

Study for the Months June to August 2018

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

Pope Francis Changes Roman Catholic Church's Stance on Death Penalty: Can Protestants and Liberty-loving Christians Rejoice Now?

Fundamental fact: For over a thousand, literally blood-stained years, referred to by both sacred and secular historians as the Dark Ages, the Church of Rome believed, upheld, and employed the death penalty/sentence determining, according to her own interpretation and self-accorded divine authority, to terminate the lives of all who she deemed as “enemies of the church,” particularly *Protestants*, and *heretics* (by their own definition of the latter), by *whatever* means and methods she determined to be expedient to justify “annihilating the execrable race from the face of the earth.”

This is the solemn, if not grim abundant testimony of Bible prophecy, church history, secular history, world history, and the official statements, declarations, records, and literature of the Church of Rome itself—that we have been documenting in these study/report series for months now.

At this time of earth's history and junction of end-time prophecy, is Pope Francis' declaration to be believed by those who still consider themselves Protestants—the original religious faith of those that founded America? what about mainstream Evangelicals, Pentecostals, born-again Christians, both denominational and non-denominational? Roman Catholics long searching for soul-satisfying answers? Seventh-day Adventists? How about the politicians and all secular authorities? Is it reason to rejoice? What follows next?

Though nowhere near exhaustive, hereunder is an adequate amount of relevant information and references to help the reader determine what to make out of all these movements and activities surrounding the Church of Rome and their impact on the lives of their 1.2 billion member worldwide as well as all others religious, political as well financial communities and institutions.

We obtain the following facts and information from *Facts of Faith* (revised), Christian Edwardson, Southern Publishing Association, Nashville 8, TN, U.S: 1943, pp. 61-67 (emphasis mine):

“The Catholic Encyclopedia says of the pope: ‘The sentences which he gives are to be forthwith ratified in heaven.’ – *Vol. XII, art. ‘Pope,’ p. 265.*

“Pope Leo says: “But the supreme teacher in the Church is the *Roman Pontiff*. Union of minds, therefore, requires, together with a perfect accord in the one faith, complete submission and obedience of the will to the Church and to the Roman Pontiff, as to God Himself.” – *The Great Encyclical Letters, p. 193.*

“Saint Alphonsus de Liguori, a sainted doctor of the Roman Church, claims the same poer for the Roman priests. He says: “The priest has the power of the keys, or the power of delivering the sinners from hell, of making them worthy of paradise, and changing them from the slaves of Satan into the children of God. And God himself is obliged to abide by the judgment of his priests . . . The Sovereign master of the universe only follows the servant by confirming in heaven all that the latter decides upon earth.” – *“Dignity and Duties of the Priest,” pp. 27, 28. New York: Benziger Brothers., Printers to the Holy Apostolic See, 1888.*

“Innocent II has written: ‘Indeed, it is not too much to say that in view of the sublimity of their offices the priests are *so many gods* [emphasis mine].’”- *Id., p. 36.*

“A Persecuting Power

“The ‘little horn’ was also to ‘wear out the saints of the Most High.’ Daniel 7: 25. That is, it was to persecute them till they were literally worn out. Has the Papacy fulfilled this part of the prophecy? In order to do Roman Catholics no injustice, we shall quote from unquestioned authorities among them. And, since they persecute people for ‘heresy,’ we must first let them define what they mean by ‘**heresy**.’ In the New Catholic Dictionary, published by the Universal Knowledge foundation, a Roman catholic institution, New York, 1929, we read: “Heresy (Gr. *hairesis*, choice), deciding for oneself what one shall believe and practice.’ –*Art. ‘heresy,’ p. 440.*

“According to this definition anyone who will not blindly submit to papal authority, but will read the Bible, deciding for himself what he shall believe, is a ‘heretic.’ What official stand has the Catholic Church taken in regard to such heretics? This we find stated in the Catholic Encyclopedia in the following words [all emphasis mine]:

