

**Catholic
Views
on
Prophecy
Examined**

by

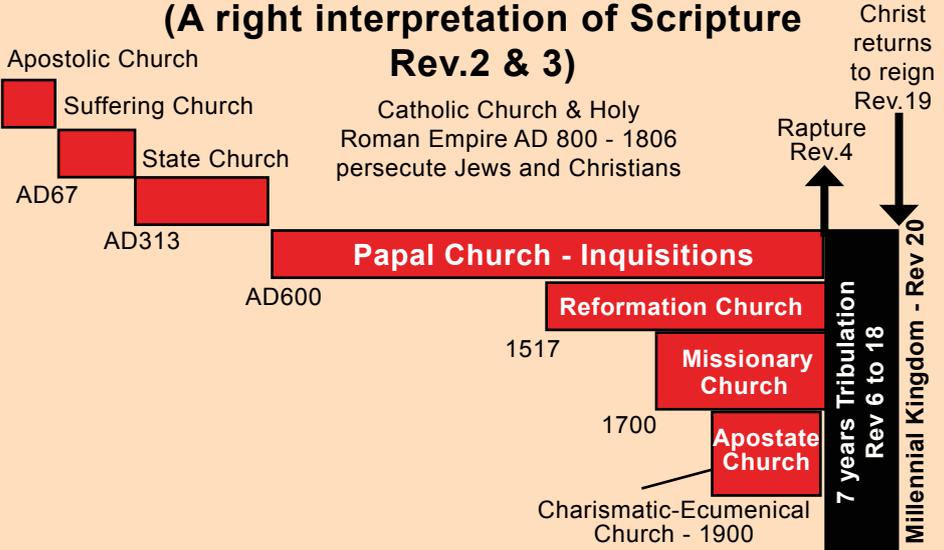
John R Ecob D.D.

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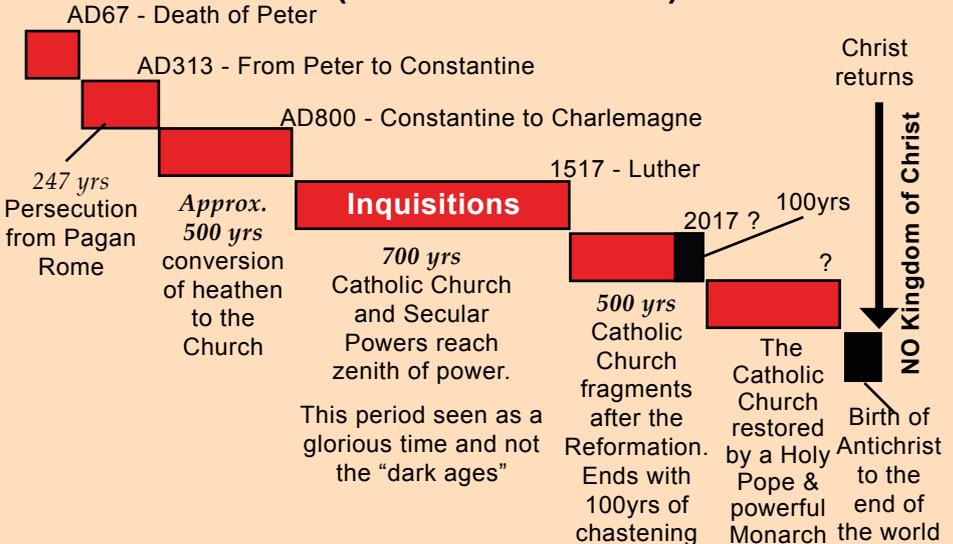
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A Biblical View of Prophecy (A right interpretation of Scripture Rev.2 & 3)



A Catholic View of Prophecy (based on visions)



What Catholics Believe About Prophecy

John R Ecob D.D.

The Roman Catholic Church has claimed to receive many “prophecies” over centuries of time; sometimes it has been a vision seen by a Pope, a nun, or a priest. In many ways the Catholic Church resembles the mystical and charismatic movements in that it believes some people are prophets and able to receive visions and extra-Biblical revelations from God. Throughout the centuries the Catholic Church has claimed numerous miracles and certain of their number claimed to have gifts of the Spirit just as the charismatics do today.

