

Supplemental Notes:

The Kingdom of Blood

The History of the Church

Who is the Woman that rides the Beast in the Book of Revelation? What are the implications of the current "Ecumenical" movement?

This briefing package explores the tragic misconceptions and surprising implications of the history of the church: the violence, injustice, and false worship imposed on a desperate humanity.

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The Kingdom of Blood

Tape 1: The History of the Church

Introduction

The View from the World: Bigotry, bloodshed.
The View from Israel: Merciless persecution.
The View of Jesus Christ: 7 Report Cards:¹ All were surprised! By 96 AD the church(es) were already in trouble! The Book of Acts is our only reliable guide.

Why is this dismal, violent history important? One cannot understand the present (and the prophetic future) without a perspective of history. One cannot understand the Protestant Reformation without an appreciation of the history that led up to it.

The Early Church (30-300 AD)

The Rise of Rome

Rome was founded in 753 BC. It subdued Italy in 343-272 BC; Carthage, 264-146 BC; Greece, Asia Minor, 215-146 BC; Spain, Gaul, Briton, Teutons, 133-31 BC. Rome conquered Judea in 63 BC. In its zenith it spread from the Atlantic to the Euphrates, from the North Sea to the African Desert. Pop: 120 million.

Julius Caesar (46-44 BC). Thus, began the Empire. Augustus (31 BC-14 AD), Christ was born in his reign. Tiberú (37 AD), Christ was crucified in his reign. Caligula (37-41);

unsuccessful attempt at desecration of Temple. Claudius (41-54). Nero* (54-68); persecutions, blaming his burning of Rome on Christians; executed Paul. Galba (68-69). Otho, Vitellius (69). Vespasian (69-79); destroyed Jerusalem (Ancestor of Antiochus Epiphanes?). Titus (79-81). Domitian* (81-96). Brief but violent, several thousand slain, John banished to Patmos. Trajan* (98-117); sought to uphold the laws, Christianity regarded illegal, formalities of emperor worship. Hadrian* (117-138). Antoninus Pius* (138-161); Bar Kochba revolt, Aelia Capitolina (and Temple to Jupiter) replaces Jerusalem. Marcus Aurelius* (161-180); Most severe since Nero, peak of Roman power.

The Decline

Commodus (180-192). Barrack Emperors (192-284); appointed by army, Civil War. Septimius Severus* (193-211). Caracalla (218-222); tolerated Christianity. Elagabalus (218-222). Alexander Severus, (222-235); favorable to Christianity. Maximin* (235-238). Phillips (244-249); very favorable to Christianity. Decius* (249-251); persecuted Christians furiously. Valerian* (253-260). Galienus (260-268); favored Christians. Aurelian* (270-275). Diocletian* (284-305); persecuted Christians furiously, most severe; systematically attempted to abolish all by tortuous death. [Catacombs of Rome: hundreds of miles, 4000 inscriptions of as many as 2-7 million graves.]

(* = persecuted Christians)

Christianization of the Roman Empire (300-400)

Constantine (306-337) became identified with Christians himself. Eve of battle of Milvain Bridge, just outside Rome, Oct 27, 312 AD, he claimed he saw a vision. His Edict of Toleration established freedom of religion; it favored Christians at court; exempted Christian ministers from taxes. He issued a general exhortation (325 AD) to all his subjects to become Christians.

[The Latin equivalent of the Greek “anti” (meaning “in the place of,” not necessarily adversative) is *vicarius*. Thus, “vicar of Christ” literally means Antichrist. The Roman Bishops were not the first to use this term, but inherited it from Constantine, the emperor. He was the first ecumenist, convening and presiding over the first ecumenical council, the Council of Nicea in 325 AD. As head of the pagan priesthood he was *Pontifex Maximus*. He adopted the additional title, *Vicarius Christi*, “another Christ”—that is, acting in His place—the Vicar of Christ. A prototype of one yet to come. [See our briefing package, *Behold the White Horse*.]

[Since the Roman aristocracy persisted in adhering to their pagan religions, Constantine moved his capital to Byzantium, calling it Constantinople (“New Rome”), which became the capital of the empire (330 AD). After the separation of Rome with Byzantium, the self-assumed role of the rival Bishops of Rome began the pa-

pacy as we know it.] Constantine was obsessed by seeking unity within the empire: Mithras, sun worship, Christianity appeared to him to be unifiable. His reforms included Sunday worship, forbidding work on Sundays (a big deal to the slaves); he also reduced slavery, gladiatorial fights, killing of unwelcome children (!); and crucifixion as a form of execution was abolished.

