

An Old Prophet's Years Of Laments



Prophetic Insight 7/26/2024: To Be In Christ Is To Be Ruled By Him



Over the years I've met too many Christians who are totally unaware that the demon of **anti-Christ** is powerfully influencing them. The apostle John warned that many anti-Christs were already present seeking to oppose, deny and defy Jesus (1John 2:18; 4:3). The anti-Christ demonic spirit inserted itself within the Christian religious establishment even before the time of the "Church Fathers". In this Lament I'll specifically focus on the inroads it has made within Roman Catholicism. In my next Lament I will discuss its presence in Protestantism.

👁️👁️ **One of the primary identifiers of anti-Christ's influence in Christian lives is that they have no testimony to the rule of our Lord Jesus in fulfilling Father's purposes.**

One of our heavenly Father's primary purposes for each of His children that's clearly and explicitly voiced is this: *"Therefore, >we are ambassadors for Christ, >God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God [and His purpose for you]. For our sake He made Him to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God"* (2Corinthians 5:20,21; see also Acts 26:18).



FYI: After I began following Jesus as my Lord and Savior I attended an interdenominational seminary and fervently studied the history and theological positions of the various major denominations. I was bent on understanding how the nature of Christianity became so divided. (Maybe this is something you've wondered about as well!) I discovered that within Roman Catholicism is the **autocratic enforcement** of one-man rule that defies the biblical pattern. It didn't take long for a series of popes to replace inerrant Scripture with certain modified pagan religious practices

which were deemed **“Sacred Tradition”**. These false beliefs were developed through **man's reasoning** without regard to whether they were scriptural or even opposed God's Word. But both the institution of Roman Catholicism as well as the Reformers centuries later whom we'll discuss in the next Lament missed the intimate and obedient way of life which Father intended for Christ's own through the indwelling Holy Spirit. The Roman Catholic "sacred traditions" and the Reformers' restorations were:

- far removed from each Christian living to fulfill Father's will by His grace;
- far removed from the Headship of our Lord Jesus ruling His own in intimate, interactive love;
- far removed from His means of unifying and equipping His followers for service;
- far removed from receiving ongoing direction and empowerment from the indwelling Holy Spirit.

The Reformers' failure was also due to their reliance on **reason and logic** instead of the Holy Spirit's guidance. A good number of them even reasoned that the Holy Spirit stopped providing revelation after the Bible was canonized. Some introduced **“Deistic Christianity”**— that belief that God created everything to be run by man's reason and logic.

“Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. So it is no great thing if his servants also transform themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their works.” (2Corinthians 11:14,15)

Exchanging the personal rule of our Lord Jesus with that of anti-Christ has been at the core of Satan's strategy over the centuries. This goal is as crucial to the devil's intent as keeping people out of heaven. So far he's been succeeding all too well with much of the world not knowing about our Lord Jesus. That's because only a paltry few live as ambassadors for Christ with God making His appeal through them. I believe that the anti-Christ spirit was able to extend its dominance in Roman Catholicism through **“Church Councils”** over the centuries, all of which had anti-Semitic participants. These learned theologians helped adapt pagan rituals and practices into "Sacred Traditions." Like the Protestant Reformers who came after the Councils, reason was heavily relied on rather than submission to the Holy Spirit. The more that Sacred Tradition expanded, the more that anti-Christ influence dominated. Today's Roman Catholics can recognize this influence because of the absence of teachings which would equip them to be about Father's purposes. (Sadly, many Protestants suffer from the same void of not being equipped through role-modeling and discipleship.)

To summarize what I've presented: Our heavenly Father's purpose for His children is to live as Christ's ambassadors reconciling the world to God. Under the rule of our Lord Jesus, His Spirit places Father's children in their workplace, neighborhood, or wherever to actively be about His purposes. ***If*** this doesn't describe you, then the centuries of anti-Semitic theology and discarding of the Hebraic foundations have placed you under the domination of anti-Christ. How would you know if you're serving anti-Christ instead of the rule of Christ? Consider this about yourself and other “Christians” you know. Can you testify as to how our Lord led you to where you live, your workplace or school?

We know from God's Word that the Spirit of our Lord uses ***rhema*** through prayer, Scripture, prophecy, words of knowledge and wisdom to reveal His specific will to those who love Him and are ruled by Him. Have you been receiving His guidance before you make major decisions so that you're in the best place—His place for you—to be Christ's ambassador?

Don't get upset with me for sharing truths that may cause you consternation. I'm trying to help you free yourself so you may **live under the loving rule of the Lordship of Jesus.**

Think this through for yourself. Jesus is referred to as **“LORD”** around 638 times in the Newer Testament. (“Savior” appears about 58 times.) Have you considered why “Lord” is repeated so often? “Lord” isn’t as much a title as referring to His active right to rule you, the one He loves. Regrettably I've met very few Christians who even *want* the rule of Jesus in their lives. Centuries of anti-Semitic theology have hooked them into serving anti-Christ and not **THE CHRIST!** If Christ hasn’t been ruling your life, I encourage you to repent and ask Him for divine help so that your professed love and trust in Him become obedience.

