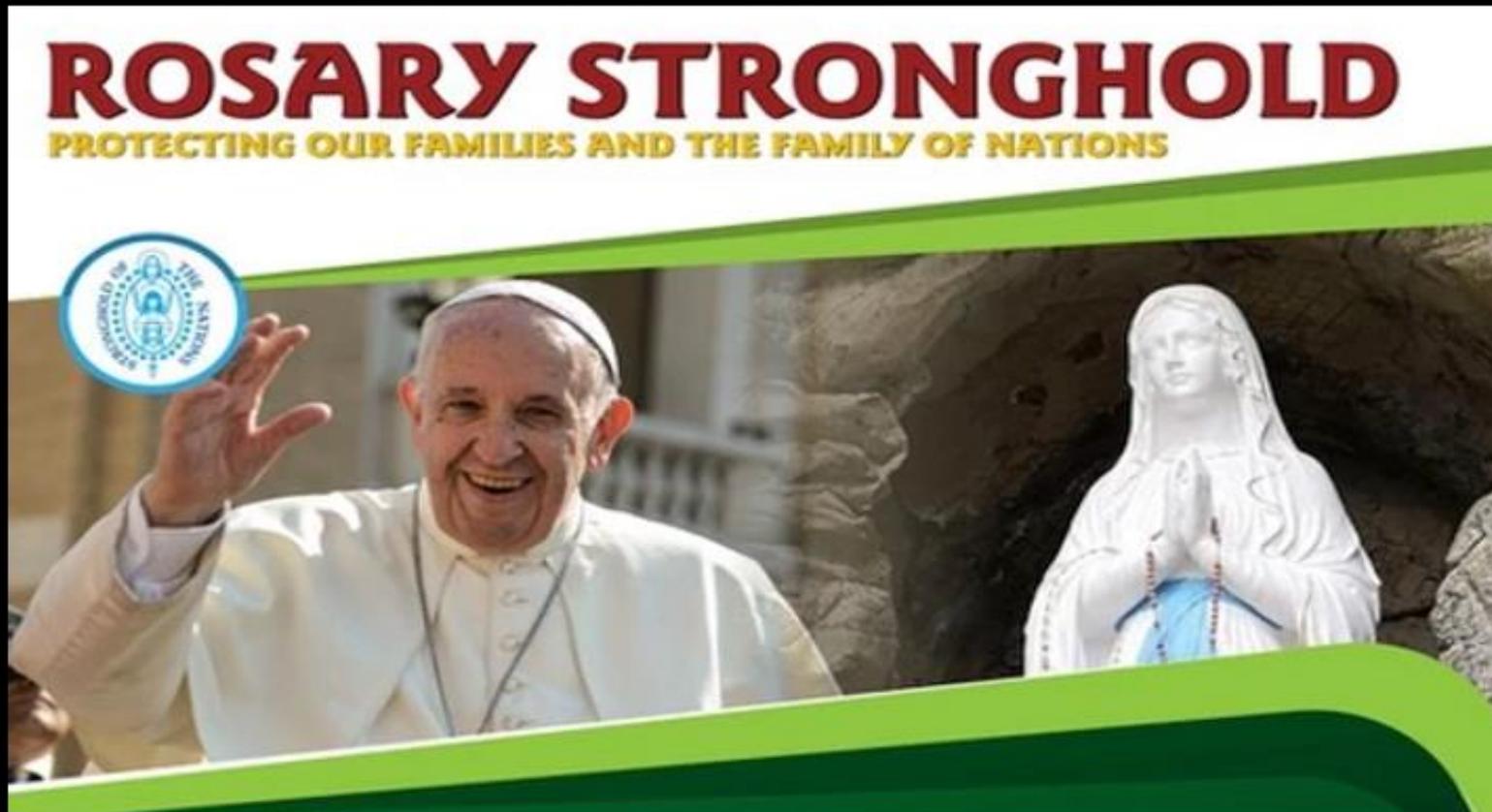


Daniel Chapter 11 – Part 6

Papal Strongholds



Past > **Present** > **Future**



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Enter The Ark of Hope

The Great Controversy between God and
Satan is primarily over

“WORSHIP”

Who will you Choose?



Get into the Ark **Sanctuary**



**And let them
make me a
sanctuary;
that I may dwell
among them.**

– Exodus 25:8

Psalms 77:13



Health Snippet – Onions

Health Benefits of Onions (Seek Medical Advise)

The health benefits of onions are attributed to their antioxidants and sulfur-containing compounds. In many countries, onions are also among the main dietary sources of flavonoids, specifically a compound called quercetin.

The most abundant plant compounds in onions are:

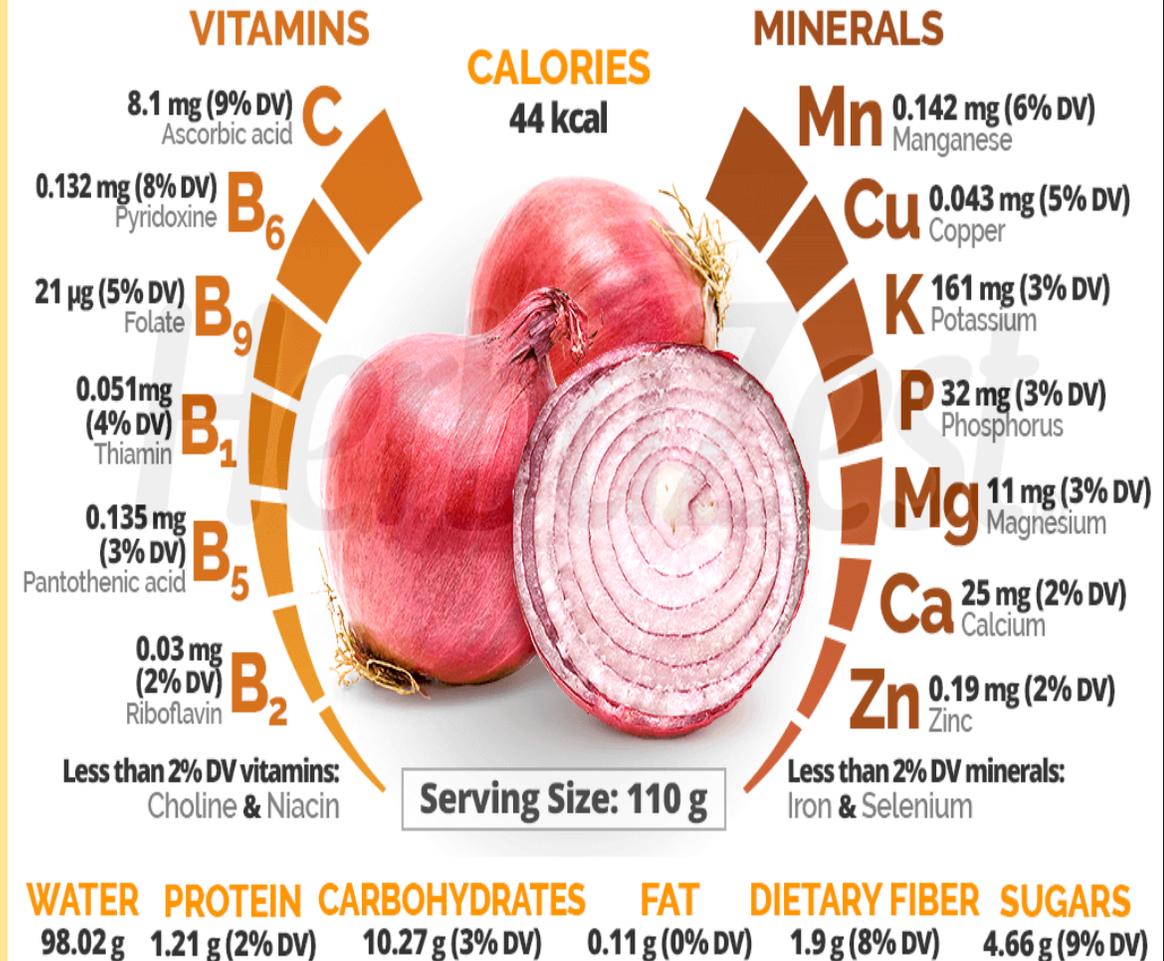
1. Anthocyanins: Only found in red or purple onions, anthocyanins are powerful antioxidants and pigments that give these onions their reddish colour.
2. Quercetin: An antioxidant flavonoid, quercetin may lower blood pressure and improve heart health.
3. Sulfur compounds: These are mainly sulphides and polysulphides, which may protect against cancer.
4. Thiosulfinates: These sulfur-containing compounds may inhibit the growth of harmful microorganisms and prevent the formation of blood clots.

* Red and yellow onions are richer in antioxidants than other types. In fact, yellow onions may contain almost 11 times more antioxidants than white onions.

- **Cooking can significantly reduce levels of some antioxidants. Optimum benefit is by eating raw.**



Onion Nutrition



Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?



Yes we Can!

**Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.**

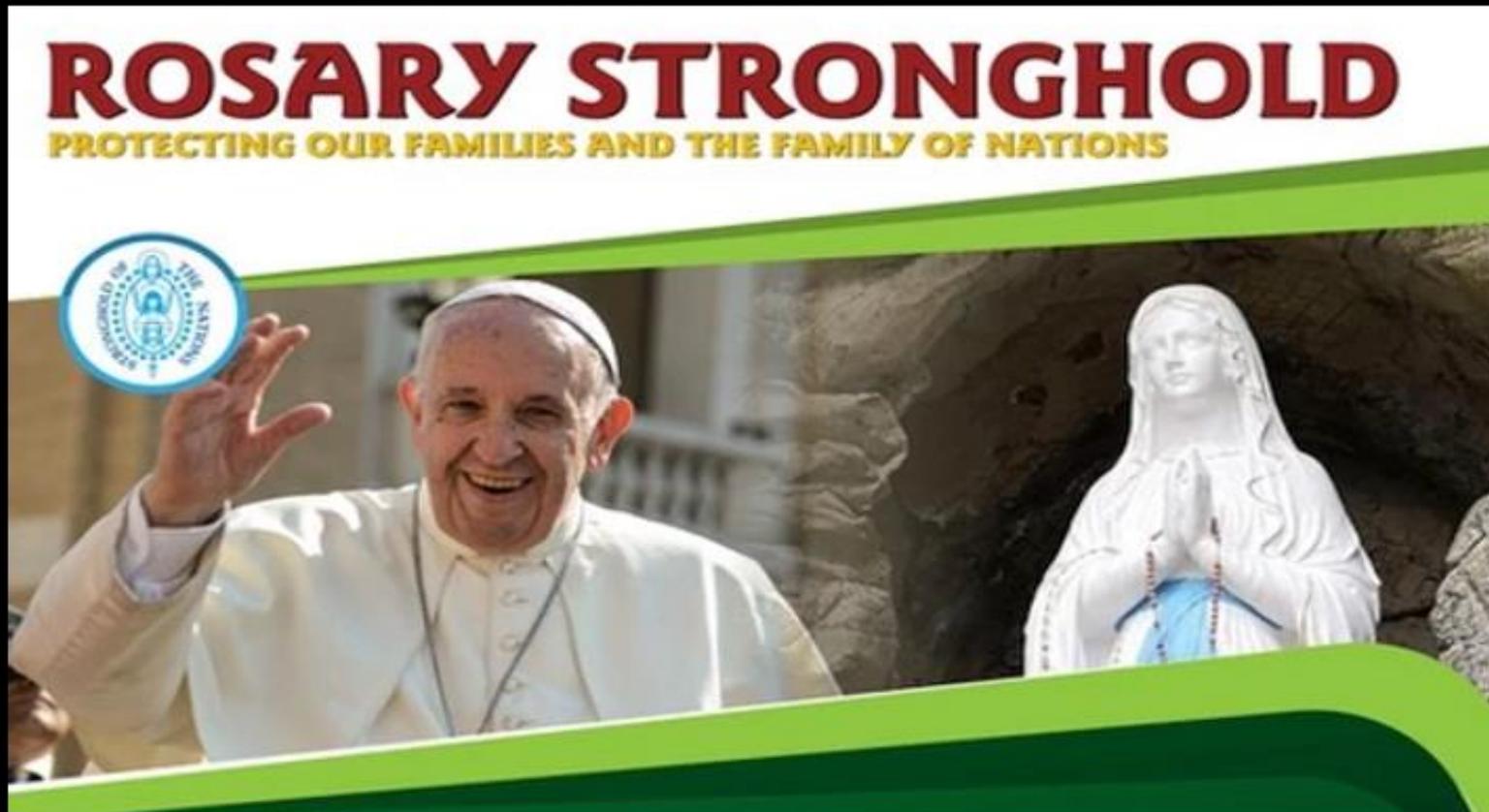
Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13



Daniel Chapter 11 – Part 6

Papal Strongholds



Past > **Present** > **Future**



Introduction

In Daniel we read that one of the characteristics of the Antichrist is that it would wear out the saints of the Most High:

And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws - Daniel 7:25.

The Papacy has a long history of "wearing out" the saints of the Most High. Below is a timeline of the generally aggressive history of the Roman Catholic Church, but the most tragic one that concerns the Word of God is the persecution during the Middle Ages of anyone daring to oppose the Church. The Bible predicts that the saints of the Most High would be persecuted for 1260 years.

During these years of oppression in which the masses were kept in ignorance and the priest held sway over every aspect of life, here and there arose individuals willing to shine a light into the darkness. Dave Hunt tells us that because they rejected transubstantiation, "Christians were burned at the stake by Roman Catholics by the hundreds of thousands." - Dave Hunt, *A Cup of Trembling* (Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1995): 160.



Introduction - A Bloody Past

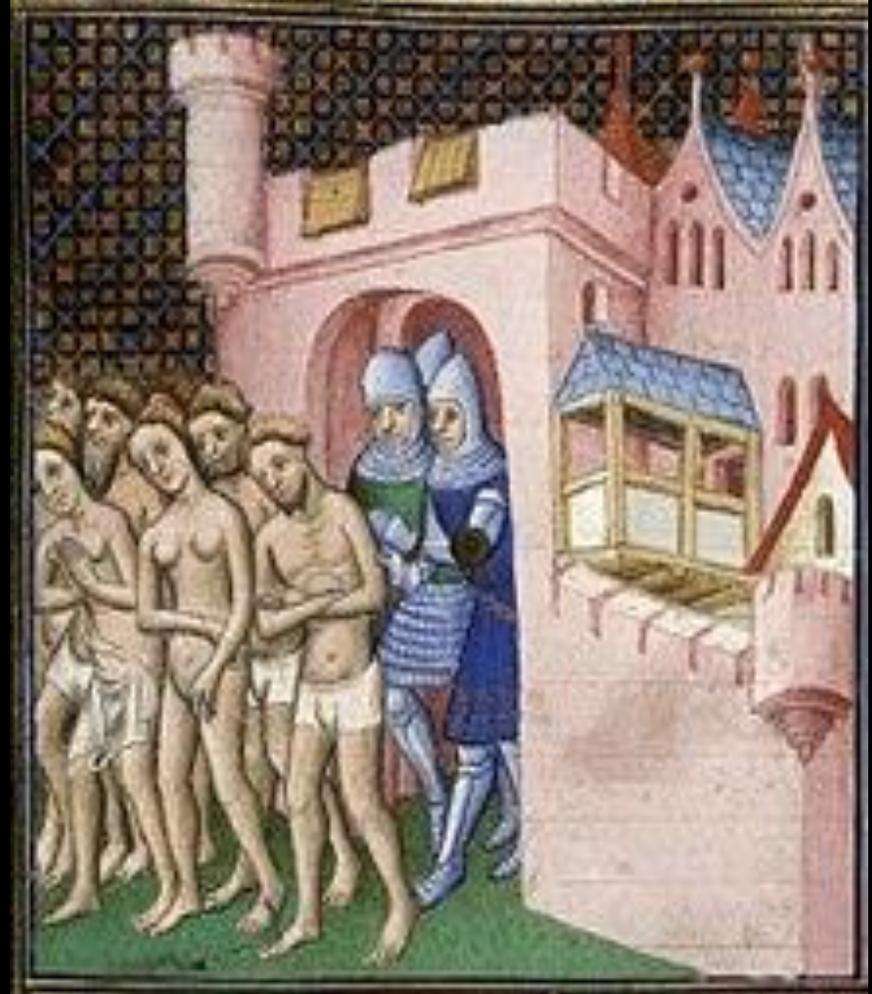
In 1940, French statesman Baron DePonnat stated, "Roman Catholicism was born in blood, has wallowed in blood, and has quenched its thirst in blood, and it is in letters of blood that its true history is written." Indeed, the history of papal Rome has been one of brutal torture, slaughter, and mass murder.

