

Study for the month of July 2015

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

Who or what is the “man of sin” according to Biblical prophecy and true church history, the Christian Historicist View? It definitely does not refer to a single individual just like the Antichrist isn’t, as is taught in the Rapture theory which is based on Futurism, a brainchild of the Jesuit Spanish priest, Francisco Ribera. For those joining our studies for the first time, we repeat the following which was given in the introduction of this particular series:

Ribera (1537-1591) was a Spanish Jesuit theologian, identified with the Futuristic Christian eschatological view.

Works: In order to remove the papacy of the Catholic Church from consideration as the Antichrist (as an act of countering the Protestant Reform First, who was Francisco Ribera? Wikipedia says [emphasis and comments in brackets provided]:

“Francisco Ribera began writing a lengthy (500 pages) commentary in 1585 on the *Book of Revelation* (Apocalypse) titled in *Sanctum Beati Iohannis Apostoli, & Evangelistiae Apocalypsin Commentarij* proposing that the first few chapters of the Apocalypse apply to ancient Pagan Rome, and the rest he limited to a yet future period of a 3 1/2 literal years immediately prior to the second coming. [The Gap theory and time-setters obtain their eschatological interpretations from this]. During that time [the future 3 1/2 years], the Roman Catholic Church would have *fallen away from the pope* into apostasy because of the Reformation cry stating that “the papacy is the seat the true and real Antichrist” (Martin Luther, Aug. 15, 1520). Then, he proposed, the Antichrist, *a single individual*, would:

- [1] persecute and blaspheme
- [2] rebuild the temple in Jerusalem [which was rebuilt in 49 years from three successive decrees issued successively by three Persian kings-- Cyrus, Darius, and Artaxerxes, 536, 519, 457 A.D., respectively, according to the prophecy of Daniel 9: 24-27, hence, *already history, prophecy fulfilled.*]
- [3] abolish the Christian religion
- [4] deny Jesus Christ
- [5] be received by the Jews [the pagan and papal Rome hated the Jews]
- [6] pretend to be God
- [7] conquer the world

To accomplish this, Ribera proposed that the 1260 days and 42 months and 3 1/2 times of prophecy were not 1260 years as based on the year-day principle (Numbers 14: 34; Ezekiel 4:6), but a literal 3 1/2 years, hence *preventing the arrival at the deduction* of (1) the 1260 years to be related to the Dark Ages

(according to Historicism (Christianity) interpretation of eschatology from 538 A.D. when the papal power was fully established in Rome until its *political blow* in 1798 A.D. when Louis-Alexander Berthier the general of Napoleon captured Pope Pius VI as prisoner to Valence, France and (2) the Antichrist to be related to prophecy. – Wikipedia, art. “Francisco Ribera.”

Ribera’s brainchild of Futurism is the foundation upon which the popular Rapture interpretation of the second coming of Christ, the Gap Theory, and time-setters base their respective and various prophetic calculations and time-tables on.

The Man of Sin

“The apostle Paul, in his second letter to the Thessalonians, foretold the great apostasy which would result in the establishment of the papal power. He declared that the day of Christ should 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 worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.’ And furthermore, the apostle warns his brethren that ‘the mystery of iniquity doth *already* work.’ 2 Thessalonians 2: 3, 4, 7, K.J.V.

Even at that early date he saw, creeping into the church, errors that would prepare the way for the development of the papacy. Little by little, at first in stealth and silence, and then more openly as it increased in strength and gained control of the minds of men, ‘the mystery of iniquity’ carried forward its deceptive and blasphemous work. Almost imperceptibly *the customs of heathenism* found their way into the Christian church. *The spirit of compromise and conformity* was restrained for a time by the fierce persecutions which the church endured under *paganism* [pagan Rome]. But as persecution ceased, and Christianity entered the courts and palaces of kings, she [the church] laid aside the *humble simplicity* of Christ and His apostles for the *pomp and pride* of pagan priests and rulers; and in place of the requirements of God, she *substituted* human theories and traditions.

The *nominal conversion of Constantine, in the early part of the fourth century*, caused great rejoicing; and the world, cloaked with a form of righteousness, walked into the church. Now the work of corruption rapidly progressed. Paganism, while appearing to be vanquished, became the conqueror. Her spirit controlled the church. Her doctrines, ceremonies, and superstitions were incorporated into the faith and worship of the professed followers of Christ.

