

# **THE POPE IS THE ANTICHRIST**

## **A DEMONSTRATION FROM**

- **SCRIPTURE**
- **HISTORY**
- **AND HIS OWN LIPS**

**Being a Precis of Dr. J. A. Wylie's Classic,  
'THE PAPACY IS THE ANTICHRIST'**

**By IAN R. K. PAISLEY M.P., M.E.P.**

**The same line of proof which establishes that Christ is the promised Messiah, conversely applied, establishes that the Roman system is the predicted Apostasy.**

**In the life of Christ we behold the CONVERSE of what Antichrist must be; and in the prophecy of the Antichrist we are shown the CONVERSE of what Christ must be and was.**

**And when we place the Papacy between the two, and compare it with each, we find on the one hand, that it is the perfect CONVERSE of Christ as seen in His life; and on the other, that it is the perfect image of the Antichrist, as shown in the prophecy of him.**

**WE CONCLUDE, THEREFORE, THAT IF JESUS OF NAZARETH BE THE CHRIST, THE ROMAN PAPACY IS THE ANTICHRIST' — Dr. J. A. Wylie.**

# DEDICATION

**To the ministers and members of the Free Presbyterian Church serving  
Christ in four continents of the world.**

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# INTRODUCTION

The Church of Rome portrays herself as the Mother and Mistress of all Christian Churches, and behold the Protestants have a new name — they are no longer ‘heretics’ but ‘separated brethren.’

The Ecumenists, having rejected the Bible, are in total darkness and ignorance concerning the Papacy. In their folly they have all clambered aboard the ‘Roman Express.’ They wish to distance themselves as quickly as possible from anything which exposes the deception, dissimulation, and counterfeit of Popery. Hence in Ecumenical Presbyterianism, the Church of Scotland led the way in jettisoning Paragraph IV of Chapter 25 of the Historic Westminster Confession of Faith which reads as follows:-

‘There is no other head of the church but the Lord Jesus Christ: nor can the Pope of Rome in any sense be head thereof; but is that antichrist, the man of sin, the son of perdition, that exalteth himself in the church against Christ, and all that is called God.’

In June 1988 the General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church sought to follow.

A new ecumenical Church Council is being formed in these islands to replace the British Council of Churches (‘British’ in the title was objected to by the Irish Roman Catholic hierarchy). The new Council will have the Church of Rome as a foundation member. Cardinals Hume and O’Fee are now taking an active interest in the shaping of the same.

This replacement Council has been agreed by the old British Council in which the Irish Presbyterian Church, the Irish Methodist Church and the Church of Ireland all hold membership.

So the ecumenical churches are moving rapidly to final Church Unity with the Pope. The Anglican International Commission, led by a Church of Ireland Archbishop, has already agreed that the Pope should be the Head of the envisaged United Church. This has been accepted by the recent Lambeth Conference of the Anglican Churches.

In order to deceive the people in the pews the apostate ‘protestant’ clergy are now energetically campaigning in a great whitewash of Popery. An attempt is under way to erase from the historic creeds of the Reformed Churches the teachings condemnatory of the Papacy and identifying the Pope as Antichrist.

The Pope, the ecumenists and their dupes tell us, is a truly godly man, a sweet and blessed representative of Christ, the ‘Holy Father’ in deed and in truth!

The Church of Rome is presented as truly the church which Christ founded, and the Reformation which separated true believers from that apostate body is mourned over and confessed as sin.

The priests of Rome are presented as true ministers of Jesus Christ and faithful preachers of His Holy Gospel. Prayer and Evangelism in harness with such priests is engaged in by no less a person than Dr. Billy Graham who directs his Roman Catholic converts back to the Church of Rome.

The ordinary man in the pew must know where the truth lies. If the Lord Jesus be Christ, SERVE HIM. If the Pope be Christ, SERVE HIM.

The present Moderator of the General Assembly, Dr. Godfrey Brown, speaking on the BBC Radio 'Sunday Sequence' on Sunday (12th June, 1988), after his installation as Moderator stated, 'There is no scriptural evidence at all for the Confession of Faith's statement that the Pope is the Antichrist.' Yet the same Dr. Brown swore at his ordination that he believed the Confession and then signed it as a confession of his own faith! One of the Roman Catholic SDLP's leaders, Dr. Joe Hendron hailed the Assembly's decision to attempt to undermine the Confession's identification of the Pope as the Antichrist with delight. To him it was a mark of 'true' Christianity.

So it is timely we should ask the question, 'Is the Pope the Antichrist?' and see if it can be demonstrated from SCRIPTURE, HISTORY and HIS OWN CONFESSION that HE IS.

It was the great Dr. Thomas Chalmers, one of the founding fathers of the Free Church of Scotland and the first Moderator of that Church, who said when commenting on the second chapter of II Thessalonians:-

*'Save us O Lord, from falling away, lest we share the perdition that waiteth on the great Apostasy. We hold the usurpation of Rome to be evidently pointed at, and therefore let us maintain our distance, and keep up our resolute protest against its great abominations.'*

Today Dr. Chalmer's Chair of Theology in Edinburgh is held by a Roman Catholic Priest.

Exactly one hundred years ago Dr. J. A. Wylie, author of the famous 'History of Protestantism' (3 Volumes) published a small book of 168 pages entitled, 'The Papacy is the Antichrist.

The Rev. James Aitken Wylie was for many years a leading Protestant spokesman. Born in Scotland in 1808, he was educated at Marischal College, Aberdeen and at St. Andrews; he entered the Original Secession Divinity Hall, Edinburgh in 1827, and was ordained in 1831. Dr. Wylie became sub-editor of the Edinburgh Witness in 1846, and, after joining the Free Church of Scotland in 1852, edited the Free Church Record from 1852 until 1860. In 1860 he was appointed Lecturer on Popery at the Protestant Institute, a position he held until the year of his death. Aberdeen University awarded him the LL.D. in 1856.

Dr. Wylie was a prolific writer on Protestant themes. In 1851 the Evangelical Alliance awarded him first prize for his writing 'The Papacy,' which he submitted as his entry for a competition for the best essay on Popery.

I have simply made a precis of his excellent work, '*The Papacy is Antichrist*,' because its demonstration cannot be surpassed. I have also added some additional material.

IAN R. K. PAISLEY

# SCRIPTURE PROPHECY ITSELF, SUPPLIES THE KEY TO ITS INTERPRETATION

The use of the word 'King' both in Daniel's and John's prophecies refers to the Kingdom and the Dynasty of Kings rather than the individual monarch.

How plainly this is seen in Daniel 2:37—39:-

*'Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength and glory.*

*And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. And after thee shall arise another kingdom, inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.'*

When Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar *'Thou art this head of gold'* he did not mean Nebuchadnezzar on his own but Nebuchadnezzar and the four kings who followed him as successive rulers over the Babylonian Empire. The term in prophecy in this setting means a dynasty or headship of successive rulers in the same line over a designated empire or kingdom. Mark it was only after his fourth successor had ruled Bablylon that the Medo-Persian Kingdom took over. Yet it is spoken of by Daniel thus, *'After thee* (which clearly means after the dynasty of the kings founded by thee) *there shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee'* (here it is plain to be seen that Nebuchadnezzar is not referred to personally but the Empire over which he ruled).

This is also made crystal clear of the four beasts in Daniel chapter seven, where the angel informs Daniel that the four beasts are four kings (v. 17) and immediately afterwards the fourth king is described as the fourth 'Kingdom' (v.23).

In order to have a right understanding of the symbolic use of the words '*beast*,' '*king*,' and '*horn*,' we must use this key principle of prophetic interpretation. Heads on the beasts have special reference to special forms of government in the world empires which they represent. The horns stand for kings in relationship to their kingdoms (Rev. 17:12) and emphasise the dynasty of kings and their kingdoms rather than one individual person.

**Note carefully how the great horn is used for the nation and the four others for kingdoms in Daniel chapter eight verses 21 and 22.**

It is clearly evident then, that the little horn of Daniel chapter seven is not one individual but is a kingdom with its dynasty of kings. This dynasty is not only foretold by Daniel under the symbolism of a little horn, but further expounded on by our Lord Jesus Christ, the Apostle Paul and the Apostle John in the New Testament Scriptures.

It is the purpose of this book to demonstrate that the preaching of the Great Cloud of Witnesses of all Ages in the Church is true and that the little horn is none other than the Dynasty of Rome's Popes and that therefore THE POPE IS THE ANTICHRIST.

# **A GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES**

These faithful witnesses all held the doctrine that the Church of Rome is the Babylon of Revelation chapter seventeen and the Pope is the Antichrist prophesied in Scripture.

## **REFORMATION WORTHIES**

Huss, Wycliffe, Luther, Melancthon, Zwingli, Calvin, Beza, Bucer, Knox, Ferrar, Hooper, Latimer, Ridley, Cranmer, Ussher, Firth, Barnes, Philpot, Becon, Turner, Cartwright, Barrow, Jewel, Coverdale, Lord Cobham, Hooker, Ainsworth, Dent, Foxe, Fulke, Bradford, Bullinger, Rogers, Hutchinson, Whitgift, Sir Francis Drake and a host of others.

## **POST-REFORMATION WORTHIES**

Sir Isaac Newton, Sir Henry Vane, Brightman, Milton, Beard, Baxter, Bishop Newton, John Bunyan, Fleming, Wesley, Matthew Henry, Jonathan Edwards, Gill, Clarke, Trapp, Brown, Toplady, Pool, Clarkson, Swimmock, Brooks, Charnock, Sibbs, Goodwin, Owen, Hall, Cunningham, Manton, Smith, Adams, Perkins, Gilpin, Field, Durham, Willet, Rainolds, Cotton, Gauge, Burroughs, Carter, Ames, Bridge, Marshall, Potter, Thomas Fuller, Twisse, Keith, Hales, Chalmers, Spurgeon, Wylie, Elliott, Cumming, Goode, Ryle, Candlish, Albert Barnes, Wordsworth, Birks, Hislop, A. J. Gordon often called the Father of Fundamentalism, Moody, Hudson Taylor, Guinness, Salmond, Dinsdale Young, Horn, Close, T. T. Shields, Kensit, Baron Porceli and a host of others.