The “Miracle at Fatima”

The “miracle at Fatima” is a well-known apparition of Mary. Her appearance to three shepherd children in Portugal in 1917 was supposed to be accompanied by unexplained events, including a shared vision of the sun dancing and moving about erratically in the sky. Three prophecies were given at Fatima. The first two were disclosed by the eldest of the three children, after she wrote them down in the early 1940s, but the third and final prophecy was not to be revealed until 1960. When 1960 came, the third prophecy was not revealed because the Vatican said the world was not quite ready for it. This led to speculation that it was about the end of the world.

The first prophecy predicted WWI would end and unless people ceased offending God, WWII would begin. However this prophecy was not released until 1940 **AFTER WWII had begun.**

The second prophecy commanded the consecration of Russia to the “Immaculate Heart” of Mary, on the First Saturday of each month. Mary was supposed to say, “If my requests are heeded, Russia will be converted, and there will be peace; if not, she will spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church.”

In 1984, Pope John Paul II consecrated the Soviet Union. Subsequently, in 1991, the Soviet Union disintegrated into 15 separate countries but was certainly not converted.

The third prophecy, was enclosed in a sealed envelope by the surviving shepherd girl Lucia, who gave it to her Bishop. It was passed to the Vatican with instructions that it not be opened till 1960. When Pope John XXIII opened the letter in 1960 he refused to make its contents public but in the year 2000 the full text was revealed after the Pope visited the shrine at Fatima. The third prophecy stated that the Pope would betray the flock and turn his sheep over to a slaughter devised by Lucifer himself.

The Vatican told the world that the secret was a **foretelling of the 1981 assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II** but the prophecy bears no resemblance to an assassination attempt by a lone gunman! One passage reads:

“...the Holy Father passed through a big city half in ruins and half trembling with halting step, afflicted with pain and sorrow, he prayed for the souls of the corpses he met on his way; having reached the top of the mountain, on his knees at the foot of the big Cross he was killed by a group of soldiers who fired bullets and arrows at him...”

The Madonna of Medjugorje

Another notable apparition involved children in 1981, in a small village named **Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina** where some young people claimed the virgin Mary appeared to them. Messages from the virgin Mary have continued until as recent as 25 July 2014.

Catholic Prophecy

A book was published by Thomas Nelson as recently as 1970 entitled, *Catholic Prophecy* by Yves Dupont, which gathers up many prophecies from past centuries and seeks to analyse them. The prophetic views expressed in a commentary on the book by Jim Condit Jr. are those of the **more traditional Catholics** and are very critical of trends in the church since Vatican II (1962-1965) and the 1958 Conclave when attempts were made to modernize Catholic worship. Condit claimed he encountered a problem finding **sources in approved books which were written by Catholic Clergy**. Nevertheless, the book, *Catholic Prophecy* gives insights into how many Catholics view prophecy.

The official teaching of the Catholic Church as described in the Catechism rejects any form of millenarianism and considers it false teaching; it is emphatically Amillennial. The Catechism states:

“The Church has rejected even modified forms of this falsification of the kingdom to come under the name of millenarianism.”

The Nicene Creed, which is said at every Sunday Mass simply states that Christ will return “to judge the living and the dead” without any comment about a thousand years after which the unsaved will be judged. Thus the Catholic Church is committed to teach a **General Resurrection** of both saved and unsaved when Christ returns with no earthly kingdom to follow.

This teaching totally overlooks the fact that there was a resurrection of Old Testament saints when Christ rose (Matt.27:52-53), or that there will be a resurrection of those who are “*in Christ*” (1Thess.4:13-18) **before** the Tribulation (1Thess.5:9) and that after the martyrs of the Tribulation are raised (Rev.20:4) we read:

“The rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished” (Rev.20:5).

A General resurrection at Christ’s second Advent is totally foreign to Scripture.

The Catholic Church has no official view on the Book of the Revelation and considers it to be symbolism that can be interpreted in any way provided it does not conflict with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

A similar approach has been taken to the many “prophecies” and “visions” that Popes, priests, nuns and lay Catholics have had down through the centuries. Catholics are free to interpret these in line with the teachings of the Church.

Some notable prophecies have been claimed by Bartholomew Holzhauser, Bishop Malachy, Pope Leo XIII, the shepherd girls at Fatima and young girls at Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina. There are many others but these will suffice for the purpose of this study.

