

MINISTRY UPDATE | SECOND QUARTER 2016

SECRETS UNSEALED



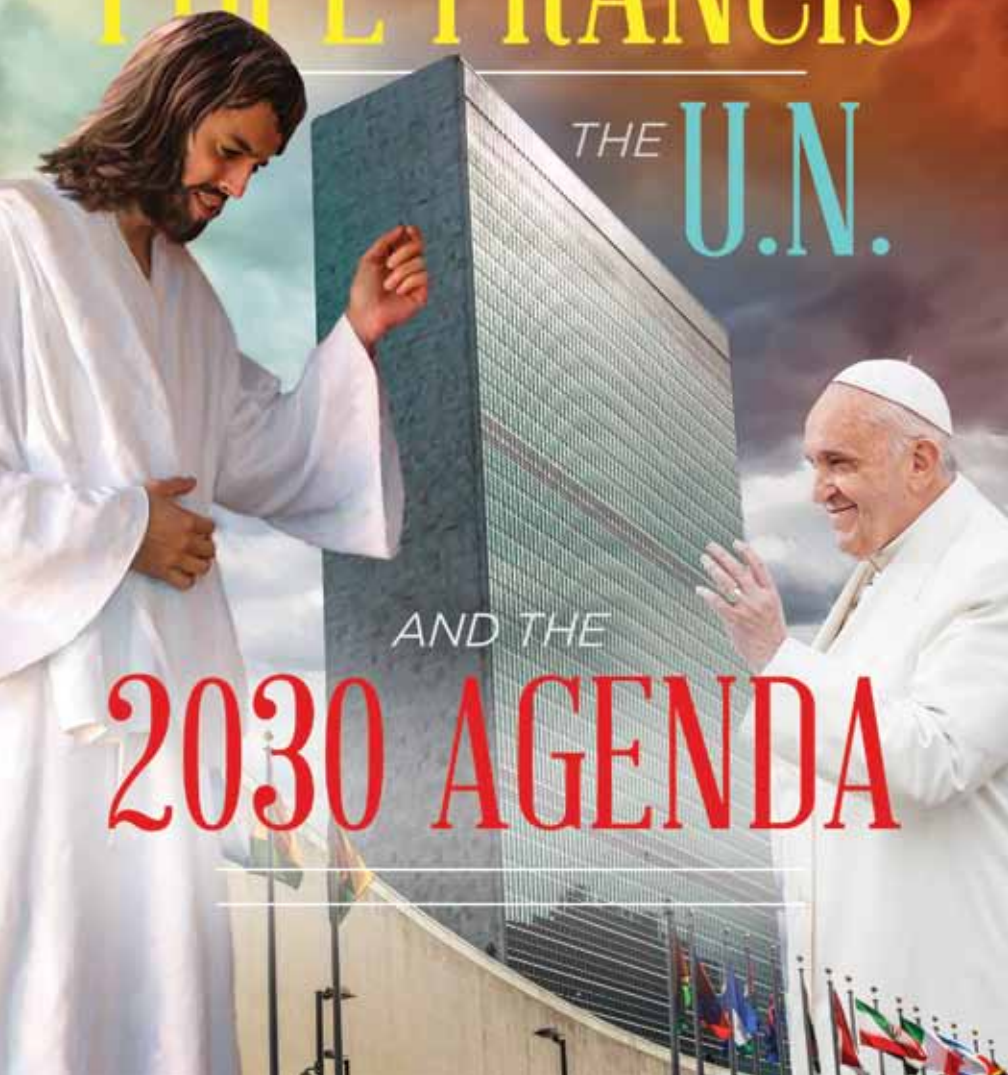
REFLECTIONS ON

POPE FRANCIS

THE U.N.

AND THE

2030 AGENDA



Dear *friend* of Secrets Unsealed,

As I write this, the world seems to be spinning out of control and on its way to a chaotic and cataclysmic end. As Luke so well expressed it, men's hearts are failing them for fear as they see the things that are befalling the earth. Election season strife, ever more frequent and catastrophic natural disasters, terrorist attacks, strife among nations, disease causing viruses and moral decay in society appear to be the rule of the day.

All of these things cause untold stress and anxiety among worldlings, but it should not be so with God's people. We need not get stressed out, depressed or anxious about all these things because we know how it will end! Jesus encouraged His followers with the assurance that when they see all these things they can be sure that their redemption is near!!

In our last Secrets Unsealed newsletter I wrote a very important article on the papacy's strategy for one world governance ("Reflections on the Pope's Agenda"). The article was so well received that the newsletter quickly went out of print. I encourage you to carefully read this follow up article ("Reflections on the Pope, the U.N. and the 2030 Agenda") where I describe how the papacy is implementing its strategic end game to win over the unconditional support of world leaders.

In 1909 Ellen White predicted that the final movements would be rapid ones. Well, those movements have become supersonic! At Secrets Unsealed we are committed to keeping the church and the world informed about the stupendous events that will soon explode upon the world scene.

In closing, I want to thank those who continuously support this, God's ministry, with prayers and financial support. Be assured that the resources that you invest in Secrets Unsealed will be used for God's glory to spread like the leaves of autumn God's last warning message to a dying world.

Blessings,



Pastor Stephen P. Bohr

President and Speaker, *Secrets Unsealed*



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REFLECTIONS ON

POPE FRANCIS

THE U.N.

AND THE

2030 AGENDA

by PASTOR STEPHEN BOHR

Three Questions

I would like to begin this newsletter article by asking three simple yet important questions:

- According to the Bible, what distinguishes the true God from every false pretender?
- What qualifies God to receive our worship in contrast to all pretenders?
- Do the true God and the false pretenders have a visible sign of their authority?

Let's answer the first question by referring to 1 Chronicles 16:26: "For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens." (1 Chronicles 16:26)

Clearly, what distinguishes the true God from all pretenders is that He exerted His omnipotent power to create the heavens and the earth. Some may think that in this sophisticated age we are far too intelligent to bow down and worship false gods. Yet, surprising as it may seem, the book of Revelation explains that in the last remnant of time, the whole world will bow down and worship the beast and receive the mark of his authority.

Why Do We Worship?

Let's answer the second question. What qualifies God to receive our worship in contrast to all pretenders? Psalm 95 has the answer. God alone is our Creator and for this reason He is entitled to our worship:

"Oh come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. For the Lord is the great God, and the great King above all gods. In His hand are the deep places of the earth; the heights of the hills are His also. The sea is His, for He made it; and His hands formed the dry land. Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker." (Psalm 95:1-6)

Nehemiah 9:6, in full agreement with the Psalmist, affirms that the host of heaven worships the true God because He made heaven, earth, and everything in them: "You alone are the Lord; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is

in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You."

The Memorial of Creation

Before we answer the third question we must revisit the Genesis creation account. The creation story tells us that God finished His work in six literal days: "Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished." (Genesis 1:31-2:1)

The careful reader of these verses will notice that although God finished His creative work on the sixth day, He had not yet ended His work: "And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made." (Genesis 2:2, 3)

You might wonder what sense it makes to say that God finished His work on the sixth day but ended it on the seventh. How could God's work be finished after six days and yet still be incomplete? What was missing?

Perhaps an analogy would help us understand how God finished His work on the sixth day and yet ended it on the seventh ('finished' and 'ended' are the same Hebrew word *kalah*). After several days of work an artist can finish painting a masterpiece, but has his work really ended? Yes, and no. The artist has finished the work of painting the masterpiece, but his work has not

ended until he signs his name on the canvass. The signature authenticates the creator of the masterpiece!

In the same manner, in six days God painted a living masterpiece—the earth and everything in it—and on the seventh He signed His work by instituting a permanent memorial lest man should forget the identity of the Creator. We have many memorials etched in time that we celebrate to commemorate important historical events such as the fourth of July. So it was that God etched a weekly memorial in time so that His creatures would not forget the Creator.

God knew that man might forget the Creator and worship the work of his own hands, so on the seventh day, after God had rested from His active work, He established a permanent memorial that would identify the Creator.

Several facts emerge as we examine the creation account:

FIRST, the world did not come into existence by a long and drawn out process of evolution. The days of creation were literal 24-hour days just like those we experience today. We know this for several reasons:

- Each day had an evening and morning which would be absurd if the days were long periods of time.
- Psalm 33:9 tells us that God “spoke, and it was done; He commanded and it stood fast.”
- Six times in the creation account we are told that after God created something: “it was so.”

- Exodus 20 affirms that we must work six days and rest on the seventh day as God did at creation. It would be impossible to follow God’s example if the days of creation week were millions of years in length.

SECOND, everything that God made during the first six days of creation week was made for the entire human race. If this is true, then the seventh-day Sabbath must also have been made for the entire human race. You cannot say that the world and all that is in it was made for all humanity but the Sabbath was made for the Jews. At creation there were no Jews!

THIRD, in its initial function, the Sabbath was not a shadow or type of the future rest of redemption because the Sabbath was created before redemption was necessary. The Sabbath is the prelapsarian sign of the Creator and in its original function has nothing to do with redemption.

FOURTH, the Sabbath is explicitly identified three times in the creation account as the seventh day of the week. God did not say that creation should be remembered every seventh day or one day in seven; He explicitly blessed and sanctified THE seventh day of the week, the day we call Saturday.

FIFTH, God did three things with regards to the seventh-day Sabbath at creation: He first rested on it, and after resting He blessed it and made it holy to commemorate His rest.

Some Sunday keepers have questioned whether the seventh day today is the same seventh day of creation week. They argue that we have no way of knowing if our weekly cycle today goes all the way back to creation week. Let’s reflect upon this argument for a moment. Many Christians agree that we should keep Sunday today because it is the very day that Jesus resurrected from the dead. But those who reason in this fashion don’t take their argument to its logical conclusion. It stands to reason that if today’s Sunday is the same day that Jesus resurrected, then today’s Sabbath is the same Sabbath as well! And if Jesus kept the same Sabbath on our calendar today, then it must have been the same Sabbath of creation because He was the Creator and He would not have kept the wrong day!

Henry Morris, a staunch creationist wrote: “The Lord himself had worked six days, then rested on the seventh, setting thereby a permanent pattern for the benefit of mankind.” Henry Morris, Biblical Creationism, p. 62

We certainly can agree with Morris on this point, but we must strongly disagree with his conclusion that Christians can choose to rest on any day in seven because it is uncertain whether the weekly cycle has been preserved since creation week.

In contrast to Morris, Ellen White has explicitly stated: “Like the Sabbath, the week originated at creation, and it has been preserved and brought down to us through Bible history. God Himself measured off the first week as a sample for successive weeks to the close of time. Like every other, it consisted of seven

literal days. Six days were employed in the work of creation; upon the seventh, God rested, and He then blessed this day and set it apart as a day of rest for man.” Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 111

Command to Keep the Memorial

Some have argued that the Sabbath is not a creation institution because the story says that God rested and not man. ‘After all’, they say, ‘nowhere in the creation account is man commanded by God to rest on the seventh day Sabbath’. This argument is undermined by the Fourth Commandment where God commanded His people to keep the seventh-day Sabbath in commemoration of creation. Notice Exodus 20:8-11: “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For [‘because’] in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”

The links between the Sabbath of the creation account and the Sabbath of the Fourth Commandment are broad and clear:

- The word ‘remember’ at the very beginning of the commandment takes the mind back to a past event that is being commemorated—creation.

- In both accounts, we are told that God **worked six days** and **rested on the seventh**.
- In both accounts we are told that God did **three things** with regard to the Sabbath: He rested on it, He blessed it and He made it holy.
- In both of the accounts the **reason** for resting on the Sabbath is linked with God as the Creator.

Isaiah 66:22, 23 links the three ideas that we have been pursuing in our study:

- **CREATION**: God will create a new heavens and a new earth.
- **WORSHIP**: All flesh—not merely the Jews—will come to worship the Creator.
- **SABBATH**: The day on which all flesh will come is the seventh-day Sabbath.

