

ANTICHRISTSPEAK

In entering any area of study or field of endeavor it is necessary to acquire a working knowledge of the vocabulary and terms used extensively. The study of Antichrist is no exception. The Bible has much to say on the subject in both veiled and well-known Scriptures, while using different terms to connote different aspects of Antichrist's character, office and rule.

ANTIXPIΣΤΟΣ

The nomenclature of Antichrist must begin with a discussion of that most important term. We find the word 'antichrist' five times in the New Testament, all used by John: 1 John 2:18 (twice); 2:22; 4:3; 2 John 7. John is the same Apostle who received and wrote, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*. This fact is no coincidence, for the Book of *The Revelation* is the revealing, unveiling, uncovering or disclosure of the identity and mission of the Antichrist, the arch enemy of God's people, beginning at the age of the Apostles, up to and including the Second Advent of Christ. *The Revelation* also, and most importantly so, reveals God's saving power and grace. The gates of Hell do not prevail over His true Church. The Lord and His people have the victory, but at great expense. Contrary to popular, but false teachings, the Lord's chosen engage in mighty battle with the enemy. The war begun in Eden continues unabated, up to and including Christ's visible return to Earth. [1]

Strong's lexicon emphasizes Antichrist's characteristic of 'opposition' to the Messiah. Certainly that is the most prevalent understanding of the prefix, *anti*. We see this usage in our contemporary words, 'antivenin', 'antibody', and 'antifreeze'. All these terms accentuate 'opposition to', thus neutralizing the enemy, whether it be toxic snake venom, disease-carrying bacteria or sub-freezing temperatures.

However, there is a second and equally important, yet little known definition crucial to its meaning: substitution. Antichrist is not only the hostile enemy and opponent of Christ and His Church, he is also a usurper who falsely claims the authority, power and prestige of Christ. Here is a great mystery. In fact, here is the mystery of Mystery Babylon the Great and the scarlet-colored beast, the Antichrist, on which she is seated. The Antichrist, the beast, will claim to be the official representative of Jesus Christ, fully vested in His authority to rule in His stead. The

Woman, the whore, is the prurient bride of Antichrist, not the virgin bride of Christ. She is the Anti-church, not the true Church, as she and Antichrist claim. She opposes the true Church, her enemy.

This double meaning of the prefix, *anti*, is seen quite clearly in its usage by the Roman Catholic Church:

ANTIPOPE: “One who uncanonically claims or exercises the office of Roman Pontiff.” [2]

Needless to say, the Antipopes were not the closest, dearest friends. Thunderous anathemas were hurled like lightening bolts, one to another. The list of Antipopes is surprisingly extensive, and for the most part not discussed, but passed over in silence by the Roman Catholic Magisterium. One will find no listing for 'antipope' in the 1994 Catechism.

Thus, inherent in the term 'antipope' are the characteristics or marks of 'opposition to' the reigning Pope, and usurpation of the reigning Pope's office and authority.

The Roman Catholic Church recognizes the double meaning of *anti* :

ANTICHRIST: “One opposed to the work of God, especially that accomplished in Jesus the Messiah (Christ). Some passages suggest that this hostile figure attempts to work by usurping divine and messianic prerogatives, and thus winning over followers by deceiving them concerning his (or its) true nature. The Greek prefix $\alpha\nu\tau\iota$...can express the idea of substitution or replacement, as well as that of hostility.” [3]

St. John denotes an important characteristic, trait, or mark of Antichrist: he is a liar.[4] He will deny that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One. The Roman Catholic Church fulfills this prophecy by denying Christ alone as Redeemer, Savior and Mediator. The Church of Rome has elevated the Blessed Virgin Mary to the lying offices of Mediatrix of All Graces and Co-redemptrix:

“In Catholic theology the title Mediatrix is applied to Our Lady for three reasons. First...she occupies a middle position in the hierarchy of beings between the Creator and His creatures...Second, because during her earthly career she contributed considerably...to the reconciliation between God and man brought about by the Savior. Third, because through her powerful intercession in heaven she obtains for her spiritual children all the graces that God deigns to bestow on them.” [5]

“O Mother of love and mercy, who, when thy dearest Son was consummating the Redemption of the human race on the altar of the Cross, didst stand by Him, suffering with him as a Coredemptrix...”[6]

“It is the will of God that one obtain every grace through Mary.”[7]

Contrary to, opposed to, and *anti* the teaching of the Bible, the Roman Catholic Church has usurped Christ's divine offices by elevating the Mother of Jesus in His stead. Thus, the Goddess

Mary becomes a type of antichrist as taught by the lying doctrines of the Roman Church. She is the One prayed to and petitioned by the Catholic faithful as Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix.[8]

However, God the Father told the Apostles that it was Jesus in whom He is well pleased - listen to him, not Mary.[9] Mary herself confirms the admonition,[10] admitting her need for salvation.[11] Jesus dispels any notion of Mary's mediatorial office.[12] Jesus teaches His disciples to pray to the Father in His name.[13] Mary is intentionally omitted in His instructions. When a passerby attempts to glorify and venerate Mary for birthing and raising Christ, Jesus instead directs God's blessing to the obedient, whoever they are.[14] When on the cross, Jesus places Mary in St. John's care, placing her in John's household.[15] Mary is the one in need, not John. John is the helper and benefactor, not Mary. Additionally, it would have been an opportune time for Jesus to elaborate on her pending Ascension with her divine office of Mediatrix of All Graces. Instead, He calls her, 'woman and mother', terms used of all females who are mothers. Jesus could have called her 'mother' when addressing her: 'Mother, behold thy son!' Instead, He addresses her as 'woman', as if to distance Himself from any misconception which would teach Mary to be Mother of God. In speaking to John, He does not say, 'Behold the Mother of God!' Rather, 'Behold thy mother.' Mary is now the mother of John, not the Mother of God.

And finally, any further question of Mary's exaltation as Queen Intercessor in Heaven is put to rest once and for all by reading St. John's Revelation. John, Mary's adopted son, is taken to Heaven to experience, first-hand, things seen by few mortals.[16] Nowhere is Mary seen or mentioned. Twenty four elders and the four living creatures are all worshipping God the Father. No Mary, anywhere. The supposed Queen of Angels and Mother of God is absent. When a worthy person is beseeched to come forward to open the book with seven seals, no one, not even her son, John, calls for the Most Blessed Virgin to take the book, for several reasons. She is not Immaculate, thus, not worthy. She is not Co-redemptrix, thus, not worthy. She is not Mediatrix, thus, not worthy. She is not the Mother of God, thus, not worthy. Nor is she the Queen of Heaven, thus, not worthy. Only the Lamb, Jesus Christ, is worthy. [17]

Of crucial importance is the incontrovertible fact that in viewing the great multitude clothed in white robes holding palms, John never once hears Mary's name mentioned as the One cooperating with Jesus in God's plan of salvation.[18] All the saints reigning in Heaven were in unity, in total agreement, 'one', if you will, as to whom they owed their salvation, and it was not Mary. We may infer, by logical deduction, that there is not now, nor will there ever be one saint in Heaven who attributes one iota of salvation to Mary, to the Church, or to any other idol by any other name. Once again, we are faced with hard truth as to the lost condition of religious Roman Catholic clergy, orders and faithful.

In Chapter Two we discussed how the lying doctrine of Transubstantiation as taught by the

Roman Catholic Church for 1500 years fulfilled the antichrist prophecy denying Christ has come in the flesh.[19] Is the thoughtful reader beginning to discern the mounting evidence against the Church of Rome and her Head, the Pope?

To further amplify and underscore the meaning of *anti* as a 'substitute, in the place of', let us examine a key passage of Scripture which teaches this concept:

"And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt-offering in the stead of his son." [20]

The LXX (Septuagint) is invaluable in giving to us an unbiased Greek translation of the Old Testament centuries before the birth of Christ:

"And Abraam lifted up his eyes and beheld, and lo! a ram caught up by his horns in a plant of Sabec; and Abraam went and took the ram, and offered him up for a whole-burnt-offering in the place of -'anti' -αντι - Isaac his son. " [21]

Does this example provide the reader with irrefutable evidence for a prime definition of *anti* to be that of a 'substitute'? Note, also, the contrast between the ram sent by God and the beast, Antichrist, sent by Satan.

In addition to the above, we have a New Testament example of the use of *anti* as 'substitute':

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and man, which is the man Christ Jesus which gave himself a ransom for all men. ..." [22]

The word *ransom* may be defined as 'what is given in exchange for another as the price of his redemption'. [23] To give 'in exchange for another' is to substitute one thing for another. This concept of 'substitution' inherent in the word *ransom* is reflected in the Greek: αντιλυτρον = *anti* + *lutron* = to redeem by taking the place of.

As Christ, the Lamb, was the Redeemer who offered up Himself, paying the ransom of the elect with His blood, [24] the Antichrist, the Beast, offers a bloodless sacrifice of worthless bread Transubstantiated into the image of the Beast, in obedience to his Master, the Dragon, and to the eternal destruction of the God-hating reprobate.

ANTICHRIST AND VICAR OF CHRIST ARE SYNONYMOUS TITLES

The Pope, otherwise known as the Roman Pontiff, the Bishop of Rome, has, as one of many official titles, been given the title, 'Vicar of Christ.'

"The bishop of the Church of Rome, successor to St. Peter, is 'head of the college of bishops, the Vicar of Christ and Pastor of the universal Church on earth.'" [25]

VICAR OF CHRIST: "A title of the Roman pontiff expressing his claim to universal jurisdiction in virtue of Christ's words to St. Peter, "Feed my lambs...feed my sheep." [26]

The English word *vicar* is derived from the Latin *vicarius*, meaning 'a person who acts in place of a superior.'^[27] The Vicar of Christ supposedly acts in the place of Christ, as His personal envoy, deputy, legate or representative:

"Great as has been the magnificence and splendor of Rome viewed in her material and worldly aspects, she is yet more transcendently grand and glorious in her spiritual significance and influence. From Rome temporal we now come to a consideration of Rome spiritual...we rise to a contemplation of the Vicar of Christ in the supreme spiritual sway he exercises over the hearts and souls of men.

"No society of men can exist without organization and without a supreme head. The Church is a society and, like all societies, necessarily possesses its executive officers, its code of rules, its ceremonies and observances...And since no purely human society, imperfect as are all the works of men, can be conceived as existing without a supreme head and director; so neither may this divine universal society, founded by God Himself, be conceived to exist without a supreme head to guide and direct and lead to their destined end the individuals who compose it.

"And we know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God - true God and true man...and that He is the Head of that Church. But as after the Ascension He no longer would be with His Church in a visible manner, He chose one of His followers to be His representative in that Church - His Vicar on earth."^[28]

Is there a reader in doubt as to the claim of the Papacy to be the Vicar of Christ, His representative, acting in the place of, and on the behalf of Christ? If this is so, then the dynasty of popes have been, and are to this day, antichrists. The current reigning Pope would be the Antichrist. Of course, the Roman Catholic Church denies the Pope to be against, opposed and hostile to, an adversary and enemy of Jesus Christ, His Gospel, and His Body, the true Church. Yet the theology, teaching and official documents of the Roman Church bear this out. The facts of history, the fruit of the Catholic Church, bears this out. The testimony of the martyrs, Reformers and their creeds bear this out. And finally, the Scriptures, by the illumination of the Holy Spirit, bear this out. Yet, the world denies the Pope is Antichrist. Instead, they celebrate Antichrist as *Man of the Year*.^[29] The World's Greatest Evangelist calls Antichrist, "...one of the greatest moral and spiritual leaders of this century."^[30] This is a great mystery. The drunken sleeping prophets, along with Protestant Presidents and Heads of State, gladly commit fornication with the Beast and his Bride, drinking to excess the wine and fruit of fornication. How can this be? Why do they not see Antichrist and the Bride of Antichrist? This is a great mystery.

"FOR THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IS THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY"^[31]

When questioned by the disciples as to the sign of the time of His Second Advent, Jesus issued a stern warning and admonition.^[32] They were to be alert and on guard, awake and watchful,

because men would try to deceive them.

"For many shall come in my name saying: I am Christ, and shall deceive many."[33]

Tyndale's New Testament contains the original margin notes written by Mr. Tyndale as an aid to the reader's understanding. In the above verse, Tyndale's margin note reads: *Antichrist*. The Reformer and martyr was absolutely correct.

The Olivet Discourse, the testimony of Jesus to His disciples regarding end time signs, was entirely prophetic. He began His lengthy prophecy with the revelation of Antichrist. This revelation was most critical, which is why Jesus commenced with it. The primary sign of the imminent return of Christ is the coming and appearance of Antichrist. This prophecy correlates exactly with St. Paul's prophecy of the appearance of the Man of Sin prior to the return of Christ, the Day of the Lord.[34] Both prophecies contain the forewarning: *Let no man deceive you*. The Lord Jesus Christ and St. Paul are in complete agreement that false prophets will, with cunning, deceive many by inverting the order and timing of end time events and signs. Many will err, though with apparent sincerity, by placing Christ's Coming before Antichrist's coming.

THE RAPTURE A DECEPTION OF RAPACIOUS PROPHETS

Today this prophecy is fulfilled in the deception called, 'The Rapture'. Is there a Christian alive today who has not been thoroughly indoctrinated into this false teaching? Make no mistake about it. Christians can and will be deceived. Even the born again prophets and teachers. But in this specific area, i.e. the return of Christ, many true Christian prophets, teachers and leaders will receive, believe and teach, 'The Lie.' This is another great mystery. By 'The Lie' may be meant the deception that teaches Christ's secret, invisible return for His Church only, 'The Rapture', prior to the revealing and rise of Antichrist. This false teaching somehow justifies a third Advent of Christ, one which is visible to unbelievers, at which time Antichrist is destroyed.[35]

The problem with such an unscriptural doctrine is quite serious. The Rapture teaches that the Church raptured, along with the millions of saints living in the years and centuries antecedent to The Rapture, will never see, know, experience or identify the Antichrist. It teaches he cannot be known because he has not yet come. Thus, the warnings, admonitions and myriads of prophecies concerning Antichrist and his reign have no relevance for the past 2,000 years of Christianity because The Rapture has not yet happened. And Antichrist cannot come until The Rapture occurs. No Rapture, no Antichrist. No Antichrist, no trumpet warnings by the Church. No trumpet warnings by the Church, no cause for alarm. No cause for alarm, no cause to watch for the coming thief. No cause to watch for the coming thief, no reason not to eat, drink, marry and give in marriage:

"As the time of Noe was, so likewise shall the coming of the son of man be. For as in the days before the flood, they did eat and drink, marry and were married, even unto the day that Noe entered in to the ship, and knew of nothing, till the flood came and took them all away: So shall also the coming of the son of man be."^[36]

Does the discerning reader see that The Rapture Deception fulfills Jesus' prophecy that the many will be oblivious to His Coming again, once, in judgement?^[36a] To be oblivious to Christ's appearing is to be oblivious to Antichrist's appearing. To be at rest, waiting for The Rapture, is to be unmindful that Antichrist is here and has been here for at least one thousand years. To be unmindful of Antichrist's presence is to disregard the Master's commandments to warn, rebuke, and reprove the works and workers of darkness, Antichrist included. Spiritual battle not waged due to heedlessness, not knowing or believing that the arch enemy is a present danger, is to the advantage of the enemy. How often have Mafia members, when questioned by the authorities, denied the existence of the Mafia?

By understanding the time frame of Antichrist's rule and reign, as prophesied in the Bible, one may understand the time frame of Christ's return, which this author believes to be hundreds of years in the future. Be that as it may, just how, exactly, The Rapture Fable was foisted on so many Christian prophets, teachers and leaders is a very terrifying mystery, but one prophesied by Jesus and St. Paul. We will discuss the so-called 'Rapture' Scriptures at length, later in this chapter.

THE DYNASTY OF ANTICHRISTS SHALL COME IN MY NAME

The Lord warns of many antichrists, a dynasty descended from a common ancestor, *coming in His name*.^[37] Although Jesus does not use the literal title, *Antichrist*, in this prophecy, the signification is there, nonetheless. To 'come in one's name' is understood to be interpreted, 'having been vested with the authority of one's superior to act on his behalf.'^[38] The Lord Jesus forewarns his followers that many deceivers will come claiming to be acting on the Lord's behalf, as His Vicar, by the authority of the Lord Jesus Himself. These deceivers will deceive many. This prophecy is fulfilled in the Papacy, claiming to be Christ's representatives on earth: born again, Spirit-filled, dedicated, selfless Christian Shepherds who care and feed their Christian flock.^[39] Rather, if the truth be known, these deceiving papal antichrists have introduced the Abomination of Desolation, the unholy and profane sacrifice of the Mass, into the visible professing Church, sending millions upon millions to perdition, where their worm dieth not and the smoke of their torment ascends up forever and ever.^[40]

ANTICHRIST WILL SAY: I AM CHRIST

This particular phrase has two different, yet similar meanings of equal import. First, Antichrist will confess the deity, 'I AM', of Christ,^[41] pleading a case for his orthodoxy, successfully so, in the eyes of many Christians. The Antichrist will confess all the early Church Creeds because

they adhere to Christ's divine nature:

"Among all the creeds, two occupy a special place in the [Roman Catholic] Church's life: The Apostles' Creed is so called because it is rightly considered to be a faithful summary of the apostles' faith... [and the] Nicene Creed..."^[42]

The Apostles' Creed states, 'I believe in God the Father Almighty; Creator of Heaven and Earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord...'^[43] In this ancient credo, Jesus is confessed to be the 'Christ' and the 'Son of God', thus the divine Messiah.

The Nicene Creed (A.D. 325), elaborates on the Godhood of Christ:

"We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father, the only-begotten; that is, of the essence of the Father, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one essence with the Father..."^[44]

Antichrist's confession of the deity of Christ, 'I AM THAT I AM', is explicitly and correctly expounded in the Nicene Creed quoted authoritatively by the Church of Rome.

A second profound interpretation to Christ's prophecy that *many shall come in my name saying: I am Christ, and shall deceive many* is not as apparent. It was Peter who boldly responded to the Lord's query, *whom say ye that I am?*^[45]

"Thou art Christ the son of the living God." ^[46]

It is precisely this confession that the Papacy and Roman Catholic Church use as proof text that it was Peter upon whom the Lord built His Church, and it was Peter to whom were given the keys of the kingdom of heaven.^[47] As such, the Antichrist and his Church claim Peter's leadership over the Church, i.e. the first Bishop of Rome, Universal Bishop overseeing the Church, and the first Pope, from whom the dynasty and lineage of popes are descended to the present day:

"The term Petrine texts is used of three scriptural passages (Mt.16:17-19; Luke 22:31-32; John 21:15-17) in which Christ promises and grants to St. Peter the primacy among the Apostles The traditional Catholic interpretation of this text [Matt.16] , as the promise of a primacy of authority over the whole Church given to Peter and through him to his successors, was authentically confirmed by Vatican Council I..Christ, therefore promises to build His Church in such a way that the whole structure will depend on Peter for its stability." ^[48]

"In rabbinic literature the 'giving of the keys' consistently means the granting of authority, as to a steward placed over his master's household it seems certain that Mt. 16:19a means that Christ will confer on him vicarious authority over His household on earth, that is over the Church that He promises to build on him as on a rock..."^[49]

"Vatican Council I defined that Christ constituted St. Peter chief of all the Apostles and visible head of the whole Church militant, granting him a primacy not merely of honor but of true jurisdiction; that Christ established that Peter should have perpetual successors in this primacy; and that the Roman bishops are these successors. The pope, then, being bishop of Rome and successor of Peter in his primacy, is the supreme pontiff of the universal Church."[50]

"Just as the office of the Lord confided to Peter alone, as first of the apostles, destined to be transmitted to his successors, is a permanent one the Church teaches that 'the bishops have by divine institution taken the place of the apostles as pastors of the Church, in such wise that whoever listens to them is listening to Christ and whoever despises them despises Christ and him who sent Christ.'"[51]

Please note the phrase, 'taken the place of', in the last paragraph quoted. Translated into Greek it is rendered *anti*. To listen to and obey a bishop is to listen to and obey Christ. Thus, the bishop is an *antichrist*. It is the Bishop of Rome, the Pope, who claims the primacy or superiority over all bishops. Therefore, he is the *Antichrist*. Also, observe the second paragraph above contains the term *vicarious*, meaning *anti*.

Peter confessed, *Thou art Christ*, 'you are Christ'. Jesus could well have responded to the other disciples, 'Verily, Peter is correct. I am Christ.' It would be centuries later that the Papacy would claim Peter, the one who first confessed Jesus is Christ, as its rock and forefather, thus fulfilling Christ's prophecy of the coming Antichrist.

The New Saint Joseph Baltimore Catechism also confirms *antichrist* an office of the priest:

"The ordained priest takes the place of Christ, our High Priest..." [52]

"Christ Our High Priest In Heaven The Priest On Earth Another Christ." [53]

The New Catholic Encyclopedia explains that the ecclesiastical authority of the bishops:

"...is not to 'lord it over them' (Mt. 20:25) that some are vested with authority in the community, but that they may more effectively serve by standing in His [Christ's] place to whom 'all authority in heaven and on earth has been given' (Mt. 28:18)."[54]

Clearly, the Roman Catholic Church authoritatively teaches the office of priest is *antichrist*, the office of bishop is *antichrist*, and the office of chief bishop, the Papacy, is the *Antichrist*.

