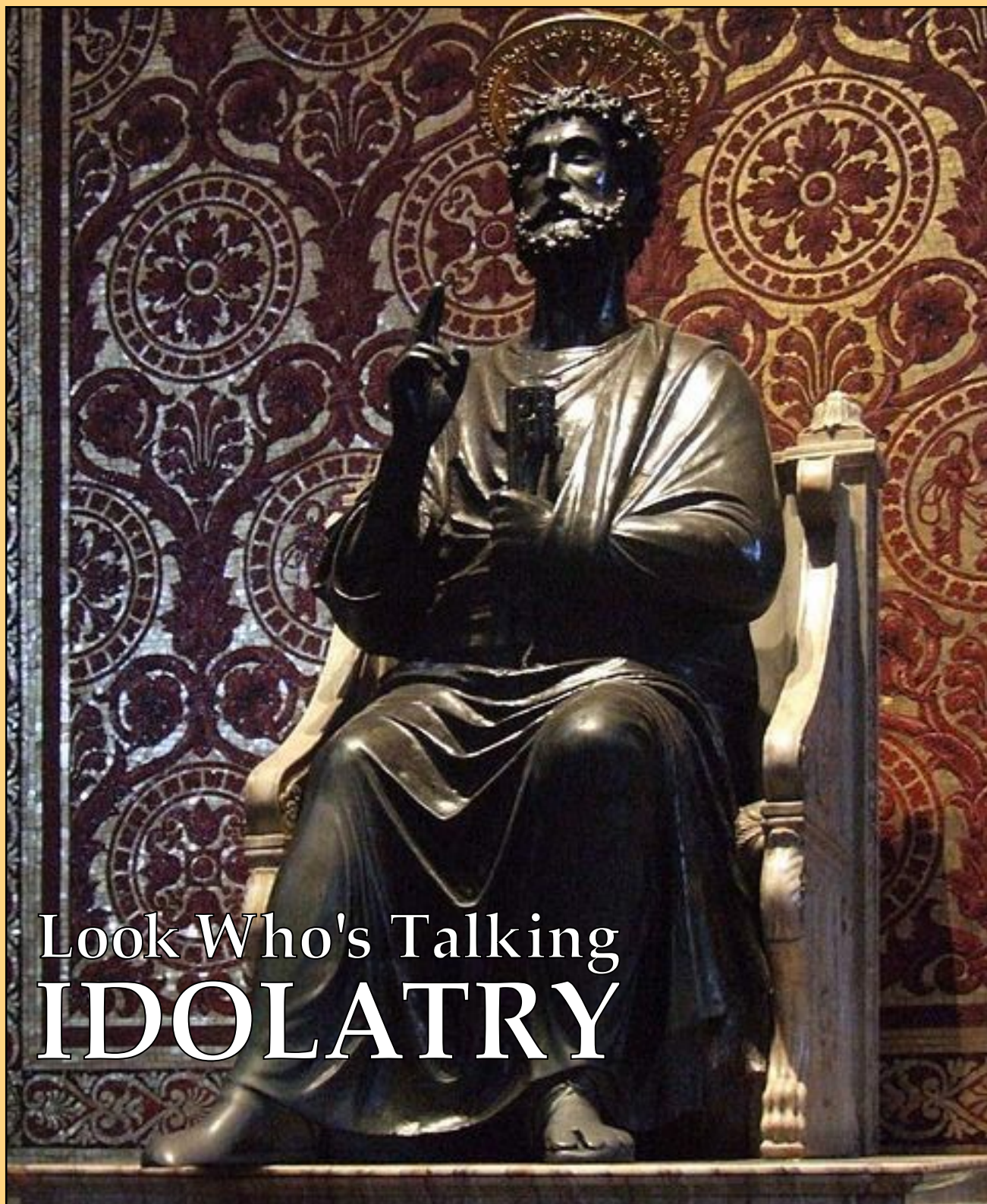


**TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY**

# **WATCH**

*Special Edition*



Look Who's Talking  
**IDOLATRY**

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## COMMENTARY

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# Will America fall like The Roman Empire?

Unfortunately, the fall of Rome is a pattern repeated by empires throughout history ... including ours? A group of libertarians gathered in Las Vegas recently for an event called “FreedomFest.” We debated whether America will soon fall, as Rome did.

Historian Carl Richard said that today’s America resembles Rome.

The Roman Republic had a constitution, but Roman leaders often ignored it. “Marius was elected consul six years in a row, even though under the constitution (he) was term-limited to one year.”

Sounds like New York City’s Mayor Bloomberg.

“We have presidents of both parties legislating by executive order, saying I’m not going to enforce certain laws because I don’t like them,” Richard says. “That open flouting of the law is dangerous because law ceases to have meaning. ...I see that today. ...Congress passes huge laws they haven’t even read (as well as) overspending, overtaxing and devaluing the currency.”

The Romans were worse. I object to President Obama’s \$100 million dollar trip, but Nero traveled with 1,000 carriages.

Emperor Commodus held a show in the Coliseum at which he personally killed five hippos, two elephants, a rhinoceros and a giraffe.

To pay for their excesses, emperors devalued the currency. (Doesn’t our Fed do that by buying \$2 trillion of government debt?)

Nero reduced the silver content of coins to 95 percent. Then Trajan reduced it to 85 percent and so on. By the year 300, wheat that once cost eight Roman dollars cost 120,000 Roman dollars.

The president of the Foundation for Economic Education, Lawrence Reed, warned that Rome, like America, had an expanding welfare state. It started with “subsidized grain. The government gave it away at half price. But the problem was that they couldn’t stop there ... a man named Claudius ran for Tribune on a platform of free wheat for the masses. And won. It was downhill from there.”

Soon, to appease angry voters, emperors gave

away or subsidized olive oil, salt and pork. People lined up to get free stuff.

Rome’s government, much like ours, wasn’t good at making sure subsidies flowed only to the poor, said Reed: “Anybody could line up to get these goods, which contributed to the ultimate bankruptcy of the Roman state.”

As inflation increased, Rome, much like the U.S. under President Nixon, imposed wage and price controls. When people objected, Emperor Diocletian denounced their “greed” saying, “Shared humanity urges us to set a limit.”

Doesn’t that sound like today’s anti-capitalist politicians?

Diocletian was worse than Nixon. Rome enforced controls with the death penalty — and forbid people to change professions. Emperor Constantine decreed that those who broke such rules “be bound with chains and reduced to servile condition.”

Eventually, Rome’s empire was so large — and people so resentful of centralized control — that generals in outlying regions began declaring independence from Rome.

At FreedomFest, Matt Kibbe, president of the tea party group Freedom Works, also argued that America could soon collapse like Rome did.

“The parallels are quite ominous — the debt, the expansionist foreign policy, the arrogance of the executive power taking over our country,” says Kibbe. “But I do think we have a chance to stop it.”

That’s a big difference between today’s America and yesterday’s Rome. We have movements like the tea party and libertarianism and events like FreedomFest that alert people to the danger in imperial Washington and try to fight it. If they can wake the public, we have hope.

The triumph of liberty is not inevitable, though. And empires do crumble.

Rome’s lasted the longest. The Ottoman Empire lasted 623 years.

We’ve lasted just 237 years so far — sometimes

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behaving like a republic and sometimes an empire. In that time, we've accomplished amazing things, but we shouldn't take our continued success for granted.

Freedom and prosperity are not natural. In human history, they're rare. □

*John Stossel*

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Cover Photo: The ancient bronze statue at the Vatican, purportedly of St. Peter holding the "Keys to the Kingdom," revered and worshipped by Catholics as "The First Pope." Centuries of long processions kissing the statue's feet have worn the toes down flat.

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# Look Who's Talking Idolatry

## *What is Idolatry, Anyway?*

**M**oney? Really? We must have missed that chapter and verse. But there's something about this pope and money. He just doesn't like it. He says it is a tool to oppress his beloved "poor." But what if the poor weren't poor? If they weren't poor, they would have money! At least enough to afford the rudiments of a civilized existence. Isn't that what the pope wants for the poor? Maybe somebody should ask him.