*“For as the new heavens and the new earth which **I will make** shall remain before Me,’ says the Lord, ‘So shall your descendants and your name remain. And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one **Sabbath** to another, all flesh shall come to **worship** before Me,’ says the Lord.”*

God the Proprietor

Now we turn to another important point. Psalm 24:1, 2 reads: “**The earth is the Lord’s**, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein **for** [because] He has founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the waters.”

The Psalmist explicitly explains that God owns the earth and everything in it because He is the Creator. The light, the firmament, the vegetation, the

heavenly luminaries, the birds, the fish, the land animals, and human beings all **belong to Him** because He **created them**. It stands to reason that if everything that God made during the first six days of creation week belongs to Him, the Sabbath would belong to Him as well. Didn’t God make the Sabbath for man along with everything else? (Mark 2:27).

The Bible repeatedly refers to the day of rest as **God’s possession**, as ‘the Sabbath **of** the Lord’. Jesus, the active Agent in creation, referred to Himself as the **Lord of the Sabbath**. If Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath, then the Sabbath is the Lord’s day! It is just as much His as everything else that He made during creation week. It would be an absurdity and an insult to the Creator to refer to the Sabbath as the ‘Sabbath of the Jews’. Did God create it exclusively for them?

A Sign Between God and His People

After this long digression we move to the third question: Does the true Creator God have a **visible sign** of His creative power? The answer is yes. The Sabbath is not merely a memorial of creation; according to Exodus 31:16, 17 it is also **a sign** between God and His people: “*Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. It is a **sign** between Me and the children of Israel forever; **for** [because] in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the **seventh day** He **rested** and was refreshed.*”

At this point someone might object:

“These verses clearly state that the Sabbath was a sign between **God and Israel**, not between God and Christians.”

At first sight this argument appears conclusive until we examine it more carefully and take several facts into account.

It defies logic to say that nine commandments apply to everyone but only one applies to the Jews.

First, God gave **all** Ten Commandments **to Israel**. Does this mean that the Ten Commandments were binding only upon Israel because they were given to them? To answer yes would be absurd! It defies logic to say that nine commandments apply to everyone but only one applies to the Jews. God gave the Ten Commandments to Israel because they were His people at the time, but that does not mean that they were binding **only** upon **literal** Israel. The text does not say that the Sabbath was a sign **exclusively** between God and literal Israel.

Second, these verses clearly transcend literal Israel because **creation** is given as the reason why the Sabbath is a sign between God and His people. That is to say, the Sabbath is to be observed because God established it as a sign **of creation**. Would it make any sense to think that Israel alone was required to keep the Sabbath in commemoration of creation? Do not all human beings need to be reminded that God created the heavens, the earth and everything in them?

Third, Galatians 3:28, 29 states that those who are ‘in Christ’ are Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise. If Christians are Abraham’s seed, then they are members of Israel and as such should keep the Sabbath.

Finally, Isaiah 56:4-7 clearly states that the Sabbath was intended for Gentiles as well as Jews, and Jesus explicitly affirmed that the Sabbath **was made for man** (Mark 2:27).

Thus our Lord taught that

the Sabbath was a creation institution that was made for the benefit of man. The use of the word *anthropos* by Jesus is significant. He did not say that the Sabbath was made for Israel but rather for ‘humankind’ (NRSV).

Ezekiel 20:12, 20 confirms that the **Sabbath is a sign** between God and His people: “*Moreover I also gave them My Sabbaths, to be **a sign** between them and Me, that they might know that I am the Lord who **sanctifies them** ... hallow My Sabbaths, and they will be **a sign** between Me and you, that **you may know that I am the Lord your God**.*”

Some have wondered whether these ‘Sabbaths’ might be the **yearly sabbaths** that belonged to the ceremonial law. The answer is no for at least three reasons: First, there is no evidence that the **ceremonial Sabbaths** were ever given to be a sign between God and His people. Second, Ezekiel 20:12, 20 uses the identical **Hebrew word** for ‘sign’ as does Exodus 31:16, 17, and in Exodus the word indisputably refers to the seventh-day Sabbath. Finally, the creation account as well as the Fourth

Commandment explicitly state that **God sanctified** the seventh-day Sabbath, and in Ezekiel we are told that the Sabbaths were a sign that God **sanctifies** His people.

End Time Message and Sign

Now we must move to the end time. Revelation 14:6-12 contains God's three-part message to the world just before the second coming of Jesus. The first message, using language that is reminiscent of the Fourth Commandment and the creation account, commands **everyone on the planet**—every nation, tribe, tongue and people—to worship the Creator: *"Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice: 'Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.'"*

According to Revelation 7:1-3, those who obey the first angel's message and worship the Creator will be sealed on their foreheads. Let's read these verses keeping in mind that the New Testament uses the words 'seal' and 'sign' interchangeably (Romans 4:11 cf. Revelation 7:2; 14:1): *"After these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it*

was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

Summarizing

So let's summarize what we have studied so far:

- The **true God** is distinguished from all false pretenders because He is the Creator.
- We **worship** and serve the true God because He is the Creator.
- The **memorial and sign** of the Creator is the seventh-day Sabbath.
- The **first week** of history was just like every other week—each day consisted of **24 literal hours**.
- At the end, God will have **a people** who worship the Creator and receive His sign.

Third Angel's Message

Now we must move on to discuss an end time **pretender** who will claim to occupy the place of God, demand worship, and impose the visible sign of his authority.

In our previous section, we referred to the first angel's message where everyone on the planet is commanded **to worship** the Creator and to receive **His seal**. The third angel's message stands in contrast to the first by warning the world **not to worship** the beast or receive his **mark**. Thus the book of Revelation indicates that the final conflict will be between those who worship God the Creator and receive His sign and those who worship the beast as

God and receive his mark:

"Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." (Revelation 14:9-11)

Let's draw some **conclusions** from the contrast between the first and third angel's message:

- While the first angel's message commands the world **to worship** the Cre-

ator, the third angel warns the world **not to worship** the beast.

- Because the beast claims the right to receive worship, he must also claim to occupy **God's place** on earth.
- The beast will command every person on earth to prove their allegiance to him by receiving the **sign or mark of his authority**.

Life and Death Questions

We must now ask three vital questions concerning the third angel's message:

- **Who** is the beast?
- **Why** does it demand worship?
- What is the **mark** of its authority?

The answer to these questions is not merely academic for we are told that those who worship the beast and receive his mark will be forever lost!

Identity of the Beast

In order to determine which power is represented by the beast, we must compare God's prophetic chain in Daniel 7 with Revelation 13:1-10:

DANIEL 7	REVELATION 13:1-10
LION: Babylon (605-539 BC)	LION: Babylon
BEAR: Medo-Persia (539-331 BC)	BEAR: Medo-Persia
LEOPARD: Greece (331-168 BC)	LEOPARD: Greece
DRAGON: Roman Empire (168 BC-476 AD)	DRAGON: Roman Empire
10 HORNS: Divided Roman Empire (300-538 AD)	10 HORNS: Divided Roman Empire
LITTLE HORN: Papal Rome (538 -1798 AD)	BEAST: Papal Rome

A comparison of Daniel 7 with Revelation 13 clearly reveals that the little horn of Daniel 7 and the beast of Revelation 13 are symbols of the **very same power**. This is true for at least three reasons:

- Both appear in the **same spot** of the prophetic chain.

- Both perform the **same actions** (speak blasphemies, persecute the saints).
- Both rule for the **same time period** (3.5 times and 42 months).

The Functions & Power of God

We have already identified the beast/little horn as the Roman Catholic Papacy. At this point a sincere and faithful Roman Catholic might object: "The papacy does not claim to occupy God's place on earth neither does it demand to be worshiped and therefore the third angel's message cannot apply to it."

Before we answer this objection let's examine the functions and powers that the Bible ascribes to God alone. According to the Scriptures, there are certain prerogatives that belong to God alone and no one else, among which are the following:

- When Jesus ascended to heaven, He sent the Holy **Spirit** to take His place and continue His work on earth (John 14-16).
- Only the true God has the right to be addressed with the title "**Father**" (Matthew 23:9).
- Creatures are allowed to **bow in reverence** to God alone. Not even the holy angels can be bowed to by fellow creatures (Acts 10:25, 26; Revelation 19:10; 22:8, 9).
- God alone can **forgive sins** (Mark 2:7).
- God alone is **infallible** in his proclamations (James 1:17).
- God alone has the right to **set up kings** and **depose them** (Daniel 2:21)
- God alone has the right to **judge** all

and to be judged by none (John 5:22, 27).

- God established the **seventh day** as **His memorial** of creation and no human being is entitled to change it (Genesis 2:2, 3; Exodus 20:8-11; cf. Psalm 89:34).

The crucial question at this point is this: Have the bishops of Rome (the popes) claimed to own each and every one of the items on this list? If the answer to the question is yes, then the papacy would be usurping the place and prerogatives of God. In such a case, it would also require worship or service on the part of its subjects.

There are multiple and **clear indications** that the papacy *does* claim to occupy the **place** of God, to possess the **titles** of God, to have the **rights** of God, and to exercise the **power** and **functions** that belong to God alone. The question is: **How** can the papacy make all these outrageous claims unless it also claims that it occupies the place of God on earth? Let's examine some of these audacious claims.

In the Temple of God

In **2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4** the apostle Paul describes **the** apostasy that would lead to the rise of 'the man of sin'. According to the apostle, the 'man of sin' would sit in the temple of God claiming to be God: "*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, the son of perdition, 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**.*"

Who is this 'man of sin' and what is the temple of God? Evangelicals and other conservative protestants claim that the 'man of sin' is a nasty individual who will sit in a rebuilt Jerusalem temple for three and one half literal years after the rapture of the church and will persecute the Jews. Never mind that this view is totally at odds with the unanimous testimony of the protestant reformers such as Luther, Calvin and Zwingli, all of which identified the 'man of sin' as the Roman Catholic papacy.

The problem with this interpretation is that in every other place where the apostle Paul uses the expression 'temple of God' he applies it spiritually to the Christian church. We must allow Paul to interpret Paul!

Take for example Ephesians 2:19-22 (cf. 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17; 6:19, 20; 2 Corinthians 6:16): "*Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the **foundation** of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief **cornerstone**, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom **you** also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*"

In these verses the apostle Paul, in unambiguous language, states that the **spiritual** temple is the Christian church, the foundations of the **spiritual** temple are the apostles, the **spiritual** cornerstone of the temple is Christ,

the **spiritual** stones of the temple are believers, and the **spiritual** Shekinah is the Holy Spirit. If the temple is a symbol of the Christian Church, then we can expect the 'man of sin' to rise within the Christian church and not in a rebuilt Jewish temple!

Vicar of Christ

For centuries, the popes of Rome have claimed the titles **Vicarius Filii Dei** and **Vicarius Christi**. In the Latin language the word *vicarius* means one who 'occupies the place of' or rules 'instead of' someone else. The papacy claims that an unbroken succession of popes have occupied the place of Christ on earth, but Jesus taught clearly and repeatedly that the **Holy Spirit** would be His earthly representative.

And what about the word 'anti-christ'? The Greek word *antichristos* has the same basic meaning as does the Latin *Vicarius Christi*. Most people assume that the word antichrist means 'one who is opposed to Christ.' Although is true that the Greek preposition *anti* can mean 'against' when it is used with a verb, it is equally true that when the word is used as a **prefix to a noun** it can frequently mean 'instead of,' or 'in place of.'

For example, in classical Greek the word *antibasileus* means 'one who **occupies the place** of the king' and in the New Testament, the name Antipas means 'one who reigned **in place of** his father.' (Revelation 2:13) The word anti-type means 'that which **takes the place of** the type.' Christ is spoken of as having given His life 'a ransom **in place of** [antitutron] all (1 Timothy 2:6). Thus

the word *antichristos* in Greek and *Vicarius Christi* in Latin bear a virtually identical meaning!

