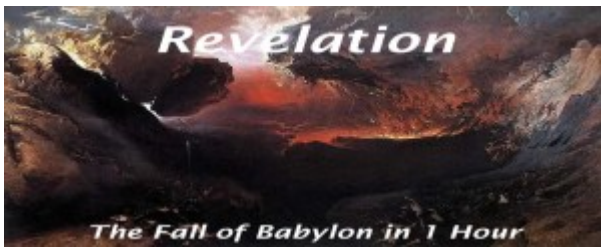


## Revelation 17-22. Concluding Visions



Chapter 18 is the destruction of Babylon by fire of the Papal ecclesiastical state. "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins."

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## What Does the Bible Say About the Future of Israel?



Christians who support Israel have been deceived by false teachers of God's Word! God's promise to the children of Israel was contingent on their obedience.

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## Revelation 7:9-17. The Palm-Bearing Vision



The Final Salvation Of The Elect. The Doctrines Of Augustine. Fourth Century.

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## Revelation 7:1-8. The Sealing Vision



The 144,000 of Revelation 7 is pointing to the true spiritual body of Christ's elect people, undistinguished by man, but marked by the eye of the all-seeing God.

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## The Palestinians, a Brief Historical Sketch – by Reinhard Schaap



My good friend Reinhard from the Netherlands sent this to me. He says it's part of a seminar he gave to the college of his Baptist Congregation about Jacob and Esau. I value history and this article certainly has information I was not aware of!

The emphasis in underline are mine.

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*"Behold, your house is left desolate for you,"* Matt. 23:38.

*"If they build, I will destroy"* Mal. 1:4.

*"The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are Esau's hands."* Gen. 27:22.

### **The destruction!**

According to the Word of the Lord, the Roman legions came to put down the

Jewish uprising and destroy Jerusalem in 70 AD. The army commander Titus did not originally intend to demolish the temple, but was ordered to do so by the emperor and his soldiers were so enraged by the fierce resistance of the Jewish fighters that they left no stone unturned in the sanctuary.

The Jews also received a treacherous dagger in the back. The Jewish historian **Flavius Josephus** mentions the following in "The Fall of Jerusalem": "Just before all the approaches to the city had been closed by the besiegers, the Romans, the Jews had admitted a large crowd of Idumeans (Edomites), who joined the defense would help." However, when one reads how suddenly these "allies", once they were inside the wall, changed their face and – quite unexpectedly – proceeded to massacre tens of thousands of civilians in the most brutal manner. An act with which they contributed not a little to the fall of the city.

It is also interesting what **Rabbi Maimonides** (A.D. 1135-1204) mentions about the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in particular. In his tract Taanith, c. 4, he says: "The foundations of the temple were excavated according to Roman custom." He further said, "On the ninth day of the month Ab, the fatal vengeance was executed by the wicked Turnus Rufus, of the children of Edom, who plowed the temple and the places round about, that the word of Isaiah might be fulfilled." that Zion shall be plowed into a field" (Isaiah 64:10). This Turnus, or rather Terentius Rufus, was the left-handed general in the army of Titus, with orders, as the Jews assume, to destroy the city and the temple.

### **Not all expelled.**

The Jews were not all taken into captivity in 70 AD. Roughly a third of the population was killed, a third taken captive and a third remained in Palestine. This became apparent in 132-135 AD at the time of the Bar Kokhba rebellion. Afterwards many were expelled from Judea who settled in Galilee and the spiritual center (Sanhedrin) initially resided in Jawneh on the coast and later elsewhere in the north of the country until the year 425 AD. Then the center was moved abroad to Baghdad. But many Jews remained in their homeland for centuries.

Under Byzantine (i.e. Eastern Roman) rule, they led a fairly quiet existence. When the Arabs conquered the country in the 7th century, they were not exterminated, but, probably forced, they converted to Islam and so these Jews became Palestinians! There may have been a mixture with the Arabs, but there is an interesting DNA study on this.

### **Sons of Abraham.**

A frequently heard claim is that the Jewish settlers in the 19th century ended up in an uninhabited, empty country, which is not entirely true, to say the least. The priest **Elias Chacour** wrote in his book "Sons of Abraham" what he had experienced in the last century, before the Jewish state was founded in 1948.

Fighters of the Jewish Hagana, who wanted to liberate Palestine from British

rule, had expelled the "Arabs" from their villages in Galilee. However, they were lucky, because some other villages had been massacred. The victims had been hastily buried 'sloppily', while arms and other limbs were still sticking out of the sand!

Jews exterminating other Jews? That would be pure fratricide!

### **DNA research among Jews, Israelis and Palestinians:**

The first scientist to conduct such a study was **Dr. Ariella Oppenheim**, biologist at the Hebrew Yeshiva University, who published her findings in a voluminous work in 2001. Her conclusion was that some Palestinians had Jewish DNA and that there was even a group that had a DNA chromosome showing that they were descendants of the "Cohens", priests of the ancient temple and synagogues of the Jews.

This study was confirmed several years later by **Dr. Eran Elhaik** and his associates at the McKusick-Nathans Institute of Genetic Medicine (John Hopkins University, School of Genetic Medicine), although he was primarily concerned with the Khazar ancestry of many Azkenazi Jews. Khazaria was a large empire in southern Russia that converted to Judaism in the eighth century.

That finding is also supported by Tel Aviv University professor of History **Shlomo Sand** in his 2007 book, "The Invention of the Jewish People," which caused a stir in Israel.

In this book, Sand quotes **David Ben Gurion**, the first Prime Minister of modern Israel, who publicly and in writing acknowledged that the original Jews of Palestine had converted to Islam in the 7th and 8th centuries and had never left their homeland.

Ben-Gurion then stated: "The Fellahin (the Palestinian people) are not descendants of the Arab conquerors who took over 'Eretz Israel' (the Land of Israel) and Syria in the 7th century (AD). The Arabs did not exterminate the ordinary population they found in the country. They only expelled the foreign Byzantine rulers, but left the local population untouched."

An article from the Daily Mail on May 4, 2013 reported that a documentary by Jewish producer **Ilan Ziv**, in which he also exposed these matters, was narrowly canceled by the BBC in the United Kingdom. This information is apparently too sensitive and puts a damper on Zionist efforts to "repatriate" the world's expelled Jews to modern Israel.

Those who want to know more about the "Palestinian cause" could read the English-language book by Israeli author **Ilan Pappé**, entitled "The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine." Pappé currently holds a chair in History at the University of Exeter in England and has written several books about the peoples of the Middle East.

It is clear that both DNA research and the historical findings of scientists show that there are Jews in the Palestinian people and an infusion of Khazars among the Israelis. You can only wonder whether the percentage of Chazars in

Azkenazi Jewry that they claim is indeed 90% or (much) less, is still the question in my opinion. It is notable that at the beginning of the last century there were only 500,000 Sephardic Jews, while the number of Azkenazi Jews exceeded 11,000,000, which is considerably more.

R. Schaap

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## [Japan's Most Senior Oncologist, Prof. Fukushima Condemns mRNA Vaccines as 'Evil Practices of Science'](#)



Solid science from a noted Japanese doctor and scientist that COVID-19 vaccines have injured people to the point of causing their deaths.

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## [Roman Catholicism By Lorraine Boettner Chapter V Peter](#)



This is the continuation of the [previous chapter of Roman Catholicism](#) by Lorraine Boettner.

### **1 The Roman Catholic Position**

The controversial passage in regard to Peter's place in the Church is Matthew 16:13-19, which reads as follows: "Now Jesus, having come into the district

of Caesarea Philippi, began to ask his disciples, saying, 'Who do men say the Son of Man is?' But they said, 'Some say, John the Baptist; and others, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered and said, 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Then Jesus answered and said, 'Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona, for flesh and blood hath not revealed this to thee, but my Father in heaven. And I say to thee, thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Confraternity Version).

To this passage the Confraternity Version adds the following interpretation:

"The rock was Peter. ... *The gates of hell*: hostile, evil powers. Their aggressive force will struggle in vain against the Church. She shall never be overcome; she is indefectible. And since she has the office of teacher (cf. 28, 16-20), and since she would be overcome if error prevailed, she is infallible.

"Keys: a symbol of authority. Peter has the power to admit into the Church and to exclude therefrom. Nor is he merely the porter; he has complete power within the Church. 'To bind and to loose' seems to have been used by the Jews in the sense of to forbid or to permit; but the present context requires a more comprehensive meaning. In heaven God ratifies the decisions which Peter makes on earth in the name of Christ" (pp. 36-37).

And the late Cardinal Gibbons, a former archbishop of Baltimore and one of the most representative American Roman Catholics, in his widely read book, *Faith of our Fathers*, set forth the position of his church in these words:

"The Catholic Church teaches that our Lord conferred on St. Peter the first place of honor and jurisdiction in the government of His whole church, and that the same spiritual supremacy has always resided in the popes, or bishops of Rome, as being the successors of St. Peter. Consequently, to be true followers of Christ all Christians, both among the clergy and laity, must be in communion with the See of Rome, where Peter rules in the person of his successor" (p. 95).

The whole structure of the Roman Church is built on the assumption that in Matthew 16:13-19 Christ appointed Peter the first pope and so established the papacy. Disprove the primacy of Peter, and the foundation of the papacy is destroyed. Destroy the papacy, and the whole Roman hierarchy topples with it. Their system of priesthood depends absolutely upon their claim that Peter was the first pope at Rome, and that they are his successors. We propose to show that (1) Matthew 16:13-19 does not teach that Christ appointed Peter a pope; (2) that there is no proof that Peter ever was in Rome; and (3) that the New Testament records, particularly Peter's own writings, show that he never claimed authority over the other apostles or over the church, and that that authority was never accorded to him.

