

## Study for the Months September – November 2018

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The 'Man of Sin' of Bible Prophecy and his activities and career

### ***Apocalyptic 'Babylon' Constituted with a lot of Mainstream Christianity***

#### QUOTABLE QUOTE

**“The *Christian* life is not a modification or improvement of the old, but a transformation of nature. There a death to self and sin, and a new life altogether. This change can be brought about only by the effectual working of the Holy Spirit.” – Ellen G. White, *Messages to Young People*, p. 157.**

First, according to [www.worldometers.info.com](http://www.worldometers.info.com) the world's population as of 2018 is **7.7 billion**.

Second, per [www.worldatlas.com](http://www.worldatlas.com) hereunder are the ten countries with the largest Roman Catholic populations:

1. *Brazil* – 126. 8 million (the highest). 126. 8 million people in Brazil are Catholics, which makes up 61 percent of the population. The Portuguese brought over the religion and the first diocese was created in 1551. During the colonial rule, Catholicism was enforced but it remained the official religion of the country even after independence. Officially, the government is secular but the Church still carries a strong influence even to the present day.
2. *Mexico* – 98, 820, 000.
3. *Philippines* – 85, 470, 000. The Philippines is the only predominantly Catholic country in Asia, with 81.4 percent of the population identifying as part of the religion. Just as in Mexico, the Spanish spread Catholicism to the Philippines as part of their divine mission to “educate” the natives. The explorers saw the native religion of the area as a form of devil worship and therefore forbade it. Missionaries came and set up schools and hospitals to educate Filipinos. The Philippines gained independence in 1898 after being traded to the U.S. a few years before by the Spaniards but they did not return to their native religion. *The Catholic conquest has lasted up to this day.*

4. *United States* – 71, 000, 000. The U.S. is one of the largest countries in the world by population. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the Spanish brought Catholicism to the land that is now known as Florida, Georgia, California, and Texas. The French came to Louisiana, Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, and Michigan in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, where they set up their own missions. After the U.S. gained independence, its influx of European migrants also increased the Catholic population.
5. *Italy* – 50, 474, 000.
6. *France* – 44,000,000
7. *Colombia* – 36,000,000
8. *Poland* – 33, 037,017.
9. *Spain* – 32,364,000.
10. *Democratic Republic of Congo* – 28,700,000

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### **A Personal Confession**

I have no other claims to make other than being a student in the school of Christ, sitting at the feet of the Master Teacher, and Mary-like, hungering and thirsting--not just for any truth about anything-- but for “the truth as it in Jesus” (Eph. 4: 21). This is the only truth which embraces everything and anything *worth knowing*.

My interest in these prophecies is even greater today than yesterday, particularly the interconnected prophecies of Daniel in the Old Testament Revelation in the New Testament. Why? Because all the prophecies, beginning with the mother prophecy of Genesis 3: 15 declared by Jehovah Creator to Satan, Adam and Eve immediately after their transgression before they were banished from their Eden home, have all been fulfilled as prophesied but for the remaining few yet most stupendous events in the climax of the great controversy and the triumph of the gospel in the glorious Second Advent of Christ--the “sacred keynote of the Scriptures.”

Following the lead of the pioneers of the advent movement who loved and searched for truth, I continue to use the aid of the Bible concordance, selectively consulted from the abundance of published works of Bible commentators, scholars and theologians of the major denominations of mainstream Christianity (Protestant and Roman Catholic) and Seventh-day Adventists, but most especially the writings of Ellen G. White, particularly her Conflict of the Ages Series. By now, I have proved beyond any reasonable doubt, and to my personal relief and satisfaction that her published and even unpublished *works*—not her, as she underscores—is “the lesser light that *leads* to the greater light,” the Bible.