Although Dave Hunt was a dyed-in-the-wool futurist, his description of the antichrist is correct and squares very well with the Roman Catholic papacy: “While the Greek prefix ‘anti’ generally means ‘against’ or ‘opposed to,’ it can also mean ‘in the place of’ or ‘a substitute for.’ The Antichrist will embody both meanings. He will oppose Christ while pretending to be Christ. Instead of a frontal assault against Christianity, the evil one will pervert the church from within by posing as its founder. He will cunningly misrepresent Christ while pretending to be Christ. And right here is where the plot thickens. If the Antichrist will indeed pretend to be the Christ, then his followers must be ‘Christians!’” Dave Hunt, *Global Peace*, p. 7-8

Does the papacy claim that the Bishop of Rome occupies the place of God on earth? In an encyclical letter, Pope Leo XIII stated: “But the supreme teacher in the Church is the Roman Pontiff. Union of minds, therefore, requires, together with a perfect accord in the one faith, complete submission and obedience of will to the Church and to the Roman Pontiff, as to God Himself.” (Pope Leo XIII, Encyclical Letter, ‘On the Chief Duties of Christians as Citizens’, dated January 10, 1890, trans. in *The Great Encyclical Letters of Pope Leo XIII*, p. 193

And in an Encyclical Letter dated June 20, 1894 Pope Leo XIII made the following boastful claim: “We hold upon this earth the place of God



“We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty.”

—Pope Leo XIII, June 20, 1894

Almighty.” (*The Great Encyclical Letters of Leo XIII*, p. 304)

The Roman Catholic commentary, *Prompta Bibliotheca*, edited by Lucius Ferraris, made the following audacious claim: “The Pope is of so great authority and power that he can modify, explain, or interpret even divine laws. The Pope can modify divine law, since his power is not of man but of God, and he acts as vice-regent of God upon earth with most ample power of binding and loosing his sheep. Whatever the Lord God himself, and the Redeemer, is said to do, that his vicar does, provided that he does nothing contrary to the faith.” (Lucius Ferraris, *Prompta Bibliotheca Canonica, Juridica, Moralis, Theologica nec non Ascetica, Polemica, Rubricistica, His-*

torica, volume 8, article: ‘Papa’)

This encyclopedia is not some offshoot production. The *Catholic Encyclopedia*, volume 6, p. 48 in its article ‘Ferraris’ lauds the virtues of *Prompta Bibliotheca* with the following glowing words: It is ‘a veritable encyclopedia of religious knowledge’ and ‘a precious mine of information.’

The Holy Father?

In his woes upon the Scribes and Pharisees, Jesus instructed his followers not to call anyone on earth their spiritual father: “Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven” (Matthew 23:9).

In spite of this strict prohibition by Jesus, the leader of the Roman Catholic Church insists on being called not only ‘father’, but ‘holy father’.

Bowing in Reverence

It is well known that popes throughout the history of the Roman Catholic Church have encouraged individuals to reverently bow before them even to the point of kissing their ring or feet!

Dictatus Papae is a compilation of 27 statements written by Pope Gregory VII in 1075 AD where he describes the powers that God supposedly delegated to the pope. In Article 9 Pope Gregory wrote: “That of the pope alone all princes shall kiss the feet.”

In contrast, Peter, who supposedly was the first pope, refused to allow Cornelius to bow before him: “As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshipped him. But Peter lifted him up, saying, Stand up; I myself am also a man” (Acts 10:25, 26)

Not even the angels allow human beings to bow before them: “And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” (Revelation 19:10)

Forgiveness of Sins

Although Jesus explicitly taught that God alone can forgive sins, the papacy claims to have such power. St. Alphonsus di Liguori, who lived in the 17th Century, wrote a significant book on the power and dignity of the priest. Here is just one quotation from the book: “When he ascended into heaven, Jesus Christ left his priests after him to hold on earth his place of mediator between God and men, particularly on the altar... The Priest holds the place of the Saviour himself, when, by saying ‘Ego te absolvo,’ he absolves from sin.” St. Alphonsus de Liguori, *Dignity and Duties of the Priest* or Selva, p. 34.

Liguori was no theological slouch. At least 22 volumes of his writings have been published to date. In 1839 he was canonized a saint by Pope Gregory XIV and was proclaimed a doctor of the church (one of only 33) by Pope Pius IX.

Roman Catholic churches and cathedrals are filled with confessionals, and this year (2016-2017) has been declared the year of mercy by Pope Francis. During this period repentant sinners can confess their sins to a priest and receive full forgiveness for them. According to Pope Francis, even women who have aborted babies can be forgiven by the priest if their repentance is genuine!

As is well known, the whole matter of indulgences was the catalyst of the Protestant Reformation. It seems incredible that some groups of Protestants and Catholics are together planning to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in October of 2017!

Claims of Infallibility

According to the Bible, God alone is **infallible** (James 1:17). But at the First Vatican Council in **1870**, the Roman Catholic Church proclaimed the Dogma of Papal Infallibility. The Dogmatic Constitution on the Catholic Faith explained what the dogma means: “We teach and define that it is a dogma divinely revealed: that the Roman Pontiff, when he speaks **ex cathedra**, that is, when in discharge of the office of pastor and doctor 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 for defining doctrine regarding faith or morals; and that therefore such definitions of the Roman Pontiff are **irreformable** of themselves, and **not from the consent of the Church**. But if any one—which may God avert—presume to contradict this our definition: let him be **anathema**.” Philip Schaff, *Creeeds of Christendom*, vol. 2, chapter 4, pp. 270-271).

In Article 22 of *Dictatus Papae* Pope Gregory VII boastfully claimed: “That the Roman church **has never erred; nor will it err** to all eternity, the Scripture

bearing witness.”

The Roman Catholic theologian, **Fritz Leist**, comments on this dogma: “The infallibility of the pope is the **infallibility of Jesus Christ Himself** ... whenever the pope thinks, it is **God Himself**, who is thinking in him.” (Fritz Leist, *Der Gefangene des Vatikanus*, p. 344. Quoted in *Symposium on Revelation*, pp. 340-341).

Setting Up Kings

The Bible explicitly teaches that it is the prerogative of God to **set up kings** and to **remove them** (Daniel 2:21). But in its long history, the papacy has claimed such a right. For example, the **Council of Trent** affirmed: “All **temporal power is his** [the pope’s]; the dominion, jurisdiction, and government of the whole Earth is **his by divine right**. All rulers of the Earth **are his subjects** and must submit to him.” John W. Robbins, *Ecclesiastical Megalomania*, p. 131

And Pope **Gregory VII** in *Dictatus Papae*, Article 12 claimed: “That it may be permitted to him [the pope] to **depose emperors**.”

Thomas Aquinas, one of the doctors of the Roman Catholic Church stated: “In order that spiritual matters might be kept separate from temporal ones, the ministry of this [spiritual] kingdom was entrusted not to earthly kings but to priests and especially to the highest of them, the successor of St. Peter, Vicar of Christ, the Roman Pontiff, to whom **all kings must be subject** just as they are subject to our Lord Jesus. For those whom the care of an **intermediate end** [this present life] pertains should be subject to him to whom the care of the

ultimate end [the future life] belongs and be directed by his rule.” *The Political Ideas of St. Thomas Aquinas*, p. 100

Right to Judge

The popes have also claimed that they are the **supreme judges** on earth in both civil and religious affairs. Pope Gregory VII affirmed that while the pope has the right to judge everyone, no one has the right to judge the pope. In *Dictatus Papae*, Article 18 he arrogantly claimed: “That his [the Pope’s] sentence is **not to be reviewed by any one**; while **he alone can review the decisions of all others**.”

And in Article 19 he wrote: “That he [the Pope] can be judged by no one.”

Creative Power

The Scriptures repeatedly affirm that only the true God has **creative power**. But the papacy blasphemously claims to have such power, even to the point of the priest creating his Creator in the sacrifice of the Mass: “Thus the priest may, in a certain manner, be called **the creator of his Creator**, since by saying the words of consecration, he creates, as it were, Jesus in the sacrament, by giving him a sacramental existence, and produces him as a victim to be offered to the eternal Father. As in creating the world it was sufficient for God to have said: ‘Let it be made, and it was created—He spoke, and they were made’—so it is sufficient for the priest to say, ‘Hoc est corpus meum,’ and behold the bread is no longer bread, but the body of Jesus Christ. ‘The power of the priest,’ says St. Bernardine of Sienna, ‘is the power of the divine person; for the transubstan-

tiation of the bread requires **as much power as the creation of the world**.” St. Alphonsus de Liguori, *Dignity and Duties of the Priest or Selva*, pp. 33-34.

Change in the Law

The final incriminating evidence which proves that the papacy claims to occupy the place of God on earth is found in Daniel 7:25. As we have already indicated, the Bible clearly teaches that God instituted the **seventh-day Sabbath** as the day of rest for His people and as the **sign of His authority** over them as Creator. But Daniel 7:25 tells us that the little horn (the same power as the beast) claimed the authority to **change the day** of worship from Sabbath to Sunday. The papacy actually boasts (as we shall shortly see) that Sunday is the **sign** of her authority. If the papacy claims to have changed the Sabbath, then the papacy must also claim that it has the power of God because God alone could change the law spoken by His thunderous voice and written with His own finger!

In the “Apostolic Letter *Dies Domini* of John Paul II to the Clergy, the Episcopate and the Faithful on Keeping Sunday Holy” published May 31 1998, paragraph #14 he wrote: “In the first place, therefore, the day of rest is so because it is the day ‘blessed’ by God and ‘made holy’ by him, set apart from the other days to be, among all of them, ‘the Lord’s Day.’”

Who would disagree with John Paul’s statement? The Sabbath was indeed blessed and made holy by God at creation. Yet we strongly disagree with the pope when in the rest of his *Apostolic*

Letter he attempts to prove that Sunday is the new 'Lord's Day' and the day that God has blessed and made holy!

Literal Creation Days?

Just as serious as the change in the day of worship, neither **John Paul** nor **Francis I** even believe that the seven days of creation were literal 24-hour days. They both have gone on the record that the world came into existence by a long and drawn out process of **evolution**. In fact, Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si'* refers to the story of creation as a **symbolic** narrative (*Laudato Si'* #66).

How could **Pope John Paul** claim that God blessed and sanctified the Sabbath at creation, and then turn right around and say that the world came into existence over millions of years? In a speech to the Papal Academy of the Sciences he referred to evolution as 'more than a hypothesis': "Today, almost half a century after the publication of the encyclical (Pope Pius XII, *Humane Genes*, 1950), **new knowledge** has led to the recognition of the theory of evolution as **more than a hypothesis**. It is indeed remarkable that this theory has been progressively accepted by researchers, following a series of discoveries in various fields of knowledge. The convergence, neither sought nor fabricated, of the results of work that was conducted independently is in itself **a significant argument in favor of the theory**."

In typical **Jesuit fashion**, Pope Francis has attempted to please both naturalist scientists as well as theologians by doing his utmost to reconcile the

evolutionary theory with the creation story. In his own words: "*The **Big Bang**, which today we hold to be the origin of the world, **does not contradict** the intervention of the divine creator but, rather, **requires it** ... Evolution in nature is **not inconsistent** with the notion of creation, because **evolution requires the creation** of beings that **evolve**. When we read about Creation in Genesis, we run the risk of imagining **God was a magician**, with a magic wand able to do everything. But that is not so ... He created human beings and **let them develop** according to the **internal laws** that he gave to each one so they would **reach their fulfillment** ...*"

Marriage between a man and a woman and the seventh-day Sabbath are two **institutions** that are rooted in creation. God established both to illustrate His relationship with His people. Both of these institutions owe their origin, foundation, perpetuity and permanence to the the literal creation story in Genesis. If the creation story is not literal, then both of these institutions lose their divine foundation and their meaning becomes negotiable.

Summarizing

- By its claims, the papacy professes to occupy **God's place** on earth.
- As 'God on earth', the papacy also claims the right to be **worshipped or obeyed**.
- The papacy has a **sign** of obedience to its authority: SUNDAY.
- The papacy teaches that the 'days' of the creation story are **symbolic** and therefore neither marriage nor the

seventh-day Sabbath are **rooted in creation**.

Authority: Man's or God's?

