

Study for the Month of September 2015
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The 'Man of Sin' of Bible Prophecy and his activities and career - Part VI

“Why The Pope Matters. Especially in today’s world.”- HuffPost

“And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded unto death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.” Revelation 13: 3, K.J.V.

“And all the world wondered after the beast.” Or more accurately, “all the world was *amazed* after the beast.” Amaze (amazed, amazing) means “to fill with great surprise or wonder; astonish.” *Webster’s New World Dictionary of the American Language, Warner Books Paperback Edition.*

It is uncanny and yet really not surprising that this great surprise, wonder, and astonishment of the world after this beast of prophecy instead of after the soon-coming Savior Jesus Christ, was accurately described, perhaps unintentionally, in a recent Huffington Post news analysis that we are quoting below, bearing the title “Why the Pope Matters. Especially in today’s world.”

It is the love for “the truth as it is in Jesus” (Eph. 4: 21) that *constrains* all truth-seekers (2 Cor. 5: 14) not to rest until they become intelligent in regard to the subject of the sanctuary in connection with the 2300-day prophecy of Daniel 8: 14, and the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14 which are brought out in the visions of Daniel and John.

All are who thus acquiring deeper spiritual discernment, clearly see that our loving and omniscient God, as in the past, has, and continues to use other people--even if they may not be aware of it--to fulfill His will and explain prophecies, Revelation 13 in particular, and all related prophetic chapters in the second half of the book of Daniel to those yet uninterested or are unaware of the closing events leading up to the close of earth’s probation. This includes numberless souls who have been misinformed regarding what, who, why, how, and when “every nation, kindred, tongue, and people,” *except* a faithful remnant who will “refuse to worship the beast and his image and receive his mark in their foreheads or in their hands,” and “a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues”(Rev. 7: 9, 10) who are yet in spiritual, antitypical “Babylon the great.” The latter will soon fully “become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.” That is, “when her sins will have reached unto heaven and God has remembered

her iniquities, then “the greater part of God’s people, whom he calls “*My people*” who are yet in these fallen apostate churches will be finally called out by the fourth angel of Revelation 18 in the final loud cry, “come out of her . . . that ye partake *not* of her sins and *receive* of her plagues” (Rev. 18:1-5).

If but for this one verse alone, every serious student of end time prophecy classified as “secrets (mysteries) of the Lord God *which He revealeth unto His servants the prophets*” (Amos 3: 7), would be justified in pursuing this series of tracking the career and activities---past, present, and future of the prophetic “man of sin” and “son of perdition” described by Paul in 2 Thess. 1-4, parallel to “the little horn” of Daniel 7: 8, 23, 9-12, and the beast with the triple composite characteristics of the leopard, bear, and lion John saw in vision and described in Rev. 13: 1-9. All these are revealed by:

(1) “The more sure word of prophecy,” which apostle Peter says, “whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the Day Star arise in your hearts” (2 Pet. 1: 19). (2) Authoritative official sources such as that of respected historians and eminent Bible commentators. (3) Official statements, declarations, catechisms, bulls, and encyclicals issued by the papacy itself.

(4) Pertinent current events as reported and/or analyzed and editorialized by the traditional media and other public information sources, now including social media spawned by the internet age, whether independently concluded or influenced by, if not written itself by the Vatican press writers and papal apologists. (5) The prayerful pursuit of present truth for these last days, following the William Miller study method cited in last month’s issue. (6) The enlightenment, guidance, and teaching of the Holy Spirit. NOTE: We reiterate this extremely vital Biblical truth: *the head of Christ’s true Church on earth is not and never will be any visible mortal man but the invisible third Person of the Godhead—the Holy Spirit*---who, Christ personally declared, is His one and only appointed vicegerent on earth from His ascension *until* the close of human probation and He is fully and eternally withdrawn from the earth. (7) The ministry the unseen holy angels, “the ministering spirits” (Heb. 1: 13, 14) appointed to assist and protect the vastly outnumbered, feeble, mostly poor, humble yet faithful, commandment-keeping people of God on earth. The angels are the ones who separate the tares from the wheat in the parable of Matt. 13: 24-30; (COL 75; TM 47).

