

Prophecy in Perspective

Dr. Scott Gregory Downing
An Email Newsletter

Our Times - *Prophecy in current events*

The Bible has a great deal to say about the global religion of the End Times. I have documented many examples of the growing Church apostasy and rampant compromise that is happening in both the Catholic and Protestant Churches today. The Bible teaches us that there is but one Church, the bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:32). There are those in both the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant Churches that have received Jesus Christ as their Savior by faith alone. This is the only biblical way to get saved. Many churches and denominations certainly have added to the simple gospel with their own traditions and regulations.



Many have come to depend on these for salvation and not on Jesus Christ alone. Revelation 3:14-22 shows us the way the Church will become bloated with its own self-sufficiency and pride as well as grossly apathetic about biblical truth in the latter days. In Revelation 4:1-3 there is a description of the rapture of the Church with John being taken up into heaven. The only Church left on the earth after the rapture will be the false Church that will welcome and fully support the Antichrist and His vile and destructive agenda. The Tribulation will thus begin soon after the rapture, as the Book of Revelation foretells in chapters 6 through 18.

Yet the prophecies of Revelation chapter 17 describes more detailed truths about this false global Church which will thrive for a time during the tribulation. There we read about the Harlot, Babylon, and the global false Church riding the Beast (Revelation 17:3), who is the dictator of the future global government of the Great Tribulation period. It is very interesting, therefore, to read (as we will see in the article below) that many are expecting that the next Pope, will be the last Pope, and that he is predicted to be the Pope overseeing the final form of the global Church at the time of the Antichrist. I believe that this is a distinct possibility. I believe the following article will be helpful to understand the interest that is being generated over Pope Benedict's highly unusual and unexpected resignation. Virtually the whole world is waiting to see who the next Pope will be and how this transition of leadership possibly fits into the prophetic scenario for the last days.

Malachy Prophecy: Next Pope Will Be Last

Tuesday, 12 Feb 2013, 12:31 PM

By: Jim Meyers (Newsmax.com)

Ancient Catholic prophecies by a revered Irish bishop end with the chilling prediction that the next Pope to be selected by the College of Cardinals to fill Benedict XVI's place will be the last Pope. St. Malachy, an Archbishop of Armagh who died in 1148, left behind a list of 112 Popes that has amazed some with its remarkable accuracy.

Malachy used a short phrase in Latin to describe each Pope, beginning with Celestine II describing him with the

words: "From a castle on the Tiber." That Pope's birth name was Guido di Castello. More recently, he described Pope John Paul I with the phrase: "From the midst of the moon." His reign, which began in 1978, began with the moon half full and lasted only one month — or one moon.

He was followed by Pope John Paul II by the Latin expression "Laboris Solis" — or translated "From the labor of the sun" — an expression meaning a solar eclipse. As it turned out, John Paul II was the only known pope to be born on the day of a solar eclipse — and he was buried on the day of a solar eclipse. A near total eclipse was seen across Europe on May 18, 1920, the day he was born in Poland. And on April 8, 2005, the day of the Pope's funeral, a partial solar eclipse blotted out most of the sun and darkened a wide area of the world, from the South Pacific to the Western Hemisphere.

For the next Pope, Benedict XVI, St. Malachy wrote: "Glory of the olive." Before the Pope was selected, some suggested a Benedictine would be elected because the order is sometimes referred to as the Olivetans, whose name ultimately derives from the Mount of Olives in the New Testament. A Benedictine was not selected. However, upon his election as pontiff, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger chose the name Benedict after St. Benedict of Nursia, founder of the Benedictine Order.

St. Malachy described only one more Pope after Benedict, "Petrus Romanus" or "Peter the Roman." The Irish prophet wrote: "In the final persecution of the Holy Roman Church, there will reign Peter the Roman, who will feed his flock amid many tribulations; after which the seven-hilled city (Rome) will be destroyed and the dreadful Judge will judge the people."

Some believe the prophecy could foretell the destruction of the Church, or the world, and play into Christian prophecy as revealed in the book of Revelation which suggests a final battle between good and evil. St. Malachy's prophecies were first published in 1595 by a Benedictine historian.

