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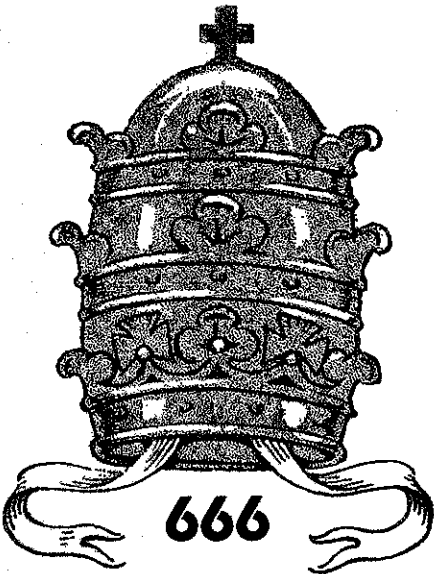
THE



ANTICHRIST

NOW

HERE?



Ray Brubaker

IS THE ANTICHRIST

NOW HERE?



John Paul II



Henry A. Kissinger



KING JUAN CARLOS OF SPAIN

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GOD'S NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS
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INTRODUCTION

The MIDNIGHT CALL magazine (July, 1981) notes: "In a short period, two men whom we could prophetically classify in a negative or positive sense, two leading personalities in today's world political turmoil have come close to death in two separate assassination attempts."

Suggests this journal: "As far as the indisputable power of President Reagan is concerned, we know that this world-wide power will soon be demonstrated by the Antichrist himself."

Then it is noted: "The other leader, Pope John Paul II, with his charming charismatic popularity, and his almost phenomenal ability to spell-bind the masses; we recognize without a shadow of doubt, a picture of the false prophet."

Finally, it is pointed out, "Both of these men have recently been seriously wounded in assassination attempts and remind us of Rev. 13:12, 'whose deadly wound was healed.' "

For a long time we stayed away from writing or speaking on the coming Antichrist.

Then we felt led on a recent banquet tour to stress the possibility of a personage like our president being assassinated, but appearing to come back to life, as indicative of the role played by the coming Antichrist.

When both notable personages—the President of the United States and the Pope of Rome suffered assassination wounds and were returned to health, we decided to use these portraits, along with the pictures of men such as Carlos of Spain and Kissinger of America, to paint how it will be when the Antichrist actually appears.

As to who is the Antichrist, the beast or the false prophet of Revelation, we would scripturally define the "false prophet" as the Antichrist, and yet we see where the one called "the beast" can fit into the role as well, perhaps answering to the Scripture which says, "Now are there many antichrists," (1 John 2:18)

Be that as it may, we hope our book, with its many quotations from a variety of sources, will get you to study God's Word more thoroughly, not only to discover who might be the Antichrist, but to discern in reality more of the wonder and greatness of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Concerning the identity of the Antichrist, we are not sure, and claim not to know. However, of this we are convinced—the Antichrist will be such a convincing person that "if it were possible" he would deceive the very elect. Like Judas, the most trustworthy of the disciples to whom was given the money bag, so the Antichrist is likewise called "the son of perdition."

May God use this book to open the eyes of all to the political system and the religious hierarchy today that may very well bring on THE ANTICHRIST. In fact, we might even ask—IS HE NOW HERE?

**IS THE
TIME NOW
RIPE FOR
THE
ANTICHRIST?**



The attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II and his remarkable recovery brought to mind a passage of Scripture in Revelation 13 which says, "his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast." (V. 3)

There are two personages in Scripture called "the beast." One is the world ruler and the other is a religious potentate who commands that the world worship the first "beast" whose deadly wound was healed.

A great debate has been going on as to which one is the Antichrist. Is it the world ruler? Or, is it the one we call the false prophet?

In 1 John 2:18-19 we read concerning the Antichrist, "Little children, it is the last time; and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us; but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."

From this passage of Scripture, we are led to believe that the Antichrist referred to here is the one whom John describes as departing from the true faith.

Notes in the Scofield Bible identify those called antichrists as those who became sidetracked. "They went out from us, doctrinally (yet) still called themselves Christians." (Scofield Notes P. 1322)

Commenting on these verses, the Roman Catholic Bible says in the footnote concerning these antichrists: "They were not solid, steadfast, genuine Christians; otherwise they would have remained in the church."

What we are seeking to point out is this—an antichrist referred to here does not have to be an atheist or agnostic. Rather, he can be one who

strongly identifies with the Church. In fact, he may lead the Church as its sovereign head. However, he has departed from the true faith of Jesus Christ.

Because of the belief of many, particularly the Reformationists, that Antichrist would come from the papacy, we dared to ask the question—Is the Pope the Antichrist? Or, we could ask—Could John Paul II be the Antichrist?

A thousand times “no” you reply. Look at his Christian stand. See how popular he has become?

We would reply—that is how the Antichrist will appear. He will come as a pious, peace-loving disciple of our Lord. This is Satan’s work, to throw off the trail those desirous of knowing the truth, but deceived by a lack of knowledge concerning the workings of the devil in producing his Antichrist.

While we do not maintain that the present Pope is the Antichrist, we do believe it is possible for one to arise within the papacy who gains in popularity and prestige, so that he will eventually be worshipped. What man could be more suited for the role of Antichrist than the Pope.

What if Europe suddenly demanded that Pope John Paul II head the revived confederacy of ten nations? Would he not fit the role of the Antichrist? Because of the assassination attempt on his life, and his remarkable recovery, he could fulfill the role prophesied of one who would be such a world leader.

CATHOLIC PROPHECY foresees the day when “All the nations of Western Europe unite, form a new Roman Empire, and accept as their emperor the great Christian Prince, chosen by God, who works hand-in-hand with the holy Pope. The triumph of the Catholic Church is universal!”

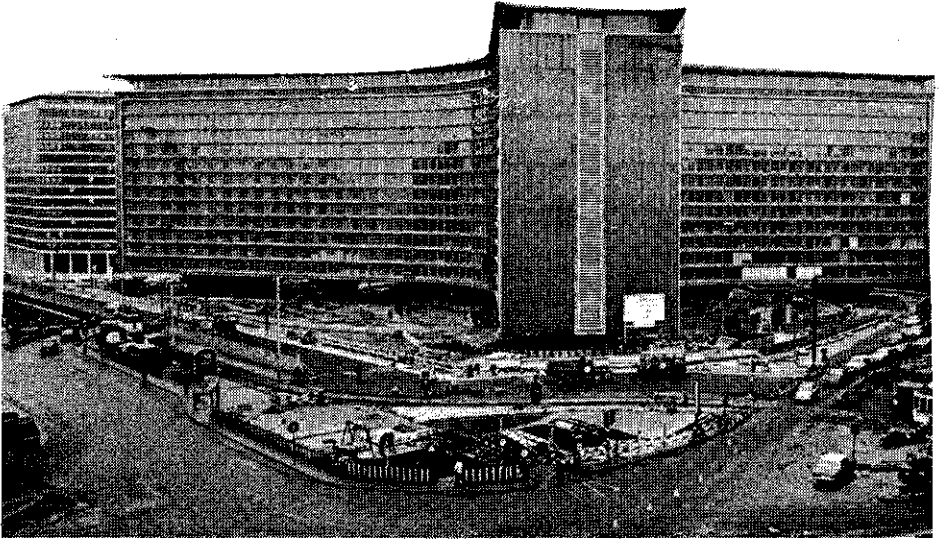
While we do not profess to know who is the Antichrist, we believe the coming of our Blessed Lord to be so close at hand that the Rapture could occur at any moment. Then would be revealed the “man of sin,” the “son of perdition who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.” (2 Thes. 2:3-4)

In this book we wish to point out that the time is ripe for Christ’s Return and the Appearance of Antichrist.

The wounding of Pope John Paul II is another indication that the hour is growing late and our Lord is soon to come. For ultimately, one will appear of whom it is said—“His deadly wound was healed.” All the world will wonder after him because he is the prophesied “ANTICHRIST!”

It may be later than we think!

ANTICHRIST: COMING WORLD RULER



COMMON MARKET HEADQUARTERS IN BRUSSELS

Is the time ripe for one to appear we call the Antichrist?

Actually there are two personages seen appearing at this time of Europe's political federation—one is a political dictator and the other a religious personage. Which one is in reality the "Antichrist" of which the Scripture speaks is almost left up to the interpretation of each individual scholar who comments on this Endtime personality.

The Rev. J.A. Wylie of Edinburg writes that Antichrist will be "An imitation of Christ,—a close, clever, and astute imitation..."

Arthur E. Bloomfield, well-known prophetic writer, sees Antichrist appearing as the "Saviour of the world." He notes further, "As the Saviour of the world, it would not be necessary for him to conquer free countries; they would naturally cooperate, especially if their prosperity depended upon it. Any government that turned down what Antichrist has to offer would fall immediately." (P. 115—BEFORE THE LAST BATTLE)

J.H. McCormick, writing in the PROPHEPIC DIGEST, says: "Antichrist comes to counterfeit Christ." He goes on to suggest: "He will not be the head of the restored Roman Power. The Emperor will be the first beast of Rev. 13. He will be the civil leader...Antichrist, the second beast of Rev. 13, will be the religious leader."

Of course, there are those who share other opinions.

One author, Dr. John E. Douglas, Sr., writes in his publication: "The Antichrist...will be president of the United States of Europe..."

Another writer, Maurice G. Dametz, in CHRISTIAN VICTORY magazine (June 1971) says of the coming Antichrist: "He will be the

political, religious, commercial autocrat of the world; the long-looked-for superman who will satisfy the political, commercial, industrial, social and religious world."

Indeed he will be quite a character—a genius, and in reality the personification of Satan.

Wim Malgo, in his book, **FIFTY QUESTIONS...ABOUT THE SECOND COMING**, says: "Antichrist...is Satan's masterpiece, the beast which will rule the world, the 'superman' for whom the world has so long been waiting."

We must recognize, too, that this one we call the Antichrist is also referred to as the "lawless one" and the "man of sin." His qualifications are not good. He is not only a tyrant but a lawless dictator who rules according to his own will.

Dr. William Moorehead, whose name appears as one of the contributing editors of the Scofield Bible, refers to the Antichrist as "the one in whom all law is discarded."

Think of it. A century ago this scholar predicted a time coming when law and order will be dethroned. "Upon the ruins of shattered states and kingdoms the vast empire of Antichrist is built."

Is this not a description of our day? And is not the time ripe for such a man to appear?

TIME magazine (Feb. 25, 1974) noted because of "Watergate, inflation and the energy crisis, large numbers of Americans have lately lost faith in their leaders and institutions."

Then this magazine quotes Harvard's Political Sociologist, Seymour Martin Lipset, who says: "It is a ripe time for a charismatic leader."

Such a leader is on the world stage waiting to make an appearance. He will be an imposter—the personification of Satan—the Antichrist!

This, too, is the verdict of the Rev. R.W. Neighbor, writer and radio personality, who observes: "The world stage is being set for the Antichrist. The time is not far away when there will be one world politically, religiously, socially and economically; then the world dictator will assume control."

In the 14th century, one named St. John of the Cleft Rock declared: "About the year 2000 AD Antichrist will reveal himself to the world." So perhaps he is already on the world stage.

Jeane Dixon in her first biography, **A GIFT OF PROPHECY**, described a child she declared was born on Feb. 5, 1961, as "The answer to the prayers of a troubled world." Later, in another authorized biography she comments further: "There is no doubt in my mind that the child is the actual person of the Antichrist, the one who will deceive the world in Satan's name."

Whether Antichrist is alive and soon to be revealed are questions we all ponder. C. Leslie Miller in his book, **GOODBYE WORLD**, writes: "In time, all the world will wonder after this amazing Super Man. Who is he? Where did he come from? Where does he get his power? Is he a man or is he God?"

Or as Dr. Vance Havner, noted southern evangelist, has written: "The real issue today is not Russia or the atom bomb, as important as they are. The issue is Christ or Antichrist, God who became man, or the man who will claim to be God."

Indeed, which will it be?

Are we looking for Christ to come and rapture the saints? Or are we awaiting the coming of Antichrist to rule the world?

Have you ever wondered who will be raptured when Jesus comes? Wim Malgo answers: "I am of the opinion that the whole of the Church will be raptured, because the Church is God's elect."

Then he lists five qualifications for those who will be a part of Christ's True Church.

