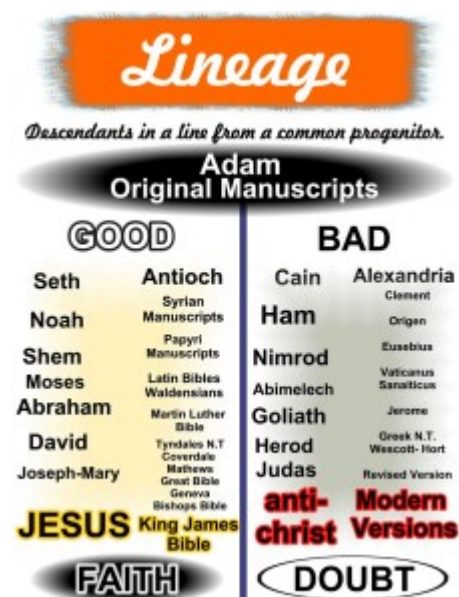


# The Textual Controversy

HAVE A LOOK						
Verse No.	Version of the Bible					
	KJV	NIV	NASV	NCV	NRSV	RSV
Matthew 17:21	YES				REMOVED	
Matthew 18:11	YES				REMOVED	
Matthew 23:14	YES				REMOVED	
Mark 7:16	YES				REMOVED	
Mark 9:44	YES				REMOVED	
Mark 9:46	YES				REMOVED	
Mark 11:26	YES				REMOVED	
Mark 15:28	YES				REMOVED	
Luke 17:36	YES				REMOVED	
Luke 23:17	YES				REMOVED	
John 5:4	YES				REMOVED	
Acts 8:37	YES				REMOVED	
Acts 15:34	YES				REMOVED	
Acts 24:7	YES				REMOVED	
Acts 28:29	YES				REMOVED	
Romans 16:24	YES				REMOVED	

My one object has been to defeat the mischievous attempt, which was made in 1881 to thrust upon this Church and Realm a revision of the Sacred Text, which recommended though it be by eminent names, I am thoroughly convinced, and am able to prove, is untrustworthy from beginning to end.

# The Proliferation of Modern “Bibles”



Modern translations of the New Testament that are not based on the Textus Receptus are not pure as the King James Version. They are based on corrupt manuscripts.

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## Rome's Relentless War on the Holy Bible – By Darryl Eberhart



Papal Rome has waged relentless war on the Holy Bible and on Bible-believing Christians for centuries. First, she tried to destroy all the Bibles she could find, and to murder those possessing, printing, or distributing Bibles! When her frontal assault failed, she took a different tactic: undermining the authority of the Bible, and trying to replace the 1611 King James Bible with the newer “Bible” versions

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## Roman Catholicism By Lorraine Boettner Section Three Chapter XI The Infallibility of the Pope



The doctrine of papal infallibility appeals to many people who are poorly informed. They know practically nothing about the Bible. Consequently, they have no sound theology on which to base their actions.

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# Roman Catholicism By Lorraine Boettner

## Chapter IX The Confessional



Catholic Church says "In the confessional the minister has the power to forgive all crimes committed after baptism." The Bible says only God can forgive sins.

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# Roman Catholicism By Lorraine Boettner

## Chapter VIII The Mass



Christ's sacrifice on Calvary was complete in that one offering, and that it was never to be repeated. But the Catholic Church repeats in daily in the Mass.

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# Roman Catholicism By Lorraine Boettner

## Chapter IV Tradition



This is the continuation of the [previous chapter of Roman Catholicism](#) by

Lorraine Boettner.

## 1 What Tradition Is

Protestantism and Roman Catholicism agree that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. But they differ widely in regard to the place that it is to have in the life of the church. Protestantism holds that the Bible alone is the authoritative and sufficient rule of faith and practice. But Romanism holds that the Bible must be supplemented by a great body of tradition consisting of 14 or 15 apocryphal books or portions of books equivalent to about two thirds the volume of the New Testament, the voluminous writings of the Greek and Latin church fathers, and a huge collection of church council pronouncements and papal decrees as of equal value and authority—a veritable library in itself.

It is very evident that this difference of opinion concerning the authoritative basis of the church is bound to have radical and far-reaching effects. The age-long controversy between Protestantism and Roman Catholicism comes to a head regarding the question of authority. Right here, we believe, *is the basic difference between Protestantism and Roman Catholicism*. And, we may add, we believe that in its use of tradition is to be found the Achilles' heel of Roman Catholicism. For it is in this that Romanism finds the authority for its distinctive doctrines.

Every religious movement that develops some unity, and continues to live, has its traditions. These traditions gather up the beliefs, thinking, practices, and rules of the group, particularly as these are expressed in its doctrinal standards and forms of government. In this manner the movement gives stability to and regulates its own manner of life, and hands that stability and manner of life on to the next generation.

We do not reject all tradition, but rather make judicious use of it insofar as it accords with Scripture and is founded on truth. We should, for instance, treat with respect and study with care the confessions and council pronouncements of the various churches, particularly those of the ancient church and of Reformation days. We should also give careful attention to the confessions and council decisions of the present day churches, scrutinizing most carefully of course those of the denomination to which we belong. But we do not give any church the right to formulate new doctrine or to make decisions contrary to the teaching of Scripture. The history of the church at large shows all too clearly that church leaders and church councils can and do make mistakes, some of them serious. Consequently their decisions should have no authority except as they are based on Scripture.

Protestants differ from Roman Catholics in that they keep these standards strictly subordinate to Scripture, and in that they are ever ready to re-examine them for that purpose. In other words they insist that, in the life of the church, Scripture is primary, and the denominational standards are subordinate or secondary. They thus use their traditions with one controlling caution—they continually ask if this or that aspect of their belief and practice is true to the Bible. They subject every statement of tradition to that test, and they are willing to change any element that fails to meet that

test.

In contrast with this, Roman Catholics hold that there are two sources of authority—Scripture, and developing tradition, with the church being the judge of Scripture and therefore able to say authoritatively what the right interpretation of Scripture is. This, in effect, gives three authorities—the Bible, tradition, and the church. The primacy is in the hands of the church since it controls both tradition and the interpretation of Scripture. This, therefore, is the basis on which the Roman system rests. If this can be shown to be erroneous, it will be seen that the whole system rests on a false basis.

As Roman Catholicism works out in actual practice, the traditions of the church at any time are what the church says they are, Scripture means what the church says it means, and the people are permitted to read the Bible only in an approved version and within the limits of a predetermined interpretation. But when the Christian message is thus shackled by tradition and ecclesiastically dictated interpretation, it ceases to be the free grace of God offered to repentant sinners, and becomes an instrument in the hands of the clergy for the control of the people. In professing to interpret the Bible in the light of tradition, the Roman Church in reality places tradition above the Bible, so that the Roman Catholic is governed, not by the Bible, nor by the Bible and tradition, but by the church itself, which sets up the tradition and says what it means. Theoretically, the Roman Church accepts the Bible, but in practice she does not leave her members free to follow it. The errors that are found in her traditions obscure and nullify much of the truth that she professes to hold. To cite but one example of what this means in actual practice, while the Roman Catholic Church, in professing allegiance to the Bible, must agree with the Protestant churches that there is “one mediator also between God and men, himself man, Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2.5), she introduces a host of other mediators—the Virgin Mary, the priests, and hundreds of saints and angels—which effectively sets aside the truth contained in the Scripture statement.

## **2 How Tradition Nullifies the Word of God**

We give credit to Rome for this: she professes to hold that the Bible is the Word of God. She repudiates and denounces modernism, which in reality is a more or less consistent denial of the supernatural throughout the Christian system and which unfortunately has come to have a strong influence in some Protestant churches. Modernists seek to reduce some of the historical accounts of the Bible, as for example those of the creation of man and of the fall, to mere myths or legends. Also, modernists usually say that the Bible contains the Word of God, but deny that it is in all its parts actually the Word of God.

But having said that, we must point out how Rome also nullifies or destroys the Word. She maintains that alongside of the written Word there is also an unwritten Word, an oral tradition, which was taught by Christ and the apostles but which is not in the Bible, which rather was handed down generation after generation by word of mouth. This unwritten Word of God, it is said, comes to expression in the pronouncements of the church councils and

in papal decrees. It takes precedence over the written Word and interprets it. The pope, as God's personal representative on the earth, can legislate for things additional to the Bible as new situations arise.

The Council of Trent, the most authoritative of all Roman councils and the one of greatest historical importance, in the year 1546, declared that the Word of God is contained both in the Bible and in tradition, that the two are of equal authority, and that it is the duty of every Christian to accord them equal veneration and respect. Thus, while modernism takes away from the Word of God, Romanism adds to it. Both are in error, and each would seem to be about equally bad. It would be hard to say which has done more to undermine true religion.

The untrustworthiness of oral tradition, however, is apparent for several reasons. In the first place, the early Christians, who were closest to Christ and the apostles, and whose testimony therefore would have been most valuable, wrote but very little because of the persecutions to which they were exposed. And what is found in the writings of the second and third centuries has but little reference to the doctrines which at present are in dispute between Protestants and Roman Catholics. Tradition, therefore, for hundreds of years allegedly was transmitted by mere report. And it is this which Rome receives as of equal authority with the written Word. But so unreliable is report that it has become a proverb that "a story never loses in its carriage." In other words, a story seldom retains its original character without addition and exaggeration. Fortunately, we have a remarkable instance in the New Testament itself in which report or tradition circulated a falsehood, showing how easily oral tradition can become corrupted, how in a particular instance it did become corrupted even in the apostolic age. In John 21:21-23 we read: "Peter therefore seeing him (John) saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. This saying therefore went forth among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, that he should not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?" Surely we cannot build a church on such an insecure foundation as oral tradition!

Furthermore, that the body of tradition is not of divine origin nor apostolic is proved by the fact that some traditions contradict others. The church fathers repeatedly contradict one another. When a Roman Catholic priest is ordained, he solemnly vows to interpret the Scriptures only according to "the unanimous consent of the fathers." But such "unanimous consent" is purely a myth. The fact is they scarcely agree on any doctrine. They contradict each other, and even contradict themselves as they change their minds and affirm what they previously had denied. Augustine, the greatest of the fathers, in his later life wrote a special book in which he set forth his Retractions. Some of the fathers of the second century held that Christ would return shortly and that He would reign personally in Jerusalem for a thousand years. But two of the best known scholars of the early church, Origen (185-254), and Augustine (354-430), wrote against that view. The early fathers condemned the use of images in worship, while later ones approved such use. The early fathers almost unanimously advocated the reading and free use of the

Scriptures, while the later ones restricted such reading and use. Gregory the Great, bishop of Rome and the greatest of the early bishops, denounced the assumption of the title of Universal Bishop as anti-Christian. But later popes even to the present day have been very insistent on using that and similar titles which assert universal authority. Where, then, is the universal tradition and unanimous consent of the fathers to papal doctrine?

The men who wrote the books of the Bible were inspired by the Holy Spirit and so were preserved from error. But the traditions of the church fathers, the church councils, and the popes are of a lower order and contain many errors and contradictions.

