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IS POPE FRANCIS THE FALSE PROPHET?

By Dr. David Schnittger, President, Southwest Prophecy Ministries



The Bible predicts that during the seven year Tribulation there will be a religious leader known as the False Prophet (Rev. 19:20; 20:10). He is first introduced in Revelation 13:11-15: "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast,

that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed."

We learn from Revelation 13 that the False Prophet is associated with and subordinate to the first Beast (Rev 13:1), the Antichrist, who is the political leader of the Tribulation period. The False Prophet appears in the middle of the Tribulation Period at which time the Antichrist assumes worldwide political power (Rev. 13:7) and he, religious power. The False Prophet deceptively appears in meekness and humility, as he is pictured as having "... two horns like a lamb" (Rev 13:11). He promotes the worship of the first Beast and forces the earth to worship him. His authority is authenticated by miracles and signs, which he works by satanic power. The world will be dominated by the Antichrist and the False Prophet in the political, religious and economic realms in imitation of Christ's worldwide rule over the earth in the Millennium.

The False Prophet will endorse a program of global socialism, causing all people to receive a mark or number that will be required for buying and selling (Rev 13:16, 17). This "Mark of the Beast" will apparently be a global scheme for wealth redistribution (social justice) to those who worship the Beast.

We also learn in Revelation 16:3 that the False Prophet is demon possessed: "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon (Satan), and out of the mouth of the beast (the Antichrist), and out of the mouth of the false prophet."

The Second Coming of Jesus will end the reign of the Antichrist and the False Prophet. At that time they will both be cast into the lake of fire: "And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before

him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone" (Rev 19:20).

Is the Final Pope the False Prophet?

The Bible prophesies in Daniel 2:40-44 that a reborn Holy Roman Empire will be in power at the time of the Second Coming of Christ. The Holy Roman Empire first came into existence in 800 AD when Pope Leo III placed a crown on the head of Charlemagne, pronouncing him emperor of the Holy Roman Empire. The empire, throughout its 1,200 year history, has always been a union of politics and religion - thus the name "Holy-Roman." Its leadership has always consisted of an alliance between a political leader and a religious leader. The political leader has always come from Europe, and the religious leader has always been the pope of the Roman Catholic Church.

It will be the same in the re-born Holy Roman Empire. Ultimately, the man called the Antichrist (or the beast) in the Bible will become the leader of the re-born empire. Whoever is pope at the time of the Antichrist will probably be the False Prophet. This should not come as a shock, even to Roman Catholics, for it is taught in many Catholic prophecy books that there is an evil pope coming (See *The Coming Chastisement* by Yves Dupont).

Is Pope Francis the Final Pope?

There has been a great deal of controversy as to whether Pope Francis is the final pope, and therefore, will serve as the False Prophet. This section will deal with some of the evidence that may support this conclusion.

The first piece of evidence is the fact that Pope Francis, a Jesuit, is a controversial figure among the theologically conservative branch of the Roman Catholic Church. For example, a Catholic writer, Roberto de Mattei, penned a January 3, 2015 article entitled, "Good Summary of Who is Doing What" (biblefalseprophet.com): "The main drama of our times is not however the aggression that comes from the outside but that mysterious process of self-demolition of the Church that's reaching its end results. . . This self-demolition is not a physiological process. It is an evil and there are people responsible for it. Those responsible in this case are the Churchmen who dream of substituting the Mystical Body of Christ with an (sic) new organism, subject to perpetual evolution with no truths or dogma...Who can deny the existence of absolute confusion? The tango danced in St. Peter's Square on December 17, 2014, for Pope Francis' birthday, reminds one of another music: the one they were playing on the Titanic the night of the tragedy. Then, however, the tip of the iceberg appeared suddenly, and the dancers were unaware of the imminent disaster. Today the iceberg is visible and there are those that are cheering for the impossible shipwreck of the Barque of Peter."

