

WRITE THE VISION AND MAKE IT PLAIN
THE IDENTITY OF THE ANTI-CHRIST
ISSUE 5

Thus says The Lord, The Most High God, who has made heaven and earth, and ordained and has made Jesus Christ head and Prince of the Church, Come our from among them and be ye separate”, saith the Lord, “and touch not the unclean thing.” (2 Corinthians 6:17) This is the Bible identification of the Antichrist ((instead of Christ) system. “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Be-li-al? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” (2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1) “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be riot 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. Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled, fill to her double. How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, standing afar off the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city of Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise anymore: The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, slaves, and souls of men, and the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. The merchants of things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off these for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, and saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked

with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, Alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate. Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her. And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. And the voice of harps, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. (Revelations 18:4-23)

This article was first passed out at the Superdome in New Orleans at the world conference on the Holy Spirit sometime in the early eighties. "The approved" lying prophets were saying "The Spirit is grieved, the Spirit is grieved" because "the body is divided." Scripture speaks of coming to the "unity of the faith" (cf: Eph.4) The ecumenical movement is a tool of the devil

BIBLE IDENTIFICATION ONE

And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.(Revelation8:24) Ham became the traditional meat of Easter because the Roman Church used it as a way to identify the Jewish believers who would not eat pork or accept the corrupt doctrines Babylon brought into the church. The believers were invited to what were called "Love Feasts." They were marked for torture and death when it was seen that they would not eat pork. 'And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.'" (Revelation 17:5-6) Geneva, Switzerland, a place where the leaders of the world meet in our time, was founded by Christians fleeing from the slaughter and torture of the Catholic Church because they would not bow to the church's image (Mary) or accept the pope as the head of the Church. Read Foxe's Book of Martyrs. Historians estimate about sixtyfour million people were killed during the Inquisition by the Catholic Church. Great is the slaughter of the false church.

BIBLE IDENTIFICATION TWO

“And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.” (Revelation 17:18) “And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.” (Revelation 17:9) “She sits on seven mountains, as does the city of Rome and the Vatican. She has the blood of the saints in her. Over six million Jews were killed under Hitler. The Catholic Church helped bring Hitler to power. Also killed were six million Christians who believed you are “saved by grace through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.” (Ephesians 2:8)

BIBLE IDENTIFICATION THREE

“When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place (whosoever readeth, let him understand).” (Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14) “Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her. And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. And the voice of harps, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.” Revelation 18:4-23

Sunday is derived from the popularity of Mithraism among the Romans, the Roman observance of the day of the sun. In Egypt, known as Ra, the Sun-God. The sun disk (Aton) with the outspread wings of the falcon became the most generally used symbol of Egyptian religion. In Palestine, the worship of the sun under the name of Baalhammon, the latter part of this title meaning “sun images.”

Monday is derived from Lunae Dies, day of the moon, the name reflects the ancient observance of the feast day dedicated to the moon, as a goddess or as a planet. (Moon-goddess, Melkataschemin, Queen of Heaven.)

Tuesday in the Roman calendar was the corresponding day was Dies Martis, and the same reference to war is conveyed by the origin of Tuesday. Tiw’s day is derived from Tyr or Tir, the wrestler and the son of Odin, or Woden, the Norse god of war. For Catholics, there is Shrove Tuesday, the last day before Lent, culminating in long series of carnival events, such as Mardi-gras (fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras), or Shrove Tuesday (celebrated in Rome, Paris, New Orleans). Mardi-gras for Christians is a heresy: drunkenness, revellings, adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness (Galatians 5:21: “and such like of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in times past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”)

Wednesday is from the Roman Dies Mercurii. The name is derivative of the Scandinavian Woden (Odin), chief deity of Norse mythology and in Anglo-Saxon it appears as Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent in the Roman Catholic Church. Ashes are used as a symbol of penitence; the ashes are from burned palm leaves remaining from the preceding Palm Sunday. The ashes are placed in an altar vessel, consecrated, and applied in the form of a

cross by the priest on the forehead of worshippers who kneel at the altar. It was given papal sanction by Pope Celestine in 1191.

Lent is the forty weekdays preceding Easter Sunday, beginning with Ash Wednesday, observed by the Roman and Anglican churches. A season of special penitence; self-denial (paying for your sins in some form) from money, food or sex to beatings and walking barefoot over stones to a Catholic shrine to pray to an image of Mary, asking forgiveness of sins during the wild party of Mar-digras and other times of sin.

I Timothy 2:5-6: "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all." Galatians 2:16: "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." Ephesians 2:8-9: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast."

