

The Last Pope: Saint Malachy's Prophecy of the Popes

Teaching presented February 17, 2013 by Christie Michas
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Remember that recently the Lord showed Peter in a dream to watch for March/April and October/November this year. Already we are seeing events of major significance to take place during these periods of time.

This past Monday, February 11th, Pope Benedict XVI made the shocking announcement of his resignation due to his deteriorating health. Peter told me first thing that day and I immediately began to put together a teaching about Saint Malachy's Last Pope Prophecy.

At the same time, the internet took off with this story because people who know about this prophecy immediately reacted as I did to the pope's announcement of his resignation.

This is the first time in 600 years that a pope has resigned. His last day in office will be February 28th and a conclave to elect the new pope is planned for mid-March.

Strangely, the same day the pope announced his resignation, lightning struck Saint Peter's Basilica.

YOUTUBE VIDEO: FEBRUARY 11, 2013 (BBC)

LIGHTNING STRIKES ST PETER'S BASILICA AS POPE BENEDICT XVI RESIGNS

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LaZdmeV56PU&feature=youtu.be>

In addition to the election of the new pope in March, President Obama is scheduled to visit Israel for the first time as president. So we can see that March is already shaping up as prophetically important.

Last week (February 10), we taught about the two comets of 2013 – one of which will become visible this March and the other to become visible and quite dramatic in October/November through mid-January 2014. It will make its closest approach to the sun on November 28th, the first day of Hannukah (Feast of Dedication/Festival of Lights). This is prophetically significant because Messiah Yeshua was conceived during Hanukkah and born on Rosh HaShanah (Feast of Trumpets).

Note: We have posted this teaching on our ministry website for free (www.messengers-of-messiah.org).

Today, Friday, February 15th (as I prepare this teaching), the largest meteor in more than 100 years, the size of a bus and traveling 33,000 miles/hour (10 miles/second), exploded with the force of 20 atomic bombs between 18-32 miles above Russia's Ural Mountains. The tremendous shock wave created very loud explosions, blowing out windows over a wide area, injuring over 1000 people, and shaking the earth like an earthquake.* The fireball was brighter than the sun!

Just hours after the meteor exploded over Russia, a 150-foot cosmic rock (asteroid 2012 DA14) past within 17,000 miles of earth, closer than some satellites, making it the closest known flyby of a rock of its size. (Astronomers say the two events were coincidental, that the objects were traveling in opposite directions.)*

On the same day, a meteor was seen all along the Western Coast of the US.

This news story covers all three events:

* "NASA: Largest meteor in more than 100 years", *USA Today*, by Anna Arutunyan and Marc Bennetts, February 15, 2013.
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2013/02/15/russia-meteorite/1921991/>

* "Asteroid buzzes, misses Earth – unlike meteor", *Excitenew.com*, by Marcia Dunn, February 15, 2013.
<http://apnews.excite.com/article/20130215/DA4F8P601.html>

“Another Meteor Flashes Across the Bay Area Skies”

CBS San Francisco

February 15, 2013 11:45 PM

<http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/?lead=another-meteor-flashes-across-bay-area-skies>

As I am completing the study Saturday night (February 16th), there are reports of another fireball over Cuba:

In Cuba on Tuesday, residents reported seeing a bright light in the sky and a loud explosion that shook windows and walls, although there were no reports of any injuries or damage.

One resident of the city of Rodas, near Cienfuegos, described the light as "bigger than the sun". He said: "On Tuesday we left home to fish around five in the afternoon, and around 8:00 we saw a light in the heavens and then a big ball of fire, bigger than the sun."

Another resident said described how her home was "completely shaken" by the explosion. She added: "I had never heard such a strange thing."*

Also Saturday night:

* “Fireballs reported in skies above Cuba and California”, *The Telegraph*, by Ben Leach, 16 February 2013.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/space/9875149/Fireballs-reported-in-skies-above-Cuba-and-California.html>

A strong earthquake ... rocked a rural area about 50 miles southeast of Rome, but authorities say reports from residents indicate no damage or injuries.

Italy's National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology said the quake struck about 10:20 p.m., local time, Saturday and had a 4.8 magnitude.**

This past week has certainly been eventful with regard to celestial events.