It was always the theological Romanists and Liberals in Church History who started the attack on this universally held interpretation of the teaching of Holy Scripture concerning ‘The Great Whore’ and ‘The Antichrist.

# **THE POPE IS THE ANTICHRIST**

## **THE FAITH OF THE HISTORIC CHRISTIAN CHURCHES**

This doctrine is written into the Historic Creeds and Confessions of all those Churches which held, in their earliest days, the Bible to be the Sole Rule of Faith and Practice.

### **EPISCOPALIAN (*Anglican*)**

The Irish Articles adopted by the Archbishops, Bishops and Convocation of the Irish Episcopal Church and approved by the Viceroy in 1615 state:-

**Article 79:** The power which the Bishop of Rome now challengeth to be supreme head of the universal Church of Christ, and to be above all emperors, kings, and princes, is a usurped power, contrary to the Scriptures and Word of God, and contrary to the example of the Primitive Church; and therefore is for most just causes taken away and abolished within the King's Majesty's realms and dominions.

**Article 80:** The Bishop of Rome is so far from being the supreme head of the universal Church of Christ, that his works and doctrine do plainly discover him to be that 'man of sin,' foretold in the holy Scriptures, 'whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and abolish with the brightness of His coming'

### **PRESBYTERIAN**

Westminster Confession of Faith Chapter 25 paragraph VI:-

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

### **CONGREGATIONAL**

**Savoy Declaration**, Chapter 26 paragraph IV:-

**IV.** There is no other head of the Church but the Lord Jesus Christ; nor can the Pope of Rome in any sense be head thereof; but it (he) is that Antichrist, that man of sin and son of perdition that exalteth himself in the Church against Christ, and all that is called God, whom the Lord shall destroy with the brightness of His coming.

### **BAPTIST**

**The Baptist Confession of 1688**, Chapter 26 paragraph 4:-

**4.** The Lord Jesus Christ is the head of the Church, in whom, by the appointment of the Father, all power for the calling, institution, order or government of the Church is invested in a supreme and

sovereign manner; neither can the Pope of Rome, in any sense, be head thereof, but is no other than Antichrist, that man of sin and son of perdition, that exalteth himself in the Church against Christ, and all that is called God: whom the Lord shall destroy with the brightness of His coming.

## **METHODIST**

Notes of John Wesley on the New Testament II Thessalonians 2:3:-

“However, in many respects, the Pope has an indisputable claim to those titles. He is, in an emphatical sense, the man of sin, as he increases all manner of sin above measure. And he is, too, properly styled, the son of perdition, as he has caused the death of numberless multitudes, both of his opposers and followers, destroyed innumerable souls, and will himself perish everlastingly. He it is that opposeth himself to the emperor, once his rightful sovereign; and that exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped. Commanding angels and putting kings under his feet, both of whom are called gods in scripture; claiming the highest power, the highest honour; suffering himself, not once only, to be styled God or vice-God. Indeed no less is implied in his ordinary title, ‘Most Holy Lord,’ or ‘Most Holy Father,’ so that he sitteth enthroned in the temple of God, mentioned in Rev. 11:1. Declaring himself that he is God — claiming the prerogatives which belong to God alone.’

**The Translators who produced the Genevan Version of the Holy Scriptures and the Translators who produced the Authorised Version all believed that the Pope was the Antichrist.**

# 1 THE TERM ‘ANTICHRIST’

The Apostle John under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God gave this title Antichrist to the apostasy of Christianity.

‘Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists: whereby we know that it is the last time.

They went out from us, but they were not of us: for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.’ I John 2:18—23.

‘Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist whereof ye have heard that it should come: and even now already is it in the world.

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.’ I John 4:2—6.

‘For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.’ II John 1:7.

It is well known that the whole dynasty of Popes take to themselves the title, ‘VICAR OF CHRIST’

John Paul II claims loudly, ‘I am the Vicar of Christ.’

The Apostle John styles the leader of Apostate Christianity, ‘the Antichrist’

The Papal title is the key which unlocks to us the true mystery and character of the Papacy.

‘Antichrist’ is a Greek word. ‘Vicar’ is an English word. The words are synonymous. They have exactly the same meaning. ‘Antichrist’ translated into the English is ‘Vice Christ’ or ‘Vicar of Christ? ‘Vicar of Christ’ rendered into the Greek is ‘Antichristos’ = ‘Antichrist’ The ordinary use of the word in the Greek is decisive on this point. So every time the Pope claims to be, ‘The Vicar of Christ, he is pleading at the bar of the world’s opinion that he indeed is THE ANTICHRIST.

The Vicar of Christ, the Vice-Christ, the Antichrist, comes in the room and in the stead of the true Christ and must therefore be characterised by deception, dissimulation and counterfeit.

Antichrist poses as the true representative of Christ, not Christ's enemy, hence deception and lying are his stock-in-trade. Atheists, Communists, Mohammedans and many others do not claim to be Christ's sole representatives on earth. They openly declare their opposition, hatred, and undying antagonism to Christ. They don't lie about that. They do not conceal their blasphemies against Christ. They openly declare themselves haters. of our Lord Jesus Christ. They wear no masks. Therefore they are not the Antichrist.

Of all the religions on the earth Romanism is the only one which meets all the requirements of Biblical prophecy, as we shall see. Popery alone exhibits all the features of the Antichrist.

If we allow ourselves to be guided by the Holy Scriptures, the Facts of History and the Pope's Own Claims, then we will be forced to the conclusion, '*This is indeed the Antichrist.*'

We must therefore study the parallel between Christianity and the Papacy, Our Lord Jesus Christ and the Popes, along the entire line of their careers. This parallel is the key to the mystery and explains how the LIE that the Pope was the Vice-Christ or Vicar of Christ misled the whole world, as it is still doing today, into thinking that Romanism is true Christianity. That LIE has wasted ages, overthrown Kingdoms, instituted tortures unmentionable, stained the world with blood and peopled Hell.

‘And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie; That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.’  
II Thessalonians 2:11—12.

N.B. The Greek word ‘lie’ carries the definite article literally reading, ‘**THE Lie.**’

## 2 ANTICHRIST PORTRAYED BEFORE HIS BIRTH

It is in keeping with the inspiration and divinity of the Bible that the clearest descriptions of Antichrist are given before his birth.

For fourteen centuries the Papacy has been developing, and it can be studied at first hand in all its devious and diabolical evolution. Yet the most life-like portrait of the Papacy which exists is that given by Paul of the Antichrist in II Thessalonians 2:1—12.

‘Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto Him, That ye be not soon ‘ shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition:

Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped: so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?

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

For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming:

Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.

And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish: because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.’

Listening to the approaching footsteps of the Antichrist, Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, marked with the keenest spiritual perception the, great shadow about to darken the whole world, not for a few centuries but until the end of time itself.

No wonder that greatest of all English preachers, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, exclaimed when he read this Scripture passage, ‘ARREST THE POPE ON SUSPICION OF BEING THE ANTICHRIST!’

### 3 ANTICHRIST AN ENEMY OF CHRIST UNDER A MASK

We must establish that this system depicted by Paul is the Roman apostasy and that Paul is speaking of the same system of which the prophet Daniel prophesied before Paul, and the apostle John prophesied after Paul. :

This is no point of speculation. The most vital prophecies of God's Holy Word are involved. We must either establish that Daniel, Paul and John are speaking of the Papacy, or confess that the Reformation and the Protestant Churches which came into being through it were fighting all along under a mistake.

'Who is Antichrist?' It will help us to a proper identification if we consider first the question, 'What is Antichrist?'

Antichrist is the enemy of the Son of God and makes war with Him. Now the form of that war is all-important as far as our investigations go and all its strategies call for particular attention.

The meaning of the title '*Antichrist*' as used in the Bible, is a word of new formation. It is made up of two words '*anti*' and '*Christ*.' The old Greek classical writers used the word to designate a substitute. For example, '*anti-Baglieus*' was the substitute for the King. What we would now call a 'viceroy, '*anti*' having in this case the same meaning as the English term 'vice. The person who filled the place of the consul was by the Greeks called the '*antipagos*,' pro-consul. An absent guest at a feast was called '*antiderpros*.' The preposition '*anti*' was used of Christ Himself by Himself, an *antilutron*, a ransom in stead of many, the substitute.

Here we are being given the key to the strategy employed by the man of sin and the pose he adopts to accomplish his satanic objective.

The antichrist who also bears the name '*son of perdition*' as did Judas, like Judas pretends to be the friend of Christ and uses the token of love — a kiss — as the signal of treachery.

A stealer into office, who under the mask of friendship to Christ works for the utter destruction of the dominion of the Son of God, is the Antichrist.

Our Lord, Himself, first introduces us to the Antichrist in the New Testament.

'And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders insomuch that, if it were possible they shall deceive the very elect.' Matthew 24:4,5&24.

The dynasty of Antichrist and not just one person is clearly revealed by our Lord. The Many (plural) do not say 'We (plural) are Christ' No the many say, '*I* (singular) am Christ.'

The term ‘false Christs’ in the Greek is pseudo christ and is but a synonym of ‘antichrist. Note the great strategy of antichrist is not direct frontal attack but falsehood and deception.

The apostle John in his epistles, scriptures we have already quoted, tells us of many antichrists preceding the one special and great Antichrist. When the giant comes the dwarfs have passed away.

