
Study for the Month of October 2015
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The ‘Man of Sin’ of Bible Prophecy and his activities and career - Part VII

“Here’s what Pope Francis told U.S. Congress to do. He had strong words for the nation’s lawmakers.”

There are those who have been continually familiarizing themselves with the true end-time prophecies of Daniel and Revelation that have been magnified and made even easier to understand in today’s language through the inspired writings of Ellen G. White.

NOTE: The latter was unnecessary if only we retained the faith of the early disciples and those following after them who preserved the flame of Christ’s truth with their deeds and lives through the ages of spiritual darkness in the generations following. Indeed, as one of them said, “The blood of martyrs was the seed of the gospel.” They “hungered for righteousness” and thus “were filled.” They sought not the riches and honors of the world but “the beauty of holiness,” and their characters, life works, and influences that lived on long after they had died, as the afterglow of a sun that has long set, bore eloquent testimony to it. They treasured the Holy Scriptures above silver and gold, as did the immensely wealthy yet morally upright patriarch Job, who declared, “I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food” (Job 23; 12) and, “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.” (13:15). But the Protestant Reformation in Europe and the Revival in England—the Christian world-at-large—which brought the persecutions of the Church of Rome and the Dark Ages of over a thousand years to an end about 25 years before 1798 when its deadly wound was dealt by Napoleon, did not last as well, as prophesied. They, too, fell away, deluded, entranced, deceived, and entrapped once more with Satan’s cunning devices, re-introducing the religious forms of the Church they came out from, a religion of compromise, ceremonialism, tradition, Christianized superstition, forms of godliness without the power, religious exercises that dazzle the eye and pleases the senses but blunts and then sears the consciences, even after religious liberty and freedom to worship God according to dictates of conscience, which was purchased so dearly with the blood of martyrs, and the Bible finally became fully unshackled in the year 1798, “the time of the end.”

But those who love God and His Word will recognize with an unbiased eye in these news headlines and its stories we are discussing in these series (“The Man of Sin of Bible Prophecy and His Activities and Career”) as fulfilling specific prophecies of Revelation that point to the most improbable and incompatible relationship ever—that is, if both entities are *truly* Christian as each professes to be, in the Bible sense, by upholding God’s Word and His immutable law as the ultimate authority—not long-held traditions

or the constantly-changing norms and standards of politics. If this were true, each would immediately reject any approach or efforts to tear down the divinely-erected wall that separates the church from the state, the religious from the civil, religion from politics, churchcraft from statecraft. But prophecy foretells that the latter will happen, and this is exactly what has been happening, again, gradually but surely developing until it is finally consummated, although briefly, according to the prophecy of Revelation 13 and 17, between the “leopard-like beast” introduced at the beginning of Revelation 13 and the “beast with lamb-like horns” that follows it. Revelation 13: 1-18

It is this unholy alliance that results in transforming the initially gentle beast with lamblike horns to transform into one “speaking like a dragon.” What an amazing and disheartening change, more gripping and dumbfounding, when considered in the light of the higher, broader realm of eternal consequences than the greatest fiction story-line ever to be imagined and written.

How does a nation speak? A democratic government, by representation, speaks through its Legislative branch of government. It enacts the laws of the land. And because it is still “the government of the people, by the people, and for the people,” then, as a nation to a person, the people itself will “speak as a dragon.”

Claire Zilman @clairezilman, Sept. 24, 2015 reported on Fortune.com (see on http://fortune.com/2015/09/24/pope-congress-address/?x1d=yahoo_fortune), wrote the news story whose headline is the title of this month’ study: She wrote:

“Pope Francis on Thursday *became the first pontiff to ever address a joint session of Congress during his inaugural trip [to] the United States*. Francis spoke in the Capitol before members of Congress and the Supreme Court. *The pope’s main message was for lawmakers to ‘enable this country, by your legislative activity, to grow as a nation.’* He then got a bit more specific, laying out *directives* for the members of Congress that—in his estimation---could help achieve *this lofty goal*.

Here are the Five Point-Directives of the Pope to America’s Lawmakers

“ Show compassion for immigrants

‘We, the people of this continent, are not fearful of foreigners, because most of us were once foreigners...[W]hen the stranger in our midst appeal to us, *we must not repeat the sins and the errors of the past*. We must resolve now to live as nobly and as justly as possible, as we educate new generations not to turn back on our ‘neighbors’ and everything around us. *Building a nation* calls us to recognize that we must constantly relate to others, rejecting a mindset of hostility in order to adopt one of reciprocal subsidiarity [?], in a constant effort to do our best. I am confident that *we can do this*.’