Thursday is from Middle English, Thoresday, or Thursdaye. It is the Roman Dies Jovis. Thor, the god of strength and thunder, defender and help in war, is the counterpart of Jupiter or Jove. The German counterpart to Thor is Donar, and the day is Donnerstag. Among Catholics, the Thursday preceding money, food or sex to beatings and walking barefoot over stones to a Catholic shrine to pray to an image of Mary, asking forgiveness of sins during the wild party of Mar-digras and other times of sin.

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Friday derives its name from the Germanic name Frigg, given to the wife of the god Odin and meaning "beloved" or "loving." Its corresponding Latin name is Dies Veneris, a day dedicated to Venus. It is the Catholics' "Good Friday", occurring two days before Easter; Venus, Easter, and Astarte are the same, the Goddess of Fertility, Queen of Heaven, called Ashtoreth in the Old Covenant -Exodus 23:13 and Joshua 23:7. Good Friday is observed as the anniversary of the Crucifixion. The Lord Jesus was crucified on our Wednesday, the Hebrew Nisan 14th, the Jewish preparation day for the Passover Lamb. The Lord Jesus Christ became our Passover Lamb, our sacrifice for our sins. (See Appendix 156 in the Companion Bible) He fulfilled all of the law for us. Matthew 5:17-18: "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets; I am not come to destroy, but fulfill. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or tittle shall in no wise pass from the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."

“And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for an house: And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbour next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls (lives); every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or 4 from the goats. “And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.” (Exodus 12:1-7, 14)

Leviticus 23:5-6: “In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the Lord’s passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the Lord: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.

” Numbers 9:2-13: “Let the children of Israel also keep the passover at his appointed season. In the fourteenth day of this month, at even, ye shall keep it in his appointed season: according to all the rites of it, and according to all the ceremonies thereof, shall ye keep it. And Moses spake unto the children of Israel, that they should keep the passover. And they kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the first month.

This month, of Exodus 12:2, is the Hebrew name of Abib or “green-ear-month.” It becomes the first month (for God’s Covenant people) and the fifteenth becomes the ruling date, henceforth. Exodus 13:4, 23:15; Deuteronomy 16:1: Afterwards called Nisan (Nehemiah 2:1; Esther 3:7) becomes “First” (Exodus 40:2, 17; Leviticus 23:5) in place of Tisri, which thus becomes the seventh month. They turned from the Babylonian or Egyptian calendar (now the Roman Catholic calendar) to God’s word or His time. Shouldn’t we stop perpetuating a lie and be faithful to God and His Word?

Saturday was originally known as “Saturn’s Day,” it was sacred to Saturn among the Egyptians. Saturn (Latin: Saturnus), an ancient Roman god of sowing and agriculture, hence considered a mythical king who had introduced civilization and morality into Italy, which was called Saturnia. The wife of Saturn was Ops, goddess of plenty. Saturn was later identified with the Greek god Cronus, father of gods, who was said to have fled to Italy after being dethroned by Zeus and to have reigned there during the Golden Age. The festival of the Saturnalia, originally on December 17th, was later extended as much as five or seven days (December 25). At this time candles were lit, friends exchanged gifts, and slaves were served by their masters. It was a period of good will and general festivity, the prototype of Christmas, or the mass of Christ. Saturn’s Day, December 25, was in honor (worship) of the rebirth of the sun as a god, the giver of life to green things (agriculture). By the Roman calendar, December 25th was the shortest day of the year, and the days of the year became longer, so they cut down whatever was green at that time of the year-fir and pine trees, holly branches, Yule logs-and brought these gifts from the sun god, Saturn, into their to decorate (confer a badge of honor upon) for the gift from Saturn, exchanging gifts, lighting to help drive off the evil god of darkness, and bring cheer.

“I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. Though ye offer Me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beast. Take thou away from Me the noise of Thy songs: for I will

not hear the melody of thy viols. But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream. Have ye offered unto Me sacrifices and offerings in the wilderness forty years, O house of Israel? But ye have borne the Tabernacle (booth) of your Moloch and Chium, your images, the star of your god (your star god) which ye made to yourselves. Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, saith the Lord, Whose name is the God of Hosts.” (Amos 5:21-27)

The worship of Moloch is found in Leviticus 18:21 “And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Moloch, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the Lord. Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind, it is abomination.” (2 Kings 23:4-5) “And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priest of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the Lord all the vessels that were made for Baal,” (Egyptian, Babylonian sun god) and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven And he put down the idolatrous priest whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets,” (stations, i.e., the twelve signs of the Zodiac, or gods of the stars, moon) “and to all the host” (stars) of heaven.” 2 Kings 23:11: “And he took away the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun, at the entering in of the house of the Lord, by the chamber of Nathan-melech the chamberlain, which was in the suburbs, and burned the chariots of the sun with fire.”

