

# THE MYSTERY OF PROPHECY EXPLAINED IN SIMPLE TERMS FOR THE SERIOUS STUDENT OF THE WORD

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## PART FIVE - THE TESTIMONY OF THE PROPHETS, SAINTS AND MARTYRS THROUGHOUT NEW TESTAMENT HISTORY

**LESSON 77: If the testimony of God's true people through the ages can be discovered, we would have reason to believe it could unlock the key of the Mystery of Iniquity, including the correct interpretation of the book of Revelation because of the fact that the testimony of God's people is true.**

- But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
- Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.
- Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.
- Now ye are the body of Christ and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers.....Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy.....
- ...Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
- Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth.....
- These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.
- Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses.....
- But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom.....
- He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches: To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna.....

**LESSON 78: The typical professing Christian has no knowledge of Church history. This is due to the outworking of Satan and his false teachers, prophets and pastors who have infiltrated the visible professing Church in large numbers. Knowledge of the past is intentionally hidden because it contains damning evidence against the false church, and her Antichrist.**

- So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? From whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this.....Let both grow together until the harvest.....
- For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.
- .....it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

**LESSON 79: The Elect will not be kept in darkness as to the truth of the past and the testimony of the prophets, saints and martyrs.**

- Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.
- Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid that shall not be known.
- Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.
- I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.
- But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost.
- The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.
- Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision.
- And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost.....
- .....as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.

- 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..... that he might be revealed in his own time.....For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that wicked be revealed.....

**LESSON 80: The Elect have kept the testimony of past saints alive through numerous channels, despite the attempt of Satan and his people to destroy it.**

- Libraries worldwide contain the original manuscripts of the testimonies of the ancient Christians.
- God has always had wise men in His Body who could translate these manuscripts.
- Even the enemy who killed the true Christians has kept their testimony and memory alive through the preservation of Inquisitorial records.
- God has always had historians, both saved and unsaved, who have authenticated these histories and testimonies.
- These histories and testimonies have been published regularly since the advent of the printing press.
- These histories and testimonies are becoming available worldwide on the Internet.
- The Protestant Reformers systematized prophetic truth with substantial proofs, including publishing numerous commentaries on the Revelation which identified the papal Antichrist and his church, Mystery Babylon.

**LESSON 81: The testimonies of the prophets, saints and martyrs are united: The Pope is the head of Antichrist, that Man of Sin, the son of perdition; his religious orders and priests the Body of Antichrist; his people the church of Antichrist, Mystery Babylon, the Mother of all harlots, the Church of Rome. Today we are seeing a proliferation of the harlot daughters among ‘evangelicals.’**

**LESSON 82: It is beyond the scope of this study to offer the volumes of testimonies preserved for the edification and enlightenment of Christians. This present author has published an in-depth work, *Antichrist in Our Midst*, which addresses these issues.**

**LESSON 83: The following is a sample list of the ancient and not-so-ancient Christians who testified as one voice against the Pope of Rome and the Church of Rome:**

- The Paulicians, Publicans, the Bogomil, the Albigenses, the Cathars, the Henricians, the Arnoldistae, the Petrobrusians, the Patarini, the Humiliati, Apostolics, the Poor Men of Lyons, the Good Men, the Waldenses, Lollards, the Fratricelli, the Insabbathi, the Gazares, the Beghards, the Beguines, the Franciscan Spirituals, the Bohemians, Anabaptists, John Wycliffe, John Huss, Savonarola, Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Foxe, innumerable martyrs depicted in his 8-volume *Acts and Monuments*, William Tyndale, Zwingli, Martin Bucer, Beza, William Farel, Bullinger, the Marion Martyrs (Hooper, Ridley, Latimer, Cranmer, Bradford, etc.), the Huguenots, Bishop Jewel, John Bale, John Knox, William Whitaker, the formal creeds of the Reformers which systematically explained their faith with scriptural proofs, Joseph Mede, Francis Turretin, Archbishop Ussher, Sir Isaac Newton, Milton, Samuel Moreland, Peter Allix, Richard Baxter, Bishop Newton, Bunyan, Christopher Ness, Wesley, Matthew Henry, and Jonathan Edwards, John Gill, John Owen, the Puritans, to name but a few comprising the entire span of the 7<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**LESSON 84: The following is a sample list of 19<sup>th</sup> century voices through the present day who agree with the prophetic interpretation of the innumerable Christian saints and martyrs who proceeded them:**

