

Study for the Month of April 2014

The Papacy Series-Part XIV

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Tracking the Publicized Actions and Movements of the First Jesuit Pope

First, all must be reminded who the Jesuits are. Of them Christian Edwardson says:

“The ‘Society of Jesus,’ commonly called the ‘the Jesuits,’ is a secret order of the Roman Catholic Church, founded August 15, 1534, by the Spaniard, Ignatius Loyola, and sanctioned by Pope Paul III, September 27, 1540. Loyola had received a military training, and when he later became an extreme religious enthusiast, he conceived the idea of forming a spiritual militia, to be placed at the services of the pope. The Jesuit T.J. Campbell said:

“They are called the Society of Jesus or Company of Jesus, the latter designation expressing more correctly the military idea of the founder, which was to establish, as it were, a new battalion in the spiritual army of the [Roman] Catholic Church.’—*The Encyclopedia Americana*, art. ‘Jesuits.’

“Organization And Rules of the Society

“Loyola organized his Company on the strictest military basis. Its General was always to reside in *Rome*, supervising from his headquarters every branch scattered over the world. Theodor Griesinger says:

“Its General ruled as absolute monarch in all parts of the world, and the different kingdoms of Europe, Asia, Africa, and *America* lay at his feet divided into provinces. Over each province was placed a provincial, as lieutenant of the general, and it every month it was the duty of this provincial to send in his report to the General . . . from these thousands of reports the General was in possession of the most accurate information regarding all that was going on in the world. Moreover, by means of the Father Confessors at the various Courts, he was initiated into all the secrets of these latter. [The officials] had to be careful to report nothing but the exact truth, [for] each one of them was provided with an assistant who was also in direct communication with the General, [who checked the reports of the one against the other,].’—*History of the Jesuits*, p. 280. London: 1892.

All the following headlines and brief quotes of the news or story are from specifically identified website and/or news organization sources from the internet. We are merely compiling some of them for your easy referencing, including pertinent comments of this compiler/commentator and others in the sole interest of sharing unpopular yet pertinent truths of the whole gospel and end-time prophecies as revealed in Bible prophecy, the inspired writings of Ellen G. White and other commentators/writers whom we share similar religious convictions and eschatological interpretations with. They may not be necessarily be aware that we are on the same page as it were on specific positions, or even belong to the same denominations. But truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the

truth “as it is in Jesus,” is the unbreakable bond that unites all who seek and transcends all conceivable walls of division.

Only the heavenly records of each individual, now passing in review during this pre-advent, investigative judgment in heaven will finally reveal the eternal results and their corresponding reward of each individual—either eternal life or eternal death. Even churches are judged as churches, nations as nations, generations, as generations based on the advancing light of truth made available to each, respectively. For instance, God judged the long-lived antediluvians as a generation, as He did the chosen people, as a nation. Genesis, chapters 6-10; Daniel 9: 24-27; cf. Parable of the Householder (Matt 21: 33-46) Matt. 24: 37, 38, etc.

Yes, the Lord God who changes not (Mal. 3: 6) and is “the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Heb. 13:8 “descended in a cloud , and stood with Moses there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. “And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, , The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will *by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and fourth generation.*” Exo. 34: 5-17.

The reader will be reminded of the following, in varying length or details, --all in the name of the truth as it is in Jesus:

It will be noticed that as of late and in increasing scope and frequency, the Catholic Church is being referred to as Christian in both traditional and social media, whether liberal or conservative, especially when juxtaposed with the Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, and the other world’s polytheistic religions, etc., as well as those whom mainstream Christianity (itself morally and doctrinally fallen since its rejection of the judgment hour message given in 1844, according to the first angel’s message of Revelation 14: 6, 7), unfairly classes as “cults,” such as the Jehovah’s Witnesses, Church of the Latter Days Saints, etc.