THE MAN OF SIN, THE SON OF PERDITION, THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS

2 THESSALONIANS 2: 1-12 NOT PROOF TEXT FOR RAPTURE

THE HOLY SPIRIT NOT THE LET/RESTRAINER

"We beseech you brethern by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in that we shall assemble unto him, that ye be not suddenly moved from your mind, and be not troubled, neither by spirit, neither by words, nor yet by letter which should seem to come from us, as though the day of Christ were at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means, and that that sinful man may be opened [revealed] , the son of perdition which is an adversary, and is exalted above all that is called God, or that is worshiped: so that he shall sit as God in (the) temple of God, and shew himself as God.

Remember ye not when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth: even that he may be uttered [revealed] at his time. For the mystery of that iniquity doth he already work which only locketh, [i.e. , keeps the Man of Sin from being revealed) until it be taken out of the way. And then shall that wicked be uttered [revealed], whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the appearance of his coming, even him whose coming is by the working of Satan, with all lying power; signs and wonders; and in all the deceivableness of unrighteousness, among them that perish: because they received not the love of the truth, that they might have been saved. And therefore God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe lies: that all they might be damned which believed not the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. " [55]

Many sincere, but errant, Christian leaders and teachers would have the sheep believe the referred to Scriptures teach both the secret Rapture of the Church and the Holy Spirit as that which hinders. Such was not always the case because the Scriptures teach no such thing. William Tyndale's *Prologue To The Second Epistle Of St. Paul To The Thessalonians* is quite telling:

"Because in the fore-epistle he had said that the last day should come suddenly, the Thessalonians thought that it should have come shortly. Wherefore in this epistle he declareth himself.

And in the first chapter he comforteth them with the everlasting reward of their faith and patience in suffering for the gospel, and with the punishment of their persecutors in everlasting pain.

In the second he sheweth that the last day should not come, til there were first a departing (as some men think) from under the obedience of the Emperor of Rome, and that Antichrist should set up himself in the same place, as God: and deceive the unthankful world with false doctrine, and with false and lying miracles wrought by the working of Satan, until Christ should come and

slay him with his glorious coming and spiritual preaching of the word of God." [56]

Does the keen reader see anything indicating a secret Rapture of the Church preceding the coming of Antichrist? Of course not. Does the attentive reader acknowledge Tyndale's understanding that the Holy Spirit is the One holding back Antichrist? Of course not. John Jewel, English Protestant Bishop of Salisbury (d. 1571), a renowned church apologist and theologian,[57] has given us, for posterity, what may be the greatest exposition of 2Thessalonians ever written:[58]

"Only he which now withholdeth shall let til he be taken out of the way.'

Now the emperor holdeth the whole power and authority over the world; but it shall be taken away from him; and then shall antichrist come, when all stops and lets shall be removed. Who is he that doth stop him and let his coming? The emperor of Rome. So saith Tertullian, so Augustine, Ambrose, and Chrysostom. Antichrist shall possess a great part of the Roman Empire; yet so long as the emperor shall stand and prosper, he will not suffer any part of his empire to be abated. So long as the emperor shall be able to bear himself, antichrist shall never be able to grow. But a time shall come when the empire of Rome shall be rent asunder: then the authority of the emperor shall decay, then antichrist shall gather strength, and shall place himself where the emperor was. A traitor cannot usurp the crown so long as the right king is able to stand and maintain his state. Antichrist is a traitor; a traitor both to God and man. When the emperor shall fall and decay, then he shall rise up: when the emperor becometh weak, then he shall grow strong. Therefore Paul saith, antichrist shall not come yet; for the emperor letteth him: the emperor shall be removed; and then shall antichrist come."[59]

According to the esteemed Bishop Jewel, 2Thessalonians teaches no secret Rapture and no Holy Ghost *let*. Instead, the good Bishop exegetes the Roman Emperor as the hindrance to the coming, usurping, traitor pseudo-Christian Antichrist before the Second Advent of Christ. Let the reader understand that history teaches the commonly known fact of the Fall of the Roman Empire to have occurred A.D. 476:

"One of the barbarian invaders, Odoacer, might seem, in 476, to have swept away the empire from the West, when he commanded the abdication of Romulus Augustulus; and the date 476 has indeed been generally emphasized as marking 'the fall of the Western [i.e Roman] empire.'"[60]

"The [Church] fathers had taught that when the cycle of empires was finally ended by the disappearance of the empire of Rome, the days of Antichrist would dawn..."[61]

Let us look closer at how an early Church Father interpreted the *let*. (The word *let* is still used today in the game of Tennis. A ball, when served, which hits the net before entering the opponent's court, is called a *let*. The net is that which has hindered the ball's unobstructed service.) Tertullian (d.212), an apologist committed to defending the Christian faith, has many works extant. Writing well before the Fall of Rome, we can easily grasp his view of the 'let' :

"Without ceasing, for all our emperors we offer prayer. We pray for life prolonged; for security to

the empire; for protection to the imperial house....There is also another and a greater necessity for our offering prayer in behalf of the emperors, nay, for the complete stability of the empire, and for Roman interests in general. For we know that a mighty shock impending over the whole earth - in fact, the very end of all things threatening dreadful woes - is only retarded by the continued existence of the Roman Empire."^[62]

"Again, in the second *epistle* he [Paul] addresses them with even greater earnestness: *Now I beseech you brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him, that ye be not soon shaken in mind, nor be troubled, either by spirit, or by word, that is, the word of the false prophets, or by letter, that is, the letter of false apostles, as if from us, as that the day of the Lord is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means. For that day shall not come, unless indeed there first come a falling away, he means indeed of this present empire, and that man of sin be revealed, that is to say, Antichrist, the son of perdition, who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God or religion; so that he sitteth in the temple of God, affirming that he is God...*

What obstacle is there but the Roman state, the falling away of which, by being scattered into ten kingdoms [Tertullian has just equated Daniel's prophecies of 10 toes and 10 horns with the divided Roman Empire, after its Fall], shall introduce Antichrist upon its own ruins."^[63]

The 1602 Annotated Geneva New Testament is yet another testimony of the view held by the Protestant Reformers:

"He [Paul] foretelleth, that when the Empire of Rome is taken away, the seat that falleth away from God, shall succeed and hold his place, as the old writers, Tertullian, Chrysostom and Hierome [Jerome] does expound it."^[63a]

Once again, no secret Rapture of the Church to escape The Great Tribulation and no Holy Spirit 'Restrainer.' That is because these doctrines of demons are a recent development of Satan's, proving the power and authority of the mystery of iniquity to dispel any notion that Antichrist is here, working his lawlessness and lying signs and wonders.

CONSTANTINE THE GREAT REMOVES THE 'LET' IN EDICT OF MILAN

When the Roman Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity after having received a demonic-inspired vision of a cross in the noonday sky, persecution of Christians became illegal, and the Roman Empire embraced Christianity, mixing paganism with biblical precepts.^[64] By decreeing, in A.D. 313, the Edict of Milan, Constantine (and Licinius) initiated what was to become the removal of the Roman Empire's power to hinder the growth of Christianity and enabled the eventual ushering in of the pseudo-Christian Antichrist:

"When we, Constantine and Licinius, Emperors,...decided...that it was right that Christians and all others should have freedom to follow the kind of religion they favored... We therefore announce that...Christians...who choose that religion are to be permitted to continue therein, WITHOUT ANY LET OR HINDRANCE, and are not to be in any way troubled or molested."^[65]

Of course, the Edict was only one of several factors which allowed the pseudo-Christian Man of Sin to be revealed. Constantine's removal of his seat of power to the East, establishing Constantinople and the Eastern Empire, left the Bishop of Rome in a stronger position of power and authority. One can be sure the popes took advantage of the situation to the utmost, true humility in seeking a heavenly kingdom not being one of their characteristics, marks, traits, or fruit.

It is now that one must ask the question: If, upon the Fall of Rome and with it the Roman Emperor, the Man of Sin was to be revealed, that Man must have been revealed circa A.D. 476. Who, precisely, was he? Also, if St. Paul describes that same Wicked as being the One whom the Lord consumes with the spirit of His mouth, destroying him at His Second Coming (2Thess. 2:8), the Man of Sin's seed and descendents must be alive today:

"The papacy is the only institution that has existed continuously from the early Roman empire."^[66]

For more than 1,500 years, the popes, the Bishops of Rome, the Seed of the Serpent, Cain's brethren, the Dragon's offspring, have ruled and reigned in the Roman Catholic Church. Many Antichrists have come in Jesus Christ's name, indeed. By one count, 266 have come in Christ's name thus far.^[67]

The Rev. C.I. Scofield, D.D. can be credited with propagating, in this century, the misconception of who and what 'the restrainer' is:

"The restrainer is a person -'he', and since a mystery always implies a supernatural element, this Person can be none other than the Holy Spirit."^[68]

Christian Apologist, Dave Hunt, nearly one hundred years later continues disseminating the myth:

"Only God could prevent Antichrist from being revealed, but God cannot be 'taken out of the way' because He is omnipresent... At Pentecost the Holy Spirit was given to indwell believers, never to leave them. It is this presence of God the Holy Spirit within His church which prevents the Antichrist from being revealed and which will be removed at the Rapture and not until then."^[69]

Certainly, it is not difficult to recognize the prevalence of this false teaching which claims Antichrist is yet to come. Let us take a closer look at 'the restrainer' or 'let'. By doing so error should be brought to light, and inconsistencies exposed.

NO REASON FOR PAUL TO BE SECRETIVE RE: HOLY SPIRIT AS 'LET'

In Paul's first Epistle to the Thessalonians he had no problem, whatsoever, in referring plainly to the Holy Spirit.^[70] In Paul's second Epistle he, too, speaks openly of the Holy Spirit.^[71] The Holy Spirit is a Person, a 'He' and a 'who', not a 'what' and a 'thing':

"And now ye know what withholdeth: even that he may be uttered [revealed] in his time."^[72]

The King James Version also follows Tyndale's translation:

"And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time."

The Annotated 1602 Edition Geneva New Testament also agrees:

"And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time."^[73]

The Interlinear Greek-English New Testament renders the Literal Translation as:

"And now you know the thing holding back, for him to be revealed in his time."^[74]

The thing holding back is not the Holy Spirit or the Holy Spirit in the Church. It is the Roman Empire ruled by the Roman Emperor, the *he who now letteth*.^[75] The pseudo-Christian Man Of Sin will occupy the seat of the Roman Emperor. But first the Emperor/Caesar must be removed and taken out of the way.

THE POPE OCCUPIES THE SEAT OF THE ROMAN EMPEROR AS PONTIFEX MAXIMUS

"Under the later [Roman] republic [the office of Pontifex Maximus] was coveted chiefly for the great dignity of the position; Julius Caesar held it for the last 20 years of his life, and Augustus took it after the death of Lepidus in 12 B.C., after which it became inseparable from the office of the reigning emperor."^[76]

"The pope, then, being bishop of Rome and successor of Peter in his primacy, is the supreme pontiff of the universal Church. The term *pontifex*, used in classical Latin of the members of the college of high priests, began to be used of bishops late in the fourth century. The term supreme pontiff applied to the pope means that he is the first and chief bishop in the Church..."^[77]

"...the term [pontifex] that in earlier times looked to fullness of priestly and sacramental power (possessed by all bishops) is gradually becoming one that denotes the fullness of pastoral and teaching power and therefore applies (without addition of supreme [i.e. maximus] or Roman) to the pope alone."^[78]

"Recently, I learned that the word 'pontiff' (a title by which the Pope is often known) comes from the Latin word which originally meant 'bridge builder.' During his visit to America Pope John Paul II was indeed a bridge builder, and that is something our divided world desperately needs."^[79]

If there is any doubt that the popes hold the place of the Roman Emperors as *Pontifex Maximus* despite Roman Catholic authorities affirming it as fact, let the skeptical reader refer to PLATE 1.

As Supreme Pontiff, the 'bridge building' Pope allegedly makes 'a way for men to God.'^[80] Rather, the Pope and his seed have taught several blasphemous ways to God: i.e. through the Blessed Virgin, through the Church, through the sacraments, through good works, and through the saints. The Pontiff, the alleged infallible teacher of the faithful, is that thief and robber spoken of by the Lord. The one who enters not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way.^[81]

The drunken sleeping prophets neglect to see and teach this simple fact. It took the Rev. Dr. Billy Graham thirty some-odd years to glean the meaning of *pontiff* How long will it take him to glean the meaning of Antichrist, if ever?

As *Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church*,^[82] the Pope is supreme, i.e. 'above'^[83] all else in the Church. Self-exaltation is a chief characteristic, mark, trait, fruit and work of the Man of Sin.^[84] His other titles also exhibit this puffed-up, conceited view:

Vicar of Jesus Christ
Successor of the Chief of the Apostles
Patriarch of the West Primate of Italy
Archbishop and Metropolitan of the Roman Province
Sovereign of the State of Vatican City^[85]

The Man of Sin will feign humility as the 'least' among Christians, but will, in truth, boast and live like the 'greatest':

"He that is greatest among you, shall be your servant. But whosoever exhalteth himself, shall be brought low." ^[86]

The theatrical attempt of popes to present a humble and lowly spirit to the world is seen in the ritual foot washing performed on Maundy Thursday. This so-called 'commandment' Thursday before Easter Sunday was instituted by the Roman Catholic Church on an annual basis in the fourth century. Popes, prelates, priests and Catholic sovereigns with their nobles were to partake in this hypocritical ceremony.

THE POPE OCCUPIES THE SEAT OF THE ROMAN EMPEROR IN ROME

The seat and throne of the ancient Roman Emperors was, of course, Rome. It was from the City of Seven Hills that the Caesars ruled during the lifetime of the Apostles. Today the Revived Roman Emperor, the *Pontifex Maximus*, the pseudo-Christian Antichrist, the Man of Sin, the Roman Catholic Pope has his seat and throne, the Holy See, also in Rome:

"Holy See, a term designating Rome as the bishopric of the pope. The word is derived from the Latin *sedes*, which denotes the seat or residence of the bishop: this is because the bishop's office is symbolized by the chair in which he presides over his people. ^[87]

"The Vatican, the official residence of the pope, on the Vatican hill, the nucleus of the Vatican City State which forms an extraterritorial enclave in the city of Rome, the geographical centre of the Roman Catholic Church."[88]

Just as the Caesars ruled the Roman Empire from Rome, so does the Man of Sin, the Antichrist, rule the Revived Roman Catholic Pseudo-Christian Empire from his Roman seat, throne and headquarters, the Vatican. The two could never have ruled simultaneously in the same city in the same office. Thus, for the Man of Sin to have taken his seat, chair and throne, the Roman Emperor, along with his Empire, had to be *'taken out of the way.'* [89]

WHAT, EXACTLY, WAS TROUBLING THE THESSALONIANS?

In writing his second Epistle to the church in Thessalonica, St. Paul was responding to a very serious charge. Apparently, false apostles and fraudulent prophets were directly contradicting an important teaching of his. The particular doctrine in question was delivered by Paul personally as oral tradition.[90] Paul was teaching on two specific areas: the Second Advent of Christ and the revelation of Antichrist. First to come was Antichrist, then to come was Jesus Christ.[91] But certain men were deceiving the church, claiming superior, authoritative knowledge which contradicted Paul's testimony. They were teaching the opposite would happen, much the same as is being falsely taught today: i.e. first would come Jesus Christ (in a secret Rapture), then would come Antichrist. These false brethren had shaken the Thessalonians from the steadfastness of their understanding of Paul's teaching. Many were swayed away from Paul, while others were beginning to doubt Paul's veracity. If Paul was mistaken in these areas, perhaps he had been mistaken in other important areas, like salvation by grace through faith. Now that is a troubling thought.

Yet sincere, godly Christians are being taught and are believing that the Thessalonians were fearful and quaking in their boots (or sandals) because they had missed the secret Rapture:

"But obviously Paul had taught the Thessalonians that the Rapture came first. Therefore, if the day of Christ had come, they would be 'shaken and troubled' that either they had been left behind or Paul had been mistaken. We can only conclude that Paul had taught a pretrib rapture...Must the Antichrist be revealed before the Rapture? No, Paul does not say so, though many have mistakenly read that into the verse."[92]

That the Apostles did not teach a pre-tribulation, secret Rapture prior to the advent of Antichrist, the Man of Sin, is evident through a study of prophetic thought in Church history. In fact, the more knowledge one can attain pertaining to the history of church doctrine, i.e. what Christians believed and why, the easier it is to discern and refute the prevalent false teachings of the day. This author encourages all Christians to engage in independent study comprising all aspects of Church history, factual and theological. Such research and study takes time and

effort, and Satan can provide one with several excuses for not going forward on such a project. Sadly, the Christian who remains ignorant of the past is the ultimate loser.

The Thessalonians were far from nervous at the prospect of not escaping tribulation. They were already well entrenched in the good fight of faith, as Paul commends them for their *patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure*.^[93] Any modern-day Christian can read of the accounts of the early Christian martyrs as they daily faced the threat of death by the hands of the Roman Empire. Fear and trembling was not in their vocabulary or persona.

WHY THE SECRECY IN REVEALING THE 'LET'?

If the *let* or hindrance to the revealing of the Man of Sin was the Roman Emperors and their Empire, why the secrecy about it?

"Behold I send you forth as sheep among wolves. Be ye therefore wise as serpents, and innocent as doves. Beware of men, for they shall deliver you up to the councils, and shall scourge you in their synagogues."^[94]

Imagine attempting to openly preach the downfall of the Soviet Union in once-Communist Russia. It would have been nothing less than an act of suicide to do so. The Secret Police would have shipped that insane dissident to the Siberian labor camps, assuming, of course, he survived the interrogation process. The recusant citizen's family, friends and co-workers would also be placed at-risk as the authorities leave no stone unturned in their search for revolutionary advocates. In like manner, the Roman Empire was not a democracy encouraging and protecting the rights of its citizens concerning free speech. Rather, the Empire was marked by tyranny over its people and cruelty in dealing with adversaries. Consider the ominous fact of Rome's invention of death by crucifixion. That alone is a visible sign that shouts volumes as to the depths 'civilization' had sunk. The last thing Paul and the Christian Church needed was persecution, torture and death for prophesying the ultimate demise of the Emperor Caesar and his Kingdom. Thus, Paul transmitted this particular revelation via oral tradition, not through written letter which could easily fall into the hands of the enemy and be used against them. Remember, the Jews trumped up charges of sedition against Jesus because it was a very viable way to eliminate a 'problem.'^[95] By referring to the Roman Emperor Caesar with his Empire as the cryptic *let*, Paul was using godly wisdom as taught by his Master.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MAN OF SIN FORETOLD FOR EASIER IDENTIFICATION

Make no mistake about it, our God and Lord wills that we identify and expose the infamous

Man of Sin. St. John was given the revelation of him, as was St. Paul. Jesus Christ uttered several prophecies concerning him, some of which we have already discussed. The Old Testament is filled with allusions to him, not the least of which are those by the prophet Daniel. Why? Why was it necessary for God to paint such a complete and detailed picture of this Man of Sin, the Antichrist? Why bother to tell us of His future arch enemy? Simply put, God's enemy is our enemy. But this enemy will be found inside the Church. His disguise and demeanor will deceive many. His cunning will be legend. This self-professing, pseudo-Christian is out for the destruction of God's true believers. Our God does not will for our destruction or neutralization, but wills that we *fight the good fight, contending for the faith, having no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness.*[96] How are we to be obedient to the will of God if we are unaware of the portrait painted by the Holy Spirit in Scripture? How can we please God if we ignore all the signposts, marks and characteristics of the greatest thief of all time? How is it we can identify the enemy if his acting ability and posturing are of Academy Award stature? Our gracious God has given us an enormous amount of clues for correctly identifying the Man of Sin, Antichrist. The *mystery of iniquity* is solvable, having been solved by the elect for nearly one thousand years, as we will later discuss.

THE MAN OF SIN, ANTICHRIST, WILL COME AFTER THE APOSTASY [97]

The *falling away* spoken of by Paul is the familiar Greek word, *αποστασια*, 'apostasy', meaning 'a falling away from where one once stood in the faith.'[98] Paul defines this departure from the faith in his first Epistle to Timothy:

*“The spirit speaketh evidently that in the latter times some shall depart from - *αποστασια* - the faith, and shall give heed unto spirits of error, and devilish doctrine of them which speak false through hypocrisy, and have their consciences marked with an hot iron, forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats which God hath created to be received with giving thanks...”* [99]

Is there a reader who is ignorant of the centuries old Roman Catholic Church dogma pertaining to celibacy of the Priesthood and Orders? Is there a reader blind to the numerous days of fasting, abstaining from meat, perpetuated as commandments by the Roman Church? In no uncertain terms, Paul warns us as to the identity of the apostasy. By using common sense we can link the apostasy with the Church which condones and teaches the apostasy. The head of that apostate Church is the Man of Sin, Antichrist.

