

Study for the Month of June 2015

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

The ‘Man of Sin’ of Bible Prophecy and his activities and career - Part IV

HEADLINES: Pope Urges Chinese Catholics’ Allegiance to Rome

Source: TheGuardian, Thursday 21 May 2015 by AFP on May 20, 2015

<http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/2015/pope-urges-chinese-catholics-allegiance-to-rome/html>. (all itals added):

“Pope Francis called Wednesday on Chinese Catholics to *remain attached to the ‘rock’ on which the Church in Rome is built, in a move expected to rile Beijing.*

‘Ask Mary to help Catholics in China.....to live spiritually united to the rock of Peter on which the church is built,’ the pontiff said in his weekly general audience in Saint Peter’s square.

Francis was speaking to ahead of a May 24 day of prayer for Catholics in China, which was established by his predecessor Benedict XVI in 2007.

With his reference to *Peter, whom the Roman Catholic Church considers to have been the first pope*, he was calling on Chinese Catholics for their allegiance.

The Vatican has not had diplomatic relations with China since Mao Zedong broke them off in 1951.

On a visit to South Korea in August, Francis called for a *normalization of relations*.

But he insisted that could only happen *if China’s Catholics are given the right to exercise their religion freely*, and when the Vatican is allowed to appoint bishops in the world’s most populous country.

On his way back to Korea, *Francis said he would visit China as soon as the Church was allowed to do its job there.*

Researchers say that there are 12 million practicing Catholics in China, *half of who attend services under the auspices of a state-controlled association*. The other half are involved in *clandestine churches that swear allegiance to the Vatican.*”

The uptick of the papacy’s media exposure on the internet in its surprisingly timely movements (to those unfamiliar with Bible prophecy) since Pope Francis (dubbed “the darling of the media”) was elected to the Holy See, is clearly achieving, as prophesied in Revelation 13, its purpose of positioning itself on the global stage by constantly calling attention to its good deeds while constantly repeating its unbiblical doctrines in the face of all the other more urgent national

and global issues. Moreover, in doing so it has been able to deflect public attention, reduce negativity (though never its culpability as registered in books of heaven and judged by God's immutable law), and downplay the gallant yet woefully undermanned efforts of a few courageous advocacy groups, including that of the U.N., for and in behalf of the countless victims of sex abuse and human trafficking--children, youth, women and men—who are desperately trying to expose this centuries-old abomination (celibacy or “forbidding to marry” is called one of the “doctrines of devils” by Paul, 1 Timothy 4: 1-3 is one of its root causes) and demand justice from the powers-that-be.

These innocent victims, so dear to the heart of God who purchased their redemption with His own blood, must constantly remember that they will never find or obtain real justice in this fallen world and from mortal, corrupt human institutions. Rather, they must, like Christ, who implicitly trusted the Father while on His mission on earth as the promised Messiah, go directly to Him with childlike yet intelligent faith for He is the Creator of the whole heavenly universe who humbled Himself in order to partake of the fallen nature of man that He might be “tempted in all points like as all mankind is tempted, yet without sin”(Hebrews 2: 14-18; 4: 14-16) and by His perfect victory, totally vanquished Satan, conquered death, the wages of sin (Romans 6: 23) by His glorious resurrection and ascend to the Father to take up His closing work in the plan of redemption of the true Gospel as our merciful High Priest, Advocate, and Mediator before the Father.

It is He, God in the flesh, who promised all those who would be persecuted for righteousness' sake (Matthew 5: 10-12; cf. Hebrews chapter 11), from righteous Abel down through the ages and generations of man to the close of human probation, all who suffer and lose their lives for His name's sake and glory: “Inasmuch as you have done this to the *least* of these My brethren, you have done it unto Me.” Matthew 25: 40. Therefore, He assures them: “For it is written Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, says the Lord.” Romans 12: 19; Hebrews 10: 30, etc.

These rapid recent developments should make it increasingly clearer to anyone paying close attention and are asking relevant questions regarding who and what the Roman Catholic Church *really* is as revealed in the Bible, particularly the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation and then by the Apostle Paul in his epistle to the Thessalonians; its historical career as recorded by historians, both religious and secular, by its own open admissions, and as reported by the media as in the foregoing news release by TheGuardian.