The very first witnesses to Christ’s glorious resurrection on the third day, as He himself prophesied, was an elite force of the Roman soldiers stationed to guard His tomb borrowed from Joseph of Arimathea. These Roman soldiers were never court-martialed as they should have been, not for falling asleep on duty but for failing in their post of duty. Moreover, they should have been additionally charged for two other high crimes, namely 1) accepting *bribes* from the Jewish Sanhedrin and b) spreading the lie of the latter that Christ’s disciples had somehow stolen His dead body under their watch! Furthermore, if Christ’s body was actually stolen, why was it never recovered when both the Jewish Sanhedrin and Rome had all the combined vastly superior power and resources at their disposal to track down and find the body of Christ, which should have been decomposing by then since the Jews (and the Muslims) do not practice embalming even to date. (Egyptians introduced embalming. Note their pharaohs.) His low-keyed yet fully witnessed to ascension by His disciples (Acts 1: 1-12). Paul wrote that the resurrected Christ in His glorified flesh “was seen of Cephas, then of the Twelve: After

that, *He was seen of above five hundred at once* whom the greater part remain unto this present (when this epistle was written), but some are fallen asleep (*have died*, margin). After that, He was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all He was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.” 1 Cor. 15: 1-8.

Christ ascended to the *right hand* (meaning, full and complete authority) of God to become, as the gospel teaches, the repentant sinner’s *one and only* merciful High Priest, all-powerful Mediator and Advocate in the heavenly sanctuary, to the Father. And then “the Father committed all judgment to His only-begotten Son “through whom and by whom He created all things.” Gen. 1: 1; John 1: 1-3, 10; Col. 1: 12-19; 2: 9, 10; 2 Tim. 3: 16, etc. That is why Jesus Christ is all in all! We need no one for our complete and eternal salvation than Christ. Now, “the man of sin, in contrast to the “Son of man and Son of God,” not only claims to be the vicegerent of Christ, displacing the person and office of the Holy Spirit but to be “verily God on earth.”

“Where there is no vision, the people perish.” Prov. 29:18, K.J.V. In case we have forgotten or for those who might be reading these particular series for the first time, we reiterate who or what “the man of sin” is, as revealed in visions to the *prophet Daniel* in the Old Testament, to *apostle Paul* and to *John*, John the beloved in the Revelation, and brought together by the inspired pen of Ellen G. White. Thus we read this truth of “strong meat,” not “milk.” See Heb. 5: 12-14. The members of the remnant church of prophecy have the privilege and responsibility of “exposing the wickedness of the man of sin” as part of the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14---a work and message that is not for the lukewarm, double-minded or faint-hearted Christian. Note:

“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. *Even at that early date he saw, creeping into the church, errors that would prepare the way for the development of the papacy.* . . . 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 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, Great Controversy, An Era of Spiritual Darkness, ch. 3, pp. 49, 50. (1911 ed.), Southern Publishing Association.*

Here are some prophetic symbols in the Bible that are vital to our topic:

- **Beast** denotes kingdoms, government, and political power. Daniel 7: 1, 7, 23; Rev. 13: 2, 3, 7.
- **Horn** denotes power and strength, kings or kingdoms. Deut. 33: 17; Zech. 1: 18, 19; Lam. 2: 3, 17; Ps. 89: 17, 24; Dan. 7: 24; 8: 8; 20: 22; Rev. 17: 12.
- **Waters** denote inhabited areas of people and nations. Isa. 8: 7; Rev. 17: 15.

- **Sea** is the symbol of “peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues [languages, dialects]. Rev. 17: 15.

NOW, WHO IS THIS BEAST WHOM THE WHOLE WORLD IS AMAZED, FILLED WITH GREAT SURPRISE, WONDER AND ASTONISHED AT?