‘And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come: and even now already is it in the world.’ I John 4:3.

Denial in the New Testament is the refusal to confess the truth. Rome refuses to confess the proper coming of our Lord Jesus in the flesh, and puts in the place of the Scriptural teaching, a dogma which is a denial of the proper incarnation of the Son of God.

Rome’s dogma, not promulgated until as late as 1854, asserts the Immaculate Conception of Mary as the prior and absolute prerequisite of Christ’s coming after the flesh. It thus denies His proper coming, born of Mary, pure in her virginity but sinful in her heart, and herself requiring to be saved by her Sinless Son, Luke 1:47.

As we have before emphasised, in the New Testament to deny is | to refuse to confess, so we find that the Pope refuses to confess the Christ of God, the only Rock, but rather confesses that he himself : is the Christ on earth, the Rock of Peter. He denies the’ Christ.

But the definition of Antichrist is stated by John thus, ‘*He is antichrist that denieth the Father and the Son.*’ I John 2:22.

The Pope denies the Father by bringing in the religion of ‘the Mother’ \ Romanism is Mariolatry — the worship of Mary, and the present Pope — is the leader in this cult of Mary. Moreover the Pope usurps the title of the Father, taking to himself God the Father’s exclusive title ‘Holy Father.

John tells us that Antichrist is a liar, the true son of the father of lies, the original liar from the beginning.

If Antichrist comes, as many affirm he will come, without concealment, boldly and truthfully affirming his satanic design to overthrow Christ, how then will he be a liar and a deceiver?

It is clear that Antichrist as depicted by our Lord and John will wear a mask. He will profess one thing and act another. He will enter the church as Judas entered the garden to betray the Son of man with a kiss. Peace will be in his tongue but war in his heart. He will imitate Christ, a diabolical imitation, Satan transformed into an angel of light, which will deceive the world for centuries. The only exception to his lies and deception will be those who through the Holy Spirit’s teaching will be able to tear off the mask and cry out in recognition, ‘*I know thee who thou. art, the Antichrist from hell.*’

## **4 ANTICHRIST NO ATHEIST OR COMMUNIST**

There is nothing open or above board about Antichrist. He is counterfeit, a deceptive replica of the real thing. By this one mark the Antichrist can be identified.

If Antichrist is a deceiver and the Bible states that he is, then he will not come as a self-confessed Atheist. An atheist or any body of atheists are open enemies of Christ, not His pretended representatives.

They attack Christianity openly and seek to portray the Christian revelation as the invention of priests.

Before there can be an Antichrist there must be a true Christ, therefore Antichrist does not affirm that Christianity is a fable but rather poses as its defender and ultimate Head. No true Christ — no true Antichrist.

What is more, on the same grounds the theory that Antichrist is a political character cannot be substantiated. A wicked, tyrannical, bloodthirsty dictator, who will arise to devastate the whole world by arms is an altogether different Antichrist from the Antichrist foretold in the Bible. Such a person, no matter how wicked and violent his ways, lacks the one great dissimulation under which Antichrist will carry out his programme. This mock-Christ will concentrate on ‘the temple of God,’ and on ‘the saints of the most High.’

When we eliminate those false Antichrists who cannot measure up to the prophetic standards set forth so clearly in the Scriptures, we come more and more to within sight of the real Antichrist.

We turn now to a study of Paul’s prediction, and we will be blind indeed if after our study of it we shall have any doubt to whose likeness in the world today it is that looks forth from this prophecy.

## 5 THE TWO MYSTERIES OF THE BIBLE.

John gives us the name, 'Antichrist', but Paul gives us his portrait. He so delineates him with such accuracy and definitive fullness that nothing in the intervening 19 centuries is needed to either supplement or amend the picture. Paul's portrait is not a riddle to baffle future ages but a plain picture so that with history in our hands there is not room for one moment's doubt. Remember, Prophecy is History written beforehand. As the photograph agrees in every detail with the living face of which it is taken, so clearly did the spirit of prophecy foresee the coming of Antichrist that Paul was able truthfully to depict him.

The key to the prophecy is the expression in the seventh verse, '*the mystery of iniquity doth already work.*' This phrase is a striking one. It occurs nowhere else in the Word of God. It is no simple iniquity but 'the mystery' of iniquity.

Since the fall of Adam and Eve, iniquity has polluted this world. History sorrowfully recites its litany. But sin is to take a new dimension and iniquity a new satanic darkness. 'An unexampled and unthought of apparatus of iniquity is about to appear' says Paul.

"Mystery, suggests a secrecy and a system so far unknown on the earth. Paul, as he moves in the light and towards the light, tells us what his enlightened eyes behold.

### 'THE MYSTERY OF INIQUITY'

The range of this expression is vast. The depths of its pronouncement are profound. Perhaps even today, some nineteen hundred years after it was first spoken, its length and breadth have not yet been accurately measured or its meaning fully comprehended.

The expression, brings to mind an opposite expression, 'the mystery of Godliness.':

*'Without controversy great is the mystery of Godliness.'* I Timothy 2:16.

These two phrases stand alone in the whole Bible. We read but once of '*the mystery of iniquity*' and but once of '*the mystery of Godliness.*' What is the mystery of iniquity? Nothing less than the satanic imitation and devilish counterfeit of 'the mystery of Godliness.'

What is 'the mystery of Godliness'? It is the revelation through symbols, prophecies and typical persons of the great Truth of God which had its full manifestation in the Person of the Christ of God. Hebrews 1:1—2.

What is 'the mystery of iniquity'? It is none other than the parallel and counterfeit of 'the mystery of Godliness.' It is the revelation of the Great Lie which has its full manifestation in the Person of the Antichrist.

It is the marshalling of all the principles of evil and their embodiment at the last in one organisation whose head is the incarnation of their fulness. He is the grand outcome of the great apostasy. He guides

its counsels, inspires its policy, executes its decrees, and is the medium through which its terrible powers are put forth.

As in Christ God and man are one, so in Antichrist, His counterfeit and rival, the human and superhuman — earth-born man and archangel fallen, are one.

## 6 THE UNFOLDING OF THE TWO MYSTERIES

Having brought these two mysteries on to the stage of prophecy Paul traces the parallel between them. The stages in both are the same, one their rise, two their coming and three their completed development.

The mystery of iniquity was already at work in Paul's day. It was working as leaven in the meal and as seed in the soil. The mystery of iniquity works as treason works, unknown to the world, planning in secret and conferring in darkness. The time for its manifestation was not yet.

So also the mystery of Godliness, the gospel revelation, was at work long before the incarnation of the Son of God. It was first hidden in the eternal council of the everlasting God and with the advent of time its secret was whispered only in secret to those who were shown His Covenant. Incarnation was concealed in the prophecy of '*the seed of the woman.*' Expiation was hidden in the appointment of substitutionary sacrifice. The veil was kept upon it both in the Tabernacle and Temple. The types however, getting clearer and the prophecies fuller, till at last from behind the veil stepped forth 'God manifest in flesh, the Christ of God. Centering from His all glorious Person, as rays from the sun, there shone forth all the glorious doctrines of the Gospel.

In like manner 'the mystery of iniquity' developed, hastening onwards to the day of its manifestation. While systems of worship arose with powerful hierarchies and grand ceremonials and passed to the ruin, 'the mystery of iniquity' as if deathless like the Satanic Being who inspired it, still persisted. It made broken thrones and desecrated altars but stepping stones towards its high goal of being the wonder of the nations of the earth.

It remained hidden but Paul tells us of its workings. Sometimes these workings surfaced in a rash of little antichrists as John tells us, but the great Antichrist was not yet. Paul heard the footfalls of the approaching Apostate Colossus through the spirit of prophecy and warned the Church of what he would be like and what he would do. The One who would say '*I am Christ,*' would follow these many antichrists, and under the deception of that confession, would make war upon the true Christ.

As the true Christ was shown in picture by types, promise and prophecy so the Antichrist was also pictured.

What were Nimrod, Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar and Caesar but types of that terrible power, temporal and spiritual, which would eventually be enthroned in the Papal Chair.

When the fulness of the time came and the day of Antichrist's appearance had arrived, the great reality appeared, 'The Man of Sin and Son of Perdition.' He had found his seat on the Seven Hills, but not as yet his full stature.

## 7 THE PASTOR BECOMES MONARCH — TEN CENTURIES OF CLIMBING

It was not until the thirteenth century that the 'Man of Sin' reached his maturity. During the passing ten centuries he stretched higher and higher and higher, piling assumption upon assumption and prerogative upon prerogative, till at last he looked down not only upon all churches but upon all kings and kingdoms. He claimed to be the world's one monarch and bishop, the Representative of Christ on earth.

From a humble pastor to a mighty potentate he evolved. With the exception of true Christianity, no similar example of what at first was so small became in the end so great, has ever been witnessed on earth.

A line of some three hundred Popes are seen and these all, one after the other, prosecuted the same idea. Each one carried that idea forward at the point where his predecessor left it.

A strange combination, increasingly and undeviatingly, is seen to be at work. The spirit which conceived the plan and from century to century carried it forward, was more than human. Paul tells us that it was Satanic.

Mark 'a great apostasy' was to precede the rise of Antichrist.

'The day of Christ,' that is His coming and 'the gathering of his saints to Him,' the ascent of the resurrected saints to meet their Lord, cannot come 'except there come a falling away first.' II Thess. 2:3. 'Falling away' has the definite article it is 'the' falling away, The great and notable apostasy, that dark and terrible time, is spoken of by both Daniel and John.

