

THE OMINOUS REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST: THE MURDER MYSTERY OF INIQUITY SOLVED

Before we begin to explore and investigate the meaning of the Book of Revelation in general, we must define terms. Understanding the definition of the word *revelation*, ἀποκαλύψις, is extremely important and tied to understanding the nature of the prophecy itself. *Strong's* defines it as *disclosure, taking off the cover*.^[1] *Thayer* defines it as *an uncovering, a disclosure of truth, instruction*.^[2] The English word *reveal* has as its root meaning, *to draw back the veil*.^[3] Something is being revealed, disclosed, and uncovered to St. John by the Lord Jesus Christ, the revealer of secrets, and His angel. That 'something' is cause of great debate in the Christian Church. Either the Lord Jesus, His angel and the Apostle John failed in revealing the prophecy and its interpretation, or they succeeded in revealing the prophecy and its interpretation. Confusion in the Body of Christ as to its true interpretation would seem to indicate failure on the part of our omnipotent, all-wise God. But that cannot be. For God cannot fail. Failure is a defect and God is defect-free, perfect. Thus, the prophecy revealed is perfect and capable of being understood by those blessed of God, *that readeth and hear the words of this prophecy*.^[4] It is God who gives ears to hear.^[5] He is not under obligation to give this grace to all. However, if any man lacks wisdom he is advised to ask the Lord.^[6]

FUTURISTS WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE REVELATION IS A CLOSED BOOK

Going against the definition of the word *revelation*, Futurists of the Scofield school of prophecy would have the Church believe that its true interpretation and fulfillment have not yet been revealed and is applicable to the distant future, making identification of the Beast and Mystery Babylon impossible today. Thus, they would have us believe nearly 1,900 years have passed without the interpretation of the prophecy being revealed to the Church. However, this theory negates the words of Scripture which state:

- *things which shortly must come to pass*.^[7]

- *for the time is at hand*.^[8]

- *the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done*.^[9]

- *seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.*^[10]

- *I testify unto every man that heareth the prophecy of this book.*^[11]

Does the unbiased reader sense the urgency and timeliness of this prophecy as indicated by the above-quoted Scriptures? Note that these exhortations appear at both the beginning and end of the Revelation, proving the imminence of the entire prophecy, not just the seven letters to the seven churches. The blessing God grants to the reader who understands and keeps the words of this prophecy are similarly book-ended at the beginning and end of the Revelation, proving the relevancy and immediacy of the entire prophetic Book.

Futurist teachers neither hear the words of this prophecy nor do they keep, watch over or safeguard them. Their ears are dull of hearing and their eyes are closed. This is a *mystery of iniquity*.

JOHN WRITES A PROPHETIC MESSAGE PERTINENT TO ALL CHRISTIANS ALWAYS

The seven letters to the seven churches were a revelation of the things which are.^[12] The many rebukes by the Lord Jesus of particular areas that needed improvement were not necessarily known by the seven churches. Jesus revealed them to John who, in turn, revealed them to the seven angels, or prophets of the churches. Those prophets would then deliver the message to their respective churches. Do not think for one moment the prophet was well received for his message. Prophets have never been well received by Israel or the Church. Instead, they were killed.^[13] Although John held a prophetic office, tradition tells us he was the only one of the Apostles to die a natural death.

These seven letters were only the beginning of the prophecy that John was to write. The prophecy of Chapters 4-22 were a continuation of the revelation given John having special significance to those Christians who lived after the demise of the seven churches. The entire prophecy, from Chapters 1-22, have been and remain meaningful to all Christians of all times. This is the reason the prophecy has remained complete and intact to this day. It is also why commentaries on the book have been written since the times of the early Church Fathers. And lastly, understanding the true nature of the prophecy is the reason why true believers separated totally from the Church of Rome throughout the centuries before the Reformation. They understood God's unchanging wrath was upon that Church and its Vicar. These Holy Spirit-filled believers clearly discerned the signs of the times.

THE SEVEN CHURCHES DID NOT HEED THE PROPHECIES GIVEN THEM NOT A GOOD OMEN

Why is it we never receive a communication from the seven churches today? Go through the Church history books. These churches have vanished without a trace, save what are left in ruins. The Lord has removed their candlestick because they did not heed nor keep the words of His prophecy. How typical. Israel was dispersed for their disobedience to the Word of God, just as Moses prophesied.^[14] The seven churches were destroyed for their disobedience to the more sure Word of prophecy. This is not a good omen of things to come. Rather it is an omen which bodes ill of the entire Church age.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION REEKS OF BAD OMENS

From the outset, we are faced with a huge problem. Why did the Lord bypass the Roman and Jerusalem churches? Surely they were worthy of His personal message? Or were they? Had they fallen into apostasy and had their light removed? Today the ashes of the seven churches are all located in Turkey, a predominantly Muslim country. A country shrouded in spiritual darkness. A country not blessed with the freedoms and human rights we hold so dear. A country we would not enjoy living in. The Lord has seen fit to all but close the Gospel message to the Turks. It would seem the gates of Hell have prevailed over the seven churches.

CHAPTERS 4-5: THE THRONE OF GOD

BAD OMEN FOR CHURCH OF ROME: MARY, QUEEN OF HEAVEN, NOT THERE

Like the prophets of Baal who called on the name of their god in vain, so do the prophets of Mary, the Vice-Christ. Despite the incessant prayers of the Holy Father, the Holy See, and the alleged one billion faithful worldwide, Mary is nowhere to be seen in the Throne of God, nor is she at His right hand pleading her children's cause. This is a bad omen for the trillions through the centuries who have prayed to her for a good death and entrance into Heaven. The following is a typical prayer by a religious to the unknown Goddess Mary:

“Therefore I invoke thy aid, O my great Advocate, my refuge, my hope, my Mother Mary. To thy hands I do entrust the cause of my eternal salvation. To thee do I commit my soul; it was lost but thou hast to save it...” ^[15]

THE FOUR HORSEMEN OMENS OF EVIL

After what appears to be a good omen with a rider on a white horse, a red horse of war and death follow. Upon the breaking of the third seal, there appears what seems to be a mixed omen containing allusions to plentiful oil and wine coupled with an inadequate supply of wheat and

barley.[16] But a pale horse bringing Death, one which leads directly into Hell - not Heaven - comes fast on its heels. The rider of the white horse cried, 'Peace and safety', but destruction followed in his wake.

THE FIFTH SEAL A VERY BAD OMEN FOR THE TRUE CHURCH

Under the blood of Christ, the martyrs slain for their faithful witness do not pray that God's mercy and grace be poured out to their murderers. Rather, they pray for God's speedy judgment and vengeance. Not one of the souls asks Mary to plead their cause. They know better. They pray directly to the Lord. The Fifth Seal does not teach Kingdom Now theology nor does it teach a Prosperity/Health Gospel. Certainly it does not teach a Pretribulation secret Rapture which allegedly eliminates the Church from experiencing such unpleasanties as persecution, imprisonment, torture, maiming and brutal murder.

REPLY GIVEN TO MARTYRS NOT A GOOD PORTENT OF THINGS TO COME

Rather than ease the burdens of the slain souls by prophesying the successful growth and victory of the visible Kingdom of God on earth, one which protects the saints from future persecution, the angel responds that the Lord will answer their prayers, but not until evil has increased to such a point that many more numbers of innocent Christians are unrighteously slaughtered. The Lord has set a limit on the numbers of His children who will die for His name's sake. Once that number is reached the Lord returns with a vengeance.

THE SIXTH SEAL: BAD OMEN FOR UNBELIEVERS

The just Lord has answered the prayers of the martyrs: the great day of His wrath is come and all the earth dwellers know it. The elect are still on earth but are not seen cowering in the dens and rocky places. Though their bodies may perish, their souls will be eternally saved.

THE SEALING OF THE 144,000: GOOD OMEN FOR THE ELECT

No irreversible harm can come to the 144,000 before they are sealed and regenerated by the grace of God. Those whom God the Father wills to save, Christ dies in their stead and the Holy Spirit seals. This bodes well for the elect chosen from before the foundation of the world.

OMISSION OF THE TRIBE OF DAN FROM THE LIST OF THE SAVED THE WORST OMEN POSSIBLE FOR ANTICHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

Not to be included in the list of the sealed and saved is as bad an omen as one can possibly get.

It means God never intended to save them. Christ never intended to shed His blood for them. The Lord never intended to extend His grace to them. The fact that He revealed His secret will of predestination to death for the true Church to read and discern is critical to understanding how we are to behave and respond when Mystery Babylon and her Vicar, the Man of Sin, entice us to ecumenical fornication.

GREAT MULTITUDE OF SAVED: GOOD OMEN FOR ELECT

WHITE ROBES: GOOD OMEN FOR ELECT, BAD OMEN FOR ROME

PALMS: GOOD OMEN FOR ELECT, BAD OMEN FOR ROME

THAT THE SAINTS GO THROUGH GREAT TRIBULATION: BAD OMEN FOR ELECT
AND FALSE PROPHETS

THAT THE SAINTS GIVE NO HONOR, GLORY OR PRAISE TO MARY:
A VERY BAD OMEN FOR THE CHURCH OF ROME

VICARS OF CHRIST NOWHERE MEN

Revelation 7:9-17 is filled with mixed omens, depending on one's position in Christ. The saved in Christ are seen wearing His righteousness, white robes representing justification by faith. They have been made white in the blood of the Lamb. Only His blood and meritorious redemption save. Not the added merits or prayers of Mary and all the other so-called saints. This is not a good omen for the Church of Rome who teaches *the Church by means of indulgences remits the temporal punishment due sin [especially in purgatory] by applying to us from her spiritual treasury part of the infinite satisfaction of Jesus Christ and of the superabundant satisfaction of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of the saints.*^[17]

Palm branches are historically renowned for symbolizing victory. In the case of the martyrs who came out of great tribulation, the palms represent the victory of Christ over death, Hell and the grave, through His perfect atonement on the cross. His victory has been imputed to the sealed elect. It has nothing to do with the alleged merits of Mary as Co-Redemptrix or the treasury of imagined merits of the Catholic Church.

The fact that an anonymous elder pointedly asks John who they are that carry palms, wear white robes, and from whence they come, is no light thing. The Holy Spirit is specifically alerting the Church for *all* generations this is what can be expected: great tribulation and martyrdom. However, the good news is that Christ loses none that He died and shed His blood for. All the

elect, the sealed, are accounted for and present in Heaven when called home. However, the false prophets who prophesy escape from great tribulation will answer to the Lord Himself on the Day of Judgment.

The victory symbolized by palms is identical to the victory promised in Scripture. *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the son of God, that ye may know how that ye have eternal life...*[18]

In contradistinction to the assurance given believers in Scripture, Rome declares:

"Let no man while he continues in this mortal state, so far presume respecting the hidden mystery of divine predestination, as to conclude that he is certainly one of the predestinate; as if it were true that a justified man cannot sin anymore, or that if he sin, he can assure himself of repentance; for no one can know whom God hath chosen for himself, unless by special revelation."

"In like manner concerning the gift of perseverance...Let no one indulge himself in the assurance of absolute certainty...." [19]

That not one saint in Heaven gives glory to the Mother of God, who is still missing in action, bodes ill for the Church of Rome and her faithful. Those who are part of the tribe of Antichrist, the Seed of the Serpent in the Way, are not present in Heaven. Their voices, prayers and supplications are not heard. They fall dead to the ground like the seed of Onan.[20] The Vicars of Christ, those mighty men who once ruled the earth, are nowhere to be seen in Heaven. Like T-Rex, they are a memory in a mystery. They are Nowhere Men.

**THAT ALL THE SAINTS COME OUT OF GREAT TRIBULATION WITHOUT GOING THROUGH PURGATORY PROVES IT DOES NOT EXIST
ONE MORE BAD OMEN FOR ROMAN CATHOLICS**

Think of it. If Rome had had the opportunity, wherewithal, and cunning, she should have rewritten Rev. 7:14 as follows:

"These are they which came out of Purgatory and have washed their robes, and made them white by their suffering in the fires of Purgatory, in the merits and prayers of their Advocate, Mary, in the merits and prayers of the saints, in the superabundant merits and prayers of the Church, in the Masses said for the dead and the indulgences thereby granted, and, oh yes, in the blood of the Lamb."

But that is not the case, nor will it ever be the case. This is yet another terrifying omen for the Roman Catholic Church and her Head, the son of perdition, despite the false assurance she gives the blind sheep.

'Purgatory is God's hospital for souls, where those who do not love God enough to enter heaven are cured [i. e., purged, made pure] by fire....they must go to purgatory where they will have to suffer much more intensely than they would have if they had accepted the sufferings on earth. Their love is purified in purgatory...'[\[21\]](#)

MARY DOES NOT OFFER PRAYERS TO GOD

HEAVENLY SAINTS DO NOT INTERCEDE FOR SAINTS ON EARTH

COMMUNION WITH THE DEAD OF NO AVAIL

MORE DAMNING OMENS FOR THE CHURCH OF ROME

With the breaking of the seventh seal comes silence and the distribution of trumpets to the seven angels. An eighth angel, not Mary, Queen of Angels, offers the prayers of the saints, i.e., the true Church on earth, before God Almighty. As the Church of Rome and her Vicars have been infallibly telling the faithful for centuries, this was to be the office and responsibility of Mary, Queen of the Universe, Advocate and Lady of Perpetual Help:

"Grant, we beseech You, O Lord God, that we your servants, may enjoy lasting health of mind and body, and by the glorious intercession of the blessed Mary, ever Virgin, be delivered from present sorrow and enter into the joy of eternal happiness..."[\[22\]](#)

"...Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation....Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress and Mediatrix." [\[23\]](#)

Not once in John's profound heavenly visions did the saints in Heaven pray for or intercede for the saints on earth going through great tribulation. In addition, the only prayers heard in Heaven are those directed to the Heavenly Father who sits on the throne. Prayers to dead 'saints' for aid and succor never reach their ears, assuming they are residing in Heaven in the first place. This is in direct contradiction to the centuries-old teaching of the Roman Catholic Church:

"Being more closely united to Christ, those who dwell in heaven fix the whole Church more firmly in holiness....[T]hey do not cease to intercede with the Father for us, as they proffer the merits which they acquired on earth through the one mediator between God and men, Christ Jesus....So by their fraternal concern is our weakness greatly helped."[\[24\]](#)

"...because it is a holy and a wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins [the Church] offers her suffrages for them. Our prayer for them is not only capable of helping them, but also of making their intercession for us effective."[\[25\]](#)

THUNDERINGS, LIGHTNINGS AND EARTHQUAKES A BAD OMEN: GOD IS ANGRY

Yes, God is love. Salvation of the elect is God's love in action. However, God is also just. When man commits evil and the appropriate justice is lacking, God is under no obligation to look the other way. He has the right to pour out His wrath on a disobedient, wicked world. This He can do through the power of nature which He controls. Common sense tells us its a bad omen when a black funnel cloud is seen in the distance. Common sense tells us it's a bad omen when a 6.9 earthquake devastates everything we own.

