

## **Study for the Month of May 2016**

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

## **Babylonian Beliefs and Practices Adopted by Modern Babylon**

A line from the Bible stating a principle universally recognized and accepted, including those who do not acknowledge the Bible as the infallible Word of God, thus is expressed in various ways, is, "By their fruits you shall know them."  
Matthew 7: 20.

How many Bible-believing Christians and churches to this very moment are still unaware that many doctrines, beliefs, and religious practices they cling to as gospel truth are actually its counterfeits, including the very idea of what the "gospel" is--- that contradict the Bible's definition and even common sense itself?

Such have become deeply-ingrained in the mind, in the hearts, in the practices through the centuries, pervading and shaping cultures and traditions still held in this digital age of the twenty-first century! But when stripped to the core of its multi-layered pretensions that appeal to the senses and outward life but not to the conscience by submitting them to the closest scrutiny of the Scriptures, they will be found to be what they really are and from where they originated---pagan, heathen, and Babylonian in origin---a part of "the mystery of iniquity" apostle Paul warned the early church even in his time. 2 Thessalonians 2: 3-12.

These two major doctrinal errors are: (a) the immortality of the soul (2) Sunday sacredness. We have been, and will continue studying and exposing the historical and prophetic details of these twin errors designed by the enemy of all truth to undermine and destroy the very heart and foundation of the everlasting gospel, the plan of redemption, and the nature of the great controversy between Christ and Satan and their respective followers on earth since the fall of our first parents in Eden.

Cottrell says: "From the days of our first parents in Eden, Satan has waged incessant warfare against truth and righteousness. For every divine truth he has devised a counterfeit. In the days of apostasy that led to the Dark Ages, apostate leaders exalted tradition instead of the Bible, idols for the unseen Deity, Mary for Christ, works for faith, penance for repentance, confession to the priest instead of confession to God, purgatory for the true state of the dead, the idolatrous Mass for the communion table, sprinkling for baptism [by immersion], and Sunday for

the Sabbath of the Lord.” - Roy Cottrell, *“The True Sabbath,”* p. 82, *Southern Publishing Asso., Nashville TN: 1942.*

From the non-fictional classic *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop and other scholarly works we first present here a quick summary of the unbiblical and openly heathen beliefs adopted by the Christian churches, rendered more sad and alarming with all the flood of truth and knowledge that God, in His mercy and love has allowed to shine upon this final generation.

Before proceeding further, please prayerfully read the following Scriptures: James 3: 17; Hosea 4: 6, 9; Jeremiah 8: 7; Isaiah 1: 3, 4 5: 13; 27: 11; Isa. 3: 16-24. God tells us who will be destroyed, that is, would have destroyed themselves by their insistent, persistent, stubborn determination not to yield their hearts, minds, and will to the love, grace, power, and control of God’s Holy Spirit, His written Word, and spoken word imparted through His humble chosen messengers.

**Babylonian Beliefs Adopted by Christendom** (listed in *The Two Babylons* by Hislop, abbreviated as “TB” and pages where found:

1. Alma Mater, meaning, “virgin mother.” TB 76
2. “Halo” comes from sun worship. TB 87
3. Trinity of Babylon was Nimrod, Semiramis, and Tammuz. The Trinity of the Church of Rome is Mary, Jesus, and Joseph. TB 89
4. Candles. TB 97, 191-197.
5. Christmas and Christmas trees. TB 97, 98
6. Easter and Easter eggs. TB 103, 109
7. Sin is a necessity. TB 112
8. The Cross—the letter “T” standing for Tammuz
9. Wafer used in the Roman Catholic Mass is from sun worship. TB 150-163.
10. Extreme unction, or last rites. TB 165, 166
11. Processions/parades with idols. TB 161-166
12. Pilgrimages. TB 179-180
13. Sacred relics. TB 176-178
14. Sacred clothes on relics. TB 181-183
15. Sacred clothes used by members/clergy. TB 183. 184
16. Flowers placed on altars. TB 185-187
17. Rosary and beads. TB 187, 188
18. Sacred heart. TB 188-191
19. Crosier or “shepherd’s crook.” TB 216, 217.