Using the established line of papal logic, that money is intrinsically evil, it would be logical to ask whether the redistributed money used to aid the poor is also evil. Since when is it the province of papal authority to be issuing scathing rebukes about money in general?

There's no question that the dominant currencies on earth are the source of brewing trouble. Europe's most sober voices seem to have given up on the future of the euro, they just don't yet have any solution to replace it. The dollar has already been dramatically devalued, with many beginning to question its long term solvency. A great deal of the dollar's decline is directly traceable to social-justice style redistribution. But in this case it's not being REDISTRIBUTED, just printed and handed out without any product, service or any asset of any kind to justify its creation. The world is headed for currency crises. We've already seen several, and

every reaction has been to maneuver temporary solutions that don't solve the underlying problems and simply delay the inevitable day of reckoning.

Almost everybody has some inkling of the Biblical prophecies concerning the kind of money that will apparently be the world currency during a period of horrendous end time events. You'd be

least those who live in it. He denounces money and those who have it. His words sound increasingly to be in tune with the tenets of "social justice," as if the poor have been unfairly downtrodden by people who manage to eke out a civilized existence through hard work and thrift.

But the most concerning aspect of his overall theme is his obses-



Pope Francis: Curiously critical of money

hard pressed to find anybody that never heard of the Mark of the Beast. Shouldn't the pope himself be something of an expert on the subject?

Obviously, none of us can know the content of his long-term plans. But it is curious that he seems wedded to the tactic of mass demonstrations, telling his audience in Brazil to "take to the streets" demonstration style, to spread the Catholic faith. He's seemingly fond of poverty, or at

sion with the evil of money, to the extent that he equates money with idolatry! Who could be a greater expert on the subject of idolatry than the pope of the Catholic church? Perhaps no pagan religion on earth relies as heavily on the sanctity of images as does the Catholic church. They have, for centuries, revered statues and paintings that cry, bleed or sweat. There is magic power, many believe, in their religious parapher-

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This view of St. Peter's shows clearly the 16 ft. tall statue of Jesus (center, holding cross) and the Apostles overlooking the 132 ft. tall obelisk which stands at the center of the square. The obelisk was originally brought to Rome from Heliopolis, Egypt, by Caligula, Roman Emperor of malevolent repute who reigned from A.D. 37 to 41. The obelisk originally stood in ancient Egypt, and after being transported to Rome was with great difficulty moved and re-erected several times before finally being placed at the center focal point in front of the great church by Pope Sixtus in 1585. Catholic tradition claims that the bronze cross atop the ancient Egyptian obelisk actually contains a piece of the "cross" on which Christ was crucified. The obelisk itself is "associated" with the upside-down martyrdom of the Apostle Peter, as it is claimed to have marked the center divider in the stadium known as the Circus of Nero (where tradition holds that Peter was martyred), and stood near the south wall of the construction of an early portion of the basilica, which is said to have originally been begun as

an attempt by early Christians to protect the unmarked grave of Peter from encroachment among the shrines of a pagan cemetery near the stadium. Later, the protective barrier was enlarged upon and built into a church by Emperor Constantine the Great who first granted Christians, the freedom to worship in 313 A.D. Contrary to Catholic tradition, there is some doubt as to whether Peter was martyred in Rome, or indeed whether he ever traveled there at all.

The facade which makes up the front of the basilica and faces East, was originally designed and constructed in the early 1500's under the supervision of Bramante, an architect and builder employed by Pope Julius II in order to enlarge the existing building to make room for his own colossal tomb (triple tiered, adorned with 38 life-sized statutes) which had been designed and constructed by Michelangelo. Bramante's design for the huge dome atop the facade was copied from the Pantheon, a pagan Roman temple dedicated to the worship of all officially recognized gods. □

## Desmond Tutu Tells God Off and Brags about it!

**W**e know that much has changed about modern society in recent years. But this is the first instance we know of where one who purports to hold high religious office is, by his own words and actions, promoting direct rebellion against Almighty God.

The highly decorated, widely venerated Desmond Tutu, Archbishop of the South African Anglican Church, thinks he's smarter, wiser and more righteous than God. He recently made headlines saying he'd never worship a "homophobic" god, a clear attempt at blasphemy at the very least. Yes he's won the Nobel Prize and a slew of lesser known honors, having "campaigning" against aids, apartheid, poverty, racism, "homophobia" and maybe this is a new addition to the progressive lexicon, "transphobia" (another mangling of etymology which has no meaning other than the corrupt ideology attached to it).

If he had his way? It sounds like he already has! He thinks he'll "go to heaven," with a pro-gay chip on his shoulder, tell God off, and then be off, more righteous

than God, to the lower regions.

We'd hate to break it to him, but none of that is going to happen. He, of all people should

know that for any mere human being to shake his fist in the face of God, boast about it in front of cameras and microphones, will certainly not earn him a trip to heaven, or into God's Kingdom, in the first place. This little self-styled holy man knows better! Obviously he is well aware of God's Laws and His Word on the subject of homosexuality, and he has chosen to go public with his rejection of all that.

He's obviously had a change of heart since the days he aspired to high religious office. We're certain that even the South African Anglican Church would never have promoted him if he went around bragging about his plans to tell God off. But now apparently he's been emboldened by the many accolades and possibly by support from the United Nations, and thinks he's bullet-proof, or maybe fireproof! □ *Mark Armstrong*



## Idolatry

*Continued from page 4*

nalía, their crosses and beads. And you never know when a scorched piece of toast or sprinkler pattern on a bridge abutment just might produce a sacred artifact for prayer or worship.

And check out this smoking gun! The Catholic Encyclopedia, in its rendering of the Ten Commandments, completely omits the one about "graven images." It is

obvious which came first. If the complete version of the Ten Commandments had been their guide in the first place, praying to statues, paintings and artifacts that supposedly represent "mother Mary," or some previous pope would never have got started in the first place. The Commandments were compromised to allow for the pagan practices already popular in Rome and Alexandria. That is exactly what happened, as anyone who knows the saga of Constantine in the early

300s AD will tell you.

We can't possibly foresee the intentions of this pope. But we do know from the book of Revelation that there will be a dominant form of currency forced upon mankind that constitutes the worship of an empire and a man, the leader of a great false religion. Surely the great compassion and heart-felt empathy of this pope wouldn't elevate him to a position worthy of worship in the eyes of the world, would it? We will

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# Who's in Charge?

**The pope in Rome derives his authority from the “Petrine Doctrine,” which claims Peter was the first “pope,” having absolute authority over the other apostles. But was Peter the “chief apostle”? Did he have the “primacy” over all the others? Here is the plain truth from your own Bible!**

by Garner Ted Armstrong

**I**t is impossible to read the four gospels without concluding that Peter was accorded a special place among them; listed first at the head of the twelve (Matthew 10:2), and privy to unique occasions in the experiences of Christ (Mark 5:37; Matthew 17:1; Mark 14:33).

Peter was a man of strong will, physical strength, and absolute devotion to Jesus Christ. Yet, for all his courage and dedication, he was yet carnal; he did not receive God's Holy Spirit until the Day of Pentecost following Christ's ascension. Thus, we see him first fiercely proclaiming his loyalty to Christ, then vehemently denying he ever knew the man during Christ's trial and crucifixion. That Peter was leader among the twelve; that he was one of the three most often with Jesus Christ; that he was the one whose words are preserved for us on Pentecost—of these facts there can be no doubt.

But was Peter the chief apostle? Was he given absolute authority over the others? Did he alone have the so-called *primacy*? Was he the head of the Church; empowered with the authority to “set doctrine,” establish all Church customs, and with the power to excommunicate any of his contemporaries? Did he have the power to appoint a successor—no matter his qualifications;

in his sole subjective discretion—and did Christ command the church to *follow that appointed successor no matter what?*

## Catholic Authority

The Roman Catholic Church derives its authority, *not* solely



from the Scriptures, but from two other sources as well, each of which is claimed to have equal authority with Scripture, according to Catholic doctrine. They are: (1) The traditions of the “fathers” of the Catholic Church; (2) The pronouncements of the Pope when speaking *ex cathedra* from the so-called “Holy See” in Rome. The Bible is only one of *three* authorities by which Catholic doctrine and practice, Catholic dogma, is established. As we shall see, where the Bible and tra-

dition clash, tradition usually prevails.