Last week we also reviewed our previous teaching about the celestial signs in 2014-2015 – a series of four “blood moons” (total lunar eclipses) occurring on Passover and Feast of Tabernacles (Sukkot) in 2014 and again in 2015. We know this is of the greatest prophetic significance because of the rarity of this event, especially when it coincides with the Appointed Times of the Lord (the true Biblical Holy Days – Leviticus 23). The last occurrences were in 1949-1950, when the government of the newly established nation of Israel was moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem (January 1950); and in 1966-1967, when East Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria were restored to Israel as a result of the Six-Day War (1967).

Is the Lord saying: “Wake up! Pay attention to the signs of My soon return!”

**<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2013/02/16/earthquake-strikes-near-rome/>

Yeshua prophesied about celestial (heavenly) signs preceding the destruction of the Second Temple, and this happened – both supernatural and natural celestial signs (Luke 21:11).* We can also see that this applies to the time preceding Messiah Yeshua’s Second Coming (Matthew 24:29: Mark 13:24-25; Luke 21:25).

Events of great Biblical prophetic significance are unfolding in the Middle East and show that we are fast approaching the War of Gog-Magog/Armageddon, so we know that Yeshua’s return must be very near.

Because of this, it is remarkable that a prophecy attributed to Saint Malachy (12th century) regarding the Last Pope, called *Petrus Romanus* (Latin for “Peter the Roman”), is about to be fulfilled in the election of the next pope.

Before we look at the Prophecy of the Popes, let’s cover relevant news about Pope Benedict XVI’s resignation.

Pope Benedict XVI’s resignation is the first resignation in 600 years. The last resignation was by Pope Gregory XII in 1415, who stepped down in order to end the Great Western Schism of the Roman Catholic Church (1378-1417). At that time there were rival papal claimants, one based in Avignon, France and the other in Rome.

* See Part 4 “The Abomination of Desolation & the Roman Destruction of Jerusalem” under section “A New Look at the Book of Revelation & Daniel End-Time Prophecies” posted for free on Messengers of Messiah’s website.

www.messengers-of-messiah.org

According to Wikipedia (“Papal resignation”):

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papal_resignation

A papal resignation (*Latin: renuntiatio*) occurs when the reigning pope of the Roman Catholic Church voluntarily steps down from his position. As the reign of the pope has conventionally been from election until death, papal resignation is an uncommon event; only five popes have resigned, all but one between the 11th and 15th centuries, with disputed claims of four previous popes having resigned between the 3rd and 11th centuries. On 11 February 2013, Benedict XVI announced his resignation, which is set to take effect on 28 February 2013, 8.00 pm^{[1][2][3]} making him the first pope to resign since Gregory XII in 1415.

It is important to note that at the end of his resignation statement, Pope Benedict says to “implore holy Mother Mary, so that she may assist the Cardinal Fathers with her maternal solicitude, in electing a new Supreme Pontiff”. In this we see the unbiblical focus on the mediation of the Roman Catholic Virgin Mary, who is not the Mary of the Bible. As we have previously taught, the role of Mary in the Roman Catholic Church is contrary to the Word of God, just one of so many unbiblical aspects of the Apostate Church – the Apostasy (falling away from Biblical truth) that Paul warned about in 2 Thessalonians 2:3.

All the cardinals below the age of 80 participate in the conclave that meets in the Sistine Chapel. At this time, of 117 qualifying cardinals 67 were appointed by Pope Benedict. Under rules re-established by Pope Benedict in 2007, a two-

thirds majority is required to elect the Bishop of Rome. The conclave to elect the new Pope was expected to start between March 15th and 19th.*

However, as I complete this study Saturday evening (February 16th), it is being reported that the Vatican may start the conclave sooner than March 15th, the earliest date possible under current rules. The usual 15 to 20 day waiting period is to allow time for cardinals who don't live in Rome to arrive after a pope's death. Because the date of the pope's resignation is already known, this is not an issue. In addition, because Holy Week begins on March 24th with Palm Sunday Mass, along with the strong tradition to install a new pope on Sunday, there is a need to start the conclave sooner to meet the time restraints.*

Now let's turn our attention to the Prophecy of the Popes.

PROPHECY OF THE POPES

We will read from the Wikipedia article:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prophecy_of_the_Popes

(Note: I am using the Wikipedia article accessed February 11, 2013. It has since been updated and revised.)

