

## **FALSE RELIGION & THE ANTICHRIST**

### **Contents**

Preamble .....	2
Section 1 - The Son of God.....	3
Section 2 – A False God and a False Religion.....	3
Subsection 2A - The antichrist & the Son of Perdition .....	4
Subsection 2B - A Picture of Iniquity.....	4
Subsection 2C – The antichrist’s Demands .....	4
Section 3 - False Doctrines .....	4
Subsection 3A - False Doctrines of Romanism .....	4
• 3A-1 - The denial of the Bible’s infallibility.....	4
• 3A-2 - The claim that the decrees of the Roman Church are superior to the Bible .....	4
• 3A-3 - The demand that the laity must accept the clergy’s teachings re the Bible.....	5
• 3A-4 - The promotion of idolatry.....	5
• 3A-5 - The claim that one must be good to enter heaven .....	5
• 3A-6 - The claim that the pope is infallible .....	5
• 3A-7 - The claim that any individual or institution other than the Christ is a mediator ..	5
• 3A-8 - Praying in the name of anyone but the Christ.....	5
• 3A-9 = Praying to anyone other than the three persons of the Trinity.....	5
• 3A-10 - The claim that the mass recapitulates the sacrifice of the Christ.....	6
Subsection 3B - Other False Doctrines .....	6
• 3B-1 - The denial of Christ’s divinity .....	6
• 3B-2 - The denial of mankind’s depravity .....	6
• 3B-3 - The claim that baptism saves people .....	6
• 3B-4 - Accepting & supporting the movement to resume animal and bird sacrifices .....	7
Subsection 3C - Questionable Doctrines .....	7
• 3C-1 - The claim that clergymen have the authority to forgive sins.....	7
Section 4 – The Underlying Problem.....	7
Section 5 - Plea .....	8

## Preamble

As I have indicated elsewhere,<sup>1</sup> the Bible indicates that Universe and all therein was created by a triune God. He consists of three distinct persons who can be identified by what they do.

***God-the-Father is the creative mind of God who conceived Universe.*** He is the Divine Architect who designed Universe and the Divine Author who wrote its story.<sup>2</sup> He determined everything that would exist in Universe and everything that would happen in Universe, from its first day to its last day. Thus the Scriptures report him saying, "...I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure."<sup>3</sup> Together his design and his script make up the Decrees of God that are contained in the book which he holds in his right hand as he sits on his throne in heaven.<sup>4</sup>

***God-the-Son is the creative body of god<sup>5</sup> who actualizes Universe.*** He is the Divine Builder who constructs Universe according to the Father's plans,<sup>6</sup> the Divine Sustainer, who holds all things together by the power of His Word,<sup>7</sup> the Divine Director who ensures that Universe's drama follows the Father's script,<sup>8</sup> and the Divine Redeemer, who repairs and restores Universe's brokenness.<sup>9</sup> Although He is co-equal with God-the-Father, He voluntarily defers to him in all things – i.e. He proceeds from the Father.<sup>10</sup> He is "the Lamb as it had been slain," who is worthy to take the book out of God-the-Father's right hand, open the book, and implement the Decrees of God.<sup>11</sup>

***God-the-Holy Spirit is the creative spirit of God who quickens Universe and its creatures.*** He is the Divine Energizer who sets Universe in motion and the Divine Giver of Life who vitalizes its flora and animates its fauna.<sup>12</sup> Although he is co-equal with God-the-Father and God-the-Son, he voluntarily defers to them in all things – i.e. he proceeds from the Father

---

<sup>1</sup> See my essay, The Bible's God in section 3 of Introductory Documents on my website, [ABiblicalView.com](http://ABiblicalView.com).

<sup>2</sup> 1 Corinthians 8:6.

<sup>3</sup> KJV Isaiah 46:9-10.

<sup>4</sup> Revelation 5:1.

