

# **THE MAN OF MYSTERY**

## **"SOBERING FACTS"**

### **Part 4**

By: Phillip Hayes

Mystery Babylon is the Mother of Harlots: This is because SHE has continued to have a massive impact on what truly does matter to God, "His Church". She is the root of many false doctrines, has changed God's law and shed the blood of millions of Christians. When Israel committed spiritual adultery, God called His Old Testament Church a "WHORE", a "HARLOT" and a "WHORISH WOMAN" and accused her of "FORNICATION" and "ADULTERY." The Catholic Church is guilty of much worse than Israel. In his address to the nations, Pope Benedict caused a major uproar among many Churches as he referred to the Catholic Church as being the "MOTHER" Church and called for all the daughter Churches to come back to HER. They are referred to as daughter Churches because they originally came from the Catholic Church: Martin Luther, who had been a Catholic priest, established the Lutheran Church. Sadly, many of the daughter Churches have also ignorantly inherited various false doctrines and this is why SHE is called the "MOTHER OF HARLOTS" as is Mystery Babylon.

### **The Merchants have Waxed Rich**

Revelation 18:3 in part tells us, ". . . *and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies*". Consider this: What do most

merchants look forward to all over the world? There are four main selling seasons for retailers and wholesalers. All of which have their genesis in Catholicism. Here are some of the facts:

**Easter** (named for the pagan God of fertility), (now you know what Easter eggs and bunny rabbits represent). The name "*Easter*" originated with the names of an ancient Goddess and God. The Venerable Bede, (672-735 AD.) a Christian scholar, first asserted in his book *De Ratione Temporum* that Easter was named after Eostre (a.k.a. Eastre). Easter embodies many pre-Christian traditions. The origin of its name is unknown. Scholars, however, accepting the derivation proposed by the 8th-century English scholar St. Bede, believe it probably comes from Eastre, the Anglo-Saxon name of a Teutonic goddess of spring and fertility, to whom was dedicated a month corresponding to April. Her festival was celebrated on the day of the vernal equinox; traditions associated with the festival survive in the Easter rabbit, a symbol of fertility, and in colored easter eggs, originally painted with bright colors to represent the sunlight of spring, and used in Easter-egg rolling contests or given as gifts. Constantine I, Roman emperor, convoked the Council of Nicaea in 325. The council unanimously ruled that the Easter festival should be celebrated throughout the Christian world on the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox; and that if the full moon should occur on a Sunday and thereby coincide with the Passover festival, Easter should be commemorated on the Sunday following. Coincidence of the feasts of Easter and Passover was thus avoided.

**Halloween** (All Saints Day, also known as "All Hallows Eve" or "Halloween". Catholics and some Christians believe the Feast of All Saints is a holy day of the Church honoring all saints, known and unknown. This is what they say, "This is much like the American holidays Veterans Day and

Presidents Day, where many people are honored in one day. While we have knowledge of many saints, and we honor them on specific days, there are many unknown or unsung saints, who may have been forgotten, or never given much honor to begin with. On All Saints Day, we celebrate these saints of the Lord, and ask for their prayers and intercessions. The whole concept of All Saints Day is tied in with the concept of the Communion of Saints. This is the belief that all of God's people, on heaven, earth, and in the state of purification (called *Purgatory* in the West), are connected in a communion. In other words, Catholic and Orthodox Christians believe that the saints of God are constantly interceding on our behalf.)”

**St. Valentines Day** (The history of Valentine's Day is obscure, and further clouded by various fanciful legends. The holiday's roots are in the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalia, a fertility celebration commemorated annually on February 15. Pope Gelasius I recast this pagan festival as a Christian feast day circa 496, declaring February 14 to be St. Valentine's Day.)

And of course there is the Big One everyone looks forward to:

**Christmas** (Mass of Christ, Mass-Christ) with it's Santa Claus (St Nichols).

Many of the most popular Christmas customs – including Christmas trees, mistletoe, Christmas presents, and Santa Claus – are modern incarnations of the most depraved pagan rituals ever practiced on earth.

Nearly all aspects of Christmas observance have their roots in Roman custom and religion. Consider the following admission from a large American newspaper (*The Buffalo News*, Nov. 22, 1984): “The earliest reference to Christmas being marked on Dec. 25 comes from the second century

after Jesus' birth. It is considered likely the first Christmas celebrations *were in reaction to the Roman Saturnalia*, a harvest festival that marked the winter solstice—the return of the sun—and honored Saturn, the god of sowing. Saturnalia was a rowdy time, *much opposed by the more austere leaders among the still-minority Christian sect.* Christmas developed, one scholar says, as a means of replacing worship of the *sun* with worship of the Son. By 529 A.D., after Christianity had become the official state religion of the Roman Empire, Emperor Justinian made Christmas a civic holiday. The celebration of Christmas reached its peak—some would say its worst moments—in the medieval period when it became a time for conspicuous consumption and unequalled revelry."