### Explanations of some of the above:

**Christmas and Christmas trees.** – December 25 or Christmas Day, with emphasis on the day itself, is celebrated by all Christians, most, as a holy day or with a holy day, in contrast to *holiday*, feeling and atmosphere, was never Biblical at all. On the contrary, it is antichristian in origin, intent, and practice. December 25 was celebrated almost a century before Christ was born and in honor of a supposed deity other than Jesus Christ.

“Mithraism,” an outwardly refined sun worship, invaded the Roman Empire in B.C. 67, and made way for itself by gathering under its wing all the gods of Rome, so that in the middle of the third century, A.D., Mithraism seemed on the verge of becoming the universal religion.” - *Encyclopedia Britannica*, Vol. 18, art. *Mithras*, p. 624, 11<sup>th</sup> edition, cited in *Facts of Faith by Christian Edwardson*, 1943: p. 97.

“Sunday, over which the sun presided, was especially holy. . . . the worshippers of Mithra held Sunday sacred and celebrated the birth of the sun on the twenty-fifth of December.” - *The Mysteries of Mithra*, Chicago Open Court Pub. Co., 1911, pp. 167, 191./*Ibid*, pp. 99-100.

“Now, since Mithras as ‘The Sun, the Unconquered,’ and the sun was the ‘Loyal Star,’ the religion looked for [a] king whom it could serve as the representative of Mithras upon earth . . . . The Roman Emperor seemed to be clearly indicated as the true king. In sharp contrast to Christianity, Mithraism recognized Caesar as the bearer of divine grace, and its votaries [worshippers] filled the legions and the civil service . . . . - *Ibid*, p. 100.

“It had so much acceptance that it was able to impose on the Christian world its own Sun-day in place of the Sabbath, its sun’s birthday, Twenty-fifth December, as the birthday of Jesus.” - *History of Christianity in the Light of Modern Knowledge*, Chap. III; cited in *Religion and Philosophy*, pp. 73, 74, New York, 129/ *Ibid* p. 100.

No wonder God warned that His righteous and always-merciful judgments of divine wrath and vengeance will begin in His sanctuary, that is, the earthly ones, and the people worshipping in it starting with its “ancient men.” Ezekiel 9: 1-6. Yes, the 25 “ancient men” representing religious leaders and “spiritual guardians of the religion” were worshipping all manner of idols, both men and animals, etc. But the greatest abomination of all in Heaven’s estimation is sun worship! Speaking through the prophet, God declared to His apostate people:

“Has thou seen this, O son of man? Is it a light thing to the house of Judah [no longer just the ten northern tribes of apostate Israel] that they commit the *abominations* which they commit here? *For they have filled the land with violence*, and have returned to provoke Me in anger: and, lo, they have put the branch to their nose [to make fun of]. Therefore I will also deal in fury: Mine eye will not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in Mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.” Ezekiel 18: 16-18, K.J.V.

**Easter and Lent.** – Easter is Sun-day worship in origin and substance. Dr. John D. Davis says: “Easter: originally the spring festival in honor of Eastr or

Ostara, the Teutonic goddess of light and spring. As early as the eighth century the name was transferred by the Anglo-Saxons to Christian festival designed to celebrate the resurrection of Christ.” - “*A Dictionary of the Bible*,” John D. Davis, PhD., D.D., L.L.D., Professor of Oriental and Old Testament Literature in the Theological Seminary at Princeton, N.J., Westminster Press, PA: *A Dictionary of the Bible*, p. 185, art. Easter, 4<sup>th</sup> Revised edition: 1942. The other names of Easter are Eastr, Ostara, and Ishtar, the wife of Tammuz of ancient Babylon.

Source: *The Drama of the Universe*, by Franklin D. Wagner, pp. 153-----:

“The very name Easter testifies to its Chaldean [Babylonian] origin. Easter is nothing else but *Astarte*, one of the titles of *Beltus*, the queen of heaven, whose name as pronounced by the people of Nineveh, according to Layard, was Ishtar. (Layard’s *Nineveh and Babylon*, p. 269).

