

# AN ANALYSIS OF CATHOLIC PROPHECY

Prophecy as it is presented in the Catholic Church is a combination of interpretation of the prophecies in the Bible mixed in with many private prophecies by Catholic priests and seers passed down the centuries.

The source for my information about Catholic prophecy is a book called "Prophecy for Today" by Edward Connor and is written from a Catholic point of view. It summarises the Catholic view of end time prophecy including many private prophecies of Catholic seers passed down the centuries. Edwin Connor gives this overview of end-time prophecy from a Catholic point of view:

The sequence of events as foretold is by no means certain. Public prophecy ceased with the death of St. John the Apostle. Private prophecy, even if received from God, is not reliable because the prophet is fallible. He can forget, misunderstand or misinterpret. Even when he does not err, those who hear him and who transmit the message can err.

So when we state here that this seems to be the general sequence of things foretold, it is largely merely a private opinion.

Before the Gospel is preached and accepted in all the world, there shall come world wars and insidious doctrines accompanied by widespread persecution.

This era shall be terminated by the direct interference of God destroying the evil system or persons responsible for the persecution; and through the leadership of a great civil ruler and a great spiritual leader, a period of peace will come during which the nations will hear and accept the true Faith.

A great apostasy will follow.

Antichrist will come and reign three and one half years. He will be destroyed by the direct intervention of Christ.

The Second Coming of Christ will follow, but by how long a time is unknown.

The trumpet will sound, the dead will arise and be judged.

The world will be destroyed by fire.

There will be new heavens and a new earth...

From the Eschatological Discourse and from other pertinent passages in Scripture, theologians have deduced six signs that must precede the end of the world:

1. Universal preaching of the Gospel.
2. Conversion of the Jews.
3. Return of Henech and Elias [Enoch and Elijah].
4. A great apostasy.
5. The reign of the Antichrist.
6. Extraordinary disturbances in nature...

In the centuries since the canon of sacred Scripture was determined, many saints and mystics have claimed the gift of prophecy. Since all such comes under the heading of private revelation, it is never binding upon the faithful to believe. No matter how great the saint, we have no guarantee that every word found in his or her writings is infallible, especially when it comes to prophecy.

When the cause of a proposed saint is introduced in Rome and the steps leading to canonization are begun, the writings of the person are carefully examined to judge their content of holiness, and to see if there is anything in them contrary to Catholic doctrine. If such writings are approved for the Acts of Beatification, that is no guarantee that the Church accepts as authentic any prophecy found in them. It simply means that the prophecy has nothing in it contrary to faith or morals.

The extreme caution one should use in approaching all private revelation is graphically exemplified by the classic instances in which a saint has been proven wrong in his predictions. Thus St. Vincent Ferrer (1350-1419) went about preaching the coming of the Antichrist and the end of the world in his own generation!

Then, too, there is the ticklish problem of one saint contradicting another in a revelation. It is true we may err in applying both prophecies to the same event, or one or the other prophecy may have been tampered with, but both suppositions bolster more strongly the premise that all private prophecy must be approached with great caution.

On the other hand, if it should be wondered whether only saints and mystics are endowed with this gift, we have the words of Benedict XIV: "The recipients of prophecy may be angels, devils, men, women, children, heathens, or gentiles; nor is it necessary that a man should be gifted with any particular disposition in order to receive the light of prophecy provided his intellect and senses be adapted for making manifest the things which God reveals to him. Though moral goodness is most profitable to a prophet, yet it is not necessary in order to obtain the gift of prophecy" (Heroic Virtue III, 144:150).

It will be noted in reading private prophecy that a great many of those that threaten calamities to the human race - and do not necessarily refer to the last days - are conditional in quality. It is made clear that if man turns from his sins, returns to God, and does penance, the scourges will not fall. Such were the messages given by Our Lady at LaSalette and at Fatima, and by Our Lord to Blessed Anna Maria Taigi. A notable example of this is found in sacred Scripture itself when Jonas preached to the men of Niniveh:

"'Yet forty days, and Niniveh shall be destroyed.' And the men of Niniveh believed in God, and they proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least ... And God saw their works, that they were turned from their evil way. And God had mercy with regard to the evil which He had said that He would do to them, and He did it not." (**Jonas 3:4-5, 10**).

It is well to remember this "conditional" qualification when reading such prophecies as those referring to the "heavenly scourge" and the three days darkness (i,2-4).

On this point of private prophecy Rod King makes these comments in a United News Australia article he wrote called "Catholic Prophecy":

God is jealous about those to whom He will reveal prophetic understanding. The prophet Amos tells us: "Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets" (**Amos 3:7**). Only those who serve Him faithfully in all areas of their life can receive this special understanding. This also provides a benchmark for those of us wanting to read or hear about prophecy. We can ask the

question, "Is this person obeying God's commandments'?" If the answer is negative we can know that they are not being led by God...

Peter warns us once again about private interpretation of prophecy: "And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:19-21).

### **The Great Monarch and Angelic Pastor**

As noted above in the summary of prophecy as Catholics understand it, there will be a Great Monarch and an Angelic Pastor who rule together followed by the Antichrist and then Jesus Christ returns to bring the last judgment.

Bible prophecy tells us there will come a great false prophet who works hand-in-hand with a great civil leader called the beast and then Jesus Christ returns and destroys them. Notice **Revelation 19:19-20**:

"And I saw the beast [a great civil leader], the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse [Jesus Christ] and against His army. Then the beast [a great civil leader] was captured, and with Him the false prophet [a false religious leader] who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image."