Let us hear the words of Protestant English Reformer, Bishop John Jewel, written more than four hundred years ago, as he interprets the meaning of the *falling away*:

"The apostle saith there shall be a departing; that it shall not be among the Jews and infidels [i.e. outside the Church], but among those which were reckoned to be of the household of faith, and the

children of God. What is it from which they shall depart, or wherein the decay shall be? Doth he mean their riches, their gold, their silver, and bread? No, but the doctrine of the gospel, and faith in Christ...The people shall shut their ears, that they may not hear the truth, and shall give heed unto spirits of error, and doctrines of devils, which speak lies through hypocrisy. And let them not say the church of Rome cannot err [i.e. the doctrine of infallibility in its teaching of faith and morals]: for where did Christ ever give, or where have the apostles ever made mention of any such privilege granted to that church? St. Peter saith, *There were false prophets also among the people; even as there shall be false teachers among you, which privily will bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift damnation; and many shall follow their damnable ways, by whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*^[100] [i.e the enemy and his evil doctrine will be inside the church]. When Christ said, *When the Son of man shall come, shall he find faith upon the earth?* ^[101] and when he told his disciples that the abomination of desolation shall stand in the holy place; when he warned them of this sort, *Then if any shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there, believe it not; for there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; so that, if it were possible. the very elect should be deceived;*^[102] it is most evident he spake of that departing our forefathers did behold and mark in their times; and which hath of late years appeared so manifestly, that no man who is not willfully blind can doubt thereof.

St. Paul knew not any such state of the church of Rome, or any especial grant made unto it, in such sort that it should never err. For unto the church of Rome he writeth: *Boast not thyself. Be not high-minded, but fear. For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Through unbelief they are broken off; and thou standest by faith. Behold therefore the bountifulness and severity of God; towards them which have fallen, severity; but towards thee bountifulness, if thou continue in his bountifulness; or else thou shalt be cut off.* ^[103] That is, if he spared not the Jews, his own people, how will he spare thee, that art but a stranger. If thou continue not, thou shalt be cut off. It may be thou shalt also depart from the faith, as the Jews have done: then shalt thou be as a withered branch, and shalt not draw any moisture from the root: then will God also forsake thee; and thy end shall be worse than thy beginning."^[104]

Notice the good Bishop applies Romans 11:18 to the Church of Rome, the gentile branch in the Jewish olive tree. Tragically, the Roman Church did not heed the warnings of Scripture or the warnings of the prophets sent to her. Instead, like Jerusalem, she scourged and killed the prophets, wise men and scribes sent to her by God, persecuting them from city to city.^[105]

THE MAN OF SIN TO APPEAR AS THE RIGHTEOUS MAN OF GOD

The whole point of the Holy Spirit calling Antichrist the *Man of Sin*, is to point up a particular mysterious characteristic, mark, trait, fruit and work of the Antichrist. He will deceive the world into believing he is the Head and Chief Shepherd of the Christian, Christ-confessing Church. But in reality, he is the Head of Mystery Babylon, the Beast, that idol shepherd, whose father is Satan, that old serpent, the Devil who deceives the whole world, who was a murderer from the beginning. Like father, like son. As Satan does, so does Antichrist. His father, the dragon, gives the son of perdition, that man of sin, the Beast, Antichrist, his power, seat, and great

authority.[106]

There is great mystery in the Man of Sin's ability to fool so many within the professing Church. This is the *mystery of iniquity*. If Satan's son came openly preaching a Christ-hating diatribe, there would be no mystery in it. It would be obvious, even to the drunken sleeping prophets. "There he is", they would shout proudly, "The infidel who believeth not in the Triune Godhead or in the incarnation of the Son of God." But as Christ's first advent was filled with mystery -*the mystery of Christ and the mystery of godliness* [106a] - so is Antichrist's coming. Israel did not recognize the signs of the times, nor the many prophecies of Scripture, and killed the Messiah. So it is with Antichrist's unveiling. The visible Church does not see him as Antichrist, does not warn that he is the Man of Sin, but instead embraces him like a whore embraces her lover, thus fulfilling the *mystery of iniquity*.

As Christ came lowly and humble, despised and rejected, Antichrist comes proud and exalted, flattered and worshiped. As Christ was the wisdom of God, Antichrist is the wisdom and cunning of Satan. As Christ was the Truth, Antichrist is the Lie. As Christ was the Life, Antichrist is the Death. As all who believe in and follow Christ have eternal life, all who believe in and follow Antichrist have eternal death. As Christ preached beware of wolves which come to you in sheep's clothing, Antichrist preaches the wolf is yet to come, so take your rest. As Christ preached in the world you will have tribulation, Antichrist preaches in the world there can be ecumenical peace and safety. As God the Father was well pleased in Christ, God the Father loathes Antichrist. As Christ and His atonement was perfect, finished and fully accepted by the Father, Antichrist and his continuous sacrifice of the Mass is an abomination, hated and rejected by the Father. As Christ is the only mediator between God and the elect, Antichrist, his ministers and false gods are mediators between Satan and the reprobate. As Christ's elect worship God in spirit and truth, Antichrist's reprobate know not what they worship. As the elect worship God through Christ, so the reprobate worship Satan through Antichrist. As Christ is the way to the Father, so Antichrist is the way to his father, the Devil.

THE MAN OF SIN REVEALED IN 2THESSALONIANS AND REVELATION

After the *falling away* or apostasy, which occurs after the *let* is taken out of the way, the Man of Sin is to be *revealed* in his time.[107] The Greek word used for *reveal*, αποκαλυπτω, is the same word from which *Revelation* is derived.[108] This was intentional on the Holy Spirit's part in order to direct us and link us to the Beast of Revelation 13 and 17. The word *mystery*, μυστηριον, as in *mystery of iniquity*,[109] is the very same word used in Rev.17:5, *MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT*, thus connecting the two mysteries.[110]

THE MAN OF SIN NOT A SON OF GOD, BUT THE SON OF PERDITION

This is a particularly chilling designation given Antichrist.[111] The word *perdition*, απωλει,

shares the same root with the word *perish*.^[112] We find the word *perish* in the classic gospel verse:

"For God so loveth the world, that he hath given his only son, that none that believe in him, should perish: but should have everlasting life."^[113]

Another familiar gospel verse which uses the word *perish*, and is often misinterpreted:

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."^[114]

God the Holy Spirit has called the Man of Sin - Antichrist - *the son of perdition*, i.e. the son who is lost and perishes. This statement correlates to a description of the Beast, in Revelation 13:8, that ascends out of the bottomless pit and goes into *perdition*. Likewise, the same Beast, described as the eighth head, goes into *perdition*.^[115] Both the Man of Sin and the Beast share a common destiny: perdition, i.e. damnation. We will not find the son of perdition in Heaven. Thus, we can draw the following inferences and conclusions:

1- When John 3:16 states *God so loves the world* we can exclude the son of perdition. God has decreed and predestinated that he perish. God despises the son of perdition and has no love for him whatsoever. Perdition is not a place God sends those He loves. Perdition is a place where He sends the Devil and his angels.^[116] The son of perdition is an angel or messenger of Satan, disguised as an Angel of Light.^[117] And so are the ministers of the son of perdition. They are the children of Belial, the Seed of the Serpent. If God despises the son of perdition and warns us as to his identity, should we not take heed and obey?

2- God has willed that the son of perdition perish, thereby destroying the myth that God is not willing for every single human being to perish. Thus, God does not love, in a saving, merciful fashion, everyone. God does not send to perdition those He loves, nor does He save those He does not love. All those in Heaven God loves, all those in perdition God does not love. Heaven is the gift for those God loves, perdition is the just judgment for those whom God does not love. There is no one in Heaven God does not love, nor is there anyone in perdition God loves. Is anyone in doubt that God does not love the son of perdition?

3- If the son of perdition, the Man of Sin, the Antichrist, is predestinated to perdition, it is impossible he is the *pontiff* or *bridgebuilder* building a way for man to God. Rather, he is building a bridge to destruction, which, if the truth be told, his minion servants and disciples are crossing over eagerly, in droves. This is a *mystery*, is it not? Millions, like lemmings, perishing willingly with the son of perdition:

"If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."^[118]

4- If God does not love the son of perdition and has decreed and decided beforehand he is going into perdition, is it not our duty to tell Antichrist's followers where they are *really and truly* headed? And that they must repent and separate, having no fellowship with the Beast and his Whore or their works of darkness?[119]

If the woman rides the beast, and the beast goes into perdition, will not the woman, Mystery Babylon, ride into perdition with him?[120]

“Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word of my mouth and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.”[121]

The prophet Ezekiel heard the Word of the Lord and obeyed. The drunken sleeping prophets read the Word of the Lord and do not obey. The blood of the wicked who follow the Man of Sin, the son of perdition who goes into perdition, will be required at the hands of the drunken sleeping prophets. Does that thought strike terror in the reader's heart, as it does this writer?

JUDAS ISCARIOT ALSO CALLED THE SON OF PERDITION[122]

This is a very large clue to identifying the Man of Sin, the son of perdition. Consider the fact that Judas was also called a devil.

“Then Simon Peter answered: Master, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life, and we believe and know, that thou art Christ, the son of the living God. Jesus answered them: Have I not chosen you twelve, and yet one of you is the devil? He spake of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. For it was he that should betray him, and was one of the twelve.”[123]

Has it ever dawned on the reader that by studying Judas Iscariot one can come to know Antichrist, of whom Judas is a type? Certainly, Christians are aware and schooled in identifying Christ in the Old Testament types. But how competent are they in identifying Antichrist types? Judas is a New Testament Antichrist type. Cain is an Old Testament Antichrist type. Cain was a murderer and the Seed of the Serpent, his father, the devil. Judas was also a murderer who murdered our Lord by betraying him into the hands of sinners. Jesus called Judas a devil, as he was of his father, the Devil.

Please note the sequence of events in the disclosure or revelation that a disciple was a devil:

1- All confess Jesus is Christ, including Judas.

2- A disciple is revealed to be a devil.

Judas' confession was not of the Holy Ghost.[124] It was of the flesh. Antichrist will confess Jesus is Christ, but it will be an empty confession. The Holy Spirit will reveal him to be a Judas, the son of perdition.

JUDAS PROOF ANTICHRIST TO COME FROM WITHIN THE CHURCH

Christ admitted He 'lost' Judas, the son of perdition. This was not due to Christ's ineptness as the Savior. Jesus, God the Father, and God the Holy Spirit, did not love Judas in a saving way. Judas was marked out for destruction from all eternity, which is how the Holy Spirit could write about it one thousand years earlier in Scripture.[125] Judas was 'lost', meaning he *perished*. The Holy Spirit uses the same Greek word for *perish* as noted above. However, Judas' perishing was Judas' fault, not Jesus' fault. Antichrist's perishing is Antichrist's fault, not God's fault.

As Judas, the son of perdition, was a disciple and apostle, of the twelve, so Antichrist, the son of perdition, is a disciple and apostle, claiming apostolic authority:

"The bishops - successors of the apostles.

¶1862...Hence the Church teaches that 'the bishops have by divine institution taken the place of the apostles as pastors of the Church, in such wise that whoever listens to them is listening to Christ and whoever despises them despises Christ and him who sent Christ.'[126]

The Roman Catholic Church claims apostolic succession through its bishops. These bishops take the place of Christ, thus they acknowledge their office as antichrists.

JUDAS A BISHOP, ANTICHRIST A BISHOP

"It is written in the book of Psalms: His habitation be void, and no man be dwelling therein: and his bishopric let another take."[127]

We have already established that the Pope, as bishop of Rome, has the primacy and is called Supreme Pontiff. Thus, in all points so far, the 'Holy' Father fits the description of the Antichrist, the Man of Sin, the son of perdition, as disciple, apostle, bishop, and vicar of Christ.

JUDAS EMPOWERED BY SATAN, ANTICHRIST EMPOWERED BY SATAN

"And he wet the sop and gave it to Judas Iscariot, Simon's son. And after the sop, Satan entered into him."[128]

"...him whose coming is by the working of Satan, with all lying power, signs and wonders..."[129]

As Judas, the son of perdition and a devil, was Satan's tool, so, too, is the Man of Sin,

Antichrist, the son of perdition, Satan's puppet and master deception, showing great signs and wonders capable of deceiving the elect, if it were possible.^[130] We have earlier explained Satan's great lying wonder, Transubstantiation, whereby Antichrist and his ministers claim the power to change unleavened bread into the real presence of Jesus Christ, his literal body and blood. This despite the irrefutable fact that the bread looks, tastes, smells and feels like bread. How it is that millions upon millions of Antichrist's faithful have not revolted against such blasphemy which runs contrary to reality is another great *mystery*. Consider the enormous power of Satan to blind and capture the minds of the unbelieving.^[131] In a later chapter, additional lying signs and wonders will be discussed in detail. Suffice it to say, the Roman Catholic Church and its Head, the Pope, fulfill this prophecy to a fare-thee-well.

THE MAN OF SIN OPPOSES GOD^[132]

We have discussed that the Greek prefix, *αντι*, *anti*, contains two explicit meanings: substitution and opposition. Antichrist represents Christ and opposes Christ. How he is able to do this while the professing Church, composed of wheat and tares, stands idly by, is another great *mystery*. Of course, it doesn't help that the drunken sleeping prophets whom the ignorant sheep look up to and count on for spiritual sustenance are fornicating with the Beast and his Whore.

The Greek word for *opposeth* contains the prefix *anti*: *αντικειμενος*.^[133] This is yet another clue linking the Man of Sin to Antichrist, as one and the same enemy of God. The same word is translated *adversary* in several instances.^[134]

English Protestant Bishop Christopher Wordsworth (d. 1885), comments on this word in his excellent exegesis, Is The Papacy Predicted By St. Paul?:^[135]

"The person in whom this system is embodied is described as *αντικειμενος* [i.e., *antikeimenos*], i.e. literally one setting himself in opposition. and particularly as a rival foundation. in the place of or against another foundation. Now, be it remembered that St. Paul says, *other foundation can no man lay, than that which already lieth* - *κειμαι*^[136] - mark the word - *which is Jesus Christ*." (1Cor.3:11). May not he, therefore, the Bishop of Rome, who calls himself the Rock of the Church, be rightly called *ο αντι-κειμενος*?"

Bishop Wordsworth has exegeted not only *opposition to* but *substitution*, in the place of, another foundation, other than Jesus Christ. This would correlate with the Roman Catholic Church, the woman, Mystery Babylon riding the Beast, her foundation,^[136a] her fall,^[137] and with the analogy of the house built on sand.^[138]

THE MAN OF SIN USURPS JESUS CHRIST'S ATTRIBUTES AND OFFICES^[139]

To *usurp* is a derogatory term. The *usurper* is the enemy, not a friend. For one to claim

friendship with and love for another, and then to turn around taking, assuming, and holding positions of power and authority belonging to the other, without right, is evil and wicked.^[140] To use that usurped position of false authority to do evil in the name of Jesus is the zenith of unrighteousness. This is the *mystery of iniquity*. Judas usurped the office of apostle and bishop, for he was an imposter and traitor who betrayed the Lord. The Man of Sin, Antichrist, also usurps the good name of Christ, by claiming to come in His name, power and authority, and propagates unparalleled evil from inside the Church, blaspheming God, persecuting and slaughtering the true saints, while leading his deluded faithful to perdition, yet still able to deceive the world and the drunken sleeping prophets into receiving and worshiping him with accolades, honors and blessings. Is this not the *mystery of mysteries*?

The Greek word, ἐπι, *epi*, signifies place, i.e. *upon, over, above*, but it also signifies hostility toward, i.e. *against*.^[141] Both Bishops Jewel and Wordsworth make that point.^[142] The Man of Sin, the son of perdition, Antichrist, *opposeth and exalteth himself above and against all that is called God or that is worshipped...*" Is this not the sin of his father, Satan?:

"How thou art fallen from heaven, O son of the morning!...For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High."^[143]

As his father, the Devil, goes into the Lake of Fire, so goes the Man of Sin, Antichrist into the Lake of Fire.^[144]

As we have already proved, the Pope and his false prophets, the bishops and priests, all claim the power to create God in the Eucharist through the blasphemy called Transubstantiation. This would be a prime example of exaltation above and against God. The creature creating the Creator, indeed. An impossibility received and believed by the deluded faithful. Better still, how the sinful, depraved, corrupt creature creates the undefiled, sinless, holy Creator defies any semblance of logic and humility. Does the reader begin to grasp the utter baselessness of such a doctrine? And is the reader beginning to sense the Abomination of Desolation sitting in the Holy Place; i.e. the Temple of God; i.e. the professing Christian Church, the Body of Christ?

Once again, we let Bishop Jewel speak words of wisdom from the grave:

ANTICHRIST WILL DECEIVE MANY UNAWARE

"Now, as the coming of Christ was, such is the coming of Antichrist. God hath foretold of his coming. Daniel hath foretold. Christ and his apostles, Paul and John have foretold it: the scriptures and old fathers make often mention hereof. There is none, neither old nor young, neither learned or unlearned, but he hath heard of Antichrist. They hate his name and detest him, before they know him. But here you may mark the wonderful sleight and subtlety of Satan. The world shall look after the coming of Antichrist. All men shall carry hatred against him, and

reckon him abominable; and yet their eyes shall be blinded and their hearts deceived, so that they shall not know him. They shall hate his name, and embrace his doctrine: he shall cover himself with a cloak of holiness. They shall think they do service unto Christ, but shall therein do service unto Antichrist."

THE MANY DECEPTIONS THEN CURRENT RE: IDENTITY OF ANTICHRIST

"The divers fantasies of men have devised many sundry fond tales of the person of Antichrist. Some say he should be a Jew of the tribe of Dan: some that he should be born in Babylon; some that he should be bred up in Bethsaida and Corazin; some, that he should rise up in Syria; some, that Mohamet is Antichrist; some, that he should overthrow Rome; some that he should build up the city of Jerusalem; some, that Nero was Antichrist; some, that he should be born of a friar and a nun; some, that he should continue but three years and a half; some, that he should turn trees upside down, with the tops in the ground, and should force the roots to grow upward, and then should flee up into heaven, and fall down and break his neck. [Note: no mention of secret Rapture because this deception had not yet been invented by Satan] These tales have been craftily devised to beguile our eyes, that, whilst we think upon these guesses, and so occupy ourselves in beholding a shadow or probable conjecture of Antichrist, he which is Antichrist indeed may unawares deceive us."

THE MAN OF SIN A SUCCESSION OF RULERS

"Except that Man of Sin be disclosed. The apostle seemeth to teach us of Antichrist as if he should be one man, because he calleth him *the Man of Sin*. But we may not so take him. The manner of the scripture oftentimes, and in divers places, speaketh that of many, which seemeth to be spoken of but one. So doth Daniel set forth the kingdom and all the kings of Persia in the name and likeness of a bear, and so describeth the state of other whole kingdoms in such particular names. And so doth the Spirit of God in the Revelation set down, under the name of the beast, the succession and continuance of many. He meaneth not, therefore, that Antichrist will be any one man, but one estate or kingdom of men, and a continuance of some one power and tyranny in the church."

ANTICHRIST TYPES IN OLD TESTAMENT

"We read of Pharaoh, a cruel tyrant, that he did persecute the people of God in Egypt; and of Nebuchadnezzar, that he oppressed them, and brought them captives into Babylon; and Antiochus, that he likewise fought against them, and did overcome them, and led them captives into Macedonia. They all were mighty and cruel tyrants: yet one other shall come, whose cruelty shall be heavier and whose continuance shall be longer than was the cruelty and continuance of any of these; who shall work his purpose, not in Egypt, nor in Babylon, nor in Macedonia, but *in the holy place, even in the church of Christ, and in the house of God*. And this state and continuance of persecution in the church is the state of Antichrist."

ANTICHRIST'S SEAT AND THRONE INSIDE THE CHURCH

"But what shall we do whereby he may be known? Paul saith, *which is an adversary*. This shall be the mark whereby you may know him: he shall set himself against God and against Christ; for he

is an enemy of the cross of Christ. Why then -say you- are not the Jews, and Mohamet, and the Turk, either all or the most wicked of them so called, seeing they utterly refuse all Christian religion? Because none of these sit in the temple of God, which is the place where Antichrist shall advance himself; and because Antichrist shall not in open shew set himself against Christ, as doth Mohamet and the Turks, but subtly and craftily, like an evil and ungracious servant. He will not openly speak his blasphemies, or spit at the gospel of God, or defy the name of Christ; but he will call himself *the servant of God*; perhaps, *the vicar of Christ*, and perhaps, *the servant of God's servants*, or perhaps, *the head or the chief member of the church...*"

ANTICHRIST A TRAITOR WHO USURPS CHRIST

"In matters of princes, if any man take upon him the name of ambassador or deputy to a prince, having no commission thereto, and in this boldness presume to levy and raise a power, and force the subjects to follow him; although he work all this under the name and by the colour of the prince's authority -as is the manner of rebels to do- yet he is a traitor, and his doings are not well thought of, because he dealeth in the prince's matters without warrant [i.e. authorization, sanction] from the prince. Even so Antichrist, he shall come in the name of Christ, yet will he do all things against Christ, and under pretence and colour of serving Christ, he shall devour the sheep and people of Christ; he shall deface whatsoever Christ hath taught; he shall quench that fire which Christ hath kindled; he shall root up those plants which Christ hath planted; he shall undermine that house which Christ hath built."

ANTICHRIST CONTRARY TO CHRIST

"He shall be contrary to Christ, his faith contrary to the faith of Christ, and his life contrary to the life of Christ. Is any man desirous to know Antichrist? By this mark you shall know him: he shall be contrary to Christ. It shall be sufficient we consider only some few wherein they are manifestly contrary, that by them judgment may be made of the residue. "

ANTICHRIST'S DOCTRINE CONTRARY TO CHRIST AS TAUGHT IN BIBLE

"St. Paul saith, *With one offering bath he consecrated for ever them that are sanctified. And again, We are sanctified by the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once made.* [145] What is he then that saith, I make priests to offer a daily sacrifice for the sins of the people, by whom the offering up of the body is made every day? He is contrary to Christ, he is Antichrist. St. Paul saith, *God bath appointed Christ over all things to be the head of the church* [146] What is he then that saith, I am the head of the Church? which saith, all of the churches of God are knit [i.e. united, tied together] in me: you must understand as I understand; you must hear with mine ears, and see with mine eyes; I will govern and direct you? He is contrary to Christ: this is Antichrist. Christ ordained that the communion should be ministered under both kinds.[147] What is he then that delivereth it to the people under one kind? He is contrary to Christ: he breaketh the first institution of the Lord's supper: he is Antichrist."