Bellarmino (1542-1621), a Jesuit and a noted Roman Catholic writer, divides tradition into three classes—divine, apostolic, and ecclesiastical. Divine traditions are those which it is alleged Christ Himself taught or ordained, which were not written but were handed down generation after generation by word of mouth. Apostolic traditions are those which were taught by the apostles but not written. And ecclesiastical traditions are those council pronouncements and papal decrees which have accumulated through the centuries. We insist, however, that it would have been utterly impossible for those traditions to have been handed down with accuracy generation after generation by word of mouth and in an atmosphere dark with superstition and immorality such as characterized the entire church, laity and priesthood alike, through long periods of its history. And we assert that there is no proof whatever that they were so transmitted. Clearly the bulk of those traditions originated with the monks during the Middle Ages.

When the leaders of the Reformation appealed to Scripture and thundered against the errors of the Roman Church, that church had to defend herself. And since she could not do so from the Bible alone, she resorted to these other writings. The result is that the most prominent doctrines and practices of the Roman Church, such as purgatory, the priesthood, the mass, transubstantiation, prayers for the dead, indulgences, penance, worship of the Virgin Mary, the use of images in worship, holy water, rosary beads, celibacy of priests and nuns, the papacy itself, and numerous others, are founded solely on tradition.

It is on such a basis as this that the Roman Church seeks to establish herself as "the only true church." But when the Roman Catholic layman searches his Bible for confirmation of the distinctive doctrines of his church, he finds either absolute silence or a distinct negative. The Bible, for instance, has nothing to say about the pope or the papacy as an institution, and it is emphatic and uncompromising in its commands against the use of images or idols in worship. It is natural that the Roman Church does not want to give up tradition. It cannot. If it were to give up tradition the whole system would fall to the ground, so much of its doctrine and practice has no other foundation.

Technically, the Roman Church does not claim that the pope receives new revelations or that he is inspired by the Holy Spirit as were the prophets and apostles when they wrote Scripture. In fact it denies that it formulates any new doctrines at all. Rather it insists that in *ex cathedra*

pronouncements the Holy Spirit enables the pope to draw out and proclaim what belonged to the original revelation. But it does claim a divine presence of the Holy Spirit in the giving of ex cathedra pronouncements and in the formulation of traditions— which we would say is precisely the same in principle as claiming inspiration. At any rate, by this device it professes to maintain the unchangeability of the church while in reality it adds new doctrines.

It is obvious how inaccessible the Roman rule of faith is. No priest has the rule of his faith, which he vows to accept at ordination, unless he has all these numerous and ponderous volumes. No one could possibly master such a mass of materials, even if they contained no contradictions. And such a rule of faith is utterly beyond the reach of the laity.

### **3 The Apocrypha**

The 14 or 15 books that the Roman Catholic Church adds to the Bible and pronounces equally inspired and authoritative are known as the Apocrypha. These are printed as a part of the Bible and must be accepted by all Roman Catholics as genuine under penalty of mortal sin.

The word Apocrypha is from the Greek *apokrupha*, meaning hidden things, and is used by ecclesiastical writers for matters which are (1) secret or mysterious; or (2) unknown in origin, forged, or spurious; or (3) unrecognized or uncanonical. It is primarily in the sense of spurious or uncanonical that we use the term. The books had this name before they were officially approved by the Council of Trent, and so it is not a name given them by Protestants. They are listed as follows:

1. The First Book of Esdras
2. The Second Book of Esdras
3. Tobit
4. Judith
5. The additions to the book of Esther
6. The Wisdom of Solomon
7. Ecclesiasticus, or the Wisdom of Jesus the Son of Sirach
8. Baruch
9. The Letter of Jeremiah
10. The Prayer of Azariah and the Song of the Three Young Men
11. Susanna
12. Bell and the Dragon
13. The Prayer of Manasseh
14. The First Book of Maccabees
15. The Second Book of Maccabees

Of these only the First and Second Books of Esdras (the latter of which contains an emphatic denial of the value of prayers for the dead, 7:105), and The Prayer of Azariah, were not officially accepted at the Council of Trent. The books accepted add a volume of literature about two thirds the size of the New Testament, or if the entire 15 be included, about 84 percent of the size of the New Testament. By way of comparison, a word count of the Old Testament in the King James Version shows a total of 592,439 words, the New Testament



181,253 words, and the Apocrypha 152,185 words. And since the Apocryphal books are pre-Christian, having been written between the close of the Old Testament and the coming of Christ, the effect of such an addition is to give greater prominence to the Old Testament and therefore to Jewish life and thought, and to decrease relatively the importance of the New Testament.

The Hebrew Old Testament was completed some four hundred years before the time of Christ. In the second century B.C., a Greek translation by Hebrew scholars was made in Alexandria, Egypt, and was called the Septuagint because the translators numbered 70. There developed an important difference, however, between the Greek translation and the Hebrew canon since the Septuagint contained a dozen or more Apocryphal books interspersed among the books of the Hebrew Bible. But not all copies contained the same books—suggesting that there was no general agreement among the translators as to which of these additional books were authoritative.

The Septuagint translation came into general use in Palestine, and that was the popular version at the time of Christ. But the Palestinian Jews never accepted the Apocryphal additions. And Protestants accept only the 39 books of the Old Testament that were in the Hebrew Bible at the time of Christ.

There is no record that Christ or any of the apostles ever quoted from the Apocryphal books or that they made any reference to them, although they undoubtedly knew of them. There are in the New Testament about 290 direct quotations from and about 370 allusions to passages in the Old Testament; yet among all of those there is not a single reference either by Christ or any of the apostles to the Apocryphal writings. They quote from every major book of the Old Testament and from all but four of the smaller ones. They thus set their stamp of approval upon the Jewish Old Testament. Christ quoted it as authoritative, and said, "The Scriptures cannot be broken" (John 10:35). But the reason that neither He nor the apostles ever once referred to the Apocryphal books is obvious. They did not regard those books as Scripture, and they did not intend that legendary books should become a part of the Bible. Romanists sometimes charge Protestants with having "cut those books out of the Bible." But the record makes it clear that if anyone cut them out, it was Christ Himself.

This is all the more significant when we remember that the language commonly spoken in Palestine in the days of Christ was not Hebrew, but Aramaic, that Greek was one of the spoken languages of Palestine at that time, that bilingual Christians who spoke both Aramaic and Greek probably were in the church from the first, and that Christ Himself probably could speak Greek as well as Aramaic. Furthermore, the New Testament books were written in Greek, and in those books we find that while some of the quotations were from the Old Testament reflecting the direct use of the Hebrew, the prevailing practice was to quote from the Greek of the Septuagint. Hence the writers undoubtedly were familiar with the Apocryphal books and undoubtedly would have made some quotations from them if they had been regarded as Scripture.

So, we find that at the time of Christ there were two versions of the Old Testament current in Palestine, the more liberal Alexandrian Septuagint, including the Apocryphal books, in Greek, and the more conservative Hebrew

version which included only the canonical books of the Jews, and that the Roman Catholic Bible follows the Alexandrian while the Protestant Bible follows the Hebrew version.

The loose talk of some Roman Catholic writers about the "Greek Bible," the form of the Septuagint that originated in Alexandria, Egypt, being the Bible of the early church, is no credit to scholarship for it ignores the most important point of all, namely, that so far as the evidence goes, Jesus and the New Testament writers did not consider the Apocryphal books canonical but instead accepted the Palestinian version of the Old Testament.

Furthermore, Josephus, the noted Jewish historian, about A.D. 90, gave a list of the books of the Jewish law and prophets, but he did not include the Apocryphal books. Other Jewish sources support Josephus. The Apocrypha was rejected by Origen, who is generally acknowledged to have been the most learned man in the church before Augustine, by Tertullian, an outstanding scholar in the early third century, by Athanasius, the champion of orthodoxy at the Council of Nicaea and by Jerome, the translator of the Latin Vulgate which became the authorized Roman Catholic Bible.

Jerome declared emphatically that the Apocrypha was no part of the Old Testament Scriptures. However, against his wishes and his better judgment, he allowed himself to be persuaded by two of his bishop friends who admired the books of Tobit and Judith to make a hurried translation of those. He is said to have translated the former at one sitting, and neither of them received the careful attention that had been given to the books which he considered canonical. But it is unfortunate that he did make the translations, for they were later bound up with his Vulgate, and served to encourage the addition of other Apocryphal books. Augustine alone of the prominent scholars in the early church was willing to give the Apocrypha a place in the Bible, but it is not certain that he considered it authoritative in all cases. Yet in spite of all of these things, the 53 bishops of the Council of Trent, in the year 1546, pronounced the Apocryphal books canonical and deserving "equal veneration" with the books of the Bible.

Even within the Roman Church, opinion regarding the canonicity of the Apocrypha has been divided. We have pointed out that Jerome categorically denied that it formed any part of the inspired Scriptures. Cardinal Cajetan, Luther's opponent at Augsburg in 1518, in his Commentary on all the Authentic Historical Books of the Old Testament, which he dedicated in 1532 to pope Clement VII, approved the Hebrew canon as over against the Alexandrian. And within the Council of Trent itself several of its members were opposed to the inclusion of these books in the Bible. Thus, even within the papacy, the Apocrypha was not considered canonical until the Council of Trent added it to the Old Testament and pronounced it so—nearly 2,000 years after the Old Testament was completed and closed.

Dr. Harris writing on this subject says:

"Pope Gregory the Great declared that First Maccabees, an Apocryphal book, is not canonical. Cardinal Zomenes, in his Polyglot Bible just before the Council of Trent, excluded the Apocrypha and his work was approved by pope

Leo X. Could these popes have been mistaken or not? If they were correct, the decision of the Council of Trent was wrong. If they were wrong where is a pope's infallibility as a teacher of doctrine?" (*Fundamental Protestant Doctrines*, I, p. 4).

The real reason for the addition of the Apocryphal books to the Bible by the Roman Church, as we have said, is to be found in connection with events at the time of the Reformation. The Reformers vigorously attacked doctrines which they regarded as unscriptural. The doctrine of purgatory in particular was in need of defense, and the Roman scholars thought they found support in 2 Maccabees 12:40-45, which tells of the work of Judas Maccabeus, who after a battle sent money to Jerusalem to offer a sacrifice for soldiers who had died while guilty of the sin of idolatry. But, as we shall show when we discuss the doctrine of purgatory, this passage really does not support the Roman Catholic position at all. For idolatry is a mortal sin, and according to Roman Catholic doctrine, those dying in mortal sin go directly to hell. Only those who are guilty of venial sin go to purgatory and so only they can be helped by masses and prayers. This again illustrates the desperate nature of the search for support of the distinctive Roman Catholic doctrines.

#### **4 The Nature of the Apocryphal Books**

What, then, is the nature of these books that have caused so much dispute? In the first place they are useful in giving a history of Judaism as it existed between the close of the Old Testament and the opening of the New Testament, and in that regard they are on a par with the writings of Josephus and Philo and other authors of the time. They do not give a continuous history, but particularly in 1 and 2 Maccabees they narrate important phases of Jewish history. Most of the books, however, must be classed as religious novels, pious fiction, abounding in repetitions and trivial details which are of little interest to the average reader. They contain doctrines that are unscriptural, and stories that are fantastic and incredible. The colorful tale of Tobit, for instance, is clearly fictitious, written by a pious Jew about 190-170 B.C., and intended to provide religious and moral instruction in the form of an adventure story. Judith, another popular story, is also clearly fictitious. Ecclesiasticus has historical value in that it pictures many aspects of the Judaism of Palestine during the second century B.C.