**The Great Monarch and Angelic Pastor are not referred to in the Bible. They are an invention of Catholic seers and not found anywhere in the Bible.**

**By interjecting these two characters before the false prophet / antichrist Catholics who believe in this order of prophecy will believe that the Beast and False Prophet are the Great Monarch and Angelic Pastor and that Jesus Christ, who follows them, will be the Antichrist.**

**With the addition of the Great Monarch and Angelic Pastor into their prophetic viewpoint they have made the bad guys into the good guys and the good guy (Jesus Christ) into the bad guy – the Antichrist. What a counterfeit to Bible prophecy!**

Let us notice what the Catholics say about the Great Monarch and Angelic Pastor:

Private revelation has many references to two personages who will play joint pre-eminent roles in these events: the Great Monarch and the Angelic Pastor (or Angelic Shepherd). Curiously enough, there are far more prophecies referring to the former than to the latter, and they go as far back as the third century...

Saint Hippolytus (died 235): "**The Great French Monarch** who shall subject all the East shall come around the end of the world."

Saint Cataldus of Tarentino (c. 500): "The Great Monarch will be in war till he is forty years of age; a king of the House of Lily, he will assemble great armies and expel tyrants from his empire. **He will conquer England and other island empires.** Greece he will invade and be made a king thereof. Clochis, Cyprus, the Turks and

barbarians he will subdue and have all men to worship the Crucified One. **He will at length lay down his crown in Jerusalem.**"

Saint Caesar of Arles (469-543): "When the entire world, and in a special manner France, and in France more particularly the provinces of the North, of the East, and above all that of Lorraine and Champagne, shall have been a prey to the greatest miseries and trials, then the provinces shall be succored by a prince who had been exiled in his youth, and who shall recover the crown of the lilies.

"This prince shall extend his dominion over the entire universe. At the same time there will be a Great Pope, who will be most eminent in sanctity and most perfect in every quality. This Pope shall have with him the Great Monarch, a most virtuous man, who shall be a scion of the holy race of the French kings.

**"This Great Monarch will assist the Pope in the reformation of the whole earth.** Many princes and nations that are living in error and impiety shall be converted, and an admirable peace shall reign among men during many years because the wrath of God shall be appeased through repentance, penance and good works.

"There will be one common law, one only faith, one baptism, one religion. All nations shall recognize the Holy See of Rome, and shall pay homage to the Pope. But after some considerable time fervor shall cool, iniquity shall abound, and moral corruption shall become worse than ever, which shall bring upon mankind the last and worst persecution of Antichrist and the end of the world."

Blessed Rahunns Maurus (died 856): "Our principal doctors agree in announcing to us that toward the end of time one of the descendants of the kings of France shall reign over all the Roman empire, and that he shall be the greatest of the French monarchs, and the last of his race.

"After having most happily governed his kingdom, he will go to Jerusalem, and depose on Mount Olivet his scepter and crown. This shall be the end and conclusion of the Roman and Christian Empire."

Monk Adso (died 992): "Some of our teachers say that a King of the Franks will possess the entire Roman Empire. This King will be the greatest and last of all monarchs, and after having prosperously governed his kingdom he will come in the end to Jerusalem and he will lay down his scepter and his crown upon the Mount of Olives. This will be the end and consummation of the Empire of Rome, and immediately afterwards Antichrist will come."

Chronicle of Magdeburg (12th century?): "Of the blood of the Emperor Charles the Great and the King of France shall arise an Emperor named Charles, who shall rule imperially in Europe, by whom the decayed estate of the Church shall be reformed and the ancient glory of the Empire again restored."

Aystinger the German (12th century?): "There shall arise in the last times a Prince sprung from the Emperor Charles who shall recover the land of promise and reform the Church. He shall be the Emperor of Europe."

Abbot "Merlin" Joachim (died 1202): "After many prolonged sufferings endured by Christians, and after a too great effusion of innocent blood, the Lord shall give peace and happiness to the desolated nations. A remarkable Pope will be seated on the pontifical throne, under the special protection of the angels. Holy and full of gentleness, he shall undo all wrong, he shall recover the states of the Church, and reunite the exiled temporal powers.

"He shall be revered by all people, and shall recover the kingdom of Jerusalem. As the only Pastor he shall reunite the Eastern to the Western Church, and thus only one faith will be in vigor. The sanctity of this beneficent Pontiff will be so great that the

highest potentates shall bow down before his presence. This holy man shall crush the arrogance of religious schism and heresy. All men will return to the primitive Church, and there shall be only one pastor, one law, one master-humble, modest, and fearing God. The true God of the Jews, our Lord Jesus Christ, will make everything prosper beyond all human hope, because God alone can and will pour down on the wounds of humanity the oily balm of sweetness...

"This holy Pope shall be both pastor and reformer. Through him the East and West shall be in everlasting concord. The city of Babylon shall then be the head and guide of the world. Rome, weakened in temporal power, shall forever preserve her spiritual dominion, and shall enjoy great peace. During these happy days the Angelic Pope shall be able to address to Heaven prayers full of sweetness. The dispersed nation (Jews) shall also enjoy tranquillity. Six and a half years after this time the Pope will render his soul to God. The end of his days shall arrive in an arid province, situated between a river and a lake near the mountains ...

"At the beginning, in order to obtain these happy results, having need of a powerful assistance, this holy Pontiff will ask the cooperation of the generous monarch of France (Great Monarch). At that time a handsome monarch, a scion of King Pepin, will come as a pilgrim to witness the splendor of this glorious Pontiff, whose name shall begin with R... A temporal throne becoming vacant, the Pope shall place on it this king whose assistance he shall ask ...

"A man of remarkable sanctity will be his successor in the Pontifical chair. Through him God will work so many prodigies that all men shall revere him, and no person will dare to oppose his precepts. He shall not allow the clergy to have many benefices. He will induce them to live by the tithes and offerings of the faithful. He shall interdict pomp in dress, and all immorality in dances and songs. He will preach the gospel in person, and exhort all honest ladies to appear in public without any ornament of gold or precious stones. After having occupied the Holy See for a long period of time he shall happily return to the Lord.