## Popes Not In Unbroken Succession

Though the Catholic Church claims “Church fathers” as one of their authorities, they seem to reject the pronouncements of these same fathers, accepting only *selectively* from their writings as they desire. Notice what Cyprian, pupil of Tertullian, said about so-called “apostolic succession.” Cyprian lived from A.D. 200 until 258. He died more than 70 years before the famous Council of Nicea. In the introductory notes on Cyprian's writings (*The Anti-Nicene Fathers* by Roberts and Donaldson): “It [Cyprian's writings] embodies *no hierarchical assumption* no “lordship over God's heritage,” but is conceived in the spirit of St. Peter when he *disclaimed* all this, and said, “The *presbyters* who are among you I exhort, who am also a *presbyter*.” ...nothing can be more delusive than the idea that the medieval system [of Catholic Church government] derives any support from Cyprian's theory of the episcopate or of Church organization. *His was the system of universal parity and community of bishops.* In his scheme *the apostolate was perpetuated in the episcopate*” (*Ante-Nicene Fathers* Vol. V, p.

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# Who's in Charge?

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263, emphasis mine).

Cyprian knew the apostles were succeeded by the *ministry* of the Church; the “episcopate,” consisting of “presbyters” or “bishops,” meaning, merely, “overseers,” or *pastors* of churches! Notice what he wrote concerning the so-called primacy of Peter, “For neither did Peter, whom first the Lord chose...when Paul disputed with him afterwards about circumcision, claim

Who, then, are *you* to believe? Do you accept the Bible as the *authority* concerning claims about the “primacy of Peter,” or do you accept the claims of men? In the first century, there were “apostles.” But they lied. We shall see, later, how God congratulated the members of His true church for “trying” them who made such preposterous claims. How did they “try” those who said they were apostles? Why, they *com-*

**No, Peter never claimed any primacy. One looks through scripture in vain to find Peter giving orders to the others.**

anything to himself insolently, nor arrogantly assume anything; SO AS TO SAY THAT HE HELD THE PRIMACY, and that he ought rather to be obeyed by novices and those lately come” (*Ante-Nicene Fathers*, Vol. V, p. 377; emphasis mine).

No, Peter never claimed any primacy. One looks through scripture in vain to find Peter giving orders to the others. Rather, we find Peter *being sent* by others (Acts 8:14); being openly rebuked by Paul (Gal. 2:11). Cyprian lived only 100 years after the death of John, during that “dark century” when only sketchy information comes to us concerning the condition of the Church. Yet, even this man, a student of Tertullian, denies that Peter ever arrogated to himself any title of “chief apostle,” or that he, or any other ministers (presbyters) in the Church claimed Peter had any “primacy.”

*pared what these men said with scripture.* We are commanded to do the same thing today; to “prove all things.” And hold fast to that which is good.

It would require a book-length article to convey all the dozens of proofs from history concerning the *gradual* development of the Roman Catholic governmental hierarchy, and space precludes this. However, historical evidence abounds to disprove the claim of unbroken succession of “popes” from the time of the apostles.

The development of an hierarchical structure, with Rome finally recognized as the supreme headquarters of the Romish Church required many *centuries*. The apostate Church of the second century, after the death of the last surviving apostle, John, knew only of bishops; pastors of local churches. Over the succeeding decades, the leading bishops of larger cities became known as

“metropolitans.” Eventually, there were five “patriarchs” in the Church, located in such cities as Alexandria, Constantinople, Antioch, and Rome.

Centuries later, there were only *two* “great patriarchs,” in Constantinople and in Rome. Old age, internecine conflicts and warfare had eliminated the others. The history of the development of Catholic hierarchical government includes the time when two leaders, each claiming primacy, were busily “excommunicating” each other!

It was not until the late 1800s, in comparatively modern times, that the Roman Catholic Church declared the doctrine of papal infallibility; that the pope, when speaking from the official seat in St. Peters in Rome, is *infallible* in matters of church custom and doctrine.

Thus, any Church claiming to be governed by “an apostle,” does so *solely on the authority of the Roman Catholic Church*, and not on the authority of the Word of God. For the Bible absolutely proves Peter was *never* regarded as the head of the Church; he was *never* given authority over the other apostles; and he was *never* given the “primacy” over the church.

## Who is Head of the Church?

“Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona; because flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, but my Father who is in heaven. And I say unto thee: that thou art Peter [Gk. *Petros*]; and upon this rock [Gk. *Petra*] I will build my church, and the gates of hell [Gk. *Hades*, meaning “the grave”]



shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:17-19).

So said Jesus Christ in response to Peter's famous statement, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

According to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, Vol. XII, p. 261, this statement by Jesus Christ is one of only two texts which give proof that Christ instituted a "supreme head" of the Church. They say, "The proof that Christ constituted St. Peter HEAD OF HIS CHURCH is found in the two famous Petrine texts, Matthew xvi, 17-19, and John xxi, 15-17 (emphasis mine).

But is that what Christ meant? Is that what the Bible really says? When Jesus spoke to Peter, He spoke in *Aramaic*, which was the Hebrew tongue acquired by the Jews during their forty years in Babylonish captivity—a dialect. Jesus did not use the Greek, *Petros* from which our English word, "Peter," is derived. Rather, He used the Aramaic name, *Cephus* (pronounced "keephus"), a name which is used continually by the apostle Paul in his many references to Peter.

Peter's given name was "Simon," the son of Jona, or "Simon Bar-jona." When Jesus made His famous statement concerning the building of His Church, He used the Aramaic language, just as He did when He first met Peter, and said, "Thou art Simon the son of Jona; thou shalt be called *Cephas* which is by interpretation, 'a stone'" (John 1:42, 43). The words "which is by interpretation a stone" were not part of the verbal statement made by Christ; they are editorial comments added by John, who wrote his treatise many

years later. The Aramaic word *Cephas* is the equivalent of "a pebble," or "a stone" in the Greek. However, it is doubtful "Peter" as he later became known in history, was ever called by that name as we pronounce it in English, nor as pronounced *Petros* in Greek, but was called *Cephas* by his contemporaries. "Peter" is merely our English translation of a Greek translation of *Cephas*.

When Jesus said "Thou art *Petros*," as recorded by Matthew, remember the language of the scribe is different from the lan-

would agree with *homological* (which is fem.) and is rendered *confession* in I Tim. 6:13, and *profession* I Tim. 6:12; Heb. 3:1; 4:14; 10:23. Cp. 2 Cor. 9:13. Whether we are to understand it (with Augustine and Jerome) as implying 'Thou has said (it)' (See Ap. 147), or, 'Thou art Peter,' most Protestants as these ancient 'Fathers' agree that Peter's *confession* is the foundation to which Christ referred, and not Peter himself. He was neither the foundation nor the builder—[a poor builder, v. 23]—but Christ alone,

**Did Jesus imply that Peter would  
become the head of the church?  
In no manner!**

guage of the speaker, even if the meaning conveyed is the same. Christ said *Cephas*, and Matthew reports it as *Petros*. But did Jesus mean to imply that *Peter* would become the head of the Church? In no manner! Jesus used a different word for the surname of Peter, and the word "rock" pertaining to the foundational stone of the Church! Speaking of Peter, the inspired text used the word *peros*, with the masculine ending, which means "a stone," or "a rock." But when Jesus said "...upon this ROCK I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18), the inspired text says *petra*, with the feminine ending, conveying a large, immovable monolith, like the whole side of a mountain. Notice Dr. Bullinger's comment from the *Companion Bible*, p. 1345, "This Rock - Gk. *Petra*. *Petra* is fem., and therefore could not refer to Peter; but, if it refers to Peter's confession, then it

whom he had confessed (I Cor. 3:11)." Of the word "Rock," Bullinger says, "Gr. *Petra*, A rock (*in situ*) immovable: the Messiah, as being 'The Son of the Living God,' Who is the foretold 'Foundation Stone' (Isa. 28:16; and the rejected Stone (Ps. 118:22))."

