

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

DECEPTION IN THE END TIMES

RLJ-1415

JOHN S. TORELL

OCTOBER 27, 2013

PART 12: THE RELIGIOUS ROMAN EMPIRE

The Roman Catholic Church began its rise to political power during the reign of Charlemagne (742-814 A.D.). Until this time, the bishop of Rome exercised only ecclesiastical power over the churches in the West but there wasn't any military and financial power; all that changed with Charlemagne.

TECHNOLOGY

The advancement of technology from the time of Christ until 1500 A.D. was very slow. This meant that agriculture, mining, ship building, and construction remained almost unchanged for 1500 years in Western Europe while weaponry continued to develop. Satan had locked people in a mindset that made it impossible for them to develop the talents God had given them therefore civilization did not advance like it should have.

This time period was also marked by different classes of people:

- ❖ The top class consisted of royal families, who had used brute force to establish themselves as potentates.
- ❖ The royal families needed people who could enforce their power on the masses and so they established an aristocratic class, which were allowed to own land and engage in business and trade. Aristocrats became sub-rulers in the different kingdoms.
- ❖ An aristocrat cannot rule without military power, and thus a military class was developed consisting of officers, who were given good salaries and retirement estates. Non-commissioned officers were recruited with good salaries and a nice retirement plan. Foot soldiers consisted of enlisted professional soldiers with good salaries and conscripts, who were ruled with an iron fist.
- ❖ Farmers and city dwellers would make up the working class and below them was a pool of slaves who had no legal rights and worked for free.

Higher education was only available to the royal families and the aristocrats, while the other classes were educated in a specific field so they could do their job. The masses were held back from moving forward because they lacked education.

God did not allow the human race to rise to a higher level until around 1450 when Gutenberg was shown how to construct a printing press. Around 1600 God showed man electricity around 1600, man discovered the steam engine in 1769, and since then knowledge has exploded as prophesied. **Daniel 12:4**



ORGANIZING THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Charlemagne was a skilled military leader and he conquered the Lombards in Italy in 777 A.D. to consolidate and enlarge his kingdom. This meant he controlled the land around Rome. In the meantime, his forces had been at war with the Saxons in northwestern Germany since 772 A.D., and by 804 A.D., the Saxons were defeated and became part of his kingdom. The Saxons were pagans, but Charlemagne forced them to embrace Christianity as their official religion, but they did not become born again.

Charlemagne needed the Bishop in Rome and the Pope could not survive without Charlemagne. On December 24th, 800 A.D., the Pope placed the Roman Imperial crown on the head of Charlemagne and the Holy Roman Empire was officially born.

Charlemagne considered the Pope his chief prelate and this was the price the bishops in Rome had to pay for military protection. Over times, the bishops of Rome would take control of future emperors and establish themselves as the real power in the empire, in much the same way the chief Muslim mullah rules Iran today.

EDUCATION

Monks were the most educated people at this time because of their skill in reading and writing and preserving ancient writings. They had also preserved the knowledge of mathematics and other engineering knowledge, which was used in the construction of public buildings, roads and other infrastructure.

Craftsmen such as masons, carpenters, shoemakers, etc. had set up a system of apprenticeship, where a master tradesman would usually teach his sons and other young people in the trade, and in time, a son would take over his father's business or set up one of his own.

Skilled tradesmen who made swords, daggers, bows, arrows and other war related weapons equipment were well paid and considered an essential national resource.

When Charlemagne took power, the British Isles were the learning center of Europe. This is where large monasteries educated future monks and young people. Charlemagne realized that he needed an educational system to train the future generation of leaders in classical and biblical knowledge if he wanted to enlarge his kingdom.

He therefore sent for a British scholar named Alcuin of York (735-804 A.D.) who had been educated under the Archbishop of York. Alcuin took up residence at the Palace school in the city of Aachen, which today is located in Germany close to the borders of Belgium and Holland.

