

## Babylon

Bible prophecy uses Babylon as a symbol for the power that would rise against God in the end times. Studying ancient and modern Babylon will help us understand the prophecies about the coming end-time Babylon.

### Babylon through History

#### Ancient Babylon

Ancient Babylon, according to the Scriptures, was the center of ancient worship. It was larger and more impressive than any other city of its time. Babylon reached the height of its power and glory under Nebuchadnezzar.

Ancient inscriptions tell how Nebuchadnezzar and his father Nabopolassar restored the ancient tower of Babel, a monument to the power of humanity. Nabopolassar said this:

*At the time Marduk commanded me to build the tower of Babel, which had become weakened by time and fallen into disrepair; he commanded me to ground its base securely on the breast of the underworld, whereas its pinnacles should strain towards the skies.*

Approximately 300 years before King Xerxes of Persia destroyed Babylon, the prophet Isaiah predicted its fall:

*And Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there (Isaiah 13:19-20).*

#### Modern Babylon

In spite of Isaiah's prophecy, there have been attempts to rebuild Babylon. Alexander the Great tried to restore the tower of Babel to its original glory and make the city his capital in 330 BC, but he died before he could begin.

More recently, Saddam Hussein of Iraq was also restoring Babylon, a work he began in the 1980s. He used approximately 60 million bricks in the process and had his name engraved every three meters so that he would be remembered.

However, Hussein must have read the prophecies of Isaiah. His restorations were not an attempt to inhabit the city. Instead, he had his palace built on the other side of the Euphrates River.

## End-Time Babylon

Babylon, the great city we read about in the book of Revelation, does not refer to literal Babylon, as that was never to be inhabited again. Rather, Revelation is referring to end-time Babylon, a much greater fulfillment of all that ancient Babylon stood for.

End-time Babylon will be a confederacy of intolerance and false doctrine. This end-time confederacy, however, will fall just like ancient Babylon did. It will even fall for the same reasons—because it will seduce all the nations of the earth into following its false doctrines (Revelation 14:8). Christ will put an end once and for all to all the lies, deception, and hatred when He comes.

## Who is End-Time Babylon?

In Revelation 14:6-13, the Bible tells us about three mighty angels that have three very important messages for the people living in the last days. The Second Angel mentions Babylon in its message saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication” (Revelation 14:8).

In order to understand this message, it is essential that we identify end-time Babylon. Numerous verses in the book of Revelation warn against Babylon, and admonish God’s people to come out of Babylon. How can those wishing to align themselves with God come out of Babylon if they don’t know what it is? The message in Revelation 14:8 is repeated more forcefully in Revelation 18:2 and reveals the spiritual decay of this system:

*And he cried mightily with a strong voice saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.*

The unclean and hateful birds are a reference to a counterfeit Holy Spirit that would power the system, leading people to believe that they are working with the power of God.

Revelation 18:4 holds an even stronger admonition:

*Come out of her My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*

God would not warn His people to come out of Babylon if it were impossible for them to identify Babylon. During the early Christian centuries, Jewish and Christian literature referred to the city of Rome as Babylon. 1 Peter 5:13 also refers to Rome as Babylon. Peter wrote these words while in Rome, at a time when literal Babylon no longer existed:

*The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son.*

Surprisingly enough, even Roman Catholics acknowledge this association:

*"Babylon," from which Peter addresses his first Epistle, is understood by learned annotators, Protestant and Catholic, to refer to Rome - the word Babylon being symbolic of the corruption then prevailing in the city of the Caesars.<sup>i</sup>*

## **The Woman of Revelation 17**

Revelation 17 gives us a glimpse of what Babylon will be like. Using prophetic language, it describes a woman who rejects God with her whole being:

*And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH (Revelation 17:4-5).*

The woman that rides the Beast in Revelation 17 has all the identifying features of Rome. In fact, Rome applies the very symbolism employed in this chapter to herself. Remember that the name "Babylon" refers to papal Rome and its allies.