Julian, 361-363 (“The Apostate”) sought to restore paganism. Jovian (363-364) reestablished the Christian religion. Theodosius (378-395) made Christianity the state religion. He forced conversions and filled the churches with unregenerates. Ambition to rule, heathenism, and pomp emerge in the worldly church.

The Empire Divided

West

Honorius, 395-423
Valentinian III, 423-455
Western Empire fell in 476
to the Barbarians, ushering
in the Dark Ages.

East

Arcadius, 394-408
Theodosius II, 408-450
Anastasius, 491-518
Justinian, 527-565
Eastern Empire fell,
1453.

The Bishops of Rome

Pope means “Papa,” or “Father.” It initially applied to all Western bishops. About 500 AD it began to be restricted to the Bishop of Rome. For 500 years the Bishops of Rome were NOT popes. The Roman Catholic tradition that Peter was the first pope is fiction, without any historical (or

Biblical) basis whatsoever. There is no evidence that Peter was ever a Bishop of Rome. (His own foreboding over successors appears in 1 Pet 5:3: "Neither as being lords over [God's] heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.") Early Roman Bishops attempted to influence and control other bishops, but with no significant effect.

Silvester I (314-335) was Bishop of Rome when Constantine virtually made Christianity the state religion of the Roman Empire. Constantine regarded himself as head of the church, calling and presiding over the Council of Nicaea (AD 325). The Bishops of Alexandria and Antioch were accorded full jurisdiction over their provinces, as was the Roman Bishop over his, without even a hint that they were subject to Rome.

By the end of the 4th century the churches and bishops had come to be largely dominated from five primary centers: Rome, Constantinople, Antioch, Jerusalem, and Alexandria.

These Bishops had come to be called Patriarchs, of equal authority, each in control of their own province. After the division of the Empire (AD 395), Antioch, Jerusalem, and Alexander came to acknowledge the leadership of Constantinople. Subsequently, the struggle between Constantinople and Rome began.

Siricius (395-398), Bishop of Rome, in his lust for worldly power claimed universal jurisdiction

over the church. But unfortunately for him, in his day the Empire divided (395 AD) into two separate empires, East and West.

[This struggle remains to this day: it is the root of the bloodshed in the Croatia Bosnian-Serbian conflict in the region of Yugoslavia today. There are three ethnic traditions, three religions, three different sources of support: the Roman Catholics, the Eastern Orthodox, and the Muslims. There is no "high ground": they all have accumulated atrocities over the past 1500 years.]

These "jawbone" attempts continued until Leo I (440-461), whom some historians regard as the first pope. The east was beset with controversies; the west, under weak emperors, was breaking up before the barbarians. He obtained from Emperor Valentinian III imperial recognition for his claim as Primate of All Bishops (445). In 452 he persuaded Attila the Hun to spare the city of Rome. In 455 he induced Genseric the Vandal to have mercy on the city. His reputation was made. He declared himself Lord of the Whole Church, advocated exclusive universal papacy, resistance to his authority was a sure path to Hell, and he advocated the death penalty for heresy.

However, the Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon (451), composed of bishops from all over world, had given the Patriarch of Constantinople equal prerogatives with the Bishop of Rome.

The Fall of Rome

Simplicius (468-483) was the Roman "Pope" when the Western Empire came to an end (476). Free of civil authority, the fragmented kingdoms of the barbarians left ample opportunity for individual advantageous alliances, and, ironically, the Pope became the most commanding figure in the West.

Gregory I (590-604) is regarded by many as the first Pope. He appeared at a time of political anarchy throughout Europe. His conspicuous leadership over the various kings stabilized the times. He labored unceasingly over the purification of the church, deposed neglectful or unworthy bishops, opposed the sale of offices ("simony"), etc. In his personal life he was a good man, one of the purest and best of the popes. If more had been as he was the world would have a different estimate of the papacy.

Charlemagne

Zacharias (741-752) was instrumental in making Pepin, father of Charlemagne, King of the Franks (a Germanic people occupying western Germany and northern France). Stephen II (752-757) requested Pepin to lead his army to Italy and conquer the Lombards, which had pillaged Italy. He succeeded and gave a large part of central Italy to the Pope, which was the beginning of the Papal States, a temporal dominion which continued for 1100 years (until King Victor Immanuel returned these lands to the Kingdom

of Italy in 1870.) Pepin's son, Charlemagne, (who was also the grandson of Charles Martel, who had saved Europe from Islam by his victory at the Battle of Tours, 732) was one of the greatest rulers of all time. He reigned 46 years with many wars and conquests of vast magnitude. His realm included what is now Germany, France, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Belgium, and parts of Spain and Italy.