## 2 The "Rock"

"And I say to thee, thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18, Confraternity Version).

Romanists quote this verse with relish, and add their own interpretation to establish their claim for papal authority. But in the Greek the word Peter is Petros, a person, masculine, while the word "rock," petra, is feminine and refers not to a person but to the declaration of Christ's deity that Peter had just uttered—"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Using Peter's name and making, as it were, a play upon words, Jesus said to Peter, "You are Petros, and upon this petra I will build my church." The truth that Peter had just confessed was the foundation upon which Christ would build His church. He meant that Peter had seen the basic, essential truth concerning His person, the essential truth upon which the church would be founded, and that nothing would be able to overthrow that truth, not even all the forces of evil that might be arrayed against it. Peter was the first among the disciples to see our Lord as the Christ of God. Christ commended him for that spiritual insight, and said that His church would be founded upon that fact. And that, of course, was a far different thing from founding the church on Peter.

Had Christ intended to say that the Church would be founded on Peter, it would have been ridiculous for Him to have shifted to the feminine form of the word in the middle of the statement, saying, if we may translate literally and somewhat whimsically, "And I say unto thee, that thou art Mr. Rock, and upon this, the Miss Rock, I will build my church." Clearly it was upon the truth that Peter had expressed, the deity of Christ, and not upon weak, vacillating Peter, that the church would be founded. The Greek "petros" is commonly used of a small, movable stone, a mere pebble, as it were. But "petra" means an immovable foundation, in this instance, the basic truth that Peter had just confessed, the deity of Christ. And in fact, that is the point of conflict in the churches today between evangelicals on the one hand, and modernists or liberals on the other—whether the church is founded on a truly divine Christ as revealed in a fully trustworthy Bible, or whether it is essentially a social service and moral welfare organization which recognizes Christ as an example, an outstandingly great and good man, but denies or ignores His deity.

The Bible tells us plainly, not that the church is built upon Peter, but that it is "built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone" (Ephesians 2:20). And again, "For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11). Without that foundation the true Christian church could not exist.

If Matthew 16:18 had been intended to teach that the church is founded on Peter, it would have read something like this: "Thou art Peter, and upon you I will build my church"; or, "Thou art Peter, and upon you the rock I will build my church." But that is not what Christ said. He made two complete,

distinct statements. He said, "Thou art Peter," and, "Upon this rock (change of gender, indicating change of subject) I will build my church."

The gates of hell were not to prevail against the church. But the gates of hell did prevail against Peter shortly afterward, as recorded in this same chapter, when he attempted to deny that Christ would be crucified, and almost immediately afterward, in the presence of the other disciples, received the stinging rebuke, "Get thee behind me, Satan; thou art a stumbling block unto me, for thou mindest not the things of God but the things of men" (v. 23)—surely strong words to use against one who had just been appointed pope!

Later we read that Peter slept in Gethsemane, during Christ's agony. His rash act in cutting off the servant's ear drew Christ's rebuke. He boasted that he was ready to die for his Master, but shortly afterward shamefully denied with oaths and curses that he even knew Him. And even after Pentecost Peter still was subject to such serious error that his hypocrisy had to be rebuked by Paul, who says: "But when Cephas came to Antioch [at which time he was in full possession of his papal powers, according to Romanist doctrine], I resisted him to the face, because he stood condemned" (Galatians 2:11). And yet Romanists allege that their pope, as Peter's successor, is infallible in matters of faith and morals!

The Gospel written by Mark, who is described in early Christian literature as Peter's close companion and understudy, does not even record the remark about the "rock" in reporting Peter's confession at Caesarea Philippi (Mark 8:27-30). No, Christ did not build His church upon a weak, sinful man. Rather the essential deity of Christ, which was so forcefully set forth in Peter's confession, was the foundation stone, the starting point, on which the church would be built.

That no superior standing was conferred upon Peter is clear from the later disputes among the disciples concerning who should be greatest among them. Had such rank already been given, Christ would simply have referred to His grant of power to Peter. Instead we read:

"And they came to Capernaum: and when he was in the house he asked them, What were ye reasoning on the way? But they held their Peace: for they had disputed one with another on the way, who was the greatest. And he sat down, and called the twelve; and he saith unto them, If any man would be first, he shall be last of all, and servant of all" (Mark 9:33-35).

And again:

"And there came near unto him James and John, the sons of Zebedee, saying unto him, Teacher, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall ask of thee. And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you? And they said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and one on thy left hand, in thy glory. And when the ten heard it, they began to be moved with indignation concerning James and John. And Jesus called them unto him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they who are accounted to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them; and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it is not so among you: but whosoever would become great among



you shall be your minister; and whosoever would be first among you, shall be servant of all" (Mark 10:34-44).

It is interesting to notice that some of the church fathers, Augustine and Jerome among them, gave the Protestant explanation of this verse, understanding the "rock" to mean not Peter but Christ. Others, of course, gave the papal interpretation. But this shows that there was no "unanimous consent of the fathers," as the Roman Church claims, on this subject.

Dr. Harris says concerning the reference to the "rock":

"Mark's Gospel is connected with Peter by all early Christian tradition and it does not even include this word of Jesus to Peter. Likewise in the Epistles of Peter there is no such claim. In 1 Peter 2:6-8 Christ is called a rock and a chief cornerstone. But Peter here claims nothing for himself. Indeed he is explicit in calling all believers living stones built up a spiritual house with Christ as the head of the corner.

"Christ is repeatedly called a Rock. The background for this is that around thirty-four times in the Old Testament God is called a Rock or the Rock of Israel. It was a designation of God. In the Messianic passages, Isaiah 8:14; 28:16; and Psalm 118:22, Christ is called a Rock or Stone upon which we should believe. These passages are quoted in the New Testament and for that reason Christ is called a Rock several times. It designates Him as divine. For that reason, every Jew, knowing the Old Testament, would refuse the designation to Peter or to anyone except insofar as we are children of Christ. He is the Rock. We are living stones built upon Him. Ephesians 2:20 says this plainly. We are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone. Paul says of the Rock from which the Israelites drank that it typified Christ (1 Corinthians 10:4). In the New Testament there are twelve foundations and on them are the names of the twelve apostles—none of them are made pre-eminent" (The Bible Presbyterian Reporter, January, 1959.)

And Dr. Henry M. Woods says:

"If Christ had meant that Peter was to be the foundation, the natural form of statement would have been, 'Thou art Peter, and on thee I will build my church'; but He does not say this, because Peter was not to be the rock on which the church was built. Note also that in the expression 'on this rock,' our Lord purposely uses a different Greek word, Petra, from that used for Peter, Petros. He did this to show that, not Peter, but the great truth which had just been revealed to him, viz., that our Lord was 'the Christ, the Son of the living God,' was to be the church's foundation. Built on the Christ, the everlasting Saviour, the gates of hell would never prevail against the Church. But built on the well-meaning but sinful Peter, the gates of hell would surely prevail; for a little later our Lord had to severely rebuke Peter, calling him 'Satan'" (*Our Priceless Heritage*, p. 40).

### 3 The "Keys"

"And I will give thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever thou

shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:19, Confraternity Version).

Admittedly this is a difficult verse to interpret, and numerous explanations have been given. It is important to notice, however, that the authority to bind and to loose was not given exclusively to Peter. In the eighteenth chapter of Matthew the same power *is given to all of the disciples*. There we read:

"At that hour the disciples came to Jesus. ... Amen. I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound also in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed also in heaven" (vv. 1,18, Confraternity Version).

Consequently Matthew 16:19 does not prove any superiority on Peter's part. Even the scribes and Pharisees had this same power, for Jesus said to them: "But woe upon you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye shut the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye enter not in yourselves, neither suffer them that are entering in to enter" (Matthew 23:13). And on another occasion He said: "The scribes and Pharisees sit on Moses' seat: all things therefore whatsoever they bid you, these do and observe: but do not ye after their works; for they say, and do not. Yea, they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be born, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with their finger" (Matthew 23:2-4).

Here the expression clearly means that the scribes and Pharisees, in that the Word of God was in their hands, thereby had the power, in declaring that Word to the people, to open the kingdom of heaven to them, and in withholding that Word they shut the kingdom of heaven against people. That was Moses' function in giving the law. It was, therefore, a declaratory power, the authority to announce the terms on which God would grant salvation, not an absolute power to admit or to exclude from the kingdom of heaven. Only God can do that, and He never delegates that authority to men.

And in Luke 11:52 Jesus says: "Woe unto you lawyers! for ye took away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered." Here, the key of the knowledge of the way of salvation, by which entrance into the kingdom of heaven is obtained, was in the hands of the Pharisees in that they had the law of Moses in their possession, and were therefore the custodians of the Word of God. In that sense they possessed the key to the kingdom. They took away that key in that they failed to proclaim the Word of God to the people. They were not entering into the kingdom of heaven themselves, and they were hindering those who wanted to enter.

Furthermore, we notice that in the words spoken to Peter, it was "things," not "persons," that were to be bound or loosed—"whatsoever," not "whomsoever"—things such as the ceremonial laws and customs of the Old Testament dispensation were to be done away with, and new rituals and practices of the Gospel age were to be established.

Thus the "keys" symbolize the authority to open, in this instance, to open the kingdom of heaven to men through the proclamation of the Gospel. What the disciples were commissioned to do, given the privilege of doing, was the

opposite of that which the scribes and Pharisees were doing; that is, they were to facilitate the entrance of the people into the kingdom of heaven.

There was, of course, no physical seat which had been used by Moses and which now was being used by the scribes and Pharisees. But the scribes and Pharisees, who were in possession of the law of Moses, were giving precepts which in themselves were authoritative and good and which therefore were to be obeyed; but since they did not live up to those precepts the people were not to follow their example.

