

*God Is Government*

*Isaiah 33:22*

*"For the LORD is our judge, the  
LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD  
is our king; he will save us."*



## TRUTH ABOUT RELIGION & THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

### PART TWELVE

We will close the subject series with looking to the future and what the Bible has said about the end times. In Revelation we know that one of the seven churches Christ has John write to is called Thyatira. This church within the 2000 years of the church age is the Roman Catholic Church. We find also in scripture that Mystery Babylon is the Roman Empire state. Because the Catholic Church, even today, has taken the governmental and political leadership role of the Roman Empire we can then discern that the Roman Catholic Church will be part of the antichrist team.



This document will be a transcript of Dave Hunt's presentation on this subject matter.

My title is Mystery Babylon Identified. About 2,500 years ago, God gave the prophet Daniel a vision of four strange beasts, as we all know, representing the four world empires which are now history, the Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Grecian, and Roman. Yes, there were other empires, large empires, based in Egypt, China, Central and South America, Arabia, and so forth, but Scripture gives them no prophetic significance because they will not rise again.

Only Rome will. Symbolic of the Roman Empire, the fourth beast retained characteristics of the three empires which preceded it, yet it was far more, quote, dreadful and terrible, strong exceedingly, it had great iron teeth, it devoured the known world, breaking and trampling all that opposed it, and so forth, Daniel 7:7. This fourth beast had ten horns, corresponding to the ten toes on the huge image seen in Daniel chapter two, an image which depicted the same four world empires. The image's two legs foretold the split of the Roman Empire.

Politically, when Constantine moved his capital to Constantinople in 330 A.D., and religiously, between Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy, when in 1054 Pope Leo IX in Rome excommunicated Michael Semiardius, Patriarch of Constantinople. The ten toes of iron mixed with clay signified ten kings who must

reign when, quote, the God of heaven shall set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, Daniel 2:44. Nearly 700 years after Daniel, around 95 A.D., the Apostle John was given three further prophetic visions of this same terrible fourth beast, as recorded in Revelation 12, Revelation 13, and chapter 17. At that time, the world empires represented by the first three beasts had come and gone exactly as Daniel had prophesied.

The fourth beast, the Roman Empire, was then at the height of its power. It too would fall, but unlike its three predecessors, and exactly as the Bible foretold, it would not be conquered by a successor. No fifth empire would arise to take its place.

Instead, Scripture foretold that the Roman Empire itself would be revived in a more powerful form to control all of earth just before Christ's second coming. Numerous scriptures indicate this. Since the Roman Empire was never ruled by ten kings at one time as foreseen in the images Ten Toes and the fourth beast Ten Horns, it must be revived worldwide, divided into ten regions under separate sub-rulers accountable to Antichrist, in my opinion at least.

Ten nations in Western Europe could hardly represent the revival of an empire which included far more in its day. Moreover, we're clearly told that, quote, power was given him over all kindreds and tongues and nations, and all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, Revelation 13:7-8. Interestingly, today's world has already been divided into ten regions by the Club of Rome. Only when Antichrist's position and power have been fully established, 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9, will the second coming take place with Christ returning to destroy Antichrist and his kingdom and to set up his own millennial reign over this earth from Jerusalem.

It says, whom the Lord shall destroy with the brightness of his coming. John saw this fourth beast three times, first as a red dragon seeking to destroy Israel, quote, and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns upon his head, Revelation 12. In chapter 13, this dreadful beast appears again, representing the revived Roman Empire whose, quote, deadly wound was healed, in my opinion at least, and also its ruler, the Antichrist, whom, quote, all that dwell upon the earth shall worship.

Now, John expresses no shock at the sight of the beast, but in his third vision of this scarlet beast with seven heads and ten horns, he's staggered to see a woman on his back, Revelation 17:6. A woman rides the beast, and not as in a rodeo on a creature which is trying to buck her off, but sitting relaxed and comfortable

holding the reins, obviously a key player in the unfolding drama of Antichrist's rule over the revived Roman Empire. Who is this woman? John's vision provides at least 14 specifics which identify her, I think, beyond question. First of all, she's a city, verse 19.

Secondly, the city sits on seven hills, verse 9. Several cities sit on seven hills, of course. John's vision, however, eliminates all but one, as we shall see, that the seven heads also signify seven kings, doesn't take away from the fact that they represent seven hills upon which the woman sits. Thirdly, emblazoned on her forehead is her name, Mystery Babylon.

Saddam Hussein has been rebuilding Iraq's ancient city of Babylon, headquarters of the first world empire. The woman could not be that city, however, rebuilt for the Antichrist for several reasons. First of all, it's the fourth empire headquartered in Rome, which is to be brought back to life, not the Babylonian Empire.

The ten toes and ten horns belong to Rome, and Babylon was not built on seven hills, nor does it meet any of the other identifying criteria. Rome, however, was and has universally been known as the city of seven hills. The Catholic Encyclopedia states, quote, it is within the city of Rome called the city of seven hills that the entire area of Vatican State proper is now confined, unquote.

Charles Dyer counters, the seven heads are associated with the beast, not the woman. It doesn't identify the location of the prostitute because she's not an organic part of the beast, unquote, nor is any cowboy an organic part of his horse. The seven heads are associated with the woman.