God in the Holy Scriptures---the spoken and written Word--- expects His followers who accept the terms and conditions of the everlasting covenant to proclaim the genuine gospel which includes clearly and uncompromisingly calling sin or righteousness by their right names. Thus, in tracing the history of the world empires and nations that directly affected the welfare and work, either against or for His ancient people in the Old Testament—also referred to as the Jewish or Mosaic dispensation---and the special truths God appointed them to keepers of, particularly of knowledge of the coming Messiah as taught in type and symbol, the Decalogue, the seventh-day Sabbath memorial of Creation given in the fourth commandment, the divine plan of redemption as taught in the typical, ceremonial law, and transitioning into the New Testament Christian dispensation of the Christian church from its founding at Pentecost down through the centuries, as revealed in the outline prophecies of the book of Daniel in the Old, continuing to the end of time in the Revelation, the last book of the Bible, the Catholic Church should always be clearly identified and referred to by what she really was from her beginnings, and will remain so to the very end of time---the **Romish** Church or the **Roman** Catholic Church as clearly traced and documented in its given history by both Bible prophecy as well as by secular writers and the faithful Reformers and churches.

A quick summary follows, scanning the prophesied transition of *pagan Rome*, symbolized as the “dragon” to *papal Rome*, starting out as “the little horn” of Daniel 7 and blossoming into the beast and antichrist of prophecy. Let all Bible students be constantly reminded that paganism is a religion. Now consider the following:

“In contrast to those who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus [Rev. 14: 6), the third angel [of Rev. 14: 46, 7] points to another class, against whose errors a solemn and fearful warning is uttered; ‘If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God.’ Rev. 14: 9, 10, K.J.V. A correct interpretation of the symbols employed is necessary to an understanding of the message. What is represented by the beast, the image, the mark? [see also pp. 442-5, 449].

“The line of prophecy in which these symbols are found begins with Revelation 12, with the dragon that sought to destroy Christ as His birth. The dragon is said to be Satan (Rev. 12: 9); he it was that moved upon Herod to put the Savior to death by ordering the killing of all male infants and children at Christ’s birth]. But the chief agent of Satan in making war upon Christ and His people during the first centuries of the Christian Era [C.E.] was the *Roman Empire, in which paganism was the prevailing religion*. This while the dragon primarily, represents Satan, it is, in a secondary sense, a symbol of pagan Rome [the Rome of the emperors].

“In [Revelation] chapter 13 (verses 1-10) is described another beast, ‘like unto a leopard,’ to which the dragon gave ‘*his power, and his seat, and great authority.*’ *This symbol, as most Protestants have believed, represents the papacy, which succeeded to the power and seat and authority once held by the ancient Roman Empire.*

“There was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, and His tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.’ This prophecy, which is nearly identical with the description of the little horn of Daniel 7, unquestionably points to the papacy.” – *E. G. White. The Great Controversy, 1911 edition, pp. 438, 439, Pacific Press Publishing Association, Mt. View California.*

Who is the Antichrist of Prophecy?

As a matter of necessity that we not be misunderstood by those who haven’t yet seen or heard this end-time testing truths and thus desperately need to know it, or of being falsely portrayed or accused as being prejudiced and “anti Catholic” by those defending these errors, we repeat the following from previous monthly studies to reiterate that we stand on the hallowed ground where the faithful prophets, disciples, apostles, New Testament writers, Waldenses, and the faithful Reformers in the Old World, stood.

