

Tract #47 concluded with Daniel 11:35, describing the exploits of faithful reformers, empowered by the Holy Spirit during the 1,260-year era of persecutions by the successive *Kings of the North*, the papal bishops of Rome. While God unchained the Bible and moved men to search Scriptures for truth, the enemy of souls countered the spiritual revival with the rise of the *Jesuit Order* of the Catholic Church and a **Counter-Reformation**. The Jesuits, founded by a former military General, Ignatius of Loyola, and Priest, Francis Xavier, utilized craft, flatteries, and war-like tactics of infiltration to subvert the *Protestant Reformation*. The Papal **Council of Trent** (A.D.1545-1563) primarily commissioned the Jesuit Order to war against Protestantism through *Inquisitorial Courts*, banning free speech, free press, and free thought. The Council secondarily inaugurated a Catholic Counter-Reformation, aimed at affirming the doctrines of its faith, while empowering its hold on proselytes. The works and tenets established through this and other Catholic Church councils, are the focus of Daniel's [detailed prophecy given in chapter 11 verses 36-39](#), and this lesson.

Bible prophets vividly described the character and works of the Roman Popes as antichrist, who, coming in the name of Christ, exalted themselves and usurped the reverence due God alone (1 John 2:18). Exceeding the powers of civil governments, whose earthly authority may rise so far as to exact capital punishment, Catholic popes claim to bear the "keys of heaven and hell" as "successors" to the apostle Peter, whom they unbiblically contend to be the first pope.

"... And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Matthew 16:15-19

Jesus, referring to Himself, "this rock", the **Rock of Ages**, and the **Rock of Truth** which Peter declared under inspiration, upon these would He build His church, against which the gates of hell would never prevail (1 Cor 3:10, 11). Jesus' sin-free life, His perfect death, and His resurrection from the grave all attest to Satan's impotence against Him (John 14:30). On the other hand, Peter's denial of Jesus three times before His crucifixion, and his sin of prejudice towards Gentile converts, even after his conversion, show that Satan and his kingdom indeed prevailed against him (Matt 26:33-35; Gal 2:11-21). Further, Jesus, who conquered death and the grave for humankind, alone has the keys to heaven and hell. He alone can determine one's salvation or condemnation (Rev 1:17, 18, 3:8; Isaiah 22:21-24). Jesus, in commending Peter for declaring Him Messiah, represented Peter as a **type** of His earthly agent, the church, entrusted with all of His words contained in Scripture that are as keys to open and shut the gates of heaven (Rev 11:3-6). The church, through its ministries, must call all men to embrace the written word of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ. Scriptures, having power to shut and open heaven, and to be "bound or loosed on earth" will be the standard of judgment in heaven by Jesus (John

5:22-27). However, wresting Scriptures, while barring men from the same Scriptures given to "prove all things", the Church of Rome *corrupted wisdom* (Matt 23:13; 2 Peter 3:16). Taking church prerogatives to extremes never intended by Christ, the Church of Rome instituted still-existent canons, through its several [church councils and edicts of popes](#), altogether contrary to the Bible and the Christian faith.

Papal Canons	Council/Pope
Established Sunday as the "Lord's Day"	Laodicea- A.D.364
Sanctioned adoration of saints [idolatry]	Nicaea II- A.D.787
Concept of Purgatory instituted	Pius II- A.D.863
Claimed Roman Church to be the "mother of all churches"	Gregory VII- A.D.1073
Enacted Indulgences (monetary forgiveness for sins)	Council of Clement-A.D.1095
Granted pope the ability to canonize saints	Urban II- A.D.1095
Prohibited priests from marrying	Lateran I- AD1122
Ratified baptism by sprinkling as valid	Ravenna- A.D.1311
Church tradition <u>on par</u> or <u>above</u> the Bible	Trent- A.D.1562
Established Infallibility of the Pope	Vatican I- AD1869

Daniel 11:36 speaks of the unlimited power and boastful pride characteristic of Roman pontiffs throughout the **Dark Ages**. The Apostle Paul, who referred to the papal apostasy as the "man of sin and son of perdition", spoke these similar

words as the prophet Daniel:

"Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God... [Even him], whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders," 2 Thess 2:3, 4, 9

The prophet Ezekiel, in comparing the Roman popes to the Prince of Tyrus (Tyre) [the heir to the King of Tyre, who similarly was compared to Satan] wrote the following:

"...Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart [is] lifted up, and thou hast said, I [am] a God, I sit [in] the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou [art] a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God: Behold, thou [art] wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee: With thy wisdom and with thine understanding thou hast gotten thee riches, and hast gotten gold and silver into thy treasures: By thy great wisdom [and] by thy traffic hast thou increased thy riches, and thine heart is lifted up because of thy riches:"

Ezekiel 28:2-5, (see also Ezekiel 28:12-19)

