

# STRAIGHTWAY

*And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him [Mark 1:18].*

## CHRISTIAN PURITIES FELLOWSHIP

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### The Death of a Pope

Dr. H. T. Spence

On April 2, 2005, the leader of the Roman Catholic Church, John Paul II, died at the age of eighty-four. This 266<sup>th</sup> pope not only was beloved by his parishioners around the world but also has been highly praised by the atheistic-dominated world media. Prayer vigils have been unending in his behalf along with the Mass being universally given to help this Pontiff make it over to the next world.

This writer extends a natural sympathy to all those who mourn any departed loved one. Such human sympathy must include those affected by this death, for there is the experience of sadness and grief that is a part of human life within those who viewed John Paul II as their leader and shepherd. But amidst these days

of weeping, lighting of candles, prayers for the dead, and ceaseless adoration, we must not allow our thoughts to be clouded from the truth, or have second opinions over who this man was and what he represented. The Scriptures and history cannot be set aside in the moments surrounding the dying and death of an aged man no matter what “form” of godliness he portrayed to the world. What do history and the Scriptures declare the Roman Catholic pope to be?

#### **The Rise of Romanism in History**

The New York Catechism of Roman Catholicism states clearly its position concerning the office of the pope:

The Pope takes the place of

Jesus Christ on earth. By divine right the pope has supreme and full power in faith and morals over each and every pastor and his flock. He is the true Vicar of Christ, the head of the entire Church, the father and teacher of all Christians. He is the infallible ruler, the founder of dogmas, the author of and judge of councils, the universal ruler of truth, the arbiter of the world, supreme judge of heaven and earth, the judge of all, being judged by no one, God himself on earth. (Loraine Boettner, *Roman Catholicism*, p. 127).

How did this belief come about in history?

From the beginning of the Church, although each local congregation was autonomous, there was fellowship between them. In their travels the Apostles in the early church checked the veracity of these churches, including spiritual movements that appeared (Acts 8). Yet gradually changes took place in church government. Bishops (who were

pastors in the first generation church) rose higher than local pastors and became leaders over districts of churches geographically.

In the first several centuries of early Christianity, various Romanish trappings became established. Around A.D. 100 presbyters began to be called priests. Around A.D. 200 Cyprian instituted a sacerdotal mass. Around A.D. 300 the sign of the Cross and prayers for the dead appeared.

By the fourth century, five major centers of Christianity had appeared: Rome, Constantinople, Antioch, Jerusalem, and Alexandria (Egypt). The bishops of these city churches became known as patriarchs. Eventually two of these five cities became dominant: Rome and Constantinople. By this time church worship had gradually become ritualistic and sacerdotal; the spiritual approach was denied.

Another influence for changes taking place was the overthrow of the Roman Empire by the Goths, the Vandals, and the Huns. Their paganism and philosophy were assimilated into public Christianity and became part of the warp and woof of Rome's gospel. This is why one can find similar aspects (i.e. celibate priests, holy buildings, holy days, consecrated water, images, candles, incense, high ritualism) in Roman Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and other religions. It was this Christianizing of paganism that gave rise

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to the worship of Mary. Such worship of “Madonna and child” goes back deep into paganism with the worship of Isis and her child Horus, often pictured sitting on her lap. Like Mary, Isis was called “the Great Virgin,” and “the mother of God.”

From the fifth century, Romanism became more and more entrenched in its unscriptural direction. In A.D. 431 Mary was increasingly exalted in worship being addressed as the Mother of God. In A.D. 526 extreme unction appears; A.D. 593, the systematization of the doctrine of Purgatory appears. By around A.D. 600 prayers are offered to Mary for deceased saints. By A.D. 786 veneration for the Cross, images, and relics began.

The further maturation of Roman Catholicism is marked by the establishment of the College of Cardinals in A.D. 786. In 1545 Church tradition is made co-equal with the Scriptures. The next year, the Apocryphal books are canonized by Rome. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries further heresies are firmly established: Immaculate conception of Mary (1854), infallibility of the pope (1870), the Assumption of Mary (1950), and Mary viewed as the Mother of the Church (1965).