Bartholomew Holzhauser (1613-1658)

Bartholomew Holzhauser was born in 1613 in a village not far from Augsburg, Bavaria, in the south of Germany. At the age of eleven years he began having visions of Christ and the Virgin Mary accompanied by a luminous cross in the heavens. While at school he claimed to be healed of a disease and went on to spend five years at a Jesuit College. Later he studied theology with the Jesuits and wrote two ascetical books. He continued to have visions and it was said he was “fervent in his oblation of the Holy sacrifice” i.e. the Mass, “the confessional” and claimed to have “the gift of tears” and the “gift of prophecy”. In 1646 he wrote down his visions and prophecies largely of the destiny of the German Empire and foretold that England would return to the Catholic Church which did not happen.

A very important prophecy was claimed by Holzhauser in which he divided the history of the Catholic Church into **seven stages** from Pentecost to the “end of the world” which he thinks, like all Amillennialists, will occur when Christ returns. **Catholics do not hold to a millennial kingdom after Christ returns.** Holzhauser noted that the history of Christendom could be divided into seven stages. He was living in the years following the Reformation which began in 1517 and could look back over 100 years of Reformation history to view the “damage” the Reformation had brought to the Catholic Church.

Holzhauser quite rightly saw the prophetic stages of Christendom as described in the seven letters to the seven churches of Asia (Rev.chs.2 & 3) however, his interpretation glorifies the Papacy and the “Holy Roman Empire” contrary to those Scriptures which condemn the Papal period of Church history (Thyatira) for its idolatry and immorality. The period of the inquisitions, beginning in the 13th century, when Christians and Jews were tortured and murdered, are seen by him as part of **the best years of Church and State relations** while history sees it as the “dark ages” of ignorance, superstition and cruel persecution.

Holzhauser described the Reformation as years of heresy and great damage to the Catholic Church. Some of Holzhauser’s prophecies relate to the recovery of England from Protestantism

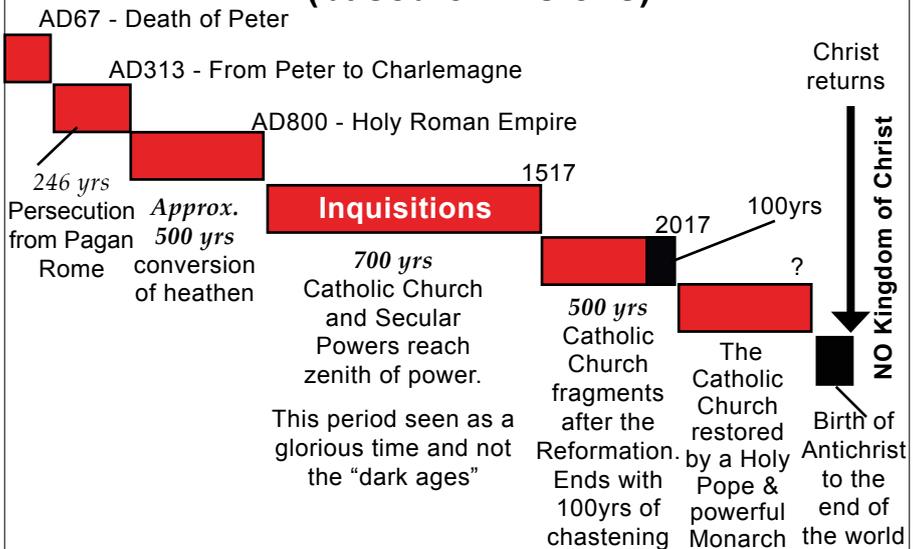
and the overthrow of the Protestant kings of England. Church history is divided by Holzhauser into the following periods:

First Period: The founding of the Church seen in the message to the Church at Ephesus: From Pentecost to the death of Peter and Paul at Rome during the reign of Nero; from AD32 to AD68.

Second Period: The Period of Pagan Persecution and the Catacombs seen in the suffering Church at Smyrna: From Emperor Nero to Pope Sylvester I (AD314-335). It was during the years of Pope Sylvester's reign that Constantine the Great ended the persecution of the Church and sanctioned the public ministry of the Church with the protection of the state.