This compromise between paganism and Christianity resulted in the development of the ‘man of sin’ foretold in the prophecy as opposing and exalting himself above God. That gigantic system of false religion is a masterpiece of Satan’s power—a monument of his efforts to seat himself upon the throne to rule the earth according to his will.”- Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, (1911 edition), Pacific Press Publishing Association, Mountain View, CA, pp. 49, 50.

“The war against the Bible, carried forward for so many centuries in France, culminated in the scenes of the Revolution. That terrible outbreaking was but the legitimate result of *Rome’s suppression of the Scriptures*.(See Appendix.) It presented the most striking illustration which the world has ever witnessed of the working out of the *papal policy*—an illustration of the results to which for more than a thousand years [538-1798 A.D.] the teaching of the Roman Church has been tending.

“The suppression of the Scriptures *during the period of papal supremacy* was foretold by the prophets; and the Revelator points also to the terrible results that would *accrue especially to France from the domination of ‘the man of sin.’*”- *Ibid*, “The Bible and the French Revolution” chapter, pp. 265, 266.

Nicole Winfield and Frank Bajak, Associated Press, July 9, 2015/8:00 PM EDT source of the following, datelined Santa Cruz, Bolivia): See <http://www.usnews.com/world/articles/2015/07/09/pope-to-meet-with-workers--grass-roots-in-bolivia> :

July 9, 2015 the Associated Press reported that Pope Francis publicly asked forgiveness for the “sins and offenses” committed against the indigenous and native peoples of Latin America by the Roman Catholic Church during its five hundred years presence “during the colonial-era conquest of the Americas.”

This surprising public admission and request for forgiveness took place in Bolivia during the world summit of popular grass-roots movements fighting injustice and social inequality, whose current president, Evo Morales, is the first-ever indigenous president of Bolivia, currently the poorest country in Latin America.

Pope Francis acknowledged during this summit that “grave sins” were “committed against the native peoples of America in the name of God,” the AP news said. Previous to that the late Pope John Paul II, during a visit to the Dominican Republic in 1992, apologized for “the pain and suffering caused during the five hundred years of the Roman Catholic Church’s presence on the continent.”

Francis’s apology was observed to be significant given the current controversy in the U.S. particularly California, over the Vatican’s plan to canonize as saint Juniper Serra, the Roman Catholic priest who set up missions all over California in the 18th century. Native Americans “contend that Serra brutally converted indigenous peoples to Christianity,” Roman Catholicism, that is, “wiping out villages” in the process. They oppose his canonization, the AP report said.

Moreover, Amanda Quispe, Campesino leader, Anta, Peru, who attended the summit, said to AP that “the church still holds lands it should give back to Andean natives.” “The Church stole our land and tore down our temples in Cuzco and then it built its own churches---and now it charges admission to visit them.”

The AP report said:

“Francis’s apology was not the first. After his 1992 apology, John Paul II issued *a sweeping but vague apology of the Catholic Church’s sins of the past* during the Church’s 2000 Jubilee. A year later, he apologized *specifically for missionary abuses against aborigines in Oceania. He did so in the first ever papal email.*

“In 2000, during the Vatican’s Holy Year, the Catholic Church apologized to Brazil’s Indian and blacks during a ceremony in Brazil for the ‘*sins and errors*’ committed by its clergy and faithful over the past 500 years. A Vatican cardinal representing John Paul participated in the ceremony, which saw the head of Brazil’s bishops conference ask God for forgiveness for the sins committed against brothers, especially the Indians.”

Where or what is Oceania (or Oceanica)? Wikipedia says it is “a region centered in the islands of the tropical Pacific Ocean. Opinions on what constitutes Oceania range from its 3 subregions of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia, to more broadly, the entire insular region between Asia and the Americas, including Australasia and the Malay Archipelago. The term is often used more specifically to denote a continent comprising Australasia and proximate islands or biogeographically as synonym for either the Australasian ecozone (Wallacea and Australasia) or the Pacific ecozone (Melanesia, Polynesia, Micronesia) apart either from New Zealand or from mainland New Guinea.”