### **Popes and Power**

The rise of the power of the Roman Catholic Church is reflected in the enlarging authority assumed

by or granted to its pope. Some of the key bishops of Rome must be acknowledged:

1. Damascus (366-384) was the earliest to call himself Pope and one of the first to draw from Matthew 16:18 to bolster his claim.
2. Leo I (440-461) proclaimed himself “Lord” over all the church. Those who resisted his authority were viewed as appointed for hell.
3. Gregory I (590-604) was one of the first of the bishops to use the phrase *ex cathedra*, meaning to speak “out of the chair [of Peter].”
4. Theodore I (642-649) was one of the first to call himself “Sovereign Pontiff”; he believed he was sovereign over all and the Pontiff (i.e. “the bridge”) between God and man.
5. Gregory III (731-741) inaugurated the kissing of the Pope’s toe and the carrying of the Pope in a stately chair.
6. Stephen II (752-757) declared himself to be the King-Pope.
7. John XV (985-996) took on the power of canonizing saints.
8. John XIX (1024-1032) was one of the earliest to grant indulgences in return for money.
9. Gregory VII (1073-1-85) brought the papacy to its height of

power declaring himself to be absolute over all kings and rulers.

10. Innocent III (1198-1216) openly declared himself to be the “Vicar” of Christ or the substitute of Christ on earth.
11. Boniface VII (1294-1303) declared boldly, “Listen to the Vicar of Christ, who is placed over kings and kingdoms. He is the keeper of the keys, the judge of the living and the dead, and sits on the throne of justice, with power to extirpate all iniquity. He is the head of the Church, which is one and stainless, and not a many-headed monster, and has full divine authority to pluck out and tear down, to build up and plant. Let not the king imagine that he has no superior, is not subject to the highest authority.”

## **Vatican II**

Between 1962 and 1965 a Vatican Council was convened by Pope John XXIII and (after his death in 1963) was completed by Pope Paul VI. Some 2,400 bishops were present. Although some changes to the Roman Catholic Church came because of this council (i.e. the Mass to be now given in the vernacular of the people, greater liberties with the spirit of ecumenicity to the non-catholic world, allowing the eating of meat on Friday), the dogmas and doctrines of the Church were

reaffirmed. This would include a declaration concerning the Pope as witnessed in the following statement:

The Roman Pontiff, by reason of his office as Vicar of Christ, namely, and as pastor of the entire church, has full, supreme and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered.

## **Papal Titles**

The titles for the Pope have ever swelled throughout church history. Some of them include the following:

1. His Holiness
2. Holy Father
3. Vicar of Christ
4. Sovereign
5. Supreme Pontiff
6. Keeper of the Keys
7. Head of the Church
8. Prince of the Apostles
9. Head of the Bishops
10. Supreme Pastor
11. Universal Ruler of the Truth
12. Infallible Ruler
13. Father of all Christians
14. Supreme Teacher of the Universal Church
15. Father of Princes and Kings
16. Ruler of the Round Earth
17. Viceroy of Jesus Christ
18. Substitute for the Son of God
19. Successor of the Prince of the Apostles
20. Sovereign of the State of the Vatican
21. Primate of Italy
22. Pontifex Maximus
23. Mediator between God and man

## 24. The Sovereign over the souls of purgatory

### Matthew 16:16-19 and Peter

One of the passages upon which the papacy is based is the declaration of Christ to Peter in Matthew 16. Peter responded to the question of the Lord, “But whom say ye that I am?” with the proclamation, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” This sentence structure is a Hebraic Parallelism in which the first statement is true because of the second statement. Thus it carries the meaning “Thou art the Christ *because* Thou art the Son of the living God.” To Peter’s answer, Jesus responded:

Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon *this rock* I will build my church: and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it [emphasis added].

Although the Latin Vulgate makes no distinction between Peter and “this rock,” the Greek is very clear in its distinction. The word *Peter* is the masculine term for “a stone, or little rock, or a small detachment of a massive ledge.” “This rock” is the ledge itself, or a cliff of rock like that upon which the wise man built his house (Matt. 7:14). Christ Himself is the rock. This rock is the credo that Peter gave of Christ. Peter acknowledges that this rock,

Christ, becomes the rock upon which the church is built.

And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven (Matthew 16:19).