Who is the ROCK upon which the Church is founded? Notice! "Then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation" (Deuteronomy 32:15); "They sacrificed unto demons, and not unto God; to gods they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not. Of the ROCK that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten GOD that formed thee: (Deuteronomy 32:17, 18); "How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight except their ROCK had sold them, and the Eternal had shut them up?"

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# The Selection of Popes

**P**rior to 312 A.D., there were 31 men who claimed to be successors of Peter and bishops of Rome. Of the first 18 of these men, not one of them died in his bed—all perished violently. A few of them were able to appoint a successor, but in many cases there was no opportunity. The next bishop had to be elected by an assembly of Christians in Rome.

After Constantine established the Christian church as the religion of the Roman Empire, he told Miltiades, the bishop of Rome at the time, “In the future, we as the apostle of Christ will help choose the bishop of Rome.” It is interesting that the bishops of Rome—the popes—did not claim the title of “the apostle of Christ,” but Constantine did. After Miltiades’ death, Constantine returned to Rome and assembled all the Christians and told them, “You have chosen to approve of Sylvester as successor to Miltiades and to Peter the apostle, as representative of Jesus the Christ.” All the Roman Christians could do was confirm the Emperor’s choice. Sylvester is the first pope to be crowned like a prince of this world.

Constantine divided the visible church into three Apostolic Patriarchates—Rome, Alexandria, and Antioch. The Roman patriarch was given precedence over others “because the apostles Peter and Paul lived and died in Rome.”

“Within a few short years of

Constantine’s conversion, the election of a pope had become an occasion for bitter, sometimes violent clashes. Electioneering time usually began after the death of a pope. Sometimes, his last days and dying hours were filled with factional disputes, the nobles in the Roman Senate against the bishops and priests, the deacons and subdeacons and the people against the bishops, various am-

times attempted to appoint a successor, it was relatively rare for the Roman community of Christians to confirm his appointee. “Often, when the Roman community of Christians assembled for an election, they found the emperor’s nominee facing them. They merely had to acclaim that nominee as their pope” (ibid).

“In any case, from the year 314 onward until the invention



Cardinals proceed to Sistine Chapel to cast votes for prospective pope.

bitious papal candidates with their following of family, kinsmen, and friends, one against each other. Vicious enmities were created. Blood was shed. Lives were taken. At the election of pope Damasus I in A.D. 366, 37 corpses littered the environs of the Liberian Basilica after a fracas between the followers of Damasus and his archrival, Ursinus” (Malachi Martin, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Church*, page 57).

Even though a pope some-

of the conclave system as the official method of election, there were 147 popes. The vast majority of these were elected at the beck and call of Roman emperor, gothic king, Frankish king, Roman family or faction, German tribesmen, German emperor, or local Italian petty tyrant. The Roman assembly of Christians continued to hold elections, but in each case their chosen candidate had to be ratified or confirmed by some temporal prince or ruler” (ibid., page

58).

In the year 769, Stephen IV changed the rules for elections of popes. A synod of bishops, under his direction, forbade any participation by the people in the election of a pope. "Only clergy may vote in the election. The people may acclaim the chosen candidate" (ibid., page 89). Note that the people could acclaim, not confirm the new pope.

This did not, of course, mean that the bishops selected the succeeding popes. Often, powerful women were involved in *imposing* a new pope on the church.

This involvement with temporal power had its effect. "On November 18, 1302, Boniface VIII could issue a famous statement of papal claims which stands as the ultimate expression of the Christian heartland and profound Roman claim on it. "The church," declared Boniface, "has one body and one head, Christ and Christ's vicar, Peter and Peter's successor...In his power there are two swords, a spiritual and a temporal sword...Both kinds of power are in the hands of the Roman pontiff...and furthermore we declare and define it to be believed as a necessary condition for salvation that everything created in the human universe is subject to the Roman pontiff" (ibid., page 108).

"Consider a woman called Marozia and her involvement with the papacy of the tenth century. The high point in Marozia's career came at the end of her very long life when she was visited in her Roman prison by an emperor who had just seized possession of the city—Otto III,

a successor of Charlemagne. He had only one reason for visiting Marozia—to lay his eyes on the woman who was the mother of one pope whom she conceived by another pope, who was the aunt of a third pope, the grandmother of a fourth pope, and with the help of her own mother, the creator of nine popes in eight years, two of whom had been strangled, one suffocated with a cushion, and four deposed and disposed in circumstances that have never come to public light" (Ibid., page 119).

**He had his soldiers take each  
of the cardinals, tie them hand and foot,  
and brutalize them.**

The conclave system of electing popes did not come on the scene until the thirteenth century, and what really led to the invention of conclave was the fact that Europe was dominated by the papacy. It was lay folk, not bishops, who were the inventor of the conclave system, "and their reasons for doing so were not religious or spiritual, but political and economic" (Ibid., page 153).

The pope was so involved in the economic and political life of Europe that not having a pope nearly brought everything to a standstill. And that situation arose more often than you might think. It was not uncommon for months to pass between the death of one pope and the election of another.

The first papal conclave came about after the death of Pope Innocent III in 1216.

"Within a few days of

Innocent's burial, the cardinals gathered in Perugia to elect his successor. When it became clear that the reverend prelates were dawdling and feuding, the Perugian civil authorities and the citizenry locked the doors of the house where the cardinals were meeting. In sheer fright, the electors quickly chose an aged cardinal, a citizen of Rome named Cencius Savelli as Pope Honorius the III. It was not formal conclave but the seed had been planted" (Ibid., page 154).

The next pope was elected

quickly, but upon the death of Gregory IX in 1241, the governor of Rome faced a real crisis. The entire Roman populous was divided into as many as ten opposing camps, and the streets became dangerous even in the daytime.

The governor of Rome, Matteo Rosso Orsini, took the matter in hand. He had his soldiers take each of the cardinals, tie them hand and foot, and brutalize them. Then they were untied and thrown bodily into a big room where they were locked and all the windows were blocked. Sentries were posted with orders to kill on sight anyone who tried to get in or out. In spite of the fact that the cardinals were kept in absolutely appalling conditions, it was late in September before they even made an effort to elect a pope. As a ruse, they elected a man

*Continued next page*



# Popes

*Continued from page 11*

who had bound himself by an oath to abdicate the moment they were freed. Orsini would have none of it, and told them to pick another candidate. He warned that if they did not he would dig up the recently buried pope and put his body in the middle of their hall in its present state of decay. He even threatened to kill them all if they persisted in evading their responsibilities.

They finally selected a man who became Pope Celestine the IV, but it took them fifty-five days to do it. Two weeks later he died but the cardinals in the meantime had fled. By the following February, the scattered cardinals had still not reached an agreement on the next pope. Emperor Frederick of Germany ordered them to get together and elect a pope, but another year passed with no action. Finally, the emperor took violent measures laying waste all the properties belonging to the cardinals. It was in June of 1243 that they finally elected Sinabald Feischi as Pope Innocent IV.

The conclave did not solve the problems of the church. All it did was focus the power struggle into a narrow arena. The story of these early conclaves is a study in frustration and violence.

Politics eventually got so bad in the election of popes that they left Rome in the fourteenth century and for some years French popes reigned in Avignon. Gregory the XI brought the papacy back to Rome on January 17,

1377. After much struggle following the death of Gregory, Pope Urban VI is consecrated. But things had become so bad that sixteen cardinals left Rome and held their own conclave at a nearby place called Fundi. They elected Robert of Geneva as Pope Clement the VII, and he promptly returned to Avignon. When Urban died, fourteen cardinals held conclave in Rome and elected Pope Boniface IX. Meanwhile, Pope Clement died



in Avignon and his cardinals elected Benedict the XIII. This division continues until after the turn of the century when two groups of cardinals get together, depose and excommunicate Gregory the XII and Benedict XIII and choose a new pope, Alexander V. There are now three popes. Each of the popes hold a synod in 1410 at about the same time in which each one condemned the other two.