Francis went even farther, AP reports. He asked forgiveness ‘not only for the offenses of the Church herself, but also for the *crimes committed against the native peoples during the so-called conquest of America, to the applause from the crowd.*”

The AP report says that Francis, “deviating from his prepared script, added, ‘I also want us to remember *the thousands and thousands of priests who strongly opposed the logic of the sword with the power of the cross.*”

Now, this is strangely new indeed given the history, philosophy, and theology of the Roman Catholic Church which has been described elsewhere here as being run as “a benevolent dictatorship at the Vatican.” Now, if this is true, who, at least were the prominent, or should-rightfully-be-made prominent representatives of these “thousands and thousands of priests”? What became of them for their opposition to the logic of the sword with the power of the cross? What rationale and/or conviction made them oppose the unbiblical idea, in fact, Antichristian “the logic of the sword”-- language so foreign to the Bible and the gospel according to Jesus Christ’s teachings and His life example. All His true apostles and disciples, down through the ages, suffered, as He truthfully revealed to them before His death the rigors of carrying out the gospel commission, “the sword” of ridicule, rejection, hatred, reproach, calumny, persecution, and death for faithfully following His example and teachings and preserving the Bible with their lives . They were the persecuted, not the persecutors. It is indeed antichristian in its purest and simplest sense to enforce conversion by resorting to compromise, coercion, and persecution. Such never was Christ’s method. Only the constraining love for God and the unobstructed work of the Holy Spirit in the heart produces

genuine Bible conversion. As Paul said, “For the love of Christ constraineth us.” 2 Corinthians 5: 14, K.J.V.

In fact, the greatest of all miracles is the transformation of the sinful, carnal, corrupt heart. When this, the greatest of all miracle happens, all other miracles follows in its train. It was when, as prophesied, during the third and fourth stages of the church since its founding after the outpouring of Pentecost (as illustrated in the characteristics of the seven churches of Revelation 2 and 3) that the early church lost the power of the Holy Spirit. It was, as prophesied by Apostle Paul, the falling away that began as early in his time through compromise and then the open adoption of accumulated Babylonian-Medo-Persian, Greek, and Roman heathen religious practices and mysticisms, highlighted by the nominal conversion of Constantine that the Church resorted to the civil powers and their military might to enforce their man-made decrees and sustain their institutions. This was the prophesied great apostasy of the union of church and state powers with the former controlling the latter.

Why the Controversy over the canonization of Juniper Serra?

Wikipedia says: “Juniper Serra Ferrer, O.F.M. (Nov. 24, 1713-Aug. 28, 1784) was a Spanish Franciscan friar who founded a mission in Baja, California, and the first 9 of his 21 Spanish missions in California from San Diego to San Francisco, which at the time were in Alta California in the province of Las Californias in New Spain. He began in San Diego on July 16, 1769, and established his headquarters near the Presidio of Monterey, but soon moved a few miles south to establish Mission San Carlos Borromeo del Carmelo in today’s Carmel, California.

“The missions were primarily designed to bring the Catholic Christian faith to the native peoples. Other aims were to integrate the neophytes into Spanish society, and to train them to take ownership and management of the land.

“As head of the [Franciscan] order in California, Serra not only dealt with Church officials, but also with Spanish officials in Mexico City and the local military officers who commanded the nearby Presidio (garrison).

“Serra was beatified by Pope John Paul II on September 25, 1983, and Pope Francis expects to canonize him in September 2015 during his [first] visit to the U.S. This has been controversial with some of Native American extraction who criticize Serra’s treatment of their ancestors and associate him with the suppression of their culture.”

See also Huff Post Religion, July 14, 2015, article title: “Junipero Serra: Saint or Sinner? Native American Groups Protest Planned Canonization of Missionary.” Serra “is revered within the Catholic Church, and Pope Francis announced recently that he will canonize SerraThat pronouncement has opened old wounds for many native Americans in California and beyond. . . .

“Since Francis’s announcement, Indian groups have staged weekly protests, posted YouTube videos, and started an online petition demanding the pope rethink his decision.

“At rallies outside Our Lady of the Los Angeles Cathedral in downtown Los Angeles, about a dozen [only!] protesters wore black T-shirts and beat drums

while chanting ‘Serra was no saint! Serra was the devil.’ And holding signs that compared the missionary’s actions to genocide.