First, those who belong to Him. Do you belong to Christ? The Lord knoweth them that are His, and let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. Yes, those who belong to Christ have confessed their sins to Him. They have trusted Him as Saviour, having repented of iniquity.

Second, as to who will be raptured, Malgo suggests: "Those who are waiting for Him."

Heb. 9:28 reminds us: "Unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

Third, those whose citizenship is in Heaven. We may belong to a country and be proud of our heritage, but Phil. 3:20 reminds us: "Our citizenship is in heaven." Hallelulah! So it's no wonder we get a bit anxious for our heavenly home.

Fourth, as to who will be raptured when Christ returns, in 1 John 3:2 and 3 we are reminded "those who are purified" will be ready when Jesus comes. Do messages of our Lord's Coming cause us to search our hearts to see if there is sin there that would condemn us were Jesus to come today? The Bible says concerning the hope of Christ's Coming—"And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." Did you hear it?

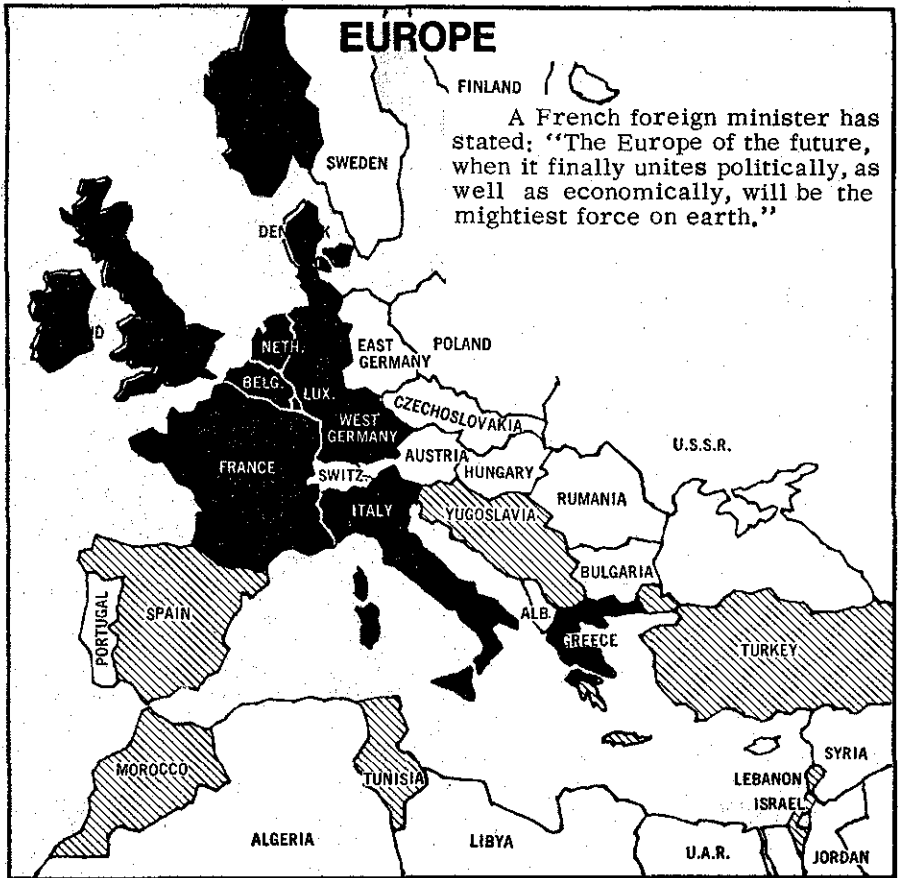
If you are living in sin and expecting our Lord to return at any moment, my dear friend, you are not ready for His coming.

Finally, Malgo lists what he refers to as the indispensable prerequisite for a child of God who wants to see the Lord. As to those who will be ready when our Lord appears, he writes: "Those found living a sanctified life." He quotes Heb. 12:14 which says, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord!"

May God help us to see the truth of His Word. We believe our Lord is coming soon. By claiming Him as Lord and Saviour, having confessed our sins to Him, and now living for Him a life of obedience and surrender to His divinely-revealed will—this is the formula for being ready should our Lord return yet today!

Witnessing nations in Europe discussing political federation, and knowing Antichrist will arise from the European Continent, makes us very much aware of SIGNS which reveal our Lord's return is near. If you are not ready to meet the Lord when He raptures the saints, may we urge you to put your faith and trust in Him and get ready now for His coming. For He hath said, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

EUROPE IS READY FOR THE ANTICHRIST



A French foreign minister has stated: "The Europe of the future, when it finally unites politically, as well as economically, will be the mightiest force on earth."

Newsweek—Fong & Berkovitz

The electrifying announcement that Greece signed a treaty of accession with the European Economic Community, becoming an active member in 1981, came as a surprise to many. Thus, Greece has been accepted as the tenth Common Market member nation.

In other developments, there was also the election of the first European Parliament in history.

We might ask—"Of what prophetic significance are these events?"

Newspaper reports would remind us that this will hasten further political development of a United States of Europe. This is frightening to some Europeans who are still French, German, or Italian, rather than European.

As one newspaper dealer in Copenhagen commented, "It is a scary thought that maybe someday real power will be given to a parliament dominated by German, French and Italian Catholics and other reac-

tionaries.”

Testified one Italian, a coffee shop owner in Rome, “I am and always will be an Italian. But today, I also feel more European than before.”

What we are seeing is another step toward the dream of a United States of Europe. But that’s not all. One report states: “In time, the Europarliament might take precedence over other governments, which would mean that the continent had finally reached the goal of turning Europe into ‘one world.’”

So, although it is a European confederacy of ten nations that we are seeing formed, its character is that of a “world” government.

This seems to be in total harmony with the Scripture, which sees the last Gentile confederacy of nations coming not from the august body of the United Nations, but from uniting nations within Europe. As one newspaper comments: “In time, the Europarliament may take precedence over long-established states in determining a common goal, heading toward it, and voting a single government into power.” That single government, when fully augmented, will be the kingdom of the Antichrist world ruler, who will arise to head up that body.

For now, we need not worry, for the powers of the present European Parliament are somewhat limited. But, without question, what we are seeing is another step towards a United Europe, which will one day have a force and binding power that is superior to all local and national governments. (Just as in our country, the federal government in Washington has more power than individual states.) Guenter Schmit, a Duesseldorf office worker, stated that he wants the next step to be the creation of a “European government.”

We might ask—“How does this world ruler come to power?”

In Revelation 17:13, we have this reference to ten kings: “These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.”

The beast is a “world ruler,” who comes to power as the ten nations in this giant confederacy surrender their authority to him. “Rule over us,” is what they will say to this dictator, who will declare that he is God, demanding the world’s worship. We read: “He opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.” So, you see what kind of person he will be.

He will also embark on a program of extinction of all believers who are not identified with his political and religious program. He will have all those “killed”—martyred by beheading—if they refuse to bow down and accept his authority.

Listen to what we read: “And it was given unto him to make war with the saints and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.”

Although it is believed that the one called “the beast,” or Antichrist, will head up a future European government, his authority will be world-wide. He will rule the world, and he will receive the worship of the world. He will not only be respected as a world leader, but will be revered as a god by all except those who follow the Lord Jesus Christ and know this world leader is an imposter.

Notice again what we read: “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

Did you hear it?

In 2 Thes. 2, we have a similar picture of one who will appear: who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

Then Paul writes: "Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things."

My friends, if it was important for the Thessalonians to know these things, it is certainly more important for us today. We should spend all of our time and resources warning the world about this coming ruler called "the beast."

For unless many are warned by broadcasts like God's News Behind The News, they will fall for the political philosophy and jovial personality of this one called the Antichrist.

Let no one suppose that he will be a ferocious, devil-like character, with horns and split hoofs. Rather, he will be hypnotic, with miracle powers of persuasion. We read, "By signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish," he will seek to mislead the people.

We read on: "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."

Rather than believe the Gospel—that Jesus died on the cross, and shed His Precious Blood for the sins of the whole world—they will choose to believe and worship this one who poses as God and gets away with it. The people will love having someone they can see, touch, ...bow down to. As a result, they will lose their souls.

For, my friends, only through Jesus Christ is there salvation. As the Bible says in Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Jesus, Himself, says in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

So, let it be known that if you do not receive Christ now, you may be one who will accept the Antichrist later. It will be so easy to accept his mark of identification, without which one cannot buy or sell.

Hear me—today is still a day of salvation. Don't put off making your decision for Christ.

Don't think for a moment that this program's only purpose is to give you the latest world news as it pertains to Bible prophecy. There is a greater, and more important service, performed by stations that carry this program, for they know we have your spiritual welfare at heart. Our sole purpose is to make sure you know God's plan for this world and His purpose for you. His Will is that none should perish, but all come to repentance. So, if you have never turned from your sins to trust the Saviour, you are missing out on God's Will for you. And, if you think you can get to Heaven any other way than by trusting Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, you are sadly mistaken.

In 2 Thessalonians we read of those who will accept the coming world dictator we call the Antichrist. They will realize the choice they are making. The Antichrist will make it easy to become a member of his party, no doubt. Simply by pledging allegiance, and taking a number like you take a social security card, they will become his followers.

We read: "They received not the love of the truth, that they might be sav-

ed.” (2 Thes. 2:10)

Don't we want to know the truth? Don't we want to know that the Bible says we are sinners and in need of saving? Don't we really want to know that though the wages of sin is death, the gift of God is Eternal Life through Jesus Christ?

Then, why not accept the Saviour? Plunge in, and be made whole by letting Him save you. He shed His Blood on the cross that you might have life, and have it more abundantly.

Take it from this commentator—there isn't any better gift than the gift of eternal life to all who will receive the Saviour. Do it now—today. Then, live for Jesus every day, remembering that He's coming soon.

The events we discussed today—the entrance of Greece into the alliance of nations that make up the European Economic Community, along with the establishment of a European Parliament—are no doubt a preview of future happenings when Antichrist shall arise and deceive all except those who become believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The choice, then, is clear—CHRIST or ANTICHRIST. Choose Christ. Accept His authority, for He only wants the best for you, now and later. Then live for Him daily until He comes to take His own unto Himself. For He has said: “Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh.”



Henry A. Kissinger

WHO IS THE ANTICHRIST?

IS HE ALIVE TODAY?

Jack Anderson, news columnist, believes the world's two most dangerous and irresponsible leaders today are Kim Il Sung of North Korea, and Libya's Muammar Qadhafy.

Anderson reports that Intelligence experts see Kim itching to resume the Korean War. He has been making warlike moves, asserting that Korea can be united only under his leadership.

More dangerous, perhaps, is the Libyan strongman, Muammar Qadhafy, who is constantly stirring up trouble in the Middle East. Intelligence reports claim he is equipping terrorist groups with such dangerous weapons as shoulder-fired Soviet missiles. He keeps clamoring for a "peoples war" against Israel and the United States.

The Antichrist comes, however, as a peaceful personage. He is the rider on the white horse seen in the 6th chapter of the book of the Revelation, of whom it is said: "A crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering and to conquer." (Rev. 6:2)

We also see him holding a bow in his hand, but no arrows, which signifies strength apart from holding the weapons of war. His power is in his name as a peacemaker in a representative world government.

Is such a man alive today?

Some suggest that Mr. Kissinger may be this coming world ruler.

It is reported that Mr. Kissinger was asked by reporters if he was sorry he wasn't born in the United States so that he could aspire to the presidency. According to this report, Mr. Kissinger replied: "No, that office does not hold enough power for me; it is too limited!"

Some go so far as to spell out the full name of Heinz Alfred Kissinger and multiply the results by 6, which is said to be the number of man. The result is a total of 666, which is the number of the Antichrist.

Of course, this is speculation, and no one will probably know who this coming ruler called "the Beast" is until after the Rapture. Whether he

comes from Europe or the Middle East, and whether or not he is Jewish, are facts still not fully determined by Bible Scholars, some of whom see the Antichrist as actually arising from the papacy.

At least, however, we see the stage set and the political climate ripe for the one destined to rule in this Scripture-predicted calling. The coming of Antichrist could be at hand, which only hastens the return of Jesus Christ for His own.

Hallelujah!

The Communism exploiting the world today is the same Communism that was witnessed in the Soviet Union as far back as 1921 when there were shootings and executions without trial, villages were plundered, the church was crushed, and famine was introduced as a way to exterminate the masses opposed to Communism. At the height of Stalin's terror, more than 40,000 were executed per month. It is estimated that 40 million have died in concentration camps.