They are specifically stated to be seven hills on which she sits. That's the location. Interestingly, Rome was also known as Babylon.

In his book *Catholicism and Fundamentalism*, Catholic apologist Carl Keating writes, quote, Babylon is a code word for Rome. It is used that way six times in the last book of the Bible. I would agree with him there.

And in extra-biblical works such as *Sibling Oracles*, *The Apocalypse of Baruch and Esdras*, Eusebius, Pamphilus, writing about 303, noted that Peter referred to Rome figuratively as Babylon, 1 Peter 5:13, the

church that is at Babylon greeteth you. The Bible often addresses a person or city under another name. For example, Jerusalem is called Sodom in Egypt, Revelation 11:8, and Satan is addressed as the king of Babylon in Isaiah 14, as the prince of Tyrus in Ezekiel 28.

Could Rome be the woman on the beast? That would make good sense because the beast she rides is the revived Roman Empire. Fourth, this woman is called, quote, the great whore with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, verses 1 and 2. While Nineveh and Tyre were associated with prostitution because of their rampant sexual immorality, literal whoredom and fornication would be impossible for a city. Spiritual fornication, however, would be possible for a city if it were a spiritual entity.

Jerusalem is such a city. It's called the holy city, the city of God, having been chosen by God to represent him to the nations. Tragically, Jerusalem violated that relationship and was repeatedly accused by God's prophets of spiritual harlotry and adultery.

Just one verse of many. Isaiah said of Jerusalem, quote, how is the faithful city become a harlot? Chapter 1, verse 21. Jerusalem, however, can't be the woman riding the beast because it wasn't built on seven hills, nor does it meet any of the other criteria in John's vision.

There is one other city in the world, and only one, which is a spiritual entity and could therefore commit spiritual fornication with the kings of the earth, and it is built on seven hills. Again, that city is Rome, headquarters of Roman Catholicism, which claims to be the true Christianity. Its Pope claims to be the vicar of Christ.

Moreover, the Roman Catholic Church claims that its members have taken the place of Israel as the true people of God, and that Rome is therefore the new Jerusalem. Catholic Rome claims the very titles God gave to Jerusalem, the holy city, the city of God, even the eternal city. Let me state right now, I have no desire to attack Catholics.

I'm not a Catholic basher, as I've been accused of being. I love Catholics. I want them to know the truth.

Let's set the record straight. The canons and decrees of the Council of Trent, which Vatican II re-proposed, this sacred Council proposes again the canons and decrees of the Council of Trent, understand, contain more than 100 anathemas damning me and every evangelical Christian for our beliefs and our unwillingness to accept Catholic dogmas and authorities. So, who is really bashing whom? We've already discovered from John's vision that these four criteria, being a city known as Babylon, built on seven hills, that committed spiritual fornication with earth's rulers, have ruled out every city on earth except Rome.

We're of course not talking about political civil Rome, but about religious Rome, and more specifically the Vatican and the Roman Catholic Church as the worldwide leader of a false and anti-Christ Christianity. The Pope is currently leading the greatest ecumenical movement in history in order to unite all religions under Rome's leadership. As only one example, in 1986, Pope John Paul II gathered in Assisi, Italy, the leaders of the world's major religions to pray for peace.

There were snake worshipers, fire worshipers, spiritists, animists, Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus, North American Indian witch doctors. I watched in astonishment as they walked to the microphone to pray. The Pope said they were all praying to the same God, and that their prayers were creating a spiritual energy that was bringing about a new climate for peace.

On that occasion, John Paul II allowed his good friend the Dalai Lama to put the Buddha on the altar in St. Peter's Church in Assisi, and with his monks have the Buddhist worship ceremony there, while Shintoists chanted and tinkled their bells outside. The prophesied world religion is in the process of being formed before our eyes, and the Vatican is the headquarters of the movement. Is this not spiritual fornication, such as no other city either has committed or could commit? The objection is raised that Vatican City is only a small part of Rome, and is not itself built on seven hills.

Historically, however, the Pope ruled as kings over all of Rome and the surrounding area, as well as over large territories across Italy known as the Papal States. Pope Innocent III abolished the Roman Senate and placed the administration of Rome directly under his control. It wasn't until 1870 that Rome and the other Vatican-controlled territories were finally captured by the army of the newly united Italy.

The Jews were liberated at last from Rome's shameful ghetto, and Pope Pius IX took refuge in Vatican City, which has been the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church ever since. Today the Vatican still owns about one-third of Rome, and its influence is everywhere through its monuments, churches, and other institutions scattered throughout the entire city of Seven Hills. That church proudly identifies itself as the Roman Catholic Church.

A recent article in National Catholic Reporter titled, quote, Rome where the Pontiff reigned supreme declared, no city comes close to being so suffused with religious culture as Rome is with Catholicism. What has emerged over the centuries is unmistakably a culture of the papacy, unquote. The article goes on to refer to the monuments to Roman Catholicism found everywhere in Rome, and states, quote, all roads lead sooner or later down the Via della Consolazione to the Vatican.