“I’m outraged,” said Olin Tezcatliposa, director of the Mexica Movement, and organization that educates the public about indigenous rights. “This is sad because supposedly this pope is more enlightened and more progressive. This came as really shocking.” See www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/05/06/vatican-junipero-serra-sainthood_n_7223572.html?utm_hp_ref=world&ir=WordlPost. Also by Nicole Winfield.

The Vatican Fast-Tracked Junipero Serra’s Claim to Sainthood

“The unusual process that Serra’s sainthood case has taken indicates that Francis *personally willed the canonization and that the normal vetting process* by the Congregation of the Causes of Saints, which ended with the Vatican announcement Wednesday, was something of a formality.”- *Ibid*.

Q. What is the Roman Catholic Church’s normal vetting process for sainthood?

Here’s an interesting insight into this process that is undergoing historic changes all at the same time particularly under the papacy of Francis. The Washington Post, April 25, 2014 article by Anthony Faiola, titled, **As Two More Popes are Canonized, A Question Emerges: How Miraculous Should Saints Be?** Under the photos of John Paul II and John VXXII are the captions: “For the first time in its history, the Catholic Church is declaring two popes as saints, at the same time. Here’s what it takes to make it to sainthood (Jason Aldag and Gilliam Brockell/The Washinton Post). Faiola wrote:

“Vatican City---Catholic saints are said to be the stuff of miracles, celestial servants who bend God’s ears to aid the desperately ill. But Pope Francis may be sending a new message to the globe’s roughly 1 billion Catholics [the numbers vary]

“In the 21st century, maybe saints can be a little less miraculous [!].

“On Sunday, hordes of pilgrims will mass in St. Peter’s square in front of big screens erected across Rome for the canonizations of John Paul II and John XXII. The crowds along with a global audience, will watch as two popes are jointly proclaimed saints for the *first time in the 2,000-year history of the church*.

“But is the bar being lowered for sainthood?

“The path to sainthood for John Paul II was the *fastest in modern history, raising eyebrows among traditionalists for packing a painstaking process that can sometimes take centuries into 9 incredible short years*.

“In the case of John XXIII, Francis took what sticklers decry, as an even more radical move. *He took the unusual step of dispensing with the Vatican’s modern requirement for two vetted and verified miracles to become a saint, elevating him based on a simple case of a nun allegedly cured of gastrointestinal hemorrhaging after appeals to the man [not Jesus] known across Italy as ‘the Good Pope.’ [What about the other popes that preceded him have will yet come and after him? Could they also be called “good” in the same sense?]*

“Such moves by popes are not unprecedented, and John Paul II was particularly known as *saint-making machine willing to bend rules*. But in only 13 months [when this article was written], Francis has already exercised his right to ‘*equipollent canonization*’—a papal prerogative to fast-track saints by requiring *fewer proven miracles*---more times than any other pontiff since Leo XIII, who served from 1878-1903 [25 years]. In three cases, Francis elevated saints *without a single confirmed miracle under their virtuous belts* [?]

“Francis has yet to spell out his rationale, and in *the benevolent dictatorship that is the Vatican City, it is not the nature of the clerics to demand explanations from a reigning pope* [now we know better how things are run in within the walls of the Vatican].

“But for better or for worse, Francis’s tendency to *bypass the normal channels for certifying miracles is generating friction inside the ancient Vatican walls even as it reignites and age-old debate over the nature of Catholic saints*.

“Some hope that the reforming new pope is moving to *modernize* the image of saints. The time has come, they say, to shift the emphasis from the *mystical nature of saints* towards their status as role models. Still, others are pressing for *a new definition of miracles in the Internet age*, embracing not just vanished tumors and healed aneurysms but also drug addicts who quit oand divorced couples reuniting after praying to prospective saints. [How long do they remain united after the “miracle”?].

“One camp in the church is all in favor of *lowering the bar*. Such as move could open the door to *more and faster-made saints [like cars, etc?]*, who tend to serve as *public relations dynamos* for the faith [Roman Catholic, that is] in their countries of origin---a fact seen as a huge bonus as the *Vatican casts its eye on fast growth in Africa and Asia*. It could also pave the way to the quicker elevation of *potential blockbuster saints* such as Mother Teresa, whose first miracle, recognized by the Vatican in 2002, *has been challenged by doctors and who is still waiting for the confirmation of a second*.