As we have seen, the original and genuine day of worship created by God at the very beginning to be the memorial and sign of His authority was the seventh-day Sabbath. Satan always seeks to counterfeit the genuine. If the sign of God's authority is the seventh-day Sabbath, then the counterfeit must be an opposite day of worship that comes in later, Sunday. Sabbath and Sunday are exact opposites because they stand at the **two extremes** of the calendar. Sunday is day number one and the Sabbath is day number seven.

The final conflict is more profound than just a contrast of days. At the

"Obedience is the highest form of worship." His statement is proved true by the many times in the Old Testament where the words 'worship' and 'serve' are coupled together (cf. Deuteronomy 8:19; 11:16; 30:17; Joshua 5:14; 1 Kings 9:6; 2 Chronicles 7:19; Jeremiah 13:10; 25:6). In fact, when the devil sought to entice Jesus to worship him, Jesus responded: "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall **worship** the Lord your God, and Him only you shall **serve**.'"

Jesus and Authority

When Jesus walked the earth there were also two signs of authority, the Sabbath of the Lord and the sabbath of the rabbis. The Sabbath that Jesus kept was the original divine Sabbath

The day a person chooses to keep becomes the visible sign of the authority that person chooses to obey.

very heart of the conflict is the matter of authority. You see, the day a person chooses to keep becomes the visible sign of the authority that person chooses to obey. Those who keep the Sabbath proclaim to the world that they **obey the authority** of the true God who created the heavens and the earth. Those who keep Sunday, proclaim to the world that they **obey the authority** of the pretender, who claims to occupy God's place on earth.

Many people misunderstand the nature of worship. They conceive of worship as literally bending the knee to idols. A friend of mine once made a statement that has stuck in my mind:

that He instituted at creation. The rabbis, on the other hand, had created a counterfeit sabbath loaded down with human traditions. The sabbath of the rabbis was not the Sabbath of the Lord. So to speak, the sabbath of the rabbis was a sabbath created **by the hands of men**. By keeping the day in the manner that the rabbis had prescribed, the people were announcing that they were obedient to the authority of the rabbis.

Likewise, at the very end of time, the conflict will be between two days and the respective authorities who stand behind them. Professed ministers of Christ will exalt a counterfeit Sabbath **made by the hands of men** because it

is based on human tradition. By keeping this counterfeit sabbath, the people will announce that they are willing to obey the authority that created it and thus will practice false worship.

The greatest controversies that Jesus had with the religious leaders of His day was concerning the correct way of observing the Sabbath. At the end of time the issue will not be the correct way but rather the correct day:

- **In Christ's day:** The religious leaders commanded the people to keep the Sabbath in the wrong way because it was a counterfeit sabbath created by the hands of men.
- **In the End Time:** The religious leaders will command their members to keep the wrong day, a counterfeit sabbath created by the hands of men.

Notably, the prophet Isaiah had already defined idolatry as worshiping that which was made by the hands of men: "Their land is also full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made." (Isaiah 2:8)

Jesus said something similar: "In vain do they worship me teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." (Mark 15:9)

Sunday is a day of worship that was created by the hands of men and thus those who honor it practice false worship. In this context Ellen White's statement regarding the man-made counterfeit day of worship is significant: "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." Review and Herald, March 8, 1898

Sunday a Sign of Authority

Roman Catholic writers have repeatedly claimed that at the heart of the change of the day of worship is the matter of authority. They have indicted protestants, accusing them of accepting the authority of the Catholic Church by keeping Sunday. Here are some examples:

"It was the Catholic Church which, by the authority of Jesus Christ, has transferred this rest to the Sunday in remembrance of the resurrection of our Lord. Thus the observance of Sunday by Protestants is an homage they pay, in spite of themselves, to the authority of the Church." Monsignor Segur, Plain Talk About the Protestantism of Today (Boston: Thomas B. Noonan & Co., 1868), p. 213.

"A word about Sunday. God said: 'Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day!' The Sabbath was Saturday, not Sunday; why, then, do we keep Sunday holy instead of Saturday? The Church altered the observance of the Sabbath to the observance of Sunday ... Protestants who say that they go by the Bible and the Bible only, and that they do not believe anything that is not in the Bible, must be rather puzzled by the keeping of Sunday when God distinctly said, 'Keep holy the Sabbath day.' The word Sunday does not come anywhere in the Bible so, without knowing it, they are obeying the authority of the Cath-

olic Church." H. Canon Cafferata, The Catechism Simply Explained (London: Burns Oates & Washbourne Ltd., 1938), p. 89

"But since Saturday, not Sunday, is specified in the Bible, isn't it curious that non-Catholics who profess to take their religion directly from the Bible and not from the Church, observe Sunday instead of Saturday? Yes, of course, it is inconsistent; but this change was made about fifteen centuries before Protestantism was born, and by that time the custom was universally observed. They have continued the custom, even though it rests upon the authority of the Catholic Church and not upon an explicit text in the Bible. That observance remains as a reminder of the Mother Church from which the non-Catholic sects broke away—like a boy running away from home but still carrying in his pocket a picture of his mother or a lock of her hair." John O'Brien, The Faith of Millions (Huntington, Indiana: Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., 1974) p. 400, 401.

"It was the Holy Catholic Church that changed the day of rest from Saturday to Sunday, the first day of the week. And it not only compelled all to keep Sunday, but urged all persons to labor on the seventh day under pain of anathema. Protestants ... profess great reverence for the Bible, and yet by their solemn act of keeping Sunday, they acknowledge the power of the Catholic Church. The Bible says, 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.' But the Catholic Church says, 'NO: Keep the first day of the week' and lo, the entire civilized world bows down in reverent obedience to the command

of the holy Catholic church." Words of Father Enright, longtime President of Redemptorist College in America, quoted in, Joe Crews, The Beast, the Dragon and the Woman (Frederick, Maryland: Amazing Facts, Inc., thirteenth edition, June 1991), p. 33.

Papal Aspirations and Goals

Revelation 17 describes a harlot who will orchestrate the final events on planet earth. She will pull all the strings. She will sit upon the multitudes and rule over them (Revelation 17:1, 2, 15). Being the mother of harlots, she will have daughters who do her bidding (Revelation 17:4, 5) and she will control the world of commerce and finance (Revelation 18).

Who is this woman and how did she become a harlot? It is well established that a virtuous woman in Bible prophecy represents a pure church who has only one husband, Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:25; Jeremiah 6:2; Revelation 12:1, 6). On the other hand, an immoral woman must represent a church that is unfaithful to her husband, Jesus Christ. The question is: With whom did this harlot woman have illicit adulterous relationships? With whom did she betray her wedding vows to Jesus? We don't have to guess. Revelation 17:1, 2 tells us explicitly that she became a harlot because she committed spiritual adultery with the civil rulers of the world.

Prophecy tells us that for a very short period before the second coming of Jesus, the harlot and the civil rulers of the world will be on the same page, 'they shall be of one mind' (Revelation

17:13), enjoying an adulterous relationship. That is to say, there will be a reciprocal and harmonious relationship between them. But the adulterous relationship will come to a crashing end when the kings of the earth open their eyes and realize that she has deceived them—they will hate the harlot and turn against her (Revelation 17:16).

Revelation 13:11-18 explains that the **ultimate** and **stealth** objective of the papal harlot will be to influence the political rulers of **the world** to enforce the observance of Sunday, the counterfeit sign or mark of the harlot's/beast's authority. Through her false prophet (the United States) she will forbid buying and selling and proclaim a death decree against those who do not receive her sign or mark.

Papal Methodology

You might ask how the beast/harlot could be successful in such an enterprise. It is quite obvious that the papal harlot cannot do this on her own. The Vatican is the tiniest state in the world. It has no military troops, no tanks, no missiles, no aircraft of its own. That's the reason why near the end of World War II, when the papacy was still weak, Stalin asked Winston Churchill: "How many divisions does the Pope of Rome have?" The implication of Stalin's question was that the papacy has no military power! On her own, the papacy is helpless. To use biblical terminology, without the aid of the civil powers of the world she is wounded or in captivity (Revelation 13:10).

If Joseph Stalin could have foreseen the alliance between the papacy and

the United States in the overthrow of the Soviet Union, he would have been able to answer his own question, and the answer would have been '*Many divisions!*'; that is to say, all the military might of the United States!!

How then can the papacy accomplish her objective of global domination and the imposition of her sign of authority? The answer is that she must persuade world leaders to impose the sign by legal enactments. But in order to be successful she must reattach herself to the political systems of the world who cast her aside in the aftermath of the French Revolution.

Without intending to be disrespectful to the many sincere individuals in the Roman Catholic communion, the papacy, as a system, is a parasite or a leech. The dictionary defines a parasite as "an animal or plant that lives in or on another animal or plant and gets food or protection from it; a person or thing that takes something from someone or something else and does not do anything to earn it or deserve it." And the dictionary defines a leech as "a person who clings to another for personal gain, **especially without giving anything** in return, and usually with the implication or effect of **exhausting the other's resources**; parasite."

The papacy gathers its strength from the civil powers of the world by attaching herself to them without contributing anything of value to them in return. Although the papacy has no military might, she uses diplomacy to influence the rulers of the world to do her bidding. This has been the indelible stain of her historical track record and will

be the blotch in her prophetic future.

When the papacy is unable to attach herself to the political systems of the world, she is weak and restrained but when the political systems allow her to reattach herself to them she is strong, but not in her own strength but in theirs.

In 1986 Jesuit scholar Malachi Martin described why the papacy has not been able to use her *modus operandi* for the last two hundred years: "[For] *fifteen hundred years and more*, [papal] *Rome had kept **as strong a hand as possible** in each local community around the wide world. By and large, and admitting some exceptions, that had been the Roman view until **two hundred years of inactivity** had been **imposed** upon the papacy **by the major secular powers** of the world."*

Quoted in *Christianity Today* (November 21, 1986), p. 26.

There you have it from the mouth of a Jesuit and confidant of Pope John Paul II! If we move 200 years backwards in time from 1986, we end up at the period of the French Revolution when France removed the power of the civil sword from the papacy and sent her into captivity or inactivity. Thus Martin is admitting that the papacy has been unable to keep 'as strong a hand as possible in each local community around the wide world' for the past 200 years because secular governments have not given her their support. This is precisely the scenario that we find in Revelation 13:10.

The French Revolution did much more than deliver France from the iron fist of the papacy. It actually led the major nations of Europe, within a short time span, to proclaim their emanci-

pation from papal interference. As a result, nation after nation in Europe formed democratic governments that guaranteed civil and religious liberty.

Expressed another way, after the papacy was wounded and sent into captivity in 1798 the major civil powers of the western world, one by one, forsook the papacy and declared their emancipation from her power. The captivity has lasted for just over 200 years.

But prophecy predicts a restoration of the papacy's global power. Some 100 years before Martin wrote his statement, Ellen White predicted (as does Revelation 13:3), that the papacy would rise again more powerful than ever before and the entire world would worship the beast and obey it: "*Let the **restraints** now imposed by **secular governments** be removed and Rome be **reinstated** in her former power, and there would speedily be a **revival** of her tyranny and persecution.*" *The Great Controversy*, p. 564

Ellen White explained that the papacy would recover her power by first piggybacking on the United States, then on Europe and finally on the civil powers of the world: "*As America, the land of religious liberty, shall **unite with the papacy** in forcing the conscience and compelling men to honor the false sabbath, **the people of every country on the globe** will be led to follow her example.*" *Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 6, p. 18

But you might ask: How can the papacy persuade the civil powers of the world to allow her to reattach herself to them once again? The answer is simple: She must advocate the **very same causes** that the world's political

leaders feel comfortable with and then she will be able control and use them to accomplish her agenda, and anyone who refuses to comply will suffer persecution. The past history of the papacy during the 1,260 years clearly shows that this scenario is not ephemeral but very realistic! The Roman Catholic papacy cannot change her DNA!