It is clear that the keys were symbolical of authority, which here is specified as the power of binding and loosing; and it is also clear that the consequences of what the disciples did in this regard would go far beyond earth and would have their permanent results in heaven. They were in a real sense building for eternity. In referring to the keys of the kingdom Jesus was continuing the figure in which He had been comparing the kingdom of heaven to a house which He was about to build. It would be built upon a solid rock (Matthew 7:24). Entrance into that house was through the door of faith. This door was to be opened, first to the Jews, and then to the Gentiles. And Peter, who had been the first of the disciples to comprehend the person of Christ in His true deity and to confess that deity before the other disciples, was commissioned to be the first to open that door. In this sense the keys were first given to him. To him was given the distinction and high honor among the apostles of being the first to open the door of faith to the Jewish world, which he did on the day of Pentecost when through his sermon some three thousand Jews were converted (Acts 2:14-42), and a short time later the distinction and high honor of opening the door of faith to the Gentile world, which he did in the house of Cornelius (Acts 10:1-48). And while the keys were in this respect first given to Peter, they were soon afterward also given to the other disciples as they too proclaimed the Gospel both to Jews and Gentiles. But while Peter was given the distinction and honor of being the first to open the kingdom to the Jews, and then to the Gentiles, he did not claim nor assume any other authority, and was in all other respects on precisely the same footing as were the other apostles.

Possession of the keys, therefore, did not mean that Peter had sovereignly within his own person the authority to determine who should be admitted to heaven and who should be excluded, as the Roman Church now attempts to confer that authority on the pope and priests. Ultimate authority is in the hands of Christ alone—it is He “that openeth and none shall shut, and that shutteth and none openeth” (Revelation 3:7). But it did mean that Peter, and later the other apostles, being in possession of the Gospel message, truly did open the door and present the opportunity to enter in as they proclaimed the message before the people. This same privilege of opening the door or of closing the door of salvation to others is given to every Christian, for the command that Christ gave His church was to go and make disciples of all the nations. Thus “the power of the keys” is a *declarative* power only.

It can almost be said that the Roman Catholics build their church upon these two verses which speak of the “rock” and the “keys.” They say that the power given to Peter was absolute and that it was transferred by him to his successors, although they have to admit that there is not one verse in

Scripture which teaches such a transfer. Under this "power of the keys" the Roman Church claims that "In heaven God ratifies the decisions which Peter makes on earth" (footnote, Confraternity Version, p. 37).

But it is interesting to see how Peter himself understood this grant of power. In his exercise of the power of the keys he says: "And it shall be, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:21). And at the house of the Roman centurion Cornelius he again gave a universal Gospel invitation: "To him [Christ] bear all the prophets witness, that through his name every one that believeth on him shall receive remission of sins" (Acts 10:43). So, in the preaching of Peter, as elsewhere in the New Testament, salvation is set forth as based on faith in Christ, and nowhere is obedience to Peter, or to the pope, or to any other man even hinted at.

Rome terribly abuses this "power of the keys" to insure obedience to her commands on the part of her church members and to instill in them a sense of fear and of constant dependence on the church for their salvation. This sense of fear and dependence, with constant references to "Mother Church," goes far to explain the power that the Roman Church has over her members, even cowing them to the extent that they are afraid to read or to listen to anything contrary to what their church teaches. And since that teaching is drilled into them from childhood, the truly formidable power that the Roman Church exercises over the laity can be easily understood.

#### **4 Papal Authority Not Claimed by Peter**

The Roman Church claims that Peter was the first bishop or pope in Rome and that the later popes are his successors. But the best proof of a man's position and authority is his own testimony. Does Peter claim to be a pope, or to have primacy over the other apostles? Fortunately, he wrote two epistles or letters which are found in the New Testament. There he gives his position and certain instructions as to how others in the same position are to perform their duties. We read:

"Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ. ... The elders therefore among you I exhort, who am a fellow-elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, who am also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Tend the flock of God which is among you, exercising the oversight, not of constraint, but willingly, according to the will of God; nor yet for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as lording it over the charge allotted to you, but making yourselves ensamples to the flock" (1 Peter 1:1, 5:1-3).

Here Peter refers to himself as an apostle of Jesus Christ, an elder (the word in the Greek is presbuteros), which of course has nothing to do with a sacrificing priesthood. He does not claim the highest place in the church as some would expect him to do or as some would claim for him. He assumes no ecclesiastical superiority, but with profound humility puts himself on a level with those whom he exhorts. He makes it clear that the church must be democratic, not authoritarian. He forbids the leaders to lord it over the people, to work for money or to take money unjustly. He says that they are to serve the people willingly, even eagerly, and that by their general lives they are to make themselves examples for the people.

But the fact is that the Church of Rome acts directly contrary to these instructions. Can anyone imagine the proud popes of later times adopting such a role of humility? It was several centuries later, when the church had lost much of its original simplicity and spiritual power, and had been submerged in a flood of worldliness, that the autocratic authority of the popes began to appear. After the fourth century, when the Roman empire had fallen, the bishops of Rome stepped into Caesar's shoes, took his pagan title of Pontifex Maximus, the supreme high priest of the pagan Roman religion, sat down on Caesar's throne, and wrapped themselves in Caesar's gaudy trappings. And that role they have continued ever since.

In regard to the title Pontifex, the *Standard International Encyclopedia* says this was "the title given by the ancient Romans to members of one of the two celebrated religious colleges. The chief of the order was called Pontifex Maximus. The pontiffs had general control of the official religion, and their head was the highest religious authority in the state. ... Following Julius Caesar the emperor was the Pontifex Maximus. In the time of Theodosius [emperor, died A.D. 395] the title became equivalent to Pope, now one of the titles of the head of the Roman Catholic Church."

Peter refused to accept homage from men—as when Cornelius the Roman centurion fell down at his feet and would have worshipped him, Peter protested quickly and said, "Stand up; I myself also am a man" (Acts 10:25-26). Yet the popes accept the blasphemous title of "Holy Father" as theirs as a matter of right. And how the cardinals, bishops, and priests do like to set themselves apart from the congregations and to lord it over the people!

Surely if Peter had been a pope, "the supreme head of the church," he would have declared that fact in his general epistles, for that was the place of all others to have asserted his authority. The popes have never been slow to make such claims for themselves, or to extend their authority as far as possible. But instead Peter refers to himself only as an apostle (of which there were eleven others), and as an elder or presbyter, that is, simply as a minister of Christ.

## **5 Paul's Attitude toward Peter**

It is very interesting to notice Paul's attitude toward Peter. Paul was called to be an apostle at a later time, after church had been launched. Yet Peter had nothing to do with that choice, as he surely would have had, if he had been pope. Instead God called and ordained Paul without consulting Peter, as He has called and ordained many thousands of ministers and evangelists since then without reference to the popes of Rome. Paul was easily the greatest of the apostles, with a deeper insight into the way of salvation and a larger revealed knowledge concerning the mysteries of life and death. He wrote much more of the New Testament than did Peter. His thirteen epistles contain 2,023 verses, while Peter's two epistles contain only 166 verses. And if we ascribe the Epistle to the Hebrews to Paul, as does the Roman Catholic Church (Confraternity Version, p. 397), he wrote an even larger proportion. Peter's epistles do not stand first among the epistles, but after those of Paul; and in fact his second epistle was one of the last to be accepted by the church. Paul worked more recorded miracles than did Peter, and he seems

to have established more churches than did Peter. Apart from the church at Rome, which we believe was established by laymen, Paul established more prominent and more permanent churches than did Peter. And, so far as the New Testament record goes, Paul's influence in the church at Rome was much greater than was that of Peter. Paul mentions Peter more than once, but nowhere does he defer to Peter's authority, or acknowledge him as pope.

Indeed, quite the contrary is the case. Paul had founded the church at Corinth, but when some there rebelled against his authority, even to the extent of favoring Peter, he does not give even an inch on his own authority. Instead he vigorously defends his authority, declaring, "Am I not an apostle? have I not seen Jesus our Lord?" (1 Corinthians 9:1), and again, "For in nothing was I behind the very chiefest apostles" (2 Corinthians 12:11), or, as translated in the Confraternity Version, "In no way have I fallen short of the most eminent apostles." He declares that he has been "intrusted with the gospel of the uncircumcision, even as Peter with the gospel of the circumcision" (Galatians 2:7). He therefore put himself on a level with all the other apostles. Certainly those ideas were incompatible with any idea of a pope in Paul's day.

But beyond all that, on one occasion Paul publicly rebuked Peter. When Peter at Antioch sided with the "false brethren" (v. 4) in their Jewish legalism and "drew back and separated himself" from the Gentiles and was even the cause of Barnabas being misled, Paul administered a severe rebuke. We read:

"But when Cephas came to Antioch, I resisted him to the face, because he stood condemned. For before that certain came from James, he ate with the Gentiles; but when they came, he drew back and separated himself, fearing them that were of the circumcision. And the rest of the Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that even Barnabas was carried away with their dissimulation. But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Cephas before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest as do the Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, how compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?" (Galatians 2:11-14).

He then impressed upon Peter some good, sound, evangelical theology, declaring that:

"...a man is not justified by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ... because by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified" (v. 16).

In other words, Paul gave the "Holy Father" a "dressing down" before them all, accusing him of not walking uprightly in the truth of the Gospel. Surely that was no way to talk to a pope! Imagine anyone today, even a cardinal, taking it upon himself to rebuke and instruct a real pope with such language! Just who was Paul that he should rebuke the Vicar of Christ for unchristian conduct? If Peter was the chief it was Paul's duty and the duty of the other apostles to recognize him as such and to teach only what he approved. Obviously Paul did not regard Peter as infallible in faith and morals, or recognize any supremacy on his part.