Werdin d'Otrante (13th century): "The Great Monarch and the Great Pope will precede Antichrist."

"The nations will be in wars for four years and a great part of the world will be destroyed. All the sects will vanish. The capital of the world will fall. The Pope will go over the sea carrying the sign of redemption on his forehead, and after the victory of the Pope and the Great Monarch peace will reign on earth."

"The Pope will cross the sea in a year when the Feast of Saint George (April 23rd) falls on Good Friday, and Saint Mark's feast (April 25th) falls on Easter Sunday, etc." (See Chapter 1, "Questionable Prophecies"; the next year for such a concurrence of feasts is 2038). The Great Monarch will come to restore peace and the Pope will share in the victory"...

Blessed Joannes Amadeus de Sylva (died 1482): "Germany and Spain will unite under a great prince designated by God. After much slaughtering, the other nations will be forced to come into this union. There is no hope for the unbelievers until all Germany becomes converted; then all will happen quickly. Because of Germany's unfaithfulness, the time will be prolonged until all countries unite under the Great Ruler. After this union, mass conversions will take place by the command of God, and peace and prosperity will follow."

Blessed Catherine of Racconigi (died 1547): "After three centuries a descendant of Francis I of France will rule Europe like Charlemagne."

Telesphorus of Cozensa (died 1388): "A powerful French monarch and French Pope will regain the holy land after horrible wars in Europe, convert the world, and bring universal peace. They will overcome the German Ruler."

David Poreaus (died 1622): "The Great Monarch will be of French descent, large forehead, large dark eyes, light brown wavy hair and an eagle nose. He will crush the enemies of the Pope and will conquer the East."

Hollzhauser (died 1658): "When everything has been ruined by war; when Catholics are hard pressed by traitorous coreligionists and heretics; when the Church and her servants are denied their rights, the monarchies have been abolished and their rulers murdered ... then the hand of Almighty God will work a marvelous change, something apparently impossible according to human understanding.

"There will rise a valiant monarch anointed by God. He will be a Catholic, a descendant of Louis IX, (yet) a descendant of an ancient imperial German family, born in exile. He will rule supreme in temporal matters. The Pope will rule supreme in spiritual matters at the same time. Persecution will cease and justice shall reign. Religion seems to be oppressed, but by the changes of entire kingdoms it will be made more firm.

"He will root out false doctrines and destroy the rule of Moslemism. His dominion will extend from the East to the West. All nations will adore God their Lord according to Catholic teaching. There will be many wise and just men. The people will love justice, and peace will reign over the whole earth, for divine power will bind Satan for many years until the coming of the Son of Perdition.

"The reign of the Great Ruler may be compared with that of Caesar Augustus, who became Emperor after his victory over his enemies, thereby giving peace to the world-also with the reign of Emperor Constantine the Great, who was sent by God, after severe persecutions, to deliver both the Church and State. By his victories on water and land he brought the Roman empire under subjection, which he then ruled in peace ...

"The Great Monarch will have the special help of God and be unconquerable. The Fifth Epoch of time dates from the reign of Charles V until the reign of the Great Monarch.

"The Sixth Epoch from the Great Monarch until Antichrist. This Sixth Epoch of the Church - 'the time of consolation' - begins with the Holy Pope and the Powerful Emperor, and terminates with the reign of Antichrist. This will be an age of solace, wherein God will console His Church after the many mortifications and afflictions she had endured in the Fifth period, for all nations will be brought to the unity of the true Catholic Faith"...

Monk of Werl (published 1701): "The whole north of Europe will wage war against the whole south led by a strong monarch. This man will restore divine order in the Church, state and family, thus giving true peace to the nations"...

Father Laurence Ricci, S.J. (died 1775): "After the rule of Napoleon a time will come when the people will become poor, and the world will be punished in three ways: wars, plagues, and pestilences. At a time when the whole world seems doomed, God will intervene.

"With His aid a valiant duke will arise from the ancient German house which was humiliated by the French monarch. This great ruler will restore stolen Church property. Protestantism will cease and the Turkish empire will end. This duke will be the most powerful monarch on earth. At a gathering of men noted for piety and wisdom he will, with the aid of the Pope, introduce new rules, and ban the spirit of confusion. Everywhere there will be one fold and one shepherd."

Juscfa von Bourg (died 1807): "God will choose a descendant of Constantine, Pepin, and St. Louis, who has been tried by a long period of disappointment, to come from

exile to rule over Europe. He will have the sign of the cross on his breast and besides being a religious man, will be kind, wise, just and powerful. Under him the Catholic religion will spread as never before."

Abbe Souffrand (died 1828): "The Great Ruler will perform such great and noble deeds that the infidels will be forced to admit the working of God's Providence. Under his reign the greatest righteousness will be practiced and the earth will bear in overabundance. Between the cries 'Everything is lost' and 'Everything is saved' there will be scarcely any interval."

Brother Louis Rocco (died 1840): "A Great Monarch will arise after a period of terrible wars and persecutions in Europe. He will be a Catholic: he will not be German"...

Joseph Gbrres (died 1848): "**The people will be united under a powerful monarch who will make new laws and banish corruption from the earth. To the Church will fall the task of rebuilding society.** Before this man comes to save them, the people will realize how bitter it is to desert God."

