



**The Charismatic Movement**  
**Is the Ass on Which the Antichrist**  
**Is Riding Into His Jerusalem**

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Saint Paul

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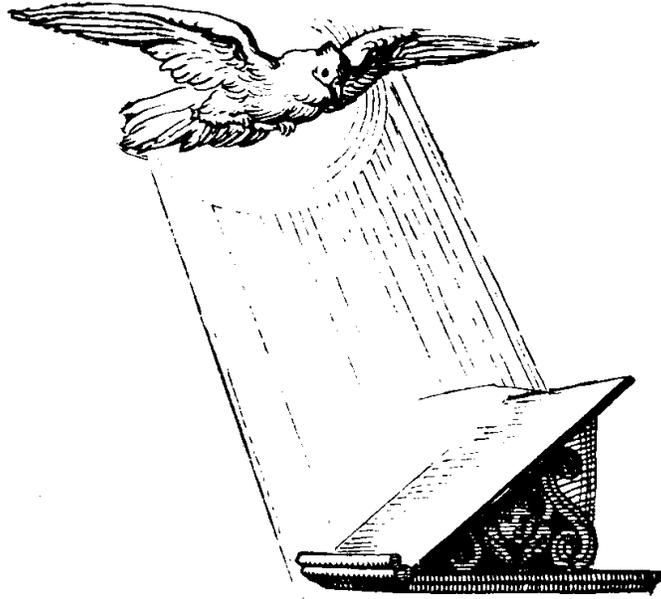
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## CHAPTER 1

### WHO IS THE ANTICHRIST?



**ANTICHRIST. Meaning of the Word.** "Antichrist" is an English term which is practically a transliteration of the Greek word which we come across in the epistles of John. It means "he who is against Christ." It refers to that offensive office in the New Testament Christian church instituted by the devil himself, developed by power-crazed clergy, and filled by a succession of the same (much as the U.S. Presidency has been filled by a succession of men, one at a time), that deceitfully works against Christ's soul-saving gospel, sending multitudes of its misguided church members to hell.

*History of the Word.* - Though the name "Antichrist" is found in Holy Writ only in 1st John 2:18, 22; 4:3, and 2nd John 7, these are not the only places where we have a description of this person. For instance, he is described further by the Gospels, by 2nd Thessalonians 2, and by the book of Revelation.

In fact, already in the Old Testament the Holy Spirit warned the church of this deadly person. Already back in the days of Daniel, as he was lifting up the heads of the people to behold the glories of the incredible New Testament era, the Holy Spirit foretold an opponent of the Messiah, terming his reign the "abomination of desolation," calling him "the prince" (chapter 7), and "the king" (chapter 2).

Though the apostles, especially Paul under Gamaliel (Acts 22:3), may have heard about this sinister usurper in the book of Daniel, our Lord distinctly referred to him during his ministry on earth, reiterating what Daniel had prophesied (Matthew 24:15).

A dozen or so years after our Lord spoke these things, the Spirit through Paul described this coming opponent of Christ at length, calling him by different names so as to leave you with a deeper description of him in terms, such as, the "man of sin," "son of perdition" [destruction], and the "wicked one" or "lawless one" (2nd Thessalonians 2:3, 8). Nevertheless, the name of him that has prevailed down through the centuries has been the one which John gave, namely, the "Antichrist."

*Scriptural Passages that treat of the Antichrist. -*

Daniel 7:8, 11, 20-22, 24-26; 9:26-27; 11:36-45; 12:10-12  
Matthew 24:15 (consult Mark 13:14, a parallel.)  
2nd Thessalonians 2:3-12  
1st John 2:18, 22; 4:3  
2nd John 7  
Revelation 13; 14:8-11; 17:1-18; 18:1-24; 19:20; 20:10

Consult the appendix on page 53 to see how these passages, when compared, describe the same person!

(See also Psalm 10; 110:6; Isaiah 11:4; 1st Timothy 4:1-3!)

*Predictions of the Antichrist in the Old Testament.* - In the book of Daniel the living Word gives you several descriptions, indeed, histories, behaviors, and fruits of this coming powerful human opponent by which you

could and should identify him. For instance, in chapter seven this foe is characterized as a little horn, yet as a power to be reckoned with, which would come forth from the Roman Empire. He would be like king Antiochus Epiphanes (predicted in 8:23-25 and in 11:21-35) in that he would be a powerful monarch, and would speak great words against the Most High, wear out the saints of the Most High, and change doctrine and practice during a time of great tribulation (verse 25). In chapter nine this enemy is described as a destroying prince, or ruler, who would make desolate the soul-saving doctrines which he would find in the church, and would replace them with his abominable teachings and practices. In chapter eleven he is called the king that would "exalt and magnify himself above every god," and would "speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper" (verse 36), regarding "neither the God of his fathers," nor marriage (but celibacy, verse 37). In chapter twelve his session in office is portrayed as a period of great tribulation, indicated by the biblical designation three and one-half years, and termed the "abomination of desolation." By placing the prophecy of Antiochus Epiphanes (died in 164 B.C.) in connection with the Antichrist, Daniel draws attention to the fact that Epiphanes would be an example of the coming dreadful opponent of Christ, who, likewise, would make every effort to crush the true belief in God and to substitute a veneration of himself.



The cruelties of Antiochus Epiphanes in compelling the Jews to adopt the religion of the Greeks:  
a woodcut by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1794-1872).

**Prediction of the Antichrist in the New Testament.** - Our Lord himself mentioned the Antichrist when he stated, "When you see the 'abomination of desolation', spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (Matthew 24:15; consult the parallel Mark 13:14), in effect, reiterating what he, the eternal Word, had spoken previously through his servant Daniel, drawing the disciples' attention to the descriptions which Daniel recorded of the great false Christ, who would appear in addition to the other minor false Christs and prophets, yet being so multiplied in sin that his reign would be an abomination of desolation.

**Paul's Man of Sin.** - Starting with 2nd Thessalonians 2, and continuing on in the epistles of John and in Revelation, the Holy Spirit elaborates extensively on the previous prophecies of Christ and Daniel. For instance, Paul informs the congregation in Thessalonica that in the future there will be a great "falling away." The subject would be the Christian church. The object would be the true Christian faith. This "falling away" would occur before the public exposure of the Antichrist took place, who is described in this place as "the man of sin" and the "son of perdition," because he is full of sin, and

because he is destined for damnation. Indeed, the appropriateness of these names would be demonstrated by his behavior. For example, he would “oppose and exalt himself above all” God-ordained authority, such as, the civil government, parental prerogative, the local congregation – the Supreme Court in the church, and the public ministry, even to the ambitious extent of putting himself on a plane with God, claiming authority, honor, and power which only Heaven claims. Hence he would be the ultimate in rebellion, pride, and power-seeking: installing himself as the master in the visible Christian church. Though for a while this incredibly brazen usurpation by the “lawless one” would be checked by something and someone (“what...[and] he... restrains,” verses 6-7), this person, nevertheless, still would come by the working of Satan, with all lying power, signs, and miracles, boasting that these miracles are divine and, hence, prove his legitimacy, using “unrighteous deception” on those who did not love the truth and were a part of that great falling away from the gospel. Thus a generation of Christians would arise that “knew not Joseph,” that is to say, that had no love for the old apostolic gospel, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. On account of this, God would punish them. He would do it by using evil to punish evil. He would send them a power that produces delusion for the ultimate purpose that they all might be damned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness (verse 12).

**John’s Antichrist.** – While Paul speaks of what this man of sin will be like, John treats of how he will be, namely, he will have a spirit that “does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh” (1st John 4:3). With this being his motive, the future, formidable foe’s intent would be not only to oppose Christ, as the term “Antichrist” signifies, but also to deceive in regards to the gospel – that Christ came in the flesh to save sinners (2nd John 7) – and to lie and to deny the Father and the Son (1st John 2:22) as others, indeed, as many others were already doing in the apostolic age (1st John 2:18), with the same spirit (1st John 4:3).

**The First Beast and the Prostitute of Revelation.** – As 2nd Thessalonians chapter 2 generally treated of the man of sin’s doctrine and practice, Revelation treats of his history and of his effect. The whole session of the Antichrist in office is to be the third great curse that is to come upon the New Testament church (Revelation 9:12).

Revelation chapter 13 describes the Antichrist according to his ruling power (see Daniel chapter 7). He is a terrible monster with seven heads and with ten horns. These are explained in Revelation 17. As John stands in spirit on the seashore and looks toward southern Europe, he sees the rise of this monster. Later, this monster is given a deadly wound from which he should have died, but he survived. Indeed, he is restored to strength by the efforts of

another, the False Prophet, the second beast ((19:20; 13:12), and the world marvels and follows after the monster while he makes war on the saints, exercising authority over every tribe, tongue, and nation, and continues to speak great blasphemies until the Last Day when he is cast alive into the lake of fire burning with sulfur (19:20).

Revelation chapter 14 speaks of three mighty human messengers on the order of a Moses whom God raises. The latter two come after the Antichrist has arisen, and deal with him. For instance, the second one (verse 8) announces the deadly wound which was given to the Antichrist (13:3). Subsequently, the mission of the third man is to call back to faith those who had been deceived by the False Prophet into following the Antichrist, especially in adoring his icon (“his image”), and in receiving his mark on their foreheads or hands (verse 9), that is, by obeying his man-made laws (Luther).

In chapter 17 Scripture supplies us with some plain identification marks of the monster/prostitute/Babylon/Antichrist. For example, he is regal and rich (verse 4); he martyrs true Christians (v. 6), lives on seven mountains (v. 9), is eighth in a succession of kingdoms (v. 11), is identified with a city, and has control over the rulers of the earth (v. 18).

Chapter 18 of “Revelation describes the final judgment of the Antichrist, calling his government by the name “Babylon,” thus once again likening it to the Old Testament city/state, world kingdom which cruelly had captivated God’s people. Later verses report that he finally is cast forever into the lake of fire (19:20: 20:10).

The tone of these prophecies is one of dire dread and alarm, all the while instilling a sense of urgency in its hearers to be on the alert.

### *A Description of the Antichrist as given by Scripture.<sup>1</sup>*

1. He is a human being (2nd Thessalonians 2:3-4).

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<sup>1</sup> In his work *Christian Dogmatics* (translator Walter William Frederick Albrecht [Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1953], III, pages 463-466), Franz August Otto Pieper discusses five marks of the Antichrist; Gustav Adolf Theodor Felix Hoenecke lists five also (*Evangelisch-Lutherische Dogmatik* [Milwaukee: Northwestern Publishing House], IV, seiten 219ff.); *The Concordia Cyclopedia* (editors Ludwig Ernst Fuerbringer, Theodore Engelder, and Paul Edward Kretzmann [Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1927], pages 26-27), gives six; P. E. Kretzmann in his article in the *Concordia Theological Monthly* for June, 1933 (Volume IV, number 6 [Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1933], pages 428-432), in which he would defend the position of the recent *Brief Statement* (1932) against the ALC error, lists twelve.

2. He has the power of a king (2nd Thessalonians 2:4).
3. He has his seat “in the temple of God” (2nd Thessalonians 2:4).
4. He acts as if he were God.
  - a) In regards to religious authority; and
  - b) In regards to civil authority (2nd Thessalonians 2:4).
5. He is connected with a “falling away” (2nd Thessalonians 2:3, 10).
6. He has all manner of lying powers, signs, and miracles behind him (2nd Thessalonians 2:9).
7. He deceives into worship those people which are not true believers (Revelation 13:4, 8).
8. He is the son of perdition (2nd Thessalonians 2:3).
9. He is closely identified with a city (Revelation 17:18).
10. This city sits on seven mountains (Revelation 17:9) between two seas (Daniel 11:45).
11. He has changed laws (Daniel 7:25).
12. He has seduced political rulers, merchants, and the populace with his deception (Revelation 17:2).
13. He is wealthy (Revelation 17:4; 18:7, 16).
14. He wars against true believers and martyrs them (Revelation 13:7).
15. His reign is a time of severe suffering (Revelation 13:5).
16. He will reign until the Last Day (2nd Thessalonians 2:8).

***The Identity of the Antichrist.*** – In order to find out whom Scripture has in mind, we will need to draw inferences from public facts. Specifically, we will look at facts from the religious history of the Christian churches, and not from the histories of non-Christian religions, since the divine Word declares that the Antichrist will be found in the Christian church. We will look back at the Christian church from the time of the apostle Paul down to the present.

As we survey the history of the Greek Orthodox church, the Presbyterian, the Lutheran, the Roman Catholic, and others, we would not be searching for little antichrists, as the apostle John mentioned in his day (1st John 2:18), but for one big powerful personality which fits Scripture's description. After searching through church history; after examining the different Christian denominations, the one person that sticks out above all others, and fits the description given above by Holy Writ is the pope at Rome.

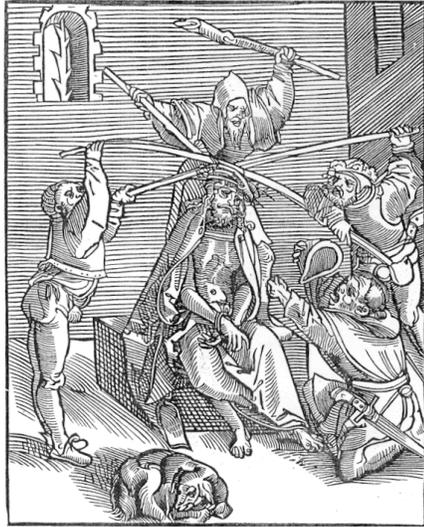
*1. The pope is a human being.*

2nd Thessalonians 2:3-4: "The falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God."

- A) The office of pope is not simply a concept. It is filled by an actual human being who carries out the goals of the papacy. That is to say, though this office has spanned centuries, it always has been filled by a man carrying out its plans.
- B) The papacy has been defined by papal theologians as being the jurisdiction and office of the pope as the vicar [substitute] of Christ on earth; and also, as referring to papal authority. Generally, this refers to the system of church government in the Roman Catholic denomination which is headed by the pope.
- C) Some have thought that the Antichrist will be a single individual. However, 2nd Thessalonians 2 describes a phenomenon exceeding the life span of one individual. For instance, the building of his kingdom from the ground up and the sustaining of it until Judgment Day, the injection of false doctrines into the church and the persuasion for their acceptance against the orthodox men holding out, and the causing of a vast number of church members to fall away from the true faith would take the Antichrist a long period of time. How, then, could this be reconciled with the fact that the Antichrist will be a man? It could and should be done by realizing that the Antichrist will be a position filled by a succession of men, in the same manner as the United States Presidency is

thought of in terms of whoever is currently filling it, though it has been in existence for two centuries.