He helped the Pope and the Pope helped him. He was one of the greatest influences in bringing the Papacy to a position of world power.

After his death, the Treaty of Verdun (843) divided his empire into what became the foundations of Germany, France and Italy, and a ceaseless struggle between the Popes and the German and French kings began. The "Holy Roman Empire" lasted 1000 years until Napoleon brought it to an end in 1806.

Nicholas I (858-867) was the first Pope to wear a crown. It was about this time (857) that a book appeared, "The Isidorian Decretals," which purported to be letters and decrees of Bishops and Councils of the 2nd and 3rd centuries. (Centuries later they were discovered to be deliberate forgeries.) They were designed to exalt the power of the Pope, stamping the Papacy with the authority of antiquity, antedating the Pope's temporal power by five centuries. They are regarded as the most colossal literary fraud in history.

The Great Cleavage

The image of Daniel 2 split into two legs: east and west. Up to 869 all Ecumenical Councils had been held in or near Constantinople, and in the Greek language. Nicholas undertook to interfere in the affairs of the Eastern Church. He excommunicated Photius, Patriarch of Constantinople, who in turn excommunicated him. The claims of the Roman Church became unbearable and the East finally separated itself. (The breach became wider through the centuries. The brutal treatment of Constantinople by the armies of Pope Innocent II during the Crusades, and the creation of the dogma of Papal Infallibility in 1870 deepened the chasm even more.)

9th century: Eastern Church separated itself from the West (Rome). The East: Primitive Christianity + Greek & Oriental paganism. The West: Primitive Christianity + Greek & Roman paganism.

The Darkest Period of the Papacy

The 200 years between Nicholas I and Gregory VII (870-1050) are called the "midnight of the Dark Ages." Bribery, corruption, immorality, and bloodshed mark this blackest chapter of the church.

Sergius III (904-911) had a mistress, Marozia. She, her mother Theodora, and her sisters filled the Papal chair with paramours and bastard

sons and turned the Papal den into a den of robbers. This is called in history "the Rule of the Harlots" (904-963).

John X (914-928) was brought from Ravenna to Rome and made Pope by Theodora for her more convenient gratification. He was smothered to death by Marozia, who then in succession raised to the Papacy Leo VI (928-929), Stephen VII (929-931), and John XI (931-936), her own illegitimate son.

Another of her sons appointed the four following Popes: Leo VII (936-939), Stephen VIII (939-942), Martin III (942-946), and Agapetus II (946-955). John XII (955-963), a grandson of Marozia, was guilty of almost every crime; he violated virgins and widows, lived with his father's mistress, made the Papal Palace a brothel, and was killed while in the act of adultery by the woman's enraged husband.

Benedict VIII (1012-1024) and John XIX (1024-1033) bought the Office of the Pope with open bribery. Benedict IX (1022-1045) was made Pope as a boy 12 years old, through a money bargain with the powerful families that ruled Rome. He committed murders and adulteries in broad daylight; robbed pilgrims on the graves of martyrs; a hideous criminal, the people drove him out of Rome. Some call him the worst of all the Popes.

There were three rival Popes in 1045-1046: Benedict IX, Gregory VI, and Sylvester III. Rome swarmed with hired assassins; the virtue of pil-

grims was violated. Clement II (1046-1047) was appointed Pope by Emperor Henry III of Germany "because no Roman clergyman could be found who was free of the pollution of simony and fornication."

Golden Age of Papal Power

The cry for reform was answered by Hildebrand who led the Papacy into its Golden Age (1049-1294). He controlled five successive administrations prior to his own: Leo IX (1049-1054); Victor II (1055-1057); Stephen IX (1057-1058); Nicolas II (1059-1061); and Alexander II (1061-1073). He became Gregory VII (1073-1085) and undertook a major reform, especially simony. Practically all bishops and priests purchased their offices from the kings and this brought him in conflict with King Henry IV, Emperor of Germany.

Devastating wars followed and Italy was devastated by the opposing armies. Gregory was eventually driven from Rome and died in exile. But he had succeeded in making the Papacy independent of Imperial power.

Innocent III (1198-1216) was the most powerful of all the Popes. He claimed to be "Vicar of Christ," "Vicar of God," "Supreme Sovereign over the Church and the World." "All things on earth and in heaven and in hell are subject to the Vicar of Christ." The kings of Germany, France, England, and practically all the monarchs in Europe obeyed his will, including the Byzantine Empire. Never in history has any one man exerted

more power. He ordered two crusades; decreed transubstantiation, confirmed auricular confession, declared papal infallibility, condemned the Magna Carta, forbade the reading of the Bible in the vernacular, instituted the Inquisition, ordered the extermination of heretics, etc. More blood was shed under his direction and that of his immediate successors than in any other period of church history (except in the Papacy's effort to crush the Reformation in the 16th and 17th centuries).