The early persecutions of the church had hardly ceased until the declension of apostasy set in. The vine which Paul tended in Rome is transformed into the vine of Sodom. Riches, greed, lust and power, destroy its holiness. The bishop rides forth in a gilded chariot, and the clergy are arrayed in silks. Superstitious rites usurp the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

As the centuries pass, error is piled on error, and the whole is buttressed with assumptions and deceptions. The pastor becomes a bishop and the bishop a Pope, the Man of Sin.

He arises from a paganised Christianity, the great apostasy. Like the soil from which he sprung the Pope is pagan in essence though Christian in appearance, an apostate transformed as an angel of light.

Certain events aided the Antichrist in his development. The first of these was the removal of the Emperor from Rome to Constantinople. The Papacy could not have developed until the hindrance of the Caesar was removed from Rome. He who now letteth (hinders) will let . (hinder). Paul notes that carefully and informs us of how the Antichrist is thus withholden.

Constantine removed the new Rome to the Bosphorus, leaving old Rome to its Bishop in AD 334. Out of the chair of St. Peter, which the Bishops of Rome claimed to occupy, and out of the city of the Caesars he forged for himself a sovereignty which survived the fall of the Roman Empire, the

convulsions and overturnings of the Middle Ages and the Reformation, and has come down to our day in all its arrogance and deception. It has the art, when men believe it to be about to expire, of rallying its powers and yet again dominating the whole world.

The second great event which aided the Antichrist in his development was the development of a new and loftier order overtopping the episcopate. Christendom became partitioned into five great patriarchates, Rome, Constantinople, Antioch, Alexandria and Jerusalem. The bishops of these five great cities of the empire became the five great princes of the church.

Then came the battle for priority and supremacy. Which of the five should be the first? The people of Rome pronounced in the favour of their bishop even without imperial ratification. He was installed as the first of the five in AD 606. The Emperor Phocas made Boniface III universal bishop only in precedence amongst the five, but with no jurisdiction over the other four.

But the Antichrist did not want precedence. He lusted after real power. The plan put into operation was to subdue the whole clergy of the church to the Pope. As the centuries passed, by the help of many an artifice, the Popes extended their power over the West. The darkness which descended on Europe with the descent of the Gothic hordes favoured the project in a high degree. That darkness masked the evil operations of the Papacy.

In the darkness there was produced the last will and testament of the Emperor Constantine which bequeathed to Silvestor, the Bishop of Rome, the whole Western Empire including palace, regalia, and all the belongings of the Master of the World.

Next came the decretals of Isidore. This showed that from Peter onwards all the Popes held the same state and ruled with the same power as the grand Popes of the Middle Ages.

Of course both documents were forgeries. Even Rome admits that today but she still holds as of divine authority the claims founded on these forgeries.

The third great event that aided the Antichrist in his development was the arrival of the northern nations in southern Europe. These invaders, when they arrived in Rome, beheld a great potentate in the throne of Caesar. He told them that he was the successor of Peter, the Vicar of Christ on earth, with power to transmit all his powers both temporal and spiritual to his successors. This was the Pope's only gospel to the barbarians.

In the Pope they beheld no very distant likeness to their own Arch Druid. The idolatries of Rome were like their own pagan ones. Access to the baptismal font was not impeded by their pagan beliefs or sins. So nation after nation entered the Church, the French leading the way and earning for themselves the title '*the eldest son of the church.*'

The Antichrist with the vast accession of new subjects continued on the up and up. The subjection of all bishops was brought about by their pilgrimages to Rome, their appeal to the bishop of Rome in matters of dispute, and eventually by the presentation of the poll of consecration. This was at first a free gift but it soon became indispensable and without it no bishop could discharge his functions. All had to be paid

for dearly and so the Antichrist became exceedingly rich. In a 'divide and conquer' strategy between the regular and secular clergy the Pope advanced both his financial and temporal interests.

The fourth great event which aided the Antichrist in his development was the event of the various crusades.

The papal-inspired crusades placed power, peoples, princes, and soldiers at the service of the Pope. He took over the estates of those who went off to fight, exempting their owners from the jurisdiction of the civil power in both civil and criminal causes.

When the Crusades were spent the only monarch unbroken and whose treasury was full was the Pope. The monarchs of Europe were bankrupt and their peoples ruined. The Antichrist rose to new heights of even greater grandeur on the ruins. What is more, the nations were further weakened and the Papacy strengthened by the fanatical fury of those returning from the Holy Land who vented their wrath on heretics to such lengths that bloody persecutions and wars were commenced which raged for centuries.

Out of the resulting weakness of strife-torn Europe, the Antichrist increased from strength to strength.

## 8 THE KING WITH THREE CROWNS — THE VICAR

In the eighth and ninth centuries certain political changes occurred which aided the Papacy to achieve its objective.

To be supreme, the Antichrist must have a country of his very own where he could reign supreme as both temporal monarch and spiritual potentate. The events of the centuries conspired, as it were, to make this possible.

The retirement of the emperor from Rome to Constantinople was the first event. Then the defeat of the Gothic powers in Italy by the Emperor Justinian.

The Eastern Empire, however, was distant and shadowy but still real and Pope Gregory II decided that he must rid himself of its jurisdiction. He used the controversy on the subject of image-worship which the Romans supported and the Eastern Church rejected, to instigate a revolt against the Emperor. His representative was slain and the last vestiges of his jurisdiction over Rome and Italy annihilated.

However the Longobards had invaded Northern Italy and the Pope now saw that both his spiritual and temporal authority were in jeopardy.

Pope Zachary turned to Pepin King of France. Pepin and his son Charlemagne responded to the Pope's call and defeated the Longobards endowing the Papal chair with all the cities and lands of Italy which had been subject to their rule. The Pope at last was a crowned monarch.

Thus was fulfilled the prophecy of Daniel chapter 7:8, the three horns plucked up before the little horn, the antichrist. The three horns were, (one) the Vandals defeated by the Emperor Justinian's General Belisarius, (two) the Ostogoths also uprooted by Justinian, and (three) the Longobards defeated by the sword of France.

It was in memory of these three events and his entering into their kingdom that the Pope wore the triple crown, the tiara.

The Antichrist must however climb higher yet. He must set his throne among the stars and be supreme above all the kings of the earth.

In the eleventh century there arose a Pope of inflexible resolution and towering pride, Gregory VII — Hildebrand. He put before the world with a precision, a boldness, and an argumentative force, never till then brought to its support, the claim to be the Vicar of Christ. He maintained that he was God upon earth. In two dreadful centuries of war and blood-shedding the succeeding Popes eventually turned Gregory's theory into fact and the tiara triumphed over the empire.

The claim of Hildebrand was exhibited in the person and reign of Innocent II] in the thirteenth century, in all its amplitude of despotism and blasphemy. History records no other achievement of equal magnitude.

The career both of Christ and Antichrist was to end on a throne but each was to reach their respective thrones by a very different road.

## 9 THE ‘ALL POWER’ OF CHRIST AND ANTICHRIST

Christ does miracles. The Antichrist does counterfeit miracles. Paul highlights these when he states that Antichrist’s coming ‘*is after the manner of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.*’ II Thess. 2:9.

Antichrist seeks to depose Christ under the show of enthroning Him. He undermines Christianity under the guise of being the leader of Christianity and its essential propagator. His counterfeit is most carefully executed — the work of a great master — and consistently maintained throughout.

The two comings, one of Christ and one of Antichrist are contrasted by Paul. Christ’s coming is the coming of God in the mission of salvation. Antichrist’s coming is the coming of Satan in the mission of damnation. Christ comes as the Way, the Truth and the Life, dispelling the darkness from the souls of men and chasing the night of error from the world. Antichrist comes after the manner of Satan who was a liar and murderer from the beginning. He comes to misdirect, to propagate deceits, chicaneries, lies, errors and delusions which blind the mind and hasten lost souls onwards to the blackness of darkness forever.

Christ states, that ‘*all power is given unto me.*’ Paul warns us that Antichrist will come ‘*with all power.*’

Antichrist comes with Satanic assumption of power and with an air of majesty claiming to be the Representative of God on earth. Daniel tells us he will have a mouth speaking great things and that he will wax ‘*exceeding great toward the south and toward the east and toward the pleasant land.*’ Daniel 7:8 and Daniel 8:9; He will have such power, Daniel goes on to tell us, that he waxed ‘*great even to the host of heaven and he cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground and stamped on them.*’

All power in heaven and earth was given to Christ as Mediator by God the Father. God says of Christ that He will make Him, ‘*higher than the kings of the earth.*’

*‘He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.*

*They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before Him, and His enemies shall lick the dust.*

*The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.*

*Yea, all kings shall fall down before Him: = nations shall serve Him.*’ Psalm 72:8—11.

Daniel with a few graphic strokes of his pen, inspired by the Holy Spirit of God, having seen Antichrist’s day afar off, sketches his whole history. He speaks of his little beginning, the sprouting of the little horn. We see Caesar vacate his seat to him and the three horns, Vandal, Ostrogoth and Longobard plucked up before him. We see him rising by leaps and bounds until his head is amongst the stars. We see his stout looks, we hear his great words, and we behold his progress as he tramples on thrones, roots up nations, plucks stars from their orbit and there is none can stay his power. Why? Because ‘*the dragon (the devil) gave him power, and his seat and great authority*’ Rev. 13:2.

*‘And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.’ Rev. 13:7.*

Remember, John had a nearer view of the Antichrist in the visions of Patmos than Daniel had.

*‘And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?’ Rev. 13:4.*

Here is the temporal and spiritual monarchy of the Papacy foretold.

Verily Bible prophecy makes no mistakes and history makes no mistakes in fulfilling it. Survey the centuries from the fifth to the thirteenth, and if we have eyes to see we shall discover in the tumbling seas of European confusion the footsteps of the Antichrist in the murky waters.