In Cambodia...it is full and complete destruction, but in a new form...old people, women, children are driven out, without belongings, without food. Go, die!

Is this the kind of life we want for our people?

Solzhenitsyn warns the West that it is making one capitulation after another when it should stand up against this godless, materialistic ideology.

TIME MAGAZINE referred to Solzhenitsyn as something of a prophet, but refused to accept his evaluation of detente as something evil. Instead, this news journal applauds efforts at preventing global nuclear catastrophe by the use of peaceful co-existence and friendship, as exhibited in the recent joint Soviet-American space flight.

Neil Foster, in his newspaper column, "Conscience and Comment," declares: "Mr. Solzhenitsyn sounds like a prophet." He adds: "One should never be neutral about a prophet. Stone them or obey them, it has always been. But—God forbid—Solzhenitsyn may be ignored."

In our evaluation we would warn of a day that is coming when a godless philosophy such as Communism will be world-wide and when a despotic world tyrant will arise. While acting in the role of peacemaker, he will accept concepts of extermination of all those who oppose his godless regime. Thus, it is said of him, "It was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them."

Did you hear it?

Concerning this coming world ruler called "the Beast," we read: "Power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations." (v. 7)

One of the major accomplishments of this world ruler will be to require a mark of identification on all, both great and small, rich and poor, free and bond, which would appear on their foreheads or in their right hand.

Reports are already appearing of experiments using "laser tattoos" on the back of the hand or forehead, which can easily be read by infrared scanners placed at checkout counters. With this kind of inventory control system, the computer can automatically and instantly transmit information, or can receive information.

Talk of a cashless society is growing and will immediately be approved once the plan works efficiently.

In Cincinnati, Ohio, an experiment was conducted in which there was affixed on the back of each hand a number that was read by the scanner in

the super market where these people did their shopping. As each item was checked out, the cash register simultaneously flashed it to the proper bank, where it was automatically deducted from that person's account.

We've heard of other places where similar experiments are taking place, so we know the fulfillment of this prophecy may not be too far distant.

Talk about the cashless society! Already there is the use of credit cards, but a computerized system will be even more workable. An Associated Press report reveals that in many states a system has already been approved that will allow supermarkets, gasoline stations and department stores to provide cashless bank account deductions for its customers. (Los Angeles Herald Examiner, p. a-11, 12/13/74)

In an article in THE GOSPEL CALL, John England warns against receiving any kind of mark in the hand or forehead, especially since such seemingly innocent experiments tend to inure and harden one for the time when the real thing is invoked.

In Revelation 14:9 we read, "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 nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name." (v. 11)

Did you hear it?

At the present time we do not believe this Scriptural warning is applicable. But in the event the Lord Jesus Christ returns and raptures the saints, then you can be sure that the day has come when this warning will be in effect, and all must avoid the "mark of the beast," or they will forever forfeit eternal salvation.

By accepting the mark of identity in their right hand or forehead, they are acknowledging acceptance of this rule of the beast, or "Antichrist." Therefore, if you are hearing the broadcast today, and should you miss the Rapture when our Lord returns for His own, remember what we told you. Do not take this mark. For upon all who receive it in that day will be outpoured the wrath of God without mixture. (Psa. 75:8)

The important question we leave with you today is this—are you ready for the coming of the Lord? What if He were to come today? Would you be looking for Him?

The Bible says, "To those who look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." (Heb. 9:28)

Are you looking for our Lord to appear?

If so, John declares: "...we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." (1 John 3:2)

As a caterpillar turns into a butterfly, so at Christ's coming our bodies will be changed, and we shall be transformed into the likeness of our Lord. Following His resurrection, He could go through a door without opening it. Yet He possessed a real body that could enjoy food, for our Lord ate of the fish that the disciples had prepared.

Paul writes: "Behold I shew you a mystery: We shall not all sleep (die), but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the

last trump; for the trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." (1 Cor. 15:52-53)

So when our Lord appears, we shall be like Him—with a glorified body no longer suffering pain or experiencing death.

Finally, it is in view of this appearance of our Lord for His own that we read, "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." (1 John 3:3)

Let me ask you today—do you have this hope of being ready when Christ comes? For those who are ready will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we be forever with the Lord.

Is this your hope?

If you're looking for Christ to come, you are going to make the necessary preparation so as to be ready. By asking the Lord to forgive you of your sins, and to come into your heart and life by His Holy Spirit, you can be ready for His return—whenever that day and hour may be.

Remember, the Scripture says: "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

If you're really looking for Christ to come, you are not only going to profess to be Christian—you are going to live the life. That is what is needed today—Christians who not only profess salvation, but who are really born again. No longer does such a person lie, cheat, steal, and commit immorality if he is looking for Jesus to come. Rather, he purifies himself. He comes clean for Christ.

Peter reminds us how we purify ourselves. This does not mean that we can save ourselves. Indeed not. Christ died to save us. He lives to keep us, and He is coming some day for all who look for Him.

Peter writes: "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit...being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."

Hear it, my friend. As you accept Christ by receiving and obeying the Word, you can be born again and made ready for this glorious day when He returns for His own. For He hath said: "Be ye ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

WILL ANTICHRIST ARISE OUT OF EUROPE?



KING JUAN CARLOS OF SPAIN

Dr. Charles W. Taylor declares emphatically, "Whoever is the military king or leader of the eleventh nation to join the European Community will have to be the antichrist."

Daniel describes ten horns representing ten kings that shall arise within the sphere of the Old Roman Empire, and another "little horn" that will arise after them. (See Dan. 7:24)

In Europe, we now have ten nations within the Common Market as of Jan. 1, 1981. Spain would like to come in as the eleventh nation, which leads Taylor to believe Prince Juan Carlos, grandson of Alfonso XIII, the last Spanish monarch, will be the Antichrist.

Carlos has many titles, which could easily qualify him for this dramatic role. All that is needed is an assassination attempt upon his life and a remarkable resurrection or recovery.

For concerning this endtime personage, it will be said: "His deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast." (Rev. 13:3b)

There will come a time, in the not-too-distant future, where separation will be demanded from the counterfeit religious system that is then called "Mystery Babylon."

This will be the system of the Antichrist, which will find the people of earth uniting to form a world church.

Pictured is a "woman," arrayed in purple and scarlet. The Bible uses these colors to interpret who she is and what she represents. For we read: "And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth." (Rev. 17:18)

Even the Douhay version of the Scriptures, which is a Roman Catholic Bible, says this city is Rome.

So we must be aware of the fact that ultimately Rome will come in for God's judgment. For in the days of the Antichrist, it will be totally apostate, because it will invite all of any persuasion of faith in God to join in an ecumenical merger with headquarters in Rome. This is clearly seen

in Rev. 17 as pictured for the endtime.

It is then that we read this message in Rev. 18:4-5, "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, 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."

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference, which met in Rome, found an emphasis on unity and loyalty to a system, rather than loyalty to Christ.

We fear greatly for all who might be misled by this encouragement to serve a system rather than to serve only our Lord Jesus Christ. What we see happening, we believe, is paving the way for the coming of the Antichrist. Like little obedient sheep, many are following without realizing the voice they hear is not the Saviour's but that of a Stranger.

Pope John Paul II, addressing the assembled group, declared, "As leaders in the Renewal, you must take the initiative in building bonds of trust and cooperation with the Bishops, who have the pastoral responsibility in God's providence for shepherding the entire Body of Christ, including the Charismatic Renewal."

In other words, there must be allegiance and subjection to church leaders, who may or may not even believe in the ministry of the Holy Spirit as accepted by Charismatics.

In words that are hard to understand, there is emphasis again and again on that which negates reliance upon the Holy Spirit, and demands trust in church leaders whose responsibility it is to interpret the Scriptures.

For example, Pope Paul VI once asserted: "The Holy Spirit who distributes His gifts, now in greater, now in lesser measure, is the same one who inspired the Scriptures and who assists the living Magisterium of the Church, to whom Christ entrusted the authentic interpretation of these Scriptures." (Address given May 19, 1975)

While we agree the Holy Spirit inspired the Scriptures, we also agree that the Holy Spirit is present today in each believer who has truly received and acknowledged Jesus as Lord. For we read in 1 Cor. 12:3, "No man can say that Jesus is Lord, but by the Holy Ghost."

We would ask, How trustworthy is any religious hierarchy to tell us the meaning and interpretation of Holy Scripture? Jesus said, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth..." (John 16:13a)

This does not eliminate teachers, bishops and other overseers, but does show the importance and relevance of the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Our Lord warned of those who would draw nigh, and honor Him with their lips, but not with their hearts. Said Jesus, "In vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matt. 15:8-9)

While we would not be critical of true men of God who seek to expound the Holy Scriptures, we must admit that much of the message is lost by those who depend upon form and ritual, along with tradition, rather than in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Is our church mere "form"? Do we lack the power of God in our midst?

The Apostle Paul warned that in the last days there would come those "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." (2 Tim. 3:5)

As we would understand it, if the church lacks this power of the Holy Spirit, we are to "turn away" from it. Today a church, which has form and

ritual but is lacking in spiritual power, wants all to follow its leadership in a call to unity.

For instance, at the conference in Rome the Pope urged church leaders of the Charismatic movement to commit themselves to ecumenism. Said Pope John Paul II: "Finally, by your experience of many gifts of the Holy Spirit which are shared also with our separated brothers and sisters, yours is the special joy of growing in a desire for the unity to which the Spirit guides us and in a commitment to the serious task of ecumenism."

The Pope continued: "Genuine ecumenical effort does not seek to evade the difficult tasks, such as doctrinal convergence, by rushing to create a kind of autonomous "church of the Spirit" apart from the visible Church of Christ. True ecumenism rather serves to increase our longing for the ecclesial unity of all Christians in one faith, so that "the world may be converted to the Gospel and so be saved, to the glory of God." (UNITATIS REDINTEGRATIO, 1)

What about this "church of the Spirit," to which the Pontiff refers? Why must there be a distinction between this group and that of the Roman Church, the Methodist Church, or the Baptist Church?

The Apostle Paul said to the Corinthians, "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." And he added, "My speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power." (1 Cor. 2:4)

Where do we find this "demonstration of the Spirit and of power" today? Are we finding it in our churches?

As we would understand it, the Bible predicts this age will end in apostasy and lukewarmness. It would be typified by the Laodicean Church; which was "neither cold nor hot." (Rev. 3:16)

When the Lord can't do business with the church, He turns to individuals, saying, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." (Rev. 3:20)

With the church filled with form and often lacking in power, God is still finding spiritually-hungry individuals who are willing to seek His face, and wait upon Him, until they receive the enduement of fire of the Holy Ghost. Having found this warmth—this spiritual power—there must not be a return to a lukewarm state as found in the Church of Laodicea, which is described so vividly here in the book of the Revelation. Rather, each individual must be that firebrand to ignite others so that they will catch the fervor and the fire of the Holy Spirit which Christ, the Baptizer, is pouring out today.

Without this fire, and without the Holy Spirit, we stand a chance of being left behind when Jesus comes, which means we will be a part of the church of the Antichrist.

So may we examine ourselves to ask—Am I lukewarm? Will I be spued out into the tribulation? Like the foolish virgins lacking oil, am I going through the motions of religion, yet lacking the breath of the Spirit of God?

I prefer not to use the word "Charismatic" to describe the work of the Holy Spirit today, because of its many connotations, and because the word is so largely misunderstood, however, I do not hesitate to express my belief that God is "pouring out of His spirit..." (Acts 2:17) In fact, He is meeting the needs of those who sincerely trust Him. In other words, there

is a genuine moving of the Spirit of God today.

While we are saved by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, in Acts 5:32 mention is made of the Holy Ghost "whom God hath given to them that obey Him." Obedience brings this blessings for which our hearts bleed.

What we need today is for people to start obeying God. If necessary, let us forget pomp and ceremony, brush aside the ritual and the pious form, get down on our knees, and ask the Holy Spirit to baptize us with a love for Christ that we know we don't have. Some do all they can to get to church on Sunday morning. They muster up enough initiative to make it to one service and that's it. Whereas, if God baptized us with a love for Christ and for one another, it's doubtful whether He could keep us from enjoying His presence, and we would want to tell everyone about Jesus.

After all, isn't this what the ministry of the Holy Spirit is all about?

Jesus said, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Is this what you want?