The Papacy's Foot in the Door

And this is where the the United Nations (UN) comes in. The expressions and causes that are being promoted today by the UN are the very ones that have been promoted for centuries by Roman Catholic popes, church councils and theologians. The reciprocal relationship between the papacy and the political leaders of the world is far from subtle. As I noted in my previous newsletter article, the papacy has become deathly silent on social issues that are frowned upon by world leaders, issues such as abortion, gay marriage and euthanasia. Instead she has embraced causes that are popular with them such as immigration, gender equality, climate change and poverty.

Pope Francis I has found **four causes** that resonate strongly with **world leaders**, and she has dwelt almost exclusively on these:

- The need to eradicate **poverty**
- The need for the developed nations to **open their borders** to the poor and outcast
- The need to save the **family**, whichever way the word 'family' is defined
- The need to solve the problem of **climate change**

And it is no secret that Pope Francis has linked each and every one of these causes with the need to give the family, the poor, the underprivileged and the environment a **Sunday rest!**

Perhaps the papal obsession with climate change provides the best example of the papacy's foot-in-the-door policy.

In April of 2015, the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences published a report titled "*Climate Change and the Common Good*". In this document the papacy presented a doomsday scenario of what would happen if the problem of climate change is not urgently addressed by **all nations**. The clear intent of the document was to scare world political leaders into action. Then, on May 24, 2015 Pope Francis I published his much anticipated encyclical on climate change, *Laudato Si'*. World leaders, almost in unison, lauded the encyclical as just what the world needs at this critical time.

On September 22, 2015 the pope met with President Obama in the White House and one of the principal subjects discussed was the need to address climate change. And in the pope's address to a joint session of the United States Congress on September 24, 2015 the subject of climate change was once more at the top of the agenda.

But the pope saved his best for last! On September 28, 2015 the pope gave the keynote **inaugural speech** to open the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The speech contained the usual papal talking points—poverty, immigration, family and above all, climate change.

At the conclusion of his address the delegates of the 193 nations in attendance gave the pope a thunderous standing ovation that lasted for several minutes. The UN then took up the business at hand, and all the nations represented unanimously approved the *Sustainable Development Agenda* with its 17 global goals and 169 targets.

Even a cursory reading of the *2030 Agenda*, as it is called, reveals that its goal is to eliminate national autonomy and establish a centralized global socialist authority that will control the world economy, wipe out individualism, eliminate sectarianism, determine the curriculum to be used in the education of children, promote gender equality, propose a redistribution of wealth, and impose severe global penalties upon nations that refuse to address the problem of climate change.

Concerning the 2030 agenda, the UN General Secretary, Ban Ki-Moon said: "*The new agenda is a promise by leaders to **all people everywhere**. It is a **universal**, integrated and transformative vision for a better world.*"

*"Institutions will have to become fit for a **grand new purpose** ... We must engage all actors, as we did in shaping the Agenda. We must include parliaments, and local governments, and work with cities and rural areas. We must rally businesses and entrepreneurs. We must involve civil society in defining and implementing policies—and give the space to hold us to account. We must listen to scientists and academia. We will need to embrace a data revolution. Most important, we must set to work—now."*

The delegates from 196 nations met in Paris from November 30 to December 12, 2015 to hammer out what is known as the *Paris Agreement*, a global pact on the reduction of climate change. The agreement became legally binding on April 22, 2016 when 174 nations signed the agreement at the United Nations in New York. Other nations promised to sign the agreement in the immediate future. Secretary of State **John Kerry**, with his little granddaughter on his lap, signed the agreement in representation of the United States and President Barack Obama.

Common Terminology

As we read the papacy's social theory literature we discover **four socialist expressions** that appear repeatedly, expressions that appear also in United Nations literature:

- The '**common good**' (individualism is an enemy to be dreaded)
- '**Solidarity**' (we are all in this together so we must unite in one ecumenical body and avoid sectarianism)
- '**Subsidiarity**' (our personal interests are subsidiary to the common good of the whole)
- The '**universal destination of goods**' (private property is not personal but rather belongs to all of humanity and should be redistributed according to need)

The question is: Who will be responsible for the implementation of this global socialist ideal? Current events clearly indicate that it will be implemented by the political leaders of the world at the

behest of the papacy.

Notice the following authoritative statements from popes, church councils and the *Compendium of Catholic Social Doctrine* on the role of the papacy in shaping the social and economic policy of the world:

Pius IX (1846-1878)

“That principle which Leo XIII so clearly established must be laid down at the outset here, namely, that there resides in Us [the Papacy] the right and duty to pronounce with supreme authority upon social and economic matters.” Pope Pius XI, *Encyclical Quadragesimo Anno*, May 15, 1931, paragraph 41

John XXIII (1958-1963)

“Because all men are joined together by reason of their common origin, their redemption by Christ and their supernatural destiny, and are called to form one Christian family, We [the popes] appealed in the *Encyclical Mater et Magistra* to economically developed nations to come to the aid of those which were in the process of development.” John XXIII, *Pacem in Terris*, (1963), 121

Vatican II (1963-1965)

“It is our clear duty, therefore, to strain every muscle in working for the time when all war can be completely outlawed by international consent. This goal undoubtedly requires the establishment of a universal public authority [the papacy] acknowledged as such by all and endowed with the power to safeguard on the behalf of all, security, regard for justice, and respect for rights.” Second Vatican II, *Gaudium et Spes*, (1965), p. 82

“Moreover, since in virtue of her mission and nature she [the Roman Catholic church] is bound to no particular form of human culture, nor to any political, economic or social system, the Church by her very universality can be a very close bond between diverse human communities and nations, provided these trust her and truly acknowledge her right to true freedom in fulfilling her mission.” *ibid.*, p.42

Paul VI (1963-1978)

“This international collaboration on a worldwide scale requires institutions that will prepare, coordinate, and direct it until finally there is established an order of justice which is universally recognized ... Who does not see the necessity of thus establishing progressively a world authority, capable of acting effectively in the juridical and political sectors?” Paul VI, *Populorum Progressio* (1967), 78

Benedict XVI (2005-2013)

“...There is urgent need of a true world political authority, as my predecessor Blessed John XXIII indicated some years ago. Such an authority would need to be regulated by law, to observe consistently the principles of subsidiarity and solidarity, to seek to establish the common good, and to make a commitment to securing authentic integral human development inspired by the values of charity in truth. Furthermore, such an authority would need to be universally recognized and to be vested with the effective power to ensure security for all, regard for justice, and respect for rights.”

“Man’s earthly activity, when inspired and sustained by charity, contributes to the building of the universal city of

God, which is the goal of the history of the human family. In an increasingly globalized society, the common good and the effort to obtain it cannot fail to assume the dimensions of the whole human family, that is to say, the community of peoples and nations, in such a way as to shape the earthly city in unity and peace, rendering it to some degree an anticipation and a prefiguration of the undivided city of God.” Benedict XVI in his encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate*, section 7

The *Compendium of Catholic Social Doctrine* (published in 2004) is the official view of the Vatican on social and economic issues. Notice the following quotations: “The common good therefore involves all members of society, no one is exempt from cooperating, according to each one’s possibilities, in attaining and developing it.” *Compendium of Catholic Social Doctrine*, section 167

“If it is true that everyone is born with the right to use the goods of the earth, it is likewise true that, in order to ensure that this right is exercised in an equitable and orderly fashion, regulated interventions are necessary, interventions that are the result of national and international agreements, and a juridical order that adjudicates and specifies the exercise of this right.” *ibid.*, section 173

“Christian tradition has never recognized the right to private property as absolute and untouchable; ‘On the contrary, it has always understood this right within the broader context of the right common to all to use the goods of the whole of creation. The right to private property is subordinated to the right to common use, to the fact that goods are

meant for everyone.” *ibid.*, section 177

“The Church’s social teaching moreover calls for recognition of the social function of any form of private ownership that clearly refers to its necessary relation to the common good ... The universal destination of goods entails obligations on how goods are to be used by their legitimate owners ... From this arises the duty on the part of owners not to let goods in their possession go idle and to channel them to productive activity, even entrusting them to others who are desirous and capable of putting them to use in production.” *ibid.*, section 178

“New technological and scientific knowledge must be placed at the service of mankind’s primary needs, gradually increasing humanity’s common patrimony. Putting the principle of the universal destination of goods into full effect therefore requires action at the international level and planned programs on the part of all countries.” *ibid.*, section 179

“Insofar as it is part of the Church’s moral teaching, the Church’s social doctrine has the same dignity and authority as her moral teaching. It is authentic Magisterium which obligates the faithful to adhere to it.” *ibid.*, section 80

Non-Adventist Voice of Alarm

Seventh-day Adventists are not the only ones who have sounded the voice of alarm over the goals and aspirations of the papacy. Pietist revivalist Philipp Jakob Spener (1635-1705) warned over 300 years ago: “I am convinced that Roman Babylon will again regain all of its previous power before the last judgment overtakes it. I fear that most of

the nations, intimidated by its power and terrified by its brutality, will allow the yoke shaken off some two hundred years ago to be laid upon them again.” Words of Ph. J. Spener in Symposium on Revelation, volume 2, p. 388

Futurist Dave Hunt a few years ago explained the reason why the civil powers of the world wish to carry on this adulterous relationship with the papacy: “Why do world leaders want to get into bed [to commit spiritual adultery] with the Vatican? The heads of state in today’s world all recognize that the Pope wields a power which in many ways is even greater than their own. It is not only Catholicism’s 900 million subjects and enormous wealth that causes the world’s most powerful governments to cultivate friendly relations with the Roman Catholic Church; it is because Vatican City’s citizens are found in great numbers in nearly every country. They constitute an international network that reaches into the inside circles of the world’s power centers.” (Dave Hunt, Global Peace, p. 116)

In 1999 Reformed author John W. Robbins wrote about the objectives of the papacy: “What the Roman Catholic Church-State accomplished on a small scale during the Middle Ages is what it desires to achieve on a global scale in the coming millennium.” John W. Robbins, Ecclesiastical Megalomania, p. 187

Robbins concurred with a statement that was made by Ayn Rand in 1967: “The Catholic Church has never given up the hope to re-establish [she must have once had it and lost it] the medieval union of church and state, with a global state and a global theocracy as its ultimate goal.”

The Roman Church-State is a hybrid—a monster of ecclesiastical and political power. Its political thought is totalitarian, and whenever it has had the opportunity to apply its principles, the result has been bloody repression. If, during the last 30 years, it has softened its assertions of full, supreme, and irresponsible power, and has murdered fewer people than before, such changes in behavior are not due to a change in its ideas, but to a change in its circumstances [the secular governments keep her at arms’ length] ... The Roman Church-State in the twentieth century, however, is an institution recovering from a mortal wound. If and when it regains [so it must have lost it] its full power and authority, it will impose a regime more sinister than any the planet has yet seen [the deadly wound will be healed].” *ibid.*, p. 195.

A Wounded & Captive Papacy

In 1862 Cardinal Henry Edward Manning lamented the fact that the nations of Europe had forsaken the papacy. He complained: “See this Catholic Church, this Church of God, feeble and weak, rejected even by the very nations called Catholic. There is Catholic France, and Catholic Germany, and Catholic Italy giving up this exploded figment of the temporal power of the Vicar of Jesus Christ. And so, because the Church seems weak, and the Vicar of the Son of God is renewing the Passion of his Master upon earth, therefore we are scandalized, therefore we turn our faces from him.” (The Temporal Power of the Vicar of Jesus Christ, pp. 140, 141)

Just eight years after Manning wrote this book (in 1870), King Vic-

tor Emmanuel II confiscated the papal states and united Italy. As a result, the popes declared themselves prisoners of the Vatican and for the next 59 years never left its confines. Why did the popes consider themselves prisoners? Simply because the papacy had been forsaken by the very nations that had supported her before. The leech or parasite was no longer attached to the civil powers of the world to sap their life blood. Although a concordat between the papacy and the government of Italy was signed in 1929, the papacy has not been able to reattach herself to the civil powers of the world, that is, until now!