Christ



Antichrist



Man readies a crown of thorns for Christ.

The pope wears a triple crown of gold.

These two woodcuts are from a collection of comparisons made by Lucas Cranach the Elder (1472-1553) and his workshop for the German booklet [*Das*] *Passional Christi und Antichristi* printed in Wittenberg in 1521.

2. *The pope has the power of a king.*

2nd Thessalonians 2:4: "Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."

A) For instance, "pontificate" has been defined by papal theologians as being "the reign or period of reign of a pope as Roman pontiff. Once legitimately elected... he immediately receives, by divine right, the full power of supreme jurisdiction over the Christian faithful."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, editor John Hardon, S.J. [Society of Jesus=Jesuit] (Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1980), page 427A.

- B) The pope is crowned as a king. "The papal crown... is a tall headdress of gold cloth ornamented with precious stones, encircled with three coronets [crowns].... The first circlet symbolizes the Pope's universal episcopate [office]; the second, his primacy of jurisdiction; and the third, his temporal influence. It is placed on the pope's head at coronation, by the second cardinal deacon, with the words: 'Receive the tiara adorned with three crowns, and know that you are Father of princes and kings, guide of the world, vicar [substitute] of our Savior Jesus Christ'."<sup>3</sup>

3. *The pope has his seat "in the temple of God."*

2nd Thessalonians 2:4: "He sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."

The Antichrist has his seat "in the temple of God," that is to say, in the Christian church. The papacy is not found outside, but inside the Christian church.

4. *The pope acts as if he were God.*

2nd Thessalonians 2:4: "Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God."

A) In regards to religious authority.

1. The title "Vicar of Christ" is defined as "the Pope, [the] visible head of the Church on earth, acting for and in the place of Christ."<sup>4</sup>
2. The term "Holy Father" is "a title of the Pope.... [It] signifies the Pope's position as the spiritual father of all the Christian faithful."<sup>5</sup>
3. The title "His Holiness" is defined as "a title of honor and respect reserved in the Western Church for the Holy Father, the Pope."<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, page 539B.

<sup>4</sup> *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, page 561B.

<sup>5</sup> *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, page 253A.

<sup>6</sup> *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, page 250B.

4. The “Roman Primacy” is “the supreme and full power of jurisdiction possessed by divine right by the Bishop of Rome over the Whole Church in matters of faith and in matters pertaining to the discipline and government of the Church spread throughout the world. This power is not merely symbolic but real... it affects each and every church, each and every pastor, and every single one of the faithful.”<sup>7</sup>
  
5. The pope’s infallibility is viewed as “freedom from error in teaching the universal Church in matters of faith or morals. As defined by the First Vatican Council, ‘The Roman Pontiff, when he speaks ex cathedra – that is, when in discharge of the office of pastor and teacher of all Christians, by virtue of his supreme apostolic authority, he defines a doctrine regarding faith or morals to be held by the universal Church, by the divine assistance promised to him in Blessed Peter, is possessed of that infallibility with which the divine Redeemer willed that his Church should be endowed in defining doctrine regarding faith or morals and therefore such definitions are irreformable [unchangeable] of themselves, and not in virtue of consent of the Church’.... The bearer of the infallibility is every lawful Pope.... The object of his infallibility is his teaching of faith and morals. This means especially revealed doctrine like the Incarnation [that the Son of God took on a human nature]. But it also includes any non-revealed teaching that is in any way connected with revelation.... The source of the infallibility is the supernatural assistance of the Holy Spirit, who protects the supreme teacher of the Church from error and therefore from misleading the people of God.... As a result, the ex cathedra pronouncements of the Pope are unchangeable.”<sup>8</sup>
  
6. On page 766 of Bengel’s Commentary on Revelation,<sup>9</sup> which has been translated into English, the following blasphemies by different popes are listed. For example –

“I hold the place of God on earth” (Innocent III).

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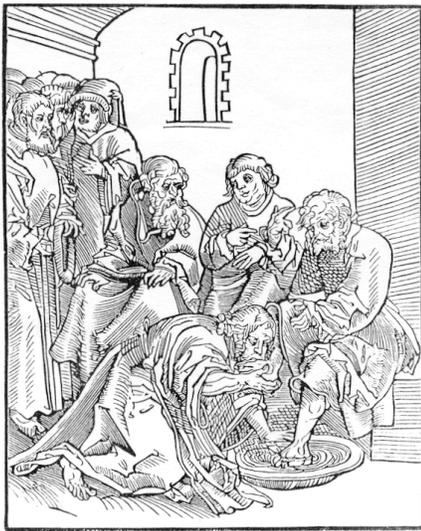
<sup>7</sup> *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, page 472A.

<sup>8</sup> *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, page 276B.

<sup>9</sup> John Albert Bengel, *Gnomon of the New Testament*, editors Blackey and Hawes (New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1867).

“I am placed on the throne of supreme justice.” “I am Pontiff; and it belongs to me to rescind or approve the acts of others according to my judgment.” “All right is placed in my breast.” “It is lawful for the Pope alone to judge the whole Church, but himself to be subject to the judgment of none.” “I am Lord of Lords and King of Kings” (Innocent IV; Paul II; Urban II). “I am the Head of the Church.” “The door of the sheep.” “It is necessary that every human being should be subject to me” (Julius II; Paschal II).

Christ



The Lord washed the feet of the disciples.

Antichrist



One must kiss the foot of the pope.

B) In regards to civil authority.

1. The following blasphemies are found on the same page as the above quotes: “It belongs to me to depose kings, and to absolve subjects from their allegiance, and give the kingdom to another who will be subject to me.” “All kings shall serve me.” “The nation and kingdom that will not serve me shall perish” (from examples in history; papal medals; Gregory VII).
2. The third crown of the pope’s tiara symbolizes his earthly authority. At a papal coronation this resplendent headdress is placed on his head with the words: “Receive

the tiara adorned with three crowns, and know that you are Father of princes and kings.”

3. Under the term “Indirect temporal jurisdiction” this definition is given: “The authority of the Pope in temporal matters outside the....Vatican City State.... In virtue of his office as supreme arbiter [judge] of faith and morals, for the spiritual protection and supernatural salvation of his flock, the Pope possesses indirect temporal authority to be exercised whenever the action of secular powers threatens the eternal welfare of the faithful.”<sup>10</sup>

Christ



Christ fled from an earthly kingdom.

Antichrist



Now the pope extorts one for himself by force.

5. *The pope is connected with an abandonment of the true Christian faith.*

2nd Thessalonians 2:3, 10: “Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed.... With all unrighteous deception among those who perish.*”

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<sup>10</sup> Modern Catholic Dictionary, page 274B.

A) Franz Pieper remarks: "In the Papacy we have the most pronounced and greatest imaginable 'falling away' from the Christian religion. Christians know that man is justified and saved only by faith, in Christ, without the deeds of the Law. This is the article 'which', as Luther states - and all Christians agree - 'alone begets, nourishes, edifies, preserves, and defends the Church and without which the Church cannot exist even for one hour'.... What air is for the natural life of man, the doctrine of justification by faith without any merit of man is for his spiritual life. But this doctrine is officially anathematized [cursed] by the Papacy, and the entire machinery of the papal Church is geared to oppose and destroy this doctrine. This truly is the great apostasy... from the Christian religion; and the personal representative of it, the Pope, is truly the worst enemy of Christ and His Church."<sup>11</sup>

"Anathema" is a Greek word that means "one is subject to God's curse," the end of which is eternal death. This term is used in the manner in which Paul used it in Galatians 1:8-9.

B) What the Roman Catholic church officially believes and teaches is contained in its "Canons [church laws] and Decrees of the Council of Trent." The following examples have been taken from this source. They have not been repealed. Notice how they counter, contradict, and condemn the true Christian faith.

How mind-boggling! How frightful!

1. "Canon 9. If anyone says that the sinner is justified by faith alone, meaning that nothing else is required to co-operate in order to obtain the grace of justification... let him be anathema."
2. "Canon 11. If anyone says that men are justified either by the sole imputation [accrediting] of the justice of Christ or by the sole remission of sins... or also that the grace by which we are justified is only the good will of God, let him be anathema."
3. "Canon 12. If anyone says that justifying faith is nothing else than confidence in divine mercy, which remits sins for Christ's

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<sup>11</sup> *Christian Dogmatics*, III, page 465.

sake, or that it is this confidence alone that justifies us, let him be anathema.”

4. Canon 33. If anyone says that the Catholic doctrine of justification as set forth by the holy council in the present decree derogates [takes away] in some respect from the glory of God or the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ, and does not rather illustrate the truth of our faith and no less the glory of God and of Christ Jesus, let him be anathema.”

Franz Pieper again comments, “There can be no greater enemy of the Church of God than the Papacy. In and by the doctrine of justification the Church lives.... And this very doctrine, which is the breath of life to the Christian and brings us the fruit of the death of the Son of God, this very doctrine the Pope not only tries to root out of the hearts of the Christians by seducing them through his false worship to trust in their own works and in the works of the saints, but expressly curses it.... Can anything worse befall the Church than being robbed of the doctrine of justification, by which alone she lives and exists? When the enemy takes my earthly life, he can do me no greater harm in earthly matters. And when the Pope has taken away the spiritual life of the Church by robbing her of the doctrine of justification, the climax of harm has been reached.”<sup>12</sup>

6. *The pope has all manner of lying powers, signs, and miracles behind him.*

2nd Thessalonians 2:9: “The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders.”

For instance, in regard to his teachings on the supernatural power and the spiritual assistance of the deceased Virgin Mary, the pope is supported by random, yet timely signs and wonders. These signs and wonders are “lying,” that is to say, they look real, but only are apparently so. They are a sham. They are lied about or are staged (phony healings). Nevertheless, as Pharaoh’s sorcerers performed wonders by the help of the devil, so any number of these signs and wonders also could be devil-initiated; for example, the appearances of the Virgin Mary to select people, the sun “dancing” in the sky on such occasions, tricks, healings, etc.

- A) Fatima, Portugal “Was the scene of six apparitions of Our Lady [Mary], from May 13 to October 13, 1917, to three peasant children.... During the apparitions Mary told the children to

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<sup>12</sup> *Christian Dogmatics*, II, pages 553-554.

have processions in honor of her Immaculate Conception [her conception without sin] and to tell the faithful to do penance and pray the Rosary because otherwise the world would be chastised for its sins. During the October apparition seventy thousand people witnessed a spectacular solar phenomenon.... In 1942 Pope Pius XII, in response to Mary's request, consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary."<sup>13</sup>

- B) "In 1253 St. Louis, King of France, heard Mass in Nazareth in the house where Mary, it is believed, received the Annunciation [Luke 1:26-38]. Tradition has it that thirty-eight years later Dalmatian shepherds saw a strange house in their fields one night. The governor of Dalmatia (Croatia) sent to Nazareth to check the accuracy of the story and found that the holy house had disappeared. Upon examination the house in Dalmatia was found to be built of limestone, mortar, and cedar, all materials native to Nazareth and foreign to Dalmatia. Intermittently reported in various places, the house at last came to rest near the large village of Recanati at the hamlet of Loreto central Italy.... Pope Pius XI enthroned the statue of Our Lady of Loreto [Mary] in 1924 in the Sistine Chapel, solemnly crowned her... and then returned her to Loreto."<sup>14</sup>
- C) St. Joseph's Oratory is a shrine located in Montreal, Canada. Its construction is due to the efforts of Brother Andre. "The small wooden chapel was authorized in 1904, and word soon spread that the sick were being healed whenever the self-denying Brother touched their wounds. Crutches and votive [with a vow] plaques marked the spot where so many physical and spiritual miracles took place."<sup>15</sup>
- D) The Pope's foolish false doctrines regarding Mary and Joseph are supported by these powers, signs, and miracles. Yet, because the souls of Mary and of Joseph have departed this earth and are unaware of us because they do not have the ability to communicate with us, nor to work supernatural wonders, these signs, supposedly done by them, are phony or are staged, or perhaps, are

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<sup>13</sup> *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, page 209A

<sup>14</sup> *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, page 324A.

<sup>15</sup> *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, page 484A.

devil-worked phenomena. Just the same, they are intended to appear as divine in order to bolster confidence in the papacy, the devil's masterpiece.

7. *The pope deceives into worship those people who are not true believers.*

Revelation 13:4, 8: "They worshiped the dragon [Satan] who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, 'Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him'? And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

According to the Roman Catholic church's own statistical survey for 1989, there are 906 million members in the world that adhere to the papacy. Compare this huge number to one per cent of this total which, perhaps, is more realistic of the number of true Lutherans worldwide: who, though many are no longer orthodox, have not become radical with the rest of the approximately 60 million Lutherans worldwide who have! These 906 million Catholics adhere to a church which has introduced the following deceptions into their teachings:

"Image and saint worship [adopted by the Latin church from the second Nicene Council, 787]; transubstantiation and adoration of the mass [Fourth Lateran, Trent, Session 13, canon 6]; auricular confession [Fourth Lateran]; the compulsory celibacy of the clergy [First Lateran]; indulgences for remission of sins [First Lateran, etc.]; purgatorial fire, and benefit to souls in it by the suffrages of the faithful and private masses [Trent, Session 25]; the Pope's universal supremacy, and the necessity of submission to him in order to gain salvation [Fifth Lateran, adopting the Bull 'Unam Sanctam': the declaration of papal infallibility, 1870]; the co-equal authority with the inspired Scriptures of the Apocrypha and tradition [Trent, Session 4, etc.]; the appropriation to the Church, i.e. the ecclesiastical body, of the office of interpreting Scripture; and denial to the laity of the right of private judgment and of reading the Scriptures" [Trent, fourth canon, index].<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> *Gnomon of the New Testament*, page 777.