Rome is the world's spiritual crossroads, unquote. Our Sunday Visitors Catholic Encyclopedia adds, quote, hence one understands the central place of Rome in the life of the church today and the significance of the title Roman Catholic Church. Since the of the church there, Rome has been the center of all Christianity.

World's spiritual crossroads, center of all Christianity. This is the one city in the world built on seven hills and known as Babylon, which is undoubtedly a spiritual entity. The popes have repeatedly engaged in partnership and thus spiritual fornication with emperors, kings, and princes.

Claiming to be the bride of Christ, the Roman Catholic Church has been in bed with godless rulers down through history. Hundreds of examples could be given, not just from centuries past, but from recent times as well. Consider, for example, the alliances with Mussolini and Hitler.

The Vatican literally put Mussolini into power. Pope Pius XI and his cardinals praised Mussolini as a man chosen by God and forbade Roman Catholics to oppose him politically. In turn, Mussolini signed the Concordat with the Vatican in 1929, making Roman Catholicism the sole religion of Italy.

The Vatican received 750 million lire in cash and 1 billion in state bonds. Four years later, in 1933, came a similar Concordat with Hitler, resulting in the Vatican's reception of hundreds of millions of German marks from the Nazi regime all through World War II. Similar Concordats with many other governments have

made the Roman Catholic Church the only religion allowed in those countries and have brought persecution and death upon thousands of evangelicals.

One could not ask for clear examples of fornication with the kings of the earth. Ancient Babylon doesn't meet this criteria, nor does any other city. Christ never joined forces with Caesar, nor did Peter or Paul.

But the Roman Catholic Church has continually engaged in adulterous relationships with secular rulers right up to the present. The cover of Time magazine, February 24, 1992, declared, quote, holy alliance. How Reagan and the Pope conspired to assist Poland's solidarity movement and hastened the demise of communism, unquote.

The alliance between Reagan and Pope John Paul II, between the CIA and the alleged vicar of Christ, could only be called spiritual fornication. Vatican liaison to the White House, Archbishop Pio Laghi, kept reminding American officials, quote, listen to the Holy Father. We have 2,000 years experience at this, unquote.

2,000 years is an exaggeration, but there have been centuries of political intrigue at which the Vatican is clearly the master. And this is the true church? No, this is the whore. Mikhail Gorbachev, who has called the Pope, quote, the highest spiritual authority on earth, wrote in his syndicated column, quote, Pope John Paul II played a major political role in the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe.

The events in Eastern Europe might not have been possible without the presence of this Pope, without the great role which he knew how to play on the world scene, unquote. Such praise could never have been given to Christ or to his apostles, who were martyred by the secular world, which the Popes have embraced in spiritual fornication and have even dominated. Or we could give many other examples.

Fifth, this city on Seven Hills, quote, rules over the kings of the earth, verse 19. In John's day, of course, it was the Rome of the Caesars that ruled the world. After the Caesars lost their power, the Popes ruled in their place and over wider territories and often more ruthlessly.

Christ said that his kingdom is not of this world and his servants are not to fight. In direct disobedience, the Popes, who included some of the greatest military commanders in history, Pope Innocent III, never lost a battle. They fought with armies and navies in the name of Christ to build a huge kingdom, an unrivaled worldwide empire, property, wealth, and political influence, which is very much of this world.

Papal worldly power has been wielded for centuries in fulfillment of John's remarkable vision, while ancient Babylon has been in ruins. Hundreds of examples could be given. Here are a few.

Pope Alexander II decreed that Harold, the lawful King of England, was a usurper, excommunicated him and his followers, and gave the throne to William, Duke of Normandy. With the Pope's blessing, William the Conqueror killed Harold in battle, took over England, and was crowned in London on Christmas Day 1066. He accepted the crown of England, quote, in the name of the Holy See of Rome, unquote.

As the Pope's agent, William the Conqueror, now their king, was required to teach the English people due obedience to Christ's vicar and to pay their taxes to the Pope punctually. Pope Alexander III excommunicated the Roman Emperor, Frederick Barbarossa, Frederick I. The latter came for revenge with his armies against the Pope and was soundly defeated. Frederick I, the Emperor, came to Venice where he groveled at the Pope's feet with his face in the dust, begging forgiveness.

The Pope put his heel on the Emperor's neck while the cardinals chanted, thou shalt tread upon the lion, and adder, and so forth. Papal Rome has ruled the kings of this earth for centuries, while ancient Babylon lay in ruins. Pope Gregory VII's claim to be King of Kings was no idle boast.

In 1077, Gregory forbade Henry IV, heir of Charlemagne, by the way, Charlemagne had been crowned Emperor by Pope Leo III, he forbade Henry IV, heir of Charlemagne, supreme head of the Holy Roman Empire, to rule the kingdoms of Italy and Germany and threatened to excommunicate anyone who would serve him as king. Henry journeyed across the Alps in winter to beg the Pope's forgiveness. The humbled Emperor had to stand three days in penitence, barefoot and in a haircloth shirt, outside the Pope's castle at Canossa, before he was granted an audience to express his repentance.



In 1155, Pope Adrian IV gave the crown of Ireland to the King of England, consigning the Irish to the merciless cruelties of Henry II. A later King of England, John Lackland, tried to break free from Rome and Pope Innocent III forced him to surrender his crown, thereafter allowing him to rule only as a vassal of the Holy See. One 18th century Catholic historian counted 95 Popes who claimed to have divine power to depose kings and emperors.

