

Francis the Pontiff Speaks Against the Most High

By Richard Bennett and Robert Nicholson

In keeping with Pope Francis's identity his upcoming visit to Israel is the perfect vehicle to move forward his objective.¹ The unfolding of this religious drama is intended by the Papacy to present Pope Francis on the real world stage as a great reconciler in promoting peace in a land riven with racial conflict and ideological confusion. The May 24-26 trip to Amman, Jerusalem and Bethlehem will mark the 50th anniversary of a landmark trip there by Pope Paul VI in 1964, the first by a pope in modern times. Subsequently, Pope John Paul II visited in 2000 and Benedict XVI made a visit to the region in 2009.² However, since Benedict XVI's visit, considerable destabilizing changes in the region have added incentive to this latest opportunity for the Papacy.

On Monday, May 26, 2014, Francis will visit Islam's Grand Mufti in Jerusalem. After 5:00 p.m., Francis will celebrate the Roman Catholic Mass in what is claimed to be the Cenacle, the site of the Last Supper. Francis and the Papacy officially teach that at a Mass people are to offer themselves with "the sacred victim" (Christ Jesus) and receive in the communion bread the same "sacred victim."³ For Francis to enact publicly such a teaching is to speak against the Most High. Jesus Christ the Lord was never a victim. The idea of His being victimized is nowhere in Scripture. Rather, it was in conscious submissive obedience to the divine plan of redemption that the Lord Jesus followed His Father's will.⁴ He declared, "*No man taketh it [life] from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*"⁵ In spite of Jesus' clear words, Francis

¹ See www.bereanbeacon.org, "Key to Pope Francis's Identity: Master of the Jesuit *Spiritual Exercises*" "Pope Francis Portrays Himself as a Reformer," "Pope Francis Shows His True Colors," "Pope Francis Elected, Mystery of Iniquity Moves On"

² <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/175965#.U3fhA5tOXX4>

³ "Consequently the eucharistic sacrifice is the source and the summit of the whole of the [Catholic] Church's worship and of the Christian life. The faithful participate more fully in this sacrament of thanksgiving, propitiation, petition and praise, not only when they whole-heartedly offer the sacred victim, and in it themselves, to the Father with the priest, but also when they receive this same victim sacramentally." Vatican Council II Document No. 9, *Eucharisticum mysterium*.

⁴ Philippians 2:8, Acts 2:23, 3:18, 15:18, Daniel 9:26, 1 Peter 1:18-21

⁵ John 10:17-18

and the Papacy focus one's mind on a tragic Christ as victim, and not on Christ as Victor; i.e. as "*the Lord of lords and King of kings.*"⁶

The Bible shows that the Lord's Supper is a living memorial and not a sacrifice. The Lord Jesus Christ declared, "*This cup is the New Testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.*"⁷ The root meaning of the word "remembrance" entails the concept of personal interaction with the Lord.⁸ The Apostle Paul explained the purpose of the Lord's ordinance with the words, "*For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he comes.*"⁹ The purpose is clearly given; it is to show forth Christ's death, to proclaim and publish it. Believers are to declare His death and resurrection to be their life, the cause of their comfort and hope. They show forth His death and participate in its fruits before God the Father. Consequently, for Francis to enact a service called the Mass in which people are to offer themselves with "the sacred victim" (Christ Jesus) is a blasphemy! Thus, graphic words of the prophet Daniel aptly apply in our time, "*behold in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things. ... And he shall speak great words against the most High.*"¹⁰

The Significance of Francis meetings with Islamic Leaders in Jerusalem

No modern player commands the place that Francis has in the world today. While Francis has been careful to shun certain external trappings of his office, yet the whole history of the Papacy surrounds him as a cloak. It is of this historical position that the talented and well-trained Francis is making full use. Thus, with his Jesuitical cunning, he continues to deceive the nations of the world, seeking to entice even those within Islam. This is clearly evident by his careful preparation of a seductively diplomatic approach to the Muslim turbulence of the Middle East, especially prior to his visit to Jerusalem. Pope Francis has stated,

"The sacred writings of Islam have retained some Christian teachings; Jesus and Mary receive profound veneration and it is admirable to see how Muslims both