The places and the years of the Latin General Councils:

First Lateran . . . . .	1123	Vienne (in Gaul) . . .	1311
Second Lateran . . .	1139	Pisa . . . . .	1409
Third Lateran . . . .	1179	Constance . . . . .	1414
Fourth Lateran . . .	1215	Florence . . . . .	1438
First Lyons . . . . .	1245	Fifth Lateran . . . . .	1512
Second Lyons . . . .	1274	Trent . . . . .	1548

What is more, all Catholics are required to believe the above doctrines, for Catholicism includes “all that the Church teaches must be believed and lived out in order to be saved,”<sup>17</sup> since the above dogmas, accepted and adopted by these old councils, are doctrines “taught by the Catholic Church to be believed by all the faithful as part of divine revelation.... Their acceptance by the faithful must be proposed as necessary for salvation.”<sup>18</sup>

A) An instance of this mass deception by the pope, in this case, in regard to the teaching that one should plead to the Virgin Mary for help, is the shrine of the Black Madonna, “also called Our Lady of Jasna Gora, chief Marian sanctuary of Poland. There is a legend that the picture of Our Lady and her Son at the shrine was painted by St. Luke on a tabletop made by Jesus himself when he was an apprentice carpenter to St. Joseph.... The Polish people believed that their welfare was identified with this miraculous picture. When the Turks were at the gates of Vienna, Sobieski (1624-96), the Polish king, dedicated his crusade to Mary, and the West was saved. Under Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) the people came secretly on their pilgrimages to Czestochowa, and in 1945, at the end of World War II, they came 500,000 strong to thank Mary for their liberation. In 1947 over 1,500,000 came there to beg Mary to save them from Communism.”<sup>19</sup>

B) The shrine of Our Lady of Divine Love is a “sanctuary to Mary and her Divine Child... built in the mid-sixteenth century, but the image itself dates from the early fourteenth.... Pope Pius XII had Rome placed under the special protection of Our Lady of Divine Love during the [Second World] war, and when hostilities ceased he declared her to have been the real savior of Rome.”<sup>20</sup>

While the Lord urges: “Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me” (Psalm 50:15), the pope directs worship, prayer, and praise to the deaf and speechless, departed Mary. What an insult! How blasphemous! How soul-harming!

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<sup>17</sup> *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, page 88A.

<sup>18</sup> *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, page 168Bf.

<sup>19</sup> *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, page 142B.

<sup>20</sup> *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, page 164B.

Notice also in the above references that our most high and holy Lord Jesus is left nameless, and deemphasized, being referred to simply as “her Son” and “her Divine Child.!”

C) Those Roman Catholics that believe in Mary’s spiritual power, the spiritual good of the shrines, etc., were not brought to believe in such things by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit creates faith only in biblical doctrines (Ephesians 1:19; 2nd Thessalonians 2:13-14; Romans 10:17). If Catholics would have faith in non-biblical doctrines and things, it will have been their own doing upon being deceived by the papacy’s teachings, which are aided and abetted by the devils’ deceptive apparitions and miracles.

D) Luther remarks: “Christ has warned us enough, Matthew 24, that many would come in his name and say, ‘I am the Christ’. And Matthew 7, ‘Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing’. Thus the pope too, under the mask and name of Christ and St. Peter, has intimidated and fooled the whole world, as he wanted to do; and through the devil he has put up a show of great devotion and spirituality.... But all this, although it is unbearable and intolerable, is still the least of it. The foremost and worst scum of all the devils in hell is that he expands such power to the point that he wants authority to establish laws and articles of faith, to interpret Scripture... and he destroys everything that the Son of God our Lord gained for us with his blood. He takes away faith, Christian freedom, and true good works... whoever is not obedient to him and his Roman church cannot attain salvation. He who is obedient will be saved; the only thing that matters to him is that the whole world should be obedient and subject to him. He does not ask for obedience to God and Christ.”<sup>21</sup>

8. *The pope is the son of perdition.*

2nd Thessalonians 2:3: “For *that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition.*”

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<sup>21</sup> *Luther’s Works* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1966), volume 41, pages 295-296.

- A) Luther defines “man of sin”: “In Hebrew ‘man of sin’ means one who not only is a sinner in his own right, but who through false doctrine causes others to sin with him, as Jeroboam the king of Israel sinned [1st Kings 14:16], or, as Scripture says, made Israel to sin, through his idolatry.”<sup>22</sup>
- B) Luther describes the term “son of perdition”: “Here you may read 2nd Thessalonians 2 yourself and see what St. Paul means when he says, ‘The Antichrist sits in the very temple of God’, that is, in Christ’s church, as though he were God and Christ himself, as his hypocrites blaspheme, saying that the pope is not purely man, but a mixture of God and man, just as our Christ alone is. And you can easily gather from the previous items what a man of sin is who is not only a sinner by himself, but fills the whole world, particularly God’s temple, the church, full, full of sin, false service to God, blasphemy, unbelief, and lies, thus also being a child of perdition, that is, taking himself and countless souls to hell and eternal damnation.”<sup>23</sup>

9. *The pope is closely identified with a city.*

Revelation 17:18: “The woman whom you saw is that great city.”

- A) The papacy identifies itself closely with the city of Rome. The city of Rome is used in the way “Washington” is used to refer to the United States Government.
- B) “Rome” is defined as “the diocese [territorial jurisdiction] of the Pope, also called... the Apostolic See.”<sup>24</sup>
- C) The “Roman See” officially is defined as “the seat of government of the universal Roman Catholic Church, the Papacy, the Apostolic See, the office of the supreme head of the Church.”<sup>25</sup>
- D) The term “Holy See” officially is defined as “synonymous with Apostolic See, designating Rome. The official residence of the Pope; the power of the Supreme Pontiff; various Roman

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<sup>22</sup> *Luther’s Works* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1966), volume 41, page 288.

<sup>23</sup> *Luther’s Works* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1966), volume 41, page 339.

<sup>24</sup> *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, page 473A.

<sup>25</sup> *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, page 473A.

offices, especially *the tribunals and congregations assisting the Pope in the government of the Church.*"<sup>26</sup>

10. *This city sits on seven mountains between two seas.*

Revelation 17:9: "The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits."

The city of Rome is situated on the famous seven hills of Rome.

Daniel 11:45: "He shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas."

Rome is situated in Italy between two seas, namely, the Adriatic and the Mediterranean (or, to be more precise, the Tyrrhenian Sea).

11. *The pope has changed laws.*

In his letter *To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation* (1520), Luther stated,

"The Romanists have very cleverly built three walls around themselves. Hitherto they have protected themselves by these walls in such a way that no one has been able to reform them. As a result, the whole of Christendom has fallen abominably."

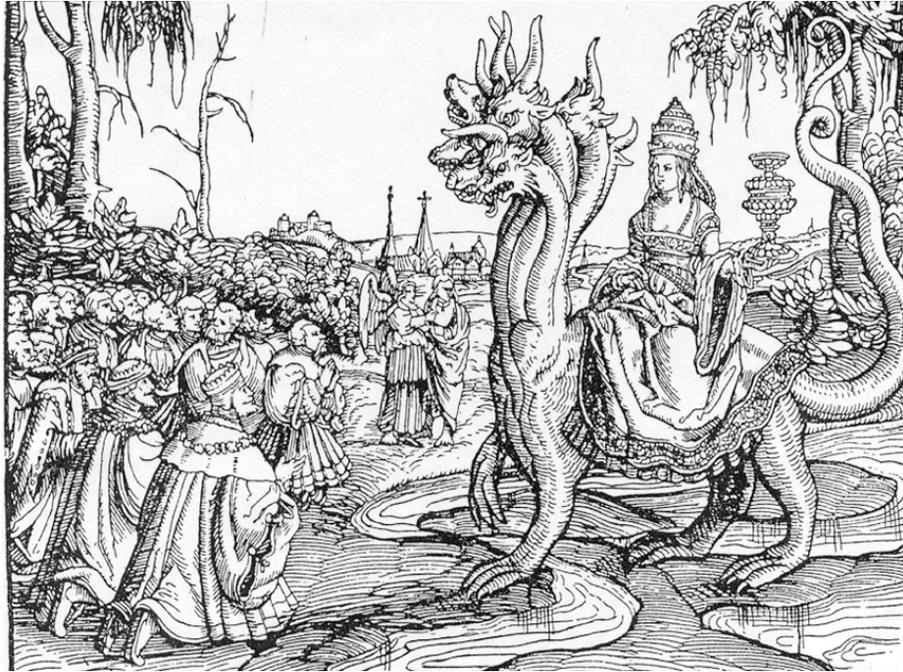
"In the first place, when pressed by the temporal power they have made decrees and declared that the temporal power had no jurisdiction over them, but that, on the contrary, the spiritual power is above the temporal. In the second place, when the attempt is made to reprove them with the Scriptures, they raise the objection that only the pope may interpret the Scriptures. In the third place, if threatened with a council [that is, a convention of all the churches], their story is that no one may summon a council but the pope.

"In this way they have cunningly stolen our three rods from us, that they may go unpunished."<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>26</sup> *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, page 254B.

<sup>27</sup> *Three Treatises* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1982), pages 10-11.



This woodcut was done by Lucas Cranach for Luther's Bible of 1534. It depicts the Antichrist of Revelation 17: the prostitute sitting on the seven-headed beast makes the monarchs of the world unfaithful to Christ by following her. Cranach makes no mistake about who the Antichrist is. Cranach pictures her with the three-tiered, papal crown.

12. *The pope has seduced political rulers, merchants, and the populace with his deception.*

Revelation 17:2: "With whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

A) Refer back to 8 and to 11 above.

B) "In the Middle Ages, however, sometimes the assistance of the secular arm was sought, especially in trials for heresy or grave immorality when Church officials felt that sterner punishment was deserved than they could administer."<sup>28</sup> Indeed, many Roman Catholic countries, then and now, have gone along with the church's plans.

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<sup>28</sup> *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, page 496A.

- C) "The [fourth] crusade was preached by Pope Innocent III. Its political effect was to conquer Constantinople, but only at the cost of embittering the Eastern Christians."<sup>29</sup>
- D) The civil authorities in the Middle Ages, at least, were persuaded by the papacy financially, politically, or spiritually. The papacy could and did proclaim an antagonistic ruler's subjects free from obedience to their ruler (Emperor Henry IV, for example).
- E) Though the papacy is a hoax and a blasphemous antichristian system, many nations still consider it to be in their best interest to maintain diplomatic ties with the Vatican.

13. *The pope is wealthy.*

Revelation 17:4; 18:7, 16: "The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup.... She glorified herself and lived luxuriously.... clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls."

- A) The Vatican Palace is "an irregular complex of many buildings seen beyond the colonnade on the right side of the Basilica of St. Peter's.... Some of the greatest architects and painters of the times were employed - Bramante, Michelangelo, Raphael, Sangallo, Maderna, Bernini, and others - to make it the largest palace in the world. It has eighty impressive staircases and several thousand rooms, few of which are actually used as papal apartments. Museums, library, picture gallery, collections, Sistine Chapel, galleries, stanzas, loggias also occupy the immense edifice called the Vatican."<sup>30</sup>
- B) The "Sistine Chapel" is the "main chapel of the Vatican Palace, dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption.... The series of famous frescoes on the left wall of events in the life of Moses and on the right side of the life of Christ were done by Botticelli, Cosimo, Rosselli, Chirlandaio, Perugino, and Pinturicchio. The ceiling, which is considered Michelangelo's masterpiece and the most gigantic piece of painting in existence, was begun in 1505 and finished four years later....

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<sup>29</sup> *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, page 218B.

<sup>30</sup> *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, page 557B.

The altar, which only the Pope may use, is inlaid with mother of pearl. The Sistine Chapel is the private chapel of the Pope.”<sup>31</sup>

- C) Consult also the books which depict the Vatican art treasures! Especially in the past have the popes had a fabulous personal wealth.

Christ



Antichrist



Christ drives the profiteers from his temple. With bulls and banns the pope coerces them into his temple.

14. *The pope wars against true believers, and martyrs them.*

Revelation 13:7: “It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue and nation.”

- A) “After the third religious war in France, which ended with the peace of St. Germain, the Protestants enjoyed freedom of conscience and worship, and they had three cities of safety. But this state of affairs was extremely distasteful to the queen dowager [widow] of France, Catherine de Medici.... Coligny, the great Protestant leader of France, was threatened. Catherine, an avowed enemy of the staunch Huguenot, resolved to destroy both him and his adherents. The massacre

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<sup>31</sup> *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, page 508A.

began at four o'clock on Sunday, August 24, 1572. Coligny being the first to fall before the treachery of the enemies. From Paris the massacre spread throughout France; neither sex, age, rank, nor learning was spared. The number of victims is estimated between 25,000 and 100,000. Pope Gregory XIII had a solemn Te Deum sung at the Vatican, and a medal was struck commemorating the slaughter of the Protestants."<sup>32</sup>

B) The Roman Catholic church "has stained her annals [records] with the blood of an army of heretics much larger than the host of Christian martyrs under heathen Rome. We can only mention, in passing, the crusades against the Albigenses under [pope] Innocent III... the Spanish Inquisition, the frightful atrocities of the Duke of Alva in the Netherlands, the massacre of St. Bartholomew, the persecution of the Huguenots after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes (1685), the fires of Smithfield under Bloody Mary, the slaughter of the Waldenses in the valleys of Piedmont.... The Roman Catholic Church has never officially disowned the theory of persecution and intolerance, nor has she raised her voice in favor of religious freedom. [Pope] Pius IX, in 1864, expressly condemned the doctrine of religious liberty as a pestilential error."<sup>33</sup>

C) "Some one has estimated that 50,000,000 Protestants were massacred in persecutions and religious wars."<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> "Massacre of St. Bartholomew's," *The Concordia Cyclopedia*, page 446.

<sup>33</sup> "Persecution by Catholic Church," *The Concordia Cyclopedia*, page 580.

<sup>34</sup> Walter A. Maier, *Peace Through Christ* (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1940), page 223.



A Lutheran Martyr's Death.

Revelation 18:7: "I sit *as* queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow."

15. *The pope's reign is a time of severe suffering.*

Revelation 13:5: "He was given authority to continue for forty-two months."

According to Scripture the period of three and one-half years is a time of tribulation (1st Kings 17:1; Revelation 11:2).

Ever since the papacy has gained influence, it has caused great suffering and misery to come upon its own followers, host countries, true believers, and heathen lands. From Mexico to China the papacy and its followers have spread spiritual, intellectual, physical, and civil destruction. For instance, the "Counter Reformation" was "a period of Catholic revival from 1522 to about 1648.... The main factors responsible for the Counter Reformation, however, were the papacy and the Council of Trent.... Among civil rulers sponsoring the needed reform were Philip II of Spain... and Mary Tudor... his wife, in England. Unfortunately this aspect of the Reformation led to embitterment between England and Scotland, England and Spain, Poland and Sweden, and to almost two centuries of religious wars."<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> *Modern Catholic Dictionary*, page 135Bf.

16. *The pope will reign until the last Day.*

2nd Thessalonians 2:8: “The lawless one... the Lord will consume with the breath of his mouth and destroy with the brightness of his coming.”