According to a traditional account, Malachy was summoned to Rome by Pope Innocent II in 1139, and while there he purportedly experienced a vision of future Popes. He recorded the vision in his cryptic phrases and this manuscript was left in an archive and forgotten until its rediscovery in 1590.

A book published last year entitled "Petrus Romanus: The Final Pope Is Here," by authors Cris Putnam and Tom Horn, detailed the Malachy prophecy and predicted that the current Pope would abdicate for health reasons, paving the way for the final Pope. (NewsMax.com)



While I have seen the Catholic Church do much good in its promotion of pro-life issues and support for the traditional and biblical definition of the family, there are ominous socialistic and global overtones that have come out of this present Pope's teachings. Hal Lindsey sites several statements from Pope Benedict XVI in his 2009 encyclical, "Caritas in Veritate" ("Charity in Truth") as stating that the reality of globalization necessitates... "gradual balanced transfer of a part of each nations powers to a **world authority** and regional authorities."

Lindsey goes on to point out that "that document in which the Pope is speaking to the world shows that the Vatican wants to see this **global authority** play a role in everything from financial regulation, to arms control and disarmament, to food, to peace efforts

and security. Continuing, Lindsey stated that "the Pope's 2009 encyclical argued that: "there is an urgent need for a true **world political authority**." (Pope Benedict XVI Caritas in Veritate). Lindsay states that the Roman Catholic Church has, "for the last 40 years been advocating a redistribution of wealth to be begun and overseen by the United Nations." These statements and apparent goals of the Roman Catholic Church are consistent with a growing number among the Protestant, liberal, and even evangelical churches, who desire a much more "social gospel" emphasis on church missions and ministry. They are increasingly supportive of the ideals of Liberation Theology. Liberation Theology is a Marxist oriented theology that stresses the liberation of the "oppressed" who are viewed as being under the "oppression" of capitalistic and colonial nations such as the United States, Great Britain and other western European nations. This explains why so many Catholic and Protestant groups advocate for pro-Islamic and pro-Palestinian groups and tend to be anti-Israel in their political philosophy and goals. They view Israel as one of the Western capitalistic "oppressor" nations. And Israel's very existence is viewed as that of a colonial proxy of the "oppressive" "capitalistic" and "evil" western powers such as the United States. Hence, radical Islam views Israel as the "Little Satan" and the United States as the "Great Satan."

As the global Church and government forms, there will be increasing pressure for nations to comply. Eventually this compliance will be represented by taking an official mark of the new world ruler, the Beast (Revelation 13:1-2;16-18). This mark will consist of the occult number "666." Taking this number and mark will be necessary to show solidarity with the one-world dictator who is even now expected by millions around the world. Daniel chapter 7 and Revelation chapters 13 and 17 speak of the formation of a latter day ten nation confederacy that will be headed up by the Beast. Daniel, for instance, writes of the unfolding of events in those latter days and the formation of this ten nation confederacy of global government out of which the Antichrist will arise, just prior to the return of Jesus to the earth:

"Thus he said, the fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall **devour the whole earth**, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. And the **ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them;** and he (the Antichrist) shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. And **he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.** But the judgment shall sit (at the return of Jesus Christ), and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end" (Daniel 7:23-26).

Today, there are millions who are ignorant of the clear predictions in the Bible about the formation of the future global Church and global government under the Antichrist. Yet, God has given these prophecies for us to take warning as well as to be encouraged. While we should be very careful about investing authority in predictions that come through dreams and visions, we always do well to use the inerrant Word of God to **"prove all things"** so that we can **"hold fast to that which is good"(1 Thessalonians 5:21).**

We are witnessing these events unfold in our day. So we can anticipate the coming of the Lord from heaven to call believers up to Himself at the rapture, which will be prior to the seven year Great Tribulation. As we do this we should examine the particular church we are in and discern if they are preaching the true gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ alone and through faith alone. Every church and denomination has imperfect people in it. Yet, the Lord will show you which is closest to preaching and teaching the Bible. The Scripture warns us today about how we should respond to a church that is promoting false teaching. We read in 2 Corinthians 6:17&18 that if we are in a church or involved in a ministry that promotes false doctrine then we are commanded to **"come out from among them."** The Lord assures us that if we obey Him in this, He promises: **"and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith**

the Lord Almighty." What a joy to be delivered from the oppression of unscriptural teaching and the traditions and legalisms of man and councils of men.