“‘The proclamation of saints help strengthen the faith of the people,’ said Rev. Slawomeir Oder, the Polish monsignor who presented John Paul II’s case for sainthood to Vatican judges.

“Yet just as in other areas where the new pope is *upending conventions*, Francis’s actions are touching a raw nerve with traditionalists.” (end of news quote)

The Persecution of the Waldenses. - Last month, June 12, 2015, Jeremiah Jacques of Trumpet.com reported June 14, 2015 that: (also for the first time in the history of the Roman Catholic Church that a pope admits to, and publicly asked forgiveness for persecuting the Waldenses—who are, woefully up to this moment, are still being erroneously identified as founded by Peter Waldo).

“Pope Francis visited Turin, Italy, on Monday where he asked forgiveness for the Catholic Church’s persecution of the Waldensians during the Middle Ages, [more accurately, the Dark Ages]. ‘On the part of the Catholic Church, I ask your forgiveness, I ask it for the non-Christian and even inhuman attitudes and behavior that we have shown you,’ Pope Francis said.

“He added: ‘In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us!’

“The Waldensian Church was founded in the 12th century by Peter Waldo, a wealthy merchant from Lyon, France. The Waldenses realized that they were the true successors of the apostolic church [founded by Christ Himself through His first Twelve apostles, Himself being its Rock and Foundation.] *They obeyed the laws of both the Old and New Testaments, including the Weekly Saturday Sabbath observance and the Bible-ordained holy days.*

“Catholic Church officials condemned these practices because they contradicted the Vatican’s doctrines.

“In 1184, Pope Lucius labeled the Waldensians as heretics. Within a few years, the persecution intensified, with a command issued that all Waldenses in certain areas be burned at the stake. Around that time, many Waldensians fled to the area near Turin.

“In 1208 Pope Innocent III declared the Albigensian Crusade—an attack not only against the Waldensians, but also against the civil rulers who protected them. Many Waldensians were killed and displaced by the Crusade.

“At present, there are some 45,000 people around the world who claim to be ‘Waldensian’—mostly in Italy, Argentina and Uruguay. But it is worth noting that these modern groups do not adhere to the doctrines that differentiated the Waldenses of the Middle Ages from Catholics, The teachings of modern ‘Waldensians’ are in line with those of mainstream Protestants.

“Pope Francis’s plea for forgiveness marks a rare acknowledgement by the Vatican of one of the Catholic Church’s dark chapters.

“To understand the astonishing historic significance of the Waldenses, and to learn why the Catholic Church were unable to stamp them out, read *The True History of God’s True Church*.” See on <https://thetrumpet.com/article/128.34.19.0.0/religion/roman-catholicism/pope-asks-forgiveness-for-catholic-persecution-of-waldensians>.

The same AP report said that “Church officials have long insisted *Catholic missionaries protected* indigenous peoples from the abuses of *military colonizers* and *were often punished by European colonial powers* as a result. *Francis’ own Jesuit order developed missions across the continent, educating the indigenous and turning their communities into organized Christian-Indian societies. The Jesuits were expelled in the 17th century.*”

To know the real truth and reason why the Jesuits were expelled from at least 59 countries, including Japan, China, India, Russia, New Granada, some of them repeatedly, between the years 1555-1880, including astoundingly, throughout all Christendom by a bull of Clement XIV, July 21, 1773, and in the Papal States of Sardinia, Vienna, and Austria, by Pius IX in 1848, see *Facts of Faith*, Revised, “The Jesuits” chapter, pp. 273-287, Christian Edwardson, Southern Publishing Association, Nashville, TN, U.S.A, 1943 copyright.

On “Lowering the Bar” for sainthood. Excerpts from this devotional by Ellen G. White is a gem, one that lifts up instead of lowering the true standard of truth in contradistinction to the “lowering the bar for sainthood,” that is, the Roman Catholic Church’s changing standards for defining and making saints.

Go through, go through the gates: prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people. Isaiah 62: 10.

“Perplexities will increase; but let us, as believers in God, encourage one another. Let us not lower the standard, but keep it lifted high, looking to Him who is the Author and Finisher of our faith.

We all need greater Christian courage, that we may uplift the standard on which is inscribed the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus [Rev. 14:12]. We are to make no compromise with the leaders of rebellion [against our Father in heaven and His law] We must have a firm determination to do the Lord’s will at all times and in all places.