THE FIRST FOUR TRUMPETS ARE BAD OMENS

AN ANGEL/MESSENGER PROCLAIMING WOES TO THE EARTH DWELLERS IS NOT A GOOD THING

Out of control fires are not a pleasant thing to watch helplessly happen, let alone extinguish. When the sea becomes blood with floating carcasses of dead creatures, something is amiss. When the network news reports Wormwood just fell, don't drink the water, you know you're in the end times. When the sun, moon and stars dim, you know you're in for it. Common sense tells us that. We don't need Scripture to explain what we already know. Certainly anyone having viewed war footage or actually been through it knows these things have occurred the world over. That almost all of America has not experienced war on its shores is a miracle of the grace of God. In major metropolitan areas it would appear the enemy is within, that our great country is being destroyed by its own rebellious, selfish citizens.

LOCUSTS COMING OUT OF THE ABYSS: A VERY BAD OMEN

An insect vision would be a nightmare to the average man-on-the-street. But seeing ghoulish locust-like creatures which had hair like women, sharp teeth, iron breastplates and powerful stingers in their tails, that's another story. That John did not cry out, begging for the visions to stop is to his credit. A lesser man would have broken under the intensity. Like this author, for instance. Be that as it may, let us continue with a brief overview of the remaining visions John was chosen to endure:

THE FOUR ANGELS LOOSED TO SLAY: YET ANOTHER SERIES OF BAD OMENS^[26]

THAT MEN REPENTED NOT OF IDOLATRY AND MURDERS: NOT GOOD^[27]

THE LITTLE BOOK EATEN THAT TURNS BITTER: BAD OMEN^[28]

THE COURT OF THE GENTILES PASSED OVER: BAD OMEN^[29]

TWO WITNESSES THAT SMITE THE EARTH WITH PLAGUES:
BAD OMEN AND GOOD CLUE^[30]

THAT THE TWO WITNESSES ARE KILLED: VERY BAD OMEN AND EXCELLENT
CLUE^[31]

THAT THEIR BODIES ARE NOT BURIED: MAJOR CLUE^[32]

THAT THE EARTH DWELLERS MAKE MERRY OVER THEIR DEATHS: LARGE
CLUE^[33]

THE WOMAN CLOTHED WITH THE SUN: SIGNIFICANT CLUE^[34]

THE GREAT RED DRAGON READY TO DEVOUR: BAD OMEN^[35]

THE WOMAN FLEEING TO THE WILDERNESS: BAD OMEN^[36]

THE DRAGON MAKING WAR WITH THE SAINTS: BAD OMEN^[37]

THE BEAST RISING OUT OF THE SEA: BAD OMEN^[38]

THE BEAST MAKING WAR WITH THE SAINTS:
BAD OMEN AND MEGA CLUE^[39]

THE BEAST OUT OF THE EARTH: BAD OMEN^[40]

THE MARK OF THE BEAST AND THE NUMBER 666:
AN EXTREMELY BAD OMEN AND GREAT CLUE^[41]

THAT 144,000 ARE STILL IN CHRIST: VERY GOOD OMEN FOR THE ELECT^[42]

THE WARNINGS OF THE THREE ANGELS: BAD OMEN FOR CHURCH OF ROME^[43]

THAT THE ELECT GET THE VICTORY OVER THE BEAST: VERY GOOD OMEN FOR
THE TRUE CHURCH^[44]

THE SEVEN VIAL JUDGMENTS: MORE TERRIBLE OMENS^[45]

THAT MYSTERY BABYLON IS DESCRIBED AS A WHORE: NOT NICE^[46]

THAT SHE DRINKS THE BLOOD OF THE MARTYRS: BAD OMEN AND BIG CLUE^[47]

THAT SHE RIDES THE BEAST: BAD OMEN AND ANOTHER CLUE^[48]

THAT SHE SITS ON SEVEN HILLS: A MOST MAJOR CLUE^[49]

THAT HER DESTRUCTION IS PROPHESED: A MOST OMINOUS OMEN^[50]

THAT SHE IS THE HABITATION OF DEVILS - NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT: BAD OMEN^[51]

THAT IN HER WAS FOUND THE BLOOD OF THE PROPHETS AND SAINTS:
BAD OMEN AND GIGANTIC CLUE^[52]

THAT GOD SHOWS NO MERCY TO MYSTERY BABYLON: AN EXTREMELY BAD
OMEN FOR ROMAN CATHOLICS WHO REMAIN IN HER^[53]

THAT JOHN IS COMMANDED NOT TO WORSHIP ANGELS, BUT GOD ALONE: A
VERY TROUBLING OMEN FOR ROMAN CATHOLICISM^[53a]

THAT CHRIST RETURNS TO MAKE WAR, NOT LOVE: BAD OMEN^[54]

THAT THE BEAST AND FALSE PROPHET ARE DESTROYED: GOOD OMEN^[55]

THAT SATAN IS BOUND: GOOD OMEN^[56]

THAT HE IS LOOSED AGAIN: BAD OMEN^[57]

THAT HE IS FINALLY DESTROYED: VERY GOOD OMEN^[58]

THE FIRST RESURRECTION: GOOD OMEN^[59]

THE SECOND RESURRECTION: BAD OMEN^[60]

THAT NO ONE IS SAVED BY THEIR WORKS:
VERY BAD OMEN FOR THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH^[61]

NAME NOT WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE: THE WORST POSSIBLE OMEN^[62]

THAT IDOLATORS, LIARS, AND MURDERERS ARE DESTINED FOR THE LAKE OF
FIRE:

TERRIFYING OMEN FOR THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH^[63]

THAT MARY HAS NOT A GATE OR FOUNDATION OF NEW JERUSALEM NAMED
AFTER HER: BAD OMEN FOR THE CHURCH OF ROME^[64]

THAT JOHN WARNS THOSE WHO CHANGE THE PROPHECY: BAD OMEN FOR FALSE
PROPHETS^[65]

We have just broken down the majority of the visions comprising St. John's Revelation, categorizing and classifying them as omens which portend good or evil. We did not need to examine the viscera of a bird as the ancient Roman augurs did to interpret the signs which revealed the will of the gods. Instead, we used God-given common sense and logic. We conclude:

- It is not the will of God that we escape great tribulation.
- It is not the will of God that He lose one of the sealed.
- Not one of the sealed is lost.
- It is not the will of God that the Beast, false prophet and Mystery Babylon be sealed and saved .
- The Beast, false prophet, and Mystery Babylon are responsible for the murders of the true saints.
- God knows it to be true as do His two witnesses and three evangelizing angels know it to be true.
- The Beast, false prophet, and Mystery Babylon are doomed.
- Those who receive the mark of the Beast and repent not are doomed.
- Judgment of the Beast and false prophet occur at Christ's 2nd Advent.
- It behooves us to take heed and not have fellowship, communion or ecumenical fornication with those whom God hates.
- It behooves us to evangelize them.
- Persecution will come to those who stand up to the Beast, false prophet, and Mystery Babylon.
- Particularly damning are the innumerable false teachings disseminated by the Roman Catholic Church which are openly exposed and refuted by the Revelation, giving us further clues as to the identity of the Beast, false prophet and Mystery Babylon.

We have also added the category of *clue* in several of the visions. God has given us *clues* to aid our solving the mystery of Mystery Babylon. This is because our gracious God wills us to know her identity and the identity of the Beast. Satan, Antichrist, his false prophet and Mystery Babylon will that we not know their identity. Through the errors of Futurism (and Preterism) the enemy has been hugely successful in his efforts.

A SECOND MAJOR MISTAKE IN INTERPRETING THE REVELATION

We have seen that the first major error in interpretation of the prophecy given St. John is that of placing Chapter 4ff. in the future. This misconception is called Futurism. We have shown how Daniel's visions in Chapter 2 and 7 contain no gap, proving Futurism wrong.

A second major falsehood foisted upon the Church is the misinterpretation of the 2nd Advent of Christ. Futurists claim Rev. 4:1 as the secret Rapture of the Church:

"This call ['Come up hither...'] seems clearly to indicate the fulfillment of 1Thess. 4:14-17 [i.e., the Rapture of the Church]. The word 'church' does not occur again in the Revelation till all is fulfilled."^[66]

"Starting with this chapter, the Church isn't seen on earth again until Chapter 19....This Tribulation isn't for God's people, but for those who have rejected His salvation....Part of the confusion on this issue rises from a failure to distinguish *two stages* in Jesus' second coming."^[67]

Mr. Scofield and Mr. Lindsey both eschew the possibility of the Church, composed of Jew and Gentile, going through the ominous judgments so vividly described in the Revelation. Instead, they see the secret Rapture as the means of escaping very tough and trying times, leaving the literal nation of Israel to go through the 'purgatory' of the Revelation. Certainly, after viewing the overwhelming contents of Revelation as bad omens, the average Christian would choose deliverance from the horrific judgments portrayed in symbols. If given the choice. That is human nature. So we can see one reason for the popularity of the secret Rapture. It teaches escape from great tribulation and persecution. Therefore, it teaches peace and safety for the Church.

However, Jesus teaches otherwise:

"Of the times and seasons brethren ye have no need that I write unto you: for ye yourselves know perfectly, that the day of the Lord shall come even as a thief in the night. When they shall say peace and no danger, then cometh on the sudden destruction, as the travailing of a woman with child, and they shall not escape. But ye brethren are not in darkness, that that day should come on you as it were a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day. We are not of the night, neither of darkness.

Therefore, let us not sleep as do others: but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night: and they that be drunken, are drunken in the night. But let us which are of the day, be sober, armed with the breast-plate of faith and love, and with hope of salvation as an helmet. For God hath not appointed us unto wrath: but to obtain salvation by the means of our Lord Jesus Christ which died for us: that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him."^[68]

WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN THE LORD COMES AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT?

For watchful believers, Jesus will never come upon them as a thief. Thus, the image of Jesus coming as a thief under cover of darkness spells a bad omen to those He comes to in such a manner, not a good, secret Rapture as taught by Mr. Lindsey.^[69] The interpretation of this parable is given us in His letter to the church of Ephesus, His first letter:

*"Nevertheless, I have somewhat against thee, for thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works. **Or else I will come to thee shortly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.**"*^[70]

"Behold, I come shortly....And behold I come shortly, and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his deeds shall be...I come quickly, Amen."^[71]

"And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels: go your ways, pour out your vials of wrath upon the earth....Behold I come as a thief. Happy is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments, lest he be found naked, and men see his Filthiness."^[72]

The King James Version uses the word *quickly*, rather than Tyndale's *shortly*. But the idea is the same, *swiftly*:

"Behold, the Lord rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it."^[73]

The Lord comes quickly and swiftly in judgment, both good and bad. For unbelievers outside the pale of the Church, the moment of death reveals, beyond question, the divine judgment and wrath of God upon their souls in Hell. For unbelievers and the unrepentant within the visible Church, Christ comes as a thief in the darkness of their apostasy, false doctrine and unbelief, removing their candlestick, i.e., church. The seven churches written to by St. John all had their

candlesticks removed by Christ, who came to them as a thief, not as a friend, removing the glory and light of truth that was once theirs.

CHRIST COMING AS A THIEF IN THE NIGHT: A BAD OMEN FOR THE CHURCH

Christ is speaking to the professing churches worldwide when he warns of coming as a thief in the night. He is not speaking to the pagans. They do not have the light of the Gospel, the light of the Holy Spirit, nor are they the light of the world. A church which has hid its light under a bushel is in darkness. Jesus comes quickly to such a church, as does a thief, to remove their false witness in the darkness of their apostasy. As evidenced by John's letters, Christ does not remove them from His service until after they have been warned. The true thief is not so kind. The seven churches were graciously warned, they did not heed the warnings, they were quickly removed from service in His name.

The nation of Israel, as a whole, is an excellent example of the Lord's coming as a thief in the night, removing their candlestick. Despite the overwhelming evidence that Jesus was the Messiah whom they crucified, and that He was raised from the dead giving the sign of Jonah, the unbelieving Israelites continued sacrificing in the Temple. As prophesied by Daniel, the Lord had the people of the prince that shall come, the Roman armies under the leadership of Titus, destroy the Temple, causing the Diaspora. To this day the vast majority of the Jews worldwide are still removed from service to the true God, despite having regained a physical portion of their once glorious nation of Israel.

THE LORD COMES AS A THIEF TO SLEEPING DRUNKEN SHEPHERD PASTORS: NO WELCOMING ARMS GREET HIM

Let us review a few instances where the exhortation to *watch* occurs:

"Wake therefore, because you know not what hour your master will come. Of this be sure, that if the good man of the house knew what hour the thief would come: he would surely watch, and not suffer his house to be broken up."^[74]

This admonition is translated *wake* by Tyndale. The concept is still the same. In order to watch for the thief - the intruder, the enemy - and at the same time be capable of sounding the warning alarm, one must needs be awake, alert, focused, paying attention. The thief who comes to steal, kill and destroy will not sound a trumpet to alert the watchman of his arrival and intent. He comes by stealth. Like the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Likewise, to be drunk while on watch destroys the ability to see and think clearly. In the military, under conditions of war, sleeping on watch is worthy of execution because of the gravity of the offense - i.e., leaving the platoon

exposed to destruction by the enemy. During the Vietnam war the prevalent use of mind-altering hallucinogens by American troops posed severe problems, especially during sentry duty. On board ships, both civil and military, 24-hour watches have been needed to warn of such potential hazards as other approaching ships, coral reefs, foul weather, war ships, pirates and even land. The Titanic, as it were a type of the apostate church, sank due to the negligence of its captain and crew who were ultimately responsible to watch for such imminent dangers as icebergs, since they were traveling through iceberg territory. The passengers, like blind sheep, were gaily eating, drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, totally unaware of the impending doom awaiting them.

Thus, the command to *watch* is directed especially to those in leadership assigned to watch over, care for, and feed the flock of God. These same leaders are also allegorically spoken of as the *goodmen of the house*, i.e., the chief stewards of God's family. The title *Pastor* translates from the Latin meaning *shepherd*. The Pastor is to be a good shepherd, not a bad shepherd. A good shepherd leads the flock to healthy spiritual waters, not polluted streams of papist poison. A good shepherd watches at night for the thief who would come to steal his prized possessions. He does not fall asleep or leave his flock unprotected. A good shepherd guards his flock from the ravening wolves. A good shepherd retrieves the lost sheep exposed to danger and death. But the bad and worthless shepherd leaves the flock at-risk:

"Woe to the false shepherd that leaveth the flock! The sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye; his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened." [75]

If the watchman is found not doing his job, it is grounds for dismissal or execution, depending on the gravity of the situation. If the watchman is remiss 50% of the time, there is a 50/50 chance his Master will find out when he returns from a far country. That's the chance the derelict steward takes when he chooses to neglect his responsibility. Either the watchman will be at his post, guarding the Master's household against the potential advance and attack of the enemy, or he will be found sound asleep, drunk, not paying attention, preoccupied with other matters, or not at his post altogether, when his Master returns. The goodman who is faithful and wise is found at his post, alert, awake, watching and warning. Perched in a watch tower, upon seeing or hearing an approaching horseman in the far distance, the sentry would alert others: "Horseman approaching!!" As his Master's familiar clothing, physique, horse and banner became discernible, the watchman would sound an all-clear, identifying the rider as the returning Master. The castle drawbridge would then be lowered and the gate opened. The Master not finding his goodman so doing would then take the appropriate action. In the case of the coming of our Lord Jesus, the evil servant not found at his post attending to his chores will be *cut asunder* and given the reward of the hypocrites: *there shall be weeping and gnashing of*

teeth.