The Inquisition

Called "The Holy Office," it was instituted by Pope Innocent III and perfected by Pope Gregory IX. Under it everyone was required to inform against heretics. Anyone suspect was liable to torture, without knowing the name of his accuser. The proceedings were secret. The Inquisitor pronounced sentence and the victim was turned over to civil authorities to be imprisoned for life or to be burned. The victim's property was confiscated and divided between the church and the state.

The Inquisition claimed vast multitudes of victims in Spain, Italy, Germany, and the Netherlands and did its most deadly work against the Albigenses.

The Albigenses, or Cathari, in southern France, northern Spain and northern Italy preached against the immoralities of the priesthood, worship of saints and images, completely rejected the clergy and their claims, opposed the

claims of the Church of Rome, made great use of the Scriptures, and lived self-denying lives with a great zeal for moral purity. By 1167 they embraced a majority of the population of southern France and were very numerous in northern Italy. In 1208 Pope Innocent III ordered a crusade in which the bloody war of extermination utterly wiped out town after town—the inhabitants murdered without discrimination—until all of the Albigenses were utterly wiped out.

The Waldenses, a similar but not identical group in the same region emphasizing Bible reading and rejecting clerical usurpation and profligacy were similarly wiped out (but for the few survivors in the Alpine Valleys southwest of Turin who are now the leading Protestant body in Italy). It is recorded that in the 30 years between 1540 and 1570 no fewer than 900,000 Protestants were put to death by the Pope's war for the extermination of the Waldenses.

For 500 years the Inquisition was the most diabolical thing of human history. For its record, none of the subsequent line of "holy" and "Infallible" Popes have ever apologized. Rather, their leadership and instigators have been elevated to sainthood.

Boniface VIII (1294-1303), in his famous Bul, "Unam Sanctam" said, "We declare, affirm, define, and pronounce that it is altogether necessary for salvation that every creature be subject to the Roman Pontiff." (However, he

was so corrupt that Dante, who visited Rome during his pontificate, called the Vatican a "sewer of corruption," and assigned him, along with Nicolas III and Clement V, to the lowest parts of Hell.) The martyrs' blood (Rev 17:6) from the inquisition(s) alone vastly outnumber the deaths under the Roman Caesars. Roman Catholicism became "the most persecuting faith the world has ever seen." Innocent III murdered far more Christians in one afternoon than any Roman emperor did in during his entire reign.² In Spain alone over 3 million are recorded in Canon Llorente's History of the Inquisition. These horrors remain as memorials to the dogmas which remain in force today. Millions over the centuries who simply refused to align themselves with the Roman Catholic heresies, dogmas, and practices were martyred for their faith.

The French Control of the Papacy

The Papacy had been victorious in its 200-year struggle with the German Empire, but met their match in Philip the Fair, King of France, with whom the history of modern France begins. After the death of Pope Benedict XI, the Papal Palace was removed from Rome to Avignon on the south border of France and for 70 years the Papacy was the mere tool of the French Court (1305-1377). For the next 40 years there were two sets of Popes, one at Rome and one at Avignon, each claiming to be "Vicar of Christ," hurling anathemas and curses at each other.

John XXIII (1410-1415), called by some the most depraved criminal who ever sat on the Papal throne, was guilty of almost every crime. As Cardinal in Bologna, 200 maidens, nuns and married women fell victim to his amours; as Pope he violated virgins and nuns; lived in adultery with his brother's wife; was guilty of sodomy and other nameless vices; bought the Papal Office; sold Cardinalates to children of wealthy families; and openly denied the future life.

Renaissance Popes

Pius II (1458-1464) was said to have been the father of many illegitimate children, spoke openly of the methods he used to seduce women, encouraged young men, and even offered to instruct them in methods of self-indulgence. Paul II (1464-1471) "filled his house with concubines." Sixtus IV (1471-1484): sanctioned the Spanish Inquisition, decreed that money would deliver souls from Purgatory, was implicated in a plot to murder Lorenzo de Medici and others who opposed his policies, and used the Papacy to enrich himself and his relatives. He made eight of his nephews Cardinals while some of them were mere boys. In wealth and pomp he and his relatives surpassed the old Roman families.