- Joseph Milner, William Cunningham, E. B. Elliott, G. S. Faber, J. A. Wylie, Bishop J. C. Rylie, Albert Barnes, Principal Candlish, Chiniqy, Bishop Wordsworth, Rev. Alexander Hislop, Rev. John Cumming, Patrick Fairbairn, Benjamin Keach, H. Grattan Guinness, Rev. E. H. Horne, Spurgeon, J. A. Kensit, G. G. Coulton, Baron Porcelli, Albert Close, J. W. W. Campbell, D. C. Shelton, Avro Manhattan, Jeremiah Crowley, Anthony Gavin, Jacob Primmer, W. E. Gladstone, Ian Paisley, Ray Pulman, Maurice Roberts, Stuart Mackay, David Silversides, Alan Campbell, Dr. Clifford Smyth, Dr. Ronald Cooke, Richard Bennett, Michael de Semlyen, Jim Dodson, Richard Bacon, Robert J. Nicholson, Dr. Bill Jackson, Dr. John Robbins, Steve Van Nattan, Dr. F. Nigel Lee, Michael Bunker, Shaun Willcock, etc., etc., .....

**LESSON 85: Upon studying Church history one is confronted with an incredible fact. Either the church who persecuted and murdered the so-called 'heretics' is telling the truth or the so-called 'heretics' who were imprisoned, tortured and killed were telling the truth. There remains no other choice. God has not left the world without a witness for one thousand years.**

**LESSON 86: The murderous Church of Rome claims she is the true church. Scriptures teach us the murderers are the false Church who hate the Lord and His people.**

- Mystery Babylon is depicted as a blood-thirsty murderess, who drinks the blood of the saints and martyrs of Jesus, as well as the apostles and prophets, and of all that were slain upon the earth.
- History teaches that it is the Church of Rome who killed.
- The Church of Rome admits, through her own histories, church councils, papal bulls, and encyclopedias, that she has condemned innumerable groups of alleged 'heretics' to death.

**LESSON 87: The so-called 'heretics' whom Rome exterminated are proven to be true Christians by the testimony of their beliefs recorded by the Inquisitors; and by their statements of faith preserved by historians which reside in university libraries worldwide.**

**A TYPICAL EXAMPLE: THE "HERETICS" OF COLOGNE, GERMANY, A. D. 1140**

[This present writer has four different sources for authenticating this same event: (1) *The Ecclesiastical History of the Ancient Churches of Piedmont*, by Peter Allix, reprint; originally published in 1690; (2) *Horae Apocalypticae*, by Rev. E. B. Elliott, 1862 edition; (3) *Facts and Documents Illustrative of the History, Doctrines, and Rites of the Ancient Albigenses & Waldenses*, by S. R. Maitland, published 1822; (4) *Heresies of the High Middle Ages, Selected Sources Translated and Annotated*, by Walter L. Wakefield and Austin P. Evans, published 1968.]

We learn of these so-called 'heretics' from one Eberwin, abbot of Steinfeld, who wrote to 'St.' Bernard, abbot of Clairvaux, for the express purpose that Bernard *analyze all the articles of heresy of those people which have come to your notice, set against them the arguments and authoritative texts of our faith, and thus **destroy them***. Eberwin complains that the new heretics are everywhere and in all their churches.

- Two men of their sect, called a bishop and his assistant held their ground against the accusations of an assembly of Roman Catholic clergy and laymen, while in the presence of the archbishop and nobles, defending their faith using the Gospels and Epistles of Paul as their rule of faith. Requesting that they return with others learned in their faith, they promised to be reconciled to Holy Mother Church should their teachers be unable to offer satisfactory answers to the councils' questions and allegations. After three days of reasoning with the Roman Catholic council members, the 'heretics' were seized, thrown into the fire and burned. The abbot of Steinfeld remarks, "What is more marvelous; they met and bore the agony of the fire not only with patience but even with joy. At this point, Holy Father, were I with you, I should like you to explain

whence comes to those limbs of the devil constancy such as is scarcely to be found in men most devoted to the faith of Christ."

### EBERWIN DESCRIBES THEIR 'HERESIES'

- They claimed to be the true church because they follow the commandments of Christ. The Church of Rome did not.
- They loved not the things of the world as did the Catholic priesthood.
- They claimed, "We, the poor of Christ, who have no fixed abode and flee from city to city like sheep amidst wolves, are persecuted as were the apostles and the martyrs, despite the fact that we lead a most strict and holy life....But you, lovers of the world, have peace with it because you are of the world. False apostles who pollute the word of Christ, who seek after their own interest, have led you and your fathers astray from the true path. We and our fathers, of apostolic descent, have continued in the grace of Christ and shall so remain until the end of time. To distinguish between us and you, Christ said, By their fruits you shall know them."
- "We," they say, "do not hold to the truth of the sacraments but to a sort of shadow, a tradition of men."
- "They have openly confessed also that besides [baptism in] water, they baptize and have been baptized in fire and the Spirit....."