Third Period: From Pope Sylvester to Pope Leo III seen in the letter to the Church at Pergamos: From the time of Constantine to Charlemagne, King of the Franks (Germans), enough of the German tribes had been converted to Catholicism that the leaders of these "Christianized" nations finally recognized Charlemagne as the Emperor over all Christendom. This happened in AD800

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on Christmas Day, in a solemn ceremony when Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne the Emperor of Europe; it became known as the Holy Roman Empire.

Fourth Period: The pacification or civilizing of the nations, from Pope Leo III to Pope Leo X as seen in the letter to the church at Thyatira: During this period the cooperation between the Church and the State reached its zenith, including the 13th century when the inquisitions began and the Holy Roman Empire carried out the will of the Vatican.

In this period multitudes of faithful servants of Christ were slaughtered by the armies that kings placed at the disposal of the Popes. The Bohemian Brethren were slaughtered by a Spanish army and millions died or fled to other countries yet Catholics describe this period as the period of the Churches glory!

Fifth Period: From Pope Leo X to the coming of a future “Holy Pope and Great Monarch” as seen in the letter to the church at Sardis: During Pope Leo X’s reign Luther began the Protestant Reformation in 1517. This, Catholics see as the fragmentation of Christendom which is still continuing today. Catholic prophecies agree that the end of this Fifth Period of the Church will be marked by **a disintegration of both Church and State**, leading up to what they call the “Great Chastisement” which is supposed to last 100 years according to a prophecy by Pope Leo XIII who had a vision in 1884 in which he claimed he heard Christ and Satan speaking. Satan said that he could destroy the (Catholic) church if he had **the time and power** to do so. Christ is supposed to have answered that Satan could have the power and 100 years.

One wonders if the current exposure of the Catholic Church for its paedophilia might be interpreted as the chastening period?

When this 100 years of Chastisement commenced is a matter of conjecture. Some think it was 1914 but one Catholic writer believes it commenced in 1917 and that the next period (6th) would therefore commence in 2017. All of this has **no Biblical basis** but is grounded entirely on visions and extra-Biblical prophecy.

Sixth Period: The Period of Peace and of consolation as seen in the letter to the Church at Philadelphia: This period begins **immediately after** the “Great Chastisement” when Satan’s power is allegedly broken and is marked by the reign of “a holy Pope in the Church and the Great Monarch” in the world. By the end of this period the whole world would be converted to Catholicism, including the Muslims, Russia, and China.

Some Catholics say this period will be two or three generations but Fr. Sylvester Berry, who wrote in 1921, maintains that this period will last for around 500 years in order to rebuild after the 500 years of Protestant “error and disintegration” through which we are now passing. Whatever period is used, it ends with the appearance of a “holy Pope and a Great (Catholic) Monarch”.

However, the Bible teaches that there will be a False Prophet and the Beast (a world Monarch) at the end of the age before Christ returns in glory and power to reign, and that the *Harlot Woman, Mystery Babylon*, who rides the Beast, sits on the seven hills of Rome (the Papacy). She will be burned with fire at the end of the seven-year Tribulation (Rev.17 & 18).

If the Catholic Church is looking for a religious leader, (a holy Pope) and a powerful Monarch at the end of the age, it is easy to see how she will want to align herself with the False Prophet and Monarch; Antichrist. Scripture teaches that **the Harlot Woman associates with the Beast! She rides the Beast!**

The Roman Catholic Church is a very political organization. It saw the Holy Roman Empire, beginning with Charlemagne, as a **holy** empire whereas half of Charlemagne’s wars were conducted against those who dissented from the corrupt and unBiblical teachings of the Papacy.

Seventh Period: At the end of the period of peace as seen in the letter to the Church at Laodicea: It is alleged that most of the Mohammedans will have been converted to Catholicism in the sixth period but from a remnant of the Muslims, Antichrist will be born in the “wilderness”. This will start the seventh period in which many will leave the Church to follow Antichrist and, during a **short period** of 42 months Antichrist reigns until the Second Coming of Christ and the end of the world. Holzhauser

refused to believe that Christ will reign on earth for 1,000 years after He returns as indicated in Rev.20:4, yet he accepts a literal 42 months reign of Antichrist as indicated in Rev.13:5.

Strangely, Holzhauser taught that Antichrist, who he alleges will be a Muslim, will go to the Mount of Olives and ascend into the air in a chariot in order to copy Christ's ascension, but God will cause the chariot to disappear and Antichrist will fall headlong to the ground and die! Unbiblical myths!