Again, remember that deception is the main quality of Satan and his demonic minions. Our Lord Jesus makes this very clear to us about Satan: *“You are of your father, the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and doesn’t stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks on his own; for he is a liar, and the father of lies”* (John 8:44). The foremost way to counter the devil’s deception is to apply God’s commands to your life. Your applications are not only a strong deterrent to deception; they also attest to your relationship with your Lord: **“If you love Me, you will keep My commands”** (John 14:15). Here's how Scripture identifies those who belong to our Lord Jesus:

*“He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world [which requires ambassadors to tell them—Romans 10:14,15]. And by this we know that we have known Him, **if we keep His commandments.** Whoever says ‘I know him’ but is not keeping His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever **keeps His word,** in him truly the **love of God** has been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: **whoever says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk in the same way in which He walked**”* (1John 2:2-6; see also John 15:1-8).

You can look all around Christianity in this nation and find hardly any who actively make God’s commands their way of life because of Who gave them to you. God has breathed out 1,050 commands in the Newer Testament and 613 in the Older Testament. (The commands which pertain to Temple worship and Levitical responsibilities have been done away with because the genuinely born again are **“the temple of the Holy Spirit”** (1Corinthians 6:19; 2Corinthians 6:16) and a **“royal priesthood”** (1Peter 2:9) under Jesus, our High Priest (Hebrews 4:14; 5:6). You actively making Christ's commands your way of life enables you to **“walk in the same way in which He walked.”**

(You can read how our Lord’s first followers whose love for Him was based on obedient trust personally applied God’s commands to their lives on pages 33-34 of our book, **Christian Halakhahs — Loving Jesus Through The Way You Apply His Word**).

In the following pages I'll highlight deep-seated anti-Bible traditions within Roman Catholicism. If you're a Protestant, these are important for you to know because you likely know some Catholics and can better understand the beliefs they hold dear. But as a Protestant, don't think of yourself as **“a Bible-based good guy”**. Your theologians did restore several essential biblical truths. But the core truths which pertain to •the rule of our Lord Jesus, •to His means of equipping His own, and •to the guidance and empowerment of the Holy Spirit were repudiated by their dogged reliance on logic and reason. From our Lord’s view, both Roman Catholicism and Protestantism in general serve anti-Christ and not Him.

Roman Catholicism And The Theological Quest For Sacred Tradition

Jesus said to them, “All too well you reject the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition!”

Thus you annul the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down.

And many such things you do” (Mark 7:9,13).

Having traced the beginning of Christianity's descent into Sacred Tradition back to Clement, I wrote you about this in An Old Prophet's Years Of Laments 3-16-2024: [Spirit-Trained To Expose & Oppose Sacred Cows](#): "During the final decade of the first century, Clement wrote a lengthy letter to Christian leaders encouraging the adoption of the Roman Empire's centralized power." Insisting on **ecclesiastical-enforced order and harmony**, Clement and his followers infused Christianity with this Roman ideology: that the educated and the people with power and wealth are far more important than the ordinary person. This perspective of rule has been the pattern of Roman Catholicism for centuries. (Again, if you're not Roman Catholic, then this backdrop will help you understand why your Catholic friends seem so different in their beliefs and practices.)

Popes exercised power through absolute rule, claiming that papal decisions are based on both "the Bible and Church Tradition". In reality Roman Catholicism is a profusion of syncretized pagan practices which were incorporated to appease the various heathen populations whom its outreaches encountered. Early Catholic expansion depended on assimilating the pagan practices of other cultures. Italy in particular retains a powerful influence in the practices of Roman Catholicism, which can be fittingly called "**Italian Catholicism**". When you look at some facts concerning Roman Catholicism, I think you'll see why "Italian Catholicism" might be appropriate:

- There have been 266 Popes, of which there have been 217 from Italy.
- There are currently 222 dioceses in Italy, nearly 10% of the 2,249 dioceses around the world.
- Compare this with 196 dioceses in the US, a far larger country in size and population.
- Italy continues to have the most cardinals of any country.
- Approximately 10 cardinals from the US can vote for the next pope; 24 from Italy may vote.