MORE EXAMPLES OF CONTRARINESS OF ANTICHRIST

"Christ saith, *My kingdom is not of this world* What is he then that saith, I am Lord of lords and King of kings, I have right to both swords; [148] my power and authority reacheth over all the kingdoms of the world? He is contrary to Christ; he is Antichrist. Christ washed his disciples' feet.

What is he then that giveth his feet to be kissed of kings and emperors?[149] He is contrary to Christ; he is Antichrist. Christ paid to Caesar. What is he then that exempteth himself and his clergy from the temporal sword and authority?[150] He is contrary to Christ; he is Antichrist. Christ allowed marriage, and reproveth fornication. What is he then that alloweth fornication, and forbiddeth marriage? [151] He is contrary to Christ; he is Antichrist. These be the certain and undoubted marks of Antichrist."

ANTICHRIST OPENLY DEFIANTLY SITS IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

"*So that he doth sit in the temple of God.* That is, he is bold and without force of any danger. He is not driven to hide himself in a comer; he is exalted in the eye and in the heart of the world. He beareth rule in the conscience of men. He hath the keys to open and shut at his pleasure. He maketh kings and princes become his subjects. He ruleth them; not by sword or spear only, but by pretence of religion: he telleth them all things are put in subjection under his feet; that he is the vicar of Christ; that his word must be taken as the word of God. So he sitteth in the temple of God as if he were God.

"The godly preachers sit also in the temple of God; they are the ministers of Christ, and disposers of the secrets of God. There they expound the scriptures, and shew the good and acceptable will of God. There they exhort, and teach, and reprove, and correct, and instruct the people in righteousness. Antichrist sitteth not in the church after this sort. He teacheth not, nor exhorteth the people. He maketh that no part of his office. How sitteth he then? What shall he say? What shall he do? The apostle telleth us: *He exalteth himself against all that is called God, or that is worshipped.* He shall be honoured with the honour that is due unto God. He shall shine and glitter in gold and precious stones. He shall be carried upon the shoulders of men, and waited upon by kings and princes and great estates. So shall he be contrary to Christ."

CHRIST, THE HUMBLE KING - ANTICHRIST, THE KING OF PRIDE

"Christ was humble and lowly. The prophet in his own person speaketh of him: *I am a worm and not a man; a shame of men, and the contempt of the people.* [152] And the apostle saith: *He humbled himself, and became obedient unto the death, even the death of the cross.*[153] Behold his parents, his birth, his cradle; behold his life, his disciples, his doctrine, and his death: all were witnesses to his humility He saith of himself: *The Son of man hath not whereon to rest his head.* [154] And to his disciples he saith: *The kings of the gentiles reign over them, and they that bear rule over them are called gracious lords; but you shall not be so.* [155] And again: *Learn of me, that I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*"[156]

"Now on the other part take view of Antichrist. Behold his birth, his place, his chair, his estate, his doctrine, his disciples, and all his life: you shall see nothing but pomp and glory. [Pope] Gregory [I.] calleth him the king of pride. [157] He is proud in life, proud in doctrine, proud in word, and proud in deeds. He is like unto Lucifer, and sitteth himself before his brethren, and over nations and kingdoms. He maketh every knee to bow down to him and worship him: he maketh kings to bring him water, to carry his train, to hold his cup, to bear his dish, to lead his bridle, and to hold his stirrup: [158] he claimeth power over heaven and earth: he saith he is lord over all the world, the lord of lords, and the king of kings;[159] that his authority reacheth up into heaven and down into hell;[160] that he can command the angels of God; that he condemneth whom he will condemn;[161] that he maketh saints at his pleasure;[162] that whatsoever he blesseth is blessed;[163]

and that it is cursed whatsoever he curseth." [164]

ANTICHRIST IN HIS PRIDE MAKES MERCHANDISE OF MEN'S SOULS

"He selleth merits, the forgiveness of sins, the sacrifice for the quick and the dead.[165] He maketh merchandise of the souls of men. He layeth his filthy hands upon the Lord's anointed.[166] He removeth kings, and disposeth the states and princes of the world. [167] This is Antichrist. This is his power. Thus shall he work and make himself manifest. So shall he sit in the temple of God. The people shall wonder at him, and shall have him in reverence: they shall say, *Who is like unto the beast?*[168] Who is so wise, so mighty, so godly, so virtuous, so holy, so like unto God? So intolerable and monstrous shall be his pride. It were much for him to sit in the seat and to occupy the room of an earthly king or emperor. But he shall take upon him the authority and name of God, the name of the living Lord, the name of God which hath made heaven and earth, even the name of God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.[169] And in this pride he shall exceed all others that have been wicked. The Pharisees and the scribes were wicked; yet none of them did sit in the temple of God, shewing himself that he was God...This point and reach of ungodliness belongeth only to Antichrist. He shall sit in the place of God in judgments: he shall shew himself out of that place as if he were God. Irenaeus saith: *Whereas he is but a servant, he will be worshiped as if he were God.*" [170]

THE FRUIT OF ANTICHRIST MAKES HIM NO LESS THAN GOD

"Although he be but a man, yet in office he will be accounted as God. He shall compare his laws with the laws of God. He shall say his word is the word of God. Whatsoever he saith, he shall say it is the voice of the spirit of God, of the same authority that is the gospel of Christ: no man may break it; if any man withstand it, he must think he doth sacrilege, committeth blasphemy, and sinneth against the Holy Ghost. Again, he shall break the laws of God to uphold his own, and shall put down God to set up himself. Such shall be the power and authority of Antichrist; so shall he possess the consciences of the people; so shall he sit as I an idol in their hearts; so shall he stand in the place of God, and *shew himself that he is God*. The people shall receive his doctrine, and believe his word. They shall fall down before him and worship him. They shall say, *who is like unto the beast?* What creature is as beautiful as he? They shall honour him as God."

THE BISHOP OF ROME DAMNS HIMSELF AS THE ANTICHRIST BY HIS BULLS

"Here, methinketh, I see the secret motions of your heart. You look that I should name the bishop of Rome, that it is he which hath suffered himself to be called by the name of God. I will not tell you in mine own words. Unless the bishop himself so speak, I will not tell you...Therefore, I say again, unless the bishop himself suffer himself to be called by the name of God, I will not say of him so. Then let us see what he hath written of himself, and what he hath suffered others to write:

-Pope Nicholas saith: "It is well known that the pope of the godly prince Constantine was called God." [171]

-And therefore pope Pius saith [against Queen Elizabeth] : "No man dare obey her, or her will, or commandments, or laws, upon pain of our curse."

-The pope was well content to suffer Christopher Marcellus, one of his parasites in the council of Lateran, to say unto him, "Thou art another God in earth."

-In the extravagants it is set down: "Our Lord God the pope." Mark these words, "Our Lord God the pope." In them the pope is called "Lord", and is called "God."

-"Thou art neither God nor man: in a manner thou art neither of both; but rather a mean between both."

But you say, the pope this day is not called God. He rather abaseth himself and writeth himself by a title of humility, and is called so: *Servus servorum*: 'The servant of servants'. Be it so, that he is so called and so written. Yet he is king of kings and lord of lords. This servant saith: I do make holy the unholy: I do justify the wicked: I do forgive sins: I open and no man shutteth. This servant can say: Whosoever obeyeth not me, he shall be rooted out. This servant may dispense with any commandment of the old and new testament...No man may judge this servant. For they say: 'The pope is exempted from all law of man.'...Such a power this servant of servants claimeth to himself. What greater power may be given to God? What angel, what archangel ever had the like power?" [172]

Writing at approximately the same time as Bishop Jewel, Protestant English Reformer and Martyrologist, John Foxe, exegetes 2Thessalonians 2:4b. The following are excerpts which typify the twenty-page treatise within volume 4 of his Acts and Monuments:

**THE IMAGE OF ANTICHRIST, EXALTING HIMSELF IN THE TEMPLE OF GOD,
ABOVE ALL THAT IS NAMED GOD,**

**OUT OF HIS OWN DECREES, DECRETALS, EXTRAVAGANTS, PONTIFICALS, ETC., WORD
FOR WORD, AS IT IS OUT OF THE SAID BOOKS HERE ALLEGED AND QUOTED.[173]**

WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE POPE SHALL BE SAVED [174]

"Forasmuch as it standeth upon necessity of salvation, for every human creature to be subject to the pope of Rome, it shall be therefore requisite and necessary for all men that will be saved, to learn and know the dignity of my see and excellency of my domination. [175] Wherefore, as other seats be all inferior to me, and as they cannot absolve me, so have they no power to bind me or to stand against me...This is the holy and apostolic mother-church of all other churches of Christ; from whose rules it is not meet that any person or persons should decline; but like as the Son of God came to do the will of his Father, so must you do the will of your mother the church, the head whereof is the church of Rome; and if any person or persons shall err from the said church, let them be admonished, or else their names taken, to be known who they be, that swerve from the customs of the church...For the fullness of power that Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hath given to me, though unworthy, in the person of Peter; by reason whereof, seeing my power is not of man, but of God, who by his celestial providence hath set me over his whole

universal church, master and governor, it belongeth therefore to my office, to look upon every mortal sin of every Christian man; whereby all criminal offences, as well of kings as all others, be subject to my censure."

EVIL POPES WHO LEAD SOULS TO HELL JUDGED BY NO MAN

"Thus you see all must be judged by me, and I of no man. Yea, and though I, pope of Rome, by my negligence or evil demeanor, be found unprofitable or hurtful, either to myself or others; yea, if I should draw with me innumerable souls by heaps to hell, yet may no mortal man be so hardy, so bold, or so presumptuous, to reprove me, or to say to me, 'Sir, why do you do this?'"

CRITICS OF CHURCH DEEMED HERETICS AND WITCHES

"Wherefore, be it known to all men, that my church of Rome is prince and head of all nations; the mother of the faith; the foundation cardinal, whereupon all churches do depend, as the door doth depend by the hinges; the first of all other seats, without all spot or blemish; *lady mistress*, and instructor of all churches; who was never yet found to slide or decline from the path of apostolic tradition, or to be entangled with any newness of heresy; against which church of Rome whosoever speaketh any evil is forthwith a heretic, yea, a very pagan, a witch, and an idolater or infidel."

THE ROMAN PONTIFF: HEAD OF THE CHURCH OF ROME

(ALSO THAT HEAD OF THE SEED OF THE SERPENT WHICH THE SEED OF THE WOMAN WILL BRUISE)

"Of which church of Rome I am head, as a king is over his judges; the vicar of St. Peter, yea, not the vicar of Peter properly, but the vicar of Christ properly, and successor of Peter; vicar of Jesus Christ, rector of the universal church, director of the Lord's universal flock, chief magistrate of the whole world; Cephas, i.e. caput, the head and chief of the apostolic church; universal pope; most mighty priest; being neither God nor man, but the admiration of the world, and a middle thing betwixt both; having both swords in my power, both of the spiritual and temporal jurisdiction; so far surmounting the authority of the emperor, that I, of mine own power alone, without a council, have authority to depose him, or to transfer his kingdom, and to give a new election, as I did to Frederic and divers others For do you not see the necks of great kings and princes bend under our knees, yea and think themselves happy and well defenced, if they may kiss our hands?^[176] Did I not excommunicate and depose all these emperors in order: Henry IV., Henry V., Frederic I., Philip, Otho IV., Frederic II., and Conrad his son? Did not I interdict king Henry VIII., and all his kingdom of England?"

THE POPE AND HIS SEED ABOVE THE LAW, JUDGED BY GOD ALONE

" And whereas God hath ordained all causes of men to be judged by men, he hath only reserved me, that is, the pope of Rome, without all question of men, unto his own judgment. And therefore, where all other creatures be under their judge, only I, who in earth am the judge of all, can be judged by none, neither of emperor, nor of the whole clergy , nor kings, nor of the people: fur who hath power to judge upon his judge?...only my sentence and judgment must stand, as given out of heaven by the mouth of Peter himself, which no man must break, nor retract; no man must

dispute or doubt of. Yea, if my judgment, statute, or yoke, seem scarcely tolerable, yet for remembrance of St. Peter, it must be humbly obeyed...Wherefore it is manifest, and testified by the voice of holy bishops, that the dignity of this my seat is to be revered through the whole world, in that all the faithful submit themselves to it, as to the head of the whole body...If then the prelates of the church must be neither judged, nor reprehended, nor exacted, how much more ought I to be free from the same, who (is) the bishop of bishops, and head of prelates?...My papal majesty ever remaineth un(di)minished; superior to all men; whom all persons ought to obey, and follow, whom no man must judge or accuse of any crime, either of murder, adultery, simony, or such like; no man depose, but I myself. No man can excommunicate me, yea though I communicate with the excommunicated, for no canon bindeth me: and he who obeyeth not me, is a heretic, and an excommunicated person. "

THE SUPREME PONTIFF: HIGH PRIEST WHO USURPS THE PLACE OF CHRIST IN THE CHURCH

"For, like as all the Jews were commanded to obey the high priest of the Levitical order, of what state or condition soever they were, so are all Christian men more and less bound to obey me, Christ's lieutenant on earth...Thus then it appeareth, that the greatness of my priesthood began in Melchisedec, was solemnized in Aaron, continued in the children of Aaron, perfectionated in Christ, represented in Peter, exalted in the universal jurisdiction, and manifested in Silvester. So that through this preeminence of my priesthood, having all things subject to me, it may seem well verified in me that was spoken of Christ [Psalm viii.], *Thou hast subdued all things under his feet, sheep and oxen, and all cattle of the field, the birds of heaven, and fish of the sea, & etc.*; where it is to be noted, that by oxen, Jews and heretics; by cattle of the field, Pagans be signified. For although as yet they be out of the use of my keys of binding and loosing, yet they be not out of the jurisdiction of my keys, but if they return, I may absolve them. By sheep and all cattle are meant all Christian men both great and less, whether they be emperors, princes, prelates, or others. By birds of the air you may understand the angels and potentates of heaven, who be all subject to me, in that I am greater than the angels; and that in four things; and have power to bind and loose in heaven, and to give heaven to them that fight in my wars. Lastly, by the fishes of the sea are signified such as be in purgatory, insomuch that they stand in need and necessity of other men's help, and yet be in their journey passengers belonging to the court of the pope: therefore they may be relieved out of the storehouse of the church, by the participation of indulgence."

MORE LAWLESS BOASTINGS OF THE BISHOP OF ROME, THE SCARLET-COLORED BEAST

- "I owe to emperors no due obedience that they can claim; but they owe to me, as to their superior. And as I am superior to them, so am I superior to all laws, and free from all constitutions."

- "Whatsoever this my see shall enact, approve or disprove, all men ought to approve or reprove the same, without either judging, disputing, doubting, or retracting. Such is the privilege given of Christ, in the behalf of Peter, to the church of Rome."

- "Unless their bishops and ministers, although they agree with all other Christ's faithful people in the name of Jesus, that is, in faith and charity, believing in the same God, and in Christ, his true Son, and in the Holy Ghost; having also the same creed, the same evangelists and scriptures of the

apostles: yet, notwithstanding, unless their bishops and ministers take their origin and ordination from this apostolic seat, they are to be counted not of the church; so that succession of faith only, is not sufficient to make a church, except the ministers take their ordination by them who have their succession from the apostles. So their faith, supremacy, the chair of Peter, keys of heaven, power to bind and loose, all these be inseparable to the church of Rome: so that it is to be presumed, that God always providing, and St. Peter helping the bishopric and diocese of Rome, it shall never fall from the faith."

- "And likewise it is to be presumed and presupposed that the bishop of that church is always good and holy. Yea, though he fall into homicide or adultery, he may sin, but yet he cannot be accused, but rather excused by the murders of Samson, the thefts of the Hebrews, the adultery of Jacob. And likewise, if any of his clergy should he found embracing a woman, it must be expounded and presupposed that he doth it to bless her."

- "All the earth is my diocese; and I the ordinary of all men, having the authority of the King of all kings upon his subjects. I am all in all, and above all, so that God himself, and I the vicar of God, have both one consistory, and I am able to do almost all that God can do."

- "I am able by the law to dispense above the law, and of wrong to make justice, incorrecting laws and changing them."

- "You have heard hitherto sufficiently out of my doctors. Now you shall hear greater things out of mine own decrees. Read my canon decretal, *De transl. episc. cap. 'Quanto.'* Do you not see there manifestly expressed, how not man, but God alone separateth that which the bishop of Rome doth dissolve and separate?

"Wherefore, if these things that I do, be said to be done not of man, but of God, what can you make me but God?" [177]

- "Again, if prelates of the church be called and counted of Constantine for gods, I then, being above all prelates, seem by this reason to be above all gods. Wherefore no marvel, if it be in my power to change time and times, to alter and abrogate laws, yea, with the precepts of Christ."

- "What should I speak of murder, making it no murder nor homicide to slay them that be excommunicated?" [178]

- "Against the canons of the apostles I can and do dispense; for where they in their canon, command a priest for fornication to be deposed, I, through the authority of Silvester, do alter the rigour of that constitution, considering the minds and bodies also of men now to be weaker than they were."

- "Wherefore as I began, so I conclude, commanding declaring, and pronouncing, to stand upon necessity of salvation, for every human creature to be subject to me." [179]

Thus it is that John Foxe enumerates the many incredulous claims by the *Man of Lawlessness* and his seed. [180] In a footnote attached to the astounding profanity, *what can you make me but God?*, Mr. Foxe comments:

"Thus, you may see it verified, that St. Paul prophesieth, of the adversary sitting in the temple of God and boasting himself above all that is named God, & etc. 2Thess.ii." [181]

The boasting of the *Man of Lawlessness* to change times and laws is a direct fulfillment of Daniel 7:25, which will be discussed in detail later in this chapter.

The Rev. E.B. Elliott further expounds *the temple* - *ναος, naos* - of God as the professing Christian Church by the following examples of Scripture: [182]

"Know ye not that *ye are the temple of God*?...If any man defile the temple of God, him will God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, *which temple ye are.*" [183]

"What agreement hath *the temple of God* with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them...." [184]

To further enhance his case for a spiritual New Testament understanding of *temple of God*, Elliott elaborates that a similar interpretation may be made for *house of God*: [185]

"...that thou mightest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in *the house of God*; which is *the church of the living God*, the pillar and ground of the truth." [186]

"...having a great high priest over *the house of God.*" [187]

"...ye are...of *the household of God*...in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto *an holy temple in the Lord.*" [188]

There is also another sense of the word *temple* which may be implied: the world's largest church in all Christendom, St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City.

ST. PETER'S BASILICA: THE WORLD'S GREATEST TEMPLE

Calling St. Peter's *the world's greatest temple* was not this author's idea. This epithet is quoted from Chapter III. of Roman Catholic Rev. Marino Priori's Rome and The Pope, Imprimatur Josephus Hamill. [189] In the view of the Roman Catholic Church, Rev. Priori's claim that St. Peter's is the "greatest and holiest and most magnificent temple of the world," [190] is orthodoxy:

"In Rome there is a sacred edifice representing in its constructive grandeur, centuries of Catholic piety; and which, especially and intimately, belongs to the Pope. That edifice is the basilica of St. Peter. This gigantic pile is erected over the tomb of the Apostle Peter. It stands alone, unique in the world's architectural achievements, nothing either in the temples of the old civilizations or in the altars of the new are comparable with it. It is the earthly symbol of that Spiritual Edifice which its divine Founder builded and set upon a mountain - the one common fold for the sheltering and salvation of humanity...As St. Peter's, in its unparalleled beauty, magnitude and splendor, is the supreme creative work of man; so also is it the most fitting and worthy

representation of the greatest work of the Creator -that transcendent spiritual edifice, 'The House of God not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.'

St. Peter's was intended by Christ to be the One Holy Church, the ark of salvation for all men. No race was to be excluded from His loving compassion. This universality of worship finds its realization in the great Cathedral today in the hosts from every nation and clime who make it the goal of their spiritual pilgrimage and the satisfaction of their hearts' deepest desires.

All the nations of the world, pagan and Christian both, had sent their princely representatives to pay veneration to this Cathedral of the Popes. As I stood by the iron railing of the great gallery I thought of the many kings and emperors who had passed that way to be crowned by the hands of the reigning pontiff. Here, for twenty centuries, in spite of the adverse powers of Satan and of Hell [i.e. Luther and the Protestant Reformation], has reigned the Spiritual King of the world, the Vicar of Christ; and honor has been paid him, in name of the Master he represents, by the great and the small of the earth alike.

St. Peter's! Incomparable House of the living God! Truly dost thou manifest thyself to the world as the perfected monument to the One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church -the Universal Cathedral of the Church of Jesus."^[191]

The apocalyptic imagery in the priest's exposition abounds in such degree as to boggle the minds of the prophetically-minded. Priori admits *honor*, i.e. worship, has been paid the Pope by *the great and the small*:

"And he [the beast out of the earth] causeth all, *both small and great*, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads." ^[192]

Is there a reader who does not know St. Peter's to be the only church where the newly-elected pontiff may be crowned Pope in his coronation?^[193] It is also where His 'Holiness' alone may celebrate Mass, *so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God*, by creating God from bread.