For many years, I was told that when you were saved, you received all you needed to have from God. I believed it. In the strength of my salvation, I went up and down the country showing films instead of preaching and giving my testimony.

At the same time, there was a hunger in my heart. And God's Word says, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled." (Mt. 5:6)

I went to prayer and fasting on behalf of my need. Four days later, there came a consciousness of the Holy Spirit's presence that I cannot explain. It's as Jesus pictured—like the wind. You can't see the wind, but you know it's present. So I knew the Holy Spirit was in that room. Without much fanfare, but with the knowledge that God was speaking, I heard a voice saying: "Receive you the Holy Ghost." In my intellect, I argued, "I have always had the Holy Spirit." Well, praise God, He did not argue back. Rather, He ministered to my heart and to my body as well. For again the voice said, "I've healed you from the top of your head to the soles of your feet."

Hallelujah.

The first noticeable indication of the Spirit's work in my life was to make the Word come alive. I stopped showing films and started preaching. I later made plans to return to radio broadcasting. Eventually we were on more than a thousand stations. I would sit down to write a script, and with very little effort I would prepare my broadcasts. It was as though the teacher, who is the Holy Spirit, was right beside me, telling me what to write and say.

I was suffering from ulcers, stomach spasms, and rheumatoid arthritis. I had just gone through a shoulder operation to have the bursitis removed because of an arm inflamed with bursitis. The doctor, one of the best surgeons in the nation, doubted whether I would ever have the full use of that arm because it was so badly deteriorated. He had to scrape the bone to the elbow. But God gave me back the power in that arm, which is like the other arm today.

What am I saying? I am saying that God has given the Holy Spirit in a tremendous outpouring of His presence and power. If our faith is only in a religious system, and we know not the power of the Holy Spirit, we are in danger of being left behind when Jesus comes.

Beloved, if these messages of the Antichrist have any meaning at all, may they be a reminder that Christ is soon to come. And unless we have the Holy Spirit, we are in danger of being left behind as in the case of the foolish virgins. They had vessels but lacked the oil. So some have their name on a church roll. They have been baptized. They may attend church faithfully. But when our Lord appears for His own, they will be left behind to face the Antichrist and his political-religious system, which demands you join or be killed.

Why not now surrender all to Jesus Christ? Repent of all your sins, for if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Then invite Jesus to be your Lord. Ask Him to occupy the throne of your life. Every morning, pray and commit the day completely to the Lord. Let Christ be your Master by doing His will in all matters that pertain to living the Christian life as revealed in His Word.

If you mean business with the Lord, He will baptize you with His Spirit. You will know He is in control of your life, because you have turned your life completely over to Him.

On the other hand, if you hold back in any area of your life, it may be just enough to keep the Lord from having all of you. It is "all" that He requires.

Remember, the Lord is simply waiting for you to yield all to Him.

Hear Him as He says, "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find: knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." Then said Jesus, "if ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

(Lu. 11:9-13)

Yes, ask the Holy Spirit to come and fill your life with His presence and power.

It is commanded of God that we be "filled with the Spirit." This simply means to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Why not pray this prayer?

"Lord Jesus, come into my heart and life and take over completely every part of me—my thoughts, my actions, my desires. Purge me and purify me by Your shed blood which You gave at Calvary to cleanse away all my sins. Make me Yours to do Your will always.

Thank You for dying on the cross for me. With the help of Your Holy Spirit, whom I now invite to come into my life and control me completely, help me to live for You everyday and be ready whenever You come. Amen."

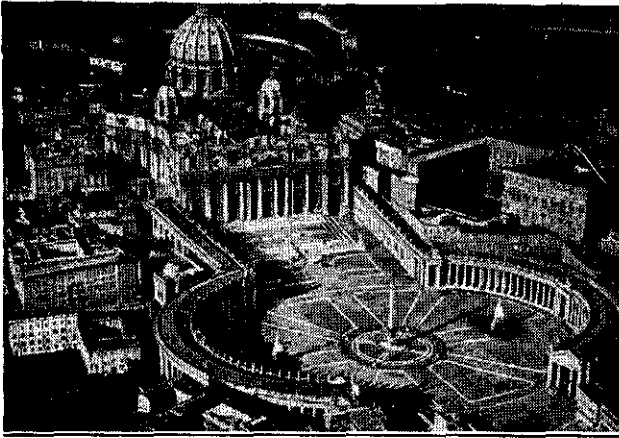
Did you pray that prayer and mean it?

Then you can look for Jesus Christ, and not for the Antichrist.

Live for Jesus every day. Tell Him each morning that you love Him and you want Him to guide you and keep you ready for His coming.

For he hath said, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

THE ANTICHRIST:



ST. PETER'S AND THE VATICAN.

**IS HE
NOW
HERE?**

The word "antichrist" occurs only in the Epistles of John.

In 1 John 2:18 we read, "Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time."

Here it is stated "that antichrist shall come." As Bishop Elliott affirmed, "Antichrist...is one, single, personal being."

On the other hand we just read, "...even now are there many antichrists."

As the Rev. E.P. Cachemaille comments: "The Martyrs, the Reformers, and the Historians generally, down to the present day...have no doubts on the matter: the Papacy, that is the succession of the Popes, is the Antichrist foretold and described in Scripture."

Baron Porcelli, in his book, THE ANTICHRIST, maintains: "Antichrist must be a 'Perpetual Person.'" He notes, "Just as the British throne enfolds an entire series of persons, each styled 'the Sovereign,' so the 'Seat' or CATHEDRA of Antichrist enfolds an entire series of persons..."

In the sixteenth century, a Jesuit named Ribera put forth the belief that at the time of the end one called the antichrist would appear, and have a brief career.

It is almost safe to say that there could be many appearances of one whom we might call the Antichrist.

For example, in Revelation we have two personages pictured. They are both called "the beast."

Concerning the first "beast," we read that he was "wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast." (Rev. 13:3)

While this is without question a reference to a healing of ten nations

uniting within the sphere of the Old Roman empire, it also is applicable to the "emperor" who heads up this conglomerate.

Then we have a description of the second beast which "had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed." (Rev. 13:11-12)

The lamb-like character of this personage makes him a type of Christ. We believe his two horns symbolize both his religious and political aspect.

Ranke, in his HISTORY OF THE POPES, affirms that the Roman Catholic movement in the world has been two-fold; one was religious and the other political. He further notes, "Through intrigues and political maneuvers, the Papacy has subjugated many governments, weakening the stability and moral fiber of the nations that have fallen under her rule."

Concerning both personages, they exercise similar power or authority. They both arise within the framework of the Old Roman Empire.

However, as the first "beast" receives a deadly wound, it does not result in his death but rather brings on world admiration, as if God Himself ordained that he become the endtime ruler of the world. As a result we read: "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." (Rev. 13:8)

What if Pope John Paul II were asked to head up a United States of Europe as its leader. This is a remote possibility. But at least he would qualify in that his "deadly wound was healed." If there is a man who could easily receive the world's worship, it is he.

Following the assassination attempt, the question was asked whether the shooting of the Pope would affect papal style—even cramp it. "Nonsense," said a high Jesuit official in Rome. "For a man who has come up in the hard way under Nazism and Communism as he has, nothing will deter John Paul. If anything, he will emerge with renewed zest and determination."

If John Paul II were asked to head up a European federation of ten nations now in existence, then we would conclude that he is the Antichrist of whom Scripture speaks. If he does not fill this role, we would almost expect this assassination attempt to happen to another leader of like stature.

But what person would deserve worship?

It is well known that the Popes of the past have often been acknowledged as God, so that it would not be difficult to picture this happening again.

Incidentally, when the Pope was hit by an assassin's bullets, the article in TIME magazine read, "IT'S LIKE SHOOTING GOD." At least, a Jewish business man in Jerusalem was quoted as saying: "Shooting presidents, that's politics, that I can understand. But shooting the Pope—it's like shooting God!"

Strangely enough, the Pontiff was circling St. Peter's Square and preparing to make a speech that would commemorate the 90th anniversary of Pope Leo XIII's pioneering social encyclical RERUM NOVARUM.

The draft of the speech was an attempt to deal with the same social problems that prevailed in the time of Leo. Pope John's conclusion was

that the Church insisted that "great profits had to be placed at the service of the common good."

Oddly enough, it was Pope Leo III who in his Apostolic letter of June 20th, 1894, said of himself: "We hold the place of Almighty God on earth."

And his successor, Pius X, said: "The Pope...is Jesus Christ Himself, hidden under the veil of flesh." He further stated, "All must be subject to him."

Likewise, Pius XI said: "You know that I am the Holy Father, the representative of God on the earth, the Vicar of Christ, which means that I am God on the earth." (Apr. 30, 1922) At that utterance in the Vatican Throne Room, a throng of Cardinals, Bishops, Priests and Nuns, boys and girls, all fell on their knees. (See THE BULWARK, Oct. 1922, p. 104)

When the Pope is crowned, he ascends a throne and is addressed with the words: "Receive this tiara, embellished with three crowns, and never forget, when you have it on, that you are the Father of Princes and Kings, and the Supreme Judge of the Universe (or 'Ruler of the World') and on earth, the Vicar of Jesus Christ, our Saviour."

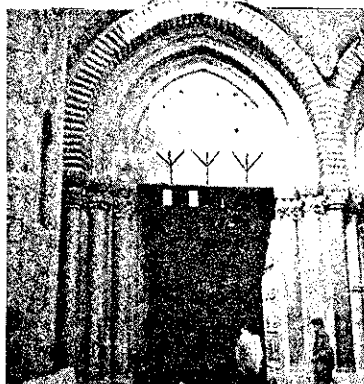
So, we ask—Who would more likely fill the role of the world's Antichrist, to receive the world's worship, than a Pope?

St. Paul speaks of one who is to appear called "the man of sin." We read, "He as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." (2 Thes. 2:4) Incidentally, the Greek work for "temple" used here is NAOS.

There are those who assert this means a temple must be built in Jerusalem where the antichrist will eventually sit during the tribulation.

However, as pointed out in the book THE ANTICHRIST, "There are some twenty-five passages in the Acts of the Apostles where the Jewish Temple is called HIERON, but not a single one where it is called NAOS; nor is there one in any epistle where it bears this name. The NAOS TOU THEOU, in the mouth of an Apostle, speaking to Gentile Christians concerning the future, could not mean the Jewish Temple. It could only mean the Christian Church."

So, the Jewish temple could not be referred to here, but rather if the Pope became the Antichrist, he would more than likely elevate his throne to sit in a Roman temple in Jerusalem.



Interestingly enough, above the door of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem you'll find three peace symbols. The peace sign is said to be the symbol of the antichrist.

Among those who cannot see the rebuilding of a Jewish temple in Jerusalem is Dr. Todd. He questions, "How can a temple built by Antichrist for his own purposes be properly called the Temple of God?"

Jerome writes: "Antichrist shall sit in the temple of God, either at Jerusalem, as some think, or else in the Church itself, as we more correctly consider."

Writing in the 5th century, Jerome expressed the sentiments of Cyril, Chrysostom, and Augustine when he explained, "Let us therefore say what all ecclesiastical writers have delivered to us, that when the Roman Empire is to be destroyed, ten Kings will divide the Roman world among themselves, and then will be revealed the Man of Sin..."

Today ten nations within Europe have agreed to become members of an economic union called the Common Market. All that is necessary for the appearance of the "man of sin" is for these ten nations to request one we call the Antichrist to be their sovereign ruler.

The early primer published in America called the Pope the "man of sin." TIME magazine (Oct. 15, 1979) relates: "Lectures were established at Harvard in the early 18th century partly to expose, as their founder said, 'the Church of Rome as that mystical Babylon, that woman of sin, that apostate church spoken of in the New Testament.'"

It is noted further the decision of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod in the past year "to reaffirm its opinion that the Pope is the Antichrist."

Finally, as to those who believed the Antichrist would come out of the papacy, the list is almost endless.

John Wycliff, in about 1384, wrote a book in which he referred to the papal system as the Antichrist.

John Calvin observed: "Daniel and Paul foretold that Antichrist would sit in the temple of God (Dan. 9:27, 2 Thes. 2:4). We regard the Roman Pontiff as the leader and standard-bearer of that wicked and abominable kingdom."

John Purvey in 1382 wrote a commentary on the book of the Revelation, in which he applied all the prophecies of the Antichrist...to the Pope.

John Huss, burned at the stake in 1415 for his denial of Romanism, found the people calling the Pope—"Antichrist."