1096 Roman Catholic crusaders slaughter half the Jews in Worms, Germany.

1098 Roman Catholic crusaders slaughter almost all of the inhabitants of the city of Antioch.

1099 Roman Catholic crusaders massacre 70,000 Muslims and Jews when they capture Jerusalem.

1208 – 1226 The Albigensian Crusades in southern France. Roman Catholic crusaders slaughter approximately 20,000 citizens of Beziers, France, on July 22, 1209. **Albigensian Christians and Catholics were slain.** By the time the Roman Catholic armies finished their "crusade," almost the entire population of southern France (mostly Albigensian Christians) has been exterminated. During the six centuries of papal Inquisition that began in the 13th century, up to 50 million people were killed.



Introduction - A Bloody Past (cont'd)

1236 Roman Catholic crusaders slaughter Jews in the Anjou and Poitou regions of western France. The Catholic crusaders trample to death under their horses 3000 Jews who refuse baptism.

1243 Roman Catholic mobs burn alive all the Jews in Berlitz, Germany (near Berlin).

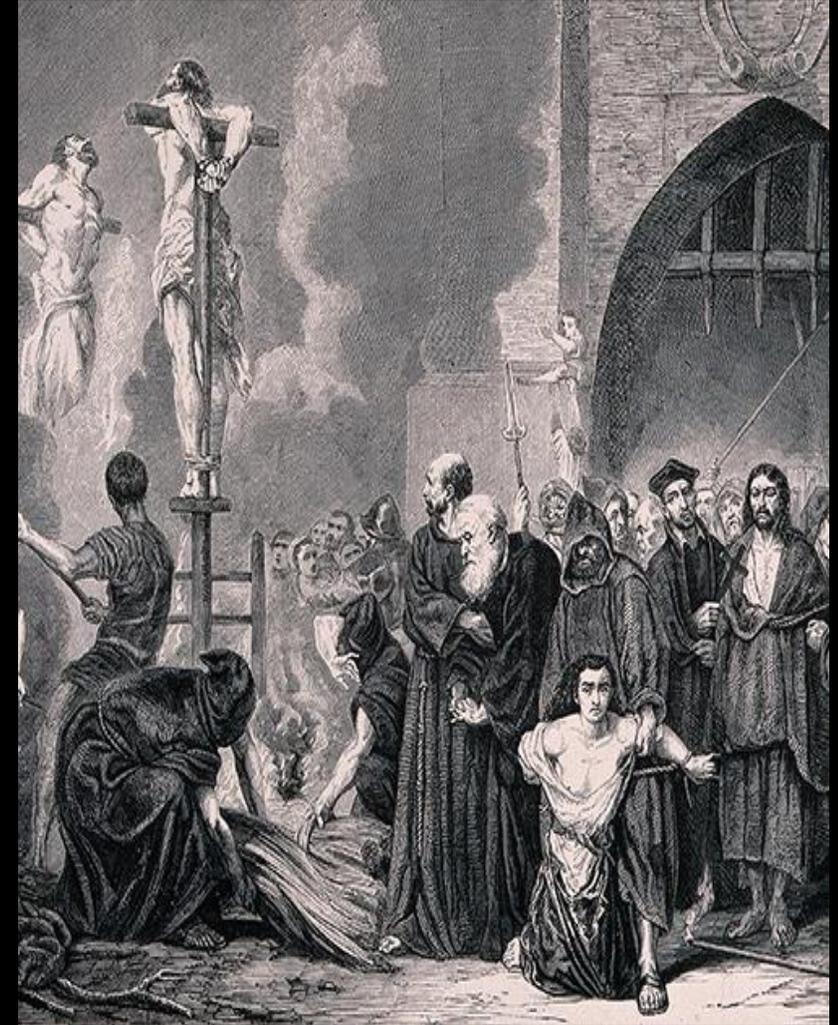
1298 Roman Catholic mobs burn alive all Jews in Rottingen, Germany.

April 26, 1349 Roman Catholic mobs burn to death all Jews in Gernersheim, Germany.

1348 – 1349 The Jews are blamed for the bubonic plague. Author Dave Hunt tells us, “Accused of causing the ‘Black Death’ Jews were rounded up [by Roman Catholic mobs] and hanged, burned, and drowned by the thousands in revenge.”

1389 Roman Catholic mobs murder 3000 Jews in Prague when they refuse to be baptized.

1481 – 1483 At the direction of the Roman Catholic inquisitors, authorities burn at the stake at least 2000 people during the first two years of the Spanish Inquisition.



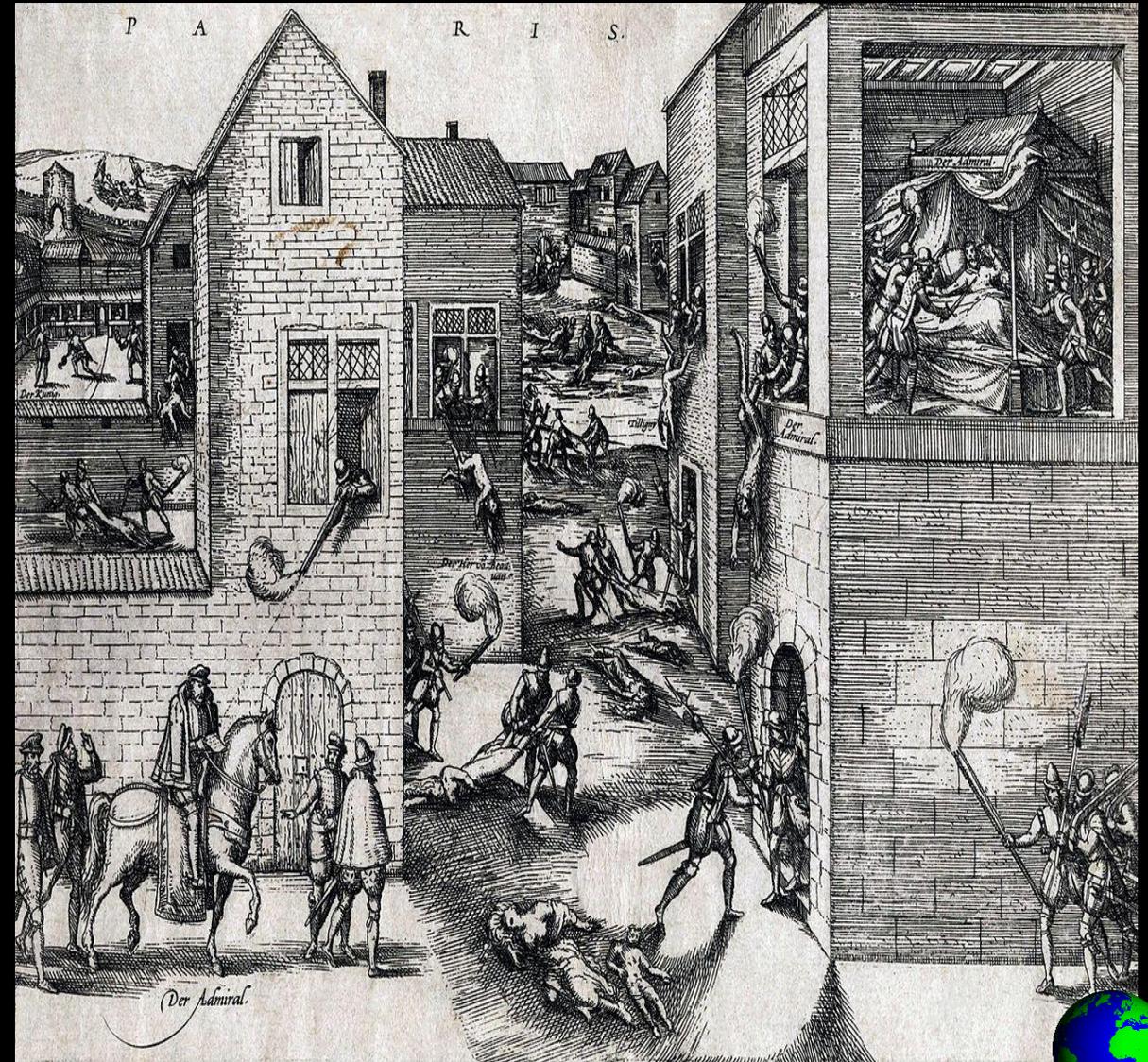
Introduction - A Bloody Past (cont'd)

1540 – 1570 Roman Catholic armies butcher at least 900,000 Waldensian Christians of all ages during this 30-year period.

1550 – 1560 Roman Catholic troops slaughter at least 250,000 Dutch Protestants via torture, hanging, and burning during this ten-year period.

1553 – 1558 Roman Catholic Queen Mary I of England (aka “bloody Mary”) attempts to bring England back under the yoke of papal tyranny. During her reign, approximately 200 men and woman are burned to death at the stake. Her victims include bishops, scholars, and other Protestant leaders.

1572 St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre. French Roman Catholic soldiers begin killing Protestants in Paris on the night of August 24, 1572. The soldiers kill at least 10,000 Protestants during the first three days. At least 8000 more Protestants are killed as the slaughter spreads to the countryside.



Introduction - A Bloody Past (cont'd)

1618 – 1648 The Thirty Years' War. This bloody, religious war is planned, instigated, and orchestrated by the Roman Catholic Jesuit order and its agents in an attempt to exterminate all the Protestants in Europe. Many countries in central Europe lost up to half their population.

1641 – 1649 Eight years of Jesuit-instigated Roman Catholic butchery of Irish Protestants claims the lives of at least 100,000 Protestants.

1685 French Roman Catholic soldiers slaughter approximately 500,000 French Protestant Huguenots on the orders of Roman Catholic King Louis 14 of France.

Circa 1938 – 1945 Catholic dictators such as Adolf Hitler and Monsignor Tiso slaughter approximately six million Jews in Europe prior to and during World War 2.

1941 – 1945 The Roman Catholic Ustashi in the fascist state of Croatia butcher up to one million Serbian Orthodox Christians. Roman Catholic killer squads are often led by Franciscan priests, monks, and friars. **This genocide is choreographed by two Jesuit prelates: Aloysius Stepinac and Ivan Saric.** - <https://amazingdiscoveries.org/timeline-of-bloody-history-of-papal-rome-oppression-of-protestants>



Aloysius Stepinac and Ivan Saric



Crusades against Commandment keepers

THE torch of persecution was fairly kindled in the beginning of the thirteenth century. Those baleful fires, which had smouldered since the fall of the Empire, were now re-lighted, but it must be noted that this was the act not of the State but of the Church. Rome had founded her dominion upon the dogma of persecution. She sustained herself "Lord of the conscience." Out of this prolific but pestiferous root came a whole century of fulminating edicts, to be followed by centuries of blazing piles. It could not be but that this maxim, placed at the foundation of her system, should inspire and mold the whole policy of the Church of Rome. Divine mistress of the conscience and of the faith, she claimed the exclusive right to prescribe to every human being what he was to believe, and to pursue with temporal and spiritual terrors every form of worship different from her own, till she had chased it out of the world. The first exemplification, on a great scale, of her office which she gave mankind was the crusades.



Daniel 11:39 - A strange god!

Daniel 11:39 Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain.

Thus shall he do - **the popes**

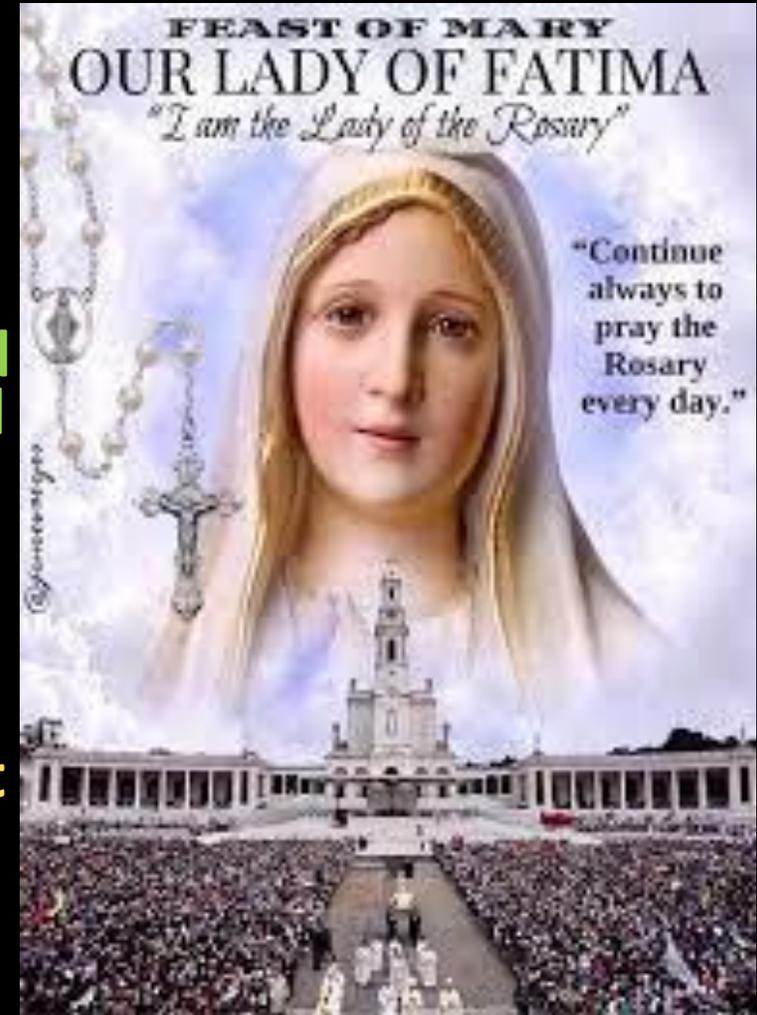
In the most strong holds with a strange god - places wherein the Pagan gods of Rome were not especially popular or embraced, Rome has had great success here moving people to worship Mary and other so called Roman Catholic saints. In fact, in the false religions of the American Indians, the Tibetan Dali Lama, and Hindus we find "a woman" is prophesied to bring peace to the world. **Even Muslims speak of Mary with high regard.** As we watched John Paul II travel around the world in his pontificate, he did in fact gather most nations to embrace Roman Catholicism.



Mary mother of Jesus - the another god!

Whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory - the movement in the Vatican the last few decades alone is to place Mary as co-saviour around the world! In fact, three Popes and many prelates use the title "coredemptrix" (co-Saviour) when speaking of Mary. In fact, John Paul II, who had the motto "TOTUS TUUS SUM MARIA", which in English translates to: "MARY, I'M ALL YOURS" embroidered upon his robes, stated in 1997 "It is possible to understand the authentic meaning of Marian worship in the Ecclesial community... which furthermore is based on the will of Christ" - Vatican Information Service, May 7, 1997

He shall; cause them to rule over many - the popes, especially John Paul II, caused "marian worship" to become a controlling factor in all the nations in agreement with them. In fact, all Catholics to this day worship Mary and the Roman Catholic saints as gods that can hear their prayers. This has caused all to become subjects or "ruled" over by the whim of these demons that cause many types of manifestations around the world to keep them subject to their rule.