The beast being referred to in Revelation 13 is introduced at the beginning of the chapter. Read verses 1-3, K.J.V. We call upon Uriah Smith, who, in his scholarly work, *Daniel and the Revelation, “Struggle For Religious Freedom,” ch, XIII, pp. 561-571*, wrote, and we quote (all emphasis supplied except as indicated):

“THE SEA is a symbol of ‘peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.’ Rev. 17: 15. A beast is the Bible symbol of a nation or power. It sometimes represents the civil power alone, and sometimes the ecclesiastical in connection with the civil. Whenever a beast is seen to come up out of the sea, it denotes that the power arises in a thickly populated territory. If the winds are represented as blowing upon the sea, as in Daniel 7: 2, 3, political commotion, civil strife, and revolution are indicated.

“By the dragon of the previous chapter, and the beast first introduced in this, we have the Roman power as a whole brought to view in its two phases, pagan and papal; hence these two symbols have each the seven heads and ten horns. (See comments on Rev. 17: 10.)

“The Leopard Beast. --- The seven-headed and ten-horned beast, more briefly the leopard beast, here introduced, symbolizes a power which *exercises ecclesiastical as well as civil authority*. This point is of sufficient importance to justify the introduction of a few conclusive arguments which prove it.

“The line of prophecy in which this symbol occurs begins with Revelation 12. The symbols of earthly governments embraced in the prophecy are the *dragon* of Revelation 12 and the *leopard beast* and the *two-horned beast* of Revelation 13. The same line of prophecy evidently continues into chapter 14. *Beginning, therefore, with Revelation 12: 1, and ending with Revelation 14: 5* [in conjunction with the description of the 144,000 in Revelation 7: 1-8], *we have a line of prophecy distinct and complete in itself*.

“Each of the powers here introduced is represented as fiercely persecuting the church of God [the true and faithful, commandment-keeping one]. The scene opens with the church under the symbol of a woman anxiously longing for the promise to be fulfilled that the seed of the woman, the Lord of glory, should appear among men. The dragon stood before the woman for the purpose of devouring her child. His evil design is thwarted, and the child is caught up to God and His throne. A period follows in which the church suffers severe oppression from this dragon power. In this part of the scene the prophet occasionally glances forward, once almost even down to the end, because all the enemies of the church were to be actuated by the spirit of the dragon. In verse 1 of Revelation 13 *we are carried back* to the time when the leopard beast, the successor of the dragon, begins his career. *From this power the church suffers war and persecution for the long period of 1260 years. Following this period of oppression, the church has another conflict, brief but sharp and severe, with the two-horned beast* [the image of or to the beast]. Then comes deliverance. The prophecy closes with the church brought safely through all her persecutions, and standing victorious with the Lamb on Mount Zion. Thank God for the sure promise of final victory!

“The one character which ever appears the same in all these scenes, and whose history is the leading theme through all the prophecy, is the true church of God. The other characters are her persecutors, and are introduced simply because they are such. Here, as an introductory inquiry, we raise the question, Who or what is it that persecutes the true church? *It is a false and apostate church.* What is it that is ever warring against true religion? *It is a false and counterfeit religion.* Who ever heard of the mere civil power of any nation persecuting the people of God on its own initiative? Governments may war against other governments to avenge some wrong, real or imaginary, or to acquire territory and extend their power. But governments do not persecute (mark the word—do not *persecute*) people on account of their religion, *unless under the control of some opposite and hostile system or religion.*

“Leopard Beast a Persecuting Power. --- The powers introduced in this prophecy--- the dragon, the leopard beast, and the two-horned beast of verses 11-17---are all *persecuting* powers. They are actuated by rage and enmity against the people and church of God. This fact is of itself sufficiently conclusive evidence that *in each of these powers the ecclesiastical or religious element is the controlling power.*