Christian Edwardson opens the Bible and re-echoes the Protestant Reformers in the following [most emphasis mine]:

“Apostle Paul, during his last journey among the churches, gathered ‘the elders,’ or bishops, and warned them against the coming apostasy of the church, which was to be brought about by its leaders. He says: ‘For I know this, that after my departure shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also *of your ownelves* shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples *after them.*’ Acts 20: 29, 30. Later the apostle reminded the believers, that the day of Christ’s return was not then at hand: ‘For that day shall not come, except there come a *falling away* first, and that *man of sin* be revealed, *the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself* above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he is as God sitteth in the temple of God [the

church], 1 Cor. 3: 10, 16], showing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that when I was yet with you, I told you these things? . . . The *mystery of iniquity* doth already work.’ 2 Thessalonians 2: 3-7

“The prophecies point out clearly that the ‘elders’ (later called bishops) would ‘draw away’ the people from the truth of the Bible, to follow men, and that this ‘falling away,’ which had ‘already’ begun in Paul’s day, would develop, until a ‘man’ would exalt himself to take the place of Christ in the church. Every thoughtful student of prophecy can see that *this points unmistakably to the Papacy, and it accords exactly with the significance of the name ‘antichrist.’*”

‘Dr. James Strong says that ‘antichrist’ comes from two Greek words, *antee and khristos*, and gives the following definition of *antee*: ‘Opposite, i.e., instead or because of, . . . for, in the room of. Often used in composition to denote . . . substitution.’ *Exhaustive Concordance, Greek Dictionary, entries Nos. 500, 473*. Thomas Sheldon Greene says: ‘Antic, prep, over, against; hence, in correspondence to; in place of . . .’ – *Greek-English Lexicon, p. 14, p, 14, Boston: 1896*.

“The meaning, therefore, of ‘antichrist,’ or one who attempts to take the place of Christ as His ‘vicar.’ This significance of the prefix ‘anti’ is also seen in the *word ‘anti-pope.’* [a derogatory term used when three popes of representing the Pisan, French Avignon, and Latin lines simultaneously claimed to be the true pope, accused each other as “antipope” during the Great Western Schism of 40 years]. (For further information on this [previous] point see ‘The Papacy is Antichrist,’ by J.A. Wylie, pp. 2-18. Edinburg: George M’Gibbon.) We shall now see that this is exactly the position which [Roman] Catholics [and lately, as prophesied, even once-Protestant churches!] claim for the pope, that he holds the place of Christ on earth. Rev. T. L. Kindkead says:

‘Our Holy Father the Pope, the Bishop of *Rome*, is the vicar of Christ on earth and the *visible* head of the Church.’

“‘Vicar’—that is, one who holds another’s place and acts in his name.’ – ‘Explanation of the Baltimore Catechism,’ p. 130. Benziger Bros. (Sanctioned by Cardinal Gibbons, five archbishops, nineteen bishops, and other dignitaries.

“Rev. William Humphrey, S.J. [Jesuit], says:

“‘A vicar is put in the place of him whom he represents. He is invested with his power, he is furnished with his authority . . . He personates his principal . . . The master, by his appointment of a vicar, binds himself to ratify his vicar’s acts, and to recognize them as his own.’ – *The Vicar of Christ, p. 4. New York: Benziger Bros, 1892*.

“Thomas Morell, D.D, and Prof. John Carey, L.L.D., says:

“‘Vicarius, a, um. adj. That is in stead, in place of another; that supplies another’s room; a deputy. . . . One who performs the office, or duty, of another; a deputy, a substitute.’ – *An Abridgement of Ainsworth’s Latin Dictionary, Designed for the Use of Schools, p. 604. London: 1826*.

“When the force of this similarity between the antichrist of prophecy and *the pope of Rome* dawned upon the mind of Cardinal Newman, he declared:

“‘The gibe, ‘If the pope is not the Antichrist, he has had bad luck to be so like him,’ is really another argument in favor of the claims of the Pope; since Antichrist simulates Christ, and the Pope is an image of Christ, Antichrist must have some similarity to the Pope, if the latter be the true Vicar of Christ.’ – *Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. I, p. 561, art. ‘Antichrist.’*”

“Thus it is claimed that the pope is the vicar of Christ on earth. But Christ left an altogether Vicar, of Representative, in His place; namely, the Holy Spirit. (John 14: 15-18; 16:7). Of this Representative Christ says: ‘He shall teach you all things.’ ‘He will guide you into all truth.’ John 14: 26; 16: 13. (Compare 1 John 2: 20, 27). The Holy Spirit, being the author of the Bible (2 Peter 1: 2), certainly should be the proper interpreter of it. To this the *Roman Church* answers:

“ ‘The Church which made the Bible, likewise interprets the Bible.’ – *Things Catholics Are Asked About,* Martin J. Scott, S. J. [Jesuit], Litt. D., pp. 119, 120. N.Y.: Kennedy, 1927.