Venerable Magdalene Porzat (died 1850): "An enormous bird (Great Monarch) shall awake as from a sleep, and with its terrible bill and claws shall sever the ox's neck and shall eagerly devour the intestines of the wicked dragon. **He shall drag to the mud the tricolor (revolutionary) flag of the French and restore to their dominions the legitimate kings. A just and pious man born in Galicia shall be the Supreme Pontiff; then the whole world shall be united and prosperous. One faith only and one emperor shall reign over the whole earth.**"

Rev. Theophilus Riesinger, O. M. Cup. (died 1940): "The Great Monarch was destined to have been Archduke Franz Ferdinand (his assassination was the spark that started the first world war), but because of the many 'souls of atonement,' the reign of Antichrist was postponed, and hence also that of the Great Monarch" (p29-38).

There are some common threads in these private prophecies as well as the odd contradiction. The majority of the prophecies about the Great Monarch identify him as a French man. Another says that he is German and one prophecy links the two together by saying: "There will rise a valiant monarch anointed by God. He will be a Catholic, a descendant of Louis IX, (yet) a descendant of an ancient imperial German family, born in exile."

We have seen this dual nationality in the leader of one of the Roman revivals in past history. The leader most admired for his efforts to unite Europe is Charlemagne. He led the Frankish empire but was himself a German. His capital was Achen on the German side close to the French-German border.

The Old Testament prophecies that speak about the Beast power that rules Europe at the end-time often refer to it as Assyria. The ethnic people that ruled the Assyrian empire migrated to Europe and are the German speaking peoples in Europe. This indicates that Assyria will be the dominant power in the coming United Europe and most likely the leader, also referred to as the Beast, will be a German. The Bible is silent about his nationality so it is possible he could be French or have a dual nationality.

Many of these Catholic seers probably spoke of out of their own hearts without any inspiration either divine or demonic. If they were French themselves they were more likely to say the Great Monarch would be from their own country and be French. The events they speculated about were based on their own experience and the history of their own time and the things that they hoped for.

Many probably spoke of out of their own hearts without any inspiration either divine or demonic. However, it is possible that the demonic world can foretell the future or have their own specific plans that God will allow that aren't mentioned in scripture but don't contradict it either. The demonic world can inspire some of these seers with accurate information of these future events in order to deceive people to follow groups or individuals that God doesn't want us to follow.

We appear to see this type of inspiration with the remarkably accurate prophecies of St Malachy which we will look at a little later. One of Satan's tactics is to mix truth with error and many of these prophecies are a mixture of the two.

Some other specifics mentioned by these Catholic seers about the Great Monarch include the following:

- He will conquer England
- He will conquer the Holy Land and rule from Jerusalem
- He will assist the Pope in the reformation of the whole earth to Catholicism
- His name will start with R
- His rule will be a great peaceful and prosperous one

Some of the specifics attributed by Catholic seers to the Angelic Pastor include the following:

- He will unite the Western and Eastern (Orthodox) churches
- He will destroy Protestantism and Islam
- He will be born in Galacia (Turkey?)
- He will go over the sea at the concurrence of various feasts on certain days (the next of which occurs in 2038)
- His end and that of the Great Monarch will occur at the hands of the Antichrist
- St Malachy identifies him as Peter the Roman. His prophecy concludes: "In the final persecution of the Holy Roman Church there shall reign Peter the Roman who will feed his flock amid many tribulations, after which the seven-hilled city will be destroyed and the terrible judge will judge the people"

The likelihood of a merger of the Catholic and Orthodox churches to heal the great schism of the 11<sup>th</sup> century is reasonably high. The two legs of **Daniel 2** symbolising the Western and Eastern Roman empires that extend down to the toes (the end-time united ten nations) could also be representative of the religious system as well.

The second beast of **Revelation 13** representing the false church that supports the first beast – the United Europe has two horns. Horns are a symbol of a kingdom. One common interpretation is that this represents the church and state nature of the Vatican. A united Western (Catholic) and Eastern (Orthodox) branch is probably a better fit given a horn represents a kingdom in Bible prophecy.

The Catholic Church believes that it is the one and only true church and the open goal of Catholicism is that it must become the dominant religion of the entire world and the private prophecies of Catholic seers highlight this goal and dream of the Catholic Church.

The Catholic Church has attempted to convert the world as much as possible when it had the temporal power of Catholic European monarchs to assist it. They have converted most of Europe and other lands such as those of Latin America and others by missionary persuasion and force at times as well (The Inquisition, Hundred and Thirty Years Wars, etc).

The Catholic Church hasn't enjoyed temporal support from European states since the last days of the Hapsburg dynasty which came to an end at the time of Napoleon. Bible prophecy



indicates that there will be a restoration of this church-state rule that the Catholics enjoyed for over a millennium. The most recent popes have been courting the European Union and encouraging them to include the Catholic Church in the EU constitution (now EU treaty).

While it appears very secular at this time there will be a religious revival in Europe according to Bible prophecy and this will probably be triggered by the great demonic miracles that the false prophet will be performing at the time (**Revelation 13:13-14**). The charismatic leader of the coming United Europe may be a devout Catholic and/or sees the tremendous political power a return to the historical church-state alliance could give him.

The Catholic Church has been courting the Anglican Church to return to the mother church while still making it clear who is boss. It may succeed this side of the Great Tribulation but if not they will bring the Anglicans and Protestants under their heel when the coming United Europe conquers Britain and North America. The same, too, will apply when Europe conquers the Middle East and subdues much of Islam.

One Catholic seer whose prophecies appear to have been more accurate than Nostrodamus (who was a Catholic but used astrology to conjur up his famous quatrains) was the Irish priest St Malachy. Edwin Connor has this to say about him and his famous prophecy of 112 popes:

Few private prophecies have captured the popular imagination like that prophecy on the popes ascribed to St. Malachy O'Morgair, Archbishop of Armagh, Ireland, who died in 1148. Tradition has it that when Malachy visited Pope Innocent II in Rome in 1139, he was granted a vision of all the Holy Fathers of the future. He wrote down a description of each in two to four Latin words and gave the list to Innocent, who was deeply troubled at the time and who is said to have derived great comfort from the prophecy. Nothing more is heard of the list until 1590 when a Benedictine monk, Arnold de Wyon, discovered it in the Vatican archives. It was published, promoting a controversy that has continued to our day.