Innocent VIII (1484-1492) had 16 children by various married women. He multiplied church offices and sold them for vast sums of money, decreed the extermination of the Waldenses, appointed the brutal Thomas of Torquemada

Inquisitor General of Spain, and ordered all rulers to deliver up heretics to him.

Alexander VI (1492-1503) is called the most corrupt of the Renaissance Popes: licentious, avaricious, depraved; he bought the Papacy, made many new cardinals for money, had a number of illegitimate children whom he openly acknowledged and appointed to high church office while they were yet children—and they with their father murdered cardinals and others who stood in their way. He had for a mistress a sister of the cardinal who became the next Pope, Pius III (1503). Julius II (1503-1513), is called the Warrior Pope. The richest of the cardinals with vast income from numerous bishops and church estates, he also bought the Papacy. He maintained and personally led vast armies and issued indulgences for money.

Reformation Period

In the year 1483 in Eisleben, Saxony, a baby boy was born to a poor coal miner. As he grew up and observed the poverty of his father, this boy, named Martin, chose to pursue a different vocation. He decided to become a lawyer and, in 1501, entered the University of Erfurt, where he excelled in his studies. As he came to the end of his schooling in 1504, an event took place which changed his life. While he was walking the campus grounds, a storm broke so forcefully that Martin fell on his face in fear. The thunder was deafening and lightning struck all around

him, including a tree next to him. Instinctively, he cried out to the patron saint of coal miners, whose name he had heard invoked during his childhood, "Saint Anne! Save me from the lightning. If you save me I will become a monk." Shortly thereafter the storm stopped.

Being a man of his word, Martin withdrew from Law school and entered an Augustinian monastery where he applied himself so diligently that he obtained a Doctorate of Theology within a few years. But the more he studied, the more troubled his heart became; for although he was becoming an expert in theology, he lacked peace personally. The question he repeatedly wrote in his diary was: "How can a man find favor with God?"

In search of such peace, Martin devoted himself to an exceedingly pious lifestyle. He would fast for ten to fifteen days at a time. When temperatures dropped below freezing, he slept outside without a blanket. Between his studies, he beat his body until it was black and blue and bleeding—hoping that somehow by punishing his flesh, he could rid himself of the thoughts and motives that he knew were not right. (These were typical practices of the medieval church.) He went to confession so many times a day that finally the abbot said, "Martin, either go out and commit a sin worth confessing or stop coming here so often."

Martin was introspective and continually plagued by what he knew of his own depravity

and sinfulness. Once, while sitting at his desk writing theology, he felt the presence of Satan so tangibly that he grabbed a bottle of ink and hurled it across the room to where he thought the devil was standing. The bottle crashed against the wall and left a mark that can still be seen today.

Finally, in 1509, Martin decided to make a pilgrimage to Rome in hope of finding the elusive peace for which he longed. He set out on foot and crossed the Alps. On his descent, he almost died of a high fever before making his way to a monastery at the foot of the mountains. There the Brothers nursed him back to health. While there, a wise monk approached him and said, "You need to read the Book of Habakkuk." And so Martin did just that. He read Habakkuk. Good suggestion. Habakkuk was a struggler just like Martin. Like us today: If God is good, why does He allow suffering? If there really is a devil, why doesn't God just obliterate him?

We throw out questions, then plunge into our personal pursuits—and wonder why we don't get answers. One verse captured Martin's imagination: Hab 2:4. "The just shall live by faith." He couldn't get it out of his mind.³

Having recovered sufficiently to continue his journey to Rome, he went to the Church of St. John's Lateran, a typical cathedral of that day. There is a staircase there that is said to be from Pilate's judgment hall. The existing

stairs are in four parts: the special inner two are said to have been transported there miraculously from Jerusalem. The outer two are ordinary. The inner steps are not walked on. Here pilgrims mount painfully on their knees, a step at a time, saying prayers as they go. The pope had promised an indulgence to all who would undergo this rite.

As Martin repeated his prayers on the Lateran staircase, Hab 2:4 suddenly came into his mind: "the just shall live by faith." He ceased his prayers, returned to the University of Wittenberg, went on to explore the revolutionary idea of "justification by faith," and on October 31, 1517, nailed his now famous 95 theses to the door of the Württemberg Castle Church, and started the movement known today as the Reformation—the single most important event in modern history.⁴ His name, of course, was Martin Luther.

