

V. HOW DOES THE POPE AND ROMAN CATHOLICISM FIT INTO PROPHECY?

there are good reasons to believe...

A. THAT CHRISTENDOM AS A WHOLE WILL BECOME UNITED INTO AN APOSTATE ONE-WORLD CHURCH

1. First of all, the parable of the mustard seed teaches how Christendom will start out small and grow into the enormous institution which becomes corrupted from within (Matt. 13:31,32).
2. Secondly, this apostate church will be characterized as filled with everything unholy (Rev. 18:2).
3. When one considers how Pope John Paul II brought diverse religious groups together and how the leaders of the world made so much to do over his death with millions gathering in Rome, one can see how the stage is being set for the one-world church.

Notice there were no religious leaders who spoke out against the unscriptural teachings of the Roman Catholic Church with its worship of Mary and the Saints and a sacerdotal system of salvation being dispersed through their priesthood.

B. THAT THE APOSTATE CHURCH WILL BE HEADED UP BY THE PAPACY

1. Notice the great harlot which speaks of the apostate church is a fitting description of the Roman Catholic Church (Rev. 17:1-6).
 - a. This apostate church will be allied with the political powers of the earth (Rev. 17:2). One should note that the Vatican is the smallest sovereign nation but the richest.
 - b. The description of the great harlot with her intoxication with the blood of the saints fittingly represents the historical practices of murder and persecution carried out by the Roman Catholic Church.

An estimated 9,000 people were murdered by the Roman Catholic Church in the Spanish Inquisition. They killed John Huss, John Wycliff, the Waldenses, the French Hugenots, and many more thousands of God's people.

2. Secondly, notice this harlot is identified with a certain city and this city is situated on seven mountains (Rev. 17:9,18).

It is evident that this city is Rome which literally sits on seven hills and since it is Rome

it is identified as the center of Roman Catholicism.

C. THAT THE POPE WILL BE THE FALSE PROPHET WHOM THE DEVIL WILL USE

1. It is reasonable to conclude if the religious center of the one-world apostate is Rome then the False Prophet will be the pope who is living when Jesus comes for His church at the Rapture.
2. Secondly it is stated that this religious leader will deceive people of the world by the miracles which he will do (Rev. 13:13-15).

Notice recently the miraculous events reported which were associated with the death of Pope John Paul II.