

**GIMME DAT END TIMES RELIGION – PART X**

*Scripture warns repeatedly of the coming End Times deception. In this segment we will begin to draw together the various deceptive elements that are operating in our world, building the foundation for the religion of the Antichrist.*

**THE DRIVE FOR UNITY**

**“And all the world marveled and followed the beast. So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast”.** (Revelation 13:3-4)

The late Pope John Paul II was a man with a mission. He had dedicated his own life and eventually the entire world to Mary. “Totus Tuus” (totally yours) was his motto. He was totally dedicated to fulfilling the promises of Fatima. His attempted assassination occurred on the anniversary of Fatima, while bending down to view a girl’s medal of the Fatima apparitions. He believes that it was Mary herself that spared his life that day. And his vision was driven by a theological / political understanding of the great struggle between good and evil in the modern world. Father Malachi Martin, former Jesuit at the Vatican, revealed much about the Holy Father’s thinking in his 1990 book, *The Keys of This Blood*. John Paul believed that there was a 3-way struggle for world domination going on between Communism, the West and the Church, headed by the Pope. This was a struggle that he believed that Rome had to win in order to safeguard the rights of the peoples of the world. He also believed that the Catholic Church would win that struggle, aided by a supernatural, powerfully psychic vision of Mary that would be visible to the entire globe. This vision would produce an “engulfing chaos” that would lead to mass conversion of the peoples of the world to Roman Catholicism and acceptance of the Pope as the universal spiritual leader of mankind.<sup>1</sup> In the words of Dr Joe Van Koevering, John Paul believed that this apparition would give him the spiritual authority to “rule over a church / state world government”.<sup>2</sup> This would be the ultimate victory of the Church on earth!

Here is how Malachi Martin describes that vision. It will be an “event that will fission human history...on public view in the skies, in the oceans, and on the continental landmasses of the planet.” He goes on to say that “it will immediately nullify all the grand designs the nations are now forming”. That vision will be one of Mary, clothed in the “circumambient glory” of the sun.<sup>3</sup> This will be Mary’s triumph! Luke 21:24 reads **“And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring”** Yet the Pope was convinced that it will be Mary who is the key to the establishment of the universal church. This is not far at all from the teachings of the Catholic faith. Though Hebrews 12:2 calls **“Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith”**, the Catholic Catechism teaches that Mary “continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation”.<sup>4</sup>

If we remember the Church history just reviewed, this triumph of Mary would be a victory of pagan influence in the Church. Just as paganism infiltrated and influenced church practices under the Roman Emperors: So too this grand ecumenism would bring in even more of these disparate influences. The messages of Medjugore as well as the spirit of the multi-faith gatherings at Assisi, both - threaten the exclusivity of Christ’s message.

The fact is however that not all Roman Catholics go along with this vision of their Church. Despite the fact that the current Pope Benedict reaffirmed John Paul’s prayer gathering with non-Christian faiths, many are beginning to question prayers with other non-Christian religions of the world.<sup>5</sup> (Just to whom are they praying anyway, one might legitimately ask.) One conservative Catholic group, the Society of St Pius X, objected to the ecumenical gathering on the grounds that it is praying with “false religions”, and is “an insult to God” in that it denies “the universal necessity of Redemption”. That same group also registered its objections to other actions of the late Pope such as; - suggesting Catholics and Jews both prepare for the coming of Messiah, - the Pope’s meeting with Voodoo witch doctors and participating in Animist ceremonies in a “Sacred

Forest” in Togo.<sup>6 7</sup> The apogee of this inclusionist theology may have found its expression in St Ambrose Catholic Church in Buffalo, NY. The sanctuary there sports stained-glass windows depicting: - God the Father, Jesus the Christ, Moses, Mohammed, the Falcon-headed Horus of Egypt (risen son of Isis or Semiramis), the Hindu god Shiva, and Buddha.<sup>8</sup> Still Mary is the hinge upon which all of this inclusion swings.

