

4. The Degeneracy of the Papal Office.

Note: The 200 years between Pope Nicolas I (858–867) and Pope Gregory VII (1073–1085) has been referred to as the "MIDNIGHT of the Dark Ages."

- **Sergius III (904–911)**

- * He lived with a notorious HARLOT by the name of Marozia who bore him several illegitimate children.

- * Together, they raised them to become POPES and CARDINALS.

- * This period is referred to as "The Rule of HARLOTS." (904–963)

- * Baronius described Sergius as a "MONSTER."

- * Gergorovious described him as a "terrorizing CRIMINAL."

- * Cotterill writes, "*For seven years this man...occupied the chair of St. Peter, while his concubine and her SemiSmramis-like mother held court with a pomp and voluptuousness that recalled the worse days of the ancient empire.*"

- * Halley's Bible Handbook (pg. 774) says that between Marozia and her Semiramis-like mother Theodora, they "*filled the papal chair with their paramours and bastard sons, and turned the papal palace into a den of ROBBERS.*"

- **John X (914–928)**

- * He was placed into office by Theodora "*in order to cover more easily her ILLICIT relations with him.*"

- * Marozia KILLED John X to make room for the man she wanted in the chair, a Pope referred to as...

- **Leo VI (928–929)**

- * After only one year, Marozia had him killed because of his "CONCUBINING."

- **John XII (955–964)**

- * He was Marozia's 18 year old GRANDSON.

- * The Catholic Bishop Liudprand of Cremona, who lived at this time, wrote:

- "No honest lady dared to show herself in public, for Pope John had no respect either for single girls, married women, or widows. They were sure to be DEFILED by him, even on the tombs of the holy apostles, Peter and Paul."

- * Other Catholic writings said, "He spent his entire life in ADULTERY."

- **Boniface VII (984–985)**

- * BOUGHT his way to the papal office.

- * The Bishop of Orleans referred to him as the "ANTICHRIST sitting in the temple of God."

- **John XV (985–996)**

- * He split the church's finances among his relatives, and earned the reputation for being "COVETOUS of filthy lucre and CORRUPT in all his acts."

- **Benedict VIII (1012–1024)**

- * He bought the office of Pope with open BRIBERY.

- **John XIX (1024–1032)**
 - * He also BOUGHT the papacy.
 - * He went from being a layman on one day, and in a 24 HOUR period, passed through all of the clerical orders.
- **Benedict IX (1033–1045)**
 - * He was made Pope as a boy of 12!
 - * Halley’s Bible Handbook says, He “committed murders and adulteries in broad daylight, robbed pilgrims on the graves of the martyrs, a hideous CRIMINAL, the people drove him out of Rome.”
 - * The Catholic Encyclopedia says, “He was a DISGRACE to the chair of Peter.”
- **Boniface VIII (1294–1303)**
 - * During his reign, the poet Dante visited Rome and described the Vatican as a “SEWER of corruption.”
 - * Boniface is quoted as saying, “To enjoy oneself and to lie carnally with WOMEN or with BOYS is no more a sin than rubbing one’s hands together.”
 - * On other occasions, he called Christ a “HYPOCRITE” and even professed to be an ATHEIST!
 - * It was this Pope in 1302 who issued the “Unam Sanctum” of the Roman Catholic Church, which officially declared that the Roman Catholic Church is the only true church, and outside of it, no one can be saved. It goes on to say, “Moreover, we therefore, assert, define and pronounce that it is necessary to SALVATION to believe that every human being is subject to the Pontiff of Rome.”
- **John XXII (1410–1415)**
 - * He was called by some the most DEPRAVED criminal who ever lived.
 - * He was guilty of almost every known CRIME.
 - * As a cardinal, he was sexually involved with 200 maidens, nuns, and married women.
 - * After becoming Pope, he lived in adultery with his BROTHER’S wife; was guilty of SODOMY; and openly denied ETERNAL LIFE.
- **Pius II (1458–1464)**
 - * He was known to have been the father of many ILLEGITIMATE children.
 - * Halley’s Bible Handbook says he “spoke openly of the methods he used to SEDUCE women, encouraged young men to, and even offered to instruct them in methods of self-indulgence.”
- **Paul II (1464–1471)**
 - * He maintained a house full of CONCUBINES.