In the Bible, a woman represents a church:

*I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate woman (Jeremiah 6:2).*

Isaiah the prophet extends the symbol of a woman to that of a bride. The pure bride represents the pure Church:

*For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee (Isaiah 62:5).*

Hosea describes the union of God and His people:

*And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies (Hosea 2:19).*

The same symbolism is employed in the New Testament:

*...for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2).*

*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such*

*thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish (Ephesians 5:25-27).*

*Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready (Revelation 19:7).*

This beautiful picture of Christ and His Bride, the Church, is marred by the image of a church, “With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication” (Revelation 17:2).

The Roman Catholic Church is the only church on Earth that fulfills these identifiers of the woman called Babylon in Revelation 17:

### **The Mother**

Babylon is described in Revelation 17:5 as the “mother of harlots,” which refers to apostate religious systems or churches. If the Church is the chaste woman faithful to her husband, then Babylon is the opposite: that system of worship that is unfaithful to God, has a mystery religion, and teaches and practices abominations.

The harlot daughters must then represent those churches that follow her false teachings and subject themselves to her rule or, even worse, officially accept Rome’s leadership as authoritative.

Rome claims to be the mother of all the churches. At the entrance of St. John Lateran Cathedral in Rome there is a huge Latin inscription *Sacrosancta Lateranensis ecclesia omnium urbis et orbis ecclesiarum mater et caput*, which translated into English reads, “Sacred Lateran Church. Church mother and head of all the churches of the city and the world.”

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* calls the Church, “Mother and Teacher”<sup>ii</sup> The “Dominus Iesus” faith declaration says, “It must be always clear that the one, holy, catholic and apostolic universal church is not the sister, but the mother of all the churches.”<sup>iii</sup>

### **The Great City**

The word *Vatican* is derived from the words *vatis*, which means “diviner,” and *can*, which means “serpent.” Vatican City and St. Peter’s Basilica were built on the ancient pagan site called in Latin *vaticanus mons*, which means “hill of prophecy.”

Coins minted in Vatican City often bear the inscription *CITTÁ DEL VATICANO*, which means “City of Prophecy.” The Church of Rome thus applies the title of “City” to its structure. The full title of the Vatican State is *Stato Delle Città Del Vaticano*, which is the combination of church and state.

There is also a woman on the reverse side of the coin, and at her feet is her title,

*FIDES*, which means faith. This woman is symbolic of the Roman Catholic Church, which claims power over all governments on Earth.

*And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth (Revelation 17:18).*

Rome claims to control all governments on Earth. The Jesuit oath says this:  
...by the virtue of the keys binding and loosing, given to his Holiness by my Saviour, Jesus Christ, he has power to depose heretical kings, princes, states, commonwealths and governments, all being illegal without his sacred confirmation, and they may be safely destroyed.<sup>iv</sup>

The description of the woman of Revelation 17 fits all the aspects of Rome. We are told in Revelation 17:1 that she "sits on many waters" (NKJV). These waters represent the nations of the world:

*And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues (Revelation 17:15).*

The fallen Church, represented by the woman, must therefore be a universal Church. The word "catholic" actually means "universal." The Roman Catholic Church claims to be the universal or worldwide Church and, as we have seen, she claims to have authority over all nations.

### **The Chalice**

*And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication (Revelation 17:4).*

The woman with the golden chalice in her hand is a common symbol in Roman Catholic sculptures and paintings. No other Christian denomination has depicted itself in this manner. According to Revelation 17, the cup is full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication, which represent false doctrine that she has made all the nations drink.

*And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication (Revelation 14:8).*

The reformers exposed these misguided doctrines during the Reformation, but sadly, the Protestant churches of today are willing to set aside their doctrinal differences with Rome in order to achieve Christian unity. However, unity achieved through sacrificing truth will not last.