But none of the writers claim inspiration for their works, and some explicitly disclaim it (Prologue to Ecclesiasticus; 1 Maccabees 4:46, 9:27; 2 Maccabees 2:23, 15:38). They add nothing essential either to the record of God's dealings with His people Israel as recorded in the Old Testament, or to the Christian Gospel as recorded in the New Testament.

Some examples of the numerous errors in these books are: Judith, chapter 1, vv. 1-7, calls Nebuchadnezzar king of the Assyrians and declares that he reigned in Nineveh. But we know that he was king of Babylon (Daniel 4:4-6,30). In Tobit an angel is represented as telling a lie, claiming that he is Azarius, the son of Ananias. But an angel is a created spirit and cannot be the son of any human being. The book of Baruch purports to have been written by a man of that name who was secretary to Jeremiah (1:1). But he quotes from Daniel, and the book of Daniel was not written until long

after the time of Jeremiah, for Jeremiah wrote at the beginning of the 70-year captivity and Daniel at its close.

In answer to the question as to why these books were never accepted by the Jews as canonical, Dr. Edward J. Young, Professor of Old Testament in Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, says:

"The answer must be that these books were never regarded as divinely inspired. ... Both Judith and Tobit contain historical, chronological and geographical errors. The books justify falsehood and deception and make salvation to depend upon works of merit. Almsgiving, for example, is said to deliver from death (Tobit 12:9, 4:10, 14:10-11).

"Judith lives a life of falsehood and deception in which she is represented as assisted by God (9:10,13). Ecclesiasticus and the Wisdom of Solomon inculcate a morality based on expediency. Wisdom teaches the creation of the world out of pre-existent matter (7:17). Ecclesiasticus teaches that giving of alms makes atonement for sin (3:3), and in 1 Maccabees there are historical and geographical errors. This is not to deny many fine and commendable things in the Apocrypha, but the books nevertheless show themselves at points to be at variance with divinely revealed truth. They were consequently never adopted by the Jews as canonical" (*Revelation and the Bible*, p. 167).

Dr. Allan MacRae, Professor of Old Testament in Faith Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, says:

"The so-called Apocryphal books of the Old Testament are books written by godly Jews and containing only their fallible human ideas. They are in no sense the Word of God, nor can they ever become the Word of God. The Jews did not consider these books as part of the Word of God. Jesus Christ did not set His seal upon them as He did upon the actual books of the Old Testament. They are never quoted in the New Testament. There is no evidence that any of the apostles ever considered any of the books as, in any sense, a part of the Word of God.

"It is true that many people in the Middle Ages became confused and thought that some of these books were part of the Word of God. This is because they were included in copies of the Vulgate. However, the man who translated the Vulgate into Latin from the original Hebrew never intended that they should be so included. St. Jerome, the learned translator of the Vulgate, wrote an introduction in which he strongly and clearly expressed his belief that only the books that are today included in our Old Testament belonged in the Bible, and that the so-called Apocrypha are in no sense a portion of God's Word."

The Westminster Confession of Faith, which presents the views of the Presbyterian and Reformed churches, in a statement not designed to forbid reading of the books of the Apocrypha, but to differentiate between their proper and improper use, says:

"The books commonly called Apocryphal, not being of divine inspiration, are no part of the Canon of Scripture; and therefore are of no authority in the Church of God, nor to be otherwise approved, or made use of, than other human writings" (Ch. 1, sec. 3).

The Lutheran Church in Germany made no official pronouncement regarding the

Apocrypha, but in the Bible prepared by Martin Luther, which for centuries remained the standard Bible of the Lutheran churches at home and abroad, it was included but was printed at the end of the Old Testament and in smaller print, which was generally understood to mean that it was considered as of secondary importance as compared with the Old and New Testament.

The Church of England and the Episcopal Church in the United States do not accept the Apocrypha as fully canonical, but they do include some readings from those books in their church manual—which indicates that they assign those readings a position higher than they give to the good writings of outstanding church leaders and near equal authority with the Old and New Testament. The sixth of the Thirty-nine Articles calls the Apocryphal treatises books which “the Church doth read for example of life and instruction of manners; but yet doth it not apply them to establish any doctrine.”

The position of the Eastern Orthodox Church is not clear. It has debated the issue through its long history, but has made no final decision. In practice it has tended to accept the Apocrypha as authoritative, but it has not subjected itself to the rigid ecclesiastical control of doctrine as has the Roman Church, and the result is that some church fathers and theologians quote it authoritatively while others reject it. The Septuagint version of the Old Testament is still in use in the Eastern Orthodox Church.

The British and Foreign Bible Society, in 1827, ruled against including the Apocrypha in its Bibles, and the American Bible Society has followed that example. Nearly all Protestant churches today oppose the use of the Apocrypha.

There were also a considerable number of New Testament Apocryphal books which at times circulated among the Jews or the Christians or both. These were written during the period from the second to the eighth century, and were designed primarily to supplement, or in some instances to correct, the canonical books. Dr. Bruce M. Metzger, Professor of New Testament in Princeton Theological Seminary, says concerning these books:

“Because the four Gospels say little of Jesus’ infancy, childhood, and early manhood, and are silent altogether regarding His experiences during the three days in the tomb, several Apocryphal gospels were produced to satisfy the pious curiosity of Christians regarding these two periods of Jesus’ life. ... Still other gospels were written to support heretical doctrines, such as Docetism (the view that Jesus only seemed to be human) in the Gospel of the Egyptians, or to minimize the guilt of Pilate, such as the Gospel according to Peter and the Gospel of Nicodemus. ...

“The most cogent proof that these books are intrinsically on a different plane from the books of the New Testament is afforded by reading them side by side with the books of the New Testament and allowing each to make its own impression. Then, in the words of M. R. James, ‘it will very quickly be seen that there is no question of anyone’s having excluded them from the New Testament: they have done that for themselves.’ ... The authors did not hesitate to elaborate marvelous tales, and, in the credulous temper of that

age, almost anything was believed" (Introduction to the Apocrypha, pp. 249-250, 262- 263).

Some of the New Testament Apocryphal or pseudonymous books were: The General Epistle of Barnabas, First Epistle of Clement to the Corinthians, Second Epistle of Clement to the Corinthians, Apostolic Constitutions, First Book of Hermas, Second Book of Hermas, Third Book of Hermas, various epistles of Ignatius, the Gospel of the Infancy of the Savior, a mutilated and altered Gospel of John, and the Gospel of the Nativity of Mary.

These spurious writings, however, were never included in the Roman Catholic Bible. The Council of Trent evidently selected only books that would help them in their controversy with the Reformers, and none of these gave promise of doing that. Furthermore, these books are important, not as a reliable source of historical information about the age with which they purport to deal (that is, the first centuries of the Christian era), but because of what they reveal about the age in which they were produced, showing something of the legend, folklore, ignorance, and superstition so prevalent in that age in which many of the distinctive doctrines of the Roman Church have their roots. That such tales could have been believed shows the depth of the ignorance and superstition to which the people were accustomed.

## **5 The Vulgate and Modern Translations**

The official Bible of the Roman Catholic Church is the Latin translation of Jerome, called the *Vulgate* (meaning "common"). Jerome was commissioned by Bishop Damasus near the close of the fourth century to prepare a standard Latin version of the Bible, and his purpose was to put the Bible into the common language of the people in accurate, readable form. Had the Roman Catholic Church continued to promote the study of the Bible by the common people how different might have the course of church and world history! But unfortunately that course was reversed by later popes, the Bible was withheld from the people, and to a large extent even from the priests. Only in recent years has Rome given the Bible to the people in some countries, and then mostly because of Protestant pressure.

The church historian, A. M. Renwick, of Edinburgh, Scotland, in his book, *The Story of the Church*, says: "Jerome (340-420), one of the most interesting and picturesque figures in church history, was born in northern Dalmatia (now Yugoslavia). He produced the Latin Vulgate Version of the Bible, which, even today, is the only version recognized as authentic by the Roman Church. ... He spent thirty-four years at Bethlehem, where he lived mostly in a cave as a hermit and carried out his immense literary and scholarly labors" (p. 5).

The Roman Church seems to hold the Latin Vulgate translation of about A.D. 400, to be infallible. The Council of Trent decreed: "If any one receive not, as sacred and canonical, the said books entire with all their parts... as they are contained in the Old Latin Vulgate edition... let him be anathema!" The Vatican Council of 1870 (the council that set forth the doctrine of the infallibility of the pope) reaffirmed the declaration of the Council of Trent that "these books of the Old Testament and New Testament are to be received as sacred and canonical, in their integrity, with all their parts, as they

are enumerated in the decree of the said council, and are contained in the ancient Latin edition of the Vulgate," adding that "they contain revelation, with no admixture of error" (Chapter II).

In the year 1590 Sixtus V issued an edition of the Vulgate which he declared to be final, and prohibited under an anathema the publication of any new editions thereafter unless they should be exactly like that one. However, he died soon after, and scholars found numerous errors in his edition. Two years later a new edition was published under Pope Clement VIII, and that is the one in general use today. Clearly Sixtus V was in error—another example of the absurdity of that doctrine which holds that the pope is infallible in matters of faith and morals. This doctrine of the authority or infallibility of the Vulgate has caused Roman scholars much difficulty in recent years, because many errors have been pointed out and are now acknowledged by all scholars.

The Roman Catholic Douay version of the Bible (New Testament, 1582, and Old Testament, 1609) was made from the Latin Vulgate, as are the Roman Catholic translations into modern languages. The recent Confraternity version of the New Testament (1941) carries the notation "Translated from the Latin Vulgate." The inaccuracies of Jerome's Vulgate are legion, as measured by present day scholarship, and the text has not been revised for centuries. So even the best of present day Roman Catholic versions, according to the notation on its own flyleaf, is a translation of a translation—an English translation of a Latin translation of the original Greek.

Roman Catholics pride themselves on a long history. Yet how much more accurate are the Protestant translations of the Bible! Protestant scholars go back to the original Greek and Hebrew Scriptures, which are much older than the Vulgate to which Roman Catholics are bound, and they use all the aids that modern scholarship and research can provide. Yet the priests tell their people that it is a mortal sin to read a Protestant Bible, and they destroy Protestant Bibles wherever possible, allegedly on the grounds that they contain error! In 1957 a large stock of Bibles in Madrid, Spain, belonging to the British and Foreign Bible Society was seized and burned. Yet as Protestants we would not dream of destroying Roman Catholic Bibles. Rather we acknowledge that despite their limitations they are quite good translations, and that they contain God's truth in clear enough revelation to enlighten any who will read them in a sincere search for truth, that apart from their interpretative notes they are surprisingly like our King James and American Standard versions. After all, the most distinctive features of the Roman Catholic religion come not from their Bibles but from their traditions.

## **6 The Question of Authority**

We have said that the most controversial issue between Protestants and Roman Catholics is the question of authority—*What is the final seat of authority in religion?*—and that Protestants hold that the Bible alone is the final rule of faith and practice, while Roman Catholics hold that it is the Bible and tradition as interpreted by the church. In actual practice the Roman Church, since the infallibility decree of 1870, holds that the final seat of authority is the pope speaking for the church.