This same Catholic website posted a January 5, 2015 article entitled, "Why are the Enemies of Catholic Truth the Main Defenders of Pope Francis?" "Let's be honest: the most progressive fringe of the Church likes Francis. This is the fringe that during the pontificate of Benedict XVI kept attacking the Pope, but now they are dressed up as papal cheerleaders who are always at hand to defend the Pope—the Pope, please note, who is Francis, not the papacy as an institution."

This Catholic website also posted an article that is even more pointed in their opposition to Pope Francis. A September 11, 2014 article by "Remnant Clergy" is entitled, "Pope vs. Anti-Pope." "There is an important distinction to be understood when it comes to the Catholic Papacy, and that is what is an Anti-pope compared to a Pope? In short, an Anti-pope is a **false** claimant of the Holy See in opposition to a pontiff canonically elected. Throughout the history of the Church, many illegal pretenders to the Papal Chair have arisen, and frequently exercised pontifical functions in defiance of the true occupant. At one point, there were two simultaneous Anti-popes and one (there can be only one) valid Pope...The true pontiff remains Pope Benedict XVI because a forced resignation is invalid according to Canon Law."

Just to erase any shadow of a doubt as to what these "Remnant Clergy" think of the current pope, I refer to another September 11, 2014 article entitled, "Who is the False Prophet?" The False Prophet is the *anti-pope* Francis, Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, the man currently sitting on the chair of Peter..."

The Pope's Ecumenicism

While other recent popes, such as John Paul II (Pope from 1978-2005), have made overtures toward other religions, these efforts pale in comparison with the current occupant of the papal chair. Michael Snyder details some of these efforts in his February 24, 2014 article entitled, "Pope Francis and the Emerging One World Religions" (The Truth.com).

"Since he has been Pope, Francis has expressed a desire for unity with the Eastern Orthodox, the Anglicans, and many other major Protestant denominations. But more than a few eyebrows were raised when he recently sent a video message to Kenneth Copeland and his congregation. At the time that the video message was played to the congregation, one speaker declared that 'Luther's protest is over'. . . The Catholic and Charismatic Renewal is the hope of the Church,' exclaims Anglican Episcopal Bishop Tony Palmer, before a group of cheering followers at the Kenneth Copeland Ministries. . . Before playing the video message from Pope Francis to Kenneth Copeland, Palmer told the crowd, 'When my wife saw that she could be Catholic, and Charismatic, and Evangelical, and Pentecostal, and it was absolutely accepted in the Catholic church, she said that she would like to reconnect her roots with the Catholic culture. So she did.' The crowd cheered, as he continued, '**Luther's protest is over. Is yours?**' Even Kenneth Copeland finds this development incredible: Said Copeland, 'Heaven is thrilled over this...You know what is so thrilling to me? When we went into the ministry 47 years ago, **this was impossible.**'" (emphasis added)

Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church in California, is also seeking to lead evangelicals back to reunification with Rome. In a recent interview with Raymond Arroyo on the EWTN show *World Over* Warren stated, "Well, the main thing is love always reaches people...Pope Francis is the perfect example of this. He is...doing everything right...as **our new pope** he was very symbolic in his first mass with people with AIDS, his kissing of the disformed (sic) man, his loving the children. This authenticity, this humility, the caring for the poor this is what the whole world expects us Christians to do. In fact there was a headline here in Orange County—and I love the headline. It said, '**if you love Pope Francis, you'll love Jesus.**'" (emphasis added)

Rick Warren also participated in a November 17-19, 2014 conference on marriage at the Vatican that featured speakers from the Roman Catholic, Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist, Hindu, Jaina Shasna, Taoist and Sikh religions. The pope doesn't care what you believe as long as you follow Rome. Apparently Rick Warren has forgotten the verse which says, ". . . Come out of her, my people that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not her plagues" (Rev. 18:4).

Not only has Pope Francis been courting apostate Protestants, he has also been aggressively courting Muslims. Michael Snyder quotes remarks Pope Francis made during his very first ecumenical meeting as pope: "...I then greet and cordially thank you all, dear friends belong to other religious traditions; **first of all the Muslims, who worship the one God**, living and merciful, and call upon Him in prayer, and all of you. I really appreciate your presence: in it I see a tangible sign of the will to grow in mutual esteem and cooperation for the common good of humanity...