* "Conclave to determine new Pope could be held mid-March", *Catholic News Agency*, February 14, 2013.

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/conclave-to-determine-new-pope-could-be-held-mid-march/>

* "Vatican Raises Possibility of Early March Conclave", *Associated Press*, by Nicole Winfield, February 16, 2013.

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/E/EU_VATICAN_POPE?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2013-02-16-08-21-34

The Prophecy of the Popes, attributed to Saint Malachy is a list of 112 short phrases in Latin. They purport to describe each of the Roman Catholic popes (along with a few anti-popes), beginning with Pope Celestine II (elected in 1143) and concluding with the current pope Benedict XVI's successor, a pope described in the prophecy as **“Peter the Roman”, whose pontificate will end in the destruction of the city of Rome** (emphasis added).

(Note: An anti-pope is one elected in opposition to a standing pope.)

What is remarkable about this prophecy is that it refers to the destruction of Rome, which is prophesied in Revelation 18. According to that prophecy, God will judge and destroy the Harlot that represents both Pagan Rome and Papal Rome.

As we have taught, the 6th Head of the Beast from the Sea (Revelation 13 & 17) represents the Roman Empire with Rome as its capital; and the healed 6th Head of the Beast represents Papal Rome that rose to power after the Fall of the Roman Empire in A.D. 476 (the fall of Rome appeared to be a fatal wound that was healed – Revelation 13:3).

The Word of God shows that Papal Rome will be totally destroyed. When Yeshua returns, there will be no place for the Roman Pope who falsely claims to take the place of Messiah Yeshua. In fact, the meaning of anti-Christ is one who takes the place of Christ. Therefore, by the pope's own claim, he is anti-Christ.

Malachy's Prophecy of the Last Pope, *Petrus Romanus* (Latin for "Peter the Roman"), reads as follows:

"In the extreme persecution of the Holy Roman Church, there will sit [i.e. as bishop], Peter the Roman, who will pasture his sheep in many tribulations; and when these things are finished, the city of seven hills will be destroyed, and the terrible judge will judge his people. The End."

This Last Pope Prophecy is very specific and detailed, providing:

1. The name of the pope: Peter the Roman
2. The place: City of Seven Hills, clearly identifying Rome
3. The event: the destruction of Rome

The fact that this prophecy applies to the next pope is remarkable because it fits Biblical prophetic events showing the Second Coming of Messiah Yeshua is very near. We can clearly see the unfolding of prophetic events that will lead to the War of Gog-Magog (Ezekiel 38) and the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16:16): Iran close to producing nuclear weapons to wipe Israel off the map; the "Arab Spring" resulting in the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood; the empowering of radical Islamic elements throughout the Middle East and inside Israel.

Even more remarkably, the Last Pope Prophecy fits Biblical prophecy that shows the destruction of the Woman, the Harlot, Babylon the Great, clearly identified as Rome, the center of government of the Apostate Roman Church.

Rev. 17:1 And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, “Come here, I shall show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,

Rev. 17:15 gives us the interpretation of “waters”:

Rev. 17:15 And he said to me, “The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.

Rev. 17:2 with whom the kings of the earth committed *acts of* immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality.”

Rev. 17:3 And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.

Rev. 17:4 And the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality,

Rev. 17:5 and upon her forehead a name *was* written, a mystery, “BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.”

In the Word of God, a harlot represents false idolatrous religion. All false idolatrous religions had their origin in Babylon and spread throughout the ancient world. When Rome conquered the ancient world, the mystery religion cults from all over the empire were brought back to Rome. Papal Rome was made in the image of Pagan Rome, adopting paganism and repackaging it as “Christian”. The Apostate Roman Church is the Apostasy the apostle Paul warned would come (2 Thessalonians 2).

Rev. 17:6 And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints [true believers killed by both Pagan Rome and Papal Rome], and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus [Yeshua]. And when I saw her, I wondered greatly.

Rev. 17:7 And the angel said to me, “Why do you wonder? I shall tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.

The Woman, Rome, rides the Beast, Satan’s ungodly world empires. The Roman Empire expanded throughout the Mediterranean and Middle East, conquering territories of previous empires.

