

Pope Francis - History's 'Final' Pontiff?

Analyst sees election as 'fantastic fulfillment of prophecy'

Notes from Pastor Kevin Lea are interspersed in and follow these two articles



An author who predicted Pope Benedict XVI would be the first pontiff in nearly 600 years to resign believes the election today of Jorge Mario Bergoglio as the 266th Roman Catholic pontiff lines up with a medieval prophecy that would make him the “final pope” before the End Times.

Tom Horn, co-author with Cris Putman of the book [“Petrus Romanus: The Final Pope is Here.”](#) told WND today Bergoglio’s selection was a “fantastic fulfillment of prophecy.”

His book examines St. Malachy’s “Prophecy of the Popes,” said to be based on a prophetic vision of the 112 popes following Pope Celestine II, who died in 1144. Malachy’s prophecies, first published in 1595, culminate with the “final pope,” “Petrus Romanus,” or “Peter the Roman,” whose reign ends with the destruction of Rome and the judgment of Christ.

Horn has said a pope of Italian descent would fulfill the prophecy, noting Bergoglio is the son of Italian parents and a Jesuit. “Being a Jesuit is a very important aspect of our prediction in our book,” Horn told WND in an email.

Citing his book, Horn said the name “Petrus Romanus” in the prophecy “implies this pope will reaffirm the authority of the Roman Pontiff over the Church and will emphasize the supremacy of the Roman Catholic Faith and the Roman Catholic Church above all other religions and denominations, and its authority over all Christians and all peoples of the world.” Horn pointed out the Jesuits order was organized “to stop Protestantism from spreading and to preserve communion with Rome and the successor of Peter.” As [WND reported](#), Horn and his co-author, Cris Putnam, predicted in their book Benedict would step down, making way for history’s “final pope.”

The 2012 prediction

Remarkably, Horn told WND, more than 60 years ago a Belgian Jesuit theologian and academic named Rene Thibault came up with the date 2012 as the culmination of Malachy’s prophecies. Horn points to reports that Benedict made his decision to resign last year, before announcing it in February. Thibault’s was published in French only four months before Thibault died. Horn and Putnam translated the Belgian priest’s rare 1951 book, “The Mysterious Prophecy of the Popes,” into English.

“Adopting the methodology of a mystic as well as a scholar,” Horn and Putnam write in the first chapter of their book, Thibault “makes a compelling case that ‘The Prophecy of the Popes’ is a real supernatural prophecy.” Horn noted Thibault is among many Catholic leaders, including popes, cardinals and priests, who have affirmed Malachy’s work, which was kept in the Vatican archives for five centuries before it was first published. He said Thibault used a number of methods of cryptographic analysis to come up with the date 2012, including calculating the average length of papal reign up until the time he wrote his book. “In other words,” Horn and Putnam write, “2012 was seen as an end-times ‘event horizon’ by at least one Jesuit priest before most readers were born.”

St. Malachy, an Irish saint and the archbishop of Armagh, who lived from 1094 to 1148, described the “final pope” this way: “In the extreme persecution of the Holy Roman Church, there will sit Peter the Roman, who will nourish the sheep in many tribulations; when they are finished, the City of Seven Hills will be destroyed, and the dreadful judge will judge his people.”

[As WND reported](#), he described the penultimate pope, which Horn believes is Benedict, as “Gloria Olivae,” or “Glory of the Olive.” Benedict was not a Benedictine priest, yet he chose the name of the founder of the Order of Saint Benedict, which also is known as the Olivetans...

To read this article in its entirety, go to http://www.wnd.com/2013/03/pope-francis-historys-final-pontiff/?cat_orig=world

Leading Catholic Publisher: A Jesuit Is the Perfect Choice to Lead Church

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By Bill Hoffmann

Jesuits are over the moon that the Vatican has selected one of their own as the new Pope, a major Catholic publisher tells Newsmax TV's "The Steve Malzberg Show." "I'm ecstatic because [Pope Francis] is a Jesuit following in the footsteps of Ignatius," said Father Joseph Fessio, founder of St. Ignatius Press, which specializes in Catholic books.

Note from Pastor Kevin: The 'Ignatius' mentioned here is Ignatius Loyola who lived from 1491-1556 and was the father of the Jesuits. Through a sequence of events, he left his life as a soldier and spent hours in prayer and self denial. It was during this time that:

*"Ignatius began seeing a series of visions in full daylight while in hospital. These repetitive visions appeared as "a form in the air near him and this form gave him much consolation because it was exceedingly beautiful ... it somehow **seemed to have the shape of a serpent and had many things that shone like eyes**, but were not eyes. He received much delight and consolation from gazing upon this object ... but when the object vanished he became disconsolate."*¹

These visions led to Ignatius' desire to put an end to the Protestant movement (using whatever means necessary) and to bring all "Christians" back under the authority of the Roman Catholic Church and more importantly, the Pope.