Historian R.W. Southern declared, quote, during the whole medieval period there was in Rome a single spiritual and temporal authority exercising powers which in the end exceeded those that had ever lain within the grasp of a Roman Emperor, unquote. Pope Gregory XI's papal bull of 1372 in Condomini, claimed papal dominion over the entire Christian world, secular and religious, and excommunicated all who failed to obey the Popes and to pay them taxes. The bull was confirmed by subsequent Popes and in 1568 Pope Pius V swore that it was to remain an eternal law.

Surely no other city at the present or in history can rival the way in which Rome, especially Catholic Rome, qualifies as the city on seven hills which reigns over kings. Hundreds more examples could be given covering centuries when Babylon lay in ruins, nor is empire building an abandoned feature of the past. The Second Vatican Council declared that, quote, the Catholic Church ceaselessly and efficaciously seeks for the return of all humanity and all its goods under Christ, unquote, meaning of course under the Pope Christ's alleged vicar.

The sixth point, not only is Babylon the code name for Rome, but Rome's connections to Babylon go much deeper. Ancient Babylon drew its Semitic name Babylou, gate of God, from the Tower of Babel around whose ruins it was built. That tower, designed to reach to heaven, was the headquarters of the first world religion, just as Rome will be for the coming world religion of Antichrist.

Furthermore, just as Babel's tower and city let us build us a city and a tower whose top may reach to heaven, just as Babel's tower and city united church and state, so the Popes wielded both civil and religious authority, and in like manner the woman and the beast she rides will unite the coming world government and world religion with its attempt to reach heaven by steps of its own making. Babel, Babylon, was the ultimate works religion, and so it is in Roman Catholicism. Salvation is unquestionably by works.

Vatican II declares, quote, to gain indulgences the work prescribed must be done. From the most ancient times in the church, good works were also offered to God for the salvation of sinners. All men may attain the salvation through faith, baptism, and the observance of the commandments, unquote.

The Council of Trent, as repropounded by Vatican II, decreed, quote, if anyone says that the sacraments of the new law are not necessary, talk about Galatianism and the Judaizers, if anyone says that the sacraments of the new law are not necessary for salvation, and that without them men obtained from God through faith alone the grace of justification, let him be anathema. That's one of more than a hundred anathemas. Clearly, good works play a key role in earning salvation in Catholicism, as the average Catholic would testify.

Thus, by his practice of salvation through good works and ritual, Catholic Rome once again fits the description of the woman whose name is Babylon. The seventh identifying feature, John tells us that the name Babylon emblazoned on the woman's forehead is preceded by the word mystery. Here again, mystery is the very heart of Roman Catholicism.

Pope Paul VI's encyclical on the Eucharist is titled *Mysterium Fidei*. Vatican II refers repeatedly to, quote, the mystery of the Eucharist, unquote. The Vatican's new universal catechism declares that all of the Church's liturgy is mystery, and that its aim is, quote, to initiate souls into the mystery of Christ.

It is mystagogy, unquote. By claiming to be the custodian of a mystery which only its priests and bishops can mediate, the Roman Catholic Church keeps its members dependent upon it rather than upon Christ for their salvation, which it has historically sold for money, and still does so today, and thus trades in the souls of men, as Revelation 18.13 says. The eighth point, John notes that the woman on the beast is clothed, quote, in purple and scarlet, unquote, verse 4. These were the colors of the Roman Caesars, became those of the Roman Catholic hierarchy, and remain so today.

The Catholic Encyclopedia declares of the ankle-length robe worn by Catholic clergy as their official garb, quote, the color for bishops and other prelates is purple, for Cardinals, scarlet, unquote. This may seem a small point, but as one identifying feature after another falls into place, the case becomes overwhelming. Catholic Rome meets all the criteria.

No other city comes close, certainly not a city lying in ruins for the past 2,000 years. The ninth identifying feature, the woman is wealthy beyond calculation, quote, decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand, unquote, Revelation 17:4. The Roman Catholic Church is by far the wealthiest institution on earth. Every cathedral, you've traveled to Europe and South America and so forth, you know, every cathedral has its treasury, where priceless objects are displayed for those who pay the price to see them.

The value of innumerable sculptures by such masters as Michelangelo, paintings by the world's greatest artists and countless other art treasures, and ancient documents which she possesses, not only at the Vatican, but in cathedrals around the world. The value is beyond calculation. Nino Lobello, former Rome correspondent for Businessweek, calls the Vatican the tycoon on the Tiber, because of its incredible wealth and worldwide enterprises.

His research indicates it's probably the largest holder of stocks and bonds in the world to say nothing of its ownership of industries, from electronics and plastics to airlines and chemical and engineering firms. There is no city, past or present, which even comes close to possessing the incalculable wealth of the Roman Catholic Church. The rich clothing adorning the woman reflect the fact that the robes worn by popes and the regalia used in pomp and ceremony were inherited from the Caesars.