“Chinese Catholics to remain attached to the ‘rock’ on which the Church of Rome is built, in a move expected to rile Beijing”?

Isn't it strange that the media of the once-Protestant nation does not even appear to expect the Bible-reading, Jesus-believing politically militant Christian activists who act almost paranoid over Islam and Sharia law, abortion, same sex marriage, the LGBT community, to get similarly “riled” over the glaring Biblical error that

the foundation of the Church is Peter, not Jesus Christ? If Peter were alive today he would have boldly denounced this antichristian doctrine as would all the other Apostles! Where are the public demonstration and remonstrations that militant Christians put on in front of abortion clinics that the media loves to cover? The silence is deafening....and revealing indeed.

“Ask Mary to help the Catholics in China.” – Pope Francis

The plea is to Mary, not to Jesus! This is a denial of Jesus Christ. How can Mary, who is dead, hear anyone’s plea or prayer? The Catholic dogma of the Immaculate Conception is unbiblical. “For *all* have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Romans 3: 23. “For all we like sheep have gone astray.” Isaiah 53: 6. The ascension of Mary is unbiblical. The Bible tells us clearly who only have ascended to heaven before Jesus Christ comes the second time in the very near future in all His glory in order to resurrect all His sleeping saints from their dusty graves beginning with Adam and Eve. (Christ brings His eternal rewards with Him based on the pre-advent judgment currently taking place in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary that commenced at the end of the 2300-day prophecy of Daniel 8: 14, October 1844).

These men (no women recorded) were: Enoch, the seventh patriarch of the righteous line from Adam, the very first man translated, meaning, did not taste death before his translation; Moses, the first man resurrected from the dead and brought to heaven; Elijah the prophet, the second man translated to heaven, and then the unnamed “many saints” who were resurrected at Christ’s resurrection and went throughout Jerusalem to witness and testify of Christ’s resurrection. Matthew 27: 52, 53. All other claims of ascension are unbiblical, thus, bogus claims.

Regarding Mary versus Christ and the Gospel of Christ versus the Gospel of the Church of Rome, we quote extensively from the book *Facts of Faith* by Christian Edwardson, who points out the following truths based on Biblical facts and other authoritative and official sources (emphasis added):

Through sin man has separated himself from God, and his fallen nature is opposed to the divine will; therefore he cannot by own effort live a godly life, nor can he change his own heart. (Isaiah 59: 1; Roman 8: 7; Jeremiah 13: 23; John 15: 5.) Only through Christ, our Mediator, can man be rescued from sin, and again be brought into connection with the source of purity and power.

But in order to become such a connecting link Christ had to partake both of the divinity of God and humanity of man, so that He with His divine arm could encircle God, and with His human arm embrace man, thus connecting both in His own person. In this union of the human with the divine lies the ‘mystery’ of the gospel, the secret of power to lift man from his degradation. ‘Great is the mystery of godliness: *God* was manifested in *the* flesh. ‘ 1 Timothy 3: 16. The ‘mystery,’ or secret of power to live a

godly life in human flesh, was manifested in the life of Jesus Christ while on earth. (And 'Christ in you' is the secret of the power to conquer sin. Colossians 1: 27.

But mark! It was fallen that was to be rescued from sin. And to make contact with him Christ had to condescend to take *our* nature upon Himself (not some higher kind of flesh). 'For as much then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, *He also likewise took part of the same*. . . . Wherefore in *all* things it behooved Him to be made like unto His brethren.' Hebrews 2; 14, 17. This text is so worded that it cannot be misunderstood. Christ 'took part of the *same*' flesh and blood as ours; He came in '*the*' flesh. To deny this is the mark of AntiChrist. (1 John 4: 3; 2 John 7). To bridge the gulf that sin has made, Christ must be one with the Father in divinity, and one with man in humanity, and thus connect again earth with heaven.