In the highest sense of the word that inevitably includes “encourage,” I *challenge* anyone to study her writings without any preconceived ideas or previously developed prejudiced opinions. Avoid first reading inflammatory, distorted, and untruthful

commentaries (either through ignorance or hatred for the unvarnished Bible truths they invoke and magnify proliferating in the internet today. Websites designed to attract the attention of the merely curious, assert distorted arguments and apparent evidences that almost always, attacks and denigrates her person, personality, and thus, character. This is a hoary-old strategy yet still effective way to create prejudice against the person's *works*. Rather, for your own sake and the truth's sake, prayerfully compare them directly with the Bible, which she constantly draws from and magnifies in all her published works. She urges the reader to closely compare and examine her writing with the Bible's teachings--from Genesis to Revelation. Then she urges all to draw their own conclusions only after allowing the preponderance of Bible evidence.

NOTE: Years of experience in my spiritual quest have made certain things clear where understanding, and consequently, interpreting Bible truth is concerned. The dominant ones are:

**1) Motive and desire.** - If one's real (often feigned) purpose is to find *apparent* evidences and proof from the Bible, and even from her writings that appear to rationalize, justify, and support a life-style that accommodates habits and practices that are not in harmony with Bible truth—and still be called a “Christian already saved by grace”—they will find them. But this is self-deception and spiritual suicide.

**2) How to study the Bible and the SOP.**—Consequent to the foregoing determines what kind of “tools” and “keys”—that include attitude, patience, discipline, self-denial and self-sacrifice in the pursuit of “growth in grace and knowledge”—focused on Christ and how to become Christ-like in moral character—embodied as principles in the following scriptures: **Isaiah 28: 9-23; 2 Timothy 2: 15, 16, 22, 23.**

Such is fraught with eternal realities and consequences: another sobering truth, among many other vital ones, often overlooked or ignored. For beginners, I suggest you start with the following books “Steps to Christ,” then “Desire of Ages” and on to the “**Great Controversy.**” This compiler personally believes, through years of study, evidence from research of church history, relevant works of scholars in various fields of human endeavor, current events, and most of all, the mind and life changing life-changing experience itself--- that the latter book, the *Great Controversy*, is the definitive prophetic handbook for all Christian believers in these the last days.

As such, I am eternally grateful and indebted to the Godhead and the “ministering spirits”—the angels that excel in strength sent from the throne on high for patiently and mercifully protecting and guiding me through all these years of searching and stumbling along the way till I reached this point in my life journey.

As the Bible promises to all whose heart desire is know the truth and searches for it “as hidden treasure,” I am now a satisfied and undeservedly blessed possessor of what I believe are sound, solid and fundamental Biblical principles upon which I am gaining an ever-increasing yet *humbling* understanding and appreciation of the following: everlasting gospel-- the plan of redemption or salvation as detailed in the sanctuary message; the nature of the great controversy between Christ and Satan and their respective agencies that have been contending for and against the truth down through ages to the last remnant of time that will see emerging on the world’s stage, beginning in America, the probation-ending final apostasy of the three-fold union of Romanism, apostate Protestantism and Spiritualism.

I have found the spiritual *keys* that unlock the mysteries of the gospel, the prophecies and the parables. Divinely-given, they are not difficult or complicated but need to be sought—from the Bible itself, which is self-sustaining and self-defining. These keys were divinely-designed and promised to any and all, without any reservations or limitations whose only qualification is the desire to know the saving truth as revealed in the Bible. Constant increase in breadth, width, depth and height of spiritual knowledge and understanding is guaranteed to such souls.

For one, I now clearly know who the church was that that kept the light of truth alive and the church that tried to extinguish them as well as the truth through Dark Ages. Revelation reveals them as follows: “And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” Rev.12: 17.

Additionally, in words stripped of any theological jargon and legalese requiring mental contortions to get anywhere near the truth, but in words even a child can understand, Jesus instructed John to *write* (as in inform, educate, counsel) to the **churches** down to the stream of time since the first apostolic church was founded after Pentecost to the very last one standing at the end of the great controversy—known as the “church triumphant,” as to who Jesus classes as His living saints on earth. He declares with authority: “Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” Rev. 14: 12, K.J.V.

