

# The Discerner

the voice of... **Religion Analysis Service**

A QUARTERLY EXPOSING  
UNBIBLICAL TEACHING & MOVEMENTS

Volume 34, Number 1

January • February • March 2014

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Confucianism

Hare Krishna

Freemasons

Jehovah's Witnesses

Humanism

Jainism

Judaism

Neopaganism

MOONIES

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MORMONS

BAHA'I FAITH

Buddhism

Scientology

Satanism

## In This Edition:

RAS Team Notes.....2

Readers' Comments – Thank You!.....3

Dear Reader .....4  
*by Rev. Laurence J. Sutherland*

With This Issue .....5  
*by Rev. Laurence J. Sutherland*

The Bible and Polygamy .....6  
*by Rev. Steve Lagoon*

Revelations from Warren Jeffs Put into  
Published Form.....15  
*by Eric Johnson*

Pope Francis Shows His True Colors.....18  
*by Richard Bennett*

QUIZ: Ukraine/Crimea/Russia.....28

Cartoons.....30



*"Hereby know we the spirit of truth  
and the spirit of error" 1 John 4:6*

# The Discerner

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## RAS TEAM NOTES

Since the year 2000 I have been identified with the Religion Analysis Service, Inc.(RAS), first as board member, and since 2004 I have served as Editor of the RAS quarterly publication The Discerner. It is a great honor to continue this ministry that was begun in 1946 and is one of the oldest apologetic/countercult/ministries in the USA.

Precisely, the RAS examines and exposes cults such as Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons, but we also study aberrant movements within Christianity that are unbiblical or anti-Christian. Recent articles have dealt with themes such as Seventh-day Adventism and Legalism, Purgatory, Eckankar, Dispensationalism, etc . These and more than 300 more are accessible digitally through our website: [info.ras.org](http://info.ras.org). Authors of our articles include men such as Charles Haddon Spurgeon, Arthur Pink, David Larsen, Steve Lagoon, Gerald Stigall, Roy Knutson, William BeVier and many other professors, preachers, revivalists, and lay leaders, past and present.

Your prayers and financial support for this ministry are appreciated. Active participation through a subscription of \$10.00 per year is also encouraged. Do you know and understand cults and false teaching when you hear them? You can test your knowledge of the Bible, ancient and modern history, and even geography through our popular 10-point quizzes too. (See Quiz on Ukraine, Crimea, Russia on pages 28 and 29)

Laurence J. Sutherland

## READERS' COMMENTS - THANK YOU!

“I have been receiving your quarterly publication for three to four years now. ..I find the issues very up-to-date, informative, well investigated, well written, and factual. I have learned not to take anything upon face value as a presentation of truth and fact - with the exception of the Word of God.” J. J.

“Thank you for your continued watch over all the cults in our society. I appreciate your willingness to point out errors in the teaching of the often accepted teachings of 7th Day Adventists and Mormons, just to mention a few.” B. J.

“May the Lord Jesus continue to bless your ministry. ‘The Discerner’ has been such a blessing to me since 1971”. M.C.

“I just retired from Mid-Seminary after teaching Hebrew OT and theology for 38 years In cleaning out my desk I found a copy of the October-December 2000 copy of ‘The Discerner’. I have no idea where it came from, but I just finished devouring it and subscribing to it. I agree with everything that I read.

...Just wanted you to know how glad I am to find you.” D.S.

Our thanks for these encouraging comments from readers. May the truth of God’s Word and godly, biblical research continue to bolster hearts in these days of spiritual shallowness and confusion!

RAS Team

## DEAR READER

The situation in Ukraine and in Eastern Europe hits home with me. It was my privilege to teach 11 years in a row at the Zaporozhye Bible College in southeastern Ukraine. This area (oblast) has been dominated by Russian influence over many centuries. Recently the political picture has radically changed and Kiev in eastern Ukraine became a powder keg for resistance to Russian insistence that Ukraine remain economically loyal to Russia and not to the West. In the riots that ensued the ethnic Russians, foremost in the Crimea but also in southeastern Ukraine, sought help from Russia, whereby the Russian military moved in at the command of Premier Vladimir Putin. Crimea was therewith virtually annexed to Mother Russia. As of this writing things remain extremely tense with Russian military power on display throughout the Crimea and on the eastern border of Ukraine.

God has blessed Ukraine extraordinarily in the last 24 years through association with the economic West. From a spiritual perspective too Ukraine has seen the blessing of the Lord through evangelical church-planting and evangelistic efforts from the Western countries such as Great Britain, Germany, Canada, and the USA. An example of this spiritual influence is the Zaporozhye Bible College which has instructed over 700 residential students with courses in Bible, music, Christian education, and languages. It was inspiring for me to teach several hundred avid students on the Cults, Occultism, and Satanism. My students were simply amazed how the cults have infiltrated Ukraine and have caused confusion and chaos even among mature Christians. A temple was constructed in Kiev and dedicated to Mormonism. Satanism, occultism, and the so-called Youth Religions are making adherents among new Christians.

Today the Zaporozhye Bible College has a Ukrainian director, has started over 100 churches over the years, and is a beautiful example of disciplined Christian teaching and practice.

Will all of this change due to the present political upheaval? We trust God that His Word and His work will continue unabated through these ardent followers of Christ.

Yours gratefully, yours sincerely,

Laurence J. Sutherland

## WITH THIS ISSUE

Years ago, in the 1890s, the US government reached an agreement with the Latter Day Saints or Mormons that polygamy was forbidden throughout the USA. Since then there have always been clandestine polygamists who somehow evade the law. Today one can view polygamist colonies even on television who openly display their way of life. It is a salutary blessing that our RAS president, Steve Lagoon, has undertaken to research the theme of polygamy and its many-faceted dimensions in Scripture. His research starts in Genesis and goes throughout the Old Testament and even into the New Testament. His conclusions are balanced and verifiable.

As an addendum to the research on polygamy we are including Eric Johnson's expose of Warren Jeffs, once a polygamist. This story should forcefully steer us away from anything less or more than God-ordained monogamy.

Our second main article concerns us with the new pope who has barely been in office for a year. The author of the article, Richard Bennett, is a converted Roman Catholic, which might betray his poignant interest in the papacy, its entanglements, theological twists and turns, and the pope's Jesuit passion. Bennett pursues the inaugural remarks of Pope Francis as he avows his allegiance to Petrine doctrine and the primacy of the Roman Catholic Church.

The ubiquitous quiz on Ukraine and Russia should alert us to the vastness of this region of the earth as well as the complexity of the present situation there.

An extra added feature this time are some political and religious cartoons. It is hoped that our demeanors will lighten up a little after the heavy course of research and analysis. Enjoy!