Charlemagne made Alcuin the head of the monastery of St. Martin in the city of Tours in central France in 796 A.D., which became the learning center of the empire. Charlemagne gathered the most gifted scholars available, and they

came from different ethnic backgrounds like Paul the Deacon, a Lombard; Frankish scholar Einhard, the Visigoth scholar Theodulf and many others.

Thus Charlemagne made certain his secular and religious leadership were educated and this paid him enormous dividends since they were able to greatly advance his kingdom.

TRANSFERRING WEALTH TO THE CHURCH

Like Constantine 500 years earlier, Charlemagne recognized that nothing that will unite people into a nation as religion and he worked to consolidate the church and make the church and state one and the same.

In his zeal to compel all pagans to become “Christians,” he forced them to be baptized or be executed. Alcuin told Charlemagne that he could force people to be baptized in water, but he could never force them to believe in Christ. The king was smart enough to recognize this truth and abolished the death penalty for paganism in 797 A.D.

When the pagans realized their conversion to Christianity would enable to more easily advance in the kingdom, they came on their own, but their conversion was “lip service” since they were not born again.

Charlemagne organized the church and set up a structure that still stands today. Every major city had a bishop who ruled the priests in his district. Prior to Charlemagne, rich landowners built church buildings and appointed their own priests and bishops. The king stopped this practice and ordered that bishops alone had the right to ordain new priests and carry out church discipline.

It is important to note that bishops and priests were not hindered from marrying and most had children, including the Pope. The custom of celibacy for priests did not come into play until the first Lateran Council in 1123 A.D., which was presided over by the Pope Calixtus II and officially adopted as Canon (paragraph) three of this council.

Charlemagne retained the right as the Emperor to appoint bishops. He also decreed that the church had a legal right to demand tithe from the people in the different parishes and were to be collected by bishops and priests. This tithe was really a tax and did not line up with the practice set up by God and written in Malachi chapter 3.

It became a custom for the rich landowners to donate land to the church, and in time, the Roman Catholic Church became the largest landowner in the Holy Roman Empire. Thus bishops and priests were not only in charge of ecclesiastical duties, they also became business managers over vast farmlands.

In order to control the bishops, Charlemagne set up a metropolitan system of districts ruled by the bishops. Each district had a number of parishes and each parish was ruled by a priest. When Charlemagne died, his empire consisted of 24 metropolitan regions, each ruled by an archbishop. Charlemagne exercised political power over his archbishops, while the popes in Rome had ecclesiastical power over them.

It was not until 1059 A.D. that Pope Nicholas II had enough political power to decree that the election of a new pope could only be done by cardinals.

PRAYING TO THE DEAD

The Roman Catholic Church tradition of praying to the dead dates back to around 150 A.D., some 160 years before its official foundation. Men and women who died as martyrs were considered to be present with Christ and since they believed that Christ was present on the earth; they erroneously believed that the dead saints must be with him and able to influence events in the physical world. By the fourth century a tradition had developed that involved praying to the martyrs, who in turn would take the prayers to God. The martyrs became known as saints and church tradition taught that they had the power to protect, heal and aid those who prayed to them.

The church leaders encouraged this practice, since the dead saints replaced the many deities that the pagans had worshipped before their “conversion” to the Christian faith.

The most prominent dead person was Mary, the mother of Jesus. The masses did not know that Mary had not remained a virgin and that after the birth of Jesus when she became pregnant with sons and daughters through her husband Joseph. Since the people did not have access to the writings of the apostles, they believed the lie that she became an eternal virgin.

As monasticism (a person consecrating himself to live like a monk) became popular during the second century, the thought of Mary being an eternal virgin was appealing to the masses.

Over time Mary was elevated to be the first among created beings and also received the title, “Mother of God.” The people missed their goddesses and the priests encouraged people to worship Mary to replace the pagan goddesses. Mary eventually replaced Jesus as the mediator between God and man and thus the cult of Mary was born and greatly encouraged by the church leaders.