John Knox, during the 16th century, declared before Mary Queen of Scots, "It hath pleased God in His mercy, to make me (among many) to disclose unto this realm the vanity of the Papistical religion, and the deceit, pride, and tyranny of that Roman Antichrist."

Martin Luther wrote: "The Pope is the true Antichrist of whom it is written, 'That he sitteth in the Temple of God,' among the people where Christ is worshiped."

Walter Bruite, in 1393, declared in a book, "The Pope is the Antichrist."

Likewise, Savonarola, burned in 1498, declared: "The Pope...is the Antichrist."

John Wesley taught uncompromisingly that Antichrist and Babylon are the Popes and the Church of Rome respectively.

Also listed in the book, ANTICHRIST AND HIS TEN KINGDOMS, by Albert Close, published by Thynne & Co., 16 York Road, Ilford, London, England are: Justin Martyr, Hippolytus, Jerome, Tyndale, Cranmer, Sir Isaac Newton, Milton, Richard Baxter, John Bunyan, Matthew Henry, Jonathan Edwards, Bishop J.C. Kyle, A.J. Gordon, Dwight L. Moody,

Charles Finney, Dr. J. Hudson Taylor, Dr. Charles Spurgeon, F.B. Meyer, Dr. A.B. Simpson, Jonathon Goforth, Dr. A. Robertson, The Rev. A.C. Dixon...just to name a few.

If, as these assert, the Antichrist is to come out of the Roman papacy...ANTICHRIST may be already here.

The hour may be later than we think. It surely pays to be ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Before Antichrist actually appears and is made known, it is believed that the true church of born-again believers will be gone.

We read, "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall destroy with the brightness of His coming." (2 Thes. 2:8)

Indeed, there is coming a day when Antichrist will be made visible to the world. It will be too late then to escape his reign, which will be intolerable as he makes war upon the saints and overcomes them. (Rev. 13:7)

The time to get right with God is now!

As Vance Havner, great southern Baptist preacher, has stated: "The issue is CHRIST or ANTICHRIST, God who became man, or the man who will claim to be God."

Whom will you choose?

Don't wait another moment. We can't know for certain yet who is the Antichrist. But we do know Who died for our sins, was buried and rose again and is soon to come for all who are ready to meet Him.

While you still have the opportunity to receive Christ as your Saviour and Lord, do it now by praying this prayer. "Lord Jesus, I do receive You into my heart. Forgive me of my sins as You promised You would do. You said, "If we confess our sins," that You are "faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I confess that I am a sinner. I cannot save myself. Yet, You died to save me, forgive my sins, and give me eternal life. I receive You as my Saviour and Lord, to live for You every day until you come. Amen."

Beloved, pray that prayer and mean it. Every day thank the Lord for saving you. Ask His forgiveness if you do happen to stray and quickly return to doing what He commands in His Word.

Indeed, "Be ye ready also for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

WHO WILL BE THE ANTICHRIST ?



Who will be the Antichrist?

This is a question on the minds of many today.

There was a time I thought I knew who was the Antichrist. At least, he seemed to me to have the necessary qualifications that would have fit him for that role.

Cardinal Agagianian's name once came up prominent among the candidates to be selected as Pope. Born in the Soviet Union, he could have been "implanted" in the Catholic Church to later appear as the endtime imposter we call the Antichrist. After all, Joseph Stalin once studied for the priesthood. What if Stalin chose to remain in the Church!

TIME magazine had said of Cardinal Agagianian, who was then patriarch in the Middle East, "His election would greatly impress Russians and other Eastern peoples."

I thought of the prophecy of the coming of Messiah in Numbers 24:7, which stated: "His king shall be higher than AGAG, and his kingdom shall be exalted."

Could it be that AGAG was a reference to AGAGianian?

I remember the preacher who was touring the country relating who he thought would become the Antichrist. He drew great crowds, and was successful in persuading others to accept his guess as to who would fulfil the role, until one day, like an exploding balloon, his dream was shattered. The preacher happened to pass a newsstand on the way to an important meeting and noticed his Antichrist had just died.

So one day, I, too, saw AGAGIANIAN'S name in the obituary column.

My guess had been just that—merely a guess.

The late Dr. M.R. DeHaan has written: “Men have tried to identify the Antichrist, and there are hundred of guesses, all of them wrong. Anyone throughout the centuries who hated anyone else has branded that one as the Antichrist. The church has been called the Antichrist. Nero, Napoleon, Kaiser Wilhelm, Hitler and Mussolini have all been entered in the competition by some foolish and misguided souls, who have forgotten that the real identity of the Antichrist will never be known UNTIL THE CHURCH IS GONE. This is definitely stated in 2 Thes. 2:3, where we are told that the Man of Sin will not be revealed until AFTER the church is gone.” (From CHRIST AND ANTICHRIST IN REVELATION series)

Although it is believed Antichrist will be resurrected from the dead, it is not absolutely necessary for this to happen to fulfill the prophecy spoken of him which says, “His deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.” (Rev. 13:3)

The Antichrist may not have to experience a resurrection. But it would help convince the world that he was called to be earth’s superman were he to rise from the dead. It is surprising how many Bible teachers believe he will be resurrected, although to recover from a deadly wound would fulfill the prophecy made of him in Rev. 13:3.

Back in the days of Nero there were those who propagated the belief that he was the Antichrist. There were many of the Roman Caesars who portrayed the coming “beast” but none surpassed Nero.

Some saw Napoleon as fulfilling the role as he extended the French empire over much of Europe.

Then along came Hitler, a demagog led by the devil. If ever man was possessed of Satan, he was. Hitler opposed Christianity saying: “The state can only wish to extend its protection to such religious organizations as can in turn be of use to it.”

Hitler used the swastika for his insignia, so some identified this as the “mark of the beast.”

His armies conquered practically all of the nations that comprised the Roman Empire. But he was not to be the world ruler we call the Antichrist.

If ever there was a pagan ruler it was Joseph Stalin, whose very political philosophy was based on hatred of God. He once wrote, “We guarantee the right of every citizen to combat by argument, propaganda and agitation...any and all religion.” Time proved that he was not to be the Antichrist.

While Dr. J. Frank Norris of Fort Worth, Texas thought Hitler was the Antichrist, the Rev. William S. McBirnie, Sr. believed Benito Mussolini better fit the picture of the coming world ruler. While Hitler shouted, “Today we rule the fatherland; tomorrow we rule the world,” it was Mussolini who looked more like the candidate for the role. After all, would not the Antichrist come from Rome? And would he not conquer in the power of Satan?

Mussolini said of religion it “is a species of mental disease.”

Well, that era of prospective Antichrists has come and gone.

On Feb. 5, 1962 Jeane Dixon declared there was one born whom she saw in a vision, saying: “There is no doubt in my mind that the child is the actual person of the Antichrist, the one who will deceive the world in Satan’s name.”

She went on to say that at the age of 12 the child will become aware of

his Satanic mission and purpose in life. "He will then expand his influence and those around him will finally form a small nucleus of dedicated followers when he reaches the age of nineteen. She goes on to declare that this Satanic substitute for Christ will work with his disciples (as Jesus did) to "propagate the religion of the false God. The difference will be, however, that they will not stand alone but will have the power and the propaganda machine of the United States backing them, advancing his cause beyond anything ever thought possible."

She says, "The youth of the world will accept him and will work with him in placing the world into his eager hands." She notes, "The Holy City will be his headquarters."

In other prophecies, Jeane Dixon sees the murder of the Pope whose chair will not be refilled.

Finally, concerning the Antichrist, he will be a most attractive person and "his visits here (to the U.S.) will be frequent and far reaching. He will lead many souls astray." She goes on to describe him as "The Pied Piper" who will lead a vast multitude down the broad road to destruction.

Who this one is, we do not know.

A man who appeared on the world stage in recent years in a peace-making capacity, which is a quality of the Antichrist, is Dr. Henry Kissinger. He was born of Orthodox Jewish parents in what is now West Germany, a place well within the boundaries of the old Roman Empire.

During his peace missions he was hailed as a "miracle worker." He was one of the few Jews to ever be kissed and hugged by President Sadat, an Arab.

In the Aug. 5, 1975 edition of THE JERUSALEM POST, Kissinger stated: "I am the Real Saviour of Israel." Kissinger told John Wallack (of the BOSTON GLOBE), "The Israelis do not appreciate that I am their Real Saviour."

What a statement for a man to make who knows Israel is looking for their Messiah!

G.H. Montgomery, in the DEFENDER magazine comments: "The corporeal identity of the Antichrist is hidden from us."

Montgomery believed that the Antichrist would be a reincarnation of some extremely wicked person of the past, such as Nimrod (Gen. 10:8-14), Antiochus Epiphanes, Judas Iscariot, or possibly Mohammed.

The late S.F. Coffman, noted Mennonite Bible teacher and prophecy student, predicted the Antichrist may come from the Arab world.

St. John of the Cleft Rock in the 14th century wrote: "About the year 2000 A.D. Antichrist will reveal himself to the world."

CATHOLIC PROPHECY by Yves Dupont explains how a Pope will appear who might become the Antichrist.

We read: "This Pope may therefore be elected from the midst of Cardinals who are mainly influenced by worldly ideas, or he may be elected at a time when the forces of Satan have virtual control of the entire earth via their secret government, possibly even influencing the papal election, so that an agent of the world Antichrist government is elected Pope." (Page 20)

It was indeed a surprise when Pope John Paul I was selected. His reign lasted only a month.

There are some who believe there was foul play which resulted in the quick replacement of Pope John Paul II.

A listener tells how John Paul I spoke out sharply against Marxism, and less than a week later he was dead.

"No one has openly used the word 'murdered,'" she writes. "However, anyone who is murdered for Christ and for the Word of God then becomes a Martyr for God, and throughout eternity wears a martyr's crown."

It came as a complete surprise when Pope John Paul II was elected from a Communist country. Poland, though Communist-ruled, is a country of 35-million people, who are 90 percent Catholic. It is estimated that several million Catholics are also Communists.

Malachi Martin, who was personal assistant to Popes John XXIII and Paul VI, is also the author of a book entitled, **THE FINAL CONCLAVE**, a book about the election of Pope John Paul II.

He writes: "John Paul II believes that the defeat of Marxism is obviously to be brought about in a completely different way from that which figured in the minds of recent Popes—Pius XII, John XXIII, even Paul VI and John Paul I."

In other words, the strategy of the newly-elected Pope, John Paul II, would be different from that of his predecessors.

Martin goes on to say this of Pope John Paul II: "He and his advisers believe that the only power on this earth that can wield influence within the Russian empire, or within any Marxist state, is the Catholic Church."

He adds, "Neither John Paul II, nor his personal advisers, have any faith in the U.S. as a military power to defeat the Soviet Union, or as an economic power to surpass the Soviet Union or the People's Republic of China."

In other words, the only way for Communism to be defeated, or dealt with, is for the Church to do the dealing.

NEWSWEEK reported on Pope John Paul II's return to his homeland, saying: "The Pope had no trouble demonstrating the priority of **CHURCH OVER STATE** in the hearts of his countrymen—including laborers, who welcomed his humanistic criticism of the Communists' worker-state."

During his visit to Poland, the Pope declared: "Christianity must commit itself anew to the formation of the spiritual unity of Europe. Economic and political reasons cannot do it. We must go deeper, to ethical reasons."

This was a reminder of what Pope Pius XII said, when he addressed the 2nd international meeting of the European Union of Federalists. Said Pius XII: "Some people are asking themselves whether it is not already too late for genuine European unity. Real unity," stressed the Pope, "must be based on religion."

So, it should not be surprising to see Pope John Paul II in the role of uniting Europe religiously, in order to counteract the growing Communist menace.

As **NEWSWEEK** observes: "By involving the spiritual unity of Christian Europe, John Paul II has boldly challenged the legitimacy of Communist governments from the Baltic to the Black Sea."

We can't help but be reminded of a day coming, when ten nations within Europe will unite to form the last Gentile world confederacy, as predicted by the Prophet Daniel. The government, according to Daniel, will be a mixture of "iron and clay." (Dan. 2:40-43) It will be an attempted adhesion between the iron of communist despotism, and the clay of democracy.

But, "They will not adhere one to the other," says Daniel.