Another recent Roman Catholic author describes the construction of the present Basilica:

"...day after day the Romans watched with mounting wonder as the great edifice arose until the *eighth hill of Rome*, crowned by a golden cross, took its place as a symbol of the Eternal City."^[194]

By giving St. Peter's the appellation *eighth hill of Rome*, we are instantly reminded of Revelation 17:11:

"And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition."

Coincidentally or providentially, depending on the reader's point of view, both Vatican City, built on Vatican Hill, and St. Peter's Basilica may be viewed as *the eighth hill of Rome*, i.e. the eighth head of the beast, the eighth king.

THE LAWLESS NATURE OF THE MAN OF SIN NOT EVIDENT IN ENGLISH

The average Christian would be ignorant of the true meaning behind the term: *that Wicked*, ο ανομοος,[195] the lawless one or the Man of Lawlessness. This is another key characteristic, mark, trait, fruit and work of the Man of Sin. Posing as a righteous Christian who guards and follows the Law of God faithfully, he will, through his decrees, bulls, commandments and practice prove himself to be at enmity with God, His Law and His people. The *mystery of iniquity* translates more properly as the *mystery of lawlessness* - ανομοος. This mystery is hidden from the world, who honor, reverence and worship the Man of Lawlessness, believing him to be a Man of God. Of course, the drunken sleeping prophets also honor, reverence and fellowship with the Man of Lawlessness. Considering the severity of the Lord's opinion of this Lawbreaker, the Son of Perdition - who's opinion is *no mystery* to those who seek, ask and knock - those who ignore the Lord's warnings given in Scripture and through His true prophets, saints and martyrs, do so at their eternal peril, *that they might all be damned who believe not the truth.*[196]

A PRIME EXAMPLE OF THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS' DISDAIN FOR THE LAW AND HOW HE JUSTIFIES BREAKING IT

"Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children of the third and fourth generation of them that hate me." [197]

These first two commandments are the most important of the Ten Commandments, which is why they are first and not last. They deal with loving the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength. The eight other commandments all deal with loving your neighbor as you would love yourself. The Man of Lawlessness breaks all ten laws in his zeal for sin and doing evil. We will document, in future chapters, how exactly this has been accomplished, in full view of the world, *mystery of lawlessness* that it is.

But our immediate concern is with the Man of Lawlessness' breaking of the commandments relating to worship of our holy God:

"The most important work of the [Second] council [of Nicea] was accomplished in its seventh session, when the symbol or dogmatic decree was drawn up. Not only the figure of the cross, but also holy images, whether made in colors or mosaics or other materials, are to be portrayed publicly in the churches, on sacred vessels and vestments, on walls and pictures, in houses and byroads; that is, images of our Savior, of His Blessed Mother, of the angels and saints and holy men. For when they are seen in their pictorial forms, people who view them are ardently lifted up

to the memory and love of the originals and induced to give them respect and worshipful honor, but not real adoration, which according to our faith is due only to the divine nature For honor paid to an image passes on to its prototype; he who worships (venerates, ο προσκυνων) an image, worships (venerates, προσκυνει) the reality of him who is painted in it." [198]

The Dominican Friar Schroeder blundered when he translated προσκυνεω[199] as *worship*, the correct definition. The 1990 authoritative Roman Catholic translation of the same council decree uses the term *venerate*, instead.[200] But the parallel Greek text supports Schroeder's translation.

THE SEPTUAGINT CONDEMNS THE SECOND COUNCIL OF NICEA

By comparing the Old Testament Greek text of the Septuagint with the Greek text of the ecumenical Second Nicene Council, A.D. 787, we can find undisputed common ground. We can also solve mysteries not open to public view and scrutiny. For how many Christians read Greek? And how many of those Christians who read Greek have pointed out, publicly, an incredible truth covered up for centuries?

The Western Latin or Roman Catholic Church, along with the Eastern Greek or Orthodox Church, have decreed that their churches are to make and display graven images of those in heaven, who were on earth, and who may have died under water , and that the faithful are to pay these images honor, worshipping them.

The Ten Commandments, however, declares these acts hateful of God. Incredibly, the Septuagint uses the *exact same Greek word for 'worship' - προσκυνεω - that is used by the Nicene Council:*

"Thou shalt not bow down to them - προσκυνεω - nor serve them..." [201]

Is the reader beginning to get a sense of the awesome and blatant disregard for God's unchanging Word perpetrated by the Man of Lawlessness, the Pope, and his bride, the Mother of all Harlots, the Roman Catholic Church? Let us not forget the guilt of the Greek Orthodox Church in co-sponsoring this illegal, profane Law, which they have not repudiated to this day. Let us also not forget that it is bad enough for a professing Christian to commit and live a lifestyle of sin, but it is a greater evil to do so and teach others to do so:

"Then said he to the disciples, it cannot be avoided, but that offences will come. Nevertheless woe be to him through whom they come. It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones." [202]

"Whosoever breaketh one of these least commandments, and teacheth men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven." [203]

"...idolaters and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." [204]

"And there shall enter into it none unclean thing: neither whatsoever worketh abomination or maketh lies: but they only which are written in the lamb's book of life." [205]

"For without shall be dogs and enchanters, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh leasings [lies]." [206]

How it is that the evangelical drunken sleeping prophets find no cause to warn Roman Catholics of these scriptural admonitions is a *mystery of iniquity*. The iniquity in their case is silent consent to Rome's idolatry and Catholicism's perpetuating of lies in the name of Jesus Christ.

But perhaps the Roman Catholic Church has changed its position on image worship, you may ask. After all, A.D. 787 is long, long ago, and the ancient city of Nicea is far, far away. A lot can happen in 1,200 years.

"HOLY IMAGES"

¶1159 The sacred image, the liturgical icon, principally represents *Christ*. It cannot represent the invisible incomprehensible God, but the incarnation of the Son of God has ushered in a new 'economy' of images.

¶1160 Christian iconography expresses in images the same Gospel message that Scripture communicates by words.

¶1161 All the signs in the liturgical celebrations are related to Christ: as are sacred images of the holy Mother of God and of the saints as well. They truly signify Christ, who is glorified in them.

¶1162 ...Similarly, the contemplation of sacred icons, united with meditation on the Word of God and the singing of liturgical hymns, enters into the harmony of the signs of celebration so that the mystery celebrated is imprinted in the heart's memory..." [207]

These excerpts of current authoritative Magisterium thought cannot be more up-to-date. Paragraph 1161 even quotes the Council of Nicea II. cited above by Schroeder, claiming *for we know this tradition* [i.e. image worship] *comes from the Holy Spirit who dwells in her*. This preposterous statement is far from innocent, inconsequential twaddle. Rather, this is nothing less than blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.

ANTICHRIST AND HIS CHURCH COMMIT THE UNFORGIVABLE SIN

There is no forgiveness for the Man of Sin, the son of perdition, for he goes into perdition. Period. End of story. God says so. And God cannot lie. The Beast's bride, the Whore and Mother of all Harlots, goes into perdition also, for she is riding him. And where he goes, she

goes. Both shall fall into the pit. There is no chance of them going anywhere but the Lake of Fire and Brimstone, because they have committed blasphemy of the Holy Spirit:

"He that is not with me is against me. And he that gathereth not with me, scattereth abroad. Wherefore I say unto you, all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy of the spirit shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the son of man, it shall be forgiven him. But whosoever speaketh against the holy ghost, it shall not be forgiven him: no neither in this world, neither in the world to come." [208]

The Holy Spirit, the Teacher who guides into all truth,[209] has been assigned three specific areas of ministry:

"And when he is come, he will rebuke the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgement." [210]

To teach, in the name of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, the lie that sin is righteousness with no judgment attached to its practice is blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. This is exactly what the Roman Catholic Church and Pope teach, infallibly so, regarding the Christian faith. Their traditional doctrine of image worship, i.e. legalized idolatry, is nothing less than heinous sin called righteous, holy and good. That, dear reader, is the spirit of Antichrist which blasphemes the Holy Spirit. Would you believe this is only one area of several in which this unforgivable affront to God is practiced daily?

"He that loveth me not, keepeth not my sayings."[211]

The Church of Rome keepeth not the commandment against image worship, proving they loveth not the true God. The Lord God admits as much and more by stating idolaters *hate* Him.[212]

A MARK OF THE BEAST AND MYSTERY BABYLON EVIDENCED IN CATHOLIC CATECHISM

In Paragraph 1162 of the Catechism quoted above, three significant, prophetic words are employed in attempting to justify the Church's unjustifiable position on image worship: *mystery*, *imprinted* and *memory*. Throughout the Catechism, we find *mystery* in abundance:

“¶1075 Liturgical catechesis aims to initiate people into the mystery of Christ (It is 'mystagogy.') by preceding from the visible to the invisible, from the sign to the thing signified, from the 'sacraments' to the 'mysteries.'” [213]

These *mysteries* cited by the Catechism include:

- The Christian *mystery* [214]
- The *Mystery* of Creation [215]

- The *Mysteries* of Christ's Life [216]
- Christ's Whole Life Is *Mystery* [217]
- Characteristics common to Jesus' *mysteries* [218]
- Our communion in the *mysteries* of Jesus [219]
- The *Mysteries* of Jesus' Infancy and Hidden Life [220]
- The Christmas *Mystery* [221]
- The *Mysteries* of Jesus' Public Life [222]
- The *Mystery* of the Church [223]
- *mystery* of men's union with God [224]
- The sacred *mystery* of the Church's unity [225]
- The Celebration of the Christian *Mystery* [226]
- The Paschal *Mystery* in the Age of the Church [227]
- The Paschal *Mystery* in the Church's Sacraments [228]
- Liturgical Diversity and the Unity of the *Mystery* [229]

One would expect *Mystery Babylon*[230] to emphasize *mysteries* in its teaching. But the 'coincidences' don't stop there. The Roman Catholic ecclesiastical term *sacrament* is derived from the Latin word *sacramentum*, and is used to translate the Greek word μυστηριον,[231] *mystery*. [232] The Seven Sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church are seven *mysteries of iniquity* which will be elaborated in later chapters.

THE LATIN VULGATE BIBLE IDENTIFIES *MYSTERY BABYLON*

For this author, investigating the Roman Catholic Bible in the Latin tongue was a treasure trove of discoveries. By utilizing a Greek-English Interlinear Bible, one is able to see for oneself what Greek word is used to translate the English word *mystery*. In Revelation 17, for example, the word *mystery* is used twice: verse 5 and verse 7. Both times they are translated *mysterion*. The Latin Vulgate[233] translates verse 5, *Mystery Babylon the Great* as *Mysterium: Babylon magna*. But in verse 7, *I will tell thee the mystery of the woman*, the Vulgate translates it *Ego dicam tibi sacramentum mulieris*. Thereby directly linking and identifying *the mystery* of the seven sacraments, *sacramentum*, with the *mystery* or *sacramentum* of the woman, *Mystery Babylon*, who sits on seven hills. There is only one Church whose seat is in Rome who dispenses the grace of God through her *mysteries*, the sacraments.

The second of the trilogy of prophetic words used in ¶1162 is *imprinted*. Central to the definition of *imprint* is the concept of *marking*, either by pressing or impressing.[234] *Marking* is the work of the beast out of the earth, the false prophet.[235]

The third Important word used in the same paragraph is *memory*. Although the Catechism authors would have you believe the heart has a *memory*, it is the *mind* that, in reality, contains the brain which contains *memory*. Of course, the *mind* is located behind the *forehead*. To the skeptic it is only coincidence that this Catechism paragraph links a *mark* with the *forehead*, directly corresponding with Revelation 13:16. The Catechism admits it is a *mystery*.

To compound the 'coincidences' listed, the reader must be reminded that ¶1162 deals exclusively with the topic of *worship of holy images* or, simply put, *image worship*. It is the profanity of *image worship* which is linked to receiving the *mark of the beast* that is roundly condemned in Scripture:

"And the third angel followed them saying with a loud voice: If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead or on his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God which is poured in the cup of his wrath. And he shall be punished in fire and brimstone, before the holy angels, and before the lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up evermore, and they have no rest day or night, which worship the beast and his image and whosoever receiveth the print of his name."^[236]

"And the beast was taken, and with him that false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that received the beast's mark, and them that worshiped his image."^[237]

In the Scripture cited above it is evident to even the infant in Christ that *image worship* is tied directly to receiving the *mark in the forehead*. All of these elements are present in the Catechism's apology for *image worship*, teaching (in the name of the Holy Spirit) that Christ is glorified by such practice.^[238] Rather, the wrath of Almighty God is eternally and absolutely moved against all who engage in this abominable custom.

THE PAPAL BEAST IS WORSHIPPED EVERYDAY

Worshipping the beast directly is also an unforgivable sin.^[239] This practice is evidenced daily when the Man of Sin, the son of perdition, the papal Antichrist receives visitors, great and small. The Greek word for *worship*, as we have discussed earlier is *proskuneo*, which Thayer defines as *kissing the hand toward one*, in a reverent manner, including kneeling, thereby making obeisance.^[240] This is exactly how the worthy papal visitors are instructed to greet His 'Holiness', the 'Holy' Father, the Beast.^[241]

Let the astute reader ponder the fact that we have only touched upon one aspect of the lawless character of the Man of Lawlessness, i. e. *image worship*, otherwise known as idolatry. By delving beneath the surface of superficiality the quagmire of incipient evil becomes more and more evident. Let us continue our digging.

The Catechism explains that *image worship* of a Christian nature is not profane, nor anti-God because *the incarnation of the Son of God has ushered in a new 'economy' of images.* [242]

NEW ECONOMY OF IMAGES THE MARK OF THE FAITHLESS AND WICKED STEWARD

The word *economy* is not restricted to finances or to the health of the Stock Market. Its root meaning is Greek, οικονομια,[243] *oikonomia*, meaning *management of a household.*[244] An *oikonomos* is the manager of the house; i.e. steward. The steward/house manager may also be called the *goodman of the house*, as they all have charge over the house, especially when the Master is away. The duties of the steward/manager/goodman include management of income and expenditures, the dispensing out of the proper portion of pay, food and wine to the servants, and the directing of the daily workload.[245] The steward is a most trusted member of the Master's household and wields much power. Curiously, this author recently viewed an engraved invitation from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth sent to then-President Reagan and his wife, inviting them to a dinner party in San Francisco, March 4, 1983, aboard Her Majesty's Yacht Britannia. The dinner menu and wine list was prepared by a Peter Ashmore, *Master of the Household*. Thus, due to the demands of royalty, it is of necessity, even today, to employ a steward/manager/goodman to oversee the royal household.

Such is the case in the parables of Luke 12 where stewardship is brought into question:

"This understand, that if the good man of the house - οικοδεσποτης, oikodespotes, housemaster[246] - knew what hour the thief would come, he would surely watch: and not suffer his house to be broken up. Be ye prepared therefore: for the son of man will come at an hour when ye think not.

Then Peter said unto him: Master, tellest thou this similitude unto us, or to all men? And the Lord said: If there be any faithful servant - οικονομος, oikonomos, steward[247] - and wise, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their duetie of meat at due season: happy is that servant, whom his master when he cometh, shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you: that he will make him ruler over all that he hath. But and if the evil servant shall say in his heart: My master will defer his coming, and shall begin to smite the servants, and maidens, and to eat and drink and to be drunken: the lord of that servant will come in a day, when he thinketh not, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will divide him, and will give him his reward with the unbelievers.

The servant that knew his master's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes...For unto whom much is given, of him shall be much required...." [248]

As Christians, servants of the Most High, we have been given responsibility in the household or temple of God. We are stewards of the Gospel and Word of God:

"Whereof I am made a minister according to the ordinance - οικονομια, oikonomia, economy, dispensation[249] - which ordinance was given me unto you-ward....[250]

"Woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel. If I do it with a good will, I have a reward. But if I do it against my will, an office - οικονομια, oikonomia, economy, dispensation[251] - is committed unto me.[252]

"Let men this wise esteem us, even as the ministers of Christ, and disposers - οικονομος, oikonomos, steward[253] - of the mysteries of God." [254]

Mystery Babylon, the Roman Catholic Church, also claims stewardship over the mysteries of God, which is another reason why the Holy Spirit calls her *Mystery* Babylon. The Head of Mystery Babylon, the scarlet-colored Beast, the Man of Sin, the son of perdition, the Man of Lawlessness, the Pope, allegedly holds the office of chief steward over the Household of God. As Vicar of Christ he is, also allegedly, the most trusted and highest ranking overseer of the Lord's flock. He is the Supreme Pontiff, and as Bishop of Rome holds the primacy in the Christian Church, so claims the Roman Church.[255]

"By virtue of his primacy in governance the Roman Pontiff is the supreme administrator and steward of all ecclesiastical goods." [256]

As self-proclaimed head steward, goodman of the Lord's house, and ruler over the Lord's flock, the inebriated Antichrist, 1200 years earlier had allowed the thief into the House of the Lord. The thief, Satan, had the power and authority to blind the eyes of the entire Council of Nicea II. as they drunkenly passed into law a new 'economy' or dispensation which not only allowed the unlawful worship of images, but mandated it. Today Antichrist, that unfaithful and wicked steward, still teaches, preaches and practices the same evil 'economy' of idolatry. All this *deceivableness of unrighteousness*[257] is done in plain view of the drunken sleeping evangelical prophets and the world, and perpetrated in the name of Jesus Christ. And no one makes a peep. Nary a sound of protest, defending the honor and holiness of the Triune Godhead. No warnings are given to the one billion deceived who follow the son of perdition into perdition. How great is the *mystery of iniquity*.

NOT ALL CHRISTIANS REMAINED SILENT AND PASSIVE MANY SEPARATE FROM THE ROMAN AND GREEK CHURCHES

As Schroeder eloquently points out, the Iconoclasts - image breakers - were as *dark clouds* (which) *began to gather in the West*:

"The council was opened by Tarasius in the Church of the Apostles at Constantinople in August, 786, but was frustrated by the intrusion and violence of the Iconoclast soldiers who for some days had been gathering in the neighborhood...The council was then transferred to Nicea, where it was opened September 24, 787, in the Church of St. Sophia. The bishops and representatives of bishops in attendance numbered about 330...The papal legates were present throughout the council...In the sixth (session), the doctrines of the Iconoclast synod of 754 were disproved and condemned...The bishops of the Frankish kingdom not only refused to accept the decisions of the council, but formally condemned them in a synod held at Frankfort (794) for advocating, as these bishops thought, an absolute adoration of images...at the end of the ninth or beginning of the tenth century, long after the Eighth General Council (869), that the decisions of the present council were accepted by France." [258]

To further vilify the Iconoclasts who esteemed the prohibition of image worship given Moses, the spirit of Antichrist energizing that wicked council decreed anathemas - perpetual cursings and damnation - upon:

- 1- Those who do not confess that Christ our God can be represented in his humanity.
- 2- Those who do not accept representation in art of evangelical scenes.
- 3- Those who do not salute such representations as standing for [i.e. in the place of: *anti*] the Lord and his saints.[259]

To *salute* is to greet with a friendly and respectful gesture. The Lord's elect are called not to greet anyone *who does not bring this doctrine* (i.e. Christ is come in the flesh, not in the transubstantiated bread).[260] *For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.* Another chilling warning to the drunken sleeping prophets.

Sadly, over time Roman Catholic France lost its constancy, and capitulated to the idolaters. The reader is encouraged to research a people set apart to the Lord, originating in the East, who did not capitulate, but rather led the Iconoclasts: the Paulikians or Paulicians, as they are otherwise known.

HE WHO WORSHIPS THE IMAGE OF THE BEAST WORSHIPS THE DRAGON

"And all the world wondered at the beast, and they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast, and they worshipped the beast..."[261]

To worship the Beast, Antichrist, the Man of Sin, the son of perdition, or any of the illegal images the Man of Lawlessness declares to be lawful, is to worship his father, the Dragon. For no man cometh to the Dragon, but by the son. The worship of the son passes to his prototype, the Dragon:

"Indeed, the honour paid to an image traverses it, reaching the model [πρωτοτυπον, prototype] ; and he who venerates [proskuneo, worships] the image [icon] venerates [worships] the person represented in that image."[262]

As those who had seen Christ had seen the Father,^[263] so, too, do those who see Antichrist see the Dragon. As those who honored Christ honored the Father,^[264] so, too, do those who honor Antichrist honor the Dragon. As those who receive Christ, receive the Father,^[265] so, too, do those who receive Antichrist receive the Dragon. As those who receive a prophet in the name of a prophet receive a prophet's reward,^[266] so, too, do those who receive the false prophet, Antichrist, receive the false prophet's condemnation. Just as those who despise Christ despise the Father,^[267] so, too, does love for Antichrist pass to his father, the Dragon.