Following is a list of the main doctrines challenged by the reformers and reconfirmed by Rome during the Council of Trent:

1. Transubstantiation
2. Justification by faith and works
3. The medieval mass
4. The seven sacraments
5. Celibacy
6. Purgatory
7. Indulgences
8. Papal authority to enforce the decrees of the Council, and promised obedience to the Pope from church officials.<sup>v</sup>

The veneration of Mary has also been upheld and, in fact, increased.

Transubstantiation is the claim that Jesus' physical body is offered every time the mass is held:

*Marvellous dignity of the priests, in their hands as in the womb of the blessed virgin Mary the Son of God becomes incarnate. Behold, the power of the priest! The tongue of the priest makes God from a morsel of bread, it is more than creating the world.<sup>vi</sup>*

*Canon 1: If anyone denies that in the sacrament of the most Holy Eucharist are contained truly, really and substantially the body and blood together with soul and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ and consequently the whole Christ, but says that He is in it only as in a sign, or a figure or force, let him be anathema.<sup>vii</sup>*

The Bible, however, clearly says, "by one sacrifice he has made perfect for ever those who are being made holy" (Hebrews 10:14 NIV).

### The Colours and the Riches

*I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication (Revelation 17:4-5).*



Catholic cardinals frequently wear scarlet. Catholic priests wear red on Good Friday, Palm Sunday, Pentecost, and other special occasions. They wear purple on Advent, Lent, and at funerals. On some of those days, other colors are also worn, including white, green, black, rose, and gold.

Riches are lavished on the icons of Catholicism. Gold, pearls, and precious stones and pearls deck the statues of Mary and the saints in the Vatican. The rebuilding of St. Peter's Basilica in the 16th century involved the genius skill of Michelangelo, Bernini, Raphael, and the other great artists of the day. The riches and treasures lavished on the stately buildings of the Roman

Catholic Church are beyond description.

The official clothing worn by the Pope on special occasions is richer in gold and jewelry than any earthly crown. The papal tiara on display in the Vatican Museum is valuable beyond comprehension.

### Seven Hills

*And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth (Revelation 17:9).*

There is more than one interpretation for this text. Literally speaking, Rome is known as the city of seven hills. The Vatican sits on one side of the Tiber River, facing the seven hills.

In ancient times, hills were sacred high places, used to worship and offer sacrifices to deities. The systems of worship were based on salvation by works, and also included a counterfeit saviour or Messiah and mediators of both sexes. The gods that were worshiped in these places were manifestations of the sun god who was androgenic in that he/she could manifest himself/herself in the male or the female form.

One further reason why the end-time religious confederacy, under the leadership of the Papacy, is called "Babylon" is that the Babylonian system of worship is has been passed down through history. Its rituals and doctrines are present in Catholicism, as well as religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, earth religions, and even Islam.

### On Her Forehead is Written Mystery

*On her forehead was a name written: "Mystery, Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth" (Revelation 17:5).*

Rome itself applies the term "Mystery" to its own institution and teachings. Pope John Paul II referred to the "mystery of the Church."<sup>viii</sup>

"Mystery" is also the term used by the Roman Catholic Church to refer to the mass, or the transubstantiation of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ. In the liturgy of the mass, the priest refers to the "Mystery of the Faith."

The Catholic rosary is also associated with the mysteries of the faith. There are 15 decades of prayer (150 recitations) and during each of these decades, one of the "mysteries" is recalled. The 15 Mysteries of the Rosary are divided into four groups: the Joyful, the Sorrowful, the Luminous, and the Glorious.



## Babylonian Religion

### Gateway of the Gods

*Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication (Revelation 14:8).*

The name “Babylon” is derived from the Greek word *BAB-ILU*, which means “the gateway of the gods.” This meaning represents an access to salvation that is contrary to God’s plan. In Babylon, access to God is granted through the system, and not through faith in Jesus. It is a system where salvation by works replaces salvation by faith.

To add to the confusion (something that the word “Babylon” can also mean, as in Genesis 11:9), the Babylonians believed in numerous gods and intercessors. This voided the ministry of Jesus, whose sacrifice is sufficient for every person’s need. Instead the Bible’s way to salvation, which is faith in Jesus, Babylon offered multiple gods to worship and set rituals to follow to ensure acceptance by the gods.