Laurence J. Sutherland

# THE BIBLE AND POLYGAMY

by Steve Lagoon

## **Polygamy**

The issue of polygamy (or more strictly speaking “polygyny” meaning a man with multiple wives), or plural marriage, has been much in the news in recent years. Noteworthy has been the practice of polygamy under many smaller Mormon break-off sects, especially that of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints led by Warren Jeffs. What is most disturbing about these cults is the young age that girls have been forced to marry (as young as 12) and that the men they are forced to marry are often much older, even in their middle age.

We are encouraged that public officials were able to convict Warren Jeffs and send him to prison where he belongs. We encourage government authorities to continue to vigorously investigate and prosecute these pedophiles that use religion as a guise for their crimes of abuse and rape against innocent young girls.

Nevertheless, we do not believe the issue of polygamy is going away. We are seeing reality television shows featuring the practice of polygamy. For instance, The Learning Channel has a reality program called *Sister Wives* that follows the lives of Cody Brown, his four wives, and seventeen children.

Further, with immigration from countries that practice polygamy, there is increasing pressure to legalize polygamy. For instance, Muslims in many African nations such as Guinea and Somalia practice polygamy, and their migration to the United States is further challenging our culture and laws.

Indeed, by the same rationale (privacy rights) that has been used to justify abortion, same-sex marriage, and the legalization of marijuana, it seems only a matter of time before polygamy will also be legalized.

The basic idea that has taken over our culture and increasingly our legal system is that consenting adults should be able to do whatever they want in their private lives. In addition to privacy rights, advocates for polygamy are also claiming that laws restricting polygamy are an infringement of first amendment rights to the free exercise of religion.

## **A Biblical Response**

Working from the assumption that the Bible is the standard and authority for determining orthodoxy (right belief) and orthopraxy (right practice), we will have to go the Scriptures to determine God's will concerning polygamy. This is all the more important since most polygamists' claim biblical support for the practice.

When we consider any issue involving marriage, we must begin at the beginning. That is, we shall examine God's institution of human marriage at the beginning of Genesis. Here we see that the divine pattern for marriage is one man and one woman in covenant relationship with each other and with God (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:21-25). Anything departing from this divine arrangement is a violation of God's will for marriage.

However, we shall see that before long in the scriptural record polygamy appears on the scene. We shall see that this is always for the worse and as a result of hearts hardened by sin.

Indeed it is my thesis that every example of polygamy in the Bible is a violation of God's order and either represents blatant disobedience to God's commands or is merely tolerated by God in recognition of the human fallen condition in the same way that divorce was tolerated in the Old Testament. In the latter case, though it is tolerated it is neither in accordance with God's will or in what is best for mankind.

### **Lamech's Polygamy**

The first instance of polygamy recorded in the Bible is that of Lamech: "*Lamech married two women, one named Adah and the other Zillah*" (Genesis 4:19). It is not surprising to find this first example occurring in the ungodly line of Cain.

As we look at this first example of polygamy, and the others to follow, we must keep in mind important hermeneutical principles. The first is the distinction between what is merely *descriptive* (what simply is) versus what is *prescriptive* (what should be). We should not assume that simply because the Bible describes a situation means that God approves of the situation.

For example, just because the Bible describes Noah's night of drunkenness (Genesis 9:20-25) does not mean that God approved of his drunkenness. In other words, it described, but didn't prescribe the behavior. Likewise, just because the Bible describes Lamech's polygamy does not mean that God approved of it.

## **Implicit and Explicit Biblical Teaching**

Secondly, there is a difference between what the Bible teaches *explicitly* versus what it teaches *implicitly*. Sometimes the Bible explicitly condemns a behavior: “*Thou shalt not steal*” (Exodus 20:15). But at other times it provides a narrative of an event so that the reader can come to an understanding of a truth through careful reading of the text. For instance, we see this kind of teaching in parables, illustrations, and in narratives.

Not only with Lamech, but with other examples to follow we will do well to keep these principles in mind, realizing that just because there are not explicit condemnations of polygamy, yet everywhere it was practiced, misery followed.

## **Abraham’s Polygamy**

Let us recall how the patriarch Abraham entered into polygamy. God had promised Abraham an heir to fulfill and receive the blessings of the covenant (Genesis 12:1-3). But many years passed and finally Abraham’s wife Sarai took matters into her own hands, devising a plan to build her family through her maidservant Hagar (Genesis 16:1-3).

Rather than waiting on God in faith, Abraham agreed to Sarai’s plan and had a child through Sarai’s maidservant Hagar (Genesis 16:4). The results were predictable. There was so much animosity between Sarai and Hagar that eventually Sarai cruelly drove Hagar away (Genesis 16; 21:8-20). In as much as God intended marriage to be between one man and one woman from the beginning, it should not surprise us to see that Abraham’s lack of faith by taking another woman to build his family led to such heartache.

Abraham’s son Isaac did not make the same mistake as his father had made and was married only to Rebekah. However, both their sons, Jacob and Esau, were to become polygamists. Esau not only despised his birthright, but took two Hittite wives who “*were a source of grief to Isaac and Rebekah*” (Genesis 27:34).

## **Jacob’s Polygamy**

Now Jacob can be excused at least to the extent that he was tricked into polygamy when Laban sent Leah rather than Rachael to Jacob on their wedding night (Genesis 29:21-30). Nevertheless, the polygamous arrangement was a source of constant grief for Jacob with enmity among his wives as they vied for his love and attention, most especially by providing him with children (Genesis 29:31- 30:24).



Polygamists are quick to attack the women in these examples for being selfish and unwilling to share their husbands. But God's design for marriage was to be one man with one woman and the desire for exclusivity with one's mate is not sinful, but rather is hard-wired into us. Just as God is a jealous God, who does not want us to give ourselves to any other god (Exodus 20:5; Deuteronomy 6:15), so in marriage we pledge to forsake all others and to be faithful to our spouse.

### **Mosaic Law and Polygamy**

Modern advocates of polygamy appeal to passages in the Mosaic Law that assume the existence of polygamy and argue that such passages further indicate both the existence of polygamy and God's acceptance of the practice.

For instance, in Leviticus Moses says, "*Do not take your wife's sister as a rival wife and have sexual relations with her while your wife is living*" (Leviticus 18:18). Clearly, polygamy was practiced in Israel and just as clearly a man was forbidden to marry sisters. This would provide at least a basic protection against the natural rivalry that would develop among sisters bound to the same husband, as was so clearly evident with Jacob's wives, the sisters Leah and Rachel.

Another similar example concerned a situation in which firstborn inheritance rights were at stake for children of a polygamous father. In such cases Moses declared:

If a man has two wives, and he loves one but not the other, and both bear him sons but the firstborn is the son of the wife he does not love, when he wills his property to his sons, he must not give the rights of the firstborn to the son of the wife he loves in preference to his actual firstborn, the son of the wife he does not love. He must acknowledge the son of his unloved wife as the firstborn by giving him a double share of all he has. That son is the first sign of his father's strength. The right of the firstborn belongs to him (Deuteronomy 21:15-17).