The Council of Trent (1563) reaffirmed the Second Nicene Council in *the lawful use of images*:

"Moreover let them teach that the images of Christ, of the Virgin, Mother of God, and of other saints, are to be had and retained, especially in churches, and due honor and veneration [i.e. worship] rendered to them. Not that it is believed that any divinity or power resides in them, on account of which they are to be worshiped, or that any benefit is to be sought from them, or any confidence placed in images, as was formerly by the Gentiles, who fixed their hope in idols. But the honor [i.e. worship] with which they are regarded is referred to those who are represented by them [i.e. their prototype]; so that we adore Christ, and venerate [i.e. worship] the [dead] saints, whose likenesses these images bear, when we kiss them, and uncover our heads in their presence, and prostrate ourselves. All which has been sanctioned by the decrees of councils against the impugners of images [i.e. Iconoclasts], especially the second council of Nicea."^[268]

The worship given the image is *referred* back to its prototype or original whom it is modeled after and representing. The supernatural process by which this is supposedly done is passed over in silence. The scriptural basis for this teaching is also passed over in silence. However, the Holy Spirit reveals to St. John, in Revelation 13:4, that by worshiping the Beast, the faithful followers and admirers of Antichrist are actually worshiping the Dragon who gave worldwide authority and dominion to the Beast. They do not know and are not aware that this is the case. However, God, His holy angels, Satan and his devils, and now St. John, are aware of this most frightening fact. The Holy Spirit further explains that those who do worship, honor and reverence the Beast are those *whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb.*^[269] This statement alone would give any thinking Christian cause to reflect on the seriousness of the consequences with which the statements and actions of the drunken sleeping prophets are received by the Lord God Almighty.

THE BIBLE KNOWS NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN LATRIA, DULIA AND HYPERDULIA WORSHIP

ALL WORSHIP AND RESPECT GIVEN IMAGES PASSES TO SATAN, THE ORIGINATOR

Another delusion perpetrated by the Roman Catholic authorities is that there are distinctions or different levels of worship. The Lord, they say, receives the highest degree of adoration called *latria.*^[270] Mary is next in the hierarchy of gods due worshipful adoration. She receives

hyperdulia, an intense form of *dulia*, whereas the other dead saints and angels receive plain *dulia* or the ordinary service of a slave. Apparently, this is done with the blessing of God, who has changed His character from that of a jealous God in Exodus 20, to that of a compromising, non-judgmental, adulterated God, the attribute of immutability notwithstanding.

"Further, the council [Nicea II.] made clear that the veneration of images is not directed to the image but to the person worthy of honor. 'For honor paid to an image passes on to its prototype; he who worships an image worships the reality of him who is painted in it.'"^[271]

The infallible Holy Spirit tells all who have ears to hear that in worshipping the Beast or any of the images which he commands be worshiped - whether the Crucifix, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate heart of the Blessed Virgin, Madonna and Child, St. Joseph, Michael the Archangel or the Cross itself - all worship of images of any kind passes directly to the Dragon, Satan, who receives the glory and the honor.^[272]

IMAGE WORSHIP A MARK OF THE BEAST, ANTICHRIST

One of the obvious signs, marks, characteristics, traits, fruit and works of Antichrist, the scarlet-colored beast, the Man of Sin and Lawlessness, is legalization and command of image worship. This is seen throughout the Roman Catholic Church, worldwide, in various degrees of obedience. The more money in the parish, the more extravagant and numerous the idols. This author has seen the gamut and challenges the uninformed reader to visit his or her local Catholic Church to observe, first-hand, the blasphemies committed against the true God.

ROME JUDGES, CONDEMNS AND KILLS THE TRUE SAINTS WHO PROTEST AGAINST IMAGE WORSHIP

"Judge not and ye shall not be judged. Condemn not: and ye shall not be condemned."^[273]

Jesus called those who judged unrighteously hypocrites.^[274] He also called the Pharisees and scribes by the same name.^[275] This is not accidental since the religious rulers of Israel were also their judges. The Pope and the Holy See were also the religious rulers in authority in the Christian Church since the fall of the Roman Empire until the 16th century Reformation, a span of 1,000 years.^[276] As we have seen earlier, the 2nd Council of Nicea cursed, condemned, and anathematized all those who opposed image worship. The Counter-Reformation Council of Trent takes a similar tact almost 800 years later:

"So that they are to be wholly condemned; as the church has long before *condemned* them, and repeats the sentence [i.e. judgment], who affirm that veneration and honour are not due to the relics of the saints, or that it is a useless thing that the faithful should honour these and other sacred monuments, and that the memorials of the saints are in vain frequented, to obtain their help and assistance." ^[277]

Is the reader beginning to see the irrefragable pattern of Antichrist and his church? The Word of God commands thou shalt not make images nor bow down to them or serve them. The Antichrist is *anti* or contrary and against the true God and His Word, while standing in His place as His alleged Vicar:

"The holy council commands all bishops and others who have the care and charge of teaching, that...they labour with diligent assiduity to instruct the faithful concerning the invocation and intercession of the saints, the honour due to relics, and the lawful use of images: teaching them that the saints, who reign together with Christ, offer their prayers to God for men - that it is a good and useful thing suppliantly to invoke them, and to flee to their prayers, help and assistance...and that those are men of impious sentiments who deny that the saints...are to be invoked - or who affirm that they do not pray for men, or to beseech them to pray for us is idolatry, or that it is contrary to the word of God, and opposed to the honour of Jesus Christ, the one mediator between God and men..."[278]

While Jesus teaches to judge and condemn not with hypocrisy, Rome teaches to condemn those who obey God's commandments pertaining to worship. Death being the ultimate punishment:

"No one shall represent, or cause to be represented, sell, or offer for sale, have, keep, or possess, any scandalous figures, pictures, or images of the Virgin Mary, or of the saints canonized by the Church, or of the clergy. Nor shall anyone break, destroy, or pull down the images or pictures made in their honor....The penalty in case anyone shall be discovered to have violated any of the provisions herein stated shall be punishment fitting for seditious persons who are a peril to our realm and the common weal, and as such they shall be executed, the men by the sword, the women by being buried alive, should they show no disposition to maintain or defend their errors. Should they, however, persist in their opinions, errors and heresies, they shall be burned alive, and in every case their goods shall be confiscated and declared forfeit to us..."[279]

This proclamation or *placard* was issued in the Netherlands by Roman Catholic King Charles V., April, 1550, and confirmed by his successor King Philip II.

Also, is it necessary to point out that Jesus Christ in no way, shape or form ever called for the death penalty when exercising judgment on the hypocritical Pharisees or anyone else? He did, in all honesty and candor, let them know they would not escape the damnation of Hell, which is by the just judgment and sole authority of God, not men.[280]

Image worship promotes praying to saints and angels for intercession with the Father on behalf of the petitioner. Of course it denigrates the role of the Lord Jesus Christ as sole mediator between God and men.[281] The Reformers and earlier saints knew it to be true and preached against it. But not the drunken sleeping prophets. In their diminished sight image worship is a light thing, so long as the practitioners of such abomination be orthodox in their creed.

The Lutheran and Anabaptist Protestants of the 16th century Netherlands took a very different stance. Like Josiah of 2nd Kings fame, their holy and jealous zeal for the honor and defense of their Lord resulted in iconoclasm personified:

"...God only knows; for we have had here this past night a terrible thing, all the [Catholic] Churches, chapels and houses of religion utterly defaced, and nothing left whole within them, but broken and utterly destroyed;...After that they began with the large image of our Lady, which had been carried about the town on Sunday last, and utterly defaced her and her chapel; after the whole church, which was the costliest church in Europe...So that, after I saw that all was over, I, with about ten thousand more, went into the churches to see...and coming into our Lady Church, it looked like a hell...with falling of Images and beating down of costly works..."[282]

This letter written in August, 1566 reveals the devastation wrought by Protestant Iconoclasts without regard for the placards advocating the death penalty for such abuses.

IDOLATRY CONDEMNED IN OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS IDOLATERS NOT IN HEAVEN

Image worship is condemned in the Old Testament. The golden calf which Aaron and Israel made and worshiped was not viewed as the reality or prototype of Jehovah God. They were not that depraved. It was viewed only as a representation of God's goodness and provision. Like the Roman Catholics of today and centuries past, they believed the veneration due God passed from the creature to the Creator, thus glorifying Him. However sincere their beliefs, they were eternally wrong:

"And the Lord said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me him will I blot out of my book." [283]

This was no idle threat. The same admonition is given by St. Paul and St. John.[284] In St. John's vision of the heavenly throne and the worship therein, all honor was given the Lamb and His Father. No honor or veneration was given Mary or any other saint, real or imagined.[285] In fact, neither Mary or any other saint was mentioned by name as partaking in the worship of God. When St. John foolishly attempted to worship the Revelation angel, he was rebuked and told to *worship God*. [286]

The Old Testament condemnation of idolatry disallows bowing down to and serving images of any kind. The Council of Trent opposes Scripture, commanding the faithful to prostrate themselves, i.e. bow to ground level,[287] while serving idols either by *latria*, *hyperdulia*, or *dulia*.

OLD TESTAMENT TYPES PREFIGURE ANTICHRIST AND REFORMERS

Like the papal Beast who had been given his authority by the Dragon, not the Lamb,[288] that Man of Sin who comes in the name of the Lamb as His Vicar, but is instead the Antichrist and Vicar of his father, the Devil, as he is also the unfaithful and wicked steward over the household of God, so Jeroboam was placed over the house of Joseph in the name of his King, Solomon:

"And the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valor: and Solomon seeing the young man

that he was industrious, he made him ruler [i.e. vicar and chief steward] over all the house of Joseph." [289]

Jeroboam had justified a drastic plan to keep the people under his charge from ever considering reunification with Rehoboam, King of Judah, and very possibly turning against him. For Jeroboam introducing idolatry into the church of Israel was the answer:

"Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold, and said unto them, It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem: behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And he set the one in Beth-el, and the other put he in Dan. And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan." [290]

But Jeroboam's idolatrous mode of worship was to prove his downfall. The Lord sent His prophet, Ahijah, to testify against Jeroboam:

"Go, tell Jeroboam, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel [i.e. this testimony is God-breathed and infallible], Forasmuch as I exalted thee from among the people, and made thee prince over my people Israel [i.e. the professing Church]...But hast done evil above all that were before thee: for thou hast gone and made thee other gods, and molten images, to provoke me to anger, and hast cast me behind thy back." [291]

If there remains any doubt as to the severity of the Lord's anger against Jeroboam, when God Almighty calls your children and relatives *dung*, it is not a good sign. When dogs and vultures eat your kin, it is also not a good sign. Needless to say, Jeroboam and his seed were soon to be a proverb and a byword, as it is also prophesied of the dynasty of idolatrous Men of Sin, the Seed of the Serpent, the sons of perdition:

"And the beast was taken, and with him that false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that received the beast's mark, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast into a pond of fire burning with brimstone..." [292]

Josiah did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, as opposed to Jeroboam who did evil by legalizing and promoting the sin of idolatry. Like the Protestant Reformers after him, Josiah found the Law, i.e. the Bible, which had been withheld from the people, as the Roman Catholic Church would do by prohibiting the vernacular translation of the Bible from being disseminated to the laity thousands of years later.[292a] Josiah openly preached the Word of the Lord, and commanded that all abominations not instituted by the Lord, and those which had been specifically condemned, be removed and destroyed:

"...And the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the

mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Sidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile. And he brake in pieces the pillars, and cut down the groves, and filled their places with the bones of men. Moreover, the altar that was at Beth-el and the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he broke down, and burned the high place, and stamped it small to powder, and burned the grove...Moreover the men of familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which was written in the book that Hilkiyah the priest found in the house of the Lord.” [293]

The Lord loved Josiah and loathed Jeroboam. The same Lord Jesus loves those who love Him and follow his commandments.[294] Those who hate Jesus keepeth not His sayings.[295] To those hypocrites Christ confesses *I never knew you:*

"Depart from me, ye workers of iniquity" - lawlessness, ανομία [296]

Those workers of lawlessness are the disciples of the Man of Lawlessness, the Antichrist. Jesus Christ, God the Father, and God the Holy Spirit repudiate and detest these pseudo-Christians.

IDOLATRY IS WORSHIPPING BY SIGHT NOT BY FAITH

"For we walk by faith, not by sight." [297]

"But without faith it is impossible to please him." [298]

The term *idolatry* is composed of two Greek words: *eidolon*, meaning *image*, and *latreia*, meaning *worship*, i.e. the service of God.[299] Idols are those images which we *see*, that root word in Greek being *eido*. Thus, idolatry is worship by sight. This directly contradicts St. Paul's admonitions. Like Cain's ill-conceived offering in the Garden of Eden, image worship has horrific eternal consequences. The just reward of idolaters is Hell, not Heaven, torment, not rest.[300] Idolaters must be warned just how God feels about them and their idols. Yet the drunken sleeping prophets find no cause to warn the one billion lost souls baptized into Roman Catholicism.

IDOLS ARE SPIRITUAL PORNOGRAPHY IDOLATRY IS SPIRITUAL PROSTITUTION

"Since his election, Pope John Paul II. has emerged as the greatest leader of the modern world, and one of the greatest moral and spiritual leaders of this century." -Rev. Billy Graham [301]

"And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit harlotry with the daughters of Moab. And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods. And Israel joined herself to Baal-peor: and the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel." [302]

Shocking as it may seem, most well-meaning Christians would not equate idols and idolatry with pornography and prostitution. That is because the *mystery of iniquity* has been working quite successfully. *The deceivableness of unrighteousness* has deceived the drunken sleeping prophets and those who blindly follow them. If, for example, the world's greatest evangelist had discerned what it was exactly Pope John Paul II. was engaged in and promoting worldwide, he may not have been so swift to place the B.G.E.A. seal of approval on the Man of Sin, the Vice-Christ. Fortunately, the elect are not deceived by such lawlessness. [303]

In the passage cited from Numbers, Israel was committing fornication with idols. The Septuagint translates *harlotry* or *whoredom* as *porneia*, πορνεία: i.e. fornication and prostitution. [304] Today we use that same root Greek word in the term *pornography*, meaning graphic images of a sexual nature which one can see. The *graven images*, which are prohibited in the Ten Commandments, are simply another term for *idols*, the root idea meaning *graphic*, [305] i.e. made to be seen. Graven images - idols, graphic representations of the gods or so-called saints - excite the worshiper to engage in intercourse with the gods or so-called saints through prayer. Pornography - graphic sex scenes - excites the viewer to engage in promiscuous sexual intercourse with the prostitute goddess through mental thought and imagination. Images stir the imagination, sexually and spiritually. Both are condemned by God.

"Let the bishops teach further, that by the records of the *mysteries* of our redemption, expressed in pictures or other similitudes, men are instructed and confirmed in those articles of faith which are especially to be remembered and cherished; and that great advantages are derived from all sacred images, not only because the people are thus reminded of the benefits and gifts which are bestowed upon them by Christ, but also because the divine miracles performed by the saints, and their salutary examples, are thus placed before the eyes of the faithful, that they may give thanks to God for them, order their lives and manners in imitation of the saints, and be excited to adore and love God, and cultivate piety. Whoever shall teach or think in opposition to these decrees, let him be accursed." [306]

To engage in intercourse with idols is to have *communion* or *fellowship* with the gods or so-called saints they represent. Paul explains those gods to be demons:

"What say I then? that the image is anything? or that it which is offered to images is anything? Nay, but I say, that those things which the gentiles offer, they offer to devils, and not to God. And I would not that ye should have fellowship with the devils. Ye cannot drink of the cup of the Lord, and of the cup of devils." [307]

The cup from which the great whore, Mystery Babylon, drinks is the cup of devils. [308] From

that spiritual cup, the kings of the earth - including the great drunken sleeping prophets - have drunk, committing spiritual fornication. This explains why the drunken sleeping prophets cannot identify, expose and warn the Christian Church of Mystery Babylon and her husband, the Beast, the Antichrist. Due to the spiritual stupor caused by their fornication with Mystery Babylon and her Beast, (notwithstanding an exalted sense of self), the drunken sleeping prophets look for another future Antichrist, another future Mystery Babylon. Their ardent disciples also look for another future Antichrist, neither discerning the ANTICHRIST IN OUR MIDST.

SPIRITUAL FORNICATION INFERS UNFAITHFULNESS TO JESUS CHRIST BY HIS FALSE BRIDE, MYSTERY BABYLON, AND FALSE VICAR, ANTICHRIST

The Church is the bride of Christ.^[309] The bride is to wear white, representing her virginity, her faithfulness to her groom, Christ, and His righteousness.^[310] Worshiping images is spiritual fornication, i.e. attempting to satisfy one's needs through prayer and trust in the dead - Mary, Anne, Joseph, Peter, popes, miracle-working saints, etc. - other than addressing solely the Father, in the name of and through the intercession of the Son.^[311] Mystery Babylon is such a church. She is the great whore who promotes, endorses, teaches and commands spiritual fornication. Her Head, the Pope, the Beast and Antichrist, openly promotes, endorses and teaches spiritual fornication. Mystery Babylon is the great false church claiming to be the only true church and virgin bride of Christ, while Antichrist, the great false Christ and false prophet, claims to be His Holiness, the Holy Father, yet is portrayed by the Holy Spirit to be a promoter of lawlessness and wickedness, a whoremonger.

In this chapter we have discussed St. John's Epistles in which the term *Antichrist* is used. We have then discussed, at length, St. Paul's *Man of Sin, the Man of Lawlessness, and son of perdition*. We have taken only one sign, mark, characteristic, fruit and work of Antichrist's lawlessness - image worship - and developed the implications of such idolatry to its inevitable conclusion: i.e. the son of perdition, the beast which comes out of the abyss, is going into perdition, as is the false church riding the beast.

We have also discussed the grave judgment waiting the drunken sleeping prophets who have not watched or warned. As we close this section, let us conclude with the somber words of the late Bishop John Jewel:

"But who be they which follow [Antichrist's] lore, which yield themselves to him, and which shall be deceived? Are they poor men, or artificers, or labourers? or are they unlearned or ignorant men? No, no, he shall deceive priests, bishops, archbishops, princes, kings, emperors, the gravest, the best-learned, the wisest, the mightiest men in the world. He shall blind their eyes and amaze their hearts. They shall run to him out of all parts of the earth: they shall fall down before him: they shall ask counsel of him: they shall say, Thou art the doctor of doctors, thou art the father of fathers, thou art the comfort of the church, thou art the light of the world, thou art most holy: all law and all knowledge is hid in thy breast: we beseech thy holiness, shew us thy way, expound thou

the law unto us, teach us how we may be saved: thou hast the key of knowledge: thy word is the word of truth. So shall they creep to Antichrist, so shall they pour out their souls before him, so shall they seek counsel at his mouth, so shall they fetch light at the prince of darkness."^[312]

A FRIGHTENING COMPARISON OF BIBLE COMMENTARIES ON 2THESSALONIANS 2

One can learn much by reviewing what Christians believed in the past and comparing it to what Christians believe in the present. Earlier we discussed that the Protestant Reformers and early Church Fathers knew nothing of a secret *Rapture*. They knew and taught the 2nd Advent of Christ coming in judgment, coupled with the resurrection of the dead in Christ and the gathering together in the air of believers then alive at His coming. But they knew no teaching in Scripture of a secret coming of Christ for His Church, followed by a second-stage or third, visible advent seven years later. That theory is a rather recent development. Tragically, we have a large contingency of gullible Christian leaders to thank for disseminating this fairy tale so extensively and quickly.

We have also discussed that by changing the manner and purpose of Christ's return, Satan has successfully covered-up the fact that the Man of Sin is already in our midst, and has been in our midst for 1,500 years or so. According to the vast majority of leaders in the professing Church, the Man of Sin will not be revealed until after the imaginary secret *Rapture*. This fable they teach the ignorant sheep with heartfelt fervor.

As mentioned earlier in this chapter, William Tyndale knew 2Thessalonians to be speaking of Antichrist, who would be revealed after the Fall of the Roman Empire. Christ would then slay him at His glorious coming. It becomes clear as light that Mr. Tyndale knew the identity of Antichrist when one reads his doctrinal treatises, *ANTICHRIST*, and *THE PRACTICE OF PRELATES*. Of course, to the average Christian, such material is not readily available without considerable time and effort spent finding it. This author will quote extensive portions of his writing when citing the unanimous testimony of Christians who lived in earlier centuries. William Tyndale was strangled and burned for exposing Antichrist and his Church, as he was for translating the Bible into English.

Of particular interest is a comparison of commentaries published 393 years apart, both claiming the Protestant Reformed view. The one, a 1602 edition, *Geneva Annotated New Testament*,^[313] written by Protestants engaged in fierce spiritual warfare, and living in conditions of grave personal danger. The other, a 1995 edition, *New Geneva Study Bible*,^[314] written by Protestants engaged in little spiritual warfare, and living the most comfortable existence known to man.

First, we quote the 1602 edition scripture then gloss on 2Thessalonians 2:3:

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a departing first, and that that man of sin be disclosed, even the son of perdition."

“The Apostle foretelleth that before the coming of the Lord, there shall be a throne set up clean contrary [i.e. completely contrary] to Christ's glory, wherein that wicked man shall sit, and transfer all things that pertain to God, to himself, and many shall fall away from God to him. By speaking of one [man of sin] he pointeth out the body of the tyrannous [i.e. tyrannical] and persecuting Church.”

Note the following observations made in A.D. 1602:

1. Christ comes once, after the Man of Sin is revealed.
2. He shall usurp Christ's offices and oppose Christ.
3. The Man of Sin is the head of a tyrannical, persecuting Christian Church.