### EBERWIN THEN DESCRIBES ANOTHER SECT OF 'HERETICS'

- They deny transubstantiation and the validity of the Catholic priesthood.
- The priests of Rome are corrupt, being heavily involved in secular business, failing to wage God's warfare as did Peter. Thus, they say, he is not the apostolic descendent of Peter which he claims. [NOTE: In other words, the 'heretics' claimed the popes were corrupt, not having the love of the Father in them. Thus, they were of their father the devil.]
- The Pope has no power to ordain, nor does the Apostolic See, the archbishops and bishops, who lead worldly lives. [NOTE: This item deals with the issue of 'the authority to preach.' The Catholic Church would forbid the heretics to preach. The heretics preached anyway.]
- They render void the Catholic priesthood; condemning their sacraments, except baptism, which they approve only for adults.
- They do not pray to the saints.
- Fasting and other penances for absolution of sins they deny. Forgiveness occurs, they say, whenever the sinner repents.
- Observances of the Catholic church which are not scriptural they call mere superstitions.
- They deny purgatory. They teach souls go immediately unto eternal rest or punishment at the moment of death. They nullify the prayers and offerings of the RCC for the dead.

## EBERWIN'S FINAL APPEAL TO BERNARD:

"You should also know, my Lord, that those who have returned to the Church have told us that these heretics have a very large number of adherents scattered widely throughout the world, among whom are many of our clergy and monks. Indeed, those who were burned told us during their defense that this heresy has lain concealed from the time of the martyrs even to our own day, and has persisted thus in Greece and certain other lands. They are those heretics who call themselves apostles and who have their own pope. There are others who do not accept our pope, nor do they acknowledge another in his place."

### **A SECOND TYPICAL EXAMPLE: THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE WALDENSES OF THE DIOCESE OF TURIN, ITALY, CIRCA 1470.** [Source: Sir Samuel Morland, *The History of the Evangelical Churches of the Valleys of Piedmont*, 1658, 1982 reprint.]

- They have been and at present are infamous throughout the whole world for the heresy, and most damnable sect of the Waldenses, contrary to the Christian faith.
- They call the Church of Rome a Church of Malignants, defaming and reproaching the same.
- They believe they are the true Church of God, who live in poverty, believing in their Creed, the holy Church without spot or wrinkle.
- They believe that their pastors have the authority of binding and loosing, and hearing confession; but not the priests of the Church of Rome.
- They believe it is unlawful for the Prelates of the Roman Church to have patrimonies and temporal jurisdiction in this world.
- Since Sylvester, they say, there has been no true pope.
- No one has a greater degree of power and authority in the Church than he who lives in holiness.
- The sacraments administered by the priests of the Roman Church are of no efficacy or virtue.
- They did not believe that tithes are to be paid to the Roman priests, neither are offerings to be given them.
- They do not believe in the penances inflicted by the priests for absolution because they do not adhere to the commandments of Christ.
- They believe that the Roman Church is the House of Confusion, Babylon the Whore, and the Synagogue of the Devil.
- They believe that none such be obedient to the Roman Church or its Prelates, and that all who obey them are damned.

- They deny Purgatory, and upon death a man either immediately mounts up into Heaven, or is cast down into Hell. They believe that Purgatory was invented for the covetous.
- The dead are not to be prayed for.
- They denied the lawfulness of vows.
- They believe it as profitable to pray to God in a stable as in a Church.
- They believe in praying to God only, not the Virgin Mary, nor the saints, who cannot hear prayers.
- They believe that rain water has as great a virtue as Holy Water because all waters were blessed by God.
- They believe that temporal Lords are not to be obeyed, except those of their own sect.
- They believe it to a sin unto death for one of their own to betray a member of their sect.
- They believe that only those of their sect will be saved because they are the true saints.
- They believe no man should observe the Festival Days of the Saints which are the invention of the Church of Rome, and that it is lawful to do any servile work upon every of the six days.
- They believe it lawful to eat flesh at all times, and that the fasts, including Lent, are not to be kept.
- They believe it is not lawful for any of their sect to marry Catholics.