The Pope, Christianity's "Pontifex Maximus"



How did Peter, a simple fisherman, become the forerunner of imperious popes who've lived in pontifical opulence? Peter's life was a role model for all the humble to follow, and not a position to dominate others. Our Lord Jesus chose Peter, a fallible human being who was the only one to get out of the boat, who cut off the ear of the high priest's servant, who denied Jesus three times and was reconciled by our Lord three times, who healed a blind man, who was freed from prison by an angel, who went to a gentile Centurion based on a vision. Our Lord Jesus didn't establish popes or papal rule based on Peter. Anti-Christ used Clement's insistence for human rule like the Roman Empire to achieve this. Then the demon used popes to hallow "Sacred Tradition."



The Roman Catholic Church attributes to the Pope "full, supreme, and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered." Until the 4th century the popes were usually known only as bishops of Rome. Vitalian, the Bishop of Rome from 657-672,



was the first to actually be addressed with the title “Pope,” which then became commonly used for the Bishop of Rome. The popes consolidated an elaborate bureaucracy in Rome.

For most Protestants it's hard to understand the powerful rule of popes since even kings bowed to them. I want to touch on some Roman Catholic history and the ratifying of Sacred Traditions that flout Scripture. These traditions evolved over centuries, with some coming into being relatively recently. Note how this sampling blatantly violates the unchanging truth of God's Word:

•**185-203** —Clement of Alexandria taught that Greek philosophy is a Divine gift.

•**300** —The inauguration of prayers for the dead.

• During **300 through 400** after most of the persecution had diminished, converts flooded the institutional church in buildings based on pagan temples. Martyrs who'd died centuries earlier were afforded the reverence as well as attributes and powers previously ascribed to pagan gods. Their tombs became pilgrimage sites, and they were appealed to in prayer to intercede to God on behalf of the individuals. At this time adoration of the Virgin Mary proliferated, and relics became cherished and considered “holy.”

•**440** —Pope Leo I is recorded in Catholic history as raping over 200 nuns. (A later pope passed an edict freeing priests from sin for sodomizing young boys. In recent years a whistleblower priest stated how widespread sodomy of the young pages has been in the Vatican.)

•**492–496** —Roman Catholicism eliminated all vestiges of the Lordship of Jesus. Pope Gelasius I asserted that he was the “vicar of Christ” on earth, claiming to stand in the place of Jesus Christ and possess all His authority. (While our heavenly Father is called “Holy Father” by Jesus in John 17:11, several centuries after Christ the pope began to solidify his rule by being addressed as “Holy Father.” And while our Lord Jesus ordered His followers to “call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven” (Matthew 23:9), pope and priest alike began to be called “father.”

•**590** —Gregory (the Great), known as the Father of medieval papacy, laid the foundations for the power which the Vatican exercised in Western Europe until the Renaissance era 900 years later. He emphasized that the fires of purgatory purged Christians of lesser sins before the final Judgment. (The Vatican was constructed through the sale of indulgences which would reduce a sinner's time in purgatory. Purgatory is part of Sacred Tradition which espouses that Jesus's sacrifice was insufficient for salvation. Anyone who believed His sacrifice was sufficient was condemned as “accursed”, a false teaching which remained until 1963.)

•**600** —Worship in Latin was instituted, a language used only by the educated elite. The “laity” couldn't understand and would therefore be in awe of the clergy. (At the Second Vatican Council [1962–65], the Sacrifice of the Mass liturgy (popularly called "going to Mass") was allowed in the local vernacular.)

•**700** —Catholic hierarchy begin killing and torturing those deemed “heretics.” (In **2000**, Pope John Paul II donned mourning garments to apologize for millennia of grievous violence and persecution—from the Inquisitions to a wide range of sins against Jews, nonbelievers, and the indigenous people of colonized lands.)

•**788** —Worship of Mary and the saints was sanctioned by the Pope along with worship of the cross, images, and relics. Some of the early basis for Catholics praying to saints was the belief that martyrs passed immediately into the presence of God and could obtain graces and blessings for others. In Catholic writings the practice of asking saints to intercede dates back to the 3rd century. This belief dismissed the Bible's teaching that all who trust in our Lord Jesus are “saints.” And prayer to the Father was through Jesus. By teaching that one should pray to the saints affirmed that there is a higher class than the “laity”.



Cosmic Dualism lifted up "saints" to be revered the same as the exalted spiritual class of clergy (Nicolaitanism).

- 1000** —The use of holy water is endorsed, to be used for the purpose of baptism, for the blessing of persons, places, and objects, or as a means of repelling evil.

- 1074** —Pope Gregory VII demanded that the ordained must first pledge celibacy. Those men who were married were commanded to free themselves from their wives. (Catholic history reveals that seven popes were married and eleven were the sons of others popes or priests.) Two decades later Pope Urban II ordered prospective priests to have their wives sold into slavery and to abandon their children. In **1123**, the First

Lateran Council ordered those already married to renounce their wives and do penance.