NOTE: I couldn't find the word "subsidiarity" in the Dictionary. But the word "subsidiary," as a noun, means "an auxiliary; an organization maintained by another, as the subsidiaries of a large corporation. As an adjective, means, assisting; under a higher authority."]. Very meaningful indeed in the light of prophecy!

"Abolish the death penalty and show mercy to criminals"

"From the beginning of my ministry [I have advocated] at different levels for the global abolition of death penalty. I am convinced that this way is the best, *since every life is sacred, every human person is endowed with an inalienable dignity*, and society can only benefit from the *rehabilitation* of those convicted of crimes. [How? And what about those whom the Bible calls the "commandment-keeping saints" whom the Church of Rome condemned as "heretics" thus, "have no souls," for refusing to obey her decretals which were not only unbiblical but outright heathen and pagan practices and superstitions, during the Dark Ages? They were subjected to the worst forms of persecution and torture ever known to men with the Church using the powers of the state to enforce decrees and sustain her institutions]. Recently my brother bishops here in the United States renewed their call for the abolition of the death penalty. Not only do I support them, but I also offer encouragement to all those who are convinced that a just and necessary punishment must never exclude the dimension of hope and goal of rehabilitation.' [NOTE: Based on her history and records, the Roman Church's standard method of the so-called 'dimension of hope and goal of *rehabilitation*' was the use of deadly force on anyone who refused to accept her doctrines and obey the popes' encyclicals].

"Care for the poor"

'I would encourage you to keep in mind all those around us who are trapped in a cycle of poverty [NOTE: this was the unwritten policy of the Church of Rome for over a thousand years—keep the people in ignorance and poverty—by confiscating the lands and properties of both royalty and the people when they resisted her teachings as gross errors.] They too need to be given hope. The fight against poverty and hunger must be fought constantly and on many fronts, especially in its causes. [especially in "the front" of the unaccounted wealth of the Roman Church!]. I know that many Americans today, as in the past, are working to deal with this problem.'

"Protect the climate"

"The right use of natural resources, the proper application of technology and the harnessing of the spirit of enterprise are essential elements of an economy which seeks to be modern, inclusive and sustainable. Business is a noble vocation, directed to producing wealth and improving the world. It can be a fruitful source of prosperity in the area in which it operates, especially if it sees the creation of jobs as an essential part of its service for the common good. This common good also includes the earth, a central theme of my encyclical which I recently wrote in order to enter into dialogue with all

people about our common home. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, *and its human roots*, concern and affect us all. In the [encyclical], I call for a courageous and responsible effort to ‘redirect our steps,’ and to avert the most serious effects of the environmental deterioration cause by human activity. I am convinced that we can make a difference and I have no doubt that the United States---and *this Congress*—have an important role to play.’

“Encourage the young

‘In particular, I would like to call the attention of those family members who are the most vulnerable, the young. For many of them, a future filled with countless possibilities beckons, yet so many others seemed *disoriented and aimless, trapped in a hopeless maze of violence, abuse and despair*. Their problems are our problems. We cannot avoid them. We need to face them together, to talk about them and to seek effective solutions rather than getting bogged down in discussions. At the risk of oversimplifying, we might say that *we live in a culture which pressures the young not to start a family*, because they lack possibilities for the future. Yet this same culture presents others with so many options that they too are dissuaded from starting a family.’

NOTES:

(1). Consider the history of the Old World when the Roman Church was in control. Daniel, in the Old Testament was shown in prophetic vision the “winds of strife” that characterized its despotic rule. John, in the New Testament, describes the same thing, adding the dimension of extreme violence and bloodthirstiness of “Mystery, Babylon the Mother of Harlots and the Abominations of the Earth.” See Revelation 17.