There is no question but that a turn of events will see an attitude of coexistence developing between Catholicism and Communism rather than one of hostility. As U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT has noted: "U.S. analysts conclude that the visit of Pope John Paul II to Poland was a net gain for the Communist government despite all the uproar it caused." Explained one expert: "They need the Pope more than he needs them."

One newspaper declared: "For the first time, many of the leading thinkers of the Communist Party have come to believe that the Church may be of great use to the party and its goals."

This is surely in keeping with the book of the Revelation, which sees the woman astride the beast with seven heads and ten horns. The woman represents the World Church—"Mystery Babylon" of the endtime—while the beast is descriptive of the political power within the European sphere.

During days of unrest in Poland, it was the Church that arose to mediate the crisis between the union and the Communist Party.

According to a copyrighted story in the NEW YORK TIMES, within the Communist Party of Poland, "At least half of its 3-million members are practicing Catholics."

Think of it!

So, elected from Poland comes one who is now leader of the world's Roman Catholics.

We can't help but wonder whether he might be the rider on the white horse pictured in the book of the Revelation, of whom it is said, "A crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering and to conquer." (Rev. 6:2)

Riding a white horse, he imitates the Lord Jesus Christ as a peace maker. In his hands is a bow, but no arrows, which signifies strength apart from weapons of war.

Whether John Paul II will become this endtime personage we call the Antichrist, we do not know, and hope we won't find out. We believe the Rapture will occur first, in which event we'll not be here.

Thus, our message is this—the hour is late. Jesus must come soon. If we are going to escape the tribulation, and the reign of the Antichrist, we had better prepare now for the coming of Jesus Christ.

The choice is clear, so you had better choose Christ and do it now! After all, He loves you, and wants you to be a part of His everlasting kingdom. Will you accept Him as your Saviour and Lord, to live for Him and serve Him?

Beloved, in all seriousness, we urge you to come to Christ while there is still time.

And, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh!"

COULD THE POPE BE



THE ANTICHRIST?

Malachi Martin, writing in the **DAILY NEWS** (Nov. 12, 1978), said of Pope John Paul II that he "has a messianic persuasion about himself as functionary of the Church."

Martin said further of the Pope: "John Paul II believes that a Christian's life in the world must be totally sanctified; his relations must not be relegated to church on Sunday, but practiced in such a way as to sanctify one's marriage, work, love, all of life."

For this reason, John Paul II is admired by some and hated by others.

Admirers such as John Haynes of Bakersfield, California have said: "I, a non-Catholic, love John Paul for his demand that we either stand for Christ around the world or vice versa. Golgotha was a lonely place," he writes. (**U.S. NEWS** Nov. 3, 1980)

Billy Graham predicted that Pope John Paul II would be the most respected Pope of the century and he'll become the moral leader of the world. (**NATIONAL ENQUIRER**)

"He's the most respected religious leader in the world today," said Graham. (**TIME** Oct. 15, 1979)

Everywhere the Pope goes he is outspoken in his denunciation of what he calls the "sins of the flesh"—a message largely absent in pulpits today.

Quoting St. Paul, the Pope said: "It is significant that when Paul speaks out about the works of the flesh, he mentions not only...the sins of sensual pleasure, but also speaks of other sins to which we are not accustomed to attribute a carnal and sensual character: idolatry, witchcraft, unfriendliness, discord, jealousy, dissent, divisions, factionalism and envy."

John Paul II triggered a furor of criticism by saying a man could commit adultery in his heart by lusting after his own wife. He did not retract his statement but pointed out that it was the "lustful look" that Christ con-

dèmned. He noted: "Lust makes whomever it is directed toward a sexual object rather than a human being of innate dignity."

Concerning divorced and remarried Catholics he forbids them from having communion unless they live in a manner which is not opposed to the indissolubility of marriage, live in complete continence, that is, by abstinence from acts in which only married couples can engage."

Perhaps you are one who asks—Could it be possible that a man like Pope John Paul II would be the Antichrist? He is considered such a wonderful person. He speaks of placing faith in Christ and advocates the work of the Holy Spirit in the life.

We would give three reasons why we believe Pope John Paul II could be the Antichrist.

Notice, we are not saying that he is the antichrist. But we would give characteristics that put him into the category of becoming the one we call—the Antichrist.

Some will quickly say, "You're wrong." But we point out again our Lord's assertion that false Christs and false prophets would appear "that if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." (Mt. 24:24)

The word "Antichrist" means—one who poses as Christ! The word "anti" means against, or over against. The Antichrist mentioned in the Bible who appears at the Rapture of the church will be one who outwardly will appear as Christ, particularly to the Jews who will one day actually receive "him" as their Messiah. By signs, miracles, and lying wonders, even making fire come down from heaven...this "Antichrist" will lead the Jews into believing he is their Messiah. He will also deceive all people of the earth into accepting him as God...that is all except the elect!

The Apostle John describes an antichrist as one who does not continue on in the pure gospel of Christ...or who in some way denies God or Jesus. Listen as we read from 1 John 2: "Little children, it is the last times: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists: whereby we know that it is the last time." Continues John, "They went out from us, but they were not of us: for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us."

You see, the antichrists of whom John spoke were so closely aligned with Christendom that the main distinction was that they did not continue in fellowship with the disciples. For John says, "If they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us."

An antichrist, therefore, is not necessarily one that doesn't believe in God, or hates Christ. An antichrist is one that embraces the name of Christian, who poses as a loyal follower of Jesus Christ, who emphasizes morality and certain truth...BUT who is actually denying the vital, living, saving faith of JESUS CHRIST.

You'll remember that when Jesus was on earth, He said certain ones were hypocrites, for they made the commandment of God of none effect by their tradition. Listen to our Saviour's words as He says further, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me. In vain do they worship Me teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

An Antichrist, my friend, is one who accepts the commandments of men over and against the Word of God. An Antichrist is one who holds tradition to be of equal importance with Scripture. An Antichrist is one who worships with the lip, but whose heart is shallow and void of the

true spiritual life and power which Jesus gives.

The first reason for believing a Pope could be the Antichrist is because he is in a system that does not boldly and fully proclaim Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, without accepting tradition and practices that negate faith.

During the reign of Pope Constantine (707-714 A.D.) the ruling pontiff introduced numerous rites and ceremonies. Among these was the custom of kissing the Pope's foot. The kissing of the Pope's foot was an act of absolute subjection in acknowledgement of his sovereignty as the Vicar of Christ.

In the original Greek, "antichrist" means "Vice-Christ" or "Vicar of Christ." Thus, ANTICHRISTOS is the word used to refer to one who poses as Christ on earth.

In the second place, when have you heard a Pope speak of the soon coming of our Lord Jesus Christ? Catholics are blind to the teaching of eschatology. They don't hear it taught in their church.

In 2 John 7 we read: "Many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is coming (Greek—erchomenon—still to come) in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist."

Did you hear it?

The Revised Standard Version reads, "For many deceivers have gone out into the world who will not acknowledge the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh: such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist."

Ask any Catholic if the event we call the Rapture—when our Lord is seen coming for His own—is ever taught in their church. What about 1 Thes. 4:16-17 which relates this glorious coming of Christ for His own?

As Porcelli in his book, THE ANTICHRIST, writes: "The spirit of antichrist 'denies' the true humanity of Jesus Christ, for it confesses not that He is come already in the flesh, and is coming again in the flesh. So doing, men are liars and deceivers and antichrists."

Says Porcelli of 2 John 7, "The obvious meaning of that teaching is that Jesus Christ was a real man of proper humanity, who really died, really rose again, really ascended to Heaven, and will really return from Heaven in His human body of glorified, but real flesh."

This is not taught nor believed; therefore, John denounces those teachers as antichrists.

Dr. J.A. Wylie, in his book on THE PAPACY IS THE ANTICHRIST, says: "He who does not confess when he is called to do so, denies. Such is the use of the word in these applications all through the New Testament.

Such is the use John makes of it in this very passage: 'For many deceivers are entered into the world who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh.' It is clear that Antichrist, as depicted by our Lord and by His Apostle John, is to wear a mask, and to profess one thing and to act another. He is to enter the Church as Judas entered the garden—professedly to kiss his Master but in reality to betray Him. He is to be a counterfeit Christ. If Antichrist must necessarily be a deceiver—a false Christ—then no atheist, or body of atheists, can be Antichrist."

In the third place, the Pope gives evidence to being the Antichrist by promoting a one-world religion under his primacy.

Dr. John Walvoord, president of Dallas Theological Seminary, once

declared: "The evidence of the ecumenical movement in the world, and the existence of the United Nations in the political scene are signs to us of the lateness of the hour."

The ecumenical movement is an attempt by various religious denominations to merge into one vast Super Church.

In Revelation 17 a woman is seen riding a scarlet-coloured beast. While we believe the beast is representative of a revived Roman Empire, the woman is said to be "that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth." (Rev. 17:18)

We believe that city to be Rome, for mention is also made of the "seven mountains" on which the woman sitteth. Rome was founded upon seven hills.

However, it is well to note the scope of Rome's rule as "over the kings of the earth."

When Pope John Paul II visited Manila, he called for a dialog among Christians, Buddhists, Moslems and Hindus in what the Vatican described as the "most far-reaching call for interfaith dialog ever made by a Pontiff."

In a statement broadcast on shortwave, the Pope said: "The church of Jesus Christ in this age experiences a profound need to enter into contact and dialog with all these religions."

He repeated, "All Christians must, therefore, be committed to dialog with the believers of all religions, so that mutual understanding and collaboration may grow, so that moral values may be strengthened, so that God may be praised in all creation."

He concluded by saying, "What seems to bring together and unite, in a particular way, Christians and the believers of other religions is an acknowledgement of the need for prayer as an expression of man's spirituality directed toward the absolute." (PHILADELPHIA BULLETIN 2/22/81)

This call to unity is a sign that we are living in the last days. The World Church, under the papacy, is a definite planned possibility which will no doubt take place after the church is gone. For following the Rapture, we can expect a devilish trinity composed of Satan, the false prophet and the beast world ruler to unite in a political-religious confederacy. In Scripture it is called MYSTERY BABYLON, composed of a world religious amalgamation headed up by the papacy, and a political union led by a world leader who is worshipped as God.

Especially among Christian denominations do we see this call to unity. Since 1908, Catholics have observed a prayer crusade for a return of all non-Catholic Christians to the "One-Fold" of Romanism. This we're told would be in fulfillment of John 17 where our Lord prayed "that all may be one."

While we believe it is God's will that true believers fellowship together, it must be on the basis of genuine spiritual unity and not merely one of joining forces for the sake of ecumenicity.

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II met with the Pope, saying: "We support the growing movement of unity between the Christian churches throughout the world." She said she welcomed the "growing dialogue" between the Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church.

Cardinal Heenan of Great Britain has testified, "The ultimate object of ecumenism is to unite all Christians under the Vicar of Christ, the Pope of

Rome.”

John Buckman Walthour, a former West Point chaplain, upon accepting the post of Dean of Atlanta's Cathedral of St. Philip, told of his ecumenical desire.

Said Walthour: “I live for the day when the Episcopal church will sponsor a bazaar in a Baptist church, at which a Jewish auctioneer will sell goods for the benefit of a Roman Catholic orphanage.”

The ecumenical effort of the Pope that finds religion uniting under the papacy is no doubt the Antichrist system of the endtime that finds our Lord pleading, “Come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.” (Rev. 18:4)

Many, including evangelicals, see no harm in giving recognition to Rome and to papal primacy, but we believe this to be the forerunner of the Antichrist System.