“Take the dragon: what does it symbolize? —the undeniable answer is, *Primarily Satan*, as shown heretofore, and *secondarily the Roman Empire*. But this is not enough. No one would be satisfied with this answer and no more. It must be more definite. We therefore add, The Roman Empire in its *pagan form*, to which all must agree. But just as soon as we say pagan, we introduce a *religious* element, for *paganism is one of the most gigantic systems of counterfeit religion* that Satan has ever devised. The dragon, then, is so far an *ecclesiastical power* that the very characteristic by which it is distinguished is a false system of religion. What made the dragon persecute the church of Christ? It was because Christianity was prevailing against paganism, *sweeping away its superstitions, overturning its idols, and dismantling its temples.* [NOTE: It is for a similar reason that Judaism, the State religion of the Jews at the time of Christ, persecuted the early disciples of Christ who were *first called Christians at Antioch*, Syria, after the successful missionary work and preaching of Silas, followed by Paul, and subsequently by their prototypical combined work. They swept away the typical, ceremonial system, overturned the Jewish man-made religious laws, and dismantled the earthly priesthood and temple services which were but types of Christ’s superior priesthood, and the latter, the services of the heavenly sanctuary]. The *religious* element of that power was touched, and persecution was the result.

“We now come back to the *leopard beast* of Revelation 13. What does that symbolize? The answer still is, *the Roman Empire*. But the dragon symbolized the Roman Empire, and why does not the same symbol represent it still? *Ah! there has been a change in the religious character of the empire. This beast symbolizes Rome in its professedly Christian form.* It is this *change in religion*, and this alone, which makes a change in the symbol necessary. This beast differs from the dragon only in that it presents a different *religious* aspect. Hence it would be wrong to affirm that it denotes simply the Roman civil power.

“A Symbol of the Papacy. ---To this beast the dragon gives his *power*, his *seat*, and *great authority*. By what power was pagan Rome succeeded? *We all know that it was by papal Rome.* It matters not to our present purpose when or by what means this change was effected. The great fact is apparent, and is acknowledged by all, that the next great phase of the Roman Empire after its pagan form was its papal. It would not be correct, therefore, to say that pagan Rome gave its power and seat to a form of

government *merely civil*, having *no religious element* whatever. No stretch of the imagination can conceive of such a transaction. But *two phases of empire* are here recognized, and in the prophecy *Rome is pagan until Rome is papal*. The statement that the dragon gave to the leopard beast his power and seat, *is further evidence that the dragon of Revelation 12: is used as a symbol of pagan Rome*. But back of both powers, and leading them on in their wicked work, is Satan himself.

“But it may be said that it takes both the leopard beast and the two-horned beast to constitute the papacy; and hence it is to these that the dragon gives his power, seat, and great authority. *But the prophecy does not say so*. It is the leopard beast *alone* with which the dragon has to do. It is to that beast *alone* that he gives his power, seat, and great authority. *It is that beast which has a head that is wounded to death, which afterward healed; that beast after which the whole world wonders; that beast which has a mouth speaking blasphemies, and which wears out the saints for 1260 years*. It does all this before the succeeding power, the two-horned beast, appears. *The leopard beast alone, therefore, symbolizes the Roman Empire in its papal form, the controlling influence being ecclesiastical*.

“Identical With the Little Horn. – To show this more fully, we have but to draw a parallel line between the little horn of Daniel 7: 8, 20, 24, 25, and this power. From this comparison it will appear that *the little horn and the leopard beast symbolize the same power*. The little horn is generally acknowledged to be a symbol of the papacy. There are six points by which to establish their identity:

- The little horn was a blasphemous power. ‘He shall speak great words against the Most high.’ Daniel 7: 25. The leopard beast of Revelation 13: 6 does the same. ‘he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God.’
- The little horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them. (Daniel 7: 21.) This beast also (Revelation 13: 7) makes war with the saints, and overcomes them.
- The little horn had a mouth speaking great things. (Daniel 7: 8, 20.) Of this beast we read: ‘There was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies.’ Revelation 13: 5.
- The little horn arose on the cessation of the pagan form of the Roman Empire. The beast of Revelation 13: 2 arises at the same time; for the dragon, pagan Rome, gives him his power, seat, and great authority.
- Power was given to the little horn to continue for a time, times, and the dividing of time, 1260 years. (Daniel 7: 25.) To this beast also power was given forty-two months, or 1260 years. (Revelation 13: 5.)
- At the end of that specified period of 1260 years the ‘saints,’ ‘times,’ and ‘laws,’ were to be taken out of the ‘hand’ of the little horn. (Daniel 7: 25.) At the end of the same period, the leopard beast was himself to be led ‘into captivity.’ (Revelation 13:10.) Both these specifications were fulfilled in the captivity and exile of the pope [Pius VI by Gen. Berthier of Napoleon’s Republican army], and the *temporary* overthrow of the papacy by France in 1798.

“These six points prove satisfactorily the identity of the little horn and the leopard beast. When we have in prophecy two symbols, as in this instance, representing powers

that come upon the stage of action at the *same time*, occupy the *same territory*, maintain the *same character*, do the *same work*, exist the *same length of time*, and meet the *same fate*, those symbols represent the *same identical power*.

“Received a Deadly Wound.” --- The head that was wounded to death was *the papal head*. We are held to this conclusion by the obvious principle that whatever is spoken in prophecy of the symbol of any government, *applies to that government only while it is represented by that symbol*. Now Rome is represented by two symbols [two heads], the dragon and the leopard beast, because it has presented two phases, the pagan and the papal; and whatever is said of the dragon applies to Rome only in its pagan form, and whatever is said of the leopard beast applies to Rome only in its professedly Christian form. John says that it was one of the heads of this leopard beast that was wounded to death. *In other words, this wound fell upon the form of government that existed in the Roman Empire after its change from paganism to Christianity*. Thus it is evident that it was the *papal head* that was wounded to death, and whose deadly wound was healed. *Thus wounding is the same as the going into captivity*. (Revelation 13: 10.) It was inflicted when the pope was taken prisoner by Berthier, the French General, and the papal government was for a time abolished, in 1798. Stripped of his power, both civil and ecclesiastical, the captive pope, Pius VI, died in exile at Valence in France, August 29, 1799. But the deadly wound began to be healed when the papacy was re-established, though with less of its former power, by the election of a new pope, March 14, 1800 [See Archibald, Bower, *History of the Popes*, Vol. III, pp. 409-420; George Croly, *The Apocalypse of St. John*, p. 25, Footnote on p, 567.].” **NOTE:** Cardinal Gasparri and Benito Mussolini signed in 1929 the concordat which restored the temporal power of the papacy.

Let us consider this recent article from the Huffington Post regarding “the man of sin.” They give three major reasons why the pope matters--especially Francis, today:

“Why The Pope Matters. Especially in today’s world.”

These are the exact words of the headline of a news story written by Paul Brandeis Raushenbush, Executive Editor of Global Spirituality and Religion, The Huffington Post, posted 08/30/2015 on HuffPost Religion. (All highlights and emphasis added except as indicated). Read this full article on: http://huffingtonpost.com/entry/why-pope-francis-matters_55d370deed4b07addeb443e0c?kbcommref=mostpopular.

“An estimated 1.5 million people are expected to join Pope Francis on September 27 for a celebration of the *Mass* at the culmination of *the World Meeting of Families* in Philadelphia. The mass gathering, plus the pope’s participation in the *Festival of Families* the day before, which is expected to draw close to 750,000 people, has led to the coining the term ‘Popeapocalypse.’ (Note the coined word, “Popeapocalypse.”)

“Universities are closing, pilgrims are staking sleeping plots in the Philadelphia Zoo, the mass transit system is holding a lottery for train tickets and women expecting to give birth in the area are looking at traveling to other cities---all in anticipation of Pope Francis’s visit.