Now we compare the 1995 edition: -

"Let no man deceive you by any means, for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition. "

"This might refer to a falling away of many within the church, to an apostasy of the Jewish people, or to a worldwide rebellion against God. [The man of sin] is an individual embodiment of wickedness, whose arrogant blasphemies Paul lists. He will draw away by deception those already inclined against the true God and will ultimately commit the sacrilege of thrusting himself upon humanity as its object of worship. He comes by the power of Satan, as Christ came by the power of God, and he works fraudulent wonders as Christ worked true ones. Paul depicts this imposter as a parody or antithesis of the true Christ. Paul himself does not use the term 'antichrist,' but it is a fitting designation. His fate is sealed; he will be destroyed by the coming of Christ."

Like the 1602 edition, the *New Geneva* gloss has Christ return once to destroy the Man of Sin. He is identified as 'antichrist'. He will parody Christ, working lying wonders. But of serious omission here is the identity of this man of sin. Of critical importance to the Church is this crucial fact. And yet the numerous 1995 Protestant scholars, teachers and leaders who compiled this work are without a clue as to whom Paul is referring! There is also confusion as to what, exactly, is 'the falling away.' Does the reader sense just how well the *mystery of iniquity* is working?

Let us continue with the 1602 edition scripture and gloss on verse 4:

"Which is an adversary, and exalteth himself against all that is called God, or that is worshipped: so that he doeth sit as God in the Temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. "

"All men know who he is that sayeth he can shut up heaven and open it at his pleasure, and took upon him to be Lord and Master above all kings and princes, before whom kings and princes fall down and worship, honouring that Antichrist as a god. He [Paul] foretelleth that Antichrist (that is, whosoever shall be that shall occupy that seat that falleth away from God) shall not reign

without the Church, but in the very bosom of the Church."

The 16th-17th century Reformers have just given their contemporaries invaluable information:

1. They have positively identified the Man of Sin as the Pope who claims to hold the keys of Peter and who sits in the bosom of the apostate Church that has fallen away from the faith.
2. They have included every pope in the succession of popes as the Man of Sin and Antichrist because each one occupies the same seat of authority, i.e. the Papacy.
3. Their exhortation *all men know who he is* alarmingly no longer applies, as the *mystery of iniquity* busily spins its web of confusing and conflicting theories about the minds of today's self-professed prophecy experts.

Now to the 1995 edition:

"who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. "

"This description of the man of sin echoes that of Daniel's little 'horn' and foreshadows John's description of the beast from the sea."

This gloss has value in linking the Man of Sin with Daniel's *little horn* and John's beast from the abyss. However, his identity is still a mystery to these expositors. That is a very large problem. Let us continue with the same commentary:

"Some conclude from this verse that the temple in Jerusalem, still standing when Paul wrote but destroyed in A.D. 70, must be rebuilt for the use of the 'man of sin'. Others understand 'temple' in another way of its New Testament meanings, as the church. The reference may be an intentionally exaggerated way of talking about the imposter's aspirations to heavenly power. Just as another prototype of sin, the king of Babylon wanted to set his throne in heaven, so the man of sin will boast of himself as the possessor of God's heavenly sanctuary."

Once again, our modern-day prophecy experts are all over the playing field. If the temple must be rebuilt in Jerusalem first, then the Man of Sin must not be here yet. Satan loves that interpretation. Next, they casually explain it might mean the Christian Church and hurry along to a third preposterous theory: it is pure hyperbole and not to be taken literally.

Now let us continue with the ancient 1602 version of verse 6:

"And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time."

"What hindereth and stayeth."

The Reformers are soon to explain what it is that *withholdeth, hindereth and stayeth* the Man of Sin. Verse 7:

"For the mystery of iniquity doeth already work: only he which now withholdeth, shall let until he be taken out of the way. "

"Even in the Apostles time the first foundations of the Apostolical seat were laid, but yet so that they deceived men. He [Paul] foretelleth, that when the Empire of Rome is taken away, the seat that falleth away from God, shall succeed and hold his [i.e. the Roman Emperor's] place, as the old writers, Tertullian, Chrysostom and Jerome do expound it."

The 1602 commentary further elaborates that *he which now withholdeth* is to be understood as 'he which is in authority and ruleth all, to wit, the Roman Empire.' These wise expositors understood that the Man of Sin would sit in an *Apostolic seat* in the Church, which is exactly what is claimed by the popes, i.e. they sit in the apostolic seat of St. Peter. These same Christians had no confusion whatsoever concerning the identity of the *let*. It was the Roman Empire which must be removed before the Man of Sin could sit in the same seat and so become the Revived Holy Roman Apostolic Emperor.

We move now to the 1995 version of the same text:

"And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. "

"The identity of what is 'restraining' the man of sin is no longer self-evident to readers of 2 Thessalonians. Interpreters have proposed numerous alternatives. The restraining power seems to be both impersonal and personal. Hence it may be an institution that can also be represented by a single person, such as the Roman state with its emperor, the Jewish state with its leader, or the universal ministry of the gospel with Paul as its chief minister . Whatever the precise reference, it is clear that behind the restraining power is the will of God."

It was, however, *self-evident* to the Reformers and early Church Fathers, who and what was 'restraining.' But the contemporary Protestant Christian scholars do not wish to share that information readily and enthusiastically with their readers. Instead, they float the truth in a morass of Preterism and Futurism, which includes silent assent to the secret *Rapture*.

"For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. "

"Though the man of sin has not yet appeared, Paul will not allow his readers to let down their guard. The same satanic power that will ultimately spawn this unholy deceiver was already at work in Paul's day and is at work in ours. Because it is now restrained, the church has a strong encouragement to carry out its mission."

This particular gloss is where our 20th century Christian brethren let us really know where they stand: *Antichrist is not here yet!!* He will 'ultimately' appear, but is 'now restrained'. Here it is, dear reader, where the *New Geneva Study Bible* repudiates, denies and contradicts the original

Geneva Bible, thus becoming in no way, shape or form Reformed in the very important area of eschatology and prophecy. R. C. Sproul's *Introduction* to this apostate Bible version is bogus:

"The *New Geneva Study Bible* contains a modern restatement of Reformation truth in its comments and theological notes. Its purpose is to present the light of the Reformation afresh...The distinctive ideas of the Reformed are the result of accepting the Bible as the supreme authority for faith and practice."

What Mr. Sproul neglected to say is that he and his associates will restate only *certain* portions of Reformation truth: Let the reader beware. In fact, one of the key distinctive ideas of the Reformers was the identifying of the Man of Sin with the Papacy and the Roman Catholic Church with Mystery Babylon. It was through this extremely important revelation that Luther and company realized that reform and union with Catholicism was impossible and outside the will of God.[315]

The translators of the 1611 King James Version were all in agreement as to the identity of the Man of Sin. In their Preface they lament that *some thick and palpable clouds of darkness would so have overshadowed this Land, that men should have been in doubt which way they were to walk*. After commending King James for his blessing upon the continued preaching of God's Word, they observe that his caring for the Church and its Teachers *hath given such a blow unto that man of sin, as will not be healed*. [316] Unfortunately, that blow was healed, for few today even know his identity to expose him. If there be any skeptics doubting the King James translators had the papacy in mind, let us continue with another excerpt from the Preface:

"So that if, on the one side, we shall be traduced by Popish Persons at home or abroad, who therefore will malign us, because we are poor instruments to make God's Holy Truth to be yet more and more known unto the people, whom they desire still to keep in ignorance and darkness..." [316a]

A SIGNIFICANT AND VERY SCARY EXAMPLE OF REVISIONISM IN OUR DAY

It's bad enough when organizations are formed and books are written contending the Holocaust never occurred. This despite eyewitness accounts by survivors and their liberators, all with extensive collaborating film footage. Not to mention the six million missing Jews that somehow, unexplainably vanished. But when the denial and cover-up comes from the camp of orthodox professing evangelic Christians, the incredulity is magnified one hundred fold.

In December, 1973, the First General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America met in Birmingham, Alabama, to adopt the classic Westminster Confession of Faith with its Larger and Shorter Catechisms as the doctrinal standards of the Church. [317]

"The Presbyterian Church in America received the same Confession and Catechisms as those that were adopted by the first Presbyterian Assembly of 1789, with two minor exceptions, namely, the deletion of strictures against marrying one's wife's kindred, and the reference to the Pope as the

antichrist."^[318]

By a single, deliberate stroke of the pen, the archenemy of God and His people, declared so from Genesis through Revelation, has been declared, through the erroneous and wicked councils of men, to be the enemy no more. The implications of this futile and deluded action are manifold and frightening. The PCA has declared it knows better than God. That God has been in error for centuries. That God has even lied for centuries. That God's people have been in error for centuries. That God's people have also lied for centuries. That God's martyrs died senselessly for a lie. That Roman Catholicism and its beast are not so bad after all. That the Beast has been telling the truth all along: He's not Antichrist. Never was, never has been, never will be. That the true Christians killed by the Roman Catholic Church were heretics after all. That the sheep belonging to the PCA no longer need to be warned of the Man of Sin and son of perdition.

Does the reader shiver at the power of the *deceivableness of unrighteousness, the mystery of iniquity*? Sleep on drunken prophets, sleep on. Believe the delusion. But know this:

"The elect shall stand stedfast and safe from all these mischiefs."^[319]

WHAT THE X-RATED 1649 WESTMINSTER CONFESSION UNASHAMEDLY SAID

In 1534 William Tyndale knew and exposed the papal Antichrist. In 1602 the *Geneva Bible* translators knew and exposed the papal Antichrist. In 1611 The King James Bible translators knew and exposed the papal Antichrist. Then in 1649 the Presbyterian Reformers knew and exposed the papal Antichrist, in no uncertain terms. Today that same confession has been snipped and trimmed, excised and edited for PG consumption. The apostate Presbyterian Church U.S.A. has completely rewritten the Creed to earn a lukewarm G rating, offensive to no one, not even sinners. WARNING!! The following citation may offend small children and the ignorant in Christ:

"There is no other head of the Church but the Lord Jesus Christ: nor can the Pope of Rome, in any sense be the head thereof; but is that Antichrist, that man of sin and son of perdition, that exalteth himself in the Church against Christ, and all that is called God." ^[320]

Can the reader recognize the phrases of 2Thessalonians 2 in this blessed creedal position? What this author finds particularly shocking is the utter disdain for this portion of the Creed on the part of Sproul and his Reformed contributors. The New Geneva Study Bible quotes *The Westminster Confession* when referring to 2Thessalonians 2:14: effectual calling. Yet ten verses earlier (verse 4), Mr. Sproul is silent regarding who, exactly, it is that *exalts himself in the temple of God*. All he and his experts needed to do was quote from the same *Confession*, Chapter 25, Paragraph 6, and the answer would have been forthcoming to themselves and their untold thousands of readers and supporters. But no. If they had done that then there would have been no *mystery* to the *mystery of iniquity*.

But the 1649 *Confession* does not stop there. It has much to say regarding the Beast and his Whore:

"...much less hath the Pope any power or jurisdiction over [magistrates] in their domains, or over any of their people; and least of all to deprive them of their dominions or lives, if he shall judge them to be heretics, or upon any other pretense whatsoever." [321]

"Yet it is the duty of Christians to marry only in the Lord. And therefore, such as profess the true reformed religion should not marry with infidels, Papists, or other idolaters..." [322]

"...popish monastical vows of perpetual single life, professed poverty, and regular obedience, are so far from being degrees of higher perfection, that they are superstitious and sinful snares, in which no Christian may entangle himself." [323]

"In this sacrament [the Lord's Supper] Christ is not offered up to his Father, nor any real sacrifice made at all for remission of sins of the quick or dead, but only a commemoration of that one offering up of himself, upon the cross, once for all, and a spiritual oblation of all possible praise unto God for the same; so that the Popish sacrifice of the mass, as they call it, is most abominably injurious to Christ's one only sacrifice, the alone propitiation for all the sins of the elect.

"Private masses, or receiving this sacrament by a priest, or any other, alone; as likewise the denial of the cup to the people; worshipping the elements, and lifting them up, or carrying them about for adoration, and the reserving them for any pretended religious use, are all contrary to the nature of this sacrament, and to the institution of Christ.

"The outward elements in this sacrament, duly set apart to the uses ordained by Christ, have such relation to him crucified, as that truly, yet sacramentally only, they are sometimes called by the name of the things they represent, to wit, the body and blood of Christ; albeit, in substance and nature, they still remain truly, and only, bread and wine, as they were before.

"That doctrine which maintains a change of the substance of bread and wine, into the substance of Christ's body and blood (commonly called transubstantiation) by consecration of a priest, or by any other way, is repugnant, not to Scripture alone, but even to common sense and reason; overthroweth the nature of the sacrament; and hath been, and is the cause of manifold superstitions, yea, of gross idolatries." [324]

"Besides these two places for souls [Heaven and Hell] separated from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledgeth none." [325]

How many church credos today are a fraction as thorough as the one above? If the reader is not familiar with the rest of its contents, this writer considers it a must for all Christians who wish to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord.

NO MODERN STUDY BIBLE IDENTIFIES THE POPE AS THE MAN OF SIN

If it were only the New Geneva Study Bible that was deficient in identifying and exposing the papal Man of Sin, Antichrist, that would be horrendous enough. But that no modern study Bible

exists which identifies the Roman Pontiff as the son of perdition, the Beast, is unthinkable. How great, then, is the *mystery of iniquity* and the *deceivableness of unrighteousness*. How well has Satan done his work. How disastrous for the Church as she waits, stupified, for another Hitler, complete with a 666 bar code and micro chip in his right hand and forehead, as he rises from the European Economic Community.

THE SCOFIELD REFERENCE BIBLE: CLUELESS

Conveniently, Mr. Scofield can plead ignorance to the Man of Sin's identity since he was an ardent promoter of the secret Rapture, Futurism and a future, unknowable Antichrist. Or can he? Certainly anyone deeming himself worthy of explaining the entire Bible in notes is worthy enough to have read the classic literature of the Reformers, in addition to having studied Church and secular history extensively, the knowledge of which reveals Antichrist without question. Thus, C.I. is without excuse for having mislead myriads of Christians away from the true and ever present papal Antichrist.

THE WESTMINSTER STUDY BIBLE: CLUELESS

In 1965, the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America published a revised edition of their study Bible. Editors included scholars from Oxford, Princeton and numerous other theological seminaries. Directing its reader to the book of Daniel for further information on the Man of Lawlessness, the study notes neglect, completely, the most important chapter of Daniel, Chapter 7. Identifying Antiochus Epiphanes, Pompey, and Caligula as types of the Man of Sin, the study notes on 2Thessalonians 2 wisely understands there to be a similarity between the Man and Lucifer, but does not have a glimmer of discernment that the Temple referred to is the Body of Christ, the Christian Church:

"The expectation seems to have been that as his final act of lawlessness this man would set up his throne in the most holy place of the Temple and actually claim to be divine."

The footnotes then venture a guess that a Jewish Antichrist is in the offing. No papal Man of Sin is even *hinted* at.

THE NEW AMERICAN STANDARD OPEN BIBLE: CLUELESS

Utilizing a plethora of Bible experts, this 1985 edition gives its study notes prior to each chapter. Citing 2Thessalonians 2:3 as a *key verse*, the Bible expositors do not warn the reader that the Man of Sin is now here and busy at work deceiving the world and Christianity at-large. Expounding the Day of the Lord as synonymous with the Great Tribulation, i.e. when God pours out His wrath on an unbelieving world, the NAS Open Bible advocates Futurism:

"...Paul's previous letter had given them the comforting hope that they were not destined for the wrath of that day. "

This author defies the Bible experts to explain that to Blind Joan Waste, martyred for Christ's sake, when they meet her at the wedding supper of the Lamb. Joan went through great tribulation at the hand of the Roman Catholic Church, culminating in her death by fire at the stake. But praise God, Joan persevered and had gotten the victory over the Beast, and his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name.^[326] What the biblical scholars are not understanding is that the Great Tribulation is that persecution which is directed at the elect by the Man of Sin and his false Church, for a period consisting of the entire Church Age concurrent with his being revealed by the Holy Spirit, and ending only with his destruction at the return of Christ. Scripture says so and history proves it. The Day of the Lord and the Great Tribulation are two distinct and different events. The Day of the Lord is His Second Advent in judgment. The Great Tribulation is a period of approximately 1335 years! Not a measly 7 years after the Rapture, as is now taught. The Great Tribulation of the Church Age involves the Church of believing Jews and Greeks. But we're getting ahead of ourselves. In Chapter 4 this will be made clearer, Lord willing.

THE HEBREW-GREEK KEY STUDY BIBLE: CLUELESS

The editor of this study Bible, Spiros Zodhiates, has extensive knowledge of Greek and Hebrew. Unfortunately, it requires more than proficiency in languages to understand prophetic passages of Scripture.^[327] In his study notes on 2Thessalonians 2, Mr. Zodhiates makes the wise link between the 'man of sin' and Antichrist spoken of in 1 & 2 John. But in his next sentence he makes the supreme blunder of misinterpreting the preposition *anti*:

"The preposition *anti*, 'against', indicates this man's opposition to, not a replacement of Christ."

By disregarding the elementary double meaning of *anti*, Mr. Zodhiates has eliminated the Pope, the Vicar of Christ, as the Man of Sin, Antichrist. He next misinterprets the Holy Spirit as *the restraining force* spoken of in verses 6 and 7. To Mr. Zodhiates and all other Bible expositors and prophecy experts, this author asks the following question:

IF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE RESTRAINER DESCRIBED IN 2THESSALONIANS 2, WHY DIDN'T HE DO A BETTER JOB OF RESTRAINING THE HOLOCAUST?

Try telling the six million Jews, the millions of Russians, Gypsies, Jehovah's Witnesses, and dead Allied and Axis troops, not to mention civilians, that one of the offices, purposes and job descriptions of God the Holy Spirit is *The Restrainer of Evil*. They won't believe you. Try explaining it to Blind Joan Waste. She won't believe you, either. No matter how many doctoral degrees are attached to your name.

Perhaps we can justify the Spirit's ineptitude during World War II. Perhaps the Holocaust and war weren't quite evil enough to warrant restraint. Or perhaps Adolph Hitler and the German people did not commit enough atrocities to warrant the Father sanction sending *The Restrainer*.

Better yet, perhaps the theory that teaches 2Thessalonians 2 is speaking of the *Holy Spirit* as the *restrainer* is completely misfounded, illogical, with no scriptural or historical precedent whatsoever.

BAKER'S DICTIONARY OF THEOLOGY: CLUELESS

Perpetuating the myth of the many errant teachings on 2Thessalonians 2, the *mystery of iniquity* is not confined to study Bibles and prophecy experts. Baker's Dictionary of Theology, 1991 Edition, drawing upon the expertise of nearly 150 theologians, plays into the hands of the master deceiver:

“Antichrist is the personal culmination of a principle of rebellion already working secretly - 'the mystery of lawlessness' (2Thess. 2:7). When God's restraining hand which preserves law and order is withdrawn, this spirit of satanic lawlessness will become incarnate in ‘the lawless one.’”^[328]

God's restraining hand did a horrible job preserving law and order when the Holocaust hit. In fact, He messed that one up, big time. But thank goodness the Man of Sin was restrained. Amen? Seriously, wouldn't the reader agree the Holocaust is a *stain* on God's name and resume?

NAME: God Almighty

OCCUPATION: Restrainer of Evil, Preserver of Law and Order, among other things

EXPERIENCE: The Holocaust 1939-1945

Would you hire Him?

JESUS TELLS US THE MINISTRIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: RESTRAINING EVIL NOT ONE OF THEM

The title, *the Comforter*, is a large clue.^[329] The need for comforting implies preceding grief and sorrow. Grief and sorrow caused by great tribulation for His name's sake:

"In the world ye shall have tribulation." ^[330]

"Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake."^[331]

With those ominous prophetic words of warning, an obedient Christian *needs* a Comforter. If the Holy Spirit were the *Restrainer*, Jesus' words would be quite different:

"But the *Restrainer*, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he

shall restrain all manner of evil spoken and done against you. Peace, health, wealth and happiness I leave with you, my trouble-free existence I give unto you. As the world giveth the keys to success, give I unto you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own. But because ye are not of the world, the world would have hated you. Therefore, I send the *Restrainer* to protect you from the world, that no harm will befall you. The *Restrainer* is the spirit of *Compromise*, and will testify of my ability not to offend anyone. He will lead you into *diplomacy* and *ecumenism*. Not stones of stumbling. The very hairs on your head are numbered. Fear not therefore, the *Restrainer* will not allow a single follicle to be lost, messed with, or become out of place."

Ridiculous? Preposterous? Hopefully so. It is also the Holy Spirit's ministry to *guide into all truth*.^[332] He is the Teacher. It was telling the truth that lost Jesus the admiration of the world. The same will be true with the Christian who follows in Christ's footpath. The Holy Spirit also reproves the world of sin, righteousness and judgement.^[333] The Holy Spirit regenerates.^[334] But nowhere does Jesus state He is *The Restrainer*. In fact, a logical reading of Matthew 24 will dispel any notion that God the Holy Spirit is *The Restrainer*.