One Catholic historian has written, quote, the Bishop of Rome looked like Constantine, lived like him, dressed like him, inhabited his palaces, ruled over his lands, had exactly the same imperial outlook. The popes had become obsessed with power and possession. Peter's successors became not the servants but the masters of the world.

They dress in purple like Nero and call themselves Pontifex Maximus. Tenth, the woman riding the beast has a golden cup in her hand. This is the holiest instrument in Roman Catholicism, the golden chalice used in the Eucharist or Mass.

The Roman Catholic Church possesses literally hundreds of thousands of gold chalices. If there's any mark of the Catholic Church it would be the gold cup. Eleventh, John perceives that this golden chalice is filled

with, quote, the filthiness of her abominations, unquote, reflecting the Bible's view of the sacrifice of the Mass at the very heart of Roman Catholicism.

Such was the conviction of hundreds of thousands of Christians throughout history who were burned at the stake for refusing to participate in the Mass, which they earnestly believed was the greatest abomination conceivable. Why? Because it claims to be the literal sacrificial offering again and again of the body and blood of Christ, whereas the Bible clearly says that Christ's sacrifice upon the cross was completed once and for all, never to be repeated again. Catholicism claims that when at the Last Supper Christ said, quote, this is my body, this is my blood, he had to be taken literally.

The bread and wine he held in his hands had with those words become his literal body and blood. And when the priest speaks those words today, the bread and wine become again Christ's literal body and blood to be sacrificed endlessly on Catholic altars as truly as Christ was sacrificed on the cross. No one takes it literally when Christ said, I'm the door, I'm the light of the world, I'm the good shepherd, or when he called his disciples sheep, Christ was obviously speaking figuratively when he referred to bread and wine as his body and blood.

There's no way that the bread could literally be his body when he was sitting there in his physical body holding the bread. Much less can millions of tiny wafers each be simultaneously. Christ's literal body and blood, soul, personality, divinity, whole and entire, as Catholicism claims.

That is not literalism but mysticism, the very mystery emblazoned on the woman's forehead. Compounding the error, Vatican II declares, quote, our Savior at the Last Supper instituted the Eucharistic sacrifice of his body and blood, unquote. The Council of Trent agrees that Christ at the Last Supper, quote, offered up to God the Father his own body and blood under the form of bread and wine, unquote.

If so, then he was sacrificed for the sins of the world at the Last Supper before he went to the cross. Indeed he wouldn't have to go to the cross at all if Catholic priests as they claim can truly turn bread and wine into the literal body and blood of Christ and offer it as a propitiatory sacrifice on their altars. This is the great mystery at the heart of Catholicism.

The pocket Catholic dictionary states, quote, the Mass is a truly propitiatory sacrifice by which the Lord is appeased. He grants grace. He pardons wrongdoings and sins, unquote.

The Council of Trent declared, quote, regarding the great mystery of the Eucharist, it is the true and only sacrifice, unquote. Then the cross is unnecessary. Of course, Catholic apologists would say that the cross is essential.

Yet in Catholicism, Christ's sacrifice upon the cross is only effective in its repetition in the Mass, and then only partially each time the Mass is repeated. It takes many repetitions of the Mass to take a soul to heaven. Christ won for the world all the graces it needs for salvation and sanctification, but these blessings are conferred gradually and continually since Calvary, mainly through the Mass.

The priest is indispensable since he alone by his powers can change the elements of bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ. The more often the sacrifice is offered, the more benefit is conferred, unquote. In other words, Christ's sacrifice is not yet complete, but is still in process through the Mass.

Indeed, Vatican II, page 1 says, quote, for it is the liturgy through which, especially in the divine sacrifice of the Eucharist, the work of our redemption is accomplished, unquote. Hebrews 9:12 assures us that Christ obtained eternal redemption for us. Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:14 both state, in whom, in Christ, we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Yet Vatican II insists, quote, for in the sacrifice of the Mass, our Lord is immolated. He's still suffering. The Mass is a sacrifice in which the sacrifice of the cross is perpetuated, unquote.

The pocket Catholic dictionary explains that in the Mass, Christ, quote, offers himself as really as he did on Calvary, unquote. Then what did Christ mean when he cried in triumph, it is finished. Indeed, that golden cup is full of abominations, as Revelation 17 foretold.

Playing a semantic game, Catholicism suggests that Christ isn't really being sacrificed over and over, but his sacrifice on the cross is being represented or made present. Such a statement is meaningless. An event that was completed in the past can't be made present.

Moreover, if the past event accomplished its purpose, then there's no reason for wanting to perpetuate it in the present, even if that could be done. For example, if a benefactor pays a creditor the debt someone owes, the debt is gone forever. It would be meaningless to speak of representing or reenacting or perpetuating the payment in the present.

One could well remember with gratitude the payment that was made, but no reenactment would have any virtue, since there no longer remains any debt to be paid. Yet the New Catechism of the Catholic Church says, quote, as sacrifice the Eucharist is also offered in reparation for the sins of the living and the dead and to obtain spiritual or temporal benefits from God. That's like trying to pay more installments on a debt that's been paid in full.

Clearly the Mass is a denial of the sufficiency of the payment Christ made for sin upon the cross. At the heart of this error, the Catholic priesthood claims to perform the miracle of transubstantiation, turning bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ, quote, under the appearance of remaining bread and wine, unquote. This mystery, they call it, is supposed to be a great miracle, even though the wafer and wine remain unchanged in physical qualities.