Let the truth for this time be cordially received and become the basis of character, and it will produce steadfastness of purpose, which the allurements of pleasure, the fickleness of custom, the contempt of the world-loving and the heart’s own clamors of self-indulgence are powerless to influence We have marked illustrations of the sustaining power of firm, religious principles. Even the fear of death could not make the fainting David drink of the water of Bethlehem, to obtain which, valiant men had risked their lives [see 2 Sam. 23: 13-17]. The gaping lions’ den could not keep Daniel from his daily prayers [Daniel chapter 6], nor could the fiery furnace induce Shadrach and his companions to fall down before the idol which Nebuchadnezzar set up. [Daniel chapter 2]. Young men [and women] who have firm principles will eschew pleasure, defy pain, and brave even the lions’ den and the heated fiery furnace that than be found untrue to God.

Let it be written upon the conscience as with a pen of iron upon the rock, that real success, whether for this life or for the life to come, can be secured only by faithful adherence to the eternal principles of right.”- Ellen G. White, *Sons & Daughters Devotional*, p. 215, Review & Herald Publishing Association, Washington, D.C. Hagerstown, MD.

Has the Papacy really Changed?

See Volume 4 Spirit of Prophecy, 1884 original edition of the *Great Controversy* by Ellen G. White, chapter XXX “Character and Aims of the Papacy” and chapter III “The Roman Church,” Review & Herald Publishing Association,

“Romanism is now regarded by Protestants with far greater favor than in former years. There is an increasing indifference concerning the doctrines that separate the reformed churches from the papal hierarchy; the opinion is gaining ground that, after all, we do not differ so widely upon vital points as has been supposed, and that a little concession on our part will bring us into better understanding with Rome. The time was when Protestants placed a high value upon the liberty of conscience which has been so dearly purchased. They taught their children to abhor popery, and held that to remain at peace with Rome would be disloyalty to God. But how widely different are the sentiments now expressed.

“The defenders of popery [papal apologists] declare that she has been maligned; and the Protestant world is inclined to accept the statement. Many urge that it is unjust to judge the Romish Church of to-day by the abominations and absurdities that marked her reign during the centuries of ignorance and darkness. They excuse here horrible cruelty as the result of the barbarism of the times, and plead that civilization has changed her sentiments.

“Have these persons forgotten *the claim of infallibility* for eight hundred years put forth by this haughty power? So far from relinquishing this claim, the church in the nineteenth century has affirmed it with greater positiveness than ever before. As Rome asserts that she has never erred, and never can err, how can she renounce the principles which governed her course in past ages?

“The papal church will never relinquish her claim to infallibility. All that she has done in her persecution of those who reject her dogmas, she holds to be right; and would she not repeat the same acts, should the opportunity be presented? Let the restraints now imposed by secular governments be removed, and Rome be re-instated in her former power, and there would speedily be a revival of her tyranny and persecution.

“It is true that there are real Christians in the Roman Catholic communion. Thousands in that church are serving God according to the best light they have. They are not allowed access to His word, and therefore they do not discern the truth. They have never seen the contrast between a living heart-service and a round of mere forms and ceremonies [as in “petrified ceremonialism”]. But God looks with pitying tenderness upon these souls, educated as they are in a faith that is delusive and unsatisfying. He will cause rays of light to penetrate the dense darkness that surrounds them. He will reveal to them the truth as it is in Jesus, and they will yet take their position with His people.

“But Romanism as a system is no more in harmony with the gospel of Christ now than at any former period of her history. The Protestant churches are in great darkness, or they would discern the signs of the times. The roman Church is far-reaching in her plans and modes of operation. She is employing every device to extend her influence and increase her power in preparation for a fierce and determined conflict to regain control of the world, to re-establish persecution, and to undo all that Protestantism has done. Catholicism is gaining ground in our country [America] upon every side. Look at the number of her churches and chapels. Look at her colleges [universities] and seminaries, so widely patronized by Protestants. These things should awaken the anxiety of all who prize the pure principles of the gospel.

The most dangerous foe to America’s civil and religious liberties. -

“The people of our land should be aroused to resist the advances of this most dangerous foe to civil and religious liberty.” – E. G. White, Vol. 4 Spirit of Prophecy, pp. 380-382.