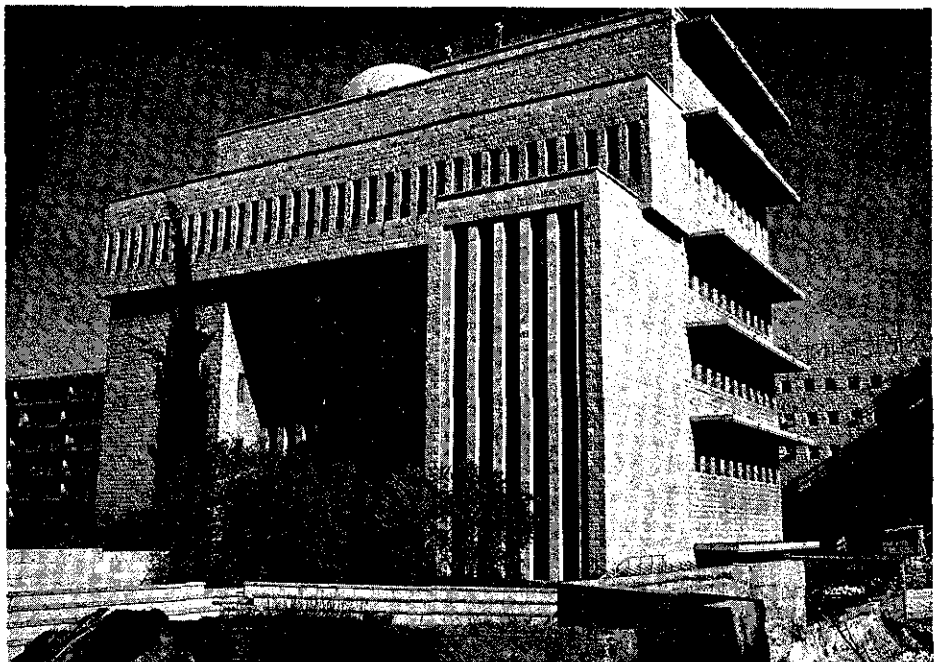
Our hope should be in the Lord Jesus Christ upon whom the true church is being built upon the faith of all who receive Him as Saviour and Lord. We're reminded that at Christ's Return, “He shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords.” Hallelujah. (1 Tim. 6:15)

In closing we would ask—Is He your Saviour? He will not share His glory with another. He alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. “No man cometh unto the Father but by me,” said Jesus.

So receive Him today as your Saviour. Invite Him into your life by praying, “Lord Jesus, come into my heart and save me. Forgive me of all my sins, for I believe you died on the cross for me and rose again. You promised that if I confess my sins with a desire to forsake them you would forgive me and cleanse my heart from all unrighteousness. I do now receive Your forgiveness and Your peace along with the gift of eternal life which You promise to all who believe. Amen.”

Pray that prayer and mean it. And then live for Jesus every day because he is coming soon. Don't accept false Christs or the Antichrist, but look for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For He hath said, “Be ye therefore ready also for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh.”



The Chief Rabbinate Building.

WILL ISRAEL ACCEPT A FALSE MESSIAH?

An Associated Press account (April, 1981) relates how many Israelis feel about their country, stating that the only hope is for a man who will dictate to Israel.

If public opinion polls and comments from average citizens are a barometer of the feeling within Israel, then there is growing sentiment for dictatorship in Israel. That in substance is what the AP account said.

Typical of the feeling were remarks made by five passengers riding in a taxi from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv. They were heatedly debating what to do about inflation, strikes, and the political situation. What this country needed, everyone agreed, was a dictatorship.

This feeling is something like that witnessed in a public opinion poll, which found 40.8 percent of the Israelis want to "completely change the political system and set up a strong regime of leaders independent of the political parties."

The poll (published by MONITIN, a monthly magazine) stunned the nation and unleashed a torrent of debate.

Daniel Bloch, a leading political writer, found there was a disturbing

longing for a leader who would be expected "to rule in an undemocratic manner: send the army to break strikes, control freedom of speech, apply the death penalty to rapists and murderers..."

Bud Hunter, in his PROPHECY NEWS BULLETIN (June, 1981), observes: "The growing desire for a dictatorship in Israel may shock the entire world into wondering, "Why?"

He goes on to suggest: "Those who know Bible prophecy aren't shocked at all because this is just another proof of the soon coming of the Lord Jesus."

Hunter explains: "The prophets prophesied that during the Tribulation Israel would be ruled by a dictator—the Antichrist." He points out, "Jesus, Himself, told that Israel would someday accept a false Messiah because they had rejected Him as the true Messiah."

Said Jesus: "I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive Me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive." (John 5:43)

Would Israel accept a dictator? Would they be led to accept an imposter—a false Messiah?

Without question Israel is in trouble. Inflation reached 132.9 percent in 1980. A rising crime wave has gripped the state, with old people being robbed and murdered, with drugs and prostitution increasing alarmingly.

Among those who await a coming Messiah who can solve Israel's problems are some three thousand ultraorthodox Jews, who occupy the Meah Sharim quarters. Their main business in life is studying the Talmud and praying for mankind.

The men wear sidelocks, bull beards, and wide-brimmed black hats; the woman shave their heads on marriage and go about in wigs. Little girls must not reveal any more of their bodies than faces and hands: they wear thick stockings reaching halfway up the thighs, wrist-length sleeves, and jackets buttoned below the chin, even in hot weather.

The Meah Sharim Jews refuse to acknowledge the government of Israel, believing the Messiah alone can found a legitimate state. For Him they have waited patiently, lo these two thousand years..

How sad to know Messiah has already come—Jesus the Messiah. But He was rejected by many. As John records: "He came unto his own but his own received him not." Then the call goes out, "But, as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name." (John 1:11-12)

There are those today, who, by reading the Bible, recognize Jesus to be their Messiah, with the Spirit of God bearing witness to the Old Testament prophecies concerning Him.

Then there will come a day when a vast majority will finally recognize that the one they rejected all along was in truth their Messiah. Zechariah records what will happen. We read: "And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends." (Zech. 13:6)

In the midst of the awful anguish of great tribulation, there will be divine intervention, which will bring Israel to a knowledge of who their true Messiah really is—the crucified and risen Lord.

Again Zechariah recounts this act of the Almighty, saying: "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications; and they shall look upon me whom

they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."

What sadness on the part of those who will realize they rejected the Lord of glory.

Again we read: "In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem..." (Zechariah 12:10-11a)

Now, until Messiah comes, Satan will attempt to bring on false Messiahs and false interpretations as to who or what the Messiah really is.

Marcus Melchoir of Denmark, a Chief Rabbi, when asked whether Messiah is a person, replied: "I believe Messianic times would come if the United Nations were made Messiah."

It is to be regretted that many have the concept of a "homeland" as their Messiah.

David Ben Gurion, the noted first Premier of the new Israel, was a man devoted to the study of Bible history, yet he believed the land was the "Messiah."

Dr. Wilbur Smith quoted a Columbia University professor (Dr. S.W. Barron) as stating: "There could no longer be a belief in a personal Messiah to redeem the Jewish people and lead it back to Palestine. The true Messianic hope," states this professor, "is in a Messianic age when ethical monotheism, bringing justice and peace also, will be fully realized." Notes this professor: "The mission of Israel is to work collectively for this prophesied end; this is the new Messiah. All references to a personal redeemer must be discarded." (From CHRISTIAN AND RELIGIOUS HISTORY OF THE JEWS, Vol. 2, page 250)

Yet there are those in Israel who speak of a coming Messiah.

Some time ago a report circulated in the press of three Israeli rabbis who dreamed of the coming of the Messiah. But upon investigation there were denials.

When in Israel, we asked our taxi driver if he could tell us anything about the news report, but he claimed ignorance of it.

However, Elias Freij, the Palestinian mayor of Bethlehem, was more complimentary. "May it be God's will," he said. "The Messiah would solve all of our problems in the Middle East."

CHRISTIANITY TODAY reported on the great Maimonides, who not only taught that there would appear a person of flesh and blood who would be the Messiah, but also taught how He may be recognized.

Says this journal: "The Jewish people as a whole believe in the supernatural personality of the Messiah, a demigod who by some miracles will inaugurate a state of peace and happiness for the Jews, when God will provide them with all necessities and luxuries of life. This comfortable life in the Age of the Messiah is pictured in the Talmud as a wonder world of ease.

"For example, Rabban Gamaliel says that the soil in Israel will produce cakes and silk garments, the trees will bear fruit continuously, and the Jewish women would give birth to children every day." (Talmud, Shabbath 30b)

According to Maimonides, the claimant to Messiahship will be able to prove the validity of his claim by bringing the Jewish people back to their ancestral home. He will rebuild the Temple, restore the sacrifices, force

the Jews to keep all the laws of the Torah, fight God's wars, subdue all enemies of the Jewish people, and so on. After he has achieved all of this, he will be recognized as the true Messiah.

Bible scholars in Israel say many signs exist that the Messiah may soon arrive. THE GEMARA, an ancient commentary on the Bible, says that severe price rises may be an indication that the Messiah is near. As already stated, Israel already has one of the world's highest inflation rates, over ten times that of the United States.

Hal Lindsey, in his book, THE TERMINAL GENERATION, explains how Israel will be drawn into the acceptance of a false Messiah.

Says Lindsey: "According to prophecy, the reborn state of Israel will be forced by ever-increasing peril to sign a defense treaty with the coming dictator of the revived Roman Empire, composed of a ten-nation confederacy, which Bible scholars believe is developing through the European Common Market now."

He adds: "This will prove to be a curse from which only the returning Messiah can deliver them," meaning our Lord at His coming.

It was indeed significant in the June 6, 1981 edition of THE JERUSALEM POST to find an article calling for a mutual defense agreement for Israel.

The writer of the article (Yekutiel X. Federman) thought the United States could best sign such an agreement, stating, "Perhaps it will even move the European countries and NATO, who depend on oil and peace in the Middle East, to join this new political set-up..."

So, the stage is set. Plans are being contemplated that would fulfil the prophecy in Daniel 9:27 concerning the coming Antichrist.

We read concerning him: "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate." (Dan. 9:27)

The scene is set, and the time could be right for this covenant between a world leader and the Israeli leader, sealing this arrangement of peace and protection.

But, in conclusion, we would point out—we look not for Antichrist. Rather, witnessing signs such as we have related today, we await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We read, "Unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation." (Heb. 9:28b)

We would ask—Are you looking for our Lord to appear? He is coming again. Though we don't know exactly when, we know that He is coming for those who are ready—those who have repented of their sin to trust the Saviour; those who have accepted freely of the gift of eternal life and the fulness of God's Holy Spirit; those who have found peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; and those who have recognized and accepted Him as their Messiah.

Are you looking for Him?

How wonderful we live in a period of history when we can still make the right choice. So choose Christ as your Lord and Saviour.

And, "Be ye ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

THERE SHALL BE:

“FALSE CHRISTS AND FALSE PROPHETS”



One of the signs our Lord gave of His coming was the appearance of “false Christs, and false prophets,” who would “shew great signs, and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.” (Matt. 24:24)

St. Hippolytus, in writing on the Antichrist, pictures him as performing miracles of beneficence like those of our Saviour. He will heal lepers, make the lame to walk, cast out demons, raise the dead to life.

We read: “He will therefore appear as having performed miracles similar to all those wrought by Jesus Christ, in order to eclipse his glory and purloin to his own advantage the honor due to the true Messiah. But St. Paul warns us that all those miracles, so numerous and striking, will be the work of deception. Those miracles will be deceptive in their origin, deceptive in their nature, deceptive in their form, deceptive in their object. Reason and faith assure us that God alone can perform genuine miracles. ‘Blessed be the Lord and God of Israel, who alone doeth wonderful things.’”(Psa. 71:18)

“Hence we are sufficiently warned that those miracles which Antichrist will attribute to his own divinity are the works of Satan, the father of lies who performs—and cannot perform any other than—false miracles.” (From MIDNIGHT CALL, Sept., 1975)

Beloved, do we not need to be warned, lest we fall into the ensnarement of accepting one who outwardly portrays the spirit of Christ, but who may very well be an imposter?

As Wm. F. Beirnes says in the MIDNIGHT CRY: “This ‘man of sin’ cannot show his true nature in the beginning of his career since he is a deceiver. He is still a deceiver after he reveals his true Satanic nature, but by that time he will have the world at his feet.”

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, noted for his radio addresses on the Catholic Hour, warned, “The Antichrist will not be so called, otherwise he would have no followers.” Said Sheen, “He will even speak of Christ, and say that He was the greatest man who ever lived.”

So may no one be deceived.

There are devout Catholics who believe Pope John Paul II could be the Antichrist.

The Rev. Ian Macpherson, in the **PROPHETIC WITNESS**, a British journal, notes that "Cardinal Cushing, of all people, actually says he believes that Antichrist is the Pope."

According to St. Cyril of Jerusalem, the Antichrist "will win the esteem and attachment of mankind by his urbane and unbounded kindness."

The character of the coming Antichrist will be one of persuasion by his personality and by the miracles which he is able to do.

Among his wonders is that recorded in Rev. 13:13, where it says, "He doeth great signs, that he should even make fire to come down out of heaven upon the earth in the sight of men."

Again, in 2 Thes. 2:8-9, reference is made to the revelation of that wicked one, believed to be the Antichrist, of whom it is said, "Whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders."