For the particular subject at hand, large extracts are quoted below from the book *Seventh-day Adventists Answer Questions on Doctrine* (or Questions on Doctrine for short, or abbreviates as QOD) An Explanation of Certain Major Aspects of Seventh-Day Adventist Belief *Prepared by a Representative Group of Seventh-day Adventist Leaders, Bible Teachers and Editors, Review & Herald Publishing Association, Washington, D.C 1957*

These published works help clarify in a compelling, truthful, fact-filled, intelligent and respectful elucidation what I (and others as well) have sought to better understand of the various vital subjects embraced in the summing up and stupendous climax of the everlasting gospel and the great controversy proclaimed in the third angel's message of Revelation 14. I strongly urge everyone to obtain and study these books, especially Ellen G. White's *Conflict of the Ages Series*. To wit (all emphasis supplied by this compiler):

### **“Question No. 21: What Constitute ‘Babylon’?”**

***Do Seventh-day Adventists teach or believe, as a body, that the members of the various Protestant denominations, as well as the Catholic, Greek, and Russian Orthodox churches, are to be identified with Babylon, the symbol of apostasy?***

“We fully recognize the heartening fact that a host of true followers of Christ are scattered all through the various churches of Christendom, including the Roman Catholic communion. These [believers] God clearly recognizes as His own. Such do not form a part of ‘Babylon’ portrayed in the Apocalypse. The matter of loyalty or disloyalty to truth is, in the ultimate, a question of personal relationship to God and the fundamental principles of truth. *What is denominated as ‘Babylon,’ in Scripture, obviously embraces those who have broken with the spirit and essence of true Christianity, and have followed the way of apostasy.* Such are under the censure of heaven.

“1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND IMPERATIVE. – In order to set forth what Seventh-day Adventists believe on this point, it is essential first to get the background of historical applications that reach back some *eight hundred years*. The earliest application of the symbolic term ‘Babylon’ to the Papacy, or the Roman Catholic Church, appears in the writings of the twelfth-century **Waldenses and Albigenses**.<sup>\*</sup> But along with their identification of the *dominant ecclesiastical apostasy* of their day as the *organization* portrayed in the Bible prophecies, they also stated that many of God’s children were still in papal Babylon. And these they were constrained to ‘call out,’ or urged to separate, from her apostasies.

“A long list of spiritual-minded medieval Catholics follow in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries—including pseudo-Joachim, Olivi, Eberhard, Wycliffe, Huss, and Savanarola---all boldly asserting that ‘Babylon’ represents the corrupted church of Rome, and warning of her coming retribution. And for this some even went to the stake.<sup>\*\*</sup>

“2. USED BY PROTESTANT FOUNDERS. – During the Protestant Reformation all leaders taught essentially the same, from Luther, in 1520, onward. These men were scattered over Germany, Switzerland, France, and England. In Britain were men like William Tyndale, Bishops Ridley and Hooper, Archbishop Cranmer, Bishops Bale, Jewell, and Coverdale, and John Knox and Lord Napier in Scotland. Ridley’s farewell letter before his martyrdom, in 1555, repeatedly referred to ‘Babylon,’ and called for separation from Rome.

“3. CONTINUED IN POST REFORMATION. – In post-Reformation times some *thirty prominent expositors* maintained the same position, including such famous men as **King James I**, Joseph Mede, **Sir Isaac Newton**, Bishop Thomas Newton, Methodism’s founder **John Wesley**, and Johann Bengel and various other Continentals. Even in colonial America, John Cotton, Roger Williams, Increase Mather, Samuel Hopkins, and more than a score of others, down to **President Timothy Dwight of Yale** in 1812, made similar applications. One was a noted Baptist historian Isaac Backus, who in 1767 wrote: ‘She [the church of Rome] is the mother of harlots, and all churches who go after any lovers but Christ, for a temporal living, are guilty of playing the harlot.’ ‘(See *Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers*, vol. 3, p. 213.) Earlier, **Roger Williams** had complained to the British Parliament about Protestants clinging to the spirit and doing the deeds of papal Babylon.