Again, polygamy was without a doubt practiced in Israel and this passage sought to protect the children in polygamous families.

A final example of this type of passage in the Mosaic Law concerns a situation in which a Hebrew man sold his daughter into slavery and she became the wife of her master: "*If he [the husband and master] marries another woman, he must not deprive the first one of her food, clothing, and marital rights. If he does not provide her with these three things, she is to go free, without any payment of money*" (Exodus 21:10-11).

Here again, the Mosaic Law provided basic rights and protection even to a slave woman caught in a polygamous relationship.

As the foregoing clearly shows, polygamy was a reality of life during the period of the Mosaic Law in Israel. J. A. Thompson provides insight into this period:

Polygamy soon emerged in Israelite society . . . Ancient inscriptions, notably Hammurabi's Code, indicate that the practice was widespread at the time. Bigamy is recognized as legal in the book of Deuteronomy, which sets down strict rules to prevent family feuds over property between children of rival mothers. However, it seems likely to have been more common among kings than ordinary people; the Wisdom books never mention it and the Prophets present a picture of a monogamous society<sup>1</sup>

It is essential to recognize that these passages in the Mosaic Law are not at all endorsing the practice of polygamy. Rather, in recognition of the reality of polygamy in the culture due to man's hardened hearts, God wanted to provide at least a bare amount of protection to those in Israel who would have to live under its dread shadow.

In this respect, it is identical to slavery under the Mosaic Law. Merely because there are many passages regulating slavery in Israel (such as Exodus 21:2-11) should not be construed as God's endorsement of the practice, but instead are there by God's grace to provide a basic amount of protection to those who would have to live under its dread shadow.

### **Elkanah's Two Wives**

The book of 1 Samuel begins with the narrative of the birth of the prophet Samuel. Living in the hill country of Ephraim was a man named Elkanah (1 Samuel 1:1). We are told straightaway that he had two wives (1:2). One was Peninnah and the other was Hannah. Now it seems natural to wonder how this arrangement came to be (we are not told) and how it was working out (not so good).

John Bimson perhaps provides the answer:

Polygamy (strictly Polygyny, i.e. a man having more than one wife) was common in the age of the patriarchs, partly because they followed the custom of the time by which a man took a second wife if his first proved barren. This custom may have lingered on into the period of the judges, since Elkanah had two wives, one of whom was barren until she bore him Samuel (1 Sam 1:1-2).<sup>2</sup>

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1 J. A. Thompson, *Handbook of Life in Bible Times*, New York (Guideposts, 1986) 86

2 John Bimson, *The Compact Handbook of Old Testament Life*, Minneapolis MN (Bethany House Publishers, 1988) 121.

Again, as we would expect, there was great enmity between these two wives of Elkanah. Hannah was barren and unable to have children while Peninnah had multiple children. In a culture that placed such importance on childbearing, this naturally led to difficulties. We are told that: *“Because the LORD had closed her womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the LORD, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat”* (1:6-7).

Now Elkanah tried to comfort Hannah by reassuring her of his love and devotion (1:8) which though it must have helped, yet did not take away the sadness caused by her barrenness. Eventually Hannah’s prayer for a child was fulfilled in response to her vow to dedicate the child to the Lord (1:20-28), the child that would grow up to be the great prophet Samuel.

I can’t imagine the heart rendering scene it must have been when Hannah brought her boy Samuel to the temple to honor her commitment to the Lord. I am glad that later God did bless Hannah with several more children (2:21).

The bottom line is that by taking a second wife, Elkanah only made matters worse, with the natural rivalry and jealousy that are inherent in polygamy. Had Elkanah waited, he would have received the children he desired according to God’s timetable. Yet, it would be better not to have children, or to adopt them, than for a man to take additional wives.

## **David and Solomon**

Two of the most well-known polygamists in the Bible are almost certainly King David and his son King Solomon. *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible* identifies eight wives of David.<sup>3</sup> But Solomon outshines them all as a polygamist. The Scripture clearly states concerning Solomon: *“He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines”* (1 Kings 11:3).

Given the high regard in which both David and Solomon are generally regarded, it is easy to understand how some may infer that since they both practiced polygamy, perhaps it was or is an acceptable thing. But that judgment, we shall see, is quite premature. For the Bible itself clearly indicates the wrongness of David and Solomon concerning their practice of polygamy. Deuteronomy 17:17 contains instructions for future kings of Israel and clearly prohibits them from practicing polygamy.

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<sup>3</sup> The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible, Volume 2, Merrill C. Tenney ed., Grand Rapids MI (Zondervan Publishing House, 1976) 37.

## Deuteronomy 17:17

*“And he doth not multiply to himself wives”* (Young’s Literal Translation of the Holy Bible). This verse alone should have been enough to prevent David and Solomon from practicing polygamy.

Among reasons for the ban on the king practicing polygamy was *“That his heart not turn away”* (Deuteronomy 17:17b in KJV) or *“or else his heart will turn away”* (NRSV). Keil-Delitzsch’s comment on this verse suggests this: “A richly furnished harem, and the accumulation of silver and gold, were generally inseparably connected with the luxury of Oriental monarchs generally so that the fear was a very natural one, that the future king of Israel might follow the general custom of the heathen in these respects.”<sup>4</sup>

John Maxwell further clarifies the issue: “The forbidding of many wives was given because kings often married foreign women to form political alliances. If the king was in partnership with God, however, he would not need political alliances.”<sup>5</sup>

And it is just at the point concerning polygamous wives as a source of apostasy that is so clearly fulfilled in Solomon’s case. We are told, *“And his wives led him astray. As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods”* (1 Kings 11:3-4).

With this clear injunction against royal polygamy, David and Solomon’s practice of it is simply indefensible and can in no way serve as a model for modern polygamous practice.

## 2 Samuel 12:8

*“I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more”* (2 Samuel 12:8).

Polygamists argue that this passage shows that God approved of David’s polygamy, gave him his polygamous wives, and was even willing to give him more if he so desired.

It helps, however, to remember the context here. Since the prophet Nathan is rebuking David for his act of adultery, he is pointing out just how flagrant was David’s adultery when instead of taking any one of many women available to him as Saul’s royal successor, David instead took another man’s wife. Nothing in the passage suggests that God approved of David’s polygamy.

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4 C.F. Keil and F. Delitzsch, *Commentary on the Old Testament in Ten Volumes, Volume 1*, Grand Rapids MI (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1975 Reprint) 386.