## 6 Attitude of the Other Apostles toward Peter

The other apostles as well as Paul seem totally unaware of any appointment that made Peter the head of the church. Nowhere do they acknowledge his authority. And nowhere does he attempt to exercise authority over them. The only instance in which another man was chosen to succeed an apostle is recorded in Acts 1:15-26, and there the choice was made not by Peter but by popular choice on the part the brethren who numbered about one hundred and twenty, and by the casting of lots.

On another occasion Peter, together with John, was sent by the apostles to preach the Gospel in Samaria (Acts 8:14). Imagine the pope today being sent by the cardinals or bishops on any such mission. It is well known that today the popes seldom if ever preach. They do issue statements, and they address select audiences which come to them. But they do not go out and preach the Gospel as did Peter and the other apostles.

The important church council in Jerusalem (Acts 15) reveals quite clearly how the unity of the church was expressed in apostolic days. Differences had arisen when certain men from Judaea came down to Antioch, in Syria, where Paul and Barnabas were working and insisted that certain parts of the Jewish ritual must be observed. Had the present Roman Catholic theory of the papacy been followed, there would have been no need at all for a council. The church in Antioch would have written a letter to Peter, the bishop of Rome, and he would have sent them an encyclical or bull settling the matter. And of all the churches the one at Antioch was the last that should have appealed to Jerusalem. For according to Roman Catholic legend Peter was bishop in Antioch for seven years before transferring his see to Rome! But the appeal was made, not to Peter, but to a church council in Jerusalem. At that council not Peter but James presided and announced the decision with the words, "Wherefore my judgment is..." (v. 19). And his judgment was accepted by the apostles and presbyters. Peter was present, but only after there had been "much questioning" (v. 7) did he even so much as express an opinion. He did not attempt to make any infallible pronouncements although the subject under discussion was a vital matter of faith. In any event it is clear that the unity of the early church was maintained not by the voice of Peter but by the decision of the ecumenical council which was presided over by James, the leader of the Jerusalem church. Furthermore, after that council *Peter is never again mentioned in the book of Acts.*

It is an old human failing for people to want to exercise authority over their fellow men. We are told that the disciples disputed among themselves which was to be accounted the greatest. Jesus rebuked them with the words: "If any man would be first, he shall be last of all, and servant of all" (Mark 9:35). On another occasion the mother of James and John came to Jesus with the request that her two sons should have the chief places in the kingdom. But He called the disciples to Him and said, "Ye know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Not so shall it be among you: but whosoever would become great among you shall be your minister; and whosoever would be first among you shall be your servant: even as the Son of man came not to be ministered

unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:25-28). And even on the night in which Christ was delivered up to die they contended among themselves "which of them was accounted to be greatest" (Luke 22:24). In each instance Jesus taught them that they were not to seek to exercise lordship, but rather to excel in service. But in no instance did He settle the dispute by reminding them that Peter was the Prince of the Apostles. In fact they could not have argued that question at all if Peter had already been given the place of preeminence, as the Roman Church holds.

Christ alone is the Head of the church. "Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11). The church is "built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone" (Ephesians 2:20). Paul says that God "gave him [Christ] to be head over all things to the church, which is his body" (Ephesians 1:22-23). Besides Him there can be no earthly foundation or head of the church. Only a monstrosity can have two heads for one body.

## **7 Was Peter Ever in Rome?**

According to Roman Catholic tradition Peter was the first bishop of Rome, his pontificate lasted twenty-five years, from A.D. 42 to 67, and he was martyred in Rome in A.D. 67. The Douay and Confraternity versions say that he was in Rome before the Jerusalem council of Acts 15, and that he returned to Jerusalem for that council, after which he went to Antioch, and then returned to Rome. In the Confraternity Version we read:

"After the resurrection the primacy was conferred upon him and immediately after the ascension he began to exercise it. After preaching in Jerusalem and Palestine he went to Rome, probably after his liberation from prison. Some years later he was in Jerusalem for the first church council, and shortly afterward at Antioch. In the year 67 he was martyred in Rome" (Introduction to the First Epistle of St. Peter).

The remarkable thing, however, about Peter's alleged bishopric in Rome, is that the New Testament has not one word to say about it. The word Rome occurs only nine times in the Bible, and never is Peter mentioned in connection with it. There is no allusion to Rome in either of his epistles. Paul's journey to that city is recorded in great detail (Acts 27 and 28). There is in fact no New Testament evidence, nor any historical proof of any kind, that Peter ever was in Rome. All rests on legend. The first twelve chapters of the book of Acts tell of Peter's ministry and travels in Palestine and Syria. Surely if he had gone to the capital of the empire, that would have been mentioned. We may well ask, if Peter was superior to Paul, why does he receive so little attention after Paul comes on the scene? Not much is known about his later life, except that he traveled extensively, and that on at least some of his missionary journeys he was accompanied by his wife—for Paul says, "Have we no right to lead about a wife that is a believer, even as the rest of the apostles, and the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas" (1 Corinthians 9:5). (The Confraternity Version here reads "sister" instead of "wife"; but the Greek word is *gune*, wife, not *adelphē*, sister.)

We know nothing at all about the origins of Christianity in Rome. This is



acknowledged even by some Roman Catholic historians. It was already a flourishing church when Paul wrote his letter to the Romans in A.D. 58. Quite possibly it had been founded by some of those who were present in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost and heard Peter's great sermon when some 3,000 were converted, for Luke says that in that audience were "sojourners from Rome, both Jews and proselytes" (Acts 2:10). In any event there is nothing but unfounded tradition to support the claim that Peter founded the church in Rome and that he was its bishop for 25 years. The fact is that the apostles did not settle in one place as did the diocesan bishops of much later date, so that it is quite incorrect to speak of Rome as the "See of Peter," or to speak of the popes occupying "the chair" of St. Peter.

Legend was early busy with the life of Peter. The one which tells of his twenty-five years' episcopate in Rome has its roots in the apocryphal stories originating with a heretical group, the Ebionites, who rejected much of the supernatural content of the New Testament, and the account is discredited both by its origin and by its internal inconsistencies. The first reference that might be given any credence at all is found in the writings of Eusebius, and that reference is doubted even by some Roman Catholic writers. Eusebius wrote in Greek about the year 310, and his work was translated by Jerome. A 17th century historian, William Cave (1637-1713), chaplain to King Charles II of England, in his most important work, *The Lives of the Apostles*, says:

"It cannot be denied that in St. Jerome's translation it is expressly said that he (Peter) continued twenty-five years as bishop in that city: but then it is as evident that this was his own addition, who probably set things down as the report went in his time, *no such thing being found in the Greek copy of Eusebius.*"

Exhaustive research by archaeologists has been made down through the centuries to find some inscription in the Catacombs and other ruins of ancient places in Rome that would indicate that Peter at least visited Rome. But the only things found which gave any promise at all were some bones of uncertain origin. L. H. Lehmann, who was educated for the priesthood at the University for the Propagation of the Faith, Rome, tells us of a lecture by a noted Roman archaeologist, Professor Marucchi, given before his class, in which he said that no shred of evidence of Peter's having been in the Eternal City had ever been unearthed, and of another archaeologist, Di Rossi, who declared that for forty years his greatest ambition had been to unearth in Rome some inscription which would verify the papal claim that the Apostle Peter was actually in Rome, but that he was forced to admit that he had given up hope of success in his search. He had the promise of handsome rewards by the church if he succeeded. What he had dug up verified what the New Testament says about the formation of the Christian church in Rome, but remained absolutely silent regarding the claims of the bishops of Rome to be the successors of the apostle Peter (cf., *The Soul of a Priest*, p. 10).

And, after all, suppose Peter's bones should be found and identified beyond question, what would that prove? The important thing is, does the Church of Rome teach the same Gospel that Peter taught? Succession to Peter should be claimed, not by those who say they have discovered his bones, but by those who teach the Gospel that he taught—the evangelical message of salvation by

grace through faith.

Furthermore, if mere residence conferred superiority, then Antioch would outrank Rome; for the same tradition which asserts that Peter resided in Rome asserts that he first resided in Antioch, a small city in Syria. It is well known that during the time of the apostles and for generations later the Eastern cities and the Eastern church had the greatest influence, and that the Roman church was comparatively insignificant. The first councils were held in Eastern cities and were composed almost altogether of Eastern bishops. Four of the patriarchates were Eastern—Jerusalem, Antioch, Constantinople, and Alexandria. Rome did not gain the ascendancy until centuries later, after the breakup of the Roman empire. If any church had a special right to be called the Mistress of all the churches, it surely was the church in Jerusalem, where our Lord lived and taught, where He was crucified, where Christianity was first preached by Peter and the other apostles, where Peter's great Pentecostal sermon was delivered, and from which went forth to Antioch and Rome and to all the world the glad tidings of salvation. Long before the Reformation Rome's claim to be the only true church was rejected by the eastern churches, which were the most ancient and in the early days much the most influential churches in the world.

Another interesting and very important if not decisive line of evidence in this regard is the fact that Paul was preeminently the apostle to the Gentiles while Peter was preeminently the apostle to the Jews, this division of labor having been by divine appointment. In Galatians 2:7-8 Paul says that he "had been intrusted with the gospel of the uncircumcision, even as Peter with the gospel of the circumcision (for he that wrought for Peter unto the apostleship of the circumcision wrought for me also unto the Gentiles)." Thus Paul's work was primarily among the Gentiles, while Peter's was primarily among the Jews. Peter ministered to the Jews who were in exile in Asia Minor, "to the elect who are sojourners of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia" (1 Peter 1:1), and in his journeys he went as far east as Babylon, from which city his first epistle (and probably his second) was addressed to the Jewish Christians in Asia Minor: "She that is in Babylon, elect together with you, saluteth you" (1 Peter 5:13). As most of Paul's letters were addressed to churches he had evangelized, so Peter wrote to the Jewish brethren that he had evangelized, who were scattered through those provinces. While there is no Scriptural evidence at all that Peter went west to Rome, here is a plain statement of Scripture that he did go east to Babylon. Why cannot the Roman Church take Peter's word to that effect?