God revealed this truth to the Patriarch Jacob that lonely night at Bethel. When he feared that his sins had cut him off from heaven, God showed him that mystic Ladder, connecting earth with heaven, which Christ explained to be 'the Son of man.' (Genesis 28: 12; John 1; 51). *Modernism* has tried to cut off the upper part of this ladder by denying Christ's divinity; while *the Roman Catholic Church* cuts off the lower rounds by teaching that the Virgin Mary was born without sin, and that therefore Christ did not take upon Himself our kind of flesh and blood, but holy flesh, so far above us that he does not make contact with our humanity. For this reason the poor sinner cannot come to Him directly, they say, but come through Mary, saints, popes, and priests, who will mediate for him. This has opened the floodgate for all the idolatry in the Catholic Church. Here is this 'dogma' presented in authentic Catholic works:

" 'We define that the Blessed Virgin Mary in the first moment of her conception. . . . was preserved free from every taint of original sin.'

""Unlike the rest of the children of Adam, the soul of Mary was never subject to sin."—"Faith of our Fathers," Cardinal Gibbons, pp. 203, 203. Baltimore: 1885.

""The Sainted Doctor Alphonsus de Liguori says:

'The merits of Jesus, shall be dispensed through the hands and by the intercession of Mary.' —'Glories of Mary,' p. 180, New Revised Edition, New York: P.J. Kennedy and Sons, 1888.

""God has chosen to bestow no grace upon us but by the hands of Mary.' —*Id.*, p. 180.

""Whoever asks and wishes to obtain grace without the intercession of Mary, attempts to fly without wings.' — *Id.*, p. 189.

""Mary is the hope of our salvation." — *Id.*, p. 195.

"Thou art the only advocate of sinners." — *Id.*, p. 129. "All those who are saved, are saved solely by means of the divine mother;. . . the salvation of all depends upon preaching Mary." — *Id.*, pp. 19, 20.

“We ask many things of God and do not obtain them; we ask them from Mary and obtain them.” – *Id.*, p. 150. Much more could be cited.”

“A Protestant may ask if the merits of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross were not sufficient, so that we can receive grace directly from Him. To this the Catholic Church answers:

‘The merits and virtue of the sacrifice of the cross are infinite; but that virtue and these merits must be applied, and this can only be done by certain means.’ – *‘Doctrinal Catechism,’ S. Keenan, p. 129. New York: Kennedy and Sons, 1846.*

“The *priest* has the power of the keys, or the power of delivering sinners from hell, of making them worthy of paradise, and of changing them from the slaves of Satan into the children of God. And God Himself is obliged to abide by the judgment of His priests”The Sovereign master of the universe only flows the servant by confirming in heaven all that the latter decides upon earth.’ – *“Dignity and Duties of the Pries,” St. Alphonsus de Liguori, pp. 27, 28. New York: Benziger Brothers, 1888.*

“We now have before us the *only* means of salvation in the *Roman Catholic* gospel, as presented by men of unquestionable authority *among them*. This throws light on the reason why the Catholic priest has such a hold upon his people. They dare not oppose him, because he represents their only means of contact with heaven. Cut off from the church, they feel they are lost; for they do not know of a Christ who has come all the way down to the lost sinner’s side, to whom they can come personally [through the Holy Spirit] and receive forgiveness through grace alone. The divine ladder has been cut off, and Mary, saints, an priests have been substituted. But the Bible knows on only ‘one Mediator’, Jesus Christ. (1 Timothy 2: 5; Psalm 49: 7, 8.)

“But we have not yet gone to the depth of this *substitute ‘mystery.’* Let us now take the next step. Having removed the living Christ from contact with the sinner, they had to substitute something else to satisfy the longing of the human heart for the indwelling presence of Christ [through the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Godhead]. And that substitute is the ‘Sacrifice of the Mass.’ The Roman church teaches that the priest in the mass changes the little wafer into the real Christ, which they then fall down and worship, after which they eat Him, believing that they have become partakers of Christ and receive the forgiveness of sin. Thus they have substituted a man-made Christ for a living Christ. Liguori says:

‘If the person of the Redeemer had not yet been in the world, the priest, by pronouncing the words of consecration, would produce the great person of a Man-God. ‘O wonderful dignity of the priests,’ cries out St. Augustine; ‘in their hands, as in the womb of the Blessed Virgin, the Son of God becomes incarnate.’ Hence priests are called the parents of Jesus Christ. . . .