"In this, we feel close even to all those men and women who, whilst not recognizing themselves **belonging to any religious tradition**, feel themselves nevertheless to be in search of truth, goodness and beauty this truth, goodness and beauty of God, and who are our precious allies in efforts to defend the dignity of man, in building a peaceful coexistence among people and in guarding Creation carefully.

"And Francis really raised some eyebrows when he made the following statement about atheists . . . the Lord has redeemed all of us, with the Blood of Christ: all of us, not just Catholics. Everyone! 'Father, the atheist?' **Even the atheists.** Everyone! . . . We must meet one another doing good. 'But I don't believe, Father, I am an atheist!' But do good: we will meet one another there" (emphasis added).

The Pope's Call for a New World Order

On September 24, 2015, Pope Francis addressed a joint session of the United States Congress, the first time in American history a pope has made such an address. Notice in his address how he redefines the Christian faith in his call for global unity:

"We know that no religion is immune from forms of individual delusion or ideological extremism. This man that we must be especially attentive to every type of fundamentalism, whether religious or of any other kind. A delicate

balance is required to combat violence perpetrated in the name of a religion, an ideology or an economic system, while also safeguarding religious freedom, intellectual freedom and individual freedoms. But there is another temptation which we must especially guard against: the simplistic reductionism which sees only good or evil; or, if you will, the righteous and sinners...We must move forward together, as one, in a renewed spirit of fraternity and solidarity, cooperating generously for the common good.”

In these few sentences, he undercuts the heart of the gospel, which is that we are all sinners, incapable of saving ourselves.

I am reminded of a speech that took place on March 20, 1969. The place was Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania at the annual meeting of the Pittsburgh Pediatric Society. The guest speaker was Dr. Richard Day, the former National Medical Director of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. The general theme for his address was the characteristics of the New World System (Order) which he said was “already in place.”

According to Day, “Once the Roman Catholic Church is brought down, the rest of Christianity will follow easily. Then a new religion can be accepted for use all over the world. It will incorporate something from all of the ones to make it easy for people to accept it, and feel at home in it. Most people won’t be too concerned with religion. They will realize that they don’t need it.”

It appears that the NWO now has their pope that will bring down the Roman Catholic Church and the rest of apostate Christianity with it, merging it into a one world religion.

Catholic Prophecies

It is also interesting to note that there is a 900-year-old prophecy that seems to indicate that Pope Francis could be the last pope. While I certainly do not place a Catholic prophecy on the level of Scripture, if that prophecy is accurate, then we could very well be living at a time when we will see the emergence of a one world religion. Irvin Baxter deals with this in his May 17, 2013 article entitled, “Is Pope Francis the False Prophet?”

“St. Malachy was the Archbishop of Armagh, Ireland. He claimed he experienced a vision while visiting Rome in 1139 A.D. He said he saw every pope that would exist from the time of his vision until the last pope. The last pope would be the 112th from the time of his vision. Malachy also stated that God would judge His people and city of Rome would be destroyed during the reign of the last pope. In Malachy’s vision, a clue was given as to the identity of each pope, including the 112th one. The clue for the 112th pope was ‘Peter the Roman.’

“St. Malachy wrote his vision of the popes down, and it is believed the manuscript was given to Pope Innocent II. The prophecy of the popes was then deposited in the Vatican Secret Archives and forgotten until its rediscovery in 1590. Malachy’s vision was then published in 1595 and has circulated on and off ever since.

“It was not until 2005 that Malachy’s prophecies began to attract a lot of attention. Pope John Paul II was on his deathbed. Someone noticed that he was the 110th pope from Malachy’s time. That meant that next pope would be the 111th and then, in Malachy’s prophecy were true, the 112th pope would be the last pope. To some that meant the end of the world would then come . . .