(2). **On family, marriage, and today’s culture.** - To be more accurate, Biblically speaking particularly in prophecy, we are not merely living in “a culture which pressures the young not to start a family . . .” but we are living in the final generation with a “culture” that Jesus said would be “as it was in the days of Noah. “But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, *marrying and giving in marriage*, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of man be.” Matt. 24: 37-39, N.K.J.V. PP 101: “The sins that called for vengeance upon the antediluvian world, *exists today*. The fear of God is banished from the hearts of men, and His law is treated with indifference and contempt. *The intense worldiness of that generation is equaled by that of the generation now living*. Said Christ [Matt 24: 38, 39 quoted]; He had given them the fruits of the earth in great abundance to supply their physical wants. Their sin consisted in taking these gifts without gratitude to the Giver, and debasing themselves by indulging appetite without restraint. *It was lawful for them to marry. Marriage was in God’s order; it was one of the first institutions which He established. He gave special directions concerning this ordinance, clothing it with sanctity and beauty; but these directions were forgotten and marriage was perverted, and made to minister to passion. A similar condition of things exists now*. That which is lawful in itself is carried to excess. Appetite is indulged without

restraint. Professed followers of Christ are today eating and drinking with the drunken, while their names stand in honored church records. Intemperance benumbs the moral and spiritual power, and prepares the way for the indulgence of the lower passions. Multitudes feel under no moral obligation to curb their sensual desires, and they become the slaves of lust. Men are living for the pleasures of sense; for this world and this life alone. Extravagance pervades all circles of society. Integrity is sacrificed for luxury and display. They that make haste to be rich pervert justice and oppress the poor; and ‘slaves and souls of men’ are still bought and sold. Fraud and bribery and theft stalk unrebuked in high places and in low. The issues of the press teem with records of murder,—crimes so cold-blooded and causeless that it seems as though every instinct of humanity were blotted out. And these atrocities have become of so common an occurrence that they hardly elicit a comment or awaken surprise. *The spirit of anarchy is permeating all nations*, and the outbreaks that from time to time excite the horror of the world are but indications of the pent-up fires of passion and lawlessness that, having once escaped control [while the children were still young], will fill the earth with woe and desolation. The picture which inspiration has given of the antediluvian world, represents too truly the condition to which modern society is fast hastening. Even now, in the present century, and in professedly Christian lands, there are crimes daily perpetrated, as black and terrible as those for which the old-world [Noah’s time] sinners were destroyed [by the Flood].”- *E. G. White, Patriarchs & Prophets (1913)* , pp. 101, 102, Pacific Press Publishing Association, Mountain View CA.

“End the arms trade

‘Being at the service of dialogue and peace also means being truly determined to minimize and, in the long term, *to end the many armed conflicts throughout out world*. Here we have to ask ourselves: Why are deadly weapons being sold to those who plan to inflict untold suffering on individuals and society? Sadly, the answer, as we all know, is simply for money: money that is drenched in blood, often innocent blood. In the face of this shameful and culpable silence, it is our duty to confront the problem and to stop the arms trade.” (end of news quote)

OUR COMMENTS:

On protecting the climate. – The pope, alongside with legislators, and many “save the earth” and “green peace” activists (most are sincere and noble in their intentions and motives although some methods employed are confrontational and even deadly), atheistic scientists, professors, and teachers who deny that God “created the heavens and the earth” in six literal days and rested, blest, hallowed, and sanctified the seventh and last day of creation week, calling it the Sabbath day—the weekly memorial of creation, as well as the origin and nature of man and sin—are missing out in one glaring thing. As for the pope(s), who claim to not only the “vicar of Christ,” but taking the place “of God himself on earth,” Francis mysteriously leaves out Satan in his “directives” to the U.S. Congress and members of the Supreme Court, when he blames crisis of global warming (and its baleful consequences) to its “human roots.” If he were truly the “vicar of Christ,” or even “God himself on earth,” Francis should be the first to declare that (a)

it is Satan—the enemy of God and man, the usurper, deceiver, father of lies, murderer from the beginning, and destroyer of all that is good, both animate and inanimate, mankind in particular, is the mastermind behind all these increasingly devastating upheavals of nature and destruction of man and the earth fueled through greed, hatred, unrest, strife, and unending wars, which he started in heaven. Yes, he works through the same hosts of darkness—one-third of the original number of angels God created before man, as “ministering spirits” but were willingly deceived by Satan then joined him in open revolt and wage the mother of all wars on earth since then till the end of time—who are also working through wicked human agencies, *including the fallen, Babylon Church of Rome through their false doctrines*, in bringing about the state of disorder, confusion, war, and bloodshed on the earth.