This final act of Antichrist arises from the belief that Simon Magus (Acts 8:9-24), the Samaritan Sorcerer, is alleged to have gone to Rome after he was rebuked by Peter and posed as a god claiming he could fly. When he rose up into the air and Peter and Paul prayed against him, he fell down and broke his legs. Holzhauser believed Simon Magus was a "type" of the future Antichrist and that Antichrist would also attempt to fly. He saw Antiochus Epiphanes and Nero as "types" of the Antichrist also.

It should be noted that the description given in Scripture to the seven churches of Asia after the letter to the Church at Pergamos, bears no resemblance to the Catholic Church in those periods and there is nothing in Scripture about 100 years of chastisement as Pope Leo XIII claimed. Satan knows that God has divided the History of Christendom into seven stages and through his false prophets, has distorted the message to deceive multitudes and prepare the way for the False Prophet and the Antichrist who will appear after the Rapture of the Church.

Far from the letter to the Church at **Thyatira** describing a glorious church in union with a holy State, Scripture sees Thyatira as an **idolatrous and grossly immoral system led by a false prophetess** which the Roman Catholic Church has proven to be. God said He gave her **space to repent**, a longer period than any other period of church history, but she did not repent and will therefore be cast into the Great Tribulation when the true Church is raptured (Rev.2:20-24). Scripture states the prevailing condition during the Thyatira period is one when Christendom knew "*the depths of Satan*"!

The letter to the church at **Sardis** which prophetically describes the Reformation describes an imperfect period of church history

in which Protestantism has “a name to live but is (spiritually) dead”. Protestantism escaped many of the pollutions of the Catholic Church but still clung to a priestly system, infant baptism, and changed the message of the Gospel from the works-based Gospel of Rome, to the “salvation-by-selection” Gospel of Calvinism. The free offer of salvation to all mankind and the unlimited scope of Christ’s death for all human sin, is denied in the Sardis period. Furthermore, Protestantism has denied the Blessed Hope of the Lord’s return for His Church, is amillennial, and is rebuked because they will not watch for the Lord’s return! (Rev.3:1-3).

The letter to the Church at **Philadelphia** which describes the great missionary period of Church history beginning about 1700 with the Moravian Revival was the testimony of believers who had escaped the clutches of Rome (Thyatira) and the dead Reformation church (Sardis). The vast non-conformist evangelistic, missionary movement that swept millions into the Kingdom of God through the preaching of Moody, Whitfield, Finney, Wesley, Hudson Taylor, C.T.Studd, the many Faith Missions and the Brethren Movement, were **opposed** by the Roman Catholic Church. The Philadelphian era revived the Hope of the Lord’s return and is promised to be kept from the “hour of temptation” which shall come on all the world. i.e. the Great Tribulation (Rev.3:7-11).

The Catholic Church sees the Philadelphian period as a time of consolidation of the Catholic Church when the church regains what has been lost through the Reformation, but history tells a different story! The Philadelphian church period saw multitudes delivered from Rome as Roman Catholics turned away from the idolatrous Thyatira church and found salvation by grace through faith alone in the once-for-all sacrifice of the Lord Jesus at Calvary!

Catholics see the seventh stage of church history; the **Laodicean** period, as a brief period during the lifetime of Antichrist when a “holy Pope and a Mighty Monarch” will triumph over Antichrist and all the world will finally be converted to Catholicism.

However, the Bible teaches that Laodicea is the final period

of wealthy, Charismatic, Ecumenical Christendom that makes Christ sick just before the Rapture of the true Church of Christ. Far from a holy Pope and a Mighty Monarch overcoming Antichrist, Scripture teaches that, after the Church is removed, **The Antichrist will be a global Monarch and his False Prophet will deceive the world.**

It is quite obvious that the Catholic interpretation of the seven stages of Christendom is designed by Satan to prepare the world to follow the final Monarch of the Roman Empire and his False Prophet during the Tribulation.