Consider these quotes from the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, 1911 edition, under "Christmas": "Christmas was *not* among the earliest festivals of the Church . . . the first evidence of the feast is *from Egypt.*" Further, "Pagan customs centering around the January calends gravitated to Christmas." Under "Natal Day," Origen, an early Catholic writer, admitted, ". . . In the Scriptures, no one is recorded to have kept a feast or held a great banquet on his birthday. It is *only sinners* (like Pharaoh and Herod) who make great rejoicings over the day in which they were born into this world" (emphasis mine).

The *Encyclopedia Americana*, 1956 edition, adds, "Christmas...was not observed in the first centuries of the Christian church, since the Christian usage in general was to celebrate the death of remarkable persons rather than their birth...a feast was established in memory of this event [Christ's birth] *in the fourth century.* In the fifth century the Western Church ordered the feast to be celebrated forever on the *day of the Mithraic rites of the birth of the sun and at the close of the Saturnalia*, as no certain knowledge of the day of Christ's birth existed."

There is no mistaking the ORIGIN of the modern Christmas celebration. Let's begin to tie some other facts together.

It was 300 years after Christ before the Roman church kept Christmas, and not until the fifth century that it was mandated to be kept throughout the empire as an official festival honoring "Christ."

The fact is no one knows when our Lord was born and there is no scriptural authority for the Church to celebrate His birthday. We are instructed however, "to remember His death". Celebrating The birth of the One who stated He is, "THE TRUTH", with pagan customs and outright lies in my opinion is an abomination.

The information given is in no way complete concerning the "holidays" that have enriched merchants for centuries. There are volumes of information available to all who seek the truth.

For many centuries there have been various individuals that recognized the corruption of truth that the Roman Church perpetrated. Historians labeled them "Protestant Reformers". These "reformers" in most part are the originators of the modern protestant churches of today. Sadly, because they have held on to many of the "doctrines" and "traditions" of Mystery Babylon, they have become the "daughters" of the ungodly woman described in Revelation 17.

The Protest Reformation did bring a spiritual revolution against the Roman Church. Many were slain for their testimonies against her apostate teachings and many recognized the Roman Church for what she really was. Let's look at a brief history of the reformation and what the reformers thought of Catholicism and particularly the Popes.

## **The Protestant Reformation**

Towards the time when the Bible hit the printing press, almost all the early Church fathers began to understand Bible Prophecy and in particular the one involving the antichrist beast power as part of mystery Babylon in Revelation 17:5. Satan obviously does not want anyone understanding Bible Prophecy and especially who mystery Babylon is. Be warned as Satan always has many counter lies coming against the truth.

True Protestantism teaches salvation by grace through faith in Jesus (Ephesians 2:8) and the supremacy of the Bible above the visible Church, (2 Timothy 3:16) above traditions, pastors, priests, popes and kings. It also teaches the priesthood of all believers (2 Peter 2:9, 10) and that all people everywhere can be saved by coming directly to our loving heavenly Father through His only Son, Jesus Christ (John 14:6). 1 Timothy 2:5 states, *"There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus."*

The Protestant Reformation in the 1500's literally changed the course of history. It helped move Europe out of the Dark Ages and led to the rise of true religious freedom. Its original principles eventually found expression in the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America which teaches that when it comes to religion, the governments of earth have no right to control the conscience. What did the major Protestant Reformers teach about the Antichrist? Here are many comments presented by some of the most influential Christian leaders who have ever lived and what they believed about "the little horn" (Daniel 7:8), "the beast" (Revelation 13:1), and

“the man of sin” (2 Thessalonians 2:3) and about Antichrist.

**John Wesley (1703-1791) (Methodist):** Speaking of the Papacy, John Wesley wrote, “He is in an emphatical sense, the Man of Sin, as he increases all manner of sin above measure. And he is, too, properly styled the Son of Perdition, as he has caused the death of numberless multitudes, both of his opposers and followers . . . . He it is . . . that exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped...claiming the highest power, and highest honour . . . claiming the prerogatives which belong to God alone.” — *Antichrist and His Ten Kingdoms*, by John Wesley, pg. 110.

**Martin Luther (1483-1546) (Lutheran):** “Luther . . . proved, by the revelations of Daniel and St. John, by the epistles of St. Paul, St. Peter, and St. Jude, that the reign of Antichrist, predicted and described in the Bible, was the Papacy . . . . And all the people did say, Amen! A holy terror siezed their souls. It was Antichrist whom they beheld seated on the pontifical throne. This new idea, which derived greater strength from the prophetic descriptions launched forth by Luther into the midst of his contemporaries, inflicted the most terrible blow on Rome.” Taken from J. H. Merle D’aubigne’s *History of the Reformation of the Sixteen Century*, book vi, chapter xii, p. 215. Based on prophetic studies, Martin Luther finally declared, “We here are of the conviction that the papacy is the seat of the true and real Antichrist.” (Aug. 18, 1520). — *The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers*, by LeRoy Froom. Vol. 2., pg. 121.