Now, let us quote extensive excerpts from book *The Great Controversy*, pp. 589-90, by Ellen G. White, which unveils the real causer and causes of all the increasing global catastrophes that are plaguing both mankind and the earth itself, and answers many questions related to these topics to the eternal gratitude of the truth searchers who seek to know God and the “mystery of godliness” versus the “mystery of iniquity.” (all emphases and words in bracket provided):

“Through the two great errors, the *immortality of the soul* and *Sunday sacredness* [both doctrines central to the teachings of the Church of Rome] Satan will bring the people under his deceptions. While the former [immortality of the soul] lays the foundation of Spiritualism [communication with, and making saints of dead people, who, in their disembodied souls in heaven, are supposed to become mediators in heaven for repenting and praying sinners on earth, replacing the ascended Jesus Christ, the Savior and Mediator and Advocate of mankind], the latter [Sunday sacredness] creates a bond of sympathy with Rome. *The Protestants of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf* [that once separated them, beginning with the Waldenses and on through the Reformation of Germany and Revival in England that has died down] *to grasp the hand of Spiritualism; they will reach their hands over the abyss to clasp the hands with the Roman power; and under this influence of this three-fold union* [Spiritualism, apostate Protestant churches of America, and the Church of Rome], *this country [America] will follow the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.*

“As Spiritualism more closely imitates the nominal Christianity of the day, it has greater power to deceive and ensnare, Satan himself is converted, *after the modern order of things*. He will appear in the character of an angel of light [spiritually, and towards the end of “the time of trouble such as never was,” literally, called Satan’s “overmastering delusion”]. Through the agency of Spiritualism, *miracles* will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and many undeniable wonders will be performed.

NOTE: The Roman Church’s process of canonizing dead people into saints includes (1) a standard five-year waiting period and (2) two “proven miracles” occurring *after* their death. Now, the latest change of

the papal church whom prophecy describes: “And he shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and *think to change times and laws.*” (Dan 7: 25, K.J.V.), following “after the modern order of things,” has now “fast-tracked” sainthood so that their erstwhile standard requirements have already been “breached” and “waived” by this current pope, Francis. What a contrast to the eternal, immutable, unchanging requirements of the divine plan salvation/redemption as taught in the Bible and embodied by God “who changeth not,” and Jesus Christ, His “express image,” who is “the same yesterday, today, and forever!” Andrew Frey, of Bloomberg Business reported: “Pope Francis fast-tracked canonization of John Paul II and John XXIII. On April 27, Pope Francis, 77, declared the sainthood of John Paul, who died 9 years ago, and John XIII, who passed away in 1963, in the first double pope canonization since the Middle Ages The drive for John Paul, the Polish-born Karol Wojtyla, was kick-started immediately after his death by then newly-elected Pope Benedict XVI, *in breach of the standard 5-year waiting period.* For John XIII, whose campaign developed more slowly, it was Francis *who cut through the red tape by waiving the Vatican’s two-miracle requirement.*” See www.bloomberg.com/news/articled/2014-04-24/John-Paul-II-fast-track-saint-in-two-pope-canonization.

“And as the *spirits* [in the appearance of men?] will profess faith in the Bible, and manifest respect for the institutions of the church, their work will be accepted as a manifestation of divine power. The line of distinction between professed Christians and the ungodly is now *hardly distinguishable*. Church members love what the world loves, and are ready to join with them; and *Satan determines to unite them in one body*, and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping all into the ranks of Spiritualism. Papists, who boast of miracles as a certain sign of the true church, will be readily deceived by this wonder-working power; and Protestants, having cast away the shield of truth, will also be deluded. *Papists, Protestants, and worldlings* will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and *they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world, and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium.*

Satan’s real agenda in inciting nations to war against one another. - “Through Spiritualism, Satan appears as a benefactor of the race, healing the diseases of the people, and professing to present a new and more exalted system of religious faith; but at the same time he works as a destroyer. His temptations are leading multitudes to ruin. Intemperance dethrones reason; sensual indulgence, strife, and bloodshed follow. *Satan delights in war*; for it excites the worst passions of the soul, and then sweeps into eternity its victims steeped in vice and blood. *It is his object to incite the nations to war against one another; for he can thus divert the minds of the people from the work of preparation to stand in the day of God.*