Note: Martin Luther’s visit to the “Holy City”...

“No one can imagine what sins and infamous actions are committed in Rome...they must be SEEN and HEARD to be believed...”

Note: The Roman Catholic Church’s answer to a sinful Pope...

“A sinful Pope...remains a member of the church and is to be treated as a sinful, unjust ruler for whom we must pray, but from whom we may not withdraw our OBEDIENCE.”

SESSION 27

REVELATION

3:1–6

(DOCTRINAL APPLICATION, PART 1)

THE LAST SESSION IN 10 TWEETS

1. There are other key pieces of history we need to understand in order to complete the puzzle of the Thyatira puzzle (500–1000 AD) #WordStrong
2. Piece #1: The rise of Islam by Mohammed in 610 AD after a supposed visit from the angel Gabriel. #WordStrong
3. Mohammed had violent convulsions, growled like a camel, streamed with perspiration and foamed at the mouth. #WordStrong
4. For a good portion of his life even Mohammed attributed it to demon possession, but later to the overpowering presence of God. #WordStrong
5. From the Thyatira Period to the present day, the Koran has been the main rival of the Bible in the Eastern hemisphere. #WordStrong
6. The Koran lacks at least 2 things to prove it has supernatural quality: Prophecy & Consistency. #WordStrong
7. Piece #2: The establishment of what the Catholic church called “The Holy Roman Empire.” #WordStrong
8. The “Holy Roman Empire” is actually the merger of the spiritual/religious kingdom with the political/military kingdom. #WordStrong
9. This merger is why Rev.17:18 says that the Roman Catholic Church has “reigned over the kings of the earth.” #WordStrong
10. Piece #3: The great SPLIT in the CATHOLIC Church. It stays Catholic in the west, but Greek/Russian/Eastern Orthodox in the east. #WordStrong

INTRODUCTION

◆ THE SOON COMING REVIVAL OF “RELIGIOUSNESS”...

- Based on what the Bible has clearly revealed to us about the “times and seasons” of the return of Christ, one of the things we “know” is that in the very near future, the world is going to become very _____. (1 Thess. 5:1; Rev. 13:8)
- Like no other time in the history of mankind, the world is going to experience religious _____. (Rev. 13:8)
- There will be only one religious system actually _____ on this planet.
- It is a religious system recognized by virtually every person on this globe as “_____” ... a system known as “_____.”
- That system is already the religion of almost _____% of the entire world’s population!
- It is, however, about to _____ in popularity.

◆ HOW THIS FALSE RELIGIOUS SYSTEM GAINS WORLD-WIDE ACCEPTANCE...

- The Rapture (the sudden removal of true believers from this planet...1 Thessalonians 4:13–18)—
- The Effects of the Rapture—

• The Revelation of Satan’s Counterfeit of the Lord Jesus Christ...

- ▶ The “_____.” (1 John 2:22)
- ▶ The “man of _____.” (2 Thess. 2:3)
- ▶ The “son of _____.” (2 Thess. 2:3)
- ▶ That “_____.” (2 Thess. 2:8)
- ▶ The “_____.” (Rev. 13:1–4)

- He arrives as an emissary of _____. (See Dan. 9:27a; Rev. 6:2...bow, but no arrows!)
- He will put on such a spectacular display of _____ that virtually the whole _____ will follow him. (2 Thess. 2:9; Rev. 13:14)
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- The “whole world” will not only follow him politically and governmentally... but _____! (Rev. 13:8; Rev. 13:1...c.f. Rev.17:12; Dan. 7:7)

Note: The religious system he will use (the “_____” in Rev. 17:3 that “sits upon the _____”) will be the same religious system that goes by the name “_____,” that Satan has been using to masquerade as the “true church of Christ,” or the “_____ Christianity” since 325. A.D.... called “_____.”

REVIEW

◆ THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS FALSE RELIGIOUS SYSTEM AS REVEALED IN REV. 2 AND 3...