“This festival as observed in the early church was not the same as it was later. Then it was called Pasch, or the Passover, and was no doubt observed with that event in view, though not of apostolic origin. It was not idolatrous in its nature, and was kept in accordance with the Jewish Passover.

“It was not preceded by a Lent as it is now by the Roman church. Gieseler quotes in the fifth century, as saying: ‘it ought to be known, that the observance of the 40 days had no existence so long as the perfection of the primitive church remained inviolate.’ – (Vol. ii, p. 42, note).

“Whence did this 40 days Lent observed by the Roman Catholics come? Hislop gives a few quotations which inform us.

“Such a Lent of 40 days in the spring of the year is still observed by the \*Yezidis (see NOTE below), or Pagan devil worshippers in Koordistan [Kurdistan] (Layard’s *Nineveh and Babylon*, p. 940). Who inherited it from their early masters, the Babylonians. Such a Lent of 40 days was held in the spring by Pagan Mexicans, for thus we read in Humboldt (*Mexican Researches*, Chap. V, p. 404) where he gives account of Mexican observances: ‘Three days after the vernal equinox . . . began a solemn fast of 40 days in honor of the sun.’ Such a Lent of 40 days was observed in Egypt, as may be seen by consulting Wilkinson’s *Egyptian Antiquities* (Vol. I, p. 238). This Egyptian lent of 40 days we are informed by Landseer (*Sabean Researches*, Vol. I, p. 278) was held expressly in commemoration of Adonis or Osiris, the great mediatorial god . . . . Among the Pagans this Lent seems an indispensable preliminary to the great annual festival, in commemoration of the death and resurrection of Tammuz, which was celebrated by alternate weeping and rejoicing, and which in many countries, was considerably later than the Christian festival, being observed in Palestine and Assyria in June, therefore called the month of Tammuz. . . . To conciliate the Pagans to nominal Christianity, Rome, pursuing its usual policy, took measures to get the Pagan and Christian festivals *amalgamated*; and by a complicated but skillful adjustment of the calendar, it was found no difficult matter in general to get Paganism and Christianity---now far sunk in idolatry---in this, as in many other things, to shake hands.” – *Two Babylons*, pp. 104, 105.



**NOTE: Yazidis** Raya Jalabi reported on The Guardian 5/17/2016 that: “The Iraqi ethnic and religious minority descends from some of the region’s most ancient roots and face executions for a reputation as ‘devil worshippers.’ “Gruesome images of brutally slain people have emerged in the past week, as local officials say that at least 500 Yazidis, including 40 children, have been killed, and many more have been threatened with death. Roughly 130,000 residents of the Yazidi stronghold of Sinjar have fled to Dohuk, in Iraqi Kurdistan to the north, or Irbil. Who are the Yazidis? Estimates put the global number of Yazidis at around 700,000 people, with the vast majority of them concentrated in northern Iraq, in and around Sinjar, and have kept alive their syncretic religion for centuries, despite many years of oppression and threatened extermination. The ancient religion is rumored to have been founded by an 11th century Umayyad sheik, and is derived from Zoroastrianism (and ancient Persian faith founded by a philosopher), Christianity, and Islam. The religion has taken elements from each, ranging from baptism (Christianity), to circumcision (Islam) [and Judaism] to reverence for fire as a manifestation from God (Zoroastrianism) and yet remain distinctly non-Abrahamic. This derivative quality has often led Yazidis to be referred to as a sect. At the core of the Yazidis’ marginalization is their worship of a fallen angel, Melek Tawus, or Peacock Angel, one of the seven angels that take primacy in their beliefs. Unlike the fall from grace of Satan, the Judean-Christian tradition, Melek Tawwus to the Yazidis was forgiven and returned to heaven by God. The importance of Melek Tawwus to the Yazidis has given them and undeserved reputation for being devil-worshippers—a notoriety that, in the climate of extremism gripping Iraq, has turned life-threatening. Under Ottoman rule in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century alone, Yazidis were subject to 72 genocidal massacres. More recently in 2007, hundreds of Yazidis were killed as a spate of car bombs ripped through their stronghold in northern Iraq. With numbers of dead as close as 800, according to the Iraqi Red Crescent, this was one of the single deadliest events to take place *during the American-led invasion*. The Yazidis have been denounced as infidels by Al-Qaida in Iraq, a predecessor of ISIS, which sanctioned their indiscriminate killings.” See <http://theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/07/who-yazidis-isis-iraq-religion-ethnicity-mountains>