The terror of the warning given by Jesus is this: *Therefore be ye also ready, for in the hour that ye think he would not, will the son of man come.* In other words, the watchman who slacks off 50% of the time would not have slacked off had he known his Master was coming in his next watch. Had he received a phone call warning him the Boss of Bosses was on his way, he would have been ready for him, giving the outward appearance of a faithful servant standing at his post and watching. However, the Lord Jesus is not informing the hypocritical shepherd-prophet the day or hour of His return, i.e., which watch he will be arriving back home, thus making it impossible for the evil servant to feign faithfulness. The promise of the Lord is to return in judgment on the very day and hour that slothful, wicked, sleeping, drunken servant is not doing his duty. That is the awful terror of Christ's parable. You may fool Mother Nature, but you can't and won't fool Jesus Christ.

One of the duties of God's watchmen, the prophets, is to warn the shepherds that God is not pleased with the quality of care given the sheep. No one likes to hear such a message, let alone the caregivers. Throughout the history of the Church, God has sent His prophets to the evil, wicked shepherds warning them of God's coming judgment if they did not repent. The historical record is replete with the names of the prophets, their warnings, and the response of the church men to whom the warnings were given. Suffice it to say, God's prophets were killed by the very people they were graciously sent to. These facts will be documented fully in coming chapters as we investigate Church history fulfilling the prophetic Word of God.

"And write unto the messenger of the congregation of Sardis....Be awake and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die. For I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee..." [76]

That the church at Sardis has been a byword and proverb for eons speaks volumes as to the efficacy of Christ's promise. It is to the apostate church that Christ comes as a thief in the night. The heathen don't purport to be shepherds given the responsibility of watching over the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember, the tares, the ministers of Satan and the Man of Sin are inside the worldwide professing church.[77]

WHAT ARE WE TO WATCH FOR TO AVOID CHRIST COMING LIKE A THIEF?

There are many warning signs that darkness is falling upon a church. Does it teach salvation

through faith alone, in Christ alone, by the grace of God alone? Those three doctrinal statements can be summed up in the phrase, *justification by faith*.^[78] The church of Ephesus had left its first love, Jesus Christ, the Word of God. They left their first works of preaching the true Gospel of grace to the lost. They most likely persecuted the messenger who delivered John's letter, the Lord's warning. For their negligence their church was retired and pulled out of service swiftly.

The Thessalonians were, on the whole, an orthodox Christian church. Other churches were less fortunate. These had in leadership pastors, teachers and prophets who slept rather than watch, who ate and drank in communion with the drunken, beating their fellow servants. The sleeping drunken pastor-prophets syndrome has been at work since the days of the apostles.

It behooves all Christians to watch for unorthodox teachings and doctrines as they attempt to infiltrate the Church. Christ warns of the enemy sowing the seeds of abomination and the woman leavening the whole loaf. These teachings by false prophets can run the gamut from blaspheming the Triune Godhead, to teaching man's free-will decision for Christ, to teaching the Church will escape great tribulation, to teaching the Pope is not Antichrist and Mystery Babylon is not the Roman Catholic Church, ad infinitum. On the other hand, the drunken will pretend to have had supernatural experiences with angels, or to have met God personally, or to have been taken to the third heaven witnessing, first-hand, the throne of the Most High, among other extra-biblical 'revelations.' The drunken will also be intoxicated with their own self-importance, power, charismatic anointing, fame and wealth. Of such we should be wary and watch. The removal of their candlestick is imminent.

MYSTERY BABYLON AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULE

Rather than come quickly to remove the candlestick of Mystery Babylon, the Church of the little horn, Antichrist, the Lord has willed to let it continue from the time of the fall of the Roman Empire until the 2nd Advent of Christ. However, when judgment does come upon the Church of Rome and its Holy See, it will be exceedingly swift and dramatic: one hour.^[79] It is this author's opinion that the judgment will be volcanic. Surprisingly, it was also the opinion of Elliott.^[80]

That Mystery Babylon is the epitome of the apostate church is evidenced in the prophecy predicting the removal of its candlestick for all time:

"And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee...."^[81]

To this same church, Christ prophesies coming as a thief:

"Behold I come as a thief. Happy is he that watcheth and keepeth his garments, lest he be found naked, and men see his filthiness."^[82]

A MODERN EXAMPLE OF THE DRUNKEN SLEEPING PROPHET-SHEPHERD SYNDROME

The multiple editors and contributors to the New Geneva Study Bible are prime examples of evangelical scholars and leaders in the Church remiss in feeding the starving flock the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. As discussed earlier, the New Geneva neglects to inform the readership-flock of the identity of the Man of Sin in their commentary on 2 Thessalonians 2. What exacerbates this problem becomes painfully apparent upon reading their highlighted-gloss on the next page: EFFECTUAL CALLING AND CONVERSION. Citing Chapter 10 of the 1647 *Westminster Confession*, the Bible commentators discuss this Reformed doctrine in a scholarly and biblical fashion. However, only the knowledgeable reader can discern the outrageous hypocrisy involved. For included in the contents of that very same 1647 *Confession* is the identity and condemnation of the Man of Sin:

"There is no other head of the Church but the Lord Jesus Christ: nor can the Pope of Rome, in any sense be 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."^[83]

There is only one explanation for this startling omission in their Bible notes: these experts and scholars do not believe the overwhelming evidence, both scriptural and historical, nor do they receive and believe testimony of the same Protestant Reformers they eulogize to their readership-flock.

THE PRE-TRIBULATION SECRET RAPTURE AN IMPOSSIBILITY

I. THERE ARE ONLY TWO RESURRECTIONS:

"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life [i.e., the first resurrection], and some to shame and everlasting contempt [i.e., the second resurrection]."^[84]

"Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life [i.e., the first resurrection]; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation [i.e., the second resurrection]."^[85]

“And I saw seats, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God: which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had taken his mark upon their foreheads, or on their hands: and they lived [i.e., the first resurrection unto life], and reigned with Christ a thousand years: but the other of the dead men lived not again, until the thousand years were finished [i.e., at the second resurrection of damnation]. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection...[i.e., the first and only resurrection of the saints in their glorified bodies where they receive their eternal rewards].”^[86]

"And I saw a great white seat and him that sat on it, from whose face fled away both the earth and heaven, and their face was found no more. And I saw the dead [i.e., the second resurrection consisting of the wicked dead], both great and small stand before God: And the books were opened and another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged of those things which were written in the books according to their deeds: and the sea gave up her dead, which were in her, and death and hell delivered up the dead, which were in them [still the second resurrection unto damnation of the wicked - no gap]: and they were judged every man according to his deeds. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life, was cast into the lake of fire."^[87]

On the opposing side of the issue, the Pre-tribulation Secret Rapture Futurists have theorized *two stages in Jesus' second coming*.^[88] A seven year gap separates the stages.^[89] Thus, in reality what is taught is a second secret coming and a third visible coming. But Jesus never spoke of nor did he teach a third coming:

"For as the lightening [not lightnings] cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be [i.e., once, visibly, and dramatically]....And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory [i.e., once, visibly, and dramatically]....But of that day and hour knoweth no man [day and hour, not days and hours; i.e., one time only]."^[90]

By theorizing a second and third coming of Christ, the Futurists must theorize at least three resurrections, which they do. Christ's returns are named *stages*, while the resurrections are called *phases*. The first phase was Christ's resurrection, the second phase is Christ's secret return for His Church (Rev. 4: 1), consisting of New Testament saints, dead and alive. The third phase occurs after the Tribulation (Rev. 20:4), consisting of Old Testament saints and martyred Tribulation believers. The fourth phase of the resurrection of life occurs, supposedly, after the

millennial reign and consists of mortals receiving their eternal bodies.[91]

How, exactly, such an interpretation is possible to the many Futurists who have lived and breathed prophetic Scripture for decades will always remain a mystery to this author. Mr. Lindsey then calls the resurrection of the damned (Rev. 20:11) the *second* resurrection, not the fifth resurrection which consistency would demand.[92]

II. THE LAST ENEMY, DEATH, IS DESTROYED AT CHRIST'S SECOND COMING

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming [one coming, not two]. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered the kingdom up to God, even the Father, when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.”[93]

Let us review the sequence of events described by St. Paul:

- 1- All the saints, without distinction, are raised from the dead at Christ's 2nd and only coming.
- 2- Christ's 2nd Advent signals the end of the Age.
- 3- At that time Christ delivers the kingdom to the Father because He has successfully placed everything and everyone under His subjection.
- 4- At that time death, the last enemy, is also destroyed.

The binding of Satan (Rev. 20:1-3) who *had the power of death* proves Revelation 19:11ff. to be the second coming of the Lord Jesus. It is at that time, not Rev. 4:1, when everything is placed in subjection to Christ, including death. The remnant slain (Rev. 19:21) are the last rebels killed. Apparently not all the earth follows the beast and false prophet to the battle of Armageddon, and are thus spared death. It is these remaining peoples who are deceived by the loosing of Satan at the end of the Millennium. Who is not to say they are taken to Hades alive when the Father sends His fiery judgment?[94] Was not Korah and the two hundred and fifty?[95] The same Greek word is used both in the *Septuagint* and in the New Testament, which we translate *devoured*.[96] Why the Father looses Satan in the first place this author chooses not to speculate. Nor is there enough supporting Scripture to warrant developing an entire speculative system of theology around this obscure and enigmatic passage.

“Behold I show you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, and that in a moment, and in the twinkling of an eye, at the sound of the last trumpet. For the

trumpet shall blow, and the dead shall rise incorruptible, and we shall all be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruptibility: and this mortal must put on immortality.

“When this corruptible hath put on incorruptibility, and this mortal hath put on immortality: then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: Death is consumed into victory. Death where is thy sting? Hell where is thy victory?”^[97]

The above Scripture is one of two classic Rapture passages. It does not teach a secret, silent, invisible coming of the Lord. It does not teach His return seven years later in judgment. It does teach the translation of the living saints into glorified bodies. It also teaches the elimination of death at Christ's one and only coming. The first death. This corresponds exactly with the earlier verses cited: *The last enemy to be destroyed is death*, speaking of the first death. The second death occurs at the second resurrection judgment of the wicked (Rev. 20:14).

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17, the other classic Rapture verse, teaches nothing of it being the first of two stages in Christ's return. It does teach the translation of the living to glorified bodies, but not until after the dead in Christ are raised. No distinction is made between Old Testament saints and New Testament saints. Both groups are in Christ and must rise together. These verses are silent regarding the elimination of the first death. Certainly it is understood to have been eliminated for the raised and raptured saints.

Is the reader beginning to see a major inconsistency and error in Pre-tribulation Secret Rapture-believing Futurists? For if the Bible explicitly states that death is eliminated, swallowed up in victory at the Rapture, i.e., translation of the saints, how is it death continues on in an unchecked rampage after Rev. 4:1? The saints are being slaughtered on an unprecedented basis. There can only be one explanation: The Rapture of the Church and second coming of Christ occur at Rev. 19:11ff., not before. Thus, the Church goes through the great tribulation.

III. THE RAPTURE OCCURS AT THE LAST TRUMP, NOT THE FIRST TRUMP

This major fact escaped this author's grasp until recently. It is a key clue in understanding the placement of the Rapture. Understanding the placement of the Rapture is critical to understanding whether the Church goes through great tribulation. If the Church goes through great tribulation, then the Church will meet Antichrist face-to-face. In which case it behooves the Church to know and understand his identity right now.

Let us, once again, use Rev. 4:1 as the alleged Rapture of the Church. Scripture tells us the catching up of the believers occurs at the last trump:

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall all be changed."^[98]

If, as say the Futurists, the last trump, the Rapture of the Church, occurs at Rev. 4:1, how then is it there are seven more trumps sounding afterward?:

"And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets."

This Scripture occurs at Rev. 8:2. The seventh trumpet sounds at Rev. 11:15. The last trump could not sound before the seven trumpets. Otherwise it would be the first trump. It must sound after the seventh trump. Once again, Rev. 19:11ff. fits into this prophecy precisely as the only area of Scripture where the Rapture of the Church and singular return of Christ could possibly have occurred.

That the Rapture happens with a great shout, a great trumpet blast, accompanied by the sign of the Son of man in the heavens with great power and glory which every eye will see, precludes the notion of a secret, silent, invisible first stage coming of the Lord.

**CONCLUSION: PRE- TRIBULATION RAPTURE IMPOSSIBLE
THE CHURCH WILL GO THROUGH GREAT TRIBULATION
THE CHURCH WILL MEET AND FIGHT ANTICHRIST HEAD-ON
TO NOT DISCERN ANTICHRIST'S IDENTITY IS TO BE USELESS TO CHRIST'S CAUSE
AND ARMY FIGHTING ANTICHRIST**

These conclusions are reached only through intense examination of the facts and arguments. For a Christian soldier not to know who the arch enemy of Christ and His Church is can only be to the advantage of the enemy. It certainly cannot be to the advantage of His Body. There is another conclusion we can draw from the above premises:

TO TEACH THE PAPACY IS NOT ANTICHRIST IS TO FIGHT CHRIST

It is one thing to be an ignorant sheep, unschooled in the Bible, unlearned in history, all the while holding false beliefs. It is quite another to teach, with authority, that the evidence points away from the Vicar of Christ and leads to an unknown other who comes in the future.

"When a strong man armed watcheth his house: that he possesseth is in peace. But when a stronger than he cometh upon him and overcometh him: he taketh from him his harness

wherein he trusted, and divideth his goods. He that is not with me, is against me. And he that not gathereth with me, scattereth."^[99]

Rather than gather the evidence and testimony of the martyred saints which overwhelmingly, beyond a reasonable doubt, points to the Papacy as fulfilling the innumerable Scripture prophecies, the vast majority of Christians in leadership today and of many days past have scattered, to their shame. It is this author's sincere prayer that this leadership would repent and ask the Lord forgiveness for going against the teaching of Scripture, the testimony of the saints, the facts of history, and the leading of the Holy Spirit, disseminating falsehood as fact. Also, those who maintain diplomatic silence, which is assent and complicity to the work of the enemy.