In the words of one writer, Mary is becoming the “linking point” of just about all of the various world religions. “There is nothing divisive about Mary”. As Dr Van Koevering points out, Scripture tells us “The religions of the world have to come together at the End of Time”, and Mary may just be the vehicle used to bring this about.<sup>9</sup> Besides the connection with Islam, and pagans old & new - which we have reviewed, the notion of Mary as the Divine Feminine goddess has its appeal to adherents of the New Age. This goddess worship had its beginnings in ancient Babylon and never actually went out of existence. In fact it inserted its way into the Church at the dawn of what has been appropriately named the Dark Ages. It is a religion of ritualism and dark, secret, miraculous works. *Focus on Jerusalem* detailed some of the similarities between The Goddess of the New Age and the Mary of apparitions and Catholic doctrine. Both are referred to as Queen of Heaven, as were the ancient goddess in the pagan lands bordering Israel. Both are said to be without sin or fault. Mary is sometimes pictured on a crescent moon. The Divine Feminine is often worshipped as the Moon Goddess and the crescent moon is also a sign of Islam. Both rely on supernatural apparitions and ask for and receive personal worship. Scapulars and medals mirror the practices of ‘magic’ objects used in witchcraft.<sup>10</sup>

So there you have it: Catholics, Orthodox, increasingly some Protestants, Muslims, Hindus, Neo-Pagans and New Agers; - all coming together in the worship of Mary. It is instructive that one of the most honored of Catholic saints, Francis of Assisi, warned of the final pope, who many scholars, - Catholics included, - believe may serve as the False Prophet of Revelation. St. Francis wrote that the last Bishop of Rome will be an “invalidly elected pope. He will cause great confusion...He will accept all religions on an equal basis...and he will deceive even the very elect if the last days are not shortened”. Our friend, Bishop Sheen chimed in on the subject, saying that a final “False Church will be ecumenical, global and worldly”. That “final pope will have a religion without a cross...He will sell the mystical body to the Antichrist”.<sup>11</sup> .

Those comments of the perceptive Bishop seems right in line with Biblical prophecy. **“Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth by those signs which he was granted to do in the sight of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who was wounded by the sword and lived. He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.”** (Revelation 13:11-17)

So there he is, the lamb with two horns, - a religious leader,- representing, as Perry Stone points out, the combination of 2 religions perhaps, - Catholic / Christianity with Islam. He will be the driving force behind the organization of the globe into the New World Order; - a combination of religious, economic and civil rule. It will be the short term fulfillment of the dream of Nimrod and Semiramis.

### **The Prophecy of The Popes**

Interestingly, there is a prophecy by the Catholic St Malachy that has at least somewhat accurately named all the popes and their careers since it was first uttered in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It details what many believe will be the end of the Church under the last pope, who Malachy called; - Peter the Roman. Here are some examples of Malachy’s prophecies and how they lined up with history. Benedict XV he called Religio depopulate, or Religion laid waste. He reigned during the height of the atheistic slaughters of the faithful during the Bolshevik Revolution. Pius XI was named “Intrepid faith”. He stood up to the

Fascists and Communists in the run-up to World War II. Paul VI was correctly identified as “Flower of Flowers”. His coat of arms was 3 lilies. John Paul I was “of the half moon”. His reign lasted one month, from one half-moon to the next. John Paul II, “the eclipse (or) labor of the sun”. He “labored” for Mary, the woman clothed with the sun, and was born and buried on a solar eclipse. Then there is the current Pope Benedict XVI; - “the Glory of the Olive”. He came from the Benedictine order called the Olivetians. He took the name to honor the last pope of the same name, widely known as a peacemaker.<sup>12</sup>

Malachy wrote that there is only one pope to go before the judgment of the world: “Peter the Roman” who will see “the final persecution of the Holy Roman Church...[and]...guide his flock through many tribulations...the town of seven hills will be destroyed and the terrible Judge shall judge his people”. Revelation tells us: **“Come, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth were made drunk with the wine of her fornication....And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement...The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits.”** (Rev 17:1-2, 3-6, 9)

### **A BEAUTIFUL THING ?**

It grew up in the late 1990's, of an idea born at a meeting of the United Religious Initiative (URI), a global movement to bring about the unification of all the world's religious traditions. That idea became the Interfaith Youth Core, - an amalgamation of young people from various faith traditions [Muslim, Christian, Jewish etc.] that would unite to provide service to the community.<sup>13</sup> Its founder Eboo Patel, will tell you that a drive toward pluralism is at the heart of the movement inspired by that youthful yearning to be a part of something bigger.<sup>14</sup> Patel's own background reflects that pluralism. He is an Indian Muslim, with a Jewish best friend who both were mentored by a “Catholic professor who had been ordained in the Hindu monastic tradition”.<sup>15</sup> The URI itself is a movement aspiring to begin as the “United Nations” of religion, - and end up as a One World Religion headed up by the Pope.<sup>16</sup> Read through their mission statement and you will find that they are all about “diversity” and non-discrimination and ecology and members of the cooperating faiths are not to be “coerced” or “proselytized”. There's a lot there about interfaith cooperation...but not a whole lot about Truth!