(Continued next month)

Pope Francis: I'm Sorry

“Pope Francis apologized Thursday for the sins and ‘offenses’ committed by the Catholic Church against indigenous peoples during the colonial-era conquest of the Americas.

“History’s first Latin pope ‘humbly’ begged forgiveness during an encounter in Bolivia with indigenous groups and other activists and in the presence of Bolivia’s first-ever indigenous president, Evo Morales.

“Francis noted that Latin American [Catholic] Church leaders in the past had acknowledged that ‘*grave sins* were committed against the native peoples of America *in the name of God.*’ *St. John Paul II*, for his part, apologized to the continent’s indigenous for the ‘pain and suffering’ caused during the *500 years of the church’s presence on the continent* during a 1992 visit to the Dominican Republic.

“But Francis went farther
, and said he was doing so with ‘regret.’

“‘I humbly ask for forgiveness, not only for the offenses of the church herself, but also for crimes committed against the native peoples during the so-called conquest of America,’ he said to *applause* from the crowd.

“Then deviating from his prepared script, he added: ‘I also want us to remember the *thousands and thousands of priests who strongly opposed the logic of the sword with the power of the cross.* There was sin, and it was plentiful But we never apologized, so I now ask forgiveness. But where there was sin, and there was plenty of sin, there was also an abundant grace increased by the men who defended indigenous peoples.’ [What does this exactly mean?]

‘Francis apology was met with *wild applause* from the indigenous and other grass-roots groups gathered for *a world summit of popular movements whose fight against injustice and social inequality has been championed by the pope.*

“‘We accept the apologies that are more than we could have hoped for from a man like Pope Francis,’ said one indigenous leader, Adolfo Chavez.

“The apology was significant given the controversy that has erupted in the *United States* over Francis’s planned canonization of the 18th century Spanish priest Junipero Serra, who set up missions across California. Native Americans contend Serra *brutally converted* indigenous people to Christianity [Roman Catholicism, that is], *wiping out villages* in the process, and have opposed his canonization.

“Francis’ apology was also significant that given the controversy blew up the last time a pope visited the continent. Benedict XVI drew heated criticism when, during a 2007 visit to Brazil, he *defended* the church’s campaign centuries ago to Christianize indigenous peoples. He said the Indians of Latin America had been ‘silently longing’ to become Christians when *Spanish and Portuguese conquerors violently took over their lands.*

“In effect, the proclamation of Jesus and of his gospel did not at any point involve an alienation of the pre-Columbus cultures, nor was it an imposition of a foreign culture,’ Benedict told the continent’s bishops.

“Amid an outcry from indigenous groups, Benedict subsequently acknowledged that “*shadows accompanied the work of evangelizing*’ .

“Mexican bishop Raul Vera, who attended the summit where Francis made the apology, said the *church was essentially a passive participant* in allowing natives to become enslaved under the Spanish ‘encomienda’ system, by which the Spanish king granted land in conquered territories to those who settled there. Indians were allowed to live on the haciendas as long as they worked them.

“It’s evident that the church did not defend against it with all its efforts. It allowed it to be imposed,’ Vera told the Associated Press earlier Thursday.” ----

“He noted that John Paul had previously asked forgiveness of the world’s indigenous. But he said Francis’ apology was particularly poignant given the setting.

“Campesino leader Amandina Quispe, of Anta, Peru, who attended the grass-roots summit, said *the church still holds lands it should give back to Andean natives. The former seat of the Inca empire, conquered by Spaniards in the 16th century, is an example.*

“The Church stole our land and tore down our temples in Cuzco and then it built its own churches---and now it charges admission to visit them,’ she said.

“Francis’ apology was not the first. After his 1992 apology, John Paul II issued *a sweeping but vague apology* for the Catholic Church’s sins of the past during the church’s 2000 Jubilee. A year later, he apologized specifically for *missionary abuses against aborigines in Oceania*. He did so in the very first papal email.

“In 2000, during the Vatican’s Holy Year, the Catholic Church apologized to Brazil’s Indians and blacks during a ceremony in Brazil for the ‘sins and errors’ committed by its clergy and faithful over the past 500 years. A Vatican cardinal representing John Paul participated in the ceremony, which saw the head of Brazil’s bishops conference ask God for forgiveness for the sins committed against brothers, especially the Indians.