<sup>5</sup> God-the-Son is the only person of the Trinity with corporeality. God-the-Father is invisible and intangible. In John 6:46, Jesus states that no man has seen the Father, only Jesus Himself. God-the-Spirit is also invisible and intangible. His presence is indicated by its effects, such as the "hovering" over the primordial waters (Genesis 1:2), the "wind" which comes from and goes to who knows where (John 3:8), the "dove" which descended on Jesus during His baptism ( Matthew 3:16, Mark 1:10, Luke 3:22, and John 1:32-33), and the "tongues of fire" which descended on Jesus' disciples at Pentecost (Acts 2:3). He, however, is not identified with these corporeal phenomena.

<sup>6</sup> John 1:3, John 1:10 John 8:28-29, 1 Corinthians 8:6, Ephesians 3:9, Colossians 1:16, Hebrews 1:2, Hebrews 1:10, Revelation 3:14, & Revelation 4:11.

<sup>7</sup> Colossians 1:17, Hebrews 1:3.

<sup>8</sup> John 8:28-29.

<sup>9</sup> Revelation 21:5.

<sup>10</sup> The language here concerning God-the-Son's deference to God-the-Father is modeled on the language in John 15:26 concerning God-the-Spirit's deference to God-the-Father.

<sup>11</sup> Revelation 5:2-9.

<sup>12</sup> Genesis 2:7.

and the Son.<sup>13</sup> He is “the Seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth” by God-the-Father and God-the-Son.<sup>14</sup>

The Scriptures are unclear concerning the precise division of responsibility between the Son and the Spirit. It appears, however, that the Son’s role is primary, “...for by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible,...all things were created by him, and for him.<sup>15</sup> The Son did the forming or constructing [step 1] and the Spirit imparted energy and life to the Son’s formations or constructions [step 2] *after the Son called for them.*

**Example 1:** “...darkness was upon the face of the deep [step 1]. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters [step 2]. And God said, Let there be light [the calling]: and there was light [energy].”<sup>16</sup>

**Example 2:** “...the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground [step 1], and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life [step 2]; and man became a living soul.”<sup>17</sup> The Scriptures are clear, however, that the Son always follows the Father’s design and script exactly; He said, “... I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me.”<sup>18</sup> Presumably, the Spirit would say the same about both Father and Son.

### **Section 1 - The Son of God**

The New Testament clearly identifies Jesus of Nazareth as the Son of God, (a) who is the second person of the triune Godhead and to whom God-the-Father has given (a) the name which is above every name” - i.e. THE LORD - and (b) absolute sovereignty over “the heavens and the earth” and all therein. During the current age, He is using *persuasion* to enforce His rule over His realm. While He resides in Heaven, where He sits at the right hand of His Father on the Throne of God, He relies on His followers on Earth<sup>19</sup> to wield the *Sword of the Spirit*<sup>20</sup> on His behalf by (a) proclaiming His Gospel and (b) urging unbelievers to accept Him as their Savior and Lord. In the End Time, however, He will use *power* to enforce His rule over His realm. He will (a) return to Earth at the head of a heavenly host of angels, (b) raise the dead and the living believers who accept Him as their Lord and Savior to meet Him in the air,<sup>21</sup> (c) utterly destroy unbelieving men and nations, and then (d) bring the current age to a close by destroying the old heavens and the old Earth.

### **Section 2 – A False God and a False Religion**

The Roman Catholic Church is the epitome of false religion. Note that its name omits any reference to Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

---

<sup>13</sup> John 15:26.

<sup>14</sup> Revelation 5:6.

<sup>15</sup> KJV Colossians 1:16.

<sup>16</sup> KJV Genesis 1:2-3.

<sup>17</sup> KJV Genesis 2:7.

<sup>18</sup> KJV John 8:28; also, Hebrews 10:7.

<sup>19</sup> i.e. believers.

<sup>20</sup> i.e. His Word, the Bible, and particularly His Gospel.