“Pope Leo III says:

“ ‘But 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.’ – *The Great Encyclical Letters of Pope Leo III,* p. 193. New York: Benziger Bros., 1903. He further says:

“ ‘We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty.’ - *Id.*, p. 304.

“We have now seen from authentic Catholic sources, that the pope arrogates to himself the ‘place of God Almighty,’ the office of Christ on earth, and the prerogative of the Holy Spirit, a sole teacher of the faithful, and interpreter of the Holy Scriptures. What more is needed to fulfill the prediction of 2 Thessalonians 2: 3, 4, and the prophecies of the Antichrist?”

“ALL AGREED ON THE ANTICHRIST

“Up to the close of the *Reformation* [which today is being rewritten as “the rebellion against Church authority”!], God’s people were generally agreed that the Papacy was the Antichrist foretold in prophecy. The **Waldenses** taught it. (See page 122 of this book). About 1384 A.D. **John Wycliffe** wrote a book against the papal system entitled: ‘Of Antechrist His Meynee.’ In fact, the English Reformers,--**Tyndale, Cranmer, Latimer, and Ridley**,---all agreed in pointing to the Papacy as the Antichrist. **John Huss** of Bohemia, in his ‘De Anatomia Antichristi,’ did the same. Turning to Germany we find **Martin Luther** strong in his convictions on the subject. He says:

“The Pope. . . the true Antichrist, of whom it is written, that he sitteth in the temple of God, among the people where Christ is worshipped. . . .

“But Papists want to divert this passage from themselves, and they say that Christ and Paul speak about the temple at *Jerusalem* [italics mine], and that Antichrist shall sit there and rule; that will not do . . . It cannot be understood otherwise than of the new spiritual temple, which he says we are.

“There shall the Pope sit and be honored, not above God, but above all that is called [italics mine] God. . . So also we see it before our eyes, that many princes and the world regard his law higher and more than the commandments of God . . . Cannot this rightly be termed exalting and honoring Antichrist above God?’ – *Luther’s Church Postil, ‘Gospels,’ 25th Sunday after Trinity, par. 24, 25, Part 2, pp. 734, 735. Stavanger, Norway: 1862.- By Christian Edwardson, Facts of Faith, pp. 196- 201. Southern Publishing Association, Nashville 8, Tennessee, 1943.*

I was born of a Roman Catholic father and a Seventh-day Adventist mother—both deaf mutes. Both are deceased now. My father died a Roman Catholic, and my mother died still a Seventh-day Adventist. My late twin sister and I, and my three surviving sisters were all likewise baptized as infants to the Roman Catholic Church although all of us got baptized later into the Seventh-day Adventist faith. I had to present my Roman Catholic

baptismal certificate when I got married in 1976 to my one and only wife to this moment, a Roman Catholic then. I recall taking Mass before the wedding ceremonies, followed by the Communion. I did not realize then, as I do now, that the Roman Catholic mass is one of the greatest errors ever, as revealed by Bible truth.

Thus, I have no animosity or disdain for the Roman Catholic *people*. Like all whose eyes have been opened to the revelation of the Holy Scriptures, I feel a very heavy burden in my heart for them and all others who have yet to accept the three angels' messages of Revelation 14, hoping and praying that all will "pant after the truth" and "seek righteousness" from the Bible, not from their religious leaders. God's unfailing promise is all will know the truth that sets one free, if they "ask, seek, and knock," not merely "wish" for it.