There's no such miracle in the Bible. Did Christ ever give a blind man his sight under the appearance of the man remaining blind? Did he ever raise a dead man to life under the appearance of the man remaining dead? Under those circumstances, it wouldn't be unbelief but common sense to deny that the alleged miracle had occurred at all. Suppose the water turned to wine by Christ at the wedding in Cana had been this kind of miracle.

The servants poured out to the governor of the feast and he exclaims, I asked for wine, this is water. The servants insist, sir, it is wine. Angrily the governor shouts, it looks like water, tastes like water, it is water.

You need faith, the servants insist. This is a miracle. Christ turned water into wine but under the appearance of remaining water.

That's not a miracle, that's a fraud, would be the governor's response and he would be right. And so it is with transubstantiation. The golden cup is full of abominations.

The dogma of purgatory is another abomination in the golden cup. Vatican II says that although Christ suffered to bear our eternal punishment, we must personally suffer to expiate the temporal punishment due for our sins. And you're anathematized if you deny that.

Sin, I'm quoting Vatican II now, sin must be expiated through the sorrows, miseries, and trials of this life or in the next life through fire and torments or purifying punishments. In purgatory the souls of those who died in the charity of God and truly repentant for their sins and omissions are cleansed after death with punishments designed to purge away their debt. Yet in blatant contradiction, at the same time out of the other side of its mouth, Catholicism says, well, we don't really have to suffer.

Masses and rosaries can be said, even after one's death, to reduce one's suffering in purgatory. For those who die wearing the brown scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and fulfill certain other obligations, she promises to go into purgatory the Saturday after their death and take them out to heaven so they don't have to personally suffer. Christ's sacrifice on the cross was not sufficient, but it's alleged repetition in the mass, if done enough times, will eventually get one to heaven.

Moreover, good Catholics may offer their suffering to release souls from purgatory. Padre Pio manifested the stigmata for 40 years to pay the penalty for the sins of the world so that souls could be released from purgatory. Of such alleged saints, Vatican II says, quote, they have carried their crosses to make expiation for their own sins and the sins of others.

They were convinced that by their suffering, they could help their brothers to obtain salvation from God, unquote. Catholicism has indeed filled that golden cup with abominations. For centuries, the payment of money brought deliverance from purgatory and passage into heaven.

That practice eventually sparked the Reformation, as you remember. Who can forget the infamous sales pitch of the Dominican friar Tetzel, commissioned by Pope Leo X to reap a fortune for Rome, quote, as soon as the coin in the coffer rings, a soul from purgatory springs, unquote. This was nothing new.

Rome had consistently sold salvation for centuries. Again, we say she has, quote, made merchandise of souls of men, unquote. Revelation 18:13.

Popes published lists of every crime, from incest to piracy to murder, with a price for which the Church would give absolution for each. For example, a deacon guilty of murder could be absolved for 20 crowns. The anointed malefactors, as they were called, once pardoned by the Church, could not be prosecuted by civil authorities, because the Church reigned supreme.

Here's a further abomination, filling the woman's golden cup, selling tickets to heaven that end people up in hell. Similar practices continue in Roman Catholicism today. Here's a mass card.

One may obtain a mass card from any mortuary. When the names of the deceased and the donor have been filled in, and an offering given to the Church, the priest places the card on the altar during mass, allegedly reducing the time of suffering for the deceased in purgatory. Of course, the Church makes no guarantee how much suffering will be shortened, or how many more masses must be said before the gates of heaven can be opened.

Consequently, multiple masses are purchased, hoping that eventually enough will be celebrated. A friend's father died recently, and he told me that 2,000 dollars in mass cards were purchased at the funeral, and of course many more will be in following years. Some Catholics claim they don't believe in indulgences, but Vatican II declares, quote, the Church condemns with anathema those who say that indulgences are useless, or that the Church does not have the power to grant them, unquote.

Vatican II provides 20 complex rules governing indulgences. Just give you one. Rule 17 explains that the use of a crucifix, rosary, scapular, or medal, quote, can gain a partial indulgence, but if this object of piety is blushed by the Pope or any bishop, the faithful who use it with devotion can also gain a plenary indulgence on the feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul, unquote.

Here's another abomination filling that gold chalice. What kind of God grants favors, depending upon whether a priest or a bishop has blessed some scapular or medal, and whether it is used on a feast of Peter or



Paul, and favors, remember, which the sufferings of Christ upon the cross could not procure. Twelve, the woman is called, quote, the mother of harlots, unquote.

As well as spiritual harlots, Roman Catholicism has created literal harlots by the millions. Throughout history, and today, priests, bishops, cardinals, and popes without number, who claim to be celibates, have had their lovers. There were popes who were the sons of supposedly celibate popes.

Pope Silverius was fathered by Pope Ormistus, and John XI by Sergius III, by his favorite mistress. The list of bastards who ruled the Church includes Popes Boniface I, Gelasius, Agapetus, Theodore, Adrian IV, and others. No wonder Pope Pius II, who himself fathered illegitimate children, said that Rome was, quote, the only city run by bastards, unquote.