“We shall not weary the reader with an account of the action of the various councils which finally succeeded in establishing this festival with all its pagan peculiarities, in the Roman Church; as the essential thing to know is, that it was originally a *pagan* festival, and later a *Roman* [never Christian!]. Hislop goes into details to show how the **egg** became a mystic symbol of Astarte, and how later it was adopted by the Roman clergy and consecrated as a symbol of Christ’s resurrection. **Pope Paul V** taught his superstitious votaries thus to pray at Easter: ‘Bless O Lord, we beseech thee, this thy creature, the egg, that it may become a wholesome sustenance to thy servants eating it in remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ.’” – *The Drama of the universe*, pp. 153-4.

#### **NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN.**

Ibid, pp. 154-5: “There is a festival in the Papal church known as the “Nativity of John,’ celebrated on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, in honor of the forerunner of Christ. The question is how did they come to think of such a festival? It was just in this way: When the papacy sent its emissaries over Europe in the 6<sup>th</sup> century to gather the pagans into its fold, they found a festival in high favor among them, which was one of their principal festivals in honor of Tammuz. This festival began on the first day of the month of Tammuz, or the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, and whatever ceremony

was instituted in honor of their god this one *had* to be celebrated. So what were the Catholics to do? Were they to wage war against it? No, they would follow the advice of **Pope Gregory I**, which was to 'by all means meet the Pagans *half way* and bring them into the Roman Church.' (Bower's *Life of the Popes*, Vol. ii, p. 523). His instructions were strictly carried out, and the pagan's *festival* was, as were the pagans themselves, baptized into the Papal church. One of the names of Tammuz, or Nimrod, when he reappeared in the mysteries after he was slain, was 'Oannes.' On the other hand the name of John the Baptist as adopted into the sacred language of the Roman church was Joannes. The subtlety of the agents of the mystery of iniquity now had a very easy solution of the difficulty. As there was nothing in the history of Christ to commemorate at this time of the year, and his birth had already been fixed at the winter solstice, they would use the festival to commemorate the birth of John which occurred six months before that of Christ, and exactly on the day of the pagan festival; and while the pagans would feel that they were honoring Oannes, the Papal Christians would they were honoring Joannes. 'thus,' says Hislop, 'the very period at which the great summer festival of Tammuz was celebrated in ancient Babylon, is the very hour observed in the Papal church as the nativity of St. John. And the fete of St. John begins exactly as the festal day began in Chaldea.' – *Two Babylons*, p. 114/ *The Drama of the Universe*, pp. 155, 156.

Franklin Wagner continues: "When we examine the festivities themselves, then it is that their pagan character is revealed. The grand distinguishing solemnities of St. John's eve are the midsummer fires. They are lighted in every country where Popery still lingers. The following from Bell's *Wayside Pictures* (p. 225), describing the fires of Brittany in France, gives us a fair sample of this rite:

"Every fete is marked by distinct features to itself, that of St. John is perhaps on the whole, the most striking. Throughout the day the poor children go about begging contributions for lighting the fires of Monsieur St. Jean, and towards evening one fire is gradually followed by two, three, four; then a thousand gleam out from the hilltops till the whole country glows under the conflagration. Sometimes the priest lights the first fire in the market place; and sometimes an angel lights it, who is made to descend by a mechanical device, from the top of the church, with a flambeau in her hand, setting the pile in a blaze, and flying back again. The young people dance with a bewildering activity about the fires; for there is a superstition among them that if they dance around 9 fires before midnight, they will be married in the ensuing year. *Seats are placed close to the flaming piles for the dead*, whose spirits are supposed to come there for the melancholy pleasure of listening once more to their native songs, and contemplating the lively measures of the youth. Fragments of the torches on those occasions are preserved as spells against thunder and nervous diseases; and the crown of flowers which surmounted the principal fire is in such request as to produce tumultuous jealousy for its possession." p. 156.