But his testimony, of course, must be circumvented by those who are so anxious to place him in Rome, and they take a curious way to do it. The Confraternity edition has an introductory note to 1 Peter which reads: "The place of composition is given as 'Babylon'... a cryptic designation of the city of Rome."

But there is no good reason for saying that "Babylon" means "Rome." The reason alleged by the Church of Rome for understanding Babylon to mean Rome is that in the book of Revelation Rome is called by that name (Revelation 17:5, 18:2). But there is a great difference between an apocalyptic book such as the book of Revelation, which for the most part is written in figurative

and symbolic language, and an epistle such as this which is written in a straightforward, matter-of-fact style.

In regard to Peter's assignment to work among the Jews, it is known that there were many Jews in Babylon in New Testament times. Many had not returned to Palestine after the Exile. Many others, such as those in Asia Minor and Egypt, had been driven out or had left Palestine for various reasons. Josephus says that some "gave Hyrcanus, the high priest, a habitation at Babylon, where there were Jews in great numbers" (Antiquities, Book XV, Ch. II, 2). Peter's assigned ministry to the Jews took him to those places where the Jews were in the greatest numbers, even to Babylon.

## **8 Paul's Epistle to the Romans**

The strongest reason of all for believing that Peter never was in Rome is found in Paul's epistle to the Romans. According to Roman Church tradition, Peter reigned as pope in Rome for 25 years, from A.D. 42 to 67. It is generally agreed that Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome was written in the year A.D. 58, at the very height of Peter's alleged episcopacy there. He did not address his letter to Peter, as he should have done if Peter was in Rome and the head of all the churches, but to the saints in the church in Rome. How strange for a missionary to write to a church and not mention the pastor! That would be an inexcusable affront. What would we think of a minister today who would dare to write to a congregation in a distant city and without mentioning their pastor tell them that he was anxious to go there that he might have some fruit among them even as he has had in his own community (1:13), that he was anxious to instruct and strengthen them, and that he was anxious to preach the Gospel there where it had not been preached before? How would their pastor feel if he knew that such greetings had been sent to 27 of his most prominent members who were mentioned by name in the epistle (Ch. 16)? Would he stand for such ministerial ethics? And if he were the most prominent minister in the land, as allegedly was the bishop of Rome, such an affront would be all the more inexcusable. This point alone ought to open the eyes of the most obdurate person blinded by the traditions of the Roman Church.

If Peter had been working in the church in Rome for some 16 years, why did Paul write to the people of the church in these words: "For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the and ye may be established" (1:11)? Was not that a gratuitous insult to Peter? Was it not a most presumptuous thing for Paul to go over the head of the pope? And if Peter was there and had been there for 16 years, why was it necessary for Paul to go at all, especially since in his letter he says that he does not build on another's foundation: "making it my aim so to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named, that I might not build upon another man's foundation" (15:20)? This indicates clearly that Peter was not then in Rome, and that he had not been there, that in fact Paul was writing this letter because no apostle had yet been in Rome to clarify the Gospel to them and to establish them in the faith. At the conclusion of this letter Paul sends greetings to the 27 people mentioned above, including some women, also to several groups. But he does not mention Peter in any capacity.

And again, had Peter been in Rome prior to or at the time when Paul arrived there as a prisoner in A.D. 61, Paul could not have failed to have mentioned him, for in the epistles written from there during his imprisonment—Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon—he gives a complete list of his fellow workers in Rome, and Peter's name is not among them. He spent two whole years there as a prisoner, and received all who came to visit him (Acts 28:30). Nor does he mention Peter in his second epistle to Timothy, which was written from Rome during his second imprisonment, in A.D. 67, the year that Peter is alleged to have suffered martyrdom in Rome, and shortly before his own death (2 Timothy 4:6-8). He says that all his friends have forsaken him, and that only Luke is with him (4:10-11). Where was Peter? If Peter was in Rome when Paul was there as a prisoner, he surely lacked Christian courtesy since he never called to offer aid. Surely he must have been the first absentee bishop on a big scale!

All of this makes it quite certain that Peter never was in Rome at all. Not one of the early church fathers gives any support to the belief that Peter was a bishop in Rome until Jerome in the fifth century. Du Pin, a Roman Catholic historian, acknowledges that "the primacy of Peter is not recorded by the early Christian writers, Justin Martyr (139), Irenaeus (178), Clement of Alexandria (190), or others of the most ancient fathers." The Roman Church thus builds her papal system, not on New Testament teaching, nor upon the facts of history, but only on unfounded traditions.

The chronological table for Peter's work, so far as we can work it out, seems to be roughly as follows:

Most Bible students agree that Paul's conversion occurred in the year A.D. 37. After that he went to Arabia (Galatians 1:17), and after three years went up to Jerusalem where he remained with Peter for 15 days (Galatians 1:18). That brings us to the year A.D. 40. Fourteen years later he again went to Jerusalem (Galatians 2:1), where he attended the Jerusalem council described in Acts 15, in which Peter also participated (v. 6). This conference dealt primarily with the problems which arose in connection with the presentation of the Gospel in Jewish and Gentile communities. Paul and Barnabas presented their case, and were authorized by the council to continue their ministry to the Gentiles (Acts 15:22-29); and this quite clearly was the occasion on which Paul was assigned to work primarily among the Gentiles while Peter was assigned to work primarily among the Jews (Galatians 2:7-8), since this same Jerusalem council is spoken of in the immediate context (Galatians 2:1-10). So this brings us to the year A.D. 54, and Peter still is in Syria, 12 years after the time that the Roman tradition says that he began his reign in Rome.

Sometime after the Jerusalem council Peter also came to Antioch, on which occasion it was necessary for Paul to reprimand him because of his conformity to Judaistic rituals (Galatians 2:11-21). And the same Roman tradition which says that Peter reigned in Rome also says that he governed the church in Antioch for seven years before going to Rome. Hence we reach the year A.D. 61, with Peter still in Syria! Indeed, how could Peter have gone to Rome, which was the very center of the Gentile world? Would he defy the decision reached by all the apostles and brethren from the various churches who met in

the famous first Christian council in Jerusalem? Clearly the Scriptural evidence is that Peter accepted that decision, and that his work was primarily among the Jews of the dispersion, first in Asia Minor, and later as far east as Babylon—that in fact his work took him in the opposite direction from that which Roman tradition assigns to him! And even if Peter had been the first bishop of Rome, that would not mean that the bishops who followed him would have had any of the special powers that he had. The apostles had the power to work miracles and to write inspired Scripture. Even if Peter had been granted special powers above those of the other apostles, there is nothing in Scripture to indicate that those powers could have been transmitted to his successors. In his second epistle he makes a reference to his approaching death (1:14), and surely that would have been the appropriate place to have said who his successor should be and what the method of choosing future bishops should be. But he gives no indication that he even thought of such things. Peter as an apostle had qualifications and gifts which the popes do not have and dare not claim. The fact of the matter is that with the passing of the apostles their place as guides to the church was taken not by an infallible pope but by an inspired and infallible Scripture which had been developed by that time, which we call the New Testament, through which God would speak to the church from that time until the end of the age.

We may be certain that if the humble, spiritually-minded Peter were to come back to earth he would not acknowledge as his successor the proud pontiff who wears the elaborate, triple-decked, gold bejeweled crown, who wears such fabulously expensive clothing, who is carried on the shoulders of the people who stands before the high altar of worship, who is surrounded by a Swiss military guard, and who receives such servile obedience from the people that he is in effect, if not in reality, worshipped by them. The dedicated Christian minister who serves his people faithfully and humbly, and not the pope, is the true successor of Peter.

## **9 Conclusion**

Let it be understood that we do not seek to minimize or downgrade but only to expose the preposterous claims that the Roman Church makes for its popes and hierarchy. Peter was a prince of God, but he was not the Prince of the Apostles. He, together with the other apostles, Mary, and the early Christians, turned from the religion in which they were born, Judaism, and became simply Christians, followers of Christ. Not one of them was a Roman Catholic. Roman Catholicism did not develop until centuries later.

The doctrine of the primacy of Peter is just one more of the many errors that the Church of Rome has added to the Christian religion. With the exposure of that fallacy the foundation of the Roman Church is swept away. The whole papal system stands or falls depending on whether or not Peter was a pope in Rome, and neither the New Testament nor reliable historical records give any reason to believe that he ever held that position or that he ever was in Rome.

(Continued in [Roman Catholicism By Lorraine Boettner Section Two Chapter VI The Papacy.](#))

## All chapters of Roman Catholicism By Lorraine Boettner

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## [How Does the Government of Israel Treat Christians? Christian Leaders in the West Should Care](#)



Reverend Munther Isaac, the pastor at the Evangelical Lutheran Christian Church in Bethlehem

Do American evangelical Christian pastors care that the government of Israel is mistreating Palestinian Christians? Not according to Munther Isaac, a Palestinian Christian. Doctrines of dispensationalism pastors learned in Bible school and seminary have led them to believe Christians must support Israel in everything the Israeli government does. This is based on the

heretical doctrine of John Nelson Darby's dispensationalism which C.I. Scofield promoted in his Scofield Reference Bible.

The Bible says in Romans 9:6b:

*For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:*

Who then is truly of Israel?

*Galatians 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. 16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on **them**, and mercy, and **upon the Israel of God**.*

The true Israel of God are those in Christ Jesus!

The rest of this article is a re-post from an article on [G. Edward Griffin's Need to Know News](#) website.