Times have changed. The civil powers of the world perceive no danger in the increase of papal influence—they have forgotten history and are doomed to repeat it! For example, on May 6, 2016 in the presence of the dignitaries of the European Union, Pope Francis was awarded the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen. The prize is awarded every year for work done in the service of European unification. The prize is named for Charlemagne, the French king who was revered by his contemporaries as the ‘Father of Europe’ and was called the Holy Roman Emperor.

In his speech, the pope made an impassioned plea to the dignitaries of Europe to unite the continent as it was in the past. At the conclusion of his address the luminaries stood and gave him a standing ovation. Clearly, they no longer perceived any danger in the growth of papal power. And influential Protestant ministers in the United States, men like Billy Graham, Rick Warren, Joel Osteen, James Robison, Kenneth Copland and

others are also suffering from a deadly historical amnesia.

Ellen White’s Predictions 130 Years Ago

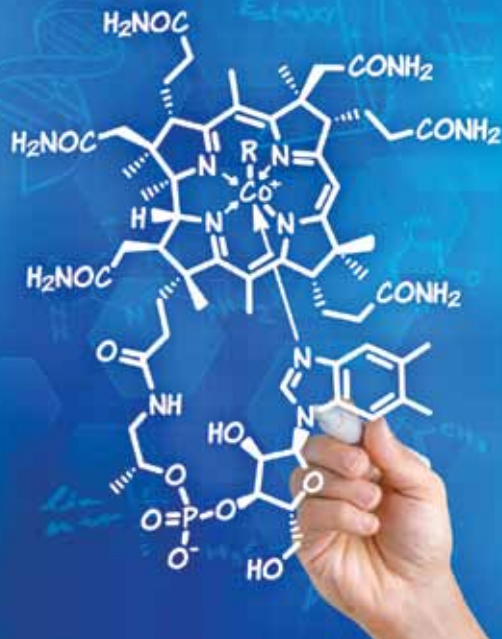
Almost 130 years ago (in 1888), at a time when the United States and the nations of Europe wanted nothing to do with the papacy, Ellen White published her groundbreaking book, *The Great Controversy*. As we have pointed out, when she wrote the book the papacy was convalescing with a deadly wound and was in captivity. In that improbable historical context Ellen White audaciously affirmed that the papacy would recover its global dominion. She predicted that the civil organism to which the papacy would attach itself first would be the United States of America. She then prophetically announced that the papacy—like a leech or parasite—would sap the life blood out of the United States leading it to a national apostasy that would end in national ruin: “Protestants will work upon the rulers of the land to make laws to restore the lost ascendancy of the man of sin, who sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Roman Catholic principles will be taken under the care and protection of the state. This national apostasy will speedily be followed by national ruin.” The Review and Herald, June 15, 1897

Stay tuned, for the final movements will be rapid ones!



PASTOR STEPHEN BOHR

VITAMIN B₁₂



*What vegetarians need to know about this – the **largest** of all vitamins ...*

In humans (as well as all other animal life forms) Vitamin B-12 is essential for life. All of life is a complex system of biochemical reactions. And all of these reactions are mediated by specialized proteins called enzymes. These enzymes, often arranged like factory assembly lines, build the complex molecules needed to make us what we are one step at a time.

Other systems of enzymes disassemble certain molecules. And still others manipulate certain molecules to release and transfer the chemical energy stored in them making it available to power all the activities in the cell.

If you think of these enzymes as workmen, sometimes these workers need specialized tools to do a certain job. We call these tools **co-factors**. Think of a mechanic that needs a certain sized wrench to attach a certain part. B-12 is a co-factor (a tool used by an enzyme). Without the right sized tool, there is no way these mechanics can do their work — they just sit there idle, and the job is not done.

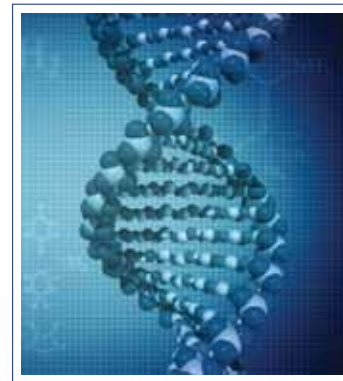
Cobalt

At the center of every large B-12 molecule is an atom of cobalt. The electrons spinning around the nucleus of the cobalt atom are in such positions that they create six active sites where cobalt can form chemical bonds with the electrons of other atoms. B-12 has nitro-

gen atoms positioned just perfectly to tightly bond with five of these positions, thus holding the cobalt tightly in its place at the center of the large B-12 molecule. This leaves the sixth position open and free to hold certain other molecules that we might want to attach

or remove in certain reactions.

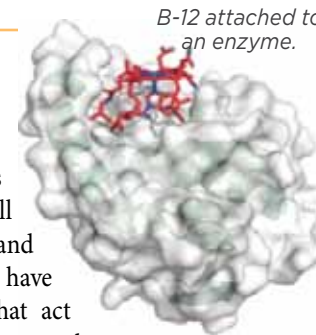
The most common use of B-12 is to attach a methyl group to another molecule. To do this we must first have a methyl group attached in this sixth position on the cobalt. We now call this form of B-12 with a methyl attached: methylcobalamin. The methyl is attached tight enough to hold it in its place but loose enough that the enzyme can transfer it from the B-12 to another molecule it wants to methylate. Then having done its job, the B-12 (now without its methyl) is dropped by the enzyme and the enzyme picks up another B-12 that has a methyl so it can repeat its work again. The empty B-12 can be recharged by yet other enzymes that add a methyl back to it so it can be reused again.



Cell Division

Vitamin B-12 is essential every time a cell divides. A cell is so small, it takes a powerful microscope to even see it. Yet in the nucleus of every cell is a thin thread of DNA about six feet long. The only way to fit it in without tangling it is to carefully wind it all up on special little spools made for this purpose. But for a cell to divide into two cells, it must first completely unwind all of the DNA and make a duplicate copy then carefully rewind both copies so they can each be separated into the two new cells all without getting tangled up.

There must be billions of these little spools in the cell nucleus and they each have little tails that act as switches to turn them on and off. If you attach a methyl in all the right spots on the tails, the spool



B-12 attached to an enzyme.

turns on and winds up the DNA. And the enzymes that do that all need B-12 with methyl to do their job. It takes a huge amount of B-12 for even one cell to duplicate its DNA and get all the spools turned on and wound up and separated into the two new cells.

Megaloblastic Anemia

Each hour, you are making millions of red blood cells. And if you don't have enough B-12, this cell dividing doesn't progress properly and you end up with some large irregular blood cells and not nearly enough. It is called megaloblastic anemia. This is one of the early signs of B-12 deficiency.

Myelin Sheath

The axons of the neurons in your brain and spinal cord are covered with a special myelin sheath that is essential for high-speed nerve conduction. Without this myelin sheath, nerve conduction

is just too slow for normal thought processes. B-12 is essential to the cells that build this myelin sheath. Without enough B-12, there is a degeneration of the myelin in the brain and spinal cord leading to neuropathy and dementia. This progressive neurodegenerative damage **can be permanent**. This is why it so important to prevent B-12 deficiency.

Mitochondria

The mitochondria, the energy-producing powerhouses found in every cell, must have B-12 for some important steps in the reactions they use to produce the energy your cells need. This is one reason why weakness and fatigue are a part of B-12 deficiency syndrome.

Homocysteine

Homocysteine is a harmful amino acid that can build up in the body. It is toxic to the endothelium of your arteries and can be very damaging to your neuronal synapses. The only way your body can get rid of homocysteine is with an enzyme that uses methylcobalamin to methylate the homocysteine into methionine that is safe and useful. Doctors now frequently test for homocysteine levels, as it is a known risk factor for heart attacks and strokes. If your level is greater than 10, you may be deficient in B-12.

MMA (methylmalonyl-CoA)

MMA is a toxic, 4-carbon residue produced when you burn fat. An enzyme that uses B-12 is designed to convert this toxic substance into succinyl-CoA

that can now easily be burned up for energy in the mitochondria.

Where can we get B-12?

Your body does not make vitamin B-12. No animal makes B-12. No plants make B-12. The only source for all of the B-12 on this earth is **bacteria**. Only these microbes have the enzymes necessary to build these large complex B-12 molecules that all animals are dependent upon for life.

The top six inches of natural soil in a meadow is full of microbial activity and high in B-12. As animals graze on this field they pick up lots of this B-12. The fecal material they leave behind is full of microbes and B-12. As the rainwater washes across the meadow, the streams become full of these microbes with their B-12. The natural world is full of B-12, and animals in the wild and living on farms have no shortage of B-12 on everything they eat.

Animal tissue is full of B-12. So if you are eating the flesh of other animals on a regular basis, there will be plenty of B-12 in your diet. Liver is especially high in B-12 because the body stores B-12 in the liver. Did you know that your liver can store enough B-12 to supply all you need for over 5 years?

The most concentrated source of B-12 is found in clams. They consume the fecal material that settles to the bottom of the bay and thus have extremely high levels of B-12. Eggs often thought of as a good source of B-12 are actually fairly low in B-12 and are a poor source for getting B-12.

But what if you are living on a plant-based diet? There is no B-12 made in

plants. And what if you wash your food carefully before eating it? And I do recommend washing your food. There are a lot of bad microbes in this world today that you want to avoid — cholera, typhoid, dysentery, amoebas, worm eggs, larvae, and other parasites. Plant-based diets today are very deficient in B-12. ***Vegetarians should take a Vitamin B-12 supplement daily.***

How We Absorb B-12

Vitamin B-12 is a large, complex molecule, and God designed a special process for its protection and absorption and transportation through body to get it safely to every cell that needs it. It starts in the mouth where a special protector protein found in the saliva grabs it and wraps itself around the B-12, and then it can be safely swallowed. This protein protects it from destruction by the powerful, concentrated hydrochloric acid in the stomach. It passes safely through the stomach into the small intestine. Then here, the protector protein is removed by pancreatic enzymes setting the B-12 free to be picked up by intrinsic factor.

Intrinsic factor is produced in the stomach and is essential for B-12 absorption. Although produced in the stomach, it is in the small intestine that it actually picks up the B-12 that has now been released from its protector protein. Bound to the intrinsic factor, it is now ready to be absorbed by special receptors found only in the last part of the small intestine.

These intrinsic factor receptors in the last part of the small intestine absorb the intrinsic factor along with

its attached B-12 into the intestinal cells. Then the B-12 is freed from the intrinsic factor. But now it must be attached to a new special transporter protein that carries it safely through the blood to every cell in the body. Each cell has special receptors for this transporter protein that will pull it into the cell, and then the B-12 will be freed to be used by the cell for its various needs.

Pernicious Anemia

Anything that damages the stomach or the distal intestine can prevent absorption. A big problem is the acid blocking drugs that are so commonly taken because of stomach pain today. They not only block the release of stomach acid, but they also block the release of intrinsic factor thus preventing the absorption of B-12. Gastric surgeries or Crohn's disease can also prevent B-12 absorption. And stomach abuse from years of coffee and spices and junk food can lead to atrophy of the stomach lining and loss of intrinsic factor with age. Drugs like metformin can block B-12 absorption. All of these persons will need monthly B-12 injections from their doctor to bypass these problems and get the B-12 directly into the body.

Natural Alternative Myths

The bacteria in your mouth do not produce enough B-12 to supply your needs. The bacteria in your colon produce a lot of B-12 but it is too far down stream to be combined with intrinsic factor and it is far past the receptors in your small intestine so you cannot absorb it.

How much should I take?

1,000 to 5,000 mcg of methylcobalamin in a sublingual or chewable form that dissolves in your mouth daily with meals should give you a good level if you have no problems with absorption.

What about fermented foods like tempeh, miso, tamari, seaweed, sauerkraut, kimchi, etc.? Studies have shown they are not a reliable source and cannot prevent B-12 deficiency.

Spirulina and blue-green algae contain pseudo-vitamin B-12. This is similar enough to real B-12 that it is picked up and used by the enzymes as if it was B-12, but it is different enough that it does not work. It is like the mechanic is left holding the wrong size wrench. He can't do the job. I would avoid these supplements.