The papacy has not ceased but has continued to exist.

*The Lutheran Confessions and the Antichrist.* As part of that prophesied revelation of the Antichrist (2nd Thessalonians 2:3), the Lutheran Confessions, of course, treat at length the fulfillment of the prophecies of the Antichrist in the *Smalcald Articles*, for instance, especially in the Appendix *Of the Power and Primacy of the Pope* written by Melanchthon. In the *Smalcald Articles* Luther has remarked on this matter squarely and frankly, incorporating a righteous indignation at the papacy which it certainly deserves.

“The Pope is the very Antichrist, who has exalted himself above, and opposed himself against Christ, because he will not permit Christians to be saved without his power, which, nevertheless, is nothing, and is neither ordained nor commanded by God. This is, properly speaking, to exalt himself above all that is called God, as Paul says, 2 Thess. 2:4.... The Pope, however, prohibits this faith [to believe in Christ], saying that to be saved a person must obey him.... The pope has wished to be called the supreme head of the Christian Church by divine right. Accordingly he had to make himself equal and superior to Christ, and had to cause himself to be proclaimed the head and then the lord of the Church, and finally of the whole world, and simply God on earth, until he has dared to issue commands even to the angels in heaven.... Therefore, just as little as we can worship the devil himself as Lord and God, we can endure his apostle, the Pope, or Antichrist, in his rule as head or lord. For to lie and to kill, and to destroy body and soul eternally, that is wherein his papal government really consists.”<sup>36</sup>

In the work *Of the Power and Primacy of the Pope*, Melanchthon remarks,

“It is manifest that the Roman pontiffs, with their adherents, defend godless doctrines and godless services. And the marks of Antichrist plainly agree with the kingdom of the Pope and his adherents. For Paul, 2 Ep. 2:3, in describing to the Thessalonians Antichrist, calls him an adversary of Christ, who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped, so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God. He speaks therefore of one ruling in the Church, not of heathen kings, and he calls this one

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<sup>36</sup> Martin Luther, “The Smalcald Articles,” *Triglot Concordia*, editors, William Herman Theodore Dau and Gerhard Friedrich Bente (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1921), page 495A, paragraph 5.

the adversary of Christ, because he will devise doctrine conflicting with the Gospel, and will assume to himself divine authority.... Divine authority commands all not to be allies and defenders of impiety and unjust cruelty. On this account our consciences are sufficiently excused; for the errors of the kingdom of the Pope are manifest. And Scripture with its entire voice exclaims that these errors are a teaching of demons and of Antichrist."<sup>37</sup>

The *Brief Statement of the Doctrinal Position of the Missouri Synod* (adopted 1932), and also of our congregations, treats of the Antichrist in two paragraphs, 43 and 44, which are given below.

**"Of the Antichrist**

"43. As to the Antichrist we teach that the prophecies of the Holy Scriptures concerning the Antichrist, 2 Thess. 2:3-12; 1 John 2:18, have been fulfilled in the Pope of Rome and his dominion. All the features of the Antichrist as drawn in these prophecies, including the most abominable and horrible ones, for example, that the Antichrist 'as God sitteth in the temple of God', 2 Thess. 2:4; that he anathematizes the very heart of the Gospel of Christ, that is, the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins by grace alone, for Christ's sake alone, through faith alone, without any merit or worthiness in man (Rom. 3:20-28; Gal. 2:16); that he recognizes only those as members of the Christian Church who bow to his authority; and that, like a deluge, he had inundated the whole Church with his antichristian doctrines till God revealed him through the Reformation - these very features are the outstanding characteristics of the Papacy. (Cf. Smalcald Articles. *Triglot*, p. 515, Parags. 39-41; p. 401, Parag. 45; M.<sup>38</sup>, pp. 336, 258.) Hence we subscribe to the statement of our Confessions that the Pope is 'the very Antichrist'. (Smalcald Articles. *Triglot*, p. 475, Parag. 10; M., p. 308.)

**"Of Open Questions**

"44. Those questions in the domain of Christian doctrine may be termed open questions which Scripture answers either not at all or not clearly. Since neither an individual nor the Church as a whole is permitted to develop or augment the Christian doctrine, but are rather ordered and commanded by God to continue in the doctrine of the apostles, 2 Thess. 2:15; Acts 2:42, open questions must remain open questions. - Not to be included in the number of open questions are the following: the

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<sup>37</sup> Philip Melancthon, "Of the Power and Primacy of the Pope," *Triglot Concordia*, editors W.H.T. Dau and F. Bente (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1921) pages 515 & 517, paragraphs 39, 42, & 43.

<sup>38</sup> *Die symbolischen Buecher der evangelisch-lutherischen Kirche, deutsch und lateinisch*, editor Johann Tobias Mueller (Guetersloh: Bertelsmann-Verlag, 1800's).

doctrine of the Church and the Ministry, of Sunday, of Chiliasm, and of Antichrist, these doctrines being clearly defined in Scripture.”

*The LCMS and the Antichrist.* A word should be said here about the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod’s new doctrinal position regarding the Antichrist. Though some may give or get the impression that the current LCMS position on the Antichrist is the same as the old, ever since the acceptance of the *Common Confession* by that body in 1950, the LCMS no longer holds to the correct scriptural position as put forth, for instance, by its own *Brief Statement* of 1932, for the adopted *Common Confession* of 1950 repudiated the former stance, in effect, nullifying what was held before. This was made quite clear by the official synodical replies that were made to internal queries and to convention memorials, for example, by the 1951 report of the LCMS’ Praesidium’s Advisory Committee on Doctrine and Practice (ACDP).

This doctrinal departure from Scripture consisted in this: The LCMS no longer wanted to go on public record as holding that the identification of the pope as the Antichrist is a doctrine clearly defined by Scripture, but rather, for instance, that “the distinguishing features of the Antichrist, as portrayed in the Holy Scriptures, are still clearly discernible in the Roman Papacy” (*Common Confession*, Article XII). The reason for this change, as compared to paragraphs 43 and 44 of the *Brief Statement*, was to find a statement on the Antichrist to which the American Lutheran Church could agree, and, thereby, to be in the position to declare doctrinal agreement and fellowship with them. In its 1938 *Declaration* the ALC spoke of the identification of the pope as the Antichrist as being a mere historical judgment of Luther, and that there might be in the future “a still more comprehensive fulfillment of 2 Thessalonians 2.” Since the ALC would not accept the scriptural wording of the LCMS’ *Brief Statement* of 1932, the *Common Confession* was so worded to allow for this ALC error with the result that now the LCMS position on the Antichrist, along with the ALC, was one not of scriptural judgment, but of human historical judgment. If the ALC would not lift the drawbridge, the LCMS would lower the confessional river to allow the barge of union to pass. Thus the *Common Confession* was adopted. As a result, the new LCMS position carries with it no scriptural weight. It is simply a personal opinion about the Antichrist because it was designed to be only a personal opinion.<sup>39</sup>

Thus if you should come across some remarks on the Antichrist made by LCMS clergy, such as those made by the late LCMS President John Behnken in *The Lutheran Layman*, where he quoted the *Common Confession* (XII. 2),

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<sup>39</sup> Because of its defection from the truth, the LCMS should change its name to “Ichabod,” that is, “the glory has departed.”

saying, "The distinguishing features of the Antichrist, as portrayed in the Holy Scriptures, are still clearly discernible in the Roman Papacy," realize that such a confession carries with it no scriptural weight; for this statement was drawn up purposely this way, worded differently than the *Brief Statement*, in order to accommodate those ALC men who did not believe the papacy to be the Antichrist. Furthermore, the doctrine that the pope is the Antichrist is not gotten from "Lutheran exegesis or historical judgment on the basis of II Thessalonians 2," as Behnken wrongly maintained, but from the very words of Scripture themselves as they stand.

Hence to be truly a scriptural confession, an LCMS clergyman would need to state, for instance, "that the prophecies of Holy Scripture regarding the Antichrist have been fulfilled in the pope of Rome and his dominion is a doctrine clearly defined in Scripture" (refer to the last part of paragraph 45 of the *Brief Statement*); or: "Scripture teaches that the pope is the Antichrist"; or: "that the pope is the Antichrist is a doctrine clearly defined in Scripture"; or: "the truth that the pope is the Antichrist is revealed clearly in the divine Word." Under the circumstances nothing less would do.

**Conclusion.** After looking at the minute prophecies in Holy Writ and at the historical evidence heaped up since then, none of the famous personalities in the various Christian denominations comes close to fitting the description of the Antichrist. Only the gigantic papacy fits that description. Indeed, for centuries now with such notorious testimony and infamous facts accumulated on a grand scale against it, the papacy sticks out in history.

It is the Antichrist.

Anyone, knowing the facts, who would still argue against this conclusion, would do so for fleshly motives and for irrational reasons. Avoid this dangerous mistake! Know your justification by faith! Appreciate it! Pray God that you never will fall away from it!



## *Objections.*

*Why talk about the Antichrist?*

1. Scripture warns you repeatedly about him. It urges you to be on the lookout for him, and to avoid his powerful seductive soul-destroying lies.
2. People today are not considering the papacy to be the serious threat which it is.
3. People need the facts.
4. People who would not be instructed scripturally, and would not see the facts, will not be so strong that they could resist the spell of the papacy.

*The word "papacy" is not mentioned at all in Holy Writ. Therefore, one could not state definitely that Scripture teaches that the pope is the Antichrist.*

The reply to such an objection will be that one should see what the Bible teaches about fulfilled prophecy. For example, the Old Testament prophesied of the coming Messiah though it did not give his earthly name. Yet when the believing crowds held that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah, they were correct (John 1:45). Indeed, as the later New Testament Scriptures confirmed, the prophecies of the Old Testament Scriptures regarding the Messiah had been fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth, and in no one else. When men of that day believed that Jesus was the one who fulfilled the Messianic prophecy, the Lord blessed them, acknowledging that they had concluded correctly. On the other hand, when the Pharisees (John 5) and the scoffing skeptics at the Passover (John 7) countered that it could not be inferred for sure that Jesus of

Nazareth was the Messiah, our Lord only had stinging rebuke for such stubbornly blind minds (John 5:46-47).

“Since a prophetic text is nothing else but Scripture itself pointing to some future person or event which the Holy Ghost had in mind when He caused the text to be written, that fulfillment is a part of that which God teaches in the prophetic text, and is, therefore, Scripture doctrine.... When God sends the fulfillment, He expects of us that we recognize its fulfillment and believe the fulfilled prophecy, and not simply the fact that an unknowable event has been foretold in that text” (from a 1946 paper given before the LCMS North Illinois District pastoral conference by A. T. Kretzmann).

In other words, though a prophecy may not point out all of the particulars, such as a specific name (“pope”), it is pointing its finger at something definite in the future, and you will be compelled to identify it after it would be fulfilled. Any refusal to do so will amount to unbelief.

Thus, for example, if, for some reason, someone would not have heard the name “pope” before, upon first hearing what he teaches, and upon seeing what he practices, this person could and should be able to point to the pope, and say, “I do not know by what name he calls himself, but Scripture has singled him out as the Antichrist.”

*The Antichrist is pictured to be some terrible person. How could you say that Pope John Paul II, that smiling friendly grandfatherly-type gentleman, is so terrible? He speaks about Christ, he advocates the attendance of church services, and he is for the family. He is against abortion, birth control, and unbelief, while so many advocate these things. How could such a man possible be the ungodly Antichrist?*

The Lutheran theologian Franz Pieper has pointed out aptly that in any scriptural controversy two things must be done: First of all, define the point of controversy; and secondly, let those scriptural passages speak which treat of the matter! Scripture itself will decide the matter with utmost clarity.<sup>40</sup>

In this regard the question will be: “Is the papacy the Antichrist?” The next question will be: “What does Scripture say?” After a person would look at the descriptions found in Daniel, 2nd Thessalonians 2, 1st John 4, and Revelation, one could and should come to the conclusion which Ferdinand Philippi did (1840-1890):

“In the Papacy we find the exact counterpart, trait by trait, of the Bible’s portrayal of Antichrist. Here is, besides apostasy and false

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<sup>40</sup> Pieper, *Christian Dogmatics*, I, page 350f.

doctrine in general, the man who enthrones himself in the temple of God instead of God... here human authority takes the place of Holy Scripture, human righteousness the place of the righteousness of Jesus Christ; here the commandments of men are placed above God's Law; here passages of Scripture speaking of Christ (e.g., Is. 28:16; Ps. 72:11; Matt. 28:18; Apoc. [Revelation] 5:5) are applied to a man, the Pope; here a man arrogates to himself the highest power not only on earth, but, by indulgences, canonization of the departed, transubstantiation, and the like, also in heaven; here a man claims to be *iure divino* [by divine right] the legitimate and sole possessor of all spiritual and secular power on earth, so that from his own infallible sovereign power he presumes not only to ordain the form of divine worship and to decree dogmas, but even to make salvation dependent on faith in his divine authority; here one finds the divine ordinance of matrimony despised (celibacy); here is found a struggle for world domination, collusion with the powers of this world, the exploiting of secular powers for egoistic purposes, the use of unholy means allegedly for a holy purpose; here are found streams of martyr blood shed by him; here one finds lying signs and wonders... etc., etc. All these traits are so characteristic of the Papacy that we cannot but say: 'The Pope is the Antichrist'."<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> Pieper, *Christian Dogmatics*, III, page 466.



This centuries old painting was done by a Venetian monk. It depicts the church as a ship sailing toward heaven with the priests and monks as crew, and the cardinals and bishops on board. The laymen are struggling desperately in the water, saved only by clinging to the ropes thrown to them by the Roman Catholic hierarchy. The triple-crowned pope, with the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove over him, sits in the seat of authority. What a slap in the face to God's gracious way of salvation!

Luther once commented on this picture, remarking, "They painted a large ship, which they called the Holy Christian Church, in which sat no laymen and no kings nor princes, but only the pope with his cardinals and bishops, who occupied the front, under the Holy Spirit, and the priests and monks, who sat with oars on the sides: and thus they sailed away towards heaven. The laity swam in the water about the ship: some were drowning, some drawing themselves to the ship by ropes, which the holy fathers, by grace and by sharing their good works, cast out to them that they might not drown, but be taken along to heaven, clinging to the ship. There was not a pope, cardinal, bishop, priest or monk in the water: nothing but laymen. This picture was a representation and brief summary of their doctrine concerning secular callings: and that it is a fair representation of the doctrine contained in their books they cannot deny. For I also was one of the company that taught such things, believing them in my ignorance. Thus they condemned laymen with their whole order, insomuch that even princes and lords, in the hour of death, had monk's cowls put upon their heads and were buried in them, thus boldly denying Christ and renouncing and despising Baptism and all sacraments, condemning their secular vocation, putting all their trust in the holy cowl and the imputation of the good works of the order, and deriving all their consolation from them, whilst, clinging to their rope and their ship, they ascended to heaven."