Rev. 17:9 “Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits,

Rev. 17:10 and they are seven kings [kingdoms]; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while.

At the time John wrote the Book of Revelation, five “heads”/”mountains” or empires had fallen – Egypt, Assyria, Media-Persia, Babylon, Greece.

Rev. 17:18 “And the woman whom you saw is the great city [Rome], which reigns over the kings of the earth.”

In Chapter 18 of the Book of Revelation, the future destruction of Rome is described:

Rev. 18:1 After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory.

Rev. 18:2 And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great [Rome]! And she has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird [demons associated with false idolatrous religion].

Rev. 18:3 “For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed *acts of* immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality.”

Rev. 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, “**Come out of her, my people,** that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues;

God warns HIS PEOPLE to come out of the Apostate Roman Church because He will judge and destroy it. The central government of the Roman Church is Rome. When Rome is destroyed, the Papacy will cease to exist.

Rev. 18:5 for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

Rev. 18:6 “Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back *to her* double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her.

Rev. 18:7 “To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, ‘I SIT *as* A QUEEN AND I AM NOT A WIDOW, and will never see mourning.’

Rev. 18:8 “For this reason in one day her plagues will come, pestilence and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong.

Rev. 18:9 “And the kings of the earth, who committed *acts of* immorality and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning,

Rev. 18:10 standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, ‘**Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon [Rome], the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come.**’

Rev. 16:19 And the great city [Rome] was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.

In Malachy’s Prophecy of the Last Pope, the “terrible judge” who will destroy Rome is Messiah Yeshua. He will bring judgment on this false idolatrous church that replaces true Biblical salvation with a false sacramental system of salvation and nullifies the Word of God with unbiblical doctrines.

In Part 5 “The Beasts of Revelation & Daniel” of our prophecy study “A New Look at the Book of Revelation & Daniel End-Time Prophecies”, we go into great detail about the Seven Heads of the Beast from the Sea; the Woman that rides the Beast; and the Great Harlot that represents Papal Rome. This study is

posted for free on Messengers of Messiah ministry website (www.messengers-of-messiah.org).

The Roman Church is an apostate church because of its false sacramental system of salvation; false claim that the Pope is the head of the one true church; false claim that there is no salvation outside of the Roman Church; idolatrous images; transubstantiation; purgatory; unbiblical doctrines and cult of Mary; prayer to saints; cult of relics; celibate priesthood; unbiblical and mystical forms of prayer and meditation; pagan holidays; and elements of sun-god worship.

Now let's look at the two prophecies of Malachy's Prophecy of the Popes that precede the Last Pope (Petrus Romanus) prophecy. These prophecies apply to John Paul II and Benedict XVI.

Malachy's prophecy for John Paul II reads: *De labore solis* (Latin for "From the sun's labor" or "From the sun's eclipse"). As John Hogue, author of *The Last Pope Revisited*, explains:

Not only was Karol Wojtyla born on May 18, 1920 during a partial solar eclipse over the Indian Ocean, as Pope John Paul II he was buried on April 8, 2005, the day of a rare "hybrid" eclipse over the southwestern Pacific and South America.

The sun "labored" the highest count of sunspots yet recorded during all the years of his pontificate especially in the final years.

The sun rises in the East indicating he was the first Pope from Eastern Europe.*

Malachy's prophecy for Benedict XVI is *Gloria olivae* (Latin for "Glory of the olive"). Joseph Ratzinger took the name Benedict, the founder of the Benedictine Order, also known as the Olivetans (*Olivae*), whose crest contains an olive branch.*

So we can see that for the last three popes of Malachy's Prophecy, there is remarkable accuracy. With this in mind, let's look at possible papal candidates who may fit the Petrus Romanus prophecy.

PAPAL CANDIDATES WITH THE NAME "PETER"

1. Cardinal **Peter** Kodwo Appiah Turkson (64 years old) from the African nation of Ghana, who would be the first black pope if elected. Repeatedly promoted by Pope Benedict, he holds one of the most important jobs in the Roman Curia (governing body of the Roman Catholic Church).*

2. Cardinal Tarcisio **Pietro** Bertone (78 years old) was born in **Romano** Canavese, Italy. So here we have a papal candidate with the name "Peter"

* p. 49.

* John Hogue, *The Last Pope Revisited*, 2006, p. 49.