But we need only read church history to discover that when another source of authority is placed alongside Scripture as of equal importance, Scripture eventually becomes relegated to the background. Whether that other source be reason, emotion, or tradition, the inevitable result is that it supplants Scripture and causes it gradually to fade away. If that other source be reason, we get rationalism. If it be emotion, we get mysticism. And if it be tradition, we get ecclesiastical dictation or clericalism. In each case the Bible, while still given lip service, is effectually superseded.

At the time of the Protestant Reformation, Martin Luther took his stand solidly on the Bible and refused to be moved unless it could be shown that his teaching was contrary to the Bible. Summoned to appear before the Diet of Worms to give an account of his beliefs, the closing words of his masterful address were: "Here I take my stand; I can do no other; so help me, God." It could not be shown that his teaching was contrary to the Bible, and his position was unassailable.

The primary and almost immediate result of the Reformation was to bring the doctrines of Scripture clearly before men's minds as the Reformers based their teaching squarely on the Scriptures to the exclusion of all accumulated tradition. While the Church of Rome declared that "it belongs to the church to judge of the true sense of Scripture," the Reformers, both on the Continent and in England, declared that even lay people, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, can interpret Scripture by diligent and prayerful searching and reading.

It is true, of course, that the person who has not been born again, that is, the one who has not been the object of the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit and who therefore is not a Christian, is not able to understand spiritual truth. This too is clearly taught in Scripture: "Now the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him; and he cannot know them, because they are spiritually judged" (1 Corinthians 2:14). But every born again Christian has the gift of the Holy Spirit, and is therefore able to understand the basic essentials of what God has written. It is also true that many people, even among born again believers, differ on minor points. But that is because they have not read the Scriptures carefully enough and compared the various parts. The remedy for that is more devoted, patient, diligent Bible study. In any event there is no reference whatever in the Bible that even hints that God has delegated the interpretation of Scripture to any one individual or group of individuals.

If it be asked how the Church of Rome, which contains important elements of truth, has become honeycombed with paganism, how even a professedly Christian church has managed to build up a semi-pagan organization, the answer is that the illegitimate authority that Rome has given to uninspired tradition has produced the effect. That development had an almost exact parallel in the nation of Israel. Israel had the inspired prophets, but she preferred the pleasing and flattering teachings of the false prophets, and so developed a set of traditions which in time came to supplant the true teachings of the prophets. In the teachings and writings of the false prophets the rulers of the Jews found the things they wanted, just as the popes and bishops have found in the man-made traditions of their church things which appeal to their



selfish and prideful natures and which gave them what they wanted under the cover of religion. A study of religious errors will show that they have this common characteristic—they consist either of additions to Scripture, or of subtractions from Scripture, or perhaps a mixture of the two.

We do not deny, of course, the statement of the Romanists that much of what Jesus said and did is not recorded in the Gospels. John says plainly: "Many other signs therefore did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: but these things are written that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye may have life in his name" (20:30-31). But we do maintain that that which is written is sufficient. It is Protestant doctrine that the Bible contains all that is necessary to salvation, and no other writings or church pronouncements are to be regarded as having divine authority.

Numerous references set forth the sufficiency of Scripture. Nowhere do we find even a hint that these need to be supplemented by church councils or papal decrees of any kind. Some of these are as follows:

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no morning for them" (or as the King James Version says, "it is because there is no light in them") (Isaiah 8:20).

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:18).

"Ye search the scriptures, because ye think that in them ye have eternal life; and these are they which bear witness of me" (John 5:39).

Our Lord proclaimed the infallibility of Scripture, for He said: "The scriptures cannot be broken" (John 10:35).

The brothers of the rich man had sufficient evidence because, said Jesus, "They have Moses and the prophets" (Luke 16:29).

Jesus' rebuke to the Sadducees was, "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures" (Matthew 22:29).

When Jesus reasoned with His disciples after His resurrection in regard to the purpose and necessity of His death, we are told: "And beginning from Moses and from all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself" (Luke 24:27).

Peter wrote: "And we have the word of prophecy made more sure; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a lamp shining in a dark place. ... For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but men from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:19,21).

James quoted Scripture in the Council of Jerusalem to settle the question that was at issue (Acts 15:16-18).

Paul repeatedly appealed to Scripture, as when he asks: "For what saith the

scripture?" (Romans 4:3). And to Timothy he wrote: "From a babe thou hast known the sacred writings which are able to make thee whole unto salvation" (2 Timothy 3:15).

The diligence of the Bereans in testing all things by Scripture is commended: "Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, examining the scriptures daily, whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11). The Scriptures which the Bereans had were the Old Testament. They compared Paul's teachings about Jesus with what the Old Testament had predicted. They were not theologians or scholars, but ordinary religious people, and yet the writer of the book of Acts (Luke) implies that by comparing the teachings of the great Apostle Paul with Scripture they were able to determine whether he was right or wrong.

And the book of Revelation pronounces a blessing on both the reader and those who hear: "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of the prophecy, and keep the things that are written therein: for the time is at hand" (1:3).

Thus the sufficiency of Scripture is everywhere assumed. In all these cases our Lord and the New Testament writers referred to Scripture as clear, authoritative, and final. Never once did they say or imply that extra-Scriptural tradition was needed to supplement Scripture, or that any man or group of men was authorized to give authoritative interpretations of Scripture.

## **7 Tradition Condemned by the Scriptures**

In New Testament times the Jews had a great body of tradition, the accumulation of centuries, which they gave precedence over Scripture. But Jesus never mentioned tradition except to condemn it and to warn against it. He rebuked the Pharisees with these words: "Ye leave the commandment of God, and hold fast the tradition of men. ... Ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your tradition... making void the word of God by your tradition" (Mark 7:8,9,13). "And he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition. ... Ye have made void the word of God because of your tradition. ... But in vain do they worship me, teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men" (Matthew 15:3,6,9).

Thus our Lord rebuked the Pharisees for doing precisely what the Church of Rome does today, for substituting a body of human teachings and making it equal to or even superior to the Word of God.

Early in the Old Testament Moses warned against this same danger: "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish from it, that ye may keep the commandments of Jehovah your God which I command you" (Deuteronomy 4:2). Paul gave a clear warning against the use of tradition: "Take heed lest there shall be any one that maketh spoil of you through his philosophy and with deceit, after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ" (Colossians 2:8). And John, in the final book of the New Testament set forth the severe penalty for adding to or taking away from the Word of God: "I testify unto every man that heareth the

words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto them, God shall add unto him the plagues which are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life, out of the holy city, which are written in this book" (Revelation 22:18-19).

In the Roman Church of today we have a perfect illustration of the attitude which characterized the Pharisees and scribes, who substituted a body of human teachings and made them equal to or even superior to the Word of God. In Jesus' day traditionalism had become so perverse and powerful that it finally crucified Him. Religion was so blinded by its own distortions of the Word of God that it took the cross to expose it and upset it and to reveal the truth once more. In a similar way the Church of Rome is following a set of traditions that she has accumulated through the centuries, which by her own pronouncements she has elevated to equal authority with, or even to superiority over the Word of God. Her purpose, of course, is to justify doctrines and practices which have no basis in Scripture, or which are in violation of Scripture commands.

In order for Rome to defend her use of tradition, which admittedly came into use long after the New Testament was completed, it was necessary for her to assert that the authority of the church is superior to that of the Scriptures. Protestantism holds that the Scriptures are the infallible rule of faith and practice, and that the church as an institution and all believers must be governed by that authority. The Church of Rome, on the other hand, holds that she is the supreme authority in matters of faith and practice. She even attempts to say that the Roman Catholic Church produced the Bible, and that the pope as the vicar of Christ on earth has the right to legislate for the church. But such claims are absurd, because the New Testament was completed in the first century of the Christian era while the Roman Catholic Church with its distinctive features and its separate existence did not come into being until about four centuries later. Furthermore, the sin and corruption that have characterized the Roman Church, particularly during the Middle Ages when so many of her doctrines and practices originated, is proof that she is in no sense superior to the Bible but quite the contrary. But because of that teaching, the average Roman Catholic may not be particularly impressed when it is pointed out to him that the doctrines of purgatory, the mass, indulgences, penance, the use of images, etc., are not in Bible or even that they are contrary to the Bible. He believes these things, not because he has Scriptural authority for them, but because the church teaches them. This again shows how pernicious can be the use of tradition.

The reason that the Jews had departed from their Scriptures was that they accepted tradition and the decisions of their councils as their guide of faith. The Roman Church has made the same mistake. She, too, has compromised the truth of the Bible in order to follow tradition. When she began putting herself on a par with Scripture she found it impossible to stop there. The next step was to place herself above Scripture, and she has assumed that position ever since.

## 8 The Protestant Attitude toward the Bible

The first complete English Bible was translated by John Wycliffe, "the morning star of the Reformation," about 1382. Before his time there was no Bible in English, although a few fragmentary portions had been translated. Wycliffe knew only the Latin Bible, so his version, like the Roman Catholic versions even to the present day, was a translation of a translation. The first English New Testament translated from the original Greek was that of William Tyndale, in 1525-26. That work was made possible through the publication of the Greek New Testament by Erasmus a few years earlier. But since the church authorities in England (Henry VIII was king and also the head of the church) did not want the people to have the Bible in their own language, Tyndale was forbidden to carry on his work in England. He went instead to Germany, where the work of Luther had provided a hospitable environment for such a venture. His work was completed and published in the city of Worms, in 1526. However, it was condemned by the English government, and in order to gain entrance into England had to be smuggled in a few copies at a time.

But Tyndale eventually paid with his life for his devotion to the Bible. Having taken up residence in Antwerp, Belgium, opposition to his work began and continued until he was arrested and condemned. In 1536 he was put to death by strangling and his body was burned. His dying words were, "O God, open the king of England's eyes." That prayer was answered, and God opened the eyes of Henry VIII. In 1536 there appeared the Miles Coverdale version of the Bible, which also was published outside England, but which circulated with considerable freedom in England. And in 1539 the second edition was published in England and circulated freely. Coverdale was the friend and colleague of Tyndale, and the translation was largely Tyndale's.

The next important translation was the Geneva Bible, translated during the reign of Roman Catholic Queen Mary Tudor by a group of English scholars, exiles in Geneva, Switzerland, hence its name. This became the Bible of the intrepid John Knox and of the early Puritans. It seems to have been the Bible used by Shakespeare. The next important translation was the King James version, published in 1611. This was the Bible usually used by Cromwell's army and the Scottish Covenanters, also used by John Bunyan. It was brought to this country by the Pilgrims and Puritans. To this day it continues to be the most popular of all English versions.

Up until the time of the Reformation the Bible had been a book for priests only. It was written in Latin, and the Roman Church refused to allow it to be translated into the languages of the common people. But when the Reformers came on the scene all of that was changed. Luther translated the entire Bible into German for the people of his native land, and within 25 years of its appearance one hundred editions of the German Bible came off the press. It was also soon translated into most of the vernacular tongues of Europe, and wherever the light of the Reformation went it became the book of the common people. Decrees of popes and church councils gave way to the Word of Life. The Protestant churches of Europe and America have labored earnestly to put the Bible into the hands of the people in their own languages and have urged

the people everywhere to read it for themselves. Protestant Bible societies now circulate more copies of the Bible each year than were circulated in the fifteen centuries that preceded the Reformation.