### Salvation by Works

The Babylonian system of worship has always been a snare to God’s people. It is more comfortable for us to earn salvation through good deeds than to simply accept that we need help. The belief that our good deeds can save us is at the heart of every religion on Earth except Christianity. Unfortunately, this “salvation by works” error can now be found in Christian circles as well.

When we believe that we can earn our salvation through action, we put our trust in ourselves instead of in God. We may even think that certain spiritual disciplines can make us better or more worthy, and we may feel that we deserve eternal life. This belief gives us a sense of power, and we end up believing our good works will “buy” the favor of God, or at least somehow “appease” Him.

All of these beliefs are contrary to the truth of the Bible. God is the One who initiates our salvation, and has always had a plan to save us by His actions. He already loves us—we already have His favor. He extends to us undeserved mercy and grace and salvation before we ever knew Him (See Romans 5:8).

Salvation by works and salvation by grace have been in confrontation with each other from the very beginning. One is from God and one is from the devil. The story of Cain and Abel illustrates this point.

Abel listened to God’s words and brought a lamb as an offering, while Cain brought the fruits of his own labor. God accepted Abel’s offering and not Cain’s, which aroused Cain’s anger, provoking the first act of violence between these two systems of worship. Ever since then, the fires of religious persecution have been burning on this planet.



## End-Time Babylon's Religion

We have learned that papal Rome is the end-time Babylon, along with its allies. Today, no one seems to know any difference between the Papacy's unBiblical doctrines and what God's word really says.

Religious practices and sacraments cannot contribute to salvation. If by one sacrifice Christ justifies the sinner who comes to Him in repentance, then doctrines such as purgatory have no Biblical basis.

In fact, Catholic doctrine completely negates the ministry of Christ and replaces it with salvation by the system. The Pope becomes the supreme leader, the priest becomes forgiver of transgressions, and Mary becomes the mediator between humanity and God. God is portrayed as a wrathful tyrant demanding rituals and ceremonies, refusing to give anyone salvation unless they beg and show great piety.

Roman Catholic teachings minimize the role of Jesus in the salvation of souls, and at best place Him on a par with any of the founders of other world religions. Either Jesus is God, and as such the only One in heaven and Earth that can save us, or He is not. Compromise on this issue is impossible. The Bible clearly says, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

## Separating Salvation from the Saviour

The Catholic Church is striving to reverse the effects of the Reformation. Among their many initiatives is the ecumenical movement, which presents the concept that all religions can be unified under the Pope.

In 1965, Roman Catholic theologian Karl Rahner was given the task of reconciling all the churches and religions with Rome. This was done under the pretense that salvation could be found in all faiths, provided that they acknowledge the supremacy of Rome. By allowing other religions to provide their own path to salvation, the Catholic Church minimized the role of Christ as Saviour.

This new false teaching was introduced into the world's institutes of higher education, and Catholic theologians and scholars spread the idea with vigor. For example, Paul Knitter, Professor of Theology at Xavier University and student of Karl Rahner at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, wrote a book in 1985 titled *No Other Name? A Critical Survey of Christian Attitudes toward World Religions*. In this work, he propagates the idea that Jesus Christ is not the only way to salvation.

Catholic professor Leonard Swidler writes this about Knitter's book:

*Paul Knitter faces honestly the conundrum of what the committed Christian believer does theologically in the face of growing evidence, scholarly and from personal*

*encounter, that there are other ways of leading a full, authentic human life, than the Christian way...This is first-rate creative theology. It is theology done the only way it can be done today: In dialogue with other world religions and with one's own Christian tradition.*

This is indeed “creative theology,” but it is not Biblical theology. Notice how the definition of salvation has been changed to “leading a full, authentic human life,” sufficiently accommodating all worldviews so that the theology of ecumenism can be conducted in “the only way it can be done today.”