OFFICIAL CATHOLIC DOCTRINE ON MARY

Here is a list of official statements found in the Roman Catholic Church Doctrine:

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Mary was preserved from all stain of original sin from the first instant of her conception. (Catechism 490-492) The *Immaculate Conception* is a dogma of the Catholic Church maintaining that from the moment when she was conceived in the womb, the Blessed Virgin Mary was kept free of original sin, so that she was from the start filled with the sanctifying grace normally conferred in baptism.

ALL-HOLY

Mary, “the All-Holy,” lived a perfectly sinless life. (Catechism 411, 493)

PERPETUAL VIRGINITY

Mary was a virgin before, during and after the birth of Christ. (Catechism 496-511)

The doctrine of the *perpetual virginity of Mary* expresses the Virgin Mary's "real and perpetual virginity even in the act of giving birth to Jesus the Son of God made Man". According to the doctrine, Mary was ever-virgin for the whole of her life, making Jesus her only biological son, whose conception and birth are held to be miraculous

MOTHER OF GOD

Because she is the mother of Jesus, and Jesus is God, therefore Mary is the Mother of God. (Catechism 963, 971, 2677).

MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

Mary is the Mother of the Church. (Catechism 963, 975).

ASSUMPTION

At the end of her life, Mary was taken up ("assumed") body and soul into Heaven. (Catechism 966, 974)

CO-MEDIATOR

Mary is the Co-Mediator to whom we can entrust all our cares and petitions. (Catechism 968-970, 2677)

QUEEN OF HEAVEN

God has exalted Mary in heavenly glory as Queen of Heaven and earth. (Catechism 966) She is to be praised with special devotion. (Catechism 971, 2675)

THE BIBLICAL MARY

Mary was a woman who became the mother of Jesus; she was humble but not sinless. **Luke 1:26-38**

She lived a normal life after the birth of Jesus as a wife to Joseph and conceived a number of other children. **Matthew 13:53-56**

The Bible clearly states that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. **Romans 3:23**

Mary came to Golgotha and watched the crucifixion of Jesus. She did not display any divine power to get Him off the cross. **John 19:25-27**

Mary was with the disciples in the upper room and was also baptized in the Holy Spirit just like the rest. **Acts 1:13-14; 2:1-4**

THE SATANIC MARY

The Mary of Roman Catholicism is none other than Satan himself. Satan craves worship and tried to have Jesus worship him. **Luke 4:5-8**

It is nothing but Devils behind Mary and the other dead saints that Roman Catholics pray to regularly. **1 Corinthians 10:19-22**

When a person prays to Mary or another dead saint, they open the door for demonic spirits to enter and bring sickness and curses upon the person. Sometimes there will be a fake healing where the demons stop afflicting the person but the healing never lasts. It is an abomination to contact the dead. So when a person prays the rosary beads, they are actually praying to Satan. **Deuteronomy 18:9-13**

Many Catholics have seen visions of Mary; these are not true visions of the mother of Jesus, but a powerful evil spirit deceiving the people watching him. **2 Corinthians 11:13-15**

SUMMARY

Satan is determined to set up a world system that will one day force all people to worship him. ***History tells us that no political system can exist apart from a religious system.*** No atheist has ever been able to create a kingdom or empire. God told the prophet Daniel that the future world dictator would not worship the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but the god of forces. **Daniel 11:36-39**

Since this future world dictator is going to convince the world that he is the long awaited messiah sent from God, he will also proclaim his mother's divinity. In the Kabbalistic religion (the religion of the Antichrist), the messiah is not a person but a spiritual force that is incarnated from generation to generation.

I predict the Antichrist will say he is the incarnation of Jesus from Nazareth and Mary is his spiritual mother through the ages.

The Roman Catholic Church will be the platform for the new World Federation religion and praying to dead saints will release a satanic power not seen on the earth since the days of Noah. **Matthew 24:37**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?