We are here addressing the Roman Papal system and church organization's prophesied career and works through the centuries particularly by 538 A.D., the "wounding of one of its head" in 1798, the healing of this almost mortal wound, its return to global world power and its prominent role resulting in the closing earth's probation together with the "dragon and false prophet." Rev. 16: 13. These include only the following, for there are so many that space couldn't accommodate in this issue. (Please see our previous publications on "The 48 steps on the falling away of the church").

(1) Counterfeiting and usurping the titles, offices, authority, and work of the Father . the Son, and the Holy Spirit—the very Godhead itself.

(2) Claiming the sleeping, i.e., dead disciple Peter is "the rock and foundation" of their church when the Holy Scriptures from the Old to the New Testament, clearly, unequivocally, and repeatedly declare that the Rock on which Christ founded His church is Himself!

(3) Their blasphemous claims to have the authority to change the Decalogue, God's eternal, immutable law, particularly "transferring the *sanctity* of the seventh day Sabbath of the fourth commandment to Sunday." The enactment and enforcement of this counterfeit sabbath, according to Revelation 13, will be implemented by once-Protestant America; only then does Sunday-keeping become the prophesied mark of the beast.

"When the leading churches of the United States, uniting upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce her decrees and sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result."- *E. G. White, The Great Controversy, 1911 ed. p. 445.*

"When our nation, in its legislative councils, shall enact laws to bind the consciences of men in regard to their religious privileges, enforcing Sunday observance, and bringing oppressive power to bear against those who keep the seventh-day Sabbath, the law of God will, to all intents and purposes, be made void in our land [Ps. 119: 105]: and national apostasy will be followed by national ruin." – *Ibid, 7BC 977/ Maranatha, p. 199.*

"The Scriptures teach that **Popery** is to regain its lost supremacy, and that the fires of persecution will be rekindled through the *time-serving concessions* of the so-called Protestant world."- *E. G. White, Maranatha, p. 194. Review & Herald Publishing Asso., Washington D.C., MD.*

(4) Counterfeiting the plan of redemption of the true gospel in that Christ's all-sufficient, all powerful atoning sacrifice offered at Calvary in 31 A.D. is made of none effect by their Mass and the Eucharist (same as their Holy Communion), which blasphemously claims that their priests are empowered by their doctrine called *transubstantiation* to literally bring down the body of Christ and break it into literal

pieces of bread called “the host” and feed them to their votaries as “the body of Christ,” as often and wherever Mass is held daily; the officiating priest drinks literal alcoholic wine while performing such! The Holy Scriptures says Jesus, “the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world,” was “offered *once and for all.*” John 1: 29; Heb. 9: 28; John 3: 16.

(5) The rendering of none effect the final office and closing work of the ascended Jesus Christ as High Priest, Advocate, and *only* Mediator of the penitent in the heavenly sanctuary by elevating the dead Mary as being their Mediatrix, and beatifying and canonizing dead men and women as “saints” to whom their votaries pray to and seek intercession instead of the Holy Spirit on earth, and Christ in heaven.

(6) The adoption of the oldest pagan and apostate practices and forms of idol worship and “Christianizing” them, as though these were possible, and convincing credulous untold millions, up to this very moment in this final generation that boasts of greatest advances and enlightenment, as “Christian” festivals or rites.

(7) Against the very words of Christ, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s” (Mark 12: 17), the Papacy first mingled church craft and state craft, using the civil and military powers of the latter to enforce her decrees and sustain her institutions---all these and much more unmistakably revealing themselves to be the very Antichrist and beast of prophecy. The faithful members of the remnant church of prophecy are, Elijah and John the Baptist-like, in the Third Angel’s message of Revelation 14, with the awful task of unmasking the works and false doctrines of the Papacy. We should love them as Jesus loves us. They are as precious in His sight as we are. Christ died for all sinners regardless of religion, race, creed, or culture. In fact, up until the close of earth’s probation the vast majority of the “His people” are still in spiritual “Babylon the great”--spiritual worldwide Babylon of apostate churches made of the mother and her daughters as John revealed “on whose forehead was a name written, MYSTERY BABYLON, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.” Revelation 17: 6, 6, K.J.V. The very last call of the Revelation 18 angel, is, “Come out of her, *My people* that *ye partake not of her sins and receive of her plagues.* For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.” Rev. 18: 4, 5.