According to the 1983 report of the American Bible Society, about 2,000,000 copies of the complete Bible, Old and New Testaments, are printed in the United States each year, and more than 3,000,000 copies of the New Testament, and many millions of portions of the Bible (at least one book, usually one of the Gospels) are printed each year. And the 1984 report says that the complete Bible is now available in 286 languages and dialects, the New Testament in 594 more, and some portion of the Bible in 928 more, making a total of 1,808 languages and dialects into which the Bible or some part of it has been translated. Today the Bible is available in whole or in part in the native tongues of probably 96 percent of the people of the world.

Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr, late Presbyterian minister in Pittsburgh, has well said:

“Protestants have been the pioneers in Bible translation and have organized and supported the great world-encircling Bible societies. They believe that the Bible needs no other interpreter than the Holy Spirit. The Bible read under the guidance of the Holy Spirit is the Christian’s authoritative guide. Protestants therefore claim that they truly represent and interpret Christianity as it is set forth in the Bible. They hold that anyone who will read the Bible prayerfully, with the aid of the best scholarship, will reach the conclusion that Protestantism honestly interprets the teachings and confirms the practice of early Christianity” (booklet, *What Protestants Believe*, p. 8).

And another says:

“The fact is, the Bible was written for the common people. The language of the Old Testament was the language spoken in the homes and market places of the Hebrews. The New Testament Greek was not the classical Greek of an earlier period but the Greek spoken by the common people. It was called the *koine*, which means the common language, what we would call today ‘newspaper language.’ This shows that God intended the common people to understand the Bible. Any man with ordinary intelligence and able to read English can read and learn that Jesus is the Saviour of sinners” (Edward J. Tunis, booklet, *What Rome Teaches*, p. 9).

The Protestant ideal is that everyone should read the Bible. Right here, we believe, is the reason that the Protestant nations—the United States, England, Scotland, Holland, and the Scandinavian nations—have followed one line of development, while the Roman Catholic nations—Italy, Spain, France, and the Latin American nations—have followed a distinctly different pattern. Protestants believe that those who study the Bible in sincerity and with prayer will have no difficulty in understanding its basic truths. The words of Jesus, previously quoted, imply that the common people should know the Bible and that they are able to understand it.

It is virtually axiomatic that where there is an open Bible, men will not

long remain in bondage. But by the same token where the Bible is a closed book, men soon find themselves in darkness and servitude. Everywhere it has been the precursor of civilization and liberty, driving out barbarity and despotism as bats and vermin flee from the sunshine. In every land where its free and unrestrained reading has been encouraged, it has dispelled ignorance and superstition.

## **9 The Roman Catholic Attitude toward the Bible**

In contrast with the Protestant attitude toward the Bible, the Roman Church has traditionally opposed its free use by the people. Even today in the predominantly Roman Catholic countries, it keeps the Bible from the people, or at least makes no effort to provide it for them. The result is that the people in those countries know practically nothing about the Bible except as some Protestant organizations have gone in and distributed copies. In countries where the Roman Church is in keen competition with Protestantism it has allowed the people to have the Bible if there is a demand for it, but it has always insisted strenuously that the version must be the Douay, or more recently the Confraternity, each of which contains a set of notes printed on the same page with the text and giving the Roman Catholic interpretation of disputed passages. Even to this day any other version, even the Bible as such without note or comment, is suspect. The alleged reason is that these versions contain "errors." But the real reason is that the Church of Rome does not want the Bible read apart from her interpretative notes.

The Bible was first officially forbidden to the people by the Church of Rome and placed on the *Index of Forbidden Books* by the Council of Valencia (a cathedral city in southeastern Spain) in the year 1229, with the following decree:

"We prohibit also the permitting of the laity to have the books of the Old and New Testament, unless any one should wish, from a feeling of devotion, to have a psalter or breviary for divine service, or the hours of the blessed Mary. But we strictly forbid them to have the above mentioned books in the vulgar tongue."

Here we see that the Bible was forbidden to the laity, except for the Psalms or breviary (book of devotions), and even then it could be only in Latin—which of course placed it beyond the reach of the common people. That decree was passed at the time the Waldensians were gaining strength, and it was enforced with bitter persecution.

The Council of Trent reaffirmed that decree and prohibited the use of the Scriptures by any member of the church unless he obtained permission from his superior. The decree read as follows:

"In as much as it is manifest, from experience, that if the Holy Bible, translated into the vulgar tongue, be indiscriminately allowed to everyone, the temerity of men will cause more evil than good to arise from it; it is, on this point, referred to the judgment of the bishops, or inquisitors, who may, by the advice of the priest or confessor, permit the reading of the Bible translated into the vulgar tongue by Catholic authors, to those persons

whose faith and piety, they apprehend, will be augmented, and not injured by it; and this permission they must have in writing."

To this decree, as to more than a hundred others passed by this council, was attached an anathema against anyone who should dare to violate it, and also penalties were fixed against the illegal possessor or seller of books. Here we observe particularly the statement that the reading of the Bible in the native tongue will do "more evil than good"! Imagine that, as the deliberate teaching of a church professing to be Christian! How insulting to God is such teaching, that His Word as read by the people will do more evil than good! That attitude toward the Word of God is the mark, not of a true church, but of a false church.

While it has been the policy of the Roman Church to withhold the Bible from the people, Peter, the alleged founder of that church, refers to Scripture as "the word of prophecy made more sure," and likens it to "a lamp shining in a dark place" (2 Peter 1:19). What a blessing it would be to the world if the Roman Church would really follow the teaching of Peter!

Early in the history of Israel God instructed Moses to make the words of the law known and easily accessible to all the people: "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and thou shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest in the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. ... And thou shalt write them upon the door-posts of thy house, and upon thy gates" (Deuteronomy 6:7-9). Another verse which expresses the preciousness of Scripture and its importance to the individual is Psalm 119:11: "Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee."

Even where permission to read the Bible is granted by the Council of Trent, to those who presumably are so thoroughly indoctrinated with Roman Catholicism that nothing will shake their faith, that permission must be in writing!

Liguori, one of the highest authorities on Canon Law, whose books probably are considered more authoritative and probably are quoted more often than those of any other writer, says: "The Scriptures and books of Controversy may not be permitted in the vulgar tongue, as also they cannot be read without permission."

Four different popes during the eighteenth century made pronouncements against giving the Bible to the people in their own language, typical of which was that of Clement XI (1713) in the Bull Unigenitus: "We strictly forbid them (the laity) to have the books of the Old and New Testament in the vulgar tongue." As for the Encyclical of Leo XIII (1893) on "The Study of the Bible," sometimes quoted by Roman Catholics as a statement urging the laity to study the Bible, it should be observed that (1) the Bible which was cited for study was the Latin Vulgate, which of course was not available to the common people nor understood by them; (2) the statement forbade them to interpret it otherwise than as the church interpreted it; and (3) it did not rescind or modify the prior law of the church which refused the free use of the Scriptures to the laity.

Such was the teaching and practice of the Roman Church for centuries. For one to possess or read the Bible in his native tongue without permission in writing from his superior and under the watchful eye of the bishop was a mortal sin, for which absolution could not be granted until the book was delivered to the priest. As the top-heavy structure of law and ritual developed, the Bible had to be denied to the people. Otherwise they would have seen that it was merely a man-made structure. On the other hand, the Bible had to be preserved as a reference book for the theologians and priests in order to sustain the power of the priesthood by plausible and elastic interpretations of certain texts. But so far as the people were concerned it might as well have been forgotten. Small wonder it is that ignorance, superstition, poverty, and low moral conditions have been so characteristic of Roman Catholic countries.

In Protestant countries, however, in recent years a considerable change has taken place in Roman Catholic practice, and, shamed into a different attitude because of Protestant criticism, the Roman Church now grants her people the privilege of reading the Bible, and even stocks it in the book stores—using, of course, only the approved versions. The Roman Church does not wish to appear to be the foe of the Bible, so indefensible is that position. An annual “Catholic Bible Week” has been instituted, and indulgences granted for reading the Bible at least fifteen minutes each day. But this appears to be an unnatural emphasis, by no means given with a clear conscience permitted but not looked upon favorably by the authorities in Rome. Significantly, no similar program of Bible reading has been instituted in the predominantly Roman Catholic countries. Only in Protestant countries, and primarily in the United States, is this policy followed. And it certainly comes very late in the long, long history of the Roman Church. One can easily guess what the result would be if for some reason the Protestant influence were removed.

Unfortunately, it still is a mortal sin for a Roman Catholic anywhere to read the King James, American Standard, Revised Standard, or any other Protestant version. So, even the Bible as such remains on the Index of Forbidden Books!<sup>1</sup> It is made fit for a Roman Catholic to read only when it is annotated by an authorized theologian! What St. Paul wrote, if it stands by itself, is on the Index. What was written by St. Peter himself, who according to Roman Catholic tradition was the first pope, is on the Index unless some Roman Catholic annotates his writing. Yet the Roman Church does not claim infallibility for the theologian who annotates it! So here we have the very height of absurdity—it takes the work of a theologian who is not infallible to correct and edit and make lawful and orthodox the text of those who wrote by divine inspiration! The attitude of the Roman Church toward the Bible societies has been one of sustained opposition. Several acts of the popes have been directed exclusively against them. In 1824 Pope Leo XII, in an encyclical letter said: “You are aware, venerable brethren, that a certain society called the Bible society strolls with effrontery throughout the world, which society, contrary to the well-known decree of the Council of Trent, labors with all its might and by every means to translate—or rather to pervert—the Scriptures into the vulgar tongue of every nation. ... We, in conformity with our apostolic duty, exhort you to turn away your flock by all means from these poisonous pastures.” In 1844 Pope Gregory XVI again condemned these



societies, and Pope Pius IX, author of the decree of papal infallibility, who died in 1878, denounced "these cunning and infamous societies, which call themselves Bible societies, and give the Scriptures to inexperienced youth."

<sup>1</sup> Technically the Index was dropped in 1965, but general supervision over books allowed continues through the newly established magazine supervision Nuntius (Herald). The imprimatur remains in force, and gives another effective means of control. Since the Second Vatican Council, restrictions against other versions have been relaxed to some extent.

But in reality who can estimate the vast good that these noble organizations and their faithful colporteurs have brought to the nations of the world? Most prominent among these have been the British and Foreign Bible Society, the American Bible Society, the Bible Society of Scotland, and that of the Netherlands, which have translated the Scriptures into hundreds of languages and dialects, and which now circulate millions of copies of the Bible every year. Many times Bibles have been publicly burned by the priests. That the real attitude of the Vatican toward the Bible has not changed is shown by the fact that in 1957 the depot of the British and Foreign Bible Society in Madrid, Spain, was closed and its stock of Bibles confiscated and burned. After the Spanish civil war, which brought Franco and the Roman Catholic Church to power, Spanish children returning from hospitable Swiss families with Bibles in their pockets were forced at the Spanish frontier to hand those precious books over to the local priest. Time and again in Colombia during the past ten years Bibles have been taken from Protestants by fanatical Romanist groups and burned, almost always at the instigation of the local priests, usually in communities where new Protestant churches were being formed. The fact remains that only in those countries where Protestantism is dominant does the Bible circulate freely. Think of the popes, who profess to be God's representatives on earth, forbidding their people and all others to read God's own Book of Life! Surely the Church of Rome by such action proves itself apostate and false.