Papal Strong holds - The Rosary

The rosary is a tool for Catholic prayer. Similar to the mantra beads used in Eastern religions, the rosary is a string of beads which represent various prayers that need to be recited. The "Hail Mary" and "Our Father" prayers are repeated the most often.

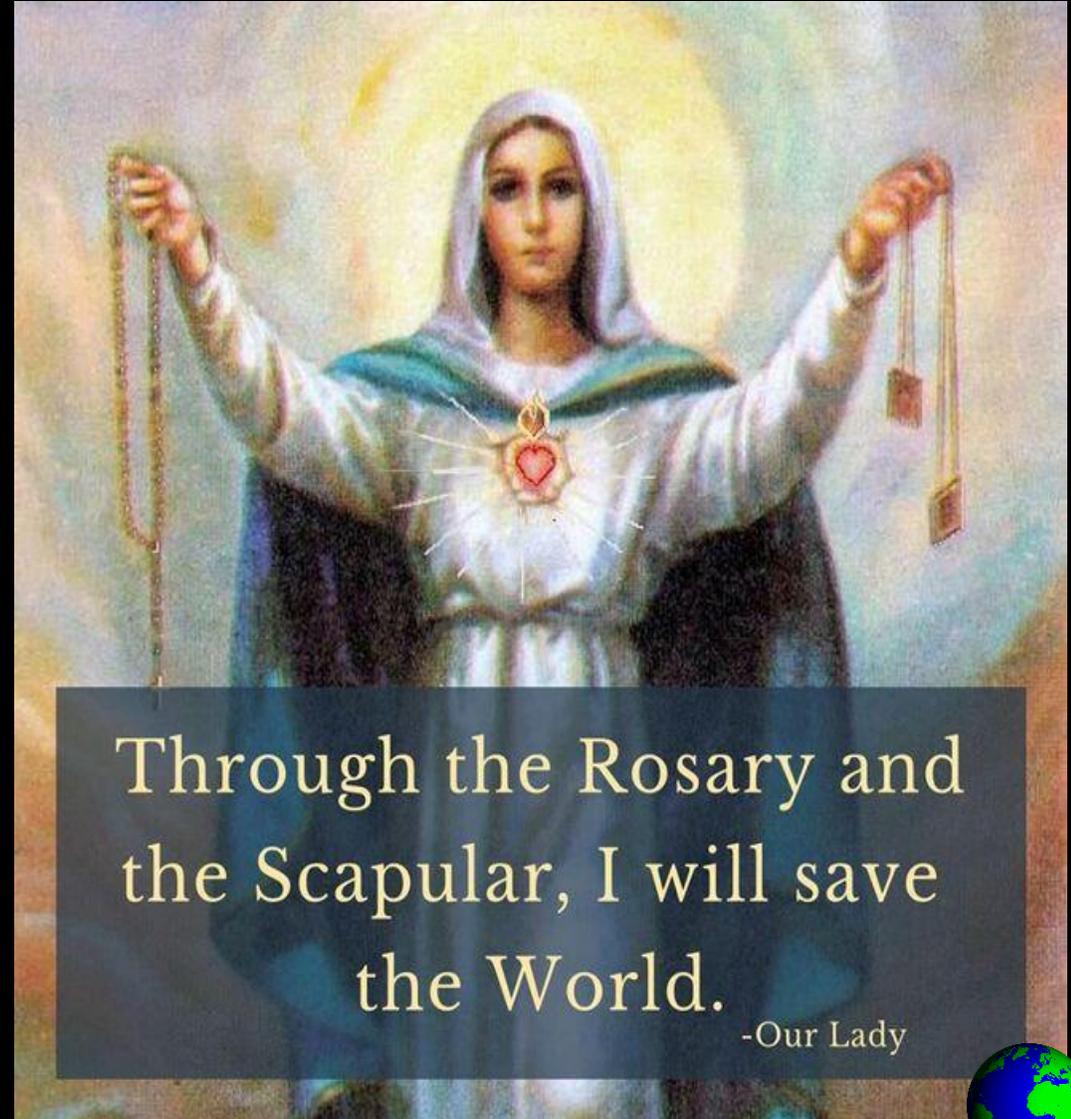
...when the Albigensian heresy was devastating the country of Toulouse, St. Dominic earnestly besought the help of Our Lady [Mary] and was instructed by her, so tradition asserts, to preach the Rosary among the people as an antidote to heresy and sin. From that time forward this manner of prayer was "most wonderfully published abroad and developed by St. Dominic whom different Supreme Pontiffs have in various past ages of their apostolic letters declared to be the institutor and author of the same devotion." That many popes have so spoken is undoubtedly true, and amongst the rest we have a series of encyclicals, beginning in 1883, issued by Pope Leo XIII, which, while commending this devotion to the faithful in the most earnest terms, assumes the institution of the Rosary by St. Dominic to be a fact historically established. - Kevin Knight, "The Rosary," New Advent Encyclopedia.



The Rosary and Spiritualism

Catholics disagree with Protestants who say that rosary recitations are "vain repetitions" as condemned in [Matthew 6](#). Their argument is that "the spirit of the exercise lies in the meditation upon the fundamental mysteries of our faith," in which the words prayed in the rosary "form only a sort of half-conscious accompaniment." - Kevin Knight, "The Rosary," [New Advent Encyclopedia](#).

Half-conscious repetition of words is common in Eastern meditation and is a dangerous practice that opens the mind up to spiritualistic experiences. "Buddhists and Hindus practice the repetition of a word or phrase in their attempts to empty their minds and reach higher states of consciousness that reveal their own divinity (emphasis in original). - Roger Oakland, [Faith Undone](#) (Silverton, OR: Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 2007): 113-114.



Through the Rosary and
the Scapular, I will save
the World.

-Our Lady



The Rosary and Mary Worship

Another key element of the rosary is the veneration of Mary. Without Mary, Catholics believe the rosary loses its power:

The Rosary thus joins the human race to God through Mary whom God chose from all time for the specific purposes of mother and intercessor. - Holy Cross Family Ministries, "Rosary: Explanation and History"

According to Catholic tradition, three young Portuguese children were visited by an apparition of Mary several times throughout the early 1900s. They were told to pray for forgiveness for "sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary." Mary is reported to have also said to them, "I am the Lady of the Rosary, I desire here a chapel in my honor to be built, that people continue to recite the Rosary every day." - "Apparitions at Fatima," The Holy Rosary.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states this:

The Church's devotion to the Blessed Virgin is intrinsic to Christian worship... The liturgical feasts dedicated to the Mother of God and Marian prayer, such as the rosary, an "epitome of the whole Gospel," expresses this devotion to the Virgin Mary. - "Devotion to the Blessed Mary," Catechism of the Catholic Church (Liguori Publications, 1994): 253.



The power of the Rosary
is beyond description.

Bishop Fulton Sheen

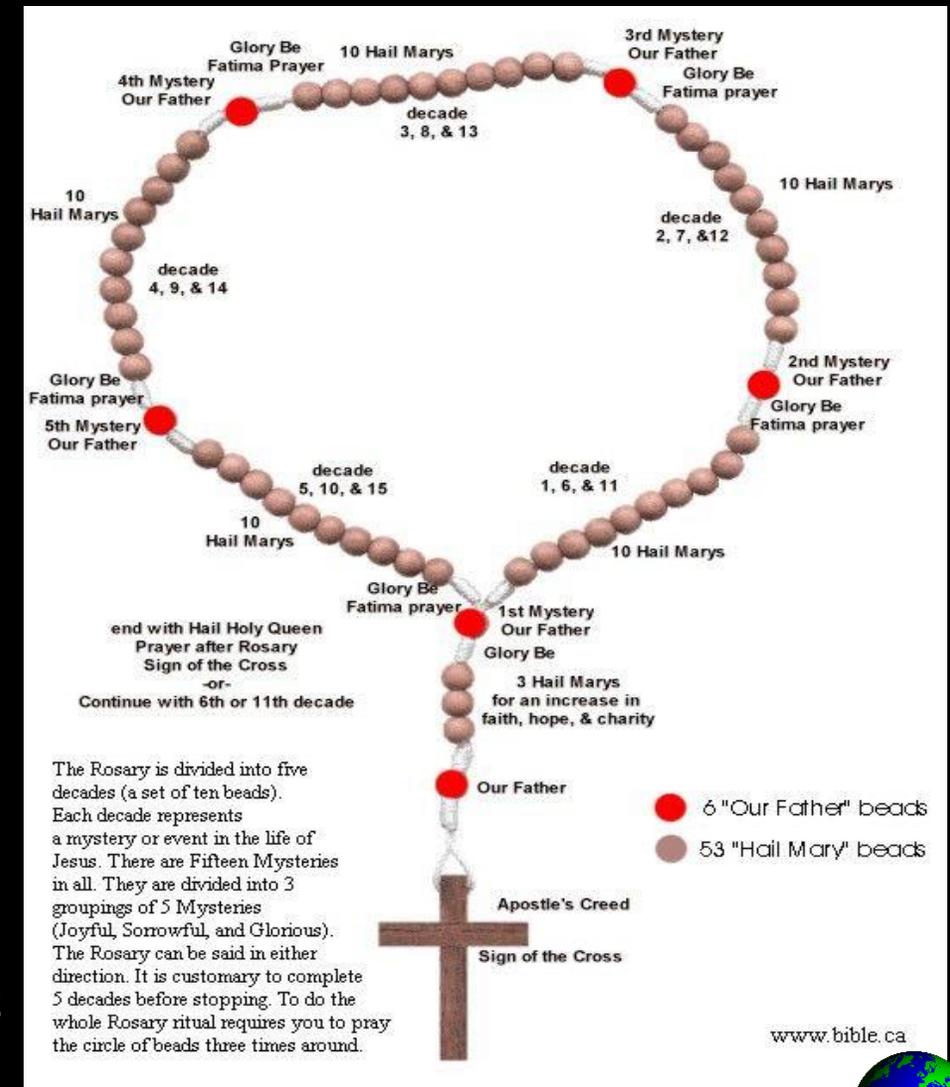


The truth about The Rosary

Rosary praying is an unbiblical, and even pagan, practice that pulls people farther away from God rather than drawing them closer. **Instead of glorifying God, it exalts Mary, who, although an important historical figure, has no power to answer prayers.** Mary should never be worshiped or regarded as anything more than a humble human who was willing to be used by God during her life for His purpose and glory.

In fact, praying to Mary is directly against the Bible's teaching. Our prayer should only ever be directed to God (Hebrews 4:14–16; 7:25; 10:19–22; Romans 8:26–27). Treating prayer as a formula that leads to our intended end or produces a specific benefit if said the correct way the correct number of times is a complete misunderstanding of the nature and purpose of prayer (Matthew 6:5–13; 1 John 5:14–15).

The Hail Mary prayer is based on Luke 1:26–33, when the angel Gabriel appeared to tell Mary that she would become the mother of Jesus, the Saviour. Gabriel greets Mary by saying, "Greetings, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!" (Luke 1:28).



The Truth as it is in the Bible

Our example for prayer comes from Jesus Himself. Though Jesus' model of prayer, often referred to as the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:5–15), is included in the praying of the rosary, as well as used by rote in Protestant churches, Jesus modelled an intimate prayer life with God that was not by memorization but through honest, fervent prayers like the one in the garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:39–46). It is not wrong to pray the prayers we see in Scripture or other biblically-sound, pre-written prayers; but we are to pray with our minds and our hearts (1 Corinthians 14:15; John 4:24), **actually communicating with our heavenly Father, not merely reciting words.** This is the type of prayer life God wants for us in our relationship with Him (Philippians 4:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Hebrews 4:14–16; 10:19–23). **All the spiritual blessings and inheritance of faith we enjoy are because of and through Jesus Christ, the only Saviour (Ephesians 1:3–14).**

**THE BIBLE
MAY HURT YOU
WITH THE TRUTH
BUT IT WILL
NEVER
COMFORT YOU
WITH A LIE.**



Papal Strong holds - Confession

Confession, also called Penance or Reconciliation, is a practice of the Catholic Church in which a person confesses sin to a priest. The priest then gives absolution of the sin, on the condition of some kind of response, such as repeating prayers.

According to the book *Symbols of Catholicism*, there are three "necessary steps to obtaining absolution."

They are as follows:

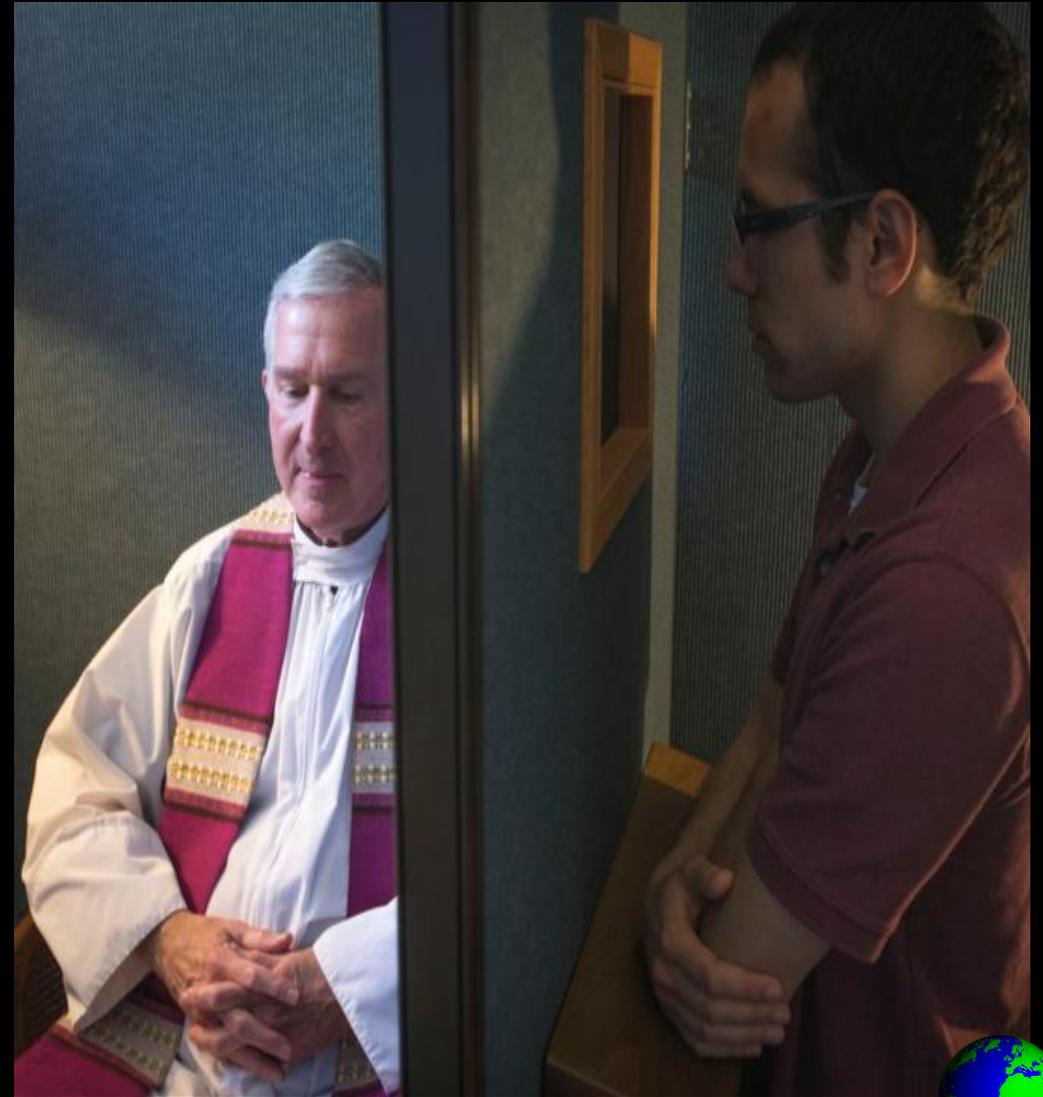
1. Act of Contrition — Showing sorrow for committing the sin
2. Act of Confession — Telling the priest about the nature of the sin
3. Act of Satisfaction — Doing penance, such as saying prayers - Dom Robert Le Gall, *Symbols of Catholicism*, (New York: Barnes & Noble, 2003): 61.