We begin with some of the most recent one as of this issue (notice how the Roman Catholic Church is referred to generically as “the Church”):

Pope poses for ‘selfies’ after Palm Sunday homily

Date: 4/14/2014. Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/pope-poses-selfies-palm-sunday-homily-104125067.html>.

“VATICAN CITY (AP)- Pope Francis, marking *Palm Sunday* in a packed St. Peter’s Square, ignored his prepared homily and spoke entirely of—the cuff in a remarkable departure from practice. Later, he continued to stray from the script by hopping off his popemobile to pause for ‘selfies’ with young people and also sipping tea passed to him from the crowd.

“In his homily, Francis called on people to, himself included, to look into their own hearts to see how they are living their lives.

“‘Has my life fallen asleep?’ Francis asked after listening to a Gospel account of how Jesus’ disciples fell asleep shortly before he was betrayed by Judas before His crucifixion.”

“‘Am I a Pontius Pilate, who, when he sees the situation is difficult, washes his hands?’ He sounded tired, frequently pausing to catch his breath, as he spoke for about 15

minutes in his homily during *Palm Sunday Mass*, which solemnly opens *Holy Week for the Roman Catholic Church*. . . .

“*Holy Week culminates next Sunday with Easter Mass, also in St. Peter’s Square*. Many faithful will remain in Rome, while others will pour into the city for the April 27 canonization of two popes, *John Paul II and John XXII*. Francis noted that John Paul’s long-time aide, now Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, Poland, had come to Rome. Francis noted that he’ll be making a pilgrimage to South Korea this summer, with the key event of being an *Asian youth gathering* on Aug. 15 in Daejeon.” (end of news quote).

OUR COMMENTS:

Pope Francis strangely failed to mention that Peter himself was one of the two other Disciples (James and John) who literally fell asleep while Christ struggled alone in Gethsemane when the *guilt* of the sins of the world were rolled upon Him and the face of the Father was hidden from Him. See Matt. 26: 36-46. See verses 69-75. Soon after, Peter denied Christ three times during His illegal trial, with cursing to boot before the rooster crowed, announcing the dawn of Friday—the day Christ was crucified at 9 AM and died 6 hours later, 3 PM, at the very time when the lamb evening sacrifice was being offered by the Jewish priest. Type had met antitype. The heavy veil separating the holy place from the most holy was rent in two by invisible angel’s hands, exposing the most holy, announcing once and forever that “new and more excellent way” had been opened in heaven to which all truly penitent sinners could come “boldly to the throne of grace,” no longer having to rely on any human intercessor such as the priests were originally ordained to, as types of Christ. Christ had become man’s High Priest, Intercessor, and Mediator to the Father. The earthly priesthood and the system of sacrifices were “done away with,” “having been nailed to the cross.”

The title of the Pope is also Pontifex Maximus, inherited from the Roman Emperors who mercilessly persecuted the early Christians. Pontius Pilate, in vain, thought by literally washing his hands with water, he was absolving himself from *his guilt and sin* against God in that knowing Christ, God in the flesh, was guiltless as he himself publicly declared three times, yet yielded “in fear” to the popular demand of the Jewish priests, rabbis, scribes, and people who screamed, “Crucify Him, crucify Him. Let His blood be upon and *our children*.” See Matt. 27: 1-25; Mark 15 and John 19. They chose a hardened, condemned criminal, Barrabbas, who also claimed to be a messiah over the Holy One of Israel. Matt. 27: 16-26; John 18: 40. They got what they demanded for in the desolation of Jerusalem 40 years later.