Only Christ has the “keys of death and of Hell” (Revelation 1:18; 3:7); and Peter is *not* Christ, nor is he the substitute of Christ. In Matthew 16:19 Peter held the keys precisely as every biblical preacher and teacher does today. This binding and loosing authority is given to all the disciples (Matthew 18:18). This authority was first demonstrated when Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost and later when he opened the Gospel to the Gentiles in Acts 10.

It is interesting to note that Peter was openly rebuked by Paul for his hypocrisy among the brethren (Galatians 2:11-14). If Peter was the first pope, and popes cannot be questioned by anyone, then from this line of reasoning Paul would be in a greater position than Peter to be made the foundation of the Church. It is also interesting to note that Peter was married (Luke 4:38; I Corinthians 9:5) although popes and priests are not allowed to marry.

### The Death of Another Pope

The death of John Paul II has required a conclave to be called into session (*conclave* meaning “with a

key”). There is a designated place appointed for the meeting of the 117 cardinals who will make the choice for the next pope. This building will be locked and sealed with wax seals. The place of the Sistine Chapel along with annex rooms for resting and eating will be part of the conclave. This practice began after the election of Gregory X in 1271; it took two years and nine months for his election. Weary over the labored time, the local authority eventually locked up the cardinals and would not allow them to leave until a final decision was made. Gregory X in 1274 realized that such a conclave needed to be established, and at the Second Council of Lyons he declared this provision.

When a pope dies, the cardinals who are present at his death have ten days to call for their brethren. If after three days of the conclave’s convening no decision is made, for the next five days the cardinals are to be brought only noon and evening meals. If after those five days a decision still has not been made, only bread, wine, and water are brought. For many centuries this has been the ritual to speed up the process or press for a decision.

When a vote has been taken and a two-thirds majority has not been reached concerning a candidate, all of the ballots are placed in a stove and burned. The black smoke coming from the smokestack indicates to the public that a decision has not

been met. Pope John Paul II established the provision that after twelve days if a decision has not been made, then a simple majority vote of the last count will be accepted. Once a decision has been made the ballots are burned but this time with the addition of a pellet that produces white smoke informing those outside that a man has been nominated for the papacy.

It is interesting to note that out of the 117 cardinals eligible to vote (under the age of 80), the overwhelming vast majority of them were chosen by John Paul II with the hope that they would choose a man who would continue in his concerns and vision after his death.

### **The Malachy Prophecies**

It is interesting to note that 1978 was the year of the three Popes: the death of Paul VI, the election and death of John Paul I, and then the election of John Paul II. Now with the death of John Paul II, the Roman Catholic Church and the world are anticipating what will come next.

The most famous and best-known prophecies about the popes are those attributed to Malachy. In 1139 he went to Rome to give an account of the affairs of his diocese to Pope Innocent II, who promised him two palliums for the metropolitan Sees of Armagh and Cashel. While at Rome, he supposedly received a strange vision of the future wherein was unfolded before him the long list of illustrious pontiffs

who were to rule the Roman Catholic Church until the end of time. History tells us that Malachy gave his manuscript to Innocent II to console him in the midst of his tribulations, and that the document remained unnoticed in the Roman Archives until its discovery in 1590. The manuscript was first published by Arnold de Wyon. Since their publication, there has been much discussion as to whether they are genuine predictions of Malachy or later culminations by the Jesuits.

These short prophetic announcements (112 of them) indicate some noticeable trait of all future popes from Celestine II, who was elected in the year 1130, until the end of the world. They are enunciated under mystical titles. Those who have undertaken to interpret and explain these symbolical prophecies have succeeded in discovering some trait, allusion, point, or similitude in their application to the individual popes, such as to their country, their name, their coat of arms or insignia, their birthplace, their talent or learning, the title of their cardinalate, or the dignities which they held.

John Paul II was the 266<sup>th</sup> pope and the 110<sup>th</sup> pope mentioned by Malachy since his list commenced. Malachy called John Paul II “De labore Solis,” or “of the eclipse of the sun,” or “from the labour of the sun.” Karol Wojtyla, his baptismal name, was born on May 18, 1920, during the solar eclipse. Being born in Poland, he came from behind the

former Iron Curtain. Because of his obsessive devotion to the Virgin Mary, this Pope was viewed by certain Catholic historians to be the fruit of the intercession of the Woman clothed with the sun and in labor (Revelation 12).