“Meanwhile, several Old World Protestant writers had noted that Babylon, the ‘mother’ of Revelation 17, had ‘daughters’ that bore the same family name. And believing that certain other Protestant bodies had retained some of the characteristics and errors of the Papacy, they begun to include them under the family name ‘Babylon.’ Among these writers were such non-conformists as Browne, Barrow, and **John Milton**.

“4. BABYLON, MOTHER AND DAUGHTERS. – In the early nineteenth-century Old World Advent awakening, **Lacunza, from within Catholicism**, called Babylon ‘Rome on the Tiber.’ And various Anglican and non-conformist leaders such as—Cunninghame, Brown, M’Neile, and Ash---pressed the application. The Protestant Association, organized in Exeter Hall in 1835 sounded the ‘out of Babylon’ call, including Protestantism and Popery.

“And the *Dublin Christian Herald*, edited by Anglican Rector Edward N. Hoare, asserted in 1830 that the abomination of papal Babylon, the mother, ‘covered all Christendom.’ Alexander Fraser, of Scotland, and Anglican David Simpson, of England, held similar views. Fraser said that all churches were tinged with the spirit of Babylon. And Simpson declared that Protestant churches, of ‘whatever denomination,’ which partake of the *same spirit and doctrines and circumstances*, must be considered daughters.

“In North America, passing Elias Smith and Lorenzo Dow, who wrote strongly on the Protestant daughters related to Rome, Disciples churchman Samuel M. McCorkle declared that Protestantism had been befuddled by the wine of Babylon, and insisted that the ‘mother’ church had Protestant daughters. And prominent Baptist clergyman Isaac T. Hinton (1799-1847) plainly hinted that *nationally established Protestant churches are, because of church-state union and compromise, daughters of Babylon*.

“5. EMPLOYED IN ADVENT AWAKENING. – Then, during the Second Advent Movement in America in the 1830s and 1840s, there was growing proscription among the larger Protestant bodies against those who held *premillennialist*\*\*\* views, and increasing ecclesiastical opposition to emphasis on the Second Advent---particularly among the Methodists and Congregationalists of New England—forbidding the dissemination of Adventism. This opposition led to the sounding of the call to ‘come out’ from the churches that clung to the tainted doctrines of Babylon. That was how the ‘call’ came to be sounded at that time. It was *not a condemnation* of the host of the *godly individuals* in the various Protestant churches, but of *individual attitudes and actions* in rejecting the vital Second Advent truth. (A historical record appears in *Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers*, vols. 1-4).

NOTE: this is the true interpretation of the spirit of the second angel’s message pronounced upon the churches that rejected the first angel’s message announcing the start of the pre-advent or investigative judgment in the antitypical Day of Atonement in the most holy of the heavenly sanctuary with Christ as High Priest performing His closing work of atonement. Rev. 14: 6, 7.)

“6. A THOUSAND YEARS OF PRECEDENT. – In the light of the historical record of a thousand years [often referred to as the ‘millennium’], there is nothing new or strange about Adventist employment of the term that had constantly been used by other bodies, as they felt that light and truth had been rejected and opposed. And the application of the term ‘daughters’ of Babylon has similarly been used for *some three hundred years*.

“Groups and organizations such as the Fundamentalists, the International Council of Christian Churches, and the National Association of Evangelicals have withdrawn from the older organizations because of what they believed to be modernist apostasy *entrenched in the controlling leadership of various denominations*.