## **Tucker Carlson: How Does the Government of Israel Treat Christians? Christian Leaders in the West Should Care**

Last month, Republican Congressman Tim Walberg, a former Evangelical Pastor, said the US should not spend a dime on humanitarian aid for Gaza. He said he would like to see the area treated like Hiroshima and Nagasaki and to get it over quickly. He added that the same should go for Ukraine.

Tucker Carlson said that Christianity is the religion among all world religions that uniquely abhors mass killing and there's no excuse for that from a Christian perspective. Reverend Munther Isaac, the pastor at the Evangelical Lutheran Christian Church in Bethlehem, said that most leaders have a shallow knowledge of Israel but hold strong opinions shaped by their political party rather than investigation of the facts. Their decisions impact millions of lives. He said that Evangelical Christians support Israel because of the theology of Christian Zionism that teaches Christians must support Israel as the presence of Jews prepares for the end times and the second coming of Christ. Christians support Israel as a fulfillment of prophecy not realizing the consequences on real lives.

(Please understand that while I like many of Tucker's views, I don't support all of them.)

Reverend Isaac said that many Evangelical leaders believe that in the end times, leading to the return of Christ, after Jews are gathered in Palestine, two-thirds of them will be massacred and only the remaining third will to convert to Christianity.

He said that Christians should advocate for peace and that money and energy should be invested in peace rather than supporting Israel unconditionally. Israel should be held accountable for its actions. He added that the church is also part of the problem. The Bible does not call for unconditional support to a political entity.

Christians in the US have failed to stand up for other Christians because Israel is an ally.

Christians in Israel have suffered collective punishment along with Palestinians and are not allowed to leave Gaza.

Rev. Isaac said the war in Gaza can be described as genocide because of the forced starvation.

He stated that the only way to rescue the Christian presence in Israel is to end the occupation and bring a peaceful solution to the situation. "This is what we're asking for."

Christians are suffering. He pleaded for the war in Gaza to stop.

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## [Have You Been Hoodwinked by Israel?](#)



Christians should NOT support the modern state of Israel. Its government is officially antichrist. The children of Abraham are those who belong to Jesus Christ.

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## [Five Things to Watch for in 2024](#)





This article is a partial transcription of an audio on Christian J. Pinto's [Noise of Thunder Radio program](#).

My wife and I like to listen to Chris Pinto. He's a solid Bible-believing Christian, a former Catholic like we were who is very knowledgeable about the Counter-Reformation and the evil-doings of the Jesuit Order. However, we don't agree with him about his support of Israel in the latest Israeli-Hamas war in Gaza. Of course, any nation has a right to defend itself, but the way Israel is bombing Gaza indiscriminately, bombing hospitals and churches, killing media personnel, women and children, is not what I would call "self-defense." I would call it war crimes, ethnic cleansing and genocide. According to the testimonials of former IDF soldiers, the IDF purposely left that part of the border with Gaza unguarded so that Hamas would invade and do what they did so Israel could have the excuse to do what they are doing now!

In Chris Pinto's 2004 documentary, Megiddo – The March to Armageddon (Adullam Films), he stated that the 1948 restoration of the State of Israel was the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. I sure don't agree with him on that. All the prophecies of the restoration of Israel back to their homeland in the book of Ezekiel were fulfilled by King Cyrus telling the Jews they could return to their homeland if they wanted to. By the time of Christ, they were firmly settled back in the land God formerly gave them. In the documentary, I heard one Zionist preacher say, "If Israel is defeated by her enemies, you can throw your Bibles away!" Such a presumptuous and arrogant statement! It's outrageous for any Christian to say that! What people should say when things don't go the way they think the Bible says is: "My interpretation of Scripture must therefore be wrong! Does the Bible actually teach that doctrine? Or did I get it from some dispensational Christian Zionist preacher who got it from the Dallas Theological Seminary that got it from C.I. Scofield who got it from John Nelson Darby who got it from Edward Irving who got it from Jesuit Manuel Lacunza, a Roman Catholic who worked to undermine the Protestant Reformation? Yep, that's where I got it from, not from the inerrant Word of God."

All that being said, we like Chris Pinto's take on everything else.

## **Transcript**

Okay, praise the Lord you guys and welcome. I'm Chris Pinto. This is Noise of Thunder Radio.

Today on the show we are going to talk about five things to watch for in 2024. If you are an American, if you're a member of Western civilization, and I would argue if you are a God-fearing Bible-believing Christian, these are things you should watch for in 2024.

Now, why do I think this is important? Well, I think it's very important because society and the Western world and our country, the United States of America, if people are not aware of the danger, the rising danger that we are in the middle of right now, then you're just not paying attention, whoever you are, you're not paying attention. And it's why we have to pay attention to things like what happened to the countries of Western Europe during World War II.

I've mentioned on this program before, that one of my favorite foreign films is called KATYN, about the Katyn Forest Massacre based on actual events. It was a history I grew up hearing about from my grandfather Ziggy, Zygmunt Zadarowski, who I've talked about on the program before, who was a World War II veteran. His country, Poland, was turned upside down, practically overnight. There was a peace treaty declared by Hitler with Neville Chamberlain and so on. And so everybody's declaring, "Hey, we're all going to be at peace. Everything's going to be great!"

And then the invasion of Poland happened sometime afterward. And Poland, the people of Poland, were turned upside down overnight. And when you watch the beginning of that film, Katyn, you just watched the first five or ten minutes of it. And you've got all these civilians wearing ordinary clothing, just running. And they're carrying suitcases and bags, and they've got their young children. And why? Because their country's been invaded by the Nazis on one side and by the Communists on the other, the Soviets. And everything changed very, very quickly.

There's another film that was done not long ago by Angelina Jolie, called "First They Killed My Father" about the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. I would recommend watching the first 15 minutes of that film because you see a family there at the beginning. And again, this is all based on a true story, based on a book written by a woman who was a young girl when all of this happened to her country. At the very beginning, you see a Cambodian family, but they are very Westernized. That's obvious that they were Westernized because of the way that they dress, the things that they're doing are very much like what goes on in the West. And then what happens is very rapidly, suddenly, everything changes. These guys with guns come riding in, and they're having a celebration briefly, and then right after them comes the Khmer Rouge, the Communists. And they were there, of course, for the killing fields of Cambodia. But everything changes in a moment. Everything's turned upside down. And they're told, pack your bags, get your things. Everybody's got to clear out of the city in 10 minutes. I mean, it's very fast.

And you see it at the very beginning when the Khmer Rouge come in, one of the first things they do is gather everybody's guns. Everybody's firearms. They disarm everybody. And of course, you're wondering as an American, if you're an American, you're watching this happen and you're thinking, "Why didn't anybody resist these guys? Why didn't anybody try to fight back or whatever?" But for whatever reason, they did not. They allowed themselves to be disarmed. They allowed themselves to be rounded up and then taken on a forced march and everything went downhill from that point onward.

So what's happening in our country right now with things like this massive

flood of illegals coming into our country? I mean, this is unheard of. It's unprecedented. What's happening? We've never had anything like this happen in our history, where there's a massive flood of illegal criminals jumping the border. Meanwhile, we've got politicians like Nikki Haley, who claims she's some kind of Republican and some kind of a patriot, but she's saying it's wrong to call them criminals because supposedly they're just coming here for a better life. That is what we're told, even though the guys that work down there will tell you in a hot minute that most of those coming across the border are fighting-age men. They're not necessarily women and children. Very, very few women and children, mostly fighting-age men, and thousands, who knows how many thousands, of Islamic jihadi are crossing the border.

All right, so these are not in any particular order. The five things to watch for in 2024.

### **Number 1: The After effects of illegal immigration**

But since we've already introduced the idea, I'm going to say number one is the aftereffects of illegal immigration. And it's already started. We've been hearing stories, but here's one of the latest. This is published on a number of different websites. I'm just going to read a few lines from the Geller report, Pamela Geller's website, where it says New York City students are forced to go remote as the city houses migrants in schools. So in New York City, they are now putting the kids out of their public schools. Kids can't go in the schools now because they are making room for the illegal immigrants. We've already heard stories about them doing this at the hotels. People can't check into the hotel because they're putting all these illegal migrants into the hotels. The government is doing it at taxpayer expense.

All right, so here's just a part of this story.

Quote, "Students at a Brooklyn high school were kicked out of the classroom to make room for nearly 2000 migrants who were evacuated from a controversial tent shelter due to a monster storm closing in on the Big Apple."

And then you've got people complaining about it. People are saying things like, "They're not vetted. A lot of them have criminal records and backgrounds and we don't even know." The people in New York are obviously very concerned about this. And this is going to reach a breaking point at some point. I think New Yorkers are going to decide that they've had enough.

This massive inflow of illegals is just going to make things worse. And we've got repeated warnings from people who work on the border, people like Doug Thornton, who I interviewed, many of you heard that interview. If you haven't heard it go to our website at [noiseofthunderradio.com](http://noiseofthunderradio.com) and look in the archives back a couple of shows and you can listen to it. Very, very important interview. But they've been warning that there will likely be another 9-11 type event. This is what the guys down on the border are saying, the guys who I think are loyal patriots. They're warning because they're watching thousands upon thousands of illegals who are coming from the Middle East, who are Muslims, who are Islamists, rushing into our country, unvetted. And they believe that these guys have an agenda. It's just a matter of time.

That's why it is important to pay attention to, at a variety of levels, the aftereffects of illegal immigration.

Now, I want to play very quickly and then we're going to move on to the number two issue. Right now we're talking about illegal immigration. I want to play this audio. This is from Joe Biden. This is Joe Biden even before he became president, before he was installed in the White House, talking about the massive flood of immigrants into our country. Listen.

"Folks like me who were Caucasian of European descent, for the first time in 2017 will be an absolute minority in the United States of America. Absolute minority. Fewer than 50% of the people in America from then on will be white European stock. That's not a bad thing. That's a source of our strength."