This whole notion of interfaith cooperation sounds sooo good until we look at it in the light of Scripture. It's all about ‘love’ & ‘acceptance’ & ‘pluralism’ & being ‘politically correct’ & not sharing the real Truth, the narrow way found in the Bible. In John 14:6, Jesus tells us that He is the only way to the Father. Acts 4:12 confirms that **“there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”** To hear Mr Patel tell it, respecting each other's faith traditions is a supreme value. It argues that there is sufficient truth in all. But that is the path that is leading toward the short-lived triumph of the Antichrist and the False Prophet; - the One World Religion of the coming Tribulation. But religion can never successfully bridge that gap between mankind and God. That is but mere ritualism and can never satisfy the requirements of true worship; - that we **“must worship him in spirit and in truth”**. (John 4:24) Man's self-generated religious answers remain rooted in selfishness and produce only **“a form of godliness”** that denies its real power. (2Timothy 3:5) All ways are not valid paths to the Kingdom. Before He ascended, Jesus charged His followers to **“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations”**. (Matthew 28:19) In the Sermon on the Mount, Christ drove home the message of Proverbs 14:12, that there will be **“a way that seems right to a man”**, but it will end in death. Here are the words of Our Lord: **“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”** (Matt 7:13-14)

### **“I WILL CURSE HIM THAT CURSES YOU”**

So says Genesis 12:3. So just let us mention a few items here. Actions by the US, - all in the interest of a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement, - have generated significant momentum for the creation of a Palestinian State. Under pressure

from President Bush to dismantle unauthorized Israeli outposts in the West Bank, Israel's PM Olmert announced that his country needs to withdraw from that area also known as Judea and Samaria. The goal of such a "negotiated solution" would be the set up of an independent Palestinian homeland.<sup>17 18</sup> His latest proposal calls for negotiating an "Agreement of Principles" that would underlie such a state. They would talk about the 'look of the thing'; - the government institutions, the economy, customs arrangements, - leaving the hard issues like borders until later in the negotiations. Olmert would have the support of a majority in both the Knesset and the country at large for such a strategy.<sup>19</sup> That proposal falls right in line with the recent American announcement that Washington will host a Middle East peace conference this fall.<sup>20</sup>

So the powers of this world seem determined to divide the Holy Land. But there's this little problem. It doesn't quite jive with how God sees it. He gave that land to Jacob (Israel) as an "**everlasting possession**". (Genesis 48:4) And He has promised to hold responsible any that tamper with His plan. The Bible tells us that in the last days, after He has brought the Jews back into the Land, He will judge those that have sought to divide His Land. (That's what God calls it in Scripture.) In Joel 3:2 we find both indictment and judgment. "**I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land.**" *Dividing up God's land*: That's the very thing the US and the Quartet and the Arab nations are seeking to do as they seek to set up a Palestinian State. It makes no difference that Israel is complicit in this sin against herself. America is skating on thin ice when it seeks to substitute it's own plan for God's. For right from the beginning God promised the nation Israel: "**I will bless those that bless you, And I will curse him who curses you**". (Genesis 12:3) Secretary of State Rice may have forgotten that promise when she recently demanded, "the occupation of the West Bank will have to end".<sup>21</sup> The wise would best beware!

## **WAR DRUMS**

- President Ahmadinejad of Iran visited President Assad his counterpart in Syria to both solidify the alliance and squelch any peace talk coming from Damascus. Tehran provides Syria's oil as well as the money to purchase modern Russian weapons systems. At the meeting Ahmadinejad announced he expects: "This summer will see Muslim victories in the region and the defeat of our enemies". (No small clue there!) Ahmadinejad brought with him a group of Revolutionary Guards bearing war plans & assignments for the various Palestinian terror leaders.<sup>22</sup>
- A Syrian Defense official revealed plans for the next war with Israel. Learning from the Hezbollah experience they will target the "civilian infrastructure" with missile attacks and employ guerilla warfare avoiding direct military confrontation. He promised a war of attrition.<sup>23</sup> Syria is known to be acquiring more stocks of chemical warheads.
- The US Air Force is presently outfitting its B-2 Stealth Bombers with the 15-ton 'bunker busters'. This means that things will soon be in readiness for strikes against Natanz and other Iranian underground nuclear facilities.<sup>24</sup>