“There is no other religion, entertainment or political leader alive today who could garner anywhere near the kind of response inspired by the pope---a fact that leaves some people scratching their heads and wondering: *why? why does the pope matter so*

much?

“He’s A Transnational *Political* Leader

“As the head of the Roman Catholic Church, the pope occupies a position that no other religious leader can match. Most major religions do not have a hierarchical structure that clearly acknowledges one leader who embodies tradition like the pope does for Catholicism. The pope is the head of a cohesive, transnational organization that has been in existence for close to two thousand years. The church has a chain of command from the Vatican all the way to the local parish that is capable of transmitting information, ideology and material goods throughout the world.

“Contrast this with other religions that are mostly fragmented among many different sects, and leaders among them. And even among those that do have existing hierarchies, such as the Anglican Communion, the numbers do not compare to the estimated 1.2 billion Roman Catholics.

“The influence of the Catholic Church is augmented by the status of the Vatican as an independent city-state that maintains diplomatic relations with countries around the world. As the leader of the Vatican, when the pope visits a country, it’s not just as a religious leader, it is as a head of state. This sets the pope apart from most leaders, whether religious or political, aside from more ceremonial positions, such as the one held by the Queen of England, who is both titular head of the Anglican Church as well as of the Commonwealth but exerts little influence on either. The pope, on the other hand, is the clear authority behind both of these titles and able to wield influence that comes with it.

“Not only is the Catholic Church transnational, in many parts of the world it is an influential player in domestic politics and civic life. These domestic churches are led by local bishops, archbishops and cardinals, all of whom are appointed by the pope and are responsible to him. This means that the kind of priorities and interests of the local Catholic Church’s is greatly influenced by [the] kind of people put into the highest places by the pope.

“He Has International *Religious* Influence

“Aside from political and diplomatic power, the soft inspirational power of the pope is even more impressive. For a large section of humanity, the Catholic Church has for millennia been their conduit to the Divine, and has provided answers to the questions of how to live a moral and meaningful life. [Just look at what the Dark Ages did to mankind for over a thousand years when the Papacy controlled the state powers of the world, Europe, the African Continent, South America, etc, in particular.]

“As the head of the Roman Catholic Church the pope’s authority is linked back to Saint Peter, one of Jesus’ disciples who is considered by the Roman Catholic Church to be the first pope. [The Bible nowhere even remotely implies this claim!]. Papal pronouncements hold serious weight and the pope has great influence on how Catholics understand what is holy---for instance he plays the central role in the process of declaring saints and shrines. The pope is also the highest representation of the Catholic Church to other faith traditions, whether to other religions, other Christian denominations or the secular world.

“Not only are papal pronouncements and activities conveyed through Catholic channels, they are also the subject of media interest and covered closely. When the

pope speaks of the Christian Gospel, as he does on Wednesdays and Sundays in St. Peter's Square, through Encyclicals and in less formal settings, he often relates the religious and spiritual message not only to personal morality and salvation, but also to societal issues and political life. This frequently involves taking positions on controversial *debates in countries around the world and within broader world events*.

"Given the immense power of the position it is clear that any pope is going to matter. However, when the role is held by such captivating figure as Pope Francis, the pope matters a lot. [Italics in the latter from original.]

"From the moment the newly elected pope faced the crowds in St. Peter's Square and his chosen name was announced---Francis---*the spirit of possibility* began to blow through the Roman Catholic Church. "[the "spirit of possibility".... for what, we ask?]

"Pope Francis's Particular Papacy

"Francis has already become one of the most remarkable figures of the 21st century. From the very beginning, when he eschewed the Apostolic Palace for a simple boarding house, traded in the pope's Mercedes popemobile for a Hyundai, and declared how he wished for a poor church and church for the poor, Francis has made headlines with his---to some---surprising words and deeds. [Yes, Indeed! The Roman Catholic Church may be the richest church in the world. Check its invaluable collections of works of art at the Vatican, etc.!]