"Hislop says (writing about the year 1865: 'These are lighted in France, in Switzerland, in Roman Catholic Ireland, and in some of the Scottish islands of the west where Popery still lingers.' - *Two Babylons*, p. 114.

"Charlotte Elizabeth, in her *Personal Recollections*, (p. 115) gives an account of the same *fete* as seen in Ireland, and after viewing it said: 'Here was the old pagan worship of Baal, if not of Moloch too, carried out openly and universally in the

heart of a nominally Christian country, and by millions professing the Christian name.'

"Such is the ceremony of a people who claim to be doing honor to him who came as a forerunner of Jesus Christ—to make straight the crooked paths, and to turn His ancient people from all their refuge of lies; and such is an example of how the pagan festivals were baptized into the Christian church and given Christian names; and thus we see that Satan did not change his religion one whit only in name, and by giving it the name Christian it became greater blasphemy than ever. Hislop says:

"It is remarkable that a festival attended with all the essential rites of the fire worship of Baal, is found among Pagan nations in regions most remote from one another. About the very period of the month Tammuz, when the Babylonian god was anciently celebrated, *among the Turks*, the feast of Ramazan . . . In *China*, the dragon boat festival, and in *Peru*, the feast of Raymi began. The most magnificent feast of the Peruvians, when the sacred fire every year used to be kindled anew from the sun, by means of a concave mirror of polished metal, took place at the very same period." — *Two Babylons*, pp. 117, 118; quoted in Franklin D. Wagner's *The Drama of Universe*, pp. 156, 157.

"Among the Yezidis [Yazidis] of modern Chaldea [Iraq] the same festival is celebrated. This festival is always avowedly in honor of the sun-god (except by the Papacy) who, as Zoroaster, or Phoroneus, was supposed to be the inventor of fire. And as anciently it was accompanied by alternate weeping and rejoicing, it directs our minds at once to the weeping for Tammuz, or Nimrod, who, as the deliverer, was born of the fire; and according to an account of this ceremony, as viewed by Layard, which is given in his *Nineveh and Its Remains*, (Vol. I, pp. 290-294), it will be seen that the fire on that occasion was used as a purifying element." — *Ibid*, p. 157.

## FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION.

"The following extract from Hislop's *Two Babylons* will suffice to throw sufficient light on this doctrine of the immaculate conception of the virgin Mary, and its origin, as to need but little additional thought. His words are these:

"If what has already been said shows the carnal policy of Rome at the expense of truth, the circumstances attending the festival of the Assumption who the daring wickedness and blasphemy of that church still more; considering that the doctrine in regard to this festival, so far as the Papacy is concerned, was not established in the Dark Ages, but three centuries later, amid all the boasted light of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The doctrine on which the festival of the Assumption is founded, is this: That the Virgin Mary saw no corruption, that in body and in soul she was carried up to heaven, and is now invested with all power in heaven and in earth. This doctrine has been unblushingly avowed in the face of the British public, in a recent pastoral of the popish Archbishop of Dublin. The doctrine has now received the stamp of Papal Infallibility, having been embodied in the late blasphemous decree that proclaims the 'immaculate conception.'

"Now it is impossible for the priests of Rome to find one shred of countenance for such a doctrine in Scripture. But in the Babylonian system, the fable was ready made to their

hand. There it was taught that Bacchus went down to hell, rescued his mother from the infernal powers, and carried her with him in triumph to heaven. This fable spread wherever the Babylonian system spread, and, according at this day, the *Chinese* celebrate, as they have done from time immemorial, a festival in honor of a mother, who *by her son* was rescued from the power of death and the grave. The festival of the Assumption in the Romish church is held on the fifteenth of August. The Chinese festival, founded on a similar legend, and celebrated with lanterns and chandeliers, as shown by Sir J.F. Davis, in his able and graphic account of China, is equally celebrated in the month of August. Now, when the mother of the Pagan messiah came to be celebrated as having thus been '*assumed*,' then it was that, under the name of the 'dove' she was worshipped as the Incarnation of the Spirit of God with whom she was identified. As such she was regarded as the source of all holiness, and the grand 'purifier,' and, of course, was known herself as 'the Virgin' mother, 'pure and undefiled.' Under the name of Proserpine (with whom, though the Babylonian goddess was originally distinct, she was identified), while celebrated as the *mother* of the first Bacchus, and known as 'Pluto's honored wife,' she is also addressed, in the Orphic Hymns,' as 'Associate of the same seasons, essence bright, All-ruling Virgin, bearing heavenly light.'