ARTHUR W. PINK TEACHES THE PAPACY IS NOT ANTICHRIST

"The dominant view which has been held by Protestants since the time of the Reformation is that the many predictions relating to the Antichrist describe, instead, the rise, progress, and doom of the papacy. This mistake has led to others....before the Son of Perdition can be revealed the Lord Himself must first descend into the air and catch away from these scenes, unto Himself, His own blood-bought people...the coming Antichrist will be a single individual being...It is not until the fourteenth century (so far as this writer is aware) that we find the first marked deviation from the uniform belief of the early Christians. It was the Waldenses, - so remarkably sound in the faith on almost all points of doctrine - , who, thoroughly worn out by centuries of the most relentless and merciless persecutions, published about the year 1350 a treatise designed to prove that the system of Popery was the Antichrist."^[100]

The malevolent wearing out of the innocent, frequently defenseless Waldensian saints over centuries, in documented blood bath after blood bath, by the Roman Catholic Church (whom he does not mention as the guilty persecutors), was not quite evidence enough for Mr. Pink to equate the dynasties of popes as the Antichrist, one little horn at a time. Rather, he believed a 3½ year future period will wreak more havoc by another Antichrist, unknown now, but not papal, and one who will win the world to his side in the same 3½ year time frame. Let us continue and quote a frequently cited diatribe:

"The Antichrist will deny both the Father and the Son: 'He is Antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son' (1 John 2:22). This scripture does not speak of virtual, but of actual and formal denial. But Rome has always maintained in her councils and creeds, her symbols of faith and worship, that there are three persons of the Godhead....The Antichrist is described as the one 'who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the Temple of God, showing himself that he is God.' (2Thess. 2:4). This is what the popes have never done."^[101]

Mr. Pink's logic escapes this author. He appears to be afflicted with selective memory syndrome. On the one hand, the Papacy and her supporters appeal to the Apostles' Creed to prove her orthodoxy. Yet, on the other hand, they are willingly blind to the Godhood of Mary,

the Godhood of the 'saints' canonized, the Godhood of consecrated bread, and the Godhood of the Pope himself:

"No one can be saved unless he willingly submits to the pope."[102]

'...what can you make me but God?'[103]

"Catholics owe 'complete submission and obedience of will to the Church and to the Roman Pontiff, as to God Himself.'" [104]

So much for Mr. Pink's false assertions that the popes, Leo included, have never usurped the throne of Godhood.

HAL LINDSEY AND TRINITY BROADCASTING NETWORK TEACH THE PAPACY IS NOT ANTICHRIST

"Most interpreters of this chapter [i. e., Rev. 17) have simply updated the thinking of the Protestant reformers who believed that the Pope was the Antichrist and the Roman Catholic Church was the whore of Babylon. In my opinion this is inaccurate. [105]

"Interestingly, even the great church reformers of past centuries, such as Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin, knew little about prophecy." [106]

The *Updated Edition* of Mr. Lindsey's book, purchased by the author at a used book store, is one which Trinity Broadcasting Network re-issued as a 'love gift' for faithful supporters. Thus, they endorse all contained therein, also denying the papal Antichrist. It would boggle the mind to estimate the numbers of naive sheep held captive under their teachings. In coming chapters we will answer Mr. Lindsey's charges that the Reformers knew not what they were talking about.

THEODORE PIKE TEACHES THE PAPACY NOT ANTICHRIST

"...the Antichrist would have slippery footing trying to build upon the principles of the Roman Catholic Church. Far from being 'anti' Christ, the cardinal doctrines of Roman Catholicism, preserved in tact from the early church councils, with one voice bless our Savior." [107]

Certainly by now it is beginning to dawn on the reader just how powerful is the delusion sent to believe the lie. The lie that the Pope and his whore are orthodox in their unbiblical Christian faith. The lie that the Pontiff and harlot bless and glorify our holy, righteous God. The ignorance of the teachings of the councils, the papal decrees, and history of the true saints is disheartening, not to mention dishonoring to their memory.

DAVE HUNT TEACHES THE PAPACY IS NOT ANTICHRIST

"The new Emperor who will rule the revived Roman Empire, the Antichrist, is not yet in position to accomplish the essential Constantinian strategy."^[108]

How Mr. Hunt so ably identifies the Roman Catholic Church with Mystery Babylon, yet so ineptly misses the identification of its Head, the Roman Pontiff, that Man of Sin and son of perdition, as Antichrist, is a veritable mystery of mysteries to this writer.

Granted, part of the problem is his persistent belief in the pre-trib Rapture before the revealing of the Man of Sin. Ironically, a book he highly (and rightly) touts, Martyrs Mirror, identifies the papal Antichrist over and over and over again. Does Mr. Hunt genuinely believe their prophetic faith was misplaced and their blood shed partly in vain? Mr. Hunt and the Anabaptists cannot both be right. This present author votes for the Anabaptists, hands down.

SIR ROBERT ANDERSON TEACHES THE PAPACY IS NOT ANTICHRIST

"If anyone can point to a single passage of Scripture relating to Antichrist, whether in the Old Testament or in the New, which can, without whittling it down, and frittering away the meaning of the words, find its fulfillment in Popery, I will publicly retract, and confess my error....In a word, we are shut up to the conclusion that the Antichrist is yet to come."^[109]

Alongside Sir Robert we must place Mr. Chuck Missler, an extremely popular Bible teacher for decades, whose audio tapes have been purportedly sold in the millions. Mr. Missler is a strong advocate of Sir Robert and his theories.^[110] So, too, we must place Mr. Chuck Smith of Calvary Chapel fame. He has promoted Mr. Missler for decades. Both Mr. Smith, and Mr. Missler have appeared on the Trinity Broadcasting Network with Hal Lindsey.^[111]

REFORMED SCHOLAR LORAIN BOETTNER TEACHES THE PAPACY IS NOT ANTICHRIST

"The Reformers believed that both of these prophecies, John's references to the Antichrist and Paul's references to the Man of Sin, were fulfilled in the Roman Pope, or in the succession of the popes, and that the 'falling away' found its fulfillment in the corrupt condition of the medieval Church....Strengthening this view was the fact that the Latin title of the Pope, *Vicarius Filii Dei*, Vicar of the Son of God, had the numerical value of 666. Intriguing though this scheme may be, we do not believe that the papacy is the specific agency intended by either John or Paul."^[112]

Incredibly, this brilliant author and teacher has a blind eye and extreme lack of good judgment when it comes to identifying the arch enemy of his Lord and his Lord's people. Included in Mr. Boettner's camp is Mr. Tal Brooke of Spiritual Counterfeits Project. Mr. Brooke has personally written this author suggesting Mr. Boettner's materials when asked his position on the Church of

Rome.

In conclusion, we must admit the obvious: the mystery of iniquity has done its work so well that ministries specializing in prophecy and others geared toward exposing false prophets and their teaching have all turned a convenient blind eye toward the Papacy as Antichrist in our midst.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION IS A MURDER MYSTERY

Murder, mayhem, monsters and miracles are rife throughout this prophetic book. Is it little wonder no sermons are preached from it? Is it surprising most Bible studies wouldn't tackle the subject with a ten-foot pole? Who can blame them? It's a mystery and intended to be that way by its Author. Thus, not everyone is capable of unlocking its secrets. Not even the worldwide megabuck ministries. Only the Lord is the revealer of mysteries. And He reveals them to whom He will. In the days of the apostles, He revealed them to Paul and John.

Earlier we looked at the ominous nature of the visions given John. If those visions pertain to the Church prior to the Rapture then we are in big trouble. No one has warned us. All are crying, 'Peace, safety, secret Rapture escape!' We have also shown that the Rapture and singular coming of Christ can only occur at the end of the prophecy, not at the beginning as is currently taught. Thus, the Church is going through great tribulation. Therefore, we must needs know who the enemy is since the Revelation is about a war, a war directed at the saints of God. How can we, the Church, carry on and battle against the adversary if we:

1. Don't know his identity.
2. Don't believe there's a war.
3. Don't believe the adversary pictured in Scripture is actually here.

Our good and gracious God has given us a handbook from which we may judge the import of historical events, all future to John, but most are past with us. He has designed this book to be hidden to most and opened to few. For years this book was hidden to this author. No longer. Through the writing of Antichrist In Our Midst, it is this author's intention to share the knowledge he has gained through the grace of God and years of study and research.

Like any good whodunit we need to identify the players. The leading characters are the saints of God. The enemy is unknown by name, but is seen in symbol and through his deeds. He is called the Beast. Of course, the ultimate enemy with the power and authority behind the Beast is the Dragon, the Devil, that old serpent. The Beast does the Dragon's bidding as his Vicar. The Beast also has an ally called the false prophet to insure the Dragon's bidding is carried out. Another bizarre character in the mix is Mystery Babylon, a prostitute. Her identity has been hid, on purpose, by the divine Author. She and the Beast are on intimate terms.

But before we continue, we need to establish some elementary guidelines, some basic rules of interpretation:

- The murderer is the one who commits the murders.
- The victims are the ones who are murdered.
- The murderer is not the victim.
- The victim is not the murderer.
- The murderer is not the hero.
- The victims are the heroes.
- The murderer is the enemy.
- The victims are not the enemy.
- The murderer is not innocent.
- The victims are innocent.
- The whore is not a virgin.
- The virgin is not a whore.
- The murderer and the whore are not the Christians.
- The Christians are not the murderers or whores.
- The Christians are the victims.

Now that we have established those logical points of reference, the reader may be wondering why something so obvious should be stated. Simply put, because the mystery of iniquity is so powerful we must not charge into this prophecy without using our powers of critical thinking each step of the way.

Beginning with Revelation 6, let us review who is doing the murdering and who is being murdered:

Rev. 6:2	The rider on the red horse is the killer. The people of earth the victims.
Rev. 6:8	The rider on the pale horse is the killer. His name is Death. The fourth part of the earth's population are his victims. Famine and the beasts of the earth also kill.
Rev. 6:9	The souls under the altar are the victims. They died for the word of God. They are Christians. They were killed by the riders on the red and pale horses. The riders on the red and pale horses are not Christians. They are the murderers.
Rev. 7:14	The saints who came out of great tribulation are the victims. They were killed, gaining them entrance to Heaven. Their murderer is not yet identified. Nor is he in Heaven wearing a white robe.
Rev. 8:7-12	God is the righteous executioner dispensing divine justice and punishment on the wicked.
Rev. 9:1-12	God sends a locust plague to judge the wicked.
Rev. 9:13-21	God sends armies of 200,000,000 to judge the wicked.
Rev. 11:7	The Beast which comes up out of the abyss is the murderer. The two Christian witnesses are the victims. The Beast is not a Christian nor is he a victim.
Rev. 12:11	The Dragon, the accuser, is the murderer of the saints. The witnessing saints are both the victims and the victors.
Rev. 12:17	The Dragon makes war with the testifying saints.
Rev. 13:7-10	The Beast makes war with the saints. He captures and kills them. The Beast is not a Christian. He is the murderer.

Rev. 13: 15	The Beast from the earth, the false prophet, kills those who refuse image worship. True Christians do not worship images. Therefore, those he kills are true Christians. The Beast from the earth, who has two horns like a lamb, is no Christian. He is a murderer.
Rev. 14:9-11	God will kill those who worship the Beast, images, or take his mark. This judgment is eternal and irreversible.
Rev. 14:12-13	The saints are to be killed for their three-fold testimony as exemplified in verses 6-11. Although the murderer is not identified, it can be assumed to be the Beast, whom the saints are testifying against.
Rev. 15:2	The martyred saints are seen in Heaven having gotten the victory, through death, over the Beast who murdered them. The Beast is no Christian, nor is he seen in Heaven.
Rev. 16	God is taking vengeance on the Beast's congregation, his seat, the Holy See, and Mystery Babylon.
Rev. 16:6	The Beast's faithful are identified as the murderers of the saints. The Beast's flock are not Christians. They are murderers.
Rev. 17:6	The woman, the whore, the mother of harlots, is seen drinking the blood of the saints and martyrs. This is not a Christian act of mercy, nor is she a Christian woman. Rather, she is a partaker and co-conspirator with the Beast in the deaths of the innocent Christians. She, too, is a murderer.
Rev. 17:14	The ten horns, or kings, who follow the Beast make war against and kill the saints. The kings are murderers, not Christians.

Rev. 18:8-10

The Lord judges Mystery Babylon in a cataclysmic fashion.

Rev. 18:24

The Lord declares she alone is guilty of the murders of the saints. Mystery Babylon is a murderer, not a Christian.

Rev. 19:11-21

The Lord of Hosts judges the Beast, his army, and false prophet. They are not Christians. Christians do not get tossed into the lake of fire.

Now that we have established who the murderers are and who the innocent victims are, we need to review the *motive* behind the murders. Perhaps by adding another link to the chain of evidence and facts we can identify the killers. In this case, the killers are serial killers, not content with the slaughter of one or two victims. The fact that a great multitude, which no man can number, came out of great tribulation, expressly made known by the Spirit and His angel, tells us the killers are mass murderers of the worst kind. The innumerable innocent victims, the saints of God, are being murdered by the Beast, his whore, Mystery Babylon, and his subservient, obedient, willing ten horns or kings.

THE MOTIVE BEHIND THE GENOCIDE

The first clues given as to the motive behind the attempted extermination of the saints are seen in the seven letters to the seven churches. As St. John had warned us there were already many antichrists in his day. Their origin was from within the professing Christian body, one more proof that the Antichrist, that Man of Sin, was to come from within the professing Christian Church, albeit the apostatized whore of Babylon.^[113] The spirit of Antichrist was already at work.^[114] Thus, by analyzing why the saints in John's day were persecuted and killed we should be able to interpolate those findings to determine why the future saints should also be persecuted and killed. By determining the motive we can uncover the characteristics, marks, and signs of the killers, thereby aiding in their identification.

1. The Church at Ephesus was commended for their discernment in testing of the spirits. Certain members claimed apostolic authority and were found to be liars by the membership. Although the Church did not undergo persecution for these proceedings, we can expect the same spirit of Antichrist to emerge again and again. They also hated the works of the Nicolaitans, which Christ also hated. We would expect the identical spirit of Antichrist to rise up in the future.

2. The Church at Smyrna was already going through tribulation, proving the great tribulation caused by the Beast and his Church would not be far behind. Their persecutors were fellow-professing 'Christians', who were really Satan's ministers and Church, a foreshadowing of the Beast, false prophet and Mystery Babylon. The true saints were being imprisoned and martyred by this false church for exposing them as the Church of Satan containing the spirit of Antichrist.

3. The Church at Pergamos was located in the enemy's stronghold or seat of power. We learn from this that Satan enjoys a throne and will set up another one after the demise of Pergamos. The satanic spirit of Antichrist killed Antipas for not denying his God. We can expect this characteristic to be recurring. Although this particular Church did not deal strongly with idolatry and sexual sin, we can anticipate it being an issue in future generations of Christians. The doctrine of the Nicolaitans is not specifically identified per se, however its depravity was embraced by vast numbers of professing Christians despite Jesus Christ's abhorrence of it. Proving Christians can sin and be deceived.