“Earlier Thursday, Francis denounced the ‘throwaway’ culture of today’s society that discards anyone who is unproductive as he celebrated his first public mass in *Bolivia, South America’s poorest country*.

“It is a mentality in which everything has a price, everything can be bought, everything is negotiable,’ he said. . . .” Associated Press writers Paola Flores, Jacobo Garcia and Carlos Valdez contributed to this report. Nicole Winfield on Twitter: at www.twitter.com/nwinfield. Copyright 2015 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, rewritten or redistributed.

NOTES:

1. **Oceania.** According to Wikipedia, “Oceania (Or Oceanica) is a region centered in the islands of the tropical Pacific Ocean. Opinions on what constitutes Oceania range from its 3 subregions of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia, to, more broadly, the entire insular region between Asia and the Americas, including Australasia and the Malay Archipelago. The term is often used more specifically to denote a continent comprising Australasia and proximate islands or biogeographically as a synonym for

either the Australasian ecozone (Wallacea and Australasia) or the Pacific ecozone (Melanesia, Polynesia, and Micronesia apart either from New Zealand or from mainland New Guinea.”

2. “Throwaway culture.” Pope Francis’ denunciation of the “throwaway mentality” in which “everything has a price, everything can be bought, everything is negotiable” is right on target. And yet this is the sum and substance of how nations function, characterizing human society from the church and religious to every form of human endeavor and secular governments. In fact politics is defined as “the art of compromise.” And politics is practiced in every level of society in every nation of the world. Only a few refuse to be corrupted by this universal sin.

Thus making such sweeping and vague statements seeking forgiveness is so self-evidently superficial it is less than being honest. Much more can be rightly expected by all in the name of pure, simple unvarnished truth from the church that claims to be the Mother of all Christian churches. Following the principle Jesus himself enunciated that “unto whom much is given much is required,” the Christian world have the right and responsibility to hold up the Roman Catholic (universal) Church to a higher Bible-based standard of morals not only by their faithful followers but by all whom they seek to further “evangelize” now in the light of all these developments. But infinitely more than that, God Himself, the Judge of all the universe, will hold them accountable, and all accountable by one standard of righteousness—His immutable law of Ten Commandments which He wrote with His own finger.

To be thorough and complete, as their own confessional required of confesseees to their priest-confessors for centuries, while the papacy held sway over the civil and religious powers of Europe and the Old World, including, as this official news report reveals, the poor, indigenous peoples of Latin America and as far as even Oceania for over 500 years! The period of papal supremacy of over a thousand years (538-1898 C.E.), is jointly referred to by Protestant writers as the Dark Ages which the time prophecies of Daniel and Revelation point to as either the 1260 day-years, the 42 months, “time, times and dividing of times,” “time, times and half a time.” Daniel____; Rev. _____. The confession must be complete so that the forgiveness can be complete, too, which includes revealing what they are, secret sins included. The priest-confessor prescribed requirements ranging from various kinds of penances and self-infliction, pilgrimages, depending on the gravity of the transgression, payment of monies, joining crusades against the church’s perceived enemies, especially those who steadfastly refused to compromise and yield their consciences and convictions, which were based on a “Thus saith the Lord” from the Bible, the Holy Scriptures. These conscientious objectors simply could not, in their tender conscience, accept the unbiblical teachings and Christianized heathen practices, traditions, and man-made laws, and Roman decretals declared by the popes and the church councils.

of monies as before he could dispense forgiveness of sins, from those who, they and in the very spirit of seeking for forgiveness from the indigenous peoples and the public itself that public as this new developments of the Church’s attitudes, career, and activities in the past seem to address, to complete this seeking for beginning with Pope John Paul II to Benedict to himself for forgiveness for the Catholic Church for its “grave sins,” “offenses,” “errors,” and even “crimes” committed towards the indigenous peoples of Latin America for 500 years” in its work of

3. Canonization of Junipero Serra who used brutality to convert American Indians to Catholicism.

RCC sold forgiveness of sins for a price in the doctrine of Indulgence]. 'This way of thinking has room only for a select few, while it discards all those who are unproductive.' [The RC sold forgiveness of sins, past, present, and future for a price in their doctrine of Indulgences which Martin Luther exposed and denounced in his 95 Theses he nailed on the door of the Wittenburg Church, Germany, in____. St. Peter's Basilica was built from funds obtained through this manner].