So, for a thousand years, from the early sixth century to the sixteenth century, while the Roman Church held sway, the Bible remained a closed book. The Roman Church, instead of being a kingdom of light, became a kingdom of darkness, promoting ignorance and superstition and holding the people in bondage. In most Roman Catholic countries today the Bible remains a closed book. Only since the time of the Protestant Reformation has it circulated freely in any country.

Among evangelical Christians in the United States there are thousands of classes studying the Bible. But among Roman Catholics such groups are very rare. Even a brief discussion with Roman Catholics will reveal that they know very little about the doctrines or the history of their church, and that they know almost nothing at all about the Bible.

Rome's traditional policy of seeking to limit the circulation of the Bible and of anathematizing or destroying all copies that are not annotated with her distinctive doctrines shows that she is really afraid of it. She is opposed to it because it is opposed to her. The plain fact is that she cannot hold her people when they become spiritually enlightened and discover that

her distinctive doctrines are merely man-made inventions.

A curious fact in regard to the Index of Forbidden Books is that the Roman Church permits the reading of some books by ecclesiastical writers outside her fold when those books contain nothing contrary to her doctrines. Even some heathen books are allowed to adults, because of their "elegance and propriety." But not the Bible—unless it carries her interpretation! The traditional attitude of the Roman Catholic Church toward the promotion and study of the Bible has been, we believe, the greatest spiritual and cultural tragedy since the influx of the pagans into the church in the fourth century.

## **10 Interpreting the Bible**

While the Roman Catholic people in the United States have access to the Bible, they are told that they cannot understand it and that it must be interpreted for them by the church speaking through the priest. People ordinarily do not waste their time reading a book that they are persuaded they cannot understand.

The priests in turn are pledged not to interpret the Bible for themselves, but only as the church interprets it, and according to "the unanimous consent of the fathers." But the church has never issued an official commentary giving that interpretation. And as we have pointed out earlier, the unanimous consent of the fathers is purely a myth, for there is scarcely a point of doctrine on which they do not differ. The doctrine of the immaculate conception, for instance, was denied by Anselm, Bonaventura, and Thomas Aquinas, three of the greatest Roman theologians. Yet Rome presumes to teach that Mary was born without sin, and that that is the unanimous teaching of the fathers.

In their insistence on following an official interpretation, the Roman Catholics are pursuing a course similar to that of the Christian Scientists, who also have the Bible but insist that it must be interpreted by Mary Baker Eddy's book, *Science and Health, with Key to the Scriptures*, and that of the Mormons, who likewise have the Bible but interpret it by the *Book of Mormon*.

The practical result of the priests and people being told that they cannot interpret the Bible for themselves is that they read it but very little. Why should they? They cannot understand it. They may read a few pages here and there, but even among the priests there is scarcely one in twenty who reads it from beginning to end and really studies it. Instead the priests spend hours reading their breviaries, books of daily devotions and prayers, as required by their church, but which are of human origin. This practice of representing the Bible as a mysterious book is a part of Rome's over-all program of presenting Christianity as a mystery religion, in which the mass in particular as well as various other practices are set forth as mysteries which are not to be understood but which are to be accepted with implicit faith.

The priests and the people alike look upon the Bible as a mysterious book, and anyway the interpretation is given to them in pope's decrees and church council pronouncements, which are declared to be clearer and more easily

understood. Furthermore, these latter supersede Scripture. Experience proves that whenever an interpretation becomes more important than a document, the document becomes buried and the interpretation alone survives. For this reason the average Roman Catholic is faithful to his church but neglects his Bible. Instead of following the teachings of God the priests and people follow the traditions of men.

A fraudulent claim recently put forth by the Knights of Columbus in a series of newspaper and magazine ads designed to appeal to Protestants and others is that the Roman Catholic Church produced the Bible and that we received it from her. Some of her spokesmen attempt to say that the canon of the Bible was established in the fourth century, by the pope and council of Carthage, in A.D. 397. But that statement is erroneous on two counts. In the first place, there was no pope as such in A.D. 397. It was not until the Council of Chalcedon, in 451, that the bishop of Rome was designated pope, and the authority of the bishop of Rome never has been acknowledged by the Eastern churches. Previous to that time all priests and bishops were called popes (Latin, papa), and in the Eastern churches that title is applied to ordinary priests even to the present day. The Council of Chalcedon attempted to restrict the title exclusively to the bishop of Rome, who at that time was Leo I, and conferred it posthumously on all previous bishops of Rome in order to make it appear that an unbroken succession of popes had proceeded from Peter.

And in the second place, the New Testament was produced during the first century of the Christian era and had assumed its present form centuries before the Roman Catholic Church developed its distinctive characteristics. At that time the Eastern churches were dominant in Christian affairs, and the Church in Rome was relatively insignificant. Gregory I, called Gregory the Great, who was consecrated pope in 590 and died in 604, was in effect the founder of the papal system. He reorganized the church, revised the ritual, restored monastic discipline, attempted to enforce celibacy among the clergy, and extended the authority of the Roman Church into many countries adjacent to Italy. He more than anyone else gave the Roman Church its distinctive form and set the course that it was to follow in its later history.

Furthermore, long before the Council of Carthage, the particular books now found in the New Testament, and only those, had come to be looked upon by the church at large as the inspired and infallible Word of God on the basis of their genuineness and authority. These particular writings, in distinction from all other books of that age, manifest within themselves this genuineness and authority as we read them; and the Council of Carthage did not so much choose the books that were to be accepted in the New Testament, but rather placed its stamp of approval on the selection that by that time, under the providential control of the Holy Spirit, had come to be looked upon by the church as the New Testament canon. The Old Testament canon was completed and had assumed its present form long before the coming of Christ. The Roman Church, of course, had nothing whatever to do with that.

(Continued in [Chapter V Peter](#).)

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## [Roman Catholicism By Lorraine Boettner Chapter III The Priesthood](#)



There is no priesthood in the New Testament. Christ is our priest, not a man on the earth. Hebrews 3:1b “...consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;”

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## [The Character of Antichrist and Papal Persecution of the Saints](#)



Futurists overlook the fact that the Antichrist is not to be an open and avowed antagonist of Christ, but one professing to be a Vice Christ, a rival Christ; one who would assume the character, occupy in the human heart the place, and fulfill the functions of Christ.

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## [Is the Prophecy of Matthew 24:29-31 a Future Endtime Event?](#)



Alternative non-dispensational interpretations of Matthew 24:29-31 based on the historical views of Protestant Reformation Bible teachers and pastors.

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## [Five Things to Watch for in 2024](#)



This article is a partial transcription of an audio on Christian J. Pinto's [Noise of Thunder Radio program](#).

My wife and I like to listen to Chris Pinto. He's a solid Bible-believing Christian, a former Catholic like we were who is very knowledgeable about the Counter-Reformation and the evil-doings of the Jesuit Order. However, we don't agree with him about his support of Israel in the latest Israeli-Hamas war in Gaza. Of course, any nation has a right to defend itself, but the way Israel is bombing Gaza indiscriminately, bombing hospitals and churches, killing media personnel, women and children, is not what I would call "self-defense." I would call it war crimes, ethnic cleansing and genocide. According to the testimonials of former IDF soldiers, the IDF purposely left that part of the border with Gaza unguarded so that Hamas would invade and do what they did so Israel could have the excuse to do what they are doing now!

In Chris Pinto's 2004 documentary, Megiddo – The March to Armageddon (Adullam Films), he stated that the 1948 restoration of the State of Israel was the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. I sure don't agree with him on that. All the prophecies of the restoration of Israel back to their homeland in the book of Ezekiel were fulfilled by King Cyrus telling the Jews they could return to their homeland if they wanted to. By the time of Christ, they were firmly settled back in the land God formerly gave them. In the documentary, I heard one Zionist preacher say, "If Israel is defeated by her enemies, you can throw your Bibles away!" Such a presumptuous and arrogant statement! It's outrageous for any Christian to say that! What people should say when things don't go the way they think the Bible says is: "My interpretation of Scripture must therefore be wrong! Does the Bible actually teach that doctrine? Or did I get it from some dispensational Christian Zionist preacher who got it from the Dallas Theological Seminary that got it from C.I. Scofield who got it from John Nelson Darby who got it from Edward Irving who got it from Jesuit Manuel Lacunza, a Roman Catholic who worked to undermine the Protestant Reformation? Yep, that's where I got it from, not from the inerrant Word of God."

All that being said, we like Chris Pinto's take on everything else.

## Transcript

Okay, praise the Lord you guys and welcome. I'm Chris Pinto. This is Noise of Thunder Radio.

Today on the show we are going to talk about five things to watch for in 2024. If you are an American, if you're a member of Western civilization, and I would argue if you are a God-fearing Bible-believing Christian, these are things you should watch for in 2024.

Now, why do I think this is important? Well, I think it's very important because society and the Western world and our country, the United States of America, if people are not aware of the danger, the rising danger that we are in the middle of right now, then you're just not paying attention, whoever you are, you're not paying attention. And it's why we have to pay attention to things like what happened to the countries of Western Europe during World War II.

I've mentioned on this program before, that one of my favorite foreign films is called KATYN, about the Katyn Forest Massacre based on actual events. It was a history I grew up hearing about from my grandfather Ziggy, Zygmunt Zadarowski, who I've talked about on the program before, who was a World War II veteran. His country, Poland, was turned upside down, practically overnight. There was a peace treaty declared by Hitler with Neville Chamberlain and so on. And so everybody's declaring, "Hey, we're all going to be at peace. Everything's going to be great!"

And then the invasion of Poland happened sometime afterward. And Poland, the people of Poland, were turned upside down overnight. And when you watch the beginning of that film, Katyn, you just watched the first five or ten minutes of it. And you've got all these civilians wearing ordinary clothing, just running. And they're carrying suitcases and bags, and they've got their young children. And why? Because their country's been invaded by the Nazis on one side and by the Communists on the other, the Soviets. And everything changed very, very quickly.

There's another film that was done not long ago by Angelina Jolie, called "First They Killed My Father" about the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. I would recommend watching the first 15 minutes of that film because you see a family there at the beginning. And again, this is all based on a true story, based on a book written by a woman who was a young girl when all of this happened to her country. At the very beginning, you see a Cambodian family, but they are very Westernized. That's obvious that they were Westernized because of the way that they dress, the things that they're doing are very much like what goes on in the West. And then what happens is very rapidly, suddenly, everything changes. These guys with guns come riding in, and they're having a celebration briefly, and then right after them comes the Khmer Rouge, the Communists. And they were there, of course, for the killing fields of Cambodia. But everything changes in a moment. Everything's turned upside down. And they're told, pack your bags, get your things. Everybody's got to clear out of the city in 10 minutes. I mean, it's very fast.