“Thus the priest may, in a certain manner, be called the creator of his Creator. . . . ‘He that created me without me is Himself created by me!’ “---“*Dignity and Duties of the Priest,’ pp. 32, 33.*

“In obedience to the words of his priests---*Hoc est Corpus Meum*---God Himself descends upon the altar. . . . he comes whenever they call him, and as often as they call him, and places himself in their hands. . . . They may, if they wish, shut him up in the tabernacle; . . . they may, if they choose, eat his flesh, and give him for food of others.’ – *Id.*, pp. 26, 27.

“Then the priest and people worship the Christ thus created:

‘Elevating a particle of the Blessed Sacrament, and turning towards the people, he [the priest] says: ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, and behold Him who taketh away the sins of the world.’

‘And then says three times: Lord, I am not worthy that Thou shouldest enter under my roof; but only say the word, and my soul shall be healed. . . .

“This pure and holy Sacrament. Who livest and reignest forever and ever. Amen.” – *“The Key of Heaven,” Right Rev. J. Milner, D.D., approved by Cardinal Gobbons, pp. 127, 127. Baltimore: J. Murphy and Co., 1898.*

“In the following quotation the Catholic Church explains why she believes this worship of the wafer (host) is not idolatry:

‘Now turn for a moment to the Catholic altar. The holy Sacrifice of the Mass is being offered up. The bell has given the signal that the most solemn and awful moment of consecration is at hand. And yet there is only bread in the hand of the priest, and [literal, alcoholic wine] in the chalice before him. To worship these lifeless elements would be the grossest idolatry. But suddenly, amid the silence of the breathless multitude, the priest utters the divine life-giving words of consecration; and that which was bread and wine, is bread and wine no longer, but the true Body and Blood of our Lord Himself. It is that same Body that was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that died for us upon the cross, that was raised again to life, and that even now sits at the right hand of God the Father. . . .

‘Now in this mystery the power of creation appears as much as in the mystery of the incarnation.” –*“The Holy Mass: The Sacrifice for the Living and the Dead.” M. Muller, pp. 174, 175. New York: 1876.*

“Pastor Charles Chiniquy, a former Catholic priest, says:

‘Now words can give any idea of the pleasure I used to feel when alone, prostrated before the Christ I had made at the morning mass, I poured out my heart at his feet. . . . I may say with truth, that the happiest hours I ever had, during long years of darkness into which the Church of Rome had plunged me, were the hours I passed adoring the Christ whom I had made with my own lips. . . .

‘In fact, the Roman Catholics have no other savior to whom they can betake to themselves than the one made by the consecration of the wafer. He is the only Savior who is not angry with them, and who does not require the mediation of virgins and saints to appease His wrath.” – *“Fifty Years in the Church of Rome,” chapter 17, pars. 29, 31.*

“In the thirty-sixth chapter of his book Pastor Chiniquy tells how he was led to question seriously this worship: ‘In the spring of 1840. . . . Father Daule [an old, blind priest, was residing with him at Beauport, Quebec.] One morning when the old priest was at the altar, saying his mass, [and had just changed the wafer into the real Christ [called transubstantiation], and was reaching for it, it was gone. He called to Chiniquy with a shriek of distress: ‘The good God has disappeared from the altar. He is lost!’ [Chiniquy, remembering how often rats had often tried to get the wafer while he himself had officiated there, knew what had happened, and in his consternation replied:] ‘Some rats have dragged and eaten the Good God!’ [The sorrow of the old priest knew no bounds, but Chiniquy declared:] ‘If I were God Almighty, and a miserable rat would come to eat me, I would surely strike him dead.’”—*Id., chapter 36, pars. 7, 13, 24.*” --- Quoted in *Facts of Faith (Revised)* by Christian Edwardson, Southern Publishing Association, Nashville 8, TN: 1943, pp. 204-208.

“If China’s Catholics are given the right to exercise their religion freely.”