The church leadership didn't like the implications of his views and ultimately, at the Diet (council) of Worms (a town), they excommunicated him as a heretic. In 1520, the Bul was issued excommunicating Luther: retract within 60 days or death. Luther burned it publicly (Dec 10, 1520). Diet of Worms: 1521; Charles V, Emperor of "the Holy Roman Empire" (Germany, Spain, Netherlands and Austria) summoned him to appear. "Here I stand; I can do naught else; so help me God." [He went on to write commentaries that are classics today; hymns like, "A Mighty Fortress is our God"; and translated the

entire Bible into German, a classic which remains the literary masterpiece in the Germanic tongue.]

Thus, the 16th century: The Reformation. An effort to restore primitive Christianity, free from all paganism; Open Bibles, Religious Freedom.

Counter-Reformation Wars

The centuries of wars began. The war on the German Protestants (1566-1609); war on the Protestants of the Netherlands (1566-1609); Huguenot Wars in France (1572-1598); Philip's attempt against England (1588); Thirty Years War (1618-1648); all started by Roman Catholic Kings urged on by the Pope and Jesuits for the purpose of crushing Protestantism. The thousands martyrs by the Caesars of Pagan Rome were dwarfed by the millions of the Vatican.

Leo X (1513-1521) was Pope when Luther started the Protestant Reformation. He was made an Archbishop at 8; a Cardinal at 13; was appointed to 27 different church offices, which meant vast income, before he was 13. He appointed Cardinals as young as 7. He maintained the most luxurious and licentious court in Europe. This voluptuary reaffirmed the *Unam Sanctam*, in which it is declared that every human being must be subject to the Roman Pontiff for salvation. He issued indulgences for stipulated fees and declared the

burning of heretics a divine appointment. Adrian VI (1522-1523). Paul III (1534-1549) had many illegitimate children. A determined enemy of the Protestants, he offered Charles V an army to exterminate them.

The Jesuits

Rome's answer to the Lutheran secession: the Inquisition under the leadership of the Jesuits, an order founded by Ignatius Loyola, a Spaniard, on the principle of absolute and unconditional obedience to the Pope, having its object the recovery of territory lost to Protestants and Muslims and the conquest of the entire heathen world for the Roman Catholic Church. Their supreme aim: the destruction of heresy—that is, thinking anything different from what the Pope said or thought. For this accomplishment anything was justifiable: deception, immorality, vice, even murder.

In France they were responsible for St. Bartholomew's Massacre; persecution of the Huguenots, revocation of the Toleration Edict, and the French Revolution. In Spain, Netherlands, south Germany, Bohemia, Austria, Poland, and other countries they led in the massacre of untold multitudes, and thus saved the Papacy from ruin.

[St. Bartholomew's Massacre: Catherine de Medici, mother of the King, an ardent Romanist and willing tool of the Pope, gave the order and on the night of August 24, 1572, 70,000 Hugue-

nots were massacred. There was great rejoicing in Rome. The Pope and his College of Cardinals went in solemn procession to the Church of San Marco and ordered the *Te Deum* to be sung in thanksgiving; he then struck a medal in commemoration of the massacre and sent a Cardinal to Paris to bear the King and Queen-Mother the congratulations of the Pope and Cardinals.]

Rediscovery of the Bible Spreads

Switzerland: Zwingli; Calvin. Netherlands, Scandinavia, Scotland: John Knox. Bohemia: pop. 4,000,000: 80% Protestant in 1600. When the Hapsburgs and Jesuits had done their work, only 800,000 were left, all Catholics. In Austria and Hungary: half the population were Protestant; all were slaughtered.

Recent Times

Leo XIII (1878-1903) claimed that he was appointed to be head of all rulers and that he holds on this earth the place of Almighty God. He emphasized Papal Infallibility; pronounced Protestants "enemies of the Christian Name." He proclaimed the only method of cooperation was complete submission to the Roman Pontiff. Denounced "Americanism."

Pope Leo XII reproved Louis XVIII for granting the "liberal" French Constitution; Pope Gregory XVI denounced the Belgian Constitution of 1832. The suppression of freedom of con-

science, and the oppression, imprisonment, and torturous death of non Catholics has characterized their primary agenda for centuries. The unholy alliances with the totalitarian governments of Hitler and Mussolini were but a continuation of these consistent policies. Hitler viewed his Jewish policies as manifestly consistent with the churches over the previous centuries—only more efficient. The 1929 Concordat with Mussolini and the 1933 Concordat with Hitler are a matter of record. (It was as a boy at a Benedictine monastery at Lambach that Hitler first encountered the swastika which he later adopted.) The silence of the church during the Holocaust still strains credibility. Hitler and Mussolini, to this day, have never been excommunicated.

Non-Biblical Doctrines

Bible Reading: Innocent III; Gregory IX; Clement XI; Leo XII, Pius VIII, Gregory XVI and Pius IX all condemned reading the Bible and Bible societies.