## **MUSHARRAF'S DILEMMA**

Pakistan's President Musharraf is in a difficult place. Perhaps under domestic pressure of its own, the Bush Administration let it be known last week that it would consider striking al-Qaeda and Taliban targets in Pakistan unilaterally.<sup>25</sup> But an action like that would certainly increase Musharraf's own domestic pressure coming from the radical-Islamic elements there. His decision to use troops to send troops into the country's Red Mosque has already angered many in the mountainous tribal areas. But with NATO troops massing just across the border in Afghanistan, the beleaguered Pakistani leader is preparing his own troops for action in the insurgent areas. That action, of course has risks. Many believe that Musharraf is already on the verge of losing power.<sup>26</sup> That action could galvanize his opposition. And complicating everything is that right now Pakistan is both an ally in the War On Terror and a nuclear power. A coup would of course create a radical Islamic state in possession of nuclear weapons.

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- <sup>1</sup> Malachi Martin, *The Keys of This Blood*, 1991, - from the Introduction
  - <sup>2</sup> Dr Joe Van Koevering, From a lecture entitled: *The Pope, The Prophecy and The Promise*, given at the International Prophecy Conference 2007
  - <sup>3</sup> Malachi Martin, *The Keys of This Blood*, 1991, as quoted by Donald Ward, *Religious Deception in the Post Modern World*, World News & Prophecy
  - <sup>4</sup> Catechism of the Catholic Church, # 969
  - <sup>5</sup> John L Allen Jr, 'Reformulating' the spirit of Assisi, National Catholic Reporter, September 15, 2006
  - <sup>6</sup> What Should We Make Of Assisi 1986, statement by Society of St Pius X
  - <sup>7</sup> Q 7 Should We Follow Everything That The Pope John Paul Does?, Society of St Pius X
  - <sup>8</sup> Pagan Divinities Worshipped in a Catholic Church, Church Revolution in Pictures
  - <sup>9</sup> Dr Joe Van Koevering, From a lecture entitled: *The Pope, The Prophecy and The Promise*, given at the International Prophecy Conference 2007
  - <sup>10</sup> Darrell G Young, Comparing Catholic Teachings About Mary With Modern Goddess Worship, Focus On Jerusalem, Volume 11, Issue 7, 2002
  - <sup>11</sup> Perry Stone, *The Pope, The Eagle And The Iron Sickle*, Voice of Evangelism, 2006, pg 56
  - <sup>12</sup> Prophecy of St Malachy, Catholic Pages .com
  - <sup>13</sup> About Eboo Patel, Faith & Values TV (Website)
  - <sup>14</sup> Jean Case, Q+A with Eboo Patel and Jean Case, The Case Foundation
  - <sup>15</sup> Judy Valente, Religion & Ethics News Weekly, April 13, 2007
  - <sup>16</sup> The United Religions Initiative, Cephas Ministry, [http://www.cephasministry.com/world\\_symbols\\_uri.html#anchor242](http://www.cephasministry.com/world_symbols_uri.html#anchor242)
  - <sup>17</sup> PM Olmert dusts off West Bank pullout plan, World Tribune, July 18, 2007
  - <sup>18</sup> Alex Traiman, Olmert Reiterates Stance to Give Away Judea and Samaria, Arutz Sheva, July 23, 2007
  - <sup>19</sup> Aluf Benn, Olmert's new offer to Abbas: Agreement of Principles toward Palestinian state, Haaretz, July 25, 2007
  - <sup>20</sup> US Says It Will Host Fall Middle East Meeting, Israel National News, July 19, 2007
  - <sup>21</sup> Hillel Fendel, Secy. Rice: Israel Must End Occupation of 'West Bank', Arutz Sheva, July 26, 2007
  - <sup>22</sup> This summer will see Muslim victories..., DEBKAFfile, July 20, 2007
  - <sup>23</sup> Gil Ronen, Syrian Official: War with Israel will be Ballistic, Arutz Sheva, July 24, 2007
  - <sup>24</sup> US Air Force Stealth bombers will soon be fitted..., DEBKAFfile, July 23, 2007
  - <sup>25</sup> US to strike militant targets in Pakistan, Press TV, July 20, 2007
  - <sup>26</sup> Syed Saleem Shahzad, Pakistan in the grip of a big squeeze, Asia Times, July 24, 2007