The blood of Christ the Righteous One alone can cleanse of sin if we truly repent and confess them directly to Him whose law we have transgressed. The wages of which is death. Rom. 6: 23. Nothing else can earn nor can anyone else dispense forgiveness or justification full and complete, for: “*All have sinned* and come short of the glory of God.” *Romans* 3: 23. “*All we like sheep have gone astray*.” Isa. 53: 6. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1: 9.

In their rejection and crucifixion of Christ, A.D. 31 with their most hatred national enemy, *Rome*, in collusion with them (the first union of church and state), as prophesied in the 70-week prophecy of Daniel 9: 24-27, the Jewish nation, their beloved City Jerusalem, and *the temple which they venerated* (built by Herod for 46 years, John 2: 20) were *cut off* as the chosen people three and half years later, A.D. 34 with the stoning to death of Stephen, the first Christian martyr (according to tradition, one of 70 sent forth by Jesus, Luke 10:1-17 and named as one of the 7 men chosen by the Jerusalem

church and ordained), by the Sanhedrin. Fulfilling Christ's prophecy recorded in Matthew 23: 37, 38; 24: 1-20; Luke 21: 1-24, they were desolated by the very same Romans whom they teamed up against Christ 70 years later by the Roman army led by Titus, son of the Roman emperor Vespasian.

Of this dual application prophecy, Ellen G. White wrote:

“The Savior’s prophecy concerning the visitation of judgments upon Jerusalem is to have another fulfillment, of which that terrible desolation was but a faint shadow. In the fate of the chosen city we may behold the doom of a world that has rejected God’s mercy and trampled upon His law! Dark are the records of human misery that earth has witnessed during its long centuries of crime. The heart sickens and the mind grows faint in contemplation. Terrible have been the results of rejecting the authority of Heaven. But

“But a scene yet darker is presented in the revelation of the future. The records of the past,—the long procession of tumults, conflicts, and revolutions, the ‘battle of the warrior, with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood (Isa. 9: 5) —what are these, in contrast with the terrors of that day when the restraining Spirit of God shall be wholly withdrawn from the wicked, no longer to hold in check the outburst of human passion and satanic wrath! The world will behold, as never before, the results of Satan’s rule. But in that day, as in the time of Jerusalem’s destruction, God’s people shall be delivered.” — *The Great Controversy, “Destruction of Jerusalem,” chapter I, pp. 36, 37, 1911: Pacific Press Publishing Asso., Mountain View, CA.*

Pope asks forgiveness for ‘evil’ of child abuse by priests

Date: 4/11/2014. Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/pope-francis-aks-forgiveness-priests-abused-children-115745087.html>

“By Naomi O’ Leary. Vatican City (Reuters) – Pope Francis made his first public plea for forgiveness on Friday for the ‘evil’ committed by priests who molested children, using some of his strongest words yet on the Roman Catholic church’s sexual abuse crisis.

“The Argentine-born pontiff said the Church, which last month named a high-level group on the scandal including an abuse victim, had to take a stronger stand on a scandal that has haunted it for more than two decades [only?], and indicated there would be repercussions for perpetrators.

‘*I feel compelled to personally take on all the evil that some priests* [how many of them, and who?] –quite a few in number, (although) obviously not compared to the number of all priests—to personally ask for forgiveness for the damage they have done for sexually abused children,’ he told members of the International Catholic Child Bureau.

“The Church is aware of this [since when?]....*personal, moral damage carried out by man of the church*, and we will not take one step backward with regards to how we will deal with this problem, and to the sanctions that must be imposed.

‘On the contrary, we have to be even stronger. Because you cannot interfere with children,’ Francis said in unscripted comments as he addressed the children’s rights body.