4. The Church at Thyatira was mixed with wheat and tares, as were all the churches. The tares and deceived wheat followed the wicked teachings of a false prophetess, Jezebel. Like Pergamos, the blasphemous rite of sacrificing to idols, negating Christ's finished and holy atonement was being introduced into the Church. By the grace of God, Jesus had His remnant which would not partake of this spirit of Antichrist. We can anticipate this being a problem for future Christians who just say no.

5. The churches at Sardis and Philadelphia were both being attacked from within and had eagerly accepted another Gospel. They were no longer believing the doctrines taught by the apostles and were teaching, as truth, lies. By God's grace, there was still a remnant contending for the faith once delivered to the saints. Biblical Christianity was already becoming adulterated, a sign of the spirit of Antichrist to come.

6. The Church at Laodicea was overrun with a false sense of security. Blessed with great wealth they lacked spiritual riches, true wealth. We should be alert to the danger posed by churches rich in the things of the world. It is a sign of the spirit of Antichrist to come.

Of course, we must not forget the reason John was imprisoned at Patmos. He was undergoing tribulation, having missed the escape of a secret Rapture. John's imprisonment was due to his preaching the Gospel and his testifying against the sin of the hypocrites of his Age.^[115]

Let us summarize several possible causes for persecution of future saints who:

- preach the Gospel.
- rebuke sin and expose sexual sin.
- rebuke idolatry.
- rebuke false worship by so-called Christians.
- rebuke false teachings by so-called Christians.
- refuse to renounce Jesus, holding steadfast to their faith.
- refuse to worship other gods.
- choose poverty over wealth.
- choose separation rather than ecumenism.
- expose false Church leaders.
- expose false Christian churches containing false Christians.
- expose the seat of Satan.

Certainly Jesus summed up the motive behind the persecution of the saints when he educated Nicodemus to the fact that *men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light lest his deeds be reprov'd.*^[116] The fellow 'Christians' whom the saints shone the light of God's Word upon hated and killed them for their efforts.

THE FIFTH SEAL HELPS US FIND A MOTIVE AND IDENTIFY THE BEAST

Once the Lamb breaks the first five seals, we are confronted with the souls of the martyrs. Their deaths were caused by the four horsemen. The horsemen were murderers, not Christians. The souls under the altar were Christians who were killed for preaching the Gospel and testifying against the four horsemen. The four horsemen forbade the sowing of the seed and were infuriated that their true identity was exposed by the Christians. That is the context of the vision. The four horsemen represent four personas of the Antichrist, the Man of Sin, the son of perdition.

The first persona, the rider on a white horse with crown and bow, symbolizes the Antichrist who comes in the name of Christ preaching a false peace, love and harmony. He is well received by the world. He is influential, a king among the kings of the earth. The second persona is that represented by the blood red horse. Behind the benevolent mask of the first rider is a murderous spirit which thirsts after blood. Those he kills have refused to take the abominable mark of the Beast, offered under the guise of forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation. The third persona seen is that of the rider on the black horse. His influence is beyond ecclesiastical matters. His domain includes distribution of the world's wealth. He is both steward of the spirit realm and steward of the temporal realm. And money is ever on his mind as he demands the tithes, offerings and benefices due him. Finally, the rider on the pale horse, called Death, and Hell

which follows with him, betrays the eternal consequences of following, believing in, and trusting the false Vicar of Christ: death, not life; Hell, not Heaven.

These four horsemen also symbolize the dynastic nature of the little horn. Upon the demise of one ruling little horn comes another ruling little horn to fill his vacant office. And thirdly, they represent the works of the Antichrist: the Crusades. Intent on conquering the Mohammedans occupying the Holy Land, the papal Antichrists sent their hordes of horsemen forth conquering and to conquer. Never mind their lack of success and the slaughter which ensued. Plenary indulgences, the forgiveness of sins, along with direct entrance into Heaven, was the reward of the Crusaders who murdered, raped and plundered, all to the glory of God.

THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST SEEN IN THE FOUR HORSEMEN ALSO SEEN IN THE CALL TO THE FIRST CRUSADE BY POPE URBAN II.

The observant reader is asked to mark the following signs of Antichrist in reading the call of Urban II. which follows:

- *a papal tiara, i.e., rider on white horse wearing a crown.
- *spiritual ruler of the world, i.e., little horn speaking great words against the Most High. Also, the Man of Sin who exalteth himself above God.
- *a messenger to disclose the divine admonition, i.e., little horn with a mouth speaking great things. Also, the Vicar of Christ, Antichrist.
- *peace-maker, i.e., rider on white horse preaching, 'peace and safety'. Also, the king of fierce countenance who by peace destroys many. (Dan.8:25)
- *cause the tithes due to God from all the fruits of the field, etc., i.e., rider on the black horse with a balance in his hand.
- *he who from his own possessions does not employ a part in alms, i.e., rider on the black horse, *hurt not the oil and the wine*.
- *incurs the damnation of hell, i.e., rider on pale horse, followed by Hell.
- *exterminate this vile race, i.e., the thief who comes to kill and destroy. Also, the rider on the red horse and pale horse.
- *I speak to those who are present, I proclaim it to the absent, but Christ commands, i.e., comes in the name and authority of Christ as Antichrist. The rider on the white horse.
- *the sins of those...shall be remitted, i.e., little horn speaking great words against the Most High. Also, the Man of Sin showing himself that he is God. Also, the rider on the white horse absolving sins in the name of Christ, but in reality is the rider on the pale horse, the son of perdition who goes into perdition.
- *through the power of God vested in me, i.e., coming in the name and authority of Christ, as his Vicar, the Antichrist. Also, the rider on the white horse.

"Most beloved brethren, moved by the exigencies of the times, I, Urban, wearing by the permission of God the *papal tiara, and *spiritual ruler of the world, have come here to you, the servants of God, as a *messenger to disclose the divine admonition.....If anyone hates peace, how can he be a *peace- maker?.....*cause the tithes due to God from all the fruits of the field to be faithfully paid; let them not be sold or held back. If anyone shall lay hands on a bishop, let him be considered as wholly an outlaw. If anyone shall seize or despoil monks, priests, nuns, and their servants, or pilgrims or merchants, let him be anathematized.....Therefore we must, as Gregory says, especially consider how he who steals the property of another is to be punished, if *he who from his own possession does not employ a part in alms *incurs the damnation of hell.

"Wherefore, I pray and exhort, may not I, but the Lord prays and exhorts you, as heralds of Christ, by frequent exhortation, to urge men of all ranks, knights and foot-soldiers, rich and poor, to hasten to *exterminate this vile race from the lands of our brethren, and to bear timely aid to the worshippers of Christ. *I speak to those who are present, I proclaim to the absent, but Christ commands. Moreover, *the sins of those who set out thither, if they lose their lives on the journey, by land or sea, or in fighting against the heathen, shall be remitted in that hour; this I grant to all who go, *through the power of God vested in me.

"Oh, what a disgrace if a race so despised, degenerate, and slave of demons, should thus conquer a people fortified with faith in omnipotent God and resplendent with the name of Christ! Oh, how many reproaches will be heaped upon you by the Lord Himself if you do not aid those who like yourselves are counted of the Christian faith!"^[117]

A few additional beams in the eye of the Roman Pontiff are worthy of mention. In the name of peace, he advocates extermination. Another version of the same speech translates the Latin word meaning 'exterminate' as *destroy*.^[118] This is very significant because the *prince that shall come* is termed the Desolator or Destroyer.^[119] So is the king of the locusts which come out of the abyss.^[120] This topic of extermination will be discussed in greater detail when we bring into focus the Inquisition, the Holocaust and their dire implications. Let us say for now that extermination, destruction and death are marks, signs, characteristics, fruit and works of the Antichrist and Mystery Babylon. Its beginnings are seen in the seven churches and the first five Seals.

Far be it that his precious religious are despoiled their earthly possessions, yet Urban, meaning *city*, - *that great city which reigneth over the kings of the earth*, - decrees despoiling the occupants of the Holy Land, a twisted version of *do unto others what you would not have them do unto you*.

After having decreed, infallibly, the faith of the Turks and Arabs anathema for its demon worshiping, a vile and degenerate race worthy of extermination, and setting in motion that extermination, one would think that reconciliation with the Muslim world would be fraught with difficulties. In the new philosophy and teaching of Vatican II, the Church of Rome displays the guile, cunning, and the tongue of a serpent as it attempts to persuade men, even Muslim men, that the Roman Catholic Church now believes Muslims hold first place among those who acknowledge the Creator and are included in His plan of salvation.^[121]

"To reunite all his children, scattered and led astray by sin, the Father willed to call the whole of humanity together into his Son's Church."[122]

In a complete infallible about-face in its teaching of Muslim faith and morals, the Holy See now invites the despicable, vile, degenerate, demon-worshipping, infidel, heathen, Muslims into Mother Church for communion. Who was worthy of extermination yesterday is worthy of forgiveness today. Once again, little horn thinks to change laws.[123] Revelation 17 calls such overtures *spiritual fornication*. The cup of peace and love she extends is described by our infallible God as *abominations and filthiness of her fornication*. Of course, nowhere does she apologize for her slaughtering Crusades. Also, the fact of the Crusades is conveniently not mentioned.

THE CRUSADES WERE A MEANS TO ACQUIRE WEALTH AND OPEN TRADE ROUTES

Despite the attempts of the Roman Church to justify its 'humanitarian' massacres of the infidels and heathens, mammon, and lots of it, was at stake. Roman Catholic apologist, Rev. Priori's defense is typical:

"From that City of seven hills by the swift-flowing Tiber...from its Pontifical palace, throughout whose spacious halls resounded the first eager acclamation of the Holy Crusades and in which their last echoes died away, the popes have never ceased through the passing centuries to urge Europe to a rising that would have brought about the final redemption of the East. Various motives, of course, have been attributed to the popes. Read their letters, their discourses given in Council, their repeated declarations: and it will be seen that they had but two objects in view. One was to wrench from the hands of those who profaned it the Holy Tomb of our Lord...But they had a higher motive. They desired to wrench souls from the seduction of schism and heresy and to restore them to unity in Christ; as they further sought to win others from unbelief and paganism."[124]

The observant reader will note Rev. Priori's admission that the orders to carry out the 'Holy' Crusades emitted from the seat of the Supreme Pontiff (the Beast), upon whom the Roman Catholic Church (Mystery Babylon) sits, the City of Seven Hills. The Encyclopedia Britannica uses the exact same terminology as cited in Rev. 6:2 regarding the rider on the white horse who *went forth conquering and to conquer*:

"When the first crusade finally came, what was it but a penitentiary [i. e., to satisfy the sacrament of penance] pilgrimage under arms - with the one additional object of conquering the goal of pilgrimage?"[125]

With an uncanny parallel to Rev. 14:19-20, the same Britannica article describes the victorious capture of Jerusalem, July 15, 1099:

"After a little more than a month's siege, the city was finally captured (July 15). The slaughter was terrible: the blood of the conquered ran down the streets, until men splashed in blood as they rode. At nightfall, 'sobbing for excess of joy', the crusaders came to the Church of the Sepulchre from their treading of the winepress and put their blood-stained hands together in prayer."^[126]

In summarizing the results of the Crusades, the Britannica acknowledges three key areas:

1. The transformation of charitable societies to military clubs to commercial companies, such as banks (i.e., Knights Templars).
2. Western commerce seeking trade routes to the wealth of the east which had varying outcomes.
3. The discovery of Asia's interior.

"Colonization, trade, geography - these, then, are three things closely connected with the history of the crusades."^[127]

Like the rider on the black horse, the Papacy's first Crusade, and subsequent seven others, directly affected the economic life of medieval Europe. By establishing Latin states (i.e., the Kingdom of Jerusalem, the Kingdom of Cyprus, the Latin empire of Constantinople), the merchants of Venice, Genoa and Pisa were favorably affected by trade with the Moslem world and access to the products of the far east.^[128] The Papacy also profited through taxation of the clergy, and tithes in the name of the Crusades given to the Roman See became a normal occurrence.^[129] Additionally, the Britannica admits that through the action of calling the Crusades the *popes had deposed the Holy Roman emperors from their headship of the world*,^[130] fulfilling another aspect of the little horn whose look is more stout than his fellows: plucking up by the roots three other horns or ruling kings.^[131]

The testimony of the crusaders themselves is extant. The following is an excerpt of one Count Stephen, a partaker of the First Crusade, from a letter to his wife:

"You may know for certain, my beloved, that of gold, silver, and many other kind of riches I now have twice as much as your love had assigned me when I left you...."^[132]

THE FOURTH CRUSADE PARTICULARLY WICKED PITTING LATIN CHRISTIANITY AGAINST GREEK CHRISTIANITY

In giving an account of the Crusades perpetrated by Western Latin Christianity to the greater glory of God, one must not neglect the infamous Fourth Crusade of 1202-1204. Proposing an original goal of conquering Egypt, the Crusaders, under the Papacy of Innocent III., diverted to Constantinople, seat of the Eastern Orthodox or Greek Christian Church, to kill, rape and plunder their fellow believers in the name and authority of Jesus Christ. The following extract

from the testimony of a Rabbi Benjamin of Tudela gives the reader a sense of the tremendous riches awaiting the conquering Roman Catholic 'Christian' Crusaders:

"At Constantine is the place of worship called St. Sophia, and the metropolitan seat of the pope of the Greeks, who are at variance with the pope of Rome. It contains as many altars as there are days of the year, and possesses innumerable riches....All the other places of worship in the whole world do not equal St. Sophia in riches. It is ornamented with pillars of gold and silver, and with innumerable lamps of the same precious materials....The tribute which is brought to Constantinople every year from all parts of Greece, consisting of silks, and purple cloths, and gold, fills many towers. These riches are equaled nowhere in the world....The Greeks who inhabit the country are extremely rich, and possess great wealth in gold and precious stones....They ride upon horses. and in their appearance they are like princes. The country is rich, producing all sorts of delicacies, as well of abundance of bread [i. e., wheat and barley], meat, and wine ['hurt not the oil and wine'].[133]

That account was written at least thirty years prior to the Fourth Crusade. Also extant is a chronicle of the sack of Constantinople visited by the Roman Catholic Crusaders written by eyewitness and Greek historian, Nicetas Acominatus. The reader is admonished to keep in mind the sack of the Jewish Temple, AD. 70, by the people of the prince that shall come,[134] when reading Nicetas' report:

"How shall I begin to tell of the deeds wrought by these nefarious men! Alas, the images, which ought to have been adorned. were trodden under foot! Alas, the relics of the holy martyrs were thrown into unclean places!....They snatched the precious reliquaries [i.e., vessels containing holy relics to be venerated], thrust into their bosoms the ornaments which these contained, and used the broken remnants for pans and drinking cups, - precursors of Antichrist, authors and heralds of his nefarious deeds, which we momentarily expect. Manifestly, indeed, by that race then, just as formerly [i.e., both being Roman] Christ was robbed and insulted and His garments were divided by lot; only one thing was lacking, that His side, pierced by a spear, should pour rivers of divine blood on the ground. [135]

"Nor can the violation of the Great Church [i.e., St Sophia] be listened to with equanimity. For the sacred altar, formed of all kinds of precious materials and admired by the whole world, was broken into bits and distributed among the soldiers, as was all the other sacred wealth of so great and infinite splendor. When the sacred vases and utensils of unsurpassable art and grace and rare material, and the fine silver, wrought with gold, which encircled the screen of the tribunal and the ambo, of admirable workmanship, and the door and many other ornaments, were to be borne away as booty, mules and saddled horses were led to the very sanctuary of the Temple. Some of these, which were unable to keep their footing on the splendid and slippery pavement, were stabbed when they fell, so that the sacred pavement was polluted with blood and filth.