The Roman Church’s teachings and stand on religious liberty and freedom to worship according to dictates of conscience, are confusing at best and contradicting and self-serving at its worst. It recognizes and will “fight” for the “rights” of only the Catholics. Its bloody history in the Old World bears witness on earth and in the books of heaven as to its unparalleled hatred towards all who refused to submit to their enforced paganized religion of heathen traditions, superstitions, and mysticisms. The above news report quotes Pope Francis as saying that he would revisit China---the only surviving so-called “Communist” superpower “only if *China’s Catholics* are given the right to exercise their religion freely, and when the Vatican is allowed to appoint bishops in the world’s most populous country.” The Roman Church, which claims infallibility, has an unchanged official policy towards Biblical religious liberty and freedom of conscience for all.

Note in particular its attitude and plans towards the purest and noblest form of true freedom and liberty upon earth---civil and religious---among all nations on earth since its founding---Americanism, as defined and exemplified in the guarantee and protection of the God-given inalienable rights of the *individual’s* freedom and liberties as defined in the Biblical principle of the complete separation yet mutual co-existence of church and state powers which are the bedrock of the U.S. Constitution and is rightfully the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights—the First Ten Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Like no other rights, the separation of church and state, the religious power from the civil power (or the Establishment Clause) are verily the twin secrets of America’s peace and prosperity from its founding until, as fearfully revealed by the prophetic pen, it strangely will transform from a “beast with *lamb-like* horns”

to one “speaking like a *dragon*” at the point when she mimics the dragonic power and adopts the same draconian measures employed by the “leopard-like beast” before it---the Papacy.

Note the following which we quoted in one of our previous issues---as they become more critical in the days ahead:

“Some say: What of it! Are not Roman Catholics as good as Protestants? Yes, certainly they are. As *individuals* there is no distinction before the law, and as neighbors they are loved and respected. We, however, are not speaking of individuals, but of a *church* organization that claims certain rights of jurisdiction in *civil* affairs, and whose avowed principles are *diametrically opposed* to liberty of speech, liberty of press, or religious liberty in general, as understood by the founders of this republic and incorporated into its fundamental laws. This we shall now prove (1) from official Catholic documents, (2) from actual application of their principles to civil governments.

“OFFICIAL CATHOLIC DOCUMENTS

“Pope Leo XIII, in an encyclical letter, *Immortale Dei*, November 1, 1885, outlines ‘the Christian constitution of states,’ by saying that ‘the state’ should profess the Catholic religion, and that the Roman pontiffs should have the ‘power of making laws.’ “And assuredly all ought to hold that it was not without a singular disposition of God’s providence that this power of the Church was provided with a *civil sovereignty* as the surest safeguard of her independence.’

He says of the Middle Ages: ‘[then] church and state were happily [???] united.’ – *The Great Encyclical Letters of Pope LLeo XIII*,’ pp. 113, 114, 119. Benziger Bros., 1903.

‘Sad it is to call to mind how the harmful and lamentable rage for innovations which rose to a climax in the sixteenth century [the Reformation] . . . spread amongst all classes of society. From this source, as from the fountain-head, burst forth all those later tenets of unbridled license . . .

‘Among these principles the main lays down that as all men are alike by race and nature. . . . that each is free to think of every subject just as he may choose. . . In a society grounded upon such maxims, all government is nothing more nor less than the will of the people. . . .

‘And it is part of this theory . . . that everyone is to be free to follow whatever religion he prefers, or none at all if he disapprove of all . . .

‘Now when the state rests on foundations like those just named---and for the time being they are greatly in favor---it readily appears into what and how unrightful a position the Church [Roman Catholic, that is] is driven . . . They who administer the civil power . . . defiantly put aside *the most sacred decrees of the Church* [not the Bible!]. . .

‘The sovereignty of the people . . . is doubtless a doctrine. . . which lacks all reasonable proof [i.e., from the Roman Catholic Church’s point of view, not of Christ nor His apostles!].’—*Id.*, pp. 120-123.

‘The theory ‘that church be separated from the state,’ Pope Leo further calls a ‘fatal error,’ ‘a great folly, a sheer injustice,’ and a ‘shameless liberty.’ — *Id.*, pp. 124, 125.