In this age of public relations one will meet up with a lot of smiles, friendliness, and grandfatherly types. Yet these often are simply window dressing and beside the point. Indeed, some of the world's cruelest tyrants have been photographed smiling with little children, accepting flowers from them. In addition, many Americans have been fooled during an election year by politicians who have given one impression in a campaign, and a different one after being elected. Remember that the pope must be judged on the basis of Scripture's description of him! In this connection the Bible talks about his doctrine, practice, and effects, not about smiles, personableness, or media savvy. Therefore, this is how he should be judged.

In fact, it is high time for people to stop being so naïve about the pope, and to begin to see him for what he really is: a gospel-hating opportunist. The Lord has given us his gospel. He has warned many times in the New Testament that a monstrous menace would arise in the church and be against him. Many would fall away from the gospel and follow this Antichrist. The pope is that person. He heads that powerful ecclesiastical organization which will damn anyone who would believe in justification by faith. Indeed, not only has he substituted for it a soul-damning work-righteousness lie, but whenever he could get away with it in the past, he would stamp the gospel out by force. Thus it is high time that people should start to take Scripture's passages of the Antichrist seriously, and to see the signs of the times, instead of shaking their heads with a pitying smile as if the whole matter would be some foreign unfathomable irrelevant mystery. The attitude which you should have toward the papacy should not be one of friendly tolerance, but of dread. According to Scripture's description, you are in a war, an all-out war to keep the gospel from being wrenched from your soul. Therefore, it is vital that everyone should look at Scripture's description of the papacy, pay attention to it, and take evasive action.

This is why one is shocked and offended to hear of presidents of Lutheran synods a few years back scrambling to receive an audience with the pope after it was offered them as he visited North America, and to see news pictures of them smiling and shaking hands with him, instead of doing all they could to restrain themselves from slapping him across his blasphemous mouth, demanding that he cease and desist from murdering the souls of millions in name of Christ, and that he start telling the truth about the gospel. How could such Lutheran leaders still consider themselves to be sworn upholders of justification by faith when, instead of confessing the truth to John Paul II, they buried it? After these Lutheran leaders met with the pope their respective synods should have charged them with treason, and deposed them from office. The LCMS, however, showed its collective outrage by re-electing its president to another term in office. Is it any wonder, then, that by

such acts the LCMS has lost its confessional credibility? What a stench such faithless congregations and clergy have given the name "Lutheran"! When will they start to show some intellectual honesty, and either repent or relinquish the Lutheran name?

*Things were bad in the Roman Catholic church at the time of the Reformation, but now they have been pretty much corrected. Luther helped the Catholic church to focus on abuses that had crept into it. Now that these abuses have been corrected, why is there a need to keep harping on the evil of the Catholic church?*

First of all, if the abuses of the Roman Catholic church in the Middle Ages have been addressed by that body, it is because the mighty influence of the gospel, through the Reformation, effecting the present conditions of the world, has been brought to bear, and has wrung such concessions from Rome. Unfortunately, the false doctrine and practice of the Roman Catholic church which fostered these abuses, has not changed. For instance, indulgences are still acceptable and granted. The gospel is still banned and damned. A conscience-crushing, guilt-inflicting, work-righteousness hoax is still offered in its place. Thus the point is: What doctrines are still being taught? Until this is addressed, the abuses still will crop up in varying degrees. For example, until the teaching of forced celibacy for priests is dropped, homosexuality among them is going to remain common. One could not clean a stream by dipping muddy water out of it along its banks. One would have to go to the source, and clean it there. The false doctrine and practice is what Luther addressed in the Reformation. Far from being corrected, Rome's theology only has gotten worse.

Do not be fooled by appearances! Listen to what Scripture has to say about the papacy: what it will be like until Judgment Day and how masses will fall away from the true faith under him! Then, be warned!

*How could you maintain that Roman Catholics are not going to heaven while you are? They sing the same hymns on Christmas Eve as you do. They hear the same Christmas story as you do. They attend church regularly and are good neighbors. Their children play with ours. Why would it be necessary to criticize them? The pope is over in Rome. Why make trouble here by alienating them?*

First of all, Lutherans are to speak the truth in love. If we truly would love our Roman Catholic neighbors, we will tell them the truth instead of withholding it from them. When we would turn "a sinner from the error of his way" by scolding with the law and forgiving with the gospel, we will "save a soul from death" (James 5:20).

Secondly, there is no special holiness gained by being a friendly neighbor, or by being a clean law-abiding citizen. These things are all uprightness. Being upright is not something that is above and beyond the call of duty. God expects us to be upright. Indeed, we will be remiss in our duties if we would not be upright. Hence the point is not: "Are Roman Catholics clean-living citizens?" but "What do they believe?" For instance, do they believe the old apostolic gospel of justification by faith without works, and do they avoid those communions which curse it, damn it, and preach against it as part of their creed? Each Roman Catholic will need to be asked this question. If they would go along with what the papacy teaches regarding justification, as in the Council of Trent declaration, session 6, canons 11 and 20, and reject biblical justification, then they will not be going to heaven.

Romans Catholics may sing the same Christmas hymns as we do about Christ's salvation, but when they put an asterisk on the Calvary atonement, and add: "What Christ did was good, but not good enough. We have to finish the job through 'infused grace' with our works," they have come up with a justification with works in it. Moreover, any justification with works added on simply will not save, as the apostle repeatedly points out in the book of Romans and in Galatians especially. In effect, this addition would be like tacking something onto a balloon. As soon as you would try to pin something to the balloon, you will destroy it. The papal theologians over the centuries have repackaged and slanted, even corrupted the gospel, blending fact and fiction. They have recast the pope as a sympathetic hero instead of the ecclesiastical gangster he is. The priests have been sworn to follow this line, and to teach it to their parishes. Thus any Roman Catholic who would hear this official line being preached, and would believe in the lie of "infused grace," will be harboring illusions about the way to heaven.

The Holy Spirit guides into all truth (John 16:13). The Spirit does not lead any Catholic to believe in the peace-robbing, conscience-torturing, hell-bringing lie of "infused grace." Thus the situation is not: "You Lutherans teach one way, we Catholics another, yet the same effect happens, namely, we all get to heaven." There is no good effect resulting from Rome's lie of "infused grace." People who have been duped by it do not end up in heaven. Indeed, Scripture has predicted a great falling away from the gospel in the New Testament times, and urgently calls out to all Roman Catholics in the unfaithful papal communion: "Come out of her!" (Revelation 18:4.) Furthermore, the Almighty is angry over the blasphemy going on in the name of his gospel, and over the false doctrine accredited to him. By not forsaking the pope and following Martin Luther, as millions have, Roman Catholics today show not only an absence of Christian regeneration and enlightenment, but a lack of love for the gospel. They would need to be told so, and to be awakened to the truth before it will be too late.

While our government allows freedom of religion, the Almighty does not. He demands true gospel faith. Any other would be an abomination. So how dare a Roman Catholic church set up an altar opposing ours, and call its falsehoods “gospel truth”! How destructive and deceiving of them to solicit the public with their lies, implying that they have God’s way to heaven! Who do they think they are?

*Why is it that the general public does not acknowledge the pope to be the Antichrist?*

The answer for the rejection of this or of any other Christian doctrine is 1st Corinthians 2:14: “The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.” That is to say, unbelievers could not discern the spiritual things of the Bible; such things will be foolishness to them. Indeed, they will be hidden from them (1st Corinthians 2:7).

It may be possible that people do not see the papacy as the Antichrist because they are not yet knowledgeable of Scripture’s description of him. Hence they cannot come to a proper conclusion, in which case they will need to be instructed. The reason also could be that people are not knowledgeable of what the papacy teaches, including its track record in church history. Just the same, if apart from these two reasons people still would not see the papacy as the Antichrist, then they will be blind due to selfish motives. To be sure, such people merely could be weak in their theology. Nevertheless, experience teaches that commonly the case is that justification by faith means very little to such people.

In fact, one would think that the church members that have been oppressed under a legalistic brutal, indeed, mad disciplinary system such as the Roman Catholic, would at once see the papacy for the anti-God and antichristian dictator that he is, for throughout history, ever since the papacy began, there have been those who have recognized the papacy as such.

There also would be this to consider: The show of holiness by which the pope awes the public. There probably have been studies to see, in effect, how many stones you could throw at a person with one hand, and how much enticement you could offer with the other until that person finally will not tolerate it any longer. A similar thing has happened to the Roman Catholic faithful. For centuries now the papacy has been throwing stones at his followers with one hand; that is to say, he has been inflicting deep soul-hurt on them by removing the free grace of God, and substituting it with a sin-retaining, guilt-burdening, conscience-paining system of penance, works,

masses, and doubts. Normally the average person would not tolerate this for a minute, but with the other hand the pope puts on practically an unbelievable show of holiness, along with his priests with all of their regalia and pomp. This has stymied people into thinking: "It must be right." It reminds one of the Stockholm syndrome in which the hostage expresses sympathy for his terrorist kidnaper. What distorted thinking!

Generally, this world has been fooled by the papacy's show of piety, and has been awed by its power and resiliency. Revelation 13:3 and 18:3 predict this.

*1st John 4:3 says that the Antichrist will deny that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. Yet the papacy readily admits this, namely, that Jesus Christ is both God and man. Both he and the Roman Catholic church accept the three ecumenical creeds: the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian. How, then, could the pope be the Antichrist?*

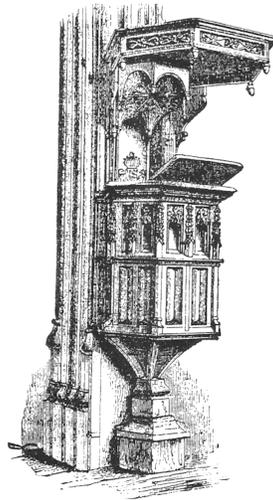
The writer, Philip Mauro, has aptly answered this question. He explains in his book, *Of the Things Which Soon Must Come to Pass* [(1933: William B. Eerdmans, Grand Rapids), pages 107-108]:

"One great aim, if not the chief aim, of the enemy of God in propagating the Romish heresy... is to degrade the Lord Jesus Christ from His place as the *Son of God*; for it is under that title that he is presented to men: 1. As the Creator and Heir of all things (Matt. 11:27; Col. 1:13-16; Heb. 1:1-3); 2. As the only Way of Access to the Father (John 14:6; Eph. 2:18); 3. As the only Source and Giver of life to perishing men and hence the only Savior (John 5:21, 24-26; 1st John 5:12); and 4. As the One who has brought to mankind the final and complete message or Word of God (Heb. 1:2; Rev. 22:18, 19). - In direct opposition to each of these features of revealed truth concerning the 'Son of God', though the opposition is indeed disguised (so far as possible) with diabolical cleverness, the Romish hierarchy systematically present Jesus Christ, not as the Son of God, but as the Son of Mary. In all its doctrine, in all its ceremonies, in all its liturgy and books of devotion, in all its pictures and images, and in all its literature the false Church of Rome, with most consummate and satanic craft and with most deadly purpose, exalts Mary, making her the compassionate one, the efficacious intercessor on behalf of sinners, the real mediator between God and men, and exhibits Christ in a position of subordination, the effect being, of course, that the missions who are thus deluded and blinded by 'the god of this world' are led to put their trust in Mary instead of Jesus Christ, *the Son of God*. It does not in the least affect the truth of what we are now setting forth that in Romish formularies the words of Scripture are often used and that Christ is often referred to therein by His Scriptural titles; for all that is but a part, and a most effective part, of the scheme of deception. The devil knows the Scripture, and he knows how to quote it to his own

ends, and he knows also how to mix in with the pure meal the deadly poison of his own doctrine. Notwithstanding, therefore, the orthodoxy of creeds and formularies, the maintenance professedly of the doctrine of the Trinity (though truly it is denied in practice), and all that, the Christ of Romanism is 'another Jesus'."

Because of the widespread love for spiritual darkness that is rampant in the Christian denominations today, it is not a popular activity to contend that the pope is the Antichrist. In doing so one would meet up with typical naïve objections made by uninformed people, especially by willfully blinded people who refuse to search the Scriptures, or to be taught, and are prejudiced beforehand.

Naturally, the only effective means to erase these prejudices is through the testimony of Scripture itself, pointing people to the prophetic passages of the Antichrist, and to the facts of their fulfillment. Yet one also could point out to such persons the fallacies of their predetermined positions, how unsound their reasoning is, and how unfounded in fact their conclusions have been.



### *Homiletical Treatment*

The following is an example of a sermon that could be made on the topic of the Antichrist.

**Text: Revelation 14:8:** And another messenger followed, saying, "Babylon the great city is fallen, is fallen, because of the fury of the wine of her adultery which she has given all nations to drink" (author's translation).

What should we do on the thirty-first of October? Up in Anoka [Minnesota] the city fathers came up with an idea. To correct the problem of pranksters Anoka has decided to hold a large Halloween celebration. Indeed, the town calls itself, notoriously, the Halloween capital of the world. Down in Eagen there is a place that offers a hayride through haunted woods. However, the best answer to a happy helpful thirty-first here in time, and hereafter in eternity was offered by Martin Luther: return to Scripture!

This evening take a look at the greatest contribution which the world could be given on the thirty-first of October!

#### REMEMBER THE MIGHTY MISSION OF MARTIN LUTHER!

1. What is was.
2. How did he do it.

#### 1.

All too soon after the days of the apostles Satan succeeded in hiding from official Christendom the doctrine of salvation by God's grace, and a long and dreary night followed, in which the sun of grace was darkened, the Savior hidden, and the gospel silenced. Moreover, the church was changed into a legalistic worldly kingdom presided over by an angry God of the law, with Christ transformed into a stern judge. In addition, the pope universally was feared as the lord and master whom all Christians must believe and obey as they would God. The free children of God were reduced to spiritual slavery. All of this was due to the papacy.

That there have been many antichrists in the church since the days of our Lord, that is, many little dictators and opportunists who wanted to satisfy their flesh while wrecking the work of the Lord, is clearly stated in the Bible (1st John 2:18; 4:3; 2nd John 7).

