

"Watchman, what of the night?"

*"The hour has come, the hour is striking and striking at you,
the hour and the end!" Eze. 7:6 (Moffatt)*

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COMMENTS

The Bible is specific in its identification of the Papacy as the "little horn" of Daniel 7; the "first beast" of Revelation 13; and "the man of sin" in I I Thessalonians. The emphasis of Scripture is that "the man of sin" is sustained by "the energy of Satan." (II Thess. 2:9 Fenton) The "dragon," which is declared plainly to be "the Devil and Satan" (Rev. 20:2), gives to "the beast" - "power" and "great authority." (Rev. 13:2) With this delineation in prophecy, we would expect to find his policy and objectives for Jerusalem to coincide with the Papal policy.

In Revelation 16, we are told that "the spirits of devils" gather the nations to "the battle of that great day of God Almighty." These forces of evil operating through "the dragon," "the beast," and "the false prophet" gather them to the place called in Hebrew - Har-Magedon. (Rev. 16:13-14, 16, ARV) This compound Hebrew word is interesting. The first part means - mountain - and cannot refer to Megiddo, as the Scripture calls it a "valley." (See Zech 12:11) The closest word for the transliteration from the Hebrew is Har-Mo'ed, "mount of the congregation." This is in harmony with the objective which God reveals is in the heart of Lucifer. God said Satan intends to "sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north." (Isa. 14:13) This is Jerusalem, "mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King." (Ps. 48:5)

It would appear that the Basic Law of Israel, and the policy of the Vatican are on a collision course. But should Satan coming as the Messiah in the outward splendor as the Jews have perceived the coming of the Messiah to be, and claim "the throne of his father, David," could Israel resist such an overwhelming "delusion?"

Indeed then, could the enunciation of John Paul II be realized that "Jerusalem stands as a symbol of coming together, of union, and of universal peace for the human family."

This is the voice of the antichrist who seeks to speak in place of the voice of the true Christ. "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to Him" speaks of but one "Holy City." It is the "new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven." (22:2) Paul calls it "the city of the living God." (Heb. 12:22) He told the Galatians, that this city "which is above is free, and the mother of us all." (4:26) One voice points to an earthly city, and calls it "holy," while the voice of the true Shepherd call men to the Holy City of God, the New Jerusalem.

Jesus did have something to say about the Jerusalem that now is. When leaving the Temple on Wednesday of His Passion Week, He declared it "desolate." Never again does the temple figure into history or prophecy from God's viewpoint. But not so the city of Jerusalem. Jesus told His disciples that evening on the Mount of Olives that alien armies would surround the city. These would be "the days of vengeance, that all things which are written might be fulfilled." (Lk. 21:22) This military involvement was to be a sign to His followers to leave the city never more to return. (21:21) Jesus then told them that Jerusalem would be subjugated by the Gentiles (nations) until the times of their visitation would be filled full. (21:24; cmp with 19:41-44) When God no longer in mercy seeks the welfare of the nations - when they have passed over the unseen line - then the time has come for the marvelous working of Satan, to gather the nations to the place in the Hebrew tongue - Har-Magedon - "the mount of the Congregation."

To that hour we have come. In 1967, the arms of Israel retook Old Jerusalem, and re-established Jewish sovereignty. "The times of the Gentiles" was ending. In 1980, the Knesset passed as a Basic Law, that the city of Jerusalem would once more be the Capital of all Israel. "The times of the Gentiles" are now fulfilled.

In 1979, Pope John Paul II, entered the White House, and "clasped" hands with the Protestant President, Southern Baptist, Jimmy Carter. In 1980, "the Cardinal Secretary of State of His Holiness" - the same John Paul II - caused to be circulated as a Document of the United Nations Security Council, a pronouncement of Papal policy for Jerusalem. In 1984 - this year - He again directed the eyes of the world toward Jerusalem, and his hopes for it - an international city, as a symbol "of union, and of universal peace for the human family."

Would Jesus - if visibly present - say to us - "This day is this Scripture being fulfilled before your very eyes. O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have written." That which pertains to Jerusalem, which has occurred in our day, was prophesied by Jesus Christ Himself.

If we are not willing to accept what the true Christ stated, then are we not opening ourselves to the deception of the false christ, when "out of Zion" (so the people say) will "go forth the law" (What will it say?), "and the word of the Lord (What lord?) from

Jerusalem." (Isa. 2:3) To these words from Isaiah, the Pope directed his listeners in the final appeal of his Good Friday Apostolic Letter!