It is the hope of Romanist leaders that the next pope will not reign as long, perhaps being an older pope. According to Malachy, the 267<sup>th</sup> pope is called “Gloria Olivae,” or “glory of the olive.” Traditionally, the olive branch has been associated with peace, but in both the Old and New Testaments, it also serves as an emblem for the Jews. Putting the two together, some commentators believe that the reign of this pope will be dedicated to peace. However, some believe that Malachy’s description may instead refer to St. Benedict’s sixth-century prophecy that a member of his order will lead the Church in its fight against evil just before the Apocalypse. The Benedictine Order is known by another name, Olivetans. Those mystic observers in Rome believe if this is true, the next pope will go by the name of Pope Benedict XVI, in imitation of Saint Benedict and Pope Benedict XV. Benedict XV was a pope obsessed with peace: he sought peace and spoke of peace and wrote documents seeking peace.

Yet there is much division today within the Romanist Church between traditionalists, modernists, and Marxists. There is also another

“Saint” Benedict, a well-known one called Benedict the Black (il moro santo, the holy Moor). Some believe he may be a black man like Benedict the Moor. As to the term *olive* there has been speculation that the next pope will come from an olive-growing country: Spain, Italy, South America, or even France.

A little more information is given concerning the last pope that Malachy mentions:

In the final persecution of the Holy Roman Church there will reign Peter the Roman, who will feed his flock amid many tribulations, after which the seven hilled city will be destroyed and the dreadful judge will judge the people. The End.

Malachy places this pope as the last one and the end of the church. According to Roman speculations within the Vatican, either the 267<sup>th</sup> or 268<sup>th</sup> pope has been viewed as the defecting pope: defecting from the church and its doctrines, an antichrist pope. These are merely the speculations by Malachy and those in the Romanist church who follow his predictions.

### Conclusion

Sentiment is ever growing for Rome and its Pope. But as it has been believed since the Protestant Reformation (and even before), the system of Rome is the Mystery Babylon of Revelation 17; she also is the whore who will ride the back of the beast. It is estimated that

over the centuries she has put to death some sixty-eight million individuals, drinking abundantly and made drunk with the blood of the saints:

And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. (Revelation 17:6)

May God help us in these days to see the papal system truly as an anti-christ system. Whether we view the prefix “anti” in the Greek interpreted as “in the stead of” (or substitute), or “against,” the pope concept falls under both categories. He places himself as the substitute of Christ, and he is against the true Christ.

May God keep our hearts clear and firm upon Scriptures amidst these days of sentimentality for that which is contrary to the Christ of the Scriptures.

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the second article in this issue,  
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# THE CHANGING FACE OF ROME

By Dr. H. T. Spence

Within the prophecies of the Scriptures, there is a segment of time called “the time of the end.” This period in history describes the time when both Satan and man will attempt to culminate their plans against God; at the same time God will culminate His sovereign plan concerning human history. This end time will be the climatic moment in history when the forces and powers of both the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Darkness will ultimately meet for the conclusion of the ages.

## God Speaking to Men of Global Influence

The higher men rise in power the greater the influential powers of darkness and providence swarm around them. It is for this reason we need to pray “for kings, and for all that are in authority” (I Timothy 2:2). When men go deeper in authority over many people, the Devil deepens his influence of control over them. This includes kings, heads of empires, and even popes. At the same time, the plan and workings of God are there as well. How does God speak to such leaders, especially to those who do not believe in the Bible? What about the prophecies of such men like Malachy?

As for world leaders their contemplations in life often concern the future, or the effect certain situations will have on the entire world—their concern is global. Genesis 41 speaks of Joseph’s coming before Pharaoh and giving the interpretation of a dream. It is stated that the reason the dream came to Pharaoh was that God “hath showed Pharaoh what he is about to do.” Yes, God may do that at times when other avenues are not open for His dealings with world leaders.

There is also the dream that Nebuchadnezzar had in Daniel 2. What prompted this dream? Daniel 2:28,29 states the following:

But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these; As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.

The prompting of this dream was the burden and concern that a world ruler had for the future of history.

There is also the dream of Pilate’s wife during the days leading to Christ’s crucifixion. She sent word to Pilate stating, “Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because

of him” (Matthew 27:19). Will the archives of presidents and kings one day reveal the dreams they have had during their tenure as well as the outcome of those dreams?