<http://www.hogueprophecy.com/the-last-pope-revisited/>

* "Pope resigns: Peter Turkson reveals vision for the Church and 'alternative lifestyles'", *The Telegraph*, by Malcolm Moore, February 12, 2013.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/the-pope/9866227/Pope-resigns-Peter-Turkson-reveals-vision-for-the-Church-and-alternative-lifestyles.html>

(Italian *Pietro*) who is not only Italian by birth, qualifying him as “Roman”, but also the place of his birth, Romano Canavese, even has the name “Roman” in it!

According to Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tarcisio_Bertone):

Tarcisio Pietro Evasio Bertone, S.D.B. (born 2 December 1934) is an **Italian** prelate and **diplomat**. A **cardinal** of the **Catholic Church**, he currently serves as **Cardinal Secretary of State** and **Camerlengo**, having previously served as **Archbishop of Vercelli** from 1991 to 1995, as Secretary of the **Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith**, when Cardinal Ratzinger, the future Pope Benedict XVI, was Prefect, and **Archbishop of Genoa** from 2002 to 2006. Bertone was elevated to the **cardinalate** in 2003. On 10 May 2008, he was named **Cardinal-Bishop of Frascati**. Besides his native Italian, Bertone speaks fluent French, Spanish, German and Portuguese. He has some knowledge of English, although he is not fluent, and he can read Polish (and he has a Polish secretary), Latin, Greek and Hebrew.

With all these qualifications, Cardinal Bertone certainly looks like a viable papal candidate. And he certainly fits the name *Petrus Romanus*, “Peter the Roman”.

We will have to wait and see what happens.

MORE ABOUT MALACHYS’ PROPHECY OF THE POPES

Wikipedia’s article about the Malachy’s Prophecy of the Popes tells us:

The prophecy was first published in 1595 by Arnold de Wyon, a Benedictine historian, as part of his book *Lignum Vitae* [Latin for “Tree of Life”]. Wyon attributed the list to Saint Malachy, the 12th-century bishop of Armagh in Ireland. According to the traditional account, in 1139, Malachy was summoned to Rome by Pope Innocent II. While in Rome, Malachy purportedly experienced a vision of future popes, which he recorded as a sequence of cryptic phrases. This manuscript was then deposited in the Roman Archive, and thereafter forgotten about until its rediscovery in 1590.

(Note: “cryptic” means hidden or obscure in meaning.)

It is interesting to note that it was a Benedictine historian who first published these prophecies, given that Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger took the name “Benedict”.

Arnold de Wyon, who first published the prophecies in 1595, attributed them to Saint Malachy, who lived in the 12th century. However, there is a controversy as to the authenticity and authorship of these prophecies. According to Wikipedia:

On the other hand, Bernard of Clairvaux’s biography of Malachy makes no mention of the prophecy, nor is it mentioned in any

record prior to its 1595 publication.^{[1]*} Some sources, including the most recent editions of the Catholic Encyclopedia, suggest that the prophecy is a late 16-th century forgery. Some have suggested that it was created by Nostradamus and was credited to Saint Malachy so the purported seer would not be blamed for the destruction of the papacy. Supporters, such as author John Hogue, who wrote the popular book titled *The Last Pope* about the claims, generally argue that, even if the author of the prophecies is uncertain, the predictions are still valid.

The Roman Catholic Church officially rejects the authenticity of Malachy's Prophecy of the Popes. It is no mystery why: it predicts the end of the Papacy and the Roman Catholic Church.

Thomas Horn and Chris Putnam present a convincing argument in their well-researched and documented book, *Petrus Romanus: The Final Pope is Here*, that there was an original document written by Saint Malachy. They believe the evidence shows that only the prophecies related to popes prior to and up to the 1595 publication were altered. There may have been political or other reasons for altering those prophecies, as detailed in their book.