## **The Counter Reformation**

In Revelation 17, Babylon (papal Rome) is described as a bloodthirsty power that persecutes and kills God's people:

*I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus (Revelation 17:6).*

We know from Daniel 7 that the Antichrist (papal Rome) is a power that will “persecute the saints of the Most High” (Daniel 7:25 NKJV).

*It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue (remnant) with its feet. (Daniel 7:7 NKJV).*

This description certainly describes the history of the Roman system. Whether under pagan control or papal control, Rome seems to have always persecuted any who stands in its way or refuses to acknowledge its supremacy.

## **History**

For [1260 years](#), the Catholic Church had total dominion of the Roman world. Under its control, people were kept ignorant, chained by superstition and tradition. Anyone who refused to bend to the Church's supremacy was persecuted mercilessly. Thousands were tortured and put to death. The Church seized lands and assets of those who refused to participate in its political and religious aspirations.

## **The Protestant Reformation**

After those long years of dark oppression, God brought light and life back to the people. Through the invention of the printing press, the Bible was given to the common people in their own language. Through the efforts of reformers such as Wycliffe, Tyndale, Luther, Huss, Calvin, Knox and others, the Catholic Church no longer had control over the world.

## **The Catholic Counter Reformation**

The Roman system did not remain powerless. As soon as it had opportunity, the Catholic Church launched an elaborate scheme to counter the Reformation's effects. Now known as the Counter Reformation, the plan was spearheaded by the Jesuit

order and was carried out under the guise of sincere devotion to the cause of Christ.

The doctrines of preterism and futurism, published in 1585 by Jesuit priests Alcasar and Ribera, countered the Reformation truths. Preterism stated that the Antichrist was the Greek king Antiochus Epiphanus IV, and not the papal system. Futurism pushed the Antichrist into a future time of tribulation just before Christ's Second Coming.

Futurism is tied in with dispensationalism, which includes the belief that during the end-time tribulations God's people won't be present on Earth but will be silently and secretly whisked away.

The doctrine of higher criticism, started in 1678 by the Catholic theologians Richard Simon and Dr. Alexander Geddes, called into question the plainest Scripture teachings on history and origins. The writings of Moses were dismissed as myths, and faith was thrown out.

Here are the key tools used to counter the Reformation:

### Negating Creation

The Catholic Church has officially negated the Creation account of the Bible. The official declaration by Pope John Paul II was heralded in the international press.

*TIME* magazine carried the headline "Vatican Thinking Evolves: The Pope gives his blessing to natural selection though man's soul remains beyond science's reach."<sup>ix</sup> In the article, the Pope is quoted as saying, "new knowledge leads us to recognize that the theory of evolution is more than a hypothesis."<sup>x</sup>

In 1999, Jesuit Guy Consolmagno made an even more astounding comment during an interview with *Elm Street* magazine, stating that creationism is "a 19th-century heresy. The ancient Church fathers knew better than to interpret the Bible that way."<sup>xi</sup>

### Elevating Tradition Over Scripture

The Catholic Church has, in the past, tried to prohibit the reading and distribution of the Word of God. In fact, Pope Paul IV listed the Scriptures under the *Index of Prohibited Books* in 1599. In 1462, Archbishop Adolphus broke up the printing establishments of Gutenberg and Schoeffer in order to prevent Bible circulation.<sup>xii</sup>

When banning the Bible could not quench the Word, the Word was made void through the doctrines of higher criticism. The authority of tradition was made more important than Scripture. The Church's teachings that are in direct opposition to the plain "Thus saith the Lord."