Confession (cont'd)

These steps were confirmed by the Catholic Council of Trent's 14th session:

If anyone denies that for the full and perfect remission of sins three acts are required on the part of the penitent...namely, contrition, confession and satisfaction, which are called the three parts of penance...let him be anathema. If anyone denies that sacramental confession was instituted by divine law or is necessary for salvation; or says that the manner of confessing secretly to a priest alone, which the Catholic Church always observed from the beginning and still observes, is at variance with the institution and command of Christ and is a human contrivance, let him be anathema. - Rev. H. J. Schroeder (trans.), "Canons Concerning the Most Holy Sacrament of Penance," The Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent (Illinois: TAN Books, 1978): 102-103.



The Truth as it is in the Bible

James 5:15-16: *And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.*

James was not saying that priestly absolution brings freedom from sin. **He was not even saying that we should confess our sins only to a priest.** Rather, he tells us to confide in one another, so that we can pray for and encourage one another.

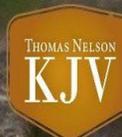
Unfortunately, the error of confession goes beyond who we should confess our sins to. James' description of confession as an act of accountability and growth is completely different than the Roman Catholic notion that confession to a priest is the path to forgiveness. **1 John 1:9 reminds us that it is to God we must confess, and that He "is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."**

There is nothing our actions or the words of a priest can do to bring salvation:

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Sanctify them
through thy
truth:
**THY WORD IS
TRUTH.**

JOHN 17:17

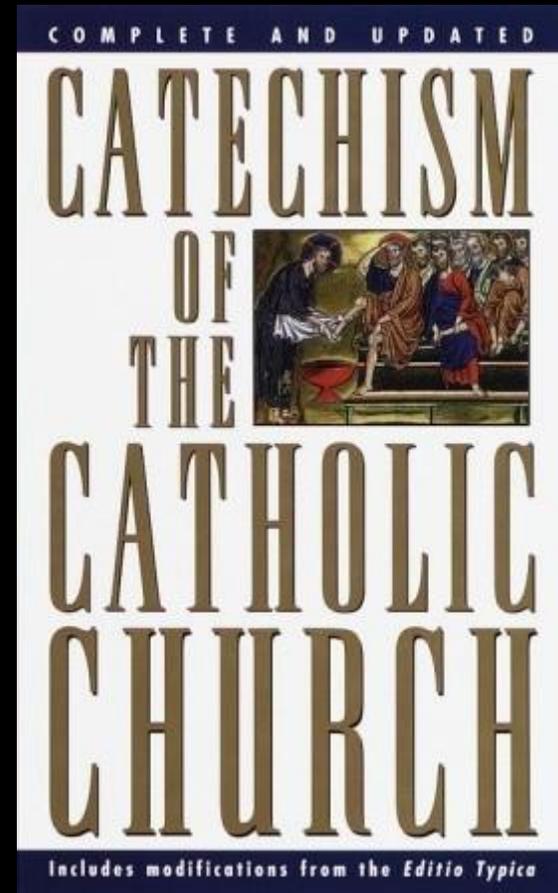


Papal Strong holds - Indulgences

The Roman Catholic Church defines "temporal punishment" as suffering in the fires of purgatory for venial (lesser) sins. **According to the Catholic Church, mortal sin is sin only Jesus can pay for.** Venial sins are lesser sins one must pay for in purgatory as a means of purification before one can enter heaven.

"Indulgence" is a Roman Catholic term that is not found in the Bible. The Vatican defines an indulgence as "the taking away of the temporal punishment due to sin." **Through performing certain rituals or works according to specific Vatican rules, and paying money, a Catholic may obtain an indulgence to shorten the time spent in purgatory. The amount of temporal punishment that is taken away is determined by the value of the act.** **According to the Catholic Church, the primary purpose for granting indulgences is to "help the faithful expiate their sins."** - Austin Flannery, *Vatican Council II: The Conciliar and Post Conciliar Documents* (New York: Costello Publishing, 1988): 70-75

The Pope is said to have the authority to give these indulgences to Catholics from a treasury of merit. **This invisible treasury contains the infinite merits of Christ, as well as the merits of Mary and the saints.** According to Catholic catechism, Catholics can attain "their own salvation and at the same time cooperate in saving their brothers." - "Paragraph 1477," *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* p412.



The Truth as it is in the Bible

Roman Catholicism teaches that Jesus Christ completely paid the eternal punishment for sin, but then states a temporal punishment still remains to be paid by indulgences. This would be like a father completely paying off the outstanding debt of his daughter's car loan and the bank insisting the monthly payments must continue.

Those who understand and believe the Gospel know that salvation is a free gift from God. Scriptures clearly state that salvation is by grace not by works (Ephesians 2:8-10). Grace means a free gift. No one can earn or become worthy of salvation. It is given only through faith.

Indulgences are works of humanity which nullify and oppose God's method of salvation. When Jesus Christ is exalted as the all-sufficient Saviour, He destroys the deceptive works of the devil. Jesus "appeared in order to take away all sins. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross. He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities, the chastening for our well being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed" (1 John 3:5; 1 Peter 2:4, Isaiah 53:5).

"You will know
the truth, and
the truth will
set you free."

Jesus,

John 8:32



Papal Strong holds - Lent

Lent is generally a 40-day period of fasting and prayer observed by many Catholics and Protestants just before the Easter season.

When did it start?

The beginning of Lent is rather obscure, but by 339 AD, St. Athanasius urges this fast upon the people of Alexandria by telling them they will be a “laughing stock” if they don’t practice this universally observed fast. - Kevin Knight, "Lent," *New Advent Catholic Encyclopaedia*.

During Lent, Catholics remember Jesus’ 40-day fast in the wilderness where He was tempted by the devil. The fast often focuses on what can be “given up” for Lent, as a means of sharing in Christ’s deprivation in the wilderness. The giving up is supposed to be followed by putting something positive in its place, so Lent is traditionally a time of prayer, helping the poor, and fasting. The benefits are summarized in Pope Benedict’s message for Lent in 2009:

The Sacred Scriptures and the entire Christian tradition teach that fasting is a great help to avoid sin and all that leads to it... Since all of us are weighed down by sin and its consequences, fasting is proposed to us as an instrument to restore friendship with God. - "Message of His Holiness Benedict XVI for Lent 2009,"



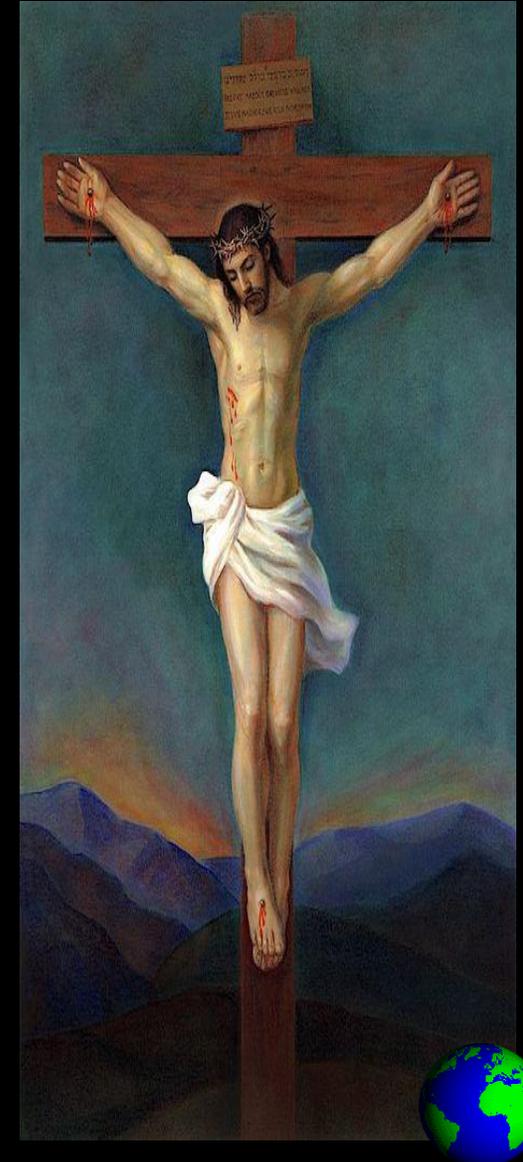
The Truth as it is in the Bible

The Roman Church has added so many traditions to the Gospel that the basic Bible message is often buried. **There is no Scripture anywhere in the Bible that commands the observance of Lent.** **The principle of seeking God via fasting is certainly a Biblical one.** **One example of this is in Ezra 8:21:** *Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions.*

Humbling ourselves and seeking the right way from God is always a good thing to do.

We should not fast simply because a church calendar says so. **Instead, we should be really seeking God with our hearts and listening to His Word.** **Mark 7:9 and Colossians 2:8** both warn of the danger of following purely human traditions.

Many Christians do benefit from taking time throughout the year for extra prayer and fasting. Some Christians fast one day a week in order to remember their need for God's sustenance and work in their lives. Some churches designate certain times of the year for corporate prayer and fasting. These practices can be beneficial to us individually and corporately as we draw together to seek God's face, but we need not be tied to dates set by the Roman Catholic Church for a ritual or traditional fast. **As Mark 7:13 tells us, we are not to follow human tradition.**



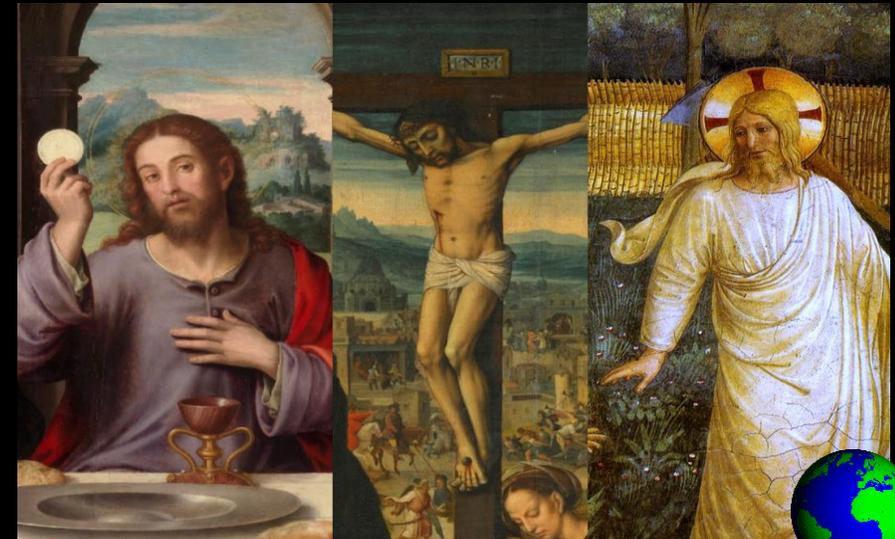
Papal Strong holds - Paschal Mystery

Catholicism encourages believers to relive Christ's suffering by observing the pious exercises of the paschal mystery. In an article entitled, "Spirit is present in the Paschal Mystery," the Vatican says this:

If the Holy Spirit's "masterpiece" is the paschal mystery of the Lord Jesus, a mystery of suffering and glory, through the gift of the Spirit Christ's disciples can also suffer and make the cross the path to light... - "Spirit is present in the Paschal Mystery," (June 10, 1998).

The Paschal Mystery we relive in the Easter Triduum is not just a memory but a current reality... If we are prepared to suffer and die with Him... His life becomes our life. It is upon this certainty that our Christian lives are built. - Pope Benedict XVI (address given April 4, 2006).

Religious exercises are practiced during this time, such as reciting the Rosary, repeating the "Our Father" prayer, or going around the Stations of the Cross. These practices relive the paschal mystery of Christ's trial, suffering, and death—eventually celebrating the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Essential to these ritual observances is the mass to re-enact Christ's suffering and death at Calvary.



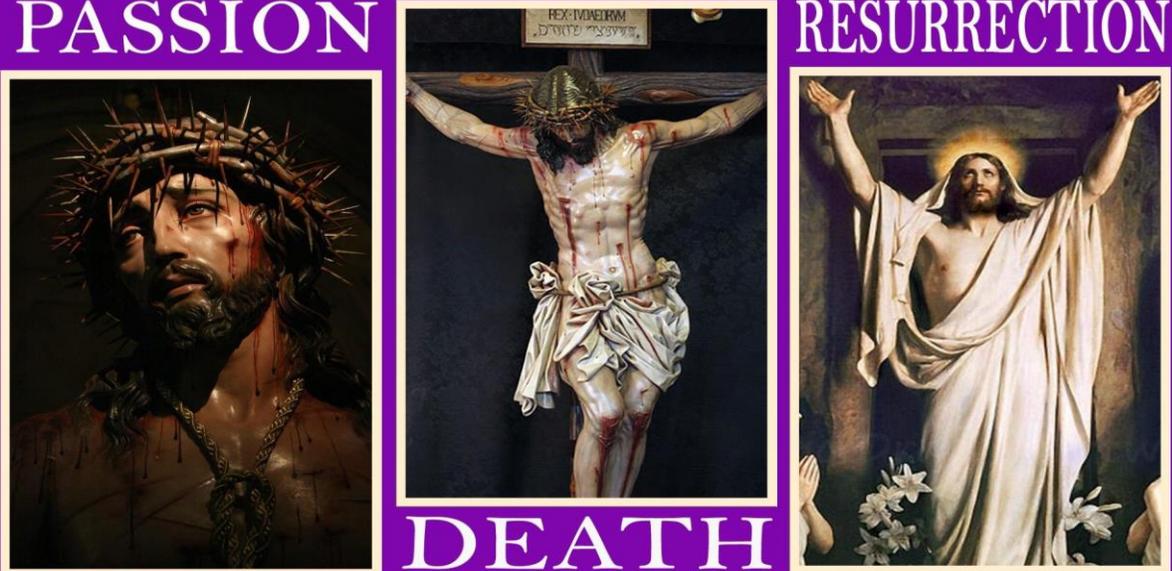
The Truth as it is in the Bible

We will search in vain to find any reference to the paschal mystery in the Bible. What we do find is Paul's statement in 1 Timothy 3:16:

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

The word "paschal" (made to refer to the Easter season) originally referred to the Passover. When the early Gentile converts saw Rome persecuting the Jews, they changed the observance of Christ's death from the Passover to a time celebrating the goddess of fertility at the spring equinox, which became Easter. - Douglas Harper, "Easter," Online Etymology Dictionary.

PASSION **RESURRECTION**

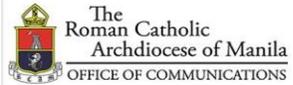


DEATH

PASCHAL TRIDUUM:

The Easter Triduum which begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday, reaching its high point in the Easter Vigil, and closes with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday, is the summit of the Liturgical Year.

It commemorates Christ's Paschal Mystery, The **PASSION, DEATH** and **RESURRECTION** of Jesus.

 The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Manila OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

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 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines



Papal Strong holds - Easter

Easter is known for its bunny rabbits, colored eggs, hot cross buns, and the return of springtime. But where did Easter come from?

