April 2013

THE POPE IN PROPHECY
ANGEL OR ANTICHRIST?

An Amazing Fact: Shortly after Benedict XVI announced his unprecedented resignation, thunderclouds rolled over Vatican City—and a lightning bolt struck the dome of St. Peter’s Cathedral! Many wondered if this was just a coincidence or an ominous harbinger of a new era. What do you believe?

Dear friend,

Very few Christians today remember why Protestants protested. Let me explain.

This has already been a very notable year for the Catholic Church, beginning with the surprising resignation of Pope Benedict XVI. The aged pontiff cited poor health, but many wondered if there was more to the story.

For several years now, the Vatican has been rocked by one scandal after another. There were the mysterious Vatican murders in 2005 and, of course, the ongoing widespread cover-up of pedophile priests. Then more recently, global media reported on the leak of sensitive Vatican papers from the pope’s personal butler. Some speculate that Benedict “fell on his sword” to get rid of a disloyal cabinet in one sweeping move.

New Pope, Old Prophecy

Then on 03–13–13, as “all the world wondered” and watched, white smoke oozed from the Sistine Chapel in Rome and an Argentinian cardinal, Jorge Bergoglio, was introduced as the new pope. This was not only a significant event for 1.2 billion Catholics worldwide, as he is the first pope from the Americas and the first to be named Francis—but it should be especially alarming to Protestants that this seemingly humble man is the first Jesuit elected as pope. This has profound implications!

We know that Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, Knox, Edwards, Henry, Clark, Wesley, and Spurgeon—just to name a few—all identified the Roman Catholic Church as the beast of Revelation 13 and the papacy as antichrist. During the Reformation, thousands of Catholics returned to the Scriptures and discovered the truth about Jesus. Unfortunately today, most Protestants and evangelicals have historical amnesia, all but forgetting what distinguishes them from Catholicism.

Please don’t get me wrong. Pope Francis might be an absolutely wonderful individual, and I support his modesty and conservative views on marriage and abortion. Furthermore, I expect to meet millions of former and current Catholics in heaven. Remember, we are not talking about people’s personal temperaments here—but rather Catholicism’s official view in relation to Scripture.

For example, have we all overlooked the pope’s claim to be God on earth? “We hold upon this earth the place of God Almighty.” —Pope Leo XIII

(over, please)
Jesuit History

Most people don’t know that before a candidate could be fully received within the Jesuit order, he was required to make a solemn blood oath pledging to infiltrate, undermine, and overthrow the Protestant religion. They were then charged by their superiors to “Go ye, then, into all the world and take possession of all lands in the name of the pope. He who will not accept him as the Vicar of Jesus and his Vice-Regent on earth, let him be accursed and exterminated.”

This is why I am so surprised to hear so many Protestant leaders fawning over this new pope. Have they forgotten that the order of Jesuits was established as a militia in 1540 with the specific purpose to overthrow the faith of Protestants? Part of their vow is to “make and wage relentless war, secretly and openly, against all heretics, [and] Protestants.”

Shouldn’t it be at least a little troubling to Protestants like you and me that a Jesuit was chosen as pope? In fact, although some reports dismiss the idea, Bergoglio might have chosen his papal name “Francis” in part to honor St. Francis Xavier, one of the founders of the Jesuit order.

The author of the classic book The Great Controversy made these stunning comments regarding the Jesuits:

“The first triumphs of the Reformation past, Rome summoned new forces, hoping to accomplish its destruction. At this time the order of the Jesuits was created, the most cruel, unscrupulous, and powerful of all the champions of popery. Cut off from earthly ties and human interests, dead to the claims of natural affection, reason and conscience wholly silenced, they knew no rule, no tie, but that of their order, and no duty but to extend its power.”

In fact, it was the Jesuits that invented and popularized the Left Behind interpretation of prophecy found in that blockbuster series of books—now being remade into a new movie backed by Hollywood star power. It’s true!

In 1559, as multitudes of Catholics were flocking to the teachings of the reformers, the Council of Trent called upon a Jesuit priest and doctor of theology—Francisco Ribera (1537–1591) from Spain—and gave him the task to create a plausible alternative to Luther’s teachings. This brilliant Jesuit priest invented an entirely different interpretation of prophecy that pointed away from the pope as antichrist.