“In his next encyclical letter, of June 20, 1888, he calls it ‘the fatal theory of the need of separation between Church and state,’ ‘the greatest perversion of liberty,’ and ‘that fatal principle of the separation of Church and state.’ —*Id.*, pp. 148, 159.

“In his letter of January 6, 1895, he says: ‘It would be very erroneous to draw the conclusion that in America is to be sought the type of the most desirable state of the Church, or that it would be universally lawful or expedient for the state and church to be, as in America, dissevered and divorced . . . She would bring forth more abundant fruits [of what?] if, in addition to liberty, she enjoyed the favor of the laws and the patronage of the public authority.’—*Id.*, pp. 323, 324.

“Among the many authorities that could be cited, we have chosen that of Pope Leo XIII, because he is not a medieval, but a modern, exponent of papal doctrines, which no Roman Catholic would deny. Anyone familiar with the phraseology of the Declaration of Independence and the Federal Constitution cannot help but see in the expressions of Pope Leo a declared opposition to the fundamental principles upon which our government is founded. *He urges his followers not to be content with attending to their religious duties, but ‘Catholics should extend their efforts beyond this restricted sphere, and give their attention to national politics.’* — *Id.*, p. 131. [emphasis mine].

‘It is the duty of all Catholics. . . .to strive that liberty of action shall not transgress the bounds marked out by nature and the law of God; to endeavor to bring back all civil society to the pattern and form of Christianity [Romanism] which We [not by Christ] have described . . . Both these objects will be carried into effect without fail if all will follow the guidance of the Apostolic See [not Christ] as their rule of life and obey the bishops [not the teachings and example of Christ’s Apostles!].’ — *Id.*, p. 132.

‘Especially with reference to the so-called ‘Liberties’ which are so greatly coveted in these days, all must stand by the judgment of the Apostolic See.’ —*Id.*, p. 130.

“In his encyclical letter of January 10, 1890, on ‘The Chief Duty of Christians as Citizens,’ (id., pp. 180-187) *he urges all Catholics to put forth united action in politics in order to change the governmental policies* so as to bring them into harmony with papal principles, He says:

‘As to those who mean to take part in public affairs they should avoid . . . leading the lives of *cowards*, untouched in the fight . . .

‘Honor, then, to those who shrink not from entering the arena as often as need calls, believing and being convinced that the violence of injustice will be brought to an end and finally give way to the sanctity of right and religion [whose right? Whose religion?].’ – *Id.*, pp. 199-201.

“They are urged to support (in elections) only those men who will stand by the principles of union of church and state:

‘The Church cannot give countenance or favor to those whom she knows to be imbued with a spirit of hostility to her; who refuse openly to respect her rights [which rights and obtained from whom?]; who make it their aim and purpose to tear asunder the alliance that should, by the very nature of things [that is, the very fallen nature of things!], connect the interests of religion with those of the state. On the contrary, she is (as she is bound to be) the upholder of those who are themselves imbued with the right way of thinking as to the relations between church and state, and who strive to make them work in perfect accord for the common good. These precepts contain the abiding principle by which every Catholic should shape his conduct *in regard to public life*. In short, where the Church does not forbid taking part in public affairs, it is fit and proper to give support to men of acknowledged worth, and who pledge themselves to deserve well in the Catholic cause, and on no account may it be allowed to prefer to them any such individuals as are hostile to religion [that is, the Roman Catholic Church’s version of religion, not the religion of the Bible nor of the religion of Christ!]. . . . ‘*Whence it appears how urgent is the duty to maintain perfect union of minds,*’ –*Id.*, p. 198.

‘The *political prudence* of the Pontiff embraces diverse and multiform things; for it is his charge not only to rule the Church, but generally so to regulate the actions of the Christian citizens *The faithful should imitate the practical political wisdom of the ecclesiastical authority.*’ – *Id.*, p. p. 202.

‘But if the laws of the state are manifestly at variance with the divine law [that is, the man-made laws of the papacy, not that of God], containing enactments hurtful to the Church . . . or if they violate in the person of the supreme Pontiff the authority of Jesus Christ [?], then truly, to resist becomes a positive duty, to obey, *a crime.*’ –*Id.*, p. 185. Quoted from *Facts of Faith*, pp. 256-259.

