchadnezzar was a strong king and a great builder. He practically rebuilt the city of Babylon, and erected many structures in other cities. After a successful rule of more than **40 years**, he was followed by several weak rulers under whose inefficient government the empire deteriorated rapidly. His son *Amel-Marduk*, the Biblical *Evil-merodach* [ ] reigned for only two years (562-560) B.C.), and was then assassinated and succeeded by his brother-in-law Nergal-shar-usur, who ruled in Babylon for 4 years (560-556 B.C.). He was followed by his son Labashi-Marduk, who was murdered after a reign of less than 2 months. The murderers put one of the conspirators, **Nabonidus**, on the throne. Nabonidus saw danger from Persia and made an alliance against it with *Egypt, Lydia, and Sparta*. He also campaigned in Arabia and made Tema in northwestern Arabia his residence for a number of years, while his eldest son **Belshazzar**, to whom he entrusted the kingship as *coregent*, ruled in Babylon.



**The Fall of Literal Ancient Babylon.** - “In October, 539 B.C., only 23 years after Nebuchadnezzar’s death, the empire fell into the hands of **Cyrus** the Persian, almost without a fight. Cyrus had forced an entrance into the Mesopotamian valley in the Battle of Opis, and a few days later the capital fell to the Persians without a battle, *and with its fall ended the history of Babylon as an independent power*. The kingdom became part of the Persian Empire and later was reduced to a province. The territory then fell to Alexander the Great and belonged successively to the Seleucids, Parthians, Sassanids, and others; now it is part of the country of Iraq.” (End of quote from the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Dictionary, Commentary Reference Series, Vol. 8 1960*.)

IMPORTANT UPDATE :See on the internet “10 Historical sites Destroyed by ISIS and Why They Matter.” [www.cbc.ca/radio/day6/episode-224-isis-war-on-history](http://www.cbc.ca/radio/day6/episode-224-isis-war-on-history)

-----

The Bible’s teaching of the millennium or “a thousand years” is contradicted and counterfeited by the widely-accepted theory of dispensationalism fostered by the Jesuit brainchild of Futurism wherein the theory of the “secret” Rapture is contained. This doctrine, really an egregious theory, has been one of the most successful counter reformation strategies of the papacy when the horrific work of the papal Office of the Inquisition [renamed as the Office of Faith and Order but its original purpose and agenda remains unchanged] failed to exterminate the true church and the Bible. On the contrary, “the blood of martyrs became the seed of the gospel.” The secret rapture theory was introduced to the American Christian mainstream mainly through John Darby of the Plymouth Brethren and Cyrus Scofield in his Scofield’s Reference Bible. We quote below from the website: [www.secret-rapture.com/SecretRapture.pdf](http://www.secret-rapture.com/SecretRapture.pdf) :

**“Where did the Secret Rapture and seven-year tribulation theory originate?** In the early 1830, a 15-year old Scottish Girl called Margaret McDonald claimed to have visions that included a secret rapture of believers before a one man antichrist [appears], who she named. [NOTE: Interestingly, this article does not name who McDonald claimed to be antichrist!] Edward Irving (1792-1834) who was her Scottish Presbyterian pastor and founder of the Charismatic and Pentecostal movements, attended prophecy conferences that began in Dublin, Ireland also in 1830 at Powerscourt Castle where he promoted this rapture doctrine as per her vision.

“John Nelson Darby (1800-1882) who was a minister of the Church of Ireland later became a member of the Plymouth Brethren and also promoted the secret rapture after attending the same Powerscourt Bible prophecy meeting in 1830 where he learned of Margaret McDonald’s supposed vision. Darby modified her views and then taught them, under his own name. He developed and organized ‘futurism’ into a system of prophetic teaching called ‘dispensationalism’ [10 alleged different dispensations in the history of mankind since the Fall] with this rapture doctrine as its centre. He visited Margaret McDonald at her home in Port Glasgow, Scotland and then later visited America several times where his false rapture theology started gaining a large acceptance in the 1850s and 1860s.

“John Nelson Darby, who was largely responsible for introducing the new teaching on a large scale also greatly influenced Cyrus Ingerson Scofield (1843-1921) who also incorporated this false doctrine into the [foot]notes of his Scofield Reference Bible, first

published by oxford University Press in 1909. One million copies were printed by 1930, firmly establishing this Futuristic theory into different denominations and Bible schools of the United States in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**“Did this antichrist and Secret Rapture theory originate with Margaret McDonald?”** Historical evidence actually reveals *it originated much earlier*. Before and during the Protestant Reformation the Reformers embrace the true ‘Historical’ interpretation of the Bible where *the antichrist was clearly seen as a system of apostasy and persecution* rather than a singled individual. John spoke of antichrist that ‘shall come’ but he also added that ‘even now there are MANY antichrists.’ 1 John 2: 18. So we know that there was not just one but many antichrists and the antichristian system was operating when John was writing [his major gospel, short epistles, and the grand Revelation] about 2,000 years ago. The conclusion of those who studied these prophecies during the Reformation was that there was only one system that fit all the characteristics of the antichrist power, which was the Papal system of the Roman Catholic Church. The following are the many identifiable characteristics:

- 1) It will rise to be a great power after the fall of the pagan Roman Empire (after 476 A.D.)
- 2) It will be geographically a small nation (a little horn) (Dan. 7: 8).
- 3) It will rule over many people, nations, and tongues (rev. 13: 7).
- 4) It will be headquartered in a city of seven hills, Rome.
- 5) It will be a religio-political entity—a political city-state ruled by a priest-king.
- 6) Its priest-king will make great and blasphemous claims (Rev. 13: 1, 6).
- 7) It will claim authority over all kings (Rev. 17: 18).
- 8) It will claim its power to change holy times and laws of God as its *mark* of authority. (Dan. 7: 25).
- 9) It will be an apostate-Church that makes the nations drink her cup of apostate doctrine(s) (Rev. 14:8).
- 10) It will be a ‘mother’ harlot Church, with apostate daughters coming from her. (Rev. 17: 50).
- 11) It will be a persecuting power, killing the faithful saints of Jesus Christ as heretics. (Rev. 13: 7).
- 12) It will hold power and authority for 1260 years following the fall of pagan Rome.
- 13) It will suffer a deadly wound that will end 1260 years of dominance and persecution.
- 14) It will be revived after the deadly wound, and all the world would wonder [be amazed] at its revival. (Rev. 13: 3).

“No wonder the Roman Catholic Church was so opposed to the Bible available to everyone to read for themselves. To control what they called heretical doctrine, the Catholic Church called for a special meeting known as the Fifth Lateran Council, (1512-1517) which forbade anyone to publish a book without prior censorship and also prohibited anyone from preaching on the subject of antichrist. The leaders of the Council and the Church also attempted to ban or burn all Bibles, heretical books, and the heretics that owned or preached from them.” (The foregoing all quoted from [www.secret-rapture.com/SecretRapture.pdf](http://www.secret-rapture.com/SecretRapture.pdf). See this excellent websites for other vital topics which are thoroughly grounded on the Holy Scriptures.

NOTE: I also recommend a further reading of Dr. Raymond Woolsey’s “The Secret of the Rapture.”

(Continued next month)