Few realize that Easter is not about the resurrection of Christ.

Centuries before the birth of Christ, Satan encouraged people to have religious beliefs and practices that would imitate the coming Saviour's resurrection.

This was a brilliant strategy that kept people from recognizing and appreciating the plan of salvation. Because pagans had similar beliefs of a "resurrection" before Christ, it is much easier to say that Christ's resurrection was just another version of the same old pagan story from long ago that has nothing to do with reality or a plan of salvation of any kind. Many scoffers use this type of reasoning to explain away the Bible's truths.

The early pagan practices and beliefs about Ishtar and the resurrection prepared the world for the religious apostasy which would occur after the time of Christ.

The pagans believed in a god that was resurrected each spring on Easter—a day which was dedicated to Ishtar, the mother goddess.. She was also called the queen of heaven and supposedly interceded with the gods on behalf of humankind.



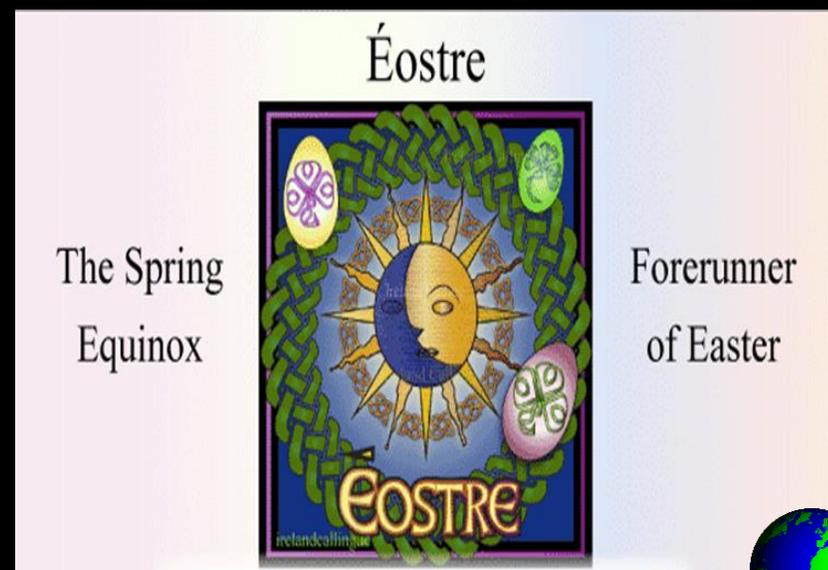
Papal Strong holds - Easter (cont'd)

This precise belief has been applied to Mary by the Roman Catholic Church, but it is as pagan as it gets, and has no basis in the Bible whatsoever.

The mother goddess has had many names throughout the various pagan religions in history. She has been known as **Astarte, Ishtar, Ashtoreth, Cybele, Rhea, Demeter, Ceres, Aphrodite, Venus, Diana, and Freya.**

Easter did not originate for the purpose of celebrating Christ, but rather for the purpose of worshiping the mother goddess Ishtar. **Because worshipers of Ishtar presented her with two fertility symbols—eggs and rabbits—these became part of the Christian Easter celebration.** **Because sunrise at the beginning of spring was the holiest day in the Mithraic calendar (next to December 25), the practice of Easter sunrise services continued on into Christianity.**

Because the Ishtar celebration was held each spring on a Sunday, close to the vernal equinox, the ascension of Christ was changed from 40 days after the time of Passover (as told us in the Bible) to the annual Easter celebration. **All this began in paganism, with the Ishtar and Tammuz legend.**



The Truth as it is in the Bible

Many Christians celebrate Easter as the day celebrating the resurrection of Christ, but the truth is that the celebration of Easter actually comes from paganism.

The only time the word "Easter" is found in the Bible (Acts 12:4), it is there by mistranslation.

The word in the original Greek is "Passover."

Jesus died at the time of the Passover feast, but the Passover is not Easter and Jesus did not die at Easter time. Easter is an ancient spring festival.

Long before the time of Christ, the pagan goddess Ishtar, or sometimes known as Astarte or Ashtoreth, was worshiped in different countries.

Our modern practice of sunrise worship originates from the pagan festival honouring Ishtar.

The story of Easter also helps explain how Sunday became sacred and the origin of virgin worship.

Vance Ferrell, Christmas, Easter and Halloween—Where Do They Come From?

Passover vs Easter

Which one should you keep?

www.BecomingChristians.com

Passover

God and Jesus instituted the Passover.

Supported by the Bible.

Symbols used include foot washing, bread, and wine.

Passover is derived from the event when the LORD passed over the houses of the Israelites and spared them from the death of their firstborn.

Celebrated by the servants of God, Jesus Christ, the Apostles, and true churches of the Most High.

Easter

Human beings instituted Passover.

Supported by paganism.

Symbols used include Easter bunnies and eggs.

Easter came from the name of a pagan goddess of spring and fertility, Astarte.

NEVER Celebrated by the servants of God, Jesus Christ, the Apostles, and true churches of the Most High.



Papal Strong holds - Purgatory

Purgatory is a Catholic doctrine established at the eighth session of the Council of Florence on November 22, 1439. It was also decreed at the Council of Trent on December 4, 1563:

...the holy council commands the bishops that they strive diligently to the end that the sound doctrine of purgatory, transmitted and received by the Father and sacred councils, be believed and maintained by the faithful of Christ, and be everywhere taught and preached. - Rev. H. J. Schroeder, *The Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent* p214.

The Catholic Encyclopedia tells us that purgatory "is a place or condition of temporal punishment for those who, departing this life in God's grace, are, not entirely free from venial faults, or have not fully paid the satisfaction due to their transgressions." - Kevin Knight, "Purgatory," *New Advent Catholic Encyclopedia*.



Papal Strong holds - Purgatory (cont'd)

Catholic teaching says that purgatory is a place of purification. This cleansing occurs because salvation does not actually purify God's people enough that they can enter heaven:

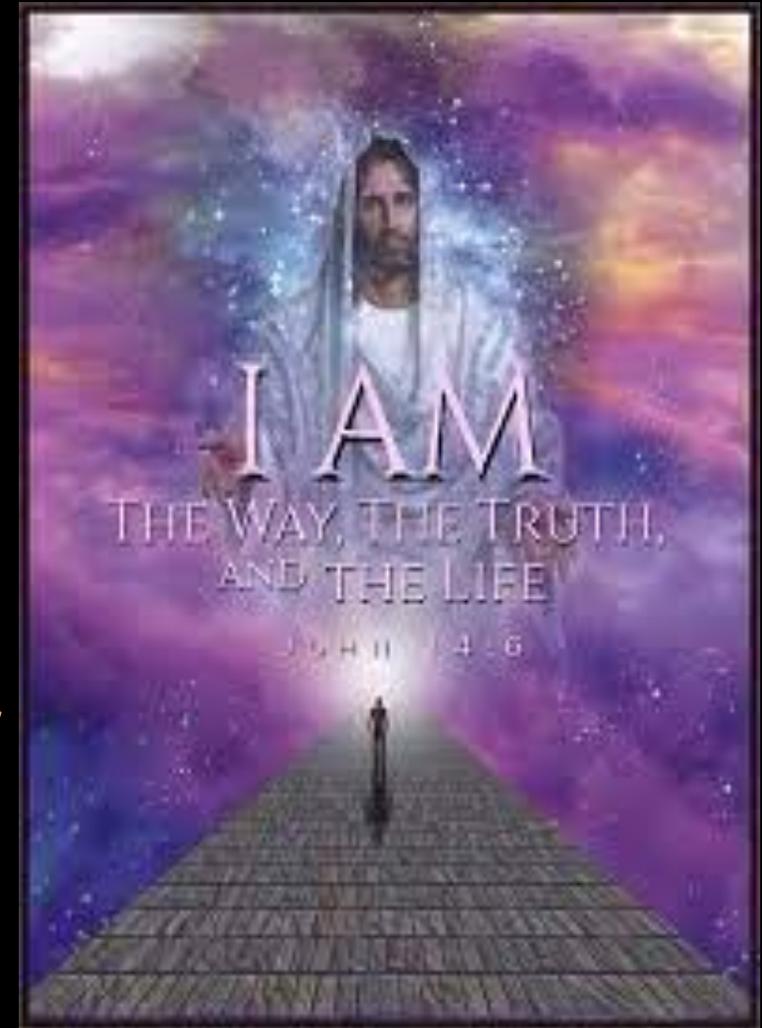
All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven... The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned. - "Article 12 Part III: The Final Purification, or Purgatory," Catechism of the Catholic Church 2nd Edition.



The Truth as it is in the Bible

This doctrine is not Scriptural, but instead has pagan origins. Historian Alexander Hislop tells us that every pagan system from the Egyptians to the Greeks includes a belief in purgatory. He says that, "in every system, therefore, except that of the Bible, the doctrine of a purgatory after death, and prayers for the dead, has always been found to occupy a place... Paganism leaves hope after death for sinners, who, at the time their departure, were consciously unfit for the abodes of the blest. For this purpose a middle state has been feigned, in which, by means of purgatorial pains, guilt unremoved in time may in a future world be purged away." - Alexander Hislop, *The Two Babylons* (Ontario: Chick Publications): 2.

The Bible says nothing about purgatory, or about the concept that our souls continue to live—in another place—immediately after we die, which is reinforced by belief in purgatory. However, it does tell us that only through Christ can we be saved; there is no other way to get to God (John 14:6). His sacrifice is enough to purify us from all our sins—big or small (1 John 1:7-9). There is no need for further purification after death. Our own works or suffering, whether here or in an afterlife, can never bring about our salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9).



Papal Strong holds - Saint

Christians do not always agree on the definition or usage of the term “saint.” The Catholic Church, for example, uses this term to refer to a person officially recognized and venerated for having attained heaven after an exceptionally holy life. They teach that people who have not lived a good life can gain merit from these “saints” so that they too can enter heaven.

There are several problems with this definition.

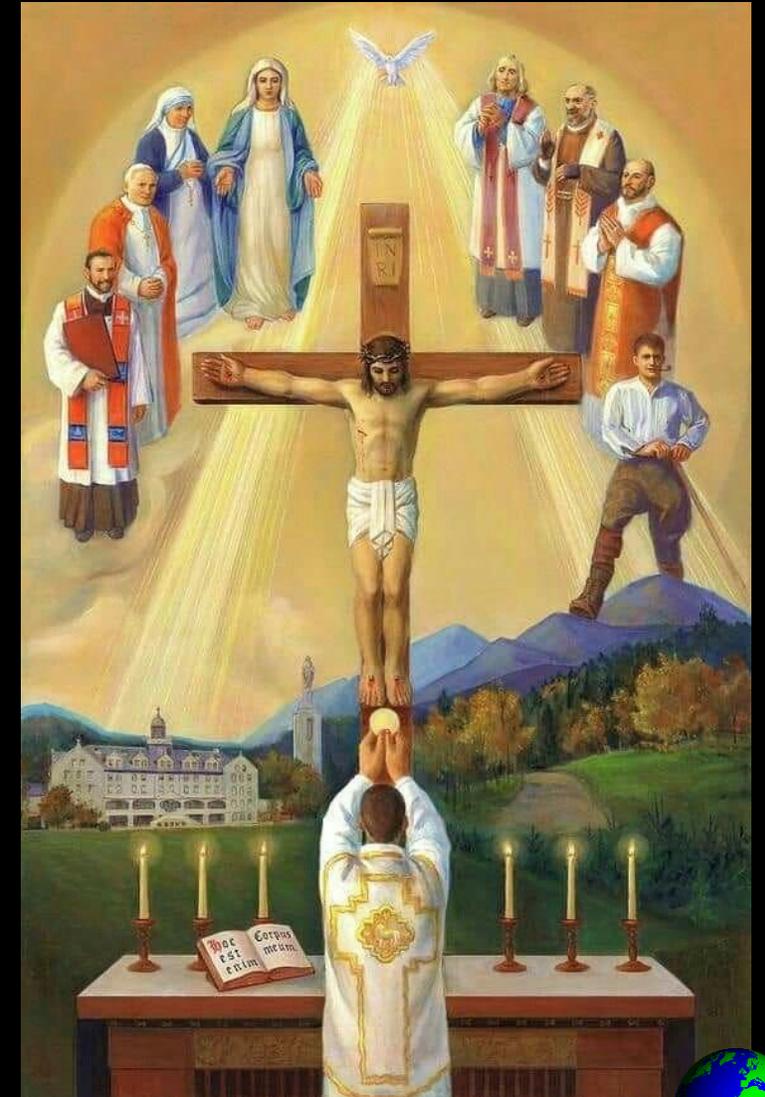
First, the Bible teaches that when we die we do not go straight to heaven but rather rest in the grave until the resurrection.

If we have been faithful, we will be raised at Jesus’ Second Coming and go to heaven with the living faithful (see 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-52).

No dead person could give us any protection whatsoever, because the dead are still waiting unknowingly in their graves.

Second, the Bible does not teach that we can gain any merit whatsoever by other people’s good works. Everyone will gain the reward of their own works when Jesus comes again:

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be (Revelation 22:12).



The Truth as it is in the Bible

Also, we are rewarded for our works, but not saved by them. No one will be saved by the good they have done, or especially not the good anyone else has done (see [Titus 3:5-7](#)).

What, then, is the Biblical definition of a saint?

Here are two places where the Bible uses the word:

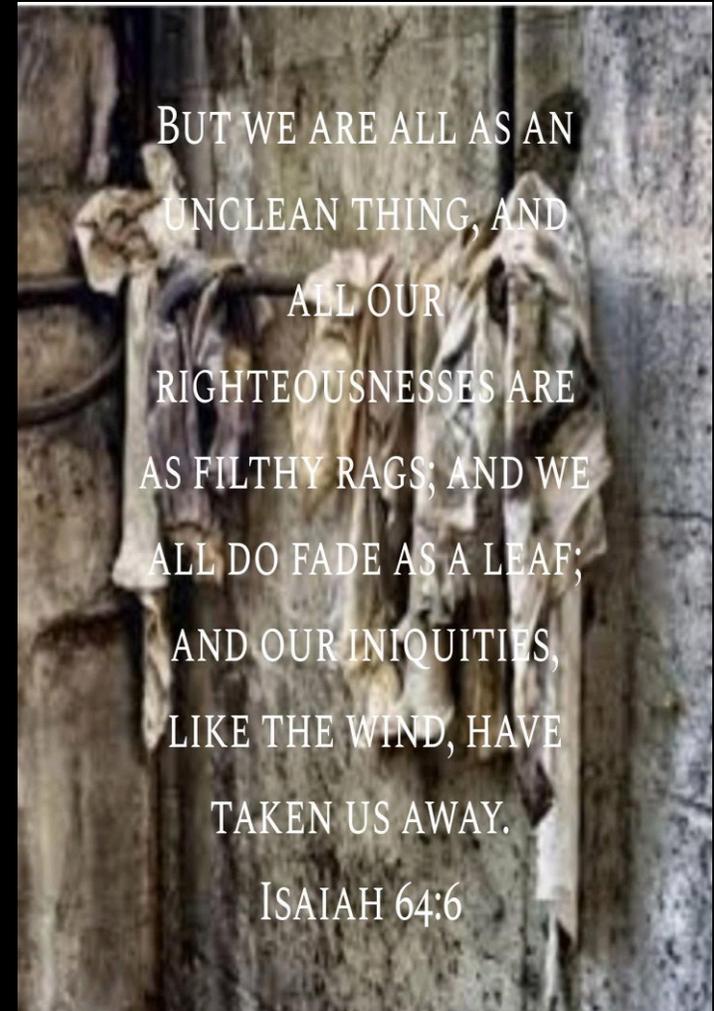
They envied Moses also in the camp, and Aaron the saint of the LORD ([Psalm 106:16](#)).

Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you ([Philippians 4:21](#)).

This first text, in Psalms calls Aaron the priest a saint. Aaron was anything but perfect, as the Biblical account of his life shows (see, for example, [Exodus 32](#)). Although Aaron was a sinner, he was considered a saint because he trusted in the merits of God's Son, the Lamb who would one day come to be sacrificed to save us from our sins.

The second text, in Philippians, tells us to salute every saint in Christ Jesus. Paul is simply referring to those who also believe in God. We know that no one except Jesus has lived a perfect life.

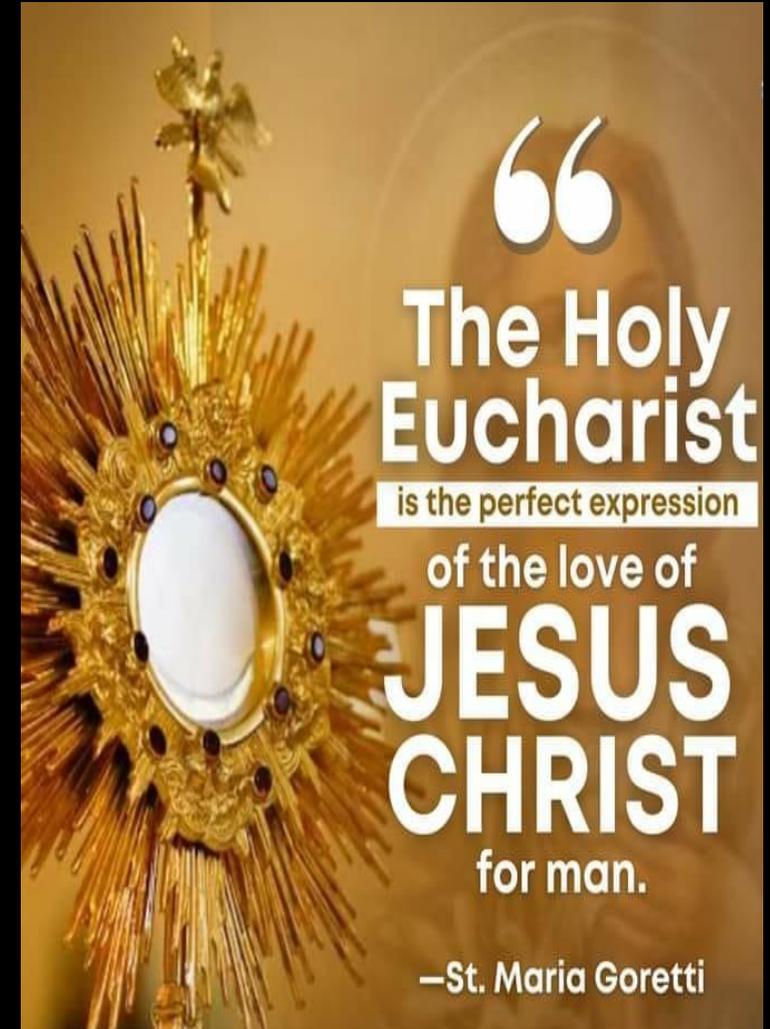
The Bible says, "we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags" ([Isaiah 64:6](#)).



Papal Strong holds - Transubstantiation

Catholic catechism says this:

"Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God who indeed intercedes for us," is present in many ways to His Church... "most especially in the Eucharistic species." **The mode of Christ's presence under the Eucharistic species is unique.** It raises the Eucharist above all the sacraments as "the perfection of the spiritual life and the end to which all the sacraments tend." **In the most blessed sacrament of the Eucharist "the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ, and therefore, the whole Christ is truly, really, and substantially contained."** "This presence is called 'real'...because it is presence in the fullest sense: **that is to say, it is a substantial presence by which Christ, God and man, makes Himself wholly and entirely present.**" It is by the conversion of the bread and wine into Christ's body and blood that Christ becomes present in this sacrament. - "The Celebration of Christian Mystery," The Catechism of the Catholic Church (Liguori Publications, 1994): 346.



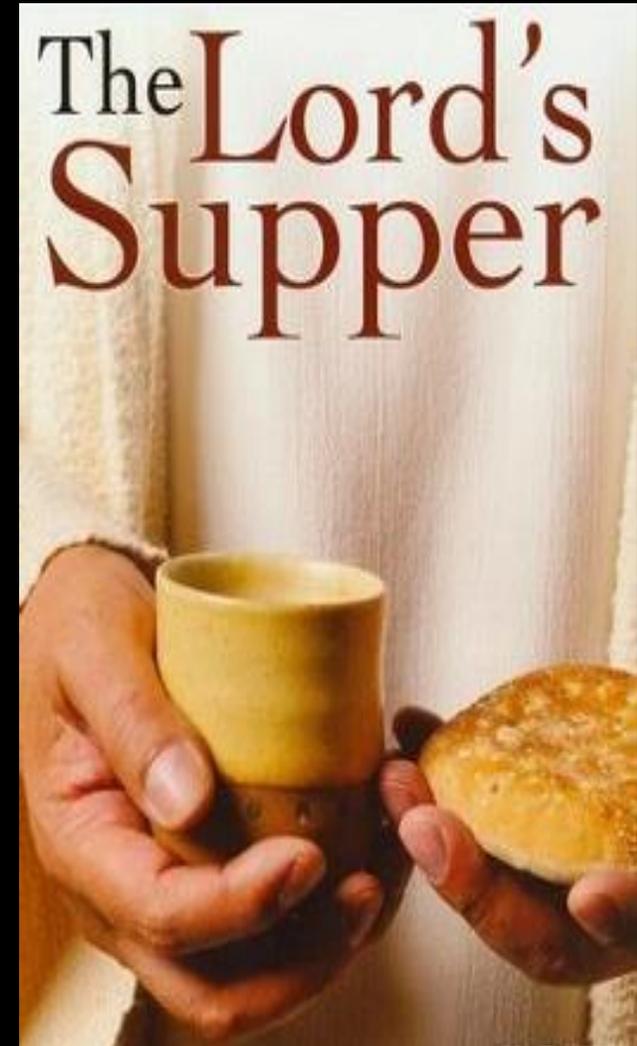
The Truth as it is in the Bible

Christ constantly used symbolism to describe Himself and His Kingdom to His followers. He called Himself a door, a vine, and even the bread of life. In the Old Testament, God was referred to as a rock, a horn, and a bird. These descriptions were clearly symbolic, used to help us humans understand God's character. When Christ said "this is my body" and "this is my blood," He was not speaking literally, but rather was again using elements of the natural world as teaching tools.

1 Corinthians 11 is a key passage used in support of transubstantiation. But do Scriptures really say that Christ's blood and body literally appear during communion? Read verses 23-29 Christ tells us to take the bread and wine in remembrance of Him. In other words, why would Christ ask us to participate in a ritual of remembrance until His return, if He was going to appear every time the custom was performed?

Also in both the Old and New Testaments, God's people are told to avoid consuming blood (See Genesis 9:4; Leviticus 17:12; 1 Samuel 14:34; Acts 15:29, 21:25).

- God never contradicts Himself, and therefore would not tell His people to drink blood.



Papal Strong holds - Christmas

Special Catholic feasts coincide with pagan holy days, and are celebrated in one form or another by most cultures.

For example, Lady Day is a Catholic feast celebrated on March 25. This is also the feast held in honor of the goddess of Cybele in ancient times.

Nobody knows when Jesus' birthday was.

Saturnalia is a classic example of a winter solstice festival, one of many which have evolved in different cultures to bring good cheer in the season of long nights, and to mark the sense a sense of renewal and rejuvenation.

In 274 AD, long after Saturnalia was already a thing, the Romans established yet another way to mark the season: a day to celebrate the sun god Sol Invictus.

And the day in question? December 25th.

By this point, Christianity was already a burgeoning religion, and within a handful of decades, Constantine the Great would officially adopt it as the religion of the Roman Empire. Early Christians would have freely shared in the good times of these pagan festivals, as a Christian scribe would write several centuries later:



**The first Saturnalia
celebrated in Rome**



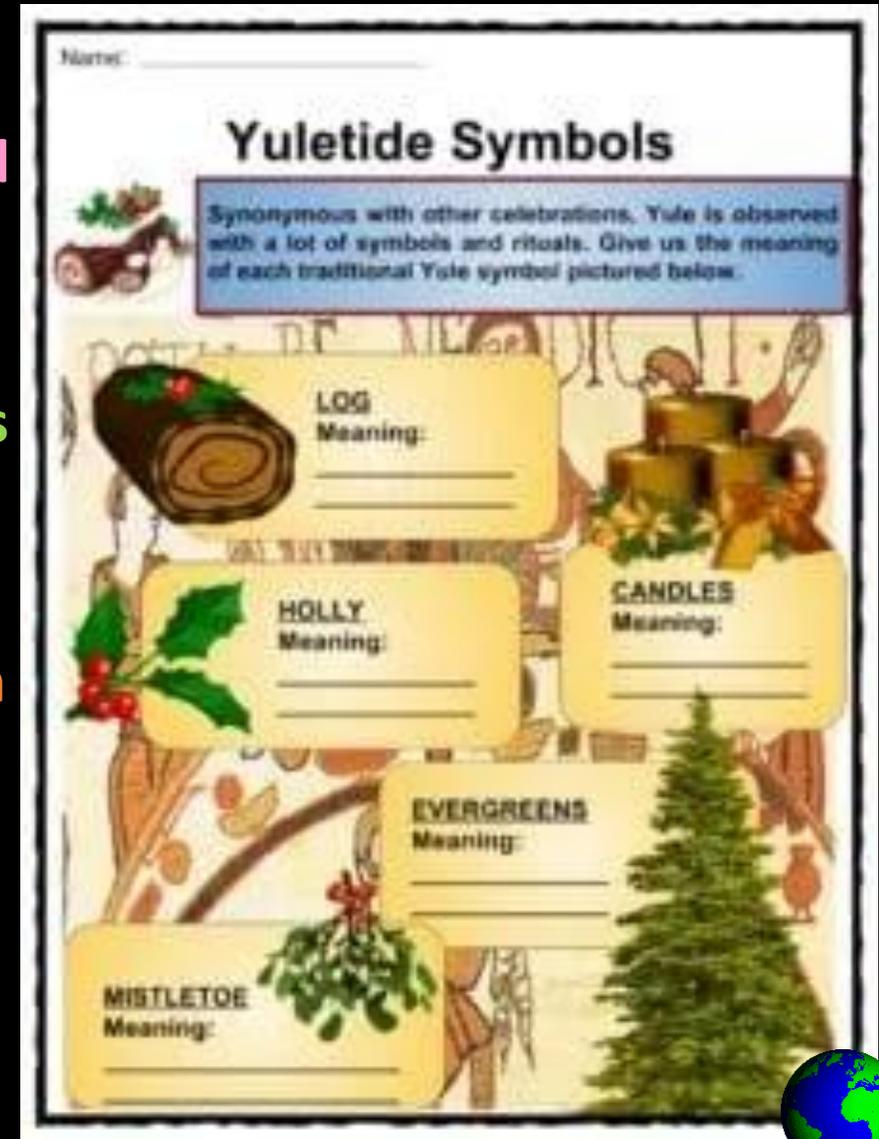
Papal Strong holds - Christmas (cont'd)

'It was a custom of the Pagans to celebrate on the same December 25 the birthday of the Sun, at which they kindled lights in token of festivity. In these solemnities and revelries, the Christians also took part.'

Less than a century later, Pope Julius I in 350 AD officially established that same date as Christ's birthday, conveniently appropriating the existing pagan shenanigans as a key Christian date.

But joining the dots between Saturnalia, Sol Invictus and Christmas doesn't tell the whole story. An equally important influence on our festive rituals today came from other parts of Europe, particularly the Germanic and Nordic peoples. The word 'Yule', for example, derives from a Viking festival which was held to encourage optimism and good luck during the depths of winter.

The saga goes onto to say that, 'Before that, Yule was celebrated on midwinter night', and that the king 'coaxed those who were dearest to him into becoming Christians'.



Papal Strong holds - Christmas (cont'd)

The Christmas Tree

When Nimrod was destroyed, he was symbolized as the tree that was cut off. To this day, his rebirth is celebrated as the new branch (Christmas tree) that sprouts from the sawed-off stump through the life-giving power of the serpent. The ancient practice of celebrating the birth of the sun god through the fir tree is found in most ancient religions, even those of the ancient Indian cultures of South America. - Alexander Hislop, *The Two Babylons* (Filiquarian Publishing LLC., 2007): 196.

In England, Christmas is celebrated by throwing the Yule log into the fire, representing the destruction of Nimrod. The Christmas tree was then decorated, symbolizing the rebirth of the sun god.

Animals: The sacrificial animals on this day were the unclean animals such as the pig and the goose. Both these animals are the main Christmas meal in European countries.



Oh,
Christmas
Tree!



THE LEGEND OF THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE
An evergreen sprang from the centre of an oak cut down by St. Boniface. The oak symbolized paganism, and its death brought an end to the old ways. The new tree was "the sign of endless life, for its leaves are evergreen." St. Boniface took this as a sign of the Christian faith.

The decorating of the Christmas tree offers an opportunity for family prayer.

PRAYER:
We praise you for the beauty of this tree: may its evergreen branches remind us of your unending care for all people; may its lights illumine the darkness of the winter nights; may its presence bring cheer and hope for all people. Amen.

HISTORY
11TH CENTURY
During Advent, religious plays were performed around Europe. There was always a tree on stage, decorated with red apples, to symbolize the Tree of Paradise.
15TH CENTURY
The faithful began displaying paradise trees in their homes on December 24, the feast of Adam and Eve.
16TH CENTURY
Decorated standing trees became popular in Germany and France. Immigrants brought the tradition to America, but the custom was not popular until the 19th century.
18TH CENTURY
The Christmas tree tradition started in Canada.