Satan is mastermind of global climate deterioration and devastation. – “Satan works through the elements [fire, air, water, earth] also to garner his harvest of *unprepared* souls. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements *as far as God allows*. When he was suffered to afflict Job, how quickly flocks and herds, servants, houses, children, were swept away, one trouble succeeding another as in a moment. It is God that shields His creatures, and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer. *But the Christian world have shown contempt for the law of Jehovah*; and the Lord will do just what he has declared that He would,---*He will withdraw His blessings from the earth*, and remove His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law, and teaching and forcing others to do the same. *Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard.* He [Satan] will favor and prosper some, in order to further his own designs;

and he will bring trouble upon others, and *lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them*. [NOTE: Business contracts always stipulate exemption from liability due to “force majeure” or “acts of God”—never of Satan!]. While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, *he will bring disease and disaster*, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. *Even now he is at work*. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hail-storms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. *These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous*. Destruction will be upon both man and beast. ‘The earth mourneth and fadeth away,’ ‘the haughty people . . . do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant [the Decalogue, particularly the fourth commandment.]’ Isa. 24: 4, 5.

Question: Did the popes of the past, dead, but now-sainted by the current pope, Francis, ever warn their millions of votaries and adherents and the eager media, while they were still alive, that the real mastermind and cause of all the troubles in the world is Satan, and that the real reason that the earth is mourning and languishing under its inhabitants is because they *all* have, and continue to brazenly transgress God’s laws and broken His everlasting covenant---the Ten Commandments (Deut. 4: 13, etc.), particularly the fourth commandment—the only one of the ten that begins with “Remember . . . the Sabbath day to keep it holy” and that this Sabbath day is “the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God.” Exo. 20: 8-11? **No! Rather, the exact opposite happens! Note:**

“And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils. The class that have provoked the displeasure of Heaven will charge all their troubles upon those whose obedience to God’s commandments is a perpetual reproof to transgressors. It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday-sabbath; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced; and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favor and *temporal prosperity*. Thus the accusation urged of old against the servant of God will be repeated, and upon grounds equally well established: ‘And it came to pass, when Ahab [apostate king of Israel] saw Elijah [God’s faithful prophet], that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he [Elijah] answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou and thy father’s house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim [Phoenician sun-god, precursor of the end-time apostate worship of the *Sunday* idol-sabbath]. As the wrath of the people shall be excited by *false charges*, they will pursue a course toward God’s ambassadors *very similar* to that which *apostate Israel* pursued toward Elijah.

“The miracle-working power manifested though Spiritualism will exert its influence against those who choose to obey God rather than men. [Acts 5: 29]. Communications from the [evil]spirits [impersonating the dead] will declare that God has sent them to convince the rejecters of Sunday of their error, affirming that the *laws of the land should be obeyed as the law of God*. They will lament the great wickedness of the world [as hypocrites], and second the testimony of religious teachers, that the degraded state of morals is caused by the desecration of Sunday [instead of specifically transgressing the second, seventh, and tenth commandments!] Great will be the indignation excited against all who refuse to accept their testimony.

“Satan’s policy in this final conflict with God’s people is the same that he employed in the opening of the great controversy in heaven. He professed to be seeking to promote the stability of the divine government, while *secretly* bending every effort to secure its overthrow. And the very work which he was thus endeavoring to accomplish, *he charged upon the loyal angels*. The same policy of deception has marked the history of the Roman Church. It has professed to act as the vicegerent of Heaven, while seeking to exalt itself above God, and to change His law. Under the rule of Rome, those who suffered death for their fidelity to the gospel were denounced as evil-doers; they were declared to be in league with Satan; and every possible means was employed to cover them with reproach, to cause them to appear, *in the eyes of the people*, and even to themselves, as the vilest of criminals. *So it will be now*. While Satan seeks to destroy those who honor God’s law, he will cause them to be accused as lawbreakers, as men who are dishonoring God, and bringing judgments upon the world!

“God never forces the will or the conscience; but Satan’s constant resort---to gain control of those whom he cannot otherwise seduce—is compulsion by cruelty. Through fear or force he endeavors to rule the conscience, and to secure homage to himself. To accomplish this, *he works through both religious and secular authorities*, moving them to the enforcement of human laws in defiance of the law of God.