The Christ-mass was originally a pagan festival from Babylonia. Yule is the Chaldee name for an infant or little child. The Anglo-Saxon ancestors called it Yule Day or Child Day and the night that preceded it Mother-night. This was not merely the figurative birth-day of the sun in the renewal of its course, but the birth-day of the grand Deliverer, who is the Lord-moon among the Sabeans of Arabia. Lord-moon is called “The Numberer” and it is by the changes of the moon that the months are numbered. Psalms 104:19: “He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down.

” Burning the Yule log in the fire on Christ-mass Eve (Mother-night, Queen of Heaven) to be reborn as (the massof-Christ tree) the branch, then a palm, now a fir tree. The son of the Queen of Heaven was born of the fire, to be reincarnated the next morning as the newborn god, Ballberith, Lord of the Covenant, which signifies Lord of the Fir Tree.

The 25th of December, observed in Rome as the day when the victorious god reappeared on earth, was held at Natalis invictisolis, “the birth-day of the unconquered sun.” Now the Yule log is the dead stock of Nimrod, deified as the sun-god. The worship of Moloch, “passing (burning up) their children through fire,” to be reincarnated, is found in Amos 5:26 and Acts 7:43.

Molech: Leviticus 18:21, 20:2—5, I Kings 11:7, 23:10, Jeremiah 32:35 Milcom: I Kings 11:5, 33, 2 Kings 23:13 Molech was the chief deity of the Ammonites. 2 Kings 16:3-4: “But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, yea, and made his son to pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the heathen, whom the Lord cast out from before the children of Israel. And he sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places, and on the hills, and under every green tree.”

** There are 360 degrees in a circle. Why not 340 or 460 or any other number? Why 360? - Carl Gautreaux, Cumming, GA. Because Babylonian arithmetic had a base of 60 (called sexagisimal) instead of 10 (called decimal). And brought to us by the same folks are the 60 seconds in a minute and the 60 minutes in an hour. But if we're tempted to complain, we should remind ourselves how nice it is that they didn't pick 17.**

Easter was a pagan sex ritual. The Lord Jesus Christ was crucified on a Wednesday and rose on Saturday of the Jewish calendar. You cannot get three days and three nights in the Catholic celebration. Halloween or All Hallows Eve comes from Druidic celebrations and the old Roman festivals in honor of Pomona, goddess of fruit, brought to Britain during the Roman occupation. The Word of God is right, the beast and the false prophet have deceived the whole world. The merchants of the world will mourn, because many businesses make 60% to 70% of their profits of the year on Christmas, another 10% to 20% on Easter, Halloween, and St. Valentine's Day, all of which are doctrines of demons.

Saying "Happy Birthday" to the Lord on December 25, the day that was in honor to the Sun God, is like a wife saying, "Happy Birthday," to her husband on the day she had sex with her first lover. The Master was probably born sometime in the fall or late spring when the sheep were still in the field.

The word Christmas means the mass of Christ or Christ-mass, where the blood and body of Jesus are supposed to be eaten, which is another doctrine of demons. The word of God forbids it in Leviticus 17:10-12: "And whatsoever man there be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, that eateth any manner of blood; I will even set my face against that soul that eateth blood, and will cut him off from among his People. For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul. Therefore I said unto the children of Israel, 'No soul of you shall eat blood, neither shall any stranger that sojourneth among you eat blood'"

The Lord said to eat His word as His flesh and blood. Matthew 6:63: "it is the blood that quickeneth (makes alive); the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I say unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." It is said that Mary has appeared at Fatima, in Oregon, and in Poland. It's not Mary, but a demon spirit masquerading as Mary. The Mary who bore the Messiah is dead in Christ, or asleep in the presence of the Lord, and will arise according to the word of God with the rest of 6 Arafat appeals to pope to intervene TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) - PLO leader Yasser Arafat on Thursday asked Pope John Paul II to intervene to stop the Persian Gulf war, the Palestinian news agency Wafa announced. Arafat sent a message to the Roman Catholic pontiff asking him to use his "religious, moral and spiritual authority" to persuade President Bush to stop the conflict, Wafa reported. The pope has decried the war, calling it a "terrible trial" and a "grave defeat" for humanity. Arafat and his Palestine Liberation organization have been allied with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and have denounced the War as Western aggression S = 60 T = 400 U = 6 R = 200 666 the saints. I Thessalonians 4:16-17: "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive, and remain, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

Ecclesiastes 9:5: "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten." (The faculty of remembering ceases to exist.) "Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion forever in anything that is done under the sun." Psalms 115:17: "The dead praise not the Lord, Neither any that go down into silence."

