

## The Pope. The Nation. The Signs.

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“One reason both Protestants and secularists are latching onto the Pope is because they think that Rome has changed.”

In September 2015, in Washington, D.C., a pope addressed both houses of Congress for the first time in history. The importance of this to the fulfillment of Bible prophecy cannot be underestimated. In addition, Pope Francis is the first Jesuit pope in history which is very significant in itself. It is significant because this is the greatest Protestant nation on earth and the Jesuit order was created to counter the Protestant Reformation. Without the Reformation, there would be no America as we know it. Yet, here is a Jesuit pope, not only popular, but now handed the influence to unite Congress behind his global agenda. This is of astounding!

Here is some additional Jesuit history that should have made Congress think twice about giving such authority to this Pope. “Between 1555 and 1931 they [Jesuits] were expelled from at least 83 countries, city states, and cities [for] engaging in political intrigue and subversion plots.”<sup>1</sup> No Protestant could utter stronger denunciations against the Jesuits than were uttered by the [Catholic] King of Portugal when he expelled them from his kingdom: “It cannot be but that the licentiousness introduced by the Jesuits, of which the three leading features are falsehood, murder, and perjury...”<sup>2</sup>

We must remember that the Vatican is a political power, not just a religious one. It exchanges ambassadors with many nations. To examine the tools and objectives that such powers claim is not a lapse in charity or love. While it goes without saying that there are many fine Christians in both Protestant and Catholic communions, that is not the issue here, but rather to trace before our eyes the amazing transformation of public opinion in Protestant America that is fulfilling Bible Prophecy.

For instance, as I write, Southern states and cities are in the process of changing their flags and renaming their streets in order to undo the honor they gave to the Confederate Rebellion and the horrors of slavery. Yet, with all the press coverage about the Pope addressing Congress, nothing was said about the Vatican’s past connection to the Confederacy. The Vatican was the only government to give official comfort and some say recognition to the Confederate States of America. Here is an excerpt from Pope Pius IX’s letter to Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy.

“We have lately received with all kindness,... the gentlemen sent by your Excellency.... We have received certainly no small pleasure in learning... from your letter the feelings of gratification and of very warm appreciation with which you, illustrious and honorable sir... And we also pray the same most merciful Lord that He will illumine your Excellency with the light of His divine grace and unite you with ourselves in perfect charity.”<sup>3</sup>

Abraham Lincoln was livid about the letter because it was hurtful to the Union struggle. Some believe many Catholics saw this as an endorsement of the Confederates and was the reason for high desertions from the Union Army among some Catholic ethnic groups.<sup>4</sup>

Abraham Lincoln also stated, ‘... it is not against the Americans of the South, alone, I am fighting. It is more against the Pope of Rome, his perfidious Jesuits, and their blind and blood-thirsty slaves that we have to defend ourselves.’<sup>5</sup> Lincoln was not alone in those concerns. General Thomas Harris, a member of the military jury for those who murdered Lincoln, published a book entitled *Rome’s Responsibility for the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln*.<sup>6</sup>

There is no doubt that Pope Pius IX was a revered figure by leaders in the post-war South. General Robert E. Lee kept a portrait of him in his house, and referred to him as the South’s only true friend during her time of need... Davis was frequently visited by nuns during his imprisonment, who delivered messages for him and prayed for his release.<sup>7</sup>

But now, here we are in 2015 and this Jesuit Pope is honored, applauded, and empowered by both Houses of Congress to advance his agenda. And if that were not enough, he also addressed the nation from Independence Hall in Philadelphia, the

seat of our liberties. To Lincoln, Independence Hall was the most sacred place in America and where he lay in state after his assassination. In addition, the Pope was also allowed to use the lectern that President Lincoln used to give the Gettysburg address. A lectern considered so special that it has been used only twice since the mid 1800s.<sup>8</sup>

In 1798 when the pope was taken captive by Napoleon's general and later lost the temporal power of the papal states, many declared that the papacy was finished as a significant power. However, that "deadly wound" was stitched back together when fascist Italy under Mussolini made a treaty with the Papacy restoring the pope as emperor over Vatican city, giving it nation status. This was followed by a treaty with Hitler's Nazi Germany. After the Allies won World War II, the United States refused to recognize the Vatican as a nation. That all changed when Ronald Reagan came to power. The recognition was given as a reward to Pope John Paul II for helping to bring down Soviet communism.