For centuries, it was a favorite joke that Rome had more prostitutes than any other city because she had the most celibates. The sexual exploits of supposedly celibate priests and nuns, once hushed up, are increasingly coming out in the open. For example, the National Catholic Reporter recently stated, quote, seven French women, companions of priests, who are forced to live clandestinely for a lifetime, the love they share with a priest, and who represent thousands of women in similar relationships, arrived at the Vatican August 20th.

They asked the Pope, of course they couldn't get near him, but they asked the Pope to look into the reality faced by thousands of priest companions who live in the shadows, often with the approval of church superiors, and by the children who are raised by their mothers alone or are abandoned, unquote. Just to give you some recent examples, the Archbishop of Vienna recently stepped down after being charged with sexual abuse of minors. The Bishop of Basel, Switzerland, too, resigned after admitting an affair with a woman whom he made pregnant.

The resignation of Ireland's Prime Minister and the collapse of the Irish government was recently precipitated by the exposure of 40 years of the Catholic Church and Catholic government officials covering up the continued priestly sexual abuse. Homosexual priests are dying of AIDS worldwide, with estimates that as many as 70% of priests in some seminaries are practicing homosexuals. The Roman Catholic Church in America has paid out an estimated one billion dollars in the past few years in out-of-court settlements to cover up its clergy's sexual abuse.

The Franciscan Seminary in Santa Barbara, California, recently had to shut down because of the sexual involvement of its priests. The Milwaukee Archdiocese is in serious financial trouble due to payments it has had to make for out-of-court settlements involving its priests' sexual affairs. The Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico, is on the brink of bankruptcy because of lawsuits against it for priestly sexual abuse.

I could go on and on. I have a file nearly two inches thick of news articles involving sexual immorality of Roman Catholic clergy just within the last two years. It's not that Catholic priests and nuns are any more lustful than the average person.

They may have started out with higher ideals, but they've had imposed upon them the unbiblical rule of celibacy, which becomes a burden too great to bear. One Spanish ex-priest, writing in the early 1700s, said that of one million priests in Spain, he estimated 500 were celibates. The woman is literally, quote, the mother of harlots, unquote.

Thirteenth, the woman is drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus, verse 6. For centuries, to disobey the popes was heresy punishable by death. J. H. Ignace von Dellinger, a leading 19th century Catholic professor of church history, confessed, quote, since 1183 the view of the church had been that every departure from the teaching of the church must be punished with death and the most cruel of deaths by fire. For 1,000 years before the Reformation, there were Christians who refused to give allegiance to Rome and who were slaughtered by the millions.

Everyone knows of the crusades to retake the Holy Land, not for the Jews, by the way, but for the church. But few know that even larger and more numerous crusades were fought to exterminate Christians all over Europe who, out of conscience to God and obedience to the Bible, would not submit to the authority of the popes or embrace Rome's heresies. The popes promised instant entrance to heaven for those who died in the slaughter of the heretics.

It took about a century to exterminate the Albigensian Christians, who at one time were the majority of the population of southern France. Among the Albigensian cities wiped out by Pope Innocent III was Béziers, France, for example, in 1208 A.D. 60,000 massacred there, including women and children, which the Pope

called, quote, the crowning achievement of my papacy, unquote. In the infamous St. Bartholomew's Massacre, as you know, they were promised safety.

70,000 Huguenots were slaughtered. Another 200,000 were slaughtered over a period of months, causing 500,000 to flee to Protestant countries for refuge. The Waldensians were all but exterminated, as were the Hussites.

Let me read you just part of Pope Martin V's letter commanding the king of Poland in 1429, this is a hundred years before the Reformation, to exterminate the Hussites, quote, know that the interests of the Holy See and those of your crown make it a duty to exterminate the Hussites. Remember that these impious persons dare proclaim principles of equality, that all Christians are brethren, that Christ came on earth to abolish slavery. They call the people to liberty.

While there is still time, then, turn your forces against Bohemia, burn, massacre, make deserts everywhere, for nothing could be more agreeable to God or more useful to the cause of kings than the extermination of the Hussites, unquote. We haven't time to mention the horror of the torture and murder, murders of the Inquisitions, which terrorized Europe for centuries. There is no city on earth which even comes close to having shed as much blood, both of Christians and Jews, as has Rome.

Pagan Rome's killing of Christians during periodic persecutions in the first three centuries was nothing compared to the slaughter of both Christians and Jews by Catholic Rome. Historian Will Durant writes candidly, quote, compared with the persecution of alleged heresy in Europe by the Roman Catholic Church, the persecution of Christians in the first three centuries after Christ by pagan Rome was a mild and humane procedure, unquote. Yes, this woman is indeed, quote, drunk with the blood of the saints and the martyrs of Jesus, unquote, and no other city even comes close to Rome in this regard, certainly not ancient Babylon, which lay in ruins while Rome slaughtered the saints.

Fourteenth, the fact that, this is the final point, fourteenth, the fact that it is a woman who rides the beast also points to Roman Catholicism. Its main figure is a woman, a false, sinless, perpetually virgin and all-powerful Mary whom Rome has invented and worships. Catholics deny they worship Mary and insist that

the devotion and honor they give her is of a lesser quality than that given to God in Christ, perhaps in theory, but not in practice.