"Within his first year the new pope observed Maundy Thursday by washing the feet of young inmates, *including women and Muslims*, said that *atheists could be redeemed* [emphasis in the original], opined that the church has been emphasizing gay marriage and abortion too much, accused the bureaucracy of having spiritual 'Alzheimer's,' stated that global financial markets are 'tyrannizing the poor' and, of course, *his now iconic response about gay people: 'Who am I to judge?'*

"He has gone on to use his platform to especially highlight the plight of immigrants, the homeless, the poor, Middle East peace, the persecution of Christians and most recently took on the moral question of the environment [in] his encyclical, 'Laudato Si.'" (End of article from HuffPost.)

"Pomp and protocol await Pope Francis on White House visit."

This is the headline of an AP news story written by Darlene Superville dated 9/13/2015. See full article on: <http://news.yahoo.com/pomp-protocol-await-pope-francis-white-house-visit-121058654.html> . We will here quote portions only (emphasis supplied):

"Washington (AP)—When Pope Francis arrives in the United States, *he will get an airport welcome that few world leaders have ever received: a plane-side greeting from President Barack Obama.*

"The extraordinary gesture on September 22 is just the beginning of the pomp and protocol that Washington will put on display to welcome the leader of the world's 1.2 billion Roman [or Christian?] Catholics and the head of the Vatican City on his first U.S. visit. [These are indeed prophetic words!]

"The next day, Francis will be just the third pope to visit the White House, being greeted as most heads of state are, with his car pulling slowly on the South Lawn's

driveway to the spot where a red carpet will be rolled out and Obama and his wife, Michelle, will be waiting. . . .

“‘Like millions of Americans, I am very much looking forward to welcoming Pope Francis to the United States,’ *Obama told a prayer breakfast* this year.

“The president and the pope met for the first time in March 2014 at the Vatican, and *Obama has been outspoken about his admiration* of the 78-year old native of Argentina. Despite differences over abortion, the two have found common ground on such issues as U.S. policy towards Cuba and Iran, climate change, and poverty and income inequality.

“‘So much of *arrival ceremonies are steeped in history are steeped in history and tradition,*’ [in contrast to the first and second arrivals or comings of Jesus Christ to the earth; they were not steeped in history or traditions but on the prophecies of the Old and New Testaments!], said Anita McBride, who was an assistant to President George W. Bush, who received Pope Benedict XVI at the White House in April 2008. ‘Every arrival ceremony is important.’

“While a handshake is considered and appropriate way to greet Francis, Catholics have the option of kissing the gold ring the pope wears on his right hand, according to the State Department protocol office. *Vice President Joe Biden, a devout Catholic,* opted not to kiss the ring after he attended Francis’s installation Mass at the Vatican in March 2013.

“The pope should also be addressed as ‘Your Holiness.’ [It should be interesting, to say the least, based on the prophecy of Revelation 13, to see whether president Obama, not a professed Catholic but an evangelical Christian, will act on this occasion. Will he also not kiss the gold ring of the Pope Francis, as did his vice president, a devout Catholic, and whether he will address Francis, a mortal, as “Your Holiness,” which the Bible says, exclusively applies only to God in Christ, who alone is immortal]

“Popes and U.S. presidents share *nearly a 100-year history of interaction*, with more than two dozen meetings since the first one at the Vatican on *January 4, 1919*, between *President Woodrow Wilson and Pope Benedict XV* after World War I.

“*President Jimmy Carter* received the *first* papal visit to the White House by John Paul II in October 1979. Nearly *30 years* have passed before Pope Benedict XVI would make the same trip.” (end of AP quote).

“GOP candidates to attend pope events despite differences.”