Ancient Paganism, Druidic and Scandinavian superstition, Jewish Rabbinism and Oriental philosophy all make their contribution. An apostate church arranges, and combines these heterogenous elements and stamping them with its own impress, gives it to the world as Christianity.

Let us mark the Colossus. His visage grows as the centuries revolve, and at last as we see him as he is we are struck with the fact that we have seen him before. Daniel, Paul and John by the power of the Holy Ghost, painted him correctly and painstakingly. He put the nations in fear. He claimed to be God’s Vicegerent and stricken kings and nations cowed before him.

He promulgated the sign and lying wonder of transubstantiation and today corrupt Protestantism is drugged by its satanic poison. He initiated the ‘Holy Office’ of the Inquisition and raised an apparatus of torture which only the genius of Satan could devise. He dethroned kings and nations could not inter their dead because of his curse. Everything and everybody who got in his way he ruthlessly destroyed.

If this be not Antichrist then Antichrist we will never see. For prophecy completely and perfectly fulfilled is in itself completely and perfectly consummated. This is the complete and perfect fulfillment of the prophecy of the person, the power and pride of Antichrist.

Thou Pope of Rome, we know thee who thou art, the Unholy One of Hell, the Man of Sin, the Son of Perdition. WE LOOK NOT FOR ANOTHER. PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE THOU ART THE ANTICHRIST.

## 10 'SIGNS AND WONDERS' OF CHRIST AND OF ANTICHRIST

The coming of Christ was signalled by mighty signs and wonders. The glory of miracles punctuated His life on earth. The ancient prophets had performed some miracles but in none of them was seen the full manifested glory of the Son of God. As light is in the stars so were miracles in the prophet's lives but as light is in the Sun so were miracles in the life of our Lord.

To but touch the hem of His garment or hear His words, 'I will, meant instant and perfect healing. Every sickness was cured, every malady healed and every leprosy cleansed. Death itself lay prostrate at His feet, and when commanded yielded up its prey. Such were the signs and wonders which heralded the advent and attested the Messiahship of Jesus of Nazareth.

The Antichrist we are told by Daniel, Paul and John, would seek to announce his advent and attest his claims with signs and lying wonders.

*'And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come from heaven on earth in the sight of men. And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast: saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.'* Rev. 13:13,14.

(The second beast, the false prophet, is the ecclesiastical organisation of the Antichrist, the spokesman of the first beast. Such are the priests of Rome.)

Scarce is there a miracle which Christ performed which the Church of Rome does not claim to have wrought. Her saints she would have us know are prodigies in the art of miracles. She claims to have the same unbounded power over both the visible and the invisible world which Christ has and that she imitates Him in all things. It is evident on the most casual of inspections that her imitation certainly does not follow Christ either in the Meekness of His Spirit or the Purity of His doctrine or the Holiness of His Life.

Apart from outward miracles, Antichrist professes to work those changes in the human heart which only God Almighty can work. In his baptism he claims to work the miracle of regeneration and by ordination bridges over twenty centuries and joins his priests to Peter. Five words, spoken by his priests at the altar, change the bread and wine, he claims, into the actual whole Christ, body, blood, nerves, sinews and all. Two words uttered in the confessional effect, he claims, the pardon of the 'penitent.' These are the lying wonders and miracles of which Paul warned us, and today we see the most influential clergy of apostate Protestantism crying and rushing to Rome that they too might have this power.

The miracles of the true Christ were done in the light and stood the test of the most critical of scrutinies. The so-called miracles of the Antichrist are seen to be '*lying wonders*.' Not one of them can stand the test. Some of the most notable which were in Rome's shop window for centuries were shown

to be cheats at the Reformation, while some of them are so childish that they insult the understanding of ordinary sensible men and women.

Lying wonders they indeed are.

Baptismal Regeneration is a lying wonder. Sacramental grace is a lying wonder. The Absolution of the Confessional is a lying wonder. Transubstantiation, the mass, is the biggest wonder and greatest lie of all, and extreme unction is the last and fatal lie.

There is no truth whatsoever behind any of these things yet millions upon millions of deluded souls have taken leave of this world, fully confiding in these lies for salvation. The Pope by whose authority these lying wonders are performed, is indeed the Antichrist, prophetically identified by signs and lying wonders.

## 11 ANTICHRIST'S 'SIGNS AND WONDERS' OF TERROR

In the thirteenth chapter of Revelation and verse thirteen we read of the lamb-like beast which sponsors the worship of the beast, in these words:

*'And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from the heaven on the earth in the sight of men.'* Rev. 13:13.

Notice that this beast does the work which is identified with the whole priestly caste of the Roman system.

This prophecy is strikingly fulfilled in the papal interdicts and excommunications originating in the Antichrist and propagated by his emissaries the priests of Rome.

The fire of heaven's judgement was pronounced by the Pope. His priests saw that it was put into effect. Blinded nations were deluded into believing that in the voice of the Pope they heard the voice of God, and that the thunderings and lightnings of the Vatican were indeed what the Pope claimed them to be, the very wrath of God. The papal excommunication was more dreadful than an invasion of a great army. When launched it stopped the nations in its tracks.

The lights were extinguished at the altars. The church doors were closed. The marriages took place in the graveyards. The unshriven dead were buried in ditches. The curse of Antichrist had closed the gates of Paradise and until he opened them all were damned. Yes, men believed it was real fire from heaven and they were scorched by it.

To the mightiest of kings the excommunication of Antichrist was a dreadful affair. The cursed monarch shook on his throne, for his army could not help him. Indeed they were more likely to join with his people in driving him forth from his kingdom. The Antichrist deposed sixty-four emperors and kings. In that number is included, Henry II of England deposed by Pope Alexander III; King John by Pope Innocent III; Kings Richard and Edward by Pope Boniface IX; Henry VIII by Pope Clement VII and again by Pope Paul III; Elizabeth I by Pope Pius V. Even Robert the Bruce of Scotland was so cursed by the Pope, but thanks to the strong Culdee elements which survived them King Robert and his subjects rejected the Pope's fulmination.

The Antichrist chose the very figure of the prophetic scripture to designate his anathemas. Pope Gregory VII spoke of the Emperor Henry IV when excommunicated as, *'struck with thunder.'*

To the same effect is Antichrist's description of the Emperor Frederick by Pope Innocent at the first Council of Lyons.

*'These words of excommunication, uttered in the midst of the Council, struck the hearers with terror as might the flashing thunderbolts. When with candles lighted and flung down, the Lord Pope and his assistant prelates flashed their lightning-fire terribly against the Emperor Frederick, now no longer to*

be called emperor, his procurators and friends burst into a bitter wailing and struck the thigh or breast on that day of wrath, of calamity and of woe!’

These outbursts of the Antichrist continued in Europe right down to the Glorious Revolution year of 1688.

In Rome’s great book of curses one of the most notable is the “*Bullums Coenae Domini*.’ It is truly the utterance of the ‘mouth speaking great things.’

‘Framed since the Reformation, it curses all the various sections of the Protestant Church, giving special prominence to Calvinists and Zwinglians. Its scope is wide indeed. The world and its inhabitants, so far as they were known to the framers of this bull, are compendiously cursed in it. Its thunders are heard re-echoing far beyond the limits of Christendom, and its lightnings are seen to strike the pirates of barbarous seas, as well as the Calvinists of Great Britain.

This bull was wont to be promulgated annually by the Pope in person, attended by a magnificent array of cardinals and priests.

The ceremony took place on Maundy Thursday — the Thursday before Easter, and was accompanied by numerous solemnities, fitted to strike the spectators with awe. It was read from the lofty vestibule of the Church of the Lateran, amid the firing of cannon, the ringing of bells, the blaring of trumpets and the blazing of torches. When the curses of the bull had been thundered forth, the torches were extinguished and flung into the great piazza beneath, to signify the outer darkness into which all heretics shall finally be hurled. Pope Ganganeli in 1770 forbade the public reading of the bull *Coenae Domini*, but the practice was soon revived, and is still continued at Rome, though not in the same public fashion. But the discontinuance of its open promulgation matters nothing; it is unrepealed; all heretics are, ipso facto, under its ban, and the establishment of the Papal Hierarchy gives it to all Romanists the force of law in the United Kingdom: — Dr. Wylie.

It should be emphasised that Vatican Council Two reaffirmed no departure by the church from the decrees of the Council of Trent. Rome’s curses stand! The Infallible Antichrist has decreed them!

## 12 THE ALL DECEIVABLENESS OF UNRIGHTEOUSNESS

Paul emphasizes this special mark of the Antichrist. It is a most remarkable one. Nowhere else is it used in the Bible. It is not applied to any other system — ‘*all deceivableness of unrighteousness.*’

The deceivableness of Rome is a deceivableness peculiar to herself. It is a craft of a new order. So cunning it is that it poses as the system of righteousness which God has revealed for the salvation of the world, and those who by consequence accept it as such find themselves not only deceived but destroyed through it.

Popery has a god of its own, even he whom canon law (decretal Gregory IX Tit 7) calls the ‘*Lord our God.*’ It has a *saviour of its own* — Mother Church. It has a *sacrifice of its own* — the mass. It has a *mediator of its own* — the priesthood. It has a *sanctifier of its own* — the sacraments. It has a *justification of its own* — infused righteousness. It has a *pardon of its own* — absolution through the confessional, and it has in the very heavens an infallible, all prevailing *advocate of its own, unknown in the Bible* — ‘the Mother of God’

This apparatus, so greatly hailed by deluded Protestant ecumenists, which the Antichrist presents for the salvation of souls, is a lie. It has not nor cannot save any one.

The Church of Rome looks like the church, it professes to be all that the church professes to be and yet it is not the church. It is the counterfeit of the church, the Bride of Antichrist, ‘*the all deceivableness of unrighteousness.*’

Examine the structure of Antichrist’s Church and note how it counterfeits the architecture of Christ’s Church.