Then in 1998, the world was presented with "Evangelicals and Catholics Together." A group of well-known evangelicals made peace with the pope for political expediency. Since then, papal power and influence have grown amazingly around the world. At this point, one can honestly say the "deadly wound" has been healed for some years.

What we are watching now is the next step predicted in the prophecy. The world, led by United States, is in the process of "making an image" to this medieval power. What does that mean? Rome has never given up the doctrine that it has the right to rule over civil government. The result of this terrible arrangement was the Dark Ages, known as the noon of the papal power.<sup>9</sup>

One reason both Protestants and secularists are latching onto the Pope is because they think that Rome has changed. They think that somehow he has become a freedom loving "Protestant" who is still Catholic. Yet there is evidence to the contrary.

After the recent murder of the cartoonists in France, Pope Francis condemned the violence as he should. But he then gave the criminals a pass by saying, "You cannot provoke. You cannot insult the faith of others... There is a limit." Certainly Christians should never make fun of other people's faith, but to call for "limits" on freedom of speech is dangerous to our liberties. If you lose freedom of speech, you also lose freedom of religion. On CBS's Face the Nation, January 18, 2015, David Cameron, Prime Minister of England, understood the seriousness of the Pope's call for limits on freedom of speech. In response to the Pope, he said that, "in a free society there is a right to cause offense about someone's religion..."

Believe it or not, the authoritative Catholic Encyclopedia still defends the Inquisition. "Opponents say: Precisely; the rigors of the Inquisition violated all humane feelings. We answer: they offend the feelings of later ages in which there is less regard for the purity of faith... Medieval people found no fault with the system...."<sup>10</sup> Really! The Inquisition was a result of a purer faith? So if the Pope and his now Protestant allies lead the nation and world back to a purer faith, will they bring back the Inquisition?

Then they are so brazen to suggest that, medieval people found no fault with the Inquisition? Have they never heard of the Protestant Reformation, the Thirty Years War, or the U.S. Constitution that forbids cruel and unusual punishment? The Bill of Rights enshrined in the American Constitution is a reaction to the cruelty of the Medieval church/state union.

Is the world and nation being seduced by all the pomp and attention given to the Pope as he addressed both Houses of Congress? Babylon, the symbolic woman in Revelation, is predicted to charm the leaders of the world. The end is not pretty!

As Seventh-day Adventists, are we awake? Or are we still taking our rest?

1. (Canadian historian J.E.C. Shepherd, "The Babington Plot"; 1987; Wittenburg Publications, Toronto, Canada; Page 12)
2. The Jesuits In History by Hector McPherson, pp. 104-105, Reproduced in electronic form, 2002, Bank of Wisdom, LLC, P.O.Box 926 Louisville, KY 40201
3. Given at Rome at St. Peters on the 3d December, 1863, in the eighteenth year of our pontificate.

4. [<http://www.reformation.org/lincoln.html>]; Also see on Pius IX [ [http://one-evil.org/content/people\\_19c\\_pius\\_ix.htm](http://one-evil.org/content/people_19c_pius_ix.htm)]; Also see papal influence on ethnic groups in Mexican/American war [<http://www.ca> <http://www.reformation.org/lincoln.html>[tholthicculture.org/library/view.c...](http://www.tholthicculture.org/library/view.c...)]
5. Fifty Years in the Church of Rome, by Charles Chiniquy. P. 496
6. [[https://openlibrary.org/books/OL6934184M/Rome's\\_responsibility\\_for\\_the\\_assassination\\_of\\_Abraham\\_Lincoln](https://openlibrary.org/books/OL6934184M/Rome's_responsibility_for_the_assassination_of_Abraham_Lincoln)]
7. [<http://catholicknight.blogspot.com/2009/02/pope-pius-ix-and-confederacy.htm>] Also see CNN, 25 March 2014
8. [<http://www.phillyvoice.com/pope-francis-use-gettysburg-address-lectern>]
9. J. A. Wylie, The History of Protestantism, b. 1, ch. 4.
10. [[http://www.catholic.com/encyclopedia/heresy#XIII.\\_INTOLERANCE\\_AND\\_CRUELTY](http://www.catholic.com/encyclopedia/heresy#XIII._INTOLERANCE_AND_CRUELTY)] Article title Heresy, Subsection XIII entitled Intolerance and Cruelly. Taken from the internet on December 7, 2015.