“Benedict XVI was 78 years of age when he began his papacy (in 2005). Because of his advanced age, it was obvious that his reign as the Bishop of Rome could not last too long. Everyone understood the next pope, according to St. Malachy, would be the last pope. Malachy also said the church would be judged during his final papacy. The question on everyone’s mind was: How long till the 112th pope? . . .

“On February 11, 2013, Pope Benedict shocked the world by announcing his intention to resign from the papacy. This was the first resignation of a pope while in office in over 600 years. Benedict said that, at the age of 85, he no longer had the strength to execute the duties of leading the Roman Catholic Church. It was time to elect the 112th pope foretold in the vision of St. Malachy!”

“On March 14, 2013 Jorge Mario Bergoglio from Argentina was elected the 112th pope. He chose to take the name Pope Francis for his papal name. Francis was the first non-European pope and the first pope ever elected from the Jesuit order. One of the original purposes of the Jesuits was to stem the tide of the reformation. The Jesuit order eventually grew until it became the largest order in the Catholic Church. The Society of Jesus was also known as

the 'pope's marines.' In more recent times the doctrine of Liberation Theology has been embraced by much of the Jesuit order. Liberation Theology teaches that if Jesus were on earth today, He would be a Marxist. He would take from the rich and give to the poor."

In the documentary film, *Petrus Romanus* Tom Horn states that he believes the name "Petrus Romanus" fits the current pope very well. Horn states, "We have given interviews (prior to the election of Pope Francis) saying it would be a mistake to try to nail down the last pope having the Christian name Peter, that in fact the only thing that it would take to fulfill the prophecy would be a cardinal of Italian descent. And lo and behold Jorge Bergoglio, Italian descent, parents full-blooded Italians, or in the old language 'Romans.' But he names himself after Francis of Assisi. Now this is a Catholic friar who lived in the late 1100s and the early 1200s, but his name of birth Giovanni Di Pietro Di Bernardone, Peter. He was an Italian, or Roman in the old language, a man whose name can literally be translated as 'Peter the Roman.' So to take that as a namesake, well it was intriguing to say the least."

Conclusion

One possible scenario that may explain why Pope Benedict XVI stepped down to allow Francis to come to power is that Benedict, who still lives in the Vatican, is the "reserve pope." If Francis steps into the office of the False Prophet, vacating the papacy, there is still a living pope that could immediately fill that vacancy. This scenario, of having two living popes, has not existed for over 600 years.

When Pope Francis was elected to office there was a great deal of speculation over his connection to Bible prophecy. The Malachy prophecy had people expecting someone of sinister look and commanding temperament to emerge from behind the curtain. Pope Francis' mild personality has caused the end-time chatter to fade a bit since his selection. However, his humility and apparent gentleness may in fact be *the real sign* that Pope Francis is a possible candidate for the role of False Prophet. Revelation describes this person as a beast with two horns like a lamb (Rev 13:11-12). It will most likely take someone of a kind and flattering nature to bring the world together under the Harlot church system.

The pope has already made statements that imply that all religions are on equal footing with each other. If the pope is indeed the False Prophet we can expect that his dialogue and coziness with the world's religions will eventuate in him calling for an alliance of all faiths. When this transpires it will be obvious that "...MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH" (Rev 17:5) is quickly materializing. For prophecy watchers, Pope Francis is definitely a man to watch!

The emergence of Pope Francis as a "strong candidate" for the False Prophet is just one more dark cloud indicating that the horrible storm of the Tribulation may soon be breaking upon the earth. My friend, I sincerely believe that we are in the "last days of the last days" just prior to the "catching up" of the saints into the clouds to be with Christ, safely delivered from the wrath to come. The Scriptures declare, "For God hath not appointed us (believers) to wrath, but to obtain salvation (deliverance) by our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Th. 5:9). If you do not know Christ as your Savior, I plead with you to be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus Christ! The Bible says, ". . .now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2). This may be your final invitation to trust Christ. Please, do not delay!

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