As they explain:

* Footnote 1. Lawlor, H.J. (1920). *St. Bernard of Clairvaux's Life of St. Malachy of Armagh*. London, New York: The Macmillan Company. p. 267. Online (<http://www.youpublish.com/files/24435>)

The bad news is that part of the prophecy may be a forgery which was fabricated in the late sixteenth century. We say forgery meaning that over half of the prophecies, the first seventy or so predictions, could be *vaticinia ex eventu* (prophecy from the event). It seems likely that someone irrevocably altered the original medieval document and the original is either hidden away or lost to history. According to Vatican insiders, there is ample evidence that the original twelfth-century manuscript was discovered in 1556 by a Vatican librarian. Even so, the first known publication of the “Malachy Prophecy of the Popes” was in Arnold de Wion’s massive eighteen-hundred-page volume entitled *Lignum Vitae* (Tree of Life), which was published in 1595. ... Even though we have good reason to believe a much older document is still visible, we must accept that the earliest instance of the prophecy surfaced nearly four hundred years *after* its alleged origin in 1139. Despite the legend which pleads it was locked away in a musty Vatican vault those four hundred years, the skeptics still have valid points. Even so, it very well could be the work of Saint Malachy coarsely corrupted by a forger.

The exciting news is that the Prophecy of the Popes, although tainted, is still genuine prophecy. ... the post publication predictions show astonishing fulfillments. We have no critical analysis to explain away the sometimes jaw-dropping, post-1595 fulfillments. Indeed, we are currently at 111 out of 112 and

believers argue they seem to have increased in precision over time.*

For those who would like to delve into this subject in more detail, I highly recommend the book *Petrus Romanus: The Final Pope is Here*, by Thomas Horn and Chris Putnam (2012). For another point of view, I also recommend John Hogue's updated book, *The Last Pope Revisited* (2006).

BIBLICAL PROPHECY AND NON-BIBLICAL PROPHECY

The Word of God is the standard of truth by which all prophecy must be tested.

The OT prophet acted as a mouthpiece for God, receiving a message from Him and proclaiming it in accordance with His commands. Since there is one God, a true prophet must necessarily be a prophet of God. The word, however, might be used of one who pretended or actually believed that he was a mouthpiece of God or some other god.*

Tests of a true prophet of God include 100 percent accuracy and agreement with the Word of God. However, a false prophet may make a 100% accurate prediction but if he/she leads people away from the true God and His Word to that which is false, that person is not from God (Deuteronomy 13: 1-5).

* pp. 15-16.

* *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, Vol. 4, p. 875.

The only reliable prophecy we have is the Word of God and God wants us to look to His Word, His prophecies, rather than to any other source. God's prophecies are not only 100% reliable and accurate, but they are far, far more detailed than any prophecies that have come from any other source.

(Note: The following part of the study was not taught on February 17, 2013 due to lack of time.)

CARDINAL PETER TURKSON & DON BOSCO'S PROPHECY OF THE TWO COLUMNS

Cardinal Peter Turkson, mentioned above, makes an interesting statement in light of Don Bosco's Prophecy of the Two Columns. He said: "The Church, if you adopt the imagery of a boat, is going through quite a bit of a storm and it does not appear to be over yet".

This imagery might relate to a dream Don Bosco had, in which the Pope appears to be the commander of a great vessel that represents the Roman Catholic Church and is attacked by enemy ships in a stormy sea. Perhaps Cardinal Peter Turkson sees himself as someone who is capable of taking command of that ship.

Don Bosco (born John Bosco 1815-1888) was an Italian Roman Catholic priest, educator, and writer who dedicated his life to the education and care of street children and other disadvantaged youth.*

* http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Bosco

He had an apparently prophetic dream, however, not one that came from God. This is not unexpected considering his Roman Catholic beliefs.

Theotokos Books, a Roman Catholic website, provides the following account of Don Bosco's Prophecy of the Two Columns:

On 30 May 1862 Don Bosco at his 'Good Night' talk told his boys, and the young clerics he was training, about a dream he had dreamt a few nights previously: he actually described it as a parable or allegory. ...

"Try to picture yourselves with me on the seashore, or, better still, on an outlying cliff with no other land in sight. The vast expanse of water is covered with a formidable array of ships in battle formation, prows fitted with sharp spear-like beaks capable of breaking through any defence. All are heavily armed with cannons, incendiary bombs, and firearms of all sorts - even books - and are heading toward one stately ship, mightier than them all. As they try to close in, they try to ram it, set it afire, and cripple it as much as possible.