6 Revelation 17:14

7 I Corinthians 11:25

8 Thayer's Greek Lexicon, #364 Anamnesis, "a remembering, recollection to call me (affectionately) to remembrance."

9 I Corinthians 11:26

10 Daniel 7:8, 7:25

young and old, men and women, make time for daily prayer and faithfully take part in religious services. Many of them also have a deep conviction that their life, in its entirety, is from God and for God. They also acknowledge the need to respond to God with an ethical commitment and with mercy towards those most in need.”¹¹

This statement is similar to what Francis believes and what official Catholic dogma states,

*“The Church’s relationship with the Muslims. ‘The plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator, in the first place amongst whom are the Muslims; these profess to hold the faith of Abraham, and together with us they adore the one, merciful God, mankind’s judge on the last day.’”*¹²

The idea that the faith of Abraham could be a common foundation for some kind of Roman/Islamic interfaith dialogue for mutual appreciation and cooperation is absurd. The Word of God completely demolishes the concept that there is some kind of Abrahamic connection either to, or between, Islam and Romanism. Abraham is united to the Gospel by faith and nothing else, as Scripture states, *“Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, in thee shall all nations be blessed.”*¹³ All doubt on the issue of the content of Abraham’s faith is removed by direct testimony from the lips of Jesus, *“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.”*¹⁴ The synthetic construction of alleged Abrahamic interfaith dialogue between the Papacy and Islam is a casuistic engineered deceit that is deconstructed by biblical truth. We confidently declare its origin to lie in *“the rulers of the darkness of this world”*¹⁵ standing behind the promulgated apostate anti-Christian dogma of the present time.

With this anti-Christian propaganda - that the faith of Abraham is the common foundation for a Roman/Islamic interfaith dialogue - Francis will fly to Amman, Jordan,

¹¹ <http://galliawatch.blogspot.com/2013/12/pope-francis-on-islam.html> 2/20/14

¹² *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Para. 841

¹³ Galatians 3:6-8

¹⁴ John 8:56

¹⁵ *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”* Eph 6:12

on May 24th. There he will meet with King Abdullah II and Queen Rania. The Pope will leave Jordan on May 25th and fly to Bethlehem for a meeting with Palestinian Authority, President Mahmoud Abbas. Abbas is the one to whom the Vatican refers as “the President of the State of Palestine.” On May 26th, Francis will meet with the Grand Mufti in Jerusalem and also address other Palestinian authorities. If faced with the facts, one sees that Francis’s statement, “They [the Muslims] also acknowledge the need to respond to God with an ethical commitment and with mercy towards those most in need,”¹⁶ is sheer propaganda! Since Israel withdrew from the Gaza Strip in 2005, Muslim terrorists have fired more than 8,000 rockets into Israel. Over 3.5 million Israelis are currently living under threat of rocket attacks. Most rockets launched from Gaza into Israel are capable of reaching Israel’s biggest southern cities. Rocket fire from Gaza is a constant threat facing Israel’s civilians. In 2011 alone, 630 rockets from Gaza hit Israeli towns. It is an even higher number than in 2010, when 231 rockets hit Israel.¹⁷ We raise these points so each one may weigh carefully the context of Francis’s visit before blithely accepting his professed intent of promoting peace. This pope is striding boldly into an arena where Islam’s malignant hatred of the Jews is constantly expressed. Francis has demonstrated an astonishing temerity in publicly stroking the religious vanity of the Muslim leadership by noting their “ethical commitment,” and “mercy toward those in need”! This is not just an offence to both common sense and the dignity of public honesty; it frankly is crass flattery! Clearly the Papacy intends to trollop around this land of troubles again, taking every opportunity to pontificate on peacemaking priorities and promote the Vatican to world media as the great reconciler of alienated brethren. Francis and his scarlet clad imperial cohort will dutifully ignore any point of historical or contemporary order for the sake of gaining influence within the political and social milieu of Israel-Palestine. There is no statist institution on this earth that can match the exquisitely subtle seductive tones of Roman diplomacy when it is bent on asserting influence. Every Middle Eastern leader who succumbs to this deceptive Vatican propaganda will eventually find this out, to his temporal and eternal loss.