Tolerance: Clement VIII, Innocent X, Leo XII, Pius VIII, Pius IX, Leo XIII, all condemned, rejected, annulled and protested religious freedom. They cry “tolerance” only in countries where they are in the minority. They have fought religious freedom at every step.

Indulgences (and the doctrine of purgatory): Key source of revenue. Pope Sixtus IV (1476) was the first to apply them to souls already in

Purgatory. Even retailed. In 1517, John Tetzel came to Germany selling certificates, signed by the Pope, offering pardon of all sins to buyers without confession, repentance, or absolution by the priest.

The Vatican has consistently and viciously opposed every democratic advance from absolute monarchies (which she aspired to control) toward government by the people. This began with the Magna Carta in England (June 15, 1215), “The Mother of European Constitutions,” which was denounced immediately by Pope Innocent III (1198-1216), and encouraged King John with foreign mercenaries to fight the barons, bringing great destruction to the country. Subsequent popes did all in their power to help John’s successor, Henry III, overturn the Magna Carta. (Salaries to the numerous imported Italian priests were 3X the crown’s annual revenue!)

Ecumenical Goal: the Ultimate Sell-Out

The most significant event in 500 years of church history: March 29, 1994: Joint declaration “Evangelicals and Catholics Together: The Christian Mission in the Third Millennium.” The compromise of the Gospel lies at the heart of the agreement. The Gospel hasn’t changed. Did the millions who willingly gave their lives do so over a misunderstanding? The persecution of Protestants is still the official policy—enforced only where their domination makes it possible. The evangelicals signed a truce.

Yet Rome is stepping up its evangelization of Protestants into the Catholic Church with its "Evangelization 2000."

The Pope Begs Forgiveness!

On May 22, 1995, at an abandoned Soviet air base in Moravia, to relatively modest audience by papal standards (100,000), the Pope asked forgiveness for all of the sins of omission and commission by the Roman Catholics against Christians through the ages! From a historical perspective, that admission was astonishing! At first glance, it would seem to eradicate a major barrier between Catholics and Protestants—centuries of conflict relegated to the dusty tomes of history of a tragic era. But perhaps that was precisely the stratagem: to position the Vatican for its bid to lead a global ecumenical movement. It is my private suspicion that this move was, at least in part, a response to Dave Hunt's milestone work, *A Woman Rides the Beast*. (We will let Dave summarize some of his research in his own words in the accompanying tape.)

Target: Jerusalem

Dec. 30, 1993: The historic Vatican recognition of Israel. Jerusalem is to be internationalized, not governed by Israel. The internationalization of the Temple Mount may prove to be a major prophetic event of the coming year. The entire world will ultimately go to war over Jerusalem (Zech 12, 14, etc.).

Conclusions

The Roman Catholic Church: The wealthiest, most powerful institution on the Planet Earth today. Almost one billion followers, 20% of the world's population [483,488 priests, 3,000 bishops, 211,156 parishes.] And it has an agenda.

The Roman Catholic Church—the Vatican—is poised to become the vehicle for the final ecumenical union of all religions. The religion of the Antichrist will not be atheism, Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, or New Age. It will be a paganized form of Christianity. And the preparations are already visible in the ecclesiastical world. The very fact that it is "not fashionable" to speak of Catholic doctrine in Evangelical circles today is, itself, provocative from a prophetic viewpoint! Rev 13:8: "All that dwell upon the earth...." Eastern, Western Orthodox, Protestants, along with Islam... 2 Thess 2:4: "All that is called God...." Dan 2:44: "In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom..." which clearly reveals that it was not the time during His ministry to set up His father David's Throne.

Further, the true Church will not "gradually take over the world." God's kingdom will be established suddenly by cataclysmic intervention from heaven (Dan 2:34,35). Only Acts is reliable (Cf. Rev 2 & 3). The climax is coming, just as predicted: An ecumenical one-world religion, in Christian trappings.

Your Action Plan

- 1) Recognize that the Gospel is your personal possession—not the tradition of any institution or denomination. Personalize your possession of it: Learn—Memorize—Prioritize. Do not take for granted that it “will always be there.”
- 2) Invest in your family. Prepare them for the coming turmoil. • Survival skills • Priesthood duties • Preparation for emergencies—food, water, alternatives • income; retreats; passports; straddle borders where feasible.
- 3) Realize that the New Age isn't the primary threat. The hostile, power-drunk Harlot is.

Tape 2: The Woman Who Rides the Beast Dave Hunt

A review of Daniel 2 and 7 and Revelation 12, 13 & 17. John, while expressing no shock at the sight of the “beast,” is staggered at the woman who rides it. Who is this woman?