That there would be one great Antichrist, whose prototypes were all of the little antichrists that preceded him even from the days of the apostles, is stated just as clearly in Scripture (1st John 4:3; 2nd Thessalonians 2:3-12). Indeed, this one great foe of Christ would arise and cause a massive widespread ruination of the faith of the church. This foe would be the papacy.

After the Roman Empire had fallen, and the Roman Caesars had lost their power, the restraint on the ambitious power-hungry clergy also was removed (2nd Thessalonians 2:7). Subsequently, year after year the succeeding pastors of the Christian church in Rome greedily insisted upon ever more power and recognition from the rest of the Christian churches. Bluntly stated, the Roman pastor wanted to have his way. He wanted to be the head, the father, the papa, the pope, of all the Christian churches. Thus, according to Scripture's own predictions in Revelation 13:1-2, a monster, injurious to the Christian faith, arose from within the Christian church, built upon the ruins of the old Roman Empire, and insisted on total control of the Christian churches.

In other words, in the temple of God (2nd Thessalonians 2:3), that is, from within the Christian church, powerful, ever more worldly-minded pastors arose at the church at Rome who departed more and more from the Word of God, and influenced the other Christian churches to fall away more and more from the Word of God. For instance, gradually, under the insistence of the popes, Christ was dethroned as the all-sufficient Savior of mankind; the Virgin Mary was substituted. The Lord's Supper was changed and wrecked. Absolute obedience to the pastor at Rome was demanded of all Christians. The authority of the Bible, as the infallible source of doctrine and life, was transferred to the papal theologians. Sacraments were introduced into the church which lacked the institution of Christ and were, in effect, an effort simply to strengthen further the power of the man-made hierarchy in the church. Adoration of the saints and prayers for the dead were introduced. The teaching of purgatory was brought in, and, shortly thereafter, the abominations of indulgences. Above all, Christ and the doctrine of our justification by God's grace toward us gradually were discarded in favor of the religion of the flesh - salvation by human works. What is more the papacy condemned the biblical teaching of justification as a lie (at Trent, Italy in 1547).

This is truly the most extreme form of "falling away" (2nd Thessalonians 2:3) from the Christian religion, and the personal representative and leader of this wickedness, the pope at Rome, is truly the greatest adversary of Christ and his church. The entire picture of the Antichrist, as drawn in the Bible, agrees in every particular with the Roman sect and with its head, the pope at Rome.

From obscure beginnings, and through gradual development, the devil raised the tyrannical papacy to an unprecedented height of power by which it wreaked great spiritual havoc, and laid waste to the church. No wonder pious souls throughout the Dark Ages sighed on account of the deplorable condition of the church, and implored the Lord of the church for help.

If they would have known the book of Revelation, they could have been assured that God indeed would help. He had promised to send a deliverer like Elijah who would free them by exposing for them the papacy as a cruel hoax, and by urging them not to listen to him, but to the Lord Jesus; for in Revelation 17:2, 5, 18, & 9 the Lord depicted a New Testament power situated at Rome that would enslave the church and keep it away from faith, just as the Old Testament church once had been carried into bondage at Babylon. Thus the Lord in Revelation called this new enslaving city "Babylon," and warned the church of it. Moreover, the Lord promised that after the time of the apostle Paul, the great missionary described in Revelation 14:6-7, he would raise up another man similar to the apostle to conquer this Babylon. This man's mission is summed up in the words of Revelation 14:8: "Babylon the great city is fallen, is fallen, because of the fury of the wine of her adultery which she has given all nations to drink," that is to say, "the power of Rome is destroyed since those who now believe the true gospel no longer follow her, for she has forced all nations to accept her hellish hoax."

## 2.

Whom did God raise to destroy the Roman papacy? It was not Charles the Fifth, emperor of Europe, who waged a most horrifying war on the papacy three times from 1526-1527 with Roman Catholic soldiers. God raised up Martin Luther.

How did Luther give the papacy a deadly blow? It was not by swords and weapons, but with the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17) - the gospel.

At first Luther, the Roman Catholic monk, priest, and Doctor of Theology, saw the unscriptural nature of indulgences, and spoke out against them. This was only the spark that got the Reformation ignited. Later, in coming across more serious departures from Scripture, Luther learned that the instigator of all of these was the pope. So in the year 1520, in replying to a Catholic writing, Luther stated, "If this sentiment prevails in Rome and if that is being taught with the knowledge of the Pope and the cardinals (which I hope is not the case), then I must herewith express myself freely and openly that the Antichrist is seated in the temple of God and that he rules in yonder purple-colored Babylon in Rome."

It was.

Thereafter, Luther did express himself freely and openly.

One nobleman wrote to Luther offering to protect him by surrounding him with the swords of the German knights. Luther declined. He stated, "I will not fight the gospel-fight with force and carnage - I have told the man so black on white. By the Word has the world been conquered. By the Word has the Church been preserved. By the Word will her breaches be repaired. And Antichrist, as he began without hand, so will he perish without hand, by the Word alone."

In his booklet *On the Babylonian Captivity of the Church* in 1520, Luther exposed the doctrinal hoaxes of the papacy. The pope's seven sacraments had been seven rings which chained the Christians in a seven-fold slavery from cradle to grave. Yet Luther confronted these seven superstitions, and shattered them with the sword of the Spirit. From that time on Luther constantly identified the papacy in Rome as the Antichrist.

Over against the claims that in the Middle Ages the Renaissance began [1300's in Italy] and moved society upward to lofty heights, there stands the contradiction that three times in the century before the Reformation great church councils were held for the purpose of reforming society and the church. Yet nothing was accomplished. Bellarmine, a Jesuit, says of that period, "Religion was almost dead." Another man who lived during that period made the biting remark, "The devil has in a most adroit manner succeeded in leading the entire Christian world away from the truth of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Arnaldus de Villa).

"On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther, Doctor of Divinity, Professor of Theology, and preacher at the Castle-Church in Wittenberg, Germany, nailed his *95 Theses*, or sentences, so famous and so renowned, to the door of said church. It was on the eve of All Saints' Day that Luther began his great work which led to the overthrow of the papacy - once omnipotent in this world - and the reformation of the Church.

"The publishing of those 95 theses was not the first testimony of Luther against papal corruptions. Already in previous years he had raised his voice and pen against the flippant John Tetzel, who, in the name of the pope and the bishop of Mayence [Mainz], had carried on his infamous traffic of selling for money the remission of sins to the superstitious and ignorant people. But by publishing those theses, his controversy with papal Rome became public and general. Therefore we look upon the 31st day of October, 1517, as the birthday of the glorious and God-sent reformation of the Church.

"All Lutherans to this day commemorate the birth of the Reformation. The Festival of the Reformation with us Lutherans is a day of praise and thanksgiving to God. And, most assuredly, we have ample reason for such

praise and thanksgiving; for God has rescued the nations of the world from the thralldom of the Antichrist, the ungodly pope, and from a church corrupt to the very core. And as it has pleased God to use Luther as His servant and instrument to carry out His divine work, is it, then, not meet and right that we should honor such a servant of God as Luther was?" (J.H.H., *Homiletical Magazine* [Saint Louis: Concordia, 1912], Volume X, Number 10, page 150).

Praise God, then, for keeping the promise which he made in the text to send a great reformer to his besieged church!

Do not cease to give thanks to God for this most important event, for without it, where would faith be found today? Where would you be?

May God give you a portion of Luther's faith and courage so that you also may speak the truth and not be afraid; and, to that end, keep all antichristian forces at bay by proclaiming far and wide the pure gospel of forgiveness for all!



### ***Homiletical helps: Illustrations and Quotations for Sermons on the Antichrist.***

***Apothegms:*** The pope is the very Antichrist (*Smalcald Articles*, Part II, Article IV, paragraph 10). The errors of the pope are manifest and not trifling (*Of The Power and Primacy Of The Pope*, paragraph 57). Popery represents the most complete falling away from the essence of the Christian religion (*Concordia Cyclopaedia*, page 27A). The prophecies of Scripture concerning the Antichrist point to the pope, and to no one else. His number is 666 (Revelation 13:18), namely, "Lateinos," "the Latin one" (Irenaeus).

***Similes (metaphors, comparisons):*** The Antichrist is "the man of sin," "the son of perdition" [damnation], "the lawless one" (2nd Thessalonians 2:3, 8); his period in office is termed the great "abomination of desolation" (Daniel 9; 12; Matthew 24) - similar to that of King Antiochus Epiphanes (Daniel 11:29-35), and "the mystery of lawlessness" (2nd Thessalonians 2:7); in terms

of power he is an awesome monster (Revelation 13:1-2), a horn (Daniel 7:20), a king, a prince (Daniel 9:11); in terms of spiritual unfaithfulness and seduction: a prostitute (Revelation 17); regarding the spiritual oppression and captivity of the church: like Babylon of old (Revelation 17:5); in terms of effect: the third of three great curses to come upon the New Testament church (Revelation 11:14; 13).

He is a murderer of souls; the Devil's mask; Satan's stooge; the Serpent's puppet; the Devil's masterpiece.

**Quotations:** The marks of Antichrist plainly agree with the kingdom of the pope and his adherents (*Of The Power and Primacy of the Pope*, paragraph 39).

The chief and fundamental doctrine of the Bible, namely, that a man is justified entirely and alone by faith in Christ Jesus, has been condemned and anathematized officially by the Roman Church (*Resolutions of the Council of Trent*, Session VI, canons 11, 12, 20), and the entire machinery of the Roman Church is directed against this doctrine (*Concordia Cyclopedia*, page 27A).

The Pope at Rome is truly the greatest adversary of Christ and of His Church (*Concordia Cyclopedia*, page 27A).

The papacy is a sovereignty that exterminates faith and the gospel (Luther).

The pope must be the Antichrist because everything that Scripture foretells of the Antichrist fits him and could not be shown to be true of any other (Philipp Jacob Spener).

Whoever does not recognize the kingdom of the pope as the kingdom of Antichrist is not yet standing so firmly that he may not by this or that seduction be converted to it (Spener).

Whoever calls himself... Universal Bishop, in his presumption is a forerunner of Antichrist... And the pride by which he is led to this error is very similar (to that of Antichrist), for as the latter in his perversity wishes to seem placed over all men as God, so whoever the former is who desires to be called the only bishop exalts himself above the rest of the bishops (Pope Gregory I).

When the centurion at Caesarea, Cornelius, fell at Peter's feet to worship him, the apostle at once commanded, "Stand up; I myself am also a man" (Acts 10:26).

Are there more pernicious enemies of the church than the impious popes, who by their silence concerning Christ permit him to vanish away, who bind him down by laws designed for revenue, who make a counterfeit of him by their forced interpretations, and who strangle him with their pestilential life? (Erasmus.)

*Anecdotes:* Pope Gregory VII wrote the Mohammedan King Anazir of Mauretania: "We believe and confess one God, though in different manner" – just like Pope John Paul II!

The strong arm of Stilicho lying in the grave, Alaric the Goth, in 408, sacked Rome for three days. The statues of Rome's old-time gods were sent to the melting to raise the ransom demanded by the barbarian. The seemingly impossible had happened – *Roma aeterna* had been conquered, and the world seemed to be going to pieces before the eyes of wondering and trembling nations. In far-off Palestine, Jerome gasped with horror. The Spoiler of the world was spoiled, the Ravager of the world was ravaged by the barbarian Goth (William Dallmann).

In this crash of matter and wreck of worlds the Roman Church alone loomed up large and strong. The emperor living at Ravenna, the Bishop of Rome became Caesar in the garb of the priest (William Dallmann).

Even Alaric spared the Christian churches and gave sanctuary to all who were in them; he dispersed the pagans and destroyed their remaining temples (William Dallmann).

On the ruins of the Roman Empire rose the Roman Papacy. Hobbes calls the papacy the ghost of the deceased Roman Empire, sitting crowned on the grave thereof ([*Leviathan*, c. 47, page 313; Morley's edition] William Dallmann).

Jerome writes that Bishop Eusebius of Nicomedia baptized Constantine the Great on his deathbed in that Asiatic city. Yet in the fifth century a fable, invented at Rome, has Pope Sylvester by baptism cure Constantine of leprosy; and this falsehood is read by every priest on every December 31 in the Roman Breviary. The fable grew. Four days after baptism Constantine made up his mind to forsake Rome and live at Constantinople lest he cramp the freedom of the Pope. According to one document, Emperor Constantine gave to "Blessed Sylvester" and his successors, to the end of time, the Lateran palace, crown, miter, escort, couriers, and horsemen, in short, all the retinue, or courtly luster, of an empire. It also confers on Blessed Father Sylvester and his successors the city of Rome, all Italy, and the provinces, palaces, and cities of the Western region with jurisdiction over Antioch, Alexandria, Constantinople, and Jerusalem. The

reason for this “donation” of Constantine is that “it is not right that the earthly emperor have power where the ‘Prince of Priests and Head of the Christian Religion’ has been installed by the Heavenly Emperor.” Here we have it expressed for the first time that the Roman bishop is independent of the secular power (William Dallmann.)

This forged “Donation of Constantine” was successfully palmed off on the Frank king, and it led him to make the “Donation of Pepin.” Peter received his *miter* as Universal Bishop from the usurper Phocas; he now received his *crown* as a temporal sovereign from the usurper Pepin! (William Dallmann.)

This “donation” was supposed to have been made when Constantinople was built, 328-330. But the first writer distinctly to mention the “donation” is Bishop Aenas of Paris, about 868, and the earliest Greek writer showing knowledge of it is the canonist Balsamon, who died in 1180 (William Dallmann).

As early as the time of Otto III, his chancellor Leo of Vercelli denounced this “donation” as a forgery; so did Arnold of Brescia, in 1152; so did Nikolaus von Kues, in 1432; so did Laurentius Valla, in 1440, and Reginald Pecock, in 1450, and Cardinal Baronius, in 1592. Now most Catholic historians admit the forgery. (*Realencyclopaedie*; Robertson, “Growth,” page 157). On reading Valla, Luther’s eyes blazed with indignation at what James Bryce calls “a portentous forgery.” Fleury calls this “an artifice without parallel before or since in church history” (William Dallmann).

*Papa* is short for *pater patrum*, father of fathers, and was a title of respect for all clergy, as it is in the Greek Church to this day. Later it was restricted to bishops. In the fourth century it was reserved for metropolitans and patriarchs. After the fifth century it was claimed by the Pope. In 1073 Gregory VII formally forbade its use by others; he also assumed the title of “Bishop of bishops” (William Dallmann).