Anti-Semitic Nature of Catholic Prophecy

Catholic eschatology is Amillennial ie. it denies a 1,000-year kingdom of God on earth after Christ returns; it finds no place for Israel in God's prophetic plan and comments by the Roman Catholic, Jim Condit Jr., are extremely anti-Semitic. He links the Jews with the Masonic Lodge and expounds the anti-Semitic conspiratorial theory that Jewish Bankers have been, and are, responsible for much of the evil in the world. He accuses them of:

- 1) Establishing Communism in Russia in 1917
- 2) Murdering the Tsar and his family
- 3) Engineering WWI so that Christians would kill Christians
- 4) Taking control of the Federal Reserve Bank of America
- 5) Engineering the Great Depression of 1929
- 6) Selecting some Jews to go to Palestine during WWII with the view to take over Palestine in 1948 while leaving others to die. He says that the holocaust is exaggerated. He says that the Jewish media has brainwashed the public to believe about the holocaust.
- 7) Nazi leaders were supposed to be half Jews and after WWII that the Jews took over Europe. Why then did the Catholic Church set up what has been dubbed "the rat line" to assist nazi leaders escape after WWII.
- 8) Organizing the 9-11 attacks on New York Trade Centre

Such wild accusations reveal an underlying hatred the Catholic Church has for Israel and explains why they hold **Replacement Theology** and deny a future kingdom of God in which Christ will reign from the throne of David at Jerusalem as foretold in the Scriptures eg. Luke 1:32-33; Micah 4:1-8.

Pope Leo XIII's Vision of 100 Years of Chastisement

In 1884, after saying Mass on the morning of October 13th, and as he left the Altar, the 74 year old Pope Leo XIII fell to the ground as if dead. One version has it that those around him thought for a few moments that he may have passed away. According to this version, a few minutes later, his breathing returned to normal and he revived.

Another version has it that as he was leaving the altar after a weekday low Mass, he paused as if in a trance for about 10 minutes, turning ashen white. And yet another states that Pope Leo went into this trance while kneeling in attendance of a mass of thanksgiving after his own Mass that morning.

The Pope (born Joachim Vincent Pecci in 1810), according to the most common and popular version, related that he had experienced a vision, in which he heard two voices, one of which he took to be that of Christ, gentle and kind, and the other that of Satan, guttural and harsh.

Satan said, "I could destroy Your Church if I had the time, and more power over those who give themselves over to my service." And then Pope Leo heard Christ answer, "You have the power, **you have the time: 100 years.**" While some versions say 75 to 100 years, 100 years seems to be the time frame used in the most common versions.

Catholic believe that prophetic visions are given to warn, encourage, and instruct the faithful and that this vision was given to Pope Leo XIII in terms that all could understand.

The vision given to Pope Leo XIII was supposed to warn mankind, but especially the faithful Catholics of what lay ahead.

Malachy's Last Pope?

There has been much speculation as to whether the present Pope will be the last Pope. We constantly hear the matter raised and reference is made to prophecies made by Malachy, an Irish Bishop, who lived in the 12th century. While on a visit to Rome in 1139 Malachy went into a trance and claimed to have had a vision in which he saw the names of the 112 Popes that would follow Pope Innocent II who was elected Pope on 14 Feb. 1130 and died 24 Sept. 1143.

At that time another Pope was elected by other cardinals a few hours after Innocent II and for a few months the Catholic Church had two Popes. Innocent II called the Tenth Ecumenical Council with 1,000 bishops present and his opponent, Pope Anacletus II, was deposed.

This controversial Pope was the starting point for Malachy's prophecy which claims that the 112th Pope would see Rome destroyed by an "evil judge"; he saw the Pope walking over the dead bodies of priests, as he shepherded the Church in a time of great persecution.

What makes this story interesting to many people is that **Pope Francis is the 112th Pope.**

It has amazed me that some Bible prophecy writers have given credence to this "prophecy" even stating that Malachy "was known to have the gift of prophecy!"

Malachy was a bishop of the Catholic Church and as such administered the Mass which is a blasphemous and idolatrous sacrifice. If he was making prophecies then he was a false prophet and didn't get his prophecies from God.

One thing is certain; Pope Francis will not be the last Pope because demons do not know the future; only God has foreknowledge and has the power to bring His Word to fulfilment. So if the Rapture is imminent then Francis should not expect to reign for long! We know he has only one kidney and is a sick man.

When non-Catholics take the ravings of Catholic false prophets seriously they divert the attention of Christians away from true Biblical prophecy as recorded in the Word of God.