"He loves the church, he's with the church all the way and he loves the poor. I mean it's the perfect combination. ... That's the Holy Spirit."

Note from Pastor Kevin: The source article at this point has a link to a video interview with Father Joseph Fessio, which is very informative. <http://www.newsmax.com/Headline/pope-vatican-francis-church/2013/03/13/id/494588>. It is also interesting to note that this new Pope took the name Francis. Many probably think he took this name in honor of St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) who was the Father of the Franciscans (took vows of poverty in service to the god of the Roman Church), and it is possible that this is one reason for the picked name. But there was another Francis which may have equal or greater adoration in the new Pope's mind. His full name was Francis Xavier (1506-1552). He was the co-founder of the Jesuits and he spread the message and power of the Popish Roman Catholic Church into Southeast Asia (primarily India, but also Japan and elsewhere).

Fessio said there is an interesting historical contradiction to the Vatican's pick. "The paradox of this is when Ignatius of Loyola founded the Jesuits, he put in this rule that Jesuits were not allowed to even become a bishop, but we're also told we're to be totally obedient to the Holy Father," he said. "So when the cardinals say you've been chosen, we have to obey. So he's doing an obedience. He's an extraordinary person and the church is going to be blessed with him."

He noted that Jesuits have a proud heritage of service. "We're known as the educators of the country, the U.S. We have 28 colleges and universities; we're a missionary order," Fessio said. "And we're also known traditionally as the defenders of the Pope — the Pope's army, the Pope's shock troops, those who would defend the church's teachings against anyone."

Fessio said he believes the new Pope wants to rebuild the church...

To read this article in its entirety, go to <http://www.newsmax.com/Headline/pope-vatican-francis-church/2013/03/13/id/494588>

Final note from Pastor Kevin Lea: *With respect to Malachy's prophecy that the recently elected Pope will be the last one (see Worldnetdaily.com article above), I personally do not trust nor care about a prophecy given by a Roman Catholic priest nearly 900 years ago. However, let's assume that this man is the last pope before Christ returns in judgment.*

Those who interpret the prophecy say that it states that this Pope will be the last Pope and that during his term the city of Rome will be destroyed and the judgment of Christ will come. For those who know

¹ *Jesuits, A Multibiography* by Jean Lacouture, p. 18, Washington, D.C.: Counterpoint, 1995

biblical prophecy, this sounds familiar. Revelation 13 teaches that there will be a final world government ruled by the Antichrist, who is called The Beast. There will also be a false religion of the Antichrist led by the “False Prophet” (Revelation 16:11). This false religion is also depicted as the “Woman Who Rides the Beast” and “Mystery Babylon” (Revelation 13, 17, and 18). Revelation teaches that the woman and associated false religion will be destroyed as part of the second coming judgment of Jesus (Revelation 18-19). If we are in the days leading up to the final world government and religion, and if the Roman popish church is the vehicle Satan will use to form his false religion, then it makes perfect sense that a Jesuit Cardinal was selected to be the next Pope.

To understand the significance of the pope’s Jesuit background, I have attached relevant pages from John Knox’s book, The Protestant Reformation. If he is true to his order, then the new pope will do everything in his power to undo the Protestant Reformation and force those who have “gone astray” to submit again to the control of the Roman Church and his authority as Pope.

For those who have true saving faith in Jesus, there is no turning back. There is no authority but Jesus and His Word (Matthew 28:18). We will not submit to the Roman church or its Pope. But our refusal to do so may result in our martyrdom:

Revelation 17:5-6 (NKJV) – And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.

retreat for study, and there, through the press, instruct and build up the churches. But Farel's solemn admonition came to him as a call from Heaven, and he dared not refuse. It seemed to him, he said, "that the hand of God was stretched down from heaven, that it lay hold of him, and fixed him irrevocably to the place he was so impatient to leave." — D'Aubigné, *History of the Reformation in Europe in the Time of Calvin*, b. 9, ch. 17.

At this time great perils surrounded the Protestant cause. The anathemas of the pope thundered against Geneva, and mighty nations threatened it with destruction. How was this little city to resist the powerful hierarchy that had so often forced kings and emperors to submission? How could it stand against the armies of the world's great conquerors?

Throughout Christendom, Protestantism was menaced by formidable foes. The first triumphs of the Reformation past, Rome summoned new forces, hoping to accomplish its destruction. At this time the order of the Jesuits was created, the most cruel, unscrupulous, and powerful of all the champions of popery. Cut off from earthly ties and human interests, dead to the claims of natural affection, reason and conscience wholly silenced, they knew no rule, no tie, but that of their order, and no duty but to extend its power. (See Appendix.) The gospel of Christ had enabled its adherents to meet danger and endure suffering, undismayed by cold, hunger, toil, and poverty, to uphold the banner of truth in face of the rack, the dungeon, and the stake. To combat these forces, Jesuitism inspired its followers with a fanaticism that enabled them to endure like dangers, and to oppose to the power of truth all the weapons of deception. There was no crime too great for them to commit, no deception too base for them to practice, no disguise too difficult for them to assume. Vowed to perpetual poverty and humility, it was their studied aim to secure wealth and power, to be devoted to the overthrow of Protestantism, and the re-establishment of the papal supremacy.