<sup>21</sup> i.e. the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

### **Subsection 2A - The antichrist & the Son of Perdition**

In his attempt to thwart your purposes and rule the world, Satan has designed a counterfeit religion to deflect mankind's attention from the real King of kings and Lord of lords in heaven to a false monarch here on Earth, who demands the obeisance and obedience that is owed solely to your Son. In the Book of Revelation, it is called the *Mystery of Iniquity* and the *Whore of Babylon*. It is portrayed as a duality consisting of (a) a great beast with ten heads, the tenth of which has two horns, and (b) its rider that is called an *antichrist* when referring to the Vatican<sup>22</sup> and the *antichrist* or *Son of Perdition* when referring to a single pope. The rider boasts of "great things" – that is, the pope and his senior lieutenants claim that he is the *Vicar of Christ* on earth, embodying some of the Lord's divine attributes, exercising some of the Lord's divine powers, and even deserving of many of the Lord's divine prerogatives. A few times in history, the rider has even claimed that the current pope was divine.

### **Subsection 2B - A Picture of Iniquity**

What a blasphemous picture! This imposter sits on his papal throne in Saint Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, where: (1) he is dressed in royal raiment and equipped with royal regalia; (2) he is served by a retinue of hundreds of cardinals, archbishops, bishops, monsignors, priests, and nuns who cater to his every whim; (3) he is adored by crowds of fervent pilgrims; (4) he is viewed by hordes of respectful tourists, many of whom become transfixed with wonder and even awe; and (5) he is surrounded by an accumulation of treasure unmatched anywhere else in the world, such as (5a) vaults filled with gold & silver coins and bullion, precious gems, and jewelry, (5b) rooms filled with books and illuminated manuscripts, (5c) galleries filled with ancient arms & armor, drawings, paintings, pottery, sculptures, tapestries, etc. that he and his predecessors have plundered from every corner of the globe – to say nothing about (5d) the bank accounts, stock & bond portfolios, and real estate holdings that are continually increasing in number and value and producing tens of billions of dollars in income to the Roman Church every year.

### **Subsection 2C – The antichrist's Demands**

In addition, he expects and demands the submission to his tyrannical rule of all nations and their rulers – that is, caliphs, dictators, emperors, khans, kings & queens, presidents, prime ministers, rajahs & ranees, and tsars & tsarinas – regardless of their traditional polities and religions. He has enslaved, persecuted, tortured, and killed the Saints and adherents of other faiths by the tens of millions, and he has imposed heretical, Romanist beliefs, rites, rituals, and regulations on men, women, and children across the world by the hundreds of millions.

## **Section 3 - False Doctrines**

### **Subsection 3A - False Doctrines of Romanism**

As if the foregoing was not enough, the Roman Church promotes many false doctrines. I will not try to enumerate all of them here. The most obvious among them are the following:

- ***3A-1 - The denial of the Bible's infallibility.***
- ***3A-2 - The claim that the decrees of the Roman Church are superior to the Bible.***

---

<sup>22</sup> "The Vatican" is the Historicist School's shorthand for the dynasty of popes and their chief lieutenants who have ruled the Roman Church since 538 AD.

- **3A-3 - *The demand that the laity must accept the clergy's teachings re the Bible*** - i.e. what it says and means - as authoritative by the laity.
- **3A-4 - *The promotion of idolatry*** - The Roman Church has conferred on the simple maiden Miriam, the mother of Jesus, semidivine status. It identifies her as the Mother of God, the Queen of Heaven, the Mediatrix of All Graces, and teaches that she was born sinless,<sup>23</sup> remained a virgin throughout her life,<sup>24</sup> and, upon her death, was immediately raised into heaven to avoid decay and putrefaction. It has also conferred semi-divine status on the church's "saints," whom it deems (a) unusually good, (b) currently residing in Heaven, and (c) specialists in meeting the needs of Romanists who pray to them.<sup>25</sup> Actually, all these people are currently lying in their graves and awaiting the 2<sup>nd</sup> advent of Christ and His raising of the saints to meet Him in the air. Thus, they are unable to hear the prayers of the living, let alone respond to them in any way.
- **3A-5 - *The claim that one must be good to enter heaven***. Some people call this doctrine the gospel of good works. People get into Heaven when they repent of their sins and accept the Messiah as their Savior and Lord, at which point God imputes the Messiah's righteousness to them. Salvation cannot be earned. It is the free gift of a merciful and forgiving God.
- **3A-6 - *The claim that the pope is infallible*** - even if only when he is speaking *ex cathedra*. Claiming that anyone other than God is infallible is blasphemous. Only God and his Word (the canonical Bible) are infallible.
- **3A-7 - *The claim that any individual or institution other than the Christ is a mediator*** between God and men. The Bible makes crystal clear that the *only* mediator between God and men is the Promised Messiah of Israel.<sup>26</sup> - not a church, not a clergyman, and not a dead person who has been canonized as a "saint" by a church.<sup>27</sup>
- **3A-8 - *Praying in the name of anyone but the Christ***, which implies that this person is a mediator between God and the one who is praying.
- **3A-9 = *Praying to anyone other than the three persons of the Trinity***, such as Mary (the mother of the Messiah),<sup>28</sup> a saint, or an angel. Doing so constitutes idolatry.