This incredible confusion was only resolved years later at the General Council of Constants which finally characterized some of these men as popes and some of them as antipopes.

“Yet the ecclesiastics in charge of the Roman structure never for an instant reflected on the long past of their churchly history in such a way as to appreciate the faithful lesson of history: When churchmen tried to foment and propagate the Catholic faith by means of politics and money and worldly prestige, the condition of their church always deteriorated” (Ibid., page 227).

It was Gregory X (1271-1276) who really tried to formalize the rules and conditions under which popes should be elected. It was styled as the “first detailed ceremonial for papal elections.” “Conclave (Gregory was the first pope to use the term), the weapon of desperate laymen and irate princes, was now consecrated as the official church method for electing the successor to St. Peter” (Ibid., page 163).

His instructions were simple. Wherever a pope was when he died, there was where all the cardinals were to gather under the direction of the cardinal chamberlain who would preside over the church until a new pope was elected. When the cardinals were assembled, they were all to enter the papal palace together. Each cardinal was allowed one personal servant and they were to be “conclaved,” that is to be locked behind closed doors and barred windows. There was to be no communication with the outside world. As long as there was no pope, all papal revenues were confiscated, no cardinal could receive any money, all papal affairs were to cease. □

# MILITARY TEACHES COLONISTS WERE 'EXTREMISTS'

by Bob Unruh

**T**he colonists who came to the New World and built the foundations of what now is the United States were “extremists,” and discussions that include mention of “individual liberties” are a dangerous sign, according to the U.S. government.

The education materials that originate with the Department of Defense depict conservative organizations as “hate groups” and cite the Southern Poverty Law Center, which was named in a federal court case for having identified the Family Research Council as a “hate group” simply for adhering to a biblical perspective on homosexuality.

That identification, by his own account, led Floyd Lee Corkins II to arm himself and enter the FRC offices in Washington with the intention of killing as many people as he could.

The documents were obtained by Judicial Watch, the government corruption monitor.

JW said it obtained the records under a Freedom of Information Act request that was launched months ago. The request asked for records “concerning, regarding, or related to the preparation and presentation of training materials on hate groups or hate crimes distributed or used by the Air Force.”

The 133 pages make up a January “Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute,”



“student guide,” called “extremism.”

For example, it warns: “Nowadays, instead of dressing in sheets or publically (sic) espousing hate messages, many extremists will talk of individual liberties, states’ rights, and how to make the world a better place.”

And it adds: “In U.S. history, there are many examples of extremist ideologies and movements. The colonists who sought to free themselves from British rule and the Confederate states who sought to secede from the Northern states are just two examples.”

The 9/11 attacks by Muslims who killed nearly 3,000 people are called a “historical event.”

Traits of extremists include attacking an opponent’s character, name-calling, sweeping generalizations, no proof of arguments, viewing the opposition as evil, arguing through intimidation, using slogans or buzzwords, assuming moral su-

periority and doomsday thinking.

“Active participation...with regard to extremist organizations is incompatible with military service and, is therefore prohibited,” the educational materials read.

According to Judicial Watch: “In April 2013, following a terrorist shooting at the Family Research Council (FRC) headquarters that occurred in August 2012, Judicial Watch filed multiple FOIA requests to determine what, if any, influence SPLC’s branding of hate groups had on government agencies. On its website, the SPLC has depicted FRC as a ‘hate group,’ along with other such mainstream conservative organizations as the American Family Association, Concerned Women for America, and Coral Ridge Ministries. At the time of the shooting, FRC president Tony Perkins accused the SPLC of sparking the shooting, saying the shooter ‘was

*Continued next page*

## 'EXTREMISTS'

*Continued from page 13*

given a license to shoot ... by organizations like the Southern Poverty Law Center..."

The report said the document was obtained from the Air Force, but it originated in a Department of Defense office and is "therefore thought likely to be used in other agency components."

Judicial Watch president Tom Fitton said, "the Obama administration has a nasty habit of equating basic conservative val-

ues with terrorism."

is the only right ideology to follow, it becomes supremism."

The report repeatedly quotes from the SPLC, including using its definitions verbatim.

WND reported earlier, however, that Corkins had used SPLC's list of "hate groups," including the Family Research Council, to identify those he wanted to kill.

Lt. Gen. William G. "Jerry" Boykin, now an executive for FRC, said the problem contin-

ues. arm, Johnson was able to subdue Corkins after a brief struggle.

It was in an interview with FBI officers later when Corkins fingered SPLC as his inspiration.

Asked by the FBI how he picked FRC to attack, Corkins stated, "It was a, uh, Southern Poverty Law, lists, uh, anti-gay groups. I found them online. I did a little bit of research, went to the website, stuff like that."

FRC said that when Corkins later pleaded guilty to a charge of domestic terrorism, SPLC "was connected in federal court in this first domestic terrorism conviction in Washington, D.C., under the post 9/11 law."

"Floyd Corkins admitted his intention to 'kill the people in the building and then smear a Chick-fil-A sandwich in their face,'" FRC explained. "The Southern Poverty Law Center has thus far refused to remove Family Research Council as a 'hate group' from its target map."

Boykin has suggested he would like the U.S. government and its agencies to discontinue using, citing or working with the Southern Poverty Law Center. And he said the media should stop citing SPLC.

According to the government's sentencing memorandum in the case against Corkins, the "mass killing of innocent civilians" was averted narrowly by "the heroic intervening actions of Leonardo Johnson, a building manager/security guard

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**The education materials that originate with the Department of Defense depict conservative organizations as "hate groups."**

ues with terrorism."

"And now, in a document full of claptrap, its Defense Department suggests that the Founding Fathers, and many conservative Americans, would not be welcome in today's military," he said. "And it is striking that some of the language in this new document echoes the IRS targeting language of conservative and tea party investigations. After reviewing this document, one can't help but worry for the future and morale of our nation's armed forces."

The lesson includes: "All nations have an ideology, something in which they believe. When a political ideology falls outside the norms of a society, it is known as extremism. When extremists take their ideology to the next level and believe that it

ues.

"Nothing has been done regarding the dangerous and potentially deadly actions of SPLC," he said recently as the anniversary of the shooting attack approached. "SPLC is now connected to terrorism in federal court. Yet no one in the mainstream media seems to care. When will the media hold groups like SPLC accountable?"

Corkins was subdued after shooting building manager Leo Johnson in the arm and injuring him. A video of the attack shows Corkins entering the building and approaching Johnson, then leaning over to place his backpack on the floor. When he straightens up, Corkins points a semi-automatic handgun directly at Johnson and fires.

Despite being wounded in the



who was seriously injured as a result.”

See “Jihad in America: The Grand Deception,” which exposes the threat to Americans that is hidden in plain sight.

Among the counts to which Corkins has pleaded guilty is an Act of [Domestic] Terrorism while Armed.

In an FBI interview of Corkins after he was taken into custody, an agent asked Corkins, “What was your intention. ... You’re ... a political activist you said?”

Corkins responded: “Yeah, I wanted to kill the people in the building and then smear a Chick-fil-A sandwich on their face.”

FBI: “And you, what was your intention when you went in there with the gun?”

Corkins: “Uh, it was to kill as many people as I could.”

Key to the case, according to the government’s document, was that, “He had identified the FRC as an anti-gay organization on the Southern Poverty Law Center website.”

FRC officials repeatedly have explained they adhere to a biblical perspective on homosexuality, but are not “anti-gay.”

WND also has reported that under Obama, the federal government repeatedly has portrayed conservatives and other critics of the progressive agenda coming from the White House as extremists.

WND previously reported DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano made terrorists portrayed in a public service announcement look Caucasian.