"Whoever wrote these hymns, the more they are examined, the more does it become evident, when they are compared with the most ancient doctrine of classic Greece, that their authors understood and thoroughly adhered to the genuine theology of Paganism. To the fact that Proserpine was currently worshipped in Pagan Greece, though well known to be the wife of *Pluto, the god of hell*, under the name of "the Holy Virgin," we find Pausanias, while describing the grove Carnasius, thus bearing testimony: 'This grove contains a statue of Apollo Carneus, of Mercury carrying a ram, and of Proserpine, the daughter of Ceres, who is called the "Holy Virgin." The purity of this "Holy Virgin" did not consist merely in freedom from actual sin, but she was especially distinguished for her 'immaculate conception;' for Proclus says 'She is called Core, through the purity of her essence, and her *undefiled* transcendancy in her *generations*.' Do men stand amazed at the recent decree? There is no real reason to wonder. It was only in following out the Pagan doctrine previously adopted and interwoven with the whole system of Rome to its logical consequences, that that decree has been issued, and that the Madonna of Rome has been formally pronounced at last, in every sense of the term, absolutely 'immaculate.'

"Now, after all this, is it possible to doubt that the Madonna of Rome, with the child in her arms, and the Madonna of Babylon are one and the same goddess? It is notorious that the Roman Madonna is worshipped as a goddess, yea, is the supreme object of worship. Will not, then, the Christians of Britain revolt at the idea of longer supporting this monstrous Babylonian Paganism? What Christian constituency could tolerate that its representative should vote away the money of this Protestant nation for the support of such blasphemous idolatry?"—*Two Babylons*, pp. 125-127/*Ibid*, pp. 158, 159.

"In this, then, as in the nativity of St. John, Satan has used the name of Mary the Mother of Christ as an excuse to adopt the old pagan festival in honor of the Babylonian queen of heaven. As nothing is found in the Bible sanctioning such a festival, and there is abundant evidence that such a festival was instituted in honor of the Pagan Messiah's mother, who was elevated in Babylon higher even than the messiah himself, what can we see in the festival of the Assumption---the doctrine of the immaculate conception---but the deifying of the Babylonian notion of their goddess?



“When we come to sift the true sentiment of the Catholic teachers to its bottom, they really represent Christ, the Lamb of God, meek and lowly in heart, who did not break the bruised reed, nor quench the smoking flax, who spoke words of the sweetest encouragement, who prayed for His murderers---they represent Him, I say, as a stern and inexorable judge, before whom the sinner might grovel in the dust and still never be sure that his prayers were heard. *So it is in all Pagan countries.* While the pagan messiah in nearly every essential is a counterfeit of the true Savior of men, yet he is looked upon with a certain degree of dread. Yea, in some places even His anger is appeased only by the sacrifice of human beings. *But His mother is in all these countries regarded as the real merciful intercessor.* In China, the goddess Kuanyin, ‘the goddess of mercy’ is recognized by the Chinese of Canton as bearing an analogy to virgin of Rome. Sir J.F. Davis shows that the Chinese of Canton find such an analogy between their own pagan goddess Kuanyin, and the Popish Madonna, that in conversing with Europeans, they frequently designate either of them indifferently by the same titles.