---

<sup>23</sup> The Doctrine of the Immaculate Conception.

<sup>24</sup> i.e. Mary was a virgin before, during, and after the gestation and birth of her son Jesus.

<sup>25</sup> e.g. Saint Christopher is the "saint" who helps people find lost items.

<sup>26</sup> 1 Timothy 2:5.

<sup>27</sup> The biblical definition of a saint is a sinner who repents of his or her sins and accepts the Messiah as his or her Savior and Lord. No saint deserves canonization - let alone adoration - as a particularly holy person who can serve as a mediator between God and a supplicant who is praying to him or her.

<sup>28</sup> She was a normal, mortal woman, who was born a sinner, lived an imperfect life, died a sinner, and now lies in the grave. She will not be resurrected until the Rapture at the end of this age, when her Son will return to Earth (the Parousia) and resurrect all who have died. Thus she cannot even hear prayers to her, let alone act on them. I imagine that she will be horrified to learn that some people claimed that

- She was full of grace (the doctrine of the Mother of God), which implies that she was semi-divine.
- She was born without original sin (the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception).

- **3A-10 - The claim that the mass recapitulates the sacrifice of the Christ** because, during the mass, the eucharistic wafer is transformed into Christ's actual body. This claim utterly contradicts what the Word of God makes abundantly clear, that the death of Christ on the cross on Passover in 33 AD was a *unique, one-time, all sufficient, never-to-be-repeated* sacrifice for the sins of mankind. The Eucharistic Rite - i.e. the eating of bread and the drinking of the juice of the grape<sup>29</sup> together in a worship service is an act of remembrance of that unique sacrifice.

### **Subsection 3B - Other False Doctrines**

Romanism is not the only source of false doctrines. Other false doctrines can be found in many sects of Christianity. The most obvious among them are the following:

- **3B-1 - The denial of Christ's divinity** - The Scriptures clearly indicate that He is the Son of God and a member of the triune Godhead.
- **3B-2 - The denial of mankind's depravity** - The Bible indicates that every person who has ever lived excepting for Jesus of Nazareth, is a sinner from conception to death. The General Confession of Anglicanism<sup>30</sup> captures this reality succinctly.

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the deceits and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and, *apart from thy grace*,<sup>31</sup> there is no health in us. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare thou those who confess their faults. Restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. *Amen.*

Moreover, the denial of mankind's depravity contradicts what God says in the Bible<sup>32</sup> and renders the incarnation and crucifixion of the Christ unnecessary.

- **3B-3 - The claim that baptism saves people** - i.e. that it is sufficient to secure people's absolution from their sins and entrance into Heaven. In fact baptism just a sign. It signifies that a person has become a member of the Christian covenantal community,<sup>33</sup> but

- 
- She remained a virgin throughout her life (the doctrine of Perpetual Virginity) despite the Bible's references to Jesus' brothers and sisters, who then would have been either adopted or the product of Joseph's continually engaging in adultery.
  - She ascended into Heaven (the doctrine of the Assumption).

<sup>29</sup> Sometime fermented, sometime unfermented.

<sup>30</sup> ECUSA's 1928 Book of Common Prayer, p. 23.

<sup>31</sup> Some believers, including myself, have a high regard for the beautiful language of this prayer, but are uncomfortable with the lack of reference to the believer's gift of God's grace, that brings with it his promise to forgive and forget our sins and assist us in avoiding them in the future.