14 Points of Identification

- 1) She is a City (17:19).
- 2) The city sits on seven hills (v.9).
- 3) On her forehead is her name: Mystery, Babylon. Babylon is a code word for Rome. [Keating, *Catholicism and Fundamentalism; Sibylling Oracles* (5, 159f.); *Apocalypse of Baruch* (ii,1); Esdras (3:1)]. Also, Eusebius Pamphilus, in 303, notes Peter using Babylon as a code name for Rome (1 Pet 5:13).

- 4) She is “the great whore...with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication...”(v.2). This is spiritual fornication. The only city that qualifies—conspicuously—is the Vatican and the Roman Catholic Church. The ecumenical movement: in 1986, Pope John Paul II gathered in Assisi, Italy, the leaders of the world's major religions to pray for peace: snake worshippers, fire worshippers, spiritists, animists, Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus, and North American Indian witch doctors. All to the “same God.”
- 5) The city “rules over the kings of the earth” (v.19).
- 6) Rome has its spiritual foundations in Babylon from its occultic origins, the Tower of Babel, and the attempt to reach heaven by steps of its own making. The Council of Trent, as repropounded by Vatican II, decreed: “If anyone says that the sacraments of the New Law are not necessary for salvation... and that without them... men obtain from God through faith alone the grace of justification... let him be anathema.”
- 7) The identifying name, “Mystery.” The very heart of Roman Catholicism: the mystery of the Eucharist; etc. Custodianship of mysteries which permit trading “in the souls of men” (Rev 18:3), such as mass cards and indulgences, et al.
- 8) She is clothed with “purple and scarlet” (v.4). Another identifier pointing to Rome.
- 9) She is wealthy beyond calculation (17:4). There is no church, no city which is a spiritual entity, no religious institution past or present which even comes close to possessing the incalculable wealth of the Roman Catholic Church.

- 10) She has a golden cup in her hand. This is the holiest instrument in Roman Catholicism: the golden chalice of the Eucharist.
- 11) The golden chalice is filled with the "filthiness of her abominations." The Biblical view of the sacrifice of the Mass, the very heart of Roman Catholicism, and a denial of the completed work of the cross.
- 12) The Woman is the "Mother of Harlots." Both spiritual and literal harlots, spawned by the millions.
- 13) The Woman is "drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus" (v.6). No institution on earth has more aggressively and consistently slaughtered those who adhered to the Gospel of Christ.
- 14) The figure is a Woman. The central figure of Roman Catholicism is a woman: a false sinless, perpetually virgin, all-powerful "Mary" whom Rome invented and worships.

Dave's brief summary can hardly do justice to his landmark book, *A Woman Rides the Beast*, Harvest House, Eugene OR, 1994. We feel this is a "must read" for the serious Christian.

* * *

Ed. note: There are several views which attempt to deal with the ostensible paradox of the apparent literal rebuilding of Babylon by Saddam Hussein (and the prophecies of Isaiah 13 & 14, and Jeremiah 50 & 51) with the classical identification summarized by Dave Hunt. Some would reconcile the two with Zechariah 5:5-11. This is reviewed in our briefing package, *The Mystery of Babylon*.

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- Hunt, Dave, *A Woman Rides the Beast*, Harvest House, Eugene OR 1994. Contemporary; prophetically astute; well documented. Must read.
- Kauffman, Timothy F., *Quite Contrary*, White Horse Publications, Huntsville AL, 1993. A Biblical reconsideration of the Apparitions of Mary.
- Missler, Chuck, *The Mystery of Babylon*, Koinonia House. A briefing package (two audio tapes plus notes and references) exploring literal Babylon, Rome, and Zechariah 5.

Notes:

1. Rev 2 & 3. See our briefing package *Letters to Seven Churches*.
2. Peter de Rosa, *Vicars of Christ: The Dark Side of the Papacy*, Crown Publishers, 1988, p. 5. Also Will Durant, *The Story of Civilization*, Simon & Schuster, 1950, Vol IV, p.784. Quoted in Hunt, Ch. 17.
3. This verse is the key to Paul's trilogy: *The Just* shall live by faith (Rom 1:17); the just *Shall Live* by faith (Gal 3:11); the just shall live *By Faith* (Heb 10:38).
4. Manuscript by his son D. Paul Luther preserved in the library at Rudolstadt, quoted by F.W. Boreham in *A Bunch of Everlastings or Texts That Made History*, Judson Press, Philadelphia PA, 1920, p.20.



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