Further, Revelation 18:4&5 exhorts believers to trust God, Who cannot lie and Who always wants the best for His children with the words: ***"Come out of her (the false Church), my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities."*** Remember that our focus is not to be on Popes, Pastors, human teachers, or denominations as such, but upon the Lord Jesus Christ Who in Luke 21:28 wonderfully says to us: ***"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."*** Any teacher that is sound in faith and doctrine will point you to this kind of single minded focus, that of worshiping, honoring, serving, and looking for the crucified, resurrected, and soon coming Lord Jesus Christ.

The Church Today - Doctrine and Prophecy

The numbers of objects in the skies over the earth in these recent days are evidently increasing in frequency as are earthquakes, fires, storms, and pestilences (Matthew 24:3-8). The earth is groaning (Romans 8:22). And the entire cosmos tells us that we are indeed in a transition time from one dispensation, that of Grace, to another, that of the Great Tribulation; which is the prelude to the Second coming of Jesus Christ to the earth to set up His thousand year reign from Jerusalem. For example, look at this article from Reuters about the recent meteor that violently exploded over Russia.

(Reuters) - A meteorite streaked across the sky and exploded over central Russia on Friday (February 15, 2013), raining fireballs over a vast area and causing a shock wave that smashed windows, damaged buildings and injured 1,200 people.

People heading to work in Chelyabinsk heard what sounded like an explosion, saw a bright light and then felt the shock wave, according to a Reuters correspondent in the industrial city 1,500 km (950 miles) east of Moscow.



Events such as these should encourage us to take renewed notice of the Bible's predictions that heavenly phenomena will announce and signify the unfolding of the final days of the earth's present age and signal the imminent commencement of the next age, that of the Kingdom of God (Note the Russian meteor, left). Read what the book of Revelation predicts for the latter half of the great tribulation period in the following quote:

"And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them. The first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

The second angel sounded, and something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood, and a third of the creatures which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed.

The third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters. The name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.

The fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were struck, so that a third of them would be darkened and the day would not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way" (Revelation 8:6-12).

The recent appearances, virtually one after another, of the meteors, over Russia, San Francisco and Florida, as well as Cuba, the day after the Russia event (see picture on right, from Redorbit.com, image Credit: Igor Zh/Shutterstock) and the close pass-by of an Asteroid, closer than any in recorded history, are all signals for us to look heavenward and anticipate much more to come. And with more liberal announcements of openness to homosexual marriage, child killings through abortion, and trends toward global religion and government, expect more phenomenal occurrences both terrestrial and



celestial (on the earth and in the skies). These are all indicators that are predicted in the Scriptures to prepare us to live lives that continually "look up" for truly our redemption draws near in the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to rapture His Bride, the Church, to heaven. Are you a believer in Jesus Christ? Are you studying His Word? Are you walking in obedience? Are you witnessing to others? Are you looking for His return?

Let today be the day of decision to trust Christ as your Savior and walk with Him in full surrender and obedience. ***"Behold I come quickly and my reward is with Me..." (Revelation 22:12).***

Prophecy in Perspective, Copyright, vol. no. 46 - March 1, 2013

(Note: If you would like to interact with Dr. Downing concerning this newsletter, views, etc. you can "blog" with him at prophecyinperspective.com. If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter at no charge, please send your email address to: sgdowning@bellsouth.net. Also, you can purchase his book, "Good News From a Far Country", a study in the book of Daniel [\$15]; "Becoming Mighty in Spirit...through Revelation's Prophecies" [\$10]; or his latest book, "Becoming Mighty in Spirit...through Developing a Prophetic Walk...A study in the lives and ministries of Elijah and Elisha" [\$10] by contacting him.)