This is the headline of AP news written by Julie Page, 9/14/2015. Read whole article on: <http://news.yahoo.com/gopd-candidates-attend-pope-events-despite-differences-080828589-election.html>. Quoted portions below:

“Washington (AP)---To some Republican presidential candidates, *its better to be with the popular pope than against him. Marco Rubio, Rand Paul and Ted Cruz have deep policy differences with Pope Francis*, but the senators will break off campaign travel to attend his address to Congress later this month, a centerpiece of his early anticipated visit to the United States. . . . “*Regardless of what the pope says or emphasizes, the simple fact of being associated with his visit is still significant for a candidate,*’ said David Campbell, a professor at the University of Notre Dame [a Catholic institution] *who studies religion and politics.*” (end of quote)

The Romish Element. – In 1884 Ellen G. White wrote her classic, non-fiction book, *The Great Controversy*, “Aims of the Papacy,” ch. XXX, pp. 380-397. (NOTE: The next chapter XXXI, “The Coming Conflict,” reveals the role of America in the coming conflict. This is a must-read for all who are preparing for the *real* coming final crisis:

“The *Christian world* will learn what *Romanism* really is, when it is too late to escape the snare. She is silently growing into power. Her doctrines are exerting their influence in [3 places] *legislative halls*, in the *churches*, and in the *hearts* of men. Throughout the land she is piling up her lofty and massive structures, in the secret recesses of which her former persecutions [during the Dark Ages] will be repeated. She is stealthily and unsuspectedly strengthening her forces to further her own ends when the time shall come for her to strike. *All that she desires is vantage ground, and this is soon to be given to her.*”- 4SOP pp. 396-7.

(To be continued next month.)

“Pope Calls For Every European Parish to Take in a Refugee Family.”

See on <http://news.yahoo.com/pope-calls-every-european-parish-refugeee->

“Vatican City (AFP)- Pope Francis on Sunday called on every Catholic parish in Europe to take in a refugee family, saying the Vatican’s two parishes would lead by example. Calling for a ‘concrete gesture’ *ahead of a Jubilee Year of Mercy starting in December*, the pope urged ‘every parish, *every religious community*, every monastery, *every sanctuary* in Europe (to) take in a family.

“Faced with the tragedy of tens of thousands of asylum-seekers fleeing death (as) victims of war and hunger who are hoping to start a new life, the gospel calls on us and asks us to be the neighbor of the smallest and the most abandoned, to give them concrete hope,’ he said, giving the Angelus blessing in Saint Peter’s Square in Rome.

“It’s not just about ‘have courage, be patient,’ Francis—who has made poverty and migration a key theme to his papacy—told thousands of faithful gathered in the square.

“Christian hope is more *combative*,’ he said, calling on ‘Europe’s bishops, the true pastors to back my call in their dioceses.’ The Vatican would lead the way, he said, announcing that its *two parishes* would take in *two refugee families* [that’s all?] ‘in the coming days.’ *Drawing on a gospel story in which Jesus heals a deaf and mute man*, the Argentinian-born pontiff said *a miracle has also taken place in Europe*, where ‘we have been healed of the deafness of selfishness and the silence of retreating to ourselves. ‘The closed couple, the close family, the closed group, the closed parish, *the closed country*, that come from us, it has nothing to do with God,’ he stressed.” (end of quote)

NOTE: There were 120 Comments. Space for this issue denies us from printing some of them which make simple sense. Read them for yourself in the yahoonews website above.

Now, this latest breaking strongly-worded, mind-provoking opinion piece written by Michael Brendan Daugherty on *THE WEEK ON FACEBOOK*, September 11, 2015, entitled “**HOW POPE FRANCIS VANDALIZED MARRIAGE.**” See <http://theweek.com/articles/576481/how-pope-francis-vandalized-marriage>

The introduction reads: “Are you married? You may think so, but the pope has other ideas. Pope Francis has declared this year a Jubilee year of mercy. He has made it easier to restore people who have participated in abortion to full communion. He obviously wants to create some momentum for change and reform at this fall’s Synod of the Family. [The next Synod may be on the long-anticipated Sunday law!]. And so, he just took one major item off the table, by unilaterally reforming the church’s annulment process. Unfortunately, this reform amounts to *vandalism on the sacrament of marriage*, and is a deeply condescending insult to average Catholics.