“In the Bull ‘ad extirpanda’ (1252) Innocent IV says: ‘When those adjudged guilty of heresy have been given up to the *civil powers* by the bishop or his representative, or the *Inquisition* , the *podesta* or chief magistrate of the city shall take them at once, and shall, within five days at the most, execute the laws made against them’ . . . Nor could

any doubt remain as to what *civil regulations* were meant, for the passages which ordered the *burning* of impenitent heretics were inserted in the papal decretals from the imperial constitutions ‘Commissis nobis’ and Inconsutibilem tunicam.’ The aforesaid Bull ‘Ad extirpanda’ *remained thenceforth a fundamental document of the Inquisition*, renewed or reinforced by several popes, Alexander IV (1254-61), Clement IV (1265-68), Nicolas IV (1288-92), Boniface VIII (1294-1303), and others. *The civil authorities, therefore, were enjoined by the popes, under pain of excommunication to execute the legal sentences that condemned impenitent heretics to the stake.* It is to be noted that excommunication itself was no trifle, for, if the person excommunicated did not free himself from excommunication within a year, he was held by the legislation of that period to be a heretic, and incurred all the penalties that affected heresy.” – Vol. VIII, p. 34.

(Footnote on this: See also ‘Dictionary of the Inquisition,’ in “Illustrations of Popery,” J.P. Challender, pp. 377-386, New York, 1838; and “History of the Inquisition of the Middle Ages,” H.C. Lea, Vol. I, pp. 337, 338, New York, 1888].

“This Encyclopedia was printed in 1910, and bears the sanction of the Catholic authorities, and their ‘censor,’ so here is up-to-date authority showing that the Roman church here acknowledges, that, when she was in power, she forced the civil government to burn those whom she termed heretics, and the government officials who failed to execute her laws, became heretics by that neglect, and suffered the punishment of heretics. Professor Alfred Baudrillart, a Roman Catholic scholar in France, who is now a Catholic Cardinal [as of publish date of Facts of Faith, 1943], says:

‘The Catholic Church is a respecter of conscience and of liberty. . . . She has, and *she loudly proclaims that she has*, a ‘horror of blood.’ Nevertheless when confronted by heresy she does not content herself with persuasion; arguments of an intellectual or moral order appear to her insufficient, and she has recourse to force, to corporal punishment, to *torture*. She creates tribunals like those of the Inquisition, she calls the laws of the State to her aid, if necessary she encourages a crusade or a religious war [Islamic equivalent of *jihad*] and all her ‘horror of blood’ practically culminates into *urging the secular power to shed it*, which, proceeding is almost more odious—for it is less frank—than shedding it herself. Especially did she act thus in the sixteenth century [during the Dark Ages] with regard to *Protestants*. Not content to reform morally, to preach by example, to convert people by eloquent and holy missionaries, she lit in Italy, in the Low Countries [Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg], and above all in Spain the *funeral piles of the Inquisition*. **In France under Francis I** and Henry II, in England under Mary Tudor, *she tortured the heretics*, whilst both in France and Germany during the second half of the sixteenth century and the first half of the seventeenth century is she did not actually begin, at any rate she encouraged and actively aided, the *religious wars*. No one will deny that we have here a great scandal to our contemporaries

“Indeed, even among our friends and our brothers we find those who dare not look at this problem in the face. They ask permission from the Church to ignore or even deny all those acts institutions of the past which have made orthodoxy compulsory.” – *The Catholic Church, the Renaissance, and Protestantism*, pp 182-184. London: 1908.

“Andrew Steinmetz says:

‘Catholics easily account for their devotion to the Holy See, in spite of its historical abominations, which, however, very few of them are aware of ---their accredited histories in common use, ‘with permission of authority,’ *veiling the subject with painful dexterity.*’ ---‘*History of the Jesuits*,’ Vol. I, p. 13. London: 1848.

“Dr. C. H. Lea says:

‘In view of the *unvarying policy of the Church* during the three centuries under consideration, and for a century and a half later, there is a typical instance of the manner in which *history is written to order*, in the quiet assertion of the latest Catholic historian of the Inquisition that ‘the Church took no part in the corporal punishment of heretics,’—‘*History of the Inquisition of the Middle Ages*,’ Vol. I, p. 540. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1888. . . . p. 54, 65.