Sometimes God speaks through religious leaders even though they are apostate leaders. In I Kings 22 we read of the prophets of Ahab prophesying to him concerning a battle at Ramoth-gilead:

Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall I go against Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall I forebear? And they said, Go up; for the Lord shall deliver it into the hand of the king (I Kings 22:6).

Some may view this as a prophecy from the Devil since these men were the prophets of Baal. However, we read of the words of the prophet Micaiah who was also called before Ahab:

Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so. Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee (I Kings 22:19-23).

Although God is not the author of confusion, He does use confusion. He also will use demons and the ungodly to bring about His will. For example, it was an evil spirit from the LORD that troubled King Saul (I Samuel 16:14).

There is another passage that shows how God works through the prophesying of religious, apostate leaders:

And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad. Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death (John 11:49-53).

Yes, God is working even through apostasy and apostate leaders though they are evil, wrong, and will be sent to hell. Peter declares this concerning the death of Christ in Acts 4:26-28. Even in the Tribulation Period when

the nations diminish to ten leaders with Antichrist being the eleventh, God will be using them:

And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. *For God hath put in their hearts to fulfill his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled* (emphasis added, Revelation 17:16-17).

There may be times when false prophets come and give the world and the church false prophecies (Deuteronomy 13:1-3). Moses warns the people that God may even allow it to come to pass to “prove you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.” An example of such a prophet is the twelfth-century Roman Catholic Malachy. Malachy was not of God, but he may have been used of God within the kingdom of apostate Romanism to deepen its delusion.

### **Rome and Babylon**

One prophetic aspect dealt with by both God and Satan concerns Babylon and Rome. Babylon had its beginning in Genesis 10 and 11 under the apostate reaction to God and His truth by the leadership of Cush and his son Nimrod. In the days of Daniel, Babylon came to great prominence in world leadership. However, John in Revelation reveals that Babylon will return. Concerning its restoration during the reign of Antichrist, Revelation 17-18 shows that it will be an impressive city, a commercial city, and a universal religion. Yes, Babylon is to return in the future.

In the book of Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar’s image included legs that were made of iron. Historically, Christians have viewed this as the empire of Rome (Daniel 2:33a, 40). Although Rome reached great heights as a world leader during the days of Christ, the picture of Nebuchadnezzar’s image having feet of both iron and clay suggest that Rome is to return in the future as well.

There is much speculation concerning the prophetic implications from the prophecies. Does it mean that the “geography of Babylon” will have a world capital led by the government of Rome in a united empire? Or does Babylon simply signify the restoration of political idolatry with religious Roman Catholicism (the New Testament idolatry)? Whatever the interpretation, in these days of increasing apostasy, we should be careful to understand that Rome and Babylon are coming back into a prominence with a force that we will have to meet as true Christians in the present and future.

It may be that we have given so much emphasis upon the Jews and Palestine that we have not thought enough of Rome and Babylon. They

both have their roots historically, philosophically, and archaeologically in Babel, Bel, Cush, and Nimrod. They are coming back as Satan fulfills his own ancient conquest against God and His people.

Perhaps a word on the time period of the present world age would aid us in this prophetic understanding. Paul indicates that the “present age” will meet a concluding transition at a certain generation upon which the ends of the world will come (I Corinthians 10:11). The present age began with Rome and will end via the world apostasy and antichrist; this final generation will return to certain realities of Babylon and Rome. These two geographies eventually will serve Satan again against the people of God, though their appearances today are not their final forms.

Although apostasy, the final frontier of sin, is the same in its characteristics of innate evil and malignant evil, it is ever mutating to come to its finality. Romanism is part of that intricate apostate system; we have witnessed its further mutation even in our lifetime. And yet it has not reached its final form.