- As soon as Satan understood the revelation of the mystery of the church (Eph. 3:9, 10), he went to work to come up with his own _____ to counterfeit Christ's Church, so that he can fulfill man's desire to be "_____ " with a counterfeit "Christian" system that will damn his soul to _____.
- The Progression of the System Through the Centuries...
 - ▶ 2nd Century (Rev 2:4) – Leaders in Christianity ("Apostolic Church Fathers") begin to _____ the words of God. (See 2 Tim. 1:13)
 - ▶ 3rd Century (Rev. 2:9) – Those deviations had developed into a counterfeit religious system that God calls the "_____ of _____."
 - ▶ 4th Century (Rev. 2:13) – Satan gets a _____ in that "synagogue."
 - ▶ 5th Century (Rev. 2:13) – He sits down in that seat, and _____ there.
 - ▶ 6th Century (Rev. 2:24) – Satan has flooded the world with his false _____ to counterfeit the Lord Jesus Christ and His church...what our Lord calls here, "the _____ of Satan."

◆ THE BIBLICAL IDENTIFICATION OF THIS FALSE RELIGIOUS SYSTEM...

- In Rev. 2:20 our Lord identifies Satan's church (or, false religious system), as a _____...and specifically "that _____."
- ▶ "That woman Jezebel" in the Old Testament (Judges 17–18; 1 Kings 16, 18)
 - It was a false religious system that used:
 - Robed _____...
 - Called "_____ "...
 - Who used _____ as aids in worship...
 - In their "house of _____."
 - ▶ It is called "_____."
- What God shows us in the whole progression of Revelation 2 and 3 is that the false religious system that Satan is going to use to counterfeit the Church in the New Testament (or, more specifically, "The Church Age") is actually that same system of _____...
 - ▶ It is called "_____."
- In Rev. 17, it is this same "woman" who sits upon the " _____ " as the one-world _____ of the Antichrist.
- Some very urgent and practical applications of these truths...
 - ▶ To those who don't know Christ:

- The “choices” left to you after the Rapture–

- The danger in waiting to receive Christ–
 - Hebrews 3:13– “the _____ of sin.”
 Note: The same sin that _____ you into _____ Christ now...
 Will be the same sin that _____ you into _____ the Antichrist then!

- ▶ To those who do know Christ:
 - Knowing these truths can help you to do what every child of God has been commanded to do in these last days... _____!
 - STAND not in the _____ of men, but in the _____ of God. (1 Cor. 2:5)
 - STAND fast in the _____. (1 Cor. 16:13)
 - STAND against the _____ of the _____. (Eph. 6:11)
 - WITHSTAND in the _____. (Eph. 6:13)
 - STAND fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the _____. (Phil. 1:27)
 - STAND perfect and complete in all the _____ of God. (Col. 4:12)

1. COMMISSION. (Rev. 3:1a)

“And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write;”

- The dates of the Sardis Church Period: _____ to _____ A.D.

- The significance of the name “Sardis”:
 - * Remember, the meaning of the name of the church is representative of the main _____ of the church during that period from God’s perspective.
 - * “Sardis,” the name God gives to represent the period of church history when the persecution and _____ upon true Christians was greater than at any other time, means “_____.”
 - * In this 500 year period, God saw His people—those who had been covered with _____ own BLOOD _____... covered with _____ own BLOOD _____!

- Another synopsis of the bloodshed of this period is found in Rev. 17:6...

2. CHARACTER. (Rev. 3:1b)

“These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars.”

- The “seven stars”–

- The “seven Spirits of God”–

* Rev. 1:4–

They are located “before His _____.”

* Rev. 4:5–

They take the appearance of “seven _____ of _____ that burn before the throne.”

* Rev. 5:6–

They are the Lord’s _____! (i.e. “Eyes as flames of fire”...Rev. 1:14; 2:18; 19:12.)

* Rev. 5:6–

They are “sent forth into _____ the _____.”

* Zech. 4:10–

Those seven eyes “run _____ and _____ through the whole earth.”

* 2 Chron. 16:9–

They are running to and fro so God can “show himself strong in the behalf of them whose _____ is _____ toward him.”

3. CONDEMNATION. (Rev. 3:1c)

“I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and are dead.”

4. CORRECTION. (Rev. 3:2–3)

“Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.”