Since Malachy was a good friend of St. Bernard of Clairvaux (in whose arms he died), it is asked why the latter did not mention the prophecy in his famous Life of St. Malachy. Why was the list lost for so many years? Of the 112 popes described in the prophecy, 74 had already reigned when the list was discovered, and opponents of the prophecy claim that the descriptions of these are far more exact than those subsequent pontiffs. Was not the list the work of a forger who simply used hindsight to describe the popes of the preceding 450 years, and clever ambiguity for the popes of the future?

Proponents of the prophecy, however, stand on the fact that the prophetic utterances did fit all the popes after 1590 with uncanny aptness. Here are some in detail:

Clement XIII (reigned 1758-1769) is described as Rosa Umbriae ("The Rose of Umbria.") This pontiff had been governor of Rieti in Umbria, and the symbol of that district was a rose.

His successor, Clement XIV (1769-1774), appears as Ursus Velox ("The Nimble Bear") His coat of arms showed a bear in flight.

The next pontiff, Pius VI (1775-1799), is described as Peregrinus Apostolicus ("The Apostolic Wanderer") During his reign, this pope went to Germany to confer with the Emperor Joseph II. In the last years of his pontificate, he was forced by revolutionaries to flee Rome. After an arduous journey over the Alps, he died in Valence, France!

His successor was Pius VII (1800-1823), and he appears on Malachy's list as Aquila Rapax ("The Rapacious Eagle") Since this pope was the most gentle and dove-like of

men, the inscription has presented difficulties which some have tried to circumvent by applying the prophecy to Napoleon at whose hands Pius suffered so much.

The prophecy for Gregory XVI (1831-1846) reads De Balneis Etruriae ("From Balnea in Etruria") This pontiff belonged to the religious order of Camaldoli, whose seat is at Balnea in Etruria.

Coming to the popes of the last century: Pius IX (1846-1878) Crux de Cruce ("Cross from a Cross.") The House of Savoy, which caused this pope so much suffering, had a cross on its coat of arms.

Leo XIII (1878-1903): Lumen in Caelo ("Light in the Heavens") His coat of arms showed a shooting star.

Pius X (1903-1914): Ignis Ardens ("Burning Fire") Benedict XV (1914-1922): Pope of the first World War: Religio Depopulata ("Religion Devastated")

Pius XI (1922-1939): Fides Intrepida ("Intrepid Faith") Pius XII (1939-1958): Pastor Angelicus ("The Angelic Shepherd")

John XXIII (1958-1963): Pastor et Nauta ("The Shepherd and the Sailor") Since he was formerly Patriarch of Venice, this pontiff came from a city of canals.

Paul VI (1963-1978): Flos Florum ("The Flower of Flowers") His coat of arms displayed the fleur-de-lis.

John Paul I (1978-1978): De Medietate Lunae ("From the Half of the Moon.") The first two letters of his family name, Luciani, form half of "luna," the Latin word for "moon".

John Paul II (1978- ): De Lahore Solis ("From the labor of the Sun.")

Only two more popes remain on Malachy's list:

De Gloria Olivae ("From the Glory of the Olive") and Petrus Romanus ("Peter the Roman.")

The prophecy concludes: "In the final persecution of the Holy Roman Church there shall reign Peter the Roman who will feed his flock amid many tribulations, after which the seven-hilled city will be destroyed and the terrible judge will judge the people" (p.7-9).

John Paul II was identified as "From the labor of the Sun". Various interpretations have been put forth to account for this identification. The sun rises in the east and he was the first pope from Eastern Europe. Also he was the first pope to tour the world and go around it like the Sun.

John Paul II died in 2005 and he was succeeded by Benedict XVI who is identified as the second last pope in St Malachy's prophecy as "From the Glory of the Olive". Though not of the Benedict order himself, the symbol of the Benedict order is the olive branch.

St Malachy only prophesies one more pope after Benedict XVI and refers to him as Peter the Roman. From a Catholic perspective this would be seen as coming full circle as they see Peter as the first pope and the last pope will be Peter the Roman.

The destruction of Rome and exile and death of this final pope is echoed in **Revelation 17:16** where we read:

And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked. And they will eat her flesh and burn her with fire.

Some private Catholic prophecies about these same events include the following:

Brother John of the Cleft Rock (1340): "Toward the end of the world the Pope with the Cardinals will have to flee Rome under trying circumstances to a place where he will be unknown. He will die a cruel death in this exile. The sufferings of the Church will be much greater than at any previous time in her history"...

Abbess Maria Steiner (died 1862): "Unless people obtain pardon through their prayers, the time will come when they will see the sword and death, and Rome without a shepherd."

Pope Pius IX (died 1878): "The Church will suffer exceedingly. Her servants and her chieftain will be mocked, scourged and martyred."

Pope Saint Pius X (died 1914): "I saw one of my successors by name fleeing over the corpses of his brethren. He will flee to a place for a short respite where he is unknown, but he himself will die a cruel death"(p.39).

### The Antichrist

Here are some of the private prophecies about the Antichrist who is prophesied to destroy the power of the Papacy and the Great Monarch:

In the seventh chapter of the Apocalypse the tribes of Israel are named, and a certain number in each have the sign of the living God placed on their foreheads. **No mention is made of the tribe of Dan. Saint Irenaeus and others believe that this was because the Antichrist would come from that tribe.** In support of that theory the following text has been cited:

"Dan shall judge his people like another tribe in Israel. Let Dan be a snake in the way, a serpent in the path, that biteth the horse's heels that his rider may fall backward." **(Genesis 49:16-17)**...