**John Wycliffe: (1330-1384) (Reformation Forerunner):** “When the western church was divided for

about 40 years between two rival popes, one in Rome and the other in Avignon, France, each pope called the other pope antichrist - and John Wycliffe is reputed to have regarded them as both being right: "two halves of Antichrist, making up the perfect Man of Sin between them." — Ibid

**Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556) (Anglican):**

"Whereof it followeth Rome to be the seat of antichrist, and the pope to be very antichrist himself. I could prove the same by many other scriptures, old writers, and strong reasons." (Referring to prophecies in Revelation and Daniel.) — *Works by Cranmer*, Vol. 1, pp. 6-7.

**John Calvin (1509-1564) (Presbyterian):**

"Some persons think us too severe and censorious when we call the Roman pontiff Antichrist. But those who are of this opinion do not consider that they bring the same charge of presumption against Paul himself, after whom we speak and whose language we adopt . . . I shall briefly show that (Paul's words in II Thess. 2) are not capable of any other interpretation than that which applies them to the Papacy." — *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, by John Calvin.

**John Knox (1505-1572) (Scotch Presbyterian):**

John Knox sought to counteract "that tyranny which the pope himself has for so many ages exercised over the church." As with Luther, he finally concluded that the Papacy was "the very antichrist, and son of perdition, of whom Paul speaks." — *The Zurich Letters*, by John Knox, pg. 199.

**Roger Williams (1603-1683) (First Baptist Pastor in America):** Pastor Williams spoke of the Pope as "the pretended Vicar of Christ on earth, who sits as God over the Temple of God, exalting himself not only above all that



is called God, but over the souls and consciences of all his vassals, yea over the Spirit of Christ, over the Holy Spirit, yea, and God himself...speaking against the God of heaven, thinking to change times and laws; but he is the son of perdition (II Thess. 2)." — *The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers*, by Froom, Vol. 3, pg. 52.

**The Westminster Confession of Faith (1647):**

"There is no other head of the church but the Lord Jesus Christ. Nor can the pope of Rome in any sense be head thereof; but is that Antichrist, that man of sin and son of perdition that exalteth himself in the church against Christ and all that is called God." — Philip Schaff's, *The Creeds of Christendom, With a History and Critical Notes*, III, p. 658, 659, ch. 25, sec. 6.

**Cotton Mather (1663-1728) (Congregational Theologian):**

"The oracles of God foretold the rising of an Antichrist in the Christian Church: and in the Pope of Rome, all the characteristics of that Antichrist are so marvelously answered that if any who read the Scriptures do not see it, there is a marvelous blindness upon them." — *The Fall of Babylon* by Cotton Mather in Froom's book, *The Prophetic Faith of Our Fathers*, Vol. 3, pg. 113.

**A Great Cloud of Witnesses:** "Wycliffe, Tyndale, Luther, Calvin, Cranmer; in the seventeenth century, Bunyan, the translators of the King James Bible and the men who published the Westminster and Baptist confessions of Faith; Sir Isaac Newton, Wesley, Whitfield, Jonathan Edwards; and more recently Spurgeon, Bishop J.C. Ryle and Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones; these men among countless others, all saw the office of the Papacy as the antichrist." — *All Roads Lead to Rome*, by Michael de Semlyen. Dorchester House Publications, p. 205. 1991.

With all that the great protestant reformers had to say concerning Catholicism and the Popes, it makes one wonder, "Where are the Protestants of today?" I venture it is hard to find one!

The truth is most protestant denominations are no longer "protesting" anything. As a matter of fact, they have on the most part given the papacy the "right hand" of fellowship and actually recognize him as the *head* of the church.

Today, we are without excuse! Most Americans have several Bibles in their homes. We have access to concordances, dictionaries (both Bible and secular), original Greek texts, commentaries and volumes of history found in libraries and on the internet. If you want the Truth, it is everywhere; if you will look for it.

Many years ago, I asked the Lord for the Truth. His voice filled my mind with these words, "My people are bound by part truths. Take the part truths the major denominations were founded upon and you will have the whole truth." I have found this to be true. I searched out everything that I had been taught and compared it with the Apostles Doctrine and found that in many cases I had been deceived. From that time forward I have endeavored to preach and teach only what the Apostles taught. Their doctrine became my doctrine.

Do you have the courage to do as I have? If you do, I encourage you to examine every teaching you encounter in light of the verbatim teachings of Jesus and the Apostles.