The PSA depicted a typical woman terrorist as Caucasian, in her late 20s or early 30s, with brunette hair, stylish clothing, high heels and a shoulder bag. A man? About the same age, short hair, wearing a shirt and slacks and familiar with technology, as he’s wearing an earpiece cellphone. And Caucasian.

The PSA asks that people watch out for those types of individuals and report them to authorities.

As WND reported, a West Point study released by the U.S. Military Academy’s Combating

decade, in the case of anti-abortion, the trend is much more extreme, as 90 percent of attacks were perpetrated before 2001.”

Herb Titus, a constitutional law professor, former dean of the Regent University School of Law and distinguished fellow with the Inter-American Institute for Philosophy, Government, and Social Thought, says it’s an attempt to link conservative thought with violence.

“Professor Perliger has adopted the strategy of many left-wing members of the professoriate, concentrating on the behavior of

### **The U.S. Military Academy’s Combating Terrorism Center linked those with “fundamental” positions to terror.**

Terrorism Center linked those with “fundamental” positions, such as opposing abortion, to terror.

The study, “Challenges from the Sidelines: Understanding America’s Violent Far-Right,” says the major far-right threats are from “a racist/white supremacy movement, an anti-federalist movement and a fundamentalist movement.”

Author Arie Perliger cites “anti-abortionists” as an active threat for terrorist activity.

“The anti-abortionists have been extremely productive during the last two decades, amassing 227 attacks, many of them perpetrated without the responsible perpetrators identified or caught,” Perliger wrote. “And while, in both cases, the 1990s were more violent than the last

a few in order to discredit many who hold similar views but who do not engage in any form of violence,” Titus said.

“His theory is that of the iceberg, that which as seen may be small, but it hides what is a much larger threat just below the surface. Obviously, the professor disagrees with those who favor small government, cutting back of federal government encroachments upon the powers of the state and to discredit this movement focuses on a few gun-toting militia,” Titus said.

The federal government also has issued reports under Obama describing returning veterans, those who support third-party candidates for president and oppose abortion and support the Constitution as potential terrorists. □

# Never Lost in Translation

## The Dead Sea Scrolls Verify the Old Testament

**T**he term Dead Sea Scrolls is used to describe all of the scrolls and scroll fragments found in caves along the northwestern shore of the Dead Sea. This is about 20 miles east of Jerusalem. Only about 7 scrolls are complete, with decayed fragments and torn pieces numbering into the thousands. Most of the scrolls are made of parchment with some of papyrus and

to gather the scrolls already unearthed. Selecting who would have access to them, organizing the teams that sought out the rest of the caves and excavating the associated ruin presented its own problems in light of the tense Arab/Jewish relations in then divided Jerusalem. The museum housing the scrolls even changed hands during the Six Day War in 1967. Thorough

of evidence points to an earlier date but various scrolls may have been produced throughout this time period as the settlement at Qumran developed.

The ruin is in two distinct layers, an earlier (lower) layer that was razed and its re-habitation. The destruction of this settlement is believed to have been part of the reaction to the Jewish revolt which led to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. This revolt began in 66 AD. A series of coins minted by the Jews from the beginning of the revolt until 68 AD, at which point the series abruptly ends, have been found in the lower layer. Roman coins from 68 AD, during the reign of Nero, have been found in the upper layer. This indicates that the Jewish settlement was destroyed and then briefly occupied by a Roman legion. This also explains why the scrolls, undoubtedly prized possessions at a time when all copies had to be made by hand, would be hidden in caves and never retrieved.

Portions of almost every book of the Old Testament have been identified among the fragments. Copies of extracanonical books, such as the book of Jubilees, have also been found. Many of the writings are sectarian, outlining the beliefs, initiation requirements, and rules of conduct for the group responsible for

**Portions of almost every book of the Old Testament have been identified among the fragments.**

one interesting specimen made of copper.

There are 11 caves that contained either scrolls or fragments. The first was discovered on accident by a local Bedouin in the late 1940's. Not being able to read the writing on the scrolls (there were seven in the first cave in varying states of decay) and realizing that western scholars often value such items, they were taken to a trader in Jerusalem who began trying to find a buyer for them.

The story of the scrolls is quite a saga. World War II was raging on as scholars began to realize the magnitude of the discovery. The massive population influx and consequent establishment of the state of Israel in the years following made it difficult

study has often suffered. The decades of delay in the publishing of translations and commentaries spawned a great deal of academic outrage.

Scholars believe the scrolls originated from a settlement named Qumran located on the west bank of the Dead Sea near the caves. The unity of outlook and expression in the writings considered unique to the inhabitants of Qumran lead scholars to believe that the scrolls are the product of a single group. The mention of known historical figures as contemporary, as well as similar carbon dating results from pottery shards in both the caves and the ruins and from the scrolls themselves, date the scrolls as early as 200 BC and as late as 80 AD. The majority



their authoring. These have led to much disagreement about how to define the group. There is, however, no doubt that they were Jewish.

The strongest arguments have been made for their being Essenes, though their beliefs do not entirely mesh with what is known of the Essenes. However, considering that this group had its own settlement and produced its own literature as well as copies of previously known works, it does not seem necessary that they agree 100% with any known sect. They could easily

have developed opinions that differed from their contemporaries on certain issues.

By far the most significant contribution made by the scrolls is verification of the faithful accuracy with which scripture has been copied and translated throughout the centuries. Before the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered, the oldest known copies of Old Testament writings in Hebrew were from the 10<sup>th</sup> century AD. The oldest Greek copies were from the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. Now the date for Hebrew can be pushed back to 200 BC!

There is also a fragment of 1 Samuel that verifies that the Septuagint, the earliest translation of the scriptures into Greek, had a Hebrew text as its basis.

Among the scrolls was a complete copy of the scroll of Isaiah, now the oldest known copy of an Old Testament book. It indisputably verifies the accuracy of the translations we read today. Significant variation from modern texts is consistently and conspicuously absent from the scrolls as a whole. This is a fatal blow to those who would attempt to claim that the Bible cannot be trusted based on the many copies and translations necessary to bring the text to our present age. As those who believe and have our hope in the inspired word of God this is a tremendous testimony to its antiquity and the faithfulness with which it has been handled.

Today, the majority of the scrolls are under the control of the Government of the State of Israel. Many are permanently on display in the Shrine of the Book at the Israeli Museum in Jerusalem. In addition to the works of the original scholars tasked with producing translations and commentary, an overwhelming amount of literature has been produced about the scrolls and the controversies surrounding them. The text from the scrolls themselves may be found online at the Israeli Museum website. Certainly the scrolls are a testimony to the protection God has given His truth and inspired writings. □

*Michael Armstrong*



# Truth Has Fallen In The Streets

by James and Natalie Ricks

**W**e live in the age of big media and big government propaganda machines. The truth has fallen in the streets as the prophet Isaiah decried in Isaiah 59:14. We are in a period of lies, half truths, obfuscation, and darkness. The sad thing is that many do not care.

Many of us can remember *Pravda*, the newspaper that was the voice of the Soviet Communist totalitarian government under Stalin in the Soviet Union. Its role was to obscure the truth. The Nazi's Gestapo allowed people to use only radios with limited stations that reflected the party line in order to control information to its citizens. Governmental and media forces are at work right now attempting to nudge us away from and marginalize those publicizing "too much truth" in America by influencing us to not listen to certain media outlets in order to control the access to truth. Some motels probably under subtle pressure, have even gone so far as to scramble certain stations, for example Fox News, in their lobby and fitness areas or do not carry them at all. However, Al Jazeera, America seems to have smooth sailing as they begin to infiltrate our air waves.