“The sainted Catholic doctor, Thomas Aquinas, says:

‘If counterfeiters of money or other criminals are justly delivered over to death forthwith by the secular authorities, *much more can heretics*, after they are convicted of heresy, be not only forthwith excommunicated, but as surely put to death.’—‘*Summa Theologica*,’ 2a, 2ae, qu. xi, art. iii.

“That this principle is sanctioned by modern Catholic priests, we can see from the following statement:

“The Church has persecuted. *Only a tyro in church history will deny that . . .* Protestants were persecuted in France and Spain with the full approval of the church authorities. We have always defended the persecution of the Huguenots, and the Spanish Inquisition.’ – ‘*Western Watchman*,’ official organ of Father Phelan, St. Louis, Mo.: Dec. 24, 1908.” FF 66.

Remember. In the Bible the 12 cities of refuge appointed by God, 6 on each side of Jordan, typified the refuge found in Christ-the Life giver and Savior, as well as in His true church on earth—the church that protects and saves, not abuses and kills. That much is plain truth.

So is this public declaration of Pope Francis is believable. Yes it is because of at least two things: the pope claims to be God on earth, and as such, he can change things as he wants. Only recently he fast-tracked their own canonization process and simultaneously sainted two dead popes.

Here's another thing. The timing of the pope's declaration that the death penalty is unacceptable, *in all cases* is incredible. It came before the searing grand jury report issued Tuesday in Pennsylvania on the Catholic Church's clergy abuse that has caused reverberations throughout the church in the U.S. and in the world. However, the latest news as of this writing (August 16, 2018) said that the Vatican "was silent" regarding this explosive report. Strange for the pope to say nothing about what the Vatican they knew all along for a long time. Or is he waiting for a more opportune time, waiting for public reactions and measuring the degree of legal and criminal recriminations following, before he makes his next move? The best, safest, and healthiest way to evaluate all current and developing events related to this, and the political climate surrounding it, is to view it from the lens of Bible prophecy.

An old cliché that never grows old with age and usage, only more real is this: When something sounds or appears *too good to be*, it most likely is. Especially when history and prophecy are more reliable than what we think or are *made to think* we hear and see.

One significant news report/analysis, among many others quickly coming on the heels of this explosive report of Catholic Church Sex Abuse, is titled "**Why the Explosive Report on Catholic Church Abuse Is Unlikely to Yield Criminal Charges**" by Dan Levin, dated 7/16/2018 at: www.nytimes.com/2018/08/15/us/pennsylvania-sex-abuse-statute-of-limitations.html. Hereunder is the news/analysis (emphasis and notes mine):

"The searing grand jury report issued Tuesday in Pennsylvania that accuses bishops and other Roman Catholic Church leaders in that state of covering up child sexual abuse by more than 300 priests has prompted growing calls for justice, while leaving Americans wondering about the broader impact on the revelations on the church and other institutions.

"But a web of *legal barriers* stands in the way of prosecuting most of the cases, and efforts to ease those barriers have reportedly run into *political opposition and fierce lobbying by the church and other groups*. Pennsylvania lags behind many other states in coming to grips with the problem, despite a series of grand jury investigations *stretching back 15 years*. [Read about the grand jury investigation and the church's 'playbook for concealing the truth.']

"What happens next?

"Not much, legal experts and victim advocates say.

"The nearly 900-page grand jury report is unlikely to lead to any new criminal charges or civil lawsuits over the abuse that it *catalogs*, because the statute of limitations has expired on those cases. Current *state law* allows victims of abuse as

children 12 years to sue after they come of age at 18, meaning they must do so by age 30. Criminal complaints must be filed by the time the victim is 50. Those rules leave the *vast majority* of abuse survivors, who came forward in life—the grand jury said they include people as old as 83--- *with no legal recourse*. Only two of the cases in the report have so far led to criminal charges. [Read: Seven powerful excerpts from the grand jury report].