Saint Zenobius (died 285): a. "Antichrist, the son of perdition, will be born in Corozain, will be brought up in Bethsaida, and shall begin to reign in Capharnaum, according to what Our Lord Jesus Christ said in the Gospel, 'Woe to thee Corozain ... Woe to thee Bethsaida ... and thou Capharnaum, that are exalted up to heaven, thou shalt be thrust down to hell.' **(cf. Luke 10:13-15)**.

b. "Antichrist shall work a thousand prodigies on earth. He will make the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, the dead rise, so that even the elect, if possible, shall be deceived by his magical arts. Swollen with pride, Antichrist shall enter in triumph the city of Jerusalem, and will sit on a throne in the temple to be adored as if he were the Son of God. His heart being intoxicated with arrogance, he will forget his being mere man, and the son of a woman of the tribe of Dan. He shall seduce many credulous persons through his deceitful errors..."

c. "Elias and Henoah will attack him bodily in the presence of the people, and shall convict him of imposture and lies. Then the Jews of all the tribes of Israel will be converted to the faith of Jesus Christ, and shall suffer martyrdom for His sake. In consequence of this Antichrist shall be seized with rage, and will put to death the two saints of God, and all those who have believed them. Then the Son of God, Our Lord

Jesus Christ, shall come in person. He shall appear, on the clouds of Heaven surrounded by legions of angels and shining with glory. He will put to death Antichrist, the beast, the enemy, the seducer, and all of his followers. This shall be the end of time and the beginning of the general judgment."

Saint Hilary (died 367): "Antichrist will teach that Christ was an imposter and not the real Son of God"...

Saint John Chrysostom (died 407): "The world will be faithless and denigrate after the birth of the Antichrist. Antichrist will be possessed by Satan and be **the illegitimate son of a Jewish woman from the East.**"

Saint Anselm (died 1109): "Antichrist will rule the world from Jerusalem which he will make into a magnificent city"(page 76).

Legenda Aurea (12th century): "The Last Judgment will be preceded by the impostor Antichrist, who will try to deceive men in four ways:

- 1] By a false exposition of the Scriptures, wherein he will try to prove that he is the Messiah promised by the Law.
- 2] By accomplishing miracles.
- 3] By the distribution of gifts.
- 4] By the infliction of punishments."

Blessed Jouchim (died 1202): "Toward the end of the world Antichrist will overthrow the Pope and usurp his See"...

Saint Mechtilda (died 1299): "Henoah and Elias will expose the devilish trickery of Antichrist to the people. As a consequence he will put them to death. For three and one half days their bodies will be exposed to insults, and the followers of Antichrist will presume that all danger is now past, but suddenly the bodies of the two prophets will move, rise and gaze on the crowd and begin to praise God. A great earthquake similar to that at Christ's resurrection will take place: Jerusalem will be partially destroyed and thousands killed. Then a voice from Heaven will call out, "Ascend" whereupon the prophets will ascend into Heaven, resulting in the conversion of many. Antichrist will reign thirty days after their ascension."

Venerable Bartholomew Holzhauser (died 1658): "Antichrist will come as the Messiah from a land between two seas in the East. He will be born in the desert, his mother being a prostitute to the Jews and Hindus. He will be a lying and false prophet and will try to rise to Heaven like Elias. He will begin work in the East, as a soldier and preacher of religion when thirty years old.

Antichrist and his army will conquer Rome, kill the Pope and take the throne. He will restore the Turkish regime destroyed by the Great Monarch. The Jews, knowing from the Bible that Jerusalem will be the seat of the Messiah, will come from everywhere, and accept Antichrist as the Messiah. "He will be able to fly. His flight will take place from Mt. Calvary. He will tell the crowd he is going after Henoah and Elias (who had arisen from the dead) in order to kill them again. Antichrist will live fifty five and one half years, that is, 666 months"...

Dionysius of Luxembourg (died 1682): "Antichrist will be an iconoclast (even against pagan images). Most of the world will adore him. **He will teach that the Christian religion is false**, confiscation of Christian property is legal, **Saturday is to be observed instead of Sunday**, and he will change the ten commandments. **He will read people's minds, raise the dead, reward his followers and punish the rest.**"

Antichrist will fight a successful battle at Megiddo in Palestine after which seven rulers, from fear, will subject themselves to Antichrist and he will thereafter become lord of the world." Elias will cause the rain, dew and snow to cease in those countries

where the inhabitants oppose the two prophets and refuse to reject Antichrist. The first land to be punished will be Palestine in order to win over the Jews.

After Elias finds the Ark of the Covenant of the Jews (2 Mac. 2:5-7) he and Henoah will place the Blessed Sacrament upon it. The Jews will then realize that Jesus Christ and not Antichrist is the true Messiah. They will desert Antichrist and make a pilgrimage to Mount Nebo (where the Ark is found) bewailing the hardheartedness of their ancestors. Thereafter they will accept the Christian faith.

The Antichrist will kill Henoah and Elias and leave them unburied. These will, however, be resurrected after three and one half days and ascend into Heaven in a cloud in the presence of their enemy. This miraculous event will actually confuse Antichrist. In order that the nations will not abandon him, he will lift himself up with great majesty into space on Mt. Olivet, with the purported intention to cast down the prophets who have ascended into Heaven. But, in this moment Christ will strike him down. The earth will open and swallow him and his prophets alive. Then a large part of Jerusalem will fall into ruins from the earthquake (p.70-85).