5 John Maxwell, *Mastering the Old Testament-Deuteronomy*, Dallas TX (Word Publishing, 1987).

Further, Keil and Delitzsch point out:

These words refer to the fact that, according to the general custom in the East, when a king died, his successor upon the throne also succeeded to his harem, so that David was at liberty to take his predecessor's wives; though we cannot infer from this that he actually did so: in fact this is by no means probable, since, according to 1 Sam. 14:50, Saul had but one wife, and according to 2 Sam. 3:7, only one concubine, whom Abner appropriated to himself.<sup>6</sup>

Jamieson, Faussett, & Brown agree:

The phraseology means nothing more than that God in His providence had given David, as king of Israel, everything that was Saul's. The history furnishes conclusive evidence that he never actually married any of the wives of Saul. But the harem of the preceding king belongs, according to Oriental notions, as a part of the regalia to his successor.<sup>7</sup>

## 1 Kings 15:5

But some polygamist point to a passage in 1 Kings: *“For David had done what was right in the eyes of the Lord and had not failed to keep any of the Lord's commands all the days of his life—except in the case of Uriah the Hittite”* (1 Kings 15:5).

The polygamous interpretation of this passage is apparently reasonable, but doesn't hold up under closer scrutiny. They note that David is only chided for his affair with Bathsheba (and its accompanying murder of her husband Uriah) and is otherwise said to be a righteous man. Therefore, since he wasn't chided for his practice of polygamy, God must have approved of it.

However, this was not meant to be a categorical listing of all David's sins implying that anything not on the list was approved by God. This is a simplistic argument that simply cannot be the case. For instance, there is no mention of David's sin of numbering the people though this was regarded by God as a serious sin of David's (2 Samuel 24:10-17).

Therefore, though 1 Kings 15:5 focused on David's most serious sin, we know that he was guilty of other sins, and as we have seen Deuteronomy 17:17 makes clear that one of them was his practice of polygamy.

6 C. F. Keil & F. Delitzsch, *Commentary on the Old Testament In Ten Volumes*, Volume 2, Grand Rapids MI (William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1975 Reprint) 389-390.

7 Robert Jamieson, A.R. Fausset & David Brown, *Commentary Practical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*, Grand Rapids MI (Zondervan Publishing House, 1961, 1976) 236.

## **Polygamy in the New Testament**

Though, as I have argued above, God tolerated the practice of polygamy under the period of the Mosaic Law, He did so only as a concession to human weakness and hearts hardened by sin in the same way He tolerated divorce (Matthew 19:8). Yes, there are Old Testament passages that indicate the presence of divorce, and regulate it to protect its victims, these in no way show God's approval. Elsewhere, God makes his feelings about divorce clear: "I hate divorce" (Malachi 2:16).

Surely, something that is less than God's best, and that deviates from God's divine design for marriage, and that causes so much heartache should not serve as a pattern for Christian marriage today, whether it be divorce or polygamy.

Indeed, Jesus took Christians back to the beginning as he renewed the original marriage design of one man and one woman in life-long covenant as the Christian standard (Matthew 19:4-6). Consequently, the New Testament church had no place for the practices of polygamy, but followed Jesus in promoting one-man and one-woman marriage.

So serious was this considered that a man could not serve as a leader in the church who had more than one wife (1 Timothy 3:2, 12). This pattern of one man and one woman in marriage was true, not only for leaders in the church, but was the standard for all Christians (1 Corinthians 7:1-4).<sup>8</sup> The Christian Church's condemnation of polygamy is based on the teachings of Christ and His apostles, and the church has maintained this position throughout its history.

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<sup>8</sup> Thanks to Mike Oppenheimer of Let Us Reason Ministries for this point: <http://www.letusreason.org/Biblexp75.htm>

# REVELATIONS FROM WARREN JEFFS PUT INTO PUBLISHED FORM

by Eric Johnson – Mormonism Research Ministry  
(reprinted with permission)

Say the name “Warren Jeffs” out loud in a public place in Utah and you will get raised eyebrows. Latter-day Saints are very sensitive about having their religion tied to polygamous groups, which many ignorant bystanders have done over the years. Today, Jeffs—who is serving a life sentence behind federal prison bars in Texas—remains the official “prophet” of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which is based in two bordering towns, Hildale, UT and Colorado City, AZ. Although he was characterized in his free days as being shy in public and even a recluse, Jeffs is known for ruling the world’s largest polygamous group with an iron fist.

For more than a year, Jeffs eluded federal authorities until he was finally caught in 2006. In September 2007 he was convicted in Utah on two counts of rape as an accomplice and was sentenced to 10 years to life in the Utah state prison. However, the Utah Supreme Court said the jury was provided incorrect instructions and thus the conviction was overturned in July 2010. Jeffs was then extradited to Texas because he had committed sexual crimes there. It took a jury less than half an hour on August 11, 2011 to sentence the 55-year-old Jeffs to life in prison for the sexual assault of two teen-age girls.

While he was in prison from 2009 to 2012, Jeffs busily wrote down “revelations” that he claims were given to him by Jesus Christ Himself; more than 800 pages were compiled during a thousand-day period and, in late 2012, his revelations were put into a hardcover bound book titles *Jesus Christ: Message to All Nations* (no publisher or date provided).

Written in a similar style as the LDS Church’s standard work called Doctrine and Covenants, *Message to All Nations* contains up-to-date “revelations” from Jesus Christ Himself. If the reader takes *Message to All Nations* seriously, it is apparent that the author (again, Jesus is supposed to be writing) wishes to communicate his will to people through prophets, as he did in biblical times.

“Section Revelation” 45:33 says, “and though you have prophecies of ancient Prophets in holy writ, I am now sending forth mine own word through my servant on earth, and through my Church and Kingdom

on earth, upheld by those who have witness of my Spirit that my word is verily true.”

Section Revelation 97:18-19 gives the pedigree of the “restored” gospel that started in 1830:

“My servant Joseph Smith; then Brigham Young continued my work; John Taylor thereafter; [note: fourth LDS president Wilford Woodruff is now omitted because he wrote Official Declaration-1, which banned polygamy, in 1980] then John W. Woolley, and Lorin C. Woolley after him; John Y. Barlow; Leroy S. Johnson after him; and my servant Rulon T. Jeffs; And my servant on earth continues my work, though in bondage, though accused by those who are of wicked intent in their own lives, who do not see truth of the beauty of the Everlasting Gospel of Jesus Christ; who fightest against my Church and Kingdom, even those of apostate influence, who have turned from my Gospel, Church, and Kingdom.”

According to *Message to All Nations*, probably the biggest crime committed by the any nation or religious organization is the restriction of plural marriage. This is because at least three wives are necessary for exaltation, according to FLDS teaching. Of course, the Salt Lake City-based Mormon Church repealed its polygamous ways in 1890. Section Revelation 125:66 states, “My law of celestial Union of eternal and of pure holy motive or marriage plural, in my Church only, is of me.”