The Christmas tree reminds us of:

- the tree planted in the centre of Eden
- the tree of the Cross



Papal Strong holds - Christmas (cont'd)

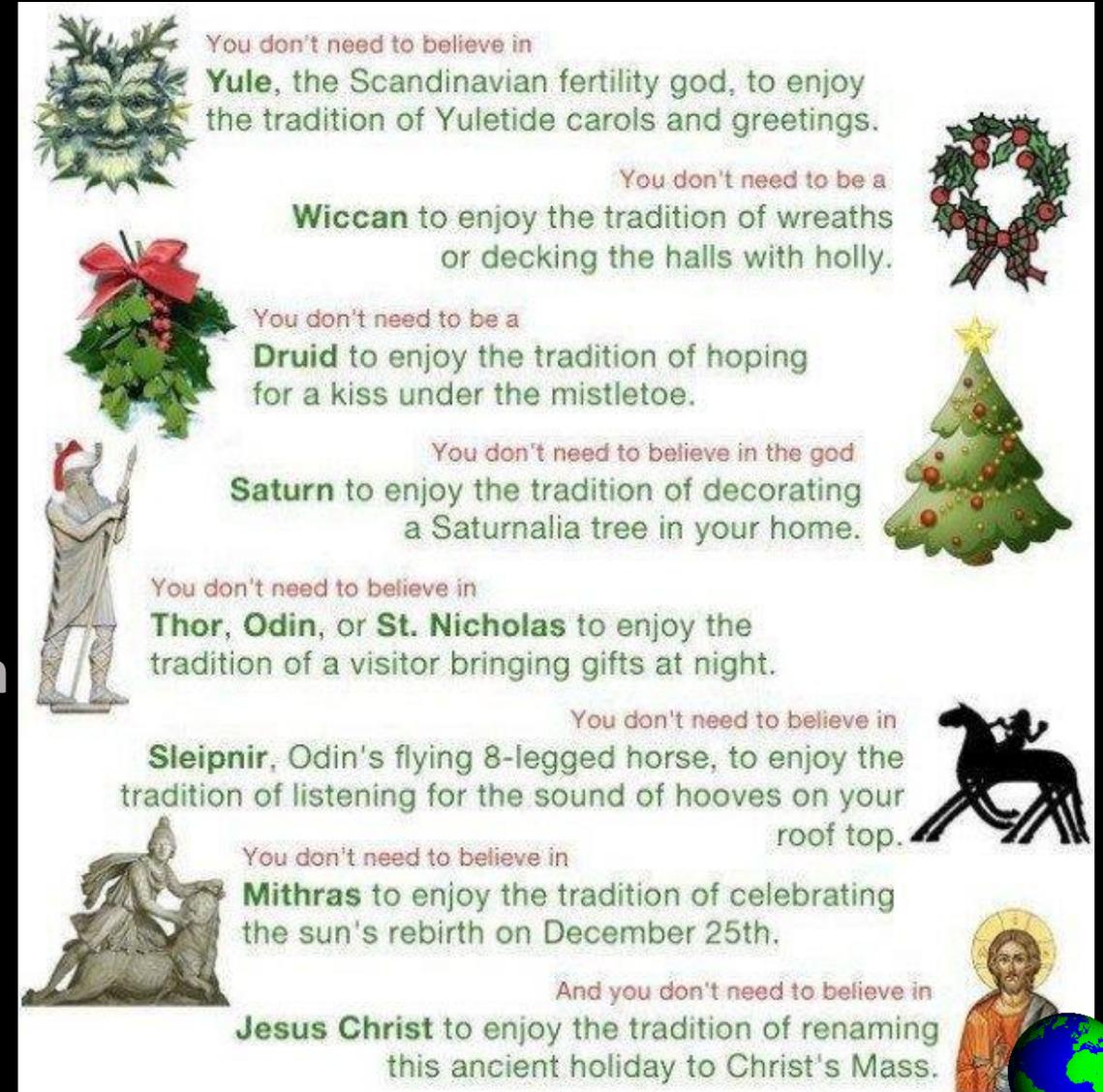
Santa Claus:

Santa Claus has virtually replaced Jesus Christ as the main feature of Christmas. Santa rides across the skies in his reindeer-drawn chariot. He is made acceptable by his friendly appearance, but he has the same characteristics as the ancient sun deities:

The birth of Osiris, the Egyptian sun god, coincided with the day of solstice, and on this day he would ride through the heavens in his chariot.

The Greek sun god Helios would ride through the sky in his sun chariot drawn by horses as depicted in the great fountain of Versailles.

In the Hindu culture, the Sûrya and his charioteer Aruna rides across the sky in a horse-drawn sun chariot. In other cultures, animals such as the goat (Zeus) or the reindeer pull the chariot.



You don't need to believe in **Yule**, the Scandinavian fertility god, to enjoy the tradition of Yuletide carols and greetings.

You don't need to be a **Wiccan** to enjoy the tradition of wreaths or decking the halls with holly.

You don't need to be a **Druid** to enjoy the tradition of hoping for a kiss under the mistletoe.

You don't need to believe in the god **Saturn** to enjoy the tradition of decorating a Saturnalia tree in your home.

You don't need to believe in **Thor, Odin, or St. Nicholas** to enjoy the tradition of a visitor bringing gifts at night.

You don't need to believe in **Sleipnir**, Odin's flying 8-legged horse, to enjoy the tradition of listening for the sound of hooves on your roof top.

You don't need to believe in **Mithras** to enjoy the tradition of celebrating the sun's rebirth on December 25th.

And you don't need to believe in **Jesus Christ** to enjoy the tradition of renaming this ancient holiday to Christ's Mass.



Papal Strong holds - Christmas (cont'd)



DEAR CHILDREN
One Day You Will Learn Everything About Santa Claus.
On That Day Remember Everything The Adults Have Told You
About Jesus.

Santa, as taught to most children, has the attributes of God:

1. He is virtually omnipresent: He can visit hundreds of millions of homes in one night.
2. He is omniscient: He monitors each child, he is all-seeing and all-knowing, and he knows when they are bad and good. He can manufacture gifts for hundreds of millions of children, and deliver them in one night—each to the correct child.
3. He is all-good and all-just: He judges which children have shown good behaviour and rewards them appropriately. Bad children are bypassed or receive a lump of coal.
4. He is eternal. - Vance Ferrell, Christmas, Easter and Halloween—Where Do They Come From?



The Truth as it is in the Bible

Jesus was not even born in the winter season! When the Christ-child was born "there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night," (Luke 2:8). This could never have occurred in Judea in the month of December. The shepherds always brought their flocks from the mountainsides and fields and corralled them not later than October 15, to protect them from the cold, rainy season that followed that date. Notice that the Bible itself proves, in Song of Solomon 2:11 and Ezra 10:9, 13, that winter was a rainy season not permitting shepherds to abide in open fields at night.

"It was ancient custom among Jews of those days to send out their sheep to the fields and deserts about the Passover (early spring), and bring them home at commencement of the first rain," - Adam Clarke Commentary (Vol. 5, page 370, New York ed.)

If God had wished us to observe and celebrate Christ's birthday, He would not have so completely hidden the exact date.



Babylon - Semiramis and Nimrod/Tammuz

A halo or sun-disk about the head - denotes sun-god worship.

Notice the "Halo" Nimbus or Sun-Disk



Mother and Child Worship



Continuing on Daniel 11:39...

Shall divide the land for gain - in the past, and to this day no political leader will do anything major without first asking permission of the popes. As Roman Catholic priest Malachi Martin admits in his book, "the keys of this blood" on page 430 "The Vatican knows Saturday what will happen on Monday anywhere in the world." And on page 143 he stated "Papal structure is prepared for worldwide rule now." That book was published in 1990 when the Pope only had 91 nations in agreement. At John Paul II's death they had 174 nations, and soon after, China joined to make it 175. The papacy has always claimed the right to divide the planet as she sees fit.

This "New World Order" is Rome's modern day prophetic fingerprint exposing them. Most claim the Popes have no such power, but they have had this power for eons.

When the Normans under king Henry II took Ireland, it was Pope Adrian IV who first "gave him permission" to do so. Also in regards to the new world discoveries, the entire new world was divided, by Pope Julius II in 1506, between the Spanish and the Portuguese. - <https://www.britannica.com/event/Treaty-of-Tordesillas>



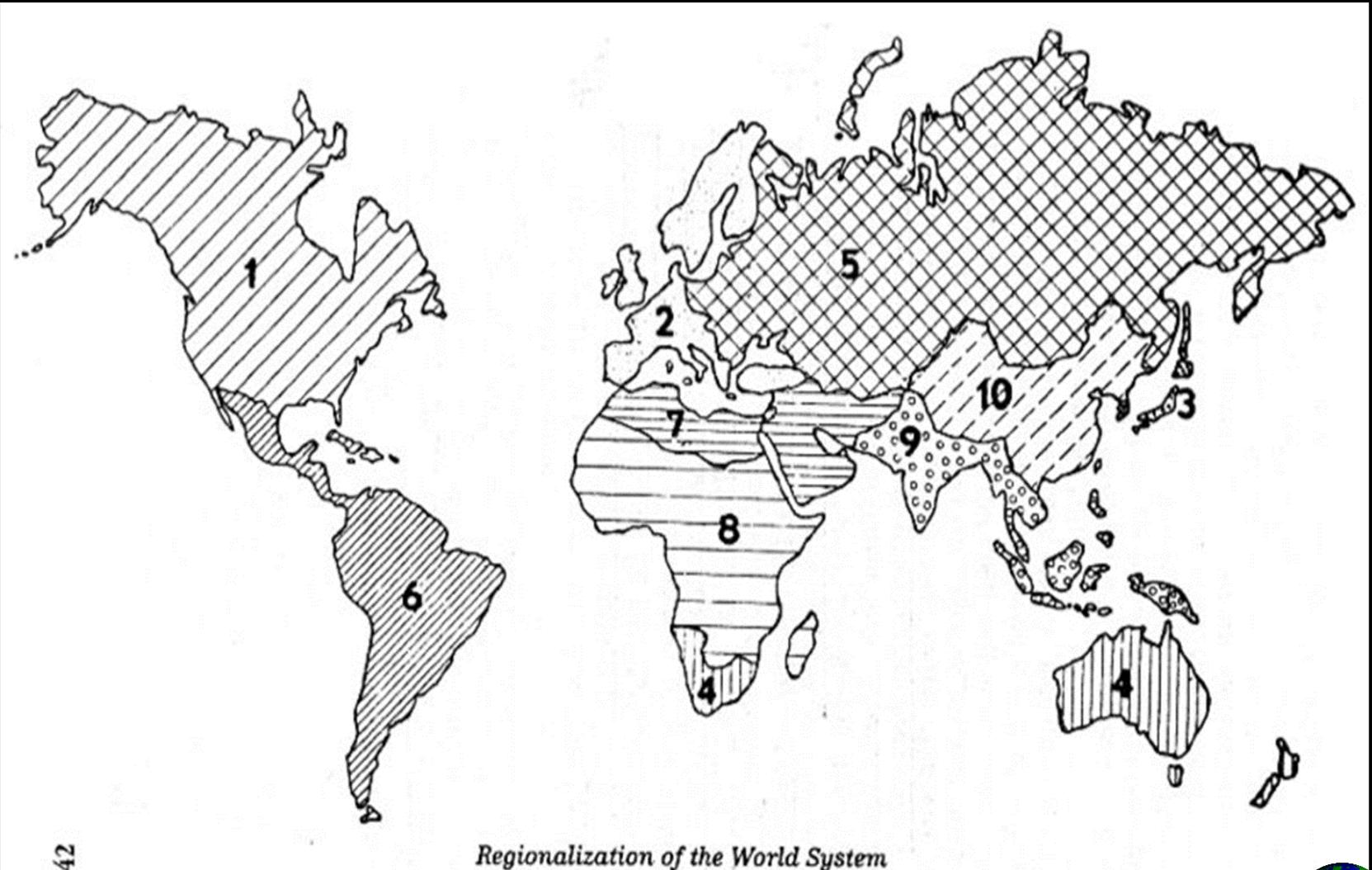
Papal ambassadors in all the world

Here is an overview of the Holy See's diplomatic relations in January 2022:

The Holy See maintains full diplomatic relations with one hundred eighty three (183) countries out of the one hundred ninety-five (195) member countries of the UN.

In comparison, China has an ambassador in 169 countries, the United States in 168 countries and France in 161 countries.

- <https://aleteia.org/2022/01/10/vatican-diplomacy-by-the-numbers-5-key-stats/>



Ending Daniel 11:39...

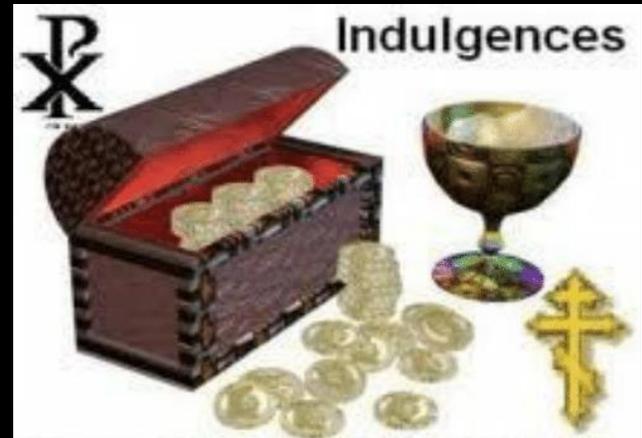
For a price (margin) - This is very true in regards to the Papacy as everything they do is "for a price."

1. It can bring forgiveness "for a price,"
2. It can help the dead who are supposed to be in purgatory "for a price".
3. And "for a price" it can sprinkle water on infants for baptism.

In recent months, dioceses around the world have been offering Catholics a spiritual benefit that fell out of favour decades ago the indulgence, a sort of amnesty from punishment in the afterlife and reminding them of the church's clout in mitigating the wages of sin.

The fact that many Catholics under 50 have never sought one, and never heard of indulgences except in high school European history (Martin Luther denounced the selling of them in 1517 while igniting the Protestant Reformation), simply makes their reintroduction more urgent among church leaders bent on restoring fading traditions of penance in what they see as a self-satisfied world.

"Why are we bringing it back?" asked Bishop Nicholas A. DiMarzio of Brooklyn, who has embraced the move. "Because there is sin in the world." - <https://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/10/nyregion/10indulgence.html>



"Popes published lists of every sort of crime with a price for each sin - for which the Church would give absolution."

In 1530, the Catholic Church issued "Papal Indulgences," literally sins one could commit for a price. The modern equivalent? Mueller absolving Cohen for lies to Congress he had YET to commit. What. The. Effing. HELL, people. We are going back in time!

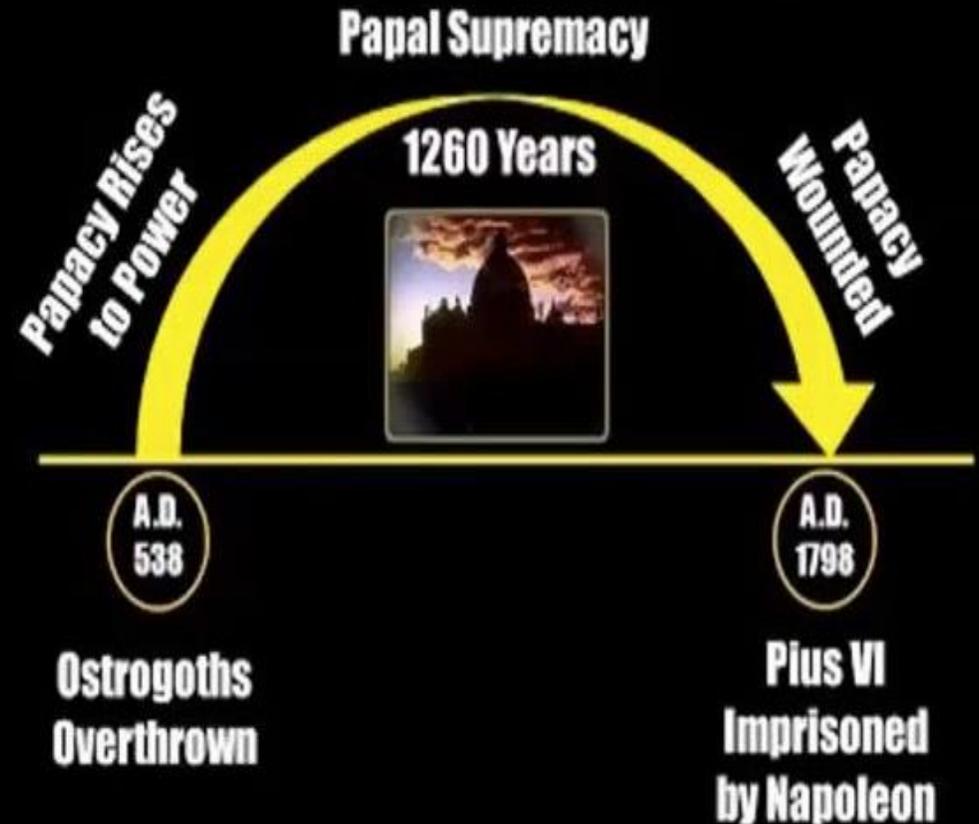


The Papacy during the 1260 Years

Significantly, the papacy had the audacity to tamper with God's Law by deleting the second commandment and by changing the day of worship from Sabbath to the day of the sun. Thus the abomination of desolation was set up during the 1260 years by idolatry in general and by Sunday keeping more specifically.