Even today, Rome has not changed this stance:

*The fact that Scripture and Tradition belong together accounts for two rules that direct the way the Church approaches God's revelation. The first of these rules is stated very simply by Vatican II in these words: It follows from what has been said that the Church does not draw its knowledge of all that God has revealed from holy Scripture alone. That is why both (Tradition and Scripture) must be accepted and respected with equal affection and honour. Secondly, the unbreakable bond between Scripture and Tradition accounts for the fact that for Catholics, Tradition is the context within which the Scriptures are interpreted, just as Tradition itself has to be understood and lived with reference to Scripture.<sup>xiii</sup>*

*Now if God commands me under pain of damnation to believe what He has taught, He is bound to give me the means to know what He has taught. What is this means? "The Bible," say the Protestants. But we Catholics say, "No, not the Bible, but the Church of God."<sup>xiv</sup>*

Jesus had a strong rebuke in John 5:46-47 for those who chose to question the validity of Scripture:

*For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me, for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?*

### **Making the Pope Infallible**

The infallibility and absolute authority of the Pope was another Catholic doctrine questioned by the reformers. Father Bonaventure Hinwood, spokesman for the Catholic Church, confirms this doctrine as follows:

*It is obvious that the Church cannot fall into error in carrying out this service towards divine revelation. But if the Pope is the center and guarantee of this unity, and if he enjoys full authority in matters of faith and morals, then it follows that he, too, cannot lead the Church into error in matters concerning divine revelation.*

*There is only one body that carries the supreme apostolic authority in the church, and that is the College of Bishops in union with its head, the Pope. Thus whenever the Pope makes full use of his power as visible head of the Church, he acts as head of the Apostolic College. This is why Vatican I insisted that when the Pope exercises his supreme teaching authority, he is protected from error by that same infallibility which Christ willed for His Church. The Cardinals designate the new Pope. On the new Pope's acceptance of this designation, he receives directly from Christ all the power necessary for the exercise of the papal ministry. These include the charisma of infallibility.<sup>xv</sup>*

That is akin to making the Pope God. In 1302, Pope Boniface VIII proclaimed this: We define that it is absolutely necessary for salvation that every human creature be subject to the Roman Pontiff.<sup>xvi</sup>

In 1894, Pope Leo XIII said this:

*We have constantly sought during the whole course of Our Pontificate and striven, as far as it was possible, by teaching and action, to bind every Nation and people more closely to Us, and make manifest everywhere the salutary influence of the See of Rome...We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty.<sup>xvii</sup>*

This doctrine of papal infallibility is strong evidence that the Roman Catholic Church is the Antichrist—the one that will try to take the place of Christ. The apostle Paul cited this type of pride as the Antichrist’s greatest crime:

*Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).*

### **The Effects of the Counter Reformation**

The Roman Catholic effort to suppress the truths of the Reformation has been generally successful. The false teachings of Rome have permeated through the religious systems of the world and Protestant churches are often not only accepting these teachings, but also propagating them in their own seminaries and sanctuaries.

Virtually the entire Christian world has accepted either preterism, the doctrine that the Antichrist has come, or futurism, the doctrine that the Antichrist has yet to come. The doctrine on the immortality of the soul has opened the way for spiritism and false manifestations.

By accepting these teachings, and thereby unwittingly accepting papal primacy, Protestantism has fallen and become part of Babylon.

Those that followed the reformers did not continue the progress the reformers accomplished. Instead of pushing onward, studying Scripture and being vigilant against papal infiltration, Christians have slowly allowed themselves to be taken over.

This may be a surprise to many living today, but it was not a surprise to Henry Grattan Guinness, author of *Romanism and the Reformation*, who wrote this:

*The Reformation of the sixteenth century, which gave birth to Protestantism, was based on scripture. It gave back to the world the Bible. It taught the Scriptures; it exposed the errors and corruptions of Rome by the use of the sword of the Spirit. It applied the prophecies, and accepted their practical guidance. Such Reformation work requires to be done afresh. We have suffered prophetic anti-papal truth to be too much forgotten. This generation is dangerously latitudinaria—indifferent to truth and error on points on which Scripture is tremendously decided and absolutely clear.*

*Our reformed faith is thus endangered both from without and from within, and it can be defended only by a resolute return to the true witness borne by saints and martyrs of other days. We must learn afresh from Divine prophecy God's estimate of the character of the Church of Rome if we would be moved afresh to be witnesses for Christ as against this great apostasy.*