The government and media praised the Arab Spring. It was portrayed as positive and primarily



Grand Mufti of Jerusalem salutes Muslim SS Division.

peaceful. The Muslim Brotherhood, while proclaiming that they are not interested in political takeovers, is in the process of trying to take over many Muslim countries. The western press and our government have, for the most part, covered for them, still portraying them as peaceful. The truth has fallen in the streets. Hassan al Banna, the founder of the Muslim Brotherhood was quite enamored with

Hitler and formed an alliance. Hitler supplied funding to the Brotherhood and they supplied troops and much infiltration and information about the Middle East. Muslims comprised the largest of Hitler's Waffen-ss division. Their ultimate goal is to spread strict adherence to Islam among countries of the world and establish a transnational caliphate. The Brotherhood shares many likes and much symbolism with Nazism and has been banned at least twice in Egypt in the 20<sup>th</sup> century because of terrorism, murders, bombings, and attempted assassinations of leaders. They are not at all adverse to killing women and children and wish to eradicate the Jews as the Nazi's wished. Our media has ignored this back-



Hitler met with Grand Mufti, shared desire to exterminate Jews.

ground.

The Muslim Brotherhood has a most violent and bloody history. They have not limited themselves to just terrorism, infiltration is also in its vibrancy.

*The Project: Muslim Brotherhood Blueprint For Cultural Jihad* is the guidebook to which they adhere. It was discovered two months after 9-11-01 and contains a long range program with many facets to secure the “cultural invasion” and destruction of the west, which is their ultimate goal. Here are just a few of their objectives. 1. *Using deception to mask intended goals as long as they don't conflict with shari'a law. This isn't too difficult because lying is required (Taqiyya) to spread the cause of Allah.* 2. *Pretend to be moderate.* 3. *Make the Palestine cause a global wedge issue for Muslims.* 4. *Wage a constant campaign to incite hatred by Muslims against Jews. Refuse conciliation.* 5. *Infiltrate western governments and institutions.* According to *Rose El-Youssef*, a magazine for Egyptians, there are six Muslim Brotherhood members working in and around the White House who are responsible for the government's support of the Muslim Brotherhood. 6. *Make alliances with western “progressives.”*

Surely, any of this information could have been uncovered by the press and government with just a cursory investigation if they were looking for the truth instead of pushing it aside in favor of their agenda.

Let's look at some more examples of the mainstream media attempting to keep the public in the dark about important issues. The IRS scandal that targeted religious groups and those that believe in traditional values has been more or less put on the back burner. Participants in the scandal would not cooperate with the House investigation and they are unlikely to do so in the future. They know that they will not get unfavorable coverage from the media and those who investigate them will be accused of political witch hunts.



Muslim Brotherhood responsible for burning Coptic and other churches throughout Egypt.

The media does not care about government agencies abusing power or truth.

Most people, even Christians, do not seem to care about the massacre of Coptic Christians in Egypt that has gone on for more than a year. More than 100 churches and institutions have been destroyed, some dating back to the fourth century. The Brotherhood uses a similar marking system to the Nazis' to delineate buildings for destruction. Coptic Christians cannot

believe that America is not reporting their story of suffering and supporting them. Neither can those of us who know about the horrifying conditions. Truth has fallen in our streets.

With the government and media downplaying this horrific tragedy most people do not have their Christian brethren on their radar screens. Christians are under extreme persecution in many Muslim countries; especially Egypt and Syria.

The Global Warming Controversy is yet another example of agenda driven coverage. The

public may never have been informed if news of the cover up had not been leaked mistakenly by e-mails. Still, the media will not report both sides of the research. They continue to spew the news in favor of a global warming. It doesn't matter that the research shows that global warming has not increased in over 10 years. They will not recant on the statement that nearly all scientists demand that something dramatic be done to halt

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## Truth has Fallen

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global warming. Richard Lindzen of the *Wall Street Journal* described how the global warming scientists have been proven corrupt and unscientific. But this story also has fallen in the street. The media has spiked the story. Few heard of the scandal. In mid-November 2011 there appeared a file on the Internet containing thousands of e-mails and other documents from the Climatic Research Unit at the University of East Anglia in Great Britain. How this file got into the public domain is still uncertain, but the authenticity of the e-mails, are no longer in question. They provided an inside view into the world of climate research that was revealing and even startling, in what is now known as “climate gate,” unambiguous evidence of the unethical suppression of the information and opposing viewpoints, and even data manipulation. The Climatic Research Unit is hardly an obscure outpost; it supplies many of the authors for the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The e-mails showed ample collusion with other prominent researchers in the United States and around the world. You would think that these new revelations might have discredited the allegedly settled science underlying currently proposed global warming policy but it has not happened, primarily because the story has been hidden from the

vast majority of Americans by the media.

The general approach of the official scientific community (at least in the United States and the United Kingdom) has been to see whether people will bother to look at the files in detail (for the most part they have not), and to wait until time diffuses the initial impressions in order to reassert the original message of a climate catastrophe that must be fought with a huge measure of carbon control and our tax dollars. This reassertion, however, continues to be permeated by illogical, mean spirited nastiness and dishonesty to any scientist with inconvenient truth and or research data.

There were, of course, the inevitable investigations of individuals like Penn State University’s Michael Mann (who manipulated data to create the famous “hockey stick” climate graph) and Phil Jones (director of the CRU). The investigations were brief, thoroughly lacking in depth, and conducted, for the most part, by individuals already publicly committed to the popular view of climate alarm. The East Anglia University admitted recently that we have NOT been in a global warming cycle for the last 16 years in contradiction to their prior claims. This story was also covered up by the media. Few know that they have quietly in the face of evidence, reversed what they had previously

shouted and with much media fanfare.

The truth about safety of fracking for gas and oil has faced similar media biased treatment. A video full of half truths and distortions claiming fracking allows water to burn and poison our water supply has gotten a big welcome from the media. The producer even received an Emmy for his biased production. Government tested water reports debunking this false video are shunned by the media. Hydraulic Fracturing or “fracking” is a process of breaking up rock thousands of feet below surface to gain access to oil and gas. Once released, the oil and gas can be pumped out as with any other well. This has been done for over 60 years because it is safe to water supplies. Natural gas production has been a major component to U.S. economic growth in the last 10 years. According to a study commissioned by the Chamber of Commerce, shale sites are responsible for employing 1.7 million. The further growth of this prosperity is threatened by a political, environmental agenda. Use of a sizable portion of our own natural gas resources is being denied as well as other oil reserves while the Middle East burns. What a country we are becoming! The lies are leaving us poorer because we will not use the natural resources God has provided as part of His blessings for us.

Do you remember the Spotted Owl Fiasco about 12 years ago? There was enormous me-



dia coverage. An allegedly declining number of Northern Spotted Owls in the Pacific Northwest were used by environmentalists to virtually shut down the cutting of so-called old growth forests on public lands across the region. The policy, not surprisingly, has had catastrophic results for the area's economy and turned many once-thriving timber towns into rural ghettos, with high unemployment rates and increased reliance on government handouts, including federal "spotted owl payments."

But a decade later, what has resulted from this costly effort to save the beloved Spotted Owl? Nothing much, as it turns out. The owl's numbers aren't rebounding, as expected because they are being pushed out by their wily competitor, the Barred Owl. The second owl, originally from Canada, has been involved in a century-long invasion of the Spotted Owl's habitat. That truth was known then but the media spiked that piece of truth. And as invasive species are prone to do, the Barred Owl is wiping out the established animal.

Further complicating the situation is the fact that the two species evidently have interbred, raising questions about which of the owl variations, if any, merit continued federal protections under the Endangered Species Act. But rather than admit a mistake that had nothing to do with trees, and reverse direction, or acknowledge that the mistake has needlessly cost

thousands of people their livelihoods; owl advocates seem poised to execute a classic bait and switch. One expert on a panel currently advising the federal government about what to do next recently suggested that still more government actions would be needed to "save" an owl not being wiped out by man, but by another owl. "The Spotted Owl really taught us a lot about conservation in the last

lihoods as a result of this debacle, and the taxpayers that now must pay to support them. Did they at any time give any credence to the alternate theory for the owl's decline? Of course not! They accepted the radical environmentalist version without question. Our media loves earth worship instead of God worship.

Just what is this agenda that we have been referring to? Is



Barred Owl



Spotted Owl

decade in terms of (preserving habitat)," the expert said. "Now it's going to teach us what kind of sacrifices we have to make to battle some of these new threats." We just can't win! The mainstream media was silent about the truth.