Gregory said: “The church cannot be freed from servitude to the laity unless the clergy are freed from their wives.” The first thing done by Gregory to strengthen the Papacy, to detach the clergy from the world, and attach them to the Pope, was to call a council, in 1074, and pronounce the marriage of priests unlawful, and he sent his legates through Europe to compel bishops and all others to put away their wives. At a synod at Erfurt, called by the Archbishop of Mainz, there were tumultuous protests against the Pope, who tried “to make wives prostitutes and children bastards.” The archbishop nearly lost his life. The Archbishop of Rouen was stoned and compelled to flee; an abbot was beaten, spit upon, and dragged to prison; so everywhere, even in Rome (William Dallmann).

Says Tholuck, that learned historian and pious theologian:

“I have a real hatred for the Pope. I had never held him to be Antichrist, but when I saw him recently sitting on his throne in the Sistine Chapel, with the black senators to the right, on the steps of the throne; on the left the other dignitaries; on their low benches, in a wide circle, the blood-red cardinals, as one of them arose, his train-bearer carrying his train and, censer in hand, he kneeled before the Pope, swinging the incense toward him, while on either side the serving clerics held out the sides of his vestment, and all sang their hymns, – then I would have done like Samson, grasped the pillars of the house and dashed it on the heads of the Philistines. At such a time something from 2nd Thess. 2:4 concerning the Antichrist flashes into one’s mind.”

### *Catholicism’s Present Methods: Pressure, Impression, and Propaganda*

An article by Casper Nervig

“In the past the papacy has used every possible means in carrying out its schemes for self-aggrandizement. Forgeries, intrigue, bribery, force, bloodshed, and the like are only a few of the instruments used. With the force of arms she has compelled unwilling nations to bow. With unspeakable cruelties and brutality in the Spanish Inquisition she tortured Protestants to renounce their faith and return to Rome. When they refused she wiped them out in cold blood. In the Massacre of St. Bartholomew in France, thousands of Protestants were “liquidated” and the papal power made secure.

“But times have changed. More genteel methods bring better results today. It would only arouse the anger of an outraged world if the pope permitted his minions to do such deeds in this generation. It would hardly be good publicity for the leader of a band of assassins today to boast, as did Melendez when he wiped out the first Protestant settlement in America consisting of Ribault and his men, ‘I killed them, not because they were Frenchmen, but because they were Lutherans’.

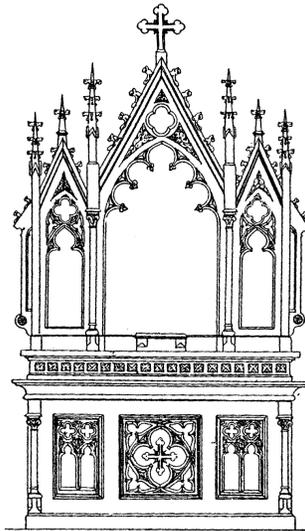
“No, the papacy is more subtle than that. Now Rome presents a different ‘face’. It radiates a benign and kindly attitude. It appears moderate and tolerant and even kindly disposed to those it formerly persecuted. What has happened? Has the papacy changed? Has the Roman lion decided to lie down peaceably with the lambs of Protestantism? Perhaps, but with the lambs inside of the lion.

“The new procedure includes both pressure and impression. On the quiet and without any public demonstration, the pressure of the Roman Church is

brought to bear upon public officials, organizations, institutions, industries, the public press, and the radio. Those who do not comply are threatened with loss of business, loss of influence, loss of patronage, or loss of votes.

“In public the Roman Church seeks to create a great impression of numbers, power, and influence.

“In close coordination with these is another method, that of propaganda. This is the plowshare with which Catholicism cultivates the American mind to make it favorably disposed and receptive. Even the word ‘propaganda’ was originated by the papacy about half a century ago in the name for a society in Rome which works for the spreading of Catholic ideas. Today there is perhaps no more smoothly oiled propaganda machine than the one engineered from Rome. Somehow it manages to run much of the time on free gas, too.”



### *Liturgical Components*

To complement a sermon on the Antichrist, the following liturgical components could be incorporated into the service.

**Hymns:** 260, 263, 264, 265, 329, and 387 (*The Lutheran Hymnal* [Saint Louis: CPH, 1941]).

**Introit:** Use the one for the 23rd Sunday after Trinity!

**Collect:** Dear gracious God, who has been merciful to us poor miserable sinners, forgiving our past and future transgressions, and justifying us through the sole work of your Son, Jesus Christ, may you through this saving gospel so instill in us a love for our justification, that we never may fall away from it. To

this end, move us to heed your warning that the Antichrist will arise in the midst of your church to stamp out justification by faith; and show us that the Antichrist, indeed, has appeared in the person of the gospel-hating popes! Power us to hold your justification so precious that we never may be deceived by a show of righteousness or a phony miracle, and, subsequently, fall into the papal church; you, who live and rule forever and ever! Amen!

**Old Testament lesson:** Daniel 11:31-39

**Epistle:** 2nd Thessalonians 2:3-12; or 1st John 4:3

**Gradual:** Use the one for the 23rd Sunday after Trinity!

**Gospel:** Matthew 24:15, 24

After-sermon prayer: O eternal and most merciful God, we bless you for all your benefits. Praise be to you that you sent forth your only-begotten Son into the world to be the satisfaction for our sins, and instituted the ministry of the Word to make known your saving health among all nations! Praise be to you especially this day that, when the deep darkness of the papacy covered the earth in the Dark Ages, you kindled afresh the light of your holy Word, and through your chosen messenger, Martin Luther, taught our fathers once more the everlasting gospel of salvation! Praise be to you that you have to this day preserved the goodly heritage, saved us from persecution and confusing creeds, defended churches and schools from the assaults of Satan, and given strength and success to your Word! If the enemy should again rise up against us, be our Refuge and Strength, beat down Satan under our feet, and consume utterly at last the son of perdition, the Roman Antichrist, with the Spirit of your mouth! Gird us with your power, so that we may fight a good fight and keep the faith, until we shall obtain the crown of righteousness laid up for us in heaven, for your Son's sake! Amen! (Adapted from the Reformation prayer in *Liturgy and Agenda* [Saint Louis: CPH, 1921], pages 193-194).

## *Bulletin*

To complement a sermon on the Antichrist, the following articles could be used to produce an edifying bulletin. The pictures used in this chapter also could complement the bulletin.

### *Jesus at a Reformation Centennial*

An article by H. M. Zorn

“Has it ever occurred to you that the Gospels tell of an occasion where Jesus attended the celebration of a Reformation anniversary?”

“It was a real Reformation celebration, in a fuller sense than one would imagine, and no play of words about it, no forced construction, and nothing farfetched. It wasn’t Reformation itself, but the anniversary of it, as we have celebrated one. You will find it in John 10:22, where we read that Jesus attended the ‘Feast of the Dedication’.

“The Greek term used there is *enkainia*, which might very well be given as reformation, with full propriety both as to language and fact. It refers not to reformation in general, nor to church reformation in general, but to a reformation in a most intimate relation to the Reformation we celebrate.

“The *enkainia* commemorated the time when, 165 B.C., Judas Maccabeus purged the Temple at Jerusalem of the Abomination of Desolation, the heathen worship there established by Antiochus Epiphanes three years before.

“We most properly call it a Reformation Festival. For you know that an Abomination of Desolation in the house of God was prophesied in Daniel (8:11; 9:27; 11:31; 12:11); you know that just this particular Abomination of Desolation by Antiochus was predicted by Daniel (11:30f.); you know also that Daniel considered the Abomination of Desolation of Antiochus as a mere type and picture of, or prelude to, that greater foe of Christendom, the real Antichrist, who would bring on the real and great Abomination of Desolation (11:36ff.); you know that to Daniel it was said that he should shut up and seal the words of his prophecy to the time of the end (12:4), that only in the last time of the world men would fully understand his prophecies, because of their fulfillment. You furthermore know that Jesus said: ‘When ye, therefore, shall see the Abomination of Desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the Holy Place, whosoever readeth, let him understand’. (Matt. 24:15.) Jesus spoke this two hundred years after Antiochus, showing that the real Antichrist was yet to come. You know that St. Paul, clearly referring to Daniel’s prophecy, foretold the coming of Antichrist, ‘that man of sin, the son of perdition, who opposeth and

exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped, so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God'. (2nd Thess. 2:3, 4.) And you know that St. John in his Revelation at great length resumes, clearly resumes, the prophecies of Daniel concerning Antichrist and the Abomination of Desolation, which is perhaps most strikingly shown by the fact that he so often quotes the three and a half years of Daniel, that mystical, symbolical number which stands for the time of Antichrist. And you know that to John it was said: 'Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book; for the time is at hand'. (Rev. 22:10.) You know that the real Antichrist, of whom Antiochus was only a thin shadow, and whose coming Christ and His prophets and apostles predicted so often throughout Scriptures, is the Pope of Rome.

"So you see that the Enkainia, the feast Jesus attended (John 10:22), was in commemoration of a reformation which in Scripture was a type of our Reformation, an anniversary which was a distinct forerunner of our annual celebrations."

## *Appendix*

### *The Scriptural Passages of the Antichrist Compared*

Daniel 7:8, 11, 20-22, 24-26; the beast with ten horns  
Daniel 9:26-27; the destroying prince  
Daniel 11:36-45; the king  
Daniel 12:10-12; the abomination of desolation  
Matthew 24:15 (Mark 13:14); the abomination of desolation  
2nd Thessalonians 2:3-12; the lawless one, the son of perdition  
1st John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2nd John 7; the Antichrist

Revelation 13; the beast with seven heads and ten horns  
Revelation 17:1-18; the beast with seven heads and ten horns and the prostitute riding on it  
Revelation 18:1-24; the prostitute

The following is a comparison of the proof passages for the doctrine of the Antichrist, showing that all of them are referring to the Antichrist.

1. The beast with seven heads and ten horns (Revelation 13:1-10) is describing the same man as the beast with the seven heads and the ten horns and the prostitute (Revelation 17:1-18:24).

2. The beast with seven heads and ten horns and the prostitute (Revelation chapters 13, 17, and 18) is describing the same man as the beast with ten horns in Daniel chapter seven.
  3. The “man of lawlessness,” “the son of perdition” (2nd Thessalonians 2:3-12) is describing the same man as the Antichrist (1st John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2nd John 7).
  4. The Antichrist (1st John chapters 2 & 4; 2nd John; 2nd Thessalonians chapter 2) is describing the same man as the beast with seven heads and ten horns (Revelation 13, 17, and 18; Daniel 7).
  5. The abomination of desolation, etc. (Daniel chapters 9, 11, & 12; Matthew 24) is describing the same man as 2nd Thessalonians 2:3-4.
- 1. Contention: The beast with seven heads and ten horns (Revelation 13:1-10) is describing the same man as the beast with the seven heads and the ten horns and the prostitute (Revelation 17:1-18:24).**

A) The beast described has the same number of heads and horns.

Rev. 13:1: I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns.

*Rev. 17:3: I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.*

B) The beast described has the name “blasphemy.”

Rev. 13:1: I saw a beast rising up out of the sea . . . and on his heads a blasphemous name.

*Rev. 17:3: I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy*

C) Both describe a beast that owes its existence to the devil.

Rev. 12:9: The great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan.

*Rev. 20:2-3: He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan . . . and he cast him into the bottomless pit.*

Rev. 13:2: Now the beast which I saw was like a leopard . . . . And

*Rev. 17:8: The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out*

the dragon gave him his power,  
his throne, and great authority.

*of the bottomless pit and go to  
perdition.*

Rev. 13:2 states that the dragon (the devil, Rev. 12:9) gave power to the beast. The bottomless pit (Rev. 17:8) out of which the beast came is the home of the devil (see Rev. 20:2-3). Coming out of the bottomless pit is another way of saying that something has originated in hell, the home of the devil.

D) Those whose names are not written in the Book of Life marvel after the beast in both references.

Rev. 13:3-4 & 8: All the world  
marveled and followed the beast.  
So they worshiped the dragon  
who gave authority to the beast;  
and they worshiped the beast.

And all who dwell on the earth  
will worship him, whose names  
have not been written in the Book  
of Life of the Lamb.

*Rev. 17:8: The beast that you saw  
was, and is not, and will ascend out  
of the bottomless pit and go to  
perdition. And those who dwell on  
the earth will marvel, whose names  
are not written in the Book of Life...  
when they see the beast.*

Note: The great prostitute which chapter 17 describes is not pictured as being independent of the beast with seven heads and ten horns, but rather closely connected with it. She rides on it. This prostitute is introduced for the purpose of advancing another description, a description of spiritual unfaithfulness, of lusting after other things, and of not loving God (see Rev. 18:3, 14, & 23). "In accordance with an Old Testament symbol of apostasy from God, of idolatry; from the time of Hosea [784-725 B.C.] the relationship between God and his people was regarded as a marriage bond."<sup>42</sup>

See Hosea 9:1, Jeremiah chapter 3 (especially verse 1, 14, 20, & 25), and Ezekiel chapter 23 for a picture of Israel's lust after other things, and its lack of faithfulness toward the Lord!

E) Both are given international rule.

Rev. 13:7: Authority was given  
him over every tribe, tongue, and

*Rev. 17:18, 15: The woman whom  
you saw is that great city which*

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<sup>42</sup> Walter Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, translators William Frederick Arndt and Felix Wilbur Gingrich (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1974), page 700A, discussing the Greek word for "fornication."

nation.

*reigns over the kings of the earth.*

*Where the harlot sits are peoples,  
multitudes, nations, and tongues.*

F) Both describe warring against the saints and overcoming them.

Rev. 13:7: It was granted to him  
to make war with the saints and  
to overcome them.

*Rev. 17:6: I saw the woman, drunk  
with the blood of the saints and with  
the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.*

G) Both are given a death blow.

Rev. 13:3: I saw one of his heads  
as if it had been mortally  
wounded.

*Rev. 14:8: Another angel followed,  
saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen,  
that great city."*

The words "is fallen, is fallen" signify thorough defeat, ruin, termination. See Isaiah 21:9 and Jeremiah 50:2-3! The "repetition of the verb is for emphasis . . . This is to remove all possibility of doubt."<sup>43</sup>

**Conclusion: That the beast with seven heads and ten horns (Rev. 13:1-10) is the same as the beast with the seven heads and the ten horns and the prostitute (Rev. 17:1-18:24).**

**2. Contention: The beast with seven heads and ten horns and the prostitute (Rev. chapters 13, 17, & 18) describes the same man as the beast with ten horns in Daniel chapter seven.**

A) Both of the beasts have the same number of horns: ten.