In fact, even Jesus Himself was polygamous, according to his own alleged words in Section Revelation 159:27-31 (January 22, 2012)

Let my holy will now be full knowing. I had many wives during my holy way of ministry on earth, which was a reason leaders of the Jews wanted me to be of a way of not dwelling among men on earth. They learned I was of full living Celestial Plural Marriage Union. I was husband on earth to wives pure, holy, noble, of only pure holy way. Let this be to thy knowing that my Eternal Union Order is holy, of me, thy Lord.”

According to the book, denying polygamy—whether it is by government or the LDS Church— is what angers Christ the most. Since LDS Church no longer teaches the legitimacy of plural marriage, a number of direct slams against the majority religion in Utah are made, starting with Section Revelation 3:14-16 (October 2, 2009), the first “revelation” recorded in *Message to All Nations*:



“For that branch called the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, known by the world, has become corrupt, and broke away from my Priesthood authority, and they rejected by Celestial Law of Marriage, and I, the Lord, have rejected them. And they shall be brought low, and feel the chastening hand of God for all their abominations against the laws of God. And I say unto this people of this nation, repent ye, for my judgements are already upon you, and will soon be poured out without measure, beginning at the house of God; those who have professed to know my name, and have blasphemed against me, and changed the law and ordinances of my Gospel, and submitted to the ways and persuasions of men.”

It should be pointed out that it was not polygamy that got Jeffs in trouble with U.S. law; rather, it was taking preadolescent and teenage brides as well as orchestrating the plural marriages of girls and women to other men in the FLDS community. While Joseph Smith “only” had 33 wives, Warren Jeffs had 78! A number of these were his step-mothers whom he took when his father died in 2002. In addition, 27 of Jeffs’ wives—more than a third!—were married to Jeffs when they were under 17. Apparently many of the FLDS child brides agreed to their marriage arrangements because they believed this union would bring positive results for them and their families.

On page 219 of his book *Prophet’s Prey* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2011), private investigator Sam Brower explains: “None of the girls had to be dragged to the altar. The children were filled with the belief that these marriages were good and pure, and they understood the prestige that would come from being placed with such important men.”

Although the writing is oftentimes repetitive and dull, this compilation of “revelations” allows outsiders a glimpse into the mindset of Warren Jeffs as told through the narrator Jesus.

For a longer analysis and review of *Message to All Nations*, go to our website ([www.mrm.org/warren-jeffs](http://www.mrm.org/warren-jeffs)).

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# POPE FRANCIS SHOWS HIS TRUE COLORS

by Richard Bennett

*Dear Friend,*

*Cardinal Bergoglio, in order to build a public image for himself, once elected, chose the name Pope Francis in honor of St Francis of Assisi. St Francis was known to be a softhearted lover of nature; thus, Pope Francis adroitly implied that he would be similarly unassuming, kind, and harmless. On the other hand, from his first speech and subsequent presentations, he has shown himself as a totalitarian Jesuit. Thus, as the media and many ecumenical Evangelicals fawn over Pope Francis, it is necessary to biblically analyze his speeches and performances. The mind-boggling conclusions are documented in this our article on Pope Francis.*

In the sixteenth century, the Reformation, through its emphasis on the ultimate authority of the Bible and the Gospel of grace, began to dislodge the Papacy from its position as co-ruler of the Holy Roman Empire. The truth of Scripture and the Gospel gave men and women the knowledge and courage to stand up against the Inquisition, a system of tortures by which the Papacy had enforced submission to papal dogma. This enforced submission had given the Papacy the power to wield tremendous influence with the emperor and among the kings of the empire. Thus Ignatius of Loyola, a contemporary of Martin Luther, founded the Jesuits in 1530 for the very purpose of defending the Papacy from further loss of its power base. The Jesuits' objective has always been to increase the temporal power of the Papacy to align with the Roman Catholic dogma that the Pope has the right to judge, "the highest civil office in a state."<sup>1</sup> However, since the demise of the Holy Roman Empire in the late eighteenth century, the Papacy has had no civil authority by which to enforce obedience to its moral rulings.

It is a well-established fact that the Jesuits throughout their history have caused many serious disturbances by their nefarious schemes within the civil governments of many countries. Over the centuries,

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<sup>1</sup> In present-day Canon law, the Catholic Church states, "It is the right of the Roman Pontiff himself alone to judge in cases mentioned in Can. 1401:1 those who hold the highest civil office in a state..." Canon 1405, Sect. 1

they have justifiably earned their reputation as troublemakers to the extent that they were denied residence in some nations for varying periods of time. Nevertheless, their objective of increasing Papal religious and civil power beyond its previous height remains unchanged. Therefore, in order to move forward the Papacy's drive for power in the current religious and civil arenas, this Jesuit Pope must efface the historic image of the Jesuit Order.

### **Cosmetic Alteration of the Historic Jesuit Image**

Once Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected, he chose the name Pope Francis in honor of St Francis of Assisi. St Francis, known to be a softhearted lover of nature, was also known for his humility and gentleness. Thus, in building an image or *persona* for himself in the public eye, Pope Francis has shrewdly implied that he would be similarly unassuming, kind, and harmless. Since there has never been a pope named Francis, the name carries with it no papal baggage. Immediately following Pope Francis's election, the media made much of his unassuming nature by showing him paying his own hotel bill for his stay during the enclave. This was followed with news that he was not going to take up residence in the Vatican's usual papal apartments, but instead would take a smaller, more humble suite, ostensibly to live a "normal" life in touch with the laity by being visibly among them.<sup>2</sup> Further, he graciously welcomed back into the Vatican the previous pope, Benedict XVI, who under rumors of unpleasant circumstances, had abruptly resigned. Was this not the modern St Francis, kindly restoring to the aged and ailing Benedict some remnant of the honor that had so suddenly departed him? The steady stream of these and other similar public appearances continues to craft the optics into an image for the new pope that is the anti-type of the traditional Jesuit.