And you see it at the very beginning when the Khmer Rouge come in, one of the first things they do is gather everybody's guns. Everybody's firearms. They disarm everybody. And of course, you're wondering as an American, if you're an American, you're watching this happen and you're thinking, "Why didn't anybody resist these guys? Why didn't anybody try to fight back or whatever?" But for whatever reason, they did not. They allowed themselves to be disarmed. They allowed themselves to be rounded up and then taken on a forced march and everything went downhill from that point onward.

So what's happening in our country right now with things like this massive

flood of illegals coming into our country? I mean, this is unheard of. It's unprecedented. What's happening? We've never had anything like this happen in our history, where there's a massive flood of illegal criminals jumping the border. Meanwhile, we've got politicians like Nikki Haley, who claims she's some kind of Republican and some kind of a patriot, but she's saying it's wrong to call them criminals because supposedly they're just coming here for a better life. That is what we're told, even though the guys that work down there will tell you in a hot minute that most of those coming across the border are fighting-age men. They're not necessarily women and children. Very, very few women and children, mostly fighting-age men, and thousands, who knows how many thousands, of Islamic jihadi are crossing the border.

All right, so these are not in any particular order. The five things to watch for in 2024.

## **Number 1: The After effects of illegal immigration**

But since we've already introduced the idea, I'm going to say number one is the aftereffects of illegal immigration. And it's already started. We've been hearing stories, but here's one of the latest. This is published on a number of different websites. I'm just going to read a few lines from the Geller report, Pamela Geller's website, where it says New York City students are forced to go remote as the city houses migrants in schools. So in New York City, they are now putting the kids out of their public schools. Kids can't go in the schools now because they are making room for the illegal immigrants. We've already heard stories about them doing this at the hotels. People can't check into the hotel because they're putting all these illegal migrants into the hotels. The government is doing it at taxpayer expense.

All right, so here's just a part of this story.

Quote, "Students at a Brooklyn high school were kicked out of the classroom to make room for nearly 2000 migrants who were evacuated from a controversial tent shelter due to a monster storm closing in on the Big Apple."

And then you've got people complaining about it. People are saying things like, "They're not vetted. A lot of them have criminal records and backgrounds and we don't even know." The people in New York are obviously very concerned about this. And this is going to reach a breaking point at some point. I think New Yorkers are going to decide that they've had enough.

This massive inflow of illegals is just going to make things worse. And we've got repeated warnings from people who work on the border, people like Doug Thornton, who I interviewed, many of you heard that interview. If you haven't heard it go to our website at [noiseofthunderradio.com](http://noiseofthunderradio.com) and look in the archives back a couple of shows and you can listen to it. Very, very important interview. But they've been warning that there will likely be another 9-11 type event. This is what the guys down on the border are saying, the guys who I think are loyal patriots. They're warning because they're watching thousands upon thousands of illegals who are coming from the Middle East, who are Muslims, who are Islamists, rushing into our country, unvetted. And they believe that these guys have an agenda. It's just a matter of time.



That's why it is important to pay attention to, at a variety of levels, the aftereffects of illegal immigration.

Now, I want to play very quickly and then we're going to move on to the number two issue. Right now we're talking about illegal immigration. I want to play this audio. This is from Joe Biden. This is Joe Biden even before he became president, before he was installed in the White House, talking about the massive flood of immigrants into our country. Listen.

"Folks like me who were Caucasian of European descent, for the first time in 2017 will be an absolute minority in the United States of America. Absolute minority. Fewer than 50% of the people in America from then on will be white European stock. That's not a bad thing. That's a source of our strength."

So that again was a video featuring Joe Biden. This is back when Biden was vice president. This was in 2015. It's a C-SPAN video.

And sitting right next to Biden, of course, is another Jesuit, Mayorkas. If you don't know that Mayorkas is a Jesuit, yes, he is also a Jesuit. And what they're doing is we're going to show you in our new film, American Jesuits, which yes, folks, we are still pushing and working to get this project completed. But the information is so important. It is impacting what is going on in our country right now. This massive flood of immigrants into our country. This is part of the Vatican's plan has been for more than a hundred years. And we're going to show it to you. And it's happening right now. We're sitting here watching the fulfillment of what we were warned about back in the 1800s.

## **Number 2: The rise of Islam in Europe and North America**

Number two, we're going to say the rise of Islam in Europe and North America. And this, I think, is a very good segue because Islam and immigration, both legal and illegal immigration into the West, is something that is becoming an increasing problem.

I want to play now some audio. This is from FBI director Christopher Ray. Christopher Ray, let's go to the person who's seen as the senior source in our government on this. And this is Christopher Ray with the FBI warning about the potential for Islamic terror attacks on American soil. Listen.

"The reality is that the terrorism threat has been elevated throughout 2023, but the ongoing war in the Middle East has raised the threat of an attack against Americans in the United States to a whole other level. But it's not just Hamas. As the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism, the Iranians, for instance, have directly or by hiring criminals mounted assassination attempts against dissidents and high-ranking current and former U.S. government officials, including right here on American soil, the cyber targeting of American interests and critical infrastructure that we already see conducted by Iran and non-state actors alike, we can expect to get worse if the conflict expands as will the threat of kinetic attacks.

Al-Qaeda issued its most specific call to attack the United States in the

last five years. ISIS urged its followers to target Jewish communities in the United States and Europe. Hezbollah has publicly expressed its support for Hamas and threatened to attack U.S. interests in the Middle East. Here in the United States, our most immediate concern is that violent extremists, individuals or small groups will draw inspiration from the events in the Middle East to carry out attacks against Americans going about their daily lives."

All right, so again, that is and was Christopher Ray, director of the FBI. So that's about as official as a warning can get. But of course, that warning does not really come from him. It does. But it's something that loyal American patriots who are boots on the ground, who were eyes and ears down at the Mexican border and have been down there for years, this is something they've been warning about for years.

So that is certainly an important issue. The rise of Islam in Europe and North America. Now that's really a warning for North America and the United States in particular.

(Station break)

The documentary film, American Jesuits, is going to be very, very powerful, especially for people who know nothing about the Jesuits, they'll be able to have a very solid understanding of why the order is a danger both past and present. Because we bring things current. We bring things so current. And I'm going to talk more about this, but Vivek Ramaswami, we've just learned Ramaswami is a Jesuit. But yes, he's Jesuit-educated. And we'll talk more about that as the show goes on. But anyway, we are going to show people why this is an important issue, why the Jesuits and the counter-reformation are important in our world today and why we as Christians living in America need to harken to the warnings from scripture, of wolves and sheep's clothing, and two, the many, many warnings of our ancestors for the past 200 years warning us about the Society of Jesus, the so-called Society of Jesus, the Jesuit order.

Okay, so number two on our list is the rise of Islam in Europe and North America. In Europe, if you go to the RARE Foundation, R-A-I-R foundation.com, they've got a series of articles right now warning. There is a series of articles about thousands of German women raped by refugees since 2015. This is just in Germany. Now, we've talked about the rape gangs in England in the UK over the past 20 years. Reportedly, have assaulted and violated more than a million English girls, 11, 12, 13 year old girls over the past 20 years. And that number is now much worse. But they're saying that in Germany, two gang rapes happen per day against the women in Germany, two per day. You have in France on New Year's Eve, a disabled woman was violently beaten and raped in an elevator. That's one of the stories.

Another story is, weaponized prayer, Islamic displays of territorial dominance. Whenever you see those images of hundreds and sometimes thousands of Muslims bowing down in prayer in a public place, they go into cities like Paris, London, Rome, etc. where this article says, people have observed a uniquely Islamic display of dominance over the local population. This display

has a veneer of religious observance as people are clearly engaged in Islamic prayer. However, since there are always mosques available or private spaces within which these observances could be done, one has to conclude that the purpose is clearly other than mere observance of Islamic prayer requirements.

So in other words, what they're saying is that the Muslims will deliberately go into public places where people normally are walking up and down the road and this kind of thing. And they will block everything with their Islamic prayer because it's one of the ways. It's kind of a form of intimidation and psychological warfare to say basically Islam is taking over. That's why they do it. And they're doing it in these cities all over Europe. Do you know that these Islamic street prayers are actually a confrontation and a statement? The Muslims are asserting their supremacy implicitly demanding that everyone else who wants to pass along the street has to accommodate them. This is a manifestation of the old Islamic dictum that quote, "Islam must dominate and not be dominated." Now, there's no question that this is happening. There's no question that it is that you've got millions of Muslims now in the United Kingdom and they are pursuing more and more acts of aggression so that Islam will eventually dominate England in the whole UK.

### **Number 3: World War III**

Okay, so that's two. Number three, in my opinion, World War Three, is kind of odd, you would think that would either be number one or number five, right? But we're just going to, we're going to make it number three, World War Three, the situation with Ukraine, Russia, and Israel. Notice what's happening, you have all of these conflicts and these entanglements where the United States is being blamed by Russia for our support of Ukraine. And now we're being blamed by the Islamic element out there because of our support of Israel, the state of Israel.

### **Number 4: The resurgence of COVID-19**

Okay, so number four, the resurgence of COVID-19, the resurgence of COVID-19. There are repeated warnings that they are going to try to bring back mask mandates, that they're going to try to bring back lockdowns and all this other kind of stuff. Illegal immigration should inform every American, of the fact that they brought in millions and millions of unvetted, untested people that they know are going to have various viruses and things like that. And the fact that they've exercised no caution at all about this should be everything that we need to know that an attempt, a future attempt at some kind of lockdown and social distancing and this kind of thing is all just a show. It's a sham. It's, about power and control.

If they were really concerned about the spread of viruses and this kind of thing, they would never allow millions and millions of unvetted people to come running across our border. They just would not allow it. But that's what should tell us that among many other indicators.

But yes, the resurgence of COVID-19, it is entirely possible that there will be COVID 2.0 and they're going to attempt to impose some kind of COVID tyranny. Now, we were warned about this last year that this was going to

happen. And we didn't really see much of anything happen in the months that followed. We were warned that in the fall, beginning in the fall in November, December, here just a few months ago, that this was going to happen and it didn't happen. I think there is a lot of pushback and I think that Americans and freedom-loving people all over the world should continue to push back in a, you know, peaceful, protesting, exercising the First Amendment to the full extent so that the powers that be understand that society is not going to cooperate with all this lockdown stuff. And, if enough people are sounding the alarm and making noise, then it's very likely that these globalist powers will back down because they are somewhat pragmatic, I believe.

Of course, I believe the chief counselors are Jesuits. We're going to show you that in the new film because we're going to have a whole section on COVID-19 and the Jesuit order because the connections are undeniable, undeniable. But the Jesuits are very pragmatic, very pragmatic. So they'll back down. That doesn't mean that they're going to quit. Don't misunderstand. It doesn't mean that they're going to quit in terms of their globalist ambitions, but they'll sort of back off a bit because they don't want to push the envelope too far. That's what I think. I could be wrong. We'll have to wait and see. But yes, it's definitely something to look out for. The continued corruption of the medical industry for the purpose of using the medical industry for medical warfare against the people in our country, which I honestly believe is what's going on. Medical warfare, biowarfare, they're calling the vaccine a bioweapon. You've got people, a very official people calling the COVID vaccine a bioweapon.