Some of these prophecies are quite outlandish while others have traits in common with the true Christ. They are deceptive from the point of view in that the one who destroys the power of the "Great Monarch" and the "Angelic Pastor" who will, in reality, be Jesus Christ is painted as the bad guy – the Antichrist.

### **The Two Witnesses**

Another belief touched on in the above prophecies about the Antichrist is the Catholic view that the two witnesses who proceed the return of Jesus Christ are the Old Testament prophets Enoch (Henoah) and Elijah (Elias). Edwin Connor explains this view:

In the prophecy of Malachias in the Old Testament we read: "Behold I will send you Elias the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord." (**Mal. 4:5**).

Many of the Jews believed that this prophecy referred to the first coming of the Messiah. This is why the apostles asked Our Lord, "Why then do the Scribes say that Elias must come first?" (**Matt. 17:10**). Our Lord answered, "Elias indeed is to come and will restore all things. But I say to you that Elias has come already, and they did not know him, but did to him whatever they wished...Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them of John the Baptist." (**Matt. 17:11-13**).

Thus Saint John the Baptist was the "Elias" whose preaching preceded the first coming of Christ, but Elias himself will appear before the Second Coming.

In regard to Henoah, we find in the book of Ecclesiasticus: "Henoah pleased God, and was translated into paradise that he may give repentance to the nations." (Ecclus. 44:16).

In the Apocalypse (11:3-12) mention is made of "two witnesses" who shall appear before the Second Coming of Christ. From the earliest times it has been believed that these witnesses will be Elias and Henoah preaching repentance to the nations, opposing the Antichrist, and working in the conversion of the Jews (p.64-65).

From a Catholic point of view the souls of Enoch and Elijah return to earth and preach repentance to the nations. At the Jewish seder (Passover) a cup is prepared for Elijah in

case of his return. This Jewish sentiment is reflected in the Jews expecting the literal Elijah at the time of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ.

While the Church of God doesn't believe in the immortality of the soul and going to heaven there is nothing in Church of God teaching that directly prevents this rather exotic possibility. God is quite capable of resurrecting to physical life these two prophets or even transporting them forward in time.

While this is in the realm of possibility there are two things against this idea in my mind. In **Revelation 11:4** the two witnesses are called the "two lampstands" and a lampstand is a symbol in the Book of Revelation for a church (**Revelation 1:20**). Who are the two churches (lampstands) Enoch and Elijah would be representative of? It is more likely the two witnesses are representative of the two groups of God's people mentioned in Revelation 12 – those who go to a place of safety and those who don't.

The second point is if Elijah was resurrected to physical life at this time then why wouldn't he fulfill the Elijah role that there is strong evidence that Herbert Armstrong has fulfilled already? The end-time Elijah is to restore ALL things (**Matthew 17:11**). The full restoration of all things (**Acts 3:20**) is to be done by Jesus Christ but this proceeding restoration is to the church. We have already seen such a restoration of all the major truths of the Bible through Herbert Armstrong that no further restoration of truth by either of the two witnesses could compare to it.

### Fatima

One of the more famous end-time private Catholic prophecies was to three children at Fatima in Portugal in 1917 who claimed to have seen a vision of the Virgin Mary. Edwin Connor has this to say about this prophecy:

The first part of the secret was a terrifying vision of Hell and the following message from Our Lady:

"You have seen Hell where the souls of poor sinners go. To save them, God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart.

"If people do what I shall tell you, many souls will be saved and there will be peace.

"The war is going to end, but if people do not stop offending God another and worse one will begin in the reign of Pius XI. When you shall see a night illuminated by an unknown light, know that it is the great sign God is giving you that He is going to punish the world for its sins by means of war, famine, and persecution of the Church and the Holy Father.

"To prevent it I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart and Communions of reparation on the first Saturdays.

"If they heed my requests, Russia will be converted and there will be peace. Otherwise Russia will spread her errors throughout the world, promoting wars and persecution of the Church; the good will be martyred, the Holy Father will have much to suffer, various nations will be annihilated.

"But in the end my Immaculate Heart shall triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, she will be converted, and a certain period of peace will be given to the world. In Portugal the dogma of Faith will always be kept."

The second part of the secret referred to the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Our Lady told of five scourges that would fall upon the world if mankind did not repent and return to God, and she gave a sign by which it might be known that the punishments were at hand: "When you shall see a night illuminated by an unknown light."

This sign came on the night of January 25, 1938 when all Europe and part of North America were lighted up by an extraordinary appearance of the aurora borealis, better known as the northern lights. The story of the great light and the fear and terror it inspired everywhere was reported by all leading newspapers, appearing on the front page of the New York Times. From her convent cell in Spain, Lucy recognized the light as the sign and made it known to her bishop.

The five scourges were to be:

- 1] A second world war beginning in the reign of Pius XI (in his pontificate we had the Chinese-Japanese war, the Spanish civil war, and the annexation of Austria - all of which might be considered the prologue to World War II);
- 2] The rise and success of Russian Communism;
- 3] The martyrdom of the faithful;
- 4] The Holy Father having much to suffer,
- 5] The annihilation of nations.

The first four punishments have come to pass. The fifth has not - if the prophecy is to be taken literally - and can still be avoided if the faithful will fulfill Our Lady's requests for penance, daily Rosary, and devotion to her Immaculate Heart (p.13-15)..

If one does not believe in the immortality of the soul then one would have to recognize such apparitions of Mary as a deceptive demonic counterfeit. Also, **Matthew 13:55-56** plainly says that Jesus had at least 4 brothers and at least 2 sisters. Unless Joseph was a widower with all these children Mary clearly did not remain a virgin the rest of her life.