There have been three crucial changes to come to Romanism in the last half of the twentieth century. Since the Protestant Reformation, the first time that a pope spoke lovingly about Protestants was during the papal reign of John XXIII, when he referred to the Protestants with the phrase, “our separated brethren.” This was a generous title coming from Romanism. It assisted in changing the mood of Rome towards those who had brought the Protestant Reformation. Then there were the changes that took place under Vatican II in the early 1960s. Many of these changes were carefully motivated to accommodate a détente between the Roman clergy and Protestants. A third crucial change was made evident when Pope Paul VI demonstrated a kind of psychological humility in the presence of the United Nations on October 4, 1965. He imparted to the audience the thought that the United Nations had the power for peace and authority to change the world. This too was a different attitude from former popes in speaking to political leaders of the world. Even Malachi Martin, a Jesuit priest whose writings have revealed much darkness and the changing philosophy found within the Vatican, wrote of the staggering changes among cardinals, bishops, and priests in his book *The Final Conclave*. This was written from within Romanism. All of these changes have contributed to making John Paul II the most beloved Pope of all times (in spite of his so-called conservatism). Evangelists, kings, queens, the Dalai Lama, and laity, have all been brought under the powerful charismatic spell of this pope. He is the most beloved religious leader of all times. This has greatly assisted in Rome’s revival in recent years.

From one perspective Romanism remains the same in root and spirit; it will never give up the keys of authority or its claim to be the true church. But it is willing to make many concessions and changes to produce the coming new religion.

### **The Coming New Religion**

Although much can be stated about Romanism and other religions, it must be realized that the coming new universal religion is yet to be finalized. It will be formed with contributions from changes in Romanism, Protestantism, Americanism, Communism, Judaism, and the ancient religions in the Far East. All these contributions will blend together to make the final new religion. We should not conclude that the past or present Roman Catholicism is in its final form. Nor should we conclude that the final form is without a dynamic and large contribution from the past and present form of Romanism. Like a mother with her paramours and illegitimate children, a new religion is being born in our time through the coming together of all of the neo-movements.

Daniel 11:36-39 speaks of this coming new religion:

And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain.

In the light of this passage of Scripture, the new religion is still being formed.

This new religion is linked with all other religions of history and yet completely new and distinct in its final form. For the first time in history, Satan will incarnate and inaugurate his own false religion. Although he certainly was part of the other empires, he will finally come in his own incarnation.

### **The New Religion and Ecumenism**

The power of the new religion will be made a part of the political world as well. Observe Luke 4:5-7:

And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the *world* in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.”

The word *world* in the Greek is *oikoumene*, or the inhabited world; our word *ecumenical* is from this Greek word. In this passage, the Devil offers up the kingdoms of the world in return for worship to the Devil. Although Christ refused these kingdoms (which belonged to the Devil), the Devil will give them to anyone who will absolutely surrender to him. He will find such a man in the Antichrist.

Christendom has at the present three ecumenical movements. The first is found in the Eastern Orthodox Church; it claims to be ecumenical or universal and going back to the original church. The second is found in the Roman Catholic Church, which calls herself ecumenical or worldwide in the use of the word *catholic*. The third is the Geneva ecumenism or Protestantism, which is endeavoring to make its unification of the visible church.

For a number of years Rome was left out of the ecumenical movements. Even Karl Barth, the father of Neo-Orthodoxy, warned about Romanism and its worship of the Virgin Mary. His writings on Romanism reveal much about its great heresies. But this spirit has changed in Protestantism. There is greater sympathy for Rome among Protestants now than ever before. The new religion is yet to be finished, but Romanism will play a major role in it.

It appears that this new religion, with Romanism in its leadership, will be the voice of a neo-universalism. This new-universalistic teaching seems to be twofold: the universal doctrine of salvation for all men and the unification of all religions. The Roman Catholic Church held the viewpoint at Vatican II in the early 1960s that there is a presence of Christ in every person. Therefore, they conclude there is an element of truth in every religion. However, everyone must entrust themselves to the blessed haven of the Romanist Church in which is the fullness of the truth. For Rome will never give up the keys amidst her compromises. She will rise to be the Madam Harlot to amalgamate the religions of the world to ride the back of the Beast.

A final synthesis is coming and it will be managed by Rome. It will include heathenism, paganism, communism, Islam, Far East religions, and Protestantism. In the final manifestation of it there will be a new religion, a new consciousness, and a neo-Christianity. All who participate will sacrifice something of their original identities, but Rome will make the synthesis.

## Conclusion

Another prominent movement that has swept the world with its overwhelming influence has been the charismatic movement. This was introduced as an integral part of Romanism in the early 1970s with the strong backing of Cardinal Suens; it found strong acceptance under Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul II. The charismatic emphasis upon miracles, neo-revelations, and rock music will be the glue that Rome will use to bring it all together.