So we've got to pay attention to this and be on the lookout in 2024. It'll be very interesting to see if more COVID tyranny rears its ugly head.

## **Number 5: The 2024 presidential race**

Now, the number five issue. That was the number four resurgence of COVID-19. Number five, the big issue is going to be the 2024 presidential race.

For the office of the president of the United States of America, there's no question that's going to become, I believe, I think, unless something catastrophic something or other that happens. I think the presidential race with everything going on with President Trump, everything going on with Joe Biden and all these candidates.

Nikki Haley is getting a lot of attention, but we think Nikki Haley is a globalist. We do not believe she is a true conservative Republican. And we think she's a globalist. And then you have Vivek Ramaswami, Ramaswami, who's getting a lot of attention, a lot of the conservatives seem to like him. And we've had a friend, in fact, Steve Matthews from the Trinity Foundation, who appears in our new film, forward to me, a story about Ramaswami that he graduated from St. Xavier High School. And what he is, St. Xavier High School won't remove Vivek Ramaswami from the Board of Trustees. He's not only a graduate, this is a Jesuit-run private high school in Cincinnati, or in the Cincinnati region, it says, won't remove the presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswami from its Board of Trustees. The board's chairman said Wednesday. Apparently, his conservative comments are considered controversial. Some of

the St. Xavier High School alumni are calling for the school to oust Ramaswami from its 25-member board of trustees. So, bear in mind, he's not just a graduate of this Jesuit high school. He's not just an alumnus. He is a member of its Board of Trustees. So, he's, again, this is a more solid Jesuit connection. Lots of people graduate from their schools. Not all of them have this kind of close association. And of course, Ramaswami is a Hindu, and he has a Hindu view of Jesus, which quite frankly is perfectly acceptable with the Jesuit order because it all fits in with what they wrote and communicated in Vatican Council II.

Do I think Ramaswami would make a good president? He might be better than Joe Biden, but I still would not want to see him in the White House. He has a very clear Jesuit connection. He's being supported on the conservative side of things. I think he is a, you know, it's, it's kind of like the order is trying to control both sides of the argument. Some people say the same thing about President Trump because Trump went to Fordham University. He did not graduate from Fordham. He was only there for two years, and he left and went to a different university. I've never thought that President Trump was, quote, a Jesuit. I've never seen him that way. I don't think he really represents the Jesuit agenda. The only thing that the main, well, the two main things with President Trump that are troubling for me is one, the fact that he gives any support to LGBT politically. That's one, and two, his support for the vaccine. And he continues to support the vaccine. Now the one possible, you know, upside of all of that is that he has also called in his campaign.

For an investigation into the health of children in particular, you've got so many kids being diagnosed with autism and these other conditions and a lot of people are pointing to the vaccine industry and the medical industry overall. If there is a second Trump administration and they do a sincere investigation into the medical industry, that would be a very needed and I think positive thing. And I say, if, quote, unquote, if we'll have to wait and see what happens and just pray for the Lord's help and guidance for our country and our people in the days ahead.

I wanted to play a brief clip here as we round this out. So that's all five issues. The five things to watch for, in my opinion, in 2024. Illegal immigration, the rise of Islam, World War Three, the resurgence of COVID-19 and number five, the 2024 presidential race, all of that will be forthcoming in 2024.

Also, Simon Roch I should mention, even though I didn't play this part of his interview, he goes out of his way to tell us that his organization is an exclusively Christian organization, that they are Christians, and they do not seek to have non-Christians come and join with them or anything like that. They are very boldly, unapologetically Christian in their worldview and in their approach to everything they're doing, praise the Lord!

Christians need to become more partisan for Christianity and not allow the globalist influence to convince you that you're supposed to be defending atheism and Islam and all of these other alternative beliefs. We're really not called to defend the non-Christian beliefs of the world. Remember, the

commandment of God, according to the Apostle Paul, is that God commands that all men everywhere repent and turn away from the idols of the world and put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Indeed, as Peter said, He is Lord of all.

We are not called to tell everybody else who has an alternative belief that their belief is somehow or other equally valid or anything like that. No, we are called to communicate the Word of God and God's command that all men everywhere repent and put their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord.

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## **Was Peter The First Pope?**



The Catholic church falsely claims that Peter was the first bishop of the church in Rome, and all power was handed down to the bishops or popes of that city.

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## **Pope Francis declares WAR against Bible believing Christians!**



A fundamentalist group, although it may not kill anyone, although it may not strike anyone, is violent. – Pope Francis

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## The Benefits of Persecution For Obedience to the Word of God



Seven reasons why persecution is not bad but good for the Body of Christ, the Church.

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## True Christianity Vs Evangelical Zionism



Pharisaic Judaism's influence on evangelical Christian leaders which has had a detrimental effect on churches, especially in America

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## Are The Church and Israel Two Different Peoples of God?

## Israel and the Church

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| 1. Saints (Num. 16:3; Deut. 33:3)  | 1. Saints (Eph. 1:1; Rom. 1:7)                             |
| 2. Elect (Deut. 7:6, 7; 14:2)  | 2. Elect (Col. 3:12; Titus 1:1)                            |
| 3. Beloved (Deut. 7:7; 4:37)   | 3. Beloved (Col. 3:12; 1 Thess 1:4)                        |
| 4. Called (Isa. 41:9; 43:1)  | 4. Called (Rom. 1:6, 7; 1 Cor. 1:2)                        |
| 5. Church (Ps. 89:5; Mic. 2:5 (LXX)<br>Act. 7:38; Heb. 2:12)                     | 5. Church (Eph. 1:1;<br>Acts 20:28)                        |
| 6. Flock (Ezek. 34; Ps. 77:20)   | 6. Flock (Luke 12:32; 1 Pet. 5:2)                          |
| 7. Holy Nation (Exod. 19:5, 6)   | 7. Holy Nation (1 Pet. 2:9)                                |
| 8. Kingdom of Priests (Exod. 19:5, 6)  | 8. Kingdom of Priests (1 Pet. 2:9)                         |
| 9. Peculiar Treasure (Exod. 19:5, 6)   | 9. Peculiar Treasure (1 Pet. 2:9)                          |
| 10. God's People (Hos. 1:9, 10)  | 10. God's People (1 Pet. 2:10)                             |
| 11. Holy People (Deut. 7:6)  | 11. Holy People (1 Pet. 1:15, 16)                          |
| 12. People of Inheritance (Deut. 4:20)   | 12. People of Inheritance (Eph. 1:18)                      |
| 13. God's Tabernacle in Israel<br>(Lev. 26:11)                                   | 13. God's Tabernacle in Church<br>(John 1:14)              |
| 14. God walks among them<br>(Lev. 26:12)   | 14. God walks among them<br>(2 Cor. 6:16-18)               |
| 15. Twelve Patriarchs  | 15. Twelve Apostles  |
| 16. Christ married to them (Isa. 54:5;<br>Jer. 3:14; Hos. 2:19; Jer. 6:2; 31:32) | 16. Christ married to them<br>(Eph. 5:22, 23; 2 Cor. 11:2) |

See the difference?

**NEITHER DO WE.**

Fundamental to dispensationalism is the idea that God has two different peoples and He pursues his purposes for them in alternating dispensations. This is false!

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## The Antichrist Is Hidden In Plain Sight

According to the Bible, which of the below is the Antichrist likely to look like?



Without exception all the leaders of the Protestant Reformation looked at the Popes of Rome as the man of sin who sits as God in the temple of God – the Church – shewing himself that he is God.

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# American Christian Zionism History, Theology and Implications



The history of American Christian Zionism, why it's bad theology, and how it's used as a political weapon to fulfill the goals of evil selfish people.

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## God's Promise to Return Israel to Their Own Land Fulfilled Over 2000 Years Ago



This is a Bible study that was inspired by a former dispensational Christian Zionist preacher, Steve Gregg, who my wife and I listened to yesterday evening. He has two videos on this subject (at the bottom of this article) totaling nearly 3 hours. This article is an attempt to prove true directly from the Bible and in my own words as succinctly as possible what Pastor Gregg is teaching. I figure if I can't base a doctrine directly from what the Word of God actually says in the Bible, I either don't understand that doctrine well enough, or it's a false doctrine with no basis in Holy Scripture.

Famous influential preachers such as Billy Graham, Franklin Graham, Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell Jr., John Hagee, James Dobson, and many others, have taught or are teaching that God's promise to restore the Jews to their own land was fulfilled in 1948. They use the prophecies in Ezekiel chapters 36 and 37 to support that claim. But do those prophecies really support it?

Let's read some of those prophecies, the ones in Ezekiel 36, and find out. And as we read them, let's remember the time when these prophecies were given: During the 70-year Babylonian captivity of the Jews.

Ezekiel 36:23 And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them (during the Babylonian captivity); and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes.

24 For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

28 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

29 I will also save you from all your uncleannesses: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you.

This passage only makes sense when you read it in the light of the fact it was given during the Babylonian captivity and was completely fulfilled by the time [Jesus confirmed the Covenant](#) when His ministry started in 27 AD, the very Covenant of grace that God made with Abraham concerning his seed.

How does the prophecy compare to the modern nation of Israel?

Ezekiel 36:23 And I will sanctify my great name

Is the Name of God or of Christ sanctified among them?

Verse 23b: the heathen shall know that I am the LORD

Do the surrounding heathen nations know that Jesus Christ is the Lord?

Verse 25: Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

Is the modern nation of Israel clean from all filthiness and idolatry?

Verse 26: A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Does the nation of Israel have a heart of love and compassion for its neighbors?

Verse 27: And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Is the modern nation of Israel walking in God's statutes and keeping His judgments?

The answer to all these questions is a resounding *no*!

Ezekiel 36:24 For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

Jeremiah 30:3 "For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it."

These prophecies were totally fulfilled by the time of Christ! The books of Ezra and Nehemiah are all about the end of the 70 years of captivity and the return of the Jews to Judea. The kings of Medo-Persia gave them permission to return and rebuild the Temple and the walls of Jerusalem! And Jesus Himself said His ministry was to the house of Israel!

Matthew 10:6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Matthew 15:24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Verse 26: A new heart also will I give you, and **a new spirit will I put within you:** and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

This prophecy was clearly fulfilled on the day of Pentecost!

Acts 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

I believe the prophecies in Ezekiel 36 were all fulfilled by the time Jesus was born and walked on earth during His ministry. Not all Jews were saved, but a good remnant were.

Acts 6:7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

The main reason why prophecies are misinterpreted is because of failure to understand how they were already fulfilled in the past. Some believe a prophecy can have multiple fulfillments. Is there a precedent for that in the Bible? I don't see one.



Christian Zionist American congressmen.

Ask yourself, are unbelievers in Christ Jesus God's covenant people of today? Does a person's ethnicity matter in God's eyes? My Bible says it doesn't.

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

12 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:

13 Which were born, **not of blood**, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

If you like my simple Bible study, please share it with your Israel supporting friends. My aim is to keep things so simple that when people read it, they will remember it and share it. When I share something I learned, often the Holy Spirit deepens my understanding of the subject.

And I hope you take time to listen to what Pastor Steve Gregg has to say. He covers a lot more details.

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## Five Basic Postulates Of Protestantism



Five basic differences between Bible following Christians and Roman Catholics.