

Sunday, January 30, 2011—Grace Life School of Theology—*Church History: A Tale of Two Churches*—Lesson 20 The “Christian” Middle Ages: The True Identity of the Catholic Church

Was Peter the Rock?

- In our last study we began discussing the emergence of Papal power. We looked at the various political, philosophical, and Biblical arguments used to justify the supremacy of the bishop of Rome.
- We demonstrate that the Catholic legend of Peter being the bishop of Rome between 42-65 AD was pure fabrication and contradicted by scripture.
- Before we go any further I would like to address the Catholic use of Matthew 16:18 as justification for Papal claims.
- “The reason the Roman church felt the need for substantiating the claim that Christ built his church on Peter was/is to lend greater dignity and authority to the office of the pope by making it appear that it rests on the very authority of Christ himself.” (Barlow, 105)
- The argument goes something like this, “Peter means ‘rock,’ and Jesus built his Church on this Rock, i.e., Peter. The common refutation against this argument is that in Matthew 16:18, the words Peter and Rock come from two different Greek words. More literally the verse is saying You are Peter (*petros*—feminine gender) but upon this rock (*petra*—masculine gender, according to *Strong’s* a massive boulder of a rock) I will build my church. (Barlow, 105)
- In light of God’s word rightly divided this entire conversation is a mute point. “Peter was connected with the message our Lord preached to Israel, the gospel of the Kingdom. Whatever imagined powers might be claimed for him, it is of no consequence or relevance to believer today.” (Barlow, 106)
- “The biggest secret in ‘Christendom’ is that God’s people are living in a new dispensation (order of things) . . . Christ spoke of a “church” that he would build. Years later, Paul tells of the “church which is his Body” which was kept secret since the world began. If it were a secret and was not revealed until Paul’s conversion, then the church of which our Lord spoke could not be the same church of the mystery. Peter preached a message that was based on scores of Old Testament prophecies. To those who have never discerned the mystery they too will be drawn to the notion that the church referred to in Matthew 16 is a reference to the Body of Christ.” (Barlow, 106)
- “Even though the Lord did not speak of the Church of this age, and was speaking of the kingdom church, it still does not mean that the kingdom church was built on Simon Peter. The foundation rock of which Christ was speaking was himself, not Peter.” (Barlow, 106)
- John 20:20-23—all the apostles’ not just Peter received special kingdom authority.
- Matthew 19:28—all the apostles were promised a place of leadership in the Jewish kingdom church.

The Religion of Babylon

- Genesis 10:8-10—Nimrod founded a kingdom in Babel, in the land of Shinar.
- Daniel 1:1-2—Babylon is located in the land of Shinar. Therefore, in the Bible; Shinar, Babel, and Babylon are all referring to the same location.
- Nimrod founded the city and civilization of Babylon.
- Genesis 11:1-5—Nimrod built Babel in the land of Shinar. He not only built a city but also a tower.
 - City—represents a seat of governmental authority
 - Tower—represents the religious system instituted in Babylon
 - Psalm 18:2, 61:3, 144:2
 - Proverbs 18:10
- Genesis 11:4—the true sin of Babel was the failure to obey God’s command to scatter and replenish the earth (Genesis 9:1)
- Genesis 11:6-9—is why God confounded their language so that they would scatter over the face of the whole earth.
- Exodus 20:2-6—Israel was not to have any other God’s before them.
 - Deuteronomy 6:14
 - Deuteronomy 11:28
 - Deuteronomy 17:3
- Judges 2:11-13—Israel forsook the Lord and served Baal and Ashtarothe: a female deity and her son.
 - Ashtarothe—“was a popular goddess in several cultures. Her worship attracted the Israelites shortly after their settlement in Canaan. At the heart of this pagan religion was the worship of fertility or fecundity “force/features; that characterized the animate aspect of the created world. Ashtarothe’s popularity among the Phoenicians and other northwest Semitic peoples was long-standing.” (Elwell, 302)
 - Baal—“the numerous references to Baal in the Old Testament indicate his attractiveness and influence on the Israelites. The Book of Judges chronicles the worship of Baal. During the time of Ahab and Jezebel Baal was declared the official national deity. A temple and hundreds of officiates were established for Baal’s worship in Samaria (I Kings 16:29-34). A final chapter concerning Baal worship was written during the reigns of Jehu and Josiah, when the southern kingdom and its capital were purged of the worship of Baal (II Kings 10:23; 23:1-30).” (Elwell, 302)
 - “Baal’s name derives from the Semitic word *ba’lu* means Lord. He assumed to fulfill several significant roles by the peoples who worshiped him. As god of the

storm the roar of his voice in the heavens was the thunder of the sky. He was the god who both created and granted fertility. He was the deity slain by enemies who thus fell into the hands of Death. During the time that Baal was under the control of death, the vegetation wilted or ceased and procreation stopped. He was the god of justice feared by evil doers.” (Elwell, 302)