### **Catholic Dogma Underlying Pope Francis's Inaugural Address**

However, in the very first sentence of his inaugural address on March 19, 2013, Pope Francis presented a feature very different from the *persona* being carefully groomed by the optics. Indeed, even as out of the heart the mouth speaks, so the new Jesuit Pope began to display audibly his genuine image. While thousands of people were crammed into Saint Peter's Square, and millions across the world listened by television and radio, the new pope stated, "Dear Brothers and Sisters, I thank the Lord that I can celebrate this Holy Mass for the inauguration of my Petrine ministry..."<sup>3</sup>

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2 <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/the-pope/10086876/Pope-Francis-shunned-official-papal-apartments-to-live-normal-life.html> 5/29/2013

3 [www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/francesco/homilies/2013/documents/papa-francesco\\_20130319\\_omelia-inizio-pontificato\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/homilies/2013/documents/papa-francesco_20130319_omelia-inizio-pontificato_en.html)

Francis knew the claimed power that is embedded in the term, “Petrine ministry.” As the official *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, “...the Roman Pontiff, by reason of his office as Vicar of Christ, namely, and as pastor of the entire Church, has full, supreme and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered.”<sup>4</sup> It is highly significant that Pope Francis began his speech by thanking the Lord that he could celebrate Mass for the inauguration of what he said was “my Petrine ministry.” His opening sentence shows where his heart is; namely, in himself, in his position, and the power entailed in such a position. It is this particular idea, i.e., that the Pope is the Apostle Peter’s successor, which has been the undergirding authority for the Papacy’s identity in the world since the time of Pope Gregory VII in the eleventh century. The nature, indeed, the very identity of the Office of the Papacy of the Roman Catholic Church is at stake. Thus, the Papacy will concede nothing regarding this claim but rather use it to establish itself as the stable institution in the midst of current tumultuous times.

Accordingly, using this supposition, Pope Francis’s inaugural homily was a masterpiece in showing his Jesuitical disposition. He opened by saying, “I thank the Lord that I can celebrate this Holy Mass for the inauguration of my Petrine ministry on the solemnity of Saint Joseph...” He then stated that God called Joseph—

“to be the *custos*, the protector. The protector of whom?  
Of Mary and Jesus; but this protection is then extended to  
the Church... How does Joseph exercise his role as protector?  
Discreetly, humbly and silently, but with an unfailing presence  
and utter fidelity...”<sup>5</sup>

These are carefully chosen words meant to evoke a certain frame of mind in the listener. He then makes application:

“Let us protect Christ in our lives, so that we can protect  
others, so that we can protect creation! The vocation of being  
a “protector,” however, is not just something involving us  
Christians alone; it also has a prior dimension which is simply  
human, involving everyone.”

At this point, Francis has introduced major Catholic social doctrine under the guise of “protection;” that it is everybody’s job, not just the Christian’s job, to protect everybody; and also (though not stated

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4 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Para 882

5 [www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/francesco/homilies/2013/documents/papa-francesco\\_20130319\\_omelia-inizio-pontificato\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/homilies/2013/documents/papa-francesco_20130319_omelia-inizio-pontificato_en.html)

here), all goods because all possessions in the creation belong to everyone.<sup>6</sup> In Catholic social doctrine, everyone, even those who are not Roman Catholic, must fulfill his duty to others **as the Roman Catholic Church defines that duty**; and this is one of the things to which Pope Francis is referring when he states that there is a “prior dimension” to his idea of protection.<sup>7</sup> Thus he says,

“Please, I would like to ask all those who have positions of responsibility in economic, political and social life, and all men and women of goodwill: let us be “protectors” of creation, protectors of God’s plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment...”

He also states that protection is required because in every age “there are ‘Herods’ who plot death, wreak havoc, and mar the countenance of men and women.” He does not define the lurking “Herods” more closely; but he does define what he thinks needs protecting. It is this:

“To protect Jesus with Mary, to protect the whole of creation, to protect each person, especially the poorest, to protect ourselves: this is a service that the Bishop of Rome is called to carry out...”

Clearly Pope Francis does not understand that the glorified Jesus Christ, the *“only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords”*<sup>8</sup> needs no protection! Then he ignores the biblical commandment not to pray to the dead as he closes his homily by praying, “I implore the intercession of the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, Saints Peter and Paul, and Saint Francis, that the Holy Spirit may accompany my ministry...” He has not prayed to Almighty God through Jesus Christ; rather, he has totally disobeyed the Lord God’s commandment in calling on dead saints.<sup>9</sup> Clearly, Pope Francis does not have any biblical understanding of who the Lord Jesus Christ is nor how He fulfills His role as Head of the Church.<sup>10</sup>

Notice the position to which the Lord Jesus Christ has been relegated in all this. Rather, by weaving together the choice of papal name with the theme of protection as his opening homily, Pope Francis

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6 The Vatican’s official statement regarding possessions; [www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/letters/2007/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_let\\_20071012\\_settimane-sociali\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/letters/2007/documents/hf_ben-xvi_let_20071012_settimane-sociali_en.html)

7 “As citizens of the State, it is their duty to take part in public life in the first person and, with respect for the legitimate autonomies, to cooperate in forming social life correctly, together with all other citizens, in accordance with the competencies of each one and under his or her own autonomous responsibility.” [www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/francesco/homilies/2013/documents/papa-francesco\\_20130319\\_omelia-inizio-pontificato\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/homilies/2013/documents/papa-francesco_20130319_omelia-inizio-pontificato_en.html)

8 1 Timothy 6:15

9 Deuteronomy 18:10-11

10 “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.” Ephesians 5:23

has made it clear that he intends to protect the Papacy and its social objectives during his term of office.<sup>11</sup> The fact that he has said it in gentle terms, by calling on the images of Francis of Assisi and Joseph, Mary's husband, does not make it any less lethal.

Thus, it was on day of his inaugural address that Pope Francis began his Pontificate with the mark of a true Jesuit, i.e., primarily defending the Papacy against the Gospel and biblical truth at all costs. With the very opening of his pontificate, the true image of Francis was brought forth into the light of day by his own words, showing him not as humble and harmless, but as proudly dogmatic and utterly opposed to biblical truth.

### **The Pope's Objective Regarding Pagan Religions and Evangelicals**

Further, on March 20, 2013, Pope Francis addressed religious leaders across the world. Among other matters, Francis stated,

“...It is a cause for particular joy to meet today with you, delegates of the Orthodox churches, the Oriental Orthodox churches and ecclesial communities of the West...Together with you I cannot forget how much that Council has meant for the road of ecumenism...For my part, I wish to assure you...of my determination to continue on the path of ecumenical dialogue. I ask you, dear brothers and sisters, to bring my cordial greeting and the assurance of my remembrance in the Lord Jesus to the churches and Christian communities here represented... I then greet and cordially thank you all, dear friends belonging to other religious traditions; first of all the Muslims, who worship the one God, living and merciful, and call upon Him in prayer, and all of you. I really appreciate your presence: in it I see a tangible sign of the will to grow in mutual esteem and cooperation for the common good of humanity.”<sup>12</sup>

From these remarks, Pope Francis has demonstrated effectively that he will not protect the truth of the Scripture and the Gospel of grace. He does not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible alone. It is a well-known fact that Allah, who the Muslims worship, is not the God of the Bible. Since Pope Francis must know this, his remarks point to his ecumenical objective, a goal to be accomplished by high-powered flattery and false ecumenical dialogue.

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11 documents on ecumenism.

