

# **School of the Prophets 2004**

## **The Prophetic Pattern** **Part three**

## The Second Test

- And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.  
Revelation 13:11.
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- “The ‘speaking’ of the nation is the action of its legislative and judicial authorities.”  
*The Great Controversy*, 442.

## The Seal

- “Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. **Then the latter rain will fall upon us** as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost. . . .
- **“When the decree goes forth and the stamp is impressed, their character will remain pure and spotless for eternity.”** *Testimonies*, volume 5, 214–216.

## The Image Test

- “Already preparations are advancing, and movements are in progress, which will result in making an image to the beast. Events will be brought about in the earth’s history that will fulfill the predictions of prophecy for these last days.
- “The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the beast will be formed **before probation closes**; for it is to be **the great test for the people of God**, by which their eternal destiny will be decided.
- “This is the test that the people of God must have **before they are sealed**. All who proved their loyalty to God by observing His law, and refusing to accept a spurious sabbath, will rank under the banner of the Lord God Jehovah, and will receive the seal of the living God. Those who yield the truth of heavenly origin and accept the Sunday sabbath, will receive the mark of the beast”  
*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 7, 976.

## Courts are Corrupt

- “Already the doctrine that men are released from obedience to God’s requirements has weakened the force of moral obligation and opened the floodgates of iniquity upon the world. Lawlessness, dissipation, and corruption are sweeping in upon us like an overwhelming tide. In the family, Satan is at work. His banner waves, even in professedly Christian households. There is envy, evil surmising, hypocrisy, estrangement, emulation, strife, betrayal of sacred trusts, indulgence of lust. The whole system of religious principles and doctrines, which should form the foundation and framework of social life, seems to be a tottering mass, ready to fall to ruin. **The vilest of criminals**, when thrown into prison for their offenses, are often made the recipients of gifts and attentions as if they had attained an **enviable distinction**. **Great publicity is given to their character and crimes**. The press publishes the revolting details of vice, thus initiating others into the practice of fraud, robbery, and murder; and Satan exults in the success of

- “The infatuation of vice, the wanton taking of life, the terrible increase of intemperance and iniquity of every order and degree, should arouse all who fear God, to inquire what can be done to stay the tide of evil.
- “Courts of justice are corrupt. Rulers are actuated by desire for gain and love of sensual pleasure. Intemperance has beclouded the faculties of many so that Satan has almost complete control of them. Jurists are perverted, bribed, deluded. Drunkenness and revelry, passion, envy, dishonesty of every sort, are represented among those who administer the laws. ‘Justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.’ Isaiah 59:14.” *The Great Controversy, 585-586.*

## Unchanged

- “The Roman Church now presents a fair front to the world, covering with apologies her record of horrible cruelties. She has clothed herself in Christlike garments; but **she is unchanged. Every principle of the papacy that existed in past ages exists today. The doctrines devised in the darkest ages are still held.** Let none deceive themselves.” *The Great Controversy*, 571.
- Rebutting a belief widely shared by Protestants and a growing number of Roman Catholics, Pope John Paul II dismissed Tuesday “the widespread idea that one can obtain forgiveness directly from God, and exhorted Catholics to confess more often to their priests.” *Los Angeles Times*, December 12, 1984.

## Unchanged

- In respecting religious liberty and the common good of all, Christians should seek recognition of Sunday and the Church's Holy Days as **legal holidays**. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1994 edition, 528.

## Far Greater Favor

- **“Romanism is now regarded by Protestants with far greater favor than in former years. In those countries where Catholicism is not in the ascendancy, and the papists are taking a conciliatory course in order to gain influence, there is an increasing indifference concerning the doctrines that separate the reformed churches from the papal hierarchy; the opinion is gaining ground that, after all, we do not differ so widely upon vital points as has been supposed, and that a little concession on our part will bring us into a better understanding with Rome. The time was when Protestants placed a high value upon the liberty of conscience which had been so dearly purchased. they taught their children to abhor popery and held that to seek harmony with Rome would be disloyalty to God. But how widely different are the sentiments now expressed!”** *The Great Controversy*, 563.