- 1545-63** —The Council of Trent stated that celibacy and virginity are superior to marriage. Celibacy was enforced because the papacy was worried that a married priest's children would inherit church property. It's important to remember that Peter took his wife along on his apostolic journeys (1Corinthians 9:5). Our Lord viewed a married couple as a unit *to minister out of their marriage*, not despite it. Today surveys reveal that up to 60% of priests are homosexuals leaving a wake of sodomized boys. Before widespread news investigations into abuse, Catholic bishops did nothing, often stating that complaints were lies.

- 1090** —Praying to Mary using rosary beads was sanctioned. Venerating her was so powerful because of the matriarchal structure of Italy. The superior view of Mary in the rosary by Catholics around the world is demonstrated in that for every 10 "Hail Mary's" there is one "Our Father". Because of the embedded influence of Cosmic Dualism, the Immaculate Conception was sanctioned declaring Virgin Mary to be free of original sin from the moment of her conception. Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, and others propagated the belief that Mary was the new Eve, but incorrupt and not subject to original sin.

- In Roman Catholic theology, the Assumption is the belief that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was taken into heaven, body and soul, after her death on Earth. This became dogma in **1950**.

- Current Catholic teaching on Mary states that she was a perpetual virgin and never had intercourse with her husband, Joseph, that she never had children other than Jesus, and that she was sinless. These teachings are anti-Scripture which affirms, "*But [Joseph] did not consummate their marriage [have intercourse] until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus*" (Matthew 1:25).

- "Co-Redemptrix" is a title used by many Catholics for Mary, and refers to her role in the redemption of all mankind. There is a movement to define a new Marian dogma in which Roman Catholics, as a matter of faith, would be obliged to accept these three doctrines: (1) Mary participates in redemption with Jesus Christ, (2) grace is granted by Jesus only through the intercession of Mary, and (3) all prayers from the faithful must flow through Mary, who brings them to the attention of her Son. This movement would, in practice, redefine the Trinity as a kind of Quartet.

- **1198-1216** —Innocent III represented the peak of the papacy and was the first to actively use the title "Vicar of Christ".

- 1300** —Pope Boniface VIII asserted the necessity of submission to the Pope for salvation.

- 1303** —The Roman Catholic Church declared itself the only one true church.

- **1378-1417**—The Great Schism in the Catholic Church took place. In 1309 the seat of the Papacy was moved to Avignon, France until 1377. The Roman populace insisted on an Italian pope, while the French cardinals left Rome and went back to Avignon where they elected a French pope. The countries of Europe then aligned themselves with one side or the other. A council was called and the cardinals were told to



elect a new pope—while the other two refused to resign. So now there were 3. Finally the church was reunited under one pope.

•**1545** —Apocryphal books were added to the Bible.

•**1870** —Pope Pius IX convened Vatican Council I with his main agenda to be declared infallible (incapable of making mistakes or being wrong) when defining a doctrine concerning faith or morals.

•**1962** —Pope John XXIII convened Vatican Council II. At that gathering the Jews were decreed innocent of the charge of “Christkiller.” The curse against the Jews, prayed every Good Friday for centuries, was halted.

What you've been reading is a brief insight into how the anti-Christ demonic spirit infused through Sacred Tradition so many mandates that not only diminish the Lordship of Jesus in His people's lives but also repeatedly contradict Scripture. And nothing has changed. Pope Francis, the current and 266th Pope, spent his recent trip in Brazil emphasizing Mary rather than Jesus. Just before he left on this trip, the Vatican ordained that people could gain indulgences by signing up for the Pope's Twitter account. And in a blatant appeal to young people, a teenage boy was recently proclaimed a "Saint" to whom one could pray.

I realize that it's hard to envision the power of popes over the centuries. But as the demonic power of anti-Christ gained more footholds, Sacred Tradition increasingly displaced Scripture. Again, what I've cited about the impact of Roman Catholicism in the beliefs of so many isn't meant to "bash" Catholics but rather to expose how far from God's inerrant Word their beliefs and practices have strayed. In my next Lament, I'll discuss how the Protestant Reformers made attempts to return to Scripture truth but refused to restore these essential elements that are at the core of Christian life: •living to do Father's will in love-grounded, obedient trust, •living under the loving rule of our Lord Jesus and implementing His means of unifying and equipping His followers, •receiving direction and empowerment from the indwelling Holy Spirit. By ignoring these essentials, the Reformers ended up establishing creedal divisiveness in Christianity by extolling reason, logic, individualism, and Deism. While the Reformers weren't on par with the popes as far as domination and unquestioned influence, many of them did become revered by Protestants as “infallible” in their particular doctrines and explanations.

I want to affirm for you that the demonic spirit of anti-Christ is no less an influence in Protestantism than in Roman Catholicism. We must restore the core of Christian living to eliminate its influence and live fully free in Jesus as Lord to do our Father's will!