Christ’s Church is built on the *impregnable* rock that ‘Christ is the Son of God.’ Antichrist’s Church is built on *the rock of Peter*, he, it is claimed, being the Vicar of Christ. On Peter and his successors is the Church built, that is the claim of the Popes.

The true Church of Christ is built on a person not on a system of doctrine. It is not by trusting in a system of truth that men are saved. It is by trusting only in Christ the Truth Himself.

The false Church of Antichrist is built not on a system of doctrine but on the person of the Pope himself. ‘It is essential, Antichrist decrees, ‘to the salvation of every human being that he be subject to me, the Pope’

The false church is built on the foundation of traditions, sacraments, priests, bishops, cardinals, the Pope himself being the chief corner stone.

The true Church is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone.

All Rome's policies are marked by this all deceivableness of unrighteousness. Rome looks so '*lamb like*' that statesmen think they have nothing to fear from her. When they are outwitted they then begin to wonder wherein lies the strength which has baffled them.

'Rome buys and sells statesmen in her market; she uses them as the muleteer his beasts of burden; and when they are old and broken down and can no longer do her turns, she hurls them from the high places to which she had exalted them, and leaves their mangled reputations, like unsavoury 'carcasses, on the highway of history, that posterity may see how Rome rewards those who serve her. It was written of her of old time, 'She hath cast down many wounded; yea, strong men have been slain by her.'

This vast deceivableness is one of the main sources of the strength of the so-called Church of Rome. She has the art of enlisting all the claims of virtue, and all the sanctions of law, on the side of that by which virtue is outraged and law violated. Where her purpose is the most cruel, her speech is ever the most bland. Where her motive is the most villainous, her profession is the most plausible. She always gives the holiest name to the most unholy deed. When she burns a heretic she calls it an *auto-de-fe* — an act of faith. When she ravages a province with fire and sword, she styles it a crusade — that is, an evangelistic expedition. Her torture chamber is styled the '*Holy Office*.' And when she deposes monarchs, stripping them of crown and kingdom, and compelling them, as she did Henry IV, of Germany, to stand with naked feet at her gates amid the drifts of winter, it is with *the make-believe* of a *kind father* administering salutary chastisement to an erring son. In short, she not only transforms herself into an angel of light, but vice itself she transforms into virtue, decking blackest crime in the white robe of innocence, and arraying foulest iniquity with the resplendent airs of holiness.

What are the sacraments by which she professes to replenish men with grace? What are the masses by which she professes to impart Christ and His salvation to them? What are the crucifixes, rosaries, and amulets, by which she fortifies men against the assaults of Satan and evil spirits? What are the indulgences by which she shortens the sufferings of souls in purgatory? What are the pardons with which she sends men away into the other world? What are the vows of poverty under which she cherishes a pride the most arrogant, and an avariciousness the most insatiable? What are the vows of celibacy under which she veils an unbridled lewdness? What are the dispensations by which she releases men from the obligations of the moral law, and professes to annul oaths, promises and covenants? Above all, what are her logic and system of ethics by which, as in the hands of Liguori, she makes vice and virtue, falsehood and truth change sides, and shows how one, if he but direct aright his intention, can commit the most monstrous crime and yet contract not a particle of guilt? What are these things, we ask, save the 'deceivableness of unrighteousness,' the '*all-deceivableness of unrighteousness?*' for surely the utmost limits of deception have here been reached, and the Deceiver himself can go no further. He has produced his masterpiece.'

## 13 THE CULMINATION OF THE PARALLELISM AND ENTHRONIZATION

The enthronization of *‘the mystery of Godliness’* and the enthronization of *‘the mystery of iniquity’* run parallel yet are immeasurably and eternally separated.

Paul leads us up to the throne of Antichrist. He starts at the lowest stage.

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

*For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.*

*And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming.’* II Thessalonians 2:6—8.

The hindering of the developing of the Antichrist is underscored. (The word ‘let’ in Old English means ‘hinder’). Until the Emperor was removed from Rome, the Antichrist could not ascend Caesar’s throne. Caesar was Pontifex Maximus and while he claimed to be the King and High Priest of the world there was no room for another.

We have already traced how the great Empire was overturned and the throne of Caesar left vacant to be occupied by the Antichrist.

Prophecy made it clear that Christ was to occupy the throne of David and Antichrist the throne of Caesar.

It took centuries to fulfill these prophecies. The throne of David was vacant again and again that it might at last be filled by the Lion of Judah’s tribe, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

The throne of the world power was overturned from Babylonian to Medo-Persian, from Medo-Persian to Grecian, and from Grecian to Roman. Then when the Roman which hindered was taken out of the way that ‘Wicked’ came to be revealed.

Both mysteries have the same culmination — an enthronization. ‘The mystery of Godliness,’ the true Christ, beginning in the crib ends with the Crown on the Throne of Heaven.

‘The mystery of iniquity; the false Antichrist, beginning in the silent workings of evil, ends on the throne of the earth.

Christ refused Satan’s offer, ‘All the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them will I give thee if thou fall down and worship me’

The Antichrist accepted Satan’s offer. The bargain was struck and faithfully fulfilled on both sides.

Note the parallel:-

**CHRIST**

'Mystery of Godliness.'  
God manifest in the flesh.  
Justified in the spirit.  
Seen of angels.  
Preached unto the Gentiles and  
believed on in the world.  
Received up into glory.

**ANTICHRIST**

'Mystery of iniquity' II Thess. 2:7.  
Doth already work.  
Justified by Satan in signs and lying wonders.  
Viewed approvingly by the fallen angels with all deceivableness of  
unrighteousness.  
Published by priests, friars and monks that the Pope is Christ's Vicar  
on earth. Believed on in the  
world by all those whose names were not written in the Book of Life.  
Received up into the heavens of ecclesiastical dominion and imperial  
glory. Sitting in the temple of God showing himself that he is God.

## 14 ANTICHRIST'S USURPATION OVER KINGS AND NATIONS

*'Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.'* II Thess. 2:4.

Antichrist makes a double usurpation. He vaults over the thrones of kings into the very throne of God.

'Binding up in one colossal jurisdiction things temporal and spiritual, the Pope stretched his sceptre over all the seats of human judigature, and sat with his feet on the necks of kings as well as of priests. He claimed it as his prerogative to judge all, but to be judged by none; to make laws, but to be subject to no law; thereby unconsciously vindicating his prophetic appellative 'the lawless one. He has had himself depicted holding in one hand the 'keys' of spiritual authority, and in the other the sword of temporal power. He has taught that it was fit that all princes should kiss his feet, and has extorted from not a few this act of obedience. He has inculcated on monarchs that sound orthodoxy requires them to hold their kingdoms as fiefs of the papal chair; and to keep alive in them this pious frame of mind, he has imposed on them and on their subjects the tax of Peter's Pence. If still he discerned in them the risings of pride, this meek vicar of Christ has plucked the sceptre from their hand, kicked their crown with his pontifical foot, and transferred their dominion to some more devout and humble-minded neighbour. All this he has done 'as set of God over the kingdoms and nations to plant and to pluck up — to build and to pull down — to make and to unmake kings.' 'Is not the king of England my bondsman?' were words from the 'great mouth.' (Pope Boniface VIII to Philip, King of France.)

If the annals of the Papacy at this present hour are not illustrated by these solemn acts of pontifical justice, it is because the power and not the right is lacking.

Pope John Paul II claims all these powers over all the kings and rulers of the world but prudently postpones their exercise till the arrival of a happier day for the Papacy.

## 15 ANTICHRIST EXALTS HIMSELF ABOVE GOD

To reign over earthly kings came very far short of papal ambition. The Popes, like Satan their master, decided to be like the most High God. *'He as God, sitteth in the temple of God showing himself that he is God.'*

The Antichrist claims to be God first in words and then in deeds. Let us listen to what the *'great mouth'* has spoken of gas and then what his friends have spoken for him.

Note the position he takes. *'He sitteth in the temple of God.* This is not the temple at Jerusalem for that was to be destroyed by the Empire whose fall brought Antichrist's rise. The name *'temple'* is carried over into the New Testament teaching and indicates either the body of the individual believer, *'Know ye not that ye are the temple of God,'* I Cor. 3:16 or the whole body of professing Christians, *'Jesus Christ the chief corner stone; in whom all the building, fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple in the Lord.* Eph. 2:20.

The temple in which Antichrist sits is representative of the Christian Church, a church however gone totally apostate. For the prophecy makes it clear that the apostasy precedes the revelation of the Man of Sin. He was indeed to be both the outcome and head of that great apostasy.

Antichrist then, according to this prophecy, would establish himself prominently in the professed Christian Church. This is exactly what the Popes have done. This fact disposes of the theory that the Antichrist will be some atheistical leader or superman politician who in a very brief but terrible career will desolate the world. No, he will work in, by and with the professed Christian Church, howbeit apostate.

Again no one-man Antichrist, whose reign is to last for only three years or seven years can meet the conditions of the Bible prophecies. We have already noted that the key to prophetic interpretations is not any man's idea. No Scripture is of any private interpretation, or preconceived notion but interpreted by the Word of God itself. We must go by the Word of God only. As in Daniel's prophecy, Antichrist is a dynasty, a dynasty which wears out the saints so much so that the souls of the martyred dead in heaven cry out, *'How long?'* The teaching of Christ, let it be noted, emphasises the corporate individuality of both Antichrist and the False Prophet. (See Chapter 17).

The Pope claims to be God.

Pope Innocent III enacted in writing, *'We may according to the fulness of our power, dispose of the law and dispense above the law. Those whom the Pope of Rome doth separate, it is not a man that separates them but God. For the Pope holdeth place on earth, not simply of a man but of the true God.'* I Book of Gregory 9 Decret. C3.