The fact that the Bible foretells the final destruction of Mystery Babylon which sits on the **seven hills of Rome** (Rev.17:9) is well known to the demons who gave the vision to Malachy, but demons do not know **when** God will do it.

Even the Lord Jesus does not know the day or the hour of His return as He said in Mark 13:32. Until the Father determines when the Rapture will occur, no man, angel, or the Lord Himself - nobody knows the time of the Lord's return or when the Tribulation will begin.

We know that we are living in the last days and the coming of the Lord is **drawing near** but to say that this Pope will be the one who is judged when Mystery Babylon is finally burned has no Divine authority at all and must be utterly rejected by Bible-believing Christians.

Malachy's prophecy is wrong on a number of counts. All of God's prophets were **from Israel** for "*unto them are committed the oracles of God*" (Rom.3:2).

Malachy was an apostate bishop of the idolatrous Roman Catholic Church who, it is claimed, predicted the hour of his own death. Satan can arrange that!

Malachy was so highly regarded by the Catholic Church that he was canonized in 1190: That would not have happened if he had opposed the apostasy of the Church of Rome.

True and False Prophecy

A similar situation has occurred with the Islamist prophecies of the "Mahdi" who, according to Islamists, is to appear for 7, 9 or 19 years, depending on the interpretation, at the end of the world and will rid the world of "evil" as the "redeemer" of Islam. This is supposed to coincide with the second coming of Jesus who is supposed to assist the Mahdi to destroy the Antichrist.

The lesson for us is not to believe false prophets, nor to give credence to their pronouncements. Demons know what is in the Bible and they can mix their lies with a few facts from the Bible to deceive and bring people into a state of fear. It is disconcerting to read articles by preachers, usually with a Middle East background, who treat Islamist predictions seriously.

God says,

"Thou shalt not be afraid of him!"

Now as never before Christians should **keep close to the Word of God and not speculate** or dabble with the predictions of false prophets. God has given us all we need to know about the last days in His Word and we should go no further!

The foregoing views of prophecy are based on visions by Popes, priests, and nuns: **They is not an exposition of the Scriptures.** Peter said:

*"We have also a **more sure word of prophecy**; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (2Peter 1:19-21).*

The words of God's prophets are recorded in the Bible and nowhere else. John warned:

*"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, **If any man shall ADD UNTO THESE THINGS**, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book" (Rev.22:18).*

The Bible is a perfect record of the words spoken by *"holy men of God"* and nothing can be added. Prophets were given to the Church **until the Scriptures were complete** after which nothing can be added for there are no prophets since John. All prophets were Jews because *"unto them were committed the oracles (utterances) of God"* (Rom 3:1-2). All who claim to have received revelation from God since John are false prophets.

Tests for False Prophets

There are two tests for false prophets prescribed in the Bible and we need to be aware of them.

Test One: The first test is for false prophets who are **able to use demonic power to perform signs and wonders** such as the magicians that opposed Moses and Aaron when they appeared before Pharaoh (Exod.7:11). These men were skilled in magic and could copy some of the signs performed by Moses. Satan is a powerful spirit-being who can use great deception; he can manipulate people who are submissive to him to fulfil his own prophecies but he cannot do any thing beyond the permissive will of God. Moses wrote:

*“If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, **And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;** Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him” (Deut.13:1-4).*

When any prophet uses his magic or claims miracles in order to bring people into the bondage of false gods, or doctrines contrary to the Word of God, that prophet is to be rejected. No true prophet of God will seek to cause people to worship or serve anyone other than God Himself according to His own Word.

The signs and wonders performed by Charismatic preachers are designed to lead individuals into the tongues experience which is a form of demonic possession. Tongues gibberish has been practiced within heathen religions from the earliest times in ancient Greece and pagan temples had their “Sibyls” who were oracular women believed to possess prophetic powers. When they prophesied they went into a trance and were unaware of

what they were prophesying just as charismatics are unaware of what they are saying when talking in tongues. Biblical tongues were **known languages understood by all**.

Roman Catholic prophecies are often accompanied by signs and wonders. Lights appear, tears run down the cheeks of images, the sun appears to move around in an unnatural orbit, and individuals claim healing after praying to deceased “saints”. However, the messages that are received by those involved are urging people to say the Rosary, pray to the virgin Mary and seek her intercession with God and Christ all of which is idolatrous and contrary to the Scripture which condemns necromancy. The Bible says, *“There is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”* (1Tim.2:5).