In history there are three Romes: Rome conceived in Babylon, Rome born in Italy, and Rome reared in the Church. There are also three Babylons: Babylon under Nimrod, Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar, and Babylon under Antichrist. These two figures will come together in the future.

God's people must always remember: Rome was *refuted* by the Reformers and Puritans. Rome has been *renewed* by the Neo-Ecumenists. Rome is being *restored* by the apostates for Antichrist. But Rome will be *refused* by the King of Kings!

### Coming Events at Foundations

Classical Concert – May 13

Dante & Sara Hernández, Dr. Robert Wilson

Graduation – May 15

Men's Prayer Conference – June 9-11

Summer Graduate School – June 20 – July 1

Marriage Conference – July 30

Ladies Prayer Fellowship – August 12-13

Beginning of Fall Term – College & Seminary – August 24

Congress of Christian Fundamentalists – Oct 5-7

— *Make plans now to attend* —



## **A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**

A mighty fortress is our God,  
A bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He, amid the flood  
Of mortal ills prevailing;  
For still our ancient foe,  
Doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great,  
And, armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,  
Our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right Man on our side,  
The Man of God's own choosing:  
Dost ask who that may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is He,  
Lord Sabaoth, His name,  
From age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,  
Should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed  
His truth to triumph through us:  
The Prince of Darkness grim—  
We tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure,  
For lo, his doom is sure,  
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers,  
No thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours  
Thro' Him who with us sideth:  
Let goods and kindred go,  
This mortal life also;  
The body they may kill:  
God's truth abideth still,  
His kingdom is forever.

—Martin Luther

**INVITATION TO JOIN**

**THE SOCIETY FOR  
FUNDAMENTAL STUDIES**

**ANNUAL WRITING CONTEST**

- Founded in 1994 by Dr. O. Talmadge Spence, "This Society for the Advancement and Preservation of Fundamental Studies is seeking to encourage young separatist fundamentalist men to set forth their faith through written papers in an annual writing contest."
- The subject matter for an original paper is to be chosen from a list of twenty-five subjects provided upon request. For example: "A Fundamentalist Is a Born-again Believer in the Lord Jesus Christ," "The Fundamentalist Affirms the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ," etc.
- Guidelines for writing the papers are provided upon request.
- The length of the paper is to be approximately 8,000 words.
- The papers are to be completed within the contest year (January 1-December 31) and according to academic form and style.
- There are no fees or charges for participation in this writing endeavor.
- The award money has been increased from \$500 to \$750.
- Papers are judged by a jury selected from a board of reference.
- To qualify for judgment of this year's contest, all papers must be received in the director's office by December 31, 2005.
- For more details you may request a Society packet and an application, with no obligation, by calling 1-800-849-8761 or e-mailing [info@foundations.edu](mailto:info@foundations.edu) or faxing 910-892-9322.

**Dr. H. T. Spence, Director**  
**The Society for Fundamental Studies**  
**Post Office Box 1166 · Dunn, NC 28335**

**Former Winners  
Society For Fundamental Studies  
Writing Contest**

**1994**

Dr. Milton E. Jones, IL

*A Fundamentalist Maintains an Immovable Allegiance to the  
Inerrant, Infallible, and Verbally Inspired Bible*

**1996**

Dr. Jeffrey E. Khoo, Singapore

*Christ's Active Obedience in His Substitutionary Atonement:  
An Exposition of Galatians 4:4-5*

**1997**

Dr. Richard A. Dobson, KY

*Hell, The Unquenchable Fire*

**1998**

Mr. Dennis L. Peterson, TN

*The Hallowed Day: A Call for the Return to the  
Proper Observance of the Lord's Day*

**1999**

Rev. Christopher R. Nighswonger, NC

*The Fundamentalist Affirms the Incarnation and  
Virgin Birth of the Lord Jesus Christ*

**2001**

Mr. Dennis L. Peterson, TN

*Truth Versus Change:*

*Preserving and Advancing Fundamentalism in a Postmodern World*

Award Presentation  
Graduation Day 2006  
Foundations Bible College

\*No award given in 1995, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004