The verses all agree with Daniel 11:37 that the Roman popes, *Kings of the North*, would regard neither the God of the Bible, nor any god, because they made themselves to be God. The vow of celibacy taken by Roman Catholic priests [often disregarded, as priests fathered countless numbers of children to parishioners and [nuns](#); for their unholy vow, the children were often [killed at birth](#)], suggested there to be no

Biblical Annals III

Daniel 11 – Part 3 [Based on Daniel 11:36-39]



Lesson 50

many ornately decorated “*strong holds*” (cathedrals) erected in her honor around the world (Hab 2:18, 19; Deut 32:16-18). Lastly, Daniel 11:39 introduces another work of the Church of Rome that has literally shaped the world and modern history. The accumulated wealth of the Church of Rome far exceeded that of many countries that paid her homage. To that point, she often played the role of creditor to patron nations, bankrolling building projects, naval expeditions, and even wars on her behalf. The Spanish Armada of A.D.1588, a naval fleet seeking to wage a *holy war* against Protestant England was one such endeavor. That the Spanish providentially suffered a staggering loss in the battle, gave the church excuse to renege on its promised financial support. Nonetheless, The Church of Rome was responsible for funding the expeditions of countless European explorers. Through a series of *Papal Bulls* issued from A.D.1450 onward, Spain and Portugal were granted a free hand (*Asiento*) to colonize the Americas, to convert native peoples to Catholicism, and to subjugate them to European monarchs. Thus, began a flood of intercontinental travel and trade. This included the detestable *Triangular Slave Trade*, carrying priceless cargo of human lives from Africa to the Americas, with the proceeds returning to Europe. These efforts, funded by the Church of Rome, led to centuries of mass exploitation and colonization, “*dividing the land for gain*” [see *Treaty of Tordesillas*] in Africa, the Americas, and even Asia (See Nahum 3:4; Exodus 21:16; Rev 18:11-13), the remnants of which remain to this day.

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into His sacred worship these pagan doctrines and practices, including sacrificing one's sons and daughters (Judges 2:13; Ezekiel 8:14-16; Jer. 44:15-23; Deut 12:30-32). The apostle Paul was vehemently opposed by the passionate Ephesians, whose patron goddess was Diana, a modern manifestation of Semiramis (Acts 19:21-41). Images of Diana portray her as a woman wearing a fortress as a crown. Pagan goddess worship is that which the Roman Church sought to incorporate into Christianity by introducing the *deification of Mary*, called *Mariolatry*. Coincidentally, it is during the Roman Church *Council of Ephesus* in A.D.431 that Mary was pronounced, the “*Mother of God*” and the “*Queen of Heaven*”, an appeasement to the mounting requests for a mother-child-deity motif by former pagans turned Catholic. Never before given such honor and distinction, the Church of Rome assigned to Mary traits belonging to Jesus Christ alone; such as one without sin, and an intercessor to God on man's behalf (1 Tim 2:5; Num 21:9, 2 Kings 18:4). Attempting to explain a Biblical mystery, namely, the virgin birth of Christ, of which the Bible forbids men to speculate (Deut 29:29), the Church of Rome defiantly set forth Mary as divine, co-reigning with Christ. That Mary spoke of Jesus as “*God her Saviour*”, reveals that she, as you and I, was a sinner saved by grace through faith (Luke 1:46-48; Rom 3:23, 24). Daniel 11:39 states that the Papal Roman Church would “*acknowledge and increase with glory*” the worship of Mary, a “*strange god*” of wood and stone, in the



desire for women by either popes or bishops. Daniel 11:38 does, however, describe one god for which Roman popes paid great homage, covering it with gold, silver, precious stones, and pleasant things. Unknown to Christian patriarchs of both Old and New Testaments, this god, described in the Bible as the “*God of forces*”, became a central figure in Roman Catholic worship, eclipsing even Jesus Christ. The god of forces is a term given to the mythological goddess *Queen of Heaven*, Semiramis (Jer. 7:17, 18). She is claimed to be both mother and wife of Nimrod, great-grandson of Noah and founder of the city of Babel. Nimrod is claimed to have become the *sun god* at his death, was said to have fathered a son of Semiramis, Tammuz, who was said to die annually with the winter solstice, and resurrect with the spring. Mythological depictions of Semiramis portray her either as a sword-wielding amazon, or as a mother holding her infant son. This ancient pagan worship of the Queen of Heaven as part of a triumvirate of the sun god, and their male heir, was found in various cultures as shown in the table below.

Culture	Queen of Heaven	Son	Sun God
Babel	Semiramis	Tammuz	Nimrod
Canaanite	Ashtaroth	Pagan Messiah	Baal
Egyptian	Isis	Ra/Horus	Seb/Osiris
Greek	Venus/Diana	Apollo	Mars
Roman	Artemis/Diana	Apollo	Sol

God chastised Ancient Israel for adopting and incorporating