Daniel 7:7: Beast . . . . had ten  
horns.

*Rev. 13:1: I saw a beast rising up  
out of the sea, having seven heads  
and ten horns.*

B) The ten horns of both beasts refer to ten kings.

Daniel 7:24: The ten horns *are* ten  
kings *who* shall arise from this  
kingdom.

*Rev. 17:12: The ten horns which  
you saw are ten kings.*

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<sup>43</sup> Bauer, *Greek-English Lexicon*, page 665B.

“Horn” is used figuratively by Scripture to express might and power. The horn of horned animals (the bull, ram, deer, etc.) is used for offensive and defensive purposes. See also Psalm 18:2; 75:1-10!

The seven heads on the beast in Revelation (13:1; 17:3) are not found in the description of the beast in Daniel. The reason why the heads are not made a part of the beast in Daniel, but are added to the beast in Revelation is that Revelation mentions another feature of the beast which the book of Daniel does not treat. There is no other beast found in Scripture with ten horns other than in Daniel 7 and in Revelation.

C) The beast in each reference is accused of speaking words against the Most High.

Daniel 7:25: He shall speak  
*pompous* words against the Most  
High.

*Rev. 13:6: He opened his mouth in  
blasphemy against God, to  
blaspheme His name, His tabernacle,  
and those who dwell in heaven.*

The “Most High” is God. See Hosea 11:7; it is in the same context as Hosea 11:9!<sup>44</sup>

D) The beast in both references has international power.

Daniel 7:23: Beast . . . shall  
devour the whole earth, trample  
it and break it in pieces.

*Rev. 13:7: Authority was given him  
over every tribe, tongue, and nation.*

E) The beast in both references speaks great things.

Daniel 7:11 I watched then  
because of the sound of the  
pompous words which the horn  
was speaking.

*Rev. 13:5 He was given a mouth  
speaking great things.*

F) The beast in both references wars against the saints and overcomes them.

Daniel 7:21, 25: The same horn

*Rev. 13:7: It was granted to him to*

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<sup>44</sup> Heinrich Friedrich Wilhelm Gesenius, *Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon*, translator Samuel Tregelles (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974), page 626B.

was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them. He shall . . . persecute the saints of the Most High . . . . The saints shall be given into his hand.

*make war with the saints and to overcome them.*

G) Both will have power for three and one-half (years).

Daniel 7:25: [He] shall intend to change times and laws. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.

*Rev. 13:5: He was given authority to continue for forty-two months.*

The “time and times and half a time” means three and one-half years. Gesenius on this passage: “During a year, [two] years, and the half of a year.”<sup>45</sup> The “time, and times, and half a time” of Revelation 12:14 is the identical period as the 1,260 days (3½ years) of Revelation 12:6. The word “years” is not to be taken literally, but figuratively. The unit “year” is used to describe a period of time. “Three and one-half” is used to describe the tribulation.

**Conclusion: The beast with seven heads and ten horns and the prostitute (Rev. chapters 13, 17, & 18) is the same beast with ten horns described in Daniel chapter seven.**

**3. Contention: The “lawless one,” “the son of perdition” (2nd Thessalonians 2:3-12) is the same as the Antichrist (1st John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2nd John 7).**

A) Both refer to a human being.

2nd Thess. 2:3-4, & 8: The man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition. The lawless one . . . .

*1st John 2:22: He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son.*

In 1st John 2:22 and 2nd John 7 the *New King James Version* excludes the definite article “the” before the noun “Antichrist.” Yet the definite article “the” is found in the original Greek in these two places before “Antichrist,” and should be retained for an accurate translation.

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<sup>45</sup> Gesenius, *Hebrew and Chaldee Lexicon*, page 609A.

B) Both speak of a human being that is against Christ.

2nd Thess. 2:4: He sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

*1st John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2nd John 7: The Antichrist.*

It would be possible to be in the place of Christ but not to be against him. This will happen, for instance, when the pastors will shepherd the church for the Chief Shepherd (1st Peter 5:1-4). Yet this is in compliance with Christ's command only as long as and in so far as these pastors teach the gospel and carry out Christ's instructions. False shepherds and false teachers replace Christ's words with their own (Jeremiah 23:25). Whenever they would do so, the Lord states that they will be against him (Matthew 12:30, "He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad"), and, accordingly, he will be against them (Jeremiah 23:2, 31, & 32).

"Scripture uses the term 'antichrist' in a wider and in a narrow sense. In the passage 1st John 2:18 all false teachers are called 'antichrists'. . . . Scripture shows clearly enough why all false teachers are 'antichrists'. Since Scripture enjoins that in Christ's Church nothing but Christ's Word is to be taught and to rule (Matt. 28:20; John 8:31-32; 17:20; 1st Peter 4:11; 1st Timothy 6:3ff.), all who teach another word are . . . [by that very fact] opponents of Christ, rebels in His kingdom."<sup>46</sup>

C) Both say that the person in question will deceive people in regard to the Christian faith.

2nd Thess. 2:3, 9, & 10: Let no one deceive you by any means, for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first. The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

*2nd John 7, 9: This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God.*

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<sup>46</sup> Pieper, *Dogmatics*, III, page 462.

See Romans 16:17-18! Moulton and Howard define the noun "Antichrist" as "one who assumes the guise of Christ in order to seduce His people."<sup>47</sup>

D) Both references say that the person in question will come in the future.

2nd Thess. 2:2-3: As though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed.*

*1st John 2:18: Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.*

Scripture speaks of the last days as near at hand (e.g., Malachi 3:1: "will suddenly come," referring to Christ's coming some three to four hundred years later; Rev. 22:20, Christ: "I am coming quickly"), and never, for instance, as centuries in the far distant future (Hebrews 1:2). The reason that Holy Writ speaks this way is explained by 1st Thessalonians 5:4, 6: "But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober." That is to say, Scripture speaks of the Last Day as close at hand in order to discipline us, and also to comfort us: to discipline us when our sinful natures would let our guard down, and to comfort us when Jesus' second coming seems to be delayed. Thus, when Holy Writ describes the last days as close at hand, this description is valid.

A) Both indicate that the person will have been part of a Christian church.

2nd Thess. 2:4: So that he sits as God in the temple of God.

*1st John 2:18, 19: As you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us.*

**Conclusion: The "lawless one," "the son of perdition" (2nd Thessalonians 2:3-12) is the same as the Antichrist (1st John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2nd John 7).**

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<sup>47</sup> James Hope Moulton and Wilbert Francis Howard, *A Grammar of New Testament Greek* (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark Ltd., 1928), II, page 297.

**4. Contention: The Antichrist (1st John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2nd John 7; 2nd Thessalonians 2:3-12) is the same as the beast with seven heads and ten horns (Revelation chapters 13, 17, & 18; Daniel chapter 7).**

A) Both sources speak of a human being.

Daniel 7:8: In this horn *were* eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.

*2nd Thess. 2:3: The man of sin . . . the son of perdition.*

B) Both sources speak of a human being as having the power of a king.

Daniel 7:23, 25, & 26: The fourth beast shall . . . devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces. [The little horn of the beast] shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand. But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion.

*2nd Thess. 2:4: Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped.*

“The conduct of the Antichrist corresponds with his sitting in the temple . . . He ‘exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped’ . . . claiming to be superior to all authorities in the world, and his insolence is so great that he sits in the temple of God as a god and exhibits himself as God . . . . The words ‘all that is called God, or that is worshiped,’ of course, do not include the idols of the pagans, for exalting oneself above these is no iniquity. The words refer to those persons in the world who are indeed not divine in essence, but are called gods in Scripture because of divine functions assigned to them; for instance, the civil authorities and the parents . . . . Also the concept ‘all that is called God’ . . . is clearly defined in Scripture . . . . John 10:34-35; 1st Cor. 8:5; Rom. 13:1ff.” [Psalm 82:6.]<sup>48</sup>

C) Both describe the feature of opposing Christ.

1st John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2nd John 7:  
The Antichrist.

*Daniel 7:25; 11:36: He shall speak pompous words against the Most High.*

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<sup>48</sup> Pieper, *Dogmatics*, III, page 464.

*The king shall do according to his own will: he . . . shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods.*

*Rev. 17:5: Babylon the great.*

“In late Judaism Rome began to take on the name and many of the characteristics of Babylon as a world power hostile to God, denounced by the prophets.”<sup>49</sup>

The idea that the name “Babylon” is a tag in Revelation given to a world power hostile to God is supported by the intentional similarity between the passages dealing with the original city of Babylon and the “Babylon” of Revelation. Compare Jeremiah 5:16 – Revelation 18:4, 6; Jer. 51:7 – Rev. 17:2; Jer. 51:8 – Rev. 18:2; Jer. 51:9 – Rev. 18:5; Jer. 51:49 – Rev. 13:10! This idea is supported also by the fact that the prostitute, Babylon, will be a city that will have worldwide power (Rev. 17:18).

For a description of the original city of Babylon as a world power hostile to God and to his people, and deserving of punishment, see Jeremiah 50:17, 18, 24, 33, & 34; 51:33-35!

D) The reputation of God is injured by the subject in both references.

2nd Thess. 2:4: He sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

*Daniel 9:26-27; 11:31: The people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate.*

*Forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily sacrifices, and place there the abomination of desolation.*

*Rev. 13:6: He opened his mouth in*

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<sup>49</sup> Bauer, *Greek-English Lexicon*, page 129A.

*blasphemy against God, to  
blaspheme His name, His tabernacle.*

The Almighty's reputation can be injured not only by speech (Psalm 74:10), but also by sinful action (Isaiah 52:5; Ezekiel 36:16, 17, & 20). Blasphemy is speech, thought, writing, or action displaying irreverence toward God. It is distinguished from atheism, sacrilege, or criticism of religion. Blasphemy is committed by a person who, being aware of Christian doctrine, should know better.

The definition of the word "to blaspheme" is to "injure the reputation of . . . defame."<sup>50</sup>

E) The subject in both references owes his existence to the devil.

2nd Thess. 2:9: The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders.

*Rev. 12:9: The great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world.*

*Rev. 13:2: The dragon gave him his power, his throne, and great authority.*

F) In both references God's people are warned not to be fooled by the seduction of the subject.

2nd Thess. 2:3, 7: Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first*. The mystery of lawlessness is already at work.

*Rev. 18:4: Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.*

*Rev. 17:2: With whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of the wrath of her fornication.*

G) The subject described in both is unique in Scripture.

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<sup>50</sup> Bauer, *Greek-English Lexicon*, page 142A.

**Conclusion:** though some of his features are like other people (for instance, Antiochus Epiphanes, or the many antichrists in John's time), all of these features combined describe such a dreadful abnormal person that John and the world are taken aback with amazement (Revelation 17:6; 13:3-4).

5. **Contention:** The abomination of desolation, etc. (Daniel chapters 9, 11, & 12; Matthew 24) is describing the same man as 2nd Thessalonians 2:3-4.

A) His reign is called an "abomination of desolation."

Daniel 9:27: He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate.

*Matthew 24:15: "When you see the 'abomination of desolation', spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place."*

Daniel 12:11: From the time *that* the daily *sacrifice* is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, *there shall be* one thousand two hundred and ninety days.

Though some have proposed that the words of Christ in Matthew 24:15 refer to King Antiochus Epiphanes (died 164 B.C.), they prophesy of someone in the future, for they were stated two hundred years after Epiphanes lived, and point to a person yet to come, of whom Christ's followers were to be warned. The abomination of desolation that would occur in Jerusalem in 70 A.D. (Daniel 9:26-27; Luke 21:20) with the physical destruction of the Hebrew temple by the Roman general Titus, will be like the great abomination of desolation caused by another Roman who will wreck the Christian church spiritually in the latter days (Daniel 11:31; 12:11).

B) This man opposes and exalts himself above God.

Daniel 7:8, 25; 11:36: In this horn were eyes, like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking *pompous* words.

*2nd Thess. 2:4: He sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

He shall speak pompous words against the Most High.

*1st John 2:18: The Antichrist.*

Then the king shall . . . speak

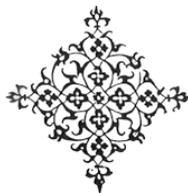
blasphemies against the God of gods.

C) Both references point to a man who shall be found in the temple of God.

Daniel 9:26-27: The people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate.

*2nd Thess. 2:4: He sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

**Conclusion: The subject mentioned in Daniel, Matthew, 2nd Thessalonians, 1st and 2nd John, and Revelation is so similar in all the references that it can be concluded that all the references are describing the same person.**



The rationale behind the footnote and the endnote references is the following:

An attempt has been made to give the full name of the author upon his first mention; after this: to put down the author's name as it will appear in his publication upon the first mention of one of his additional works; and, finally, in subsequent references to any of his works: to give only the author's last name and, if need be for clarification, the title of the author's work. Thus, for instance, in footnote 1, the full name "Paul Edward Kretzmann" has been given. Later, in footnote 1 in a reference to a different work of his, the name "P. E. Kretzmann" is typed as it is given by the publisher. After this, in succeeding references, just the

last name “Kretzmann” will be used, as is standard, along with whichever title of his several works.

In addition, if a published work would have two columns on a printed page, then the letters “A” or “B” will be added after the page number to indicate whether the quote has come from the left or right column respectively; for example, “page 324A.” In a few cases attention has been drawn to the fact that a quote has come from a footnote.

Indeed, keep in mind that I could have written this book without any quotes whatever! Nevertheless, solely for your assurance, I intentionally set out to gather as many citations as possible in order to let reputable authorities, especially Lutherans with impeccable credentials, state my case to as great an extent as they could.

The rationale behind my (“the author’s”) translations of various biblical passages has been to follow the grammatical rules of the English language, and, wherever necessary, to state the sense by using the American idiom, in order for the intellect of the American reader to grasp the meaning of the passage the more quickly, clearly, and confidently.

For example, while pursuing their goal for literalness, the *King James Version* and the *New King James Version* translators have followed the grammatical rules of the New Testament Greek by retaining the distinctive present and future verb tenses used by the Greek in its hypothetical clauses (If - does/ then - will), as in, “If it rains, then the ground will become wet.” Just the same, I have followed the subsequent format: “If it would rain, then the ground will become wet” (If - would/ then - will).

Seemingly hypothetical clauses (for instance, “If we died with Christ,” Romans 6:8) will be translated affirmatively (“Since we died with Christ”).

In regards to contrary to fact clauses (for example, Galatians 2:21), I have followed the standard format (If - were/ then - would).