So that again was a video featuring Joe Biden. This is back when Biden was vice president. This was in 2015. It's a C-SPAN video.

And sitting right next to Biden, of course, is another Jesuit, Mayorkas. If you don't know that Mayorkas is a Jesuit, yes, he is also a Jesuit. And what they're doing is we're going to show you in our new film, American Jesuits, which yes, folks, we are still pushing and working to get this project completed. But the information is so important. It is impacting what is going on in our country right now. This massive flood of immigrants into our country. This is part of the Vatican's plan has been for more than a hundred years. And we're going to show it to you. And it's happening right now. We're sitting here watching the fulfillment of what we were warned about back in the 1800s.

## **Number 2: The rise of Islam in Europe and North America**

Number two, we're going to say the rise of Islam in Europe and North America. And this, I think, is a very good segue because Islam and immigration, both legal and illegal immigration into the West, is something that is becoming an increasing problem.

I want to play now some audio. This is from FBI director Christopher Ray. Christopher Ray, let's go to the person who's seen as the senior source in our government on this. And this is Christopher Ray with the FBI warning about the potential for Islamic terror attacks on American soil. Listen.

"The reality is that the terrorism threat has been elevated throughout 2023, but the ongoing war in the Middle East has raised the threat of an attack against Americans in the United States to a whole other level. But it's not just Hamas. As the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism, the Iranians, for instance, have directly or by hiring criminals mounted assassination attempts against dissidents and high-ranking current and former U.S. government officials, including right here on American soil, the cyber targeting of American interests and critical infrastructure that we already see conducted by Iran and non-state actors alike, we can expect to get worse if the conflict expands as will the threat of kinetic attacks.

Al-Qaeda issued its most specific call to attack the United States in the

last five years. ISIS urged its followers to target Jewish communities in the United States and Europe. Hezbollah has publicly expressed its support for Hamas and threatened to attack U.S. interests in the Middle East. Here in the United States, our most immediate concern is that violent extremists, individuals or small groups will draw inspiration from the events in the Middle East to carry out attacks against Americans going about their daily lives."

All right, so again, that is and was Christopher Ray, director of the FBI. So that's about as official as a warning can get. But of course, that warning does not really come from him. It does. But it's something that loyal American patriots who are boots on the ground, who were eyes and ears down at the Mexican border and have been down there for years, this is something they've been warning about for years.

So that is certainly an important issue. The rise of Islam in Europe and North America. Now that's really a warning for North America and the United States in particular.

(Station break)

The documentary film, American Jesuits, is going to be very, very powerful, especially for people who know nothing about the Jesuits, they'll be able to have a very solid understanding of why the order is a danger both past and present. Because we bring things current. We bring things so current. And I'm going to talk more about this, but Vivek Ramaswami, we've just learned Ramaswami is a Jesuit. But yes, he's Jesuit-educated. And we'll talk more about that as the show goes on. But anyway, we are going to show people why this is an important issue, why the Jesuits and the counter-reformation are important in our world today and why we as Christians living in America need to harken to the warnings from scripture, of wolves and sheep's clothing, and two, the many, many warnings of our ancestors for the past 200 years warning us about the Society of Jesus, the so-called Society of Jesus, the Jesuit order.

Okay, so number two on our list is the rise of Islam in Europe and North America. In Europe, if you go to the RARE Foundation, R-A-I-R foundation.com, they've got a series of articles right now warning. There is a series of articles about thousands of German women raped by refugees since 2015. This is just in Germany. Now, we've talked about the rape gangs in England in the UK over the past 20 years. Reportedly, have assaulted and violated more than a million English girls, 11, 12, 13 year old girls over the past 20 years. And that number is now much worse. But they're saying that in Germany, two gang rapes happen per day against the women in Germany, two per day. You have in France on New Year's Eve, a disabled woman was violently beaten and raped in an elevator. That's one of the stories.

Another story is, weaponized prayer, Islamic displays of territorial dominance. Whenever you see those images of hundreds and sometimes thousands of Muslims bowing down in prayer in a public place, they go into cities like Paris, London, Rome, etc. where this article says, people have observed a uniquely Islamic display of dominance over the local population. This display

has a veneer of religious observance as people are clearly engaged in Islamic prayer. However, since there are always mosques available or private spaces within which these observances could be done, one has to conclude that the purpose is clearly other than mere observance of Islamic prayer requirements.

So in other words, what they're saying is that the Muslims will deliberately go into public places where people normally are walking up and down the road and this kind of thing. And they will block everything with their Islamic prayer because it's one of the ways. It's kind of a form of intimidation and psychological warfare to say basically Islam is taking over. That's why they do it. And they're doing it in these cities all over Europe. Do you know that these Islamic street prayers are actually a confrontation and a statement? The Muslims are asserting their supremacy implicitly demanding that everyone else who wants to pass along the street has to accommodate them. This is a manifestation of the old Islamic dictum that quote, "Islam must dominate and not be dominated." Now, there's no question that this is happening. There's no question that it is that you've got millions of Muslims now in the United Kingdom and they are pursuing more and more acts of aggression so that Islam will eventually dominate England in the whole UK.

### **Number 3: World War III**

Okay, so that's two. Number three, in my opinion, World War Three, is kind of odd, you would think that would either be number one or number five, right? But we're just going to, we're going to make it number three, World War Three, the situation with Ukraine, Russia, and Israel. Notice what's happening, you have all of these conflicts and these entanglements where the United States is being blamed by Russia for our support of Ukraine. And now we're being blamed by the Islamic element out there because of our support of Israel, the state of Israel.

### **Number 4: The resurgence of COVID-19**

Okay, so number four, the resurgence of COVID-19, the resurgence of COVID-19. There are repeated warnings that they are going to try to bring back mask mandates, that they're going to try to bring back lockdowns and all this other kind of stuff. Illegal immigration should inform every American, of the fact that they brought in millions and millions of unvetted, untested people that they know are going to have various viruses and things like that. And the fact that they've exercised no caution at all about this should be everything that we need to know that an attempt, a future attempt at some kind of lockdown and social distancing and this kind of thing is all just a show. It's a sham. It's, about power and control.

If they were really concerned about the spread of viruses and this kind of thing, they would never allow millions and millions of unvetted people to come running across our border. They just would not allow it. But that's what should tell us that among many other indicators.

But yes, the resurgence of COVID-19, it is entirely possible that there will be COVID 2.0 and they're going to attempt to impose some kind of COVID tyranny. Now, we were warned about this last year that this was going to

happen. And we didn't really see much of anything happen in the months that followed. We were warned that in the fall, beginning in the fall in November, December, here just a few months ago, that this was going to happen and it didn't happen. I think there is a lot of pushback and I think that Americans and freedom-loving people all over the world should continue to push back in a, you know, peaceful, protesting, exercising the First Amendment to the full extent so that the powers that be understand that society is not going to cooperate with all this lockdown stuff. And, if enough people are sounding the alarm and making noise, then it's very likely that these globalist powers will back down because they are somewhat pragmatic, I believe.

Of course, I believe the chief counselors are Jesuits. We're going to show you that in the new film because we're going to have a whole section on COVID-19 and the Jesuit order because the connections are undeniable, undeniable. But the Jesuits are very pragmatic, very pragmatic. So they'll back down. That doesn't mean that they're going to quit. Don't misunderstand. It doesn't mean that they're going to quit in terms of their globalist ambitions, but they'll sort of back off a bit because they don't want to push the envelope too far. That's what I think. I could be wrong. We'll have to wait and see. But yes, it's definitely something to look out for. The continued corruption of the medical industry for the purpose of using the medical industry for medical warfare against the people in our country, which I honestly believe is what's going on. Medical warfare, biowarfare, they're calling the vaccine a bioweapon. You've got people, a very official people calling the COVID vaccine a bioweapon.

So we've got to pay attention to this and be on the lookout in 2024. It'll be very interesting to see if more COVID tyranny rears its ugly head.

## **Number 5: The 2024 presidential race**

Now, the number five issue. That was the number four resurgence of COVID-19. Number five, the big issue is going to be the 2024 presidential race.

For the office of the president of the United States of America, there's no question that's going to become, I believe, I think, unless something catastrophic something or other that happens. I think the presidential race with everything going on with President Trump, everything going on with Joe Biden and all these candidates.

Nikki Haley is getting a lot of attention, but we think Nikki Haley is a globalist. We do not believe she is a true conservative Republican. And we think she's a globalist. And then you have Vivek Ramaswami, Ramaswami, who's getting a lot of attention, a lot of the conservatives seem to like him. And we've had a friend, in fact, Steve Matthews from the Trinity Foundation, who appears in our new film, forward to me, a story about Ramaswami that he graduated from St. Xavier High School. And what he is, St. Xavier High School won't remove Vivek Ramaswami from the Board of Trustees. He's not only a graduate, this is a Jesuit-run private high school in Cincinnati, or in the Cincinnati region, it says, won't remove the presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswami from its Board of Trustees. The board's chairman said Wednesday. Apparently, his conservative comments are considered controversial. Some of

the St. Xavier High School alumni are calling for the school to oust Ramaswami from its 25-member board of trustees. So, bear in mind, he's not just a graduate of this Jesuit high school. He's not just an alumnus. He is a member of its Board of Trustees. So, he's, again, this is a more solid Jesuit connection. Lots of people graduate from their schools. Not all of them have this kind of close association. And of course, Ramaswami is a Hindu, and he has a Hindu view of Jesus, which quite frankly is perfectly acceptable with the Jesuit order because it all fits in with what they wrote and communicated in Vatican Council II.