“A mouth speaking great things”

Pope Francis’s outreach to Islam represents another tactical re-appraisal of circumstances and opportunities for the Vatican. The profound danger for Evangelical

¹⁶ <http://galliawatch.blogspot.com/2013/12/pope-francis-on-islam.html> 2/20/14

¹⁷ <http://www.idfblog.com/facts-figures/rocket-attacks-toward-israel/>

people is that they might incautiously support a push for peace by Francis while not appreciating the Papacy's claim to be the only true spokesman for Christ on this earth. This subtle assumption of the supreme authority of the Papacy is deeply embedded in all the Vatican's efforts to push its agenda of interfaith ecumenicity. Bible-believing Christians must recall the truth that the Pope is not a "first among equals" as a bishop, as he may with feigned humility claim. He is not even a bishop in the biblical sense of the term. Pope Francis is the head of a totalitarian hierarchy. Francis has his own secular government inside Vatican City and more property worldwide than any other person on the planet. He has territorial dominions, cardinals, worldwide ambassadors, a legislature, jurisprudence, laws, advocates, taxes, banks, foreign treaties, ambitious plans, and policy, more than any other secular prince. Yet, he differs from other secular leaders. Francis's spiritual commerce goes hand in hand with his civil power, claiming infallibility and international recognition.¹⁸

However, there remains unfinished business, particularly in Europe and the US, from the reigns of John Paul II and Benedict XVI. Weary of Vatican hypocrisy and stonewalling, the secular media has drawn concerted attention to the consequences of the Roman clergy's scandalous criminal behaviour throughout the world.¹⁹ Again, recently it is reported that, "The U.N. is cracking down on the Vatican. A U.N. committee said Monday [May 4] that the numerous cases of sex abuse by priests should be prosecuted and dealt with by the Vatican as cases of torture....Pope Francis has asked for victims' forgiveness and said he takes personal responsibility for the 'evil' of what had transpired."²⁰ The Lord Jesus Christ gave us the sure means by which we know the moral condition of those purporting to speak for God. He said, "*Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits.*"²¹

¹⁸ Revelation 18:12-13 The Roman Catholic Church went apostate formally at the Council of Trent in 1548 when it denied the Gospel in favor of its Sacramental system. No Pope, including Francis, has ever denied the Council of Trent. Rather they all teach it - including Francis. The merchandise involved in Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Anointing of the Sick is the souls of men!

¹⁹ <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/secrets-of-the-vatican/>

²⁰ www.breitbart.com/Big-Peace/2014/05/05/U-N-Compares-Vatican-s-Delay-in-Addressing-Child-Abuse-to-Torture

²¹ Matthew 7:15-16

As the Scriptures teach, “*we wrestle not against flesh and blood,*” so we must gird ourselves for conflict with Satan in the right spiritual frame and only with the God-given weapons for warfare.²² It is incumbent upon the Lord’s people to recall that the principal arena of Satan’s operations is not the phenomenal, but the noumenal.²³ That is to say, Satan’s most effective devices consist in the development, promulgation, and insinuation of deceits that correlate directly to the conceits which are latent in the darkened understandings of men.²⁴ This supreme element of cunning is exposed in his wickedly effective appreciation that nothing is more powerful than a lie whose time has come.²⁵ The urgent need for interfaith ecumenicity built on mutual respect and appreciation between apostate Christendom and false religions like Islam is a lie whose time has come. Satan is sure of it. Francis believes it. Sadly the spiritually diminished pseudo-evangelical “leaders” may end up ignorantly applauding both of them.²⁶ Our exhortation to all our dear brethren in the Lord is, be not deceived!²⁷ When you see the so-called Supreme Pontiff standing in the “cenacle” exercising his claimed priestly powers of turning a miniature-sized pancake into deity, to be worshipped and venerated by the “faithful,” remember that John the Apostle states emphatically, “*you have heard that antichrist shall come...*”²⁸ John confirms that while there were contemporary opponents of Christ (many antichrists), these spiritual forces of wickedness would eventually coalesce in one entity. If contemporary Evangelicals accept what Francis is attempting to propagate in Jerusalem, without open public protest, it will mark yet another significant betrayal of the Gospel testimony toward the poor, deluded adherents of Romanism and leave them languishing in the claws of the devil. It is imperative to take heed of the warning in Holy Scripture that in these last days the lure of fleshly false religions and their embedded demonic delusions will be so great that, “*insomuch that, if*

22 1 Thessalonians 5:8 cf. Ephesians 6:12 -19

23 Ephesians 4:17-19

24 2 Chronicles 18:20-22, 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10, Rev 12:9

25 John 8:38 cf. Acts 13:10

26 Daniel 11:35

27 Matthew 24:24, II Peter 2:2-3, II Timothy 2:19

28 I John 2:18 (The Greek text says that the antichrist shall come.)

it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”²⁹ We have before us the harlot religious system pretending to be the bride of Christ while factually being a political and religious power under the dominion and direction of the powers of darkness.³⁰