## Far Greater Favor

- US Senator Sam Brownback, has introduced legislation that would award a \$32,000 congressional gold medal to Pope John Paul II. 66 senators have co-sponsored the bill. In an April 13 speech from the Senate floor, Brownback, a non-Catholic, said the Pope, “as spiritual leader to the world’s 1 billion Catholics . . . has commenced a great dialogue with modern culture, one that transcends the boundaries of political or economic ideology.” *National Catholic Register*, April 30, 2000.
- A recent meeting of Pentecostal scholars turned out to be the site of impromptu confessions of sins and pleas for forgiveness regarding Catholic-Pentecostal relations. *National Catholic Register*, April 2–8, 2000.
- Billy Graham picks pope for man of the century. *National Catholic Register*, January, 2000.

- “The pope is not just a religious pilgrim. He is one of the world’s great moral authorities, whose support or very presence (or even the brush of his lips on a proffered pot of soil as he visits a new land) can lend validity to states, policies and causes.” *Time* magazine April 3, 2000.
- Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid called for Christians and Muslims to recognize tolerate and respect the differences between Christianity and Islam at the 11th General Assembly of the Christian Conference of Asia on June 3.
- The president cited the Second Vatican Council in urging all to practice inter-religious tolerance. The council “gave us ideas on how we should exercise in concrete ways mutual understanding and tolerance,” he said.
- “On one side the Catholic Church maintains that in the Catholic Church there is truth, but on the other side the Catholic Church also appreciates truth in other religions,” explained the president, an Islamic scholar. *National Catholic Register*, June 18–24, 2000.

- **When the pope visited St. Louis there was a picture on the front pages of the newspapers with the following caption: President Clinton welcomed the frail pope John Paul II with steady hand Tuesday and said, "He hoped the pope would find in the seventh pilgrimage to the United States an America working harder to be what you have asked us to be."**
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- **"God's word has given warning of the impending danger; let this be unheeded, and the Protestant world will learn what the purposes of Rome really are, only when it is too late to escape the snare. She is silently growing into power. Her doctrines are exerting their influence in legislative halls, in the churches, and in the hearts of men. She is piling up her lofty and massive structures in the secret recesses of which her former persecutions will be repeated. Stealthily and unsuspectedly she is strengthening her forces to further her own ends when the time shall come for her to strike. All that she desires is vantage ground, and this is already being given her. We shall soon see and shall feel what the purpose of the Roman element is. Whoever shall believe and obey the word of God will thereby incur reproach and persecution." *The Great Controversy*, 581.**

## Covering With Apologies

- **“The Roman Church now presents a fair front to the world, covering with apologies her record of horrible cruelties. She has clothed herself in Christlike garments; but she is unchanged. Every principle of the papacy that existed in past ages exists today. The doctrines devised in the darkest ages are still held. Let none deceive themselves. The papacy that Protestants are now so ready to honor is the same that ruled the world in the days of the Reformation, when men of God stood up, at the peril of their lives, to expose her iniquity. She possesses the same pride and arrogant assumption that lorded it over kings and princes, and claimed the prerogatives of God. Her spirit is no less cruel and despotic now than when she crushed out human liberty and slew the saints of the Most High.”** *The Great Controversy*, 571.

## Covering With Apologies

- In a message to Pope John Paul II, the United Methodist Church has asked forgiveness for “instances of misunderstanding, insensitivities and harm” against Catholics that were caused by Methodists. The action was adopted at the church’s recent general conference. *National Catholic Register*, May 21, 2000.