Gradual Onset

Because the body can store large amounts of B-12 and possibly because of small amounts in the diet, the symptoms of B-12 deficiency are very gradual in onset over many years. They are also very vague and general in nature — brain fog (fuzzy thinking), fatigue, anxiety, difficulty concentrating, depression, irritability, dizziness, tingling in the hands and feet, difficulty balancing, muscle twitches, short-term memory loss, muscle weakness. All of these are so slow and gradual in onset that they are often just felt to be part of aging or blamed on some other cause. But the real danger lies in the fact that

the neural damage associated with B-12 deficiency is usually not reversible but will be permanent.

Blood Tests

The following tests can be considered fairly reliable indicators of B-12 deficiency. If your:

- ✓ B-12 level is > 600 pg/ml
- ✓ Homocysteine is < 10 umol/L
- ✓ MMA < 4 mcg/mg creatine
- ✓ MCV is < 98 (on your CBC)

...then you can be comfortable that you **do not** have a B-12 deficiency. These levels are all off in a B-12 deficiency.

Take Your Vitamin B-12

The damaging effects of B-12 deficiency can be especially severe and of long-term consequences in the developing brain. Vegan mothers who are pregnant or breast-feeding are at very high risk of damaging their baby if they do not supplement with B-12. Vegan children should be given B-12 supplements.

All vegetarians who do not supplement will eventually become B-12 deficient.



MILTON TESKE, MD

Your Redemption Draweth Nigh

**October 27-30, 2016
at Tenaya Lodge Yosemite**

Event Location & Lodging

Tenaya Lodge at Yosemite
1122 Hwy 41
Fish Camp, CA 93623
You must call 800-635-5807
Option 2, Code: 31016X
for Hotel Summit Rate

Event Registration

SecretsUnsealed.org
559-264-2300 or
888-REV-1412
Hotel and Event Registration
are two separate fees.
Register early for best price.



Stephen Bohr



G. Edward Reid



Norman McNulty



James Marcum

A Brand Plucked from the FIRE

I have been in 11 major accidents. I

I've had a broken neck, a skull that's been fractured in two places, three surgeries on my left hand, a surgery on my left ankle, and a cracked tail bone to prove it! Twice I've been threatened with guns, was nearly drowned on two occasions (once with water filling my lungs, the other from total exhaustion), have had severe whiplash, was nearly asphyxiated because of being passed out on a couch where a fireplace backed up to fill the room with smoke, and find it hard to believe that I wasn't near death from either alcohol or drug poisoning on several occasions. I was in two gang fights (and also in one crowd where we were just moments from starting), was "assaulted with a deadly weapon" according to a responding officer, was nearly pierced through with rebar while jumping out

of the way of nearly 1,200 pounds of falling aluminum concrete forms, was dehydrated in a desert to the point of hallucination and losing consciousness, with even more death defying scenarios.

Why? Because I had prayed an honest prayer as a young person. In a church I was not committed to I heard an evangelist (Kenneth Cox playing from a VHS tape on an old television), invite young people to ask God to bring them back to Him before they'd come out of their teens—if they had or would fall away from Him before that time. I knew I was in that first group, so after my accepting the counsel and praying, the enemy was trying to snuff out my life before the Lord could answer that prayer! (Not all of my near death experiences mentioned above occurred

before I chose to follow Christ.)

It was somewhere between nine and 12 years old when I prayed that God would bring me back after my teens. I knew I had already left my commitment to Him, and I wasn't ready to turn my life to Him just yet. I didn't know better in my young mind. Many people don't come back to the Lord after leaving—so don't take this as counsel to try on your own! You see, I started smoking at seven years old, started stealing my father's beer and drinking at nine, and started smoking marijuana at 10. I don't know when

other drugs came into the picture, but it wasn't long after that (believe me; I've forgotten a lot of my past from dead brain cells).

I started playing the drums at 10 and joined a band at 14 years old. It didn't take long before we were asked to play heavy metal music at various gigs that brought a lot of trouble with it.

My father's alcohol induced life had given me an example. He passed away at 53 years of age from cirrhosis of the liver.

My mother, on the other hand, was a Christian who knew enough to pray for her children (I'm the youngest of four). She prayed and still does for each of her children. My life was radically changed at 19 years of age—in direct answer to my previous and her prayers.

While drinking beer, hard alcohol,

and smoking both cigarettes and marijuana, I was speaking about the future to three friends with me. While philosophizing about what we might invent in the future (seeing we had already been to the moon, had the ability to

travel from the west to the east coast in just a few hours, had already invented computers, etc.), I was given a lightning-fast vision.

Living in Southern California, prominent with yearly fires and periodic earthquakes, the vision was like this. While I was explaining the need to come up with ways to take care of the increasing problem

of overpopulation and envisioning freeways on top of freeways, I got chills from the top to the bottom of my body and saw everything I had in mind destroyed by both fire and earthquake. It shook me to the core. I covered my face with my hands and started crying.

My friends thought I had lost it. Without any of us knowing it, I was losing it. I was losing that lifestyle. Without my knowing it, God was calling me.

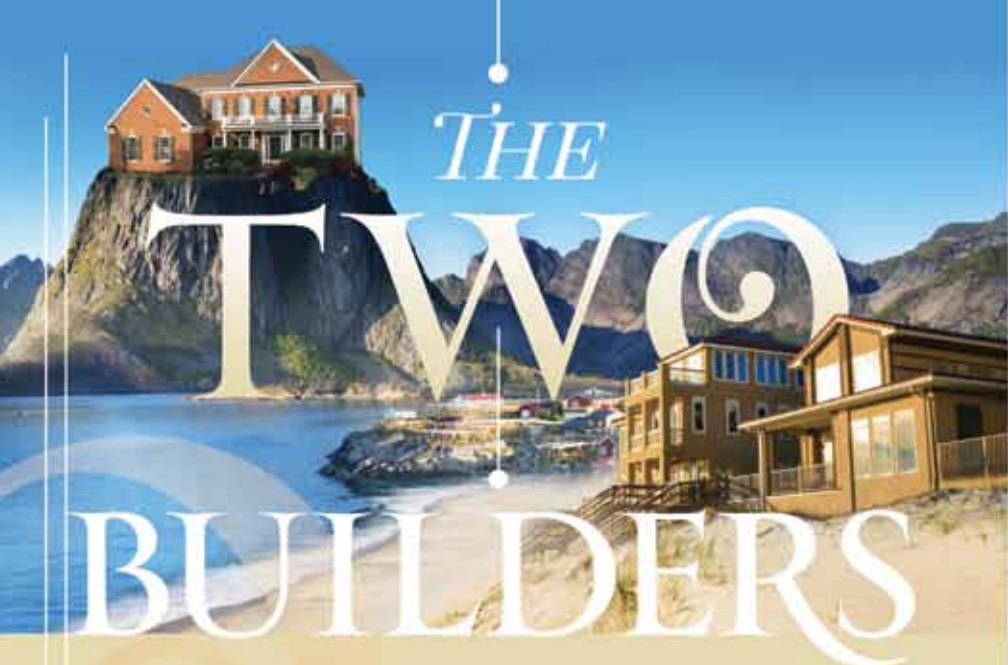
(... to be continued)



Daniel Mesa before Christ.



PASTOR DANIEL MESA



LESSON 20 | Matthew 7:15-29; Luke 6:47-49 *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing,* pp. 145-152

One of the great parables of Jesus is that of the men who built their houses upon the rock and upon the sand. I vividly remember going through the primary division of Sabbath School and singing at the top of my lungs about the house of the foolish man which came tumbling down! But oddly enough, I don't remember ever hearing about what the parable means. In this lesson we will attempt to decode its important meaning for God's people in these last days.

TEXTUAL & GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING

1. What relationship does this parable have with the Sermon on the Mount? *"Jesus ended His teaching with an illustration that presented with startling _____ the importance of putting in _____ the words He had spoken."* (MB 147)

NOTE: This parable is not only the conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount. It reveals the eternal consequences of accepting or rejecting that sermon.

2. What was the geographical setting of this parable? *"As they say _____ upon the _____, listening to the words of Christ, they could _____ valleys and ravines through which the mountain streams found their way to the sea."* (MB 145)

3. What happened in the summer and winter? *"In summer these _____ streams often wholly _____ leaving only a dry and dusty channel. But when the wintry _____ burst upon the hills, the rivers became fierce, raging _____, at times overspreading the valleys and bearing everything away on their resistless flood."* (MB 147-148)

4. What classic word did Jesus often use to introduce this and other parables? *"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will _____ him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock."* (Matt. 7:24)

WISE and FOOLISH BUILDERS

1. In which other parable does Jesus refer to wise and foolish followers? *"And five of them [virgins] were _____, and five were _____."* (Matt. 25:2)

NOTE: The Greek words for "wise" and "foolish" in the parable of the ten virgins are identical to those in the parable of the two builders. This indicates that these parables should be studied together.

2. What characterized the wise man who built his house upon a rock? *"Therefore whosoever heareth these _____ of mine, and _____ them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which _____ his house upon a rock."* (Matt. 7:24)


NOTE: It is important to realize that the word for "sayings" in this verse is logos. This very word is used to describe Jesus in John 1:1-3, 14.

3. What significant expression does the gospel of Luke add to this parable? *"Whosoever _____ to me, and _____ my sayings, and _____ them, I will shew you to whom he is like."* (Luke 6:47)

4. What characterized the foolish man who built his house upon the sand? *"And every one that heareth these _____ of mine, and doeth them _____, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the _____."* (Matt. 7:26)

HEARING and DOING

1. What significant statement did the apostle Paul make? *"For not the _____ of the law*



are just before God, but the _____ of the law shall be justified.” (Rom. 2:13)

NOTE: We have all heard the expression, “words are cheap”. This is exactly what the apostle Paul is saying in Romans 2:13.

2. What information does the apostle John add to this discussion about saying and doing? “My little children, let us not love in _____, neither in _____; but in _____ and in truth.” (I John 3:18)

3. How does the context of this parable illustrate the contrast between the sayers and the doers? “Not everyone that _____ unto me, _____, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that _____ the will of my Father which is in heaven.” (Matt. 7:21)

4. Is it possible to perform supernatural feats and yet to be reckoned among the foolish? “Many will _____ unto me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not _____ in thy name? And in thy name have cast out _____? And in thy name done many _____ works?” (Matt. 7:22)

NOTE: These counterfeit disciples claimed the name of Jesus. They exercised what appeared to be the gifts of the Holy Spirit (see, I Corinthians 12:7-11) and yet Jesus refused to recognize them as His.

5. What important words does Ellen G. White write about those who place their personal experiences above the Word of God? “When persons speak lightly of the word of God, and set their impressions, _____, and _____ above the divine standard, we may know that they have no _____ in them.” (MB 146)

6. What sobering words did Jesus pronounce to these counterfeit disciples? “And then I will _____ unto them, I _____ knew you: depart from me, ye that _____ iniquity.” (Matt. 7:23)

NOTE: The word “iniquity” here is the Greek anomias. It means “lawlessness” or “one who lives contrary to the law.” It is significant that many of those who profess the name of Christ will actually be opposed to God’s law. The same word is used in II Thes. 2:7, 8.

7. What other contextual evidence do we have that the foolish man represents those who disguise themselves as Christians? “Beware

of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s _____, but inwardly they are ravening _____.” (Matt. 7:15)

8. What parallel expression did Jesus use to address the five foolish virgins? “Afterward came also the other [foolish] virgins, _____, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I _____ you _____.” (Matt. 25:11-12)

BEARING FRUIT TO GOD’S GLORY

1. “Doing” and “bearing fruit” are two ways of saying the same thing. What will be the evidence of a truly committed Christian? “Ye shall know them by their _____. ... A good tree _____ bring forth _____ fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.” (Matt. 7:16, 18).