“7. EVIDENCES OF DEPARTURE. – Such are the historic precedents. Adventists believe that the term ‘Babylon,’ referred to Revelation 17, has been rightly applied to the Papacy. Great Babylon, however, according to verse 5, is mentioned as a ‘mother.’ So the term ‘Babylon’ rightly belongs to *others* also. We therefore believe that whatever there are individuals, or groups of individuals, that hold to and advocate the unchristian doctrines, practices, and procedures of the papal church, such may justifiably be

denominated 'Babylon'---hence, *part of* the great apostasy. Wherever such conditions obtain, Adventists, with others, believe that the *guilty organizations* [in contrast to individual members] may rightly be denominated 'Babylon.'

"8. MATTERS OF PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP. – We believe that conditions in the religious world will worsen, not improve, as we approach the world's climax. (1 Tim. 4: 1,2; 2 Tim. 3: 1, 5). And the gulf between apostasy and fidelity to the truth will become wider and wider as prophecy fulfills before our very eyes. *But our statements regarding Babylon do not have the defamatory character that some would impute us. They are uttered in sorrow, not for individual comparisons.*

"We are conscious of the fact that membership in any church is not, of itself, evidence either of fellowship with Christ or of fidelity to the fundamentals of the gospel. As was the case of Israel of old, the Christian church throughout the centuries has been plagued by the presence of a 'mixed multitude' (Exo. 12: 38; Num. 11: 4; 2 Tim. 4: 3, 4). And this is particularly true of these latter times, when many have departed from the faith, as clearly foretold in prophecy. (1 Tim. 4: 1; 2 Tim. 4: 3, 4). We firmly believe that God is calling today for His children [believers in every church organization and the whole world as well] to break with everything that is alien to the fundamental, apostolic principles of truth." (*End of quotes from Questions on Doctrine*, pp. 192-202).

### **Spirit of Prophecy References on the Papacy**

Acceptance of false science undermining faith in the Bible successfully prepares the way for the Papacy: the real secret of its power. We quote from the *Great Controversy*, 1911 edition, pp. 572-573 the following:

"A large class, even of those who look upon Romanism with no favor, apprehend little danger from her power and influence. Many urge that the intellectual and moral darkness prevailing during the Middle Ages favored the spread of her dogmas, superstitions, and oppression, and that the greater intelligence of the modern times, the general diffusion of knowledge, and the increasing liberality in matters of religion, *forbid a revival of intolerance and tyranny.* The very thought that such a state of things will exist in this enlightened age is ridiculed. It is true that great light, intellectual, moral and religious, is shining upon this generation. In the open pages of God's holy word, light from heaven has been shed upon the world. But it should be remembered that *the greater the light bestowed, the greater the darkness of those who pervert or reject it.*

**The Secret of the Papacy's Power over Mankind.** - "A prayerful study of the Bible would show Protestants the real character of the papacy, and would cause them to abhor and to shun it; but many are so wise in their own conceit that they feel no need of humbly seeking God that they may be led into the truth. Although priding themselves on



their enlightenment, they are ignorant both of the Scriptures and the power of God [ ]. They must have some means of quieting the consciences; and they seek that which is least spiritual and humiliating. What they desire is a method of forgetting God which shall pass as a method of remembering Him. *The papacy is well adapted to meet the wants of all these. It is prepared for two classes of mankind, embracing nearly the whole world---those who would be saved by their merits, and those who would be saved in their sins.* Here is the secret of its power.

“A day of *great intellectual darkness* has been shown to be favorable to the success of the papacy. It will yet be demonstrated that a day of *great intellectual light* is equally favorable to its success. In past ages, when men were without God’s word, and without the knowledge of the truth, their eyes were blindfolded, and thousands were ensnared, not seeing the net spread for their feet. In this generation there are many whose eyes become dazzled by the glare of human speculations, ‘science falsely so called;’ they discern not the net, and walk into it as readily as if blindfolded. God designed that man’s intellectual powers should be held as a gift from his Maker, and should be employed in the service of truth and righteousness; but when pride and ambition are cherished, and men exalt their own theories above the word of God, then *intelligence can accomplish greater harm than ignorance*. “Thus the *false science of the present day*, which undermines faith in the Bible, will prove as successful in *preparing the way for the acceptance of the Papacy*, with its pleasing forms, as did the withholding of knowledge in opening the way for its aggrandizement in the Dark Ages.” - *GC*, pp. 572, 573.