There are only two people that have been seen after they left this earth. Neither of them left under normal circumstances. They were Moses and Elijah. Elijah went up in a whirlwind into heaven (2 King 2:11) and Moses was told by God that He would bury him (Deuteronomy 34:6). Satan wanted Moses' body in corruption where other believers go. Jude 1:9: "Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil, he disputed about the body of Moses, did not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, 'the Lord rebuke thee.

Saul went to the witch at Endor who had a familiar spirit or spirit of necromancy, and there was the materialization of a deceiving spirit impersonating Samuel; only the woman could see it (I Samuel 28:13—14). It was part of what cost Saul his life-seeking after the dead, a serious sin. Deuteronomy 18:10-11: "There shall not be found among you anyone that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch; or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer." A necromancer is a seeker unto the dead.

Recently a demon materialized as Mary, the mother of Jesus, in one of the Eastern Bloc countries and told the children who saw her that they should pray to Jesus. David Du Plessis, commenting on it, said anything that glorifies Jesus is all right. That's not true according to Jesus or Paul. The word of God says that if anyone causes one of these little ones to stumble, it would be better that they hung a millstone around their neck and drowned in the depth of the sea (Matthew 18:6) rather than face God on one day of judgment.

Revelation 13:17-18: "And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom; Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is six hundred threescore and six."

** S = 60 T = 400 U = 6 R = 200 = 666**

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Mystery Babylon - In the Litany of the Mass, the worshippers are taught thus to pray: "God hidden, and my Saviour, have mercy upon us." Saturn was the 7 hidden sun god in the Chaldee (Babylonian). Mystery, spelled Stur in Chaldee-this name contains exactly the apocalyptic number of 666.

Revelation 14:9-11:"And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

The word "worship," as used in the passage above and represented in the picture of Arafat kissing the ring of Pope John, is pros-koo-neh in the Greek. It means to kiss, like a dog licking his

master's hand' to fawn or crouch to, i.e., (lit. or fig.) prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence, to adore) The pictures show the type of greeting given the Pope. Daniel (11:21, 32) said that the man of sin would come to power with "flatteries."

The beast of Revelation 13:3, 4 and of Daniel, that is and is not, is a combination of politics and religion. Its head was wounded in that it lost its power over many nations when it enslaved and oppressed the people. Pope John Paul, a false prophet, is healing the head of the beast. The Vatican is settling disputes around the world, in Poland, Argentina, Central America, and others. It won't be long before one of the Popes will stand in Jerusalem (Matthew 24:15) with an image of Mary, being given credit for bringing peace. That's when you won't have time to get your hat before God's judgment falls.

"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." (2 Thessalonians 2:8-12) RELIGION The Bloody Miracles in Naples NEWSWEEK October 21, 1991 Read: Two Babylons, by Alexander Hislop, Babylon Mystery Religion, by Ralph Woodrow , Smokescreens, by Jack Chick NO MATTER WHO SAYS WHAT, THE LORD SAYS, "COME OUT "

Eighteen times a year, a priest removes an ancient reliquary from a chapel in the cathedral of Naples, Italy. Inside is a glass vial, containing the clotted blood of Saint Januarius (a.k.a. San Gennaro). In the fourth century, Januarius tried to help four men whom the Emperor Diocletian had sentenced to death for their Christian faith. The condemned were to be torn limb from limb by wild beasts; Januarius' presence kept the beasts at bay and the men alive (until Diocletian had the four beheaded). Death didn't rob Januarius of his gifts. When the Naples priest bandies the reliquary with the vial of solidified blood, it changes into a red liquid as thousands of pilgrims watch. Now Italian researchers say the "miracle" can be recreated through lab techniques known in the Middle Ages. Writing in the current issue of Nature, chemist Luigi Garlaschelli of the University of Pavia and colleagues describe how they added calcium carbonate—chalk—to a solution of iron chloride, found in minerals on volcanoes. After more steps they produced a gel that liquefies when shaken, then resolidifies. Did someone add chalk and iron to Januarius' blood centuries ago? The Roman Catholic Church will not open the vial for analysis. But there is some evidence that the miracle occurs awfully easily. The blood has liquefied seven un-planned times—when a jeweler repairing the reliquary jostled it. The miracle may result from the remarkable skill of long-ago monks.