The Difference between sin and crime. The Bible clearly teaches that to disobey God’s law, the Decalogue, is **sin**. “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.” 1 John 3: 4. “He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God [Jesus Christ] was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil.” 1 John 3: 8, K.J.V. A **crime** is committed when the man-made laws, the law of the land, is broken. In the days ahead, as it was in the days when the Church controlled the state, those who stood faithful to the law of God, in opposition to the man-made, church-state laws, were condemned as *criminals* and punished with all kinds of wretched forms of persecution and death but in God’s sight and judgment, they are verily *His* saints worthy of eternal life!
(Continued next month.)

2) The Roman Catholic Church's spiritual foundation is *not* Jesus Christ, whom the Bible writers refer to as "the Rock of ages," "the Rock of man's salvation," "the Rock that is higher than I," "the Stone which was rejected [by the Jews] but has become the Foundation stone"[of the true church] but apostle Peter. Yes, Peter was one of Christ's first Twelve disciples, who infamously denied Christ three times "before the cock crowed twice" in the wee morning hours of His mock trial by the Jewish Sanhedrim yet was truly converted and transformed later but nevertheless is yet mortal and is certainly dead as the most basic and clearest teachings of the Bible regarding the nature of man, sin, and death. He was crucified upside down according to his request according to reliable tradition. In fact it his alleged bones upon which the main center of the Vatican is built upon. The name Peter comes from the Greek *petros*, meaning, *a small rock or rolling stone* while the Rock that Moses and David referred to in the Old Testament and Paul pointed to in the New Testament is *petra*, a boulder. As the Wesley brothers, founders of the Methodist Church, wrote among the thousands they composed, "The Church has one foundation 'tis Jesus Christ our Lord. _____."

Any church, denomination or religion regardless of boasted number of membership, temporal wealth and riches, political clout, or military strength, is not built on Jesus Christ the eternal Rock as its foundation but on shifting sand that will fall when the rains and storms come. Such should never call itself *Christian* for Christian means "a follower of Christ" or more specifically where the ultimate goal of the plan of redemption of the gospel is concerned--- *Christlike*. These are those who have learned to look to Jesus Christ as the Creator incarnated into the flesh, "Immanuel, being interpreted God with us" (Matt. _____), Savior from sin, only Mediator, Advocate, and merciful High Priest. To them Christianity is not merely a set of doctrines or creeds allegedly professing Christianity but in actual practice do not follow Christ's example or teachings both those He Himself taught and all that were written by the gospel writers under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the particularly the New Testament. These are in fact what the "faith of Jesus" (Rev. 14: 12) specifically comprehends: "All that refer to Christ and His teachings in the New Testament," i.e., from Matthew to Revelation.

The first 12 disciples were true Christians. The Waldenses of the Piedmont Valley _____, who took up the flame truth of the true gospel and the true Biblical Sabbath after the first disciples and apostles anointed by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost had all died after completing their appointed work, were true Christians. They preserved the truth with their lives and paid it with their blood and prepared the way for the godly Protestant reformers—who were true Christians—to take up the torch and move forward with it. As Jesus told them, all

died in the faith of Jesus, almost all persecuted and martyred by the Church that claims Peter as its foundation during the Dark Ages of over a thousand years, 538-1798 C.E. “The blood of martyrs was seed of the gospel.”

3. This “normalization of relations” between what was touted to be mortal enemies—the Catholic Church and Communist/Socialist nations---is undoubtedly part of the closing chapters of the completion of the “healing of the almost-fatal wound” inflicted upon “one of the heads of the beast” when Pope Pius VI was taken captive by Berthier, general of Napoleon’s Republican army in 1798 and taken captive to France where he died the next year in Valence. All then thought the papacy was dead, including some of the early pioneers of the Advent Movement who should have known better by relying on prophecy, not on current events. Many continued to do so with the other prophecies in spite of one unnecessary and unpropheied disappointment after another. But not so said prophecy. One hundred thirty-one years later, on February 11, 1929, the Lateran Treaty, which was one of the Lateran Pacts (or Lateran Accords) was signed between the Fascist Italian Dictator Mussolini, representing King Victor Emmanuel of Italy and Pietro Gaspari, Cardinal Secretary of State for Pope Pius XI. The near-mortal wound of the papacy started its irreversible healing process in the restoration of the sovereignty of the Vatican, a religious city nation-state within Italy, literally “sitting on seven hills” (Rev. _____) within a secular state. Since then the Holy See, from this seat of authority, has overseen and dictated its worldwide activities---both for the Church and of the nations, gradually having the latter accept and then integrate its far-reaching papal policies and principles in their legislative assemblies and judicial halls.