TIME IS THE ONLY RESTRAINER IN MATTHEW 24 GREAT TRIBULATION

Let's be reasonable people. The Olivet Discourse begins with deception, which the Holy Spirit does not restrain. It then moves on to wars between nations and kingdoms, which the Holy Spirit does not restrain. If that weren't bad enough, famine, pestilence and earthquakes occur everywhere, which the Holy Spirit does not restrain. *All these are the beginning of sorrows*, which the Holy Spirit does not restrain, but instead *comforts*. Christians shall be persecuted, betrayed and killed, which the Holy Spirit does not restrain. False prophets come to power, deceiving many, which the Holy Spirit does not restrain. Lawlessness abounds, the love of many wax cold, yet the Holy Spirit still does not restrain. The Abomination of Desolation appears, which the Holy Spirit does not restrain. Christians are advised to flee *because there is no restraint*. Instead, it is time that is the restraining factor:

"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not from the beginning of the world to this time, nor shall be. Yea and except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the chosen's sake, those days shall be shortened." ^[335]

Our Lord Jesus expounds, quite lucidly, what, exactly, restrains the abounding evil and lawlessness: TIME. The wickedness on the earth is so great and is in such quantity that all would perish, given the time. Nothing is restrained. All hell has broken loose. By curtailing the length of time this iniquity works, the elect will survive and be saved. Can Christ's teaching be any clearer on this point?

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE PRESERVER OF THE CHOSEN CHURCH THROUGH THE TRIBULATION

In spite of the unprecedented degree of wickedness on the earth, increasing daily until the Advent of Christ, Jesus has promised that upon the rock of Christ He will build his church *and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*^[336] This is a declaration of war and a promise of victory in this war. The theme of warfare began in the Garden of Eden and continues through Christ's Second Advent. There is even rebellion at the end of the Millennial reign.^[337] But through it all the true Church will be victorious. The archenemy and adversary, Satan, and his vicar, Antichrist, the Man of Sin, and their counterfeit church, Mystery Babylon, will not prevail, overpower, or triumph over the Lord or His Body. Blind Joan Waste got the victory. William Tyndale got the victory. The Albigenses and Waldenses got the victory. The Protestant Reformers got the victory.

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death." ^[338]

"But thanks be unto God, which hath given us victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ." ^[339]

Jesus Christ has not, nor will He ever, lose one of those the Father has given Him, save the false Apostle, Judas, the son of perdition, Antichrist and his church, all of whom were destined to destruction beforehand.^[340] The Holy Spirit is to be with His elect Church, to abide forever.^[341] That, dear reader, is the ministry of preservation, not restraining.

REV. 22 FINAL WORD OF EXHORTATION TEACHES NO RESTRAINT ON THE WICKED, BUT PRESERVATION AND SANCTIFICATION OF THE JUSTIFIED

To further dismiss any notion of a Holy Spirit *Let* or *Restrainer*, the Angel ministering the prophetic word to St. John concludes with these inspired words:

"He that doth evil, let him do evil still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be more righteous: and he that is holy, let him be more holy." ^[342]

THE MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST RESTRAINS THE TRUE IDENTITY OF ANTICHRIST

This is the *mystery of iniquity*. A serial killer is loose and no one seems to care. Millions of saints' lives have been lost (bodies, not souls) by the actions of the Man of Sin, his seed, and his church, over a period of centuries. God hasn't forgotten, why should we? No forgiveness has been forthcoming from the perpetrators, nor has forgiveness been given. Instead, the righteous judgment of a just and holy God hangs over these tares and no one seems to care. The atonement of Christ is profaned every day worldwide in the Mass, and no one seems to care. Images are worshiped in the name of Christ and to His supposed glory and no one seems to

care. Why the lukewarm spirit in the Body of Christ, His Church? This is the *mystery of iniquity*. The innocent blood of the saints and the martyrs of Jesus cry out, yet the drunken sleeping prophets hear no evil, see no evil, and speak no warning.

CHAPTER THREE NOTES:

1. Revelation 19:11-21.
2. New Catholic Encyclopedia, op. cit., article, ANTIPOPE.
3. ibid., article, ANTICHRIST.
4. 1John 2:22.
5. New Catholic Encyclopedia, article, MARY, BLESSED VIRGIN, II, p.359.
6. ibid., p.360, citing Pius XI radio broadcast, 1935.
7. ibid., p.362, citing Pius XII encyclicals.
8. Catechism of the Catholic Church, ¶ 969.
9. Matthew 17:5.
10. John 2:5.
11. Luke 1:47.
12. John 2:4.
13. Matthew 6:9; John 16:23.
14. Luke 11:27-28.
15. John 19:26-27.
16. Revelation 4.
17. Revelation 5:12-14.
18. Revelation 7:9-12.
19. p.22.
20. Harkavy, op.cit. , Genesis 22: 13.
21. The Septuagint With Apocrypha: Greek and English, (Hendrickson, MA, 1990 reprint of 1851 London Edition).
22. Tyndale: 1Timothy 2:5-6.
23. Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, (Baker Book House, MI, 1977 reprint of 1901 Edition).
24. 1Peter 1:18-19.
25. Catechism of the Catholic Church, op. cit., ¶ 936.
26. New Catholic Encyclopedia, op. cit., article, VICAR OF CHRIST.
27. See any dictionary definition.
28. Rome and the Pope, Reverend Marino Priori, Imprimatur, ♣ Josephus Hamill (Indianapolis, 1925), pp. 56-57.
29. *TIME*, December 26, 1994/January 2, 1995; cf *TIME*, December, 1962, John XXIII celebrated as Man of the Year.
30. *THE SATURDAY EVENING POST*, Jan/Feb. 1980.
31. Tyndale: Revelation 19:10.
32. Matthew 24:3-5.
33. Tyndale: Matthew 24:5.

34. 2Thessalonians 2:1-9.
35. See Hal Lindsey literature; cf Dave Hunt literature.
36. Tyndale: Matthew 24:37-39.
- 36a. 2Thessalonians 1:7-10.
37. Matthew 24:5.
38. See any lexicon; cf Baker's Dictionary of Theology, (Baker Book House, MI, 1988), article, NAME.
39. See p.31.
40. Matthew 24:15.
41. Exodus 3:14; cf John 14:58.
42. Catechism of the Catholic Church, op. cit., ¶ 193-197.
43. *ibid.*, p.61; p.120.
44. Translations And Reprints From The Original Sources of European History, (University of PA), vol.4, #2, p.3.
45. Tyndale: Matthew 16: 15.
46. *ibid.*, Matthew 16:16.
47. Matthew 16:18-19.
48. New Catholic Encyclopedia, op. cit., article, PETRINE TEXTS.
49. *ibid.*, article, KEYS, POWER OF.
50. *ibid.*, article, POPE.
51. Catechism of the Catholic Church, op. cit., ¶ 862.
52. op. cit., p.259.
53. *ibid.*, p.213.
54. op. cit., article, OFFICE, ECCLESIASTICAL.
55. Tyndale, 2Thessalonians 2:1-12.
56. *ibid.*
57. cf McClintock, Strong.
58. Jewel's Exposition of 2Thessalonians is cited by numerous leading Protestant apologists of the 19th century, and is included in the classic, multi-volume collection edited for the Parker Society, England.
59. An Exposition Upon the Two Epistles of St. Paul To The Thessalonians, Bishop John Jewel, (The Parker Society, 1847 reprint of 16th century publication), pp. 913-14.
60. Encyclopedia Britannica, (William Benton, 1959), vol.8, article, EMPIRE, p.403.
61. *ibid.*
62. The Ante-Nicene Fathers, Roberts and Donaldson, Editors, (Buffalo, 1885), vol.3, APOLOGY, chap. 30, 32.
63. *ibid.*, chap. 34.
- 63a. The Geneva Bible, The Annotated New Testament, 1602 Edition, (Pilgrim Press, 1989 Reprint).

64. Eerdman's Handbook To The History Of Christianity, Tim Dowley, Organizing Editor, (Grand Rapids, 1977), article, CONSTANTINE AND THE CHRISTIAN EMPIRE, p.130 ff.
65. Documents of the Christian Church, Henry Bettenson, Editor, (Oxford University Press, 1963), p.22.
66. Encyclopedia Britannica, op. cit., article, PAPACY.
67. Secrets of Romanism, Joseph Zacchello, (Loizeaux Brothers, 1977), p.38.
68. The Scofield Reference Bible, C.I. Scofield, Editor, (Oxford University Press, 1909), p.1272, note 1:3.
69. *The Berean Call*, January, 1997, Q & A.
70. 1Thessalonians 4:8; 5:19.
71. 2Thessalonians 2:8; 2:13.
72. Tyndale, 2Thessalonians 2:6.
73. op. cit.
74. The Interlinear Greek-New Testament, Jay p. Green, Sr., General Editor and Transl., (Sovereign Grace Publishers, Third Revised Edition, 1996).
75. 2Thessalonians 2:7.
76. Encyclopedia Britannica, op. cit., article, PONTIFEX.
77. New Catholic Encyclopedia, op. cit., article, POPE.
78. *ibid.*, article, PONTIFF.
79. Billy Graham, article, THE PILGRIM POPE: A BUILDER OF BRIDGES, *Saturday Evening Post*, Jan/Feb. 1980.
80. New Catholic Encyclopedia, op. cit., article, PONTIFF.
81. John 10:1.
82. One of several official titles of the pope; cf New Catholic Encyclopedia, article, POPE.
83. Root derivative of *supreme*; cf any dictionary.
84. 2Thessalonians 2:4.
85. New Catholic Encyclopedia, op. cit., article, POPE.
86. Tyndale: Matthew 23:11-12a.
87. New Catholic Encyclopedia, op. cit., article, HOLY SEE.
88. Encyclopedia Britannica, op. cit., article, THE VATICAN.
89. 2Thessalonians 2:7.
90. 2Thessalonians 2:5,2:15.
91. 2Thessalonians 2:3.
92. *The Berean Call*, op. cit.
93. 2Thessalonians 2:4.
94. Tyndale: Matthew 10:16-17.
95. Luke 23:12.
96. Ephesians 5:11.
97. 2Thessalonians 2:3.

98. See any dictionary and lexicon.
99. Tyndale, 1Timothy 4:1-3.
100. 2Peter 2: 1-2.
101. Luke 18: 18.
102. Matthew 24:23-24.
103. Romans 11:18-22.
104. Bishop John Jewel, op. cit., pp.900-01.
105. Matthew 23:34.
106. Revelation 13:2.
- 106a. Ephesians 2:4; I Timothy 3: 16.
107. 2Thessalonians 2:3,6.
108. *STRONG'S*: 601, 602.
109. 2Thessalonians 2: 7.
110. *STRONG'S*: 3466.
111. 2Thessalonians 2:3.
112. *STRONG'S*: 684, 622.
113. Tyndale: John 3: 16.
114. 2Peter 3:9 KJV.
115. Revelation 13:11.
116. Matthew 25:41.
117. 2Corinthians 11:4-5.
118. Tyndale: Matthew 15:14.
119. 2Corinthians 6:17.
120. Revelation 17:3.
121. Harkavy, op. cit., Ezekiel3:17-19.
122. John 17:12.
123. John 6:68-71.
124. 1Corinthians 12:3.
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126. Catechism of the Catholic Church, op. cit.
127. Tyndale: Acts 1:20.
128. *ibid.*, John 13:26.
129. *ibid.*, 2Thessalonians 2:9.
130. Matthew 24:24.
131. 2Corinthians 3: 14; 2Timothy 2:26.
132. 2Thessalonians 2:4.
133. *STRONG'S*: 480
134. Luke 21: 15; 1Corinthians 16:9.
135. The Harrison Trust, 1988 Reprint of 1880 Publication, p.20.

136. cf *STRONG'S*: 2749.
- 136a. Revelation 17:3.
137. Revelation 18:2.
138. Matthew 7:24-27.
139. 2Thessalonians 2:4.
140. See any dictionary.
141. See Thayer, op. cit., p.233.
142. op. cit.
143. Harkavy, op. cit., Isaiah 41:12 ff.
144. Revelation 19:20; 20: 10.
145. Hebrews 10.
146. Ephesians 1:22.
147. Matthew 26:26-27.
148. *Unam sanctum*, Boniface VIII. Bull.
149. *Dictatus Papae*, Gregory VII Bull.
150. *Unam sanctum* and numerous other Bulls and Church Council Decrees.
151. See full documentation in later chapters; cf 1Timothy 4:1-3.
152. Psalm 22.
153. Philippians 2:7-8.
154. Matthew 8:19-20.
155. Luke 22:24-27.
156. Matthew 11:28-30.
157. Citing *Greg. Magni Papae I. Op. Par.* 1705 Epist. Lib. v. Indict. III.
158. Numerous examples seen in pontifical procession, especially after coronation.
159. Papal Ceremony & Vesture: "Receive the tiara with three crowns and know that you are the father of princes and kings, *ruler of the earth.....*" ; cf New Catholic Encyclopedia, op. cit., article, *PAPAL CEREMONY AND VESTURE*, p.972.
160. The so-called *Power of the Keys* and the three-crown tiara worn by the Pope.
161. Through Excommunication.
162. Through Canonization.
163. Through papal blessings.
164. Through papal and council anathemas.
165. Through Indulgences and the Mass.
166. Through persecution, imprisonment, and murder of the saints.
167. To be documented in later chapters.
168. Revelation 13:4.
169. *Holy Father*.
170. Citing Irenaeus, *Contra Haer.* , Lib. v. cap. Penult.
171. Jewel's editors list all the authorities for the quotes which follow. Citations furnished to

interested parties upon request.

172. Jewel, op. cit., pg. 293-97.

173. All authorities are cited by Foxe and his editors. Citations furnished to interested parties upon request.

174. Paragraph headings added by this author.

175. *Unam sanctum*, Boniface VIII.

176. This author has viewed film footage (A&E, *20th Century*) of John Paul II. extending his hand to papal visitors, who bowed and kissed the pontifical Fisherman's Ring.

177. Foxe cites Gregory IX., *Decretal de Transl.*, Lib. i. Tit. 6, c. 3; *Quanto* for this atrocity and those which follow.

178. Pope Urbanus II., Caus. 23, q. 5, c. 47, *Excommunicatorum*.

179. *Unam sanctum*, Boniface VIII.

180. The Acts and Monuments of John Foxe, op. cit., vol. 4, pp.145-64.

181. *ibid.*, p.159.

182. Elliott, op. cit., vol. 3, p.98.

183. 1Corinthians 3:16-17.

184. 2Corinthians 6: 16.

185. *ibid.*

186. 1Timothy 3:15.

187. Hebrews 10:21.

188. Ephesians 2:19-21.

189. Priori, op. cit., p.12.

190. *ibid.*, p.4.

191. *ibid.*, pp.3-4; 18-19; 21-22.

192. Revelation 13:16.

193. The Vatican, A. Lipinsky, (Doubleday & Co., 1968), p.22.

194. The papal coronation will be fully illustrated in later chapters.

195. *STRONG'S*: 459.

196. 2Thessalonians 2:12.

197. Harkavey, op. cit., Exodus 20:3-5.

198. Disciplinary Decrees of the General Councils, Schroeder, op. cit., p.143.

199. *STRONG'S*: 4352.

200. Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils, Norman Tanner, S.J., Editor, (Georgetown University Press, 1990), p.136.

201. The Septuagint With Apocrapha: Greek & English, op. cit., Exodus 20: 5.

202. Tyndale: Luke 17:1-2.

203. *ibid.*, Matthew 5:19.

204. *ibid.*, Revelation 21:8b.

205. *ibid.* Revelation 21:27.

206. *ibid.* Revelation 22: 15.
207. Catechism of the Catholic Church, *op. cit.*, pp.328-29.
208. Tyndale: Matthew 12:30-32.
209. John 14:26; 16:13.
210. John 16:8.
211. Tyndale: John 14:24.
212. Exodus 20:5.
213. Catechism of the Catholic Church, *op. cit.*, p.303.
214. *ibid.*, pp.4-5.
215. *ibid.*, p.87.
216. *ibid.*, p.143.
217. *ibid.*
218. *ibid.*, p.144.
219. *ibid.*, p.145.
220. *ibid.*, p.146.
221. *ibid.*, p.147.
222. *ibid.*, p.148.
223. *ibid.*, p.221.
224. *ibid.*, p.222.
225. *ibid.*, p.233.
226. *ibid.*, p.301.
227. *ibid.*, p.305.
228. *ibid.*, p.315.
229. *ibid.*, p.338.
230. Revelation 17 & 18.
231. *Strong's*: 3466.
232. See any dictionary.
233. *Biblia Sacra iuxta Vulgatam Clementinam*, (Salamanca, Spain, 1946).
234. See any dictionary.
235. Revelation 13:16; 19:20.
236. Tyndale: Revelation 14:9-1.
237. *ibid.*, Revelation 19:20.
238. ¶ 1161.
239. Revelation 14:9.
240. *Thayer*, *op. cit.*, p.548.
241. See note 176 above.
242. *op. cit.*, ¶ 1169
243. *Strong's*: 3622
244. See any dictionary.

245. See dictionaries and encyclopedias.
246. *Strong's*: 3617.
247. *ibid.*, 3623.
248. Tyndale: Luke 12:39-47.
249. *Strong's*: 3622.
250. Tyndale: Colossians 1:25.
251. *Strong's*: 3622.
252. Tyndale: 1Corinthians 9: 17.
253. See note 247.
254. Tyndale: 1Corinthians 4:1.
255. All these statements have been proved by citing Catholic authorities earlier in this chapter.
256. Canon 1273; cited by Richard Bennett, *Official Roman Catholic Teaching Unveils Prophecy*.
257. 2Thessalonians 2: 10.
258. Schroeder, *op. cit.*, pp.142-44.
259. Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils, *op. cit.*, Second Council of Nicea, p.137.
260. 2John 7-11.
261. Tyndale: Revelation 13:4.
262. Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils, *op. cit.*, Second Council of Nicea, p.136.
263. John 14:9.
264. John 5:23.
265. Matthew 10:40.
266. Matthew 10:41.
267. Luke 10:16.
268. Callender, *op. cit.*, transl., Council of Trent, *Concerning Sacred Images*, p.493.
269. Revelation 13:8.
270. New Catholic Encyclopedia, *op. cit.*, article, *IMAGES, VENERATION OF; latria: serve, worship, do homage to; see any dictionary.*
271. *ibid.*, citing *Denz.*
272. Revelation 13:4, 14-15.
273. Tyndale: Luke 6:37.
274. Matthew 7:1-5.
275. Matthew 23.
276. See any history of Christianity.
277. Callender, *op. cit.*, transl., Council of Trent, *Concerning Sacred Images*, p.493
278. *ibid.*
279. Readings in European History, James Robinson, editor, (NY, 1937), v.2, p.173.
280. Matthew 23:33.
281. 1Timothy 2:5.

282. Voices of the Past, (Macmillan, NY, 1967), excerpts from *Letter of Richard Clough*, p.165.
283. Harkavy, op. cit., Exodus 32:33.
284. 1Corinthians 6:9; Ephesians 5:5; 1John 5:21; Revelation 21:8, 27; 22:15.
285. Revelation 5:12-13.
286. Revelation 19:10.
287. Cited in note 268.
288. Revelation 13:2.
289. Harkavy, op. cit., 1Kings 11:28.
290. *ibid.*, 1Kings 12:28-30.
291. *ibid.*, 1Kings 14:7-9.
292. Tyndale: Revelation 19:20.
- 292a. A.D. 1229, Council of Toulouse, France.
293. Harkavy, op. cit., 2Kings 23: 13-15, 24.
294. John 14:21; 15:14.
295. John 14:24.
296. Tyndale: Matthew 7:23; *Strong's*: 458.
297. 2Corinthians 5:7, KJV.
298. Tyndale: Hebrews 11:6.
299. *Strong's*: 1495.
300. See note 284.
301. See Chapter Two, note 26.
302. Harkavy, op. cit., Numbers 25:1-3.
303. Matthew 24:24.
304. *Strong's*: 4202.
305. See any dictionary.
306. Callender, op. cit., transl., Council of Trent, *Concerning Sacred Images*, p.494.
307. Tyndale: 1Corinthians 10:19-21.
308. Revelation 17:2, 4.
309. Ephesians 5:22-25.
310. Revelation 19:7-8.
311. Matthew 6:9-13.
312. Bishop John Jewel, op. cit., p.910.
313. The Geneva Bible, *The Annotated New Testament, 1602 Edition*, (The Pilgrim Press, Cleveland, 1989 reprint).
314. New Geneva Study Bible, R.C. Sproul, General Editor, (Thomas Nelson, 1995).
315. This thesis will be developed throughout this book.
316. See any older King James Bible which carries the original 1611 Preface.
- 316a. See KJV Preface.
317. The Confession of Faith, 31:11 Edition, (PCA Publications, Atlanta, 1990), Preface.

318. *ibid.*
319. 1602 Geneva Bible gloss on 2Thessalonians 2:15.
320. 1649 *Westminster Confession of Faith*, Chapter 25, ¶6; see any standard reference containing Church creeds.
321. *ibid.*, Chapter 23, ¶4.
322. *ibid.*, Chapter 24, ¶3.
323. *ibid.*, Chapter 22, ¶7.
324. *ibid.*, Chapter 29, ¶2, 4-6.
325. *ibid.*, Chapter 32, ¶1.
326. Revelation 15:2.
327. 1Corinthians 2:10-11; Ephesians 1:17-18; 2Peter 1:20.
328. article, *ANTICHRIST*, p.47.
329. John 14:16,26; 15:26; 16:7.
330. John 16:33.
331. Luke 6:22.
332. John 16:13.
333. John 16:8-11.
334. John 3:5-8.
335. Tyndale: Matthew 24:22.
336. Matthew 16: 18.
337. Genesis 3:15; Revelation 19:11-21; Revelation 20:7-10.
338. Tyndale: Revelation 12:11.
339. *ibid.*, 1Corinthians 15:57.
340. John 17:12.
341. John 14:16.
342. Tyndale: Revelation 22:11.