“Those who honor the Bible Sabbath will be denounced as enemies of law and order, as breaking down the moral restraints of society, causing anarchy and corruption, and calling down the judgments of God upon *the earth*. Their conscientious scruples will be pronounced obstinacy stubbornness, and contempt of authority. *They will be accused of disaffection toward the government*. Ministers who deny the obligation of the divine law will present from the [bully] pulpit the duty of yielding obedience to the civil authorities as ordained of God. **In legislative halls and courts of justice**, commandment-keepers will be misrepresented and condemned. A false coloring will be given to their words; the worst construction will be put upon their motives.” (end of excerpts from *The Great Controversy* by Ellen G. White, pp. 589-592)

NOTE: What does Revelation 13 and 17 prophesy? First, “the whole world would wonder after the beast” *after* its deadly wound inflicted upon one its heads would be healed. The wound was inflicted 217 years ago in 1798 when Gen. Berthier, commander of Napoleon’s Republican army took Pope Pius VI captive in the Vatican and hauled him off to France where he died the next year. The world, then, thought that the papacy was dead. But, behold its return to worldwide prominence and power since after 1929 when the Lateran Concordat was signed between the Italian Kingdom and the Vatican. Benito Mussolini, then Prime Minister and Fascist (one-party dictatorship, totalitarian state) head of government, and Pietro Gasparri, Cardinal Secretary of

State in behalf of Pope Pius XI. From biblelight.net/wound.htm in the internet: **“Lateran Concordat of 1929-Papal Wound Healed!** “On Feb. 11th, 1929, and historic treaty was signed between the Italian government and the Vatican **re-establishing the political power and diplomatic standing of the [Roman] Catholic Church**, which had been lost when Italy seized [the city of] Rome, the last of the Papal States, on Sept. 20, 1870.

“Nov. 15, 2002. Excerpt from an article by NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press: Rome.—Pope John Paul II made a historic speech to Italy’s parliament Thursday, urging Italians to work for world peace, uphold their [Roman Catholic] Christian values and have more babies. The visit—*the first time a pope has appeared before the Italian parliament* [13 years later, Francis makes first appearance in U.S. Congress!]*—underscores the warmth that the country feels for the Polish-born John Paul, the first non-Italian pontiff in 455 years. [Francis is the first Latin American and Jesuit pontiff]. It also showed Italy and the Roman Catholic Church have healed wounds that a century ago [in 1798] prompted popes to call themselves ‘prisoners’ of the Vatican rather than accept Italy’s government as legitimate.*”

Revelation 17: 13, KJV says: “These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.” - E.G.W wrote, as quoted in 7BC 1072):“These have one mind.’ There will be a universal bond of union, one great harmony, a confederacy of Satan’s forces. ‘And shall give their power and strength unto the beast.’ Thus is manifested the same arbitrary, oppressive power against religious liberty, freedom to worship God according to the dictates of conscience, as was manifested by the papacy, when in the past it persecuted those who dared to refuse to conform with the religious rites and ceremonies of Romanism. In the warfare to be waged in the last days there will be united, in opposition to God’s people, all the corrupt powers that have apostatized from allegiance to the law of Jehovah. In this warfare the Sabbath of the fourth commandment will be the great point at issue; for in the Sabbath commandment the great Lawgiver identifies Himself as the Creator of the heavens and the earth.’ (MS 24, 1891).” .

“Ecclesiastical literature is replete with exhibits of the arrogant blasphemous claims of the papacy. Typical examples are the following extracts from a large encyclopedic work written by a Roman Catholic divine of the 18th century:

“The Pope is of so great dignity and so exalted that he is not a mere man, but as it were God, and the vicar of God....

“The Pope is crowned with a triple crown, as king of heaven and of earth, and the lower regions....

“The Pope is as it were God on earth, sole sovereign of the faithful of Christ, chief of kings, having plenitude of power, to whom has been entrusted by the omnipotent God direction not only of the earthly but also the heavenly kingdom...

“The Pope is of so great authority and power that he can modify, explain, or interpret even divine laws.....

“The Pope can modify divine law, since his power is not of man but of God, and he acts as vicegerent of God upon earth with most ample power of binding and loosing his sheep.

“Whatever the Lord God Himself, and the Redeemer, is said to do, that his vicar does, provided that he does nothing contrary to the faith [not the Bible!].” (Translated from Lucius Ferraris, “Papa II,” Prompta Bibliotheca, Vol. VI, pp. 25-29.

(To be continued next month)