Here are some Facts of Vatican City by Encyclopedia Britannica online (emphasis mine):

“Alternate Titles: State of the Vatican City..... and ecclesiastical state, seat of the Roman Catholic Church, and an enclave of Rome situated in the west banks of the Tiber River. *The Vatican is the world’s smallest fully independent nation-state.* Its medieval and Renaissance walls from its outer boundaries except on the southeast on St. Peter’s Square. Of the six entrances, only three---the piazza, Arco delle Compagne (Arch of the Bells) in the façade of St. Peter’s Basilica, and the entrance of the Vatican Museums and Galleries, in the north wall---are open to the public. The most imposing building is the St. Peter’s Basilica, built during the fourth century and rebuilt during the 16th century. *Erected over the tomb of St. Peter the Apostle*, it is the second largest religious building (after Yamoussoukro Basilica) in Christendom.

Form of Government: Papacy

Population: (2013 estimate) 800.

The Vatican Palace is the residence of the pope within the city walls. The Holy See is the name given to the government of the Roman Catholic Church, which is led by the pope as the Bishop of Rome. As such the Holy See’s authority extends over Catholics

throughout the world. Since 1929 it has resided in Vatican City, *which was established as an independent state to enable the pope to exercise his universal authority . . .*

Sovereignty is exercised by the pope upon his election as head of state of the Roman Catholic Church. He has absolute executive, legislative, and judicial powers within the city. . . .

In 2000 the *millennial Jubilee focused world attention on Vatican City . . .*

Vatican City was designated a *UNESCO World Heritage site in 1984.*"

One can better understand and appreciate what John was shown in vision and recorded for the churches and the world to anticipate future to his time. He wrote: "And I saw one of his [the beast's] heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world *wondered* after the beast. And they worshipped the dragon which [because he, *margin*] which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" Rev. 13: 3-5, K.J.V. It is clearly after the deadly wound is healed that John says "all the world wondered after the beast." The N.K.J.V describes it as "and all the world *marveled* and followed the beast." The Open Bible describes it as: "and the whole earth was *amazed* and followed after the beast." The N.I.V. has it as: "The whole world was *astonished* and followed the beast." There you have it: "wondered," "marveled," "amazed," "astonished" then "followed" as in *obeyed* the beast!

It should be interesting to note, to say the very least, that intelligent minds, regardless of religious affiliations, but of course should have been expected from *Bible*-reading Christians, as to how this could have happened and the world accepted taken it as _____. And that is, even for those unfamiliar with or have never studied the interconnected prophecies of Daniel 8: 9-12, 24, 25 with Revelation 13: 1-10; 17:18, revealing the rise and spread of the "little horn" power up to the last days of earth's history---that this one-and-only act of granting a fully-independent nation state to a church was accomplished first with a Fascist government! What is Fascism? According to_____: the Roman Catholic Church hated "Fascism and Communism." Then why did it even accept the endorsement of a Fascist like Victor Emanuel through Mussolini? In fact here is a brief history of what happened to Mussolini: (Wikipedia):

4. "State-controlled associations and clandestine churches that swear allegiance to the Vatican."

HEADLINES: **Pope Francis Canonizes Two Palestinian Nuns**

Source: Reuters, 17 May 2015 <http://yahoo.com/pope-francis-canonises-two-palestinian-women-091421583.html>

"VATICAN CITY (Reuters) – Pope Francis named two Palestinian women as saints on Sunday, in a ceremony in Saint Peter's Square