Amazingly, 450 years later, nearly 96 percent of all Protestant Christians have abandoned what the reformers taught and accepted the Jesuit interpretation of prophecy! They have failed to understand the diabolical mission of the Jesuits, which is to do whatever is necessary to unravel the precepts of the Protestant faith—even if that means to disrupt it from within.

Protestant Amnesia

Did you know that at one time in history, American presidents were very careful to appoint only Protestants to the U.S. Supreme Court? They wanted justices who would be mindful of protecting the principle of religious liberty that underpins America. But in the interest of being
politically correct, all that began to change about 40 years ago. With the retirement of Justice John Paul Stevens in 2010, there are now no Protestants on the Supreme Court. Zero! The majority are Roman Catholics, and three are Jewish. Things have radically changed!

We shouldn’t be surprised. All of this was foretold in the book *The Great Controversy.*

“The Protestant churches are in great darkness, or they would discern the signs of the times. The Roman Church … is employing every device to extend her influence and increase her power in preparation for a fierce and determined conflict to regain control of the world, to re-establish persecution, and to undo all that Protestantism has done.”

Of course, the Vatican has international influence because it is not only a church—it is also a political power! In 1929 Vatican City was established as an independent state smaller than a golf course, all within Rome. Fewer than 1,000 people live in this “country” governed by the pope. Despite its diminutive size, however, the Vatican wields profound international power, controlling vast wealth with its own bank and accepting eager ambassadors and tourists flocking to its doors from around the world.

This global influence is being carefully manipulated to further their teachings. The problem is that much of what the Roman Church teaches is merely baptized paganism mingled with Christian traditions. And many Protestants today are guilty of allowing culture and feelings to override clear biblical teaching, exchanging *sola Scriptura* for the traditions of men.

That’s why, as a special resource along with this letter, I have enclosed a card that compares some of the major deviations between Scripture and Catholic theology. We hope you will find it helpful when studying the subject with your friends.

**What’s Next?**

The world now has the first pope with the ability to unite the Catholic and Protestant world—even the press is calling him the people’s pope! This is what Revelation chapter 13 told us would happen. Again, from *The Great Controversy* …

“When Protestantism shall stretch her hand across the gulf to grasp the hand of the Roman power … then we may know that the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan and that the end is near.”

I hope you don’t mind my emphasis on prophecy, but sadly, there are few voices heard from Protestant pulpits today contesting the Jesuit agenda. Yet you can rest assured that Amazing Facts is committed to sounding the warning trumpet for Jesus and biblical truth—no matter the cost to us.

“For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you” (2 Peter 1:12, 13 NKJV).
Friend, that’s why I especially need your help: to give the trumpet a clear note (1 Corinthians 14:8). Jesus said it is the truth that will set people free (John 8:32). It’s not a popular message we share, but it is God’s message.

That’s why over the past three years, Amazing Facts has been committed to our largest media undertaking ever. We are currently producing a full-length documentary that will, in a loving but direct way, expose the beast of Revelation for what it really is—the antichrist—and call people out of Babylon. Only the truth can overcome deception that leads to eternal loss.

We are nearing the conclusion of this project, but we will need significant financial help to finalize it. If you recognize that we must stand for truth at all costs, will you join me by prayerfully considering a generous gift to help us complete the Revelation: Prophecy’s Hidden History project, continue our mission of evangelism, and get the message out to rekindle the light of the Reformation?

As a token of my deep appreciation for a gift of any size toward this important project and our mission to spread the gospel, I would like to send you a copy of my brand-new message “New Pope—Old Prophecy.” In this presentation, recorded recently, I talk very explicitly about the history of the Jesuits and the far-reaching agenda of the Roman Catholic Church. After you watch or listen to it, please pass it on.

I know God will bless you, friend, as you make a sacrificial investment in Jesus’ kingdom.

Boldly proclaiming together,

Pastor Doug Batchelor

P.S. We are living in amazing times that call for extraordinary faith and measures. Will you stand with me? I love Catholic people for their faith and reverence, but it’s at great personal risk that Amazing Facts stands up to reach them with the true gospel. That’s why your gift this month will be especially meaningful—because I know that when it matters most, you’ll stand there with me to proclaim the true three angels’ messages to people who need to find Him. Thank you for your faithful support.

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1 Didier, Charles. Subterranean Rome. Published 1843.
2 Ibid.
3 White, Ellen G., The Great Controversy, p. 234
4 Ibid., pp. 563–565
5 White, Ellen G., Testimonies to the Church, Vol. 5, p. 451