All this case really has "taught us" is the folly that ensues when the government acts based on flawed, biased or immature science. And we don't see what "sacrifices" owl experts or wildlife advocacy groups have made at all in this situation. All the sacrifices have been made by the thousands of people who have lost their live-

there a common thread running through all these examples of the truth being hidden? The media goal is to create a Godless, socialist, utopia which has never existed and will not. They are attempting in every way possible to alter traditional American values including belief in God, the Bible and a static, stable Constitution. There is an unbeknownst evil spirit being, influencing all this change in the nation. His goals are to turn us further away from God and His blessings by allowing the truth to be trampled in the streets. John 8:44...He is a liar and the father of lies. □

# Who's in Charge?

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For their rock is not as our ROCK, even our enemies themselves being judges" (Deuteronomy 32:30, 31).

The One who became Christ is called the ROCK in scripture.

Notice a few other proofs: "The Lord [Eternal] is my Rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer!" (Psalms 18:2); "Unto thee will I cry, O Eternal my Rock" (Psalms 28:1); "He only is my Rock and my salvation" (Psalms

62:2); "He is my Rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him" (Psalms 92:15).

cious: and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded" (I Peter 2:6).

Who is the ROCK who is the Head of the Church? Who had the absolute primacy over His Church? Christ, not Peter!

Paul spoke of Christ as the Rock of offence (Romans 9:33), and said, "...for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ!" (I Corinthians 10:4).

**Your Bible insists there is no other  
"foundation" for the true  
Church but Jesus Christ Himself!**

62:2); "He is my Rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him" (Psalms 92:15).

"And He shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel..." (Isaiah 8:14). This prophecy was repeated by Christ, referring to HIMSELF, and not to Peter as Peter makes very clear. Notice it, "Unto you therefore which believe He is precious; but unto them which be disobedient, the Stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the HEAD OF THE CORNER, and a Stone of stumbling, and a Rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient" (I Peter 2:7, 8).

This was written in the context of Peter's own insistence that it was CHRIST, and not Peter, who was the Head of the Church! "Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture, Behold I lay in Zion a CHIEF CORNER STONE, elect, pre-

hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the HEAD over all things to the Church. Which is HIS BODY, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all" (Ephesians 1:21, 22).

Who is the head of the Church? Peter? A mere human who makes preposterous claims to great power and authority? No! Jesus Christ is Head!

Notice further: "And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. And He is the *Head of the body*, the Church: who is the Beginning, the First-born from the dead; that in all things HE MIGHT HAVE THE PRE-EMINENCE!" (Colossians 1:17, 18). Who has the "primacy"? Christ!

And yet another: "Now therefore, ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the *apostles [plural! All of them equally!] and the prophets*, Jesus Christ Himself being the CHIEF CORNER STONE!" (Ephesians 2:19, 20).

The "Headstone" and the "Chief Corner Stone" are one and the same, and refer to Christ, not Peter. Notice Revelation 21:14, where another analogy, or metaphorical representation of the spiritual Church is seen: "And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb." Of this spiritual "city," New Jerusalem, which is a type of the Church, God's Word says, "The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal" (verse 16).

Notice further that the city has "twelve gates" (verse 12) which

*Continued next page*

# Idolatry

*Continued from page 6*

watch and warn as events progress. Meanwhile, maybe the Vatican ought to look into both the first and second Commandments.

“Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image... Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love

me, and keep my commandments.”

Forget the religious icons! If they should contain magic (and some might), it is not of God. We want to be among the latter group

mentioned at the end of the second Commandment (deleted wholesale by Catholic scholars), who love God and keep His Commandments!” □

*Mark Armstrong*



Worshipping before idol of Mary.

# Who's in Charge?

*Continued from page 22*

represent the twelve tribes of Israel.

The number twelve signifies “organized beginnings,” and is a perfect governmental number. Thus, the “church in the wilderness” was composed of the *twelve* physical tribes of Israel, while the New Testament Church was founded on CHRIST as the Chief Corner Stone, and the twelve apostles, together with the prophets.

Now, *which* of the twelve foundation stones of Revelation 21:14 faces the front? Which is CHIEF? Which one is at the corner? Why *none* of them, for the city is “four square”; it is *equal* in all dimensions, just as the apostles were EQUAL, as is clearly proved from the inspired Word of God. Which gate has Peter’s name on it? Why, it is impossible to tell, for all are *equal*, and there are three on each

side in a square building of four sides. There is no *primary* gate; no *front* to this building!

Though the Roman Catholic Church relies upon Matthew 16:18 as their “proof” that Christ designated Peter as the foundation and the head of the Church, it is clear that Christ included ALL the apostles in His statement, *equally*. Notice! “Verily I say unto you, that if two of you [not just ONE alone, by himself!] shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where *two or three* are gathered together in MY name, there am I in the midst of THEM” (Matthew 18:18-20).

Clearly, this is a repetition of what Christ said in Matthew 16:18, concerning “binding and loosing.” Notice verse 18: “Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye

[any two or three of them] shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever ye [He was speaking to ALL the disciples, not just Peter] shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

As you might know, the statue which Claims to represent “St. Peter” in the basilica bearing his name in Rome contains two large keys clutched in the hand. Many other similar representations of “Peter” appear in early church art. It was supposed the powers to “bind and loose”; to make *binding decisions in matters of custom and doctrine* were entrusted to Peter, *alone*. Not so! Christ NEVER entrusted the government of His true Church into the hands of ANY ONE MAN! Rather, He ordained *twelve equal apostles* who collectively helped form the foundation of the Church, together with the spiritual platform of the prophets, with Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Corner Stone.

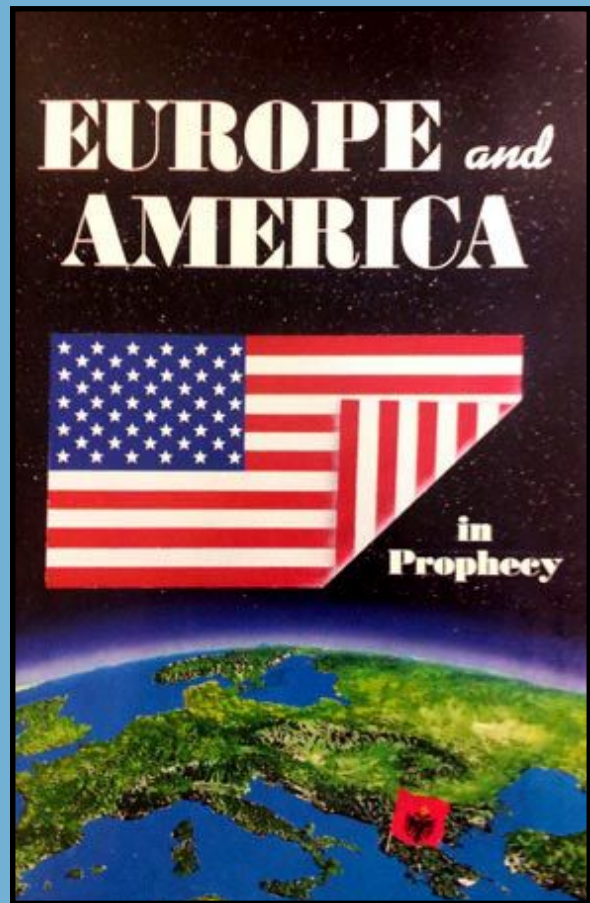
□



# *Where Are the Lost Ten Tribes?*

Is the world's greatest nation *ignored* in Bible prophecy? If it is, how could prophecy be considered valid? How could prophecy be *inspired*, if the United States of America is *nowhere mentioned*?

Surely, if Bible prophecy is relevant *to our times*, NOW, then it **MUST** mention the United States! Students of prophecy know that *many* middle-eastern nations are identified; some of them by their modern names. What about Great Britain, Canada, Australia; the Commonwealth? For that matter, what of the nations in *Europe*?



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