“The grand jury made four recommendations for enhancing protections from children and allowing victims to obtain justice for past abuse: eliminate the limit from criminal complaints completely; set aside the expired civil statutes of limitations for abuse cases; amend the state’s mandatory reporting law so that repeated failures to comply face harsher penalties; and bar confidentiality agreements that are meant to shield abusers.

“For civil lawsuits, the attorney general and grand jury also recommended opening a temporary ‘window’ to permit older victims to sue abusers, *and the church*. Earlier, grand juries in Pennsylvania made similar recommendations.

“But the **Republican-controlled** State Legislature has resisted calls to lift the statute of limitations, despite several attempts by lawmakers over the *past dozen years*.

“A bill last year that would eliminate the criminal statute of limitation for child sexual abuse was passed in the State House, *but when the Senate took it up, it stripped out a provision that would open up a two-year window for victims who aged out to file suit*.

“For it to become law, the State House must pass the amended version, but it has been stalled there by opposition to the removal of the retroactive provision.

“Why is change taking so long?

“*The church has lobbied fiercely against changing the statute or opening a window for lawsuits*. The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, whose president is Bishop Ronald W. Gainer of Harrisburg, one of the dioceses covered by the grand jury report, argues that the proposal would ‘force the people who make up and organization like the Catholic Church today defend themselves against a crime that was committed in their parish, school, or charitable program years ago.’

“That claim has found support from the president of the State Senate, *Joe Scarnati*, a **Republican** who opposed the retroactive provision and has said it was unconstitutional.

“*Several members of Mr. Scarnati’s staff and the wife of his current chief of staff work at a Harrisburg lobbying firm, Long, Nyquist and Associates, whose clients include the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference, the church’s statewide public policy arm*.

“*The church is literally spending millions of dollars buying up politicians here and making sure every avenue victims take are shut down,*’ said State Representative Mark

Rozzi, a Democrat from Berks County, who said he was raped by a priest when he was 13. Mr. Rozzi has become a tireless advocate for victims of church sexual abuse.

“It’s been a battle from Day 1,’ he said.

“What have other states done?

“Most other states have already extended or abolished statutes of limitations for criminal prosecution of child sex abuse felonies. Some states. Including Minnesota, Delaware, Massachusetts and Hawaii, have also restored victims’ expired rights to file civil suits. But Pennsylvania has not.

“The barrier is the bishops’ extraordinary power over leading Republicans,’ said Marci Hamilton, a law professor at the University of Pennsylvania who founded Child U.S.A., which researches and proposes policies to address sexual abuse. Attempts to extend statute of limitations have fallen short in some states, including Maryland, New Jersey and New York. But New Jersey has no criminal statute of limitations for sexual assaults, and New York has no restrictions for first-degree felonies of any kind. New bills on the issue are pending in both New York and New Jersey.

“[Read a report from Child U.S.A., and advocacy group, that summarizes the statute of limitation laws across the country, including pending legislation.]

“Why don’t the federal authorities investigate church sexual abuse?

“So far, the federal government has left all investigations of church sexual abuse to the states, even though the church hierarchy [the papacy] *has repeatedly been found to have transferred pedophile priests from one part of the country to another to conceal their abuse.*

“The F.B.I. spent a year investigating sexual-abuse allegations against the former team doctor for the national gymnastics team, Larry Nassar, and the United States Senate conducted an inquiry into the case. ***But there appears to be little political appetite in Washington for any comparable federal scrutiny of the Roman Catholic Church,*** even though abuse of minors by priests have been exponentially more widespread and has been documented in 10 previous reports by grand juries and attorneys general, according to the research and advocacy group BishopAccountability.org.” (end of news quote)

Francis, the first-ever Jesuit Pope and the Inquisition

Are these specific subjects relevant to understanding the implications and ramifications of Pope Francis’ recent declaration that the “death penalty is inadmissible,” apparently reversing the Church’s long-held stance and practice of implementing official death decrees and death sentences? Yes, they are vitally important in light of the clearly

accelerating developments and movements *of* and *in* the Church of Rome since the papal power officially came into being in year 538 A.D., according to Bible prophecy.