“Aims of the Papacy,” chapter 35, *Great Controversy*, pp. 563-581:

“**Romanism** is now regarded by Protestants with far greater favor than in former years. In those countries where Catholicism is *not in the ascendancy* [written back in 1884]; and the papists are taking a conciliatory course in order to gain influence, there is an increasing indifference concerning the doctrines that separate the reformed churches from the papal hierarchy; the opinion has been gaining ground, that, after all, we do not differ so widely upon vital points as has been supposed [ever read the book “*So Much In Common*”?], and that a little concession on our part [as the Vatican II and the Ecumenical movement of the 60s envisioned] will bring us into a better understanding with Rome. The time was when Protestants place a high value in the liberty of conscience which had been so dearly purchased. They taught their children to abhor popery, and held that to seek harmony with Rome would be disloyalty to God. *But how widely different are the sentiments now expressed.*”

The defenders of the papacy declared that the church has been maligned; and that the Protestant world is inclined to accept the statement. Many urge that it is unjust to judge the church of today by the abominations and absurdities that marked her reign during the centuries of ignorance and darkness. The excuse her horrible cruelty as the result of the barbarism of the times, and plead that the influence of modern civilization

has changed her sentiments. *Have these persons forgotten the claim of infallibility put forth for eight hundred years by this haughty power?* So far from being relinquished, this claim was affirmed in the nineteenth century with greater positiveness than ever before. As Rome asserts that ‘the church has *never erred*; nor will it, according to the Scriptures, *ever err*.’-(**Mosheim**, *Ecclesiastical History*,’ book 3, cent. 11, part 2, ch. 3 par.9, note 1], 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 hold 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 to her former power, and there would *speedily be a revival of her tyranny and persecution.*

**Papal perils threatening America.** - “A well-known writer speaks thus of the attitude of the papal hierarchy as regards the freedom of conscience, and of *the perils which especially threaten the United States* from the success of her policy:

“There are many who are disposed to attribute any fear of Roman Catholicism in the United States to bigotry or childishness. Such see nothing in the character and attitude of Romanism that is hostile to our free institutions, or find nothing portentous in its growth. Let us, then, first compare some of the fundamental principles of our government with those of the Catholic Church.

**‘The Constitution of the United States guarantees *liberty of conscience*. Nothing is dearer or more fundamental.** Pope Pius IX., in his Encyclical Letter of August 15, 1854, said: ‘The absurd and erroneous doctrines or ravings in defense of liberty of conscience, are a most pestilential error—a pest, of all others, most to be dreaded in a state.’ The same pope, in his Encyclical Letter of December 8, 1864, *anathemized ‘those who assert the liberty of conscience and of religious worship,’ also ‘all such as maintain that the church may not employ force.’*

**“The pacific tone of Rome in the United States does not imply a change of heart.** *She is tolerant where [and when] she is helpless.* Says Bishop O’Connor: ‘*Religious liberty is merely endured until the opposite can be carried into effect without peril to the Catholic world*’ . . . The Archbishop of St. Louis once said: ‘*Heresy and unbelief are crimes; and in Christian countries, as in Italy and Spain, for instance, where all the people are Catholics, and where the Catholic religion is an essential part of the law of the land.*’ The church’s own definition of ‘heresy and unbelief’] are *punished as crimes.*

“Every cardinal, archbishop, and bishop in the Catholic Church takes an *oath of allegiance to the Pope* in which occur the following words: ‘*Heretics, schismatics, and rebels to our said lord (the pope), or his aforesaid successors, I will to my utmost persecute and oppose.*’- Strong, Dr., Josiah, ‘*Our Country*,’ ch. 5, pars. 1-3.”

**My oath of allegiance is to Jesus, Creator Lord of the Sabbath, and His law.**

(Continued next issues)