"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his truth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should

believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” Thessalonians 2:8-12

** Miracle of San Gennaro repeated By Web Editor. Filed under Eventson September 21st, 2006
Thousands of people packed into this city’s cathedral Tuesday morning to watch the blood of patron saint San Gennaro (Saint Januarius) liquefy in the repetition of a centuries-old ‘miracle. The miracle was announced by the new archbishop of Naples, Cardinal Crescenzo Sepe, who held up a phial containing the blood while a white handkerchief was waved from the altar to the applause of the crowd.**

LYING SIGN AND WONDER BY RICHARD N. OSTLING

When her womb was touched by eternity 2,000 years ago, the Virgin Mary of Nazareth uttered a prediction: “All generations will call me blessed.” Among all the women who have ever lived, the mother of Jesus Christ is the most celebrated, the most venerated, the most portrayed, the most honored in the naming of girl babies and churches. Even the Koran praises her chastity and faith. Among Roman Catholics, the Madonna is recognized not only as the Mother of God but also, according to modern Popes, as the Queen of the Universe, Queen of Heaven, Seat of Wisdom and even the Spouse of the Holy Spirit.

Mary may also be history’s most controversial woman. For centuries Protestants have vehemently opposed her exaltation: papal pronouncements concerning her status have driven a wedge between the Vatican and the NEWSWEEK October 29 Eastern Orthodox Church. Conflict surrounds the notions that she remained ever a virgin, that she, as well as Jesus, was born without sin and that her sufferings at the Crucifixion were so great that she participated with her son in the redemption of humanity.

Yet even though the Madonna’s presence has permeated the West for hundreds of years, there is still room for wonder—now perhaps more than ever. In an era when scientists debate the causes of the birth of the universe, both the adoration and the conflict attending Mary have risen to extraordinary levels. A grass-roots revival of faith in the Virgin is taking place worldwide. Millions of worshippers are flocking to her shrines, many of them young people. Even more remarkable are the number of claimed sightings of the Virgin, from Yugoslavia to Colorado, in the past few years.

These apparitions frequently embarrass clerics who have downplayed her role since the Second Vatican Council of 1962- 65. “It’s all the fashion,” sniffs Father Jacques Fournier of Paris, reflecting skepticism about the populist wave of sightings. The hierarchy is wary about most of the recent claims of miraculous appearances; only seven Marian sightings in this century have received official church blessing. Church concern has served to highlight the most interesting aspect of the growing popular veneration: the theological tug-of-war taking place over Mary’s image. Feminists, liberals and activists have stepped forward with new interpretations of the Virgin’s life and works that challenge the notion of her as a passive handmaid of God’s will and exemplar of some contested traditional family values. “Mary wants to get off the pedestal,” says Kathy Denison, a former nun and current drug-and-alcohol counselor in San Francisco. “She wants to be a vital human being.” ‘The world will recognize in due time that the defeat of communism came at the intercession of the mother of Jesus.’

Whether they hold to those views or not, people the world over are traveling enormous distances to demonstrate in person their veneration of the Madonna. The late 20th century has become the age of the Marian pilgrimage. Examples:

At Lourdes, the largest of France's 937 pilgrimage shrines, annual attendance in the past two years has jumped 10%, to 5.5 million. Many new visitors are East Europeans, now free to express their beliefs and to travel. Despite the inevitable attraction of Lourdes for the ill and aged, one-tenth of the faithful these days are 25 or younger. "We also have new kinds of pilgrimages," reports Loic Bondu, a spokesman at the site. They dance, they sing, they praise out loud. They're more exuberant." In Knock, Ireland, where 15 people saw the Virgin a century ago, the lines of the faithful lengthened dramatically after Pope John Paul 2 paid a visit to the shrine in 1979. Since then, attendance has doubled, to 1.5 million people each year. To handle the influx, a new international airport was opened at Knock in 1986.

At Fatima, Portugal, the shrine marking the appearance of Mary before three children in 1917 draws a steady 4.5 million pilgrims a year from an ever widening array of countries. One million devotees turned out last May when John Paul made his second visit.

In Czestochowa, Poland, attendance at the shrine of the Black Madonna has increased to 5 million a year, rivaling Fatima and Lourdes, since John Paul's visit in 1979. Last August the Pope spoke there to 1 million Catholic youths.

In Emmitsburg, Md., attendance has doubled in the past year, to 500,000, at one of the oldest of 43 major Marian sites in the U.S., the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. The boom at such long-established sites is almost overshadowed by the cult of the Virgin that has developed through new reports of her personal appearances.