The Lateran Council, addressing Pope Julius II in an oration delivered by Marcellus states, *‘Take care that we lose not that salvation, that life and breath which thou hast given us, for thou art our shepherd, thou art physician, thou art governor, thou art husbandman, thou finally ART ANOTHER GOD ON EARTH’* Council Edit. Colm. Agrip. 1618.

Pope Nicholas assumed the title of God. His words are:— *‘I am all in all and above all, so that God Himself, and I, the Vicar of God, hath both one consistory, and I am able to do almost all that God can do... Wherefore, if those things that I do be said not to be done of man, but of God. WHAT CAN YOU MAKE ME BUT GOD? Again, if prelates of the Church be called and counted of Constantine for gods, I then, being above all prelates, seem by this reason to be ABOVE ALL GODS. Wherefore, no marvel if it be in my power to dispense with all things, yea, with the precepts of Christ.’* See Decret. Par. Distinct 96 Ch. 7 Edit Lugd. 1661.

Sitting in the temple of God speaking ex-cathedra the Pope claims to have the infallibility of God Himself. This is the daring pitch and blasphemy of Antichrist in keeping with Paul’s prophecy, *‘Shewing himself to be God.’*

After his election the Pope is enthroned in the ceremony known as Adoration.

Let us refer — not to any private sources — but to the official ‘Book of Sacred Ceremonies’ of the Church of Rome.

This book, sometimes called ‘Ceremoniale Romanum, is written in Latin, and was compiled three hundred and forty years ago, by Marcellus, a Roman Catholic Archbishop, and is dedicated to a Pope, Leo X. Let us turn to that portion of this Volume which describes the first public appearance of the Pope at Rome, on his Election to the Pontificate.

We there read the following order of proceeding: *‘The Pontiff elect is conducted to the Sacramentary, and divested of his ordinary attire, and is clad in Papal Robes.’* The colour of these is then minutely described. Suffice it to say, that five different articles of dress, in which he is then arrayed, are scarlet. Another vest is specified, and this is covered \_ with pearls. His mitre is then mentioned; and this is adorned with *gold and precious stones*.

Such, then, is the attire in which the Pope is arrayed, and in which he *first* appears to the World as *Pope*. In the Book of Revelation we see that *scarlet, pearls, gold, and precious stones* are thrice specified by St. John, as characterising the Mysterious Power portrayed by himself.

But we may not pause here. Turn again to the ‘Ceremoniale Romanum. The Pontiff elect, arrayed as has been described, is conducted to the Cathedral of Rome, the Basilica, or Church, of St. Peter. He is led to the Altar; he first prostrates himself before it, and prays. Thus he declares the sanctity of the Altar. He kneels at it, and prays before it, as the seat of God.

What a contrast then ensues! We read thus:

‘The Pope rises, and, wearing his mitre, is lifted up by the Cardinals, and is placed by them upon the Altar — to *sit there*. One of the Bishops kneels, and begins the ‘Te Deum.’ In the meantime the Cardinals *kiss the feet* and hands and face of the Pope.’

Such is the first appearance of the Pope in the face of the Church and the World.

“Whatever God does the Pope professes also. Does God require that to Him every knee shall bow? So, too, the Pope: he requires to be worshipped with prostration and kissing. Does God reveal Himself as the ‘only holy?’ So, too, the Pope. He claims to be styled ‘his holiness.’ Is God the ‘only wise?’ So, too, the Pope: he claims to be ‘inerrable’ Did God plant His throne on the summit of Sinai, and thence promulgate those ten commandments which are the world’s law? So, too, the Pope: he has planted his seat on the seven hills in the character of the world’s supreme lawgiver and judge, and he claims an equal authority and infallibility for all that he is pleased to promulgate ex- cathedra as Jehovah claims for the precepts of the decalogue.

Is it God’s prerogative to pardon sin? The Pope assumes the same great prerogative. He pardons the sins of the living and the dead. Is it God’s prerogative to assign men their eternal destiny? This, too, does the Pope. He pretends to hold the keys that open and shut purgatory, and while he reserves to his followers a sure passport to the realms of paradise, he consigns all outside his church to eternal woe. In fine, does God sit between the Cherubim and receive the homage of His people in His sanctuary? The Pope, seated on the high altar of St. Peter’s while incense is burned before him, and the knee is bent to him, is invoked as the Lord our God. Romanists are accustomed to call the altar, the throne of God, inasmuch as thereon they place the host. The use the Pope finds for it on these occasions, is the not very dignified one of a footstool. ‘*He as God sitteth in the temple of God showing himself that he is God.*’

## 16 MAN OF SIN AND SON OF PERDITION

The apostle Paul completes the portrait of the Antichrist by styling him the '*Man of Sin and Son of Perdition.*'

Christ is the Man of Holiness, the only truly holy man this earth has ever seen. '*That Holy Thing.*' said the angel (Luke 1:35). '*The Holy Child Jesus,*' said Luke (Acts 4:27). The apostle Paul witnessed that He was '*Holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners*' (Heb. 9:26).

The Pope, the Vicar of Christ, is the Man of Sin. He has invented sin, he has taught sin, he has enacted sin, established iniquity by a law, he trades in sins and has grown rich through the sins of Christendom. Sin is the Pope's work. Sin is the Pope's being. Popery is the incarnation of sin as the Gospel is the incarnation of holiness.

The policy of the Pope as the Antichrist is not to deny truth but to pervert truth.

He perverts the commandments of God and converts them into sin. He perverts the sacraments of Christ and converts them into sin. He perverts the offices of the church and converts them into sin. There is not a doctrine of the Bible which the Pope does not pervert and thus deny. King Jeroboam made Israel to sin. The Pope has made the world to sin.

Paul further styled him as '*the Son of Perdition.*' This is a phrase of terrible significance. It is only used once before in the New Testament and that in reference to Judas the traitor. It is applied to him by our Lord after the devil came in and possessed him.

*'While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name, those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but . the son of perdition: that the scripture might be fulfilled.'* John 17:1

The first 'son of perdition, was a bishop — a bishop who fell from his elevated estate. The Antichrist is a bishop — a bishop fallen indeed — the Bishop of Rome. The first 'son of perdition, went to his own place.

*'That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.'* Acts 1:25.

The Antichrist is cast into the lake of fire.

*'And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.'* Rev. 20:10.

The first 'son of perdition' Judas, went forth from the bosom of the infant church, where he had just partaken of the passover cup. He rose up from the very presence of the God-man, to enact his awful apostasy.

The second and greater 'son of perdition' in like manner arose in the bosom of the primitive church. 'If Christianity is going to be destroyed it must come from within, he declared. 'Give me the kingdoms of the world. Elevate me to Caesar's throne. I will declare myself to be the Vice-Christ and the world will believe on me and follow me. I will destroy true Christianity'

Who prompted the Antichrist? What is the power behind the Papacy? The beast is energised by Satan himself. Popery is the son of perdition, the spawn, the offspring of that Old Serpent the Devil, the Arch Destroyer.

Christ's work is to create and give life. Antichrist's work is to destroy and take life. The Pope destroys the principles of gospel morality and evangelical virtue. Where the Papacy has trodden there is the blackness of physical, moral and spiritual death. Death and hell follows after the Pope. He is the 'son of perdition' No other can or will fulfil the prophecies of God. He is the Antichrist.

## 17 CHRIST PREDICTED THE PAPACY AS THE ANTICHRIST

We have already shown that Antichrist cannot be one potentate but a dynasty of potentates. Daniel's prophecy which holds within it the key to its right interpretation, shows us that. Now this is clearly confirmed by our Lord Jesus Christ. Daniel tells the story in parables, in the pictures of the beasts and the horns. The little horn of Daniel chapter seven is the Antichrist, the Man of Sin and Son of Perdition. Throughout the prophecies of Daniel, a horn as indeed the beast from which it grows denotes not a single man, an individual king but a kingdom, a sovereignty, a dynasty. That is the plain teaching of scripture and to it all must submit.

Christ confirms this not only about Daniel's little horn but about the two beasts of Revelation chapter thirteen, the Beast and the False Prophet. These beasts are not two individual men but a dynasty — the Beast the dynasty of the Popes and the False Prophet the dynasty of the priests of Rome pursuing the objective of obtaining the worship and submission of the whole world for the Pope.

There is not one word in all Christ's prophecy concerning the end of time and of His Second Coming about a one man antichrist or a one man false prophet. Read and see for yourself.

Christ predicts the dynasty of the Antichrist and the False Prophet. Note carefully His language. He warns in Matthew chapter twenty- four against the deception of antichrist but never uses the singular in His references.

He speaks of the dynasty, of '*many*' not '*one*.' 'For *many* shall come in My Name, Matt. 24:5. This does away with the Atheistical antichrist, the Communist antichrist, the Jewish antichrist, the purely political antichrist. The dynasty of antichrists will come in the name of our Lord, the true Christ of God. How this points its finger at the Pope and the Papacy. The Pope is the only person who fits the prediction.

'*Saying I am Christ*,' Matt. 24:5. Notice how Christ changes from the plural '*many*' to the singular '*I*,' This is the personal claim of each individual Pope. Listen to their own words.

'I alone despite my unworthiness, am the successor of the Apostles, the Vicar of Jesus Christ: I alone have the mission to guide and direct the barque of Peter; I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE! — Pope Pius IX.

'*Shall deceive many*.' What a statement! How many have been and are being deceived by the Pope and the Papacy. Why even the Lambeth Conference of the whole of the Anglican Church (the Church of Ireland included) meeting in July 1989 has agreed that the Pope must be the Head of the Church when the other ecumenical episcopal Churches unite with Rome.