<sup>32</sup> Psalms 14:2-3, 53:2-3; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Jeremiah 17:9; 1 John 1:8,10; Romans 3:10-12, 3:23, 5:12, 7:14-20; Galatians 3:22; and James 2:10, 4:17.

<sup>33</sup> Consider the number of Christians who tortured and killed others - Christians and non-Christians alike - because they differed on matters of faith and practice.

not that he will be a covenant-keeping Christian. He may become a covenant-breaker, which many do.

- **3B-4 - Accepting & supporting the movement to resume animal and bird sacrifices** in a rebuilt temple on the Temple Mount, which ignores the *unique, one-time, all-sufficient, never-to-be-repeated* sacrifice of God's Son on the cross at Golgotha, which Daniel called the abomination that makes desolate and Christ called the *Abomination of Desolation.*"

### **Subsection 3C - Questionable Doctrines**

- **3C-1 - The claim that clergymen have the authority to forgive sins** – i.e. ordination confers on someone the authority to absolve people of their sins - is questionable. There is no question that the Christ gave his twelve disciple, who would later become the twelve apostles, the authority to do so, for the Scriptures tell us that He said to them, "Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (KJV Matt 18:18), but most Biblical commentators today maintain that this authority did not extend to the church leaders that followed them. Rather, James instructed "the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad to "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (KJV James 5:16). When a clergyman leads his congregation in a prayer of confession, he usually delivers an absolution afterward which should take the form of a reminder to his audience of Christ's promise to forgive the penitent who confess their sins to Him.

## **Section 4 – The Underlying Problem**

The problem underlying all of the above false doctrines is insufficient reverence for the Bible, which is the Word of God written. At the end of the day, followers of the Word incarnate do not have the right to pick and choose what to believe in the Bible. The Bible opens with the Creation Story, in which the reader is called upon to believe that God created Universe and all its contents and creatures in six, normal, 24-hour days simply with the power of his word, over which even many Christians stumble. We must remember that "...without faith, it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."<sup>34</sup> When Job questioned God about his treatment by God, God responded to Job with another question, "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth?"<sup>35</sup> and then proceeded to devote three entire chapters<sup>36</sup> to an elaboration on the Creation Story. God does not need to establish his credentials or explain himself. God's omniscience, omnipotence, omniscience are beyond our ability to imagine, but they are evident in what he created. All we need to do is look at the heavens above, the earth below, and our fellow creatures,<sup>37</sup> and then take him at his Word, which means that we must believe the whole Bible.<sup>38</sup>

---

<sup>34</sup> KJV Hebrews 11:6.

<sup>35</sup> KJV Job 38:4.

<sup>36</sup> Job 38-41.

<sup>37</sup> Romans 1:19-20.

<sup>38</sup> Some Christians waffle on this issue, claiming that the Bible is "authoritative" or that the Bible contains the Word of God, but does not constitute the Word of God. They have not, however, thought through the implications of their

If you are picking and choosing what to believe in the Bible, I urge you to pause in your reading and consider the question, “If Our Lord appeared to you in person here and now, would you accept His spoken words as authoritative?” I hope that you would. Now, if you would, consider the next question, “Since the Scriptures identify themselves as the *Word of God*, and Our Lord identifies them as *My Words*, adding that, ‘Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words will not pass away’ (KJV Matthew 24:35), why do you accept His oral words, but not His written words, as authoritative?”

### **Section 5 - Plea**

Lord God, we beseech you (a) to motivate your faithful people to leave this apostate church and enter faithful churches which (a) worship and pray to you and (b) which believe and teach that your Son is your Incarnate Word of God and the Bible is your Word Written – and therefore inerrant. At the same time, render everything that this antichrist and his minions think, say, or do to none effect. *Amen.*

---

claims. If only some of the Bible is divinely inspired, what criteria are available for discerning between the passages that come from God and the passages that do not come from God? Such criteria do not exist! One cannot escape the necessity of deciding this issue *by faith* - by a faith informed by reason, but nonetheless by faith.