12 [www.zenit.org/en/articles/pope-s-address-to-representatives-of-the-churches-ecclesial-communities-and-other-religions](http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/pope-s-address-to-representatives-of-the-churches-ecclesial-communities-and-other-religions)

## **The Pope's Objective Regarding Nations and Governments**

Moreover, two days later on March 22, 2013, Pope Francis spoke to a group of diplomats representing governments that have a relationship to the Vatican. His speech began with these words:

“Dear Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you again for all the work that you do, alongside the Secretariat of State, to build peace and construct bridges of friendship and fraternity. Through you, I would like to renew to your Governments my thanks for their participation in the celebrations on the occasion of my election, and my heartfelt desire for a fruitful common endeavour. May Almighty God pour out his gifts on each one of you, on your families and on the peoples that you represent. Thank you!”<sup>13</sup>

In his address, Pope Francis emphasized the fact that the Pope is known as the “pontiff,” or “a builder of bridges,” and stated, “In this work [with governments], the role of religion is fundamental.” While few people realize it, the Pope claims the right to judge those who hold highest civil office in a state. This blending of things civil and religious has been the papal method of operation throughout the centuries. At the present time, the Roman Church seeks to implement her socialist ideas by using her power as a religious system working through her own status as a civil state. As a religious system, she is able to command a “fifth column” within many nations.<sup>14</sup> By her influence as a civil power, Papal Rome is also able to substantially influence civil rulers and civil policy in many nations and international bodies. The Church of Rome has 179 legal agreements with nations across the world. These “concordats,” as they are called, guarantee that the Catholic Church has the right to define religion and worship for Catholics within that sovereign nation. They also secure for the Vatican the right to define doctrine, establish Catholic education, and negotiate laws regarding property, appointing bishops, and Catholic laws of marriage and annulments.

The Republic of Argentina has had a legal agreement with the Church of Rome since 1957. Thus, as Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio in Argentina, he would have known well the benefit that the legal agreement meant to the Roman Church.

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13 [www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/francesco/speeches/2013/march/documents/papa-francesco\\_20130322\\_corpo-diplomatico\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/speeches/2013/march/documents/papa-francesco_20130322_corpo-diplomatico_en.html)

14 Radical Islam is doing essentially the same thing today as it demands the right to teach its people their religion, including Sharia Law, within the Western nations – regardless of the fact that Sharia Law contravenes the laws of the sovereign nations in which these Muslims live, even as the Papal socialist agenda contravenes the U. S. Constitution.



In addressing the diplomats from governments that have a relationship to the Vatican, Pope Francis knew just how important it is to woo civil governments into legal liaison with Papal Rome. Thus, the new Pope continues the Vatican's civil/legal relationships with nations across the world in its endeavor to move civil governments to implement its global socialist agenda.

### **Mother Church Presumed to Bestow Faith and Morality**

On April 23, 2013, less affable facets of the namesake of St Francis surfaced again. In Pope Francis's sermon for Mass that day, he stated explicitly,

“The reading today makes me think that the missionary expansion of the Church began precisely at a time of persecution, and these Christians went as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, and proclaimed the Word. They had this apostolic fervor within them, and that is how the faith spread!... But some in Jerusalem, when they heard this, became nervous and sent Barnabas...he saw that things were going well. And so the Church was a Mother, the Mother of more children, of many children. It became more and more of a Mother. A Mother who gives us the faith, a Mother who gives us an identity. But the Christian identity is not an identity card: Christian identity is belonging to the Church, because all of these belonged to the Church, the Mother Church. **Because it is not possible to find Jesus outside the Church....And the Mother Church that gives us Jesus gives us our identity that is not only a seal, it is a belonging.** Identity means belonging... Think of this Mother Church that grows, grows with new children to whom She gives the identity of the faith, **because you cannot believe in Jesus without the Church...** And let us ask the Lord for this ‘paresia’, this apostolic fervor that impels us to move forward, as brothers, all of us forward!”<sup>15</sup>

Pope Francis's premise is that one's identity as a Christian can come only through faith in “Mother Church,” which secondarily also gives them “Jesus.” In fact, he is teaching official Catholic dogma which states,

“Believing is an ecclesial act. The Church's faith precedes, engenders, supports and nourishes our faith. The Church is the mother of all believers. ‘No one can have God as Father who does not have the Church as Mother.’”<sup>16</sup>

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15 [www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/francesco/homilies/2013/documents/papa-francesco\\_20130319\\_omelia-inizio-pontificato\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/homilies/2013/documents/papa-francesco_20130319_omelia-inizio-pontificato_en.html) (emphasis not in original)

16 *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (Libreria Editrice Vaticana 1997) Para 181



These statements are a serious affront to those who recognize them for the falsehoods that they are. Undoubtedly Pope Francis believes what he has stated. However, his teaching reflects an old but clever argument aimed at those who do not know their Bibles. Pope Francis and his Church refuse to believe in the authority of the Bible alone; therefore, they fail to believe that faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ alone is a gift given by the Lord God Himself through the Holy Spirit, and not by any church. The object of faith is the Person of Christ Jesus, as Scripture states, *“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...”*<sup>17</sup> This faith is God-given, as declared in Scripture by the Apostle Peter, *“Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have **obtained** like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”*<sup>18</sup> Furthermore, this God-given faith comes by hearing the Word of God as is stated, *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*<sup>19</sup> Nevertheless, Pope Francis stated, *“The Mother Church that gives us Jesus gives us our identity.”* This is traditional Roman Catholic Church teaching.<sup>20</sup> Thus it is that the Papal Church itself is presented as the only instrumental way of approaching God and of finding salvation. Clearly to look to a church as the means of conveying Jesus to people rather than looking to Jesus Himself, *“the author and finisher of our faith”*<sup>21</sup> is *“another gospel.”* The Lord explicitly declared, *“no man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him”*<sup>22</sup> and *“this is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.”*<sup>23</sup> Consequently, Pope Francis’s statement that *“Mother Church that gives us Jesus gives us our identity”* is scripturally speaking, *“accursed”* as stated by the Apostle Paul, *“If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”*<sup>24</sup>

## Conclusion

Pope Francis is both clever and deceitful as he protects his Church against the Scriptures and the Gospel of grace. He is moving forward with the centuries old papal objective of ruling the world as Vicar of Christ. Therefore, he continues to set before the world an optical *persona* of humility and harmlessness while the words from his

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17 Acts 16:31 Conditional: if his family believed in Christ as he is commanded to do, they too would be saved.

18 II Peter 1:1 (emphasis added)

19 Romans 10:17

20 *Catechism*, Second Ed., Para 824 “It is in the Church that ‘the fullness of the means of salvation’ has been deposited. It is in her that ‘by the grace of God we acquire holiness.’”