*We feel constrained to renew the grand old protest to which the world owes its modern acquisitions of liberty, knowledge, peace, and prosperity. We recognize it as a patent and undeniable fact that the future of our race lies not with Papists, but with Protestants. Its leading nations this day are not Papal Italy, Spain, and Portugal, but Protestant Germany, England, and America. Romanism is apostate Latin Christianity—not apostate Christianity merely, but apostate Latin Christianity.<sup>xviii</sup>*

### **The Fall of Protestantism**

There was a time when Protestants had the courage to say that the little horn of Daniel 7, the Antichrist, is the Papacy. But today they are silent. There was a time when Protestants believed that God created the earth in six literal days, but many have adopted the theory of evolution like Rome. Many Protestant churches have rejected the Flood and Creation accounts of Genesis, calling them myths.

When the truth of God's holy Sabbath was brought to the Protestant world and its leaders, they rejected it and clung to the tradition of Sunday worship—a tradition of the Catholic Church. And through the ages, the churches of the world have continued to reject the truth of God's Sabbath.

Today, Protestantism as a whole is dead. Although individual Christians within each denomination may be walking according to all the light they have received, Protestantism itself, as a whole, is no longer what it used to be. The lines have become blurred.

*The man who thinks he can be a Protestant and yet reject the Bible or some portion of it, is making a profound mistake...true Protestantism cannot only be anti-Catholic...it must also be anti-modernist, anti-evolutionist, and against every evil that is sapping the life of the Christian churches of today. At the same time it must be in favor of every good thing—prayer, Bible study, and all that is meant by Christian service. That is the Protestantism that is so sorely needed.<sup>xix</sup>*

In spite of the rejection of truth by the formal churches, God has a special invitation for His honest, sincere children. God does not want His children to remain in this fallen state of Babylon. He appeals to them in Revelation 18:4:

*Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues (NKJV).*

God wants us to identify the Antichrist and to be acquainted with its sinister workings, so that we don't participate in its crimes against God. He knows that many

have no idea how wide and deep the Antichrist system works today. That's why He has given us prophecy in the Bible. With the Word, we can inform ourselves and be aware and principled about what we believe and do.

In Isaiah 1:18, God shows us that he wants us to use our intellect to make informed choices about who we serve and how:

*Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*

The Reformation drew a line between the Roman system and God's people, and at the end of time, that line will again be drawn more clearly and distinctly than ever before.

This article is adapted from Truth Matters by Professor Walter J. Veith.

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ii Article 3, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

iii "Dominus Iesus" (August 6, 2000).

iv [www.thenazareneway.com/society\\_of\\_jesus\\_jesuits.htm](http://www.thenazareneway.com/society_of_jesus_jesuits.htm)

v Paul Johnson, *History of Christianity* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1979): 410

vi *Eucharist Meditations*: 111.

vii Council of Trent, session 13, Chapter VIII.

viii Vatican Information Service (September 17, 1997).

ix Burke, Collins, and Kamlani, "Vatican thinking Evolves," *TIME* (November 6, 1996).

x Ibid.

xi Alison Rose, "Science of Heaven," *Elm Street* (December 1999): 30.

xii Samuel Smiles, *The Huguenots* (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1868): 17.

xiii Alphonse de Liguori, *Dignity and Duties of the Priest* (Milwaukee: Our Blessed Lady of Victory Mission, 1927).



- xiv "An Open Letter To Non-Catholics," *Our Catholic Faith Website*.
- xv Bonaventure Hinwood, *More Answers to Your Questions* (Human & Rousseau, 1983).
- xvi Pope Boniface VIII, Papal Bull *Unam Sanctam* (November 18, 1302).
- xvii Pope Leo XIII, *Praeclara Gratulationis Publicae* (June 20, 1894).
- xviii Henry Grattan Guinness, *Romanism and the Reformation* (Hodder and Stoughton, 1887): 8-9.
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