**A THIRD WITNESS: THE TESTIMONY OF SIR SAMUEL MORLAND, HISTORIAN, EYEWITNESS TO THE PERSECUTIONS EXPERIENCED BY THE WALDENSES, CIRCA A. D. 1655:**

"[The Protector of England, Cromwell, beseeches the Duke of Savoy,] that you would be pleased to extend your mercy to these your very poor subjects & most disconsolate Out-casts; I mean those, who inhabiting beneath the Alps, and certain Valleys under your Dominion, are professors of the Protestant Religion. For, he hath been informed that part of those most miserable people, have been cruelly massacred by your forces, part driven out by violence, and forced to leave their native habitations, and so without house or shelter, poor and destitute of all relief, do wander up and down with their wives and children, in craggy and uninhabited places, and Mountains covered with snow. Now what, or what manner of cruelty have not those soldiers of late dared to act, or hath been omitted by them? Oh, the fired houses which are yet smoking, the torn limbs, and the ground defiled with blood! Virgins being ravished have afterwards their wombs stuffed with gravel and rubbish and in that miserable manner breathed out their last. Some men an hundred years old, decrepit with age, and bed-rid, have been burnt in their beds.



Some infants have been dashed against the Rocks, others their throats cut, whose brains have with more than Cyclopean cruelty, being boiled and eaten by the Murderers!"

**A FOURTH WITNESS: EXCERPT FROM THE WALDENSIAN, THE NOBLE LESSON, CIRCA A. D. 1100** [Source: Morland]

The True Church distinguished from the False Church

"But at the Feast of Pentecost he remembered them, and sent them the Holy Ghost, which is the Comforter, and taught the Apostles by Divine Doctrine, and they understood the languages and the holy Scripture, and then they remembered what he had said. They spoke without fear of the Doctrine of Christ, they preached to Jews and Greeks, working many Miracles; and baptized those who believed in the Name of Jesus Christ. Then there was a People new converted; they were called Christians, for they believed in Christ. But we find here that the Scripture saith that the Jews and Saracens persecuted them grievously. But the Apostles were so fortified in the fear of the Lord, and the Men and Women which were with them. That for all that, they neither left speaking nor doing, whatsoever should come of it, so that they might have Jesus Christ. The Torments were great according to what is written, only because they taught the way of Jesus Christ.

But as for the Persecutors we need not so much wonder, for, they had not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ. Like those who now seek occasion to persecute the Saints; Which men ought to be Christians, but appear not to be such. And in this they are to be blamed, for that they persecute and imprison the good; For it is not found anywhere that the Saints persecuted or imprisoned any. Now after the Apostles were certain Teachers, who taught the way of Jesus Christ our Saviour. And these are found even at this present Day, but they are known to very few; who have a great desire to teach the way of Jesus Christ, but they are so persecuted that they are able to do but little, so much are the false Christians blinded with Error, and more than the rest they that are Pastors [i.e., priests]; For they persecute and hate those who are better than themselves, and let those live quietly who are false Deceivers. But by this we may know that they are not good Pastors, for they love not the Sheep, but only for their Fleeces. The Scripture saith, and it is evident that if any man love those who are good, he must needs love God and Jesus Christ. Such an one will neither curse, swear nor lie. He will neither commit Adultery, nor kill, he will neither defraud his Neighbor, nor avenge himself his Enemies. Now such an one is termed a Waldensian, and worthy to be punished. And they find occasion by Lies and Deceit, to take from him that which he has gotten by his just labor. However, he that is thus persecuted for the fear of the Lord, strengthens himself greatly by this consideration: that the Kingdom of Heaven shall be given him at the end of the World....."

For further information on the Waldensians, see their [Treatise on Antichrist](#)

**LESSON 88:** The testimony of the ancient Christians, Reformers, Puritans, Covenanters and modern-day Protestors against the Church of Rome and her Antichrist is to be believed because it is the witness of true Christians. To believe their truthful testimony is to show love for the brethren. Those who disbelieve do not love the brethren. How is love shown to those you believe are deluded? Those who do not love the brethren are the children of the devil, (I John 3:10).

- We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

**LESSON 89:** The testimony of the Church of Rome is to be not to be believed. To believe the testimony of the Roman Catholic Church is to be opposed to the true Christians and to their Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.

**LESSON 90:** The Head of the Church of Rome, the false church, is that Man of Sin, the Antichrist predicted by the Scriptures. The saints declared it, history declares it, the papal decrees declare it, and the Scriptures declare it. Those who oppose this truth oppose the Lord Jesus. [For further information, see [Witnesses Against Antichrist Through the Ages](#)]

**LESSON 91:** Both Futurism and Preterism, which deny the present Pope of Rome to be the Antichrist, the Man of Sin, oppose the Lord Jesus Christ and His people through the centuries. Both of these errant systems were systematized by the Jesuits, proving their satanic origin. Those who teach these false systems are neither blessed nor holy and will not take part in the first resurrection. [For further information, see [The Jesuit Origins of Futurism Proven](#)]

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