Francis trip to the Middle East will be broadcast worldwide. It will be proclaimed by the secular and religious media as a grand act of reconciliation in that the Church of Rome is set forth as peacemaker in the world. Many religious people who mistakenly think they are Christians will be deceived. But to true believers in the Lord, we exhort you from the Word of God with these words, “*Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.*”³¹ Fellow believer, recollect the heartfelt words of Luther when he received his final excommunication from the Roman system. Luther wrote,

“Unless with all your hearts you abandon the Papacy, you cannot save your souls. The reign of the Pope is so opposed to the law of Christ and the life of the Christian, that it will be safer to roam the desert and never see the face of man, than abide under the rule of Antichrist. I warn every man to look to his soul’s welfare, lest by submitting to the Pope he deny Christ. The time is come when Christians must choose between death here and death hereafter. For my own part, I choose death here. I cannot lay such a burden upon my soul as to hold my peace in this matter: I must look to the great reckoning. I abominate the Babylonian pest. As long as I live I will proclaim the truth. If the wholesale destruction of souls throughout Christendom cannot be prevented, at least I shall labour to the utmost of my power to rescue my own countrymen from the bottomless pit of perdition.”³²

Conclusion

For anyone to substitute living personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ by trusting in the Pope and his superstitious system of sacramentally communicated grace and works righteousness is eternally fatal.³³ The Roman religious cultus and doctrinal system is

²⁹ Matthew 24:24 cf. Daniel 11:35

³⁰ Revelation 17:1-8

³¹ 2 Peter 3:17

³² Martin Luther, December 11, 1520, Sermon at Wittenberg. Wylie. *History of Protestantism*, Book 6, Ch 2, p 296

³³ Galatians 1:8-9, cf. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

the epitome of a man-made religion system. It is an authoritatively self-referencing dogmatic belief system that substitutes itself in the place of a relationship with the living God through the Gospel.³⁴ *“The gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.”*³⁵ True Christians see God’s power and boldly proclaim His grace; every individual who is saved is *“being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”*³⁶ The precious blood of Christ shed once on Calvary is the appointed means that God uses to save His people from their sins.³⁷ Thus, it is proclaimed, *“but God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved).”*³⁸ Sin is an evil of infinite consequence because it is committed against an infinite Holy God. There is no way of escaping the wrath of God against sin except by His grace. Thus the Scripture states, *“how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him.”*³⁹ The Scripture interprets grace as power, mercifully extended. Redemption comes by this means, because it was by *“the grace of God”* that Christ tasted death for each true believer. The Lord Jesus Christ alone saves His people from their sins. He sends His Holy Spirit into their hearts, so that they are radically changed from what they were previously. The Holy Spirit sheds forth the love of God in the hearts of those whom He regenerates from spiritual death.⁴⁰ That love is manifested by a deep desire and honest resolve to please the Lord and to serve Him: *“But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.”*⁴¹ When Christ Jesus saves a soul, He also delivers that soul from the rule and power of sin.⁴² It is true that the Lord has not yet completed

34 Mark 7:6-9, cf. 1 Timothy 3:1-6 and Titus 1:14

35 Romans 1:16

36 Romans 3:24

37 Hebrews 10:10-15 and I Peter 1:18-20

38 Ephesians 2:4-5

39 Hebrews 2:3

40 John 3:5-8, Titus 3:5-7, Ezekiel 36:26-27, cf. Romans 5:5 and 8:15, Galatians 4:6

41 1 John 2:3-6

42 2 Corinthians 4:6, Colossians 1:12-14, 1 Peter 2:9

His work in believers, for the sin which still resides within them must be eradicated. However, any person that He has truly saved is delivered from the “dominion of sin.”⁴³ We thank God for those who are saved that do not live in sin as Scripture states, “*How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*”⁴⁴ Can you say that this is true for you? In the difficult age of compromise in which we live, do you act under the guidance of the Holy Spirit? Do you make the Word of God your measure of truth and the grace of God your assurance of life? If you can honestly say yes to these questions you will understand that you are not under the condemnation of law, but your faith is in Christ Jesus and His righteousness alone! You can then proclaim joyously, in harmony with the Apostle Paul, “*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit...for as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*”⁴⁵ ♦

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43 1 John 1:5-10, Romans 7:14-25

44 Romans 6:2-7

45 Romans 8:1, 14