It is impossible for any human being to contact the dead and the entire list of “saints” to whom Catholics pray, are really demons impersonating those who have died. To pray to them is necromancy and an abomination in the sight of God. God said: *“There shall not be found among you any one ... that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch. Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, **OR A NECROMANCER. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD**”* (Deut 18:10-12).

The process of canonization of “saints” such as Mary McKillop, requires signs and wonders to be performed **as a result of persons praying to the dead**. Only then will the Vatican place the individual on the list of “saints”.

Signs and wonders are the central feature of the Charismatic movement and since Pope Francis came to the throne at the Vatican we have seen a **merging of Catholicism and the Charismatics**. On 24 June 2014 Pope Francis invited Tele-evangelists Kenneth Copeland and James Robinson to a three-hour meeting after which the charismatics had nothing but praise for the Pontiff. But this was not the only meeting; Pope Francis has been meeting with Protestant and Charismatic leaders and has addressed a crowd of **50,000 Catholic charismatics** at Rome in June 2014. The Catholic Church will use the fake signs and

wonders of the false prophets in the charismatic movement to bring people into the bondage of idolatry and necromancy.

The prophets of the Catholic Church fail the first Test of Deuteronomy 13:1-3; their signs and wonders lead souls into gross error.

Test Two: The Bible says:

“And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him” (Deut.18:21-22).

Every prophecy given by God is fulfilled accurately and in detail but false prophets express their cryptic prophecies in obscure and ambiguous words.

The fulfilment of the third vision of the shepherd girls at Fatima in Portugal has been interpreted as the unsuccessful attempt to assassinate Pope John Paul II in 1981 however, the vision saw the Pope killed by bullets and arrows fired by soldiers after he had walked over dead bodies and prayed for the souls of the dead! The only thing the vision has in common with the facts about the assassination attempt is that the Pope was shot howbeit not by soldiers but by an individual.

By no stretch of the imagination can anyone say that the third vision at Fatima was fulfilled and the prophecy is therefore false. It fails the second test of Deuteronomy 18:21-22.

Compare this false prophecy with the prophecies of the Bible about Christ’s first advent. The town in which He was born is named 700 years beforehand; His birth to a virgin of the tribe of Judah and the family of David was specifically indicated. On the day Christ died at least 33 prophecies were fulfilled in detail. Even the very day that Christ would present Himself to the nation of Israel on Palm Sunday was indicated. There was nothing ambiguous about the message of the true prophets of God; it was literal, specific and verifiable.

Catholic prophecy is couched in words that are ambiguous and open to a wide range of interpretations. If a particular interpretation is found to be wrong then another can be adopted. The test of whether Catholic prophecy is from God is **whether the church approves of it or other visions concur** with the prophecy. A similar practice is adopted in Charismatic Churches when deciding if their prophets are speaking by the Spirit of God or by a demon!

Bible prophecies need no approval from men in order to be accepted. Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit and **every prophecy** is in perfect agreement (2Peter 1:19-21). Whether some people like, or dislike the prophecies in God's Word, is of no consequence. All that is required is to "*rightly divide the word of Truth*"(2Tim.2:15).

How Catholics Determine Who are "True Prophets"

Holzhauser stated: "**Non-scriptural prophecies** constitute no article of faith" nevertheless he says, "Let us on that account not believe all things, nor all men, but let us at the same time not reject all things." To determine what the Church considers "genuine prophecy" he suggests the following rules:

- 1) "Prophecy must comprise **nothing against religion and the Church...**and must not be rejected by the Church."
- 2) "Genuine prophecies have a **prophetic form**. They are set forth in marvellous images, in **dark mysterious words**."
- 3) "The prophecy must bear the name of the prophet."
- 4) Genuine prophecies must "have a good end in view" and "perceive that **apostasy from the true faith and the (Catholic) Church is the cause of all...afflictions**."
- 5) Genuine prophecies must all agree
 - i) "that God will judge sin. ii) that religious schism will cease, and **all christian communions be united in one fold (ecumenical), and under one shepherd**" (the Pope). iii) That "Germany will attain to union under a powerful Monarch."

Antichrist will have no difficulty complying with these rules.