The late Dr. M.R. DeHaan believed that Judas would be the Antichrist. For Antichrist is called the "son of perdition," which is the same title given to Judas. (2 Thes. 2-3, John 17:12)

Dr. D.M. Panton writes: "That Judas was genuinely an apostle, Peter's words make clear: 'He was numbered among us, and received his portion in this ministry.' (Acts 1:17) To the twelve, Judas being actually named among them (Matt. 10:4), the Lord grants miraculous powers. How far the gifts of the Holy Ghost, which Judas thus undoubtedly possessed, and which inhere permanently (Rom. 11:29), and which therefore can be exercised in resurrection, are retained when conferred on an unbeliever, is a problem beyond our uninspired solution; but it is not a factor to be neglected in estimating the False Prophet's miraculous powers."

Panton goes on to observe, "Moreover the apostles appear to have had, and to have known that they had, the power of calling down fire from heaven (Luke 9:54), and the Lord challenges their spirit, but not their power...this may account for the False Prophet's crowning miracle."

The Rev. J.A. Wylie, writing on **THE PAPACY IS THE ANTICHRIST**, notes: "He is to be an imitation of Christ, a close, clever, and astute imitation, which will deceive the world for ages, only those excepted who, taught by the Holy Spirit, shall be able to see through the disguise and detect the enemy under the mask of the friend. Antichrist, translated into English, is "vice-Christ." Rendered into Greek, it is Antichrist...and if so, then every time the Pope claims to be the Vicar of Christ, he is the Antichrist."

The Pope is called "Vicarius Filii Dei," meaning "the Vicar of the Son of God." A listener informs us that these words are inscribed on the papal tiara (triple crown worn by the Pope).

Using Roman numerals: V equals 5, I equals 1, C equals 100, A has no value, R no value, I equals 1, U (or V in Latin are the same) equals 5, S no value, F no value, I equals 1, L equals 50, I equals 1, D equals 500, E no value, and I equals 1. Add them up and you have 666.

Clarence Larkin, in his commentary on **REVELATION**, said of the Antichrist, "He will be a 'composite' man, one who embraces in his character the abilities and powers of Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, Xerxes of Persia, Alexander the Great of Greece, and Caesar Augustus of Rome. He will have the marvelous gift of attracting unregenerate men. The irresistible

fascination of his personality, his versatile attainments, superhuman wisdom, great administrative and executive ability, along with his powers as a consummate flatterer, a brilliant diplomat, and a superb strategist, will make him the most conspicuous and prominent of men. All these gifts will be conferred on him by Satan, whose tool he will be..."

W.E. Blackstone, in his book, **JESUS IS COMING**, calls the Antichrist "the culminating manifestation of Satan."

We read, "Then entered Satan into Judas Iscariot." So the devil will enter the Antichrist. This leads us to believe that the Antichrist does not have to experience an actual death and resurrection, like our Lord did, in order to be possessed of Satan. However, it must be admitted it would be more believable if Antichrist were to die and return to life, proclaiming destiny had determined he was needed. In reality, it would then be Satan living in his body and ruling the world.

At the Lausanne Congress, it was Peter Beyerhaus who made the remark, "The whole history of mankind is headed for the forthcoming clash between Christ and Antichrist."

So the choice is clear for you and for me.

It is absolutely necessary that we come to grips with the realization that Antichrist may be somewhere on the world scene. It is likewise true that our Lord's return hastens, and He could come at any time.

Would we be ready were He to come yet today?

Someone has said, "A man may go to heaven without health, without wealth, without fame, without a great name, without learning, without big earning, without culture, without beauty, without friends. But, he can never go to heaven without Christ."

God may be giving you one final opportunity to open your heart to receive the Saviour.

After all, He comes to you, saying: "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

You may have believed that you get to heaven by being baptized, joining the church, and praying to one of the saints or to Mary; but, Jesus declares you must come through Him.

In fact, Peter reminds us, "There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

So come to Him today. Do not delay such an important decision. Open your heart to the Saviour by inviting Him to come in.

He says: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." (Rev. 3:20)

Pray this prayer: "Lord, my heart is open. I invite You in. Forgive me of my sins, for I believe Your blood was shed to cleanse them all away, as You promised in Your Word. I receive You as my Saviour and Lord, to live for You until You come. Keep me faithfully reading Your Word. May I begin each day by talking to You in prayer, and committing my life to Your love and care. I commit my loved ones to You as well, to save and to keep safe from harm and danger. Most of all, may I do Your will, and be ready when You come. Amen."

Indeed, "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

THE COMING ANTICHRIST



Head of Antiochus Epiphanes.

Today we would ask, is the Antichrist the “little horn” of Daniel 8?

It is always a delight to depend upon the Holy Spirit to interpret the Word of God and unfold its message to the children of God.

One of the most fascinating portions of Scripture is found in Daniel, chapter eight, where reference is made to one who undoubtedly is the Antichrist, but is prefigured by one—Antiochus Epiphanes.

Here’s the portion of Scripture to which we refer: “And (there) came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land. And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them.”

Now Scofield says that this passage is “confessedly the most difficult in prophecy.”

Is this then not a challenge to the Holy Spirit to unfold this passage to us?

When Daniel had seen this vision, the angel Gabriel appeared to him, saying: “Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision.”

We believe we are living in the “time of the end.”

Daniel was given certain facts, but other parts of the vision were not clearly revealed.

We are particularly concerned with this one who arises, and becomes so great that he casts down some of the host of heaven and stars to the ground, and stamps upon them.

What does this mean? What is the significance of this passage?

First, we know that the stars are of such enormous size that no one can possibly pull them down from the sky and tramp upon them. So we do not believe this to be a reference to the starry skies that we see when we look up into the Heavens.

In the second place, the stars could be a reference to Israel and to the people of God.

Remember how Joseph once dreamed of the sun, the moon, and eleven stars bowing down, making obeisance to him? He told his dream to his father, who had no problem interpreting the dream, saying: “Shall I and

thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?"

So, Joseph's brethren were the "stars" in his dream.

Likewise, in Revelation, we have a picture of the exalted Christ as seen by John. He is seen holding seven stars. The seven stars, we are told later, are the "angels" or "messengers" of the seven churches which John was also observing in vision form.

Scofield sees these stars as representative of "men sent by the seven churches to ascertain the state of the aged apostle, now an exile in Patmos." But he notes, "They figure any who bear God's message to a church."

So stars are representative of the saints, or ministers of God.

Even Daniel reminds us: "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." (Dan. 12:3)

So when Daniel sees one arising who has the power to cast down "stars" upon the ground, could it be that he is witnessing a time of persecution coming to both Jews and Christians in the end time?

All you have to do is to read Revelation 13:7, which speaks of the one arising called "the Beast," who reigns for 42 months as a world emperor. Here is what we read concerning him: "And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them; and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." (Rev. 13:6-8)

Without question, the world emperor we call the "Antichrist" will have the power to persecute believers who are on the earth during his reign of 3½ years.

Now there are those who cannot see any believer left behind at the rapture, so they say this applies only to Jews who will be converted during the days of the Antichrist. Then there are others who read these verses as suggesting that there will be no Rapture, but that all believers will be left to go through the tribulation.

G. Campbell Morgan, who is regarded as the "prince of preachers," seems to take a more Scriptural view of what will happen when Christ returns.

Referring to the passage in Rev. 7:14, we see a great multitude of whom it is said: "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Morgan had this comment: "Personally, I am convinced that not all Christian people will be taken to be with Christ upon His return, but only those who by the attitude of their lives are ready for His appearing."

Now we realize this is an interpretation that is not accepted or understood by many of the noted Bible scholars of our day. Some even seek to read into Morgan's theology the interpretation that he gave up a belief in the Rapture, which is not the case.

Rather, may we quote from Morgan in a message he preached on "The Purifying Hope," based on the Scripture found in 1 John 1:28 through 3:3.

In 1 John 1:28, we read, "And now, my little children, abide in him; that, if he shall be manifested, we may have boldness, and not be ashamed

before him at his coming."

Writes Morgan: "The 'if' casts no doubt upon His appearing, but is indicative of a coming at any time. An alternative possibility is here suggested as to the attitude of CHRISTIANS at that coming. They may 'have boldness' or 'be ashamed.'"

Continues Morgan: "With regard to the first: the word 'boldness' (in place of 'confidence,' A.V.) by no means conveys the whole force of the original. The idea is that we may have the freedom of speech which comes of the perfect familiarity of friendship."

He notes: "We all know the diffidence and awkwardness which come of the sense of being out of place, paralyzing speech. This, I imagine, would be the position of most of us if granted a personal interview with Queen Victoria. Not only should we be at a loss in regard to deportment, but we should wonder what to say, and be anxious as to whether we had said it aright or not."

Says Morgan: "May God help us so to abide in Christ that when He comes, we may not feel the awkwardness which arises from the constraint of being strangers to Him, but that we may be able to say, 'This is our Master, we have known Him by faith, and now we see Him. We have poured into His listening ear the tale of our sorrows in the day of mystery and darkness, and now we may talk with Him face to face.'" (See Isa. 25:9)

Then, says Morgan: "Mark the other possibility," and comments on the part of the verse which reads: "...and not be ashamed from Him at His coming." (The preposition is "apo," meaning "away from.")

Says Morgan: "The picture is that of persons so conscious of unreadiness that they dare not face Him. The root meaning of the word 'ashamed' is 'disgraced,' so that it is allowable to read, 'and not be disgraced from him at his coming.'"

He notes further: "This is not addressed to the outside world, but to the believer in Christ."

And, says Morgan: "In that verse there is a very clear division which, to my mind, answers the question whether believers may not pass through the great tribulation."

Did you hear it?

So, it remained Morgan's belief that there would be the possibility that believers will go through the tribulation. However, as to who will be ready, and who will be left behind, is left to the discretion of the individual reader.

His conclusion is as follows: "Some will be ready to enjoy freedom of access to Christ and familiarity with Him; but the 'little children' of God who have been living only in the element of the world will be disgraced at His appearing."

Asks Morgan: "What are we to do, as Christian men and women, in the light of these two possibilities? I give two passages from the Epistle as my closing words: 'My little children, abide in him' and 'Every one that hath this hope set on him purifieth themselves as He is pure,' separated ones cut clean adrift from the ungodliness of the age, loyal of heart to the King in the days of waiting for Him—these are the men and women who will have boldness in the day of His coming. Who will draw the line? I do not know. It is for each of us to make application of this truth in solitude."

We trust this sober realization will be received without controversy, for the shock of being left behind at Christ's coming would be so great to those who think they can be saved and yet live as they please. The Bless-

ed Hope is a purifying hope. If we truly believe Christ is coming soon, we will not only HOPE to be ready but we WILL be ready. We will purpose in our hearts, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live in the assurance of Rapture by living lives that are pleasing to the Lord. It is when we walk in disobedience to the Word of God that we need to fear, lest we be partakers of His wrath.

As the Apostle Paul writes: "Be ye therefore followers of God as dear children," so we know he is talking to believers.

Then he writes: "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not once be named among you, as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and of God."

Finally, he gives this warning: "Let no man deceive you with vain words; for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them."

With G. Campbell Morgan, we would urge each one to take to heart this message. And, if we are living for Jesus and walking in the light of His Word, then we can be ever ready for His coming.

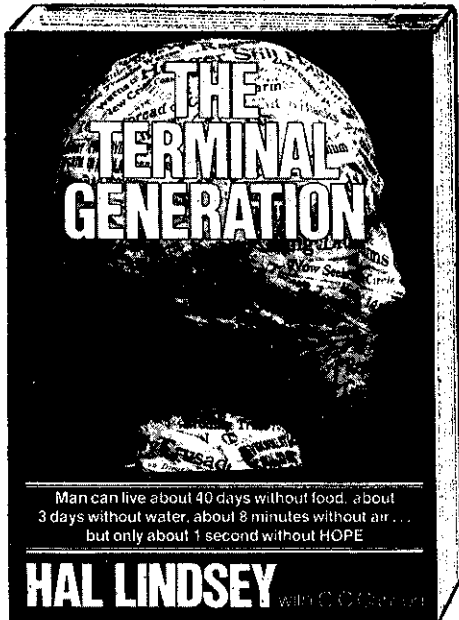
Like "Everready" batteries that are charged and ready to light up, so we can be "everready" Christians, ready to go up when Jesus comes.

In the words of Jesus, we would urge: "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

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