### Miscellaneous Prophecies

One common end-time prophecy of Catholic seers is about three days of darkness. There are plagues of darkness in the Book of Revelation but none give a specific time frame. Edwin Connor quotes a few of these private prophecies:

Blessed Anna Maria Taigi (died 1837): "There shall come over all the earth an intense darkness lasting three days and three nights. Nothing will be visible and the air will be laden with pestilence, which will claim principally but not exclusively the enemies of religion. During this darkness artificial light will be impossible. Only blessed candles can be lighted and will afford illumination. He who out of curiosity opens his window to look out or leaves his house will fall dead on the spot. During these three days the people should remain in their homes, pray the Rosary and beg God for mercy.

"On this terrible occasion so many of these wicked men - enemies of His Church and of their God shall be killed by this divine scourge that their corpses round Rome will be as numerous as the fish which a recent inundation of the Tiber had carried into the city. All the enemies of the Church, secret as well as known, will perish over the whole earth during that universal darkness, with the exception of some few, whom God will soon after convert. The air shall be infected with demons, who will appear under all sorts of hideous forms.

"After the three days of darkness Saints Peter and Paul, having come down from Heaven, will preach throughout the world and designate a new pope. A great light will flash from their bodies and will settle upon the cardinal, the future Pontiff. Then Christianity will spread throughout the world. Whole nations will join the Church shortly before the reign of the Antichrist. These conversions will be amazing. Those who shall survive shall have to conduct themselves well. There shall be innumerable conversions of heretics, who will return to the bosom of the Church; all will note the edifying conduct of their lives, as well as that of all other Catholics. Russia, England and China will come into the Church."

Saint Caspar del Bufulo (died 1837). He foretold "the destruction of impenitent persecutors of the Church during time three days darkness. To him who outlives the darkness and fear of the three days, it will seem as if he were alone on earth because the world will be covered everywhere with carcasses."

Sister Rose Asdenti (1847). She foretold the three days darkness and that England would return to the unity of faith...

Sister Mary of Jesus Crucified of Pau (died 1878): "All states will be shaken by war and civil conflict. During a darkness lasting three days the people given to evil ways will perish so that only one fourth of mankind will survive. The clergy too will be greatly reduced in number, as most of them will die in defense of the Faith or their country."

Marie Julie Jahenny of La Fraudais (1891): "There will come three days of continued darkness. The blessed candle of wax alone will give light during the horrid darkness. One candle will last for three days, but in the houses of the godless they will not give light. During those three days the demons will appear in abominable and horrible forms, they will make the air resound with shocking blasphemies. The lightning will penetrate the homes, but will not extinguish the light of the blessed candles; neither wind nor storm nor earthquake will extinguish it. Red clouds like blood will pass in the sky, the crash of thunder will make the earth tremble; lightning will flash through the streets at an unusual time of the year, the earth will tremble to its foundations; the ocean will cast its foaming waves over the land; the earth will be changed to an immense cemetery; the corpses of the wicked and the just will cover the face of the earth. The famine that follows will be great. All vegetation will be destroyed as well as three fourths of the human race. The crisis will come all of a sudden and chastisement will be worldwide" (p.26-28).

Another prophecy is that Ireland would be submerged seven years before the end of the age:

Private revelation adds a note about Ireland:

Attributed to Saint Patrick (died 493): "The ocean shall inundate Ireland seven years before the end so that the devil may not rule over that people."

Saint Columbkille (died 597): "Seven years before the last day the sea shall submerge Ireland in one inundation."

Saint Nennius: "The sea will come over Ireland seven year before the Day of Judgment."

Leabhar Breac: "The sea shall overwhelm Ireland seven years before the Judgment."

John O'Connell (died 1858): "Lest the deceptions, snares and danger of Antichrist should fall upon the Irish, He promised to send a deluge over Ireland, seven years previous to the burning of the spheres."



These private prophecies should not be taken seriously. If Ireland were to disappear in the sea, mankind would then know for certain the end of the world was only seven years away (p.94-95).

The restoration of the Jews to the Holy Land is another thing mentioned in these private prophecies which is implied in **Matthew 24** and other scriptures. Edwin Connor quotes a few of these private prophecies:

Anne Catherine Emmerich (died 1824): "The Jews shall return to Palestine and become Christians toward the end of the world." [This "prophetess" was the source of much of Mel Gibson's information he used for his movie "The Passion of the Christ" preferring it ahead of the gospels in some places where it conflicted with the gospel accounts and even when told so by historical consultants to him on the movie]

Pope Benedict XV (died 1922): "The return of the Jews to Palestine is the will of God, hence they will have to leave many countries."

Pere Lamy (died 1931): "The Jews are scattered all over the world, but they will not be abandoned. God never forsake His own" (p.64).

One interesting little note in Edwin Connor's book is an interpretation of the five kings who have fallen mentioned in **Revelation 17:10** out of the seven kings that the seven horns of the beast of **Revelation 17** represent. He notes these as the five emperors between Christ's first coming and John's writing of the book include Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius and Nero. He says the one that is is Vespasian and the one to come is Titus and that John makes use of the "Nero coming again" legend and that Antichrist comes in the spirit of Nero (p111).

While there may be a slight possibility of a duality here with the seven kings being these the various revivals of the Roman Empire since its fall make a better fit here.

We have seen some clear counterfeits to the true Biblical prophecies with some of the private Catholic prophecies. The most disturbing ones have to do with the Great Monarch and the Angelic Pastor. They are nowhere mentioned in the Bible.

While little known today, even amongst Catholics, we will likely see a much greater awareness of these prophecies as the prophesied revival in Catholicism occurs in Europe primarily triggered by a miracle-working religious leader. They will give a kind of legitimacy to the actions of the beast leader and the false prophet and prime the Catholic world to reject the true Christ when He returns.