*'Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.*

*For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew Steat signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible they shall deceive the very elect.*

*Behold I have told you before.*

*Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert: §0 not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not.’ Matt. 24:33—36.*

Here our Lord predicts the dynasty not only of Antichrist but of the False Prophet. See Revelation chapter thirteen. After the Lord mentions in the plural the ‘false prophets,’ he predicts the great ‘signs and wonders’ which these will do. Compare this carefully with Revelation 13:13,14. Note how our Lord’s prediction about the deceptions of the false prophet dovetails perfectly into the prophecy of John. Christ states, ‘*Insomuch that if it were possible they shall deceive the very elect.*’ John states, ‘*And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by means of those miracles which he had power to do.*’

The narratives of Mark and Luke confirm these statements of our Lord in Matthew’s Gospel.

*‘And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you:*

*For many shall come in My Name, saying, I am Christ: and shall deceive many.*

*And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be: but the end of shall not be yet.’ Mark 13:5—7.*

*‘And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ: or, lo, he is there: believe him not:*

*For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. But take ye heed: behold I have foretold you all things.’ Mark 13:21—23.*

*‘And He said, Take heed that ye be not deceived: for many shall come in My Name, saying I am Christ; and the time draweth near: go ye not therefore after them.*

*But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by.’ Luke 21:8—9.*

*‘And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after them, nor follow them.’ Luke 17:23.*

Christ has told us that many false Christs will appear after His ascension to glory and before His return. When we open the pages of history we see how our Lord’s words have been so literally fulfilled. Many Christs who professed to come in His Holy Name have appeared exactly as He predicted — at least 265 of them — all phoney christs, self styled christs, false christs and all harboured by the Church of Rome. Of them all Christ said, ‘BELIEVE THEM NOT’

How clearly Christ predicted the Papacy. How plainly Christ interpreted for us the prophecies of Daniel and John. We bow to His authority and rejoice that the Antichrist has not deceived us and we have not gone after him as the world has.

The Popes of Rome for centuries have, under the title of Vicar of Christ, been masquerading as christs.

Ever since the Bishop of Rome got a taste for power, early in the Christian era, he yelled, 'I AM CHRIST; and right down to Pope John Paul II they have been yelling it, shouting it, trumpeting it and parroting it. The halls of Christendom have not been without this din for sixteen centuries.

Reverberations and amplifications from the original cries and their echoes and re-echoes plus added new yells multiplied a million times by the Roman acoustics of the hails, plague us daily. I am Christ! I AM Christ! I AM CHRIST! THIS IS THE CONFESSION OF THE ANTICHRIST. THANK GOD WE RECOGNISE HIM.

*If any man shall say unto you, Io here is Christ, or lo He is there, believe Him not.'*

## 18 ANTICHRIST — HIS DOOM

Antichrist is the Son of Perdition. If a son, the scripture underlines this conclusion, THEN AN HEIR.

As Son of Perdition, the Antichrist is the heir of perdition. It was written of him before he arose, *‘he goeth unto perdition.’*

The king of heaven has made His decree and it altereth not. As sure as the Papacy has had its glory so surely shall its doom come.

The destruction of the Popes is twofold, *‘Whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming.’*

This duality of doom has been noted in prophecy ever since the beginning of the little horn of Daniel chapter seven. We read in verse 26 that the judgement shall sit and they shall take away his dominion to consume and destroy it unto the end. Here is yet another proof that the ‘little horn’ of Daniel Chapter 7 is the Antichrist of Paul.

The doom is in two stages. (1) gradual and (2) sudden and terrible destruction.

The gradual consuming is by ‘the spirit of the Lord’s mouth, that is the spreading of the Word of God. Ever since the Bible has been translated this has been going forward. The Reformation displayed to men the damnable errors of Rome, and its hold on the nations was loosened. When the Word is not proclaimed the Pope will flourish.

But the destruction of Rome in totality will be sudden and terrible. Leaving His seat of glory Christ will confront the Antichrist personally and hurl him into perdition with all his priests and his whole apparatus of antichristianity. God speed the day.

*‘And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.’* Revelation 18:21.

Then and only then will the *‘Hallelujahs’* of the saints ring forth.

## 19 DOES NOT THE LIKENESS FIT?

Does not the likeness which Paul has produced fit exactly the Popes of Rome?

The features are all vividly predicted, sharply cut, that there is no difficulty whatsoever in detecting the Antichrist whose image they represent. Paul did not paint at random. His is no vague sketch that could fit loosely on any system of error that would arise to deceive the world. Paul is drawing the picture of some grand, sharply-featured, long-lived, daringly wicked and fearfully blasphemous confederacy which under 'the mask of Christianity' will seek to destroy true Christianity from the face of the earth. AND HOW WELL ROME HAS SUCCEEDED AND IS SUCCEEDING.

The Pope has erected his throne in the Christian temple; he has usurped all the titles and functions of Christ; he claims to mediate between God and man; he says he holds the keys of hell and death. He has commanded to abstain from meats; he has forbidden to marry, he has vested his priests in purple and scarlet and fine linen and decked them with gold and silver and precious stones. He has made war with the saints and drunk the blood of the martyrs. He has put his foot on the neck of Kings and pronounced himself as Infallible as God. He says he is the Vicar of Christ, the Substitute of Christ on earth.

We confront this man and with God's Holy Word in our hands we indict him thus — 'Thou art the Antichrist.

'Let who will cringe and bow before thee; let who will patch anew thy vizor which begins to wax thread-bare and to permit the horrid features that lurk beneath it to shine through; let who will palliate thy crimes, and deny that ever thou didst persecute, and though simulating the meekness and innocence of the lamb, art a ravening wolf. Let who will befriend thee in the arrogant and blasphemous claims thou art still putting forth, we say of thee, 'Thou art he of whom Paul in old time, writing by the Holy Ghost, spoke. Hear what he called thee! He named thee, 'The Man of Sin, and 'Son of Perdition'

Behold upon his tiara these Latin words carefully preserved down through the ages.

VICARIVS FILII DEI

God has told us.

*'Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man: and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.'* Revelation 13:18.

Now certain Roman characters have numerical values.

I=1; V=5; X=10; L=50; C=100; D=500.

Now let us count the number of the man at the Vatican. God has told us to do it.

V=5      F=—      D=500

I=1      I=1      E=—

C=100    L=50      I=1

A=—      I=1

R=—      I=1

I=1

V=5

S=—

112 + 53 + 501 = 666

So the numerical value of the Pope's title on his golden crown at his public coronation, namely 'VICARIVS FILII DET' is that remarkable number 666.

The pope is the antichrist. It is clearly demonstrated from SCRIPTURE, HISTORY, — AND FROM HIS OWN LIPS.

## WHAT THINK YE OF THE ANTICHRIST — WHOSE SON IS HE?

Even the Romanists themselves shame you in their clear-sighted comprehension of the issues of this question. Cardinal Manning says: “**The Catholic Church is either the masterpiece of Satan or the Kingdom of the Son of God.**” Cardinal Newman says: “**A sacerdotal order** is historically the essence of the Church of Rome; if not divinely appointed, it is doctrinally the essence of antichrist.” In both these statements the issue is clear, and it is the same. Rome herself admits, openly admits, that **if she is not the very kingdom of Christ, she is that of antichrist.** Rome declares she is one or the other. She herself propounds and urges this solemn alternative. You shrink from it, do you? I accept it. Conscience constrains me. History compels me. **The past, the awful past rises before me.** I see THE GREAT APOSTASY, I see the desolation of Christendom, I see the smoking ruins, I see the reign of monsters; I see those vicegods, that Gregory VIII, that Innocent III, that Boniface VIII, that Alexander VI, that Gregory XIII, that Pius IX; I see their long succession, I see their abominable lives; I see them worshipped by blinded generations, bestowing hollow benedictions, bartering lying indulgences, creating a paganized Christianity; I see their liveried slaves, their shaven priests, their celibate confessors; I see the infamous confessional, the ruined women, the murdered innocents; I hear the lying absolutions, the dying groans; I hear the cries of the victims; I hear the anathemas, the curses, the thunders of the interdicts; I see the racks, the dungeons, the stakes; I see that inhuman Inquisition, those fires of Smithfield, those butcheries of St. Bartholomew, that Spanish Armada, those unspeakable massacres. I see it all, and in the name of the ruin it has wrought in the Church and in the world, in the name of the truth it has denied, the temple it has defiled, the God it has blasphemed, the souls it has destroyed; in the name of the millions it has deluded, the millions it has slaughtered, the millions it has damned; with holy confessors, with noble reformers, with innumerable martyrs, with the saints of ages, **I denounce it as the masterpiece of Satan as the body and soul and essence of antichrist.**

— DR. H. GRATTAN GUINNESS

The great Revival Preacher of  
1859

## SPURGEON ON ANTICHRIST

“It is the bounden duty of every Christian to pray against Antichrist, and as to what Antichrist is no sane man ought to raise a question. If it be not the popery in the Church of Rome there is nothing in the world that can be called by that name. If there were to be issued a hue and cry for Antichrist, we should certainly take up this church on suspicion, and it would certainly not be let loose again, for it so exactly answers the description.”

“Popery is contrary to Christ’s Gospel, and is the Antichrist, and we ought to pray against it. It should be the daily prayer of every believer that Antichrist might be hurled like a millstone into the ‘flood and for Christ, because it wounds Christ, because it robs Christ of His glory, because it puts sacramental efficacy in the’ place of His atonement, and lifts a piece of bread into the place of the Saviour, and a few drops of water into the place of the Holy Ghost, and puts a mere fallible man like ourselves up as the vicar of Christ on earth; if we pray against it, because it is against Him, we shall love the persons though we hate their errors: we shall love their souls though we loath and detest their dogmas, and so the breath of our prayers will be sweetened, because we turn our faces towards Christ when we pray.”

THE END