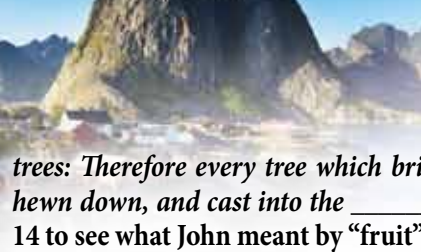
2. What is the good fruit which the good tree bears? “But the fruit of the _____ is love, joy, _____, longsuffering, gentleness, _____, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no _____.” (Gal. 5:22-23)

3. What is the evil fruit which the evil tree produces? “Now the works of the _____ are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, _____, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, _____ variance, emulations, _____, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, _____, drunkenness, revelings and the _____.” (Gal. 5:19-21)

4. What will happen to those who bear evil fruit? “Every tree that bringeth _____ forth good fruit is _____ down, and cast into the fire. ... they which do such things shall not _____ the kingdom of God.” (Matt. 7:19; Gal. 5:21)

5. Which is the only way we can bear good fruit? “I am the vine, ye are the _____: He that _____ in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth _____ fruit, for without _____ ye can do _____. ... Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much _____; so shall ye be my _____.” (John 15:5, 8)

6. What boastful claims did the Jews of Christ’s day make? “We be _____ seed.” (John 8:33)



7. What did John the Baptist say about this boastful claim? *“And now also the axe is laid unto the _____ of the trees: Therefore every tree which bringeth not forth _____ fruit is hewn down, and cast into the _____.”* (Matt. 3:10; read Luke 3:10-14 to see what John meant by “fruit”).

8. What did the apostle Paul say about the meaning of the word “fruit”? *“But now being made free from _____, and become _____ to God, ye have your _____ unto holiness, and the _____ everlasting life.”* (Romans 6:22)

BUILDING THE HOUSE

1. What did God call Israel and Judah in the Old Testament? *“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the _____ of Israel, and with the _____ of Judah.”* (Jeremiah 31:31)

2. What does the house represent in the New Testament? *“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the _____ of God, which is the _____ of the living God, the _____ and _____ of the truth.”* (I Timothy 3:15)

3. In a broader sense, what does the “house” represent? *“Except the LORD build the _____, they labor in vain that _____ it.”* (Ps. 127:1)

NOTE: The succeeding context clearly indicates that the word “house” means the family.

4. Besides the corporate church, does the “house” also represent individual persons? *“When the unclean spirit is gone out of a _____, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will _____ into my _____ from whence I came out. ...”* (Matthew 12:43-44). Clearly, “man” and “house” are parallel in these verses.

5. How difficult is it to build a house upon a rock? *“These houses were reared with _____ and difficulty. They were not _____ of access, and their location appeared less inviting than the grassy _____.”* (MB 148)

NOTE: Building is hard work. It takes planning, carefully chosen materials and a solid foundation. But all the hard work is worth it when the tempest comes.

6. What is meant by the act of building? *“To a great extent everyone is the _____ of his own _____. Every day the structure more nearly approaches completion. The Word of God warns us to take heed how we _____, to see that our building is _____ upon the Eternal Rock.”* (Child Guidance, p. 164).

7. How is character built? *“We build on Christ by _____. His word. It is not he who merely _____ righteousness, that is righteous, but he who _____ righteousness. Holiness is not _____; it is the result of surrendering all to God; it is doing the _____ of our heavenly Father. ... It is through _____ that character is built.”* (MB 149)

BUILDING UPON THE ROCK

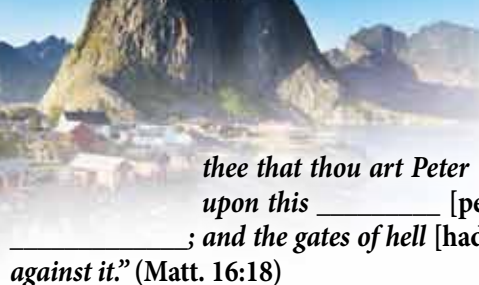
1. In the Old Testament, what is represented by the rock we must build upon? *“The LORD is my _____, and my fortress, and my deliverer; the God of my rock; in him will I trust: He is my _____, and the horn of my salvation, my high _____, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence.”* (2 Sam. 22:2-3)

2. Who is identified as the rock in the New Testament? *“And did [Israel] all drink the same spiritual drink; for they drank of that spiritual _____ that followed them, and that Rock was _____.”* (1 Cor. 10:4; see also 1 Peter 2:8)

3. How does the gospel of Luke underline the importance of a proper foundation? *“He is like a man [the wise builder] which built an house, and digged _____, and laid the _____ on a rock.”* (Luke 6:48)

NOTE: Ellen White describes the five foolish virgins as those Christians who have a superficial religion. They do not dig deep into the Word of God to put the character in harmony with it.

4. What is the only sure foundation we can build upon? *“For other _____ can no man lay than that is laid, which is _____ Christ.”* (1 Cor. 3:11)



5. What assurance is given to those who build upon Christ, the Rock? *"And I say also unto thee that thou art Peter [petros, meaning pebble], and upon this [petra] I will [petra] my [petra]; and the gates of hell [hades, the grave] shall not prevail against it."* (Matt. 16:18)

6. How do we build upon Christ? *"The [petra] of God is the only steadfast thing our world knows. It is the sure [petra]."* (MB 148)

NOTE: Jesus is the Word of God in person (John 1:1-3, 14) but we assimilate that person by studying and obeying His word. When we assimilate His Word we partake of His very life. This is what Jesus meant by eating His flesh and drinking His blood (see, John 6:63).

7. In a specific sense, what did Jesus mean when He spoke about building on the rock? *"The great principles of the [petra], of the very nature of God, are [petra] in the words of Christ on the [petra]. Whoever builds upon them is building upon Christ, the Rock of [petra]."* (MB148-149)

8. How does the apostle Paul amplify what it means to build upon Christ? *"And are built upon the foundation of the [petra] and [petra], Jesus Christ himself being the chief [petra]."* (Eph. 2:20)

NOTE: To build upon Christ means to build upon the teachings of Christ as found in the writings of the apostles and prophets.

9. How can we be sure our experience with Jesus is genuine? *"When the [petra] we accept kills sin in the [petra], purifies the soul from [petra], bears fruit unto [petra], we may know that it is the truth of God."* (MB 146)

10. What is meant by building on the sand? *"[The person who builds upon] the foundation of [petra] ideas and opinions, of forms and [petra] of man's invention, or by [petra] that he can do independently of the [petra] of Christ is erecting his structure of character upon [petra] sand."* (MB 150)

NOTE: The contrast between the builders upon the rock and the builders upon the sand can be seen in the concluding verse of Matthew 7. Jesus taught with the authority of God's word. In contrast, the scribes taught with no authority because they depended upon the traditions of men (see, Mk. 7) Ellen White remarks: "Self is but shifting sand. If you build upon human theories and inventions, your house will fall. By the winds of temptation, the tempests of trial, it will be swept away. But these principles that I have given will endure. Receive me, build on My words." (DA 314)

11. According to the prophet Isaiah, what would God do to Israel for preferring a refuge of lies instead of the foundation stone? *"Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall [petra] away the refuge of [petra], and the waters shall [petra] the hiding place. ... when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be [petra] down by it."* (Isa. 28:16-18)

STORM, FLOODS and WINDS

1. What is represented by the winds? *"And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, [petra] the four [petra] of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree."* (Rev. 7:1)

NOTE: When the winds of strife are released, the world will experience the time of trouble such as has never been seen in the history of planet earth. Then, only those who have built upon the solid foundation of God's word will be able to stand (see the question in Rev. 6:17)

2. What insight does the apostle Paul add concerning the meaning of the word "winds"? *"That we henceforth be no more children [petra] to and fro, and carried about with every [petra] of doctrine, by the [petra] of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to [petra]."* (Eph. 4:14; see also, Jude 12; Matt. 11:7; James 1:6)

3. How does John describe the persecution of God's people during the Middle Ages? *"And the serpent cast out of his mouth [petra] as a [petra] after the woman, that he might cause her to be [petra] away of the flood."* (Rev. 12:15; see also, Isa. 8:7-8).



4. What particular stage of human history is the storm of Matthew 7 describing? “But it is not yet too _____ to escape the im-

pending _____. Before the tempest breaks, flee to the _____ foundation.” (MB 152; see also Isaiah 4:1-6)

5. What will be our only protection in the coming cataclysmic storm? “None but those who have fortified the _____ with the truths of the _____ will stand through the last great conflict. To every soul will come the searching _____: Shall I obey God rather than men? The decisive hour is even now at hand. Are our feet planted on the _____ of God’s immutable word? Are we prepared to stand firm in defense of the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus?” (GC 592-593)

6. According to Revelation, what is meant by the falling of the house? “Babylon the great is _____, is _____.” (Rev. 18:2).

NOTE: The whole worldwide system (Babylon) which is based on human greatness and prowess will come crashing down (remember why the Tower of Babel came crashing down). Then only those who have built a character according to the divine similitude will be able to stand.

7. What glorious promise does God give through David to those who will experience the time of trouble? “For in the time of _____ he shall hide me in his _____; in the secret of his tabernacle shall he _____ me; he shall set me up upon a _____.” (Ps. 27:5)

8. In what sense is Jesus far more than a common, ordinary stone? “Christ, the true foundation is a _____ stone; His life is _____ to all that are built upon Him. . . The stones [us] became _____ with the foundation; for a common _____ dwells in all. That building no tempest can _____.” (MB 150; see Eph. 2:20-22)

Testimony



“Thank you for allowing yourself to be used by God. The Secrets Unsealed Ministry has been a tremendous blessing for my walk with God. A member of my church recommended for me to check it out. I ignored, and months later my faith was challenged by someone who I love. I found myself looking at YouTube and saw the series on the 24 Elders. I knew right away that the ministry has the blessing of God. As a result, I found myself building my house on [the] rock and now I can say that my faith is personal. It isn’t my grandfather’s or my mom’s but it is mine. Thank God for using you and your staff. May God continue to bless you and your ministry.”

LUIS, PENNSYLVANIA

“Thank you from across the country. May God continue to bless your work. Thank you so much for writing out your sermon, *The Risk of Eternal Loss*. I have copied it for all our Sabbath school class, 15 plus and others. How I wish this could be in our Review & Herald paper and Adventist World. May we keep looking up. God Bless all of you.”

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“Thank you for your excellent teachings. I enjoy them tremendously. Thank God for YouTube. You’ve opened up the scriptures for me astronomically.”

GEORGE, PENNSYLVANIA

“I am James, and I’m 6 years old. I want to give you \$10 because you put your sermons on YouTube for free.”

JAMES, INDIANA

“I’m just getting up this morning after the 2016 anchor classes are complete. I’m not one for getting up front and giving a testimony but I thought I should tell you what the class did for me. It helped bring a lot of pieces of prophecy together; brought me better understanding of things but better yet it brought me closer to Jesus. Thank you Pastor Bohr what more could a person do for another. God bless everyone at Secrets Unsealed.”

TROY, NORTH DAKOTA

Anchor School of Theology student

“Wow—Stephen Bohr 3 times today. I might turn from a Martha to a Mary!! Awesome.”

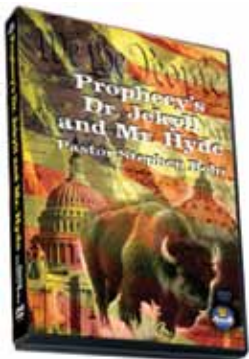
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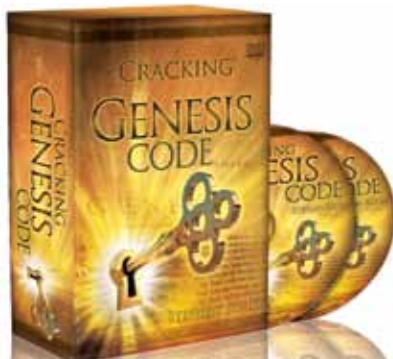
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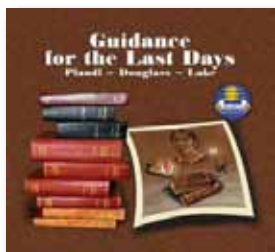
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