Do I think Ramaswami would make a good president? He might be better than Joe Biden, but I still would not want to see him in the White House. He has a very clear Jesuit connection. He's being supported on the conservative side of things. I think he is a, you know, it's, it's kind of like the order is trying to control both sides of the argument. Some people say the same thing about President Trump because Trump went to Fordham University. He did not graduate from Fordham. He was only there for two years, and he left and went to a different university. I've never thought that President Trump was, quote, a Jesuit. I've never seen him that way. I don't think he really represents the Jesuit agenda. The only thing that the main, well, the two main things with President Trump that are troubling for me is one, the fact that he gives any support to LGBT politically. That's one, and two, his support for the vaccine. And he continues to support the vaccine. Now the one possible, you know, upside of all of that is that he has also called in his campaign.

For an investigation into the health of children in particular, you've got so many kids being diagnosed with autism and these other conditions and a lot of people are pointing to the vaccine industry and the medical industry overall. If there is a second Trump administration and they do a sincere investigation into the medical industry, that would be a very needed and I think positive thing. And I say, if, quote, unquote, if we'll have to wait and see what happens and just pray for the Lord's help and guidance for our country and our people in the days ahead.

I wanted to play a brief clip here as we round this out. So that's all five issues. The five things to watch for, in my opinion, in 2024. Illegal immigration, the rise of Islam, World War Three, the resurgence of COVID-19 and number five, the 2024 presidential race, all of that will be forthcoming in 2024.

Also, Simon Roch I should mention, even though I didn't play this part of his interview, he goes out of his way to tell us that his organization is an exclusively Christian organization, that they are Christians, and they do not seek to have non-Christians come and join with them or anything like that. They are very boldly, unapologetically Christian in their worldview and in their approach to everything they're doing, praise the Lord!

Christians need to become more partisan for Christianity and not allow the globalist influence to convince you that you're supposed to be defending atheism and Islam and all of these other alternative beliefs. We're really not called to defend the non-Christian beliefs of the world. Remember, the

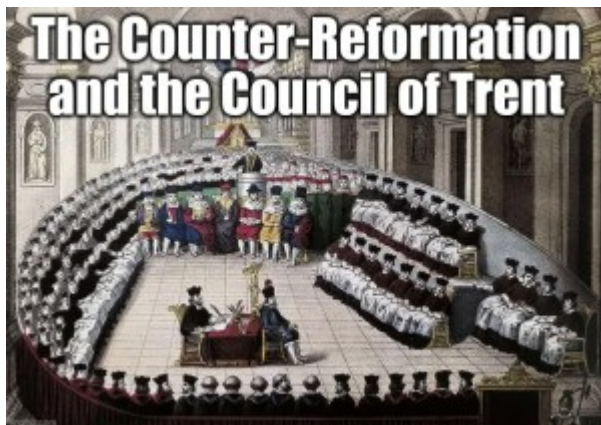


commandment of God, according to the Apostle Paul, is that God commands that all men everywhere repent and turn away from the idols of the world and put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Indeed, as Peter said, He is Lord of all.

We are not called to tell everybody else who has an alternative belief that their belief is somehow or other equally valid or anything like that. No, we are called to communicate the Word of God and God's command that all men everywhere repent and put their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord.

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## [The History of the Counter-Reformation in a Nutshell](#)



True Protestantism is Bible based Christianity. The Jesuit Counter-Reformation is the effort to eliminate Protestantism and Bible based doctrines entirely.

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## [Forefathers of the Faith Exposed the REAL Antichrist](#)



God's people of the past correctly identified the Antichrist. Most of God's people today don't have a clue and are only speculating who it could be.

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## God's Promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:3 is Misinterpreted by Zionists to Promote Genocide



The misunderstanding of God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:3 has led to the murder of innocent Palestinians in Gaza.

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## Pope Francis declares WAR against Bible believing Christians!



A fundamentalist group, although it may not kill anyone, although it may not strike anyone, is violent. – Pope Francis

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## Who is the Prince of the Covenant of Daniel 11:22 ?



One of the problems of interpretation of Bible prophecy is not knowing it was fulfilled in the past and therefore thinking it is a future event. This is why the “prince of the covenant” of Daniel chapter 11 is popularly interpreted to be the Antichrist of the future who makes some kind of peace deal with the nation of Israel. This kind of interpretation is called “eisegesis” meaning reading into the text what it is not actually saying. Eisegesis is the process of interpreting the text in such a way as to introduce one’s own presuppositions, agendas or biases. It is commonly referred to as reading into the text. That’s a no-no!

Let’s read Daniel 11:22 in context with verses before and after.

Daniel 11:21 And in his estate shall stand up **a vile person**, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

22 And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflown from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also **the prince of the covenant**.

23 And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people.

It’s my observation that contemporary Bible prophecy teachers confuse the prophecy of Daniel 9:27 with the prophecies of Daniel 11. They are entirely different! Daniel 9:27 was fulfilled in the ministry of Jesus Christ and His Apostles during a seven-year period from 27 AD which was the year Jesus started His ministry of preaching the Gospel to the restored house of Israel which confirmed the Covenant God made with Abraham, the Covenant of grace through belief in God’s Word. The Bible says so no less than 3 times!

Romans 4:3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was

counted unto him for righteousness.

Galatians 3:6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

James 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

And the Apostle Paul unequivocally says the Covenant of Daniel 9:27 was confirmed in Christ!

Galatians 3:17 And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ,...

I won't discuss Daniel 9:27 further in this article because I have covered it in detail a [multitude of times on this website](#). What I want to talk about now is the problem of combining prophecies that are not related to each other.

### **Commentary of Daniel chapter 11:21-22 from Adam Clarke (1762 – 26 August 1832), a British Methodist theologian.**

Daniel 11:21 And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

**In his estate shall stand up a vile person** – This was Antiochus, surnamed Epiphanes – the Illustrious. They did not give him the honour of the kingdom: he was at Athens, on his way from Rome, when his father died; and Heliodorus had declared himself king, as had several others. But Antiochus came in peaceably, for he obtained the kingdom by flatteries. He flattered Eumenes, king of Pergamus, and Attalus his brother, and got their assistance. He flattered the Romans, and sent ambassadors to court their favour, and pay them the arrears of the tribute. He flattered the Syrians, and gained their concurrence; and as he flattered the Syrians, so they flattered him, giving him the epithet of Epiphanes – the Illustrious. But that he was what the prophet here calls him, a vile person, is fully evident from what Polybius says of him, from Athenaeus, lib. v.: “He was every man’s companion: he resorted to the common shops, and prattled with the workmen: he frequented the common taverns, and ate and drank with the meanest fellows, singing debauched songs,” &c., &c. On this account, a contemporary writer, and others after him, instead of Epiphanes, called him Epimanes – the Madman.

“Antiochus IV Epiphanes (c. 215 BC – November/December 164 BC) was a Greek Hellenistic king who ruled the Seleucid Empire from 175 BC until his death in 164 BC. He was a son of King Antiochus III the Great. Originally named Mithradates (alternative form Mithridates), he assumed the name Antiochus after he ascended the throne. Notable events during Antiochus’s reign include his near-conquest of Ptolemaic Egypt, his persecution of the Jews of Judea

and Samaria, and the rebellion of the Jewish Maccabees.” – Source: Wikipedia

Daniel 11:22 And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflowed from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also **the prince of the covenant**.

**And with the arms of a flood** – The arms which were overflowed before him were his competitors for the crown. They were vanquished by the forces of Eumenes and Attalus; and were dissipated by the arrival of Antiochus from Athens, whose presence disconcerted all their measures.

**The prince of the covenant** – This was Onias, the high priest, whom he removed, and put Jason in his place, who had given him a great sum of money; and then put wicked Menelaus in his room, who had offered him a larger sum. Thus he acted deceitfully in the league made with Jason.

**Commentary from Albert Barnes (December 1, 1798 – December 24, 1870), who was an American theologian.**

Yea, also the prince of the covenant – He also shall be broken and overcome. There has been some diversity of opinion as to who is meant by “the prince of the covenant” here. Many suppose that it is the high priest of the Jews, as being the chief prince or ruler under the “covenant” which God made with them, or among the “covenant” people. But this appellation is not elsewhere given to the Jewish high priest, nor is it such as could with much propriety be applied to him. The reference is rather to the king of Egypt, with whom a covenant or compact had been made by Antiochus the Great, and who was supposed to be united, therefore, to the Syrians by a solemn treaty. See Lengerke, in loc. So Elliott, “Rev.” iv. 133.

**Commentary from contemporary Bible teacher.**

There’s a prince that’s coming. He’s going to make a covenant and to me, it just tells you two things. We’re talking about the rise of the Antichrist and the timing. We finally began the Tribulation, notice verse 23 and after the league made with him. That’s the Covenant. So he makes a Covenant but he’s a liar he’s a vile person and after the league made with him, he shall work deceitfully.

As you can see, this Bible teacher is giving us a futuristic interpretation. He’s calling the Prince of the Covenant the Antichrist. This is exactly what I was taught in the 1970s by a Bible prophecy teacher. And this teacher is also mixing together the prophecies of Daniel 9 with Daniel 11.

Some say a prophecy can have multiple fulfillments but I see no precedent for that in the Scriptures. Daniel 9:27 was fulfilled 2000 years ago and can never be repeated.

Albert Barnes and Adam Clarke come much closer to the truth in their historical interpretation of the Prince of the Covenant than do popular end-time Bible prophecy teachers of today.

If you were looking for an article on Christmas day about the birth of Christ, I have nothing better to tell you than to read the Gospel of Luke chapters one and two and also Isaiah chapter 53. That's what me and my wife did for our morning devotions.

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## [The Most Misunderstood Parts of the Olivet Discourse Explained!](#)



The Olivet Discourse in Matthew is so misunderstood because it transitions from the fall of Jerusalem up to verse 34 to the end of the world from verse 35!