## Holy Office

- Pope John Paul II Revives Inquisition By Kathleen R. Hayes February 1991, *NRI Trumpet*, Page 3.
- The thought of a revived Holy Office of the Inquisition would pacify some and offend others. Nevertheless, the *Holy Office* still exists. Only its name has been changed. Pope John Paul II has been instrumental in its revival. One may argue that this Ratzinger run agency is merely an attempt by the Catholic Church to root out communism or backslidden priests and their practices. However, with John Paul II's objective to implement "God's mandate" by creating a global church-state, which will administer from traditional Roman Catholic theology, is enough cause for alarm. Malachi Martin has already stated in his book, *The Keys of this Blood*, that the pope will not tolerate any belief systems that oppose his, not on a civil or church level. In John Paul II the world will behold a tyrant who will coldly execute direct orders against those whom he deems are heretics or immoral. Moreover, like his papal predecessors, John Paul II will carry out his "Godly mandate" in the name of Christ, or perhaps Mary.

- **THE THREAT OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE 21ST CENTURY**
- **Whereas:** The mass media has captivated the world with the activities of Pope John Paul II during his visit to the Holy Land in March 2000; and,
- **Whereas:** The Vatican and the Lutheran World Federation have signed, in October, 1999 a joint declaration of accord on the doctrine of justification (only the synods of Wisconsin and Missouri dissented); and,
- **Whereas:** In the middle of February, 200, PLO chairman Yasser Arafat met with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican to sign an agreement regarding the future of Jerusalem that warned Israel against any unilateral decision affecting Jerusalem; and,
- **Whereas:** Bob Jones University has been unjustly slandered for anti-Catholic bias by Senators McCain, Torricelli, Hollings and the liberal mass media; and,
- **Whereas:** The House of Representatives of the US Congress has just appointed a Roman Catholic priest as its chaplain for the first time, March 23, 2000; and

- **Whereas:** Pope John Paul II has declared the year 2000 a “Great Jubilee Year” for Roman Catholics that establishes the restoration of indulgences, THE VERY ISSUE THAT PROMPTED MARTIN LUTHER TO DRAFT THE 95 THESES IN OCTOBER OF 1517: papal spokesman Timothy Shugrue states, “The indulgence is one of the spiritual privileges extended during Jubilee. It is a way of applying the merits of the good deeds of the saints and the Virgin Mary and Christ Himself to the rest of us.”;
- **Therefore:** The South Atlantic Presbytery of the Bible Presbyterian Church, at its spring meeting in the Bible Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, North Carolina, March 25, 2000, resolves and warns that the Roman Catholic Church, Mystery, Babylon the Great, Mother of Harlots and abominations of the earth (Revelation 17:5) constitutes the greatest threat to fundamental Christianity in the 21st century! The Roman Catholic Church has long since forsaken the Bible alone, Grace alone, faith alone and Christ alone. *The Bible Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, North Carolina, March 25, 2000*

- “Persecution **always** follows religious favoritism on the part of secular governments.” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, volume 4, 279.
- **Scarlet Women**: The Roman Catholic Church. An ephitah, an illusion to Revelation 17:1-6. *Webster’s Dictionary*, 5th Edition, 1947.

## Allegiance

- “The Roman Catholic Church, with all its ramifications throughout the world, forms one vast organization under the control, and designed to serve the interests, of the papal see. Its millions of communicants, in every country on the globe, are **instructed to hold themselves as bound in allegiance to the pope**. Whatever their nationality or their government, they are to regard the authority of the church as above all other. Though they may take the oath pledging their loyalty to the state, yet back of this lies the vow of obedience to Rome, absolving them from every pledge inimical to her interests.” *The Great Controversy*, 580.
- **1995 the Supreme Court became dominated by of Catholics.**

- A Roman Catholic bishop has urged six members of the US Supreme Court and top government officials to allow greater cooperation between church and state.
- Speaking at the annual “Red Mass” at St. Matthew’s Cathedral in Washington, DC, October 3, Bishop Raymond Boland of Kansas City, said, “Is it possible to hope that, as we enter a new millennium, church and state in our land, and even the international world, may subscribe to a synthesis of basic principles which guarantee freedom for all while equally protecting the rights of believers and unbelievers?”
- Continued Boland, “Do secular symbols enjoy more protection than religious symbols?” Then he asserted, **“The First Amendment was adopted by Congress as protection for religion not protection from religion.”**
- Americans United Executive Director Barry W. Lynn criticized his sermon as an obvious attempt