Does the Jesuit order, originally known as the “Society of Jesus,” have any special objectives, mission, purpose, and methodology other than the other religious orders of the Church of Rome? Yes, it definitely does by way of discipline and taking a most unique vow. First and foremost, a Jesuit is “obedient unto death” for as its founder developed and taught it, obeys any and all of his superiors’ commands “with no opinion or will of his own, or any mental reservations whatever, even as a corpse or cadaver (*perinde ac cadaver*).”

The Jesuit Secret Oath

“I _____, now in the presence of Almighty God, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Blessed Michael the Archangel, the Blessed John the Baptist, the Holy Apostles, Peter and Paul, and all the Saints, sacred hosts of Heaven, and to you, my ghostly Father, the Superior General of the Society of Jesus, founded by St. Ignatius Loyola in the Pontification of Paul the Third, and continued to the present, do by the womb of the virgin, and matrix of God, and the rod of Jesus Christ, declare and swear that his holiness, the Pope, is Christ’s Vice-gerent and the true and only head of of the Catholic or Universal Church throughout the earth; and that by the virtue of the keys of binding and loosing, given to his Holiness by may savior, Jesus Christ, he hath power to depose heretical kings, princes, states, commonwealths, and governments, all being illegal without his sacred confirmation, and that they may be safely destroyed.

“I do further declare, that I will help and assist and advise all or any of his Holiness’ agents in any place wherever I shall be, and do my utmost to extirpate the heretical Protestant or Liberal doctrines and to destroy all their pretended powers, legal or otherwise.

“I do further promise and declare, that I will have no opinion or will of my own, or any mental reservation whatever, even as a corpse or cadaver (*perinde ac cadaver* but unhesitatingly obey each and every command that I may receive from my superiors in the Militia of the Pope and Jesus Christ.

“That I will go to any part of the world, whatsoever, without murmuring and will be submissive in all things whatsoever communicated to me. . . . I do further promise and declare, that I will, when opportunity presents, make and wage relentless war, secretly or openly, against all heretics, Protestants, and Liberals, as I am directed to do to extirpate and exterminate [all emphasis mine] them from the face of the whole earth, and that I will spare neither sex, age nor condition, and that I will hang, waste, boil, flay, strangle or bury alive these infamous heretics, rip up the stomach and wombs of their women and crush their infants’ heads against the wall, in order to annihilate forever their execrable race.

“That when the same cannot be done openly, I will secretly use the poison cup, the strangulation cord, the steel of the poniard, or the leaden bullet, regardless of the honor, rank, dignity or authority of the person or persons whatsoever may be the condition in life, either public or private, as I at any time may be directed so to do by any agent of the Pope or superior of the Brotherhood of the Holy Faith of the Society of Jesus.”

The foregoing are “Portions of the Jesuit ‘Extreme Oath of Induction’ as recorded in the Congressional Record of the United States of America. (House Bill 1523, Contested Election case of Eugene C. Bonniwell, against Thos. S. Butler, February 15, 1913, pages 3215-16.):- New Illustrated Great Controversy by Ellen G. White, published by: Laymen for Religious Liberty, Inc., P.O Box 908, DeLand, Florida 32721.

Moreover, we see from the captions of representative, full-color photos and illustrations covering this specific topic of the Jesuits, included in *The (New, Illustrated) Great Controversy* (based on Ellen G. White’s original 1911 edition), published 1990 by Laymen for Religious Liberty, Inc. P.O. Box 908, DeLand, Florida 32721, we share for the reader’s benefit the following noteworthy facts with the strong encouragement to obtain your personal copy and prayerfully read the whole book with an open mind:

The Jesuit Order, originally known as “the Society of Jesus” was first constituted in the chapel of Notre Dame De Montmartre in 1534 A.D., now in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart of Paris.

“The constitution of the Jesuit order was drafted and approved in Rome by Pope John Paul III in 1540 A.D.