"....Nor, indeed were theses crimes committed and others left undone, on the ground that these were of lesser guilt, he others of greater. But with one consent all the most heinous sins and crimes were committed by all with equal zeal. Could these, who showed so great madness against God....Himself, have spared the honorable matrons and maidens or the virgins consecrated to God? In the alleys, in the streets, in the temples, complaints, weeping lamentations, grief, the groaning of men, the shrieks of women, wounds, rape, captivity, the separation of those most closely united...."[136]

If the reader thinks for one moment the Catholic clergy were not culpable for similar crimes,

review this historical notice by one Gunther in his *Historia Constantinopolitanna*:

"While these victors were rapidly plundering the conquered city, which was theirs by right of conquest, the abbot Martin began to cogitate about his own share of the booty, and lest he alone should remain empty-handed, while all the others became rich, he resolved to seize upon plunder with his own sacred hands. But since he thought it not meet to handle any booty of worldly things with those sacred hands, he began to plan how he might secure some portion of the relics of the saints, of which he knew there was a great quantity in the city.

"Accordingly...he took with him one of his two chaplains and went to a church which was held in great reverence....There a very great amount of money brought in from all the surrounding country was stored, and also precious relics...when many pilgrims broke into this church and some were eagerly engaged in stealing gold and silver, others precious stones, Martin, thinking it unbecoming to commit sacrilege except in a holy cause, sought a more retired spot....There he found an aged man...a priest the abbot, though inwardly calm, threatened him with a ferocious voice, saying, 'Come, perfidious old man, show me the most powerful relics you have, or you shall die immediately.'.....

"The latter...opened a chest bound with iron and showed the desired treasure, which was more grateful and pleasing to Martin than all the royal wealth of Greece. The abbot hastily and eagerly thrust in both hands and working quickly, filled with the fruits of the sacrilege both his own and his chaplain's bosom.'^[137]

Gunther's terse narration concludes with the abbot's response to fellow Crusaders who inquired whether his strange manner of walk was the result of being weighted down with stolen booty: *With a joyful countenance, as always, and with pleasant words he said, 'We have done well. ' To which they replied, 'Thanks be to God.'*^[138]

Among the relics seized by the abbot Martin were reportedly a trace of the Lord Jesus Christ's blood, a piece of the true cross, a fair-sized piece of St. John the Baptist, the arm of St. James the Apostle, bits of numerous other martyrs, also pieces of the Nativity, Calvary, the Lord's sepulchre, the stone rolled away, the table of the Last Supper and last, but not least, the Virgin Mary's breast milk.^[139] If the reader thinks the Roman Catholic and Eastern Greek Churches have changed their view regarding sacred relics, think again.

Do not imagine for one moment Pope Innocent III. wept over Constantinople, the desecration of St. Sofia, or his Greek schismatic brothers. His only lament was that the Lord had not *transferred* the empire of Constantinople to the Latins sooner.^[140]

HERE IS *SOFIA*: LET HIM THAT HATH UNDERSTANDING
COUNT THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST

The uninformed Christian will not equate the desecration of the Great Cathedral, St. Sofia, with wisdom. In the Greek, the word *wisdom* is translated σοφία, *sofia*. Thus, the name 'Sofia' is

interpreted *wisdom*. Remember, our earlier postulates:

- The murderer is the one who commits the murders.
- The murderer is the enemy.
- The murderer is not a Christian.

It was not out of the Eastern Greek Orthodox Church that Antichrist was to emerge, although the Roman Empire was divided into Eastern and Western divisions. It was out of the Western Latin Roman Catholic Christian Church that sits upon seven hills that the Antichrist was to emerge. Ante-Nicene Church Father, Irenaeus, understood this when he counted the name of the Beast as the number of a man, resulting in the time-honored solution:

ΛΑΤΕΙΝΟΣ: THE NAME OF THE BEAST

In his famous treatise, *AGAINST HERESIES*, written circa A.D. 200, Irenaeus, Bishop Of Lyons, solved the enigmatic mystery of Rev. 13:18: LATEINOS or 'Latin Man.' According to Irenaeus' understanding of prophecy as foretold by Daniel:

"Then also *Lateinos* [ΛΑΤΕΙΝΟΣ] has the number six hundred and sixty-six; and it is a very probable [solution], this being the name of the last kingdom [of the four seen by Daniel]. For the Latins are they who at present bear rule...."[141]

Irenaeus discerned Antichrist, as described in 2Thessalonians 2, as *an apostate and a robber, anxious to be adored as God, wishing himself to be proclaimed as a king, a lawless one, impious, unjust, murderous, and that he will endeavor in a tyrannical manner to set himself forth as God.*[142] Irenaeus equates the Man of Sin with Daniel's little horn.[143] He also views the abomination of desolation as the Man of Sin, Antichrist, sitting in the Temple of God.[144] Thus, he sees Jesus' prophecy of Matt. 24:15 as having future fulfillment, not just the destruction of the Jewish Temple in A.D. 70. The Bishop of Lyons exegetes John 5:43, *another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive*, as another Antichrist Scripture. Citing Daniel 9:24, he interprets Antichrist as the one who *desolates the holy place, giving sin for a sacrifice.*[145] So, too, does he interpret *the king of fierce countenance*. Irenaeus also understood the ten horns of the Beast (Rev. 17) to represent the ten horns of Daniel's fourth beast (Dan. 7), and the ten toes of the graven image (Dan. 2).[146] In Chapter 29, the good Bishop acknowledges a link between the number of the Beast, 666, with the size of the image set up by Nebuchadnezzar, and the evils perpetrated by both. Wisely, Irenaeus does not declare his interpretation infallible since any prophecy must be fulfilled before it can be understood fully:

"But, knowing the sure number declared by Scripture, that is, six hundred and sixty-six, let them await, in the first place, the division of the kingdom into ten; then, in the next place, when these kings are reigning,

and are beginning to set their affairs in order, and advance their kingdom, (let them learn) to acknowledge that *he who shall come* claiming the kingdom for himself, and shall terrify those men of whom we have been speaking, having a name containing the aforesaid number, is truly the abomination of desolation."^[147]

Brilliantly, the Bishop realizes that rather than conceal the identity of Antichrist, the Holy Spirit *indicates the number of the name now, that when this man comes we may avoid him, being aware who he is....*^[148]

The reader is advised to remember that the Bishop of Lyons was writing approximately 200 years prior to the fall of the Roman Empire and its subsequent division into ten kingdoms. He had no prior knowledge of Roman Emperor Constantine's 'conversion' to Christianity circa A.D. 313, or the emergence of the Bishop of Rome as Universal Bishop over all apostate Christendom.

HOW THE GREEK TERM *LATEINOS* IS THE NUMBER OF THE BEAST ANTICHRIST

Just as the Latin Roman letters represent numerals, i.e., 1997 is transliterated as MDCCCCLXXXVII, so, too, do Greek letters. Their values differ from Roman numerals, however. The aforementioned Encyclopedia Britannica, in its article, NUMERALS, gives the researcher all the values of the letters in the Greek alphabet:

Λ, Lambda,	30
Α, Alpha,	1
Τ, Tau,	300
Ε, Epsilon,	5
Ι, Iota,	10
Ν, Nu,	50
Ο, Omicron,	70
Σ, Sigma,	<u>200</u>
	666

CONSTANTINE'S VISION PREDICTED IN 1st SEAL CONSTANTINE A TYPE OF PAPAL ANTICHRIST TO COME

For the Christian without any comprehension of ecclesiastical history it would be impossible to understand the full significance of the many symbols envisioned in the prophecy. Without a firm grasp of Roman Catholic theology much of the intent and subtext of the Revelation is lost.

"In making the State Christian, Constantine made the Church a State institution, and therefore under imperial control. Caesaropapism was the logical consequence."^[149]

Constantine the Great was not always a 'Christian', nor was the Roman Empire always 'Holy'. Through his 'miraculous conversion' the *let* and *restrainer*, the Roman Empire and its persecution of Christians, was beginning to be removed out of the way, making access by the papal Man of Sin finally feasible. In seeking legal recognition as Roman Emperor of the West, Constantine the Great was moved to march on Rome as a result of a miraculous vision in the heavens:

"...the Vision of the Flaming Cross which appeared in the sky at noonday with the legend *Εν τούτῳ νικᾶ*, ('By this conquer'), and led to Constantine's conversion to Christianity."^[150]

"Constantine claimed to have seen the cross in the heavens and had it inscribed on the shields of his soldiers."^[151]

By no mere coincidence, the same Greek word used in Constantine's vision, *νικᾶω*, *to conquer*, is used in Rev. 6:2.^[152] Also, by no mere coincidence, Constantine's father's name was Constantius Chlorus, the Pale. The fourth horseman of the Apocalypse rode a *pale horse*, translated in the Greek as *χλωρός*, *chloros*, pale green.^[153]

To further add to the synchronism between Emperor and Pope, Constantine held the office of Caesar Augustus, while today's Roman Pontiff is absolute monarch of Vatican City-State. Both rulers enforced 'Christianity' as the State religion. Both Constantine and the Pope hold the office of Pontifex Maximus, High Priest. Constantine presided over the first ecumenical Council of Nicea, while the dynasty of popes preside over ecumenical Church councils, especially in latter centuries. Constantine dedicated Constantinople to the Blessed Virgin in A.D. 330,^[154] while Pope Pius XII. dedicated the world to the Blessed Virgin in 1954.^[155] Constantine was involved in eradicating heresy, while the popes exterminate heretics. In summation, the *Britannica* concludes: *Constantine, in fact, embodies the spirit of absolute authority which, both in church and State, was to prevail for many centuries.*^[156]

SIGN OF THE CROSS WORN BY CONSTANTINE'S ARMY ALSO WORN BY CRUSADERS

Here we have another significant parallel. As noted above, after seeing the vision of the flaming cross in the noonday sky, Constantine ordered his troops to wear the insignia of the cross on their shields to guarantee victory in conquering the enemy. So, too, did Pope Urban II. in his Crusade-inspiring address at the Council of Clermont, A.D. 1095:

"...When an armed attack is made upon the enemy, let this one cry be raised by all the soldiers of God: It is the will of God! It is the will of God,'...The priests and other clerks...are not to go without the consent of the bishop....Also, it is not fitting that laymen should enter upon the pilgrimage without the blessing of their priest.

"Whoever, therefore, shall determine upon his holy pilgrimage, and shall make his vow to God to that affect, and shall offer himself to him for sacrifice, as a living victim, holy and acceptable to God, **shall wear the sign of the cross on his forehead or on his breast.** When, indeed, he shall return from his journey, having fulfilled his vow, let him place the cross on his back between his shoulders. Thus shall ye, indeed, by this twofold action, fulfill the precept of the Lord, as he commands in the Gospel, 'He that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.' [157]

By this time the reader should have warning bells blaring each occasion the *forehead* and *right hand* are mentioned in conjunction with so-called 'Christianity'. As described in Rev. 13: 16-17, the mark of the Beast Antichrist is imprinted on the right hand and/or forehead. If the reigning pope is the current Antichrist, as the Protestant Reformers insisted, one would expect the papal Beast to require such a mark. Here is documented proof that Pope Urban II. insisted the *sign of the cross* be placed on the recipient's *forehead*. The horror of receiving this mark is that it necessitates God's wrath, the recipient offering himself a living sacrifice to Moloch, not the Almighty.

The reader should also recognize the admonition that *laymen should not enter upon the pilgrimage without the blessing of the priest* also contains the sign of the cross, an intricate part of the blessing:

"...in the 9th century we find a synod directing the priest to make the sign of the cross with the thumb and two fingers over the oblation at Mass. This gesture remains to this day in the papal rite of blessing." [158]

Incredibly, the New Catholic Encyclopedia uses the word *oblation* to signify the bread and wine offered in the sacrifice of the Mass. The sign of the cross, in conjunction with the words of consecration, transubstantiates the bread and wine into the real presence of the body and blood of Christ. The prophet Daniel (9:27) tells us the Messiah will confirm the covenant of the New Testament with His blood in the midst of the week of seven years, at which time He will be cut off. This will signal the end of the Temple sacrifice and *oblation*, bloodless offering. However, the Destroyer shall make the Messiah's covenant *desolate*, i.e., null and void. By re-offering to God, daily, the once-for-all, finished sacrifice of Christ in an *oblation* of bread and wine, the Roman Catholic Church makes Christ's atonement insufficient, imperfect, and *desolate*, thereby casting ill-repute on our Savior, His holy work, and the wisdom of God. This blasphemy, known as the Mass, will continue until the return of the Lord, says Daniel.

The so-called papal 'blessing' is readily seen each Sunday in Rome while the Pope is in

residence. The tens of thousands of faithful and curious gather in St. Peter's Square to receive his mark. (see PLATES 3 & 4).

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS IS GIVEN IN THE NAME OF JESUS

“The sign of the cross was usually accompanied with a verbal formula. The most ancient of these is still used frequently: ‘In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.’”^[159]

As Jesus prophesied *many shall come in my name deceiving many*, He was specifically speaking of Antichrist and his false prophets, the Roman priesthood. They do nothing liturgical unless it is done in Jesus' name and by His authority. Frequently, the Beast will also claim his own name and authority, as we have already seen. Rev. 13:16-17 gives the added information that Antichrist's *mark of the beast* will be the identifying sign accompanying the Man of Sin and his false prophets who come as wolves in sheep's clothing claiming apostolic authority, confessing Jesus to be the Christ.

THE TERM *CRUSADE* DEFINED AS ‘TO MARK WITH A CROSS’^[160]

“CRUSADES, the name given to the series of campaigns undertaken by the Christians of western Europe from 1096 to 1291 for the recovery of the Holy Land from the Mohammedans, so called from the cross worn as a badge [i.e., mark] by the crusaders.”^[161]

The congruity of all the 'coincidences' between prophecy and history can only be described as supernatural. To have so many different prophecies fallout in a certain order and in such a way as to only fit perfectly the Pope and the Western Latin Roman Catholic Church can only be attributed to the foreknowledge and predestination of our sovereign Lord. But would you believe we have not finished revealing the many 'coincidences'? Here, in the very word *Crusade* we have a *mark of the Beast*. The *mark* received by the crusading faithful was the *sign of the cross on the forehead*. The one who instituted the *mark* instituted the *Crusades*. That is only one person: the Pope and Bishop of Rome.

THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS PROMISES FULL REMISSION OF SINS FOR HOLY MURDER AND HOLY THEFT DONE IN THE NAME OF JESUS

“Moreover, in virtue of the authority vested in us [i.e., in the name of Jesus], we, who with paternal care provide for your safety and the needs of the Church [i.e., as chief shepherds], have promised and granted to those who from a spirit of devotion [i.e., spirit of Antichrist] have resolved to enter upon and accomplish this holy and necessary undertaking, that full remission of sins which our predecessor, Pope Urban, granted....Following the example of our predecessor, and through the authority of omnipotent God and of St. Peter, prince of the apostles, which is vested in us by God, we grant absolution and remission of sins, so that those who devoutly undertake and accomplish this holy journey, or who would die by the way, shall

obtain absolution for all their sins which they confess with humble and contrite heart, and shall receive from him who grants to each his due reward the prize of eternal life."[162]

To those who would take and receive the mark of the Beast, the sign of the cross, a plenary indulgence was graciously given by the little horn who thinks to change laws to his benefit. All one need do is take Jerusalem back, by force, for Jesus. Of course, it was not to the crusaders' benefit, for the Bible explicitly states that neither murderers, nor thieves, nor idolaters, neither whatsoever worketh abomination or loveth and maketh a lie shall enter into the true holy city, spiritual New Jerusalem.[163] Through the granting of Crusade indulgences justification by works of blood while bearing the mark of the cross was established by the king of fierce countenance, that Man of Sin, the scarlet-colored Beast who speaks great words of blasphemy against the Most High God. To the eternal horror of the deluded crusaders, however, their eternal reward was Death with Hell, not Heaven, following.

CRUSADERS INVADING THE HOLY LAND FORESEEN BY DANIEL

"He shall enter into the glorious land, and many shall be overthrown....And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end and none shall help him."[164]

With historical knowledge of the Crusades and other major events we can view Scripture in a new light. The willful king, Antichrist, is described in this eleventh chapter of Daniel. We have already discussed vs. 36-39. But now we see another instance of divine synchronicity in attributing to the willful king works historically fulfilled by the Papacy, i.e., invading Jerusalem and occupying the Holy Land.

RECOVERING THE DEFILED SEPULCHRE OF THE LORD ANOTHER CLUE IN IDENTIFYING ANTICHRIST

"...the preaching of the crusades directed [the layman] to attack what was wrong - the possession by 'infidels' of the Sepulchre of Christ."[165]

"Woe be to you scribes and Pharisees hypocrites: ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, and say: if we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in the blood of the prophets. So then ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. Fulfill ye likewise the measure of your fathers. Ye serpents and generation of vipers, how should ye escape the damnation of hell?....that upon you may come all the righteous blood that was shed upon the earth...."[166]

Like the pious Roman Catholic priesthood whom they foreshadowed, the Pharisees were fixated on 'holy' sepulchres and venerating the dead. However, much to their chagrin the Lord Jesus saw through their phony facade, calling them by an extremely unflattering epithet, *hypocrites*.

The Lord further exacerbated the situation by exposing them as the Seed of the Serpent, murderers themselves, despite their prayers, religious grab and claims to holiness. It would be an understatement to admit our Lord appeared to be lacking in social graces, tact and diplomacy. Not to mention love, mercy and compassion: It seems especially rude if He purposed to shed His blood for them, winning them as converts. Rather than give them hope of eternal life, the Lord announced their eternal destiny in the *damnation of hell*. Like the Pharisees, whom Christ foretold were reprobates, so, too, are today's Pharisees and hypocrites, the dynasty of Popes and their advising minions.

As we continue deeper into our study of Church history, we shall uncover a veritable abyss of martyrs' blood shed by the same Church that today would have us believe is reformed, never again to ride to a Holy Crusade or burn a worthy heretic:

"The Supreme Pontiff, John XXIII., in a radio address delivered on September 11, 1962, stressed two points especially. The first dealt with peace between peoples. There is no one, who does not hate war, no one who does not strive for peace with burning desire. But the Church desires it most of all, because she is the Mother of all. Through the voice of the Roman Pontiffs, she never ceases to make an open declaration of her love for peace, her desire for peace."^[167]

In this short excerpt from official *VATICAN II*. documents, it would appear the Church of Rome is a new woman. She declares to be the *Mother of all*, while the Bible declares her to be the *Mother of Harlots*.^[168] Citing one office of the Pope, the rider on the white horse crying, 'Peace', we have an admission that the little horn with a mouth speaking great things is both Chief Oracle and Prophet,^[169] but who, like the king of fierce countenance, *by peace shall destroy many*.^[170] The Holy Spirit infallibly foretells that no genuine repentance will ever be found in her, only *the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all slain upon the earth*.^[171]

POPE LEO X. FULFILLS PROPHECY: RIDER ON A WHITE HORSE

By no mere coincidence, we have extant this day a vivid description of Leo X.'s coronation as pope. He is particularly infamous for having been the pope in power when Martin Luther lit the purgatorial fires of the Protestant Reformation. The following is a small excerpt from Roscoe's The Life and Pontificate of Pope Leo The Tenth, describing the procession which began from within the Vatican walls and culminated in his arrival at St. John's Lateran Church, A.D. 1513:

"The more splendid ceremony of the procession of the pope to take possession of the Lateran see, was postponed until the eleventh of April, being the anniversary of the day on which he had been made a prisoner at the battle of Ravenna, and already consecrated in the Roman calendar to S. Leo the great. That the contrast between his past misfortunes and his present prosperity might not be unobserved, he also chose to be mounted during procession on a favourite white steed, which had borne him on that occasion, and which from this day he released from all further service. This spectacle, at all times sufficiently superb, was now rendered much more magnificent by the desire of the citizens to gratify the predilection for

grandeur and for elegance, which the new pontiff was well known to possess....The streets and squares through which the pontiff had to pass, were spread with tapestry and strewn with flowers; the arms and emblems of the Medici were emblazoned with every variety of ornament; the most beautiful works in painting and sculpture of which the city could boast, or which the ingenuity and talents of the Roman artists could produce, were exultingly displayed; and triumphal arches with appropriate inscriptions gave to the whole the appearance rather of a Roman hero from conquest, than of the pacific procession of an ecclesiastical prince....The opinion which the public had already formed of the character of the new pontiff, strongly expressed in the numerous inscriptions which were displayed on the triumphal arches, and the palaces of eminent individuals. Of these, some alluded to his well known love of peace (*LEONI X. Pacis restitutori felicissimo*)."[172]

To compound the 'coincidences' between this eyewitness account of Leo's inaugural and the account given in Rev. 6:1, we need understand the significance of the term *coronation*. It is derived from the Latin word *corona*, meaning 'crown.' It is at the coronation that the individual being vested is crowned. Such is the case in the coronation of every pope. A Triple Tiara is given His Holiness, representing his authority to bind and loose in Heaven, on earth, and in Purgatory.[173]

"Tiara, a bee-hive shaped headdress...worn by the pope as an extra-liturgical insigne. The tiara is, or was, frequently called *triregnum* or corona." [174]

"In the course of the coronation ceremony, the Cardinal-Proto-Deacon places the tiara on the head of the Sovereign Pontiff saying: 'Accipe tiaram tribus coronis ornatum....' ('Receive the tiara adorned with three crowns')."[175]

Providentially, the official Latin Vulgate Bible translates the passage *and a crown was given unto him*: 'et data est ei corona.' [176]

But let us not stop there with the amazing parallels between prophecy and the Papacy. What about the *bow*? The rider had a bow. This is not the rainbow of the Lord which is set in the cloud. Nor is the Lord the rider. He carries a sharp sword, not a bow. The pope, and all his false prophets, the bishops, however, carry a bow: the *crozier*:

"CROSIER: a staff with a crook at the top, carried by or before a bishop or abbot as a symbol of his pastoral function." [177]

"It is some 5 ft. long, ending at the top in a crook bent inward, and made of metal ivory or wood." [178]

"CROOK: a curved thing..." [179]

"BOW: anything curved or bent." [180]

"The crozier, with the mitre, is pre-eminently important in heraldic art as an emblem of pontifical dignity. Like the scepter it is a sign of jurisdiction, pointing the symbolism of the Good Shepherd." [181]

Good Shepherd or Good-For-Nothing Shepherd?[182] Consider how the prophecy harmonizes with the papal fulfillment. And consider still that the current pope, John Paul II., rides a *white* popemobile encased in bullet-proof glass, proclaiming '*Peace*' to all humanity, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Yet for the skeptics this is not enough evidence. Then consider Rev. 6:3: *And there went out another horse that was red and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth.....* The Latin Vulgate translates that passage *datum est ei ut sumeret pacem de terra.* How many Christians are aware that the guiding force behind *VATICAN II.*, Pope John XXIII., wrote a renowned encyclical entitled, *Pacem in terris*, (Peace on earth)?:

"Eighth encyclical of John XXIII., issued April 11, 1963. Although widely hailed as an encyclical on international peace, in the narrow sense, it identifies peace with that unity of order that is based on respect for the law of God."[183]

Such is the mystery of iniquity when the Man of Lawlessness calls for respect for the law of God in the name of peace.

THE ALBIGENSE CRUSADES THE CRUELEST OF ALL

Before leaving the topic of the Crusades and the four horsemen of the Apocalypse we must mention, in passing for now, one of the most wicked excesses wrought by the papal horsemen: the slaughter, by infallible papal decree, of the innocent saints of *God* residing peacefully in southern France, A.D. 1200. Although not numbered among the eight officially acknowledged Crusades, its historical fact is catalogued by both papist and secular historians alike. Attributed to Innocent III., the Crusades ordered to exterminate the Christian Albigenses caused one Byzantine writer to remark:

"....Pope Innocent III. had become the successor of Caesar rather than St. Peter."[184]

It is the souls of these faithful Christian Albigenses that we see under the altar in the 5th Seal, among others. We will document their biblical beliefs and opposition to the apostate Roman Catholic Church and her Antichrist when we examine the faith, hope and charity of Innocent III., the pope whose hands were stained with the innocent blood of the true saints and martyrs of Jesus.

THE MOTIVE BEHIND THE GENOCIDE (cont)

We leave the slain souls seen in the 5th Seal with two troubling concerns. First, rather than pray, 'Lord have mercy on our murderers for they know not what they do', the martyred saints cry out

for vengeance, swift vengeance. How can this be? Elsewhere in Scripture the Lord admonishes us to love our enemies, bless them that curse us and pray for them that treat us spitefully.^[185] The slain saints under the altar are given white robes, symbolizing justification and sainthood, after praying against the four horsemen. Thus, their prayer was in the will of God. It was not God's will to forgive the murderers. It is God's will to wreak vengeance and justice on them instead. One critical aspect of the final execution of the Lord's retribution is seen in Revelation 18, the demise of Mystery Babylon. The multitude in Heaven are ecstatic, not mournful, crying, 'Alleluia, for he hath judged the great whore and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.'^[186] Ordinarily, such a response would be most unChristian and uncharitable. But not when that false Church has committed the unforgivable sin. For such there is no forgiveness.^[187] It is a sin unto death which St. John warns of.^[188] Thus, we are not to pray for the mercy of God on Mystery Babylon. We are, however, urged to evangelize, warn and call God's elect (*My people*) out of her.^[189]

A second area of concern is the response given the saints in the 5th Seal to their question, *how long is judgment to be delayed for their murders?* The voice's reply is chilling: *until the last saint preordained to be killed is killed*. It is at that point, and not before, that God's final judgment falls. Thus, the Church will continue to undergo great tribulation until the return of Christ. The tribulation and persecution began with the crucifixion of Christ, continued through to the deaths of the apostles, was prophesied to the seven churches, was evidenced in the 5th Seal and was promised to all the saints under the New Covenant, until their final redemption by Christ. No escape from the ravages of the Beast and his Church is even hinted at. Instead, Daniel's prophecy, *and the little horn shall speak great words against the Most High, and shall wear out the holy ones of the Most High*,^[190] addresses the interminable length of time they will undergo great tribulation: time, times, and half a time, i.e., 1260 years. Not a miniscule 3½ years as taught by Futurists. History bears out the exhaustive Crusades and Inquisitions, conducted over the centuries, by decree of the Roman Catholic Church, against the true saints, whom they labeled 'heretics'. This vital historical truth has been suppressed and covered-up, not only by Romanists, but by evangelical leaders, not the least of which is the Rev. Billy Graham.

THE TWO WITNESSES ARE KILLED FOR PROPHESYING AGAINST THE BEAST

The two prophets sent by God in Rev. 11 are not on a mission of mercy. Their message is not John 3:16. Rather it is 'Let My people go'. This false Church, her false prophets, and Beast have committed the sins of Ahab, forsaking the commandments of the Lord, following Baalim.^[191] Empowered with the Spirits of the prophets Moses and Elijah, the two witnesses torment the Beast by exposing him as Antichrist, the Man of Sin who goes into perdition. They do not ingratiate themselves to the false prophets by unmasking their fraud and deceit. And lastly, they torment the faithful of Mystery Babylon by condemning her sacraments and refusing to partake

in their blasphemy. For their faithful service to the living God the two witnesses suffer martyrdom.

To review: the Beast is not our ally, he is the enemy who murders the true saints. Neither is the Beast a Christian who ascends out of the abyss. Only the two witnesses are faithful to Jesus. That is why they ascend to Heaven. They are the true Christians.

REVELATION 12 SAINTS KILLED FOR THEIR TESTIMONY AGAINST THE BEAST

"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."^[192]

The accuser of the saints, Satan, has been cast down to earth by the successful atonement of Christ. It is from the point of Christ's ascension to Heaven (vs.5) that intense tribulation occurs for the true Church. Satan was not cast down 2,000 or more years after the crucifixion, as Futurists would have us believe by placing this chapter in the distant future.^[193] He has been feverishly active, signifying the 'woe' of vs. 12. This is yet another proof text that Scofieldism is in error. Rather than graciously find a place for Satan and his minions in Heaven for two millennia after Christ's ascension, Scripture states no place was found anymore for them (vs. 8). Colossians 2:15 declares that through Christ's crucifixion He *spoiled and stripped away principalities and powers, triumphing over them*. Furthermore, *all power is given to Christ in heaven and earth*.^[194] He is not sharing that power and authority with Satan in Heaven. Thus, Christ reigns and reigns alone.

The word of the saints' testimony got them killed. It is the testimony of Jesus (vs.17). The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.^[195] The testimony of the two witnesses was also the spirit of prophecy. The two witnesses of Rev. 11 and the martyrs of Rev. 12 are the same people with the same spirit, only under different figures. Both groups have prophetic testimony directed against the Beast, his Church and false prophets. Both groups keep the commandments of Jesus. The Dragon makes war with the saints through his vicar, the Beast.