"This stately vessel is shielded by a flotilla escort. Winds and waves are with the enemy. In this midst of this endless sea, **two solid columns, a short distance apart, soar high into the sky: one is surmounted by a statue of the Immaculate Virgin at whose feet a large inscription reads: Help of Christians;**

the other, far loftier and sturdier, supports a [Eucharist] Host of proportionate size and bears beneath it the inscription Salvation of believers.

"The flagship commander - the Roman Pontiff [the Pope]- seeing the enemy's fury and his auxiliary ships very grave predicament, summons his captains to a conference. However, as they discuss their strategy, a furious storm breaks out and they must return to their ships. When the storm abates, the Pope again summons his captains as the flagship keeps on its course. But the storm rages again. Standing at the helm, the Pope strains every muscle to steer his ship between the two columns from whose summits hang many anchors and strong hooks linked to chains.

"The entire enemy fleet closes in to intercept and sink the flagship at all costs. They bombard it with everything they have: books and pamphlets, incendiary bombs, firearms, cannons. The battle rages ever more furious. Beaked prows ram the flagship again and again, but to no avail, as, unscathed and undaunted, it keeps on its course. At times a formidable ram splinters a gaping hole into its hull, but, immediately, a breeze from the two columns instantly seals the gash.

"Meanwhile, enemy cannons blow up, firearms and beaks fall to pieces, ships crack up and sink to the bottom. In blind fury the enemy takes to hand-to-hand combat, cursing and blaspheming. Suddenly the Pope falls, seriously wounded. He is instantly helped

up but, struck down a second time, dies. A shout of victory rises from the enemy and wild rejoicing sweeps their ships. But no sooner is the Pope dead than another takes his place. The captains of the auxiliary ships elected him so quickly that the news of the Pope's death coincides with that of his successor's election. The enemy's self-assurance wanes.

"Breaking through all resistance, the new Pope steers his ship safely between the two columns and moors it to the two columns; first to the one surmounted by the Host, and then to the other, topped by the statue of the Virgin. At this point something unexpected happens. The enemy ships panic and disperse, colliding with and scuttling each other. Some auxiliary ships which had gallantly fought alongside their flagship are the first to tie up at the two columns.

"Many others, which had fearfully kept far away from the fight, stand still, cautiously waiting until the wrecked enemy ships vanish under the waves. Then, they too head for the two columns, tie up at the swinging hooks, and ride safe and tranquil beside their flagship. A great calm now covers the sea."

At this point Don Bosco asked one of the priests present for his views. He replied that he thought that the flagship symbolised the Church headed by the Pope, with the ships representing mankind and the sea as an image of the world. The ships defending the flagship he equated with the laity and the attackers with those

trying to destroy the Church, while **the two columns represented devotion to Mary and the Eucharist.**

He did not mention the death of the Pope and neither did Don Bosco in his reply, in which he agreed with what the priest had said, while adding that the enemy ships symbolised persecutions:

"Very grave trials await the Church. What we have suffered so far is almost nothing compared to what is going to happen. The enemies of the Church are symbolised by the ships which strive their utmost to sink the flagship. **Only two things can save us in such a grave hour: devotion to Mary and frequent Communion.** Let us do our very best to use these two means and have others use them everywhere."*

Given Don Bosco's own words, we can see that his beliefs contradict the Word of God. So does his prophetic dream. Roman Catholic doctrine about Mary and the Eucharist is contrary to the Word of God. In our previous teachings, we have proven that the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church are contrary to the Word of God, which is the only standard of truth.

* <http://www.theotokos.org.uk/pages/fatima/donbosco.html> - Sources: E. M. Brown, Ed., *Dreams, Visions and Prophecies of Don Bosco*, (Don Bosco Publications, New Rochelle, 1986); Sexton, Dominic Savio, Schoolboy Saint.

See “Comparing the Apostate Roman Church and Messiah Yeshua’s True Church” (July 9, 2011) and “Attributes of Messiah Yeshua – Claims of Roman Catholic Virgin Mary”.

What is noteworthy about this prophecy is that it predicts a time of great persecution of the Roman Catholic Church, in a similar way as the Last Pope Prophecy of Saint Malacy.

While the Last Pope Prophecy is in agreement with the Word of God regarding the destruction of Rome and with it the Roman Church, Don Bosco’s Prophecy of the Two Columns is in blatant contradiction to the Word of God. This proves the prophetic dream that he had did not come from God.