“Its founder was Ignatius Loyola, born 1491 of Spanish nobility. A stained glass window of the Castle of Loyola, Spain, depicts “the fall of Loyola in the Battle of Pamplona. Another statue of Loyola “depicts him as recuperating from a battle injury in the Castle at Loyola. It was here that he had the first of his visions, and a nervous breakdown. His emotional condition, combined with the fictitious stories of the Catholic saints whose lives he studies, resulted in a series of mystical hallucinations.”

“A Note underneath a photo of an entrance to the Jesuit church at Montserrat, which is both a retreat and a monastery, reads: “After determining to become a great Catholic saint, *committing himself to the service of Mary* (emphasis mine) at Montserrat, Ignatius traveled on foot to the town of Manresa, where he spent almost a year praying and practicing forms of *maceration*.^{*} In the cave at Manresa, he began to have visions of the mystic meanings of the Catholic faith. He claimed to have *become another man with another intelligence*.” – *Secret History of the Jesuits*, Edmond Peris, p. 18.

Photos are shown of the cave of Ignatius’ visions which inspired his book, *The Exercises*. The cave is now a shrine in the chapel at the retreat in Manresa.

Photos show statues in the “sanctuary of the Jesuit Church of Rome, depicting the church’s authority over kings, and *her destruction of what she considered Protestant heresy* (emphasis mine).

The Note underneath a photo of St. Francis' Church in Goa, India reads: "The Inquisition was established in Portugal by Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuit order. Under the flags of the *Portuguese*,* *the Jesuits spread the Inquisition to the Orient*. In India they established a Bastille at Goa, forcing the simple St. Thomas Christians to submit to the papacy.

Francis Xavier (1506-1552) was one of the **first seven members** of the Society of Jesus. A roommate of Loyola, he was canonized by the Roman Catholic Church in March 12, 1622."

A photo shows the "Jesuit University in southern India, started by the Jesuit Priest Robert de Nobili for the purpose of *converting* the higher Indian classes to Catholicism in the 16th century." Another larger photo shows the building where the St. Thomas Christians surrendered their faith to Catholicism in 1599 A.D., at the Synod of Diamper." A Note says: "On June 20, 1599, a disastrous synod was held in Diamper, India, between the Roman Catholic representative from Goa under the archbishop Menezes and 600 St. Thomas Syrian delegates headed by the Syrian archdeacon George. Menezes pompously demanded that all the St. Thomas Christian delegates sign allegiance to the decrees and doctrines of the Roman Church. The result was the destruction of the heritage and history of the St. Thomas Christians." A large photo shows the Gregorian Pontifical University, Rome— the most prestigious Catholic Jesuit university in the world. The NOTE underneath reads: "During the rise of the Protestant Reformation, the Roman Church had few scholars to match the Biblical scholarship of her enemies. *One of the first responsibilities of the Jesuits was to fill this need as pontifical theologians. A major thrust of the new order was to regain Roman Catholic supremacy in Europe by taking over the schools, colleges and universities.*(all ital. mine) - *Truth Triumphant*, Benjamin Wilkinson, Leaves of Autumn Publications. Photos show "a portrait of Jesuit priest Matteo Ricci at the museum at Ingolstadt in Bavaria. Ricci was the first European given the honor of being *buried on Chinese soil in a Buddhist tomb* [!] The Note underneath reads: "In the 17th century the Jesuits influenced the Chinese calendar and introduced a number of European inventions into the Chinese culture. Some authors believe *the Jesuits altered* the inscription on the Nestorian Stone in 1625 to *make it appear* that the Nestorians held Catholic doctrines.- Charles W. Wall, *Ancient Orthography*, Vol. 3, p. 160.

***Maceration.** Macerate is defines as 1. To waste away; hence, to oppress; torment 2.To soften by steeping in a liquid; to separate the parts of vegetable fibers by steeping; to soften and wear away. – Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Fifth Edition 1942, Merriam-Webster.

"For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake." Philipians 1: 29, K.J.V.

(Continued next issues)