There are thousands of large and ornate shrines to Mary around the world, nearly a thousand in France alone, visited by hundreds of millions each year, but scarcely a handful of shrines to Christ in the entire world and generally very small with few visitors. I found my first shrine to Christ in Portugal just a few weeks ago. Pilgrims to Mary's shrines come to ask for her help and protection.

Both the New Universal Catechism, the Catholic Church, and Vatican II declare, quote, from the most ancient times the Blessed Virgin has been honored with the title of Mother of God to whose protection the faithful fly in all their dangers and needs, unquote. Why fly to Mary's protection when God's protection is available? And if this Catholic Mary can indeed protect all Catholics from all dangers and supply all needs, then she must be at least as great as God. And apparently she's more sympathetic because at least 1,000 times, I'm not exaggerating, ask your ex-Catholics, at least 1,000 times as many prayers are offered to Mary as are offered to God and Christ combined.

Yes, prayers to Mary, not just asking her to pray for us, but asking her to do what she would have to be God to do. Even asking her to provide the salvation and forgiveness of sins that Christ has already provided and offers freely in grace. In his prayer for the Marian year, there was a Marian year and a special prayer, Pope John Paul II asks Mary to comfort, guide, strengthen, and protect the whole of humanity.

To do so she would have to be all-powerful, all-knowing, and omnipresent. His prayer ends, quote, sustain us, O Virgin Mary, on our journey of faith and obtain for us the grace of eternal salvation, unquote. Christ offers salvation freely to all who will believe in him and cries out to mankind, come unto me.

The Catholic is taught, however, that the way to Christ is through his mother, whose pleas the Lord can't resist. I would be insulted if friends whom I love, instead of coming directly to me, ask my mother to influence me on their behalf. But the idea that Christ's mother can prevail upon him for favors is a major belief among Catholics.

The most recited Catholic prayer, the Rosary, cries out to Mary for help, calling her, quote, mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope, unquote. The Bible says Christ is our life and our hope, and surely God's mercy was extended to mankind before Mary was born, so she could hardly be its mother. Another popular Catholic prayer to Mary says, quote, in thy hands I place my eternal salvation, and to thee do I entrust my soul, for if thou protect me, dear mother, I fear nothing, not for my sins, because thou wilt obtain for me the pardon of them, nor from the devils, because thou art more powerful than all hell together, nor even from Jesus my judge himself, because by one prayer from thee he will be appeased.

But one thing I fear, that in the hour of temptation I may neglect to call on thee, and thus perish miserably, obtain for me then the pardon of my sins, unquote. The Catholic Mary is not the Mary of the Bible, but the woman who rides the beast. She's appearing around the world in thousands of apparitions, offering her peace plan for the world, and millions are believing in her instead of in Christ.

Revelation 17 and 18 refer to the same city, Mystery Babylon. I consider these chapters to be among the most remarkable prophecies in the Bible, foretelling with absolute accuracy the rise of Roman Catholicism to world dominion and its religious abominations. The woman riding the beast can't be the literal city of Babylon being rebuilt in Iraq for many reasons, while Babylon could seem to meet some of the criteria in Revelation 17.

She falls far short of meeting them all. She's been in ruins for 2,000 years, meeting none of the 14 criteria given to John, while the Vatican has been fulfilling all of them. Even if, as Dyer argues, Babylon has never been completely without inhabitants, she has certainly not played any role in world affairs during that time.

Furthermore, that a rebuilt ancient city would somehow become such a great city as to rule the world in a brief time, and make up for having been in ruins ever since John penned these lines, is rather far-fetched. It also would seem to argue against imminency for the rapture, considering the great length of time it would take not only for ancient Babylon to be rebuilt, but to be inhabited by hundreds of thousands of people, and to become dominant in world affairs. That it would happen to a city in Iraq makes it even more unlikely.

What we have attempted to show from the Bible in history is not some new theory lately dreamed up, but has been the conviction of untold numbers of evangelical Christians, who down through the ages existed

independently of Rome, and would not give allegiance to her, and were therefore slaughtered by the millions. Martin Luther himself referred to them when he said, "...we are not the first to declare the papacy to be the kingdom of Antichrist, since for many years before us so many of such great men, whose number is large and whose memory is eternal, have undertaken to express the same thing so clearly and plainly." Of these martyrs, historian Will Durant wrote, "...the Roman Church, they were sure, was the whore of Babylon." Such was the opinion even of many leading Roman Catholics in the Middle Ages. For example, St. Bonaventure, Cardinal and General of the Franciscans, said that Rome was just like the harlot of the apocalypse.

The Reformers were certain of this, and it was written into their creeds. Thus, D. Martin Lloyd-Jones declared, "...I would not hesitate with the Reformers of the 16th century to say that Roman Catholicism is, as the scripture puts it, the whore." One could hardly come to any other conclusion from John's vision. This has been the view of the Evangelical Church for 1,500 years, yet that opinion is lately being abandoned by Evangelicals in the interest of ecumenism, or because ancient Babylon is now being rebuilt by Saddam Hussein.*no other. (Isaiah 45:20-22)*