- Baal like other pagan gods and goddess was worshiped in high places (Numbers 22:41). “The cult of Baal involved offering of many animal sacrifices. Priest would officiate on behalf of the persons presenting sacrificial animals to the god. Some of the northern kingdom rulers even “made their sons pass through fire”—offering their sons as sacrifices to Baal. Holy prostitutes—both male and female—were available to worshipers, encouraging the fertility of both land and people.” (Elwell, 302)
- Judges 10:6—these are the God’s of the people surrounding Israel.
 - I Samuel 7:3-4, 12:10, 31:6-10
- Numbers 25:3
- Judges 18:1—the tribe of Dan (means “God is judge) is upset because they had not received their full inheritance.
 - Genesis 49:16-17—the tribe of Dan is likened unto a serpent.
 - Deuteronomy 33:22—Dan is likened unto a lion’s whelp
 - A serpent, (a poisonous one. i.e., an Adder) and a baby lion (i.e., harmless lion) are pictures of Satan. In the New Testament he is called that old serpent the devil because he is able to hard the children of God through deceit. He is also called a “roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.” (Barlow, 136)
 - Consequently, one should be immediately suspicious of the tribe of Dan.
- Judges 18:7-31—the Danites violate God’s Word in the following ways
 - Verse 19—they established their own priesthood in violation of the Levitical priesthood God had already established.
 - They call their priest “father.” Matthew 23:9 profits calling any man father.
 - In the same manner, Christendom has established its own priesthood in violation of I Timothy 2:5.
 - Verse 30—Dan set up the graven image and worshiped it. These priests were made responsible for the care and over sight of the idols.
- Jeremiah 7:18, 44:17-19, 25—the gentiles worship the queen of heaven. Do you know anyone today who worships the Queen of Heaven? See attachment.

- “The only time that title (Queen of Heaven) is used in Holy Scripture, it is never used to speak of Mary. It speaks of a female pagan deity that the children of Israel chose to worship when they fell into paganism.” (Barlow, 245)
- “It is common place in many liturgical churches to hear Mary referred to as the “Queen of Heaven,” not only without one iota of Scriptural support, but actually in spite of clear teaching to contrary.” (Barlow, 247)
- *The Glories of Mary* written by Bishop Alphonus Liguri one of the greatest devotional writers of the Roman Catholic Church extols the glory of the blessed virgin. Consider the following excerpts:
 - Mary is called . . . the gate of heaven because no one can enter that blessed place without passing through her. (160)
 - The way of salvation is open to none except through Mary, and since “our salvation is in the hands of Mary . . . he who is protected by Mary will be saved, he who is not will be lost. (169-170)
 - “All power is given thee in Heaven and earth,” so that at the command of Mary all obey – even God . . . and thus . . . God has placed the whole Church . . . under the domination of Mary.” (180-181)
 - “The whole Trinity, O Mary, gave thee a name . . . above every other name, that at they name, every knee should bow, of things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth.” (248) (quoted in Barlow, 247-248)
- Luke 1:47
- Revelation 17:1-9—the description of mystery Babylon the great matches the Roman Catholic Church.
 - The “woman” is “that great city which reigneth over the kings of the earth (17:18)
 - “that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth” is built on “seven mountains” (17:9)
 - The “woman” is drunken with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus” (17:6)
 - The colors of the “woman” are purple and scarlet (17:4)
 - The symbol of the “woman” is a golden cup (17:4)
- In 1825, Pope Leo XII struck a medal with his own image on one side, and woman with a cup on the other side. On the side which had the image of the woman was written, “Sedet Super Universum.” The Latin meaning is “the whole world is her seat.”
- Revelation 2:20, 22—Jezebel was the pagan queen who married Ahab in the Old Testament. It was found to be Baal-worship, which called the black-robed priest “father,” and worshipped Mary as the “queen of Heaven” (also called Isis, Osiris).

- To get around these obvious scriptural implications, Rome has made the book of Revelation apply only to pagan Rome during the time of the Apostles. In other words the meaning and application of the entire book is in the past. This is interesting when one considers that Revelation 21 and 22 deals with eternity, chapter 20 deals with the future millennial reign of Jesus Christ and the great white throne judgment. Meanwhile every “orthodox” Roman Catholic that has ever lived believes in the “last judgment.”
- Every effort has been made on the part of Catholics to relegate Revelation to history (Preterism) in order to avoid any connection, identification, or application to Papal Rome.
- Daniel 2:31-43—there is a Roman element in the kingdom of the anti-Christ.
- When God revealed the mystery of the church age Satan responded by reworking the ancient Babylonian religion into a new form that would masquerade as Biblical Christianity. This would match what we have studied from the history so far.
- Revelation 17:16—the kings utilize the Roman Catholic Church to achieve power before they turn and destroy her.
- II Thessalonians 2:2—the culmination of the Satanic policy of evil is the worship of Satan himself.
 - Revelation 12:9—who is the dragon?
 - Revelation 13:4
- Roman Catholicism is the ancient religion of Baal repackaged in mystery form.

Works Cited

Barlow, R. Dawson. *The Apostasy of the Christian Church*. Erie, PA: Seedsower Publications, 2005.

Elwell, Walter. *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1996.

Recommended Reading

Hislop, Alexander. *The Two Babylon's*
http://www.whitehorsemedia.com/docs/THE_TWO_BABYLONS.pdf

Liguori, St. Alphonsus. *The Glories of Mary*
<http://www.sanpiodapietrelcina.org/english/glories.htm>