“The comments, originally in Spanish, were translated by the Vatican Radio News service *Francis did not specify whether ‘sanctions’ would be church-enforced or involve civil justice authorities.* In February the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child accused the Vatican *of systematically turning a blind eye to decades of abuse and attempting to cover up sex crimes.*

“The scathing report urged the church to immediately hand over its records on the abuse of tens of thousands of children, *immediately remove anyone suspected of abuse from their post and refer the matter to civil legal authorities. The Vatican called the report unfair and ideologically slanted.*

“Francis’ words strike a different tone to comments he made in March to an Italian newspaper in which he *defended* the church’s record.

“*‘The Catholic Church is perhaps the only public institution that has moved with transparency and responsibility. No one has done more, and yet the church is the only one that is being attacked,’* he was quoted as saying by Corriere della Serrra in comments decried by victims’ rights groups.

“Just Talk”

“Criticism that Francis has not taken a bold enough stand on the issue, and did not meet sexual abuse victims in Italy and in a July trip to Brazil, *has been a rare black spot* [?] in the overwhelmingly positive response to the pontiff in the 13 months he has been in office.

“In particular, abuse groups have called on the church to discipline bishops accused of moving know child molesters from parish to parish, allowing abuse to continue.

“‘It’s nice to have expressions of concern. But actions need to happen, and people have been waiting an awfully long time to for that to occur,’ said Terry Mckiernan, founder of BishopsAccountability.Org, which documents abuse cases.

“‘The best thing he could have done today would have been to step up to the microphone and announce that he is beginning to remove bishops who have behaved criminally in keeping priests in ministries where they don’t belong, moving them around so that continue to be a danger to children.’

“The Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP), which advocated for child protection and urges greater transparency in the [Roman Catholic] church, said Francis’ words should be received with caution.

“‘We beg the world’s Catholics: *be impressed by deeds, not words.* Until the pope takes decisive action that protect kids, be skeptical and vigilant; SNAP Outreach Director Barbara Dorris said.

“‘This may be the first time a pope has talked of sanctions against complicit bishops. *But that is all it is: talk.*’

“Under Francis’ direction, the Vatican announced in December the creation of a new dedicated group to help the church deal with the abuse crisis. Its members were name in late March. The body of clerics and lay people includes Marie Collins, a survivor or abuse in Ireland in the 1960s who has campaigned for bishops who failed to implement church rules and for justice for victims.

“Collins, a founding trustee of the Irish abuse victims’ organization One in Four, has in the past pushed for punishment for bishops who failed to implement rules on the protection of children.

“Child abuse litigation haws cost the [Roman] Catholic Church *some \$3 billion in settlements in the United Sates alone,* and shaken the moral authority of leaders of the world’s largest religious denomination.”

(Reporting by Naomi O’Leary; Editing by Andrew Roche)

OUR COMMENTS

Regarding the innocent and highly vulnerable children, Jesus declared: “Whoso shall offend (*hurt*, margin) one of these little ones which believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged upon his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.” Matt. 18: 6; Mark 9: 42; Luke 17: 2.

(To be continued next month)

“Pope meets ex-slaves, denounces trafficking

Date: 4/10/2014. Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/pope-meets-ex-slaves-denounces-trafficking-135936521.html>

“VATICAN CITY (AP) --- Pope Francis denounced human trafficking as *a crime against humanity* Thursday after meeting four women who were trafficked and forced into prostitution.

“Pope tells Rwandan bishops he prays for genocide victims

Date: 4/3/2014.

Source: <http://news.yahoo.com/pope-tells-rwandan-bishops-prays-genocide-victims-174906253.html>

“Vatican City (AFP)- Pope Francis told a group of Rwandan Bishops Thursday that he still prays for the victims of the genocide in their country, as Kigali prepares to mark the 20th anniversary of the killings.

“I join in all my heart in mourning,” the head of the [Roman] Catholic Church told a meeting on 9 Rwandan Bishops.