21 Hebrews 12:2

22 John 6:44

23 John 6:44 and John 6:29

24 Galatians 1:9

mouth delineate him as dogmatic and destructive. In opposition to the Gospel of salvation, Pope Francis talks about salvation gained by trusting in “Mother Church.” Thus, he presents to the world a so-called spiritual apparatus for the salvation of men that, according to Scripture, neither saves nor sanctifies anyone. The system over which he presides professes to have all that a church ought to have; yet, it imposes upon people the horrendous deceits documented in this article, which fraudulently the Apostle called, “*all-deceivableness of unrighteousness.*”<sup>25</sup>

The Lord Jesus Christ prayed emphatically the night before He died. His prayer is answered in the life of every believer who is justified by God’s saving grace alone. God’s grace is received through faith alone, and the object of that faith is Christ alone. Christ Jesus prayed, “*that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*”<sup>26</sup> The Lord knew very well those for whom He prayed. The objects of His prayer were clear to Him. These believers embrace eternal life as the Holy Spirit regenerates them. Thus, the foundation for true saving faith is utterly of God. Those for whom the Lord prayed are “*born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*”<sup>27</sup> It is only by the absolute grace of God that you receive the gift of eternal life. There is, nevertheless, the correlation between your inheritance, the gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus, and your duty, which is to obey God. The greater the gift, the greater is the obligation to express our gratitude in a suitable and becoming manner. Thus the Word of God instructs us, “*whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.*”<sup>28</sup>

The same truth has a grave warning for Pope Francis and all those who believe in the traditions and sacraments of the Roman Catholic Church rather than directly believing on the Lord Himself by the authority of His written Word. God is the same just and righteous God under the Gospel as He was under the Law in the Old Testament. He deals with us in love and grace; yet, He in Himself remains “*a consuming fire.*”<sup>29</sup> He is the God of strict justice who will avenge Himself on all who have not received the love of the truth, but rather look to a church or some person other than the Lord Jesus Christ alone for life. The Lord Jesus Christ has lived the perfect life and, willingly of His own volition, has made the faultless, propitiatory

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25 II Thessalonians 2:10

26 John 17:21

27 John 1:13

28 Hebrews 12:28

29 Hebrews 12:29

sacrifice for sin. To refuse to believe in Him alone is a critical offense. When the Lord Jesus dealt with the sincere and devout Pharisees, He gave them a very strong word, *“I said therefore unto you, that you shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.”*<sup>30</sup> You may say that you are a good Catholic and that you want to please God in this present life and hope to live with Him forever; that is a noble goal. You may be as sincere and devout as the Pharisees, but like them, if you personally neglect to believe on Him alone for your salvation, you likewise will die in your sins.

Distinct faith and trust on the Lord Jesus Christ alone is essential and frequently highlighted in Scripture. *“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life.”*<sup>31</sup> *“He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.”*<sup>32</sup> Thus, it is that you must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, who gives life now, and forever! This is the living way, the only way to eternal life. It is spiritual death to attempt to come to God through a so-called “Mother Church.” The way to the Eternal Father is through the Lord Jesus Christ alone; His death is for us the way to true, eternal life. Those who receive this eternal life given by Christ are not only redeemed from the empire of death, but they also live and reign with Him as they are sanctified daily through His Word by the Holy Spirit, and by constant fellowship with Him. Thus, in our beloved Savior, we joyfully praise Him, our everlasting Father, *“How excellent is thy loving kindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.”*<sup>33</sup>

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30 John 8:24

31 John 3:36

32 1 John 5:10

33 Psalm 36:7-9

## QUIZ: UKRAINE/CRIMEA/RUSSIA

1. How big is Russia? How many time zones does it span?  
 a. nine  
 b. eleven  
 c. thirteen  
 d. seven
2. The number of Ukrainians that died under Stalin's collectivization program?  
 a. 5 million  
 b. 8 million  
 c. 12 million  
 d. 3 million
3. Which body of water is part of Ukraine?  
 a. Danube River  
 b. Lake Bakail  
 c. Dnieper River  
 d. Caspian Sea
4. A Ukrainian general who fought against the Nazis in WWII was  
 a. Vyacheslav Molotov  
 b. Erwin Rommel  
 c. Ferdinand Foch  
 d. Semyon Timoshenko
5. Ukraine is considered largely a  
 a. rich, extensive farmland  
 b. mountainous forest terrain  
 c. gold and copper mining area  
 d. diversified industrial complex
6. Which populous city is in the Crimea?  
 a. Sevastopol  
 b. Kiev  
 c. Krakov  
 d. Volgograd

7. Ukraine has its own language which is similar to  
\_\_\_ a. Hungarian  
\_\_\_ b. Russian  
\_\_\_ c. Turkish  
\_\_\_ d. Romanian
8. Ukraine's predominant religion is  
\_\_\_ a. Orthodox  
\_\_\_ b. Roman Catholic  
\_\_\_ c. Muslim  
\_\_\_ d. Baptist
9. The atomic energy plant that exploded in 1986 is located in  
\_\_\_ a. Volgograd  
\_\_\_ b. Minsk  
\_\_\_ c. Chernobyl  
\_\_\_ d. Vladivostok
10. The heavyweight boxing champion of the world from Ukraine is  
\_\_\_ a. Mikhail Gorbatshev  
\_\_\_ b. Vladimir Klitschko  
\_\_\_ c. Leo Tolstoy  
\_\_\_ d. Viktor Petrenko

**Answers:**

1. (b); 2. (c); 3. (c); 4. (c); 5. (d); 6. (a); 7. (a); 8. (b); 9. (a); 10. (b)

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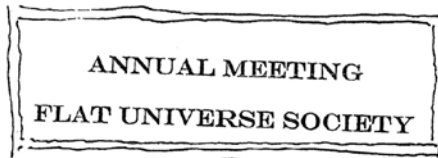
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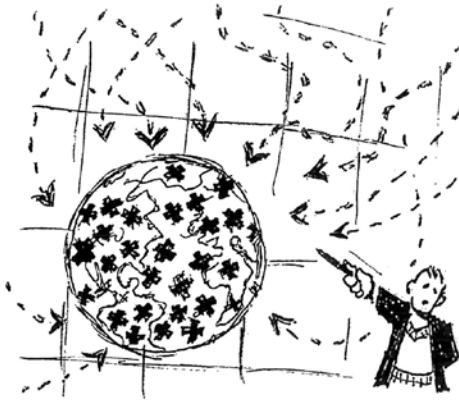
To think about... smile about... and hopefully laugh about.



**OF COURSE WE'LL SIGN  
A NON-AGGRESSION TREATY!**



**WE MAY HAVE TO RETHINK  
OUR POSITION...  
THE SPACE-PROBE SEEMS  
TO HAVE FALLEN OVER  
THE EDGE... OR...**



**OUR COMPUTER MODELS SHOW  
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ON ITS PRESENT COURSE...**



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