In review: Satan is not our friend, he is the enemy. Satan desires the death of God's people. Satan was a murderer from the beginning. God's people can be identified by their testimony, worship and life. God's people have the testimony of Jesus. Prophecy is not hidden to them. They know who the enemy is. God's people keep His commandments. The Beast and his Church break God's commandments and kill those who keep them. Those who kill, break God's commandments and are not Christians, nor are they in Heaven.

REVELATION 13 SAINTS KILLED FOR THEIR TESTIMONY AGAINST THE BEAST

"He that leadeth into captivity, shall go into captivity: he that killeth with a sword, must be killed with a sword. Here is the patience, and the faith of the saints."^[196]

The patience and long suffering of the saints is noted here. The Beast, little horn, wears out the saints of the Most High. Not for 3½ short years, but for 1260 long years. The faith of the saints is also highlighted. They will be captured, imprisoned and killed for their biblical, uncompromising orthodoxy. Their faith refuses communion with the Beast, his Church and false prophets. For this there is war of interminable duration against them in which the saints' bodies are killed. These same saints refuse the sacraments of Antichrist and his Church. They will not receive the mark of the Beast, the sign of the cross on their right hand or forehead. The saints described in Rev. 11, 12, 13 are all the same people and of the same spirit, under different figures. All have been sealed on their foreheads with the seal of the living God. All have wisdom and understanding in the prophetic Scriptures.

In review: Satan, his vicar, the Beast, and false prophet are not our allies. They are our enemies intent on our death and destruction. They are murderers, not Christians. They will cajole, coax and compel the world to receive the mark of the Beast. The true Christians will refuse, discerning the nature of the Beast and his sacraments, resulting in their death.

REVELATION 14 SAINTS ARE KILLED FOR TESTIFYING AGAINST THE BEAST

"Here is the patience of saints. Here are they that keep the commandments and the faith of Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me: write: Blessed are the dead, which hereafter die in the Lord, even so saith the spirit: that they may rest from their labours, but their works shall follow them."^[197]

Once again, the saints are seen dying for their faith. It is not the twisted faith of Joseph Smith or the Roman Pontiff. It is the faith of Jesus. Jesus gave them His faith by grace. This grace was signified by their sealing in Rev. 7. These saints have the same faith and testimony as those saints in the 5th Seal, as well as those in Rev. 11, 12, and 13. Here the testimony they held is elucidated:

1. Fear God alone.
2. Give glory to Him alone.
3. The hour of His judgment is come.
4. Worship God alone.
5. Babylon is fallen and doomed.
6. The world is fornicating with her.

7. Do not worship the Beast.
8. Do not worship images.
9. Do not receive his mark on your forehead or right hand.
10. Eternal damnation is promised to unrepentant who do.[198]

In review: The saints of God adhere to all the above admonitions, faithfully. That is why they are killed. The Beast and his Church are murderers, not Christians. They do not hear the words of this prophecy, nor will they ever.

CONCLUSION :

THE VICTIMS WHO HOLD THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS, WHO ARE KILLED BY THE BEAST, HIS CHURCH AND FALSE PROPHETS, ARE THE TRUE CHRISTIANS - THEY ARE NOT HERETICS

This may seem an obvious point to the reader. But it is one which we cannot make strong enough. The saints are not the sinners, nor are the sinners the saints. The victims are not the murderers, and the murderers are not the victims. The saints are the victims, the true Christians. The murderers are not saints, nor are they remotely Christian.

It is most important to keep these elementary prophetic teachings in mind as we peruse Church history. By investigating the past we can reveal undisputable facts. Such pertinent facts as:

1. What happened in Christianity before my new birth?
2. Were persecutions being committed against the Church?
3. If so, who was committing these crimes and why?
4. Who were the victims and why were they killed?

By answering these critical questions, we can solve, beyond a reasonable doubt, the murder mystery of iniquity and identify the Beast, Antichrist, and his Church, Mystery Babylon.

NOTES

1. op. cit., #602, #601.
2. op. cit., p. 62.
3. See any dictionary.
4. Revelation 1:3.
5. Exodus 4:11; Mark 7:32 ff.
6. James 1:5.
7. Revelation 1:1.
8. Revelation 1:3.
9. Revelation 22:6.
10. Revelation 22:10.
11. Revelation 22:18.
12. Revelation 1:19.
13. Matthew 23:31; Revelation 11:7.
14. Deuteronomy 28:25, 64; 31:29.
15. The Glories Of Mary, St. Alphonsus Maria De Liguori, (Tan Books and Publishers, Rockford, IL, 1977 Reprint of 1756 Edition), p. 184, O GRACIOUS ADVOCATE.
16. See Elliott for his interpretation of prosperity. Most commentators equate this omen with famine.
17. The New Saint Joseph Baltimore Catechism, op. cit., p. 207, answer to question: HOW DOES THE CHURCH BY MEANS OF INDULGENCES REMIT THE TEMPORAL PUNISHMENT DUE TO SIN?
18. Tyndale: 1 John 5:13.
19. Callender, op. cit., Transl., Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent, THE RASH CONFIDENCE OF PREDESTINATION TO BE AVOIDED and THE GIFT OF PERSEVERANCE, p. 465.
20. Genesis 38:9.
21. The New Saint Joseph Baltimore Catechism, op. cit., PURGATORY IS GOD'S HOSPITAL, pp. 90-91.
22. Saint Joseph Daily Missal, op. cit., PRAYER OF THE LITANY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, p. 1305.
23. Catechism of the Catholic Church, op. cit., 969.
24. *ibid.*, ¶956, THE INTERCESSION OF THE SAINTS.
25. *ibid.*, ¶958.
26. Revelation 9:14-19.
27. Revelation 9:20-21.
28. Revelation 10:8-10.

29. Revelation 11:2.
30. Revelation 11:5-6.
31. Revelation 11:7.
32. Revelation 11:9.
33. Revelation 11:10.
34. Revelation 12:1-2.
35. Revelation 12:3-4.
36. Revelation 12:6, 14.
37. Revelation 12:17.
38. Revelation 13:1-6.
39. Revelation 13:7.
40. Revelation 13:11-15.
41. Revelation 13:16-18.
42. Revelation 14:1-5.
43. Revelation 14:6-11.
44. Revelation 15:2.
45. Revelation 16.
46. Revelation 17:1-5.
47. Revelation 17:6.
48. Revelation 17:3.
49. Revelation 17:9.
50. Revelation 18:2.
51. *ibid.*
52. Revelation 18:24.
53. Revelation 18:21-23.
- 53a. Revelation 19:10.
54. Revelation 19:11-21.
55. Revelation 19:20.
56. Revelation 20:1-3.
57. Revelation 20:7-8.
58. Revelation 20:10.
59. Revelation 20:6.
60. Revelation 20:11-14.
61. Revelation 20:11-15.
62. Revelation 20: 15.
63. Revelation 21:8, 27; 22:15.
64. Revelation 21: 10-14.
65. Revelation 22:18-19.
66. Scofield, *op. cit.*, note on Revelation 4:1.

67. There's A New World Coming, Hal Lindsey, (Harvest House Publications, Eugene, OR, 1984), pp. 60-61.
68. Tyndale: 1Thessalonians 5:1-10.
69. Lindsey, op. cit., p. 62.
70. Tyndale: Revelation 2:4-5.
71. *ibid.*, Revelation 22:7, 12, 20.
72. *ibid.*, Revelation 16:1, 15.
73. Harkavy, op. cit., Isaiah 19:1.
74. Tyndale: Matthew 24:42-43.
75. Harkavy, op. cit., Zechariah 11:17.
76. Tyndale: Revelation 3:2-3.
77. Matthew 13:24-30.
78. Romans 3:24-30.
79. Revelation 18:10.
80. Elliott, op. cit., vol. 4, pp. 47-48.
81. Revelation 18:23a, KJV.
82. Tyndale: Revelation 16:15.
83. *Westminster Confession of Faith*, 1647, Chapter 25, OF THE CHURCH, ¶6.
84. Harkavy, op. cit., Daniel 12:2.
85. John 5:28-29, KJV.
86. Tyndale: Revelation 20:4-6a.
87. *ibid.*, Revelation 20:11-15.
88. Hal Lindsey, op. cit., p. 62.
89. *ibid.*, see Rapture Graph, p. 8.
90. Matthew 24:27, 30, 36, KJV.
91. Hal Lindsey, op. cit., pp. 259-60.
92. *ibid.*, pp. 262-63.
93. 1 Corinthians 15:22-26, KJV.
94. Revelation 20:7-9.
95. Numbers 26:10-11.
96. *STRONG'S*: 2719.
97. Tyndale: 1Corinthians 15:51-55.
98. 1Corinthians 15:51-52, KJV.
99. Tyndale: Luke 11:22-23.
100. The Antichrist, Arthur W. Pink, (Bible Truth Depot, Swengel, PA, 1923), pp. 16, 20, 23, 26.
101. *ibid.*, pp. 32, 33.
102. Boniface VIII, *Unam Sanctum*, (Holy Unity).
103. See Chapter 3, note 177.

104. Leo XIII encyclical, CHIEF DUTIES OF CHRISTIAN CITIZENS; cited by Paul Blanshard, American Freedom and Catholic Power, (The Beacon Press, Boston, 1949), p. 338.
105. Hal Lindsey, op. cit., p. 219.
106. ibid., p. 11.
107. Israel Our Duty.....Our Dilemma, Theodore Winston Pike, (Big Sky Press, OR, 1984), p. 190.
108. Global Peace And The Rise Of Antichrist, Dave Hunt, (Harvest House, Eugene, OR, 1990), p. 149.
109. The Coming Prince, Sir Robert Anderson, (Kregal Publications, Grand Rapids, 1984 Reprint), pp. 302, 304.
110. This present writer has followed Mr. Missler's ministry for several years.
111. This author was an eyewitness.
112. The Millennium, Loraine Boettner, (Presbyterian. and Reformed Publishing Co., N.J., 1957), pp. 211-12.
113. 1John 2:18-19.
114. 1John 4:3.
115. Revelation 1:9.
116. John 3:19b-20, KJV.
117. Original Sources in European History, (Univ. of PA, 1902), THE CALL TO THE FIRST CRUSADE, 26 NOV. 1095, cited by Barry, op. cit., vol. 1, p.326.
118. Voices of the Past, op. cit., p. 92.
119. Daniel 9:26.
120. Revelation 9:11.
121. Catechism of the Catholic Church, op. cit., ¶841.
122. ibid. , ¶845.
123. Daniel 7:25.
124. Rev. Marino Priori, op. cit., pp. 73-74.
125. op. cit., article, CRUSADES, p. 770.
126. ibid., p. 775.
127. ibid., p. 793.
128. ibid., p. 798.
129. ibid., p. 793.
130. ibid., p. 794.
131. Daniel 7:8.
132. Voices of the Past, op. cit., p. 93.
133. ibid., pp. 98-99.
134. Daniel 9:26; referring to Titus and his Roman army pillaging the Temple of its sacred artifacts; cf. Arch of Titus.
135. Ironically, the Roman Catholic Crusaders claimed to recover the lance thrust into the

Lord's side while on their First Crusade.

136. Cited by Translations and Reprints From The Original Sources Of European History, (Univ. of PA, 1897), pp. 15-16.

137. *ibid.*, pp. 17-18.

138. *ibid.*

139. *ibid.*, pp. 18-19.

140. *ibid.*, p. 20, citing *Epistolae Bk. viii., No. 63*.

141. Ante-Nicene Fathers, Rev. Alexander Roberts, D.D., and James Donaldson, LL.D., Editors, (The Christian Literature Publishing Co., Buffalo, 1885), vol. 1, Chap. 30, ¶3.

142. *ibid.*, Chap. 25, ¶1.

143. *ibid.*, ¶3.

144. *ibid.*, ¶2.

145. *ibid.*, ¶4.

146. *ibid.*, Chap. 26, ¶1.

147. *ibid.*, Chap. 30, ¶2.

148. *ibid.*, ¶4.

149. Encyclopedia Britannica, *op. cit.*, article, ROMAN EMPIRE, LATER, p. 437.

150. *ibid.*, article, CONSTANTINE, P. 300.

151. New Catholic Encyclopedia, *op. cit.*, article, CROSS, p. 475.

152. *STRONG'S*: 3528.

153. *ibid.*, 5515.

154. See Encyclopedia Britannica, *op. cit.*, for all facts on Constantine.

155. See Chapter Four, note 90.

156. *op. cit.*, p. 301.

157. Robinson, *op. cit.*, POPE URBAN'S ADDRESS AT CLERMONT, pp. 315-16.

158. New Catholic Encyclopedia, *op. cit.*, article, CROSS, p. 479.

159. *ibid.*

160. *WEBSTER*.

161. Encyclopedia Britannica, *op. cit.*, article, CRUSADES, p. 770.

162. Robinson, *op. cit.*, INDUCEMENTS OFFERED TO THOSE WHO WOULD TAKE THE CROSS, Pope Eugenius III., A.D. 1146.

163. 1Corinthians 6:9-10; Revelation 21:8, 27; 22:15.

164. Harkavy, *op. cit.*, Daniel 11:41, 45.

165. Encyclopedia Britannica, *op. cit.*

166. Tyndale: Matthew 23:29-33, 35.

167. The Documents of Vatican II, *op. cit.*, MESSAGE TO HUMANITY, pp. 5-6.

168. Revelation 17:5. 169. Daniel 7:8.

170. Daniel 8:24-25.

171. Revelation 18:24.

172. The Life And Pontificate Of Leo The Tenth, William Roscoe, citing original Vatican Latin manuscripts, (London, 1806), vol. 2, pp. 247-252.
173. Other explanations are suggested for the three crowns; cf. Heim, op. cit., pp. 51- 52.
174. New Catholic Encyclopedia, op. cit., article, TIARA.
175. Heim, op. cit., p. 51.
176. Bibla Sacra iuxta Vulgatam Clementinam, op. cit., Revelation 6:1.
177. *WEBSTER*.
178. Encyclopedia Britannica, op. cit., article, CROZIER.
179. *WEBSTER*.
180. *ibid*.
181. Helm, op. cit., p. 64.
182. Zechariah 11:17.
183. New Catholic Encyclopedia, op. cit., article, *PACEM IN TERRIS*, p. 851.
184. Encyclopedia Britannica, op. cit., article, EUROPE, p. 848.
185. Matthew 5:44.
186. Revelation 19:1-2.
187. Matthew 12:31-32.
188. 1John 5.16.
189. Revelation 18:4; 14:6-11.
190. Harkavy, op. cit., Daniel 7:25.
191. 1Kings 18:18.
192. Tyndale: Revelation 12:11.
193. Hal Lindsey places this event in the middle of the future 7-year great tribulation period, op. cit., p. 163. He and Scofield both view the man child as Christ and the ascension Christ's ascension. Thus, not all of Rev. 12 is future, exposing a glaring inconsistency.
194. Matthew 28:18.
195. Revelation 19:10.
196. Tyndale: Revelation 13:10.
197. *ibid*., Revelation 14:12-13.
198. Revelation 14:6-11.