When appearing as members of their order, they wore a garb of sanctity, visiting prisons and hospitals, ministering to the sick and the poor, professing to have renounced the world, and bearing the sacred name of Jesus, who went about doing good. But under this blameless exterior the most criminal and deadly purposes were often concealed. It was a fundamental principle of the order that the end justifies the means. By this code, lying, theft, perjury, assassination, were not only pardonable but commendable, when they served the interests of the church. Under various disguises the Jesuits worked their way into offices of state, climbing up to be the counselors of kings, and shaping the policy of nations. They became servants to act as spies upon their masters. They established colleges for the sons of princes and nobles, and schools for the common people; and the children of Protestant parents were drawn into an observance of popish rites. All the outward pomp and display of the Romish worship was brought to bear to confuse the mind and dazzle and captivate the imagination, and thus the liberty for which the fathers had toiled and bled was betrayed by the sons. The Jesuits rapidly spread themselves over Europe, and wherever they went, there followed a revival of popery.

To give them greater power, a bull was issued re-establishing the inquisition. (See Appendix.) Notwithstanding the general abhorrence with which it was regarded, even in Catholic countries, this terrible tribunal was again set up by popish rulers, and atrocities too terrible to bear the light of day were repeated in its secret dungeons. In many countries, thousands upon thousands of the very flower of the nation, the purest and noblest, the most intellectual and highly educated, pious and devoted pastors, industrious and patriotic citizens, brilliant scholars, talented artists, skillful artisans, were slain or forced to flee to other lands.

Such were the means which Rome had invoked to quench the light of the Reformation, to withdraw from men the Bible, and to restore the ignorance and superstition of the Dark



Statue of John Knox in St. Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh, Scotland. (See p. 303.)



Replica of Knox in his study at his home in Edinburgh. (See pp. 250, 251.)

THE JESUIT ORDER

"I . . . now in the presence of Almighty God, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Blessed Michael the Archangel, the Blessed St. John the Baptist, the Holy Apostles, Peter and Paul, and all the Saints, sacred hosts of Heaven, and to you, my ghostly Father, the Superior General of the Society of Jesus, founded by St. Ignatius Loyola, in the Pontification of Paul the Third, and continued to the present, do by the womb of the virgin, the matrix of God, and the rod of Jesus Christ, declare and swear that his holiness, the Pope, is Christ's Vice-regent, and is the true and only head of the Catholic or Universal Church throughout the earth; and that by the virtue of the keys of binding and loosing, given to his Holiness by my Savior, Jesus Christ, he hath power to depose heretical kings, princes, states, commonwealths and governments, all being illegal without his sacred confirmation, and that they may be safely destroyed.

"I do further declare, that I will help and assist and advise all or any of his Holiness' agents in any place wherever I shall be, and do my utmost to extirpate the heretical Protestant or Liberal doctrines and to destroy all their pretended powers, legal or otherwise.

"I do further promise and declare, that notwithstanding I am dispensed with to assume any religion heretical, for the propagating of the Mother Church's interest, to keep secret and private all her agents' counsels, from time to time as they may instruct me, and not to divulge directly or indirectly, by word, writing, or circumstances whatever; but to execute all that shall be proposed given in charge or discovered unto me, by you, my ghostly father. . . .

"I do further promise and declare, that I will have no opinion or will of my own, or of any mental reservation whatever, even as a corpse or cadaver (*perinde ac cadaver*) but unhesitatingly obey each and every command that I may receive from my superiors in the Militia of the Pope and Jesus Christ.

"That I will go to any part of the world, whatsoever, without murmuring and will be submissive in all things whatsoever communicated to me. . . . I do further promise and declare, that I will, when opportunity presents, make and wage relentless war, secretly or openly, against all heretics, Protestants and Liberals, as I am directed to do to extirpate and exterminate them from the face of the whole earth, and that I will spare neither sex, age nor condition, and that I will hang, waste, boil, flay, strangle and bury alive these infamous heretics; rip up the stomachs and wombs of their women and crush their infants' heads against the wall, in order to annihilate forever their execrable race.

"That when the same cannot be done openly, I will secretly use the poison cup, the strangulation cord, the steel of the poniard, or the leaden bullet, regardless of the honor, rank, dignity or authority of the person or persons whatsoever may be their condition in life, either public or private, as I at any time may be directed so to do by any agent of the Pope or superior of the Brotherhood of the Holy Faith of the Society of Jesus."

Portions of the Jesuit "Extreme Oath of Induction" as recorded in the Congressional Record of the United States of America. (House Bill 1523, Contested election case of Eugene C. Bonniwell, against Thos. S. Butler, February 15, 1913, pages 3215-16.) (See pp. 234, 235.)