“No wonder then that the Catholic teachers would set Mary off in the most winning and engaging light, as the hope of the guilty, and as the grand refuge of sinners. Unless they did this, Mary would not be an exact counterpart of the pagan goddess. Some might wonder why the Catholics exhibited such wonderful tact in harmonizing all their rites and ceremonies with those of the pagans, and at the same time making them in some way take on a certain acknowledgement of Bible characters and truths. *The reason is plain, when we once see that Satan established his religion with the express purpose of being a counterfeit of the truth.* We can see how easy it was to clothe that counterfeit with a semblance of truth under any emergency. The Bible does not give license to pay devotions to Mary; but it has a Mary to honor, and who has figured greatly in the plan of redemption. So the Catholics seize it as an excuse for her devotion [that is, as taught by their priests, catechists, and theologians]. The most standard devotional works of Rome are pervaded by this very principle—exalting the compassion and gentleness of the mother *at the expense of the son.*

“The following from the *Catholic Layman*, July 1856:

“Thus Saint Alphonsus Liguori tells his readers that the sinner that ventured to come directly to Christ may come with dread and apprehension of his wrath; but let him only employ the mediation of the Virgin with her son, and she has only to show that son ‘the breasts that gave him suck’ and his wrath will immediately be appeased.’

Ah! What brazen blasphemy! What gross darkness of willful ignorance of the gospel of the Bible and who Jesus Christ is---both to the repentant sinner and the impenitent sinner---represented in the very beginning by the first two sons of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, and the two thieves crucified with Jesus at Calvary. To all humble and repentant sinners He is the meek, gentle, loving, and forgiving Savior, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. But to unrepentant, scoffing, proud, hypocritical, incorrigible wicked sinners He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, who will “by no means clear the guilty.”

**“Sin is a Necessity.”** – Sin, according to the Bible, is the transgression of God’s law, the Decalogue. 1 John 3: 4. It is not a necessity but the curse of all curses for “the wages of sin is *death*.” Roman 6: 23. To eradicate sin in our lives is the purpose of the gospel, the plan of redemption. The foundation of all spiritualism in both its ancient and modern forms is the first lie—the very first sermon preached by Satan “the father of lies,” “the master deceiver,” and “murderer from the beginning,” is the immortality of the soul—that one can be saved *in* his sins instead of *from* his sins! The name Jesus means “for He shall save His people *from* their sins.” Matt. 1: 21. As Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit boldly and clearly declared: “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel . . . Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead . . . This is the Stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the Chief Cornerstone [of the true Christian church] Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4: 8, 10-12. Therefore, “Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: ‘The Lord knows who are His,’ and *let everyone that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*” 2 Tim. 2: 19.

“The only one who promised Adam life in disobedience was the great deceiver. And the declaration of the serpent to Eve in Eden.... ‘Ye shall not surely die’ ...- was the first sermon ever preached on the immortality of the soul. Yet this declaration, resting solely on the authority of Satan, is echoed from the pulpits of Christendom, and received by the majority of mankind as readily as it was received by our first parents. The divine sentence, ‘the soul that sinneth it shall die (Ezekiel 18: 20) is made to mean: the soul that sinneth, it shall not die, but live eternally.” – *Ellen G. White, “The Great Controversy” (1911), p. 53.*

“The popular ministry [of the churches and denominations that have adopted and are propagating the papal falsehoods of the immortality of the soul and Sunday sacredness] cannot successfully resist spiritualism. They have nothing wherewith to shield their flocks from its baleful influence. *Much of the sad result of spiritualism will rest upon the ministers of this age; for they have trampled the truth under feet, and in its stead have proffered fables. The sermon which Satan preached to Eve upon the immortality of the soul---‘ye shall not surely die’ -- they [the ministers] have reiterated in the pulpit; and the people receive it as pure Bible truth. It is the foundation of spiritualism. The Word of God nowhere teaches that the soul of man is immortal.*” - *Ibid, Vol. 1 Testimonies, p. 344.*

“The theory of the immortality of the soul was one of those false doctrines of Rome, borrowed from paganism, incorporated into the religion of Christendom. Martin Luther classed it with the ‘*monstrous fables that from part of the Roman dunghill of decretals.*’ – *E. Petavel, “The Problem of Immortality,” p. 255, quoted in Ellen G. White’s “The Great Controversy, (1911 ed.) p. 545.*

**Q.** What will be one of the last fearful results of Spiritualism, based on the great error of the “monstrous fable” of the immortality of the soul in the last days, particularly in the rapid events in the winding up of earth’s history?

(Continued next month)