“To afford converts from heathenism a substitute for the worship of idols, and thus to promote their nominal acceptance of Christianity, the adoration of images and relics was gradually introduced into Christian worship. The decree of a general council [Second Council of Nice, A. D. 787] finally established this system of idolatry. To complete the sacrilegious work, Rome presumed to expunge from the law of God the second commandment, forbidding image worship and to divide the tenth commandment, in order to preserve the number.” - *The Great Controversy*, 1888 edition, p.51

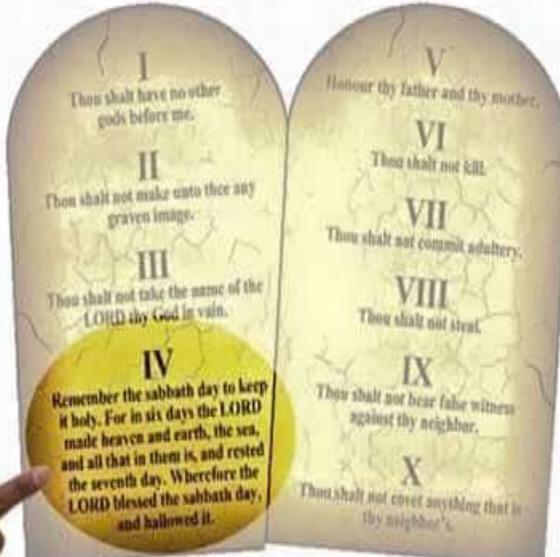
The 1260 Years of Papal Supremacy



Sunday observance an Abomination

“But the question of Sabbath and Sunday observance is to be agitated everywhere and the deceptions of Satan will flood the world. The man of sin has instituted a spurious sabbath and the Protestant world has taken this child of the papacy and cradled and nurtured it. Satan means to make all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of the fornication of Babylon. Men are binding themselves together in bonds of union to show their disloyalty to the God of heaven. The first day of the week is to be exalted and presented to all for observance. Shall we be partakers of this cup of abomination? Shall we bow to the authorities of earth and despise God?” - Review and Herald, April 15, 1890

The Sabbath Day
Call The Sabbath A Delight, The Holy Of The Lord...
ISAIAH 58:13



I
Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

II
Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.

III
Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain.

IV
Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day. Wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

V
Honour thy father and thy mother.

VI
Thou shalt not kill.

VII
Thou shalt not commit adultery.

VIII
Thou shalt not steal.

IX
Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

X
Thou shalt not covet anything that is thy neighbor's.

Remember...

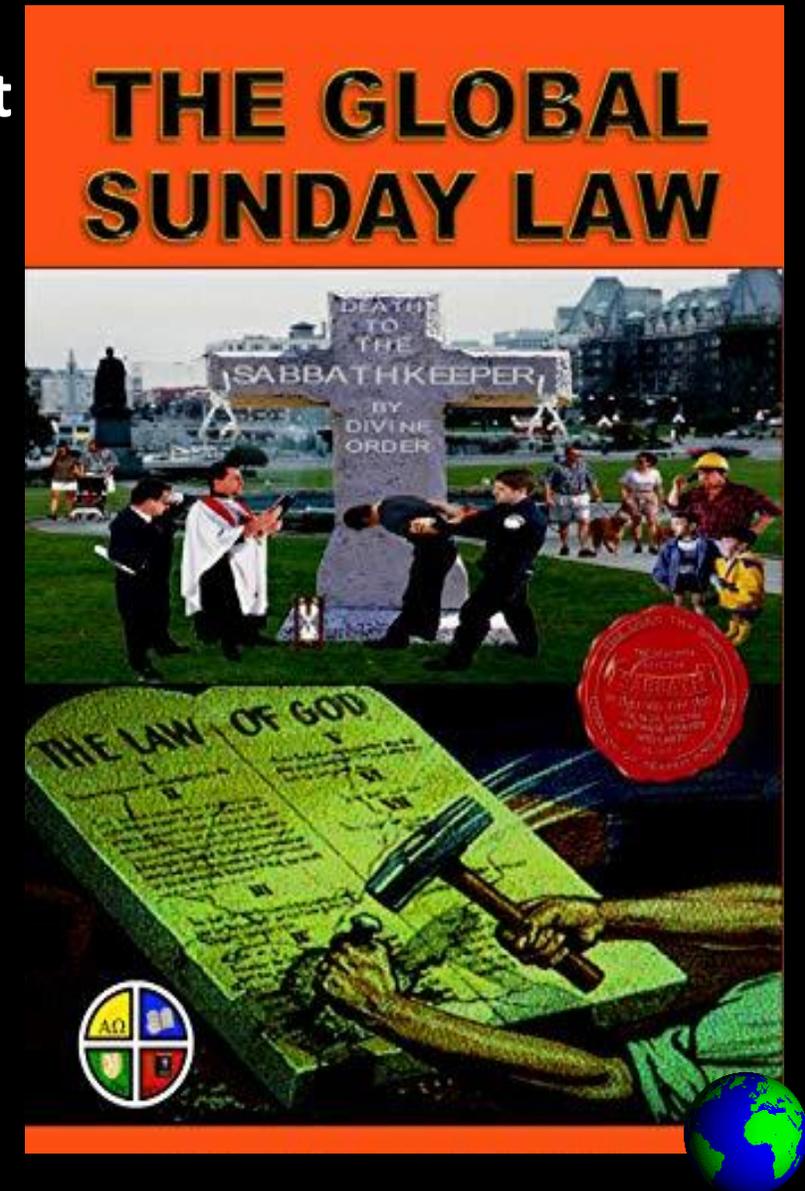
HAPPY SABBATH!



The End Time Abomination of Desolation

When the papacy attempted to change the day of worship at the beginning of the 1260 year prophecy, it set up the abomination of desolation in history. **Notably, the pen of inspiration repeatedly calls Sunday the idol Sabbath.** The change in the law with the aid of the political power would thus be linked with the abomination of desolation. **This abomination of desolation that was set up during the 1260 years also has a future dimension.** Ellen White tells us that the national Sunday law at the end will be the abomination of desolation. **So the abomination of desolation has a past dimension and a future one as well.**

“The Sunday idol is set up as was this image [in Daniel 3]. Human laws demand that it be worshiped as sacred and holy, thus putting it where God's holy Sabbath should be. The Protestant world has set up an idol sabbath in the place where God's Sabbath should be [reminds us of the abomination of desolations that is set up where it ought not be], and they are treading in the footsteps of the Papacy.” - Manuscript Releases, volume 12, pp. 219, 220



Conclusion

“Satan has taken the world captive. He has introduced an idol sabbath, apparently giving to it great importance. He has stolen the homage of the Christian world away from the Sabbath of the Lord for this idol sabbath. The world bows to a tradition, a manmade commandment. As Nebuchadnezzar set up his golden image on the plain of Dura, and so exalted himself, so Satan exalts himself in this false sabbath, for which he has stolen the livery of heaven.” - *Review and Herald*, March 8, 1898

“Those who respect this human law will be favoured, but those who will not bow to the idol sabbath will have no favours shown them.” - *Maranatha*, p. 195

History [the history of Esther] will repeat itself. In this age the test will be on the point of Sabbath observance. The same masterful mind that plotted against the faithful in ages past, is now at work to gain control of the falling churches, that through them he may condemn and put to death all who will not worship the idol sabbath.” - *Signs of the Times*, February 22, 1910



BIBLE PROPHECY

IS FAST FULFILLING

SUNDAY LAW IS COMING

SECTION 237 OF LAUDATO SI

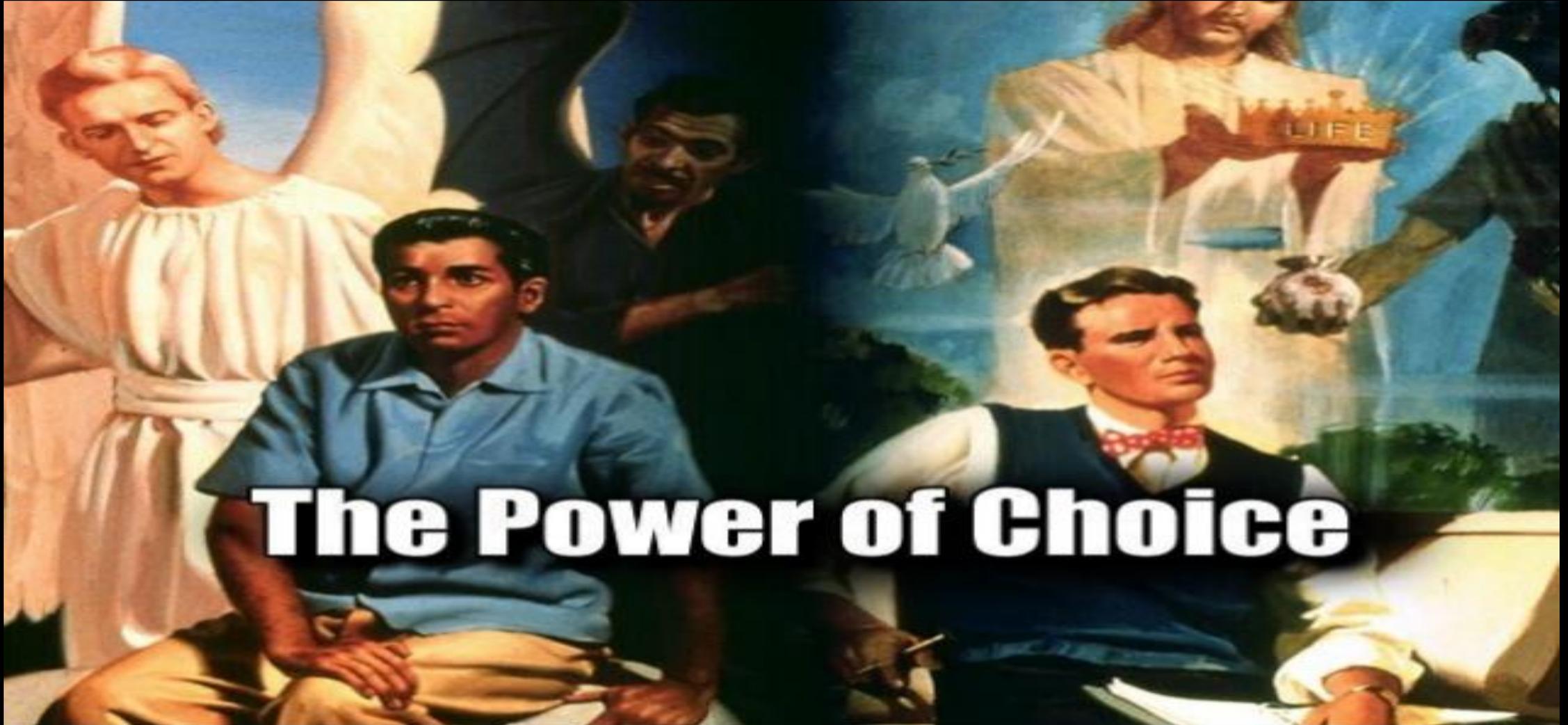
CALLS FOR A RETURN TO SUNDAY (FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK) REST, SACREDNESS AND OBSERVANCE AS A WAY OF HEALING THE WORLD MORALLY AND COMBATING ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

LAUDATO SI'
ON CARE FOR
OUR COMMON HOME

POPE FRANCIS
ENCYCLICAL LETTER

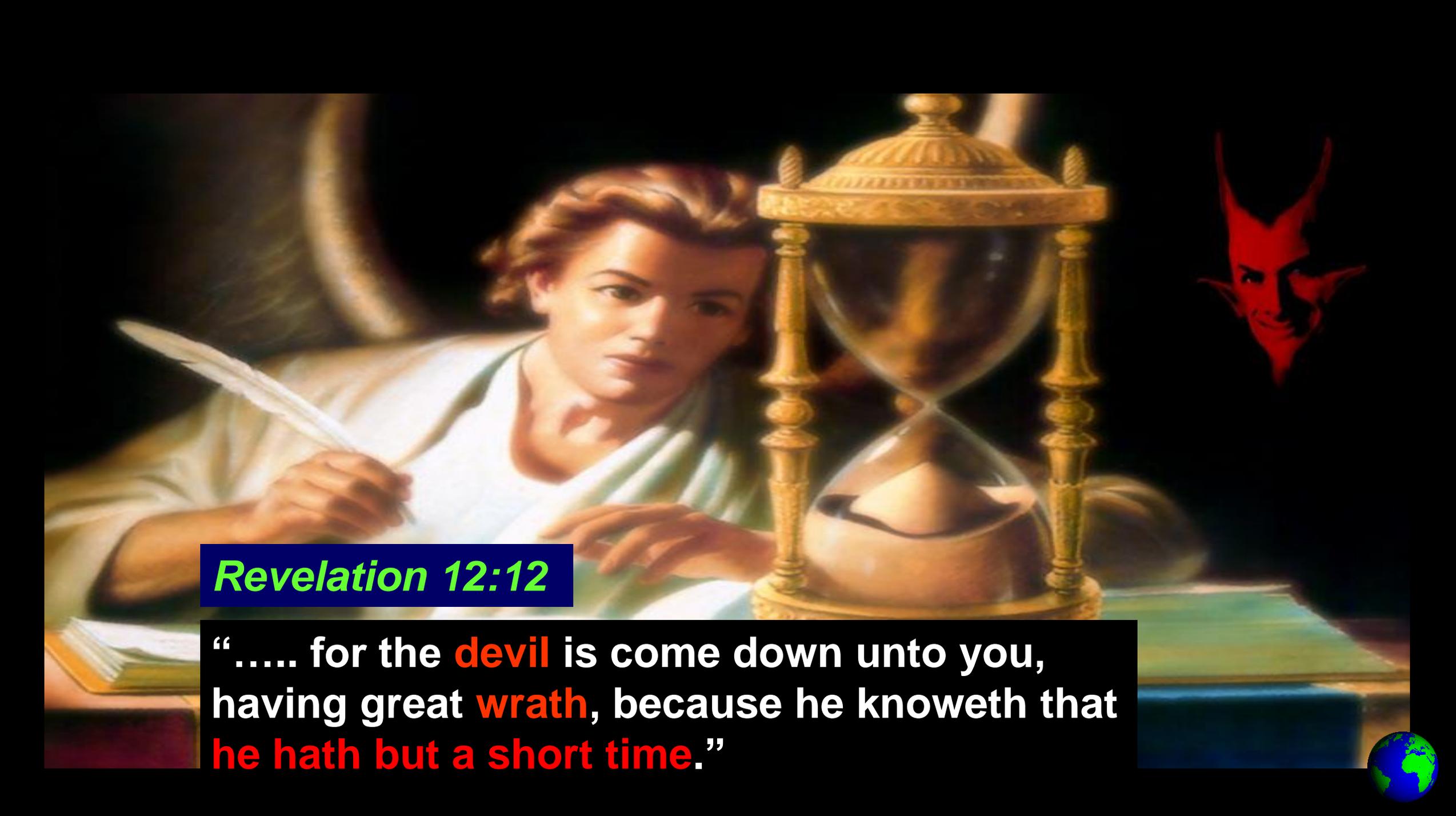
@TheMusicEvangelists

God has given all:



The Power of Choice



An angel with a halo and wings is shown writing in a book with a quill pen. To the right of the angel is a large, ornate golden hourglass. In the background, a red devil's face with horns is visible. The scene is set in a dimly lit room with a book on a desk.

Revelation 12:12

“..... for the **devil** is come down unto you, having great **wrath**, because he knoweth that **he hath but a short time.**”



Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd.

– John 10:16



The Ark of the Covenant



Psalms 77:13

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. –
Revelation 3:20





THE END



ARE YOU READY TO MEET JESUS?